

# GENERATORS FOR VECTOR BUNDLES ON GENERIC HYPERSURFACES

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ABSTRACT. We prove that on a generic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^{m+1}$  of dimension at least 3, a vector bundle with  $r \leq m$  generators must be split if  $m$  is odd. If  $m$  is even, then the same is true if the degree of  $X$  is at least 3.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this note is to extend to hypersurfaces, the following splitting criterion for vector bundles on projective space due to Faltings (Satz 1 in [2]).

**Theorem 1.** *A vector bundle on  $\mathbb{P}^m$  is split if it can be generated by  $r \leq m$  sections.*

Based on an idea in [7], we prove the following.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $E$  be any  $r$ -generated rank  $e$  vector bundle on a smooth hypersurface  $X$  of dimension  $m \geq 3$ . Then  $E$  is a sum of line bundles if*

- (1)  $r \leq m - 1$ .
- (2)  $r = m$  and  $e \neq m/2$ .
- (3)  $X$  is generic of degree  $d \geq 3$ ,  $r = m$  and  $e = m/2$ .

The first two parts of the theorem have proofs similar to Faltings' with the additional use of the Weak Lefschetz theorem. The third part is the main result of this paper and the outline of its proof is as follows. In the first section, following [7], we introduce a certain thickening of  $X$  in its universal family which we call  $X_\epsilon$  and show that images of the cohomology of the projective space and  $X_\epsilon$  in the cohomology of  $X$  coincide (Corollary 1). We then show that if a generic hypersurface has a vector bundle as in the statement of the theorem, then this implies that there is such a bundle on  $X_\epsilon$  (section 3). Then using certain standard arguments involving Chern classes, we conclude that such a bundle must be split. We remark that alternatively one could use the standard Noether-Lefschetz theorem on Hodge classes to prove the desired theorem. However the use of  $X_\epsilon$  makes the proof simple and self-contained.

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The result is sharp for low values of  $m$ ; for quadrics in  $\mathbb{P}^5$  and  $\mathbb{P}^7$ , we can find 4-generated rank 2 bundles and 6-generated rank 3 bundles respectively. Since these examples can be pulled back via finite morphisms  $\mathbb{P}^l \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^l$  (with  $l = 5, 7$ ), we get other examples on various smooth hypersurfaces. Hence the requirement of genericity is needed. We do not know any examples on quadrics or special smooth hypersurfaces in dimensions greater than six.

**1.1. Conventions.** We work over  $k = \mathbb{C}$ , the field of complex numbers. By a generic point of a variety, we mean a point outside a countable union of proper closed subvarieties.

## 2. COHOMOLOGY COMPUTATIONS

**2.1. Preliminaries.** Let  $\mathbb{P} := \mathbb{P}_k^{m+1}$   $S := \mathbb{P}(W^*)$  where  $W = H^0(\mathbb{P}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}(d))$  denotes the parameter space of all degree  $d$  hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}$ . One has a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{V} \rightarrow H^0(\mathbb{P}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}(d)) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}(d) \rightarrow 0.$$

Let  $\mathcal{X} := \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{V}^*) \rightarrow S$  be the universal family of all degree  $d$  hypersurfaces. Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}$  be a smooth degree  $d$  hypersurface corresponding to a closed point  $s \in S$ . Let  $V := T_{S,s}^*$ , the dual of the Zariski tangent space at the point  $s \in S$ .  $A := \mathcal{O}_{S,s}/\mathfrak{m}_s^2 = k \oplus V^*$  then over the subscheme  $\text{Spec } A \subset S$ , there is a hypersurface which we will denote by  $X_\epsilon$ , the universal hypersurface over  $\text{Spec } A$ . It is easy to see that  $\Omega_A^1 \otimes k \cong V^*$ .

