

Microbundles on Topological Manifolds

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1 Vectorbundles on Smooth Manifolds

Definition 1.1. (*vector bundle*)

A vector bundle ξ is a tuple $\xi := (B, E, \pi, +, \cdot)$ satisfying the following conditions:

- B is a topological space (base space)
- E is a topological space (total space)
- $(\pi^{-1}(b), +, \cdot)$ is a real vector space for every $b \in B$
- Every $b \in B$ is locally trivializable , i.e there exist neighborhoods $U \subseteq B$ of b such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi^{-1}(U) & \xrightarrow{\pi} & U \\ \uparrow \phi & \nearrow \pi_1 & \\ U \times \mathbb{R}^n & & \end{array}$$

and $\phi(b, -) : b \times \mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi^{-1}(b)$ is a linear isomorphism.

We call n the rank of ξ .

Example 1.2. (*tangent vector bundle*)

Let M be a smooth manifold:

$\xi : TM \xrightarrow{\pi} M$ is a vector bundle, where $\pi(p, v) := p$.

2 Introduction to Microbundles

Definition 2.1. (*microbundle*)

A microbundle \mathfrak{b} is a tuple $\mathfrak{b} := (B, E, i, j)$ satisfying the following properties:

- B is a topological space called the base space
- E is a topological space called the total space
- $i : B \rightarrow E$ and $j : E \rightarrow B$ are continuous maps with $\text{id}_B = j \circ i$
- Every $b \in B$ is locally trivializable , i.e there exist open neighborhoods $U \subseteq B$ of b and $V \subseteq E$ of $i(U)$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & V & & \\ & i \nearrow & \downarrow \psi & \nwarrow i & \\ U & & & & U \\ & \searrow (id,0) & \downarrow & \nearrow \pi_1 & \\ & & U \times \mathbb{R}^n & & \end{array}$$

We call n the fibre dimension of \mathfrak{b} .

Definition 2.2. (*isomorphic microbundles*)

Two microbundles $\mathfrak{b}_1 := (B, E_1, i_1, j_1)$ and $\mathfrak{b}_2 := (B, E_2, i_2, j_2)$ are said to be isomorphic if there exist neighborhoods $V_1 \subseteq E_1$ of $i_1(B)$ and $V_2 \subseteq E_2$ of $i_2(B)$ with an homeomorphism $\phi : V_1 \xrightarrow{\sim} V_2$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & V_1 & \\ i_1 \nearrow & \downarrow \phi & \nwarrow j_1 \\ B & & B \\ i_2 \searrow & \downarrow & \nearrow j_2 \\ & V_2 & \end{array}$$

Example 2.3. (*trivial microbundle*)

Let B be a topological space and $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

The diagram $\mathfrak{e}_B^n : B \xrightarrow{\iota} B \times \mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{\pi} B$ constitutes a microbundle, where $\iota(b) := (b, 0)$ and $\pi(b, x) := b$. We call \mathfrak{e}_B^n the standard microbundle and every microbundle isomorphic to \mathfrak{e}_B^n trivial.

Lemma 2.4. (*criteria for triviality*)

A microbundle \mathfrak{b} of B is trivial if and only if there exists a open subset $B \subseteq U$ with $U \cong B \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proof.

□

Example 2.5. (*underlying microbundle*)

Let $\xi : E \xrightarrow{\pi} B$ be a n -dimensional vector bundle: The microbundle $|\xi| : B \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{\pi} B$ with $i(b) := \phi_b(b, 0)$, where $\phi_b : U_b \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \pi^{-1}(U_b)$ is the local trivialization over a neighborhood $U_b \subseteq B$ of b . We call $|\xi|$ the underlying microbundle of ξ .

Proof.

□

Example 2.6. (*tangent microbundle*)

Let M be a topological manifold:

We can derive the tangent microbundle $t_M : M \xrightarrow{\Delta} M \times M \xrightarrow{\pi_1} M$, where Δ is the diagonal map and π_1 is the projection map on the first component.

