

NONSINGULAR BILINEAR FORMS ON DIRECT SUMS OF IDEALS

BEATA ROTHKEGEL

(Communicated by Stanislav Jakubec)

ABSTRACT. In the paper we formulate a criterion for the nonsingularity of a bilinear form on a direct sum of finitely many invertible ideals of a domain. We classify these forms up to isometry and, in the case of a Dedekind domain, up to similarity.

©2013
Mathematical Institute
Slovak Academy of Sciences

1. Introduction

The theory of bilinear forms over commutative rings is a natural generalization of the theory of bilinear forms over fields. In both of these theories (in particular in the construction of the Witt ring) the notion of a nonsingular bilinear form plays an important role.

Let R be a commutative ring and M be a finitely generated projective R -module. A symmetric bilinear form $\alpha: M \times M \rightarrow R$ is said to be *nonsingular* if the adjoint homomorphism $\hat{\alpha}: M \rightarrow M^* = \text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ defined by

$$\hat{\alpha}(m)(n) = \alpha(m, n) \quad \text{for all } m, n \in M,$$

is an isomorphism of the module M and the module $\text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ of all linear functionals $f: M \rightarrow R$. When the form α is nonsingular, the bilinear space (M, α) is said to be *nonsingular* or an *inner product space* over R .

Similarly as in the case of a bilinear space over a field, if the module M is free, then α is nonsingular if and only if its matrix in any basis of M is invertible. But unlike a space over a field, in general the module M has not a basis. Therefore

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 11E81.

Key words: nonsingular bilinear form, isometry, similarity.

we should formulate a necessary and sufficient condition for the nonsingularity of α for any finitely generated projective module M , not necessarily free.

In [2] such a condition is given for an invertible fractional ideal of a domain. In our paper, in Section 2, we prove a criterion for the nonsingularity of α for a direct sum $I_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus I_n$ of $n \geq 1$ invertible ideals $I_1, \dots, I_n$. For example, every finitely generated projective module M of rank n over a one-dimensional noetherian domain has such a form (cf. [7: Chapter I, Prop. 3.4, 3.5]; $M \cong I \oplus R^{n-1}$ for some invertible ideal I of the ring R).

In Section 3 we classify all nonsingular bilinear forms on a module $I_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus I_n$ up to isometry. Assuming R is a Dedekind domain, in Section 4 we classify these forms up to similarity.

Throughout the paper R^* denotes the group of invertible elements of the ring R .

2. Nonsingularity

In the paper [2] the following theorem is proved.

THEOREM 2.1. ([2: Thm. 2.5]) *Let R be a domain and K its field of fractions. Let I be a fractional ideal in K . The ideal I admits a nonsingular bilinear form if and only if I^2 is a principal ideal.*

The next theorem describes all nonsingular bilinear forms on I .

THEOREM 2.2. ([2: Thm. 3.1]) *Let R be a domain and K its field of fractions. Let I be a fractional ideal in K and assume $I^2 = pR$ for some $p \in K$, $p \neq 0$. If α is a nonsingular bilinear form on I , there exists a unique element $u \in R^*$ such that for all $x, y \in I$ we have*

$$\alpha(x, y) = \frac{u}{p}xy. \quad (1)$$

Conversely, if $u \in R^$, then the map $\alpha: I \times I \rightarrow R$ defined by (1) is a nonsingular bilinear form on I .*

We describe all nonsingular bilinear forms on a direct sum of finitely many fractional ideals.

We use the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.3. ([7: Chapter I, Prop. 3.5]) *Let R be a domain and let I be an ideal in R . If I is invertible, then it is a finitely generated projective R -module of rank 1 and conversely, each finitely generated projective R -module of rank 1 is isomorphic to some invertible ideal of R .*

PROPOSITION 2.4. *Let R be a domain and K its field of fractions. Let M be a direct sum of finitely many fractional ideals in K . Then M is a finitely generated projective R -module of rank $n \geq 1$ if and only if there exist invertible ideals $I_1, \dots, I_n$ of the ring R such that*

$$M \cong I_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus I_n.$$

Proof.

($\Leftarrow$) This implication is obvious. Since every ideal I_j , $j = 1, \dots, n$, is a finitely generated projective R -module of rank 1, the module M is finitely generated, projective and

$$\text{rank } M = \text{rank } I_1 + \cdots + \text{rank } I_n = n.$$

($\Rightarrow$) Let

$$M = J_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus J_k$$

for some fractional ideals $J_1, \dots, J_k$ in the field K . We prove that $k = n$.

