

## The set of vector fields with transverse foliations

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### Introduction.

There exist precise criterions to decide whether a given  $C^1$  flow  $\phi$  on an  $m$  dimensional closed manifold  $M$  admits a cross-section. For example, one has the asymptotic cycles [Sc] as well as homology directions [Fr]. Both of these make use of the first real homology group of  $M$ . On the other hand, there does not exist a general criterion to decide whether a flow admits a transverse foliation. However, in the case of a three manifold this problem is solved for certain types of flows, like flows whose orbits are compact [Mi], [Wo], [E-H-N], Morse-Smale flows [Go1] and Smale flows [Go2]. In this paper we treat the problem of extending the result of Goodman's criterion to a general vector field on a three manifold. We found that the natural extension should be in terms of what we call "homotopy direction" [An2]. Using this notion we define the set  $\mathcal{L}(M)$  of vector fields whose flows are homotopically linked (§ 2). Although we were not completely successful, we obtained unexpected properties which are described in the theorems below.

Let  $M$  be a smooth three dimensional closed manifold. We assume that  $M$  is oriented and for convenience we shall fix a Riemannian metric. Every flow  $\phi$  appearing henceforth is generated by a vector field  $\dot{\phi}$  in  $NSX(M)$ , the space of  $C^1$  non-singular vector fields on  $M$  endowed with the  $C^0$  topology and every foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  is a codimension one transversely oriented foliation on  $M$  given by a  $C^1$  coordinate systems. We denote by  $\mathfrak{h}(M)$  the topological subspace of  $NSX(M)$  of vector fields whose flows admit a transverse foliation and by  $\mathfrak{h}(\overline{M})$  its closure.

0.1 THEOREM. *The sets  $\mathfrak{h}(M)$  and  $\mathcal{L}(M)$  are open and not dense in  $NSX(M)$  and satisfy the inclusions*

$$\mathfrak{h}(M) \subset \mathcal{L}(M) \subset \mathfrak{h}(\overline{M}).$$

We construct a flow to show the following

0.2 THEOREM.  $\mathfrak{h}(M) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(M)$ .

As a by-product we have

0.3 COROLLARY.  $\mathfrak{h}(M) \subseteq \text{Int } \mathfrak{h}(\overline{M})$ .

The above example of flow has a foliation which is “non negatively transverse” to it. Thus we are lead to the problem about when the flow under this circumstance has a transverse foliation. To do that we study the frontier of  $\mathfrak{h}(\mathcal{F})$ , the set of vector fields positively  $\mathcal{F}$ -transverse.

0.4 DEFINITION. Let  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathfrak{h}(\overline{\mathcal{F}})$ . A point  $p \in M$  escapes from  $\mathcal{F}$  by  $\phi$  provided there exists a point  $q$  on the positive  $\phi$ -orbit of  $p$  such that  $\dot{\phi}(q)$  is positively  $\mathcal{F}$ -transverse.

0.5 THEOREM. Let  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathfrak{h}(\overline{\mathcal{F}})$ . If each point in the Birkhoff center of  $\phi$  escapes from  $\mathcal{F}$  by  $\phi$ , then  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathfrak{h}(M)$ .

Finally we also obtained the invariance of the set  $\mathfrak{h}(M)$  under topological conjugacy (§3 Theorem 3.3).

0.6 REMARK. We don't know if  $\mathcal{L}(M) = \text{Int } \mathfrak{h}(\overline{M})$ . However S. Matsumoto and A. Sato [M-S] working with the  $C^1$  topology in  $NSX(M)$  have shown that  $\mathcal{L}(M) \subseteq \text{Int } \mathfrak{h}(\overline{M})$ . They proved that a vector field tangent to the Hopf fibration on the three sphere  $S^3$  lies in the  $\text{Int } \mathfrak{h}(S^3)$ . On the other hand, the corresponding flow is not homotopically linked.

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## §1. Background.

a) The chain recurrent set.

Let  $\phi$  be a flow on  $M$ . A point  $p \in M$  is called chain recurrent for  $\phi$  if for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a sequence  $\Gamma = \{p = p_0, p_1, \dots, p_n = p, t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}, p_i \in M \text{ and } t_i > 1\}$  such that  $d(\phi_{t_i}(p_i), p_{i+1}) < \varepsilon$ , for  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ . The set of chain recurrent points is called the chain recurrent set and will be denoted by  $\mathcal{R}_\phi$ . It is a compact  $\phi$  invariant set [Co] and cannot be exploded in the following sense:

1.1 THEOREM. [An1] Let  $\mathcal{R}_\phi$  be the chain recurrent set of the flow  $\phi$ . Then given a neighbourhood  $U$  of  $\mathcal{R}_\phi$  in  $M$  there exists a  $C^0$  neighbourhood  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $\dot{\phi}$  in  $NSX(M)$  such that  $\mathcal{R}_\psi \subset U$  for every  $\dot{\psi} \in \mathcal{V}$ .

Now, the condition that a flow has a hyperbolic chain recurrent set is

equivalent to Axiom A and the no cycle property [F-S]. Therefore  $\mathcal{R}_\phi$  is the union of a finite number of disjoint, compact, invariant pieces called basic sets, each of which contains a dense orbit. We say that  $\phi$  is a Smale flow if the set  $\mathcal{R}_\phi$  is one dimensional, has a hyperbolic structure and the flow satisfies the transversality condition. In particular, a Smale flow whose chain recurrent set consists of finitely many closed orbits is called a Morse-Smale flow.

b) Lyapunov functions and filtrations.

Denote by  $\Sigma f$  the set of critical points of the  $C^\infty$  map  $f: M \rightarrow R$  and by  $\dot{\phi}(f)_p$  its  $\dot{\phi}$  directional derivative at  $p \in M$ . We say that  $f$  is a Lyapunov function for  $\phi$  provided

- a)  $\dot{\phi}(f)_p < 0$  for any  $p \notin \mathcal{R}_\phi$
- b)  $\mathcal{R}_\phi = \Sigma f$
- c) If  $r \in f(\mathcal{R}_\phi)$ , then  $f^{-1}(r) \cap \mathcal{R}_\phi$  is a connected component of  $\mathcal{R}_\phi$ .

By using a combination of results from [Co] and [N-S], we show that there always exists a Lyapunov function for  $\phi$ . So, taking regular values of  $f$ , say  $-\infty = r_0 < r_1 < \dots < r_k = \infty$  and  $r_i \in f(M)$  ( $1 < i < k$ ), the collection of submanifolds  $\{M_i; M_i = f^{-1}(-\infty, r_i]\}_{i=0}^k$  is a filtration for  $\phi$ , i.e.

- a)  $\{\} = M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \dots \subset M_k = M$
- b)  $\dim M_i = \dim M \quad \forall i$
- c)  $\phi_t[M_i] \subset \text{Int } M_i \quad \forall t > 0$  and  $\forall i$
- d)  $\dot{\phi}$  is transverse to the boundary  $\partial M_i$ ,  $1 < i < k$ .