Proof. Let $p \in M$ and (U, ϕ) a chart over p :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & U \times U & & \\
 & \nearrow i & \downarrow (id, \phi) & \nwarrow i & \\
 U & & & & U \\
 & \searrow (0, id) & \downarrow & \nearrow \pi_1 & \\
 & & U \times \mathbb{R}^d & &
 \end{array}$$

(id, ϕ) is a homeomorphism since $\phi : U \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{R}^n$ is homeomorphic. \square

Proposition 2.7. *(restricting the total space)*

Let $\mathfrak{b} : B \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{j} B$ be a microbundle and E' an arbitray neighborhood of $i(B)$.

The restriction $\mathfrak{b}' : B \xrightarrow{i} E' \xrightarrow{j|_{E'}} B$ is a microbundle isomorphic to \mathfrak{b} .

Proof. Let $b \in B$.

Choose an arbitray trivialization (U, V, ϕ) over \mathfrak{b} of b . We restrict $\phi : V \rightarrow U \times \mathbb{R}^n$ to $V \cap E'$. Since $i(b) \in V$ is open and E' is a neighborhood of $i(B)$, it follows that $\phi(V \cap E')$ is a neighborhood of $(b, 0)$.

$\implies \exists (b, 0) \in U' \times X \subseteq \phi(V \cap E')$, where $U' \subseteq U$ and $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ are open

$\implies \exists \varepsilon > 0 : U' \times B_\varepsilon(0) \subseteq \phi(V \cap E')$

Since $B_\varepsilon(0) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$, it follows that $U' \times \mathbb{R}^n \cong U' \times B_\varepsilon(0) \cong \phi^{-1}(U' \times B_\varepsilon(0))$.

Choosing $V' := \phi^{-1}(U' \times B_\varepsilon(0)) \subseteq V$, we see that \mathfrak{b}' is a microbundle.

We easily see, that \mathfrak{b} is isomorphic to \mathfrak{b}' via the identity. \square

3 Induced Microbundles

Definition 3.1. *(induced microbundle)*

Let $\mathfrak{b} : B \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{j} B$ be a microbundle and $f : A \rightarrow B$ a continuous map.

We can construct a microbundle $f^*\mathfrak{b} : A \xrightarrow{i'} E' \xrightarrow{j'} A$ defined as follows:

- $E' := \{(a, e) \in A \times E \mid f(a) = j(e)\}$
- $i' : A \rightarrow E'$ with $i'(a) := (a, (i \circ f)(a))$
- $j' : E' \rightarrow A$ with $j'(a, e) := a$

We call $f^*\mathfrak{b}$ the induced microbundle of \mathfrak{b} over f .

Proof. It is clear that i' and j' are continuous and that $id_A = j' \circ i'$.

So it remains to be shown that $f^*\mathfrak{b}$ is locally trivial for every $a \in A$:

- $U' := f^{-1}(U) \subseteq A$ is an open neighborhood of a .
- $V' := j'^{-1}(U') \subseteq E'$ is an open neighborhood of $i'(U')$.
- $\phi' : V' \xrightarrow{\sim} U' \times \mathbb{R}^n, \phi'(a, e) := (a, \pi_2(\phi(e)))$ is a homeomorphism.

- ϕ' is well defined because $(a, e) \in V' : j(e) = f(a) \in U \implies e \in V$.
- ϕ' is bijective with $\phi'^{-1}(a, v) = (a, \phi^{-1}(f(a), v))$.
- ϕ' and ϕ'^{-1} are continuous because it's components are.

□

Example 3.2. (*restricted microbundle*)

Let $\mathfrak{b} : B \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{j} B$ be a microbundle and $A \subseteq B$:

The induced microbundle $\iota^*\mathfrak{b}$ with $\iota : A \hookrightarrow B$ being the inclusion map is called the restricted microbundle and we write $\mathfrak{b}|_A := \iota^*\mathfrak{b}$.

