Abstract. The “Arbeitsgemeinschaft mit aktuellem Thema ‘Twisted K-Theory’ ” gave an introduction to several aspects of twisted K-theory. It started with a couple of different definitions of twisted K-theory, suitable in situations of varying complexity from spaces to topological stacks. Then the AG presented tools of calculations like Chern characters with values in the corresponding twisted ordinary cohomology theories, and example calculations e.g. for Lie groups, or via T-duality. The program culminated in the theorem of Freed-Hopkins-Teleman calculating equivariant twisted K-theory of simple Lie groups in term of the Verlinde algebra of loop group representations.


Introduction by the Organisers

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft mit aktuellem Thema “Twisted K-theory”, organized by Ulrich Bunke (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), Dan Freed (University of Texas at Austin), and Thomas Schick (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), was held from October 8 through October 14, 2006.

Ordinary (co)homology theories always come along with twisted versions of themselves; the most basic example is cohomology twisted by the orientation bundle, which shows up when one discusses Poincaré duality (and more general push-forward maps) for non-orientable manifolds.

Twisted K-theory is important from this point of view. Even if a manifold is orientable in the ordinary sense, its K-theory does not satisfy Poincaré duality. However, this is the case if one considers twisted K-theory (one has to twist with the bundle of complex Clifford algebras of the cotangent bundle). In fact, some
constructions of twisted cohomology theories are quite classical and can be done in the context of parametrized stable homotopy theory (which on the other hand is itself constantly developing further).

The modern interest in twisted \( K \)-theory, however, stems from mathematical physics, in particular from string theory. In this theory \( D \)-branes are objects whose charges are measured, in the presence of a \( B \)-field, by twisted \( K \)-theory. The topological backgrounds of \( B \)-fields \( \beta \) on a space \( X \) are classified by three dimensional integral cohomology classes. Representatives of the \( B \)-field (which were called twists during the Arbeitsgemeinschaft) are precisely the data needed to define twisted \( K \)-theory \( K^\beta(X) \). In one version of the theory one associates to a twist a non-commutative \( C^* \)-algebra whose \( K \)-theory is by definition the twisted \( K \)-theory.

Twisted \( K \)-theory in mathematics has evolved to an interdisciplinary area which combines elements of topology, non-commutative geometry, functional analysis, representation theory, mathematical physics and other. In the Arbeitsgemeinschaft we presented various aspects of the foundations of twisted \( K \)-theory and the key calculations. We discussed the construction of twisted equivariant \( K \)-theory in different contexts (e.g. homotopy theory, non-commutative geometry, groupoids or stacks) and the verification of the basic functorial properties.

In order to get used to the definitions we made example calculations of twisted \( K \)-theory using methods from algebraic topology (Mayer-Vietoris sequences and some spectral sequences). The Umkehr- (or integration or Gysin map) for twisted \( K \)-theory is of particular importance and was illustrated through an interpretation of the classical Borel-Weil-Bott theorem. The culmination of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft was the calculation of the equivariant twisted \( K \)-theory of compact Lie groups due to Freed-Hopkins-Teleman and the interpretation of this result in the context of representation theory of loop groups.

In the string theory context, some aspects of mirror symmetry are reflected in twisted \( K \)-theory; under certain situations a non-commutative space-time (i.e. a space with \( B \)-field) will have a dual with isomorphic \( K \)-theory, possibly in shifted degrees. The mathematical formulation of this is \( T \)-duality, which was worked out at the AG, and was studied also as a computational tool.

In connection with \( T \)-duality, but also in the equivariant situation not only ordinary spaces but more singular objects naturally show up. This results in the need to work out equivariant twisted \( K \)-theory, twisted \( K \)-theory for orbifolds, and for even more singular spaces. A convenient framework to develop this in the necessary generality is the language of stacks, which was introduced and used during the AG.

A Chern character was constructed which relates twisted \( K \)-theory to twisted (de Rham) cohomology. During the AG, it was worked out that sheaf theory is important here and developments in twisted \( K \)-theory are in fact topological versions of similar results and constructions in algebraic geometry.
An interesting feature of the definition of twisted \(K\)-theory in terms of cycles and relations is that those cycles appear naturally in geometric and analytic constructions. As mentioned above, starting from representations of compact Lie groups, an explicit construction of cycles given by families of Dirac type operators was discussed in connection with the Borel-Weil-Bott theorem. In a more elaborately way, this also works for (projective) representations of loop groups, as was first discovered in the physics related literature. Using this idea the calculation of the equivariant twisted \(K\)-theory of a compact Lie group \(G\) (acting on itself by conjugation) by Freed-Hopkins-Teleman (FHT) can be explicitly interpreted in terms of cycles. In this way the twisted \(K\)-theory is identified with the \(K\)-group of projective positive energy representations of the loop group \(L G\). The twist corresponds to the “level” of the representation. It was one of the major goals of the AG to prove this FHT theorem.

It turns out that the twisted \(K\)-theory on the one side, and the \(K\)-group of projective positive energy representations on the other side, both have a subtle products (in \(K\)-theory the Pontryagin product induced by the multiplication map, and the Fusion product (Verlinde algebra) on the other side), and the FHT-isomorphism respects these multiplications. The construction of the \(K\)-theoretic product was addressed, but because of lack of time we were not able to prove multiplicativity of the FHT-isomorphism. In the Arbeitsgemeinschaft we actually discussed a related product for the twisted \(K\)-theory of orbifolds with is closely related to the quantum product in orbifold cohomology.

Altogether, there were 17 talks by the participants, two sessions where questions left open during the talks were discussed, and ample free interaction between the participants.

The conference was attended by 45 participants coming mainly from all over Europe, Northern America and Australia. It is a pleasure to thank the institute for providing a pleasant and stimulating atmosphere.
Workshop: Arbeitsgemeinschaft mit aktuellem Thema: Twisted K-Theory

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Abstracts

Talk 1: Equivariant K-theory

JESPER GRODAL

I introduced equivariant K-theory as an example of an equivariant cohomology theory. I started by giving the axioms of a \(G\)-equivariant cohomology theory for \(G\) a compact group, as e.g., presented in [1]. I gave several examples of equivariant cohomology theories. These included how to obtain a Borel equivariant cohomology theory from a non-equivariant cohomology theory, Bredon equivariant cohomology, as well as of course equivariant K-theory. I described basic properties of equivariant K-theory, such as the equivariant K-theory of homogeneous spaces, module structure over the representation ring, etc. I then went on to state the Atiyah-Segal completion theorem [2], illustrated with the example of \(\Sigma_3\), showing the difference between equivariant K-theory and its completion.

The next part of my talk was on the Thom homomorphism which I described in some detail following [3]. I stated the Thom isomorphism theorem, and used this to write up the six term exact sequence in equivariant K-theory, establishing that equivariant K-theory is an equivariant cohomology theory on the category of finite \(G\)-CW-complexes.

I then went on to describe the dual \(C^*\)-algebra picture, following the book of Blackadar [4]. I recalled the notion of a \(G\)-\(C^*\)-algebra, and defined the equivariant K-theory of a \(G\)-\(C^*\)-algebra. I briefly mentioned the equivariant Swan theorem, linking topological equivariant K-theory and equivariant K-theory for \(C^*\)-algebras.

I explained how the equivariant K-theory of a \(G\)-\(C^*\)-algebra can be identified with the non-equivariant K-theory of the corresponding crossed-product \(C^*\)-algebra, illustrating the usefulness of the methods of non-commutative topology.

Finally I mentioned that equivariant K-theory can naturally be extended to an equivariant cohomology theory on all \(G\)-CW-complexes by exhibiting a suitable \(G\)-classifying space, but time prevented me from providing any details of these constructions.

References

Talk 2: Twisted K-theory - Basic Definitions

José Manuel Gómez

In general cohomology theories come along with twisted versions of them. If $h^*$ is a cohomology theory then by Brown’s representation theorem, $h^*$ is represented by an $\Omega$-spectrum $\{E_n\}$ i.e. a sequence of spaces together with homotopy equivalences $E_n \to \Omega E_{n+1}$. A multiplicative cohomology theory such as K-theory is represented by a ring spectrum. If $E$ is a ring spectrum then $Z = E_0$ is an $E_\infty$-ring space and $\pi_0(Z)$ is a ring. If we write $Z = \coprod_{\alpha \in \pi_0(E_0)} Z_\alpha$ the we can consider $Z \otimes = \coprod_{\alpha \in \pi_0(E_0)} Z_\alpha$. $Z \otimes$ is an infinity loop space and the corresponding spectrum is the spectrum of units associated to $h^*$. In general $BZ \otimes$ classifies the twistings for $h^*$.

For the case of K-theory we have the representing spectrum $\{E_n\}$ is $E_n = BU \times \mathbb{Z}$ if $n$ is even and $E_n = U$ if $n$ is odd. In this case we have that $Z \otimes \simeq \{\pm 1\} \times BU \otimes$ and thus for a spaces $X$ twisting in K-theory are classified by homotopy classes of maps $X \to B((\pm 1) \times BU \otimes)$. We have a factorization as infinite loop spaces $BU \otimes = K(\mathbb{Z}, 2) \times BSU \otimes$. It follows that twistings in K-theory are classified by maps to $K(\mathbb{Z}/2, 1) \times K(\mathbb{Z}, 3) \times BBSU \otimes$. Thus for a compact space $X$ we have twistings corresponding to elements in $H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/2)$, $H^3(X, \mathbb{Z})$ and $[X, B(BSU \otimes)]$.

In this talk, I presented a model for twisted K-theory for the twistings corresponding to $H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/2) \times H^3(X, \mathbb{Z})$ following [3]. This model is based on bundles of projective spaces $P \to X$ whose fibers are of the form $\mathbb{P}(H)$ and have structure group $PU(H)$ with the compact open topology (Here $H$ is a complex infinite dimensional separable Hilbert space) and that come along with an unital involution in each fiber $P_x$. An involution of projective spaces $P_x$ expresses it as the joint of two disjoint projective spaces $\mathbb{P}_x^+ \cup \mathbb{P}_x^-$ which we assume to fit together as to form tame embeddings (i.e. one that locally looks like the inclusion $X \times \mathbb{P}(H) \hookrightarrow X \times \mathbb{P}(H)$ for a closed Hilbert subspace $H_0$ of $H$). To such $P$ we can associate a double cover and hence a cohomology class $\zeta_P$. Also via the Dixmier-Douady class we can associate to $P$ a third circle cohomology class $\eta_P$. We show that $P$ is uniquely determined, up isomorphism, by $\zeta_P, \eta_P$. In a similar way one can classify the automorphisms of such a bundle $P \to X$. In fact one can associate to each connected component of the automorphism group of $P \to X$ a class in $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ that uniquely determines it.

If for a bundle $P \to X$ the structure group can be reduced to $PU(H)$ with norm topology, then as this group acts continuously by conjugation on $Fred(H)$, then to the bundle $P \to X$ we can associated a bundle $Fred(P) \to X$ whose fiber at $x$ is $Fred(H_x)$ with $P_x = \mathbb{P}(H_x)$. (The space $Fred(H_x)$ is canonically determined even though $H_x$ is not). In this situation we can define $K_P^0(X) = \text{Set of homotopy classes of sections of } Fred(P) \to X$. In the general case we show how to find a space $Fred(H)$ homotopy equivalent to $Fred(H)$ on which $PU(H)$ with compact open topology acts continuously. Thus as in the previous situation we can associate to $P \to X$ a bundle $Fred'P \to X$ and define $K_P^0(X) = \text{Set of homotopy classes of sections of } Fred'P \to X$. 
In the talk it was discussed how to define the higher groups, the existence of Bott periodicity theorem and Mayer-Vietoris long exact sequence in the twisted case. Also we discussed the Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence and the computation of the $d_3$ differential in this case. To finish we show how the higher differentials after tensoring with $\mathbb{Q}$ of this spectral sequence in general are not trivial and are given by the Massey higher products.

**References**


**Talk 3: Equivariant twisted K-theory**

**JOHANNES EBERT**

The main source for this talk was [1]. The goals are the definition of equivariant twisted $K$-theory and the classification of equivariant twists. Throughout this talk, $G$ will be a compact Lie group and $X$ a left $G$-space.

**Definition 1.** A $G$-equivariant projective bundle on $X$ is a triple $(P; \pi; \rho)$, where $\pi : P \to X$ is a projective bundle with structural group $\mathbb{P}U(H)$, endowed with the compact-open-topology; $\rho : G \times P \to P$ an action by projective isometries, such that $\pi$ is $G$-equivariant. There are additional technical conditions.

A $G$-equivariant projective bundle $P$ is called stable or an equivariant twist if $P \otimes L^2(G) \cong P$ as a projective $G$-bundle.

Let $P \to X$ be an equivariant twist on $X$. Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a separable stable $G$-Hilbert space (i.e. $\mathcal{H} \otimes L^2(G) \cong \mathcal{H}$). Let $Q \to X$ be the associated $G$-equivariant $\mathbb{P}U(H)$-principal bundle. Let $\text{Fred}(P) := Q \times_{\mathbb{P}U(H)} \text{Fred}(\mathcal{H})$, which is a $G$-equivariant bundle on $X$ (one has to choose an appropriate model for the space $\text{Fred}(\mathcal{H})$).

**Definition 2.** Let $X$ be a $G$-space and let $P \to X$ be a $G$-equivariant twist. Then the equivariant twisted $K$-theory is $K^0_{P,G}(X) := \pi_0(\text{Sect}(X; \text{Fred}(P))^G)$.

We can form the fiberwise loop space $\Omega^n \text{Fred}(P) := Q \times_{\mathbb{P}U(H)} \Omega^n \text{Fred}(\mathcal{H})$. For $n \geq 0$, define $K^n_{P,G}(X) := \pi_0(\text{Sect}(X; \Omega^n \text{Fred}(P))^G)$.

There is an alternative definition of the $K$-theory in terms of algebraic $K$-theory. Let $X$ be compact. Let $K$ be the $C^*$-algebra (without unit) of compact operators on $\mathcal{H}$ and consider the bundle of $C^*$-algebras $Q \times_{\mathbb{P}U(H)}$. The algebra $\Gamma(K_P)$ of sections $X \to \times_{\mathbb{P}U(H)}$ is a $C^*$-algebra with a $G$-action.
Proposition 3. For all $n \geq 0$, there is a natural isomorphism $K_{G,P}^{-n}(X) \cong K_n^G(\Gamma(K_P))$.

