

Topologically finitely generated Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules

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This talk is based on my papers:

- I. Gogić, *Topologically finitely generated Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules* (2011), submitted to J.M.A.A.
- I. Gogić, *On derivations and elementary operators on C^* -algebras* (2011), submitted to Proc. Edinburgh Math. Soc.
- I. Gogić, *Elementary operators and subhomogeneous C^* -algebras*, Proc. Edinburgh Math. Soc. 54 (2011), no. 1, 99–111.

- Hilbert C^* -modules form a category in between Banach spaces (they have a little extra geometrical structure) and Hilbert spaces (they are not as well behaving as these).
- A Hilbert C^* -module obeys the same axioms as an ordinary Hilbert space, except that the inner product takes values in a more general C^* -algebras than \mathbb{C} .
- Hilbert C^* -modules were first introduced in the work of I. Kaplansky in 1953, who developed the theory for unital commutative C^* -algebras. In the 1970s the theory was extended to non-commutative C^* -algebras independently by W. Paschke and M. Rieffel.
- Hilbert C^* -modules appear naturally in many areas of C^* -algebra theory, such as KK-theory, Morita equivalence of C^* -algebras, and completely positive operators.

Definition

Let A be a C^* -algebra. A (left) **Hilbert A -module** is a left A -module V , equipped with an A -valued inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ which is A -linear in the first and conjugate linear in the second variable, such that V is a Banach space with the norm

$$\|v\| := \sqrt{\|\langle v, v \rangle\|_A}.$$

Example

Every C^* -algebra A becomes a Hilbert A -module with respect to the inner product

$$\langle a, b \rangle := ab^*.$$

Example (continued)

Similarly, the direct sum A^n of n -copies of A becomes a A -Hilbert module with respect to the pointwise operations and the inner product

$$\langle a_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus a_n, b_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus b_n \rangle := \sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k^*.$$

More generally, let

$$\mathcal{H}_A := \left\{ (a_k) \in \prod_1^\infty : \sum_{k=1}^\infty a_k a_k^* \text{ is norm convergent} \right\}.$$

Then the pointwise operations and the inner product

$$\langle (a_k), (b_k) \rangle := \sum_{k=1}^\infty a_k b_k^*$$

turn \mathcal{H}_A into a Hilbert A -module.

\mathcal{H}_A is known as a **standard Hilbert A -module**.

Definition

Let V be a Hilbert A -module. We say that V is

- **algebraically finitely generated** if there exists a finite subset of V whose A -linear span equals V ;
- **topologically finitely generated** if there exists a finite subset of V whose A -linear span is dense in V ;
- **countably generated** if there exists a countable subset of V whose A -linear span is dense in V .

When the C^* -algebra A is unital and commutative, there exists a categorical equivalence between Hilbert A -modules and (F) Hilbert bundles over the spectrum of the algebra. (F) Hilbert bundles provide a natural generalization of standard vector bundles from topology.

Definition

By an **(F) Hilbert bundle** ((F) stands for Fell) we mean a triple $\mathcal{E} := (p, E, X)$ where E and X are topological spaces with a continuous open surjection $p : E \rightarrow X$, together with operations and norms making each **fibre** $E_x := p^{-1}(x)$ ($x \in X$) into a complex Hilbert space, such that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (A1)** The maps $\mathbb{C} \times E \rightarrow E$, $E \times_X E \rightarrow E$ and $E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, given in each fibre by scalar multiplication, addition, and the norm, respectively, are continuous. Here $E \times_X E$ denotes the **Whitney sum**

$$\{(e, f) \in E \times E : p(e) = p(f)\}.$$

- (A2)** If $x \in X$ and if (e_α) is a net in E such that $\|e_\alpha\| \rightarrow 0$ and $p(e_\alpha) \rightarrow x$ in X , then $e_\alpha \rightarrow 0_x$ in E (where 0_x is the zero-element of E_x).

As usual, we say that p is the **projection**, E is the **bundle space** and X is the **base space** of \mathcal{E} .

If in (A2) one only requires that the norm function is upper semicontinuous, one gets the notion of an **(H) Hilbert bundle** ((H) stands for Hofmann).

If \mathcal{E} is an (F) Hilbert bundle, then using a polarization identity together with the continuity of the norm and operations, it is an immediate consequence that the map $E \times_X E \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ given by the inner product in each fibre is continuous.

