

Desingularizing special generic maps into 3-dimensional space

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Abstract

A smooth map between smooth manifolds is called a special generic map if it has only definite fold points as its singularities. In this thesis, we study the desingularization problem of special generic maps of closed orientable n -dimensional manifolds M into \mathbb{R}^3 for $n \geq 5$. We say that a smooth map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ is lifted to an immersion or an embedding $F : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ ($k > p$) if f is factorized as $f = \pi \circ F$ for the standard projection $\pi : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$. In this thesis, we first prove that if $n = 5$ or 6 and M is simply connected, then a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ can be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if and only if the normal bundle ν_f of the singular point set of f in M is trivial as a vector bundle. Second, we prove that for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold M , if $n \geq 5$, $k \geq (3n+3)/2$ and ν_f is trivial, then f can be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^k .

1 Introduction

Haeffliger [8] proved that for a generic smooth map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ of a closed surface, there exists an immersion $F : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $f = \pi \circ F$ for the standard projection $\pi : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ if and only if the number of cusps on each component C of the singular point set of f is even or odd according as the tubular neighborhood of C in M is orientable or non-orientable. Here, a smooth map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is *generic* if it has only fold points and cusp points as its singularities. In particular, not every generic smooth map can be so lifted.

Based on Haeffliger's result mentioned above, let us consider the following problem: "Given a smooth map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ of a closed n -dimensional manifold and an integer k with $k > n \geq p$, determine whether or not f can be factorized as $f = \pi \circ F$ for an immersion or embedding $F : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ and for the standard projection $\pi : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$." Such a non-singular map F is called a *lift* of f . We can consider F as a desingularization of f . This lifting problem has been studied in various situations.

Yamamoto [19] proved that a generic smooth map of a closed surface into \mathbb{R}^2 can always be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^4 . Saito [16] proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold can always be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . Here, special generic maps are smooth maps with only definite fold points as their singularities. Blank and Curley [1] studied the condition for a generic smooth map $f : M \rightarrow N$ between smooth manifolds of the same dimension to be lifted to an immersion into a line bundle $\pi : E \rightarrow N$. Note that these results concern the desingularization of generic maps between manifolds of the same dimension.

Let us recall the definition of a special generic map. A smooth map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ of a closed n -dimensional manifold with $n \geq p$ is called a *special generic map* if it has only definite fold points as its singularities (for details, see Section 2). Note that a special generic map into the line is nothing but a Morse function with only critical points of minimum or maximum indices; in particular, the source manifold of such a map is homeomorphic to the sphere if it is connected.

Special generic maps were first defined by Burlet and de Rham [3], who showed that a closed 3-dimensional manifold M admits a special generic map into the plane if and only if M is diffeomorphic to the 3-sphere or to the connected sum of a finite number of total spaces of S^2 -bundles over S^1 . Porto and Furuya [12] studied the condition for a closed n -dimensional manifold M to admit a special generic map into the plane. Saeki [13] proved that a closed n -dimensional manifold M with $n \geq 3$ admits a special generic map into the plane if and only if M is diffeomorphic to the n -dimensional homotopy sphere (n -dimensional standard sphere for $n \leq 6$) or to the connected sum of a finite number of total spaces of homotopy $(n-1)$ -sphere bundles ($(n-1)$ -sphere bundles for $n \leq 6$) over S^1 and a homotopy n -sphere (for $n \geq 7$).

Èliašberg [7] proved that a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold admits a special generic map into \mathbb{R}^n if and only if M is stably parallelizable, that is, the Whitney sum of the tangent bundle of M and the trivial line bundle over M is trivial as a vector bundle.

Let us now return to the lifting problem. Let us first review some results about the lifting problem for smooth functions. Burlet and Haab [4] proved that a Morse function $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of a closed surface can always be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^3 . Saeki and Takase [15] proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold with $n \geq 1$ can always be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . They also proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of a closed connected n -dimensional manifold with $n \geq 2$ can be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if and only if M is diffeomorphic to the n -dimensional sphere with the standard smooth structure. Yamamoto [20] gave a necessary and sufficient condition for a Morse function on the circle to be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^2 .

Let us now review some results about the lifting problem for smooth maps into the plane. Kushner, Levine and Porto [10] studied the lifting problem for generic smooth maps of 3-dimensional manifolds into \mathbb{R}^2 . Levine [11] gave a necessary and sufficient condition for a generic smooth map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ of a closed orientable 3-dimensional manifold to be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^4 . Saeki and Takase [15] proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold with $n \geq 2$ can always be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . They also proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ of a closed non-orientable n -dimensional manifold with $n \geq 2$ can be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if and only if $n = 2, 4$ or 8 , and the tubular neighborhood of the singular point set in M is orientable. On the other hand, they also proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ of a closed connected n -dimensional manifold with $n \geq 3$ can be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if and only if M is diffeomorphic either to S^n or to the connected sum of a finite number of copies of $S^1 \times S^{n-1}$. Note that this result does not hold for $n = 2$. Actually, in [15], it is proved that there exists a special generic map $f : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ which cannot be lifted to any embedding $F : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ (but which can be lifted to an immersion $F : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$, since S^2 is orientable).

When $n - p = 1$, Saeki and Takase [15] proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold can be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if and only if the homology class $[S(f)] \in H_{p-1}(M; \mathbb{Z})$ represented by $S(f)$ vanishes. Here, $S(f)$ is the set of all singular points of f in M . Note that for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$, the \mathbb{Z}_2 -homology class $[S(f)]_2 \in H_{p-1}(M; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is Poincaré dual to the Stiefel-Whitney class $w_{n-p+1}(M)$ (see [18]). Therefore, if f can be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , then M is spin, that is, the second Stiefel-Whitney class $w_2(M) \in H^2(M; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ of M vanishes.

When $(n, p) = (5, 3), (6, 3), (6, 4)$ or $(7, 4)$, Saeki and Takase [15] proved that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold can be lifted to an immersion into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if and only if M is spin. They also showed that one can take an embedding as a lift if $(n, p) = (6, 3)$.

