$\mathbb{A}^1$-INVARIANCE FOR UNSTABLE K_2

S. SINCHUK, A. STAVROVA, AND A. LAVRENOV

1. Aim of the paper

The aim of this text is to prove that the non-stable K_2-functors K_2^G, where G is a simply connected Chevalley group of suitable type, satisfy $\mathbb{A}^1$-invariance on regular rings R containing a field k, that is,

{eq:A1-main} (1.1)
$$K_2^G(R[t]) = K_2^G(R).$$

As a corollary, we should easily deduce that

$$K_2^G(R) = KV_2^G(R),$$

where $KV_2^G(R)$ is the Karoubi–Villamayor K-functor associated to G. This functor originates from [J]. The above equality by e.g. [AHW, Corollary 4.3.3] implies that $\pi_1^{\mathbb{A}^1}(G)(R) = K_2^G(R)$, i.e. we obtain an explicit presentation for the $\mathbb{A}^1$-fundamental group of G in the sense of Morel–Voevodsky.

"Suitable type" here means that we consider only the cases where we know the centrality of K_2, or at least the Quillen-Suslin lgp. Some intermediate steps can be proved in larger generality.

Essentially, we need to prove that $K_2^G(k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]) = K_2^G(k)$. (Then (1.1) follows by standard geometric methods.) There are two models: Tulenbaev's proof for the SL_n case [Tul82] and Stavrova's proof for K_1^G [St14]. Tulenbaev [Tul82] uses stabilization of the K_2-functor, and the good properties of the limit=algebraic K-theory. In [St14] stabilization is not used. However, the key steps of both proofs are the same: the case of $R = k$ (hidden somewhere around [Tul82, p. 140], or, respectively, [St14, Theorem 3.1]); Quillen-Suslin lgp; $\mathbb{P}^1$-gluing (see [Tul82, Theorem 5.1] or [St14, Theorem 1.1]).

1.1. **The case $R = k$.** We consider the case of $K_2^G(k[t])$ vs. $K_2^G(k)$. (As in the $\mathbb{A}^1$-invariance of K_1^G, this case should be used to deduce that $K_2^G(k[t_1, \ldots, t_n]) = K_2^G(k)$.)

In Tulenbaev's framework, it follows from stabilization. However, the equality $K_2^G(k[t]) = K_2^G(k)$ is sort of known for all groups. Namely, in [Wen14, Theorem 5.1]: let k be an infinite field and let G be a connected reductive group over k. Then the inclusion $k \hookrightarrow k[t]$ induces an isomorphism

$$H_\bullet(G(k), \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_\bullet(G(k[t]), \mathbb{Z}),$$

if the order of the fundamental group of G is invertible in k. Once we know that the homology H_2 coincides with K_2^G (on both sides), this gives the result. It would be nice to check Wendt's proof; maybe, discuss it in a seminar?

Is it necessary to know the centrality in order to show that K_2^G coincides with H_2? If yes, then we probably know it for $K_2^G(k)$ even for isotropic groups [Deo], but only for the

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good Chevalley groups for $K_2^G(k[t])$. We should try to understand what is proved in [VW, Proposition 5.3] using only the universality of the Steinberg group. This may be useful. The paper is unpublished, so again everything should be double-checked if you want to refer to it.

1.2. **Plan of the proof.**

plan:3t (1) (**done**, see Theorem 1). Let R be a local ring. Show that
$$\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}]) = i_+(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]))i_-(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}]))i_+(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]))$$
Here $i_\pm$ denote the natural homomorphisms into $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$.

plan:k[t] (2) (open, see Theorem 3). Show that $K_2^G(k[t]) = K_2^G(k)$.

n:k-intersect (3) (**done**). Consequently, $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{\pm 1}])$ is injective and $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t]) \cap \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{-1}]) = \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k)$ inside $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{\pm 1}])$. Also, $K_2^G(k) = K_2^G(k[t^{\pm 1}])$.
The first claim uses (2). The second claim follows from (2) and (1).

plan:QSlgp (4) (**done** for split ACDE, see Theorem 2). Prove Quillen-Suslin lgp for K_2^G.

plan:Zglu (5) (Zariski gluing) for any commutative ring A and any non-nilpotent $f, g \in A$ such that $A = fA + gA$, the sequence of pointed sets
$$1 \longrightarrow K_2^G(A) \xrightarrow{g\mapsto(g,g)} K_2^G(A_f) \times K_2^G(A_g) \xrightarrow{(g_1,g_2)\mapsto g_1 {g_2}^{-1}} K_2^G(A_{fg})$$
is exact. The proof is usually almost the same as for (4).
(Remark. It seems that we need this property only for $A = R[t]$ and f, g non-constant polynomials.)

