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## THE WITT GROUP OF LAURENT POLYNOMIALS

by Manuel OJANGUREN and Ivan PANIN

ABSTRACT. We give a direct, self-contained proof of the fact that for a large class of rings  $A$ , in particular for all regular rings with involution,  $W(A[t, 1/t]) = W(A) \oplus W(A)$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this note is to give a short direct proof of two fundamental theorems on the Witt group of polynomials and Laurent extensions of a ring  $A$ . These theorems were proved independently by M. Karoubi [3] and by A. Ranicki [5]. We will state them under the most general conditions on  $A$  and for their proofs we will use nothing more than a general result on the  $K$ -theory of Laurent polynomials. In the last section we will show, by two counterexamples, that the assumptions we make on  $A$  are necessary.

We begin by recalling briefly some definitions. We refer to [4] for a more detailed exposition and for the proofs of the few basic results that we will use.

Let  $A$  be an associative ring with an involution denoted by  $a \mapsto a^\circ$ . Except in §2 we will always assume that 2 is invertible in  $A$ . If  $M$  is a right  $A$ -module, we denote by  $M^*$  its dual  $\text{Hom}_A(M, A)$  endowed with the right action of  $A$  given by  $fa(x) = a^\circ f(x)$  for any  $f: M \rightarrow A$  and  $a \in A$ . If  $P$  is a finitely generated projective right  $A$ -module we identify it with  $P^{**}$  through the canonical isomorphism mapping  $x \in P$  to  $\hat{x}: P^* \rightarrow A$  defined by  $\hat{x}(f) = f(x)$ .

Let  $\epsilon$  be 1 or  $-1$ . An  $\epsilon$ -hermitian space over  $A$  is a pair  $(P, \alpha)$  consisting of a finitely generated projective right  $A$ -module  $P$  and an  $A$ -isomorphism  $\alpha: P \rightarrow P^*$  satisfying  $\alpha = \epsilon \alpha^*$ . For brevity  $\epsilon$ -hermitian spaces will be called *spaces*. A 1-hermitian space (over a commutative ring  $A$ ) is also called a *quadratic space*.

Two spaces  $(P, \alpha)$  and  $(Q, \beta)$  are *isometric* if there exists an  $A$ -isomorphism  $\varphi: P \rightarrow Q$  such that the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & Q \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta \\ P^* & \xleftarrow{\varphi^*} & Q^* \end{array}$$

commutes. A space is *hyperbolic* if it is isometric to a space of the form

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

The *orthogonal sum* of two spaces  $(P, \alpha)$  and  $(Q, \beta)$  is the space

$$(P, \alpha) \perp (Q, \beta) = (P \oplus Q, \alpha \oplus \beta).$$

If  $(P, \alpha)$  is a space and  $M$  a submodule of  $P$  we denote by  $M^\perp$  the orthogonal of  $M$ , defined by the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow M^\perp \longrightarrow P \xrightarrow{i^* \circ \alpha} M^*,$$

where  $i^*$  is the dual of the inclusion  $i: M \rightarrow P$ . A submodule  $M$  of  $P$  is *totally isotropic* if  $M \subseteq M^\perp$ . A *sublagrangian* of a space  $(P, \alpha)$  is a totally isotropic direct factor of  $P$ . A *lagrangian* of  $(P, \alpha)$  is a sublagrangian  $L$  such that  $L = L^\perp$ . For instance,  $P$  and  $P^*$  are lagrangians of  $H(P)$ .

The Witt group  $W(A)$  of  $\epsilon$ -hermitian spaces over  $A$  is the quotient of the Grothendieck group of  $\epsilon$ -hermitian spaces with respect to orthogonal sums, by the subgroup generated by all hyperbolic spaces. We say that two spaces are *Witt equivalent* if they represent the same element of  $W(A)$ .

Consider now the rings  $A[t]$  and  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ , endowed with the involution that fixes  $t$  and maps  $a \in A$  to  $a^\circ$ . For the ring  $A[t, t^{-1}]$  we introduce a variant  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$  of the Witt group. We first consider the Grothendieck group  $Q$  of  $\epsilon$ -hermitian spaces over  $A[t, t^{-1}]$  which are extended from  $A$  as  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ -modules, and its subgroup  $N$  generated by the hyperbolic spaces  $H(P)$  where  $P$  is extended from  $A$ . We then define  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$  as  $Q/N$ . Clearly  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$  maps canonically to  $W(A[t, t^{-1}])$ . Here are our results.

**A (THEOREM 3.1).** *Let  $A$  be an associative ring with involution, in which  $2$  is invertible. The canonical homomorphism*

$$W(A) \rightarrow W(A[t])$$

*is an isomorphism.*

**B** (THEOREM 5.1). *Let  $A$  be an associative ring with involution, in which  $2$  is invertible. The homomorphism*

$$\psi: W(A) \oplus W(A) \rightarrow W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

*mapping  $(\xi, \eta)$  to  $\xi + t\eta$  is an isomorphism.*

**C** (THEOREM 7.1). *Let  $A$  be an associative ring with involution, in which  $2$  is invertible. Let*

$$\varphi: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

*be the canonical homomorphism.*

- (a) *If  $H^2(\mathbf{Z}/2, K_{-1}(A)) = 0$ , then  $\varphi$  is surjective.*
- (b) *If  $K_0(A) = K_0(A[t]) = K_0(A[t, t^{-1}])$ , then  $\varphi$  is an isomorphism.*

Two examples will be constructed in §8 to show that the assumptions in (a) and in (b) cannot be omitted.

An amusing application of **B** is the following result:

**D** (PROPOSITION 6.8). *Let  $A$  be a commutative semilocal ring in which  $2$  is invertible. Let  $(P, \alpha)$  be a quadratic space over  $A$ . If  $(P, \alpha)$  is isometric to  $(P, t \cdot \alpha)$  over  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ , then  $(P, \alpha)$  is hyperbolic.*

We remark that in general, even for a commutative local ring, there is no residue map

$$\text{Res}: W(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A)$$

satisfying the following two properties:

- For any constant space  $\xi \in W(A) \subset W(A[t, t^{-1}])$ ,  $\text{Res}(\xi) = 0$ .
- For any constant space  $\xi \in W(A) \subset W(A[t, t^{-1}])$ ,  $\text{Res}(t \cdot \xi) = \xi$ .

In fact, the existence of such a residue map immediately implies the injectivity of

$$\varphi \circ \psi: W(A) \oplus W(A) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}]),$$

which may fail, as in Example 8.1. However, there exists a residue map  $\text{Res}: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A)$  (Proposition 5.2) which yields the injectivity of  $\psi$ .

We now recall three elementary, well-known facts about hermitian spaces.

PROPOSITION 1.5. *Let  $(P, \alpha)$  be any space. Then:*

1. *The space  $(P, \alpha) \perp (P, -\alpha)$  is hyperbolic.*
2. *If  $L$  is a lagrangian of  $(P, \alpha)$ , then  $(P, \alpha)$  is isometric to  $H(L)$ .*
3. *If  $M$  is a sublagrangian of  $(P, \alpha)$ , then the map  $\alpha$  induces on  $M^\perp/M$  a natural structure of hermitian space that makes it Witt equivalent to  $(P, \alpha)$ .*

## 2. *K*-THEORETIC PRELIMINARIES

We recall a few results proved in the twelfth chapter of Bass' book [1]. For any ring  $A$  we denote by  $K_0(A)$  the Grothendieck group of finitely generated projective right  $A$ -modules and by  $K_1(A)$  the abelianized general linear group of  $A$ :  $K_1(A) = GL(A)/[GL(A), GL(A)]$ . By Whitehead's lemma  $K_1(A)$  is also the quotient of  $GL(A)$  by the subgroup  $E(A)$  generated by all elementary matrices over  $A$ .

