
Algebraic v. topological K -theory: a friendly match

Guillermo Cortiñas

Dep. Matemática
Ciudad Universitaria Pab 1
(1428) Buenos Aires, Argentina
gcorti@dm.uba.ar

1 Introduction

These notes evolved from the lecture notes of a minicourse given in Swisk, the Sedano Winter School on K -theory held in Sedano, Spain, during the week January 22–27 of 2007, and from those of a longer course given in the University of Buenos Aires, during the second half of 2006. They intend to be an introduction to K -theory, with emphasis in the comparison between its algebraic and topological variants. We have tried to keep as elementary as possible. Section 2 introduces K_n for $n \leq 1$. Elementary properties such as matrix stability and excision are discussed. Section 3 is concerned with topological K -theory of Banach algebras; its excision property is derived from the excision sequence for algebraic K_0 and K_1 . Cuntz’ proof of Bott periodicity for C^* -algebras, via the C^* -Toeplitz extension, is sketched. In the next section we review Karoubi-Villamayor K -theory, which is an algebraic version of K^{top} , and has some formally similar properties, such as (algebraic) homotopy invariance, but does not satisfy excision in general. Section 5 discusses KH , Weibel’s homotopy K -theory, which is introduced in a purely algebraic, spectrum-free manner. Several of its properties, including excision, homotopy invariance and the fundamental theorem, are proved. The parallelism between Bott periodicity and the fundamental theorem for KH is emphasized by the use of the algebraic Toeplitz extension in the proof of the latter. Quillen’s higher K -theory is introduced in Section 6, via the plus construction of the classifying space of the general linear group. This is the first place where some algebraic topology is needed. The “d ecalage” formula $K_n \Sigma R = K_{n-1} R$ via Karoubi’s suspension is proved, and some some of the deep results of Suslin and Wodzicki on excision are discussed. Then the fundamental theorem for K -theory is reviewed, and its formal connection to Bott periodicity via the algebraic Toeplitz extension is established. The next section is the first of three devoted to the comparison between algebraic and topological K -theory of topological algebras. Using Higson’s homotopy invariance theorem, and the excision results of Suslin and Wodzicki, we give proofs of the C^* - and Banach variants of Karoubi’s conjecture, that algebraic and topological K -theory become isomorphic after stabilizing with respect to the ideal of compact operators (theorems of Suslin-Wodzicki and Wodzicki, respectively). Section 8 defines two variants of topological K -theory for locally convex algebras: KV^{dif} and KD which are formally analogue to KV and KH . Some of their basic properties are similar and derived with essentially the same arguments as their algebraic counterparts. We also give a proof of Bott periodicity for KD of locally convex algebras stabilized by the algebra of smooth compact operators. The proof uses the locally convex Toeplitz extension, and is modelled on Cuntz’ proof of Bott periodicity for his bivariant K -theory of locally convex algebras. In Section 9 we review some of the results of [10]. Using the homotopy invariance theorem of Cuntz and Thom, we show that KH and KD agree on locally convex algebras stabilized by Fr chet operator ideals. The spectra for Quillen’s

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and Weibel's K -theory, and the space for Karoubi-Villamayor K -theory are introduced in Section 10, where also the primary and secondary characters going from K -theory to cyclic homology are reviewed. The technical results of this section are used in the next, where we again deal with the comparison between algebraic and topological K -theory of locally convex algebras. We give proofs of the Fréchet variant of Karoubi's conjecture (due to Wodzicki), and of the 6-term exact sequence of [10], which relates algebraic K -theory and cyclic homology to topological K -theory of a stable locally convex algebra.

2 The groups K_n for $n \leq 1$.

Notation. Throughout these notes, A, B, C will be rings and R, S, T will be rings with unit.

2.1 Definition and basic properties of K_j for $j = 0, 1$.

Let R be a ring with unit. Write $M_n R$ for the matrix ring. Regard $M_n R \subset M_{n+1} R$ via

$$a \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Put

$$M_\infty R = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n R$$

Note $M_\infty R$ is a ring (without unit). We write $\text{Idem}_n R$ and $\text{Idem}_\infty R$ for the set of idempotent elements of $M_n R$ and $M_\infty R$. Thus

$$M_\infty R \supset \text{Idem}_\infty R = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{Idem}_n R.$$

We write $\text{GL}_n R = (M_n R)^*$ for the group of invertible matrices. Regard $\text{GL}_n R \subset \text{GL}_{n+1} R$ via

$$g \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} g & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Put

$$\text{GL}R := \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{GL}_n R.$$

Note $\text{GL}R$ acts by conjugation on $M_\infty R$, $\text{Idem}_\infty R$ and, of course, $\text{GL}R$.

For $a, b \in M_\infty R$ there is defined a *direct sum* operation

$$a \oplus b := \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & 0 & a_{1,2} & 0 & a_{1,3} & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & b_{1,1} & 0 & b_{1,2} & 0 & b_{1,3} & \dots \\ a_{2,1} & 0 & a_{2,2} & 0 & a_{2,3} & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

We remark that if $a, b \in M_p R$ then $a \oplus b \in M_{2p} R$ and is conjugate, by a permutation matrix, to the usual direct sum

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}.$$

One checks that \oplus is associative and commutative up to conjugation. Thus the coinvariants under the conjugation action

$$I(R) := ((\text{Idem}_\infty R)_{\text{GL}R}, \oplus)$$

form an abelian monoid.

Exercise 2.1.1. The operation (2) can be described as follows. Consider the decomposition $\mathbb{N} = \mathbb{N}_0 \amalg \mathbb{N}_1$ into even and odd positive integers; write ϕ_i for the bijection $\phi_i : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_i$, $\phi_i(n) = 2n - i$ $i = 0, 1$. The map ϕ_i induces an R -module monomorphism

$$\phi_i : R^{(\mathbb{N})} := \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} R \rightarrow R^{(\mathbb{N}_i)} \subset R^{(\mathbb{N})}, \quad e_n \mapsto e_{\phi_i(n)}.$$

We abuse notation and also write ϕ_i for the matrix of this homomorphism with respect to the canonical basis and ϕ_i^t for its transpose. Check the formula

$$a \oplus b = \phi_0 a \phi_0^t + \phi_1 a \phi_1^t.$$

Observe that the same procedure can be applied to any decomposition $\mathbb{N} = \mathbb{N}'_0 \amalg \mathbb{N}'_1$ into two infinite disjoint subsets and any choice of bijections $\phi'_i : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}'_i$, to obtain an operation $\oplus_{\phi'} : M_{\infty} R \times M_{\infty} R \rightarrow M_{\infty} R$. Verify that the operation so obtained defines the same monoid structure on the coinvariants $(M_{\infty} R)_{\text{GLR}}$, and thus also on $I(R)$.

Lemma 2.1.2. *Let M be an abelian monoid. Then there exist an abelian group M^+ and a monoid homomorphism $M \rightarrow M^+$ such that if $M \rightarrow G$ is any other such homomorphism, then there exists a unique group homomorphism $M^+ \rightarrow G$ such that*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \longrightarrow & M^+ \\ & \searrow & \vdots \\ & & G \end{array}$$

commutes.

Proof. Let $F = \mathbb{Z}^{(M)}$ be the free abelian group on one generator e_m for each $m \in M$, and let $S \subset F$ be the subgroup generated by all elements of the form $e_{m_1} + e_{m_2} - e_{m_1+m_2}$. One checks that $M^+ = F/S$ satisfies the desired properties. \square

Definition 2.1.3.

$$\begin{aligned} K_0(R) &:= I(R)^+ \\ K_1(R) &:= \frac{\text{GLR}}{[\text{GLR}, \text{GLR}]} = (\text{GLR})_{ab}. \end{aligned}$$

Here $[\cdot, \cdot]$ denotes the commutator subgroup, and the subscript ab indicates abelianization.

Proposition 2.1.4. (see [40, Section 2.1])

- $[\text{GLR}, \text{GLR}] = ER := \langle 1 + ae_{i,j} : a \in R, i \neq j \rangle$, the subgroup of GLR generated by elementary matrices.
- If $\alpha \in \text{GL}_n R$ then

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \in E_{2n} R \quad (\text{Whitehead's Lemma}).$$

(Here $E_{2n} R = ER \cap \text{GL}_{2n} R$). \square

As a consequence of Whitehead's lemma above, if $\beta \in \text{GL}_n R$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha\beta &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha\beta & 0 \\ 0 & 1_{n \times n} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \beta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta & 0 \\ 0 & \beta^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \\ &\equiv \alpha \oplus \beta \pmod{ER}. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Exercise 2.1.5. Let R be a unital ring, and let ϕ' and $\oplus_{\phi'}$ be as in Exercise 2.1.1. Prove that $\oplus_{\phi'}$ and \oplus define the same operation in $K_1(R)$, which coincides with the product of matrices.

Let $r \geq 1$. Then

$$p_r = 1_{r \times r} \in \text{Idem}_{\infty} R.$$

Because $p_r \oplus p_s = p_{r+s}$, the assignment $r \mapsto p_r$ defines a monoid homomorphism $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow I(R)$. Applying the group completion functor we obtain a group homomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{N}^+ \rightarrow I(R)^+ = K_0 R. \quad (4)$$

Similarly, the inclusion $R^* = \text{GL}_1 R \subset \text{GL} R$ induces a homomorphism

$$R_{ab}^* \rightarrow K_1 R. \quad (5)$$

Example 2.1.6. If F is a field, and $e \in \text{Idem}_{\infty} F$ is of rank r , then e is conjugate to p_r ; moreover p_r and p_s are conjugate $\iff r = s$. Thus (4) is an isomorphism in this case. Assume more generally that R is commutative. Then (4) is a split monomorphism. Indeed, there exists a surjective unital homomorphism $R \twoheadrightarrow F$ onto a field F ; the induced map $K_0(R) \rightarrow K_0(F) = \mathbb{Z}$ is a left inverse of (4). Similarly, for commutative R , the homomorphism (5) is injective, since it is split by the map $\det : K_1 R \rightarrow R^*$ induced by the determinant.

Example 2.1.7. The following are examples of rings for which the maps (4) and (5) are isomorphisms (see [40, Ch.1§3, Ch.2§2,§3]): fields, division rings, principal ideal domains and local rings. Recall that a ring R is a *local ring* if the subset $R \setminus R^*$ of noninvertible elements is an ideal of R . For instance if k is a field, then the k -algebra $k[\epsilon] := k \oplus k\epsilon$ with $\epsilon^2 = 0$ is a local ring. Indeed $k[\epsilon]^* = k^* + k\epsilon$ and $k[\epsilon] \setminus k[\epsilon]^* = k\epsilon \triangleleft k[\epsilon]$.

Example 2.1.8. Here is an example of a local ring involving operator theory. Let H be a separable Hilbert space over \mathbb{C} ; put $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}(H)$ for the algebra of bounded operators. Write $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathcal{B}$ for the ideal of compact operators, and \mathcal{F} for that of finite rank operators. The Riesz-Schauder theorem from elementary operator theory implies that if $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$ and $T \in \mathcal{K}$ then there exists an $f \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $\lambda + T + f$ is invertible in \mathcal{B} . In fact one checks that if $\mathcal{F} \subset I \subset \mathcal{K}$ is an ideal of \mathcal{B} such that $T \in I$ then the inverse of $\lambda + T + f$ is again in $\mathbb{C} \oplus I$. Hence the ring

$$R_I := \mathbb{C} \oplus I/\mathcal{F}$$

is local, and thus $K_0(R_I) = \mathbb{Z}$.

Remark 2.1.9. (K_0 from projective modules) In the literature, K_0 of a unital ring is often defined in terms of finitely generated projective modules. This approach is equivalent to ours, as we shall see presently. If R is a unital ring and $e \in \text{Idem}_n R$, then left multiplication by e defines a right module homomorphism $R^n = R^{n \times 1} \rightarrow R^n$ with image eR^n . Similarly $(1-e)R^n \subset R^n$ is a submodule, and we have a direct sum decomposition

$$R^n = eR^n \oplus (1-e)R^n.$$

Hence eR^n is a finitely generated projective module, as it is a direct summand of a finitely generated free R -module. Note every finitely generated projective right R -module arises in this way for some n and some $e \in \text{Idem}_n R$. Moreover, one checks that if $e \in \text{Idem}_n R$ and $f \in \text{Idem}_m R$, then the modules eR^n and fR^m are isomorphic if and only if the images of e and f in $\text{Idem}_{\infty} R$ define the same class in $I(R)$ (see [40, Lemma 1.2.1]). Thus we have a natural bijection from the monoid $I(R)$ to the set $P(R)$ of isomorphism classes of finitely generated projective modules; further, one checks that the direct sum of idempotents corresponds to the direct sum of modules. Hence the monoids $I(R)$ and $P(R)$ are isomorphic, and therefore they have the same group completion:

$$K_0(R) = I(R)^+ = P(R)^+.$$

Additivity.

If R_1 and R_2 are unital rings, then $M_\infty(R_1 \times R_2) \rightarrow M_\infty R_1 \times M_\infty R_2$ is an isomorphism. It follows from this that the natural map induced by the projections $R_1 \times R_2 \rightarrow R_i$ is an isomorphism:

$$K_j(R_1 \times R_2) \rightarrow K_j R_1 \oplus K_j R_2 \quad (j = 0, 1).$$

Application: extension to nonunital rings.

If A is any (not necessarily unital) ring, then the abelian group $\tilde{A} = A \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ equipped with the multiplication

$$(a + n)(b + m) := ab + nm \quad (a, b \in A, \quad n, m \in \mathbb{Z}) \quad (6)$$

is a unital ring, with unit element $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $\tilde{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, a + n \mapsto n$, is a unital homomorphism. Put

$$K_j(A) := \ker(K_j \tilde{A} \rightarrow K_j \mathbb{Z}) \quad (j = 0, 1).$$

If A happens to have a unit, we have two definitions for $K_j A$. To check that they are the same, one observes that the map

$$\tilde{A} \rightarrow A \times \mathbb{Z}, \quad a + n \mapsto (a + n \cdot 1, n) \quad (7)$$

is a unital isomorphism. One verifies that, under this isomorphism, $\tilde{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ identifies with the projection $A \times \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, and $\ker(K_j \tilde{A}) \rightarrow K_j \mathbb{Z}$ with $\ker(K_j A \oplus K_j \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow K_j \mathbb{Z}) = K_j A$. Note that the same procedure works to extend any additive functor of unital rings unambiguously to all rings.

Remark 2.1.10. The functor $\text{GL} : \mathfrak{Ass}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{Grp}$ preserves products. Hence it extends to all rings by

$$\text{GL}(A) := \ker(\text{GL}(\tilde{A}) \rightarrow \text{GL}\mathbb{Z})$$

It is a straightforward exercise to show that, with this definition, GL becomes a left exact functor in \mathfrak{Ass} ; thus if $A \triangleleft B$ is an ideal embedding, then $\text{GL}(A) = \ker(\text{GL}(B) \rightarrow \text{GL}(B/A))$. It is straightforward from this that the group $K_1 A$ defined above can be described as

$$K_1 A = \text{GL}(A)/E(\tilde{A}) \cap \text{GL}(A) \quad (8)$$

A little more work shows that $E(\tilde{A}) \cap \text{GL}(A)$ is the smallest normal subgroup of $E(\tilde{A})$ which contains the elementary matrices $1 + ae_{i,j}$ with $a \in A$ (see [40, 2.5]).

Matrix stability.

Let R be a unital ring and $n \geq 2$. A choice of bijection $\phi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}_{\leq n} \cong \mathbb{N}$ gives a ring isomorphism $\phi : M_\infty(M_n R) \cong M_\infty(R)$ which induces, for $j = 0, 1$, a group isomorphism $\phi_j : K_j(M_n R) \cong K_j R$. Next, consider the decomposition $\mathbb{N} = \mathbb{N}'_1 \amalg \mathbb{N}'_2$, $\mathbb{N}'_0 = \phi(\mathbb{N} \times \{1\})$, $\mathbb{N}'_1 = \phi(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}_{<n} \setminus \mathbb{N} \times \{1\})$. Setting $\psi_0 : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}'_0$, $\psi_0(m) = \phi(m, 1)$ and choosing any bijection $\psi_1 : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}'_1$, we obtain, as in Exercise 2.1.1, a direct sum operation $\oplus_\psi : M_\infty R \times M_\infty R \rightarrow M_\infty R$. Set $\iota : R \mapsto M_n R$, $r \mapsto re_{11}$. The composite of $M_\infty \iota$ followed by the isomorphism induced by ϕ is the map sending

$$e_{i,j}(r) \mapsto e_{\phi(i,1),\phi(j,1)}(r) = e_{i,j}(r) \oplus_\psi 0. \quad (9)$$

By Exercise 2.1.1 the latter map induces the identity in K_0 . Moreover, one checks that (9) induces the map $\text{GL}(M_n R) \rightarrow \text{GL}(M_n R)$, $g \mapsto g \oplus_\psi 1$, whence it also gives the identity in K_1 , by Exercise 2.1.5. It follows that, for $j = 0, 1$, the map

$$K_j(\iota) : K_j(R) \rightarrow K_j(M_n R)$$

is an isomorphism, inverse to ϕ_j . Starting with a bijection $\phi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and using the same argument as above, one shows that also

$$K_j(\iota) : K_j(R) \rightarrow K_j(M_\infty R)$$

is an isomorphism.

Nilinvariance for K_0 .

If $I \triangleleft R$ is a nilpotent ideal, then $K_0(R) \rightarrow K_0(R/I)$ is an isomorphism. This property is a consequence of the well-known fact that nilpotent extensions admit idempotent liftings, and that any two liftings of the same idempotent are conjugate (see for example [3, 1.7.3]). Note that K_1 does not have the same property, as the following example shows.

Example 2.1.11. Let k be a field. Then by 2.1.7, $K_1(k[\epsilon]) = k^* + k\epsilon$ and $K_1(k) = k^*$. Thus $k[\epsilon] \rightarrow k[\epsilon]/\epsilon k[\epsilon] = k$ does not become an isomorphism under K_1 .

Example 2.1.12. Let A be an abelian group; make it into a ring with the trivial product: $ab = 0 \forall a, b \in A$. The map $A \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_1 A$, $a \mapsto 1 + a$ is an isomorphism of groups, and thus induces a group homomorphism $A \rightarrow K_1 A$. We are going to show that the latter map is an isomorphism. First of all, it is injective, since $\mathrm{GL}_1(A) \rightarrow K_1(A)$ is (by 2.1.6) and since by definition, $K_1 A \subset K_1(\hat{A})$. Second, note that if $\epsilon = 1 + ae_{ij}$ is an elementary matrix with $a \in A$ and $g \in \mathrm{GL} A$, then $(\epsilon g)_{ij} = g_{ij} + a$, and $(\epsilon g)_{p,q} = g_{p,q}$ for $(p,q) \neq (i,j)$. Thus g is congruent to its diagonal in $K_1 A$. But by Whitehead's lemma, any diagonal matrix in $\mathrm{GL}(\hat{A})$ is K_1 -equivalent to its determinant (see (3)). This shows that $A \rightarrow K_1 A$ is surjective, whence an isomorphism.

Remark 2.1.13. The example above shows that K_1 is no longer matrix stable when extended to general nonunital rings. In addition, it gives another example of the failure of nilinvariance for K_1 of unital rings. It follows from 2.1.11 and 2.1.12 that if k and ϵ are as in Example 2.1.11, then $K_1(k\epsilon) = \ker(K_1(k[\epsilon]) \rightarrow K_1(k))$. In 2.4.4 below, we give an example of a unital ring T such that $k\epsilon$ is an ideal in T , and such that $\ker(T \rightarrow T/k\epsilon) = 0$.

Exercise 2.1.14. Prove that K_0 and K_1 commute with filtering colimits; that is, show that if I is a small filtering category and $A : I \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}$ is a functor, then for $j = 0, 1$, the map $\mathrm{colim}_I K_j A_i \rightarrow K_j(\mathrm{colim}_I A_i)$ is an isomorphism.

2.2 Matrix-stable functors.

Notation. We write $\mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}$ for the category of rings and ring homomorphisms, and $\mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}_1$ for the subcategory of unital rings and unit preserving ring homomorphisms.

Definition 2.2.1. Let $\mathfrak{C} \subset \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}$ be a subcategory of the category of rings, $S : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}$ a functor, and $\gamma : 1_{\mathfrak{C}} \rightarrow S$ a natural transformation. If \mathfrak{D} is any category, $F : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}$ a functor and $A \in \mathfrak{C}$, then we say that F is stable on A with respect to (S, γ) (or S -stable on A , for short) if the map $F(\gamma_A) : F(A) \rightarrow F(S(A))$ is an isomorphism. We say that F is S -stable if it is stable on every $A \in \mathfrak{C}$.

Example 2.2.2. We showed in Section 2.1 that K_j is M_n and even M_∞ -stable on unital rings; in both cases, the natural transformation of the definition above is $r \mapsto re_{11}$.

Exercise 2.2.3. Let $F : \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s} \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{b}$ be a functor and A a ring. Prove:
i) The following are equivalent:

- For all $n, p \in \mathbb{N}$, F is M_p -stable on $M_n A$.
- For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, F is M_2 -stable on $M_n A$.

In particular, an M_2 -stable functor is M_n -stable, for all n .

ii) If F is M_∞ -stable on both A and $M_n A$, then F is M_n -stable on A . In particular, if F is M_∞ -stable, then it is M_n -stable for all n .

