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CHARACTERISTIC CLASSES OF SOME PRADINES-TYPE GROUPOIDS AND  
 A GENERALIZATION OF THE BOTT VANISHING THEOREM

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ABSTRACT. This paper contains an application of characteristic classes of some Pradines-type groupoids over foliations, constructed by the author in [5]. Using these characteristic classes, we obtain a generalization of the Bott Vanishing Theorem to a flag  $\{\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}'\}$  of foliations  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{F}'$ . The classical Bott Theorem follows from the above generalization if we put  $\mathcal{F} = \{V\}$ .

Key words: the Bott Vanishing Theorem, the Chern-Weil homomorphism, Lie groupoid, Pradines-type groupoid over foliation, Lie algebroid.

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1. Pradines-type groupoids  $\mathbb{P}^{\mathcal{F}}$  and their Lie algebroids. There is a well-known definition of a Lie groupoid (see [8]) as a transitive groupoid

$$\mathbb{P} = (\mathbb{P}, \alpha, \beta, V, \cdot)$$

in which  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $V$  are Hausdorff  $C^\infty$ -manifolds, the mappings  $\alpha, \beta: \mathbb{P} \rightarrow V$  (called a source and a target) are submersions, and  $^{-1}: \mathbb{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ ,  $u: V \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  and  $\cdot: \mathbb{P} * \mathbb{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  — defined by the formulae:

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$^{-1}(h) = h^{-1}$ ,  $u(x) = u_x$  ( $u_x$  - the unit over  $x$ ),  $\cdot(g, h) = g \cdot h$  ( $\Phi * \Phi = \{(g, h) \in \Phi \times \Phi; \alpha g = \beta h\}$  is a proper submanifold of  $\Phi \times \Phi$ ) - are of  $C^\infty$ -class.

Any vector bundle  $F$  over  $V$  determines the Lie groupoid

$$GL(F) = (GL(F), \alpha, \beta, V, \cdot)$$

of all linear isomorphisms between fibres of  $F$  in which  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\cdot$  are defined by  $\alpha(h) = x$  and  $\beta(h) = y$  iff  $h: F|_x \xrightarrow{\approx} F|_y$ , and  $g \cdot h = g \circ h$  if  $\alpha(g) = \beta(h)$ .

Let  $\Phi$  be any Lie groupoid over a manifold  $V$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  - any foliation of  $V$ . Take a subgroupoid

$$\Phi^{\mathcal{F}} = (\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}, \alpha^{\mathcal{F}}, \beta^{\mathcal{F}}, V, \cdot)$$

consisting of all elements of  $\Phi$  such that the source and the target lie on the same leaf of  $\mathcal{F}$ . More precisely,  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}} = (\alpha, \beta)^{-1}[R]$  where  $R \subset V \times V$  is the equivalence relation given by  $xRy$  iff  $y \in L_x$  ( $L_x$  - the leaf of  $\mathcal{F}$  through  $x$ ). If  $\mathcal{F} = \{V\}$ , then  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}} = \Phi$ . In general  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  is not a submanifold of  $\Phi$ . Denote by  $C$  the set of all real-valued functions defined on  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  which can be locally extended to  $C^\infty$ -functions on  $\Phi$  (i.e.  $C = C^\infty(\Phi)_{\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}}$ , see [9]).  $C$  is a differential structure on  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  and the pair  $(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}, C)$  (further denoted briefly by  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$ ) is a differential space in the sense of R. Sikorski (see [9]). All operations in the groupoid  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  are smooth in the category of differential spaces.

Because of the submersivity of  $\alpha: \Phi \rightarrow V$ , the set  $\alpha^{-1}(x)$ ,  $x \in V$ , forms a proper  $C^\infty$ -submanifold of  $\Phi$  denoted by  $\Phi_x$ .  $\Phi_x$  constitutes a principal fibre bundle (for brevity p.f.b.) over  $V$  with the projection  $\beta_x: \Phi_x \rightarrow V$ ,  $h \mapsto \beta h$ , the isotropy Lie group  $G_x = \beta_x^{-1}(x)$  as the structural Lie group, and the action  $\Phi_x \times G_x \rightarrow \Phi_x$ ,  $(h, a) \mapsto h \cdot a$ .

