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Connective K-theory and Adams operations

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Abstract. We investigate the relations between the Grothendieck group of coherent modules of an algebraic variety and its Chow group of algebraic cycles modulo rational equivalence. Those are in essence torsion phenomena, which we attempt to control by considering the action of the Adams operations on the Brown–Gersten–Quillen spectral sequence and related objects, such as connective K_0-theory. We provide elementary arguments whenever possible. As applications, we compute the connective K_0-theory of the following objects: (1) the variety of reduced norm one elements in a central division algebra of prime degree; (2) the classifying space of the split special orthogonal group of odd degree.

1. Introduction

The goal of the paper is to illustrate the usefulness of the connective K_0-groups of an algebraic variety X and Adams operations for the study of relations between K-theory and the Chow groups of X.

For every integer i, denote $\mathcal{M}_i(X)$ the abelian category of coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules with dimension of support at most i. We have a filtration $(\mathcal{M}_i(X))$ of the category $\mathcal{M}(X)$ of all coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules such that $\mathcal{M}_i(X) = 0$ if $i < 0$ and $\mathcal{M}_i(X) = \mathcal{M}(X)$ if $i \geq \dim(X)$.

The K-groups of $\mathcal{M}(X)$ are denoted by $K'_n(X)$. The exact couple $(D^1_{r,s}, E^1_{r,s})$ of homological type with

$$D^1_{r,s} = K_{r+s}(\mathcal{M}_r(X)) \quad \text{and} \quad E^1_{r,s} = \coprod_{x \in X_{(r)}} K_{r+s} F(x),$$

where $X_{(r)}$ denotes the set of points in X of dimension r, yields the Brown–Gersten–Quillen (BGQ) spectral sequence

$$\coprod_{x \in X_{(r)}} K_{r+s} F(x) \Rightarrow K'_{r+s}(X)$$

with respect to the topological filtration

$$K'_n(X)_{(i)} = \operatorname{Im}(K_n(\mathcal{M}_i(X)) \to K_n(\mathcal{M}(X)))$$

on $K'_n(X)$.

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The group $K'_0(X)$ coincides with the Grothendieck group of coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules. The terms $E^2_{i,-i} = \mathrm{CH}_i(X)$ of the second page are the *Chow groups* of classes of dimension i algebraic cycles on X. The natural surjective homomorphism

$$\varphi_i \colon \mathrm{CH}_i(X) \twoheadrightarrow K'_0(X)_{(i/i-1)} := K'_0(X)_{(i)}/K'_0(X)_{(i-1)}$$

takes the class $[Z]$ of an integral closed subvariety $Z \subset X$ of dimension i to the class of $\mathcal{O}_Z$. The kernel of φ_i is covered by the images of the differentials in the spectral sequence with target in $\mathrm{CH}_i(X)$.

The groups

$$\mathrm{CK}_i(X) := D^2_{i+1,-i-1} = \mathrm{Im}\big(K_0(\mathcal{M}_i(X)) \to K_0(\mathcal{M}_{i+1}(X))\big)$$

are the *connective K_0-groups* of X (see [2, §5.1]). These groups are related to the Chow groups via exact sequences

$$\mathrm{CK}_{i-1}(X) \to \mathrm{CK}_i(X) \to \mathrm{CH}_i(X) \to 0$$

In the present paper we study differentials in the spectral sequence with target in the Chow groups via the connective K_0-groups. In Sections 2 and 3 we introduce and study the notion of an endo-module associated with an algebraic variety that locates a part of the BGQ spectral sequence near the zero diagonal.

In Section 4 we introduce an approach based on the Adams operations of homological type on the Grothendieck group. Compatibility of the Adams operations with the differentials in the spectral sequence was proved in [13, Corollary 5.5] with the help of heavy machinery of higher K-theory. We give an elementary proof of the compatibility with the differential coming to the zero diagonal of the spectral sequence. The Adams operations are applied in Section 5 to the study of the kernel of the homomorphism φ_i, and of the relations between the Grothendieck group and its graded group with respect to the topological filtration.

In Section 6 we consider the endo-module arising form the equivariant analog of the BGQ spectral sequence. As an example we compute the connective K_0-groups of the classifying space of the special orthogonal group O^+_n with n odd and as an application compute the differentials in the spectral sequence.

We use the following notation in the paper. We fix a base field F. A variety is a separated scheme of finite type over F. The residue field of a variety at a point x is denoted by $F(x)$, and the function field of an integral variety X by $F(X)$. The tangent bundle of a smooth variety X is denoted by T_X.

2. Endo-modules

Definition 2.1. Let R be a commutative ring and $B_\bullet$ a $\mathbb{Z}$-graded R-module. An endomorphism of $B_\bullet$ of degree 1 is (an infinite) sequence of R-module homomorphisms

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{\beta_{i-2}} B_{i-1} \xrightarrow{\beta_{i-1}} B_i \xrightarrow{\beta_i} B_{i+1} \xrightarrow{\beta_{i+1}} \cdots$$

We call the pair $(B_\bullet, \beta_\bullet)$ an *endo-module* over R. If $\beta_\bullet$ is clear from the context, we simply write $B_\bullet$ for $(B_\bullet, \beta_\bullet)$.

For an endo-module $(B_\bullet, \beta_\bullet)$ set

$$A_i = \mathrm{Ker}(\beta_i) \quad \text{and} \quad C_i = \mathrm{Coker}(\beta_{i-1}).$$

We have exact sequences

$$0 \to A_i \xrightarrow{\alpha_i} B_i \xrightarrow{\beta_i} B_{i+1} \xrightarrow{\gamma_{i+1}} C_{i+1} \to 0$$

and (an infinite) diagram of R-module homomorphisms:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
\cdots & & A_{i-1} & & A_i & & A_{i+1} & & \cdots \\
 & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \alpha_{i-1}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \alpha_i} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \alpha_{i+1}} & & \\
\cdots & \xrightarrow{\beta_{i-2}} & B_{i-1} & \xrightarrow{\beta_{i-1}} & B_i & \xrightarrow{\beta_i} & B_{i+1} & \xrightarrow{\beta_{i+1}} & \cdots \\
 & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \gamma_{i-1}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \gamma_i} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \gamma_{i+1}} & & \\
\cdots & & C_{i-1} & & C_i & & C_{i+1} & & \cdots
\end{array}$$

The compositions $\delta_i = \gamma_i \circ \alpha_i \colon A_i \to C_i$ are called the *differentials*.

The *derivatives* of the B_i's are the modules

$$B_i^{(1)} = \mathrm{Im}(\beta_i) \subset B_{i+1}.$$

The *derived* endo-module $\big(B_\bullet^{(1)} \beta_\bullet^{(1)}\big)$ of $(B_\bullet, \beta_\bullet)$ is defined by setting

$$\beta_i^{(1)} = \beta_{i+1}|_{B_i^{(1)}}.$$

For an integer $s > 0$ we define the sth derived endo-module $\big(B_\bullet^{(s)}, \beta_\bullet^{(s)}\big)$ of $(B_\bullet, \beta_\bullet)$ inductively as the derived endo-module of $\big(B_\bullet^{(s-1)}, \beta_\bullet^{(s-1)}\big)$, and call the modules $B_i^{(s)}$ the sth derivatives of the B_i's. Denoting by $\delta_i^{(s)}$ the differentials of the endo-module $B_\bullet^{(s)}$, the sth derivatives of the A_i's and C_i's are defined as:

$$A_i^{(s)} := \mathrm{Ker}\big(\beta_i^{(s)}\big) \simeq \mathrm{Ker}\big(\delta_{i+1}^{(s-1)}\big),$$
$$C_i^{(s)} := \mathrm{Coker}\big(\beta_{i-1}^{(s)}\big) \simeq \mathrm{Coker}\big(\delta_i^{(s-1)}\big).$$

Example 2.2. Let $(D^1_{r,s}, E^1_{r,s})$ be an exact couple of R-modules (see [23, §5.9]) such that $D^1_{r,s} = 0$ if $r + s < 0$. The exact sequences

$$E^1_{i+1,-i} \to D^1_{i,-i} \to D^1_{i+1,-i-1} \to E^1_{i+1,-i-1} \to 0$$

for all i yield an endo-module $B_i = D^1_{i,-i}$ over R. The associated R-module A_i coincides with the image of the first homomorphism in the exact sequence and $C_i = E^1_{i,-i}$. The differential

$$E^1_{i+1,-i} \to D^1_{i,-i} \to E^1_{i,-i}$$

on the first page of the spectral sequence associated with the exact couple factors into the composition

$$E^1_{i+1,-i} \twoheadrightarrow A_i \xrightarrow{\delta_i} C_i.$$

The derived endo-module of $B_\bullet$ arises the same way from the derived exact couple. It follows that the differential $\delta^{(s)}$ in the sth derived endo-module $B^{(s)}_\bullet$ correspond to the differentials in the $(s+1)$st page of the spectral sequence.

For an endo-module $B_\bullet$ write $H = H(B_\bullet) := \operatorname{colim} B_i$. For every i, denote $H_{(i)}$ the image of the canonical homomorphism $B_i \to H$. We have a filtration

$$\cdots \subset H_{(i-1)} \subset H_{(i)} \subset H_{(i+1)} \subset \cdots$$

of H. We would like to compute the subsequent factor modules

$$H_{(i/i-1)} := H_{(i)}/H_{(i-1)}$$

in terms of the C_i's.

There is a canonical surjective homomorphism

$$\varepsilon_i : C_i = \operatorname{Coker}(\beta_{i-1}) \twoheadrightarrow H_{(i/i-1)}$$

defined via the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B_i & \twoheadrightarrow & H_{(i)} \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle \gamma_i} & & \downarrow \\ C_i & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_i} & H_{(i/i-1)}. \end{array}$$

We have $H^{(1)} := H\big(B^{(1)}_\bullet\big) = H(B_\bullet) = H$ and $H^{(1)}_{(i)} = H_{(i)}$ for all i. The homomorphism ε_i factors into the composition

$$C_i \twoheadrightarrow C^{(1)}_i \xrightarrow{\varepsilon^{(1)}_i} H^{(1)}_{(i/i-1)} = H_{(i/i-1)}.$$

We call the $\varepsilon^{(1)}_i$ the *derivative* of ε_i.

