

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.

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 a $U(1)$ bundle P over \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G} which in turn is a pull-back of the affine group $\hat{L}G$ with respect to a certain homotopy equivalence $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G} \rightarrow LG$; here, \mathcal{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 $\hat{L}G$ 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 $\hat{L}G$, [M2].

In this paper, I want to generalize the results of [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 parametrized by the space $\mathcal{M}/\text{Diff}S$, where \mathcal{M} is the space of Riemannian metrics on S . The determinant bundle on $\mathcal{M}/\text{Diff}S$ is

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obtained as a pull-back of the corresponding bundle on $\{GL(3, \mathbf{R})$ connections in a topologically trivial bundle Q over $S\}/\{\text{automorphisms of } Q\}$. To achieve this, we have to first generalize a slightly earlier setting: we started by considering bundles over \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G} which are determined by the non-Abelian gauge anomaly; however, one can use the gauge anomaly to produce bundles over $\mathcal{A}/\text{Aut } Q$ as well. In the case $Q = S \times GL(3, \mathbf{R})$ the gauge anomaly in $\mathcal{A}/\text{Aut } Q$ when pulled back to $\mathcal{M}/\text{Diff } S$ produces the diffeomorphism anomaly in two dimensions. The pull-back will be determined by using an embedding of S into \mathbf{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 $\Gamma \subset PSL(2, \mathbf{R})$ such that $\mathbf{C}_+/\Gamma \simeq S$, when \mathbf{C}_+ is the upper half plane $\{z = x + iy | y > 0\}$ with the action

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

of $PSL(2, \mathbf{R})$. It is known that any surface S with a given metric can be produced in this way by taking in \mathbf{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, the 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 $\text{Diff} \times \mathcal{G}$; 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

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

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 \tilde{g} changes the value of ω at most by an integer since the integral

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

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 $\gamma^\mu (V_\mu + P_- A_\mu)$ changes by this phase when A is replaced by A^g , [Z]. The function $\exp 2\pi i \omega$ is a 1-cocycle,

$$\omega(A, g_1 g_2) \equiv \omega(A^{g_1}, g_2) + \omega(A, g_1) \text{ mod } \mathbf{Z}. \tag{3}$$

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

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

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

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

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 $\text{Det} = \text{Det}(S, G)$ [respectively $\text{Det}_0 = \text{Det}_0(S, G)$] on \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G} (respectively 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 $[(A, \lambda)] \mapsto A \text{ mod } \mathcal{G}$ (respectively $[(A, \lambda)] \mapsto A \text{ mod } \text{Aut}Q$). 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 bundle Det in terms of a natural connection. Let us fix a fundamental domain $D \subset \mathbf{C}_+$ for the projection $\mathbf{C}_+ \rightarrow S$. The interior of D is mapped bijectively to a dense contractible domain in S and the image of D is S . The action of Γ in \mathbf{C}_+ defines a set of identifications on 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 $z_0 \in \mathbf{C}_+$ covering $s_0 \in S$. For any $A \in \mathcal{A}$ there exists a unique gauge transformation $f_A : \mathbf{C}_+ \rightarrow G$ such that $f_A(z_0) = 1$ and $\tilde{A} = f_A^{-1}(\pi^*A)f_A + f_A^{-1}df_A$ is in the radial gauge for rays starting from z_0 ; that is, $\tilde{A}_r = 0$ in the polar coordinates (r, φ) with origin at z_0 ; π^*A is the pull-back of A under $\pi : \mathbf{C}_+ \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_3/\Gamma = S$.

Let $DG = \{f : D \rightarrow G \mid f(z_0) = 1, f \text{ smooth}\}$. Here, “smooth” means that f can be extended to a smooth map in an open set containing the closed set D . The gauge

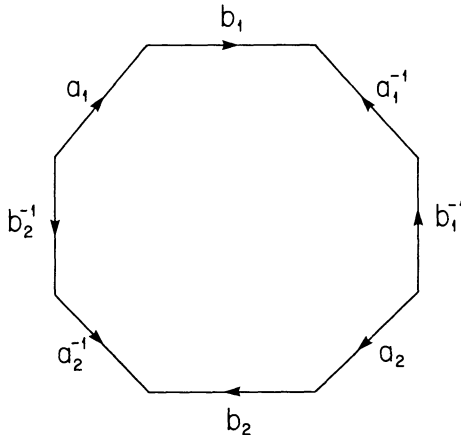


Fig. 1

group \mathcal{G} can be thought of as 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

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

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 $f_{A^g} = f_A \cdot g$. The cocycle $(A, g) \mapsto \omega'(f_A, g)$ represents the same cohomology class as $\omega(A, g)$, since

$$\omega'(f_A, g) = \omega(A, g) + F(A^g) - F(A), \tag{7}$$

where

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

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 $pr_c dkk^{-1}$ of the Maurer-Cartan form on $DG \times U(1)$ to $\text{Det}' = DG \times U(1)/\mathcal{G}$; the group multiplication in $DG \times U(1)$ is given by