Let  $p : \mathbb{P}_A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ ,  $q : \mathbb{P}_A \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$  denote the two projections. Consider the cotangent sheaf sequence for the inclusion  $\iota_\epsilon : X_\epsilon \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}_A$ ,

$$\mathcal{O}_{X_\epsilon}(-d) \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_A}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_{X_\epsilon} = p^* \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_{X_\epsilon} \oplus q^* \Omega_A^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_{X_\epsilon} \rightarrow \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^1 \rightarrow 0.$$

On restricting this sequence to  $X$ , we have

$$(2.1) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-d) \xrightarrow{(\alpha, \beta)} \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \oplus V^* \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{(\gamma, \delta)} \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow 0.$$

Let  $F$  denote the polynomial defining  $X_\epsilon \subset \mathbb{P}_A$ . On taking cohomology of the sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}(d) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(d) \rightarrow 0$ , we get  $0 \rightarrow k \rightarrow W \rightarrow V \rightarrow 0$ . Choose a splitting  $\theta : V \rightarrow W$ , so that  $\theta \in W \otimes V^*$ . Since  $W \otimes A = W \oplus W \otimes V^*$ , we have  $F = (f, \theta) \in W \otimes A = H^0(\mathbb{P}_A, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_A}(d))$  where  $f$  is the polynomial defining  $X$ . The map  $dF$  is then given by  $(\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta})$ . It is easy to see that  $\tilde{\alpha}|_X = \alpha = df$ . By local computations, we can verify that  $\tilde{\beta}|_X = \beta : \mathcal{O}_X(-d) \rightarrow V^* \otimes \mathcal{O}_X$  is dual to the evaluation map. Notice that the injectivity of  $\delta$  follows from the injectivity of  $\alpha$ . We can also identify  $\delta$  with the natural map obtained as follows. We have an exact sequence  $q^* \Omega_A^1 \rightarrow \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^1 \rightarrow \Omega_{X_\epsilon/A}^1 \rightarrow 0$ , which is the relative cotangent sheaf sequence of the family  $q : X_\epsilon \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$ . On restricting this sequence to  $X$ , we get  $0 \rightarrow q^* \Omega_A^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{\delta} \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \Omega_{X_\epsilon/A}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_X = \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow 0$ .

The exactness of sequence (2.1) implies that  $\gamma\alpha = -\delta\beta$  and as a consequence, we have the following

**Lemma 1** (Mohan Kumar-Srinivas, [7]). *There is a commutative diagram:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{O}_X(-d) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_X & \rightarrow & \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow -\beta & & \downarrow \gamma & & \parallel \\ 0 & \rightarrow & V^* \otimes \mathcal{O}_X & \xrightarrow{\delta} & \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_X & \rightarrow & \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where the two rows come from the inclusions  $X \subset \mathbb{P}$  and  $X \subset X_\epsilon$  and the map  $\beta$  is the natural map.

Taking the  $\ell$ -th exterior power, we get a commutative diagram

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & \Omega_X^{\ell-1}(-d) & \rightarrow & \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^\ell \otimes \mathcal{O}_X & \rightarrow & \Omega_X^\ell \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\ 0 & \rightarrow & \Omega(\ell) & \rightarrow & \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^\ell \otimes \mathcal{O}_X & \rightarrow & \Omega_X^\ell \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where  $\Omega(\ell)$  (see [3], 5.16 (d), page 126) comes equipped with a decreasing filtration  $F^* \Omega(\ell)$  satisfying the properties  $F^1(\Omega(\ell)) = \Omega(\ell)$ ,  $F^{\ell+1}(\Omega(\ell)) = 0$  and  $\text{gr}_F^j \Omega(\ell) := F^j(\Omega(\ell))/F^{j+1}(\Omega(\ell)) = \Lambda^j V^* \otimes \Omega_X^{\ell-j}$  for  $j \geq 1$ .

