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Noncommutative  $L$ -functions for  
varieties over finite fields

Malte Witte

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# NONCOMMUTATIVE $L$ -FUNCTIONS FOR VARIETIES OVER FINITE FIELDS

MALTE WITTE

ABSTRACT. In this article we prove a Grothendieck trace formula for  $L$ -functions of not necessarily commutative adic sheaves.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an  $\ell$ -adic sheaf on a separated scheme  $X$  over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic different from  $\ell$ . The  $L$ -function of  $\mathcal{F}$  is defined as the product over all closed points  $x$  of  $X$  of the characteristic polynomials of the geometric Frobenius automorphism  $\mathfrak{F}_x$  at  $x$  acting on the stalk  $\mathcal{F}_x$ :

$$L(X, \mathcal{F}, T) = \prod_x \det(1 - \mathfrak{F}_x T^{\deg x} : \mathcal{F}_x)^{-1}.$$

The Grothendieck trace formula relates the  $L$ -function to the action of the geometric Frobenius  $\mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}}$  on the  $\ell$ -adic cohomology groups with proper support over the base change  $\overline{X}$  of  $X$  to the algebraic closure:

$$L(X, \mathcal{F}, T) = \prod_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \det(1 - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} T : H_c^i(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}))^{(-1)^{i+1}}.$$

It was used by Grothendieck to establish the rationality and the functional equation of the zeta function of  $X$ , both of which are parts of the Weil conjectures.

The Grothendieck trace formula may also be viewed as an equality between two elements of the first K-group of the power series ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]]$ . Since the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]]$  is a semilocal commutative ring,  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]])$  may be identified with the group of units  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]]^{\times}$  via the map induced by the determinant. For each closed point  $x$  of  $X$ , the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]]$ -automorphism  $1 - \mathfrak{F}_x T$  on  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}} \mathcal{F}_x$  defines a class in  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]])$ . The product of all these classes converges in the profinite topology induced on  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]])$  by the isomorphism

$$K_1(\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]]) \cong \varprojlim_n K_1(\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]]/(\ell^n, T^n)).$$

The image of the limit under the determinant map agrees with the inverse of the  $L$ -function of  $\mathcal{F}$ . On the other hand, the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]]$ -automorphisms

$$\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}} H_c^i(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{1 - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} T} \mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}} H_c^i(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F})$$

also give rise to elements in the group  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[[T]])$ . The Grothendieck trace formula may thus be translated into an equality between the alternating product of those elements and the class corresponding to the  $L$ -function.

In this article, we will show that in the above formulation of the Grothendieck trace formula, one may replace  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}$  by any adic  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}$ -algebra, i. e. a compact, semilocal  $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}$ -algebra  $\Lambda$  whose Jacobson radical is finitely generated. These rings play an important role in noncommutative Iwasawa theory.

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For any such  $\Lambda$ , we introduced in [Wit08] the notion of a perfect complex of adic sheaves of  $\Lambda$ -modules on  $X$ . Furthermore, we presented an explicit functorial construction of a perfect complex of  $\Lambda$ -modules  $R\Gamma_c(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet)$  that computes the cohomology with proper support of  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$ . By the same pattern as above, we define the  $L$ -function of such a complex  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  as an element  $L(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T)$  of  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$ . The automorphism  $1 - \mathfrak{F}_\mathbb{F}T$  on  $\Lambda[[T]] \otimes_\Lambda R\Gamma_c(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet)$  gives rise to another class in  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$ . Below, we shall prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  be a perfect complex of adic sheaves of  $\Lambda$ -modules on  $X$ . Then*

$$L(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = [\Lambda[[T]] \otimes_\Lambda R\Gamma_c(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet) \xrightarrow{1 - \mathfrak{F}_\mathbb{F}T} \Lambda[[T]] \otimes_\Lambda R\Gamma_c(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet)]^{-1}$$

in  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$ .

As in the proof of the classical Grothendieck trace formula, one may reduce everything to the case of  $X$  being a smooth geometrically connected curve over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}$ . Moreover, one can replace  $\Lambda$  by  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]$ , where  $G$  is the Galois group of a Galois covering of  $X$ . The above theorem is then deduced from the classical Grothendieck trace formula and the fact that

$$\varprojlim_L \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\mathrm{Gal}(L/K)]) = 0,$$

where  $L$  runs through the finite Galois extensions of the function field  $K$  of  $X$ .

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 recalls briefly Waldhausen's construction of algebraic K-theory. In Section 3 we introduce a special Waldhausen category that computes the K-theory of an adic ring. A similar construction is then used in Section 4 to define the categories of perfect complexes of adic sheaves. In Section 5 we study the first K-group of  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]$  and prove that  $\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\mathrm{Gal}(L/K)])$  vanishes in the limit. In Section 6 we define the  $L$ -function of a perfect complex of adic sheaves. Section 7 contains the proof of the Grothendieck trace formula for these  $L$ -functions.

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## 2. WALDHAUSEN CATEGORIES

Waldhausen [Wal85] introduced a construction of algebraic K-theory that is both more transparent and more flexible than Quillen's original approach. He associates K-groups to any category of the following kind.

**Definition 2.1.** A *Waldhausen category*  $\mathbf{W}$  is a category with a zero object  $*$ , together with two subcategories  $\mathrm{co}(\mathbf{W})$  (*cofibrations*) and  $\mathrm{w}(\mathbf{W})$  (*weak equivalences*) subject to the following set of axioms.

- (1) Any isomorphism in  $\mathbf{W}$  is a morphism in  $\mathrm{co}(\mathbf{W})$  and  $\mathrm{w}(\mathbf{W})$ .
- (2) For every object  $A$  in  $\mathbf{W}$ , the unique map  $* \rightarrow A$  is in  $\mathrm{co}(\mathbf{W})$ .
- (3) If  $A \rightarrow B$  is a map in  $\mathrm{co}(\mathbf{W})$  and  $A \rightarrow C$  is a map in  $\mathbf{W}$ , then the pushout  $B \cup_A C$  exists and the canonical map  $C \rightarrow B \cup_A C$  is in  $\mathrm{co}(\mathbf{W})$ .
- (4) If in the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} B & \longleftarrow & A & \xrightarrow{f} & C \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B' & \longleftarrow & A' & \xrightarrow{g} & C' \end{array}$$

the morphisms  $f$  and  $g$  are cofibrations and the downwards pointing arrows are weak equivalences, then the natural map  $B \cup_A C \rightarrow B' \cup_{A'} C'$  is a weak equivalence.

We denote maps from  $A$  to  $B$  in  $\text{co}(\mathbf{W})$  by  $A \twoheadrightarrow B$ , those in  $\text{w}(\mathbf{W})$  by  $A \xrightarrow{\sim} B$ . If  $C = B \cup_A *$  is a cokernel of the cofibration  $A \twoheadrightarrow B$ , we denote the natural quotient map from  $B$  to  $C$  by  $B \twoheadrightarrow C$ . The sequence

$$A \twoheadrightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow C$$

is called *exact sequence* or *cofibre sequence*.

