

# Applications of the Quillen-Suslin theorem to multidimensional systems theory

Anna Fabiańska and Alban Quadrat

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## 1 Introduction

In 1784, Monge studied the integration of certain *underdetermined* nonlinear systems of ordinary differential equations, namely, systems containing more unknown functions than differentially independent equations ([29]). He showed how the solutions of these systems could be parametrized by means of a certain number of arbitrary functions of the independent variable. This problem was called *the Monge problem* and it was studied by famous mathematicians such as Hadamard, Hilbert, Cartan and Goursat. In particular, motivated by problems coming from linear elasticity theory, Hadamard considered the case of linear ordinary differential equations and Goursat investigated underdetermined systems of partial differential equations. We refer the reader to [29] for a historical account on the Monge problem and for the main references.

Within the *algebraic analysis* approach ([2, 21, 28, 33]), the Monge problem was recently studied for underdetermined systems of linear partial differential equations in [21, 33, 42, 43, 44] and for linear functional systems in [5, 6] (e. g., differential time-delay systems, discrete systems). Depending on the algebraic properties of a

certain module  $M$  defined over a ring  $D$  of functional operators and intrinsically associated with the linear functional system, we can prove or disprove the existence of different kinds of parametrizations of the system (i. e., minimal parametrizations, non-minimal parametrizations, chains of successive parametrizations). Constructive algorithms for checking these algebraic properties (i. e., torsion, existence of torsion elements, torsion-free, reflexive, projective, stably free, free) and computing the different parametrizations were recently developed in [5, 42, 43, 44], implemented in the package OREMODULES ([5, 6]) and illustrated on numerous examples coming from mathematical physics and control theory ([5, 6]). Finally, we proved in [5, 42, 43, 44] how the Monge problem gave answers for the search of *potentials* in mathematical physics and *image representations* in control theory ([39, 40, 62, 63]).

The last results show that the Monge problem is constructively solved for certain classes of linear functional systems up to a last but important point: we can check whether or not a linear functional system admits injective parametrizations but we are generally not able to compute one even if some heuristic methods were presented in [5, 42, 43]. Indeed, the existence of injective parametrizations for a linear functional system was proved to be equivalent to the freeness of the corresponding module  $M$ . In the case of a linear functional system with constant coefficients, the corresponding ring  $D$  of functional operators is a commutative polynomial ring over a field  $k$  of constants. Using the famous Quillen-Suslin theorem ([52, 55]), also known as Serre's conjecture ([23, 24]), we then know that free  $D$ -modules are projective ones. Using Gröbner or Janet bases ([5, 10, 42]), we can check whether or not a module over a commutative polynomial ring is projective. See [3, 10, 20] and the references therein for introductions to Janet and Gröbner bases. Hence, we can constructively prove the existence of an injective parametrization for a linear functional system. However, we need to use a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem ([15, 19, 22, 26, 27, 35, 58, 59]) to get injective parametrizations of the corresponding system.

The main purpose of this paper is to recall a general algorithm for computing bases of a free module over a commutative polynomial ring, give four new applications of the Quillen-Suslin theorem to mathematical systems theory and demonstrate the implementation of the QUILLENUSUSLIN package ([12]) developed in the computer algebra system MAPLE. To our knowledge, the QUILLENUSUSLIN package is the first package available which performs bases computations of free modules over a commutative polynomial ring with rational and integer coefficients and is dedicated to different applications coming from the mathematical systems theory.

More precisely, the plan of the paper is the following one. In the second section, we recall how the structural properties of linear functional systems can be constructively studied within the algebraic analysis approach as well as different results on the Monge problem. A constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem, which is the main tool we use in the paper, is presented in the third section and the implementation is illustrated on many examples in the appendix of the paper. We also describe some heuristic methods that highly simplify the computation of a basis of a free module over polynomial rings in certain special cases. The constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem and, in particular the patching procedure, gives us the opportunity to make a new observation concerning linear functional systems which admit injective parametrizations also called *flat multidimensional systems* in mathematical systems theory. In the

fourth section, we prove that a flat multidimensional system is algebraically equivalent to a 1-D flat linear system obtained by setting all but one functional operator to zero in the system matrix. This result gives an answer to a natural question on flat multidimensional systems. In particular, we prove that every flat differential time-delay system is algebraically equivalent to the differential system without delays, namely, the system obtained by setting to zero all the time-delay amplitudes. In the fifth section, we consider a generalization of Serre's conjecture. We recall that Serre's conjecture, also known as the Quillen-Suslin theorem, can be expressed in the language of matrices as follows: every matrix  $R$  over a commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  whose maximal minors generate  $D$  (*unimodular matrix*) can be completed to a square invertible matrix over  $D$  (i. e., its determinant is a non-zero element of the field  $k$ ). The generalization, stated by Lin and Bose in [25] and first proved by Pommaret in [41] by means of algebraic analysis, can be formulated as the possibility of completing a matrix  $R$  whose maximal minors divided by their greatest common divisor  $d$  generate  $D$  to a square polynomial matrix whose determinant equals  $d$ . Serre's conjecture is then the special case where  $d = 1$ . Using the Quillen-Suslin theorem, we give a constructive algorithm for computing such a completion. Using the possibility of computing bases of a free module in our implementation QUILLENUSUSLIN, this algorithm has been implemented in this package. In the sixth section, we study the existence of (weakly) left-/right-coprime factorizations of rational transfer matrices using recent results developed in [48]. We give algorithms for computing such factorizations using the constructive versions of the Quillen-Suslin theorem. These results constructively solve open questions in the literature of multidimensional linear systems (see [60, 61] and the references therein). Finally, we show that the constructive Quillen-Suslin theorem also plays an important role in the decomposition problem of linear functional systems studied in the literature of symbolic computation. See [8] and the references therein for more details. The main idea is to transform the system matrix into an equivalent block-triangular or a block-diagonal form ([8, 9]).

The different algorithms presented in the paper have been implemented in the package QUILLENUSUSLIN based on the library INVOLUTIVE ([3]) (an OREMODULES ([6]) version will soon be available). The appendix illustrates the main procedures of the QUILLENUSUSLIN package on different examples taken from the literature ([19, 22, 37, 58]). The package QUILLENUSUSLIN also contains a completion algorithm for unimodular matrices over Laurent polynomial rings described in [34, 37]. See also [1] for a recent algorithm. In [37], Park explains the importance and the meaning of the completion problem of unimodular matrices over Laurent polynomial rings to signal processing and gives an algorithm for translating this problem into a polynomial case. Park's results can also be used for computing flat outputs of  $\delta$ -flat multidimensional linear systems ([30, 31]). See [5] for another constructive algorithm and [6] for illustrations on different explicit examples.

**Notation.** In what follows, we shall denote by  $k$  a field,  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  a commutative polynomial ring with coefficients in  $k$ ,  $D^{1 \times p}$  the  $D$ -module formed by the row vectors of length  $p$  with entries in  $D$  and  $D^{q \times p}$  the set of  $q \times p$ -matrices with entries in  $D$ .  $\mathcal{F}$  will always denote a  $D$ -module. We denote by  $R^T$  the transpose of the matrix  $R$  and by  $I_p$  the  $p \times p$  identity matrix. Finally, the symbol  $\triangleq$  means "by definition".

## 2 A module-theoretic approach to systems theory

Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a commutative polynomial ring over a field  $k$  and  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ . We recall that a matrix  $R$  is said to have *full row rank* if the *first syzygy module* of the  $D$ -module  $D^{1 \times q} R$  formed by the  $D$ -linear combinations of the rows of  $R$ , namely,

$$\ker_D(\cdot R) \triangleq \{\lambda \in D^{1 \times p} \mid \lambda R = 0\},$$

is reduced to 0. In other words,  $\lambda R = 0$  implies  $\lambda = 0$ , i. e., the rows of  $R$  are  $D$ -linearly independent.

The following definitions of *primeness* are classical in systems theory.

**Definition 2.1** [32, 59, 63] Let  $D = \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a commutative polynomial ring,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  a full row rank matrix,  $J$  the ideal generated by the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$  and  $V(J)$  the algebraic variety defined by

$$V(J) = \{\xi \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid P(\xi) = 0, \forall P \in J\}.$$

1.  $R$  is called *minor left-prime* if  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V(J) \leq n - 2$ , i. e., the greatest common divisor of the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$  is 1.
2.  $R$  is called *weakly zero left-prime* if  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V(J) \leq 0$ , i. e., the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$  may only vanish simultaneously in a finite number of points of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .
3.  $R$  is called *zero left-prime* if  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V(J) = -1$ , i. e., the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$  do not vanish simultaneously in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

The previous classification plays an important role in multidimensional systems theory. See [32, 59, 63] and the references therein for more details.

