

# Real cohomology, Powers of the fundamental ideal of the Witt ring & consequences for homotopy modules

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## §0. INTRODUCTION

The main aim of this talk is to sketch proofs of the following

THEOREM (JACOBSON): The signature map induces an isomorphism of Zariski sheaves on  $\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$

$$\varinjlim_n \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow \varinjlim_n \mathbb{Z}$$

meaning that  $(\varinjlim_n \mathbb{I}^n)(X) = \varinjlim_n (W(X) \xrightarrow{\cdot \langle -1 \rangle} \mathbb{I}(X) \xrightarrow{\cdot \langle -1 \rangle} \mathbb{I}^2(X) \rightarrow \dots)$

$$(\varinjlim_n \mathbb{Z})(X) = \bigoplus_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma(X, \varinjlim_n \mathbb{Z}_{X_2}) = \Gamma(X_2, \varinjlim_n \mathbb{Z}_{X_2})$$

THEOREM (BACHMANN): Let  $F_\bullet$  be a homotopy module in which  $\rho : F_n \rightarrow F_{n+1}$  is invertible  $\forall n$ . Then  $F_k$  is a set sheaf  $\forall k$ .

## §1. Jacobson's Theorem.

- Def:  $W(X) = \text{Sym}^{\otimes \bullet}(\text{ring of quadratic bundles modulo hyperbolic planes})$
- $\mathbb{I}(X) = \text{fundamental ideal} = \ker(\text{rk} : W(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2)$   
 $\mathbb{I}$  ideal generated by Pfister forms  $\langle\langle a \rangle\rangle := 1 - \frac{a}{a}$  for  $a \in G(X)^\times$
  - There's a "global signature" map  $\text{Sign} : W(X) \rightarrow H^0(X_2, \mathbb{Z})$  defined by mapping  $\phi \mapsto (\bigoplus_{X_2} \mathcal{O}(P_2) \mapsto \text{Signature of } \phi \text{ according to the ordering } P)$
- this is well defined (ie  $\text{Sign}(\phi)$  is a locally constant function); moreover
- $$\text{Sign}(\langle\langle a \rangle\rangle) = 2 \chi_{\{a < 0\}}$$
- $$\text{Sign}(\langle\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle\rangle) = 2^n \chi_{\{a_1 < 0, \dots, a_n < 0\}}$$

This gives a comm. diagram (after Zariski localization)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} W(X) & \xrightarrow{\cdot \langle -1 \rangle} & \mathbb{I}(X) & \xrightarrow{\cdot \langle -1 \rangle} & \mathbb{I}^2(X) & \rightarrow & \dots \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Sign}(-) & & \downarrow \text{Sign}(-) & & \downarrow \text{Sign} \\ H^0(X_2, \mathbb{Z}) & \rightarrow & H^0(X_2, \mathbb{Z}) & \rightarrow & H^0(X_2, \mathbb{Z}) & \rightarrow & \dots \end{array}$$

note: When  $X = \text{Spec } F$  with  $\dim(F) \neq 2$  it's a classical result that such signature map is an isomorphism

this is our map

THEOREM: The signature map we constructed above  $\varinjlim_n \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow \varinjlim_n \mathbb{Z}_{X_2}$  is an isomorphism of Zariski sheaves on  $X$ , for every  $X$

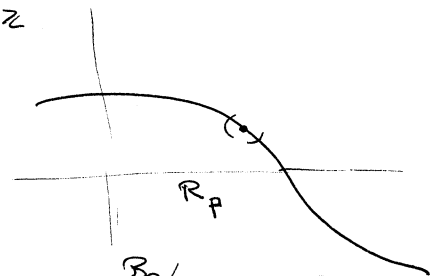
\*  $\text{Sign} : X_2 \rightarrow X$  def by  $(x, P) \mapsto x$  (forgetting the ordering of the residue field)

Sketch of the proof: immediately reduce to the case  $X = \text{Spec } A$   $A = \text{local ring}$

