HILBERT NORMS FOR GRADED ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. This paper presents a solution to a problem from superanalysis about the existence of Hilbert-Banach superalgebras. Two main results are derived:

- 1) There exist Hilbert norms on some graded algebras (infinite-dimensional superalgebras included) with respect to which the multiplication is continuous.
- 2) Such norms cannot be chosen to be submultiplicative and equal to one on the unit of the algebra.

1. INTRODUCTION

The type of norms investigated in this article are generalizations of norms used for the symmetric tensor algebra in the white noise analysis [HKPS93], [KS93] or in the Malliavin calculus [Wat84]. But now more general algebras are included, especially the algebra of antisymmetric tensors (Grassmann algebra) and $\mathbf{Z}_2$ -graded algebras (superalgebras) related to supersymmetry and to quantum probability [Mey93].

A locally convex commutative superalgebra is a $\mathbf{Z}_2$ -graded locally convex space $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \oplus \mathcal{E}_1$ equipped with an associative continuous multiplication having the following property: for any $a, b \in \mathcal{E}_0 \cup \mathcal{E}_1$, $ab \neq 0$ the product satisfies $ab = (-1)^{p(a)p(b)}ba$ with the parity function p , which is defined on $(\mathcal{E}_0 \cup \mathcal{E}_1) \setminus \{0\}$ with $p(\mathcal{E}_0 \setminus \{0\}) = 0$, $p(\mathcal{E}_1 \setminus \{0\}) = 1$, and $p(ab) = |p(a) - p(b)|$. Typical examples are Grassmann algebras with finite or countable sets of generators. In superanalysis one considers modules over (commutative) superalgebras [Rog80], [JP81], [DeW84], [VV85], [Rog86], [Ber87], [SS88], [Khr88].¹ It is quite easy to define an infinite-dimensional Grassmann algebra with a non-Hilbertian norm [Rog80]. But for a long time it was unknown whether the topology of a locally convex superalgebra—including the Grassmann algebra—can be defined with a Hilbert norm, and moreover, whether this norm can be chosen to be simultaneously submultiplicative and equal to one at the unit of the algebra. The paper gives a complete solution to these problems. Our theorems imply a positive answer to the first question and a negative answer to the second question.

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¹In the pioneering works of Martin [Mar59] and of Berezin [Ber66] the Grassmann algebra itself has been used instead of these modules.

2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Let $\mathcal{A}$ be an algebra over the field $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{R}$ or $\mathbf{C}$ with unit e_0 . The product is denoted by $a, b \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow ab \in \mathcal{A}$. We assume that $\mathcal{A}$ is provided with a positive definite inner product $a, b \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (a | b) \in \mathbf{K}$. The corresponding Hilbert norm $\|a\| = \sqrt{(a | a)} \geq 0$ is normalized at the unit $\|e_0\| = 1$. We are interested in such norms which allow a uniform estimate for the product of the algebra

$$(1) \quad \|ab\| \leq \gamma \|a\| \|b\|$$

with a constant $\gamma \geq 1$. In this section we prove under rather general conditions that this constant has the lower limit $\gamma \geq \sqrt{\frac{4}{3}}$.

Theorem 1. *Let $\mathcal{A}$ be an algebra over the field $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{R}$ or $\mathbf{C}$ with dimension $\dim \mathcal{A} \geq 2$. If this algebra satisfies the properties*

i) $\mathcal{A}$ is provided with a Hilbert inner product $(. | .)$ normalized at the unit e_0 , $\|e_0\|^2 = (e_0 | e_0) = 1$,

ii) there exists at least one element $f \in \mathcal{A}, f \neq 0$, such that e_0, f and $f^2 = ff$ satisfy $(e_0 | f) = (f | f^2) = 0$ and $(e_0 | f^2) \geq 0$,

then the norm estimate $\|ab\| \leq \gamma \|a\| \|b\|$ is not valid for some $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$, if $\gamma < \sqrt{\frac{4}{3}}$.