The purpose of this section is twofold. We first recall how we can generalize the previous classification for general multidimensional linear systems, i. e., systems which are not necessarily defined by full row rank matrices. We also explain the duality existing between the *behavioural approach* to multidimensional systems ([32, 39, 62, 63]) and the *module-theoretic one* ([42, 43, 44]). See also [62] for a nice introduction.

In what follows,  $D$  will denote a commutative polynomial ring with coefficients in a field  $k$ . In particular, we shall be interested in commutative polynomial rings of functional operators such as partial differential operators, differential time-delay operators or shift operators. Let us consider a matrix  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  and a  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$ , namely

$$\forall f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \forall a_1, a_2 \in D : \quad a_1 f_1 + a_2 f_2 \in \mathcal{F}.$$

If we define the following  $D$ -morphism, namely,  $D$ -linear map,

$$\begin{aligned} \cdot R : D^{1 \times q} &\xrightarrow{\cdot R} D^{1 \times p}, \\ \lambda = (\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_q) &\longmapsto (\cdot R)(\lambda) = \lambda R, \end{aligned}$$

where  $D^{1 \times p}$  denotes the  $D$ -module of row vectors of length  $p$  with entries in  $D$ , then the cokernel of the  $D$ -morphism  $.R$  is defined by

$$M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R).$$

The  $D$ -module  $M$  is said to be presented by  $R$  or simply *finitely presented* ([5, 53]). Moreover, we can also define the *system* or *behaviour* as follows:

$$\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.) \triangleq \{\eta \in \mathcal{F}^p \mid R\eta = 0\}.$$

As it was noticed by Malgrange in [28], the  $D$ -module  $M$  and the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  are closely related. As this relation will play an important role in what follows, we shall explain it in details. In order to do that, let us first introduce a few classical definitions of homological algebra. We refer the reader to [53] for more details.

**Definition 2.2** 1. A sequence  $(M_i, d_i : M_i \longrightarrow M_{i-1})_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  of  $D$ -modules  $M_i$  and  $D$ -morphisms  $d_i : M_i \longrightarrow M_{i-1}$  is a *complex* if we have

$$\forall i \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \text{im } d_i \subseteq \ker d_{i-1}.$$

We denote the previous complex by

$$\dots \xrightarrow{d_{i+2}} M_{i+1} \xrightarrow{d_{i+1}} M_i \xrightarrow{d_i} M_{i-1} \xrightarrow{d_{i-1}} \dots \quad (2.1)$$

2. The *defect of exactness of the complex (2.1) at  $M_i$*  is defined by

$$H(M_i) = \ker d_i / \text{im } d_{i+1}.$$

3. The complex (2.1) is said to be *exact at  $M_i$*  if we have

$$H(M_i) = 0 \quad \iff \quad \ker d_i = \text{im } d_{i+1}.$$

4. The complex (2.1) is *exact* if

$$\forall i \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \ker d_i = \text{im } d_{i+1}.$$

5. The complex (2.1) is a *split exact sequence* if (2.1) is exact and if there exist  $D$ -morphisms  $s_i : M_{i-1} \longrightarrow M_i$  satisfying the following conditions:

$$\forall i \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \begin{cases} s_{i+1} \circ s_i = 0, \\ s_i \circ d_i + d_{i+1} \circ s_{i+1} = \text{id}_{M_i}. \end{cases}$$

6. A *finite free resolution* of a  $D$ -module  $M$  is an exact sequence of the form

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times p_m} \xrightarrow{.R_m} \dots \xrightarrow{.R_2} D^{1 \times p_1} \xrightarrow{.R_1} D^{1 \times p_0} \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $p_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+ = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ ,  $R_i \in D^{p_i \times p_{i-1}}$ , and the  $D$ -morphism  $.R_i$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} .R_i : D^{1 \times p_i} &\longrightarrow D^{1 \times p_{i-1}} \\ \lambda &\longmapsto (.R_i)(\lambda) = \lambda R_i. \end{aligned}$$

The next classical result of homological algebra will play a crucial role in what follows.

**Theorem 2.3** [53] *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a  $D$ -module,  $M$  a  $D$ -module and (2.2) a finite free resolution of  $M$ . Then, the defects of exactness of the following complex*

$$\dots \xleftarrow{R_3} \mathcal{F}^{p_2} \xleftarrow{R_2} \mathcal{F}^{p_1} \xleftarrow{R_1} \mathcal{F}^{p_0} \longleftarrow 0, \quad (2.3)$$

where the  $D$ -morphism  $R_i \cdot : \mathcal{F}^{p_{i-1}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}^{p_i}$  is defined by

$$\forall \eta \in \mathcal{F}^{p_{i-1}}, \quad (R_i \cdot)(\eta) = R_i \eta,$$

only depend on the  $D$ -modules  $M$  and  $\mathcal{F}$ . Up to an isomorphism, we denote these defects of exactness by

$$\begin{cases} \text{ext}_D^0(M, \mathcal{F}) \cong \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R_1 \cdot), \\ \text{ext}_D^i(M, \mathcal{F}) \cong \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R_{i+1} \cdot) / (R_i \mathcal{F}^{p_i}), \quad i \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Finally, we have  $\text{ext}_D^0(M, \mathcal{F}) = \text{hom}_D(M, \mathcal{F})$ , where  $\text{hom}_D(M, \mathcal{F})$  denotes the  $D$ -module of  $D$ -morphisms from  $M$  to  $\mathcal{F}$ .

We refer the reader to Example 5.3 for explicit computations of  $\text{ext}_D^i(N, D)$ ,  $i \geq 0$ .

Coming back to the  $D$ -module  $M$ , we have the following beginning of a finite free resolution of  $M$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{R} & D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0, \\ \lambda & \longmapsto & \lambda R \end{array} \quad (2.4)$$

where  $\pi$  denotes the  $D$ -morphism which sends elements of  $D^{1 \times p}$  to their residue classes in  $M$ . If we “apply the left-exact contravariant functor”  $\text{hom}_D(\cdot, \mathcal{F})$  to (2.4) (see [53] for more details), by Theorem 2.3, we obtain the following exact sequence:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathcal{F}^q & \xleftarrow{R} & \mathcal{F}^p & \longleftarrow & \text{hom}_D(M, \mathcal{F}) & \longleftarrow & 0. \\ R\eta & \longleftarrow & \eta & & & & \end{array}$$

This implies the following important isomorphism ([28]):

$$\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R \cdot) = \{\eta \in \mathcal{F}^p \mid R\eta = 0\} \cong \text{hom}_D(M, \mathcal{F}). \quad (2.5)$$

For more details, see [5, 28, 32, 44, 62] and the references therein. In particular, (2.5) gives an intrinsic characterization of the  $\mathcal{F}$ -solutions of the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R \cdot)$ . It only depends on two mathematical objects:

1. The finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M$  which algebraically represents the linear functional system.
2. The  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$  which represents the “functional space” where we seek the solutions of the system.

If  $D$  is now a ring of functional operators (e. g., differential operators, time-delay operators, difference operators), then the issue of understanding which  $\mathcal{F}$  is suitable for a particular linear system has long been studied in functional analysis and is still nowadays a very active subject of research. It does not seem that constructive algebra and symbolic computation can propose new methods to handle this functional analysis problem. However, they are very useful for classifying  $\text{hom}_D(M, \mathcal{F})$  by means of the algebraic properties of the  $D$ -module  $M$ . Indeed, a large classification of the properties of modules is developed in module theory and homological algebra. See [53] for more information. Let us recall a few of them.

**Definition 2.4** [53] Let  $D$  be a commutative polynomial ring with coefficients in a field  $k$  and  $M$  a finitely presented  $D$ -module. Then, we have

1.  $M$  is said to be *free* if it is isomorphic to  $D^{1 \times r}$  for a non-negative integer  $r$ , i. e.,

$$M \cong D^{1 \times r}, \quad r \in \mathbb{Z}_+ = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}.$$

2.  $M$  is said to be *stably free* if there exist two non-negative integers  $r$  and  $s$  such that

$$M \oplus D^{1 \times s} \cong D^{1 \times r}.$$

3.  $M$  is said to be *projective* if there exist a  $D$ -module  $P$  and non-negative integer  $r$  such that

$$M \oplus P \cong D^{1 \times r}.$$

4.  $M$  is said to be *reflexive* if the canonical map

$$\varepsilon_M : M \longrightarrow \text{hom}_D(\text{hom}_D(M, D), D),$$

defined by

$$\forall m \in M, \forall f \in \text{hom}_D(M, D) : \varepsilon_M(m)(f) = f(m),$$

is an isomorphism, where  $\text{hom}_D(M, D)$  denotes the  $D$ -module of  $D$ -morphisms from  $M$  to  $D$ .

