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# Entropy and Non-Deterministic Chaos for Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields

MAT80 - IMECC  
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# O. M. L. Gomide, P. G. Mattos, and R. Varão. “The Orbit Space Approach for Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields”. 2023 [7]

## THE ORBIT SPACE APPROACH FOR PIECEWISE SMOOTH VECTOR FIELDS

OTIVIANA A. GOMIDE, PEDRO G. MATTOS, AND REGIS VARÃO

*Abstract.* In this note we establish a well-defined theory of orbit spaces for continuous vector fields (NVF). This approach is inspired from the techniques already used in the study of nonautonomous, mainly linear time-varying, systems. We then apply the construction of our theory to the understanding of trajectories in NVF. We also prove that the forward trajectories of trajectories (NVF) are related trajectories in the “orbit space” as a consequence of our general definition of transitivity.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Nonautonomous vector fields (NVF) have been extensively studied in the last years due to their applicability to several real-world problems. In light of this, there is a natural interest in understanding the dynamics associated with them, which is very complicated and presents fascinating behaviors.

The main issue facing how the NVF compared to the autonomous case resides on a proper or consistent way to define a solution and its behavior when two distinct vector fields meet (usually at the theoretically unphysical or “switching manifold”). There are several ways to define the solutions of a NVF, and each of them gives rise to a new dynamics [22, 11]. Nevertheless, there is a special interest in the dynamics given by Filippov’s construction, since it possesses very important properties for differential kinds of problems. The nonemptiness of solutions is the equivalent notion of the NVF study given rise to some regions in the discontinuity manifold known as sliding and trapping regions. Many orbits of a NVF can visit the same point, which is a behavior that does not occur in autonomous vector fields.

Many works have studied the dynamics of NVF, but our work has as one of its goals to propose a new way to understand NVF. Due to the nature of NVF having different orbits going through the same points we understand that it may cause a lack of understanding of the true meaning of the system as a whole. Therefore, in this work we provide a way to understand how the nonemptiness of solutions impacts the dynamics of a NVF, and we do it so by introducing an associated dynamical system which is able to restore the subsequent property.

Among all properties of nonautonomous dynamical systems, transitivity has always been one of the most fundamental ones. A transitive system is a system that has a dense orbit. This is an interesting concept by itself but it is worth mentioning that transitivity is also one of the ingredients of chaos. Despite the importance of NVF, there is still a lack of results about the global dynamics. We now claim that this is due to the complexity of nonemptiness of solutions, which we propose to properly overcome in the present work.

In [2, 4], the authors provided some illustrative examples of 2-dimensional NVF displaying a dense orbit in the phase space. These two authors explore intensively the nonemptiness of solutions, in particular the trapping regions. These are regions on which many different orbits go through the same point repeatedly. Repeating orbits produce so many different orbits that one may have a feeling that transitivity is hardly more common in the NVF context. This is in some sense true, but one should not be misled by the richness of the dynamics. The reason is that, in general, piecewise-smooth systems are not transitive. If it is a trajectory, even a trapping, and shows the richness of NVF, there is continuous transitive flow on the two spaces in long leaves and leaves.

In this work we propose to understand the transitivity of a NVF in a more appropriate space. This space will be called the “orbit space” which is in fact the space of all orbits. This is why we have chosen leaves as “forward leaf” widely studied from those which deal with nonautonomous [5, 10]. An orbit-leaf is a nonempty set, hence the leaves have to single the space of all possible orbits and there is a very natural dynamics in the space which is just the translation of the original dynamics in this space (see [25]). We apply this idea to the NVF since it is a nonempty system. The orbit space thus carries all the complexity of the system, but without the issues of having multiple orbits going through the same place.

Our goal is to propose the use of the orbit space in NVF. Our first main result is to list a series of results with the properties of establishing a well-defined theory of “orbit space” for NVF. This is done in §2 where we define the orbit space and its dynamics, provide two (topologically equivalent) distance functions for the orbit space and provide some results that help the use of work space for the NVF analysis. Following this orbit space section, we prove a result that establishes when a NVF is transitive in the orbit space, the orbit space and

*Mathematics Subject Classification.* 34A86, 34B05, 37C25.  
*Key words and phrases.* piecewise-smooth differential system, Filippov system, transitivity

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# R. D. Euzébio, P. G. Mattos, and R. Varão. “Characterization of Non-Deterministic Chaos in Two-Dimensional Non-Smooth Vector Fields”. 2024 [6]

## CHARACTERIZATION OF NON-DETERMINISTIC CHAOS IN TWO-DIMENSIONAL NON-SMOOTH VECTOR FIELDS

RODRIGO D. EUZÉBIO, PEDRO G. MATTOS, AND RUI VAREJO

**Abstract.** The concept of Filippov systems defined on two-dimensional manifolds having a finite number of tangency points. We prove that topological transitivity is a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of non-deterministic chaos in Filippov systems through sliding, crossing, and grazing. A fundamental result for continuous flows in the neighborhood of a tangency point and existence of a dense orbit. We prove by our setting that topological transitivity for Filippov systems is indeed equivalent to the existence of a dense Filippov orbit. Although, in contrast to this condition, we do not use the property for the dense orbit condition. This condition can be used as a sufficient condition. Finally, we prove that in this context topological transitivity implies positive topological entropy for the Filippov system. This condition is made using techniques similar to those from symbolic dynamics.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Ordinary differential equations (ODEs) are well-established tools for modeling a wide range of real-world problems. However, the combination of discontinuities in ODE solution has gained prominence in the study of dynamical systems. Discontinuous ODEs appear in various applications, such as control theory, the dynamics of bouncing balls, predator-prey models, and hybrid systems (ABS), and mechanical systems with component collisions, friction, sliding, or switching. For detailed discussions on these applications, refer to [30], [12], [28], [11], [15], [16], [26], [20], [9], and related references.

One prominent approach to discontinuous ODEs is Filippov's theory (see [14]), which allows solutions to “slide” through discontinuities according to prescribed rules. This method can lead to non-unique solutions and introduce unusual behaviors, even in frictionless systems such as planar phase portraits. Alternative approaches to discontinuous ODEs are well-articulated in Clarke [7]. In this paper, we focus on ODEs with discontinuities, referred to as Filippov systems, in accordance with Filippov's construction.

