

Proof of Proposition 3.2.5 referred to [RLL, Proposition 3.1.8]

Proposition 3.2.5 (Universal property of K_0).

Let C be a unital C^* -algebra, and let H be an Abelian group.

Suppose that there exists $\nu: P_\infty(C) \rightarrow H$ satisfying the three conditions:

(i) $\nu(p \oplus q) = \nu(p) + \nu(q)$ for any $p, q \in P_\infty(C)$,

(ii) $\nu(0_C) = 0$,

(iii) If $p, q \in P_n(C)$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and if $p \sim q \in P_n(C)$, then $\nu(p) = \nu(q)$.

Then there exists a unique group homomorphism $\alpha: K_0(C) \rightarrow H$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P_\infty(C) & & \\ \downarrow [\cdot]_0 & \searrow \nu & \\ K_0(C) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & H \end{array}$$

is commutative.

proof) First, we show that if $p \sim_0 q$, then $\nu(p) = \nu(q)$ for $p, q \in P_\infty(C)$.

Find $l, m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $p \in P_l(C)$ and $q \in P_m(C)$.

Let n be an integer greater than both l and m and define

$$p' = p \oplus 0_{n-l} \text{ and } q' = q \oplus 0_{n-m}.$$

$$p', q' \in P_n(C) \text{ and } p' \sim_0 p \sim_0 q \sim_0 q'.$$

☺ The first and third equivalences follow from Proposition 3.1.1 (i), the second follows from assumption.

This implies $p' \sim_0 q'$ that is $p' \sim q'$ ($p, q \in P_n(C)$).

By Proposition 2.2.10 (i), (ii),

$$\begin{pmatrix} p' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sim_h \begin{pmatrix} q' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ in } P(M_4(M_n(C))) = P_{4n}(C).$$

By assumption,

$$\nu(p) = \nu(p) + \nu(0) + \dots + \nu(0) = \nu(p' \oplus 0_{3n}) = \nu(q' \oplus 0_{3n}) = \nu(q).$$

It follows that the map $\beta: \mathcal{D}(C) \rightarrow H$ defined by $\beta([P]_0) = \nu(P)$ is well-defined.

Additivity of β is

$$\beta([P]_0 + [Q]_0) = \beta([P \oplus Q]_0) = \nu(P \oplus Q) = \nu(P) + \nu(Q) = \beta([P]_0) + \beta([Q]_0).$$

By Proposition 3.2.1, there is a unique group homomorphism α such that

$$\mathcal{D}(C) \xrightarrow{\beta} H$$

$\sigma_0 \downarrow \circlearrowleft \nearrow \alpha$ is commutative.

$$K_0(C) = \mathcal{G}(\mathcal{D}(C))$$

The uniqueness of α follows from Proposition 3.2.4, (3.2). \square

The universal property of Grothendieck group. (Proposition 3.2.1 (i))

Let \mathcal{D} be an Abelian semigroup and H be an Abelian group and

$\varphi: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow H$ be an additive map.

Then there exists a unique group homomorphism $\psi: \mathcal{G}(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow H$ such that

$$\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{\varphi} H$$

$\sigma_0 \downarrow \circlearrowleft \nearrow \psi$ is commutative.

$$\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{D})$$

(:) We construct ψ by $\psi(\langle x, y \rangle) = \varphi(x) - \varphi(y)$.

If $\langle x_1, y_1 \rangle = \langle x_2, y_2 \rangle$, then $\exists z \in \mathcal{D}$, $x_1 + y_2 + z = y_1 + x_2 + z$ and

$$\varphi(x_1) + \varphi(y_2) + \varphi(z) = \varphi(y_1) + \varphi(x_2) + \varphi(z).$$

Since H is an Abelian group, we obtain $\varphi(x_1) - \varphi(y_1) = \varphi(x_2) - \varphi(y_2)$.

Hence ψ is well-defined.

$$\psi \circ \sigma_0(x) = \psi(\langle x+y, y \rangle) = \varphi(x+y) - \varphi(y) = \varphi(x) + \varphi(y) - \varphi(y) = \varphi(x)$$

Therefore the diagram is commutative.

The uniqueness of ψ follows from that $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{D})$ is determined by \mathcal{D} . \square