For any functor  $F$  from rings to abelian groups we denote by  $N_+F(A)$  the kernel of the map  $F(A[t]) \rightarrow F(A)$  obtained by putting  $t = 0$ . Similarly, we denote by  $N_-F(A)$  the kernel of  $F(A[t^{-1}]) \rightarrow F(A)$  obtained by putting  $t^{-1} = 0$ . The inclusions of  $A[t]$  and  $A[t^{-1}]$  into  $A[t, t^{-1}]$  define a map

$$N_+F(A) \oplus N_-F(A) \longrightarrow F(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

whose cokernel will be denoted by  $LF(A)$ . The functor  $LK_1$  turns out to be naturally isomorphic to  $K_0$ , hence we will denote  $LK_i$  by  $K_{i-1}$  for  $i = 1$  and also for  $i = 0$ .

THEOREM 2.1. *Let  $A$  be any associative ring.*

(a) *For  $i = 0$  or  $1$  there exists a natural embedding*

$$\lambda_i: K_{i-1}(A) \longrightarrow K_i(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

*such that the composite*

$$K_{i-1}(A) \xrightarrow{\lambda_i} K_i(A[t, t^{-1}]) \longrightarrow LK_i(A) = K_{i-1}(A)$$

*is the identity.*

(b) *The embedding  $\lambda_i$  and the canonical homomorphism*

$$N_{\pm}K_i(A) \rightarrow K_i(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

*yield canonical decompositions*

$$K_1(A[t, t^{-1}]) = K_1(A) \oplus N_+K_1(A) \oplus N_-K_1(A) \oplus K_0(A)$$

*and*

$$K_0(A[t, t^{-1}]) = K_0(A) \oplus N_+K_0(A) \oplus N_-K_0(A) \oplus K_{-1}(A).$$

*Proof.* See [1], Theorem 7.4 of chapter XII.  $\square$

We will also use the following well-known result.

**PROPOSITION 2.2.** *If 2 is invertible in A, the groups  $N_{\pm}K_1(A)$  are uniquely divisible by 2.*

*Proof.* By [1], XII, 5.3, every element of  $N_+K_1(A)$  can be represented by a matrix  $\alpha = 1 + \nu t$ , with  $\nu$  a nilpotent matrix of  $M_n(A)$ . Let

$$P(X) = \sum_0^{\infty} \binom{1/2}{n} X^n \in \mathbf{Z}[1/2][X].$$

Then  $P(\nu t) \in M_n(A[t])$  and  $(P(\nu t))^2 = 1 + \nu t$ . This shows that  $N_+K_1(A)$  is divisible by 2. To show uniqueness it suffices to show that  $N_+K_1(A)$  has no 2-torsion. Take  $\alpha = 1 + \nu t$  as before and suppose that  $\alpha^2 \in E(A[t])$ . Put  $s = t(2 + \nu t)$ , so that  $\alpha^2 = 1 + \nu s$ . Since

$$t = \sum_1^{\infty} \binom{1/2}{n} \nu^{n-1} s^n$$

we have  $M_n(A)[t] = M_n(A)[s]$ . If  $\alpha^2 = 1 + \nu s \in E(A[s]) = E(M_n(A)[s])$  we clearly also have  $\alpha = 1 + \nu t \in E(M_n(A)[t])$ .  $\square$

**COROLLARY 2.3.** *If 2 is invertible in A, the groups  $N_{\pm}K_0(A)$  are uniquely divisible by 2.*

*Proof.*  $K_0(A)$  is a direct factor of  $K_1(A[X, X^{-1}])$ , hence  $N_{\pm}K_0(A)$  is a direct factor of  $N_{\pm}K_1(A[X, X^{-1}])$ .  $\square$

Assume now that A has an involution. Associating to any projective module its dual and to any matrix its conjugate transpose yields actions of  $\mathbf{Z}/2$  on  $K_0$  and  $K_1$  which are compatible with the decompositions of Theorem 2.1. From Corollary 2.3 we immediately deduce

COROLLARY 2.4. *Suppose that  $A$  is a ring with involution, in which  $2$  is invertible. Then*

$$H^2(\mathbf{Z}/2, K_0(A[t, t^{-1}])/K_0(A)) = H^2(\mathbf{Z}/2, K_{-1}(A)).$$

### 3. THE WITT GROUP OF POLYNOMIAL RINGS

THEOREM 3.1. *Let  $A$  be an associative ring with involution, in which  $2$  is invertible. Let  $\epsilon$  be  $1$  or  $-1$  and let  $W$  be the Witt group functor of  $\epsilon$ -hermitian spaces. The natural homomorphism*

$$W(A) \longrightarrow W(A[t])$$

*is an isomorphism.*

*Proof.* It suffices to show that the homomorphism  $W(A[t]) \rightarrow W(A)$  given by the evaluation at  $t = 0$  is an isomorphism. Surjectivity is obvious. To prove injectivity let  $(P, \alpha)$  be a space over  $A[t]$  and  $(P(0), \alpha(0))$  its reduction modulo  $t$ . Suppose that  $(P(0), \alpha(0))$  is isometric to some hyperbolic space  $H(Q)$ . Choosing a projective module  $Q'$  such that  $Q \oplus Q'$  is free and adding to  $(P, \alpha)$  the space  $H(Q'[t])$  we may assume that  $P(0)$  is the hyperbolic space over a free module. The class of  $P$  in  $K_0(A[t])/K_0(A) = N_+(A)$  is a symmetric element. By Corollary 2.4 it can be written as  $a + a^*$ , hence, adding to  $(P, \alpha)$  a suitable free hyperbolic space, we may assume that  $(P, \alpha)$  is of the form

$$H(A^n[t]) \perp (R \oplus R^*, \beta).$$

Let  $R'$  be an  $A[t]$ -module such that  $R \oplus R'$  is free. Adding to  $(P, \alpha)$  the hyperbolic space  $H(R')$  we are reduced to the case in which  $P$  is free and  $\alpha$  is an invertible  $\epsilon$ -hermitian matrix with entries in  $A[t]$ .

LEMMA 3.2. *Let  $\alpha = \epsilon\alpha^* \in M_n(A[t])$  be any  $\epsilon$ -hermitian matrix. There exist an integer  $m$  and a matrix  $\tau \in GL_{n+2m}(A[t])$  (actually in  $E_{n+2m}(A[t])$ ) such that*

$$\tau^* \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \chi \end{pmatrix} \tau = \alpha_0 + t\alpha_1,$$

where  $\alpha_0$  and  $\alpha_1$  are constant matrices and  $\chi$  is a sum of hyperbolic blocks  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \epsilon 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  of various sizes.

*Proof of the lemma.* Write  $\alpha = \gamma + \delta t^N$ , where  $\delta$  is constant and  $\gamma$  of degree less than  $N$ . Assume that  $N$  is at least 2. Since  $\delta$  is  $\epsilon$ -hermitian and 2 is invertible in  $A$  we can write  $\delta = \sigma + \epsilon\sigma^*$ . Then

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & t & -\sigma^* t^{N-1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma + \sigma t^N + \epsilon\sigma^* t^N & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \epsilon & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ t & 1 & 0 \\ -\sigma t^{N-1} & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is of degree  $\leq N-1$  and after  $N-1$  such transformations we get a linear matrix.  $\square$

Writing  $\alpha = \alpha_0 + t\alpha_1$  as  $\alpha_0(1 + \nu t)$  we see immediately that,  $\alpha$  being invertible,  $\nu$  is nilpotent. The formal power series

$$\tau = (1 + \nu t)^{-1/2} = \sum \binom{-1/2}{k} (\nu t)^k$$

is a polynomial. From  $\alpha = \epsilon\alpha^*$  we get  $\alpha_0^* = \epsilon\alpha_0$  and  $\nu^*\alpha_0^* = \epsilon\alpha_0\nu$ . This implies that  $\tau^*\alpha_0^* = \epsilon\alpha_0\tau$  and therefore

$$\tau^*\alpha\tau = \tau^*\alpha_0(1 + \nu t)\tau = \alpha_0\tau(1 + \nu t)\tau = \alpha_0.$$

This proves that  $(P, \alpha)$  is Witt equivalent to  $(P(0), \alpha(0))$  and is, therefore, hyperbolic.  $\square$

#### 4. THE WITT GROUP OF TORSION MODULES

Let  $M$  be a finitely generated right  $A[t]$ -module and suppose that it is a  $t$ -torsion module and that it is projective as an  $A$ -module. Obviously, it will be finitely generated over  $A$ . We denote by  $M^\#$  the left  $A[t]$ -module  $\text{Hom}_{A[t]}(M, A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t])$  and we consider it as a right module through the involution on  $A[t]$ .

