FUNCTORIAL RESOLUTION OF SINGULARITIES IN CHARACTERISTIC ZERO USING REES ALGEBRAS

DAVID RYDH

Abstract. This is a mixture of [Kol07, EV07, Kaw07, BM08] (and perhaps [Wlo05]) used for the last two lectures for a mini-course on resolution of singularities. DRAFT

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1. Statement of main theorem

We work over any field $k$ and consider schemes that are locally of finite type over the base field. We will occasionally need that $k$ is of characteristic zero.

1.1. Blow-up sequences. Let $X/k$ be a scheme, locally of finite type over the base field $k$. A blow-up sequence of length $r$ on $X$ is a sequence of blow-ups

$$\Pi: X_r \xrightarrow{\pi_{r-1}} X_{r-1} \xrightarrow{\pi_{r-2}} \ldots \xrightarrow{\pi_1} X_1 \xrightarrow{\pi_0} X_0 = X$$

with specified centers $Z_i \hookrightarrow X_i$, so that $\pi_i: X_{i+1} = \text{Bl}_{Z_i} X_i \rightarrow X_i$.

Remark (1.1). We allow a center $Z_i$ to be a divisor or $Z_i = \emptyset$ but we consider two sequences to be equal if they only differ by blow-ups in empty centers.

Note that the composition $\Pi$ does not determine the individual $\pi_i$ nor does the $\pi_i$ always determine the centers $Z_i$ (a blow-up in a Cartier divisor is an isomorphism). Nevertheless, we will sometimes refer to the blow-up sequence as $\Pi$ and the symbol $\pi_i$ will depend on the center and not merely the morphism $\pi_i$. In particular, $\Pi^r = \pi_{r-1}^* \ldots \pi_0^*$ depends on the full blow-up sequence and not merely the morphism $\Pi$.

We let $F_{i+1} = \pi_i^* Z_i$ be the exceptional divisor. The blow-up sequence is smooth if the centers are smooth.

For the definition of snc divisor and simple normal crossings, see §2.1. If $E \subseteq X$ is an snc divisor, then we let $E_0 = E$ and let $E_{i+1} = \pi_i^* E_i$ denote the total transform, namely $E_{i+1} = \text{Bl}_{Z_i \cap E_i} E_i + F_{i+1}$ (here we ignore multiplicities). If $E_i$ is snc and $Z_i$ has simple normal crossings with $E_i$, then $E_{i+1}$ is snc. We say that the blow-up sequence has simple normal crossings with $E$ if every center $Z_i$ has simple normal crossings with $E$.

If $E = \sum_j E^j$ is an ordered snc divisor, then we let $E_0 = \sum_j E^j$. Given $E_0 = \sum_j E_0^j$, we define $E_{i+1} = \sum_j \text{Bl}_{Z_i \cap E_i} E_i^j + F_{i+1}$ where $F_{i+1}$ is given the highest ordering.

Let $\mathbb{B}$ be a blow-up sequence on $X$. We transform blow-up sequences in the following ways:

(i) Given a smooth morphism $p: X' \rightarrow X$ of $k$-schemes, we let $p^* \mathbb{B}$ denote the pull-back of $\mathbb{B}$, given by $X'_i = X_i \times_X X'$ and $Z'_i = Z_i \times_X X'$ (recall that blow-ups commute with flat base change). If $\mathbb{B}$ is smooth then so is $p^* \mathbb{B}$. If $p$ is surjective, then $\mathbb{B}$ is uniquely determined by $p^* \mathbb{B}$ (by fpqc descent).

(ii) Given a field extension $k'/k$, we let $\mathbb{B}_{k'}$ denote the pull-back of $\mathbb{B}$ along $X_{k'} \rightarrow X$, considered as a blow-up sequence of schemes over $k'$. Then $\mathbb{B}$ is uniquely determined by $\mathbb{B}_{k'}$ and if $\mathbb{B}$ is smooth, then so is $\mathbb{B}_{k'}$.

(iii) Given a closed subscheme $j: W \hookrightarrow X$, we let $j^* \mathbb{B}$ or $\mathbb{B} | W$ denote the restriction of $\mathbb{B}$. This sequence has centers $Z_i \cap W_i$ and schemes $W_{i+1} = \text{Bl}_{Z_i \cap W_i} W_i$. Note that $W_{i+1}$ is the strict transform of $W_i \hookrightarrow X_i$ along the blow-up $X_{i+1} \rightarrow X_i$ so that $W_{i+1} \hookrightarrow X_{i+1}$.

(iv) Conversely, given a closed subscheme $j: W \hookrightarrow X$, and a blow-up sequence $\mathbb{B}_W$, we let $j_* \mathbb{B}_W$ denote the push-forward of $\mathbb{B}_W$ given by
the same centers $Z_i$ and $X_{i+1} = \text{Bl}_{Z_i}X_i$.  Note that $j^*j_*\mathcal{B}_W = \mathcal{B}_W$. If $\mathcal{B}_W$ is smooth, so is $j_*\mathcal{B}_W$.

**Definition (1.2).** A blow-up sequence functor is a functor $\mathcal{B}$ from triples $(X/k, \mathcal{I}, E)$ where $X/k$ is a scheme, $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X$ is a quasi-coherent ideal sheaf and $E$ is an snc divisor on $X$, to blow-up sequences (of unspecified length) on $X$. We also consider the variant where the inputs are triples $(X, \mathcal{I}, \sum_{i=1}^n E_i)$ where $E = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i$ is an ordered snc divisor, i.e., $E$ is snc and every $E_i$ is smooth.

**Definition (1.3).** We say that $\mathcal{B}$ is functorial with respect to

(i) smooth morphisms, if $p^*\mathcal{B}(X, \mathcal{I}, E) = \mathcal{B}(X', p^*\mathcal{I}, p^*E)$ for every smooth morphism $p: X' \to X$ (recall that equality means up to empty blow-ups);

(ii) change of fields, if $\mathcal{B}(X/k, \mathcal{I}, E)_{k'} = \mathcal{B}(X_ {k'/k', p^*\mathcal{I}, p^*E})$ where $p: X_ {k'} \to X$ is the induced morphism;

(iii) closed embeddings, if for any closed embedding $X \hookrightarrow Y$ of smooth $k$-schemes, any snc divisor $E \hookrightarrow Y$ such that $E|_X$ is snc and any closed subscheme $Z \hookrightarrow X$ with ideal sheaf $\mathcal{I}_X \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X$ and $\mathcal{I}_Y \subseteq \mathcal{O}_Y$, we have that $j_*\mathcal{B}(X, \mathcal{I}_X, E|_X) = \mathcal{B}(Y, \mathcal{I}_Y, E)$.

If $\mathcal{B}(X, \mathcal{I}_X, E|_X) = j^*\mathcal{B}(Y, \mathcal{I}_Y, E)$ holds in the last paragraph, then we say that $\mathcal{B}$ is weakly functorial with respect to closed embeddings. The difference is that some centers are allowed to lie outside $Y$.

**1.2. Main theorem.**

**Theorem (1.4).** There is a blow-up sequence functor $\mathcal{B}_P$ defined on all triples $(X, \mathcal{I}, E)$ where $X$ is a smooth scheme of finite type over a field of characteristic zero and $E$ is an unordered divisor with normal crossings. It satisfies the following conditions:

(i) The blow-up sequence $\Pi = \mathcal{B}_P(X, \mathcal{I}, E): X_r \to X$ has smooth centers and normal crossings with $E$.

(ii) The ideal $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{O}_X$ defines an snc divisor.

(iii) $\Pi$ is an isomorphism over $X \setminus V(\mathcal{I})$.

(iv) $\Pi$ is functorial with respect to smooth morphisms and change of fields.

(v) $\Pi$ is weakly functorial with respect to closed embeddings.

By a standard procedure, one deduces

**Theorem (1.5).** There is a blow-up sequence functor $\mathcal{B}_R$ defined on all schemes $X$ of finite type over a field of characteristic zero. Let $\Pi = \mathcal{B}_R(X): X_r \to X$ denote the blow-up sequence. Then:

(i) $X_r$ is smooth.

(ii) $\Pi^{-1}(\text{Sing}(X))$ is an snc divisor.

(iii) $\Pi$ is an isomorphism over $X \setminus \text{Sing}(X)$.

(iv) $\Pi$ is functorial with respect to smooth morphisms and change of fields.

Note that the blow-up sequence $\mathcal{B}_R(X)$ that we will construct need not have smooth centers [Kol07, Ex. 3.106]. It is possible to construct a smooth
blow-up sequence functor $\mathcal{B}R'$ but then one has to be more careful and use a presentation of the Hilbert–Samuel function to control singularities [BM08, §1.3].

**Proof of Theorem 1.5.** First we construct $\mathcal{B}R(X)$ when $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ is affine. We may then embed $X \hookrightarrow Y$ into a smooth affine $k$-scheme $Y$ such that $\dim(Y) \geq \dim(X) + 2$. Consider the blow-up sequence $\mathcal{B}P(Y, I, \emptyset)$ where $I$ is the ideal sheaf defining $X$ in $Y$. First assume that $X$ is irreducible. As $X$ is not a divisor, eventually the strict transform of $X$ is going to be blown up. As the centers are smooth, this can only happen when either the strict transform of $X$ is smooth or $X$ is generically non-reduced. In the first case we stop the algorithm at this point and in the second case the strict transform of $X$ becomes empty after performing the blow-up.

If $X$ is not irreducible, the above will happen for every irreducible component $W$ of $X$. If $W$ is generically reduced, then we ignore the blow-up with center equal to the strict transform $W'$ of $W$ (more precisely, we replace the center $Z$ with $Z \setminus W'$ since the center could be disconnected).

Using that $\mathcal{B}P$ is functorial with respect to closed embeddings, we may assume that $Y = \mathbb{A}^n_k$ for some $n$. To see that $\mathcal{B}R(X)$ is independent of the chosen embedding $X \hookrightarrow Y$, it is enough to show that two embeddings $X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}^n_1$ and $X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}^n_2$ give the same blow-up sequence. Using functoriality with respect to closed embeddings we may assume that $n = n_1 = n_2$ and after further increasing $n$, there is an automorphism of $\mathbb{A}^n_k$ that interchanges the two embeddings [Kol07, 3.39]. As $\mathcal{B}P$ is functorial with respect to smooth morphisms, it follows that the two blow-up sequences are equal.

