

# Birational invariance of the Chow-Witt group of zero-cycles

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## Abstract

We prove that the Chow-Witt group of zero-cycles is a birational invariant of smooth proper schemes over a base field.

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## Introduction

The notion of *Milnor-Witt cycle modules* is introduced by the author in [Fel20, Fel21b] over a perfect field  $k$  which, after slight changes, can be generalized to more general base schemes (see [BHP22] for the case of a regular base scheme, and [DFJ22] for any base schemes).

The main example of a Milnor-Witt cycle module is given by the Milnor-Witt K-theory  $\underline{K}^{MW}$  (see [BCD<sup>+</sup>20, Fel20, Fel21b, Fel21c, Fel21a] for more details).

To any MW-cycle module  $M$  and any  $k$ -scheme  $X$  equipped with a line bundle  $l_X$ , one can associate a Rost-Schmid complex  $C_*(X, M, l_X)$  whose homology groups are called the *Chow-Witt groups with coefficient in  $M$* . In particular, if  $M = \underline{K}^{MW}$ , one recovers the Chow-Witt groups  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}_*(X, l)$  (see [Fas20]) which are, in some sense, a *quadratic refinement* of the classical Chow group  $\text{CH}_*(X)$ .

A well-known consequence of intersection theory is that the Chow group  $\text{CH}_0(X)$  is a birational invariant. Indeed, this was proved in full generality in characteristic 0, and for surfaces in characteristic  $p > 0$  in the fundamental work of Colliot-Thélène and Coray [CC79, Prop. 6.3]. The case of an algebraically closed base field can be found in [Ful98, Example 16.1.11], but the proof works verbatim for an arbitrary field.

A natural question is whether or not the birational invariance holds true for the Chow-Witt group and, more generally, of the Chow-Witt groups with coefficients in a Milnor-Witt cycle module). It is easy to see that the Chow-Witt group in **cohomological** degree zero  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}^0$  is a birational invariant for smooth proper  $k$ -scheme (see [Fel21b, Theorem 5.6]). In homological degree zero, the question is more complex.

Following ideas of Merkurjev [KM13], we prove that the Chow-Witt group of zero-cycles is a birational invariant for smooth proper schemes. More generally, we have:

**Theorem 1** (see Theorem 2.2.12). The group  $A_0(X, M)$  is a birational invariant of the smooth proper scheme  $X$ .

In particular, the Chow-Witt group of zero-cycles  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(X)$  is a birational invariant of the smooth proper scheme  $X$ .

## Outline of the paper

In Section 1, we explain how to build a special type of Milnor-Witt cycle module from a fix MW-module. Moreover, we define a cup product for oriented schemes.

In Section 2, we prove that the two previous constructions are compatible with each other in some sense. This allows us to define a composition of *Milnor-Witt rational correspondences* and construct an associated pushforward map. Finally, we apply these results to prove that Chow-Witt group of zero-cycles is a birational invariant for smooth proper schemes.

In Appendix A, we recall the basic definitions of (cohomological) Milnor-Witt cycle modules along with the basic maps (pushforward, pullback, etc.). We then define the new class of *oriented* schemes.

## Acknowledgments

The author deeply thanks Frédéric Déglise, Fangzhou Jin, Jean Fasel, Adrien Dubouloz, Marcello Bernardara, Marc Levine, Paul Arne Østvær, Bertrand Toën, Joana Cirici, Baptiste Calmès, Alexey Ananyevskiy.

## Notations and conventions

In this paper, schemes are noetherian and finite dimensional. We fix a base field<sup>1</sup>  $k$  and put  $S = \text{Spec } k$ , and we fix a base ring of coefficients  $R$ . If not stated otherwise, all schemes and morphisms of schemes are defined over  $S$ . A *point* (resp. *trait*, *singular trait*) of  $S$  will be a morphism of schemes  $\text{Spec}(k) \rightarrow S$  essentially of finite type and such

Conventions: a morphism  $f : X \rightarrow S$  (sometime denoted by  $X/S$ ) is:

- essentially of finite type if  $f$  is the projective limit of a cofiltered system  $(f_i)_{i \in I}$  of morphisms of finite type with affine and étale transition maps
- lci if it is smoothable and a local complete intersection (*i.e.* admits a global factorization  $f = p \circ i$ ,  $p$  smooth and  $i$  a regular closed immersion);
- essentially lci if it is a limit of lci morphisms with étale transition maps.

Let  $X/S$  be a scheme essentially of finite type. We put  $X_{(p)}$  the set of  $p$ -dimensional points of  $X$ .

A point  $x$  of  $S$  is a map  $x : \text{Spec}(E) \rightarrow S$  essentially of finite type and such  $E$  is a field. We also say that  $E$  is a field over  $S$ .

Given a morphism of schemes  $f : Y \rightarrow X$ , we let  $L_f$  be its cotangent complex, an object of  $D_{\text{coh}}^b(Y)$ , and when the latter is perfect (e.g. if  $f$  is essentially lci), we let  $\tau_f$  be its associated virtual vector bundle over  $Y$ , and by  $\omega_f$  the determinant of  $\tau_f$ .

If not stated otherwise,  $M$  is a (cohomological) Milnor-Witt cycle module,  $X$  is an  $S$ -scheme,  $l$  is a line bundle over  $X$ , and  $p, q$  are integers.

## 1 Main constructions

### 1.1 The relative perverse homology

We follow [Ros96, §7]. In this section, we show that new Milnor-Witt cycle modules can be obtained from the Chow groups of the fibers of a morphism.

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<sup>1</sup>Many results of the present paper are in fact true over a more general base scheme.

**1.1.1.** Let  $\rho : Q \rightarrow S$  be a morphism of finite type and let  $M$  be a cohomological MW-cycle module over  $Q$ . Fix  $l$  a line bundle over  $Q$ . For any field  $F$  over  $S$ , denote by  $Q_F = Q \times_B \text{Spec } F$ . We define an object function  $A_p[\rho, M, l]$  on  $\mathbf{F}(S)$  by

$$A_p[\rho, M, l] = \bigoplus_{q \in \mathbf{Z}} A_p[\rho, M_q, l]$$

where

$$A_p[\rho, M_q, l](F) = A_p(Q_F, M_q, \omega_{Q_F/Q}^\vee \otimes l).$$

Our aim is to show that  $A_p[\rho, M, l]$  is in a natural way a Milnor-Witt cycle module over  $S$ .

