

## \* Generalization (Pfaff systems)

Let  $\Delta_R$  be a distribution of order  $R$  in  $M$ ,  $\dim M = n$   
 given by the intersection of kernels of  $n-R$  1-forms

$$\Delta_R: \begin{cases} \omega_1 = 0 \\ \omega_2 = 0 \\ \dots \\ \omega_{n-R} = 0 \end{cases}$$

The differential form version of the Frobenius  
 theorem states that  $\Delta_R$  is integrable if and only

if

$$(\diamond) \quad d\omega_j \wedge \omega_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_{n-R} = 0 \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, n-R$$

For  $\dim M = n = 3$ ,  $R = 2$ , we recover the previous condition  
 as check the necessity of  $(\diamond)$ , for  $n = 4$ ,  $R = 2$ ,  
 for simplicity.

if  $\Delta = \Delta_2$  is integrable, let  $(x_1, x_2, \xi_1, \xi_2)$  be a local  
 coord. system such that the integral submanifolds are  
 given by  $\xi_1 = c_1, \xi_2 = c_2$  (and described by coordinates  $x_i$ )

Then  $\omega_1$  is of the form  $\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{smooth functions}}$

$$\omega_1 = f_1^{(1)}(x, \xi) d\xi_1 + f_2^{(1)}(x, \xi) d\xi_2$$

the kernel of  $\omega_1$  (containing, at each point  
 $\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, i = 1, 2$ .)

Similarly  $\omega_2 = f_1^{(2)}(x, \xi) d\xi_1 + f_2^{(2)}(x, \xi) d\xi_2$

the intersection of the two kernels is  $\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^2} \rangle$ , the tangent space  
 of the integral submanifold