

\Rightarrow By the Tietze extension theorem, we can extend to \bar{V}_2 .

Continue this process, we have an extension τ on $\bigcup V_i$.

$\Rightarrow \tau|_{\bigcup V_i}$ is an extension we need.

Let's go back to our problem. We have $(k-r+1)$ everywhere linearly independent sections e_i on $\sigma_a(V)$.

For each i , by the method above, we have an extension \tilde{e}_i on an open set $V_i \supset \sigma_a(V)$. $\Rightarrow V = \bigcap V_i$ is open.

And since \tilde{e}_i 's are continuous, if necessary, by choosing smaller open set $V' \subset V$, we have $(k-r+1)$ everywhere linearly independent sections \tilde{e}_i on V' .

Refer to P8, Th 3.2. Proof. (K-theory by M. Karoubi)

Let $S' \rightarrow U$ be the trivial subbundle of $S|_U$ spanned by $\tilde{e}_1, \dots, \tilde{e}_{r+1}$, and let $S'' \rightarrow U$ be the quotient of $S|_U$ by S' . Since S' is trivial, we have $c(S') = 1$; by the Whitney formula,

$$c(S|_U) = c(S''),$$

and hence

$$c_r(S)(\sigma_a(V)) = c_r(S'')(\sigma_a(V)) = 0,$$

since S'' has rank $r-1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma \quad S|_U &\cong S'' \oplus S' \Rightarrow c(S|_U) = c(S'' \oplus S') \\ &= c(S'') c(S') = c(S''). \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_r(S)(\sigma_a(V)) = c_r(S'')(\sigma_a(V))$$

$$\text{rank } S'' + \text{rank } S' = \text{rank } S = k = \text{rank } S'' + k - r + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{rank } S'' = r-1. \Rightarrow c_r(S'') = 0 \Rightarrow c_r(S'')(\sigma_a(V)) = 0$$