

# A fast algorithm for computing the $p$ -curvature

Alin Bostan



joint work with

Xavier Caruso (Univ. Rennes 1) and Éric Schost (Univ. Waterloo)

ISSAC'15, Bath, UK



July 7th 2015

## Main objects and goal

- $k =$  a field of prime characteristic  $p$ , typically  $\mathbb{F}_p$
- $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle =$  the non-commutative (right-) Euclidean algebra of linear differential operators  $L = a_0 + a_1\partial + \cdots + a_r\partial^r$ , for  $a_i \in k(x)$

**Def:**  $p$ -curvature  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$  of  $L =$  the matrix in  $\mathcal{M}_r(k(x))$  whose  $(i, j)$  entry is the coefficient of  $x^i$  in  $\partial^{p+j} R \bmod L$  for  $0 \leq i, j < r$

**Goal:** design an efficient algorithm for  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$

- ▷ Efficiency = complexity estimates with a **low exponent w.r.t.  $p$**
- ▷ Complexity is measured in terms of **arithmetic operations in  $k$**

## Main objects and goal

- $k =$  a field of prime characteristic  $p$ , typically  $\mathbb{F}_p$
- $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle =$  the non-commutative (right-) Euclidean algebra of linear differential operators  $L = a_0 + a_1\partial + \cdots + a_r\partial^r$ , for  $a_i \in k(x)$

**Def:**  $p$ -curvature  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$  of  $L =$  the matrix in  $\mathcal{M}_r(k(x))$  whose  $(i, j)$  entry is the coefficient of  $x^i$  in  $\partial^{p+j} R \bmod L$  for  $0 \leq i, j < r$

**Goal:** design an efficient algorithm for  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$

- ▷ Efficiency = complexity estimates with a **low exponent w.r.t.  $p$**
- ▷ Complexity is measured in terms of **arithmetic operations in  $k$**
- ▷ Caveat: to simplify matters, assume **input  $L$  has size  $\mathcal{O}(1)$**

## Example

$$L = (5x^2 + 4)\partial^2 + (4x^2 + 6x + 5)\partial + 2x + 2 \in \mathbb{F}_7[x]\langle\partial\rangle$$

*Euclidean right division* in  $\mathbb{F}_7(x)\langle\partial\rangle$ :

$$\partial^7 = (\dots)L + \frac{(x+1)(x^2+x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2}\partial + \frac{4x(x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2}$$

$$\partial^8 = (\dots)L + \frac{2(x+1)(x^2+x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2}\partial + \frac{x(x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{A}_7(L) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4x(x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} & \frac{x(x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} \\ \frac{(x+1)(x^2+x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} & \frac{2(x+1)(x^2+x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

## Basics on differential equations in characteristic $p$

### Main differences between characteristic zero and $p$

- (Honda 1981) solutions are simpler in characteristic  $p$

$$\dim_{k(x^p)} \mathcal{S}_L(k[x]) = \dim_{k(x^p)} \mathcal{S}_L(k(x)) = \dim_{k((x^p))} \mathcal{S}_L(k[[x]])$$

- Cauchy's theorem does not hold: the common dimension  $\dim \mathcal{S}_L$  of the solution spaces is generally  $< r = \text{ord}(L)$

Example:  $y' = y$  has no solution in  $\mathbb{F}_p[[x]]$

### Connection between solutions and $p$ -curvature

- (Katz & Cartier 1970)  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_p(L)) = r - \dim(\mathcal{S}_L)$

→  $p$ -curvature measures to what extent  $\dim(\mathcal{S}_L)$  is close to  $r$

## Example

$$L = (5x^2 + 4)\partial^2 + (4x^2 + 6x + 5)\partial + 2x + 2 \in \mathbb{F}_7[x]\langle\partial\rangle$$

- 7-curvature of  $L$

$$\mathbf{A}_7(L) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4x(x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} & \frac{x(x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} \\ \frac{(x+1)(x^2+x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} & \frac{2(x+1)(x^2+x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Katz-Cartier:

$$1 = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_7(L)) = 2 - \dim_{\mathbb{F}_7(x^7)}(\mathcal{S}_L) \implies \dim_{\mathbb{F}_7(x^7)}(\mathcal{S}_L) = 1$$

- In fact

$$\text{Basis}_{\mathbb{F}_7(x^7)}(\mathcal{S}_L) = \{1 - 2x^2 - x^3\}$$

## A useful tool for theory

*Grothendieck's conjecture ('70s)*  $\Gamma \in \mathbb{Q}[x]\langle\partial\rangle$  has a **basis of algebraic solutions** over  $\mathbb{Q}(x)$  iff  **$\mathbf{A}_p(\Gamma) = 0$**  for almost all primes  $p$ .