In this thesis, we study the lifting problem for special generic maps of closed n -dimensional manifolds into \mathbb{R}^3 for $n \geq 5$. First, we prove that a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ of a closed simply connected n -dimensional manifold M , $n = 5$ or 6 , can be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if and only if the singular point set of f has a trivial normal bundle in M . Second, we show that for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold with $n \geq 5$, the map f can be lifted an embedding into \mathbb{R}^k , if $k \geq (3n + 3)/2$ and the normal bundle of the singular point set $S(f)$ of f in M is trivial.

The thesis is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review various topological properties of special generic maps. In Section 3, we give a necessary condition for a special generic map to be lifted to a codimension two immersion in terms of the normal bundle of the singular point set. In Section 4, we construct an embedding

lift $F : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ of a closed simply connected n -dimensional manifold ($n = 5, 6$) with trivial normal bundle of $S(f)$ in M , by using the fact that $O(n-2)$ is a deformation retract of $\text{Diff}(S^{n-3})$, where $\text{Diff}(S^{n-3})$ is the space of all self-diffeomorphisms of S^{n-3} . This last fact has been proved by Smale [17] ($n = 5$) and Hatcher [9] ($n = 6$). By using a similar method, we construct an embedding lift $F : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold ($n \geq 5$ and $k \geq (3n+3)/2$) with trivial normal bundle of $S(f)$ in M , by using the fact that $\text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3})$ is 2-connected, where $\text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3})$ is the space of all embeddings of S^{n-3} into \mathbb{R}^{k-3} . This last fact has been proved by Budney [2].

Throughout this thesis, all manifolds and maps are of class C^∞ , unless otherwise indicated. For groups G_1 and G_2 , “ $G_1 \cong G_2$ ” means that they are isomorphic; for smooth manifolds M_1 and M_2 , “ $M_1 \cong M_2$ ” means that they are diffeomorphic; and for vector bundles E_1 and E_2 , “ $E_1 \cong E_2$ ” means that they are isomorphic. The symbol \mathbb{R}^n denotes the n -dimensional Euclidean space; D^n denotes the closed unit disk in \mathbb{R}^n ; and S^n denotes the n -dimensional unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . For a manifold M with boundary, $\text{Int } M$ and ∂M denote the interior and the boundary of M , respectively.

2 Preliminaries

In this section, we review several results about topological properties of special generic maps and their Stein factorizations, which will be necessary in the proof of our main theorems.

2.1 Special generic maps

Let $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ be a smooth map of a closed n -dimensional manifold, $n \geq p$. A point $q \in M$ is called a *singular point* of f if the rank of the differential $df_q : T_q M \rightarrow T_{f(q)} \mathbb{R}^p$ is strictly less than p . We denote by $S(f)$ the set of all singular points of f and call it the *singular point set* of f . A point $q \in M$ is called a *definite fold point* if there exist local coordinates $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ around q and $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_p)$ around $f(q)$ such that

$$\begin{cases} y_i \circ f = x_i, & 1 \leq i \leq p-1, \\ y_p \circ f = x_p^2 + x_{p+1}^2 + \dots + x_n^2. \end{cases}$$

When f has no singular points except for definite fold points, f is called a *special generic map*.

When $p = 1$, special generic maps are nothing but Morse functions with only critical points of indices 0 or n .

Note that for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$, the singular point set $S(f)$ is a closed $(p - 1)$ -dimensional submanifold of M and the restriction of f to $S(f)$ is a codimension one immersion into \mathbb{R}^p .

2.2 Stein factorization

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous map between topological spaces. For two points x_1 and x_2 in X , we define $x_1 \sim x_2$ if x_1 and x_2 are in the same connected component of the pre-image $f^{-1}(y)$ for a point y in Y . This relation “ \sim ” is an equivalence relation, and therefore, we can take the quotient space W_f and the quotient map $q_f : X \rightarrow W_f$ with respect to this relation. Then it is not difficult to prove that there exists a unique continuous map $\bar{f} : W_f \rightarrow Y$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & & \\ q_f \downarrow & \searrow f & \\ W_f & \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} & Y \end{array}$$

commutes. The above diagram is called the *Stein factorization* of f .

In general, the quotient space in the Stein factorization of a smooth map is not always a topological manifold. However, for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ of a closed n -dimensional manifold, $n > p$, we can give a structure of a smooth p -dimensional manifold with boundary to W_f so that $\bar{f} : W_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ is an immersion and $q_f : M \rightarrow W_f$ is a smooth map.

Note that for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ of a closed n -dimensional manifold into the Euclidean space of the same dimension, we have $M = W_f$, since the pre-image $f^{-1}(y)$ is a finite set for any $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$. So the Stein factorization does not give any new information. The following result is very useful to study special generic maps (see [3, 13]).

Theorem 2.1. *Let $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ be a special generic map of a closed connected n -dimensional manifold M into \mathbb{R}^p , $n > p$. Then the following holds.*

1. *The quotient space W_f has the structure of a smooth p -dimensional manifold with non-empty boundary.*
2. *The map $q_f : M \rightarrow W_f$ is a smooth map.*
3. *The map $\bar{f} : W_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ is a smooth immersion.*
4. *The singular point set $S(f)$ is a closed $(p - 1)$ -dimensional submanifold of M , and the restriction of q_f to $S(f)$ is a diffeomorphism onto ∂W_f .*

5. The induced map $(q_f)_* : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \pi_1(W_f)$ is a group isomorphism.
6. We have $q_f(M \setminus S(f)) = \text{Int } W_f$ and $q_f|_{M \setminus S(f)} : M \setminus S(f) \rightarrow \text{Int } W_f$ is a smooth S^{n-p} -bundle over $\text{Int } W_f$.

The above theorem is essentially proved for $(n, p) = (3, 2)$ in [3]. We can prove it for general (n, p) , $n > p$, by using a similar method.

We say that a D^n -bundle (or an S^n -bundle) is *linear* if its structure group can be reduced to the orthogonal group $O(n)$. Saeki [13] proved the following theorem about the topology of the source manifolds of special generic maps.

Theorem 2.2. *Suppose a closed n -dimensional manifold M admits a special generic map into \mathbb{R}^p with $n > p$. Then there exists a topological D^{n-p+1} -bundle E over W_f with M being homeomorphic to ∂E . Furthermore, if $n - p \leq 3$, then we can arrange so that E is a linear D^{n-p+1} -bundle over W_f and that M is diffeomorphic to ∂E .*

By using Theorem 2.2, Saeki [13, 14] classifies the diffeomorphism types of the simply connected n -dimensional manifolds ($n = 5, 6$) which admit special generic maps into \mathbb{R}^3 . That is, the following result holds.