Proof. Since $f \neq 0$, we can normalize this element and assume $\|f\| = 1$. Take $a = e_0 + \lambda f$ with $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}$. Then $a^2 = e_0 + 2\lambda f + \lambda^2 f^2$ and $\|a^2\|^2 = 1 + 2\lambda^2 (e_0 | f^2) + 4\lambda^2 + \lambda^4 \|f^2\|^2 \geq 1 + 4\lambda^2$. On the other hand $\|a\|^2 = 1 + \lambda^2$, and $\|a^2\|^2 \leq \gamma^2 \|a\|^4$ implies $1 + 4\lambda^2 \leq \gamma^2 (1 + \lambda^2)^2$. But this inequality is true for all $\lambda \geq 0$ only if $\gamma^2 \geq \sup_{\lambda \geq 0} (1 + 4\lambda^2)(1 + \lambda^2)^{-2} = \frac{4}{3}$. $\square$

This theorem obviously applies to the tensor algebra $\mathcal{T} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{T}_n$, where $\mathcal{T}_n$ is the subspace of tensors of degree n , and the norm is defined in the standard way as

$$(2) \quad \|f\|^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} w_n \|f_n\|_n^2 \text{ if } f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n, \quad f_n \in \mathcal{T}_n,$$

with arbitrary positive weights $w_n > 0, n \in \mathbf{N}$ and $w_0 = 1$. In that case we can simply choose an element $f \in \mathcal{T}_1, f \neq 0$, to satisfy the assumptions with $(e_0 | f \otimes f) = 0$.

Theorem 1 can also be applied to a large class of algebras $\mathcal{A}$ which can be derived from the tensor algebra $\mathcal{T}$ by the following modifications of the product.

1. The product is generated by $f, g \in \mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{T}_1 \rightarrow f \circ g := f \otimes g + (-1)^\chi g \otimes f$ where $\chi = 0, 1 \bmod 2$ is a parity factor.
2. The product is generated by $f, g \in \mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{T}_1 \rightarrow f \circ g := f \otimes g + (-1)^\chi g \otimes f + \omega(f, g)e_0$. Here χ is again a parity factor and $\omega(., .) : \mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{K}$ is a bilinear pairing.

The first class of algebras includes the algebra of symmetric tensors, the algebra of antisymmetric tensors (Grassmann algebra), and tensor products of these algebras, including the $\mathbf{Z}_2$ -graded algebras (superalgebras) used in quantum field theory. The assumptions of Theorem 1 are satisfied for any non-vanishing element $f \in \mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{T}_1$.

The second class includes the Clifford product, the (symmetric) Wiener product, the antisymmetric Wiener product (with antisymmetric ω) and Le Jan's supersymmetric Wiener-Grassmann product [Jan88], [Kup90], [Mey93]. In these cases the

assumptions of Theorem 1 are satisfied if there exists a non-vanishing $f \in \mathcal{A}_1$ with $\omega(f, f) \geq 0$. Such a vector can always be found

- if the algebra is complex, or
- if the algebra is real and ω is not negative definite.

The last constraint is satisfied for the symmetric Wiener product on real spaces, and for the real Clifford system in quantum field theory [BSZ92]. In both cases the form ω is positive definite.

Moreover Theorem 1 is obviously true for any unital algebra $\mathcal{A}$, which has a nilpotent element f that is orthogonal to the unit element. If we only know that $\mathcal{A}$ has at least one nilpotent element, we can derive the weaker

Corollary 1. *Let $\mathcal{A}$ be an algebra which satisfies condition i) of Theorem 1. If this algebra has a nilpotent element f , then the norm estimate $\|ab\| \leq \|a\| \|b\|$ is not valid for some $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$.*

