K-theory and *t*-structures

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joint work with A. Tonks (London Metropolitan) and M. Witte (Heidelberg) arXiv:1006.5399v1 [math.KT]

Workshop on *t*-structures and related topics Stuttgart, July 7–9, 2011

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- $K_0(R)$ generated by the isomorphism classes of f.g. projective *R*-modules mod $[P \oplus Q] = [P] + [Q]$ [Grothendieck'57]
- $K_1(R)$ the abelianization of GL(R) [Whitehead'50]
- $K_n(R)$ for all $n \ge 0$ [Quillen'73]

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 $K_0(\mathbf{E})$ generated by the objects in $\mathbf{E} \mod [B] = [B/A] + [A]$ for each short exact sequence $A \rightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow B/A$ [Grothendieck'57]

 $K_n(\mathbf{E})$ [Quillen'73] with a number of theorems allowing computations

Example

For $\mathbf{E} = \text{proj}(R)$ the category of f.g. projective *R*-modules we recover $K_n(R)$.

For **E** the category of vector bundles over a scheme X we obtain its Quillen K-theory.

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 $K_n(\mathbf{W})$ [Waldhausen'73]

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For $\mathbf{W} = C^{b}(\mathbf{E})$ the category of bounded complexes in \mathbf{E} we recover $K_{n}(\mathbf{E})$ [Gillet–Waldhausen] • .

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 $K_n(\mathbf{T})$? several definitions by [Neeman'97–01]

Example

For $\mathbf{T} = D^b(\mathbf{E})$ the bounded derived category of an exact category we have $K_0(\mathbf{E}) \cong K_0(C^b(\mathbf{E})) \cong K_0(D^b(\mathbf{E}))$.

If **T** has a bounded non-degenerate *t*-structure with heart **A** then $K_0(\mathbf{A}) \cong K_0(\mathbf{T})$ **C**.

For $\mathbf{T} = \text{Perf}(X)$ the derived category of perfect complexes of globally finite Tor-amplitude over a scheme $K_0(X) \cong K_0(\text{Perf}(X))$.

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Is there any reasonable higher *K*-theory of triangulated categories with natural isomorphisms $K_n(\mathbf{E}) \cong K_n(D^b(\mathbf{E}))$? No [Schlichting'02]

• There's no higher K-theory satisfying agreement and localization

 $\mathbf{S}\rightarrowtail\mathbf{T}\twoheadrightarrow\mathbf{T}/\mathbf{S}\ \rightsquigarrow\ \cdots\rightarrow\mathcal{K}_n(\mathbf{S})\rightarrow\mathcal{K}_n(\mathbf{T})\rightarrow\mathcal{K}_n(\mathbf{T}/\mathbf{S})\rightarrow\mathcal{K}_{n-1}(\mathbf{S})\rightarrow\cdots$

• There's no higher *K*-theory satisfying agreement for *n* = 1 and additivity

 $\left. \begin{array}{l} F,G,H\colon \mathbf{S}\longrightarrow \mathbf{T} \\ F\rightarrow G\rightarrow H\rightarrow \Sigma F \end{array} \right\} \ \rightsquigarrow \ K_n(G)=K_n(H)+K_n(F)\colon K_n(\mathbf{S})\rightarrow K_n(\mathbf{T}) \end{array}$

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Neeman's *K*-theories of triangulated categories

 $K_n^d(\mathbf{T})$ based on the notions of exact or distinguished triangle and special octahedron • definition

 $K_n^{\nu}(\mathbf{T})$ based on the notions of virtual triangle and virtual octahedron etails

 $K_n^w(\mathbf{T})$ requires the existence of certain models and is non-functorial! w = Waldhausen... or wrong

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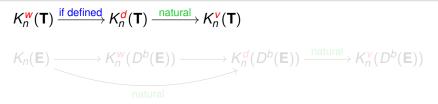
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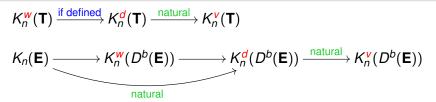
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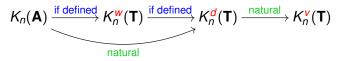


