

SYMPLECTIC AND ORTHOGONAL K -GROUPS OF THE INTEGERS

MARCO SCHLICHTING

ABSTRACT. Nous calculons explicitement les groupes d'homotopie des espaces topologiques $B\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})^+$, $BO_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$ et $BO_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$.

We explicitly compute the homotopy groups of the topological spaces $B\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})^+$, $BO_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$ and $BO_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$.

1. ÉNONCÉ DES RÉSULTATS

Soient $\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})$, $O_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})$ et $O_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})$ le groupe symplectique infini, le $\langle 1, -1 \rangle$ -groupe orthogonal infini et le groupe orthogonal hyperbolique sur l'anneau des entiers \mathbb{Z} . Ils sont obtenus comme réunion des sous-groupes $\mathrm{Sp}_{2n}(\mathbb{Z})$, $O_{n,n}(\mathbb{Z})$ et $O_{2n}(\mathbb{Z})$ de $GL_{2n}(\mathbb{Z})$ laissant invariant les formes bilinéaires de matrices de Gram

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ -1 & 0 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & & \\ 0 & -1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ 1 & 0 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Les groupes $\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})$, $O_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})$ et $O_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})$ ont des sous-groupes de commutateurs parfaits. Rappelons que pour un tel groupe G la construction plus de Quillen BG^+ appliquée à l'espace classifiant BG de G est munie d'une application continue $BG \rightarrow BG^+$ qui induit un isomorphisme sur les groupes d'homologie intégrale et vaut $G \rightarrow G/[G, G]$ sur π_1 .

Le but de cet article est de calculer explicitement les groupes d'homotopie des espaces topologiques $B\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})^+$, $BO_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$ et $BO_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$. Ces espaces sont des espaces de lacets infinis puisqu'ils sont les composants connexes des espaces de la K -théorie $K\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})$, $GW(\mathbb{Z})$ et $KQ(\mathbb{Z})$ des formes non dégénérées symplectiques, bilinéaires symétriques et quadratiques sur \mathbb{Z} . On sait que les groupes d'homotopie de ces espaces sont des groupes abéliens de génération finie.

Pour un groupe abélien A , on note A_{odd} le sous-groupe des éléments d'ordre impaire fini.

Theorem 1.1. *Les groupes d'homotopie des espaces $B\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})^+$ et $BO_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$ pour $n \geq 1$ sont donnés dans le tableau du Theorem 2.1*

Theorem 1.2. *L'application qui envoie une forme quadratique sur sa forme bilinéaire symétrique associée induit un morphisme d'espaces de K -théorie $KQ(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow GW(\mathbb{Z})$ qui est un isomorphisme*

$$\pi_n BO_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+ \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_n BO_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+ \quad \text{en degré } n \geq 2$$

et le monomorphisme $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^2 \subset (\mathbb{Z}/2)^3$ en degré $n = 1$.

Date: September 9, 2019.

This work was partially funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

conjectured to be zero [Wei05, Introduction]. For example, $K_4(\mathbb{Z}) = 0$ [Rog00]. In particular for $n \geq 1$ we have the following table of homotopy groups

$n \pmod 8$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$\pi_n BSp(\mathbb{Z})^+$	(0?)	0	\mathbb{Z}	$\mathbb{Z}/2d_n$	$\mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus (0?)$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}/d_n
$\pi_n BO_{\infty, \infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$	$\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus (0?)$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2)^3$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2)^2$	\mathbb{Z}/d_n	$\mathbb{Z} \oplus (0?)$	0	0	\mathbb{Z}/d_n

where (0?) denotes a finite group of odd order conjectured to be zero.

3. PROOF PART 1: ODD TORSION

Lemma 3.1. *Let R be the ring of integers in a number field F . Then for all $n \geq 0$ there are isomorphisms*

$$KQ_n(R)_{\text{odd}} \cong GW_n(R)_{\text{odd}} \cong KSp_n(R)_{\text{odd}} \cong (K_n(R)_{\text{odd}})^{C_2}$$

where the action of C_2 on K -theory is induced by $GL(R) \rightarrow GL(R) : M \mapsto {}^t M^{-1}$.