Lemma 2.2.4. *Let $F : \mathfrak{A}ss \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}$ be a functor, and $A \in \mathfrak{A}ss$. Assume F is M_2 -stable on both A and M_2A . Then the inclusions $\iota_0, \iota_1 : A \rightarrow M_2A$*

$$\iota_0(a) = ae_{11}, \quad \iota_1(a) = ae_{22}$$

induce the same isomorphism $FA \rightarrow FM_2A$.

Proof. Consider the composites $j_0 = \iota_0 M_2 \circ \iota_0$ and $j_1 = \iota_0 M_2 \circ \iota_1$, and the matrices

$$J_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad J_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_4\mathbb{Z}.$$

Conjugation by J_i induces an automorphism σ_i of $M_4A = M_2M_2A$ of order i such that

$$\sigma_i j_0 = j_1 \quad (i = 0, 1).$$

Since $F(j_0)$ is an isomorphism, and the orders of σ_2 and σ_3 are relatively prime, it follows that $F(\sigma_2) = F(\sigma_3) = 1_{F(M_4A)}$ and hence that $F(j_0) = F(j_1)$ and $F(\iota_0) = F(\iota_1)$. \square

Exercise 2.2.5. Let F and A be as in Lemma 2.2.4. Assume in addition that \mathfrak{D} and F are additive. Consider the map

$$\mathrm{diag} : A \times A \rightarrow M_2A, \quad \mathrm{diag}(a, b) = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}.$$

Prove that the composite

$$F(A) \oplus F(A) = F(A \times A) \xrightarrow{F(\mathrm{diag})} F(M_2A) \xrightarrow{F(i_0)^{-1}} F(A)$$

is the codiagonal map (i.e. it restricts to the identity on each copy of $F(A)$).

Proposition 2.2.6. *Let F and A be as in Lemma 2.2.4, $A \subset B$ an overring, and $V, W \in B$ elements such that*

$$WA, AV \subset A, \quad aVWa' = aa' \quad (a, a' \in A).$$

Then

$$\phi^{V,W} : A \rightarrow A, \quad a \mapsto WaV$$

is a ring homomorphism, and

$$F(\phi^{V,W}) = 1_{F(A)}.$$

Proof. We may assume that B is unital. Consider the elements $V \oplus 1$ and $W \oplus 1 \in M_2B$. The hypothesis guarantee that both $\phi := \phi^{V,W}$ and $\phi' := \phi^{V \oplus 1, W \oplus 1} : M_2A \rightarrow M_2A$ are well-defined ring homomorphisms. Moreover, $\phi' \iota_1 = \iota_1$ and $\phi' \iota_0 = \iota_0 \phi$. It follows that $F(\phi')$ and $F(\phi)$ are the identity maps, by Lemma 2.2.4. \square

Exercise 2.2.7.

i) Let R be a unital ring and L a free, finitely generated R -module of rank n . A choice of basis \mathfrak{B} of L gives an isomorphism $\phi = \phi_{\mathfrak{B}} : M_n R \rightarrow \mathrm{End}_R L$. Use 2.2.6 to show that $K_j(\phi)$ is independent of the choice of \mathfrak{B} ($j = 0, 1$).

ii) Assume R is a field. If $e \in \mathrm{End}_R L$ is idempotent, then $\iota_e : R \rightarrow \mathrm{End}_R L, x \mapsto xe$ is a ring monomorphism. Show that if $e \in \mathrm{End}_R L$ is of rank 1, then $K_j(\iota_e) = K_j(\phi \iota)$. In particular, $K_j(\iota_e)$ is independent of the choice of the rank-one idempotent e .

iii) Let H and \mathcal{F} be as in Example 2.1.8. If $V \subset W \subset H$ are finite dimensional subspaces and $U = V^\perp \cap W$ then the decomposition $W = V \oplus U$ induces an inclusion $\text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V) \subset \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(W)$. Show that

$$\mathcal{F} = \bigcup_{\dim V < \infty} \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V)$$

iv) Prove that if $e \in \mathcal{F}$ is any self-adjoint, rank-one idempotent, then the inclusion $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$, $x \mapsto xe$, induces an isomorphism $K_j(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{\cong} K_j(\mathcal{F})$. Show moreover that this isomorphism is independent of the choice of e .

2.3 Sum rings and infinite sum rings.

Recall from [49] that a *sum ring* is a unital ring R together with elements α_i, β_i , $i = 0, 1$ such that the following identities hold

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_0\beta_0 &= \alpha_1\beta_1 = 1 \\ \beta_0\alpha_0 + \beta_1\alpha_1 &= 1 \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

If R is a sum ring, then

$$\begin{aligned} \boxplus : R \times R &\rightarrow R, \\ (a, b) &\mapsto a \boxplus b = \beta_0 a \alpha_0 + \beta_1 b \alpha_1 \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

is a unital ring homomorphism. An *infinite sum ring* is a sum ring R together with a unit preserving ring homomorphism $\infty : R \rightarrow R$, $a \mapsto a^\infty$ such that

$$a \boxplus a^\infty = a^\infty \quad (a \in R). \tag{12}$$

Proposition 2.3.1. *Let \mathfrak{D} be an additive category, $F : \mathfrak{A}ss \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}$ a functor, and R a sum ring. Assume that the sum of projection maps $\gamma = F\pi_0 + F\pi_1 : F(R \times R) \rightarrow FR \oplus FR$ is an isomorphism, and that F is M_2 -stable on both R and M_2R . Then the composite*

$$F(R) \oplus F(R) \xrightarrow{\gamma^{-1}} F(R \times R) \xrightarrow{F(\boxplus)} F(R)$$

is the codiagonal map; that is, it restricts to the identity on each copy of $F(R)$. If moreover R is an infinite sum ring, then $F(R) = 0$.

Proof. Let $j_0, j_1 : R \rightarrow R \times R$, $j_0(x) = (x, 0)$, $j_1(x) = (0, x)$. Note that $\gamma^{-1} = Fj_0 + Fj_1$. Because F is M_2 -stable on both R and M_2R , $F(\boxplus)F(j_i) = 1_{F(R)}$, by Proposition 2.2.6. Thus $F(\boxplus) \circ \gamma^{-1}$ is the codiagonal map, as claimed. It follows that if $\alpha, \beta : R \rightarrow R$ are homomorphisms, then $F\alpha + F\beta = F(\boxplus(\alpha, \beta))$. In particular, if R is an infinite sum ring, then

$$F(\infty) + 1_{F(R)} = F(\infty) + F(1_R) = F(\boxplus(\infty, 1_R)) = F(\infty).$$

Thus $1_{F(R)} = 0$, whence $F(R) = 0$. \square

Example 2.3.2. Let A be a ring. Write ΓA for the ring of all $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ matrices $a = (a_{i,j})_{i,j \geq 1}$ which satisfy the following two conditions:

- i) The set $\{a_{ij}, i, j \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is finite.
- ii) There exists a natural number $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that each row and each column has at most N nonzero entries.

It is an exercise to show that ΓA is indeed a ring and that $M_\infty A \subset \Gamma A$ is an ideal. The ring ΓA is called (Karoubi's) *cone ring*; the quotient $\Sigma A := \Gamma A / M_\infty A$ is the *suspension* of A . A useful fact about Γ and Σ is that the well-known isomorphism $M_\infty \mathbb{Z} \otimes A \cong M_\infty A$ extends to Γ , so that there are isomorphisms (see [11, 4.7.1])

$$\Gamma \mathbb{Z} \otimes A \xrightarrow{\cong} \Gamma A \text{ and } \Sigma \mathbb{Z} \otimes A \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma A. \quad (13)$$

Let R be a unital ring. One checks that the following elements of ΓR satisfy the identities (10):

$$\alpha_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e_{i,2i}, \quad \beta_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e_{2i,i}, \quad \alpha_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e_{i,2i-1}, \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e_{2i-1,i}.$$

Let $a \in \Gamma R$. Because the map $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, $(k, i) \mapsto 2^{k+1}i + 2^k - 1$, is injective, the following assignment gives a well-defined, $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ -matrix

$$\phi^\infty(a) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_1^k \beta_0 a \alpha_0 \alpha_1^k = \sum_{k,i,j} e_{2^{k+1}i+2^k-1, 2^{k+1}j+2^k-1} \otimes a_{i,j}. \quad (14)$$

One checks that $\alpha_1 \beta_0 = \alpha_0 \beta_1 = 0$ and $\alpha_0 \alpha_1^i \beta_1^j \beta_0 = \delta_{ij}$. It follows from this that ϕ^∞ is a ring endomorphism of ΓR ; it is straightforward that (12) is satisfied too. In particular $K_n \Gamma R = 0$ for $n = 0, 1$.

Exercise 2.3.3. Let A be a ring. If $m = (m_{i,j})$ is an $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ -matrix with coefficients in A , and $x \in M_\infty \tilde{A}$, then both $m \cdot x$ and $x \cdot m$ are well-defined $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ -matrices. Put

$$\Gamma^\ell A := \{m \in M_{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}} A : m \cdot M_\infty \tilde{A} \subset M_\infty A \supset M_\infty \tilde{A} \cdot m\}. \quad (15)$$

Prove

- i) $\Gamma^\ell A$ consists of those matrices in $M_{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}} A$ having finitely many nonzero elements in each row and column. In particular, $\Gamma^\ell A \supset \Gamma A$.
- ii) The usual matrix sum and product operations make $\Gamma^\ell A$ into a ring.
- iii) If R is a unital ring then $\Gamma^\ell R$ is an infinite sum ring.

Remark 2.3.4. The ring $\Gamma^\ell A$ is the cone ring considered by Wagoner in [49], where it was denoted ℓA . The notion of infinite sum ring was introduced in *loc. cit.*, where it was also shown that if R is unital, then $\Gamma^\ell R$ is an example of such a ring.

Exercise 2.3.5. Let $F : \mathfrak{A} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s} \rightarrow \mathfrak{A} \mathfrak{b}$ be a functor. Assume F is both additive and M_2 -stable for unital rings and for rings of the form $M_\infty R$, with R unital. Show that if R is a unital ring, then the direct sum operation (2), induces the group operation in $F(M_\infty R)$, and that the same is true of any of the other direct sum operations of 2.1.1.

Exercise 2.3.6. Let \mathcal{B} and H be as in Example 2.1.8. Choose a Hilbert basis $\{e_i\}_{i \geq 1}$ of H , and regard \mathcal{B} as a ring of $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ matrices. With these identifications, show that $\mathcal{B} \supset \Gamma \mathbb{C}$. Deduce from this that \mathcal{B} is a sum ring. Further show that (14) extends to \mathcal{B} , so that the latter is in fact an infinite sum ring.

2.4 The excision sequence for K_0 and K_1 .

A reason for considering K_0 and K_1 as part of the same theory is that they are connected by a long exact sequence, as shown in Theorem 2.4.1 below. We need some notation. Let

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0 \quad (16)$$

be an exact sequence of rings. If $\hat{g} \in M_n B$ maps to an invertible matrix $g \in \mathrm{GL}_n C$ and \hat{g}^* maps to g^{-1} , then

$$\begin{aligned} h = h(\hat{g}, \hat{g}^*) &:= \begin{bmatrix} 2\hat{g} - \hat{g}\hat{g}^*\hat{g} & \hat{g}\hat{g}^* - 1 \\ 1 - \hat{g}^*\hat{g} & \hat{g}^* \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \hat{g} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -\hat{g}^* & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \hat{g} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{E}_{2n}(\tilde{B}) \subset \mathrm{GL}_{2n}(\tilde{B}) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Note that h maps to $\mathrm{diag}(g, g^{-1}) \in \mathrm{GL}_{2n}(C)$. Thus $hp_n h^{-1}$ maps to p_n , whence $hp_n h^{-1} - p_n \in M_{2n} A$ and $hp_n h^{-1} \in M_{2n} \tilde{A}$. Put

$$\partial(\hat{g}, \hat{g}^*) := [hp_n h^{-1}] - [p_n] \in \ker(K_0(\tilde{A}) \rightarrow K_0 \mathbb{Z}) = K_0 A \quad (18)$$

Theorem 2.4.1. *If (16) is an exact sequence of rings, then there is a long exact sequence*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_1 A & \longrightarrow & K_1 B & \longrightarrow & K_1 C \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ & & K_0 C & \longleftarrow & K_0 B \longleftarrow & K_0 A \end{array}$$

The map ∂ sends the class of an element $g \in \mathrm{GL}_n C$ to the class of the element (18); in particular the latter depends only on the K_1 -class of g .

Proof. (Sketch) The exactness of the top row of the sequence of the theorem is straightforward. Putting together [40, Thms. 1.5.5, 1.5.9 and 2.5.4] we obtain the theorem for those sequences (16) in which $B \rightarrow C$ is a unital homomorphism. It follows that we have a map of exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} K_1 \tilde{B} & \longrightarrow & K_1 \tilde{C} & \longrightarrow & K_0 A & \longrightarrow & K_0 \tilde{B} & \longrightarrow & K_0 \tilde{C} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ K_1 \mathbb{Z} & \longleftarrow & K_1 \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & K_0 \mathbb{Z} & \longleftarrow & K_0 \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

Taking kernels of the vertical maps, we obtain an exact sequence

$$K_1 B \longrightarrow K_1 C \longrightarrow K_0 A \longrightarrow K_0 B \longrightarrow K_0 C$$

It remains to show that the map $K_1 C \rightarrow K_0 A$ of this sequence is given by the formula of the theorem. This is done by tracking down the maps and identifications of the proofs of [40, Thms. 1.5.5, 1.5.9 and 2.5.4] (see also [34, §3, §4]), and computing the idempotent matrices to which the projective modules appearing there correspond, taking into account that $B \rightarrow C$ sends the matrix $h \in \mathrm{GL}_{2n} \tilde{B}$ of (17) to the diagonal matrix $\mathrm{diag}(g, g^{-1}) \in \mathrm{GL}_{2n} C$. \square

Remark 2.4.2. In [40, 2.5.4], a sequence similar to that of the theorem above is obtained, in which $K_1 A$ is replaced by a relative K_1 -group $K_1(B : A)$, depending on both A and B . For example if $B \rightarrow B/A$ is a split surjection, then ([40, Exer. 2.5.19])

$$K_1(B : A) = \ker(K_1 B \rightarrow K_1(B/A))$$

The groups $K_1(B : A)$ and $K_1 A$ are not isomorphic in general (see Example 2.4.4 below); however their images in $K_1 B$ coincide. We point out also that the theorem above can be deduced directly from Milnor's Mayer-Vietoris sequence for a Milnor square ([34, §4]).

The following corollary is immediate from the theorem.

Corollary 2.4.3. *Assume (16) is split by a ring homomorphism $C \rightarrow B$. Then $K_0A \rightarrow K_0B$ is injective, and induces an isomorphism*

$$K_0A = \ker(K_0B \rightarrow K_0C)$$

Because of this we say that K_0 is split exact.

Example 2.4.4. (Swan's example [46]) We shall give an example which shows that K_1 is not split exact. Let k be a field with at least 3 elements (i.e. $k \neq \mathbb{F}_2$). Consider the ring of upper triangular matrices

$$T := \begin{bmatrix} k & k \\ 0 & k \end{bmatrix}$$

with coefficients in k . The set I of strictly upper triangular matrices forms an ideal of T , isomorphic as a ring, to the ideal $k\epsilon \triangleleft k[\epsilon]$, via the identification $\epsilon = e_{12}$. By Examples 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, $\ker(K_1(k[\epsilon]) \rightarrow K_1(k)) = K_1(k\epsilon) \cong k\epsilon$, the additive group underlying k . If K_1 were split exact, then also

$$K_1(T : I) = \ker(K_1T \rightarrow K_1(k \times k)) \quad (19)$$

should be isomorphic to $k\epsilon$. However we shall see presently that $K_1(T : I) = 0$. Note that $T \rightarrow k \times k$ is split by the natural inclusion $\text{diag} : k \times k \rightarrow T$. Thus any element of $K_1(T : I)$ is the class of an element $\text{GL}(k\epsilon)$, and by 2.1.11 it is congruent to the class of an element in $\text{GL}_1(k\epsilon) = 1 + k\epsilon$. We shall show that if $\lambda \in k$, then $1 + \lambda\epsilon \in [\text{GL}_1T, \text{GL}_1T]$. Because we are assuming that $k \neq \mathbb{F}_2$, there exists $\mu \in k - \{0, 1\}$; one checks that

$$1 + \lambda\epsilon = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \lambda \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{bmatrix} \mu & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \lambda \\ 0 & \mu^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right] \in [\text{GL}_1T, \text{GL}_1T].$$

Example 2.4.5. Let R be a unital ring. Applying the theorem above to the cone sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M_\infty R \rightarrow \Gamma R \rightarrow \Sigma R \rightarrow 0 \quad (20)$$

we obtain an isomorphism

$$K_1\Sigma R = K_0R. \quad (21)$$

Exercise 2.4.6. Use Corollary 2.4.3 to prove that all the properties of K_0 stated in 2.1 for unital rings, remain valid for all rings. Further, show that $K_0(\Gamma A) = 0$ for all rings A , and thus that for any ring A , the boundary map gives a surjection

$$K_1\Sigma A \twoheadrightarrow K_0A.$$

2.5 Negative K -theory.

Definition 2.5.1. *Let A be a ring and $n \geq 0$. Put*

$$K_{-n}A := K_0\Sigma^n A.$$

Proposition 2.5.2.

- i) *For $n \leq 0$, the functors $K_n : \mathfrak{A}ss \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}b$ are additive, nilinvariant and M_∞ -stable.*
- ii) *The exact sequence of 2.4.1 extends to negative K -theory. Thus if*

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$$

is a short exact sequence of rings, then for $n \leq 0$ we have a long exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_n A & \longrightarrow & K_n B & \longrightarrow & K_n C \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_{n-1} C & \longleftarrow & K_{n-1} B & \longleftarrow & K_{n-1} A \end{array}$$

Proof.

i) By (13), we have $\Sigma A = \Sigma \mathbb{Z} \otimes A$. Thus Σ commutes with finite products and with M_∞ , and sends nilpotent rings to nilpotent rings. Moreover, Σ is exact, because both M_∞ and Γ are. Hence the general case of i) follows from the case $n = 0$, which is proved in Section 2.1.

ii) Consider the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow \tilde{B} \rightarrow \tilde{C} \rightarrow 0$$

Applying Σ , we obtain

$$0 \rightarrow \Sigma A \rightarrow \Sigma \tilde{B} \rightarrow \Sigma \tilde{C} \rightarrow 0$$

By (21), if D is any ring, then $K_0 \tilde{D} = K_1 \Sigma \tilde{D}$. Thus by 2.4.1 and 2.4.3, we get an exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_0 A & \longrightarrow & K_0 B \oplus K_0 \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & K_0 C \oplus K_0 \mathbb{Z} \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_{-1} C \oplus K_{-1} \mathbb{Z} & \longleftarrow & K_{-1} B \oplus K_{-1} \mathbb{Z} & \longleftarrow & K_{-1} A \end{array}$$

Splitting off the $K_j \mathbb{Z}$ summands, we obtain

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_0 A & \longrightarrow & K_0 B & \longrightarrow & K_0 C \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_{-1} C & \longleftarrow & K_{-1} B & \longleftarrow & K_{-1} A \end{array}$$

This proves the case $n = 0$ of the proposition. The general case follows from this. \square

Example 2.5.3. Let \mathcal{B} be as in Example 2.1.8 and $I \triangleleft \mathcal{B}$ a proper ideal. It is classical that $\mathcal{F} \subset I \subset \mathcal{K}$ for any such ideal. We shall show that the map

$$K_0 \mathcal{F} \rightarrow K_0 I \tag{22}$$

is an isomorphism; thus $K_0 I = K_0 \mathcal{F} = \mathbb{Z}$, by Exercise 2.2.7. As in 2.1.8 we consider the local ring $R_I = \mathbb{C} \oplus I/\mathcal{F}$. We have a commutative diagram with exact rows and split exact columns

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & I & \longrightarrow & I/\mathcal{F} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C} \oplus I & \longrightarrow & R_I \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & & & \mathbb{C} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathbb{C} \end{array}$$

By 2.1.8 and split exactness, $K_0(I/\mathcal{F}) = 0$. Thus the map (22) is onto. From the diagram above, $K_1(I/\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow K_0 \mathcal{F}$ factors through $K_1(R_I) \rightarrow K_0 \mathcal{F}$. But it follows from the discussion of Example 2.1.8 that the map $K_1(\mathbb{C} \oplus I) \rightarrow K_1(R_I)$ is onto, whence $K_1(R_I) \rightarrow K_0 \mathcal{F}$ and thus also $K_1(I/\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow K_0 \mathcal{F}$, are zero. Thus (22) is an isomorphism.

Exercise 2.5.4. A theorem of Karoubi asserts that $K_{-1}(\mathcal{K}) = 0$ [29]. Use this and excision to show that $K_{-1}(I) = 0$ for any operator ideal I .

Exercise 2.5.5. Prove that if $n < 0$, then the functor K_n commutes with filtering colimits.

Remark 2.5.6. The definition of negative K -theory used here is taken from Karoubi-Villamayor's paper [31], where cohomological notation is used. Thus what we call $K_n A$ here is denoted $K^{-n} A$ in *loc. cit.* ($n \leq 0$). There is also another definition, due to Bass [2]. A proof that the two definitions agree is given in [31, 7.9].

