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Algebraic L-Theory

IV. *Polynomial Extension Rings*

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Introduction

In Chapter XII of [1] Bass defines the notion of a *contracted functor*, as a functor

$$F:(\text{rings})\to(\text{abelian groups})$$

such that the sequence

$$0\to F(A)\xrightarrow{\binom{\bar{\varepsilon}_+}{-\bar{\varepsilon}_-}}F(A[x])\oplus F(A[x^{-1}])\xrightarrow{(\bar{E}_+\bar{E}_-)}F(A[x,x^{-1}])\xrightarrow{B}LF(A)\to 0$$

is naturally split exact for any ring A (associative with 1), where

$$\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm:A\to A[x^{\pm 1}]\qquad \bar{E}_\pm:A[x^{\pm 1}]\to A[x,x^{-1}]$$

are inclusions in polynomial extensions of A, and

$$\begin{aligned}B:&F(A[x,x^{-1}])\to LF(A)\\ &=\operatorname{coker}((\bar{E}_+\bar{E}_-):F(A[x])\oplus F(A[x^{-1}])\to F(A[x,x^{-1}]))\end{aligned}$$

is the natural projection. Theorem 7.4 of Chapter XII of [1], the "Fundamental Theorem" of algebraic K-theory, states that

$$K_1:(\text{rings})\to(\text{abelian groups})$$

is a contracted functor such that

$$LK_1(A)=K_0(A)$$

up to natural isomorphism. Here, we obtain analogous results for the groups of algebraic L-theory considered in the previous instalments of this series ([5], [6], [7] – we shall refer to these as Parts I, II, III respectively). In Part I we defined L-theoretic functors

$$U_n,\ V_n:(\text{rings with involution})\to(\text{abelian groups})$$

for $n\,(\text{mod}\,4)$, using quadratic forms on $\begin{cases}\text{f.g. projective}\\ \text{f.g. free}\end{cases}$ A-modules for the $\begin{cases}U\text{-}\\ V\text{-}\end{cases}$groups.

(The definitions are reviewed in §3 below, allowing this part to be read independently of the previous parts). It was shown in Part II that

$$V_n(A[x, x^{-1}]) = V_n(A) \oplus U_{n-1}(A)$$

if the involution $^-: A \to A;\ a \mapsto \bar{a}$ is extended to $A[x, x^{-1}]$ by $\bar{x} = x^{-1}$. The main result of this part of the paper (Theorem 4.1) is a split exact sequence

$$0 \to V_n(A) \xrightarrow{\binom{\bar{\varepsilon}_+}{-\bar{\varepsilon}_-}} V_n(A[x]) \oplus V_n(A[x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{(E_+ E_-)} V_n(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{B} U_n(A) \to 0$$

for each $n \pmod 4$, with the involution on A extended to $A[x^{\pm 1}]$, $A[x, x^{-1}]$ by $\bar{x} = x$. The proof depends on L-theoretic analogues (Lemmas 4.2, 4.3) of the Higman linearization trick (quoted in Lemma 2.2) and of a result from [2] (quoted in Lemma 2.3) on the automorphisms of $A[x, x^{-1}]$-modules which are linear in x. A similar result has been obtained independently by Karoubi ([4]), using an L-theoretic analogue of the localization sequence of Chapter IX of [1].

Adopting the terminology of [1], we can say that each

$$V_n: (\text{rings with involution}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

is a contracted functor, with

$$LV_n(A) = U_n(A)$$

up to natural isomorphism. Corollary 4.4 generalizes this "Fundamental Theorem" of algebraic L-theory to describe the intermediate L-groups $V_n^Q(A[x, x^{-1}])$, as defined in Part III, for suitable subgroups $Q \subseteq \tilde{K}_1(A[x, x^{-1}])$. Corollary 4.5 identifies the "lower L-theories" of Part II with the functors

$$L^m U_n: (\text{rings with involution}) \to (\text{abelian groups}) \qquad (m > 0)$$

derived from U_n. (There is an obvious analogy here with the "lower K-theories" of Chapter XII of [1],

$$K_{-m} = L^m K_0: (\text{rings}) \to (\text{abelian groups}).)$$

Corollary 4.6 describes the L-groups of polynomial extensions in several variables.

The work presented here was stimulated by a course of lectures on algebraic K-theory given by Hyman Bass at Cambridge University in the Lent Term of 1973.

§1. Contracted Functors

Let (rings) be the category of associative rings with 1, and 1-preserving ring morphisms. Let x be an invertible indeterminate over such a ring A commuting with every element of A, and define $A[x, x^{-1}]$, the ring of finite polynomials $\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} x^j a_j$ in x, x^{-1} with coefficients $a_j \in A$. Let $A[x^{\pm 1}]$ be the subring of $A[x, x^{-1}]$ of poly-

nomials involving only non-negative powers of $x^{\pm 1}$. Let

$$\bar{\varepsilon}_{\pm}: A \to A[x^{\pm 1}], \quad \bar{E}_{\pm}: A[x^{\pm 1}] \to A[x, x^{-1}], \quad \bar{\varepsilon} = \bar{E}_{\pm}\bar{\varepsilon}_{\pm}: A \to A[x, x^{-1}]$$

be the inclusions, and define left inverses

$$\varepsilon_{\pm}: A[x^{\pm 1}] \to A, \quad \varepsilon: A[x, x^{-1}] \to A$$

for $\bar{\varepsilon}_{\pm}$, $\bar{\varepsilon}$ by $x^{\pm 1} \mapsto 1$.

A functor

$$F: (\text{rings}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

is *contracted* if the sequence

$$0 \to F(A) \xrightarrow{\binom{\bar{\varepsilon}_+}{-\bar{\varepsilon}_-}} F(A[x]) \oplus F(A[x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{(E_+ E_-)} F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{B} LF(A) \to 0$$

is exact for each A, and there is given a natural right inverse

$$\bar{B}: LF(A) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])$$

for the natural projection

$$\begin{aligned} B: F(A[x, x^{-1}]) &\to LF(A) \\ &= \operatorname{coker}((\bar{E}_+ \bar{E}_-): F(A[x]) \oplus F(A[x^{-1}]) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])), \end{aligned}$$

that is $B\bar{B} = 1: LF(A) \to LF(A)$. (This is just Definition 7.1 of Chapter XII of [1]).

LEMMA 1.1. *Let*

$$F, G: (\text{rings}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

be functors, and suppose given

i) *a natural left inverse*

$$E_+: F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to F(A[x])$$

for

$$\bar{E}_+: F(A[x]) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])$$

such that the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(A[x^{-1}]) & \xrightarrow{E_-} & F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \\ {\scriptstyle \varepsilon_-}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle E_+} \\ F(A) & \xrightarrow[\bar{\varepsilon}_+]{} & F(A[x]) \end{array}$$

commutes,

ii) *natural morphisms*

$$\bar{\eta}_+: G(A) \to L_+F(A) = \operatorname{coker}(\bar{E}_+: F(A[x]) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}]))$$
$$\eta_+: L_+F(A) \to G(A)$$

such that $\eta_+\bar{\eta}_+ = 1$, *and such that the square*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L_+F(A) & \xrightarrow{\eta_+} & G(A) \\ {\scriptstyle \Delta_+}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \bar{\eta}_-} \\ F(A[x, x^{-1}]) & \xrightarrow{\delta_-} & L_-F(A) \end{array}$$

commutes, where

$$\Delta_+ : L_+F(A) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])$$

is the right inverse for the natural projection

$$\delta_+ : F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to L_+F(A)$$

induced by

$$1 - \bar{E}_+E_+ : F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}]),$$

and $\delta_-, \bar{\eta}_-$ *are defined as* $\delta_+, \bar{\eta}_+$ *but with* x^{-1} *replacing* x.

Then F is a contracted functor, and

$$B = \eta_+\delta_+ : F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to G(A)$$

induces a natural isomorphism

$$LF(A) = \operatorname{coker}((\bar{E}_+\bar{E}_-) : F(A[x]) \oplus F(A[x^{-1}]) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])) \to G(A).$$

Proof. The diagrams

$$\begin{tikzcd}
0 \arrow[rr, bend left] \arrow[dr] & & F(A[x]) \arrow[rr, bend left, "\delta_-E_+"] \arrow[dr, "E_+"] & & L_-F(A) \arrow[rr, bend left] \arrow[dr, "\eta_-"] & & 0 \\
& F(A) \arrow[ur, "\varepsilon_+"] \arrow[dr, "\varepsilon_-"] & & F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \arrow[ur, "\delta_-"] \arrow[dr, "\delta_+"] & & G(A) \arrow[ur] \arrow[dr] & \\
0 \arrow[ur] \arrow[rr, bend right] & & F(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[ur, "E_-"] \arrow[rr, bend right, "\delta_+E_-"'] & & L_+F(A) \arrow[ur, "\eta_+"] \arrow[rr, bend right] & & 0
\end{tikzcd}$$

$$\begin{tikzcd}
0 & F(A[x]) \arrow[l, bend right] \arrow[dr, "\varepsilon_+"] & & L_-F(A) \arrow[ll, bend right, "E_+\Delta_-"'] \arrow[dl, "\Delta_-"] & 0 \\
& F(A) \arrow[ur, "E_+"] \arrow[dl] & F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \arrow[dr, "E_-"] & G(A) \arrow[ul, "\bar{\eta}_-"] \arrow[dl, "\bar{\eta}_+"] & \\
0 & F(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[ul, "\varepsilon_-"] \arrow[ur, bend left] & & L_+F(A) \arrow[ll, bend left, "E_-\Delta_+"] \arrow[ur, "\Delta_+"] & 0
\end{tikzcd}$$

are commutative exact braids, where E_-, Δ_-, η_- are defined as E_+, Δ_+, η_+ but with x^{-1} replacing x. It follows that

$$0 \to F(A) \xrightarrow{\binom{\bar{\varepsilon}_+}{-\bar{\varepsilon}_-}} F(A[x]) \oplus F(A[x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{(E_+ E_-)} F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{B} G(A) \to 0$$

is an exact sequence, with

$$\bar{B} = \Delta_\pm \bar{\eta}_\pm : G(A) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])$$

a natural right inverse for

$$B = \eta_\pm \delta_\pm : F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to G(A).$$

Thus F is a contracted functor, with

$$LF(A) = G(A)$$

up to natural isomorphism. □

(The conditions of Lemma 1.1 are necessary, as well as sufficient, for a functor to be contracted. If

$$F: (\text{rings}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

is a contracted functor, then

$$F(A[x, x^{-1}]) = \bar{\varepsilon} F(A) \oplus \bar{E}_+ N_+ F(A) \oplus \bar{E}_- N_- F(A) \oplus \bar{B} LF(A)$$

where

$$N_\pm F(A) = \ker(\varepsilon_\pm : F(A[x^{\pm 1}]) \to F(A)),$$

and the morphisms

$$\begin{aligned}
&E_+ : F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to F(A[x]) = \bar{\varepsilon}_+ F(A) \oplus N_+ F(A); \\
&\quad \bar{\varepsilon}(r) \oplus \bar{E}_+(s_+) \oplus \bar{E}_-(s_-) \oplus \bar{B}(t) \mapsto \bar{\varepsilon}_+(r) \oplus s_+ \\
&\bar{\eta}_+ : LF(A) \to L_+ F(A) = \bar{E}_- N_- F(A) \oplus \bar{B} LF(A);\ t \mapsto 0 \oplus \bar{B}(t) \\
&\eta_+ : L_+ F(A) \to LF(A);\ \bar{E}_-(s_-) \oplus \bar{B}(t) \mapsto t
\end{aligned}$$

satisfy the conditions of Lemma 1.1, with $G = LF$.)

