

MATHEMATISCHES FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT OBERWOLFACH

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## **Algebraische K-Theorie**

August 4th – August 10th, 2002

The meeting was organized by Daniel R. Grayson (Urbana-Champaign), Bruno Kahn (Paris) and Uwe Jannsen (Regensburg). During the meeting, twenty talks were given on topics ranging from the algebraic K-theory of general rings to the motivic cohomology and K-theory of schemes, both of geometric and arithmetic nature.

# Abstracts

## The obstruction to excision in K-theory and in cyclic homology

GUILLERMO CORTIÑAS

This is a report on the contents of the paper [1].

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a ring homomorphism of not necessarily unital rings and  $I \triangleleft A$  an ideal which is mapped by  $f$  isomorphically to an ideal of  $B$ . The obstruction to excision in  $K$ -theory is the failure of the map between relative  $K$ -groups  $K_*(A : I) \rightarrow K_*(B : f(I))$  to be an isomorphism; it is measured by the birelative groups  $K_*(A, B : I)$ . We show that these are rationally isomorphic to the corresponding birelative groups for cyclic homology up to a dimension shift. In the particular case when  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\mathbb{Q}$ -algebras we obtain an integral isomorphism.

The main theorem was conjectured in [5], where it was called the KABI conjecture. Our proof combines results of Wodzicki [7] and Suslin-Wodzicki [6] with Cuntz-Quillen's proof of the excision theorem in periodic cohomology [4], as well as our own infinitesimal methods [2],[3].

### REFERENCES

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## The homotopy limit problem for algebraic K-theory at the prime 2

ANDREAS ROSENSCHON

(joint work with Paul Arne Østvær)

Let  $k$  be a field of characteristic  $\neq 2$ , and let  $k^s$  be a separable closure. Denote by  $vcd(k)$  the 2-cohomological dimension of  $k(\mu_4)$  and by  $G_k$  the absolute Galois group of  $k$ . We show that the natural map

$$\mathcal{K}/2(k) \longrightarrow \mathcal{K}/2(k^s)^{hG_k}$$

is a weak equivalence on  $\text{sup}(vcd(k) - 2, -1)$ -connected covers.

# Relative K-groups and class field theory for arithmetic surfaces

ALEXANDER SCHMIDT

In the talk we explained the ingredients and methods of proof of the following result:

**THEOREM :** Let  $X$  be an arithmetic surface, i.e. a two-dimensional regular connected scheme, flat and proper over  $\text{Spec}\mathbb{Z}$ , and let  $Y$  be the support of a divisor on  $X$ . Then there exists a natural isomorphism of finite abelian groups

$$\text{rec} : CH_0(X, Y) \longrightarrow \tilde{\pi}_1^t(X, Y)^{ab}$$

Here  $\tilde{\pi}_1^t(X, Y)^{ab}$  is the abelianized modified tame fundamental group which classifies finite abelian étale coverings of  $U = X - Y$  that are at most tamely ramified along  $Y$  and in which every real point splits completely.  $CH_0(X, Y)$  is the relative Chow-group of zero cycles.

## Regulators and Arakelov motivic complexes

ALEXANDER GONCHAROV

Let  $X$  be a regular complex projective variety. Denote by  $\mathcal{Z}^\bullet(X, n)$  the weight  $n$  higher Chow group complex of Bloch. Let  $C_{\mathcal{D}}^\bullet(X, n)$  be the Deligne complex of weight  $n$ , defined by Deligne as a subcomplex of the Dolbeaux (bi-)complex of currents. We constructed a homomorphism of complexes

$$\mathcal{Z}^\bullet(X, n) \longrightarrow C_{\mathcal{D}}^\bullet(X, n)$$

The cone of this homomorphism, shifted by  $-1$  is, by definition, the weight  $n$  Arakelov motivic complex of  $X$ , denoted as  $C_{\mathcal{A}}^\bullet(X, n)$ . Its cohomology is closely related to the arithmetic (Arakelov) Chow groups of Gillet-Soulé.

## Homology stability for unitary groups

WILBERD VAN DER KALLEN

(joint work with B. Mirzaii)

**THEOREM :**  $H_i(U_{2n}^\epsilon(R, \Lambda), \mathbb{Z}) \cong H_i(U_{2n+2}^\epsilon(R, \Lambda), \mathbb{Z})$  for  $n \geq 2i + \text{usr}(R) + 3$ .