For the (F) Hilbert bundles $\mathcal{E} = (p, E, X)$ and $\mathcal{E}' = (p', E', X')$ we say that $\Phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ is a **Hilbert bundle map** if Φ is a pair $\Phi = (\phi, f)$ of maps, where $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$ and $f : X \rightarrow X'$ are continuous maps such that

(i) the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\phi} & E' \\ p \downarrow & & p' \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & X' \end{array}$$

is commutative,

(ii) for each $x \in X$, ϕ defines a linear map from E_x into $E'_{f(x)}$.

It is usually said that Φ **covers** f . If in addition ϕ defines an isometric isomorphism of each fibre E_x onto $E'_{f(x)}$, then we say that Φ is a **strong Hilbert bundle map**. If $X' = X$, we write $\Phi : \mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{E}'$ to say that Φ is an **isomorphism of Hilbert bundles**, that is, Φ is a strong Hilbert bundle map covering the identity map $\text{id}_X : X \rightarrow X$.

Example

The simplest example of an (F) Hilbert bundle is the **product bundle** over X with fibre H ,

$$\epsilon(X, H) := (\text{proj}_1, X \times H, H),$$

where H is a Hilbert space.

Example

Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an n -dimensional (locally trivial) complex vector bundle over a compact Hausdorff space. Then \mathcal{E} becomes an (F) Hilbert bundle if one chooses a Riemannian metric on \mathcal{E} . Furthermore, if $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_1$ and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2$ are two Riemannian metrics on \mathcal{E} , then the formal identity map $\text{id} : (\mathcal{E}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_1) \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$ defines an isomorphism of (F) Hilbert bundles. If we make a polar decomposition $\text{id} = UP$, where P is positive and U is unitary, then U provides a strong Hilbert bundle map between these two bundles. Hence, an (F) Hilbert bundle structure on a vector bundle is essentially unique.

If $\mathcal{E} = (p, E, X)$ is an (F) Hilbert bundle and $Y \subseteq X$ then we denote by

$$\mathcal{E}|_Y := (p|_{p^{-1}(Y)}, p^{-1}(Y), Y)$$

the **restriction** of \mathcal{E} to Y .

We say that $\mathcal{E} = (p, E, X)$ is

- **trivial** if $\mathcal{E} \cong \epsilon(X, H)$ for some Hilbert space H ;
- **locally trivial** if there exists a Hilbert space H and an open cover \mathcal{U} of X such that for each $U \in \mathcal{U}$ we have $\mathcal{E}|_U \cong \epsilon(U, H)$.
- If in addition X admits a finite open cover over which \mathcal{E} is locally trivial, we say that \mathcal{E} is of **finite type**.

If all fibres of an (F) Hilbert bundle \mathcal{E} have the same finite dimension n , then we say that \mathcal{E} is **n -homogeneous**.

The next fact is an easy consequence of the continuity of the operations, and a pointwise application of the Gram-Schmidt orthonormalization process.

Proposition

If \mathcal{E} is an n -homogeneous (F) Hilbert bundle, then \mathcal{E} is locally trivial. In particular, if the base space X of \mathcal{E} is compact, then \mathcal{E} is of finite type.

Remark

Hence, the category of n -homogeneous (F) Hilbert bundles over compact Hausdorff spaces is equivalent to the category of n -dimensional (locally trivial) complex vector bundles.

If all fibres of an (F) Hilbert bundle \mathcal{E} are finite dimensional with

$$n := \sup_{x \in X} \dim E_x < \infty,$$

then we say that \mathcal{E} is **n -subhomogeneous**. In this case every restriction bundle of \mathcal{E} over a set where $\dim E_x$ is constant is locally trivial, by the previous Proposition. If in addition every such restriction bundle is of finite type, then we say that \mathcal{E} is **n -subhomogeneous of finite type**.

By a **section** of an (F) Hilbert bundle $\mathcal{E} = (p, E, X)$ we mean a map $s : X \rightarrow E$ such that

$$p(s(x)) = x \quad (x \in X).$$

By $\Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ we denote the set of all continuous sections of \mathcal{E} .

If X is compact, then $\Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ becomes a Hilbert $C(X)$ -module with respect to the action

$$(\varphi s)(x) := \varphi(x)s(x)$$

and inner product

$$\langle s, u \rangle(x) := \langle s(x), u(x) \rangle_x,$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_x$ denotes the inner product on fibre E_x .

At the end of this introductory, let us briefly describe how for a given Hilbert $C(X)$ -module V (X is a compact Hausdorff space) one constructs a canonical Hilbert bundle \mathcal{E}_V .

- For $x \in X$ let I_x be the maximal ideal of $C(X)$ consisting of all functions which vanish at x , and put

$$J_x := I_x V = \{\varphi v : \varphi \in I_x, v \in V\}.$$

Then J_x is a closed submodule of V , by the Hewitt-Cohen factorization theorem.

