

Conservativity of the  
Vanishing-Cycles functor and  
The Schur-finiteness of  $D^b(k)$

Introduction:

The notion of Schur-finiteness goes back to Deligne.

Definition: let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a monoidal symmetric additive  $\mathbb{Q}$ -linear category. An object  $X \in \mathcal{M}$  is called Schur finite if there exist  $m \geq 1, p \in \mathbb{Q}[E]$  a non trivial idempotent such that  $p$  act by zero on  $X^{\otimes m}$ .

When  $\mathcal{M}$  is also a triangulated category, then the schur-finiteness is stable by taking cones [C. Mazza]

## Motivations: (Beilinson)

1 - Schur finiteness of motives of surfaces  $\Rightarrow$  Bloch Conjecture.

2 - Schur finiteness of  $CH^2(k)$  implies that a correspondence

$$\alpha: X \rightarrow X$$

such that  $\alpha_{\text{num}} = 0$  is nilpotent in  $CH^2(k)(X \times X)$

(This is a special case of Voisin's nilpotence conjecture)

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What about the Vanishing cycles?

We begin by the étale case.

# The étale Case:

Let  $S$  be the spectrum of a henselian DVR.

Let  $f: X \rightarrow S$  a proper map with  $X$  regular.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X_0 & \longrightarrow & X_1 & \longrightarrow & X & \longleftarrow & X_2 \\ \downarrow f_0 & & \downarrow f_1 & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow f_2 \\ S & \longrightarrow & S & \longrightarrow & S & \longleftarrow & S \end{array}$$

One has canonical maps:

$$H_c^i(X_0, \Lambda) \longrightarrow H_c^i(X_1, \Lambda)$$

This map is not an isomorphism (usually).  
The vanishing cycles are here to correct the answer.

More precisely, there exist a  $\textcircled{4}$   
 complex  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $(X_0)_{\text{ét}}$ , with  
 a canonical isomorphism:

$$H_{\text{ét}}^*(X_0, \mathcal{F}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^*(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \Lambda)$$

In fact: there exist a "system"  
 of "functors" (One can say a  
 specialisation structure):

$$\Psi_f: D(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \Lambda) \xrightarrow{\sim} D(X_0, \Lambda)$$

attached to  $f: X \rightarrow S$  (and  
 a choice of a uniformization of  $S$   
 and verifying the usual  
 compatibilities of (SGA 7).

In particular:

1) If  $f$  is projective,

$$f_* \mathcal{F} \cong \Psi_f$$

2) If  $f$  smooth,  $\Psi_f^* \cong f^* \mathcal{F}$

## Examples:

$f = \text{Id}_S$ . So we have:

$$f: \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{U}) = D(\eta, \Lambda) \longrightarrow D(S, \Lambda)$$

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$$D(\mathcal{G}_\eta\text{-modules}) \xrightarrow{f} D(A\text{-mod})$$

In particular, we have this  
crucial theorem:

Theorem 1:  $\mathcal{U}_{\text{Id}_S}: D(\eta, \Lambda) \longrightarrow D(S, \Lambda)$

is a monoidal and a  
conservative functor.

## II - What is The Link?

The link between the two  
subjects is provided by  
the following observation:

(5)

# Observation:

Suppose we have the following:

1) A specialisation structure on DM. ( $\mathbb{Q}$ -linear):  $\Psi$ , which is good in the following sense:

- a)  $\Psi_{\text{Id}_S}(\mathbb{1}) = \mathbb{1}$
- b)  $\Psi_{\text{Id}_S}$  is monoidal.

2) A Conservability Theorem for  $\Psi_{\text{Id}_S}$

i.e. The motivic analogue of theorem 1. is true

Then we can prove the following result: (I)

"Every object in  $\text{DT}(k)$  which is of finite type is Schur-finite."

In particular:

"Every object in  $\text{CHM}(k) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$  is Schur-finite."



Proof Of This implication:

It suffices to prove that for every  $f: X \rightarrow k$  smooth and projective,  $[X]$  is S-finite.

By duality, it suffices to do it for  $f_* \mathcal{O}_X$ .

We proceed by induction  
on  $\dim X = n$ .

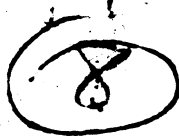
for  $n=0$ , there is little to  
prove.

So, suppose  $n \geq 1$ .

1st Case: If  $X$  is birational  
to a smooth hypersurface  
of  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .

Of course we can suppose  
that  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$  is a smooth  
hypersurface of degree  $d$ .

If  $d=1$ , it's okay!





So I suppose  $\deg(X) = d \geq 2$   
And argue by induction  
On  $d$ . For  $d=2$  it is true.

Choose  $Y', H' \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$   
general hypersurfaces  
of degree  $d-1$  and 1.

and  $X \sim_{\text{rat}} Y' + H'$

Then blow up  $X \cap Y'$  and  
then  $X \cap H' \rightsquigarrow E$ .

Let  $\pi$  and  $\tilde{\pi} : E \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^m$  be the  
projection transforms.

