

p-curvature & Exponent of Nilpotence

①

Recall the set-up & some defs from previous talk:

Let T be a scheme of char $p > 0$, $f: S \rightarrow T$ smooth,

$(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{MIC}(S/T)$, i.e. $\nabla: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_S} \Omega^1_{S/T}$, ∇ integrable,

$$\iff \nabla: \text{Der}(S/T) \rightarrow \text{End}_T(\mathcal{E})$$

$$\nabla(D): \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\nabla} \mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_S} \Omega^1_{S/T} \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes D} \mathcal{E}$$

The p-curvature of ∇ is a map $\psi: \text{Der}(S/T) \rightarrow \text{End}_S(\mathcal{E})$,

$$\psi(D) = \nabla(D)^p - \nabla(D^p) \text{ with properties:}$$

- $\psi(D_1 + D_2) = \psi(D_1) + \psi(D_2)$
- $\psi(gD) = g^p \psi(D)$, $g \in \mathcal{O}_S$
- $\nabla(D)$, $\nabla(D^p)$, $\psi(D)$ all commute
- $\psi(D_1)$, $\psi(D_2)$ commute.

Corollary 5.5 Let $f: S \rightarrow T$ smooth, T char $p > 0$, $(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{MIC}(S/T)$,
 $n \in \mathbb{Z} \geq 1$. TFAE:

1) \exists a filtration of (\mathcal{E}, ∇) of length n ,

$$\mathcal{E} = F^0 \supseteq F^1 \supseteq \dots \supseteq F^n = \{0\}, \quad \nabla_i: F^i \rightarrow F^i \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_S} \Omega^1_{S/T}, \quad \nabla_i = \nabla|_{F^i}$$

whose associated graded object has p-curvature 0,

$$\text{gr}^i = F^i / F^{i+1}, \quad \nabla_{\text{gr}^i} = \bar{\nabla}_i: F^i / F^{i+1} \rightarrow F^i / F^{i+1} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_S} \Omega^1_{S/T}$$

$$\psi_{\text{gr}^i}: \text{Der}(S/T) \rightarrow \text{End}_S(F^i / F^{i+1}), \quad D \mapsto \nabla_{\text{gr}^i}(D)^p - \nabla_{\text{gr}^i}(D^p) = 0$$

2) For any $D_1, \dots, D_n \in \text{Der}(S/T)$, $\psi(D_1) \dots \psi(D_n) = 0$

3) \exists a covering of S by affine opens U w/ coordinates
 u_1, \dots, u_r & $\Omega^1_{U/T}$ free on du_1, \dots, du_r s.t. $\forall (w_1, \dots, w_r) \in \mathbb{Z}^r$
w/ $\sum_i w_i = n$, $\left(\nabla \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} \right) \right)^{p w_1} \dots \left(\nabla \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_r} \right) \right)^{p w_r} = 0$

Def (\mathcal{E}, ∇) is nilpotent of exponent $\leq n$ when one of the ⁽²⁾ equivalent conditions of 5.5 holds.

(\mathcal{E}, ∇) is nilpotent if it is nlp of exp $\leq n$ for some n .

- $\text{Nilp}(S/T) =$ full subcategory of $\text{MIC}(S/T)$ of nilpotent (\mathcal{E}, ∇)
- $\text{Nilp}^n(S/T) =$ " of nilpotent of exp $\leq n$ (\mathcal{E}, ∇)
- $\text{Nilp}'(S/T) =$ " of p-curvature 0 (\mathcal{E}, ∇)

Proof of corollary 5.5

1) \Rightarrow 2) We have a filtration $\mathcal{E} = F^0 \supseteq F^1 \supseteq \dots \supseteq F^n = \{0\}$ whose graded object has p-curvature 0, so upon choosing a basis for \mathcal{E} by extending the basis through each step of the filtration, for any D , $\psi(D)$ acts via

so $\psi(D_1) \dots \psi(D_n) = 0$ for any $D_1, \dots, D_n \in \text{Der}(S/T)$.



2) \Rightarrow 1) We construct a filtration of \mathcal{E} as follows:

Let $F^0 = \mathcal{E}$. Let $F^1 =$ largest subobject of F^0 ($F^1 \subseteq F^0$) which is stable under ∇ .

