

ON VECTOR SUBBUNDLES OF THE VECTOR BUNDLES

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Abstract. In this paper are proved some theorems which give necessary and sufficient conditions for a real vector bundle of rank k to admit vector subbundle of rank m ($m \leq k$), or to admit m linearly independent vector fields. In the last section are considered complex vector bundles. Some ideas from the theory of complex commutative vector valued groups [2] are introduced in the complex vector bundles and two theorems are proved.

1. Introduction. Let $\xi = (E, \pi, B_n)$ be a real vector bundle of rank k . It can be considered as an associated bundle of the locally trivial principal $GL(k; \mathbb{R})$ -bundle with a bundle \mathbb{R}^k . Let $\{U_\alpha\}$ be a locally trivial cover of B_n and let $\phi_\alpha: U_\alpha \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow E_{U_\alpha} = \pi^{-1}(U_\alpha)$ be the corresponding homeomorphisms. The corresponding transition functions are

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_{\beta\alpha}: U_\alpha \cap U_\beta &\rightarrow GL(k; \mathbb{R}) \\ \phi_{\beta\alpha}(b) &= \phi_{\beta, b}^{-1} \cdot \phi_{\alpha, b}: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k.\end{aligned}$$

These functions are continuous and satisfy

$$\phi_{\beta\alpha}^{-1} = \phi_{\alpha\beta} \text{ on } U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$$

and

$$\phi_{\gamma\beta} \cdot \phi_{\beta\alpha} = \phi_{\gamma\alpha} \text{ on } U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \cap U_\gamma$$

for each indices α, β, γ for which $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \neq \emptyset$ and $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \cap U_\gamma \neq \emptyset$ respectively.

We say that the vector bundle ξ is reducible to the group $G \subseteq GL(k; \mathbb{R})$ if there exists a family of trivializing charts $\{(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)\}$ such that $\phi_{\beta\alpha}(b) \in G$, for each $b \in U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$ and arbitrary indices α and β . For example, if ξ can be reduced to the group $GL^+(k; \mathbb{R})$ then ξ is called orientable vector bundle, and if ξ can be reduced to the group $O(n)$, then ξ is called metrizable vector bundle. Although each vector bundle ξ is always metrizable on a paracompact manifold B_n , in general case ξ may not be orientable vector bundle.

In section 2. we will give some necessary and sufficient conditions for the vector bundle ξ to admit m linearly independent vector fields. First we give some known results.

Let $k=k_1+k_2$, and let us denote by $GL(k_1, k_2; R)$ the following subgroup

$$GL(k_1, k_2; R) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & B \end{bmatrix} \mid A \in GL(k_1; R), B \in GL(k_2; R) \right\} \quad (1)$$

of $GL(k; R)$. The following theorem can be found in [1] page 122.

Theorem 1. The vector bundle ξ of rank $k=k_1+k_2$ is reducible to the group $GL(k_1, k_2; R)$ iff ξ is a Whitney's sum of vector subbundles ξ_1 and ξ_2 of ranks k_1 and k_2 respectively.

Obviously, the vector bundle ξ admits a continuous vector field iff ξ can be written as a Whitney's sum of vector bundles ξ_1 and ξ_2 of ranks 1 and $k-1$ respectively, and ξ_1 is an orientable subbundle. According to the theorem 1 it is possible iff ξ can be reduced to the following group

$$G = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & A \end{bmatrix} \mid a \in R^+ \text{ and } A \in GL(k-1; R) \right\}. \quad (2)$$

By repeating this procedure m times we get the following

Theorem 2. The vector bundle ξ of rank k admits m linearly independent vector fields iff ξ can be reduced to the following subgroup

$$G = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & & 0 & \vdots & 0 \\ & \ddots & & & \\ 0 & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & 0 & & a_m \\ & & & & A \end{bmatrix} \mid a_1, \dots, a_m > 0, A \in GL(k-m; R) \right\} \quad (3)$$

of $GL(k; R)$.

