On an open problem concerning regularity for nonlinear geometric PDE's

Paweł Strzelecki

I shall discuss an open problem concerning regularity of solutions for two specific (degenerate) elliptic systems of geometric and variational origin: (1) the equations of hypersurfaces of prescribed mean curvature, (2) n-harmonic maps into compact Riemannian manifolds. Both systems include the n-Laplace operator and have (either explicitly or implicitly) right hand sides equal to a Jacobian term multiplied by a bounded functions. In a few simple cases, and for n=2, the solution to both problems is known (and positive), for n>2 the answer is known only in a few special cases. The problem is linked to questions in harmonic analysis.