

# DEFINABLE MORSE FUNCTIONS ON DEFINABLY COMPACT MANIFOLDS IN D-MINIMAL STRUCTURES

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ABSTRACT. Consider a definable complete d-minimal expansion  $(F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$  of an ordered field  $F$ . Let  $M$  be a definably compact definable  $C^r$  submanifold of  $F^n$  and  $2 \leq r < \infty$ . We prove that the set of definable Morse functions is open and dense in the set of definable  $C^r$  functions on  $M$  with respect to the definable  $C^2$  topology.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In Morse theory the topological data of a space can be described by Morse functions defined on the space. We refer the readers to a famous book by J. Milnor [11] for Morse theory on compact  $C^\infty$  manifolds.

Let  $\mathcal{M} = (F, +, \cdot, <, \dots)$  be a d-minimal expansion of an ordered field  $F$ . Everything is considered in  $\mathcal{M}$ , the term “definable” is used in the sense of “definable with parameters in  $\mathcal{M}$ ”, each definable map is assumed to be continuous and  $2 \leq r < \infty$ .

Definable  $C^r$  Morse functions in an o-minimal expansion of the standard structure of a real closed field are considered in [12], [7].

In this paper we consider definable  $C^r$  Morse functions on a definably compact definable submanifold in d-minimal expansions of an ordered field when  $2 \leq r < \infty$ . These structures are generalizations of o-minimal expansions of real closed fields. Definable compactness is a generalization of compactness. If  $F = \mathbb{R}$ , then for a definable subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , it is definably compact if and only if it is compact.

Definable  $C^r$  manifolds are studied in [12], [1] [7].

Theorem 1.1 (Theorem 2.14) is our main result.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Consider a d-minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a definably compact  $\mathcal{D}^2$  submanifold of  $F^n$ . Then the set of all definable Morse functions on  $M$  is open and dense in the set  $\mathcal{D}^2(M)$  of  $\mathcal{D}^2$ -functions of  $M$ .*

Theorem 1.1 is a generalization of [7].

## 2. PRELIMINARY AND PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

Recall the definitions of d-minimality and definably completeness.

**Definition 2.1.** An expansion of a dense linear order without endpoints  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, \dots)$  is *definably complete* if any definable subset  $X$  of  $F$  has the supremum and infimum in  $F \cup \{\pm\infty\}$  ([9]). A definably complete expansion  $\mathcal{F}$  is *d-minimal* if for

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every  $m$  and definable subset  $A$  of  $F^{m+1}$ , there exists an  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $x \in F^m$  the set  $\{y \in F \mid (x, y) \in A\}$  has non-empty interior or a union of at most  $N$  discrete sets ([3], [10]).

The definition of dimension is found in [5, Definition 3.1].

**Definition 2.2** (Dimension). Consider an expansion of a densely linearly order without endpoints  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a nonempty definable subset of  $F^n$ . The dimension of  $M$  is the maximal nonnegative integer  $d$  such that  $\pi(M)$  has a nonempty interior for some coordinate projection  $\pi : F^n \rightarrow F^d$ . We consider that  $F^0$  is a singleton with the trivial topology. We set  $\dim(M) = -\infty$  when  $M$  is an empty set.

**Definition 2.3** ([6]). Consider a definably complete expansion  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$  of an ordered field. Let  $r$  be  $1 \leq r < \infty$ .

(1) A definable subset  $X$  of  $F^n$  is a  $d$ -dimensional  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold of  $F^n$  if each point  $x \in X$  there exist an open box  $U_x$  of  $x$  in  $F^n$  and a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  diffeomorphism  $\phi_x$  from  $U_x$  to some open box  $V_x$  of  $F^n$  such that  $\phi_x(x) = 0$  and  $U_x \cap Y = \phi_x^{-1}(F^d \cap V_x)$ , where  $F^d \subset F^n$  is the vectors whose last  $(n - d)$  components are zero.

(2) A function  $f : X \rightarrow F$  is a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  function if for any  $x \in X$  and the open box in (1),  $f \circ \phi_x^{-1}$  is a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  function.