### 2.2. Odd dimensional hypersurfaces.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$  be a smooth hypersurface and let  $m = 2n + 1$ . Then*

$$H^p(\mathbb{P}, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^p) \cong H^p(X, \Omega_X^p) \quad \text{for } 0 \leq p \leq \dim X$$

*Proof.* We first prove the statement for  $0 \leq p \leq n$ . By the Weak Lefschetz theorem, we have

$$H^i(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{C}) \cong H^i(X, \mathbb{C}) \quad \forall i \leq 2n$$

For  $i = 2p$ , this implies that

$$H^p(\mathbb{P}, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^p) \cong H^p(X, \Omega_X^p) \quad 0 \leq p \leq n$$

For  $n + 1 \leq p \leq \dim X$ , we proceed as follows: Using Serre duality, we have

$$H^{m-p}(X, \Omega_X^{m-p}) \cong H^p(X, \Omega_X^p)^\vee \cong k \quad \forall p$$

Thus  $h^p(X, \Omega_X^p) = 1$  for  $n + 1 \leq p \leq \dim X$ . Since the restriction map  $H^p(\mathbb{P}, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^p) \rightarrow H^p(X, \Omega_X^p)$  is non-zero, this implies that this map is an isomorphism for  $n + 1 \leq p \leq 2n + 1$ . Thus we are done.  $\square$

### 2.3. Even dimensional hypersurfaces.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$  be a smooth hypersurface with  $m = 2n$ . Then,  $H^n(X, \Omega(n)) = 0$  where we recall that  $\Omega(n)$  is the kernel of the map  $\Omega_{X_\epsilon}^n \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \Omega_X^n$ .*

*Proof.* The proof follows by analysing the sequences

$$0 \rightarrow F^{j+1}(\Omega(n)) \rightarrow F^j(\Omega(n)) \rightarrow \text{gr}_F^j \Omega = \Lambda^j V^* \otimes \Omega_X^{n-j} \rightarrow 0$$

For  $j \geq 1$ , we first claim that  $H^n(X, \Omega_X^{n-j}) = 0$ . By the Weak Lefschetz theorem,  $H^i(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{C}) \cong H^i(X, \mathbb{C})$  for  $i < \dim X$ . Since  $2n - j < 2n$ ,  $H^{2n-j}(X, \mathbb{C})$

is either 0 ( $j$  odd) or one dimensional and isomorphic to  $H^{n-\ell}(X, \Omega_X^{n-\ell})$  where  $j = 2\ell$ . Thus on taking cohomology, we have a surjection

$$H^n(X, F^{j+1}(\Omega(n))) \rightarrow H^n(X, F^j(\Omega(n))) \rightarrow 0 \quad \forall j \geq 1$$

Since  $H^n(X, F^n \Omega(n)) = H^n(X, \Lambda^n V^* \otimes \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$ , we are done.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$  be a smooth hypersurface with  $m = 2n$ . Then there are isomorphisms*

$$H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d)) \cong H^{2n}(X, \mathcal{O}_X(-nd))$$

$$H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}) \cong H^{2n}(X, \mathcal{O}_X((-n+1)d))$$

*Proof.* We consider the exterior powers of the cotangent bundle sequence for the inclusion  $X \subset \mathbb{P}$

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_X^{\ell-1}(-d) \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^{\ell} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \Omega_X^{\ell} \rightarrow 0$$

together with the sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^{\ell}(-d) \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^{\ell} \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^{\ell} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow 0$$

Using the fact that  $H^i(\mathbb{P}, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^j(*)) = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , we get isomorphisms

$$H^{n+\ell}(X, \Omega_X^{n-\ell}(-t)) \cong H^{n+\ell+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-\ell-1}(-t+d)) \quad \forall 1 \leq \ell < n$$

This finishes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$  be a smooth hypersurface with  $m = 2n$ . Then the map  $\phi : H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d)) \rightarrow V^* \otimes H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1})$  is injective for  $d \geq 2 + \frac{2}{n}$ .*

*Proof.* The map  $\phi$  is induced by the composite map of sheaves  $\Omega_X^{n-1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(-d) = \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d) \rightarrow \Omega(n) \rightarrow \Omega_X^{n-1} \otimes V^*$  obtained from diagram (2.2) and the filtration with  $\ell = n$ . This map is clearly  $1 \otimes -\beta$ . Using the identifications in the previous lemma, we can identify the map  $\phi$  with the dual of the cup product map

$$H^{2n}(X, \mathcal{O}_X(-nd)) \rightarrow V^* \otimes H^{2n}(X, \mathcal{O}_X(-(n-1)d))$$

