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Vector bundles of rank four and A_3 = D_3

Asher Auel

(Submitted on 13 Jul 2011 (v1), last revised 20 Jul 2012 (this version, v2))

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.

Comments:16 pages, final version; IMRN 2012 rns140Subjects:Algebraic Geometry (math.AG); Number Theory (math.NT)MSC classes:14L35, 11E57, 19G12, 14D20, 11E81, 14L15DOI:10.1093/imrn/rns140Cite as:arXiv:1107.2466 [math.AG]
(or arXiv:1107.2466v2 [math.AG] for this version)

Submission history

From: Asher Auel [view email] [v1] Wed, 13 Jul 2011 05:39:19 GMT (21kb) [v2] Fri, 20 Jul 2012 19:59:36 GMT (23kb)

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