Conversely, any filtration is obtained from a Lyapunov function by the above method.

1.2 DEFINITION. A block system for  $\phi$  is a family  $\mathcal{B} = \{N_i\}_{i=0}^k$  of compact connected submanifolds of  $M$ , called blocks, satisfying

- a)  $N_i \cap \mathcal{R}_\phi \neq \{\} \quad \forall i$
- b)  $N_i \cap N_j = \partial N_i \cap \partial N_j$  if  $i \neq j$
- c)  $\{\} = N_0 \subset N_1 \subset N_1 \cup N_2 \subset \dots \subset N_1 \cup \dots \cup N_k = M$  is a filtration for  $\phi$ .

A Smale flow  $\phi$  admits a block system  $\mathcal{B} = \{N_i\}_{i=0}^k$  where each block  $N_i$  contains only a basic set  $\Lambda_i$  and those blocks containing an attracting or repelling periodic orbit are diffeomorphic to the solid torus  $D^2 \times S^1$ . The topological structure of a block containing a basic set which is neither an attractor nor a repeller is described in [B-W]. The periodic orbits of a basic set  $\Lambda_i$  are in one to one correspondence with the periodic orbits of a semi-flow on the knot-holder (see too [Go2]).

c) Homotopy directions.

Given a block  $N$  for  $\phi$ , let  $[S^1, N]$  be the set of homotopy classes of con-

tinuous maps  $\gamma: S^1 \rightarrow N$ . For  $[\gamma] \in [S^1, N]$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  we denote by  $[\gamma]^k$  the homotopy class of the map  $\alpha(z) = \gamma(z^k)$ .

Take a point  $p \in \mathcal{R}_\phi \cap N$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . An  $\varepsilon p$ -sequence is a sequence

$$\Gamma_{\varepsilon p} = \{p = p_0, \dots, p_n = p, t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}; p_i \in \mathcal{R}_\phi \cap N \text{ and } t_i > 1\}$$

such that  $d(\phi_{t_i}(p_i), p_{i+1}) < \varepsilon$  for  $i = 0, \dots, n-1$ . Recall that there always exists an  $\varepsilon p$ -sequence since  $\mathcal{R}_\phi = \mathcal{R}_{\phi/\mathbb{R}}$  [Co]. If  $\varepsilon$  is small enough then each  $\varepsilon p$ -sequence gives rise to an  $\varepsilon p$ -closed orbit of  $\phi$ , i. e., a loop  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p}: [0, T] \rightarrow N$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{\varepsilon p}([0, T]) = & \cup_{i=0}^{n-1} \{(\text{the trajectory from } p_i \text{ to } \phi_{t_i}(p_i)) \\ & + (\text{a minimal geodesic from } \phi_{t_i}(p_i) \text{ to } p_{i+1})\}. \end{aligned}$$

To define the closed path  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p}$  we arrange by turns the parametrization of the  $\phi$  orbit segments  $[p_i, \phi_{t_i}(p_{i+1})]$  with the geodesic parametrizations and construct the continuous function  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p}: [0, T] \rightarrow N$ . By using the exponential map  $E_T: [0, T] \rightarrow S^1$ ,  $E_T(t) = e^{2\pi i t/T}$ , we define a class in  $[S^1, N]$ . A class  $[\gamma] \in [S^1, N]$  is said to be an  $\varepsilon$ -homotopy direction for  $\phi$  provided that  $[\gamma]^m = [\gamma_{\varepsilon p}]^n$  for some  $\varepsilon p$ -closed orbit  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p}$  and some  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Denote by  $H_{\phi/N}^\varepsilon$  the set of all  $\varepsilon$ -homotopy directions for  $\phi$  in the block  $N$ . One can easily see that  $H_{\phi/N}^\varepsilon$  is a non-empty set and that  $[\gamma]^k \in H_{\phi/N}^\varepsilon$  for every  $[\gamma] \in H_{\phi/N}^\varepsilon$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Observe that the set of  $\varepsilon$ -homotopy directions detects all closed orbits of  $\phi$  in the block  $N$ . Let  $P_{\phi/N}$  consist of those  $\varepsilon$ -homotopy directions defined by closed orbits of  $\phi$ . Again we have  $[\gamma]^k \in P_{\phi/N}$  for every  $[\gamma] \in P_{\phi/N}$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . On the other hand, it follows from the definition that if  $0 < \delta < \varepsilon$  then a  $\delta p$ -closed orbit is an  $\varepsilon p$ -closed orbit. Therefore we have the following inclusions

$$P_{\phi/N} \subset H_{\phi/N}^\delta \subset H_{\phi/N}^\varepsilon.$$

1.3 DEFINITION. Set  $H_{\phi/N} = \bigcap_{\varepsilon > 0} H_{\phi/N}^\varepsilon$ . An element  $[\gamma] \in H_{\phi/N}$  is said to be a homotopy direction for  $\phi$  in the block  $N$ .

Recall that a block  $N$  for  $\phi$  is also a block for any flow  $\psi$   $C^0$  close to  $\phi$  because there do not exist  $\mathcal{R}$  explosions. So, by a straightforward adaptation of the method used in [An2] one can prove the next two theorems.

1.4 THEOREM. Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{N_i\}_{i=0}^k$  be a block system for a flow  $\phi$  on  $M$ . Then  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$  there exist a  $\delta > 0$  and a  $C^0$  neighbourhood  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\phi$  in  $NSX(M)$  such that for every  $\psi \in \mathcal{U}$  the following hold

- i)  $\mathcal{B}$  is a block system for  $\psi$
- ii)  $H_{\psi/N}^\delta \subset H_{\phi/N}^\varepsilon$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$ .

1.5 THEOREM. Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{N_i\}_{i=0}^k$  be a block system for a flow  $\phi$  with a hyper-

*bolic chain recurrent set. Then the following hold*

- i)  $H_{\phi|N} = P_{\phi|N}$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$
- ii) *There exists a neighbourhood  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\dot{\phi}$  in  $NSX(M)$  such that for every  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  is a block system for  $\dot{\phi}$  and  $H_{\dot{\phi}|N} = H_{\phi|N}$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$ .*

## §2. Homotopically linked flow.

In this section we prove Theorem 0.1 and Theorem 0.2.