**1.1.2.** All the properties of Milnor-Witt cycle modules except axiom (C) hold already on complex level, i.e. for the groups  $C_p(Q_F, M)$ . Indeed, we denote by  $\widehat{M}$  the object function on  $\mathbf{F}(B)$  defined by

$$\widehat{M}(F) = C_p(Q_F, M, \omega_{Q_F/Q}^\vee \otimes l) = \bigoplus_{q \in \mathbf{Z}} C_p(Q_F, M_q, \omega_{Q_F/Q}^\vee).$$

We first describe its data as a Milnor-Witt cycle premodule. These will be denoted by  $\widehat{\text{res}}_{F/E}, \widehat{\text{cores}}_{F/E}$ , etc. in order to distinguish them from the data  $\text{res}_{F/E}, \text{cores}_{F/E}$ , etc. of  $M$ .

For a morphism of fields  $\phi : E \rightarrow F$ , let  $\overline{\phi} : Q_F \rightarrow Q_E$  be the induced map.

1. DATA D1 Define

$$\widehat{\text{res}}_{F/E} := \phi^! : C_p(Q_E, M_q, \omega_{Q_E/Q}^\vee) \rightarrow C_p(Q_F, M_q, \omega_{Q_F/Q}^\vee).$$

2. DATA D2 Assume  $\phi$  finite. Define

$$\widehat{\text{cores}}_{F/E} := \phi_* : C_p(Q_F, M_q, \mathcal{O}_{Q_F}) \rightarrow C_p(Q_E, M_q, \mathcal{O}_{Q_E}).$$

3. DATA D3 Simply take the  $\underline{\mathbf{K}}^{MW}$ -module structure on  $C_p(Q_F, M)$  described in [DFJ22, §1.4 and §5.4].

4. DATA D4 Denote by  $\widetilde{Q}_v = Q \times_S \text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_v$ , the generic fiber  $Q_F$  and the special fiber  $Q_{\kappa(v)}$ . Define

$$\widehat{\partial}_v : C_p(Q_F, M_q) \rightarrow C_{p-1}(Q_{\kappa(v)}, M_q)$$

by  $(\widehat{\partial}_v)_y^x = \partial_y^x$  with  $\partial_y^x$  as in [DFJ22, §5.3.13] with respect to the scheme  $\widetilde{Q}_v$ .

**Theorem 1.1.3.** *Keeping the previous notations, the object functor  $\widehat{M}$  along with these data form a Milnor-Witt cycle premodule over  $S$ .*

*Proof.* All the required properties follow from the rules and axioms for  $M$  and from the functorial properties studied in [DFJ22, §1.4 and §5.4].  $\square$

**1.1.4.** Now, we want to relate the differentials for the MW-cycle premodule  $\widehat{M}$  to the differentials for the MW-cycle module  $M$ .

Let  $X \rightarrow S$  be a scheme over  $S$  and let  $\widetilde{X} = Q \times_S X$ . Then for  $x, y$  in  $X$ , there is a map

$$\widehat{\partial}_y^x : \widehat{M}(x) \rightarrow \widehat{M}(y)$$

as in [DFJ22, §5.3.13]. By definition, this is a map

$$\widehat{\partial}_y^x : C_p(Q_{\kappa(x)}, M) \rightarrow C_p(Q_{\kappa(y)}, M)$$

between cycle groups with coefficients in  $M$ .

**Proposition 1.1.5.** *Let  $\widetilde{x}, \widetilde{y}$  in  $\widetilde{X}$  be points lying over  $x, y \in X$ , respectively, and assume that  $\widetilde{x} \in (Q_{\kappa(x)})_{(q)}$  and  $\widetilde{y} \in (Q_{\kappa(y)})_{(q)}$ . Denote by  $(\widehat{\partial}_y^x)_{\widetilde{y}}^{\widetilde{x}}$  the component of  $\widehat{\partial}_y^x$  with respect to  $\widetilde{x}$  and  $\widetilde{y}$ . Then*

$$(\widehat{\partial}_y^x)_{\widetilde{y}}^{\widetilde{x}} = \partial_{\widetilde{y}}^{\widetilde{x}} : M_q(\widetilde{x}, \omega_{\widetilde{x}/S}) \rightarrow M_{q-1}(\widetilde{y}, \omega_{\widetilde{y}/S}).$$

*Proof.* We may assume  $\widetilde{y} \in \overline{\{\widetilde{x}\}}^{(1)}$ , since otherwise both sides are trivial. The dimension inequality [Mat80, p. 85] shows then  $y \in \overline{\{x\}}^{(1)}$ . Let  $v$  run through the valuations of  $\kappa(x)$  with center  $y$  in  $X$ . Moreover, let  $w$  run through the valuations on  $\kappa(\widetilde{x})$  with center  $\widetilde{y}$  in  $\widetilde{X}$ . The restriction of any  $w$  to  $\kappa(x)$  is one of the valuations  $v$ . Let  $\widetilde{w} \in Q_{\kappa(v)}$  be the center of  $w$  in  $\widetilde{X} \times_X \text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_v$ . Now the claim follows from

$$\begin{aligned} (\widehat{\partial}_y^x)_{\widetilde{y}}^{\widetilde{x}} &= \left( \sum_v \widehat{\text{cores}}_{\kappa(v)/\kappa(y)} \circ \widehat{\partial}_v \right)_{\widetilde{y}}^{\widetilde{x}} \\ &= \sum_v \sum_{w|v} (\widehat{\text{cores}}_{\kappa(v)/\kappa(y)})_{\widetilde{y}}^{\widetilde{w}} \circ (\widehat{\partial}_v)_{\widetilde{w}}^{\widetilde{x}} \\ &= \sum_v \sum_{w|v} \text{cores}_{\kappa(\widetilde{w})/\kappa(\widetilde{y})} \circ \text{cores}_{\kappa(w)/\kappa(\widetilde{w})} \circ \partial_w \\ &= \sum_w \text{cores}_{\kappa(w)/\kappa(\widetilde{y})} \circ \partial_w \\ &= \partial_{\widetilde{y}}^{\widetilde{x}}. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

It follows from [DFJ22, Proposition 1.4.6] that the data of the MW-cycle premodule  $\widehat{M}$  commute with the differentials of the complex  $C_*(Q_F, M)$ . Passing to homology, we obtain data D1-D4 for the object function  $A_q[\rho, M]$ .

**Theorem 1.1.6.** *Keeping the previous notations, the object function  $A_p[\rho, M]$  together with these data is a Milnor-Witt cycle module over  $S$ .*

*Proof.* The rules for the data of the MW-cycle premodule  $A_p[\rho, M]$  are immediate from the rules for  $\widehat{M}$ . Moreover, axiom (FD) for  $M$  and Proposition 1.1.5 show that (FD) holds for  $\widehat{M}$  and thus for  $A_p[\rho, M]$ . It remains to verify axiom (C).

