

Lecture 8:

Waldhausen K-theory



I Waldhausen Categories ①

Recall: An **exact category** \mathcal{A} is an additive category equipped with a fully faithful exact functor $\mathcal{A} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ where \mathcal{B} is an abelian category. By the Quillen-Gabriel embedding theorem we can equivalently define an exact category to be a pair (\mathcal{A}, E) where \mathcal{A} is an additive category and E is a class of exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0 \in E$$

satisfying

(1) E is closed under isomorphisms

(2) admissible monomorphisms are closed under composition & base change

(3) If a morphism $M \rightarrow M'$ has a kernel in \mathcal{A} and $N \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'$ is an admissible epimorphism, then $M \rightarrow M'$ is an admissible epimorphism. The dual statement for admissible monos holds.

In fact, we will consider a generalization. (2)

Def: A **category with cofibrations**

consists of a pair $(\mathcal{C}, \text{cof}_{\mathcal{C}})$ where \mathcal{C} is a category with a zero object 0 and $\text{cof}_{\mathcal{C}}$ is a sub category satisfying

1) $\text{cof}_{\mathcal{C}}$ contains all isomorphisms

$$(\text{so } \text{ob } \text{cof}_{\mathcal{C}} = \text{ob } \mathcal{C})$$

2) the unique map $0 \rightarrow c$ is in $\text{cof}_{\mathcal{C}}$

for all c in \mathcal{C} .

3) if $f: A \rightarrow B$ is in $\text{cof}_{\mathcal{C}}$ and

$A \rightarrow C$ is any morphism then

the pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ C & \longrightarrow & C \amalg_A B \end{array}$$

exists in \mathcal{C} and $C \rightarrow C \amalg_A B$

is in $\text{cof}_{\mathcal{C}}$

(Consequently, we have a notion of exact sequence)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 \amalg_A B =: B/A . \end{array}$$

(3)

Def: A **Waldhausen category** is a triple $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{W}\mathcal{B})$ where $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}\mathcal{B})$ is a category with cofibrations and $\mathcal{W}\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ is a subcategory satisfying

1) all isomorphisms are in $\mathcal{W}\mathcal{B}$

(so $\text{ob } \mathcal{W}\mathcal{B} = \text{ob } \mathcal{B}$)

2) $\mathcal{W}\mathcal{B}$ satisfies the **gluing lemma**:

Given a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} D & \xleftarrow{\quad} & A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B \\ \downarrow \text{is} & & \downarrow \text{is} & & \downarrow \text{is} \\ D' & \xleftarrow{\quad} & A' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B' \end{array}$$

where $D \cong D'$, $A \cong A'$, and $B \cong B'$ are in $\mathcal{W}\mathcal{B}$ and

$A \rightarrow B$ and $A' \rightarrow B'$ are in $\mathcal{C}\mathcal{B}$, then

the induced map

$$D \amalg_A B \xrightarrow{\cong} D' \amalg_{A'} B'.$$

(4)

Example: Any exact category with
cofibrations = admissible monomorphisms

weak equivalences = isomorphisms

Example: Let $R_x^f \subseteq \underline{\mathbf{Top}}/x$

$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{s} & y \\ & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ & \text{id}_x & \end{array}$ such that (y, x) is a relative CW complex with finitely many cells.

Then $(R_x, \text{cof } R_x, \text{weq } R_x)$ is a Waldhausen category where cofibrations are inclusions of sub CW complexes

and weak equivalences are weak equivalences after forgetting to \mathbf{Top} .

A functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ between Waldhausen categories is **exact** if it preserves 0, cofibrations, weak equivalences, and pushouts

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \rightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ C & \rightarrow & C \amalg_A B \end{array}$$

Let \mathbf{Wald} be the category of small Waldhausen categories and exact functors. We will define a functor $K: \mathbf{Wald} \rightarrow \mathbf{CGWH}$

Construction: (Waldhausen's S.-construction)

(S)

Recall that Cat is the category of small categories and there is a fully faithful embedding

$$\Delta \hookrightarrow \text{Cat}$$

$$[n] \mapsto 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow n =: [n]$$

we write $[n]$ for the image of $[n]$ by abuse of notation. This forms a cosimplicial category with coface maps δ_i and codegeneracies σ_i .

Let $\text{Cat}(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{D})$ denote the category of functors from \mathcal{Y} to \mathcal{D} in Cat . Let $\text{Arr } \mathcal{Y} := \text{Cat}([1], \mathcal{Y})$.