For the leaf  $L_x$  of  $\mathcal{F}$  through  $x$ , on the set

$$\Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}} := \beta_x^{-1}[L_x]$$

there exists exactly one  $C^\infty$ -manifold structure such that if  $U$  is open in  $L_x$  and  $L_x|U$  is a proper submanifold of  $V$ , then  $\beta_x^{-1}[U]$  is open in  $\Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}}$  and  $\Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}}|_{\beta_x^{-1}[U]}$  is a proper submanifold of  $\Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}}$ . Of course,  $\Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}}$  is an immersed submanifold of  $\Phi_x$  and  $\beta_x^{\mathcal{F}}: \Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}} \rightarrow L_x$ ,  $h \mapsto \beta h$ , is a submersion. Besides,  $\Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}}$  forms a p.f.b. over  $L_x$  analogously. For each  $h \in \Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}}$ , the mapping  $D_h: \Phi_{\beta h}^{\mathcal{F}} \rightarrow \Phi_{\alpha h}^{\mathcal{F}}$ ,  $g \mapsto g \cdot h$ , is a diffeomorphism.

With the groupoid  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  we associate a vector bundle

$$(A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}), p, V)$$

where  $A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}) = \bigcup_{x \in V} T_{u_x} \Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}} \subset T\Phi$  and  $p(v) = x$  iff  $v \in T_{u_x} \Phi_x^{\mathcal{F}}$ ,  $x \in V$ . Moreover,

$$\tilde{\beta}_*^{\mathcal{F}}: A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}) \rightarrow T\mathcal{F}, \quad v \mapsto \beta_* v,$$

is an epimorphism. Therefore, it is not difficult to see that  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  is a Pradines-type groupoid over the foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  (see [4], [5]).

A smooth vector field  $X$  on the differential space  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  (see [9]) is called right-invariant if

- (a)  $X_h \in T_h \Phi_{\alpha h}^{\mathcal{F}}$ ,  $h \in \Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$ ,
- (b)  $(D_h)_* X_g = X_{gh}$ ,  $g, h \in \Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$ ,  $\alpha g = \beta h$ .

Each right-invariant vector field  $X$  on  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  determines a  $C^\infty$ -section  $X_0: V \rightarrow A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$ ,  $x \mapsto X(u_x)$ , of  $p$ . Conversely (see [5]),

PROPOSITION 1. For any  $C^\infty$ -section  $\xi: V \rightarrow A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  of  $p$ , there exists exactly one right-invariant vector field  $\xi'$  on  $\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}$  such that  $\xi'(u_x) = \xi(x)$ ,  $x \in V$ . The bracket  $[\xi, \eta] := [\xi', \eta']_0$  defines in the vector space  $\text{Sec} A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  of all  $C^\infty$ -sections of  $p$  a real Lie algebra structure.

PROPOSITION 2. The system

$$\mathcal{A}(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}) = (A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}), [\cdot, \cdot], \tilde{\beta}_*^{\mathcal{F}})$$

is a Lie algebroid (in the sense of J. Pradines [6], [7]).

With the Lie algebroid  $\mathcal{A}(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  we associate a short sequence of vector bundles over  $V$

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{j} A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}) \xrightarrow{\gamma} T\mathcal{F} \longrightarrow 0$$

where  $\gamma$  denotes, for brevity, the mapping  $\tilde{\beta}_*^{\mathcal{F}}$ , and  $\mathcal{G} := \text{Ker } \gamma$ . Of course,  $\mathcal{G}$  is independent of the choice of  $\mathcal{F}$ . Each fibre  $\mathcal{G}|_x$ ,  $x \in V$ , is a Lie algebra with respect to the bracket  $[v, w] := [\xi, \eta](x)$  where  $\xi, \eta \in \text{Sec } A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  are such that  $\xi(x) = v$ ,  $\eta(x) = w$ . Moreover,  $\mathcal{G}|_x$  is the Lie algebra of the isotropy Lie group  $G_x$ .

If  $\Phi = \mathbf{GL}(F)$ , then  $\mathcal{G}$  is canonically isomorphic to  $\text{Hom}(F; F)$ .