§2. K-Theory of Polynomial Extensions

Let $\mathbf{P}(A)$ be the category of finitely generated (f.g.) projective left A-modules. Write $|\mathbf{P}(A)|$ for the class of objects, and $\mathrm{Hom}_A(P, Q)$ for the additive group of

morphisms $g:P\to Q\in\mathbf{P}(A)$. A ring morphism

$$f:A\to A'$$

induces a functor

$$f:\mathbf{P}(A)\to\mathbf{P}(A');\ \begin{cases}P\in|\mathbf{P}(A)|\mapsto fP=A'\otimes_A P\in|\mathbf{P}(A')|\\ g\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,Q)\mapsto fg=1\otimes g\in\mathrm{Hom}_{A'}(fP,fQ).\end{cases}$$

Given $P\in|\mathbf{P}(A)|$, let

$$P[x^{\pm 1}]=\bar{\varepsilon}_{\pm}P\in|\mathbf{P}(A[x^{\pm 1}])|,\ P_x=\bar{\varepsilon}P\in|\mathbf{P}(A[x,x^{-1}])|.$$

Defining complementary A-submodules

$$P^+=\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}x^jP,\qquad P^-=\sum_{j=-\infty}^{-1}x^jP$$

of P_x (where $x^jP=x^j\otimes P$) we shall identify

$$P^+=P[x],\qquad xP^-=P[x^{-1}]$$

in the obvious way.

Let $\mathbf{N}(A)$ be the category with objects pairs

$$(P\in|\mathbf{P}(A)|,\ v\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,P)\text{ nilpotent})$$

and morphisms

$$f:(P,v)\to(P',v')\in\mathbf{N}(A)$$

isomorphisms $f\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,P')$ such that

$$v'f=fv\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,P').$$

As usual, there are defined functors

$$K_i:(\text{rings})\to(\text{abelian groups});\qquad A\mapsto K_i(\mathbf{P}(A))$$

for $i=0,1$. Theorem 7.4 of Chapter XII of [1], the "Fundamental Theorem" of algebraic K-theory, may be stated and proved as follows:

THEOREM 2.1 *The functor K_1 is contracted, with*

$$L_+K_1(A)=K_0\mathbf{N}(A),\qquad LK_1(A)=K_0(A)$$

up to natural isomorphism.

Proof. Given an automorphism

$$f: G_x \to G_x \in \mathbf{P}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \qquad (G \in |\mathbf{P}(A)|)$$

let $F = f(G) \subseteq G_x$, and define

$$(P, v) = (G^-/x^{-N}F^-, x^{-1}) \in |\mathbf{N}(A)|$$

for $N \geqslant 0$ so large that $x^{-N}F^- \subseteq G^-$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} &E_+ : K_1(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to K_1(A[x]); \\ &\quad \tau(f: G_x \to G_x) \mapsto \bar{\varepsilon}_+ \tau(\varepsilon f: G \to G) \oplus \tau((1-v)^{-1}(1-xv): P^+ \to P^+) \end{aligned}$$

is a well-defined morphism.

LEMMA 2.2 *Every element of $K_1(A[x])$ can be represented by an automorphism*

$$f = f_0 + xf_1 : G^+ \to G^+ \in \mathbf{P}(A[x])$$

with $f_0, f_1 \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(G, G)$.

Proof. Given an automorphism

$$f = f_0 + xf_1 + x^2 f_2 + \cdots + x^r f_r \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x]}(G^+, G^+) \qquad (f_j \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(G, G), 0 \leqslant j \leqslant r)$$

we can apply the usual Higman linearization trick (first used in the proof of Theorem 15 of [3]), the identity

$$\begin{aligned} &\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -x^{r-1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ xf_r & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad = \begin{pmatrix} f_0 + xf_1 + \cdots + x^{r-1} f_{r-1} & -x^{r-1} \\ xf_r & 1 \end{pmatrix} : G^+ \oplus G^+ \to G^+ \oplus G^+ \end{aligned}$$

$(r-1)$ times, to obtain a representative automorphism for $\tau(f) \in K_1(A[x])$ which is linear in x (with $r = 1$). □

Given an automorphism

$$f = f_0 + xf_1 \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x]}(G^+, G^+)$$

let $\gamma = (f_0 + f_1)^{-1} f_1 \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(G, G)$. Then

$$f = (f_0 + f_1)(1 + (x-1)\gamma) : G^+ \to G^+$$

and (up to isomorphism)

$$(G^-/x^{-1}f(G^-), x^{-1}) = (G^-/x^{-1}(1 + (x-1)\gamma) G^-, x^{-1}) = (G, -\gamma(1-\gamma)^{-1}) \in |\mathbf{N}(A)|.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} E_+\bar{E}_+\tau(f) &= \tau(f_0+f_1:G^+\to G^+)\oplus\tau((1+\gamma(1-\gamma)^{-1})^{-1} \\ &\qquad \times(1+x\gamma(1-\gamma)^{-1}):G^+\to G^+) \\ &= \tau(f_0+f_1:G^+\to G^+)\oplus\tau(1+(x-1)\,\gamma:G^+\to G^+) \\ &= \tau(f)\in K_1(A[x]). \end{aligned}$$

Thus the composite

$$K_1(A[x])\xrightarrow{E_+}K_1(A[x,x^{-1}])\xrightarrow{E_+}K_1(A[x])$$

is the identity. Similarly, it can be shown that the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K_1(A[x^{-1}]) & \xrightarrow{E_-} & K_1(A[x,x^{-1}]) \\ {\scriptstyle \varepsilon_-}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle E_+} \\ K_1(A) & \xrightarrow[\bar{\varepsilon}_+]{} & K_1(A[x]) \end{array}$$

commutes.

Higman's trick also shows that every element of $K_1(A[x,x^{-1}])$ may be expressed as

$$\tau=\tau(f_0+xf_1:P_x\to P_x)\oplus\tau(x^N:Q_x\to Q_x)\in K_1(A[x,x^{-1}])$$

for some $P, Q\in|\mathbf{P}(A)|$, $f_0, f_1\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,P)$, $N\in\mathbf{Z}$.

LEMMA 2.3. *If* $\gamma\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,P)$ *is such that*

$$1+(x-1)\,\gamma\in\mathrm{Hom}_{A[x,x^{-1}]}(P_x,P_x)$$

is an isomorphism then there exist integers $r, s\geqslant 0$ *such that*

$$\gamma^r(1-\gamma)^s=0\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,P),$$

and $R=\ker\gamma^r$, $S=\ker(1-\gamma)^s$ *are complementary submodules of* P, *such that*

$$\gamma=\begin{pmatrix}\gamma_R & 0\\ 0 & \gamma_S\end{pmatrix}:P=R\oplus S\to P=R\oplus S$$

with $\gamma_R\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(R,R)$, $1-\gamma_S\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(S,S)$ *nilpotent.*

Proof. See Corollary 2.4 of [2] and pp. 232–34 of [8]. □

If $f_0, f_1\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(P,P)$ are such that

$$f=f_0+xf_1\in\mathrm{Hom}_{A[x,x^{-1}]}(P_x,P_x)$$

is an isomorphism, then

$$\varepsilon f = f_0 + f_1 \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(P, P)$$

is an isomorphism, and $\gamma = (f_0 + f_1)^{-1} f_1 \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(P, P)$ satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 2.3. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\tau(f) &= \bar{\varepsilon}\tau(f_0 + f_1 : P \to P) \oplus \tau(1 + (x-1)\gamma : P_x \to P_x)\\ &= \bar{\varepsilon}\tau(f_0 + f_1 : P \to P)\\ &\quad \oplus \bar{E}_+ \tau(1 + (x-1)\gamma_R : R[x] \to R[x])\\ &\quad \oplus \bar{E}_- \tau(1 + (x^{-1} - 1)(1 - \gamma_S) : S[x^{-1}] \to S[x^{-1}])\\ &\quad \oplus \tau(x : S_x \to S_x) \in K_1(A[x, x^{-1}])\end{aligned}$$

It is now easy to verify that

$$K_1(A[x]) \underset{E_+}{\overset{E_+}{\rightleftarrows}} K_1(A[x, x^{-1}]) \underset{\Delta_+}{\overset{\delta_+}{\rightleftarrows}} K_0\mathbf{N}(A)$$

is a direct sum system, with

$$\begin{aligned}&\Delta_+ : K_0\mathbf{N}(A) \to K_1(A[x, x^{-1}]);\ [P, v] \mapsto \tau((1-v)^{-1}(x-v) : P_x \to P_x)\\ &\delta_+ : K_1(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to K_0\mathbf{N}(A);\ \tau(f : G_x \to G_x) \mapsto [G^+/x^N F^+, x] - [F^+/x^N F^+, x]\end{aligned}$$

where $F = f(G) \subseteq G_x$ (as before) and $N \geqslant 0$ is so large that $x^N F^+ \subseteq G^+$, (so that, in particular,

$$\delta_+ \tau(f_0 + x f_1 : P_x \to P_x) = [S, -\gamma_S^{-1}(1 - \gamma_S)] \in K_0\mathbf{N}(A)).$$

Identifying

$$L_+ K_1(A) = K_0\mathbf{N}(A)$$

in this way, note that the morphisms

$$\begin{aligned}&\eta_+ : K_0\mathbf{N}(A) \to K_0(A);\ [P, v] \mapsto [P]\\ &\bar{\eta}_+ : K_0(A) \to K_0\mathbf{N}(A);\ [P] \mapsto [P, 0]\end{aligned}$$

are such that the conditions of Lemma 1.1 are satisfied. Hence

$$K_1 : (\text{rings}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

is a contracted functor, with

$$LK_1(A) = K_0(A)$$

up to natural isomorphism. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1. □

§3. Review of the Definitions of the L-Groups

Let (rings with involution) be the category of rings A (as in §1) with involution $^{-}: A \to A;\ a \mapsto \bar{a}$ such that

$$\bar{1}=1,\ \overline{a+b}=\bar{a}+\bar{b},\ \overline{ab}=\bar{b}\cdot\bar{a},\ \bar{\bar{a}}=a \quad \text{for all} \quad a, b \in A.$$

As in Part I it will be assumed that f.g. free A-modules have a well-defined dimension.

