

# The "fundamental" theorem of localizing invariants

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GdR Théorie de l'homotopie

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# What's algebraic K-theory

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## Definition

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Many questions about  $R$  can be turned into questions about  $K(R)$ .

## What's algebraic K-theory (2)

Two examples of problems which can be formulated via K-theory:

- (Wall's finiteness obstruction) Let  $X$  be a finitely dominated space, i.e. there is a finite CW-complex  $Y$  which retracts onto  $X$ . Is  $X$  a finite CW-complex itself? The obstruction lies in  $\tilde{K}_0\mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(X)]$ .



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- (Kummer-Vandiver conjecture) Denote  $K$  the maximal real subfield of the  $p$ -cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$ , and  $h_K$  its class number (number of ideal classes). Then, whether  $p$  does *not* divide  $h_K$  is still an open question (for more than 150 years!), and is equivalent to showing that  $K_{4n}(\mathbb{Z}) \simeq 0$  for every  $n \geq 0$ .

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but also the (solved) Quillen-Lichtenbaum conjecture, and many others.

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- Waldhausen categories, i.e. categories equipped with a notion of cofibrations and weak equivalences.
- Waldhausen  $\infty$ -categories.

## Claim

Algebraic K-theory of stable  $\infty$ -category is a sweet spot.

# The Bass-Heller-Swan formula

Let  $R$  be a ring. Can we compute  $K_0(R[t])$  from  $K_0(R)$  ?

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## Proposition

There is an isomorphism  $K_0(R[t]) \simeq K_0(R) \oplus NK_0(R)$  with  $NK_0(R)$  vanishing as soon as  $R$  is a *normal* ring.

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## Theorem [Bass-Heller-Swan]

There is an isomorphism

$$K_0(R[t, t^{-1}]) \simeq K_0(R) \oplus K_{-1}(R) \oplus NK_0^+(R) \oplus NK_0^-(R)$$

where the  $NK_0^+(R)$  are isomorphic to one another<sup>a</sup>, vanishing for normal rings.

---

<sup>a</sup>and to the  $NK_0(R)$  above

# Negative K-groups

A new group has appeared:  $K_{-1}(R)$ . This group is by definition the cokernel of the map  $K_0(R[t]) \oplus K_0(R[t^{-1}]) \rightarrow K_0(R[t, t^{-1}])$ , but it does not appear in our definition for algebraic K-theory:  $K(R)$  is a *connective* spectrum.

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## Non-connective K-theory

There is a Morita-invariant functor  $\mathbb{K}$  taking a ring  $R$  to a (generally non-connective) spectrum  $\mathbb{K}(R)$ , such that:

- For  $n \geq 0$ , there are isomorphism  $K_n(R) \simeq \mathbb{K}_n(R)$ , i.e.  $K(R)$  is the connective cover of  $\mathbb{K}(R)$ .
- $\pi_{-1}\mathbb{K}(R) \simeq K_{-1}(R)$  as defined above.

# The "fundamental" theorem of algebraic K-theory

With this new non-connective K-theory functor, there is a neat Bass-Heller-Swan formula for the entire spectrum:

## Fundamental Theorem for non-connective K-theory

We have an equivalence of spectra

$$\mathbb{K}(R[t, t^{-1}]) \simeq \mathbb{K}(R) \oplus \Sigma\mathbb{K}(R) \oplus NK_+(R) \oplus NK_-(R)$$



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Passing to connective covers, one recovers a formula for regular K-theory with an extra group in  $\pi_0$ , coming from the connective cover of  $\Sigma\mathbb{K}(R)$ . This is the *canonical non-connective delooping of K-theory* that one finds in the classical statements of Quillen/Grayson.

# "Fundamental" theorems ?

## Questions

- Can we have the same for the *sweet spot*, i.e. stable  $\infty$ -categories.
- Can we simplify parts of the proof there ?
- Can we generalize the formula to other invariants related to K-theory, say *THH*, *TC*, *KH*, etc ... ?

To do this, we have to talk in more details about the properties of algebraic K-theory of stable  $\infty$ -categories.

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Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $\infty$ -category.

## Definition

$\mathcal{C}$  is said to be *stable* if the following are satisfied:

- $\mathcal{C}$  is pointed, i.e. has a zero object
- $\mathcal{C}$  admits finite limits and finite colimits.
- Given a square in  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Z & \longrightarrow & T \end{array}$$

the square is cocartesian if and only if it is cartesian.

This is a property of an  $\infty$ -category, not a structure.

# Examples of stable $\infty$ -categories

## Examples (Motivating)

The  $\infty$ -category  $\mathrm{Sp}$  of spectra, whose homotopy category is the stable homotopy category, is stable (hence the name).

However, the  $\infty$ -category of spaces is not stable. It can be stabilized and this yields the above category of spectra.