Iterating we factor ε_i into the composition

$$C_i \twoheadrightarrow C_i^{(1)} \twoheadrightarrow C_i^{(2)} \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow C_i^{(s)} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_i^{(s)}} H_{(i/i-1)}$$

that yields an isomorphism

$$\operatorname*{colim}_s C_i^{(s)} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{(i/i-1)}$$

for every i. Recall that $C_i^{(s)} = \operatorname{Coker}\big(A_i^{(s-1)} \xrightarrow{\delta_i^{(s-1)}} C_i^{(s-1)}\big)$.

We would like to find conditions on $B_\bullet$ such that for every i the iterated derivative $\varepsilon_i^{(s)}$ of sufficiently large order s is an isomorphism.

Definition 2.3. An endo-module $B_\bullet$ is called *d-stable* for an integer d if $A_i = 0$ for all $i \geq d$. We say that $B_\bullet$ is *stable* if $B_\bullet$ is d-stable for some d, $B_\bullet$ is *degenerate* if $B_\bullet$ is d-stable for all d (equivalently, the homomorphisms $B_i \to B_{i+1}$ are injective for all i, or all A_i are zero) and $B_\bullet$ is *bounded below* if $B_i = 0$ for $i \ll 0$.

The following properties are straightforward.

Lemma 2.4. *Let $B_\bullet$ be an endo-module.*

(1) *If $B_\bullet$ is d-stable, then*
   (a) *The sth derived endo-module $B_\bullet^{(s)}$ is $(d-s)$-stable,*
   (b) *$B_i^{(s)} = B_i$ and $C_i^{(s)} = C_i$ for $i \geq d$,*
   (c) *$\varepsilon_i^{(s)}\colon C_i^{(s)} \to H_{(i/i-1)}$ is an isomorphism if $i+s \geq d$.*

(2) *If $B_\bullet$ is stable and bounded below, then $B_\bullet^{(s)}$ is degenerate for $s \gg 0$.*

(3) *If $B_\bullet$ is degenerate, then ε_i is an isomorphism for all i. The converse holds if $B_\bullet$ is bounded below.*

(4) *If $B_\bullet$ is d-stable, bounded below and $C_i = 0$ for all $i < d$, then $B_\bullet$ is degenerate.*

3. The endo-module of a variety

3.1. The endo-module $B_i(X)$

Let X be a variety. We will denote by $K_0'(X)$ (resp. $K_0(X)$) the Grothendieck group of the category $\mathcal{M}(X)$ of coherent (resp. the category of locally free coherent) $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules. The class of an $\mathcal{O}_X$-module M in either of these groups will be denoted by $[M]$. The tensor product endows $K_0(X)$ with a ring structure, and $K_0'(X)$ with a $K_0(X)$-module structure. We will denote the latter by $(a,b) \mapsto a \cdot b$, where $a \in K_0(X)$ and $b \in K_0'(X)$. For an integer i, we will denote by $\mathcal{M}_i(X)$ the abelian category of coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules of support dimension at most i.

Definition 3.1. We define an endo-module $(B_\bullet(X), \beta_\bullet)$ over $\mathbb{Z}$ associated with X as follows. Set

$$B_i(X) = K_0(\mathcal{M}_i(X))$$

and let $\beta_{i-1}\colon B_{i-1}(X) \to B_i(X)$ be the homomorphism induced by the inclusion of $\mathcal{M}_{i-1}(X)$ into $\mathcal{M}_i(X)$.

We have $B_i(X) = 0$ if $i < 0$ and $B_i(X) = K'_0(X)$ if $i \geq d$, so the endo-module $B_\bullet(X)$ is bounded below and d-stable. Also

$$B_i(X) = \operatorname{colim} K'_0(Z),$$

where the colimit is taken over all closed subvarieties $Z \subset X$ of dimension at most i with respect to the push-forward homomorphisms $K'_0(Z_1) \to K'_0(Z_2)$ for closed subvarieties $Z_1 \subset Z_2$ (see [18, §7, (5.1)]). The group $H = \operatorname{colim} B_i(X)$ coincides with $K'_0(X)$ and $H_{(i)}$ with the ith term $K'_0(X)_{(i)}$ of the topological filtration on $K'_0(X)$.

The factor category $\mathcal{M}_i(X)/\mathcal{M}_{i-1}(X)$ is equivalent to the coproduct over all points $x \in X_{(i)}$ of the categories $\mathcal{M}(\operatorname{Spec} F(x))$ (see [18, §7.5]). The localization exact sequence [18, §7] looks then as follows:

$$C_i(X,1) \xrightarrow{\partial_i} B_{i-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\beta_{i-1}} B_i(X) \to C_i(X) \to 0,$$

where

$$C_i(X,1) = \coprod_{x \in X_{(i)}} F(x)^\times \quad \text{and} \quad C_i(X) = \operatorname{Coker}(\beta_{i-1}) = \coprod_{x \in X_{(i)}} \mathbb{Z}$$

is the group of algebraic cycles of dimension i. The groups $A_i(X)$ associated with the endo-module $B_\bullet(X)$ are given then by

$$A_i(X) = \operatorname{Ker}(\beta_i) = \operatorname{Im}(\partial_{i+1}). \tag{3.2}$$

If $f\colon Y \to X$ is a proper morphism, there are homomorphisms $f_*\colon B_i(Y) \to B_i(X)$. There are also homomorphisms $f_*\colon C_i(Y,1) \to C_i(X,1)$, defined by letting the homomorphism $F(y)^\times \to F(x)^\times$ be trivial unless $f(y) = x$, in which case it is given by the norm of the finite degree field extension $F(y)/F(x)$ (see [4, §1.4]). We have

$$\partial_i \circ f_* = f_* \circ \partial_i. \tag{3.3}$$

If $f\colon Y \to X$ is a flat morphism of relative dimension r, there are homomorphisms $f^*\colon B_i(X) \to B_{i+r}(Y)$. There are also homomorphisms $f^*\colon C_i(X,1) \to C_{i+r}(Y,1)$, defined by letting the homomorphism $F(x)^\times \to F(y)^\times$ be trivial unless $f(y) = x$, in which case it is given by the inclusion $F(x) \subset F(y)$ (see [4, §1.7]). We have

$$\partial_{i+r} \circ f^* = f^* \circ \partial_i. \tag{3.4}$$

3.2. Connective K-groups

Definition 3.5. The derivatives $B_i(X)^{(1)}$ of $B_i(X)$ are the *connective K-groups* $\mathrm{CK}_i(X)$ and $C_i(X)^{(1)}$ are the *Chow groups* $\mathrm{CH}_i(X)$ of classes of cycles of dimension i (see [2, §4.3]).

We have the exact sequences

$$\mathrm{CK}_{i-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathrm{CK}_i(X) \to \mathrm{CH}_i(X) \to 0,$$

where $\beta = \beta_{i-1}^{(1)}$'s are called the *Bott homomorphisms*.

We can view the graded group $\mathrm{CK}_\bullet(X)$ as a module over the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[\beta]$. It follows from the definition that

$$\mathrm{CK}_\bullet(X)/\beta\,\mathrm{CK}_\bullet(X) \simeq \mathrm{CH}_\bullet(X) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathrm{CK}_\bullet(X)/(\beta-1)\,\mathrm{CK}_\bullet(X) \simeq K_0'(X). \tag{3.6}$$

For every $i \geq 0$ the (surjective) homomorphism

$$\varphi_i := \varepsilon_i^{(1)} \colon \mathrm{CH}_i(X) \twoheadrightarrow K_0'(X)_{(i/i-1)}$$

takes the class $[Z]$ of an integral closed subvariety $Z \subset X$ of dimension i to the class of $\mathcal{O}_Z$. The relations between the groups $\mathrm{CK}_i(X)$, $\mathrm{CH}_i(X)$ and $K_0'(X)_{(i)}$ are given by a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{CK}_i(X) & \twoheadrightarrow & K_0'(X)_{(i)} \\ \gamma_i \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathrm{CH}_i(X) & \xrightarrow{\varphi_i} & K_0'(X)_{(i/i-1)}. \end{array}$$

The goal is to study the homomorphisms φ_i. Recall that $C_i(X)^{(1)} = \mathrm{CH}_i(X)$ and the groups $C_i(X)^{(s)}$ are inductively defined via the exact sequences

$$A_i(X)^{(s)} \xrightarrow{\delta_i^{(s)}} C_i(X)^{(s)} \to C_i(X)^{(s+1)} \to 0.$$

Proposition 3.7. *The homomorphism φ_i factors as the composition*

$$\mathrm{CH}_i(X) = C_i(X)^{(1)} \twoheadrightarrow C_i(X)^{(s)} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_i^{(s)}} K_0'(X)_{(i/i-1)},$$

where $\varepsilon_i^{(s)}$ is an isomorphism if $s \geq d - i$.

Remark 3.8. The groups $B_i(X)$ and $B_i(X)^{(1)} = \mathrm{CK}_i(X)$ (but not $B_i(X)^{(s)}$ in general with $s > 1$), viewed as generalized homology theories, satisfy the localization property [14, Definition 4.4.6] (see [2, Theorem 5.1] and its proof). The derivatives $B_i(X)^{(s)}$ satisfy the extended homotopy property [14, Definition 5.1.3, (EH)] if $s \geq 1$ (this follows easily from the case $s = 1$, which is treated in [2, Theorem 5.3]), but not if $s = 0$ (for instance $B_{-1}(\mathrm{Spec}\, F) = 0$ while $B_0(\mathbb{A}_F^1) \neq 0$). Thus, the first derivative (the connective K-theory) is the only derivative that satisfies both localization and extended homotopy properties.

