

# The Helffer-Nourrigat conjecture: hypoellipticity of polynomials of vector fields

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$M$  — smooth manifold. Recall...

## Definition (Hypoellipticity)

A differential operator  $P$  on  $M$  is **hypoelliptic** if the differential equation

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**Remark.**

$P$  is **maximally hypoelliptic** if moreover we have Sobolev estimates.

Examples on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ 

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Q. What governs hypoellipticity?

A. [Rockland,  **Helffer-Nourrigat**]: Representation theory of osculating nilpotent Lie groups.

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- 2 Helffer-Nourrigat’s construction of  $\text{HN}(\mathcal{F})_p$  is essentially a *DNC*.
- 3 Thus, we can prove the conjecture using the groupoid approach to  $\Psi\text{D}$  calculus (pioneered by Connes and Debord-Skandalis).

# The groupoid approach to pseudodifferential operators

## What is a pseudodifferential calculus?

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## Proof.

Given  $Pu = f$ , write  $u = \underbrace{(I - QP)u}_{\text{smooth by regularity}} + \underbrace{Q(Pu)}_{\text{same sing. supp. as } f = Pu \text{ by pseudolocality}}$  □

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Connes (1980s)

A pseudodifferential operator  $P$  and its principal symbol  $\sigma^m(P)$  are the restrictions at  $t = 1$  and  $t = 0$ , respectively, of a larger deformation family  $(\mathbb{P}_t)$  over  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

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## Debord-Skandalis (2010s)

Can characterize these deformation families  $(\mathbb{P}_t)$  using a canonical  $\mathbb{R}_+^\times$ -action on  $\mathbb{T}M$ .

# A basic fact about homogeneous polynomials

## Proposition

There is a 1-1 correspondence

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{polynomials on } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ of} \\ \text{order } \leq m \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{homog. polynomials on } \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \\ \text{of degree } = m \end{array} \right\}$$

$$a(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) = \underline{a}(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n, 1) \longleftarrow \underline{a}(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n, t)$$

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## A basic fact about polyhomogeneous symbols

**Recall:** A classical  $\Psi$ DO on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is an operator of the form

$$Pf(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} a(x, \xi) \hat{f}(\xi) e^{i\langle \xi, x \rangle} d\xi,$$

where  $a(x, \xi)$  is a **polyhomog. symbol** (generalizing a polynomial in  $\xi$ ).



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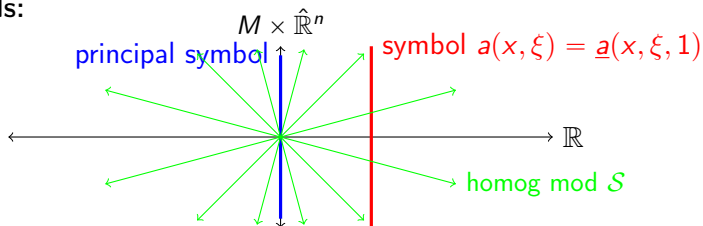
**Homog. mod Schwartz** means

$$\underline{a}(x, s\xi, st) - s^m \underline{a}(x, \xi, t) \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})) \quad \forall s > 0.$$

# Symbols & kernels as slices at $t = 1$

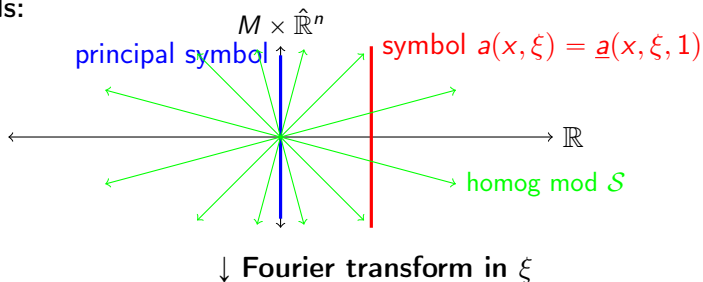
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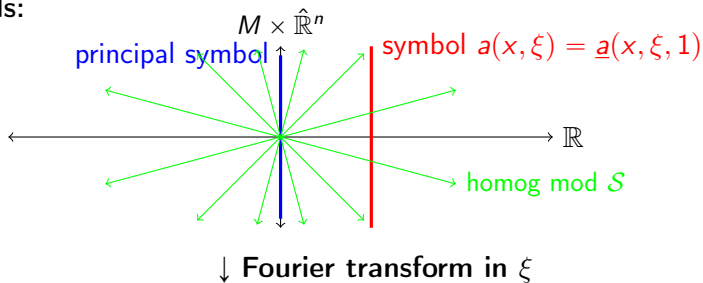
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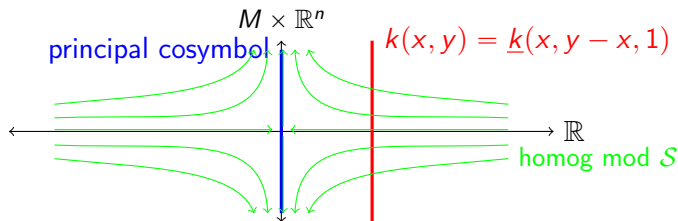