Proof. The natural map $KQ_n(R)_{\text{odd}} \rightarrow GW_n(R)_{\text{odd}}$ is an isomorphism with inverse the cup product with the quadratic space associated with the Leech lattice Γ_8 [MH73, Ch. 2, §6]. Write $GW^{[0]}(R)$ and $GW^{[2]}(R)$ for $GW(R)$ and $KSp(R)$; see Section 4 below for general $GW^{[n]}$. The hyperbolic and forgetful maps factor as $K^{[r]}(R)_{hC_2} \rightarrow GW^{[r]}(R) \rightarrow K^{[r]}(R)^{hC_2}$; see [Sch17, (7.3) and Lemma 7.4] which doesn't use $1/2 \in R$. Here $K^{[n]}$ denotes the K -theory spectrum K with C_2 -action induced by the n -th shifted duality $\text{Hom}(_, R[n])$. On the spectrum level, this action depends on $n = 0, 2$. However, on homotopy groups the actions agree for $n = 0, 2$. Denote by $L^{[r]}$ the homotopy cofibre of the map of spectra¹ $K^{[r]}(R)_{hC_2} \rightarrow GW^{[r]}(R)$, then $L_i^{[r]} = L_{i-1}^{[r-1]}$ only depends on the difference $n - i$, $i \geq 1$ [Schc] and

$$GW_n^{[r]}(R)[1/2] \cong K_n^{[r]}(R)[1/2]^{C_2} \oplus L_n^{[r]}(R)[1/2]$$

since the composition $K^{[r]}(R)[1/2]_{hC_2} \rightarrow GW^{[r]}(R)[1/2] \rightarrow K^{[r]}(R)[1/2]^{hC_2}$ is an equivalence [Sch17, Lemma B.14]. Strictly speaking we define a non-connective version of $L^{[r]}$ as the homotopy colimit of the sequence

$$(3.1) \quad GW^{[r]} \rightarrow S^1 \wedge GW^{[r-1]} \rightarrow S^2 \wedge GW^{[r-2]} \rightarrow \dots$$

with appropriate delooping of $GW^{[n]}$ as in [Sch17] using the definition of $\mathcal{E}^{[n]}$ as below. The maps in (3.1) are the connecting maps of the homotopy fibration (4.1). Then we have *by definition* $L_i^{[n]} = L_0^{[n-i]}$ and as in [Sch17] we formally obtain the homotopy fibration whose connected cover we used above:

$$(K^{[n]})_{hC_2} \rightarrow GW^{[n]} \rightarrow L^{[n]}.$$

By Lemma 4.4 below, the canonical map $L_i^{[r]}(R)[1/2] \rightarrow L_i^{[r]}(F)[1/2]$ is an isomorphism for $i \geq r$. By [Sch17, Proposition 7.2] and [Bal01, Theorem 5.6], we

¹All spectra in this paper are -1 -connected, and all homotopy fibrations are in the category of -1 -connected spectra unless otherwise stated. In particular, the second map of a homotopy fibration need not be surjective on π_0

have

$$L_i^{[r]}(F)[1/2] = \begin{cases} W(F)[1/2] & r \equiv i \pmod{4} \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

where $W(F)$ is the usual Witt group of F . But it is well-known that $W(F)[1/2]$ is a free $\mathbb{Z}[1/2]$ -module of rank the number of orderings of F . This proves the lemma for $K_n Q$, GW_n for $n \geq 0$ and $K_n \mathrm{Sp}$ for $n \geq 2$. From the Zariski local to global spectral sequence, we see $L_1^{[2]}(R)[1/2] = L_0^{[1]}(R)[1/2] = H^1(R, L_0^0[1/2]) = 0$ since $L_0^{[0]}[1/2]$ is constant (flasque) on a ring of integers R and $L_0^{[1]}$ is Zariski-locally trivial. So, $K_1 \mathrm{Sp}(R)_{\mathrm{odd}} = (K_1(R)_{\mathrm{odd}})^{C_2}$. Finally, $L_0^{[2]}(R) = 0$ for a ring of integers since $K_0 \mathrm{Sp}(R) = H^0(R, \mathbb{Z})$, by the Zariski spectral sequence, hence $H : K_0(R) \rightarrow K_0 \mathrm{Sp}(R)$ is surjective and $L_0^{[2]} = 0$. \square

