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MONODROMIES AT INFINITY OF NON-TAME POLYNOMIALS

BY KIYOSHI TAKEUCHI & MIHAI TIBĂR

ABSTRACT. — Polynomials that we usually encounter in mathematics are non-convenient and hence non-tame at infinity. We consider the monodromy at infinity and the monodromies around the bifurcation points of polynomial functions $f : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ which are non-tame at infinity and might have non-isolated singularities. Our description of their Jordan blocks in terms of the Newton polyhedra and the motivic Milnor fibers relies on two new issues: the non-atypical eigenvalues of the monodromies and the corresponding concentration results for their generalized eigenspaces.

RÉSUMÉ (*Monodromies à l'infini des polynômes non-modérés*). — Les polynômes qu'on rencontre d'habitude en mathématiques sont généralement non-commodes et donc non-modérés à l'infini. On considère ici la monodromie à l'infini et les monodromies autour des valeurs de bifurcation des fonctions polynomiales $f : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ qui sont non-modérés à l'infini et peuvent avoir des singularités non-isolées. Notre description de leurs blocs de Jordan en termes des polyèdres de Newton et des fibres de Milnor motiviques s'appuie sur deux nouveaux concepts : les valeurs propres non-atypiques des monodromies et les résultats de concentration pour leurs espaces propres généralisés.

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1. Introduction

For a polynomial map $f: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, it is well-known that there exists a finite subset $B \subset \mathbb{C}$ such that the restriction

$$(1.1) \quad \mathbb{C}^n \setminus f^{-1}(B) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus B$$

of f is a locally trivial fibration. We denote by B_f the smallest subset $B \subset \mathbb{C}$ satisfying this condition. We call the elements of B_f *bifurcation points of f* . For $f(x) = \sum_{v \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n} a_v x^v$ ($a_v \in \mathbb{C}$) we call the convex hull of $\text{supp} f = \{v \in \mathbb{R}_+^n \mid a_v \neq 0\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n the Newton polytope of f and denote it by $NP(f)$. After Kushnirenko [11], the convex hull $\Gamma_\infty(f) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^n$ of $\{0\} \cup NP(f)$ in \mathbb{R}^n is called the Newton polyhedron at infinity of f .

DEFINITION 1.1. — We say that f is *convenient* if $\Gamma_\infty(f)$ intersects the positive part of the i -th axis of \mathbb{R}^n for any $1 \leq i \leq n$.

If f is convenient and non-degenerate at infinity (see Definition 2.1), then by a result of Broughton [1] it is *tame at infinity*. In this tame case he proved that one has the concentration

$$(1.2) \quad H^j(f^{-1}(R); \mathbb{C}) = 0 \quad (j \neq 0, n - 1)$$

for the generic fiber $f^{-1}(R)$ ($R \gg 0$) of f . After this fundamental result many mathematicians studied tame polynomials. However, polynomials that we usually encounter in mathematics are non-convenient and hence non-tame at infinity. According to the fundamental result of Némethi and Zaharia [18], they have a lot of singularities at infinity in general. The study of non-tame polynomials is important for the Jacobian Conjecture since non-tame polynomials are the only interesting objects in the problem. Their study would be useful also in the mirror symmetry, where the Landau-Ginzburg potentials may be non-convenient. Moreover, in what concerns the evaluation of the bifurcation set B_f , non-tame polynomials were studied by many mathematicians and with different methods, in particular by Némethi and Zaharia [18], [31] by using Newton polyhedra. The main reason why non-tame polynomials could not be studied precisely before is that one cannot expect to have the concentration (1.2) for them.

In this paper we overcome this difficulty on non-tame polynomials by improving the above-mentioned result of Broughton [1]. Let $C_R = \{x \in \mathbb{C} \mid |x| = R\}$ ($R \gg 0$) be a sufficiently large circle in \mathbb{C} such that $B_f \subset \{x \in \mathbb{C} \mid |x| < R\}$. Then by restricting the locally trivial fibration $\mathbb{C}^n \setminus f^{-1}(B_f) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus B_f$ to C_R we obtain a geometric monodromy automorphism $\Phi_f^\infty: f^{-1}(R) \xrightarrow{\sim} f^{-1}(R)$ and the linear maps

$$(1.3) \quad \Phi_f^\infty: H^j(f^{-1}(R); \mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^j(f^{-1}(R); \mathbb{C}) \quad (j = 0, 1, \dots)$$

associated to it, where the orientation of C_R is taken to be counter-clockwise as usual. We call Φ_j^∞ 's the (cohomological) *monodromies at infinity* of f . In the last few decades many mathematicians studied Φ_j^∞ 's from various points of view. In the tame case, Libgober-Sperber [12] obtained a beautiful formula which expresses the semisimple part (i.e., the eigenvalues) of Φ_{n-1}^∞ in terms of the Newton polyhedron at infinity of f (see [13] for its generalizations). Recently in [14] (see also [6]) the first author proved formulae for its nilpotent part, i.e., its Jordan normal form, by using the motivic Milnor fiber at infinity of f . However, the methods of [12], [13] and [14] etc. do not apply beyond the tame case by the absence of the concentration (1.2) for non-tame polynomials (see [16] for a partial result). In this paper, even for non-tame polynomials we show that the desired cohomological concentration holds for the generalized eigenspaces of Φ_j^∞ for “good” eigenvalues associated to f . Then by avoiding the remaining “bad” eigenvalues, we can successfully generalize the results in [12], [13] and [14] etc. to non-tame polynomials and completely determine the Jordan normal forms of Φ_{n-1}^∞ . More precisely, in Definition 2.10 by using the Newton polyhedron at infinity $\Gamma_\infty(f)$ we define a finite subset $A_f \subset \mathbb{C}$ of “bad” eigenvalues which we call *atypical eigenvalues* of f . Then we have the following refinement of the main result of Broughton [1]. For $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ and $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ let $H^j(f^{-1}(R); \mathbb{C})_\lambda \subset H^j(f^{-1}(R); \mathbb{C})$ be the generalized eigenspace for the eigenvalue λ of the monodromy at infinity Φ_j^∞ .

THEOREM 1.2. — *Let $f \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be a non-convenient polynomial such that $\dim \Gamma_\infty(f) = n$. Assume that f is non-degenerate at infinity. Then for any non-atypical eigenvalue $\lambda \notin A_f$ of f we have the concentration*

$$(1.4) \quad H^j(f^{-1}(R); \mathbb{C})_\lambda \simeq 0 \quad (j \neq n - 1)$$

for the generic fiber $f^{-1}(R) \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ ($R \gg 0$) of f .

This theorem allows non-isolated singularities of f and also the situation where the fibers may have cohomological perturbation “at infinity”. Indeed, some of its atypical fibers $f^{-1}(b)$ ($b \in B_f$) e.g., $f^{-1}(0)$ have non-isolated singularities in general. In the “tame” case one has only isolated singularities in \mathbb{C}^n and either vanishing cycles at infinity do not occur at all or they occur at isolated points only (in the sense of [25], [29]), and then the concentration of cohomology (1.2) follows.

Theorem 1.2 will be proved by refining the proof of Sabbah’s theorem [24, Theorem 13.1] in our situation. More precisely we construct a new compactification \widehat{X}_Σ of \mathbb{C}^n and study the “horizontal” divisors at infinity for f in $\widehat{X}_\Sigma \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$ very precisely to prove the concentration. With this main result at hand, by using the results in [14, Section 2] we can prove the generalizations of [12], [13] and [14, Theorems 5.9, 5.14 and 5.16] etc. to non-tame polynomials and