

On the 1-type of Waldhausen K -theory

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ICM Satellite Conference on K -theory and Noncommutative
Geometry, Valladolid 2006

- Understanding K_1 in the same clear way we understand K_0 .

We use the following notation for the basic structure of a **Waldhausen category** \mathbf{W} :

- Zero object $*$.
- Weak equivalences $A \xrightarrow{\sim} A'$.
- Cofiber sequences $A \rightarrowtail B \twoheadrightarrow B/A$.

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K_0 of a Waldhausen category

The abelian group $K_0\mathbf{W}$ is generated by the symbols

- $[A]$ for any object A in \mathbf{W} .

These symbols satisfy the following relations:

- $[*] = 0$,
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- $[B/A] + [A] = [B]$ for any cofiber sequence $A \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} B \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} B/A$.

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K -theory of a Waldhausen category

The K -theory of a Waldhausen category \mathbf{W} is a spectrum $K\mathbf{W}$.

The spectrum $K\mathbf{W}$ was defined by Waldhausen by using the S .-construction which associates a simplicial category $wS.\mathbf{W}$ to any Waldhausen category.

A simplicial category is regarded as a bisimplicial set by taking levelwise the nerve of a category.

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The nature of our algebraic model

A **stable quadratic module** C consists of a diagram of groups

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

such that

- $\langle a, b \rangle = -\langle b, a \rangle$,
- $\partial \langle a, b \rangle = -b - a + b + a$,
- $\langle \partial c, \partial d \rangle = -d - c + d + c$.

The **homotopy groups** of C are

- $\pi_0 C = \text{Coker } \partial$,
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A symmetric monoidal category

A stable quadratic module C gives rise to a **symmetric monoidal category** $\mathbf{smc}C$ with

- object set C_0 ,
- morphisms $(c_0, c_1): c_0 \rightarrow c_0 + \partial c_1$ for $c_0 \in C_0$ and $c_1 \in C_1$.

The symmetry isomorphism is defined by the bracket

$$(c_0 + c'_0, \langle c_0, c'_0 \rangle): c_0 + c'_0 \xrightarrow{\cong} c'_0 + c_0.$$

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The classifying spectrum

Segal's construction associates a **classifying spectrum** $B\mathbf{M}$ to any symmetric monoidal category \mathbf{M} .

The spectrum $B\mathbf{smc}C$ has homotopy groups concentrated in dimensions 0 and 1.

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_0 B\mathbf{smc}C &\cong \pi_0 C, \\ \pi_1 B\mathbf{smc}C &\cong \pi_1 C.\end{aligned}$$

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The main theorem

We define a stable quadratic module $\mathcal{D}_*\mathbf{W}$ by generators and relations which models the 1-type of $K\mathbf{W}$:

Theorem

There is a natural morphism in the stable homotopy category

$$K\mathbf{W} \longrightarrow B\mathrm{smc}\mathcal{D}_*\mathbf{W}$$

which induces isomorphisms in π_0 and π_1 .

Corollary

There are natural isomorphisms

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The generating symbols satisfy six kinds of relations.

- The trivial relations [▶ formulas](#) [▶ bisimplices](#) .
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- Nenashev's presentation of K_1 of an exact category.
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New features of our approach

- Valid for Waldhausen categories.
- Use of strict algebraic structures of optimal nilpotency degree.
- Generators and relations are given by objects, weak equivalences, and cofiber sequences.
- Functoriality and compatibility with products.

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What I couldn't tell you in this talk

- The multiplicative structure.

If \mathbf{W} is a monoidal Waldhausen category then $\mathcal{D}_*\mathbf{W}$ is endowed with the structure of a **quadratic pair algebra** and hence by results of Baues-Jibladze-Pirashvili it represents the first Postnikov invariant of $K\mathbf{W}$ as a **ring spectrum**

$$k_1 = \{\mathcal{D}_*\mathbf{W}\} \in HML^3(K_0\mathbf{W}, K_1\mathbf{W}).$$

- Comments on the proof.

For the proof we compute a small model of the **fundamental 2-groupoid** of $wS.\mathbf{W}$ by using an Eilenberg-Zilber-Cartier theorem for ∞ -groupoids. Then we use Curtis's connectivity result to obtain nilpotency degree 2.

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The End

Thanks for your attention!

The trivial relations

- $[*] = 0$.
- $[A \xrightarrow{1_A} A] = 0$.
- $[A \xrightarrow{1_A} A \twoheadrightarrow *] = 0, [* \twoheadrightarrow A \xrightarrow{1_A} A] = 0$.

