

# Infinite-Dimensional Calculus & Symplectic Topology

Jordan Watts

Central Michigan University

March 2025

- This is joint work with Yael Karshon (in progress).

- Symplectic topologists are interested in infinite-dimensional groups such as  $\text{Diff}(M)$ ,  $\text{Symp}(M, \omega)$ , and  $\text{Ham}(M, \omega)$ , where  $M$  is a compact manifold, and  $(M, \omega)$  a compact symplectic manifold.
- They often employ either methods from functional analysis, as well as purely topological constructions, to study these groups.

- For instance, the Flux Conjecture (proved by Ono in [O06]) is that the flux group  $\Gamma_\omega$  in the following exact commutative diagram [McD04] is discrete:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \pi_1(\text{Ham}(M, \omega)) & \longrightarrow & \pi_1(\text{Symp}_0(M, \omega)) & \xrightarrow{\text{Flux}} & \Gamma_\omega \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \widetilde{\text{Ham}}(M, \omega) & \longrightarrow & \widetilde{\text{Symp}}_0(M, \omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{Flux}} & H^1(M, \mathbb{R}) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{Ham}(M, \omega) & \longrightarrow & \text{Symp}_0(M, \omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{Flux}} & H^1(M, \mathbb{R})/\Gamma_\omega
 \end{array}$$

- Here  $\text{Flux}(\varphi_t) := \int_0^1 [\omega(\dot{\varphi}_t, \cdot)] dt \in H^1(M, \mathbb{R})$ .

## Question

What can theories generalising the differential geometry/topology of smooth manifolds, such as **diffeology** or **Sikorski spaces**, do for us?

- Diffeology provides an “internal” perspective on a space, whereas Sikorski structures provide an “external” perspective. Considering both structures together yields a lot of information about the space.

# Derivatives in Infinite-Dimensions

## Definition ([Ha82,Mi84])

- Let  $E$  and  $F$  be locally convex spaces, and let  $U \subseteq E$  be open.
- A function  $f: U \rightarrow F$  is  $C^1$  if it is continuous, and for every  $u \in U$  and  $h \in E$ , the limit

$$Df(u; h) := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(u + th) - f(u)}{t}$$

exists and is continuous as a map  $U \times E \rightarrow F$ .

- Continuing recursively, one defines  $C^k$  functions, and then **infinitely-differentiable** functions as  $\bigcap_k C^k(U, F)$ .

## Definition ([IZ13])

- Let  $X$  be a set.
- A **parametrisation**  $p: U_p \rightarrow X$  is a map from an open subset  $U_p$  of some Euclidean space.
- A **diffeology**  $\mathcal{D}_X$  on  $X$  is a family of parametrisations satisfying
  - 1 all constant parametrisations are in  $\mathcal{D}_X$ ,
  - 2 if  $p$  is a parametrisation and  $\{U_\alpha\}$  an open cover of  $U_p$  such that for each  $\alpha$

$$p|_{U_\alpha} \in \mathcal{D}_X$$

then  $p \in \mathcal{D}_X$ ,

- 3 if  $p \in \mathcal{D}_X$  and  $f: V \rightarrow U_p$  is smooth with  $V$  an Euclidean open subset then  $p \circ f \in \mathcal{D}_X$ .
- Call  $(X, \mathcal{D}_X)$  a **diffeological space** and each  $p \in \mathcal{D}_X$  a **plot**.

## Definition

A map  $F: (X, \mathcal{D}_X) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{D}_Y)$  is **diffeologically smooth** if  $F \circ p \in \mathcal{D}_Y$  for every  $p \in \mathcal{D}_X$ .

- We obtain a “complete, co-complete quasi-topos” [BH11], denoted  $\mathbf{Diffeol}$ . In particular, we obtain a category admitting all subsets, quotients, products, coproducts, and function spaces.



## Example

A (smooth) manifold comes with a standard diffeological structure: all smooth parametrisations into it. In fact, the category of smooth manifolds forms a full subcategory of **Diffeol**.

## Definition

Let  $X$  be a diffeological space with an equivalence relation  $\sim$  and quotient map  $\pi: X \rightarrow X/\sim$ . A parametrisation  $p: U_p \rightarrow X/\sim$  is a plot in the **quotient diffeology** if for every  $u \in U_p$  there exists an open neighbourhood  $V$  of  $u$  and a plot  $q: V \rightarrow X$  such that  $p|_V = \pi \circ q$ .