Recall that, as an  $A$ -module, the quotient  $A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]$  can be written as a direct sum

$$A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t] = At^{-1} \oplus At^{-2} \oplus \dots.$$

Thus, to any  $f \in \text{Hom}_{A[t]}(M, A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t])$  we can associate an  $A$ -linear map  $f_{-1}: M \rightarrow A$ , which is defined as the composite of  $f$  with the projection onto  $At^{-1}$ .

PROPOSITION 4.1. *The map*

$$\partial = \partial_M: M^\# = \text{Hom}_{A[t]}(M, A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}_A(M, A) = M^*$$

obtained by associating  $f_{-1}$  to  $f$  is a functorial  $A$ -linear isomorphism.

*Proof.* It is clear that  $\partial$  is  $A$ -linear. To show that it is bijective we construct its inverse. Given any  $g \in M^*$  define  $\tilde{g}$  by the (finite !) sum

$$\tilde{g}(x) = t^{-1}g(x) + t^{-2}g(tx) + t^{-3}g(t^2x) + \dots$$

It is easy to check that  $\tilde{g} \in M^\#$ ,  $(\tilde{g})_{-1} = g$  and  $\tilde{f_{-1}} = f$ . Functoriality is clear.  $\square$

COROLLARY 4.2. *For any finitely generated  $t$ -torsion module  $M$  which is projective as an  $A$ -module the canonical homomorphism  $M \rightarrow M^{\#\#}$  is an isomorphism.*

*Proof.* It suffices to remark that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & & \\ \swarrow \text{can} & & \searrow \text{can} \\ M^{\#\#} & \xrightarrow{(\partial_M^*)^{-1} \circ \partial_{M^\#}} & M^{**} \end{array}$$

commutes and that  $M \xrightarrow{\text{can}} M^{**}$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

An  $\epsilon$ -hermitian  $t$ -torsion space (or, briefly, a  $t$ -torsion space) is a pair  $(M, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  consisting of a finitely generated  $t$ -torsion right  $A[t]$ -module  $M$  which is projective as an  $A$ -module, and a perfect  $\epsilon$ -hermitian pairing  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: M \times M \rightarrow A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]$ . Giving  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the same, of course, as giving its adjoint  $\varphi: M \rightarrow M^\#$  defined by  $\varphi(a)(b) = \langle a, b \rangle$ .

Isometries and orthogonal sums are defined in the obvious way. For any subset  $X \subset M$  we define its orthogonal as

$$X^\perp = \{y \in M \mid \langle x, y \rangle = 0 \quad \forall x \in X\}.$$

A sublagrangian of  $(M, \varphi)$  is an  $A[t]$ -submodule  $L$  of  $M$  which satisfies the following two conditions :

- (1) It is contained in its own orthogonal:  $L \subseteq L^\perp$ .
- (2) The quotient  $M/L$  is projective over  $A$  (which is the same as saying that  $L$ , as an  $A$ -module, is a direct factor of  $M$ ).

A sublagrangian  $L$  is a *lagrangian* if  $L = L^\perp$ . A  $t$ -torsion space is *metabolic* if it has a lagrangian. The Witt group of  $t$ -torsion spaces is the quotient of the Grothendieck group of  $t$ -torsion spaces with respect to orthogonal sums, modulo the subgroup generated by the metabolic spaces. We will denote it by  $W_{tors}(A[t])$ . Lemma 4.6 below will show that the opposite of the class of  $(M, \varphi)$  is the class of  $(M, -\varphi)$ .

LEMMA 4.3. *Let  $M$  and  $N$  be finitely generated  $t$ -torsion modules and  $i: N \rightarrow M$  an  $A[t]$ -linear homomorphism. Assume that as  $A$ -modules  $M$  and  $N$  are projective. Then the map  $i^\sharp: M^\sharp \rightarrow N^\sharp$  is surjective (respectively injective) if and only if  $i^*: M^* \rightarrow N^*$  is surjective (respectively injective).*

*Proof.* Look:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M^\sharp & \xrightarrow{i^\sharp} & N^\sharp \\ \partial_M \downarrow & & \downarrow \partial_N \\ M^* & \xrightarrow{i^*} & N^* \end{array}$$

□

PROPOSITION 4.4. *Let  $(M, \varphi)$  be a  $t$ -torsion space and  $L$  an  $A[t]$ -submodule of  $M$ . If  $M/L$  is projective over  $A$ , then  $L = L^{\perp\perp}$  and  $L^\perp$  is a direct factor of  $M$  as an  $A$ -module.*

*Proof.* First observe that as an  $A$ -module  $L$  is finitely generated and projective. Let  $i: L \rightarrow M$  be the natural injection. By Lemma 4.3 the map  $i^\sharp \circ \varphi$  is surjective, thus the sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow L^\perp \xrightarrow{j} M \xrightarrow{i^\sharp \circ \varphi} L^\sharp \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact. Hence  $L^\perp$  is a direct factor of  $M$  as an  $A$ -module; in particular it is  $A$ -projective. Identifying  $L$  with  $L^{\sharp\sharp}$  we can write the dual sequence as

$$0 \longrightarrow L \xrightarrow{i} M \xrightarrow{j^\sharp \circ \varphi^\sharp} (L^\perp)^\sharp \longrightarrow 0.$$

Notice that it is exact by Lemma 4.3. Again by Lemma 4.3 the sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow L^{\perp\perp} \longrightarrow M \xrightarrow{j^\sharp \circ \varphi} (L^\perp)^\sharp \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact because  $L^\perp$  is a direct factor of  $M$  as an  $A$ -module. Since  $\varphi^\sharp = \pm \varphi$ , comparing the last two sequences we get the result. □

We now prove a fundamental result on the equivalence of  $t$ -torsion spaces.

**THEOREM 4.5.** *Let  $(M, \varphi)$  be an  $\epsilon$ -hermitian  $t$ -torsion space and  $L$  a sublagrangian of  $(M, \varphi)$ . The quotient  $L^\perp/L$  carries a natural structure of  $t$ -torsion  $\epsilon$ -hermitian space and its class in  $W_{tors}(A[t])$  is the same as that of  $(M, \varphi)$ .*

*Proof.* We first prove the following lemma.