Fix $j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. There exists an element $0 \neq d_j \in R$ such that

$$d_j J_j \triangleleft R.$$

The map $\psi_j: J_j \rightarrow d_j J_j$ defined by

$$\psi_j(x) = d_j x \quad \text{for all } x \in J_j$$

is an isomorphism of R -modules. Then

$$M \cong d_1 J_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus d_k J_k.$$

Let $\mathfrak{m}$ be a maximal ideal in the ring R and $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$ be the localisation of the module M at $\mathfrak{m}$. Then

$$M_{\mathfrak{m}} \cong (d_1 J_1)_{\mathfrak{m}} \oplus \cdots \oplus (d_k J_k)_{\mathfrak{m}}.$$

Since $d_j J_j$ is a finitely generated projective R -module, the ideal $(d_j J_j)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a finitely generated projective $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ -module. Therefore $(d_j J_j)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a free module (cf. [3: Chapter I, 2.4 Cor.]), so $(d_j J_j)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a principal ideal, i.e.

$$\text{rank}_{\mathfrak{m}}(d_j J_j)_{\mathfrak{m}} = 1.$$

Then $\text{rank}(d_j J_j) = 1$, so

$$n = \text{rank } M = \text{rank}(d_1 J_1) + \cdots + \text{rank}(d_k J_k) = k.$$

Finally, we have

$$M \cong d_1 J_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus d_n J_n,$$

where $d_1J_1, \dots, d_nJ_n$ are finitely generated projective R -modules of rank 1. Therefore by Lemma 2.3 there exist invertible ideals I_j , $j = 1, \dots, n$, of the ring R such that $d_jJ_j \cong I_j$, so

$$M \cong I_1 \oplus \dots \oplus I_n.$$

□

We give a necessary condition for the existence of a nonsingular bilinear form on $I_1 \oplus \dots \oplus I_n$. In order to do that, we use the following properties and theorem of Steinitz.

LEMMA 2.5. ([7: Chapter I, Lemma 3.1, Prop. 3.5]) *Let R be a domain and let I be an invertible ideal in R . Then*

- (1) $I^{-1} \cong I^*$,
- (2) $I \otimes_R J \cong IJ$ for any fractional ideal J ,
- (3) $I \otimes_R I^* \cong R$.

THEOREM 2.6 (Steinitz). ([4: I.1.6]) *Let R be a domain and let K be its field of fractions. If $\mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_k, \mathfrak{b}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{b}_l$ are nonzero ideals in R and the R -modules $\mathfrak{a}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathfrak{a}_k$ and $\mathfrak{b}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathfrak{b}_l$ are isomorphic, then there is an element $c \in K$ such that*

$$\mathfrak{a}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{a}_k = c\mathfrak{b}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{b}_l.$$

THEOREM 2.7. *Let R be a domain and let $I_1, \dots, I_n$ be invertible ideals in R . If the module $I_1 \oplus \dots \oplus I_n$ admits a nonsingular bilinear form, then $(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2$ is a principal ideal.*

Proof. Let $\alpha: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \times \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow R$ be a nonsingular bilinear form on the module

$\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j = I_1 \oplus \dots \oplus I_n$. Then the map $\hat{\alpha}: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow \left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j\right)^*$ is an isomorphism of R -modules, so

$$\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \cong \left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j\right)^*.$$

But

$$\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j\right)^* \cong \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j^*$$

and by Lemma 2.5 $I_j^* \cong I_j^{-1}$. Therefore

$$\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \cong \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j^{-1}.$$

Obviously

$$(I_1 \cdots I_n) \otimes_R \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \cong (I_1 \cdots I_n) \otimes_R \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j^{-1},$$

so

$$\bigoplus_{j=1}^n ((I_1 \cdots I_n) \otimes_R I_j) \cong \bigoplus_{j=1}^n ((I_1 \cdots I_n) \otimes_R I_j^{-1}). \quad (2)$$

By Lemma 2.5

$$(I_1 \cdots I_j \cdots I_n) \otimes_R I_j \cong I_1 \cdots I_j^2 \cdots I_n.$$

Moreover,

$$(I_1 \cdots I_j \cdots I_n) \cong (I_1 \cdots I_{j-1} \cdot I_{j+1} \cdots I_n) \otimes_R I_j,$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} (I_1 \cdots I_n) \otimes_R I_j^{-1} &\cong (I_1 \cdots I_{j-1} \cdot I_{j+1} \cdots I_n) \otimes_R I_j \otimes_R I_j^{-1} \\ &\cong (I_1 \cdots I_{j-1} \cdot I_{j+1} \cdots I_n) \otimes_R R \\ &\cong I_1 \cdots I_{j-1} \cdot I_{j+1} \cdots I_n. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore from (2) it follows that

$$\bigoplus_{j=1}^n (I_1 \cdots I_j^2 \cdots I_n) \cong \bigoplus_{j=1}^n (I_1 \cdots I_{j-1} \cdot I_{j+1} \cdots I_n).$$

