

Ref Grothendieck - La théorie des classes de Chern.

- X : non-singular quasi-projective variety.
- $VBr(X) := \{ \text{vector bundle (locally free sheaf) on } X \text{ of rank } r \}$.

Lemma 1. Let $E \in VBr(X)$ and $\xi_E \in A(\mathbb{P}(E))$ associated to $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)}(1)$.

Then $A(\mathbb{P}(E))$ is a free $A(X)$ -mod on $\{ 1, \xi_E, \dots, \xi_E^{r-1} \}$

via $\pi^* : A(X) \rightarrow A(\mathbb{P}(E))$ where $\pi : \mathbb{P}(E) \rightarrow X$ is the projection.

pf: First, we prove $A(\mathbb{P}(E))$ is an $A(X)$ -mod gen. by $\{ 1, \xi_E, \dots, \xi_E^{r-1} \}$.

Let U be an affine open subset of X s.t. $E|_U \cong \mathcal{O}_U^{\oplus r}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Consider the diagram} & A(Z) & \rightarrow & A(\mathbb{P}(E)) & \rightarrow & A(U \times \mathbb{P}^r) & \rightarrow 0 \\ & \uparrow \pi^* & & \uparrow \pi^* & & \uparrow \pi^* & \\ & A(Y) & \xrightarrow{i^*} & A(X) & \xrightarrow{j^*} & A(U) & \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

By induction on $\dim(X)$ and $A(U \times \mathbb{P}^r)$ is a free $A(U)$ -mod on $\mathcal{O}(1)$,

$A(\mathbb{P}(E))$ is an $A(X)$ -mod gen. by $\{ 1, \xi_E, \dots, \xi_E^{r-1} \}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Next, consider} & A(\mathbb{P}(E)) \rightarrow A(\mathbb{P}_p(\pi^*E)) & A(\mathbb{P}_p(\pi^*E)) \rightarrow A(\mathbb{P}_p(E')) \\ \pi^* \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ 0 \rightarrow A(X) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} & A(\mathbb{P}(E)) & A(\mathbb{P}(E)) \rightarrow A(\mathbb{P}(E)) \end{array}$$

$$(\mathcal{O}(-1) \hookrightarrow \pi^*E \twoheadrightarrow E' := \pi^*E / \mathcal{O}(-1) \text{ with } \text{rk } E' = r-1)$$

By induction on r and diagram chasing, the statement holds. \square

Def (i-th Chern class) Let $E \in VBr(X)$. By Lemma 1, there are unique

$$c_i(E) \in A^i(X), \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, r \quad \text{satisfying} \quad \sum_{i=0}^r \pi^*(c_i(E) \cdot \xi_E^{r-i}) = 0, \quad c_0(E) = 1.$$

Then $c_i(E)$ is called the i -th Chern class.

$$\text{(total Chern class)} \quad c(E) := \sum_{i=0}^r c_i(E) = 1 + c_1(E) + \dots + c_r(E) \in A(X).$$

$$\text{(Chern polynomial)} \quad c_t(E) := \sum_{i=0}^r c_i(E)t^i = 1 + c_1(E)t + \dots + c_r(E)t^r \in A(X)[t].$$

~~Prop~~ Let $E \in \text{VBr}(X)$. Then we have the following properties

(a) (Normalization) If $\text{rk}(E) = 1$ i.e. $E = \mathcal{O}(D)$ for some $D \in \text{Div}(X)$, $c_t(E) = 1 + [D]t$.

(b) (Functoriality) If $f: X' \rightarrow X$ is flat, $c_t(f^*E) = f^*(c_t(E))$.

(c) (Additivity) If $0 \rightarrow E' \rightarrow E \rightarrow E'' \rightarrow 0$ is a short exact sequence of vector bundles on X , $c_t(E) = c_t(E') \cdot c_t(E'')$.

pf: (a) Use the notation in Lemma 1. Note $\pi: P(E) \xrightarrow{\sim} X$ and $\pi_* \mathcal{O}_{P(E)}(1) = \check{E}$

By definition, $\xi_E + \pi^*(c_1(E)) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1(E) = [D]$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{(b)} \text{ Let } F = f^*E. \text{ Then } & IP(F) \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} IP(E) \Rightarrow 0 = \bar{f}^* \left(\sum_{i=0}^r \pi^*(c_i(E)) \cdot \xi_E^{r-i} \right) & \\ & \begin{array}{ccc} \bar{\pi} \downarrow & \cong & \downarrow \pi \\ X' & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array} & \\ & & = \sum_{i=0}^r \bar{f}^* \pi^*(c_i(E)) \cdot \bar{f}^* \xi_E^{r-i} & \\ & & = \sum_{i=0}^r \bar{\pi}^* f^*(c_i(E)) \cdot \xi_F^{r-i} & \end{array}$$

Thus, $c_i(f^*E) = f^*(c_i(E))$. □

To prove Prop (c), we need the following two lemmas.

