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# SURVEY ON THE $D$ -MODULE $f^s$

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WITH AN APPENDIX BY ANTON LEYKIN

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17 In this survey we discuss various aspects of the singularity invariants with differ-  
 18 ential origin derived from the  $D$ -module generated by  $f^s$ . We should like to point  
 19 the reader to some other works: [193] for  $V$ -filtration, Bernstein–Sato polynomials,  
 20 multiplier ideals; [49] for all these and Milnor fibers; [216] and [161] for homogeneity  
 21 and free divisors; [208] on details of arrangements, specifically their Milnor fibers,  
 22 although less focused on  $D$ -modules.

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27

## 1. INTRODUCTION

28 **Notation 1.1.** In this article,  $X$  will denote a complex manifold. Unless indicated  
 29 otherwise,  $X$  will be  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

30 Throughout, let  $R = \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be the ring of polynomials in  $n$  variables  
 31 over the complex numbers. We denote by  $D = R\langle \partial_1, \dots, \partial_n \rangle$  the Weyl algebra.

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*Key words and phrases.* Bernstein–Sato polynomial, b-function, hyperplane, arrangement, zeta function, logarithmic comparison theorem, multiplier ideal, Milnor fiber, algorithmic, free.

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32 In particular,  $\partial_i$  denotes the partial differentiation operator with respect to  $x_i$ . If  
 33  $X$  is a general manifold,  $\mathcal{O}_X$  (the sheaf of regular functions) and  $\mathcal{D}_X$  (the sheaf of  
 34  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear differential operators on  $\mathcal{O}_X$ ) take the places of  $R$  and  $D$ .

35 If  $X = \mathbb{C}^n$  we use Roman letters to denote rings and modules; in the general  
 36 case we use calligraphic letters to denote corresponding sheaves.

37 By the ideal  $J_f$  we mean the  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -ideal generated by the partial derivatives  
 38  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n}$ ; this ideal varies with the choice of coordinate system in which we  
 39 calculate. In contrast, the Jacobian ideal  $\text{Jac}(f) = J_f + (f)$  is independent.

40 The ring  $D$  (resp. the sheaf  $\mathcal{D}_X$ ) is coherent, and both left- and right-Noetherian;  
 41 it has only trivial two-sided ideals [26, Thm. 1.2.5]. Introductions to the theory of  
 42  $D$ -modules as we use them here can be found in [120, 24, 26, 25].

43 The ring  $D$  admits the order filtration induced by the weight  $x_i \rightarrow 0, \partial_i \rightarrow 1$ .  
 44 The order filtration (and other good filtrations) leads to graded objects  $\text{gr}_{(0,1)}(-)$ ,  
 45 see [199]. The graded objects obtained from ideals are ideals in the polynomial  
 46 ring  $\mathbb{C}[x, \xi]$ , homogeneous in the symbols of the differentiation operators; their  
 47 radicals are closed under the Poisson bracket, and thus the corresponding varieties  
 48 are involutive [116, 121]. For a  $D$ -module  $M$  and a component  $C$  of the support of  
 49  $\text{gr}_{(0,1)}(M)$ , attach to the pair  $(M, C)$  the multiplicity  $\mu(M, C)$  of  $\text{gr}_{(0,1)}(M)$  along  
 50  $C$ . The characteristic cycle of  $M$  is  $\text{charC}(M) = \sum_C \mu(M, C) \cdot C$ , an element of the  
 51 Chow ring on  $T^*\mathbb{C}^n$ . The module is *holonomic* if it is zero or if its characteristic  
 52 variety is of dimension  $n$ , the minimal possible value.

53 Throughout,  $f$  will be a regular function on  $X$ , with divisor  $\text{Var}(f)$ . We distin-  
 54 guish several homogeneity conditions on  $f$ :

- 55 •  $f$  is *locally (strongly) Euler-homogeneous* if for all  $p \in \text{Var}(f)$  there is a  
 56 vector field  $\theta_p$  defined near  $p$  with  $\theta_p \bullet (f) = f$  (and  $\theta_p$  vanishes at  $p$ ).
- 57 •  $f$  is *locally (weakly) quasi-homogeneous* if near all  $p \in \text{Var}(f)$  there is a local  
 58 coordinate system  $\{x_i\}$  and a positive (resp. non-negative) weight vector  
 59  $a = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  with respect to which  $f = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i \partial_i (f)$ .
- 60 • We reserve *homogeneous* and *quasi-homogeneous* for the case when  $X = \mathbb{C}^n$   
 61 and  $f$  is globally homogeneous or quasi-homogeneous.

62 To any non-constant  $f \in R$ , one can attach several invariants that measure the  
 63 singularity structure of the hypersurface  $f = 0$ . In this article, we are primarily  
 64 interested in those derived from the (parametric) annihilator  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$  of  $f^s$ :

65 **Definition 1.2.** Let  $s$  be a new variable, and denote by  $R_f[s] \cdot f^s$  the free module  
 66 generated by  $f^s$  over the localized ring  $R_f[s] = R[f^{-1}, s]$ . Via the chain rule

$$(1.1) \quad \partial_i \bullet \left( \frac{g}{f^k} f^s \right) = \partial_i \bullet \left( \frac{g}{f^k} \right) f^s + \frac{sg}{f^{k+1}} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} f^s$$

67 for each  $g(x, s) \in R[s]$ ,  $R_f[s] \cdot f^s$  acquires the structure of a left  $D[s]$ -module.  
 68 Denote by

$$\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s) = \{P \in D[s] \mid P \bullet f^s = 0\}$$

69 the *parametric annihilator*, and by

$$\mathcal{M}_f(s) = D[s] / \text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$$

70 the cyclic  $D[s]$ -module generated by  $1 \cdot f^s \in R_f[s] \cdot f^s$ .

71 Bernstein's functional equation [23] asserts the existence of a differential operator  
 72  $P(x, \partial, s)$  and a nonzero polynomial  $b_{f,P}(s) \in \mathbb{C}[s]$  such that

$$(1.2) \quad P(x, \partial, s) \bullet f^{s+1} = b_{f,P}(s) \cdot f^s,$$

73 *i.e.* the existence of the element  $P \cdot f - b_{f,P}(s) \in \text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$ . Bernstein's result  
 74 implies that  $D[s] \bullet f^s$  is  $D$ -coherent (while  $R_f[s]f^s$  is not).

75 **Definition 1.3.** The monic generator of the ideal in  $\mathbb{C}[s]$  generated by all  $b_{f,P}(s)$   
 76 appearing in an equation (1.2) is the *Bernstein-Sato polynomial*  $b_f(s)$ . Denote  
 77  $\rho_f \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  the set of roots of  $b_f(s)$ .

78 Note that the operator  $P$  in the functional equation is only determined up to  
 79  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$ . See [25] for an elementary proof of the existence of  $b_f(s)$ . Alternative  
 80 (and more general) proofs are given in [120]; see also [24, 151, 169].

81 The  $\mathbb{C}[s]$ -module  $\mathcal{M}_f(s)/\mathcal{M}_f(s+1)$  is precisely annihilated by  $b_f(s)$ . It is an  
 82 interesting problem to determine for any  $q(s) \in \mathbb{C}[s]$  the ideals  $\mathfrak{a}_{f,q(s)} = \{g \in R \mid$   
 83  $q(s)gf^s \in D[s] \bullet f^{s+1}\}$  from [230]. By [146],  $\mathfrak{a}_{f,s+1} = R \cap (\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s) + D[s] \cdot (f, J_f))$ .

84 **Question 1.4.** *Is  $\mathfrak{a}_{f,s+1} = J_f + (f)$ ?*

85 A positive answer would throw light on connections between  $b_f(s)$  and cohomol-  
 86 ogy of Milnor fibers.

87 *Remark 1.5.* At the 1954 International Congress of Mathematics in Amsterdam,  
 88 I.M. Gel'fand asked the following question. Given a real analytic function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow$   
 89  $\mathbb{R}$ , the assignment ( $s \in \mathbb{C}$ )

$$f(x)_+^s = \begin{cases} f(x)^s & \text{if } f(x) > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } f(x) \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

90 is continuous in  $x$  and analytic in  $s$  where the real part of  $s$  is positive. Can one  
 91 analytically continue  $f(x)_+^s$ ? Sato introduced  $b_f(s)$  in order to answer Gel'fand's  
 92 question; Bernstein [23] established their existence in general.

93 *Remark 1.6.* Let  $m \in M$  be a nonzero section of a holonomic  $D$ -module. General-  
 94 izing the case  $1 \in R$  there is a functional equation

$$P(x, \partial, s) \bullet (mf^{s+1}) = b_{f,P;m}(s) \cdot mf^s$$

95 with  $b_{f,P;m}(s) \in \mathbb{C}[s]$  nonzero. The monic generator of the ideal  $\{b_{f,P;m}(s)\}$  is the  
 96  $b$ -function  $b_{f;m}(s)$ , [117].

## 97 2. PARAMETERS AND NUMBERS

98 For any complex number  $\gamma$ , the expression  $f^\gamma$  represents, locally outside  $\text{Var}(f)$ ,  
 99 a multi-valued analytic function. Via the chain rule as in (1.1), the cyclic  $R_f$ -module  
 100  $R_f \cdot f^\gamma$  becomes a left  $D$ -module, and we set

$$\mathcal{M}_f(\gamma) = D \bullet f^\lambda \cong D / \text{ann}_D(f^\gamma).$$

101 There are natural  $D[s]$ -linear maps

$$\text{ev}_f(\gamma): \mathcal{M}_f(s) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_f(\gamma), \quad P(x, \partial, s) \bullet f^s \mapsto P(x, \partial, \gamma) \bullet f^\gamma,$$

102 and  $D$ -linear inclusions

$$\text{inc}_f(s): \mathcal{M}_f(s+1) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_f(s), \quad P(x, \partial, s) \bullet f^{s+1} \mapsto P(x, \partial, s) \cdot f \bullet f^s$$

103 with cokernel  $\mathcal{N}_f(s) = \mathcal{M}_f(s)/\mathcal{M}_f(s+1) \cong D[s]/(\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s) + D[s]f)$ , and

$$\text{inc}_f(\gamma): \mathcal{M}_f(\gamma+1) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_f(\gamma), \quad P(x, \partial) \bullet f^{\lambda+1} \mapsto P(x, \partial) \cdot f \bullet f^\lambda$$

104 with cokernel  $\mathcal{N}_f(\gamma) = \mathcal{M}_f(\gamma)/\mathcal{M}_f(\gamma+1) \cong D/(\text{ann}_D(f^\gamma) + D \cdot f)$ .