By theorem of Steinitz there exists an element $c \in K$ such that

$$(I_1 \cdots I_n)^{n+1} = c(I_1 \cdots I_n)^{n-1}.$$

Hence

$$(I_1 \cdots I_n)^{n+1} \cong (I_1 \cdots I_n)^{n-1}.$$

Of course

$$(I_1 \cdots I_n)^{-(n-1)} \otimes_R (I_1 \cdots I_n)^{n+1} \cong (I_1 \cdots I_n)^{-(n-1)} \otimes_R (I_1 \cdots I_n)^{n-1},$$

so by Lemma 2.5

$$(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \cong R.$$

Therefore $(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2$ is a free R -module, i.e. it is a principal ideal. $\square$

Now we describe any symmetric, not necessarily nonsingular, bilinear form on $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$.

For every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ let us denote

$$S_{jj} := (I_1 \cdots I_{j-1})^2 \cdot (I_{j+1} \cdots I_n)^2$$

(if $n = 1$, then $S_{11} = R$). Moreover, for $j, k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $j \neq k$, put

$$S_{jk} := (I_1 \cdots I_{j-1})^2 \cdot I_j \cdot (I_{j+1} \cdots I_{k-1})^2 \cdot I_k \cdot (I_{k+1} \cdots I_n)^2.$$

PROPOSITION 2.8. *Let R be a domain and $I_1, \dots, I_n$ be ideals in R such that $(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = pR$ for some $0 \neq p \in R$. A map $\alpha: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \times \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow R$ is a symmetric bilinear form on $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ if and only if there exist uniquely determined elements $a_{jk} \in S_{jk}$, $a_{jk} = a_{kj}$, $j, k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that*

$$\alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) = \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k$$

for all $(x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$.

Proof.

($\Leftarrow$) The bilinearity of α is obvious. It suffices to notice that for $j = 1, \dots, n$ we have

$$a_{jj} \in S_{jj} \implies \underbrace{a_{jj} x_j y_j}_{\in I_j^2} \in (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = pR \implies \frac{a_{jj}}{p} x_j y_j \in R$$

and for $j, k = 1, \dots, n$, $j \neq k$

$$a_{jk} \in S_{jk} \implies \underbrace{a_{jk} x_j y_k}_{\in I_j I_k} \in (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = pR \implies \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k \in R,$$

so

$$\alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) \in R$$

for all $(x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$.

($\Rightarrow$) Fix $j, k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $j \neq k$. We prove that there exists a uniquely determined $a_{jk} \in S_{jk}$ such that

$$\alpha((0, \dots, x_j, \dots, 0), (0, \dots, y_k, \dots, 0)) = \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k$$

for all $x_j \in I_j$, $y_k \in I_k$.

Let $x_j \in I_j$, $y_k \in I_k$ and K be the field of fractions of the ring R . Then

$$\alpha((0, \dots, x_j, \dots, 0), \cdot) |_{I_k} \in I_k^*.$$

By [2: Lemma 2.3] there exists an element $c_j \in K$ such that

$$\alpha((0, \dots, x_j, \dots, 0), (0, \dots, y_k, \dots, 0)) = c_j y_k$$

for (all) $y_k \in I_k$. Similarly,

$$\alpha((0, \dots, y_k, \dots, 0), \cdot) |_{I_j} \in I_j^*,$$

so there exists $c_k \in K$ such that

$$\alpha((0, \dots, y_k, \dots, 0), (0, \dots, x_j, \dots, 0)) = c_k x_j.$$

for (all) $x_j \in I_j$. Since α is symmetric, $c_j y_k = c_k x_j$. Hence for all $x_j \in I_j \setminus \{0\}$, $y_k \in I_k \setminus \{0\}$ the ratio

$$\frac{c_j}{x_j} = \frac{c_k}{y_k} =: d_{jk} \in K$$

is a constans. Moreover,

$$d_{jk} x_j y_k = c_j y_k = \alpha((0, \dots, x_j, \dots, 0), (0, \dots, y_k, \dots, 0)) \in R.$$

The elements $x_j y_k$ generate the ideal $I_j I_k$, so

$$d_{jk} p \in d_{jk} (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \subseteq d_{jk} I_j I_k \subseteq R.$$

Denoting $a_{jk} := d_{jk} p$, we finally get

$$\alpha((0, \dots, x_j, \dots, 0), (0, \dots, y_k, \dots, 0)) = \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k$$

for all $x_j \in I_j$, $y_k \in I_k$.