Proof. We assume again $\|f\| = 1$. Then $a = e_0 + \lambda f$ with $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}$ and $a^2 = (e_0 + \lambda f)^2 = e_0 + 2\lambda f$ have the norms $\|a\|^2 = 1 + 2\lambda \operatorname{Re}(e_0, f) + \lambda^2$ and $\|a^2\|^2 = 1 + 4\lambda \operatorname{Re}(e_0, f) + 4\lambda^2$. If $\operatorname{Re}(e_0, f) = 0$, we can apply the arguments given in the proof for Theorem 1. If $\operatorname{Re}(e_0, f) = \gamma \neq 0$, then we choose $\lambda = -2\gamma$, and $\|a^2\|^2 = 1 + 8\gamma^2 \leq 1 = \|a\|^4$ is a contradiction. $\square$

3. NORM ESTIMATES FOR $\mathbf{Z}$ -GRADED ALGEBRAS

In this section we present Hilbert norm estimates for rather general $\mathbf{Z}$ -graded algebras $\mathcal{A}$ over the field $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{R}$ or $\mathbf{C}$. We assume the following structure of $\mathcal{A}$.

1. The algebra is the direct sum $\mathcal{A} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{A}_n$ of orthogonal spaces $\mathcal{A}_n$. Thereby $\mathcal{A}_0$ is the one dimensional space $\mathbf{K}$ spanned by the unit e_0 of the algebra. The product $a \circ b$ maps $\mathcal{A}_p \times \mathcal{A}_q$ into $\mathcal{A}_{p+q}$ for all $p, q \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$.
2. The spaces $\mathcal{A}_n$ are provided with Hilbert norms $\|\cdot\|_n, n = 0, 1, \dots$. The unit has norm $\|e_0\|_0 = 1$. The product of two homogeneous elements $a_p \in \mathcal{A}_p$ and $b_q \in \mathcal{A}_q$ satisfies

$$(3) \quad \|a_p \circ b_q\|_{p+q} \leq \|a_p\|_p \|b_q\|_q$$

if $a_p \in \mathcal{A}_p$ and $b_q \in \mathcal{A}_q$.

3. The algebra is provided with a family of Hilbert norms

$$(4) \quad \|a\|_{(\sigma)}^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} w_n(\sigma) \|a_n\|_n^2 \text{ if } a = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n, a_n \in \mathcal{A}_n$$

with $\sigma \in \mathbf{R}$. The factors $w_n(\sigma), n = 0, 1, \dots$, are positive weights with the normalization $w_0(\sigma) = 1$ for all $\sigma \in \mathbf{R}$. The weights satisfy the inequalities $w_n(\sigma) \leq w_n(\tau)$ for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$ if $\sigma \leq \tau$.

An immediate consequence of these assumptions is $\|a\|_{(\sigma)} \leq \|a\|_{(\tau)}$ for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$ if $\sigma \leq \tau$. A simple example of such an algebra $\mathcal{A}$ is the tensor algebra $\mathcal{T}$. Its standard norm satisfies (3) with weights $w_n = 1$ for all $n = 0, 1, \dots$. More interesting examples are the algebras of symmetric tensors or of antisymmetric tensors. With the notation $f \circ g$ for both the symmetric and the antisymmetric tensor product the estimate (3) is satisfied by the norms

$$(5) \quad \|f_1 \circ f_2 \circ \dots \circ f_n\|_n^2 = \begin{cases} (n!)^{-1} \operatorname{per}(f_\mu | f_\nu) & \text{for symmetric tensors,} \\ (n!)^{-1} \det(f_\mu | f_\nu) & \text{for antisymmetric tensors,} \end{cases}$$

but it is violated if the factor $(n!)^{-1}$ is omitted. The standard norm² is defined without the factor $(n!)^{-1}$. In the notations used here it corresponds therefore to a norm (4) with a weight function $w_n = n!$.

