

On the classification of Legendre immersions *)

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0. Introduction

In this paper we shall give a homotopy-theoretic classification of the Legendre immersions $\Lambda \rightarrow M$ of a smooth n -manifold Λ into a regular contact manifold M of dimension $2n + 1$. Recall that a contact structure σ on M is a differential 1-form on M with $\sigma \wedge \underbrace{d\sigma \wedge \dots \wedge d\sigma}_n \neq 0$ at each point $x \in M$. A smooth immersion $\lambda: \Lambda \rightarrow M$ is called a Legendre immersion if σ vanishes on each vectors in $T(M)$ tangent to $\lambda(\Lambda)$, that is, if $\lambda^*\sigma = 0$. To each Legendre immersion $\lambda: \Lambda \rightarrow M$ we can associate its differential $d\sigma: T(\Lambda) \rightarrow T(M)$. By definition $d\sigma$ is a monomorphism which takes each fibre $T_p(\Lambda)$ to a Legendre plane in $T_{\lambda(p)}(M)$, that is, an n -plane on which σ vanishes. We call such monomorphism L-monomorphisms, so that d sends each Legendre immersion to an L-monomorphism.

We will say that two Legendre immersions λ_0 and λ_1 are L-regularly homotopic, if there is a smooth regular homotopy λ_t between λ_0 and λ_1 , such that λ_t is a Legendre immersion.

*) Dedicated to Professor Nobuo Shimada on his 60th birthday

for each t . Similarly, we can speak of a homotopy through L -monomorphisms, of $T(\bigwedge)$ into $T(M)$.

The following is the main theorem of this paper.

Theorem 1. Let $\bigwedge$ be a simply connected smooth n -manifold and M be a compact regular contact $(2n + 1)$ -manifold. Then d induces a 1-1 correspondence between L -regular homotopy classes of L -immersions $\bigwedge \rightarrow M$ and L -homotopy classes of L -monomorphisms $T(\bigwedge) \rightarrow T(M)$.

The concept of regular contact manifolds was introduced by Boothby and Wang [4]. We recall this in section 1. Whether for an arbitrary smooth n -manifold $\bigwedge$ and an arbitrary contact $(2n + 1)$ -manifold M the theorem above still holds or not, is open.

This paper is motivated by Bennequin [3], Douady [5].

Our approach is inspired by Gromov [6] and Lees [11].

1. Regular contact manifolds

We recall here regular contact manifolds.

Let $M = (M, \sigma)$ be a contact manifold of dimension $2n + 1$.

Namely, M is a C^∞ -manifold of dimension $2n + 1$ and σ be a differential 1-form on M with $\sigma \wedge (d\sigma)^n \neq 0$ at each point $x \in M$, where $(d\sigma)^n = d\sigma \wedge \dots \wedge d\sigma$.

A quadratic form θ of the Grassman algebra $\bigwedge V^*$, where

V^* is the dual to a vector space V , is said to have rank $2r$, if the exterior product $(\theta)^r \neq 0$ but $(\theta)^{r+1} = 0$. Equivalently $\text{rank } \theta = \dim V - \dim V_0$, where $V_0 = \{X \in V \mid \theta(X, V) = 0\}$.

It follows that on a contact manifold M the condition $\sigma \wedge (d\sigma)^n \neq 0$ implies that at each point $x \in M$ the quadratic form $d\sigma$ in the Grassman algebra $\wedge T_x^*(M)$ has rank $2n$. We then have

$$V_0 = \{X \in T_x(M) \mid d\sigma(X, T_x(M)) = 0\}$$

is a subspace of dimension one on which $\sigma \neq 0$, and which is thus complementary to the $2n$ -dimensional subspace on which $\sigma = 0$.