Given a ring with involution A define a *duality* involution

$$*: \mathbf{P}(A) \to \mathbf{P}(A) \begin{cases} P \in |\mathbf{P}(A)| \mapsto P^* = \mathrm{Hom}_A(P, A), \quad \text{left } A\text{-action by} \\ \qquad\qquad A \times P^* \to P^*;\ (a, p^*) \mapsto (p \mapsto p^*(p)\cdot\bar{a}) \\ f \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(P, Q) \mapsto (f^*: Q^* \to P^*;\ q^* \mapsto (p \mapsto q^*(f(p)))), \end{cases}$$

using the natural isomorphisms

$$P \to P^{**};\ p \mapsto (p^* \mapsto \overline{p^*(p)}) \qquad (P \in |\mathbf{P}(A)|)$$

to identify

$$^{**} = 1: \mathbf{P}(A) \to \mathbf{P}(A).$$

An *ε-hermitian product* (over A) is a morphism

$$\theta: Q \to Q^* \in \mathbf{P}(A)$$

such that

$$\theta^* = \varepsilon\theta \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*),$$

where $\varepsilon = \pm 1$. A $\pm$*form* (over A) is a pair

$$(Q \in |\mathbf{P}(A)|,\ \varphi \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)),$$

and

$$\theta = \varphi \pm \varphi^* \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)$$

is the *associated* $\pm$ hermitian product. An *isomorphism* of $\pm$ forms

$$(f, \chi): (Q, \varphi) \to (Q', \varphi')$$

is an isomorphism $f \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q')$ together with a morphism $\chi \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)$ such that

$$f^*\varphi' f - \varphi = \chi \mp \chi^* \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*).$$

Such an isomorphism preserves the associated $\pm$ hermitian products, in that

$$f^*(\varphi' \pm \varphi'^*)f = (\varphi \pm \varphi^*) \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*).$$

A $\pm$ form (Q, φ) is *non-singular* if the associated $\pm$ hermitian product $(\varphi \pm \varphi^*) \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)$ is an isomorphism. The *hamiltonian* $\pm$ form on $P \in |\mathbf{P}(A)|$,

$$H\pm(P) = \left(P \oplus P^*, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is non-singular. A *sublagrangian* of a non-singular $\pm$ form (Q, φ) is a direct summand L of Q such that

$$j^*\varphi j = \lambda \mp \lambda^* \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(L, L^*)$$

for some $\lambda \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(L, L^*)$, denoting by $j \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(L, Q)$ the inclusion. It was shown in Theorem 1.1 of Part I that if L is a sublagrangian of (Q, φ) there is defined a non-singular $\pm$ form $(L^\perp/L, \hat{\varphi})$ on a direct complement $L^\perp/L$ to L in the *annihilator* of L in (Q, φ),

$$L^\perp = \ker(j^*(\varphi \pm \varphi^*): Q \to L^*),$$

and that there is defined an isomorphism of $\pm$ forms

$$(f, \chi): (Q, \varphi) \to H\pm(L) \oplus (L^\perp/L, \hat{\varphi})$$

with f the identity on $L^\perp = L \oplus L^\perp/L$. A *lagrangian* is a sublagrangian L such that

$$L^\perp = L,$$

in which case there is defined an isomorphism of $\pm$ forms

$$(f, \chi): (Q, \varphi) \to H\pm(L).$$

A $\pm$ *formation* (over A), $(Q, \varphi; F, G)$, is a triple consisting of

i) a non-singular $\pm$ form over A, (Q, φ),
ii) a lagrangian F of (Q, φ),
iii) a sublagrangian G of (Q, φ).

An *isomorphism* of $\pm$ formations

$$(f, \chi): (Q, \varphi; F, G) \to (Q', \varphi'; F', G')$$

is an isomorphism of $\pm$ forms

$$(f, \chi): (Q, \varphi) \to (Q', \varphi')$$

such that $f(F)=F', f(G)=G'$. A *stable isomorphism* of $\pm$ formations

$$[f,\chi]:(Q,\varphi;F,G)\to(Q',\varphi';F',G')$$

is an isomorphism of $\pm$ formations

$$(f,\chi):(Q,\varphi;F,G)\oplus(H\pm(P);P,P^*)\to(Q',\varphi';F',G')\oplus(H\pm(P');P',P'^*)$$

defined for some $P, P'\in|\mathbf{P}(A)|$.

Let $T\subseteq\tilde{K}_0(A)=\operatorname{coker}(K_0(\mathbf{Z})\to K_0(A))$ be a subgroup invariant under the duality involution

$$*:\tilde{K}_0(A)\to\tilde{K}_0(A);\ [P]\mapsto[P^*]\qquad\text{(that is, } *(T)=T).$$

For $n(\mathrm{mod}\,4)$ define the abelian monoid $X_n^T(A)$ of $\begin{cases}\text{isomorphism}\\ \text{stable isomorphism}\end{cases}$ classes of $\begin{cases}\pm\text{ forms }(Q,\varphi)\\ \pm\text{ formations }(Q,\varphi:F,G)\end{cases}$ over A such that the projective class $\begin{cases}[Q]\\ [G]-[F^*]\end{cases}$ lies in $T\subseteq\tilde{K}_0(A)$, under the direct sum $\oplus$, with $\pm=(-)^i$ if $n=\begin{cases}2i\\ 2i+1.\end{cases}$ The monoid morphisms

$$\partial^T:X_n^T(A)\to X_{n-1}^T(A);\ \begin{cases}(Q,\varphi)\mapsto(H_\mp(Q);Q,\Gamma_{(Q,\varphi)})\\ (Q,\varphi;F,G)\mapsto(G^\perp/G,\hat{\varphi})\end{cases}\qquad n=\begin{cases}2i\\ 2i+1\end{cases}$$

are such that $(\partial^T)^2=0$, where

$$\Gamma_{(Q,\varphi)}=\{(x,(\varphi\pm\varphi^*)x)\mid x\in Q\}\subseteq Q\oplus Q^*.$$

Define an equivalence relation $\sim$ on $\ker(\partial^T:X_n^T(A)\to X_{n-1}^T(A))$ by $z_1\sim z_2$ if there exist $b_1, b_2\in X_{n+1}^T(A)$ such that $z_1\oplus\partial^T b_1=z_2\oplus\partial^T b_2\in X_n^T(A)$. It was shown in Theorem 2.1 of Part III that the quotient monoids

$$U_n^T(A)=\ker(\partial^T:X_n^T(A)\to X_{n-1}^T(A))/\overline{\operatorname{im}(\partial^T:X_{n+1}^T(A)\to X_n^T(A))}$$

of equivalence classes are abelian groups, generalizing the definitions in Part I of

$$U_n(A)=U_n^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A),\qquad V_n(A)=U_n^{\{0\}}(A).$$

Theorem 2.3 of Part III established an exact sequence

$$\cdots\to H^{n+1}(T'/T)\to U_n^T(A)\to U_n^{T'}(A)\to H^n(T'/T)\to U_{n-1}^T(A)\to\cdots$$

for *-invariant subgroups $T\subseteq T'\subseteq\tilde{K}_0(A)$, where

$$H^n(G)=\{g\in G\mid g^*=(-)^n g\}/\{h+(-)^n h^*\mid h\in G\}$$

are the Tate cohomology groups (abelian, of exponent 2).

There are analogous definitions and results for L-groups associated with subgroups $R \subseteq \tilde{K}_1(A) = \operatorname{coker}(K_1(\mathbf{Z}) \to K_1(A))$ invariant under the duality involution

$$*: \tilde{K}_1(A) \to \tilde{K}_1(A);\ \tau(f: \underset{\sim}{P} \to \underset{\sim}{Q}) \mapsto \tau(f^*: \underset{\sim}{Q}^* \to \underset{\sim}{P}^*)$$

denoting by $\underset{\sim}{P}$ a f.g. free A-module P with a prescribed base, and by $\underset{\sim}{P}^*$ the dual based A-module.

A *based* $\pm$ form $(\underset{\sim}{Q}, \varphi)$ is a $\pm$ form (Q, φ) on a based A-module $\underset{\sim}{Q}$. The *torsion* of a based $\pm$ form $(\underset{\sim}{Q}, \varphi)$ is

$$\tau(\underset{\sim}{Q}, \varphi) = \begin{cases} \tau(\varphi \pm \varphi^*: \underset{\sim}{Q} \to \underset{\sim}{Q}^*) \in \tilde{K}_1(A) & \text{if} \quad (Q, \varphi) \text{ is non-singular} \\ 0 \in \tilde{K}_1(A) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

An *R-isomorphism* of based $\pm$ forms

$$(f, \chi): (\underset{\sim}{Q}, \varphi) \to (\underset{\sim}{Q}', \varphi')$$

is an isomorphism of the underlying forms

$$(f, \chi): (Q, \varphi) \to (Q', \varphi')$$

such that

$$\tau(f: \underset{\sim}{Q} \to \underset{\sim}{Q}') \in R \subseteq \tilde{K}_1(A).$$

A *based* $\pm$ formation $(Q, \varphi; \underset{\sim}{F}, \underset{\sim}{G})$ is a $\pm$ formation $(Q, \varphi; F, G)$ with bases for F, G and $G^\perp/G$. The *torsion* $\tau(Q, \varphi; \underset{\sim}{F}, \underset{\sim}{G}) \in \tilde{K}_1(A)$ of a based $\pm$ formation is the torsion of the isomorphism

$$f: \underset{\sim}{F} \oplus \underset{\sim}{F}^* \to \underset{\sim}{G} \oplus \underset{\sim}{G}^* \oplus \underset{\sim}{G^\perp/G}$$

in the isomorphism of $\pm$ forms

$$(f, \chi): H\pm(F) \to H\pm(G) \oplus (G^\perp/G, \hat{\varphi})$$

given by Theorem 1.1 of Part I. An *R-isomorphism* of based $\pm$ formations

$$(f, \chi): (Q, \varphi; \underset{\sim}{F}, \underset{\sim}{G}) \to (Q', \varphi'; \underset{\sim}{F}', \underset{\sim}{G}')$$

is an isomorphism of the underlying $\pm$ formations such that the restrictions

$$\underset{\sim}{F} \to \underset{\sim}{F}',\ \underset{\sim}{G} \to \underset{\sim}{G}',\ \underset{\sim}{G^\perp/G} \to \underset{\sim}{G'^\perp/G'}$$

of f have torsions in $R \subseteq \tilde{K}_1(A)$. A *stable R-isomorphism* of based $\pm$ formations

$$[f, \chi]: (Q, \varphi; F, \underset{\sim}{G}) \to (Q', \varphi'; \underset{\sim}{F}', \underset{\sim}{G}')$$

is an R-isomorphism

$$(f,\chi):(Q,\varphi;\underset{\sim}{F},\underset{\sim}{G})\oplus(H\pm(P);\underset{\sim}{P},\underset{\sim}{P}^*)\to(Q',\varphi';\underset{\sim}{F}',\underset{\sim}{G}')\oplus(H\pm(P');\underset{\sim}{P}',\underset{\sim}{P}'^*)$$

defined for some based A-modules $\underset{\sim}{P}$, $\underset{\sim}{P}'$.