Consider the map

$$C_p(Q_{\kappa(\xi)}) \xrightarrow{\delta} C_{p-1}(Q_{\kappa(\xi)}) \oplus \bigoplus_{x \in X^{(1)}} C_p(Q_{\kappa(x)}) \oplus C_{p+1}(Q_{\kappa(x_0)}) \xrightarrow{\delta} C_p(Q_{\kappa(x_0)})$$

defined by  $\delta_y^z = \partial_y^z$  with  $\partial_y^z$  as in [DFJ22, §5.3.13] with respect to the scheme  $Q \times_B X$  (we have shortened the notation by omitting  $M$ ).

By Proposition 1.1.5, we are reduced to show  $\delta \circ \delta = 0$ . It suffices to check that  $(\delta \circ \delta)_y^z = 0$  for  $z \in (Q_{\kappa(\xi)})_{(q)}$  and  $y \in (Q_{\kappa(x_0)})_{(q)}$  with  $y \in \overline{\{z\}}^{(2)}$  (here  $\overline{\{z\}}$  is the closure of  $z$  in  $\widetilde{X}$ ). The dimension inequality [Mat80, p. 85] shows

$$Z^{(1)} \subset (Q_{\kappa(\xi)})_{(q-1)} \cup \bigcup_x (Q_{\kappa(x)})_{(q)} \cup (Q_{\kappa(x_0)})_{(q+1)}$$

with  $Z = \overline{\{z\}}_{(y)}$ . We are done by axiom (C) for  $M$ .  $\square$

**Definition 1.1.7.** Keeping the previous notations, the Milnor-Witt cycle module  $A_p[\rho, M]$  is called the  $p$ -th relative perverse homology of  $M$  with respect to  $\rho$ .

*Remark 1.1.8.* One should also obtain the results present in [Ros96, §8]. In particular, the MW-cycle module  $A_q[\rho, M]$  could be used to give another proof of the homotopy invariance of the Rost-Schmid complex.

## 1.2 The cup product

**1.2.1.** We follow ideas of Merkurjev [Mer03]. We work over a base field  $k$ . We fix  $M$  a Milnor-Witt cycle module over  $k$ .

**1.2.2.** Let  $M \times N \rightarrow P$  be a bilinear pairing of MW-cycle modules over  $k$ . Let  $X, Y$  and  $Z$  be smooth schemes over  $k$  with  $Y$  irreducible smooth and proper. Denote by  $\Delta : Y \rightarrow Y \times Y$  the diagonal map. Let  $q$  be an integer and  $l_X$  (resp.  $l_Y, l'_Y$ , and  $l'_Z$ ) a line bundle over  $X$  (resp.  $Y, Y$ , and  $Z$ ). Assume that  $\omega_{Y/k} \otimes l_Y \otimes l'_Y \simeq \mathcal{O}_Y$ .

We have a  $\cup$ -product

$$\cup : A_r(X \times Y, M_s, l_X \otimes l_Y) \otimes A_p(Y \times Z, N_q, l'_Y \otimes l'_Z) \rightarrow A_{r+p-d_Y}(X \times Z, P_{s+q+d_Y}, l_X \otimes l_Z)$$

defined as the composition

$$\begin{array}{c}
A_r(X \times Y, M_s, l_X \otimes l_Y) \otimes A_p(Y \times Z, N_q, l'_Y \otimes l'_Z) \\
\downarrow \times \\
A_{r+p}(X \times Y \times Y \times Z, P_{s+q}, l_X \otimes l_Y \otimes l'_Y \otimes l'_Z) \\
\downarrow (\text{Id}_X \otimes \Delta \otimes \text{Id}_Z)^* \\
A_{r+p-d_Y}(X \times Y \times Z, P_{s+q+d_Y}, l_X \otimes \omega_{Y/k} \otimes l_Y \otimes l'_Y \otimes l'_Z) \\
\downarrow \simeq \\
A_{r+p-d_Y}(X \times Y \times Z, P_{s+q+d_Y}, l_X \otimes l'_Z) \\
\downarrow \pi_{XZ*} \\
A_{r+p-d_Y}(X \times Z, P_{s+q+d_Y}, l_X \otimes l'_Z)
\end{array}$$

where  $\times$  is the cross product (see [Fel21b, Section 10]),  $\Delta : Y \rightarrow Y \times Y$  is the diagonal embedding and  $\pi_{XZ} : X \times Y \times Z \rightarrow X \times Z$  is the projection. The pushforward  $p_{XZ*}$  is well-defined because  $Y$  is smooth and proper.

**1.2.3.** In particular, taking  $N = M = P = \underline{\mathbb{K}}^{MW}$ ,  $l_X = \omega_{X/k}^\vee$ ,  $l_Y = \mathcal{O}_Y$ ,  $l'_Y = \omega_{Y/k}^\vee$ ,  $l'_Z = \mathcal{O}_Z$ ,  $r = -s$  and  $p = -q$ , we have the product

$$\cup : \widetilde{\text{CH}}_r(X \times Y, \omega_{X/S}^\vee) \otimes \widetilde{\text{CH}}_p(Y \times Z, \omega_{Y/S}^\vee) \rightarrow \widetilde{\text{CH}}_{r+p-d_Y}(X \times Z, \omega_{X/S}^\vee)$$

which could be taken as the composition law for the category of Milnor-Witt integral correspondences  $\widetilde{\text{Cor}}$  with objects the smooth proper schemes over  $k$  and morphisms

$$\text{Hom}_{\widetilde{\text{Cor}}}(X, Y) = \bigoplus_i \widetilde{\text{CH}}_{d_i}(X_i \times Y, \omega_{X/S}^\vee),$$

where  $X_i$  are irreducible (connected) components of  $X$  with  $d_i = \dim X_i$ .

## 2 Milnor-Witt rational correspondences

Let  $X$  be a smooth and proper  $k$ -scheme and  $l_X$  (resp.  $l_Y$ ) a line bundle over  $X$  (resp.  $Y$ ). There is a canonical map of complexes

$$\Theta_M : C_p(X \times Y, M_q, l_X \otimes l_Y) \rightarrow C_p(X, A_0[Y, M_q, l_Y], l_X),$$

that takes an elements in  $M(z, \omega_z \otimes l_{X|z} \otimes l_{Y|z})$  for  $z \in (X \times Y)_{(p)}$  to zero if dimension of the projection  $x$  of  $z$  in  $X$  is strictly less than  $p$ , and identically to itself otherwise. In the latter case, we consider  $z$  as a point of dimension 0 in  $Y_x := Y_{\kappa(x)}$  under the inclusion  $Y_x \subset X \times Y$ . Thus,  $\Theta_{Y,M}$  “ignores” points in  $X \times Y$  that lose dimension being projected to  $X$ .