So we have:

$$X \sim_{\text{rat}} Y' + H' \quad \text{in } \mathbb{P}^m$$

$$X \cap Y' = X \cap H' = \emptyset$$

So there exists:

$$f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$$

s.t.  $f^{-1}(0) = X$ ,  $f^{-1}(1) = Y \cup H$

let  $\eta =$  generic pt. of  $\mathbb{P}^1$

$$\Psi_0: D\pi(\eta) \rightarrow D\pi(1)$$

$$\Psi_1: D\pi(\eta) \rightarrow D\pi(1)$$

$$\Psi_0[f_{\eta*}] \cong f_{\eta*} \bar{\Psi}_0$$

$$\cong [E_{\eta}] \cong [X]$$

\*  $\Psi_1[f_{\eta*}]$  is built up from:  $[Y]$ ,  $[H]$  and  $[Y \cap H]$ .

By induction  $\Psi_1[f_{\eta*}]$  is Schur-finite

Now using the conservability  
of  $\Psi_i$  (and the fact that  
the functor is monoidal)  
we get  
 $\Gamma_{\mathbb{A}^1} \otimes \mathbb{Z}$  is schur-finite.

And family  $\{T_X\} \subseteq \text{Gal}(\mathbb{A}^1)$   
is also schur-finite.

This settles the case  
where  $X$  is birational  
to a smooth hypersurface  
of  $\mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ .

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# The General Case (12)

It is the same trick.

So take  $X/\mathbb{C}$  a smooth projective variety.

$X$  is birational to some (possibly singular) hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ . Call

$$Z' \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$$

the hypersurface.

Blow up until singularities are gone.

$$Z' \subset \tilde{E} \quad \text{with } \tilde{E} \text{ smooth.}$$

$$\text{and } \tilde{E} + m_1 D_1 + \dots + m_r D_r \sim_{\text{rat}} Y$$

with  $Y$  the pure transform of a general hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ .

By blowing further  
 we can suppose that

$$Z \cap Y = D_1 \cap Y = \dots = D_r \cap Y = \emptyset.$$

Then we get a map:

$$\text{definite} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$$

with  $f^{-1}(0) = Z + \lambda_1 D_1 + \dots + \lambda_r D_r$   
 and  $f^{-1}(1) = Y$ .

By the first step we know

that  $[Y]$  is schur-finite

$$(\mathbb{Q}_1(f_{Y*} \mathbb{1}))$$

The Conservability theorem tells us

that  $f_{Y*} \mathbb{1}$  is already schur-finite

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So finally,  $\Psi_f$  is Schur-finite.

$\Psi_f(\mathbb{Z})$  is Schur-finite.

$$\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\Psi_f} \mathbb{Z}$$

But in this case we can describe  $\Psi_f$  explicitly.

And we can see

(under the induction hypothesis)

That  $\mathbb{Z}$  is Schur-finite

$$\left( \mathbb{Z} \text{ is Schur-finite} \right) \Rightarrow \left( \mathbb{Z}, [D'_1], \dots, [D'_r] \right)$$

with  $D'_i \rightarrow D_i$  are certain finite covers

In particular we get the Schur-finiteness of  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Some notes for the definition  
of the same ring-cycles  
functions:

There is at least two possible definitions:

1. (Markus Spitzweck).  
His idea is to give a mathematical meaning to the formulae

$$\Psi(A) = i^* j_* A \otimes \mathbb{I}$$

to make it clear that  $i^* j_* \mathbb{I}$

2. (Be). A direct definition:

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Sketch of the definition:

Take the diagram:

$$B_m \xrightarrow{\psi} B_n$$

in  $\text{DT}(B_n)$  we have a special map:

$$\psi: B_m \rightarrow B_n$$

Given by  $\psi: B_m \rightarrow (B_n, 1)$

$$[B_m \xrightarrow{\psi} B_n] \xrightarrow{\psi} [B_n \xrightarrow{1} B_n]$$

As in the étale case  $\psi^2 = 0$ .

So we set:

$$\psi(A) = \text{Tot} \left( A(0)(1) \xrightarrow{\psi} A(2)(2) \xrightarrow{\psi} \dots \right)$$

$$\psi(A) =$$



# Sketch of the "proof" of

## The Conservability Theorem:

! The proof is not yet fully verified!

1st Step: The reduction to a statement on homology invariant. Shows with relative transfers. Basically it is

The following statement:

"Let  $M_*$  be a homology modul. [cf. Deylise], such that for

$$\underline{m} \geq 0, \quad \text{if } M_n = 0$$

Then  $M_*$  is zero.



2nd Step:

A description of the  
function "c".

Basically, I prove that to  
compute  $i_j(\pi)(s)$  with

$\pi$  a finite extension,

it suffices to compute  $i_j(\pi_{\leq 1})$

where  $\pi_{\leq 1}$  is the maximal  $\pi$ -module  
in  $\pi$ .

Usually  $\pi_{\leq 1}$  is the quotient  
of a semi-abelian variety  
but rather of an Ind-semi-abi-  
variety.

### 3rd Step:

Use the above description  
of  $i^* j^* \pi_n$  to get  
information on the  $(\pi_n)_{\leq 1}$ .

here we have to use  
Some diophantine Geometry...

### 4th Step:

We put all the information  
on the  $(\pi_n)_{n \geq 0}$ , to prove  
That  $(\pi_*)$  is actually a  
quotient of a minor  $k$ -theory  
spectrum.

Then it is easy to prove the vanishing  
of  $(\pi_*)$