5.  $M$  is said to be *torsion-free* if the submodule of  $M$  defined by

$$t(M) = \{m \in M \mid \exists 0 \neq P \in D : Pm = 0\}$$

is reduced to the zero module.  $t(M)$  is called the *torsion submodule* of  $M$  and the elements of  $t(M)$  are the *torsion elements* of  $M$ .

6.  $M$  is said to be *torsion* if  $t(M) = M$ , i. e., every element of  $M$  is a torsion element.

Let  $K = Q(D) = k(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be the *quotient field* of  $D$  ([53]) and  $M$  a finitely presented  $D$ -module. We call the *rank* of  $M$  over  $D$ , denoted by  $\text{rank}_D(M)$ , the dimension of the  $K$ -vector space  $K \otimes_D M$  obtained by extending the scalars of  $M$  from  $D$  to  $K$ , i. e.,

$$\text{rank}_D(M) = \dim_K(K \otimes_D M).$$

We can check that if  $M$  is a torsion  $D$ -module, we then have  $K \otimes_D M = 0$ , a fact implying  $\text{rank}_D(M) = 0$ . See [53] for more details.

Let us recall a few results about the notions previously introduced in Definition 2.4.

**Theorem 2.5** [53] *Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a commutative polynomial ring with coefficients in a field  $k$ . We have the following results:*

1. *We have the implications among the previous concepts:*

$$\text{free} \implies \text{stably free} \implies \text{projective} \implies \text{reflexive} \implies \text{torsion-free}.$$

2. *If  $D = k[x_1]$ , then  $D$  is a principal ideal domain – namely, every ideal of  $D$  is principal, i. e., it can be generated by one element of  $D$  – and every finitely generated torsion-free  $D$ -module is free.*
3. (Serre theorem [10]) *Every projective module over  $D$  is stably free.*
4. (Quillen-Suslin theorem [52, 55]) *Every projective module over  $D$  is free.*

The famous Quillen-Suslin theorem will play an important role in what follows. We refer to [23, 24] for the best introductions nowadays available on this subject.

The next theorem gives some characterizations of the definitions given in Definition 2.4.

**Theorem 2.6** [5, 33, 44] *Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a commutative polynomial ring over a field  $k$ ,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  and the finitely presented  $D$ -modules*

$$M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R), \quad N = D^{1 \times q} / (D^{1 \times p} R^T).$$

*We then have the equivalences between the first two columns of Figure 2.1.*

Combining the results of Theorem 2.6 and the Quillen-Suslin theorem (see 4 of Theorem 2.5), we then obtain a way to check whether or not a finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M$  has some torsion elements or is torsion-free, reflexive, projective, stably free or free. We point out that the explicit computation of  $\text{ext}_D^i(N, D)$  can always be done using Gröbner or Janet bases. See [5, 42, 43] for more details and for the description of the corresponding algorithms. We also refer the reader to [4, 6] for the library OREMODULES in which the different algorithms were implemented as well as to the large library of examples of OREMODULES which illustrates them. Finally, see also [3, 10, 20] and the references therein for an introduction to Gröbner and Janet bases.

**Remark 2.7** The  $D$ -module  $N = D^{1 \times q} / (D^{1 \times p} R^T)$  is called the *transposed module* of  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  even if  $N$  depends on  $M$  only up to a *projective equivalence* ([45]), namely, if  $M = D^{1 \times r} / (D^{1 \times s} R')$  and  $N' = D^{1 \times s} / (D^{1 \times r} R'^T)$ , then there exist two projective  $D$ -modules  $P$  and  $P'$  such that  $N \oplus P \cong N' \oplus P'$  ([53]). However, for every  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$ , we have  $\text{ext}_D^i(N \oplus P, \mathcal{F}) \cong \text{ext}_D^i(N, \mathcal{F}) \oplus \text{ext}_D^i(P, \mathcal{F})$  and, for  $i \geq 1$ ,  $\text{ext}_D^i(P, \mathcal{F}) = 0$  because  $P$  is a projective  $D$ -module ([53]). Hence, we then get  $\text{ext}_D^i(N, \mathcal{F}) \cong \text{ext}_D^i(N', \mathcal{F})$ , for  $i \geq 1$ . Hence, the results of Theorem 2.6 do not depend on the choice of a presentation of  $M$ , i. e., on  $R$ . In what follows, we shall sometimes denote  $N$  by  $T(M)$ .



In order to explain why the definitions given in Definition 2.4 extend the concepts of primeness defined in Definition 2.1, we first need to introduce some more definitions ([2]).

**Definition 2.8** 1. If  $M$  is a non-zero finitely presented  $D$ -module, then the *grade*  $j_D(M)$  of  $M$  is defined by

$$j_D(M) = \min \{i \geq 0 \mid \text{ext}_D^i(M, D) \neq 0\}.$$

2. If  $M$  is a non-zero finitely presented  $D$ -module, the *dimension*  $\dim_D(M)$  of  $M$  is defined by

$$\dim_D(M) = \text{Kdim}(D/\sqrt{\text{ann}_D(M)}),$$

where  $\text{Kdim}$  denotes the *Krull dimension* ([53]) and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ann}_D(M) &= \{a \in D \mid aM = 0\}, \\ \sqrt{\text{ann}_D(M)} &= \{a \in D \mid \exists l \in \mathbb{Z}_+ : a^l M = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

We are now in position to state an important result.

**Theorem 2.9** [2, 33] *If  $M$  is a non-zero finitely presented  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module, where  $k$  is a field containing  $\mathbb{Q}$ , we then have*

$$j_D(M) + \dim_D(M) = n.$$

Let us suppose that  $R$  has full row rank and let us consider the finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q} R)$ . Using the notations of Definition 2.1 and the fact that

$$\dim_D(N) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V(J),$$

where  $N = T(M) = D^{1 \times q}/(D^{1 \times p} R^T)$  is then a torsion  $D$ -module, i. e., it satisfies  $\text{ext}_D^0(M, D) = \text{hom}_D(M, D) = 0$ , by Theorem 2.9, we then obtain

$$j_D(N) = n - \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V(J) \geq 1.$$

Hence, by Theorems 2.6 and 2.9, we obtain that  $R$  is minor left-prime (resp., zero left-prime) iff the  $D$ -module  $M$  is torsion-free (resp., projective, i. e., free by the Quillen-Suslin theorem stated in 4 of Theorem 2.5). See [44] for more details and the extension of these results to the case of non-commutative rings of differential operators.

We finally obtain the table given in Figure 2.1 which sums up the different results previously obtained. We note that the last two columns of this table only hold when the matrix  $R$  has full row rank.

To finish, we explain what the system interpretations of the definitions given in Definition 2.4 are. In particular, these interpretations solve the Monge problem stated in the introduction of the paper. In order to do that, we also need to introduce a few more definitions (see, e. g., [53]).

<b>Module <math>M</math></b>	$\mathbf{ext}_D^i(N, D)$	$\dim_D(N)$	<b>Primeness</b>
<b>With torsion</b>	$t(M) \cong \mathbf{ext}_D^1(N, D)$	$n - 1$	$\emptyset$
<b>Torsion-free</b>	$\mathbf{ext}_D^1(N, D) = 0$	$n - 2$	Minor left-prime
<b>Reflexive</b>	$\mathbf{ext}_D^i(N, D) = 0,$ $i = 1, 2$	$n - 3$	
...	...	...	...
...	$\mathbf{ext}_D^i(N, D) = 0,$ $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$	0	Weakly zero left-prime
<b>Projective</b>	$\mathbf{ext}_D^i(N, D) = 0,$ $1 \leq i \leq n$	-1	Zero left-prime

**Figure 2.1** Classification of some module properties

- Definition 2.10** 1. A  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$  is called *injective* if, for every  $D$ -module  $M$ , and, for all  $i \geq 1$ , we have  $\text{ext}_D^i(M, \mathcal{F}) = 0$ .
2. A  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$  is called *cogenerator* if, for every  $D$ -module  $M$ , we have

$$\text{hom}_D(M, \mathcal{F}) = 0 \implies M = 0.$$

Roughly speaking, an injective cogenerator is a space rich enough for seeking solutions of linear systems of the form  $R\eta = 0$ , where  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  is any matrix and  $\eta \in \mathcal{F}^p$ . In particular, using (2.5), if  $\mathcal{F}$  is a cogenerator  $D$ -module and  $M \neq 0$ , then  $\text{hom}_D(M, \mathcal{F}) \neq 0$ , meaning that the corresponding system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is not trivial. Finally, if  $\mathcal{F}$  is an injective cogenerator  $D$ -module, then we can prove that any complex of the form (2.3) is exact at  $\mathcal{F}^{p_i}$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , if and only if the corresponding complex (2.2) is exact. See [32, 39, 62] and the references therein for more details.

