

# Rank Constrained Homotopies

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# Notation and Statement of the Main Theorem

## Notation

- $X$ : Compact Hausdorff space of finite covering dimension.
- $(M_n)_+$ : non-negative definite  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{C}$
- $S(n, k, l) = \{b \in (M_n)_+ \mid l \leq \text{rank}(b) \leq k\}$
- $F(X, S(n, k, l)) = \{f: X \rightarrow S(n, k, l) : f \text{ is continuous}\}$

## Theorem

*For any  $n, k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $\lfloor \frac{\dim X}{2} \rfloor \leq k - l$ , then  $F(X, S(n, k, l))$  is path connected. In particular,  $\forall n, k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\pi_r(S(n, k, l)) = 0$ , whenever  $r \leq 2(k - l) + 1$ .*

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# Motivation

- Homotopy properties of the space  $S(n, k, l)$  has applications in  $C^*$ -algebra theory.
- Let  $A$  be a unital  $C^*$ -algebra with  $T(A) \neq \emptyset$ , where  $T(A)$  is the tracial state space of  $A$ .
- Any  $a \in A_+$ , induce a lower semi-continuous affine function  $\iota_a$  on  $T(A)$ , given by,

$$\iota_a(\tau) = \lim_n (\tau(a^{1/n}))$$

- If  $K$  denote the compacts on a separable Hilbert space,  $\iota_a$  extends to  $(A \otimes K)_+$  in a natural way.

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- Question ?  
For a unital, simple  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ , is it possible to approximate strictly positive continuous affine functions  $(\text{Aff}(T(A))_{++})$  by functions of the form  $\iota_a$ ,  $a \in (A \otimes K)_+$  ?
- (Andrew Toms, 2009), For (unital, simple) *ASH* algebras with slow dimension growth, the question has a positive answer.
- Following is a key proposition in the proof of the above.

## Lemma (Toms)

*For any  $n, k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $4\dim X \leq k - l$ , then  $F(X, S(n, k, l))$  is path connected.*

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# Recap from Vector bundle theory

Recall...

- A (complex) vector bundle over  $X$  is a triple  $(E, p, X)$ , where  $E$  is a topological space,  $p: E \rightarrow X$  is a continuous map with each fiber  $p^{-1}(x) = E_x$  admitting a  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector space structure.
- Let  $\theta^k(X) = (X \times \mathbb{C}^k, \pi, X)$ , where  $\pi$  is the projection onto  $X$ .  $\theta^k$  is called the  $k$ -dimensional product bundle.
- $\alpha = (E, p, X)$  is called trivial if  $\alpha \cong \theta^k(X)$  for some  $k$ .

Definition

$\alpha = (E, p, X)$  is locally trivial if  $X$  has an open covering  $\{U_\lambda\}$  such that  $\alpha|_{U_\lambda} \cong \theta^k(U_\lambda)$  for each  $\lambda$ .

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# Stability properties of locally trivial bundles

- Let  $\mathbf{Bun}_k(X)$  denote the category of all locally trivial (Complex) vector bundles over  $X$ , of dimension  $k$ .

## Theorem

*Let  $X$  be a (para) compact, Hausdorff and finite dimensional topological space.*

- *If  $\alpha \in \mathbf{Bun}_k(X)$ , then there is a trivial vector bundle  $\delta$  over  $X$  with  $\dim \delta \geq k - \lfloor \frac{\dim X}{2} \rfloor$ , such that  $\delta$  is a direct summand of  $\alpha$ , i.e.  $\alpha = \delta \oplus \eta$ , for some bundle  $\eta$ .*
- *Let  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{Bun}_k(X)$ . If  $k \geq \frac{\dim X}{2}$  and  $\alpha \oplus \gamma \cong \beta \oplus \gamma$  for some bundle  $\gamma$  over  $X$ , then  $\alpha \cong \beta$ .*

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# Projections and Vector Bundles