Step 1: Reduction to the case of  $A = R_p$  with  $R = \mathbb{Z}[T_1, \dots, T_m]/I$   
 The statement is invariant under filtered colimits so we write  
 $A = \varinjlim_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}$   $A_{\alpha} = \text{fin. per. subring}$   $A \cong \varinjlim_{\alpha} (A_{\alpha})_{f_{\alpha}}$   
 $F_{\alpha} = A_{\alpha} \cap \mathfrak{p} \subset A_{\alpha}$

Step 2:  $I \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[I] \xrightarrow{s} R$   
 $\downarrow \quad \quad \downarrow \quad \quad \downarrow$   
 $\frac{I}{s^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z}[I]}{s^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})} \rightarrow R_p = A$   
 $\cong \quad \quad \cong$   
 $\frac{I_0}{\mathfrak{p}_0} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z}[I_0]}{\mathfrak{p}_0} \rightarrow R_p$

$A_{\mathbb{Z}}$



Take  $B := \text{localization of } R_0 \text{ along } I_0$

$I := I_0 B$

( $B = \text{colimit of } B \rightarrow C$  with  $B_0/I_0 \cong C/I_0 C$ )  $\text{Spec } B$

and look at  $\varinjlim I^n(B) \xrightarrow{\sim} \varinjlim I^n(B/I) = A$

$\downarrow \quad \quad \downarrow$   
 $H^0(\text{Spec } B, \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^0(\text{Spec } A, \mathbb{Z})$

② ~~we have already seen something of~~  
 • Every point of  $\text{Spec } (B/I)$  has a specialization in  $\text{Spec } (B/I)$   
 • Specialize to a unique closed point  
 $H^1(\text{Spec } B, \mathbb{Z}) = H^1(\text{max Spec } B, \mathbb{Z}) = H^1(\text{Spec } B/I, \mathbb{Z})$

① Needs an ad hoc trick (no time for this)

So we reduced to prove the statement for  $B$ ; moreover using the trick of filtered colimits with Popescu's theorem we further reduce to the case in which  $B$  is essentially smooth over  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$  ( $p \neq 2$ ) or  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Step 3 look at the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 \rightarrow \varinjlim_n I^n(B) & \rightarrow & \varinjlim_n I^n(K) & \rightarrow & \bigoplus_{x \in X^{(1)}} \varinjlim_{n \geq 1} I^n(k(x)) \\ & \downarrow & \downarrow \text{sign} & & \downarrow 2 \cdot \text{sign} \\ 0 \rightarrow H^0(\text{Spec } B, \mathbb{Z}) & \rightarrow & H^0(\text{Spec } K, \mathbb{Z}) & \rightarrow & \bigoplus_{x \in X^{(1)}} H^0(\text{Spec } k(x), \mathbb{Z}) \end{array}$$

where  $X = \text{Spec } B$  and  $\varinjlim_{n \geq 1}$  means  $\varinjlim (W(\cdot) \rightarrow W(\cdot) \rightarrow I \rightarrow I^2 \rightarrow \dots)$   
 $\langle (-1) \rangle \quad \langle (-1) \rangle \quad \langle (-1) \rangle$

• Central vertical map and right hand side vertical map are respectively an isom and surjective thanks to classical arguments

• The horizontal sequences are exact:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{the lower one is a direct check} \\ \text{upper one needs much work} \end{array} \right.$

The exactness of the first line is addressed in two steps

Step a:  $0 \rightarrow \varinjlim_n I^n(B) \rightarrow \varinjlim_n I^n(K)$  is exact

Step b:  $\varinjlim_n I^n(B) \rightarrow \varinjlim_n I^n(K) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{x \in X^{(1)}} \varinjlim_{n \geq 1} I^n(k(x))$   
 is exact. Here  $X = \text{Spec } B$   
 $K = \text{Frac } B$ .