Theorem 2. *If there exists a constant $\delta(\sigma, \tau, \rho) > 0$ such that the weight functions satisfy the inequalities*

$$(6) \quad (p+q-1)w_{p+q}(\rho) \leq \delta(\sigma, \tau; \rho)w_p(\sigma)w_q(\tau) \text{ if } p, q \geq 1$$

for values of σ, τ and ρ with $\sigma \leq \rho$ and $\tau \leq \rho$, then the product of $\mathcal{A}$ is estimated by

$$(7) \quad \|a \circ b\|_{(\rho)} \leq \gamma \cdot \|a\|_{(\sigma)} \|b\|_{(\tau)}$$

where the constant γ is $\gamma = \sqrt{3} \max(1, \delta(\sigma, \tau, \rho))$.

Proof. For $a = a_0 + a_+$ and $b = b_0 + b_+$ with $a_0, b_0 \in \mathcal{A}_0 = \mathbf{K}$ and $a_+ = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$, $b_+ = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ with $a_n, b_n \in \mathcal{A}_n$, $n \in \mathbf{N}$, the norm of $a \circ b$ is calculated by

$$\begin{aligned} \|a \circ b\|_{(\rho)}^2 &= \|a_0 b_0 + a_0 b_+ + a_+ b_0 + a_+ \circ b_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 \\ &\leq |a_0 b_0|^2 + 3 \left(|a_0|^2 \|b_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 + \|a_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 |b_0|^2 + \|a_+ \circ b_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 \right) \\ &\leq |a_0 b_0|^2 + 3 \left(|a_0|^2 \|b_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 + \|a_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 |b_0|^2 + \sum_{n \geq 1} w_n(\rho) \left\| \sum'_{p+q=n} a_p \circ b_q \right\|_n^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

The symbol $\sum'$ means summation with the constraint $p \geq 1, q \geq 1$. The sum $\sum_{p+q=n, p \geq 1, q \geq 1} \dots = \sum'_{p+q=n} \dots$ has $n-1$ terms; hence

$$\left\| \sum'_{p+q=n} a_p \circ b_q \right\|_n^2 \leq (n-1) \sum'_{p+q=n} \|a_p \circ b_q\|_n^2 \stackrel{(3)}{\leq} (n-1) \sum'_{p+q=n} \|a_p\|_p^2 \|b_q\|_q^2.$$

If $w_n(\rho)$ is chosen such that (6) is satisfied, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 1} w_n(\rho) \left\| \sum'_{p+q=n} a_p \circ b_q \right\|_n^2 \\ \leq \delta \cdot \left(\sum_{p \geq 1} w_p(\sigma) \|a_p\|_p^2 \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{q \geq 1} w_q(\tau) \|b_q\|_q^2 \right) \leq \delta \|a_+\|_{(\sigma)}^2 \|b_+\|_{(\tau)}^2. \end{aligned}$$

For $\rho \leq \sigma, \tau$ we have in addition the inequalities $\|a_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 \leq \|a_+\|_{(\sigma)}^2$ and $\|b_+\|_{(\rho)}^2 \leq \|b_+\|_{(\tau)}^2$ such that finally

$$\begin{aligned} \|a \circ b\|_{(\rho)}^2 &\leq |a_0 b_0|^2 + 3 \left(|a_0|^2 \|b_+\|_{(\tau)}^2 + \|a_+\|_{(\sigma)}^2 |b_0|^2 + \delta \|a_+\|_{(\sigma)}^2 \|b_+\|_{(\tau)}^2 \right) \\ &\leq 3\gamma \|a\|_{(\sigma)}^2 \|b\|_{(\tau)}^2, \end{aligned}$$

where γ is $\gamma = \max(1, \delta)$. □

²The “standard” inner product of the symmetric/antisymmetric tensor algebra is characterized by the following property. Let $\mathcal{F}_i, i = 1, 2$, be two orthogonal subspaces of the space $\mathcal{A}_1$. Denote by $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{F}_i)$ the subalgebra generated by elements $f \in \mathcal{F}_i$. Then $(a_1 \circ a_2 \mid b_1 \circ b_2) = (a_1 \mid b_1)(a_2 \mid b_2)$ holds for all $a_i \in \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{F}_i), i = 1, 2$.

