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DELOOPING THE CONTINUOUS K-THEORY OF A VALUATION RING

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DELOOPING THE CONTINUOUS K-THEORY OF A VALUATION RING

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In this note the continuous algebraic K-theory groups of a complete discrete valuation ring are described as the inverse limit of the ordinary algebraic K-theory of its finite quotient rings.

In [4] we defined continuous algebraic K-theory groups K_i^{top} , $i \geq 2$, both for a complete discrete valuation ring \mathcal{O} with finite residue field of positive characteristic p and for its fraction field and proved that K_2^{top} agrees with the fundamental group of the special linear group as defined in [2] by means of universal topological central extensions. The definition of K_i^{top} in [4] is in terms of BN-pairs and is similar to the theory K_i^{BN} of [5] which is known [6] to deloop to ordinary algebraic K-theory. The purpose of this note is to deloop $K_i^{\text{top}}(\mathcal{O})$ in the sense of the following result: Let $\mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{O}$ be the maximal ideal and let K_i be the algebraic K-theory groups of Quillen [3].

THEOREM. For
$$i \ge 2$$
 there is a natural isomorphism $K_i^{\text{top}}(\mathscr{O}) \cong \lim_n K_i(\mathscr{O}/\mathscr{O}^n)$.

In a forthcoming paper of the author and R. J. Milgram, this equaation allows us to use the continuous cohomology of $SL(l, \mathcal{O})$ to compute the rank of the free part of $K_i^{top}(\mathcal{O})$ as a module over the *p*-adic completion of the rational integers.

In §2 a step in the proof of this theorem is used to describe the homotopy fiber of $BE(A)^+ \rightarrow BE(A/J)^+$ where J is an ideal in a commutative ring A such that $1 + J \subset A^*$. At least, we construct a space $B\{U_F(A, J)\}^+$ whose homotopy groups fit into the appropriate exact sequence.

Actually, in this paper we shall let

$$K_i^{ ext{top}}(\mathscr{O}) = \lim_{\stackrel{\longleftarrow}{\xleftarrow{}} n \mid n} [\lim_{\stackrel{\longrightarrow}{l}} \pi_{i-1}\operatorname{SL}_n^{ ext{top}}(l,\,\mathscr{O})]$$

whereas in [4] the order of the inverse and direct limits is reversed. The above definition is perhaps better as it still gives the main results of [4]. To see the two are the same one would have to prove that

 $\longrightarrow \pi_{i-1}\operatorname{SL}_n^{\operatorname{top}}(l, \mathscr{O}) \longrightarrow \pi_{i-1}\operatorname{SL}_n^{\operatorname{top}}(l+1, \mathscr{O}) \longrightarrow \cdots$

eventually stabilizes to an isomorphism.

The theorem makes it clear that the natural map $K_i(\mathcal{O}) \rightarrow K_i^{\text{top}}(\mathcal{O})$ comes from the ring maps $\mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}/\mathcal{O}^n$.

1. Delooping. Let n and l be fixed. The main step is to prove

PROPOSITION 1.1. There is a natural homotopy equivalence

$$\mathrm{SL}^{ab}\left(l,\,\mathscr{O}/\mathscr{P}^{n}
ight)\cong\mathrm{SL}^{ ext{top}}_{n}\left(l,\,\mathscr{O}
ight)$$

such that if $m \mid n$ there is a homotopy commutative diagram

$$(*) egin{array}{c} \mathrm{SL}^{ab}\left(l,\,\mathscr{O}/\mathscr{P}^{n}
ight)\cong\mathrm{SL}^{\mathrm{top}}_{n}\left(l,\,\mathscr{O}
ight) \ & igcup\ &$$

See [4] for notation. From this result and [6] we see that for $i \ge 2$

$$egin{aligned} &\lim_{\overrightarrow{\iota}}\pi_{i-1}\operatorname{SL}^{\operatorname{top}}\left(l,\,\mathscr{O}
ight)=\lim_{\overrightarrow{\iota}}\pi_{i-1}\operatorname{SL}^{ab}l,\,\mathscr{O}/\mathscr{P}^{n}
ight)\ &=\pi_{i-1}\operatorname{SL}^{ab}\left(\mathscr{O}/\mathscr{P}^{n}
ight)\ &=K_{i}(\mathscr{O}/\mathscr{P}^{n})\ . \end{aligned}$$

Here $SL^{ab}(A)$ of [4] is the same as $E^{BN}(A)$ of [5]. The main theorem now follows from commutativity of (*).