Here  $\Lambda$  is a form parameter,  $\epsilon = \pm 1$ , and the unitary group  $U_{2n}^\epsilon(R, \Lambda)$  is the automorphism group of an orthogonal direct sum of  $n$  hyperbolic planes. For instance, it could be the symplectic group  $\text{Sp}_{2n}(R)$  or the orthogonal group  $\text{O}_{2n}(R)$  with respect to the form of maximal Witt index. The unitary stable range  $\text{usr}(R)$  is defined to be the least  $M \geq 1$  so that

- (1) For any  $r \in R$  the elementary group  $E_{2m+2}^\epsilon(R, \Lambda)$  acts transitively on unimodular vectors  $v$  of a certain length;
- (2) (Bass's stable range condition) For every  $v \in R^n$  with  $n \geq m + 1$  and  $v$  unimodular, there is  $w \in e_1 + \text{span}(e_2, \dots, e_m + 1)$  such that  $(v, w)$  is unimodular.

The proof of the theorem uses a “nerve theorem” concerning connectedness of a poset covered by subposets that are indexed by a poset. It confirms a conjecture of Charney concerning high connectivity of a poset of unimodular sequences that span isotropic summands of  $R^{2n}$ .

## Weil-étale cohomology

THOMAS GEISSER

For a smooth variety  $X$  over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , we discuss a new Grothendieck topology introduced by Lichtenbaum, called Weil-étale topology. There is a morphism of topoi  $\gamma : \mathcal{T}_W \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_{et}$  from the Weil-étale topos to the étale topos, and we calculate the derived complex  $\mathbf{R}\gamma_*\mathcal{F}$  for a Weil-étale sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$ . In case  $\mathcal{G}$  is a complex of étale sheaves, the calculation simplifies to  $\mathbf{R}\gamma_*\gamma^*\mathcal{G} \cong \mathbf{R}\gamma_*\mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathcal{G}$ . We also give a calculation of  $\mathbf{R}\gamma_*\mathbb{Z}$ , it is a 2-term complex with  $\gamma_*\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^1\gamma_*\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Q}$ .

Applying this with  $\mathcal{G}$  the motivic complex, one sees logical connections between the following conjectures (this is based on ideas of Bruno Kahn):

Fix a smooth projective variety  $X$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  and an integer  $n$ . Denote by  $\bar{X}$  the base change of  $X$  to the algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

- $L(X,n)$ :  $H_W^i(X, \mathbb{Z}(n))$  is finitely generated for all  $i$   
 $C(X,n)$ :  $H_W^i(X, \mathbb{Z}(n)) \otimes \mathbb{Z}_l \cong H_{cont}^i(X, \mathbb{Z}_l(n))$  for all  $i$  and all primes  $l$   
 $T(X,n)$ :
  - $CH^n(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}_l \rightarrow H_{cont}^{2n}(X, \mathbb{Q}_l(n))$  is surjective
  - $H_{cont}^{2n}(\bar{X}, \mathbb{Q}_l(n))$  is semisimple at 1 for the Frobenius action
  - numerical and rational equivalence agree on  $A^n(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$

Then  $C(X,n)$  and  $C(X, \dim(X)-n) \Rightarrow L(X,n) \Rightarrow T(X,n)$ . Conversely, if  $T(X,n)$  hold for all  $X$  and  $n$  then so do  $C(X,n)$  and  $L(X,n)$ . Moreover, provided  $C(X,n)$  and  $C(X, \dim(X)-n)$  both hold, there are formulae (expected by Lichtenbaum) for special values of the L-function of  $X$ .

## Thomason's localization theorem for non-commutative rings

AMNON NEEMAN

Thomason's key lemma, in his Grothendieck Festschrift paper, asserts the following: Let  $X$  be a scheme,  $U$  an open subscheme. The bounded derived category of vector bundles on  $U$  is, up to splitting idempotents, the quotient of the bounded derived category of vector bundles on  $X$ . In a 1992 paper I proved that the key lemma may be viewed as a special case of a formal statement about triangulated categories. In recent work with Ranicki, we applied this to deduce a localization theorem in the K-theory of non-commutative rings.