Let  $\phi$  be a  $C^1$  flow on a three manifold  $M$ . We say that  $\phi$  satisfies the weak linking property if there is a periodic orbit  $\sigma$  of  $\phi$  which bounds an imbedded 2-disk  $D$  in  $M$  then the interior of  $D$  must intersect a periodic orbit. Observe that if  $\phi$  admits a transverse foliation  $\mathcal{F}$ , then  $\phi$  satisfies this property since the Novikov's result [No] asserts that a 2-disk whose boundary is transverse to  $\mathcal{F}$  must intersect some Reeb component  $N$  which contains a  $\phi$  closed orbit [Go2]. On the other hand, the weak linking property is not, in general, sufficient to insure that  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{h}(M)$ . For example, a flow tangent to a Hopf fibration  $S^1 \rightarrow S^3 \rightarrow S^2$  satisfies the weak linking property but is not transverse to any foliation, since any foliation on  $S^3$  has a Reeb component  $N$  and the boundary  $\partial N$  cannot meet any closed transversal. However, for a Morse-Smale flow  $\phi$  the weak linking property is also a sufficient condition for  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{h}(M)$  [Go1]. Notice that K. Yano proved a similar result in an equivalent terminology [Ya]. Now, to extend the above result to Smale flows  $\phi$  requires a stronger property. We say that  $\phi$  satisfies the linking property if there is a periodic orbit  $\sigma$  of  $\phi$  which bounds an imbedded 2-disk  $D$  in  $M$  then the interior of  $D$  must intersect an attracting or repelling periodic orbit. A Smale flow  $\phi$  satisfies the linking property if and only if  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{h}(M)$  [Go2]. To enlarge the concept above, we introduce the following

**2.1 DEFINITION.** A flow  $\phi$  on  $M$  is said to be homotopically linked provided there exists  $\mathcal{B} = \{N_i\}_{i=1}^k$  a block system for  $\phi$  such that  $[*] \notin H_{\phi|N}$ , for each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$ .

Recall that  $[*]$  denotes the null homotopic class of  $[S^1, N]$ , where  $N$  is a submanifold of  $M$ .

Let  $\mathcal{L}(M)$  be the set of  $NSX(M)$  consisting of vector fields whose flows are homotopically linked. Proposition 2.2 below shows that these two notions are the same for Smale flows.

**2.2 PROPOSITION.** *Let  $\phi$  be a Smale flow on  $M$ . The following are equivalent*

- (i)  $\phi$  satisfies the linking property
- (ii)  $\phi$  admits a transverse foliation

(iii)  $\phi$  is homotopically linked.

PROOF. (i) $\leftrightarrow$ (ii) This is S. Goodman's result [Go2].

(ii) $\rightarrow$ (iii) Suppose that  $\phi$  is positively  $\mathcal{F}$ -transverse. Take a family of sub-manifolds  $\mathcal{B} = \{\} = N_0, N_1^+, \dots, N_{k-1}^+, N_k, N_{k+1}^-, \dots, N_l^-$  where  $N_i^+$  (resp.  $N_j^-$ ) denotes the Reeb components for which the flow is exiting (resp. entering),  $N_k$  is the closure of the exterior of the union of all the Reeb components and  $M = N_1^+ \cup \dots \cup N_k \cup \dots \cup N_l^-$ . Since the boundary of each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$  does not meet the chain recurrent set of the Smale flow  $\phi$ , it is easy to show that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a block system for  $\phi$ . Now, let  $H_{\phi/N}$  be the homotopy direction for  $\phi$  in a given block  $N$ . From Theorem 1.5  $H_{\phi/N}$  consists of those homotopy directions defined by closed orbits. If  $N = N_i^+$  (resp.  $N_j^-$ ) then each  $[\sigma] \in H_{\phi/N}$  clearly represents a nontrivial element of the fundamental group  $\pi_1(N) \approx \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore  $[\sigma] \neq [*]$ . If  $N = N_k$ , then no  $[\sigma] \in H_{\phi/N}$  can be the null homotopic class in  $N$ , otherwise there could be a positive power of a closed orbit of  $\phi$  null homotopic in  $N$  and by Novikov's theorem there exists a block  $N_i^+$  or  $N_j^-$  inside  $N$  which is a contradiction. Therefore  $[\sigma] \neq [*]$  and we have proved that  $\phi$  is homotopically linked.

(iii) $\rightarrow$ (i) First of all we recall Corollary 3.3 in [Go2]. Let  $N$  be a block for a Smale flow  $\phi$  containing a unique component  $\Lambda_0$  of the basic set. If no closed orbit in  $\Lambda_0$  is null homotopic in  $N$  then there is a  $\phi$  transverse foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  tangent to the boundary  $\partial N$ . Therefore if  $[\gamma] \notin H_{\phi/N}$  the same conclusion holds because  $H_{\phi/N} = P_{\phi/N}$  (Theorem 1.5). Now suppose that  $\phi$  is a homotopically linked Smale flow. Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{N_i\}_{i=0}^k$  be a block system for  $\phi$  such that the null homotopic class is not a homotopy direction for  $\phi$  in any block  $N \in \mathcal{B}$ . If there exist blocks containing more than one component of the basic set of  $\phi$ , one can use a Lyapunov function  $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  to define the filtration  $\{\} = N_0 \subset N_1 \subset N_2 \cup N_3 \subset \dots \subset M$  and break these blocks and construct a new block system  $\mathcal{B}' = \{N'_i\}_{i=0}^l$  where each  $N'_i$  contains only one component of the basic set. It is easy to see that  $[\gamma]$  is not a homotopy direction for  $\phi$  in any  $N'_i$ . So there exists a  $\phi$  transverse foliation.

2.3 LEMMA. *Let  $N$  be a block for  $\phi$ . If  $[\gamma] \notin H_{\phi/N}$  then there exists a  $C^0$  neighbourhood  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\phi$  in  $NSX(M)$  such that  $N$  is a block for  $\psi$  and  $[\gamma] \notin H_{\psi/N}$  for every  $\psi \in \mathcal{U}$ .*

PROOF. Recall that  $H_{\phi/N} = \bigcap_{\epsilon > 0} H_{\phi/N}^\epsilon$ . So if  $[\gamma] \notin H_{\phi/N}$  then there is an  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  such that  $[\gamma] \notin H_{\phi/N}^{\epsilon_0}$ . From Theorem 1.4 one can find a  $\delta_0 > 0$  and a neighbourhood  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\phi$  such that  $H_{\psi/N}^{\delta_0} \subset H_{\phi/N}^{\epsilon_0}$  for every  $\psi \in \mathcal{U}$ . Thus  $[\gamma] \notin H_{\psi/N}$  for every  $\psi \in \mathcal{U}$ .

PROOF OF THEOREM 0.1. Take a homotopically linked flow  $\phi$ . Let  $\mathcal{B} =$

$\{N_i\}_{i=0}^k$  be a block system for  $\phi$  such that  $[*] \notin H_{\phi/N}$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$ . From Lemma 2.3 it follows that there exists a neighbourhood  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\dot{\phi}$  such that  $[*] \notin H_{\dot{\phi}/N}$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$  and for every  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{U}$ . This shows that  $\mathcal{L}(M)$  is open.