For the notion of $G$-equivariant $K$-theory of $C^\ast$-algebras, see [2], chapter 11. Because Bott periodicity holds for the equivariant $K$-theory of $C^\ast$-algebras, we conclude that equivariant twisted $K$-theory has Bott periodicity. This can be used to define equivariant twisted $K$-theory functors $K_{G,P}^n$ for all values of $n$.

If $X$ is a $G$-space, the Borel construction is the fiber bundle $E(G;X) := EG \times_G X \to BG$. The Borel-equivariant cohomology groups of $X$ with coefficients in $R$ are defined by $H^n_{BG}(X;R) := H^n(E(G;X);R) = [X;C(EG;K(R;\mathbb{Z}))]^G$.

Let $Pic_G(X)$ denote the group of $G$-isomorphism classes of complex $G$-equivariant line bundles on $X$ and $Proj_G(X)$ the group of isomorphism classes of equivariant twists on $X$. The group $Pic_G(X)$ is of interest in this context because it is the group of $G$-homotopy classes of automorphisms of an equivariant twist and thus it acts naturally on the $K$-groups. An element in $Pic_G(X)$ has a $G$-equivariant Chern class in $H^2_{BG}(X;\mathbb{Z})$; similarly for $Proj_G(X)$.

Theorem 4. The homomorphisms defined by the invariants

(1) $Pic_G(X) \to H^2_{BG}(X;\mathbb{Z})$,
(2) $Proj_G(X) \to H^2_{BG}(X;\mathbb{Z})$.

are isomorphisms.

The second statement of the theorem is already interesting if $X$ is a point. The group $Proj_G(\ast)$ is isomorphic to the group Ext$(G;\mathbb{T})$ of central extensions $\mathbb{T} \to \hat{G} \to G$. The theorem says that this group is isomorphic to $H^2(BG;\mathbb{Z})$, which is a finite group by a famous theorem of Cartan (see [3], p.114).

The proof of Theorem 4 employs the notion of hypercohomology of simplicial spaces. Let $X_\bullet$ be a simplicial topological space and let $A$ be an abelian topological group. Let $sh(A) \to F^{p_0} \to F^{p_1} \to F^{p_2} \ldots$ be an injective resolution of the sheaf $sh(A)$ on $X_p$. Let $C^{p,q} := \Gamma(X_p;F^{p,q})$ (global sections). The groups $C^{p,q}$ form a double complex, the vertical differentials coming from the resolution and the horizontal differentials from the face maps of $X_\bullet$. The hypercohomology $H(X_\bullet;sh(A))$ of $X_\bullet$ is by definition the cohomology of the total complex. There is a spectral sequence $E_1^{p,q} = H^q(X_p,sh(A)) \Rightarrow H^{p+q}(X_\bullet;sh(A))$. If either $X$ or $A$ is discrete, then we obtain the usual cohomology of the geometric realization of $X_\bullet$ with coefficients in $A$. If $G$ acts on $X$, then we can build the translation category $G \int X$. The nerve $N_\bullet G \int X$ is then a simplicial topological space, whose geometric realization is homotopy-equivalent to $EG \times_G X \to BG$.

If $G$ is compact and $A = \mathbb{R}$, then the hypercohomology $H^\ast(N_\bullet (G \int X);sh(\mathbb{R}))$ is trivial in positive degrees. This is a consequence of the existence of invariant integration on compact groups. Consequently, $H^p(EG \times_G X;\mathbb{Z}) \cong H^p(N_\bullet (G \int X);sh(\mathbb{Z})) \cong H^{p-1}(N_\bullet (G \int X);sh(\mathbb{T}))$ for $p \geq 2$.

The first assertion in Theorem 4 and the injectivity part of the second one follow
from a careful study of the spectral sequence. If $X = \ast$, then the surjectivity of $\text{Proj}_G(\ast) \to H^3_G(\ast; \mathbb{Z})$ also follows from the spectral sequence.

The surjectivity for general $X$ is more difficult. For this, one constructs a universal $G$-space $Q$ and a $G$-projective bundle on $Q$, whose invariant defines a $G$-map $Q \to C(EG; K(\mathbb{Z}; 3))$. One shows that (for a suitable $Q$), this map is a $G$-homotopy equivalence, which implies the statement of the theorem. To do this, it suffices by a theorem of James and Segal, to prove that the induced map on $G$-fixed points $Q^H \to C(EG; K(\mathbb{Z}; 3))^H \simeq C(BH; K(\mathbb{Z}; 3))$ is an ordinary homotopy equivalence for any closed subgroup $H$ of $G$.

The construction of $Q$ is as follows. Let $\mathcal{O}$ be the orbit category of the group $G$ (the objects are the homogeneous spaces $G/H$ and the morphism are the $G$-maps) and let $F : \mathcal{O} \to \text{TOP}$ be a contravariant functor. From this data one constructs a related topological category $\mathcal{O}_F$. This category has a left-$G$-action, which defines a left $G$-action on the classifying space $B(\mathcal{O}_F)$. There is an obvious homotopy equivalence $F(G/H) \to B(\mathcal{O}_F)^H$. In order to prove the theorem, we introduce the functor $Q(G/H) := \prod_{[H] \in \text{Ext}(H; \mathbb{Z})} B([\mathbb{P}U(H)])$. As it stands, $Q$ is not functorial because of the usual coherence problems, but $Q(G/H)$ can be replaced by homotopy-equivalent spaces which are functorial on $\mathcal{O}$. There is also a functorial projective bundle on $Q(G/H)$. The whole construction gives the desired space $Q$ and the projective $G$-bundle on it. Furthermore, the homotopy type of $Q(G/H)$ is quite straightforward to determine (using the statement of the theorem if $X = \ast$, which was established earlier) and it can be checked that the map $Q^H \simeq Q(G/H) \to C(BH; K(\mathbb{Z}; 3))$ is an ordinary homotopy equivalence. This completes the proof of Theorem 4.

An important and interesting example of a $G$-space is the group $G$ itself, acted on by conjugation. For the classification of equivariant twists, we need to compute the groups $H^3_G(G)$ for $k \leq 3$. This is done by the Leray-Serre spectral sequence of the fibration $G \to E(G; G_{\text{conj}}) \to BG$. We restrict to the case that $G$ is semisimple and connected. Then $\pi_1(G)$ is finite and $H^1(G) = H^1(BG) = H^2(BG) = 0$. The Leray-Serre spectral sequence yields a split-exact sequence

$$0 \to H^3(BG) \to H^3_G(G_{\text{conj}}) \to H^3(G).$$

If $G$ is also simply-connected, then the result is even simpler: the map $\text{Proj}_G(G) \cong H^3_G(G_{\text{conj}}) \to H^3(G)$ is an isomorphism.

There is an interesting relation to the loop group $LG$ of $G$. Let $\mathcal{P}G$ be the space of all smooth maps $f : \mathbb{R} \to G$, such that $t \mapsto f(t + 2\pi)f(t)^{-1}$ is constant. The loop group $LG$ acts from the right on $\mathcal{P}G$ by pointwise multiplication. The map $\mathcal{P} \to G; f \mapsto f(2\pi)f(0)^{-1}$ makes $\mathcal{P}$ into a $LG$-principal bundle. Moreover, $G$ acts from the left on $\mathcal{P}$, and the bundle map $\mathcal{P}G \to G$ is $G$-equivariant. Thus there is a classifying map $\lambda : E(G; G_{\text{conj}}) \to BLG$. A surprising, but elementary result is the following:

**Proposition 5.** If $G$ is connected, then $\lambda$ is a homotopy equivalence.
Now let $\rho : LG \to PU(H)$, $H$ some Hilbert space, be a projective representation. The invariant of the $G$-equivariant projective bundle $P \times LG \to G$ is given by the homotopy class of the composition $G \to BLG \to BPU(H) \simeq K(\mathbb{Z}; 3)$. The projective representation $\rho$ determines an extension of the loop group, and its underlying line bundle gives a class $u_\rho \in H^2(LG)$, whose relation to $B \rho \in H^3(BLG)$ is as follows. From a consideration of the Leray-Serre spectral sequence of $LG \to ELF \to BLG$ one concludes that $u$ lies in the domain of the partially defined map $d_3 : H^2(LG) \to H^3(BLG)$ and the image is $B \rho$.

These arguments boil down the determination of the cohomology class of an equivariant twist to an understanding of the inclusion $G \to BLG$ in cohomology.

References


Talk 4: Cubic Dirac operators, Thom isomorphisms, and the orbit correspondence

Michael Joachim

The goal of the talk was to introduce the cubic Dirac operator acting on spinors on a compact Lie group $G$, and to demonstrate how it gives rise to elements in twisted $G$-equivariant $K$-theory of $g^*$, the dual of the Lie algebra of $G$. To do so we first gave a very quick review of the theory of Clifford algebras and their representations. We then introduced all the relevant notions to actually define the cubic Dirac operator $D_0$, gave its definition and emphasized how it differs from the classical Dirac operator. Using character theory we explicitly computed the kernel of the $\mu$-shifted cubic Dirac operator $D_\mu = D_0 + \mu$ ($\mu \in g^*$) to see that the family of kernels piece together to give a vector bundle $\text{Ker} D$ over a co-adjoint orbit $O \subset g^*$. Finally we interpreted the result in terms of $G$-equivariant twisted $K$-theory; in particular we showed that the family $D$ of shifted cubic Dirac operators represents an element $[D]$ in the $G$-equivariant twisted $K$-theory of $g^*$ and that $[D]$ is the image under the Thom push forward map (induced by $O \subset g^*$) of the isomorphism class of a suitable line bundle over $O$ which is canonically obtained from the bundle $\text{Ker} D$. The source for this talk was [1].

References

Talk 5: The twisted $K$-homology of simple Lie groups

MICHAEL ANTHONY HILL

In this talk, we illustrate how to compute the twisted $K$-homology of the simple, connected, simply connected compact Lie groups, largely following Douglas’ computation thereof [3]. Since $H^3(G;\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$ and the cohomology and $K$-theory of these spaces are nice, the simple, simply connected Lie groups form a useful starting point for computations. Our goal is to prove part of one of the main results of [3]: If $G$ is a simple, simply connected, compact Lie group of rank $n$ and $\tau \in H^3(G)$ is non-zero, then

$$K^*_\tau(G) = E(y_1, \ldots, y_{n-1}) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/c(G, \tau),$$

where $E(y_1, \ldots, y_{n-1})$ denotes the exterior algebra on classes $y_1$ through $y_{n-1}$ and $c(G, \tau)$ is an integer depending on $G$ and $\tau$.

We begin rationally, running the twisted Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence to compute the rational twisted $K$-theory of a space [1]. We know that $H^*(G;\mathbb{Q})$ is an exterior algebra on a class in dimension 3 tensored with other exterior factors. If our chosen twisting $\tau \in H^3(G)$ is non-zero, then the analysis of the $d_3$ differential in [1] shows that the Atiyah-Hirzebruch $E_2$ term is an acyclic complex, since rationally, $d_3(x) = -x \sim \tau$. This implies that if we choose a non-zero twisting class, then the twisted $K$-theory of $G$ is all torsion for $G$ of our form.

For technical reasons, it will be easier for us to compute the twisted $K$-homology of $G$, rather than the twisted $K$-cohomology. To define twisted $K$-homology, we consider bundles over a space $X$ with fiber the $K$-theory spectrum, satisfying certain technical conditions. The homology is then naturally defined as the homotopy of the total space of the bundle, relative to the base, and this is a homology theory on the category $K$ of pairs $(X,E)$, where $E \to X$ is a bundle of the desired form, and maps $(X,E) \to (Y,F)$ are bundle maps that are fiberwise equivalences [3]. Since our notion of twisted homology is a homology theory, if $S_\bullet$ is a simplicial object in $K$, we have a spectral sequence of the form

$$E_2 = H_*(E_*(S)) \Rightarrow E_*(|S|).$$

Here $E_*(S)_\bullet$ is the simplicial graded abelian group that in position $p$ is just $E_*(S_p)$.

We apply this machinery to a special, computable case. Fix a twisting $\tau \in H^3(G) = H^3(\Omega G)$, where $\Omega G$ is the loop space of $G$. Let $S_\bullet = B(\ast, \Omega G, \ast \tau)_\bullet$ be the simplicial object in $K$ where

$$S_n = (\Omega G)^\ast n, (\Omega G)^\ast n \times K).$$

The simplicial maps are somewhat trickier. The maps on the underlying base spaces are just the ordinary maps in the two-sided bar complex $B(\ast, \Omega G, \ast)_\bullet$. On the bundles, all of the face maps but the last are just the obvious lifts of the maps on spaces to the trivial $K$-bundle over them. The last face map is twisted by the composite

$$\Omega G \times K \xrightarrow{\tau \times \text{Id}} K(\mathbb{Z}, 2) \times K \to K,$$
where the last map is the action of $K(\mathbb{Z}, 2)$ on $K$. This construction is entirely analogous to Brown’s simplicial construction of the Serre spectral sequence, building fibrations as twisted products in a way that the twisting is controlled simplicially \cite{2}. The geometric realization of this simplicial object in $K$ is therefore just the twisted $K$ bundle over $B\Omega G = G$ determined by the twisting class $\tau$.

Since $\Omega G$ has only even cells, we know that $K^\ast(\Omega G \times n) = K^\ast(\Omega G) \otimes_n$. This lets us identify the spectral sequence defined above as a twisted form of the Rothenberg-Steenrod / homology Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence:

$$E_2 = \text{Tor}^{K^\ast(\Omega G)}(K^\ast, K^\ast_\tau(\Omega G)) \Rightarrow K^\ast_\tau(\Omega G),$$

where $K^\ast_\tau$ is the $K^\ast(\Omega G)$-module induced by the last face map. The computation now varies depending on the group.