Theorem 2.3. *Let M be a closed simply connected n -dimensional manifold with $n = 5, 6$. Then M admits a special generic map into \mathbb{R}^3 if and only if M is diffeomorphic to S^n or to the connected sum of S^{n-2} -bundles over S^2 .*

3 Normal bundle of the singular point set

In this section, we give a necessary condition for a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold M with $n > p$ to be lifted to a codimension two immersion.

Proposition 3.1. *Let M be a closed orientable manifold of dimension n and let F be an immersion of M into \mathbb{R}^{n+2} such that $f = \pi \circ F$ is a special generic map, where $\pi : \mathbb{R}^{n+2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ is the standard projection, $n > p \geq 1$. Then the normal bundle ν_f of $S(f)$ in M is stably trivial. Furthermore, if $n > 2p - 2$, then ν_f is trivial.*

Here, a vector bundle E over a topological space B is said to be *stably trivial* if the Whitney sum of E and a finite dimensional trivial vector bundle over B is trivial as a vector bundle.

Proof of Proposition 3.1. Let $i^*(TM)$ be the pullback of TM induced by the inclusion map $i : S(f) \rightarrow M$ and let $\tilde{i} : i^*(TM) \rightarrow TM$ be the natural map over i .

Then ν_f is identified with $\ker(df \circ \widetilde{i})$, which is an $(n - p + 1)$ -plane subbundle of $i^*(TM)$.

On the other hand, since $\bar{f} : W_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ is an immersion of a p -dimensional manifold and $q_f|_{S(f)} : S(f) \rightarrow \partial W_f$ is a diffeomorphism, we have that $S(f)$ is orientable. Therefore, since M is orientable and $i^*(TM) \cong TS(f) \oplus \nu_f$, we have that ν_f is orientable.

Let G be the restriction of $dF \circ \widetilde{i}$ to ν_f . Since $f = \pi \circ F$ and F is an immersion, G is a fiberwise monomorphism of the $(n - p + 1)$ -plane bundle ν_f into the $(n - p + 2)$ -plane bundle $\ker(d\pi)$, which is trivial. Note that G is a bundle morphism over $F \circ i$. Therefore, ν_f is a subbundle of $\zeta = (F \circ i)^*(\ker(d\pi))$. By using an inner product on ζ , we find a 1-dimensional subbundle ξ of ζ such that $\nu_f \oplus \xi \cong \zeta$. Since ν_f is an orientable $(n - p + 1)$ -plane bundle and ζ is the trivial $(n - p + 2)$ -plane bundle, we have that ξ is an orientable line bundle and hence is trivial. This means that ν_f is stably trivial.

Furthermore, if $n > 2p - 2$, i.e. if $n - p + 1 > p - 1$, then the dimension of the base space of ν_f is strictly less than the dimension of the fibers of ν_f . Therefore, the stable triviality of ν_f implies the triviality of ν_f . This completes the proof. \square

4 Lifting problems for special generic maps

In this section, we consider the problem of lifting special generic maps into \mathbb{R}^3 to codimension one embeddings. Recall that if $n = 5$ or 6 , a closed simply connected n -dimensional manifold M admits a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ if and only if M is diffeomorphic to S^n or to the connected sum of S^{n-2} -bundles over S^2 (see Theorem 2.3). Now we prove the following theorem.

Theorem 4.1. *Let $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a special generic map of a closed simply connected n -dimensional manifold, $n = 5$ or 6 , such that the singular point set $S(f)$ of f has trivial normal bundle in M . Then there exists an embedding $F : M \rightarrow W_f \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$ such that $P \circ F = q_f$, where $P : W_f \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2} \rightarrow W_f$ is the projection to the first factor.*

We use the following terminologies in the proof of Theorem 4.1.

Definition 4.2. Let X, Y and Z be smooth manifolds and let $f : X \rightarrow Y, F : X \rightarrow Z$ and $P : Z \rightarrow Y$ be smooth maps. We say that F is a *lift* of f with respect to P if $f = P \circ F$. In this case, we also say that f is *lifted* to F with respect to P .

Proof of Theorem 4.1. We may assume that M is connected. Then, by Theorem 2.1, the quotient space W_f has the structure of a smooth compact simply connected 3-dimensional manifold with non-empty boundary, since M is simply

connected. By the solution to the Poincaré conjecture, this implies that W_f is diffeomorphic to the 3-manifold obtained by removing the interior of the union of mutually disjoint finitely many 3-balls from the 3-sphere.

So we have a handle decomposition of W_f as follows:

$$W_f = (\partial W_f \times [0, 1]) \cup \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^s h_i^1 \right) \cup h^3,$$

where $h_i^1, i = 1, 2, \dots, s$, are 1-handles and h^3 is a 3-handle. Let $C (= \partial W_f \times [0, 1])$ be the collar neighborhood of ∂W_f in W_f , where ∂W_f corresponds to $\partial W_f \times \{0\}$.

Fix orientations of M and \mathbb{R}^3 . Since $\bar{f} : W_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is an immersion, we can orient W_f in such a way that \bar{f} is orientation preserving. Then, for each $w \in \text{Int } W_f$, we can orient $q_f^{-1}(w) (\cong S^{n-3})$ in such a way that if U is a small open neighborhood of w in $\text{Int } W_f$, and $\phi : q_f^{-1}(U) \rightarrow U \times q_f^{-1}(w)$ is a local trivialization with $\phi(x) = (w, x)$ for every $x \in q_f^{-1}(w)$, then ϕ is orientation preserving, where the orientations of $q_f^{-1}(U)$ and U are induced from those of M and W_f , respectively.