The uniqueness of a_{jk} follows from the cancelation property in a domain. Since α is symmetric, $a_{jk} = a_{kj}$. It suffices to prove that $a_{jk} \in S_{jk}$.

Because

$$\frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k \in R \quad \text{for all } x_j \in I_j, y_k \in I_k,$$

so

$$a_{jk} x_j y_k \in pR = (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \quad \text{for all } x_j \in I_j, y_k \in I_k.$$

Hence

$$a_{jk} I_j I_k \subseteq (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = (I_1 \cdots I_{j-1})^2 \cdot I_j^2 \cdot (I_{j+1} \cdots I_{k-1})^2 \cdot I_k^2 \cdot (I_{k+1} \cdots I_n)^2.$$

Multiplying by $I_j^{-1} \cdot I_k^{-1}$ we obtain

$$a_{jk} R \subseteq S_{jk},$$

i.e. $a_{jk} \in S_{jk}$.

In an analogous way we prove that for every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ there exists a uniquely determined $a_{jj} \in S_{jj}$ such that

$$\alpha((0, \dots, x_j, \dots, 0), (0, \dots, y_j, \dots, 0)) = \frac{a_{jj}}{p} x_j y_j$$

for all $x_j, y_j \in I_j$.

The bilinearity of α gives the thesis. □

We formulate a necessary and sufficient condition for the nonsingularity of α .

THEOREM 2.9. *Let R be a domain and $I_1, \dots, I_n$ be ideals in R such that $(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = pR$ for some $0 \neq p \in R$. Let $\alpha: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \times \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow R$ be a symmetric bilinear form on $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ defined by the formula*

$$\alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) = \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k,$$

where $a_{jk} = a_{kj} \in S_{jk}$, $j, k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. The form α is nonsingular if and only if

$$\det(a_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} = p^{n-1} \cdot u$$

for some invertible element $u \in R^*$.

Proof. We know that

$$\det(a_{jk}) = \sum_{(k_1, \dots, k_n)} \pm a_{1k_1} \cdots a_{nk_n},$$

where $\{k_1, \dots, k_n\} = \{1, \dots, n\}$. Hence

$$\det(a_{jk}) \in \sum_{(k_1, \dots, k_n)} S_{1k_1} \cdots S_{nk_n}.$$

But

$$S_{1k_1} \cdots S_{nk_n} = (I_1 \cdots I_n)^{2(n-1)} = p^{n-1} \cdot R,$$

so

$$\det(a_{jk}) = p^{n-1} \cdot u \tag{3}$$

for some element $u \in R$.

Let $\mathfrak{m}$ be a maximal ideal in R and $\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n (I_j)_{\mathfrak{m}}, \alpha_{\mathfrak{m}}\right)$ be the localisation of the space $\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha\right)$ at $\mathfrak{m}$. The ideals $(I_1)_{\mathfrak{m}}, \dots, (I_n)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ are finitely generated projective $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ -modules. From [3: Chapter I, 2.4 Cor.] it follows that $(I_1)_{\mathfrak{m}}, \dots, (I_n)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ are free modules, so they are principal ideals. Let

$$(I_1)_{\mathfrak{m}} = g_1 R_{\mathfrak{m}}, \dots, (I_n)_{\mathfrak{m}} = g_n R_{\mathfrak{m}}$$

for some $g_1, \dots, g_n \in R_{\mathfrak{m}}$. Then

$$g_1^2 \cdots g_n^2 R_{\mathfrak{m}} = ((I_1)_{\mathfrak{m}} \cdots (I_n)_{\mathfrak{m}})^2 = p R_{\mathfrak{m}},$$

so

$$g_1^2 \cdots g_n^2 = pv \quad (4)$$

for some invertible element $v \in R_{\mathfrak{m}}^*$. Observe that the form $\alpha_{\mathfrak{m}}$ has the following matrix

$$A = \frac{1}{p} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \cdot g_1^2 & a_{12} \cdot g_1 g_2 & \cdots & a_{1n} \cdot g_1 g_n \\ a_{21} \cdot g_2 g_1 & a_{22} \cdot g_2^2 & \cdots & a_{2n} \cdot g_2 g_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} \cdot g_n g_1 & a_{n2} \cdot g_n g_2 & \cdots & a_{nn} \cdot g_n^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

in the basis

$$\mathcal{B} = ((g_1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, (0, \dots, g_j, \dots, 0), \dots, (0, \dots, 0, g_n))$$

of the free $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ -module $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n (I_j)_{\mathfrak{m}}$.