If $G$ is $SU(n + 1)$ or $Sp(n)$, then the homology of $\Omega G$ is polynomial on $n$ generators of even degree. This implies that the Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence computing $K$-homology also collapses, and we see that $K^\ast_\tau(\Omega G)$ is polynomial on $n$ generators. Since this is acting on $K^\ast_\tau$, we see that for the module $K^\ast_\tau$, the generator $x_k$ acts as multiplication by a number $c_k$. At this point, we deviate slightly from the presentation in \cite{3}. For these classical groups (and indeed for $Spin(n)$ as well), we use the fibration in topological groups

$$\Omega S^{2n+1} \to SU(n) \to SU(n + 1)$$

and the analogue for $Sp(n)$. If we consider the two sided bar complex in $K$ given by $B(\ast, \Omega S^{2n+1}, SU(n)_\tau)$, where $\Omega S^{2n+1}$ and $\ast$ have the trivial bundle associated to them and $SU(n)_\tau$ is $SU(n)$ with the twisted $K$-bundle over it corresponding to the twisting $\tau$, then the realization is $SU(n + 1)_\tau$. This gives us a spectral sequence

$$E_2 = \text{Tor}^{K^\ast(\Omega S^{2n+1})}(K^\ast, K^\ast_\tau(SU(n))) \Rightarrow K^\ast_\tau(SU(n + 1)).$$

As a ring, $K^\ast(\Omega S^{2n+1})$ is polynomial on one generator that corresponds to the last polynomial generator of $K^\ast(\Omega SU(n + 1))$. In other words, this slight recasting allows us to isolate the contribution of each generator of $K^\ast(\Omega SU(n + 1))$. The Tor groups are easy to compute, since we consider only a polynomial generator, and for degree reasons, we conclude that the spectral sequence collapses with no possible extensions. This shows Douglas’ theorem for $SU(n)$ and $Sp(n + 1)$.

For the exceptional groups, we return to Douglas’ initial formulation. We need to understand the $K$-homology of $\Omega G$. Here we use the fact that the map $G \to K(\mathbb{Z}, 3)$ inducing $1 \in H^3(G)$ is an equivalence through a range that increases with the rank of $G$. We can use this, together with the computation of $K^\ast(CP^\infty)$, to compute the $K$-homology of $\Omega G$ as a ring \cite{4}. Feeding this into the twisted Rothenberg-Steenrod spectral sequence allows us to see Douglas’ aforementioned theorem for the exceptional groups.
Talk 6: Introduction to topological and differentiable stacks

Niko Naumann

This talk provided an introduction to the language of stacks with a special emphasis on differentiable and topological stacks, i.e. stacks over the large site of smooth manifolds resp. topological spaces endowed with the topology generated by open covers which satify the analogue of the condition to be algebraic, c.f. [2].

In the first section we introduced stacks as certain presheaves of groupoids and discussed the version(s) of the Yoneda lemma in this context, fiber product of stacks and the example of a quotient stack $[X/G]$. Except for the final point, this is basic material on stacks, amply covered for example in [3]. In the second section we defined representable morphisms and properties of those and introduced topological resp. differentiable stacks as those stacks which admit an epimorphism from a representable stack. We discussed in detail why the stacks $[X/G]$ meet these assumptions and performed some simple computations with them, e.g. if $G$ acts on $X$ and $G \subseteq G'$ is a subgroup then $[X \times_G G'/G'] \simeq [X/G]$ and if $H \subseteq G$ is a normal subgroup such that $X \to X/H$ is an $H$-bundle, then $[X/G] \simeq [(X/H)/(G/H)]$. These basic geometric results provide a nice implementation of the well known induction/restriction-structure in equivariant $K$-theory since one has $K_G(X) \simeq K([X/G])$.

In the final section we introduced gerbes and their relation to coarse moduli spaces. This is again standard, covered for example in [2]. We concluded by explaining J. Giraud’s result that second sheaf-cohomology with coefficients in an (abelian) band $G$ classifies gerbes with band $G$ up to $G$-equivalence [1, Chapitre IV, Théorème 3.4.2].

References

Our aim is to describe the construction from [1] of the twisted K-theory of a topological stack. The roadmap to the construction is as follows. Let $X$ be a topological stack. Choosing an atlas $A_0 \to X$ leads to a topological groupoid $A_0 \times_X A_0 = A_1 \Rightarrow A_0$. Choosing a Haar system $\lambda$ on this groupoid allows one to endow $C_c(A_1)$ with a convolution product and its completion with respect to the reduced norm is a $C^*$-algebra $C^*_r(A,\lambda)$. The $K$-theory of this $C^*$-algebra is the (untwisted) $K$-theory of the stack $X$. To add a twist, one begins with a $S^1$-banded gerbe $G \to X$. The process of choosing an atlas now yields an $S^1$-central extension of groupoids, $S^1 \to \tilde{A} \to A$. After choosing a Haar system $\lambda$ on $\tilde{A}$, one forms a reduced $C^*$-algebra $C^*_r(\tilde{A},\lambda)^{S^1}$. The $K$-theory of $X$ twisted by the gerbe $G$ is defined to be the $K$-theory of this $C^*$-algebra. There are two important tasks left: (1) this definition required two choices, so we must verify that the resulting $K$-theory is well-defined up to a canonical isomorphism, (2) $K$-theory is supposed to be a contravariant functor with respect to pulling back gerbes, so we must understand how to see the functoriality in this definition.

**First consider the choice of an atlas.** By assumption $X$ admits an atlas, $A_0 \to X$; this is a representable morphism with local sections for a space $A_0$. The pullback $A_1 := A_0 \times_X A_0$ is then a space, and it comes equipped with two maps to $A_0$ and a diagonal map in the other direction; one checks that this is indeed topological groupoid $A\cdot$. Note that one can recover the original stack (up to noncanonical isomorphism) from the groupoid in two ways: either as the quotient stack $[A_0/A_1]$ or as the moduli stack of principal $A\cdot$-bundles.

If $X$ has an $S^1$-banded gerbe over it then one can choose a covering $A'_0 = \coprod U_i$ of $A_0$ which trivializes the gerbe so that the morphism $A'_0 \to X$ lifts to $A'_0 \to \tilde{G}$ (up to a 2-isomorphism). Then

$$S^1 \to A'_0 \times_\tilde{G} A'_0 \to A'_0 \times_X A'_0$$

is an $S^1$-central extension of groupoids over $A'_0$.

**How much can different atlases for a given stack vary?** Suppose that we have a second atlas $B_0 \to X$. Then the diagonal arrow in the pullback square

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
A_0 \times_X B_0 & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} & B_0 \\
\downarrow \pi_1 & & \downarrow \\
A_0 & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} & X
\end{array}
$$

is again an atlas for $X$ since it is a composition of representable morphisms with local sections. Furthermore, the projection $\pi_1$ is a principal right $B\cdot$-bundle with respect to $\pi_2$, and $\pi_2$ is a principal left $A\cdot$-bundle with respect to $\pi_1$, and the two actions commute—it is an $(A\cdot - B\cdot)$-bibundle. Such a bibundle between two groupoids is called a *Morita equivalence of groupoids*. We have shown that, as long as one remembers the maps to the stack, any two atlases lead to canonically Morita
equivalent groupoids. One can easily show (see [2]) that a converse also hold: a Morita equivalence of groupoids induces an isomorphism between the stacks they represent.

If there is an $S^1$-banded gerbe over $X$ and $S^1 \rightarrow \tilde{A}_\bullet \rightarrow A_\bullet$, $S^1 \rightarrow \tilde{B}_\bullet \rightarrow B_\bullet$ are two atlases representing this gerbe then the same reasoning as above leads to a canonical $(\tilde{A}_\bullet - \tilde{B}_\bullet)$-bibundle $Z$ which is $S^1$ equivariant in the sense that the $S^1$ inside $\tilde{A}_\bullet$ acts on $Z$ exactly as the $S^1$ inside $\tilde{B}_\bullet$. This is a Morita equivalence of $S^1$-central extensions. Thus any two atlases for a gerbe lead to canonically Morita equivalent central extensions of groupoids. Again one can also show that conversely a Morita equivalence of extensions induces an isomorphism of gerbes.

We now consider the choice of a Haar system on a groupoid. Suppose $A_\bullet$ is a locally compact groupoid. A Haar system $\lambda$ on $A$ is a family of positive measures $\{\lambda^x\}$ supported on the arrows $A^*_0$ ending at $x|x \in A_0$ which is continuous and translation invariant. This concept generalizes that of Haar measures on groups. See [5] for details. For example, a Haar system on a vector bundle $V \rightarrow X$ (considered as a groupoid with respect to addition of vectors) is a continuous family of Lebesgue measures on the fibres. Haar systems can be highly non-unique—e.g. rescaling by any nonvanishing translation invariant function will produce a new Haar system.

For each $x \in A_0$ the convolution algebra $C_c(A_1, \lambda)$ acts by convolution on $L^2(A^*_1, \lambda^x)$, and so there is a $^\ast$-homomorphism $\pi_x : C_c(A_1, \lambda) \rightarrow B(L^2(A^*_1, \lambda^x))$. The reduced $C^\ast$-algebra $C^\ast_r(A_1, \lambda)$ is the completion of $C_c(A_1, \lambda)$ with respect to the norm $\|f\|_r = \sup_x \|\pi_x(f)\|$. For an $S^1$-central extension we form the $C^\ast$-algebra $C^\ast_r(\tilde{A}, \lambda)^{S^1} := C^\ast_r(A_1, \lambda)^{S^1} \subset C^\ast_r(\tilde{A}_1, \lambda)$.

A strong Morita equivalence between $C^\ast$-algebras $A$ and $B$ is an $(A-B)$-Hilbert bimodule $M$ (meaning it has inner producs $\langle,\rangle_A, \langle,\rangle_B$ taking values in $A, B$ resp. which are compatible with the module structures and have dense images). The functor $- \odot_B M$ (with the correct notion of tenston product) induces an equivalence of categories from right $B$-modules to right $A$-modules. Hence a strong Morita equivalence of $C^\ast$-algebras induces an isomorphism of their $K$-theory groups.

According to [3] a Morita equivalence of groupoids produces a Morita equivalence of their reduced $C^\ast$-algebras. More precisely, if $A_0 \leftrightarrow Z \rightarrow B_0$ is an $A_\bullet - B_\bullet$-bibundle then $C_c(Z)$ is a $C_c(B_1, \lambda_B) - C_c(A_1, \lambda_A)$-bimodule which can be canonically completed into a strong Morita equivalence bimodule. Similarly, if $Z$ is a Morita equivalence of $S^1$-central extensions of groupoids then $C_c(Z)^{S^1}$ completes into a $C^\ast_r(\tilde{B}_1, \lambda)^{S^1} - C^\ast_r(\tilde{A}_1, \lambda)^{S^1}$ strong Morita equivalence bimodule.

In summary, (1) any two representations of a gerbe by $S^1$ groupoid extensions are canonically Morita equivalent; (2) given any choice of Haar systems this bimodule produces a Morita equivalence bimodule between the associated $C^\ast$-algebras; (3) the Morita equivalence bimodule induces an isomorphism of the $K$-groups.

We now turn to contravariant functoriality for twisted $K$-theory of stacks. The Morita equivalence bimodules that we have already seen are actually the isomorphisms in a category. This category has groupoids as objects and (isomorphism classes of) generalized morphisms as arrows. A generalized morphism
$A \to B$ consists of a space $Z$ with maps $A \xleftarrow{\tau} Z \xrightarrow{\sigma} B$ and commuting actions of $A$ on the left and $B$ on the right (with respect to $\tau$, $\sigma$) such that $A \xleftarrow{\tau} Z$ is a principal right $B$-bundle. An easy fact is that any representable morphism of topological stacks can be represented as a generalized morphism between atlas groupoids. A similar statement holds with twists.

Let us suppose that the generalized morphism is proper (in the sense of [4]). If one chooses Haar systems on $A$ and $B$, write $A, B$ for the associated $C^*$-algebras. Under the properness assumption $C_c(Z)$ can be completed into a $B$-$A$-bimodule, and it can be endowed with an $A$-valued inner product with dense image. There is no $B$-valued inner product but one can still show that the action of $B$ is via $A$-compact operators. Such an object represents a (degree 0) class $[Z]$ in Kasparov’s $KK$-theory group $KK(B, A)$. Recall that there are associative products $KK(U, V) \times KK(V, W) \to KK(U, W)$, and $KK(C, S^iU) \cong K_i(U)$. Hence we have a product map

$$K_i(B) \cong KK(C, S^iB) \xrightarrow{[Z]} KK(C, S^iA) \cong K_i(A).$$

Using this construction one sees that our definition of twisted $K$-theory of stacks is contravariantly functorial with respect to morphisms of stacks which are represented by proper generalized morphisms of atlas groupoids.

**There is also a description of twisted $K$-theory in terms of families of Fredholm operators.** Fix a separable infinite dimensional Hilbert space $\mathbb{H}$. Recall that $S^1$-gerbes over a stack $\mathcal{X}$ with atlas groupoid $A$ are classified by $H^2(A; S^1)$. Similarly principal $PU(\mathbb{H})$ bundles over $\mathcal{X}$ are classified by $H^1(A; PU(\mathbb{H}))$. The central extension $S^1 \to U(\mathbb{H}) \to PU(\mathbb{H})$ provides a connecting homomorphism $H^1(A; PU(\mathbb{H})) \to H^2(A; S^1)$. This homomorphism has a canonical section. Given a gerbe with class $\alpha$, choose an extension $S^1 \to A_\alpha \to A$ representing $\alpha$ and pick a Haar system on $A_\alpha$. For each $x \in A_0$ there is a Hilbert space $L^2(A_\alpha^x) \otimes \mathbb{H}$. These glue together to form a Hilbert bundle over the groupoid $A_\alpha$, which is the same as a projective Hilbert bundle over $A$. The class of this projective bundle maps to the class $\alpha$, so any gerbe can be represented by a $PU(\mathbb{H})$-bundle, and there is a canonical choice of representative.

Let $P_\alpha$ denote the project bundle constructed from a gerbe class $\alpha$. The group $PU(\mathbb{H})$ acts continuously by conjugation on the bounded operators $B(\mathbb{H})$ (in the $*$-strong topology) and on the compact operators $K(\mathbb{H})$ (with the norm topology). Let $B_\alpha$ and $K_\alpha$ be the $B(\mathbb{H})$ and $K(\mathbb{H})$ bundles associated to $P_\alpha$.

One of the main theorems of [1] is a description of twisted $K$-theory as certain types of families of Fredholm operators.