Further in section 3. we will consider a special structures on complex vector bundles which are induced by the $com(m+k, m)$ -groups on \mathbb{C} [2].

2. Some results about subbundles of vector bundles. First we will generalize the theorem 2 by the following

Theorem 3. Let B_n be a paracompact manifold. The vector bundle $\xi=(E, \pi, B_n)$ of rank k admits m linearly independent vector fields iff ξ can be reduced to the following subgroup

$$G = \left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} & B \\ 0 & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2m} & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{mm} & \\ \hline & & & 0 & C \end{array} \right) \quad | a_{ii} > 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

$$a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R} \text{ for } 1 \leq i < j \leq m, \quad C \in GL(k-m; \mathbb{R}), \quad B \in M(m, k-m; \mathbb{R}) \quad (4)$$

of $GL(k; \mathbb{R})$.

Proof. Let us suppose that the vector bundle ξ reduces to the group G . Since B_n is a paracompact manifold, there exists locally finite open cover with trivializing coordinate neighborhoods $\{U_\alpha\}$, and let $\{f_\alpha\}$ be the decomposition of the unit with respect to the cover $\{U_\alpha\}$. Using the local coordinates, in each neighborhood U_α we define m vector fields as follows

$$\begin{aligned} X_{(1)}^\alpha &= (1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ X_{(2)}^\alpha &= (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ X_{(m)}^\alpha &= (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{m-1}, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Further we define m global vector fields on ξ as follows

$$X_{(r)} = \sum_{\alpha} X_{(r)}^\alpha f_{\alpha}, \quad 1 \leq r \leq m. \quad (6)$$

In order to prove that these vectors are linearly independent, it is sufficient to verify it in an arbitrary coordinate neighborhood U_α . Using (4) and (5) we obtain

$$X_{(r)}^\beta = (b_{1r}^\beta, \dots, b_{rr}^\beta, 0, \dots, 0), \quad 1 \leq r \leq m$$

with respect to the coordinate neighborhood U_β , where $b_{rr}^\beta > 0$. Using that $f_\beta \geq 0$ and $\sum_{\beta} f_\beta = 1$, it follows that the vector fields $X_{(1)}, \dots, X_{(m)}$ are linearly independent in U_β and hence in B_n .

Conversely, let the vector bundle ξ admits m linearly independent vector fields. Then ξ can be reduced to the group G given by (3), and hence can be reduced to the group given by (4). \square

Theorem 4. Let B_n be a paracompact differentiable manifold.

a) The vector bundle $\xi = (E, \pi, B_n)$ admits a vector subbundle of rank m iff ξ can be reduced to the following subgroup

$$G = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix} \mid A \in GL(m; \mathbb{R}), C \in GL(k-m; \mathbb{R}), B \in M(m, k-m; \mathbb{R}) \right\} \quad (7)$$

of $GL(k; \mathbb{R})$.

b) The vector bundle $\xi = (E, \pi, B_n)$ admits an orientable vector subbundle with rank m iff ξ can be reduced to the following subgroup

$$G = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix} \mid A \in GL^+(m; \mathbb{R}), C \in GL(k-m; \mathbb{R}), B \in M(m, k-m; \mathbb{R}) \right\} \quad (8)$$

of $GL(k; \mathbb{R})$.

Proof. a) Let us suppose that ξ can be reduced to the group G given by (7). Then we define vector subbundle on $\xi|_{U_\alpha}$ which is generated by

$$\begin{aligned} X_{(1)} &= (1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ X_{(2)} &= (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ X_{(m)} &= (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{m-1}, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k \end{aligned}$$

in each trivializing coordinate neighborhood U_α . It is easy to verify that this subbundle does not depend on the neighborhood U_α , because the subspace of \mathbb{R}^k which is generated by $X_{(1)}, \dots, X_{(m)}$ is invariant under the matrices of G which are defined by (7). Thus, we have defined a global vector subbundle of ξ with rank m .