Let Z_x be the element of V_0 on which σ has the value 1. Then Z is a vector field, which we call associated to σ , defined on all of M by σ , and which is never zero since $\sigma(Z) = 1$. This vector field defines an involutive differential system on M and we shall call the contact structure σ regular if each point has a regular neighborhood, i.e. a cubical coordinate neighborhood $(x_1, \dots, x_{2n+1})$ where intersection with any given integral curve corresponds to a single segment

$$x_2 = c_2, \dots, x_{2n+1} = c_{2n+1}, \quad c_i = \text{constant}, \quad i = 2, \dots, 2n+1,$$

i.e., which is thus pierced at most once by any given integral curve. this implies in particular that each integral curve is a closed point set.

Hereafter, we will assume the manifold M to be compact.

If σ is a regular contact form on M , then, since Z is never

zero and since the integral curves are closed and thus compact set, we see that they must be homeomorphic to the circle S^1 . Moreover, the vector field Z generates a global action of the additive group of real numbers $\mathbb{R}$ on M . It is clear from the above that we may suppose that the associated vector field Z generates an action of the circle group S^1 on M . If B denotes the set of orbits, it follows that B is a C^∞ -manifold, and that if $(u_1, \dots, u_{2n+1})$ is a regular coordinate neighborhood in M , the orbit corresponding to $u_2 = \text{constant}, \dots, u_{2n+1} = \text{constant}$, then $U' = p(U)$ with coordinates $u_2, \dots, u_{2n+1}$ is a coordinate neighborhood on B , where $p : M \rightarrow B$ is the natural projection.

Boothby and Wang [4] proved the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. If σ is a regular contact form on a compact manifold M , then

- (i) M is a principal bundle over B with group and fibre S^1 ,
- (ii) σ defines a connection in this bundle,
- (iii) the base space B is a symplectic manifold whose symplectic structure ω determines an integral cocycle on B and is the curvature form of σ , i.e. $d\sigma = p^*\omega$ is the equation of structure of the connection.

Actually ω is the characteristic class (with real coefficients) of the circle bundle M .

2. Space^S of Legendre immersions

Let Λ be a smooth n -manifold and M be a contact $(2n + 1)$ -manifold with contact structure σ .

In order to prove Theorem 1, we consider the space $L\text{-Imm}(\Lambda, M)$ of all Legendre immersions of Λ in M with C^∞ -topology.

Let $L\text{-Mon}(T(\Lambda), T(M))$ denote the space of all L -monomorphisms of $T(\Lambda)$ into $T(M)$ with compact-open topology.

Observe that the differential d defines a map

$$d : L\text{-Imm}(\Lambda, M) \longrightarrow L\text{-Mon}(T(\Lambda), T(M)).$$

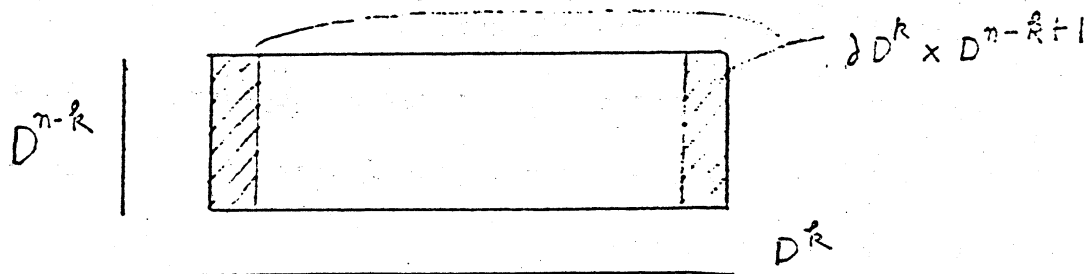
We shall prove the following theorem.

Theorem 2.1. Let Λ be a simply connected smooth n -manifold and M be a compact regular contact $(2n + 1)$ -manifold. Then the map $d : L\text{-Imm}(\Lambda, M) \longrightarrow L\text{-Mon}(T(\Lambda), T(M))$ is a weak homotopy equivalence.

