

# Conformal geometric aspects of hyperplane sections of Lagrangian Grassmannians

**Gianni Manno**  
Politecnico di Torino

ongoing work with Jan Gutt and Giovanni Moreno

October 23, 2015

## Contact geometry of PDEs

Let  $M$  be a 5-dimensional contact manifold. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be its contact distribution.

## Contact geometry of PDEs

Let  $M$  be a 5–dimensional contact manifold. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be its contact distribution.

Let

$$M^{(1)} = \{\text{Legendrian planes of } M\} \xrightarrow{\text{LGr}(2,4)} M$$

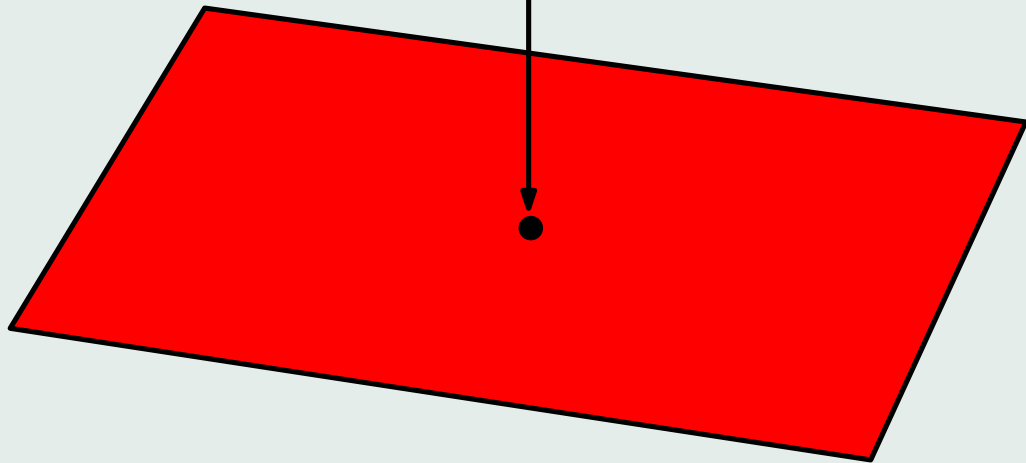
### **Remark:**

Legendrian planes of  $M$  are Lagrangian planes of  $(\mathcal{C}, d\theta)$ , with  $\ker(\theta) = \mathcal{C}$ .

$M^{(1)}$



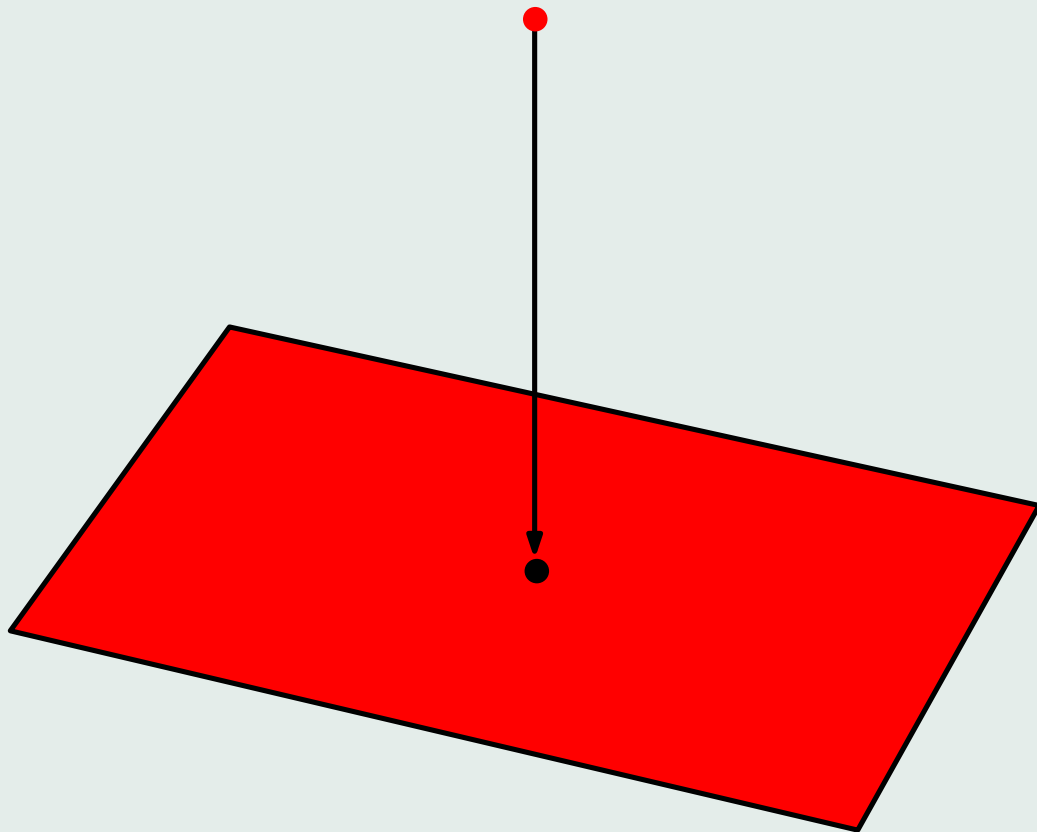
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



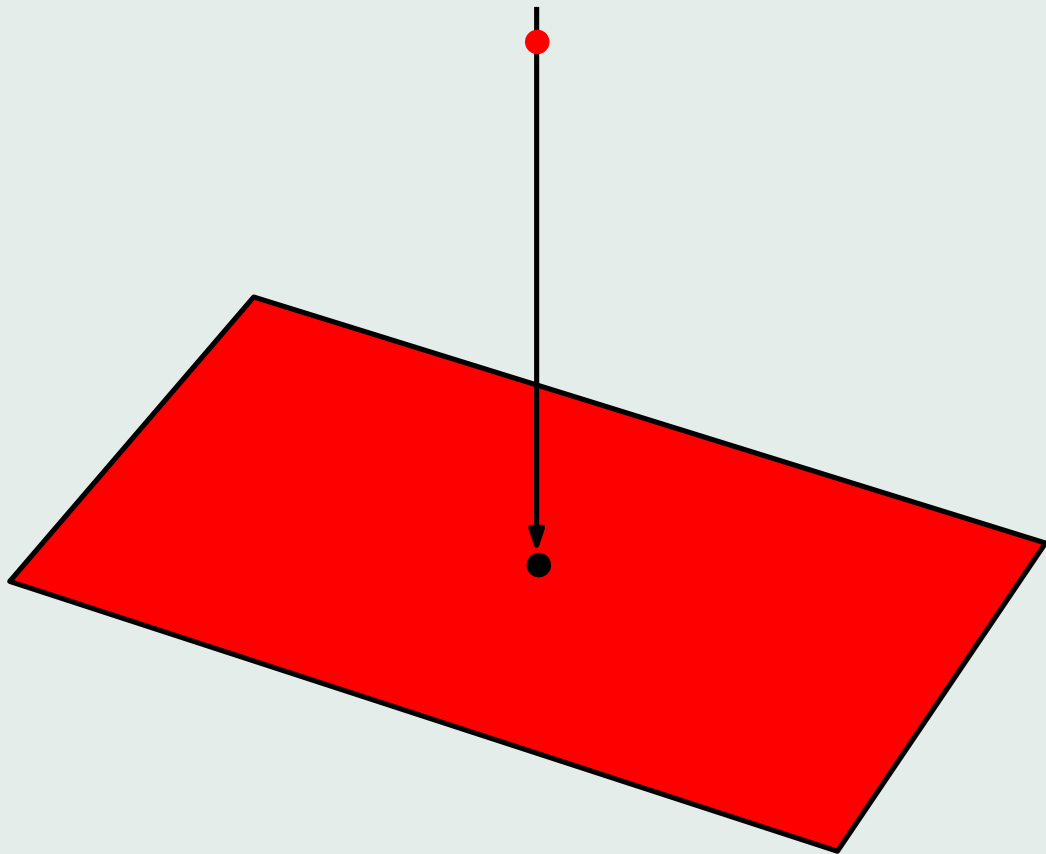
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



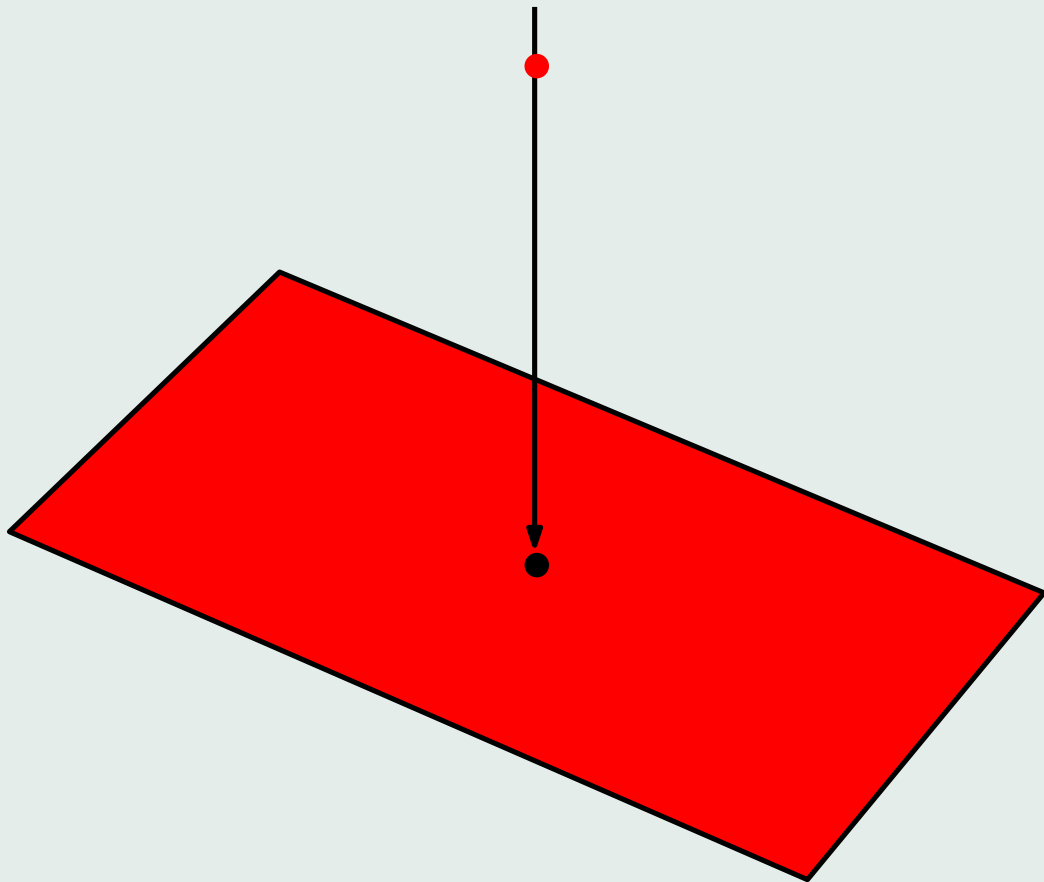
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



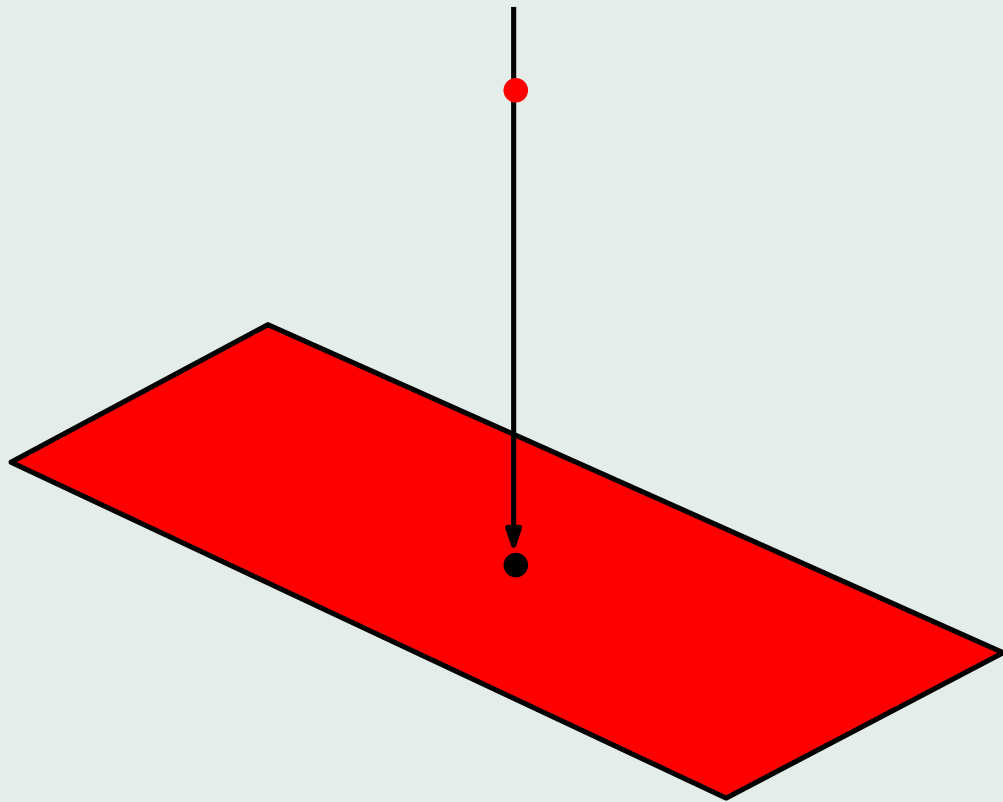
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



$M$

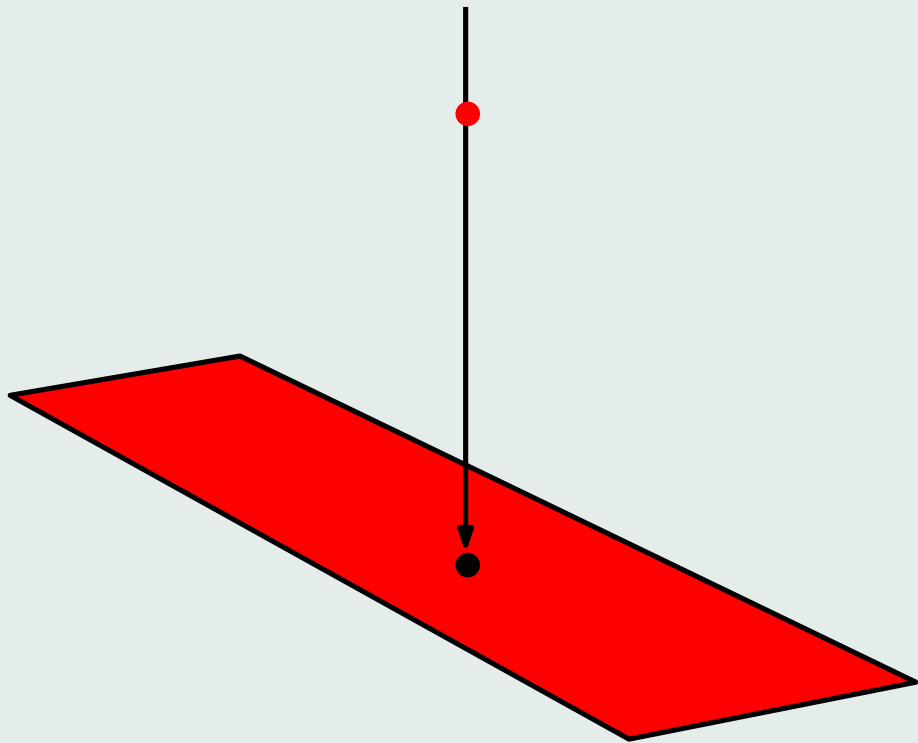




$M^{(1)}$



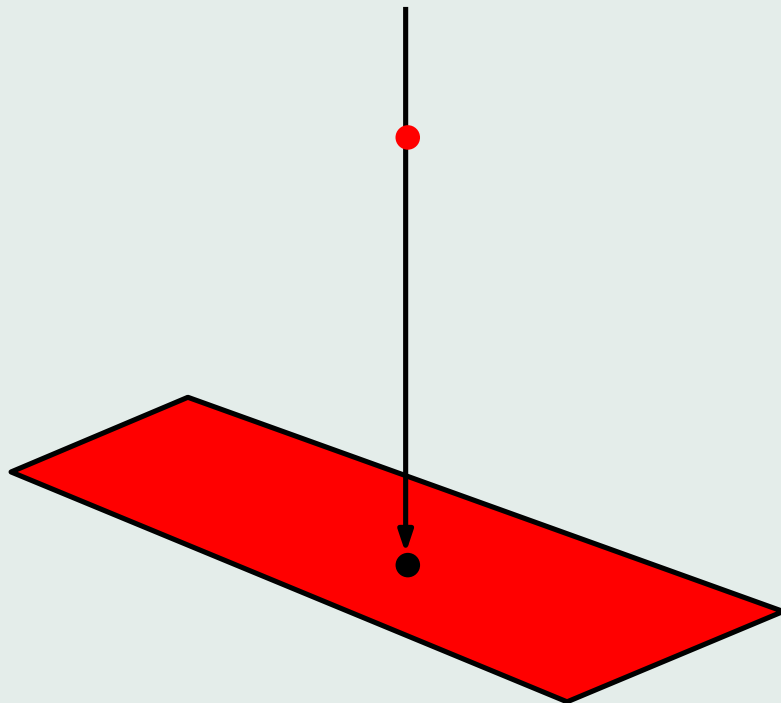
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



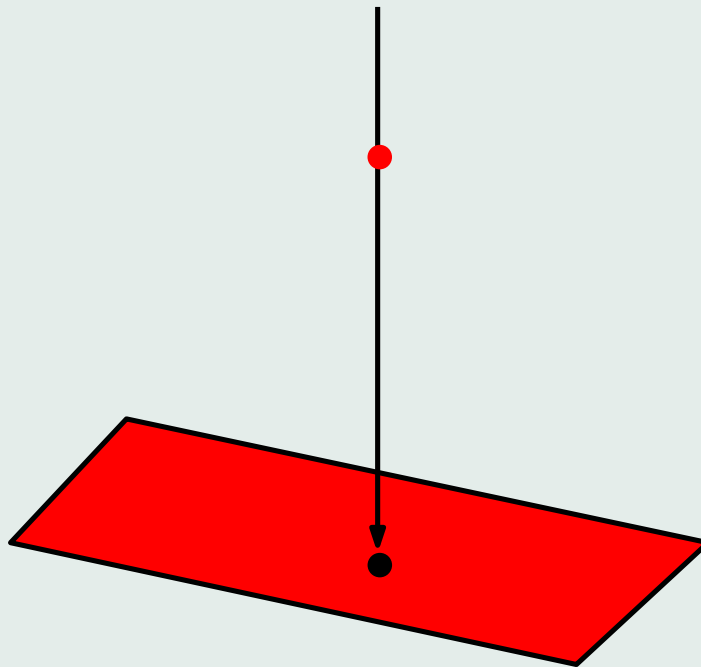
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



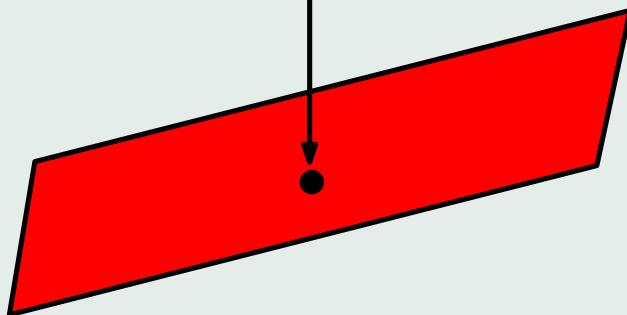
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



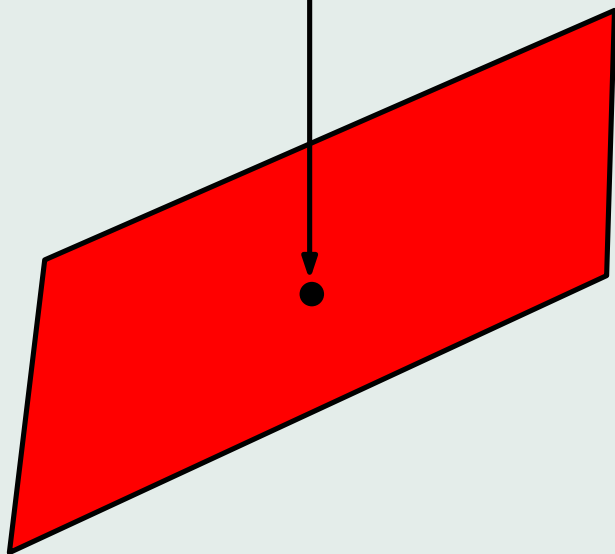
$M$



$M^{(1)}$



$M$



## Contact geometry of PDEs

Let  $M$  be a 5-dimensional contact manifold. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be its contact distribution.

