

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY OF GRADED BUNDLES I – BASICS

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What is a vector space?

- A (real) **vector space** is a set E with a distinguished element 0^E , equipped with two operations:
 1. an addition

$$+ : E \times E \rightarrow E, \quad (u, v) \mapsto u + v,$$

2. and a multiplication by scalars

$$h : \mathbb{R} \times E \rightarrow E, \quad h(t, v) = h_t(v) = t \cdot v = tv,$$

satisfying a list of axioms.

- For instance, $(E, +)$ is a commutative group with 0^E being the neutral element, the **homotheties** h_t satisfy

$$h_t \circ h_s = h_{ts},$$

and $h_0(v) = 0^E$ for all $v \in E$.

One operation is enough

- To distinguish finite-dimensional real vector spaces among differentiable manifolds, a single operation of the above two is enough.
- If we know the addition, we get the multiplication by natural numbers in the obvious way:

$$nv = v + \cdots + v,$$

and we easily extend it to integers by $(-n)v = n(-v)$. The multiplication by rational numbers, $(m/n)v$ we obtain as the solution of the equation $nx = mv$. Assuming differentiability (in fact, continuity) of h , we extend this multiplication to all reals uniquely.

- If we know the multiplication by reals h instead, we use a version of Euler's Homogeneous Function Theorem: any differentiable $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **homogeneous** of degree 1, i.e.

$$f(t \cdot x) = t \cdot f(x),$$

if and only if f is linear. Thus, from the multiplication by reals on E we get the dual space E^* , where the addition is well defined, and consequently the addition on $E = (E^*)^*$.

Graded spaces

Consider now a general (smooth) action $h : \mathbb{R} \times F \rightarrow F$ of the monoid (\mathbb{R}, \cdot) on a manifold F (such an action we will call a **homogeneity structure**) and assume that $h_0(F) = 0^F$ for some element $0^F \in F$. Such a structure we will call a **graded space** by the following reasons.

Theorem (Grabowski-Rotkiewicz)

Any graded space (F, h) is diffeomorphically equivalent (isomorphic) to a certain (\mathbb{R}^d, h^d) , where $d = (d_1, \dots, d_k)$, with positive integers d_i , and $\mathbb{R}^d = \mathbb{R}^{d_1}[1] \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^{d_k}[k]$ is equipped with the action h^d of multiplicative reals given by

$$h_t^d(y_1, \dots, y_k) = (t \cdot y_1, \dots, t^k \cdot y_k), \quad y_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d_i}.$$

In other words, F can be equipped with a system of (global) coordinates (y_i^j) , $i = 1, \dots, k$, $j = 1, \dots, d_i$, such that linear coordinates y_i^j in $\mathbb{R}^{d_i}[i]$ are **homogeneous of degree i** with respect to the homogeneity structure h , i.e.

$$y_i^j \circ h_t = t^i \cdot y_i^j.$$

Of course, in these coordinates $0^F = (0, \dots, 0)$.

How to recognize vector spaces?

- Note that the isomorphism in the above theorem is generally non-canonical. The number k , however, is uniquely determined and called the **minimal degree** of the graded space. By convention, the **degree** is any natural $k' \geq k$.
- How to recognize a vector space among graded spaces?
- **Answer:** Vector spaces are graded spaces of degree 1.
- **Regularity condition:** For any $y \in F$,

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0} (h_t(y)) = 0^F \Leftrightarrow y = 0^F.$$

Corollary

The homogeneity structure in a graded space comes from a vector space structure if and only if it is regular. In this case, the vector space structure is uniquely determined.

