

§9: K-theory through localisation

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Goal: For \mathcal{C} split exact category: $K(\mathcal{C}) \cong \mathcal{B}(K(\mathcal{C})^{-1}(\mathcal{C}))$.

Throughout let \mathcal{C} be a split exact category

Def: $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{C})$ is the category with objects exact sequences

$$A \xrightarrow{i} B \xrightarrow{p} C$$

and morphisms

$$(i, p) \rightarrow (i', p')$$

are equivalence classes of diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A' & \longleftarrow & A & = & A \\ i' \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow i \\ B' & = & B & \longrightarrow & B \\ p' \downarrow & & \downarrow & \longleftarrow & \downarrow p \\ C' & \longleftarrow & D & \longrightarrow & C \end{array}$$

follows

We have a map

$$f: \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{C})$$

sending the above diagram to the bottom line. For $c \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}})$ we write

$$E_c = f^{-1}(c).$$

So a map in E_c is a diagram

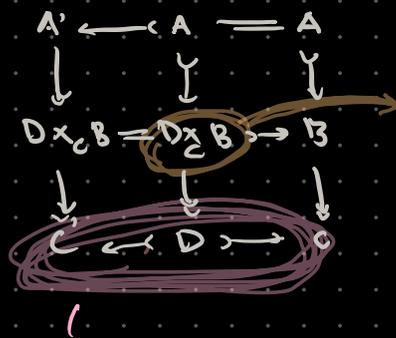
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A' & \longleftarrow & A & & \\ i' \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow i \\ B' & \xrightarrow{\sim} & B & & \\ p' \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\ C & = & C & & \end{array}$$

In particular, $E_0 = \text{sd}(\mathcal{C})$.

LEM: f is cofibered

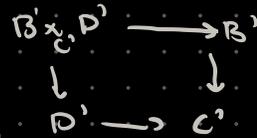
PF: Take $A \xrightarrow{i} B \xrightarrow{p} C$ an object in $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{C})$, $c' \in \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}$ and $\psi = (c' \longleftarrow D \longrightarrow c)$ map in $\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{C})$.

Then the universal lift of φ is the diagram



Remark

Remark before hand we have chosen for each $B' \rightarrow c'$ and $D' \rightarrow c'$ some pullback



For this map fixed, the cobase change sends right hand vertical line to left hand vertical line

Consider the action

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \mathcal{C} \times \xi(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \xi(\mathcal{C}) \\
 (P, A \xrightarrow{L} B \xrightarrow{P} C) \mapsto (P \oplus A \rightarrow P \oplus B \rightarrow C) \\
 \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \begin{pmatrix} \text{id} & 0 \\ 0 & P \end{pmatrix} \quad (0, P)
 \end{array}$$

This is fibrewise w.r.t. f

Recall:

In general

$\leadsto \tilde{f} : (\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}} \xi(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}$
 where \tilde{f} we earlier denoted by \tilde{f}

$f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$
 $+ \delta \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ fibrewise w.r.t. f

$\leadsto \tilde{q} : \delta \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$
 $(A, F) \mapsto q(F)$

$[B, \varphi_1 : B \times A \rightarrow A, \varphi_2 : B \times F \rightarrow F] \downarrow \begin{matrix} q(\varphi_2) \\ q(F) \end{matrix}$

$\leadsto q \text{ cofibered} \Rightarrow \tilde{q} \text{ cofibered}$

$\leadsto f \text{ cofibered} \Rightarrow \tilde{f} \text{ cofibered}$

We need 3 things:

① $B\xi(\mathcal{C}) \simeq *$

Proof: let $\tau\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ be the full subcategory spanned by admissible monics. We have

$$g: \mathcal{E}(c) \rightarrow \text{sd}(\mathcal{TC})$$

$$(A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C) \mapsto (A \rightarrow B)$$

map \mapsto upper two squares in diagram

Note that g is fully faithful and surjective on objects.

