

# Perfectoid signature and an application to étale fundamental groups

Hanlin Cai<sup>1</sup>, Seungsu Lee<sup>1</sup>, Linqun Ma<sup>2</sup>  
Karl Schwede<sup>1</sup>, Kevin Tucker<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Utah    <sup>2</sup>Purdue University    <sup>3</sup>University of Illinois at Chicago

Northwestern University  
May 2023

Based on `arXiv:2209.04046`

Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a Noetherian local ring.

## Theorem (Kunz)

*In char.  $p > 0$ ,  $F$  Frobenius*

*$R$  is regular*

$\Leftrightarrow F_*R = R^{1/p}$  *fflat  $R$ -module*

$\Leftrightarrow R_{\text{perf}} = \text{colim}_e F_*^e R$  *fflat  $R$ -module.*

Since mixed characteristic conference:

## Theorem (Bhatt-Iyengar-Ma)

*In mixed characteristic  $(0, p)$ ,*

*$R$  is regular*

*$\Leftrightarrow$  there is  $R \rightarrow B$  with  $B$  perfectoid,  $f\text{flat} / R$ .*

*(also an almost  $f\text{flat}$  version)*

Instead of detecting sings, measure them.

# Measuring singularities in char $p$

Suppose  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k = k^p)$  is complete Noetherian local domain characteristic  $p > 0$ ,  $\dim R = d$ .

If  $R$  is regular,  $F_*^e R = R^{1/p^e}$  is free over  $R$  of rank  $p^{ed}$ .

$$\#\text{gens } R^{1/p^e} = \text{length}(R^{1/p^e} / \mathfrak{m}R^{1/p^e}) = p^{ed}.$$

*Do an example! (on a board)*

If  $R^{1/p^e}$  is not free, then since it is free of rank  $p^{ed}$  at generic point, we see:

$$\#\text{gens } R^{1/p^e} = \text{length}(R^{1/p^e} / \mathfrak{m}R^{1/p^e}) > p^{ed}.$$

Definition (Kunz, Monsky)

If  $J \subseteq R$  is  $\mathfrak{m}$ -primary, *Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity*

$$e_{HK}(J, R) = \lim_{e \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{length}(R^{1/p^e} / JR^{1/p^e})}{p^{ed}}.$$

If  $R$  is regular &  $J = \mathfrak{m}$ ,  $e_{HK}(R) := e_{HK}(\mathfrak{m}, R) = 1$ .

If  $R$  not regular &  $J = \mathfrak{m}$ ,  $e_{HK}(R) > 1$ . (Watanabe-Yoshida)

Bigger  $e_{HK}(R)$  means *MORE* singular  $R$ .

$e_{HK}(R)$  can be irrational (Brenner).

# Measuring singularities in char $p$ part 2

Suppose  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k = k^p)$  is complete Noetherian local domain characteristic  $p > 0$ ,  $\dim R = d$ .

Write

$$R^{1/p^e} = R^{\oplus a_e} \oplus M_e \quad M_e \text{ no free } R\text{-summands}$$

$$a_e = \text{length } R/I_e,$$

$$I_e := \{x \in R \mid R \xrightarrow{1 \mapsto x^{1/p^e}} R^{1/p^e} \text{ does not split}\}$$

*(Sketch why, on a board!)*

You can ask what percentage of  $R^{1/p^e}$  is free, asymptotically.

Definition (Smith-Van den Bergh, Huneke-Leuschke, Tucker)

*F-signature* is defined

$$s(R) := \lim_{e \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_e}{p^{ed}}.$$

The “fraction” of  $R^{1/p^e}$  that is *free*, asymptotically.

$$0 \leq s(R) \leq 1.$$

Smaller  $s(R)$  means *MORE* singular  $R$ .