## Example

Fix an irrational number  $\alpha$ . Consider the action of the group  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  by

$$(m, n) \cdot x = x + m + \alpha n.$$

The quotient group  $T_\alpha := \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}^2$  has trivial topology, but its diffeology is rich. This space is an example of an **irrational torus**.

## Example

Let  $E$  be a locally convex space. The collection of all infinitely-differentiable parametrisations of  $E$  forms a diffeology, denoted  $\mathcal{D}_E$ .

## Example ([L92])

Fréchet spaces form a full subcategory of **Diffeol**.

## Definition

Let  $(X, \mathcal{D}_X)$  be a diffeological space. The **D-topology**  $\tau_{\mathcal{D}_X}$  on  $X$  is the strongest topology making all plots continuous.

## Question

Given a locally convex space  $E$  with topology  $\tau_E$ , when is  $\tau_E = \tau_{\mathcal{D}_E}$ ?

- It is always true that  $\tau_E \subseteq \tau_{\mathcal{D}_E}$ .

## Definition ([Ś13])

Let  $X$  be a set. A **Sikorski (differential) structure** on  $X$  is a family of real-valued functions  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$  satisfying

- 1 if  $g \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $f_1, \dots, f_n \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $g(f_1, \dots, f_n) \in \mathcal{F}$ ; and
- 2 with respect to the initial topology  $\tau_{\mathcal{F}}$  on  $X$  generated by  $\mathcal{F}$ , if  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  admits a function  $f_x \in \mathcal{F}$  for each  $x \in X$  satisfying

$$f|_{U_x} = f_x|_{U_x}$$

on an open neighbourhood  $U_x$  of  $x$ , then  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ .

$(X, \mathcal{F})$  is called a **Sikorski (differential) space**.

## Definition

A map  $\varphi: (X, \mathcal{F}_X) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{F}_Y)$  is **Sikorski smooth** if  $\varphi^* f \in \mathcal{F}_X$  for every  $f \in \mathcal{F}_Y$ .

- Sikorski spaces form a category  $\mathbf{Sik}$  admitting subspaces, products, coproducts, and quotients.
- Function spaces are a little more difficult to deal with.

## Example

Manifolds come with a standard Sikorski structure: all smooth real-valued functions. In fact, manifolds form a full subcategory of  $\mathbf{Sik}$ .

## Definition

Given a Sikorski space  $(X, \mathcal{F}_X)$  and a subset  $Y \subseteq X$ , the **subspace Sikorski structure**  $\mathcal{F}_Y$  on  $Y$  is given by all real-valued functions  $f: Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that for any  $y \in Y$  there is an open neighbourhood  $U \subseteq X$  of  $y$  and a function  $\tilde{f} \in \mathcal{F}_X$  such that

$$f|_{U \cap Y} = \tilde{f}|_{U \cap Y}.$$

## Example

Any level set of a smooth function, such as a real algebraic/analytic variety, comes equipped with a subspace Sikorski structure.



# Locally Convex Space Sikorski Structure

## Example

Let  $E$  be a locally convex space. The collection of all infinitely-differentiable real-valued functions forms a Sikorski structure, denoted  $\mathcal{F}_E$ .

## Question

Given a locally convex space  $E$  with topology  $\tau_E$ , when is  $\tau_E = \tau_{\mathcal{F}_E}$ , where  $\tau_{\mathcal{F}_E}$  is the initial topology generated by  $\mathcal{F}_E$ ?

- It is always true that  $\tau_{\mathcal{F}_E} \subseteq \tau_E$ .

- Given a diffeological space  $(X, \mathcal{D}_X)$ , the set of diffeologically smooth real-valued functions, denoted  $\Phi\mathcal{D}_X$ , is a Sikorski structure on the underlying set of  $X$ .
- In fact, these spaces  $(X, \Phi\mathcal{D}_X)$  form a subcategory of **Sik** isomorphic to the category of Frölicher spaces.
- In the other direction, given a Sikorski space  $(X, \mathcal{F}_X)$ , the set of all Sikorski smooth parametrisations into  $X$ , denoted  $\Pi\mathcal{F}_X$ , is a diffeology.
- Again, the diffeological spaces  $(X, \Pi\mathcal{F}_X)$  form a subcategory of **Diffeol** isomorphic to the category of Frölicher spaces.