3 Topological K -theory

We saw in the previous section (Example 2.4.4) that K_1 is not split exact. It follows from this that there is no way of defining higher K -groups such that the long exact sequence of Theorem 2.4.1 can be extended to higher K -theory. This motivates the question of whether this problem could be fixed if we replaced K_1 by some other functor. This is successfully done in topological K -theory of Banach algebras.

3.1 Topological K -theory of Banach algebras.

A *Banach* (\mathbb{C} -) algebra is a \mathbb{C} -algebra together with a norm $\| \cdot \|$ which makes it into a Banach space and is such that $\|xy\| \leq \|x\| \cdot \|y\|$ for all $x, y \in A$. If A is a Banach algebra then its \mathbb{C} -unitalization is the unital Banach algebra

$$\tilde{A}_{\mathbb{C}} = A \oplus \mathbb{C}$$

equipped with the product (6) and the norm $\|a + \lambda\| := \|a\| + |\lambda|$. An algebra homomorphism is a morphism of Banach algebras if it is continuous. If X is a compact Hausdorff space and V is any topological vectorspace, we write $\mathcal{C}(X, V)$ for the topological vectorspace of all continuous maps $X \rightarrow V$. If A is a Banach algebra, then $\mathcal{C}(X, A)$ is a Banach algebra with norm $\|f\|_{\infty} := \sup_x \|f(x)\|$. If X is locally compact, X^+ its one point compactification, and V a topological vectorspace, we write

$$V(X) = \mathcal{C}_0(X, V) = \{f \in \mathcal{C}(X^+, V) : f(\infty) = 0\}.$$

Note that if X is compact, $V(X) = \mathcal{C}(X, V)$. If A is a Banach algebra then $A(X)$ is again a Banach algebra, as it is the kernel of the homomorphism $\mathcal{C}(X^+, A) \rightarrow A$, $f \mapsto f(\infty)$. For example, $A[0, 1]$ is the algebra of continuous functions $[0, 1] \rightarrow A$, and $A(0, 1]$ and $A(0, 1)$ are identified with the ideals of $A[0, 1]$ consisting of those functions which vanish respectively at 0 and at both endpoints. Two homomorphisms $f_0, f_1 : A \rightarrow B$ of Banach algebras are called *homotopic* if there exists a homomorphism $H : A \rightarrow B[0, 1]$ such that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & B[0, 1] \\ & \nearrow H & \downarrow (ev_0, ev_1) \\ A & \xrightarrow{(f_0, f_1)} & B \times B \end{array}$$

A functor G from Banach algebras to a category \mathfrak{D} is called *homotopy invariant* if it maps homotopic maps to equal maps.

Exercise 3.1.1. Prove that G is homotopy invariant if and only if for every Banach algebra A the map $G(A) \rightarrow G(A[0, 1])$ induced by the natural inclusion $A \subset A[0, 1]$ is an isomorphism.

Theorem 3.1.2. ([40, 1.6.11]) *The functor $K_0 : ((\text{Banach Algebras})) \rightarrow \mathfrak{Ab}$ is homotopy invariant.*

Example 3.1.3. K_1 is not homotopy invariant. The algebra $A := \mathbb{C}[\epsilon]$ is a Banach algebra with norm $\|a + b\epsilon\| = |a| + |b|$. Both the inclusion $\iota : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow A$ and the projection $\pi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are homomorphisms of Banach algebras; they satisfy $\pi\iota = 1$. Moreover the map $H : A \rightarrow A[0, 1]$, $H(a + b\epsilon)(t) = a + bte$ is also a Banach algebra homomorphism, and satisfies $ev_0H = \iota\pi$, $ev_1H = 1$. Thus any homotopy invariant functor G sends ι and π to inverse homomorphisms; since K_1 does not do so by 2.1.11, it is not homotopy invariant.

Next we consider a variant of K_1 which is homotopy invariant.

Definition 3.1.4. Let R be a unital Banach algebra. Put

$$\mathrm{GL}R_0 := \{g \in \mathrm{GL}R : \exists h \in \mathrm{GL}(R[0, 1]) : h(0) = 1, h(1) = g\}.$$

Note $\mathrm{GL}(R)_0 \triangleleft \mathrm{GL}R$. The topological K_1 of R is

$$K_1^{\mathrm{top}}R = \mathrm{GL}R/\mathrm{GL}(R)_0.$$

Exercise 3.1.5. Show that if we regard $\mathrm{GL}R = \mathrm{colim}_n \mathrm{GL}_n R$ with the weak topology inherited from the topology of R , then $K_1^{\mathrm{top}}R = \pi_0(\mathrm{GL}R) = \mathrm{colim}_n \pi_0(\mathrm{GL}_n R)$. Then show that K_1^{top} is homotopy invariant.

Note that if R is a unital Banach algebra, $a \in R$ and $i \neq j$, then $1 + ta e_{i,j} \in E(R[0, 1])$ is a path connecting 1 to the elementary matrix $1 + a e_{i,j}$. Thus $ER \subset \mathrm{GL}(R)_0$, whence we have a surjection

$$K_1 R \twoheadrightarrow K_1^{\mathrm{top}}R. \quad (23)$$

In particular, $K_1^{\mathrm{top}}R$ is an abelian group.

Example 3.1.6. Because \mathbb{C} is a field, $K_1 \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}^*$. Since on the other hand \mathbb{C}^* is path connected, we have $K_1^{\mathrm{top}}\mathbb{C} = 0$.

Note that K_1^{top} is additive. Thus we can extend K_1^{top} to nonunital Banach algebras in the usual way, i.e.

$$K_1^{\mathrm{top}}A := \ker(K_1^{\mathrm{top}}(\tilde{A}_{\mathbb{C}}) \rightarrow K_1^{\mathrm{top}}\mathbb{C}) = K_1^{\mathrm{top}}(\tilde{A}_{\mathbb{C}})$$

Exercise 3.1.7. Show that if A is a (not necessarily unital) Banach algebra, then

$$K_1^{\mathrm{top}}A = \mathrm{GL}A/\mathrm{GL}(A)_0.$$

Proposition 3.1.8. ([5, 3.4.4]) If $R \twoheadrightarrow S$ is a surjective unital homomorphism of unital Banach algebras, then $\mathrm{GL}(R)_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(S)_0$ is surjective. \square

Let

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0 \quad (24)$$

be an exact sequence of Banach algebras. Then

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow \tilde{B}_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \tilde{C}_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow 0$$

is again exact. By (23) and 3.1.8, the connecting map $\partial : K_1(\tilde{C}_{\mathbb{C}}) \rightarrow K_0 A$ of Theorem 2.4.1 sends $\ker(K_1(\tilde{C}_{\mathbb{C}}) \rightarrow K_1^{\mathrm{top}}C)$ to zero, and thus induces a homomorphism

$$\partial : K_1^{\mathrm{top}}C \rightarrow K_0 A.$$

Theorem 3.1.9. *The sequence*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_1^{\mathrm{top}}A & \longrightarrow & K_1^{\mathrm{top}}B & \longrightarrow & K_1^{\mathrm{top}}C \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_0 C & \longleftarrow & K_0 B & \longleftarrow & K_0 A \end{array}$$

is exact.

Proof. Straightforward from 2.4.1 and 3.1.8. \square

Consider the exact sequences

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow A(0, 1] \rightarrow A[0, 1] \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0 \\ 0 \rightarrow A(0, 1) \rightarrow A(0, 1] \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

Note moreover that the first of these sequences is split exact. Because K_0 is homotopy invariant and split exact, we get an isomorphism

$$K_1^{\text{top}} A = K_0(A(0, 1)) \quad (25)$$

Since also K_1^{top} is homotopy invariant, we put

$$K_2^{\text{top}} A = K_1^{\text{top}}(A(0, 1)). \quad (26)$$

Lemma 3.1.10. *If (24) is exact, then*

$$0 \rightarrow A(0, 1) \rightarrow B(0, 1) \rightarrow C(0, 1) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact too.

Proof. See [39, 10.1.2] for a proof in the C^* -algebra case; a similar argument works for Banach algebras. \square

Taking into account the lemma above, as well as (25) and (26), we obtain the following corollary of Theorem 3.1.9.

Corollary 3.1.11. *There is an exact sequence*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_2^{\text{top}} A & \longrightarrow & K_2^{\text{top}} B & \longrightarrow & K_2^{\text{top}} C \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_1^{\text{top}} C & \longleftarrow & K_1^{\text{top}} B & \longleftarrow & K_1^{\text{top}} A \end{array}$$

\square

The sequence above can be extended further by defining inductively

$$K_{n+1}^{\text{top}} A := K_n^{\text{top}}(A(0, 1)).$$

3.2 Bott periodicity.

Let R be a unital Banach algebra. Consider the map $\beta : \text{Idem}_n R \rightarrow \text{GL}_n \mathcal{C}_0(S^1, R)$,

$$\beta(e)(z) = ze + 1 - e \quad (27)$$

This map induces a group homomorphism $K_0 R \rightarrow K_1^{\text{top}} \mathcal{C}_0(S^1, R)$ (see [5, 9.1]). If A is any Banach algebra, we write β for the composite

$$\begin{aligned} K_0 A \rightarrow K_0(\tilde{A}_{\mathbb{C}}) \xrightarrow{\beta} K_1^{\text{top}}(\mathcal{C}_0(S^1, \tilde{A}_{\mathbb{C}})) \\ = K_1^{\text{top}} \mathbb{C}(0, 1) \oplus K_1^{\text{top}} A(0, 1) \twoheadrightarrow K_1^{\text{top}} A(0, 1) = K_2^{\text{top}} A \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

One checks that for unital A this definition agrees with that given above.

Theorem 3.2.1. (*Bott periodicity*) ([5, 9.2.1]) *The composite map (28) is an isomorphism.*

Let (24) be an exact sequence of Banach algebras. By 3.1.11 we have a map $\partial : K_2^{\text{top}}C \rightarrow K_1^{\text{top}}A$. Composing with the Bott map, we obtain a homomorphism

$$\partial\beta : K_0C \rightarrow K_1^{\text{top}}A.$$

Theorem 3.2.2. *If (24) is an exact sequence of Banach algebras, then the sequence*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_1^{\text{top}}A & \longrightarrow & K_1^{\text{top}}B & \longrightarrow & K_1^{\text{top}}C \\ \partial\beta \uparrow & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_0C & \longleftarrow & K_0B & \longleftarrow & K_0A \end{array}$$

is exact.

Proof. Immediate from Theorem 3.1.9, Corollary 3.1.11 and Theorem 3.2.1. \square

Sketch of Cuntz' proof of Bott periodicity for C^* -algebras.

([13, Sec. 2]) A C^* -algebra is a Banach algebra A equipped with additive map $*$: $A \rightarrow A$ such that $(a^*)^* = a$, $(\lambda a)^* = \bar{\lambda}a^*$, $(ab)^* = b^*a^*$ and $\|aa^*\| = \|a\|^2$ ($\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, $a, b \in A$). The *Toeplitz* C^* -algebra is the free unital C^* -algebra \mathcal{T}^{top} on a generator α subject to $\alpha\alpha^* = 1$. Since the shift $s : \ell^2(\mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbb{N})$, $s(e_1) = 0$, $s(e_{i+1}) = e_i$ satisfies $ss^* = 1$, there is a homomorphism $\mathcal{T}^{\text{top}} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N}))$. It turns out that this is a monomorphism, that its image contains the ideal \mathcal{K} , and that the latter is the kernel of the $*$ -homomorphism $\mathcal{T}^{\text{top}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(S^1)$ which sends α to the identity function $S^1 \rightarrow S^1$. We have a commutative diagram with exact rows and split exact columns:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{K} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{top}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}(0, 1) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{K} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T}^{\text{top}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}(S^1) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow & \text{ev}_1 \downarrow & \\ & & & & \mathbb{C} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathbb{C} \end{array} \quad (29)$$

Here we have used the identification $\mathcal{C}_0(S^1, \mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}(0, 1)$, via the exponential map; $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{top}}$ is defined so that the middle column be exact. Write $\tilde{\otimes} = \otimes_{\min}$ for the C^* -algebra tensor product. If now A is any C^* -algebra, and we apply the functor $A \tilde{\otimes}$ to the diagram (29), we obtain a commutative diagram whose columns are split exact and whose rows are still exact (by nuclearity, see [50, Appendix T]).

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K} & \longrightarrow & A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{top}} & \longrightarrow & A(0, 1) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K} & \longrightarrow & A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{T}^{\text{top}} & \longrightarrow & A(S^1) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & & & A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \end{array}$$

The inclusion $\mathbb{C} \subset M_\infty\mathbb{C} \subset \mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N}))$, $\lambda \mapsto \lambda e_{1,1}$ induces a natural transformation $1 \rightarrow \mathcal{K} \tilde{\otimes} -$; a functor G from C^* -algebras to abelian groups is \mathcal{K} -stable if it is stable with respect to this data in the sense of Definition 2.2.1. We say that G is *half exact* if for every exact sequence (24), the sequence

$$GA \rightarrow GB \rightarrow GC$$

is exact.

Remark 3.2.3. In general, there is no precedence between the notions of split exact and half exact. However a functor of C^* -algebras which is homotopy invariant, additive and half exact is automatically split exact (see [5, §21.4]).

The following theorem of Cuntz is stated in the literature for half exact rather than split exact functors. However the proof uses only split exactness.

Theorem 3.2.4. ([13, 4.4]) *Let G be a functor from C^* -algebras to abelian groups. Assume that*

- G is homotopy invariant.
- G is \mathcal{K} -stable.
- G is split exact.

Then for every C^ -algebra A ,*

$$G(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{top}}) = 0.$$

□

Proposition 3.2.5. ([39, 6.4.1]) K_0 is \mathcal{K} -stable . □

It follows from the proposition above, (25), Cuntz' theorem and excision, that the connecting map $\partial : K_1^{\text{top}}(A(0, 1)) \rightarrow K_0(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$ is an isomorphism. Further, one checks, using the explicit formulas for β and ∂ ((27), (18)), that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K_1^{\text{top}} A(0, 1) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & K_0(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) \\ & \searrow \beta & \uparrow \wr \\ & & K_0 A \end{array}$$

This proves that β is an isomorphism.

4 Polynomial homotopy and Karoubi-Villamayor K -theory

In this section we analyze to what extent the results of the previous section on topological K -theory of Banach algebras have algebraic analogues valid for all rings. We shall not consider continuous homotopies for general rings, among other reasons, because in general they do not carry any interesting topologies. Instead, we shall consider polynomial homotopies. Two ring homomorphisms $f_0, f_1 : A \rightarrow B$ are called *elementary homotopic* if there exists a ring homomorphism $H : A \rightarrow B[t]$ such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & B[t] \\ & \nearrow H & \downarrow (\text{ev}_0, \text{ev}_1) \\ A & \xrightarrow{(f_0, f_1)} & B \end{array}$$

Two homomorphisms $f, g : A \rightarrow B$ are *homotopic* if there is a finite sequence $(f_i)_{0 \leq i \leq n}$ of homomorphisms such that $f = f_0$, $f_n = g$, and such that for all i , f_i is homotopic to f_{i+1} . We write

$f \sim g$ to indicate that f is homotopic to g . We say that a functor G from rings to a category \mathfrak{D} is *homotopy invariant* if it maps the inclusion $A \rightarrow A[t]$ ($A \in \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}$) to an isomorphism. In other words, G is homotopy invariant if it is stable (in the sense of 2.2.1) with respect to the natural inclusion $A \rightarrow A[t]$. One checks that G is homotopy invariant if and only if it preserves the homotopy relation between homomorphisms. If G is any functor, we call a ring A *G -regular* if $GA \rightarrow G(A[t_1, \dots, t_n])$ is an isomorphism for all n .

Example 4.1. Noetherian regular rings are K_0 -regular [40, 3.2.13] (the same is true for all Quillen's K -groups, by a result of Quillen [38]; see Schlichting's lecture notes [42]) and moreover for $n < 0$, K_n vanishes on such rings (by [40, 3.3.1] and Remark 2.5.6). If k is any field, then the ring $R = k[x, y]/\langle y^2 - x^3 \rangle$ is not K_0 -regular (this follows from [52, I.3.11 and II.2.3.2]). By 2.1.6 and 2.1.11, the ring $k[\epsilon]$ is not K_1 -regular; indeed the K_1 -class of the element $1 + \epsilon t \in k[\epsilon][t]^*$ is a nontrivial element of $\ker(K_1(k[\epsilon][t]) \rightarrow K_1(k[\epsilon])) = \text{coker}(K_1(k[\epsilon]) \rightarrow K_1(k[\epsilon][t]))$.

The Banach algebras of paths and loops have the following algebraic analogues. Let A be a ring; let $\text{ev}_i : A[t] \rightarrow A$ be the evaluation homomorphism ($i = 0, 1$). Put

$$PA := \ker(A[t] \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_0} A) \quad (30)$$

$$\Omega A := \ker(PA \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_1} A) \quad (31)$$

The groups $GL(\)_0$ and K_1^{top} have the following algebraic analogues. Let A be a unital ring. Put

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GL}(A)'_0 &= \text{Im}(\text{GL}PA \rightarrow \text{GL}A) \\ &= \{g \in \text{GL}A : \exists h \in \text{GL}(A[t]) : h(0) = 1, h(1) = g\}. \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$KV_1 A := \text{GL}A / \text{GL}(A)'_0.$$

The group KV_1 is the K_1 -group of Karoubi-Villamayor [31]. It is abelian, since as we shall see in Proposition 4.2 below, there is a natural surjection $K_1 A \twoheadrightarrow KV_1 A$. Unlike what happens with its topological analogue, the functor $GL(\)'_0$ does not preserve surjections (see Exercise 5.3.7 below). As a consequence, the KV -analogue of 2.4.1 does not hold for general short exact sequences of rings, but only for those sequences (16) such that $\text{GL}(B)'_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(C)'_0$ is onto, such as, for example, split exact sequences. Next we list some of the basic properties of KV_1 ; all except nilinvariance (due independently to Weibel [51] and Pirashvili [36]) were proved by Karoubi and Villamayor in [31].

Proposition 4.2.

- i) There is a natural surjective map $K_1 A \twoheadrightarrow KV_1 A$ ($A \in \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}$).
- ii) The rule $A \mapsto KV_1 A$ defines a split-exact functor $\mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s} \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{b}$.
- iii) If (16) is an exact sequence such that the map $\text{GL}(B)'_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(C)'_0$ is onto, then the map $K_1 C \rightarrow K_0 A$ of Theorem 2.4.1 factors through $KV_1 C$, and the resulting sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} KV_1 A & \longrightarrow & KV_1 B & \longrightarrow & KV_1 C \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_0 C & \longleftarrow & K_0 B & \longleftarrow & K_0 A \end{array}$$

is exact.

iv) KV_1 is additive, homotopy invariant, nilinvariant and M_∞ -stable.