Remark 3.3. In the following, we'll consider $E(\mathfrak{b}|_A)$ a subset of $E(\mathfrak{b})$. This is justified because $E(\mathfrak{b}|_A) = \{(a, e) \in A \times E(\mathfrak{b}) \mid a = j(e)\} \cong \{e \in E(\mathfrak{b}) \mid j(e) \in A\} \subseteq E(\mathfrak{b})$.

Lemma 3.4. (*induced trivial microbundle*)

The induced microbundle $f^*\mathfrak{b}$ is trivial for every map $f : A \rightarrow B$, if \mathfrak{b} is already trivial.

Proof. Let (V, ϕ) be a global trivialization of \mathfrak{b} , i.e $V \cong_\phi B \times \mathbb{R}^n$. Now define $V' := (A \times V) \cap E'$ and $\phi'(a, e) := (a, \phi^{(2)}(e))$. Obviously, V' is a neighborhood of $i'(A)$ and also ϕ' is a homeomorphism with inverse $\phi'^{(-1)}(a, x) = (a, \phi^{-1}(f(a), x))$ □

Proposition 3.5. (*composition*)

Let $A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C$ be topological spaces and $\mathfrak{c} : C \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{j} C$ be a microbundle:

$$(g \circ f)^*\mathfrak{c} \cong f^*(g^*\mathfrak{c})$$

Proof. We'll compare the two total spaces and conclude that they are homeomorphic.

1. $E((g \circ f)^*\mathfrak{c}) = \{(a, e) \in A \times E(\mathfrak{c}) \mid g(f(a)) = j(e)\}$
2. $E(f^*(g^*\mathfrak{c})) = \{(a, (b, e)) \in A \times (B \times E(\mathfrak{c})) \mid f(a) = b \text{ and } g(b) = j(e)\}.$

We have the bijection $\phi : E((g \circ f)^*\mathfrak{c}) \xrightarrow{\sim} E(f^*(g^*\mathfrak{c}))$ with $\phi(a, e) := (a, (f(a), e))$ and $\phi^{-1}(a, (b, e)) = (a, e)$. Additionally, ϕ is a homeomorphism because ϕ and ϕ^{-1} are componentwise continuous. It's easy to see that ϕ respects both injection and projection, which concludes the proof. □

For a topological space X , we define the cone of X as

$$CX := X \times [0, 1] / X \times \{1\}$$

and for a map $f : A \rightarrow B$ the mapping cone of f as

$$B \sqcup_f CA := B \sqcup CA / \sim$$

where $(a, 0) \sim b : \iff f(a) = b$.

Lemma 3.6. *(extending over a mapping cone)*

A microbundle \mathfrak{b} over B can be extended to a microbundle over the mapping cone $B \sqcup_f CA$ if and only if $f^*\mathfrak{b}$ is trivial.

Proof. We show both implications.

$\implies :$

Let \mathfrak{b}' be an extension of \mathfrak{b} over $B \sqcup_f CA$.

Considering $A \xrightarrow{f} B \hookrightarrow B \sqcup_f CA$, the composition $\iota \circ f$ is null-homotopic with homotopy

$$H_t(a) := [(a, t)]$$

Note that $H_0(a) = [(a, 0)] = [f(a)] = (\iota \circ f)(a)$ and $H_1(a) = [(a, 1)] = [(\tilde{a}, 1)] = H_1(\tilde{a})$.

\implies $(\iota \circ f)^*\mathfrak{b}'$ is trivial

Hom.Thm.

Since $(\iota \circ f)^*\mathfrak{b}' = f^*(\iota^*\mathfrak{b}') = f^*\mathfrak{b}$, it follows that $f^*\mathfrak{b}$ is trivial.

$\impliedby :$

Let $f^*\mathfrak{b}$ be trivial.

Analogous to the cone, we define the cylinder of X as

$$MX := X \times [0, 1]$$

and for a map $f : A \rightarrow B$ the mapping cylinder of f as

$$B \sqcup_f MA := B \sqcup MA / \sim$$

where $(a, 0) \sim b : \iff f(a) = b$.