For $n\,(\mathrm{mod}\,4)$ define the abelian monoid $Y_n^R(A)$ of $\begin{cases}R\text{-isomorphism}\\ \text{stable } R\text{-isomorphism}\end{cases}$ classes of based $\begin{cases}\pm\text{ forms}\\ \pm\text{ formations}\end{cases}$ over A with torsion in $R\subseteq\tilde{K}_1(A)$, under the direct sum $\oplus$, with $\pm=(-)^i$ if $n=\begin{cases}2i\\ 2i+1\end{cases}$. The monoid morphisms

$$\partial^R:Y_n^R(A)\to Y_{n-1}^R(A);\begin{cases}(\underset{\sim}{Q},\varphi)\mapsto(H_\mp(Q);\underset{\sim}{Q},\Gamma_{(\underset{\sim}{Q},\varphi)})\\ (Q,\varphi;\underset{\sim}{F},\underset{\sim}{G})\mapsto(\underset{\sim}{G}^\perp/\underset{\sim}{G},\hat{\varphi})\end{cases}\qquad n=\begin{cases}2i\\ 2i+1\end{cases}$$

are such that $(\partial^R)^2=0$, and the quotient monoids

$$V_n^R(A)=\ker(\partial^R:Y_n^R(A)\to Y_{n-1}^R(A))/\overline{\mathrm{im}\,(\partial^R:Y_{n+1}^R(A)\to Y_n^R(A))}$$

are abelian groups (by Theorem 3.1 of Part III) generalizing the definitions in Part I of

$$V_n(A)=V_n^{\tilde{K}_1(A)}(A)\;(=U_n^{\{0\}}(A)),\qquad W_n(A)=V_n^{\{0\}}(A).$$

Theorem 3.3 in Part III established an exact sequence

$$\cdots\to H^{n+1}(R'/R)\to V_n^R(A)\to V_n^{R'}(A)\to H^n(R'/R)\to V_{n-1}^R(A)\to\cdots$$

for *-invariant subgroups $R\subseteq R'\subseteq\tilde{K}_1(A)$.

A morphism of rings with involution

$$f:A\to A'$$

such that $f(T)\subseteq T'$ (for some *-invariant subgroups $T\subseteq\tilde{K}_0(A)$, $T'\subseteq\tilde{K}_0(A')$) induces abelian group morphisms

$$f:U_n^T(A)\to U_n^{T'}(A');\begin{cases}(Q,\varphi)\mapsto(fQ,f\varphi)\\ (Q,\varphi;F,G)\mapsto(fQ,f\varphi;fF,fG)\end{cases}\qquad n=\begin{cases}2i\\ 2i+1.\end{cases}$$

Similarly, if $f(R)\subseteq R'$ (for *-invariant subgroups $R\subseteq\tilde{K}_1(A)$, $R'\subseteq\tilde{K}_1(A')$) there are induced morphisms

$$f:V_n^R(A)\to V_n^{R'}(A')\qquad(n\,(\mathrm{mod}\,4)).$$

§4. L-Theory of Polynomial Extensions

Given a ring with involution A and an indeterminate x over A commuting with

every element of A extend the involution on A to the involution

$$^{-}: A[x, x^{-1}] \to A[x, x^{-1}]; \qquad \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} x^j a_j \mapsto \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} x^j \bar{a}_j$$

on $A[x, x^{-1}]$. This restricts to involutions on the subrings $A[x]$, $A[x^{-1}]$ of $A[x, x^{-1}]$. F. g, free $A[x]$-modules have well-defined dimension, as do those over $A[x^{-1}]$, $A[x, x^{-1}]$. Thus the rings with involution $A[x^{\pm 1}]$, $A[x, x^{-1}]$ satisfy the conditions imposed on A in §3.

Call a functor

$$F: (\text{rings with involution}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

contracted if the sequence

$$0 \to F(A) \xrightarrow{\binom{\bar{\varepsilon}_+}{-\bar{\varepsilon}_-}} F(A[x]) \oplus F(A[x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{(E_+ E_-)} F(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{B} LF(A) \to 0$$

is exact for every ring with involution A and there is given a natural right inverse

$$\bar{B}: LF(A) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])$$

for the natural projection

$$\begin{aligned} B: F(A[x, x^{-1}]) &\to LF(A) \\ &= \operatorname{coker}((\bar{E}_+ \bar{E}_-): F(A[x] \oplus F(A[x^{-1}]) \to F(A[x, x^{-1}])). \end{aligned}$$

The obvious analogue to Lemma 1.1 holds for functors

$$(\text{rings with involution}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

as does the following analogue of Theorem 2.1 for the L-theoretic functors of §3:

THEOREM 4.1. *Each of the functors*

$$V_n: (\text{rings with involution}) \to (\text{abelian groups}) \qquad (n \pmod 4)$$

is contracted, with

$$LV_n(A) = U_n(A), \qquad L_\pm V_n(A) = U_n^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{\mp 1}])$$

up to natural isomorphism, where $\tilde{K}_0(A) \equiv \bar{\varepsilon}_\mp \tilde{K}_0(A) \subseteq \tilde{K}_0(A[x^{\mp 1}])$. □

The proof of Theorem 4.1 in the case $n = 2i$ will be similar to the proof of Theorem 2.1. The case $n = 2i + 1$ will follow by an application of the results of Part II on the L-theory of Laurent extensions (that is, of the ring $A[x, x^{-1}]$ with involution by $\bar{x} = x^{-1}$).

Recall from Part II that a *modular A-base* of an $A[x, x^{-1}]$-module Q is an A-submodule Q_0 of Q such that every element q of Q has a unique expression as

$$q=\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} x^j q_j \quad (q_j \in Q_o, \{j \mid q_j \neq 0\} \text{ finite}),$$

so that $Q=A[x, x^{-1}]\otimes_A Q_0$ up to $A[x, x^{-1}]$-module isomorphism. For example the A-modules generated by the bases of free $A[x, x^{-1}]$-modules are modular A-bases.

Define a morphism

$$\delta_+ : V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]);$$
$$(Q, \varphi) \mapsto (P[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1} - x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2})$$

by choosing a modular A-base Q_0 for Q (which is a f.g. free $A[x, x^{-1}]$-module) and an integer $N \geqslant 0$ so large that

$$(\varphi \pm \varphi^*)(x^N Q_0^+) \subseteq x^{-N} Q_0^{*+} \quad (\pm = (-)^i),$$

defining

$$P = x^N Q_0^- \cap (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(x^{-N} Q_0^{*+}) \in |\mathbf{P}(A)|,$$

with $[\varphi]_j \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(P, P^*)$ given by

$$[\varphi]_j(y)(y') = a_j \in A \quad (y, y' \in P, j \in \mathbf{Z})$$

if

$$\varphi(y)(y') = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} x^j a_j \in A[x, x^{-1}] \quad (a_j \in A),$$

and writing $P[x^{-1}]$ for $\bar{\varepsilon}_- P = A[x^{-1}] \otimes_A P \in |\mathbf{P}(A[x^{-1}])|$.

The A-module isomorphism

$$[\varphi \pm \varphi^*]_{-1} : Q \to Q^*$$

may be expressed as

$$[\varphi \pm \varphi^*]_{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} [\varphi]_{-1} \pm ([\varphi]_{-1})^* & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \pm 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} : P \oplus L \oplus L^* \to P^* \oplus L^* \oplus L$$

where $L = (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(x^{-N} Q_0^{*-})$, $L^* = x^N Q_0^+ \subseteq Q$, so that $(P, [\varphi]_{-1})$ is a non-singular $\pm$ form over A.

For any $y, y' \in P$

$$[\varphi \pm \varphi^*]_{-2}(y)(y') = [\varphi \pm \varphi^*]_{-1}(xy)(y')$$
$$= [\varphi \pm \varphi^*]_{-1}(xy - x^N y_{N-1})(y') \in A,$$

where $y_{N-1} \in Q_0$ is such that

$$y - x^{N-1} y_{N-1} \in x^{N-1} Q_0^- \cap (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1} (x^{-N-1} Q_0^*) = x^{-1} P.$$

Thus

$$(P, ([\varphi \pm \varphi^*]_{-1})^{-1} ([\varphi \pm \varphi^*]_{-2})) = ((\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1} (x^{-N} Q_0^{*+}) / x^N Q_0^+, x) \in |\mathbf{N}(A)|,$$

and $(P[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1} - x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2})$ is a non-singular $\pm$ form over $A[x^{-1}]$.

Suppose that Q_0' is a different modular A-base of Q. Let $M \geqslant 0$ be so large that

$$Q_0' \subseteq \sum_{j=-M}^{M} x^j Q_0, \qquad Q_0 \subseteq \sum_{j=-M}^{M} x^j Q_0'.$$

Then $N' = N + M$ is so large that

$$(\varphi \pm \varphi^*)(x^{N'} Q_0'^+) \subseteq x^{-N'} Q_0'^{*+},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P' &= x^{N'} Q_0'^- \cap (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1} (x^{-N'} Q_0'^{*+}) \quad \text{(definition)} \\ &= x^N (x^M Q_0'^- \cap Q_0^+) \oplus P \oplus x^{-N} (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1} (Q_0^{*-} \cap x^{-M} Q_0'^{*+}). \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$L = (x^N (x^M Q_0'^- \cap Q_0^+))[x^{-1}] \subseteq P'[x^{-1}]$$

is a sublagrangian of $(P'[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1} - x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2})$ with $L^\perp / L = P[x^{-1}]$, so that

$$\begin{aligned} (P'[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1} - x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2}) &= (P[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1} - x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2}) \oplus H_\pm(L) \\ &= (P[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1} - x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2}) \in U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]). \end{aligned}$$

Thus the choice of N and Q_0 is immaterial to the definition of δ_+.

Finally, suppose that

$$(Q, \varphi) = \bar{E}_+ (Q_0^+, \varphi_0) \in V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$$

for some $(Q_0^+, \varphi_0) \in V_{2i}(A[x])$. Then we can choose $N = 0$, and

$$\delta_+ (Q, \varphi) = 0 \in U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]).$$

Hence the morphism

$$\delta_+ : V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}])$$

is well-defined, and such that the composite

$$V_{2i}(A[x]) \xrightarrow{E_+} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{\delta_+} U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}])$$

is zero. Before going on to show that this sequence is in fact split exact, we need an L-theoretic analogue of Lemma 2.2 (the Higman linearization trick):

LEMMA 4.2. *Every element of* $U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x])$ (*resp.* $V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$) *can be represented by a linear* $\pm$*form,* $(Q^+, \varphi_0+x\varphi_1)$ *over* $A[x]$ (*resp.* $(Q_x, \varphi_0+x\varphi_1)$ *over* $A[x, x^{-1}]$) *where* $\varphi_0, \varphi_1 \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)$.