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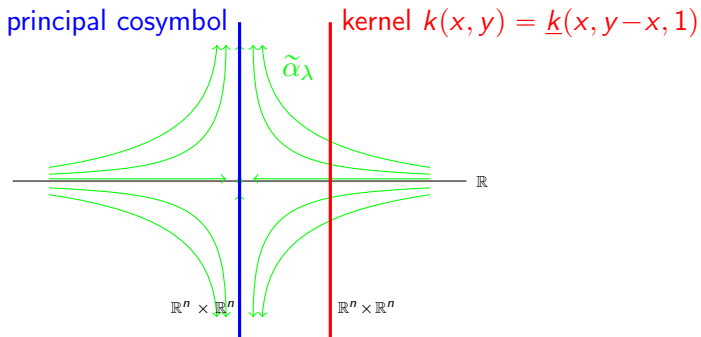


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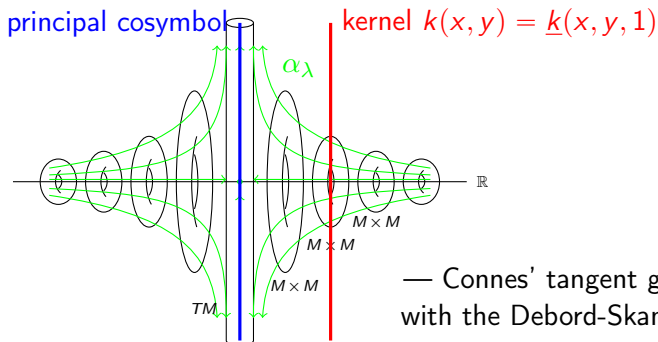
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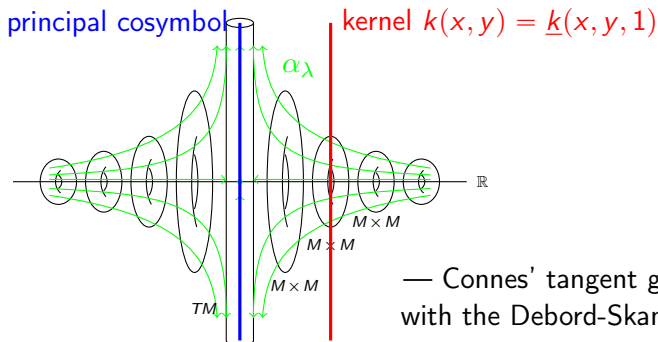
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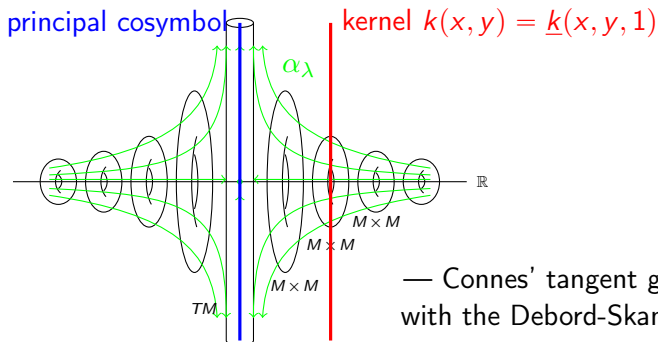
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Topology:

$$(x_i, y_i, t_i) \rightarrow (V_x, 0) \text{ iff } t_i \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } \frac{x_i - y_i}{t_i} \rightarrow V_x.$$