In contrast to the mapping cone, there exists a natural retraction from the mapping cylinder to the attached space

$$\pi : B \sqcup_f MA \rightarrow B; \pi([(a, t)]) := f(a)$$

and therefore the induced microbundle $\pi^*\mathfrak{b}$ over $B \sqcup_f MA$.

Considering $A \times \{1\} \hookrightarrow B \sqcup_f MA \xrightarrow{\pi} B$, we see that $\pi \circ \iota \cong f$ and therefore

$$\pi^*\mathfrak{b}|_{A \times \{1\}} = (\pi \circ \iota)^*\mathfrak{b} \cong f^*\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c}_A^n$$

is trivial. From the lemma of induced trivial microbundles and $(a, t) \mapsto (a, 1)$ it follows that $\pi^*\mathfrak{b}|_{A \times [\frac{1}{2}, 1]}$ is trivial.

$$\implies \exists \phi : E(\mathfrak{b}|_{A \times [\frac{1}{2}, 1]}) \xrightarrow{\sim} A \times [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n$$

Now we explicitly construct the desired extended microbundle $\mathfrak{b}' : B \sqcup_f CA \xrightarrow{i'} E' \xrightarrow{j'} B \sqcup_f CA$

- $E' := E(\mathfrak{b}|_{A \times [\frac{1}{2}, 1]}) / \phi^{-1}(A \times [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \{x\})$ (for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$)
- $i' := \pi \circ i$ the projection i to E'

- $j'([e]) := [j(e)]$ is well defined, because $[e] = [\tilde{e}] \implies [j(e)] = [j(e')]$

Now that we have constructed \mathbf{b}' , this proves the claim. \square

Corollary 3.7. (*extending over a d-simplex*)

Let B be a $(d+1)$ -simplicial complex, B' it's d -skeleton and $\Delta^{d+1} \cong \sigma \subseteq B$.
A microbundle \mathbf{b} over B' can be extended to a microbundle over $B' \cup \sigma$ if and only if $\mathbf{b}|_{\partial\sigma}$ is trivial.

Proof. The statement follows from the last lemma:

There exists a $\phi : C\partial\sigma \xrightarrow{\sim} \sigma$ such that $\phi(\partial\sigma \times \{0\}) = \partial\sigma$.

We explicitly construct $\phi((t_1, \dots, t_{d+1}), \lambda) := (1-\lambda)(t_1, \dots, t_{d+1}) + \frac{\lambda}{d+1}(1, \dots, 1)$.
It's easy to see that ϕ suffices all our requirements. By choosing $f : \partial\sigma \hookrightarrow B'$ and applying the last lemma, the statement is proven. \square

4 Whitney sums

Definition 4.1. (*whitney sum*)

Let \mathbf{b}_1 and \mathbf{b}_2 be two microbundles over a topological space B .

We define the whitney sum $\mathbf{b}_1 \oplus \mathbf{b}_2$ as follows:

- $E := \{(e_1, e_2) \in E(\mathbf{b}_1) \times E(\mathbf{b}_2) \mid j_1(e_1) = j_2(e_2)\}$
- $i(b) := (i_1(b), i_2(b))$
- $j(e_1, e_2) := j_1(e_1) = j_2(e_2)$

Proof. Let $b \in B$.

Choose U_1, V_1, ϕ_1 and U_2, V_2, ϕ_2 accordingly from the local trivialization of \mathbf{b} over \mathbf{b}_1 and \mathbf{b}_2 :

- $U := U_1 \cap U_2$
- $V := (V_1 \times V_2) \cap E$
- $\phi : V \rightarrow U \times \mathbb{R}^{n_1+n_2}; \phi(e_1, e_2) := (\phi_1^{(1)}(e_1), \phi_1^{(2)}(e_1) \times \phi_2^{(2)}(e_2))$

Note that $\phi_1^{(1)}(e_1) = \phi_2^{(1)}(e_2)$.

Local triviality follows directly from it's components. \square

Lemma 4.2. (*compatibility*)

Let \mathbf{b}_1 and \mathbf{b}_2 be two microbundles over B and $f : A \rightarrow B$ a map.