Let \mathcal{Y} be in Wald and define

$$S_n \mathcal{Y} \subseteq \text{Cat}(\text{Arr}([n]), \mathcal{Y})$$

to be the full subcategory with objects

$A: \text{Arr}([n]) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ such that

1) for every $\mu: [0] \rightarrow [n]$ $\exists x: A_{00} \rightarrow A_{01}$

$$A(\mu \circ \sigma_0) = 0$$

2) for every $\gamma: [2] \rightarrow [n]$, the sequence

$$A(\gamma_{02}) \rightarrow A(\gamma_{01}) \rightarrow A(\gamma_{00}) \vdash S$$

is a cofibration

sequence

$$(A(\gamma_{02}) \cong A(\gamma_{01}) / A(\gamma_{00})).$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_{00} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & A_{01} \\ \downarrow \sigma_0 & & \downarrow \\ A_{01} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & A_{11} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_{00} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & A_{01} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & A_{02} \\ \downarrow \sigma_0 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ A_{01} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & A_{11} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & A_{12} \end{array}$$

(6)

Note: This produces a functor

$$S_n \mathcal{Y} = \text{Cat}(\text{Cat}(n), \text{Wald}), \mathcal{Y}: \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Wald}$$

by letting $A' \rightarrowtail A$ be a cofibration

if for every functor $\theta: [1] \rightarrow [n]$

$A(\theta) \rightarrow A'(\theta)$ is an objectwise cofibration.

A morphism $A \rightarrow A'$ is a weak equivalence if for all $\theta: [1] \rightarrow [n]$

the map

$A(\theta) \rightarrow A'(\theta)$ is a weak equivalence objectwise.

The face and degeneracy maps have an intuitive description as well, so

we will spell them out in a special case.

(7)

Ex: Note that $S_0 \mathcal{L} = \{0\}$, $S_1 \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}$, and

$$S_2 \mathcal{L} = \{A \mapsto B \mapsto B/A\}.$$

Consider an object in $S_3 \mathcal{L}$

$$\begin{array}{c} A_{01} \rightarrow A_{02} \rightarrow A_{03} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \Gamma \quad \downarrow \\ A_{12} \rightarrow A_{13} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ A_{23} \end{array}$$

The maps $d_i: S_2 \mathcal{L} \rightarrow S_1 \mathcal{L}, 0 \leq i \leq 3$ are defined as

$$d_0 \left(\begin{array}{c} A_{01} \rightarrow A_{02} \rightarrow A_{03} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \Gamma \quad \downarrow \\ A_{12} \rightarrow A_{13} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ A_{23} \end{array} \right) = A_{12} \rightarrow A_{13} \\ \downarrow \\ A_{23}$$

$$d_1 \left(\begin{array}{c} A_{01} \rightarrow A_{02} \rightarrow A_{03} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \Gamma \quad \downarrow \\ A_{12} \rightarrow A_{13} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ A_{23} \end{array} \right) = A_{02} \rightarrow A_{03} \\ \downarrow \\ A_{23}$$

$$d_2 \left(\begin{array}{c} A_{01} \rightarrow A_{02} \rightarrow A_{03} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \Gamma \quad \downarrow \\ A_{12} \rightarrow A_{13} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ A_{23} \end{array} \right) = A_{01} \rightarrow A_{03} \\ \downarrow \\ A_{13}$$

$$d_3 \left(\begin{array}{c} A_{01} \rightarrow A_{02} \rightarrow A_{03} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \Gamma \quad \downarrow \\ A_{12} \rightarrow A_{13} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ A_{23} \end{array} \right) = A_{01} \rightarrow A_{02} \\ \downarrow \\ A_{12}$$

⑧

We can consider the simplicial small category

$$\Delta^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{\text{wS.}\mathcal{L}} \text{Cat}$$

by for getting structure and postcompose

with the nerve to produce

$$\Delta^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{\text{wS.}\mathcal{L}} \text{Cat} \xrightarrow{N_{\ast}} \text{sSet}^+$$

or in other words

$$N_{\ast} \text{wS.}\mathcal{L}$$

is a bisimplicial set.