**Definition 2.2.** A functor between Waldhausen categories is called (*Waldhausen*) *exact* if it preserves cofibrations, weak equivalences, and pushouts along cofibrations.

If  $\mathbf{W}$  is a Waldhausen category, then Waldhausen's  $S$ -construction yields a topological space  $\mathbb{K}(\mathbf{W})$  and Waldhausen exact functors  $F: \mathbf{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{W}'$  yield continuous maps  $\mathbb{K}(F): \mathbb{K}(\mathbf{W}) \rightarrow \mathbb{K}(\mathbf{W}')$  [Wal85].

**Definition 2.3.** The  $n$ -th *K-group* of  $\mathbf{W}$  is defined to be the  $n$ -th homotopy group of  $\mathbb{K}(\mathbf{W})$ :

$$K_n(\mathbf{W}) = \pi_n(\mathbb{K}(\mathbf{W})).$$

*Example 2.4.*

- (1) Any exact category  $\mathbf{E}$  may be viewed as a Waldhausen category by taking the admissible monomorphisms as cofibrations and isomorphisms as weak equivalences. Then the Waldhausen K-groups of  $\mathbf{E}$  agree with the Quillen K-groups of  $\mathbf{E}$  [TT90, Theorem 1.11.2].
- (2) Let  $\mathbf{Kom}^b(\mathbf{E})$  be the category of bounded complexes over the exact category  $\mathbf{E}$  with degreewise admissible monomorphisms as cofibrations and quasi-isomorphisms (in the category of complexes of an ambient abelian category  $\mathbf{A}$ ) as weak equivalences. By the Gillet-Waldhausen theorem [TT90, Theorem 1.11.7], the Waldhausen K-groups of  $\mathbf{Kom}^b(\mathbf{E})$  also agree with the K-groups of  $\mathbf{E}$ .
- (3) In fact, Thomason showed that if  $\mathbf{W}$  is any sufficiently nice Waldhausen category of complexes and  $F: \mathbf{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kom}^b(\mathbf{E})$  a Waldhausen exact functor that induces an equivalence of the derived categories of  $\mathbf{W}$  and  $\mathbf{Kom}^b(\mathbf{E})$ , then  $F$  induces an isomorphism of the corresponding K-groups [TT90, Theorem 1.9.8].

*Remark 2.5.* In the view of Example 2.4.(3) one might wonder whether it is possible to define a reasonable K-theory for triangulated categories. However, [Sch02] shows that such a construction fails to exist.

The zeroth K-group of a Waldhausen category can be described fairly explicitly as follows.

**Proposition 2.6.** *Let  $\mathbf{W}$  be a Waldhausen category. The group  $K_0(\mathbf{W})$  is the abelian group generated by the objects of  $\mathbf{W}$  modulo the relations*

- (1)  $[A] = [B]$  if there exists a weak equivalence  $A \xrightarrow{\sim} B$ ,
- (2)  $[B] = [A][C]$  if there exists a cofibre sequence  $A \twoheadrightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow C$ .

*Proof.* See [TT90, §1.5.6]. □

There also exists a description of  $K_1(\mathbf{W})$  for general  $\mathbf{W}$  as the kernel of a certain group homomorphism [MT07]. We shall come back to this description later in a more specific situation.

3. THE  $K$ -THEORY OF ADIC RINGS

All rings will be associative with unity, but not necessarily commutative. For any ring  $R$ , we let

$$\text{Jac}(R) = \{x \in R \mid 1 - rx \text{ is invertible for any } r \in R\}$$

denote the *Jacobson radical* of  $R$ , i. e. the intersection of all maximal left ideals. It is the largest two-sided ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $1 + I \subset R^\times$  [Lam91, Chapter 2, §4]. The ring  $R$  is called *semilocal* if  $R/\text{Jac}(R)$  is artinian.

**Definition 3.1.** A ring  $\Lambda$  is called an *adic ring* if it satisfies any of the following equivalent conditions:

- (1)  $\Lambda$  is compact, semilocal and the Jacobson radical is finitely generated.
- (2) For each integer  $n \geq 1$ , the ideal  $\text{Jac}(\Lambda)^n$  is of finite index in  $\Lambda$  and

$$\Lambda = \varprojlim_n \Lambda / \text{Jac}(\Lambda)^n.$$

- (3) There exists a twosided ideal  $I$  such that for each integer  $n \geq 1$ , the ideal  $I^n$  is of finite index in  $\Lambda$  and

$$\Lambda = \varprojlim_n \Lambda / I^n.$$

*Example 3.2.* The following rings are adic rings:

- (1) any finite ring,
- (2)  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ ,
- (3) the group ring  $\Lambda[G]$  for any finite group  $G$  and any adic ring  $\Lambda$ ,
- (4) the power series ring  $\Lambda[[T]]$  for any adic ring  $\Lambda$  and an indeterminate  $T$  that commutes with all elements of  $\Lambda$ ,
- (5) the profinite group ring  $\Lambda[[G]]$ , when  $\Lambda$  is a adic  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -algebra and  $G$  is a profinite group whose  $\ell$ -Sylow subgroup has finite index in  $G$ .

Note that adic rings are not noetherian in general, the power series over  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$  in two noncommuting indeterminates being a counterexample.

We will now examine the  $K$ -theory of  $\Lambda$ .

**Definition 3.3.** Let  $R$  be any ring. A complex  $M^\bullet$  of left  $R$ -modules is called *strictly perfect* if it is strictly bounded and for every  $n$ , the module  $M^n$  is finitely generated and projective. We let  $\mathbf{SP}(R)$  denote the Waldhausen category of strictly perfect complexes, with quasi-isomorphisms as weak equivalences and injective complex morphisms as cofibrations.

**Definition 3.4.** Let  $R$  and  $S$  be two rings. We denote by  $R^{\text{op}}\text{-}\mathbf{SP}(S)$  the Waldhausen category of complexes of  $S$ - $R$ -bimodules (with  $S$  acting from the left,  $R$  acting from the right) which are strictly perfect as complexes of  $S$ -modules. The weak equivalences are given by quasi-isomorphisms, the cofibrations are the injective complex morphisms.

By Example 2.4 we know that the Waldhausen  $K$ -theory of  $\mathbf{SP}(R)$  coincides with the Quillen  $K$ -theory of  $R$ :

$$K_n(\mathbf{SP}(R)) = K_n(R).$$

For complexes  $M^\bullet$  and  $N^\bullet$  of right and left  $R$ -modules, respectively, we let

$$(M \otimes_R N)^\bullet$$

denote the total complex of the bicomplex  $M^\bullet \otimes_R N^\bullet$ . Any complex  $M^\bullet$  in  $R^{\text{op}}\text{-}\mathbf{SP}(S)$  clearly gives rise to a Waldhausen exact functor

$$(M \otimes_R (-))^\bullet: \mathbf{SP}(R) \rightarrow \mathbf{SP}(S).$$

and hence, to homomorphisms  $K_n(R) \rightarrow K_n(S)$ .