That $\mathcal{B}R$ is functorial with change of fields follows from the corresponding fact for $\mathcal{B}P$. Given a smooth morphism $p: X' \to X$ and an embedding $X \hookrightarrow Y$ where $Y$ is an affine smooth $k$-scheme, we can, locally on $X'$, find a smooth affine morphism $Y' \to Y$ such that $X' = X \times_Y Y'$ [EGAIV, Prop. 18.1.1]. That $\mathcal{B}R$ is functorial with respect to smooth morphisms thus follows from the corresponding fact for $\mathcal{B}P$.

The extension of $\mathcal{B}R$ to arbitrary schemes is now a completely formal procedure using functoriality with respect to smooth morphisms (or merely open coverings) [Kol07, Prop. 3.37]. The same argument shows that $\mathcal{B}R$ extends to algebraic spaces and algebraic stacks. $\square$

1.3. **Outline of the proof of the main theorem.** There are two main ideas. The first is to use a very coarse invariant, the order of vanishing (Section 3). The order is an upper semi-continuous function $\text{ord}_x(I): X \to \mathbb{N}$ which is non-zero exactly over the support of $V(I)$. Let $m$ be the maximum of the order function. The algorithm now proceeds with order reduction. It starts with the locus where $\text{ord}_x(I) = m$ and runs until the maximal order drops. It then continues with the locus of order $m-1$ and so on until the order equals one. This does not mean that $V(I)$ is snc, but it signifies that locally $V(I)$ is contained in a smooth hypersurface $H$ and we may reduce $\mathcal{B}P(X, I, E)$ to $\mathcal{B}P(H, I|_H, E|_H)$ (after a “boundary modification”, see below). Finally, we conclude by induction on the dimension of $X$.

To accomplish order reduction, the trick is to (locally) find a hypersurface of maximal contact $H$ that contains the locus of maximal order and define the order reduction step as $\mathcal{B}P(H, I|_H, E|_H)$. One uses derivatives to find...
the hypersurface of maximal contact and to show that it is essentially unique. Before we can pass to \( H \), however, we need to make sure that \( E|_H \) is an snc divisor. To accomplish this, we make a “boundary modification” that transforms \( E + H \) into an snc divisor.

One then has to take care of the fact that the order of \( I|_H \) can be strictly larger than the order of \( I \) (the order depends on the embedding \( V(I) \hookrightarrow X \), not merely on \( V(I) \)). One way to do this is to use marked ideals. I have chosen to use Rees algebras as this gives, in my opinion, a more streamlined and elegant approach. The resulting algorithm is not quite identical to Kollár’s as the boundary modification is done slightly differently. We also allow \( E \) to have self-intersections and the resulting algorithm is functorial with respect to all closed immersions even though \( E \) is not ordered. This answers [Kol07, 3.71].

The algorithm is described in greater detail in Section 6.

2. Differentials and coordinates for blow-ups

Let \( X/k \) be a smooth scheme.

2.1. Regular system of parameters. Assume that \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \). We say that \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \in A \) is a regular system of parameters if \( dx_1, dx_2, \ldots, dx_n \) is a basis for \( \Omega^1_{X/S} \). If \( A \) is a regular local ring, then \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \in A \) is a regular system if and only if its image in \( m_x/m_x^2 = \Omega^1_{X/S} \otimes \kappa(x) \) is a basis.

Locally on \( X \) (in the Zariski topology), there exists a regular system of parameters \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \in A \). Moreover, given a smooth closed subscheme \( Z \hookrightarrow X \), we can locally always find a regular sequence such that \( Z = V(x_1, \ldots, x_r) \).

We say that a closed subscheme \( E \hookrightarrow X \) is a divisor with simple normal crossings (snc) if locally on \( X \) there exists a regular system of parameters \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \in A \) such that \( E = V(x_1^{a_1}x_2^{a_2} \ldots x_n^{a_n}) \) for some \( a_1, \ldots, a_n \in \mathbb{N} \). Then \( E = \sum a_i E_i \) where \( E_i \) are smooth divisors.

We say that a closed subscheme \( Z \hookrightarrow X \) has simple normal crossings with an snc divisor \( E \) if there is a regular system as above where in addition \( Z = V(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_r) \) for some \( r \leq n \). In particular, \( Z \) is smooth and some of the \( E_i \)'s are allowed to contain \( Z \). If \( E \) does not contain \( Z \), then \( E|_Z \) is an snc divisor.

2.2. Differential operators. There is a general notion of differential operators \( \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \) of order \( \leq m \) and if \( X/k \) is smooth, then \( \text{Diff}_{\leq m}^{X/S} \) is locally free of finite rank. It is the dual of the sheaf of principal parts of length \( m \).

If \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \in A \) is a regular system of parameters, then \( \text{Diff}_{\leq m}^{X/S} \) is free with basis

\[
\{ \partial_{x^\alpha} : \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n, |\alpha| \leq m \}
\]

where (in characteristic zero)\(^1\)

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} = \frac{1}{\alpha!} \cdot \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|}}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \ldots \partial x_n^{\alpha_n}}
\]

\(^1\)In positive characteristic, the basis is described by \( \partial_{x^\alpha}(x^\beta) = \binom{|\alpha|}{|\beta|} x^{\alpha-\beta} \).
If \( \mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X \) is a quasi-coherent ideal, then we let \( D^m(\mathcal{I}) \) be the ideal locally generated by \( \partial(f) \) for all \( \partial \in \text{Diff}^{\leq m} \) and \( f \in \mathcal{I} \). If \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \) is a regular system of parameters, and \( \mathcal{I} = (f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_s) \) then

\[
D^m(\mathcal{I}) = (\partial^{\alpha} f_j : |\alpha| \leq m).
\]

In particular, \( \mathcal{I} = D^0(\mathcal{I}) \subseteq D^1(\mathcal{I}) \subseteq D^2(\mathcal{I}) \subseteq \ldots \).

2.3. Blow-ups. Let \( Z \hookrightarrow X \) be a smooth subscheme. Consider the blow-up \( \pi: X' = \text{Bl}_Z X \to X \) with the exceptional divisor \( E = \pi^{-1}Z \).

Locally, \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \) and we have a regular system of parameters \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \in A \) such that \( Z = V(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_r) \). Then \( X' \) is covered by charts \( X'_i = D_+(x_i) = \text{Spec}(A'_i) \subseteq X' \) where \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, r \) and \( A'_i = A[x_jx_i^{-1} : j = 1, \ldots, r] \subseteq A[x_i^{-1}] \). We let:

\[
y_j = \begin{cases} x_jx_i^{-1}, & \text{if } 1 \leq j \leq r, j \neq i \\ x_j, & \text{if } j = i \text{ or } j > r. \end{cases}
\]

Then \( y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n \) is a regular system of parameters of \( X'_i \). The exceptional divisor \( E \) is defined by \( y_i = 0 \) on \( X'_i \).

With notation as above, let \( f \in A \). Then \( df = f_1dx_1 + \ldots + f_ndx_n \) and on the chart \( X'_i = D_+(x_i) \) we have

\[
\pi^*(f) = f_1dy_1 + \sum_{j=2}^{r} f_jd(y_1y_j) + \sum_{j=r+1}^{n} f_jdy_j
\]

\[
= (f_1 + f_2y_2 + \cdots + f_r y_r)dy_1 + \sum_{j=2}^{r} f_jy_1dy_j + \sum_{j=r+1}^{n} f_jdy_j.
\]

Thus

\[
\partial_{y_1}(\pi^*f) = \pi^*\partial_{x_1}(f) + y_2\pi^*\partial_{x_2}(f) + \cdots + y_r\pi^*\partial_{x_r}(f)
\]

\[
\partial_{y_j}(\pi^*f) = y_1\pi^*\partial_{x_j}(f), \quad j = 2, \ldots, r
\]

\[
\partial_{y_j}(\pi^*f) = \pi^*\partial_{x_j}(f), \quad j = r + 1, \ldots, n
\]

or rearranged

\[
\pi^*\partial_{x_1}(f) = \partial_{y_1}(\pi^*f) - \frac{y_2}{y_1} \partial_{y_2}(\pi^*f) - \cdots - \frac{y_r}{y_1} \partial_{y_r}(\pi^*f)
\]

\[
\pi^*\partial_{x_j}(f) = \frac{1}{y_1} \partial_{y_j}(\pi^*f), \quad j = 2, \ldots, r
\]

\[
\pi^*\partial_{x_j}(f) = \partial_{y_j}(\pi^*f), \quad j = r + 1, \ldots, n
\]

We also have the following version:

\[
\pi^*(x_1\partial_{x_1}f) = y_1\partial_{y_1}(\pi^*f) - y_2\partial_{y_2}(\pi^*f) - \cdots - y_r\partial_{y_r}(\pi^*f)
\]

\[
\pi^*(x_j\partial_{x_j}f) = y_j\partial_{y_j}(\pi^*f), \quad j = 2, \ldots, r
\]

\[
\pi^*\partial_{x_j}(f) = \partial_{y_j}(\pi^*f), \quad j = r + 1, \ldots, n.
\]

(2.0.1) which shows that logarithmic derivative behave well with respect to blow-ups. In fact, let \( F = \sum F^i \) be an snc divisor on \( X \) and \( Z = F^1 \cap F^2 \cap \cdots \cap F^r \). Give \( X \) the log structure \( (X, F) \) and \( X' \) the log structure \( (X', \tilde{F} + E) \).

Then \( \pi^*\Omega^\log_{X/k} \to \Omega^\log_{X'/k} \) is an isomorphism which is reflected by the formulas above.
3. Order of vanishing and blow-ups

Let $X/k$ be a smooth scheme, let $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X$ be a quasi-coherent ideal sheaf and let $W = V(\mathcal{I}) \hookrightarrow X$ be the corresponding closed subscheme.