Of course  $\mathfrak{h}(M)$  is an open subset of  $NSX(M)$ . Let us show that  $\mathfrak{h}(M)$  is dense in  $\mathcal{L}(M)$ . Take  $\phi \in \mathfrak{h}(M)$  and suppose that  $\phi$  is positively  $\mathcal{F}$ -transverse. Consider the family of submanifolds  $\mathcal{B} = \{\{ \} = N_0, N_1^+, \dots, N_{k-1}^+, N_k, N_{k+1}^-, \dots, N_l^-\}$  as described in Proposition 2.2. Observe that the chain recurrent set does not intersect the boundary of  $\partial N_k$ . Otherwise if  $p \in \mathcal{R}_\phi \cap \partial N_k$ , choose an  $\varepsilon p$ -sequence  $\Gamma_{\varepsilon p} = \{p = p_0, \dots, p_n = p, t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}; p_i \in \mathcal{R}_\phi \text{ and } t_i > 1\}$ , consider the corresponding  $\varepsilon p$ -closed orbit  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p} : [0, T] \rightarrow M$ . For  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough we can guarantee that  $p_i$  and  $p_{i+1}$  belong to the same coordinate system of the foliation which allows us to construct a closed  $\mathcal{F}$ -transverse curve meeting a boundary component of  $\partial N_k$ . This is a contradiction, since each boundary component of  $\partial N_k$  is the boundary of a Reeb component. Now it is easy to show that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a block system for  $\phi$  and by using the argument of Proposition 2.2 one can show that  $[*] \notin H_{\phi/N}$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{B}$ . Thus we have the inclusion  $\mathfrak{h}(M) \subset \mathcal{L}(M)$ . The density follows from  $C^0$  density of Smale flows [O1] and from Proposition 2.2. This also shows that  $\mathcal{L}(M) \subset \mathfrak{h}(\overline{M})$ .

In order to prove that  $\mathfrak{h}(M)$  is not dense we use a well known result which says that the exterior of the union of all the Reeb components is an irreducible manifold, i.e., any embedded two sphere bounds a three ball.

Given a  $C^\infty$  Smale flow  $\phi$  on  $M$ , let  $N$  be a block for  $\phi$  diffeomorphic to the solid torus  $S^1 \times D^2$  containing only an attracting basic set in its core. We modify the flow  $\phi$  to obtain a new Smale flow  $\psi$  which agrees with  $\phi$  outside  $N$  and has two basic sets contained in the block. These new basic sets are an attracting closed orbit  $\sigma_1$  and a saddle orbit  $\sigma_2$ , each of which bounds in  $N$  an embedded two disk without intersection [As]. Of course  $\psi$  does not satisfy the linking property, therefore  $\dot{\psi} \notin \mathfrak{h}(M)$ . Let us show that a vector field  $\dot{\xi} \in C^0$  close to  $\dot{\psi}$  does not admit a transverse foliation. First of all choose disjoint compact tubular neighbourhoods  $V_1, V_2$  of  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  respectively, of small radius to insure that the following conditions hold: (a)  $V_1 \cup V_2 \subset N$ ; (b)  $\dot{\psi}$  is transverse to the disks of the tubular neighbourhoods; (c)  $\dot{\psi}$  is also transverse to the torus  $\partial V_1$  toward  $\sigma_1$ . Now consider a  $C^0$  neighbourhood  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\dot{\psi}$  in  $NSX(M)$  such that for every  $\dot{\xi} \in \mathcal{U}$ , the flow  $\xi$  satisfies the conditions (b) and (c). Moreover we may assume that  $N$  is a block for  $\xi$  and that the chain recurrent set  $\mathcal{R}_{\xi/N}$  is contained in  $V_1 \cup V_2$  [Theorem 1.1]. The next step is to show that  $\mathcal{U} \cap \mathfrak{h}(M) = \{ \}$ . By contradiction, suppose that  $\dot{\xi} \in \mathcal{U}$  is positively  $\mathcal{F}_0$ -transverse. From the density property [O1], we may assume that  $\xi$  is a Smale flow. Since  $\dot{\xi}$  satisfies conditions (b) and (c), given a disk  $D^2$  of the tubular neighbourhood  $V_1$ , one can define the first return map for  $\xi, r : D^2 \rightarrow D^2$ . Observe that  $r$  must have a fixed

point and that each fixed point corresponds to a closed orbit of  $\xi$  contained in  $V_1$ . On the other hand, the fixed points of  $r$  are isolated because  $\xi$  has a hyperbolic chain recurrent set, so one can show by using an index argument that some fixed point is a source or sink, i.e., there exists an attracting or repelling, closed orbit  $\xi$  contained in  $V_1$ . Now we can “tubularize” the foliation  $\mathcal{F}_0$  near those closed orbits to construct a new  $\xi$ -transverse foliation  $\mathcal{F}_1$  with Reeb components inside the tubular neighbourhood  $V_1$ . From the fact that there is an embedded two sphere which bounds a three ball  $D^3$  contained in the interior of the block  $N$  and such that  $V_1 \subset \text{Int } D^3$ , it follows that the exterior of the union of all Reeb components of  $\mathcal{F}_1$  is not an irreducible manifold. That is the contradiction. Thus  $\rho_1(M)$  is not dense in  $NSX(M)$ . Since  $\rho_1(M)$  is dense in  $\mathcal{L}(M)$ , we conclude that  $\mathcal{L}(M)$  is not dense.

PROOF OF THEOREM 0.2. First of all we construct a vector field on the manifold  $V = R \times S^1 \times S^1$  whose flow is homotopically linked but does not admit a transverse foliation. Notice that  $S^1 = R/Z$  and that  $\{\partial/\partial t, \partial/\partial x, \partial/\partial y\}$  is the canonical global frame on  $V$ . Let  $\dot{\mu}$  be the  $C^\infty$  unit vector field on  $V$  tangent to the tori  $T_t = \{t\} \times S^1 \times S^1$  defined by

$$\dot{\mu}(t) = \cos t \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \sin t \frac{\partial}{\partial y}.$$

By standard methods, construct a  $C^\infty$  function  $\lambda: R \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $\lambda^{-1}(0) = [0, \pi]$  and that  $\lambda^{-1}(1) = (-\infty, -\pi] \cup [2\pi, \infty)$ . Now, consider the  $C^\infty$  non singular vector field  $\dot{\xi}$  on  $V$  defined by

$$\dot{\xi}(t, x, y) = \lambda(t) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + (1 - \lambda(t)) \dot{\mu}(t).$$

