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Errata

P. Sankaran and V. Uma

In the article “Cohomology of toric bundles” by P. Sankaran and V. Uma published in Volume 78/3 (2003), pp. 540–554 in the journal *Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici* were errors. The corrections are as follows:

We correct here the errors in our paper [6] which we found recently much to our embarrassment. The notations of [6] will be in force unless otherwise stated.

1. In Lemma 2.2(i) it was asserted that the elements $z_u \in \mathcal{I} := \mathcal{I}_S$ for every $u \in M$ the proof of which was left out as an “easy exercise”. Upon re-examining our proof we realized that it is not valid without further hypotheses! We circumvent the problem by modifying the definition of \mathcal{I} as follows so that Lemma 2.2(i) is redundant:

Assume that $r_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$, are invertible elements in the centre of S . Let \mathcal{I} be the (two-sided) ideal of the polynomial algebra $S[x_1, \dots, x_d]$ generated by the following two types of elements:

$$x_{j_1} \cdots x_{j_k}, \quad 1 \leq j_p \leq d, \quad (i)$$

whenever v_{j_1}, \dots, v_{j_k} do *not* span a cone of Δ ; for each $u := \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} a_i u_i \in M$, the element

$$z_u := \prod_{j, \langle u, v_j \rangle > 0} (1 - x_j)^{\langle u, v_j \rangle} - r_u \prod_{j, \langle u, v_j \rangle < 0} (1 - x_j)^{-\langle u, v_j \rangle} \quad (ii)'$$

where $r_u = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} r_i^{a_i}$. Define $\mathcal{R}(S, \Delta) := S[x_1, \dots, x_d]/\mathcal{I}$.

With this definition of \mathcal{I} , Lemma 2.2(i) is a tautology. Remaining parts of Lemma 2.2 (the proofs of which used part (i)) are now valid as given in [6].

Lemma 2.2 was used in Proposition 4.3(iii). But with the corrected definition of \mathcal{R} , it continues to hold because in 4.3(ii), we established the stronger condition $\prod [L_j]^{\langle u, v_j \rangle} = 1$. This (together with 4.3(i)) ensures that $x_j \mapsto (1 - [L_j]^\vee)$, $1 \leq j \leq d$, does yield a well-defined ring homomorphism $\mathcal{R} \rightarrow K(X)$ (where $r_i = 1$, $1 \leq i \leq n$).

Thanks to equations (7) and (8), p. 552 of [6], the proof of Theorem 1.2(iv) is valid verbatim with this modified definition of \mathcal{R} .

2. In Theorem 1.2(ii), we need, besides the new definition of \mathcal{R} , that B be Hausdorff.

Proof of Theorem 1.2(ii). We now give a proof that $K^*(E(X))$ is a free $K^*(B)$ -module of rank m , the number of n -dimensional cones in Δ where $X = X(\Delta)$. With notations as in §4, [6] the restriction of $[\mathcal{L}(\tau_i)]$, $1 \leq i \leq m$, to the fibre X forms a \mathbb{Z} -basis for $K^*(X)$. Since B is compact Hausdorff, it is locally compact and normal. Therefore B can be covered by finitely many compact subsets W_1, \dots, W_k such that the bundle $\pi|_{W_r}$ is trivial for $1 \leq r \leq k$. Let Y be a closed subspace of W_r . Now using the Künneth theorem for K -theory, which is also valid for general compact spaces (cf. [2]), we see that $K^*(\pi^{-1}(Y))$ is a free $K^*(Y)$ -module with basis $[\mathcal{L}(\tau_i)|_{\pi^{-1}(Y)}]$, $1 \leq i \leq m$. Applying Theorem 1.3, Ch. IV, [4], we conclude that $K^*(E(X))$ is a free $K(B)$ -module with basis $[\mathcal{L}(\tau_i)]$, $1 \leq i \leq m$. In view of equations (7) and (8), p. 552, [6], setting $r_i = \pi^*(\xi_i^\vee)$, one has a well-defined homomorphism $\mathcal{R}(K(B), \Delta) \rightarrow K(E(X))$ of $K(B)$ algebras defined by $x_j \mapsto (1 - \mathcal{L}_j)$. Rest of the proof is exactly as given in p. 552, [6]. \square

3. It was asserted after the proof of Lemma 4.2, [6], that flag varieties G/B where G is semi simple and B a Borel subgroup and smooth Schubert varieties in G/B satisfy the hypotheses of Lemma 4.2. In fact it turns out that $H^*(G/B; \mathbb{Z})$ is not generated by $H^2(G/B; \mathbb{Z})$ in general. This is related to the presence of torsion in the integral cohomology of the classifying space BG . (See §4 of [3].) However $H^*(SL(n, \mathbb{C})/B; \mathbb{Z})$ is generated as an algebra by $H^2(SL(n, \mathbb{C})/B; \mathbb{Z})$. More importantly, the conclusion of Lemma 4.2 is valid for any G/B . This follows from the surjectivity of the “ α -construction” established by Atiyah–Hirzebruch (Theorem 5.8, [1]) and Pittie [5].

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