$R$  regular  $\Leftrightarrow s(R) = 1$  (Watanabe-Yoshida)

## Example (ADE surface singularities)

For surface singularities,  $p > 5$ .

type	equation	$s(R)$	$e_{HK}(R)$
$(A_n)$	$xy + z^{n+1}$	$\frac{1}{n+1}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(D_n)$	$x^2 + yz^2 + y^{n-1}$	$\frac{1}{4(n-2)}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(E_6)$	$x^2 + y^3 + z^4$	$\frac{1}{24}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(E_7)$	$x^2 + y^3 + yz^3$	$\frac{1}{48}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(E_8)$	$x^2 + y^3 + z^5$	$\frac{1}{120}$	$2 - s(R)$

$e_{HK} = 2 - s(R)$  since mult. 2 hypersurface (only mult. 2)



# A more *interesting* example

## Example (Monsky)

$k = \bar{k}$  char 2.

$$R = k[x, y, z] / ((\lambda^2 + \lambda)x^2y^2 + z^4 + xyz^2 + (x^3 + y^3)z)$$

then  $e_{HK}(R) = 3 + 4^{-m}$  where  $m = [\mathbb{F}_2(\lambda) : \mathbb{F}_2]$ .

If  $\lambda$  transcendental,  $e_{HK}(R) = 3$ . Otherwise it's  $> 3$  (depends on degree of  $\lambda/\mathbb{F}_p$ ).

ie, this is a family over  $\text{Spec } k[\lambda]$ . Then very general fiber is least singular. Lack of semi-continuity.

# Positive signature and motivation

## Theorem (Aberbach-Leuschke)

$s(R) > 0 \Leftrightarrow R$  is strongly  $F$ -regular.

- Whatever strong  $F$ -regularity is, you can define it as above.
- strong  $F$ -regular is char.  $p > 0$  analog of klt sings/ $\mathbb{C}$ .
- Expect  $s(R) > 0$  means  $R$  behaves like klt sings.

There was conj. (Kollár),  $|\pi_1(\partial B \cap X_{\text{nonsing}})| < \infty$ ,  $B$  small ball around klt singularity  $x \in X/\mathbb{C}$ .

## Theorem (Braun, Xu-Zhuang, cf. Xu, Bhatt-Gabber-Olsson)

$|\pi_1(\partial B \cap X_{\text{nonsing}})| \leq d^d / \widehat{\text{vol}}(x, X)$  (norm. vol., cf. Li-Liu-Xu, etc)

- If  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k) \subseteq (S, \mathfrak{n}, l)$  finite split étale-in-codim.=1, then:

$$s(R) \cdot [K(S) : K(R)] = s(S) \cdot [l : k].$$

*(Say a word about the proof, on a board!)*

Corollary (Carvajal-Rojas - S. - Tucker)

*If  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k = \bar{k})$  is strongly  $F$ -regular, then*

$$|\pi_1^{\text{ét}}((\text{Spec } \widehat{R})_{\text{nonsing}})| \leq 1/s(R).$$

# Mixed characteristic

Our goal,  $(R = \widehat{R}, \mathfrak{m}, k = k^p)$  mixed characteristic.

- Find analog of  $e_{HK}(J, R)$ .
- Find analog of  $s(R)$ .
- Prove analogous results from char  $p > 0$ .
- Conclude étale fun. group. ( $k = \bar{k}$ ) for “nice”  $R$

$$|\pi_1^{\text{ét}}((\text{Spec } R)_{\text{nonsing}})| \leq 1/s(R) < \infty.$$

No Frobenius! (or resolution of singularities).

An idea! Instead of  $R^{1/p^e}$ , maybe we can use  $R_{\text{perf}}$  in char.  $p > 0$ .

.... then in mixed char. use perfectoidization (Bhatt-Scholze).

# Normalized length

Recall normalized length (Faltings, *cf.* Gabber-Ramero).

$A = k[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]$  OR  $A = W(k)[[p = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]]$  Consider:  
 $A \rightarrow A_e := A[x_1^{1/p^e}, \dots, x_d^{1/p^e}]$  ( $e = \infty$  ok, but  $p$ -complete).

*(Write  $A_\infty$  defn on board, completed)*

- $M$  is an  $A_\infty$ -mod.,  $\mathfrak{m}^N \cdot M = 0$ . Define  $\lambda_\infty(M)$ .
- If  $M''$  f.p.  $M'' = M''_e \otimes_{A_e} A_\infty$ ,

$$\lambda_\infty(M'') = \text{length}(M''_e)/p^{ed}.$$

- If  $M'$  f.g,  $\lambda_\infty(M') = \inf_{M'' \twoheadrightarrow M'} \lambda_\infty(M'')$ .
- In general  $\lambda_\infty(M) = \sup_{M' \hookrightarrow M} \lambda_\infty(M')$ .

