## **Exploring the Universality of Manifold Neural ODEs**

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### **Manifold Neural ODEs**

Manifold neural ODEs are a type of neural network models where the layers consist of a smooth curve u solving the Cauchy problem

 $\frac{du(t)}{dt} = \phi_{u(t)}, \qquad u(0) = p,$ 

 $\phi_{u(t)}$ 

u(1)

where  $\phi$  is a learnable vector field, p is the input and u(1) is the output [1,2,3].

## Solution: Augmentation

Neural ODEs can be augmented so that the solution curves are embedded in an ambient space [4,5].

Paths  $\gamma_p$ , with  $\gamma_p(0) = p$  and  $\gamma_p(1) = u(1)$ , can be lifted via  $\Gamma_p \coloneqq [\gamma_{p,}\gamma_p']$ . The lifts don't intersect and define an embedding into the tangent bundle.

A manifold neural ODE with this lift can approximate *any* diffeomorphism on the original manifold.

# Problem: Intersecting solution curves

u(t)

### References

[1] Ricky T. Q. Chen, Yulia Rubanova, Jesse Bettencourt, and David K.

Not all diffeomorphisms can be learned by a neural ODE. The canonical example is h(x) = -x, which necessitates an intersection of the solution curves:



Duvenaud. Neural ordinary differential equations. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 31, 2018.

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- [3] Aaron Lou, Derek Lim, Isay Katsman, Leo Huang, Qingxuan Jiang, Ser Nam Lim, and Christopher M. De Sa. Neural manifold ordinary differential equations. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 33, 2020.
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u(0)