- They are all isomorphisms for n = 0
- $K_n(\mathbf{A}) \cong K_n^{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{T})$ [Neeman'98]
- $K_n(\mathbf{A})$ is a direct summand of $K_n^d(\mathbf{T})$ and $K_n^v(\mathbf{T})$ [Neeman'00]
- "Very embarrasingly, this is all we know. The first question would be... what happens for n = 1?" [Neeman'05]

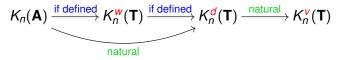




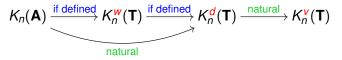
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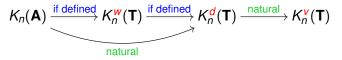
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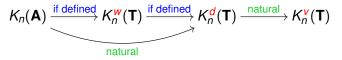
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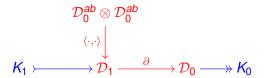
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Computing K_0 and K_1 simultaneously

For the different *K*-theories, we are going to define a chain complex of non-abelian groups \mathcal{D}_* concentrated in dimensions n = 0, 1 whose homology is $H_n \mathcal{D}_* \cong K_n$.



The bracket $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ controls commutators in \mathcal{D}_0 and \mathcal{D}_1 as well as the action of the Hopf map

$$\eta \colon \mathcal{K}_0 \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 \longrightarrow \mathcal{K}_1$$

 $x \otimes \mathbf{1} \mapsto \langle x, x \rangle$

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An abelian 2-group C_* consists of a diagram of groups

$$C_0^{ab}\otimes C_0^{ab}\stackrel{\langle\cdot,\cdot
angle}{\longrightarrow} C_1\stackrel{\partial}{\longrightarrow} C_0$$

such that

The homology groups of C_* are

 $H_0C_* = C_0/\partial(C_1),$ $H_1C_* = \operatorname{Ker} \partial.$

Notice that C_0 and C_1 have nilpotency class 2 and H_0C_* and H_1C_* are abelian. The group C_0 acts on C_1 , $c^a = c + \langle a, \partial c \rangle$.

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A morphism of abelian 2-groups $f_* : C_* \to D_*$ is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} C_0^{ab} \otimes C_0^{ab} \xrightarrow{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} C_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} C_0 \\ f_0^{ab} \otimes f_0^{ab} \downarrow & f_1 \downarrow & f_0 \downarrow \\ D_0^{ab} \otimes D_0^{ab} \xrightarrow{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} D_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} D_0 \end{array}$$

A homotopy $\alpha \colon f_* \Rightarrow g_*$ is a function $\alpha \colon C_0 \to D_1$ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(a+b) &= \alpha(a)^{g_0(b)} + \alpha(b), \\ \partial \alpha(a) &= -g_0(a) + f_0(a), \\ \alpha \partial(c) &= -g_1(c) + f_1(c). \end{aligned}$$

A morphism of abelian 2-groups $f_* : C_* \to D_*$ is a commutative diagram

$$C_0^{ab} \otimes C_0^{ab} \xrightarrow{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} C_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} C_0$$

$$f_0^{ab} \otimes f_0^{ab} \bigsqcup g_0^{ab} \otimes g_0^{ab} \xrightarrow{f_1} \bigsqcup g_1 \xrightarrow{f_0} g_0$$

$$D_0^{ab} \otimes D_0^{ab} \xrightarrow{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} D_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} D_0$$

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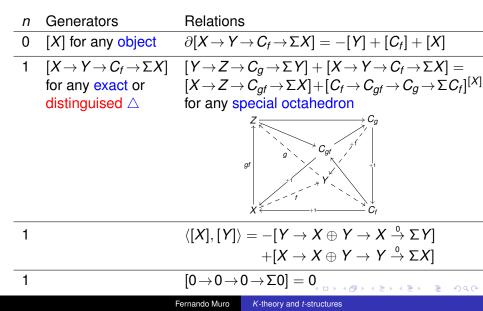
K_0 and K_1 of an exact category

We define the abelian 2-group \mathcal{D}_*E by generators and relations:

Generators Relations n 0 [A] for any object in E $\partial [A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B/A] = -[B] + [B/A] + [A]$ 1 $[A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B/A]$ for any $[B \rightarrow C \rightarrow C/B] + [A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B/A] =$ $[A \rightarrow C \rightarrow C/A] + [B/A \rightarrow C/A \rightarrow C/B]^{[A]}$ short exact sequence for any 2-step filtration C/B $B/A \longrightarrow C/A$ * $A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C$ $\langle [A], [B] \rangle = -[B \rightarrow A \oplus B \rightarrow A]$ $+[A \rightarrow A \oplus B \rightarrow B]$ $[0 \rightarrowtail 0 \twoheadrightarrow 0] = 0$ Fernando Muro K-theory and t-structures

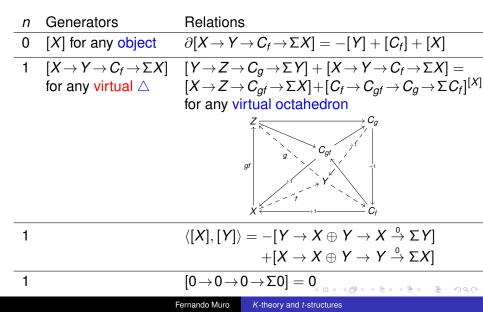
K_0^d and K_1^d of a triangulated category

The abelian 2-group $\mathcal{D}_*^d \mathbf{T}$ is defined by generators and relations:



$K_0^{\mathbf{v}}$ and $K_1^{\mathbf{v}}$ of a triangulated category

The abelian 2-group $\mathcal{D}_*^{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{T}$ is defined by generators and relations:



Theorem A

If **T** is a triangulated category with a bounded non-degenerate t-structure with heart **A**,

$$K_1(\mathbf{A}) \stackrel{\cong}{\longrightarrow} K_1^{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{T}) \stackrel{\cong}{\longrightarrow} K_1^{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{T}).$$

Corollary

If **Sp**^{*b*} is the stable homotopy category of spectra X such that $\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \pi_n X$ is a f.g. abelian group, $K_1^?$ (**Sp**^{*b*}) $\cong K_1^?(D^b(\mathbb{Z})) \cong K_1(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}/2$.

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Theorem A

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If \mathbf{Sp}^{b} is the stable homotopy category of spectra X such that $\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \pi_{n} X$ is a f.g. abelian group, $K_{1}^{?}(\mathbf{Sp}^{b}) \cong K_{1}^{?}(D^{b}(\mathbb{Z})) \cong K_{1}(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}/2$.

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The idea is to construct a strong deformation retraction

$$\overset{\alpha}{\hookrightarrow} \mathcal{D}^{?}_{*}(\mathbf{T}) \xrightarrow{\boldsymbol{\rho}_{*}} \mathcal{D}_{*}(\mathbf{A}), \qquad \boldsymbol{\rho}_{*} i_{*} = \mathsf{id}, \qquad \alpha \colon i_{*} \boldsymbol{\rho}_{*} \Rightarrow \mathsf{id},$$

 $p_0[X] = \cdots - [H_{-1}X] + [H_0X] - [H_1X] + \cdots$

An exact triangle $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \to C_f \to \Sigma X$ induces a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \to H_n X \longrightarrow H_n Y \longrightarrow H_n C_f \longrightarrow H_{n-1} X \to \cdots$$

that we reindex

$$\cdots \to A_{m-1} \stackrel{\phi_{m-1}}{\longrightarrow} A_m \stackrel{\phi_m}{\longrightarrow} A_{m+1} \stackrel{\phi_{m+1}}{\longrightarrow} A_{m+1} \to \cdots$$

with $A_0 = H_0 Y$ and

$$p_1[X \xrightarrow{f} Y \to C_f \to \Sigma X] = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^m [\operatorname{Ker} \phi_m \rightarrowtail A_m \twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{Ker} \phi_{m+1}] \operatorname{mod} \langle \mathcal{D}_0 \mathbf{A}, \mathcal{D}_0 \mathbf{A} \rangle.$$

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The definition of p_0 is forced by the following exact triangles, $X \in \mathbf{T}_{\geq n}$,

$$X_{\geq n+1} \to X \to \Sigma^n H_n X \to \Sigma X_{\geq n+1}.$$

A truncation of an exact triangle $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \to C_f \to \Sigma X$ in $\mathbf{T}_{\geq n}$ is a special octahedron

Theorem (Vaknin'01)

There is always a truncation of an exact triangle.