*Def:* A power series  $\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{a_n}{b_n} x^n$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[[x]]$  is called a *G-series* if it is (a) D-finite; (b) analytic at  $x=0$ ; (c)  $\exists C > 0, \text{lcm}(b_0, \dots, b_n) \leq C^n$ .

**Examples:** algebraic functions;  $\log(1-x)$ ,  ${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma \end{matrix} \middle| x\right)$ ; diagonals

*Chudnovsky's theorem (1985)* The minimal-order operator  $\Gamma \in \mathbb{Q}[x]\langle\partial\rangle$  annihilating a G-series is **globally nilpotent**, i.e., the  $p$ -curvatures  **$\mathbf{A}_p(\Gamma)$  are nilpotent** for almost all primes  $p$ .

**Examples:** algebraic resolvents;  $x(1-x)\partial^2 + (\gamma - (\alpha + \beta + 1)x)\partial - \alpha\beta x$

## A useful tool for algorithms

$p$ -curvature used in computer algebra:

- [van der Put 1995] for **factoring operators** in  $\mathbb{F}_p(x)\langle\partial\rangle$
- [Cluzeau 2003] for **decomposing differential systems** over  $\mathbb{F}_p(x)$
- [Cluzeau & van Hoeij 2004] as **filter in modular algorithms** for operators in  $\mathbb{Q}(x)\langle\partial\rangle$



Improving the complexity of the  $p$ -curvature computation is an interesting problem in its own right

## A useful tool for applications

- in enumerative combinatorics (classification of lattice walks)
- in statistical physics (square lattice Ising model)

*Typical task*: given a power series  $S \in \mathbb{Z}[[x]]$ , decide if  $S$  is **D-finite**

*Differential guessing*: from the first  $N \gg 0$  terms of  $S$ , compute a differential operator  $\Gamma \in \mathbb{Q}[x]\langle \partial \rangle$  that annihilates  $S \bmod x^N$

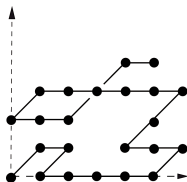
- ▷ One way to **empirically certify** the correction of  $\Gamma$  is to *look at the  $p$ -curvature*  $\mathbf{A}_p(\Gamma \bmod p)$  for a random (large) prime  $p$
- if  $\mathbf{A}_p(\Gamma \bmod p)$  is **nilpotent**, then  $S$  is **very probably D-finite**
  - if  $\mathbf{A}_p(\Gamma \bmod p)$  is **zero**, then  $S$  is **very probably algebraic**

## A combinatorial application: Gessel's conjecture

- **Gessel walks**: walks in  $\mathbb{N}^2$  using only steps in  $\mathcal{S} = \{\nearrow, \swarrow, \leftarrow, \rightarrow\}$
- $g(i, j, n)$  = number of **walks** from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(i, j)$  with  $n$  steps in  $\mathcal{S}$

**Question:** Nature of the generating function

$$G(u, v, x) = \sum_{i, j, n=0}^{\infty} g(i, j, n) u^i v^j x^n \in \mathbb{Q}[[u, v, x]]$$



**Theorem** (B.-Kauers 2010)  $G(u, v, x)$  is an algebraic function.\*

→ Effective, computer-driven discovery and proof

→ Key step in discovery:  **$p$ -curvature computation** of two 11th order (guessed) differential operators for  $G(u, 0, x)$ , and  $G(0, v, x)$

---

\*Minimal polynomial  $P(u, v, x, G(u, v, x)) = 0$  has  $> 10^{11}$  terms;  $\approx 30\text{Gb}$  (!)

