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LOCAL COHOMOLOGY OF LOGARITHMIC FORMS

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ABSTRACT. — Let Y be a divisor on a smooth algebraic variety X . We investigate the geometry of the Jacobian scheme of Y , homological invariants derived from logarithmic differential forms along Y , and their relationship with the property that Y be a free divisor. We consider arrangements of hyperplanes as a source of examples and counterexamples. In particular, we make a complete calculation of the local cohomology of logarithmic forms of generic hyperplane arrangements.

RÉSUMÉ. — Soit X une variété algébrique lisse et Y un diviseur sur X . Nous étudions la géométrie du schéma Jacobien de Y , les invariants homologiques provenant des formes différentielles logarithmiques le long de Y , et leur relation avec la propriété que Y soit un diviseur libre. Nous considérons les arrangements d'hyperplans comme source d'exemples et de contre-exemples. En particulier, nous faisons un calcul complet de la cohomologie locale des formes logarithmiques d'arrangements d'hyperplans génériques.

1. Introduction

Positioned in the singularity hierarchy somewhat opposite to a isolated singularity, a free divisor is a reduced hypersurface with large but well-behaved singular locus. More precisely, freeness is equivalent to the scheme defined by the Jacobian ideal being empty or Cohen–Macaulay of minimal possible codimension. Free divisors occur naturally in deformation theory, as discriminants in base spaces of versal deformations. The classical case, studied by K. Saito [27], is that of a versal deformation of an isolated singularity. Later, Looijenga [18] expanded Saito's ideas to isolated

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complete intersection singularities; following Bruce [3] and Zakalyukin [38], Looijenga's results [18, Cor. 6.13] prove freeness of discriminants of stable mappings $f: (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^p, 0)$, $n \geq p$. For versal deformations of space curves in 3-space, van Straten [32] proved freeness of the reduced discriminant. Terao [34] showed that the discriminant of any finite map is free. Apart from discriminants, there are other natural sources of free divisors in this setup, see for instance [21].

Via deep results of Brieskorn [2] and Slodowy [30], free divisors are linked to representation theory: the discriminants of ADE singularities are discriminants of finite Coxeter groups with the same name. It turns out that all Coxeter arrangements (even unitary reflection arrangements) as well as their discriminants are free (see [33]). This led to the study of general free arrangements, and finally to Terao's conjecture, stating that freeness of an arrangement is a combinatorial property. It is one of the most prominent open conjectures in the field, and motivated the results in this article.

While reflection groups are discrete, more recently also free divisors associated with (reductive) algebraic groups have been studied (see [14, 12, 11, 28, 15]). For example, the free divisors associated with a semisimple group are exactly the free discriminants in Sato–Kimura's classification of irreducible prehomogeneous vector spaces, and there are exactly four of them up to castling transformations.

There is also a purely ring theoretic version of Saito's theory of free divisors due to Simis [29].

In this article, we study homological invariants that stand in the way of freeness. Our motivation comes from the study of hyperplane arrangements, but many results are true for more general divisors.

1.1. Logarithmic forms and vector fields

Throughout this paper X will be an ℓ -dimensional smooth algebraic variety over an algebraically closed field \mathbb{K} . We shall also be concerned with affine ℓ -space

$$V = \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\ell}$$

over an arbitrary field \mathbb{K} . In both cases, the sheaf Ω_X^1 of differentials on X is locally free. By $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_X$ we denote the sheaf of regular functions on X . We shall freely identify any quasi-coherent sheaf on an affine scheme with its module of global sections. In case $X = V$, we pick coordinates $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_{\ell}$ on V , and denote by

$$S = \mathbb{K}[V] = \mathbb{K}[\mathbf{x}]$$

the coordinate ring of V . We shall reserve the symbol R to denote arbitrary regular rings.

In general, choosing a regular system of parameters c_1, \dots, c_ℓ near $x \in X$ induces an étale map $\mathbf{c}: U \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^\ell$ from any open set U on which the differentials of the c_i are linearly independent (see for example [1, VI.1.3]). By construction, \mathbf{c} is the pullback of \mathbf{x} on $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^\ell$ to U , and we call it a *local coordinate system* on $U \subset X$ near X ; since the map \mathbf{c} is étale, the partial differentiation operators ∂_i on $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^\ell$ lift to vector fields η_i near x that satisfy $[\eta_i, c_j] = \delta_{i,j}$. On an analytic (but generally not on any algebraic) small neighborhood of x , \mathbf{c} can be made injective. When we choose $x \in X$ and suitable U, \mathbf{c}, η in the above sense, we shall abuse notation and denote η by ∂ and \mathbf{c} by \mathbf{x} .

Let Der_X be the locally free \mathcal{O} -module of vector fields on X ; for $X = V$, its global sections form the module of \mathbb{K} -linear derivations $\bigoplus_{i=1}^\ell S \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ on S . Let Ω_X^\bullet be the algebraic de Rham complex on X ; if $X = V$, then Ω_X^1 is the module with global sections $\bigoplus_{i=1}^\ell S dx_i$. In general, $\Omega_X^p = \bigwedge^p \Omega_X^1$ is a locally free \mathcal{O}_X -module but the maps in Ω_X^\bullet are not \mathcal{O}_X -linear.

Let

$$\iota: Y \hookrightarrow X$$

be a reduced divisor on X and denote by f a reduced local defining equation. Recall that $\mathcal{O}_X(kY)$ is the locally free rank-1 \mathcal{O}_X -module, locally defined as $\frac{1}{f^k} \mathcal{O}_X$. With $\mathcal{O}_X(Y) = \mathcal{O}_X(1Y)$, for any sheaf \mathcal{F} on X , let $\mathcal{F}(Y) = \mathcal{F} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{O}_X(Y)$. On the other hand $\mathcal{O}_X(*Y)$ is by definition $j_* \mathcal{O}_{X \setminus Y}$, where $j: X \setminus Y \rightarrow X$ is the open embedding. Our main focus is on the following two objects derived from Y :

DEFINITION 1.1. — *The sheaf of logarithmic vector fields along Y is the \mathcal{O} -module*

$$\text{Der}_X(-\log Y) = \{\theta \in \text{Der}_X \mid \theta(\mathcal{O}(-Y)) \subseteq \mathcal{O}(-Y)\}.$$

The \mathcal{O} -module complex $\Omega_X^\bullet(\log Y)$ of logarithmic differential forms along Y is the largest subcomplex of $\Omega_X^\bullet(*Y)$ contained in $\Omega_X^\bullet(Y)$:

$$\Omega_X^p(\log Y) = \{\omega \in \Omega^p(Y) \mid d\omega \in \Omega^{p+1}(Y)\}.$$

Geometrically, vector fields in $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$ are tangent to the smooth locus of Y .

CONVENTION 1.2. — *If X is understood from the context, we suppress it in the subscripts in $\mathcal{O}_X, \Omega_X^p, \text{Der}_X(-\log Y)$ and $\Omega_X^p(\log Y)$.*

Obviously, $\Omega^p(\log Y) \neq 0$ only for $0 \leq p \leq \ell$, and one has $\Omega^0(\log Y) = \mathcal{O}$ and $\Omega^\ell(\log Y) = \Omega^\ell(Y)$. If $X = V$ then $\Omega^\ell(\log Y) = \frac{1}{f} S \, d\mathbf{x}$ where $d\mathbf{x} = dx_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_\ell$.

In [8], an alternative definition is used for $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$ and $\Omega_V^\bullet(\log Y)$. Our definition agrees with theirs in the arrangement case, but works more generally. By [8, §2], $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$ and $\Omega_V^\bullet(\log Y)$ are reflexive and hence Y -normal in the sense of [8]. This implies that certain properties of Y , obviously valid at all smooth points, are retained at the singular points of Y . For instance:

- (1) $\Omega^\bullet(\log Y)$ is stable under contraction against elements of $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$.
- (2) Contraction sets up a perfect pairing

$$\text{Der}(-\log Y) \times \Omega^1(\log Y) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y)$$

and an identification

$$\text{Der}(-\log Y) = \Omega^{\ell-1}(\log Y);$$

for $X = V$, these are defined by $(\sum_i \eta_i \, dx_i, \sum_i \theta_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}) \mapsto \sum_i \theta_i \eta_i$ and $\sum_i \eta_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \leftrightarrow \sum_i (-1)^i \frac{\eta_i}{f} \, dx_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{dx_i} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_\ell$ respectively.