**LEMMA 4.6.** *Let  $(M, \varphi)$  be any  $\epsilon$ -hermitian  $t$ -torsion space. The space  $(M, \varphi) \perp (M, -\varphi)$  is metabolic.*

*Proof of Lemma 4.6.* We show that the image  $L = \Delta(M)$  of the diagonal map  $M \xrightarrow{\Delta} M \oplus M$  is a lagrangian. The condition  $L \subseteq L^\perp$  is immediately verified. The quotient  $(M \oplus M)/L$  is isomorphic to  $M$ , hence it is projective over  $A$ . It remains to see that  $L^\perp \subseteq L$ . If  $(a, b) \in L^\perp$  we have  $0 = \langle (a, b), (x, x) \rangle = \langle a - b, x \rangle$  for any  $x \in M$ . Since the pairing  $\langle , \rangle$  is perfect, this implies  $a = b$ , i.e.  $(a, b) \in L$ .  $\square$

We now prove the theorem. By Proposition 4.4,  $L^\perp$  is a direct factor of  $M$  as an  $A$ -module. Since  $L \subseteq L^\perp$  is also a direct factor of  $M$ , the quotient  $L^\perp/L$  is projective. Denoting by  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}$  the classes modulo  $L$  of two elements  $a, b \in L$ , we define the hermitian structure of  $L^\perp/L$  by  $\langle \bar{a}, \bar{b} \rangle = \langle a, b \rangle$ . It is clear that  $\langle a, b \rangle$  only depends on  $\bar{a}$  and  $\bar{b}$ . We first check that this pairing defines a  $t$ -torsion space. It is clearly  $\epsilon$ -hermitian. The injectivity of the adjoint map  $L^\perp/L \rightarrow (L^\perp/L)^\sharp$  follows immediately from Proposition 4.4. To show surjectivity consider any  $A[t]$ -linear map  $f: L^\perp \rightarrow A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]$ . Since  $L^\perp$  is a direct factor of  $M$  as an  $A$ -module,  $f$ , by Lemma 4.3, extends to an  $A[t]$ -linear map  $\tilde{f}: M \rightarrow A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]$ . Choose an  $m \in M$  for which  $\tilde{f} = \langle m, \cdot \rangle$ . If  $\tilde{f}$  vanishes on  $L$ , then  $m$  is in  $L^\perp$ . This proves that  $L^\perp/L$  is a  $t$ -torsion space.

To show that  $L^\perp/L$  is equivalent to  $(M, \varphi)$  we check that the image of the diagonal map  $\Delta: L^\perp \rightarrow M \oplus L^\perp/L$  is a lagrangian of  $(M, -\varphi) \perp L^\perp/L$  which is, therefore, metabolic. It is easy to check that  $\Delta(L^\perp)$  is contained in its own orthogonal. Conversely, if  $(a, \bar{b}) \in M \oplus L^\perp/L$  is orthogonal to every  $(x, \bar{x})$ , then  $\langle a - b, x \rangle = 0$  for every  $x \in L^\perp$ . This means that  $a - b$  is in  $L^{\perp\perp}$ , which by Proposition 4.4 coincides with  $L$ . We thus have  $(a, \bar{b}) = (a, \bar{a}) \in \Delta(L^\perp)$ .  $\square$

The next proposition connects the Witt group of  $t$ -torsion spaces with the Witt group of  $A$ .

PROPOSITION 4.7. *The isomorphisms*

$$\partial_M: \text{Hom}_{A[t]}(M, A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(M, A)$$

induce a surjective homomorphism

$$\partial^W: W_{tors}(A[t]) \rightarrow W(A).$$

*Proof.* Associating to any  $t$ -torsion space  $(M, \varphi)$  the hermitian space  $(M, \partial_M \circ \varphi)$  preserves isometries and orthogonal sums and, by Lemma 4.3, transforms metabolic  $t$ -torsion spaces into hyperbolic spaces (with the same lagrangian). Therefore it induces a homomorphism

$$\partial^W: W_{tors}(A[t]) \rightarrow W(A).$$

To find a preimage  $(M, \varphi)$  of a space  $(M, \alpha)$  over  $A$  consider  $M$  as an  $A[t]$ -module annihilated by  $t$  and replace  $\alpha: M \rightarrow M^*$  by  $\varphi = \partial_M^{-1} \circ \alpha$ .  $\square$

## 5. THE WITT GROUP OF EXTENDED SPACES

Let  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$  be the group defined in the introduction.

THEOREM 5.1. *Let  $A$  be an associative ring with involution, in which 2 is invertible. The homomorphism*

$$\psi: W(A) \oplus W(A) \rightarrow W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

mapping  $(\xi, \eta)$  to  $\xi + t\eta$  is an isomorphism.

*Proof.* The injectivity of  $\psi$  is based on the following result, whose proof will be given in §6.

PROPOSITION 5.2. *There exists a homomorphism*

$$\text{Res}: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A)$$

with the following properties:

$R_1$ : For any constant space  $\xi \in W(A) \subset W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$ ,  $\text{Res}(\xi) = 0$ .

$R_2$ : For any constant space  $\xi \in W(A) \subset W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$ ,  $\text{Res}(t \cdot \xi) = \xi$ .

*Proof.* See Theorem 6.7.  $\square$

Assuming this proposition, suppose that for two elements  $\xi, \eta \in W(A)$  we have  $\xi + t \cdot \eta = 0$ . Then  $0 = \text{Res}(\xi + t \cdot \eta) = \eta$  and hence  $\xi = 0$ .

We now turn to the surjectivity of  $\psi$ . We have to show that every hermitian space  $(P, \alpha)$  over  $A[t, t^{-1}]$  with  $P = P_0[t, t^{-1}]$  is Witt equivalent to a space of the form  $(Q_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha_0) \perp (Q_1[t, t^{-1}], t\alpha_1)$ . Let  $P_1$  be a projective  $A$ -module such that  $P_0 \oplus P_1 = A^n$  for some  $n$ . Replacing  $(P, \alpha)$  by

$$(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha) \perp (P_0[t, t^{-1}], -\alpha(1)) \perp H(P_1[t, t^{-1}]),$$

we may assume that  $P_0$  is free. Replacing  $\alpha$  by  $t^{2N}\alpha$  with a suitable  $N$ , we may also assume that  $\alpha$  maps  $P_0[t]$  into  $P_0^*[t]$ . By Lemma 3.2 we are reduced to the case where  $\alpha = \alpha_0 + t\alpha_1$  for some  $\epsilon$ -hermitian maps  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1: P_0 \rightarrow P_0^*$ .

LEMMA 5.3. *If, for a constant matrix  $\beta$ ,*

$$\alpha = 1 + (t - 1)\beta \in \text{GL}_n(A[t, t^{-1}]) \cap \text{M}_n(A[t]),$$

*then there exists an  $N$  such that  $(1 - \beta)^N \beta^N = 0$ .*

*Proof.* This is Corollary 2.4 of [2]. For the convenience of the reader we reprove it here.

Writing the inverse of  $\alpha$  as a Laurent polynomial and equating coefficients in the identity

$$1 = \alpha\alpha^{-1} = (1 - \beta + t\beta)(\gamma_{-q}t^{-q} + \cdots + \gamma_{-1}t^{-1} + \gamma_0 + \gamma_1t + \cdots + \gamma_pt^p)$$

we get

$$(1 - \beta)\gamma_{-q} = 0, \quad (1 - \beta)\gamma_{-q+1} + \beta\gamma_{-q} = 0, \quad \dots, \\ (1 - \beta)\gamma_{-1} + \beta\gamma_{-2} = 0, \quad (1 - \beta)\gamma_0 + \beta\gamma_{-1} = 1$$

and

$$(1 - \beta)\gamma_1 + \beta\gamma_0 = 0, \quad \dots, \quad (1 - \beta)\gamma_p + \beta\gamma_{p-1} = 0, \quad \beta\gamma_p = 0.$$

From the first line we get  $(1 - \beta)^q\gamma_{-1} = 0$ , from the third  $\beta^{p+1}\gamma_0 = 0$  and then from the middle one  $\beta^{p+1}(1 - \beta)^q = 0$ .  $\square$

We put  $\beta = \alpha(1)^{-1}\alpha_1: P_0 \rightarrow P_0$ , so that

$$\alpha(1)^{-1}\alpha = 1 + (t - 1)\beta.$$

We will repeatedly use the fact that  $\beta$  is adjoint with respect to  $\alpha, \alpha(1), \alpha_0, \alpha_1$ , by which we mean that  $\alpha\beta = \beta^*\alpha$ , and so on. The same clearly holds for any polynomial in  $\beta$  with integral coefficients.