Then F^0/F^1 has no ∇ -stable submodules

Then since $\psi(D)$ commutes w/ all $\nabla(D)$ & $\nabla(D)$ on F^0/F^1 has no special form bc, $\psi(D)$ must act as scalar matrices on F^0/F^1

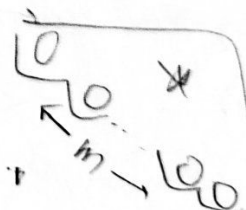
By 2), $\psi(D) \equiv 0$, so $\psi = 0$ on F^0/F^1

continue with F^1 . The filtration ends bc \mathcal{E} has finite rank.

$\mathcal{E} = F^0 \supseteq F^1 \supseteq \dots \supseteq F^m = \{0\}$. Choose a basis as before to get a matrix of the form.

If $m < n$, we can remove subspaces of \mathcal{E} in the

filtration corresponding to where we are



4. Show that the orthogonal trajectories of the family of hyperbolas $xy = k$ are the hyperbola given by $x^2 - y^2 = k$.

3. forced to have zeros on the diagonal matrix due to condition $\psi = 0$.

2) \Rightarrow 3) choose a covering of S by open affines U w/ coordinates ³

u_1, \dots, u_r s.t. $\Omega^1_{U/T}$ is free on du_1, \dots, du_r

$$\psi\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i}\right) = \nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i}\right)^p - \nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i}\right)^p = \nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i}\right)^p$$

($\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i}^p = 0$ because it involves bringing down a power of p)

Let $(w_1, \dots, w_r) \in \mathbb{Z}^r$ s.t. $\sum w_i = n$. Then

$$\nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1}\right)^{pw_1} \dots \nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_r}\right)^{pw_r} = \psi\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1}\right)^{w_1} \dots \psi\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_r}\right)^{w_r} = 0 \text{ by 2}$$

3) \Rightarrow 2) Let $D_1, \dots, D_n \in \text{Der}(S/T)$ & restrict to the cover in 3.

write $D_i = \sum_j a_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_j}$, so $\psi(D_i) = \sum_j a_{ij} \nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_j}\right)^p$,

$$\psi(D_1) \dots \psi(D_n) = \sum c \cdot \nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1}\right)^p \dots \nabla\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_n}\right)^p = 0. \quad \blacksquare$$

Properties • $\text{Nilp}(S/T)$ is an exact abelian subcategory of $\text{Mod}(S/T)$.

• $\text{Nilp}^n(S/T)$ stable under taking subobjects & quotients.

• $\text{Nilp}(S/T)$ stable under taking Hom & \otimes (when defined)

Proposition 5.8 (\mathcal{E}, ∇) is nilpotent iff whenever $D \in \text{Der}(S/T)$ is nilpotent, $\nabla(D)$ is nilpotent.

Proof \Rightarrow Suppose D is nilpotent. We show by induction on $v \geq 1$ that if $D^v = 0$, then $\nabla(D)^{p^v}$ is nilpotent, and thus $\nabla(D)$ is nilpotent.

Base case: If $D^p = 0$, then $\psi(D) = \nabla(D)^p - \nabla(D^p) = \nabla(D)^p$ is nilpotent.

Inductive step Suppose $D^{p^v} = 0$. Then $(D^p)^{p^{v-1}} = 0$, so $\nabla(D^p)^{p^{v-1}}$ is nilpotent, so $\nabla(D^p)$ is nilpotent.

Then $\psi(D) = \nabla(D)^p - \nabla(D^p)$, so $\nabla(D)^p = \psi(D) + \nabla(D^p)$

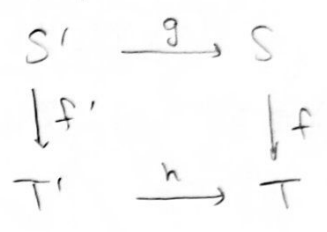
Since $\psi(D)$ and $\nabla(D^p)$ are nilpotent & commute,

$\nabla(D)^p$ is nilpotent, so $\nabla(D)^{p^v}$ & $\nabla(D)$ are nilpotent.