**Theorem 1.** The twisted $K$-theory $K_\alpha^i(A_\alpha)$ is canonically isomorphic to the group of homotopy classes of norm bounded $A_\alpha$-invariant sections of $B_\alpha$ (self-adjoint if $i$ is odd) and invertible up to an $A_\alpha$-invariant section of $K_\alpha$ which vanishes at infinity in the orbit space $A_0/A_1$. 


References


Talk 8: The Twisted Chern Character via Noncommutative Geometry

Sebastian Goette, Guido Kings

The classical Chern character is a rational isomorphism from topological $K$-theory to cohomology. Using the Serre-Swan theorem and the Connes-Hochschild-Kostant-Rosenberg theorem, the Chern character may be understood as a map from $K$-theory to periodic cyclic homology of the smooth algebra $C^\infty(M; \mathbb{C})$ if $M$ is a smooth manifold.

$$
\begin{align*}
K_* \left( C^\infty(M; \mathbb{C}) \right) &\xrightarrow{\text{Ch}} HP_* \left( C^\infty(M; \mathbb{C}) \right) \\
\text{Serre-Swan} &\quad \downarrow \quad \text{Connes-Hochschild-Kostant-Rosenberg} \\
K^* (M) &\xrightarrow{\text{ch}} H^*_\text{dR} (M).
\end{align*}
$$

Following Mathai and Stevenson [2], we generalize the upper right hand way through this diagram to construct a Chern character for twisted $K$-theory. 

Regard the central extension

$$
S^1 \xrightarrow{\iota} U \xrightarrow{q} PU,
$$

where $U$ is the unitary group of a Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$. In this talk, a twist is represented as a $PU$-principal bundle $p: P \to M$ with a smooth structure and connection $\Theta$. Since $PU$ acts on $L^1(\mathcal{H})$, one may form the algebra $A(P) = \Gamma^\infty(P \times PU, L^1(\mathcal{H}))$. Then $K_* (A(P))$ is a model for the $P$-twisted $K$-theory of $M$.

Let $\widetilde{A}(P) = A(P) + \mathbb{C}$ be the unitisation of $A(P)$, and let $u$ be a formal variable of degree $-2$. We consider the Hochschild complex $(C_*, b)$ and the periodic cyclic complex $(CC_*, b_\Theta B)$, where $C_\Theta (A(P)) = \widetilde{A}(P) \otimes A(P)^{\otimes k}$ and $CC_\Theta (A(P)) = C_\Theta (A(P)) \otimes \mathbb{C}(u)$, and $b$ and $B$ are the Hochschild and the cyclic boundary operator, respectively, see [1]. Let $\tilde{p} \in M_\Theta (\widetilde{A}(P))$ be an idempotent representing an element $[p] \in K_0 (A(P)) = \tilde{K}_0 (\widetilde{A}(P))$, and let $p$ be its image in $A(P)$. Then its Connes-Chern character is given by

$$
\text{Ch} (\tilde{p}) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-u)^k \frac{(2k)!}{k!} \text{tr} \left( (\tilde{p} - \frac{1}{2}) \otimes \tilde{p}^{\otimes 2k} \right) \in CC_0 (A(P)).
$$
To define twisted de Rham cohomology $H^\bullet_{dR}(M,c)$ and the CHKR-isomorphism $HP^\bullet_*(A(P)) \to H^\bullet_{dR}(M,c)$, we use connections on bundle gerbes following [3].

Over $P \times_M P \cong P \times PU$, there exists a canonical $S^1$-bundle $L \cong P \times U$, which forms a groupoid over $P$. Then $L$ admits a connection $\vartheta$ that is compatible with the groupoid product, and these connections bijectively correspond to $PU$-equivariant splittings $\vartheta^0 : P \to \text{Hom}(u_i^u, i^u)$, or equivalently to $PU$-equivariant $\sigma : P \to \text{Hom}(pu, i^u)$ with $q_* \circ \sigma = \text{id}_{pu}$. Since the Lie-bracket on $u$ descends to $pu$, there is a two-form $f = d\vartheta^0 \circ \Theta - \frac{1}{2} \vartheta^0([\Theta, \Theta]u) \in \Omega^2(P; i^u)$, such that $(p^2_u - p^1_u) f \in \Omega^2(P \times_M P)$ is the curvature of the connection $\vartheta$ on $L$.

Finally, let $\Omega$ denote the curvature of $\Theta$. Then $df$ is basic, so define $c \in \Omega^3(M, i^u)$ by

$$df = -d\vartheta^0 \circ \Omega = \nabla \sigma \circ \Omega = -p^* c.$$ 

Note that the data $(P, \sigma, \Theta)$ are up to isomorphism in bijective correspondence with classes in the third integral Deligne cohomology of $M$.

In the second part of the talk the proof of the following generalization of the theorem of Connes-Hochschild-Kostant-Rosenberg was sketched. To formulate this we define the twisted de Rham cohomology $H^\bullet_{dR}(M,c)$ as the cohomology of $\Omega^\bullet(M) \otimes \mathbb{C}((u))$ with differential $ud - u^2 c$.

**Theorem**[Mathai-Stevenson] Let $M$ be a compact manifold. Consider the $\mathbb{C}((u))$-linear map

$$J : CC^\bullet_*(A(P)) \to \Omega^\bullet(M) \otimes \mathbb{C}((u)),$$

which is given by mapping $(\tilde{a}_0, \ldots, \tilde{a}_k)$ to

$$\int_{\Delta_k} \text{tr}(\tilde{a}_0 e^{-s_0 \sigma(\Omega)u} \nabla(a_1) \ldots \nabla(a_k) e^{-s_k \sigma(\Omega)u} d \xi_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge d \xi_k)$$

if $k > 0$ and to $\text{tr}(\tilde{a}_0 e^{\sigma(\Omega)u})$ if $k = 0$. Then $J$ is a chain map

$$J \circ (b + uB) = (ud - u^2 c) \circ J,$$

which induces isomorphisms

$$HH_n(A(P)) \cong \Omega^p(M)$$

$$HP_n(A(P)) \cong \begin{cases} 
H^\text{even}_{dR}(M,c) & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\
H^\text{odd}_{dR}(M,c) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} 
\end{cases}$$

**References**


Talk 9: The Chern Character for Twisted $K$-theory of Orbifolds

Elmar Schrohe

This talk was based on the results of Tu and Xu in [5].

The Setup. Given are an orbifold $X$ and an $S^1$-gerbe $\alpha \in H^2(X, S^1)$. The orbifold is represented by a proper étale Lie groupoid

$$\Gamma \rightrightarrows M.$$  

Recall that a groupoid is called a Lie groupoid if the base space $M$ and the arrow space $\Gamma$ are smooth manifolds and both the source map $s$ and target map $t$ are smooth. A Lie groupoid is étale, if $s$ and $t$ are local diffeomorphisms. The properness refers to the mapping $(s,t) : \Gamma \to M \times M$.

The representation of $X$ by a proper étale Lie groupoid is not unique. However, it is determined up to Morita equivalence, i.e., there is a one-to-one correspondence between Morita equivalence classes of proper étale Lie groupoids and orbifolds.

We denote by $\Gamma_n$ the set of $n$-tuples of composable arrows in $\Gamma$:

$$\Gamma_n = \{ (g_n, \ldots, g_2, g_1) : g_j \in \Gamma, t(g_j) = s(g_{j+1}) \}.  \tag{1}$$

Clearly, $\Gamma_0 = M$ and $\Gamma_1 = \Gamma$.

Next we represent the $S^1$-gerbe in the framework of groupoids. We recall the notion of $S^1$-central extensions.

1. Definition. An $S^1$-central extension of the Lie groupoid $\Gamma \rightrightarrows M$ consists of

   (1) a Lie groupoid $\tilde{\Gamma} \rightrightarrows M$, together with a morphism of Lie groupoids
   $$ \pi, \text{id} : (\tilde{\Gamma} \rightrightarrows M) \to (\Gamma \rightrightarrows M); $$

   (2) a left $S^1$-action on $\tilde{\Gamma}$, making $\pi : \Gamma' \to \Gamma$ a left principal $S^1$-bundle.

Moreover, these two structures are compatible in the sense that $(s_1 \cdot x)(s_2 \cdot y) = s_1 s_2 \cdot xy$ for all $s_1, s_2$ in $S^1$ and all composable $x, y \in \tilde{\Gamma}$.

There is a notion of Morita equivalence of $S^1$-central extensions. It implies the Morita equivalence of the underlying groupoids. Moreover, it allows us to identify the gerbe $\alpha \in H^2(X, S^1)$ with the Morita equivalence class of an $S^1$-central extension

$$S^1 \to \tilde{\Gamma} \to \Gamma \rightrightarrows M.$$  

K-theory. The natural $S^1$-action on $\mathbb{C}$ gives us an associated complex line bundle

$$L = \tilde{\Gamma} \times_{S^1} \mathbb{C}$$

over $\Gamma$, which is equipped with an associative bilinear product

$$L_g \otimes L_h \to L_{gh}, \quad \xi \otimes \eta \mapsto \xi \cdot \eta  \tag{2}$$

for composable $g, h$, and an antilinear involution

$$L_g \to L_{g^{-1}}, \quad \xi \mapsto \xi^*  \tag{3}.$$ 

We also obtain a scalar product: For $\xi, \eta \in L_g$, let $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle = \xi^* \cdot \eta \in L_{s(g)} \cong \mathbb{C}$. 

As a consequence we can define a convolution product on \( A = C^\infty_c(\Gamma, L) \) by
\[
(\xi_1 \ast \xi_2)(g) = \sum_{t(h) = (s(g))} \xi_1(h) \cdot \xi_2(h^{-1}g),
\]
and an adjoint
\[
\xi^*(g) = (\xi(g^{-1}))^*.
\]
Defining the action by convolution, this in turn gives us, for each \( x \in M \), a \(*\)-representation \( \pi_x \) of \( A \) on the Hilbert space \( H_x \) which is the completion of \( A \) with respect to the scalar product
\[
\langle \xi, \eta \rangle_x = (\xi^*\eta)(x) = \sum_{s(g) = x} \langle \xi(g), \eta(g) \rangle.
\]
We denote by \( C^*_r(\Gamma, L) \) the associated reduced \( C^*\)-algebra, i.e., the completion of \( A \) with respect to the norm \( f \mapsto \sup_x \|\pi_x(f)\| \).

2. Definition. The twisted \( K \)-theory groups of \( X \) are defined by
\[
K^*_c(X) = K_i(C^*_r(\Gamma, L)).
\]
The \( K \)-class indeed depends only on \( X \) and \( \alpha \) as the choice of a Morita equivalent \( S^1 \)-central extension results in isomorphic \( K \)-groups, see [4, Section 3.2].

Connection, curving, 3-curvature. We now introduce the the differential \( \partial : \Omega^k(\Gamma_{n-1}) \to \Omega^{k+1}(\Gamma_n) \) as the alternating sum of the pullback maps under the \( n + 1 \) canonical maps \( \Gamma_n \to \Gamma_{n-1} \).

3. Definition. A connection on \( \tilde{\Gamma}_* \to \Gamma_* \) is a connection 1-form \( \theta \in \Omega^1(\tilde{\Gamma}) \) such that \( \partial \theta = 0 \). Given \( \theta \), a curving is a 2-form \( B \) on \( M \) such that \( \partial B = \partial \theta \). We then call \( \Omega = dB \in \Omega^2(M) \) the 3-curvature.

Note that then \( \partial \Omega = d\theta = 0 \), so that \( \Omega \) is \( \Gamma \)-invariant.

It can be shown [3] that within the Morita equivalence class of \( \Gamma \equiv M \) there is a groupoid for which a connection and a curving exist.

Twisted cohomology. Associated to \( \Gamma \) is the space \( ST = \{ g \in G : s(g) = t(g) \} \) of closed loops. \( \Gamma \) acts on \( ST \) by conjugation. The associated transformation groupoid \( \Delta \Gamma = \Gamma \times_M \Gamma \to ST \) is called the inertia groupoid.

The line bundle \( L \) induces a line bundle \( L' \) over \( \Delta \Gamma \equiv ST \). Let \( \theta \) be a connection with curving \( B \) and 3-curvature \( \Omega \). It can be shown that \( \theta \) induces a covariant derivative \( \nabla' : \Omega^+_c(ST, L') \to \Omega^+_c(ST, L') \) which is invariant under the action of \( \Gamma \). The twisted cohomology \( H^*_c(X, \alpha) \) is defined as the homology of the complex
\[
(\Omega^+_c(ST, L')^\Gamma((u)), \nabla' - 2\pi i \Omega u \wedge \cdot).
\]
Here \( \Omega^+_c(ST, L')^\Gamma \) are the \( \Gamma \)-invariant forms in \( \Omega^+_c(ST, L') \) on which both \( \nabla' \) and \( \Omega \wedge \cdot \) act. Moreover, \( u \) is a formal variable of degree \(-2\) and \( ((u)) \) denotes formal Laurent series in \( u \).

\( H^*_c(X, \alpha) \) indeed only depends on \( X \) and \( \alpha \), not on the choice of \( \Gamma \) and \( \tilde{\Gamma} \).
The Chern character for twisted K-theory. \( A \) is a dense subalgebra of \( C^*_r(\Gamma, L) \) and closed under holomorphic functional calculus. Hence, \( K_i(A) = K_i(C^*_r(\Gamma, L)) = K^*_\alpha(X) \). The noncommutative Chern character of Connes and Karoubi induces a map

\[
\text{Ch} : K_i(A) \to HP_i(A).
\]

Given \( \theta \) and \( B \), Tu and Xu now define a mapping

\[
\tau_{\theta,B} : HP_i(A) \to H^\text{even/odd}_{c}(X, \alpha).
\]

In fact, \( \tau_{\theta,B} \) is obtained as a chain map

\[
CC_k(A)((u)) \to \Omega^*_{c}(S\Gamma, L')^\Gamma((u)).
\]

An important ingredient in its construction is the definition of a trace

\[
\text{Tr} : \Omega^*_{c}(\Gamma, L) \to \Omega^*_{c}(S\Gamma, L')^\Gamma.
\]

Extending results by Baum and Connes, Tu and Xu then show an Atiyah-Hirzebruch type theorem:

**4. Theorem.** The mappings \( \text{Ch} \) and \( \tau_{\theta,B} \) yield isomorphisms

\[
K^*_\alpha(X) \otimes \mathbb{C} \cong H^*_c(A) \xrightarrow{\tau_{\theta,B}} H^*_c(X, \alpha).
\]

The idea of the proof is that \( K^*_\alpha(X) \otimes \mathbb{C}, HP_c(A), \) and \( H^*_c(X, \alpha) \) agree locally, since an orbifold is locally a crossed product of a manifold by a finite group, so that the results of Baum and Connes [1] can be applied. Moreover, each of these functors admits Mayer-Vietoris sequences; hence the groups agree globally.