The lemma now follows by noting that the cup product map

$$V \otimes H^0(\mathcal{O}_X(nd - 2n - 2)) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{O}_X(nd + d - 2n - 2))$$

is surjective as soon as  $H^0(\mathcal{O}_X(nd - 2n - 2)) \neq 0$  which happens for all  $d \geq 2 + \frac{2}{n}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$  with  $m = 2n$ . Then*

- 1)  $H^p(\mathbb{P}, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^p) \cong H^p(X, \Omega_X^p)$   $0 \leq p \leq \dim X$ ,  $p \neq n$
- 2) *If  $d \geq 3$ , we also have*

$$H^n(X, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^n \otimes \mathcal{O}_X) \cong H^n(X, \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^n \otimes \mathcal{O}_X)$$

*Proof.* The proof of the first part follows from the Weak Lefschetz theorem as in Lemma 2. For the second part, we consider the cohomology diagram associated to (2.2) when  $\ell = n$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} H^n(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d)) & \rightarrow & H^n(X, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^n|X}^n) & \rightarrow & H^n(X, \Omega_X^n) & \rightarrow & H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d)) \\ & & \downarrow & & \parallel & & \downarrow \\ H^n(X, \Omega(n)) & \rightarrow & H^n(X, \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^n|_X) & \rightarrow & H^n(X, \Omega_X^n) & \rightarrow & H^{n+1}(X, \Omega(n)) \end{array}$$

By Lemma 3, we have  $H^n(X, \Omega(n)) = 0$ . Furthermore, by Kodaira-Akizuki-Nakano theorem (see [1], page 154)  $H^n(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d)) = 0$ . This implies that  $H^n(X, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^n}^n \otimes \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^n(X, \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^n \otimes \mathcal{O}_X)$  is injective. To prove surjectivity, it is enough to prove that the right most vertical arrow i.e. the map  $H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d)) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(X, \Omega(n))$  is injective. By Lemma 5, the composite  $H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1}(-d)) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(X, \Omega(n)) \rightarrow V^* \otimes H^{n+1}(X, \Omega_X^{n-1})$  is injective. Thus we are done.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.** *With notation as above,*

$$\text{Image}(H^i(\mathbb{P}^n, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^n}^i) \rightarrow H^i(X, \Omega_X^i)) = \text{Image}(H^i(X, \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^i) \rightarrow H^i(X, \Omega_X^i)).$$

*Proof.* When  $X$  is odd-dimensional, this follows from Lemma 2. When  $\dim X = 2n$  and  $i \neq n$ , it follows from the first part of Proposition 1. When  $i = n$ , this follows from the second part of the same proposition by noting that there is a factorisation  $H^n(X, \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^n) \rightarrow H^n(X, \Omega_{X_\epsilon}^n \otimes \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^n(X, \Omega_X^n)$ .  $\square$

### 3. VECTOR BUNDLES ON HYPERSURFACES

We start this section with a Lemma due to Faltings whose proof we omit.

**Lemma 6** (Faltings, [2]). *Let  $(V, \mathcal{O}_V(1))$  be any quasi-projective scheme. For an exact sequence of vector bundles*

$$0 \rightarrow G \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathcal{O}_V(a_i) \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0$$

*and for some  $a = a_i$ , let  $G \xrightarrow{t_1} \mathcal{O}_V(a)$  and  $\mathcal{O}_V(a) \xrightarrow{t_2} E$  denote the induced maps. Let  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  denote the zero schemes of  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  respectively. Then  $T_1 \cap T_2 = \emptyset$ .*

We now prove the first two parts of Theorem 2.