**Definition (3.1).** The order of vanishing of $\mathcal{I}$ at $x \in X$ is

$$\text{ord}_x(W \hookrightarrow X) = \text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) := \sup_{d \in \mathbb{N}} \{\mathcal{I}_x \subseteq m_x^d\}$$

We make the following easy observations.

- If $\mathcal{I} = (f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_n)$ then $\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) = \min_i \text{ord}_x(f_i)$.
- $\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) \geq 1$ if and only if $x \in \text{Supp}(V(\mathcal{I}))$. Otherwise $\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) = 0$.
- $\text{ord}_x(W \hookrightarrow X)$ is not an invariant of $W$ but depends on $W$ and the embedding of $W$ in $X$. This is in contrast with the tangent cone and multiplicity which only depend on $W$.
- $\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) = \infty$ if and only if $I_x = 0$ (by Krull’s intersection theorem).
- $\text{ord}_x(W \hookrightarrow X)$ is not an invariant of $W$ but depends on $W$ and the embedding of $W$ in $X$. This is in contrast with the tangent cone and multiplicity which only depend on $W$.
- $\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) = 1$ if and only if, locally (in the Zariski topology) around $x$, there is a smooth hypersurface $H \hookrightarrow X$ containing $W$. Indeed, any $f$ such that $f_x \in \mathcal{I}_x \setminus m_x^2$ defines such a hypersurface.
- If $\mathcal{I}$ is locally principal (or equivalently, assume that $W$ is a divisor), then $\text{ord}_x(W \hookrightarrow X) = \text{mult}_x(W)$ and $\text{ord}_x(W \hookrightarrow X) = 1$ if and only if $W$ is regular at $x$.

If $Z \hookrightarrow X$ is a smooth closed subscheme (possibly disconnected), then we say that $\text{ord}_Z(W \hookrightarrow X) = m$ if $\text{ord}_\xi(W \hookrightarrow X) = m$ for all generic points $\xi \in Z$.

The order of vanishing is tightly connected to differentials and blow-ups. First we note that, in characteristic zero, $\text{ord}_x(D(\mathcal{I})) = \max\{\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) - 1, 0\}$. Thus, if $m \geq 1$, then the following are equivalent

(i) $\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) = m$,
(ii) $\text{ord}_x(D(\mathcal{I})) = m - 1$,
(iii) $\text{ord}_x(D^{m-1}(\mathcal{I})) = 1$.

and

$$\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) = \inf_{m \geq 0} \{D^m(\mathcal{I})_x = \mathcal{O}_{X,x}\}$$

The last formula is also valid in positive characteristic. In particular, it follows that $x \mapsto \text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I})$ is an upper semi-continuous function.

Let $Z \hookrightarrow X$ be a smooth subscheme and let $\pi: X' = \text{Bl}_Z X \rightarrow X$ be the blow-up in $Z$ with exceptional divisor $E = \pi^{-1}Z$. Assume that $\text{ord}_Z(W \hookrightarrow X) \geq m$. Then an easy calculation shows that $\pi^{-1}W$ contains $mE$. Indeed, for every $f \in \mathcal{I}$ we have that $\pi^*f = y^m f$ in the chart $X'_i = D_+(x_i)$.

4. Marked ideals

Instead of taking strict transforms, we will keep track of the exceptional divisor in a more controlled way. In particular, we will use ideals where we pretend that their order is smaller than the actual order.

**Definition (4.1).** A marked function on $X$ is a pair $(f, m) \in \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \times \mathbb{N}$. A marked ideal on $X$ is a pair $(\mathcal{I}, m)$ where $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$. The order
and support of a marked ideal are
\[ \text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}, m) = \frac{\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I})}{m} \]
\[ \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}, m) = \{ x \in X : \text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}) \geq m \} = \{ x \in X : \text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}, m) \geq 1 \}. \]

Note that the support is closed and that \( \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}, 1) = \text{Supp}(V(\mathcal{I})) \). We define
\[ (\mathcal{I}_1, m) + (\mathcal{I}_2, m) = (\mathcal{I}_1 + \mathcal{I}_2, m) \]
\[ (f_1, m_1) \cdot (f_2, m_2) = (f_1 f_2, m_1 + m_2) \]
\[ (\mathcal{I}_1, m_1) \cdot (\mathcal{I}_2, m_2) = (\mathcal{I}_1 \mathcal{I}_2, m_1 + m_2) \]

Note that
\[ \text{Supp}((\mathcal{I}_1, m) + (\mathcal{I}_2, m)) = \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_1, m) \cap \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_2, m) \]
\[ \text{Supp}((\mathcal{I}_1, m_1) \cdot (\mathcal{I}_2, m_2)) \supseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_1, m_1) \cap \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_2, m_2) \]

but equality need not hold. This is fixed by introducing:
\[ \mathcal{I}_1, m_1 \circ \mathcal{I}_2, m_2 = (\mathcal{I}_1^{m_2} + \mathcal{I}_2^{m_1}, m_1 + m_2) \]
for which \( \text{Supp}((\mathcal{I}_1, m_1) \circ (\mathcal{I}_2, m_2)) = \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_1, m_1) \cap \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_2, m_2) \). This notation is misleading as \( \circ \) should be seen as the analogue of \( I_1 + I_2 \). We will see a more elegant solution to these operations using Rees algebras. Marked ideals are also called Hironaka pairs.

Let \( X/k \) be a smooth scheme, let \( Z \hookrightarrow X \) be a smooth closed subscheme and let \( \pi : X' = Bl_Z X \to X \) be the blow-up. Let \( (\mathcal{I}, m) \) be a marked ideal on \( X \) such that \( Z \subseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}) \). Then \( \pi^{-1}(V(\mathcal{I})) \) contains \( mE \) so that we can define the controlled transform
\[ \pi^*(\mathcal{I}, m) = (\pi^{-1}(\mathcal{I}) \otimes_X \mathcal{O}(mE), m) \]
that subtracts \( mE \) from \( \pi^{-1}(V(\mathcal{I})) \). In local coordinates on the chart \( X'_i = D_+(x_i) \) this means that \( \pi^*(f, m) = (y_i^{-m} \pi^*(f), m) \).

### 4.1. Derivatives of marked ideals.

Derivatives of marked ideals are defined as
\[ D(\mathcal{I}, m) = (D(\mathcal{I}), m - 1), \quad D^j(\mathcal{I}, m) = (D^j(\mathcal{I}), m - j) \]
so that \( \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}, m) = \text{Supp}(D(\mathcal{I}, m)) = \cdots = \text{Supp}(D^{m-1}(\mathcal{I}, m)) \).

Translating the formulas from the last section, we now get more well-behaved derivatives with respect to blow-ups:
\[
\begin{align*}
& y_1^{m-1} \pi^*(\partial_x f, m - 1) = \partial_{y_1} (y_1^m \pi^*(f, m)) - y_1^{m-1} y_2 \partial_{y_2} \pi^*(f, m) - \ldots \\
& \quad - y_1^{m-1} y_r \partial_{y_r} \pi^*(f, m) \\
& y_1^{m-1} \pi^*(\partial_x f, m - 1) = y_1^{m-1} \partial_{y_1} \pi^*(f, m), \quad j = 2, \ldots, r \\
& y_1^{m-1} \pi^*(\partial_{x_j} f, m - 1) = y_1^m \partial_{y_j} \pi^*(f, m), \quad j = r + 1, \ldots, n
\end{align*}
\]
or equivalently:
\[
\begin{align*}
& \pi^*(\partial_x f, m - 1) = (m-1) \pi^*(f, m) + y_1 \partial_{y_1} \pi^*(f, m) \\
& \quad - y_2 \partial_{y_2} \pi^*(f, m) - \cdots - y_r \partial_{y_r} \pi^*(f, m) \\
& \pi^*(\partial_{x_j} f, m - 1) = \partial_{y_j} \pi^*(f, m), \quad j = 2, \ldots, r \\
& \pi^*(\partial_{x_j} f, m - 1) = y_1 \partial_{y_j} \pi^*(f, m), \quad j = r + 1, \ldots, n.
\end{align*}
\]
In particular, we have the important relation
\[ \pi^*(\mathcal{I}, m) \subseteq \pi^* D(\mathcal{I}, m) \subseteq D(\pi^*(\mathcal{I}, m)). \]

4.2. Logarithmic derivatives. Let \( H \hookrightarrow X \) be a smooth hypersurfaces. Then there is a notion of logarithmic derivations along \( H \). If \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \) is a regular system of parameters such that \( H = V(x_1) \), then:

\[ \text{Der}_X(-\log H) = (x_1 \partial_{x_1}, \partial_{x_2}, \ldots, \partial_{x_n}) \]

and we define \( D^m(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}) \) as before using \( \text{Der}_X(-\log H) \). If \( \mathcal{I} \) is generated by \( f_1, \ldots, f_s \) then:

\[ D^m(-\log H)(f_i) \text{ is generated by } x_\alpha^1 \partial_{x_1} f_i \text{ for } |\alpha| \leq m. \]

If \( Z \hookrightarrow X \) is a smooth closed subscheme contained in \( H \) and \( \pi: X' = \text{Bl}_Z X \rightarrow X \) is the blow-up in \( Z \), then the strict transform \( H' \) is a smooth hypersurface. If \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \) is a regular system of parameters such that \( Z = V(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_r) \) and \( H = V(x_r) \), then on the chart \( D_+(x_i), i = 1, 2, \ldots, r-1 \) we have that \( H' = V(y_r) \). On the chart \( D_+(x_r) \) we have that \( H' = \emptyset \). From the equations (4.1.1) it is immediately clear that we obtain the relation:

\[ \pi^*(\mathcal{I}, m) \subseteq \pi^* D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}, m) \subseteq D(-\log H)(\pi^*(\mathcal{I}, m)) \]

(this also works if we replace \( H \) with an snc divisor \( E \) containing \( Z \).)