By the assumption that $S(f)$ has trivial normal bundle in M , the composition of the restriction $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(C)} : q_f^{-1}(C) \rightarrow C$ with the natural projection

$$p_C : C (= \partial W_f \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow \partial W_f$$

is a trivial D^{n-2} -bundle. Therefore, we have a bundle trivialization

$$H_C : q_f^{-1}(C) \rightarrow \partial W_f \times D^{n-2}.$$

We fix an orientation of \mathbb{R}^{n-2} , which induces an orientation for D^{n-2} . Then, it induces an orientation for $S^{n-3} = \partial D^{n-2}$. We may assume that the restriction of H_C to $q_f^{-1}(w)$ is an orientation preserving diffeomorphism onto $\{w'\} \times S^{n-3}$ for every $w \in \partial W_f \times \{1\}$, where w' is the point in ∂W_f such that $w = (w', 1)$. Then the map

$$e_1 : q_f^{-1}(C) \rightarrow C \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$$

defined by $e_1(x) = (q_f(x), pr_2 \circ H_C(x))$, $x \in q_f^{-1}(C)$, is a smooth map, where the map

$$pr_2 : \partial W_f \times D^{n-2} \rightarrow D^{n-2} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$$

is the projection to the second factor.

Note that e_1 is an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(C)}$ with respect to the restriction of P to $C \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$. This is proved as follows. It is clear that e_1 is a lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(C)}$ with respect to $P|_{C \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}}$ by the construction of e_1 . Therefore, we have only to prove that

e_1 is an embedding. Note that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} q_f^{-1}(C) & \xrightarrow{q_f} & C(= \partial W_f \times [0, 1]) & \xrightarrow{p_C} & \partial W_f \\ & \searrow H_C & & \nearrow pr_1 & \\ & & \partial W_f \times D^{n-2}, & & \end{array}$$

where pr_1 is the projection to the first factor. Therefore, the composition

$$e_1 \circ H_C^{-1} : \partial W_f \times D^{n-2} \rightarrow C \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2} = \partial W_f \times [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$$

maps (x, y) to $(x, K(x, y), y)$ for every $x \in \partial W_f$ and $y \in D^{n-2}$, where K is a smooth map of $\partial W_f \times D^{n-2}$ into $[0, 1]$. This implies that e_1 is an embedding.

We will extend e_1 to an embedding lift of the restriction of q_f to $q_f^{-1}(C \cup h_1^1)$ with respect to the restriction

$$P|_{(C \cup h_1^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}} : (C \cup h_1^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2} \rightarrow C \cup h_1^1.$$

Note that h_1^1 is identified with $D^2 \times D^1$ and is attached to C along $D^2 \times S^0$.

Let $\text{Diff}_+(S^{n-3})$ be the space of orientation preserving diffeomorphisms of S^{n-3} . By the results of Smale [17] and Hatcher [9], $\text{Diff}_+(S^{n-3})$ is homotopy equivalent to $SO(n-2)$, which is connected.

Since the 1-handle h_1^1 is contractible, we have a bundle trivialization

$$H_{1,1} : q_f^{-1}(h_1^1) \rightarrow h_1^1 \times S^{n-3}$$

which induces an orientation preserving diffeomorphism of $q_f^{-1}(w)$ onto $\{w\} \times S^{n-3}$ for every $w \in h_1^1$. We have the two end points $(0, \pm 1)$ of the core of the 1-handle $h_1^1 = D^2 \times D^1$. Then, we define the orientation preserving diffeomorphism $\phi_{\pm} : S^{n-3} \rightarrow S^{n-3}$ as the composition

$$S^{n-3} = \{(0, \pm 1)\} \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow q_f^{-1}(\{(0, \pm 1)\}) \rightarrow \{(0, \pm 1)\} \times S^{n-3} = S^{n-3},$$

where the first map is $H_{1,1}^{-1}$ restricted to $\{(0, \pm 1)\} \times S^{n-3}$, the second map is e_1 restricted to $q_f^{-1}(\{(0, \pm 1)\})$, and the double-sign corresponds in the same order.

Since $\text{Diff}_+(S^{n-3})$ is connected, there is a continuous path between ϕ_- and ϕ_+ in $\text{Diff}_+(S^{n-3})$. This induces a homeomorphism

$$q_f^{-1}(\{0\} \times D^1) = (\{0\} \times D^1) \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow (\{0\} \times D^1) \times S^{n-3},$$

which is an orientation preserving diffeomorphism on each S^{n-3} -fiber. This coincides with

$$e_1|_{q_f^{-1}(D^2 \times \{-1, +1\})} : q_f^{-1}(D^2 \times \{-1, +1\}) \rightarrow (D^2 \times \{-1, +1\}) \times S^{n-3}$$

over $q_f^{-1}(\{0\} \times \{-1, +1\})$. Therefore, by gluing the two maps, we have a homeomorphism

$$q_f^{-1}(X) (= X \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow X \times S^{n-3},$$

where $X = (D^2 \times \{-1, +1\}) \cup (\{0\} \times D^1)$. By composing this with the natural projection, we have a continuous map

$$\phi_1 : q_f^{-1}(X) (= X \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow S^{n-3}.$$

Let $\phi_2 : h_1^1 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow S^{n-3}$ be the continuous map defined by $\phi_2(x, y) = \phi_1(r(x), y)$ for $x \in h_1^1$ and $y \in S^{n-3}$, where $r : h_1^1 \rightarrow X$ is a deformation retract. Then a smooth approximation $\phi_3 : h_1^1 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow S^{n-3}$ of ϕ_2 such that $\phi_3|_{D^2 \times \{-1, +1\} \times S^{n-3}} = \phi_2|_{D^2 \times \{-1, +1\} \times S^{n-3}}$ induces a diffeomorphism of $\{x\} \times S^{n-3}$ to S^{n-3} for every $x \in h_1^1$, since so does ϕ_2 . Consequently, we have a smooth homeomorphism

$$\phi_4 : h_1^1 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow h_1^1 \times S^{n-3}$$

given by $\phi_4(x, y) = (x, \phi_3(x, y))$, $(x, y) \in h_1^1 \times S^{n-3}$. Since the derivative of ϕ_4 at each point is a linear isomorphism, by the inverse function theorem, we have that ϕ_4 is a diffeomorphism. Then the composition

$$e_2 : q_f^{-1}(h_1^1) (= h_1^1 \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow h_1^1 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow h_1^1 \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$$

is an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(h_1^1)}$ with respect to the restriction of P to $h_1^1 \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$, where the first map is ϕ_4 and the second map is the product of the identity map of h_1^1 and the standard inclusion. Since e_1 and e_2 coincide on the intersection of their sources, by glueing the two maps e_1 and e_2 , we have an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(C \cup h_1^1)}$ with respect to P restricted to $(C \cup h_1^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$.