- (3) The exterior product induces a perfect pairing

$$(1.1) \quad \Omega^p(\log Y) \times \Omega^{\ell-p}(\log Y) \longrightarrow \Omega^\ell(\log Y).$$

- (4) The natural map $j_p: \bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y) \longrightarrow \Omega^p(\log Y)$ is injective.

DEFINITION 1.3. — *A free divisor is a divisor Y for which $\Omega^1(\log Y)$ is a free module. As it turns out, for free Y , the modules $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$ and $\Omega^p(\log Y)$, $0 \leq p \leq \ell$, are all free as well and $\Omega^p(\log Y) = \bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y)$. The free locus of the divisor Y is the set of points $x \in Y$ where $\Omega^1(\log Y)$ is a locally free \mathcal{O} -module; it includes the complement of the singular locus of Y in X .*

1.2. Euler homogeneity and Jacobians

Let $U \subseteq X$ be an affine open subset and choose a local defining equation f , defined up to units, of $U \cap Y$ relative to some local coordinate system \mathbf{x} on U . While the particular choice of the coordinate system is relevant, we hide its presence in the symbol “ U ”.

We denote

$$\mathcal{J}_{U,f} = \mathcal{O}_U \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_\ell} \right\rangle$$

the \mathcal{O}_U -ideal generated by the partial derivatives of f . Note that $\mathcal{I}_{U,f}$ varies with f even if U , Y and \mathbf{x} are fixed. (Example: $f_1 = x - 1$ and $f_2 = x^2 - 1$ on $\mathbb{C}^1 \setminus \text{Var}(x + 1)$). The 1-st Fitting ideal of $\Omega_{U \cap Y}^1$ is

$$\mathcal{I}_{U,Y} = \mathcal{I}_{U,f} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{U \cap Y}.$$

In contrast to $\mathcal{I}_{U,f}$, $\mathcal{I}_{U,Y}$ only depends on U and Y , and the various $\mathcal{I}_{U,Y}$ patch to an ideal sheaf \mathcal{I}_Y on Y . We call the subscheme

$$Z = \text{Var}(\mathcal{I}_Y) \subseteq Y$$

with structure sheaf $\mathcal{O}_Y / \mathcal{I}_Y$ the *Jacobian scheme* of Y . We shall use $\mathcal{I}_{X,Z}$ for the preimage ideal sheaf of \mathcal{I}_Y under the natural projection

$$\iota^\# : \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \iota_* \mathcal{O}_Y.$$

Write $\text{Syz } \mathcal{I}_{U,f}$ for the syzygy sheaf of $\mathcal{I}_{U,f}$. We freely use the obvious identification between this sheaf with the vector fields on U that annihilate f . Geometrically, its elements are vector fields tangent to the smooth part of all level sets of f . Like $\mathcal{I}_{U,f}$, $\text{Syz } \mathcal{I}_{U,f}$ varies with f , even if U and \mathbf{x} are fixed. For an arrangement $Y = \mathcal{A}$ in $X = V$, this definition agrees with $D^{(1, \dots, 1)}(\mathcal{A})$ from [8]: we develop this further in §1.3.

There is a commutative diagram in the category of \mathcal{O}_X -modules (1.2)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Der}_U(-\log Y) & \longrightarrow & \text{Der}_U & \xrightarrow{\bullet(f)} & \iota_*(\mathcal{O}_{Y \cap U}) & \xrightarrow{\iota_*} & \iota_*(\mathcal{O}_{Y \cap U} / \mathcal{I}_{U,Y}) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \uparrow & & \parallel & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Syz } \mathcal{I}_{U,f} & \longrightarrow & \text{Der}_U & \xrightarrow{\bullet(f)} & \mathcal{O}_U & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}_U / \mathcal{I}_{U,f} & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

with exact rows. Here, $\bullet(f)$ denotes application to f .

DEFINITION 1.4. — We say that Y admits an Euler vector field $\chi \in \text{Der}_U$ on the open set $U \subseteq X$ if $\chi(f) = f$ for some local reduced defining equation $f \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$ of $Y \cap U$. If Y can be covered by such open sets U , we call Y Euler homogeneous.

Let us suppose now that Y admits a global Euler vector field χ on X . This has two important consequences. Firstly, for any local defining equation f on any open affine U , f is an element of $\mathcal{I}_{U,f}$. It follows that $\mathcal{I}_{U,f} = \mathcal{I}_{X,Z}$ depends only on U and Y but not on the choice of $f \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$ or the coordinate system \mathbf{x} ; in particular, one can extend diagram (1.2) to all of

X. Secondly, the map

$$\mathrm{Der}_U(-\log Y) \ni \delta \mapsto \delta - \frac{\delta(f)}{f} \cdot \chi \in \mathrm{Syz} \mathcal{J}_{U,f}$$

defines a non-canonical local splitting of the vertical inclusion in (1.2). Thus, there is a split exact sequence of sheaves

$$(1.3) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathrm{Syz} \mathcal{J}_{U,f} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Der}_U(-\log Y) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_U \cdot \chi \longrightarrow 0.$$

For an arrangement $Y = \mathcal{A}$ in $X = V$, $\mathrm{Der}(-\log Y)/\mathcal{O} \cdot \chi = D_0(\mathcal{A})$ in the notation of [8].

1.3. Arrangements

We introduce the family of divisors that we are most interested in and refer to [23] for further details.

NOTATION 1.5. — *By an arrangement we mean a finite union \mathcal{A} of hyperplanes in affine space. Throughout, we assume that arrangements are central, involving n hyperplanes in V passing through the origin. It is easy to see that $D(\mathcal{A})$ and $\Omega^p(\mathcal{A})$ are graded modules in this case. Abusing notation, we view \mathcal{A} both as a divisor $Y = \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{A}} H$, and as a list of hyperplanes.*

For $H \in \mathcal{A}$, let $\alpha_H \in V^*$ be a defining linear form. Then

$$f = \prod_{H \in \mathcal{A}} \alpha_H$$

is a defining equation of \mathcal{A} on V , and we call

$$J_{\mathcal{A}} = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_\ell} \right\rangle \subseteq S$$

the Jacobian ideal of \mathcal{A} . In the case where $Y = \mathcal{A}$ is an arrangement, in order to streamline the notation and following an established convention, we write $D(\mathcal{A})$ for $\mathrm{Der}(-\log Y)$, and $\Omega^p(\mathcal{A})$ for $\Omega^p(\log Y)$.

Remark 1.6. — Since \mathcal{A} is a cone over the origin, we can consider its image $\mathbb{P}\mathcal{A}$ in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\ell-1}$. By choosing a hyperplane $H \in \mathcal{A}$, we choose an affine chart in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\ell-1}$ given by $\alpha_H \neq 0$. The restriction of $\mathbb{P}\mathcal{A}$ to such a chart is the noncentral arrangement of hyperplanes in $\mathbb{A}^{\ell-1}$ given by dehomogenizing f relative to H . By reversing this construction, many questions regarding general hyperplane arrangements can be reduced to the case of central arrangements (see, e.g. [23, §3.2]).

Recall that a flat F of an arrangement \mathcal{A} is an intersection of hyperplanes. The intersection lattice $L(\mathcal{A})$ is the set of all flats, partially ordered by reverse inclusion.

PROPOSITION 1.7. — *Let $p = \text{char } \mathbb{K}$. A hyperplane arrangement \mathcal{A} is an Euler-homogeneous divisor provided that p does not divide*

$$(1.4) \quad \text{lcm}_{F \in L(\mathcal{A})} |\{H \in \mathcal{A} : H \leq F\}|.$$

Proof. — For a point $x \in \mathcal{A}$, let F_x be the set-theoretically smallest flat containing x . Let k be the number of hyperplanes containing F_x . The divisor is defined locally by a homogeneous polynomial of degree k , so the derivation $1/k \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} x_i \partial / \partial x_i$ is an Euler vector field in the neighborhood of x , provided that $p \nmid k$. □

One then naturally arrives at:

DEFINITION 1.8. — *If \mathcal{A} is an arrangement over a field \mathbb{K} , say $p = \text{char } \mathbb{K}$ is good for \mathcal{A} if p does not divide the expression (1.4).*

DEFINITION 1.9. — *If the complement in X of the free locus of Y is zero-dimensional, we say that Y is free outside points. If $X = \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\ell}$, and if Y is quasi-homogeneous and free outside points then the origin is the only non-free point of Y and we then call Y free outside 0.*

Remark 1.10. — If Y is a central hyperplane arrangement in affine space, then the traditional term for Y being free outside points is “locally free”. This terminology is traditional in arrangement theory, and is rooted in Remark 1.6: for any homogeneous $Y \subset V$, the sheaf $\text{Der}(-\log \text{PY})$ on $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\ell-1}$ is locally free if and only if Y is free outside the origin of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\ell}$ in the above sense.