The converse is a consequence from the Theorem 1.

b) This is a consequence of a). \square

Further we will prove two theorems where the transition functions $(\phi_{\alpha\beta})$ belong only to a set of matrices G which is not a group. For example G can be the set of positive definite $k \times k$ matrices.

Theorem 5. Let B_n be a paracompact manifold. The vector bundle $\xi = (E, \pi, B_n)$ of rank k admits m linearly independent vector fields iff there exists a system of trivializing charts $\{(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)\}$ such that the matrices $\phi_{\alpha\beta}$ belong to the set

$$G = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \mid \det \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \neq 0, \text{ A is positive definite mxm matrix, } B \in M(m, k-m; \mathbb{R}), C \in M(k-m, m; \mathbb{R}), D \in M(k-m, k-m; \mathbb{R}) \right\} \quad (9)$$

for each indices α and β such that $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \neq \emptyset$, and each $b \in U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$.

Proof. Let us suppose that there exists a system of trivializing charts $\{(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)\}$ such that $\phi_{\alpha\beta}(b) \in G$. Let $\{f_\alpha\}$ be a decomposition of the unit, which corresponds to a locally finite subcover $\{U'_\alpha\}$. In each trivializing coordinate neighborhood U'_α we define m vector fields by

$$\begin{aligned} X_{(1)}^\alpha &= (1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ X_{(2)}^\alpha &= (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ X_{(m)}^\alpha &= (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{m-1}, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^k. \end{aligned}$$

Now we define m global vector fields

$$X_{(r)} = \sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} X_{(r)}^{\alpha}, \quad 1 \leq r \leq m.$$

We choose an arbitrary chart (U'_β, ϕ'_β) , and we will prove that $X_{(1)}, \dots, X_{(m)}$ are linearly independent vector fields with respect to that coordinate system. Indeed, in that coordinate system it is

$$\begin{aligned} X_{(1)}^\beta &= (A_{11}^\beta, A_{21}^\beta, \dots, A_{k1}^\beta) \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ X_{(m)}^\beta &= (A_{1m}^\beta, A_{2m}^\beta, \dots, A_{km}^\beta) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$A^\beta = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11}^\beta & \dots & A_{1m}^\beta \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ A_{m1}^\beta & \dots & A_{mm}^\beta \end{bmatrix}$$

is a positive definite $m \times m$ matrix. Using that $f_\beta \geq 0$ and $\sum_{\beta} f_\beta = 1$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} X_{(1)} &= (A_{11}, A_{21}, \dots, A_{k1}) \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ X_{(m)} &= (A_{1m}, A_{2m}, \dots, A_{km}) \end{aligned}$$

according to the chosen coordinate system, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & \dots & A_{1m} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ A_{m1} & \dots & A_{mm} \end{bmatrix}$$

is a positive definite matrix. Hence $\det A \neq 0$, and the vectors $X_{(1)}, \dots, X_{(m)}$ are linearly independent.

Conversely, let us suppose that the vector bundle ξ admits m linearly independent vector fields. Theorem 3 implies that ξ can be reduced to the group G which is given by (4). But that group is a subset of the set G which is given by (9). \square

We notice that in the Theorem 5, C may be a zero-matrix, and that special case can be compared with the Theorem 4.

Theorem 6. Let B_n be a paracompact manifold. The vector bundle $\xi = (E, \pi, B_n)$ of rank k admits a non-zero vector field iff there exists a system of trivializing charts $\{(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)\}$ such that the matrices $\phi_{\alpha\beta}(b)$ belong to the set

$$G = \{[A]_{k \times k} \mid \det A \neq 0, \sum_{i,j=1}^k A_{ij} > 0\} \quad (10)$$

for each indices α and β such that $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \neq \emptyset$ and each $b \in U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$.