3.3. Generators for $A_i(X)$

Definition 3.9. Let L be a line bundle (locally free coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-module of constant rank 1) over a variety X, and $s \in H^0(X, L)$ a section. We denote by $\mathcal{Z}(s)$ the closed subscheme of X whose ideal is the image of $s^\vee \colon L^\vee \to \mathcal{O}_X$, and by $\mathcal{D}(s)$ its open complement. The section s is called *regular* if the morphism $s \colon \mathcal{O}_X \to L$ (or equivalently $s^\vee \colon L^\vee \to \mathcal{O}_X$) is injective. In this case, the immersion $\mathcal{Z}(s) \to X$ is an effective Cartier divisor.

If s is a regular section of a line bundle L over X, the exact sequence of $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules

$$0 \to L^\vee \xrightarrow{s^\vee} \mathcal{O}_X \to \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s)} \to 0$$

shows that

$$[\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s)}] = [\mathcal{O}_X] - [L^\vee] \in K_0'(X). \tag{3.10}$$

Notation 3.11. Let us write $\mathbb{P}^1 = \operatorname{Proj}\big(F[x,y]\big)$, and view x and y as sections of $\mathcal{O}(1)$. We also view x/y (resp. y/x) as a regular function on $\mathcal{D}(y)$ (resp. $\mathcal{D}(x)$). Mapping u to that function induces an isomorphism between $\mathbb{A}^1 = \operatorname{Spec}\big(F[u]\big)$ and $\mathcal{D}(y)$ (resp. $\mathcal{D}(x)$).

Lemma 3.12. *We have* $\partial_1(x/y) = [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(x)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(y)}]$ *in* $B_0(\mathbb{P}^1)$.

Proof. Restricting to the open subschemes $\mathcal{D}(x)$, $\mathcal{D}(y)$ induces an injective map

$$B_0(\mathbb{P}^1) \to B_0(\mathcal{D}(x)) \oplus B_0(\mathcal{D}(y)).$$

Thus, we are reduced to proving that $\partial_1(u) = [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(u)}] \in B_0(\mathbb{A}^1)$ under the identification $\mathbb{A}^1 = \operatorname{Spec}\big(F[u]\big)$. This is done, e.g., in [18, §7, Lemma 5.1]. ∎

Proposition 3.13. *Let X be a variety and $i \in \mathbb{Z}$. The subgroup $A_i(X) \subset B_i(X)$ is generated by the elements $f_*\big([\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_1)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_2)}]\big)$, where*

- *$f \colon Y \to X$ is a proper morphism,*
- *Y is quasi-projective and integral of dimension $i+1$,*
- *s_1, s_2 are regular sections of a common line bundle over Y.*

Proof. Let $S_i(X) \subset B_i(X)$ be the subgroup generated by the elements

$$f_*\big([\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_1)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_2)}]\big)$$

as in the statement. For such s_1, s_2, we have

$$[\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_1)}] = [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_2)}] \in K_0'(Y) = B_{i+1}(Y)$$

by (3.10), and thus $S_i(X) \subset A_i(X)$.

It follows from (3.2) and (3.3) that the subgroup $A_i(X) \subset B_i(X)$ is generated by the push-forwards of elements $\partial_{i+1}(a) \in B_i(Z)$, where $a \in F(Z)^\times$ with $Z \subset X$ an integral closed subscheme of dimension $i+1$. Let U be a dense open subscheme of Z such that $a \in H^0(U, \mathcal{O}_U) \subset F(Z)$. Mapping u to a induces a morphism $U \to \operatorname{Spec}\big(F[u]\big) = \mathbb{A}^1$.

Composing with the morphism $\mathbb{A}^1 \simeq \mathcal{D}(y) \subset \mathbb{P}^1$ (using Notation 3.11), we obtain a morphism $U \to \mathbb{P}^1$. We denote by S the closure in $\mathbb{P}^1$ of the image of the latter morphism, endowed with the reduced scheme structure. Consider the graph of the morphism $U \to S$ as a closed subset of $U \times S$, and let Y' be its closure in $Z \times S$, endowed with the reduced scheme structure. By Chow's lemma [6, (5.6.1)] we may find a proper birational morphism $Y \to Y'$, where Y is quasi-projective and integral. Then we have morphisms

$$Z \xleftarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} S.$$

The morphism f is proper and birational, hence a admits a pre-image b under the isomorphism

$$f_*\colon F(Y)^\times = C_{i+1}(Y,1) \to C_{i+1}(Z,1) = F(Z)^\times.$$

The morphism g is dominant, hence flat by [7, III 9.7].

If $\dim S = 0$ (i.e. a is algebraic over F), then $b = g^*c$ for some $c \in F(S)^\times$, and the morphism g has relative dimension $i+1$, so that, by (3.3) and (3.4)

$$\partial_{i+1}(a) = f_* \circ \partial_{i+1}(b) = f_* \circ g^* \circ \partial_0(c) \subset f_* \circ g^* B_{-1}(S) = 0.$$

Otherwise $S = \mathbb{P}^1$, and g has relative dimension i. Using Notation 3.11, we have $b = g^*(x/y)$. By Lemma 3.12 and (3.4), we have in $B_i(Y)$

$$\partial_{i+1}(b) = g^* \circ \partial_1(x/y) = g^*\big([\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(x)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(y)}]\big) = [\mathcal{O}_{g^{-1}\mathcal{Z}(x)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{g^{-1}\mathcal{Z}(y)}].$$

The flatness of g implies that the sections $s_1 := g^*x$ and $s_2 := g^*y$ of $g^*\mathcal{O}(1)$ are regular, and satisfy $\mathcal{Z}(s_1) = g^{-1}\mathcal{Z}(x)$ and $\mathcal{Z}(s_2) = g^{-1}\mathcal{Z}(y)$. Using (3.3), we deduce that

$$\partial_{i+1}(a) = f_* \circ \partial_{i+1}(b) = f_*\big([\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_1)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_2)}]\big)$$

in $B_i(X)$, and we have proved that $A_i(X) \subset S_i(X)$. ■

4. Homological Adams operations

4.1. K-theory with supports

Definition 4.1. Let X be a variety and $Y \subset X$ a closed subscheme. We consider the category of chain complexes of locally free coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules

$$E_\bullet = \cdots \to E_n \to E_{n-1} \to \cdots$$

satisfying $E_i = 0$ when $i < 0$ or $i \gg 0$. The full subcategory consisting of those complexes whose homology is supported on Y will be denoted by $\mathcal{C}^Y(X)$. We define the group $K_0^Y(X)$ as the free abelian group generated by the elements $[E_\bullet]$, where $E_\bullet$ runs over the isomorphism classes of objects in $\mathcal{C}^Y(X)$, modulo the following relations:

- If $0 \to E'_\bullet \to E_\bullet \to E''_\bullet \to 0$ is an exact sequence of complexes in $\mathcal{C}^Y(X)$, then
$$[E_\bullet] = [E'_\bullet] + [E''_\bullet]$$
in $K_0^Y(X)$.
- If $E_\bullet \to E'_\bullet$ is a quasi-isomorphism in $\mathcal{C}^Y(X)$, then
$$[E_\bullet] = [E'_\bullet]$$
in $K_0^Y(X)$.

When P is a locally free coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-module and $i \in \mathbb{N}$, we will denote the complex
$$\cdots \to 0 \to P \to 0 \to \cdots \tag{4.2}$$
concentrated in degree i, by $P[i] \in \mathcal{C}^X(X)$. We will write $1 := \mathcal{O}_X[0] \in \mathcal{C}^X(X)$.

Let X be a variety and $Y \subset X$ a closed subscheme. There is a bilinear map
$$K_0(X) \times K_0^Y(X) \to K_0^Y(X); \quad (a, \beta) \mapsto a \cdot \beta,$$
such that for any locally free coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules P and $E_\bullet \in \mathcal{C}^Y(X)$ we have
$$[P] \cdot [E_\bullet] = [P \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} E_\bullet] \in K_0^Y(X).$$
If $Z \subset X$ is another closed subscheme, there is a bilinear map
$$K_0^Y(X) \times K'_0(Z) \to K'_0(Y \cap Z); \quad (\alpha, b) \mapsto \alpha \cap b,$$
such that for any $E_\bullet \in \mathcal{C}^Y(X)$ and $M \in \mathcal{M}(Z)$ we have
$$[E_\bullet] \cap [M] = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} (-1)^i [H^i(E_\bullet \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} M)] \in K'_0(Y \cap Z).$$
If $f : X' \to X$ is a morphism, there is a pullback homomorphism
$$f^* : K_0^Y(X) \to K_0^{f^{-1}Y}(X').$$

We will need the following basic compatibilities, which may be verified at the level of modules (before applying the functor K'_0).

Lemma 4.3. *Let X be a variety and Y, Z closed subschemes of X. Let $\alpha \in K_0^Y(X)$ and $b \in K'_0(Z)$. Denote by $i : Z \to X$ the closed immersion.*

(a) *Let Y' be a closed subscheme of X and $\alpha' \in K_0^{Y'}(X)$. Then*
$$\alpha \cap (\alpha' \cap b) = \alpha' \cap (\alpha \cap b) \in K'_0(Y \cap Y' \cap Z).$$

(b) *Denote by $f : Y \cap Z \to X$ the closed immersion. For any $e \in K_0(X)$,*
$$(e \cdot \alpha) \cap b = \alpha \cap ((i^* e) \cdot b) = (f^* e) \cdot (\alpha \cap b) \in K'_0(Y \cap Z).$$

(c) *Denote by* $g: Y \to X$ *the closed immersion. Then*

$$\alpha \cap b = (g^* \alpha) \cap b \in K_0'(Y \cap Z).$$

(d) *If* $Y \subset Z$*, then*

$$\alpha \cap b = \alpha \cap i_* b \in K_0'(Y).$$

(e) *Assume that* $Y \subset Z$*, and denote by* $j: Y \to Z$ *the closed immersion. Then*

$$j_*(\alpha \cap b) = \tilde{\alpha} \cap b \in K_0'(Z),$$

where $\tilde{\alpha}$ *is the image of* α *under the "forgetful" map* $K_0^Y(X) \to K_0^X(X)$.