# The groupoid approach to classical $\Psi$ DOs

Definition (Van Erp-Y., inspired by Debord-Skandalis)

A (properly supported, classical polyhomogeneous)  $\Psi$ DO of order  $\leq m$  on  $M$  is an operator with Schwartz kernel  $k(x, y) = \underline{k}(x, y, 1)$ , where

$$\underline{k}(x, y, t) \in \mathcal{E}'_r(\mathbb{T}M) \quad [\text{Lescure-Manchon-Vassout}]$$

is homogeneous of degree  $m$  modulo  $C_p^\infty$  for the Debord-Skandalis action:

$$\alpha_s : \begin{cases} (x, y, t) = (x, y, s^{-1}t), & t \neq 0, \\ (x, v, 0) = (x, sv, 0), & t=0. \end{cases}$$

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Theorem (Van Erp-Y.)

- 1 This is equivalent to the usual definition of classical  $\Psi$ DOs [Kohn-Nirenberg].
- 2 The restriction  $\underline{k}|_{t=0}$  is the principal cosymbol.

# Groupoid convolution

## Theorem (Lescure-Manchon-Vassout)

*The product of the Lie groupoid  $\mathbb{T}M$  integrates to a **convolution product** of  $r$ -fibred distributions on  $\mathbb{T}M$ ,*

$$u * v(\gamma) = \int_{\beta \in G^r(\gamma)} u(\beta)v(\beta^{-1}\gamma)d\beta.$$

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- ② **Tangent bundle**  $TM$ :  $v_x = (v_p - w_p) + (w_p)$

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The product of the Lie groupoid  $\mathbb{T}M$  integrates to a **convolution product** of  $r$ -fibred distributions on  $\mathbb{T}M$ ,

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- ① **Pair groupoid**  $M \times M$ :  $a * b(x, z) = \int_{y \in M} a(x, y) b(y, z) dy$   
 — composition of Schwartz kernels.
- ② **Tangent bundle**  $TM$ :  $a * b(v_x) = \int_{w \in TM_x} a(v_p - w_p) b(w_p) dw$   
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$\Rightarrow$  Groupoid convolution in  $\mathcal{E}'_r(\mathbb{T}M)$  describes both composition of  $\Psi$ DOs (at  $t = 1$ ) and product of symbols (at  $t = 0$ ). [Connes]

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# A calculus for Helffer-Nourrigat operators



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## Corollary (The Helffer-Nourrigat Conjecture)

*Helffer-Nourrigat operators are (maximally) hypoelliptic.*

# The singular tangent groupoid

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**NB.** More general filtered singular foliations are possible, eg, by ascribing an *order* to each  $V_j$ .

# The osculating groups

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### Osculating Lie algebras

$$\mathfrak{gr} \mathcal{F}_p = \begin{cases} \langle [X]_p \rangle \oplus \langle [Y]_p \rangle & \cong \mathbb{R}^2, & \text{if } x \neq 0, \\ \langle [X]_p \rangle \oplus \langle [Y]_p \rangle \oplus \langle [Z]_p \rangle & \cong \mathfrak{h}^3, & \text{if } x = 0, \end{cases}$$

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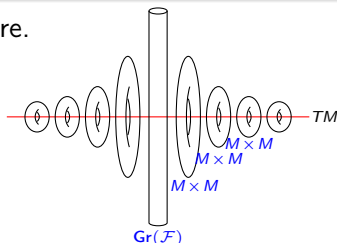
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... but this doesn't explain the smooth structure.



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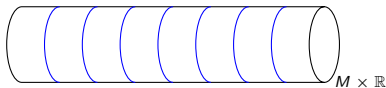
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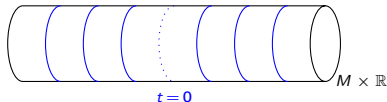


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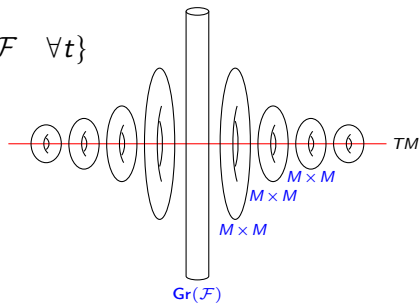
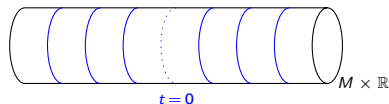