Weight vector field

- It is natural to call a **morphism between graded spaces** (F_a, h^a) , $a = 1, 2$, a smooth map $\Phi : F_1 \rightarrow F_2$ which intertwines the homogeneity structures: $\Phi \circ h_t^1 = h_t^2 \circ \Phi$.
- The (\mathbb{R}, \cdot) action restricted to positive reals gives a one-parameter group of diffeomorphism of F , thus is generated by a vector field ∇_F . It is called the **weight vector field** as it completely determines the weights (degrees) of coordinates. It reads

$$\nabla_F = \sum_w w y_w^j \partial_{y_w^j}.$$

- A function on F is **homogeneous of degree w** (has weight w) if and only if $\nabla_F(f) = w \cdot f$, and a smooth map $\Phi : F_1 \rightarrow F_2$ is a morphism of graded spaces iff it relates the corresponding weight vector fields.
- Note that morphisms need not to be linear, so the category of graded spaces is different from that of vector spaces. For instance, if $(y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ are coordinates of degrees 1, 2, respectively, then the map $(y, z) \mapsto (y, z + y^2)$ is an automorphism of the structure, but is nonlinear.

Vector bundles as graded bundles

- A **vector bundle** is a locally trivial fibration $\tau : E \rightarrow M$ which, locally over $U \subset M$, reads $\tau^{-1}(U) \simeq U \times \mathbb{R}^n$ and admits an atlas in which local trivializations transform linearly in fibers

$$U \cap V \times \mathbb{R}^n \ni (x, y) \mapsto (x, A(x)y) \in U \cap V \times \mathbb{R}^n,$$

$$A(x) \in GL(n, \mathbb{R}).$$

- The latter property can also be expressed in the terms of the gradation in which base coordinates x have degrees 0, and 'linear coordinates' y have degree 1. Linearity in y 's is now equivalent to the fact that changes of coordinates respect the degrees.
- Morphisms in the category of vector bundles are represented by commutative diagram of smooth maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_1 & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & E_2 \\ \downarrow \tau_1 & & \downarrow \tau_2 \\ M_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & M_2 \end{array}$$

being linear (homogeneous) in fibres.

Graded bundles

- A straightforward generalization is the concept of a **graded bundle** $\tau : F \rightarrow M$ of rank d , with a local trivialization by $U \times \mathbb{R}^d$, and with the difference that the transition functions of local trivializations:

$$U \cap V \times \mathbb{R}^d \ni (x, y) \mapsto (x, A(x, y)) \in U \cap V \times \mathbb{R}^d,$$

respect the weights of coordinates $(y^1, \dots, y^{|d|})$ in the fibres. In other words, a graded bundle of rank d is a locally trivial fibration with fibers modelled on the graded space \mathbb{R}^d .

Theorem

$A(x, y)$ must be polynomial in homogeneous fiber coordinates y 's, i.e. any graded bundle is a **polynomial bundle**.

- As these polynomials need not to be linear, **graded bundles do not have, in general, vector space structure in fibers.**
- If all $w_i \leq r$, we say that the graded bundle is **of degree r .**
- In the above terminology, **vector bundles are just graded bundles of degree 1.**

Graded bundles - examples

- Note that, according to our convention, any differential manifold M can be viewed as a graded bundle of degree 0.
- A trivial example is of course

$$F = M \times \mathbb{R}^d = M \times (\mathbb{R}^{d_1}[1] \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{R}^{d_k}[k]).$$

- Another trivial example, is a **split graded bundle**, i.e. a **graded vector bundle**

$$F = E^1[1] \oplus_M \cdots \oplus_M E^k[k],$$

where E^i are vector bundles over M .

- For vector bundles E^0, E^1 over M , we can consider the vector bundle $E = E^0[0] \oplus E^1[1]$ as a vector bundle over E^0 . The wedge product $\wedge^2 E = \wedge^2 E^0 \oplus (E^0 \otimes E^1) \oplus \wedge^2 E^1$ can be then viewed as a graded vector bundle over $\wedge^2 E^0$ of degree 2, with $(E^0 \otimes E^1)$ being its part of degree 1 and $\wedge^2 E^1$ being of degree 2.
- Note that objects similar to graded bundles have been used in supergeometry by Ševera, Voronov, Roytenberg et al. under the name **N-manifolds**. However, during this course we will work exclusively with classical purely even manifolds.