**Proof of Theorem 2 (1).** The proof is by induction on  $r$ . The base case  $r = 1$  is trivial. Suppose that  $E$  is an  $r$ -generated bundle. Then in the notation of Lemma 6, if  $E$  has rank  $e$  and  $G$  has rank  $g$ , then the dimensions of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are at least  $m - g$  and  $m - e$  respectively. Since their sum is at least  $2m - r \geq m + 1$ ,  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  must intersect in projective space. Thus we arrive at a contradiction unless one of  $T_1$  or  $T_2$  is empty. If  $T_2$  is empty, we may replace  $E$  by a quotient  $E'$  which is  $r - 1$ -generated. By induction,  $E'$  is a sum of line bundles and hence so is  $E$ . If we assume  $T_1$  is empty, then by looking at the dual sequence,  $G^\vee$  is split likewise and hence  $G$  is split with

$\mathcal{O}_X(a)$  as one of the summands. This implies that the map  $\mathcal{O}_X(a) \rightarrow E$  is the zero map and hence  $E$  is  $r - 1$ -generated and hence split.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 2 (2).** Suppose  $E$  is  $m$ -generated. Using Lemma 6, we get  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ . If  $T_2$  is empty, we would get a quotient which is  $m - 1$ -generated. By part (1), this quotient and hence  $E$  is split. If  $T_1$  is empty, then a similar argument as above shows that  $E$  is split. We claim that  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  have dimensions exactly equal to  $m - g$  and  $m - e$  respectively. For, if not, then  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  would have non-empty intersection in projective space, a contradiction.

Let  $[T_1] \in H^g(X, \Omega_X^g)$  and  $[T_2] \in H^e(X, \Omega_X^e)$  denote the Hodge classes of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  respectively. Since neither  $e$  nor  $g$  is  $m/2$ , using Lemma 2 and Proposition 1.1, we may assume that  $[T_1] = \alpha h^g$  and  $[T_2] = \beta h^e$  where  $h$  is the class of the hyperplane section and  $\alpha, \beta$  are non-zero scalars. Since  $g + e = m$ , this implies that  $[T_1].[T_2] = \alpha.\beta h^m \in H^m(X, \Omega_X^m)$  and hence non-zero. This contradicts the fact that  $T_1 \cap T_2 = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $Y$  be a smooth projective variety and  $E$  be a vector bundle of rank  $e$  on  $Y$ . Let  $s : \mathcal{O}_Y \rightarrow E$  be a morphism of sheaves such that the zero scheme  $Z = Z(s)$  has codimension  $e$  in  $Y$ . Then  $c_e(E) = 0$  in  $H^e(Y, \Omega_Y^e)$  if and only if  $Z$  is empty.*

*Proof.* If  $Z$  is empty, then we have an exact sequence of bundles  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Y \xrightarrow{s} E \rightarrow E' \rightarrow 0$  and the result follows by the Whitney sum formula. For the converse, by taking general hyperplane sections, we may reduce to the case where  $Z$  is a bunch of points in  $Y$ . It is a standard result that  $c_e(E) = \deg Z$  (see [1], page 413). Since  $\deg Z$  is the number of points in  $Z$  counted with multiplicities, we are done.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 2 (3).** Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$ ,  $m = 2n$ , be a smooth hypersurface of degree  $d$  and let  $E$  be a vector bundle of rank  $n$  with  $m$ -generators so that it has a presentation

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^s \mathcal{O}_X(b_i) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{j=1}^m \mathcal{O}_X(a_j) \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0.$$

Let  $S_{\underline{a}, \underline{b}} \subset S$  be the subset parametrising hypersurfaces which support vector bundles  $E$  with a presentation as above. The goal of this section is to show that its closure  $\bar{S}_{\underline{a}, \underline{b}}$  is a proper subset of  $S$ . Since there are only countably many choices for  $\underline{a}, \underline{b}$ , this will prove theorem 2.3.

By the arguments of theorem (3.4) in [6], there exists a scheme  $\mathcal{P}'(\underline{a}, \underline{b})$  along with a morphism  $\mathcal{P}'(\underline{a}, \underline{b}) \rightarrow S$  whose image is  $S_{\underline{a}, \underline{b}}$ , and a rank  $n$  vector bundle on  $\mathcal{X} \times_S \mathcal{P}'(\underline{a}, \underline{b})$  with a presentation as above. In particular, this implies that  $S_{\underline{a}, \underline{b}}$  is constructible and therefore its closure is  $S$  if and only if  $S_{\underline{a}, \underline{b}}$  contains a Zariski open set.

