Mathematics > Algebraic Geometry

## Vector bundles of rank four and A_3 = D_3

## Asher Auel

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Over a scheme with 2 invertible, we show that a vector bundle of rank four has a sub or quotient line bundle if and only if the canonical symmetric bilinear form on its exterior square has a lagrangian subspace. For this, we exploit a version of "Pascal's rule" for vector bundles that provides an explicit isomorphism between the moduli functors represented by projective homogeneous bundles for reductive group schemes of type A_3 and D_3. Under additional hypotheses on the scheme (e.g. proper over a field), we show that the existence of sub or quotient line bundles of a rank four vector bundle is equivalent to the vanishing of its Witt-theoretic Euler class.

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