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*Weak contact equations for mappings into Heisenberg groups.*

Let  $k > n$  be positive integers. We consider mappings from a subset of  $k$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $R^k$  to the Heisenberg group  $H^n$  with a variety of metric properties, each of which imply that the mapping in question satisfies some weak form of the contact equation arising from the sub-Riemannian structure of the Heisenberg group. We illustrate a new geometric technique that shows directly how the weak contact equation greatly restricts the behavior of the mappings. In particular, we provide a new and elementary proof of the fact that the Heisenberg group  $H^n$  is purely  $k$ -unrectifiable. We also prove that for an open set  $U$  in  $R^k$ , the rank of the weak derivative of a weakly contact mapping in the Sobolev space  $W_{loc}^{1,1}(U; R^{2n+1})$  is bounded by  $n$  almost everywhere, answering a question of Magnani. Finally we prove that if a mapping from  $U$  to  $H^n$  is  $s$ -Hölder continuous,  $s > 1/2$ , and locally Lipschitz when considered as a mapping into  $R^{2n+1}$ , then the mapping cannot be injective. This result is related to a conjecture of Gromov. (Received August 26, 2013)