Proof. Given $(Q^+, \varphi) \in U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x])$, let

$$\varphi = \sum_{j=0}^{N} x^j \varphi_j \ \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x]}(Q^+, Q^{*+}) \qquad (\varphi_j \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)),$$

and suppose $N>1$. Now

$$\left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -x & 1 & 0 \\ \pm x^{N-1}\varphi_N^* & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -x^{N-1}\varphi_N & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}\right)$$
$$: (Q^+, \varphi) \oplus H_\pm(Q^+) \to \left(Q^+ \oplus Q^+ \oplus Q^{*+}, \begin{pmatrix} \varphi - x^N\varphi_N & -x^{N-1}\varphi_N & x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is an isomorphism of $\pm$forms over $A[x]$, so that

$$(Q'^+, \varphi') = (Q^+, \varphi) \in U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x])$$

with $Q' = Q \oplus Q \oplus Q^*$ such that

$$\varphi' = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} x^j \varphi'_j \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x]}(Q'^+, Q'^{*+}) \qquad (\varphi'_j \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q', Q'^*)).$$

Iterating this procedure $(N-1)$ times we obtain a representative for

$$(Q^+, \varphi) \in U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x]) \text{ with } N=1.$$

The same method works for elements $(Q_x, \varphi) \in V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$ provided we can assume that

$$(\varphi \pm \varphi^*)(Q^+) \subseteq Q^{*+}.$$

Choosing $N \geqslant 0$ so large that

$$(\varphi \pm \varphi^*)(x^N Q^+) \subseteq x^{-N} Q^{*+},$$

note that

$$(x^N, 0): (Q_x, \varphi' = x^{2N}\varphi) \to (Q_x, \varphi)$$

as an isomorphism of $\pm$ forms over $A[x, x^{-1}]$, so that

$$(Q_x, \varphi') = (Q_x, \varphi) \in V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]),$$

and that

$$(\varphi' \pm \varphi'^*)(Q^+) \subseteq Q^{*+}. \quad \square$$

The morphism

$$\begin{aligned} &\Delta_+ : U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \to V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]); \\ &\qquad (Q[x^{-1}], \varphi) \mapsto (Q_x, x\varphi) \oplus \bar{\varepsilon}\varepsilon_- (Q[x^{-1}], -\varphi) \oplus H_\pm(-Q_x) \end{aligned}$$

is clearly well-defined, with $-Q \in |\mathbf{P}(A)|$ such that $Q \oplus -Q$ is f.g. free.

The composite

$$U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{\Delta_+} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{\delta_+} U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}])$$

is the identity: by Lemma 4.2 it is sufficient to consider $\delta_+\Delta_+(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi)$ with

$$\varphi = \varphi_0 + x^{-1}\varphi_{-1} \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x^{-1}]}(Q[x^{-1}], Q^*[x^{-1}]) \; (\varphi_0, \varphi_{-1} \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\delta_+\Delta_+(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi_0 + x^{-1}\varphi_{-1}) \\ &\quad = \delta_+((Q_x, x\varphi_0 + \varphi_{-1}) \oplus (Q_x, -(\varphi_0 + \varphi_{-1})) \oplus H_\pm(-Q_x)) \\ &\quad = ((Q^- \cap (x(\varphi_0 \pm \varphi_0^*) + (\varphi_{-1} \pm \varphi_{-1}^*))^{-1}(Q^{*+}))[x^{-1}], \\ &[x\varphi_0 + \varphi_{-1}]_{-1} - x^{-1}[x\varphi_0 + \varphi_{-1}]_{-2}) \\ &\quad = ((1 + x^{-1}\gamma)^{-1}(x^{-1}Q), [x\varphi_0 + \varphi_{-1}]_{-1} - x^{-1}[x\varphi_0 + \varphi_{-1}]_{-2}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\gamma = (\varphi_0 \pm \varphi_0^*)^{-1}(\varphi_{-1} \pm \varphi_{-1}^*) \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q)$ is nilpotent. Now

$$(1 + x^{-1}\gamma)^{-1} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (-)^j x^{-j}\gamma^j \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x^{-1}]}(Q[x^{-1}], Q[x^{-1}]),$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} &[x\varphi_0 + \varphi_{-1}]_j (1 + y^{-1}\gamma)^{-1}(x^{-1}y)(1 + x^{-1}\gamma)^{-1}(x^{-1}y') \\ &\qquad = \begin{cases} \varphi_0(y)(y') \\ (\varphi_{-1} - \varphi_0\gamma - \gamma^*\varphi_0)(y)(y') \end{cases} \text{if } j = \begin{cases} -1 \\ -2 \end{cases} \quad (y, y' \in Q), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\varphi_{-1} - \varphi_0\gamma - \gamma^*\varphi_0 = -\varphi_{-1} + \chi \mp \chi^* \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*),$$

where $\chi = \varphi_{-1} - \gamma^*\varphi_0 \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_+\Delta_+(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi_0 + x^{-1}\varphi_{-1}) &= (Q[x^{-1}], \varphi_0 + x^{-1}(\varphi_{-1} - (\chi \mp \chi^*))) \\ &= (Q[x^{-1}], \varphi_0 + x^{-1}\varphi_{-1}) \in U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\delta_+ \Delta_+ = 1 : U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \to U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]).$$

It is therefore sufficient to prove that $V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$ is generated by the images of $\bar{E}_+ : V_{2i}(A[x]) \to V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$, $\Delta_+ : U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \to V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$ for the exactness of

$$V_{2i}(A[x]) \xrightarrow{E_+} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{\delta_+} U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]).$$

We shall do this using the following L-theoretic analogue of Lemma 2.3:

LEMMA 4.3. *Let* (Q_x, φ) *be a non-singular* $\pm$*form over* $A[x, x^{-1}]$ *such that*

$$\varphi = \mu + (x-1)\, \nu \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x, x^{-1}]}(Q_x, Q_x^*) \qquad (\mu, \nu \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)).$$

Then (Q_x, φ) *is isomorphic to the sum*

$$(R_x, \mu_R + (x-1)\, \nu_R) \oplus (S_x, \mu_S + (x-1)\, \nu_S)$$

of non-singular $\pm$*forms over* $A[x, x^{-1}]$ *such that*

$$(R[x], \mu_R + (x-1)\, \nu_R)$$

is a non-singular $\pm$*form over* $A[x]$, *and*

$$(S[x^{-1}], x^{-1}(\mu_S + (x-1)\, \nu_S))$$

is a non-singular $\pm$*form over* $A[x^{-1}]$.

Proof. The invertibility of

$$\varphi \pm \varphi^* = (\mu \pm \mu^*) + (x-1)\,(\nu \pm \nu^*) \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x, x^{-1}]}(Q_x, Q_x^*)$$

implies that

$$\varepsilon(\varphi \pm \varphi^*) = \mu \pm \mu^* \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)$$
$$(\mu \pm \mu^*)^{-1}(\varphi \pm \varphi^*) = 1 + (x-1)\, \gamma \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x, x^{-1}]}(Q_x, Q_x)$$

are isomorphisms, where

$$\gamma = (\mu \pm \mu^*)^{-1}(\nu \pm \nu^*) \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q).$$

Hence, by Lemma 2.3,

$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_R & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_S \end{pmatrix} : Q = R \oplus S \to Q = R \oplus S$$

with $\gamma_R \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(R, R)$, $1 - \gamma_S \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(S, S)$ nilpotent.

Adding on some $\mp$ hermitian products of type $\chi \mp \chi^* \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)$ to μ and ν if necessary, it may be assumed that $\mu(R)(S)=0$, $\nu(R)(S)=0$. Let

$$\mu=\begin{pmatrix}\mu_R & \mu_{RS}\\ 0 & \mu_S\end{pmatrix}: R\oplus S\to R^*\oplus S^*, \qquad \nu=\begin{pmatrix}\nu_R & \nu_{RS}\\ 0 & \nu_S\end{pmatrix}: R\oplus S\to R^*\oplus S^*$$

so that

$$\begin{pmatrix}\mu_R\pm\mu_R^* & \mu_{RS}\\ \pm\mu_{RS}^* & \mu_S\pm\mu_S^*\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}\gamma_R & 0\\ 0 & \gamma_S\end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix}\nu_R\pm\nu_R^* & \nu_{RS}\\ \pm\nu_{RS}^* & \nu_S\pm\nu_S^*\end{pmatrix}: R\oplus S\to R^*\oplus S^*.$$

Working as in the calculation of $\delta_+\Delta_+$ above,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_+(Q_x, \varphi)&=((Q^-\cap(\varphi\pm\varphi^*)^{-1}(Q^{*+}))[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1}-x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2})\\ &=((1+(x-1)\gamma_S)^{-1}(S)[x^{-1}], [\mu_S+(x-1)\nu_S]_{-1}-x^{-1}[\mu_S+(x-1)\nu_S]_{-2})\\ &=(S[x^{-1}], x^{-1}(\mu_S+(x-1)\nu_S))\in U_{2i}^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]).\end{aligned}$$

Thus $\varepsilon_-\delta_+(Q_x, \varphi)=(S, \mu_S)$ is a non-singular $\pm$ form over A, and hence so is (S, ν_S), because

$$(\nu_S\pm\nu_S^*)=(\mu_S\pm\mu_S^*)\gamma_S\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(S, S^*)$$

and $\gamma_S\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(S, S)$ is an isomorphism (being unipotent). Let

$$\begin{aligned}g&=\pm(\nu_S\pm\nu_S^*)^{-1}\nu_{RS}^*\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(R, S)\\ \mu'&=\begin{pmatrix}\mu_R'=\mu_R-g^*\mu_S g & 0\\ 0 & \mu_S\end{pmatrix}: R\oplus S\to R^*\oplus S^*\\ \nu'&=\begin{pmatrix}\nu_R'=\nu_R-g^*\nu_S g & 0\\ 0 & \nu_S\end{pmatrix}: R\oplus S\to R^*\oplus S^*.\end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned}(f, \chi)&=\left(\begin{pmatrix}1 & 0\\ g & 1\end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix}0 & 0\\ (\mu_S+(x-1)\nu_S)g & 0\end{pmatrix}\right)\\ &:(Q_x, \varphi)=(R_x\oplus S_x, \mu+(x-1)\nu)\to(Q_x, \varphi')=(R_x\oplus S_x, \mu'+(x-1)\nu')\end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism of $\pm$ forms over $A[x, x^{-1}]$. It follows that

$$f^*(\varphi'\pm\varphi'^*)f=(\varphi\pm\varphi^*)\in\mathrm{Hom}_{A[x, x^{-1}]}(Q_x, Q_x^*)$$

and as f is defined over A

$$\begin{aligned}&f^*(\mu'\pm\mu'^*)f=(\mu\pm\mu^*)\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)\\ &f^*(\nu'\pm\nu'^*)f=(\nu\pm\nu^*)\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*).\end{aligned}$$