②

b1) ~~Reproducing~~ exactness of

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 (**) & I^n(B) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & I^n(K) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \bigoplus_{\alpha \in X^{(n)}} & \frac{I^{n-1}(K(\alpha))}{I^n(K(\alpha))} \\
 & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & & \uparrow \\
 & B^* \otimes \dots \otimes B^* & \xrightarrow{\quad} & K_n(K) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \bigoplus_{\alpha} & K_n(K(\alpha)) \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \downarrow \\
 & \text{(Steinberg, 2)} & & \text{Voev.'s} & & & \\
 & & & \text{unbr. cas} & & & \\
 0 \rightarrow & H_{\text{et}}^n(B, \mathbb{Z}/2) & \rightarrow & H_{\text{et}}^n(K, \mathbb{Z}/2) & \rightarrow & \bigoplus_{\alpha} & H_{\text{et}}^{n-1}(K(\alpha), \mathbb{Z}/2)
 \end{array}$$

which follows from

- Exactness of bottom row ~~is~~  
 follows from Gillet / Black-ops
- Size of the bottom LHS vertical map  
 follows from work of Kerz. on Serre resolutions

NOTE: 

b2) Now we have to use the exact seq. (\*\*)  
to produce a lift to  $\operatorname{colim}_m I^m(B)$  of an  
element of  $\operatorname{colim}_m I^m(k)$  which maps to zero  
in  $\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \operatorname{colim}_{m \geq -1} I^m(k(n))$ . The exact sequence (\*\*)  
allows us to lift to  $I^N(B) / \underline{I}^{N+1}(B)$  for  $N \gg 0$

$\rightarrow$  we can find a lift of an element in  $I^n(B)$  up to an ~~error~~ ~~error~~ error term living in  $I^{n+1}(k)$

We then proceed by induction, trying to lift the error term from  $\mathbb{I}^{N+1}(k)$  to  $\mathbb{I}^{N+2}(B)$ .

At this point we need a tool that will tell us that this process finishes in a finite number of steps.

~~Therefore~~ produces an actual lift of our initial element to  $I^{N+M}(B)$ .

This tool is a hard computation and we don't have time to go into its details.

Step 2)

We have a commutative square  $\varinjlim I^n(B) \hookrightarrow W(B)[\frac{1}{2}]$   
 and the horizontal maps are injective;  
 The right hand side vertical map  $\varinjlim I^n(k) \hookrightarrow W(k)[\frac{1}{2}]$   
 is also injective.

The injectivity of the horizontal maps is more or less "classical".

~~the injectivity of the vertical right map is non-trivial, but it's~~

the injectivity of the vertical right map is non-trivial, but it's  
 a more or less direct check on the Gersten complex, ~~it~~ it doesn't seem to  
 use lemmas like Voevodsky's theorems.

We give an application of this theorem of Jacobson, which is  
 not needed later:

COROLLARY. If  $X$  is a ~~sep.~~ finite type  $R$ -scheme of Krull dimension  $d$   
 and  $n \geq d+1$ , then the Signature map induces an isomorphism

$$H_{2n}^*(X, \varinjlim I^n) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{\text{Sing}}^{2n}(X(R), \mathbb{Z}) \quad \forall n \geq 0$$

pf: We combine ~~the three~~ three facts

-  $\forall$  abelian gp  $\pi, H^*(X_\pi, \pi) = H^*(X(R), \pi)$

- If  $n \geq d+1$   $I^n \xrightarrow{\sim} I^{n+1}$  indeed

$$0 \rightarrow I^n(\pi) \rightarrow I^n(k) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{a \in \pi^{(1)}} I^{n-1}(k(a))$$

$$0 \rightarrow I^{n+1}(\pi) \rightarrow I^{n+1}(k) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{a \in \pi^{(1)}} I^n(k(a))$$

-  $H_{2n}^*(X, \varinjlim I^n) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^*(X_\pi, \mathbb{Z})$