Proof. Let ξ admits a vector field X which is non-zero at each point. In a neighborhood of each point, the coordinate system can be chosen such that X has coordinates $(1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Now we will prove that the transition matrices are such that

$\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq k} A_{ij} > 0$. Indeed, these matrices left the vector $(1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^k$ invariant, i.e. $\sum_{j=1}^k A_{ij} = 1$, and hence $\sum_{i,j=1}^k A_{ij} = k > 0$.

Conversely, let us suppose that there exist trivializing charts $\{(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)\}$ such that $\phi_{\alpha\beta}(b)$ belongs to the set G given by (10), for each indices α and β such that $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \neq \emptyset$ and each $b \in U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$. Since B_n is a paracompact manifold, we can suppose that $\{U_\alpha\}$ is a locally finite subcover, and let $\{f_\alpha\}$ be the corresponding decomposition of the unit. In each chart $\{(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)\}$ we define a vector field X^α with local coordinates

$$X^\alpha = (1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^k.$$

Now we define a global vector field by

$$X = \sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} X^{\alpha}$$

We only have to prove that $X \neq 0$ at each point. It is sufficient to choose an arbitrary chart $(U_{\beta}, \phi_{\beta})$ and to prove that $X \neq 0$ according to it. Indeed, if $U_{\alpha} \cap U_{\beta} \neq \emptyset$, then X^{α} has local coordinates

$$X^{\alpha} = (p_1^{\alpha}, \dots, p_k^{\alpha})$$

such that $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i^{\alpha} > 0$. Hence it follows that according to that coordinate system, X has coordinates

$$X = \sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} X^{\alpha} = (p_1, \dots, p_k)$$

where $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i > 0$, and X is a non-zero vector. \square

3. One structure on complex vector bundle. The idea of this section is inspired from the theory of commutative vector valued groups [2]. First we give some facts from that theory, which will need us further.

Let $Q^{(m)}$ be the m -th permutation product of Q , i.e. $Q^{(m)} = Q^m / \sim$ where \sim is the equivalence on Q^m which is defined by

$$x_1^m \sim y_1^m \Leftrightarrow x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m \text{ is a permutation of } y_1, \dots, y_m,$$

where we use the notation $t = z_1^m$ instead of (z_1, \dots, z_m) .

Definition 1. A map $f: Q^{(n)} \rightarrow Q^{(m)}$, $(n-m=k \geq 1)$ is called a $\text{com}(n,m)$ -group if the following two axioms are satisfied

(i) (associativity)

For each $1 \leq i \leq k$ and each $x_1^{n+k} \in Q^{(n+k)}$

$$f(x_1^i f(x_{i+1}^{i+n} x_{i+n+1}^{n+k})) = f(f(x_1^n) x_{n+1}^{n+k}), \quad (11)$$

(ii) (solvability)

For each $a \in Q^{(k)}$ and $b \in Q^{(m)}$ the equation

$$f(ax) = b \quad (12)$$

has solution $x \in Q^{(k)}$.

One of the most researched class of such structures is the class of affine $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -groups, and moreover each locally euclidean and connected topological $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -group which is known until now is isomorphic to an affine $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -group. They

are defined on $Q = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{a_1, \dots, a_t\}$ ($0 \leq t \leq m$), where a_1, \dots, a_t are distinct complex numbers. In that case $Q^{(m)}$ is homeomorphic to

$$(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\})^t \times \mathbb{C}^{m-t}. \quad (13)$$

It is interesting to mention here that if (M, f) is a locally euclidean topological $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -group, then $\dim M = 2$. We also mention that each $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -group induces a usual commutative group $(M^{(m)}, *)$. For a given commutative group $(M^{(m)}, *)$ we want to obtain a $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -group. It can be done as follows.