Proof. If (16) is exact and $\text{GL}(B)'_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(C)'_0$ is onto, then it is clear that

$$KV_1 A \rightarrow KV_1 B \rightarrow KV_1 C \quad (32)$$

is exact, and we have a commutative diagram with exact rows and columns

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 1 & & 1 & & 1 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 1 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}\Omega A & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}\Omega B & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}\Omega C \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 1 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}PA & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}PB & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}PC \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 1 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}A & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}B & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{GL}C
 \end{array} \tag{33}$$

If moreover (16) is split exact, then each row in the diagram above is, and one checks, by looking at this diagram, that $\mathrm{GL}(A)'_0 = \mathrm{GL}(B)'_0 \cap \mathrm{GL}(A)$, whence $KV_1A \rightarrow KV_1B$ is injective. Thus

$$0 \rightarrow KV_1A \rightarrow KV_1B \rightarrow KV_1C \rightarrow 0 \tag{34}$$

is exact. In particular

$$KV_1A = \ker(KV_1\tilde{A} \rightarrow KV_1\mathbb{Z}). \tag{35}$$

If R is unital, then $\mathrm{GL}(R)'_0 \supset E(R)$, by the same argument as in the Banach algebra case (23). In particular KV_1R is abelian. This proves the unital case of i); the general case follows from the unital one using (35). Thus the right split exact sequence (34) is in fact a split exact sequence of abelian groups. It follows that KV_1 is split exact, proving ii). Part iii) follows from part i) and (32). The proof that KV_1 is M_∞ -stable on unital rings is the same as the proof that K_1 is. By split exactness, it follows that KV_1 is M_∞ -stable on all rings. To prove that KV_1 is homotopy invariant, we must show that the split surjection $\mathrm{ev}_0 : KV_1(A[t]) \rightarrow KV_1A$ is injective. By split exactness, its kernel is $KV_1PA = \mathrm{GL}PA/\mathrm{GL}(PA)'_0$, so we must prove that $\mathrm{GL}PA \subset \mathrm{GL}(PA)'_0$. But if $\alpha(s) \in \mathrm{GL}PA$, then $\beta(s, t) := \alpha(st) \in \mathrm{GL}PPA$ and $\mathrm{ev}_{t=1}(\beta) = \alpha$. Thus homotopy invariance is proved. If (16) is exact and A is nilpotent, then PA and ΩA are nilpotent too, whence all those maps displayed in diagram (33) which are induced by $B \rightarrow C$ are surjective. Diagram chasing shows that $\mathrm{GL}(B)'_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(C)'_0$ is surjective, whence by iii) we have an exact sequence

$$KV_1A \rightarrow KV_1B \rightarrow KV_1C \rightarrow 0$$

Thus to prove KV_1 is nilinvariant, it suffices to show that if $A^2 = 0$ then $KV_1A = 0$. But if $A^2 = 0$, then the map $H : A \rightarrow A[t]$, $H(a) = at$ is a ring homomorphism, and satisfies $\mathrm{ev}_0H = 0$, $\mathrm{ev}_1H = 1_A$. Hence $KV_1A = 0$, by homotopy invariance. \square

Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega A \rightarrow PA \xrightarrow{\mathrm{ev}_1} A \rightarrow 0 \tag{36}$$

By definition, $\mathrm{GL}(A)'_0 = \mathrm{Im}(\mathrm{GL}(PA) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(A))$. But in the course of the proof of Proposition 4.2 above, we have shown that $\mathrm{GL}(PA) = \mathrm{GL}(PA)'_0$, so by 4.2 iii), we have a natural map

$$KV_1(A) \xrightarrow{\partial} K_0(\Omega A). \tag{37}$$

Moreover, (37) is injective, by 4.2 iii) and iv). This map will be of use in the next section. Higher KV -groups are defined by iterating the loop functor Ω :

$$KV_{n+1}(A) = KV_1(\Omega^n A).$$

Higher KV -theory satisfies excision for those exact sequences (16) such that for every n , the map

$$\{\alpha \in \mathrm{GL}(B[t_1, \dots, t_n]) : \alpha(0, \dots, 0) = 1\} \rightarrow \{\alpha \in \mathrm{GL}(C[t_1, \dots, t_n]) : \alpha(0, \dots, 0) = 1\}$$

is onto. Such sequences are usually called GL-fibration sequences (a different notation was used in [31]). Note that if (16) is a GL-fibration, then $\mathrm{GL}(B)'_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(C)'_0$ is surjective, and thus 4.2 iii) applies. Moreover it is proved in [31] that if (16) is a GL-fibration, then there is a long exact sequence ($n \geq 1$)

$$KV_{n+1}B \longrightarrow KV_{n+1}C \longrightarrow KV_n(A) \longrightarrow KV_n(B) \longrightarrow KV_n(C).$$

5 Homotopy K -theory

5.1 Definition and basic properties of KH .

Let A be a ring. Consider the natural map

$$\partial : K_0A \rightarrow K_{-1}\Omega A \quad (38)$$

associated with the exact sequence (31). Since $K_{-p} = K_0\Sigma^p$, we may iterate the construction and form the colimit

$$KH_0A := \operatorname{colim}_n K_{-p}\Omega^p A. \quad (39)$$

Put

$$KH_nA := \operatorname{colim}_p K_{-p}\Omega^{n+p}A = \begin{cases} KH_0\Omega^n A & (n \geq 0) \\ KH_0\Sigma^n A & (n \leq 0) \end{cases} \quad (40)$$

The groups KH_*A are Weibel's *homotopy K -theory* groups of A ([54],[11, 8.1.1]). One can also express KH in terms of KV , as we shall see presently. We need some preliminaries first. We know that $K_1(S) = 0$ for every infinite sum ring S ; in particular $KV_1(\Gamma R) = 0$ for unital R , by 4.2 i). Using split exactness of KV_1 , it follows that $KV_1\Gamma A = 0$ for every ring A . Thus the dotted arrow in the commutative diagram with exact row below exists

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} K_1(\Gamma A) & \longrightarrow & K_1(\Sigma A) & \longrightarrow & K_0(A) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow & \swarrow \text{dotted} & & & \\ & & KV_1(\Sigma A) & & & & \end{array}$$

The map $K_1(\Sigma A) \rightarrow KV_1(\Sigma A)$ is surjective by Proposition 4.2 i). Thus the dotted arrow above is a surjective map

$$K_0(A) \rightarrow KV_1(\Sigma A). \quad (41)$$

On the other hand, the map (37) applied to ΣA gives

$$KV_1(\Sigma A) \xrightarrow{\partial} K_0(\Omega\Sigma A) = K_0(\Sigma\Omega A) = K_{-1}(\Omega A) \quad (42)$$

One checks, by tracking down boundary maps, (see the proof of [11, 8.1.1]) that the composite of (41) with (42) is the map (38):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K_0(A) & \xrightarrow{(38)} & K_{-1}(\Omega A) \\ & \searrow (41) & \nearrow (42) \\ & KV_1(\Sigma A) & \end{array} \quad (43)$$

On the other hand, (42) followed by (41) applied to $\Sigma\Omega A$ yields a map

$$KV_1(\Sigma A) \rightarrow KV_1(\Sigma^2\Omega A) = KV_2(\Sigma^2 A).$$

Iterating this map one obtains an inductive system; by (43), we get

$$KH_0(A) = \operatorname{colim}_r KV_1(\Sigma^{r+1}\Omega^r A) = \operatorname{colim}_r KV_r(\Sigma^{r+1}A)$$

and in general,

$$KH_n(A) = \operatorname{colim}_r KV_1(\Sigma^{r+1}\Omega^{n+r}A) = \operatorname{colim}_r KV_{n+r}(\Sigma^r A). \quad (44)$$

Next we list some of the basic properties of KH , proved by Weibel in [54].

Theorem 5.1.1. ([54]) *Homotopy K -theory has the following properties.*

- i) *It is homotopy invariant, nilinvariant and M_∞ -stable.*
- ii) *It satisfies excision: to the sequence (16) there corresponds a long exact sequence ($n \in \mathbb{Z}$)*

$$KH_{n+1}C \rightarrow KH_nA \rightarrow KH_nB \rightarrow KH_nC \rightarrow KH_{n-1}A.$$

Proof. From (44) and the fact that, by 4.2, KV is homotopy invariant, it follows that KH is homotopy invariant. Nilinvariance, M_∞ -stability and excision for KH follow from the fact that (by 2.5.2) these hold for nonpositive K -theory, using the formulas (39), (40). \square

Exercise 5.1.2. Note that in the proof of 5.1.1, the formula (44) is used only for homotopy invariance. Prove that KH is homotopy invariant without using (44), but using excision instead. Hint: show that the excision map $KH_*(A) \rightarrow KH_{*-1}(\Omega A)$ coming from the sequence (36) is an isomorphism.

Exercise 5.1.3. Show that KH commutes with filtering colimits.

5.2 KH for K_0 -regular rings.

Lemma 5.2.1. *Let A be a ring. Assume that A is K_n -regular for all $n \leq 0$. Then $KV_1(A) \rightarrow K_0(\Omega A)$ is an isomorphism, and for $n \leq 0$, $K_n(PA) = 0$, PA and ΩA are K_n -regular, and $K_nA \rightarrow K_{n-1}\Omega A$ an isomorphism.*

Proof. Consider the split exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow PA[t_1, \dots, t_r] \longrightarrow A[s, t_1, \dots, t_r] \longrightarrow A[t_1, \dots, t_r] \longrightarrow 0$$

Applying K_n ($n \leq 0$) and using that K_n is split exact and that, by hypothesis, A is K_n -regular, we get that $K_n(PA[t_1, \dots, t_r]) = 0$. As this happens for all $r \geq 0$, PA is K_n -regular. Hence the map of exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega A & \longrightarrow & PA & \longrightarrow & A \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega A[t_1, \dots, t_r] & \longrightarrow & PA[t_1, \dots, t_r] & \longrightarrow & A[t_1, \dots, t_r] \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

induces commutative squares with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & KV_1(A) & \longrightarrow & K_0(\Omega A) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & KV_1(A[t_1, \dots, t_r]) & \longrightarrow & K_0(\Omega A[t_1, \dots, t_r]) & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & K_n(A) & \longrightarrow & K_{n-1}(\Omega A) & \longrightarrow & 0 & (n \leq 0) \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & K_n(A[t_1, \dots, t_r]) & \longrightarrow & K_{n-1}(\Omega A[t_1, \dots, t_r]) & \longrightarrow & 0
 \end{array}$$

By Proposition 4.2 and our hypothesis, the first vertical map in each diagram is an isomorphism; it follows that the second is also an isomorphism. \square

Remark 5.2.2. A theorem of Vorst [48] implies that if A is K_0 -regular then it is K_n -regular for all $n \leq 0$. Thus the lemma above holds whenever A is K_0 -regular. The statement of Vorst's theorem is that, for Quillen's K -theory, and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, a K_n -regular unital ring is also K_{n-1} -regular. (In his paper, Vorst states this only for commutative rings, but his proof works in general). For $n \leq 0$, Vorst's theorem extends to all, not necessarily unital rings. To see this, one shows first, using the fact that \mathbb{Z} is K_n -regular (since it is noetherian regular), and split exactness, that A is K_n -regular if and only if \tilde{A} is. Now Vorst's theorem applied to \tilde{A} implies that if A is K_n -regular then it is K_{n-1} -regular ($n \leq 0$).

Proposition 5.2.3. *If A satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 5.2.1, then*

$$KH_n(A) = \begin{cases} KV_n(A) & n \geq 1 \\ K_n(A) & n \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Proof. By the lemma, $KV_{n+1}(A) = KV_1(\Omega^n A) \rightarrow K_0(\Omega^{n+1} A)$ and $K_{-n}(\Omega^p A) \rightarrow K_{-n-1}(\Omega^{p+1} A)$ are isomorphisms for all $n, p \geq 0$. \square

5.3 Toeplitz ring and the fundamental theorem for KH .

Write \mathcal{T} for the free unital ring on two generators α, α^* subject to $\alpha\alpha^* = 1$. Mapping α to $\sum_i e_{i,i+1}$ and α^* to $\sum_i e_{i+1,i}$ yields a homomorphism $\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \Gamma := \Gamma\mathbb{Z}$ which is injective ([11, Proof of 4.10.1]); we identify \mathcal{T} with its image in Γ . Note

$$\alpha^{*p-1}\alpha^{q-1} - \alpha^{*p}\alpha^q = e_{p,q} \quad (p, q \geq 1). \quad (45)$$

Thus \mathcal{T} contains the ideal $M_\infty := M_\infty\mathbb{Z}$. There is a commutative diagram with exact rows and split exact columns:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & M_\infty & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T}_0 & \longrightarrow & \sigma & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & M_\infty & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}] & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{ev}_1 & & \\
 & & & & \mathbb{Z} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathbb{Z} & &
 \end{array}$$

Here the rings \mathcal{T}_0 and σ of the top row are defined so that the columns be exact. Note moreover that the rows are split as sequences of abelian groups. Thus tensoring with any ring A yields an exact diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & M_\infty A & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T}_0 A & \longrightarrow & \sigma A & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & M_\infty A & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T} A & \longrightarrow & A[t, t^{-1}] & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & & & A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A & &
 \end{array} \quad (46)$$

Here we have omitted tensor products from our notation; thus $\mathcal{T}A = \mathcal{T} \otimes A$, $\sigma A = \sigma \otimes A$, and $\mathcal{T}_0 A = \mathcal{T}_0 \otimes A$. We have the following algebraic analogue of Cuntz' theorem.

Theorem 5.3.1. ([11, 7.3.2]) *Let G be a functor from rings to abelian groups. Assume that:*

- G is homotopy invariant.
- G is split exact.
- G is M_∞ -stable.

Then for any ring A , $G(\mathcal{T}_0 A) = 0$. \square

Theorem 5.3.2. *Let A be a ring and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then*

$$KH_n(\sigma A) = KH_{n-1}(A).$$

Proof. By Theorem 5.1.1, KH satisfies excision. Apply this to the top row of diagram (46) and use Theorem 5.3.1. \square

The following result of Weibel [54, 1.2 iii]) is immediate from the theorem above.

Corollary 5.3.3. (Fundamental theorem for KH , [54, 1.2 iii]). $KH_n(A[t, t^{-1}]) = KH_n(A) \oplus KH_{n-1}(A)$. \square

Remark 5.3.4. We regard Theorem 5.3.2 as an algebraic analogue of Bott periodicity for KH . What is missing in the algebraic case is an analogue of the exponential map; there is no isomorphism $\Omega A \rightarrow \sigma A$.

Remark 5.3.5. We have shown in Proposition 4.2 that KV_1 satisfies the hypothesis of Theorem 5.3.1. Thus $KV_1(\mathcal{T}_0 A) = 0$ for every ring A . However, there is no natural isomorphism $KV_1(\sigma A) = K_0(A)$. Indeed, since $KV_1(\sigma PA) = KV_1(P\sigma A) = 0$ the existence of such an isomorphism would imply that $K_0(PA) = 0$, which in turn, given the fact that K_0 is split exact, would imply that $K_0(A[t]) = K_0(A)$, a formula which does not hold for general A (see Example 4.1).

We finish the section with a technical result which will be used in Subsection 6.7.

Proposition 5.3.6. *Let \mathfrak{D} be an additive category, $F : \mathfrak{Ass} \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}$ an additive functor, and A a ring. Assume F is M_∞ -stable on A and M_2 -stable on both $\mathcal{T}A$ and $M_2(\mathcal{T}A)$. Then $F(M_\infty A \rightarrow \mathcal{T}A)$ is the zero map.*

Proof. Because F is M_∞ -stable on A , it suffices to show that F sends the inclusion $j : A \rightarrow \mathcal{T}A$, $a \mapsto ae_{11}$, to the zero map. Note that $e_{11} = 1 - \alpha^* \alpha$, by (45). Consider the inclusion $j^\infty : A \rightarrow \mathcal{T}A$, $j^\infty(a) = a \cdot 1 = \text{diag}(a, a, a, \dots)$. One checks that the following matrix

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \alpha^* \alpha & \alpha^* \\ \alpha & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \text{GL}_2 \mathcal{T}(\tilde{A})$$

satisfies $Q^2 = 1$ and

$$Q \begin{bmatrix} j(a) & 0 \\ 0 & j^\infty(a) \end{bmatrix} Q = \begin{bmatrix} j^\infty(a) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since we are assuming that F is additive and M_2 -stable on both $\mathcal{T}A$ and $M_2 \mathcal{T}A$, we may now apply Exercise 2.2.5 and Proposition 2.2.6 to deduce the following identity between elements of the group $\text{hom}_{\mathfrak{D}}(F(A), F(\mathcal{T}A))$:

$$j + j^\infty = j^\infty.$$

It follows that $j = 0$, as we had to prove. \square

Exercise 5.3.7. Deduce from Remark 5.3.5 and propositions 5.3.6 and 4.2 iii) that the canonical maps $\text{GL}(\mathcal{T}_0 A)'_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(\sigma A)'_0$ and $\text{GL}(\mathcal{T}A)'_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(A[t, t^{-1}])'_0$ are not surjective in general.

6 Quillen's Higher K -theory

Quillen's higher K -groups of a unital ring R are defined as the homotopy groups of a certain CW -complex; the plus construction of the classifying space of the group $\mathrm{GL}(R)$ [37]. The latter construction is defined more generally for CW -complexes, but we shall not go into this general version; for this and other matters connected with the plus construction approach to K -theory, the interested reader should consult standard references such as Jon Berrick's book [4], or the papers of Loday [32], and Wagoner [40]. We shall need a number of basic facts from algebraic topology, which we shall presently review. First of all we recall that if X and Y are CW -complexes, then the cartesian product $X \times Y$, equipped with the product topology, is not a CW -complex in general. That is, the category of CW -complexes is not closed under finite products in Top . On the other hand, any CW -complex is a compactly generated –or Kelley– space, and the categorical product of two CW -complexes in the category Ke of compactly generated spaces is again CW , and also has the cartesian product $X \times Y$ as underlying set. Moreover, in case the product topology in $X \times Y$ happens to be compactly generated, then it agrees with that of the product in Ke . In these notes, we write $X \times Y$ for the cartesian product equipped with its compactly generated topology. (For a more detailed treatment of the categorical properties of Ke see [20]).

6.1 Classifying spaces.

The *classifying space* of a group G is a pointed connected CW -complex BG such that

$$\pi_n BG = \begin{cases} G & n = 1 \\ 0 & n \neq 1 \end{cases}$$

This property characterizes BG and makes it functorial up to homotopy. Further there are various strictly functorial models for BG ([40, Ch. 5§1], [22, 1.5]). We choose the model coming from the realization of the simplicial nerve of G ([22]), and write BG for that model. Here are some basic properties of BG which we shall use.

Properties 6.1.1.

i) If

$$1 \rightarrow G_1 \rightarrow G_2 \rightarrow G_3 \rightarrow 1$$

is an exact sequence of groups, then $BG_2 \rightarrow BG_3$ is a fibration with fiber BG_1 .

ii) If G_1 and G_2 are groups, then the map $B(G_1 \times G_2) \rightarrow BG_1 \times BG_2$ is a homeomorphism.

iii) The homology of BG is the same as the group homology of G ; if M is $\pi_1 BG = G$ -module, then

$$H_n(BG, M) = H_n(G, M) := \mathrm{Tor}_n^{\mathbb{Z}G}(\mathbb{Z}, M)$$

□

6.2 Perfect groups and the plus construction for BG .

A group P is called *perfect* if its abelianization is trivial, or equivalently, if $P = [P, P]$. Note that a group P is perfect if and only if the functor $\mathrm{hom}_{\mathfrak{Grp}}(P, -) : \mathfrak{Ab} \rightarrow \mathfrak{Ab}$ is zero. Thus the full subcategory $\subset \mathfrak{Grp}$ of all perfect groups is closed both under colimits and under homomorphic images. In particular, if G is group, then the directed set of all perfect subgroups of G is filtering, and its union is again a perfect subgroup N , the maximal perfect subgroup of G . Since the conjugate of a perfect subgroup is again perfect, it follows that N is normal in G . Note that $N \subset [G, G]$; if moreover the equality holds, then we say that G is *quasi-perfect*. For example, if R is a unital ring, then $\mathrm{GL}R$ is quasi-perfect, and ER is its maximal perfect subgroup ([40, 2.1.4]). Quillen's *plus construction* applied to the group G yields a cellular map of CW -complexes $\iota : BG \rightarrow (BG)^+$ with the following properties (see [32, 1.1.1, 1.1.2]).

- i) At the level of π_1 , ι induces the projection $G \rightarrow G/N$.
- ii) At the level of homology, ι induces an isomorphism $H_*(G, M) \rightarrow H_*((BG)^+, M)$ for each G/N -module M .
- iii) If $BG \rightarrow X$ is any continuous function which at the level of π_1 maps $N \rightarrow 1$, then the dotted arrow in the following diagram exists and is unique up to homotopy

$$\begin{array}{ccc} BG & \xrightarrow{\iota} & (BG)^+ \\ \downarrow & \swarrow \text{dotted} & \\ X & & \end{array}$$

- iv) Properties i) and iii) above characterize $\iota : BG \rightarrow BG^+$ up to homotopy.

From the universal property, it follows that if $f : BG_1 \rightarrow BG_2$ is a continuous map, then there is a (continuous) map $BG_1^+ \rightarrow BG_2^+$, unique up to homotopy, which makes the following diagram commute

$$\begin{array}{ccc} BG_1 & \xrightarrow{f} & BG_2 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ BG_1^+ & \xrightarrow{f^+} & BG_2^+ \end{array}$$

Properties 6.2.1. ([32, 1.1.4])

- i) If G_1 and G_2 are groups, and $\pi_i : B(G_1 \times G_2) \rightarrow BG_i$ is the projection, then the map $(\pi_1^+, \pi_2^+) : B(G_1 \times G_2)^+ \rightarrow BG_1^+ \times BG_2^+$ is a homotopy equivalence.
- ii) The map $BN^+ \rightarrow BG^+$ is the universal classifying space of BG^+ . \square

If

$$1 \rightarrow G_1 \rightarrow G_2 \xrightarrow{\pi} G_3 \rightarrow 1 \quad (47)$$

is an exact sequence of groups, then we can always choose π^+ to be a fibration; write F for its fiber. If the induced map $G_1 \rightarrow \pi_1 F$ kills the maximal perfect subgroup N_1 of G_1 , then $BG_1 \rightarrow F$ factors through a map

$$BG_1^+ \rightarrow F \quad (48)$$

Proposition 6.2.2. Let (47) be an exact sequence of groups. Assume that

- i) G_1 is quasi-perfect and G_2 is perfect.
- ii) G_3 acts trivially on $H_*(G_1, \mathbb{Z})$.
- iii) $\pi_1 F$ acts trivially on $H_*(F, \mathbb{Z})$.

Then the map (48) is a homotopy equivalence.