Defining

$$\gamma'=(\mu'\pm\mu'^*)^{-1}(\nu'\pm\nu'^*)=\begin{pmatrix}\gamma'_R=(\mu'_R\pm\mu'^*_R)^{-1}(\nu_R\pm\nu^*_R) & 0\\ 0 & \gamma_S\end{pmatrix}:R\oplus S\to R\oplus S,$$

we have that

$$\gamma'=f\gamma f^{-1}=\begin{pmatrix}1 & 0\\ g & 1\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}\gamma_R & 0\\ 0 & \gamma_S\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}1 & 0\\ -g & 1\end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix}\gamma_R & 0\\ g\gamma_R-\gamma_S g & \gamma_S\end{pmatrix}:R\oplus S\to R\oplus S.$$

Hence

$$\gamma'_R=\gamma_R\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(R,R)$$

is nilpotent, and $(R[x],\ \mu'_R+(x-1)\,\nu'_R)$ is a non-singular $\pm$ form over $A[x]$. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.3. $\square$

Given $(Q_x,\varphi)\in V_{2i}(A[x,x^{-1}])$ it may be assumed, by Lemma 4.2, that $\varphi=\mu+(x-1)\,\nu\in\mathrm{Hom}_{A[x,x^{-1}]}(Q_x,Q_x^*)$ $(\mu,\ \nu\in\mathrm{Hom}_A(Q,Q^*))$. Applying the decomposition of Lemma 4.3,

$$\begin{aligned}(Q_x,\varphi)&=(R_x,\mu_R+(x-1)\,\nu_R)\oplus(S_x,\mu_S+(x-1)\,\nu_S\\ &=\{(R_x,\mu_R+(x-1)\,\nu_R)\oplus(S_x,\mu_S)\}\oplus\{(S_x,\mu_S+(x-1)\,\nu_S)\\ &\qquad\oplus(S_x,-\mu_S)\oplus H_\pm(-S_x)\}\\ &=\bar{E}_+((R[x],\mu_R+(x-1)\,\nu_R)\oplus(S[x],\mu_S))\\ &\qquad\oplus\Delta_+(S[x^{-1}],x^{-1}(\mu_S+(x-1)\,\nu_S))\in V_{2i}(A[x,x^{-1}]).\end{aligned}$$

As pointed out above, this suffices to prove the exactness of

$$V_{2i}(A[x])\xrightarrow{E_+}V_{2i}(A[x,x^{-1}])\xrightarrow{\delta_+}U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]).$$

Define next a morphism

$$\begin{aligned}&E_+:V_{2i}(A[x,x^{-1}])\to V_{2i}(A[x]);\\ &\qquad(Q_x,\varphi)\mapsto((\varphi\pm\varphi^*)^{-1}(x^{N_1+1}Q^{*-})\cap x^{-N_1}Q^{*+})[x],\ [\varphi]_0-x([\varphi]_1)\\ &\qquad\qquad\oplus((x^NQ^-\cap(\varphi\pm\varphi^*)^{-1}(x^{-N}Q^{*+}))[x],\ [\varphi]_{-1}-[\varphi]_{-2})\end{aligned}$$

for $N,N_1\geqslant 0$ so large that

$$(\varphi\pm\varphi^*)(Q)\subseteq\sum_{j=-2N}^{2N_1+1}x^jQ^*$$

with $Q\in|\mathbf{P}(A)|$ f.g. free. The verification that E_+ is well-defined is by analogy with that for δ_+. Moreover, if

$$(Q_x,\varphi)=(R_x,\mu_R+(x-1)\,\nu_R)\oplus(S_x,\mu_S+(x-1)\,\nu_S)$$

(as in Lemma 4.3), then

$$E_+(Q_x, \varphi) = (R[x], \mu_R + (x-1)\nu_R) \oplus (S[x], \mu_S) \in V_{2i}(A[x]),$$

so that the composites

$$U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{\Delta_+} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{E_+} V_{2i}(A[x])$$
$$V_{2i}(A[x]) \xrightarrow{E_+} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{E_+} V_{2i}(A[x])$$

are 0, 1 respectively. Thus

$$V_{2i}(A[x]) \underset{E_+}{\overset{E_+}{\rightleftarrows}} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \underset{\Delta_+}{\overset{\delta_+}{\rightleftarrows}} U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}])$$

defines a direct sum system, and we can identify

$$L_+ V_{2i}(A) = U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]).$$

Similarly, replacing x with x^{-1}, there is defined a direct sum system

$$V_{2i}(A[x^{-1}]) \underset{E_-}{\overset{E_-}{\rightleftarrows}} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \underset{\Delta_-}{\overset{\delta_-}{\rightleftarrows}} U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x]),$$

allowing the identification

$$L_- V_{2i}(A) = U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x]).$$

The proof of Lemma 4.2 shows that every element $(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi) \in V_{2i}(A[x^{-1}])$ has a representative with

$$\varphi = \varphi_0 + x^{-1}\varphi_{-1} \in \mathrm{Hom}_{A[x^{-1}]}(Q[x^{-1}], Q^*[x^{-1}]) \qquad (\varphi_0, \varphi_{-1} \in \mathrm{Hom}_A(Q, Q^*)).$$

The composite

$$V_{2i}(A[x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{E_-} V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{E_+} V_{2i}(A[x])$$

sends such a representative to

$$\begin{aligned} E_+E_-(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi) &= (((\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(xQ^{*-}) \cap Q^+)[x], [\varphi]_0 - [\varphi]_1) \\ &\quad \oplus ((xQ^- \cap (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(x^{-1}Q^*))[x], [\varphi]_{-1} - [\varphi]_{-2}) \\ &= (Q[x], \varphi_0) \oplus ((\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(Q^* \oplus x^{-1}Q^*)[x], [\varphi]_{-1} \\ &\quad - [\varphi]_{-2}) \in V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]). \end{aligned}$$

The A-module isomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} &Q \oplus Q \to (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(Q^* \oplus x^{-1}Q^*); \\ &(y, y') \mapsto (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}((\varphi_0 \pm \varphi_0^*)y, x^{-1}(((\varphi_0 \pm \varphi_0^*) + \varphi_{-1} \pm \varphi_{-1}^*))y + (\varphi_0 \pm \varphi_0^*)y')) \end{aligned}$$

defines an isomorphism of $\pm$ forms over A

$$(Q\oplus Q, \begin{pmatrix}\varphi_0+\varphi_{-1} & 0\\ 0 & -\varphi_0\end{pmatrix})\to((\varphi\pm\varphi^*)^{-1}(Q^*\oplus x^{-1}Q^*), [\varphi]_{-1}-[\varphi]_{-2}).$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}E_+\bar{E}_-(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi_0+x^{-1}\varphi_{-1}) &= (Q[x], \varphi_0+\varphi_{-1})\oplus(Q[x]\oplus Q[x], \varphi_0\oplus-\varphi_0)\\ &= (Q[x], \varphi_0+\varphi_{-1})\\ &= \bar{\varepsilon}_+\varepsilon_-(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi_0+x^{-1}\varphi_{-1})\in V_{2i}(A[x]),\end{aligned}$$

and the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V_{2i}(A[x^{-1}]) & \xrightarrow{E_-} & V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])\\ {\scriptstyle\varepsilon_-}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle E_+}\\ V_{2i}(A) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\varepsilon}_+} & V_{2i}(A[x])\end{array}$$

commutes. Similarly, we can verify that the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) & \xrightarrow{\eta_+} & U_{2i}(A)\\ {\scriptstyle\Delta_+}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle\bar{\eta}_-}\\ V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) & \xrightarrow[\delta_-]{} & U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x])\end{array}$$

commutes, where

$$\eta_\pm: U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{\mp 1}])\to U_{2i}(A), \qquad \bar{\eta}_\pm: U_{2i}(A)\to U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{\mp 1}])$$

are the morphisms induced by

$$\eta_\pm: A[x^{\mp 1}]\to A;\ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} x^{\mp j}a_j\mapsto a_0, \qquad \bar{\varepsilon}_\mp: A\to A[x^{\mp 1}]$$

respectively (so that $\eta_\pm\bar{\eta}_\pm=1$). For

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_-\Delta_+(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi=\varphi_0+x^{-1}\varphi_{-1}) &\\ &= \delta_-((Q_x, x\varphi)\oplus(Q_x, -(\varphi_0+\varphi_{-1}))\oplus H_\pm(-Q_x))\\ &= ((x^{-1}Q^+\cap(\varphi\pm\varphi^*)^{-1}(Q^{*-}))[x], [x\varphi]_{-1}-x[x\varphi]_0)\\ &= ((x^{-1}Q)[x], [x\varphi]_{-1}) = (Q[x], \varphi_0)\\ &= \bar{\eta}_-\eta_+(Q[x^{-1}], \varphi)\in U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x]).\end{aligned}$$

The conditions of Lemma 1.1 are now satisfied, and so

V_{2i}: (rings with involution) $\to$ (abelian groups)

is a contracted functor, with

$$L_\pm V_{2i}(A)=U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{\mp 1}]), \qquad LV_{2i}(A)=U_{2i}(A)$$

(up to natural isomorphisms), and the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd}
0 \arrow[rr, bend left] & V_{2i}(A[x]) \arrow[l, bend left] \arrow[rr, bend left, "\delta_- E_+"] \arrow[d, shift right, "\varepsilon_+"'] \arrow[d, shift left, "\bar{\varepsilon}_+"] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "E_+"'] & & U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x]) \arrow[ll, bend left, "E_+ \Delta_-"] \arrow[rr, bend left] \arrow[d, shift left, "\Delta_-"] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "\delta_-"'] & & 0 \arrow[ll, bend left] \\
& V_{2i}(A) \arrow[u, shift left, "E_+"] \arrow[d, shift right, "\varepsilon_-"'] \arrow[d, shift left, "\bar{\varepsilon}_-"] & V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \arrow[u, shift right=2, "E_+"'] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "E_-"'] \arrow[d, shift left=2, "E_-"] & U_{2i}(A) \arrow[u, shift left, "\eta_-"] \arrow[u, shift right=2, "\bar{\eta}_-"'] \arrow[d, shift left, "\eta_+"] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "\bar{\eta}_+"'] & \\
0 \arrow[rr, bend right] \arrow[u] & V_{2i}(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[l, bend right] \arrow[rr, bend right, "\delta_+ E_-"'] \arrow[u, shift left=2, "\Delta_+"] \arrow[u, shift right=2, "\delta_+"'] & & U_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[ll, bend right, "E_- \Delta_+"] \arrow[rr, bend right] \arrow[u, shift left, "\bar{\eta}_+"] \arrow[u, shift right=2, "\eta_+"'] & & 0 \arrow[ll, bend right] \arrow[u]
\end{tikzcd}$$

incorporates two commutative exact braids.

