

Nov. 1. K-theory for symmetric monoidal category and "Plus = Q" theorem

Properties Let  $A, B$  be two Morita equivalent rings, then  $K_i(A) \cong K_i(B) \quad \forall i \geq 0$ .

Recall, two rings are Morita equivalent if  $\exists$  a projective  $A$ -module  $P$  such that  $B = \text{End}_A(P)$ , then  $P$  is a  $(B, A)$ -bimodule. Then  $\text{Mod}(A) \cong \text{Mod}(B)$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Mod}(A) &\rightarrow \text{Mod}(B) \\ M &\mapsto M \otimes_A P^* \\ \text{Mod}(A) &\leftarrow \text{Mod}(B) \\ N \otimes_B P &\leftarrow N \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $IP(A) \cong IP(B)$  as well, therefore the  $K$ -spaces  $K(A)$  and  $K(B)$  are homotopic equivalent.

Some constructions

1)  $QC^{op} \cong (QC)^{op} \quad \text{so} \quad B(QC^{op}) = B(QC)^{op} \cong BQC$   
 $\Rightarrow K_i(C^{op}) \cong K_i(C) \quad \forall i \geq 0$

2) For two exact categories  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$ .  $\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}$  is naturally an exact category and  $Q(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) = QC \times QD$   
 $\Rightarrow BQ(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) = BQC \times BQD$   
 $\Rightarrow K_i(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) \cong K_i \mathcal{C} \oplus K_i \mathcal{D} \quad i \geq 0$

Apply this to  $IP(A), IP(B) \Rightarrow K_i(A \times B) \cong K_i(A) \oplus K_i(B)$ .  
Then (Quillen - Gersten)  $\mathcal{C}$  exact,  $B\mathcal{C}$  subexact category: closed under extension and cofinal. Then  $BQB$  is homotopy equiv. to a covering space of  $BQC$ ,  $K_0(B) \cong \pi_1(BQB) \subseteq K_0(\mathcal{C}) \cong \pi_1(BQC)$  and  $K_i(B) = K_i(\mathcal{C}) \quad \forall i \geq 1$ .

THM (Quillen).  $\forall$  associative unital ring  $A$ ,  $\exists$  homotopy equivalence  $\Omega BQ[IP(A)] \simeq K_0(A) \times BGL(A)^+$ , therefore  $K_i(A) \simeq K_i(IP(A)) \quad \forall i \geq 0$ .

Step 1. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a split exact category,  $\mathcal{S} = \text{Iso}(\mathcal{C})$ .  
Then  $K(\mathcal{C}) = \Omega B\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{C} \simeq B(S^{-1}\mathcal{S})$ ,  
where  $B(S^{-1}\mathcal{S})$  is a "group completion" of the H-space  $B\mathcal{S}$ .

Step 2.  $\mathcal{C} = IP(A)$ , then  $B(S^{-1}\mathcal{S}) \simeq K_0(A) \times BGL(A)^+$

H-spaces.

Recall, an H-space  $(X, \mu, e)$  is a topological space  $X$  with a multiplication map  $\mu: X \times X \rightarrow X$  and a distinguished point  $e \in X$  s.t.  $\mu(x, e) = \mu(e, x) = x \quad \forall x \in X$ .

$X$  is homotopy associative if

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times X \times X & \xrightarrow{\mu \times \text{id}} & X \times X \\ \mu \times \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu \\ X \times X & \xrightarrow{\mu} & X \end{array} \quad \text{commutes up to homotopy.}$$

$X$  is homotopy commutative if  $\mu \circ \tau \sim \tau$  where  $\tau: X \times X \rightarrow X \times X$  with  $\tau(x, y) = (y, x)$ .

Ex. Topological groups are H-spaces.

Ex.  $\mathcal{S}$ : symmetric monoidal,  $B\mathcal{S}$  is a homotopy associative and commutative H-space.

If  $X$  is homotopy commutative and associative, then  $\Pi_0(X)$  is

naturally an abelian monoid.  $H_0(X, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}[\pi_0(X)]$   
 and  $H_*(X, \mathbb{Z}) = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} H_i(X, \mathbb{Z})$  is an associative, commutative graded  $\mathbb{Z}[\pi_0(X)]$ -algebra.