Let

$$M^{(1)} = \{\text{Legendrian planes of } M\} \xrightarrow{\text{LGr}(2,4)} M$$

### **Remark:**

Legendrian planes of  $M$  are Lagrangian planes of  $(\mathcal{C}, d\theta)$ , with  $\ker(\theta) = \mathcal{C}$ .

## Contact geometry of PDEs

Let  $M$  be a 5–dimensional contact manifold. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be its contact distribution.

Let

$$M^{(1)} = \{\text{Legendrian planes of } M\} \xrightarrow{\text{LGr}(2,4)} M$$

### Remark:

Legendrian planes of  $M$  are Lagrangian planes of  $(\mathcal{C}, d\theta)$ , with  $\ker(\theta) = \mathcal{C}$ .

Locally

$$M = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y), \quad M^{(1)} = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y, u_{xx}, u_{xy} = u_{yx}, u_{yy})$$

## Contact geometry of PDEs

Let  $M$  be a 5-dimensional contact manifold. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be its contact distribution.

Let

$$M^{(1)} = \{\text{Legendrian planes of } M\} \xrightarrow{\text{LGr}(2,4)} M$$

### Remark:

Legendrian planes of  $M$  are Lagrangian planes of  $(\mathcal{C}, d\theta)$ , with  $\ker(\theta) = \mathcal{C}$ .

Locally

$$M = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y), \quad M^{(1)} = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y, u_{xx}, u_{xy} = u_{yx}, u_{yy})$$

or

$$M = (x^1, x^2, u, p_1, p_2), \quad M^{(1)} = (x^1, x^2, u, p_1, p_2, p_{11}, p_{12} = p_{21}, p_{22})$$



## Contact geometry of PDEs

Let  $M$  be a 5–dimensional contact manifold. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be its contact distribution.

Let

$$M^{(1)} = \{\text{Legendrian planes of } M\} \xrightarrow{\text{LGr}(2,4)} M$$

### Remark:

Legendrian planes of  $M$  are Lagrangian planes of  $(\mathcal{C}, d\theta)$ , with  $\ker(\theta) = \mathcal{C}$ .

Locally

$$M = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y), \quad M^{(1)} = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y, u_{xx}, u_{xy} = u_{yx}, u_{yy})$$

or

$$M = (x^1, x^2, u, p_1, p_2), \quad M^{(1)} = (x^1, x^2, u, p_1, p_2, p_{11}, p_{12} = p_{21}, p_{22})$$

A hypersurface of  $M$  (resp. of  $M^{(1)}$ ) is a first order (resp. second order) PDE.

## Contact geometry of PDEs

Let  $M$  be a 5–dimensional contact manifold. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be its contact distribution.

Let

$$M^{(1)} = \{\text{Legendrian planes of } M\} \xrightarrow{\text{LGr}(2,4)} M$$

### Remark:

Legendrian planes of  $M$  are Lagrangian planes of  $(\mathcal{C}, d\theta)$ , with  $\ker(\theta) = \mathcal{C}$ .

Locally

$$M = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y), \quad M^{(1)} = (x, y, u, u_x, u_y, u_{xx}, u_{xy} = u_{yx}, u_{yy})$$

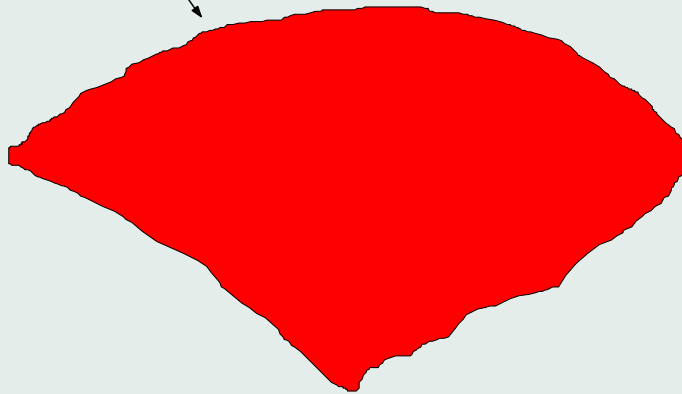
or

$$M = (x^1, x^2, u, p_1, p_2), \quad M^{(1)} = (x^1, x^2, u, p_1, p_2, p_{11}, p_{12} = p_{21}, p_{22})$$

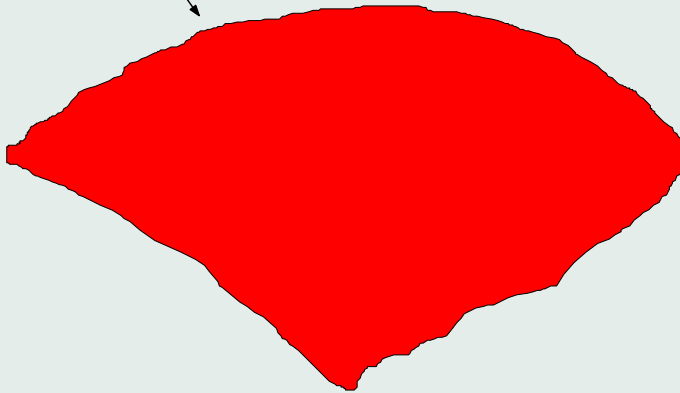
A hypersurface of  $M$  (resp. of  $M^{(1)}$ ) is a first order (resp. second order) PDE.

$$f(x, y, u, u_x, u_y) = 0, \quad F(x, y, u, u_x, u_y, u_{xx}, u_{xy}, u_{yy}) = 0$$