For simplicity of notation let $S_l = \operatorname{SL}^{ab}(l, \mathcal{O}/\mathcal{P}^n)$ and $T_l = \operatorname{SL}^{\operatorname{top}}_n(l, \mathcal{O})$. Let $P^l(\operatorname{resp.} Q^l)$ be the complex whose k-simplices are (k+1)-tuples $(F_0 < F_1 < \cdots < F_k)$ where F_i is a linear (resp. affine) facette or R^l . $P^l \subset S_l$ by the imbedding $F \to U_F$ and $Q^l \subset T_l$ via $F \to U_F^n$. Let $\operatorname{st}_l(\Delta) < Q^l$ be the star of Δ consisting of all affine facettes F such that $\Delta < F$. Let $K_l < T_l$ be the subcomplex whose k-simplices $(\alpha_0 \cdot U_{F_0}^n < \cdots < \alpha_k \cdot U_{F_k}^n)$ have $F_i \in \operatorname{st}_l(\Delta)$.

Now for each affine facette $F \in \operatorname{st}_{\iota}(\varDelta)$ there is a unique linear facette F' which contains F such that F < G implies F' < G'. The map $\operatorname{st}_{\iota}(\varDelta) \to P^{\iota}$ sending F to F' is an isomorphism of partially ordered sets. Let π : SL $(l, \mathcal{O}) \to \operatorname{SL}(l, \mathcal{O}/\mathcal{O}^n)$ be reduction modulo \mathcal{O}^n . We claim that

(1.2)
$$\pi(U_F^n) = U_{F'}$$

for $F \in \operatorname{st}_{l}(\varDelta)$. This is clear for the fundamental chamber $C = \{x_{i} + 1 > x_{1} > \cdots > x_{i}\}$ and also for any F < C. For an arbitrary $F \in \operatorname{st}_{l}(\varDelta)$ choose an element w of the linear Weyl group W_{0} so that $w \cdot F < C$. Thus by [4, Lemma 3]

$$egin{aligned} \pi(U_{\scriptscriptstyle F}^{n}) &= \pi(w^{-1}(w\,U_{\scriptscriptstyle F}^{n}w^{-1})w) \ &= w^{-1}{\cdot}\,\pi(U_{w\,\cdot\,F}^{n}){\cdot}\,w \ &= w^{-1}{\cdot}\,U_{w{\cdot}F'}{\cdot}\,w \ &= U_{F'}{\cdot}\,. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover for each $F \in \operatorname{st}_{l}(\varDelta)$ we have

(1.2')
$$\pi^{-1}(U_{F'}) = U_F^n$$

These two equations imply the correspondence

$$\alpha \cdot U_F^n \longrightarrow \pi(\alpha) \cdot U_{F'}$$

preserves order and defines a simplicial isomorphism $K_i \rightarrow S_i$. Hence to prove (1.1) it suffices to show K_i is a deformation retract to T_i .

Let $f; g: Q^1 \rightarrow Q^1$ be two simplicial maps arising from order preserving maps of vertices.

LEMMA 1.3. There is a triangulation $(Q_i \times I)'$ of $Q_i \times I$ as a partially ordered set which refines the standard triangulation leaving $Q^i \times 0$ and $Q^i \times 1$ fixed and there is a simplicial map $w: (Q^i \times I)' \rightarrow Q^i$ such that

(a) $w | Q^{i} \times 0 = f \text{ and } w | Q^{i} \times 1 = g$

(b) if $\sigma = (v_0 < \cdots < v_n)$ is a simplex of the standard triangulation $Q \times I$, $v \in \sigma$ is a vertex in the new triangulation, and $e_{ij}(\lambda)$ is in $U^n_{w(v_n)}$ for $0 \leq s \leq k$, then

$$e_{ij}(\lambda) \in {U}_{w(v)}^n$$
 .

This is the affine analogue of Lemma 3.3 of [6] and the proof is similar. For (b) compare (B) of Lemma 4 of [4].

Now let $r: Q^{i} \rightarrow \operatorname{st}_{i}(\varDelta) \subset Q^{i}$ be defined by

 $r(F) = \left\{ egin{array}{c} ext{the unique affine facette of } \operatorname{st}_{\iota}(\varDelta) ext{ which is } \ ext{contained in the same linear facette as } F. \end{array}
ight.$

This is an order preserving map which is the identity on $st_i(\Delta)$.

LEMMA 1.4. For each affine facette F we have $U_F^n \subset U_{r(F)}^n$.