Let now  $\Lambda$  be an adic ring. The first algebraic K-group of  $\Lambda$  has the following useful property.

**Proposition 3.5** ([FK06], Prop. 1.5.3). *Let  $\Lambda$  be an adic ring. Then*

$$K_1(\Lambda) = \varprojlim_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda} K_1(\Lambda/I)$$

*In particular,  $K_1(\Lambda)$  is a profinite group.*

It will be convenient to introduce another Waldhausen category that computes the K-theory of  $\Lambda$ .

**Definition 3.6.** Let  $R$  be any ring. A complex  $M^\bullet$  of left  $R$ -modules is called *DG-flat* if every module  $M^n$  is flat and for every acyclic complex  $N^\bullet$  of right  $R$ -modules, the complex  $(N \otimes_R M)^\bullet$  is acyclic.

We shall denote the lattice of open ideals of an adic ring  $\Lambda$  by  $\mathfrak{I}_\Lambda$ .

**Definition 3.7.** Let  $\Lambda$  be an adic ring. We denote by  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$  the following Waldhausen category. The objects of  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$  are inverse system  $(P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda}$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) for each  $I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda$ ,  $P_I^\bullet$  is a DG-flat complex of left  $\Lambda/I$ -modules and *perfect*, i. e. quasi-isomorphic to a complex in  $\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda)$ ,
- (2) for each  $I \subset J \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda$ , the transition morphism of the system

$$\varphi_{IJ} : P_I^\bullet \rightarrow P_J^\bullet$$

induces an isomorphism

$$\Lambda/J \otimes_{\Lambda/I} P_I^\bullet \cong P_J^\bullet.$$

A morphism of inverse systems  $(f_I : P_I^\bullet \rightarrow Q_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda}$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$  is a weak equivalence if every  $f_I$  is a quasi-isomorphism. It is a cofibration if every  $f_I$  is injective.

The following proposition is an easy consequence of Waldhausen's approximation theorem.

**Proposition 3.8.** *The Waldhausen exact functor*

$$\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda), \quad P^\bullet \rightarrow (\Lambda/I \otimes_\Lambda P^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda}$$

*identifies  $\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda)$  with a full Waldhausen subcategory of  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$ . Moreover, it induces isomorphisms*

$$K_n(\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda)) \cong K_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)).$$

*Proof.* See [Wit08, Proposition 5.2.5]. □

We will now extend the definition of the tensor product to  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$ .

**Definition 3.9.** For  $(P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda} \in \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$  and  $M^\bullet \in \Lambda^\varphi\text{-}\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda')$  we set

$$\Psi_M((P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda}) = (\varprojlim_{J \in \mathfrak{I}_{\Lambda'}} \Lambda'/I \otimes_{\Lambda'} (M \otimes_\Lambda P_J)^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_{\Lambda'}}$$

and obtain a Waldhausen exact functor

$$\Psi_M : \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda').$$

**Proposition 3.10.** *Let  $M^\bullet$  be a complex in  $\Lambda^{\mathfrak{p}}\text{-SP}(\Lambda')$ . Then the following diagram commutes.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K_n(\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda)) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & K_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)) \\ \downarrow K_n(M^\bullet \otimes_\Lambda (-)) & & \downarrow K_n(\Psi_M) \\ K_n(\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda')) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & K_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda')) \end{array}$$

*Proof.* Let  $P^\bullet$  be a strictly perfect complex in  $\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda)$ . There exists a canonical isomorphism

$$(\Lambda'/I \otimes_{\Lambda'} (M \otimes_\Lambda P)^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_{\Lambda'}} \cong (\varprojlim_{J \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda} \Lambda'/I \otimes_{\Lambda'} (M \otimes_\Lambda \Lambda/J \otimes_\Lambda P)^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_{\Lambda'}}.$$

□

From [MT07] we deduce the following properties of the group  $K_1(\Lambda)$ .

**Proposition 3.11.** *The group  $K_1(\Lambda)$  is generated by the weak autoequivalences  $(f_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$ . Moreover, we have the following relations:*

- (1)  $[(f_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}] = [(g_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}][h_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^\bullet]_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}$  if for each  $I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda$ , one has  $f_I = g_I \circ h_I$ ,
- (2)  $[(f_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}] = [(g_I: Q_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} Q_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}]$  if for each  $I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda$ , there exists a quasi-isomorphism  $a_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} Q_I^\bullet$  such that the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P_I^\bullet & \xrightarrow{f_I} & P_I^\bullet \\ \downarrow a_I & & \downarrow a_I \\ Q_I^\bullet & \xrightarrow{g_I} & Q_I^\bullet \end{array}$$

commutes up to homotopy,

- (3)  $[(g_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}] = [(f_I: P_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}][h_I: P_I^{\bullet\bullet} \xrightarrow{\sim} P_I^{\bullet\bullet}]_{I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda}$  if for each  $I \in \mathfrak{J}_\Lambda$ , there exists an exact sequence  $P \rightarrow P' \rightarrow P''$  such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} P_I^{\bullet\bullet} & \longrightarrow & P_I^{\bullet\bullet} & \twoheadrightarrow & P_I^{\bullet\bullet} \\ \downarrow f_I & & \downarrow g_I & & \downarrow h_I \\ P_I^\bullet & \longrightarrow & P_I^\bullet & \twoheadrightarrow & P_I^\bullet \end{array}$$

commutes in the strict sense.

*Proof.* The description of  $K_1(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda))$  as the kernel of

$$\mathcal{D}_1 \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda) \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{D}_0 \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)$$

given in [MT07] shows that the weak autoequivalences are indeed elements of  $K_1(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda))$ . Together with Proposition 3.5 this description also implies that relations (1) and (3) are satisfied. For relation (2), one can use [Wit08, Lemma 3.1.6]. Finally, the classical description of  $K_1(\Lambda)$  implies that  $K_1(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda))$  is already generated by isomorphisms of finitely generated, projective modules viewed as strictly perfect complexes concentrated in degree 0. □

*Remark 3.12.* Despite the relatively explicit description of  $K_1(\mathbf{W})$  for a Waldhausen category  $\mathbf{W}$  in [MT07] it is not an easy task to deduce from it a presentation of  $K_1(\mathbf{W})$  as an abelian group. We refer to [MT06] for a partial result in this direction.

In particular, one should not expect that the relations (1)–(3) describe the group  $K_1(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda))$  completely. However, they will suffice for the purpose of this paper.

## 4. PERFECT COMPLEXES OF ADIC SHEAVES

We let  $\mathbb{F}$  denote a finite field of characteristic  $p$ , with  $q = p^\nu$  elements. Furthermore, we fix an algebraic closure  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$  of  $\mathbb{F}$ .