(\Leftarrow) Choose a covering of S by open affines $U \text{ étale} / \mathbb{A}_T^r$ w/ $\textcircled{9}$
 coordinates u_1, \dots, u_r s.t. $\Omega_{U/T}^1$ free on du_1, \dots, du_r .
 We have each $(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i})^p = 0$ in $\text{Der}(U/T)$, so $\nabla(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i})$ is nilpotent.
 Let $n_i \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\nabla(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i})^{p^{n_i}} = 0 \forall i$ in $\text{End}_T(\mathcal{E})$

Take $n = \sup_{i \in \{1, \dots, r\}} n_i$. Then (\mathcal{E}, ∇) is nilp of exp $\leq n^2$ (?)

Theorem 5.9 Let $f: S \rightarrow T$, $f': S' \rightarrow T'$ be smooth morphism s.t.
 the diagram commutes, T has char p .
 Then under $(g, h)^*: \text{MIC}(S/T) \rightarrow \text{MIC}(S'/T')$,
 $\forall n \geq 1, (g, h)^*(\text{Nil}_p^n(S/T)) \subseteq \text{Nil}_p^n(S'/T')$.



Proof by induction. Suppose theorem holds for $v=1, \dots, n-1$.

Let $(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nil}_p^n(S/T)$. Then \exists a filtration

$$\mathcal{E} = F^0 \supseteq F^1 \supseteq \dots \supseteq F^n = \{0\}$$

The subspace $\mathcal{E}' = F^{n-1} \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ is $F^{n-1}/F^n = \mathfrak{g}_{n-1}$, so has p -curvature 0.

Also, $\mathcal{E}'' = \mathcal{E}/\mathcal{E}'$ has filtration $\mathcal{E}'_i/\mathcal{E}'_{i+1} = F^i/\mathcal{E}' = F^i/F^{i+1} \supseteq \dots \supseteq F^{n-1}/F^n = \{0\}$,

\forall each graded object $F^i/\mathcal{E}'_{i+1} = F^i/\mathcal{E}' / F^{i+1}/\mathcal{E}' \cong F^i/F^{i+1}$
 has p -curvature 0, so $(\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{E}', \nabla) \in \text{Nil}_p^{n-1}(S/T)$.

Thus, we have a s.e.s. in $\text{MIC}(S/T)$,

$$0 \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', \nabla') \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}'', \nabla'') \rightarrow 0, \text{ with}$$

$$(\mathcal{E}', \nabla') \in \text{Nil}_p^1(S/T) \quad (\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nil}_p^n(S/T), \quad (\mathcal{E}'', \nabla'') \in \text{Nil}_p^{n-1}(S/T)$$

Pulling back to $\text{MIC}(S'/T')$ gives

$$(g, h)^*(\mathcal{E}', \nabla') \rightarrow (g, h)^*(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \rightarrow (g, h)^*(\mathcal{E}'', \nabla'') \rightarrow 0$$

By induction, $(g, h)^*(\mathcal{E}', \nabla') \in \text{Nil}_p^1(S'/T')$,

$(g, h)^*(\mathcal{E}'', \nabla'') \in \text{Nil}_p^{n-1}(S'/T')$.

4. Show that the orthogonal trajectories of the family of hyperbolas $xy = k$ are the hyperbola given by $x^2 - y^2 = k$

We can see this as follows:

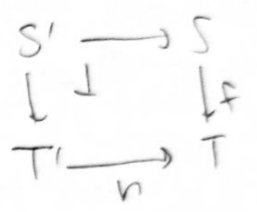
Write $V_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha} V_2 \xrightarrow{\beta} V_3 \rightarrow 0$.

Let $v \in V_2$. Then for $\bar{v} \in V_3$, $\psi^{-1}(\bar{v}) = \overline{\psi^{-1}(v)} = 0$, so $\psi^{-1}(v) \in \ker(\beta) = \text{im}(\alpha)$.

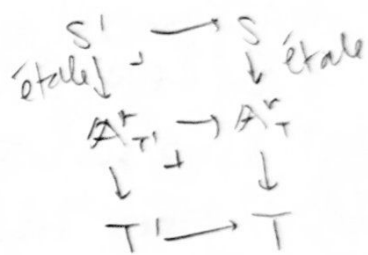
We have $V_1/U = \text{im}(\alpha)$ for some U , so since $V_1 \in \text{Nilp}^1$, $\text{im}(\alpha) \in \text{Nilp}^1$. Thus $\psi(\psi^{-1}(v)) = \psi^n(v) = 0$, so $V_2 \in \text{Nilp}^n$.