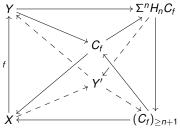
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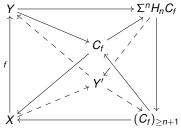
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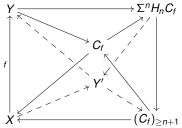
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The natural comparison homomorphism $K_1(\mathbf{E}) \to K_1^d(D^b(\mathbf{E}))$ need not always be an isomorphism.

This example goes back to Deligne, [Vaknin'01] and [Breuning'08].

Let **E** = proj(*R*) be the category of f.g. free modules over $R = k[\epsilon]/\epsilon^2$, *k* a field.

Theorem B

 $K_1(\mathbf{E}) = R^{\times} = k \times k^{\times}$ but $K_1^d(D^b(\mathbf{E})) = k^{\times}$ and $K_1(\mathbf{E}) \to K_1^d(D^b(\mathbf{E}))$ is the projection onto the second factor.

$$\mathcal{D}_{*}(\operatorname{proj}(R)) \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}^{d}_{*}(D^{b}(\operatorname{proj}(R)))$$

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Key ingredient in the proof of Theorem B

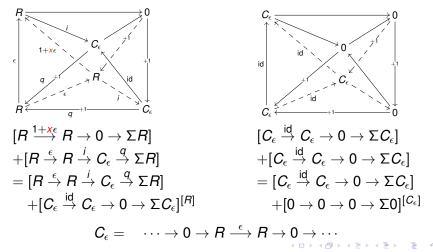
The element $(\mathbf{x}, 0) \in K_1(\mathbf{E})$ is $[R \xrightarrow{1+x\epsilon} R \rightarrow 0] \in \mathcal{D}_1(\text{proj}(R))$ and its image in $\in K_1^d(D^b(\mathbf{E}))$ is $[R \xrightarrow{1+x\epsilon} R \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \Sigma R] \in \mathcal{D}_1^d(D^b(\text{proj}(R)))$. This element is zero by the following relations:

 $\begin{array}{ll} [R \xrightarrow{1+x_{\epsilon}} R \to 0 \to \Sigma R] & [C_{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{id} C_{\epsilon} \to 0 \to \Sigma C_{\epsilon}] \\ +[R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R \xrightarrow{i} C_{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{q} \Sigma R] & +[C_{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{id} C_{\epsilon} \to 0 \to \Sigma C_{\epsilon}] \\ =[R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R \xrightarrow{i} C_{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{q} \Sigma R] & +[C_{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{id} C_{\epsilon} \to 0 \to \Sigma C_{\epsilon}] \\ +[C_{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{id} C_{\epsilon} \to 0 \to \Sigma C_{\epsilon}]^{[R]} & +[0 \to 0 \to 0 \to \Sigma 0]^{[C_{\epsilon}]} \end{array}$

 $C_{\epsilon} = \cdots \to 0 \to R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R \to 0 \to \cdots$

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The comparison homomorphism $\mathcal{K}^d_1(\mathbf{T}) \to \mathcal{K}^v_1(\mathbf{T})$ need not be an isomorphism.

If *k* is a field of char k = 2, $\mathbf{T} = D^b(kA_2)/\nu$ is the category f.g. free modules over $R = k[\epsilon]/\epsilon^2$, $\Sigma =$ the identity, and a 3-periodic exact sequence is an exact triangle iff it is the direct sum of a contractible triangle and a triangle of the following form



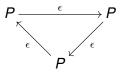
Theorem C

 $K_0^d(\mathbf{T}) = K_0^v(\mathbf{T}) = 0 = K_1^d(\mathbf{T})$ but there is a surjective homomorphism det: $K_1^v(\mathbf{T}) \twoheadrightarrow k^{\times}/(k^{\times})^2$.

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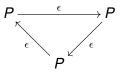
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The abelian 2-group $\mathcal{D}^{d}_{*}(\mathbf{T})$ admits a contraction α defined by $\alpha[\mathbf{P}] = [\mathbf{P} \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathbf{P} \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathbf{P} \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathbf{P}].$

We are going to define a morphism

$$\det\colon \mathcal{D}^{\boldsymbol{V}}_*(\mathbf{T}) \longrightarrow (0 \stackrel{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle}{\to} k^{\times}/(k^{\times})^2 \to 0)$$

which induces the claimed surjection.