**References**


**Talk 10: Twisted K-theory via parametrized homotopy theory and twisted integration**

**Moritz Wiethaup**

The goal of this talk was to explain how twisted K-theory (and twisted cohomology in general) can be understood from the point of view of (stable) parametrized homotopy theory. The main reference for the talk was [3], which uses the foundational work of May-Sigurdsson [2] and (a suitable modification of) the explicit model of the K-theory spectrum obtained in [1] to construct a homotopical version of twisted K-theory. One of the advantages of this approach is that it allows
for the construction of pairings $K^*_\sigma(X) \otimes K^*_\tau(X) \to K^*_{\sigma+\tau}(X)$ between twisted $K$-theory groups, as well as pushforward maps in twisted $K$-theory.

We started by outlining the appropriate framework for parametrized homotopy theory, as developed in [2]. Let us recall the basic definitions: A space over $B$ is a space equipped with a map to $B$. An ex-space over a base space $B$ is a space $X$ together with maps $p : X \to B$ and $s : B \to X$ such that $ps = \text{id}_B$. We have obvious categories of spaces over $B$ (resp. ex-spaces over $B$), which we will denote by $\text{Top}_B$ (resp. $\text{Top}_B$). The forgetful functor from ex-spaces to spaces over has a left adjoint 

$$(-)_+ : \text{Top}_B \to \text{Top}_B$$

given by adding a disjoint copy of $B$, i.e. $X_+ = X \amalg B$. A map $f : B \to C$ induces adjoint pairs of base-change functors

$$f_! : \text{Top}_B \rightleftarrows \text{Top}_C : f^*$$

and

$$f_! : \text{Top}_B \rightleftarrows \text{Top}_C : f^*$$

with $f_!$ left adjoint to $f^*$. In addition, we have two kinds of smash products of ex-spaces: The internal smash product

$$\wedge_B : \text{Top}_B \times \text{Top}_B \to \text{Top}_B$$

and the external smash product

$$\wedge_{B,C} : \text{Top}_B \times \text{Top}_C \to \text{Top}_B \times C.$$
use the Borel construction to form the ex-spectrum $EG \times G F$ over $BG$. For a space $X$ equipped with a map $q : X \to BG$ (which we conceive as a twist on $X$) we can now define the twisted cohomology groups by

$$F^n_q(X) = \text{Hom}_{HoS_{BG}}(\Sigma^n_{BG}(X,q), \Sigma^n(EG \times G F)),$$

at least for maps $q$ making $X$ into a cofibrant object of $\text{Top}/BG$, which can always be achieved by deforming $q$. Here $HoS_{BG}$ is the homotopy category of ex-spectra over $BG$.

If $F$ is a ring spectrum and the action of $G$ is compatible with the multiplicative structure on $F$, one would expect to obtain products on the twisted cohomology groups. The products one wants are of the kind mentioned in the first paragraph, i.e. the product of two twisted cohomology classes should lie in the twisted cohomology group associated to the sum of the two twists. From now on we retrace the case of $PU$, the projective unitary group of Hilbert space, acting on $K$-theory.

To realize these products homotopically, one has to introduce a new smash product in $HoS_{BPU}$. Let $p : BPU \times BPU \to BPU$ be one of the maps given by the action of the linear isometries operad on $BPU$. Then it is proved in [3] that the left derived functor of the composition

$$S_{BPU} \times S_{BPU} \xrightarrow{\pi} S_{BPU \times BPU} \xrightarrow{p} S_{BPU}$$

is a symmetric monoidal product $\wedge_p$ on the homotopy category $HoS_{BPU}$, and that the Borel construction on a $PU$-spectrum $F$ yields a monoid in $(HoS_{BPU}, \wedge_p)$, if $F$ is an algebra over the linear isometries operad in a way compatible with the action of $PU$. This applies in particular to (a slight modification) of the $K$-theory spectrum constructed in [1].

With this multiplicative version of the twisted $K$-theory spectrum at hand, one can now go ahead and construct twisted Thom isomorphisms and twisted pushforward maps very much as in the classical (untwisted) theory, and one can show that the twisted pushforward maps enjoy the expected properties (functoriality, projection formula, compatibility with pullbacks). As for the Thom isomorphism, one has the following theorem:

**Theorem 2.** [3] Let $\pi : X \to M$ be a real vector bundle of rank $n$ over the finite CW-complex $M$, let $q : M \to BPU$ be a map, and suppose $u$ is a $(K,q)$-orientation of $\pi$. Then, for all $r : M \to BPU$, the map

$$K^*(M,r) \to \tilde{K}^{i+n}(Th_{BPU}(X,r + q)), x \mapsto \pi^* x \cup u$$

is an isomorphism.

Here $r + q$ denotes the composition $p \circ (r,q) : X \to BPU \times BPU \to BPU$, and $Th_{BPU}(X,r + q)$ is the parametrized Thom space of the bundle $X \to M$, which is the ex-space over $BPU$ whose fiber over a point $b$ is the ordinary Thom space of the restriction of $X$ to $(r + q)^{-1}(b)$. A $(K,q)$-orientation of the bundle is defined to be class in $\tilde{K}^n(Th_{BPU}(X,q))$, which restricts to a generator of the free $K^*(pt)$-module $\tilde{K}^*(S^n)$ on each fiber of $\pi$. 
In this talk I discussed results from the preprint [1] by Adem, Ruan and Zhang. Let $\mathcal{G}$ be an almost complex orbifold and let $\Lambda\mathcal{G}$ be its inertia groupoid. Then for certain twists $\tau$ over $\Lambda\mathcal{G}$ Adem-Ruan-Zhang construct a product
\[ K^\tau(\Lambda\mathcal{G}) \otimes K^\tau(\Lambda\mathcal{G}) \to K^\tau(\Lambda\mathcal{G}) \]
on twisted $K$-theory. The crucial point is that this product preserves the twisting.

Let $G$ be a finite group. Define maps $e_1, e_2, e_{12} : G \times G \to G$ by $e_1(g_1, g_2) = g_1$, $e_2(g_1, g_2) = g_2$ and $e_{12}(g_1, g_2) = g_1 g_2$. One definition of the Pontryagin product is
\[ a \star b := (e_{12})_*(e_1^*(a) \cdot e_2^*(b)) \]
where $\cdot$ denotes the usual multiplication in $K$-theory. The following computation is used to establish associativity of this product.
\[
\begin{align*}
(a \star b) \star c &= (e_{12})_*(e_1^*((e_{12})_* (e_1^*(a) \cdot e_2^*(b))) \cdot e_3^*(c)) \\
&= (e_{12})_*((e_1^* \circ (e_{12})_*)(e_1^*(a) \cdot e_2^*(b)) \cdot e_3^*(c)) \\
&= (e_{12})_*((e_{12,3})_* (\circ e_{1,2}^*)(e_1^*(a) \cdot e_2^*(b)) \cdot e_3^*(c)) \\
&= (e_{12})_*((e_{12,3})_* (\circ e_{1,2}^*)(e_1^*(a) \cdot e_3^*(c))) \\
&= (e_{12})_*((e_{12,3})_* (\circ e_{1,2}^*)(e_1^*(a) \cdot e_3^*(c))) \\
&= (e_{12})_* ((e_{12,3})_* (\circ e_{1,2}^*)(e_1^*(a) \cdot e_3^*(c))).
\end{align*}
\]

Here $e_{1,2}, e_{12,3} : G \times G \to G \times G$ are defined by $e_{1,2}(g_1, g_2, g_3) = (g_1, g_2)$ and $e_{12,3}(g_1, g_2, g_3) = (g_1 g_2, g_3)$; $\bar{e}_1, \bar{e}_2, \bar{e}_3, \bar{e}_{123} : G \times G \to G$ are defined by $\bar{e}_1(g_1, g_2, g_3) = g_1$, $\bar{e}_2(g_1, g_2, g_3) = g_2$, $\bar{e}_3(g_1, g_2, g_3) = g_3$, $\bar{e}_{123}(g_1, g_2, g_3) = g_1 g_2 g_3$.

The square
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
G \times G \times G & \overset{e_{12,3}}{\longrightarrow} & G \times G \\
\downarrow_{e_{1,2}} & & \downarrow_{e_1} \\
G \times G & \overset{e_{12}}{\longrightarrow} & G
\end{array}
\]
is a pull-back square and the computation (2) uses that thus
\[ e_1^* \circ (e_{12})_* = (e_{12,3})_* \circ e_{1,2}^*. \]
Also used is the following compatibility of push-forward and multiplication
\[ f_\ast(a) \cdot b = f_\ast(a \cdot f_\ast b). \]

The proof of associativity is then concluded by computing \( a \ast (b \ast c) \) by similar manipulations arriving at the same result as in (2).

For \( k = 1, 2, 3 \) the groupoid \( G^k \) of \( k \)-sectors is defined by
\[
(G^k)_0 = \{(a_1, \ldots, a_k) \in (G_1)^{\times k} \mid s(a_1) = t(a_1) = \cdots = s(a_k) = t(a_k)\}
\]
\[
(G^k)_1 = \{(a_1, \ldots, a_k, u) \in (G_1)^{\times k+1} \mid s(a_1) = t(a_1) = \cdots = s(a_k) = t(a_k) = s(u)\}
\]
with \( s(a_1, \ldots, a_k, u) = (a_1, \ldots, a_k) \) and \( t(a_1, \ldots, a_k, u) = (u^{-1}a_1u, \ldots, u^{-1}a_ku) \).

Note that \( G_1 = \Lambda G \). Similar as in the case of a finite group there are maps \( e_1, e_2, e_{12} : G^2 \rightarrow G^1 \) and so on.

In order to define the product (1) cocycle formulas for twists are important. Let \( C^k(G, U(1)) \) be the abelian group of continuous \( U(1) \)-valued maps on the space of composable \( k \)-tuples of morphisms in \( G \). The usual formula [1, p.7] defines a differential \( \delta : C^k(G, U(1)) \rightarrow C^{k+1}(G, U(1)) \). This complex can be used to describe twists for \( \tau \)-theory: For every \( \tau \in C^2(G, U(1)) \) with \( \delta(\tau) = 0 \) there is twisted \( \tau \)-theory \( K^\tau G \); for every \( \sigma \in C^3(G, U(1)) \) there is an isomorphism \( I_\sigma : K^\tau G \rightarrow K^{\tau+\delta(\sigma)}G \); if \( \rho \in C^4(G, U(1)) \) then \( I_\rho = I_{\sigma+\delta(\rho)} \).

The space of \( k \)-tuples of composable morphisms in \( G^n \) can be identified with the set of all \((a+k)\)-tuples \((a_1, \ldots, a_n, u_1, \ldots, u_k)\) of morphisms in \( G \) that satisfy \( s(a_1) = t(a_1) = \cdots = s(a_n) = t(a_n) = s(u_1), t(u_1) = s(u_2), \ldots, t(u_{k-1}) = s(u_k) \).

The inverse transgression \( \theta : C^k(G, U(1)) \rightarrow C^{k+1}(G^1, U(1)) \) is defined [1, p.14] by
\[
\theta(\phi)(a, u_1, \ldots, u_k) = (-1)^k \phi(a, u_1, \ldots, u_k) + \sum_{i=1}^{k} (-1)^{i+k} \phi(u_1, \ldots, u_i, a_i, u_{i+1}, \ldots, u_k),
\]
where \( a_i = (u_1 \ldots u_i)^{-1}a(u_1 \ldots u_i) \). It is a chain map, i.e., \( \delta \circ \theta = \theta \circ \delta \). There is also a map \( \mu : C^{k+2}(G, U(1)) \rightarrow C^k(G^2, U(1)) \) satisfying
\[
\mu \circ \delta + \delta \circ \mu = e_1^* \circ \theta + e_2^* \circ \theta - e_{12}^* \circ \theta,
\]
[1, p.15]. This map \( \mu \) is defined similarly to \( \theta \), but now the formula for
\[
\mu(\phi)(a, b, u_1, \ldots, u_k)
\]
sums over all possible ways to distributes conjugates of both \( a \) and \( b \) between the \( u_i \) while always keeping \( a \) before \( b \). These formulas have further natural generalizations and there is \( \eta : C^{k+3}(G, U(1)) \rightarrow C^k(G^3, U(1)) \) such that
\[
\delta \circ \eta + \eta \circ \delta = e_{1,2}^* \circ \mu + e_{12,3}^* \circ \mu - e_{2,3}^* \circ \mu - e_{1,23}^* \circ \mu.
\]

A further important ingredient in the definition of (1) is the construction of a push-forward map in twisted \( \tau \)-theory
\[
f_\ast : K^{\tau+\gamma} G \rightarrow K^\tau \mathcal{H}
\]
T-duality is a notion in (super) conformal field theory. More specifically, it is translation between pairs $(E, \eta)$ that describe how these fields transform under transition to the T-dual target $[1]$. The corresponding fields are metrics, connections and the B-field. The Busher rules matching the twists in the definition of $a \star b$ that relate $E$ and prove associativity using the obstruction bundle equation $[1, \text{Theorem } 7.1]$ that relates $E_{G^2}$ to the excess bundle $\nu$.

References


Talk 12: Twisted K-theory and T-duality

Nathalie Wahl

T-duality is a notion in (super) conformal field theory. More specifically, it is the observation that type IIA and IIB-string theories become equivalent on T-dual targets. If the targets are torus bundles equipped with B-fields, then the corresponding fields are metrics, connections and the B-field. The Busher rules describe how these fields transform under transition to the T-dual target $[1]$.