2. CONNECTIONS IN  $\mathcal{A}(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$ . By a connection in  $\mathcal{A}(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  (see [5]) we mean any mapping

$$\lambda: T\mathcal{F} \longrightarrow A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$$

such that  $\gamma \circ \lambda = \text{id}_{T\mathcal{F}}$ .

PROPOSITION 3. Connections in  $\mathcal{A}(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  are in one-to-one correspondence with partial connections in the p.f.b.  $\Phi_x$  projectable onto  $T\mathcal{F}$  (for definition of a partial connection see [3]).

Proof. A connection  $\lambda$  determines a partial connection  $H^\lambda$  in  $\Phi_x$  by the formula  $H_h^\lambda := \text{Im}((D_h)_* u_{\beta h} \circ \lambda|_{\beta h})$ . The correspondence  $\lambda \longmapsto H^\lambda$  is the sought-for bijection. q.e.d.

For a connection  $\lambda$  in  $\mathcal{A}(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$ , the uniquely determined morphism

$$\omega: A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}$$

fulfilling  $\omega|_{\mathcal{G}} = \text{id}$  and  $\omega|_{\text{Im } \lambda} = 0$  is called a connection form of  $\lambda$ .

Let  $F$  be any vector bundle over  $V$ . By a  $C^\infty$ -form of degree  $q$  on  $T\mathcal{F}$  with values in  $F$  we shall mean each  $C^\infty$ -section of the bundle

$$\wedge^q (T\mathcal{F})^* \otimes F.$$

The set

$$\Omega(T\mathcal{F}; F)$$

of all such forms is a graded module over  $C^\infty(V)$ . Moreover, it has a structure of a module over the algebra

$$\Omega(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R})$$

of all real-valued  $C^\infty$ -forms on  $T\mathcal{F}$ .

By a curvature base-form (or a curvature tensor) of a connection  $\lambda$  we shall mean the form

$$\Omega_B \in \Omega^2(T\mathcal{F}; \mathfrak{g})$$

defined by the formula  $\Omega_B(X, Y) = -\omega([X, Y], \lambda \circ [X, Y])$ ,  $X, Y \in \text{Sec } T\mathcal{F}$ .

PROPOSITION 4.  $[\lambda \circ X, \lambda \circ Y] = \lambda \circ [X, Y] - \Omega_B(X, Y)$ .

3. The Chern-Weil homomorphism for  $\mathfrak{F}$ . The groupoid  $\mathfrak{F}$  acts on the bundle  $\mathfrak{g}$  by the adjoint representation  $\text{Ad}^\mathfrak{F}$  defined by

$$\text{Ad}^\mathfrak{F}(h) = (\tau_h)_* u_x : \mathfrak{g}|_x \xrightarrow{\approx} \mathfrak{g}|_y, \quad h \in \mathfrak{F},$$

where  $\tau_h : G_x \rightarrow G_y$ ,  $a \mapsto hah^{-1}$ ,  $x = \alpha h$ ,  $y = \beta h$ .

Let  $\bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*$  be the  $k$ -symmetric power of  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ . Denote by  $(\text{Ad}^\mathfrak{F})^\vee$  the action of  $\mathfrak{F}$  on  $\bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*$  induced by  $\text{Ad}^\mathfrak{F}$ . A section

$$\Gamma \in \text{Sec } \bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*$$

is called  $\text{Ad}^\mathfrak{F}$ -invariant if  $(\text{Ad}^\mathfrak{F})^\vee(h)(\Gamma_{\alpha h}) = \Gamma_{\beta h}$  for each  $h \in \mathfrak{F}$ .

The set of all  $\text{Ad}^\mathfrak{F}$ -invariant sections of the bundle  $\bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*$  is denoted by

$$(\text{Sec } \bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*)_{\mathfrak{F}}.$$

Of course,  $\bigoplus^k (\text{Sec } \sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*})_{\mathcal{F}}$  forms an algebra.

If  $\mathcal{F} = \{V\}$ , then the letter  $\mathcal{F}$  in the symbols  $\text{Ad}^{\mathcal{F}}$ ,  $(\text{Ad}^{\mathcal{F}})^{\vee}$  and  $(\text{Sec } \sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*})_{\mathcal{F}}$  will be omitted.