Lemma

Virtual triangles in **T** are 3-periodic exact sequences



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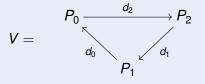
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Virtual triangles in T are 3-periodic exact sequences



For any virtual triangle V we have a short exact sequence of 3-periodic complexes

 $\epsilon V \rightarrowtail V \twoheadrightarrow \epsilon V$

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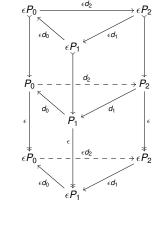
 $\delta_n \colon H_{n+1}(\epsilon V) \cong H_n(\epsilon V).$

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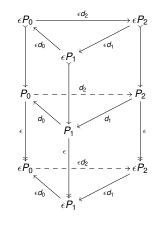
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For any virtual triangle V we have a short exact sequence of 3-periodic complexes

 $\epsilon V \rightarrowtail V \twoheadrightarrow \epsilon V$

which induces k-module isomorphisms

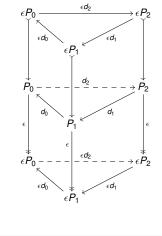
$$\delta_n \colon H_{n+1}(\epsilon V) \cong H_n(\epsilon V).$$

We define

$$\det(V) = \det(\delta_n \delta_{n+1} \delta_{n+2} \colon H_n(\epsilon V) \cong H_n(\epsilon V)).$$

Lemma

A virtual triangle V is exact iff det(V) = 1.



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Lemma

Given $\mathbf{u} \in k^{\times}$, det $(R \stackrel{\epsilon}{\rightarrow} R \stackrel{\epsilon}{\rightarrow} R \stackrel{u\epsilon}{\rightarrow} R) = \mathbf{u}$.

Lemma

Given a virtual octahedron as below we have

$$\det(Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \to C_g \to Y) \det(X \xrightarrow{f} Y \to C_f \to X)$$
$$= \det(X \xrightarrow{gf} Z \to C_{gf} \to X) \det(C_f \to C_{gf} \to C_g \to C_f) \mod (k^{\times})^2.$$

Notice that

$$\begin{array}{l} -[R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R] \\ +[R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R \xrightarrow{u\epsilon} R] \end{array} \in K_1^{\boldsymbol{v}}(\mathbf{T}) \end{array}$$

has determinant $\underline{\mu} \in \underline{k}^{\times}/(\underline{k}^{\times})^2$.

Lemma

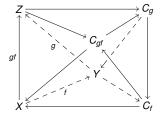
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Fernando Muro *K*-theory and *t*-structures

Sketch of the proof of Theorem C

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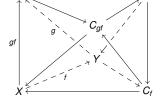
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K-theory and *t*-structures

Fernando Muro

Universidad de Sevilla

joint work with A. Tonks (London Metropolitan) and M. Witte (Heidelberg) arXiv:1006.5399v1 [math.KT]

Workshop on *t*-structures and related topics Stuttgart, July 7–9, 2011

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The isomorphism in K_0

Example

The inverse isomorphism of

$$egin{aligned} &\mathcal{K}_0(\mathsf{E})\longrightarrow\mathcal{K}_0(C^b(\mathsf{E}))\ &[\mathcal{A}]\ \mapsto [\cdots o 0 o \mathcal{A} o 0 o \cdots] \end{aligned}$$

is the Euler characteristic,

$$\mathcal{K}_0(\mathcal{C}^b(\mathbf{E})) \longrightarrow \mathcal{K}_0(\mathbf{E})$$

 $[\cdots \rightarrow X_n \rightarrow X_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots] \mapsto \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^n [X_n]$

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Let **E** be an idempotent complete exact category and **A** its abelian envelope. The bounded homotopy category $K^{D}(E)$ contains a thick subcategory $A^{D}(E)$ spanned by the acyclic bounded complexes

$$\cdots \to X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{d_{n+1}} X_n \xrightarrow{d_n} X_{n-1} \to \cdots$$

such that Ker $d_n \in \mathbf{E}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