We study various compatibility properties of  $\Theta_M$ .

## 2.1 Cross products

Let  $M \times N \rightarrow P$  be a bilinear pairing of MW-cycle modules over  $k$ . For a smooth scheme  $Y$  over  $k$  and  $l_Y$  a line bundle over  $Y$ , we can define a pairing

$$M \times A_0[Y, N, l_Y] \rightarrow A_0[Y, P, l_Y]$$

in an obvious way.

**Lemma 2.1.1.** *For  $X, Y, Z$  smooth  $k$ -schemes, and  $l_X$  (resp.  $l_Y, l_Z$ ) a line bundle over  $X$  (resp.  $Y, Z$ ), the following diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_p(X, M_q, l_X) \otimes C_r(Y \times Z, N_s, l_Y \otimes l_Z) & \xrightarrow{\times} & C_{p+r}(X \times Y \times Z, P_{q+s}, l_X \otimes l_Y \otimes l_Z) \\ \downarrow \text{Id} \times \Theta_N & & \downarrow \Theta_P \\ C_p(X, M_q, l_X) \otimes C_r(Y A_0[Z, N_s, l_Z], l_Y) & \xrightarrow{\times} & C_{p+r}(X \times Y, A_0[Z, P_{q+s}, l_Z], l_X \otimes l_Y). \end{array}$$

*Proof.* Let  $x \in X_{(p)}$  and  $\mu \in C_p(X, M_q, l_X)$ . Consider the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_r(Y \times Z, N_s, l_Y \otimes l_Z) & \xrightarrow{\Theta_N} & C_r(Y, A_0[Z, N_s, l_Z], l_Y) \\ \downarrow \pi_x^* & & \downarrow \pi_x^* \\ C_r((Y \times Z)_x, N_s, l_Y \otimes l_Z) & \xrightarrow{\Theta_N} & C_r(Y_x, A_0[Z, N_s, l_Z], l_Y) \\ \downarrow m'_\mu & & \downarrow m_\mu \\ C_{p+r}((Y \times Z)_x, P_{q+s}, l_X \otimes l_Y \otimes l_Z) & \xrightarrow{\Theta_P} & C_{p+r}(Y_x, A_0[Z, P_{q+s}, l_Z], l_X \otimes l_Y) \\ \downarrow i'_{x,*} & & \downarrow i_{x,*} \\ C_{p+r}(X \times Y \times Z, P_{q+s}, l_X \otimes l_Y \otimes l_Z) & \xrightarrow{\Theta_P} & C_{p+r}(X \times Y, A_0[Z, P_{q+s}, l_Z], l_X \otimes l_Y) \end{array}$$

where  $\pi_x : Y_x \rightarrow Y$  and  $\pi'_x : (X \times Y)_x \rightarrow X \times Y$  are the natural projections,  $m_\mu$  and  $m'_\mu$  are the multiplications by  $\mu$ , and  $i_x : Y_x \rightarrow X \times Y$  and  $i'_x : (Y \times Z)_x \rightarrow X \times Y \times Z$  are the inclusions. By the definition of the cross product, the compositions in the two rows of the diagram are the multiplications by  $\mu$ . □

**2.1.2. PULLBACK MAPS** Let  $f : Z \rightarrow X$  be a regular closed embedding of smooth schemes of dimension  $s$  and  $l$  a line bundle over  $X$ . We denote by  $N_{X/Z}$  the normal bundle over  $Z$ . For an smooth scheme  $Y$ , the closed embedding

$$f' = f \times \text{Id}_Y : Z \times Y \rightarrow X \times Y$$



is also regular and the normal bundle  $N_{X \times Y/Z \times Y}$  is isomorphic to  $N_{X/Z} \times Y$ .

**Lemma 2.1.3.** *The following diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_p(X \times Y, M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{f'^*} & A_{p+s}(Z \times Y, M_{q-s}, l \otimes \omega_f^\vee) \\ \downarrow \Theta_M & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\ A_p(X, A_0[Y, M_q], l) & \xrightarrow{f^*} & A_{p+s}(Z, A_0[Y, M_{q-s}], l \otimes \omega_f^\vee). \end{array}$$

*Proof.* Let  $\pi_X : \mathbf{G}_m \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $\pi'_X : \mathbf{G}_m \times X \times Y \rightarrow X \times Y$  be the natural projections. The following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_p(X \times Y, M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{(\pi'_X)^*} & C_{p+1}(\mathbf{G}_m \times X \times Y, M_{q-1}, l) \\ \downarrow \Theta_M & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\ C_p(X, A_0[Y, M_q], l) & \xrightarrow{\pi_X^*} & C_{q+1}(\mathbf{G}_m \times X, A_0[Y, M_{q-1}], l) \end{array}$$

is commutative.

Let  $t$  be the coordinate function on  $\mathbf{G}_m$ . The map  $\Theta_M$  commutes with the multiplication by  $t$ , i.e. the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X \times Y, M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{[t]} & C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X \times Y, M_{q+1}, l) \\ \downarrow \Theta_M & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\ C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X, A_0[Y, M_q], l) & \xrightarrow{[t]} & C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X, A_0[Y, M_{q+1}], l) \end{array}$$

is commutative.

Let  $D = D(X, Z)$  be the deformation space of the embedding  $f$  (see e.g. [Ros96, §10]). There is a closed embedding  $i : N_{X/Z} \rightarrow D$  with the open complement  $j : \mathbf{G}_m \times X \rightarrow D$ . Then  $D' = D \times Y$  is the deformation space  $D(X \times Y, Z \times Y)$  with the closed embedding

$$i' = i \times \text{Id}_Y : N_{X \times Y/Z \times Y} \rightarrow D'$$

and the open complement  $j' = j \times \text{Id}_Y : \mathbf{G}_m \times X \times Y \rightarrow D'$ .

The commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\vdots & & \vdots \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
C_p(N_{X/Z} \times Y, M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{\Theta_M} & C_p(N_{X/Z}, A_0[Y, M_q], l) \\
\downarrow i'_* & & \downarrow i_* \\
C_p(D', M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{\Theta_M} & C_p(D, A_0[Y, M_q], l) \\
\downarrow j'^* & & \downarrow j^* \\
C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X \times Y, M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{\Theta_M} & C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X, A_0[Y, M_q], l) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\vdots & & \vdots
\end{array}$$

induces the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X \times Y, M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{p-1}(N_{X/Z} \times Y, M_q, l) \\
\downarrow \Theta_M & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\
C_p(\mathbf{G}_m \times X, A_0[Y, M_q], l) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{p-1}(N_{X/Z}, A_0[Y, M_q], l).
\end{array}$$

Finally, we also have the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
C_p(Z \times Y, M_q, l \otimes \omega_f^{!!\vee}) & \xrightarrow{\pi^*} & C_{p+s}(N_{X/Z} \times Y, M_{q-s}, l) \\
\downarrow \Theta_M & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\
C_p(Z, A_0[Y, M_q], l \otimes \omega_f^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\pi'^*} & C_{p+s}(N_{X/Z}, A_0[Y, M_{q-s}], l)
\end{array}$$

where  $\pi : N_{X/Z} \rightarrow Z$  is the canonical projection and  $s$  its relative dimension ( $\pi$  is a quasi-isomorphism by homotopy invariance). By the definition of the pullback map (see [Fel20, Section 7]), the result follows from the composition of the previous commutative square.  $\square$

*Remark 2.1.4.* The previous lemma could be stated at the level of complexes with the use of Rost's coordinations or by using the homotopy complex defined in [DFJ22, §2.2], but we do not need this generality.

**2.1.5. PUSHFORWARD MAPS** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Z$  be a map of smooth schemes (over  $k$ ). and  $l$  a line bundle over  $Z$ . For an oriented smooth scheme  $Y$ , set

$$f' = f \times \text{Id}_Y : X \times Y \rightarrow Z \times Y.$$

**Lemma 2.1.6.** *The following diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
C_p(X \times Y, M_q, l) & \xrightarrow{f'_*} & C_p(Z \times Y, M_q, l) \\
\downarrow \Theta_M & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\
C_p(X, A_0[Y, M_q], l) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & C_p(Z, A_0[Y, M_q], l).
\end{array}$$

is commutative.

*Proof.* Let  $u \in (X \times Y)_{(p)}$ ,  $a \in M(\kappa(u), \omega_u \otimes l)$ . Set  $v = f'(u) \in Z \times Y$ . If  $\dim(v) < p$  then  $(f'_*)_u(a) = 0$ . In this case, the dimension of the projection  $y$  of  $u$  in  $Y$  is less than  $p$  and hence  $(\Theta_M)_u(a) = 0$ .

Assume that  $\dim(v) = p$ . Then  $\kappa(u)/\kappa(v)$  is a finite field extension and

$$b = (f'_*)_u(a) = \text{cores}_{\kappa(u)/\kappa(v)}(a) \in M(\kappa(v), \omega_v \otimes l).$$

If  $\dim(y) < p$ , then  $(\Theta_M)_u(a) = 0$ , and  $\Theta_v(b) = 0$ .

Assume that  $\dim(y) = p$ , then

$$(\Theta_M \circ f'_*)_u(a) = \text{cores}_{\kappa(u)/\kappa(v)}(a) = b$$

considered as an element of  $A_0[Y, M_q](\kappa(z), \omega_z \otimes l) = A_0(Y_z, M_q, l)$ , where  $z$  is the image of  $v$  in  $Z$ . On the other hand,

$$(f_* \circ \Theta_M)_u(a) = \phi_*(a),$$

where  $\phi : Y_x \rightarrow Y_z$  is the natural map (where  $x$  is the image of  $u$  in  $X$ ) and is considered as an element of  $A_0[Y, M_q](\kappa(z), \omega_z \otimes l)$ . It remains to notice that

$$\phi_*(a) = \text{cores}_{\kappa(u)/\kappa(v)}(a) = b.$$

□

## 2.2 Rational correspondences

Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be smooth schemes over  $k$ . Assume  $Y$  irreducible and denote by  $d_Y$  the dimension of  $Y$ . By Lemma 2.1.1, for the pairing  $M \times \underline{\mathbb{K}}^{MW} \rightarrow M$  and “ $X = Y$ ” we have the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A_0(Y, M_q) \otimes \widetilde{\text{CH}}_{d_Y}(Y \times Z, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\times} & A_{d_Y}(Y \times Y \times Z, M_{-d_Y+q}, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) \\
\downarrow \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_{\underline{\mathbb{K}}^{MW}} & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\
A_0(Y, M_q) \otimes A_{d_Y}(Y, A_0[Z, \underline{\mathbb{K}}_{-d_Y}^{MW}], \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\times} & A_{d_Y}(Y \times Y, A_0[Z, M_{-d_Y+q}], \omega_{Y/k}^\vee).
\end{array}$$

Let  $\Delta : Y \rightarrow Y \times Y$  be the diagonal embedding and  $\Delta' = \Delta \otimes \text{Id}_Z$ . By Lemma 2.1.3, the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A_{d_Y}(Y \times Y \times Z, M_{-d_Y+q}, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\Delta'^*} & A_0(Y \times Z, M_q) \quad . \\
\downarrow \Theta_M & & \downarrow \Theta_M \\
A_{d_Y}(Y \times Y, A_0[Z, M_{-d_Y+q}], \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\Delta^*} & A_0(Y, A_0[Z, M_q])
\end{array}$$

is commutative.

Finally, assume that the structure map  $f : Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$  is proper and denote by  $f' = \text{Id}_X \times f$ . Lemma 2.1.6 implies that the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A_0(Y \times Z, M_q) & \xrightarrow{f'_*} & A_0(Z, M_q) \\
\downarrow \Theta_M & & \parallel \\
A_0(Y, A_0[Z, M_q]) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & A_0(\text{Spec } k, A_0[Z, M_q]).
\end{array}$$

is commutative.