The main properties of  $\dot{\xi}$  are the following (a)  $\dot{\xi} \equiv \partial/\partial t$  on  $V_1 = \lambda^{-1}(1) \times S^1 \times S^1$ ; (b)  $\dot{\xi}$  is transverse to the tori  $T_t$  on  $V_2 = \lambda^{-1}((0, 1]) \times S^1 \times S^1$ ; (c)  $\dot{\xi} \equiv \dot{\mu}$  on  $V_3 = \lambda^{-1}(0) \times S^1 \times S^1$ . So, the chain recurrent set  $\mathcal{R}_*$  is the manifold with boundary  $V_3$ . Note that the vector field  $\dot{\xi} = \dot{\mu}$  rotates in the positive direction from  $\partial/\partial y$  to  $-\partial/\partial y$  when  $t$  goes from 0 to  $\pi$  and that the  $\partial/\partial x$ -coefficient of  $\dot{\xi}$  is always non negative on  $V_3$ . This behavior forbids the existence of a transverse foliation. Indeed, by contradiction suppose that  $\mathcal{F}$  is transverse to  $\dot{\xi}$  on  $V_3$ . Let  $\mathcal{G}_t$  be the  $C^1$  oriented one dimensional foliation on the torus  $T_t = \{t\} \times S^1 \times S^1$  defined by the intersection of leaves of  $\mathcal{F}$  with  $T_t$ . We can construct a trivialization for  $\mathcal{F}$  in the following sense: there exists a  $C^1$  diffeomorphism  $F: [0, \pi] \times S^1 \times S^1 \rightarrow [0, \pi] \times S^1 \times S^1$  such that  $F^*(\mathcal{F}) = [0, \pi] \times \mathcal{G}_0$  and that  $F^*(\mathcal{G}_t) = \{t\} \times \mathcal{G}_0$ . For this consider the projection  $\pi_1: R \times S^1 \times S^1 \rightarrow R$ ,  $\pi_1(t, x, y) = t$  and take the vector field  $\dot{\tau}$  tangent to  $\mathcal{F}$  on a neighbourhood of  $V_3$  such that at each point  $(t, x, y)$  is projected under the derivative  $d\pi_1$  onto  $\partial/\partial t$ . If  $\tau_t$  is the semi-flow

of  $\dot{t}$  define  $F(t, x, y) = (t_1 \tau_t(0, x, y))$ . Now, let  $\dot{\gamma}_0$  be a vector field on  $T_0$  tangent to  $\mathcal{Q}_0$ . So, from this trivialization we conclude that  $\{\dot{\gamma}_0, \partial/\partial y\}$  and  $\{\dot{\gamma}_0, -\partial/\partial y\}$  define the same orientation on  $T_0$  which is a contradiction. Thus  $\xi$  does not admit a transverse foliation on  $V_3$ .

Now we shall show that  $\xi$  is a homotopically linked flow. Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{V\}$  be the trivial block system for  $\xi$ . Given  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $p \in \mathcal{R}_\xi = [0, \pi] \times S^1 \times S^1$ , consider an  $\varepsilon p$ -sequence, say  $\Gamma_{\varepsilon p} = \{p_0 = p, p_1, \dots, p_n = p, t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}, p_i \in \mathcal{R}_\xi \text{ and } t_i > 1\}$  and the corresponding  $\varepsilon p$ -closed orbit  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p} : [0, T] \rightarrow [0, \pi] \times S^1 \times S^1$ . Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{\varepsilon p}([0, T]) = & \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} \{(\text{the trajectory from } p_i \text{ to } \phi_{t_i}(p_{i+1})) \\ & + (\text{a minimal geodesic from } \phi_{t_i}(p_i) \text{ to } p_{i+1})\}. \end{aligned}$$

To prove that  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p}$  cannot be null homotopic, we show that  $\pi_0 \gamma_{\varepsilon p}$  is not null homotopic, where  $\pi : [0, \pi] \times S^1 \times S^1 \rightarrow \{0\} \times S^1 \times S^1$  is the natural projection along the  $t$ -axis, or equivalently that the lifted curve  $\widetilde{\pi_0 \gamma_{\varepsilon p}}$  to  $R^2$ , the universal covering of  $\{0\} \times S^1 \times S^1$ , is not a closed curve. We may assume that the lifted curve  $\widetilde{\pi_0 \gamma_{\varepsilon p}}$  starts at  $(0, 0)$ . Observe that the trajectory from  $p_i$  to  $\phi_{t_i}(p_i)$  gives rise to a line segment from  $\widetilde{\pi(p_i)}$  to  $\widetilde{\pi(\phi_{t_i}(p_i))}$  of length equal to  $t_i > 1$  and that the  $x$ -coordinate of  $\widetilde{\pi(\phi_{t_i}(p_i))}$  is not less than the  $x$ -coordinate of  $\widetilde{\pi(p_i)}$  because the  $\partial/\partial x$ -coefficient of  $\dot{\xi} = \dot{\mu}$  is non negative on  $V_3 = \mathcal{R}_\xi$ . On the other hand, the distance between the points  $\widetilde{\pi(\phi_{t_i}(p_i))}$  and  $\widetilde{\pi(p_{i+1})}$  is less than  $\varepsilon$ . So, for  $\varepsilon = 1/3$  it is not hard to show that the end point of  $\widetilde{\pi_0 \gamma_{\varepsilon p}}$  is a point with integral coordinates  $(m, n)$  satisfying  $m^2 + n^2 > 1/9$ . So  $\widetilde{\pi_0 \gamma_{\varepsilon p}}$  is not a closed curve on  $R^2$  therefore  $\gamma_{\varepsilon p}$  is no null homotopic on  $V$ . Since  $H_\varepsilon = \bigcap_{\varepsilon > 0} H_\xi^\varepsilon$  and  $[*] \notin H_\xi^{1/3}$  we have shown that  $\xi$  is a homotopically linked flow.

Let us show that  $\mathcal{h}(M) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Given a  $C^\infty$  Smale flow  $\phi$  which is homotopically linked we may construct a block system for  $\phi$ ,  $\mathcal{B} = \{N_i\}_{i=0}^k$  such that each block contains one and only one basic set of  $\phi$ . Moreover,  $[*] \notin H_\phi$  for every  $N \in \mathcal{B}$ . Since  $\phi$  is a Smale flow there exists an attracting closed orbit  $\sigma$ . Let us assume that  $\sigma$  is contained in the block  $N_k$  which is diffeomorphic to the solid torus  $S^1 \times D^2$ . Note that the boundary of  $N_k$  is diffeomorphic to the torus  $S^1 \times S^1$  and the flow is transverse to  $\partial N_k$ , by using  $\phi$  we can define a  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism  $F : R \times S^1 \times S^1 \rightarrow M$  such that  $F(-1, x, y) \in \partial N_k$  and that  $F_*(\partial/\partial t) = \dot{\phi}$ . Now we modify  $\dot{\phi}$  by  $F_*(\dot{\xi})$  inside the submanifold  $F(V_1)$  and construct a  $C^\infty$  vector field  $\dot{\phi}$  on  $M$ . We claim that the flow  $\phi$  is homotopically linked. Indeed, consider the block system for  $\phi$ ,  $\mathcal{B}' = \{\{\} = N_0, N_1, \dots, N_{k-1}, N'_k, N'_{k+1}\}$  where  $N'_k = F_*(V_1)$  and  $N'_{k+1}$  is the closure of  $N_k/N'_k$ . Since  $\xi$  is homotopically linked on  $V_1$  and  $N_k/N'_k$  contains in its core the closed orbit  $\sigma$  it follows that  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Since  $\xi$  does not admit a transverse foliation on  $V_1$  then  $\phi$  does not admit a transverse foliation on  $F_*(V_1)$ . Thus  $\dot{\phi} \notin \mathcal{h}(M)$ .