**Definition 2.4.** For a set  $X$ , a family  $\mathcal{K}$  of subsets of  $X$  is called a *filtered collection* if, for any  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{K}$ , there exists  $B_3 \in \mathcal{K}$  with  $B_3 \subseteq B_1 \cap B_2$ .

Consider an expansion of a dense linear order without endpoints  $\mathcal{F} = (F; <, \dots)$ . Let  $X$  and  $T$  be  $\mathcal{D}^r$  manifolds. The parameterized family  $\{S_t\}_{t \in T}$  of definable subsets of  $X$  is called *definable* if the union  $\bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times S_t$  is definable in  $T \times X$ .

A parameterized family  $\{S_t\}_{t \in T}$  of definable subsets of  $X$  is a *definable filtered collection* if it is simultaneously definable and a filtered collection.

A definable space  $X$  is *definably compact* if every definable filtered collection of closed nonempty subsets of  $X$  has a nonempty intersection. This definition is found in [8, Section 8.4].

**Definition 2.5.** Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field whose universe is  $F$ . Let  $\pi : F^n \rightarrow F^d$  be a coordinate projection. A  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold  $M$  of  $F^n$  of dimension  $d$  is called a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  multi-valued graph (with respect to  $\pi$ ) if, for any  $x \in M$ , there exist an open box  $U$  in  $F^n$  containing the point  $x$  and a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  map  $\tau : \pi(U) \rightarrow F^n$  such that  $M \cap U = \tau(\pi(U))$  and  $\pi \circ \tau$  is the identity map defined on  $\pi(U)$ .

**Lemma 2.6.** Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field whose universe is  $F$ . Let  $M$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold  $M$  of dimension  $d$ . Let  $\Pi_{n,d}$  be the set of coordinate projections from  $F^n$  onto  $F^d$ . Let  $U_\pi$  be the set of points  $x$  at which there exist an open box  $U$  in  $F^n$  containing the point  $x$  and a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  map  $\tau : \pi(U) \rightarrow F^n$  such that  $M \cap U = \tau(\pi(U))$  and  $\pi \circ \tau$  is the identity map defined on  $\pi(U)$ . Then  $U_\pi$  is a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  multi-valued graph with respect to  $\pi$  and  $\{U_\pi\}_{\pi \in \Pi_{n,d}}$  is a definable open cover of  $M$ .

*Proof.* It is obvious that  $U_\pi$  is a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  multi-valued graph with respect to  $\pi$ . It is also obvious that  $U_\pi$  is open in  $M$ . The family  $\{U_\pi\}_{\pi \in \Pi_{n,d}}$  is a definable open cover of  $M$  by [4, Lemma 3.5, Corollary 3.8].  $\square$

**Proposition 2.7** (Definable Sard). *Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^1$  submanifold of  $F^m$  of dimension  $d$  and  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_n) : M \rightarrow F^n$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^1$  map. The set of critical values of  $f$  is definable and of dimension smaller than  $n$ .*

*Proof.* The proposition is trivial when  $d < n$  by [3, Lemma 4.5]. We consider the case in which  $d \geq n$  in the rest of proof.

We denote the set of critical values of  $f$  by  $\Sigma_f$ . The  $\mathcal{D}^1$  manifold  $M$  is covered by finitely many  $\mathcal{D}^1$  multi-valued graphs  $U_1, \dots, U_k$  by Lemma 2.6. The equality  $\Sigma_f = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \Sigma_{f|_{U_i}}$  obviously holds, where  $f|_{U_i}$  is the restriction of  $f$  to  $U_i$ . The set  $\Sigma_f$  is definable if  $\Sigma_{f|_{U_i}}$  is definable for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . We have  $\dim \Sigma_f = \max\{\dim \Sigma_{f|_{U_i}} \mid 1 \leq i \leq k\}$  by [3, Lemma 4.5]. Therefore, we may assume that  $M$  is a  $\mathcal{D}^1$  multi-valued graph with respect to a coordinate projection  $\pi$ . We may further assume that  $\pi$  is the projection onto the first  $d$  coordinates by permuting the coordinates if necessary.