105 The kernel of the morphism  $\text{ev}_f(\gamma)$  contains the (two-sided) ideal  $D[s](s-\gamma)$ ;  
 106 the containment can be proper, for example if  $\gamma = 0$ . If  $\{\gamma-1, \gamma-2, \dots\}$  is disjoint  
 107 from the root set  $\rho_f$  then  $\ker \text{ev}_f(\gamma) = D[s] \cdot (s-\gamma)$ , [117]. If  $\gamma \notin \rho_f$  then  $\text{inc}_f(\gamma)$   
 108 is an isomorphism because of the functional equation; if  $\gamma = -1$ , or if  $b_f(\gamma) = 0$   
 109 while  $\rho_f$  does not meet  $\{\gamma-1, \gamma-2, \dots\}$  then  $\text{inc}_f(\gamma)$  is not surjective [230].

110 **Question 2.1.** *Does  $\text{inc}_f(\gamma)$  fail to be an isomorphism for all  $\gamma \in \rho_f$ ?*

111 In contrast, the induced maps  $\mathcal{M}_f(s)/(s-\gamma-1) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_f(s)/(s-\gamma)$  are isomor-  
 112 phisms exactly when  $\gamma \notin \rho_f$ , [26, 6.3.15]. The morphism  $\text{inc}_f(s)$  is never surjective  
 113 as  $s+1$  divides  $b_f(s)$ . One sets

$$\tilde{b}_f(s) = \frac{b_f(s)}{s+1}.$$

114 By [217, 4.2], the following are equivalent for a section  $m \neq 0$  of a holonomic  
 115 module:

- 116 • the smallest integral root of  $b_{f;m}(s)$  is at least  $-\ell$ ;
- 117 •  $(D \bullet m) \otimes_R R[f^{-1}]$  is generated by  $m/f^\ell = m \otimes 1/f^\ell$ ;
- 118 •  $(D \bullet m) \otimes_R R[f^{-1}]/D \bullet (m \otimes 1)$  is generated by  $m/f^\ell$ ;
- 119 •  $D[s] \bullet mf^s \rightarrow (D \bullet m) \otimes_R R[f^{-1}]$ ,  $P(s) \bullet (mf^s) \mapsto P(-\ell) \bullet (m/f^\ell)$  is an  
 120 epimorphism with kernel  $D[s] \cdot (s+\ell)mf^s$ .

121 **Definition 2.2.** We say that  $f$  satisfies condition

- 122 •  $(A_1)$  (resp.  $(A_s)$ ) if  $\text{ann}_D(1/f)$  (resp.  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$ ) is generated by operators  
 123 of order one;
- 124 •  $(B_1)$  if  $R_f$  is generated by  $1/f$  over  $D$ .

125 Condition  $(A_1)$  implies  $(B_1)$  in any case [214]. Local Euler-homogeneity,  $(A_s)$   
 126 and  $(B_1)$  combined imply  $(A_1)$  [216], and for Koszul free divisors (see Definition 4.7  
 127 below) this implication can be reversed [214].

128 Condition  $(A_1)$  does not imply  $(A_s)$ :  $f = xy(x+y)(x+yz)$  is free (see Definition  
 129 4.1), and locally Euler-homogeneous and satisfies  $(A_1)$  and  $(B_1)$  [60, 61, 59, 67, 214],  
 130 but  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$  and  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$  require a second order generator.

131 Condition  $(A_1)$  implies local Euler-homogeneity if  $f$  has isolated singularities  
 132 [213], or if it is Koszul-free or of the form  $z^n - g(x, y)$  for reduced  $g$  [214]. In [73]  
 133 it is shown that for certain locally weakly quasi-homogeneous free divisors  $\text{Var}(f)$ ,  
 134  $(A_1)$  holds for high powers of  $f$ , and even for  $f$  itself by [161, Rem. 1.7.4].

135 For an isolated singularity,  $f$  has  $(A_1)$  if and only if it has  $(B_1)$  and is quasi-  
 136 homogeneous [213]. For example, a reduced plane curve (has automatically  $(B_1)$   
 137 and) has  $(A_1)$  if and only if it is quasi-homogeneous. See [201] for further results.

138 Condition  $(B_1)$  is equivalent to  $\text{inc}_f(-2), \text{inc}_f(-3), \dots$  all being isomorphisms,  
 139 and also to  $-1$  being the only integral root of  $b_f(s)$ , [117]. Locally quasi-homogeneous  
 140 free divisors satisfy condition  $(B_1)$  at any point, [66].

### 141 3. V-FILTRATION AND BERNSTEIN-SATO POLYNOMIALS

142 **3.1. V-filtration.** The articles [191, 145, 47, 49] are recommended for material on  
 143 V-filtrations.

144 3.1.1. *Definition and basic properties.* Let  $Y$  be a smooth complex manifold (or  
 145 variety), and let  $X$  be a closed submanifold (or -variety) of  $Y$  defined by the ideal  
 146 sheaf  $\mathcal{I}$ . The  $V$ -filtration on  $\mathcal{D}_Y$  along  $X$  is, for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , given by

$$V^k(\mathcal{D}_Y) = \{P \in \mathcal{D}_Y \mid P \bullet \mathcal{I}^{k'} \subseteq \mathcal{I}^{k+k'} \quad \forall k' \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

147 with the understanding that  $\mathcal{I}^{k'} = \mathcal{O}_Y$  for  $k' \leq 0$ . The associated graded sheaf  
 148 of rings  $\text{gr}_V(\mathcal{D}_Y)$  is isomorphic to the sheaf of rings of differential operators on the  
 149 normal bundle  $T_X(Y)$ , algebraic in the fiber of the bundle.

150 Suppose that  $Y = \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}$  with coordinate function  $t$  on  $\mathbb{C}$ , and let  $X$  be the  
 151 hyperplane  $t = 0$ . Then  $V^k(D_Y)$  is spanned by  $\{x^a \partial^v t^a \partial_t^b \mid a - b \geq k\}$ . Given a  
 152 coherent holonomic  $D_Y$ -module  $M$  with regular singularities in the sense of [122],  
 153 Kashiwara and Malgrange [147, 114] define an exhaustive decreasing rationally  
 154 indexed filtration on  $M$  that is compatible with the  $V$ -filtration on  $D_Y$  and has the  
 155 following properties:

- 156 (1) each  $V^\alpha(M)$  is coherent over  $V^0(D_Y)$  and the set of  $\alpha$  with nonzero  $\text{gr}_V^\alpha(M) =$   
 157  $V^\alpha(M)/V^{>\alpha}(M)$  has no accumulation point;
- 158 (2) for  $\alpha \gg 0$ ,  $V^1(D_Y)V^\alpha(M) = V^{\alpha+1}(M)$ ;
- 159 (3)  $t\partial_t - \alpha$  acts nilpotently on  $\text{gr}_V^\alpha(M)$ .

160 The  $V$ -filtration is unique and can be defined in somewhat greater generality [47].  
 161 Of special interest is the following case considered in [147, 114].

162 **Notation 3.1.** Denote  $R_{x,t}$  the polynomial ring  $R[t]$ ,  $t$  a new indeterminate, and  
 163 let  $D_{x,t}$  be the corresponding Weyl algebra. Fix  $f \in R$  and consider the regular  
 164  $D_{x,t}$ -module

$$\mathcal{B}_f = H_{f-t}^1(R[t]),$$

165 the unique local cohomology module of  $R[t]$  supported in  $f-t$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}_f$  is naturally  
 166 isomorphic as  $D_{x,t}$ -module to the direct image (in the  $D$ -category)  $i_+(R)$  of  $R$  under  
 167 the graph embedding

$$i: X \rightarrow X \times \mathbb{C}, \quad x \mapsto (x, f(x)).$$

168 Moreover, extending (1.1) via

$$t \bullet (g(x, s) f^{s-k}) = g(x, s+1) f^{s+1-k}; \quad \partial_t \bullet (g(x, s) f^{s-k}) = -s g(x, s-1) f^{s-1-k},$$

169 the module  $R_f[s] \otimes f^s$  becomes a  $D_{x,t}$ -module extending the  $D[s]$ -action where  $-\partial_t t$   
 170 acts as  $s$ .

171 The existence of the  $V$ -filtration on  $\mathcal{B}_f = i_+(R)$  is equivalent to the existence  
 172 of generalized  $b$ -functions  $b_{f;\eta}(s)$  in the sense of [117], see [118, 147]. In fact, one  
 173 can recover one from the other:

$$V^\alpha(\mathcal{B}_f) = \{\eta \in \mathcal{B}_f \mid [b_{f;\eta}(-c) = 0] \Rightarrow [\alpha \leq c]\}$$

174 and the multiplicity of  $b_{f;\eta}(s)$  at  $\alpha$  is the degree of the minimal polynomial of  $s - \alpha$   
 175 on  $\text{gr}_V^\alpha(D[s]\eta f^s / D[s]\eta f^{s+1})$ , [182]. For more on this ‘‘microlocal approach’’ see  
 176 [191].

177 3.2. **The log-canonical threshold.** By [125], see also [135, 235], the absolute  
 178 value of the largest root of  $b_f(s)$  is the *log-canonical threshold*  $\text{let}(f)$  given by the  
 179 supremum of all numbers  $s$  such that the local integrals

$$\int_{U \ni p} \frac{|dx|}{|f|^{2s}}$$

180 converge for all  $p \in X$  and all small open  $U$  around  $p$ . Smaller lct corresponds to  
 181 worse singularities; the best one can hope for is  $\text{lct}(f) = 1$  as one sees by looking  
 182 at a smooth point. The notion goes back to Arnol'd, who called it (essentially) the  
 183 complex singular index [10].

184 The point of *multiplier ideals* is to force the finiteness of the integral by allowing  
 185 moderating functions in the integral:

$$\mathcal{I}(f, \lambda)_p = \{g \in \mathcal{O}_X \mid \frac{g}{f^\lambda} \text{ is } L^2\text{-integrable near } p \in \text{Var}(f)\}$$

186 for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . By [90], there is a finite collection of *jumping numbers* for  $f$  of rational  
 187 numbers  $0 = \alpha_0 < \alpha_1 < \dots < \alpha_\ell = 1$  such that  $\mathcal{I}(f, \alpha)$  is constant on  $[\alpha_i, \alpha_{i+1})$   
 188 but  $\mathcal{I}(f, \alpha_i) \neq \mathcal{I}(f, \alpha_{i+1})$ . The log-canonical threshold appears as  $\alpha_1$ . These  
 189 ideas had appeared previously in [137, 139].