## $\mathbb{A}^1$ -representability of hermitian K-theory and Witt groups and Morel's conjectures on $\mathbb{A}^1$ -homotopy groups of spheres

JENS HORNBOSTEL

We show that hermitian K-theory and Balmer Witt groups are representable both in the unstable and stable  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -homotopy category. In particular, Witt groups can be nicely expressed as homotopy groups of a topological space. The proof of the stable  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -representability of hermitian K-theory relies on a motivic version of real Bott periodicity.

Consequences include new results related to the projective line, blow ups and homotopy purity. Moreover, this should become part of a proof of Morel's conjecture on certain  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -homotopy groups of spheres, saying in particular that the endomorphism ring of the motivic sphere spectrum should be isomorphic to the Grothendieck-Witt group of the base field.

## Equivariant K-theory for actions of diagonalizable group schemes

GABRIELE VEZZOSI

(joint work with A. Vistoli)

Let  $S$  be a separated connected noetherian base scheme,  $G$  a diagonalizable group scheme of finite type over  $S$  acting on a regular noetherian separated algebraic space  $X$  over  $S$ . If  $X_r$  denotes the locus in  $X$  where the dimension of the stabilizers is  $r$ , then we prove that the injections  $\{X_r \hookrightarrow X\}_{r \geq 0}$  induce an injection of rings

$$K_*(X, G) \longrightarrow \prod_r K_*(X_r, G)$$

whose image is a fiber product of the rings  $\{K_*(X_r, G)\}_r$  whose structure maps are pull-backs and specialization maps. This theorem on reconstruction from the strata can be applied to give a very refined localization theorem and to the study of the K-theory (equivariant and non-equivariant) of smooth toric varieties.

## K-theory of smooth toric varieties

ANGELO VISTOLI

(joint work with G. Vezzosi)

We give formulas for the equivariant K-theory ring of a smooth toric variety, both as a subring of rings representations and by generators and relations. We also introduce a class of toric varieties, called combinatorially complete, for which the Merkurjev spectral sequence, linking equivariant and ordinary K-theory, degenerates, giving a presentation of the ordinary K-theory ring of these varieties.

## Vector bundles on $S^2\mathbb{P}^2$

CHARLES WEIBEL

If  $k$  is a field of characteristic zero, we show that  $K_0(S^2\mathbb{P}^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}^6$  injects into  $K_0(\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}^9$  and up to a factor of 2, the image equals the invariant subring under the action of the symmetric group  $\Sigma_2$ .

The main technical calculation is the K-theory of  $\Lambda = k[t_1, t_2, z]/(t_1 t_2 = z^2)$ , which is a 2-dimensional normal domain. This is done by blowing up the regular sequence  $(t_1, t_2)$  and applying theorems of Cortiñas and Thomason. A Zariski descent calculation shows that  $K_0(S^2\mathbb{P}^2) = K_0(S^2\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{A}^n)$ , so that  $K_0(S^2\mathbb{P}^2)$  equals the homotopy K-group  $KH_0(S^2\mathbb{P}^2)$ .

## Localization in hermitian K-theory

MARCO SCHLICHTING

(joint work with Jens Hornbostel)

If  $A$  is a ring with involution in which 2 is invertible, and  $S \subset A$  is a multiplicative set of nonzero divisors, then there is a homotopy fibration

$${}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{T}_S) \longrightarrow {}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{K}^h(A) \longrightarrow {}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{K}^h(S^{-1}A)$$

where  ${}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{K}^h$  stands for Karoubi's  $\epsilon$ -hermitian K-theory space,  ${}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{T}_S) = \Omega_{\epsilon}W(\mathcal{T}_S)$  with  ${}_{\epsilon}W(\mathcal{T}_S)$  the hermitian analogue of Quillen's Q-construction applied to the exact category  $\mathcal{T}_S$  of finitely generated  $S$ -torsion modules of projective dimension at most 1 and duality  $\text{Ext}_A^1(-, A) : \mathcal{T}_S^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_S$ .

In case that  $f \in A$  such that  $A$  and  $A/(f)$  are both regular and  $S = \{F^n\}$  we have that  ${}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{T}_S) \simeq_{\epsilon} \mathcal{U}(A/(f))$  (the latter being Karoubi's U-theory). In case that  $A$  is a Dedekind domain and  $S = A - \{0\}$ , we have  ${}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{U}_i(\mathcal{T}_S) \cong \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{p}} {}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{U}_i(A/\mathfrak{p})$ . If  $R$  is a ring, there is a homotopy fibration

$${}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{U}(R) \longrightarrow \mathcal{K}(R) \longrightarrow {}_{\epsilon}\mathcal{K}^h(R)$$

where the second map is the hyperbolic map.