- $\Phi$  and  $\Pi$  in the previous slide are in fact functors that send maps to themselves:

$$\text{Diffeol} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Phi} \\ \xleftarrow{\Pi} \end{array} \text{Sik}$$

## Definition ([BKW23])

- If  $\Pi \circ \Phi(X, \mathcal{D}_X) = (X, \mathcal{D}_X)$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_X$  is called **reflexive**.
- If  $\Phi \circ \Pi(X, \mathcal{F}_X) = (X, \mathcal{F}_X)$ , then  $\mathcal{F}_X$  is called **reflexive**.

## Examples

- Manifolds have reflexive diffeological and Sikorski structures.
- Manifolds with corners have reflexive Sikorski structures. They have reflexive diffeological structures if these are locally induced by subset diffeologies on the orthants used to make the charts.
- Quotient spaces of proper Lie group actions (or proper Lie groupoids) have reflexive Sikorski structures.
- The union of the three axes of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  has a reflexive Sikorski structure, but the union of three distinct lines through the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  does not.

## Question

Given a locally convex space  $E$ , when is  $\mathcal{D}_E$  and/or  $\mathcal{F}_E$  reflexive?

# Sequential Spaces

## Definition

A topological space  $X$  is **sequential** if for every subset  $S \subseteq X$ ,

$$\overline{S} = \{x \in X \mid \exists(x_n) \text{ in } S \text{ s.t. } x_n \rightarrow x\}.$$

## Example

Any first-countable space is sequential.

## Example

The D-topology of a diffeological space is sequential. (This follows from the fact that diffeological spaces are colimits of their plot domains.)

### Definition

Given a locally convex space  $E$ , a sequence  $(x_n)$  in  $E$  **converges fast** to  $x_\infty$  if for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the set

$$\{n^k(x_n - x_\infty)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$$

is bounded.

### Theorem

*Given a sequential locally convex space  $E$ , if every convergent sequence in  $E$  admits a fast-converging subsequence, then*

$$\tau_E = \tau_{\mathcal{D}_E}.$$

### Corollary

*If  $E$  is a metrisable locally convex space, then  $\tau_E = \tau_{\mathcal{D}_E}$ .*

### Definition

A locally convex space  $E$  is **smoothly regular** if for any  $x \in X$  and open neighbourhood  $U \ni x$ , there is a function  $f \in \mathcal{F}_E$  such that  $f(x) = 1$  and  $\text{supp}(f) \subseteq U$ .

### Theorem

*Given a locally convex space  $E$ ,  $\tau_E = \tau_{\mathcal{F}_E}$  if and only if  $\tau_E$  is smoothly regular.*

### Corollary

*If  $\tau_E$  is generated by semi-norms that are smooth on the complements of their zero-sets, then  $\tau_E$  is smoothly regular.*

- Given a locally convex space  $E$ , let  $E^*$  denote the continuous real linear functionals (which are infinitely-differentiable).

## Theorem

- 1 If  $E$  is a metrisable locally convex space, then  $\mathcal{F}_E = \Phi\mathcal{D}_E$ .
- 2 If  $E$  is a sequentially complete locally convex space, then  $\mathcal{D}_E = \Pi E^*$  (and hence  $\mathcal{D}_E = \Pi\mathcal{F}_E$ ).
- 3 If  $E$  is a Fréchet space, then both  $\mathcal{D}_E$  and  $\mathcal{F}_E$  are reflexive.

## Theorem

Let  $M$  be a Fréchet manifold locally modelled on a smoothly regular Fréchet space. The natural diffeology  $\mathcal{D}_M$  and Sikorski structure  $\mathcal{F}_M$  on  $M$  are reflexive, and the topology on  $M$  is unambiguous.



## Definition

Given diffeological spaces  $X$  and  $Y$ , the set of diffeologically smooth functions between them  $\mathbf{Diffeol}(X, Y)$  admits the **functional diffeology**, in which a parametrisation  $p$  is a plot if

$$p^\sharp: U_p \times X \rightarrow Y: (u, x) \mapsto p(u)(x)$$

is smooth.