### § 3. Conjugations.

Denote by  $\theta_\phi$  the one dimensional oriented foliation given by the orbits of the flow  $\phi$ , for  $\phi \in NSX(M)$ . A foliation  $\theta_\psi$  is conjugate to  $\theta_\phi$  if there is a homeomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow M$  which carries leaves of  $\theta_\psi$  homeomorphically onto leaves of  $\theta_\phi$  and preserves the orientation. The homeomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow M$  is said to have a  $C^0$  positive  $\psi$  derivative if for each  $p \in M$ , the path  $\alpha_p(t) = h(\phi_t(p))$  is  $C^1$  and  $\alpha'_p(0) = \lambda(h(p))\dot{\phi}(h(p))$  for a continuous function  $\lambda: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ . Set  $\alpha'_p(0) = \dot{\psi}(h)_p$ .

**3.1 PROPOSITION.** *If  $\theta_\psi$  is conjugate to  $\theta_\phi$  by a homeomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow M$ , then  $\theta_\psi$  is conjugate to  $\theta_\phi$  by a homeomorphism  $k: M \rightarrow M$  having a  $C^0$  positive  $\psi$  derivative.*

Before the proof of Proposition 3.1 we fix the following notation. For  $\delta, 0 \leq \delta < 1/2$ , denote by  $I_\delta$  the cube in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$I_\delta = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}; \delta < x_i < 1 - \delta \text{ and } \delta < y < 1 - \delta\}.$$

Consider the two foliations induced from  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$  into  $I_\delta$ , namely: the two dimensional horizontal foliation  $\mathcal{H}$  transversally oriented by the canonical vertical vector field  $\partial/\partial y$  and the one dimensional foliation  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$  oriented by  $\partial/\partial y$ . A flow box for a flow  $\phi$  is a  $C^1$  diffeomorphism  $f: U \subset M \rightarrow I_\delta$  such that  $f_*(\dot{\phi}) = \partial/\partial y$ . Since  $\dot{\phi}$  is a  $C^1$  vector field, there are flow boxes around any point  $p \in M$ . On the other hand, a  $C^1$  coordinate system for  $\theta_\phi$  is a  $C^1$  diffeomorphism  $f: U \subset M \rightarrow I_\delta$  such that  $f^*(\theta_{\partial/\partial y}) = \theta_\phi$ .

**3.2 LEMMA.** *Let  $h: I_\varepsilon \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$  be a homeomorphism onto the image which preserves the vertical foliation  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$ . Then given  $\varepsilon < \delta < 1/2$  and any  $C^1$  function  $\beta: I_\varepsilon \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that  $\beta^{-1}(0) = I_\varepsilon \setminus I_\delta$ , there exists  $k: I_\varepsilon \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$  a homeomorphism onto the image which preserves the vertical foliation  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$  and satisfying*

- a)  $k \equiv h$  on  $I_\varepsilon \setminus I_\delta$
- b)  $k$  has a  $C^0$  positive  $\dot{\xi} = \beta \partial/\partial y$  derivative on  $I_\delta$ .

**PROOF.** From the hypothesis,  $h(x, y) = (h_1(x), h_2(x, y))$  and for a fixed  $x$  the function  $h_2(x, \cdot)$  is an increasing real function. Now, given  $\varepsilon < \delta < 1/2$  and any  $C^1$  function  $\beta: I_\varepsilon \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that  $\beta^{-1}(0) = I_\varepsilon \setminus I_\delta$ , consider the flow  $\xi$  on  $I_\varepsilon$  generated by the  $C^1$  vector field  $\xi = \beta \partial/\partial y$ . Define a function  $k: I_\varepsilon \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ ,  $k(x, y) = (k_1(x, y), k_2(x, y))$ , by setting  $k_1 \equiv h_1$  and  $k_2(x, y) = \int_0^1 h_2(\xi_t(x, y)) dt$ . Of course  $k$  preserves the vertical foliation  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$ . Since  $\dot{\xi} \equiv 0$  on  $I_\varepsilon \setminus I_\delta$ , it follows easily from the definition of  $k_2$  that  $k_2 \equiv h_2$  on  $I_\varepsilon \setminus I_\delta$ . This proves (a). In order to prove (b) we observe that

$$\frac{k_2(\xi_s(x, y)) - k_2(x, y)}{s} = \frac{1}{s} \left[ \int_s^{1+s} h_2(\xi_t(x, y)) dt - \int_0^s h_2(\xi_t(x, y)) dt \right].$$

By taking  $s \rightarrow 0$ , one obtains  $\dot{\xi}(h_2) = h_2 \circ \xi_1 - h_2$  which must be positive on  $I_\delta$  because  $\xi$  is a non constant vertical flow there and  $h_2(x, \cdot)$  is an increasing function. Since  $\dot{\xi}(k) = \dot{\xi}(k_2) \partial / \partial y$ , part (b) is proved. It remains to show that  $k$  is a homeomorphism onto its image. Recall that  $k$  preserves the vertical foliation, so from (a) we need only show that  $k_2(x, \cdot)$  is a homeomorphism from the vertical segment  $\sigma_x = [(x, \delta), (x, 1 - \delta)]$  onto the vertical segment  $h(\sigma_x)$ . Indeed, the images by  $h_2(x, \cdot)$  and  $k_2(x, \cdot)$  of each end point of  $\sigma$  have the same values and  $k_2$  is an increasing function in the interior of the segment  $\sigma$ . So,  $k_2$  is a homeomorphism from  $\sigma$  to  $k(\sigma)$ .

Notice that we have adapted Kakutani's proof which approximates continuous real functions by functions having flow derivative [Sc, p. 272].

PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.1. Let  $\dot{\phi}, \dot{\psi}$  be two  $C^1$  non singular vector fields on  $M$ . Suppose that there exists a homeomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow M$  conjugating  $\theta_\psi$  to  $\theta_\phi$ . Given  $\{g_j: W_j \rightarrow I_{\rho_j}\}_{j=1}^m$  a family of flow boxes for  $\phi$  whose domains form an open cover of  $M$ , consider  $\{f_i: V_i \rightarrow I_{\delta_i}\}_{i=1}^n$  a family of flow boxes for  $\psi$  so that  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is an open cover of  $M$  and  $h(V_i)$  is contained in some  $W_j$ . Now, choose  $\varepsilon_i, 0 < \delta_i < \varepsilon_i$ , such that  $\{f_i^{-1}(I_{\varepsilon_i})\}_{i=1}^n$  is another open cover. Recall  $I_{\varepsilon_i} \subset I_{\delta_i}$ . Let  $1 = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i$  be a  $C^\infty$  partition of unity subordinate to  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^n$  satisfying  $\beta_i^{-1} > 0$  in  $f_i^{-1}(I_{\varepsilon_i})$   $i=1, \dots, n$ . Let  $\dot{\phi} = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \dot{\psi}$ . Observe that  $f_{*i}(\beta_i \dot{\phi}) = \beta_i \circ f_i^{-1}(\partial / \partial y)$  is a  $C^1$  vector field on  $I_{\delta_i}$ . So from Lemma 3.2, starting at  $k_0 = h$  and working successively inside each  $V_i$ , we may obtain a homeomorphism  $k_i: M \rightarrow M$  from the homeomorphism  $k_{i-1}: M \rightarrow M$  conjugating  $\theta_\psi$  to  $\theta_\phi$  and having a  $C^0$  positive  $\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \dot{\phi}$  derivative on  $\cup_{i=1}^i f_i^{-1}(I_{\varepsilon_i})$ . Of course  $k_m: M \rightarrow M$  has a  $C^0$  positive  $\dot{\phi}$  derivative since  $\{f_i^{-1}(I_{\varepsilon_i})\}_{i=1}^n$  is an open cover of  $M$ .