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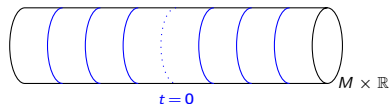
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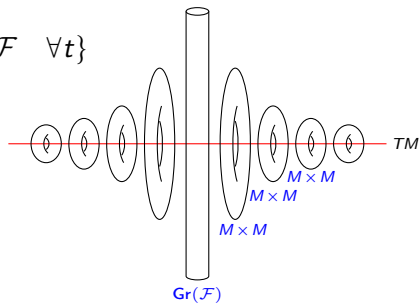
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It is a non-Hausdorff groupoid, but its  $r$ - &  $s$ -fibres are manifolds [Debord].

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$$(p, t) \mapsto \begin{cases} t^k X(p) & \in TM_p, & t \neq 0, \\ [X]_p & \in \mathfrak{gr}_k \mathcal{F}_p, & t = 0. \end{cases}$$

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- This induces a smooth structure on the tangent groupoid  $\mathbb{T}\mathcal{F}$  by a tubular neighbourhood construction (exponential charts).

# $\Psi$ DOs & the Helffer-Nourrigat Conjecture



# The $\mathbb{R}_+^\times$ -action

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### Definition

A distribution  $\underline{k} \in \mathcal{E}'_r(\mathbb{T}\mathcal{F})$  is **essentially homogeneous of degree  $m$**  if

$$\alpha_{s*}\underline{k} - s^m\underline{k} \in C_p^\infty(\mathbb{T}\mathcal{F}) \quad \forall s > 0.$$

# Pseudodifferential operators

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It is easy to show that  $\Psi^m(\mathcal{F})$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -filtered algebra satisfying

- 1 Regularity
- 2 Pseudolocality

The question of **parametrics** of “elliptic” elements is far more subtle.

[Helffer-Nourrigat]

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## Definition (Local generating family of vector fields)

A family of vector fields  $(X_1, \dots, X_d)$  is a **local generating family** for  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $U \subseteq M$  if there are  $d_1, \dots, d_N$  s.t.  $(X_1, \dots, X_{d_k})$  spans  $\mathcal{F}^k$  on  $U$ .

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- **[!]** Not all of  $\text{gr}\mathcal{F}_p^* = t^*\mathcal{F}|_{t=0}$  will be a limit of  $t^*\mathcal{F}|_{t>0}$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$ .

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$$(a, b, c) \mapsto \begin{cases} ta\partial_x + (t^2xb + t^3c)\partial_y, & t \neq 0, \\ a[X]_\rho + b[Y]_\rho, & t = 0, x \neq 0, \\ a[X]_\rho + b[Y]_\rho + c[Z]_\rho, & t = 0, x = 0. \end{cases}$$



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- Image of  $\mathfrak{t}^*\mathcal{F}|_{(x,y,t)} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3*}$  is:

$$\text{span}\{(1, 0, 0), (0, t^2x, t^3)\} = (0, t, x)^\perp.$$

## Example: Another hypoelliptic Laplacian

$$P = \partial_x^2 + \frac{x^2}{2} \partial_y \text{ on } M = \mathbb{R}^2.$$

- $X = \partial_x, Y = \frac{x^2}{2} \partial_y, Z = [X, Y] = x \partial_y, W = [X, Z] = \partial_y.$
- $\mathcal{F}^1 = \langle X \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{F}^2 = \langle X, Y \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{F}^3 = \langle X, Y, Z \rangle$   
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- Image of dual  $\mathfrak{t}^*\mathcal{F}|_{(x,y,t)}$  is:

$$\text{span}\left\{(1, 0, 0), \left(0, \frac{1}{2}t^2x^2, t^3x, t^4\right)\right\}.$$

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$$\text{HN}(\mathcal{F}) := \overline{\mathfrak{t}^*\mathcal{F}|_{t>0}} \cap \mathfrak{t}^*\mathcal{F}|_{t=0}$$

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## Theorem (Androulidakis-Mohsen-Y.)

- $P \in DO(M)$  — polynomial in vector fields of  $\mathcal{F}$  with total order  $\leq m$ ,
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**Moh(a $\mathcal{F}$ ) = Mohsen's blow-up groupoid.**

Thank you