For any scheme  $X$  in the category  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$  of separated  $\mathbb{F}$ -schemes of finite type and any adic ring  $\Lambda$  we introduced in [Wit08] a Waldhausen category  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda)$  of perfect complexes of adic sheaves on  $X$ . Below, we will recall the definition.

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $R$  be a finite ring and  $X$  be a scheme in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$ . A complex  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  of étale sheaves of left  $R$ -modules on  $X$  is called *strictly perfect* if it is strictly bounded and each  $\mathcal{F}^n$  is constructible and flat. A complex is called *perfect* if it is quasi-isomorphic to a strictly perfect complex. It is *DG-flat* if for each geometric point of  $X$ , the complex of stalks is DG-flat.

**Definition 4.2.** We will denote by  $\mathbf{PDG}(X, R)$  the *category of DG-flat perfect complexes of  $R$ -modules* on  $X$ . It is a Waldhausen category with quasi-isomorphisms as weak equivalences and injective complex morphisms as cofibrations.

**Definition 4.3.** Let  $X$  be a scheme in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}$  and let  $\Lambda$  be an adic ring. The *category of perfect complexes of adic sheaves*  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda)$  is the following Waldhausen category. The objects of  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda)$  are inverse system  $(\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda}$  such that:

- (1) for each  $I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet$  is in  $\mathbf{PDG}(X, \Lambda/I)$ ,
- (2) for each  $I \subset J \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda$ , the transition morphism

$$\varphi_{IJ} : \mathcal{F}_I^\bullet \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_J^\bullet$$

of the system induces an isomorphism

$$\Lambda/J \otimes_{\Lambda/I} \mathcal{F}_I^\bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{F}_J^\bullet.$$

Weak equivalences and cofibrations are those morphisms of inverse systems that are weak equivalences or cofibrations for each  $I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda$ , respectively.

*Remark 4.4.* If  $\Lambda$  is a finite ring, the zero ideal is open and hence, an element in  $\mathfrak{I}_\Lambda$ . In particular, the following Waldhausen exact functors are mutually inverse equivalences for finite rings  $\Lambda$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda) &\rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}(X, \Lambda), & (\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda} &\mapsto \mathcal{F}_{(0)}^\bullet, \\ \mathbf{PDG}(X, \Lambda) &\rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda), & \mathcal{F}^\bullet &\mapsto (\Lambda/I \otimes_\Lambda \mathcal{F}^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

We use these functors to identify the two categories.

If  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_\ell$ , then the subcategory of complexes concentrated in degree 0 of  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \mathbb{Z}_\ell)$  corresponds precisely to the exact category of flat constructible  $\ell$ -adic sheaves on  $X$  in the sense of [Gro77, Exposé VI, Definition 1.1.1]. In this sense, we recover the classical theory.

If  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  is a morphism of schemes, we define a Waldhausen exact functor

$$f^* : \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(Y, \Lambda), \quad (\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda} \mapsto (f^* \mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda}.$$

We will also need a Waldhausen exact functor that computes higher direct images with proper support. For the purposes of this article it suffices to use the following construction.

**Definition 4.5.** Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a morphism in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$ . Then there exists a factorisation  $f = p \circ j$  with  $j: X \hookrightarrow X'$  an open immersion and  $p: X' \rightarrow Y$  a proper morphism. Let  $G_{X'}^\bullet, \mathcal{G}$  denote the Godement resolution of a complex  $\mathcal{G}^\bullet$  of abelian étale sheaves on  $X'$ . Define

$$\begin{aligned} R f_! : \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda) &\rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(Y, \Lambda) \\ (\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda} &\mapsto (f_* G_{X'}^\bullet j_! \mathcal{F}_I)_{I \in \mathfrak{I}_\Lambda} \end{aligned}$$



Obviously, this definition depends on the particular choice of the compactification  $f = p \circ j$ . However, all possible choices will induce the same homomorphisms

$$K_n(\mathbf{R} f_!): K_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda)) \rightarrow K_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(Y, \Lambda))$$

and this is all we need.

*Remark 4.6.* In [Wit08, Section 4.5] we present a way to make the construction of  $\mathbf{R} f_!$  independent of the choice of a particular compactification.

**Proposition 4.7.** *Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a morphism in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$ .*

- (1)  $K_n(\mathbf{R} f_!)$  is independent of the choice of a compactification  $f = p \circ j$ .
- (2) Let  $\mathbb{F}'$  be a subfield of  $\mathbb{F}$  and consider  $f$  as a morphism in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}'}^{sep}$ . Then  $K_n(\mathbf{R} f_!)$  remains the same.
- (3) If  $g: Y \rightarrow Z$  is another morphism in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$ , then

$$K_n(\mathbf{R}(g \circ f)_!) = K_n(\mathbf{R} g_!) \circ K_n(\mathbf{R} f_!)$$

- (4) For any cartesian square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y \times_X Z & \xrightarrow{f'} & Z \\ g' \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ Y & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array}$$

in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$  we have

$$K_n(f^* \mathbf{R} g_!) = K_n(\mathbf{R} g'_! f'^*)$$

*Proof.* All of this follows easily from [AGV72, Exposé XXVII]. See also [Wit08, Section 4.5].  $\square$

**Definition 4.8.** Let  $X$  be a scheme in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$  and write  $h: X \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec} \mathbb{F}$  for the structure map,  $s: \mathrm{Spec} \bar{\mathbb{F}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec} \mathbb{F}$  for the map induced by the embedding into the algebraic closure. We define the Waldhausen exact functor

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}} \Gamma_c(\bar{X}, -): \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(\Lambda)$$

to be the composition of

$$\mathbf{R} h_!: \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(\mathrm{Spec} \mathbb{F}, \Lambda)$$

with the section functor

$$\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(\mathrm{Spec} \mathbb{F}, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(\Lambda), \quad (\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathcal{J}_\Lambda} \rightarrow (\Gamma(\mathrm{Spec} \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* \mathcal{F}_I^\bullet))_{I \in \mathcal{J}_\Lambda}.$$

*Remark 4.9.* If  $\mathbb{F}'$  is a subfield of  $\mathbb{F}$ , then  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}} \Gamma_c(\bar{X}, -)$  and  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}'} \Gamma_c(\bar{X}, -)$  are in fact quasi-isomorphic and hence, they induce the same homomorphism of  $K$ -groups. Nevertheless, it will be convenient to distinguish between the two functors. We will omit the index if the base field is clear from the context.

The definition of  $\Psi_M$  extends to  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda)$ .