By the definition of  $\mathcal{D}^1$  multi-valued graphs, for any  $a \in M$ , there exists a nonempty open box  $B$  such that  $M \cap B$  is the graph of  $\mathcal{D}^1$  map defined on  $\pi(B)$ . In particular, the restriction of  $\pi$  to  $M \cap B$  is a  $\mathcal{D}^1$  diffeomorphism onto  $\pi(B)$ . The global coordinate functions  $x_1, \dots, x_d$  are local coordinates of  $M$  at  $a$ . Let  $Df : M \rightarrow F^{d \times n}$  be the map giving the Jacobian matrix  $(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j})_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq d}$ . Set  $\Gamma_f = \{x \in M \mid \text{rank}(Df(x)) < n\}$ . The set  $\Gamma_f$  is definable. The set  $\Sigma_f$  is also definable because the equality  $\Sigma_f = f(\Lambda_f)$  holds, where  $\Lambda_f$  denotes the set of critical points of  $f$ .

Assume for contradiction that  $\dim \Sigma_f = n$ . The definable set  $\Sigma_f$  contains a nonempty open box  $U$ . We can take a definable map  $g : U \rightarrow \Sigma_f$  such that  $f \circ g$  is an identity map on  $U$ . We may assume that  $g$  is of class  $\mathcal{C}^1$  by [3, Lemma 3.14] by shrinking  $U$  if necessary. By differentiation, the matrix  $Df(g(x)) \cdot Dg(x)$  is the identity matrix of size  $n$ . It implies that  $Df(g(x))$  has rank at least  $n$ , which contradicts the definition of  $\Gamma_f$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $\pi$  be the coordinate projection of  $F^n$  onto the first  $d$  coordinates. Let  $U$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^2$  multi-valued graph with respect to  $\pi$  and  $f : U \rightarrow F$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^2$  map. We can find  $a_1, \dots, a_d \in F$  such that the definable function  $\Phi : U \rightarrow F$  given by  $\Phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i x_i$  is a Morse function and  $|a_1|, \dots, |a_d|$  are sufficiently small.*

*Proof.* Observe that the global coordinate functions  $x_1, \dots, x_d$  in  $F^n$  is a local coordinate function of  $U$  by the definition of multi-valued graphs as proven in the proof of Proposition 2.7. Consider the map  $H : U \rightarrow F^d$  given by  $H(x) = (\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}(x), \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_d}(x))$ . Observe that  $p_0 \in U$  is a critical point of  $H$  if and only if  $\det(H_f)(p_0) = \det(H_\Phi)(p_0) = 0$ , where  $H_f$  and  $H_\Phi$  are Hessians of  $f$  and  $\Phi$ , respectively. Let  $(a_1, \dots, a_d)$  be the point in  $F^d \setminus \Sigma_H$ , where  $\Sigma_H$  denotes the set of critical values of  $H$ . We can choose such  $(a_1, \dots, a_d)$  so that  $|a_1|, \dots, |a_d|$  are sufficiently small because  $\Sigma_H$  has an empty interior by Proposition 2.7. It is easy to check that  $\Phi$  is a Morse function. We omit the details.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9.** *Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold of  $F^m$  with  $0 \leq r < \infty$ . Given a*

definable closed subset  $X$  of  $M$ , there exists a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  function  $f : M \rightarrow F$  whose zero set is  $X$ .

*Proof.* Consider the closure  $\text{cl}(X)$  of  $X$  in  $F^m$ . There exists a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  function  $G : F^m \rightarrow F$  with  $G^{-1}(0) = \text{cl}(X)$  by [10]. The restriction of  $G$  to  $M$  satisfies the requirement.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.10.** *Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a definable  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold of  $F^m$  with  $0 \leq r < \infty$ . Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be closed definable subsets of  $M$  with  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$ . Then, there exists a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  function  $f : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  with  $f^{-1}(0) = X$  and  $f^{-1}(1) = Y$ .*