The usefulness of log derivatives comes from the fact that they commute with restrictions along \( H \)

\[ D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I})|_H = D(\mathcal{I}|_H) \]

since in local coordinates \( x_1 \partial_{x_1}(f)|_H = 0. \)

5. Rees Algebras and Rees Triples

A Rees algebra generalizes marked ideals by allowing sums of pairs. As before we assume that \( X \) is smooth over a field \( k \) (although many results hold without this).

**Definition (5.1).** A Rees algebra on \( X \) is a finitely generated graded \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-algebra

\[ \mathcal{I}_\bullet = \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} \mathcal{I}_m t^m \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X[t] \]

such that \( \mathcal{I}_0 = \mathcal{O}_X \). Furthermore, we let

\[ \text{ord}_x \mathcal{I}_\bullet = \inf_{m \geq 1} \text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}_m, m) = \inf_{m \geq 1} \frac{\text{ord}_x(\mathcal{I}_m)}{m} = \inf_{f \in \mathcal{I}_m} \frac{\text{ord}_x(f)}{m} \]

and

\[ \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_\bullet) = \{ x \in X : \text{ord}_x \mathcal{I}_\bullet \geq 1 \} = \{ x \in X : \forall m, \text{ord}_x \mathcal{I}_m \geq m \} = \cap_{m \geq 1} \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_m, m) \]
We will frequently denote an element $ft^m \in I_m$ as $(f, m)$ and we identify $(I, m)$ with the Rees algebra generated by $I^t^m$. Let $I_\bullet$ be generated by $(f_1, m_1), \ldots, (f_s, m_s)$. Then

$$\text{ord}_x I_\bullet = \min \{ \text{ord}_x(f_1, m_1), \ldots, \text{ord}_x(f_s, m_s) \} = \min \left\{ \frac{\text{ord}_x(f_1)}{m_1}, \ldots, \frac{\text{ord}_x(f_s)}{m_s} \right\} \setminus \{0\}$$

$$\text{Supp}(I_\bullet) = \text{Supp}(f_1, m_1) \cap \ldots \cap \text{Supp}(f_s, m_s) = \{ x \in X : \text{ord}_x(f_1) \geq m_1, \ldots, \text{ord}_x(f_s) \geq m_s \}.$$ 

In particular, $\text{ord}_x I_\bullet \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $\text{Supp}(I_\bullet)$ is closed. We also let $\maxord(I_\bullet) = \max_{x \in X} \text{ord}_x I_\bullet$. Note that we may now talk about the Rees algebra $(I_1, m_1) + (I_2, m_2)$ and that

$$\text{ord}_x ((I_1, m_1) + (I_2, m_2)) = \min \{ \text{ord}_x(I_1, m_1), \text{ord}_x(I_2, m_2) \}$$

and similarly for sums of arbitrary Rees algebras.

If $I$ is a usual ideal, then an element $f \in I$ imposes the condition that $V(I) \subseteq V(f)$, i.e., $W = V(I)$ is contained in the vanishing locus of $f$. If $I_\bullet$ is a Rees algebra, then similarly $(f, m) \in I_\bullet$ signifies that $\text{Supp}(I_\bullet) \subseteq V(f, m) = \{ x \in X : \text{ord}_x(f) \geq m \}$, i.e., $\text{Supp}(I_\bullet)$ is contained in the locus where $f$ vanishes to at least order $m$.

5.1. Blow-ups. Controlled transforms of marked ideals immediately extend to Rees algebras: for any blow-up $\pi : X' = \text{Bl}_Z X \to X$ with smooth center $Z$ contained in $\text{Supp}(I_\bullet)$ we define

$$\pi^* I_\bullet = \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} \pi^*(I_m, m)t^m.$$ 

5.2. Rees triples. A Rees triple $R$ on a smooth scheme $X$ is a triple $(I_\bullet, E; F = \sum_j F^j)$ where

- $I_\bullet$ is a Rees algebra,
- $E$ is an unordered normal crossings divisor on $X$, and
- $F$ is an ordered snc divisor on $X$,

such that $E + F$ is a normal crossings divisor.

A center $Z \hookrightarrow X$ is $R$-admissible, if:

- $Z$ is smooth,
- $Z \subseteq \text{Supp}(I_\bullet)$, and
- $Z$ has normal crossings with $E + F$.

The transform of $R$ along $\pi : X' = \text{Bl}_Z X \to X$ is $\pi^* R = (\pi^* I_\bullet, \tilde{E}; \sum_j \tilde{F}^j + F)$ where $F = \pi^{-1}Z$ is the exceptional divisor and $\tilde{E} = \pi^{-1}(E \setminus Z)$ is the strict transform. Note that when $Z = F^j$, then $\tilde{F}^j = \emptyset$ and $F = F^j$.

Let $\Pi = \pi_0 \circ \cdots \circ \pi_{r-1} : X_r \to X$ be a blow-up sequence. We say that the sequence is $R$-admissible if for every $0 \leq i < r$, the center $Z_i$ is $R_i := \pi_{i-1}^* \cdots \pi_0^* R$-admissible. We let $\Pi^* R = R_r$. 
5.3. **Projection from a marked line.** Let $(\mathbb{A}^1, 0)$ be $\mathbb{A}^1$ with a marked point. We let $X \times (\mathbb{A}^1, 0) = (X \times \mathbb{A}^1, X \times \{0\})$. These are smooth schemes together with a smooth divisor. Consider the projection $p: X \times (\mathbb{A}^1, 0) \to X$. Given a Rees triple $R = (\mathcal{I}_\bullet, E, F)$, we define $p^*R = (f^{-1}\mathcal{I}_\bullet, f^{-1}E, f^{-1}F + D)$ where $D = X \times \{0\}$.

5.4. **Exceptional blow-ups.** An exceptional blow-up [BM08, Def. 2.5] for a Rees triple $R = (\mathcal{I}_\bullet, E, F)$ is a blow-up in a center $Z = F^i \cap F^j$ which is the intersection of two exceptional divisors. Note that we do not require $Z \subseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_\bullet)$. The transform of $R$ along $\sigma: X' = \text{Bl}_Z X \to X$ is $R' = (\sigma^*\mathcal{I}_\bullet, E, F + F')$ where $\sigma^*\mathcal{I}_\bullet = \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} \mathcal{I}_m \mathcal{O}_{X'; t^m}$ is the total transform. 

**Remark** (5.2). Smooth morphisms, projection from a marked line and exceptional blow-ups all induce log smooth morphisms $(X', F') \to (X, F)$.

5.5. **Equivalence of Rees triples.**

**Definition** (5.3). A **test sequence** for $R$ is a sequence of transformations $\Pi = \pi_0 \circ \cdots \circ \pi_{r-1}$ such that $\pi_i$ is either

- smooth,
- the projection from a marked line,
- an $R_i$-admissible blow-up, or
- an $R_i$-exceptional blow-up,

where $R_i := \pi_{i-1}^* \cdots \pi_1^* \pi_0^* R$ denotes the transform (according to the type).

A weak test sequence for $R$ is a test sequence that only consists of smooth and admissible blow-ups.

**Definition** (5.4). We say that two Rees triples $R = (\mathcal{I}_\bullet, E, F)$ and $R' = (\mathcal{I}'_\bullet, E', F')$ are **equivalent**, written $R \sim R'$, if $F = F'$ (with the same ordering) and $R$ and $R'$ have the same test sequences. We say that $R \subseteq R'$ if $E = E'$, $F = F'$ and $\mathcal{I}_\bullet \subseteq \mathcal{I}'_\bullet$.

**Lemma** (5.5). Let $R = (\mathcal{I}_\bullet, E, F) \sim R' = (\mathcal{I}'_\bullet, E', F')$ be two equivalent Rees triples.

1. $\text{Supp}(R) = \text{Supp}(R')$.
2. $\text{ord}_x R = \text{ord}_x R'$ for all $x \in \text{Supp}(R)$.
3. $\text{ord}_{F_j} R = \text{ord}_{F'_j} R'$ for all exceptional divisors $F_j$.
4. If $p: X' \to X$ is smooth, then $p^* R = p^* R'$.
5. If $\pi: X' \to X$ is an $R$-admissible blow-up, then $\pi^* R \sim \pi^* R'$.
6. $(\mathcal{I}_\bullet, E + F, \emptyset) \sim (\mathcal{I}'_\bullet, E' + F', \emptyset)$.
7. If $R \subseteq R' \subseteq R''$, and $R \sim R''$, then $R \sim R'$.

**Proof.** (i) If $x \in \text{Supp}(R)$ is a closed point, then the sequence $\text{Bl}_x X \to X$ is admissible. Hence also $x \in \text{Supp}(R')$. It follows that $\text{Supp}(R) = \text{Supp}(R')$.

(ii) and (iii): See appendix.

(iv), (v) and (vi) are obvious.

(vii): Trivially $\text{Supp}(R) \supseteq \text{Supp}(R') \supseteq \text{Supp}(R'')$, but as $R \sim R''$, these are all equal. It follows that test sequences of length 1 for $R$ and $R'$ are equal. As the inclusions are preserved under transformations, it follows that $R \sim R'$. \(\square\)
If $R$ and $R'$ are only weakly equivalent, then everything except $\ord_{F_j}R = \ord_{F_j}R'$ holds.

5.6. Integral closure of Rees algebras.

**Definition (5.6).** Let $\mathcal{I}_a$ be a Rees algebra. We let $\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$ be the integral closure of $\mathcal{I}_a$ in $\mathcal{O}_X[t]$. We say that $\mathcal{I}_a$ is integrally closed if $\mathcal{I}_a = \text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$.

**Lemma (5.7).** The $\mathcal{O}_X$-algebra $\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$ is an integrally closed Rees algebra.

**Proof.** It is well-known that the integral closure of a graded ring is graded [Bou64, p. 30] (high-tech reason: integral closure commutes with smooth morphisms and a $\mathbb{Z}$-grading is equivalent to a $\mathbb{G}_m$-action). The non-obvious fact is that $\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$ is finitely generated.