We investigate the chaotic behavior of Filippov systems defined on two-dimensional manifolds. In the context of smooth dynamical systems, chaos is traditionally defined by Devaney as a system that is topologically transitive, sensitive to initial conditions, and has a dense set of periodic orbits. In [12], we established other three conditions to show that topological transitivity and density of periodic solutions are sufficient for chaos. We extend this concept to Filippov systems, where the notion of chaos is adjusted to account for the non-deterministic nature of forward orbits. For further insights into non-deterministic chaos, see [25], [30], [10], and [24]. The definition of non-deterministic chaos is detailed in Section 2.

**Mathematics Subject Classification.** 34N20, 34C23, 37B10, 37D45, 37D99.  
**Key words and phrases.** piecewise-smooth differential system, Filippov system, transitivity, topological entropy.

# Contents

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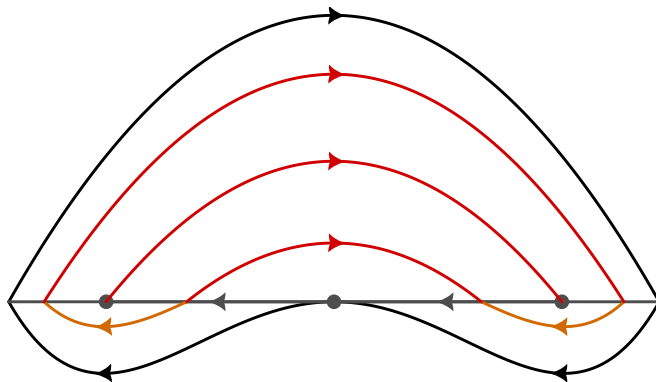
1. Piecewise smooth vector fields
2. Non-deterministic chaos
3. Orbit spaces
4. Entropy of a PSVF

# Section 1

## Piecewise smooth vector fields

# Bean model

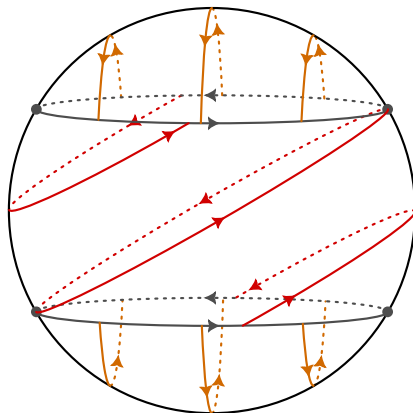
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C. A. Buzzi, T. de Carvalho, and R. D. Euzébio. “Chaotic Planar Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields with Non-Trivial Minimal Sets”. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems* 36.2 (2016), pp. 458–469

# Sphere model

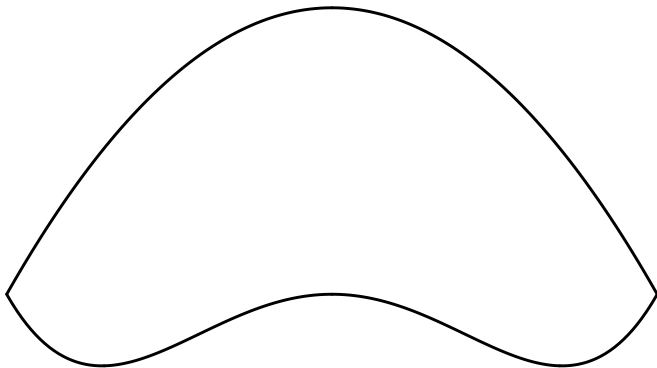
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R. D. Euzébio, J. S. Jucá, and R. Varão. “There Exist Transitive Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields on  $\mathbb{S}^2$  but not Robustly Transitive”. *Journal of Nonlinear Science* 32.4 (2022), No. 55

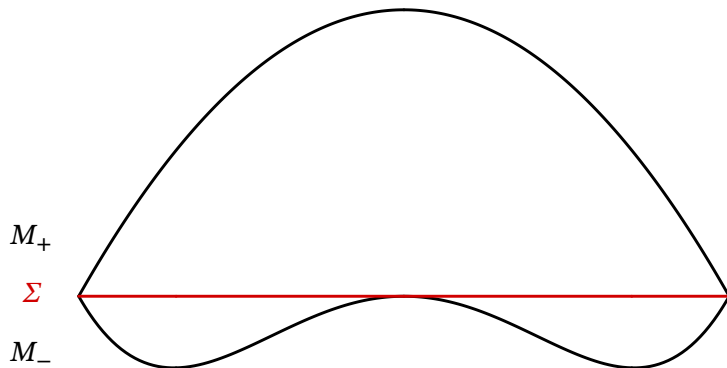
# Manifold

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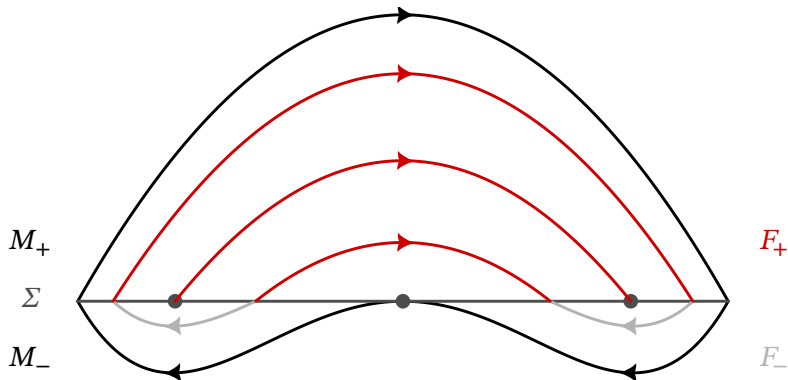