Lemma 4.4 ([5, Lemma 1.9]). *Let* X *be a regular variety and* $Y \subset X$ *a closed subscheme. Then the following map is an isomorphism:*

$$K_0^Y(X) \to K_0'(Y); \quad \alpha \mapsto \alpha \cap [\mathcal{O}_X].$$

Definition 4.5. Let L be a line bundle over X, and $s \in H^0(X, L)$ a section. We will denote by $K(s)$ the complex of locally free coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules

$$\cdots \to 0 \to L^\vee \xrightarrow{s^\vee} \mathcal{O}_X \to 0 \to \cdots$$

concentrated in degrees $1, 0$.

The homology of $K(s)$ is supported on $\mathcal{Z}(s)$, so that we have a class $[K(s)] \in K_0^{\mathcal{Z}(s)}(X)$. If the section s is regular, then

$$[K(s)] \cap [\mathcal{O}_X] = [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s)}] \in K_0'(\mathcal{Z}(s)). \tag{4.6}$$

Lemma 4.7. *Let* L *be a line bundle over a variety* X*. Then the image of* $[K(s)]$ *in* $K_0^X(X)$ *does not depend on the choice of the section* $s \in H^0(X, L)$.

Proof. The commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & L^\vee & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & L^\vee & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle s^\vee} & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}_X & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & \mathcal{O}_X & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & 0
\end{array}$$

shows that the image of $[K(s)]$ in $K_0^X(X)$ is $1 + [L^\vee[1]]$ (see (4.2)). This element is visibly independent of s. ∎

4.2. Bott's class

From now on we fix a nonzero integer $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Lemma 4.8. *Let L be a line bundle over a quasi-projective variety X. Then*

$$1 - [L] \in K_0(X)$$

is nilpotent.

Proof. We may write $L = A \otimes B^\vee$ where A, B are line bundles over X such that $A^\vee, B^\vee$ are generated by their global sections. If $1 - [A]$ and $1 - [B]$ are nilpotent, then so is

$$1 - [L] = \big(1 - [A]\big) - [B^\vee]\big(1 - [B]\big) + [B^\vee]\big(1 - [A]\big)\big(1 - [B]\big).$$

Thus, we are reduced to assuming that $L^\vee$ is generated by its global sections. Pulling back along the associated morphism $X \to \mathbb{P}^n$, we reduce to $X = \mathbb{P}^n$ and $L = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(-1)$. We prove by induction on n that

$$\big(1 - [L]\big)^{n+1} = 0 \in K_0(X).$$

There is a regular section s of $L^\vee$ such that $\mathcal{Z}(s) = \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ and $L|_{\mathcal{Z}(s)} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{n-1}}(-1)$. Let $i : \mathcal{Z}(s) \to X$ be the immersion. By (3.10) and the projection formula, we have in $K'_0(X)$

$$\big(1 - [L]\big)^{n+1} \cdot [\mathcal{O}_X] = \big(1 - [L]\big)^n \cdot i_*[\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s)}] = i_*\Big(\big(1 - [L|_{\mathcal{Z}(s)}]\big)^n \cdot [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s)}]\Big).$$

That element vanishes by induction. Since the natural homomorphism $K_0(X) \to K'_0(X)$ is an isomorphism [18, §7.1], the claim follows. ∎

Definition 4.9. Consider the power series (which is a polynomial when $k > 0$)

$$\tau^k(c) = \frac{1 - (1 - c)^k}{c} \in \mathbb{Z}[\![c]\!].$$

By Lemma 4.8 (when $k < 0$) and the splitting principle, there is a unique way to assign to each vector bundle E over a variety X an element $\theta^k(E) \in K_0(X)$ so that:

- If L is a line bundle, then
$$\theta^k(L) = \tau^k\big(1 - [L]\big).$$
- If $0 \to E' \to E \to E'' \to 0$ is an exact sequence of vector bundles, then
$$\theta^k(E) = \theta^k(E')\theta^k(E'').$$
- If $f : Y \to X$ is a morphism and E a vector bundle over X, then
$$f^*\theta^k(E) = \theta^k(f^*E).$$

The power series $\tau^k(c) - k$ is divisible by c in $\mathbb{Z}[\![c]\!]$, and thus $\tau^k(c)$ admits a multiplicative inverse in $\mathbb{Z}[1/k][\![c]\!]$. We deduce, using Lemma 4.8 and the splitting principle, that $\theta^k(E)$ is invertible in $K_0(X)[1/k]$ for any vector bundle E over a variety X. Thus, for every variety X, the association $E \mapsto \theta^k(E)$ extends uniquely to a map

$$\theta^k \colon K_0(X) \to K_0(X)[1/k]$$

satisfying $\theta^k(a - b) = \theta^k(a)\theta^k(b)^{-1}$ for any $a, b \in K_0(X)$.

For any variety X, we have $\theta^k(1) = \tau^k(0) = k$, and therefore

$$\theta^k(n) = k^n \quad \text{for any } n \in \mathbb{Z} \subset K_0(X). \tag{4.10}$$

4.3. Adams operations

The classical Adams operation $\psi^k \colon K_0(-) \to K_0(-)$ is defined using the splitting principle by the following conditions:

- If L is a line bundle, then $\psi^k[L] = [L^{\otimes k}]$.
- For any $a, b \in K_0(X)$, we have $\psi^k(a - b) = \psi^k(a) - \psi^k(b)$.
- If $f \colon Y \to X$ is a morphism, then $\psi^k \circ f^* = f^* \circ \psi^k$.

This construction may be refined to obtain an operation on the K-theory with supports:

Definition 4.11. Let X be a regular variety and $Y \subset X$ a closed subscheme. Then the group $K_0^Y(X)$ defined in (4.1) coincides with the one considered in [20], as they are both canonically isomorphic to $K_0'(Y)$. Thus the construction of [20] yields an Adams operation $\psi^k \colon K_0^Y(X) \to K_0^Y(X)$.

The following properties follow from the construction given in [20].

Lemma 4.12. *Let X be a regular variety and $Y \subset X$ a closed subscheme.*

(a) *If $f \colon X' \to X$ is a morphism and X' is regular, then*

$$f^* \circ \psi^k = \psi^k \circ f^* \colon K_0^Y(X) \to K_0^{f^{-1}Y}(X').$$

(b) *If $k' \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$, then $\psi^k \circ \psi^{k'} = \psi^{kk'}$.*

(c) *For any $a \in K_0(X)$ and $\beta \in K_0^Y(X)$, we have $\psi^k(a \cdot \beta) = (\psi^k a) \cdot (\psi^k \beta)$.*

(d) *We have $\psi^k 1 = 1$ in $K_0^X(X)$ (see (4.2)).*

Definition 4.13. Any quasi-projective variety X may be embedded as a closed subscheme of a smooth quasi-projective variety W. By Lemma 4.4, there is a unique homomorphism

$$\psi_k \colon K_0'(X)[1/k] \to K_0'(X)[1/k],$$

called the kth *Adams operation of homological type*, such that for any $\alpha \in K_0^X(W)$

$$\psi_k\big(\alpha \cap [\mathcal{O}_W]\big) = (\psi^k \alpha) \cap \big(\theta^k(-T_W^\vee) \cdot [\mathcal{O}_W]\big).$$

It follows from the Adams Riemann–Roch theorem without denominators that this operation is independent of the choice of W, and that it commutes with proper push-forward homomorphisms (see [20, Théorème 7]).

Remark 4.14. We stick to the classical definition of Bott's class θ^k (see, e.g., [1, §7]), which coincides with one used in [20], but is dual to the one of [15]. Our class θ^k is the dual of the "inverse Todd genus" of the operation ψ^k, which explains the appearance of the cotangent bundle (as opposed to the tangent bundle) in Definition 4.13.

We now explain how to remove the assumption of quasi-projectivity. An *envelope* is a proper morphism $f: Y \to X$ such that for each integral closed subscheme $Z \subset X$, there is an integral closed subscheme $W \subset f^{-1}Z$ such that the induced morphism $W \to Z$ is birational. Any base change of an envelope is an envelope, and the composition of two envelopes is an envelope [4, Lemma 18.3 (2), (3)].

Lemma 4.15. *Let $f: Y \to X$ be an envelope. Denote by $p_1, p_2: Y \times_X Y \to Y$ the two projections. Then the following sequence is exact*

$$K_0'(Y \times_X Y) \xrightarrow{(p_1)_* - (p_2)_*} K_0'(Y) \xrightarrow{f_*} K_0'(X) \to 0.$$

Proof. The sequence is clearly a complex. We proceed by noetherian induction on X. Since push-forward homomorphisms along nilimmersions are bijective [18, §7, Proposition 3.1], we may assume that X is reduced. Assuming that $X \neq \varnothing$, we may find a closed subscheme $X' \subsetneq X$ whose open complement U is such that $f|_U: V := f^{-1}U \to U$ admits a section $s: U \to V$ (letting $X_1, \dots, X_n$ be the irreducible components of X, we find $Y_1 \subset Y$ birationally dominating X_1; then $Y_1 \to X_1$ restricts to an isomorphism over a nonempty open subscheme U_1 of X_1, and we set $U = U_1 \cap (X - (X_2 \cup \cdots \cup X_n))$). Let $Y' = f^{-1}(X')$, and consider the commutative diagram with exact rows [18, §7.3]

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
K_1'(V) & \longrightarrow & K_0'(Y') & \longrightarrow & K_0'(Y) & \longrightarrow & K_0'(V) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle (f|_U)_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle (f|_{X'})_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle f_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle (f|_U)_*} & & \\
K_1'(U) & \longrightarrow & K_0'(X') & \longrightarrow & K_0'(X) & \longrightarrow & K_0'(U) & \longrightarrow & 0.
\end{array}$$

Each homomorphism $(f|_U)_*$ is surjective, since it admits a section s_*. The homomorphism $(f|_{X'})_*$ is surjective by induction, and a diagram chase shows that f_* is surjective.