As the first application of Theorem 2 we derive norms with respect to which the product of the algebra is continuous. In that case the inequality (6) has to be satisfied for identical weights $w_p(\sigma) = w_p(\tau) = w_p(\rho) = w_p$, $p \geq 1$. If we fix $q = 1$, then (6) implies $p \cdot w_{p+1} \leq \delta \cdot w_p \cdot w_1$ for $p \in \mathbf{N}$. As a consequence we obtain $w_p \leq \delta^{p-1} ((p-1)!)^{-1} w_1$, $p \geq 1$. The slowest decrease of the weights which might be possible according to our estimates is therefore $w_p \sim ((p-1)!)^{-1}$. The proof that such a solution actually exists follows from the simple estimate $(m+n)! \geq m!n!$ if $m, n \geq 0$. Hence $(p+q-1) \frac{1}{(p+q-1)!} = \frac{1}{(p+q-2)!} \leq \frac{1}{(p-1)!} \frac{1}{(q-1)!}$ is valid for all $p, q \geq 1$. Since

$$(8) \quad 2^{m+n} \geq \binom{m+n}{m} = \frac{(m+n)!}{m!n!} \geq m+n \text{ if } m, n \geq 1,$$

also $(p+q-1) \frac{1}{(p+q)!} < \frac{1}{(p+q-1)!} \leq \frac{1}{p!} \frac{1}{q!}$ follows for all $p, q \geq 1$. We have therefore derived

Corollary 2. *If the norm is defined with the weights $w_0 = 1$, $w_n = ((n-1)!)^{-1}$, $n \geq 1$, or with $w_0 = 1$, $w_n = (n!)^{-1}$, $n \geq 1$, the product of the algebra is continuous with the uniform norm estimate*

$$(9) \quad \|a \circ b\| \leq \sqrt{3} \|a\| \|b\|.$$

As a more general class of norms we choose weights

$$(10) \quad w_0 = 1, \quad w_n(\sigma, \rho, s) = (n!)^\sigma 2^{\rho n} (1+n)^s \text{ if } n \geq 1,$$

with real parameters σ, ρ, s . These weights satisfy the inequalities $w_n(\sigma_1, \rho_1, s_1) \leq w_n(\sigma_2, \rho_2, s_2)$ if $\sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2$, $\rho_1 \leq \rho_2$, $s_1 \leq s_2$. We denote by $\|a\|_{(\sigma, \rho, s)}$ the norm (4) defined with the weights $w_n(\sigma, \rho, s)$. The estimate (8) and the bounds $\frac{(m+n)!}{m!n!} \geq \frac{(2m)!}{(m!)^2} \geq \text{const} \cdot 2^{2m} m^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ if $n \geq m \geq 1$ and $1 \leq \frac{(1+m)(1+n)}{1+m+n} \leq 1 + \min(m, n)$ yield inequalities of the type (6) also for these norms. We obtain

$$(11) \quad (p+q-1)w_{p+q}(\sigma, \rho, s) \leq \delta w_p(\sigma', \rho', s') w_q(\sigma', \rho', s') \text{ if } p, q \geq 1$$

with a constant $\delta \geq 1$ if $\sigma = \sigma' = -1$ with $\rho = \rho' \in \mathbf{R}$ and $s = s' \leq 0$, or if $\sigma = \sigma' < -1$ with $\rho = \rho' \in \mathbf{R}$ and $s = s' \in \mathbf{R}$.