The question is local on $X$ so we may assume that $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ and that $X$ is connected with fraction field $K$. Since $X$ is smooth, $X$ is normal so that $\mathcal{O}_X[t] \subseteq K(t)$ is integrally closed. Thus, $\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$ is the integral closure of $\mathcal{I}_a$ in $K(t)$.

Next, we note that $\mathcal{I}_a$ is an integral domain as $\mathcal{I}_a \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X[t] \subseteq K[t]$. Let $L$ denote the fraction field of $\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$. If $\mathcal{I}_a = \mathcal{O}_X$ then IC($\mathcal{I}_a$) = $\mathcal{I}_a = \mathcal{O}_X$ and the result is clear. Otherwise, there exists $(f, m) \in \mathcal{I}_a$ with $m \geq 1$. After inverting $(f, m)$ and $(f, 1)$ we have the function $t^m$ so $K(t^m) \subseteq L \subseteq K(t)$.

Thus $K(t)/L$ is a finite field extension and since $\text{Spec}_X(\mathcal{I}_a)$ is of finite type over $\text{Spec}(k)$, the integral closure of $\mathcal{I}_a$ in $K(t)$ is finitely generated. □

**Definition (5.8).** We say that two Rees algebras $\mathcal{I}_a$ and $\mathcal{J}_a$ are integrally equivalent, written $\mathcal{I}_a \approx \mathcal{J}_a$, if $\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a) = \text{IC}(\mathcal{J}_a)$. Given a Rees triple $R = (\mathcal{I}_a, E, F)$ we let $\text{IC}(R) = (\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a), E, F)$ and write $(\mathcal{I}_a, E, F) \sim (\mathcal{I}_a', E', F')$ if $\mathcal{I}_a \approx \mathcal{I}_a'$, $E = E'$ and $F = F'$.

**Lemma (5.9).** (i) We have that $R \sim \text{IC}(R)$.

(ii) If $\Pi: X_r \to X$ is a test sequence for $R$, then $\Pi^*R \subseteq \Pi^*(\text{IC}(R)) \subseteq \text{IC}(\Pi^*R)$

(iii) If $R \not\approx R'$ then $R \sim R'$.

**Proof.** We will prove (i) and (ii) simultaneously: we need (i) to even define $\Pi^*(\text{IC}(R))$ in (ii). As integral closure commutes with smooth pull-back, it is enough to consider a single admissible or exceptional blow-up. Let $(f, m) \in \text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$. Then there exists some positive integer $d$ and a relation:

$$f^d + a_1f^{d-1} + a_2f^{d-2} + \cdots + a_d = 0$$

with $a_i \in \mathcal{I}_{mi}$. Trivially, $\text{Supp}(\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)) \subseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_a)$. For the reverse inclusion, pick $x \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_a)$. Then $\text{ord}_x(a_i) \geq mi$ and from the relation above it follows that $\text{ord}_x(f) \geq m$. As this holds for any element in $\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a)$ it follows that $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_a) = \text{Supp}(\text{IC}(\mathcal{I}_a))$. Thus, a blow-up is admissible or exceptional for $R$ if and only if it is so for $\text{IC}(R)$.

After an $R$-admissible or $R$-exceptional blow-up $\pi: X' \to X$, the relation is transformed to

$$\pi^*(f, m)^d + \pi^*(a_1, m)\pi^*(f, m)^{d-1} + \pi^*(a_2, 2m)\pi^*(f, m)^{d-2} + \cdots + \pi^*(a_d, dm) = 0$$

so $\pi^*(f) \in \text{IC}(\pi^*\mathcal{I}_a)$ and the inclusion in (ii) follows for test sequences of length 1. After an $R$-exceptional blow-up,
It is thus enough to show that $\pi^* R \sim IC(\pi^* R)$ and we conclude by induction on the length of a test sequence.

(iii) is a direct consequence of (i) since $R \simeq IC(R) = IC(R') \simeq R$. \qed

**Remark (5.10).** Let $I_\bullet^\sharp = \bigoplus_m (\sum_k I_{m+k})t^m$. That is, if $I_\bullet$ is generated by $(f_1, m_1), \ldots, (f_s, m_s)$ then $I_\bullet^\sharp$ is generated by the elements $(f_i, j)$ where $1 \leq j \leq m_i$. Clearly $I_\bullet \sim I_\bullet^\sharp$ as the added elements do not impose any new conditions. Also it is easy to see that $I_\bullet^\sharp \subseteq IC(I_\bullet)$.

A more natural way is to introduce extended Rees algebras. These are finitely generated graded $O_X$-algebras $I_\bullet = \bigoplus I_m t^m \subseteq O_X[t, t^{-1}]$ such that $I_m = O_X$ for $m \leq 0$. In particular, $t^{-1} \in I_\bullet$ so $I_\bullet = I_\bullet^\sharp$. The idealistic filtrations of Kawanoue [Kaw07] (of r.f.g. type) are extended Rees algebras except that the $\mathbb{Z}$-grading is replaced with a $\mathbb{Q}$-grading.

5.7. **Derivatives.** When it comes to derivatives, it is convenient to add all derivatives at once:

$$D(I_\bullet) = \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} \left( \sum_{k \geq 0} D_k(I_{m+k}, m+k) \right) t^m$$

This is indeed a Rees algebra: if $I_\bullet$ is generated by $(f_1, m_1), \ldots, (f_s, m_s)$ and $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ is a regular system of parameters, then $D(I_\bullet)$ is generated by $(\partial^{\alpha} f_i, m_i - |\alpha|)$ for $|\alpha| < m_i$. If $I_\bullet = D(I_\bullet)$ then we say that $I_\bullet$ is differentially closed. In particular, $D(I_\bullet)$ is differentially closed. Similarly, given an snc (or even normal crossings) divisor $F \hookrightarrow X$, we define $D_F(I_\bullet)$ and $D_F$-closed Rees algebras. An important case will be $F = H$ for a smooth (non-exceptional) hypersurface $H$. Note that $D = D_\emptyset$.

Given a Rees triple $R = (I_\bullet, E, F)$, we let $D_F(R) = (D_F(I_\bullet), E, F)$.

**Lemma (5.11).**

(i) We have that $R \sim D_F(R)$.

(ii) If $\Pi: X' \rightarrow X$ is a test sequence for $R$ then $\Pi^* R \subseteq \Pi^* (D_F(R)) \subseteq D_F(\Pi^* R)$

(iii) If $R \sim R'$ then $D_F(R) \sim D_F(R')$.

**Proof.** As with integral closure, we will prove (i) and (ii) simultaneously. We note that $\text{Supp}(I_\bullet) = D_F(\text{Supp}(I_\bullet))$ (§4.1). Thus, any $R$-admissible blow-up is $D_F(R)$-admissible. After one admissible blow-up the inclusion in (ii) holds by the corresponding result for marked ideals (§4.1). For exceptional blow-ups, it is an easy consequence of the transformation rule (2.0.1).

By induction on the length of a test sequence, it follows that $\Pi^* R \sim D_F(\Pi^* R)$ and we conclude that $\Pi^* R \sim \Pi^* (D_F(R))$ so that $R \sim D_F(R)$.

(iii) is an immediate consequence of (i). \qed

**Remark (5.12).** It can be shown that if $I_\bullet \simeq J_\bullet$ then $D(I_\bullet) \simeq D(J_\bullet)$. In fact, the following stronger result $D(IC(I_\bullet)) \subseteq IC(D(I_\bullet)) = IC(D(IC(I_\bullet)))$ holds [Kaw07, Prop. 2.2.3.1, Cor. 2.2.3.2, Cor. 2.3.2.7].

We do not need this. In any case, if $I_\bullet \simeq J_\bullet$, then $I_\bullet \sim J_\bullet$ and so $D(I_\bullet) \sim D(J_\bullet)$ which is what is important for us.
5.8. **Simple Rees algebras.** A Rees algebra $I_\bullet$ such that $\maxord(I_\bullet) = 1$ is called *simple* by Encinas and Villamayor [EV07]. We leave the proof of the following easy lemma as an exercise.

**Lemma (5.13).** Let $I_\bullet$ be such that $\maxord(I_\bullet) \leq 1$. Then $\ord_x D(I_\bullet)$ is either 0 and 1 for every $x \in X$.

This shows that $D$-closed simple Rees algebras behave very similarly to ordinary ideals.

5.9. **Fractions.** Given a Rees algebra $I_\bullet$. Let $0 < m_1 < m_2 < \cdots < m_n \in \mathbb{N}$ be the degrees of a minimal set of generators of $I_\bullet$, that is, $m_i$ belongs to the sequence exactly when $(I_{m_i}, m_i)$ is not in the subalgebra generated by $\sum_{m \geq 0} (I_m, m)$. We let $\Delta(I_\bullet) = \text{lcm}(m_1, m_2, \ldots, m_n)$. If $\Pi$ is a test sequence for $R = (I_\bullet, E, F)$, then clearly $\Delta(\Pi_* I_\bullet) | \Delta(I_\bullet)$. However, $\Delta$ is not preserved under equivalence. The importance of $\Delta$ is that $\ord_x(I_\bullet) \in \Delta$. This also, $I_\bullet \simeq (I_{\Delta}, \Delta)$ so this let us pass between Rees algebras and marked ideals. In most treatments, including [Kol07, BM08, Wol05], the marked ideal $(I_{\Delta}, \Delta)$ is used instead of the Rees algebra $I_\bullet$. Exceptions are [EV07, Kaw07] who use Rees algebras.

Given a Rees algebra $I_\bullet$ and a positive rational number $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ we let $I_{\alpha \bullet} = \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} (I_{\alpha m}, m)$.

We do not necessarily have that $I_{\alpha \beta} \simeq I_{\beta \bullet}$ but at least $I_{\alpha \beta} \simeq I_{\beta \bullet}$ if $I_\bullet \simeq J_\bullet$ and

$$(I_{\Delta}, \Delta)^{p/q} \simeq (I_{\Delta}^p, q \Delta)$$

Note that $\ord_x(I_{\alpha \bullet}) = \alpha \ord_x(I_\bullet)$.