Homogeneity structure of a graded bundle

- Note that the homogeneity structure in the typical fiber of a graded bundle F , i.e. the action $h : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$, is preserved under the transition functions, that defines a globally defined homogeneity structure $h : \mathbb{R} \times F \rightarrow F$.
- In local homogeneous coordinates,

$$h_t(x^A, y_w^a) = (x^A, t^w y_w^a).$$

- We call a function $f : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ **homogeneous of degree (weight) w** if

$$f \circ h_t = t^w f.$$

- The whole information about the degree of homogeneity is contained in the **weight vector field** (called for vector bundles the **Euler vector field**)

$$\nabla_F = \sum_a w y_w^a \partial_{y_w^a}.$$

- A function $f : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is homogeneous of degree w if and only if

$$\nabla_F(f) = w f.$$

The category of graded bundles

Mimicking the definition of a vector bundle morphism, we get the following.

Definition

Morphisms in the **category of graded bundles** are represented by commutative diagram of smooth maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^1 & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & F^2 \\ \downarrow \tau_1 & & \downarrow \tau_2 \\ M_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & M_2 \end{array}$$

which are morphisms of graded spaces in fibers, i.e. which locally preserve the weight of homogeneous coordinates.

One can equivalently say that the fiber bundle morphism Φ is a smooth map which relates the weight vector fields ∇_{F^1} and ∇_{F^2} .

Example. Morphisms $\Phi : F \rightarrow F$, for $F = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{(1,1)}$ with local coordinates (x, y, z) of degrees $(0, 1, 2)$, respectively, are of the form $\Phi(x, y, z) = (\phi(x), a(x)y, b(x)z + d(x)y^2)$.

Graded bundle = homogeneity structure

The fundamental fact (cf. [Grabowski-Rotkiewicz]) says that **graded bundles and homogeneity structures are in fact equivalent concepts.**

Theorem

Associating the homogeneity structure with a graded bundle is an isomorphism of categories. In particular, for any homogeneity structure h on a manifold F , there is a smooth submanifold $M = h_0(F) \subset F$ and a non-negative integer $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $h_0 : F \rightarrow M$ is canonically a graded bundle of degree k whose homogeneity structure coincides with h . In other words, there is an atlas on F consisting of local homogeneous functions.

Since **morphisms** of two homogeneity structures are defined as smooth maps $\Phi : F_1 \rightarrow F_2$ intertwining the \mathbb{R} -actions: $\Phi \circ h_t^1 = h_t^2 \circ \Phi$, this describes also morphism of graded bundles.

Consequently, a **graded subbundle** of a graded bundle F is a smooth submanifold S of F which is invariant with respect to homotheties, $h_t(S) \subset S$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

Consequences for vector bundles

Vector bundles can be recognized as graded bundles $\tau : F \rightarrow M$ of degree 1, i.e. satisfying the following **regularity condition**:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} h_t(p) = 0 \Leftrightarrow p \in M.$$

The principle **multiplication by reals is enough** has now the following consequences for vector bundles.

Corollary

A smooth map $\Phi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$ between the total spaces of two vector bundles $\pi_i : E_i \rightarrow M_i$, $i = 1, 2$ is a morphism of vector bundles if and only if it intertwines the multiplications by reals:

$$\Phi(t \cdot v) = t \cdot \Phi(v).$$

In this case the map $\phi = \Phi|_{M_1}$ is a smooth map between the base manifolds covered by Φ .