Now we prove the base case, $(g, h)^*(\text{Nilp}^1(S/T)) \subseteq \text{Nilp}^1(S'/T')$

Case 1 $S' = S \times T'$, $g = \text{pr}_1$, $f' = \text{pr}_2$, $(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nilp}^1(S/T)$.



Suppose S is affine & étale over A_T^r , so $\Omega_{S/T}$ is free on ds_1, \dots, ds_r

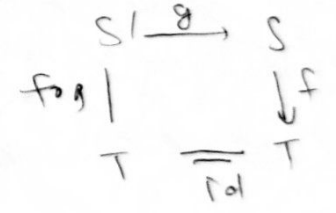


Thus S' étale over $A_{T'}^r$ & $\Omega_{S'/T'}$ free on ds'_1, \dots, ds'_r , $s'_i = g^*(s_i)$

$\nabla(\frac{\partial}{\partial s'_i}) \in \text{End}_{T'}(g^*(\mathcal{E}))$ is induced from

$\nabla(\frac{\partial}{\partial s_i}) \in \text{End}_T(\mathcal{E})$ via extension of scalars $\mathcal{O}_T \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{T'}$, so $\nabla(\frac{\partial}{\partial s'_i})^p = 0 \forall i \Rightarrow \nabla(\frac{\partial}{\partial s_i})^p = 0 \forall i$.

Case 2 $T' = T$, $h = \text{id}$, $(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nilp}^1(S/T)$.

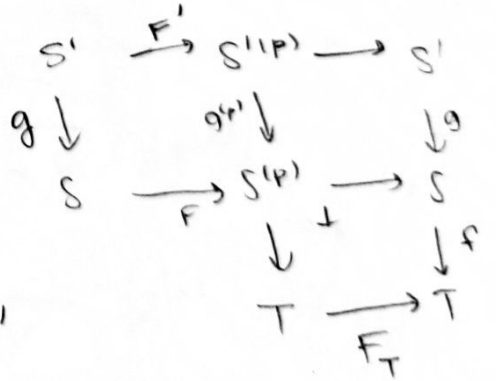


Recall from Tony's talk:

We have an equivalence of categories:

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{q-coh} \\ \text{sheaves} \\ \text{on } S^{(p)} \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\sim} \left(\text{Nilp}^1(S/T) \right)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{E}^\nabla & \longleftarrow & (\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \\ \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & (F^*(\mathcal{E}), \nabla_{\text{can}}) \\ & & \text{where } F \simeq (F^*\mathcal{E})^{\text{can}} \end{array}$$



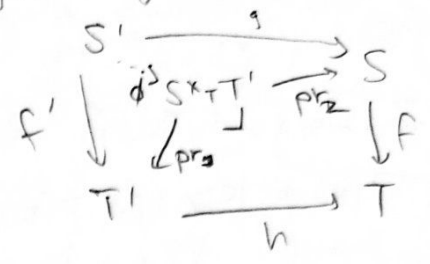
Thus, $(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \simeq (F^*(\mathcal{E}), \nabla_{\text{can}})$ for some $\mathcal{F} \simeq \mathcal{E}^\nabla$, naturally a q-coh $S^{(p)}$ -module. Then

$$(g, \text{id})^*(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) = (g, \text{id})^*(F^*(\mathcal{E}), \nabla_{\text{can}}) = (g^*F^*(\mathcal{E}), \nabla_{\text{can}}) =$$

$(F'^*(g^{(p)*}\mathcal{F}), \nabla_{\text{can}})$. Since $g^{(p)*}\mathcal{F}$ is a q-coh $S'^{(p)}$ -module, this is \simeq some $(\mathcal{E}', \nabla') \in \text{Nilp}^1(S'/T')$

Finally, note that putting case 1 & case 2 together gives us the base case:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nilp}^1(S/T) \\
 \Rightarrow & (\mathcal{E}', \nabla') = (\text{pr}_2, h)^*(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nilp}^1(S_{X+T}'/T') \\
 \Rightarrow & (\mathcal{E}'', \nabla'') = (\Phi, \text{id})^*(\mathcal{E}', \nabla') \in \text{Nilp}^1(S'/T').
 \end{aligned}$$



Theorem 5.10 Let $\pi: X \rightarrow S, f: S \rightarrow T$ smooth, T has char p .