Def: An associative H-space is called group-like if  $\exists$  a map  $i: X \rightarrow X$  s.t.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{i \times \text{id}} & X * X \xrightarrow{\mu} X \\ X & \xrightarrow{\text{id} * i} & X * X \xrightarrow{\mu} X \end{array} \quad \text{are homotopic to } \text{id}_X.$$

Note if  $X$  is group-like, then  $\pi_0(X)$  is a group naturally.

Thm. If an H-space is CW, then  $\pi_0(X)$  is a group  $\Leftrightarrow X$  is group-like.

Ex.  $\mathcal{B} = \text{Iso}(\mathcal{S})$  a symmetric monoidal groupoid, then  $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{S}$  is group-like  $\Leftrightarrow \pi_0(\mathcal{S})$  is a group.

Def: Let  $X$  be a homotopy associative and commutative H-space. A group completion of  $X$  is a morphism  $f: X \rightarrow \hat{X}$  s.t.

1) The induced map  $f_*: \pi_0(X) \rightarrow \pi_0(\hat{X})$  is a group completion of  $\pi_0(X)$ .

2)  $\forall$  commutative ring  $k$ , the map of graded  $\mathbb{Z}[\pi_0(X)]$ -algebras ~~that~~  $f_*: H_*(X, k) \rightarrow H_*(\hat{X}, k)$  induces an isomorphism.

$$H_*(X, k) \xrightarrow{f_*} H_*(\hat{X}, k)$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \uparrow \cong$$

$$H_*(X, k) [\pi_0(X)^{-1}]$$

Lemma Any group-like H-space  $X$  is its own group completion.  
 Any group completion of a group completion  $f: X \rightarrow \hat{X}$  is a homotopy equivalence.

### Actions on categories

Let  $(S, \oplus)$  be a monoidal category. We say  $(S, \oplus)$  acts on a category  $X$  by a functor  $\oplus: S \times X \rightarrow X$  if  $\forall s, t \in \text{Ob}(S), x \in \text{Ob}(X)$

$$s \oplus (t \oplus x) \cong (s \oplus t) \oplus x$$

$$e \oplus x \cong x.$$

satisfying certain coherence conditions.

Note  $S$  act on itself by its monoidal structure  $\oplus: S \times S \rightarrow S$ .

Ex.  $X$  discrete, then  $S$  acts on  $X \iff \text{Top}(S)$  acts on  $\text{Ob}(S)$ .

Def:  $S$  act on  $X$  as before. Define a new category  $S \ltimes X$  with  $\text{ob}(S \ltimes X) = \text{Ob}(X)$ , and  $\text{Hom}_{S \ltimes X}(x, y) = \{ (s, \varphi) \mid s \in \text{ob}(S), \varphi \in \text{Mor}_X(s \oplus x, y) \} / \sim$

where  $\sim$  is the equivalence relation that  $(s, \varphi) \sim (s', \varphi')$  if

$\exists \alpha: s \rightarrow s'$  an isomorphism s.t.

$$s \oplus x \xrightarrow{\alpha \oplus \text{id}_x} s' \oplus x$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \varphi & & \varphi' \\ \searrow & & \swarrow \\ & \eta & \end{array} \quad \text{commutes.}$$

Def. We define  $S^{-1}X := S \ltimes (S \times X)$ .

If  $S$  is symmetric monoidal, we could define an action of  $S$  on  $S^{-1}X$  by  $S \oplus (t, x) = (s \oplus t, x)$ .

Def.  $S$  acts on  $X$  homotopy invertibly if every translation functor  $S \otimes : X \rightarrow S \otimes X$  is a homotopy equivalence.

Ex.  $S$  acts on  $X \Rightarrow S$  acts on  $S^{-1}X$  homotopy invertibly.

$\uparrow$   
symmetric monoidal.

If  $S$  is symmetric monoidal, then  $H_0(S) = H_0(BS, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}[\pi_0(S)]$   
 $S$  acts on  $X \Rightarrow H_0(S)$  acts on  $H_0(X) = H_0(BX, \mathbb{Z})$  and so acts invertibly on  $H_0(S^{-1}X)$ . Hence the functor  $X \rightarrow S^{-1}X$   
 $\lambda \mapsto (c, u)$  induces a map. (\*)

$$H_0(X) [\pi_0(S)^{-1}] \rightarrow H_0(S^{-1}X) \quad \forall i \geq 0.$$

Thm (Quillen) Let  $S$  be symmetric monoidal with  $S = \text{Iso}(S)$ , all translations in  $S$  are faithful. Then (\*) is an isomorphism.