**Definition 4.10.** For  $(\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathcal{J}_\Lambda} \in \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda)$  and  $M^\bullet \in \Lambda^{\mathcal{O}}\text{-SP}(\Lambda')$  we set

$$\Psi_M((\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathcal{J}_\Lambda}) = \left( \varprojlim_{J \in \mathcal{J}_\Lambda} \Lambda'/I \otimes_{\Lambda'} (M \otimes_{\Lambda} \mathcal{F}_J^\bullet) \right)_{I \in \mathcal{J}_\Lambda}$$

and obtain a Waldhausen exact functor

$$\Psi_M: \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda').$$

**Proposition 4.11.** *Let  $M^\bullet$  be a complex in  $\Lambda^{\text{op}}\text{-SP}(\Lambda')$ . Then the following diagram commutes.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{K}_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda)) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{K}_n \mathrm{R}\Gamma_c(X, -)} & \mathrm{K}_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda)) \\ \downarrow \mathrm{K}_n(\Psi_M) & & \downarrow \mathrm{K}_n(\Psi_M) \\ \mathrm{K}_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda')) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{K}_n \mathrm{R}\Gamma_c(X, -)} & \mathrm{K}_n(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda')) \end{array}$$

*Proof.* See [Wit08, Proposition 5.5.7].  $\square$

Finally, we need the following result. Let  $X$  be a connected scheme and  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  a finite Galois covering of  $X$  with Galois group  $G$ , i.e.  $f$  is finite étale and the degree of  $f$  is equal to the order of  $G = \mathrm{Aut}_X(Y)$ . We set

$$\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]_X^\sharp = f_* f^* \mathbb{Z}_\ell.$$

Then  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]_X^\sharp$  is a locally constant constructible flat sheaf of  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]$ -modules. In fact, it corresponds to the continuous Galois module  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]$  on which the fundamental group of  $X$  acts contragrediently.

**Lemma 4.12.** *Let  $X$  be a connected scheme in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{\text{sep}}$ . Let  $R$  be a finite  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -algebra and let  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  be a bounded complex of flat, locally constant, and constructible sheaves in  $\mathbf{PDG}(X, R)$ . Then there exists a finite Galois covering  $Y$  of  $X$  with Galois group  $G$  and a complex  $M^\bullet$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]^{\text{op}}\text{-SP}(R)$  such that*

$$\mathcal{F}^\bullet \cong \Psi_M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]_X^\sharp).$$

*Proof.* Choose a large enough Galois covering  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $f^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet$  is a complex of constant sheaves and set  $M^\bullet = \Gamma(Y, f^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet)$ . This is in a natural way a complex in  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]^{\text{op}}\text{-SP}(R)$  and

$$M^\bullet \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]} \mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]_X^\sharp \cong \mathcal{F}^\bullet$$

See [Wit08, Section 5.6] for further details.  $\square$

## 5. ON $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]])$

Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $T$  denote an indeterminate that commutes with every element of  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]$ . We need some results on the structure of  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]])$ . Recall that there exists a finite extension  $F$  of  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$  such that  $F[G]$  is *split semisimple*:

$$F[G] \cong \prod_{k=1}^r \mathrm{End}_F(F^{s_k})$$

for some integers  $r, s_1, \dots, s_r$ . Write  $\mathcal{O}_F$  for the valuation ring of  $F$  and let  $M$  be a *maximal  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -order* in  $F[G]$ , i.e. an  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -lattice in  $F[G]$  which is a subring and which is maximal with respect to this property. Then

$$M \cong \prod_{k=1}^r \mathrm{End}_{\mathcal{O}_F}(\mathcal{O}_F^{s_k})$$

according to [Oli88, Theorem 1.9]. In particular, the determinant map induces an isomorphism

$$K_1(M) \cong \bigoplus_{k=1}^r \mathcal{O}_F^\times.$$

Theorem 2.5 of *loc. cit.* then implies

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]) = \ker K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]) \rightarrow K_1(\mathbb{Q}_\ell[G]) = \ker K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]) \rightarrow K_1(M).$$

Analogously, we define a subgroup in  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]])$ .

**Definition 5.1.** Let  $G$  be a finite group and choose a finite extension  $F$  of  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$  such that  $F[G]$  is split semisimple. We set

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]) = \ker \mathrm{K}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]) \rightarrow \mathrm{K}_1(M[[T]])$$

where  $M$  denotes the maximal  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -order in  $F[G]$ .

**Lemma 5.2.** For any finite group  $G$ ,

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]) \cong \varprojlim_n \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]).$$

*Proof.* Let  $F$  and  $F'$  be splitting fields for  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]$ , respectively and denote the corresponding maximal orders by  $M$  and  $M'$ . The commutativity of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{K}_1(M[\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{K}_1(M') \\ \cong \downarrow \mathrm{det} & & \cong \downarrow \mathrm{det} \\ \bigoplus_{k=1}^r \mathcal{O}_F[\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]^\times & \xrightarrow{\subset} & \bigoplus_{k=1}^{r'} \mathcal{O}_{F'}^\times \end{array}$$

implies that

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]) = \ker \mathrm{K}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]) \rightarrow \mathrm{K}_1(M[\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]).$$

By [NSW00, Theorem 5.3.5] the choice of a topological generator  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}_\ell$  induces an isomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z}_\ell[[T]] \cong \varprojlim_n \mathbb{Z}_\ell[\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)], \quad T \mapsto \gamma - 1.$$

In particular, we have compatible isomorphisms

$$\mathrm{K}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]) \cong \varprojlim_n \mathrm{K}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]), \quad \mathrm{K}_1(M[[T]]) \cong \varprojlim_n \mathrm{K}_1(M[\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]).$$

by Proposition 3.5. Hence, we obtain an isomorphism

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]) \cong \varprojlim_n \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]),$$

as claimed.  $\square$

**Proposition 5.3.** For any finite group  $G$ ,

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]) \cong \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]).$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 5.2 it suffices to prove that the projection  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]$  induces an isomorphism

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)]) \cong \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]).$$

Let  $g_1, \dots, g_k$  be a system of representatives for the  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$ -conjugacy classes of elements of order prime to  $\ell$  in  $G$ . (Two elements  $g, h$  of order  $r$  prime to  $\ell$  are called  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$ -conjugated if  $g^a = xhx^{-1}$  for some  $x \in G$ ,  $a \in \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_\ell(\zeta_r)/\mathbb{Q}_\ell) \subset (\mathbb{Z}/(r))^\times$ .) Let  $r_i$  denote the order of  $g_i$  and set

$$\begin{aligned} N_i(G) &= \{x \in G \mid xg_ix^{-1} = g_i^a \text{ for some } a \in \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_\ell(\zeta_{r_i})/\mathbb{Q}_\ell)\}, \\ Z_i(G) &= \{x \in G \mid xg_ix^{-1} = g_i\}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, let

$$\mathrm{H}_2^{ab}(Z_i(G), \mathbb{Z}) = \mathrm{im} \bigoplus_{\substack{H \subset Z_i(G) \\ \text{abelian}}} \mathrm{H}_2(H, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathrm{H}_2(Z_i(G), \mathbb{Z})$$

denote the subgroup of the second homology group generated by elements induced up from abelian subgroups of  $Z_i(G)$ . According to [Oli88, Theorem 12.5] there exists an isomorphism

$$\mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]) \cong \bigoplus_{i=0}^k \mathrm{H}_0(N_i(G)/Z_i(G), \mathrm{H}_2(Z_i(G), \mathbb{Z})/\mathrm{H}_2^{ab}(Z_i(G), \mathbb{Z}))_{(\ell)}.$$