REMARK: We can upgrade the isom of the theorem to a isom  $\varinjlim K_n^{\text{tr}} \rightarrow \text{Sp}_* \mathbb{Z}$

$$K_0^{\text{tr}} \xrightarrow{p = -[1]} K_1^{\text{tr}} \xrightarrow{p = -[1]} K_2^{\text{tr}} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$K_0^{\text{tr}} \xrightarrow{p = -[1]} K_1^{\text{tr}} \xrightarrow{p = -[1]} K_2^{\text{tr}} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$K_0^{\text{tr}}/R = W \xrightarrow{\cdot 2} K_1^{\text{tr}}/R = I \xrightarrow{\cdot 2} K_2^{\text{tr}}/R = I^2 \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$K_0^W \xrightarrow{p = -[1]} K_1^W \xrightarrow{p = -[1]} K_2^W \rightarrow \dots$$

$\leadsto$  The squares commute

Surjectivity is by default; injectivity: if  $a \in K_n^{\text{tr}}$  is mapped to zero  
 $\Rightarrow a$  is a multiple of  $R^n$ ; but  $p^n = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0$

However such isomorphism is compatible with transfers

PROPOSITION: The isomorphism  $\varinjlim I^n \rightarrow \text{Sp}_* \mathbb{Z}$  is compatible with  
 transfers if we endow the target with the transfer given by  
 summing over preimages.

pf: Thanks to the projection formula, the trace is well defined on  $\varinjlim I^n$   
 and in order to check the compatibility with transfers in  $H^*(G)_n(\mathbb{Z})$   
 we ~~just have to~~ just have to look at finite étale set  
 covers of fields  $L \rightarrow K$ . In this setting there's a classical  
 formula of Scholow (I guess) stating that

$$\text{Sgn}_P \left( \text{tr}_f(\phi) \right) = \sum_{R \supset P} \text{Sgn}_R(\phi)$$

# § Subjectivity of $\text{Pet}$ transfers

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2.1 PROPOSITION Let  $k$  be a field of char 0 and  $L/k$  a field extension inducing a  $\text{et}$  cover  $\text{Spec } L \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$ . Then the transfer map  $\text{tr}: H^0_{\text{et}}(L, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^0_{\text{et}}(k, \mathbb{Z})$  "summing over preimages" is onto

2.2 proof: Step 1: If  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a map of Stone (= compact, Hausdorff, totally disconnected) spaces then the above transfer map is surjective.

Assume we have a finite covering  $\coprod Y_i = Y$  on which  $f^{-1}(Y_i) = \coprod X_{ij}$  and for every  $i$  and  $j$   $f|_{X_{ij}}: X_{ij} \rightarrow Y_i$  is a homeomorphism.

Then one can write  $1 = \chi_Y = \sum_i \chi_{Y_i}$ , so if we set  $U = \coprod_i X_{ij}$ , the loc. function  $\chi_U: X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  will map to  $\chi_Y$  under the transfer map.

For this to be useful we need  $\chi_U$  to be locally constant, i.e.  $Y_i$  must be clopen.

NOTE: If  $y \in V \subseteq Y$  then I can find a clopen sub  $V_y$  of  $y$  in  $Y$  which is contained in  $V$ . Indeed, since every  $y \in Y$  has a clopen sub  $V_y$   $y \in V_y \subseteq U$  and only a finite number of  $V_y$  suffice (by compactness)

$$\leadsto Y \setminus V \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^m V_i \text{ and } Y \setminus \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m V_i \right) \subseteq V$$

Now, since  $f$  is local homeo, I can always find an open cover  $Y_i$  of  $Y$  on which  $f^{-1}(Y_i) = \coprod X_{ij}$  and by ~~compactness~~ I can assume  $Y_i$ 's are clopen

and that there are just a finite number of those.  $Y_1, \dots, Y_m$ .