The underlying topology was formalized in [2]. Topological T-duality is a relation between pairs $(E, \eta)$ where $\pi : E \rightarrow B$ is a principal torus bundle and
η ∈ H³(E, Z) is a twist. A duality between two such pairs is expected to give an isomorphism between the twisted K-theories of the bundles.

In the case of U(1)-bundles, i.e. when the torus is one-dimensional, each pair (E, η) has a unique dual (Ẽ, Ũ) and there is a T-duality transformation

\[ T : K(E, η) \xrightarrow{\cong} K(Ẽ, Ũ). \]

Moreover, the Chern classes c, ũ of E, Ẽ, and twists η, Ũ are interchanged according to the following relation: \( \pi_!(\eta) = \hat{c} \) and \( \hat{\pi}_!(\hat{\eta}) = c \).

Let P denote the contravariant functor that takes a space B to the set \( P(B) \) of isomorphism classes of pairs \( (E, η) \) with E a U(1)-bundle over B. There is a representing space R for P, i.e. a space R so that \( P(B) \cong [B, R] \) and the T-duality transformation can be realized as an automorphism of R.

The T-duality for higher dimensional torus bundles is more complicated: both the existence and uniqueness of T-duals fail in general [3]. One also needs to be more precise about twists in higher dimensions. By a twist, we now mean a locally trivial \( K(H) \)-bundle \( H \to E \) where \( K(H) \) is the algebra of compact operators on an infinite dimensional Hilbert space H. Morphisms of twists are homotopy classes of algebra bundle isomorphisms. Isomorphism classes of twists over E are classified by \( H^3(E, \mathbb{Z}) \) and their groups of automorphisms are isomorphic to \( H^2(E, \mathbb{Z}) \). A T-duality triple is a triple \( ((E, H), (Ẽ, ẼH), u) \) where H is a twist over E, ẼH a twist over Ẽ and \( u : p^*H \to \hat{p}^*\hat{H} \) is a morphism between the twists pulled back along the projections

\[ E \xleftarrow{p} E \times_B Ẽ \xrightarrow{\hat{p}} Ẽ. \]

The twists and the isomorphism u must satisfy some conditions [3, Def. 2.8]. We say that two pairs \( (E, η) \) and \( (Ẽ, Ũ) \) are dual if there exists a T-duality triple \( ((E, H), (Ẽ, ẼH), u) \) with \( [H] = η \) and \( H = Ũ \). When such a triple exists, it induces an isomorphism \( K(E, H) \xrightarrow{\cong} K(Ẽ, ẼH). \)

T-duality can also be described in terms of C*-algebras, where a pair \( (E, η) \) is replaced by a continuous trace algebra with spectrum E [4]. In the case of \( T^n \)-bundles, Mathai and Rosenberg show that when a “classical dual” does not exist, the T-dual is a “bundle of non-commutative tori”.

References

In this talk we define the twisted loop groups $L_PG$ of a compact Lie group $G$ and describe how a central extension of $L_PG$ gives rise to a twisting for the $K$-theory of $G$, equivariant with respect to the action of $G$ on itself by conjugation. We then study certain admissible central extensions and their positive energy representations. The talk closely follows the discussion in [2]; many of the ideas are also discussed in [5] and [4].

**Twisted Loop Groups.** Principal $G$-bundles over $S^1$ are classified by conjugacy classes in $\pi_0(G)$. Given such a bundle $G \rightarrow P \rightarrow S^1$, let $G[P]$ be the union of the components of $G$ in the conjugacy class classifying $P$, and let $L_PG$ be the group of smooth gauge transformations of $P$. If $P$ is the trivial $G$-bundle then $L_PG$ is the loop group $LG$, so we consider $L_PG$ to be a “twisted” loop group. $L_PG$ is an infinite dimensional Lie group and we denote its Lie algebra by $L_Pg$. $L_PG$ acts on the space $A_P$ of connections on $P$ by pulling back the connection.

**Proposition 1.** There is an equivalence of stacks $[A_P/L_PG] \cong [G[P]/G]$.

Given a quotient stack $[X/H]$ with $H$ a topological group, a central extension $1 \rightarrow S^1 \rightarrow \tilde{H} \rightarrow H \rightarrow 1$ induces an $S^1$-gerbe $[X/H] \rightarrow [X/H]$. Hence by Proposition 1 a central extension of $L_PG$ by $S^1$ induces an $S^1$-gerbe on $[G[P]/G]$, i.e. a twisting of $K^*([G[P]/G])$.

**Proposition 2.** If $G$ is connected and semi-simple, then every $S^1$-gerbe on $[G/G]$ arises from a central extension of $G$.

**Note.** If $G$ is connected then $P = S^1 \times G$, $L_PG = LG$ and $G[P] = G$.

**Admissible Central Extensions.** Let $\Pi_{rot}$ be the group of rigid rotations of $S^1$, and let $(L_PG)_{rot}$ be the group of smooth automorphisms of $P$ that cover elements of $\Pi_{rot}$. For any connected finite covering $\tilde{\Pi}_{rot} \rightarrow \Pi_{rot}$ define $\tilde{L_PG}$ to be the pullback:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\tilde{L}_P G & \longrightarrow & \tilde{\Pi}_{rot} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
(L_PG)_{rot} & \longrightarrow & \Pi_{rot}.
\end{array}
$$
Definition 3. A central extension $1 \to S^1 \to (L_P G)^\tau \to L_P G \to 1$ is admissible if

1. There exists a covering $\hat{\Pi}_{\text{rot}}$ and a central extension $(\hat{L}_P G)^\tau$ of $\hat{L}_P G$ which fits into the commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
1 & \to & S^1 & \to & \hat{L}_P G & \to & 1 \\
1 & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & 1 \\
1 & \to & S^1 & \to & L_P G & \to & 1 \\
1 & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & 1 \\
\Pi_{\text{rot}} & \to & \hat{\Pi}_{\text{rot}} & & & & 1
\end{array}
\]

2. There exists an $\hat{L}_P G^\tau$-invariant symmetric bilinear form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\tau}$ on $(\hat{L}_P g)^\tau$ such that $\langle K, d \rangle_{\tau} = -1$ for all $d \in (\hat{L}_P g)^\tau$ which project to $i \in i\mathbb{R}_{\text{rot}}$, where $K$ is the central element $i \in i\mathbb{R}$, the Lie algebra of $S^1$.

Note. If $G$ is semi-simple than any central extension of $L_P G$ is admissible.

Admissible central extensions of $L_P G$ form a group under the Yoneda product of central extensions. This product corresponds to the addition of twistings of $K$-theory.

Positive Energy Representations. Fix an admissible graded central extension $(L_P G)^\tau \to L_P G$. A connection $A \in \mathcal{A}_P$ gives us an operator $d_A$ in $(\hat{L}_P g)^\tau$ which is a lift of $i \in i\mathbb{R}_{\text{rot}}$.

Definition 4. Let $\rho : (L_P G)^\tau \to U(V)$ be a unitary representation on a $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$-graded complex Hilbert space. Assume $\rho$ is even and the central $S^1$ acts by scalar multiplication. $V$ has positive energy if:

1. $\rho$ extends to a unitary representation $\hat{\rho} : (\hat{L}_P G)^\tau \to U(V)$.
2. For all $A \in \mathcal{A}_P$ the energy operator $E_A$ is self-adjoint with discrete spectrum bounded below, where $iE_A$ is the skew-adjoint operator $\hat{\rho}(d_A)$.

For a positive energy representation $V$ and a connection $A \in \mathcal{A}_P$, we can decompose

$$V = \oplus_{e \in \mathbb{R}} V_e(A)$$

where $E_A$ acts on $V_e(A)$ as multiplication by $e$.

Finally, we state the main properties of positive energy representations.
Proposition 5. Let \((L_P G)^\tau\) be an admissible central extension such that the form \(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\tau\) is positive definite on \(L_P(\mathfrak{g})\), where \(\mathfrak{g}\) is the center of \(g\). Then, up to essential equivalence:

1. Positive energy representations are completely reducible, i.e., a discrete direct sum of irreducible representations.
2. For any irreducible positive energy representation \(V\), each \(V_c(A)\) is finite dimensional.
3. If \(V\) is finitely reducible and the extension \(\hat{\rho}\) is given, then if part (2) of the definition holds for one \(A \in \mathcal{A}_P\) then it holds for all \(A \in \mathcal{A}_P\).
4. There is a finite number of isomorphism classes of irreducible positive energy representations of \((L_P G)^\tau\).

References


Talk 14: Construction of twisted K-theory classes from positive energy representations

GREGORY D. LANDWEBER

Let \(G\) be a compact Lie group and let the twisted loop group \(L_P G\) be the space of gauge transformations on a principal \(G\)-bundle \(P \to S^1\). Letting \(R^\tau(L_P G)\) denote the Grothendieck group of positive energy representations of \(L_P G\) of level \(\tau\), we construct an additive group homomorphism to twisted equivariant K-theory,

\[
R^\tau(L_P G) \to \tau + \sigma K_G^{\dim G}(G[P]),
\]

where \(G\) acts on itself by conjugation, and the shift \(\sigma\) is the level of the spin representation of \(L_P G\). This map can be viewed as providing either a finite dimensional model for the Verlinde algebra (we do not address the product structures here), or an explicit construction for twisted equivariant K-theory classes.

Letting \(A_P\) denote the affine space of connection on the bundle \(P\), the holonomy map \(A_P \to G\) induces an equivalence of quotient stacks

\[
[A_P / L_P G] \cong [G[P] / G],
\]

where \(G\) acts on itself by conjugation. The homomorphism (1) factors through the following fictitious Thom isomorphism:

\[
\tau K_{L_P G}(pt) \to \tau + \sigma K_{L_P G}^{\dim L_P G}(A_P),
\]
and the purpose of this talk is to define this Thom homomorphism rigorously. Given a positive energy representation of $L_P G$ of level $\tau$, we construct a $L_P G^{\tau+\sigma}$-equivariant family of Dirac operators

$$\mathcal{A}_P \ni A \mapsto \partial_A \in \text{Fred}(V \otimes S_{L_P G}),$$

which ostensibly determines a $L_P G$-equivariant twisted $K$-theory class on $\mathcal{A}_P$.

This construction originally appeared in a slightly simpler version in [5], and our treatment follows [1, 2].

For most of this talk we work in greater generality, constructing a Dirac family not just for $L_P G$, but rather for a general (infinite dimensional) real Lie algebra $\mathfrak{h}$, equipped with an ad-invariant (non-degenerate) inner product and a polarization

$$\mathfrak{h}_C = \mathfrak{h}_C^+ \oplus \mathfrak{h}_C^0 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_C^-,$$

where $\mathfrak{h}^0$ is finite dimensional and orthogonal to $\mathfrak{h}_C^\pm$, both of which are isotropic. We construct the Clifford algebra $\text{Cl}(\mathfrak{h})$, and following [3], we construct the spin representation whose finite elements are given by

$$S_{\mathfrak{h}} := S_{\mathfrak{h}_0} \otimes \Lambda^\bullet(\mathfrak{h}_C^+).$$

To make sense of products in the Clifford algebra, we introduce a normal ordering homomorphism $\text{Cl}(\mathfrak{h}) \to \Lambda(\mathfrak{h})^*$, and we actually work with the completion of $\text{Cl}(\mathfrak{h})$ in $\text{End} S_{\mathfrak{h}}$ and its image in $\Lambda(\mathfrak{h})^*$. This allows us to introduce a Clifford product on a subspace of the exterior algebra, as in [3, 4].

For $\xi \in \mathfrak{h}^*$, the 2-form $d\xi \in \Lambda^2(\mathfrak{h})^*$ is given by

$$d\xi(X,Y) = -\frac{1}{2} \xi([X,Y])$$

for $X, Y \in \mathfrak{h}$, and we compute

$$\{X^*, \omega\} = 2 \tau_X \omega, \quad [dX^*, \omega] = 2 \text{ad}_X^* \omega,$$

for $X \in \mathfrak{h}$ and any $\omega \in \Lambda^*(\mathfrak{h})^*$. Setting

$$S(X) := \frac{1}{2} dX^*,$$

it follows that

$$[S(X), S(Y)] = S([X,Y]) + \text{central terms},$$

for $X, Y \in \mathfrak{h}$, and thus $S$ is a projective representation of $\mathfrak{h}$ on $S_{\mathfrak{h}}$, intertwining with the Clifford action to give a projective representation of $\mathfrak{h} \oplus \text{Cl}(\mathfrak{h})$ on $S_{\mathfrak{h}}$.

Given a skew-hermitian derivation $d$ of $\mathfrak{h}$ whose eigenspaces are finite dimensional, we can use it to define a polarization by decomposing $\mathfrak{h}_C$ into its positive, zero and negative eigenspaces of $-i \, d$. A projective representation of $\mathfrak{h}$ is called admissible with respect to $d$ if its projective cocycle is of the form

$$[S(X), S(Y)] - S([X,Y]) = -i \, \langle \langle dX, Y \rangle \rangle_\sigma,$$

in terms of some ad-invariant inner product $\langle \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \rangle_\sigma$ for which $d$ is skew-hermitian (this inner product need not be the same one we started with).
Given an admissible central extension $\mathfrak{h}^*$ of $\mathfrak{h}$, the formal Dirac operator is
\[
\mathcal{D}_0 := \hat{R} + 1 \otimes \Omega \in U(\mathfrak{h})^* \otimes \Lambda^*(\mathfrak{g})^* ,
\]
where $\hat{R}$ is the tautological $U(\mathfrak{h})^*$-valued 1-form corresponding to the inclusion $R : \mathfrak{h} \hookrightarrow U(\mathfrak{h}^*)$, and $\Omega \in \Lambda^3(\mathfrak{h})^*$ is the fundamental 3-form
\[
\Omega(X, Y, Z) = -\frac{1}{12} \langle X, [Y, Z] \rangle
\]
for $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{g}$. Letting
\[
T(X) := R(X) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes S(X)
\]
be the total action, the Dirac operator $\mathcal{D}_0$ is characterized by the commutator
\[
\{X^*, \mathcal{D}_0\} = 2i \xi \mathcal{D}_0 = 2T(X).
\]
In addition, if the spin representation $S$ and the representation $R$ are both admissible, then the total representation $T$ is admissible, and we have the identities
\[
[T(X), \mathcal{D}_0] = -i (dX)^*, \quad \mathcal{D}_0^2 = 2i T(d) + \text{central terms},
\]
provided that we use the inner product at the level $\sigma + \tau$ of $T$ (as in (2)).