Continue to assume that R is a ring of integers in a number field. Let $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ be an odd prime and set $R' = R[1/\ell]$. Then the inclusion $R \subset R'$ induces an isomorphism: $K_n(R)\{\ell\} \cong K_n(R')\{\ell\}$ on ℓ -primary torsion subgroups for $n \geq 1$. For $i \geq 1$ the abelian group $K_{2i}(R')$ is finite and the group $K_{2i-1}(R')$ is finitely generated. For all $i \geq 1$ and large ν we therefore have an exact sequence

$$(3.2) \quad 0 \rightarrow K_{2i}(R')\{\ell\} \rightarrow K_{2i}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu) \rightarrow K_{2i-1}(R')\{\ell\} \rightarrow 0$$

[Wei05, Lemma 68]. Since ℓ is invertible in R' which has $\mathrm{cd}_\ell(R') \leq 2$, the proved Quillen-Lichtenbaum conjecture says that the following change of topology map is an isomorphism $K_{2i}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu) \cong K_{2i}^{\acute{e}t}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu)$ for $i \geq 1$. The change of topology map is C_2 -equivariant. From the étale local to global spectral sequence for $K^{\acute{e}t}$ we obtain the C_2 -equivariant isomorphism

$$(3.3) \quad K_{2i}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu) \cong K_{2i}^{\acute{e}t}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu) \cong H_{\acute{e}t}^0(R', K_{2i}/\ell^\nu)$$

[Wei05, Proof of Theorem 70] on which the action on the left is $GL(R) \rightarrow GL(R) : M \mapsto {}^t M^{-1}$ and on the right hand side it is multiplication with $(-1)^i$. Combining (3.2) and (3.3), Lemma 3.1 yields the following.

Theorem 3.2. *Let R be a ring of integers in a number field, and $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ an odd prime. Then for all $n \geq 1$ we have isomorphisms*

$$GW_n(R)\{\ell\} \cong K \mathrm{Sp}_n(R)\{\ell\} \cong KQ_n(R)\{\ell\} \cong \begin{cases} K_n(R)\{\ell\} & n \equiv 0, 3 \pmod{4} \\ 0 & n \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

4. PROOF PART 2: 2-ADIC COMPUTATIONS

For an exact category with weak equivalences und duality $(\mathcal{E}, w, \#, \mathrm{can})$, denote by $GW(\mathcal{E}, w, \#, \mathrm{can})$ the associated Grothendieck-Witt space of symmetric bilinear forms [Sch10, Definition 3]. If \mathcal{E} has a strong symmetric cone [Sch10, Definition 4], [Sch] I denote by $\mathcal{E}^{[1]} = (\mathrm{Mor} \mathcal{E}, w_{\mathrm{cone}}, \#, \mathrm{can})$ the exact category with weak equivalences and duality of morphisms in \mathcal{E} with duality and double dual identification induced by functoriality of $\#$ and can and weak equivalences those maps $f \rightarrow g$ of arrows in \mathcal{E} such that $\mathrm{cone}(f) \rightarrow \mathrm{cone}(g)$ is a weak equivalence in \mathcal{E} . By functoriality, $\mathcal{E}^{[1]}$ also has a strong symmetric cone. Set $GW^{[0]}(\mathcal{E}) = GW(\mathcal{E})$ and define inductively for $r \geq 1$