Hypersurface of  $M^{(1)}$

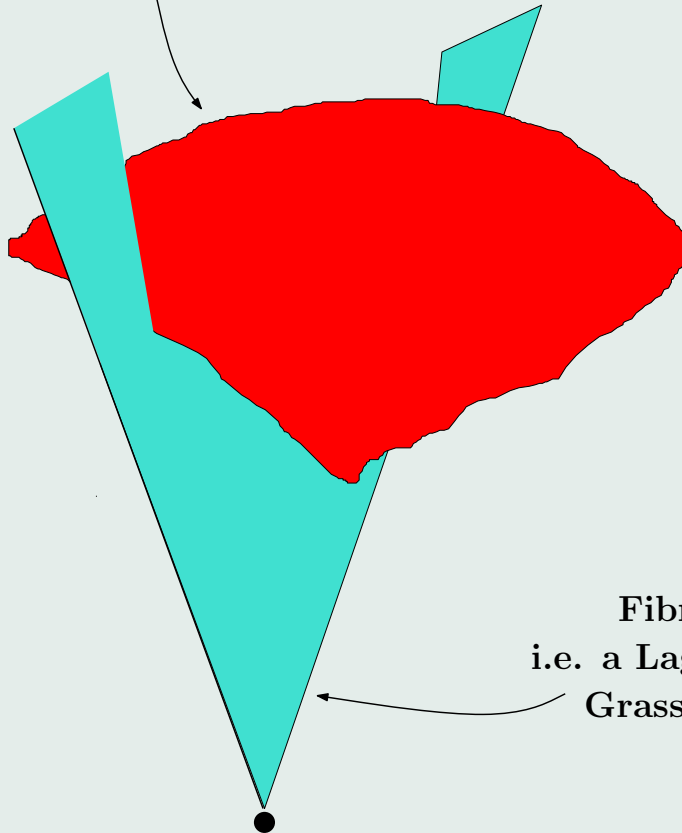


Hypersurface of  $M^{(1)}$



Point of  $M$

Hypersurface of  $M^{(1)}$

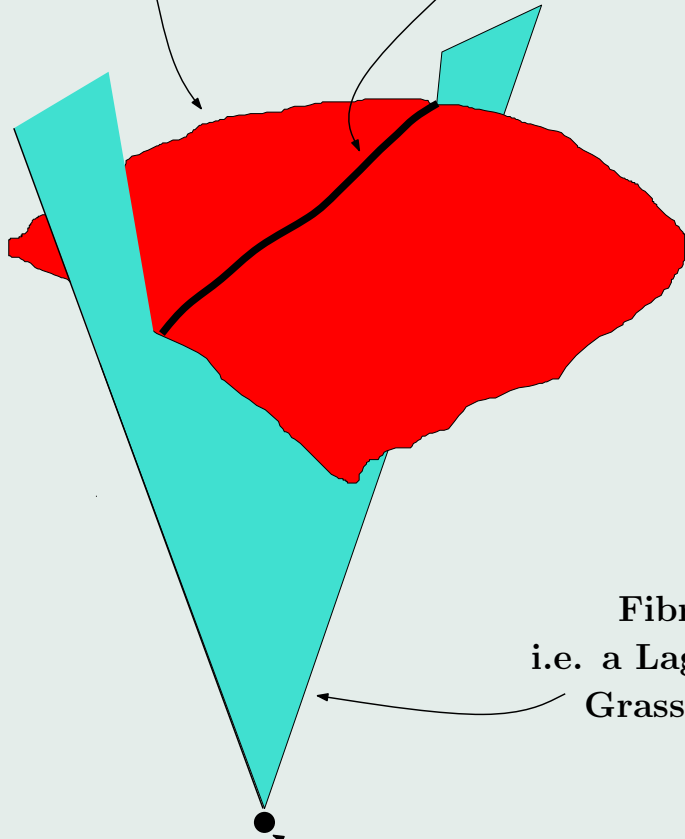


Fibre of  $\pi$   
i.e. a Lagrangian  
Grassmannian

Point of  $M$

Hypersurface of  $M^{(1)}$

Hypersurface of  
the Lagrangian  
Grassmannian

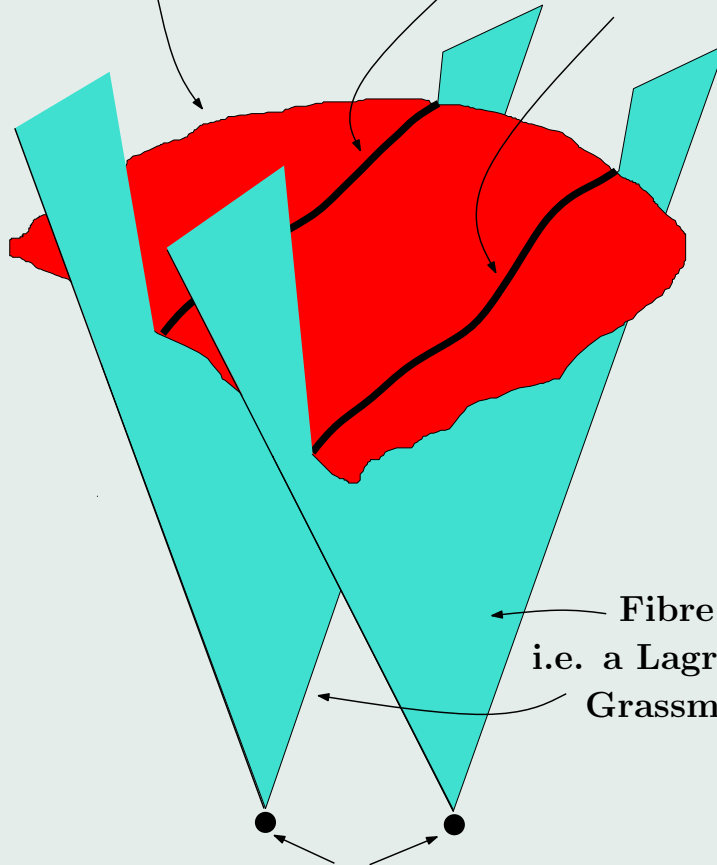


Fibre of  $\pi$   
i.e. a Lagrangian  
Grassmannian

Point of M

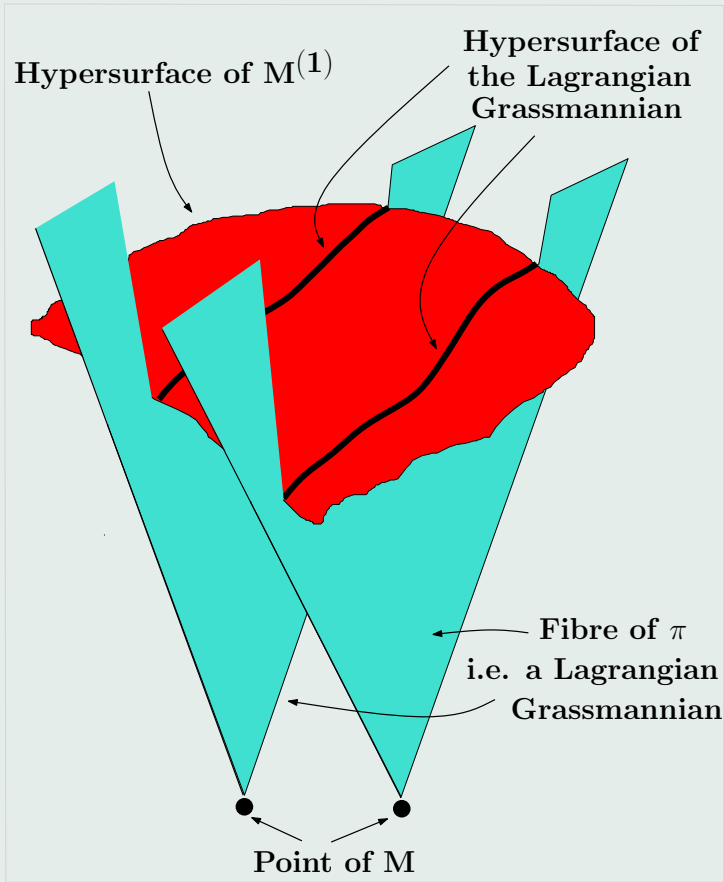
Hypersurface of  $M^{(1)}$

Hypersurface of  
the Lagrangian  
Grassmannian

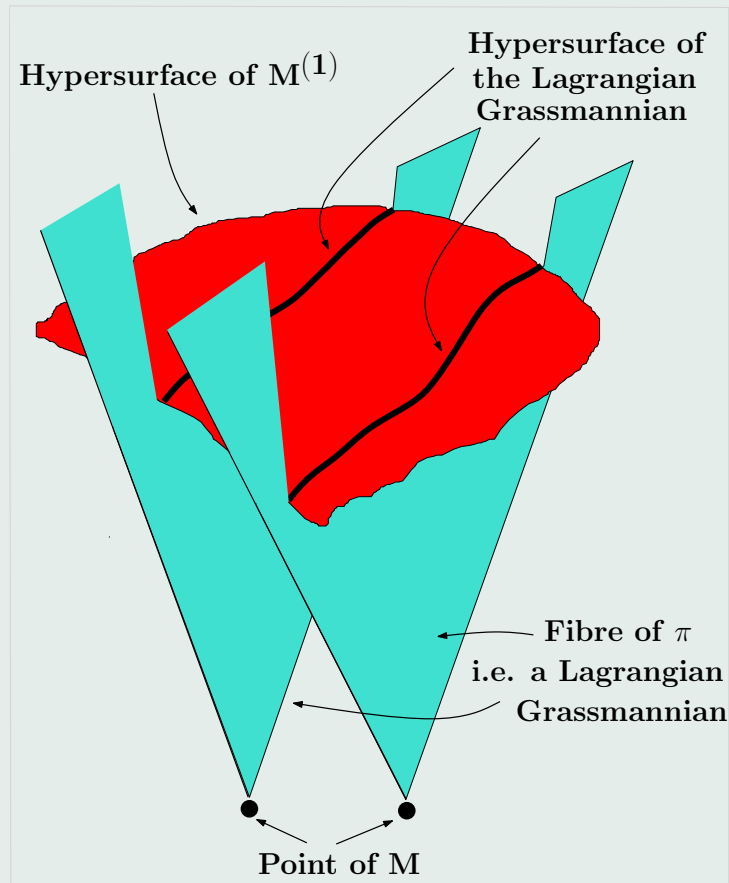


Fibre of  $\pi$   
i.e. a Lagrangian  
Grassmannian

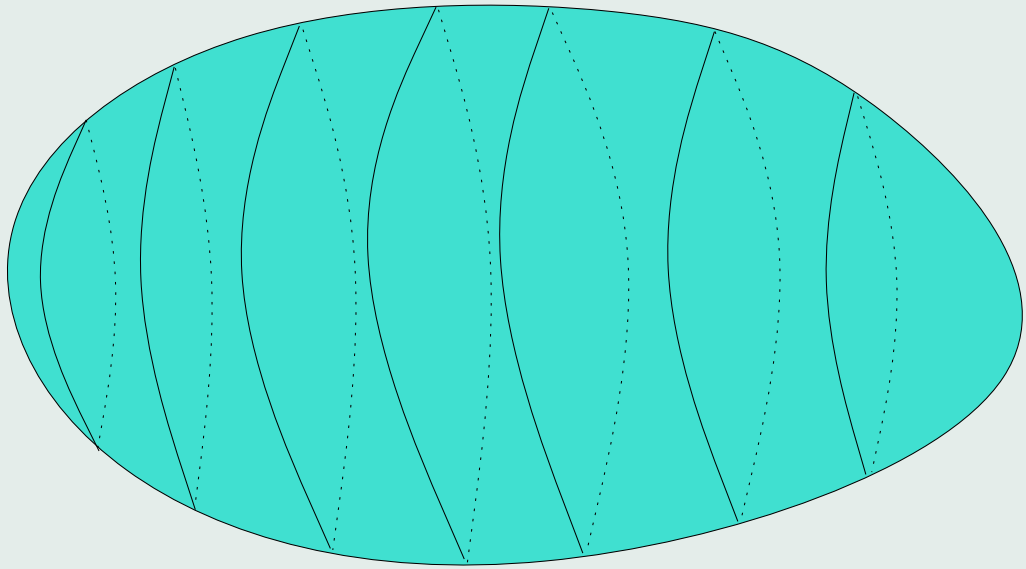
Point of M

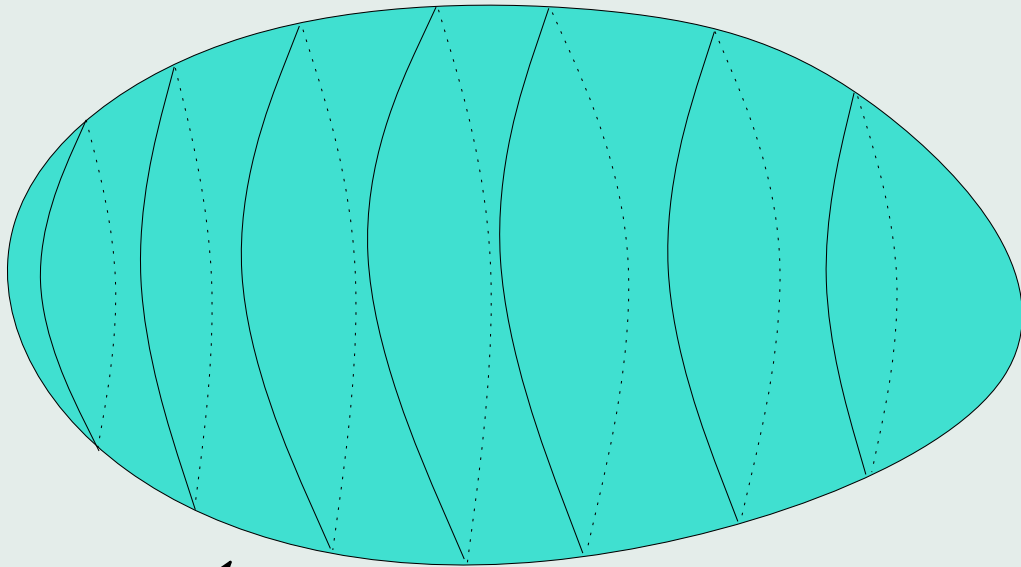






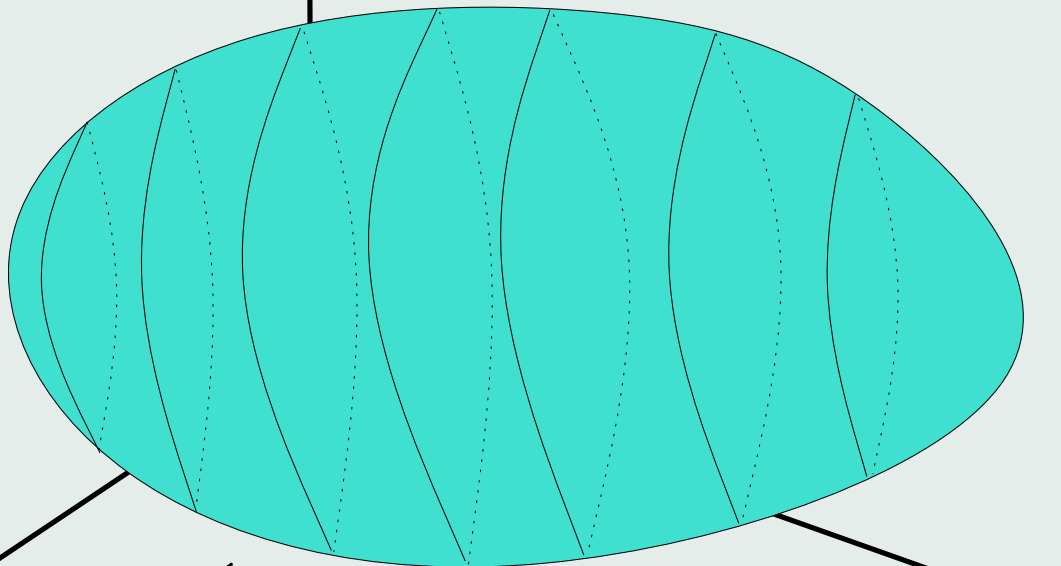
From now we fix the point  $m \in M$ , i.e. we work in a fibre.



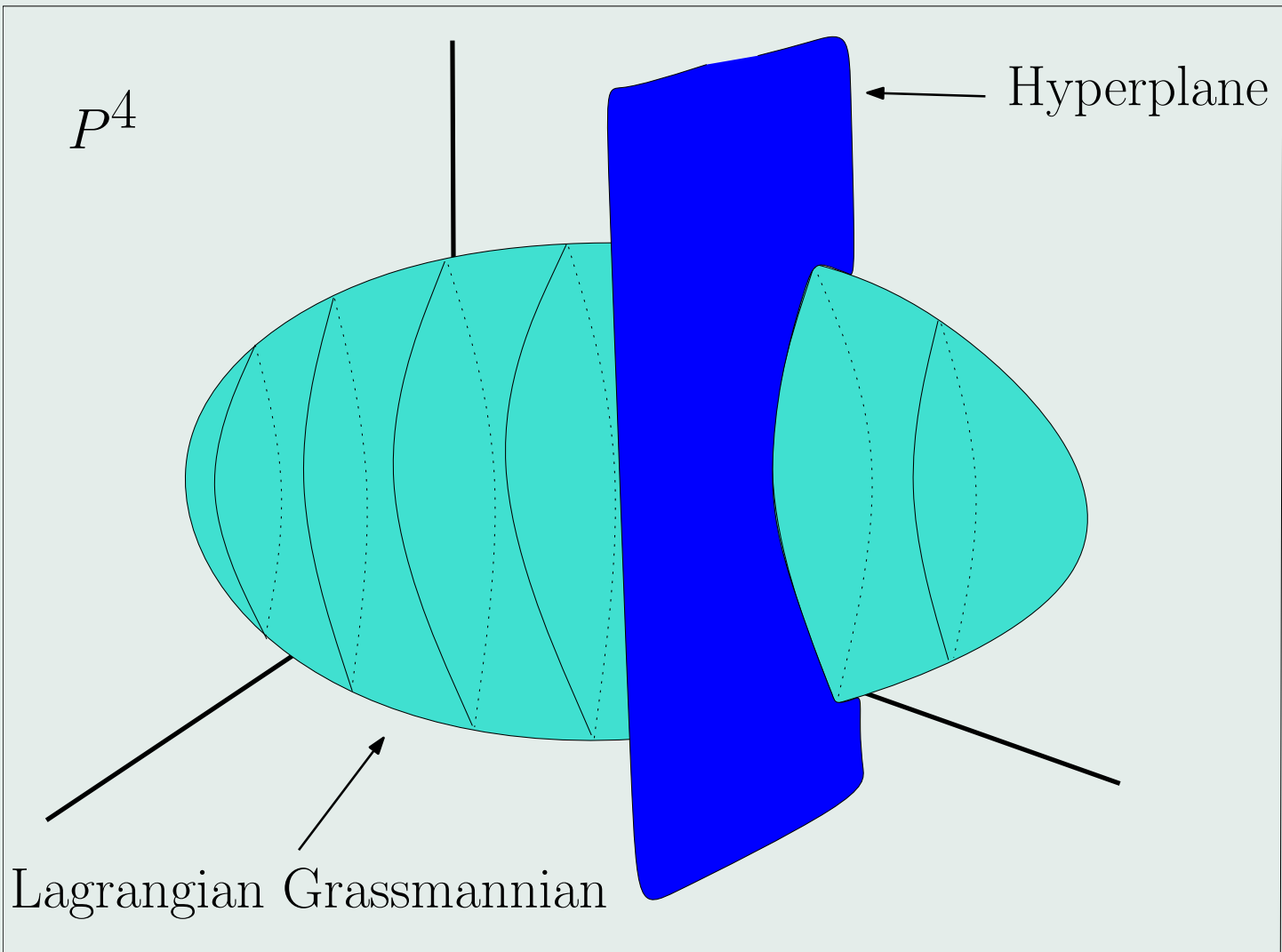


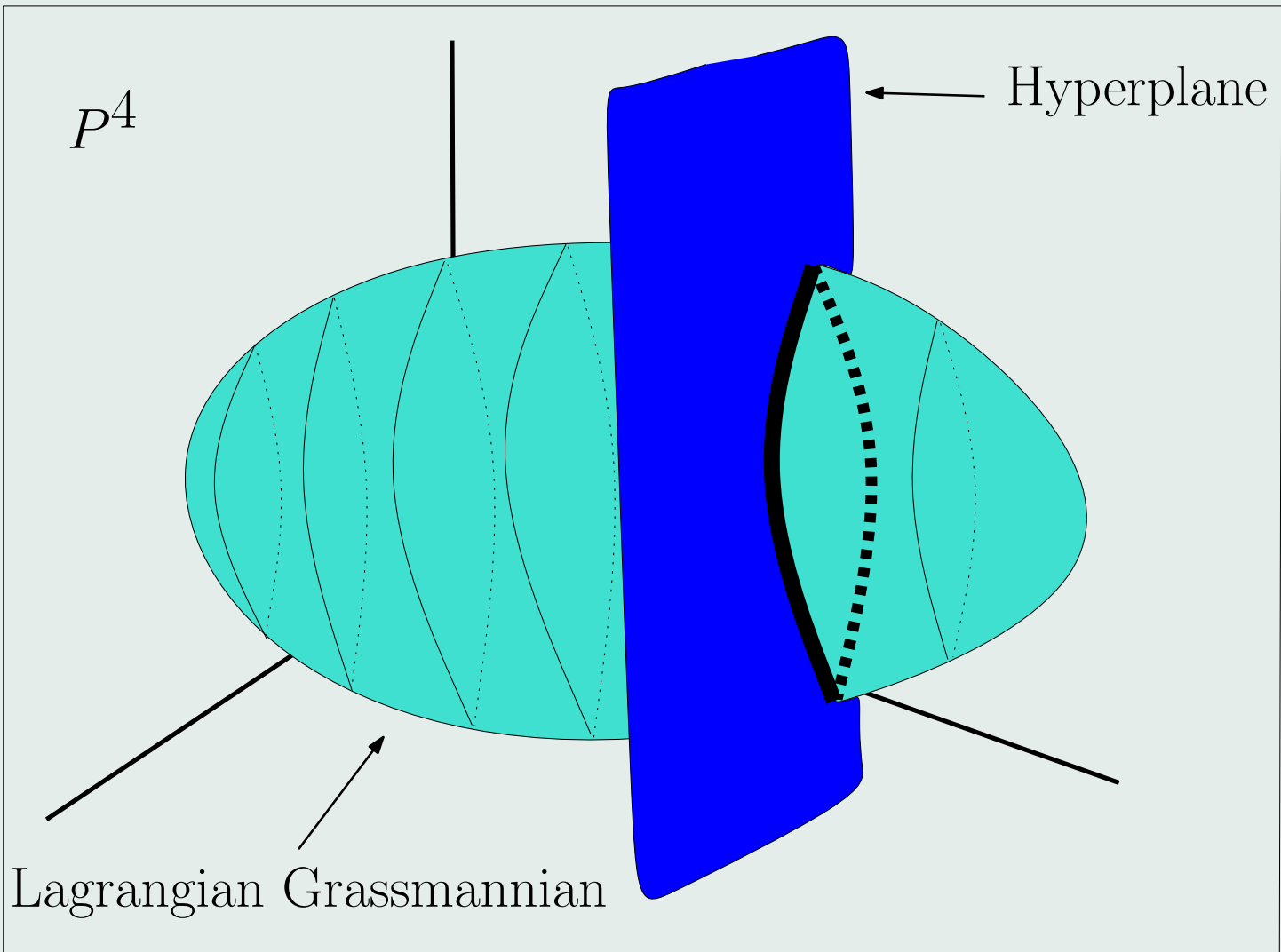
Lagrangian Grassmannian

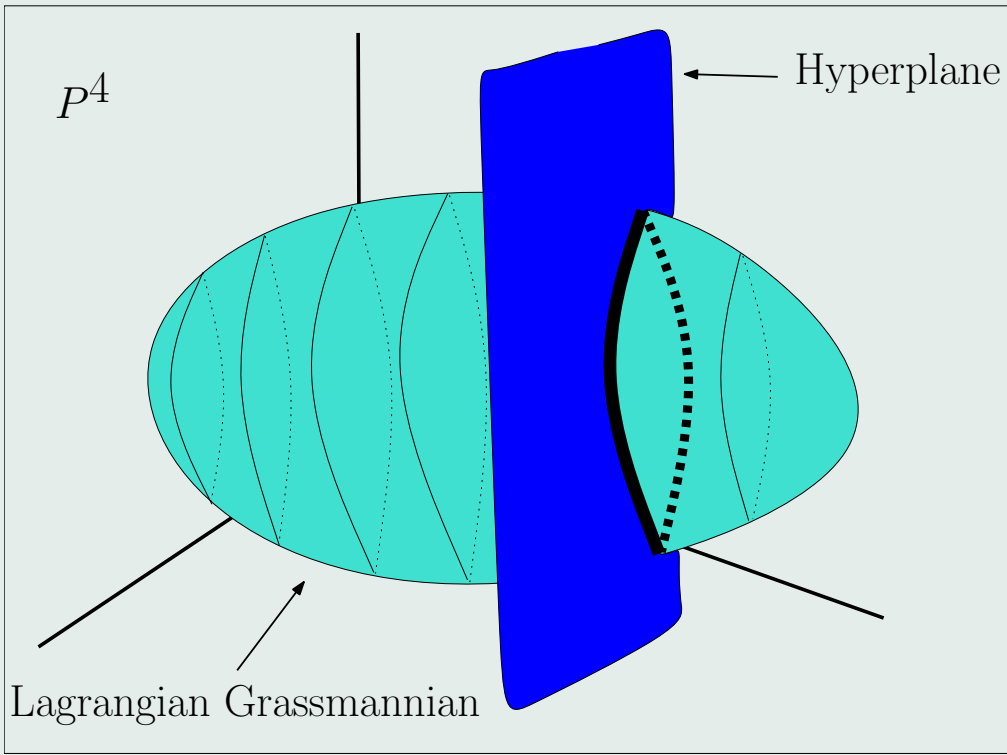
$P^4$

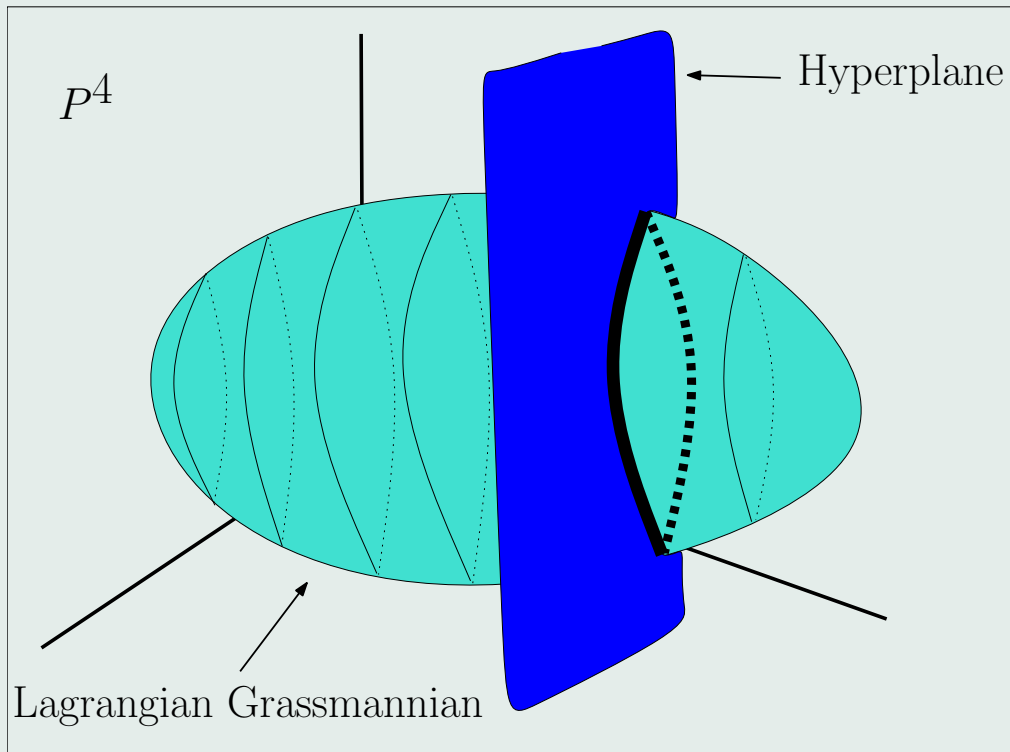


Lagrangian Grassmannian









Hyperplane sections are Monge-Ampère equations:

$$a_0 + a_1 u_{xx} + a_2 u_{xy} + a_3 u_{yy} + a_4 (u_{xx} u_{yy} - u_{xy}^2) = 0$$

