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The Holonomy of the Determinant of Cohomology of an Algebraic Bundle

H. Gillet[1] and C. Soulé[2]

[1] Department of Mathematics, University of Illinois at Chicago, Box 4348, Chicago, Il 60680, USA
[2] I.H.E.S., 35, Route de Chartres, F-91440 Bures-sur-Yvette, France

Abstract. The purpose of this note is to remark that Theorem 3.7 in [1], when combined with the work of Bismut and Freed [2], leads, in the algebraic case, to an improvement of both results concerning the holonomy of determinant line bundles.

So let $f: X \to Y$ be a smooth proper map between projective complex manifolds. Choose a metric h on the relative tangent space $T_{X/Y}$ and a smooth complement $T^H X$ to $T_{X/Y}$ in TX. We assume that $(f, T^H X, h)$ is a Kähler fibration in the sense of [3], i.e. there exists a closed $(1,1)$ form ω on X for which $T_{X/Y}$ and $T^H X$ are orthogonal, and ω restricts to the $(1,1)$ form associated to h on $T_{X/Y}$.

Let E be an algebraic vector bundle on X, endowed with a smooth Hermitian metric h_E. The (algebraic) determinant line bundle

$$\lambda(E) = \det Rf_*(E)$$

may then be equipped with its Quillen metric [3], whose associated connection we denote by ∇_Q.

Given a smooth loop

$$\gamma: S^1 \to Y$$

we want to compute the holonomy of ∇_Q along γ. By pulling back f along γ we get a commutative diagram of real manifolds,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\gamma}} & X \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle f_\gamma} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle f} \\ S^1 & \xrightarrow[\gamma]{} & Y \end{array}$$

with $TM \cong \tilde{\gamma}^*(T_{X/Y}) \oplus f_\gamma^*(TS^1)$ (because of the choice of $T^H X$). Endow TM with the orthonormal direct sum of $\tilde{\gamma}^*(h)$ with the metric on TS^1 giving norm one to $\frac{d}{dt}$ and invariant by rotation. Let D be the Dirac operator acting on the sections of