The bounded derived category of **E** [Neeman'90] is defined as the Verdier quotient

 $D^b(\mathbf{E}) = K^b(\mathbf{E})/A^b(\mathbf{E}).$

Example

 $D^{b}(\mathbf{A})$ is the usual derived category of an abelian category. If *R* is a ring, $D^{b}(\operatorname{proj}(R)) = K^{b}(\operatorname{proj}(R))$. $D(\operatorname{Flat}(R)) \simeq K(\operatorname{Proj}(R))$ [Neeman'08]

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Example

The inverse isomorphism of

$$egin{array}{c} \mathcal{K}_0(\mathbf{A}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{K}_0(\mathbf{T}) \ [A] &\mapsto [A] \end{array}$$

is given by

$$egin{array}{lll} \mathcal{K}_0(\mathbf{T}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{K}_0(\mathbf{A}) \ [X] &\mapsto \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^n [\mathcal{H}_n X] \end{array}$$

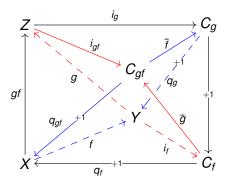
since $\mathbf{T} = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbf{T}_{\geq n}$ and if $X \in \mathbf{T}_{\geq n}$ the exact triangle

$$X_{\geq n+1} \to X \to \Sigma^n H_n X \to \Sigma X_{\geq n+1}$$

yields the relation $[X] = (-1)^n [H_n X] + [X_{\geq n+1}]$.

Special octahedra

An octahedron made up from exact triangles



is special if the following triangles are exact <a>back

$$Y \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} g \\ -i_f \end{pmatrix}} Z \oplus C_f \xrightarrow{(i_{gf}, \bar{g})} C_{gf} \xrightarrow{q_g \bar{f}} \Sigma Y$$

$$C_{gf} \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} q_{gf} \\ -\bar{f} \end{pmatrix}} \Sigma X \oplus C_g \xrightarrow{(\Sigma f, q_g)} \Sigma Y \xrightarrow{\Sigma(\bar{g}q_f)} \Sigma C_{gf}$$

A triangle is contractible if it is a direct sum of triangles of the form

$$X \xrightarrow{1} X \to 0 \to \Sigma X, \quad 0 \to Y \xrightarrow{1} Y \to 0, \quad Z \to 0 \to \Sigma Z \xrightarrow{1} \Sigma Z.$$

A triangle is virtual if it is a direct summand with contractible complement of a triangle

$$X \stackrel{f}{\longrightarrow} Y \stackrel{i}{\longrightarrow} Z \stackrel{q}{\longrightarrow} \Sigma X$$

such that we can replace each arrow by another morphism to obtain an exact triangle.

Example

If $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{i} C_f \xrightarrow{q} \Sigma X$ is an exact triangle then $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{i} C_f \xrightarrow{-q} \Sigma X$ is a virtual triangle, but in general not exact.

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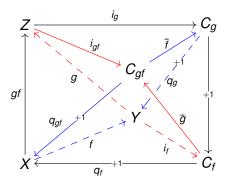
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Virtual octahedra

An octahedron made up from virtual triangles



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Proposition

- Abelian group homomorphism $B \otimes B \xrightarrow{0} A \xrightarrow{f} B$ [Deligne'63–64]
- 0 $\xrightarrow{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow$ 0 is freely generated by 1 $\in \mathbb{Z}$ in degree n = 1
- Z ⊗ Z ^(·,·) Z/2 ⁰→ Z is freely generated by 1 ∈ Z in degree n = 0, it is quasi-isomorphic to D_{*}(proj(Z))
- $\mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} R^{\times} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z}$, *R* a commutative local ring, $\langle 1, 1 \rangle = 1 \in R^{\times}$, it is quasi-isomorphic to $\mathcal{D}_*(\text{proj}(R))$
- If G is a group of nilpotency class two and H ⊂ G is a subgroup containing the commutators [G, G] ⊂ H

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
G^{ab} \otimes G^{ab} & \xrightarrow{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} H & \xrightarrow{\text{incl.}} G \\
\langle a, b \rangle &= -b - a + b + a \\
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Proposition

The 2-category of abelian 2-groups is 2-equivalent to the 2-category of *Picard groupoids*.

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