

Graduate Texts in Mathematics 20

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continued after index

Dale Husemoller

Fibre Bundles

Third Edition



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To the memory of my mother and my father

Preface to the Third Edition

In this edition, we have added two new chapters, Chapter 7 on the gauge group of a principal bundle and Chapter 19 on the definition of Chern classes by differential forms. These subjects have taken on special importance when we consider new applications of the fibre bundle theory especially to mathematical physics. For these two chapters, the author profited from discussions with Professor M. S. Narasimhan.

The idea of using the term bundle for what is just a map, but is eventually a fibre bundle projection, is due to Grothendieck.

The bibliography has been enlarged and updated. For example, in the Seifert reference [1932] we find one of the first explicit references to the concept of fibrings.

The first edition of the *Fibre Bundles* was translated into Russian under the title “Расслоенные Пространства” in 1970 by В. А. Йсковских with general editor М. М. Постникова. The remarks and additions of the editor have been very useful in this edition of the book. The author is very grateful to A. Voronov, who helped with translations of the additions from the Russian text.

Part of this revision was made while the author was a guest of the Max Planck Institut from 1988 to 89, the ETH during the summers of 1990 and 1991, the University of Heidelberg during the summer of 1992, and the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research during January 1990, 1991, and 1992. It is a pleasure to acknowledge all these institutions as well as the Haverford College Faculty Research Fund.

Preface to the Second Edition

In this edition we have added a section to Chapter 15 on the Adams conjecture and a second appendix on the suspension theorems. For the second appendix the author profitted from discussion with Professors Moore, Stasheff, and Toda.

I wish to express my gratitude to the following people who supplied me with lists of corrections to the first edition: P. T. Chusch, Rudolf Fritsch, David C. Johnson, George Lusztig, Claude Schocket, and Robert Sturg.

Part of the revision was made while the author was a guest of the I.H.E.S in January, May, and June 1974.

Preface to the First Edition

The notion of a fibre bundle first arose out of questions posed in the 1930s on the topology and geometry of manifolds. By the year 1950, the definition of fibre bundle had been clearly formulated, the homotopy classification of fibre bundles achieved, and the theory of characteristic classes of fibre bundles developed by several mathematicians: Chern, Pontrjagin, Stiefel, and Whitney. Steenrod's book, which appeared in 1950, gave a coherent treatment of the subject up to that time.

About 1955, Milnor gave a construction of a universal fibre bundle for any topological group. This construction is also included in Part I along with an elementary proof that the bundle is universal.

During the five years from 1950 to 1955, Hirzebruch clarified the notion of characteristic class and used it to prove a general Riemann-Roch theorem for algebraic varieties. This was published in his *Ergebnisse Monograph*. A systematic development of characteristic classes and their applications to manifolds is given in Part III and is based on the approach of Hirzebruch as modified by Grothendieck.

In the early 1960s, following lines of thought in the work of A. Grothendieck, Atiyah and Hirzebruch developed K -theory, which is a generalized cohomology theory defined by using stability classes of vector bundles. The Bott periodicity theorem was interpreted as a theorem in K -theory, and J. F. Adams was able to solve the vector field problem for spheres, using K -theory. In Part II, an introduction to K -theory is presented, the nonexistence of elements of Hopf invariant 1 proved (after a proof of Atiyah), and the proof of the vector field problem sketched.

I wish to express gratitude to S. Eilenberg, who gave me so much encouragement during recent years, and to J. C. Moore, who read parts of the

manuscript and made many useful comments. Conversations with J. F. Adams, R. Bott, A. Dold, and F. Hirzebruch helped to sharpen many parts of the manuscript. During the writing of this book, I was particularly influenced by the Princeton notes of J. Milnor and the lectures of F. Hirzebruch at the 1963 Summer Institute of the American Mathematical Society.