We have  $(\text{Sec } \sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*})_{\mathcal{F}} \subset (\text{Sec } \sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*})_{\mathcal{I}}$ .

**PROPOSITION 5.** Each  $\text{Ad}^{\mathcal{F}}$ -invariant section of  $\sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*}$  is equal to  $\sum_i f^i \Gamma_i$  for some  $C^\infty$ -functions  $f^i$  constant along the leaves of  $\mathcal{F}$  and for some Ad-invariant sections  $\Gamma_i$ .

**PROPOSITION 6.** The algebra  $\bigoplus^k (\text{Sec } \sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*})_{\mathcal{I}}$  of all Ad-invariant sections is canonically isomorphic to the algebra  $(\sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}}_{|X})_{\mathcal{I}}$  of all invariant polynomials on  $\mathfrak{g}_{|X}$  with respect to the adjoint representation of  $G_X$  on  $\mathfrak{g}_{|X}$ ,  $x \in V$ . This isomorphism is built with the help of the family of isomorphisms  $\text{Ad}(h)$ ,  $h \in \Phi_X$ .

Let  $\lambda : T\mathcal{F} \rightarrow A(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  be any connection in  $\mathcal{A}(\Phi^{\mathcal{F}})$  and  $\Omega_B \in \Omega^2(T\mathcal{F}; \mathfrak{g})$  - its curvature base-form. We define the following homomorphism of algebras

$$\gamma^{\mathcal{F}} : \bigoplus^k (\text{Sec } \sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*})_{\mathcal{I}} \rightarrow \Omega(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R}), \quad \Gamma \mapsto \Gamma_*(\Omega_B, \dots, \Omega_B),$$

where  $\Gamma \in \text{Sec } \sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*}$  is treated as a symmetric  $k$ -linear homomorphism  $\mathfrak{g} \times \dots \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  via the isomorphism  $\sqrt[k]{\mathfrak{g}^*} \cong \mathcal{L}_S^k(\mathfrak{g}; \mathbb{R})$ ,

$$t_1 v \dots v t_k \mapsto ((v_1, \dots, v_k) \mapsto \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma} t_{\sigma(1)}(v_1) \dots t_{\sigma(k)}(v_k))$$

and  $\Gamma_*(\Omega_B, \dots, \Omega_B) \in \Omega^{2k}(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R})$  is defined by the formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \Gamma_*(\Omega_B, \dots, \Omega_B)(x; v_1, \dots, v_{2k}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^k} \sum_{\sigma} \text{sgn } \sigma \Gamma_x(\Omega_B(x; v_{\sigma(1)}, v_{\sigma(2)}), \dots, \Omega_B(x; v_{\sigma(2k-1)}, v_{\sigma(2k)})). \end{aligned}$$

Now, we define a differential operator

$$d^{T\mathcal{F}} : \Omega(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \Omega(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R})$$

by (for a form  $\Theta$  of degree  $q$ )

$$d^{T\mathcal{F}}\Theta(X_0, \dots, X_q) = \sum_{j=0}^q (-1)^j X_j (\Theta(X_0, \dots, \hat{X}_j, \dots, X_q)) \\ + \sum_{i < j} (-1)^{i+j} \Theta([X_i, X_j], \dots, \hat{X}_i, \dots, \hat{X}_j, \dots).$$

Let  $H(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R})$  be the cohomology algebra of the complex  
 $(\Omega(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R}), d^{T\mathcal{F}})$ .

We have the following two theorems which are particular cases of general theorems on the theory of cohomology of Pradines-type groupoids over foliations (see [6]).

THEOREM 1.  $d^{T\mathcal{F}} \circ \gamma^{\mathcal{F}} = 0$ .

This theorem allows us to define the following homomorphism of algebras

$$h_{\mathcal{F}} : \bigoplus^k (\text{Sec } \bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*)_{\mathcal{F}} \longrightarrow H(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R}), \quad \Gamma \longmapsto [\gamma^{\mathcal{F}}(\Gamma)]_1.$$

THEOREM 2.  $h_{\mathcal{F}}$  is independent of the choice of connection.

