

Seminar program:  
Algebraic  $K$ -theory and chromatic homotopy theory

Tom Bachmann, Julie Bannwart, Klaus Mattis, Maxime Ramzi

January 30, 2026

**TALK 0 (MAXIME): INTRODUCTORY TALK**

**TALK 1 (TIMO): INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRAIC  $K$ -THEORY 1/2**

References: [Heb21, Sections III and IV], [Lur14, Lectures 16-20], [Hil].

- Coordinate with the speaker of Talk 2 to split the material between the two of you.
- Define  $K$ -theory of stable categories ([Lur14, Lecture 16]).
- Define  $K$ -theory of schemes as  $K(Perf(-))$  and explain how this induces transfer maps (i.e., the maps induced by pushforward on perfect complexes).
- Define  $K$ -theory of terms of group completion ([Lur14, Lecture 18]), state the group completion theorem ([Lur14, Lecture 18, Proposition 4], [Nik17]).
- For  $K$ -theory in the group completion sense, show that  $K(-)$  is lax symmetric monoidal and preserves filtered colimits. Mention that this is also true for  $K$ -theory of stable infinity categories.
- Explain the additivity and Verdier localization properties [Lur14, Lecture 17], [Heb21, IV.29] or [Heb, 5.8.1].
- State the resolution theorem [Lur14, Lecture 18-20].

**TALK 2 (ANDI): INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRAIC  $K$ -THEORY 2/2**

- Coordinate with the speaker of Talk 1 to split the material between the two of you.

**TALK 3 (ANTONIO): THE NISNEVICH AND ÉTALE TOPOLOGIES, DESCENT**

References: [Lur18], [Lur09].

- Define the Nisnevich and étale topologies.
- Define the notion of descent in general [Lur09, §6.2.2] and characterize Nisnevich descent via distinguished squares (see e.g. [AHW17, Theorem 3.2.5] combined with [BH21, Proposition A.2(d)]), but proving this probably takes too long).
- Prove that having Nisnevich and Galois descent is equivalent to having étale descent [Lur18, Theorem B.6.4.1].
- Show that  $K$ -theory has Nisnevich descent by reducing to Nisnevich descent for  $\mathrm{QCoh}(-)$  (the  $\infty$ -category of complexes with quasi-coherent cohomology). See e.g. [Kha17, Lectures 2-5, especially Lecture 5, Theorem 7.3]

#### TALK 4 (ANTON): EQUIVARIANT HOMOTOPY THEORY AND GALOIS DESCENT FOR RATIONAL $K$ -THEORY

References: [CMNN22, Section 3 and Appendix A], [Ram, Sections 1-2, 6-7].

- Define genuine  $G$ -spectra in terms of Mackey functors [CMNN22, Appendix A].
- Give a construction of equivariant  $K$ -theory following [CMNN22, 2.12, 2.13].
- Formulation of descent in terms of Mackey functors, and [CMNN22, Criterion 3.4].
- Explain 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and 3.6. Avoid anything that mentions  $(F, \epsilon)$ -nilpotence or telescopic localization.
- Show that  $L_{\mathbb{Q}}K(-)$  has étale descent by showing Galois descent and using the result of Talk 3.

#### TALK 5 (MANUEL): TOPOLOGICAL $K$ -THEORY $\mathbf{KU}$ AND COMPLEX ORIENTATIONS

References: [Cno24, Chapter 5], [Ada74, II.2], [Lur10, Lecture 4].

- Define  $\mathbf{KU}$ ,  $\mathbf{ku}$ , explain their relation to  $BU$ , and state Bott periodicity ([Cno24, Chapter 5]). Define  $K(1)$  as  $\mathbf{KU}/p$  (without mentioning other heights). Mention the existence of a homotopy ring map  $\mathbf{KU} \rightarrow K(1)$ .
- Explain what complex orientations are (definition with  $\mathbb{CP}^\infty$ ), and prove that  $\mathbf{KU}$  and  $K(1)$  are complex-oriented.
- Recall the notion of formal group laws, their relationship to complex oriented ring spectra, and compute those of  $\mathbf{KU}$ ,  $\mathbf{ku}$ ,  $K(1)$  (see [Ada74, II.2]).

#### TALK 6 (DOMINIK): THE $K(1)$ -HOMOLOGY OF $BC_p$ AND AMBIDEXTERITY

References: [nLa26], [HKR00], [GS96], [LH13], [CSY20], [RW80].

- Using the Gysin sequence (see [nLa26]), compute the  $E$ -homology of  $BC_p$  for a complex oriented ring spectrum  $E$ , in terms of the formal group law of  $E$  [HKR00, Section 5]. Apply this to  $E = K(1)$ .
- Introduce the norm map for  $BC_p$ .
- Prove the following Lemma: If  $K(1)^*BC_p$  is finite dimensional over  $K(1)^*$ , then the norm map is an equivalence in  $\mathbf{Sp}_{K(1)}$  (a reference is [GS96], but see the end of the program for an easier, more modern argument).
- Combining the previous points, conclude that the norm map for  $BC_p$  is a  $K(1)$ -local equivalence.