$$GW^{[r+1]}(\mathcal{E}) = GW^{[r]}(\mathcal{E}^{[1]}).$$

By [Sch10, Theorem 6], the sequence

$$\mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{E \mapsto 1_E} \text{Mor } \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{1} \mathcal{E}^{[1]}$$

induces a homotopy fibration $GW(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow GW^{[1]}(\mathcal{E})$ of -1 -connected spectra and by iteration the homotopy fibration

$$(4.1) \quad GW^{[r]}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow GW^{[r+1]}(\mathcal{E});$$

compare [Sch17, Proof of Proposition 4.9]. For details and a generalisation; see [Schc]. For $r < 0$, we define $GW^{[r]}(\mathcal{E})$ such that (4.1) holds for all $r \in \mathbb{Z}$. For a commutative ring R , we denote by $GW^{[r]}(R)$ the space $GW^{[r]}(\text{Ch}^b \mathcal{P}(R), \text{quis}, \text{Hom}(_, R), \text{can})$ where $\mathcal{P}(R)$ is the category of finitely generated projective R -modules and quis is the set of quasi-isomorphisms.

Theorem 4.1 ([Schd]). *Let R be a commutative ring, then*

- (1) $GW^{[0]}(R)$ is the K -theory space $GW(R)$ of the category of non-degenerate symmetric bilinear forms over R ,
- (2) $GW^{[2]}(R)$ is the K -theory space $KSp(R)$ of the category of non-degenerate symplectic forms over R , and
- (3) $GW^{[4]}(R)$ is the K -theory space $KQ(R)$ of the category of non-degenerate quadratic forms over R .

In particular, by [Schb, Theorem 6.6, Example 3.11 and Remark 2.19] we have

$$\begin{aligned} GW^{[0]}(\mathbb{Z}) &= GW(\mathbb{Z}) \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times BO_{\infty, \infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+, \\ GW^{[2]}(\mathbb{Z}) &= KSp(\mathbb{Z}) \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times BSp(\mathbb{Z})^+, \\ GW^{[4]}(\mathbb{Z}) &= KQ(\mathbb{Z}) \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times BO_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.2 ([Scha]). *Let R be a Dedekind domain and $S \subset R$ a multiplicative set of non-zero divisors. Then there is a natural homotopy fibration*

$$\bigoplus_{\mathfrak{p} \cap S \neq \emptyset} GW^{[-1]}(R/\mathfrak{p}) \rightarrow GW^{[0]}(R) \rightarrow GW^{[0]}(S^{-1}R).$$

Recall that Friedlander [Fri76] shows that $K_n Sp(\mathbb{F}_2)$ is a finite group of odd order for $n \geq 1$. In particular its 2-adic completion $K_n Sp(\mathbb{F}_2)_2^\wedge = 0$ for $n \geq 1$. Since the same is true for $K(\mathbb{F}_2)$, we obtain $GW_n(\mathbb{F}_2)_2^\wedge = 0$ for $n \geq 1$, $GW_n^{[\pm 1]}(\mathbb{F}_2)_2^\wedge = 0$ for $n \geq 0$ and the following from Theorems 4.1, 4.2 and the homotopy fibration (4.1).

Theorem 4.3. *Let $\mathbb{Z}^! = \mathbb{Z}[1/2]$ then the ring homomorphism $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^!$ induces isomorphisms after 2-adic completion*

$$\begin{aligned} K_n Sp(\mathbb{Z})_2^\wedge &\cong K_n Sp(\mathbb{Z}^!)_2^\wedge, & n \geq 0, \\ GW_n(\mathbb{Z})_2^\wedge &\cong GW_n(\mathbb{Z}^!)_2^\wedge, & n \geq 1, \\ KQ_n(\mathbb{Z})_2^\wedge &\cong KQ_n(\mathbb{Z}^!)_2^\wedge, & n \geq 2. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the 2-adic homotopy groups of $K\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z}')$ and $GW(\mathbb{Z}') = KQ(\mathbb{Z}')$ can be found in [Kar05, 4.7.2]. This proves the theorems in Section 2 apart from the following which was needed in the proof of Lemma 3.1.

