



## Topology

Symplectic and orthogonal  $K$ -groups of the integers <sup>☆</sup> *$K$ -groupes symplectiques et orthogonaux de l'anneau des entiers*

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## ABSTRACT

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

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## R É S U M É

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

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## Version française abrégée

Soient  $\mathrm{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})$ ,  $O_{\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z})$  et  $O_{\infty}(\mathbb{Z})$  le groupe symplectique infini, le  $(1, -1)$ -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 invariantes les formes bilinéaires des 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  $\pi_1$ .

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

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$n \bmod 8$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$\pi_n B \operatorname{Sp}(\mathbb{Z})^+$	(0?)	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2d_n$	$\mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus (0?)$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/d_n$
$\pi_n B O_{\infty, \infty}(\mathbb{Z})^+$	$\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus (0?)$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2)^3$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}/d_n$	$\mathbb{Z} \oplus (0?)$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}/d_n$

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

### 2. Proof part 1: odd torsion

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $R$  be the ring of integers in a number field  $F$ . Then, for all  $n \geq 0$ , there are isomorphisms*

$$KQ_n(R)_{\text{odd}} \cong GW_n(R)_{\text{odd}} \cong K \operatorname{Sp}_n(R)_{\text{odd}} \cong (K_n(R)_{\text{odd}})^{C_2}$$

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  $\Gamma_8$  [4, Ch. 2, §6]. Write  $GW^{[0]}(R)$  and  $GW^{[2]}(R)$  for  $GW(R)$  and  $K \operatorname{Sp}(R)$ ; see Section 3 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 [7, (7.3) and Lemma 7.4], which does not 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  $\operatorname{Hom}(\_, R[n])$ . 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 spectra<sup>1</sup>  $K^{[r]}(R)_{hC_2} \rightarrow GW^{[r]}(R)$ , then  $L_i^{[r]} = L_{i-1}^{[r-1]}$  only depends on the difference  $n - i$ ,  $i \geq 1$  [9] 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 [7, Lemma B.14]. Strictly speaking, we define a non-connective version of  $L^{[r]}$  as the homotopy colimit of the sequence

$$GW^{[r]} \rightarrow S^1 \wedge GW^{[r-1]} \rightarrow S^2 \wedge GW^{[r-2]} \rightarrow \dots \tag{2.1}$$

with appropriate delooping of  $GW^{[n]}$  as in [7] using the definition of  $\mathcal{E}^{[n]}$  as below. The maps in (2.1) are the connecting maps of the homotopy fibration (3.1). Then we have by definition  $L_i^{[n]} = L_0^{[n-i]}$  and, as in [7], we formally obtain the homotopy fibration whose connected cover we used above:

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

By Lemma 3.4 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 [7, Proposition 7.2] and [1, Theorem 5.6], we 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  $K_n \operatorname{Sp}$  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,  $K_1 \operatorname{Sp}(R)_{\text{odd}} = (K_1(R)_{\text{odd}})^{C_2}$ . Finally,  $L_0^{[2]}(R) = 0$  for a ring of integers since  $K_0 \operatorname{Sp}(R) = H^0(R, \mathbb{Z})$ , by the Zariski spectral sequence, hence  $H : K_0(R) \rightarrow K_0 \operatorname{Sp}(R)$  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  $\ell$ -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  $\nu$ , we therefore have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow K_{2i}(R')\{\ell\} \rightarrow K_{2i}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu) \rightarrow K_{2i-1}(R')\{\ell\} \rightarrow 0 \tag{2.2}$$

[12, Lemma 68]. Since  $\ell$  is invertible in  $R'$ , which has  $\operatorname{cd}_\ell(R') \leq 2$ , 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 etale local-to-global spectral sequence for  $K^{\acute{e}t}$ , we obtain the  $C_2$ -equivariant isomorphism

<sup>1</sup> All 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  $\pi_0$ .

$$K_{2i}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu) \cong K_{2i}^{\text{ét}}(R', \mathbb{Z}/\ell^\nu) \cong H_{\text{ét}}^0(R', K_{2i}/\ell^\nu) \tag{2.3}$$

[12, 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 (2.2) and (2.3), Lemma 2.1 yields the following.

**Theorem 2.2.** *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*

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

**3. Proof part 2: 2-adic computations**

For an exact category with weak equivalences and duality  $(\mathcal{E}, w, \sharp, \text{can})$ , denote by  $GW(\mathcal{E}, w, \sharp, \text{can})$  the associated Grothendieck–Witt space of symmetric bilinear forms [6, Definition 3]. If  $\mathcal{E}$  has a strong symmetric cone [6, Definition 4], [9] I denote by  $\mathcal{E}^{[1]} = (\text{Mor } \mathcal{E}, w_{\text{cone}}, \sharp, \text{can})$  the exact category with weak equivalences and duality of morphisms in  $\mathcal{E}$  with duality and double dual identification induced by functoriality of  $\sharp$  and  $\text{can}$  and weak equivalences those maps  $f \rightarrow g$  of arrows in  $\mathcal{E}$  such that  $\text{cone}(f) \rightarrow \text{cone}(g)$  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 [6, 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

$$GW^{[r]}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow GW^{[r+1]}(\mathcal{E}); \tag{3.1}$$

compare [7, Proof of Proposition 4.9]. For details and a generalisation, see [9]. For  $r < 0$ , we define  $GW^{[r]}(\mathcal{E})$  such that (3.1) 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  $\text{quis}$  is the set of quasi-isomorphisms.

**Theorem 3.1** ([10]). *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 [8, 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 3.2** ([11]). *Let  $R$  be a Dedekind domain and  $S \subset R$  a multiplicative set of non-zero divisors. Then there is a natural homotopy fibration*

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

Recall that Friedlander [2] 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 3.1, 3.2 and the homotopy fibration (3.1).

**Theorem 3.3.** *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 [3, 4.7.2]. This proves the theorems in Section 1 apart from the following, which was needed in the proof of Lemma 2.1.

**Lemma 3.4.** *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 3.2, we deduce the homotopy fibration of  $-1$ -connected spectra

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

in which the right horizontal map is also surjective on  $\pi_0$ , by the computations in [4]. Using the analogous statement for  $K$ -theory, we obtain the homotopy fibration of spectra

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

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  $\pi_0$  it is

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

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