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A cohomology theory  $E$  is particularly useful when we can understand its cocycles  $E^*(X)$  in terms of geometric objects associated to the space  $X$ . A basic example is the description of topological K-theory in terms of complex vector bundles. I will give an analogous interpretation of cocycles for  $E = K(R)$ , the algebraic K-theory of an associative ring spectrum  $R$ , in terms of bundles of  $R$ -modules over  $X$ .

The main technological development is the use of diagram spaces. Diagram spaces are a symmetric monoidal model for the category of spaces in which  $A_\infty$  spaces are strict monoids. This provides a theory of “principal  $G$ -bundles” when  $G$  is an  $A_\infty$  space. The delooping  $BG$  classifies principal  $G$ -bundles, and the description of  $K(R)$ -theory follows from the case of  $G = GL_n(R)$ . (Received September 19, 2011)