ON THE GEOMETRY OF DIRAC DETERMINANT BUNDLES IN TWO DIMENSIONS*

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ABSTRACT

The gauge and diffeomorphism anomalies are used to define the determinant bundles for the left-handed Dirac operator on a two-dimensional Riemann surface. Three different moduli spaces are studied: (1) the space of vector potentials modulo gauge transformations; (2) the space of vector potentials modulo bundle automorphisms; and (3) the space of Riemannian metrics modulo diffeomorphisms. Using the methods earlier developed for the studies of affine Kac-Moody groups, natural geometries are constructed for each of the three bundles.

Submitted to: *Communications in Mathematical Physics*

Typeset in T_EX by Roger L. Gilson

CTP# 1408

October 1986

* This work was supported in part by funds provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (D.O.E.) under contract # DE-AC02-76ER03069.

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The geometry of the determinant line bundle for the left-handed Dirac operator $\gamma^{\mu}(\nabla_{\mu} + P_{-}A_{\mu})$ on a unit sphere S^2 (P_{-} is the projection in left-handed components of the spinor field and A_{μ} is a Lie algebra valued vector potential) is known to be closely related to the geometry of an affine Kac-Moody group, [M1]. In fact, the determinant bundle Det is an associated bundle to $U(1)$ bundle P over $A/\mathcal{G}$ which in turn is a pull-back of the affine group $\hat{LG}$ with respect to a certain homotopy equivalence $A/\mathcal{G} \rightarrow LG$; here, A is the space of vector potentials, $\mathcal{G}$ is the group of gauge transformations and LG is the loop group of the gauge group G . The affine group $\hat{LG}$ is a $U(1)$ bundle over LG . The connection form describing the geometry of P (and of Det) is a pull-back of the central projection of the Maurer-Cartan form on $\hat{LG}$, [M2].

In this paper, I want to generalize the results of Refs. [M1] and [M2] to the case when S is an arbitrary compact connected oriented Riemann surface of genus $g \geq 2$ (the case $g = 1$ is left as an exercise to the reader). In addition, I shall discuss the geometry of the determinant bundle parameterized by the space $\mathcal{M}/Diff S$, where $\mathcal{M}$ is the space of Riemannian metrics on S . The determinant bundle on $\mathcal{M}/Diff S$ is obtained as a pull-back of the corresponding bundle on $\{GL(3, \mathbb{R})\}$ connections in a topologically trivial bundle Q over S / {automorphisms of Q }. To achieve this, we have to first generalize a slightly earlier setting: we started by considering bundles over $A/\mathcal{G}$ which are determined by the non-Abelian gauge anomaly; however, one can use the gauge anomaly to produce bundles over $A/Aut Q$ as well. In the case $Q = S \times GL(3, \mathbb{R})$ the gauge anomaly in $A/Aut Q$ when pulled back to $\mathcal{M}/Diff S$ produces the diffeomorphism anomaly in two dimensions. The pull-back will be determined by using an embedding of S into $\mathbb{R}^3$ and extending the geometry of S into a tubular neighborhood of S .

Let us start the construction of the determinant bundle parametrized by vector potentials by choosing a discrete subgroup $\Gamma \subset PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$ such that $C_+/\Gamma \simeq S$, when C_+ is the upper half plane $\{z = x + iy | y > 0\}$ with the action

$$z \mapsto \frac{az + b}{cz + d}$$

of $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$. It is known that any surface S with a given metric can be produced in this way by taking in C_+ the Poincaré metric and choosing Γ in an appropriate way. [B]. In the genus ≥ 2 case (S compact and oriented). However, at this stage it is not necessary to specify any metric. Let G be a finite-dimensional Lie group with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ and let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ be an invariant bilinear form on $\mathfrak{g}$. Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the space of connections in the topologically trivial bundle $Q = S \times G$. Note that if G is simply connected, then any G bundle on S is a product bundle. We choose a base point $s_0 \in S$ and define $\mathcal{G} = \{g : S \rightarrow G | g(s_0) = 1\}$ as the group of smooth based gauge transformations. Since the bundle Q is trivial, a connection can be represented by a global $\mathfrak{g}$ valued one-form $A \in \mathcal{A}$ on S . The right action of $\mathcal{G}$ in $\mathcal{A}$ is given by $A \mapsto A^g = g^{-1}Ag + g^{-1}dg$. The group $\text{Aut } Q$ of automorphisms of Q is equal to the semidirect product $\text{Diff } \mathcal{G}$; the action of $\text{Diff } S$ on $\mathcal{G}$ is the natural action $g \mapsto g \circ h^{-1}$, $h \in \text{Diff } S$.