DEFINITION. We shall call the homomorphism  $h_{\mathcal{F}}$  the Chern-Weil homomorphism for  $\mathcal{F}$ . Its image  $\text{Im } h_{\mathcal{F}}$  is called the Pontryagin algebra for  $\mathcal{F}$  and denoted by  $\text{Pont}(\mathcal{F})$ .

REMARK. If  $\mathcal{F} = \{V\}$ , then the superposition

$$(\bigvee_{\mathfrak{g}|_X}^*)_{\mathcal{F}} \cong \bigoplus^k (\text{Sec } \bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*)_{\mathcal{F}} \longrightarrow H(TV; \mathbb{R}) = H_{dR}(V)$$

is the classical Chern-Weil homomorphism for the p.f.b.  $\Phi_X$ .

4. A generalization of the Bott Vanishing Theorem. As an application of the characteristic classes described above we give

THEOREM 3. (A generalization of the Bott Vanishing Theorem)

Let  $\{\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}'\}$  be a flag of foliations  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{F}'$  on  $V$ . If

$$T\mathcal{F} = T\mathcal{F}' \oplus F$$

then  $\text{Pont}^k(\mathfrak{gl}(F)^{\mathcal{F}}) = 0$  for  $k > 2 \cdot \text{rank } F$ .

Proof. A connection  $\lambda$  in  $\mathcal{GL}(F)^{\mathcal{F}}$  defines (see [5]) an operator

$$(1) \quad \nabla^{\lambda}: \text{Sec } F \longrightarrow \Omega^1(\mathcal{T}\mathcal{F}; F)$$

by the formula

$$(2) \quad \nabla_v^{\lambda} \sigma = (\lambda v)(\tilde{\sigma}_x), \quad v \in (\mathcal{T}\mathcal{F})|_x, \quad \sigma \in \text{Sec } F,$$

where  $\tilde{\sigma}_x := \tilde{\sigma}|_{\text{GL}(F)_x}: \text{GL}(F)_x \longrightarrow F|_x$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}: \text{GL}(F) \longrightarrow F, h \mapsto h^{-1}(\sigma_{\beta h})$

$\nabla^{\lambda}$  is linear and fulfils the conditions (a)  $\nabla_{fX}^{\lambda} \sigma = f \nabla_X^{\lambda} \sigma$ ,  
 (b)  $\nabla_X^{\lambda} f \sigma = X(f) \sigma + f \nabla_X^{\lambda} \sigma$  where  $X \in \text{Sec } \mathcal{T}\mathcal{F}, \sigma \in \text{Sec } F, f \in C^{\infty}(V)$ .

Any linear operator (1) such that (a) and (b) hold is called a covariant derivative in  $(F, \mathcal{F})$  (or, after [3], a partial connection in  $F$  with respect to  $\mathcal{F}$ ).

LEMMA 1. The correspondence  $\lambda \longmapsto \nabla^{\lambda}$  establishes a bijection between connections in  $\mathcal{A}(\text{GL}(F)^{\mathcal{F}})$  and covariant derivatives in  $(F, \mathcal{F})$ .

Proof of lemma 1. It is sufficient to show that

(i) for  $v \in (\mathcal{T}\mathcal{F})|_x, x \in V$ , a vector  $\lambda v \in \mathcal{A}(\text{GL}(F)^{\mathcal{F}})|_x$  satisfying  $\mathcal{T}(\lambda v) = v$  is, by (2), uniquely determined,

(ii) the mapping  $\lambda: \mathcal{T}\mathcal{F} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}(\text{GL}(F)^{\mathcal{F}}), v \longmapsto \lambda v$ , is of the  $C^{\infty}$ -class.

(i) and (ii) easily follow from local calculations.

By a curvature tensor of a covariant derivative  $\nabla$  in  $(F, \mathcal{F})$  we mean a tensor

$$R \in \Omega^2(\mathcal{T}\mathcal{F}; \text{Hom}(F; F))$$

defined by the formula  $R_{X, Y} \sigma = \nabla_X \nabla_Y \sigma - \nabla_Y \nabla_X \sigma - \nabla_{[X, Y]} \sigma$  for  $X, Y \in \text{Sec } \mathcal{T}\mathcal{F}, \sigma \in \text{Sec } F$ .

