

**Example .0.1** (Universal)

$BO(m) = \{m\text{-dimensional real vector subspaces of } \mathbb{R}^\infty\}$ . That is  $EO(m)/O(m)$ .

If we then consider

$$\gamma_{\mathbb{R}}^m = \{(V, x) \mid V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^\infty, \dim V = m, x \in V\}.$$

Then there's a map  $\gamma_{\mathbb{R}}^m \rightarrow BO(m)$ .

Similarly for  $\mathbb{C}$ , with  $BU(m)$  and  $\gamma_{\mathbb{C}}^m \rightarrow BU(m)$ .

**Theorem .0.1**

If  $X$  is paracompact, then

$$\{\cong \text{ classes of real vector } m\text{-bundles on } X\} \cong [X, BO(m)]$$

And also

$$\{\cong \text{ classes of complex vector } m\text{-bundles on } X\} \cong [X, BU(m)]$$

The map is given by  $f : X \rightarrow BO(m)$  to  $f^*\gamma_{\mathbb{R}}^m$  (the pullback), and likewise for complex vector bundles.

References: [2, 1]

This gives a geometric interpretation of  $K$ -theory (cohomology). A permutative category  $\mathcal{C}$  with objects  $\mathbb{N}_0$  and morphisms  $m \rightarrow m$  given by  $U(m)$ .

We then set

$$A \oplus B = \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & B \end{bmatrix}$$

So then

$$B\mathcal{C} = \coprod_{m \geq 0} BU(m)$$

is an  $E_\infty$ -space, and by group completion

$$\Omega B(B\mathcal{C}) = BU^+ \times \mathbb{Z}$$

where  $BU^+$  is the Quillen  $+$ -construction. Then

$$U = \bigcup_m U(m)$$

So we have that

$$\pi_0 U(m) = 0 \qquad \pi_0 BU(m) = 0 \pi_1 U(m) = \mathbb{Z} \qquad \pi_1 BU(m) = 0$$

By the fibration sequence  $U(m) \rightarrow EU(m) = * \rightarrow BU(m)$ . Thus  $BU^+ = BU$ .

Thus we have proved  $BU \times \mathbb{Z}$  is an infinite loop space without using Bott periodicity.

Note that

$$BU \times \mathbb{Z} = \text{colim} \left( \coprod_{m \in \mathbb{N}_0} \xrightarrow{\oplus 1} \coprod_{m \in \mathbb{N}_0} BU(m) \rightarrow \cdots \right)$$

If  $X$  is compact Hausdorff, then

$$\left[ X, \bigcup Z_m \right] = \text{colim}_m [X, Z_m]$$

where  $Z_0 \subseteq Z_1 \subseteq \dots$ .

If  $X$  is compact then by definition

$$K^0 X = [X, BU \times \mathbb{Z}]$$

is the group completion of  $\{\cong \text{ classes of complex vector bundles on } X\}$  which is a commutative monoid with Whitney sum.

Grothendieck construction  $K$  is left adjoint to the forgetful functor  $\text{Ab} \rightarrow \text{commutative monoids}$ .

For example  $K(\mathbb{N}_0) = \mathbb{Z}$ .

Elements of  $K^0(X)$  are virtual bundles. Namely they look like

$$(\xi, \mu) / \sim$$

$$(\xi, \mu) \sim (\xi', \mu') \iff \exists \nu \quad \xi \oplus \mu' \oplus \nu \cong \xi' \oplus \mu \oplus \nu$$

We think of the pair  $(\xi, \mu)$  as “ $\xi - \mu$ .” For  $X$  compact, any virtual bundle is of the form  $\xi - N$  for  $N$  trivial, should refer to Atiyah’s  $K$ -theory.

This definition of  $K^0 X$  as the group completion of isomorphism classes of vector bundles on  $X$  is not invariant under weak equivalence. For  $X$  CW we have  $K^0(X) = [X, BU \times \mathbb{Z}]$ .

Vector bundles also have a tensor product. This introduces a commutative ring structure on  $K^0 X$ . In fact,  $K$  is a commutative ring spectrum (for now, commutative monoid in  $DSpectra$  w.r.t  $\wedge$ ).

Can we say something more right (= coherent) in  $Spectra$ , where  $\wedge$  is not a symmetric monoidal product. Answer: yes. We will call this a multiplicative  $\infty$  loop space.

Another example of a construction of spectra:

## .1. Cobordism

The geometric problem of cobordism: compact smooth manifolds without boundary  $M$  of dimension  $m$ , with equivalence defined by cobordism

### Definition .1.1

We say two compact manifolds  $M, N$  of dimension  $m$  are cobordant if there is a compact manifold  $W$  of dimension  $m + 1$  so that  $\partial W = M \amalg N$  with the normal data preserved.

That is

$$\nu_W^{\mathbb{R}^N} \oplus \tau_W \cong N \quad (\text{trivial})$$

so that

$$\tau|_M = \tau_M \oplus 1 \quad \tau|_N = \tau_N \oplus 1.$$

For reference see [2]

to avoid the problems, we prescribe some requirement on the normal bundle  $\nu_M^{\mathbb{R}^N}$  (well-defined if whatever structure we require on  $\nu_M^{\mathbb{R}^N}$  for  $N \gg 0$  must be preserved by enlarging  $N$ , aka it is “stable”).

### Example .1.1

There are many examples

- $\mathbb{N}_0$  structure, then unoriented  $MO$ .
- Oriented (w.r.t  $H\mathbb{Z}$ ), gives oriented  $MSO$

- Complex gives complex  $MU$ .
- Trivial gives framed  $\leq$ .

Equivalence classes of each type of manifolds under cobordism are called cobordism groups  $MO_m, MSO_m, MU_m$ .

Why groups? The group operation is  $\coprod$ , and the inverse is to add the trivial bundle, reverse sign of 1-dimensional subspace in the isomorphism class.

What