## Theorem (Cai-Lee-Ma-S.-Tucker)

If  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k = k^p)$  complete Noeth. local domain char.  $p > 0$

Fix  $A \subseteq R$  Noether norm. (Cohen). Then

$$e_{HK}(J, R) = \lambda_{\infty}(R_{\text{perf}}/JR_{\text{perf}}) \quad \text{and}$$

$$s(R) = \lambda_{\infty}(R_{\text{perf}}/I_{\infty})$$

where  $I_{\infty} = \{x \in R_{\text{perf}} \mid R \xrightarrow{1 \mapsto x} R_{\text{perf}} \text{ not split}\}$ .

Note  $I_{\infty} = \bigcup_e I_e^{1/p^e}$ .

# Mixed characteristic definition

$(R, \mathfrak{m}, k = k^p)$  mixed char. complete Noetherian domain.

- Fix  $A := W(k)[[x_2, \dots, x_d]] \subseteq R$ .
- Let  $R_{\text{perfd}}^x := (R \otimes_A A_\infty)_{\text{perfd}}$  (Bhatt-Scholze).
- Note  $R_{\text{perfd}}^x$  is a ring, an  $A_\infty$ -module. Can take normalized length of  $A_\infty$ -mods as before.

## Definition

*Perfectoid Hilbert-Kunz:*  $e_{\text{perfd}}^x(J, R) := \lambda_\infty(R_{\text{perfd}}^x / JR_{\text{perfd}}^x)$ .

*Perfectoid signature:*  $s_{\text{perfd}}^x(R) := \lambda_\infty(R_{\text{perfd}}^x / I_\infty)$ ,

where  $I_\infty = \{x \in R_{\text{perfd}}^x \mid R \xrightarrow{1 \mapsto x} R_{\text{perfd}}^x \text{ not split}\}$ .

Agrees with char.  $p > 0$  definitions.

*(Write on board!)*

## Theorem (CLM\_T)

- $e_{\text{perfd}}^x(R) := e_{\text{perfd}}^x(\mathfrak{m}, R) \geq 1$ .
- $e_{\text{perfd}}(R) = 1 \Leftrightarrow R$  is regular.
- If  $J = (f_1, \dots, f_d)$ ,  $\sqrt{J} = \mathfrak{m}$  (param. ideal), then  $e_{\text{perfd}}^x(J) = e(J, R)$  (Hilbert-Samuel multiplicity).
- If  $I \subseteq J$   $\mathfrak{m}$ -primary then

$$e_{\text{perfd}}^x(I, R) = e_{\text{perfd}}^x(J, R) \Leftrightarrow IB = JB$$

for some perfectoid BCM (Big Cohen-Macaulay)  $B$ .

(Exist by André, Gabber. Note  $\widehat{R}^+$  is one such by Bhatt.)

$e_{\text{perfd}}(R)$  bigger means  $R$  is more singular.



## Questions

- independent of  $A \subseteq R$ ,  $\underline{x} = x_2, \dots, x_d$ ?
- semi-continuity Zariski topology? Even:

$$e_{\text{perfd}}(R) \geq e_{\text{perfd}}(\widehat{R}_Q)$$

$$s_{\text{perfd}}(R) \leq s_{\text{perfd}}(\widehat{R}_Q).$$

- fflat ascent? (Lech)

$$(R, \mathfrak{m}) \xrightarrow{\text{fflat}} (S, \mathfrak{n})$$

$$e_{\text{perfd}}(R) \leq e_{\text{perfd}}(S)?$$

# “Nice” rings, BCM-regularity

## Definition

$R$  is *weakly BCM-regular* if  $R \hookrightarrow B$  splits/pure for every perfectoid BCM (Big Cohen-Macaulay)  $B$ .

$R$  is *BCM-regular* if it is also  $\mathbb{Q}$ -Gorenstein (ie, hypersurface)  
For pair  $(R, \Delta \geq 0)$  *BCM-regular* makes sense (log  $\mathbb{Q}$ -Gor.).