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## Examples

For every simplicial set  $K$  and every stable  $\mathcal{C}$ , the  $\infty$ -category  $\mathrm{Fun}(K, \mathcal{C})$  of functors from  $K$  to  $\mathcal{C}$  is also stable.

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## Examples

If  $\mathcal{A}$  is abelian, there is a stable  $\infty$ -category  $D(\mathcal{A})$  whose homotopy category is the ordinary *derived category* of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}$  be stable  $\infty$ -categories. A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is said to be exact if it preserves finite limits or finite colimits, in which case it preserves both.



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Denote  $\text{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{Ex}}$  the (non-full!) subcategory of  $\text{Cat}_{\infty}$  spanned by stable  $\infty$ -categories and exact functors.

# Localization of stable $\infty$ -categories

Let  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be a functor.

## Definition

$F$  is a *localisation* at some class  $\mathcal{W}$  of arrows in  $\mathcal{C}$  if for every  $\mathcal{E}$ , precomposition by  $F$  induces an equivalence

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{E})$$

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For exact functors between stable  $\infty$ -categories, localizations are *Verdier quotients*.

# Verdier sequences

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is exact, and sits in a cofiber sequence of  $\text{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{Ex}}$ :

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If  $\mathcal{C}$  is furthermore closed under retracts in  $\mathcal{D}$ , then the above is also a fiber sequence. Such sequences are called *Verdier sequences*.

## Claim

Every localization between stable  $\infty$ -categories is the localization at a Verdier quotient. Every fiber-cofiber sequence is a Verdier sequence.

# Verdier-localizing invariants

Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a presentable stable  $\infty$ -category (which will be  $\mathrm{Sp}$  most of the time).

## Definition

A functor  $F : \mathrm{Cat}_{\infty}^{\mathrm{Ex}} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  is a Verdier-localizing invariant if it sends Verdier sequences to fiber sequences.

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## Examples

Algebraic K-theory  $K : \mathrm{Cat}_{\infty}^{\mathrm{Ex}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Sp}$  is Verdier-localizing.  
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## Examples

Topological Hochschild homology  $THH$  is Verdier-localizing and so is  $TC$ , topological cyclic homology.

Every stable  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  embeds into an *idempotent complete* stable  $\infty$ -category.

# Karoubi equivalences

Every stable  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  embeds into an *idempotent complete* stable  $\infty$ -category.

In fact, there is a "well-behaved" functor  $\text{Idem}$  such that  $\text{Idem}(\mathcal{C})$  is the universal idempotent-complete stable  $\infty$ -category under  $\mathcal{C}$ .  $\text{Idem}(\mathcal{C})$  is also known as the *Karoubi envelope* of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

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If  $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is localization of stable  $\infty$ -categories, then  $\text{Idem}(f)$  is almost a localization: it is a localization on its essential image, and the inclusion of the essential image is a Karoubi-equivalence.

# Karoubi-localizing invariants

## Definition

A functor  $F : \text{Cat}_\infty^{\text{Ex}} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  is Karoubi-localizing if it is Verdier-localizing and inverts Karoubi equivalences.

## Examples

$\mathbb{K}$ ,  $KH$ ,  $THH$  and  $TC$  are Karoubi-localizing. However,  $K$  is *not* Karoubi-localizing. Thomason's cofinality theorem guarantees that  $K_0(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow K_0(\text{Idem}(\mathcal{C}))$  is injective but there are instances where it is not surjective (for instance for  $\mathcal{C} = \text{Sp}^f$  the  $\infty$ -category of finite spectra).

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# Tensoring with $S^1$

If  $R$  is a ring, then one can consider the rings  $R[t]$  and  $R[t, t^{-1}]$  of respectively polynomials and Laurent polynomials. There are maps

$$R[t] \longrightarrow R[t, t^{-1}], \quad R[t^{-1}] \longrightarrow R[t, t^{-1}]$$

given by the two possible inclusion of polynomials into Laurent polynomials which preserve constant polynomials. Note that they correspond to localizing at  $\{t\}$  or  $\{t^{-1}\}$ .

## Tensoring with $S^1$ (2)

In the higher setting of stable  $\infty$ -categories, there is an analogue. If  $\mathcal{C}$  is stable, then so is  $\text{Fun}(S^1, \mathcal{C})$ : this is the category of objects of  $\mathcal{C}$  with an action of  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

### Definition-Proposition

There exists  $S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}$  a stable  $\infty$ -category with a map  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}$  inducing an equivalence for every stable  $\mathcal{D}$ :

$$\text{Fun}^{\text{Ex}}(S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}^{\text{Ex}}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Fun}(S^1, \mathcal{D}))$$

We have similar definitions replacing  $S^1$  by  $S^1_+ := B\mathbb{N}_+$  and  $S^1_- := B\mathbb{N}_-$  (these are equivalent but they correspond to the two different identifications of  $B\mathbb{N}$  in  $B\mathbb{Z}$ ).