190 Generalizing Kollar's approach, each  $\alpha_i$  is a root of  $b_f(s)$ , [90]. In [193, Thm. 4.4]  
 191 a partial converse is shown for locally Euler-homogeneous divisors. Extending the  
 192 idea of jumping numbers to the range  $\alpha > 1$  one sees that  $\alpha$  is a jumping number  
 193 if and only if  $\alpha + 1$  is a jumping number, but the connection to the Bernstein–  
 194 Sato polynomial is lost in general. For example, if  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^3$  then jumping  
 195 numbers are  $\{5/6, 1\} + \mathbb{N}$  while  $b_f(s) = (s + 5/6)(s + 1)(s + 7/6)$ .

196 **3.3. Bernstein–Sato polynomial.** The roots of  $b_f(s)$  relate to an astounding  
 197 number of other invariants, see for example [125] for a survey. However, besides  
 198 the functional equation there is no known way to describe  $\rho_f$ .

3.3.1. *Fundamental results.* Let  $p \in \mathbb{C}^n$  be a closed point, cut out by the maximal  
 ideal  $\mathfrak{m} \subseteq R$ . Extending  $R$  to the localization  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  (or even the ring of holomorphic  
 functions at  $p$ ) one arrives at potentially larger sets of polynomials  $b_{f,p}(s)$  that  
 satisfy a functional equation (1.2) with  $P(x, \partial, s)$  now in the correspondingly larger  
 ring of differential operators. The *local* (resp. *local analytic*) Bernstein–Sato poly-  
 nomial  $b_{f,p}(s)$  (resp.  $b_{f,p^{an}}(s)$ ) is the generator of the resulting ideal generated by  
 the  $b_{f,p}(s)$  in  $\mathbb{C}[s]$ . We denote by  $\rho_{f,p}$  (resp.  $\tilde{\rho}_{f,p}$ ) the root set of  $b_{f,p}(s)$  (resp.  
 $b_{f,p^{an}}(s)/(s + 1)$ ). From the definitions and [143, 38, 36]

$$(3.1) \quad b_{f,p^{an}}(s) | b_{f,p}(s) | b_f(s) = \text{lcm}_{p \in \text{Var}(f)} b_{f,p}(s) = \text{lcm}_{p \in \text{Var}(f)} b_{f,p^{an}}(s),$$

199 and the function  $\mathbb{C}^n \ni p \mapsto \text{Var}(b_f(s))$ , counting with multiplicity, is upper semi-  
 200 continuous in the sense that for  $p'$  sufficiently near  $p$  one has  $b_{f,p'}(s) | b_{f,p}(s)$ . The  
 201 underlying reason is the coherence of  $D$ .

202 The Bernstein–Sato polynomial  $b_f(s)$  factors over  $\mathbb{Q}$  into linear factors,  $\rho_f \subseteq \mathbb{Q}$ ,  
 203 and all roots are negative [146, 117]. The idea is to use resolution of singularities  
 204 over  $\mathbb{C}$  in order to reduce to simple normal crossing divisors, where rationality and  
 205 negativity of the roots is evident. For this Kashiwara proves a comparison theorem  
 206 [117, Thm. 5.1] that establishes  $b_f(s)$  as a divisor of a shifted product of the least  
 207 common multiple of the local Bernstein–Sato polynomials of the pullback of  $f$  under  
 208 the resolution map. There is a refinement by Lichtin [135] for plane curves. The  
 209 roots of  $b_f(s)$ , besides being negative, are always greater than  $-n$ ,  $n$  being the  
 210 minimum number of variables required to express  $f$  locally analytically [221, 191].

211 **3.3.2. Constructible sheaves from  $f^s$ .** Let  $V = V(n, d)$  be the vector space of all  
 212 complex polynomials in  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of degree at most  $d$ . Consider the function  $\beta: V \ni$   
 213  $f \mapsto b_f(s)$ . By [143, 36], there is an algebraic stratification of  $V$  such that on each

214 stratum the function  $\beta$  is constant. For varying  $n, d$  these stratifications can be  
 215 made to be compatible.

216 3.3.3. *Special cases.* If  $p$  is a smooth point of  $\text{Var}(f)$  then  $f$  can be used as an  
 217 analytic coordinate near  $p$ , hence  $b_{f,p^{an}}(s) = s + 1$ , and so  $b_f(s) = s + 1$  for all  
 218 smooth hypersurfaces. By Proposition 2.6 in [35], an extension of [37], the equation  
 219  $b_f(s) = s + 1$  implies smoothness of  $\text{Var}(f)$ . Explicit formulæ for the Bernstein–Sato  
 220 polynomial are rare; here are some classes of examples.

- 221 •  $f = \prod x_i^{a_i}$ :  $P = \prod \partial_i^{a_i}$  up to a scalar,  $b_f(s) = \prod_i \prod_{j=1}^{a_i} (s + j/a_j)$ .
- 222 •  $f$  (quasi-)homogeneous with isolated singularity at zero:  $\tilde{b}_f(s) = \text{lcm}(s +$   
 223  $\frac{\deg(gdx)}{\deg(f)})$ , where  $g$  runs through a (quasi-)homogeneous standard basis for  
 224  $J_f$  by work of Kashiwara, Sato, Miwa, Malgrange, Kochman [146, 235,  
 225 215, 124]. Note that the Jacobian ring of such a singularity is an Artinian  
 226 Gorenstein ring, whose duality operator implies symmetry of  $\rho_f$ .
- 227 •  $f = \det(x_{i,j})_1^n$ :  $P = \det(\partial_{i,j})_1^n$ ,  $b_f(s) = (s + 1) \cdots (s + n)$ . This is attrib-  
 228 uted to Cayley, but see the comments in [63].
- 229 • For some hyperplane arrangements,  $b_f(s)$  is known, see [230, 56].
- 230 • There is a huge list of examples worked out in [235].

231 If  $V$  is a complex vector space,  $G$  a reductive group acting linearly on  $V$  with open  
 232 orbit  $U$  such that  $V \setminus U$  is a divisor  $\text{Var}(f)$ , Sato’s theory of prehomogeneous vectors  
 233 spaces [198, 156, 197, 234] yields a factorization for  $b_f(s)$ . For reductive linear free  
 234 divisors, [97, 203] discuss symmetry properties of Bernstein–Sato polynomials. In  
 235 [162] this theme is taken up again, investigating specifically symmetry properties  
 236 of  $\rho_f$  when  $D[s] \bullet f^s$  has a Spencer logarithmic resolution (see [66] for definitions).  
 237 This covers locally quasi-homogeneous free divisors, and more generally free divisors  
 238 whose Jacobian is of linear type. The motivation is the fact that roots of  $b_f(s)$  seem  
 239 to come in strands, and whenever roots can be understood the strands appear to  
 240 be linked to Hodge-theory.

241 There are several results on  $\rho_f$  for other divisors of special shape. Trivially,  
 242 if  $f(x) = g(x_1, \dots, x_k) \cdot h(x_{k+1}, \dots, x_n)$  then  $b_f(s) \mid b_g(s) \cdot b_h(s)$ ; the question  
 243 of equality appears to be open. In contrast,  $b_f(s)$  cannot be assembled from the  
 244 Bernstein–Sato polynomials of the factors of  $f$  in general, even if the factors are  
 245 hyperplanes and one has some control on the intersection behavior, see Section 8  
 246 below. If  $f(x) = g(x_1, \dots, x_k) + h(x_{k+1}, \dots, x_n)$  and at least one is locally Euler-  
 247 homogeneous then there are Thom–Sebastiani type formulæ [191]. In particular,  
 248 diagonal hypersurfaces are completely understood.

249 3.3.4. *Relation to intersection homology module.* Suppose  $Y = \text{Var}(f_1, \dots, f_k) \subseteq X$   
 250 is a complete intersection and denote by  $\mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$  the unique (algebraic) local co-  
 251 homology module of  $\mathcal{O}_X$  along  $Y$ . Brylinski–Kashiwara [42, 43] defined  $\mathcal{L}(Y, X) \subseteq$   
 252  $\mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$ , the *intersection homology  $\mathcal{D}_X$ -module of  $Y$* , the smallest  $\mathcal{D}_X$ -module  
 253 equal to  $\mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$  in the generic point. See also [19]. The module  $\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  con-  
 254 tains the fundamental class of  $Y$  in  $X$  [20].

255 **Question 3.2.** *When is  $\mathcal{L}(X, Y) = \mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$ ?*

256 Equality is equivalent to  $\mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$  being generated by the cosets of  $\Delta / \prod_{i=1}^k f_i$   
 257 over  $\mathcal{D}_X$  where  $\Delta$  is the ideal generated by the  $k$ -minors of the Jacobian matrix of  
 258  $f_1, \dots, f_k$ . A necessary condition is that  $1 / \prod_{i=1}^k f_i$  generates  $\mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$ , but this

259 is not sufficient: consider  $xy(x+y)(x+yz)$ , where  $\rho_f = -\{1/2, 3/4, 1, 1, 1, 5/4\}$ .  
 260 Indeed, by [217], equality can be characterized in terms of functional equations, as  
 261 the following are equivalent at  $p \in X$ :

- 262 (1)  $\mathcal{L}(X, Y) = \mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$  in the stalk;
- 263 (2)  $\tilde{\rho}_{f,p} \cap \mathbb{Z} = \emptyset$ ;
- 264 (3) 1 is not an eigenvalue of the monodromy operator on the reduced cohomol-  
 265 ogy of the Milnor fibers near  $p$ .

266 If  $1/\prod_{i=1}^k f_i$  generates  $R[1/\prod f_i]$  and  $1/\prod_{i=1}^k f_i \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  then  $\tilde{b}_f(-1) \neq 0$ ,  
 267 [217]. It seems unknown whether (irrespective of  $1/\prod_{i=1}^k f_i$  generating  $R[1/\prod f_i]$ )  
 268 the condition  $\tilde{b}_f(-1) \neq 0$  is equivalent to  $1/\prod_{i=1}^k f_i$  being in  $\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$ . See also  
 269 [149] for a topological viewpoint (by the Riemann–Hilbert correspondence of Kashi-  
 270 wara and Mebkhout [119, 150],  $\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  corresponds to the intersection cohomol-  
 271 ogy complex of  $Y$  on  $X$  [42] and  $\mathcal{H}_Y^k(\mathcal{O}_X)$  to  $\mathbb{C}_Y[n-k]$ , [102, 117, 152]; equality  
 272 then says: the link is a rational homology sphere). In [21], Barlet characterizes  
 273 property (3) above in terms of currents for complexified real  $f$ . Equivalence of (1)  
 274 and (3) for isolated singularities can be derived from [155, 39]; the general case can  
 275 be shown using [189, 4.5.8] and the formalism of weights. For the case  $k = 1$ , (1)  
 276 requires irreducibility; in the general case, there is a criterion in terms of  $b$ -functions  
 277 [217, 1.6, 1.10].