In particular,  $B(S^{-1}S)$  is a group completion of  $\text{Map}_{H\text{-space}} BS$ .

Note: all translations  $\uparrow$  are faithful means  $\forall s \in \text{Ob}(S)$ ,  
 $S \otimes : \text{Aut}_S(s) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_S(S \otimes s)$  is injective.  
 $u \mapsto 0_S \otimes u$

Remark:  $\cup$  There are two distinguished type of morphisms in  $S^{-1}S$ .

Type I  $(f_1, f_2) : (m_1, m_2) \rightarrow (n_1, n_2)$  arising from the inclusion  $S \times S \hookrightarrow S^{-1}S$ .

Type II :  $S \otimes : (m, n) \mapsto (S \otimes m, S \otimes n)$ .

If translations in  $S$  is faithful, then any morphism in  $S^{-1}S$  defines a triple  $(s, f, g)$  uniquely up to unique isomorphism.

2)  $S^{-1}S$  is symmetric monoidal with

$$(m_1, m_2) \otimes (n_1, n_2) = (m_1 \otimes n_1, m_2 \otimes n_2).$$

and the natural inclusion  $S \hookrightarrow S^{-1}S : m \mapsto (m, c)$   
 is a monoidal functor.

3) The induced map  $BS \rightarrow BS^{-1}S$  is a morphism of H-spaces.

### K-groups of a symmetric monoidal groupoid.

Let  $(S, \oplus)$  be a symmetric monoidal groupoid, define  
 $K_0^{\oplus}(S) := \pi_0[B(S^{-1}S)]$

Back to "plus construction"

Let  $F(A) \subset IP(A)$  be the full subcategory of free modules.  
 Assume  $A$  satisfies invariant basis property.

Consider the associated groupoid.  $\mathcal{I}_0(F(A))$

Note  $\mathcal{I}_0(F(A)) \cong S$  has objects  $Ob(S) = \{0, A, A^2, \dots\}$

$$Hom_S(A^n, A^m) = \begin{cases} \emptyset & n \neq m \\ GL_n(A) & n = m \end{cases}$$

$\therefore S = \coprod_{n \geq 0} GL_n(A)$

and  $BS = \coprod_{n \geq 0} BGL_n(A)$ . Note:  $S$  has a monoidal structure  
 $A^n \oplus A^m = A^{n+m}$  &  $\alpha \oplus \beta = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \beta \end{bmatrix}$ .

Thm (Quillen) If  $S = \coprod_{n \geq 0} BGL_n(A)$ , then  $K_0^{\oplus}(S) = B(S^{-1}S)$

is a group completion of  $BS \cong \coprod_{n \geq 0} BGL_n(A)$ , in fact  
 $B(S^{-1}S) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times BGL(A)^+$

Prf: We want to use the previous theorem as well as Quillen's  
 recognition criterion: the map  $BGL(A) \rightarrow BGL(A)^+$  is  
 universal for all maps from  $BGL(A)$  to H-spaces.

Fact: Consider a map  $f: BGL(A) \rightarrow H$ , suppose  
 $f_*: H_*(BGL(A), \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_*(H, \mathbb{Z})$  is an isomorphism,  
 then  $f$  is acyclic and the induced map  
 $F: BGL(A)^+ \xrightarrow{\sim} H$  is a homotopy equivalence.

pf: Follows from if  $X, Y$  are  $H$  spaces with homotopy type  
 of CW complexes, then any map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  induces  
 isomorphisms on homology ~~induces~~ is a homotopy equivalence.

Now,  $\forall n \geq 1$ , we have a natural group homomorphism.

$$\eta_n: GL_n(A) = \text{Aut}_S(A^n) \longrightarrow \text{Aut}_{S-1S}(A^n, A^n)$$

$$g \longmapsto (g, 1).$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom} & GL_n(A) & \xrightarrow{\eta_n} & \text{Aut}_{S-1S}(A^n, A^n) \\ & \downarrow A \oplus & & \downarrow (A, A) \oplus \\ & GL_{n+1}(A) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{n+1}} & \text{Aut}_{S-1S}(A^{n+1}, A^{n+1}) \end{array}$$

where  $A \oplus$  and  $(A, A) \oplus$  are translation maps.