Let $\theta^2 = (\text{length})^2$ of the longest root of the maximal compact subgroup of G (let us assume for simplicity that G does not contain any $U(1)$ factors). For $A \in \mathcal{A}$ and $g \in \mathcal{G}$ we define

$$\omega(A, g) = \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_S \langle A, dg g^{-1} \rangle - \frac{\theta^2}{48\pi^2} \int_B \left\langle dg g^{-1}, \frac{1}{2} [dg g^{-1}, dg g^{-1}] \right\rangle \quad (1)$$

where the second integral is taken over any compact three-space B with $\partial B = S$ and g has been extended in an arbitrarily smooth way to B . Taking another extension $\bar{g}$ changes the value of ω at most by an integer since the integral

$$C(g) = \frac{\theta^2}{48\pi^2} \int \left\langle dg g^{-1}, \frac{1}{2} [dg g^{-1}, dg g^{-1}] \right\rangle \quad (2)$$

is an integer when evaluated over a compact three-manifold without boundary. [W]. Thus, $\exp 2\pi i \omega(A, g)$ is single-valued: it is known as the non-Abelian anomaly in physics literature, since the determinant (when properly regularized) of the left-handed Dirac operator $\gamma^\mu (\nabla_\mu + P_- A_\mu)$ changes by this phase when A is replaced by A^g . [Z]. The function $\exp 2\pi i \omega$ is a 1-cocycle.

$$\omega(A, g_1 g_2) \equiv \omega(A^g, g_2) + \omega(A, g_1) \pmod{\mathbb{Z}} \quad (3)$$

In fact, $\omega(A, g)$ defines a cocycle for the full automorphism group $\text{Diff } \mathcal{G}$. The group multiplication in $\text{Aut } Q$ is given by

$$(h_1, g_1)(h_2, g_2) = (h_1 \circ h_2, g_1 g_2^{h_1}) \quad (4)$$

Figure 1

where $g^h = g \circ h^{-1}$. We define $\omega(A, (h, g)) = \omega(A, g)$. Then, by a simple computation,

$$\omega(A_{h_1}, (h_1, g)(h_2, g_2)) = \omega(A^{(h_1, g_1)}, (h_2, g_2)) + \omega(A, (h_1, g_1)) \quad (5)$$

where $A^{(h, g)} = h^*(g^{-1}Ag + g^{-1}dg)$, with the natural action of $\text{Diff } S$ on differential forms.

We can now define two principal $U(1)$ bundles $\text{Det} = \text{Det}(S, G)$ (resp. $\text{Det}_0 = \text{Det}_0(S, G)$) on $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}$ (resp. on $\mathcal{A}/\text{Aut } Q$) as $\mathcal{A} \times U(1)/\sim$, where in the first case the equivalence relation $\sim$ in $\mathcal{A} \times U(1)$ is defined by

$$(A, \lambda) \sim (A^g, \lambda e^{2\pi i \omega(A, g)})$$

for $g \in \mathcal{G}$ and in the second case the element g is replaced by an arbitrary element $(h, g) \in \text{Aut } Q$. The bundle projection is defined by $[(A, \lambda)] \mapsto A \pmod{\mathcal{G}}$ (resp. $[(A, \lambda)] \mapsto A \pmod{\text{Aut } Q}$). The action of $U(1)$ in the total space of the bundles is the right multiplication in the second component.

I shall now describe the geometry of the bundles Det and Det_0 in terms of a natural connection. Let us fix a fundamental domain $D \subset C_+$ for the projection $S \rightarrow S$. The interior of D is mapped bijectively to a dense contractible domain in the boundary ∂D . If we think of D as a polygon with $4g$ sides, then S is obtained by identifying the boundary a_i with a_i^{-1} and b_i with b_i^{-1} as in Fig. 1 (when $g = 2$). Fix a point $z_0 \in C_+$ covering $s_0 \in S$. For any $A \in \mathcal{A}$ there exists a unique gauge transformation $f_A : C_+ \rightarrow G$ such that $f_A(z_0) = 1$ and $A = f_A^{-1}(\pi^* A) f_A + f_A^{-1} df_A$ is in the radial gauge for rays starting from z_0 ; that is, $A_r = 0$ in the polar coordinates (r, φ) with origin at z_0 ; $\pi^* A$ is the pull-back of A under $\pi : C_+ \rightarrow C_+/\Gamma = S$.