Proof. Consider the map of fibration sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} BG_1 & \longrightarrow & BG_2 & \longrightarrow & BG_3 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ F & \longrightarrow & BG_2^+ & \longrightarrow & BG_3^+ \end{array}$$

By the second property of the plus construction listed above, the maps $BG_i \rightarrow BG_i^+$ are homology equivalences. For $i \geq 2$, we have, in addition, that G_i is perfect, so BG_i^+ is simply connected and F is connected with abelian π_1 , isomorphic to $\text{coker}(\pi_2 BG_2^+ \rightarrow \pi_2 BG_3^+)$. Hence $\pi_1 F \rightarrow H_1 F$ is an isomorphism, by Poincaré's theorem. All this together with the Comparison Theorem ([59]), imply that $BG_1 \rightarrow F$ and thus also (48), are homology equivalences. Moreover, because G_1 is quasi-perfect by hypothesis, the Hurewicz map $\pi_1 BG_1^+ \rightarrow H_1 BG_1^+$ is an isomorphism, again by Poincaré's

theorem. Summing up, $BG_1^+ \rightarrow F$ is a homology isomorphism which induces an isomorphism of fundamental groups; since $\pi_1 F$ acts trivially on $H_* F$ by hypothesis, this implies that (48) is a weak equivalence ([7, 4.6.2]). \square

Lemma 6.2.3. *Let (47) be an exact sequence of groups. Assume that for every $g \in G_2$ and every finite set h_1, \dots, h_k of elements of G_1 , there exists an $h \in G_1$ such that for all i , $gh_i g^{-1} = hh_i h^{-1}$. Then G_3 acts trivially on $H_*(G_1, \mathbb{Z})$.*

Proof. If $g \in G_2$ maps to $\bar{g} \in G_3$, then the action of \bar{g} on $H_*(G_1, \mathbb{Z})$ is that induced by conjugation by g . The hypothesis implies that the action of g on any fixed cycle of the standard bar complex which computes $H_*(BG_1, \mathbb{Z})$ ([55, 6.5.4]) coincides with the conjugation action by an element of G_1 , whence it is trivial ([55, 6.7.8]). \square

Quillen's higher K -groups of a unital ring R are defined as the homotopy groups of $(BGLR)^+$; we put

$$\begin{aligned} K(R) &:= (BGLR)^+ \\ K_n R &:= \pi_n K(R) \quad (n \geq 1). \end{aligned}$$

In general, for a not necessarily unital ring A , we put

$$K(A) := \text{fiber}(K(\tilde{A}) \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z})), \quad K_n(A) = \pi_n K(A) \quad (n \geq 1)$$

One checks, using 6.2.1 i), that when A is unital, these definitions agree with the previous ones.

Remark 6.2.4. As defined, K is a functor from $\mathfrak{A}ss$ to the homotopy category of topological spaces HoTop . Further note that for $n = 1$ we recover the definition of K_1 given in 2.1.3.

We shall see below that the main basic properties of Section 2.1 which hold for K_1 hold also for higher K_n ([32]). First we need some preliminaries. If $W : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is an injection, we shall identify W with the endomorphism $\mathbb{Z}^{(\mathbb{N})} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{(\mathbb{N})}$, $W(e_i) = e_{w(i)}$ and also with the matrix of the latter in the canonical basis, given by $W_{ij} = \delta_{i,w(j)}$. Let $V = W^t$ be the transpose matrix; then $VW = 1$. If now R is a unital ring, then the endomorphism $\psi^{V,W} : M_\infty R \rightarrow M_\infty R$ of 2.2.6 induces a group endomorphism $\text{GL}(R) \rightarrow \text{GL}(R)$, which in turn yields homotopy classes of maps

$$\psi : K(R) \rightarrow K(R), \quad \psi' : BE(R)^+ \rightarrow BE(R)^+. \quad (49)$$

Lemma 6.2.5. ([32, 1.2.9]) *The maps (49) are homotopic to the identity.* \square

A proof of the previous lemma for the case of ψ can be found in *loc. cit.*; a similar argument works for ψ' .

Proposition 6.2.6. *Let $n \geq 1$ and let R be a unital ring.*

- i) *The functor $K_n : \mathfrak{A}ss_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}b$ is additive.*
- ii) *The direct sum $\oplus : \text{GLR} \times \text{GLR} \rightarrow \text{GLR}$ of (2) induces a map $K(R) \times K(R) \rightarrow K(R)$ which makes $K(R)$ into an H -group, that is, into a group up to homotopy. Similarly, $BE(R)^+$ also has an H -group structure induced by \oplus .*
- iii) *The functors $K : \mathfrak{A}ss_1 \rightarrow \text{HoTop}$ and $K_n : \mathfrak{A}ss_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}b$ are M_∞ -stable.*

Proof. Part i) is immediate from 6.2.1 i). The map of ii) is the composite of the homotopy inverse of the map of 6.2.1 i) and the map $BGL(\oplus)^+$. One checks that, up to endomorphisms of the form $\psi^{V,W}$ induced by injections $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, the map $\oplus : \text{GL}(R) \times \text{GL}(R)$ is associative and commutative and the identity matrix is a neutral element for \oplus . Hence by 6.2.5 it follows that $BGL(R)^+$ is a commutative and associative H -space. Since it is connected, this implies that it is an H -group, by [56, X.4.17]. The same argument shows that $BE(R)^+$ is also an H -group. Thus ii) is proved. Let $\iota : R \rightarrow M_\infty R$ be the canonical inclusion. To prove iii), one observes that a choice of bijection

$\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ gives an isomorphism $\phi : M_\infty M_\infty R \xrightarrow{\cong} M_\infty R$ such that the composite with $M_\infty \iota$ is a homomorphism the form $\psi^{V,W}$ for some injection $W : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, whence the induced map $K(R) \rightarrow K(R)$ is homotopic to the identity, by Lemma 6.2.5. This proves that $K(\iota)$ is a homotopy equivalence. \square

Corollary 6.2.7. *If S is an infinite sum ring, then $K(S)$ is contractible.*

Proof. It follows from the theorem above, using Exercise 2.2.3 ii) and Proposition 2.3.1. \square

Proposition 6.2.8. *Let R be a unital ring, ΣR the suspension, $\Omega K(\Sigma R)$ the loop space, and $\Omega_0 K(\Sigma R) \subset \Omega K(\Sigma R)$ the connected component of the trivial loop. There is a homotopy equivalence*

$$K(R) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \Omega_0 K(\Sigma R).$$

Proof. Consider the exact sequence of rings

$$0 \rightarrow M_\infty R \rightarrow \Gamma R \rightarrow \Sigma R \rightarrow 0$$

Since $K_1(\Gamma R) = 0$, we have

$$\mathrm{GL}(\Gamma R) = E(\Gamma R),$$

which applies onto $E\Sigma R$. Thus we have an exact sequence of groups

$$1 \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}M_\infty R \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}\Gamma R \rightarrow E\Sigma R \rightarrow 1$$

One checks that the inclusion $\mathrm{GL}(M_\infty R) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(\Gamma R)$ satisfies the hypothesis of 6.2.3 (see [49, bottom of page 357] for details). Thus the perfect group $E(\Sigma R)$ acts trivially on $H_*(\mathrm{GL}M_\infty R, \mathbb{Z})$. On the other hand, by 6.2.6 ii), both $K(\Gamma R)$ and $BE(\Sigma R)^+$ are H -groups, and moreover since $\pi : \mathrm{GL}(\Gamma R) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(\Sigma R)$ is compatible with \oplus , the map $\pi^+ : K(\Gamma R) \rightarrow BE(\Sigma R)^+$ can be chosen to be compatible with the induced operation. This implies that the fiber of π^+ is a connected H -space (whence an H -group) and so its fundamental group acts trivially on its homology. Hence by Propositions 6.2.6 iii) and 6.2.2, we have a homotopy fibration

$$K(R) \rightarrow K(\Gamma R) \rightarrow BE(\Sigma R)^+$$

By 6.2.7, the map

$$\Omega BE(\Sigma R)^+ \rightarrow K(R) \tag{50}$$

is a homotopy equivalence. Finally, by 6.2.1 ii),

$$\Omega BE(\Sigma R)^+ \xrightarrow{\simeq} \Omega_0 K(\Sigma R). \tag{51}$$

Now compose (51) with a homotopy inverse of (50) to obtain the theorem. \square

Corollary 6.2.9. *For all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $K_n(\Sigma R) = K_{n-1}(R)$*

Proof. For $n \geq 0$, the statement of the proposition is immediate from the definition of K_n . For $n = 1$, it is (21). If $n \geq 2$, then

$$K_n(\Sigma R) = \pi_n(K(\Sigma R)) = \pi_{n-1}(\Omega K(\Sigma R)) = \pi_{n-1}(\Omega_0 K(\Sigma R)) = \pi_{n-1}K(R) = K_{n-1}R. \quad \square$$

Remark 6.2.10. The homotopy equivalence of Proposition 6.2.8 is the basis for the construction of the nonconnective K -theory spectrum; we will come back to this in Section 10.

6.3 Functoriality issues.

As defined, the rule $K : R \mapsto BGL(R)^+$ is only functorial up to homotopy. Actually its possible to choose a functorial model for KR ; this can be done in different ways (see for example [33, 11.2.4, 11.2.11]). However, in the constructions and arguments we have made (notably in the proof of 6.2.8) we have often used Whitehead's theorem that a map of CW -complexes which induces an isomorphism at the level of homotopy groups (a *weak equivalence*) always has a homotopy inverse. Now, there is in principle no reason why a natural weak equivalence between functorial CW -complexes will admit a homotopy inverse which is also natural; thus for example, the weak equivalence of Proposition 6.2.8 need not be natural for an arbitrarily chosen functorial version of KR . What we need is to be able to choose functorial models so that any natural weak equivalence between them automatically has a natural homotopy inverse. In fact we can actually do this, as we shall now see. First of all, as a technical restriction we have to choose a small full subcategory I of the category $\mathfrak{A}ss$, and look at K -theory as a functor on I . This is no real restriction, as in practice we always start with a set of rings (often with only one element) and then all the arguments and constructions we perform take place in a set (possibly larger than the one we started with, but still a set). Next we invoke the fact that the category Top_*^I of functors from I to pointed spaces is a closed model category where fibrations and weak equivalences are defined objectwise (by [27, 11.6.1] this is true of the category of functors to any cofibrantly generated model category; by [27, 11.1.9], Top_* is such a category). This implies, among other things, that there is a full subcategory $(\text{Top}_*^I)_c \rightarrow \text{Top}_*^I$, the subcategory of cofibrant objects (among which any natural weak equivalence has a natural homotopy inverse), a functor $\text{Top}_*^I \rightarrow (\text{Top}_*^I)_c$, $X \mapsto \hat{X}$ and a natural transformation $\hat{X} \rightarrow X$ such that $\hat{X}(R) \rightarrow X(R)$ is a fibration and weak equivalence for all R . Thus we can replace our given functorial model for $BGL^+(R)$ by $\widehat{BGL}(R)^+$, and redefine $K(R) = \widehat{BGL}(R)^+$.

6.4 Relative K -groups and excision.

Let R be a unital ring, $I \triangleleft R$ an ideal, and $S = R/I$. Put

$$\overline{GLS} := \text{Im}(GLR \rightarrow GLS)$$

The inclusion $\overline{GLS} \subset GLS$ induces a map

$$(B\overline{GLS})^+ \rightarrow K(S) \tag{52}$$

By 6.2.1 ii), (52) induces an isomorphism

$$\pi_n(B\overline{GLS})^+ = K_n S \quad (n \geq 2).$$

On the other hand,

$$\pi_1(B\overline{GLS}^+) = \overline{GLS}/ES = \text{Im}(K_1 R \rightarrow K_1 S).$$

Consider the homotopy fiber

$$K(R : I) := \text{fiber}((BGLR)^+ \rightarrow (B\overline{GLR})^+).$$

The *relative K -groups* of I with respect to the ideal embedding $I \triangleleft R$ are defined by

$$K_n(R : I) := \begin{cases} \pi_n K(R : I) & n \geq 1 \\ K_n(I) & n \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

The long exact sequence of homotopy groups of the fibration which defines $K(R : I)$, spliced together with the exact sequences of Theorem 2.4.1 and Proposition 2.5.2, yields a long exact sequence

$$K_{n+1}R \rightarrow K_{n+1}S \rightarrow K_n(R : I) \rightarrow K_n R \rightarrow K_n(S) \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}) \quad (53)$$

The canonical map $\tilde{I} \rightarrow R$ induces a map

$$K_n(I) \rightarrow K_n(R : I) \quad (54)$$

This map is an isomorphism for $n \leq 0$, but not in general (see Remark 2.4.4). The rings I so that this map is an isomorphism for all n and R are called K -excisive. Suslin and Wodzicki have completely characterized K -excisive rings ([57],[45],[44]). We have

Theorem 6.4.1. ([44]) *The map (54) is an isomorphism for all n and $R \iff \text{Tor}_n^{\tilde{I}}(\mathbb{Z}, I) = 0 \forall n$. \square*

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tor}_0^{\tilde{I}}(\mathbb{Z}, I) &= I/I^2 \\ \text{Tor}_n^{\tilde{I}}(\mathbb{Z}, I) &= \text{Tor}_{n+1}^{\tilde{I}}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}). \end{aligned}$$

Example 6.4.2. Let G be a group, $IG \triangleleft \mathbb{Z}G$ the augmentation ideal. Then $\mathbb{Z}G = \tilde{I}G$ is the unitalization of IG . Hence

$$\text{Tor}_n^{\tilde{I}G}(\mathbb{Z}, IG) = H_{n+1}(G, \mathbb{Z}).$$

In particular

$$\text{Tor}_0^{\tilde{I}G}(\mathbb{Z}, I) = G_{ab}$$

So if IG is K -excisive, then G must be a perfect group. Thus, for example, IG is not K -excisive if G is a nontrivial abelian group. In particular, the ring σ is not K -excisive, as it coincides with the augmentation ideal of $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}] = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$. As another example, if S is an infinite sum ring, then

$$H_n(\text{GL}(S), \mathbb{Z}) = H_n(K(S), \mathbb{Z}) = H_n(pt, \mathbb{Z}) = 0 \quad (n \geq 1).$$

Thus the ring $IGL(S)$ is K -excisive.

Remark 6.4.3. We shall introduce a functorial complex $\bar{L}(A)$ which computes $\text{Tor}_*^{\tilde{A}}(\mathbb{Z}, A)$ and use it to show that the functor $\text{Tor}_*^{\tilde{A}}(\mathbb{Z}, -)$ commutes with filtering colimits. Consider the functor $\perp: \tilde{A} - \text{mod} \rightarrow \tilde{A} - \text{mod}$,

$$\perp M = \bigoplus_{m \in M} \tilde{A}.$$

The functor \perp is the free \tilde{A} -module cotriple [55, 8.6.6]. Let $L(A) \rightarrow A$ be the canonical free resolution associated to \perp [55, 8.7.2]; by definition, its n -th term is $L_n(A) = \perp^n A$. Put $\bar{L}(A) = \mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\tilde{A}} L(A)$. Then $\bar{L}(A)$ is a functorial chain complex which satisfies $H_*(\bar{L}(A)) = \text{Tor}_*^{\tilde{A}}(\mathbb{Z}, A)$. Because \perp commutes with filtering colimits, it follows that the same is true of L and \bar{L} , and therefore also of $\text{Tor}_*^{\tilde{A}}(\mathbb{Z}, -) = H_*\bar{L}(-)$.

Exercise 6.4.4.

- i) Prove that any unital ring is K -excisive.
- ii) Prove that if R is a unital ring, then $M_\infty R$ is K -excisive. (Hint: $M_\infty R = \text{colim}_n M_n R$).

The following lemma shall be useful in what follows. The statement is a stronger version of [10, Lemma 8.1.1], but the proof is the same; we include it for the sake of completeness.

Lemma 6.4.5. (cf. [10, 8.1.1]) *Let k be a commutative unital ring and A a k -algebra. Write $\tilde{A}_k = k \oplus A$ for the unitalized k -algebra. Assume that k is flat as a \mathbb{Z} -module. Then*

$$\text{Tor}_*^{\tilde{A}}(\mathbb{Z}, A) = \text{Tor}_*^{\tilde{A}_k}(k, A).$$

Proof. Note that

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{A}_k \otimes_{\tilde{A}} N &= k \otimes N & (N \in \tilde{A} - \text{mod}) \\ k \otimes_{\tilde{A}_k} M &= M/AM = \mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\tilde{A}} M & (M \in \tilde{A}_k - \text{mod}).\end{aligned}$$

It follows from this, and from our assumption that k is flat over \mathbb{Z} , that if $L \xrightarrow{\sim} A$ is an \tilde{A}_k -free resolution, then it is also an \tilde{A} -flat resolution, and $\text{Tor}_{*}^{\tilde{A}_k}(k, A) = H_*(L/AL) = \text{Tor}_{*}^{\tilde{A}}(\mathbb{Z}, A)$. \square

Remark 6.4.6. If A is flat over k (e.g. if k is a field) then the canonical resolution $L^k(A) \xrightarrow{\sim} A$ associated with the induced module cotriple $\tilde{A}_k \otimes_k (-)$, is flat. Thus $\bar{L}^k(A) := L^k(A)/AL^k(A)$ computes $\text{Tor}_{*}^{\tilde{A}_k}(k, A)$, which, in case k is flat over k , agrees with $\text{Tor}_{*}^{\tilde{A}}(\mathbb{Z}, A)$, by the lemma above. By definition, $\bar{L}^k(A)$ is a simplicial k -module; its normalized complex is called the bar complex of the k -algebra A . Note $\bar{L}^k(A)$ is defined even if A is not flat over k ; its homology groups are the *bar homology* $H_*^{\text{bar}}(A/k)$. M. Wodzicki, who was the first to find a relation between bar homology and excision, coined the term *H-unital* for algebras whose bar homology vanishes ([57]). Summing up, for a flat algebra over a \mathbb{Z} -flat base H -unitality is the same as K -excisiveness.

6.5 Locally convex algebras.

A *locally convex* algebra is a complete topological \mathbb{C} -algebra L with a locally convex topology. Such a topology is defined by a family of seminorms $\{\rho_\alpha\}$; continuity of the product means that for every α there exists a β such that

$$\rho_\alpha(xy) \leq \rho_\beta(x)\rho_\beta(y) \quad (x, y \in L). \quad (55)$$

If in addition the topology is determined by a countable family of seminorms, we say that L is a *Fréchet* algebra.

Let L be a locally convex algebra. Consider the following property

$$\begin{aligned}\forall n \geq 1, a = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in L^{\oplus n} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n L \quad \exists z \in L, \quad x \in L^n \text{ such that} \\ z \cdot x = a \text{ and } x \in \overline{L \cdot x}\end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

Here the bar denotes topological closure in $L^{\oplus n}$. The following is a result of Wodzicki.

Proposition 6.5.1. ([57, 5.1]) *Let L be a locally convex algebra. Assume that either L or L^{op} satisfy (56) Then $\text{Tor}^{L^c}(\mathbb{C}, L) = 0$. \square*

Corollary 6.5.2. *L is K -excisive.*

Proof. Combine Theorem 6.4.1 and Lemma 6.4.5 with Proposition 6.5.1. \square

6.6 Fréchet m -algebras with approximate units.

A *uniformly bounded left approximate unit* (ublau) in a locally convex algebra L is a net $\{e_\lambda\}$ of elements of L such that $e_\lambda a \mapsto a$ for all a and $\sup_\alpha \rho_\alpha(a) < \infty$. Right ubau's are defined analogously. If L is a locally convex algebra such that a defining family of seminorms can be chosen so that condition (55) is satisfied with $\alpha = \beta$ (i.e. the seminorms are *submultiplicative*) we say that L is an m -algebra. An m -algebra which is also Fréchet will be called a *Fréchet m -algebra*.

Example 6.6.1. Every C^* -algebra has a two-sided ubau ([19, I.4.8]). If G is a locally compact group, then the group algebra $L^1(G)$ is a Banach algebra with two sided ubau [57, 8.4]. If L_1 and L_2 are locally convex algebras with ublaus $\{e_\lambda\}$ and $\{f_\mu\}$, then $\{e_\lambda \otimes f_\mu\}$ is a ublau for the projective tensor product $L_1 \hat{\otimes} L_2$, which is a (Fréchet) m -algebra if both L_1 and L_2 are.

Remark 6.6.2. If L is a Banach algebra, any bounded approximate unit is uniformly bounded. Thus for example, the unit of a Banach algebra is an ublau. However, the unit of a general unital locally convex algebra (or even of a Fréchet m -algebra) need not be uniformly bounded.

Let L be an m -Fréchet algebra. A left *Fréchet L -module* is a Fréchet space V equipped with a left L -module structure such that the multiplication map $L \times V \rightarrow V$ is continuous. If L is equipped with an ublau e_λ such that $e_\lambda \cdot v \rightarrow v$ for all $a \in V$, then we say that V is *essential*.

Example 6.6.3. If L is an m -Fréchet algebra with ublau e_λ and $x \in L^{\oplus n}$ ($n \geq 1$) then $e_\lambda x \rightarrow x$. Thus $L^{\oplus n}$ is an essential Fréchet L -module. The next exercise generalizes this example.

Exercise 6.6.4. Let L be an m -Fréchet algebra with ublau e_λ , M a unital m -Fréchet algebra, and $n \geq 1$. Prove that for every $x \in (L \hat{\otimes} M)^{\oplus n}$, $(e_\lambda \otimes 1)x \rightarrow x$. Conclude that $(L \hat{\otimes} M)^{\oplus n}$ is an essential $L \hat{\otimes} M$ -module.

The following Fréchet version of Cohen-Hewitt's factorization theorem (originally proved in the Banach setting) is due to M. Summers.

Theorem 6.6.5. ([43, 2.1]) *Let L be an m -Fréchet algebra with ublau, and V an essential Fréchet left L -module. Then for each $v \in V$ and for each neighbourhood U of the origin in V there is an $a \in L$ and a $w \in V$ such that $v = aw$, $w \in \overline{Av}$, and $w - v \in U$. \square*

Theorem 6.6.6. ([57, 8.1]) *Let L be a Fréchet m -algebra. Assume L has a right or left ubau. Then L is K -excisive.*

Proof. It suffices to show that L satisfies property (56). This follows by applying Theorem 6.6.5 to the essential L -module $L^{\oplus n}$. \square

Exercise 6.6.7. Prove that if L and M are as in Exercise (6.6.4), then $L \hat{\otimes} M$ is K -excisive.