We say that the commutative group $(M^{(m)}, *)$ has the property P if there exists a subset $S \subseteq M^{(m)}$ such that for each $y \in M^{(m)}$, there exists unique $x_i^m \in S^{(m)}$ such that

$$y = x_1 * \dots * x_m.$$

Now it is easy to verify that if $(M^{(m)}, *)$ has the property P, then it defines a $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -group (S, f) , where

$$f(x_1^{m+k}) = y_1^m \text{ iff } x_1 * \dots * x_{m+k} = y_1 * \dots * y_m. \quad (14)$$

Specially, if $M = \mathbb{C}$, then $M^{(m)} = \mathbb{C}^m$ and $*$ is the addition. The affine $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -groups are determined by the following smooth surfaces S:

$$S = \tau(\lambda + S_0) \quad (15)$$

where $S_0 = \{(z, z^2, \dots, z^m) \mid z \in \mathbb{C}\}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^m$ and τ is an automorphism of $(\mathbb{C}^m, +)$. We mention that until now we do not know any other smooth surface $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{(m)} = \mathbb{C}^m$, except those described by (15).

Now we return to the vector bundles. Having all that in mind, we give the following two definitions.

Definition 2. Let $\xi = (E, \pi, B_n)$ be a complex vector bundle with complex dimension m . We say that the vector bundle has the property P, if for each point $p \in B_n$, $\pi^{-1}(p)$ as a complex vector bundle admits a smooth subset $S(p) \subseteq \pi^{-1}(p)$ such that

i) For each $X \in \pi^{-1}(p)$ there exists unique $x_i^m \in S(p)^{(m)}$ such that

$$X = x_1 + \dots + x_m,$$

ii) The distribution $S(p)$ depends continuously on p .

Definition 3. Let $\xi=(E, \pi, B_n)$ be a complex vector bundle with complex dimension m , and let the vector bundle has the property P . If the corresponding subsets $\{S(p)\}$ have the following form

$$S(p) = \tau_p(\lambda_p + S_0) \tag{16}$$

with respect to a chosen coordinate system, where

$S_0 = \{(z, z^2, \dots, z^m) \mid z \in \mathbb{C}\}$, $\lambda_p \in \mathbb{C}^m$ and τ_p is an automorphism on \mathbb{C}^m , then we say that the vector bundle has the affine property AP.

If the vector bundle ξ has the property P , then it admits a continuous family of $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -groups $(S(p), f_p)$ for $p \in B_n$, and if the vector bundle ξ has the affine property AP, then it admits a continuous family of affine $\text{com}(m+k, m)$ -groups $(S(p), f_p)$ for $p \in B_n$.

We mention that the group of automorphisms of \mathbb{C}^m is isomorphic to $GL(2m; \mathbb{R})$ but not to $GL(m; \mathbb{C})$. Further we will prove two theorems about the vector bundles with the affine property AP.

Theorem 7. If the complex vector bundle ξ with a complex dimension m can be written as a Whitney's sum of m complex 1-dimensional vector bundles ξ_1, \dots, ξ_m , i.e.

$$\xi = \xi_1 \oplus \xi_2 \oplus \dots \oplus \xi_m, \tag{17}$$

then ξ has the affine property AP.

Proof. Let us suppose that (17) holds. We choose the coordinate system in $\pi^{-1}(p)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 &= \{(z, 0, \dots, 0) \mid z \in \mathbb{C}\} \\ \xi_2 &= \{(0, z, 0, \dots, 0) \mid z \in \mathbb{C}\} \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ \xi_m &= \{(0, \dots, 0, z) \mid z \in \mathbb{C}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we define

$$S(p) = \{(z, z^2, \dots, z^m) \mid z \in \mathbb{C}\}$$

with respect to that coordinate system. Thus ξ has the affine property AP. \square

Theorem 8. If ξ is a vector bundle with the affine property AP, then there exist m real 2-dimensional vector bundles $\xi_i^{\mathbb{R}}$ ($1 \leq i \leq m$), such that