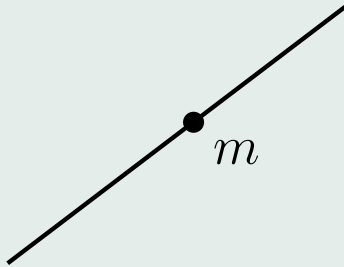
$$\text{Plücker} : (p_{11}, p_{12}, p_{22}) \hookrightarrow (1, p_{11}, p_{12}, p_{22}, p_{11}p_{22} - p_{12}^2)$$

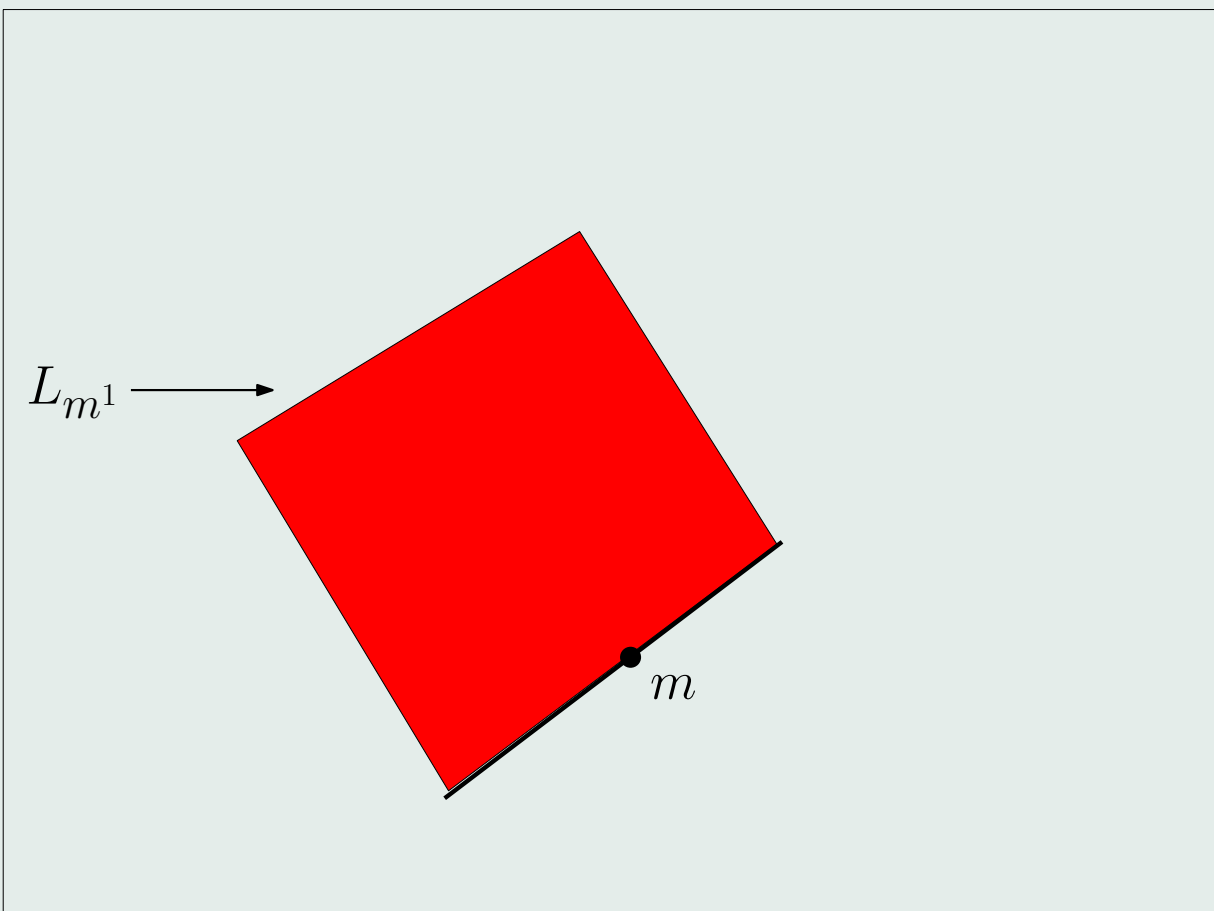


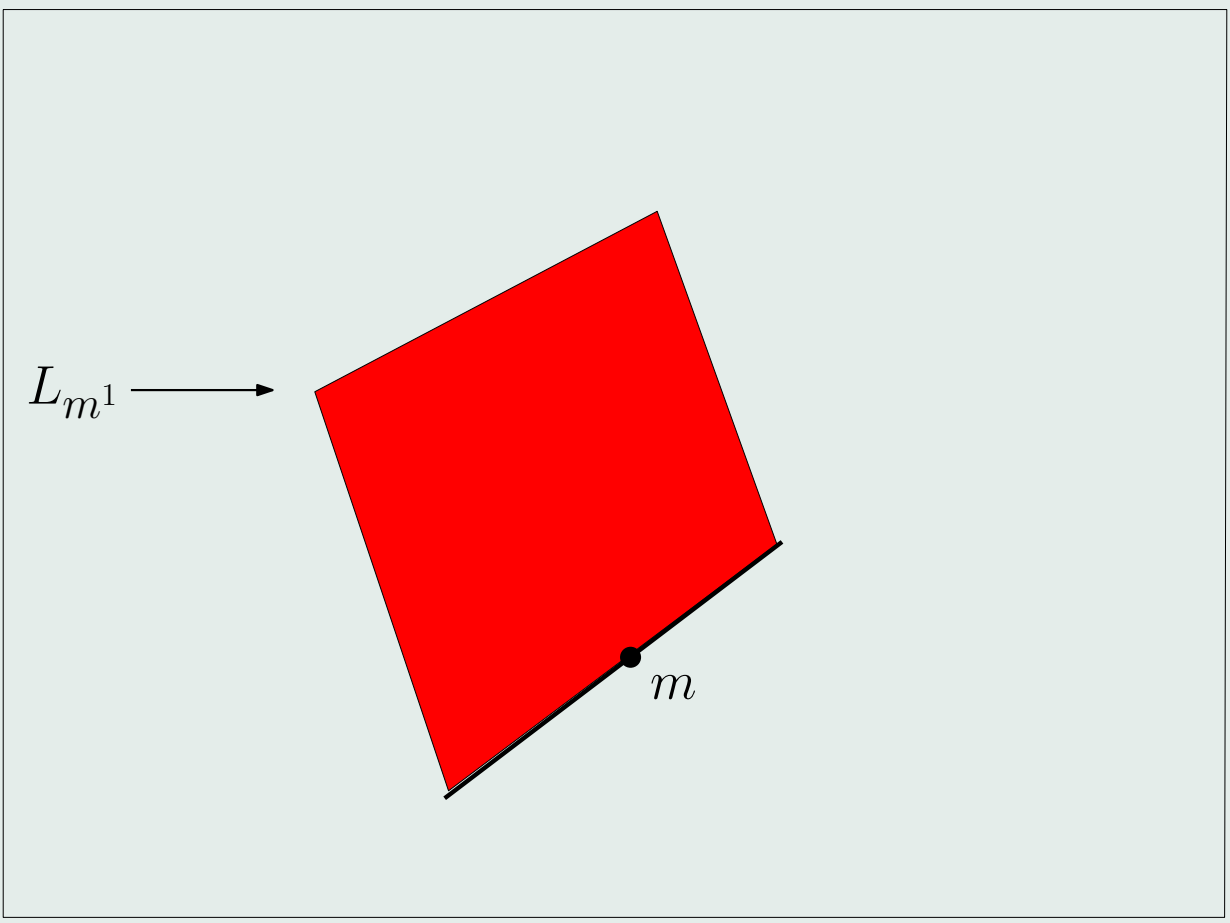
Now we see how to define Monge-Ampère equations by using characteristics directions and how to characterize such PDEs in terms of some canonical conformal structures on Lagrangian Grassmannians