Let $S_0 \subseteq \tilde{K}_1(A[x, x^{-1}])$ be the infinite cyclic subgroup generated by $\bar{B}([A]) = \tau(x: A_x \to A_x)$, and define

$$\tilde{W}_n(A[x, x^{-1}]) = V_n^{S_0}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \qquad (n \pmod 4).$$

Working as for $V_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$, it is possible to define morphisms to fit into a diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd}
0 \arrow[rr, bend left] & W_{2i}(A[x]) \arrow[l, bend left] \arrow[rr, bend left, "\delta_- E_+"] \arrow[d, shift right, "\varepsilon_+"'] \arrow[d, shift left, "\bar{\varepsilon}_+"] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "E_+"'] & & V_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_1(A)}(A[x]) \arrow[ll, bend left, "E_+ \Delta_-"] \arrow[rr, bend left] \arrow[d, shift left, "\Delta_-"] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "\delta_-"'] & & 0 \arrow[ll, bend left] \\
& W_{2i}(A) \arrow[u, shift left, "E_+"] \arrow[d, shift right, "\varepsilon_-"'] \arrow[d, shift left, "\bar{\varepsilon}_-"] & \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \arrow[u, shift right=2, "E_+"'] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "E_-"'] \arrow[d, shift left=2, "E_-"] & V_{2i}(A) \arrow[u, shift left, "\eta_-"] \arrow[u, shift right=2, "\bar{\eta}_-"'] \arrow[d, shift left, "\eta_+"] \arrow[d, shift right=2, "\bar{\eta}_+"'] & \\
0 \arrow[rr, bend right] \arrow[u] & W_{2i}(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[l, bend right] \arrow[rr, bend right, "\delta_+ E_-"'] \arrow[u, shift left=2, "\Delta_+"] \arrow[u, shift right=2, "\delta_+"'] & & V_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_1(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[ll, bend right, "E_- \Delta_+"] \arrow[rr, bend right] \arrow[u, shift left, "\bar{\eta}_+"] \arrow[u, shift right=2, "\eta_+"'] & & 0 \arrow[ll, bend right] \arrow[u]
\end{tikzcd}$$

(with $E_+ \bar{E}_+ = 1$ etc.) incorporating two commutative exact braids. For example,

$$\delta_+ : \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to V_{2i}^{\tilde{K}_1(A)}(A[x^{-1}]); \ (\underset{\sim}{Q}_x, \varphi) \mapsto (\underset{\sim}{P}[x^{-1}], [\varphi]_{-1} - x^{-1}[\varphi]_{-2})$$

$$E_+ : \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \to W_{2i}(A[x]);$$

$$(Q_x, \varphi) \mapsto (\underset{\sim}{P}_1[x], [\varphi]_0 - x[\varphi]_1) \oplus (\underset{\sim}{P}[x], [\varphi]_{-1} - [\varphi]_{-2})$$

for any A-base $\underset{\sim}{P}$ of $P=x^N Q^- \cap (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(x^{-N}Q^{*+})$ (which is free for sufficiently large $N \geqslant 0$, as $\tau(\underset{\sim}{Q}_x, \varphi) \in S_0$ and $[P]=B\tau(\underset{\sim}{Q}_x, \varphi)=0 \in \tilde{K}_0(A)$) with

$$\underset{\sim}{P}_1=(\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(x^N \underset{\sim}{Q}^*) \oplus (\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(\underset{\sim}{P}^*)$$

the corresponding A-base of $P_1=(\varphi \pm \varphi^*)^{-1}(x^{N+1}Q^{*-}) \cap x^{-N}Q^+$, for N so large that

$$(\varphi \pm \varphi^*)(Q) \subseteq \sum_{j=-2N}^{2N+1} x^j Q^* .$$

Also, let

$$\Delta_+ : V_{2i}^{K_1(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \to \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]); (\underset{\sim}{Q}[x^{-1}], \varphi) \mapsto (\underset{\sim}{Q}_x, x\varphi) \oplus (\underset{\approx}{Q}_x, -\bar{\varepsilon}\varepsilon_- \varphi)$$

where $\underset{\approx}{Q}=(\varepsilon_-(\varphi \pm \varphi^*))^{-1}(\underset{\sim}{Q}^*)$.

Given an invertible indeterminate z over A commuting with every element of A define A_z as $A[z, z^{-1}]$ but with involution by $\bar{z}=z^{-1}$. Similarly, define $A[x^{\pm 1}]_z$, $A[x, x^{-1}]_z$, and identify

$$A[x^{\pm 1}]_z = A_z[x^{\pm 1}], \quad A[x, x^{-1}]_z = A_z[x, x^{-1}].$$

Let $S_0' \subseteq \tilde{K}_1(A_z)$ be the infinite cyclic subgroup generated by $\tau(z: A_z \to A_z)$ and define

$$\begin{aligned}
&\tilde{W}_n(A_z)=V_n^{S'_0}(A_z)\\
&\tilde{W}_n(A[x^{\pm 1}]_z)=V_n^{\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm(x)S'_0}(A[x^{\pm 1}]_z)\\
&\tilde{\tilde{W}}_n(A[x, x^{-1}]_z)=V_n^{\bar{\varepsilon}(z)S_0 \oplus \bar{\varepsilon}(x)S'_0}(A[x, x^{-1}]_z)
\end{aligned}$$

for $n \pmod 4$. By analogy with $\tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$, $\tilde{\tilde{W}}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]_z$ fits into a diagram incorporating two commutative exact braids (where $A_z=A[z, z^{-1}]$, with $\bar{z}=z^{-1}$).

$$\begin{tikzcd}
0 \arrow[rr, bend left, leftrightarrow] & & \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x]_z) \arrow[rr, bend left, "E_+\Delta_-"] \arrow[rr, bend right, "\delta_- E_+"'] \arrow[dl, leftrightarrow] \arrow[dr, leftrightarrow, "\bar{\varepsilon}_+"', "\varepsilon_+"] & & V_{2i}^{K_1(A_z)}(A[x]_z) \arrow[rr, bend left, leftrightarrow] \arrow[dl, leftrightarrow, "\Delta_-"', "\delta_-"] \arrow[dr, leftrightarrow, "\eta_-", "\bar{\eta}_-"'] & & 0 \\
& \tilde{W}_{2i}(A_z) \arrow[dl, leftrightarrow] \arrow[dr, leftrightarrow, "\bar{\varepsilon}_-", "\varepsilon_-"'] & & \tilde{\tilde{W}}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]_z) \arrow[dl, leftrightarrow, "E_-", "E_-"'] \arrow[dr, leftrightarrow, "\delta_+", "\Delta_+"'] & & V_{2i}(A_z) \arrow[dl, leftrightarrow, "\bar{\eta}_+", "\eta_+"'] \arrow[dr, leftrightarrow] & \\
0 \arrow[rr, bend left, leftrightarrow] & & \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x^{-1}]_z) \arrow[rr, bend left, "E_-\Delta_+"] \arrow[rr, bend right, "\delta_+ E_-"'] & & V_{2i}^{K_1(A_z)}(A[x^{-1}]_z) \arrow[rr, bend left, leftrightarrow] & & 0
\end{tikzcd}$$

We can now apply the decompositions

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{W}_{2i}(A_z) &= \bar{\varepsilon}(z)\, W_{2i}(A) \oplus \bar{B}(z)\, V_{2i-1}(A) \\
\tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x]_z) &= \bar{\varepsilon}(z)\, W_{2i}(A[x]) \oplus \bar{B}(z)\, V_{2i-1}(A[x]) \\
\tilde{\tilde{W}}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]_z) &= \bar{\varepsilon}(z)\, \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \oplus \bar{B}(z)\, V_{2i-1}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \\
V_{2i}^{K_1(A_z)}(A[x]_z) &= \bar{\varepsilon}(z)\, V_{2i}^{K_1(A)}(A) \oplus \bar{B}(z)\, U_{2i}^{K_0(A)}(A) \\
V_{2i}(A_z) &= \bar{\varepsilon}(z)\, V_{2i}(A) \oplus \bar{B}(z)\, U_{2i-1}(A)
\end{aligned}$$

given by Theorem 1.1 of Part II (and extended to the intermediate L-groups in Part III). The above diagram splits naturally (via $\bar{\varepsilon}(z), \bar{B}(z)$) into two similar ones: the diagram for $\tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}])$ and the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd}
0 \arrow[rr, bend left] & & V_{2i}(A[x]) \arrow[ll, bend left] \arrow[rr, bend left, "E_+\Delta_-"] \arrow[rr, bend right, "\delta_- E_+"'] \arrow[dl, shift left, "\bar{\varepsilon}_+"] \arrow[dr, shift left, "E_+"] & & U_{2i-1}^{K_0(A)}(A[x]) \arrow[ll, bend right] \arrow[rr, bend left] \arrow[dl, shift left, "\Delta_-"] \arrow[dr, shift left, "\eta_-"] & & 0 \arrow[ll, bend right] \\
& V_{2i-1}(A) \arrow[ul, shift left, "\varepsilon_+"] \arrow[dl, shift left, "\varepsilon_-"] \arrow[dr, shift left, "\bar{\varepsilon}_-"] & & V_{2i-1}(A[x, x^{-1}]) \arrow[ul, shift left, "E_+"] \arrow[dl, shift left, "E_-"] \arrow[dr, shift left, "\delta_+"] \arrow[ur, shift left, "\delta_-"] & & U_{2i-1}(A) \arrow[ul, shift left, "\bar{\eta}_-"] \arrow[dr, shift left, "\eta_+"] \arrow[ur, shift left, "\bar{\eta}_+"] & \\
0 \arrow[ur, shift left] \arrow[rr, bend right] & & V_{2i-1}(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[ul, shift left, "E_-"] \arrow[rr, bend right, "\delta_+ E_-"'] \arrow[rr, bend left, "E_- \Delta_+"] \arrow[ur, shift left, "\Delta_+"] & & U_{2i-1}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \arrow[ul, shift left, "\bar{\eta}_+"] \arrow[rr, bend left] & & 0 \arrow[ll, bend right]
\end{tikzcd}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
E_+ : V_{2i-1}(A[x, x^{-1}]) &\xrightarrow{\bar{B}(z)} \tilde{\tilde{W}}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]_z) \xrightarrow{E_+} \tilde{W}_{2i}(A[x]_z) \xrightarrow{B(z)} V_{2i-1}(A[x]) \\
\delta_+ : V_{2i-1}(A[x, x^{-1}]) &\xrightarrow{\bar{B}(z)} \tilde{\tilde{W}}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]_z) \\
&\xrightarrow{\delta_+} V_{2i}^{Ki(A_z)}(A[x^{-1}]_z) \xrightarrow{B(z)} U_{2i-1}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) \\
\Delta_+ : U_{2i-1}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{-1}]) &\xrightarrow{\bar{B}(z)} V_{2i}^{K_1(A_z)}(A[x^{-1}]_z) \\
&\xrightarrow{\Delta_+} \tilde{\tilde{W}}_{2i}(A[x, x^{-1}]_z) \xrightarrow{B(z)} V_{2i-1}(A[x, x^{-1}])
\end{aligned}$$