Def:

$$K^W(\mathcal{L}) := \lambda |N_{\ast} \text{wS.}\mathcal{L}|$$

Thm: When $\mathcal{L} = P(R)$

$$K_0(R) \times \mathcal{B}\mathcal{G}\mathcal{L}(R)^+ \simeq K^W(P(R))$$

IS

$$K^{\oplus}(P(R)) \simeq K^Q(P(R))$$

IS

Proposition Let \mathcal{L} be a small Waldhausen category, then ①

$$\pi_0 \lambda |N_{\bullet} \text{ws}_{\bullet} \mathcal{L}| \cong \mathcal{L}^{\text{ob}} \quad ; f: c \xrightarrow{\sim} c'$$

$[c] \sim [c']$

$$[c] = [B] + [C/B]$$

; if

$$\pi_0 \lambda |N_{\bullet} \text{ws}_{\bullet} \mathcal{L}|$$

$$B \rightarrow C \rightarrow C/D$$

(cf. sequence)

$$\cong \pi_1 |N_{\bullet} \text{ws}_{\bullet} \mathcal{L}|$$

$$\text{Since } N_{\bullet} \text{ws}_{\bullet} \mathcal{L} = \Sigma^{\infty} S$$

So $|N_{\bullet} \text{ws}_{\bullet} \mathcal{L}|$ is connected

$$\text{Note: } |N_{\bullet} \text{ws}_{\bullet} \mathcal{L}| = |\{u\} \longmapsto B_{\bullet} \text{ws}_n \mathcal{L}|$$

$$\text{Let } X_n := (\{u\} \longmapsto B_{\bullet} \text{ws}_n \mathcal{L}) .$$

$$\text{Then } |X_n| = |N_{\bullet} \text{ws}_{\bullet} \mathcal{L}| .$$

$$\pi_1 |X_n| = \pi_1 X_n / d_1 x = d_1 x \cdot d_0^{-1}$$

$$\text{for } x \in \pi_0 X_2$$

In our case,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_0 X_2 &= \pi_0 \text{BwS}_2 \mathcal{L} \\ &= \left\{ [B \rightarrowtail C \rightarrow C/B] \right\} \\ &\quad (\text{equiv. classes of}) \\ &\quad \text{cofibration sequences}\end{aligned}$$

and

$$d_0 \left(\begin{array}{c} B \rightarrowtail C \\ \downarrow \\ C/B \end{array} \right) = C/B$$

$$d_1 \left(\begin{array}{c} B \rightarrowtail C \\ \downarrow \\ C/B \end{array} \right) = C$$

$$d_2 \left(\begin{array}{c} B \rightarrowtail C \\ \downarrow \\ C/B \end{array} \right) = B$$

and since $\pi_0 X_1 = \text{ob } \mathcal{L}$

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_1 |X_1| &= F(\text{ob } \mathcal{L}) \\ &\quad \text{free group} \\ &\quad \overline{[B]} + [B/C] \cong \mathbb{Z}^{[G]} \\ &\quad [B] = \{C\} + \\ &\quad B \rightarrowtail C \neq B/C\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Cor: } \pi_0 K^w(P(R)) \cong K_0(R)$$

Basic Properties

1) product preserving:

$$K(\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{D}) \cong K(\mathcal{G}) \times K(\mathcal{D})$$

2) homotopical:

Given exact functors

$$f, g: \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$$

such that there is a natural transformation

$$\tau: f \Rightarrow g$$

such that $\tau_c: f(c) \rightarrow g(c)$

is a weak equivalence in \mathcal{D}

for all c in \mathcal{G} , then

$$K(f) \cong K(g).$$

II The additivity theorem

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Note: $|N_{ws}(s)| = \prod_{n \geq 0} B_{ws_n}(s) \times 10^n$

So we have a map

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{sk, N.ws.y} \rightarrow \text{IN.ws.y} \\ & \prod_{k=0}^i B_{ws_k} y \times I \Delta' / \sim \\ & B_w y \wedge S' \end{aligned}$$

So by adjunction, we produce a map

BwS → LIN.WS.S1.