Let now $a \in K_0'(Y)$ be such that $f_*a = 0$ in $K_0'(X)$. Let $b_U \in K_0'(V \times_U V)$ be the image of $a|_V \in K_0'(V)$ under the push-forward homomorphism along

$$(\mathrm{id}_V, s \circ f|_U): V \to V \times_U V,$$

and let $b \in K_0'(Y \times_X Y)$ be a pre-image of b_U. Then

$$(p_1)_*(b)|_V = a|_V \quad \text{and} \quad (p_2)_*(b)|_V = 0.$$

Thus,

$$a - ((p_1)_* - (p_2)_*)(b) \in K_0'(Y)$$

is the image of an element $c \in K'_0(Y')$. Chasing the above diagram, we see that c may be modified to satisfy additionally $(f|_{X'})_*(c) = 0$. By induction c is the image of an element of $K'_0(Y' \times_{X'} Y')$, whose push-forward $d \in K'_0(Y \times_X Y)$ satisfies

$$a = ((p_1)_* - (p_2)_*)(b + d).$$

This concludes the proof. ■

Since any variety X admits an envelope $Y \to X$ where Y is quasi-projective (see [4, Lemma 18.3 (3)]), combining Lemma 4.15 with [9, Proposition 5.2] yields:

Proposition 4.16. *There is a unique way to define an operation*

$$\psi_k\colon K'_0(X)[1/k] \to K'_0(X)[1/k]$$

for each variety X, compatibly with proper push-forward homomorphisms and agreeing with Definition 4.13 when X is quasi-projective.

Using (4.12.a) and the surjectivity of push-forward homomorphisms along envelopes, we see that the Adams operation ψ_k commutes with the restriction to any open subscheme.

Let $k' \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$ and let X be a quasi-projective variety. Note that for any $a \in K_0(X)$

$$\theta^k(a) \cdot (\psi^k \circ \theta^{k'}(a)) = \theta^{kk'}(a) \in K_0(X)[1/kk']; \tag{4.17}$$

this is immediate when a is the class of a line bundle, and follows in general from the splitting principle. Combining (4.17) with (4.12.b), (4.12.c) and (4.3.b), we deduce that

$$\psi_k \circ \psi_{k'} = \psi_{kk'}\colon K'_0(X)[1/kk'] \to K'_0(X)[1/kk']. \tag{4.18}$$

By Proposition 4.16, this formula remains valid when X is an arbitrary variety.

Definition 4.19. Let X be a variety. Assume that there is a smooth variety W, and a regular closed immersion $i\colon X \to W$, with normal bundle N. The element

$$T_X := [T_W|_X] - [N] \in K_0(X),$$

does not depend on the choice of W and i, and is called the *virtual tangent bundle* of X (see [4, B.7.6]).

Lemma 4.20. *Let X be a regular quasi-projective variety. Then*

$$\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_X] = \theta^k(-T_X^\vee) \cdot [\mathcal{O}_X] \in K'_0(X)[1/k].$$

Proof. Let $i\colon X \to W$ be a closed immersion, where W is smooth and quasi-projective. Then i is a regular closed immersion, let N be its normal bundle. The Gysin homomorphism $i_*\colon K_0^X(X) \to K_0^X(W)$ is by definition the unique map compatible with the isomorphisms $K_0^X(X) \to K'_0(X)$ and $K_0^X(W) \to K'_0(X)$ of Lemma 4.4. Then,

$$(i_*1) \cap [\mathcal{O}_W] = [\mathcal{O}_X]$$

in $K'_0(X)$ (see (4.2)). By (4.12.d) and the Adams Riemann–Roch theorem (see [20, Théorème 3], where N should be replaced by $N^\vee$), we have in $K'_0(X)[1/k]$

$$\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_X] = (\psi^k \circ i_* 1) \cap \big(\theta^k(-T_W^\vee) \cdot [\mathcal{O}_W]\big) = \big(\theta^k(N^\vee) \cdot (i_* 1)\big) \cap \big(\theta^k(-T_W^\vee) \cdot [\mathcal{O}_W]\big),$$

and the statement follows from (4.3.b). ∎

Lemma 4.21. *Let X be an integral variety of dimension d. Then there is a nonempty open subscheme U of X such that $\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_U] = k^{-d}[\mathcal{O}_U]$ in $K'_0(U)[1/k]$.*

Proof. Let U be a quasi-projective regular nonempty open subscheme of X. The virtual tangent bundle $T_U \in K_0(U)$ may be written as $[E] - [F]$, where E, F are vector bundles over U. Shrinking U, we may assume that E and F are trivial, so that $T_U^\vee = d \in K_0(U)$, and the statement follows from Lemma 4.20 and (4.10). ∎

4.4. Adams operations on divisor classes

Lemma 4.22. *Let L be a line bundle over a quasi-projective variety X. Let $s \in H^0(X, L)$. Then we may find*

- *a closed immersion $X \to W$ where W is smooth and quasi-projective,*
- *a line bundle M over W such that $M|_X = L$,*
- *a regular section $t \in H^0(W, M)$ such that $t|_X = s$ and $\mathcal{Z}(t)$ is smooth.*

Proof. By [4, Lemma 18.2], we may find a smooth quasi-projective variety V containing X as a closed subscheme, and a line bundle $W \to V$ such that

$$W|_X = L.$$

Let $M = W \times_V W$, and view M as a line bundle over W via the first projection. The diagonal

$$W \to W \times_V W$$

may be considered as a regular section t of M whose vanishing locus is V (embedded in W as the zero-section). We view X as a closed subscheme of W using the composite

$$X \xrightarrow{s} L = W|_X \to W,$$

where the last morphism is the base change of the immersion $X \to V$. The statements are then easily verified. ∎

Lemma 4.23. *Let L be a line bundle over a quasi-projective variety X, and s a regular section of L. Set $Y = \mathcal{Z}(s)$. Then we have in $K'_0(Y)[1/k]$*

$$\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_Y] = [K(s)] \cap \big(\theta^k(L^\vee) \cdot \psi_k[\mathcal{O}_X]\big).$$

Proof. Let us apply Lemma 4.22 and use its notation. By Lemma 4.4, there is an element $\alpha \in K_0^X(W)$ such that

$$\alpha \cap [\mathcal{O}_W] = [\mathcal{O}_X] \in K_0'(X). \tag{4.24}$$

Let $V = \mathcal{Z}(t)$ and $j : V \to W$ be the closed immersion. We have in $K_0'(Y)$

$$\begin{aligned}
[\mathcal{O}_Y] &= [K(s)] \cap [\mathcal{O}_X] && \text{by (4.6)}\\
&= [K(t)] \cap \big(\alpha \cap [\mathcal{O}_W]\big) && \text{by (4.24) and (4.3.c)}\\
&= \alpha \cap \big([K(t)] \cap [\mathcal{O}_W]\big) && \text{by (4.3.a)}\\
&= \alpha \cap [\mathcal{O}_V] && \text{by (4.6)}\\
&= (j^*\alpha) \cap [\mathcal{O}_V] && \text{by (4.3.c).}
\end{aligned}$$

Since $[T_V] = [T_W|_V] - [M|_V]$ in $K_0(V)$, we have in $K_0'(Y)[1/k]$

$$\begin{aligned}
\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_Y] = \psi_k\big(j^*\alpha \cap [\mathcal{O}_V]\big) &= \psi^k(j^*\alpha) \cap \big(\theta^k(-T_V^\vee)\cdot[\mathcal{O}_V]\big)\\
&= (\psi^k\alpha) \cap \big(\theta^k(-T_V^\vee)\cdot[\mathcal{O}_V]\big) && \text{by (4.3.c), (4.12.a)}\\
&= (\psi^k\alpha) \cap \big(\theta^k(M^\vee|_V)\theta^k(-T_W^\vee|_V)\cdot\big([K(t)] \cap [\mathcal{O}_W]\big)\big) && \text{by (4.6)}\\
&= [K(t)] \cap \big(\theta^k(L^\vee)\cdot\big((\psi^k\alpha) \cap \big(\theta^k(-T_W^\vee)\cdot[\mathcal{O}_W]\big)\big)\big) && \text{by (4.3.a), (4.3.b)}\\
&= [K(s)] \cap \big(\theta^k(L^\vee)\cdot\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_X]\big) && \text{by (4.3.c), (4.24).} \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Proposition 4.25. *Let X be an integral quasi-projective variety of dimension d. Let L be a line bundle over X, and s_1, s_2 regular sections of L. Then we may find a closed subscheme $Z \subsetneq X$ containing $\mathcal{Z}(s_1)$ and $\mathcal{Z}(s_2)$ as closed subschemes, and such that*

$$\psi_k\big([\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_1)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_2)}]\big) = k^{1-d}\big([\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_1)}] - [\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}(s_2)}]\big) \in K_0'(Z)[1/k].$$

Proof. Since the sections s_1, s_2 are regular, we may find a nonempty open subscheme U of X which does not meet $\mathcal{Z}(s_1) \cup \mathcal{Z}(s_2)$. Then $L|_U$ is trivial. Shrinking U, we may assume that $\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_U] = k^{-d}[\mathcal{O}_U]$ in $K_0'(U)[1/k]$ by Lemma 4.21. Let Z' be the reduced closed complement of U in X. The intersection of the ideal sheaves of $Z', \mathcal{Z}(s_1), \mathcal{Z}(s_2)$ in $\mathcal{O}_X$ defines a closed subscheme $Z \subset X$ whose open complement is U, and we have closed immersions $j_n : \mathcal{Z}(s_n) \to Z$ for $n \in \{1,2\}$. Since $\theta^k(L^\vee|_U) = k$ by (4.10), we have

$$\theta^k(L^\vee|_U)\cdot\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_U] = k^{1-d}[\mathcal{O}_U] \in K_0'(U)[1/k].$$

It follows from the localization sequence [18, §7, Proposition 3.2] that

$$\theta^k(L^\vee)\cdot\psi_k[\mathcal{O}_X] = k^{1-d}[\mathcal{O}_X] + i_*z \in K_0'(X)[1/k], \tag{4.26}$$

where $z \in K_0'(Z)[1/k]$, and $i : Z \to X$ is the closed immersion. By Lemma 4.7, the image $\sigma \in K_0^X(X)$ of $[K(s_n)] \in K_0^{\mathcal{Z}(s_n)}(X)$ does not depend on $n \in \{1,2\}$. For such n, we have in $K_0'(Z)[1/k]$

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_k \circ (j_n)_*[\mathcal{O}_{Z(s_n)}] &= (j_n)_* \circ \psi_k[\mathcal{O}_{Z(s_n)}] \\ &= (j_n)_*\big([K(s_n)] \cap \big(\theta^k(L^\vee)\cdot \psi_k[\mathcal{O}_X]\big)\big) && \text{by Lemma 4.23} \\ &= k^{1-d}(j_n)_*[\mathcal{O}_{Z(s_n)}] + (j_n)_*\big([K(s_n)] \cap i_* z\big) && \text{by (4.6), (4.26)} \\ &= k^{1-d}(j_n)_*[\mathcal{O}_{Z(s_n)}] + \sigma \cap z && \text{by (4.3.d), (4.3.e).}\end{aligned}$$

The statement follows. ∎

5. Applications of the Adams operations

5.1. Inverting small primes

For every nonzero integer k, the homological operation ψ_k on the groups $K_0'(Z)[1/k]$ for all closed subschemes $Z \subset X$ yields an operation (still denoted by ψ_k) on

$$B_i(X)[1/k] = \operatorname{colim}_{\dim Z \le i} K_0'(Z)[1/k]$$

that commutes with the Bott homomorphisms β_i. Thus, $B_\bullet(X)[1/k]$ is an endo-module over the ring $\mathbb{Z}[1/k][t]$, where t acts via ψ_k.