**Proposition 2.2.1.** *Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be smooth schemes over  $k$ ,  $Y$  an irreducible smooth and proper, and  $M$  an MW-cycle module over  $k$ . Then the pairing*

$$\cup : A_0(Y, M_q) \otimes \widetilde{\text{CH}}_{d_Y}(Y \times Z, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) \rightarrow A_0(Z, M_q)$$

*is trivial on all cycles in  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}_{d_Y}(Y \times Z, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee)$  that are not dominant over  $Y$ . In other words, the  $\cup$ -product factors through a natural pairing*

$$\cup : A_0(Y, M_q) \otimes \widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(Z_{\kappa(Y)}, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) \rightarrow A_0(Z, M_q)$$

*Proof.* This follows from composing all three diagrams and taking into account that

$$A_{d_Y}(Y, A_0[Z, \underline{K}_{-d_Y}^{MW}], \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) = \widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(Z_{\kappa(Y)}, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee).$$

□

**2.2.2.** Keeping the previous notations, for  $Z$  irreducible smooth scheme over  $k$ , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A_{d_X}(X \times Y, M_q, \omega_{X/k}^\vee) \otimes \widetilde{\text{CH}}_{d_Y}(Y \times Z, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\cup} & A_{d_X}(X \times Z, M_q, \omega_{X/k}^\vee) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
A_0(Y_{\kappa(X)}, M_q, \omega_{X/k}^\vee) \otimes \widetilde{\text{CH}}_{d_Y}(Y \times Z, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\cup} & A_0(Z_{\kappa(X)}, M_q, \omega_{X/k}^\vee) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
A_0(Y_{\kappa(X)}, M_q, \omega_{X/k}^\vee) \otimes \widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(Z_{\kappa(Y)}, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) & \xrightarrow{\cup} & A_0(Z_{\kappa(X)}, M_q, \omega_{X/k}^\vee)
\end{array}$$

is commutative.

**2.2.3.** In particular, we have a well defined pairing

$$\cup : \widetilde{\mathrm{CH}}_0(Y_{\kappa(X)}, \omega_{X/k}^\vee) \otimes \widetilde{\mathrm{CH}}_0(Z_{\kappa(Y)}, \omega_{Y/k}^\vee) \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathrm{CH}}_0(Z_{\kappa(X)}, \omega_{X/k}^\vee)$$

that can be taken for the composition law in the category of Milnor-Witt rational correspondences  $\widetilde{\mathrm{RatCor}}(k)$  whose objects are the smooth proper schemes over  $k$  and morphisms are given by

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\widetilde{\mathrm{RatCor}}(k)}(X, Y) = \bigoplus_i \widetilde{\mathrm{CH}}_0(Y_{\kappa(X_i)}, \omega_{X/k}^\vee),$$

where  $X_i$  are all irreducible (connected) components of  $X$ .

There is an obvious functor

$$\Xi : \widetilde{\mathrm{Cor}}(k) \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathrm{RatCor}}(k).$$

**Theorem 2.2.4.** *For an MW-cycle module  $M$ , there exists a well-defined covariant functor*

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{RatCor}}(k) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}b, X \mapsto A_0(X, M), a \mapsto - \cup a.$$

More precisely, the functor  $\widetilde{\mathrm{Cor}}(k) \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathrm{RatCor}}(k)$  factors through  $\Xi$ .

*Proof.* This follows from Proposition 2.2.1. □

*Remark 2.2.5.* Assuming one works with *oriented* (see A.2.2) smooth proper  $k$ -schemes, then there is also a contravariant functor given by  $a \mapsto {}^t a \cup -$ . We won't need this result.

**2.2.6.** If  $(\alpha : X \rightsquigarrow Y) \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\widetilde{\mathrm{RatCor}}(k)}(X, Y)$  is a MW-rational correspondence between two smooth proper  $k$ -schemes, we have a natural pushforward morphism

$$\alpha_* : A_0(X, M) \rightarrow A_0(Y, M).$$

*Remark 2.2.7.* If  $\alpha$  et  $\beta$  are two composable Milnor-Witt rational correspondences, then

$$(\alpha \circ \beta)_* = \alpha_* \circ \beta_*.$$

**2.2.8.** Let  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$  be a rational morphism of irreducible smooth  $k$ -schemes. It defines a rational point of  $Y_{\kappa(X)}$  over  $\kappa(X)$  and hence a morphism in  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\widetilde{\mathrm{RatCor}}(k)}(X, Y)$  that we denote by  $[f] : X \rightsquigarrow Y$ . In fact, the rational correspondence  $[f]$  is the image of the class of the (transposed of the) graph of  $f$  (as in [BCD<sup>+</sup>20, Chapter 2, §4.3]) under the natural map

$$\widetilde{\text{CH}}_{d_X}(X \times Y, \omega_{X/k}) \rightarrow \widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(Y_{\kappa(X)}, \omega_{X/k}).$$

**Lemma 2.2.9.** *Let  $\kappa/k$  be a finite type extension of fields. Let  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$  be a rational morphism of smooth proper  $\kappa$ -schemes and let  $x \in X$  be a rational point such that  $f(x)$  is defined. Denote by  $[x] \in \widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(X, \omega_{\kappa/k})$  the 0-cycle associated to  $x$ . Then*

$$[f]_*([x]) = [f(x)]$$

in  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(Y, \omega_{\kappa/k})$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\Gamma \subset X \times Y$  be the graph of  $f$ . The preimage of  $\{x\} \times \Gamma$  under the morphism  $\Delta_X \otimes \text{Id}_Y : X \times Y \rightarrow X \times X \times Y$  is the reduced scheme  $\{x\} \times \{f(x)\}$ . Hence

$$[f]_*([x]) = [x] \cup [f] = \pi_*(\Delta_X \otimes \text{Id}_Y)^*([x] \times [\Gamma]) = \pi_*([x] \times [f(x)]) = [f(x)]$$

where  $\pi : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$  is the projection.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.10.** *Let  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \dashrightarrow Z$  be composable rational morphisms of smooth proper schemes and let  $h : X \dashrightarrow Z$  be the composition of  $f$  and  $g$ . Then  $[g] \circ [f] = [h]$  in  $\text{Hom}_{\widetilde{\text{RatCor}}(k)}(X, Z)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $y$  be the rational point of  $Y_{\kappa(X)}$  corresponding to  $f$ . By assumption, the rational morphism  $g_{\kappa(X)} : Y_{\kappa(X)} \dashrightarrow Z_{\kappa(X)}$  is defined at  $y$ . By Lemma 2.2.9 (with “ $\kappa = \kappa(X)$ ”, “ $X = Y_{\kappa(X)}$ ”, “ $Y = Z_{\kappa(X)}$ ” and “ $f = g_{\kappa(X)}$ ”) we see that the composition of correspondences  $f$  and  $g$  takes  $[y]$  to  $[g_{\kappa(X)}(y)] \in \widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(Z_{\kappa(X)}, \omega_{X/k}^\vee)$ . Note that the latter class corresponds to  $h$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.11.** *For any two composable rational morphisms  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \dashrightarrow Z$  of smooth proper schemes, we have*

$$[g \circ f]_* = [g]_* \circ [f]_*.$$

*Proof.* This is a consequence of Corollary 2.2.10.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.12.** *The group  $A_0(X, M)$  is a birational invariant of the smooth proper scheme  $X$ .*

*In particular, the Chow-Witt group of zero-cycles  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(X)$  is a birational invariant of the smooth proper scheme  $X$ .*

*Proof.* This is an immediate consequence of Corollary 2.2.11.  $\square$

*Example 2.2.13.* According to [Fas20, §5], we know that  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(\mathbf{P}_k^n) = \text{GW}(k)$  for any natural number  $n$ .