Proof. If $w \in W_0$, then $w \cdot r(F) = r(w \cdot F)$ and $w \cdot F_F^n \cdot w^{-1} = U_{w \cdot F}^n$; so by choosing a w such that $w \cdot F$ is contained in the closure \overline{C}_0 of the fundamental linear chamber $C_0 = \{x_1 > \cdots > x_l\}$ we can assume $F \subset \overline{C}_0$. In this case r(F) = C. When i > j, $e_i - e_j \ge 0$ on F; so for the generator $e_{ij}(\lambda)$ of U_F^n the element $\lambda \in \mathcal{O}$ can be arbitrary and $e_{ij}(\lambda) \in U_c^n$. When i < j, $e_i - e_j \le 0$ on F so $k(F, e_i - e_j)_n \ge n =$ $k(C, e_i - e_j)_n$; hence any generator $e_{ij}(\lambda)$ of U_F^n also belongs to U_c^n . We can now complete the proof of (1.1). Apply Lemma 1.3 in the case f = id and g = r to get $w: (Q^l \times I)' \to Q^l$ satisfying (a) and (b). The map $\rho: T_l \to Q^l$ taking $\alpha \cdot U_F^n$ to F is nondegenerate on simplices and so is $\rho \times 1: T_l \times I \to Q^l \times I$. Therefore the triangulation $(Q^l \times I)'$ induces a subdivision $(T_l \times I)'$ of $T_l \times I$. Let $\sigma =$ $(\alpha_0 \cdot U_{F_0}^n < \cdots < \alpha_k \cdot U_{F_k}^n)$ be a simplex of T_l and let v be a vertex of $\sigma \times I$. Let $u = (\rho \times 1)(v)$. By (1.4) we have $U_{F_0}^n \subset U_{w(v)}^n$. Hence by (b) of (1.3) we still have

$$(1.5) U_{F_0}^n \subset U_{w(v)}^n$$

if v is any vertex of $(\sigma \times I)'$.

Let $R: T_i \to T_i$ be defined by $R(\alpha \cdot U_F^n) = \alpha \cdot U_{\tau(F)}^n$. This retracts T_i onto K_i . Define a homotopy $H: (T_i \times I)' \to T_i$ from the identity to R as follows: Let v be a vertex $(\sigma \times I)'$ and let $u = (\rho \times 1)(v)$. Let

$$H(v) = lpha_{\scriptscriptstyle 0} \cdot U^n_{\scriptscriptstyle w(v)}$$
.

Then (1.5) shows this is independent of the choice $\alpha_0 \in U_{F_0}^n$ so we get a well defined map.

2. A fibration in K-theory. Let A be a commutative ring and $J \subset A$ be an ideal such that $1 + J \subset A^*$. Then $K_i(A) \to K_i(A/J)$ is surjective for i = 1, 2. In this section we build a space $B\{U_F(A, J)\}^+$ such that for $i \ge 2$ there is a natural exact sequence

(2.1)
$$\cdots \longrightarrow K_{i+1}(A/J) \longrightarrow \pi_i B\{U_F(A, J)\}^+ \longrightarrow K_i(A) \longrightarrow K_i(A/J) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Let P^{i} denote the set of linear facettes in R^{i} and identify P^{i} as a subset of P^{i+1} by the map

$$(x_1, \cdots, x_l) \longrightarrow (x_1, \cdots, x_l, x_l)$$
.

Let $P^{\infty} = \bigcup_{i} P^{i}$. If $F \in P^{\infty}$ define the subgroup $U_{F}(A, J)$ of the group E(A) of elementary matrices to be the one generated by

(a) $e_{ij}(\lambda)$ where $\lambda \in A$ for $e_i - e_j > 0$ on F

(b) $e_{ij}(\lambda)$ where $\lambda \in J$ for $e_i - e_j < 0$ on F

(c) diagonal matrices diag $\{1 + \lambda_1, \dots, 1 + \lambda_r\}$ of determinant one where $\lambda_i \in J$.

If F < G, then $U_F(A, J) < U_G(A, J)$. When J = 0, we just get the groups U_F of [4] and [5]. In this case we write $U_F(A, J) = U_F(A)$. Let $\pi: E(A) \to E(A/J)$ be reduction mod J. Then as in (1.2) and (1.2)' we have

(2.2)
$$\pi[U_F(A, J)] = U_F(A/J)$$
 and $\pi^{-1}[U_F(A/J)] = U_F(A, J)$.