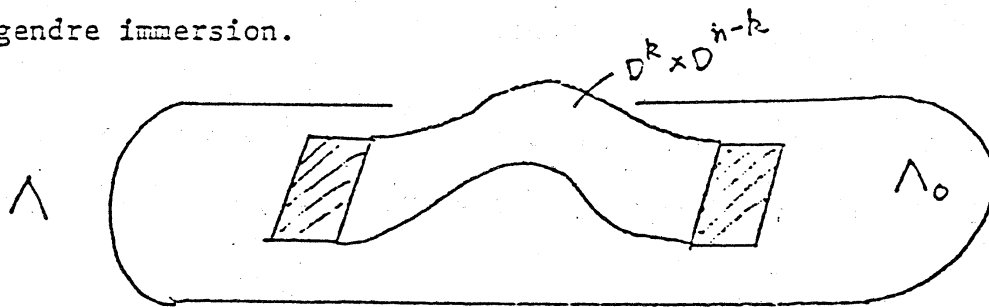
Theorem 1 follows directly from Theorem 2.1 : since d is a weak homotopy equivalence, it induces a 1-1 correspondence $d_* : \pi_0(L\text{-Imm}(\Lambda, M)) \longrightarrow \pi_0(L\text{-Mon}(T(\Lambda), T(M)))$ of path components, that is, of L -regular homotopy classes of Legendre immersions and homotopy classes of L -monomorphisms.

The first step in the proof of Theorem 2.1 is to establish a covering homotopy for spaces of Legendre immersions. For convenience

of notations, we will denote the p -cube by I^p . Write D^k for standard k -disk in R^k , and $D^k \times D^{n-k+1}$ for a neighborhood of $\partial D^k \times D^{n-k}$ in $D^k \times D^{n-k}$.



Let $\Lambda = \Lambda_0 \cup (D^k \times D^{n-k})$, where $\Lambda_0 \cap (D^k \times D^{n-k}) = \partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}$. Let $f : \Lambda \rightarrow M$, and suppose that $f|_{\Lambda_0}$ is a Legendre immersion.



Theorem 2.2. Let $\pi : L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M) \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}, M)$ be the map which maps f to $f|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}}$. Let $F_0 : I^p \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M)$, $F : I^p \times I \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}, M)$ be continuous maps such that $\pi \circ F_0(x) = F(x, 0)$. Then there exists a continuous map $\tilde{F} : I^p \times I \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M)$ such that

$$i) \quad \tilde{F}(x, 0) = F_0(x),$$

$$ii) \quad \pi \circ \tilde{F} = F.$$

In section 3 we sketch the proof of Theorem 2.1, given 2.2.

We will prove Theorem 2.2 in section 4.

Theorem

3. The immersion classification theorem

Let Λ be a smooth n -manifold and M be a contact smooth $(2n + 1)$ -manifold with contact structure σ .

We begin with a description of the set of Legendre planes in $T(M)$, that is, the set of n -planes in the fibres of $T(M)$ on which the contact form σ vanishes.

Lemma 3.1. Let M be orientable. The set $L(M)$ of Legendre planes in $T(M)$ has the structure of a bundle on M associated with $T(M)$ and with fibre $U(n)/O(n)$.

Proof. Consider a Euclidean space R^{2n+1} of dimension $2n + 1$ with coordinate $(x, y, z) \in R^n \times R^n \times R$. The 1-form

$$\sigma = xdy + dz$$

$$= x_1 dy_1 + \dots + x_n dy_n + dz$$

defines a canonical contact structure on R^{2n+1} . The Legendre subspace of σ through the origin has equation $dz = 0$.

We take x and y as coordinates in this hyperplane. Therefore, in this plane we have

$$d\sigma|_{\sigma=0} = dx \wedge dy. \quad (\text{cf. Arnold [1]})$$

However, in the canonical symplectic $2n$ -space (R^{2n}, ω) , $\omega = dx \wedge dy$, the set of lagrange planes is considered to be $U(n)/O(n)$

(cf. Arnold [2], Souriau [12]). From this fact, we obtain the lemma.

