

Nontrivial Complex Equivariant Vector Bundles over S^1

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Every complex vector bundle over S^1 splits sum of line bundle and the first Chern class classify complex line bundle. This implies every complex vector bundle over S^1 is trivial. In this paper, we show the existence of some nontrivial complex vector bundle over S^1 in the equivariant case.

vector bundle line bundle Chern class line bundle
vector bundle trivial
vector bundle trivial bundle

Key words : complex vector bundle, equivariant vector bundle, Chern class, trivial vector bundle, nontrivial line bundle.

I. Nonequivariant case

1. Complex bundle case.

Every complex vector bundle over S^1 splits sum of line bundles and the first Chern class classify complex line bundle. This implies every complex vector bundle over S^1 is trivial. i.e., isomorphic to a product bundle $S^1 \times F$, for some vector space F . We can see this fact from different points of view. Since every vector

bundle is classified by classifying map and $[S^1, BU(m)] \cong \pi_1(BU(m)) = \pi_0(U(m)) = \{1\}$, it is easy to see that every vector bundle over S^1 is trivial.

2. Real bundle case.

Every real vector bundle over S^1 splits sum of line bundles and the first Stiefel-Whitney class classify real line bundle. This implies every real vector bundle over S^1 is not trivial.

We can see this fact from different points of view. Since every vector bundle is classified by classifying map and $[S^1, BO(m)] \cong \pi_1(BO(m)) = \pi_0(O(m)) = \mathbb{Z}_2 = \{ \pm 1 \}$ there are, up to isomorphism, only two vector bundles over S^1 , the trivial bundle and the twist bundle. So it is easy to see that every vector bundle over S^1 is not trivial. Especially, when $m=1$, one is a trivial line bundle and the other one is a Hopf line bundle $S^1 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow S^1$, where $\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{ \pm 1 \}$.

II. Equivariant case.

Let G be a compact Lie group and let S^1 denote the unit circle in \mathbb{R}^2 with the standard metric. Since every smooth compact Lie group action on S^1 is smoothly equivalent to a unique linear action [See 5. TH 2.0.], we may think of S^1 with a smooth G -action as $S(V)$ the unit circle of a real 2-dimensional orthogonal G -module V . In this section we consider smooth G -vector bundle over $S(V)$.

In [3], we proved

Proposition. A smooth G -line bundle $L \rightarrow S^1$ is equivariantly isomorphic to a product bundle $S(V) \times \delta \rightarrow S(V)$ or $S(V) \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \delta \rightarrow S(V)/\mathbb{Z}_2 = P(V)$ according as the G -line bundle $L \rightarrow S^1$ is trivial or not when we forget the action. Here $S(V)$ denotes the unit circle of a real 2-dimensional orthogonal G -module V , δ a real 1-dimensional G -module and \mathbb{Z}_2 acts on $S(V)$ and δ as scalar multiplication.

In [4], we obtained a similar result for a higher dimensional smooth G -vector bundle over $S(V)$ when the G -action on $S(V)$ is injective, in other words, when V is a faithful representation. In the non-equivariant case, real smooth vector bundles over S^1 are classified by the first Stiefel Whitney class. So there are, up to isomorphism, only two vector bundles over S^1 , the trivial bundle and the twist bundle. In the

equivariant case, we obtain the following results.

Theorem A. A smooth G -vector bundle over S^1 is equivariantly isomorphic to a Whitney sum of G -line bundle if the induced G -action on the base space is effective.

Theorem B. If the induced G -action on the base space is effective, then a smooth G -vector bundle $E \rightarrow S^1$ is equivariantly isomorphic to a product bundle $S(V) \times W_+ \rightarrow S(V)$ or a twist bundle $S(V) \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} (W_+ \oplus W_-) \rightarrow S(V)/\mathbb{Z}_2 = P(V)$. Here $S(V)$ denotes the unit circle of a real 2-dimensional orthogonal G -module V , W_+ and W_- is a real G -module and \mathbb{Z}_2 acts on W_+ trivially and acts on W_- and $S(V)$ as scalar multiplication.

Proof of Theorem A. Case 1. Suppose G is a subgroup of $SO(2)$. Then G is $SO(2)$ or cyclic group.

So G acts freely on the base space. In this case we can reduce our case to non-equivariant case by the bijection map $\text{Vect}_G(S^1) \rightarrow \text{Vect}(S^1/G)$ defined by $E \rightarrow E/G$

and $\xi \rightarrow \pi^* \xi$ [See 1. TH 1.6.1]

If G is $SO(2)$, $\text{Vect}(S^1/G) = \text{Vect}(\text{pt})$ which is trivial vector bundle in each dimension. So it is a Whitney sum of trivial line bundle. If G is a cyclic group, $\text{Vect}(S^1/G) = \text{Vect}(S^1)$ which is the trivial bundle or the twist bundle. The twist bundle is a sum of trivial line bundles and Hopf line bundle. By taking pullback $\pi^* \xi$ of the above bundles ξ we get a Whitney sum of G -line bundle over S^1 .