Recall that a transversely oriented Lyapunov foliation on  $M$  is a pair  $(\mathcal{F}, \dot{\phi})$  satisfying the following condition

- i)  $\dot{\phi}$  is a  $C^0$  vector field which is uniquely integrable
- ii) There exists a collection of  $C^0$  real value function  $\{f_i: W_i \subset M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^k$  such that (a)  $\cup_{i=1}^k W_i = M$ ; (b)  $f_i$  has a  $C^0$  positive  $\dot{\phi}$  derivative,  $i=1, \dots, k$ ;
- (c) The level set of  $f_i$  describe the foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $W_i$ .

If there exists a transversely oriented Lyapunov foliation  $(\mathcal{F}, \dot{\phi})$  then there exists a  $C^1$  foliation  $\mathcal{G}$  transverse to  $\dot{\phi}$  [En].

3.3 THEOREM. *The set  $\mathfrak{h}(M)$  is invariant under topological conjugacy.*

PROOF. Suppose that  $\theta_\psi$  is conjugate to  $\theta_\phi$ , where  $\dot{\psi}, \dot{\phi} \in NSX(M)$ . From Theorem 3.1, we may assume that the foliations are conjugate by a homeo-

morphism  $k : M \rightarrow M$  having a  $C^0$  positive  $\phi$  derivative. If there is a foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  transverse to  $\dot{\phi}$  we consider the  $C^0$  foliation  $k^*(\mathcal{F})$ . Now, it is easy to show that  $(k^*(\mathcal{F}), \dot{\phi})$  is a transversely oriented Lyapunov foliation. From [En], there is a  $C^1$  foliation transverse to  $\dot{\phi}$ . Thus  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{H}(M)$ .

Next we prove Theorem 0.5.

Let  $\mathcal{H}_\delta(\mathcal{A})$  be the set of all  $C^1$  vector fields on the unit cube  $I_0$  of  $R^2 \times R$  positively transverse to the horizontal foliation  $\mathcal{A}$  and such that the one dimensional foliation  $\theta_\phi$  agrees with the vertical foliation  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$  on  $I_0 \setminus I_\delta$ ,  $0 < \delta < 1/2$ . Notice that  $\theta_\phi$  can be extended to the closure  $\bar{I}_0$  by using the orbits of  $\partial/\partial y$ . We use the same notation for the extended foliation.

3.4 LEMMA. *Given a vector field  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{H}_\delta(\mathcal{A})$ , there exists a vector field  $\dot{\psi} \in \mathcal{H}_{\delta/3}(\mathcal{A})$  satisfying the following properties*

- (a) *The leaf of  $\theta_{\dot{\psi}}$  on  $\bar{I}_0$  starting at  $(x, 0)$  ends at  $(x, 1)$*
- (b)  *$\theta_{\dot{\psi}}$  agrees with  $\theta_{\dot{\phi}}$  except on a parallelepiped  $R_\delta$ , namely,  $R_\delta = \{(x, y) \in I; \delta < x_i < 1 - \delta, 1 - (2/3)\delta < y < 1 - (1/3)\delta, i = 1, 2\}$ .*

PROOF. Given  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{H}_\delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Let  $\bar{I}_0 \cup_f \bar{I}_0$  be the double compact unitary cube whose glue map is the identity of the top face of  $\bar{I}_0$ . Of course  $\bar{I}_0 \cup_f \bar{I}_0$  is canonically diffeomorphic to  $K = \{(x, y) \in R^2 \times R; 0 \leq x_i \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 2, i = 1, 2\}$ . Now we consider the double foliation  $\theta_\phi$  on  $K$  oriented by a  $C^1$  vector field  $\dot{\xi}$  positively transverse to  $\mathcal{A}$ . Since the leaf of the double  $\theta_\phi$  starting at  $(x, 0)$  ends at  $(x, 2)$ , we may complete the proof by constructing a  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism  $k : K \rightarrow \bar{I}$ ,  $k(x, y) = (x, k_2(y))$  where  $k_2 : [0, 2] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism such that  $k_2(y) = y$  for  $\delta < y \leq 1 - \delta$ , and which conveniently maps  $[1 - \delta, 2]$  onto  $[1 - \delta, 1]$ . Now we consider  $\dot{\phi} = k_*(\dot{\xi})$  which satisfies the properties required.

Given  $\mathcal{A}$  a codimension one transversely oriented foliation on the unit open cube  $I_0$ , let  $\nu$  be a normal vector field positively transverse to  $\mathcal{A}$ . We say that  $\partial/\partial y$  is non negatively transverse to  $\mathcal{A}$  provided  $\langle \partial/\partial y(x, y), \nu(x, y) \rangle \geq 0$  for every  $(x, y) \in I_0$ , where  $\langle, \rangle$  denotes the canonical inner product on  $R^2 \times R$ . Let  $J_\delta$  be the parallelepiped in  $I_0$  defined by  $J_\delta = \{(x, y) \in I_0; \delta < y < 1 - \delta\}$ , for  $0 \leq \delta \leq 1/2$ .

3.5 LEMMA. *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a two dimensional transversely oriented  $C^1$  foliation on the cube  $I_0$  which agrees with the horizontal foliation  $\mathcal{H}$  on  $I_0 \setminus J_\delta$ . If  $\partial/\partial y$  is non negatively transverse to  $\mathcal{A}$ , then there exists a  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism  $k : I_0 \rightarrow I_0$  satisfying*

- (a)  *$k(x, y) = (x, y)$  for every  $(x, y) \in I_0 \setminus I_{\delta/3}$*
- (b)  *$k^*(\mathcal{A})$  is transverse to  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$  on  $I_\delta$*
- (c)  *$k^*(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{A}$  on  $I_0 \setminus I_\delta$ .*