5.10. **Monomial decompositions.** Let $R = (I_\bullet, E, F = \sum_{j=1}^r F_j)$ be a Rees triple. Let $\beta_j = \ord_x(I_\bullet)$. Recall that the $\beta_j$’s are invariants of $I_\bullet$ up to equivalence. The *monomial part* of $R$, denoted $M_F(I_\bullet)$, is the Rees algebra $\prod_{j=1}^r (\mathcal{O}(-F_j), 1)^{\beta_j}$. Explicitly:

$$M_F(I_\bullet)_m = \mathcal{O}(- \sum_j [m \beta_j] F_j)$$

The non-monomial part of $R$, denoted $N_F(I_\bullet)$, is the Rees algebra $I_\bullet / M_F(I_\bullet)$. Explicitly:

$$N_F(I_\bullet)_m = I_m(\sum_j [m \beta_j] F_j)$$

If $I_\bullet \simeq J_\bullet$, then $M_F(I_\bullet) \simeq M_F(J_\bullet)$ and $N_F(I_\bullet) \simeq N_F(J_\bullet)$.

For any sequence of test transformation $\Pi: X' \to X$ for $R = (I_\bullet, E, F)$, we have that $\Pi^* (M_F(I_\bullet)) = M_F(\Pi^*(I_\bullet))$.

6. **Outline of the algorithm**

The main theorem will be a consequence of the following refinement:
Definition (6.1). A basic object $\mathcal{I}$ is a quadruple $(X, \mathcal{I}, E, F = \sum_j F_j)$ where $X$ is a smooth scheme of finite type over a field of characteristic zero and $R = (\mathcal{I}, E, F)$ is a Rees triple, that is, $E$ is an unordered normal crossings divisor and $F$ is an ordered snc divisor such that $E + F$ is a normal crossings divisor.

Theorem (6.2). There is a blow-up sequence functor $\mathcal{BQ}$ defined on all basic objects $\mathcal{I} = (X, \mathcal{I}, E, F = \sum_j F_j)$. It satisfies the following conditions:

(i) The blow-up sequence $\Pi = BQ(X, \mathcal{I}, E, F): X_r \to X$ is $\mathcal{I}$-admissible.
(ii) $BQ(X, \mathcal{I}, E, F) = BQ(X, \mathcal{J}, E, F)$ if $\mathcal{I} \sim \mathcal{J}$.
(iii) $\text{Supp}(\Pi^* \mathcal{I}) = \emptyset$.
(iv) $\Pi$ is an isomorphism over $X \setminus \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I})$.
(v) $\Pi$ is functorial with respect to smooth morphisms and change of fields.
(vi) $\Pi$ is functorial with respect to closed embeddings if $E = F = \emptyset$.

The main theorem is obtained by taking $\mathcal{BP}(X, \mathcal{I}, E) = BQ(X, (\mathcal{I}, 1), E, \emptyset)$.

The algorithm giving Theorem 6.2 consists of the following steps:

(i) If $\dim(X) = 0$, then $V(\mathcal{I})$ is smooth and we are done after the single blow-up with center $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I})$. By induction we may thus assume that $\mathcal{BQ}$ is constructed for triples $(X, \mathcal{I}, E)$ with $\dim(X) < n$. Pick a triple $(X, \mathcal{I}, E)$ with $\dim(X) = n$.
(ii) If $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}) = \emptyset$ we are done.
(iii) If $\mathcal{I}$ is a simple Rees algebra (this means that $\maxord(\mathcal{I}) = 1$), then we replace $\mathcal{I}$ with $D(\mathcal{I})$. After doing this, there is, using that we are in characteristic zero, a smooth hypersurface of maximal contact $H \in I_1$ (locally in the Zariski topology). We first perform a boundary modification that makes $E + H$ a snc divisor. Then we proceed by the blow-up sequence $BQ(H, \mathcal{I}, E|_H)$. Wlodarczyk’s trick proves that this blow-up sequence does not depend on the chosen $H$.
(iv) If $\mathcal{I}$ is not a simple Rees algebra, i.e., $\maxord(\mathcal{I}) > 1$, then $\mathcal{I} \sim \mathcal{I}^\omega \cdot \mathcal{I}_E$ where $\mathcal{I}_E$ is an exceptional Rees algebra. We then proceed by induction on the weak order $\omega = \maxord_{\sigma \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I})} \mathcal{I}_{E^\sigma}$. The weak order is a rational positive number but has bounded denominator.
(v) If the weak order is zero, then $\mathcal{I}$ is exceptional and we can resolve the Rees algebra by blowing up various intersections of the exceptional divisors. Here it is crucial that the $E_i$’s are ordered.
(vi) If the weak order is positive, then we let $\mathcal{I}_E = \mathcal{I}_E + (\mathcal{I}^\omega)^{1/\omega}$. Then $\mathcal{I}_E$ is a simple Rees algebra and we can eliminate $\mathcal{I}_E$ by step (iii). After this elimination, the weak order drops and we are done.

7. Restriction to smooth hypersurfaces (maximal contact)

In general, the support of a marked ideal or a Rees algebra does not commute with restrictions. This is however the case if the Rees algebra is differentially closed (or the marked ideal is $D$-balanced in Kollár’s notation):
Lemma (7.1). Let $H \hookrightarrow X$ be a smooth subvariety and let $\mathcal{I}_*$ be a Rees algebra. Then $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*) \cap H \subseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*|_H)$. If $\mathcal{I}_*$ is differentially closed, then equality holds.

Proof. It is easily verified that if $x \in H$, then $\text{ord}_x(I) \leq \text{ord}_x(I|_H)$. This gives the inclusion. If $\mathcal{I}_*$ is differentially closed, then we have that $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*) = \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_1)$. As $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*|_H) \subseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_1|_H) = \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_1) \cap H$ the equality follows. \hfill $\Box$

Proposition (7.2). Let $\mathcal{I}_*$ be a Rees algebra and let $H \hookrightarrow X$ be a smooth hypersurface such that $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*) \subseteq H$, e.g., $\mathcal{I}_H \subseteq \mathcal{I}_1$. If $D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}_*) = D(\mathcal{I}_*)$ then

(i) $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*) = \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*|_H)$

(ii) If $\pi: \text{Bl}_ZH \to X$ is a blow-up in a smooth center $Z \hookrightarrow X$ such that $Z \subseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*)$ and $H'$ denotes the strict transform of $H$, then $D(-\log H')(\pi^*\mathcal{I}_*) = D(\pi^*\mathcal{I}_*)$.

Proof. Recall that $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*) = \text{Supp}(D(\mathcal{I}_*)) = \text{Supp}(D(\mathcal{I}_*)|_H)$ and that $D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}_*|_H) = D(\mathcal{I}_*|_H)$. Thus (i) follows.

Clearly $D(-\log H')(\pi^*\mathcal{I}_*) \subseteq D(\pi^*\mathcal{I}_*)$. To see the reverse inclusion, choose local coordinates such that $Z = V(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_r) \cap H = V(x_r)$. It is enough to look at the charts $D_+(x_i)$ with $i = 1, 2, \ldots, r-1$ since $D = D_H$ on the last chart. We have that $D(\mathcal{I}_m, m) = D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}_m, m) + (\partial_x, \mathcal{I}_m, m-1)$ and by assumption $(\partial_x, \mathcal{I}_m, m-1) \in D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}_m, m)$. Similarly, we have that

$$D\pi^*(\mathcal{I}_m, m) = D(-\log H')\pi^*(\mathcal{I}_m, m) + \partial_y, \pi^*(\mathcal{I}_m, m)$$

$$= D(-\log H')\pi^*(\mathcal{I}_m, m) + \pi^*(\partial_x, \mathcal{I}_m, m-1)$$

$$\subseteq D(-\log H')\pi^*(\mathcal{I}_m, m) + \pi^*D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}_m, m)$$

$$\subseteq D(-\log H')\pi^*(\mathcal{I}_m, m)$$

where we have used equations (4.1.1) when passing between the first and second row. \hfill $\Box$

Remark (7.3). The proof above is much shorter than Kollár [Kol07, Thm. 3.88] as he does not use an inductive assumption.

Corollary (7.4). Let $\mathcal{I}_*$ be a simple $D$-closed Rees algebra (or merely $D_E$-closed). Let $H \hookrightarrow X$ be a smooth hypersurface such that $\mathcal{I}_H \subseteq \mathcal{I}_1$. Then pushing forward from $H$ to $X$ gives an equivalence between blow-up sequences for $(H, \mathcal{I}_*|_H)$ and blow-up sequences for $(X, \mathcal{I}_*)$.

If in addition $E \hookrightarrow X$ is an snc divisor such that $H + E$ is snc, then pushing forward from $H$ to $X$ gives an equivalence between blow-up sequences for $(H, \mathcal{I}_*|_H, E|_H)$ and blow-up sequences for $(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E)$.

Proof. Note that trivially $D(-\log H)(\mathcal{I}_*) = D(\mathcal{I}_*) = \mathcal{I}_*$. Thus, by the previous proposition, $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*|_H) = \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*)$ so we have an equivalence for blow-up sequences of length 1.

Let $\pi: X' \to X$ be a blow-up with smooth center $Z$ contained in $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*)$. Let $\mathcal{I}'_* = \pi^*\mathcal{I}_*$ and let $H'$ be the strict transform of $H$. Then $\pi^*H = H' + E$ is snc and if locally $H = V(x_r)$ so that $(x_r, 1) \in \mathcal{I}_1$, then $H' = V(y_r)$ and $(y_r, 1) = \pi^*(x_r, 1) \in \mathcal{I}'_1$. In particular, $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}'_*) \subseteq H'$. \hfill $\Box$
By the previous proposition we have that $D(-\log H)(\pi^*I_*) = D(\pi^*I_*)$ and $\text{Supp}(\pi^*I_*) = \text{Supp}(\pi^*I_*|_H)$. We may thus conclude by induction.