6.7 Fundamental theorem and the Toeplitz ring.

Notation. If $G : \mathfrak{A} \rightarrow \mathfrak{B}$ is a functor, and A is a ring, we put

$$NG(A) := \text{coker}(GA \rightarrow GA[t]).$$

Let R be a unital ring. We have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \longrightarrow & R[t] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ R[t^{-1}] & \longrightarrow & R[t, t^{-1}] \end{array}$$

Thus applying the functor K_n we obtain a map

$$K_n R \oplus NK_n R \oplus NK_n R \rightarrow K_n R[t, t^{-1}] \quad (57)$$

which sends $NK_n R \oplus NK_n R$ inside $\ker \text{ev}_1$. Thus $K_n R \rightarrow K_n R[t, t^{-1}]$ is a split mono, and the intersection of its image with that of $NK_n R \oplus NK_n R$ is 0. On the other hand, the inclusion $TR \rightarrow \Gamma R$ induces a map of exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M_\infty R & \longrightarrow & TR & \longrightarrow & R[t, t^{-1}] \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & M_\infty R & \longrightarrow & \Gamma R & \longrightarrow & \Sigma R \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

In particular, we have a homomorphism $R[t, t^{-1}] \rightarrow \Sigma R$, and thus a homomorphism

$$\eta : K_n R[t, t^{-1}] \rightarrow K_{n-1} R.$$

Note that the maps $R[t] \rightarrow \mathcal{T}R$, $t \mapsto \alpha$ and $t \mapsto \alpha^*$, lift the homomorphisms $R[t] \rightarrow R[t, t^{-1}]$, $t \mapsto t$ and $t \mapsto t^{-1}$. It follows that $\ker \eta$ contains the image of (57). In [32], Loday introduced a product operation in K -theory of unital rings

$$K_p(R) \otimes K_q(S) \rightarrow K_{p+q}(R \otimes S).$$

In particular, multiplying by the class of $t \in K_1(\mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}])$ induces a map

$$\cup t : K_{n-1} R \rightarrow K_n R[t, t^{-1}]. \quad (58)$$

Loday proves in [32, 2.3.5] that $\eta \circ (- \cup t)$ is the identity map. Thus the images of (57) and (58) have zero intersection. Moreover, we have the following result, due to Quillen [25], which is known as the fundamental theorem of K -theory.

Theorem 6.7.1. ([25], see also [42]) *Let R be a unital ring. The maps (57) and (58) induce an isomorphism*

$$K_n R \oplus NK_n R \oplus NK_n R \oplus K_{n-1} R \xrightarrow{\cong} K_n R[t, t^{-1}] \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

Corollary 6.7.2. (cf. Theorem 5.3.2)

$$K_n(R[t, t^{-1}] : \sigma R) = K_{n-1} R \oplus NK_n R \oplus NK_n R \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

Proposition 6.7.3. (cf. Theorem 5.3.1) *Let R be a unital ring, and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} K_n \mathcal{T}R &= K_n R \oplus NK_n R \oplus NK_n R, \\ K_n(\mathcal{T}R : \mathcal{T}_0 R) &= NK_n R \oplus NK_n R. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M_\infty R \rightarrow \mathcal{T}R \rightarrow R[t, t^{-1}] \rightarrow 0$$

By Proposition 10.1.2, Exercise 6.4.4 and matrix stability we have a long exact sequence

$$K_n R \rightarrow K_n \mathcal{T}R \rightarrow K_n R[t, t^{-1}] \rightarrow K_{n-1} R \rightarrow K_{n-1} \mathcal{T}R \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

By 5.3.6, the first and the last map are zero. The proposition is immediate from this, from Corollary 6.7.2, and from the discussion above. \square

7 Comparison between algebraic and topological K -theory I

7.1 Stable C^* -algebras.

The following is Higson's homotopy invariance theorem.

Theorem 7.1.1. [26, 3.2.2] *Let G be a functor from C^* -algebras to abelian groups. Assume that G is split exact and \mathcal{K} -stable. Then G is homotopy invariant. \square*

Lemma 7.1.2. *Let G be a functor from C^* -algebras to abelian groups. Assume that G is M_2 -stable. Then the functor $F(A) := G(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$ is \mathcal{K} -stable.*

Proof. Let H be an infinite dimensional separable Hilbert space. The canonical isomorphism $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_2 H \cong H \oplus H$ induces an isomorphism $\mathcal{K} \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K} \rightarrow M_2\mathcal{K}$ which makes the following diagram commute

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{K} \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K} & \xrightarrow{\cong} & M_2\mathcal{K} \\ e_{11} \otimes 1 \swarrow & & \nearrow \iota_1 \\ & \mathcal{K} & \end{array}$$

Since G is M_2 -stable by hypothesis, it follows that $F(1_A \tilde{\otimes} e_{1,1} \tilde{\otimes} 1_{\mathcal{K}})$ is an isomorphism for all A . \square

The following result, due to Suslin and Wodzicki, is (one of the variants of) what is known as Karoubi's conjecture [29].

Theorem 7.1.3. [45, 10.9] *Let A be a C^* -algebra. Then there is a natural isomorphism $K_n(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_n^{\text{top}}(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$.*

Proof. By definition $K_0 = K_0^{\text{top}}$ on all C^* -algebras. By Example 6.6.1 and Theorem 6.6.6, C^* -algebras are K -excisive. In particular K_* is split exact when regarded as a functor of C^* -algebras. By 6.2.6 iii), 2.5.2 i), and split exactness, K_* is M_∞ -stable on C^* -algebras; this implies it is also M_2 -stable (Exercise 2.2.3). Thus $K_*(- \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$ is \mathcal{K} -stable, by 7.1.2. Hence $K_n(A(0, 1] \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = 0$, by split exactness and homotopy invariance (Theorem 7.1.1). It follows that

$$K_{n+1}(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_n(A(0, 1] \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) \quad (59)$$

by excision. In particular, for $n \geq 0$,

$$K_n(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_0(A \tilde{\otimes} \tilde{\otimes}_{i=1}^n \mathbb{C}(0, 1] \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_n^{\text{top}}(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}). \quad (60)$$

On the other hand, by Cuntz' theorem 3.2.4, excision applied to the C^* -Toeplitz extension and 7.1.2, $K_{n+1}(A(0, 1] \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_n(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K} \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_n(A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$. Putting this together with (59), we get that $K_*(\mathcal{K} \tilde{\otimes} A)$ is Bott periodic. It follows that the identity (60) holds for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. \square

7.2 Stable Banach algebras.

The following result is a particular case of a theorem of Wodzicki.

Theorem 7.2.1. ([58, Thm. 2], [10, 8.3.3, 8.3.4]) *Let L be Banach algebra with right or left ubau. Then there is an isomorphism $K_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_*^{\text{top}}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$.*

Proof. Consider the functor $G_L : C^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{Ab}$, $A \mapsto K_*(L \hat{\otimes} (A \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K}))$. By the same argument as in the proof of 7.1.3, G_L is homotopy invariant. Hence $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[0, 1]$ induces an isomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} G_L(\mathbb{C}) &= K_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) \xrightarrow{\cong} G_L(\mathbb{C}[0, 1]) = K_*(L \hat{\otimes} (\mathbb{C}[0, 1] \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K})) \\ &= K_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}[0, 1]) = K_*((L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K})[0, 1]). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $K_{n+1}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_n(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}(0, 1))$, by 6.6.6 and 6.6.1. Thus $K_n(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = K_n^{\text{top}}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$ for $n \geq 0$. Consider the punctured Toeplitz sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{top}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(0, 1) \rightarrow 0$$

By [19, V.1.5], this sequence admits a continuous linear splitting. Hence it remains exact after applying the functor $L\hat{\otimes}-$. By 3.2.4, we have

$$K_{-n}(L\hat{\otimes}(\mathcal{K} \tilde{\otimes} T_0)) = 0 \quad (n \geq 0).$$

Thus

$$K_{-n}(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_{-n}(L\hat{\otimes}(\mathcal{K} \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{K})) = K_0((L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) \hat{\otimes}_{i=1}^n \mathbb{C}(0, 1)) = K_{-n}^{\text{top}}(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}). \quad \square$$

Remark 7.2.2. The theorem above holds more generally for m -Fréchet algebras ([58, Thm. 2], [10, 8.3.4]), with the appropriate definition of topological K -theory (see Section 12 below).

Exercise 7.2.3. Let A be a Banach algebra. Consider the map $K_0(A) \rightarrow K_{-1}(A(0, 1))$ coming from the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A(0, 1) \rightarrow A(0, 1] \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0$$

Put

$$A(0, 1)^m = A \hat{\otimes} (\hat{\otimes}_{i=1}^m \mathbb{C}(0, 1))$$

and define

$$KC_n(A) = \text{colim}_p K_{-p}(A(0, 1)^{n+p}) \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z})$$

- i) Prove that KC_* satisfies excision, M_∞ -stability, continuous homotopy invariance, and nilinvariance.
- ii) Prove that $KC_*(A\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_*^{\text{top}}(A)$.
- iii) Prove that the composite

$$K_n^{\text{top}}A = K_0(A(0, 1)^n) \rightarrow KC_n(A) \rightarrow KC_n(A\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_n^{\text{top}}(A) \quad (n \geq 0)$$

is the identity map. In particular $KC_n(A) \rightarrow K_n^{\text{top}}(A)$ is surjective for $n \geq 0$.

Remark 7.2.4. J. Rosenberg has conjectured (see [41, 3.7]) that, for $n \leq -1$, the restriction of K_n to commutative C^* -algebras is homotopy invariant. Note that if A is a Banach algebra (commutative or not) such that, $K_{-q}(A(0, 1)^p) \rightarrow K_{-q}(A(0, 1)^p[0, 1])$ is an isomorphism for all $p, q \geq 0$, then $KC_n(A) \rightarrow K_n^{\text{top}}A$ is an isomorphism for all n . In particular, if Rosenberg's conjecture holds, this will happen for all commutative C^* -algebras A .

8 Topological K -theory for locally convex algebras

8.1 Diffeotopy KV .

We begin by recalling the notion of C^∞ -homotopies or diffeotopies (from [14], [15]). Let L be a locally convex algebra. Write $\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], L)$ for the algebra of those functions $[0, 1] \rightarrow L$ which are restrictions of C^∞ -functions $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow L$. The algebra $\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], L)$ is equipped with a locally convex topology which makes it into a locally convex algebra, and there is a canonical isomorphism

$$\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], L) = \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], \mathbb{C}) \hat{\otimes} L$$

Two homomorphisms $f_0, f_1 : L \rightarrow M$ of locally convex algebras are called *diffeotopic* if there is a homomorphism $H : L \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], M)$ such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], M) & \\ & \nearrow H & \downarrow (\text{ev}_0, \text{ev}_1) \\ L & \xrightarrow{(f_0, f_1)} & M \times M \end{array}$$

Consider the exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow P^{\text{dif}}L \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], L) \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_0} L \rightarrow 0 \quad (61)$$

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^{\text{dif}}L \rightarrow P^{\text{dif}}L \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_1} L \rightarrow 0 \quad (62)$$

Here $P^{\text{dif}}L$ and $\Omega^{\text{dif}}L$ are the kernels of the evaluation maps. The first of these is split by the natural inclusion $L \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], L)$, and the second is split the continuous linear map sending $l \mapsto (t \mapsto tl)$. We have

$$\Omega^{\text{dif}}L = \Omega^{\text{dif}}\mathbb{C} \hat{\otimes} L, \quad P^{\text{dif}}L = P^{\text{dif}}\mathbb{C} \hat{\otimes} L.$$

Put

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GL}(L)_0'' &= \text{Im}(\text{GL}P^{\text{dif}}L \rightarrow \text{GL}(L)) \\ KV_1^{\text{dif}}(L) &= \text{GL}(L)/\text{GL}(L)_0''. \end{aligned}$$

The following is the analogue of Proposition 4.2 for KV_1^{dif} (except for nilinvariance, treated separately in Exercise 8.1.2).

Proposition 8.1.1.

i) The functor KV_1^{dif} is split exact.

ii) For each locally convex algebra L , there is a natural surjective map $K_1^{\text{dif}}L \rightarrow KV_1^{\text{dif}}L$.

iii) If

$$0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0 \quad (63)$$

is an exact sequence such that the map $\text{GL}(M)_0'' \rightarrow \text{GL}(N)_0''$ is onto, then the map $K_1N \rightarrow K_0L$ of Theorem 2.4.1 factors through $KV_1^{\text{dif}}N$, and the resulting sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} KV_1^{\text{dif}}L & \longrightarrow & KV_1^{\text{dif}}M & \longrightarrow & KV_1^{\text{dif}}N \\ & & & & \downarrow \partial \\ K_0N & \longleftarrow & K_0M & \longleftarrow & K_0L \end{array}$$

is exact.

iv) KV_1^{dif} is additive, diffeotopy invariant and M_∞ -stable.

Proof. One checks that, mutatis-mutandis, the same argument of the proof of 4.2 shows this. \square

By the same argument as in the algebraic case, we obtain a natural injection

$$KV_1^{\text{dif}}L \hookrightarrow K_0(\Omega^{\text{dif}}L)$$

Higher KV^{dif} -groups are defined by

$$KV_n^{\text{dif}}(L) = KV_1^{\text{dif}}((\Omega^{\text{dif}})^{n-1}L) \quad (n \geq 2)$$

Exercise 8.1.2.

i) Show that if L is a locally convex algebra such that $L^n = 0$ and such that $L \rightarrow L/L^n$ admits a continuous linear splitting, then $KV_1^{\text{dif}}L = 0$.

ii) Show that if L is as in i) then the map $KV_1^{\text{dif}}M \rightarrow KV_1^{\text{dif}}N$ induced by (63) is an isomorphism.

8.2 Diffeotopy K -theory.

Consider the excision map

$$K_n L \rightarrow K_{n-1}(\Omega^{\text{dif}} L) \quad (n \leq 0)$$

associated to the sequence (62). The *diffeotopy K -theory* of the algebra L is defined by the formula

$$KD_n L = \text{colim}_p K_{-p}(\Omega^{\text{dif}})^{n+p} L \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z})$$

It is also possible to express KD in terms of KV^{dif} . First we observe that, since $\Sigma\mathbb{C}$ is a countably dimensional algebra, equipping it with the fine topology makes it into a locally convex algebra [15, 2.1], and if L is any locally convex algebra then we have

$$\Sigma L = \Sigma\mathbb{C} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} L = \Sigma\mathbb{C} \hat{\otimes} L.$$

Thus

$$\Omega^{\text{dif}} \Sigma L = \Sigma \Omega^{\text{dif}} L.$$

Taking this into account, and using the same argument as used to prove (44), one obtains

$$KD_n L = \text{colim}_p KV_1^{\text{dif}}(\Sigma^{r+1}(\Omega^{\text{dif}})^{n+r} L) = \text{colim}_p KV_{n+r+1}^{\text{dif}}(\Sigma^{r+1} L).$$

Proposition 8.2.1. *Diffeotopy K -theory has the following properties.*

- i) *It is diffeotopy invariant, nilinvariant and M_∞ -stable.*
- ii) *It satisfies excision for those exact sequences which admit a continuous linear splitting. That is, if*

$$0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\pi} N \rightarrow 0 \quad (64)$$

is an exact sequence of locally convex algebras and there exists a continuous linear map $s : N \rightarrow M$ such that $\pi s = 1_N$, then there is a long exact sequence

$$KD_{n+1} M \rightarrow KD_{n+1} N \rightarrow KD_n L \rightarrow KD_n M \rightarrow KD_n N \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

Proof. The proof is essentially the same as that of Theorem (5.1.1). The splitting hypothesis in ii) guarantees that the functor $L \mapsto \Omega^{\text{dif}} L = \Omega^{\text{dif}} \mathbb{C} \hat{\otimes} L$ and its iterations, send (64) to an exact sequence. \square

Comparing KV^{dif} and KD .

The analogue of Proposition 5.2.3 is 8.2.3 below. It is immediate from Lemma 8.2.2, which is the analogue of Lemma 5.2.1; the proof of 8.2.2 is essentially the same as that of 5.2.1.

Lemma 8.2.2. *Let L be a locally convex algebra. Assume that for all $n \leq 0$ and all $p \geq 1$, the natural inclusion $\iota_p : L \rightarrow L \hat{\otimes} (\hat{\otimes}_{i=1}^n \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1])) = \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1]^p, L)$ induces an isomorphism $K_n(L) \xrightarrow{\cong} K_n \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1]^p, L)$. Then $KV_1^{\text{dif}} L \rightarrow K_0 \Omega^{\text{dif}} L$ is an isomorphism, and for every $n \leq 0$ and every $p \geq 0$, $K_n(\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1]^p, P^{\text{dif}} A)) = 0$ and $K_n(\Omega^{\text{dif}} A) \rightarrow K_n(\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1]^p, \Omega^{\text{dif}} A))$ is an isomorphism.*

Proposition 8.2.3. *Let L be a locally convex algebra. Assume L satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 8.2.2. Then*

$$KD_n L = \begin{cases} KV_n^{\text{dif}} L & n \geq 1 \\ K_n L & n \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

8.3 Bott periodicity.

Next we are going to prove a version of Bott periodicity for KD . The proof is analogous to Cuntz' proof of Bott periodicity for K^{top} of C^* -algebras, with the algebra of smooth compact operators and the smooth Toeplitz algebra substituted for the C^* -algebra of compact operators and the Toeplitz C^* -algebra.

Smooth compact operators.

The algebra \mathfrak{K} of *smooth compact operators* ([35, §2],[14, 1.4]) consists of all those $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ -matrices $(z_{i,j})$ with complex coefficients such that for all n ,

$$\rho_n(z) := \sum_{p,q} p^n q^n |z_{p,q}| < \infty$$

The seminorms ρ_n are submultiplicative, and define a locally convex topology on \mathfrak{K} . Since the topology is defined by submultiplicative seminorms, it is an m -algebra. Further because the seminorms above are countably many, it is Fréchet; summing up \mathfrak{K} is an m -Fréchet algebra. We have a map

$$e_{11} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathfrak{K}, z \mapsto e_{11}z$$

Whenever we refer to \mathfrak{K} -stability below, we shall mean stability with respect to the functor $\mathfrak{K} \hat{\otimes} -$ and the map e_{11} .

Smooth Toeplitz algebra.

The *smooth Toeplitz algebra* ([14, 1.5]), is the free m -algebra \mathcal{T}^{sm} on two generators α, α^* subject to $\alpha\alpha^* = 1$. As in the C^* -algebra case, there is a commutative diagram with exact rows and split exact columns

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{K} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{sm}} & \longrightarrow & \Omega^{\text{dif}}\mathbb{C} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{K} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T}^{\text{sm}} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C}^\infty(S^1, \mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{ev}_1 \\ & & & & \mathbb{C} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathbb{C} \end{array}$$

Here $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{sm}}$ is defined so that the middle column be exact, and we use the exponential map to identify $\Omega^{\text{dif}}\mathbb{C}$ with the kernel of the evaluation map. Moreover the construction of \mathcal{T}^{sm} given in [14] makes it clear that the rows are exact with a continuous linear splitting, and thus they remain exact after applying $L \hat{\otimes}$, where L is any locally convex algebra.

Bott periodicity.

The following theorem, due to J. Cuntz, appears in [14, Satz 6.4], where it is stated for functors on m -locally convex algebras. The same proof works for functors of all locally convex algebras.

Theorem 8.3.1. (Cuntz, [14, Satz 6.4]) *Let G be a functor from locally convex algebras to abelian groups. Assume that*

- G is diffeotopy invariant.
- G is \mathfrak{K} -stable.
- G is split exact.

Then for every locally convex algebra L , we have:

$$G(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{sm}}) = 0$$

Theorem 8.3.2. *For every locally convex algebra L , there is a natural isomorphism $KD_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K}) \cong KD_{*+2}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K})$.*

Proof. Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K} \longrightarrow L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{sm}} \longrightarrow \Omega^{\text{dif}} L \longrightarrow 0$$

This sequence is linearly split by construction (see [14, 1.5]). This splitting property is clearly preserved if we apply the functor $\mathfrak{K} \hat{\otimes}$. Hence by Proposition 8.2.1 ii), we have a natural map

$$KD_{*+1}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K}) = KD_*(\Omega^{\text{dif}} L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K}) \rightarrow KD_{*-1}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K} \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K}) \quad (65)$$

By [14, Lemma 1.4.1], the map $1 \hat{\otimes} e_{11} : \mathfrak{K} \rightarrow \mathfrak{K} \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K}$ is diffeotopic to an isomorphism. Since KD is diffeotopy invariant, this shows that $KD_*(\mathfrak{K} \hat{\otimes} -)$ is \mathfrak{K} -stable. Hence $KD_{*-1}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K} \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K}) = KD_{*-1}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K})$, and by Cuntz' theorem 8.3.1, (65) is an isomorphism. \square

Remark 8.3.3. Cuntz has defined a bivariate topological K -theory for locally convex algebras ([15]). This theory associates groups $kk_*^{\text{lc}}(L, M)$ to any pair (L, M) of locally convex algebras, and is contravariant in the first variable and covariant in the second. Roughly speaking, $kk_n^{\text{lc}}(L, M)$ is defined as a certain colimit of diffeotopy classes of m -fold extensions of L by M ($m \geq n$). There is also an algebraic version of Cuntz' theory, $kk_*(A, B)$, which is defined for all pairs of rings (A, B) ([11]). We point out that

$$kk_*^{\text{lc}}(\mathbb{C}, M) = KD_*(M \hat{\otimes} \mathfrak{K}). \quad (66)$$

Indeed the proof given in [11, 8.1.2] that for algebraic kk , $KH_*(A) = kk_*(\mathbb{Z}, A)$ for all rings A , can be adapted to prove (66); one just needs to observe that, for the algebraic suspension, $kk_*^{\text{lc}}(L, \Sigma M) = kk_{*-1}^{\text{lc}}(L, M)$. Note that, in view of the definition of KD , (66) implies the following ‘‘algebraic’’ formula for kk^{lc} :

$$kk_n^{\text{lc}}(\mathbb{C}, L) = \text{colim}_p K_{-p}((\Omega^{\text{dif}})^{p+q}(L \otimes \mathfrak{K})).$$

9 Comparison between algebraic and topological K -theory II

9.1 The diffeotopy invariance theorem.

Let H be a separable Hilbert space; write $H \otimes_2 H$ for the completed tensor product of Hilbert spaces. Note any two Hilbert separable Hilbert spaces are isomorphic; hence we may regard any operator ideal $\mathcal{J} \triangleleft \mathcal{B}(H)$ as a functor on Hilbert spaces (see [28, 3.3]). Let $\mathcal{J} \triangleleft \mathcal{B}$ be an ideal.