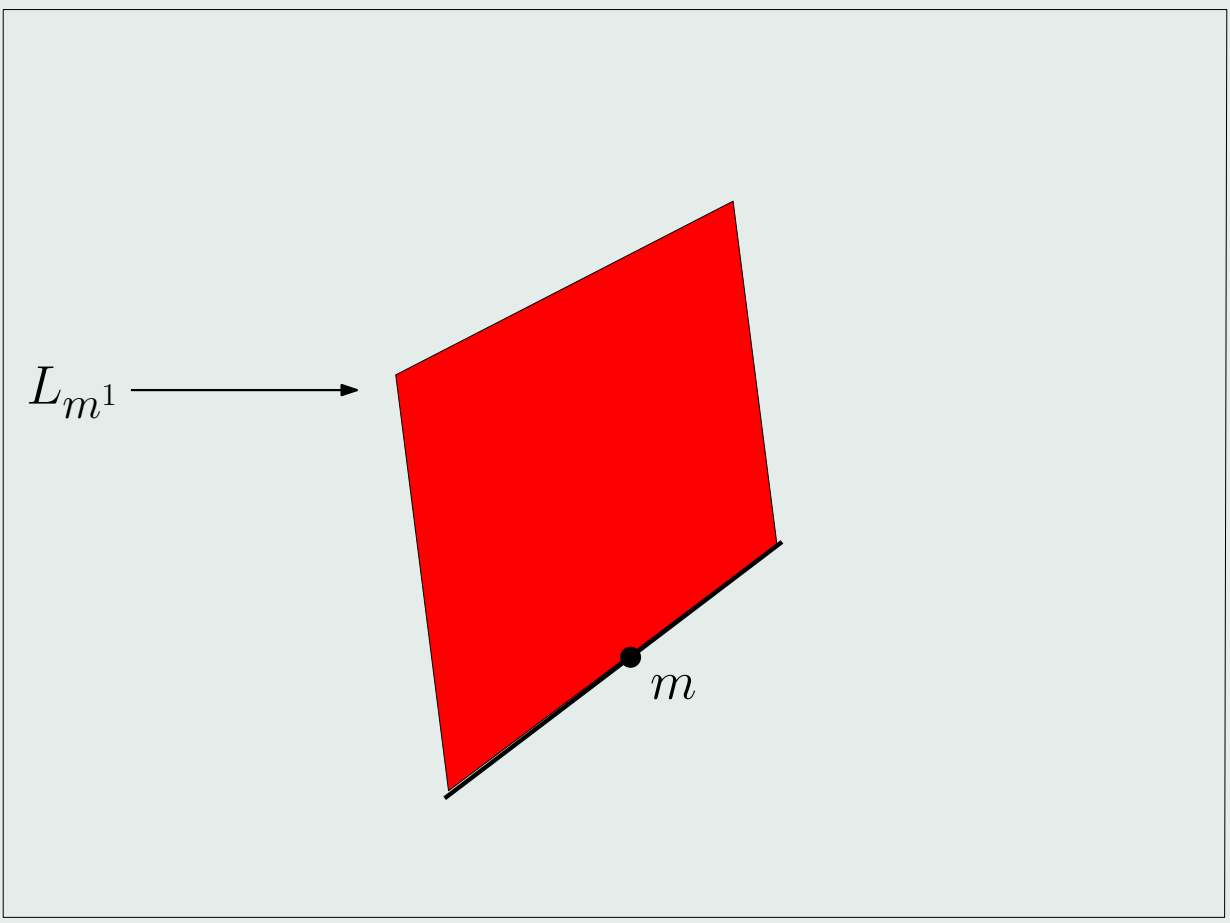


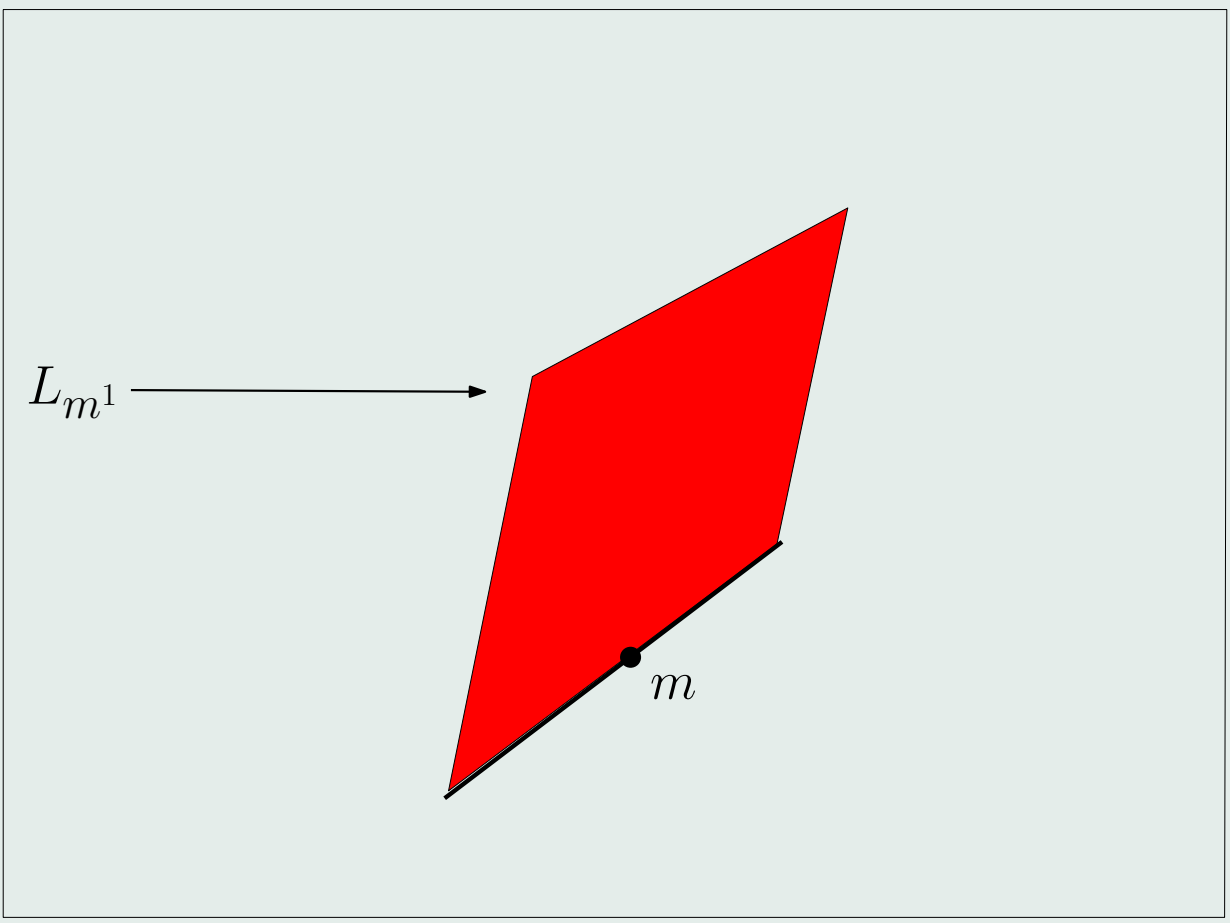
$m$

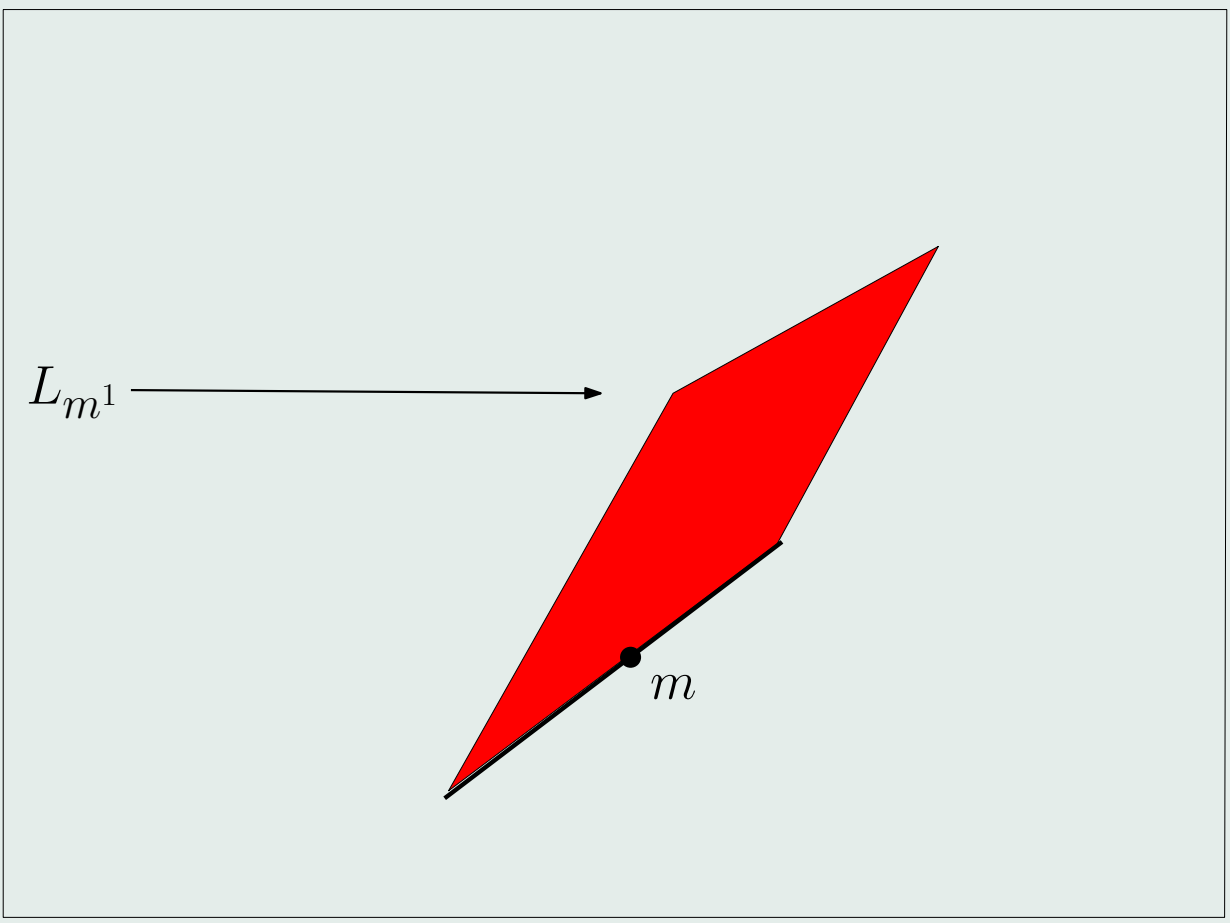








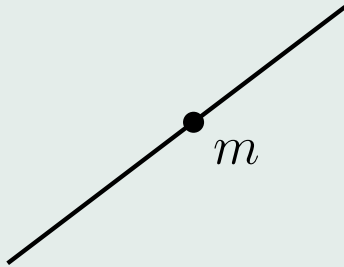


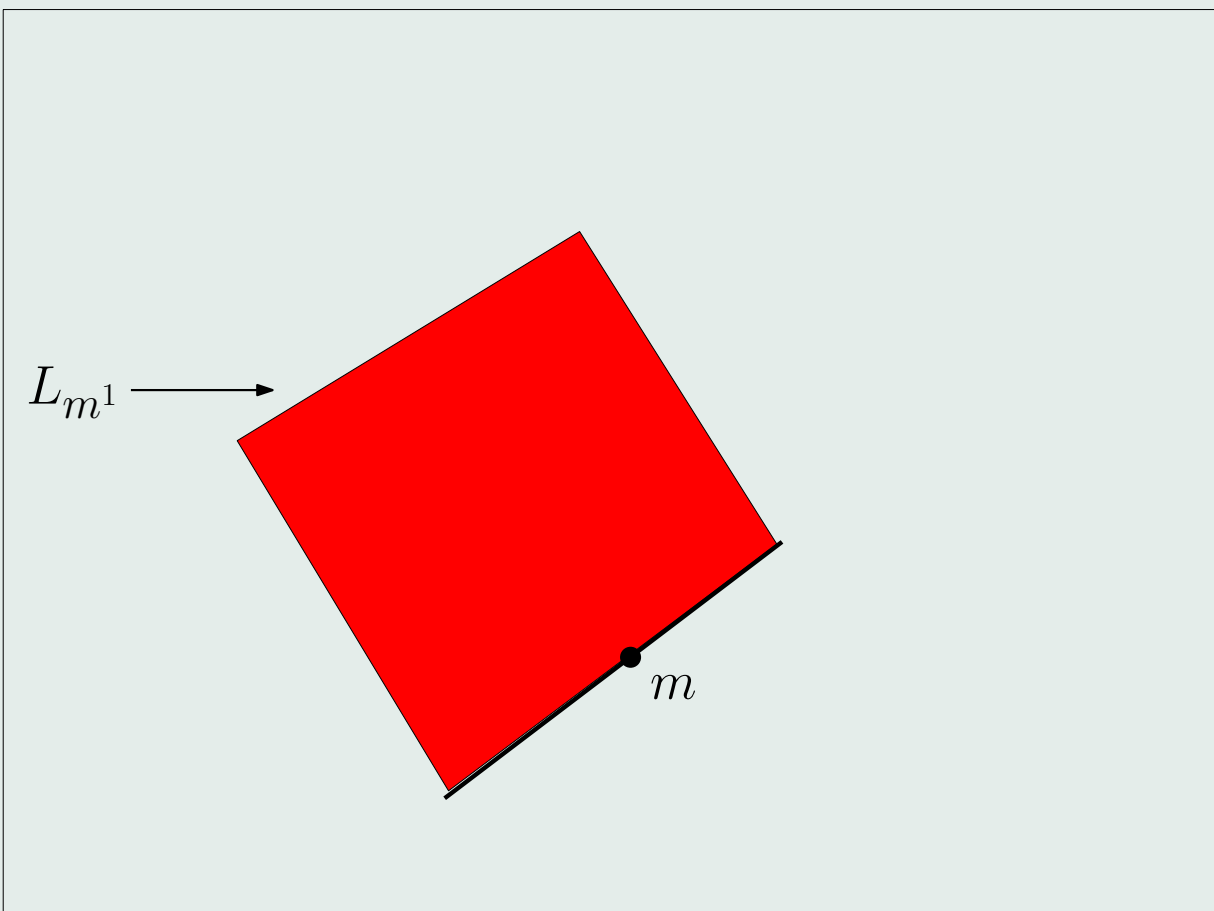


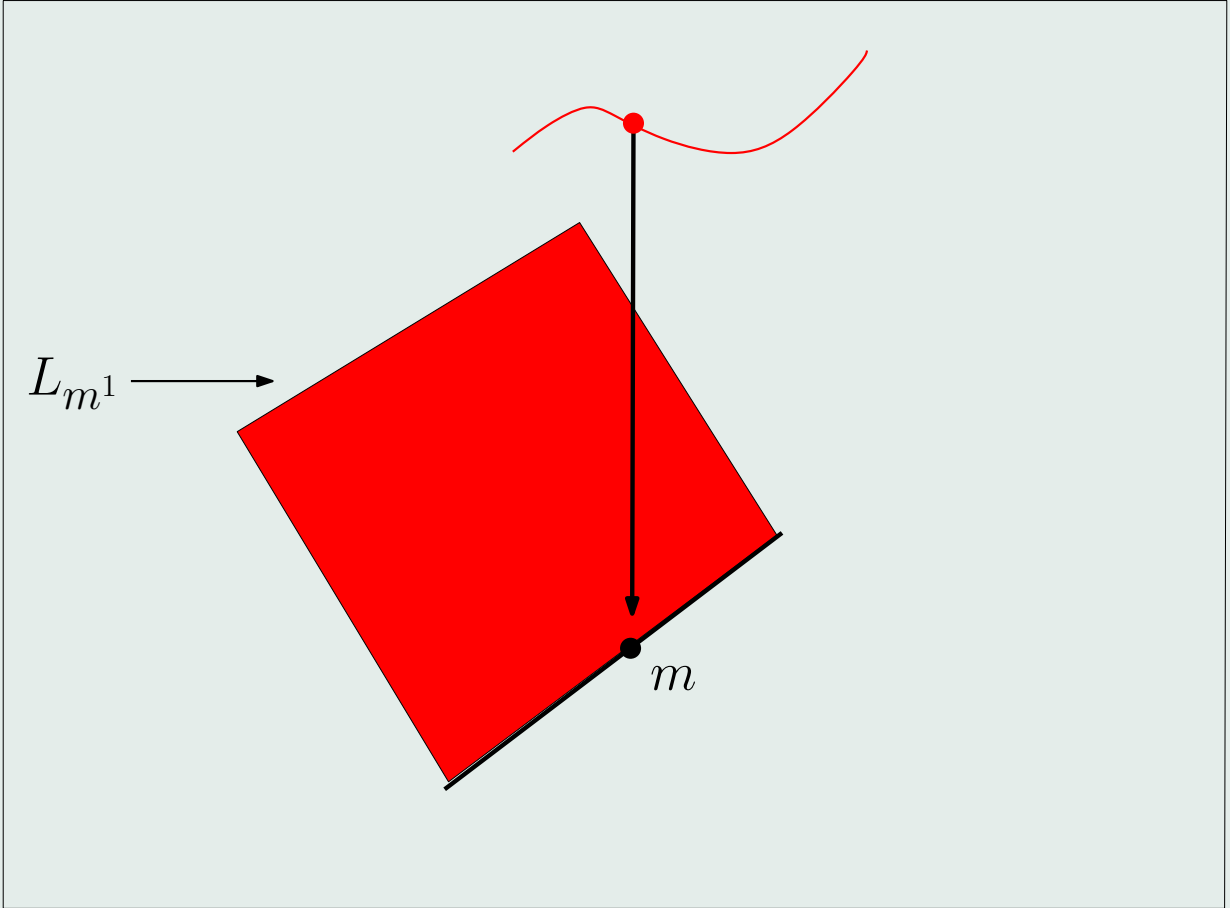


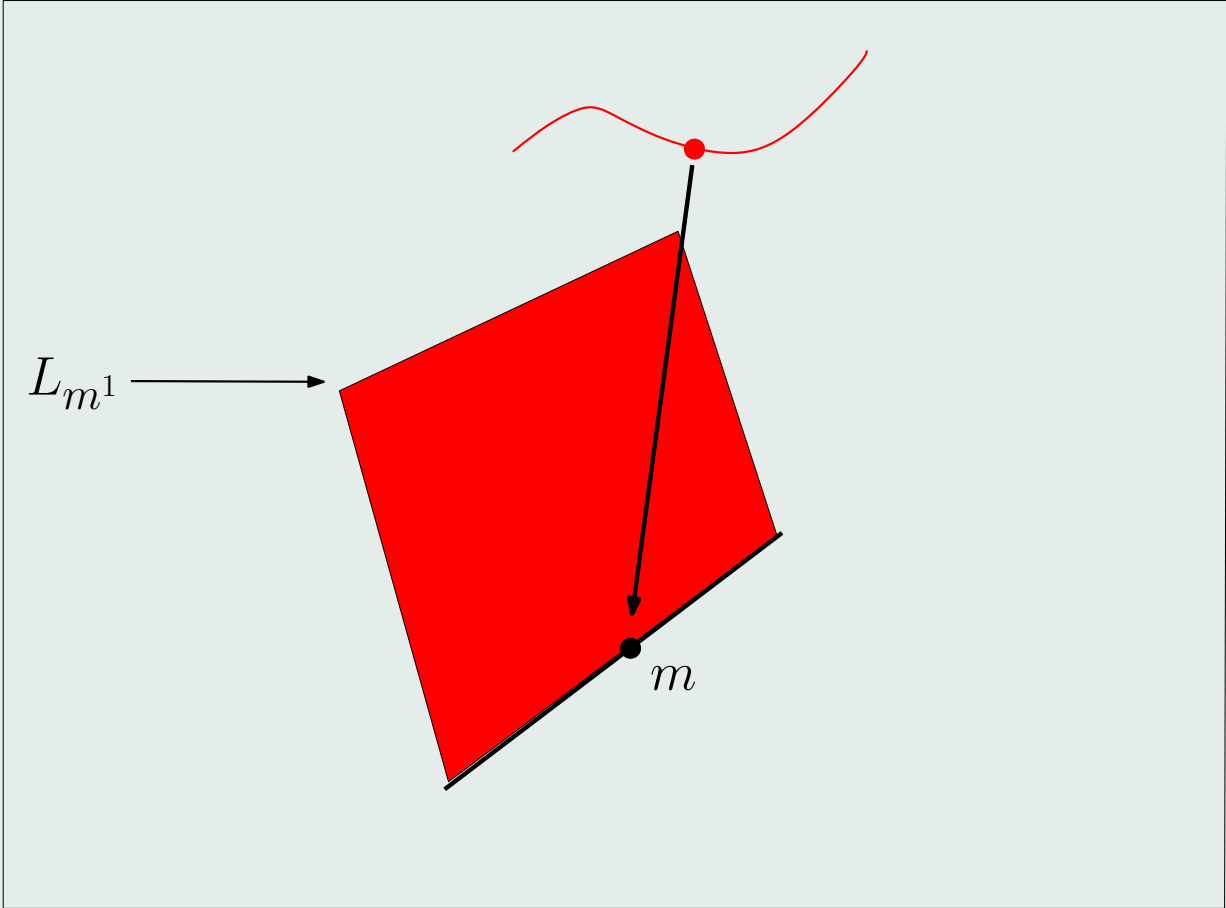


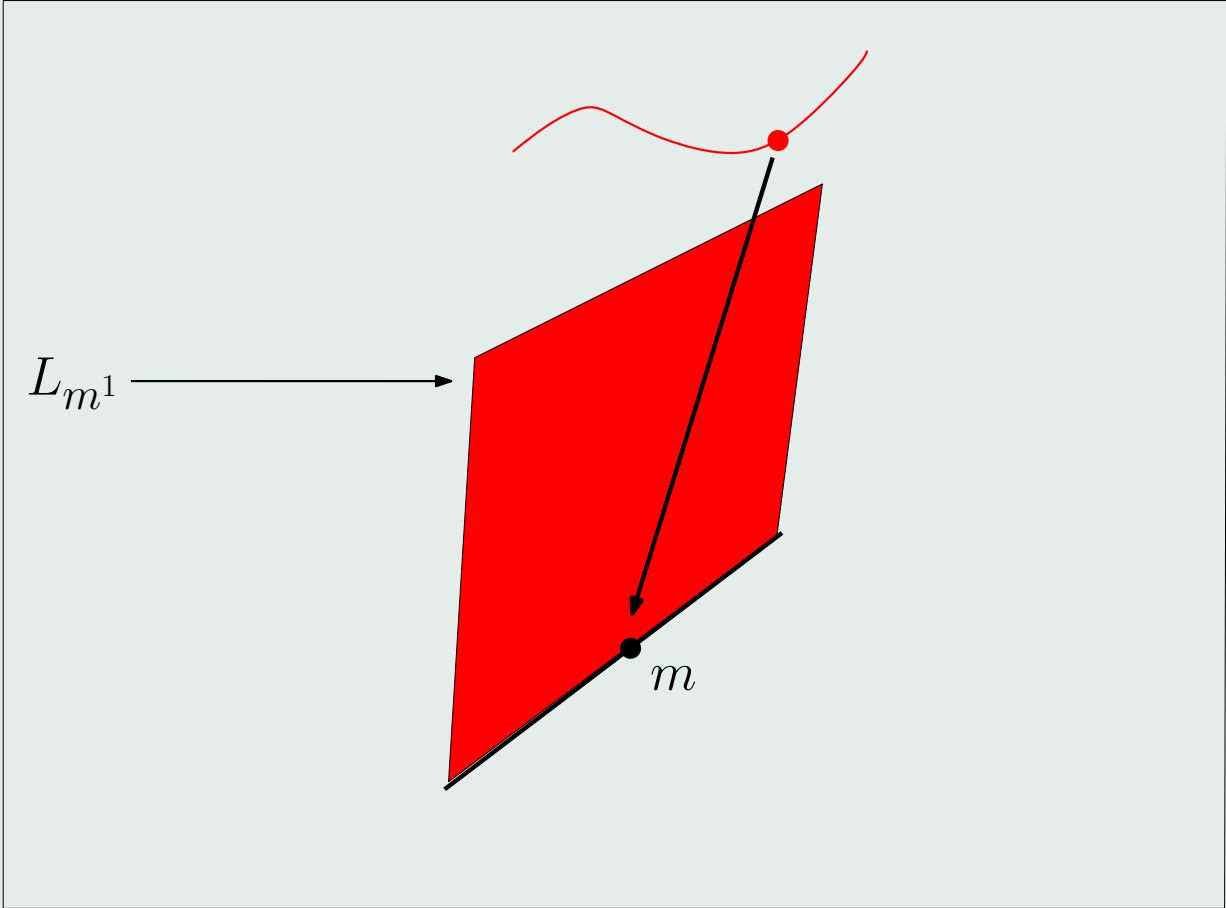
$m$

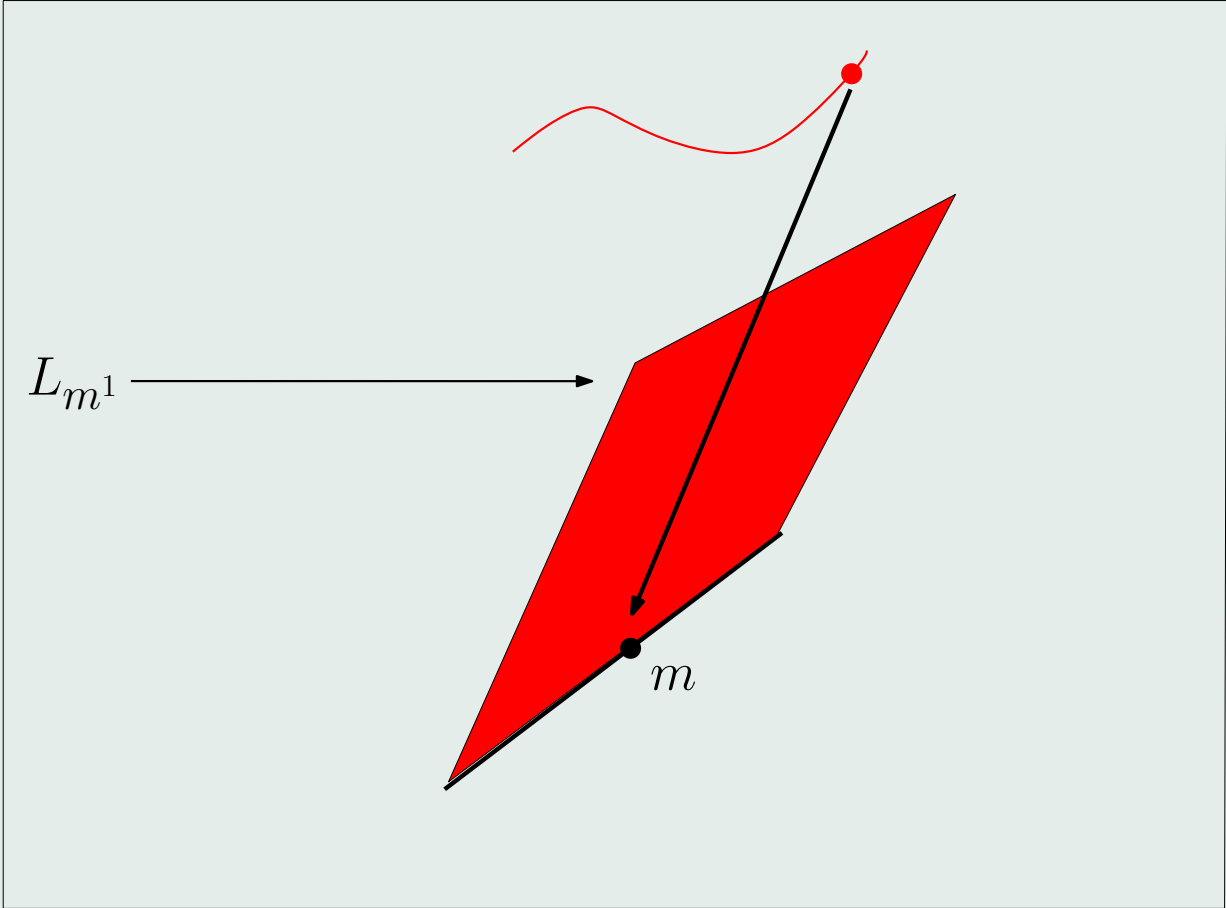


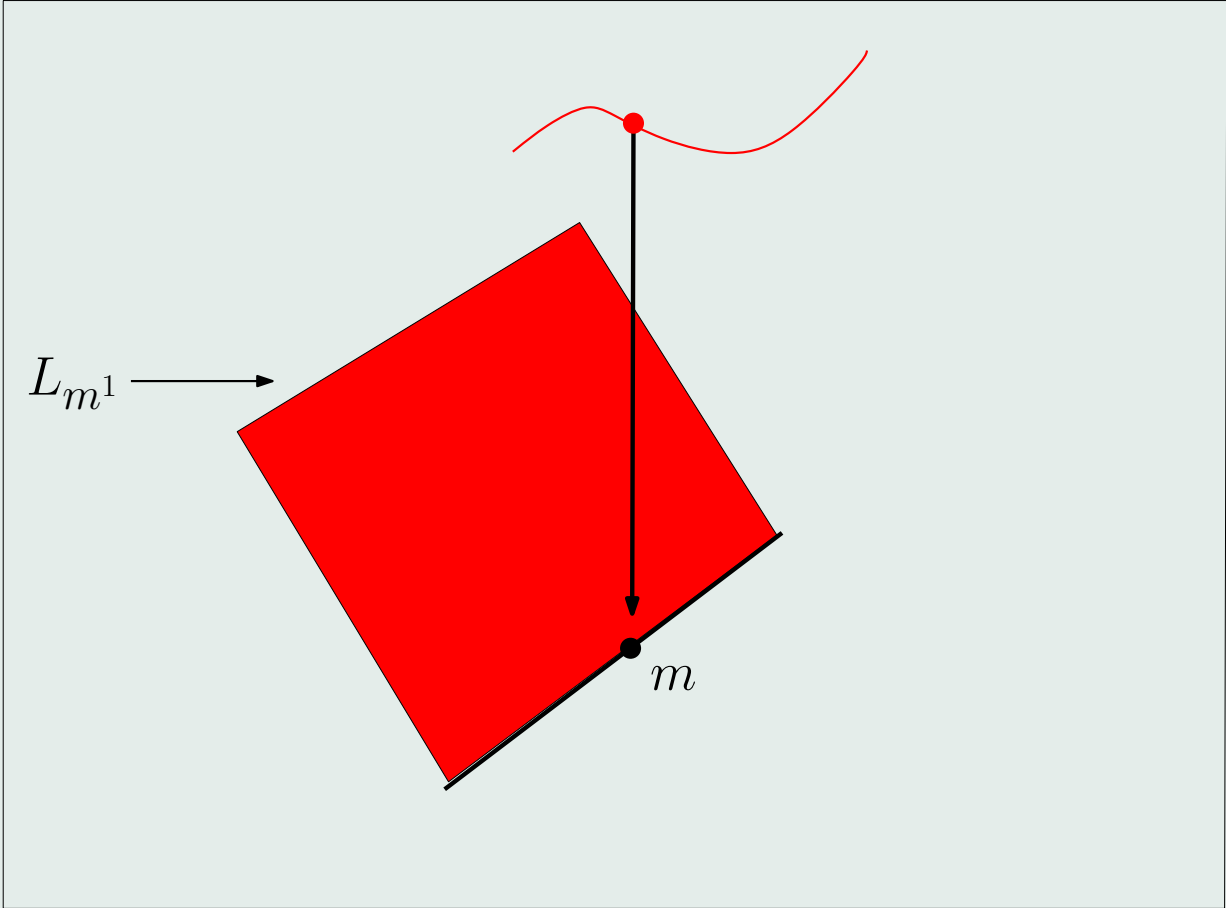




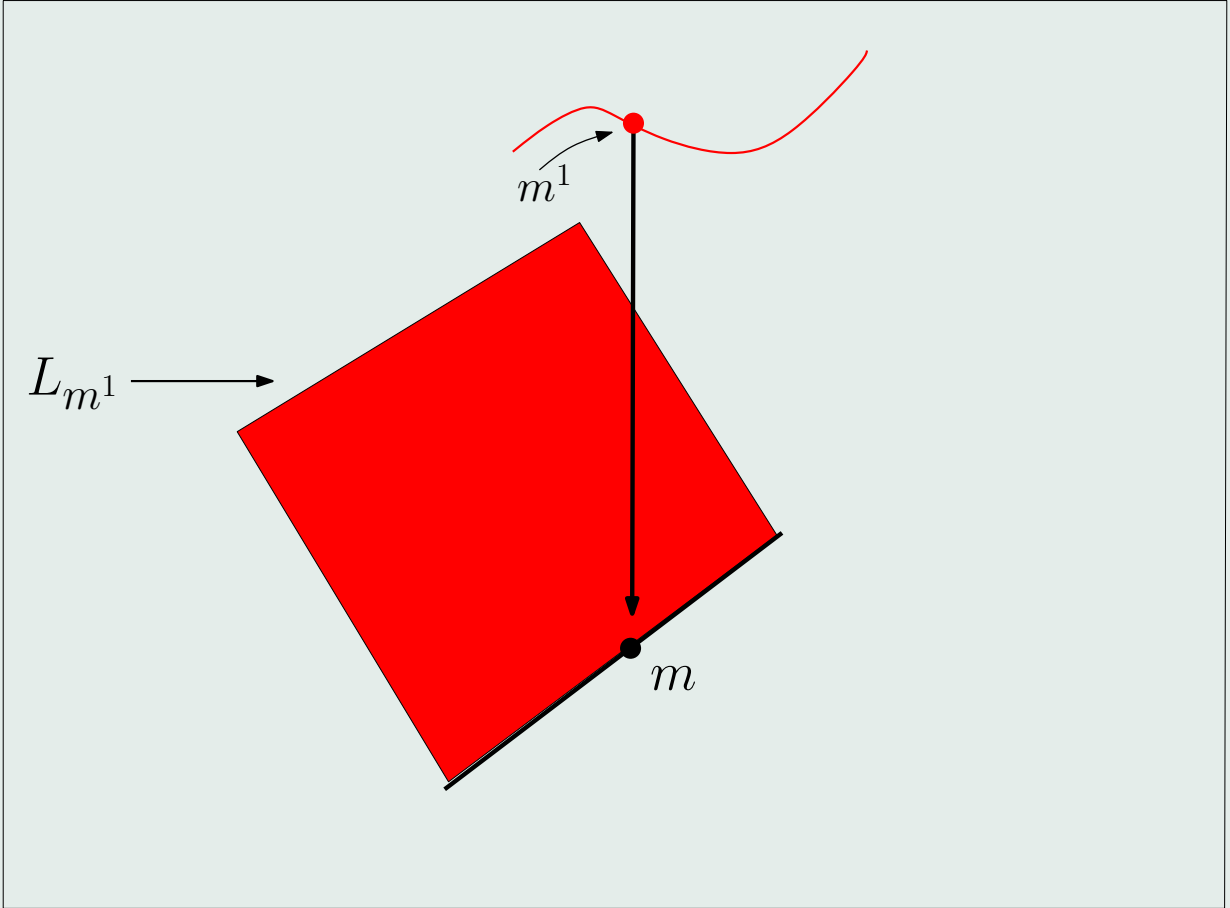


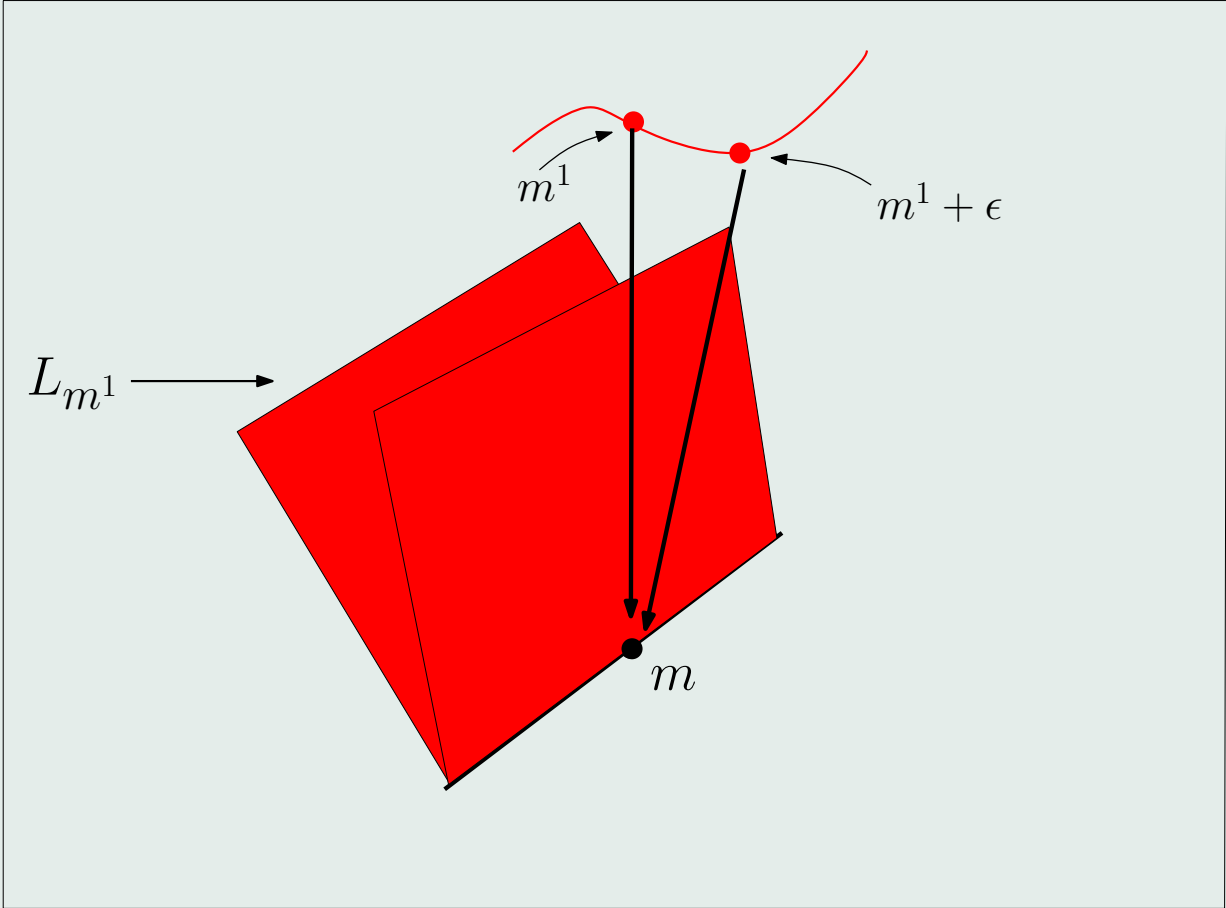


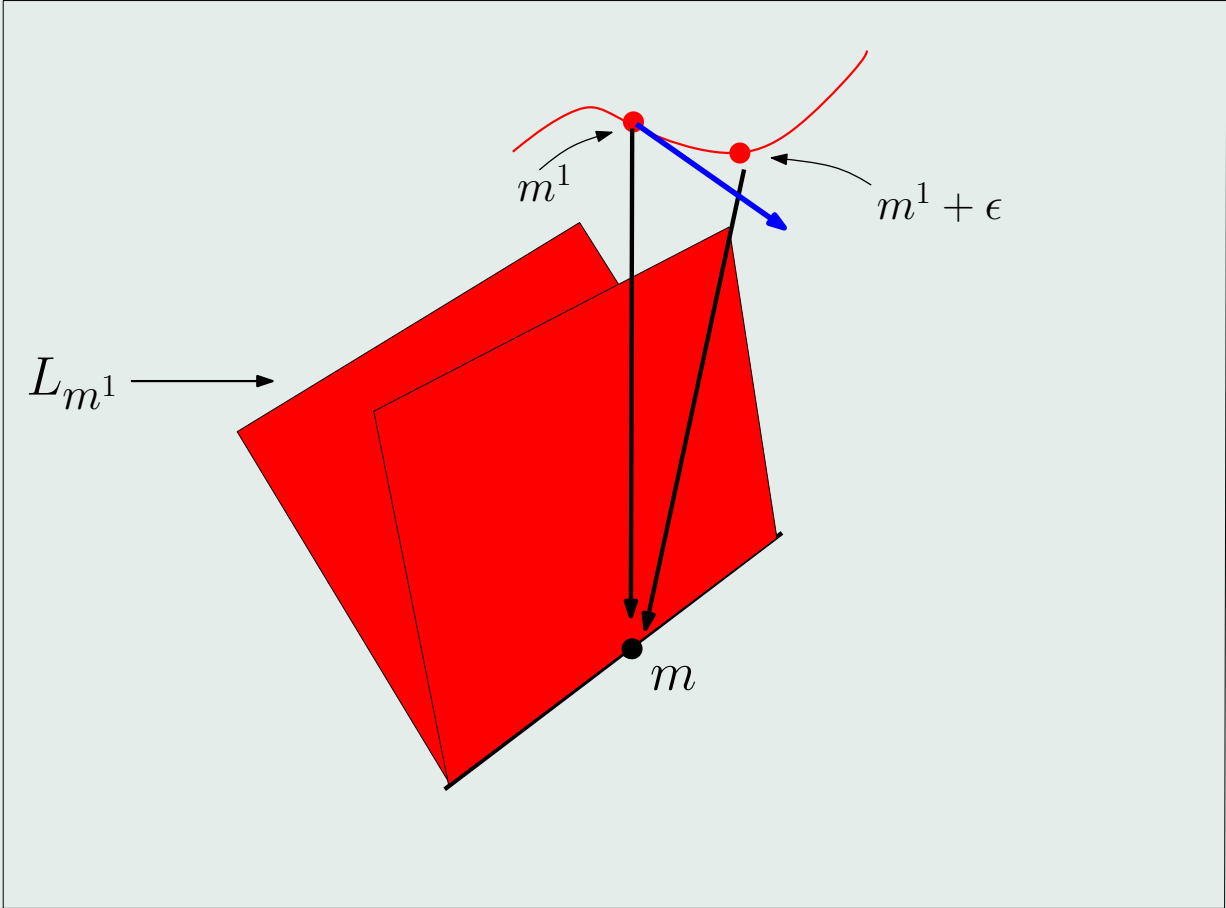


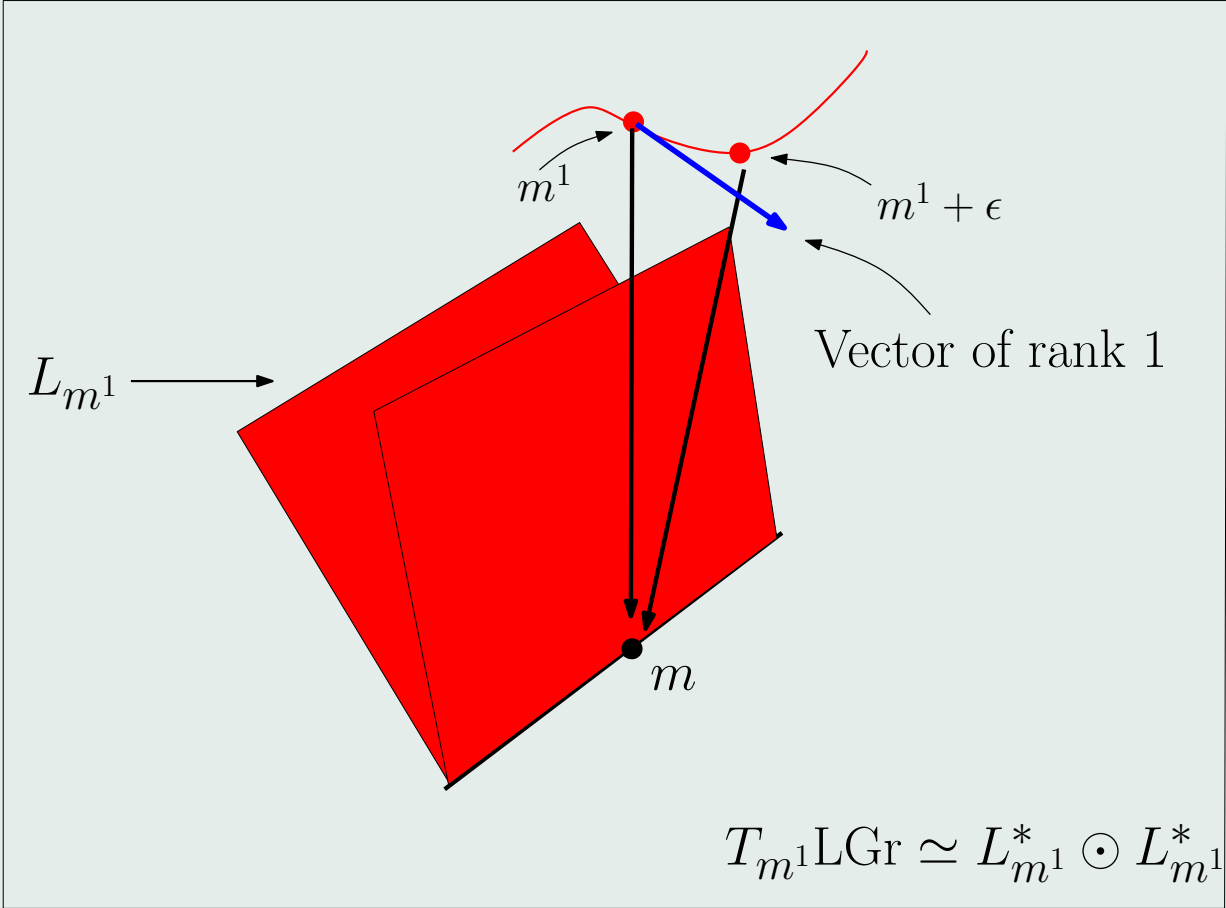


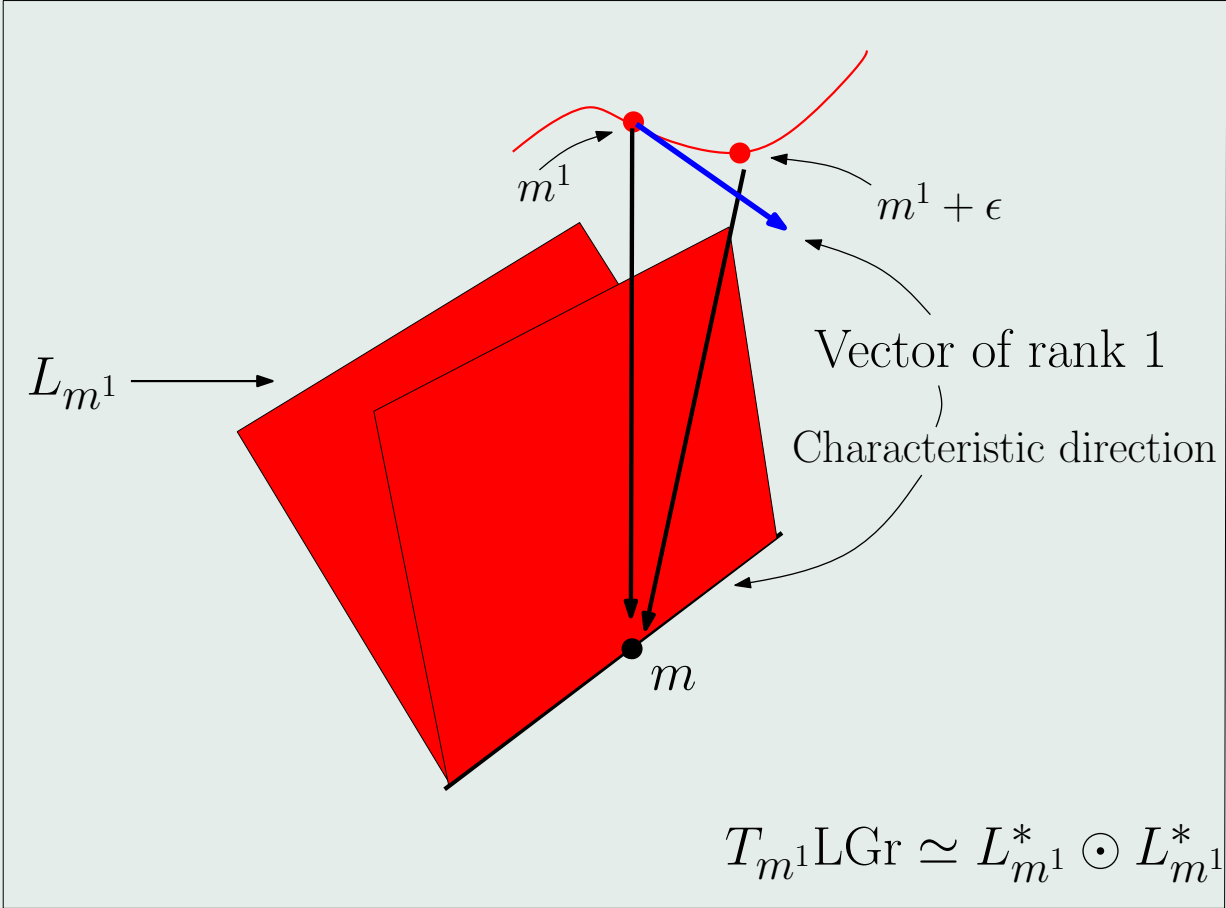


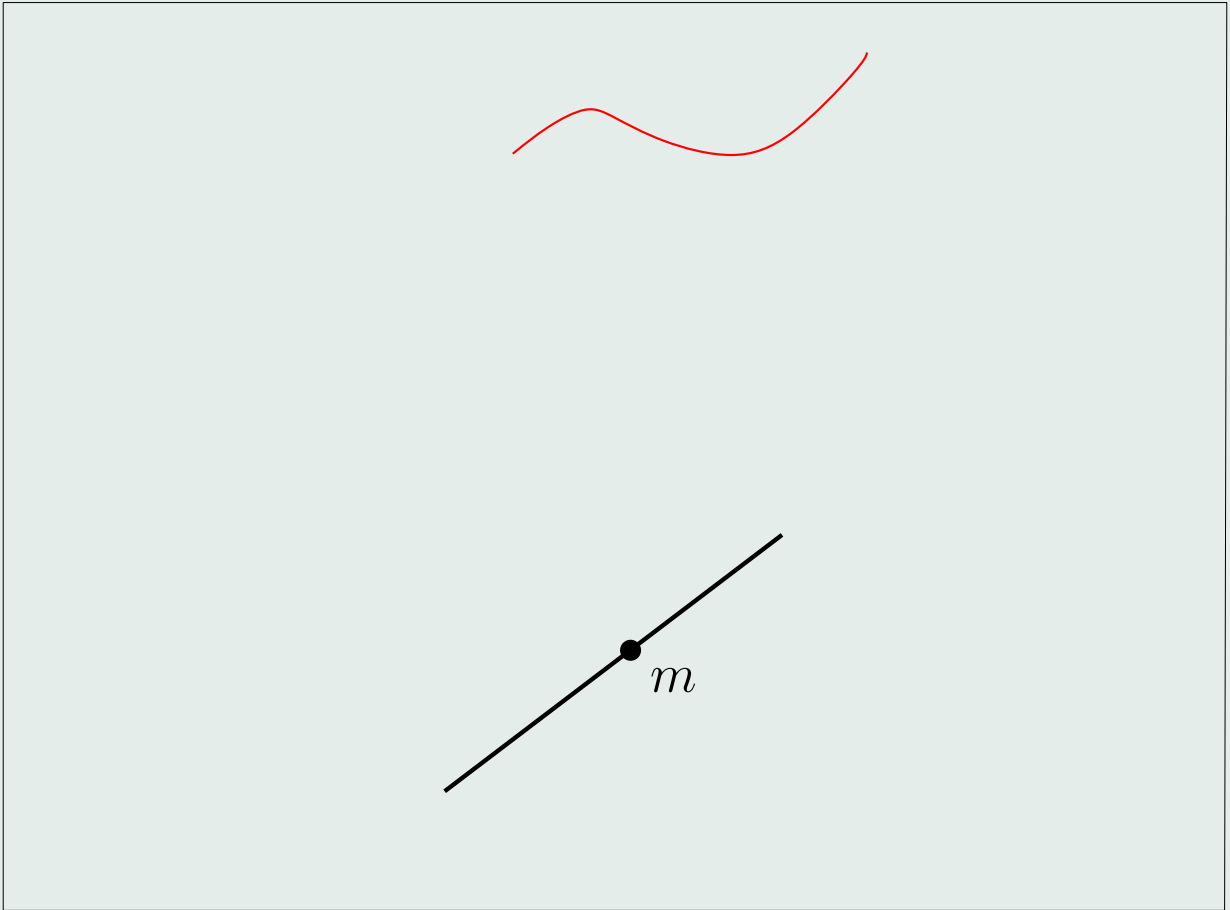




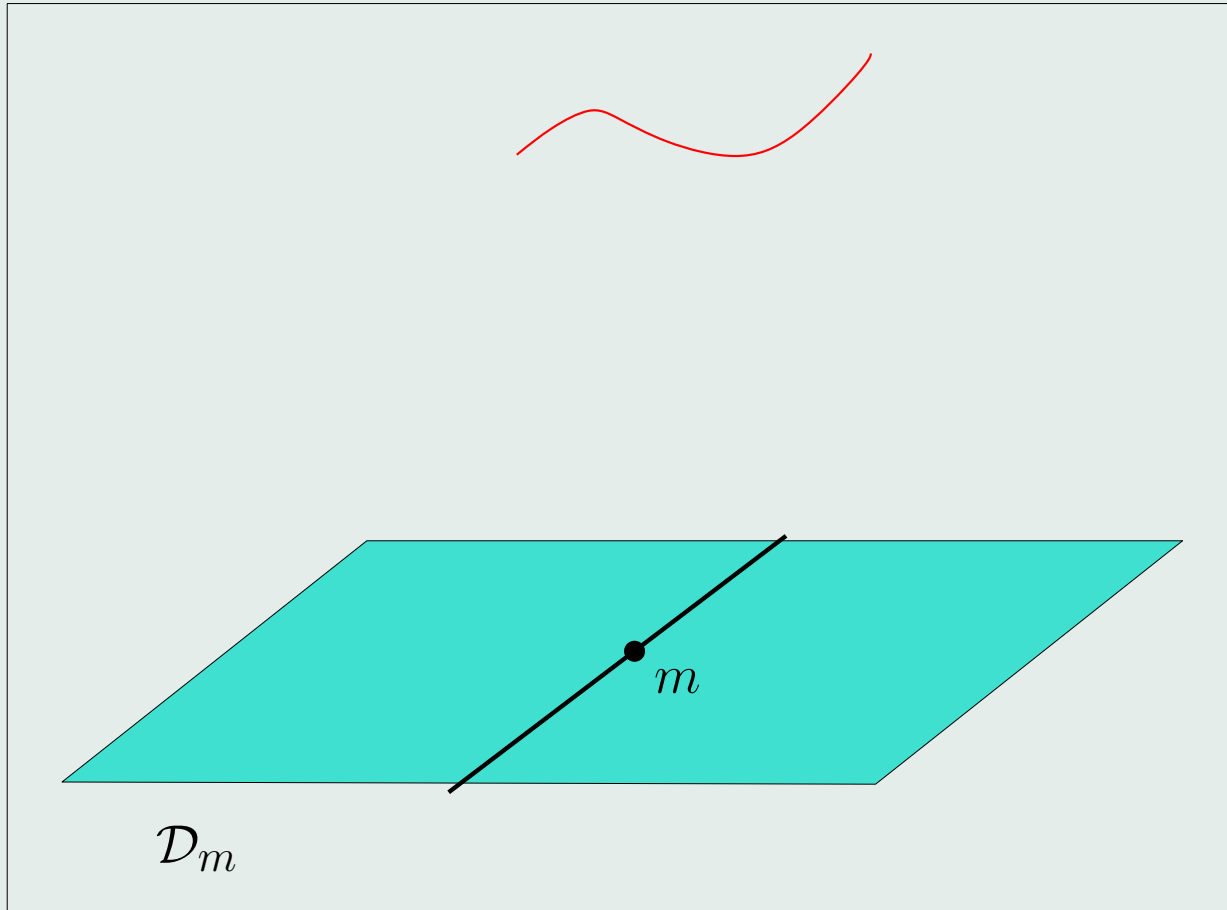




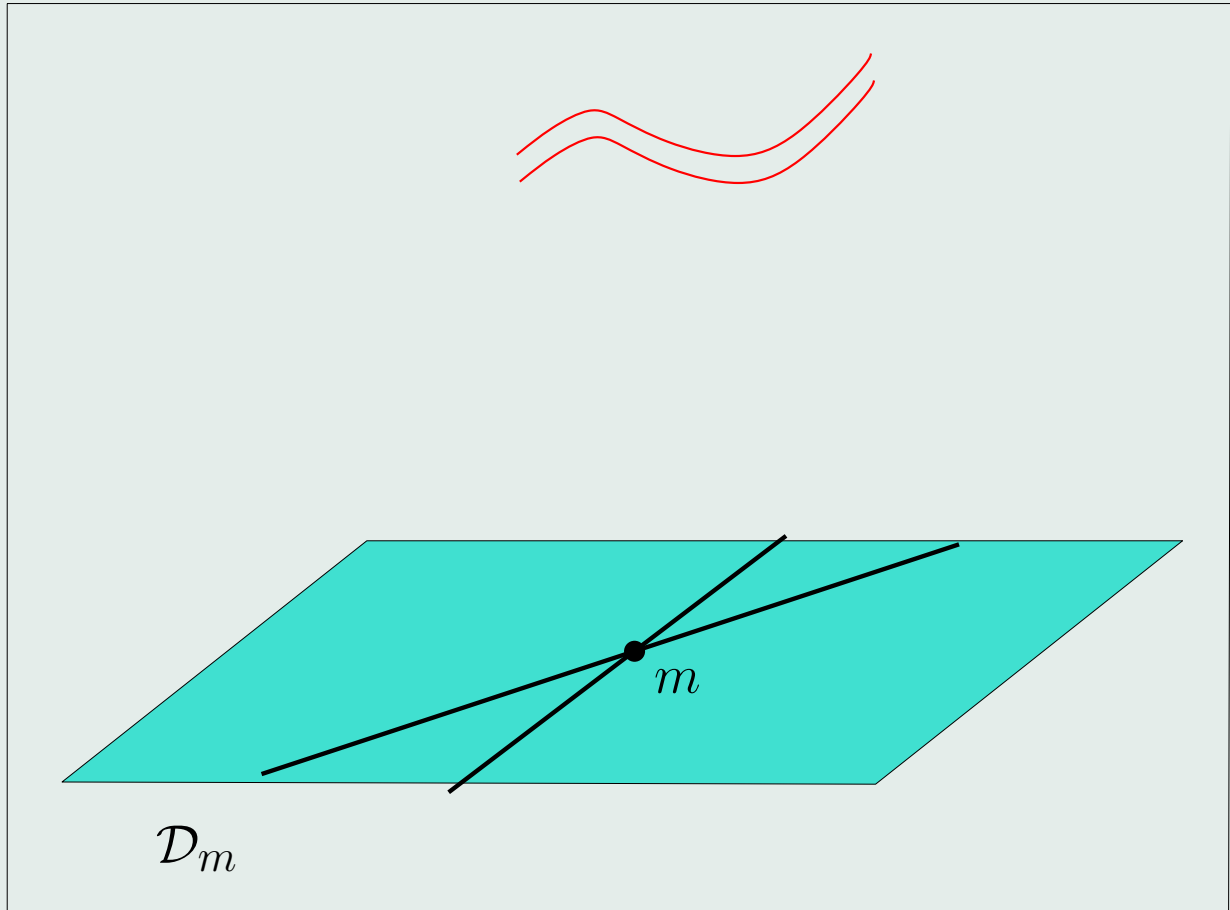




$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq 0\}$$

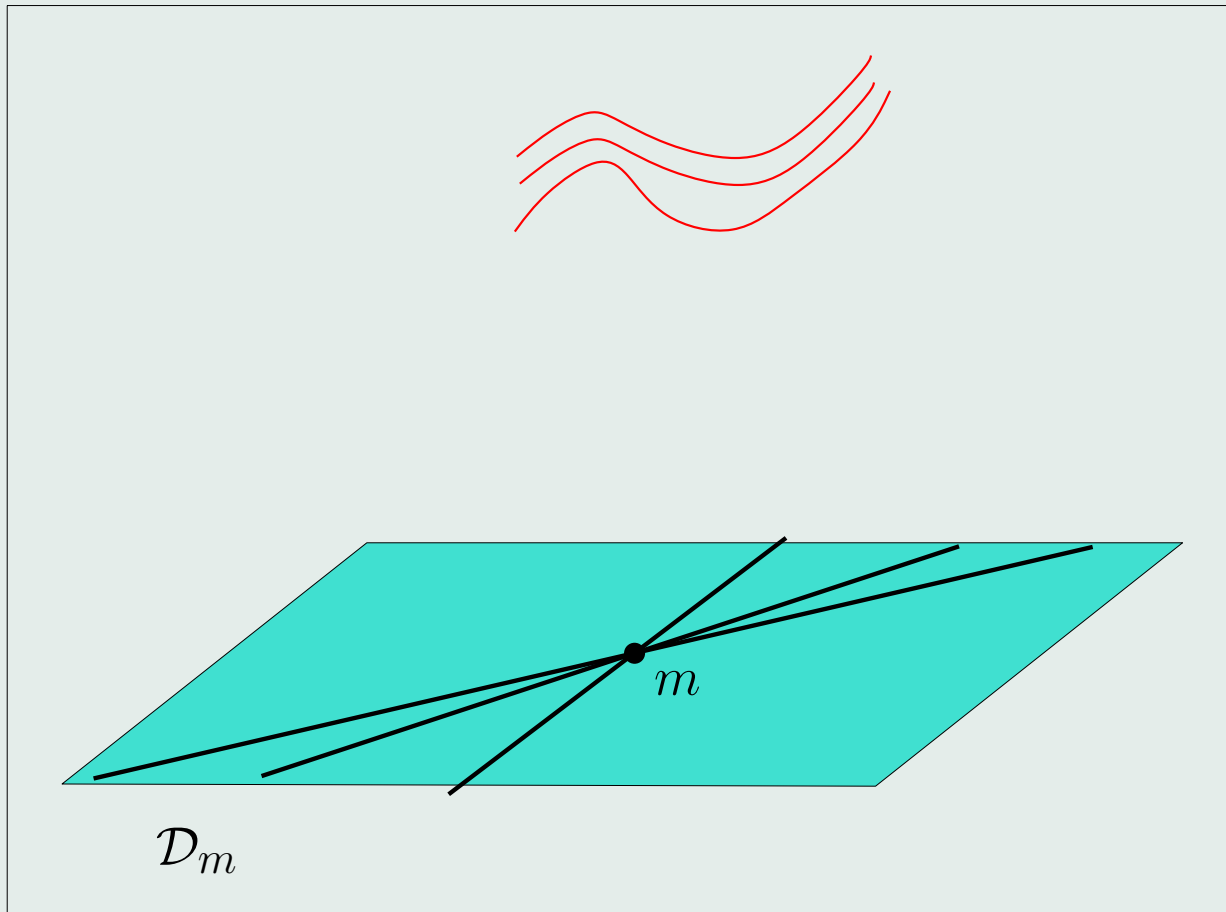


$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq \emptyset\}$$

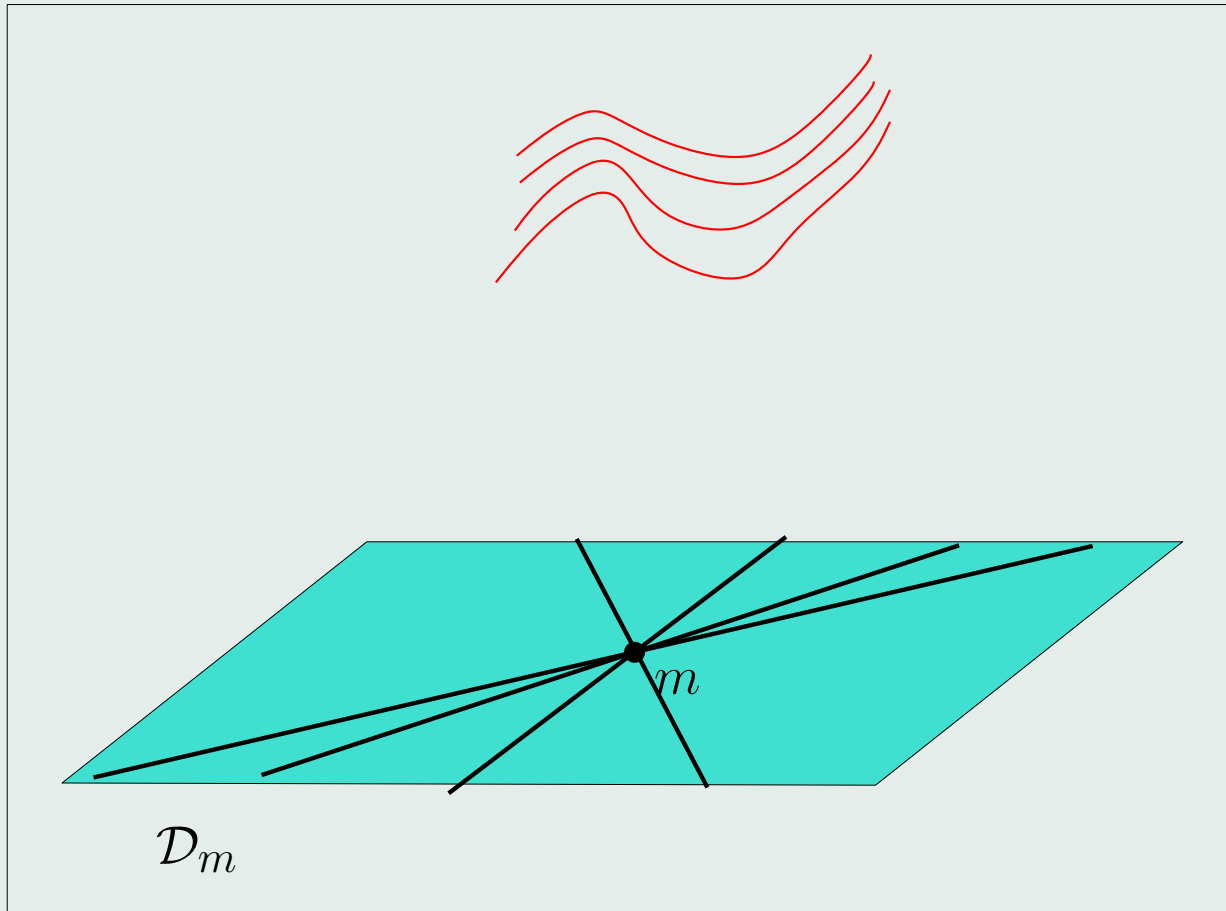




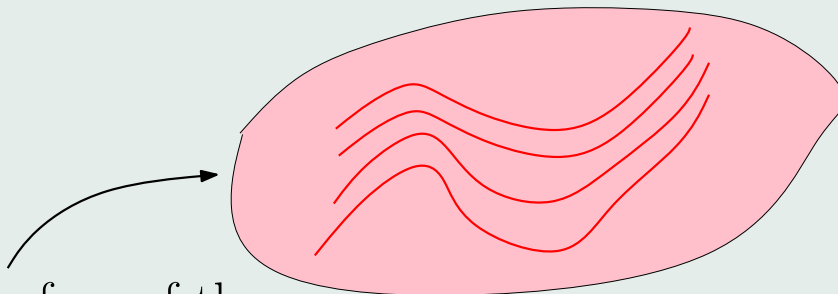
$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq \emptyset\}$$



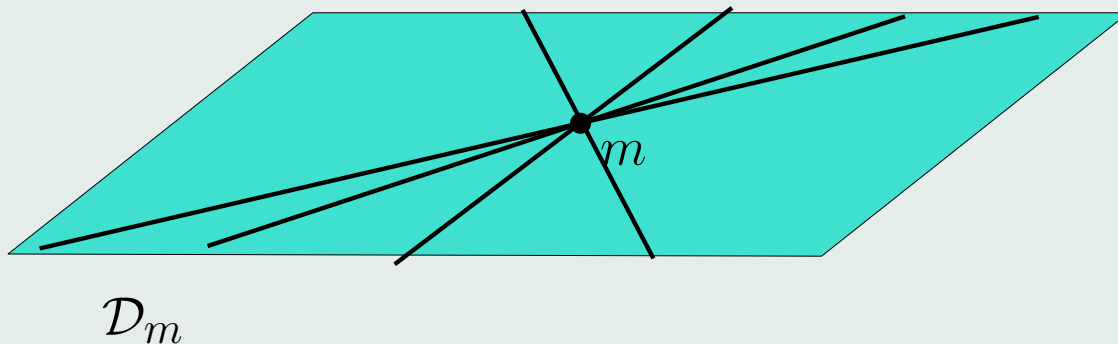
$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq \emptyset\}$$

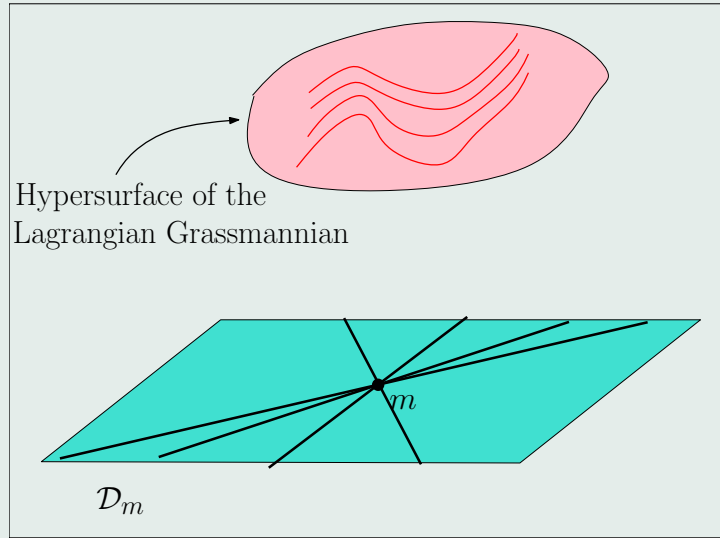


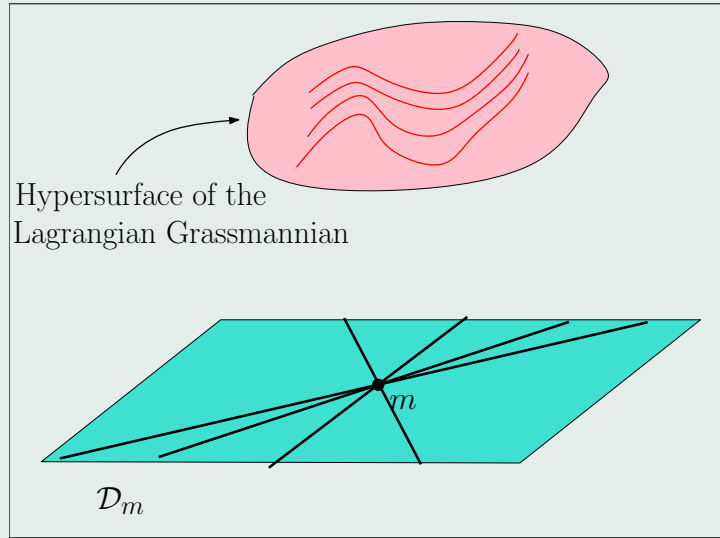
$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq 0\}$$



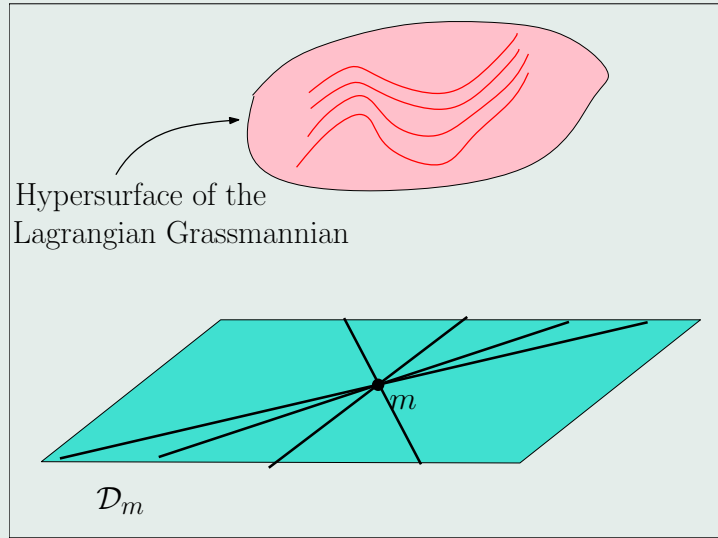
Hypersurface of the  
Lagrangian Grassmannian



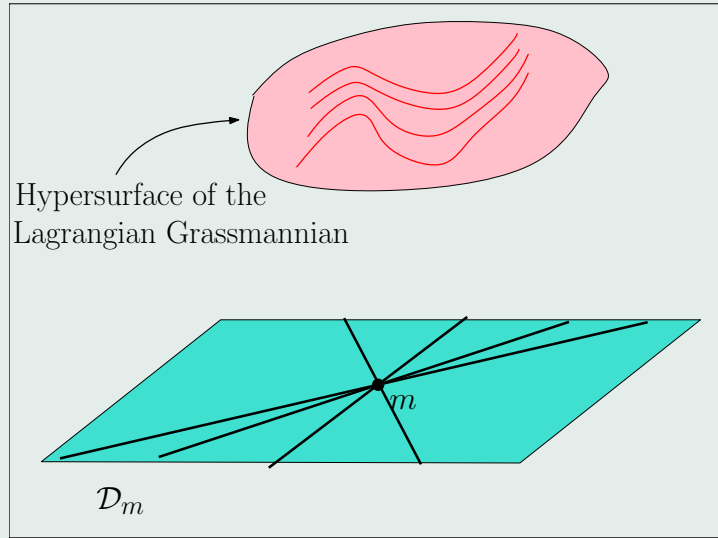




$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq 0\}$$



$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq 0\} = \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}^\perp}$$



$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{m^1 \in M^{(1)} \mid L_{m^1} \cap \mathcal{D}_{\pi(m^1)} \neq 0\} = \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}^\perp}$$

Locally

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}} : \det \begin{pmatrix} u_{xx} - f_{11} & u_{xy} - f_{12} \\ u_{xy} - f_{21} & u_{yy} - f_{22} \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{D}}$  is a parabolic una Monge–Ampère equation  $\iff f_{12} = f_{21} \iff \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}^\perp$ .