- Given a projection  $p \in M_n(\mathcal{C}(X))$ , there is an associated vector bundle  $\epsilon(p) = (E_p, \pi, X)$ , with

$$E(p) = \{(x, v) : x \in X, v \in p(x)(\mathbb{C}^n)\} \subset X \times \mathbb{C}^n.$$

- Moreover, every locally trivial vector bundle over  $X$  can be realized in the above form [R. G. Swan, 1961].
- That is, fixed  $n \geq k + \frac{\dim X}{2}$ , for each  $\alpha \in \mathbf{Bun}_k(X)$  there is a projection  $p_\alpha \in M_n(\mathcal{C}(X))$  such that  $\epsilon(p_\alpha) \cong \alpha$ .
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- Given  $a, b \in F(X, S(n, k, l))$  with  $k - l \geq \lfloor \frac{\dim X}{2} \rfloor$ , need to show that  $\exists h: [0, 1] \rightarrow F(X, S(n, k, l))$  with  $h(0) = a$ ,  $h(1) = b$ .

### Lemma (A)

If  $k - l \geq \lfloor \frac{\dim X}{2} \rfloor$ , then  $\forall a \in F(X, S(n, k, l))$ ,  $\exists p \in M_n(\mathbb{C}(X))$  a trivial projection of rank  $l$  such that

$$\dim[(p(x) + a(x))(\mathbb{C}^n)] \leq k, \forall x \in X$$

### Lemma (B)

Suppose  $n \geq l + \frac{\dim X}{2}$  and let  $p, q \in M_n(\mathbb{C}(X))$  be trivial projections of rank  $l$ . Then  $\exists h: [0, 1] \rightarrow \text{Proj}(M_n(\mathbb{C}(X)))$  with  $h(0) = p$  and  $h(1) = q$ .

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## Idea of the proof of Lemma A

- Given  $a \in F(X, S(n, k, l))$  there associates a vector bundle  $\epsilon(a) = (E(a), p, X)$ . Here,

$$E(a) = \{(x, v) : x \in X, v \in a(x)(\mathbb{C}^n)\} \subset X \times \mathbb{C}^n$$

and  $p$  is the restriction of canonical projection of  $X \times \mathbb{C}^n$  onto  $X$ , to  $E(a)$ . The bundle  $\epsilon(a)$  is not necessarily locally trivial.

- However, we can partition  $X$  so that the restriction  $\epsilon(a)$  to each set in the partition is a locally trivial bundle.
- Then, to get the trivial projection given in the conclusion of Lemma A, we apply stability properties of locally trivial bundles discussed before, to restricted bundles.
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## Idea of the proof of Lemma A

- Let  $a \in F(X, S(n, k, l))$  and suppose the rank values of  $a$  are  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_L$ . For simplicity let  $\epsilon = \epsilon(a)$ .
- For  $1 \leq i \leq L$ , set  $E_i = \{x \in X : \text{rank } a(x) = n_i\}$ . Then  $\epsilon|_{E_i}$  is locally trivial. The support projection of  $a|_{E_i}$  is continuous and  $\epsilon|_{E_i}$  is the bundle corresponding to this projection.

### Definition (Toms)

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  - Lemma holds when  $X$  is a CW-complex. (Is a consequence of the homotopy classification theorem for bundles over CW-complexes.)
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# Continuity of path connectedness of $F(X, (S(n, k, l)))$

## Theorem

*Suppose for each finite simplicial complex  $Z$  with  $\dim Z \leq d$ , the function space  $F(Z, S(n, k, l))$  is path connected. Then  $F(X, S(n, k, l))$  is path connected for any compact Hausdorff space  $X$  with  $\dim X \leq d$ .*

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*If  $\pi_r(S(n, k, l)) = 0$  for each  $r \leq d$  then,  $F(X, S(n, k, l))$  is path connected for any compact Hausdorff space  $X$  with  $\dim X \leq d$ .*

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Thank you!