1966

Dale Husemoller

Contents

Preface to the Third Edition	vii
Preface to the Second Edition	ix
Preface to the First Edition	xi

CHAPTER 1

Preliminaries on Homotopy Theory	1
1. Category Theory and Homotopy Theory	1
2. Complexes	2
3. The Spaces $\text{Map}(X, Y)$ and $\text{Map}_0(X, Y)$	4
4. Homotopy Groups of Spaces	6
5. Fibre Maps	7

PART I

THE GENERAL THEORY OF FIBRE BUNDLES	9
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CHAPTER 2

Generalities on Bundles	11
1. Definition of Bundles and Cross Sections	11
2. Examples of Bundles and Cross Sections	12
3. Morphisms of Bundles	14
4. Products and Fibre Products	15
5. Restrictions of Bundles and Induced Bundles	17
6. Local Properties of Bundles	20
7. Prolongation of Cross Sections	21
Exercises	22

CHAPTER 3	
Vector Bundles	24
1. Definition and Examples of Vector Bundles	24
2. Morphisms of Vector Bundles	26
3. Induced Vector Bundles	27
4. Homotopy Properties of Vector Bundles	28
5. Construction of Gauss Maps	31
6. Homotopies of Gauss Maps	33
7. Functorial Description of the Homotopy Classification of Vector Bundles	34
8. Kernel, Image, and Cokernel of Morphisms with Constant Rank	35
9. Riemannian and Hermitian Metrics on Vector Bundles	37
Exercises	39
CHAPTER 4	
General Fibre Bundles	40
1. Bundles Defined by Transformation Groups	40
2. Definition and Examples of Principal Bundles	42
3. Categories of Principal Bundles	43
4. Induced Bundles of Principal Bundles	44
5. Definition of Fibre Bundles	45
6. Functorial Properties of Fibre Bundles	46
7. Trivial and Locally Trivial Fibre Bundles	47
8. Description of Cross Sections of a Fibre Bundle	48
9. Numerable Principal Bundles over $B \times [0, 1]$	49
10. The Cofunctor k_G	52
11. The Milnor Construction	54
12. Homotopy Classification of Numerable Principal G -Bundles	56
13. Homotopy Classification of Principal G -Bundles over CW -Complexes	58
Exercises	59
CHAPTER 5	
Local Coordinate Description of Fibre Bundles	61
1. Automorphisms of Trivial Fibre Bundles	61
2. Charts and Transition Functions	62
3. Construction of Bundles with Given Transition Functions	64
4. Transition Functions and Induced Bundles	65
5. Local Representation of Vector Bundle Morphisms	66
6. Operations on Vector Bundles	67
7. Transition Functions for Bundles with Metrics	69
Exercises	71
CHAPTER 6	
Change of Structure Group in Fibre Bundles	73
1. Fibre Bundles with Homogeneous Spaces as Fibres	73

2. Prolongation and Restriction of Principal Bundles	74
3. Restriction and Prolongation of Structure Group for Fibre Bundles	75
4. Local Coordinate Description of Change of Structure Group ...	76
5. Classifying Spaces and the Reduction of Structure Group	77
Exercises	77
 CHAPTER 7	
The Gauge Group of a Principal Bundle	79
1. Definition of the Gauge Group	79
2. The Universal Standard Principal Bundle of the Gauge Group ...	81
3. The Standard Principal Bundle as a Universal Bundle	82
4. Abelian Gauge Groups and the Künneth Formula	83
 CHAPTER 8	
Calculations Involving the Classical Groups	87
1. Stiefel Varieties and the Classical Groups	87
2. Grassmann Manifolds and the Classical Groups	90
3. Local Triviality of Projections from Stiefel Varieties	91
4. Stability of the Homotopy Groups of the Classical Groups	94
5. Vanishing of Lower Homotopy Groups of Stiefel Varieties	95
6. Universal Bundles and Classifying Spaces for the Classical Groups	95
7. Universal Vector Bundles	96
8. Description of all Locally Trivial Fibre Bundles over Suspensions	97
9. Characteristic Map of the Tangent Bundle over S^n	98
10. Homotopy Properties of Characteristic Maps	101
11. Homotopy Groups of Stiefel Varieties	103
12. Some of the Homotopy Groups of the Classical Groups	104
Exercises	107
 PART II	
ELEMENTS OF K -THEORY	109
 CHAPTER 9	
Stability Properties of Vector Bundles	111
1. Trivial Summands of Vector Bundles	111
2. Homotopy Classification and Whitney Sums	113
3. The K Cofunctors	114
4. Corepresentations of \tilde{K}_F	118
5. Homotopy Groups of Classical Groups and $\tilde{K}_F(S^i)$	120
Exercises	121
 CHAPTER 10	
Relative K -Theory	122
1. Collapsing of Trivialized Bundles	122

