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Pullback of a smooth vector bundle on a smooth manifold

Definition. Pullback of a smooth vector bundle on a smooth manifold

Let $E \rightarrow M$ be a smooth vector bundle and $g : N \rightarrow M$ a smooth map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & & \\ \downarrow \pi_E & & \\ N & \xrightarrow{g} & M \end{array}$$

Then the **pullback bundle** (pullback of E with g) is

$$g^*E := \{(x, v) \in N \times E | g(x) = \pi(v)\}$$

with $g^*E \rightarrow N$ as the projection onto the second factor and $g^*E \rightarrow E$ as projection onto the second factor such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f^*E & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_E \\ N & \xrightarrow{g} & M \end{array}$$

commutes.

Given any local frame of E

$$(\hat{\alpha}_i) : U_\alpha \rightarrow E$$

we have a local frame for g^*E

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f^*E & \longrightarrow & E \\ \uparrow \hat{\alpha}_i \circ g & & \uparrow (\hat{\alpha}_i) \\ g^{-1}(U) & \xrightarrow{g} & U_\alpha \end{array}$$

Definition. Pullback of a connection on vector bundle

Let $E \rightarrow M$ be a smooth vector bundle with connection ∇ and $g : N \rightarrow M$ a smooth map. Then on the pullback bundle $N \rightarrow g^*E$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f^*E & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_E \\ N & \xrightarrow{g} & M \end{array}$$

the **pullback connection** $g^*\nabla$ is the *unique connection* on g^*E such that for any section $s \in \Gamma E$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f^*E & & E \\ \uparrow g^*s & & \uparrow s \\ N & \xrightarrow{g} & M \end{array}$$

and $X \in TN$ we have

$$(g^*\nabla)_X(g^*s) = g^*(\nabla_{g_*X}(s))$$

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