Proposition 5.1. *The operation ψ_k acts on the derivative $A_i(X)^{(s)}[1/k]$ via multiplication by k^{-s-i} and on $C_i(X)^{(s)}[1/k]$, $\mathrm{CH}_i(X)[1/k]$, and $K_0'(X)_{(i/i-1)}[1/k]$ via multiplication by k^{-i} for every i.*

Proof. We first claim that ψ_k acts on $C_i(X)[1/k]$ via multiplication by k^{-i}. To see this, we may assume that X is integral of dimension i. Then $C_i(X)$ is the free abelian group generated by the image of $[\mathcal{O}_X] \in B_i(X) = K_0'(X)$, and the claim follows from Lemma 4.21.

Now it follows from Propositions 4.25 and 3.13 that ψ_k also acts on $A_i(X)[1/k]$ via multiplication by k^{-i}. To conclude, note that $A_i(X)^{(s)}$ is a submodule of $A_{s+i}(X)$, that $C_i(X)^{(s)}$ is a factor module of $C_i(X)$, that $\mathrm{CH}_i(X) = C_i(X)^{(1)}$ and that $K_0'(X)_{(i/i-1)}$ is a factor module of $\mathrm{CH}_i(X)$. ∎

It follows from Proposition 5.1 that for every nonzero integer k and $a \in A_i(X)^{(s)}[1/k]$, we have

$$k^{-i}\cdot \delta_i^{(s)}(a) = \psi_k(\delta_i^{(s)}(a)) = \delta_i^{(s)}(\psi_k(a)) = k^{-s-i}\cdot \delta_i^{(s)}(a),$$

hence every element in

$$\operatorname{Im}\left[A_i(X)^{(s)} \xrightarrow{\delta_i^{(s)}} C_i(X)^{(s)}\right] = \operatorname{Ker}\left[C_i(X)^{(s)} \twoheadrightarrow C_i(X)^{(s+1)}\right]$$

is killed by $k^m(k^s - 1)$ for some $m \ge 0$.

We consider *supernatural numbers* $k^{\infty}(k^s - 1)$ (see [19, I.1.3]) and write

$$N_s := \gcd k^{\infty}(k^s - 1)$$

over all $k > 1$. For a prime integer p and integer $i > 0$ the group $(\mathbb{Z}/p^i\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$ is cyclic of order $(p-1)p^{i-1}$ unless $p = 2$ and $i \geq 3$ in which case this group is of exponent 2^{i-2}. It follows that $N_s = 2$ if s is odd and

$$N_s = 2 \cdot \prod p^{v_p(s)+1},$$

if s is even, where the product is taken over the set of all prime integers p such that $p-1$ divides s (here v_p is the p-adic valuation). These integers are related to the Bernoulli numbers, see, e.g., [16, Appendix B]. The first few values for s even are listed in the following table:

s	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
N_s	24	240	504	480	264	65520	24	16320	28728	13200	552

We proved the following:

Proposition 5.2. *Let s be a positive integer and X a variety. Then every element in the kernel of the homomorphism $C_i(X)^{(s)} \twoheadrightarrow C_i(X)^{(s+1)}$ is killed by N_s.*

Write $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ for the localization of $\mathbb{Z}$ by the prime ideal $p\mathbb{Z}$. Note that if p is a prime divisor of N_s, then $p-1$ divides s. It follows from Proposition 5.2 that

$$C_i(X)^{(s)} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_{(p)} \twoheadrightarrow C_i(X)^{(s+1)} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$$

is an isomorphism if $p-1$ does not divides s. We have proved:

Corollary 5.3 (see [15, Theorem 3.4]). *All the differentials in the sth derived endo-module of $B_{\bullet}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ are trivial if s is not divisible by $p-1$.*

It follows from Proposition 3.7 that the kernel of φ_i is killed by the product

$$N_1 N_2 \cdots N_{d-i-1}.$$

Every prime divisor p of the product is such that $p-1$ divides an integer $s \leq d-i-1$, hence $p \leq d-i$. We have proved:

Theorem 5.4. *Let X be a variety of dimension d. Then for every $i = 0, 1, \ldots, d$, the map φ_i is an isomorphism when localized by $(d-i)!$.*

Remark 5.5. If X is a smooth variety of dimension d, an application of Chern classes and Riemann–Roch theorem imply that $(d-i-1)! \cdot \mathrm{Ker}(\varphi_i) = 0$ for every $i > 0$ (see [4, Example 15.3.6]).

Proposition 5.6. *Let X be a variety. Then the kernel of the Bott homomorphism*

$$\mathrm{CK}_i(X) \to \mathrm{CK}_{i+1}(X)$$

is killed by $N_1 N_2 \cdots N_{i+1}$ for every $i \geq 0$. In particular, the Bott homomorphism is injective when localized by $(i+2)!$.

Proof. We need to prove that $A_i(X)^{(1)}$ is killed by $N_1 N_2 \cdots N_{i+1}$. By induction on i we show that $A_i(X)^{(s)}$ is killed by $N_s N_{s+1} \cdots N_{s+i}$ for every $s \geq 1$. The statement is clear if $i < 0$ since $A_i(X)^{(s)} = 0$ in this case.

$(i-1) \Rightarrow i$: The factor group $A_i(X)^{(s)}/A_{i-1}(X)^{(s+1)}$ is isomorphic to the kernel of $C_i(X)^{(s)} \twoheadrightarrow C_i(X)^{(s+1)}$ and hence is killed by N_s by Proposition 5.2. By induction, $A_{i-1}(X)^{(s+1)}$ is killed by $N_{s+1} \cdots N_{s+i}$. The result follows. ∎

Corollary 5.7. *Let X be a variety of dimension d. Then the associated endo-module $\mathrm{CK}_\bullet(X)$ degenerates when localized by $d!$.*

5.2. Direct sum decompositions

Theorem 5.8. *For every variety X and integer $i \geq 0$, the homomorphism*

$$K'_0(X)_{(i)}[1/(i+1)!] \twoheadrightarrow K'_0(X)_{(i/i-1)}[1/(i+1)!]$$

admits a section, compatibly with proper push-forward homomorphisms.

Proof. For every integer $k > 1$, let

$$r_k = k \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{i} (k^j - 1) \in \mathbb{Z}[1/(i+1)!].$$

If $p > i+1$ is a prime integer and $k > 1$ is such that the congruence class $k + p\mathbb{Z}$ is a generator of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times$, then since $p - 1 > i$, the integer r_k is not divisible by p. It follows that the elements r_k for $k > 1$ generate the unit ideal in $\mathbb{Z}[1/(i+1)!]$.

Let $M = K'_0(X)_{(i)}[1/(i+1)!]$. For each integer $k > 1$, consider the endomorphism

$$\sigma_k := \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} \frac{\psi_k - k^{-j}}{k^{-i} - k^{-j}} : M[1/r_k] \to M[1/r_k].$$

Let $N = K'_0(X)_{(i-1)}[1/(i+1)!]$. It follows from Proposition 5.1 that each σ_k vanishes on $N[1/r_k]$ and coincides with the identity modulo $N[1/r_k]$. Thus, for any $k, k' > 1$, we have $\sigma_k = \sigma_k \circ \sigma_{k'}$ and $\sigma_{k'} = \sigma_{k'} \circ \sigma_k$ on $M[1/r_k r_{k'}]$. Since σ_k commutes with $\sigma_{k'}$ by (4.18), we deduce that σ_k and $\sigma_{k'}$ coincide on $M[1/r_k r_{k'}]$. By Zariski descent, there is a unique endomorphism of M whose localization is σ_k for each $k > 1$. That endomorphism vanishes on N and coincides with the identity modulo N, hence induces the required section. The functoriality follows from that of the operations ψ_k. ∎

Theorem 5.8 provides a functorial decomposition

$$K_0'(X)_{(i)}[1/(i+1)!] \simeq \coprod_{j=0}^{i} K_0'(X)_{(j/j-1)}[1/(i+1)!]. \tag{5.9}$$

Taking appropriate colimits, we get the following:

Corollary 5.10. *Let X be a variety. Then for every $i \geq 0$ there are subgroups*

$$\mathrm{CK}_i(X)^{[j]} \subset \mathrm{CK}_i(X)[1/(j+1)!]$$

for all $j = 0, 1, \dots, i$, functorial with respect to proper morphisms and such that

$$\mathrm{CK}_i(X)[1/(i+1)!] = \coprod_{j=0}^{i} \mathrm{CK}_i(X)^{[j]}[1/(i+1)!].$$

Moreover, the localized Bott homomorphism

$$\mathrm{CK}_{i-1}(X)[1/(i+1)!] \to \mathrm{CK}_i(X)[1/(i+1)!]$$

maps $\mathrm{CK}_{i-1}(X)^{[j]}[1/(i+1)!]$ *into* $\mathrm{CK}_i(X)^{[j]}[1/(i+1)!]$ *for all* $j = 0, 1, \dots, i-1$.