## Rank 1 vectors of $LGr(2, 4)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $(p_{11}, p_{12}, p_{22})$  be a chart on  $LGr(2, 4)$ .



## Rank 1 vectors of $\text{LGr}(2, 4)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $(p_{11}, p_{12}, p_{22})$  be a chart on  $\text{LGr}(2, 4)$ .

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 1} \iff \det(X_{ij}) = 0$$

## Rank 1 vectors of $\text{LGr}(2, 4)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $(p_{11}, p_{12}, p_{22})$  be a chart on  $\text{LGr}(2, 4)$ .

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 1} \iff \det(X_{ij}) = 0$$

Equivalently

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 1} \iff g(X, X) = 0$$

where

$$g = dp_{11}dp_{22} - dp_{12}^2 \text{ is defined up to a conformal factor}$$

## Rank 1 vectors of $\text{LGr}(2, 4)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $(p_{11}, p_{12}, p_{22})$  be a chart on  $\text{LGr}(2, 4)$ .

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 1} \iff \det(X_{ij}) = 0$$

Equivalently

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 1} \iff g(X, X) = 0$$

where

$$g = dp_{11}dp_{22} - dp_{12}^2 \text{ is defined up to a conformal factor}$$

So, we have a natural conformal structure on  $\text{LGr}(2, 4)$

## Levi-Civita connection up to a conformal changing of the metric

Let

$$\tilde{g} = e^{2\lambda}g, \quad \lambda \in C^\infty(\text{LGr}(2, 4))$$

## Levi-Civita connection up to a conformal changing of the metric

Let

$$\tilde{g} = e^{2\lambda}g, \quad \lambda \in C^\infty(\text{LGr}(2, 4))$$

Then

$$\nabla_X^{\tilde{g}}Y = \nabla_X^gY + \beta(X, Y)$$

for some  $\beta$  depending on  $g$  and  $\lambda$ .

## Levi-Civita connection up to a conformal changing of the metric

Let

$$\tilde{g} = e^{2\lambda}g, \quad \lambda \in C^\infty(\text{LGr}(2, 4))$$

Then

$$\nabla_X^{\tilde{g}}Y = \nabla_X^gY + \beta(X, Y)$$

for some  $\beta$  depending on  $g$  and  $\lambda$ .

- The condition

$$\text{Hess}(f)|_{f=0} \approx g|_{f=0} \quad (\text{II} \approx \text{I})$$

is independent of the choice of  $g$  in its conformal class.

## Levi-Civita connection up to a conformal changing of the metric

Let

$$\tilde{g} = e^{2\lambda}g, \quad \lambda \in C^\infty(\text{LGr}(2, 4))$$

Then

$$\nabla_X^{\tilde{g}}Y = \nabla_X^gY + \beta(X, Y)$$

for some  $\beta$  depending on  $g$  and  $\lambda$ .

- The condition

$$\text{Hess}(f)|_{f=0} \approx g|_{f=0} \quad (\text{II} \approx \text{I})$$