## Some required definitions and results...

### Theorem (Chris Phillips)

*Let  $X$  be a compact, Hausdorff space of dimension  $d$ , and let  $Y \subset X$  be closed. Let  $p, q \in M_n(\mathcal{C}(X))$  be projections with the property that  $\text{rank}(q(x)) + \lfloor \frac{d}{2} \rfloor \leq \text{rank}(p(x)), \forall x \in X$ . Let  $s_0 \in M_n(\mathcal{C}(Y))$  be such that  $s_0^* s_0 = q|_Y$  and  $s_0 s_0^* \leq p|_Y$ . It follows that there is  $s \in M_n(\mathcal{C}(X))$  such that  $s^* s = q$ ,  $ss^* \leq p$ , and  $s_0 = s|_Y$ .*

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*Any trivial projection  $q \in M_n(\mathcal{C}(Y))$  with  $\text{rank}(q) \leq n - \lfloor \frac{d}{2} \rfloor$ , extends to a trivial projection in  $M_n(\mathcal{C}(X))$ .*

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### Corollary (2, Andrew Toms)

Let  $q \in M_n(\mathbb{C}(X))$  and  $F_1, \dots, F_k$  be a closed cover of  $X$ .  
 $\forall 1 \leq i \leq k$ , let  $p_i \in \text{Proj}(M_n(\mathbb{C}(F_i)))$  of constant rank  $n_i$ .  
 Assume  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_k$  and  $p_i(x) \leq p_j(x), \forall i \leq j, x \in F_i \cap F_j$ .  
 Say  $n_i - \text{rank}(q) \geq \lfloor \frac{d}{2} \rfloor, \forall 1 \leq i \leq k$ . The following hold.  
 If  $Y \subset X$  is closed,  $q|_Y$  is trivial and,

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then  $q|_Y$  extends to trivial a projection  $\tilde{q}$  on  $X$  with,

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- For each  $1 \leq i \leq L$ , let  $p_i^{(1)}(x) = p_i(x) - q_1(x), \forall x \in F_i$ .  
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- Now,  $Q_2 = q_1 \oplus q_2 \in M_n(\mathbb{C}(X))$  is a trivial projection with

$$\text{rank}(Q_2) = n_1 - \left\lfloor \frac{d}{2} \right\rfloor + (n_2 - n_1) = n_2 - \left\lfloor \frac{d}{2} \right\rfloor$$

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- $V_k(\mathbb{C}^n) = \{(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k) : v_i \in \mathbb{C}^n \text{ and } \langle v_i | v_j \rangle = \delta_{i,j}\}$ .
- The complex Grassmann variety,  $G_k(\mathbb{C}^n)$ , is given by

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where  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k) \sim (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k)$  iff the two  $k$ -tuples span the same subspace in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

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## Theorem (Homotopy Classification of Vector bundles)

*The function that maps each homotopy class  $[f] : X \rightarrow G_k(\mathbb{C}^\infty)$  to the isomorphism class of  $f^*(\gamma_k)$ , is a bijection.*

- If  $X$  is a finite CW-complex, then  $G_k(\mathbb{C}^\infty)$ ,  $\gamma_k$  of the above theorem can be replaced by  $G_k(\mathbb{C}^n)$ ,  $\gamma_k^n$ , provided  
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- $f^*(\alpha)$  is called the pullback of  $\alpha$  to  $Y$  via  $f$ .

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*The function that maps each homotopy class  $[f] : X \rightarrow G_k(\mathbb{C}^\infty)$  to the isomorphism class of  $f^*(\gamma_k)$ , is a bijection.*

- If  $X$  is a finite CW-complex, then  $G_k(\mathbb{C}^\infty)$ ,  $\gamma_k$  of the above theorem can be replaced by  $G_k(\mathbb{C}^n)$ ,  $\gamma_k^n$ , provided  
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# Homotopy Classification of Vector bundles

- Let  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  be a continuous and  $\alpha = (E, p, X)$
- Let  $f^*(\alpha) = (E(f^*(\alpha)), \pi, Y)$ , with

$$E(f^*(\alpha)) = \{(w, y) \in E \times Y : f(y) = p(w)\}$$

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