# Switching manifold

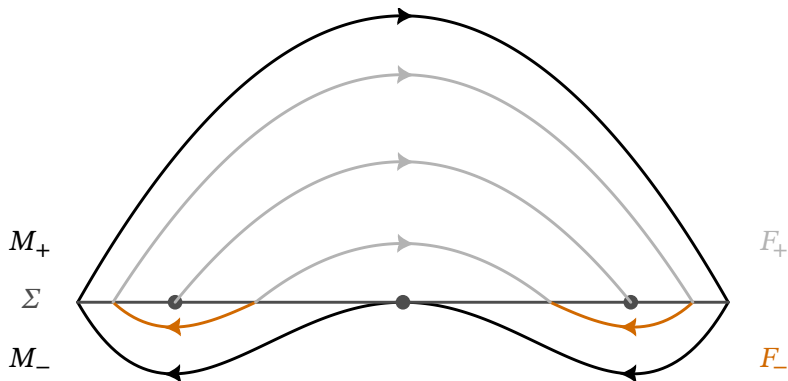
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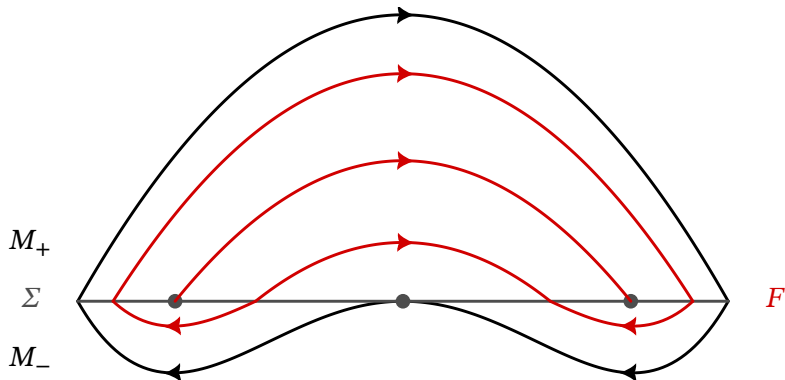
# Piecewise smooth vector field



# Piecewise smooth vector field

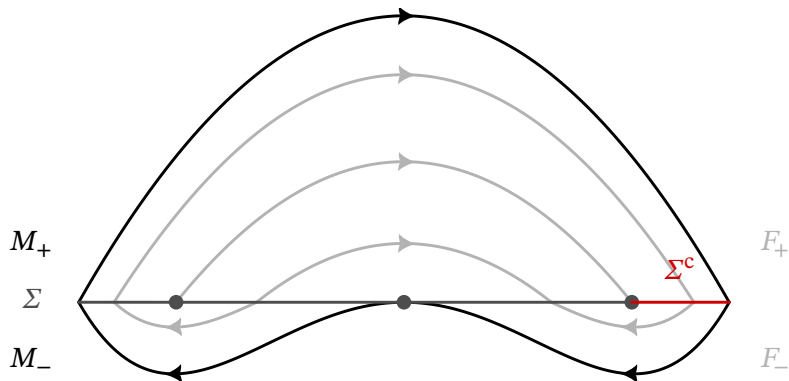


# Piecewise smooth vector field

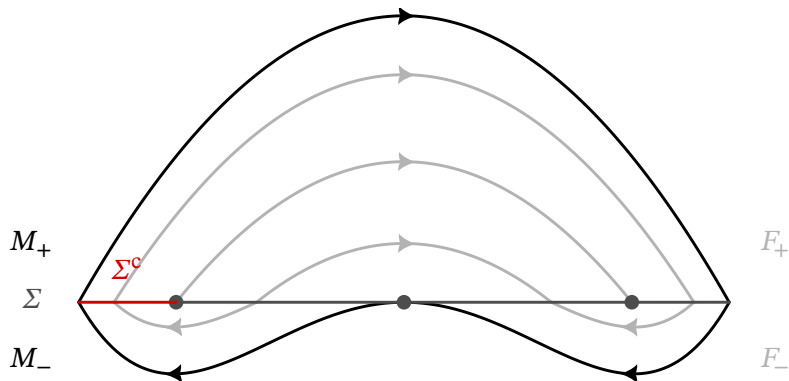


# Crossing region

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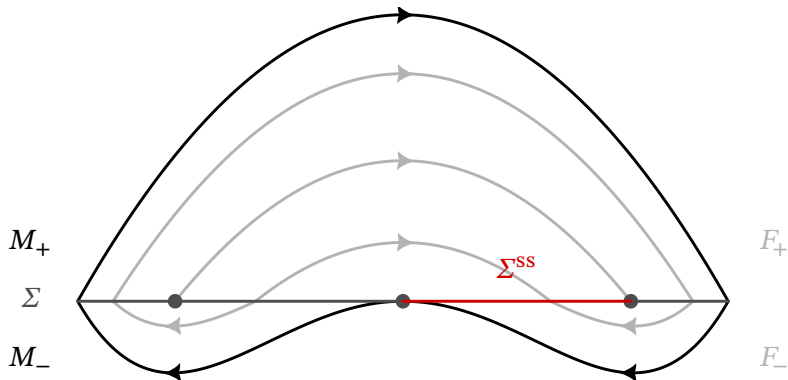


# Crossing region



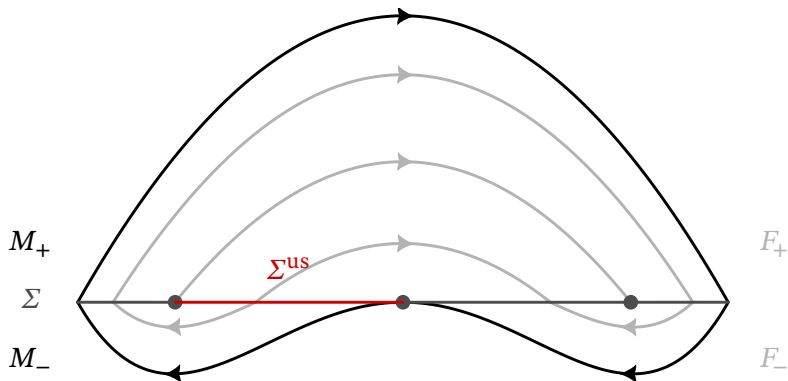
# Sliding region

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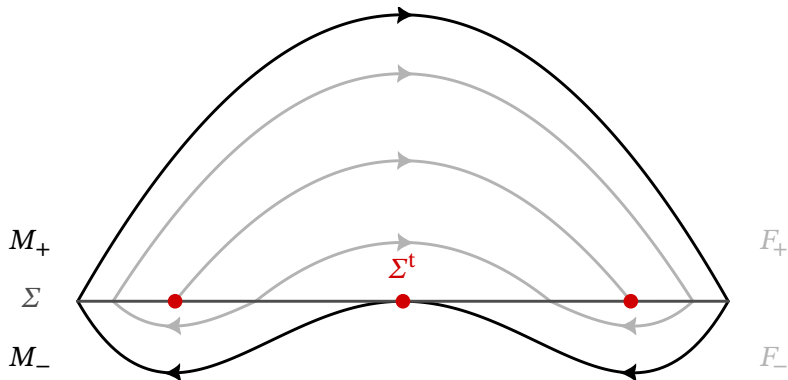
# Sliding region