278

## 4. LCT AND LOGARITHMIC IDEAL

279 4.1. **Logarithmic forms.** Let  $X = \mathbb{C}^n$  be the analytic manifold,  $f$  a holomorphic  
 280 function on  $X$ , and  $Y = \text{Var}(f)$  a divisor in  $X$  with  $j: U = X \setminus Y \hookrightarrow X$  the  
 281 embedding. Let  $\Omega_X^\bullet(*Y)$  denote the complex of differential forms on  $X$  that are (at  
 282 worst) meromorphic along  $Y$ . By [102],  $\Omega_X^\bullet(*Y) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}j_*\mathbb{C}_U$  is a quasi-isomorphism.

283 A form  $\omega$  is *logarithmic* along  $Y$  if  $f\omega$  and  $fd\omega$  are holomorphic; these  $\omega$  form the  
 284 logarithmic de Rham complex  $\Omega_X^\bullet(\log Y)$  on  $X$  along  $Y$ . The complex  $\Omega_X^\bullet(\log Y)$   
 285 was first used with great effect by Deligne [83] on normal crossing divisors in order  
 286 to establish mixed Hodge structures, and later by Esnault and Viehweg in order to  
 287 prove vanishing theorems [91]. A major reason for the success of normal crossings  
 288 is that in that case  $\Omega_X^i(\log Y)$  is a locally free module over  $\mathcal{O}_X$ . The logarithmic  
 289 de Rham complex was introduced in [187].

290 4.2. **Free divisors.**

291 **Definition 4.1.** A divisor  $\text{Var}(f)$  is *free* if (locally)  $\Omega_X^1(\log f)$  is a free  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -module.

292 For a non-smooth locally Euler-homogenous divisor, freeness is equivalent to the  
 293 Jacobian ring  $\mathcal{O}_X/J_f$  being a Cohen–Macaulay  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -module of codimension 2; in  
 294 general, freeness is equivalent to the Tjurina algebra  $R/(f, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n})$  being of  
 295 projective dimension 2 or less over  $R$ . See [187, 2] for relations to determinantal  
 296 equations. Free divisors have rather big singular locus, and are in some ways at  
 297 the opposite end of the singularity zoo from isolated singularities. If  $\Omega_X^1(\log f)$   
 298 is (locally) free, then  $\Omega_X^i(\log f) \cong \wedge^i \Omega_X^1(\log f)$  and also (locally) free, [187]. A  
 299 weakening is

300 **Definition 4.2.** A divisor  $\text{Var}(f)$  is *tame* if, for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , (locally)  $\Omega_X^i(\log f)$  has  
 301 projective dimension at most  $i$  as a  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -module.



302 Plane curves are trivially free; surfaces in 3-space are trivially tame. Normal  
 303 crossing divisors are easily shown to be free. Discriminants of (semi)versal deforma-  
 304 tions of an isolated complete intersection singularity (and some others) are free,  
 305 [2, 3, 141, 188, 77, 44]. Unitary reflection arrangements are free [212].

306 **Definition 4.3.** The *logarithmic derivations*  $\text{Der}(-\log f)$  along  $Y = \text{Var}(f)$  are  
 307 the  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear derivations  $\theta \in \text{Der}(\mathcal{O}_X; \mathbb{C})$  that satisfy  $\theta \bullet f \in (f)$ .

308 A derivation  $\theta$  is logarithmic along  $Y$  if and only if it is so along each component  
 309 of the reduced divisor to  $Y$  [187]. The modules  $\text{Der}(-\log f)$  and  $\Omega^1(\log f)$  are  
 310 reflexive and mutually dual over  $R$ . Moreover,  $\Omega^i(\log f)$  and  $\Omega^{n-i}(\log f)$  are dual.

### 311 4.3. LCT.

312 **Definition 4.4.** If

$$(4.1) \quad \Omega_X^\bullet(\log Y) \rightarrow \Omega_X^\bullet(*Y)$$

313 is a quasi-isomorphism, we say that *LCT holds for  $Y$* .

314 We recommend [161].

315 *Remark 4.5.* (1) This “Logarithmic Comparison Theorem”, a property of a di-  
 316 visor, is very hard to check explicitly. No general algorithms are known, even in  $\mathbb{C}^3$   
 317 (but see [74] for  $n = 2$ ).

318 (2) LCT fails for rather simple divisors such as  $f = x_1x_2 + x_3x_4$ .

319 (3) If  $Y$  is a reduced normal crossing divisor, Deligne proved (4.1) to be a fil-  
 320 tered (by pole filtration) quasi-isomorphism [82]; this provided a crucial step in the  
 321 development of the theory of mixed Hodge structures [83].

322 (4) Limiting the order of poles in forms needed to capture all cohomology of  $U$   
 323 started with the seminal article [99] and continues, see for example [81, 87, 113].

324 (5) The free case was studied for example in [72]. But even in this case, LCT is  
 325 not understood.

326 (6) If  $f$  is quasi-homogeneous with an isolated singularity at the origin, then  
 327 LCT for  $f$  is equivalent to a topological condition (the link of  $f$  at the origin being  
 328 a rational homology sphere), as well as an arithmetic one on the Milnor algebra  
 329 of  $f$ , [104]. In [202], using the Gauß–Manin connection, this is extended to a list  
 330 of conditions on an isolated hypersurface singularity, each one of which forces the  
 331 implication  $[D \text{ has LCT}] \Rightarrow [D \text{ is quasi-homogeneous}]$ .

332 (7) For a version regarding more general connections, see [58].

333 A plane curve satisfies LCT if and only if it is locally quasi-homogeneous, [61].  
 334 By [72], free locally quasi-homogeneous divisors satisfy LCT in any dimension. By  
 335 [95], in dimension three, free divisors with LCT must be locally Euler-homogeneous.  
 336 Conjecturally, LCT implies local Euler-homogeneity [61]. The converse is false, see  
 337 for example [69]. The classical example of rotating lines with varying cross-ratio  
 338  $f = xy(x+y)(x+yz)$  is free, satisfies LCT and is locally Euler-homogeneous, but  
 339 only weakly quasi-homogeneous, [61]. In [73], the effect of the Spencer property  
 340 on LCT is discussed in the presence of homogeneity conditions. For locally quasi-  
 341 homogeneous divisors (or if the non-free locus is zero-dimensional), LCT implies  
 342  $(B_1)$ , [66, 216]. In particular, LCT implies  $(B_1)$  for divisors with isolated singular-  
 343 ities. In [96] quasi-homogeneity of isolated singularities is characterized in terms of  
 344 a map of local cohomology modules of logarithmic differentials.

345 A free divisor is *linear free* if the (free) module  $\text{Der}(-\log f)$  has a basis of linear  
 346 vector fields. In [93], linear free divisors in dimension at most 4 are classified, and for  
 347 these divisors LCT holds at least on global sections. In the process, it is shown that  
 348 LCT is implied if the Lie algebra of linear logarithmic vector fields is reductive. The  
 349 example of  $n \times n$  invertible upper triangular matrices acting on symmetric matrices  
 350 [93, Ex. 5.1] shows that LCT may hold without the reductivity assumption. Linear  
 351 free divisors appear naturally, for example in quiver representations and in the  
 352 theory of prehomogeneous vector spaces and casting transformations [45, 196, 94].  
 353 Linear freeness is related to unfoldings and Frobenius structures [79].

354 Denote by  $\text{Der}_0(-\log f)$  the derivations  $\theta$  with  $\theta \bullet f = 0$ . In the presence of  
 355 a global Euler-homogeneity  $E$  on  $Y$  there is a splitting  $\text{Der}(-\log f) \cong R \cdot E \oplus$   
 356  $\text{Der}_0(-\log f)$ . Reading derivations as operators of order one,  $\text{Der}_0(-\log f) \subseteq$   
 357  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$ . We write  $S$  for  $\text{gr}_{(0,1)}(D)$ ; if  $y_i$  is the symbol of  $\partial_i$  then we have  $S = R[y]$ .

358 **Definition 4.6.** The inclusion  $\text{Der}_0(-\log f) \hookrightarrow \text{ann}_D(f^s)$ , via the order filtration,  
 359 defines a subideal of  $\text{gr}_{(0,1)}(\text{ann}_D(f^s)) \subseteq \text{gr}_{(0,1)}(D) = S$  called the *logarithmic ideal*  
 360  $L_f$  of  $\text{Var}(f)$ .

361 Note that the symbols of  $\text{Der}(-\log f)$  are in the ideal  $R \cdot y$ , which has height  $n$ .

362 **Definition 4.7.** If  $\text{Der}(-\log f)$  has a generating set (as an  $R$ -module) whose sym-  
 363 bols form a regular sequence on  $S$ , then  $Y$  is called *Koszul free*.

364 As  $\text{Der}(-\log f)$  has rank  $n$ , a Koszul free divisor is indeed free. Divisors in the  
 365 plane [187] and locally quasi-homogeneous free divisors [59, 57] are Koszul free. In  
 366 the case of normal crossings, this has been used to make resolutions for  $D[s] \bullet f^s$   
 367 and  $D[s]/D[s](\text{ann}_{D[s]} f^s, f)$ , [101]. A way to distill invariants from resolutions of  
 368  $D[s] \bullet f^s$  is given in [9]. The logarithmic module  $\tilde{M}^{\log f} = D/D \cdot \text{Der}(-\log f)$  has  
 369 in the Spencer case (see [66, 62]) a natural free resolution of Koszul type.

370 For Koszul-free divisors, the ideal  $D \cdot \text{Der}(-\log f)$  is holonomic [60]. By [93,  
 371 Thm. 7.4], in the presence of freeness, the Koszul property is equivalent to the  
 372 local finiteness of Saito's logarithmic stratification. This yields an algorithmic way  
 373 to certify (some) free divisors as not locally quasi-homogeneous, since free locally  
 374 quasi-homogeneous divisors are Koszul free. Based on similar ideas, one may devise  
 375 a test for strong local Euler-homogeneity [93, Lem. 7.5]. See [60] and [216, §2] for  
 376 relations of Koszul freeness to perversity of the logarithmic de Rham complex.