## Previous work

①  $p$ -curvature  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$

size  $\mathcal{O}(p)$

- [Katz 1982]: algorithm of cost  $\mathcal{O}(p^2)$ , based on recurrence

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = \text{CompanionMatrix}(L), \quad \mathbf{A}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}'_k + \mathbf{A}_1 \cdot \mathbf{A}_k$$

- [B. & Schost 2009]: first subquadratic algorithm  $\mathcal{O}(p^{1.79})$
- [B. & Schost 2009]: for certain second-order operators  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(p)$



Binary powering can not be used to compute  $\partial^p$  in  $\frac{k(x)\langle\partial\rangle}{k(x)\langle\partial\rangle L}$

## Previous work

①  $p$ -curvature  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$  size  $\mathcal{O}(p)$

- [Katz 1982]: algorithm of cost  $\mathcal{O}(p^2)$ , based on recurrence

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = \text{CompanionMatrix}(L), \quad \mathbf{A}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}'_k + \mathbf{A}_1 \cdot \mathbf{A}_k$$

- [B. & Schost 2009]: first subquadratic algorithm  $\mathcal{O}(p^{1.79})$
- [B. & Schost 2009]: for certain second-order operators  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(p)$



Binary powering can not be used to compute  $\partial^p$  in  $\frac{k(x)\langle\partial\rangle}{k(x)\langle\partial\rangle L}$

② characteristic polynomial of  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$  size  $\mathcal{O}(1)$

- [B., Caruso & Schost 2014]: sublinear algorithm  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(\sqrt{p})$

③ polynomial solutions of  $L$  size  $\mathcal{O}(p)$

- [B. & Schost 2009]: quasi-optimal algorithm  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(p)$

## New result (B.-Caruso-Schost, 2015)

---

Computation of  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$

for an arbitrary operator  $L$

in quasi-linear time  $\tilde{O}(p)$ .

---

▷ Precise complexity result for  $L$  of bidegree  $(d, r)$  in  $(x, \partial)$ :

$$\tilde{O}(p d r^\omega)$$

where  $\omega$  is the exponent of matrix multiplication.

▷ Optimality: for  $r > 1$ , generic size of  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$  is  $\Theta(p d r^2)$

▷ Extension to systems: same results for  $p$ -curvature of  $Y' = AY$

## The starting point

- **Question:** Given  $L$  in  $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle$ , compute  $R$  in  $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle$  such that

$$\partial^p = QL + R, \quad \text{ord}(R) < \text{ord}(L) = r$$

- **Idea:** *evaluation-interpolation*; on “points” = solutions of  $L$
- ▷ **Fruitful strategy in related contexts:** product, lclm, gcd (char. 0)  
[van der Hoeven '02, '12; B. '03; Benoit, B. & van der Hoeven '12]

## The starting point

- **Question:** Given  $L$  in  $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle$ , compute  $R$  in  $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle$  such that

$$\partial^p = QL + R, \quad \text{ord}(R) < \text{ord}(L) = r$$

- **Idea:** *evaluation-interpolation*; on “points” = solutions of  $L$   
▷ **Fruitful strategy in related contexts:** product, lclm, gcd (char. 0)  
[van der Hoeven '02, '12; B. '03; Benoit, B. & van der Hoeven '12]



If  $L$  had a full basis of power series solutions  $\{y_1, \dots, y_r\}$ , then  $R = \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} a_j(x)\partial^j$  could be determined by solving a linear system

$$(a_0, \dots, a_{r-1}) \cdot \text{Wronskian}(y_1, \dots, y_r) = (\partial^p(y_1), \dots, \partial^p(y_r))$$

with coefficients in  $k[[x]]$  truncated modulo  $x^{\mathcal{O}(p)}$

## The starting point

- **Question:** Given  $L$  in  $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle$ , compute  $R$  in  $k(x)\langle\partial\rangle$  such that

$$\partial^p = QL + R, \quad \text{ord}(R) < \text{ord}(L) = r$$

- **Idea:** *evaluation-interpolation*; on “points” = solutions of  $L$   
▷ **Fruitful strategy in related contexts:** product, lclm, gcd (char. 0)  
[van der Hoeven '02, '12; B. '03; Benoit, B. & van der Hoeven '12]