- The functional diffeology satisfies the Exponential Law:

$$\mathbf{Diffeol}(X, \mathbf{Diffeol}(Y, Z)) \cong \mathbf{Diffeol}(X \times Y, Z).$$

## Question

Given diffeological spaces  $X$  and  $Y$ , under what conditions is the functional diffeology on  $\mathbf{Diffeol}(X, Y)$  reflexive?

## Theorem (Karshon-W.)

*If  $X$  and  $Y$  are diffeological spaces with  $Y$  reflexive, then the functional diffeology of  $\mathbf{Diffeol}(X, Y)$  is reflexive.*

## Proposition ([CSW14])

*Let  $M$  be a compact manifold. The functional diffeology of  $C^\infty(M, \mathbb{R}^n)$  coincides with  $\mathcal{D}_{C^\infty(M, \mathbb{R}^n)}$ , where  $C^\infty(M, \mathbb{R}^n)$  is given the smoothly regular Fréchet space structure of the  $C^\infty$ -topology.*

## Corollary

*Let  $M$  and  $N$  be manifolds with  $M$  compact. The functional diffeology of  $C^\infty(M, N)$  coincides with  $\mathcal{D}_{C^\infty(M, N)}$ , where  $C^\infty(M, N)$  is given the Fréchet manifold structure.*

## Corollary ([Hi94, CSW14])

*Let  $M$  be a compact manifold. Then  $\text{Diff}(M)$  is an open subset of  $C^\infty(M, M)$  with respect to the  $D$ -topology, and hence inherits all of the nice properties of  $C^\infty(M, M)$ .*

## Proposition (Karshon-W.)

*Given a compact symplectic manifold  $(M, \omega)$ , the group of symplectomorphisms  $\text{Symp}(M, \omega)$  is a closed subgroup of  $\text{Diff}(M)$  in an unambiguous way. In particular, the smooth identity component  $\text{Symp}_0(M, \omega)$  has an unambiguous definition.*

## Corollary

*Thus  $\text{Symp}_0(M, \omega)$  inherits a Fréchet manifold structure in an unambiguous way.*

# Hamiltonian Diffeomorphisms

## Definition

Let  $(M, \omega)$  be a compact symplectic manifold. Given a function  $H: [0, 1] \times M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , a **hamiltonian isotopy generated by  $H$**  is a smooth path  $\Psi: [0, 1] \rightarrow \text{Diff}(M): t \mapsto \Psi_t$  such that

- 1  $\Psi_0 = \text{id}_M$  and,
- 2 the time-dependent vector field  $\xi_t$  given by

$$\xi_t \lrcorner \omega = dH(t, \cdot) \quad \text{satisfies} \quad \frac{d}{dt} \Psi_t = \xi_t \circ \Psi_t.$$

The **group of hamiltonian diffeomorphisms of  $(M, \omega)$**  is

$$\text{Ham}(M, \omega) := \{\psi \mid \exists \text{ a hamiltonian isotopy } \Psi \text{ s.t. } \psi = \Psi_1\}.$$

- We are still working on  $\text{Ham}(M, \omega)$ , but expect everything to go through.

# Covering Spaces

## Definition

Given a connected topological space  $X$ , denote by  $\tilde{X}_\tau$  the space

$$\tilde{X}_\tau := C^0([0, 1], X) / C^0\text{-homotopy}.$$

- In the case that  $X$  is connected, locally path-connected, and semi-locally simply-connected, then  $\tilde{X}_\tau$  is a topological universal cover of  $X$ .

## Definition

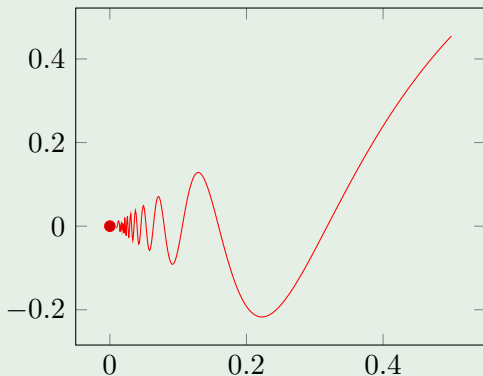
Given a connected diffeological space  $X$ , denote by  $\text{stPaths}(X)$  the smooth maps  $[0, 1] \rightarrow X$  constant near 0 and 1, and by  $\tilde{X}_D$  the **diffeological universal cover**

$$\tilde{X}_D := \text{stPaths}(X) / \text{diffeologically smooth homotopy}.$$

# Covering Spaces

## Example

Let  $X$  be the graph of  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x \sin(1/x) & x > 0, \\ 0 & x = 0. \end{cases}$  Then  $X$  is simply-connected, but not even smoothly path-connected.