*Proof.* There exist  $\mathcal{D}^r$  functions  $g, h : M \rightarrow F$  with  $g^{-1}(0) = X$  and  $h^{-1}(0) = Y$  by Lemma 2.9. The function  $f : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  defined by  $f(x) = \frac{g(x)^2}{g(x)^2 + h(x)^2}$  satisfies the requirement.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.11.** *Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold with  $0 \leq r < \infty$ . Let  $C$  and  $U$  be closed and open definable subsets of  $M$ , respectively. Assume that  $C$  is contained in  $U$ . Then, there exists an open definable subset  $V$  of  $M$  with  $C \subseteq V \subseteq \text{cl}(V) \subseteq U$ .*

*Proof.* There is a definable continuous function  $h : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  with  $h^{-1}(0) = C$  and  $h^{-1}(1) = M \setminus U$  by Lemma 2.10. The set  $V = \{x \in M; h(x) < \frac{1}{2}\}$  satisfies the requirement.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.12** (Fine definable open covering). *Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold with  $0 \leq r < \infty$ . Let  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^q$  be a finite definable open covering of  $M$ . For each  $1 \leq i \leq q$ , there exists a definable open subset  $V_i$  of  $M$  satisfying the following conditions:*

- (a) *the closure  $\text{cl}(V_i)$  in  $M$  is contained in  $U_i$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq q$ , and*
- (b) *the collection  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^q$  is again a finite definable open covering of  $M$ .*

*Proof.* We inductively construct  $V_i$  so that  $\text{cl}(V_i) \subset U_i$  and  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^{k-1} \cup \{U_i\}_{i=k}^q$  is a finite definable open covering of  $M$ . We fix a positive integer  $k$  with  $k \leq q$ . Set  $C_k = M \setminus (\bigcup_{i=1}^{k-1} V_i \cup \bigcup_{i=k+1}^q U_i)$ . The set  $C_k$  is a definable closed subset of  $M$  contained in  $U_k$ . There exists a definable open subset  $V_k$  of  $M$  with  $C_k \subseteq V_k \subseteq \text{cl}(V_k) \subseteq U_k$  by Lemma 2.11. It is obvious that  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^k \cup \{U_i\}_{i=k+1}^q$  is a finite definable open covering of  $M$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.13.** Let  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$  be a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field. Let  $M$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^r$  submanifold of  $F^n$  and  $\mathcal{D}^r(M)$  be the set of  $\mathcal{D}^r$  functions. The space  $\mathcal{D}^r(M)$  equips the topology defined in [2].

**Theorem 2.14.** *Consider a  $d$ -minimal expansion of an ordered field  $\mathcal{F} = (F, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \dots)$ . Let  $M$  be a definably compact  $\mathcal{D}^2$  submanifold of  $F^n$ . The set of all definable Morse functions on  $M$  is open and dense in  $\mathcal{D}^2(M)$ .*

*Proof.* We first prepare several notations and define several sets and maps for later use. Set  $d = \dim M$ . The  $\mathcal{D}^2$  submanifold  $M$  is covered by finitely many  $\mathcal{D}^2$  multi-valued graphs  $U_1, \dots, U_k$  by Lemma 2.6. Let  $U_i$  be a  $\mathcal{D}^2$  multi-valued graph with respect to a coordinate projection  $\pi_i : F^n \rightarrow F^d$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Let  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^k$  be a fine definable open covering of  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^k$  given in Lemma 2.12. Set  $C_i = \text{cl}(V_i)$ .



Observe that  $C_i \subseteq U_i$  and  $M = \bigcup_{i=1}^k C_i$ . The definable set  $C_i$  is a closed subset of  $M$ . It deduces that  $C_i$  is definably compact. By Lemma 2.10, we can take a definable function  $\lambda_i : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $\lambda_i^{-1}(0) = M \setminus U_i$  and  $\lambda_i^{-1}(1) = C_i$ .