(and similarly for E_-, δ_-, Δ_-). Thus the conditions of Lemma 1.1 are also satisfied in the odd-dimensional case, and

$$V_{2i-1} : (\text{rings with involution}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

is a contracted functor, with identifications

$$L_\pm V_{2i-1}(A)=U_{2i-1}^{K_0(A)}(A[x^{\mp 1}]),\qquad LV_{2i-1}(A)=U_{2i-1}(A).$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 4.1 □

The groups

$$\mathrm{Nil}_\pm(A)=\ker(\varepsilon_\pm : K_1(A[x^{\pm 1}])\to K_1(A))$$

are such that

$$K_1(A[x^{\pm 1}])=\bar\varepsilon_\pm K_1(A)\oplus \mathrm{Nil}_\pm(A)$$
$$K_1(A[x,x^{-1}])=\bar\varepsilon K_1(A)\oplus \bar E_+\mathrm{Nil}_+(A)\oplus \bar E_-\mathrm{Nil}_-(A)\oplus \bar B K_0(A),$$

fitting into direct sum systems

$$\mathrm{Nil}_\pm(A)\underset{E_\pm\Delta_\pm}{\overset{\delta_\pm E_\pm}{\rightleftarrows}} K_0\mathbf{N}(A)\underset{\bar\eta_\pm}{\overset{\eta_\pm}{\rightleftarrows}} K_0(A)$$

(by Theorem 2.1).

Given *-invariant subgroups $S_\pm\subseteq \mathrm{Nil}_\pm(A)$, define

$$N_\pm V_n^{S_\pm}(A)=\ker(\varepsilon_\pm : V_n^{\bar\varepsilon_\pm \tilde K_1(A)\oplus S_\pm}(A[x^{\pm 1}])\to V_n(A))\qquad (n\,(\mathrm{mod}\,4))$$

writing $\begin{cases} N_\pm V_n(A)\\ N_\pm W_n(A)\end{cases}$ for $\begin{cases} N_\pm V_n^{\mathrm{Nil}_\pm(A)}(A)\\ N_\pm V_n^{\{0\}}(A)\end{cases}$.

COROLLARY 4.4. *Given *-invariant subgroups*

$$R\subseteq \tilde K_1(A),\qquad S_\pm\subseteq \mathrm{Nil}_\pm(A),\qquad \tilde T\subseteq \tilde K_0(A)$$

there are direct sum decompositions

$$V_n^{\bar\varepsilon_\pm R\oplus S_\pm}(A[x^{\pm 1}])=\bar\varepsilon_\pm V_n^R(A)\oplus N_\pm V_n^{S_\pm}(A)$$
$$U_n^{\bar\varepsilon_\pm \tilde T}(A[x^{\pm 1}])=\bar\varepsilon_\pm U_n^{\tilde T}(A)\oplus N_\pm V_n(A)$$
$$V_n^Q(A[x,x^{-1}])=\bar\varepsilon V_n^R(A)\oplus \bar E_+N_+V_n^{S_+}(A)\oplus \bar E_-N_-V_n^{S_-}(A)\oplus \bar B U_n^{\tilde T}(A)$$

for $n\,(\mathrm{mod}\,4)$, *where*

$$Q=\bar\varepsilon R\oplus \bar E_+S_+\oplus \bar E_-S_-\oplus \bar B T\subseteq \tilde K_1(A[x,x^{-1}])$$
$$=\bar\varepsilon \tilde K_1(A)\oplus \bar E_+\mathrm{Nil}_+(A)\oplus \bar E_-\mathrm{Nil}_-(A)\oplus \bar B K_0(A)$$

with $T\subseteq K_0(A)$ *the preimage of* $\tilde T$ *under the natural projection* $K_0(A)\to \tilde K_0(A)$.

Proof. The forgetful map

$$V_n(A[x^{\pm 1}])\to U_n^{\bar\varepsilon_\pm \tilde T}(A[x^{\pm 1}])$$

fits into the exact sequence of Theorem 2.3 of Part III, which splits, via $\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm$, $\varepsilon_\pm$ into two exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
\to & 0 & \to & N_\pm V_n(A) & \to & N_\pm V_n(A) & \to & 0 & \to \\
 & \Updownarrow & & \Updownarrow & & \Updownarrow & & \Updownarrow & \\
\to & H^{n+1}(\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \tilde{T}) & \to & V_n(A[x^{\pm 1}]) & \to & U_n^{\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \tilde{T}}(A[x^{\pm 1}]) & \to & H^n(\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \tilde{T}) & \to \\
 & \bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \Updownarrow \varepsilon_\pm & & \bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \Updownarrow \varepsilon_\pm & & \bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \Updownarrow \varepsilon_\pm & & \bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \Updownarrow \varepsilon_\pm & \\
\to & H^{n+1}(\tilde{T}) & \to & V_n(A) & \to & U_n^{\tilde{T}}(A) & \to & H^n(\tilde{T}) & \to .
\end{array}$$

Hence $N_\pm V_n(A) \subseteq V_n(A[x^{\pm 1}])$ is mapped isomorphically to ker $(\varepsilon_\pm : U_n^{\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \tilde{T}}(A[x^{\pm 1}]) \to U_n^{\tilde{T}}(A))$ and so (up to isomorphism)

$$U_n^{\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \tilde{T}}(A[x^{\pm 1}]) = \bar{\varepsilon}_\pm U_n^{\tilde{T}}(A) \oplus N_\pm V_n(A).$$

In particular,

$$U_n^{R_0(A)}(A[x^{\pm 1}]) = \bar{\varepsilon}_\pm U_n(A) \oplus N_\pm V_n(A),$$
$$V_n(A[x^{\pm 1}]) = \bar{\varepsilon} \pm V_n(A) \oplus N \pm V_n(A).$$

It now follows from Theorem 4.1 that

$$V_n(A[x, x^{-1}]) = \bar{\varepsilon} V_n(A) \oplus \bar{E}_+ N_+ V_n(A) \oplus \bar{E}_- N_- V_n(A) \oplus \bar{B} U_n(A).$$

The expressions for $V_n^{\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm R \oplus S_\pm}(A[x^{\pm 1}])$, $V_n^Q(A[x, x^{-1}])$ may be deduced from those for $V_n(A[x^{\pm 1}])$, $V_n(A[x, x^{-1}])$, working as for $U_n^{\bar{\varepsilon}_\pm \tilde{T}}(A[x^{\pm 1}])$ above. (In particular, for $R=0$, $S_+=0$, $S_-=0$, $\tilde{T}=0$ we have

$$Q = S_0 \subseteq \tilde{K}_1(A[x, x^{-1}])$$

and

$$W_n(A[x^{\pm 1}]) = \bar{\varepsilon}_\pm W_n(A) \oplus N_\pm W_n(A),$$
$$\tilde{W}_n(A[x, x^{-1}]) = \bar{\varepsilon} W_n(A) \oplus \bar{E}_+ N_+ W_n(A) \oplus \bar{E}_- N_- W_n(A) \oplus \bar{B} V_n(A).) \quad \square$$

In §4 of Part II there were defined lower L-theories, functors

$$L_n^{(m)} : (\text{rings with involution}) \to (\text{abelian groups})$$

for $m<0$, $n \pmod 4$ by

$$L_n^{(m)}(A) = \ker(\varepsilon : L_{n+1}^{(m+1)}(A_z) \to L_{n+1}^{(m+1)}(A))$$

with $L_n^{(0)}(A) = U_n(A)$. By convention, $L_n^{(1)}(A) = V_n(A)$.

COROLLARY 4.5. *The lower L-theories $L_n^{(m)}$ coincide (up to natural isomorphism)*

with the functors LV_n, $L^2V_n, \ldots$ derived from V_n, with

$$L_n^{(m)}(A)=L^{1-m}V_n(A) \qquad (m\leqslant 0,\ n\,(\mathrm{mod}\,4)).$$

Proof. By Theorem 4.1,

$$LV_n(A)=U_n(A)=L_n^{(0)}(A).$$

Assume inductively that

$$L_n^{(p)}(A)=L^{1-p}V_n(A) \qquad (n\,(\mathrm{mod}\,4))$$

for $0\geqslant p>m$, for some $m\leqslant -1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
L_n^{(m)}(A)&=\ker(\varepsilon: L_{n+1}^{(m+1)}(A_z)\to L_{n+1}^{(m+1)}(A))\\
&=\ker(\varepsilon: L^{-m}V_{n+1}(A_z)\to L^{-m}V_{n+1}(A))\\
&=L(\ker(\varepsilon: L^{-m-1}V_{n+1}(A_z)\to L^{-m-1}V_{n+1}(A))\\
&=L(\ker(\varepsilon: L_{n+1}^{(m+2)}(A_z)\to L_{n+1}^{(m+2)}(A)))\\
&=LL_n^{(m+1)}(A)\\
&=LL^{-m}V_n(A)=L^{1-m}V_n(A)
\end{aligned}$$

giving the induction step. □

Given a functor

$$F:(\text{rings with involution})\to(\text{abelian groups})$$

define

$$N_\pm F(A)=\ker(\varepsilon_\pm: F(A[x^{\pm 1}])\to F(A)).$$

(By Corollary 4.4, the previous definitions of $N_\pm V_n(A)$, $N_\pm W_n(A)$ agree with this, up to natural isomorphism).

By analogy with the first part of Corollary 7.6 of Chapter XII of [1] we have

COROLLARY 4.6. *Let $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_p$ be independent commuting indeterminates over A, with $\bar{x}_j=x_j$ $(1\leqslant j\leqslant p)$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned}
&L_n^{(m)}(A[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_p])=(1\oplus N_+)^p L_n^{(m)}(A)\\
&L_n^{(m)}(A[x_1, x_1^{-1}, x_2, x_2^{-1}, \ldots, x_p, x_p^{-1}])=(1\oplus N_+\oplus N_-\oplus L)^p L_n^{(m)}(A)
\end{aligned}$$

up to natural isomorphism, for $m\leqslant 1$, $n\,(\mathrm{mod}\,4)$, $p\geqslant 1$. □

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