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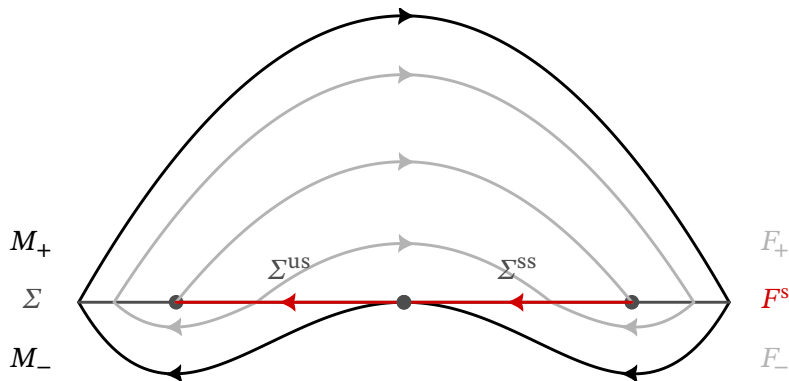


# Tangent region

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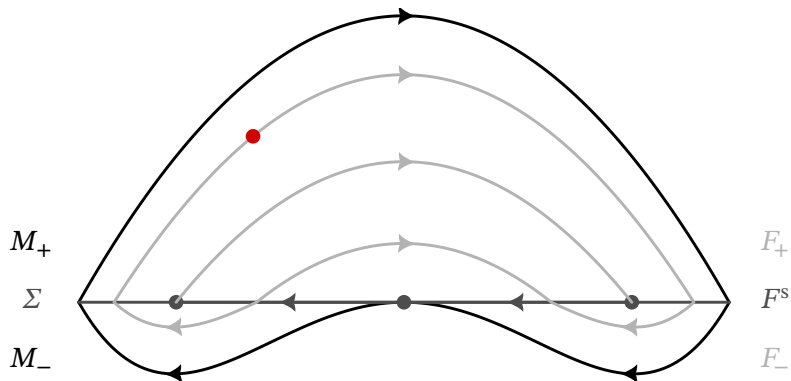


# Sliding vector field



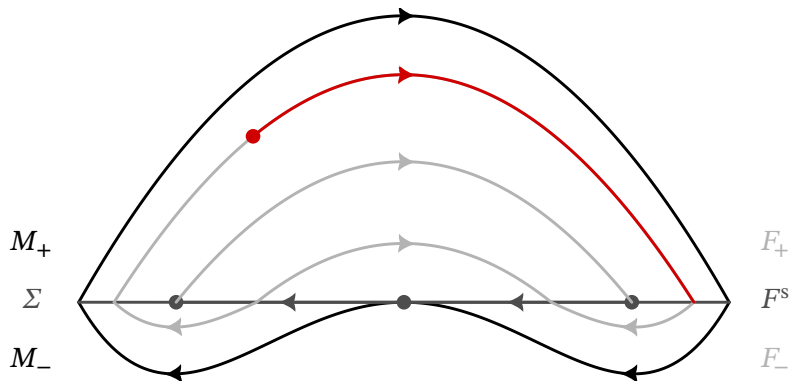
# Orbits of a PSVF

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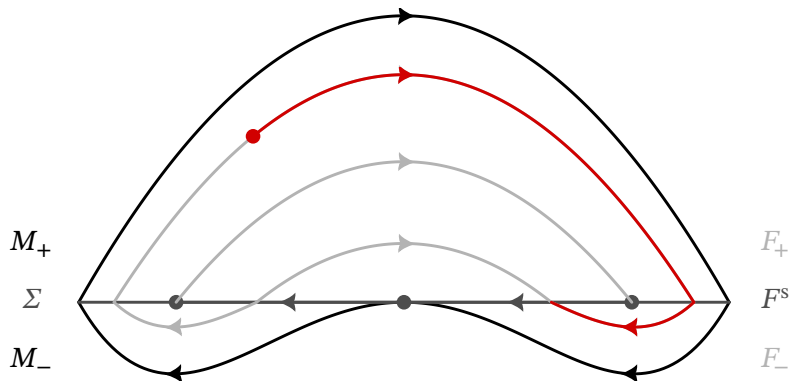


# Orbits of a PSVF

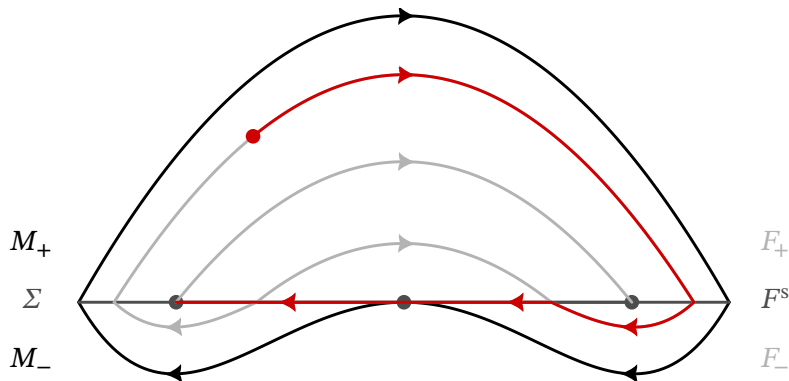
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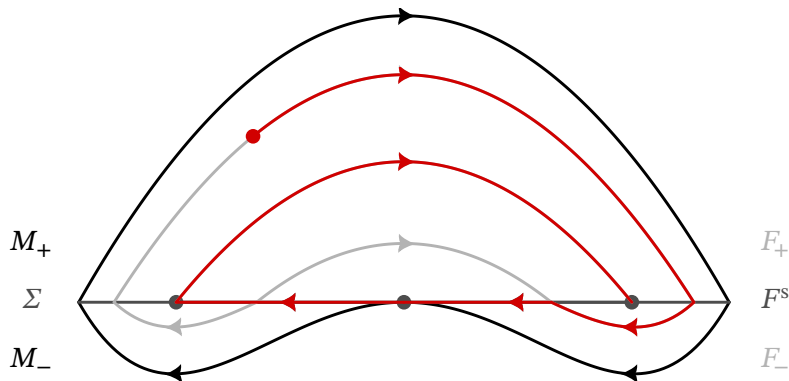


