

## $\mathbb{Z}_p, \mathbb{Q}_p,$ AND THE RING OF WITT VECTORS

No.20: Supplement.

LEMMA 20.1. *Let  $A$  be a commutative ring. Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Then:*

- (1)  $V_n(\mathcal{W}_1(A))$  is an ideal of  $\mathcal{W}_1(A)$ .
- (2) If  $n$  is invertible in  $A$ , then

$$e_n \cdot \mathcal{W}_1(A) = V_n(\mathcal{W}_1(A)).$$

DEFINITION 20.2. For any commutative ring  $A$ , let us define  $I(A)$  to be the submodule of  $\mathcal{W}_1(A)$  generated by all the images  $V_n(\mathcal{W}_1(A))$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer which is not divisible by  $p$ :

$$I(A) = \left( \sum_{p \nmid n} V_n(\mathcal{W}_1(A)) \right)$$

Let us denote by  $\bar{I}(A)$  its closure. Then we define:

$$\mathcal{W}^{(p)}(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{W}_1(A) / \overline{I(A)}$$

PROPOSITION 20.3. *Let us define a map*

$$\Phi : A^{\mathbb{N}} \ni (a_i) \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (1 - a_i T^{p^i})_W \in \mathcal{W}^{(p)}(A).$$

*Then  $\Phi$  is a bijection.*

PROOF. Surjectivity: Every element  $(f)_W$  of  $\mathcal{W}_1(A)$  may be written as  $(f)_W = \sum_j (1 - c_j T^j)_W$ . Knowing that  $(1 - c_j T^j)_W$  is an element of  $I(A)$  whenever  $j$  is not divisible by  $p$ , we see that  $\Phi((c_{p^i})_{i=0}^{\infty}) = (f)_W$ . Injectivity: Assume  $\Phi((a_i)) = \Phi((b_i))$ . Let  $i_0$  be the smallest integer  $i$  such that  $a_i \neq b_i$ . Then by subtraction we obtain an equation

$$\sum_{i \geq i_0} (1 - a_i T^{p^i})_W = \sum_{i \geq i_0} (1 - b_i T^{p^i})_W$$

in  $\mathcal{W}^{(p)}(A)$ .

$$(1 - a_{i_0} T^{p^{i_0}} + \text{higher order terms})_W = (1 - b_{i_0} T^{p^{i_0}} + \text{higher order terms})_W$$

Since we know that the terms of order  $p^{i_0}$  are not affected by additions of elements of  $\bar{I}(A)$ , we see  $a_{i_0} = b_{i_0}$ , which is a contradiction. □