(BCM-regular  $\Rightarrow$  KLT, = strongly  $F$ -regular in char  $p > 0$ ).

*Example:* log regular  $\Rightarrow (R, \Delta)$  BCM-regular for some  $\Delta$ .

*Example:*  $\mathbb{Z}_p[[x, y, z]]/(p^3 + x^3 + y^3 + z^3)$  BCM-regular ( $p > 3$ ).

*Example:*  $\mathbb{Z}_p[[y, z]]/(p^2z - x(x - z)(x + z))$  not BCM-regular.

# Properties of perfectoid signature

Detects regularity.

Theorem (CLM\_T)

$$0 \leq s_{\text{perfd}}^X(R) \leq 1.$$

$$R \text{ is regular} \Leftrightarrow s_{\text{perfd}}^X(R) = 1$$

Detects BCM-regularity.

Theorem (CLM\_T)

If  $s_{\text{perfd}}^X(R) > 0$ , then  $R$  weakly BCM-regular.

If  $R$  (or  $(R, \Delta)$ ) is BCM-regular, then  $s_{\text{perfd}}^X(R) > 0$ .

( $\mathbb{Q}$ -gor.  $\Rightarrow$  equiv.)

# Transformation rules

Suppose  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k) \subseteq (S, \mathfrak{n}, l)$  finite, étale in codim 1.

## Theorem (CLM\_T)

$$s_{\text{perfd}}^x(R) \cdot [K(S) : K(R)] = s_{\text{perfd}}^x(S) \cdot [l : k].$$

Transformation rule also works for  $\mu_n$ -in-1-covers even if  $p|n$  (for good choice of  $A, \underline{x}$ ).

## Proof idea.

- assume  $k = l$ .
- Extension is gen. free rank  $[K(S) : K(R)] := r$ .
- $S_{\text{perfd}}^x / I_{\infty}^R S_{\text{perfd}}^x \stackrel{g\text{-almost}}{\simeq} S_{\text{perfd}}^x / I_{\infty}^S$ . So have same normalized length.
- Want to compare  $M = S_{\text{perfd}}^x(R) / I_{\infty}^R S_{\text{perfd}}^x$  and  $N = \bigoplus^r R_{\text{perfd}}^x / I_{\infty}^R$ . Work mod  $p$ .  $M \rightarrow N \rightarrow M$ .



# An example

As a consequence:

## Example (ADE surface singularities)

$S$  regular dim 3.,  $p > 5$ .

$R = S/f$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}_S = (x, y, z)$ .

type	$f$	$s_{\text{perfd}}^x(R)$	$e_{\text{perfd}}^x(R)$
$(A_n)$	$xy + z^{n+1}$	$\frac{1}{n+1}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(D_n)$	$x^2 + yz^2 + y^{n-1}$	$\frac{1}{4(n-2)}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(E_6)$	$x^2 + y^3 + z^4$	$\frac{1}{24}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(E_7)$	$x^2 + y^3 + yz^3$	$\frac{1}{48}$	$2 - s(R)$
$(E_8)$	$x^2 + y^3 + z^5$	$\frac{1}{120}$	$2 - s(R)$

$e_{HK} = 2 - s(R)$  since mult. 2 hypersurface (only mult. 2)

For some cases, need careful choice  $A \subseteq R$ .

(Uses Carvajal-Rojas - Ma - Polstra - S. - Tucker).

## Theorem (CLM\_T)

*Suppose  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k = \bar{k})$  complete Noeth. local. Set  $U = (\text{Spec } R)_{\text{nonsing}}$ . Then*

$$|\pi_1^{\text{ét}}(U)| \leq 1/s_{\text{perfd}}^X(R).$$

*In particular, if  $R$  is BCM-regular, then it's finite.*

*Furthermore, for careful choice of  $A$ ,*

$$|Cl(R)_{\text{tors}}| \leq 1/s_{\text{perfd}}^X(R).$$

*Hence,  $R$  is BCM-regular  $\Rightarrow$  torsion in class group is finite.*

Other variants, like Greb-Kebekus-Peternell /  $\mathbb{C}$  also work.

# Thank you for listening!

Thank Bhargav for math we used!