Let  $D_i$  be the  $\mathcal{D}^1$  vector field such that  $D_i(x)$  is the projection image of  $\partial/\partial x_i$  onto the tangent space  $T_x M$  of  $M$  at  $x \in M$ . We can find a subset  $I_i$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  of cardinality  $d$  such that  $\pi_i$  is the projection onto the  $d$  coordinates  $(x_j \mid j \in I_i)$ . The  $j$ -th smallest element in  $I_i$  is denoted by  $\sigma_i(j)$ . By the definition of multi-valued graphs,  $T_x M$  is spanned by  $(D_j(x) \mid j \in I_i)$  for every  $x \in U_i$  and for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be the set of all definable Morse functions on  $M$ . We first show that  $\mathcal{U}$  is open. We prove a stronger claim for later use. For every nonempty subset  $I$  of  $\{1, \dots, k\}$ , we set

$$\mathcal{U}_I := \{f \in \mathcal{D}^2(M) \mid f \text{ has no degenerate critical points on } C_i \text{ for each } i \in I\}.$$

We prove that  $\mathcal{U}_I$  is open. Take an arbitrary definable Morse function  $h : M \rightarrow F$ . We set  $h_j^i = D_{\sigma_i(j)} h$  for  $1 \leq j \leq d$  and  $i \in I$ . We set  $H_i = \det(D_{\sigma_i(j_1)} D_{\sigma_i(j_2)} h)_{1 \leq j_1, j_2 \leq d}$ . They are definable continuous functions defined on  $M$ . Since  $h$  has no degenerate critical points on  $C_i$  for  $i \in I$  and the coordinates  $x_{\sigma_i(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma_i(d)}$  give a local coordinate of  $M$  at  $x \in U_i$ , the function  $G_i := \sum_{j=1}^d |h_j^i| + |H_i|$  is positive on  $U_i$  for  $i \in I$ . In particular, we can find a positive  $K_i \in F$  such that  $G_i > K_i$  on the definably compact definable set  $C_i$  for  $i \in I$ . We can take  $L_i > 0$  so that  $|D_{\sigma_i(j_1)} D_{\sigma_i(j_2)} h| < L_i$  on  $C_i$ . Take a sufficiently small  $\varepsilon > 0$  so that  $d!((L_i + \varepsilon)^d - L_i^d) + d\varepsilon < K_i$  for every  $i \in I$ . Consider the open set

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon} = \{g \in \mathcal{D}^2(M) \mid & |g - h| < \varepsilon, |D_j(g - h)| < \varepsilon \ (1 \leq j \leq d), \\ & |D_{j_1} D_{j_2}(g - h)| < \varepsilon \ (1 \leq j_1, j_2 \leq d)\} \end{aligned}$$

in  $\mathcal{D}^2(M)$ . We can verify that  $\sum_{j=1}^d |D_{\sigma_i(j)} g| + |\det(D_{\sigma_i(j_1)} D_{\sigma_i(j_2)} g)_{1 \leq j_1, j_2 \leq d}| > 0$  on  $C_i$  for every  $i \in I$  and  $g \in \mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon}$ . It deduces that  $\mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon} \subseteq \mathcal{U}_I$  and  $\mathcal{U}_I$  is open.

We next show that  $\mathcal{U}$  is dense in  $\mathcal{D}^2(M)$ . We first take arbitrary  $h \in \mathcal{D}^2(M)$ . We define an open set  $\mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon}$  for positive  $\varepsilon \in F$  in the same manner as above. Since  $M$  is definably compact, every positive definable continuous function is bounded from below by a positive constant. This deduces that  $\{\mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon}\}_{\varepsilon > 0}$  is a basis of open neighborhoods of  $h$  in  $\mathcal{D}^2(M)$ .

Fix an arbitrary positive  $\varepsilon \in F$  and set  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon/k$ . We have only to construct a function  $g \in \mathcal{U} \cap \mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon}$  so as to show that  $\mathcal{U}$  is dense in  $\mathcal{D}^2(M)$ . Set  $\mathcal{U}_i := \mathcal{U}_{\{1, \dots, i\}}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$  for simplicity. We construct  $g_i \in \mathcal{U}_i \cap \mathcal{V}_{h,i\varepsilon'}$ . It is obvious that  $g := g_k \in \mathcal{U} \cap \mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon}$ .