- \mathcal{J} is *multiplicative* if $\mathcal{B} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(H \otimes_2 H)$ maps $\mathcal{J} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}$ to \mathcal{J} .
- \mathcal{J} is *Fréchet* if it is a Fréchet algebra and the inclusion $\mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is continuous. A Fréchet ideal is a *Banach ideal* if it is a Banach algebra.

Write $\omega = (1/n)_n$ for the harmonic sequence.

- \mathcal{J} is *harmonic* if it is a multiplicative Banach ideal such that $\mathcal{J}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N}))$ contains $\text{diag}(\omega)$.

Example 9.1.1. Let $p \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Write \mathcal{L}_p for the ideal of those compact operators whose sequence of singular values is p -summable; \mathcal{L}_p is called the *p -Schatten ideal*. It is Banach $\iff p \geq 1$, and is harmonic $\iff p > 1$. There is no interesting locally convex topology on \mathcal{L}_p for $p < 1$.

The following theorem, due to J. Cuntz and A. Thom, is the analogue of Higson's homotopy invariance theorem 7.1.1 in the locally convex algebra context. The formulation we use here is a consequence of [18, 5.1.2] and [18, 4.2.1].

Theorem 9.1.2. ([18]) *Let \mathcal{J} be a harmonic operator ideal, and G a functor from locally convex algebras to abelian groups. Assume that*

- i) G is M_2 -stable.*
- ii) G is split exact.*

Then $L \mapsto G(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ is diffeotopy invariant.

We shall need a variant of 9.1.2 which is valid for all Fréchet ideals \mathcal{J} . In order to state it, we introduce some notation. Let $\alpha : L \rightarrow M$ be a homomorphism of locally convex algebras. We say that α is an *isomorphism up to square zero* if there exists a continuous linear map $\beta : M \hat{\otimes} M \rightarrow L$ such that the compositions $\beta \circ (\alpha \hat{\otimes} \alpha)$ and $\alpha \circ \beta$ are the multiplication maps of L and M . Note that if α is an isomorphism up to square zero, then its image is a ideal of M , and both its kernel and its cokernel are square-zero algebras.

Definition 9.1.3. *Let G be a functor from locally convex algebras to abelian groups. We call G continuously nilinvariant if it sends isomorphisms up to square zero into isomorphisms.*

Example 9.1.4. For any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, KH_n is a continuously nilinvariant functor of locally convex algebras. If $n \leq 0$, the same is true of K_n . In general, if H_* is the restriction to locally convex algebras of any excisive, nilinvariant homology theory of rings, then H_* is continuously nilinvariant.

Theorem 9.1.5. [10, 6.1.6] *Let \mathcal{J} be a Fréchet operator ideal, and G a functor from locally convex algebras to abelian groups. Assume that*

- i) G is M_2 -stable.*
- ii) G is split exact.*
- iii) G is continuously nilinvariant.*

Then $L \mapsto G(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ is diffeotopy invariant.

Exercise 9.1.6. Prove:

- i) If L is a locally convex algebra, then $L[t]$ is a locally convex algebra, and there is an isomorphism $L[t] \cong L \hat{\otimes} \mathbb{C}[t]$ where $\mathbb{C}[t]$ is equipped with the fine topology.
- ii) Let G be a diffeotopy invariant functor from locally convex algebras to abelian groups. Prove that G is polynomial homotopy invariant.

The following fact shall be needed below.

Lemma 9.1.7. *Let G be a functor from locally convex algebras to abelian groups, and \mathcal{J} a Fréchet ideal. Assume that G is M_2 -stable and that $F(-) := G(- \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ is diffeotopy invariant. Then F is \mathfrak{K} -stable.*

Proof. Let $\iota : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathfrak{K}$ be the inclusion; put $\alpha = 1_{\mathcal{J}} \hat{\otimes} \iota$. We have to show that if L is a locally convex algebra, then G maps $1_L \hat{\otimes} \alpha$ to an isomorphism. To do this one constructs a map $\beta : \mathfrak{K} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathfrak{K}$, and shows that $G(1_L \hat{\otimes} \beta)$ is inverse to $G(1_L \hat{\otimes} \alpha)$. To define β , proceed as follows. By [10, 5.1.3], $\mathcal{J} \supset \mathcal{L}^1$, and the tensor product of operators defines a map $\theta : \mathcal{L}^1 \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{J}$. Write $\phi : \mathfrak{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{J}$ for the inclusion. Put $\beta = \theta \circ (1_{\mathcal{J}} \hat{\otimes} \phi)$. The argument of the proof of [18, 6.1.2] now shows that G sends both $1_L \hat{\otimes} \alpha \beta$ and $1_L \hat{\otimes} \beta \alpha$ to identity maps. \square

9.2 KH of stable locally convex algebras.

Let L be a locally convex algebra. Restriction of functions defines a homomorphism of locally convex algebras $L[t] \rightarrow C^\infty([0, 1], L)$, which sends $\Omega L \rightarrow \Omega^{\text{dif}} L$. Thus we have a natural map

$$KH_n(L) = \operatorname{colim}_p K_{-p}(\Omega^{p+n} L) \rightarrow \operatorname{colim}_p K_{-p}((\Omega^{\text{dif}})^{p+n} L) = KD_n(L) \quad (67)$$

Theorem 9.2.1. [10, 6.2.1] *Let L be a locally convex algebra, \mathcal{J} a Fréchet ideal, and A a \mathbb{C} -algebra. Then*

i) The functors $KH_n(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (-\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}))$ ($n \in \mathbb{Z}$) and $K_m(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (-\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}))$ ($m \leq 0$) are diffeotopy invariant.

ii) $A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ is K_0 -regular ($n \leq 0$).

iii) The map $KH_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) \rightarrow KD_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ of (67) is an isomorphism for all n . Moreover we have

$$KH_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) = KV_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) = KV_n^{\text{dif}}(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) \quad (n \geq 1)$$

Proof. Part i) is immediate from 5.1.1, 9.1.4 and 9.1.5. It follows from part i) and Exercise 9.1.6 that $A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ is K_n -regular for all $n \leq 0$, proving ii). From part i) and excision, we get that the two vertical maps in the commutative diagram below are isomorphisms ($n \leq 0$):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) & \xrightarrow{1} & K_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ K_{n-1}(\Omega L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) & \longrightarrow & K_n(\Omega^{\text{dif}} L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) \end{array}$$

It follows that the map at the bottom is an isomorphism. This proves the first assertion of iii). The identity $KH_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) = KV_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ ($n \geq 1$) follows from part i), using Proposition 5.2.3 and Remark 5.2.2. Similarly, part i) together with Proposition 8.2.3 imply that $KD_n(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) = KV_n^{\text{dif}}(L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$ ($n \geq 1$). \square

Corollary 9.2.2.

$$KH_n(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})) = \begin{cases} K_0(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})) & n \text{ even.} \\ K_{-1}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})) & n \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. Put $B = A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$. By part ii) of Theorem 9.2.1 above and Remark 5.2.2, or directly by the proof of the theorem, we have that B is K_n -regular for all $n \leq 0$. Thus $KH_n(B) = K_n(B)$ for $n \leq 0$, by Proposition 5.2.3. To finish, we must show that $KH_n(B)$ is 2-periodic. By 9.1.7, $KH_*(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (-\hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}))$ is \mathfrak{K} -stable. Thus $KH_*(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{sm}} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})) = 0$, by Theorem 8.3.1. Whence $KH_{*+1}(B) = KH_{*-1}(B)$, by excision and diffeotopy invariance. \square

Example 9.2.3. If \mathcal{J} is a Fréchet operator ideal, then by 2.5.3, 2.5.4 and Corollary 9.2.2, we get:

$$KH_n(\mathcal{J}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & n \text{ even.} \\ 0 & n \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

This formula is valid more generally for “subharmonic” ideals (see [10, 6.5.1] for the definition of this term, and [10, 7.2.1] for the statement). For example, the Schatten ideals \mathcal{L}_p are subharmonic for all $p > 0$, but are Fréchet only for $p \geq 1$.

10 K -theory spectra

In this section we introduce spectra for Quillen’s and other K -theories. For a quick introduction to spectra, see [55, 10.9].

10.1 Quillen's K -theory spectrum.

Let R be a unital ring. Since the loop space depends only on the connected component of the base point, applying the equivalence of Proposition 6.2.8 to ΣR induces an equivalence

$$\Omega K(\Sigma R) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \Omega^2 K(\Sigma^2 R) \quad (68)$$

Moreover, by 6.3, this map is natural. Put

$${}_n \mathbb{K}R := \Omega K(\Sigma^{n+1} R).$$

The equivalence (68) applied to $\Sigma^n R$ yields an equivalence

$${}_n \mathbb{K}R \xrightarrow{\simeq} \Omega({}_{n+1} \mathbb{K}R).$$

The sequence $\mathbb{K}R = \{{}_n \mathbb{K}R\}$ together with the homotopy equivalences above constitute a spectrum (in the notation of [55, 10.9], Ω -spectrum in that of [47, Ch. 8]), the K -theory spectrum; the equivalences are the *bonding maps* of the spectrum. The n -th (stable) homotopy group of $\mathbb{K}R$ is

$$\pi_n \mathbb{K}R = \operatorname{colim}_p \pi_{n+p}({}_n \mathbb{K}R) = K_n R \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

Because its negative homotopy groups are in general nonzero, we say that the spectrum $\mathbb{K}R$ is *nonconnective*. Recall that the homotopy category of spectra HoSpt is triangulated, and, in particular, additive. In the first part of the proposition below, we show that $\mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{S}\mathfrak{S}_1 \rightarrow \operatorname{HoSpt}$, $R \mapsto \mathbb{K}R$ is an additive functor. Thus we can extend the functor \mathbb{K} to all (not necessarily unital) rings, by

$$\mathbb{K}A := \operatorname{hofiber}(\mathbb{K}(\tilde{A}) \rightarrow \mathbb{K}(\mathbb{Z})) \quad (69)$$

Proposition 10.1.1.

i) The functor $\mathbb{K} : \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{S}\mathfrak{S}_1 \rightarrow \operatorname{HoSpt}$ is additive.

ii) The functor $\mathbb{K} : \mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{S}\mathfrak{S} \rightarrow \operatorname{HoSpt}$ defined in (69) above, is M_∞ -stable on unital rings.

Proof. It follows from 6.2.6 i) and iii). \square

If $A \triangleleft B$ is an ideal, we define the relative K -theory spectrum by

$$\mathbb{K}(B : A) = \operatorname{hofiber}(\mathbb{K}(B) \rightarrow \mathbb{K}(B/A)).$$

Proposition 10.1.2. *Every short exact sequence of rings (16) with A K -excisive, gives rise to a distinguished triangle*

$$\mathbb{K}A \rightarrow \mathbb{K}B \rightarrow \mathbb{K}C \rightarrow \Omega^{-1} \mathbb{K}A$$

Proof. Immediate from Theorem 6.4.1. \square

10.2 KV -theory spaces.

Let A be a ring. Consider the simplicial ring

$$\Delta A : [n] \mapsto A \otimes \mathbb{Z}[t_0, \dots, t_n] / \langle 1 - (t_0 + \dots + t_n) \rangle.$$

It is useful to think of elements of $\Delta_n A$ as formal polynomial functions on the algebraic n -simplex $\{(x_0, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} : \sum x_i = 1\}$ with values in A . Face and degeneracy maps are given by

$$\begin{aligned} d_i(f)(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) &= f(t_0, \dots, t_{i-1}, 0, t_i, \dots, t_n) \\ s_j(f)(t_0, \dots, t_{n+1}) &= f(t_0, \dots, t_{i-1}, t_i + t_{i+1}, \dots, t_{n+1}). \end{aligned} \quad (70)$$

Here $f \in \Delta_n A$, $0 \leq i \leq n$, and $0 \leq j \leq n-1$.

In the next proposition and below, we shall use the geometric realization of a simplicial space; see [21, I.3.2 (b)] for its definition. We shall also be concerned with simplicial groups; see [55, Ch.8] for a brief introduction to the latter. The following proposition and the next are taken from D.W. Anderson's paper [1].

Proposition 10.2.1. ([1, 1.7]) *Let A be a ring and $n \geq 1$. Then $KV_n A = \pi_{n-1} \text{GL} \Delta A = \pi_n |B\text{GL} \Delta A|$.*

Proof. The second identity follows from the fact that if G is a group, then $\Omega BG \xrightarrow{\sim} G$ [6] and the fact that, for a simplicial connected space X , one has $\Omega |X| \xrightarrow{\sim} |\Omega X|$. To prove the first identity, proceed by induction on n . Write \sim for the polynomial homotopy relation in $\text{GL} A$ and coeq for the coequalizer of two maps. The case $n = 1$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_0 \text{GL}(\Delta A) &= \text{coeq}(\text{GL} \Delta_1 A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_0} \\ \rightrightarrows \\ \xleftarrow{\text{ev}_1} \end{array} \text{GL} A) \\ &= \text{GL} A / \sim \\ &= \text{GL} A / \text{GL}(A)'_0 = KV_1 A. \end{aligned}$$

For the inductive step, proceed as follows. Consider the exact sequence of rings

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega A \rightarrow PA \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0$$

Using that $\text{GL}(-)'_0 = \text{Im}(\text{GL} P(-) \rightarrow \text{GL}(-))$ and that $P\Delta = \Delta P$ and $\Omega\Delta = \Delta\Omega$, we obtain exact sequences of simplicial groups

$$1 \longrightarrow \text{GL} \Delta \Omega A \longrightarrow \text{GL} \Delta PA \longrightarrow \text{GL}(\Delta A)'_0 \longrightarrow 1 \quad (71)$$

$$1 \longrightarrow \text{GL}(\Delta A)'_0 \longrightarrow \text{GL} \Delta A \longrightarrow KV_1(\Delta A) \longrightarrow 1 \quad (72)$$

Since KV_1 is homotopy invariant (by 4.2), we have $\pi_0 KV_1 \Delta A = KV_1 A$ and $\pi_n KV_1 \Delta A = 0$ for $n > 0$. It follows from (72) that

$$\pi_n \text{GL}(\Delta A)'_0 = \begin{cases} 0 & n = 0 \\ \pi_n \text{GL}(\Delta A) & n \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (73)$$

Next, observe that there is a split exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow \text{GL} \Delta PA \rightarrow \text{GL} \Delta A[x] \rightarrow \text{GL} \Delta A \rightarrow 1$$

Here, the surjective map and its splitting are respectively $\text{GL} d_0$ and $\text{GL} s_0$. One checks that the maps

$$\begin{aligned} h_i &: \Delta_n \Delta_1 A \rightarrow \Delta_{n+1}, \\ h_i(f)(t_0, \dots, t_n, x) &= f(t_0, \dots, t_i + t_{i+1}, \dots, t_n, (t_{i+1} + \dots + t_n)x) \end{aligned}$$

$0 \leq i \leq n$ form a simplicial homotopy between the identity and the map $\Delta_n(s_0 d_0)$. Thus $\text{GL} d_0$ is a homotopy equivalence, whence $\pi_* \text{GL} PA = 0$. Putting this together with (73) and using the homotopy exact sequence of (71), we get

$$\pi_n \text{GL} \Delta \Omega A = \pi_{n+1} \text{GL} \Delta A \quad (n \geq 0).$$

The inductive step is immediate from this. \square

Exercise 10.2.2. Let L be a locally convex algebra. Consider the *geometric n -simplex*

$$\mathbb{A}^n := \{(x_0, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \sum x_i = 1\} \supset \Delta^n := \{x \in \mathbb{A}^n : x_i \geq 0 \ (0 \leq i \leq n)\}.$$

If L is a locally convex algebra, we write

$$\Delta_n^{\text{dif}} L := \mathcal{C}^\infty(\Delta^n, L).$$

Here, $\mathcal{C}^\infty(\Delta^n, -)$ denotes the locally convex vectorspace of all those functions on Δ^n which are restrictions of \mathcal{C}^∞ -functions on \mathbb{A}^n . The cosimplicial structure on $[n] \mapsto \Delta^n$ induces a simplicial one on $\Delta_n^{\text{dif}} L$. In particular, $\Delta_n^{\text{dif}} L$ is a simplicial locally convex algebra, and $\text{GL}(\Delta_n^{\text{dif}} L)$ is a simplicial group.

i) Prove that $KV_n^{\text{dif}} L = \pi_{n-1} \text{GL}(\Delta_n^{\text{dif}} L)$ ($n \geq 1$).

ii) Let A be a Banach algebra. Consider the simplicial Banach algebra $\Delta_*^{\text{top}} A = \mathcal{C}(\Delta^*, A)$ and the simplicial group $\text{GL}(\Delta^{\text{top}} A)$. Prove that $K_n^{\text{top}} A = \pi_{n-1} \text{GL}(\Delta^{\text{top}} A)$ ($n \geq 1$).

Proposition 10.2.3. (*[1, 2.3]*) *Let R be a unital ring. Then the map $|B\text{GL}\Delta R| \rightarrow |K\Delta R|$ is an equivalence. \square*

Corollary 10.2.4. *If A is a ring and $n \geq 1$, then*

$$KV_n A = \pi_n |K(\Delta \tilde{A} : \Delta A)| \square$$

Remark 10.2.5. The argument of the proof of Proposition 10.2.3 in [1] applies verbatim to the \mathcal{C}^∞ case, showing that if T is a unital locally convex algebra, then

$$|B\text{GL}\Delta^{\text{dif}} T| \xrightarrow{\sim} |K\Delta^{\text{dif}} T|.$$

It follows that if L is any, not necessarily unital locally convex algebra and $\tilde{L}_{\mathbb{C}} = L \oplus \mathbb{C}$ is its unitalization, then

$$KV_n^{\text{dif}} L = \pi_n |K(\Delta^{\text{dif}} \tilde{L}_{\mathbb{C}} : \Delta^{\text{dif}} L)|$$

The analogous formulas for the topological K -theory of Banach algebras are also true and can be derived in the same manner.

10.3 The homotopy K -theory spectrum.

Let R be a unital ring. Consider the simplicial spectrum $\mathbb{K}\Delta R$. Put

$$\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}(R) = |\mathbb{K}\Delta R|$$

One checks that $\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H} : \mathfrak{A}l\mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \text{Ho}Spt$ is additive. Thus $\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}$ extends to arbitrary rings by

$$\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}(A) = \text{hofiber}(\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}\tilde{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}\mathbb{Z}) = |\mathbb{K}(\Delta \tilde{A} : \Delta A)|$$

Remark 10.3.1. If A is any, not necessarily unital ring, one can also consider the spectrum $|\mathbb{K}\Delta A|$; the map

$$\mathbb{K}\Delta A = \mathbb{K}(\widetilde{\Delta A} : \Delta A) \rightarrow \mathbb{K}(\Delta \tilde{A} : \Delta A) \tag{74}$$

induces

$$|\mathbb{K}\Delta A| \rightarrow |\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}A|. \tag{75}$$

If A happens to be unital, then (74) is an equivalence, whence the same is true of (75). Further, we shall show below that (75) is in fact an equivalence for all \mathbb{Q} -algebras A .

Proposition 10.3.2. *Let A be a ring, and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $KH_n(A) = \pi_n \mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}(A)$.*

Proof. It is immediate from the definition of the spectrum $\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}A$ given above that

$$\pi_*\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}(A) = \ker(\pi_*\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}\tilde{A} \rightarrow \pi_*\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}\mathbb{Z})$$

Since a similar formula holds for KH_* , it suffices to prove the proposition for unital rings. Let R be a unital ring. By definition, the spectrum $|\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}(R)|$ is the spectrification of the pre-spectrum whose p -th space is $|\Omega K \Delta \Sigma^{p+1} R|$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_n \mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}(R) &= \operatorname{colim}_p \pi_{n+p} |\Omega K \Delta \Sigma^{p+1} R| = \operatorname{colim}_p \pi_{n+p} \Omega |K \Delta \Sigma^{p+1} R| \\ &= \operatorname{colim}_p \pi_{n+p+1} |K \Delta \Sigma^{p+1} R| = \operatorname{colim}_p K V_{n+p} \Sigma^p R = KH_n R. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 10.3.3. Let L be a locally convex algebra. Put

$$\mathbb{K}\mathbb{D}L = |\mathbb{K}(\Delta^{\operatorname{dif}} \tilde{L}_{\mathbb{C}} : \Delta^{\operatorname{dif}} L)|.$$

- i) Show that $\pi_n \mathbb{K}\mathbb{D}L = KD_n L$ ($n \in \mathbb{Z}$).
- ii) Construct a natural map

$$\mathbb{K}\Delta^{\operatorname{dif}} L \rightarrow \mathbb{K}\mathbb{D}L$$

and show it is an equivalence for unital L .