By Lemma 5.3 we can find an integer  $N$  such that  $\beta^N(1 - \beta)^N = 0$ . Denoting by  $\mathbf{Z}[\beta]$  the subring of  $\text{End}_A(P_0)$  generated by  $\beta$  we can write  $\mathbf{Z}[\beta] = \mathbf{Z}[\beta]e \times \mathbf{Z}[\beta](1 - e)$ , where  $e$  is an idempotent of the form  $\beta + \nu$  and  $\nu$  is a nilpotent matrix. Note that  $e$  and  $\nu$  are polynomials in  $\beta$  and therefore they commute with  $\beta$  and with each other. If we decompose  $P_0$  as  $eP_0 + (1 - e)P_0$  and represent  $A$ -linear endomorphisms of  $P_0$  as  $2 \times 2$  block matrices, we have

$$e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \nu_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \nu_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \epsilon\alpha_{12}^* & \alpha_{22} \end{pmatrix} (1 + (t - 1)\beta).$$

Computing the product we see that the condition  $\alpha^* = \epsilon\alpha$  implies that

$$\alpha_{12}(1 - \nu_2) = -\nu_1^* \alpha_{12}, \quad \alpha_{11}^* = \epsilon\alpha_{11} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_{22}^* = \epsilon\alpha_{22}.$$

From this we immediately deduce

$$\alpha_{12}(1 - \nu_2)^k = (-\nu_1^*)^k \alpha_{12}$$

for any natural integer  $k$ . Since  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  are nilpotent, this implies that  $\alpha_{12} = 0$ . Thus  $\alpha$  is of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11}t(1 + \nu_1) - \alpha_{11}\nu_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_{22}(1 + (t - 1)\nu_2) \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  splits as a hermitian space.

Since  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha_{11}$  and  $\alpha_{22}$  are symmetric, evaluating the above matrix at  $t = 1$  we see that

$$\alpha_{11}\nu_1 = \nu_1^* \alpha_{11} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_{22}\nu_1 = \nu_2^* \alpha_{22}.$$

The first block can be written as

$$\sigma_1 = \alpha_{11}t(1 + \nu_1 - t^{-1}\nu_1) = \alpha_{11}t(1 + (1 - t^{-1})\nu_1).$$

Since  $(1 - t^{-1})\nu_1$  is nilpotent, the formal power series

$$\tau_1 = (1 + (1 - t^{-1})\nu_1)^{-1/2} = \sum \binom{-1/2}{k} ((1 - t^{-1})\nu_1)^k$$

is a Laurent polynomial and we can replace the first block by  $\tau_1^* \sigma_1 \tau_1 = \alpha_{11}t$ . Similarly, the power series

$$\tau_2 = (1 + (t - 1)\nu_2)^{-1/2} = \sum \binom{-1/2}{k} ((t - 1)\nu_2)^k$$

is a Laurent polynomial and we can replace the second block by  $\tau_2^* \sigma_2 \tau_2 = \alpha_{22}$ .

This shows that

$$(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha) \simeq (P_0e[t, t^{-1}], t\alpha_{11}) \perp (P_0(1 - e)[t, t^{-1}], \alpha_{22}),$$

thus proving the surjectivity of  $\psi$ .  $\square$

## 6. THE RESIDUE

In this section we construct a residue map

$$\text{Res}: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A)$$

satisfying  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  of §5.

The definition of  $\text{Res}$  will be preceded by a few preliminaries.

LEMMA 6.1. *Let  $P_0$  be a (finitely generated) projective  $A$ -module and define  $M(\alpha)$  by the exact sequence*

$$0 \longrightarrow P_0[t] \xrightarrow{\alpha} P_0^*[t] \longrightarrow M(\alpha) \longrightarrow 0,$$

where  $\alpha$  is  $A[t]$ -linear. Suppose that its localization  $\alpha_t: P_0[t, t^{-1}] \rightarrow P_0[t, t^{-1}]$  is an isomorphism. Then, as an  $A$ -module,  $M(\alpha)$  is finitely generated and projective.

*Proof.* Decompose  $P_0[t, t^{-1}]$  as a direct sum  $P_0[t] \oplus t^{-1}P_0[t^{-1}]$  of  $A$ -modules. Let  $\pi$  be the projection onto the first summand. Then  $\beta = \pi \circ \alpha_t^{-1}|_{P_0^*[t]}$  is an  $A$ -linear splitting of  $\alpha$ . Hence  $M(\alpha)$  is  $A$ -projective. It is also finitely generated as an  $A[t]$ -module, hence, being annihilated by a power of  $t$ , it is finitely generated as an  $A$ -module.  $\square$

Let  $M = M(\alpha)$  be as in the previous lemma. Assume that  $\alpha$  is  $\epsilon$ -symmetric. We define a pairing

$$M \times M \rightarrow A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]$$

by  $\langle \bar{a}, \bar{b} \rangle = a(\alpha_t^{-1}(b))$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are representatives in  $P_0^*[t]$  of  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in M$ .

LEMMA 6.2. *If  $\alpha$  is  $\epsilon$ -hermitian, then  $\langle , \rangle$  is a perfect  $\epsilon$ -hermitian pairing.*

*Proof.* Since  $\alpha_t$  is  $\epsilon$ -hermitian, denoting by  $x \mapsto x^\circ$  the involution on  $A$  we have

$$\langle \bar{a}, \bar{b} \rangle = a(\alpha_t^{-1}(b)) = \epsilon(b(\alpha_t^{-1}(a)))^\circ = \epsilon \langle \bar{b}, \bar{a} \rangle^\circ.$$

This proves the first assertion.

We now check that the adjoint of  $\langle , \rangle$

$$\chi: M \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{A[t]}(M, A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]),$$

defined as  $\chi(\bar{a})(\bar{b}) = \langle \bar{a}, \bar{b} \rangle$ , is an isomorphism. We first prove injectivity. Suppose that, for some  $a$  and every  $x$  in  $M$ ,  $\chi(\bar{a})(\bar{x}) = 0$ . This means

that  $a(\alpha_t^{-1}(x)) \in A[t]$  for every  $x \in P_0^*[t]$ . We only have to show that  $\alpha_t^{-1}(a) \in P_0[t]$ . Consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P_0[t] & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Hom}_{A[t]}(P_0^*[t], A[t]) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ P_0[t, t^{-1}] & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Hom}_{A[t]}(P_0^*[t], A[t, t^{-1}]) \end{array}$$

where the horizontal arrows are the canonical ones. Since  $P_0[t]$  is projective (and finitely generated!) over  $A[t]$ , they both are isomorphisms. Therefore an element  $b \in P_0[t, t^{-1}]$  is in  $P_0[t]$  if and only if, for any  $x \in P_0^*[t]$ ,  $x(b)$  is in  $A[t]$ . This is indeed the case for  $b = \alpha_t^{-1}(a)$  because  $x(\alpha_t^{-1}(a)) = \epsilon(a(\alpha_t^{-1}(x)))^\circ \in A[t]$  by the very assumption on  $a$ . Thus injectivity is proved. We now check that  $\chi$  is surjective. Let  $\bar{f}: M \rightarrow A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t]$  be an  $A[t]$ -linear map. Since  $P_0[t]^*$  is projective, there exists an  $f$  which makes the right hand square of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & P_0[t] & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & P_0[t]^* & \xrightarrow{p} & M & \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow a & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow \bar{f} & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A[t] & \longrightarrow & A[t, t^{-1}] & \xrightarrow{q} & A[t, t^{-1}]/A[t] & \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

commute,  $p$  and  $q$  being the canonical surjections. Clearly  $q \circ f \circ \alpha = 0$ , hence there exists an  $A[t]$ -linear map  $a: P_0[t] \rightarrow A[t]$  such  $f \circ \alpha = i \circ a$ ,  $i$  being the inclusion  $A[t] \rightarrow A[t, t^{-1}]$ . We claim that  $\chi(a) = \bar{f}$ . For this it suffices to show that for any  $b \in P_0[t]^*$  we have  $a(\alpha_t^{-1}(b)) \equiv f(b)$  modulo  $A[t]$ . We denote by  $a_t$  the localization of  $a$  at  $t$  and by  $f_t: P_0[t, t^{-1}]^* \rightarrow A[t, t^{-1}]$  the unique  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ -linear extension of  $f$ . Observing that  $\alpha_t^{-1}(a) = a_t \circ \alpha_t^{-1}$  we get the following relations:

$$a(\alpha_t^{-1}(b)) = (a_t \circ \alpha_t^{-1})(b) = f_t(b) = f(b).$$

This proves that  $\chi$  is surjective.  $\square$

Let now  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  be an  $\epsilon$ -hermitian space. For any natural integer  $n$  for which  $t^{2n}\alpha(P_0[t]) \subseteq P_0[t]^*$  we define  $M(\alpha, n)$  by the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow P_0[t] \xrightarrow{t^{2n}\alpha} P_0^*[t] \longrightarrow M(\alpha, n) \longrightarrow 0$$

and equip it with the  $\epsilon$ -hermitian structure defined above:

$$\langle \bar{a}, \bar{b} \rangle = a((t^{2n}\alpha_t)^{-1}(b)).$$

LEMMA 6.3. *Let  $\psi: (P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha) \rightarrow (Q_0[t, t^{-1}], \beta)$  be an isometry and assume that  $\psi(P_0[t]) \subseteq Q_0[t]$ ,  $\alpha(P_0[t]) \subseteq P_0[t]^*$  and  $\beta(Q_0[t]) \subseteq Q_0[t]^*$ . Then  $M(\alpha)$  and  $M(\beta)$  are Witt equivalent  $t$ -torsion spaces.*

*Proof.* Consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & 0 & & & \\
 & & & \uparrow & & & \\
 & & 0 & & K & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \hat{q} \uparrow & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & P_0[t] & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & P_0[t]^* & \xrightarrow{q_\alpha} & M(\alpha) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow \psi & & \psi^* \uparrow & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & Q_0[t] & \xrightarrow{\beta} & Q_0[t]^* & \xrightarrow{q_\beta} & M(\beta) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow q & & \uparrow & & \\
 & & L & & 0 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & & & \\
 & & 0 & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

By Lemma 6.1 the module  $L$ , viewed as an  $A$ -module, is finitely generated and projective. The map  $\psi^*$  is obtained from the map  $\psi$  by dualizing over  $A[t]$ . We denote the cokernel of  $\psi^*$  by  $K$  and we denote the canonical map  $P_0[t]^* \rightarrow K$  by  $\hat{q}$ . One may observe that  $K$  is isomorphic to  $L^\sharp$  (see §4 for the notation) but we will not use this observation.

The  $A[t]$ -linear map  $\theta = q_\alpha \circ \psi^*: Q_0[t]^* \rightarrow M(\alpha)$  induces a map  $\bar{\theta}: M(\beta) \rightarrow \theta(Q_0[t]^*)/\theta(\beta(Q_0[t]))$ . The statement will be deduced from the following claims.

- (1) The map  $\bar{\theta}$  is an  $A[t]$ -linear isomorphism.
- (2) The map  $\hat{q}$  induces an  $A[t]$ -linear isomorphism

$$\rho: M(\alpha)/\theta(Q_0[t]^*) \rightarrow K.$$

- (3)  $\theta(\beta(Q_0[t]))$  is a sublagrangian of  $M(\alpha)$ .
- (4)  $(\theta(\beta(Q_0[t])))^\perp = \theta(Q_0[t]^*)$ .
- (5) The map  $\bar{\theta}$  is an isometry of  $t$ -torsion spaces.

In fact, by (4), (5) and Theorem 4.5,  $M(\beta)$  is Witt equivalent to  $M(\alpha)$ .

We now prove the claims. The surjectivity of  $\bar{\theta}$  is clear. To show injectivity, suppose that  $x \in \ker(\theta)$ . Choose a lift  $\tilde{x} \in Q_0[t]^*$  of  $x$ . There exist a  $y \in Q_0[t]$  and a  $z \in P_0[t]$  such that  $\psi^*(\beta(y) - \tilde{x}) = \alpha(z)$ . Replacing  $\alpha$  by  $\psi^* \circ \beta \circ \psi$  we get  $\psi^*(\tilde{x}) = \psi^*(\beta(y - \psi(z)))$ . Since  $\psi^*$  is injective, this shows that  $\tilde{x} \in \text{Im}(\beta)$  and hence  $x = 0$ .

To prove (2) observe that, since  $\hat{q} \circ \alpha = \hat{q} \circ \psi^* \circ \beta \circ \psi = 0$ ,  $\hat{q}$  induces a surjective map  $\rho: M(\alpha)/\theta(Q_0[t]^*) \rightarrow K$ . Injectivity is also clear.

To prove (3) we first observe that  $\theta(\beta(Q_0[t]))$  is a direct factor (as an  $A$ -module) of  $M(\alpha)$ . In fact, by (2),  $\theta(Q_0[t]^*)$  is a direct factor (as an  $A$ -module) of  $M(\alpha)$  and, by (1),  $\theta(\beta(Q_0[t]))$  is a direct factor of  $\theta(Q_0[t]^*)$ . For any two elements  $a, b \in P_0[t]^*$  let us denote by  $\langle a, b \rangle_\alpha$  the element  $a(\alpha_t^{-1}(b))$ , and similarly for  $\langle a, b \rangle_\beta$ . We then have

$$\langle a, b \rangle_\beta = \langle \psi^*(a), \psi^*(b) \rangle_\alpha$$

because  $\psi_t$  is an isometry. Let now  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in \theta(\beta(Q_0[t]))$  and  $x, y \in Q_0[t]$  such that  $a = \psi^*(\beta(x))$  and  $b = \psi^*(\beta(y))$  are preimages of  $a$  and  $b$ . We have to check that  $\langle \bar{a}, \bar{b} \rangle = 0$ . This is the same as saying that  $\langle a, b \rangle_\alpha$  is in  $A[t]$ . This is indeed the case because

$$\langle a, b \rangle_\alpha = \langle \psi^*(\beta(x)), \psi^*(\beta(y)) \rangle_\alpha = \langle \beta(x), \beta(y) \rangle_\beta = \beta(x)(y) \in A[t].$$

We now prove (4). For any  $\bar{a} \in \theta(\beta(Q_0[t]))$  and any  $\bar{b} \in M(\alpha)$  we choose preimages  $a$  and  $b$  of the form  $a = \psi^*(\beta(x))$  and  $b = \psi_t^*(y)$  with  $x \in Q_0[t]$  and  $y \in Q_0[t, t^{-1}]^*$ . Then we have

$$\langle a, b \rangle_\alpha = \langle \psi^*(\beta(x)), \psi_t^*(y) \rangle_\alpha = \langle \beta(x), y \rangle_\beta = \epsilon \cdot y(x)^\circ,$$

which shows that, for any  $y \in Q_0[t, t^{-1}]^*$ ,  $\langle \psi^*(\beta(Q_0[t])), b \rangle_\alpha$  is in  $A[t]$  if and only if  $y \in Q_0[t]^*$ , which is equivalent to  $\bar{b} \in \theta(Q_0[t]^*)$ .