# The Projective Line

For a stable  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$ , there are two maps

$$T_{\pm} : S_{\pm}^1 \otimes \mathcal{C} \rightarrow S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}$$

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We have the analogue of the case of ordinary rings:

## Proposition

$T_+$  and  $T_-$  are Verdier projections, i.e. localizations at some class of arrows.

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## Proposition

$T_+$  and  $T_-$  are Verdier projections, i.e. localizations at some class of arrows.

We can consider the following pullback square of stable  $\infty$ -categories:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{C}) & \longrightarrow & S_+^1 \otimes \mathcal{C} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ S_-^1 \otimes \mathcal{C} & \longrightarrow & S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

We say that  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{C})$  is the *Projective Line* of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

# The Projective Line under a Verdier-localizing invariant

## Theorem

If  $F$  is a Verdier-localizing invariant, then:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{C})) & \longrightarrow & F(S^1_+ \otimes \mathcal{C}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ F(S^1_- \otimes \mathcal{C}) & \longrightarrow & F(S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}) \end{array}$$

is a cartesian square.

This follows from the pasting lemma and the stability of Verdier projections under pullback.

# The $\infty$ -categorical Projective Bundle formula

Suppose  $\mathcal{C}$  is stable, **idempotent complete**.

## Theorem

For  $F$  a Verdier-localizing invariant, we have splittings

$$F(\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{C})) \simeq F(\mathcal{C}) \oplus F(\mathcal{C}) \quad (1)$$

$$F(S_{\pm}^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}) \simeq F(\mathcal{C}) \oplus N_{\pm} F(\mathcal{C}) \quad (2)$$

There are versions of (1) for rings and even  $E_{\infty}$ -rings (and  $\mathbb{P}^1(R)$  is the projective line scheme), where it is usually called the *Projective Bundle formula*.

# The Main Result

By combining the last two results, we get:

## Theorem

For  $F$  a Verdier-localizing invariant and  $\mathcal{C}$  stable, idempotent complete, we have a splitting

$$F(S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}) \simeq F(\mathcal{C}) \oplus \Sigma F(\mathcal{C}) \oplus N_+ F(\mathcal{C}) \oplus N_- F(\mathcal{C})$$

## Examples

One can consider Karoubi-localizing  $F$  such that  $N_{\pm} F$  vanishes. These are the stable  $\infty$ -categorical version of  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -invariant functors. For those  $F$ , the formula simplifies to

$$F(S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}) \simeq F(\mathcal{C}) \oplus \Sigma F(\mathcal{C})$$

## Issue

When  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $\text{Perf}(R)$  the stable, idempotent-complete  $\infty$ -category of compact objects of  $R\text{-Mod}$ , then  $S^1 \otimes \mathcal{C}$  is not quite  $\text{Perf}(R[t, t^{-1}])$ .

However, it is true that  $\text{Idem}(S^1 \otimes \text{Perf}(R)) \simeq \text{Perf}(R[t, t^{-1}])$  ! So when our invariants are Karoubi-localizing, the formula of the previous slide computes the correct thing. Hence, the following formulas are correct

$$\mathbb{K}(R[t, t^{-1}]) \simeq \mathbb{K}(R) \oplus \Sigma \mathbb{K}(R) \oplus N_+ \mathbb{K}(R) \oplus N_- \mathbb{K}(R)$$

$$THH(R[t, t^{-1}]) \simeq THH(R) \oplus \Sigma THH(R) \oplus N_+ THH(R) \oplus N_- THH(R)$$

$$TC(R[t, t^{-1}]) \simeq TC(R) \oplus \Sigma TC(R) \oplus N_+ TC(R) \oplus N_- TC(R)$$

## Consequences (2)

Let  $X$  be a space and denote  $\mathbb{A}(X)$  the non-connective K-theory of  $\text{Fun}(X, \text{Sp})^c$ , the subcategory of compact objects of  $\text{Fun}(X, \text{Sp})$ . Then,

$$\mathbb{A}(X \times S^1) \simeq \mathbb{A}(X) \oplus \Sigma\mathbb{A}(X) \oplus N_+\mathbb{A}(X) \oplus N_-\mathbb{A}(X)$$

If we pass to connective covers, we get a (known) formula for  $A(X)$ , Waldhausen's A-theory functor (the finitely-dominated version).



# What's next ?

## Question

For an (ordinary) additive category  $\mathcal{A}$  equipped with a self-equivalence  $\phi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ , Lück and Steimle have a formula to compute the twisted Laurent polynomials  $\mathcal{A}_\phi[t, t^{-1}]$ . Can it be upgraded to stable  $\infty$ -categories?

## Question

A recent 9-author collaboration has developed hermitian K-theory, with Poincaré  $\infty$ -categories taking the place of stable ones. Is there a Bass-Heller-Swan formula in this context as well?

## Question

What about other theorems of algebraic K-theory that are known in the case of rings or ring spectra (one major candidate would be Dundas-Goodwillie-McCarthy)?

# Questions ?

Thank you for your attention!