Also, since $S, \mathcal{G}: \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Wald}$

where \mathcal{B} is a Waldhausen category, we can

iterate it to form

$$S_{\cdot}^{(n)} y = S_{\cdot} \underbrace{(\dots (}_{n} S_{\cdot} y) \dots)$$

and this sameⁿ construction produces a sequence

$$Bw\gamma \rightarrow \lambda |N.w\gamma| \xrightarrow{\sigma_0} \lambda^2 |N.w\gamma^{(1)}| \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} \lambda^3 |N.w\gamma^{(2)}| \rightarrow \dots$$

!! !! !!
 $K(\gamma)_0$ $\lambda K(\gamma)_1$ $\lambda^2 K(\gamma)_2$

Thm (λ -Spectrum) The sequential spectrum (13)

$$\{K(\mathcal{Y})_n, \sigma_n: K(\mathcal{Y})_n \rightarrow \lambda K(\mathcal{Y})_{n+1}\}$$

is an λ -spectrum i.e. the map

$$\sigma_n: K(\mathcal{Y})_n \rightarrow \lambda K(\mathcal{Y})_{n+1} \text{ is a}$$

homeomorphism for all n .

Proof: Next time

Thm (Additivity)

1) The map $(d_0, d_2): K(S_2\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{Y}) \times K(\mathcal{Y})$

is a homotopy equivalence.

2) Given a sequence $F' \rightarrow F \rightarrow F'': \mathcal{Y}' \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$

of exact functors and natural transformations such that $F'(c) \rightarrow F(c) \rightarrow F''(c)$ is a cofibration sequence in \mathcal{L} for all c in \mathcal{Y}' , then

$$F_c \cong F'_c \vee F''_c$$

as maps of H-spaces.

First, there is an intermediate statement.

$$(*) \quad (d_0)_\otimes + (d_2)_\otimes = (d_1)_\otimes : K(S_2 \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{G}).$$

Proof that $(*) \Rightarrow (2)$

Specifying an exact sequence

$$F' \xrightarrow{\alpha} F \xrightarrow{\beta} F'': \mathcal{G}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}$$

is equivalent to specifying a functor

$$G: \mathcal{G}' \rightarrow S_2 \mathcal{G}$$

such that $d_0 G = F'$, $d_1 G = F$, and
 $d_2 G = F''$. So

$$F_\otimes = (d_1 G)_\otimes = (d_1)_\otimes \circ (G_\otimes)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= ((d_0)_\otimes \vee (d_2)_\otimes) \circ G_\otimes \\ &= (F')_\otimes \vee (F'')_\otimes. \end{aligned}$$

(15)

(2) \Rightarrow (3)

After pre-composing with

$$|ws.y| \times |ws.y| \xrightarrow{V} |ws.s_2y|$$

$$A, B \longmapsto A \rightarrow A \vee B \rightarrow B$$

it's clear that

$$(d_1)_s = (d_0)_s \vee (d_1)_s.$$

We will show V is a homotopyequivalence. The map V is

clearly a section of

$$(A', B') \xleftarrow[r=(d_0, d_1)]{} A' \rightarrow C' \rightarrow B'$$

$$|ws.y| \times |ws.y| \xleftarrow[s]{} |ws.s_2y|;$$

$$(A, B) \xrightarrow[V=s]{} A \rightarrow A \vee B \rightarrow B$$

i.e $r \circ s = id$ so s is a homotopyequivalence if r is.

Again, to prove (2) \Rightarrow (1) we pass
through an intermediate step. (15)

Def: Let A, B, C be categories
with cofibrations with A and B
exact subcategories. We define

$E(A, \mathcal{L}, B)$ to be the pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E(A, \mathcal{L}, B) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{L} \mathcal{L} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ A \times B & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{L} \end{array} .$$

So objects in $E(A, \mathcal{L}, B)$

are exact sequences

$$A \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow B$$

where A is in the essential image of A
and B is in the essential image of B .

(17)

we will show

(2) \Rightarrow (***) \Rightarrow (1) where

$$(\star\star) \left[(\lambda_0, \lambda_1) : K(\Sigma(A, \mathcal{X}, B)) \right] \xrightarrow{\cong} K(A) \times K(B)$$

Note that (***) \Rightarrow (1) is obvious,
so we just need to show (2) \Rightarrow (***).