The following result proves that there always exists an injective cogenerator.

**Theorem 2.11** [53] *An injective cogenerator  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$  exists for every ring  $D$ .*

Let us give important examples of injective cogenerator modules.

**Example 2.12** If  $\Omega$  is an open convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then the space  $C^\infty(\Omega)$  (resp.,  $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ ) of smooth real functions (resp., real distributions) on  $\Omega$  is an injective cogenerator module over the ring  $\mathbb{R}[\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n]$  of differential operators with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R}$ , where we have denoted by  $\partial_i = \partial/\partial x_i$  ([32, 28, 39]).

**Example 2.13** Let  $k$  be a field,  $\mathcal{F} = k^{\mathbb{Z}_+^n}$  be the set of sequences with values in  $k$  and  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be the ring of *shift operators*, namely,

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{F}, i = 1, \dots, n, \quad (x_i f)(\mu) = f(\mu + 1_i),$$

where  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$  and  $\mu + 1_i = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_{i-1}, \mu_i + 1, \mu_{i+1}, \dots, \mu_n)$ . Then,  $\mathcal{F}$  is an injective  $D$ -module ([32, 62]).

We have the following important corollary of Theorem 2.6 which solves the Monge problem in the case of linear functional systems with constant coefficients. See [64] and the references therein and the introduction of the paper.

**Corollary 2.14** [5, 42] *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an injective cogenerator  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  and  $M = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q} R)$ . Then, we have the following results:*

1. *There exists  $Q_1 \in D^{q_1 \times q_2}$ , where  $p = q_1$ , such that we have the exact sequence*

$$\mathcal{F}^q \xleftarrow{R.} \mathcal{F}^{q_1} \xleftarrow{Q_1.} \mathcal{F}^{q_2},$$

*i. e.,  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.) = Q_1 \mathcal{F}^{q_2}$ , iff the  $D$ -module  $M$  is torsion-free.*

2. *There exist  $Q_1 \in D^{q_1 \times q_2}$  and  $Q_2 \in D^{q_2 \times q_3}$  such that we have the exact sequence*

$$\mathcal{F}^q \xleftarrow{R.} \mathcal{F}^{q_1} \xleftarrow{Q_1.} \mathcal{F}^{q_2} \xleftarrow{Q_2.} \mathcal{F}^{q_3},$$

*i. e.,  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.) = Q_1 \mathcal{F}^{q_2}$  and  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1.) = Q_2 \mathcal{F}^{q_3}$ , iff the  $D$ -module  $M$  is reflexive.*

3. There exists a chain of  $n$  successive parametrizations, namely, for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , there exist  $Q_i \in D^{q_i \times q_{i+1}}$  such that we have the following exact sequence

$$\mathcal{F}^q \xleftarrow{R} \mathcal{F}^{q_1} \xleftarrow{Q_1} \dots \xleftarrow{Q_{n-1}} \mathcal{F}^{q_n} \xleftarrow{Q_n} \mathcal{F}^{q_{n+1}},$$

i. e.,  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R) = Q_1 \mathcal{F}^{q_2}$  and  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_i) = Q_{i+1} \mathcal{F}^{q_{i+1}}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n-1$ , iff the  $D$ -module  $M$  is projective.

4. There exist  $Q \in D^{p \times m}$  and  $T \in D^{m \times p}$  such that  $TQ = I_m$  and the sequence

$$\mathcal{F}^q \xleftarrow{R} \mathcal{F}^p \xleftarrow{Q} \mathcal{F}^m \longleftarrow 0, \quad (2.6)$$

is exact, i. e.,  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R) = Q \mathcal{F}^m$ , and iff the  $D$ -module  $M$  is free.

We refer the reader to [5, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50] for the solutions of the Monge problem for different classes of linear functional systems with variables coefficients such as partial differential, differential time-delay or difference equations.

The matrices  $Q_i$  defined in Corollary 2.14 are called *parametrizations* ([5, 42, 43, 44]). Indeed, from 1 of Corollary 2.14, if  $M$  is torsion-free, then there exists a matrix of operators  $Q_1 \in D^{q_1 \times q_2}$  which satisfies  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R) = Q_1 \mathcal{F}^{q_2}$ . This means that every solution  $\eta \in \mathcal{F}^p$  satisfying  $R\eta = 0$  is of the form  $\eta = Q_1 \xi$  for a certain  $\xi \in \mathcal{F}^{q_2}$ . In the *behaviour approach* ([40]), the parametrization is called an *image representation* of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$  ([39, 62, 63]). We point out that the parametrizations  $Q_i$  are obtained by computing  $\text{ext}_D^i(N, D)$  (see Theorem 2.6). Hence, checking whether or not a  $D$ -module is torsion-free, reflexive or projective gives the corresponding successive parametrizations. We refer to [5, 42, 43, 44] for more details, the extension of the previous results to non-commutative algebras of functional operators and the implementation of the corresponding algorithms in the library OREMODULES. Finally, the matrix  $Q$  defined in 4 of Corollary 2.14 is called an *injective parametrization* of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$  as every  $\mathcal{F}$ -solution of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$  has the form  $\eta = Q\xi$  for a certain  $\xi \in \mathcal{F}^m$  and we have

$$\xi = (TQ)\xi = T\eta,$$

i. e.,  $\xi$  is uniquely defined by  $\eta \in \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ . At this stage, it is important to point out that no general algorithm has been developed to get injective parametrizations when the  $D$ -module  $M$  is free. It is the main purpose of this paper to constructively study this question and to apply the computation of injective parametrizations to some open questions appearing in mathematical systems theory.

Finally, we point out that, if  $M$  is a free  $D$ -module, then there always exist matrices  $Q \in D^{p \times m}$  and  $T \in D^{m \times p}$  such that, for every  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$ , we have the exact sequence (2.6). Indeed, let us recall two standard arguments of homological algebra ([53]).

**Proposition 2.15** 1. *Let us consider the following short exact sequence:*

$$M' \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} M'' \longrightarrow 0.$$

*If  $M''$  is a projective  $D$ -module, then the previous exact sequence splits (see 5 of Definition 2.2).*

2. *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a  $D$ -module. The functor  $\text{hom}_D(\cdot, \mathcal{F})$  transforms split exact sequences of  $D$ -modules into split exact sequences of  $D$ -modules.*

By 1 of Proposition 2.15, we obtain that  $D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q} D^{1 \times m} \longrightarrow 0$  is a splitting exact sequence and applying the functor  $\text{hom}_D(\cdot, \mathcal{F})$  to it, by 2 of Proposition 2.15, we obtain the splitting exact sequence (2.6). Hence, the assumption that  $\mathcal{F}$  is an injective cogenerator  $D$ -module is only important for the converse implication of 6 of Corollary 2.14.

Explicit examples of computation of parametrizations can be found in [5, 6, 42, 43, 44] as well in the OREMODULES large library of examples ([4]). We refer the reader to these references and to section 4 for the computation of injective parametrizations. However, let us give a simple example in order to illustrate the previous results.