# Orbits of a PSVF



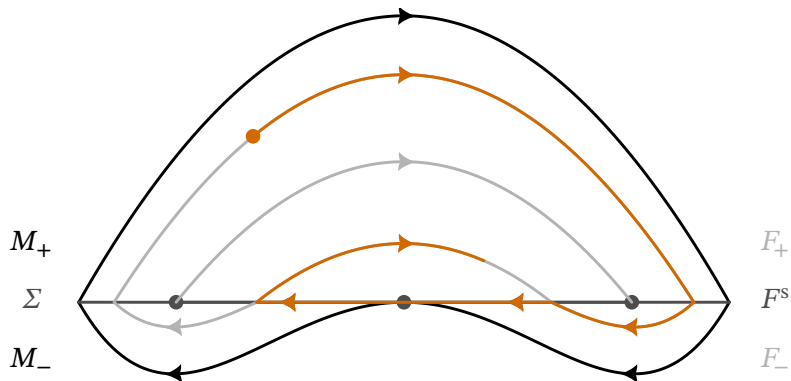
# Orbits of a PSVF



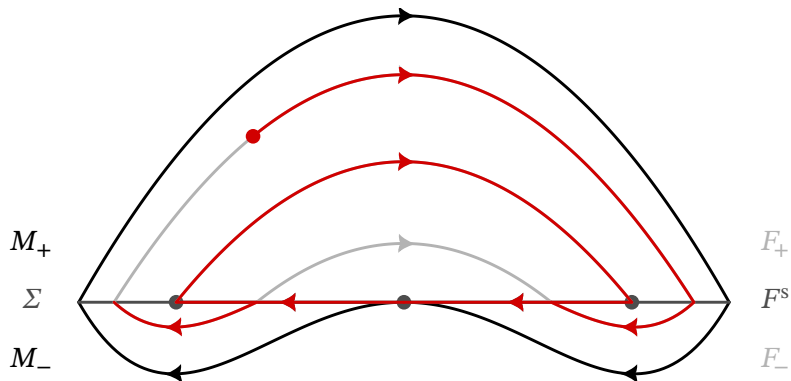




# Orbits of a PSVF



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## Section 2

# Non-deterministic chaos

# Devaney chaos

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## Definition (Devaney [4])

A continuous map  $f : X \rightarrow X$  on a metric space is *chaotic* when

# Devaney chaos

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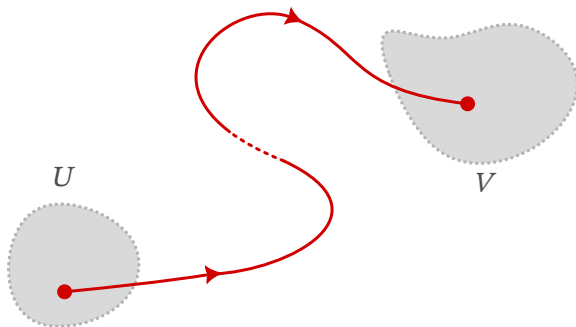
## Theorem (Banks et al. [2])

For a continuous map  $f : X \rightarrow X$  on a metric space:  
*1 and 2 implies 3.*

# Transitivity

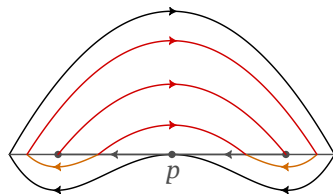
## Definition

$F$  is *topologically transitive* when, given any two non-empty open sets  $U$  and  $V$  of  $M$ , there exists a Filippov orbit from a point of  $U$  to a point of  $V$ .

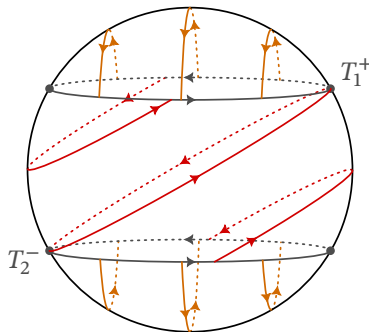


# Transitive examples

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(1) Bean model

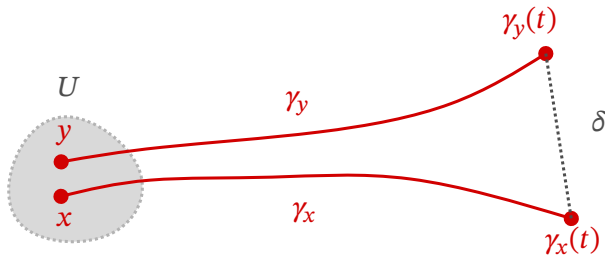


(2) Sphere model

# Sensitivity

## Definition

$F$  is *sensitive (to initial conditions)* when there exists a fixed  $\delta > 0$  such that, for any non-empty open set  $U$ , there exist points  $x, y \in U$ , Filippov orbits  $\gamma_x$  and  $\gamma_y$  which start at  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, and some time  $t > 0$  such that  $d(\gamma_x(t), \gamma_y(t)) > \delta$ .



# Non-deterministic chaos

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## Definition (Based on Devaney [4])

$F$  is *chaotic* when

# Non-deterministic chaos

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# Non-deterministic chaos

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2. periodic orbits are dense

# Non-deterministic chaos

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# Non-deterministic chaos

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## Definition (Based on Devaney [4])

$F$  is *chaotic* when

1. it is *transitive*
2. *periodic orbits are dense*
3. *it is sensitive*

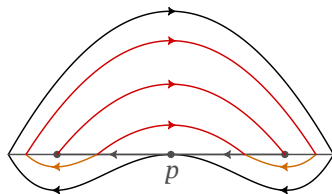
## Theorem (Euzébio, M—, Varão [6])

For  $F$  a 2-dimensional Filippov PSVF with  $\Sigma^S \neq \emptyset$ :

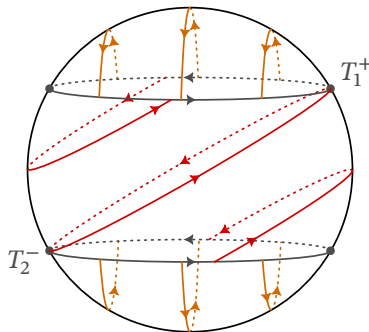
$F$  transitive  $\Rightarrow F$  chaotic.

# Artificial transitivity?

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(1) Bean model



(2) Sphere model

## Section 3

# Orbit spaces

# Why orbit spaces?

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# Why orbit spaces?