In Section 3, we investigate general homological properties of $\Omega^{\bullet}(\log Y)$. One natural such property, a relaxation of freeness and inspired by the arrangement case, is that of tameness:

DEFINITION 1.11. — *The divisor $Y \subset X$ is called tame if $\text{pdim}_{\mathcal{O}_{X,x}} \Omega^p(\log Y) \leq p$ for all $x \in X$ and all $0 \leq p \leq \ell$.*

Many interesting families of hyperplane arrangements are tame; these include all arrangements in \mathbb{A}^3 ; generic arrangements; supersolvable and reflection arrangements (the last two of which are, in fact, free). The tame hypothesis appears explicitly first in [25] and frequently since. In particular, tame arrangements satisfy a Logarithmic Comparison Theorem [36]. More discussion and another application is found in [7].

We introduce in Section 2 a weaker version of tameness and, with the general results in Section 3, state a criterion that forces an Euler-homogeneous divisor Y to be free provided it is free outside points and has a certain tameness property.

In Section 4, we investigate the case of a generic central arrangement \mathcal{A} and determine formulas describing the Hilbert function of the modules $\text{Ext}_S^i(\Omega^p(\mathcal{A}), S)$ for any p and i .

Our hope is that this article serves to trigger more studies on the interplay of homological properties of the logarithmic p -forms of arrangements and their combinatorics.

2. Embedded primes of the Jacobian ideal

Our hypotheses on Y , when combined with the Jacobian criterion for smoothness, imply that $\mathcal{I}_{X,Z}$ has codimension at least 2. If the divisor Y is not smooth, the upper row of display (1.2) shows that $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$ is a vector bundle if and only if $\mathcal{I}_{X,Z}$ is a Cohen–Macaulay ideal of codimension two. For this to happen, $\mathcal{I}_{X,Z}$ must not have embedded primes. In this section, we study the converse of this implication for Y that is free outside points under two additional hypotheses: Euler homogeneity, and a weakened form of tameness.

2.1. The algebraic case

For an Euler homogeneous divisor Y , we obtain from (1.2) the following identifications if $i > 0$:

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^i(\text{Der}(-\log Y), \mathcal{O}) \cong \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^i(\text{Syz } \mathcal{J}_{U,f}, \mathcal{O}) \cong \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^{i+2}(\mathcal{O}_Z, \mathcal{O}).$$

LEMMA 2.1. — *The following are equivalent:*

- (1) Z is of pure codimension 2 in X .
- (2) $\text{codim}_X \text{supp } \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^p(\mathcal{O}_Z, \mathcal{O}) > p$, for $p \geq 3$.

If Y is Euler homogeneous then the above conditions are equivalent to:

- (3) $\text{codim}_X \text{supp } \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^p(\text{Der}(-\log Y), \mathcal{O}) > p + 2$, for $p \geq 1$.

Proof. — By [10, Thm. 1.1], a prime ideal of codimension $p + 2$ is associated to $\mathcal{I}_{X,Z}$ if and only if it is contained in the support of $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^{p+2}(\mathcal{O}_Z, \mathcal{O}) = \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^p(\text{Der}(-\log Y), \mathcal{O})$. □

We can express freeness outside points homologically in terms of \mathcal{E} -sheaves as follows.

LEMMA 2.2. — *The following are equivalent:*

- (1) *Y is free outside points.*
- (2) *$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^p(\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^q(\Omega^1(\log Y), \mathcal{O}), \mathcal{O}) = 0$ if both $q > 0$ and $p < \ell$.*

Proof. — The statement can be verified locally at a point $x \in X$. So we may replace Y by its germ at x and \mathcal{O} by $R = \mathcal{O}_x$. If Y is free outside points but not free, then all associated primes of $\text{Ext}_R^q(\Omega^1(\log Y), R)$ are maximal ideals for $q > 0$. Then by Ischebeck’s Theorem (see [20, Thm. 17.1]), only $\text{Ext}_R^\ell(\text{Ext}_R^q(\Omega^1(\log Y), R), R)$ can be non-zero. Conversely, if Y is not free outside points, then there is a minimal prime \mathfrak{p} of codimension $p < \ell$, and a $q > 0$ for which $\text{Ext}_R^q(\Omega^1(\log Y), R)_{\mathfrak{p}} \neq 0$. By [10, Thm. 1.1], \mathfrak{p} is then associated to $\text{Ext}_R^p(\text{Ext}_R^q(\Omega^1(\log Y), R), R)$ which cannot be zero in this case. □

In order to relate the Ext-modules in Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, we use a double-dual spectral sequence.

Remark 2.3. — The following construction, a Grothendieck spectral sequence obtained by composing the functor $\text{Hom}_R(-, R)$ with itself, appears already in [24]. Suppose R is a regular ring. Let $0 \rightarrow F_{\bullet} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$ be a projective resolution of M with dual complex $\text{Hom}_R(F_{\bullet}, R) = (0 \rightarrow F_0^{\vee} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow F_d^{\vee} \rightarrow 0)$. Let $C_{\bullet, \bullet}$ be a projective Cartan–Eilenberg resolution of F_{\bullet}^{\vee} . Consider the two usual spectral sequences to the dual double complex $E_{\bullet, \bullet}^0 = \text{Hom}_R(C_{\bullet, \bullet}, R)$. The total complex of E is a representative of $\text{RHom}_R(\text{RHom}_R(M, R), R) \cong M$. Thus, the spectral sequences converge to M .

The second spectral sequence has, with suitable choice of indices, the differentials d^0 oriented downward and d^1 oriented to the left, and

$$(2.2) \quad E_{p,q}^2 = \text{Ext}_R^{-p}(\text{Ext}_R^q(M, R), R) \implies M.$$

With this choice, the abutment M is regarded as a chain complex concentrated in total degree 0.

PROPOSITION 2.4. — *If Y is free outside points, then there are isomorphisms*

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\ell-p-1}(\text{Der}(-\log Y), \mathcal{O}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\ell}(\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{O}}^p(\Omega^1(\log Y), \mathcal{O}), \mathcal{O}), \quad p > 0.$$

Proof. — As we will see below, over any affine open subset $U \subset X$, these isomorphisms are morphisms in the Grothendieck spectral sequence

in Remark 2.3 for $R = \mathcal{O}(U)$. By functoriality of this spectral sequence, these patch together to an isomorphism defined on X .

The spectral sequence (2.2), applied to $M = \Omega^1(\log Y)(U)$, is illustrated in Figure 2.1. By Lemma 2.2, the only non-zero entries are in

Figure 2.1. E_{pq}^2

*	0	...	0	0	0	$\ell - 2$
\vdots	\vdots		\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
*	0	...	0	0	0	1
0	0	*	...	*	$\Omega^1(\log Y)$	0
$-\ell$	$-(\ell - 1)$	$-(\ell - 2)$...	-1	0	$\begin{matrix} p & q \end{matrix}$

column $p = -\ell$, or in row $q = 0$. Let $R = \mathcal{O}(U)$, and omit the argument “ U ” in all instances of global sections below. For $q = 0$, we have $E_{-p,0}^2 = \text{Ext}_R^p(\text{Der}(-\log Y), R)$, which is non-zero only if $p \leq \ell - 2$ since $\text{depth} \text{Der}(-\log Y) \geq 2$ by reflexivity of $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$. As $\Omega^1(\log Y)$ is reflexive, $E_{0,0}^2 = \Omega^1(\log Y)$. Hence, the only possible non-zero higher differentials $d^{p+1}: E_{-\ell+p+1,0}^{p+1} \rightarrow E_{-\ell,p}^{p+1}$ must be isomorphisms

$$d^r : \text{Ext}_R^{\ell-p-1}(\text{Der}(-\log Y), R) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^\ell(\text{Ext}_R^p(\Omega^1(\log Y), R), R).$$

□

Adding a weakened form of tameness as a second additional hypothesis, we obtain the following result:

THEOREM 2.1. — *Suppose that Y is free outside points and Euler homogeneous, and that $\text{pdim}_{\mathcal{O}_x} \Omega^1(\log Y)_x \leq 1$ for all $x \in Y$. Then Y is free if and only if Z is pure of codimension 2 in X .*

Proof. — All plane curves are free, so assume $\ell \geq 3$.