**Example 2.16** Let us consider the ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[\partial_1, \partial_2, \partial_3]$  of differential operators with rational coefficients ( $\partial_i = \partial/\partial x_i$ ), the matrix  $R = (\partial_1 \ \partial_2 \ \partial_3)$  defining the so-called *divergent operator* in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and the finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 3}/(D R)$ . Let us check whether or not the  $D$ -module  $M$  has some torsion elements or is torsion-free, reflexive or projective, i. e., free by the Quillen-Suslin theorem. In order to do that, we define the  $D$ -module  $N = D/(D^{1 \times 3} R^T)$ . A finite free resolution of  $N$  can easily be computed by means of Gröbner or Janet bases. We obtain the following exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow D \xrightarrow{\cdot P_3} D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\cdot P_2} D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\cdot R^T} D \xrightarrow{\sigma} N \longrightarrow 0,$$

where  $\sigma$  denotes the canonical projection onto  $N$  and

$$P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\partial_3 & \partial_2 \\ \partial_3 & 0 & -\partial_1 \\ -\partial_2 & \partial_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_3 = R.$$

We note that  $P_2$  corresponds to the so-called *curl operator* whereas  $R^T$  is the *gradient operator*. Then, the defects of exactness of the following complex

$$0 \longleftarrow D \xleftarrow{\cdot P_3^T} D^{1 \times 3} \xleftarrow{\cdot P_2^T} D^{1 \times 3} \xleftarrow{\cdot R} D \longleftarrow 0 \quad (2.7)$$

are defined by

$$\begin{cases} \text{ext}_D^0(N, D) \cong \ker_D(\cdot R), \\ \text{ext}_D^1(N, D) \cong \ker_D(\cdot P_2^T)/(D R), \\ \text{ext}_D^2(N, D) \cong \ker_D(\cdot P_3^T)/(D^{1 \times 3} P_2^T), \\ \text{ext}_D^3(N, D) \cong D/(D^{1 \times 3} P_3^T). \end{cases}$$

Using the fact that  $R$  has full row rank, we obtain that  $\text{ext}_D^0(N, D) \cong \ker_D(\cdot R) = 0$ , which is equivalent to say that  $N$  is a torsion  $D$ -module. Now computing the syzygy modules  $\ker_D(\cdot P_2^T)$  and  $\ker_D(\cdot P_3^T)$  by means of Gröbner or Janet bases, we obtain that

$$\ker_D(\cdot P_2^T) = D R, \quad \ker_D(\cdot P_3^T) = D^{1 \times 3} P_2^T,$$

which shows that  $\text{ext}_D^1(N, D) = \text{ext}_D^2(N, D) = 0$ . Finally, we can easily check that 1 does not belong to the ideal  $I = D \partial_1 + D \partial_2 + D \partial_3$  of  $D$ , and thus, we have

$$\text{ext}_D^3(N, D) \cong D/I \neq 0.$$

Using Theorem 2.6, we obtain that  $M$  is a reflexive but not a projective, i. e., not a free  $D$ -module. This last fact can also be checked as  $R$  has full row rank and the dimension  $\dim_D(N)$  is 0 as the corresponding system is defined by the gradient operator, namely,

$$\partial_i y = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, 3,$$

whose solution is a constant, i. e., the solution of the system only depends on “a function of zero independent variables”. Hence, by Theorem 2.9, we obtain that  $j_D(N) = 3$ , meaning that the first non-zero  $\text{ext}_D^i(N, D)$  has index 3. By Theorem 2.6, we then get that  $M$  is a reflexive  $D$ -module but not a projective one.

Finally, if we consider the  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F} = C^\infty(\Omega)$ , where  $\Omega$  is an open convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , using Example 2.12, we obtain that  $\mathcal{F}$  is an injective cogenerator  $D$ -module. Hence, if we apply the functor  $\text{hom}_D(\cdot, \mathcal{F})$  to the complex (2.7), we then obtain the following exact sequence:

$$\mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{P_3^T} \mathcal{F}^3 \xrightarrow{P_2^T} \mathcal{F}^3 \xrightarrow{R} \mathcal{F} \longrightarrow 0.$$

We find again the classical results in mathematical physics that the smooth solutions on an open convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  of the divergence operator are parametrized by the curl operator and the solutions of the curl operator are parametrized by the gradient operator.

The only point left open is to constructively compute injective parametrizations of linear functional systems defining free modules over a commutative polynomial ring  $D$ . Indeed, checking the vanishing of the  $\text{ext}_D^i(N, D)$ , we generally obtain a successive chain of  $n$  parametrizations but not an injective one. In the case of linear systems of partial differential equations with polynomial or rational coefficients, we have recently solved this problem in [49, 50, 51] using a constructive proof of a famous result in non-commutative algebra due to Stafford. However, the same technique cannot be used if

we want an injective parametrization  $Q$  of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  to have only constant coefficients. The main purpose of this paper is to solve this problem using a constructive proof of the Quillen-Suslin theorem and to show some applications of this result to mathematical systems theory.

### 3 The Quillen-Suslin theorem

Since Quillen and Suslin independently proved Serre's conjecture stating that projective modules over commutative polynomial rings with coefficients in a field are free, some algorithmic versions of the proof have been proposed in the literature in order to constructively compute bases of free modules ([15, 19, 26, 27, 35, 56, 57, 58, 59]). We refer the interested reader to Lam's nice books [23, 24] concerning Serre's conjecture.

#### 3.1 Projective and stably free modules

In module theory, it is well known that a finitely presented  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$ , where  $k$  is a field and  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ , admits a finite free resolution. This is a result due to Hilbert ([10]). Moreover, if  $k$  is a *computable field*, we can even construct a finite free resolution of  $M$  using Gröbner or Janet basis ([3, 10, 20]).

A classical result due to Serre proves that every projective  $D$ -module is stably free (a stably free module always being a projective  $D$ -module). See [10, 23, 24] for more details. In [49, 51], a constructive proof of this result was given and the corresponding algorithm was implemented in OREMODULES. Let us recall these useful results.

**Proposition 3.1** [49, 51] *Let  $M$  be a  $D$ -module defined by the finite free resolution*

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times p_m} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_m} \dots \xrightarrow{\cdot R_2} D^{1 \times p_1} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_1} D^{1 \times p_0} \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0. \quad (3.1)$$

1. *If  $m \geq 3$  and there exists  $S_m \in D^{p_{m-1} \times p_m}$  such that  $R_m S_m = I_{p_m}$ , then we have the following finite free resolution of  $M$*

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times p_{m-1}} \xrightarrow{\cdot T_{m-1}} D^{1 \times (p_{m-2} + p_m)} \xrightarrow{\cdot T_{m-2}} D^{1 \times p_{m-3}} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_{m-3}} \dots \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0, \quad (3.2)$$

*with the following notations:*

$$\begin{cases} T_{m-1} = (R_{m-1} \quad S_m) \in D^{p_{m-1} \times (p_{m-2} + p_m)}, \\ T_{m-2} = \begin{pmatrix} R_{m-2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{(p_{m-2} + p_m) \times p_{m-3}}. \end{cases}$$

2. *If  $m = 2$  and there exists  $S_2 \in D^{p_1 \times p_2}$  such that  $R_2 S_2 = I_{p_2}$ , then we have the following finite free resolution of  $M$*

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times p_1} \xrightarrow{\cdot T_1} D^{1 \times (p_0 + p_2)} \xrightarrow{\tau} M \longrightarrow 0, \quad (3.3)$$

with the notations  $T_1 = (R_1 \ S_2) \in D^{p_1 \times (p_0 + p_2)}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \tau = \pi \oplus 0 : D^{1 \times (p_0 + p_2)} &\longrightarrow M \\ \lambda = (\lambda_1 \ \lambda_2) &\longmapsto \tau(\lambda) = \pi(\lambda_1). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 3.2** We note that Proposition 3.1 holds for every ring  $D$ .

Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  and let us suppose that the  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is projective (using the results summed up in Figure 2.1, we can constructively check this result). Using 1 of Proposition 2.15, we obtain that the exact sequence (3.1) splits (see 5 of Definition 2.2), and thus, there exists  $S_m \in D^{p_{m-1} \times p_m}$  such that  $R_m S_m = I_{p_m}$ . Repeating inductively the same method with the new finite free resolution of  $M$ , we can assume that we have the finite free resolution of  $M$ :

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times p'_3} \xrightarrow{\cdot R'_3} D^{1 \times p'_2} \xrightarrow{\cdot R'_2} D^{1 \times p_1} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_1} D^{1 \times p_0} \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0.$$

As  $M$  is a projective  $D$ -module, by 1 of Proposition 2.15, the previous exact sequence splits and thus, there exists a matrix  $S'_3 \in D^{p'_2 \times p'_3}$  satisfying  $R'_3 S'_3 = I_{p'_3}$ . By 1 of Proposition 3.1, we then get the finite free resolution of  $M$ :

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times p'_2} \xrightarrow{\cdot (R'_2 \ S'_3)} D^{1 \times (p_1 + p'_3)} \xrightarrow{\cdot (R_1^T \ 0^T)^T} D^{1 \times p_0} \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0.$$

Let us denote by  $T_1 = (R_1^T \ 0^T)^T$ . Again, as  $M$  is a projective  $D$ -module, by 1 of Proposition 2.15, the previous exact sequence splits and there exists  $S'_2 \in D^{(p_1 + p'_3) \times p'_2}$  such that  $(R'_2 \ S'_3) S'_2 = I_{p'_2}$ . Using 2 of Proposition 3.1, we obtain the following finite free presentation of the  $D$ -module  $M' = D^{1 \times (p_0 + p'_2)} / (D^{1 \times (p_1 + p'_3)} (T_1 \ S'_2))$

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times (p_1 + p'_3)} \xrightarrow{\cdot (T_1 \ S'_2)} D^{1 \times (p_0 + p'_2)} \xrightarrow{\pi'} M' \longrightarrow 0,$$

where  $\pi'$  denotes the standard projection onto  $M'$  and  $\tau : M' \longrightarrow M$  is defined by  $\tau(m) = \pi(\lambda_1)$ , for all  $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \ \lambda_2) \in D^{1 \times (p_0 + p'_2)}$  satisfying  $m = \pi'(\lambda)$ . Moreover, 2 of Proposition 2.15 says that  $\tau$  is an isomorphism, i. e.,  $M' \cong M$ , a fact that can be also directly checked. We then obtain the following result.