By iterating this procedure, we construct an embedding lift e_3 of the restriction of q_f to $q_f^{-1}(C \cup (\bigcup_{i=1}^s h_i^1))$ with respect to P restricted to $(C \cup (\bigcup_{i=1}^s h_i^1)) \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$.

Now, let us extend the lift e_3 to the whole W_f . Since the 3-handle h^3 is contractible, we have a bundle trivialization

$$H_3 : q_f^{-1}(h^3) \rightarrow h^3 \times S^{n-3}$$

which induces an orientation preserving diffeomorphism of $q_f^{-1}(w)$ onto $\{w\} \times S^{n-3}$ for every $w \in h^3$.

We define the continuous map $\rho_1 : \partial h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow S^{n-3}$ by the composition

$$\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow q_f^{-1}(\partial h^3) \rightarrow \partial h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow S^{n-3},$$

where the first map is the restriction of H_3^{-1} to $\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3}$, the second map is the restriction of e_3 to $q_f^{-1}(\partial h^3)$, and the last map is the projection to the second factor.

Note that ρ_1 induces an orientation preserving diffeomorphism of $\{w\} \times S^{n-3}$ onto S^{n-3} for every $w \in \partial h^3$.

Recall that $\text{Diff}_+(S^{n-3})$ is homotopy equivalent to $SO(n-2)$ (see [9, 17]); hence, it is 2-connected. Therefore, the continuous map ρ_1 extends to a continuous map $\rho_2 : h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow S^{n-3}$ which induces an orientation preserving diffeomorphism of $\{w\} \times S^{n-3}$ onto S^{n-3} for every $w \in h^3$. Then a smooth approximation $\rho_3 : h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow S^{n-3}$ of ρ_2 such that $\rho_3|_{\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3}} = \rho_2|_{\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3}}$ induces a diffeomorphism of $\{w\} \times S^{n-3}$ onto S^{n-3} for every $w \in h^3$. So we have a smooth homeomorphism

$$\rho_4 : h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow h^3 \times S^{n-3}$$

given by $\rho_4(x, y) = (x, \rho_3(x, y))$ for $x \in h^3$ and $y \in S^{n-3}$.

Since the derivative of ρ_4 at each point is a linear isomorphism, by the inverse function theorem, we have that ρ_4 is a diffeomorphism. Then the composition

$$e_4 : q_f^{-1}(h^3) (= h^3 \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow h^3 \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$$

is an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(h^3)}$ with respect to the restriction of P to $h^3 \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$, where the first map is ρ_4 and the second map is the product of the identity map of h^3 and the standard inclusion. Since e_3 and e_4 coincide on the intersection of their sources, by gluing the two maps e_3 and e_4 , we have an embedding lift of q_f with respect to P . This completes the proof. \square

Remark 4.3. Note that the key ingredient in the proof of Theorem 4.1 is that $\pi_2 \text{Diff}_+(S^{n-3}) = 0$ for $n = 5, 6$. On the other hand, Crowley–Schick [6] proved that for every $j \geq 1$, we have

$$\pi_2 \text{Diff}(D^{8j-1}, \partial) \neq 0,$$

where $\text{Diff}(D^{8j-1}, \partial)$ is the space of diffeomorphisms of D^{8j-1} which are the identity on some neighborhood of ∂D^{8j-1} . It is known (see Proposition 4 of Appendix in [5], for example) that the following homotopy equivalence holds:

$$\text{Diff}_+(S^n) \simeq \text{Diff}(D^n, \partial) \times SO(n+1).$$

Therefore, the result mentioned above implies that

$$\pi_2(\text{Diff}_+(S^{8j-1})) \neq 0,$$

for every $j \geq 1$. This means that the method in the proof of Theorem 4.1 does not work in higher dimensions in general.

As a consequence of Theorem 4.1, we have the following result.

Theorem 4.4. *Let $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a special generic map of a closed simply connected n -dimensional manifold with $n = 5, 6$ and let $\pi : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be the standard projection. Then the following conditions are all equivalent to each other:*

1. *There exists an embedding $F_1 : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ such that $\pi \circ F_1 = f$.*
2. *There exists an immersion $F_2 : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ such that $\pi \circ F_2 = f$.*
3. *The singular point set $S(f)$ of f has a trivial normal bundle in M .*
4. *The manifold M is spin.*

Proof. Assume that there exists an immersion $F : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ such that $\pi \circ F = f$. Then the map $F' : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}$ defined by $F'(x) = (F(x), 0)$, $x \in M$, is also an immersion lift of f . Therefore, by Proposition 3.1, we conclude that the singular point set $S(f)$ of f has a trivial normal bundle in M .

Now, suppose that $S(f)$ has a trivial normal bundle in M . Then by Theorem 4.1, we get an embedding lift $e : M \rightarrow W_f \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$ of q_f . Since W_f can be embedded into \mathbb{R}^{n-2} , by using an embedding $\bar{e} : W_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$ and the immersion $\bar{f} : W_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$, we get an embedding $G = (\bar{f}, \bar{e}) : W_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ such that G is an embedding lift of \bar{f} with respect to the natural projection $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$. Since W_f is compact, there exists an embedding $H : W_f \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ such that $H(x, 0) = G(x)$ for every $x \in W_f$ and the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W_f \times \mathbb{R}^{n-2} & \xrightarrow{H} & \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \\ \downarrow P & & \downarrow \pi \\ W_f & \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} & \mathbb{R}^3 \end{array}$$

commutes. Then the composition of e with H is an embedding lift of f .

It is trivial that the first condition implies the second one. Thus, the first three conditions in Theorem 4.4 are equivalent to each other.