The statement is clearly local, so we may replace $Z \subseteq Y \subseteq X$ by their germs at $x \in Z$ and work over $R = \mathcal{O}_x$. As $\text{pdim}_R \Omega^1(\log Y) \leq 1$, we have $E_{p,q}^2 = 0$ for $q \geq 2$ in (2.2) for $M = \Omega^1(\log Y)_x$. By Proposition 2.4, $\text{Ext}_R^p(\text{Der}(-\log Y), R) = 0$ unless $p = 0, \ell - 2$.

Since Z is pure of codimension 2 in X , Lemma 2.1 implies

$$\text{codim}_X \text{supp} \text{Ext}_R^\ell(\text{Der}(-\log Y), R) > \ell = \dim R.$$

Therefore, $\text{Ext}_R^{\ell}(\text{Der}(-\log Y), R) = 0$ for all $p > 0$ and hence $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$ is free as claimed. \square

2.2. Arrangements

By Proposition 1.7, hyperplane arrangements in good characteristic provide a family of examples of Euler homogeneous divisors. In this case we can allow a larger non-free locus.

NOTATION 2.5. — *If F is a flat of an arrangement, then \mathcal{A}_F is the arrangement of all hyperplanes containing F .*

COROLLARY 2.6. — *Let \mathcal{A} be a hyperplane arrangement in good characteristic with $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) \leq 1$. If $J_{\mathcal{A}}$ is pure of codimension 2 then \mathcal{A} is free.*

Proof. — As the statement is local, we may assume that \mathcal{A} is central. Let $X_0 \in L(\mathcal{A})$ be a flat such that $\Omega^1(\mathcal{A}_{X'})$ is free for all flats $X' \supsetneq X_0$; then it suffices to prove that $\Omega^1(\mathcal{A}_{X_0})$ is free.

Both $\mathcal{A} \mapsto \Omega^1(\mathcal{A})$ and $\mathcal{A} \mapsto J_{\mathcal{A}}$ are local functors in the sense of [31], so we may replace \mathcal{A} by \mathcal{A}_{X_0} .

Now \mathcal{A} is the product of its essentialization \mathcal{A}_0 (in X/X_0) and the affine space X_0 . Then $\Omega^1(\mathcal{A})$ is the direct sum of the free S -modules $\mathcal{O}_{X/X_0}(X/X_0) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} \Omega_{X_0}^1$ and $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}(X_0) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} \Omega_{X/X_0}^1(\mathcal{A}_0)$, these being S -modules via $S \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}(X_0)$ and $S \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X/X_0}(X/X_0)$. Moreover, $J_{\mathcal{A}}$ and $J_{\mathcal{A}_0}$ have the same generators in a generic point of X . We may therefore replace \mathcal{A} by \mathcal{A}_0 .

Now \mathcal{A} is free outside points and hence free by Theorem 2.1. \square

Remark 2.2.

(1) The hypothesis that $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1 \leq 1$ is necessary. The Edelman–Reiner example [9] defined by

$$(2.3) \quad Q = \prod_{\alpha \in \{0,1\}^4, \alpha \neq (0,0,0,0)} (\alpha_1 x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 + \alpha_3 x_3 + \alpha_4 x_4)$$

is free outside the origin, its Jacobian ideal has no embedded primes, yet it is not free. Here, $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) = 2$.

(2) Add a generic hyperplane $x_5 = 0$ to the example \mathcal{A} above to obtain an arrangement \mathcal{B} defined by Qx_5 . The associated primes of $J(Qx_5) = (Q, x_5 J(Q)) = (Q, x_5) \cap J(Q)$ are all codimension 2, since $J(Q)$ has no sub-maximal embedded components. Nevertheless, \mathcal{B} is not free outside points, since \mathcal{A} defines a non-maximal, non-free flat of \mathcal{B} . Again, $\text{pdim} \Omega^1(\mathcal{B}) = 2$.

(3) One way of reading (the proof of) Corollary 2.6 is: “if $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) \leq 1$ then the top-dimensional non-free flats of \mathcal{A} are the minimal embedded primes of $J_{\mathcal{A}}$.”

(4) Let \mathcal{A} be of rank three. Then \mathcal{A} is free outside points and $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1 \leq 1$ due to reflexivity. Thus, in this case Theorem 2.1 becomes the well-known statement “ \mathcal{A} is free if and only if $J_{\mathcal{A}}$ has no embedded primes.”

(5) The hypothesis that $J_{\mathcal{A}}$ has no embedded primes is necessary. Generic arrangements of $n > \ell$ hyperplanes are free outside points. If $\ell \geq 3$, they have $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) = 1$ by [39, Cor. 7.7], so they are not free.

Remark 2.7. — In [22], Proposition 2.10 and 2.7, it is shown that if $\dim X \geq p - 1$ then freeness of $D_{\mathcal{A}_X}^p$ is equivalent to freeness of \mathcal{A}_X .

2.3. Analytic divisors

We aim for a generalization of Corollary 2.6 to more general divisors. For the desired analogue of the stratification by flats of an arrangement we need to move to the analytic category. So let X be a complex ℓ -dimensional analytic manifold.

The stratification by flats for arrangements is a special case of the *logarithmic stratification* $\{Y_\alpha\}$ along Y introduced by K. Saito [27, §3]. It is uniquely characterized by the following properties [27, Lemma 3.2]:

- (1) Each stratum Y_α is a smooth connected immersed submanifold of X , and X is their disjoint union.
- (2) If $x \in Y_\alpha$ then the tangent space $T_{Y_\alpha, x}$ coincides with the space $\text{Der}(-\log Y)_x$ of logarithmic vector fields evaluated at x .
- (3) If Y_α meets the closure of Y_β in X with $\alpha \neq \beta$ then Y_α is in the boundary of Y_β .

Note that Y , $X \setminus Y$, and $\text{Sing}(Y)$ are (unions of) logarithmic strata. The term “logarithmic stratification” is a misnomer as it is not locally finite in general.

Example 2.8 ([4, Rem. 4.2.4]). — Each point on the z -axis is a logarithmic stratum of the free divisor $Y = (xy(x+y)(x+zy))$.

DEFINITION 2.9 ([27, Def. 3.8]). — *The divisor Y is called holonomic (at $x \in X$), if its logarithmic stratification is locally finite (at x). For free Y , holonomicity is also referred to as Koszul freeness.*

By [27, (3.10.i),(3.13.(ii))], if Y is holonomic at $x \in Y_\alpha$ then the manifold topology of Y_α is the induced topology from X near x ; this can fail in general.

Saito introduced the *logarithmic characteristic variety* $L_Y(\log Y) \subset T_X^*$, defined by the symbols of $\text{Der}(-\log Y)$ with respect to the order filtration F_\bullet on \mathcal{D}_X . He showed that holonomicity is (locally) equivalent to $L_Y(-\log Y)$ having minimal dimension ℓ [27, (3.18)]. In particular, Saito's holonomicity implies that $M^{\log Y} = \mathcal{D}_X/\mathcal{D}_X \cdot \text{Der}(-\log Y)$ is a holonomic D -module in the sense of Kashiwara. This implication cannot be reversed, as we were informed by F. Castro Jiménez:

Example 2.10. — The divisor Y given by $(xz + y)(x^4 + y^5 + xy^4)$ is not holonomic in the sense of Saito, but $M^{\log Y}$ is a holonomic D -module.

By [27, (3.6)], the logarithmic stratification provides us with the local product structures that we used in the proof of Corollary 2.6:

PROPOSITION 2.11. — *Let $x \in Y_\alpha$ and set $m = \dim Y_\alpha$. On small neighborhoods U of x , $Y \cap U \subseteq U$ is defined by some f such that $f(z) = f(z_1, \dots, z_{\ell-m}, 0, \dots, 0)$ and $Y_\alpha \cap U_x = \{z_1 = \dots = z_{\ell-m} = 0\}$ for some coordinate system z_1, \dots, z_ℓ on U . In other words, there is an isomorphism of pairs of germs*

$$(2.4) \quad (Y_x, X_x) \cong (Y'_0, \mathbb{C}_0^{\ell-m}) \times (Y_{\alpha,x}, Y_{\alpha,x}), \quad Y_{\alpha,x} \cong \mathbb{C}_0^m.$$

This isomorphism identifies the logarithmic stratifications of Y_x and Y'_0 .