- Set $E_x := V/J_x$, let $\pi_x : V \rightarrow E_x$ be the quotient map, let

$$E := \bigsqcup_{x \in X} E_x,$$

and let $p : E \rightarrow X$ be the canonical projection.

- Since for each $v \in V$ and $x \in X$ we have $\|\pi_x(v)\| = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle(x)}$, the function $X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, $x \mapsto \|\pi_x(v)\|$ is continuous.
- Hence, by Fell's theorem, there exists a unique topology on E for which $\mathcal{E}_V := (p, E, X)$ becomes an (F) Hilbert bundle. We say that \mathcal{E}_V is the **canonical (F) Hilbert bundle associated to V** .

Now we can define the **generalized Gelfand transform** $\Gamma_V : V \rightarrow \Gamma(\mathcal{E}_V)$, which sends $v \in V$ to $\hat{v} \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}_V)$, where

$$\hat{v}(x) := v(x) := \pi_x(v) \quad (x \in X).$$

Theorem

Γ_V is an isometric $C(X)$ -linear isomorphism between Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules V and $\Gamma(\mathcal{E}_V)$.

The next theorem is just a Hilbert module version of the celebrated Serre-Swan theorem.

Theorem

Let V be a Hilbert $C(X)$ -module, where X is a compact Hausdorff space, and let $\mathcal{E} := \mathcal{E}_V$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) V is a.f.g.;
- (ii) V is a.f.g. and projective;
- (iii) there exists a finite clopen partition $X = X_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup X_k$ such that each restriction bundle $\mathcal{E}|_{X_i}$ is homogeneous.

Proof.

(i) \Rightarrow (ii). Every a.f.g. Hilbert module over a unital (not necessarily commutative) C^* -algebra A is automatically projective. This is a consequence of the Kasparov stabilization theorem, which says that if W is a c.g. Hilbert A -module, then $E \oplus \mathcal{H}_A \cong \mathcal{H}_A$, where \mathcal{H}_A is a standard Hilbert A -module.

Proof (continued).

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii). We may assume that

$$V = PC(X)^n \quad (n \in \mathbb{N})$$

for some $(C(X)$ -linear self-adjoint) projection

$P \in \mathbb{B}(C(X)^n) = M_n(C(X))$. Then $E_x = P(x)\ell_2^n$ for all $x \in X$. Since $\text{rank}(P(x)) = \text{trace}(P(x))$, the dimension function

$$\dim : X \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, n\}, \quad x \mapsto \dim E_x = \text{rank}(P(x))$$

is continuous. If $0 \leq n_1 < \dots < n_k \leq n$ are its values, put

$$X_i := \{x \in X : \dim E_x = n_i\}.$$

Then $X = X_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup X_k$ is a desired clopen partition of X .

(iii) \Rightarrow (i). This is easy. □

The main difference between a.f.g. and t.f.g. Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules is the fact that t.f.g. Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules are not generally projective. Hence, the dimension of the fibres of the canonical (F) Hilbert bundle may vary, even if X is connected.

Example

let X be the unit interval $[0, 1]$ and let $V := C_0((0, 1])$. Then V becomes a Hilbert $C([0, 1])$ -module with respect to the standard action and inner product $\langle f, g \rangle = f^*g$. Note that V is topologically singly generated (for instance, the identity function $f(x) = x$ is such generator, by the Weierstrass approximation theorem). On the other hand, each fibre E_x of \mathcal{E}_V is one-dimensional, except E_0 , which is zero.

However, this phenomenon is in fact the only major difference between the classes of a.f.g. and t.f.g. Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules, at least when X is metrizable.

Theorem (G. 2011)

Let X be a compact metrizable space and let V be a Hilbert $C(X)$ -module with the canonical (F) Hilbert bundle \mathcal{E}_V . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) V is t.f.g.;
- (ii) \mathcal{E}_V is subhomogeneous of finite type.

The proof of the theorem relies on the next two facts:

Lemma

Let \mathcal{E} be an (F) Hilbert bundle over a compact metrizable space X . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) \mathcal{E} is subhomogeneous of finite type;
- (ii) There exists a finite number of sections $s_1, \dots, s_m \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ which satisfy

$$\text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{s_1(x), \dots, s_m(x)\} = E_x$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proposition

Let \mathcal{E} be an (F) Banach bundle over a compact space X . A $C(X)$ -submodule $W \subseteq \Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ is dense in $\Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ if and only if for each $x \in X$,

$$\{s(x) : s \in W\}$$

is dense in E_x .