If  $L$  had a full basis of power series solutions  $\{y_1, \dots, y_r\}$ , then  $R = \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} a_j(x)\partial^j$  could be determined by solving a linear system

$$(a_0, \dots, a_{r-1}) \cdot \text{Wronskian}(y_1, \dots, y_r) = (\partial^p(y_1), \dots, \partial^p(y_r))$$

with coefficients in  $k[[x]]$  truncated modulo  $x^{\mathcal{O}(p)}$



Obstruction: Cauchy's theorem *does not hold* in char.  $p > 0$

## The key: series with divided powers

- $\ell$  = a ring in which  $p$  vanishes
- $\ell[[t]]^{\text{dp}}$  = series with divided powers (Hurwitz series)

$$f = a_0\gamma_0(t) + a_1\gamma_1(t) + a_2\gamma_2(t) + \cdots + a_i\gamma_i(t) + \cdots$$

where  $a_i \in \ell$  and  $\gamma_i(t) \cdot \gamma_j(t) = \binom{i+j}{i} \gamma_{i+j}(t)$ .

*Theorem* (Cauchy's theorem for Hurwitz series)

For any  $r \times r$  matrix  $A$  with coefficients in  $\ell[[t]]^{\text{dp}}$ , and for any initial data  $V \in \ell^r$ , the Cauchy problem

$$\begin{cases} Y' = A \cdot Y \\ Y(0) = V \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution in  $\ell[[t]]^{\text{dp}}$ .

## Efficient computation with divided powers

*Theorem* For  $N = np^s$ , with  $s \geq 0$  and  $n \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ , there is a canonical isomorphism of  $\ell$ -algebras:

$$\ell[[t]]^{\text{dp}} / \ell[[t]]_{\geq N}^{\text{dp}} \simeq \ell[t_0, \dots, t_s] / (t_0^p, \dots, t_{s-1}^p, t_s^n).$$

Proof: Send  $\gamma_{p^i}(t)$  to  $t_i$  and use Lucas' theorem. If  $n = \sum_{i=0}^s n_i p^i$ ,

$$\gamma_n(t) = \gamma_{n_0}(t) \cdot \gamma_{n_1 p}(t) \cdots \gamma_{n_s p^s}(t) \quad \mapsto \quad \frac{t_0^{n_0}}{n_0!} \cdot \frac{t_1^{n_1}}{n_1!} \cdots \frac{t_s^{n_s}}{n_s!}.$$

*Theorem* The product in  $\ell[[t]]^{\text{dp}}$  at precision  $N = p^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$  can be performed with  $\tilde{O}(N)$  operations in  $k$ .

Proof: Use Kronecker's substitution + univariate FFT.

## Fast differential system solving in divided powers

- Newton iteration [B.-Chyzak-Ollivier-Salvy-Schost-Sedoglavic'07]

---

**Input:** a differential system  $Y' = AY$ , an integer  $N$

**Output:** the fundamental system of solutions in  $\ell[[t]]_{\geq N}^{\text{dp}}$

1.  $Y = I_r + t A(0)$ ;  $Z = I_r$ ;  $m = 2$
2. **while**  $m \leq N/2$ :
3.  $Z = Z + [Z(I_r - YZ)]^m$
4.  $Y = Y - [Y(\int Z \cdot (Y' - [A]^{2m-1} Y))]^{2m}$
5.  $m = 2m$
6. **return**  $Y$

---

*Theorem* Solving  $Y' = AY$  in  $\ell[[t]]^{\text{dp}}$  at precision  $N = p^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$  can be performed with  $\tilde{O}(Nr^\omega)$  operations in  $\ell$ .

## Example (continued)

$$L = (5x^2 + 4)\partial^2 + (4x^2 + 6x + 5)\partial + 2x + 2 \in \mathbb{F}_7[x]\langle\partial\rangle$$

- basis of divided power solutions of  $L$  in  $\mathbb{F}_7[[x]]^{\text{dp}}$ :

$$y_1 = \gamma_0 + 3\gamma_2 + \gamma_3$$

$$y_2 = \gamma_0 + 4\gamma_2 + \gamma_4 + 2\gamma_5 + 4\gamma_6 + \gamma_7 + 2\gamma_8 + 4\gamma_9 + \gamma_{10} + 2\gamma_{11} + 4\gamma_{12} + \dots$$