#### TALK 7 (JONAS): ÉTALE DESCENT FOR $K(1)$ -LOCAL $K$ -THEORY

References: [CSY20], [Hop14].

- The goal of this talk is to prove that  $K(1)$ -local  $K$ -theory has étale descent, following [CSY20].
- Show that  $\pi_0$  of a  $K(1)$ -local  $\mathbb{E}_\infty$ -ring spectrum admits a  $\delta$ -ring structure. See [CSY20, Section 5.2 and Theorem 5.2.2] or [Hop14].

- Recalling that  $\delta$ -rings are torsion-free, deduce the height 1 May nilpotence conjecture: an  $\mathbb{E}_\infty$ -ring spectrum that is  $p$ -local and rationally zero, is also  $K(1)$ -locally zero [CSY20, Theorem 5.2.6].
- Deduce that  $K(1)$ -local  $K$ -theory has étale descent by applying the methods of Talks 3 and 4.

#### TALK 8 (EMANUELE): HYPERDESCENT

References: [CM21].

- Define hyperdescent, hypersheaves and hypercompleteness.
- State and prove the criteria [CM21, 1.6, 1.8] (reduction to fields, and a concrete criterion for hyperdescent over fields).

#### TALK 9 (LUCA): THE NORM-RESIDUE ISOMORPHISM THEOREM AND HYPERDESCENT FOR $K(1)$ -LOCAL $K$ -THEORY 1/2

References: [CM21], [HW19].

- Coordinate with the speaker of Talk 10 to split the material between the two of you.
- State the norm-residue isomorphism theorem (see [HW19]).
- Use it to prove that  $K(1)$ -local  $K$ -theory has étale hyperdescent, following [CM21, Section 6.2 and Theorem 6.13].

#### TALK 10 (LORENZO): THE NORM-RESIDUE ISOMORPHISM THEOREM AND HYPERDESCENT FOR $K(1)$ -LOCAL $K$ -THEORY 2/2

References: [CM21].

- Coordinate with the speaker of Talk 9 to split the material between the two of you.

#### TALK 11 (MAXIME): QUILLEN-SUSLIN RIGIDITY

References: [Sus83].

- We proved in Talks 9 and 10 that  $K(1)$ -local  $K$ -theory was an étale hypersheaf. The goal of this talk is to compute its stalks.
- State (but do not prove) Gabber rigidity.
- Reduce to algebraically closed fields [Sus83].
- Compute it in this case, following Quillen (case  $\bar{\mathbb{F}}_p$ ).

#### TALK 12 (TOM): MITCHELL'S THEOREM

References: [ENY20],[Mit90].

- Briefly introduce  $K(2)$  (note that it will be more thoroughly introduced in Talk 13).
- State and prove Mitchell's theorem: the  $K(2)$ -local  $K$ -theory of a discrete ring vanishes. This can be done using étale hyperdescent, following [ENY20].

## TALK 13 (JULIE): REDSHIFT AND PURITY 1/2

References: [LMMT24], [LT19].

- Introduce  $K(n)$  and  $T(n)$ , and prove their basic properties.
- Explain the notion of redshift, explaining how this generalizes Mitchell's theorem from Talk 12.
- Explain the ring  $A \odot_{A'}^{B'} B$  from [LT19], and the connectivity estimates on  $K(-)$  of a pullback square.

## TALK 14 (KLAUS): REDSHIFT AND PURITY 2/2

References: [LMMT24], [LT19].

- Prove one half of purity [LMMT24] using the results from Talk 13.

## Argument for Talk 6

- By monoidality of the norm map, it suffices to prove that  $\mathbb{S}_{K(1)}^{tC_p} \simeq 0$ .
- Reduce to proving that  $KU^{tC_p}$  is  $p$ -completely 0, i.e. prove that  $K(1)^{tC_p} \simeq 0$ .
- Note that the assumptions guarantee that  $K(1)^{tC_p}$  is a compact  $K(1)$ -module (as a cofiber of compact  $K(1)$ -modules) and hence since it is  $K(1)^{BC_p}[e^{-1}]$  where  $e$  is the Euler class, we deduce that the canonical map  $K(1)^{BC_p} \rightarrow K(1)^{tC_p}$  splits, which proves that the norm map is also split injective, and hence an iso for dimension reasons.

## References

- [Ada74] J.F. Adams. *Stable Homotopy and Generalised Homology*. Chicago Lectures in Mathematics. University of Chicago Press, 1974.
- [AHW17] Aravind Asok, Marc Hoyois, and Matthias Wendt. Affine representability results in  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -homotopy theory, I: Vector bundles. *Duke Math. J.*, 166(10):1923–1953, 07 2017.
- [BH21] Tom Bachmann and Marc Hoyois. Norms in motivic homotopy theory. *Astérisque*, 425, 2021. arXiv:1711.03061.
- [CM21] Dustin Clausen and Akhil Mathew. Hyperdescent and étale K-theory. *Inventiones mathematicae*, 225(3):981–1076, April 2021.
- [CMNN22] Dustin Clausen, Akhil Mathew, Niko Naumann, and Justin Noel. Descent and vanishing in chromatic algebraic  $k$ -theory via group actions, 2022. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.08233>.
- [Cno24] Bastiaan Cnossen. Lecture notes for “introduction to stable homotopy theory”, 2024. Notes available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Sq17lBDZ1maiI9j7BWzjAbFBk4iP7ajN/view>.
- [CSY20] Shachar Carmeli, Tomer M. Schlank, and Lior Yanovski. Ambidexterity in chromatic homotopy theory, 2020. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1811.02057>.