Graded bundles - further examples

- **Example.** Consider the second-order tangent bundle T^2M , i.e. the bundle of second jets of smooth maps $(\mathbb{R}, 0) \rightarrow M$. Writing paths in local coordinates (x^A) on M :

$$x^A(t) = x^A(0) + \dot{x}^A(0)t + \ddot{x}^A(0)\frac{t^2}{2} + o(t^2),$$

we get local coordinates $(x^A, \dot{x}^B, \ddot{x}^C)$ on T^2M , which transform

$$x'^A = x'^A(x),$$

$$\dot{x}'^A = \frac{\partial x'^A}{\partial x^B}(x) \dot{x}^B,$$

$$\ddot{x}'^A = \frac{\partial x'^A}{\partial x^B}(x) \ddot{x}^B + \frac{\partial^2 x'^A}{\partial x^B \partial x^C}(x) \dot{x}^B \dot{x}^C.$$

This shows that associating with $(x^A, \dot{x}^B, \ddot{x}^C)$ the weights $0, 1, 2$, respectively, will give us a graded bundle structure of degree 2 on T^2M . **Due to the quadratic terms above, this is not a vector bundle!**

- All this can be generalised to higher tangent bundles T^kM . Note that any smooth map $\phi : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ induces a canonical morphism of graded bundles $T^k\phi : T^kM_1 \rightarrow T^kM_2$.

Graded bundles - further examples

- **Another canonical example.** If $\tau : E \rightarrow M$ is a vector bundle, then $\wedge^2 TE$ is canonically a graded bundle of degree 2 with respect to the projection

$$\wedge^2 T\tau : \wedge^2 TE \rightarrow \wedge^2 TM.$$

- The adapted coordinates $(x^\rho, y^a, \dot{x}^{\mu\nu}, y^{\sigma b}, z^{cd})$ on $\wedge^2 E$, with $\dot{x}^{\mu\nu} = -\dot{x}^{\nu\mu}$, $z^{cd} = -z^{dc}$, coming from the decomposition of a bivector

$$\wedge^2 TE \ni u = \frac{1}{2} \dot{x}^{\mu\nu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu} + y^{\sigma b} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\sigma} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y^b} + \frac{1}{2} z^{cd} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^c} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y^d},$$

are of degrees 0, 1, 0, 1, 2, respectively.

- All this can be generalized to a graded bundle structure of degree r on $\wedge^r TE$:

$$\wedge^r T\tau : \wedge^r TE \rightarrow \wedge^r TM.$$

Transition functions for graded bundles

- One can pick an atlas of F consisting of charts for which we have homogeneous local coordinates (x^A, y_w^a) with weight deg , where $\text{deg}(x^A) = 0$ and $\text{deg}(y_w^a) = w$ with $1 \leq w \leq k$, where k is the degree of the graded bundle.
- The local changes of coordinates are of the form

$$\begin{aligned}x'^A &= x'^A(x), \\y_w^a &= y_w^b T_b^a(x) + \sum_{\substack{1 \leq n \\ w_1 + \dots + w_n = w}} \frac{1}{n!} y_{w_1}^{b_1} \dots y_{w_n}^{b_n} T_{b_n \dots b_1}^a(x),\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

where T_b^a are invertible and $T_{b_n \dots b_1}^a$ are symmetric in indices b .

- In particular, the transition functions of coordinates of degree r involve only coordinates of degree $\leq r$, defining a reduced graded bundle F_r of degree r (we simply 'forget' coordinates of degrees $> r$).

Graded bundles - the tower of affine fibrations

- Transformations for the canonical projection $F_r \rightarrow F_{r-1}$ are linear modulo a shift by a polynomial in variables of degrees $< r$,

$$y_r^a = y_r^b T_b^a(x) + \sum_{\substack{1 \leq n \\ w_1 + \dots + w_n = r}} \frac{1}{n!} y_{w_1}^{b_1} \dots y_{w_n}^{b_n} T_{b_n \dots b_1}^a(x),$$

so the fibrations $F_r \rightarrow F_{r-1}$ are **affine**. The linear part of F_r corresponds to a vector subbundle \bar{F}_r over M (we put y_w^a , with $0 < w < r$, equal to 0).