377 Castro-Jiménez and Ucha established conditions for  $Y = \text{Var}(f)$  to have LCT  
 378 in terms of  $D$ -modules [67, 66, 68] for certain free  $f$ . For example, LCT is equiva-  
 379 lent to  $(A_1)$  for Spencer free divisors. Calderón-Moreno and Narváez-Macarro [62]  
 380 proved that free divisors have LCT if and only if the natural morphism  $\mathcal{D}_X \otimes_{V^0(\mathcal{D}_X)}^L$   
 381  $\mathcal{O}_X(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(*Y)$  is a quasi-isomorphism,  $\mathcal{O}_X(Y)$  being the meromorphic func-  
 382 tions with simple pole along  $f$ . For Koszul free  $Y$ , one has at least  $\mathcal{D}_X \otimes_{V^0(\mathcal{D}_X)}^L$   
 383  $\mathcal{O}_X(Y) \cong \mathcal{D}_X \otimes_{V^0(\mathcal{D}_X)} \mathcal{O}_X(Y)$ . A similar condition ensures that the logarithmic de  
 384 Rham complex is perverse [60, 62]. The two results are related by duality between  
 385 logarithmic connections on  $\mathcal{D}_X$  and the  $V$ -filtration [66, 62, 75].

386 It is unknown how LCT is related to  $(A_1)$  in general, but for quasi-homogeneous  
 387 polynomials with isolated singularities the two conditions are equivalent, [216].

#### 388 4.4. Logarithmic linearity.

389 **Definition 4.8.** We say that  $f \in R$  satisfies  $(L_s)$  if the characteristic ideal of  
 390  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$  is generated by symbols of derivations.

391 Condition  $(L_s)$  holds for isolated singularities [235], locally quasi-homogeneous  
 392 free divisors [59], and locally strongly Euler-homogeneous tame divisors [231]. Also,  
 393  $(L_s)$  plus  $(B_1)$  yields  $(A_1)$  for locally Euler-homogeneous  $f$  by [117], see [216].

394 The logarithmic ideal supplies an interesting link between  $\Omega^\bullet(\log f)$  and  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$   
 395 via approximation complexes: if  $f$  is strongly locally Euler-homogeneous and also  
 396 tame then the complex  $(\Omega^\bullet(\log f)[y], y dx)$  is a resolution of the logarithmic ideal  
 397  $L_f$ , and  $S/L_f$  is a Cohen–Macaulay domain of dimension  $n + 1$ ; if  $f$  is in fact free,  
 398  $S/L_f$  is a complete intersection [161, 231].

399 **Question 4.9.** *For locally Euler-homogeneous divisors, is  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$  related to the*  
 400 *cohomology of  $(\Omega^\bullet(\log f)[y], y dx)$ ?*

401

## 5. CHARACTERISTIC VARIETY

402 For  $f \in R$  let  $U_f$  be the open set defined by  $df \neq 0 \neq f$ . By [117],  $\mathcal{M}_f(s)$   
 403 is coherent over  $D$  (by [23] there is a functional equation, so  $s$  has a minimal  
 404 polynomial modulo  $f$ ), and the restriction of  $\text{charV}(D[s] \bullet f^s)$  to  $U_f$  is

$$(5.1) \quad \overline{\left\{ \left( \xi, s \frac{df(\xi)}{f(\xi)} \right) \mid \xi \in U_f, s \in \mathbb{C} \right\}}^{\text{Zariski}},$$

405 an  $(n + 1)$ -dimensional involutive subvariety of  $T^*U_f$ , [120]. Ginsburg [92] gives a  
 406 formula for the characteristic cycle of  $D[s] \bullet m f^s$  in terms of an intersection process  
 407 for holonomic sections  $m$ .

408 In favorable cases, more can be said. By [59], if the divisor is reduced, free and lo-  
 409 cally quasi-homogeneous then  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$  is generated by derivations, both  $\mathcal{M}_f(s)$   
 410 and  $\mathcal{N}_f(s)$  have Koszul–Spencer type resolutions, and in particular the characteris-  
 411 tic varieties are complete intersections. In the more general case where  $f$  is locally  
 412 strongly Euler-homogeneous and tame,  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$  is still generated by order one  
 413 operators and the ideal of symbols of  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$  (and hence the characteristic ideal  
 414 of  $\mathcal{M}_f(s)$  as well) is a Cohen–Macaulay prime ideal, [231]. Under these hypotheses,  
 415 the characteristic ideal of  $\mathcal{N}_f(s)$  is Cohen–Macaulay but not prime.

416 **5.1. Stratifications.** By [115], the resolution theorem of Hironaka can be used to  
 417 show that there is a stratification of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  such that for each holonomic  $D$ -module  
 418  $M$ ,  $\text{charC}(M) = \bigsqcup_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \mu(M, \sigma) T_\sigma^*$  where  $T_\sigma^*$  is the closure of the conormal bundle  
 419 of the smooth stratum  $\sigma$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $\mu(M, \sigma) \in \mathbb{N}$ .

420 For  $D[s] \bullet f^s / D[s] \bullet f^{s+1}$  Kashiwara proved that if one considers a Whitney  
 421 stratification  $S$  for  $f$  (for example the “canonical” stratification in [78]) then the  
 422 characteristic variety of the  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{N}_f(s)$  is the union of the conormal varieties  
 423 of the strata  $\sigma \in S$ , [235].

424 If one slices a pair  $(X, D)$  of a smooth space and a divisor with a hyperplane,  
 425 various invariants of the divisor will behave well provided that the hyperplane is not  
 426 “special”. A prime example are Bertini and Lefschetz theorems. For  $D$ -modules,  
 427 Kashiwara defined the notion of *non-characteristic restriction*: the smooth hyper-  
 428 surface  $H$  is non-characteristic for the  $D$ -module  $M$  if it meets each component of  
 429 the characteristic variety of  $M$  transversally (see [177] for an exposition). The con-  
 430 dition assures that the inverse image functor attached to the embedding  $H \hookrightarrow X$   
 431 has no higher derived functors for  $M$ . In [86] these ideas are used to show that the  
 432  $V$ -filtration, and hence the multiplier ideals as well as nearby and vanishing cycle  
 433 sheaves, behave nicely under non-characteristic restriction.

434 **5.2. Deformations.** Varchenko proved, via establishing constancy of Hodge num-  
 435 bers, that in a  $\mu$ -constant family of isolated singularities, the spectrum is constant  
 436 [223]. In [86] it is shown that the formation of the spectrum along the divisor  $Y \subseteq X$   
 437 commutes with the intersection with a hyperplane transversal to any stratum of a  
 438 Whitney regular stratification of  $D$ . Moreover, they derived a weak generalization  
 439 of Varchenko's constancy results for certain deformations of non-isolated singulari-  
 440 ties.

441 In contrast, the Bernstein–Sato polynomial may not be constant along  $\mu$ -constant  
 442 deformations. Suppose  $f(x) + \lambda g(x)$  is a 1-parameter family of plane curves with  
 443 isolated singularities at the origin. If the Milnor number  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(R/J_{(f+\lambda g)})$  is con-  
 444 stant in the family, the singularity germs in the family are topologically equiv-  
 445 alent [218]; for discussion see [88, §2]. However, in such a family,  $b_f(s)$  may  
 446 vary, it is a differential invariant:  $f + \lambda g = x^4 + y^5 + \lambda xy^4$  has constant Mil-  
 447 nor number 20, but the general curve (not quasi-homogeneous in any coordi-  
 448 nate system, as  $\rho_{f+\lambda g}$  is not symmetric about  $-1$ , see Subsection 3.3 above) has  
 449  $-\rho_{f+\lambda g} = \{1\} \cup \frac{1}{20}\{9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27\}$  while the special curve  
 450 has  $-\rho_f = -\rho_{f+\lambda g} \cup \{-31/20\} \setminus \{-11/20\}$ . See [64] for details and similar exam-  
 451 ples based on Newton polytope considerations, and [205] for deformations of plane  
 452 diagonal curves.

453

## 6. MILNOR FIBER AND MONODROMY

454 **6.1. Milnor fibers.** Let  $B(p, \varepsilon)$  denote the  $\varepsilon$ -ball around  $p \in \text{Var}(f) \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$ . Milnor  
 455 [155] proved that the diffeomorphism type of the open real manifold

$$M_{p,t_0,\varepsilon} = B(p, \varepsilon) \cap \text{Var}(f - t_0)$$

456 is independent of  $\varepsilon, t_0$  as long as  $0 < |t_0| \ll \varepsilon \ll 1$ . For  $0 < \tau \ll \varepsilon \ll 1$  denote by  
 457  $M_p$  the fiber of the bundle  $B(p, \varepsilon) \cap \{q \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid 0 < |f(q)| < \tau\} \rightarrow f(q)$ .

458 The direct image functor for  $D$ -modules to the projection  $\mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ,  $(x, t) \mapsto$   
 459  $t$  turns the  $D_{x,t}$ -module  $\mathcal{B}_f$  into the *Gauß–Manin system*  $\mathcal{H}_f$ . The  $D$ -module  
 460 restriction of  $H^k(\mathcal{H}_f)$  to  $t = t_0$  is the  $k$ -th cohomology of the Milnor fibers along  
 461  $\text{Var}(f)$  for  $0 < |t_0| < \tau$ .

462 Fix a  $k$ -cycle  $\sigma \in H_p(\text{Var}(f - t_0))$  and choose  $\eta \in H^k(\mathcal{H}_f)$ . Deforming  $\sigma$  to a  
 463  $k$ -cycle over  $t$  using the Milnor fibration, one can evaluate  $\int_{\sigma_t} \eta$ . The Gauß–Manin  
 464 system has Fuchsian singularities and these periods are in the Nilsson class [148].  
 465 For example, the classical Gauß hypergeometric function saw the light of day the  
 466 first time as solution to a system of differential equations attached to the variation  
 467 of the Hodge structure on an elliptic curve (expressed as integrals of the first and  
 468 second kind) [41]. In [177] this point of view is taken to be the starting point. The  
 469 techniques explained there form the foundation for many connections between  $f^s$   
 470 and singularity invariants attached to  $\text{Var}(f)$ .

471 In [46], a bijection (for  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ ) is established between a subset of the jumping  
 472 numbers of  $f$  at  $p \in \text{Var}(f)$  and the support of the *Hodge spectrum* [207]

$$\text{Sp}(f) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}} n_{\alpha}(f)t^{\alpha},$$

473 with  $n_{\alpha}(f)$  determined by the size of the  $\alpha$ -piece of Hodge component of the coho-  
 474 mology of the Milnor fiber of  $f$  at  $p$ . See also [190, 221], and [206] for a survey on  
 475 Hodge invariants. We refer to [49, 194] for many more aspects of this part of the  
 476 story.