Again, the map $r = ((d_0)_*, (k_1)_*)$

is a retract with section

$$s : K(A) \times K(B) \rightarrow K(\Sigma(A, \mathcal{X}, B))$$

$$A, B \xrightarrow{\quad} A \dashv A \vee B \dashv B$$

It therefore suffices to show

$$s \circ r \simeq id_{K(\Sigma(A, \mathcal{X}, B))}.$$

Consider the exact sequence of (18) exact functors

$$F' \rightarrow F \rightarrow F'': \mathcal{E}(A, \mathfrak{L}, \mathfrak{B}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(A, \mathfrak{L}_0, \mathfrak{B})$$

$$F'(A \xrightarrow{\gamma} C \xrightarrow{\alpha} B) = A \xrightarrow{=} A \xrightarrow{\gamma} A$$

$$F(A \xrightarrow{\gamma} C \xrightarrow{\alpha} B) = A \xrightarrow{\gamma} C \xrightarrow{\alpha} B$$

$$F''(A \xrightarrow{\gamma} C \xrightarrow{\alpha} B) = A \xrightarrow{\gamma} B \xrightarrow{\alpha} B$$

Then $F'_s \vee F''_s \cong F''_s$ by (2).

and

$$(F'_s \vee F''_s)(A \xrightarrow{\gamma} B \xrightarrow{\alpha} C)$$

$$= A \xrightarrow{\gamma} A \vee B \xrightarrow{\alpha} C$$

$$= \text{sor}(A \xrightarrow{\gamma} B \xrightarrow{\alpha} C)$$

So

$$\text{sor} \cong \text{id}_{\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{E}(A, \mathfrak{L}, \mathfrak{B}))}$$

(19)

Prop: The additivity theorem

holds iff $\{K(\mathcal{Y})_n, \sigma_n\}$

is an λ -spectrum

Proof: First, we observe that

$$|\omega S_2 \mathcal{Y}| \xrightarrow{(d_1)_*} |\omega \mathcal{Y}| \xrightarrow{j} |\omega S_0 \mathcal{Y}|$$

$$(d_0)_* \circ (d_2)_*$$

$$\text{then } (d_1)_* \circ j \simeq (d_0)_* \circ (d_2)_* \circ j$$

by construction of the map j .

We have a map

$$|\omega S_2 \mathcal{Y}| \times |\Delta^2| \rightarrow \coprod_{i=0}^2 |\omega S_i \mathcal{Y}| \times |\Delta^i| = |\omega S_0 \mathcal{Y}|^{(2)}$$

where $|\omega S_0 \mathcal{Y}|^{(2)}$ is the 2-skeleton
of $|\omega S_0 \mathcal{Y}|$.

Then we have a map

$$|w\mathcal{S}_2\mathcal{G}| \xrightarrow{(d_1)_*} |w\mathcal{G}| \xrightarrow{j} |w\mathcal{S}_*\mathcal{G}|_{(2)}$$

and $|Δ^2|$ gives a homotopy

from $(d_1)_* \circ j$ to

$$(d_0 \circ j) * (d_2 \circ j)$$

where $*$ is the concatenation of loops

which is homotopic to the

operation on the H-space $|w\mathcal{S}_*\mathcal{G}|_{(2)}$.

More generally, $(d_1)_*$

$$|w\mathcal{S}_*^{(n)}(\mathcal{S}_2\mathcal{G})| \xrightarrow{f} |w\mathcal{S}_*^{(n)}\mathcal{G}| \xrightarrow{(d_0)_* \vee (d_1)_*} |w\mathcal{S}_*^{(n+1)}\mathcal{G}|$$

$$(d_1)_* \circ f \simeq (d_0)_* \vee (d_1)_* \circ f$$

(21)

Consequently, if

$$(\omega S, \zeta) \rightarrow (\omega S, \zeta^{(2)})$$

is a homomorphism then

$$(\omega S, (S_2 \zeta)) \xrightarrow{(\alpha_1)_*} (\omega S, \zeta) \xrightarrow{\cong} (\omega S, \zeta^{(2)})$$

$$(\alpha_0)_* \vee (\alpha_1)_*$$

implies

$$(\beta_1)_* \cong (\alpha_0)_* \vee (\alpha_1)_*$$

\Rightarrow additivity

Conversely, if the additivity theorem holds this implies

$$(\omega S^{(n)} \zeta) \rightarrow (\omega S^{(n+1)} \zeta)$$

is a homomorphism.