Case 2. Suppose G is not a subgroup of $SO(2)$. Then G is a Dihedral group D_n or $O(2)$. Take a normal subgroup $N = G \cap SO(2)$ of G . Then N is $SO(2)$ or a cyclic group. If N is $SO(2)$, then N acts freely on the base space. So we get a bijection map $\text{Vect}_G(S^1) \rightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{Z}_2}$

$(S1/SO(2)) = Vect\mathbb{Z}pt = \mathbb{Z}2$ -representation. Since any $\mathbb{Z}2$ -representation is a sum of one dimensional $\mathbb{Z}2$ -representation, we get a Whitney sum of G -line bundle by taking pullback of one dimensional $\mathbb{Z}2$ -representation. If N is cyclic group, we get a bijection map $VectG(S1) \rightarrow Vect\mathbb{Z}(S1/N) = Vect\mathbb{Z}(S1)$, where G acts on $S1$ by $\rho : G \rightarrow O(2)$ and any $\mathbb{Z}2$ acts on $S1$ by reflection. So it suffices to prove the following Lemma i.e., when G is $\mathbb{Z}2$. Then by taking pullback we can conclude Theorem A.

Lemma. Suppose $\mathbb{Z}2$ acts on $S1$ by reflection. A $\mathbb{Z}2$ -vector bundle E over $S1$ is isomorphic to a Whitney sum of $\mathbb{Z}2$ -line bundle.

Proof. Let $\{z_0, z_1\}$ be the fixed set of $\mathbb{Z}2$ on $S1$. Choose an eigenvector v_i at z_i and connect v_0 and v_1 by using a path to get a vector field on the upper half circle. Extend this vector field to the lower half circle by using $\mathbb{Z}2$ -action. Then we get a vector field

on $S1$. This vector field may not be continuous. But each vector generate a line whose union is a $\mathbb{Z}2$ -line bundle. So we get a $\mathbb{Z}2$ -line bundle L_1 over $S1$ which is a subbundle of E . So we can decompose E_n as follows:

$$E_n \cong E_{n-1} \oplus L_1$$

we continue the above process until we get $E_n \cong L_1 \oplus L_2 \oplus \dots \oplus L_n$

Proof of Theorem B.

By Theorem A, suppose our G -vector bundle E is a Whitney sum of trivial G -line bundle then $E \cong S(V) \times W_+$, where $W_+ = \delta_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \delta_n$ and δ_1 is a real 1-dimensional G -module. If E is a Whitney sum of twist G -line bundle, then $E \cong S(V) \times \mathbb{Z}W_-$, where $W_- = \delta_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \delta_n$ and δ_1 is a real 1-dimensional G -module and $\mathbb{Z}2$ acts on δ_1 as a scalar multiplication. In general, we obtain the following results:

$$E \cong P(V) \times W_+ \oplus S(V) \times \mathbb{Z}W_-$$

$$= S(V) \times \mathbb{Z}W_+ \oplus S(V) \times \mathbb{Z}W_-$$

$$= S(V) \times_{\mathbb{Z}2} (W_+ \oplus W_-), \text{ where } P(V) = S(V)/\mathbb{Z}2$$

III. Example of nontrivial equivariant complex line bundle.

In section I, we mentioned that every complex vector bundle over $S1$ is trivial (i.e., isomorphic to product bundle) if G is trivial. In this section we will show the existence of nontrivial G -line bundle over $S1$ by example. Let G be a compact Lie group and let V be a real 2-dimensional orthogonal G -module. We denote the representation associated with V by $\rho : G \rightarrow O(2)$ and the unit circle of V by $S(V)$. Note that effectiveness of the G -action is equivalent to the injectivity of ρ . If G is abelian, ρ is an abelian subgroup of $O(2)$; so it is contained in $SO(2)$ or isomorphic to D_1 or D_2 where D_n denotes the dihedral subgroup of $O(2)$ generated by the reflection matrix with respect to the x -axis and the rotation matrix of angle $2\pi/n$. Without loss of generality we may assume that ρ agrees with D_1 or D_2 unless it is contained in $SO(2)$.

EXAMPLE. Suppose that $\rho = D_1$. Take a complex 1-dimensional G -module M and denote the associated representation by $\mu : G \rightarrow GL(1, \mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}^*$. We define a G -action on $S1 \times \mathbb{C}$ by

$$g(z, v) = \begin{cases} (z, \mu(g)v) & \text{if } g \in \ker \rho, \\ (\bar{z}, \mu(g)\bar{z}v) & \text{if } g \notin \ker \rho, \end{cases}$$

where $(z, v) \in S1 \times \mathbb{C}$ and $S1$ denotes the unit circle of \mathbb{C} . The projection onto the first factor makes it a complex G -vector bundle over $S(V)$, which we denote by \underline{M} . One can check that the fiber representations at the two fixed points in $S(V)$ are different, in fact, they are isomorphic to M and $M \otimes \mathbb{C} \delta$, where δ

denotes the nontrivial 1-dimensional G -module with $\ker \rho$ acting trivially.

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