477 **6.2. Monodromy.** The vector spaces  $H^k(M_{p,t_0,\varepsilon}, \mathbb{C})$  form a smooth vector bundle over a punctured disk  $\mathbb{C}^*$ . The linear transformation  $\mu_{f,p,k}$  on  $H^k(M_{p,t_0,\varepsilon}, \mathbb{C})$   
 478 induced by  $p \mapsto p \cdot \exp(2\pi i\lambda)$  is the  $k$ -th monodromy of  $f$  at  $p$ . Let  $\chi_{f,p,k}(t)$  denote  
 479 the characteristic polynomial of  $\mu_{f,p,k}$ , set  
 480

$$e_{f,p,k} = \{\gamma \in \mathbb{C} \mid \gamma \text{ is an eigenvalue of } \mu_{f,p,k}\}$$

481 and put  $e_{f,p} = \bigcup e_{f,p,k}$ .

482 For most (in a quantifiable sense) divisors  $f$  with given Newton diagram, a combi-  
 483 natorial recipe can be given that determines the alternating product  $\prod (\chi_{f,p,k}(t))^{(-1)^k}$   
 484 [222], similarly to A'Campo's formula in terms of an embedded resolution [1].

485 **6.3. Degrees, eigenvalues, and Bernstein–Sato polynomial.** By [147, 114],  
 486 the exponential function maps the root set of the local analytic Bernstein–Sato  
 487 polynomial of  $f$  at  $p$  onto  $e_{f,p}$ . The set  $\exp(-2\pi i\tilde{\rho}_{f,p})$  is the set of eigenvalues of  
 488 the monodromy on the Grothendieck–Deligne vanishing cycle sheaf  $\phi_f(\mathbb{C}_{X,p})$ . This  
 489 was shown in [191] by algebraic microlocalization.

490 If  $f$  is an isolated singularity, the Milnor fiber  $M_f$  is a bouquet of spheres, and  
 491  $H^{n-1}(M_f, \mathbb{C})$  can be identified with the Jacobian ring  $R/J_f$ . Moreover, if  $f$  is  
 492 quasi-homogeneous, then under this identification  $R/J_f$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}[s]$ -module,  $s$  acting  
 493 via the Euler operator, and  $\tilde{\rho}_f$  is in bijection with the degree set of the nonzero  
 494 quasi-homogeneous elements in  $R/J_f$ . For non-isolated singularities, most of this  
 495 breaks down, since  $R/J_f$  is not Artinian in that case. However, for homogeneous  
 496  $f$ , consider the *Jacobian module*

$$H_m^0(R/J_f) = \{g + J_f \mid \exists k \in \mathbb{N}, \forall i, x_i^k g \in J_f\}$$

497 and the canonical  $(n-1)$ -form

$$\eta = \sum_i x_i dx_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \widehat{dx_i} \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_n.$$

498 Every class in  $H^{n-1}(M_f; \mathbb{C})$  is of the form  $g\eta$  for suitable  $g \in R$ , [230]. Moreover, let  
 499  $\bar{g} \neq 0$  by a homogeneous element in the Jacobian module  $H_m^0(R/J_f)$  and suppose  
 500 that its degree  $\deg(g\eta) = \deg(g) + \sum_i \deg(x_i)$  is between  $d$  and  $2d$ . Then, by  
 501 [230, 231],  $g\eta$  represents a nonzero cohomology class in  $H^{n-1}(M_f, \mathbb{C})$  and there is a  
 502 filtration on  $H^{n-1}(M_f, \mathbb{C})$  induced by integration of  $\mathcal{B}_f$  along  $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n$ , with the  
 503 following property: if  $g \in R$  is the smallest degree homogeneous polynomial such  
 504 that  $g\eta$  represents a chosen element of  $H^{n-1}(M_f, \mathbb{C})$  then  $b_f(-(\deg(g\eta))/\deg(f)) =$   
 505 0.

506 **6.4. Zeta functions.** The zeta function  $Z_f(s)$  attached to a divisor  $f \in R$  is the  
 507 rational function

$$Z_f(s) = \sum_{I \subseteq S} \chi(E_I^*) \prod_{i \in I} \frac{1}{N_i s + \nu_i}$$

508 where  $\pi: (Y, \bigcup_I E_i) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, \text{Var}(f))$  is an embedded resolution of singularities, and  
 509  $N_i$  (resp.  $\nu_i - 1$ ) are the multiplicities of  $E_i$  in  $\pi^*(f)$  (resp. in the Jacobian of  $\pi$ ).  
 510 By results of Denef and Loeser [84],  $Z_f(s)$  is independent of the resolution.

511 **Conjecture 6.1** (Topological Monodromy Conjecture).

512 (SMC) Any pole of  $Z_f(s)$  is a root of the Bernstein–Sato polynomial  $b_f(s)$ .

513 (MC) Any pole of  $Z_f(s)$  yields under exponentiation an eigenvalue of the mon-  
 514 odromy operator at some  $p \in \text{Var}(f)$ .

515 The strong version (SMC) implies (MC) by [146, 114]. Each version allows a  
 516 generalization to ideals.

517 (SMC), formulated by Igusa [110] and Denef–Loeser [84] holds for

- 518 • reduced curves by [138] with a discussion on the nature of the poles by Veys  
 519 [226, 225, 227];
- 520 • certain Newton-nondegenerate divisors by [140];
- 521 • some hyperplane arrangements (see Section 8);
- 522 • monomial ideals in any dimension by [106].

523 Additionally, Conjecture (MC) holds for

- 524 • bivariate ideals by Van Proeyen and Veys [220];
- 525 • all hyperplane arrangements by [54, 56];
- 526 • some partial cases: [11, 127] some surfaces; [13] quasi-ordinary power series;  
 527 [136, 140] in certain Newton non-degenerate cases; [109, 123] for invariants  
 528 of prehomogeneous vector spaces; [126] for nondegenerate surfaces.

529 Strong evidence for (MC) for  $n = 3$  is procured in [228]. The articles [180, 164]  
 530 explore what (MC) could mean on a normal surface as ambient space and gives  
 531 some results and counterexamples to naive generalizations. See also [85] and the  
 532 introductions of [31, 32] for more details in survey format.

533 A root of  $b_f(s)$ , a monodromy eigenvalue, and a pole of  $Z_f(s)$  may have mul-  
 534 tiplicity; can the monodromy conjecture be strengthened to include multiplicities?  
 535 This version of (SMC) was proved for reduced bivariate  $f$  in [138]; in [153, 154] it  
 536 is proved for certain nonreduced bivariate  $f$ , and for some trivariate ones.

537 A different variation, due to Veys, of the conjecture is the following. Vary the  
 538 definition of  $Z_f(s)$  to  $Z_{f,g}(s) = \sum_{I \subseteq S} \chi(E_I^*) \prod_{i \in I} \frac{1}{N_i s + \nu'_i}$  where  $\nu'_i$  is the multiplic-  
 539 ity of  $E_i$  in the pullback along  $\pi$  of some differential form  $g$ . (The standard case  
 540 is when  $g$  is the volume form). Two questions arise: (1) varying over a suitable  
 541 set  $G$  of forms  $g$ , can one generate all roots of  $b_f(s)$  as poles of the resulting zeta  
 542 functions? And if so, can one (2) do this such that the pole sets of all zeta functions  
 543 so constructed are always inside  $\rho_f$ , so that

$$\rho_f = \{\alpha \mid \exists g \in G, \lim_{s \rightarrow \alpha} Z_{f,g}(s) = \infty\} \quad ?$$

544 Némethi and Veys [163, 164] prove a weak version: if  $n = 2$  then monodromy  
 545 eigenvalues are exponentials of poles of zeta functions from differential forms.

546 The following is discussed in [30]. For some ideals with  $n = 2$ , (1) is false for  
 547 the topological zeta function (even for divisors: consider  $xy^5 + x^3y^2 + x^4y$ ). For  
 548 monomial ideals with two generators in  $n = 2$ , (1) is correct; with more than two  
 549 generators it can fail. Even in the former case, (2) can be false.

## 550 7. MULTI-VARIATE VERSIONS

551 If  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_r)$  defines a map  $f: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^r$ , several  $b$ -functions can be defined:

- 552 (1) The univariate Bernstein–Sato polynomial  $b_f(s)$  attached to the ideal  $(f) \subseteq$   
 553  $R$  from [51].
- 554 (2) The multi-variate Bernstein–Sato polynomials  $b_{f,i}(s)$  of all  $b(s) \in \mathbb{C}[s_1, \dots, s_r]$   
 555 such that there is an equation  $P(x, \partial, s) \bullet f_i f^s = b(s) f^s$  in multi-index notation.
- 556 (3) The multi-variate Bernstein–Sato ideal  $B_{f,\mu}(s)$  for  $\mu \in \mathbb{N}^r$  of all  $b(s) \in$   
 557  $\mathbb{C}[s_1, \dots, s_r]$  such that there is an equation  $P(x, \partial, s) \bullet f^{s+\mu} = b(s) f^s$  in multi-  
 558 index notation. The most interesting case is  $\mu = \mathbf{1} = (1, \dots, 1)$ .

559 (4) The multi-variate Bernstein–Sato ideal  $B_{f,\Sigma}(s)$  of all  $b(s) \in \mathbb{C}[s_1, \dots, s_r]$   
 560 that multiply  $f^s$  into  $\sum D[s]f_i f^s$  in multi-index notation.

561 The Bernstein–Sato polynomial in (1) above has been studied in the case of a  
 562 monomial ideal in [52] and more generally from the point of view of the Newton  
 563 polygon in [53]. While the roots for monomial ideals do not depend just on the  
 564 Newton polygon, their residue classes modulo  $\mathbb{Z}$  do.

565 Non-triviality of the quantities in (2)–(4) have been established in [184, 185, 183],  
 566 but see also [17]. The ideals  $B_{f,\mu}(s)$  and  $B_{f,\Sigma}(s)$  do not have to be principal,  
 567 [219, 18]. In [184, 103] it is shown that  $B_{f,\mu}(s)$  contains a polynomial that factors  
 568 into linear forms with non-negative rational coefficients and positive constant term.  
 569 Bahloul and Oaku [18] show that these ideals are local in the sense of (3.1).

570 The following would generalize Kashiwara’s result in the univariate case as well  
 571 as the results of Sabbah and Gyoja above.

572 **Conjecture 7.1** ([48]). *The Bernstein–Sato ideal  $B_{f,\mu}(s)$  is generated by prod-*  
 573 *ucts of linear forms  $\sum \alpha_i s_i + a$  with  $\alpha_i, a$  non-negative rational and  $a > 0$ .*

574 For  $n = 2$ , partial results by Cassou-Noguès and Libgober exist [65]. In [48]  
 575 it is further conjectured that the Malgrange–Kashiwara result, exponentiating  $\rho_{f,p}$   
 576 gives  $e_{f,p}$ , generalizes: monodromy in this case is defined in [224], and Sabbah’s  
 577 specialization functor  $\psi_f$  from [186] takes on the rôle of the nearby cycle functor,  
 578 and conjecturally exponentiating the variety of  $B_{f,p}(s)$  yields the uniform support  
 579 (near  $p$ ) of Sabbah’s functor. The latter conjecture would imply Conjecture 7.1.