If we are given an snc divisor $E$ such that $E + H$ is snc, then a smooth center $Z \hookrightarrow H$ has simple normal crossings with $E$ if and only if it has simple normal crossings with $E + H$. If this happens, then $E' + H'$ is snc where $E'$ denotes the total transform of $E$. \hfill \Box

8. Uniqueness of maximal contact

**Proposition (8.1) (Wlodarczyk), xxx**

9. The algorithm

The algorithm consists of three different steps:

(i) The maximal contact case where the hypersurface of maximal contact is transversal to $E$. (Here we replace $I_*$ with a $D$-closed ideal.)

(ii) The maximal contact case where the hypersurface of maximal contact is not necessary transversal to $E + F$. Then we make a boundary modification.

(iii) The general case which goes by induction on the weak order $\omega_F$. The trivial case $\omega_F = \infty$, is taken care by a single blow-up. To reduce $\omega_F$, one resolves a certain companion Rees algebra which is in the maximal contact case. Finally when $\omega_F = 0$, we are in the monomial case.

**Remark:** Below is an attempt to make things better that didn’t work out. One has to be more clever to get functoriality with respect to smooth morphisms when $E + F \neq \emptyset$.

**Definition (9.1).** Let $E \hookrightarrow X$ be a normal crossings divisor. Let $X_{E,s} = \{x \in X : \text{ord}_x(E) = s\}$. This gives a stratification $X = \bigsqcup_{s=1}^n X_{E,s}$ of $X$ into locally closed smooth subvarieties. Define $s(x)$ such that $x \in X_{E,s(x)}$.

Let $I_*$ be a Rees algebra on $X$. We let $\sigma_{I_*,E}(x) = \dim_k(k(x))/(I_{X_{E,s(x)}} + m_x^2)$.

It can be seen that $\sigma_{I_*,E}$ is a lower semi-continuous function. The integer $m = \sigma_{I_*,E}$ is the maximum number of smooth hypersurfaces $H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_m$ containing $V(I_1)$, locally around $x$, such that $H_1 \cap H_2 \cap \cdots \cap H_m$ is a smooth subvariety of codimension $m$ meeting $E$ transversely at $x$. Such $H_i$’s are hypersurface of maximal contact and $H_1 \cap H_2 \cap \cdots \cap H_m$ acts as a codimension $m$ subvariety of maximal contact.

**Theorem (9.2).** Let $m \leq n$ be integers. Assume that $\mathcal{B}Q$ has been constructed for all triples $(X, I_*, E, F)$ such that $\dim(X) \leq n - m$. There is a blow-up sequence functor $\mathcal{B}Q_m$ defined on all basic objects $(X, I_*, E, F = \sum_j F^j)$ such that

- $\dim(X) \leq n$,
- $\text{maxord}(I_*) \leq 1$, and
- $\sigma_{I_*,F}(x) \geq m$ for all $x \in \text{Supp}(I_*)$.

The blow-up functor $\mathcal{B}Q_m$ has the same properties as $\mathcal{B}Q$ in Theorem (6.2). In particular, it commutes with closed immersions.
Proof. If \( m = 0 \), then we let \( \mathcal{B}Q_0 = \mathcal{B}Q \).

**Case \( E = \emptyset \):** Since \( m \geq 1 \), there exists \( f \in (I_1)_x \) such that \( H_x = V(f) \) is a smooth hypersurface meeting \( H \) transversally. We may thus find an open neighborhood \( x \in U_x \) and lift \( f \) to a section of \( (I_1)(U_x) \) such that \( H_x = V(f) \) is a smooth hypersurface meeting \( F \) transversally. Choose \( H_x \subseteq U_x \) for every \( x \in X \) and let \( X' = \coprod U_x \) for some finite open subcovering. For any other choice of open covering and local hypersurfaces, there is a common refined covering \( X'' \) with \( f_1, f_2 \in \Gamma(X'', J_1) \).

It is thus enough to construct \( \mathcal{B}Q_m \) for basic objects \((X, I_\bullet, \emptyset, F = \sum_j F^j)\) as in the theorem under the additional assumption that there exists a global section \( f \in \Gamma(I_1) \) such that \( H = V(f) \) is a smooth hypersurface meeting \( F \) transversally. However, our construction of \( \mathcal{B}Q_m \) is not allowed to depend on the choice of \( f \).

Note that, since \( F \) and \( H \) meet transversally, \( F|_H = \text{sing} \). We let \( \mathcal{B}Q_m(X, I_\bullet, \emptyset, F) = \mathcal{B}Q_{m-1}(H, D_F(I_\bullet)|_H, \emptyset, F|_H) \). This blow-up sequence is independent of the choice of \( H \) by Section 8.

By construction, \( \mathcal{B}Q_m \) commutes with smooth morphisms. Indeed, \( D_F \) commutes with smooth pull-back and \( H \hookrightarrow X \) is pulled back to a hypersurface of maximal contact defined by an element \( f \in I_1 \).

If \( I \sim_F J \), then \( D_F(I_\bullet) \sim_F D_F(J_\bullet) \) but it need not be possible to find one \( H \) that works for both \( I \) and \( J \) (in particular, it could happen that \( I_1 \neq J_1 \)). However, we have that \( I \sim_F I + J \sim_F J \), so we can assume that \( I \subseteq J \). Then we may choose \( H \) from \( I \) and it also works for \( J \). Then \( I_\bullet|_H \sim_F J_\bullet|_H \).

**Case \( E \neq \emptyset \):** In this case, the hypersurface of maximal contact \( H \) constructed in the previous case need not meet \( E + F \) transversally. We will therefore first do a “boundary” blow-up sequence to make \( \text{Supp}(I_\bullet) \) disjoint from \( E \). There will be new exceptional divisors added to \( F \) in the process but these will all be transverse to \( H \).

Note that \( \maxord(I_E) \leq n \), i.e., \( E \) has at most \( n \)-fold intersections. We begin with resolving \( I_\bullet \) along \( n \)-fold intersections. This means looking at the Rees algebra \( I_\bullet + (I_E, n) \) since \( \text{Supp}(I_\bullet + (I_E, n)) = \text{Supp}(I_\bullet) \cap \text{Supp}(I_E, n) \). Now take the blow-up sequence

\[
\Pi_n = \mathcal{B}Q_m(X, I_\bullet + (I_E, n), \emptyset, F) : X^{(n)} \to X,
\]

let \( F^{(n)} \subseteq X^{(n)} \) denote the exceptional divisor, let \( E^{(n)} = \Pi_n^* E \) be the strict transform and let \( I^{(n)}_\bullet = \Pi_n^* I_\bullet \) be the transform. Then \( \emptyset = \text{Supp}(\Pi_n^*(I_\bullet + (I_E, n))) = \text{Supp}(I^{(n)}_\bullet) \cap \text{Supp}(\Pi_n^*(I_E, n)) \). This means that \( \maxord_{x \in \text{Supp}(I^{(n)}_\bullet)} T^{(n)}_E < n \), i.e., \( \text{Supp}(I^{(n)}_\bullet) \) does not meet \( n \)-fold intersections of \( E^{(n)} \).

Also, for any local hypersurface \( H = V(f) \) given by \( f \in I_1 \) with \( \text{ord}_x(f) = 1 \) we have that \( \text{Supp}(I_\bullet) \subseteq H \) and this holds after any number of admissible blow-ups (where we transform \( H \) as the strict transforms). This means that \( H^{(n)} := \Pi_n^* H = V(f^{(n)}) \) where \((f_1, 1) = \Pi_n^*(f, 1) \subseteq I^{(n)}_1 \) and \( H^{(n)} \) is transverse to \( F^{(n)} \). Thus, we have the blow-up sequence:

\[
\Pi_{n-1} = \mathcal{B}Q_1(X^{(n)}, I^{(n)}_\bullet + (I_E, n - 1), F^{(n)}) : X^{(n-1)} \to X.
\]
We let $F^{(n-1)} \subseteq X^{(n-1)}$ denote the exceptional divisor, which, by definition, includes $\Pi_{n-1}F^{(n)}$. Again, we let $E^{(n-1)} = \Pi_{n-1}E^{(n)}$ be the strict transform and let $\mathcal{I}_{n-1}^{(n)} = \Pi_{n-1}\mathcal{I}_{n-1}^{(n)}$ be the transform. We proceed in this way and obtain a blow-up sequence $\Pi = \Pi_n \circ \Pi_{n-1} \circ \Pi_{n-2} \circ \cdots \circ \Pi_0 : X^{(0)} \to X$. We let $\mathcal{BQ}(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E) = \Pi$. The only thing we have to verify is that all centers have simple normal crossings with the strict transforms of $E$. This follows by the construction since in the sequence $\Pi_k$, all centers are contained in $k$-fold intersections of $E$ and $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*^{(k+1)})$ does not meet $E$ in any $k+1$-fold intersection. \hfill \qed

**Corollary (9.3).** Assume that $\mathcal{BQ}$ has been constructed for all triples $(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E, F)$ such that $\dim(X) < n$. There is a blow-up sequence functor $\mathcal{BQ}_{MC}$ defined on all basic objects $(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E, F = \sum_j F^j)$ such that
- $\dim(X) \leq n$, and
- $\text{maxord}(\mathcal{I}_*) \leq 1$.

The blow-up functor $\mathcal{BQ}_{MC}$ has the same properties as $\mathcal{BQ}$ in Theorem (6.2). In particular, it commutes with closed embeddings when $E = \emptyset$.

**Proof.** Take $\mathcal{BQ}_{MC}(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E, F) = \mathcal{BQ}_1(X, D(\mathcal{I}_*), E + F, \emptyset)$. Note that if $(\mathcal{I}_*, E, F) \sim (\mathcal{I}_*, E', F)$, then $(\mathcal{I}_*, E + F, \emptyset) \sim (\mathcal{I}_*, E' + F, \emptyset)$ and thus also $(D(\mathcal{I}_*), E + F, \emptyset) \sim (D(\mathcal{I}_*), E' + F, \emptyset)$.

**Remark (9.4).** Kollár has a slightly different algorithm which requires that $E = \sum_j E^j$ is snc and ordered. In our terminology, the blow-up sequence for $(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E, \emptyset)$ would start with the blow-up sequences
$$
\mathcal{BQ}_1(E_i, D(\mathcal{I}_*)|_{E_i}, \sum_{j \neq i} E^j|_{E_i}, \emptyset)
$$
for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, r$ and then finally
$$
\mathcal{BQ}_1(X, D(\mathcal{I}_*), \emptyset, F)
$$
where $F$ is the exceptional divisors given by the blow-ups along the $E_i$'s.