PROOF. Let  $\eta$  be a  $C^\infty$  unitary vector field on  $I_0$  positively transverse to  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\beta: I_0 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be a  $C^\infty$  function so that  $\beta^{-1}(0) = I_0 \setminus I_\delta$ . Since the vector field  $\dot{\phi} = \partial/\partial y + \beta\eta$  belongs to  $\cap_\delta(\mathcal{H})$ , from Lemma 3.4 there exists  $\dot{\psi} \in \cap_{\delta/3}(\mathcal{H})$  such that the leaf of  $\theta_\psi$  starting at  $(x, 0)$  ends at  $(x, 1)$  and that  $\theta_\psi$  agrees with  $\theta_\phi$  except on the parallelepiped  $R_\delta = \{(x, y) \in I_0; \delta < x < 1 - \delta, 1 - (1/3)\delta < y < 1 - (2/3)\delta\}$ . By construction  $\dot{\psi}$  is a  $C^\infty$  vector field transverse to horizontal foliation  $\mathcal{H}$ , so the  $\dot{\psi}$  holonomy map  $h_y$  from the bottom face of  $\bar{I}_0$  to the horizontal leaf  $l_{(x, y)}$  is a  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism, namely  $h_y: [0, 1]^2 \times \{0\} \rightarrow [0, 1]^2 \times \{y\}$ ,  $h_y(x) = \{[0, 1]^2 \times \{y\}\} \cap \{\dot{\psi} \text{ orbit starting at } (x, 0)\}$ . Hence  $k: I_0 \rightarrow I_0$ ,  $k(x, y) = (h_y(x, 0), y)$ , is clearly a  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism which maps the foliation  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$  onto the foliation  $\theta_\psi$ . Property (a) follows from the facts that  $\dot{\psi} = \partial/\partial y$  on  $I_0/I_{\delta/3}$  and that the  $\dot{\psi}$  orbit starting at  $(x, 0)$  ends at  $(x, 1)$ . Since  $k^*(\theta_\psi) = \theta_{\partial/\partial y}$  and  $\dot{\phi}$  is transverse to  $\mathcal{G}$  on  $I_\delta (= k(I_\delta))$ , then statement (b) holds. Now, for  $k^*(\mathcal{H}) = \mathcal{H}$  and from the fact that  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{H}$  on  $I_0 \setminus I_\delta$  one can easily show property (c).

We denote by  $\omega_\phi(p)$  (resp.  $\alpha_\phi(p)$ ) the  $\omega$ -limit set (resp.  $\alpha$ -limit set) of a point  $p \in M$  under the flow  $\phi$ . Recall that the Birkhoff center  $\mathcal{C}(\phi)$  is the closure of the set  $\{p \in M; p \in \omega_\phi(p) \cap \alpha_\phi(p)\}$  which is a compact  $\phi$ -invariant nonempty set. Any compact  $\phi$  invariant set contains points of  $\mathcal{C}(\phi)$ .

PROOF OF THEOREM 0.5. Let  $\dot{\phi}$  be a vector field on the frontier of  $\cap(\mathcal{F}_1)$  such that every point  $p \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$  escapes from  $\mathcal{F}_0$  by  $\dot{\phi}$ . First of all we observe that every point  $p \in M$  escapes from  $\mathcal{F}_0$ . Indeed, since  $\mathcal{C}(\phi) \cap \omega_\phi(p)$  is non empty there exists a point  $q \in \omega_\phi(p)$  such that  $\dot{\phi}(q)$  is positively transverse to  $\mathcal{F}_0$ , so for some  $t_p > 0$  we can insure that  $\phi_{t_p}(p)$  is so close to  $q$  that  $\dot{\phi}(\phi_{t_p}(p))$  is positively transverse to  $\mathcal{F}_0$ . By using a similar argument we prove that there is some  $s_p < 0$  such that  $\dot{\phi}(\phi_{s_p}(p))$  is positively transverse to  $\mathcal{F}_0$ .

Consider the compact set  $K = \{p \in M; \dot{\phi}(p) \text{ is tangent to } \mathcal{F}\}$ . From the paragraph above, given  $p \in K$  there exist real numbers  $s_p, t_p, s_p < 0 < t_p$ , such that the vector field  $\dot{\phi}$  is positively transverse to  $\mathcal{F}_0$  on a neighbourhood of the end points of the orbit segment  $\sigma_p = [\phi_{s_p}(p), \phi_{t_p}(p)]$ . Since  $\phi$  is a flow without fixed points we may assume that  $\sigma_p$  is an embedded segment. Otherwise,  $\sigma_p$  is a closed orbit which is transverse to  $\mathcal{F}_0$  at some point  $q$ . So, we may choose  $s'_p, t'_p$ , with  $s_p < s'_p < 0 < t'_p < t_p$  such that the orbit segment  $\sigma'_p = [\phi_{s'_p}(p), \phi_{t'_p}(p)]$  is embedded. Now we construct a tubular neighbourhood  $V_p$  of  $\sigma_p$  and a  $C^1$  system of coordinates of  $\theta_\phi, f_p: V_p \rightarrow I_0$  such that the induced foliation on the cube  $I_0, \mathcal{G}_p = f_p^{-1}(\mathcal{F})$  agrees with the horizontal foliation  $\mathcal{H}$  on a neighbourhood of the top and the bottom of  $\bar{I}_0$ . Note that  $\partial/\partial y$  is non negatively transverse to  $\mathcal{G}_p$ . From the compactness of  $K$ , there exists a finite family of those coordinate systems say  $\{f_i: V_i \rightarrow I_0\}_{i=1}^m$  whose domains form an open cover of  $K$ . Choose  $\delta > 0$  small enough to insure that  $\{f_i^{-1}(I_\delta)\}_{i=1}^m$  is another open cover of

$K$  and that the induced foliation  $\mathcal{G}_i = f_i^{-1*}(\mathcal{F})$  is the horizontal foliation on  $I_0 \setminus J_\delta$ . For  $i=1$ , let  $k_1: I_0 \rightarrow I_0$  be the  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism constructed in Lemma 3.5 i.e.,  $k_1^*(\mathcal{G}_i)$  is transverse to  $\theta_{\partial/\partial y}$  on  $I_\delta$ . From property (a), the  $C^1$  diffeomorphism  $h_1: V_1 \rightarrow V_1$ ,  $h_1 = f_1^{-1} \circ k_1 \circ f_1$  can be extended as the identity outside  $V_1$ . From property (b), the foliation  $\mathcal{F}_1 = h_1^*(\mathcal{F})$  is transverse to  $\theta_\phi$  on  $f_1^*(I_\delta)$  and from property (c)  $\mathcal{F}_1$  agrees with  $\mathcal{F}_0$  outside  $f_1^{-1}(I_\delta)$ . Applying Lemma 3.5 repeatedly one can construct a  $C^1$  diffeomorphism  $h_i: M \rightarrow M$  such that  $\mathcal{F}_i = h_i^*(\mathcal{F}_{i-1})$  is transverse to  $\theta_\phi$  on  $f_i^{-1}(I_\delta) \cup \dots \cup f_{i-1}^{-1}(I_\delta)$  and that  $\mathcal{F}_i$  agrees with  $\mathcal{F}_{i-1}$  outside this open set. Since  $\{f_i^{-1}(I_\delta)\}_{i=1}^m$  is an open cover of  $K$ , we construct a foliation  $\mathcal{F}_n$  transverse to  $\phi$ . Consequently  $\dot{\phi} \in \mathcal{H}(M)$ .

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