is independent of the choice of  $g$  in its conformal class.

- A straightforward computation shows that

$$\text{II} - \text{H} \cdot \text{I}, \quad \text{H} \text{ mean curvature}$$

is a conformal invariant.

$$\boxed{S \subset \text{LGr}(2, 4) \text{ is a hyperplane section} \iff \text{II} - \text{H} \cdot \text{I} = 0}$$

## Rank 2 vectors of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $p_{ij}$  be coordinates on  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ .



## Rank 2 vectors of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $p_{ij}$  be coordinates on  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ .

Recall that

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 2} \iff \det(X_{ij}) = 0$$

## Rank 2 vectors of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $p_{ij}$  be coordinates on  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ .

Recall that

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 2} \iff \det(X_{ij}) = 0$$

Equivalently

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 2} \iff T(X, X, X) = 0$$

where

$$T = \det(dp_{ij}) \text{ is defined up to a conformal factor}$$

## Rank 2 vectors of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ and its conformal structure

Let  $p_{ij}$  be coordinates on  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ .

Recall that

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 2} \iff \det(X_{ij}) = 0$$

Equivalently

$$X = \sum_{i \leq j} X_{ij} \partial_{p_{ij}} \text{ is of rank 2} \iff T(X, X, X) = 0$$

where

$$T = \det(dp_{ij}) \text{ is defined up to a conformal factor}$$

So, we have a natural conformal 3-tensor on  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$

## Hyperplane sections of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$

Let us consider the symmetric 3-tensor  $T$ :

$$T = \det(dp_{ij}), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 3$$

$X \lrcorner T$  is a (pseudo) metric  $\iff X$  is of maximal rank

## Hyperplane sections of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$

Let us consider the symmetric 3-tensor  $T$ :

$$T = \det(dp_{ij}), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 3$$

$$\boxed{X \lrcorner T \text{ is a (pseudo) metric} \iff X \text{ is of maximal rank}}$$

**Theorem** Let  $X \in \text{sym}([T])$  be of maximal rank. Then the condition

$$\text{II}^{X \lrcorner T} \approx \text{I}^{X \lrcorner T} \tag{0.1}$$