plan:S-lemma (6) (S-lemma) Let A be a commutative ring, S a multiplicative subset of A. If
$$K_2^G(A[X_1, \ldots, X_n]) = K_2^G(A)$$
for some $n \geq 1$, then $K_2^G(A_S[X_1, \ldots, X_n]) = K_2^G(A_S)$ as well.
This should be easy; see [A, Lemma 3.6].

plan:Nglu (7) (Nisnevich gluing) Assume that B is a subring of a commutative ring A, and let $h \in B$ be a non-nilpotent element. Denote by $F_h : A \to A_h$ the localization homomorphism.
(i) If $Ah + B = A$, i.e. the natural map $B \to A/Ah$ is surjective, then for any $x \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(A_h)$ there exist $y \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(A)$ and $z \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(B_h)$ such that $x = F_h(y)z$.
(ii) If moreover $Ah \cap B = Bh$, i.e. $B/Bh \to A/Ah$ is an isomorphism, and h is not a zero divisor in A, then the sequence of pointed sets
$$K_2^G(B) \xrightarrow{g\mapsto(F_h(g),g)} K_2^G(B_h) \times K_2^G(A) \xrightarrow{(g_1,g_2)\mapsto g_1 F_h(g_2)^{-1}} K_2^G(A_h)$$
is exact.
This should use something from the proof of (4) or (5); see [St14, Lemma 3.4].

plan:P1 (8) ($\mathbb{P}^1$-gluing) Let A be any commutative ring. Show that the sequence of pointed sets
$$1 \longrightarrow K_2^G(A) \xrightarrow{g\mapsto(g,g)} K_2^G(A[t]) \times K_2^G(A[t^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{(g_1,g_2)\mapsto g_1 {g_2}^{-1}} K_2^G(A[t, t^{-1}])$$
is exact.
This should use (2), (4), (1), (3).

plan:[]f (9) (Main corollary of $\mathbb{P}^1$-gluing) Let A be any commutative ring, and let $f \in A[t]$ be a monic polynomial. Show that $K_2^G(A[t]) \to K_2^G(A[t]_f)$ is injective.
The proof uses (5) and (8).

plan:k(t) (10) Prove that $K_2^G(k(t)) = K_2^G(k)$.
This may be a bit tricky; I will think if we can get rid of it. I don't think Tulenbaev uses it.

plan:k[tn] (11) Prove that

$$K_2^G(k[t_1,\dots,t_n]) = K_2^G(k).$$

If we strictly follow the pattern of K_1^G, this uses (9), (2), and (10). There may be other ways.

plan:final (12) Final result: let R be a regular ring containing a field k. Then $K_2^G(R[t]) = K_2^G(R)$.
This uses (4), (11) and (7).

2. Steinberg groups of Chevalley groups: preliminaries

Definition, functoriality, "congruence subgroups" $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(\Phi, R, I)$ versus $\ker(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(\Phi, R) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(\Phi, R/I))$.

3. Decomposition theorems for $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(A[t^{\pm 1}])$ and $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}\big(A((t))\big)$.

Lemma 3.1. *Let (R, m) be a local ring, and let G be a simply connected simple group over R of isotropic rank ≥ 2. Let $i_+ : \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$ and $i_- : \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}] \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$ be the natural homomorphisms. Then*

$$i_+\big(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(m \cdot R[t])^{\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t])}\big) i_-\big(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}]\big) = i_-\big(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}]\big) i_+\big(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(m \cdot R[t])^{\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t])}\big)$$

inside $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$.

Proof. This is proved exactly as [St14, Lemma 5.12]. □

thm:3t **Theorem 1.** *Let R be a local ring, and let G be a simply connected simple group over R of isotropic rank ≥ 2. Let $i_+ : \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$ and $i_- : \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}] \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$ be the natural homomorphisms. Then*

$$\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}]) = i_+(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t])) i_-(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}])) i_+(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t])).$$

Proof. This is proved exactly as [St14, Theorem 5.1]. □

4. Quillen-Suslin lgp, Zariski gluing, Nisnevich gluing, S-lemma

thm:lg-k2 **Theorem 2.** *Let R be arbitrary commutative ring and let G be a simple Chevalley group of type $\mathsf{A}_\ell, \mathsf{C}_\ell, \mathsf{D}_\ell$ or E_ℓ and rank $\ell \geq 3$. An element $g \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t], tR[t])$ is trivial if and only if its image in $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R_M[t], tR_M[t])$ is trivial for all maximal ideals $M \trianglelefteq R$.*