(22)

We will defer the proof until later. Given a functor

$$X: \overline{J} \rightarrow \text{Top}$$

define

$$\underset{k \in \overline{J}}{\text{holim}} X_k := \{ [m] \mapsto \coprod_{j \in N_m J} X_{j_0} \}$$

where $j = (j_0 \rightarrow j_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow j_m)$

Let

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{naive}}^\infty K(\mathcal{G}) := \underset{n \in \mathbb{N}}{\text{holim}} \Lambda^n \text{Ws}_+^{(n)} \mathcal{G}$$

Prop: The additivity theorem holds for

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{naive}}^\infty K(\mathcal{G}).$$

Proof The two composite

$$(d_1)_* \quad |wS_*^{(n)} S_2 \mathcal{L}| \xrightarrow{\cdot} |wS_*^{(n)} \mathcal{Y}| \xrightarrow{j} |wS_*^{(n+1)} \mathcal{Y}|$$

$$(d_0)_* \vee (d_1)_*$$

So after applying no col. we
 $n \in \mathbb{N}$

have

$$\lambda_{\text{naive}}^\infty K(S_2 \mathcal{L}) \xrightarrow{\cdot} \lambda_{\text{naive}}^\infty K(\mathcal{Y}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \lambda_{\text{naive}}^\infty K(\mathcal{Y})$$

$$(d_0)_* \vee (d_1)_*$$

So the additivity theorem

holds for $\lambda_{\text{naive}}^\infty K(\mathcal{Y})$. //

This leads us to the following.

Def: A global Euler characteristic

is a pair (E, χ) where

$E : \text{Wald} \rightarrow \text{CGWH}$ is a functor

and $\chi : \text{ob}(-) \rightarrow E(-)$ is a natural transformation such that

$$1) E(Y \times D) \xrightarrow{\sim} E(Y) \times E(D)$$

2) E satisfies the additivity theorem

3) The functor

$$\mathcal{L} \rightarrow \omega_{\mathcal{L}} := \text{Arr}(\omega_{\mathcal{L}})$$

$$c \longmapsto \begin{smallmatrix} \vdots & \vdots \\ c & \longmapsto c \end{smallmatrix}$$

induces an equivalence

$$E(\mathcal{L}) \xrightarrow{\sim} E(\omega_{\mathcal{L}})$$

4) $E(\mathcal{L})$ is a group-like H-space.

Rank: By a result of Segal

(1) $E(\mathcal{B}) \cong \lambda^n Y_n$ for some space Y_n
for all n i.e.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E: \text{Wald} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{C}_\ast \text{GWH} \\ & \downarrow & \\ & & \text{infinite loop spaces} \end{array}$$

(2) If $c \rightarrow d \rightarrow e$ is a cofiber sequence in \mathcal{B} then

$$\chi(c) + \chi(e) \cong \chi(d)$$

where $+$ is the operation \sqcup

the H-space $E(\mathcal{B})$, so

χ is indeed an Euler characteristic.

To see this, note that

$$d_0, d_1, d_2 : S_2 \mathcal{L} \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}$$

$$c \mapsto d \mapsto e \longmapsto c, d, e$$

satisfy

$$E(d) = E(c) + E(e)$$

and we have

$$\chi_{\mathcal{L}} : ob \mathcal{L} \rightarrow E(\mathcal{L})$$

$$\chi_{\mathcal{L}}(c) = E(c) \quad \text{if } c \in \mathcal{L}$$

so

$$\chi_{\mathcal{L}}(d) = \chi_{\mathcal{L}}(c) + \chi_{\mathcal{L}}(e).$$

Def: We say

$$(A, \chi_A) \xrightarrow{f} (B, \chi_B)$$

is a **weak equivalence** if

$$A(\mathcal{L}) \xrightarrow{\sim} B(\mathcal{L}) \text{ is a}$$

homotopy equivalence for all

Waldhausen categories \mathcal{L} .

We write $ho(Eu)$ for

the category whose objects
are Euler characteristics

and morphisms are

$$ho(Eu)(A, B) := Eu(A, B) \underset{f \sim g}{\cancel{\longrightarrow}}$$

where $f \in Eu(A, B)$ if $A(f) \cong B(g)$

if $f: A \Rightarrow B$ and $\chi_B \circ f = \chi_A$.

Thm (Universal property)

The pair (K, X_{univ}) is

the initial object in

$\text{Ho}(\text{Eul})$.

Here

$(X_{\text{univ}})_{\mathcal{L}} : \text{ob } \mathcal{L} \rightarrow K(\mathcal{L})$

is the adjoint of

$S_k, K(\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow | \mathcal{L}(n) \mapsto BwS_n \mathcal{L} |$

"

$BwS_n \mathcal{L} \times \Delta^1$

\sim
is

$\text{ob } \mathcal{L} \wedge S^1$

Proofs next
time!