## Example

If  $X$  is an irrational torus, then  $\tilde{X}_D \cong \mathbb{R}$  but  $\tilde{X}_\tau \cong X$ .

## Question

Given a diffeological space  $X$ , when is the underlying topological space of  $\tilde{X}_D$  the same as  $\tilde{X}_\tau$ ?

- There is always a continuous map  $\sigma: \tilde{X}_D \rightarrow \tilde{X}_\tau$ .



## Theorem (Karshon-W.)

- *Let  $X$  be a smoothly regular Fréchet manifold. Then  $\sigma: \tilde{X}_D \rightarrow \tilde{X}_\tau$  is a homeomorphism.*
- *Using the fact that topological covering maps are local homeomorphisms, there is a natural diffeology one can put on  $\tilde{X}_\tau$  that turns  $\sigma$  into a diffeomorphism in the case that  $\tilde{X}_\tau$  is a covering space.*

## Examples

Given manifolds  $M$  and  $N$  with  $M$  compact,  $X = C^\infty(M, N)$  satisfies  $\tilde{X}_D \cong \tilde{X}_\tau$ . If  $M$  is a compact manifold, then  $X = \text{Diff}(M)$ , then  $\tilde{X}_D \cong \tilde{X}_\tau$ . If  $(M, \omega)$  is a compact symplectic manifold, then for  $X = \text{Symp}(M, \omega)$  or  $= \text{Ham}(M, \omega)$ , then again  $\tilde{X}_D \cong \tilde{X}_\tau$ .

Thank you!

# References

- BH11** John C. Baez and Alexander E. Hoffnung, "Convenient categories of smooth spaces", *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* **363** (2011), 5789–5825.
- BKW23** Augustin Batubenge, Yael Karshon, and Jordan Watts, "Diffeological, Frölicher, and differential spaces", *Rocky Mountain J. Math.* (to appear).
- CSW14** J. Daniel Christensen, Gordon Sinnamon, and Enxin Wu, "The D-topology for diffeological spaces", *Pacific J. Math.* **272** (2014), no. 1, 87–110.
- Ha82** Richard S. Hamilton, "The inverse function theorem of Nash and Moser", *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. (N.S.)* **7** (1982), no. 1, 65–222.
- Hi94** Morris W. Hirsch, *Differential Topology*, In: Grad. Texts in Math., **33**, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1994.
- IZ13** Patrick Iglésias-Zemmour, *Diffeology, Math. Surveys Monogr.*, **185**, American Mathematical Society, 2013.
- KM97** Andres Kriegl and Peter W. Michor, *The Convenient Settings of Global Analysis, Math. Surveys Monogr.*, **53**, American Mathematical Society, 1997.
- L92** Mark V. Losik, "Fréchet manifolds as diffeological spaces", *Izv. Vyssh. Uchebn. Zaved. Mat.* (1992), 36–42.
- McD04** Dusa McDuff, "Lectures on groups of symplectomorphisms", *Rend. Circ. Mat. Palermo (2) Suppl.* No. 72 (2004), 43–78.
- Mi84** John Milnor, "Remarks on infinite-dimensional Lie groups", *Relativity, groups and topology, II (Les Houches, 1983)*, 1007–1057; North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam, 1984.

# References

- O06 Kaoru Ono, "Floer-Novikov cohomology and the flux conjecture", *Geom. Funct. Anal.* **16** (2006), no. 5, 981–1020.
- Ś13 Jędrzej Śniatycki, *Differential Geometry of Singular Spaces and Reduction of Symmetry* In: New Math. Monogr., **23**; Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2013.
- W12 Jordan Watts, *Diffeologies, Differential Spaces, and Symplectic Geometry*, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Toronto, 2012.