Let $n =$ relative dimension of X/S , suppose S affine, $(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nilp}^v(X/T)$

Consider the spectral sequence

$$E_1^{p,q} = C^p(\{U_\alpha\}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{dR}}^q(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla))) \Rightarrow H_{\text{dR}}^{p+q}(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla))$$

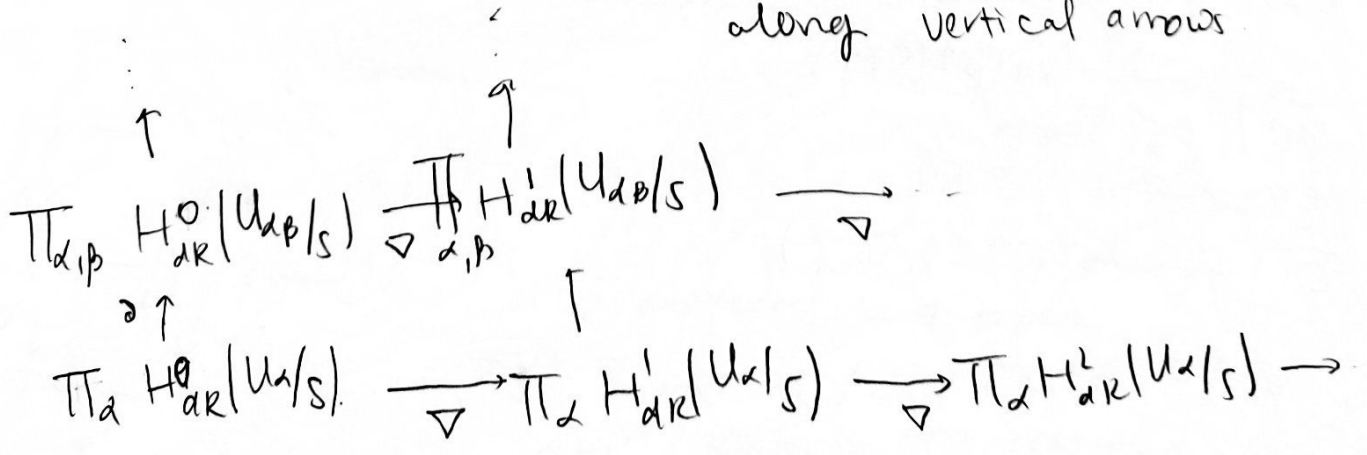
associated to a covering $\{U_\alpha\}$ of X by open subsets étale / \mathbb{A}_S^n .

- 1) $E_r^{p,q} \in \text{Nilp}^v(S/T) \forall p, q, r$
- 2) $\forall i > 0$ set $\tau(i) = \# \{p \in \mathbb{Z} : E_\infty^{p, i-p} \neq 0\}$
Then $H_{\text{dR}}^i(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla)) \in \text{Nilp}^v \cdot \tau(i)(S/T)$
- 3) $\tau(i) \leq i+1, \tau(i) = 2n - i + 1$.

Proof How does the spectral sequence work?

$$C^p(\{U_\alpha\}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{dR}}^q(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla))) = \prod_{i_0 < \dots < i_p} H_{\text{dR}}^q(U_{i_0 \dots i_p}/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla)|_{U_{i_0 \dots i_p}})$$

E_1 : to get E_2 page, we take cohomology along vertical arrows.



4. Show that the orthogonal trajectories of the family of hyperbolas $xy = k$ are the hyperbola given by $x^2 - y^2 = k$

Proof of 1) Since each $E_r^{p,q}$ is given by a quotient of a subobject of $E_{r-1}^{p,q}$, $E_{r-1}^{p,q} \in \text{Nilp}^v(S/T) \forall p,q$ ⑦
 $\Rightarrow E_r^{p,q} \in \text{Nilp}^v(S/T) \forall p,q, \forall r$.