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- Disentangle orbits

# Why orbit spaces?

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- Disentangle orbits
- Recover uniqueness of solutions

# Why orbit spaces?

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- Disentangle orbits
- Recover uniqueness of solutions
- Study global properties of the dynamics

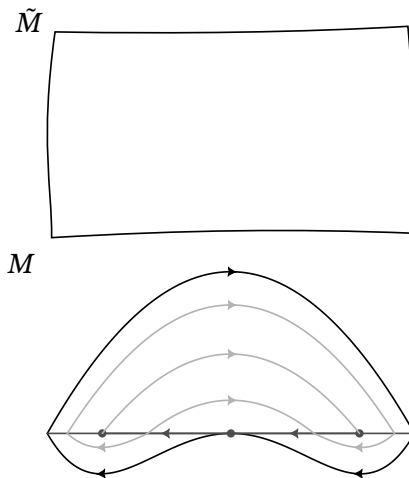
# Why orbit spaces?

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- Disentangle orbits
- Recover uniqueness of solutions
- Study global properties of the dynamics
- Motivation: endomorphisms

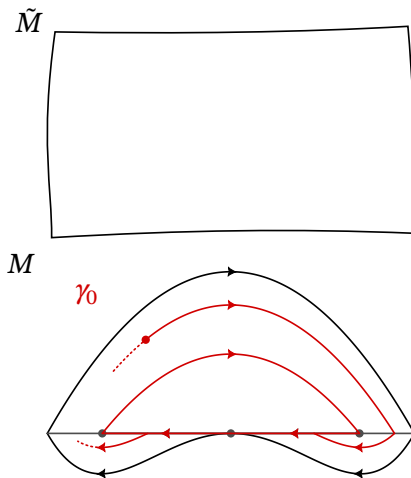
# Orbit space

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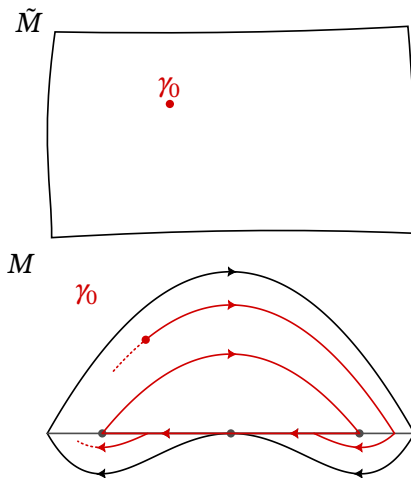
# Orbit space

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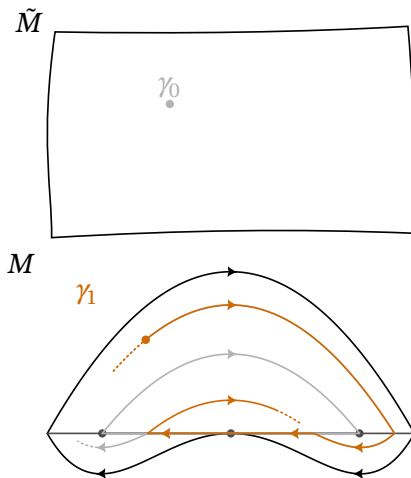
# Orbit space

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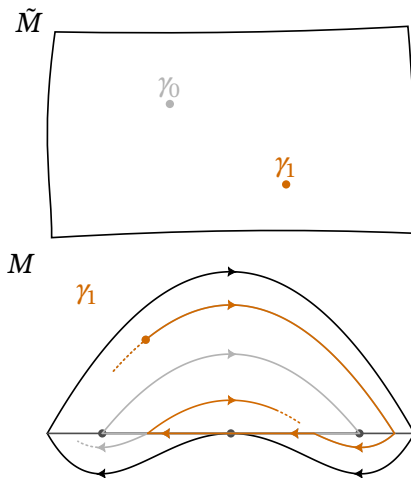
# Orbit space

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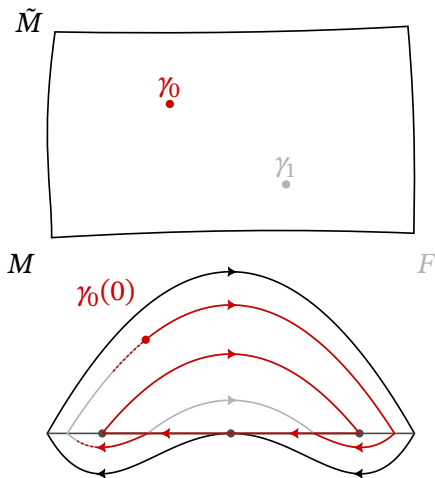
# Orbit space

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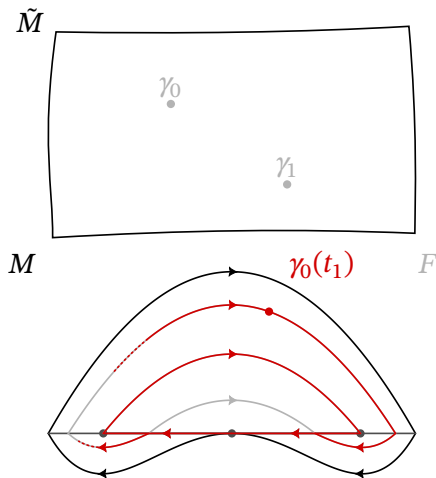
# Orbit space flow

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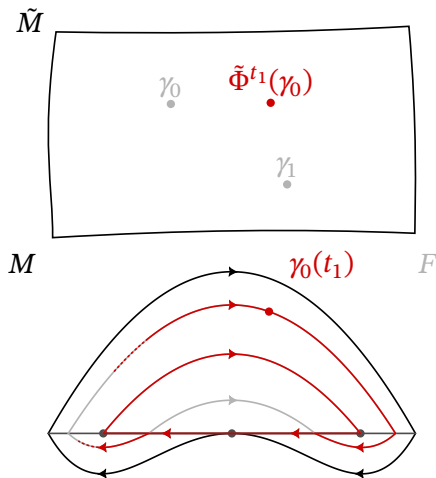
# Orbit space flow

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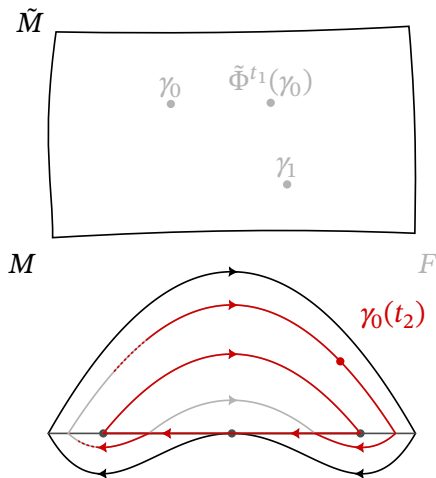
# Orbit space flow