If  $S_{\underline{a}, \underline{b}}$  contains a Zariski open set, then by the arguments in the proof of Corollary (3.5) [*op. cit.*], we may replace  $\mathcal{P}'(\underline{a}, \underline{b})$  by an integral subscheme which we denote by  $\mathcal{P}'$  to get a dominant étale map from  $\mathcal{P}' \rightarrow S$ .

Let  $p \in \mathcal{P}'$  be a point lying over  $s \in S$ . Let  $X := X_p$  be the hypersurface parametrised by  $p$  (and hence by  $s$ ). Let  $X_\epsilon$  be the universal hypersurface over  $\text{Spec } A$  where  $A = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P},p}/\mathfrak{m}_p^2 = \mathcal{O}_{S,s}/\mathfrak{m}_s^2$ . There is a rank  $n$  bundle  $\mathcal{E}$  on  $X_\epsilon$  whose restriction to  $X$  is a bundle  $E$  (both are  $m$ -generated). We shall now show that any such bundle should necessarily be split.

Since  $\mathcal{E}$  is  $m$ -generated, we have a short exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^m \mathcal{O}_{X_\epsilon}(a_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \rightarrow 0$$

where  $\mathcal{G}$  is a vector bundle whose restriction to  $X$  shall be denoted by  $G$ . Twisting the above sequence by a line bundle if necessary, we may assume that one of the  $a_j$ 's is zero giving the diagram

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{G} & \rightarrow & \bigoplus_{j=1}^m \mathcal{O}_{X_\epsilon}(a_j) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{E} \rightarrow 0 \\ & & & \searrow t_1 & \downarrow \uparrow & \nearrow t_2 & \\ & & & & \mathcal{O}_{X_\epsilon} & & \end{array}$$

Let  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  denote the subschemes defined by the morphisms  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  respectively and  $Z_1, Z_2$  be the zero schemes of the restrictions of the sections  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  respectively to  $X$ . On restricting the exact sequence to  $X$ , we have  $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \emptyset$  by Lemma 6. As in the proof of Theorem 2.2, we may assume that  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are non-empty with  $\text{codim } Z_1 = n = \text{codim } Z_2$ .

We shall now use the theory of Chern classes for bundles on schemes with values in Hodge cohomology as described in [4] (see also [5] for a simpler exposition). Since one of the  $a_i$ 's is zero, the Whitney sum formula for the exact sequence in (3.1), yields  $c_n(\mathcal{G}) \cdot c_n(\mathcal{E}) = 0$ . By functoriality, we have  $\iota^* c_i(\mathcal{G}) = c_i(G)$  and  $\iota^* c_i(\mathcal{E}) = c_i(E)$  for all  $i$ . Thus by Corollary 1,  $c_i(G)$  and  $c_i(E)$  are in the one dimensional vector space  $\text{Image}(\mathbb{H}^i(\mathbb{P}, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}}^i) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^i(X, \Omega_X^i)) \forall i$ . Putting these together, we have

$$c_n(G) c_n(E) = i^* c_n(\mathcal{G}) i^* c_n(\mathcal{E}) = i^* (c_n(\mathcal{G}) \cdot c_n(\mathcal{E})) = 0$$

and as a result, either  $c_n(G) = 0$  or  $c_n(E) = 0$ . Since  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  have the correct codimension,  $c_n(G) = 0$  (resp.  $c_n(E) = 0$ ) if and only if  $Z_1 = \emptyset$  (resp.  $Z_2 = \emptyset$ ) by Lemma 7. This gives a contradiction.

In particular, this contradicts the assumption that the map  $\mathcal{P}' \rightarrow S$  is dominant and thus we see that the union of the images of all the  $\mathcal{P}(\underline{a}, \underline{b})$ 's is not dense. This proves that for a hypersurface which corresponds to a generic point (i.e. outside the countable union of the proper closed subvarieties  $\bar{S}_{\underline{a}, \underline{b}}$ ) there are no  $m$ -generated, rank  $n$  bundles which are not sums of line bundles.  $\square$

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