Now suppose Λ has been given a Riemannian metric, and $\mathcal{F}\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda$ be the frame bundle, i.e. principal $O(n)$ -bundle associated with $T(\Lambda)$. Let $\mathcal{F}L(M) \rightarrow L(M)$ be the $O(n)$ -bundle of n -frames in the Legendre planes in $T(M)$.

Corollary 3.2. L -monomorphisms $\tilde{\pi} : T(\Lambda) \rightarrow T(M)$ are in 1-1 correspondence with $O(n)$ -bundle maps $\mathcal{F}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}L(M)$.

Theorem 3.3. The restriction map

$$L\text{-Mon}(T(D^k \times D^{n-k}), T(M)) \rightarrow L\text{-Mon}(T(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}), T(M))$$

is a fibration.

Proof. By Corollary 3.2, the covering homotopy theorem holds for L -monomorphisms. However, the assertion is simply a restatement of this property.

The next result is the 2nd step of the preparation for the proof of Theorem 2.1.

Lemma 3.4. Let $M = (M, \sigma)$ be a contact manifold of dimension $2n + 1$ and D^n be the n -disk. Then the map which maps the map f to its differential df

$$d : L\text{-Imm}(D^n, M) \rightarrow L\text{-Mon}(T(D^n), T(M))$$

is a homotopy equivalence.

Proof. Let O be the origin for D^n , and write $L\text{-Imm}(O, M)$ for the germs of Legendre immersions at O of D^n into M . Let $r : D^n \rightarrow D^n$ be a radial retraction of D^n onto a prescribed small neighborhood of O , fixed on a smaller neighborhood of O . By an argument formally identical to Haefliger-Poenaru [10],

$$r_* : L\text{-Imm}(D^n, M) \longrightarrow L\text{-Imm}(O, M)$$

is a homotopy equivalence.

On the other hand,

$$r_* : L\text{-Mon}(T(D^n), T(M)) \longrightarrow L\text{-Mon}(T_O(D^n), T(M))$$

is also a homotopy equivalence by Theorem 3.3. Since the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L\text{-Imm}(D^n, M) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & L\text{-Mon}(T(D^n), T(M)) \\ \gamma_* \downarrow & & \downarrow \gamma_* \\ L\text{-Imm}(O, M) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & L\text{-Mon}(T_O(D^n), T(M)) \end{array}$$

is commutative, it is sufficient to show that

$$\alpha : L\text{-Imm}(O, M) \longrightarrow L\text{-Mon}(T_O(D^n), T(M))$$

is a homotopy equivalence.

However, an inverse $L\text{-Mon}(T_O(D^n), T(M)) \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(O, M)$ is provided by Darboux's theorem (cf. Arnold [1], Appendix 4).

Proof of Theorem 2.1. By Theorem 2.2 $(L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M), \pi, L\text{-Imm}(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}, M))$ is a fibre space, where π is the restriction map. Furthermore, the following diagram :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M) & \xrightarrow{d} & L\text{-Mon}(T(D^k \times D^{n-k}), T(M)) \\
\pi \downarrow \cdot & & \pi_1 \downarrow \\
L\text{-Imm}(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}, M) & \xrightarrow{d} & L\text{-Mon}(T(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}), T(M))
\end{array}$$

is commutative, namely d is a fibre map, where π_1 is the restriction map. Therefore, by Theorem 3.3 and Lemma 3.4, we obtain Theorem 2.1, in formally identical method with Haefliger-Poenaru [10], Haefliger [8], [9].

4. Covering homotopy property for the space of Legendre immersions

Now we prove the covering homotopy property for the space of Legendre immersions into a compact regular contact manifold, i.e. Theorem 2.2.