By connectedness of the strata this implies in particular:

COROLLARY 2.12. — *Freeness of Y at $x \in Y_\alpha$ is a property of Y_α .*

There is a similar corollary for holonomicity, and the notion of a holonomic stratum, but we do not need it (see [27, (3.10) Prop. i]).

DEFINITION 2.13. — *We call Y_α a free stratum if Y is free at some $x \in Y_\alpha$.*

Euler homogeneity does not descend in general to factors in a product; in fact, products with analytic affine spaces are always Euler homogeneous.

Example 2.14. — Let $Y = Y' \times \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$ with $Y' = (f(x)) \subseteq \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\ell-1}$. Then $e^y \cdot f(x)$ is a defining equation for Y and $\chi = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ is an Euler vector field for Y . So Y is Euler homogeneous. However, choosing Y' with an isolated non-quasihomogeneous singularity, it is not Euler homogeneous by Saito's theorem [26].

We need the following stronger version of Euler homogeneity which is well-known in the context of the Logarithmic Comparison Theorem for free divisors (see [5, Conj. 1.4] and, for example, [13, 12, 14]).

DEFINITION 2.15. — *The divisor Y is called strongly Euler homogeneous if it admits, at each point $x \in X$, an Euler vector field vanishing at x .*

By [13, Lem. 3.2], strong Euler homogeneity for Y and Y' in (2.4) are equivalent.

THEOREM 2.3. — *Let Y be a strongly Euler homogeneous and holonomic divisor in a complex manifold X such that $\text{pdim}_{\mathcal{O}_x} \Omega^1(\log Y)_x \leq 1$ for all $x \in X$. Then Y is free if Z is of pure of codimension 2 in X .*

Proof. — We proceed along the lines of the proof of Corollary 2.6.

Let Y_α be a stratum such that all strata Y_β containing Y_α in their closure are free. To show that Y_α is free, we may replace $Z \subset Y \subset X$ by their germs at $x \in Z$ and work over $R = \mathcal{O}_x$.

Using Proposition 2.11, we may replace Y by Y' in (2.4), and hence assume that Y is free outside points. Here we use that strong Euler homogeneity is preserved by [13, Lem. 3.2], freeness and $\text{pdim}_R \Omega^1(\log Y)$ are preserved by [6, Lem. 2.2.(iv)], and $Z = Z' \times Y_{\alpha,x}$ where Z' is the Jacobian scheme of Y' in (2.4).

Finally, we apply Theorem 2.1 whose proof works also in the analytic setup. Thus, Y_α is free and the claim then follows by descending induction on $\dim Y_\alpha$. \square

3. Homological properties of logarithmic forms

The previous section highlights the importance of the condition $\text{pdim}_{\mathcal{O}} \Omega^1(\log Y) \leq 1$. The results in the present section come from an attempt to understand what can be rescued if this hypothesis on $\text{pdim}_{\mathcal{O}} \Omega^1(\log Y)$ is false or unknown. Specifically, we are interested in the difference between $\Omega^p(\log Y)$ and $\bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y)$. Recall that $M^\vee = \text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ for any module.

CONVENTION 3.1. — *Throughout this section we assume that, if \mathcal{A} is an arrangement of rank ℓ over a field \mathbb{K} , then $\text{char } \mathbb{K}$ is either zero, or both good (Definition 1.8) and at least ℓ .*

3.1. Higher forms as exterior products

The exterior product gives a short exact sequence

$$(3.1) \quad \bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y) \xrightarrow{j_p} \Omega^p(\log Y) \longrightarrow E_Y^p := \frac{\Omega^p(\log Y)}{\bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y)} \longrightarrow 0.$$

Saito [27] showed that in all free points of Y , j_p is an isomorphism for all p ; see also [8, formula (2.3)]. In general, one knows from [8, Prop. 2.2] that $\Omega^p(\log Y)$ is the reflexive hull $(\bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y))^{\vee\vee}$ of $\bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y)$.

Given some information about the codimension of the non-free locus, it is possible to say more. Mustața and Schenck prove the following for arrangements in [22]:

THEOREM 3.1. — *Let \mathcal{A} be free outside points and $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) = 1$. Then, for $0 \leq p \leq \ell - 2$, j_p in (3.1) is an isomorphism and $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^p(\mathcal{A}) = p$. Moreover, $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^{\ell-1}(\mathcal{A}) = \ell - 2$.*

Example 3.2. — The rank-4 arrangement \mathcal{A} of [7, Example 5.3] is free outside points and $\text{pdim}_S \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) = 2$. Further calculation shows that the inclusion $\bigwedge^2 \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \Omega^2(\mathcal{A})$ is not an isomorphism.

DEFINITION 3.3. — *For $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we call the divisor Y k -tame if $\text{pdim}_{\mathcal{O}_{X,x}} \Omega^p(\log Y)_x \leq p$ for all $x \in X$ and all $0 \leq p \leq k$.*

In particular, by Theorem 3.1, an arrangement free outside points is tame if and only if it is 1-tame. Denham and Schulze in [8, Prop. 2.9] give the following variation:

THEOREM 3.2. — *If the codimension of the non-free locus of \mathcal{A} is greater than k and \mathcal{A} is $(k - 1)$ -tame, then the map j_p of (3.1) is an isomorphism for $0 \leq p < k$.*

As a matter of fact, inspection of the proof of [8, Prop. 2.9] reveals that \mathcal{A} need not be an arrangement but can be an arbitrary $(k - 1)$ -tame divisor with non-free locus of codimension $k + 1$ or more.

Problem 3.4. — Describe in general the modules E_Y^p , or at least their vanishing.

We now prepare the way for a different strengthening (Corollary 3.9 below) of Theorem 3.1, this time relaxing the 1-tameness condition while adhering to the case of divisors free outside points. We first prove general statements on reflexive modules with zero-dimensional non-free locus; these involve the following technical definitions. The first definition can be found for instance in [16].

DEFINITION 3.5. — *An R -module M is an r -syzygy (of N) if there is an exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow P_r \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow P_1 (\rightarrow N \rightarrow 0)$$

where each P_i is R -projective. On the other hand, M is k -torsion free if every R -regular sequence of length $\leq k$ is also M -regular.

Being an r -syzygy implies r -torsion freeness. The two notions are equivalent, if $\text{pdim}_R M < \infty$ (see [17, p.2]). The next definition is due to Auslander [19]:

DEFINITION 3.6. — *An R -module M is p -spherical if $\text{pdim}_R M \leq p$ and $\text{Ext}_R^i(M, R) = 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq p - 1$.*

For example, R/I is p -spherical if and only if I is Cohen-Macaulay of codimension p .

PROPOSITION 3.7. — *Let R be an ℓ -dimensional regular ring. Let M be a finitely generated reflexive non-free R -module with c -dimensional non-free locus, of projective dimension $d = \text{pdim}_R M$. Then*

$$(3.2) \quad \text{pdim}_R M + \text{pdim}_R M^\vee \geq \ell - 1 - c.$$

In case of equality, M and M^\vee are d - and $(\ell - d - 1 - c)$ -spherical, respectively.

Proof. — We apply the spectral sequence of Remark 2.3, using our additional hypotheses. Since $\text{Ext}_R^q(M, R)$ is Noetherian and supported for $q > 0$ only in dimension at most c , then $E_{p,q}^2 = 0$ unless $q = 0$ or $p \leq c - \ell$. Since M is reflexive, $E_{0,0}^2$ is the abutment M . So $E_\infty^{p,q} = 0$ unless $p = q = 0$. Of course, $E_2^{p,q} = 0$ for $q > d$. Now suppose $\text{pdim}(M^\vee) = a > 0$, so $E_2^{-a,0} \neq 0$. Then all differentials $d_k^{-a,0}$ out of $E_k^{-a,0}$ end in $E_k^{-a-k,k-1}$. These target modules are only nonzero if $k - 1 \leq d$ and simultaneously $-a - k \leq c - \ell$. Summing, the targets are zero unless (at minimum) $-a - 1 \leq c - \ell + d$, i.e. $\ell - c - d - 1 \leq a$. It follows that $a < \ell - c - d - 1$ is impossible since it would imply $E_\infty^{-a,0} \neq 0$ which we know to be false.