is independent of  $X$ .

## Hyperplane sections of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$

Let us consider the symmetric 3-tensor  $T$ :

$$T = \det(dp_{ij}), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 3$$

$$\boxed{X \lrcorner T \text{ is a (pseudo) metric} \iff X \text{ is of maximal rank}}$$

**Theorem** Let  $X \in \text{sym}([T])$  be of maximal rank. Then the condition

$$\text{II}^{X \lrcorner T} \approx \text{I}^{X \lrcorner T} \tag{0.1}$$

is independent of  $X$ .

**Theorem** If a hypersurface of  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$  satisfy condition (0.1), then it is a hyperplane section of  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ , i.e. a Monge-Ampère equation.

## Hyperplane sections of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$

Let us consider the symmetric 3-tensor  $T$ :

$$T = \det(dp_{ij}), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 3$$

$$\boxed{X \lrcorner T \text{ is a (pseudo) metric} \iff X \text{ is of maximal rank}}$$

**Theorem** Let  $X \in \text{sym}([T])$  be of maximal rank. Then the condition

$$\text{II}^{X \lrcorner T} \approx \text{I}^{X \lrcorner T} \tag{0.1}$$

is independent of  $X$ .

**Theorem** If a hypersurface of  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$  satisfy condition (0.1), then it is a hyperplane section of  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ , i.e. a Monge-Ampère equation.

$$\text{II}^{X \lrcorner T} - ??? \cdot \text{I}^{X \lrcorner T} = 0$$

## Hyperplane sections of $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$

Let us consider the symmetric 3-tensor  $T$ :

$$T = \det(dp_{ij}), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 3$$

$$\boxed{X \lrcorner T \text{ is a (pseudo) metric} \iff X \text{ is of maximal rank}}$$

**Theorem** Let  $X \in \text{sym}([T])$  be of maximal rank. Then the condition

$$\text{II}^{X \lrcorner T} \approx \text{I}^{X \lrcorner T} \tag{0.1}$$

is independent of  $X$ .

**Theorem** If a hypersurface of  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$  satisfy condition (0.1), then it is a hyperplane section of  $\text{LGr}(3, 6)$ , i.e. a Monge-Ampère equation.

$$\text{II}^{X \lrcorner T} - ??? \cdot \text{I}^{X \lrcorner T} = 0$$

Hyperquadric sections?