2. Exact Sequences in Relative K -Theory	124
3. Products in K -Theory	128
4. The Cofunctor $L(X, A)$	129
5. The Difference Morphism	131
6. Products in $L(X, A)$	133
7. The Clutching Construction	134
8. The Cofunctor $L_n(X, A)$	136
9. Half-Exact Cofunctors	138
Exercises	139
CHAPTER 11	
Bott Periodicity in the Complex Case	140
1. K -Theory Interpretation of the Periodicity Result	140
2. Complex Vector Bundles over $X \times S^2$	141
3. Analysis of Polynomial Clutching Maps	143
4. Analysis of Linear Clutching Maps	145
5. The Inverse to the Periodicity Isomorphism	148
CHAPTER 12	
Clifford Algebras	151
1. Unit Tangent Vector Fields on Spheres: I	151
2. Orthogonal Multiplications	152
3. Generalities on Quadratic Forms	154
4. Clifford Algebra of a Quadratic Form	156
5. Calculations of Clifford Algebras	158
6. Clifford Modules	161
7. Tensor Products of Clifford Modules	166
8. Unit Tangent Vector Fields on Spheres: II	168
9. The Group $\text{Spin}(k)$	169
Exercises	170
CHAPTER 13	
The Adams Operations and Representations	171
1. λ -Rings	171
2. The Adams ψ -Operations in λ -Ring	172
3. The γ^i Operations	175
4. Generalities on G -Modules	176
5. The Representation Ring of a Group G and Vector Bundles	177
6. Semisimplicity of G -Modules over Compact Groups	179
7. Characters and the Structure of the Group $R_F(G)$	180
8. Maximal Tori	182
9. The Representation Ring of a Torus	185

10. The ψ -Operations on $K(X)$ and $KO(X)$ 186
 11. The ψ -Operations on $\tilde{K}(S^n)$ 187

CHAPTER 14

Representation Rings of Classical Groups 189
 1. Symmetric Functions 189
 2. Maximal Tori in $SU(n)$ and $U(n)$ 191
 3. The Representation Rings of $SU(n)$ and $U(n)$ 192
 4. Maximal Tori in $Sp(n)$ 193
 5. Formal Identities in Polynomial Rings 194
 6. The Representation Ring of $Sp(n)$ 195
 7. Maximal Tori and the Weyl Group of $SO(n)$ 195
 8. Maximal Tori and the Weyl Group of $Spin(n)$ 196
 9. Special Representations of $SO(n)$ and $Spin(n)$ 198
 10. Calculation of $RSO(n)$ and $RSpin(n)$ 200
 11. Relation Between Real and Complex Representation Rings 203
 12. Examples of Real and Quaternionic Representations 206
 13. Spinor Representations and the K -Groups of Spheres 208

CHAPTER 15

The Hopf Invariant 210
 1. K -Theory Definition of the Hopf Invariant 210
 2. Algebraic Properties of the Hopf Invariant 211
 3. Hopf Invariant and Bidegree 213
 4. Nonexistence of Elements of Hopf Invariant 1 215