Saeki–Takase proved that the second and the last conditions are equivalent to each other (see Theorem 6.1 in [15]). This completes the proof of Theorem 4.4. \square

Remark 4.5. Note that we can directly prove that items 3 and 4 in Theorem 4.4 are equivalent to each other without using a result of Saeki–Takase [15] as follows. Recall that M is diffeomorphic to ∂E for some linear D^{n-2} -bundle E over W_f by Theorem 2.2. Since W_f is simply connected, we have

$$W_f \cong W_1 \natural W_2 \natural \cdots \natural W_b,$$

where the symbol “ \sharp ” denotes boundary connected sum, $W_i \cong S^2 \times [0, 1]$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, b$) and $b \geq 0$ (when $b = 0$, $W_f \cong D^3$). Let E_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, b$) be the D^{n-2} -bundle over W_i induced from the inclusion $W_i \hookrightarrow W_f$. Then, we have

$$M \cong \partial E_1 \sharp \partial E_2 \sharp \cdots \sharp \partial E_b.$$

Note that the manifold ∂E_i is the total space of an S^{n-2} -bundle over S^2 . This is a spin manifold if and only if the bundle E_i is trivial. Therefore, the manifold M is spin if and only if all the bundles E_i are trivial. Finally, it is easy to see that this last condition is equivalent to the triviality of the normal bundle ν_f of $S(f)$ in M .

The following proposition shows that for $n \geq 4$, there exist special generic maps of closed simply connected n -dimensional manifolds into \mathbb{R}^3 with trivial normal bundle of the singular point set. By virtue of Theorem 4.4, such special generic maps for $n = 5, 6$ can be lifted to embeddings in codimension one.

Proposition 4.6. *For $n \geq 3$, there is a special generic map $f : S^{n-2} \times S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that the normal bundle ν_f of $S(f)$ in $S^{n-2} \times S^2$ is trivial.*

Proof. Let $h : S^{n-2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the Morse function given by

$$h(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}) = x_{n-1}$$

for $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in S^{n-2} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$. Then the composition

$$S^{n-2} \times S^2 \xrightarrow{h \times \text{id}} \mathbb{R} \times S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

is a special generic map, where id is the identity map of S^2 , and the last map is the composition of a trivialization of the open tubular neighborhood of S^2 in \mathbb{R}^3 with the inclusion map. Note that $S(f) = \{(0, 0, \dots, 0, \pm 1)\} \times S^2$ is the disjoint union of two 2-spheres and it has trivial normal bundle in $S^{n-2} \times S^2$. \square

On the other hand, the following proposition implies that there exist special generic maps of closed simply connected n -dimensional manifolds into \mathbb{R}^3 with non-trivial normal bundle of the singular point set. By virtue of Theorem 4.4, such special generic maps for $n = 5, 6$ cannot be lifted to embeddings in codimension one.

Proposition 4.7. *For $n \geq 4$, there is a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that the normal bundle ν_f of $S(f)$ in M is non-trivial, where M is a non-trivial S^{n-2} -bundle over S^2 .*

Proof. For real numbers t with $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$, we define the diffeomorphism $g_t : S^{n-2} \rightarrow S^{n-2}$ by

$$g_t(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}) = (x_1 \cos t - x_2 \sin t, x_1 \sin t + x_2 \cos t, x_3, x_4, \dots, x_{n-1})$$

for $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in S^{n-2}$. Note that we have $g_0 = g_{2\pi}$. By using this map, we define the diffeomorphism $\Phi : S^{n-2} \times \partial D^2 \rightarrow S^{n-2} \times \partial D^2$ by

$$\Phi(x, (\cos t, \sin t)) = (g_t(x), (\cos t, \sin t))$$

for $x \in S^{n-2}$ and $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$. Pasting $S^{n-2} \times D^2$ and its copy along the boundary by Φ , we obtain the closed n -dimensional manifold M . It is easy to see that M is a non-trivial S^{n-2} -bundle over S^2 .

Now, we define the special generic map $h : S^{n-2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$h(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}) = x_{n-1}$$

for $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in S^{n-2}$. Then we have

$$(h \times \text{id}) \circ \Phi = h \times \text{id} : S^{n-2} \times \partial D^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \partial D^2.$$

Therefore, the map

$$(h \times \text{id}) \cup (h \times \text{id}) : M = (S^{n-2} \times D^2) \cup_{\Phi} (S^{n-2} \times D^2) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R} \times D^2) \cup (\mathbb{R} \times D^2)$$

is well-defined, where

$$(\mathbb{R} \times D^2) \cup (\mathbb{R} \times D^2) = \mathbb{R} \times S^2$$

is the space obtained by pasting $\mathbb{R} \times D^2$ and its copy along the boundary by the identity map. So we obtain the composition map

$$f : M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \times S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3,$$

where the last map is the composition of a trivialization of the open tubular neighborhood of S^2 in \mathbb{R}^3 with the inclusion map. Since the second Stiefel-Whitney class of ν_f does not vanish, we see that the map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is a special generic map and that $S(f)$ is the disjoint union of two 2-spheres with non-trivial normal bundle in M \square

The map f in the following proposition cannot be lifted to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} by a result in [15]. So Theorems 4.1 and 4.4 do not hold if we drop the condition that M should be simply connected.

Proposition 4.8. *For $n = 5, 6$, there exists a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold M such that the normal bundle ν_f of $S(f)$ in M is trivial and that M is neither spin nor simply connected.*

Proof. Let $\pi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow S^2$ be the projection of the non-trivial orientable linear D^{n-2} -bundle over S^2 (such a bundle uniquely exists up to isomorphism since $\pi_1(SO(n-2)) = \mathbb{Z}_2$). Then the product map $\pi_2 = \pi_1 \times \text{id}_{S^1} : E_1 \times S^1 \rightarrow S^2 \times S^1$ is a non-trivial orientable linear D^{n-2} -bundle over $S^2 \times S^1$. Set $W = S^2 \times S^1 \setminus \text{Int } D_1$, $E = \pi_2^{-1}(W)$ and $\pi = \pi_2|_E : E \rightarrow W$, where D_1 is a 3-ball in $S^2 \times S^1$. Then, $\pi : E \rightarrow W$ is a non-trivial orientable linear D^{n-2} -bundle over W . It is clear that W can be immersed in \mathbb{R}^3 . Then, by using the same method used in the proof of [13, Proposition 2.1], we can construct a special generic map $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $M = \partial E$, $W_f = W$ and $q_f : M \rightarrow W_f$ coincide with π over $q_f^{-1}(C)$ for some collar neighborhood C of ∂W_f in W_f . Note that the normal bundle ν_f of $S(f)$ in M is trivial, since $\pi : E \rightarrow W$ is trivial over ∂W . This completes the proof. \square

The following theorem is proved by a method similar to that used in the proofs of Theorems 4.1 and 4.4.

