

Introduction to algebraic K -theory

Problem set 3

Ex. 1. Let \mathcal{E} be an exact category. Without using the additivity theorem, show that the map

$$K_0(e(\mathcal{E})) \rightarrow K_0(\mathcal{E}) \times K_0(\mathcal{E})$$

induced by the functor $(s, q): e(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E}$ seen in the lecture, is always an isomorphism.

Ex. 2. Let \mathcal{E} be an exact category. Show that the span $X \leftarrow Z \rightarrow Y$ is an isomorphism in $\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{E}$ if and only if $p: Z \rightarrow X$ and $i: Z \rightarrow Y$ are isomorphisms in \mathcal{E} .

Ex. 3. Let \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{E}' two exact categories, and let $F: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ an exact functor that is an equivalence between them. Show that $K_n(\mathcal{E}) \simeq K_n(\mathcal{E}')$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Bonus If you are interested in these topics, I encourage you to read about Quillen's Theorem A and Theorem B. They require a bit more background so we won't see them, but they are at the base of the proof of several of the fundamental theorems of K -theory. And are a cool and important tool in general too!