For $\mu \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ we define the formal Dirac family $\mathcal{D}_\mu := \mathcal{D}_0 + i\mu$. Then (3) implies
\[
[T(X), \mathcal{D}_\mu] = -i (dX)^* + i \text{ad}_X^* \mu,
\]
where the right hand side is the affine coadjoint action of $\mathfrak{h}^{\sigma+\tau}$ on $\mathfrak{h}^*$ (see [6]). Thus, the Dirac family is $\mathfrak{h}^{\sigma+\tau}$-equivariant. In addition, it follows from (3) that
\[
\mathcal{D}_\mu^2 = 2i T(d + \mu) + \text{central terms}.
\]

Returning to our initial problem, we are interested in the case where $\mathfrak{h} = L_{P} \mathfrak{g}$, the space of sections of the bundle $P \times_G \mathfrak{g}$, with a polarization determined by the energy operator $d_{\alpha}$ corresponding to some fixed connection $A_0 \in \mathcal{A}_P$ on $P$. A direct computation shows that the spin representation $S_{L_{P} \mathfrak{g}}$ is an admissible positive energy representation of $L_{P} G$ at level $\sigma$ given by the inner product
\[
\langle Y, Z \rangle_{\sigma} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathfrak{g}} \text{Tr}(\text{ad} Y(\theta), \text{ad} Z(\theta)) \frac{|d\theta|}{2\pi}
\]
for $Y, Z \in L_{P} \mathfrak{g}$.

For a general connection, we map
\[
\mathcal{A}_P \ni A = A_0 + a \rightarrow a^* \in L_{P} \mathfrak{g}^*,
\]
giving a $L_P G^{\sigma+\tau}$-equivariant map $\mathcal{A}_P \rightarrow L_{P} \mathfrak{g}^*$, since the affine coadjoint action on the right hand side of (4) is dual to an infinitesimal gauge transformation. We can therefore construct a $L_P G^{\sigma+\tau}$-equivariant formal Dirac family
\[
\mathcal{A}_P \ni A \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_A \in U(L_{P} \mathfrak{g})^* \otimes \Lambda^*(L_{P} \mathfrak{g})^* .
\]
If $V$ is a positive energy representation of $L_{P} \mathfrak{g}^{\tau}$, then the eigenspaces of the energy operators $T(d_A) = T(d_{A_0} + a)$ are all finite dimensional. If $V$ is irreducible, then it follows from (5) and Schur’s lemma that ker $\mathcal{D}_A^2$ is finite dimensional for all $A$, and since $\mathcal{D}_A$ is self-adjoint, we have ker $\mathcal{D}_A = \ker \mathcal{D}_A^2$. So, the Dirac family
acting on $V \otimes S_{L_{P\sigma}}$ is Fredholm. However, these operators are not bounded, and the family is not continuous, which we fix by forcing our operators to be bounded:

$$A_P \ni A \mapsto \mathcal{F}_A := \partial_A (1 + \partial_A^2)^{-1/2} \in \text{Fred}(V \otimes S_{L_P}).$$

This new family is $L_P G^{n+\tau}$-equivariant, Fredholm, and continuous, and so it determines a class in the twisted $K$-theory of the corresponding quotient stacks,

$$\sigma + \tau K^{\text{dim} G} ([A_P/L_P G]) \cong \sigma + \tau K^{\text{dim} G} ([G[P]/G]) .$$

(The degree shift comes from an additional $\text{Cl}(1)$-action when $\text{dim} G$ is odd.)

References


Talk 15: The FHT-Theorem I

MARKUS SPITZWECK

In our talk we described the so-called Key Lemma [1, Lemma 5.8] needed in the proof of the FHT-theorem and an application of the Key Lemma to the stack $[N/N]$. Here $N$ is an extension of a finite group by a torus and the action of $N$ on itself is by conjugation.

To formulate the Key Lemma one makes the following Construction: Let $X$ be a compact space, $G$ a compact group acting on $X$, $M$ a normal subgroup of $G$ acting trivially on $X$ and $\tau$ a twisting of $[X/G]$.

Let $\tau P \to X$ be a $G$-equivariant projective bundle representing $\tau$. One extracts the following data:

1. A family $S^1_X \hookrightarrow \tau M \to M_X$ of central extensions of $M$ over $X$,
2. a $G/M$-equivariant covering $p : Y \to X$ whose fibers label the irreducible $\tau$-projective representations of $M$,
3. a $G$-equivariant tautological projective bundle $\mathbb{P}R \to Y$, whose fiber over $y \in Y$ is the projectivised $\tau$-representation labelled by $y$,
4. the corresponding class $[R] \in \mathbb{P}^R K_G(Y)$,
5. a twisting $\tau' \cong p^* \tau - \mathbb{P}R$. 

This new family is $L_P G^{n+\tau}$-equivariant, Fredholm, and continuous, and so it determines a class in the twisted $K$-theory of the corresponding quotient stacks,
Lemma 1. (Key Lemma) There is a natural isomorphism
\[ \tau^* K_{G/M}(Y) \cong \tau^* K_G(X), \]
where $K$-theory with compact supports is used.

Idea of proof. One shows that the map given by the composition
\[ \tau^* K_{G/M}(Y) \rightarrow \tau^* K_G(Y) \cong p^* K_G(Y) \oplus [R] \rightarrow p^* K_G(Y) \rightarrow \tau^* K_G(X) \]
is an isomorphism. By a slice argument and the Mayer-Vietoris property for closed coverings one reduces to the case $X = pt$. Then a purely representation theoretic argument gives maps in both directions. $\square$

Example 2. We apply the above construction to the case $X = pt$, $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$, and $M = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \subset G$ via the diagonal embedding. The possible twists are classified by $H^3(G, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. The set of irreducible $M$-representations (twists are not possible) is the character group of $M$, so $Y \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ as a set. The action of $G$ on $Y$ is trivial, the $G/M$-twist $\tau'$ of $Y$ as well, hence independent of the given twist $\tau$ we get $\tau^* K_G(pt) \cong \bigoplus \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} K^*_G(pt)$.

The proof of the main theorem uses pullback of twisted $K$-theory classes along maps
\[ [T/T] \rightarrow [T/N] \rightarrow [N/N] \rightarrow [G/G], \]
where $N$ is the normalizer in $G$ of a maximal torus $T \subset G$. Hence we put ourselves in the situation where we have an extension
\[ 1 \rightarrow T \rightarrow N \rightarrow W \rightarrow 1, \]
where $T$ is a torus and $G$ a finite group, and we are given a twist of $[N/N]$ represented by a $S^1$-gerbe $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow [N/N]$.

For any $f \in N$ let $N(f)$ be the stabilizer in $N$ of the component $fT$. We have a decomposition of stacks
\[ (3) \quad [N/N] \cong \bigsqcup_f [fT/N(f)], \]
where $f$ runs through a set of representatives of conjugacy classes of $W$.

Here we are interested in the component of (3) indexed by $f = 1$ ([1, (6.2), (6.3)].

The twistings of $[T/T]$ are classified by $H^2(T) \otimes H^2(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$. We view this class as a map $\kappa_T : \Pi := H_1(T) \rightarrow H_2^2(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ or equivalently as a map $\kappa_T : \Pi \rightarrow H^1(T)$, since $H^2(T) \cong X(T) \cong H^1(T)$. The construction of the Key Lemma applied to the situation $X = T$, $M = T$, $G = N$ yields a family of central extensions $\varphi T$ of $T$ over $T$, which is locally the trivial central extension. We let $P_T$ be the corresponding locally free sheaf of $\mathbb{Z}$-lattices of characters of $\varphi T$ and $P_T^\varphi$ the affine sublattice of characters of central weight 1. Set $\varphi P := \varphi P_T^\varphi$, which is called the set of $\mathcal{G}$-affine weights of $T$. 
Claim: The monodromy of $G_P$ is given by $\kappa_{\tau}$. This follows from the description of the gerbe $G$ by gluing data in terms of line bundles (which define local autoequivalences of the stack $[pT/S]$) of the trivial gerbe on $t \times [pT/T]$, where $t$ is the universal cover of $T$.

We will assume in the following that $\kappa_{\tau}$ is injective, meaning that the twist defined by $G$ is topologically regular ([1, Definition 2.2]).

In that case the bundle $p : Y \to T$ given by the Key Lemma is a disjoint union of copies of $t$ indexed by $G_P/\kappa_{\tau}(\Pi)$, and we get isomorphisms

\[ \tau^* K_N^* (T) \cong \tau^* K_W^* (Y) \cong \tau' - \sigma(t) K_W^{\dim T} (G_P/\kappa_{\tau}(\Pi)). \]

Here $\sigma(t)$ is a twisting (in general involving gradings) defined by a $W$-equivariant Thom class of $t$. Using the equivalence of stacks $[(G_P/\Pi)/W] \cong [(G_P/\Pi \rtimes W)]$ one can rewrite the latter group as $\tau' - \sigma(t) K_W^{\dim T} (G_P)$.

We briefly sketch the situation for a general component of the decomposition (3) of $[N/N]$ ([1, (6.4)]). We fix $f \in N$.

The Key Lemma is applied to the situation $X = fT$, $G = N(f)$, $M = T_f$, where $T_f$ is the identity component of the stabilizer $T^f$ of $f$ (or equivalently of $fT$) in $T$.

The Key Lemma yields

\[ \tau^* K_N^* (fT) \cong \tau' K_{N(f)/T_f}^* (Y) \]

where $Y$ is a $X(T_f)$-torsor whose fiber $G_P$ over $f$ is called the set of $\tau$-affine weights of $T_f$. One has an equivalence of stacks

\[ [Y/(N(f)/T_f)] \cong [(G_P \times T_f)/W_{aff}]. \]

Here $T_f$ is the universal cover of $T_f$, and $W_{aff}$ sits in an extension

\[ 1 \to \Pi \to W_{aff} \to \tilde{W}^f \to 1, \]

where $\Pi = H_1(T_f)$ and $\tilde{W}^f = (N(f)/T_f)^f$ itself is an extension

\[ 1 \to (T^f/T)^f \to \tilde{W}^f \to W^f \to 1. \]

Under the same regularity condition as above this together with (4) yields an isomorphism ([1, Theorem 6.8])

\[ \tau^* K_{N(f)}^* (fT) \cong \tau' - \sigma(t) K_{W_{aff}}^{\dim T} (G_P). \]

References

The object of the talk was to explain the calculation of the twisted equivariant $K$-theory of a compact Lie group given by Freed, Hopkins and Teleman in [1]. To simplify both notation and proof of the theorem we restricted to the case of a compact, connected and simply connected group $G$ (see [1], Theorem 7.10 for the general statement). We tried to point out where the proof in the general situation requires additional arguments.

To state the theorem we need some notation. Fix a maximal torus $T \subset G$. Let $N$ denote its normalizer, $W = N/T$ the Weyl group of $G$ and $\Pi$ the cocharacter group of $T$. Let $\tau$ be a $G$-equivariant admissible twisting of $G$, i.e. an $S^1$-gerbe over $[G/G, \text{conj}]$ such that the corresponding class $[\tau] \in H^3_G(G)$ restricts to an element in $H^2_T(\text{pt}) = H^1(T)$ which under the canonical isomorphism $H^2_T(\text{pt}) \cong H^1(T)$ defines a non degenerate form $\kappa^\tau : H^1_T(T) \to H^1(T)$. (This condition is automatic under our simplifying assumptions, but not in the general case.) Given this data, the preceding talk defined a central $S^1$-extension $T^\tau$ of $T$ which is the automorphism group of an object of the gerbe $\tau$ over the point $1 \in [T/T]$. We denote by $\Lambda_\tau$ the set of weights of $T^\tau$ which restrict to the identity on the central $S^1$. The affine space $\Lambda^\tau$ carries an action of the affine Weyl-group $W \rtimes \Pi$, where $\Pi$ acts via the form $\kappa^\tau$. And we denote $\Lambda^\tau_{\text{reg}}$ the elements which are not fixed by any reflection in $W \rtimes \Pi$.

**Theorem 1** (Freed, Hopkins, Teleman). *There is a canonical isomorphism

$$K^\tau_G(G) \cong K^\sigma_W(T)(\Lambda^\tau_{\text{reg}}/\kappa^\tau(\Pi)).$$

In particular this group is a free $\mathbb{Z}$-module of rank equal to the number of elements in an open alcove in $\Lambda^\tau$.*

Here $\sigma(t)$ is the twisting given by the representation of $W$ on $t = \text{Lie}(T)$.

The idea of the proof is to induce classes from the torus $T$. Consider the natural map

$$\omega : [T/N] \to [G/G, \text{conj}].$$

Note that this map is surjective, since every element of $G$ is conjugate to an element in $T$, and it is even an isomorphism over the open set of regular elements $G^{\text{reg}} \subset G$.

Moreover, the map $\omega$ is canonically $K$-oriented, because the $G$-equivariant normal bundle of the map $T \times_N G \to G$ turns out to be trivial. Therefore there is a push-forward map $\omega_* : K^*_G(T) \to K^*_G(G)$.

The first step of the proof is to show that the composition $\omega_*\omega^*$ is an isomorphism. This is done using a Mayer-Vietoris argument to reduce to the case for the Lie-algebra $[g/G]$, where the twisting is trivial, so that we can apply the construction given in the talk of M. Joachim, to see that all $K$-theory classes are supported on regular orbits. Since $\omega$ is an isomorphism on this finishes the first step.
Next we can use the isomorphism $K^r_N(T) \cong K^σ(t)^{−\dim(T)}(Λ^r/k^r(II))$ constructed in the preceding talk. The same argument as before gives a split inclusion $K^σ(t)^{−\dim(T)}(Λ^r/k^r(II)) \subset K^σ(G)$. And we are left to see that classes supported on singular weights are mapped to 0 under $ω_\ast$. This is an analog of the Borel-Weil-Bott theorem. One way to prove this is first to replace $W$ by the subgroup of even elements to remove the grading from $σ(t)$ (i.e. to get an orientable representation) and then apply the Lefschetz formula as in the proof of the Borel-Weil-Bott theorem.