- In this way we get for any graded bundle F of degree k , like for jet bundles, a tower of affine fibrations

$$F = F_k \xrightarrow{\tau^k} F_{k-1} \xrightarrow{\tau^{k-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\tau^3} F_2 \xrightarrow{\tau^2} F_1 \xrightarrow{\tau^1} F_0 = M.$$

- **Example.** In the case of the canonical graded bundle $F = T^k M$, we get exactly the tower of projections of jet bundles

$$T^k M \xrightarrow{\tau^k} T^{k-1} M \xrightarrow{\tau^{k-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\tau^3} T^2 M \xrightarrow{\tau^2} TM \xrightarrow{\tau^1} F_0 = M.$$

Further constructions

- The reduced manifold F_r will also be denoted $F[\nabla \leq r]$ if we want to stress which weight vector field ∇ we have in mind (sometimes we will work with many).
- There is also a “dual” sequence of submanifolds and their inclusions

$$M := F_0 = F^{[k]} \hookrightarrow F^{[k-1]} \hookrightarrow \dots \hookrightarrow F^{[0]} = F_k, \quad (2)$$

where we define, locally but correctly,

$$F^{[i]} := \{p \in F_k \mid y_w^a = 0 \text{ if } w \leq i\}.$$

- In words, “you project higher to lower, but set to 0 lower to higher”.
- Note that the $C^\infty(M)$ -module $\mathcal{A}^r(F)$ of homogeneous functions of degree r on F is finitely generated and projective, so it corresponds to sections of a vector bundle $\mathcal{A}^r(F)$ over M . The graded algebra

$$\mathcal{A}(F) = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{A}^i(F)$$

generated by homogeneous functions is called the **polynomial algebra of F** .

Splitting of graded bundles

- Homogeneous local coordinates (y_i^a) of degree $i > 0$ represent locally a basis of the quotient vector bundle

$$\mathcal{A}^i(F)/\bar{\mathcal{I}}^i(F) \simeq \bar{F}_i^*,$$

where $\bar{\mathcal{I}}^i(F) = (\mathcal{I}(F) \cdot \mathcal{I}(F))^i$ is the degree i part of the algebraic square $\mathcal{I}(F) \cdot \mathcal{I}(F)$ of the ideal $\mathcal{I}(F)$ in the polynomial algebra $\mathcal{A}(F)$ generated by homogeneous functions of degrees > 0 ,

$$\mathcal{I}(F) = \bigoplus_{i>0} \mathcal{A}^i(F).$$

- Choosing vector subbundles $\bar{\mathcal{A}}^i(F) \subset \mathcal{A}^i(F)$ complementary to $\bar{\mathcal{I}}^i(F)$, we can pick up local coordinates of degree i from $\bar{\mathcal{A}}^i(F) \subset \mathcal{A}^i(F)$, killing therefore the higher order polynomial parts in transition rules. This gives the following.

Theorem

Any graded bundle F of degree k is isomorphic with the split graded bundle $\bar{F} = \bar{F}^1 \oplus \dots \oplus \bar{F}^k$.

Splitting of graded bundles – comments

- The point is that this isomorphism is **not canonical**. Also the morphism of graded vector bundles in the category of graded bundles differ from graded vector bundle morphism which makes these categories different.
- The situation is similar to the celebrated **Batchelor Theorem** in supergeometry stating that any supermanifold is (non-canonically) diffeomorphic with the 'superization' ΠE of a vector bundle E . Of course, morphisms of such supermanifolds are different from that of vector bundles, so these categories are completely different.
- The Betchelor Theorem was actually first proved by Polish physicist Gawędzki, that provides therefore another example of the **Arnold's law** saying that *"Discoveries are rarely attributed to the correct person"*.
- Of course Arnold's law is self-referential, as e.g. Whitehead claimed earlier that *"Everything of importance has been said before by someone who did not discover it"*.