($\implies$) We show that u is invertible.

Since by the assumption α is nonsingular, from [1: (1.4) Prop.] it follows that $\alpha_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is nonsingular. Hence there exists an invertible element $\nu \in R_{\mathfrak{m}}^*$ such that

$$\nu = \det A = \frac{1}{p^n} \cdot g_1^2 g_2^2 \cdots g_n^2 \cdot \det(a_{jk}).$$

Therefore by (3) and (4)

$$\nu = v \cdot u,$$

so $u = \nu \cdot v^{-1} \in R_{\mathfrak{m}}^*$. Hence u is invertible in R .

($\Leftarrow$) By the assumption $u \in R^*$, so $u \in R_{\mathfrak{m}}^*$. Therefore $\det A = v \cdot u \in R_{\mathfrak{m}}^*$, so $\alpha_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is nonsingular. From [1: (1.4) Prop.] it follows that the form α is nonsingular. $\square$

Example. Let R be a domain and $I_1, \dots, I_n$ be ideals in R such that $I_1^2 = q_1 R, \dots, I_n^2 = q_n R$ for some $q_1, \dots, q_n \in R \setminus \{0\}$. For every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ let $\alpha_j: I_j \times I_j \rightarrow R$ be a symmetric bilinear form on the ideal I_j . By Proposition 2.8 for every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ there exists a unique element $a_j \in R$ such that

$$\alpha_j(x, y) = \frac{a_j}{q_j} xy \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I_j.$$

Let

$$\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha \right) = (I_1, \alpha_1) \perp \cdots \perp (I_n, \alpha_n)$$

be an orthogonal direct sum of the spaces $(I_1, \alpha_1), \dots, (I_n, \alpha_n)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) &= \alpha_1(x_1, y_1) + \alpha_2(x_2, y_2) + \dots + \alpha_n(x_n, y_n) \\
&= \frac{a_1}{q_1}x_1y_1 + \frac{a_2}{q_2}x_2y_2 + \dots + \frac{a_n}{q_n}x_ny_n \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{a_j b_j}{p} x_j y_j
\end{aligned}$$

for all $(x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$, where $p := q_1 q_2 \dots q_n$, $b_j := q_1 \dots q_{j-1} q_{j+1} \dots q_n$, $j = 1, \dots, n$. We show the geometrically obvious fact that the space $\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha\right)$ is nonsingular if and only if the space (I_j, α_j) is nonsingular for every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Observe that

$$(I_1 \dots I_n)^2 = q_1 \dots q_n R = pR.$$

Moreover, for $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we have

$$a_{jj} := a_j b_j \in b_j R = (I_1 \dots I_{j-1})^2 \cdot (I_{j+1} \dots I_n)^2 = S_{jj}$$

and for $j, k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $j \neq k$,

$$a_{jk} := 0 \in S_{jk}.$$

By Theorem 2.9

$$\alpha \text{ is nonsingular} \iff \det(a_{jk}) = p^{n-1} \cdot u \quad \text{for some } u \in R^*$$

$$\iff \det \begin{pmatrix} a_1 b_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 b_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a_n b_n \end{pmatrix} = p^{n-1} \cdot u$$

$$\text{for some } u \in R^*$$

$$\iff a_1 a_2 \dots a_n = u \quad \text{for some } u \in R^*$$

$$\iff a_j \in R^* \quad \text{for every } j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

$$\iff \alpha_j \text{ is nonsingular for every } j \in \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

3. Isometry

Now we classify nonsingular bilinear forms on $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ up to isometry. For $k, r \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $k \neq r$, let us denote

$$T_{kr} := (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \cdot I_k^{-1} \cdot I_r.$$

We describe all automorphisms of the module $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$.