They might not be pairwise disjoint, so I change them inductively ~~the~~ setting

$$Y_1 = Y_1, Y_k = Y_k \setminus \bigcup_{i < k} Y_i$$

2.3. Step 2: If  $L/k$  is a  $\text{et}$  cover then  $\text{Spec}(L) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(k)$  is a local homeo of Stone spaces. We can do this in greater generality for later use

If  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a  $\text{et}$  cover, then  $f_2: X_2 \rightarrow Y_2$  is a local homeo.

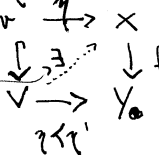
i.e.  $\exists$  open cover  $W_i$  of  $X_2$  st  $f_2|_{W_i}$  is an open embedding.

$f_2$  is open

Recall that since  $f$  is fin. pres.  $\Rightarrow f_2$  maps const. to const. so we need to check that  $f_2$  is stable under specialization: i.e.  $\forall \xi \in X_2$  and

$f_2(\xi) = \eta \leftarrow \eta' \exists \xi' \in X_2 \text{ st } f(\xi') = \eta'$ . From this talk the down

~~that~~ corresponds to  $V = \text{real closed valuation ring}$   $\leadsto$  henselian



$f_2$  is local homeo

both  $f_2$  and

how:  $f_2$  is open;

~~then~~ we have to show that

$X_1 \rightarrow Y_1 \xrightarrow{\sim} Y_2$  are open

"(-)" comes to products

$$(X \rightarrow Y \times Y)_2$$

open  $\Delta$  is open b/c  $f$  is  $\text{et}$

$\Rightarrow \Delta$  is  $\text{et} \Rightarrow \Delta_2$  is open  $\forall$

Assume

LEMMA:  $(C, \tau)$  is a site,  $F$  is a separated presheaf on  $(C, \tau)$ ,  $U, V$  are  $\tau$ -covers and  $V$  refines  $U$ . ~~Then~~  $F$  is a sheaf then, if  $F$  satisfies the sheaf condition w.r.t.  $V$ , it does so w.r.t.  $U$ .

We use this in the following form:

PROPOSITION: Let  $F$  be a sheaf on  $\text{Site}_k$  w.r.t. the  $Nis$  topology. Then  $F$  is a  $\tau$ -sheaf iff it satisfies the sheaf condition with resp. to  $\tau$ -covers of the following form:

$X$  is local henselian, essentially smooth over  $k$

$f: U \rightarrow X$  is a finite étal map and a  $\tau$ -cover. (=  $\tau$ -et cover)

Proof:  $\Rightarrow$  is clear so we prove the other direction  $\Leftarrow$ .

Take  $F$  a  $Nis$  sheaf on  $\text{Site}_k$ ,  $X \in \text{Site}_k$  and a  $\tau$ -et cover  $U \rightarrow X$ .

Let  $F_X$  be the restriction to the small  $Nis$  site of  $X$  and  $\text{Hom}$  the internal hom sheaf

$$(*) \quad F(X) \rightarrow F(U) \implies F(U \times_X U) \text{ is obtained as global sections on } Nis_X \text{ of the diagram}$$

$$F_X \rightarrow \text{Hom}(U, F_X) \implies \text{Hom}(U \times_X U, F_X)$$

$$F_X(U \times_X -) \quad F_X(U \times_X U \times_X -)$$

The exactness of such can be checked on stalks  $\mathcal{O}_{X, \kappa}^h$  so we are reduced to check exactness of (\*) when  $X$  is  $\tau$ -smooth over  $k$  and local henselian.

CLAIM: Every  $\tau$ -et cover  $U \rightarrow X$  when  $X$  is  $\tau$ -smooth over  $k$  and local henselian can be refined by a  $\tau$ -et cover.

pf: Up to refinement one assumes  $U$  is affine too and by the since  $X$  is local henselian,  $U = U_1 \sqcup U_2$  with  $U_2$  mapping to the open part outside the closed point. ~~Now, since~~  $(U_1)_\tau \rightarrow X_\tau$  has as image an open subset of  $X_\tau$  containing the closed point and the only open in  $X_\tau$  with this property is the whole  $X_\tau$ . ~~we deduce that~~  $U_1 \rightarrow X$  is a  $\tau$ -et cover. Moreover since  $X_\tau$  is quasi-compact we just need a finite number of  $U_1$  to cover  $X$  and set  $U$  to be their disjoint union.