580 Similarly to the one-variable case, if  $V(n, d, m)$  is the vector space of (ordered)  $m$ -  
 581 tuples of polynomials in  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of degree at most  $d$ , there is an algebraic stratifi-  
 582 cation of  $V(n, d, m)$  such that on each stratum the function  $V \ni f = (f_1, \dots, f_m) \mapsto$   
 583  $b_f(s)$  is constant. Corresponding results for the Bernstein–Sato ideal  $B_{f,1}(s)$  hold  
 584 by [38].

## 585 8. HYPERPLANE ARRANGEMENTS

586 A *hyperplane arrangement* is a divisor of the form

$$\mathcal{A} = \prod_{i \in I} \alpha_i$$

587 where each  $\alpha_i$  is a polynomial of degree one. We denote  $H_i = \text{Var}(\alpha_i)$ . Essentially  
 588 all information we are interested in is of local nature, so we assume that each  $\alpha_i$   
 589 is a form so that  $\mathcal{A}$  is *central*. If there is a coordinate change in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  such that  $\mathcal{A}$   
 590 becomes the product of polynomials in disjoint sets of variables, the arrangement  
 591 is *decomposable*, otherwise it is *indecomposable*.

592 A *flat* is any (set-theoretic) intersection  $\bigcap_{i \in J} H_i$  where  $J \subseteq I$ . The *intersection*  
 593 *lattice*  $L(\mathcal{A})$  is the partially ordered set consisting of the collection of all flats, with  
 594 order given by inclusion.

595 **8.1. Numbers and parameters.** Hyperplane arrangements satisfy  $(B_1)$  every-  
 596 where [230]. Arrangements satisfy  $(A_1)$  everywhere if they decompose into a union  
 597 of a generic and a hyperbolic arrangement [214], and if they are tame [231]. Terao  
 598 conjectured that all hyperplane arrangements satisfy  $(A_1)$ ; some of them fail  $(A_s)$ ,  
 599 [231].

600 Apart from recasting various of the previously encountered problems in the world  
 601 of arrangements, a popular study is the following: choose a discrete invariant  $I$  of

602 a divisor. Does the function  $\mathcal{A} \mapsto I(\mathcal{A})$  factor through the map  $\mathcal{A} \mapsto L(\mathcal{A})$ ?  
 603 Randell showed that if two arrangements are connected by a one-parameter family  
 604 of arrangements which have the same intersection lattice, the complements are  
 605 diffeomorphic [178] and the isomorphism type of the Milnor fibration is constant  
 606 [179]. Rybnikov [181, 12] showed on the other hand that there are arrangements  
 607 (even in the projective plane) with equal lattice but different complement. In  
 608 particular, not all isotopic arrangements can be linked by a smooth deformation.

609 **8.2. LCT and logarithmic ideal.** The most prominent positive result is by  
 610 Brieskorn: the *Orlik–Solomon algebra*  $\text{OS}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Omega^\bullet(\log \mathcal{A})$  generated by the forms  
 611  $d\alpha_i/\alpha_i$  is quasi-isomorphic to  $\Omega^\bullet(*\mathcal{A})$ , hence to the singular cohomology algebra of  
 612  $U_{\mathcal{A}}$ , [40]. The relation with combinatorics was given in [175, 176]. For a survey on  
 613 the Orlik–Solomon algebra, see [237]. The best known open problem in this area is

614 **Conjecture 8.1** ([211]).  $\text{OS}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \Omega^\bullet(\log \mathcal{A})$  is a quasi-isomorphism.

615 While the general case remains open, Wiens and Yuzvinsky [232] proved it for  
 616 tame arrangements, and also if  $n \leq 4$ . The techniques are based on [72].

617 **8.3. Milnor fibers.** There is a survey article by Suciu on complements, Milnor  
 618 fibers, and cohomology jump loci [208], and [49] contains further information on  
 619 the topic. It is not known whether  $L(\mathcal{A})$  determines the Betti numbers (even less  
 620 the Hodge numbers) of the Milnor fiber of an arrangement. The first Betti number  
 621 of the Milnor fiber  $M_{\mathcal{A}}$  at the origin is stable under intersection with a generic  
 622 hyperplane (if  $n > 2$ ). But it is unknown whether the first Betti number of an  
 623 arrangement in 3-space is a function of the lattice alone. By [89], this is so for  
 624 collections of up to 14 lines with up to 5-fold intersections in the projective plane.  
 625 See also [134] for the origins of the approach. By [50], a lower combinatorial bound  
 626 for the  $\lambda$ -eigenspace of  $H^1(M_{\mathcal{A}})$  is given under favorable conditions on  $L$ . If  $L$   
 627 satisfies stronger conditions, the bound is shown to be exact. In any case, [50] gives  
 628 an algebraic, although perhaps non-combinatorial, formula for the Hodge pieces in  
 629 terms of multiplier ideals.

630 By [174], the Betti numbers of  $M_{\mathcal{A}}$  are combinatorial if  $\mathcal{A}$  is generic. See also  
 631 [76].

632 **8.4. Multiplier ideals.** Mustața gave a formula for the multiplier ideals of ar-  
 633 rangements, and used it to show that the log-canonical threshold is a function of  
 634  $L(\mathcal{A})$ . The formula is somewhat hard to use for showing that each jumping number  
 635 is a lattice invariant; this problem was solved in [55]. Explicit formulas in low di-  
 636 mensional cases follow from the spectrum formulas given there and in [236]. Teitler  
 637 [210] improved Mustața’s formula for multiplier ideals to not necessarily reduced  
 638 hyperplane arrangements [158].

639 **8.5. Bernstein–Sato polynomials.** By [230],  $\rho_{\mathcal{A}} \cap \mathbb{Z} = \{-1\}$ ; by [192],  $\rho_{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq$   
 640  $(-2, 0)$ . There are few classes of arrangements with explicit formulæ for their  
 641 Bernstein–Sato polynomial:

- 642 • Boolean (a normal crossing arrangement, locally given by  $x_1 \cdots x_k$ );
- 643 • hyperbolic (essentially an arrangement in two variables);
- 644 • generic (central, and all intersections of  $n$  hyperplanes equal the origin).



645 The first case is trivial, the second is easy, the last is [230] with assistance from  
 646 [193]. Some interesting computations are in [56], and [48] has a partial confirmation  
 647 of the multi-variable Kashiwara–Malgrange theorem.

648 **8.6. Zeta functions.** Budur, Mustață and Teitler [54] show: (MC) holds for ar-  
 649 rangements, and in order to prove (SMC), it suffices to show the following con-  
 650 jecture.

651 **Conjecture 8.2.** *For all indecomposable central arrangements with  $d$  planes in*  
 652  *$n$ -space,  $b_{\mathcal{A}}(-n/d) = 0$ .*

653 The idea is to use the resolution of singularities obtained by blowing up the dense  
 654 edges from [200]. The corresponding computation of the zeta function is inspired  
 655 from [107, 108]. The number  $-n/d$  does not have to be the log-canonical threshold.  
 656 By [54], Conjecture 8.2 holds in a number of cases, including reduced arrangements  
 657 in dimension 3. By [231] it holds for tame arrangements.

658 Examples of Veys (in 4 variables) show that (SMC) may hold even if Conjec-  
 659 ture 8.2 were false in general, since  $-n/d$  is not always a pole of the zeta function  
 660 [56]. However, in these examples,  $-n/d$  is in fact a root of  $b_f(s)$ .

661 For arrangements, each monodromy eigenvalue can be captured by zeta functions  
 662 in the sense of Némethi and Veys, see Subsection 6.4, but not necessarily all of  $\rho_{\mathcal{A}}$   
 663 (Veys and Walther, unpublished).

## 664 9. POSITIVE CHARACTERISTIC

665 Let here  $\mathbb{F}$  denote a field of characteristic  $p > 0$ . The theory of  $D$ -modules  
 666 is rather different in positive characteristic compared to their behavior over the  
 667 complex numbers. There are several reasons for this:

- 668 (1) On the downside, the ring  $D_p$  of  $\mathbb{F}$ -linear differential operators on  $R_p =$   
 669  $\mathbb{F}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is no longer finitely generated: as an  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra it is generated  
 670 by the elements  $\partial^{(\alpha)}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n$ , which act via  $\partial^{(\alpha)} \bullet (x^\beta) = \binom{\beta}{\alpha} x^{\beta-\alpha}$ .
- 671 (2) As a trade-off, one has access to the Frobenius morphism  $x_i \mapsto x_i^p$ , as well  
 672 as the Frobenius functor  $F(M) = R' \otimes_R M$  where  $R'$  is the  $R$ – $R$ -bimodule  
 673 on which  $R$  acts via the identity on the left, and via the Frobenius on  
 674 the right. Lyubeznik [142] created the category of  $F$ -finite  $F$ -modules and  
 675 proved striking finiteness results. The category includes many interesting  
 676  $D_p$ -modules, and all  $F$ -modules are  $D_p$ -modules.
- 677 (3) Holonomicity provides certain difficulties, see [29].

678 A most surprising consequence of Lyubeznik’s ideas is that in positive character-  
 679 istic the property  $(B_1)$  is meaningless: it holds for every  $f \in R_p$ , [6]. The proof  
 680 uses in significant ways the difference between  $D_p$  and the Weyl algebra. In par-  
 681 ticular, the theory of Bernstein–Sato polynomials is rather different in positive  
 682 characteristic. In [159] a sequence of Bernstein–Sato polynomials is attached to a  
 683 polynomial  $f$  assuming that the Frobenius morphism is finite on  $R$  (e.g., if  $\mathbb{F}$  is  
 684 finite or algebraically closed); these polynomials are then linked to test ideals, the  
 685 finite characteristic counterparts to multiplier ideals. In [28] variants of our mod-  
 686 ules  $\mathcal{M}_f(\gamma)$  are introduced and [168] shows that simplicity of these modules detects  
 687 the  $F$ -thresholds from [160]. These are cousins of the jumping numbers of mul-  
 688 tiplier ideals and related to the Bernstein–Sato polynomial via base- $p$ -expansions;  
 689 see also [233]. The Kashiwara–Brylinski intersection homology modules in positive

690 characteristic was shown to exist in positive characteristic by Blickle in his thesis,  
691 [27].