Let $f_0 : I^p \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M)$, $f : I^p \times I \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}, M)$ be continuous maps. Let

$$\pi : L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M) \rightarrow L\text{-Imm}(\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}, M)$$

be the map which maps g to the restriction $g|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}}$. Suppose $\pi \circ f_0(x) = f(x, 0)$. Then we want the lifting $\tilde{f}$ of f to $L\text{-Imm}(D^k \times D^{n-k}, M)$ with $\tilde{f}(x, 0) = f_0(x)$. Now M is a compact regular contact manifold, M is a principal S^1 -bundle over a symplectic manifold $B : (M, p, B)$, $B = (B, \omega)$. Moreover, we have $d\sigma = p^*\omega$. Corresponding to f_0, f , we have the following maps, respectively :

$$F_0 : I^p \times D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow M,$$

$$F : I^p \times I \times \partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1} \longrightarrow M.$$

Here, for each $(u, t) \in I^p \times I$, if we put $f_{u,t}(x) = F(u, t, x)$, $f_{u,0}(x) = F_0(u, x)$, $f_{u,t}$ are Legendre immersions. Composing these maps with $p : M \rightarrow B$, we have the following maps

$$G_0 : I^p \times D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow B,$$

$$G : I^p \times I \times \partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1} \longrightarrow B.$$

Here, if we put $g_{u,t}(x) = G(u, t, x)$, $g_{u,0}(x) = G_0(u, x)$, then $g_{u,t}$, $g_{u,0}$ are lagrange immersions, by Theorem 1.1.

Applying the flexibility theorem of lagrange immersions (cf. Gromov [7]), we have a family of lagrange immersions

$$\tilde{G} : I^p \times I \times D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow B,$$

which is an extension of both G_0 and G . However, for $k \neq 1$ by Theorem 1.1, we can lift $\tilde{G}$ to M , namely, we obtain the following C^∞ -map

$$\tilde{F} : I^p \times I \times D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow M,$$

i) $\tilde{F}$ is an extension of both F_0 and F ,

ii) if we put $\tilde{F}(u, t, x) = f_{u,t}(x)$, then $f_{u,t} : D^k \times D^{n-k} \rightarrow M$

is a Legendre immersion, for each $(u, t) \in I^p \times I$,

iii) $p \circ \tilde{F} = \tilde{G}$.

Since we assume that the source manifold Λ is simply connected, we have obtained Theorem 2.2.

Proof of the existence of lift $\tilde{F}$ for $k \neq 1$.

By taking sufficiently small cubic subdivision of $I^p \times I \times D^k \times D^{n-k}$, it suffices that we consider the case where the S^1 -bundle (M, p, B) to be

$$M = (R^{2n+1}, \sigma), \quad \sigma = \sum_i x_i dy_i + dz,$$

$$R^{2n+1} \ni (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n, z)$$

$$B = (R^{2n}, \omega), \quad \omega = d\sigma,$$

$$R^{2n} \ni (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n),$$

$$\sigma = \sum_i x_i dy_i,$$

$$p : (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n, z) \longrightarrow (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

Then for $(u, t) \in I^p \times I$, let

$$f_{u,t} : \partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1} \longrightarrow R^{2n+1}$$

$$F_{u,0} : D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow R^{2n+1}$$

be Legendre immersions with $F_{u,0} \big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} = f_{u,0}$. Let us

denote as follows :

$$F_{u,0} = (X_{u,0}, Y_{u,0}, Z_{u,0}),$$

$$f_{u,t} = (x_{u,t}, y_{u,t}, z_{u,t}),$$

$$\bar{\Phi}_{u,0} = (X_{u,0}, Y_{u,0}) = p \circ F_{u,0},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{u,t} = (x_{u,t}, y_{u,t}) = p \circ f_{u,t}.$$