**Corollary 3.3** *Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a commutative polynomial ring over a field  $k$  and  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ . If the  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is projective, then there exists a full row rank matrix  $R' \in D^{q' \times p'}$  such that*

$$M \cong D^{1 \times p'} / (D^{1 \times q'} R'). \quad (3.4)$$

We refer to Example 5.5 for an illustration of Corollary 3.3. See also [49, 50, 51].

We note that  $\text{rank}_D(M) = \text{rank}_D(M') = p' - q'$ . Finally, we have the following short exact sequence of  $D$ -modules

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q'} \xrightarrow{\cdot R'} D^{1 \times p'} \xrightarrow{\pi'} M' \longrightarrow 0,$$



and using the fact that  $M' \cong M$  and  $M$  is a projective  $D$ -module, by 1 of Proposition 2.15, we obtain that the previous exact sequence splits and we then get ([5, 53])

$$M' \oplus D^{1 \times q'} \cong D^{1 \times p'},$$

which, by 2 of Definition 2.4, shows that  $M \cong M'$  is a stably free  $D$ -module.

**Corollary 3.4 (Serre)** [10, 23, 24] *Let  $M$  be a finitely generated projective  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module. Then,  $M$  is stably free.*

### 3.2 Stably free and free modules

Let  $M$  be a stably free module over  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , where  $k$  is a field. Using Corollary 3.3, we can always suppose that  $M$  has the form  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$ , where  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  admits a right-inverse  $S \in D^{p \times q}$ . We note that  $R$  has then full row rank ( $\lambda R = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = \lambda R S = 0$ ). Let us characterize when  $M$  is a free  $D$ -module.

In order to do that, we first need to introduce a definition.

**Definition 3.5** Let  $D$  be a ring. The *general linear group*  $\mathrm{GL}_p(D)$  is defined by

$$\mathrm{GL}_p(D) = \{U \in D^{p \times p} \mid \exists V \in D^{p \times p} : UV = VU = I_p\}.$$

An element  $U \in \mathrm{GL}_p(D)$  is called a *unimodular matrix*.

In the case where  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , we note that  $U \in \mathrm{GL}_p(D)$  iff the determinant  $\det U$  of  $U$  is invertible in  $D$ , i. e., is a non-zero element of  $k$ . The following result holds for every ring  $D$ .

**Lemma 3.6** *Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a matrix which admits a right-inverse over  $D$ . Then, the  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is free if and only if there exists  $U \in \mathrm{GL}_p(D)$  such that  $RU = (I_q \ 0)$ .*

Indeed, let us suppose that there exists  $U \in \mathrm{GL}_p(D)$  such that  $RU = (I_q \ 0)$  and let us denote by  $J = (I_q \ 0) \in D^{q \times p}$ . We easily check that  $D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} J) = D^{1 \times (p-q)}$ . Moreover, using the fact that  $RU = J$  and  $U \in \mathrm{GL}_p(D)$ , we obtain the following commutative exact diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & 0 & & \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R} & D^{1 \times p} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow \cdot U & & & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{\cdot J} & D^{1 \times p} & \xrightarrow{\kappa} & D^{1 \times (p-q)} & \longrightarrow & 0, \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \\ & & 0 & & 0 & & & & \end{array}$$

which proves that  $M \cong D^{1 \times (p-q)}$ , i. e.,  $M$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $p - q$ .

Conversely, let us suppose that  $M \cong D^{1 \times (p-q)}$ . Then, combining the isomorphism  $\psi : M \longrightarrow D^{1 \times (p-q)}$  and the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0,$$

we obtain the following exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\psi \circ \pi} D^{1 \times (p-q)} \longrightarrow 0.$$

If we consider the matrix which corresponds to the  $D$ -morphism  $\psi \circ \pi$  in the canonical bases of  $D^{1 \times p}$  and  $D^{1 \times (p-q)}$ , we then obtain a matrix  $Q \in D^{p \times (p-q)}$  such that

$$\forall \lambda \in D^{1 \times p} : (\psi \circ \pi)(\lambda) = \lambda Q.$$

By 1 of Proposition 2.15, the previous exact sequence splits, i. e., we have

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q} D^{1 \times (p-q)} \longrightarrow 0,$$

$$\xleftarrow{\cdot S} \qquad \qquad \qquad \xleftarrow{\cdot T}$$

or, equivalently, there exists a matrix  $T \in D^{(p-q) \times p}$  such that the following Bézout identities hold (see [5, 42, 48, 53] for more details):

$$\begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} (S \quad Q) = \begin{pmatrix} I_q & 0 \\ 0 & I_{p-q} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (S \quad Q) \begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} = I_p.$$

In particular, we obtain that there exists a matrix  $U = (S \quad Q) \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  satisfying

$$RU = (I_q \quad 0).$$

Finally, the family  $\{\pi(T_i)\}_{1 \leq i \leq p-q}$  forms a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $M$ , where  $T_i$  denotes the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of  $T \in D^{(p-q) \times p}$ .

We are now in position to state the famous Quillen-Suslin theorem ([23, 24, 53]).

**Theorem 3.7 (Quillen-Suslin theorem)** [52, 55] *Let  $A$  be a principal ideal domain (e. g., a field  $k$ ) and  $D = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  a polynomial ring with coefficients in  $A$ . Moreover, let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a matrix which admits a right-inverse  $S \in D^{p \times q}$ , i. e.,  $RS = I_q$ . Then, there exists a unimodular  $U \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  satisfying*

$$RU = (I_q \quad 0). \tag{3.5}$$

Using Lemma 3.6 and Theorem 3.7, we obtain the following important corollary.

**Corollary 3.8 (Quillen-Suslin)** [52, 55] *Let  $A$  be a principal ideal domain (e. g., a field  $k$ ) and  $D = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then, every stably free  $D$ -module is free.*

Moreover, the problem of finding a basis of a free finitely generated  $D$ -module  $M$  can be reformulated in terms of matrices as follows:

**Problem 1** Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a matrix which admits a right-inverse over  $D$ . Find a matrix  $U \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that  $RU = (I_q \ 0)$ .

The previous problem is equivalent to completing  $R$  to a square invertible matrix

$$U^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} \in D^{p \times p}.$$

The Quillen-Suslin theorem states that Problem 1 has always a solution over a polynomial ring  $D = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with coefficients in a principal ring  $A$  and, in particular, in a field  $k$ . In what follows, an algorithm which computes such a matrix  $U$  will be called a *QS-algorithm*.

Let us consider a matrix  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  which admits a right-inverse over  $D$  and let us denote by  $R_i$  the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of  $R$ . We note that the row  $R_1 \in D^{1 \times p}$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$ . Let us suppose that we can find a matrix  $U_1 \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  satisfying  $R_1 U_1 = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ . Then, we have

$$R U_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \star & R_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $R_2 \in D^{(q-1) \times (p-1)}$  and  $\star$  denotes a certain element of  $D^{(q-1) \times 1}$ . Hence, we restrict our considerations to the new matrix  $R_2$ , which can easily be shown to admit a right-inverse over  $D$ , and reduce Problem 1 to the following one:

**Problem 2** Let  $R \in D^{1 \times p}$  be a row vector which admits a right-inverse over  $D$ . Find a matrix  $U \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that  $RU = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ .

The purpose of the next paragraphs is to recall a QS-algorithm solving Problem 2 over a commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  over a computable field  $k$  (for instance,  $k = \mathbb{Q}$ ). This algorithm was implemented in the package `QUILLENUSUSLIN` ([12]). See also the appendix. We also point out that a QS-algorithm has also been implemented in `QUILLENUSUSLIN` for the case  $D = \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Even though there are some differences in the constructive proofs of the Quillen-Suslin theorem developed in [15, 19, 23, 26, 35, 56, 57, 59], we note that our algorithm is based on the same main idea, i. e., it proceeds by induction on the number of variables  $x_i$  in  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Each inductive step of the general QS-algorithm reduces the problem to the case with one variable less. A more global and interesting approach has recently been developed in [27, 58] which needs to be studied with care in the future.

### 3.3 Solution of Problem 2 in some special cases

Although the tedious inductive method, which will be explained in the next section, cannot generally be avoided, there are cases where simpler and faster heuristic methods can be used. We shall first consider such cases.

### 3.3.1 Matrices over a principal ideal domain $D$

We first consider the special case of matrices over a principal ideal domain  $D$  (e. g.,  $D = k[x_1]$ , where  $k$  a field,  $\mathbb{Z}$ ). Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a matrix which admits a right-inverse over  $D$ . Then, computing the *Smith canonical form* of  $R$  ([40]), we obtain two matrices  $F \in \text{GL}_q(D)$  and  $G \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  satisfying

$$R = F \begin{pmatrix} I_q & 0 \end{pmatrix} G.$$

If we denote by  $r = p - q$ ,  $G = (G_1^T \ G_2^T)^T$ , where  $G_1 \in D^{q \times p}$ ,  $G_2 \in D^{r \times p}$  and  $G^{-1} = (H_1 \ H_2) \in D^{p \times p}$ , where  $H_1 \in D^{p \times q}$ ,  $H_2 \in D^{p \times r}$ , then we get  $R = F G_1$ , i. e.,  $G_1 = F^{-1} R$ , and thus, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} F^{-1} R \\ G_2 \end{pmatrix} (H_1 \ H_2) = I_p &\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} F^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & I_r \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G_2 \end{pmatrix} (H_1 \ H_2) = I_p \\ &\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G_2 \end{pmatrix} (H_1 \ H_2) \begin{pmatrix} F^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & I_r \end{pmatrix} = I_p \\ &\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G_2 \end{pmatrix} (H_1 F^{-1} \ H_2) = I_p, \end{aligned}$$

which solves Problem 1 as we can take  $U = (H_1 F^{-1} \ H_2) \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  and  $T = G_2$ .

### 3.3.2 $(p-1) \times p$ matrices over an arbitrary commutative ring $D$

Let us consider the case of a matrix  $R \in D^{(p-1) \times p}$  which admits a right-inverse over a commutative ring  $D$ . If we denote by  $m_i$  the  $(p-1) \times (p-1)$  minor of  $R$  obtained by removing the  $i^{\text{th}}$  column of  $R$ , then, using the fact  $R$  admits right-inverse, we get that the family  $\{m_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq p}$  satisfies a Bézout identity  $\sum_{i=1}^p n_i m_i = 1$  for certain  $n_i \in D$  and  $i = 1, \dots, p$ . Let us denote by

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} & R & \\ (-1)^{p+1} n_1 & \dots & (-1)^{2p} n_p \end{pmatrix} \in D^{p \times p}.$$

Expand the determinant of  $V$  along the last row, using the Laplace's formula, we then get  $\det V = 1$ . Hence, if we denote by  $U \in D^{p \times p}$  the inverse of the matrix  $V$ , we then obtain  $RU = (I_{p-1} \ 0)$ , which solves Problem 1.

### 3.3.3 $1 \times p$ rows over an arbitrary commutative ring $D$

We now consider Problem 2, i. e., the case of a row vector  $f = (f_1 \ \dots \ f_p) \in D^{1 \times p}$  which admits a right-inverse over an arbitrary commutative ring  $D$ .

**Remark 3.9 (Special form of the row)** 1. We note that if one of the components of  $f$  is an invertible element of  $D$ , we can then transform the row  $f$  into  $(1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$

by means of trivial elementary operations. For instance, if  $f_1^{-1} \in D$ , then the matrix defined by

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} f_1^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & I_{p-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfies  $\det W = f_1^{-1} \in D$  and  $fW = (1 \ f_2 \ \dots \ f_p)$ . Then, simple elementary operations transform  $fW$  into the vector  $(1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ .

2. Another simple case is when two components of  $f$  generate  $D$ . Let us suppose that there exist  $h_1$  and  $h_2 \in D$  such that we have the Bézout identity  $f_1 h_1 + f_2 h_2 = 1$  and let us define the following matrix:

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} h_1 & -f_2 & 0 \\ h_2 & f_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{p-2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

We easily check that  $\det W = 1$  and  $fW = (1 \ 0 \ f_3 \ \dots \ f_p)$ . Then, we can reduce  $fW$  to  $(1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$  by means of elementary operations.

3. If the  $i^{\text{th}}$  component of  $f$  is 0 or the ideal generated by the elements  $f_1, \dots, f_{i-1}, f_{i+1}, \dots, f_p$  is already  $D$ , then we can follow an idea analogous to the one developed in [49, 51]. Let us suppose that  $i = 1$ , i. e.,  $f_1$  is a redundant component in the sense that  $(f_2, \dots, f_p) = D$ . Then, there exist  $h_2, \dots, h_p \in D$  satisfying the Bézout equation  $\sum_{i=2}^p f_i h_i = 1$ . Then, the matrix

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ (1 - f_1) h_2 & 1 & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ (1 - f_1) h_p & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfies  $fW = (1 \ f_2 \ \dots \ f_p)$  and  $\det W = 1$ . We can now reduce  $fW$  to  $(1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$  by means of elementary operations.

In particular, this strategy is always successful when the length  $p$  of the row  $f$  exceeds the *stable range* of the ring  $D$ . We note that the stable range of  $D = \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is equal to  $n + 1$ . We refer the reader to [49, 51] for more details.

We note that all the conditions given in Remark 3.9 can be checked using Gröbner or Janet bases.

The matrix  $U$  can also be easily computed in cases where a right-inverse  $g$  of the row  $f$  has a special form.

**Remark 3.10 (Special form of the right-inverse)** Let  $g \in D^{p \times 1}$  be a right-inverse of the unimodular row  $f \in D^{1 \times p}$ , i. e.,  $fg = 1$ .

1. Let us suppose that one of the entries of a right-inverse  $g$  of  $f$ , say  $g_1$ , is invertible in  $D$ . Then, the following matrix

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} g_1 & & & & \\ g_2 & 1 & & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \\ g_p & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfies  $\det W = g_1$  and  $fW = (1 \ f_2 \ \dots \ f_p)$ . As  $g_1$  is an invertible element of  $D$ , then  $W$  is a unimodular matrix and  $fW$  can easily be transformed into  $(1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$  by means of elementary operations.

2. If two components  $g_1, g_2$  of  $g$  generate the whole ring  $D$ , then there exist elements  $h_1, h_2 \in D$  such that  $g_1 h_1 + g_2 h_2 = 1$ . Then, the matrix defined by

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} g_1 & -h_2 & & & \\ g_2 & h_1 & & & \\ g_3 & & 1 & & \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \\ g_p & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfies  $\det W = 1$  and  $fW = (1 \ \star \ f_3 \ \dots \ f_p)$ , where  $\star$  denotes a certain element of  $D$ . We can then reduce  $fW$  to  $(1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$  by means of elementary operations.

Finally, we also note that if  $f \in D^{1 \times p}$  admits a right-inverse  $g$  over  $D$  for which any of the heuristic methods explained in Remark 3.9 may be used for  $g^T$ , then a unimodular matrix  $V$  having  $g^T$  as a first row can be easily computed. Then, the product  $fV^T = (1 \ \star \ \dots \ \star)$  can be reduced to the first standard basis vector by elementary column operations.

For instance, let us illustrate 1 of Remark 3.10. In some of the illustrating examples, we shall also use the notation  $D = k[z_1, \dots, z_n]$  as these examples come from the control theory and signal processing literatures where  $z_i$  is commonly used. The independent variables  $z_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , usually denote the variables appearing in the discrete Laplace transform.