PROPOSITION 3.1. *Let R be a domain and $I_1, \dots, I_n$ be ideals in R such that $(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = pR$ for some $0 \neq p \in R$. Assume that $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ admits a nonsingular bilinear form. A map $\varphi: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ is an automorphism of the module $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ if and only if there exists a matrix*

$$C = \frac{1}{p} \cdot (c_{kr})_{1 \leq k, r \leq n}, \quad c_{rr} \in pR, \quad c_{kr} \in T_{kr}, \quad k, r \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \quad k \neq r,$$

such that $\det C$ is an invertible element in R and

$$\varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n) = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \cdot C \quad \text{for all } (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j.$$

Proof.

($\implies$) Let $\alpha: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \times \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow R$ be a nonsingular bilinear form on $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ defined by

$$\alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) = \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k, \quad a_{jk} \in S_{jk},$$

for all $(x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$. For every $r = 1, \dots, n$ let $f_r := \pi_r \circ \varphi$, where π_r is a projection map,

$$\pi_r(z_1, \dots, z_r, \dots, z_n) = z_r$$

for all $(z_1, \dots, z_r, \dots, z_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$. Of course

$$\varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n) = (f_1(y_1, \dots, y_n), \dots, f_n(y_1, \dots, y_n))$$

and the maps f_r , $r = 1, \dots, n$, are linear functionals on the ideal $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$. Since α is nonsingular, there exist elements $(x_{1r}, \dots, x_{nr}) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$, $r = 1, \dots, n$, such that

$$\alpha((x_{1r}, \dots, x_{nr}), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) = f_r(y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

for all $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$, i.e.

$$\frac{1}{p} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_{jk} x_{jr} \right) y_k = f_r(y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

for all $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$. Denote $c_{kr} := \sum_{j=1}^n a_{jk} x_{jr}$. Then

$$\frac{1}{p} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n c_{kr} y_k = f_r(y_1, \dots, y_n), \quad r = 1, \dots, n$$

for all $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n) &= (f_1(y_1, \dots, y_n), \dots, f_n(y_1, \dots, y_n)) \\ &= (y_1, \dots, y_n) \cdot \frac{1}{p} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & \dots & c_{1n} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & \dots & c_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{n1} & c_{n2} & \dots & c_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (y_1, \dots, y_n) \cdot C. \end{aligned}$$

We show that $c_{rr} \in pR$, $c_{kr} \in T_{kr}$ for $k, r \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $k \neq r$.

Fix $k, r \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. From the definition of f_r it follows that

$$\frac{1}{p} \cdot c_{kr} \cdot y_k = f_r(0, \dots, y_k, \dots, 0) \in I_r \quad \text{for all } y_k \in I_k.$$

Hence

$$c_{kr} \cdot y_k \in p \cdot I_r \quad \text{for all } y_k \in I_k,$$

so

$$c_{kr} \cdot I_k \subseteq p \cdot I_r \tag{5}$$

Assume $k = r$. Then

$$c_{rr} \cdot I_r \subseteq p \cdot I_r.$$

Multiplying by I_r^{-1} , we obtain

$$c_{rr} \cdot R \subseteq p \cdot R,$$

i.e. $c_{rr} \in pR$.

Assume $k \neq r$. By (5)

$$c_{kr} \cdot I_k \subseteq (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \cdot I_r.$$

Hence

$$c_{kr} \cdot R \subseteq (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \cdot I_k^{-1} \cdot I_r = T_{kr},$$

so $c_{kr} \in T_{kr}$.

We have

$$\det C = \det \frac{1}{p} \cdot (c_{kr}) = \frac{1}{p^n} \cdot \sum_{(r_1, \dots, r_n)} \pm c_{1r_1} \cdots c_{nr_n},$$

where $\{r_1, \dots, r_n\} = \{1, \dots, n\}$. Since $c_{ii} \in pR = (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2$ and $c_{ir_i} \in T_{ir_i}$, $i \neq r_i$, it is easy to observe that

$$c_{1r_1} \cdots c_{nr_n} \in (I_1 \cdots I_n)^{2n} = p^n R.$$

Therefore $\det C \in R$. Since φ is an automorphism, $\det C \in R^*$.

($\Leftarrow$) Let $k, r \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $y_k \in I_k$. Then

$$\frac{1}{p} c_{kr} y_k \in I_r.$$

Indeed, let $k = r$. Then

$$c_{rr} \in pR \implies \frac{1}{p} c_{rr} \in R \implies \frac{1}{p} c_{rr} y_r \in I_r.$$

If $k \neq r$, then

$$\begin{aligned} c_{kr} &\in T_{kr} = (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \cdot I_k^{-1} \cdot I_r \\ \implies c_{kr} y_k &\in (I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 \cdot I_r = pI_r \\ \implies \frac{1}{p} c_{kr} y_k &\in I_r. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n) = \left(\frac{1}{p} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n c_{k1} y_k, \dots, \frac{1}{p} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n c_{kn} y_k \right) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j. \quad (6)$$

Obviously φ is a homomorphism of R -modules. We prove that φ is bijective.