Now,  $(g_1, 0), \dots, (g_k, 0)$  is a system of representatives for the  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$ -conjugacy classes of elements of order prime to  $\ell$  in  $G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)$  and

$$N_i(G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)) = N_i(G) \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n), \quad Z_i(G \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n)) = Z_i(G) \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n).$$

By *loc. cit.*, Proposition 8.12, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{H}_2(Z_i(G) \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n), \mathbb{Z})/\mathrm{H}_2^{ab}(Z_i(G) \times \mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n), \mathbb{Z}) = \\ \mathrm{H}_2(Z_i(G), \mathbb{Z})/\mathrm{H}_2^{ab}(Z_i(G), \mathbb{Z}) \times \mathrm{H}_2(\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n), \mathbb{Z})/\mathrm{H}_2^{ab}(\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n), \mathbb{Z}) \end{aligned}$$

and clearly,

$$\mathrm{H}_2(\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n), \mathbb{Z}) = \mathrm{H}_2^{ab}(\mathbb{Z}/(\ell^n), \mathbb{Z}).$$

From this, the claim of the lemma follows easily.  $\square$

The following proposition was proved in [FK06, Proposition 2.3.7] in the case of number fields.

**Proposition 5.4.** *Let  $Q$  be a function field of transcendence degree 1 over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $\ell$  be any prime. Then*

$$\varinjlim_L \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\mathrm{Gal}(L/Q)]) = 0.$$

where  $L$  runs through the finite Galois extensions of  $Q$  in a fixed separable closure  $\overline{Q}$ .

*Proof.* By the same argument as in the proof of Proposition 2.3.7 in [FK06] it suffices to prove that

$$\mathrm{H}^2(\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{Q}/L), \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell) = 0$$

for any finite extension  $L$  of  $Q$ .

If  $\ell$  is different from the characteristic of  $\mathbb{F}$ , the vanishing of this group can be deduced via the same argument as the analogous statement for number fields given in [Sch79, § 4, Satz 1]: Let

$$L_\infty = \bigcup_n L(\zeta_{\ell^n}).$$

Then

$$\mathrm{H}^2(\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{Q}/L), \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell) = \mathrm{H}^1(\mathrm{Gal}(L_\infty/L), \mathrm{H}^1(\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{Q}/L_\infty), \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell))$$

and by Kummer theory,

$$\mathrm{H}^1(\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{Q}/L_\infty), \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell) = L_\infty^\times \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell(-1).$$

Now

$$\mathrm{H}^1(\mathrm{Gal}(L_\infty/L), L_\infty^\times \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell(-1)) = \varinjlim_n \mathrm{H}^1(\mathrm{Gal}(L_\infty/L), L(\zeta_{\ell^n})^\times \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell(-1))$$

by [NSW00, Proposition 1.5.1] and

$$\mathrm{H}^1(\mathrm{Gal}(L_\infty/L), L(\zeta_{\ell^n})^\times \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell(-1)) = (L(\zeta_{\ell^n})^\times \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell(-1))_{\mathrm{Gal}(L_\infty/L)}$$

by *loc. cit.*, Proposition 1.6.13. Since the latter group is a factor group of

$$(L(\zeta_{\ell^n})^\times \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell(-1))_{\mathrm{Gal}(L_\infty/L(\zeta_{\ell^n}))} = 0,$$

the claim is proved.

If  $\ell$  is equal to the characteristic of  $\mathbb{F}$ , then the cohomological  $\ell$ -dimension of  $\text{Gal}(\overline{Q}/L)$  is known to be 1 and hence, the second cohomology group of  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell$  vanishes for trivial reasons.  $\square$

## 6. $L$ -FUNCTIONS

Consider an adic ring  $\Lambda$  and let  $\Lambda[[T]]$  denote the ring of power series in the indeterminate  $T$  (where  $T$  is assumed to commute with every element of  $\Lambda$ ). The ring  $\Lambda[[T]]$  is still an adic ring whose Jacobson radical  $\text{Jac}(\Lambda[[T]])$  is generated by  $\text{Jac}(\Lambda)$  and  $T$ . In particular, we conclude from Proposition 3.5 that

$$K_1(\Lambda[[T]]) = \varprojlim_n K_1(\Lambda[[T]]/\text{Jac}(\Lambda[[T]])^n)$$

is a profinite group.

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a finite field. We write  $X^0$  for the set of closed points of a scheme  $X$  in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}$ . If  $x \in X^0$  is a closed point, then

$$\overline{x} = x \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}} \text{Spec } \overline{\mathbb{F}}$$

consists of finitely many points, whose number is given by the degree  $\deg(x)$  of  $x$ , i. e. the degree of the residue field  $k(x)$  of  $x$  as a field extension of  $\mathbb{F}$ . Let

$$s_x: \overline{x} \rightarrow X$$

denote the structure map. For any complex

$$\mathcal{F}^\bullet = (\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_{I \in \mathcal{I}_\Lambda}$$

in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda)$ , we write

$$\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet = (\Gamma(\overline{x}, s_x^* \mathcal{F}_I^\bullet))_{I \in \mathcal{I}_\Lambda}.$$

This defines a Waldhausen exact functor

$$\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda), \quad \mathcal{F}^\bullet \mapsto \mathcal{F}_x^\bullet.$$

Note that  $\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet$  can also be written as the product over the stalks of  $\mathcal{F}$  in the points of  $\overline{x}$ :

$$\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet \cong \prod_{\xi \in \overline{x}} ((\mathcal{F}_I^\bullet)_\xi)_{I \in \mathcal{I}_\Lambda}.$$

The geometric Frobenius automorphism

$$\mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}/\mathbb{F})$$

operates on  $\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet$  through its action on  $\overline{x}$ . Hence, it also operates on  $\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet)$ . Here,

$$\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}: \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\Lambda[[T]])$$

denotes the change of ring functor with respect to the  $\Lambda[[T]]$ - $\Lambda$ -bimodule  $\Lambda[[T]]$ , as constructed in Definition 3.9. The morphism

$$\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} T: \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet) \rightarrow \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet)$$

is a natural isomorphism whose inverse is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}}^n T^n.$$

**Definition 6.1.** The class

$$E_x(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} T} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet)]^{-1}$$

in  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$  is called the *Euler factor* of  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  at  $x$ .