- $\partial^7 = QL + R$ , with  $R = a_0 + a_1\partial$ , implies

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_0 & a_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1^{(7)} & y_2^{(7)} \end{bmatrix}$$

with solution

$$a_0 = 4x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 2x^4 + 4x^5 + 5x^6 + \dots = \frac{4x(x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2}$$

$$a_1 = 1 + 5x + 6x^2 + x^3 + 6x^4 + 5x^5 + x^6 + \dots = \frac{(x+1)(x^2+x-1)}{(x+3)(x-3)^2}$$

## The algorithm in a nutshell

---

**Input:** a differential system  $Y' = AY$ , with  $A \in \mathcal{M}_r(k[x][\frac{1}{f}])$

**Output:** its  $p$ -curvature  $\mathbf{A}_p$  (def:  $\mathbf{A}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}'_k + \mathbf{A}_1 \cdot \mathbf{A}_k$ ,  $\mathbf{A}_1 = -A$ )

1. Choose  $S \in k[x]$  separable and coprime with  $f$

Let  $\ell = k[x]/S$  and  $\varphi_S : k[x][\frac{1}{f}]/S^p \xrightarrow{\sim} \ell[t]/t^p$ ,  $x \mapsto t + x$

2. Compute a fundam. matrix  $Y_S \in \mathcal{M}_r(\ell[t]/t^p)$  of  $Y' = \varphi_S(A)Y$

COST:  $\tilde{O}(pr^\omega)$  ops. in  $\ell$

3. Deduce  $\mathbf{A}_p \bmod S^p$  as  $\varphi_S^{-1}(Y_S \cdot \text{coeff}(AY_S, p-1) \cdot Y_S^{-1})$

COST:  $\tilde{O}(pr^\omega)$  operations in  $\ell$

4. Use several  $S$ 's and CRT to get  $\mathbf{A}_p$  from the various  $\mathbf{A}_p \bmod S^p$

---

TOTAL COST:  $\tilde{O}(pr^\omega d)$  operations in  $k$ , where  $d = \deg(A)$

## Experimental results

- For **random** linear differential operators in  $k[x]\langle\partial\rangle$

$(d, r)$	$p$							
	157	281	521	983	1 811	3 433	6 421	12 007
(5, 5)	0.39 s	0.71 s	1.22 s	2.34 s	4.41 s	8.93 s	18.0 s	36.1 s
	0.26 s	0.76 s	2.69 s	9.05 s	32.6 s	145 s	593 s	2 132 s
(5, 11)	1.09 s	2.05 s	3.65 s	7.05 s	12.6 s	26.7 s	53.3 s	109 s
	1.25 s	3.70 s	12.8 s	45.5 s	163 s	725 s	2 942 s	—
(5, 20)	2.93 s	5.25 s	9.52 s	17.7 s	32.5 s	68.1 s	139 s	288 s
	4.29 s	12.4 s	42.5 s	153 s	548 s	2 460 s	—	—
(11, 20)	6.89 s	13.3 s	22.6 s	45.0 s	80.4 s	167 s	342 s	711 s
	11.6 s	34.7 s	121 s	486 s	1 943 s	—	—	—
(20, 20)	14.0 s	25.1 s	49.9 s	94.0 s	176 s	357 s	733 s	1 472 s
	27.0 s	84.5 s	314 s	1 283 s	—	—	—	—

Running times of the **new** algorithm, vs. **Katz's** algorithm

- For operators with **physical relevance**: e.g.,  $\phi_H^{(5)}$  in  $(\mathbb{Z}/27449\mathbb{Z})[x]\langle\partial\rangle$ , with  $(d, r) = (108, 28)$  [Maillard et al. 2007]

→ (first column of)  $\mathbf{A}_p(\phi_H^{(5)})$  in 19 hours, size  $\approx 1\text{GB}$

## Conclusion

### This work:

- Computation of  $p$ -curvature  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$  in quasi-optimal time  $\tilde{O}(p)$
- Basic tool: *evaluation/interpolation* on *Hurwitz series*

### Next challenges:

- Compute invariant factors of  $\mathbf{A}_p(L)$  in time  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{p})$
- Factor  $L$  in time  $\tilde{O}(p)$

Thanks for your attention!