Fix $(z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ and consider the system of n equations

$$\frac{1}{p} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n c_{kr} Y_k = z_r, \quad r = 1, \dots, n. \quad (7)$$

Since the matrix of (7) is equal to C^T and

$$\det C^T = \det C \neq 0,$$

the system (7) has a unique solution $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in K^n$, where K is the field of fractions of the ring R . For every $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ replacing the k th column of the matrix C^T with $(z_1, \dots, z_n)^T$ we obtain

$$y_k = \det \frac{1}{p} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & c_{21} & \dots & pz_1 & \dots & c_{n1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{1k} & c_{2k} & \dots & pz_k & \dots & c_{nk} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{1n} & c_{2n} & \dots & pz_n & \dots & c_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \cdot (\det C)^{-1}.$$

Using the fact that $z_r \in I_r$, $c_{ii} \in pR$ and $c_{ir_i} \in T_{ir_i}$, $i \neq r_i$, for $r, i, r_i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, we show that the determinant in the numerator is an element of the ideal I_k . Moreover, $\det C \in R^*$, so $y_k \in I_k$, $k = 1, \dots, n$, i.e. $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$.

Finally by (6), for every $(z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ there is a unique element $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ such that

$$\varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n) = (z_1, \dots, z_n),$$

i.e. φ is an automorphism. $\square$

THEOREM 3.2. *Let R be a domain and $I_1, \dots, I_n$ be ideals in R such that $(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = pR$ for some $0 \neq p \in R$. Let α and β be nonsingular bilinear forms on the module $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ defined by*

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) &= \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k, \\ \beta((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) &= \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{b_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k, \end{aligned} \quad a_{jk}, \quad b_{jk} \in S_{jk}.$$

Then the inner product spaces $\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha\right)$ and $\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \beta\right)$ are isometric if and only if there exists a matrix C such as in Proposition 3.1 and

$$(a_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} = C \cdot (b_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} \cdot C^T.$$

Proof. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha\right) \cong \left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \beta\right) \\ \iff & \text{there exists an automorphism } \varphi: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \text{ such that} \\ & \alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) = \beta(\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n), \varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n)) \\ & \text{for all } (x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \\ \iff & \text{there exists an automorphism } \varphi: \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \rightarrow \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \text{ such that} \\ & (x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot \frac{1}{p} \cdot (a_{jk}) \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n)^T \\ & = \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot \frac{1}{p} \cdot (b_{jk}) \cdot \varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n)^T \\ & \text{for all } (x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \\ \iff & \text{there exists a matrix } C \text{ such as in Proposition 3.1 and} \\ & (x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot (a_{jk}) \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n)^T \\ & = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot C \cdot (b_{jk}) \cdot C^T \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n)^T \\ & \text{for all } (x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j \\ \iff & \text{there exists a matrix } C \text{ such as in Proposition 3.1 and} \\ & (a_{jk}) = C \cdot (b_{jk}) \cdot C^T. \end{aligned}$$

□

4. Similarity

Let (M, α) and (N, β) be inner product spaces over a domain R . We say that (M, α) and (N, β) are *similar*, if there exist metabolic spaces (M_1, α_1) and (N_1, β_1) such that the spaces $(M, \alpha) \perp (M_1, \alpha_1)$ and $(N, \beta) \perp (N_1, \beta_1)$ are isometric.

The spaces (M, α) and (N, β) are similar if and only if their similarity classes $\langle M, \alpha \rangle, \langle N, \beta \rangle$ in the Witt ring $W(R)$ of the ring R are equal.

If R is a Dedekind domain and K its field of fractions, then by Knebusch's theorem the natural homomorphism $\phi: W(R) \rightarrow W(K)$ defined by

$$\phi(\langle M, \alpha \rangle) = \langle K \otimes_R M, \alpha' \rangle,$$

where

$$\alpha'(x \otimes y, z \otimes t) = xz \cdot \alpha(y, t) \quad \text{for all } x \otimes y, z \otimes t \in K \otimes_R M,$$

is injective (cf. [5: p. 93]). Hence

$$\langle M, \alpha \rangle = \langle N, \beta \rangle \text{ in } W(R) \iff \langle K \otimes_R M, \alpha' \rangle = \langle K \otimes_R N, \beta' \rangle \text{ in } W(K).$$

We classify nonsingular bilinear forms on a module $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ up to similarity in the case when R is a Dedekind domain.