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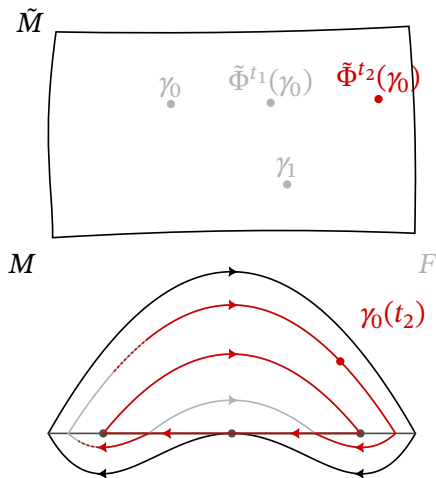


# Orbit space flow

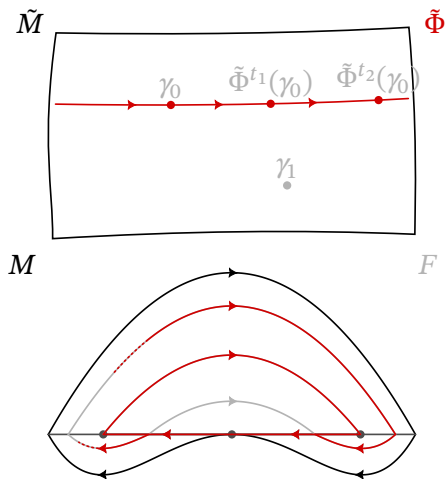
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# Orbit space flow

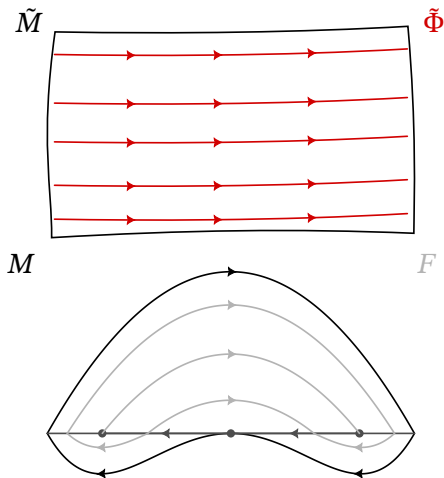


# Orbit space flow



# Orbit space flow

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# Orbit space and flow

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## Definition

The *orbit space* is

$$\tilde{M} := \{\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M \text{ maximal orbit of } F\}.$$

# Orbit space and flow

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## Definition

The *orbit space* is

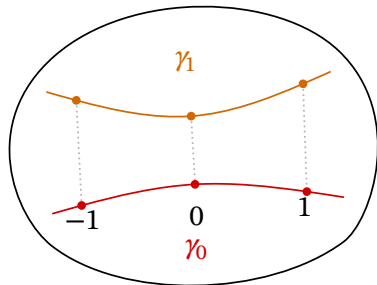
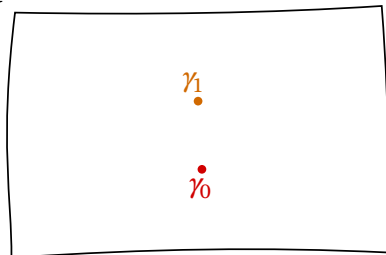
$$\tilde{M} := \{\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M \text{ maximal orbit of } F\}.$$

## Definition

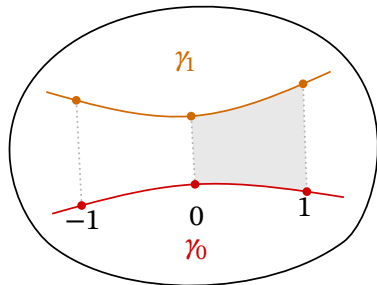
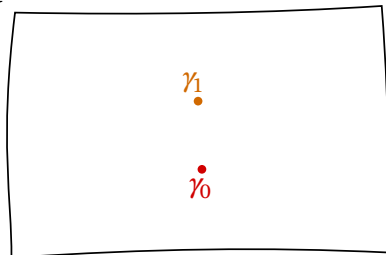
The *orbit space flow* is

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\Phi} : \mathbb{R} \times \tilde{M} &\longrightarrow \tilde{M} \\ (t, \gamma) &\longmapsto \tilde{\Phi}^t(\gamma) : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow M \\ s &\longmapsto \gamma(t + s).\end{aligned}$$

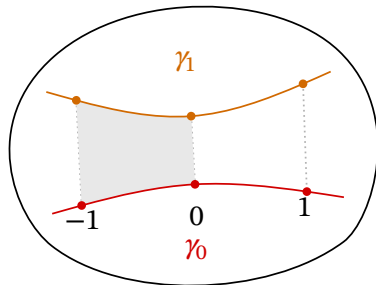
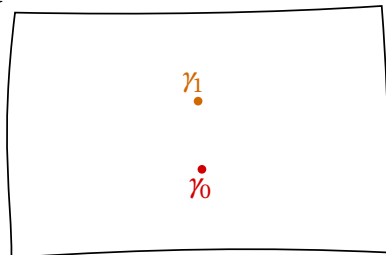
# Distance on the orbit space

 $M$ 

 $\tilde{M}$ 


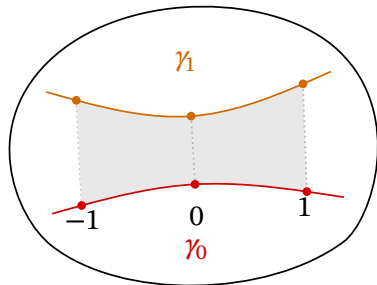
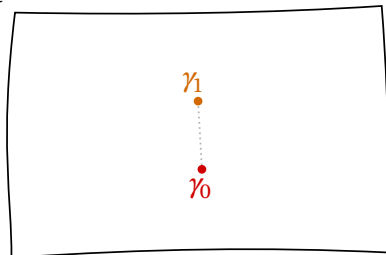
# Distance on the orbit space