Let $DG = \{f : D \rightarrow G | f(z_0) = 1, f \text{ smooth}\}$. Here, "smooth" means that f can be extended to a smooth map in an open set containing the closed set D . The gauge group $\mathcal{G}$ can be thought of the subgroup of DG consisting of maps $g : D \rightarrow G$ which obtain equal values at those points on the boundary ∂D which are identified under the projection $D \rightarrow S$. We can define a $U(1)$ bundle Det' on $DG/\mathcal{G}$ by the cocycle

$$\omega'(f, g) = \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle f^{-1} df, dg g^{-1} \rangle - C(g) . \quad (6)$$

The action of $\mathcal{G}$ on DG is the point-wise right multiplication. The bundle Det is a pull-back of Det' with respect to the mapping $A \mapsto f_A$: note that $f_{A^0} = f_A \cdot g$. The cocycle $(A, g) \mapsto \omega'(f_A, g)$ represents the same cohomology class as $\omega(A, g)$, since

$$\omega'(f_A, g) = \omega(A, g) + F(A^0) - F(A) , \quad (7)$$

where

$$F(A) = \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle A, df_A f_A^{-1} \rangle \quad (8)$$

In the genus = 0 case (D is a disc; ∂D identified with one point), [M2], it was possible to define a connection in the bundle Det' by pushing the central projection $\mathcal{P}_c dk k^{-1}$ of the Maurer-Cartan form on $DG \times U(1)$ to $Det' = DG \times U(1)/\mathcal{G}$: the group multiplication in $DG \times U(1)$ is given by

$$(f, \lambda)(f', \lambda') = (ff', \lambda\lambda' \exp 2\pi i \gamma(f, f')) , \quad (9)$$

where

$$\gamma(f, f') = \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle f^{-1} df, df' f'^{-1} \rangle . \quad (10)$$

The group structure in $DG \times U(1)$ is well-defined also in the higher genus case but now $\mathcal{G}$ cannot be embedded in $DG \times U(1)$ as a normal subgroup and for this reason it is not possible to push $\mathcal{P}_c dk k^{-1}$ to Det' . However, there is a slight modification of $\mathcal{P}_c dk k^{-1}$ which will give a connection on Det . I shall describe this connection directly in terms of parallel transport as follows. Let $t \mapsto A(t) \bmod \mathcal{G}$ be a path in $A/\mathcal{G}$, $t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$. Denote $f(t, \cdot) = f_{A(t)}$. Let $\rho_0 = [(A(t_0), \lambda(t_0))] \in Det$ be any point in the fiber over $A(t_0)$. Denote by $\rho_1 = [(A(t_1), \lambda(t_1))]$ the parallel transport of ρ_0 along $A(t) \bmod \mathcal{G}$ at $A(t_1)$. We define $\lambda(t_1) = \lambda(t_0) \exp 2\pi i J$, where

$$\begin{aligned} J = & \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_D \langle f^{-1} df, d(f^{-1} f) \rangle dt \\ & + \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle \pi^* A, f^{-1} df \rangle_{t=t_1} - \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle \pi^* A, f^{-1} df \rangle_{t=t_0} \\ & - \frac{\theta^2}{8\pi^2} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{\partial D} \langle \pi^* A, f^{-1} f \rangle dt . \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

We have to show that the class $[(A(t_1), \lambda(t_1))]$ is well-defined. Let $t \mapsto \tilde{A}(t)$ be another path with $\tilde{A}(t) \equiv A(t) \bmod \mathcal{G}$. Denote $\tilde{f}(t, \cdot) = f_{\tilde{A}(t)} = f(t, \cdot)g(t, \cdot)$: here g is a gauge transformation such that $\tilde{A}(t) = A(t)g(t)$. Let us first rewrite (11) using partial integration in the form

$$\begin{aligned} J = & C(f) + \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{\partial D} \langle f^{-1} df, f^{-1} f \rangle dt \\ & + \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle \pi^* A, f^{-1} df \rangle_{t=t_1} \\ & - \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle \pi^* A, f^{-1} df \rangle_{t=t_0} \\ & - \frac{\theta^2}{8\pi^2} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{\partial D} \langle \pi^* A, f^{-1} f \rangle dt , \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where the integral defining $C(f)$ is evaluated over $D \times [t_0, t_1]$. The term C has the basic property

$$C(ff') = C(f) + C(f') - \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int \langle f^{-1} df, df' f'^{-1} \rangle , \quad (13)$$

verified by a simple computation. Using (13) we get from (12).

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{J} - J = & C(g) + \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle \pi^* A, dg g^{-1} \rangle_{t=t_1} \\ & - \frac{\theta^2}{16\pi^2} \int_D \langle \pi^* A, dg g^{-1} \rangle_{t=t_0} \\ & - \frac{\theta^2}{8\pi^2} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{\partial D} \langle \pi^* A, g g^{-1} \rangle dt \\ & - \frac{\theta^2}{8\pi^2} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{\partial D} \langle g^{-1} dg, g^{-1} g \rangle dt . \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The last two terms are zero, since g and A were defined on S and therefore the pieces obtained by integrating along α_i and b_i cancel (for any fixed t) with the pieces along α_i^{-1} and b_i^{-1} . Let g_i be an extension of $g(t, \cdot)$ to the three-dimensional manifold B , $i = 0, 1$. Then $C(g) \equiv C(g_1) - C(g_0) \bmod \mathbb{Z}$ and therefore

$$\tilde{J} - J \equiv \omega(A(t_1), g(t_1)) - \omega(A(t_0), g(t_0)) \bmod \mathbb{Z} , \quad (15)$$

which shows that $\tilde{\lambda}(t_1) = \lambda(t_1) \exp 2\pi i \omega(A(t_1), g(t_1))$ and thus the class ρ_1 is well-defined.