THEOREM 4.1. *Let R be a Dedekind domain and K its field of fractions, $\text{char } K \neq 2$. Let $I_1, \dots, I_n$ be ideals in R such that $(I_1 \cdots I_n)^2 = pR$ for some $0 \neq p \in R$. Let α and β be nonsingular bilinear forms on the module $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ defined by*

$$\alpha((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) = \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{a_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k,$$

$$\beta((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) = \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{b_{jk}}{p} x_j y_k,$$

$a_{jk}, b_{jk} \in S_{jk}$. Then the inner product spaces $\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha\right)$ and $\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \beta\right)$ are similar if and only if there exists a matrix

$$C = (c_{kr})_{1 \leq k, r \leq n}, \quad c_{kr} \in K, \quad k, r \in \{1, \dots, n\},$$

such that $\det C$ is an invertible element in R and

$$(a_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} = C \cdot (b_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} \cdot C^T.$$

P r o o f. The forms α' and β' have the following matrices

$$(pa_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n}, \quad (pb_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n}$$

in the basis

$$\mathcal{B} = (1 \otimes (p, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, 1 \otimes (0, \dots, p, \dots, 0), \dots, 1 \otimes (0, \dots, 0, p))$$

of the linear space $K \otimes_R \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j$ over the field K . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha \right\rangle &= \left\langle \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \beta \right\rangle \iff \left\langle K \otimes_R \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha' \right\rangle = \left\langle K \otimes_R \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \beta' \right\rangle \\ &\iff \left(K \otimes_R \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \alpha' \right) \cong \left(K \otimes_R \bigoplus_{j=1}^n I_j, \beta' \right) \\ &\text{over } K \text{ (by [6: Thm. 13.1.3]; } \text{char } K \neq 2) \\ &\iff \text{there exists a matrix } C = (c_{kr}), \ c_{kr} \in K, \\ &\text{such that } \det C \neq 0 \text{ and} \\ &\quad (pa_{jk}) = C \cdot (pb_{jk}) \cdot C^T \\ &\iff \text{there exists a matrix } C = (c_{kr}), \ c_{kr} \in K, \\ &\text{such that } \det C \in R^* \text{ and} \\ &\quad (a_{jk}) = C \cdot (b_{jk}) \cdot C^T. \end{aligned}$$

The last implication “ $\implies$ ” follows from the following observation. Since

$$\det(a_{jk}) = (\det C)^2 \cdot \det(b_{jk}),$$

by Theorem 2.9

$$p^{n-1} \cdot u = (\det C)^2 \cdot p^{n-1} \cdot v$$

for some invertible elements $u, v \in R^*$. Then

$$u = (\det C)^2 \cdot v$$

and $(\det C)^2 \in R^*$. But R is integrally closed, so $\det C \in R^*$. $\square$

REFERENCES

- [1] BAEZA, R.: *Quadratic Forms Over Semilocal Rings*. Lecture Notes in Math. 655, Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, 1978.
- [2] CIEMALA, M.—SZYMICZEK, K.: *On the existence of nonsingular bilinear forms on projective modules*, Tatra Mt. Math. Publ. **32** (2005), 1–13.

- [3] MARSHALL, M. A.: *Bilinear Forms and Orderings on Commutative Rings*. Queens Papers in Pure and Appl. Math. 71, Queen's University Kingston, Ontario, Canada, 1985.
- [4] MILNOR, J.: *Introduction to Algebraic K-Theory*. Ann. of Math. Stud. 72, Princeton University Press/University of Tokyo Press, Princeton, NJ, 1971.
- [5] MILNOR, J.—HUSEMOLLER, D.: *Symmetric Bilinear Forms*. Ergeb. Math. Grenzgeb. (3) 73, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1973.
- [6] SZYMICZEK, K.: *Bilinear Algebra: an Introduction to the Algebraic Theory of Quadratic Forms*. Algebra Logic Appl. Ser. No. 7, Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, Amsterdam, 1997.
- [7] WEIBEL, Ch.: *An introduction to algebraic K-theory*.
<http://www.math.uiuc.edu/K-theory/0105/>.

Received 3. 1. 2011

Accepted 19. 4. 2011

Institute of Mathematics

University of Silesia

Bankowa 14

PL-40-007 Katowice

POLAND

E-mail: brothkegel@ux2.math.us.edu.pl