One can easily verify that the Euler factor is multiplicative on exact sequences and that

$$E_x(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = E_x(\mathcal{G}^\bullet, T)$$

if the complexes  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  and  $\mathcal{G}^\bullet$  are quasi-isomorphic. Hence, the above assignment extends to a homomorphism

$$E_x(-, T): K_0(\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda)) \rightarrow K_1(\Lambda[[T]]).$$

**Lemma 6.2.** *Let  $\xi \in \bar{x}$  be a geometric point. Then*

$$E_x(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{k(x)} T^{\deg(x)}} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet)]^{-1}.$$

*Proof.* The Frobenius automorphism  $\mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}}$  induces isomorphisms  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathfrak{F}^k \xi}^\bullet \cong \mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet$  for  $k = 1, \dots, \deg(x)$ . For  $k = \deg(x)$  we have  $\mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}}^k \xi = \xi$  and the isomorphism is given by the operation of  $\mathfrak{F}_{k(x)}$  on  $\mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet$ . Hence, we may identify  $\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet$  with the complex  $(\mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet)^{\deg(x)}$ , on which the Frobenius  $\mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}}$  acts through the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & \mathfrak{F}_{k(x)} \\ \text{id} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \text{id} & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \text{id} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $A$  be the automorphism of  $\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}((\mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet)^{\deg(x)})$  given by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \text{id} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \text{id}T & \text{id} & 0 & \dots \\ \text{id}T^2 & \text{id}T & \text{id} & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \text{id}T^{\deg(x)-1} & \dots & \text{id}T^2 & \text{id}T & \text{id} \end{pmatrix}$$

Then  $A(\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}}T)$  corresponds to the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \text{id} & 0 & \dots & 0 & -\mathfrak{F}_{k(x)}T \\ 0 & \text{id} & 0 & \dots & -\mathfrak{F}_{k(x)}T^2 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \text{id} & -\mathfrak{F}_{k(x)}T^{\deg(x)-1} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & (\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{k(x)}T^{\deg(x)}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Moreover, we have  $[A] = 1$  in  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$ . Hence,

$$[\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}}T} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_x^\bullet)] = [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{k(x)}T^{\deg(x)}} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathcal{F}_\xi^\bullet)]$$

as claimed.  $\square$

**Proposition 6.3.** *The infinite product*

$$\prod_{x \in X^0} E_x(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T)$$

*converges in the profinite topology of  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$ .*

*Proof.* For each integer  $m$ , there exist only finitely many closed points  $x \in X^0$  with  $\deg(x) < m$ . If  $\deg(x) \geq m$ , then we conclude from Lemma 6.2 that the image of  $E_x(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T)$  in  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]]/(T^m))$  is 1.  $\square$

**Definition 6.4.** The  $L$ -function of the complex  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda)$  is given by

$$L_{\mathbb{F}}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = \prod_{x \in X^0} E_x(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) \in K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$$

*Remark 6.5.* If  $\mathbb{F}'$  is a subfield of  $\mathbb{F}$ , then Lemma 6.2 implies that

$$L_{\mathbb{F}'}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = L_{\mathbb{F}}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T^{[\mathbb{F}:\mathbb{F}']}) \in K_1(\Lambda[[T]]).$$

*Remark 6.6.* If  $\Lambda$  is commutative, the determinant induces an isomorphism

$$\det: K_1(\Lambda[[T]]) \rightarrow \Lambda[[T]]^\times.$$

In particular, we see that the  $L$ -function agrees with the one defined in [Del77, Fonction  $L \bmod \ell^n$ ] in the case of commutative adic rings.

## 7. THE GROTHENDIECK TRACE FORMULA

In this section, we will prove the Grothendieck trace formula for our  $L$ -functions.

**Definition 7.1.** For a scheme  $X$  in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{\text{sep}}$  and a complex  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda)$  we let  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{F}}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T)$  denote the element

$$[\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}} \Gamma_c(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \delta_{\mathbb{F}} T} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}} \Gamma_c(\overline{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet))]^{-1}$$

in  $K_1(\Lambda[[T]])$ .

**Theorem 7.2** (Grothendieck trace formula). *Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a finite field of characteristic  $p$  and let  $\Lambda$  be an adic ring such that  $p$  is invertible in  $\Lambda$ . Then*

$$L_{\mathbb{F}}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{F}}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T)$$

for every scheme  $X$  in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{\text{sep}}$  and every complex  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(X, \Lambda)$ .

We proceed by a series of lemmas, following closely along the lines of [Mil80, Chapter VI, §13].

**Lemma 7.3.** *Let  $U$  be an open subscheme of  $X$  with closed complement  $Z$ . Theorem 7.2 is true for  $X$  if it is true for  $U$  and  $Z$ .*

*Proof.* Write  $j: U \hookrightarrow X$  and  $i: Z \hookrightarrow X$  for the corresponding immersions,

$$u: U \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{F}, \quad x: X \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{F}, \quad z: Z \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{F}$$

for the structure morphisms. Clearly,

$$L(X, \mathcal{F}^\bullet) = L(U, j^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet) L(Z, i^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet)$$

On the other hand, we have an exact sequence

$$\mathbf{R} x_! j_! j^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet \rightarrow \mathbf{R} x_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet \rightarrow \mathbf{R} x_! i_* i^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet$$

and (chains of) quasi-isomorphisms

$$\mathbf{R} u_! j^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet \simeq \mathbf{R} x_! j_! j^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet \quad \mathbf{R} z_! i^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet \simeq \mathbf{R} x_! i_* i^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet.$$

Hence,

$$[\mathbf{R} x_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet] = [\mathbf{R} u_! j^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet] [\mathbf{R} z_! i^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet]$$

in  $K_0 \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}, \Lambda)$ . The homomorphism

$$K_0 \mathbf{PDG}^{\text{cont}}(\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}, \Lambda) \rightarrow K_1(\Lambda[[T]]),$$

$$[\mathcal{F}^\bullet] \mapsto [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\Gamma(\text{Spec } \overline{\mathbb{F}}, s^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{1 - \delta_{\mathbb{F}} T} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\Gamma(\text{Spec } \overline{\mathbb{F}}, s^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet))]^{-1}$$

preserves this relation.  $\square$

Next, we prove that the formula is compatible with changes of the base field.