Let $B\{U_F(A, J)\}$ be the realization of the simplicial space which in dimension $k \ge 0$ is the disjoint union of the spaces

$$(F_0 < \cdots < F_k) \times BU_{F_0}(A, J)$$

where $F_i \in P^{\infty}$. Let $E\{\alpha \cdot U_F(A, J)\}$ be defined as the pullback

$$\begin{array}{c} E\{\alpha \cdot U_F(A,\,J)\} \longrightarrow EG \\ \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\ B\{U_F(A,\,J)\} \longrightarrow BG \end{array}$$

where G = E(A). When J = 0 we recover $E\{\alpha \cdot U_F\}$ as in [1]. Moreover just as in [1] the space $E\{\alpha \cdot U_F(A, J)\}$ has the homotopy type of the space $E^{BN}(A, J)$ whose k-simplices are (k + 1)-tuples

$$\sigma_{\scriptscriptstyle 0} \cdot U_{{\scriptscriptstyle F}_{\scriptscriptstyle 0}}(A,J) < \cdots < lpha_{\scriptscriptstyle k} \cdot U_{{\scriptscriptstyle F}_{\scriptscriptstyle k}}(A,J)$$

where $\alpha \cdot U_F(A, J) < \beta \cdot U_G(A, J)$ iff F < G and $\alpha \cdot U_F(A, J) \subset \beta \cdot U_G(A, J)$. As in [1] we have a homotopy fibration

$$E\{\alpha \colon U_F(A, J)\} \longrightarrow B\{U_F(A, J)\} \longrightarrow BE(A)$$
.

Suppose for the moment we have

LEMMA 2.3. $\pi_1 B\{U_F(A, J)\}$ is perfect.

Then essentially the same argument as in [1] shows that

$$(**) \qquad E\{\alpha \cdot U_F(A, J)\} \longrightarrow B\{U_F(A, J)\}^+ \longrightarrow BE(A)^+$$

is also a homotopy fibration. It follows from (2.2) that the map

$$E^{BN}(A, J) \longrightarrow E^{BN}(A/J)$$

given by $\alpha \cdot U_F(A, J) \to \pi(\alpha) \cdot U_F(A/J)$ is an isomorphism. By [6] we therefore have $\pi_{i-1}E^{BN}(A, J) = K_i(A/J)$ and the homotopy sequence of the fibration (**) gives (2.1).

To prove the lemma, it is enough to show the generators are products of commutators and the formula $w \cdot U_F \cdot w^{-1} = U_{u \cdot F}$ reduces the argument to the case where $F = C_0 = \{x_1 > x_2 > \cdots > x_l\}$ considered as lying in P^i . Here $l \geq 3$. For generators $e_{ij}(\lambda)$ of $\pi_1(BU_{c_0})$ the third Steinberg relation $e_{ij}(\alpha\beta) = [e_{ij}(\alpha), e_{jk}(\beta)]$ shows $e_{ij}(\lambda)$ is a commutator: for example, if $\lambda \in J$ we have $e_{21}(\lambda) = [e_{23}(1), e_{31}(\lambda)]$. Now consider the generators $\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0\\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$, $\lambda \in 1 + J$, where λ is in the *i*th row and *i*th column and λ^{-1} is in the *j*th row and *j*th column. For simplicity take i = 1 and j = 2. Recall that if $M, N \in U_F$ are considered as generators of $\pi_1 B U_F$ their composition as loops is homotopic to *MN.* Let $\lambda = 1 + \sigma$ and $\lambda^{-1} = 1 + \tau$ where $\tau, \sigma \in J$. We have the following matrix identity valid in E(A):

$$egin{pmatrix} \lambda & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{0} & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \lambda \ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ -m{\tau} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ -\mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \sigma \ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & -\mathbf{1} \ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pm$$

Thus modulo the commutator subgroup

$$egin{pmatrix} \lambda & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{0} & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ -\mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \sigma \ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} + \sigma & \sigma \ -\sigma & \mathbf{1} - \sigma \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now let $D = \{x_1 = x_2 > \cdots > x_l\}$ and $C'_0 = \{x_2 > x_1 > \cdots > x_l\}$. We have $U_{c_0} \supset U_D \subset U_{c'_0}$ and the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1+\sigma & \sigma \\ -\sigma & 1-\sigma \end{pmatrix}$ lies in U_D . Each of $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \sigma \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, and $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ belong to $U_{c'_0}$ and therefore by the above argument lie in the commutator subgroup. Therefore so does $\begin{pmatrix} 1+\sigma & \sigma \\ -\sigma & 1-\sigma \end{pmatrix}$, and we conclude that the loop $\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ lies in the commutator subgroup.

It is probably true that

$$B\{U_{\scriptscriptstyle F}(A,\,J)\}^+ \longrightarrow BE(A)^+ \longrightarrow BE(A/J)^+$$

is a homotopy fibration.

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