Induced microbundle and whitney sum are compatible, i.e. $f^*(\mathbf{b}_1 \oplus \mathbf{b}_2) \cong f^*\mathbf{b}_1 \oplus f^*\mathbf{b}_2$

Proof. From the definition of the induced microbundle and the whitney sum, we can derive the total spaces:

$$\begin{aligned} E(f^*(\mathbf{b}_1 \oplus \mathbf{b}_2)) &= \{(a, (e_1, e_2)) \in A \times (E_1 \times E_2) \mid j_1(e_1) = j_2(e_2) = f(a)\} \\ E(f^*\mathbf{b}_1 \oplus f^*\mathbf{b}_2) &= \{((a_1, e_1), (a_2, e_2)) \in (A \times E_1) \times (A \times E_2) \mid j(a_1, e_1) = j(a_2, e_2)\} \end{aligned}$$

and $f(a_i) = j(e_i)\}$

Those two total spaces are homeomorphic via $\phi(a, (e_1, e_2)) := ((a, e_1), (a, e_2))$ and $\phi^{-1}((a, e_1), (a, e_2)) = (a, (e_1, e_2))$. ϕ and ϕ^{-1} are continuous because they are componentwise continuous.

Obviously, $\phi \circ i = i$ and $\phi \circ j = j$, which concludes the proof. \square

Theorem 4.3. *()*

Let \mathfrak{b} be a microbundle over a d -dimensional simplicial complex B .

Then there exists a microbundle \mathfrak{n} over B so that the Whitney sum $\mathfrak{b} \oplus \mathfrak{n}$ is trivial.

Proof. We prove this theorem by induction over d .

(Start of induction)

A 1-dimensional simplicial complex is just a bouquet of circles, therefore the start of induction follows directly from the bouquet lemma.

(Inductive Step)

Let B' be the $(d-1)$ -skeleton of B and \mathfrak{n}' it's corresponding microbundle so that $\mathfrak{b}|_{B'} \oplus \mathfrak{n}'$ is trivial. \square

5 Normal Microbundles

Definition 5.1. *(normal microbundle)*

Let M and N be two topological manifolds with $N \subseteq M$.

We call a microbundle of the form

$$\mathfrak{n} : N \xrightarrow{\iota} U \xrightarrow{\tau} N$$

where $U \subseteq M$ is a neighborhood of N , a normal microbundle of N in M .

Definition 5.2. *(product neighborhood)*

Again, let M and N be two topological manifolds with $N \subseteq M$.

We say that N has a product neighborhood in M if there exists a trivial normal microbundle of N in M .

Lemma 5.3. *(criteria for product neighborhoods)*

A submanifold $N \subseteq M$ has a product neighborhood if and only if there exists a neighborhood U of N with $(U, M) \cong (M \times \mathbb{R}^n, M \times 0)$.

Proof. This follows directly from the definition of normal microbundles and the criteria for trivial microbundles (NUMBER). \square

Definition 5.4. *(composition microbundle)*

Let $\mathfrak{b} : B \xrightarrow{i_{\mathfrak{b}}} E \xrightarrow{j_{\mathfrak{b}}} B$ and $\mathfrak{c} : E \xrightarrow{i_{\mathfrak{c}}} E' \xrightarrow{j_{\mathfrak{c}}} E$ be two microbundles. We define the composition microbundle $\mathfrak{b} \circ \mathfrak{c} : B \xrightarrow{i} E' \xrightarrow{j} B$ with $i(b) := (i_{\mathfrak{c}} \circ i_{\mathfrak{b}})(b)$ and $j(e') := (j_{\mathfrak{b}} \circ j_{\mathfrak{c}})(e')$

Proof. Let $b \in B$.