Theorem 4.9. *Let $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a special generic map of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold, $n \geq 5$. Then the quotient map $q_f : M \rightarrow W_f$ lifts to an embedding into $W_f \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ with respect to the projection $P : W_f \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3} \rightarrow W_f$ if the normal bundle ν_f of the singular point set $S(f)$ in M is trivial and $k \geq (3n+3)/2$.*

We need the following proposition to prove Theorem 4.9.

Proposition 4.10 (Budney, [2]). *The embedding space $\text{Emb}(S^n, \mathbb{R}^k)$ is $\min\{2k - 3n - 4, k - n - 2\}$ -connected if $k \geq n + 2 \geq 3$.*

Proof of Theorem 4.9. By Proposition 4.10, since $k \geq (3n+3)/2$ and $n \geq 5$, we have that the embedding space $\text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3})$ is 2-connected. This is a key to proving Theorem 4.9.

We may assume that M is connected. Then, by Theorem 2.1, the quotient space W_f has the structure of a smooth compact orientable connected 3-dimensional manifold with non-empty boundary. So we have a handle decomposition of W_f as follows:

$$W_f = (\partial W_f \times [0, 1]) \cup \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^s h_i^1 \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^t h_j^2 \right) \cup h^3,$$

where h_i^1 , $i = 1, 2, \dots, s$, are 1-handles, h_j^2 , $j = 1, 2, \dots, t$, are 2-handles, and h^3 is a 3-handle. Let $C (= \partial W_f \times [0, 1])$ be the collar neighborhood of ∂W_f in W_f . Here, ∂W_f corresponds to $\partial W_f \times \{0\}$.

By using the same method used in the proof of Theorem 4.1, we can construct an embedding lift e_1 of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(C)}$ with respect to $P|_{C \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}}$.

We will extend e_1 to an embedding lift of the restriction of q_f to $q_f^{-1}(C \cup h_1^1)$ with respect to the restriction

$$P|_{(C \cup h_1^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}} : (C \cup h_1^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3} \rightarrow C \cup h_1^1.$$

Note that h_1^1 is identified with $D^2 \times D^1$ and is attached to C along $D^2 \times S^0$.

Since the 1-handle h_1^1 is contractible, we have a bundle trivialization

$$H_{1,1} : q_f^{-1}(h_1^1) \rightarrow h_1^1 \times S^{n-3}.$$

We have two end points $(0, \pm 1)$ of the core of the 1-handle $h_1^1 = D^2 \times D^1$. Then, we define the embeddings $\phi_{\pm} : S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ as the composition

$$S^{n-3} = \{(0, \pm 1)\} \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow q_f^{-1}(\{(0, \pm 1)\}) \rightarrow \{(0, \pm 1)\} \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3} = \mathbb{R}^{k-3},$$

where the first map is $H_{1,1}^{-1}$ restricted to $\{(0, \pm 1)\} \times S^{n-3}$, the second map is e_1 restricted to $q_f^{-1}(\{(0, \pm 1)\})$ and the double-sign corresponds in the same order.

Since $\text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3})$ is connected, there is a continuous path between ϕ_- and ϕ_+ in $\text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3})$. This induces a topological embedding

$$q_f^{-1}(\{0\} \times D^1) (= (\{0\} \times D^1) \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow (\{0\} \times D^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3},$$

which is an embedding on each S^{n-3} -fiber. This coincides with

$$e_1|_{q_f^{-1}(D^2 \times \{-1, +1\})} : q_f^{-1}(D^2 \times \{-1, +1\}) \rightarrow (D^2 \times \{-1, +1\}) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$$

over $q_f^{-1}(\{0\} \times \{-1, +1\})$. Therefore, by gluing the two maps, we have a topological embedding

$$q_f^{-1}(X) (= X \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow X \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3},$$

where $X = (D^2 \times \{-1, +1\}) \cup (\{0\} \times D^1)$. By composing this with the natural projection, we have a continuous map

$$\phi_1 : q_f^{-1}(X) (= X \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}.$$

Let $\phi_2 : h_1^1 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ be the continuous map defined by $\phi_2(x, y) = \phi_1(r_1(x), y)$ for $x \in h_1^1$ and $y \in S^{n-3}$, where $r_1 : h_1^1 \rightarrow X$ is a deformation retract. Then a smooth approximation $\phi_3 : h_1^1 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ of ϕ_2 such that $\phi_3|_{D^2 \times \{-1, +1\} \times S^{n-3}} = \phi_2|_{D^2 \times \{-1, +1\} \times S^{n-3}}$ induces a smooth embedding of $\{x\} \times S^{n-3}$ into \mathbb{R}^{k-3} for every $x \in h_1^1$, since so does ϕ_2 . Consequently, we have a smooth injection

$$\phi_4 : h_1^1 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow h_1^1 \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$$

defined by $\phi_4(x, y) = (x, \phi_3(x, y))$, $(x, y) \in h_1^1 \times S^{n-3}$. Since the derivative of ϕ_4 at each point is injective and $h_1^1 \times S^{n-3}$ is compact, we have that ϕ_4 is an embedding.

Put $e_2 = \phi_4$. Then e_2 is an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(h_1^1)}$ with respect to P restricted to $h_1^1 \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$. Since e_1 and e_2 coincide on the intersection of their sources, by glueing the two maps e_1 and e_2 , we have an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(C \cup h_1^1)}$ with respect to P restricted to $(C \cup h_1^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$.

By iterating this procedure, we construct an embedding lift e_3 of q_f restricted to $q_f^{-1}(C \cup (\bigcup_{i=1}^s h_i^1))$ with respect to P restricted to $(C \cup (\bigcup_{i=1}^s h_i^1)) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$.

Put $W_1 = C \cup (\bigcup_{i=1}^s h_i^1)$. We will extend e_3 to an embedding lift of the restriction of q_f to $q_f^{-1}(W_1 \cup h_1^2)$ with respect to the restriction

$$P|_{(W_1 \cup h_1^2) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}} : (W_1 \cup h_1^2) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3} \rightarrow W_1 \cup h_1^2.$$

Note that h_1^2 is identified with $D^1 \times D^2$ and is attached to W_1 along $D^1 \times S^1$.