 $M$ 

 $\tilde{M}$ 


# Distance on the orbit space

 $M$ 

 $\tilde{M}$ 


# Distance on the orbit space

 $M$ 

 $\tilde{M}$ 


# Distance on the orbit space

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## Definition

The *integral distance* on  $\tilde{M}$  is

$$\tilde{d} : \tilde{M} \times \tilde{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\tilde{d}(\gamma_0, \gamma_1) := \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{1}{2^{|i|}} \int_i^{i+1} d(\gamma_0(t), \gamma_1(t)) dt.$$

# Topological properties

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## Theorem (Antunes, Carvalho, and Varão [1])

*The flow  $\tilde{\Phi}$  is continuous.*

## Theorem (Gomide, M—, Varão [7])

*The orbit space  $\tilde{M}$  is*

- *separable*
- *Baire*
- *perfect (has no isolated points)*

# Topological properties

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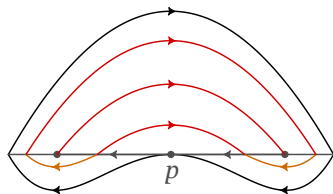
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- *Baire*
- *perfect (has no isolated points)*

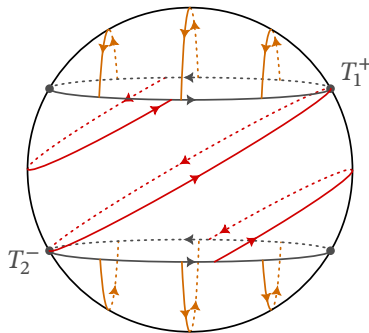
## Theorem (Gomide, M—, Varão [7])

*$\tilde{\Phi}$  is topologically transitive  $\Leftrightarrow$  there exists a dense orbit.*

# Tangent points are connected



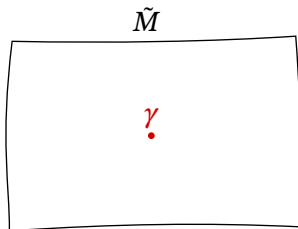
(1) Bean model



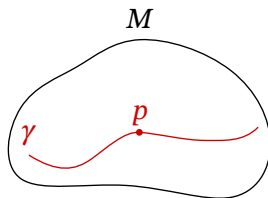
(2) Sphere model

# Transitivity above and below

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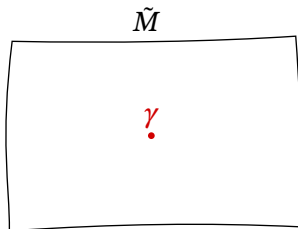
$\tilde{\Phi}$  is transitive



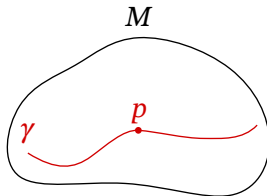
$F$  is transitive

# Transitivity above and below

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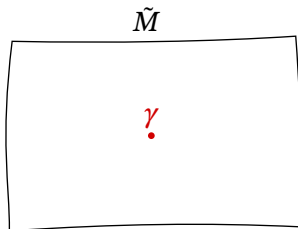
$\tilde{\Phi}$  is transitive



$F$  is transitive

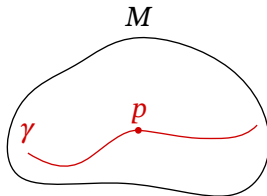
# Transitivity above and below

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$\tilde{\Phi}$  is transitive

$\Downarrow \Uparrow ?$



$F$  is transitive

# Transitivity above and below

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Theorem (Gomide, M—, Varão [7])

$\tilde{\Phi}$  is transitive  $\Rightarrow F$  is transitive.

# Transitivity above and below

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## Theorem (Gomide, M—, Varão [7])

$\tilde{\Phi}$  is transitive  $\Rightarrow F$  is transitive.

## Theorem (Gomide, M—, Varão [7])

Suppose  $\Sigma^t$  is finite and there is  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \Sigma^t$  such that:

1. Tangent points of  $\mathcal{T}$  are connected;
2. Orbits reaches  $\mathcal{T}$  on positive time;
3. Orbits reaches  $\mathcal{T}$  on negative time.

Then  $\tilde{\Phi}$  is topologically transitive.

## Section 4

# Entropy of a PSVF

# Topological entropy of PSVF

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## Definition (Antunes, Carvalho, and Varão [1])

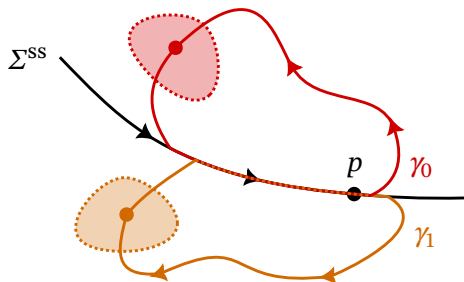
The *topological entropy* of  $F$  is the entropy of the orbit space flow  $\tilde{\Phi}$ :

$$h(F) := h(\tilde{\Phi}^1).$$

# Entropy estimation

## Theorem (Euzébio, M—, Varão [6])

Let  $F$  be a 2-dimensional Filippov PSVF with  $\Sigma^S \neq \emptyset$ .  
If  $F$  is transitive, then  $h(F) > 0$ .



# References

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- [1] A. A. Antunes, T. Carvalho, and R. Varão. “On Topological Entropy of Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields”. *Journal of Differential Equations* 362 (2023), pp. 52–73.
- [2] J. Banks, J. Brooks, G. Cairns, G. Davis, and P. Stacey. “On Devaney’s Definition of Chaos”. *The American Mathematical Monthly* 99.4 (1992), pp. 332–334.
- [3] C. A. Buzzi, T. de Carvalho, and R. D. Euzébio. “Chaotic Planar Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields with Non-Trivial Minimal Sets”. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems* 36.2 (2016), pp. 458–469.
- [4] R. L. Devaney. “An Introduction To Chaotic Dynamical Systems, Second Edition”. Addison-Wesley advanced book program. Avalon Publishing, 1989.
- [5] R. D. Euzébio, J. S. Jucá, and R. Varão. “There Exist Transitive Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields on  $\mathbb{S}^2$  but not Robustly Transitive”. *Journal of Nonlinear Science* 32.4 (2022), No. 55.

# References

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- [6] R. D. Euzébio, P. G. Mattos, and R. Varão. “Characterization of Non-Deterministic Chaos in Two-Dimensional Non-Smooth Vector Fields”. 2024.
- [7] O. M. L. Gomide, P. G. Mattos, and R. Varão. “The Orbit Space Approach for Piecewise Smooth Vector Fields”. 2023.