Lemma 4.4. *Let R be the ring of integers in a number field F . Then the inclusion $R \subset F$ induces an isomorphism*

$$L_i^{[r]}(R)[1/2] \simeq L_i^{[r]}(F)[1/2], \quad i \geq r.$$

Proof. It suffices to prove the case $r = 0$ since $L_i^{[r]} = L_{i-r}^{[0]}$. From Theorem 4.2 we deduce the homotopy fibration of -1 -connected spectra

$$\bigoplus_{\mathfrak{p} \neq (0)} GW^{[-1]}(R/\mathfrak{p})[1/2] \rightarrow GW^{[0]}(R)[1/2] \rightarrow GW^{[0]}(F)[1/2]$$

in which the right horizontal map is also surjective on π_0 , by the computations in [MH73]. Using the analogous statement for K -theory, we obtain the homotopy fibration of spectra

$$\bigoplus_{\mathfrak{p} \neq (0)} L^{[-1]}(R/\mathfrak{p})[1/2] \rightarrow L^{[0]}(R)[1/2] \rightarrow L^{[0]}(F)[1/2].$$

The left term in that fibration is trivial since for a finite field \mathbb{F}_q , we have

$$L^{[-1]}(\mathbb{F}_q)[1/2] \simeq 0.$$

This is well-known for q odd, and for q even, $L^{[-1]}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ is a module spectrum over $L^{[0]}(\mathbb{F}_2)$ whose homotopy groups are 2-primary torsion since on π_0 it is

$$L_0^{[0]}(\mathbb{F}_2) = W(\mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{Z}/2.$$

□

REFERENCES

- [Bal01] Paul Balmer. Triangular Witt groups. II. From usual to derived. *Math. Z.*, 236(2):351–382, 2001.
- [Fri76] Eric M. Friedlander. Computations of K -theories of finite fields. *Topology*, 15(1):87–109, 1976.
- [Kar05] Max Karoubi. Bott periodicity in topological, algebraic and Hermitian K -theory. In *Handbook of K -theory. Vol. 1, 2*, pages 111–137. Springer, Berlin, 2005.
- [MH73] John Milnor and Dale Husemoller. *Symmetric bilinear forms*. Springer-Verlag, New York-Heidelberg, 1973. *Ergebnisse der Mathematik und ihrer Grenzgebiete, Band 73*.
- [Rog00] John Rognes. $K_4(\mathbf{Z})$ is the trivial group. *Topology*, 39(2):267–281, 2000.
- [Sch10] Marco Schlichting. The Mayer-Vietoris principle for Grothendieck-Witt groups of schemes. *Invent. Math.*, 179(2):349–433, 2010.
- [Sch17] Marco Schlichting. Hermitian K -theory, derived equivalences and Karoubi’s fundamental theorem. *J. Pure Appl. Algebra*, 221(7):1729–1844, 2017.
- [Schb] Marco Schlichting. Higher K -theory of forms I. From rings to exact categories. Accepted for publication in *J. Inst. Math. Jussieu*. DOI: 10.1017/S1474748019000410.
- [Schc] Marco Schlichting. Higher K -theory of forms II. From exact categories to chain complexes. *In preparation*.
- [Schd] Marco Schlichting. Higher K -theory of forms III. From chain complexes to derived categories. *In preparation*.
- [Scha] Marco Schlichting. Higher K -theory of forms for Dedekind domains. *In preparation*.
- [Wei05] Charles Weibel. Algebraic K -theory of rings of integers in local and global fields. In *Handbook of K -theory. Vol. 1, 2*, pages 139–190. Springer, Berlin, 2005.

MARCO SCHLICHTING, MATHEMATICS INSTITUTE, ZEEMAN BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK,
COVENTRY CV4 7AL, UK
E-mail address: `m.schlichting@warwick.ac.uk`