Tangent lifts of graded structures

- Consider an arbitrary graded bundle F_k of degree k over M with homogeneous coordinates (x^A, y_w^a) , $1 \leq w \leq k$. The corresponding homogeneity structure is then

$$h_t(x^A, y_w^a) = (x^A, t^w y_w^a)$$

and the weight vector field: $\nabla_F := \sum_w w y_w^a \frac{\partial}{\partial y_w^a}$.

- Applying the tangent functor to all h_t , we get a homogeneity structure $(d_T h)_t = T h_t$ on TF :

$$d_T h_t(x^A, y_w^a, \dot{x}^B, \dot{y}_w^b) = (x^A, t^w y_w^a, \dot{x}^B, t^w \dot{y}_w^b).$$

- The corresponding weight vector field is the **tangent lift** of ∇_F :

$$\nabla_{TF} = d_T \nabla_F = \sum_w w y_w^a \frac{\partial}{\partial y_w^a} + \sum_w w \dot{y}_w^a \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{y}_w^a}.$$

Phase lifts of graded structures

- Similarly we can try to lift h_t to the cotangent bundle T^*F with the adapted coordinates (x^A, y_w^a, p_B, p_b^w) ; for $t \neq 0$:

$$T^*h_t(x^A, y_w^a, p_B, p_b^w) = (x^A, t^{-w}y_w^a, p_B, t^w p_b^w).$$

- As this cannot be directly extended to an action of \mathbb{R} , we define the **k -phase lift** as $(d_{T^*}^k h)_t = t^k T^* h_{t^{-1}}$:

$$(d_{T^*}^k h)_t(x^A, y_w^a, p_B, p_b^w) = (x^A, t^w y_w^a, t^k p_B, t^{k-w} p_b^w).$$

- The associated weight vector field reads

$$\nabla_{T^*F} = d_{T^*}^k \nabla_F = \sum_w w y_w^a \frac{\partial}{\partial y_w^a} + k p_B \frac{\partial}{\partial p_B} + \sum_w (k - w) p_a^w \frac{\partial}{\partial p_a^w}.$$

- In this way, the tangent and cotangent bundles are canonically graded bundles of degree k over F and \bar{F}_k^* , respectively.

Higher lifts and canonical isomorphisms

- Using higher tangent functors T^k , we can lift homogeneity structures on F to homogeneity structures on $T^k F$ simply putting

$$(d_{T^k h})_t = T^k(h_t) : TF \rightarrow T^k F.$$







- We have fundamental isomorphisms between iterated tangent and cotangent functors.

Theorem (Cantrijn-Crampin-Sarlet-Saunders-Tulczyjew)

For any manifold M and any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there is a canonical isomorphism

$$T^*T^k M \simeq T^k T^* M.$$

- The corresponding graded bundle structure $T^k T^* M \rightarrow T^* M$ and the vector bundle structure $T^* T^k M \rightarrow T^k M$ are compatible in a natural sense, so that $T^* T^k M \simeq T^k T^* M$ is a canonical example of a **double graded bundle**, which will be discussed in the next talk.

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Homework

- **Problem 1.** Prove that any real vector space structure on \mathbb{R}^n , with zero at $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, coincides with the standard one.
- **Problem 2.** Prove directly that any smooth function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, which satisfies $f(t \cdot x) = t^k \cdot f(x)$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, is a polynomial.
- **Problem 3.** Show that a submanifold E_0 of a vector bundle E over M is a vector subbundle (possibly covering a submanifold $M_0 \subset M$) if and only if it is invariant with respect to all homotheties, i.e. $h_t(E_0) \subset E_0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$.
- **Problem 4.** Find a split graded bundle isomorphic to the graded bundle T^2M .
- **Problem 5.** Let $\tau : E \rightarrow M$ be a vector bundle. What is the base of the vector bundle structure on T^*E being the 1-phase lift of the vector bundle (graded bundle of degree 1) structure on E ?