◀ back

The boundary relations

- $\partial[A \xrightarrow{\sim} A'] = -[A'] + [A].$
- $\partial[A \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} B \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} B/A] = -[B] + [B/A] + [A].$

◀ back

Composition of weak equivalences

- For any pair of composable weak equivalences $A \xrightarrow{\sim} A' \xrightarrow{\sim} A''$,

$$[A \xrightarrow{\sim} A''] = [A' \xrightarrow{\sim} A''] + [A \xrightarrow{\sim} A'].$$

◀ back

Weak equivalences of cofiber sequences

- For any commutative diagram in **W** as follows

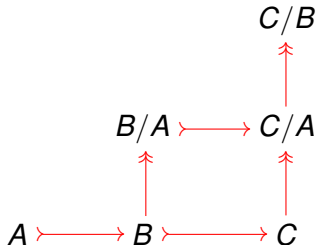
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B & \twoheadrightarrow & B/A \\ \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim \\ A' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B' & \twoheadrightarrow & B'/A' \end{array}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& [A' \rightarrow B' \rightarrow B' / A'] \\
& [A \xrightarrow{\sim} A'] + [B / A \xrightarrow{\sim} B' / A'] \\
& + \langle [A], -[B' / A'] + [B / A] \rangle = [B \xrightarrow{\sim} B'] \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad + [A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B / A].
\end{aligned}$$

Composition of cofiber sequences

- For any commutative diagram consisting of four obvious cofiber sequences in \mathbf{W} as follows



we have

$$\begin{aligned}
[B \rightarrow C \rightarrow C/B] \\
+ [A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B/A] &= [A \rightarrow C \rightarrow C/A] \\
&\quad + [B/A \rightarrow C/A \rightarrow C/B] \\
&\quad + \langle [A], -[C/A] + [C/B] + [B/A] \rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

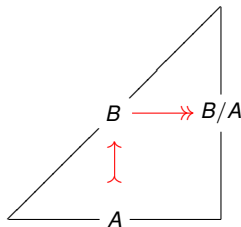
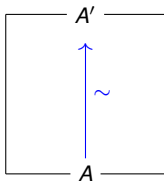
- For any pair of objects A, B in \mathbf{W}

$$\langle [A], [B] \rangle = -[A \xrightarrow{i_1} A \vee B \xrightarrow{p_2} B] + [B \xrightarrow{i_2} A \vee B \xrightarrow{p_1} A].$$

◀ back

Bisimplices of total degree 1 and 2 in $wS.W$

— A —

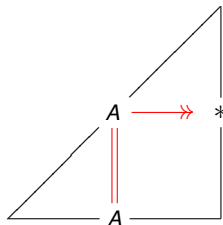
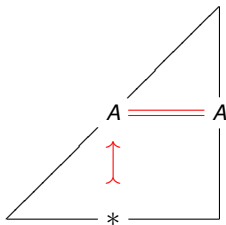
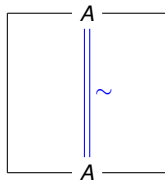


◀ back to generators

◀ back to relations

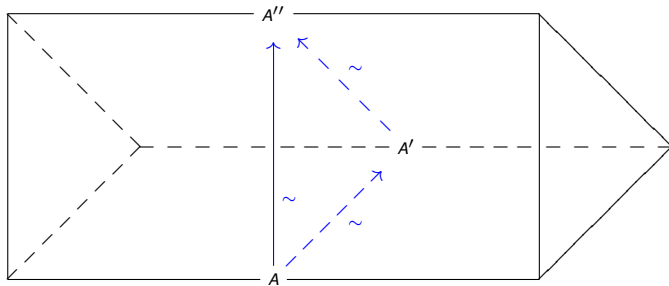
Degenerate bisimplices of total degree 1 and 2 in $wS.W$

— * —

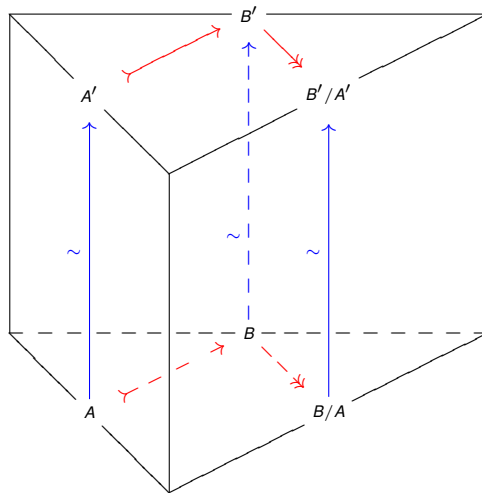


◀ back

Bisimplex of bidegree $(1, 2)$ in $wS.W$

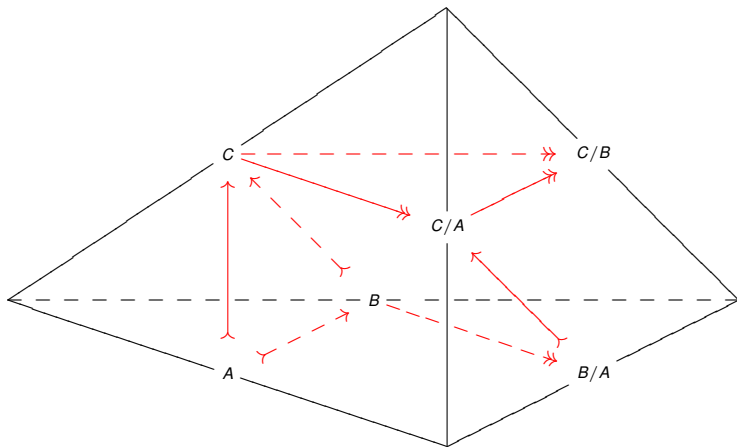
[◀ back](#)

Bisimplex of bidegree $(2, 1)$ in $wS.W$



◀ back

Bisimplex of bidegree $(3, 0)$ in $wS.W$



← back