**Proof of Theorem (6.2).** If $X = \emptyset$, then there is nothing to prove. Fix an integer $n$ and assume that $\mathcal{BQ}$ has been constructed for all quadruples $(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E, F)$ such that $\dim(X) \leq n$.

**Trivial case** $\omega = \infty$: Let $Z = \{x \in X : \text{ord}_x \mathcal{I}_* = \infty\}$. Then $Z$ is the disjoint union of the connected components of $X$ that are contained in $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*)$. We begin by blowing up $Z$. This replaces $X$ and $Z$ with $X \setminus Z$ and $\emptyset$.

**Companion case** $\omega > 0$: Let $\Delta = \Delta(\mathcal{I}_*) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ be the lcm of the degrees of local generators of $\mathcal{I}_*$. Next, let $\omega = \omega_{\mathcal{I}_*, F} = \text{maxord}_{x \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*)} N_F(\mathcal{I}_*)$. This is be maximal weak order of $\mathcal{I}_*$ with respect to $F$. Recall that $\omega \in \frac{1}{\Delta} \mathbb{N}$ and that this remains valid after transformations ($\S5.9$).

If $\omega > 0$, then let $\mathcal{I}_{\omega} = \mathcal{I}_* + N_F(\mathcal{I}_*)^{1/\omega}$. We then perform the blow-up sequence $\mathcal{BQ}_{MC}(X, \mathcal{I}_{\omega}, E + F, \emptyset)$. Since $\mathcal{I}_* \leq \mathcal{I}_{\omega}$, the sequence is $\mathcal{I}_*$-admissible. After replacing $(X, \mathcal{I}_*, E, F)$ with the transform along this sequence, we have that $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_*) \cap \text{Supp}(N_F(\mathcal{I}_*)^{1/\omega}) = \emptyset$, so maxord $N_F(\mathcal{I}_*) < \omega$. We repeat until $\omega = 0$. 


Monomial case $\omega = 0$: If $\omega = 0$, then $N_F(\mathcal{I}_\bullet) = \mathcal{O}_X[t]$ is the trivial Rees algebra and $\mathcal{I}_\bullet = M_F(\mathcal{I}_\bullet)$ is monomial.

**FUNCTIONALITY AND INVARIANCE UNDER EQUIVALENCE:** Let us verify that the algorithm does not depend on the $F$-similarity class of $\mathcal{I}_\bullet$. If $\mathcal{I}_\bullet \sim_F \mathcal{I}'_\bullet$, then $\omega_{\mathcal{I}_\bullet, N} = \omega_{\mathcal{I}'_\bullet, N}$ and $N_F(\mathcal{I}_\bullet) \sim_F N_F(\mathcal{I}'_\bullet)$ so that $\mathcal{J}_\omega \sim_F \mathcal{J}'_\omega$ [insert reference]. For the monomial case, we note that $\text{ord}_F \mathcal{I}_\bullet = \text{ord}_F \mathcal{I}'_\bullet$.

To see that the algorithm is functorial with respect to closed embeddings when $E = F = \emptyset$, assume that we have a smooth subvariety $X_0 \hookrightarrow X$, $X_0 \neq X$ such that $V(\mathcal{I}_\bullet) \subseteq X_0$. Then maxord $\mathcal{I}_\bullet = 1$ and $\omega = 1$. The algorithm will thus be equal to $\mathcal{BQ}_{MC}(X, \mathcal{J}_\omega, \emptyset, \emptyset)$ which is functorial with respect to closed embeddings. \qed

**APPENDIX A. ORDER OF EQUIVALENT REES TRIPLES**

**Theorem (A.1).** Let $R = (\mathcal{I}_\bullet, E, F)$ and $R' = (\mathcal{J}_\bullet, E', F)$ be weakly equivalent Rees triples. Let $x \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_\bullet) = \text{Supp}(\mathcal{J}_\bullet)$. Then $\text{ord}_x \mathcal{I}_\bullet = \text{ord}_x \mathcal{J}_\bullet$.

**Proof.**

By passing to an open neighborhood we can assume that $Z = \pi$ is smooth and has simple normal crossings with $E+F$. Let $X_1 = X \times \mathbb{A}^1$, $E_1 = X \times \{0\}$, $\Gamma_1 = \pi^{-1}_1(Z)$ and $Z_1 = E_1 \cap \Gamma_1 = Z \times \{0\}$. Let $(\mathcal{I}_\bullet)^{(i)} = \pi^*_i \mathcal{I}_\bullet$. Having constructed $(X_1, \Gamma_i, Z_i)$, we let

1. $\pi_{i+1}: X_{i+1} = \text{Bl}_{Z_i} X_i \to X_i$,
2. $\Gamma_{i+1} \to X_{i+1}$ be the strict transform of $\Gamma_i$,
3. $E_{i+1} = \pi_{i+1}^{-1}(Z_i)$ be the exceptional divisor,
4. $Z_{i+1} = E_{i+1} \cap \Gamma_{i+1}$, and
5. $(\mathcal{I}_\bullet)^{(i+1)} = \pi_{i+1}^* (\mathcal{I}_\bullet)^{(i)}$.

Let $\mu = \text{ord}_x \mathcal{I}_\bullet$. Then, locally, there exists $(f_0, d) \in \mathcal{I}_\bullet$ such that $\text{ord}_Z(f_0) = d\mu$. Let $\pi^*_i(f, d) = (f_i, d)$. Pick local coordinates (at any point of $Z_i$) such that $D_i = (x_1)$, $\Gamma_i = (x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_r)$ and $Z_i = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_r)$. We will prove by induction that $f_i = x_i^{d(\mu - 1)} g_i(x_2, \ldots, x_n)$ where $\text{ord}_Z(g_i) = d\mu$. This is clear for $i = 1$ as $f_1 = f_0$ only depends on $x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_n$. Now, assume that $f_i = x_i^{d(\mu - 1)} g_i(x_2, \ldots, x_n)$. Then it is only the chart $D_i(x_1)$ that contains $\Gamma_{i+1}$. On this chart we have that $D_{i+1} = (y_1)$, $\Gamma_{i+1} = (y_2, y_3, \ldots, y_r)$ and

$$f_{i+1} = y_1^{-d} f_i(y_1, y_1 y_2, y_1 y_3, \ldots, y_1 y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_n)$$

$$= y_1^{-d + d(\mu - 1)} g_i(y_1 y_2, y_1 y_3, \ldots, y_1 y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_n)$$

$$= y_1^{-d + d(\mu - 1) + d\mu} g_i(y_2, y_3, \ldots, y_n)$$

Thus $g_{i+1} = g_i$ has order $d\mu$ at $Z_i$ and the order along $D_i$ is as claimed.

We have thus shown that $\text{ord}_{D_i} (\mathcal{I}_\bullet^{(i)}) = i(\mu - 1)$. In particular, we have that $D_i \subseteq \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I}_\bullet^{(i)})$ if and only if $i(\mu - 1) \geq 1$.

If $i(\mu - 1) \geq 1$, then the blow-up at the divisor $D_i$ is admissible. This is a trivial blow-up in the sense that $X_i$, $Z_i$, $\Gamma_i$ and $D_i$ are left unchanged but $\mathcal{I}_\bullet^{(i)}$ is modified. If we let $p$ denote the blow-up in $D_i$, then $\text{ord}_{D_i} (p^* \mathcal{I}_\bullet^{(i)}) = \text{ord}_{D_i} (\mathcal{I}_\bullet^{(i)})$. 

\footnote{Clash with $E$ in the proof.}
i(\mu - 1) - 1. Similarly, if \(i(\mu - 1) \ge q\), then we may blow-up \(q\) times along \(D_i\) and obtains \(\text{ord}_{D_i}(p^q(I_i^{(i)})) = i(\mu - 1) - q\). This sequence of blow-ups is admissible if and only if \(i(\mu - 1) - q \ge 0\) or equivalently, precisely when

\[ \mu \ge 1 + \frac{q}{i}. \]

By assumption, \(\text{ord}_x I_\bullet, \text{ord}_x J_\bullet \ge 1\). Thus, if \(\text{ord}_x(I_\bullet) > \text{ord}_x(J_\bullet)\), then there exists a sequence of blow-ups that is only admissible for \(I_\bullet\) but not for \(J_\bullet\) and vice versa. \(\square\)

**Theorem (A.2).** Let \(R = (I_\bullet, E, F)\) and \(R' = (J_\bullet, E', F)\) be equivalent Rees triples. Then

- \(\text{ord}_x I_\bullet = \text{ord}_x J_\bullet\) for all \(x \in \text{Supp}(I_\bullet) = \text{Supp}(J_\bullet)\).
- \(\text{ord}_{F_j} I_\bullet = \text{ord}_{H_j} J_\bullet\) for every irreducible component \(F_j\) of \(F\).

**Proof.** (i) follows from the previous theorem.

For (ii), we will proceed as in (i) with \(Z = F^j\). The difference is that \(\text{ord}_{F^j} I_\bullet < 1\) is possible and then the blow-ups are not admissible. However, \(E_i\) and \(\Gamma_i\) are exceptional divisors so \(D_i = E_i \cap \Gamma_i\) is an exceptional center and we can use exceptional blow-ups.

Let \(\mu = \text{ord}_H I_\bullet\). We obtain \(\text{ord}_{D_i}(I_i^{(i)}) = i\mu\). As before, if \(i\mu \ge q\), we may then do an admissible blow-up \(q\) times along \(D_i\) and obtain a blow-up sequence which is a test sequence if and only if \(i\mu \ge q\), or equivalently, if and only if \(\mu \ge \frac{q}{i}\). Thus, \(\text{ord}_H I_\bullet = \text{ord}_H J_\bullet\). \(\square\)

**References**


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3 Clash with \(E\) in the proof.