- [ENY20] Elden Elmanto, Denis Nardin, and Lucy Yang. A descent view on Mitchell’s theorem, 2020. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.02821>.
- [GS96] John PC Greenlees and Hal Sadofsky. The tate spectrum of vn-periodic complex oriented theories. *Mathematische Zeitschrift*, 222(3):391–406, 1996.
- [Heb] Fabian Hebestreit. Higher categories and algebraic K-theory. Unfinished book project. Available at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rQn6KuwEGfAUur7Y\\_20XAvhyS21Js-sc/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rQn6KuwEGfAUur7Y_20XAvhyS21Js-sc/view).
- [Heb21] Fabian Hebestreit. Lecture Notes for Algebraic and Hermitian K-Theory, 2021. University of Bonn, typed by Ferdinand Wagner. Available at <https://florianadler.github.io/AlgebraBonn/KTheory.pdf>.
- [Hil] Kaif Hilman. Blumberg–Gepner–Tabuada: A revisionist approach to algebraic k-theory. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yu55n0GYg0mSPzrTZ5WDThwkcKCXUQDe/view>.
- [HKR00] Michael J. Hopkins, Nicholas J. Kuhn, and Douglas C. Ravenel. Generalized group characters and complex oriented cohomology theories. *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, 13(3):553–594, 2000.
- [Hop14] Michael Hopkins.  $K(1)$ -local  $\mathcal{E}_\infty$ -ring spectra. In Christopher L. Douglas, John Francis, André G. Henriques, and Michael A. Hill, editors, *Topological Modular Forms*. American Mathematical Society, 2014.
- [HW19] Christian Haesemeyer and Charles A. Weibel. *The Norm Residue Theorem in Motivic Cohomology*. Princeton University Press, 2019.
- [Kha17] Adeel Khan. Descent in algebraic k-theory. <https://www.preschema.com/lecture-notes/kdescent>, 2017.
- [LH13] Jacob Lurie and Michael Hopkins. Ambidexterity in  $K(n)$ -Local Stable Homotopy Theory, 2013. Available at <https://www.math.ias.edu/~lurie/papers/Ambidexterity.pdf>.
- [LMMT24] Markus Land, Akhil Mathew, Lennart Meier, and Georg Tamme. Purity in chromatically localized algebraic K-theory. *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, February 2024.
- [LT19] Markus Land and Georg Tamme. On the  $k$ -theory of pullbacks. *Annals of Mathematics*, 190(3), November 2019.
- [Lur09] Jacob Lurie. *Higher topos theory*. Number 170. Princeton University Press, 2009.
- [Lur10] Jacob Lurie. Lectures notes for “Chromatic homotopy theory”, 2010. Harvard University. Available at <https://people.math.harvard.edu/~lurie/252x.html>.
- [Lur14] Jacob Lurie. Lectures notes for “Algebraic K-theory and Manifold Topology”, 2014. Harvard University. Available at <https://www.math.ias.edu/~lurie/281.html>.
- [Lur18] Jacob Lurie. Spectral algebraic geometry, 2018. Unfinished book project, available at <https://www.math.ias.edu/~lurie/papers/SAG-rootfile.pdf>.

- [Mit90] Stephen A. Mitchell. The moravak-theory of algebraick-theory spectra. *K-theory*, 3:607–626, 1990.
- [Nik17] Thomas Nikolaus. The group completion theorem via localizations of ring spectra, 2017. Available at [https://www.uni-muenster.de/IVV5WS/WebHop/user/nikolaus/Papers/Group\\_completion.pdf](https://www.uni-muenster.de/IVV5WS/WebHop/user/nikolaus/Papers/Group_completion.pdf).
- [nLa26] nLab authors. Thom-Gysin sequence. <https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/Thom-Gysin+sequence>, January 2026. Revision 27.
- [Ram] Maxime Ramzi. Equivariant stable homotopy theory. Notes available at <https://sites.google.com/view/maxime-ramzi-en/notes/equivariant-sh?pli=1>.
- [RW80] Douglas C. Ravenel and W. Stephen Wilson. The Morava K-Theories of Eilenberg-MacLane Spaces and the Conner-Floyd Conjecture. *American Journal of Mathematics*, 102(4):691–748, 1980.
- [Sus83] Andrei Suslin. On the k-theory of algebraically closed fields. *Inventiones mathematicae*, 73(2):241–245, 1983.