Choose local trivializations (U_b, V_b, ϕ_b) of b and (U_c, V_c, ϕ_c) of $j_b(b)$. From this, we construct our local trivialization over $b \circ c$. Consider $\phi_b(V_b \cap U_c)$, which is a neighborhood of $(b, 0)$. Therefore, there exist open neighborhoods $b \in U \subseteq U_b$ and $0 \in X \subseteq R^n$ such that $U \times X \subseteq \phi_b(V_b \cap U_c)$. Analogous to the proof of restricting the total space in Chapter 1, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \exists \varepsilon > 0 : U \times B_\varepsilon(0) &\subseteq \phi_b(V_b \cap U_c) \\ \implies U \times \mathbb{R}^n &\cong U \times B_\varepsilon(0) \cong \phi_b^{-1}(U \times B_\varepsilon(0)) \cong \phi_c^{-1}(\phi_b^{-1}(U \times B_\varepsilon(0))) \end{aligned}$$

which is an open neighborhood of $i(U)$ and therefore a valid candidate for V . This concludes local triviality and the proof. \square

Lemma 5.5. (*transitivity of normal microbundles*)

Let M, N and P be topological manifolds with $P \subseteq N \subseteq M$. There exists a normal microbundle \mathbf{n} of P in M , if there exist normal microbundles $\mathbf{n}_p : P \xrightarrow{i_P} U_N \xrightarrow{j_P} P$ in N and $\mathbf{n}_n : N \xrightarrow{i_N} U_M \xrightarrow{j_N} N$ in M .

Proof. We simply form the composition $\mathbf{n}_p \circ \mathbf{n}_n|_{U_N} : P \xrightarrow{i_N \circ i_P} U_M \xrightarrow{j_P \circ j_N} P$. Since $i_N \circ i_P$ is just the inclusion of $P \hookrightarrow U_M \subseteq M$, we found a normal microbundle \mathbf{n} of P in M . \square

Every topological manifold is an absolute neighborhood retract (ANR).

It follows that by restricting M , if necessary, to an open neighborhood of N , there exists a retraction $r : M \rightarrow N$ which we will take advantage of in the following.

Lemma 5.6. (*homeomorphism of total spaces*)

Let \mathbf{t}_N and \mathbf{t}_M be the tangent microbundles of N and M . The total space $E(\iota^* \mathbf{t}_M)$ and $E(r^* \mathbf{t}_N)$ are homeomorphic.

Proof. We explicitly construct a homeomorphism:

1. $E(\iota^* \mathbf{t}_M) = \{(n, (m_1, m_2)) \in N \times (M \times M) \mid \iota(n) = m_1\}$
2. $E(r^* \mathbf{t}_N) = \{(m, (n_1, n_2)) \in M \times (N \times N) \mid r(m) = n_1\}$

Now, we have the homeomorphism $\phi : E(\iota^* \mathbf{t}_M) \rightarrow E(r^* \mathbf{t}_N)$ with $\phi(n, (m_1, m_2)) = (m_2, (r(m_2), n))$ and $\phi^{-1}(m, (n_1, n_2)) = (n_2, (n_2, m))$. We easily see that ϕ suffices all requirements of $E(\iota^* \mathbf{t}_M)$ and $E(r^* \mathbf{t}_N)$. \square

Remark 5.7. Note that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} N & \longrightarrow & E(\iota^* \mathbf{t}_M) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi \\ M & \longrightarrow & E(r^* \mathbf{t}_N) \end{array}$$

Lemma 5.8. *(normal microbundle on total space) There exists a normal microbundle \mathfrak{n} of N in $E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_N)$ with $\mathfrak{n} \cong \iota^*\mathfrak{t}_M$.*

Proof. Obviously, $\mathfrak{n} := r^*\mathfrak{t}_N|_N$ is a normal microbundle of N in $E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_N)$. Since $E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_N|_N) \subseteq E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_N)$, isomorphy follows from the previous lemma and remark. \square

Finally, we gathered all the tools to prove Milnor's theorem.

Theorem 5.9. *(Milnor) For a sufficiently large $q \in \mathbb{N}$, $N = N \times \{0\}$ has a normal microbundle in $M \times \mathbb{R}^q$.*

Proof. \square

6 Homotopy and Microbundles