References


Talk 17: The FHT-Theorem III
ANDRÉ HENRIQUES

In this last talk, we show the commutativity of the following diagram:

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzcd}
\pi_0\text{-equivariant twisted vector bundles on } P \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & \operatorname{Mackey machine} \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & \text{Positive energy representations of the loop group } L_P G. \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & \text{Dirac family (talk 14)} \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & L_P G\text{-equivariant twisted } K\text{-theory of the space } \mathcal{A} \text{ of connections on } P. \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & \\
\pi_0\text{-equivariant twisted vector bundles on } P \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & \text{Thom isomorphism} & \text{& topological Mackey machine (talk 15)} \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & K^r_N(fT) \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & \text{Twisted } K\text{-theory of the stack } [G[P]/G] \arrow[leftrightarrow]{r}{\cong} & \\
\end{tikzcd}
\end{center}

where $P$ is a principal $G$-bundle over $S^1$, $L_PG$ is the group of gauge transformations of $P$, $G[P] \subset G$ is the set of possible monodromies of connections on $P$, and $\pi_0$ refers to $\pi_0(L_PG)$. The positive energy representations are assumed to have a
fixed projective cocycle $k$, and all the twistings in the above diagram depend on $k$.

The symbols $\circlearrowright$ and $\circlearrowleft$ refer to the sets of integral points of the open alcove of size $k + h^\vee$, respectively closed alcove of size $k + h^\vee$.

Following [1], we let $f$ be the monodromy of a fixed connection on $\mathcal{P}$, $\mathcal{T} \subset G$ be a maximal torus of $L_P \mathcal{G}$, and $N(f) \subset G$ be the subgroup of elements that conjugate $f\mathcal{T}$ into itself.

The main theorem of talk 16 identified the image of the restriction map $K^\tau([G[P]/G]) \to K^\tau_{N(f)}(f\mathcal{T})$ with the $\pi_0$-equivariant twisted vector bundles supported on the interior of the alcove. The commutativity of the above diagram is then used to show that:

**Theorem 1** ([1]). The Dirac family map $R^k(L_P \mathcal{G}) \to K^\tau_{L_P \mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{A})$ is an isomorphism.

**References**


**Appendix: Contravariant functoriality for twisted K-theory of stacks**

**Alexander Alldridge, Jeffrey Giansiracusa**

The purpose of this note is to clarify what is perhaps a small gap in the literature by explaining how the twisted $K$-theory of topological stacks as defined in [1] is contravariantly functorial. The content here is an exposition of a result from [4], an extension from Morita equivalences to proper generalized morphisms of the main theorem of [3].

Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a topological stack and $\mathcal{G} \to \mathcal{X}$ an $S^1$-banded gerbe, so there is a twisted $K$-group $K^{S^1, \ast}(\mathcal{X})$. If

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{H} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{G} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\mathcal{Y} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}
\end{array}
$$

is a morphism of $S^1$-gerbes then one hopes that there is a well-defined homomorphism

$$f^\ast : K^{\mathcal{G}, \ast}(\mathcal{X}) \to K^{\mathcal{Y}, \ast}(\mathcal{Y}).$$

and that these maps should respect composition. We show how to do this when $f$ is *proper* in an appropriate sense. To keep the description simple we present the construction only in the untwisted case; it is entirely straightforward to extend to the twisted setting.

**Proper generalized morphisms.** By choosing an atlas we can represent a stack by a groupoid. A representable morphism of topological stacks can be given
on the level of atlases by a homomorphism of groupoids if one is allowed to refine the atlas of the domain. The data of a homomorphism out of a refinement of the domain atlas is called a ‘generalized morphism’ of groupoids. See [2] for more details.

For our purposes the bibundle formulation of generalized morphisms is more convenient. Let $A_0 \rightrightarrows A_1$ and $B_0 \rightrightarrows B_1$ be locally compact Hausdorff groupoids.

**Definition 1.** A generalized morphism $Z : A_\bullet \rightarrow B_\bullet$ is a diagram

$$A_0 \xleftarrow{\alpha} Z \xrightarrow{\beta} B_0$$

where $Z$ has a left $A_\bullet$-action with respect to $\alpha$ and a commuting right $B_\bullet$-action with respect to $\beta$ such that $Z \xrightarrow{\alpha} A_0$ is a principal $B_\bullet$-bundle.

**Definition 2.** Such a generalized morphism is said to be proper if the action of $A_\bullet$ on $Z$ is proper and for every compact set $K \subset B_0$ there exists a compact set $L \subset Z$ such that $\beta^{-1}(K)$ is contained in the $A_\bullet$-orbit of $L$.

Note that a homomorphism of groupoids $f : A_\bullet \rightarrow B_\bullet$ produces a generalized morphism $Z_f = A_0 \times f, B_0, \text{trg} B_1$ which is proper if $f$ is a proper homomorphism. Also, Morita equivalences of groupoids are proper.

Locally compact groupoids with isomorphism classes of generalized morphisms form a category. The composition of

$$A_0 \leftarrow Z \rightarrow B_0 \text{ and } B_0 \leftarrow W \rightarrow C_0$$

is $A_0 \leftarrow Z \times_{B_\bullet} W \rightarrow C_0$. The composition of two proper generalized morphisms is again proper. For homomorphisms $f, g$ one has $Z_{fg} \cong Z_f \circ Z_g$.

**From groupoids to $C^*$-algebras.** Let $(A_\bullet, \lambda)$ be a locally compact groupoid with Haar system, so $C_c(A_1)$ becomes an algebra by convolution. For each $x \in A_0$ there is a natural $*$-representation of $C_c(A_1)$ on $L^2(A_1^x, \lambda^x)$. The reduced norm of $f \in C_c(A_1)$ is the given by taking the supremum of the operator norms of these representations. The completion with respect to the reduced norm is the reduced $C^*$-algebra $C^*_r(A_\bullet, \lambda)$.

Let $(B_\bullet, \mu)$ be a second groupoid with Haar systems and consider a proper generalized morphism $A_\bullet \xrightarrow{Z} B_\bullet$. Associated to these two groupoids are reduced $C^*$-algebras $\mathcal{A} = C^*_r(A_\bullet, \lambda)$ and $\mathcal{B} = C^*_r(B_\bullet, \mu)$. We will now show how to construct a special kind of $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A})$-bimodule $\mathcal{M}_Z$ from the generalized morphism of groupoids $Z$.

Start with $C_c(Z)$. This has a left action of $C_c(B_1)$ given by

$$(f \cdot \zeta)(z) = \int_{B_1^\gamma(z)} f(b)\zeta(zb)d\mu^{\beta(z)}(b),$$

and a right action of $C_c(A_1)$ given by

$$(\zeta \cdot g)(z) = \int_{A_1^\alpha(z)} \zeta(a^{-1}z)g(a^{-1})d\lambda^{\alpha(z)}(a).$$
Furthermore, it has a $C_c(A_1)$-valued inner product given as follows: choose $z \in Z$ with $\beta(z) = \text{src}(a)$ (note that by assumption $B_\bullet$ acts freely and transitively on the fibres of $\beta$), and set

$$
\langle \zeta, \xi \rangle_{\mathcal{A}}(a) = \int_{B_\beta(z)} \overline{\zeta(a^{-1}zb)} \xi(zb) d\mu^\beta(z)(b)
$$

(Note that we cannot also define a $C_c(B_1)$-valued inner product unless $Z \to B_0$ is a principal $A_\bullet$-bundle.) The bimodule $\mathcal{M}_Z$ is defined as the completion of $C_c(Z)$ with respect to the norm given by the $\mathcal{A}$-valued norm followed by the norm on $\mathcal{A}$. Clearly $\mathcal{M}_Z$ is a right $\mathcal{A}$-Hilbert module with a left action of $\mathcal{B}$.

**Proposition 3.** $\mathcal{B}$ acts by $\mathcal{A}$-compact operators, i.e. operators contained in

$$
\mathbb{K}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{M}_Z) = \text{operator norm closure of } \{\langle \zeta, \zeta' \rangle_{\mathcal{A}} \text{ for } \zeta, \zeta' \in \mathcal{M}_Z \} \subset \text{End}(\mathcal{M}_Z).
$$

**Proof.** Let $\psi$ be an element of $C_c(B_1)$ and let $K = \text{supp} \psi$. By the definition of properness for generalized morphisms there exists $L \subset Z$ compact with $\beta^{-1}(K)$ contained in the $A_\bullet$-orbit of $L$. One can choose functions $f_1, \ldots, f_n \in C_c(Z)$ with

$$
\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_1^{\alpha}(z)} f_i(a^{-1}z)d\lambda^\alpha(z)(a) = 1 \text{ for all } z \in L.
$$

Hence for any $z \in Z$ and $\zeta \in C_c(Z)$

$$
(\psi \cdot \zeta)(z) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_1^{\alpha}(z)} f_i(a^{-1}z) \int_{B_1^{\beta}(z)} \psi(b) \zeta(zb) d\mu^\beta(z)(b)d\lambda^\alpha(z)(a).
$$

Since $Z \xrightarrow{\alpha} A_0$ is a $B_\bullet$ principal bundle we can set $F_i(z, zb) = f_i(z)\psi(b)$, which gives a well-defined and compactly supported function on a closed subset of $Z \times Z$. Extend $F_i$ to an element $\tilde{F}_i$ of $C_c(Z \times Z)$. Now the algebraic tensor product $C_c(Z) \otimes C_c(z)$ is dense in $C_c(Z \times Z)$ with respect to the obvious norm, so one can write

$$
\tilde{F}_i = \sum_{k=1}^\infty g_{ik} \otimes \tilde{h}_{ik}.
$$

Then

$$
f_i(a^{-1}z)\psi(b) = F_i(a^{-1}z, a^{-1}zb) = \sum_{k=1}^\infty g_{ik}(a^{-1}z)\overline{h_{ik}(a^{-1}zb)}.
$$

Observe that for $\zeta, \zeta', \xi \in \mathcal{M}_Z$ we have

$$
|\langle \zeta, \zeta' \rangle_{\mathcal{A}}| = \int_{A_1^{\alpha}(z)} \overline{\zeta(a^{-1}z)} \int_{B_1^{\beta}(z)} \overline{\zeta'(a^{-1}zb)} \xi(zb) d\mu^\beta(z)(b)d\lambda^\alpha(z)(a).
$$

By inserting (5) into (4), we see from (6) that

$$
\psi \cdot \zeta = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^\infty |g_{ik}| \langle h_{ik} | \zeta \rangle_{\mathcal{A}}.
$$

(Here we use that convergence of functions $\tilde{F}_i$ in $C_c(Z \times Z)$ implies convergence of the associated finite rank operators in the operator norm.)
Note that the $C^*$-algebraic suspension $S\mathcal{M}_Z := \mathcal{M}_Z \otimes C_0(\mathbb{R})$ is naturally a right $\mathcal{A}$-Hilbert module with an action of $\mathcal{B}$ by $\mathcal{A}$-compact operators.

**Kasparov’s bivariant $KK$-theory.** For $C^*$-algebras $\mathcal{A}$, $\mathcal{B}$, Kasparov has defined a bivariant theory $KK(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A})$ such that

1. $K_*(\mathcal{A}) \cong KK(\mathbb{C}, S^*\mathcal{A})$.
2. There are associative Kasparov products $KK(\mathbb{C}, \mathcal{B}) \times KK(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A}) \otimes \rightarrow KK(\mathbb{C}, \mathcal{A})$.
3. A right $\mathcal{A}$-Hilbert module with a left action of $\mathcal{B}$ by $\mathcal{A}$-compact operators represents a class in $KK(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A})$. (But not all classes are represented by such bimodules.)

Now, suppose $Z : A_\bullet \to B_\bullet$ is a generalized morphism of groupoids. Pick Haar systems and form the reduced $C^*$-algebras $A = C^*_r(A_\bullet, \lambda)$ and $B = C^*_r(B_\bullet, \mu)$, and form the bimodule $\mathcal{M}_Z$. We get a morphism $K_*(B_\bullet) \to K_*(A_\bullet)$ from the diagram

$$K^{-i}(B_\bullet) = K_i(\mathcal{B}) \cong KK(\mathbb{C}, S^i\mathcal{B}) \cong KK(\mathbb{C}, S^i\mathcal{A}) \cong K^{-i}(A_\bullet).$$

These morphisms behave correctly with respect to composition.

**Proposition 7.** For generalized morphisms

$$A_0 \leftarrow Z \to B_0 \leftarrow W \to C_0,$$

one has the identity $[\mathcal{M}_W \otimes Z] = [\mathcal{M}_W] \otimes [\mathcal{M}_Z]$ in $KK(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A})$.

**Proof.** This is because the algebraic tensor product $C_c(W) \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} C_c(Z)$ becomes isomorphic to $C_c(W \times B_\bullet, Z)$ after completing both of these into $C^*$-algebras. □

**Proposition 8.** If $Z$ is the identity generalized morphism then multiplication by $\mathcal{M}_Z$ is the identity on $KK$-theory.

**Proof.** The identity generalized morphisms on $A_\bullet$ is $A_0 \xrightarrow{\text{trg}} A_1 \xrightarrow{\text{trg}} A_0$. So $\mathcal{M}_{id}$ is $\mathcal{A} = C^*_r(A_\bullet, \lambda)$, and tensoring with this is clearly the identity. □

Thus we have a functor from locally compact groupoids with Haar system and proper generalized morphisms to the category of $\mathbb{Z}/2$-graded abelian groups.

**Theorem 9.** The above gives a well-defined functor from (locally compact Hausdorff) topological stacks and representable proper morphisms to $\mathbb{Z}/2$-graded abelian groups.

**Proof.** Given any two atlases for a stack there is a canonical generalized isomorphism between them (i.e. a Morita equivalence). Furthermore, given any choice of Haar systems on these atlas groupoids the associated reduced $C^*$-algebras $\mathcal{A}$, $\mathcal{B}$ have a canonical bimodule (constructed from the canonical generalized isomorphism) representing an element in $KK(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A})$. Multiplication by this element induces a canonical isomorphism between the $K$-groups constructed from the two atlases and Haar systems. So the functor is well-defined on objects. It is clearly now also well-defined on arrows. □
References


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Arbeitsgemeinschaft mit aktuellem Thema: Twisted K-Theory

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