$F$  is  $\tau$ -separated: Take a  $\tau$ -et cover  $U \rightarrow X$  with  $X$  can be assumed  $\tau$ -smooth local henselian  $\implies \exists$   $\tau$ -et refinement  $V \rightarrow U \rightarrow X$  and now  $F(X) \rightarrow F(U) \rightarrow F(V) \hookrightarrow F(X) \hookrightarrow F(U)$

$F$  is a  $\tau$ -sheaf: use the previous lemma.  $\square$

### THEOREM §3. Applications to homotopy modules

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THEOREM: Let  $F$  be a homotopy module over  $K$  (= field of char 0) on which  $f: F_n \rightarrow F_{n+1}$  is an isomorphism  $\forall n$ . Then  $F$  is a ret sheaf.

Proof: Thanks to proposition 2.4 we just need to check the sheaf condition on  $\text{ret}$  covers  $U \xrightarrow{f} X$  with  $X$  local Hensel and ess. smooth /  $K$ .

Last time we have seen that  $F$  is a module over  $K_*^{TW}$ , they both have transfers and they are related by the proj formulas

$$f_* t_2 (a \cdot f^* b) = t_2 (a) \cdot b \quad a \in K_*^{TW}$$

$$t_2 (f^* a \cdot b) = a \cdot t_2 (b) \quad b \in F$$

By the assumption on  $f$ ,  $F_*$  is naturally a module over  $\text{colim}_n K_n^{TW} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{colim}_n \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\sim} Sp_* \mathbb{Z}$

and these isomorphisms all respect transfers.

We have a comm. square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_{\text{et}}^0(U, \mathbb{Z}) & \xleftarrow{=} & H_{\text{et}}^0(U, \mathbb{Z}) \\ t_2 \downarrow & & \downarrow t_2 \\ H_{\text{et}}^0(X, \mathbb{Z}) & \xleftarrow{=} & H_{\text{et}}^0(X, \mathbb{Z}) \end{array}$$

Since  $X$  is local Hensel and  $U/X$  finite et  $\Rightarrow U$  is local Hensel and is a finite disjoint union of local Hensel ess smooth schemes /  $K$ . Then equalities of ord. on  $U$  follow from Hensel condition as seen above.

Surjectivity of LHS transfer follows by PROPOSITION 2.1  $\Rightarrow \exists \alpha \in H_{\text{et}}^0(U, \mathbb{Z})$  s.t.  $t_2(\alpha) = 1$ .

$F_*$  is et-separated:

If  $s \in F_*(X)$  s.t.  $s|_U = 0$ , then we have that

$$s = 1 \cdot s = t_2(\alpha) \cdot s = t_2(\alpha \cdot s|_U) = 0$$

$F_*$  is et-sheaf:

If  $s \in F_*(U)$  s.t.  $p_1^* s = p_2^* s$  in  $F_*(U \times_X U)$

$\Rightarrow t_2(\alpha s) \in F_*(X)$  will do the job

$$\begin{aligned} t_2(\alpha s)|_U &= f^*(t_2(\alpha s)) = t_2|_{p_2} p_1^*(\alpha s) = t_2|_{p_2} (p_1^*(\alpha) \cdot p_1^*(s)) = \\ &= t_2|_{p_2} (p_1^*(\alpha) p_2^*(s)) = t_2|_{p_2} (p_1^*(\alpha) \cdot s) = f^*(t_2(\alpha)) \cdot s = 1 \cdot s = s \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U \times_X U & \xrightarrow{p_1} & U \\ p_2 \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ U & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array}$$