Since the 2-handle h_1^2 is contractible, we have a bundle trivialization

$$H_{1,2} : q_f^{-1}(h_1^2) \rightarrow h_1^2 \times S^{n-3}.$$

We have the circle $\{0\} \times S^1$ as the core of the attaching annulus of the 2-handle $h_1^2 = D^1 \times D^2$. Then, we define the embedding $\psi_t : S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ ($t \in S^1$) as the composition

$$S^{n-3} = \{(0, t)\} \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow q_f^{-1}(\{(0, t)\}) \rightarrow \{(0, t)\} \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3} = \mathbb{R}^{k-3},$$

where the first map is $H_{1,2}^{-1}$ restricted to $\{(0, t)\} \times S^{n-3}$ and the second map is e_3 restricted to $q_f^{-1}(\{(0, t)\})$. The family $\{\psi_t\}_{t \in S^1}$ induces a continuous map ψ_0 of S^1 into $\text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3})$.

Since $\pi_1 \text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3}) = 0$, the map ψ_0 extends to a continuous map of D^2 into $\text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3})$. This induces a topological embedding

$$q_f^{-1}(\{0\} \times D^2) (= (\{0\} \times D^2) \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow (\{0\} \times D^2) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3},$$

which is an embedding on each S^{n-3} -fiber. This coincides with

$$e_3|_{q_f^{-1}(D^1 \times S^1)} : q_f^{-1}(D^1 \times S^1) \rightarrow (D^1 \times S^1) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$$

over $q_f^{-1}(\{0\} \times S^1)$. Therefore, by gluing the two maps, we have a topological embedding

$$q_f^{-1}(Y) (= Y \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow Y \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3},$$

where $Y = (D^1 \times S^1) \cup (\{0\} \times D^2)$. By composing this with the natural projection, we have a continuous map

$$\psi_1 : q_f^{-1}(Y) (= Y \times S^{n-3}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}.$$

Let $\psi_2 : h_1^2 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ be the continuous map defined by $\psi_2(x, y) = \psi_1(r_2(x), y)$ for $x \in h_1^2$ and $y \in S^{n-3}$, where $r_2 : h_1^2 \rightarrow Y$ is a deformation retract. Then a smooth approximation $\psi_3 : h_1^2 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ of ψ_2 such that $\psi_3|_{D^1 \times S^1 \times S^{n-3}} = \psi_2|_{D^1 \times S^1 \times S^{n-3}}$ induces a smooth embedding of $\{x\} \times S^{n-3}$ into \mathbb{R}^{k-3} for every $x \in h_1^2$, since so does ψ_2 . Consequently, we have a smooth injection

$$\psi_4 : h_1^2 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow h_1^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$$

defined by $\psi_4(x, y) = (x, \psi_3(x, y))$, $(x, y) \in h_1^2 \times S^{n-3}$. Since the derivative of ψ_4 at each point is injective and $h_1^2 \times S^{n-3}$ is compact, we have that ψ_4 is an embedding. Put $e_4 = \psi_4$. Then e_4 is an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(h_1^2)}$ with respect to P restricted to $h_1^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$. Since e_3 and e_4 coincide on the intersection of their sources, by glueing the two maps e_3 and e_4 , we have an embedding lift of $q_f|_{q_f^{-1}(W_1 \cup h_1^2)}$ with respect to P restricted to $(W_1 \cup h_1^2) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$.

By iterating this procedure, we construct an embedding lift e_5 of q_f restricted to $q_f^{-1}(W_1 \cup (\bigcup_{j=1}^t h_j^2))$ with respect to P restricted to $(W_1 \cup (\bigcup_{j=1}^t h_j^2)) \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$.

Now, let us extend the lift e_5 to the whole W_f . Since the 3-handle h^3 is contractible, we have a bundle trivialization

$$H_3 : q_f^{-1}(h^3) \rightarrow h^3 \times S^{n-3}.$$

Then, we define the continuous map $\rho_1 : \partial h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ by the composition

$$\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow q_f^{-1}(\partial h^3) \rightarrow \partial h^3 \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3},$$

where the first map is the restriction of H_3^{-1} to $\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3}$, the second map is the restriction of e_5 to $q_f^{-1}(\partial h^3)$ and the last map is the projection.

Recall that $\pi_2 \text{Emb}(S^{n-3}, \mathbb{R}^{k-3}) = 0$. Therefore, the continuous map ρ_1 extends to a continuous map $\rho_2 : h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ which induces a smooth embedding into \mathbb{R}^{k-3} on each S^{n-3} -fiber. Then a smooth approximation $\rho_3 : h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$ of ρ_2 such that $\rho_3|_{\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3}} = \rho_2|_{\partial h^3 \times S^{n-3}}$ induces a smooth embedding on each S^{n-3} -fiber, since so does ρ_2 . So we have a smooth injection

$$\rho_4 : h^3 \times S^{n-3} \rightarrow h^3 \times \mathbb{R}^{k-3}$$

defined by $\rho_4(x, y) = (x, \rho_3(x, y))$ for $x \in h^3$ and $y \in S^{n-3}$.

Since the derivative of ρ_4 at each point is injective and $h^3 \times S^{n-3}$ is compact, we have that ρ_4 is a smooth embedding. Put $e_6 = \rho_4$. Then, since e_5 and e_6 coincide on the intersection of their sources, by gluing the two maps e_5 and e_6 , we have an embedding lift of q_f with respect to P . This completes the proof. \square

As a consequence of Theorem 4.9, by using the same method as that in the proof of Theorem 4.4, we have the following result.

Theorem 4.11. *Let $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a special generic map of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold, $n \geq 5$. Then f lifts to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^k with respect to the natural projection $\pi : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ if the normal bundle ν_f of the singular point set $S(f)$ in M is trivial and $k \geq (3n + 3)/2$.*

Furthermore, Theorem 4.11 can be generalized as follows.

Theorem 4.12. *Let $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ be a special generic map of a closed orientable n -dimensional manifold with $n > p \geq 1$. Then f lifts to an embedding into \mathbb{R}^k with respect to the natural projection $\pi : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ if the normal bundle ν_f of the singular point set $S(f)$ in M is trivial and $k \geq \max\{(3n + 3)/2, n + p + 1\}$.*

This is proved by the (almost) same method as that in the proofs of Theorems 4.9 and 4.11. The key ingredient to proving Theorem 4.12 is that $\text{Emb}(S^{n-p}, \mathbb{R}^{k-p})$ is $(p - 1)$ -connected.

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