**Lemma 7.4.** *Let  $\mathbb{F}'$  be a subfield of  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $X$  a scheme in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{sep}$ . Then*

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{F}'}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{F}}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T^{[\mathbb{F}:\mathbb{F}']}).$$

*Proof.* Let  $r: \text{Spec } \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{F}'$  be the morphism induced by the inclusion  $\mathbb{F}' \subset \mathbb{F}$  and write

$$\begin{aligned} h: X \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}} \text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}} &\rightarrow X, & h': X \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}'} \text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}} &\rightarrow X \\ s: \text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}} &\rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{F}, & s': \text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}} &\rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{F}' \end{aligned}$$

for the corresponding structure morphisms. For any  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(X, \Lambda)$ , the complexes  $r_* R h_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet$ ,  $R r_! R h_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet$ , and  $R h'_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}', \Lambda)$  are quasi-isomorphic. Moreover, for any complex  $\mathcal{G}^\bullet$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{cont}(\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}, \Lambda)$ , the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* r^* r_* \mathcal{G}^\bullet) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \bigoplus_{k=1}^{[\mathbb{F}:\mathbb{F}']} \Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* \mathcal{G}^\bullet) \\ \downarrow \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}'} & & \downarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} \\ \text{id} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \text{id} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* r^* r_* \mathcal{G}^\bullet) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \bigoplus_{k=1}^{[\mathbb{F}:\mathbb{F}']} \Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* \mathcal{G}^\bullet) \end{array}$$

As in the proof of Lemma 6.2 one concludes

$$\begin{aligned} & [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}'} \Gamma_c(\bar{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}'} T} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}'} \Gamma_c(\bar{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet))] = \\ & [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* r^* r_* R h_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}'} T} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* r^* r_* R h_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet))] = \\ & [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* R h_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} T^{[\mathbb{F}:\mathbb{F}']}} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\Gamma(\text{Spec } \bar{\mathbb{F}}, s^* R h_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet))] = \\ & [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}} \Gamma_c(\bar{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{\text{id} - \mathfrak{F}_{\mathbb{F}} T^{[\mathbb{F}:\mathbb{F}']}} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbb{F}} \Gamma_c(\bar{X}, \mathcal{F}^\bullet))]. \end{aligned}$$

□

Clearly, Theorem 7.2 is true for schemes of dimension 0. Next, we consider the case that  $X$  is a curve.

**Lemma 7.5.** *The formula in Theorem 7.2 is true for any smooth and geometrically connected curve  $X$ ,  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]$ , and  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet = \mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]_X^\sharp$ , where  $\ell$  is a prime different from the characteristic of  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $G$  is the Galois group of a finite Galois covering of  $X$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $Q$  be the function field of  $X$  and let  $F$  the function field of a finite Galois covering of  $X$ . Let  $d_F$  denote the element

$$d_F = L(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\text{Gal}(F/Q)]_X^\sharp, T) \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\text{Gal}(F/Q)]_X^\sharp, T)^{-1}$$

in  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\text{Gal}(F/Q)][[T]])$ .

Note that  $d_F$  does not change if we replace  $X$  by an open subscheme of  $X$ . Hence, we may define  $d_F$  for any finite Galois extension  $F$  of  $Q$  such that, if  $F'/F$  is Galois,  $d_{F'}$  is mapped onto  $d_F$  under the canonical homomorphism

$$K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\text{Gal}(F'/Q)][[T]]) \rightarrow K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\text{Gal}(F/Q)][[T]]).$$

Let  $L$  be a splitting field for  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell[\text{Gal}(F/Q)]$  and  $M \subset L[\text{Gal}(F/Q)]$  a maximal  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -order. By the classical Grothendieck trace formula [Del77, Fonction  $L \bmod \ell^n$ ,



Theorem 2.2.(a)], the image of  $d_F$  under the homomorphism

$$K_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\mathrm{Gal}(F/Q)][[T]]) \rightarrow K_1(M[[T]]) \cong \bigoplus_{r=1}^s \mathcal{O}_L[[T]]^\times$$

is trivial; hence  $d_F \in \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\mathrm{Gal}(F/Q)][[T]]) = \mathrm{SK}_1(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[\mathrm{Gal}(F/Q)])$ . From Proposition 5.4 we conclude  $d_F = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 7.6.** *The formula in Theorem 7.2 is true for any scheme  $X$  in  $\mathbf{Sch}_{\mathbb{F}}^{\mathrm{sep}}$  of dimension less or equal 1, any adic ring  $\Lambda$  with  $p \in \Lambda^\times$  and any complex  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  in  $\mathbf{PDG}^{\mathrm{cont}}(X, \Lambda)$ .*

*Proof.* By Proposition 3.5 it suffices to consider finite rings  $\Lambda$ . The  $\ell$ -Sylow subgroups of  $\Lambda$  are subrings of  $\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda$  is equal to their direct product. Since  $p$  is invertible, the  $p$ -Sylow subgroup is trivial. Hence, we may further assume that  $\Lambda$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -algebra for  $\ell \neq p$ .

Shrinking  $X$  if necessary we may assume that  $X$  is smooth, irreducible curve and that  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  is a strictly perfect complex of locally constant sheaves. By replacing  $\mathbb{F}$  with its algebraic closure in the function field of  $X$  and using Lemma 7.4, we may assume that  $X$  is geometrically connected. By Lemma 4.12 and Proposition 4.11 we have

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = K_1(\Psi_{M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]}})(\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]_X^\sharp, T))$$

for a suitable Galois group  $G$  and a complex  $M^\bullet$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]^\mathfrak{q}\text{-}\mathbf{SP}(\Lambda)$ . Likewise,

$$L(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = K_1(\Psi_{M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G][[T]]}})(L(\mathbb{Z}_\ell[G]_X^\sharp, T)).$$

Now the assertion follows from Lemma 7.5.  $\square$

We complete the proof of Theorem 7.2 by induction on the dimension  $d$  of  $X$ . By shrinking  $X$  if necessary we may assume that there exists a morphism  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $Y$  and all fibres of  $f$  have dimension less than  $d$ . Then Proposition 4.7.(3) and the induction hypothesis imply

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = \mathcal{L}(Rf_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = L(Rf_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet, T).$$

Let now  $y$  be a closed point of  $Y$ . Write  $f_y: X_y \rightarrow X$  for the fibre over  $y$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} E_y(Rf_! \mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) &= [\Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(R\Gamma_c(\overline{X}_y, f_y^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{\mathrm{id} - \mathfrak{F}_x T} \Psi_{\Lambda[[T]]}(R\Gamma_c(\overline{X}_y, f_y^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet))]^{-1} \\ &= L(f_y^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) \end{aligned}$$

by Proposition 4.7.(4) and the induction hypothesis. Since clearly

$$L(\mathcal{F}^\bullet, T) = \prod_{y \in Y^0} L(f_y^* \mathcal{F}^\bullet, T),$$

Theorem 7.2 follows.

*Remark 7.7.* The formula in Theorem 7.2 is also valid if  $\Lambda$  is a finite field of characteristic  $p$ , see [Del77, Fonction  $L$  mod  $\ell^n$ , Theorem 2.2.(b)]. However, it does not extend to general adic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -algebras. We refer to *loc. cit.*, §4.5 for a counterexample.

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MALTE WITTE  
FAKULTÄT FÜR MATHEMATIK  
UNIVERSITÄT REGENSBURG  
UNIVERSITÄTSSTRASSE 31  
D-93053 REGENSBURG  
GERMANY

*E-mail address:* Malte.Witte@mathematik.uni-regensburg.de