Lemma 2 (Splitting principle) Let $E \in \text{VBr}(X)$. Then $\exists f: X' \rightarrow X$ flat st.

(1) $f^*: A(X) \rightarrow A(X')$ injective.

(2) \exists filtration $f^*E = E_r \supset E_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset E_1 \supset E_0 = 0$ with $L_i = E_i/E_{i-1} \in \text{VBr}(X')$.

pf: Induction on r . When $r=1$, take $f = \text{id} \Rightarrow$ the statement holds.

Let $r > 1$. Consider $\bar{\pi}^*: A(X) \rightarrow A(IP(E))$ & $0 \rightarrow \bar{E}_{r-1} \rightarrow \bar{\pi}^*E \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{IP(E)}(1) \rightarrow 0$

By induction hypothesis, $\exists p: X' \rightarrow IP(E)$ st. p^* inj. & $p^*\bar{E}_{r-1} \supset E_{r-2} \supset \dots \supset 0$

Thus, set $f = \pi \circ p: X' \rightarrow X$, we have $f^* = p^* \circ \bar{\pi}^*$ inj. &

$$f^*E = p^* \bar{\pi}^*E \supset p^*E_{r-1} \supset E_{r-2} \supset \dots \supset 0.$$

Note if we have a filtration $E = E_r \supset E_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset E_1 \supset E_0 = 0$ with $L_i = E_i/E_{i-1} \in \text{VBr}(X)$,

then $\check{E} = E_r \supset E_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset E_1 \supset E_0 = 0$ with $L_i = E_i/E_{i-1} = \check{L}_i$.

$$(E = E_r/0 \rightarrow E_r/E_1 \rightarrow E_r/E_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow E_r/E_r = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \check{E} = (E_r/0) \supset E_{r-1} := (E_r/E_1) \supset \dots \supset E_0 := 0 \text{ and } E_i/E_{i-1} = \check{L}_i) \quad \square$$

rmk Lemma 2 works for a finite set of vector bundles.

Lemma 3 Let $E = E_r \supset E_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset E_1 \supset E_0 = 0$ a filtration with $L_i = E_i/E_{i-1} \in \text{VB}_1(X)$.

Let $s \in \mathcal{P}(E)$ s.t. $Y_i := \{x \in X \mid s(x) \in E_{i-1,x} \otimes k(x)\}$: non-sing for $i = 1, \dots, r$.

$$\text{Then } \prod_{i=j}^r \xi_i = (f_j)_* (Y_j) \quad \forall 1 \leq j \leq r$$

where $f_j : Y_j \hookrightarrow X$ the closed immersion and $\xi_i \in A(\mathbb{P}(E))$ is associated to L_i .

In particular, if s is nowhere vanishing, $\prod_{i=1}^r \xi_i = 0$.

pf: Induction on j . For $j=r$, $\xi_r = [Y_r] = (f_r)_* (Y_r)$ by definition.

Let $j < r$, consider $Y_j \xrightarrow{i} Y_{j+1} \xrightarrow{f_{j+1}} X$ with $f_j = f_{j+1} \circ i$.

$$\text{Note } s|_{Y_{j+1}} \in \mathcal{P}(E_i|_{Y_{j+1}}) \Rightarrow f_{j+1}^* \xi_j = i_* Y_j.$$

$$\text{Then } \prod_{i=j}^r \xi_i = \xi_j \cdot (f_{j+1})_* (Y_{j+1}) = (f_{j+1})_* (f_{j+1}^* \xi_j \cdot Y_{j+1}) = (f_{j+1})_* i_* Y_j = (f_j)_* Y_j. \quad \square$$

Cor Suppose we have a filtration $E = E_r \supset E_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset E_1 \supset E_0 = 0$ with $L_i = E_i/E_{i-1} \in \text{VB}_1(X)$.

and $\xi_i \in A(\mathbb{P}(E))$ is associated to L_i . Then $c_*(E) = \prod_{i=1}^r c_*(L_i)$.

pf: Consider $\pi : \mathbb{P}(E) \rightarrow X$. Let $F = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)}^{(1)} \otimes \pi^* E$, $F_i = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)}^{(1)} \otimes \pi^* E_i$.