So we show $E_1^{p,q} = \prod_{i_1 < \dots < i_p} H_{dR}^q(U_{i_1, \dots, i_p}/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla)|_{U_{i_1, \dots, i_p}}) \in \text{Nilp}^v(S/T)$

Since each U_α étale / \mathbb{A}_S^n , $\cap U_\alpha$ étale / \mathbb{A}_S^n .

We show for $(\mathcal{E}, \nabla) \in \text{Nilp}^v(S/T)$, X étale / \mathbb{A}_S^n , $H_{dR}^i(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla)) \in \text{Nilp}^v(S/T)$.

Pf Let $\Omega_{X/S}^1$ be free on dx_1, \dots, dx_n , & for each

$D \in \text{Der}(S/T)$, let $D_0 \in \text{Der}(X/T)$ be the unique extension which kills dx_1, \dots, dx_n

Then $\nabla_{GM} : \text{Der}(S/T) \rightarrow \text{End}_T(\Omega_{X/S}^0 \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{E})$ ⊙

$$\nabla_{GM}(D) \left((dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_r}) \otimes e \right) = (dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_r}) \otimes \nabla(D_0)(e)$$

$$\text{Then } \nabla_{GM}(D)^p \left((dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_r}) \otimes e \right) = (dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_r}) \otimes \nabla(D_0)^p(e)$$

Now, given $D_1, \dots, D_n \in \text{Der}(S/T)$, take $(D_1)_0, \dots, (D_n)_0 \in \text{Der}(X/T)$,

$$\psi(D_1) \dots \psi(D_n) = \nabla_{GM}(D_1)^p \dots \nabla_{GM}(D_n)^p$$

$$= (dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_r}) \otimes \nabla(D_1)_0^p \dots \nabla(D_n)_0^p(e)$$

$$= (dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_r}) \otimes 0$$

$$= 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$E_1^{p,q} \Rightarrow H_{dk}^{p+q}(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla))$ means that

$$E_{\infty}^{p,q} = \text{gr}_{2or}^p H_{dk}^{p+q}(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla)), \text{ and}$$

\exists a p -filtration on $E_{\infty}^{p,q}$

$$H_{dk}^i(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla)) = E_{\infty}^{0,i} \oplus E_{\infty}^{1,i-1} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\infty}^{i,0}$$

$$E_{\infty}^{0,i} = \text{gr}^0 H^i = F^0/F^1$$

$$E_{\infty}^{1,i-1} = \text{gr}^1 H^i = F^1/F^2$$

$$E_{\infty}^{2,i-2} = \text{gr}^2 H^i = F^2/F^3$$

\vdots

$$E_{\infty}^{i,0} = \text{gr}^i H^i = F^i/F^0 = E_{\infty}^{i,0}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{filtration: } F^0 = H^i &\supseteq F^1 = E_{\infty}^{1,i-1} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\infty}^{i,0} \\ &\supseteq F^2 = E_{\infty}^{2,i-2} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\infty}^{i,0} \\ &\supseteq \dots \supseteq F^i = E_{\infty}^{i,0} \end{aligned}$$

Then we have a filtration on $H_{dk}^i(X/S, (\mathcal{E}, \nabla))$

of length $\ell(i)$, with each component in $\text{Nilp}^0(S/T)$.

Clearly, $\ell(i) \leq i+1$. Since $E_{\infty}^{p,q} = 0$ whenever $p > n$,

$$\ell(i) \leq 2n - i + 1$$

To show $E_{\infty}^{p,q} = 0$ for all $p > n$, it suffices to show $E_2^{p,q} = 0$ for all $p > n$. (omitted).

Now add the logarithmic singularities

Let $\pi: X \rightarrow S$ smooth, $i: Y \hookrightarrow X$ the inclusion of a smooth divisor with normal crossings relative to S , $f: S \rightarrow T$ smooth, T with char p .

$\text{Nilp}^v(X/\pi(\log Y)) =$ full sub cat. of $\text{MIC}(X/\pi(\log Y))$
nilpotent of exp $\leq v$

p -curvature of (\mathcal{E}, ∇) : $\psi: \text{Der}_T(X_T) \rightarrow \text{End}_T(\mathcal{E})$
 $\psi(D) = (\nabla(D))^p - \nabla(D^p)$

4. Show that the orthogonal trajectories of the family of hyperbolas $xy = k$ are the hyperbola given by $x^2 - y^2 = k$