Combining (5.9) with Theorem 5.4, we obtain

Corollary 5.11. *If X is a variety of dimension d, we have*

$$\mathrm{CH}(X)[1/(d+1)!] \simeq K_0'(X)[1/(d+1)!].$$

These isomorphisms are compatible with proper push-forward homomorphisms.

Remark 5.12. The homomorphism $K_0'(X)_{(d)} \twoheadrightarrow K_0'(X)_{(d/d-1)}$ certainly admits a section, since its target is freely generated by the classes $[\mathcal{O}_Z]$ where Z runs over the d-dimensional irreducible components of X. Therefore, in fact

$$\mathrm{CH}(X)[1/d!] \simeq K_0'(X)[1/d!].$$

However, these isomorphisms are not compatible with proper push-forward homomorphisms in general. For instance, let X be the Severi–Brauer variety of a central division algebra of prime degree p over F. Then $d = p-1$ and $K_0'(X) \to K_0'(\mathrm{Spec}\, F)$ is surjective (as $\chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 1$), but $\mathrm{CH}(X)[1/(p-1)!] \to \mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{Spec}\, F)[1/(p-1)!]$ is not (because X has no closed point of degree prime to p).

The functoriality in Corollary 5.11 implies the following statement (see [8, Theorem 5.1 (ii)], or [3, Proposition 1.2] for the smooth case):

Corollary 5.13. *Let X be a complete variety of dimension d. Then*

- *the set of Euler characteristics $\chi(X, \mathcal{F})$ of coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules $\mathcal{F}$, and*
- *the set of degrees of closed points of X*

generate the same ideal in $\mathbb{Z}[1/(d+1)!]$.

5.3. Connective K-groups of smooth varieties

Let X be a smooth variety. We will adopt cohomological notation (upper indices, graded by codimension) and write $\mathrm{CK}^i(X)$, $\mathrm{CH}^i(X)$, $A^i(X)$, $B^i(X)$, $C^i(X)$, etc. The sth derived endo-module of $B^\bullet(X)$ will be denoted by $B^\bullet(X)_{(s)}$. The graded group $\mathrm{CK}^\bullet(X)$ has a structure of a commutative ring (see [2, §6.4]). The Bott homomorphisms are multiplications by the *Bott element* $\beta \in \mathrm{CK}^{-1}(X)$. By (3.6), there are canonical ring isomorphisms

$$\mathrm{CK}^\bullet(X)/(\beta) \simeq \mathrm{CH}^\bullet(X) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathrm{CK}^\bullet(X)/(\beta - 1) \simeq K_0(X).$$

Example 5.14. Let A be a central division algebra of prime degree p over F and $G = \mathrm{SL}_1(A)$ the algebraic group of reduced norm 1 elements in A. Then $K_0(G) = \mathbb{Z}$ (see [21, Theorem 6.1]) and $\mathrm{CH}^*(G) = \mathbb{Z}[\sigma]/(p\sigma, \sigma^p)$, where $\sigma \in \mathrm{CH}^{p+1}(G)$, by [11, Theorem 9.7]. In other words,

$$\mathrm{CH}^i(G) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, & \text{if } i = 0; \\ (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})\sigma^j, & \text{if } i = (p+1)j \text{ and } j = 1, 2, \dots, p-1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By Corollary 5.3, all differentials in the sth derived endo-module $B^\bullet(G)_{(s)}$ are trivial if $1 \le s < p - 1$. It follows that

$$A^i(G)_{(p-1)} = A^{i-p+2}(G)_{(1)}$$

for every i, and

$$A^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(p-1)} \subset B^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(p-1)} = \beta^{p-2} B^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(1)} = \beta^{p-2}\,\mathrm{CK}^{(p+1)j}(X),$$
$$C^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(p-1)} = C^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(1)} = \mathrm{CH}^{(p+1)j}(X) = (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})\sigma^j.$$

for every $j = 1, 2, \dots, p-1$.

By [11, Lemma 3.4], the differential

$$A^{p+1}(X)_{(p-1)} \to C^{p+1}(X)_{(p-1)} = \mathrm{CH}^{p+1}(X) = (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})\sigma$$

is surjective. Choose a pre-image $\theta \in A^{p+1}(X)_{(p-1)}$ of σ. Since

$$A^{p+1}(X)_{(p-1)} \subset \beta^{p-2}\,\mathrm{CK}^{p+1}(X)$$

we have $\theta = \beta^{p-2}\tau$ for some $\tau \in \mathrm{CK}^{p+1}(X)$. The image of τ under the natural homomorphism $\mathrm{CK}^{p+1}(X) \to \mathrm{CH}^{p+1}(X)$ is equal to σ. Since

$$\theta \in A^{p+1}(X)_{(p-1)} \subset A^3(X)_{(1)},$$

we have $\beta^{p-1}\tau = \beta\theta = 0$ in $\mathrm{CK}^2(X)$.

As $\beta\theta\tau^{j-1} = 0$, we have $\theta\tau^{j-1} \in A^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(p-1)}$ and the image of $\theta\tau^{j-1}$ under the differential

$$A^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(p-1)} \to C^{(p+1)j}(X)_{(p-1)} = \mathrm{CH}^{(p+1)j}(X) = (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})\sigma^j$$

is equal to σ^j.

We proved that the differentials $A^i(G)_{(p-1)} \to C^i(G)_{(p-1)}$ in the $(p-1)$th derived endo-module $B^\bullet(G)_{(p-1)}$ are surjective for all $i > 0$. As a consequence, $C^i(G)_{(p)} = 0$ for all $i > 0$. Since $A^i(G)_{(p)} = 0$ for all $i \le 0$, by Lemma 2.4(4), the pth derived endo-module $B^\bullet(G)_{(p)}$ degenerates, i.e., $A^i(G)_{(p)} = 0$ for all i.

It follows that the differentials

$$A^{i-p+2}(G)_{(1)} = A^i(G)_{(p-1)} \to C^i(G)_{(p-1)} = C^i(G)_{(1)} = \mathrm{CH}^i(G)$$

are isomorphisms for all $i > 0$. As a consequence we get the following calculation:

$$A^k(G)_{(1)} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}, & \text{if } k = 3 + (p+1)j \text{ for } j = 0, 1, \dots, p-2; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It implies that for every $j = 0, 1, \dots, p-2$ we have a sequence of isomorphisms

$$\mathrm{CK}^{(p+1)j}(G) \underset{\sim}{\xrightarrow{\beta}} \mathrm{CK}^{(p+1)j-1}(G) \underset{\sim}{\xrightarrow{\beta}} \cdots \underset{\sim}{\xrightarrow{\beta}} \mathrm{CK}^{3+(p+1)(j-1)}(G)$$
$$\simeq A^{3+(p+1)(j-1)}(G)_{(1)} = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}.$$

In particular, the natural homomorphism $\mathrm{CK}^{p+1}(G) \to \mathrm{CH}^{p+1}(G)$ is an isomorphism and hence the element τ in $\mathrm{CK}^{p+1}(G)$ is unique. Our calculation yields:

$$\mathrm{CK}^i(G) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, & \text{if } i \le 0; \\ (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})\beta^k\tau^j, & \text{if } i = (p+1)j - k \text{ for } 1 \le j \le p-1, 0 \le k \le p-2; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

All in all, we have the following formula:

$$\mathrm{CK}^\bullet(G) = \mathbb{Z}[\beta, \tau]/(p\tau, \tau^p, \beta^{p-1}\tau).$$

6. Equivariant connective K-theory

Let G be a linear algebraic group and X a G-variety over F. Considering the K-groups of the categories of G-equivariant coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules with support of bounded dimension (see [10, §3]) one gets an exact couple leading to a BGQ type spectral sequence and an endo-module $B_\bullet(G, X)$ with the first derivative groups $\mathrm{CK}_\bullet(G, X)$ the equivariant connective K_0-groups of X. The endo-module $B_\bullet(G, X)$ is stable but it is not bounded below in general.

In the case $X = \mathrm{Spec}(F)$ we write $\mathrm{CK}^\bullet(\mathrm{B}G)$ for $\mathrm{CK}^\bullet(G, X)$, $\mathrm{CH}^\bullet(\mathrm{B}G)$ for $\mathrm{CH}^\bullet(G, X)$, etc. The category of G-equivariant coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules in this case is the category of finite dimensional representations of G and hence $K_0'(\mathrm{B}G)$ coincides with the representation ring $R(G)$ of G. In particular, we have surjective homomorphisms

$$\varphi^i : \mathrm{CH}^i(\mathrm{B}G) \twoheadrightarrow R(G)^{(i/i+1)},$$

where $\mathrm{CH}^i(\mathrm{B}G)$ are the equivariant Chow groups (defined by Totaro in [22]). The (topological) filtration on $R(G)$ was defined in [12]. In this section, we illustrate how the calculation of equivariant connective groups $\mathrm{CK}^i(\mathrm{B}G)$ allows us to determine the differentials in the endo-module. We will use the following formula:

Lemma 6.1. *Let G be a linear algebraic group and X a G-variety over F. Let E be a G-equivariant vector bundle over X of rank r. For any $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $j \in \{0, \ldots, r\}$, we have, as homomorphisms* $\mathrm{CK}_i(G, X) \to \mathrm{CK}_{i-j}(G, X)$

$$c_j(E^\vee) = [\det E] \cdot \sum_{l=j}^{r} (-1)^l \binom{l}{j} \beta^{l-j} c_l(E).$$

Proof. We use the notation and terminology of [10], but write CK_p and $\widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_p$ instead of $\mathrm{CK}_{p,-p}$ and $\widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_{p,-p}$. For any G-equivariant vector bundle M of rank s over a G-variety Y, consider the homomorphism

$$\rho(M) = [\det M] \cdot \sum_{l=0}^{s} (-1-\beta)^l c_l(M) \colon \mathrm{CK}(G, Y) \to \mathrm{CK}(G, Y).$$

The conclusion of the lemma may be reformulated as $c(E^\vee) = \rho(E)$. If

$$0 \to M' \to M \to M'' \to 0$$

is an exact sequence of G-equivariant vector bundles of constant ranks, then

$$c(M^\vee) = c(M'^\vee) \circ c(M''^\vee) \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(M) = \rho(M') \circ \rho(M'').$$

Thus, by the splitting principle (the projective bundle theorem holds for equivariant connective K-groups [10, Remark 3.11]), we may assume that $r = 1$ and $j \in \{0, 1\}$.