The curvature of the connection is evaluated by taking the parallel transport around an infinitesimal parallelogram: the result is

$$F(\delta A, \delta B) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle X, dY \rangle + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle Y, \delta A \rangle - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle X, \delta B \rangle - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle Y, \delta A \rangle, \quad (16)$$

where X (resp. Y) is the image of δA (resp. δB) under the derivative of the mapping $A \mapsto f_A$: δA and δB are tangent vectors at $A \in \mathcal{A}$.

The forms defining the connection (parallel transport) and the curvature are invariant with respect to diffeomorphisms of S ; therefore, we can push the geometry defined above the the bundle Det_0 .

Next, we shall see that one can extract from the discussion above the geometry of the determinant bundle Det^M over $M/Diff S$. The bundle Det^M will be defined below using the diffeomorphism anomaly of the Dirac operator. Let us first fix an embedding $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$. Choose a tubular neighborhood $\tilde{S} = S \times J$ of S in $\mathbb{R}^3$; $J \subset \mathbb{R}$ is an open interval. Using the natural metric on J and setting $J \perp S$, we can uniquely extend any metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ on S to a metric $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ on $\tilde{S}$. Also, if $h: S \rightarrow S$ is any diffeomorphism we have a natural extension $\tilde{h}: \tilde{S} \rightarrow \tilde{S}$. Using the Cartesian coordinates of $\mathbb{R}^3$, we can represent the Levi-Civita connection Γ of the metric $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ by a $gl(3, \mathbb{R})$ valued one-form on $\tilde{S}$. Here $gl(3, \mathbb{R})$ is the Lie algebra of the general linear group $GL(3, \mathbb{R})$ in $\mathbb{R}^3$. Similarly, the derivative of the diffeomorphism $\tilde{h}$ gives a $GL(3, \mathbb{R})$ valued function H on $\tilde{S}$; extending H to B we can define

$$\omega_1(g, h) = \omega(\Gamma, H), \quad (17)$$

where $\omega(\Gamma, H)$ is as before, with the gauge group $G = GL(3, \mathbb{R})$. Since $h \mapsto (h, H)$ is a homomorphism from $Diff S$ into $Diff S \times \mathcal{G}$, ω_1 is a 1-cocycle for the right action of $Diff S$ on $\mathcal{M}$. By definition, the determinant bundle Det^M over $M/Diff S$ is

$$\mathcal{M} \times U(1) / \sim, \quad (g_{\mu\nu}, \lambda) \sim (g_{\mu\nu}^h, \lambda e^{2\pi i \omega_1(g, h)}), \quad (18)$$

where the equivalence " $\sim$ " is defined by

In fact, by (18) the bundle Det^M is a pull-back of the bundle $Det_0(S, GL(3, \mathbb{R}))$ under the mapping $M/Diff S \rightarrow \mathcal{A}/Aut Q$ given by $g_{\mu\nu} \mapsto \Gamma$ (here $Q = S \times GL(3, \mathbb{R})$). Note that the infinitesimal version (evaluate $\frac{d}{dt} \omega_1(g, h_t)|_{t=0}$ for a one-parameter subgroup of diffeomorphisms h_t generated by a vector field ϑ_μ on S) of (17) is the diffeomorphism anomaly

$$\Delta \omega_1(g, \vartheta) = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int_S \text{tr} d\Gamma \frac{d\vartheta}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int_S (\partial_\mu \Gamma_{\nu\beta}^\alpha \partial^\beta \vartheta_\alpha - \partial_\nu \Gamma_{\mu\beta}^\alpha \partial^\beta \vartheta_\alpha). \quad (19)$$

(Note that $\vartheta^2 = \frac{1}{2}$ when we use as $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the trace form in the defining representation of $GL(3, \mathbb{R})$.) Finally, we can define a natural geometry in Det^M by pulling back the connection and the curvature of $Det_0(S, GL(3, \mathbb{R}))$ to Det^M . It is an interesting open question what is the relation between the geometry of the determinant bundles as defined above in terms of the gauge and diffeomorphism anomalies and the holomorphic geometry discussed by Quillen for the bundle Det , [Q], and extended to the determinant bundles over Teichmüller spaces by Belavin and Knizhnik, [BK]. The holomorphic geometries have also been studied recently by Bismut and Freed using families index theory, [BF].

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