692 10. APPENDIX: COMPUTABILITY (BY A. LEYKIN)

693 Computations around  $f^s$  can be carried out by hand in special cases. Generally,  
694 the computations are enormous and computers are required (although not often  
695 sufficient). One of the earliest such approaches are in [34, 4], but at least implic-  
696 itly Buchberger's algorithm in a Weyl algebra was discussed as early as [70]. An  
697 algorithmic approach to the isolated singularities case [144] preceded the general  
698 algorithms based on Gröbner bases in a non-commutative setting outlined below.

699 **10.1. Gröbner bases.** The *monomials*  $x^\alpha \partial^\beta$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{N}^n$  form a  $\mathbb{C}$ -basis of  
700  $D$ ; expressing  $p \in D$  as linear combination of monomials leads to its *normal form*.  
701 The monomial orders on the commutative monoid  $[x, \partial]$  for which for all  $i \in [n]$   
702 the leading monomial of  $\partial_i x_i = x_i \partial_i + 1$  is  $x_i \partial_i$ , can be used to run Buchberger's  
703 algorithm in  $D$ . Modifications are needed in improvements that exploit commuta-  
704 tivity, but the naïve Buchberger's algorithm works without any changes. See [112]  
705 for more general settings in polynomial rings of solvable type. Surprisingly, the  
706 worst case complexity of Gröbner bases computations in Weyl algebras is *not* worse  
707 than in the commutative polynomial case: it is doubly exponential in the number  
708 of indeterminates [14, 100].

709 **10.2. Characteristic variety.** A weight vector  $(u, v) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \times \mathbb{Z}^n$  with  $u + v \geq 0$   
710 induces a filtration of  $D$ ,

$$F_i = \mathbb{C} \cdot \{x^\alpha \partial^\beta \mid u \cdot \alpha + v \cdot \beta \leq i\}, \quad i \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

711 The  $(u, v)$ -Gröbner deformation of a left ideal  $I \subseteq D$  is

$$\text{in}_{(u,v)}(I) = \mathbb{C} \cdot \{\text{in}_{(u,v)}(P) \mid P \in I\} \subseteq \text{gr}_{(u,v)} D,$$

712 the ideal of *initial forms* of elements of  $I$  with respect to the given weight in the  
713 associated graded algebra. It is possible to compute Gröbner deformations in the  
714 homogenized Weyl algebra

$$D^h = D\langle h \rangle / \langle \partial_i x_i - x_i \partial_i - h^2, x_i h - h x_i, \partial_i h - h \partial_i, \mid 1 \leq i \leq n \rangle$$

715 see [71, 172]. Gröbner deformations are the main topic of [195].

716 **10.3. Annihilator.** Recall the construction appearing in the beginning of §6.1:  
717  $D_{x,t}$  acts on  $D[s]f^s$ ; in particular, the operator  $-\partial_t t$  acts as multiplication by  $s$ .  
718 It is this approach that lead Oaku to an algorithm for  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$ ,  $\text{ann}_D(f^s)$  and  
719  $b_f(s)$ , [170]. We outline the ideas.

Malgrange observed that

$$(10.1) \quad \text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s) = \text{ann}_{D_{x,t}}(f^s) \cap D[s],$$

$$(10.2) \quad \text{with } \text{ann}_{D_{x,t}}(f^s) = \langle t - f, \partial_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \partial_t, \dots, \partial_n + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \partial_t \rangle \subseteq D_{x,t}.$$

720 The former can be found from the latter by eliminating  $t$  and  $\partial_t$  from the ideal

$$(10.3) \quad \langle s + t \partial_t \rangle + \text{ann}_{D_{x,t}}(f^s) \subseteq D_{x,t} \langle s \rangle;$$

721 of course  $s = -\partial_t t$  does not commute with  $t, \partial_t$  here.

Oaku's method for  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$  accomplished the elimination by augmenting two commuting indeterminates:

$$(10.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s) &= I'_f \cap D[s], \\ I'_f &= \langle t - uf, \partial_1 + u \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \partial_t, \dots, \partial_n + u \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \partial_t, uv - 1 \rangle \subseteq D_{x,t}[u, v]. \end{aligned}$$

722 Now outright eliminate  $u, v$ . Note that  $I'_f$  is quasi-homogeneous if the weights are  
 723  $t, u \rightsquigarrow -1$  and  $\partial_t, v \rightsquigarrow 1$ , all other variables having weight zero. The homogeneity  
 724 of the input and the relation  $[\partial_t, t] = 1$  assures the termination of the computation.  
 725 The operators of weight 0 in the output (with  $-\partial_t t$  replaced by  $s$ ) generate  $I'_f \cap D[s]$ .

A modification given in [33] and used, *e.g.*, in [219], reduces the number of algebra generators by one. Consider the subalgebra  $D\langle s, \partial_t \rangle \subset D_{x,t}$ ; the relation  $[s, \partial_t] = \partial_t$  shows that it is of solvable type. According to [33],

$$(10.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s) &= I''_f \cap D[s], \\ I''_f &= \langle s + f\partial_t, \partial_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \partial_t, \dots, \partial_n + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \partial_t \rangle \subset D\langle s, \partial_t \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

726 Note that  $I''_f = \text{ann}_{D_{x,t}}(f^s) \cap D\langle s, \partial_t \rangle$ . The elimination step is done as in [170]; the  
 727 decrease of variables usually improves performance. An algorithm to decide  $(A_1)$   
 728 for arrangements is given in [5].

729 **10.4. Algorithms for the Bernstein–Sato polynomial.** As the minimal poly-  
 730 nomial of  $s$  on  $\mathcal{N}_f(s)$ ,  $b_f(s)$  can be obtained by means of linear algebra as a syzygy  
 731 for the normal forms of powers of  $s$  modulo  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s) + D[s] \cdot f$  with respect to  
 732 any fixed monomial order on  $D[s]$ . Most methods follow this path, starting with  
 733 [170]. Variations appear in [229, 171, 173]; see also [195].

734 A slightly different approach is to compute  $b_f(s)$  without recourse to  $\text{ann}_{D[s]}(f^s)$ ,  
 735 via a Gröbner deformation of the ideal  $I_f = \text{ann}_{D_{x,t}}(f^s)$  in (10.2) with respect to the  
 736 weight  $(-w, w)$  with  $w = (0^n, 1) \in \mathbb{N}^{n+1}$ :  $\langle b_f(s) \rangle = \text{in}_{(-w, w)}(I_f) \cap \mathbb{Q}[-\partial_t t]$ . Here  
 737 again, computing the minimal polynomial using linear algebra tends to provide  
 738 some savings in practice.

739 In [128] the authors give a method to check specific numbers for being in  $\rho_f$ . A  
 740 method for  $b_f(s)$  in the prehomogeneous vector space setup is in [157].

741 **10.5. Stratification from  $b_f(s)$ .** The Gröbner deformation  $\text{in}_{(-w, w)}(I_f)$  in §10.4  
 742 can be refined as follows, see [22, Thm. 2.2]. Let  $b(x, s)$  be nonzero in the polynomial  
 743 ring  $\mathbb{C}[x, s]$ . Then  $b(x, s) \in (\text{in}_{(-w, w)} I_f) \cap \mathbb{C}[x, s]$  if and only if there exists  $P \in D[s]$   
 744 satisfying the functional equation  $b(x, s)f^s = Pff^s$ . From this one can design an  
 745 algorithm not only for computing the *local* Bernstein–Sato polynomial  $b_{f,p}(s)$  for  
 746  $p \in \text{Var}(f)$ , but also the stratification of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  according to local Bernstein–Sato  
 747 polynomials; see [165, 22] for various approaches. Moreover, one can compute the  
 748 stratifications from Subsection 3.3.2, see [131].

749 For the ideal case, [8] gives a method to compute an intersection of a left ideal of  
 750 an associative algebra over a field with a subalgebra, generated by a single element.  
 751 An application is a method for the computation of the Bernstein-Sato polynomial  
 752 of an ideal. Another such was given by Bahloul in [15], and a version on general  
 753 varieties in [16].

754 **10.6. Multiplier ideals.** Consider polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_r \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ , let  $f$  stand for  
 755  $(f_1, \dots, f_r)$ ,  $s$  for  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ , and  $f^s$  for  $\prod_{i=1}^r f_i^{s_i}$ . In this subsection, let  $D_{x,t} =$   
 756  $\mathbb{C}\langle x, t, \partial_x, \partial_t \rangle$  be the  $(n+r)$ -th Weyl algebra.

Consider  $D_{x,t}(s) \bullet f^s \subseteq R_{x,t}[f^{-1}, s]f^s$  and put

$$\begin{aligned} t_j \bullet h(x, s_1, \dots, s_j, \dots, s_r) f^s &= h(x, s_1, \dots, s_j + 1, \dots, s_r) f_j f^s, \\ \partial_{t_j} \bullet h(x, s_1, \dots, s_j, \dots, s_r) f^s &= -s_j h(x, s_1, \dots, s_j - 1, \dots, s_r) f_j^{-1} f^s, \end{aligned}$$

757 for  $h \in \mathbb{C}[x][f^{-1}, s]$ , generalizing the univariate constructions.

The *generalized Bernstein–Sato polynomial*  $b_{f,g}(\sigma)$  of  $f$  at  $g \in \mathbb{C}[x]$  is the monic univariate polynomial  $b$  of the lowest degree for which there exist  $P_k \in D_{x,t}$  such that

$$(10.6) \quad b(\sigma) g f^s = \sum_{k=1}^r P_k g f_k f^s, \quad \sigma = - \left( \sum_{i=1}^r \partial_{t_i} t_i \right).$$

758 An algorithm for  $b_{f,g}(\sigma)$  is an essential ingredient for the algorithms in [204, 22]  
759 that compute the jumping numbers and corresponding multiplier ideals for  $I =$   
760  $\langle f_1, \dots, f_r \rangle$ . That  $b_{f,g}(\sigma)$  is related to multiplier ideals was worked out in [51].

761 There are algorithms for special cases: monomial ideals [105], hyperplane ar-  
762 rangements [158], and determinantal ideals [111]. A *Macaulay2* package *Multipli-*  
763 *erIdeals* by Teitler collects all available (in *Macaulay2*) implementations. See also  
764 [47].

765 **10.7. Software.** Algorithms for computing Bernstein–Sato polynomials have been  
766 implemented in *kan/sm1* [209], *Risa/Asir* [167], *dmod\_lib* library [130] for *Singu-*  
767 *lar* [80], and the *D-modules* package [133] for *Macaulay2* [98]. The best source of  
768 information of these is documentation in the current versions of the corresponding  
769 software. A relatively recent comparison of the performance for several families of  
770 examples is given in [129].

771 The following are articles by developers discussing their implementations: [166,  
772 165, 171, 7, 130, 132, 22].

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