Then $\bar{\Phi}_{u,0}, \mathcal{F}_{u,t}$ are lagrange immersions into $(\mathbb{R}^{2n}, \omega)$ such that

$$(4.1) \quad (\mathcal{F}_{u,t})^* \underline{\omega} = -dz_{u,t},$$

$$(\bar{\Phi}_{u,0})^* \underline{\omega} = -dz_{u,0},$$

$$\text{and } z_{u,0} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} = z_{u,0}.$$

(here we are considering $z_{u,t}, z_{u,0}$ as coordinate functions on the bundle space on $\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}$ induced by $f_{u,t}$ and on $D^k \times D^{n-k}$ induced by $F_{u,0}$, respectively).

Assertion. In this situation, we have a lagrange immersion

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{u,t} : D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{2n}, \omega)$$

such that

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{u,t} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} = \mathcal{F}_{u,t},$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{u,0} = \bar{\Phi}_{u,0}.$$

As is stated above, we use here the flexibility of lagrange immersions (cf. Gromov [7], Part III).

Now we construct a Legendre immersion $\tilde{F}_{u,t} : D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ with

$$\tilde{F}_{u,t} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k}} = f_{u,t},$$

$\tilde{F}_{u,0} = F_{u,0}$. Since $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{u,t}$ is a lagrange immersion, we have $(\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{u,t})^* \omega = 0$. Therefore, $(\mathcal{F}_{u,t})^* \sigma$ is closed on $D^k \times D^{n-k}$. By Poincare's Lemma, we have a C^∞ -function $K_{u,t} : D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$, such that

$$(\mathcal{F}_{u,t})^* \sigma = -dK_{u,t}, \quad (u, t) \in I^p \times I.$$

Suppose $k \geq 2$. Then $\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}$ is connected. By (4.1) we have

$$K_{u,t} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} = z_{u,t} + c_{u,t},$$

$$K_{u,0} = z_{u,0} + c_{u,0},$$

here $c_{u,t}$ is ^(a)constant on $D^k \times D^{n-k+1}$ for each $(u, t) \in I^p \times I$, and $c_{u,0}$ is _(a)constant on $D^k \times D^{n-k}$ for each $u \in I^p$.

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} c_{u,0} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} &= K_{u,0} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} - z_{u,0} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} \\ &= K_{u,0} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} - z_{u,0} \\ &= c_{u,0}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for each $(u, t) \in I^p \times I$, we can take _(a)constant $\tilde{c}_{u,t}$

on $D^k \times D^{n-k}$ such that

$$0) \quad c_{u,t} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} = c_{u,t},$$

$$\tilde{c}_{u,0} = c_{u,0},$$

1) $\tilde{c}_{u,t}$ is smoothly dependent on $(u, t) \in I^p \times I$.

now we put

$$\tilde{z}_{u,t} = K_{u,t} - \tilde{c}_{u,t};$$

$$\tilde{z}_{u,t} : D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}, \text{ for } (u, t) \in I^p \times I.$$

Then we have

$$z_{u,t} \Big|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}} = z_{u,t},$$

$$\tilde{z}_{u,0} = \tilde{z}_{u,0}|_{\partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1}}.$$

We define for $(u, t) \in I^p \times I$

$$\tilde{F}_{u,t} : D^k \times D^{n-k} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2n+1},$$

$$\tilde{F}_{u,t} = (\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{u,t}, \tilde{z}_{u,t}).$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{F}_{u,t})^* \sigma &= (\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{u,t})^* \sigma + d\tilde{z}_{u,t} \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

namely, $\tilde{F}_{u,t}$ is a Legendre immersion and

$$\widetilde{F}_{u,t} \Big| \partial D^k \times D^{n-k+1} = f_{u,t},$$

$$\widetilde{F}_{u,0} = F_{u,0}.$$

Thus we have a lift which we want.

Note. In case $k = 1$, $\widetilde{C}_{u,t}$ as above is not well-defined.

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