From the commutativity of this diagram, we get a  
 sequence of functors

$$\begin{array}{ccc} GL_n(A) & & \\ A \oplus \downarrow & \searrow \eta_n & \\ GL_{n+1}(A) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{n+1}} & S-1S \\ A \oplus \downarrow & & \nearrow \eta_{n+2} \\ GL_{n+2}(A) & & \end{array}$$

These natural transformations ~~induces~~  $\eta_n \Rightarrow \eta_{n+1} \circ (A \oplus)$   
 induces a homotopy diagram of spaces

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 BGL_n(A) & \xrightarrow{B\eta_n} & \\
 A \oplus \downarrow & & \\
 BGL_{n+1}(A) & \xrightarrow{B\eta_{n+1}} & B(S^{-1}S)
 \end{array}$$

Hence we get a map  $BGL(A) = \text{colim } BGL_n(A) \xrightarrow{\eta} B(S^{-1}S)$  where  $\eta$  lands in the identity component  $Y_S$  of  $B(S^{-1}S)$ , which is also an H-space. Hence it suffices to show  $H_*(BGL(A)) \cong H_*(Y_S)$ .

Let  $a = [A] \in \pi_0(BS) \cong \text{Ob}(S)$  denote the class of  $A$  in  $\text{Ob}(S)$ .

Note we have  $H_*(B(S^{-1}S)) \cong H_*(BS)[\pi_0(S)^{-1}]$

and  $\pi_0(S) = \{a^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  is generated by  $a$ .

The localization above is given by the colimit of the map  $H_*(BS) \rightarrow H_*(BS)$  from the translation  $A \oplus: S \rightarrow S$ , i.e.  $H_*(BS)[\pi_0(S)^{-1}] = \text{colim} \{ H_*(BS) \xrightarrow{a} H_*(BS) \xrightarrow{a} \dots \}$

Hence  $H_*(B(S^{-1}S)) \cong H_*(Y_S) \otimes \mathbb{Z}[a, a^{-1}]$

Therefore,  $H_*(Y_S) \cong \text{colim} H_*(BGL_n(A)) = H_*(BGL(V)) \quad \square$

Remark. Consider  $\mathcal{S} = \text{Iso}(\text{Fin}) \cong \coprod_{n \geq 0} S_n$  (groupoid of finite sets), we have the transition function  $\{1\}: S \rightarrow S$  which yields the inclusion  $S_n \hookrightarrow S_{n+1}$ .

Assemble these maps gives  $B S_{\infty} \rightarrow B(S^{-1}S)$

Hence  $B(S^{-1}S) = K^{\oplus}(\text{Iso}(\text{Fin})) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times B S_{\infty}^+$ .

THM (Barratt - Priddy - Quillen - Segal)  $\exists$  isomorphism

$K_0(\text{Iso}(\text{Fin})) \cong \pi_0^{\text{st}}(\mathbb{S})$ , where  $\pi_0^{\text{st}}(\mathbb{S}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \pi_0(\mathbb{S}^n)$

are the stable homotopy groups of spheres,



$$\text{Hence } \Omega^{\infty} S^{\infty} = \varinjlim \Omega^n S^{\infty} \cong K(\text{Iso}(\text{Fin})).$$

Proving "plus = Q" theorem.

We first need to show the second step, i.e. " $Q = S^{-1}S$ "

Thm (Quillen) Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a split exact category, let  $S = \text{Iso}(\mathcal{C})$ .  
- then  $\Omega BQ\mathcal{C} \cong B(S^{-1}S)$ . Hence  $K_i(\mathcal{C}) \cong K_i^{\text{st}}(\mathcal{C})$   
 $\forall i \geq 0$ .

idea: We will construct a homotopy fibration sequence

$$B(S^{-1}S) \rightarrow E \rightarrow BQ\mathcal{C}$$

with  $E$  being contractible. In fact  $E = B(S^{-1}X)$ .

for certain category  $X = \bar{E}x(\mathcal{C})$ , the category of exact diagrams in  $\mathcal{C}$ .