In particular, we recover the computations of  $\widetilde{\text{CH}}_0(Q_n)$  where  $Q_n$  is an  $n$ -dimensional split quadric (see [HXZ20, Corollary 9.5]).

*Example 2.2.14.* If  $M$  is  $K^M$  (the Milnor-Witt K-theory), then we recover the fact that the Chow group of zero-cycles  $\text{CH}_0(X)$  is a birational invariant of the smooth proper scheme  $X$ .

## A Appendix

### A.1 Cohomological Milnor-Witt cycle modules

**Definition A.1.1.** 1. If  $S$  is a scheme, call an  $S$ -**field** the spectrum of a field essentially of finite type over  $S$ , and a **morphism of  $S$ -fields** an  $S$ -morphism between the underlying schemes. The collection of  $S$ -fields together with morphisms of  $S$ -fields defines a category which we denote by  $\mathcal{F}_S$ . We say that a morphism of  $S$ -fields is **finite** (resp. **separable**) if the underlying field extension is finite (resp. separable).

In what follows, we will denote for example  $f : \text{Spec } F \rightarrow \text{Spec } E$  a morphism of  $S$ -fields, and  $\phi : E \rightarrow F$  the underlying field extension.

An  $S$ -**valuation** on an  $S$ -field  $\text{Spec } F$  is a discrete valuation  $v$  on  $F$  such that  $\text{Im}(\mathcal{O}(S) \rightarrow F) \subset \mathcal{O}_v$ . We denote by  $\kappa(v)$  the residue field,  $\mathfrak{m}_v$  the valuation ideal and  $N_v = \mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2$ .

2. Let  $S$  be a scheme and let  $R$  be a commutative ring with unit. An  $R$ -**linear cohomological Milnor-Witt cycle premodule** over  $S$  is a functor from  $\mathcal{F}_S$  to the category of  $\mathbf{Z}$ -graded  $R$ -modules

$$\begin{aligned} M : (\mathcal{F}_S)^{op} &\rightarrow \text{Mod}_R^{\mathbf{Z}} \\ \text{Spec } E &\mapsto M(E) \end{aligned} \tag{A.1.1.a}$$

for which we denote by  $M_n(E)$  the  $n$ -th graded piece, together with the following functorialities and relations:

**Functorialities:**

- (D1)** For a morphism of  $S$ -fields  $f : \text{Spec } F \rightarrow \text{Spec } E$  or (equivalently)  $\phi : E \rightarrow F$ , a map of degree 0

$$f^* = \phi_* = \text{res}_{F/E} : M(E) \rightarrow M(F); \tag{A.1.1.b}$$

**(D3)** For an  $S$ -field  $\text{Spec } E$  and an element  $x \in K_m^{MW}(E)$ , a map of degree  $m$

$$\gamma_x : M(E) \rightarrow M(E) \quad (\text{A.1.1.c})$$

making  $M(E)$  a left module over the lax monoidal functor  $K_?^{MW}(E)$  (i.e. we have  $\gamma_x \circ \gamma_y = \gamma_{x \cdot y}$  and  $\gamma_1 = \text{Id}$ ).

The axiom (D3) allows us to define, for every  $S$ -field  $\text{Spec } E$  and every 1-dimensional  $E$ -vector space  $\mathcal{L}$ , a graded  $R$ -module

$$M(E, \mathcal{L}) := M(E) \otimes_{R[E^\times]} R[\mathcal{L}^\times] \quad (\text{A.1.1.d})$$

where  $R[\mathcal{L}^\times]$  is the free  $R$ -module generated by the non-zero elements of  $\mathcal{L}$ , and the group algebra  $R[E^\times]$  acts on  $M(E)$  via  $u \mapsto \langle u \rangle$  thanks to (D3).

**(D2)** For a finite morphism of  $S$ -fields  $f : \text{Spec } F \rightarrow \text{Spec } E$  or  $\phi : E \rightarrow F$ , a map of degree 0

$$f_! = \phi^! = \text{cores}_{F/E} : M(F, \omega_{F/E}) \rightarrow M(E); \quad (\text{A.1.1.e})$$

**(D4)** For an  $S$ -field  $\text{Spec } E$  and an  $S$ -valuation  $v$  on  $E$ , a map of degree  $-1$

$$\partial_v : M(E) \rightarrow M(\kappa(v), N_v^\vee). \quad (\text{A.1.1.f})$$

**Relations:** We refer to [Fel20, Definition 3.1] for the list of relations.

**A.1.2.** Fix  $M$  a Milnor-Witt cycle premodule. If  $X$  is any scheme, let  $x, y$  be any points in  $X$ . We can define a map

$$\partial_y^x : M_q(\kappa(x), \omega_{\kappa(x)/k}) \rightarrow M_{q-1}(\kappa(y), \omega_{\kappa(y)/k})$$

thanks to (D2) and (D4).

**Definition A.1.3.** (see [Fel20, Definition 4.2])

A Milnor-Witt cycle module  $M$  over  $k$  is a Milnor-Witt cycle premodule  $M$  which satisfies the following conditions (FD) and (C).

**(FD)** FINITE SUPPORT OF DIVISORS. Let  $X$  be a normal scheme and  $\rho$  be an element of  $M(\xi_X, X)$ . Then  $\partial_x(\rho) = 0$  for all but finitely many  $x \in X^{(1)}$ .

**(C)** CLOSEDNESS. Let  $X$  be integral and local of dimension 2. Then

$$0 = \sum_{x \in X^{(1)}} \partial_{x_0}^x \circ \partial_x^\xi : M(\kappa(\xi_X), \omega_{\kappa(\xi_X)/k}) \rightarrow M(\kappa(x_0), \omega_{\kappa(x_0)/k})$$



where  $\xi$  is the generic point and  $x_0$  the closed point of  $X$ .