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

where

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

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 $pr_c dkk^{-1}$ to Det' . However, there is a slight modification of $pr_c dkk^{-1}$ which will give a connection on Det . I shall describe this connection directly in terms of parallel transport as follows. Let $t \mapsto A(t) \text{ mod } \mathcal{G}$ be a path in \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G} , $t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$. Denote $f(t, \cdot) = f_{A(t)}$. Let $\varrho_0 = [(A(t_0), \lambda(t_0))] \in \text{Det}$ be any point in the fiber over $A(t_0)$. Denote by $\varrho_1 = [(A(t_1), \lambda(t_1))]$ the parallel transport of ϱ_0 along $A(t) \text{ mod } \mathcal{G}$ at $A(t_1)$. We define $\lambda(t_1) = \lambda(t_0) \exp 2\pi i J$, where

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

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 $\tilde{A}(t) \equiv A(t) \text{ mod } \mathcal{G}$. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$\tilde{J} - J \equiv \omega(A(t_1), g(t_1)) - \omega(A(t_0), g(t_0)) \pmod{\mathbf{Z}}, \tag{15}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(\delta A, \delta B) &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle X, dY \rangle + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle Y, \delta A \rangle \\
 &- \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle X, \delta B \rangle - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \langle [X, Y], A \rangle, \tag{16}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

Next I want to relate the geometry of the bundle $\text{Det}^{\mathcal{M}}$ to that of the bundle $\text{Det}_0(S, GL(3, \mathbf{R}))$. The bundle $\text{Det}^{\mathcal{M}}$ will be defined below using the diffeomorphism anomaly of the Dirac operator. The group $\text{Diff}S$ can be taken either the full diffeomorphism group of S or the connected component of the identity in the full group. However, one should bear in mind that in the former case $\mathcal{M}/\text{Diff}S$ has singularities and it is not a manifold in the usual sense. In the latter case the quotient is contractible and therefore any bundle over that space is topologically trivial. Let us first fix an embedding $S \subset \mathbf{R}^3$. Choose a tubular neighborhood $\tilde{S} = S \times \mathcal{J}$ of S in \mathbf{R}^3 ; $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathbf{R}$ is an open interval. Using the natural metric on \mathcal{J} and setting $\mathcal{J} \perp S$, 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 \mathbf{R}^3 , we can represent the Levi-Civita connection Γ of the metric $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ by a $\mathfrak{gl}(3, \mathbf{R})$ valued one-form on \tilde{S} . Here $\mathfrak{gl}(3, \mathbf{R})$ is the Lie algebra of the general linear group $GL(3, \mathbf{R})$ in \mathbf{R}^3 . Similarly, the derivative of the diffeomorphism \tilde{h} gives a $GL(3, \mathbf{R})$ valued function H on S ; extending H to B we can define

$$\omega_1(g, h) = \omega(\Gamma, H), \tag{17}$$

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

$$\mathcal{M} \times U(1) / \sim,$$

where the equivalence “ \sim ” is defined by

$$(g_{\mu\nu}, \lambda) \sim (g_{\mu\nu}^h, \lambda e^{2\pi i \omega_1(g, h)}). \tag{18}$$

In fact, by (18) the bundle $\text{Det}^{\mathcal{M}}$ is a pull-back of the bundle $\text{Det}_0(S, GL(3, \mathbf{R}))$ under the mapping $\mathcal{M}/\text{Diff}S \rightarrow \mathcal{A}/\text{Aut}Q$ given by $g_{\mu\nu} \mapsto \Gamma$ [here $Q = S \times GL(3, \mathbf{R})$].

The construction of $\text{Det}^{\mathcal{M}}$ does not depend on the choice of the embedding $S \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^3$. The reason is that any two embeddings are related by a diffeomorphism (defined in the respective tubular neighborhoods of the embedded surfaces) and the anomaly ω_1 defining the bundle $\text{Det}^{\mathcal{M}}$ is invariant under diffeomorphisms. The bundle Det_0 will be useful when relating the geometry of $\text{Det}^{\mathcal{M}}$ to the bundle Det ; no other (physical) significance will be assigned to Det_0 .

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

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

[Note that $\theta^2 = \frac{1}{2}$ when we use as $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the trace form in the defining representation of $GL(3, \mathbf{R})$.]

One can define a connection in Det^u by pulling back any connection in the bundle $\text{Det}_0(S, GL(3, \mathbf{R}))$. However, one cannot push the simple geometry of Det described by the formulas (11) and (16) to the bundle Det_0 . This can be seen from the curvature formula (16): the right-hand side is not invariant under the group $\text{Diff}S$. On the other hand, the connection defined by Atiyah and Singer [AS], is reparametrization invariant. The curvature form of the AS connection is

$$\int_S \text{tr}(D_A^* D_A)^{-1} [\delta A_\mu, \delta B^\mu] d^2x. \quad (20)$$

The tangent vectors δA and δB are taken to be in the background gauge $D_A^* \delta A = D_A^* \delta B = 0$. One must keep in mind that the metric is transformed along with the one-forms A , δA and δB under a diffeomorphism of S . The metric is needed to define the adjoint D_A^* of the covariant derivative and the product $[\delta A_\mu, \delta B^\mu]$.

Finally, I want to point out that the pull-back of the connection in Det to the topologically trivial bundle over the space \mathcal{A} is not directly related to the Kähler geometry studied by Quillen [Q] (and extended to the determinant bundles over Teichmüller spaces by Belavin and Knizhnik [BK]). The reason is that the curvature in [Q] has non-zero components even to the vertical directions of the canonical projection $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}$. The holomorphic geometries have also been studied recently by Bismut and Freed using families index theory, [BF].

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