We construct  $g_i$  by induction on  $i$ . We may assume that  $\pi_i$  is the projection onto the first  $d$  coordinates by permuting the coordinates if necessary. We first consider the case in which  $i = 1$ . We can find  $a_1, \dots, a_d$  such that  $|a_j| < \varepsilon'$  for  $1 \leq j \leq d$  and  $g_1(x) = h(x) + \sum_{i=1}^d a_i x_i$  is a Morse function by Lemma 2.8. It is obvious that  $g_1 \in \mathcal{U}_1 \cap \mathcal{V}_{h,\varepsilon'}$ .

We next consider the case in which  $i > 1$ . We can find  $g_{i-1} \in \mathcal{U}_{i-1} \cap \mathcal{V}_{h,(i-1)\varepsilon'}$  by induction hypothesis. We construct  $g_i \in \mathcal{U}_i \cap \mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1},\varepsilon'}$ . Such a  $g_i$  obviously belongs to  $\mathcal{U}_i \cap \mathcal{V}_{h,i\varepsilon'}$ . We have already shown that  $\mathcal{U}_{i-1}$  is open. Therefore, we can find  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1},\delta} \subseteq \mathcal{U}_{i-1} \cap \mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1},\varepsilon'}$  because  $\{\mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1},\varepsilon''}\}_{\varepsilon'' > 0}$  is a basis of open neighborhoods of  $g_{i-1}$  in  $\mathcal{D}^2(M)$ .

Set  $g_i := g_{i-1} + \lambda_i \cdot (\sum_{l=1}^d a_l x_l)$  for  $a_1, \dots, a_d \in F$ . We want to choose  $a_1, \dots, a_d \in F$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (1)  $g'_i := g_{i-1} + \sum_{l=1}^d a_l x_l$  has no degenerate critical points in  $U_i$ .
- (2)  $g_i \in \mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1}, \delta}$ .

We check that  $g_i$  belong to  $U_i \cap \mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1}, \varepsilon'}$  when  $a_1, \dots, a_d$  satisfy the above conditions (1) and (2). It is obvious that  $g_i \in \mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1}, \varepsilon'}$  by the inclusion  $\mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1}, \delta} \subseteq \mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1}, \varepsilon'}$ . The inclusion  $\mathcal{V}_{g_{i-1}, \delta} \subseteq \mathcal{U}_{i-1}$  implies that  $g_i$  has no degenerate critical points on  $C_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq i-1$ . Since  $\lambda_i$  is identically one on  $C_i$ , we have  $g_i = g'_i$  on  $C_i$ . Condition (1) implies that  $g_i$  has no degenerate critical points in  $C_i$ . We have shown that  $g_i$  has no degenerate critical points on  $C_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq i$ , and this means  $g_i \in \mathcal{U}_i$ .

The remaining task is to find  $a_1, \dots, a_d \in F$  so that conditions (1) and (2) are satisfied. The following inequalities are satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned} |g_i - g_{i-1}| &\leq \sum_{l=1}^d |a_l| |\lambda_i x_l| < K \cdot \sum_{j=1}^k |a_j| \\ |D_j(g_i - g_{i-1})| &\leq \sum_{l=1}^d |a_l| |D_j(\lambda_i x_l)| < K \cdot \sum_{j=1}^k |a_j| \\ |D_{j_1} D_{j_2}(g_i - g_{i-1})| &\leq \sum_{l=1}^d |a_l| |D_{j_1} D_{j_2}(\lambda_i x_l)| < K \cdot \sum_{j=1}^k |a_j| \end{aligned}$$

Finitely many definable continuous functions  $|\lambda_i x_l|$ ,  $|D_j(\lambda_i x_l)|$  and  $|D_{j_1} D_{j_2}(\lambda_i x_l)|$  defined on  $M$  appear in the above calculation. Since  $M$  is definably compact, we can find  $0 < K \in F$  such that these functions are bounded above by  $K$  in  $M$ . We used this fact in the calculation. We can find  $(a_1, \dots, a_d)$  so that  $K \cdot \sum_{j=1}^k |a_j| < \delta$  and  $g'_i$  has no degenerate critical points in  $U_i$  by Lemma 2.8. This  $(a_1, \dots, a_d)$  satisfies conditions (1) and (2).  $\square$

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