LEMMA 2. The curvature tensor  $R$  of  $\nabla^{\lambda}$  is equal to the curvature base-form  $\Omega_B$  of  $\lambda$ .

Proof of lemma 2. By proposition 4, we have



$$R_{X,Y}\sigma = \lambda X((\lambda Y)(\tilde{\sigma})^\sim) - \lambda Y((\lambda X)(\tilde{\sigma})^\sim) - (\lambda [X, Y])(\tilde{\sigma}) \\ = (\llbracket \lambda X, \lambda Y \rrbracket - \lambda [X, Y])(\tilde{\sigma}) = -\Omega_B(X, Y)(\tilde{\sigma}) = \Omega_B(X, Y)(\sigma).$$

Continuing the proof of theorem 3, we construct (analogously to Bott [1]) a covariant derivative in  $(F, \mathcal{F})$  whose curvature tensor  $R$  has the property  $R_{X,Y} = 0$  for all  $X, Y \in \text{Sec } T\mathcal{F}'$ . For the purpose, take any covariant derivative  $\bar{\nabla}$  in  $(F, \mathcal{F})$ . For  $X \in \text{Sec } T\mathcal{F} = \text{Sec } T\mathcal{F}' \oplus \text{Sec } F$ , write  $X = X_{\mathcal{F}'} + X_F$  where  $X_{\mathcal{F}'} \in \text{Sec } T\mathcal{F}'$  and  $X_F \in \text{Sec } F$ .

Then define  $\nabla_X \sigma = \pi [X_{\mathcal{F}'}, \sigma] + \bar{\nabla}_{X_F} \sigma$  for  $X \in \text{Sec } T\mathcal{F}$ ,  $\sigma \in \text{Sec } F$ , where  $\pi: T\mathcal{F}' \oplus F \rightarrow F$  is the projection onto the second factor. It is not difficult to see that this formula defines a covariant derivative in  $(F, \mathcal{F})$  which fulfils the requirement condition. By lemma 1, there exists a connection  $\lambda$  in  $\mathcal{A}(GL(F)^\mathcal{F})$  such that  $\nabla^\lambda = \nabla$ . By lemma 2, the curvature base-form  $\Omega_B$  of  $\lambda$  has the property  $\Omega_B(X, Y) = 0$  for all  $X, Y \in \text{Sec } T\mathcal{F}'$ .

Using the decomposition  $(T\mathcal{F})|_X = (T\mathcal{F}')|_X \oplus F|_X$ , we see that  $\gamma^\mathcal{F}(\Gamma) = 0$  for  $\Gamma \in (\text{Sec } \bigvee^k \mathcal{G}^*)|_I$  such that  $k > \text{rank } F$ . q.e.d.

**REMARK.** Let  $\Phi = GL(F)$  and let  $F$  be as in theorem 3. By remark 33 from [5], we have that the Chern-Weil homomorphisms  $h_{\Phi_x}$ ,  $h_{\Phi_x^\mathcal{F}}$  of p.f.b.'s  $\Phi_x$  and  $\Phi_x^\mathcal{F}$ , respectively, and  $h_{\mathcal{F}^\mathcal{F}}$  of the Pradines-type groupoid  $\mathcal{F}^\mathcal{F}$  are connected by the commuting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & (\bigvee^k (\mathcal{G}|_X)^*)|_I & \xrightarrow{h_{\Phi_x}} H_{dR}^{2k}(V) \\ & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \text{id} \left[ & (\text{Sec } \bigvee^k \mathcal{G}^*)|_I & \xrightarrow{h_{\mathcal{F}^\mathcal{F}}} H^{2k}(T\mathcal{F}; \mathbb{R}) \\ & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ & (\bigvee^k (\mathcal{G}|_X)^*)|_I & \xrightarrow{h_{\mathcal{F}_x^\mathcal{F}}} H_{dR}^{2k}(L_X) \end{array}$$

For  $k > \text{rank } F$ , the bottom row is zero by the classical Bott Vanishing Theorem applied to the foliation  $\mathcal{F}'|_{L_x}$  of  $L_x$ ,  $x \in V$ , which - of course - also follows from the vanishing of the middle row.

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