**A.1.4.** Let  $M$  be a Milnor-Witt cycle module over  $k$ . We can form a (cohomological) Rost-Schmid cycle complex  $C_*(X, M, l)$  such that for any integer  $p, q \in \mathbf{Z}$ , and any line bundle  $l$  over  $X$ :

$$C_p(X, M_q, l) := \bigoplus_{X_{(p)}} M_{p+q}(\kappa(x), \omega_{\kappa(x)/k} \otimes l|_x). \quad (\text{A.1.4.a})$$

We denote by  $A_i(X, M_q, l)$  is the homology of  $C_*(X, M_q, l)$  in degree  $i$ .

*Remark A.1.5.* Taking  $M = \underline{\mathbf{K}}^{MW}$ , we obtain

$$A_i(X, M_{-i}, l) = \widetilde{\text{CH}}_i(X, l)$$

where the right-hand-side is known as the Chow-Witt group of  $X$ .

**A.1.6.** Fix  $M$  a Milnor-Witt cycle module and fix  $X$  a  $k$ -scheme with a dimensional pinning. We recall the basic maps that one can define on the cohomological Rost-Schmid complex.

**A.1.7. PUSHFORWARD** Let  $f : Y \rightarrow X$  be a  $k$ -morphism of schemes. We have

$$f_* : C_p(Y, M_q, l) \rightarrow C_p(X, M_q, l)$$

as follows. If  $x = f(y)$  and if  $\kappa(y)$  is finite over  $\kappa(x)$ , then  $(f_*)_x^y = \text{cores}_{\kappa(y)/\kappa(x)}$ . Otherwise,  $(f_*)_x^y = 0$ .

**A.1.8. PULLBACK** Let  $f : Y \rightarrow X$  be an *essentially smooth* morphism of schemes of relative dimension  $s$ . Suppose  $Y$  connected. Define

$$f^! : C_p(X, M_q, l) \rightarrow C_{p+s}(Y, M_{q-s}, l \otimes \omega_f^\vee)$$

as follows. If  $f(y) = x$ , then  $(f^!)_y^x = \text{res}_{\kappa(y)/\kappa(x)}$ . Otherwise,  $(f^!)_y^x = 0$ . If  $Y$  is not connected, take the sum over each connected component.

**A.1.9. MULTIPLICATION WITH UNITS** Let  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  be global units in  $\mathcal{O}_X^*$ . Define

$$[a_1, \dots, a_n] : C_p(X, M_q, l) \rightarrow C_p(X, M_{q+n}, l)$$

as follows. Let  $x$  be in  $X_{(p)}$  and  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}(\kappa(x), *)$ . We consider  $[a_1(x), \dots, a_n(x)]$  as an element of  $\underline{\mathbf{K}}^{MW}(\kappa(x))$ . If  $x = y$ , then put  $[a_1, \dots, a_n]_y^x(\rho) = [a_1(x), \dots, a_n(x)] \cdot \rho$ . Otherwise, put  $[a_1, \dots, a_n]_y^x(\rho) = 0$ .

**A.1.10. MULTIPLICATION WITH  $\eta$**  Define

$$\eta : C_p(X, M_q, l) \rightarrow C_p(X, M_{q-1}, l)$$

as follows. If  $x = y$ , then  $\eta_y^x(\rho) = \gamma_\eta(\rho)$ . Otherwise,  $\eta_y^x(\rho) = 0$ .

**A.1.11. BOUNDARY MAPS** Let  $X$  be a scheme of finite type over  $k$ , let  $i : Z \rightarrow X$  be a closed immersion and let  $j : U = X \setminus Z \rightarrow X$  be the inclusion of the open complement. We have a map

$$\partial = \partial_Z^U : C_p(U, M_q, *) \rightarrow C_{p-1}(Z, M_q, *).$$

which is called the boundary map for the closed immersion  $i : Z \rightarrow X$ .

**A.1.12.** A pairing  $N \times M \rightarrow P$  between MW-cycle modules is given by maps

$$M_p(E, l) \otimes N_q(E, l') \rightarrow P_{p+q}(E, l \otimes l')$$

which are compatible with the data (D1),..., (D4) (see [Fel20, Definition 3.21] for more details).

**A.1.13. PRODUCT** If  $M \times N \rightarrow P$  is a pairing of Milnor-Witt cycle modules, then there is a product map

$$C_p(X, M_q, l) \times C_r(Y, N_s, l') \rightarrow C_{p+r}(X \times Y, P_{q+s}, l \otimes l')$$

where  $X, Y$  are smooth schemes over  $k$  (see also [Fel20, §11]).

*Remark A.1.14.* The previous basic maps commute with the differentials of the Rost-Schmid complex and thus induce morphisms on the homology.

## A.2 Oriented schemes

**A.2.1.** The notion of oriented real vector bundles was extended to the algebraic setting by Barges-Morel in [?]. We introduce a new category of oriented schemes. We refer to [DDØ22, Appendix §6.1] for similar results.

**Definition A.2.2.** Let  $X/S$  be a scheme. An orientation of  $X$  is an isomorphism  $\sigma : \omega_{X/S} \rightarrow l_X^{\otimes 2}$ , where  $l_X$  is an invertible sheaf over  $X$ .

An oriented  $S$ -scheme  $(X, \sigma_X : \omega_{X/S} \rightarrow l_X^{\otimes 2})$  is the data of a scheme  $X/S$  and an orientation  $\sigma_X : \omega_{X/S} \rightarrow l_X^{\otimes 2}$ .

A morphism of oriented schemes  $(Y, \sigma_Y : \omega_{Y/S} \rightarrow l_Y^{\otimes 2}) \rightarrow (X, \sigma_X : \omega_{X/S} \rightarrow l_X^{\otimes 2})$  is the data of an  $S$ -morphism  $f : Y \rightarrow X$  along with an isomorphism of invertible sheaves  $l_Y^{\otimes 2} \simeq f^{-1}l_X^{\otimes 2} \otimes \omega_f$  which makes the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\omega_{Y/S} & \xrightarrow{\cong} & f^{-1}\omega_{X/S} \otimes \omega_f \\
\downarrow \sigma_Y & & \downarrow \sigma_X \otimes \text{Id}_{\omega_f} \\
l_Y^{\otimes 2} & \xrightarrow{\cong} & f^{-1}l_X^{\otimes 2} \otimes \omega_f
\end{array}$$

commutative.

Denote by **orSchm** the category of oriented schemes (along with morphisms of oriented schemes).

*Remark A.2.3.* Let  $(X, \sigma_X : \omega_{X/S} \rightarrow l_X^{\otimes 2})$  be an oriented scheme. By abuse of notation, we omit the orientation and simply write  $X$ .

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