We now prove (5). We already know that  $\bar{\theta}$  is an  $A[t]$ -linear isomorphism. A computation like the one above proves that it is an isometry.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 6.4.** *Let  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  be an  $\epsilon$ -hermitian space. Let  $n$  be such that  $t^{2n}\alpha(P_0[t]) \subseteq P_0[t]^*$ . Then the class of  $M(\alpha, n)$  in  $W_{tors}(A[t])$  does not depend on the choice of  $n$ .*

**COROLLARY 6.5.** *Let  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  and  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \beta)$  be isometric spaces and assume that for some natural integers  $m$  and  $n$ ,  $t^{2m}\alpha(P_0[t]) \subseteq P_0[t]^*$  and  $t^{2n}\beta(P_0[t]) \subseteq P_0[t]^*$ . Then  $M(\alpha, m)$  and  $M(\beta, n)$  are Witt equivalent  $t$ -torsion spaces.*

*Proof.* Let  $\psi: (P_0[t, t^{-1}], t^{2m}\alpha) \rightarrow (P_0[t, t^{-1}], t^{2n}\beta)$  be an isometry and let  $k$  be a natural integer such that  $t^k\psi(P_0[t]) \subseteq P_0[t]^*$ . Then  $t^k\psi: (P_0[t, t^{-1}], t^{2m}\alpha) \rightarrow (P_0[t, t^{-1}], t^{2n+2k}\beta)$  is an isometry and, by Lemma 6.3,  $M(\alpha, m)$  and  $M(\beta, n+k)$  are Witt equivalent. Hence, by Corollary 6.4,  $M(\alpha, m)$  and  $M(\beta, n)$  are Witt equivalent as well.  $\square$

PROPOSITION 6.6. *Associating to any space  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  the torsion space  $M(\alpha, n)$  (for a suitable  $n$ ) yields a homomorphism*

$$res: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W_{tors}(A[t]).$$

*Proof.* By Corollary 6.5, associating to the isometry class of a space  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  the Witt class of the  $t$ -torsion space  $M(\alpha, n)$  for some suitable  $n$  is a well defined map. It is obvious that the orthogonal sum of two spaces is mapped to the corresponding sum of  $t$ -torsion spaces, hence this map induces a homomorphism  $\omega: K_H \rightarrow W_{tors}(A[t])$ , where  $K_H$  is the Grothendieck group of  $\epsilon$ -hermitian spaces of the form  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$ . It is clear from the definition of  $M(\alpha, n)$  that a standard hyperbolic space  $H(Q_0[t, t^{-1}])$  is mapped to zero, hence  $\omega$  induces a homomorphism  $res: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W_{tors}(A[t])$ .  $\square$

If we compose  $res$  with  $\partial^W: W_{tors}(A[t]) \rightarrow W(A)$  we get a homomorphism

$$Res = \partial^W \circ res: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A)$$

which we call *residue*.

THEOREM 6.7. *The residue*

$$Res: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A)$$

satisfies the following two properties:

$R_1$ : For any constant space  $\xi \in W(A) \subset W(A[t, t^{-1}])$ ,  $Res(\xi) = 0$ .

$R_2$ : For any constant space  $\xi \in W(A)$ ,  $Res(t \cdot \xi) = \xi$ .

*Proof.* The two properties immediately follow from the construction of  $res$ .  $\square$

An amusing application of the existence of  $Res$  is the following result.

PROPOSITION 6.8. *Let  $A$  be a commutative semilocal ring in which 2 is invertible. Let  $(P, \alpha)$  be a quadratic space over  $A$ . If  $(P, \alpha)$  is isometric to  $(P, t \cdot \alpha)$  over  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ , then  $(P, \alpha)$  is hyperbolic.*

*Proof.* Let  $\xi$  be the class of  $(P, \alpha)$  in  $W(A)$ . In  $W'(A[t])$  we have  $\xi = t \cdot \xi$ . Applying *Res* to both sides we obtain  $\xi = 0$ . Since  $A$  is semilocal, by Witt's cancellation theorem we conclude that  $(P, \alpha)$  is hyperbolic.  $\square$

## 7. THE WITT GROUP OF LAURENT POLYNOMIALS

Let  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$  be the group defined in the introduction.

THEOREM 7.1. *Let  $A$  be an associative ring with involution in which 2 is invertible. Let*

$$\varphi: W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}])$$

*be the canonical homomorphism.*

- (a) *If  $H^2(\mathbf{Z}/2, K_{-1}(A)) = 0$ , then  $\varphi$  is surjective.*
- (b) *If  $K_0(A) = K_0(A[t]) = K_0(A[t, t^{-1}])$ , then  $\varphi$  is an isomorphism.*

*Proof of (a).* Corollary 2.4 implies that

$$H^2(\mathbf{Z}/2, K_0(A[t, t^{-1}]) / K_0(A)) = 0.$$

This means that every projective  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ -module  $P$  is in the same class as some projective module of the form

$$P_0[t, t^{-1}] \oplus Q \oplus Q^*,$$

where  $P_0$  is a projective  $A$ -module. Therefore, adding to a space  $(P, \alpha)$  a hyperbolic space  $H(Q')$  with  $Q \oplus Q'$  free, we may assume that  $P$  is of the form  $P_0[t, t^{-1}]$ . This means precisely that the class of  $(P, \alpha)$  is in the image of  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$ .  $\square$

*Proof of (b).* Surjectivity is obvious, because by assumption every projective  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ -module is stably extended from  $A$ . Suppose that the class of a space  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  vanishes in  $W(A[t, t^{-1}])$ . This means that, for some  $Q$  and  $R$ , there exists an isometry

$$(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha) \perp H(Q) \simeq H(R).$$

Adding to both sides a suitable  $H(A[t, t^{-1}]^n)$  we may replace  $Q$  and  $R$  by extended modules  $Q_0[t, t^{-1}]$  and  $R_0[t, t^{-1}]$ . Then the isometry means precisely that the class of  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  vanishes in  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$ .  $\square$

We can restate assertion (b) of Theorem 7.1 as follows.

**THEOREM 7.2.** *Let  $A$  be an associative ring with involution, in which  $2$  is invertible. Assume that  $K_0(A) = K_0(A[t]) = K_0(A[t, t^{-1}])$ . Then there exists a natural homomorphism  $Res$  such that the sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow W(A) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{Res} W(A) \rightarrow 0$$

*is split exact. The homomorphism  $Res$  restricts to an isomorphism of  $t \cdot W(A)$  onto  $W(A)$ .*

## 8. TWO COUNTEREXAMPLES

In this section we show that the map  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}])$ , in general, is neither surjective nor injective.

**EXAMPLE 8.1.** We first recall the Mayer-Vietoris sequence associated to a cartesian square of commutative rings (see [1], Ch. IX, Corollary 5.12). Let

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \longrightarrow & S \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ \bar{R} & \longrightarrow & \bar{S} \end{array}$$

be a cartesian diagram of commutative rings, with  $f$  or  $g$  surjective. Denote by  $\widetilde{K}_0$  the kernel of the rank function on  $K_0$ . Then there is a commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} K_1(\bar{R}) \times K_1(S) & \longrightarrow & K_1(\bar{S}) & \longrightarrow & \widetilde{K}_0(R) & \longrightarrow & \widetilde{K}_0(\bar{R}) \times \widetilde{K}_0(S) & \longrightarrow & \widetilde{K}_0(\bar{S}) \\ \downarrow \det & & \downarrow \det & & \downarrow \wedge^{\max} & & \downarrow \wedge^{\max} & & \downarrow \wedge^{\max} \\ \mathbf{G}_m(\bar{R}) \times \mathbf{G}_m(S) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{G}_m(\bar{S}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(R) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(\bar{R}) \times \text{Pic}(S) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(\bar{S}) \end{array}$$

Let  $A$  be the local ring at the origin of the complex plane curve  $Y^2 = X^2 - X^3$ ,  $\tilde{A}$  the normalisation of  $A$  and  $\mathfrak{c}$  the conductor of  $\tilde{A}$  in  $A$ . Applying the big diagram above to the cartesian squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & \tilde{A} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (A/\mathfrak{c}) & \longrightarrow & (\tilde{A}/\mathfrak{c}) \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A[t, t^{-1}] & \longrightarrow & \tilde{A}[t, t^{-1}] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (A/\mathfrak{c})[t, t^{-1}] & \longrightarrow & (\tilde{A}/\mathfrak{c})[t, t^{-1}] \end{array}$$

it is easy to see that  $\widetilde{K}_0(A[t, t^{-1}]) = \mathbf{C}^* \oplus \mathbf{Z} = \text{Pic}(A[t, t^{-1}])$ . This shows that a projective  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ -module  $P$  is stably free if and only if its maximal exterior power  $\bigwedge^{\max}(P)$  is isomorphic to  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ .

Let  $I$  be an ideal representing  $(1, 1)$  in  $\mathbf{C}^* \oplus \mathbf{Z} = \text{Pic}(A[t, t^{-1}])$ . The module underlying the space  $H(I \oplus A[t, t^{-1}] \oplus A[t, t^{-1}])$  is free. In fact it is stably free because its determinant is trivial, hence, by a well-known cancellation theorem it is free. This shows that  $H(I \oplus A[t, t^{-1}] \oplus A[t, t^{-1}])$  is a quadratic space of the form  $(P_0[t, t^{-1}], \alpha)$  with  $P_0$  free of rank 6 over  $A$ . Clearly this space represents the zero element of  $W(A[t, t^{-1}])$ . We claim that its class in  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$  is not trivial.

Since  $A$  is local, projective modules extended from  $A$  are free. If  $H(I \oplus A[t, t^{-1}] \oplus A[t, t^{-1}])$  were hyperbolic in  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}])$  it would be stably isometric to  $H(A[t, t^{-1}] \oplus A[t, t^{-1}] \oplus A[t, t^{-1}])$  and hence, by the quadratic cancellation theorem (see [4], VI, 6.2.5), it would be isometric to it. Recall that, for any commutative ring  $R$  in which 2 is invertible and any finitely generated projective  $R$ -module  $P$ , the even Clifford algebra  $C_0$  of  $H(P)$  is of the form

$$C_0 = \text{End}_R(\bigwedge^{\text{even}}(P)) \times \text{End}_R(\bigwedge^{\text{odd}}(P)),$$

where  $\bigwedge^{\text{even}}(P)$  (respectively  $\bigwedge^{\text{odd}}(P)$ ) is the even (respectively odd) part of the exterior algebra of  $P$ . In the case  $P = I \oplus A[t, t^{-1}] \oplus A[t, t^{-1}]$  we have

$$C_0 = \text{End}_{A[t, t^{-1}]}(A[t, t^{-1}]^2 \oplus I^2) \times \text{End}_{A[t, t^{-1}]}(A[t, t^{-1}]^2 \oplus I^2).$$

Suppose now that  $H(I \oplus A[t, t^{-1}]^2)$  and  $H(A[t, t^{-1}]^3)$  are isometric. In this case their even Clifford algebras would be isomorphic, hence the algebra  $\text{End}_{A[t, t^{-1}]}(A[t, t^{-1}]^2 \oplus I^2)$  would be a  $4 \times 4$  matrix algebra. By Morita theory the module  $A[t, t^{-1}]^2 \oplus I^2$  would be of the form  $J^4$  for some invertible ideal  $J$ . Taking the fourth exterior power of both sides we would have  $I^2 = J^4$ , which is impossible because  $I$  represents  $(1, 1)$  in  $\mathbf{C}^* \oplus \mathbf{Z}$ .

This shows that, even for a one-dimensional local domain, the map  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}])$  may fail to be injective.

**EXAMPLE 8.2.** We define a commutative ring  $A$  by the cartesian diagram of real algebras

$$(1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{R}[X, Y] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ \mathbf{R} & \xrightarrow{\iota} & C \end{array}$$

where  $C = \mathbf{R}[x, y] = \mathbf{R}[X, Y]/(X^2 + Y^2 - 1)$ ,  $\pi$  is the canonical projection and  $\iota$  the canonical injection. Then  $C \oplus C$  is the direct sum of its two submodules

$$P = C_{\frac{1}{2}}(y + 1, -x) + C_{\frac{1}{2}}(-x, 1 - y) \quad \text{and} \quad P' = C_{\frac{1}{2}}(1 - y, x) + C_{\frac{1}{2}}(x, 1 + y)$$

and we can define an automorphism  $\alpha$  of  $C[t, t^{-1}] \oplus C[t, t^{-1}]$  as the identity on  $P'$  and multiplication by  $t$  on  $P$ . With respect to the canonical basis of  $C[t, t^{-1}] \oplus C[t, t^{-1}]$ ,

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} t(1+y) + 1 - y & -tx + x \\ -tx + x & t(1-y) + 1 + y \end{pmatrix}.$$

The matrix  $\alpha$  has determinant equal to  $t$  and thus lies in  $\text{GL}_2(C[t, t^{-1}])$ . According to Theorem 7.4 of [1] its class in  $K_1(C[t, t^{-1}])$  is the image of  $P$  by the canonical injection  $\lambda$  mentioned in §2. It is easy to see that  $P$  is not free over  $C$ . In fact it turns out to represent the non trivial class of  $\text{Pic}(C) = \mathbf{Z}/2$ . Since the homomorphism  $\iota$  in the cartesian square that defines  $A$  is surjective, tensoring the diagram with  $\mathbf{R}[t, t^{-1}]$  yields a Milnor patching diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A[t, t^{-1}] & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{R}[X, Y][t, t^{-1}] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ \mathbf{R}[t, t^{-1}] & \xrightarrow{\iota} & C[t, t^{-1}] \end{array}$$

We can use this diagram and the matrix  $\alpha$  (see for instance [1], Chapter IX, Theorem 5.1) to patch a rank 2 free module  $Q$  over  $\mathbf{R}[X, Y][t, t^{-1}]$  with a rank 2 free module  $R$  over  $\mathbf{R}[t, t^{-1}]$  and get a rank 2 projective module

$$M = \{(q, r) \in Q \times R \mid \alpha(\pi_*(q)) = \iota_*(r)\}$$

over  $A[t, t^{-1}]$ . We now equip  $M$  with a skew-symmetric structure. To do this we put on  $Q$  and on  $R$  the skew-symmetric structures defined, respectively, by the matrices

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/t \\ -1/t & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $\alpha^* \tau \alpha = \sigma$ , the skew-symmetric structures  $\sigma: Q \rightarrow Q^*$  and  $\tau: R \rightarrow R^*$  are compatible with the patching and therefore they define a skew-symmetric structure  $\varphi: M \rightarrow M^*$  on  $M$ .

We claim that the class of this space is not in the image of  $W'([t, t^{-1}])$ . Extending to  $K_{-1}$  the Mayer-Vietoris sequence associated to (1) (see [1], Chapter XII, Theorem 8.3) we get an exact sequence

$$K_0(\mathbf{R}[X, Y]) \oplus K_0(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow K_0(C) \rightarrow K_{-1}(A) \rightarrow K_{-1}(\mathbf{R}[X, Y]) \oplus K_{-1}(\mathbf{R}).$$

From the fact that regular rings have a vanishing  $K_{-1}$ , that  $K_0(\mathbf{R}[X, Y]) = K_0(\mathbf{R}) = \mathbf{Z}$  and that  $K_0(C) = \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}/2$ , where the element of order 2 is the class of  $P$ , we easily deduce that  $K_{-1}(A) = \mathbf{Z}/2$ , generated by the image of  $M$ . Thus, by Corollary 2.4, the class of  $M$  generates  $H^2(\mathbf{Z}/2, K_0(A[t, t^{-1}])/K_0(A)) = \mathbf{Z}/2$ . Consider now the homomorphism

$$\omega: W(A[t, t^{-1}]) \longrightarrow H^2(\mathbf{Z}/2, K_0(A[t, t^{-1}])/K_0(A))$$

obtained by associating to any space its underlying projective module. Since  $\omega((M, \varphi)) \neq 0$ ,  $(M, \varphi)$  cannot be Witt equivalent to a space supported by a module extended from  $A$ . This shows that the map  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}])$  is not surjective.

REMARK 8.3. We suspect that even if the assumption of (a) is satisfied the map  $W'(A[t, t^{-1}]) \rightarrow W(A[t, t^{-1}])$  may not be injective, but we did not find an example to confirm our suspicion.

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