

Any sub-Riemannian manifold possesses strictly normal geodesics

ANDREI AGRACHEV

SISSA, Trieste, Italy
MIAN, Moscow, Russia
e-mail: agrachev@sissa.it

Abstract

The title gives a positive answer to the long-standing open question. It implies that sub-Riemannian distance is smooth on a nonempty open subset of the manifold. In the case of a complete real-analytic sub-Riemannian manifold, we prove that the distance is analytic on an everywhere dense open subset.