Let $n = \dim X - i + 2$, pick an n-friendly space V, and set $v = \dim V$. As the scheme-theoretic support of any G-equivariant coherent module is a G-invariant closed subscheme, the group $\widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_{i+v}(G, X_V)$ is generated by the images of the groups $\widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_{i+v}(G, Z)$ under the push-forward homomorphisms, where Z runs over the G-invariant closed subschemes of X_V having dimension at most $i + v$. For any such subscheme Z and $p \in \{0, 1\}$, we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\mathrm{CK}_{i-p}(G, X) = & \widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_{i-p+v}(G, X_V) & \to & \widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_{i-p+2v}(G, X_{V\times V}) & = & \mathrm{CK}_{i-p+v}(G, X_V) \\
& \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
& \widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_{i-p+2v}(G, Z) & \to & \widetilde{\mathrm{CK}}_{i-p+2v}(G, Z_V) & = & \mathrm{CK}_{i-p+v}(G, Z).
\end{array}$$

The upper horizontal composite is an isomorphism by [10, Lemma 3.6]. Since the Chern classes are compatible with pull-backs and push-forwards, we conclude that we may replace X with Z, and i with $i + v$. We have thus come to the situation where $i \geq \dim X$, in which case the homomorphism $\mathrm{CK}_{i-j}(G, X) \to K'_0(G, X)$ is injective (recall that $j \in \{0, 1\}$). Since it is also compatible with the Chern classes in the respective theories, it will suffice to prove that, as endomorphisms of $K'_0(G, X)$,

$$\mathrm{id} = [E] \cdot (\mathrm{id} - c_1(E)) \quad \text{and} \quad c_1(E^\vee) = -[E] \cdot c_1(E).$$

This follows at once from the formula $c_1(L) = 1 - [L^\vee] \in K_0(G, X)$, valid for any G-equivariant line bundle L over X (in particular for $L = E$ and $L = E^\vee$). ■

Assume that $\mathrm{char}(F) \neq 2$ and $G = \mathrm{O}_n^+$ the split *special orthogonal* group of odd degree n. It is known (see [17, Theorem 5.1]) that

$$\mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{B}G) = \mathbb{Z}[c_2^{\mathrm{CH}}, c_3^{\mathrm{CH}}, \dots, c_n^{\mathrm{CH}}]/\big(2c_{\mathrm{odd}}^{\mathrm{CH}}\big).$$

and

$$R(G) = \mathbb{Z}[c_2^K, c_4^K, \dots, c_{n-1}^K],$$

where c_i^{CH} and c_i^K are the classical and K-theoretic Chern classes of the tautological G-representation respectively. The term $R(G)^{(i)}$ of the topological filtration on $R(G)$ is generated by monomials in the Chern classes of degree at least i. The homomorphism

$$\varphi^\bullet \colon \mathrm{CH}^\bullet(\mathrm{B}G) \twoheadrightarrow R(G)^{(\bullet/\bullet+1)}$$

takes c_i^{CH} to the class of c_i^K if i is even and to 0 if i is odd. In particular, $\mathrm{Ker}(\varphi^\bullet)$ is generated by c_i^{CH} with $i \geq 3$ odd (see [12, Example 5.3]).

The same reasoning to prove that the ring $\mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{B}G)$ is generated by Chern classes in [22, §15] can be applied to show that $\mathrm{CK}(\mathrm{B}G)$ is also generated by the CK-theoretic Chern classes $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$ of the tautological G-representation. We determine the relations between these Chern classes.

For every $i \geq 1$, let Q^i be the subgroup of $\mathrm{CK}^i(\mathrm{B}G)$ generated by $\beta^j c_{i+j}$ over all $j \geq 0$. Write Q^i_{even} for the subgroup of Q^i generated by $\beta^j c_{i+j}$ with $i + j$ even. Obviously, $\beta Q^i \subset Q^{i-1}$ and $\beta Q^i_{\mathrm{even}} \subset Q^{i-1}_{\mathrm{even}}$.

Proposition 6.2. *For every odd $i = 1, 3, \dots, n$,*

(1) $Q^{i-1} = Q^{i-1}_{\mathrm{even}}$,

(2) *there is an element $\widetilde{c}_i \in c_i + Q^i_{\mathrm{even}}$ such that $2\widetilde{c}_i = 0$ and $\beta\widetilde{c}_i = 0$.*

Proof. We proceed by descending induction on i. Let $i = n$. The tautological G-representation is isomorphic to its dual and has trivial determinant, hence Lemma 6.1 implies that

$$c_n = -c_n \quad \text{and} \quad c_{n-1} = c_{n-1} - n\beta c_n,$$

i.e., $n\beta c_n = 0$. Setting $\widetilde{c}_n = c_n$ we deduce that $2c_n = 0$ and $\beta c_n = 0$ since n is odd.

The group Q^{n-1}_{even} is generated by c_{n-1} and Q^{n-1} is generated by c_{n-1} and $\beta c_n = 0$, hence

$$Q^{n-1} = Q^{n-1}_{\mathrm{even}}.$$

$(i+2) \Rightarrow i$: It follows from Lemma 6.1 and the induction hypothesis that

$$2c_i \in \beta Q^{i+1} = \beta Q^{i+1}_{\text{even}} = Q^i_{\text{even}},$$

thus

$$2c_i = \sum_{\text{even } j>i} a_j \beta^{j-i} c_j \quad \text{with } a_j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Mapping to $R(G)$ we see that $2c_i^K = \sum a_j c_j^K$ in $R(G)$. On the other hand,

$$c_i^K \in R(G) = \mathbb{Z}\big[c_2^K, c_4^K, \dots, c_{n-1}^K\big],$$

hence all a_j are even, therefore, $2c_i \in 2Q^i_{\text{even}}$. We deduce that there is $\widetilde{c}_i \in c_i + Q^i_{\text{even}}$ such that $2\widetilde{c}_i = 0$.

Lemma 6.1 for c_{i-1} yields

$$i\beta c_i \in \beta^2 Q^{i+1} = \beta^2 Q^{i+1}_{\text{even}} \subset Q^{i-1}_{\text{even}}$$

and therefore, $i\beta\widetilde{c}_i \in Q^{i-1}_{\text{even}}$. As Q^{i-1}_{even} maps injectively to $R(G)$ and $\beta\widetilde{c}_i$ maps to zero (since $\beta\widetilde{c}_i$ is 2-torsion and $R(G)$ is torsion-free), we have $i\beta\widetilde{c}_i = 0$. But i is odd, hence

$$\beta\widetilde{c}_i = 0.$$

It follows from $\widetilde{c}_i \in c_i + Q^i_{\text{even}}$ and $\beta\widetilde{c}_i = 0$ that $\beta c_i \in \beta Q^i_{\text{even}} \subset Q^{i-1}_{\text{even}}$. Finally,

$$Q^{i-1} = \mathbb{Z}c_{i-1} + \mathbb{Z}\beta c_i + \beta^2 Q^{i+1} = \mathbb{Z}c_{i-1} + \mathbb{Z}\beta c_i + \beta^2 Q^{i+1}_{\text{even}} \subset Q^{i-1}_{\text{even}}. \qquad \blacksquare$$

Note that since the Bott map $\mathrm{CK}^1(\mathrm{B}G) \to R(G)$ is injective and $R(G)$ is torsion free, the element $\widetilde{c}_1$ is trivial. It follows from Proposition 6.2 that the ring $\mathrm{CK}(\mathrm{B}G)$ is generated by $c_2, \widetilde{c}_3, c_4, \dots, \widetilde{c}_n$ and β. Write $\widetilde{c}_i = c_i$ for all even i.

Under the natural homomorphism $\mathrm{CK}(\mathrm{B}G) \to \mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{B}G)$ the class $\widetilde{c}_i$ goes to c_i^{CH}. The obvious homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathbb{Z}\big[\widetilde{c}_2, \widetilde{c}_3, \dots, \widetilde{c}_n, \beta\big]/(2\widetilde{c}_{\text{odd}}, \beta\widetilde{c}_{\text{odd}}) \\
&\qquad \to \mathbb{Z}\big[c_2^K, c_4^K, \dots, c_{n-1}^K, \beta\big] \times \mathbb{Z}\big[c_2^{\mathrm{CH}}, c_3^{\mathrm{CH}}, \dots, c_n^{\mathrm{CH}}\big]/(2c_{\text{odd}}) \\
&\qquad = R(G)[\beta] \times \mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{B}G)
\end{aligned}$$

is injective, and factors through a surjective homomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z}\big[\widetilde{c}_2, \widetilde{c}_3, \dots, \widetilde{c}_n, \beta\big]/(2\widetilde{c}_{\text{odd}}, \beta\widetilde{c}_{\text{odd}}) \to \mathrm{CK}(\mathrm{B}G)$$

that is therefore an isomorphism. In other words, the relations $2\widetilde{c}_i = 0$ and $\beta\widetilde{c}_i = 0$ are the defining relations for the $\widetilde{c}_i$'s in $\mathrm{CK}(\mathrm{B}G)$.

The endomorphism of the endo-module $B_\bullet(\mathrm{B}G)$ is multiplication by β. It follows from the description of $\mathrm{CK}(\mathrm{B}G)$ that the kernel of multiplication by β^n on $\mathrm{CK}(\mathrm{B}G)$ if $n \geq 1$ is equal to the kernel of multiplication by β. It follows that multiplication by β on the second derivative of $B_\bullet(\mathrm{B}G)$ is injective, i.e., the second derivative degenerates.

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