

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Introduction to bilinear forms

1. Finitely generated projective modules	1
2. Local structure of projective modules	4
3. Bilinear forms	9
4. Hyperbolic spaces and metabolic spaces	14
5. The Witt ring	17

Chapter 2: Bilinear forms over semi-local rings

1. Semi-local rings	24
2. Diagonalization	27
3. Connecting orthogonal bases	34
4. Generators and relations for $W_f(A)$	38
5. Inductive description of isometry	40
6. Witt cancellation; value sets	45
7. Properties of Pfister forms	50

Chapter 3: Prime ideals and signatures on Witt rings

1. Elementary properties of complexes	56
2. Dresses local-global lemma	59
3. The prime ideal theorem and other applications	66
4. Prime ideals and the nilradical of $W_f(A)$	69
5. Pfister's local-global principle	75
6. The total signature	79
7. The reduced theory over semi-local rings	84

Chapter 4: Introduction to the real spectrum

1. Orderings and preorderings	95
2. Maximal orderings	100

3. The real spectrum	104
4. relationship to real varieties	111
5. Abstract "Stellensätze"	119
6. Rings of continuous sections	125
7. Stone-Weierstrass approximation	134

Chapter 5: Orderings and signatures related

1. The map $X_A \rightarrow \tilde{X}_A$	141
2. Connected components of X_A	147
3. Behaviour of bilinear forms under $A \rightarrow A_\Sigma$	153
4. Transfer maps	156
5. Behaviour of bilinear forms under $A \rightarrow \Gamma^\infty$	160
6. Bilinear forms over Γ^∞	167