11 Primary and secondary Chern characters

In this section, and for the rest of the paper, all rings considered will be \mathbb{Q} -algebras.

11.1 Cyclic homology.

The different variants of cyclic homology of an algebra A are related by an exact sequence, Connes' *SBI* sequence

$$HP_{n+1}A \xrightarrow{S} HC_{n-1}A \xrightarrow{B} HN_n A \xrightarrow{I} HP_n A \xrightarrow{S} HC_{n-2}A \quad (76)$$

Here HC , HN and HP are respectively cyclic, negative cyclic and periodic cyclic homology. The sequence (76) comes from an exact sequence of complexes of \mathbb{Q} -vectorspaces. The complex for cyclic homology is Connes' complex $C^\lambda A$, whose definition we shall recall presently; see [33, 5.1] for the negative cyclic and periodic cyclic complexes. The complex $C^\lambda A$ is a nonnegatively graded chain complex, given in dimension n by the coinvariants

$$C_n^\lambda A := (A^{\otimes n+1})_{\mathbb{Z}/(n+1)\mathbb{Z}} \quad (77)$$

of the tensor power –taken over \mathbb{Z} , or, what is the same, over \mathbb{Q} – under the action of $\mathbb{Z}/(n+1)\mathbb{Z}$ defined by the signed cyclic permutation

$$\lambda(a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_n) = (-1)^n a_n \otimes a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_{n-1}.$$

The boundary map $b : C_n^\lambda A \rightarrow C_{n-1}^\lambda A$ is induced by

$$\begin{aligned} b : A^{\otimes n+1} \rightarrow A^{\otimes n}, \quad b(a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_n) &= \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^i a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes a_n \\ &\quad + (-1)^n a_n a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Example 11.1.1. The map $C_1^\lambda(A) \rightarrow C_0^\lambda(A)$ sends the class of $a \otimes b$ to $[a, b] := ab - ba$. Hence

$$HC_0A = A/[A, A].$$

By definition, $HC_nA = 0$ if $n < 0$. Also by definition, HP is periodic of period 2. The following theorem subsumes the main properties of HP .

Theorem 11.1.2.

i) (Goodwillie, [23]; see also [16]) The functor $HP_ : \mathbb{Q} - \mathfrak{A}ss \rightarrow \mathfrak{Ab}$ is homotopy invariant and nilinvariant.*

ii) (Cuntz-Quillen, [17]) HP satisfies excision for \mathbb{Q} -algebras; to each exact sequence (16) of \mathbb{Q} -algebras, there corresponds a 6-term exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} HP_0A & \longrightarrow & HP_0B & \longrightarrow & HP_0C \\ \uparrow & & & & \downarrow \\ HP_1C & \longleftarrow & HP_1B & \longleftarrow & HP_1A \end{array} \quad (78)$$

□

Remark 11.1.3. The sequence (76) comes from an exact sequence of complexes, and thus, via the Dold-Kan correspondence, it corresponds to a homotopy fibration of spectra

$$\Omega^{-1}\mathbb{H}CA \rightarrow \mathbb{H}NA \rightarrow \mathbb{H}PA \quad (79)$$

Similarly, the excision sequence (78) comes from a cofibration sequence in the category of pro-supercomplexes [12]; applying the Dold-Kan functor and taking homotopy limits yields a homotopy fibration of Bott-periodic spectra

$$\mathbb{H}PA \rightarrow \mathbb{H}PB \rightarrow \mathbb{H}PC \quad (80)$$

The sequence (78) is recovered from (80) after taking homotopy groups.

11.2 Primary Chern character and infinitesimal K -theory.

The main or primary character is a map going from K -theory to negative cyclic homology

$$c_n : K_nA \rightarrow HN_nA \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

(See [33, Ch. 8, Ch. 11] for its definition). This group homomorphism is induced by a map of spectra

$$\mathbb{K}A \rightarrow \mathbb{H}NA$$

Put $\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}A := \text{hofiber}(\mathbb{K}A \rightarrow \mathbb{H}NA)$ for its fiber; we call $K^{\text{inf}}A$ the *infinitesimal K -theory* of A . Thus, by definition,

$$\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}A \rightarrow \mathbb{K}A \rightarrow \mathbb{H}NA \quad (81)$$

is a homotopy fibration. The main properties of K^{inf} are subsumed in the following theorem.

Theorem 11.2.1.

i) (Goodwillie, [24]) The functor $K_n^{\text{inf}} : \mathbb{Q} - \mathfrak{A}ss \rightarrow \mathfrak{Ab}$ is nilinvariant ($n \in \mathbb{Z}$).

ii) ([9]) K^{inf} satisfies excision for \mathbb{Q} -algebras. Thus to every exact sequence of \mathbb{Q} -algebras (16) there corresponds a triangle

$$\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}A \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}B \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}C \rightarrow \Omega^{-1}\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}A$$

in $\text{Ho}(\text{Spt})$ and therefore an exact sequence

$$K_{n+1}^{\text{inf}}C \rightarrow K_n^{\text{inf}}A \rightarrow K_n^{\text{inf}}B \rightarrow K_n^{\text{inf}}C \rightarrow K_{n-1}^{\text{inf}}A \quad \square$$

11.3 Secondary Chern characters.

Starting with the fibration sequence (81), one builds up a commutative diagram with homotopy fibration rows and columns

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbb{K}^{\text{inf},\text{nil}} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}} A & \longrightarrow & |\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}} \Delta A| \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{K}^{\text{nil}} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{K} A & \longrightarrow & |\mathbb{K} \Delta A| \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow c & & \downarrow c\Delta \\
 \mathbb{H}\mathbb{N}^{\text{nil}} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}\mathbb{N} A & \longrightarrow & |\mathbb{H}\mathbb{N} \Delta A|.
 \end{array} \tag{82}$$

The middle column is (81); that on the right is (81) applied to ΔA ; the horizontal map of homotopy fibrations from middle to right is induced by the inclusion $A \rightarrow \Delta A$, and its fiber is the column on the left.

Lemma 11.3.1. ([10, 2.1.1]) *Let A be a simplicial algebra; write $\pi_* A$ for its homotopy groups. Assume $\pi_n A = 0$ for all n . Then $\mathbb{H}CA \xrightarrow{\sim} 0$ and $\mathbb{H}NA \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{H}PA$. \square*

Proposition 11.3.2. *Let A be a \mathbb{Q} -algebra. Then there is a weak equivalence of fibration sequences*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbb{H}\mathbb{N}^{\text{nil}} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}\mathbb{N} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}\mathbb{N} \Delta A \\
 \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow \wr \\
 \mathbb{H}CA & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}NA & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}PA
 \end{array}$$

Proof. By Lemma 11.3.1 and Theorem 11.1.2, we have equivalences

$$\mathbb{H}\mathbb{N} \Delta A \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{H}P \Delta A \xleftarrow{\sim} \mathbb{H}PA$$

The proposition is immediate from this. \square

Proposition 11.3.3. *If A is a \mathbb{Q} -algebra, then the natural map $|\mathbb{K} \Delta A| \rightarrow \mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}A$ of (75) above is an equivalence.*

Proof. We already know that the map is an equivalence for unital algebras. Thus since $\mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}$ is excisive, it suffices to show that $\mathbb{K}\Delta(-)$ is excisive. Using Proposition 11.3.2 and diagram (82), we obtain a homotopy fibration

$$\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}} \Delta A \rightarrow \mathbb{K} \Delta A \rightarrow \mathbb{H}PA$$

Note $\mathbb{H}P$ is excisive by Cuntz-Quillen's theorem 11.1.2 ii). Moreover, $\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}} \Delta(-)$ is also excisive, because K^{inf} is excisive (11.2.1 ii)), and because $\Delta(-)$ preserves exact sequences and $|-|$ preserves fibration sequences. It follows that $\mathbb{K}\Delta(-)$ is excisive; this completes the proof. \square

In view of Propositions 11.3.2 and 11.3.3, we may replace diagram (82) by a homotopy equivalent diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbb{K}^{\text{inf},\text{nil}} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}} A & \longrightarrow & |\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}} \Delta A| \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{K}^{\text{nil}} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{K} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{K}\mathbb{H}A \\
 \downarrow \nu & & \downarrow c & & \downarrow ch \\
 \Omega^{-1} \mathbb{H}CA & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}\mathbb{N} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}PA.
 \end{array} \tag{83}$$

The induced maps $\nu_* : K^{\text{nil}}A \rightarrow HC_{*-1}A$ and $ch_* : KH_*A \rightarrow HP_*A$ are the *secondary* and the *homotopy* Chern characters. By definition, they fit together with the primary character c_* into a commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 KH_{n+1}A & \longrightarrow & K_n^{\text{nil}}A & \longrightarrow & K_nA & \longrightarrow & KH_nA & \longrightarrow & \tau K_{n-1}^{\text{nil}}A \\
 \text{\scriptsize } ch_{n+1} \downarrow & & \text{\scriptsize } \nu_n \downarrow & & \text{\scriptsize } c_n \downarrow & & \text{\scriptsize } ch_n \downarrow & & \text{\scriptsize } \nu_{n-1} \downarrow \\
 HP_{n+1}A & \xrightarrow{S} & HC_{n-1}A & \xrightarrow{B} & HN_nA & \xrightarrow{I} & HP_nA & \xrightarrow{S} & HC_{n-2}A.
 \end{array} \tag{84}$$

Remark 11.3.4. The construction of secondary characters given above goes back to Weibel's paper [53], where a diagram similar to (84), involving Karoubi-Villamayor K -theory KV instead of KH (which had not yet been invented by Weibel, appeared (see also [30]). For K_0 -regular algebras and $n \geq 1$, the latter diagram is equivalent to (84).

Recall that, according to the notation of Section 4, an algebra is K_n^{inf} -regular if $K_n^{\text{inf}}A \rightarrow K_n^{\text{inf}}\Delta_pA$ is an isomorphism for all $p \geq 0$. We say that A is K^{inf} -regular if it is K_n^{inf} -regular for all n .

Proposition 11.3.5. *Let A be a \mathbb{Q} -algebra. If A is K^{inf} -regular, then the secondary character $\nu_* : K_*^{\text{nil}}A \rightarrow HC_{*-1}A$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof. The hypothesis implies that the map $\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}A \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}\Delta_nA$ is a weak equivalence ($n \geq 0$). Thus, viewing $\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}A$ as a constant simplicial spectrum and taking realizations, we obtain an equivalence $|\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}A| \xrightarrow{\sim} |\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}\Delta A|$. Hence $|\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf, nil}}A| \xrightarrow{\sim} 0$ and therefore ν is an equivalence. \square

Example 11.3.6. The notion of K^{inf} -regularity of \mathbb{Q} -algebras was introduced in [10, §3], where some examples are given and some basic properties are proved; we recall some of them. First of all, for $n \leq -1$, K_n^{inf} -regularity is the same as K_n -regularity. A K_0^{inf} -regular algebra is K_0 -regular, but not conversely. If R is unital and K_1^{inf} -regular, then the two sided ideal $\langle [R, R] \rangle$ generated by the additive commutators $[r, s] = rs - sr$ is the whole ring R . In particular, no nonzero unital commutative ring is K_1^{inf} -regular. Both infinite sum and nilpotent algebras are K^{inf} -regular. If (16) is an exact sequence of \mathbb{Q} -algebras such that any two of A, B, C are K^{inf} -regular, then so is the third.

We shall see in 12.2.1 that any stable locally convex algebra is K^{inf} -regular.

11.4 Application to KD .

Proposition 11.4.1. *Let L be a locally convex algebra. Then the natural map $\mathbb{K}\Delta^{\text{dif}}L \rightarrow \mathbb{K}DL$ of 10.3.3 ii) is an equivalence.*

Proof. By Exercise 10.3.3 ii), the proposition is true for unital L . Thus it suffices to show that $\mathbb{K}\Delta^{\text{dif}}(-)$ satisfies excision for those exact sequences (63) which admit a continuous linear splitting. Applying the sequence (81) to $\Delta^{\text{dif}}L$ and taking realizations yields a fibration sequence

$$|\mathbb{K}^{\text{inf}}\Delta^{\text{dif}}L| \rightarrow |\mathbb{K}\Delta^{\text{dif}}L| \rightarrow |\mathbb{H}N\Delta^{\text{dif}}L|$$

One checks that $\pi_*\Delta^{\text{dif}}L = 0$ (see [10, 4.1.1]). Hence the map $I : \mathbb{H}N\Delta^{\text{dif}}L \rightarrow \mathbb{H}P\Delta^{\text{dif}}L$ is an equivalence, by Lemma 11.3.1. Now proceed as in the proof of Proposition 11.3.3, taking into account that $\Delta^{\text{dif}}(-)$ preserves exact sequences with continuous linear splitting. \square

Corollary 11.4.2. *Assume that the map $K_nL \rightarrow K_n\Delta_p^{\text{dif}}L$ is an isomorphism for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and all $p \geq 0$. Then $\mathbb{K}L \rightarrow \mathbb{K}DL$ is an equivalence.*

Proof. Analogous to the first part of the proof of Proposition 11.3.5. \square

12 Comparison between algebraic and topological K -theory III

12.1 Stable Fréchet algebras.

The following is the general version of theorem 7.2.1, also due to Wodzicki.

Theorem 12.1.1. (*[58, Thm. 2], [10, 8.3.3, 8.3.4]*) *Let L be an m -Fréchet algebra with uniformly bounded left or right approximate unit. Then there is a natural isomorphism:*

$$K_n(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) \xrightarrow{\sim} KD_n(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}), \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Proof. Write \mathfrak{C} for the full subcategory of those locally convex algebras which are m -Fréchet algebras with left ubau. In view of Corollary 11.4.2, it suffices to show that for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $p \geq 0$, the map

$$K_n(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) \rightarrow K_n(\Delta_p^{\text{dif}}L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) \quad (85)$$

is an isomorphism for each $L \in \mathfrak{C}$. Note that, since $\Delta_p^{\text{dif}}\mathbb{C}$ is a unital m -Fréchet algebra and its unit is uniformly bounded, the functor $\Delta_p^{\text{dif}}(-) = -\hat{\otimes}\Delta_p^{\text{dif}}\mathbb{C}$ maps \mathfrak{C} into itself. Since $L \rightarrow \Delta_p^{\text{dif}}L$ is a diffeotopy equivalence, this means that to prove (85) is to prove that $K_n(-\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow \mathfrak{Ab}$ is diffeotopy invariant. Applying the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 7.2.1, we get that the natural map

$$K_*(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) \rightarrow K_*((L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K})[0, 1])$$

is an isomorphism. It follows that $K_*(-\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K})$ is invariant under continuous homotopies, and thus also under diffeotopies.

Exercise 12.1.2. Prove that if L is as in Theorem 12.1.1 and $M = L\hat{\otimes}\mathbb{K}$, then $KD_*(M(0, 1)) = KD_{*+1}M$.

Exercise 12.1.3. Prove that the map $K_n(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) \rightarrow KD_n(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K})$ is an isomorphism for every unital Fréchet algebra L , even if the unit of L is not uniformly bounded. (Hint: use Exercise 6.6.7).

Remark 12.1.4. N.C. Phillips has defined a K^{top} for m -Fréchet algebras ([35]) which extends that of Banach algebras discussed in Section 3 above. We shall see presently that, for L as in Theorem 12.1.1,

$$K_*^{\text{top}}(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = KD_*(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_*(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}).$$

Phillips' theory is Bott periodic and satisfies $K_0^{\text{top}}(M) = K_0(M\hat{\otimes}\mathfrak{K})$ and $K_1^{\text{top}}(M) = K_0((M\hat{\otimes}\mathfrak{K})(0, 1))$ for every Fréchet algebra M . On the other hand, for L as in the theorem, we have $KD_0(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_0(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K})$ and $KD_1(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_0((L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K})(0, 1))$. But by 9.1.7, $K_0(M\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_0(M\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}\hat{\otimes}\mathfrak{K})$ for every locally convex algebra M . This proves that $KD_n(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K}) = K_n^{\text{top}}(L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{K})$ for $n = 0, 1$; by Bott periodicity, we get the equality for all n .

12.2 Stable locally convex algebras: the comparison sequence.

Theorem 12.2.1. (*see [10, 6.3.1]*) *Let A be a \mathbb{C} -algebra, L be a locally convex algebra, and \mathcal{J} a Fréchet operator ideal. Then*

i) $A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{J})$ is K^{inf} -regular.

ii) For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, there is a 6-term exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} K_{-1}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{J})) & \longrightarrow & HC_{2n-1}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{J})) & \longrightarrow & K_{2n}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{J})) & & (86) \\ & & \uparrow & & \downarrow & & \\ K_{2n-1}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{J})) & \longleftarrow & HC_{2n-2}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{J})) & \longleftarrow & K_0(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L\hat{\otimes}\mathcal{J})) & & \end{array}$$

Proof. According to Theorem 11.2.1, K^{inf} is nilinvariant and satisfies excision. Hence, by Theorem 9.1.5, $L \mapsto K_*^{\text{inf}}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}))$ is diffeotopy invariant, whence it is invariant under polynomial homotopies. This proves (i). Put $B = A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} (L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$. By (i) and 11.3.5, $\nu_* : K_*^{\text{nil}} B \rightarrow HC_{*-1} B$ is an isomorphism. Hence from (84) we get a long exact sequence

$$KH_{m+1} B \longrightarrow HC_{m-1} B \longrightarrow K_m B \longrightarrow KH_m B \xrightarrow{Sch_m} HC_{m-2} B \quad (87)$$

By Corollary 9.2.2, $KH_{2n} B = K_0 B$ and $KH_{2n-1} B = K_{-1} B$; the sequence of the theorem follows from this, using the sequence (87). \square

Corollary 12.2.2. *For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, there is a 6-term exact sequence*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} KD_1(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) & \longrightarrow & HC_{2n-1}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) & \longrightarrow & K_{2n}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) \\ \uparrow & & & & \downarrow \\ K_{2n-1}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) & \longleftarrow & HC_{2n-2}(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) & \longleftarrow & KD_0(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}). \end{array} \quad (88)$$

Proof. By Theorem 9.2.1 iii), $KD_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J}) = KH_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{J})$. Now use Corollary 9.2.2. \square

Example 12.2.3. We saw in Theorem 12.1.1 that the comparison map $K_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) \rightarrow KD_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K})$ is an isomorphism whenever L is an m -Fréchet algebra with left ubau. Thus

$$HC_*(L \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{K}) = 0 \quad (89)$$

by Corollary 12.2.2. It is also possible to prove (89) directly and deduce Theorem 12.1.1 from the corollary above; see [10, 8.3.3].

Example 12.2.4. If we set $L = \mathbb{C}$ in Theorem 12.2.1 above, we obtain an exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K_{-1}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{J}) & \longrightarrow & HC_{2n-1}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{J}) & \longrightarrow & K_{2n}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{J}) \\ \uparrow & & & & \downarrow \\ K_{2n-1}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{J}) & \longleftarrow & HC_{2n-2}(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{J}) & \longleftarrow & K_0(A \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{J}). \end{array} \quad (90)$$

Further specializing to $A = \mathbb{C}$ and using 2.5.3 and 2.5.4 yields

$$0 \rightarrow HC_{2n-1} \mathcal{I} \rightarrow K_{2n} \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} HC_{2n-2} \mathcal{I} \rightarrow K_{2n-1} \mathcal{I} \rightarrow 0.$$

Here we have written α_n for the composite of $S \circ ch_{2n}$ with the isomorphism $\mathbb{Z} \cong K_0 \mathcal{J}$. If for example $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{L}_p$ ($p \geq 1$) then α_n is injective for $n \geq (p+1)/2$, by a result of Connes and Karoubi [8, 4.13] (see also [10, 7.2.1]). Setting $p = 1$ we obtain, for each $n \geq 1$, an isomorphism

$$K_{2n} \mathcal{L}_1 = HC_{2n-1} \mathcal{L}_1$$

and an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} HC_{2n-2} \mathcal{L}_1 \rightarrow K_{2n-1} \mathcal{L}_1 \rightarrow 0.$$

Note that since $HC_{2n-2} \mathcal{L}_1$ is a \mathbb{Q} -vectorspace by definition, the sequence above implies that $K_{2n-1} \mathcal{L}_1$ is isomorphic to the sum of a copy of \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} plus a \mathbb{Q} -vectorspace.

Remark 12.2.5. The exact sequence (90) is valid more generally for subharmonic ideals (see [10, 6.5.1] for the definition of this term, and [10, 7.1.1] for the statement). In particular, (90) is valid for all the Schatten ideals \mathcal{L}_p , $p > 0$. In [10, 7.1.1] there is also a variant of (90) involving relative K -theory and relative cyclic homology; the particular case of the latter when A is K -excisive is due to Wodzicki ([58, Theorem 5]).

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