CHAPTER 16

Vector Fields on the Sphere 217
 1. Thom Spaces of Vector Bundles 217
 2. S -Category 219
 3. S -Duality and the Atiyah Duality Theorem 221
 4. Fibre Homotopy Type 223
 5. Stable Fibre Homotopy Equivalence 224
 6. The Groups $J(S^k)$ and $\tilde{K}_{\text{Top}}(S^k)$ 225
 7. Thom Spaces and Fibre Homotopy Type 227
 8. S -Duality and S -Reducibility 229
 9. Nonexistence of Vector Fields and Reducibility 230
 10. Nonexistence of Vector Fields and Coreducibility 232
 11. Nonexistence of Vector Fields and $J(RP^k)$ 233
 12. Real K -Groups of Real Projective Spaces 235
 13. Relation Between $KO(RP^n)$ and $J(RP^n)$ 237
 14. Remarks on the Adams Conjecture 240

PART III

CHARACTERISTIC CLASSES 243

CHAPTER 17

Chern Classes and Stiefel-Whitney Classes 245

1. The Leray-Hirsch Theorem 245
2. Definition of the Stiefel-Whitney Classes and Chern Classes 247
3. Axiomatic Properties of the Characteristic Classes 248
4. Stability Properties and Examples of Characteristic Classes 250
5. Splitting Maps and Uniqueness of Characteristic Classes 251
6. Existence of the Characteristic Classes 252
7. Fundamental Class of Sphere Bundles. Gysin Sequence 253
8. Multiplicative Property of the Euler Class 256
9. Definition of Stiefel-Whitney Classes Using the Squaring
Operations of Steenrod 257
10. The Thom Isomorphism 258
11. Relations Between Real and Complex Vector Bundles 259
12. Orientability and Stiefel-Whitney Classes 260
- Exercises 261

CHAPTER 18

Differentiable Manifolds 262

1. Generalities on Manifolds 262
2. The Tangent Bundle to a Manifold 263
3. Orientation in Euclidean Spaces 266
4. Orientation of Manifolds 267
5. Duality in Manifolds 269
6. Thom Class of the Tangent Bundle 272
7. Euler Characteristic and Class of a Manifold 274
8. Wu's Formula for the Stiefel-Whitney Class of a Manifold 275
9. Stiefel-Whitney Numbers and Cobordism 276
10. Immersions and Embeddings of Manifolds 278
- Exercises 279

CHAPTER 19

Characteristic Classes and Connections 280

1. Differential Forms and de Rham Cohomology 280
2. Connections on a Vector Bundle 283
3. Invariant Polynomials in the Curvature of a Connection 285
4. Homotopy Properties of Connections and Curvature 288
5. Homotopy to the Trivial Connection and the Chern-Simons Form 290
6. The Levi-Civita or Riemannian Connection 291

CHAPTER 20

General Theory of Characteristic Classes 294

1. The Yoneda Representation Theorem 294
2. Generalities on Characteristic Classes 295
3. Complex Characteristic Classes in Dimension n 296
4. Complex Characteristic Classes 298
5. Real Characteristic Classes Mod 2 300
6. 2-Divisible Real Characteristic Classes in Dimension n 301
7. Oriented Even-Dimensional Real Characteristic Classes 304
8. Examples and Applications 306
9. Bott Periodicity and Integrality Theorems 307
10. Comparison of K -Theory and Cohomology Definitions
of Hopf Invariant 309
11. The Borel-Hirzebruch Description of Characteristic Classes 309

Appendix 1

Dold's Theory of Local Properties of Bundles 312

Appendix 2

On the Double Suspension 314

1. $H_*(\Omega S(X))$ as an Algebraic Functor of $H_*(X)$ 314
2. Connectivity of the Pair $(\Omega^2 S^{2n+1}, S^{2n-1})$ Localized at p 318
3. Decomposition of Suspensions of Products and $\Omega S(X)$ 319
4. Single Suspension Sequences 322
5. Mod p Hopf Invariant 326
6. Spaces Where the p th Power Is Zero 329
7. Double Suspension Sequences 333
8. Study of the Boundary Map $\Delta: \Omega^3 S^{2np+1} \rightarrow \Omega S^{2np-1}$ 337

Bibliography 339

Index 348