Then we have a filtration $F = F_r \supset F_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset 0$ with $L_i = F_i/F_{i-1} \hookrightarrow \xi_E + \xi_i$.

$$\text{Note } \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)}^{(-1)} \hookrightarrow \pi^* E \Rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)}^{(1)} \otimes \pi^* E = F \rightsquigarrow s \in \mathcal{P}(F).$$

We want to apply Lemma 3. Since the conditions in Lemma 3 can be checked locally,

we may assume $X = \text{Spa } A$, $E_i = A^{\oplus n-i}$. Then $\mathbb{P}(E) = \mathbb{P}_A^n = \text{Proj } A[x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}]$
 $\stackrel{S}{\cong}$

and $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(E)}^{(1)} \otimes \pi^* E$ is given by $S \hookrightarrow S^{(1) \oplus n} = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{n-1} S^{(i)}$ e:

Thus, s is $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i e_i$ and $V_i = V(x_{i-1}, \dots, x_{n-1})$: non-sing.

Then Lemma 3 $\Rightarrow 0 = \prod_{i=1}^r (\xi_i + \xi'_i)$. Note $\xi_i = \pi^* \xi'_i$.

Thus, $\pi^* c_i(E) = e_i(\xi'_1, \dots, \xi'_r) = \pi^* e_i(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_r) \Rightarrow c_t(E) = \prod_{i=1}^r c_t(L_i)$.

where e_i is the i -th elementary symmetric polynomial of r variables. \square

Return to the proof of (c) :

By Lemma 2, it suffices to show $c_t(f^*E) = c_t(f^*E') c_t(f^*E'')$

Note that if we have filtrations of f^*E' and f^*E'' with line bundles L'_i, L''_j resp.

then f^*E filters with line bundles L'_i, L''_j .

(Say $f^*E' = E_r \supset E_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset 0$ & $f^*E'' = E'_r \supset E'_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset 0$, then

$f^*E = E_r = \tilde{E}_r \supset \tilde{E}_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset \tilde{E}_1 \supset \tilde{E}_0 = E'_r \supset E'_{r-1} \supset \dots \supset 0$ where $\tilde{E}_i = \text{lifting of } E'_i$)

Thus, Cor $\Rightarrow c_t(f^*E) = \prod_i c_t(L'_i) \prod_j c_t(L''_j) = c_t(f^*E') c_t(f^*E'')$ \square

rmk The Chern class is characterized by Prop (a) ~ (c).

Examples Let $c_t(E) = \prod_{i=1}^r (1 + a_i t) \in VB_r(X)$ and $F = \prod_{j=1}^s (1 + b_j t) \in VB_s(X)$.

$$(1) \quad c_t(E \otimes F) = \prod_{i,j} (1 + (a_i + b_j)t)$$

$$(2) \quad c_t(\wedge^p E) = \prod_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_p \leq r} (1 + (a_{i_1} + \dots + a_{i_p})t)$$

$$(3) \quad c_t(\check{E}) = c_{-t}(E).$$

Def Formally, let $c_t(E) = \prod_{i=1}^r (1 + a_i t)$ for some $a_i \in A^1(X)$

(exponential Chern character) $ch(E) := \sum_{i=1}^r e^{a_i}$ where $e^x = 1 + x + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \dots$.

(Todd class) $td(E) := \prod_{i=1}^r \frac{a_i}{1 - e^{-a_i}}$ where $\frac{x}{1 - e^{-x}} = 1 + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{12}x^2 - \frac{1}{720}x^4 + \dots$

Next, we want to define the Chern class on the Grothendieck group $K(X)$.

Recall $K(X) = K_0(X) := F(VB(X)) / (E - E' - E'' \mid 0 \rightarrow E' \rightarrow E \rightarrow E'' \rightarrow 0 \text{ SES})$

(See [Hartshorne] Ex II.6.10 & Ex II.6.9)

Thus the map c_i can be extended to $K(X) \rightarrow A^i(X)$ for $i=0, \dots, r$.

Similarly, we have $ch : K(X) \rightarrow A(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$.

Def Let $f: X' \rightarrow X$ be proper. Define the additive map $f_! : K(X') \rightarrow K(X)$ by

$$f_!(E) = \sum (-1)^i R^i f_* (E).$$

Thm (G.R.R.) Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be smooth morphism between proj. var. Then, for $x \in K(X)$,

$$ch(f_!(x)) = f_* (ch(x) \cdot td(\mathcal{T}_f)) \otimes A(Y) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \text{ where } \mathcal{T}_f \text{ is the relative tangent sheaf of } f.$$

$$(ch(f_!(x)) \cdot td(\mathcal{T}_Y) = f_* (ch(x) \cdot td(\mathcal{T}_X)))$$