So it suffices to note that

$$B\text{sd}(\mathcal{TC}) = |\mathcal{N}(\text{sd}(\mathcal{TC}))|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}\text{sd}(\mathcal{TC}) &\cong |\text{sd}(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{TC}))| \\ &\cong B(\mathcal{TC}) \end{aligned}$$

\cong \times $0 \in \mathcal{TC}$ is initial

② $B\langle c, E_c \rangle$ is contractible

Proof Let $\mathcal{E} = \langle c, E_c \rangle$. Consider

$$*: \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$$

$$(A \rightarrow B \rightarrow c, A' \rightarrow B' \rightarrow c) \mapsto (A \oplus A' \rightarrow B \oplus B' \rightarrow c)$$

Then the induced maps

$$\mu: B\mathcal{E} \times B\mathcal{E} \rightarrow B\mathcal{E}$$

$$c = (0 = 0 \rightarrow c)$$

endow $B\mathcal{E}$ with structure of an H -space ^{homotopy eq.} and moreover $B\mathcal{E}$ is (path) connected. ^{This uses G is split.}

We have that μ induces

$$\bullet: \pi_n(B\mathcal{E}, c) \times \pi_n(B\mathcal{E}, c) \rightarrow \pi_n(B\mathcal{E}, c)$$

which coincides with the usual group structure

$$a \cdot b = a + b \quad \sim \text{Eckmann-Hilton argument}$$

So suffices: $a \cdot a = a$ for all a

Note that the canonical

$$*: (-) * \Delta \Rightarrow \text{id}$$

gives a natural transformation

$$\sim, \eta = B(\Delta) \simeq \text{id}$$

$$\sim, a \cdot a' = a \quad \forall a$$

$$\sim, a > 0 \quad \forall a \in \Pi_n(B, \mathbb{C})$$

③ For each $\varphi = (c' \leftarrow d \rightarrow c)$ in $\mathcal{Q}(C)^{\text{op}}$, the cobase change

$$\varphi_* : (LC)' \rightarrow (LC)'$$

induces a homotopy equivalence on classifying spaces.

PF. First consider

$$\varphi = (0 = b \rightarrow c)$$

$$E_0 = \text{sd}(LC)$$

$$G \xrightarrow{F} \text{sd}(C_1, C) \xrightarrow{F} LC$$

$$A \xrightarrow{\quad} A \times_{\text{id}} A$$

$$\downarrow \quad \quad \quad \downarrow$$

$$(A \rightarrow A) \xrightarrow{\quad} A$$

Take $F = (A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C)$ and consider

$$\iota_F : G \rightarrow E_c$$

$$\mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}(C)^{\text{op}}$$

Now

$$LC \xrightarrow{i} E_c \xrightarrow{\varphi_*} E_0 \xrightarrow{\exists} iG$$

which we know induces a homotopy eq. on classifying

spaces, but let $\{iG, E_c\}$ is contractible $\sim \varphi_*$ induces an

equivalence. Now consider

$$\varphi'_0 = (c \leftarrow x \rightarrow c)$$

and take

$$\varphi'_0 = \varphi \circ \varphi$$

where x is $\ker(d \rightarrow c')$. Then

$$(U\mathbb{C})^{-1} E_c \rightarrow (U\mathbb{C})^{-1} E_c$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \searrow \varphi_0 & \swarrow \tilde{\varphi}_0 \\ & (U\mathbb{C})^{-1} & \end{array}$$

Thm: $K(E) \cong B(U\mathbb{C})^{-1} \times B(U\mathbb{C})$

PF: f cofibrant $\leadsto B\tilde{f}^{-1}(c) \cong B(\tilde{f}/c)$ we can apply Thm B

\leadsto hitpy fiber sequence

$$B((U\mathbb{C})^{-1} E_c) \rightarrow \underbrace{B(U\mathbb{C})^{-1} \tilde{f}(c)}_{B(\tilde{f}/c)} \xrightarrow{B(\tilde{f})} B(Q(E)^{op})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow B((U\mathbb{C})^{-1} E_c) &\cong \Omega B(Q(E)^{op}) \\ &\cong K(E). \end{aligned}$$

$B\tilde{f}(E)$ contractible, so
the action is invertible, so
 $B((U\mathbb{C})^{-1} \tilde{f}(c))$
 $\cong B(\tilde{f}(c))$
 $= *$