Suppose now that $a + d = \ell - c - 1$. Then the argument above shows that $0 = E_\infty^{-i,0} = E_2^{-i,0}$ for all $a > i > 0$. Hence M^\vee is spherical. By symmetry, the same holds for M .

Indeed, one obtains in this case a duality:

$$\text{Ext}_R^a(M^\vee, R) = E_{a,0}^2 \cong E_{c-\ell,d}^2 = \text{Ext}_R^{\ell-c}(\text{Ext}_R^d(M, R), R).$$

□

A special case of the above proposition is worth singling out. Suppose that M is a reflexive R -module of projective dimension d , with a zero-dimensional non-free locus. Then

$$(3.3) \quad \text{pdim}_R M + \text{pdim}_R M^\vee \geq \ell - 1,$$

and in the case of equality, M and M^\vee are d - and $(\ell - d - 1)$ -spherical, respectively. A partial converse is the following.

PROPOSITION 3.8. — *Let R be a regular ring of dimension ℓ . Let M be a d -spherical R -module with zero-dimensional non-free locus, where $0 < d < \ell$. Then M is reflexive and M^\vee is $(\ell - d - 1)$ -spherical with zero-dimensional non-free locus. Moreover, M and M^\vee are $(\ell - d)$ - and $(d + 1)$ -syzygies, respectively.*

Proof. — By hypothesis, M has a projective resolution of length $d > 0$,

$$(3.4) \quad 0 \longleftarrow M \longleftarrow F_0 \longleftarrow F_1 \longleftarrow \cdots \longleftarrow F_d \longleftarrow 0.$$

Since $\text{Ext}_R^i(M, R) = 0$ for $0 < i < d$ by hypothesis, dualizing gives an exact complex

$$0 \longrightarrow M^\vee \longrightarrow F_0^\vee \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow F_d^\vee \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_R^d(M, R) \longrightarrow 0.$$

In particular, M^\vee is a $(d + 1)$ -syzygy. By regularity of R , $\text{pdim}_R \text{Ext}_R^d(M, R) \leq \ell$, so this complex extends to a projective resolution

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 \rightarrow G_{\ell-d-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow G_0 & \longrightarrow & F_0^\vee & \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow & F_d^\vee & \rightarrow & \text{Ext}_R^d(M, R) \rightarrow 0, \\ & \searrow & \nearrow & & & & \\ & & M^\vee & & & & \\ & \nearrow & \searrow & & & & \\ 0 & & & & 0 & & \end{array}$$

and hence $\text{pdim}_R M^\vee \leq \ell - d - 1$. Since M has zero-dimensional non-free locus, $\text{Ext}_R^d(M, R)$ is supported only at maximal ideals, and hence

$$\text{Ext}_R^i(\text{Ext}_R^d(M, R), R) = 0, \quad \text{for } i \neq \ell.$$

Thus, dualizing (3.5) and comparing with (3.4) proves reflexivity of M . By décalage, (3.5) also shows that $\text{Ext}_R^i(M^\vee, R) = 0$ except for $i = 0$ and $i = \ell - d - 1$, so M^\vee is $(\ell - d - 1)$ -spherical. By localization, it clearly has a zero-dimensional non-free locus. Then M^\vee satisfies the original hypotheses and so M is an $(\ell - d)$ -syzygy. □

For convenience, we now state a result of Lebelt [16, Satz 1].

THEOREM 3.3. — *Let $1 \leq p \in \mathbb{N}$ and assume that the (not necessarily regular) ring R contains a field \mathbb{K} with $p < \text{char } \mathbb{K}$ or $\text{char } \mathbb{K} = 0$. If M is an R -module with $\text{pdim}_R M = d < \infty$ that is $(d(p-1)+k)$ -torsion free for some $k \geq 0$, then $\bigwedge^p M$ is k -torsion free and $\text{pdim}_R \bigwedge^p M \leq pd$.*

In the graded case, this last inequality becomes an equality.

THEOREM 3.4. — *Suppose R is a regular ring. Let M be a d -spherical R -module with zero-dimensional non-free locus. If $\ell = \dim R \leq \text{char } \mathbb{K}$ or $\text{char } \mathbb{K} = 0$ then $\bigwedge^p M$ is reflexive for all p such that $pd < \ell - 1$.*

Proof. — We assume $pd < \ell - 1$, which is equivalent to $d(p-1)+2 \leq \ell - d$. Since M is d -spherical, $d = \text{pdim}_R M$. By Proposition 3.8, M is $(\ell - d)$ -torsion free. By Theorem 3.3 above, $\bigwedge^p M$ is 2-torsion free and

$$(3.6) \quad \text{pdim}_R \bigwedge^p M \leq pd < \ell - 1.$$

Since $\bigwedge^p M$ is a 2-syzygy, it is a submodule of a free module and thus contained in its reflexive hull $M^p = ((\bigwedge^p M)^\vee)^\vee$. Of course, $\text{pdim}_R M^p \leq \ell - 2$.

The short exact sequence

$$(3.7) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \bigwedge^p M \longrightarrow M^p \longrightarrow E^p \longrightarrow 0$$

implies via $\text{Ext}_R^\bullet(-, R)$ that

$$\text{Ext}_R^\ell(E^p, R) = 0.$$

On the other hand, M has zero-dimensional non-free locus, hence E^p is finite length and so $\text{Ext}_R^q(E^p, R) = 0$ for $q < \ell$. It follows that $E^p = 0$, hence $\bigwedge^p M \cong M^p$ by (3.7), which is reflexive by definition. \square

COROLLARY 3.9. — *Let $Y \subseteq X$ be a divisor in an ℓ -dimensional complex manifold or smooth algebraic variety, or let $Y = \mathcal{A}$ be a hyperplane arrangement in $X = \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^\ell$ with $\ell \leq \text{char } \mathbb{K}$ or $\text{char } \mathbb{K} = 0$. Assume that Y is free outside points and that $\Omega^1(\log Y)_x$ is d -spherical for all $x \in X$. Then $\Omega^p(\log Y) = \bigwedge^p \Omega^1(\log Y)$ for $pd < \ell - 1$.*

Remark 3.10. — Suppose Y is a homogeneous hypersurface in affine space. If Y is not a free divisor, a natural question is whether any of the modules $\Omega^i(\log Y)$ can be free. In dimension three or less, this is impossible because of duality. In dimensions 4 and 5, the question boils down to asking whether $\Omega^2(\log Y)$ can be free while $\Omega^1(\log Y)$ is not. One sees this to be impossible as follows: $\Omega^2(\log Y)$ decomposes into $\Omega_0^1(\log Y) \oplus \Omega_0^2(\log Y)$ so that freeness of $\Omega^2(\log Y)$ implies freeness of $\Omega_0^1(\log Y)$ and hence of $\Omega^1(\log Y)$. Thus, the first open case appears for $p = 3$ and $\ell = 6$.

4. Generic arrangements

We consider here generic arrangements \mathcal{A} . Again, we assume that the characteristic of the base field is good (Definition 1.8). The purpose of this section is to prove Theorem 4.1 below.

Recall from [8, Def. 2.4] that the module of *relative differential p -forms along \mathcal{A}* is the kernel $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A})$ of contraction with the Euler vector field χ ,

$$\chi: \Omega^p(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \Omega^{p-1}(\mathcal{A}).$$

These modules are non-zero only for $0 \leq p \leq \ell - 1$; for $p = 0$ and $p = \ell - 1$ they are free of rank 1. By [8, (2.4)], we can identify

$$\Omega^p(\mathcal{A}) \cong \Omega_0^{p-1}(\mathcal{A}) \oplus \Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}).$$

So both tameness and being free outside points descends from $\Omega^1(\mathcal{A})$ to $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A})$. In particular, $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A})$ has zero-dimensional non-free locus for $0 < p < \ell - 1$ if \mathcal{A} is generic.