The generalizations of (9) are therefore

$$(12) \quad \|a \circ b\|_{(-1, \rho, s)} \leq \sqrt{3} \|a\|_{(-1, \rho, s)} \cdot \|b\|_{(-1, \rho, s)} \text{ if } \rho \in \mathbf{R}, s \leq 0,$$

and

$$(13) \quad \|a \circ b\|_{(\sigma, \rho, s)} \leq \gamma \|a\|_{(\sigma, \rho, s)} \cdot \|b\|_{(\sigma, \rho, s)} \text{ if } \sigma < -1, \rho \in \mathbf{R}, s \in \mathbf{R}.$$

Here γ takes some value $\gamma \geq \sqrt{3}$ depending on the choice of the parameters σ and s .

Moreover, the inequalities (11) are valid for $(\sigma, \rho, s) \neq (\sigma', \rho', s')$ if $\sigma < \sigma'$ or if $\sigma = \sigma'$ and $\rho < \rho'$. The corresponding estimates for the norms are

$$(14) \quad \|a \circ b\|_{(\sigma, \rho, s)} \leq \gamma \|a\|_{(\sigma', \rho', s')} \cdot \|b\|_{(\sigma', \rho', s')} \text{ if } \sigma < \sigma' \text{ for all } \rho, \rho', s, s' \in \mathbf{R},$$

and

$$(15) \quad \|a \circ b\|_{(\sigma, \rho, s)} \leq \gamma \|a\|_{(\sigma, \rho', s')} \cdot \|b\|_{(\sigma, \rho', s')} \text{ if } \rho < \rho' \text{ for all } \sigma, s, s' \in \mathbf{R}.$$

The value of $\gamma \geq \sqrt{3}$ depends on the choice of the parameters.

For the tensor algebra and for algebras of symmetrized tensors³ the Hilbert space $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{H}$ generates the whole algebra. Given a (self-adjoint/positive) operator A on $\mathcal{H}$, the mapping $\Gamma(A)e_0 = e_0$ and $\Gamma(A)(f_1 \circ f_2 \circ \dots \circ f_n) := (Af_1) \circ (Af_2) \circ \dots \circ (Af_n)$ for $f_\mu \in \mathcal{H}$, $\mu = 1, \dots, n$, and $n \in \mathbf{N}$, defines a unique (self-adjoint/positive) operator $\Gamma(A)$ on the algebra $\mathcal{A}$, which satisfies the relation

$$(16) \quad \Gamma(A)(a \circ b) = (\Gamma(A)a) \circ (\Gamma(A)b).$$

The norms (4) with the weights (10) are then easily generalized to

$$(17) \quad \|a\|_{(\sigma, \rho, s)}^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n!)^{\sigma} \|(\Gamma(A))^{\rho} a_n\|_n^2 (1+n)^s \text{ if } a = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n, \ a_n \in \mathcal{A}_n.$$

If A is an invertible positive operator with lower bound $A \geq 2 \cdot id$, then $\Gamma(A)$ satisfies $\|(\Gamma(A))^{-\rho} a\|_n \leq 2^{-n\rho} \|a\|_n$ for $a \in \mathcal{A}_n$ if $\rho \geq 0$. This bound and the relation (16) imply that the estimates (12), (13) and (15) are also valid for the norms (17); moreover (14) holds if $\rho \leq \rho'$.

If A^{-1} is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator, then a family of norms (17) can be used to define a nuclear topology on the algebra $\mathcal{A}$. For the symmetric tensor algebra that has been done in the white noise calculus and in the Malliavin calculus, see e.g. [AM93], [KS93], [Wat84]. For the algebra of antisymmetric tensors and for the superalgebras such nuclear topologies can be found in [Kr78] and in [HK95]. But the estimates of these references are not strong enough to derive the results with a single Hilbert norm as presented in Corollary 2 and in equations (12) and (13).

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³This class of algebras does not only include the algebra of symmetric tensors and the algebra of antisymmetric tensors (Grassmann algebra), but also the $\mathbf{Z}_2$ -graded algebras (superalgebras) used in supersymmetric quantum field theory.

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