Proof of theorem.

Let $\mathcal{E} := \mathcal{E}_V$. We identify V with $\Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ using the generalized Gelfand transform.

(i) \Rightarrow (ii). Let $s_1, \dots, s_m \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ be sections whose $C(X)$ -linear span is dense in $\Gamma(\mathcal{E})$. Obviously,

$$W_x := \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{s_1(x), \dots, s_m(x)\}$$

is dense in E_x for each $x \in X$. Since obviously $\dim W_x < \infty$, we conclude that $W_x = E_x$ for each $x \in X$. Now we apply our lemma.

Proof of theorem (continued).

(ii) \Rightarrow (i). By lemma, there exist $s_1, \dots, s_m \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E})$ which satisfy

$$\text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{s_1(x), \dots, s_m(x)\} = E_x$$

for all $x \in X$. The claim now follows from proposition. □

Now we shall present another characterizations of t.f.g. Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules.

First recall that if X is a locally compact Hausdorff space and if V and W are (left) Banach $C_0(X)$ -modules, then the $C_0(X)$ -**projective tensor product** $V \overset{\pi}{\otimes}_{C_0(X)} W$ of V and W is by definition the quotient of the (completed) projective tensor product $V \overset{\pi}{\otimes} W$ by the closure of the linear span of tensors of the form

$$\varphi v \otimes w - v \otimes \varphi w,$$

where $v \in V$, $w \in W$ and $\varphi \in C_0(X)$. For $t \in V \overset{\pi}{\otimes} W$, by t_X we denote the canonical image of t in $V \overset{\pi}{\otimes}_{C_0(X)} W$.

Definition

Let V be a non-degenerate Banach $C_0(X)$ -module, where X is a locally compact Hausdorff space.

- (i) If W is another Banach $C_0(X)$ -module, then for $t \in V \otimes_{C_0(X)}^{\pi} W$ we define a $C_0(X)$ -**projective rank** of t , denoted by $\text{rank}_X^{\pi}(t)$, as the smallest nonnegative integer k for which there exists a rank k tensor $u \in V \otimes W$ such that $t_X = u_X$ in $V \otimes_{C_0(X)}^{\pi} W$. If such k does not exist, we define $\text{rank}_X^{\pi}(t) := \infty$.
- (ii) If there exists $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for every Banach $C_0(X)$ -module W , and every tensor $t \in V \otimes_{C_0(X)}^{\pi} W$ we have $\text{rank}_X^{\pi}(t) \leq K$, then we say that V is of **finite $C_0(X)$ -projective rank**. The smallest number K with this property is denoted by $\text{rank}_X^{\pi}(V)$. If such K does not exist, we define $\text{rank}_X^{\pi}(V) := \infty$.

Here is a sufficient condition for V to be of finite $C_0(X)$ -projective rank.

Proposition

Let V be a non-degenerate Banach $C_0(X)$ -module, where X is a locally compact Hausdorff space. Let us say that V satisfies the **condition (P)** if there exists $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for every sequence $(a_i) \in \ell^1(V)$ there exist $k \leq K$, elements $v_1, \dots, v_k \in V$ and sequences $(\varphi_{i,1})_i, \dots, (\varphi_{i,k})_i \in \ell^1(C_0(X))$ such that

$$a_i = \sum_{j=1}^k \varphi_{i,j} v_j$$

for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$. If V satisfies (P), then $\text{rank}_X^\pi(V) \leq K$.

Remark

Note that the condition (P) in particular implies that V is **weakly algebraically finitely generated**, in a sense that every a.f.g. submodule of V can be generated by $k \leq K$ generators.

Now we are ready to state the final result.

Theorem (G. 2011)

Let V be Hilbert $C(X)$ -module, where X is a compact metrizable space. The following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) V is t.f.g.;
- (ii) V satisfies the condition (P);
- (iii) V is of finite $C(X)$ -projective rank;
- (iv) V is weakly a.f.g.

Remark

Our proof of the above theorem essentially relies on sectional representation $V = \Gamma(\mathcal{E}_V)$.

- We can also try to generalize obtained results for a larger class of Banach $C(X)$ -modules.
- One can similarly define a notion of an (F) and (H) Banach bundle.
- If M a Banach $C(X)$ -module, one can also similarly construct the canonical Banach bundle \mathcal{E}_M . However, \mathcal{E}_M is only an (H) bundle in general, and the generalized Gelfand transform $\Gamma_M : M \rightarrow \Gamma(\mathcal{E}_M)$ fails to be isometric.