Proof. The case $\Phi = \mathsf{C}_\ell$, $\ell \geq 3$ is contained in some future Lavrenov's solo paper. It think that the case of a simply laced Φ of rank ≥ 3 can be settled in a similar way as in [S15]. We already have a written proof that [Tul82, Lemma 2.3] extends to rank 3 groups, see here. It should be inserted into this article at a some place. □

5. The case of $K_2^G(k[t])$ and some corollaries

thm:k[t] **Theorem 3.** *Let k be a field. Let $G = G(\Phi, -)$ be a simply connected simple Chevalley group of rank ≥ 2 such that ... Then*

$$K_2^G(k[t]) = K_2^G(k).$$

Proof. ??? □

cor:k[t]inj **Corollary 5.1.** *Let G, k be as in Theorem 3. Then $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{\pm 1}])$ is injective and $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t]) \cap \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{-1}]) = \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k)$ inside $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{\pm 1}])$.*

Proof. Clearly, $g \in \ker(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{\pm 1}]))$ implies $g \in K_2^G(k[t])$. Since $K_2^G(k[t]) = K_2^G(k)$, and there is a section $K_2^G(k[t^{\pm 1}]) \to K_2^G(k)$, the map is injective. Second claim: take $g \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t]) \cap \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{-1}])$. Then the image $\phi(g)$ belongs to $E(k) = E(k[t]) \cap E(k[t^{-1}])$, and after adjusting g by an element of $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k)$, we can assume that $g \in K_2^G(k[t]) \cap K_2^G(k[t^{-1}])$. Hence $g \in K_2^G(k) \subseteq \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k)$. □

Corollary 5.2. *Let G, k be as in Theorem 3. Then $K_2^G(k[t^{\pm 1}]) = K_2^G(k)$.*

Proof. We use Theorem 1. Take $g \in K_2^G(k[t^{\pm 1}])$, then $g = x_1 y x_2$, $x_i \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t]))$, $y \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k[t^{-1}]))$. Since $E(k[t]) \cap E(k[t^{-1}]) = E(k)$, we have $y \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k) K_2^G(k[t^{-1}]) = \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k)$ and $x_1 x_2 \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(k)$. That is, $g \in K_2^G(k)$. □

6. $\mathbb{P}^1$-gluing

The following lemma is an analog of [Tul82, Proposition 4.3 (a)].

Lemma 6.1. *Let R be a local ring, $k = R/m$, and let k, G be as in Theorem 3. The natural homomorphism $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$ is injective.*

Proof. Let I be the maximal ideal of R, $l = R/I$, and consider the natural maps $\rho : \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t, t^{-1}]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(l[t, t^{-1}])$, $\rho_+ : \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(l[t])$, $\rho_- : \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(l[t^{-1}])$. Take $x \in \ker(\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]) \to \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$. By the field case Corollary 5.1 one has $\rho_+(x) = 1$, hence $x \in \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(I \cdot R[t])^{\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t])}$.

??????? □

Lemma 6.2. *Let G, k be as in Theorem 3. Let (R, m) be a local ring such that $R/m = k$. Then*

$$\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t]) \cap \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{-1}]) = \mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R)$$

inside $\mathrm{St}^{\mathrm{G}}(R[t^{\pm 1}])$.

Proof. ?????? □

Theorem 4. *Let A be any commutative ring. Then the sequence of pointed sets*

$$1 \longrightarrow K_2^G(A) \xrightarrow{g \mapsto (g,g)} K_2^G(A[t]) \times K_2^G(A[t^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{(g_1, g_2) \mapsto g_1 {g_2}^{-1}} K_2^G(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

is exact.

Proof. ???? □

Corollary 6.3. *Let A be any commutative ring, and let $f \in A[t]$ be a monic polynomial. Show that $K_2^G(A[t]) \to K_2^G(A[t]_f)$ is injective.*

Proof. ???? □

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Department of Mathematics and Mechanics, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia
E-mail address: sinchukss@gmail.com

Department of Mathematics and Mechanics, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia
E-mail address: anastasia.stavrova@gmail.com

Mathematisches Institut der Universität München, Theresienstr. 39, D-80333 München
E-mail address: avlavrenov@gmail.com