## Isovariant étale descent and Riemann-Roch for algebraic stacks

ROY JOSHUA

We extend Thomason's descent spectral sequence to algebraic stacks that are finitely presented over a nice base scheme. Applications to Riemann-Roch for Artin stacks and definition of finer cohomology theories for algebraic stacks are also discussed.

## Twisting quadratic bundles

BOAS EREZ

(joint work with M. J. Taylor and P. Cassou-Nogues)

Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a  $G$ -cover of schemes over  $\mathbb{Z}[1/2]$ . Assume  $X \rightarrow Y$  is tame with odd ramification and suppose we are given a quadratic bundle  $E$  over  $Y$  and an orthogonal representation  $\rho : G \rightarrow O(E)$ . We discuss work in which we show

- (1) how to define a quadratic bundle  $E_{\rho}$  (the twist)
- (2) how to relate the cohomological invariants of  $E_{\rho}$  to those of  $E$  and  $\rho$ .

The novel feature is the appearance of a class involving the action of inertia and the action on the restriction of  $E$  to the generic point of the branch divisor. In a sense this class is an equivariant decomposition of the ramification class which appeared first in the work of Serre and Esnault-Kahn-Viehweg.

# Galois structure of Zariski cohomology on curves

BERNHARD KÖCK

Let  $X$  be a smooth projective curve over an algebraically closed field  $k$ ,  $G$  a finite subgroup of the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(X/k)$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  a  $G$ -equivariant locally free sheaf on  $X$ . We gave a formula for the equivariant Euler characteristic  $\chi(G, X, \mathcal{E}) := [H^0(X, \mathcal{E})] - [H^1(X, \mathcal{E})]$  (considered as an element of the Grothendieck group  $G_0(k[G])$  of all f. g.  $k[G]$ -modules) in terms of the degree and rank of  $\mathcal{E}$ , the genus of the quotient curve  $Y := X/G$  and certain local ramification data associated with the canonical projection  $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ . Furthermore, if  $\pi$  is weakly ramified, we used this formula to express  $\chi(G, X, \mathcal{O}_X(D))$  as an integral linear combination of the classes of certain explicitly defined projective  $k[G]$ -modules (in the Grothendieck group  $K_0(k[G])$  of all f. g. projective  $k[G]$ -modules), under a certain assumption on the equivariant divisor  $D$  on  $X$ . This result generalizes a theorem of Nakajima from the tamely to the weakly ramified case. Finally, we applied this result to explicitly determine the  $k[G]$ -module structure of the space  $H^0(X, \Omega_X(S))$  of global meromorphic differentials which are logarithmic along a  $G$ -stable non-empty finite set  $S$  of points on  $X$  containing all ramified points. This latter result generalizes a result of Kani again from the tamely to the weakly ramified case.

## On arithmetic resolution for étale cohomology

KIRILL ZAINOULLINE

Let  $X$  be a smooth affine variety over a field  $k$ . Let  $x = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  be a finite subset of points of  $X$ . Let  $U = \text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$  be the local scheme at  $x$  and  $K = k(X)$  the generic point. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a bounded complex of locally constant constructible sheaves of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ -modules on the étale site of  $X$ , with  $(n, \text{char}(k)) = 1$ . Then the Gersten-type complex for étale hypercohomology with supports

$$0 \rightarrow H^q(U, \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow H^q(K, \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \coprod_{u \in U^{(1)}} H_u^{q+1}(U, \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \coprod_{u \in U^{(2)}} H_u^{q+2}(U, \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \dots$$

is exact.

This generalizes previously known results concerning Gersten resolution for étale cohomology.