Recall also the module $D_p^0(\mathcal{A}) = D_p(\mathcal{A})/\chi \wedge D_{p-1}(\mathcal{A})$ of *relative logarithmic p -derivations along \mathcal{A}* defined in [8, Def. 3.4], which has the analogous property

$$D_p(\mathcal{A}) \cong D_{p-1}^0(\mathcal{A}) \oplus D_p^0(\mathcal{A}).$$

By [8, Prop. 3.5], $D_p^0(\mathcal{A})$ and $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A})$ are mutually S -dual.

THEOREM 4.1. — *Let \mathcal{A} be a generic non-Boolean rank- ℓ arrangement. Then $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A})$ is p -spherical, for $0 < p < \ell - 1$, and $\text{Ext}_S^p(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}), S)$ is Artinian of length $\binom{n-1}{\ell}$ where $n = |\mathcal{A}|$.*

The proof is by induction on n . We first establish some lemmas in order to proceed by means of a deletion-restriction argument.

DEFINITION 4.1. — *For an arrangement \mathcal{A} and a hyperplane $H \in \mathcal{A}$ we denote by \mathcal{A}' the arrangement $\mathcal{A} \setminus \{H\}$ and by \mathcal{A}'' the arrangement induced by \mathcal{A}' on H .*

Now fix $H \in \mathcal{A}$ with defining equation α_H . From [23, Prop. 4.45] and Ziegler [39, Cor. 4.5], there are sequences of S -modules

$$(4.1) \quad 0 \longrightarrow D(\mathcal{A}')(-1) \xrightarrow{\alpha_H} D(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow D(\mathcal{A}'') \dashrightarrow 0,$$

$$(4.2) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \Omega^p(\mathcal{A})(-1) \xrightarrow{\alpha_H} \Omega^p(\mathcal{A}') \longrightarrow \Omega^p(\mathcal{A}'') \dashrightarrow 0,$$

which are exact except possibly at $D(\mathcal{A}'')$ and $\Omega^p(\mathcal{A}')$. Although Ziegler formulates this result only for $p = 1$, it holds true in general.

LEMMA 4.2. — *If \mathcal{A} is non-Boolean generic then there are short exact sequences*

$$(4.3) \quad 0 \longrightarrow D^0(\mathcal{A}')(-1) \xrightarrow{\alpha_H} D^0(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow D^0(\mathcal{A}'') \longrightarrow 0,$$

$$(4.4) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \Omega_0^{\ell-2}(\mathcal{A}') \xrightarrow{\alpha_H} \Omega_0^{\ell-2}(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \Omega_0^{\ell-3}(\mathcal{A}'') \longrightarrow 0.$$

Proof. — By Wiens [35, Thm. 3.4], (4.1) is exact at $D(\mathcal{A}'')$. By dividing out S_χ , this proves exactness of the first sequence. Then the second sequence is obtained via the identification $D^0(\mathcal{A}) = \Omega_0^{\ell-2}(\mathcal{A})(\ell - n)$ from [8, Prop. 3.7.(3)]. \square

LEMMA 4.3. — *Suppose α is a non-zerodivisor in a ring R . If M is a module over $R'' = R/R\alpha$, then*

$$(4.5) \quad \text{Ext}_{R''}^q(M, R'') \cong \text{Ext}_R^{q+1}(M, R)$$

for $q \geq 0$, and $\text{Ext}_R^0(M, R) = 0$. If R is graded and α homogeneous, the isomorphism becomes graded after twisting the left hand side by $\deg(\alpha)$.

Proof. — As an R -module, R'' has a free resolution

$$0 \longrightarrow R \xrightarrow{\alpha} R \longrightarrow R'' \longrightarrow 0.$$

So $\text{Ext}_R^q(R'', R) = 0$ unless $q = 1$, in which case we get $\text{Ext}_R^1(R'', R) = R''$. The change-of-rings spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} = \text{Ext}_{R''}^p(M, \text{Ext}_R^q(R'', R)) \Rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^{p+q}(M, R)$$

has only one nonzero row, $q = 1$, from which the result follows. \square

LEMMA 4.4. — *If \mathcal{A} is generic non-Boolean of rank $\ell \geq 4$ then there is a short exact sequence*

$$(4.6) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A})(-1) \xrightarrow{\alpha_H} \Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}') \longrightarrow \Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}'') \longrightarrow 0$$

for $0 \leq p \leq \ell - 3$.

Proof. — We first establish the case $p = 1$. From Ziegler’s presentation of $\Omega^1(\mathcal{A})$ of a generic arrangement [39, Cor. 7.7], we have $\text{pdim}_S \Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}) = \text{pdim}_S \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}) = 1$. So $\Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A})$ is 1-spherical with zero-dimensional non-free locus. It follows that its dual, $D^0(\mathcal{A})$, is $(\ell - 2)$ -spherical, by Proposition 3.8. Since $\ell - 2 > 1$, we have $\text{Ext}_R^1(D^0(\mathcal{A}), R) = 0$. By Lemma 4.3, we have

$$\text{Ext}_R^1(D^0(\mathcal{A}''), R) = \text{Hom}_{R''}(D^0(\mathcal{A}''), R'')(1), \quad R'' = R/R\alpha_H.$$

Recall that $D_\bullet^0(\mathcal{A})$ and $\Omega_0^\bullet(\mathcal{A})$ are mutually R -dual by [8, Prop. 3.5]. Lemma 4.5 below gives exactness of (4.6) for $p = 1$.

For general p , we proceed as follows. As both multiplication by α_H and restriction to H commute with contraction against χ , passing to the kernels of χ in (4.2) gives exactness of (4.6), except at the right module.

Since \mathcal{A}' and \mathcal{A}'' are again generic, they are both free outside points and tame. So we have $\bigwedge^p \Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}') \cong \Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}')$ for $p \leq \ell - 2$ and $\bigwedge^p \Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}'') \cong \Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}'')$ for $p \leq \ell - 3$, by [8, Prop. 2.9].

Now by surjectivity in case $p = 1$ and right-exactness of \bigwedge^p , (4.6) is exact on the right as well. □

LEMMA 4.5. — *The sequence (4.6) for $p = 1$ is obtained by dualizing (4.3) and applying (4.5) for $M = D^0(\mathcal{A}'')$ and $q = 0$.*

Proof. — Ignoring degrees and dropping 0-indices, we need to show that the restriction map $\Omega^1(\mathcal{A}') \rightarrow \Omega^1(\mathcal{A}'')$ from (4.2) coincides with the composition of the connecting homomorphism

$$\text{Hom}_S(D(\mathcal{A}'), S) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^1(D(\mathcal{A}''), S) \cong \text{Hom}_{S''}(D(\mathcal{A}''), S''),$$

obtained from dualizing (4.1), with the isomorphism

$$\text{Ext}_S^1(D(\mathcal{A}''), S) \cong \text{Hom}_{S''}(D(\mathcal{A}''), S''),$$

obtained from (4.5) with $M = D(\mathcal{A}'')$ and $q = 0$.

The claim is trivially true outside the arrangement \mathcal{A}'' . The source and target of these two maps are naturally isomorphic and (reflexive, hence,) normal. Therefore it suffices to prove the statement locally at a generic point of \mathcal{A}'' .

The arrangement \mathcal{A} is generic; thus, in a generic point of \mathcal{A}'' , \mathcal{A} is the product of a Boolean 2-arrangement with $\mathbb{C}^{\ell-2}$. In particular, $D(\mathcal{A}'')_x$, $D(\mathcal{A}')_x$ and $D(\mathcal{A})_x$ are free in such a point. Then (4.1) is a free resolution of $D(\mathcal{A}'')_x$ and the claim becomes an exercise in homological algebra.

Abbreviate $A = D(\mathcal{A}')_x$, $B = D(\mathcal{A})_x$, and $C = D(\mathcal{A}'')_x$; then the complex (4.1) becomes

$$0 \longrightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow 0,$$

and it has a free resolution

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & A & \xrightarrow{(\alpha, 0)} & \alpha A \oplus B & \xrightarrow{(0, \text{id}_B)} & B & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & A & \xrightarrow{=} & A & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & &
 \end{array}$$

After dualizing, the connecting homomorphism $A^\vee \rightarrow A^\vee/\alpha^\vee B^\vee$ shows up in the E^2 -page of the spectral sequence of the double complex. It is induced by $(\alpha^{-1} \circ \alpha)^\vee = \text{id}_{A^\vee}$, so it coincides with the natural restriction map. □

Since our calculation does not depend on the choice of equations for the generic arrangement, let $\mathcal{A}_{n,\ell}$ denote a generic arrangement of n hyperplanes with rank ℓ .