If M is a Banach $C(X)$ -module one can of course look for conditions which might guarantee that Γ_M is isometric. This was solved by K. Hofmann in 1974.

Definition

Let M be a Banach $C(X)$ -module. We say that M is $C(X)$ -**locally convex** if for any pair $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in C(X)_+$ with $\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 = 1$ and $s_1, s_2 \in M$, we have

$$\|\varphi_1 s_1 + \varphi_2 s_2\| \leq \max\{\|s_1\|, \|s_2\|\}.$$

Theorem

If M is a Banach $C(X)$ -module, then Γ_M is an isometric isomorphism from M onto $\Gamma(\mathcal{E}_M)$ if and only if M is $C(X)$ -locally convex.

Example

Suppose that A is a unital Banach algebra with the center Z . If C is a C^* -subalgebra of Z , then A can be viewed as a Banach C -module, under the natural action. If in addition A is a C^* -algebra, then using the Dauns-Hofmann it is easy to see that A is C -locally convex. In particular, $A = \Gamma(\mathcal{E}_A)$, where \mathcal{E}_A is the canonical bundle of A over $\text{Max}(Z)$.

We have a similar characterization of a.f.g. C^* -algebras over Z :

Theorem (G. 2011)

Let A be a unital C^* -algebra and let X be the spectrum of Z .

- A as a Banach Z -module if a.f.g.;
- A is necessarily unital, \mathcal{E}_A is an (F) bundle, and there exists a finite clopen partition $X = X_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup X_k$ such that every fibre of each restriction bundle $\mathcal{E}|_{X_i}$ is $*$ -isomorphic to some fix matrix algebra $M_{n_i}(\mathbb{C})$.

In particular, every a.f.g. C^* -algebra over Z is projective over Z .

Remark

One can briefly say that A is a.f.g. over Z if and only if A is a finite direct sum of unital homogeneous C^* -algebras.

As we saw, the canonical bundle \mathcal{E}_A of an a.f.g. C^* -algebra over Z is automatically an (F) bundle. However, this is not true in general for t.f.g. C^* -algebras over Z .

Example

Let $B := C([0, 1], M_2(\mathbb{C})) = M_2(C([0, 1]))$ and let A be a C^* -subalgebra of B consisting of all functions $f \in B$ such that

$$f(0) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda(f) & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda(f) \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad f(1) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda(f) & 0 \\ 0 & \mu(f) \end{bmatrix},$$

for some complex numbers $\lambda(a)$ and $\mu(a)$. One easily checks that matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sin(\pi x) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sin(\pi x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \sin(\pi x) & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sin(\pi x) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2\pi x) & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\pi x) \end{bmatrix}$$

Example (continued)

generate a dense Z -submodule of A . On the other hand, note that the spectrum of Z can be identified with \mathbb{T} . Hence, the canonical bundle of A over \mathbb{T} is not an (F) bundle, since the quotient map $[0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ is not open.

However, under the assumption that \mathcal{E}_A is an (F) bundle we have the following result for t.f.g. C^* -algebras over Z , at least for separable ones:

Theorem (G. 2011)

Assume that A is a unital separable C^* -algebra. If \mathcal{E}_A is an (F) bundle, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) A is t.f.g. over Z ,
- (ii) Fibres E_x of \mathcal{E}_A have uniformly finite dimensions, and each restriction bundle of \mathcal{E}_A over a set where $\dim E_x$ is constant is of finite type (as a vector bundle).
- (iii) V satisfies the condition (P) over Z ;
- (iv) A is of finite Z -projective rank;
- (v) A is weakly a.f.g over Z .

Question

- Are the conditions (i), (iii), (iv) and (v) also equivalent without the assumption that \mathcal{E}_A is an (F) bundle?
- More generally, are these conditions also equivalent for all $C(X)$ -locally convex Banach modules?

Remark

Unlike a.f.g. Hilbert $C(X)$ -modules, a.f.g. $C(X)$ -locally convex Banach modules are not generally projective. For example, a C^* -algebra $A := C([0, 1])$ is a.f.g. as a module over $C(\mathbb{T})$, with respect to the action

$$(\varphi f)(x) := \varphi(e^{2\pi i x})f(x).$$

On the other hand, A is clearly not projective over $C(\mathbb{T})$.

However, if we assume the continuity of \mathcal{E}_M from the start, we can state the following question:

Question

Suppose that M is an a.f.g. $C(X)$ -locally convex Banach module such that \mathcal{E}_M is an (F) bundle. Is M necessarily projective? In particular, is a dimension function $x \mapsto \dim E_x$ necessarily continuous?