

$\Rightarrow * \sigma_{1,1} \dots \sigma_{i,i} = \sigma_r$. See P 200. \Rightarrow

The Gauss-Bonnet formula gives us a relatively concrete interpretation of Chern classes in general as follows. Let M be a compact, oriented manifold, $E \rightarrow M$ a complex vector bundle of rank k , and $\sigma = (\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_k)$ k global C^∞ sections of E . We define the degeneracy set $D_i(\sigma)$ to be the set of points $x \in M$, where $\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_i$ are linearly dependent, i.e.,

$$D_i(\sigma) = \{x \mid \sigma_1(x) \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma_i(x) = 0\}.$$

We say that the collection σ of sections is generic if, for each i , σ_{i+1} intersects the subspace of E spanned by $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_i$ transversely - so that $D_{i+1}(\sigma)$ is, away from $D_i(\sigma)$, a submanifold of codimension $2(k-i)$ - and if, moreover, integration over $D_{i+1}(\sigma) - D_i(\sigma)$ defines a closed current as discussed in Section 1 of this chapter.

\square $D_i(\sigma) = \{x \mid \sigma_1(x) \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma_i(x) = 0\}$ is closed in M

Let $E_i = \{(x, v) \in E \mid M - D_i(\sigma) \mid v \text{ is a linear combination of } \sigma_1(x), \dots, \text{ and } \sigma_i(x)\}.$

\Rightarrow Consider $\sigma_{i+1} : M - D_i(\sigma) \rightarrow E \mid M - D_i(\sigma).$

$\Rightarrow \sigma_{i+1}^{-1}(E_i) = D_{i+1}(\sigma) - D_i(\sigma)$ and σ_{i+1} intersects E_i transversely, where E_i is a submanifold of $E \mid M - D_i(\sigma)$ of codimension $(k-i)$. (real codimension is $2(k-i)$.)

\Rightarrow By the well-known theorem ("sort of" implicit function theorem), $D_{i+1}(\sigma) - D_i(\sigma)$ is a submanifold of $M - D_i(\sigma)$ of real codimension $2(k-i)$. See M. Hirsch P 22, Th 3.3.3)