The base case of our induction argument will be the following.

LEMMA 4.6. — *For $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_{n,3}$ with $n > 3$, $\text{Ext}_S^1(\Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}), S)$ is an Artinian module with Hilbert series*

$$q_n(t) = ((n - 3)t^{-1} + (1 - n) + (n - 1)t^{n-3} + (3 - n)t^{n-2})/(1 - t)^3.$$

Proof. — By [39, Cor. 7.7], one has a free resolution

$$(4.7) \quad 0 \longrightarrow S(-1)^{n-3} \longrightarrow S^{n-1} \longrightarrow \Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow 0.$$

On the other hand, following [37], the module of derivations for the generic arrangement has a graded free resolution

$$0 \longrightarrow S(2 - n)^{n-3} \longrightarrow S(3 - n)^{n-1} \longrightarrow D^0(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow 0,$$

so $h(D^0(\mathcal{A}), t) = ((n - 1)t^{n-3} - (n - 3)t^{n-2})/(1 - t)^3$. Now we dualize (4.7) to obtain

$$0 \longleftarrow \text{Ext}_S^1(\Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}), S) \longleftarrow S^{n-3}(1) \longleftarrow S^{n-1} \longleftarrow D^0(\mathcal{A}) \longleftarrow 0,$$

and take the Euler characteristic to compute the Hilbert series of $\text{Ext}_S^1(\Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}), S)$. □

Remark 4.7. — The previous result can be expressed more concisely in terms of a generating function. One can calculate that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 4} q_n(t) s^n &= \frac{1}{(1-t)^3} \sum_{n \geq 4} ((n-3)t^{-1} + (1-n) + (n-1)t^{n-3} + (3-n)t^{n-2}) s^n \\ &= \frac{1}{(1-t)^3} \left(\frac{s^4 t^{-1}}{(1-s)^2} + \frac{(2s-3)s^4}{(1-s)^2} + \frac{(3-2st)(s^4 t)}{(1-st)^2} - \frac{s^4 t^2}{(1-st)^2} \right) \\ &= t^{-1} \frac{s^4}{(1-s)^2(1-st)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, by setting $t = 1$ in the expression above, we obtain $s^4/(1-s)^4$, and we find that $\text{Ext}_S^1(\Omega_0^1(\mathcal{A}), S)$ is a module of length equal to $\binom{n-1}{3}$.

Proof of Theorem 4.1. — Suppose that the conclusion is known for all arrangements of fewer than n hyperplanes. We prove the claim for $\mathcal{A}_{n,\ell}$ where $n > \ell$. We will assume $\ell \geq 4$, since the rank 3 case is covered by Lemma 4.6. By hypothesis, $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}')$ and $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}'')$ are p -spherical for $1 \leq p \leq \ell - 3$. Now apply $\text{Ext}_R^\bullet(-, R)$ to the short exact sequence (4.6). By Lemma 4.3, we may replace $\text{Ext}_R^{q+1}(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}''), R)$ by $\text{Ext}_{R''}^q(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}'''), R'')$ in the long exact sequence. Then the p -spherical condition, together with the exactness of (4.3) for $i = 0$, implies that the long exact sequence breaks up as

$$(4.8) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_S^i(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}'), S)(-1) \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_S^i(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}), S) \\ \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_{S''}^i(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}'''), S'') \longrightarrow 0,$$

for all $i \geq 0$ and for $0 \leq p \leq \ell - 3$.

On the other hand, for $p = \ell - 2$, note $p \geq 2$. Consider the long exact sequence obtained from the dual of (4.4). By Lemma 4.5, it begins with the sequence (4.6), which is exact from Lemma 4.4. It follows that $\text{Ext}_S^1(\Omega_0^{\ell-2}(\mathcal{A}), S) = 0$.

For $i \geq 2$, the assumption that $\Omega_0^{\ell-2}(\mathcal{A}')$ and $\Omega_0^{\ell-3}(\mathcal{A}''')$ are $(\ell - 2)$ - and $(\ell - 3)$ -spherical, respectively, gives a short exact sequence

$$(4.9) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_{S''}^{i-1}(\Omega_0^{\ell-3}(\mathcal{A}'''), S'')(1) \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_S^i(\Omega_0^{\ell-2}(\mathcal{A}), S) \\ \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_S^i(\Omega_0^{\ell-2}(\mathcal{A}'), S) \longrightarrow 0.$$

It follows that $\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A})$ is p -spherical for $1 \leq p \leq \ell - 3$ by (4.8), and for $p = \ell - 2$ by (4.9). In either case, the length of $\text{Ext}_S^p(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}), S)$ can be computed using the induction hypothesis and (4.8) or (4.9) to be

$$\binom{n-2}{\ell} + \binom{n-2}{\ell-1} = \binom{n-1}{\ell}.$$

If one repeats the argument, it is possible to obtain the Hilbert series of each $\text{Ext}_S^p(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}), S)$, instead of just its length. Given the number of parameters involved, we present this refinement to Theorem 4.1 separately. □

DEFINITION 4.8. — Let $q(\ell, n, p; t)$ denote the Hilbert series of $\text{Ext}_S^p(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}_{n,\ell}), S)$, for $3 \leq \ell \leq n$ and $1 \leq p \leq \ell - 2$. Let $Q(\ell, p; s, t)$ be the generating function

$$Q(\ell, p; s, t) = \sum_{n \geq 3} q(\ell, n, p; t) s^n,$$

and write $Q(\ell, p)$ for short.

We saw, above, that

$$(4.10) \quad Q(3, 1) = s^4 / (t(1 - s)^2(1 - st)^2).$$

LEMMA 4.9. — *The generating functions $Q(\ell, p)$ satisfy*

$$Q(\ell, p) = \begin{cases} \frac{s}{1-st} Q(\ell - 1, p) & \text{for } 1 \leq p \leq \ell - 3; \\ \frac{s}{t(1-s)} Q(\ell - 1, \ell - 3) & \text{for } p = \ell - 2. \end{cases}$$

Proof. — The short exact sequence (4.8), for $i = p$, gives

$$q(\ell, n, p; t) = tq(\ell, n - 1, p; t) + q(\ell - 1, n - 1, p; t)$$

as long as $1 \leq p \leq \ell - 3$. Writing the sum of both sides gives the equation $Q(\ell, p; s, t) = stQ(\ell, p; s, t) + sQ(\ell - 1, p; s, t)$, from which we obtain the formula above. The case $p = \ell - 2$ is similar, using (4.9) instead. \square

By applying this result recursively, beginning with (4.10), we obtain the expression:

LEMMA 4.10. — *For all $\ell \geq 3$ and $1 \leq p \leq \ell - 2$,*

$$(4.11) \quad Q(\ell, p; s, t) = t^{-p} \frac{s^{\ell+1}}{(1 - s)^{p+1}(1 - st)^{\ell-p}}.$$

Continuing further, let

$$P(p; s, t, u) = \sum_{\ell \geq p+2} Q(\ell, p; s, t) u^\ell.$$

Then the geometric series formula, using (4.11), simplifies to the following:

$$(4.12) \quad P(p; s, t, u) = \frac{s^3 u^2}{(1 - s)(1 - st)(1 - s(t + u))} \left(\frac{su}{t(1 - s)} \right)^p,$$

for $p \geq 1$. Finally, we can form a four-variable generating function

$$T(s, t, u, v) = \sum_{p \geq 1} P(p; s, t, u) v^p.$$

By construction,

$$T(s, t, u, v) = \sum_{n, \ell, p} h(\text{Ext}_S^p(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}_{n, \ell}), S), t) s^n u^\ell v^p.$$

Since each module is Artinian, $T \in \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}][[s, u, v]]$ (and, in particular, our rational function calculations do lead to a valid expression for a formal power series). By summing the expression (4.12), we obtain the following:

COROLLARY 4.11. — *The Hilbert series of the module $\text{Ext}_{\mathbb{S}}^p(\Omega_0^p(\mathcal{A}_{n,\ell}), S)$ is the coefficient of $s^n u^\ell v^p$ in*

$$T(s, t, u, v) = \frac{s^4 u^3 v}{(1-s)(1-st)(1-st-su)(t-st-suv)},$$

for all $1 \leq p \leq \ell - 2 \leq n - 2$.

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