## Syntomic regulators on the algebraic K-theory of fields and curves

ROB DE JEU

Syntomic regulators are defined on the K-theory of a large class of varieties over the spectrum of a discrete valuation ring  $R$  (with field of fractions  $K$  of characteristic 0). We compute the syntomic regulator on certain subgroups of the K-groups of fields and curves. For number fields, this means that on a large part of  $K_{2n-1}^{(n)}$ , for  $n \geq 2$ , the syntomic regulator is given by Coleman's p-adic polylogarithm, and conjecturally this should be the case for the whole of  $K_{2n-1}^{(n)}$ . For a curve  $C$  over a number field  $k \subset K$  and a fixed element  $\alpha \in K_4^{(3)}(k)$  of certain type (conjecturally, everything) the syntomic regulator of this element followed by pairing with a global 1-form  $\omega$  on  $C$  and the trace to  $K$  can be expressed as a Coleman integral over  $C$  (involving  $\omega$  and the ingredients of  $\alpha$ ) at least for almost all completions  $K$  of  $k$ . For a finite number of completions, other technical assumptions may be necessary.

## Semitopological spectral sequence

CHRISTIAN HÄSEMAYER

(joint work with E. Friedlander and M. Walker)

A spectral sequence  $E_2^{p,q}(sst) = L^{-q}H^{p-q}(X) \Rightarrow K_{-p-q}^{sst}(X)$  is defined for any smooth quasiprojective variety  $X$  over the complex numbers, and we give natural transformations of spectral sequences and abutments from the motivic spectral sequence to the semitopological above to the Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence of the analytic space associated to  $X$ . Here  $L^*H^*$  denotes the morphic cohomology of Friedlander and Lawson and  $K^{sst}$  the singular semitopological K-theory of Friedlander and Walker. We also give some applications of this result.

## Algebraic K-theory and trace invariants

LARS HESSELHOLT

Let  $V_0$  be a discrete valuation ring with quotient field  $K_0$  of characteristic 0 and perfect residue field  $k_0$  of odd characteristic  $p$ . Let  $X$  be a smooth  $V_0$ -scheme, and let  $i$  (resp.  $j$ ) denote the inclusion of the special (resp. generic) fiber. We show—in collaboration with Thomas Geisser—that there is a natural exact sequence of sheaves of pro-abelian groups on the small étale site of  $Y$ ,

$$0 \rightarrow i^*R^q j_* \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}(q) \rightarrow i^* \bar{W}\Omega_{(X,M)}^q \xrightarrow{1-F} i^* \bar{W}\Omega_{(X,M)}^q \rightarrow 0.$$

Here  $W\Omega_{(X,M)}^* = W\Omega_X^*(\log Y)$  is the de Rham-Witt complex of  $X$  with the log structure given by the special fiber, and

$$\bar{W}_n \Omega_{(X,M)}^q = W_n \Omega_{(X,M)}^q / pW_n \Omega_{(X,M)}^q$$

is the reduction modulo  $p$ . (The quotient of  $i^*W_n \Omega_{(X,M)}^*$  by the log-differential graded ideal generated by  $W_n(\mathfrak{m}_0 \mathcal{O}_X)$  is the de Rham-Witt complex  $W_n \Omega_{(Y,M_Y)}^*$  of  $Y$  with the induced log structure.)

Let  $V$  be the henselian local ring of  $X$  at a generic point of  $Y$ , and suppose that the quotient field  $K$  contains the  $p^v$ th roots of unity. Then we use the exact sequence above—in combination with results on topological cyclic homology obtained in collaboration with Ib Madsen—to show that the canonical map

$$K_*^M(K) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} S_{\mathbb{Z}/p^v}(\mu_{p^v}) \xrightarrow{\sim} K_*(K, \mathbb{Z}/p^v),$$

which takes  $\zeta \in \mu_{p^v}$  to the corresponding Bott element  $b_\zeta \in K_2(K, \mathbb{Z}/p^v)$ , is an isomorphism. This is the value of the Quillen  $K$ -groups predicted by the Beilinson-Lichtenbaum conjectures (which refine the Lichtenbaum-Quillen conjecture).



## Perfect forms and the K-theory of $\mathbb{Z}$

HERBERT GANGL

(joint work with P. Elbaz-Vincent and C. Soulé)

For  $N = 5$  and  $N = 6$ , we compute the Voronoi cell complex attached to real  $N$ -dimensional quadratic forms – which is provided by the so-called perfect forms – and we obtain the homology of  $GL_N(\mathbb{Z})$  with trivial coefficients, up to small primes. We also prove that  $K_5(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $K_6(\mathbb{Z})$  has only 3-torsion.

*Edited by Christian Häsemeyer*

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