**Example 3.11** Let us consider  $D = \mathbb{Q}[z_1, z_2, z_3]$  and the following row vector:

$$R = (z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 \quad z_1^2 z_3 + 1 \quad z_1 z_2^2 z_3).$$

We can easily check that  $R$  admits the following right-inverse  $S = (-z_1^2 z_3 \quad 1 \quad z_1^3)^T$ . As the second component of  $S$  is invertible over  $D$ , we can apply 1 of Remark 3.10 in order to find a unimodular matrix  $U$  over  $D$  which satisfies  $RU = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ . Let us define the following elementary matrices:

$$U_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad U_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -z_1^2 z_3 & 1 & 0 \\ z_1^3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We then have  $R(U_1 U_2) = (1 \quad z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 \quad z_1 z_2^2 z_3)$ . Finally, if we denote by

$$U_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 & -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

we then have  $RU = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ , where the unimodular  $U = U_1 U_2 U_3$  is defined by

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} -z_1^2 z_3 & z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 + z_1^2 z_3 + 1 & z_1^3 z_2^2 z_3^2 \\ 1 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 & -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 \\ z_1^3 & -z_1^3 (z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1) & -z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 + 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3.6)$$

### 3.4 A QS-algorithm for commutative polynomial rings

Over an arbitrary commutative ring  $A$ , not every row admitting a right-inverse can be completed to a unimodular matrix over  $A$ . The module-theoretic interpretation of this result is that, over certain rings, there exist stably free modules which are not free. For instance, using a classical topological theorem on vector fields on the sphere  $\mathbb{S}_2(\mathbb{R})$ , we can prove that the row vector  $R = (x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3) \in D^{1 \times 3}$  with entries in the commutative ring  $D = \mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2, x_3]/(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - 1)$ , which admits the right-inverse  $R^T$ , cannot be completed to a unimodular matrix over  $D$ . For more details, see [24].

However, it is always possible over a polynomial ring with coefficients on a field  $k$  or a principal ideal domain  $A$ . See Quillen-Suslin theorem (Theorem 3.7). We shortly describe a QS-algorithm which has recently been implemented in a package called `QUILLENUSUSLIN` ([12]). See the appendix for more details. In what follows, we shall only consider a commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  over a field  $k$  even if the extension of the algorithms exists when  $k$  is replaced by a principal ideal ring  $A$ . For instance, the case of  $A = \mathbb{Z}$  has also been implemented in `QUILLENUSUSLIN`. Let  $f \in D^{1 \times p}$  be a row vector which admits a right-inverse  $g$  over  $D$ . When no method explained in section 3.3 can be applied to  $f$ , we then need to consider a general algorithm. However, we point out that most of the examples we know do not require the general algorithm as the previous heuristic methods are generally enough to get the result.

The QS-algorithm proceeds by induction on the number  $n$  of the independent variables  $x_i$  of the ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Each inductive step, which simplifies the problem to the case of a polynomial ring containing one variable less, consists of three main parts:

1. Finding a normalized component in the last variable of the polynomial ring.
2. Computing finitely many local solutions of Problem 2 over certain local rings (local loop).
3. Patching/glueing the local solutions together in order to obtain a global one.

#### 3.4.1 Normalization step

The next lemma is essential for Horrocks' theorem which is used in the local loop.

**Lemma 3.12** [53, 57] *Let us consider a polynomial  $a \in k[y_1, \dots, y_n]$  and let us denote by  $m = \deg(a) + 1$ , where  $\deg(a)$  denotes the total degree of  $a$ . Using the following invertible transformation*

$$\begin{cases} x_n = y_n, \\ x_i = y_i - y_n^{m^{n-i}}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-1, \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} y_n = x_n, \\ y_i = x_i + x_n^{m^{n-i}}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-1, \end{cases}$$

*we obtain  $a(y_1, \dots, y_n) = r b(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , where  $0 \neq r \in k$  and  $b$  is a monic polynomial in  $x_n$  with coefficients in the ring  $E = k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$ , namely, the leading coefficient of  $b \in E[x_n]$  is 1.*

In the case where  $k$  is an infinite field, we can achieve the same result by using only a linear transformation whose coefficients are appropriately chosen ([57, 59]). The normalization step can also be generalized to the case  $D = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , where  $A$  is a principal ideal domain. See [56] for more details.

### 3.4.2 Local loop

In the second step, we need to compute a finite number of *local solutions* of Problem 2 over a local ring  $A$ , namely, a ring  $A$  which has only one maximal ideal, i. e., a proper ideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $A$  which is not properly contained in any ideal of  $A$  other than  $A$  itself. In order to do that, we use the so-called Horrocks' theorem. Let us recall it.

**Theorem 3.13** [53, 57] *Let  $B$  be a local ring and  $f$  a row vector which admits a right-inverse over  $B[y]$ . If one of the components  $f_i$  of  $f$  is monic, then there exists a unimodular matrix  $V$  over  $B[y]$  such that  $f$  is the first row of  $V$  or, equivalently, such that  $fV^{-1} = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ .*

Horrocks' theorem can easily be implemented using, for instance, the approaches developed in [26, 53, 59]. In particular, the implementation in `QUILLENUSLIN` of this theorem follows [53]. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is a maximal ideal of  $D$ , we then denote by  $D_{\mathcal{M}}$  the local ring, which is a standard *localization* of  $D$  with respect to the multiplicative closed subset  $S = D \setminus \mathcal{M}$  of  $D$ , namely,  $D_{\mathcal{M}} = \{a/b \mid a \in D, b \notin \mathcal{M}\}$  ([53]).

We can now give the first main part of the general algorithm ([26, 59]).

**Algorithm 3.14** • **Input:** Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $f \in D^{1 \times p}$  a row vector which admits a right-inverse over  $D$  and a monic component in the last variable  $x_n$ .

- **Output:** A finite number of maximal ideals  $\{\mathcal{M}_i\}_{i \in I}$  of  $E = k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$  and unimodular matrices  $\{H_i\}_{i \in I}$  over the ring  $E_{\mathcal{M}_i}[x_n]$  which satisfy the relation  $fH_i = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ , and such that the ideal generated by the denominators of the matrices  $H_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , generates the ring  $E$ .

1. Let  $\mathcal{M}_1$  be an arbitrary maximal ideal of the ring  $E$ . Using Horrocks' theorem, compute a unimodular matrix  $H_1$  over  $E_{\mathcal{M}_1}[x_n]$  which satisfies the relation  $fH_1 = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ .



2. Let  $d_1 \in E$  be the denominator of  $H_1$  and  $J$  the ideal in  $E$  generated by  $d_1$ . Set  $i = 1$ .
3. While  $J \neq E$ , do:
  - (i) For  $i := i + 1$ , compute a maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}_i$  of  $E$  such that  $J \subset \mathcal{M}_i$ .
  - (ii) Using Horrocks' theorem, compute a matrix  $H_i$  over the ring  $E_{\mathcal{M}_i}[x_n]$  such that  $\det H_i$  is invertible in  $E_{\mathcal{M}_i}[x_n]$  and  $f H_i = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ .
  - (iii) Let  $d_i$  be the denominator of the matrix  $H_i$  and consider the ideal  $J = (d_1, \dots, d_i)$ .
4. Return  $\{\mathcal{M}_i\}_{i \in I}$ ,  $\{H_i\}_{i \in I}$  and  $\{d_i\}_{i \in I}$ .

The local loop stops when all the denominators  $d_i$  generate  $E$ . As the ring  $E$  is noetherian ([53]), the number of the local solutions, i. e., the cardinal of the set  $I$ , is finite.

### 3.4.3 Patching

To obtain a polynomial solution of Problem 1, we use the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.15** [26] *Let  $f \in D^{1 \times p}$  be a row vector which admits a right-inverse over  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $U$  a unimodular matrix over  $k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{\mathcal{M}}[x_n]$ , where  $\mathcal{M}$  is a certain maximal ideal of  $E = k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$ , which satisfies  $f U = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$ . Let us denote by  $d \in E$  the denominator of  $U$ . Then, the matrix defined by*

$$\Delta(x_n, z) = U(x_1, \dots, x_n) U^{-1}(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, x_n + z) \in (E_{\mathcal{M}}[x_n, z])^{p \times p}$$

is such that

$$\forall z \in D : \quad f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \Delta(x_n, z) = f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, x_n + z), \quad (3.7)$$

and its denominator is  $d^\alpha$  with  $0 \leq \alpha \leq p$ .

(3.7) is clear as the identity  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) U(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$  implies that  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n + z) U(x_1, \dots, x_n + z) = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0)$  and we then have

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n + z) = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) U(x_1, \dots, x_n) U(x_1, \dots, x_n + z)^{-1}.$$

Moreover, using the standard formula  $U^{-1} = (\det U)^{-1} \text{adj}(U)$ , where  $\text{adj}(U)$  denotes the adjugate of  $U$ , we can also prove that the common denominator of  $\Delta(x_n, z)$  is  $d^\alpha$ , where  $0 \leq \alpha \leq p$ .

Let  $\{\mathcal{M}_i\}_{i \in I}$ ,  $\{H_i\}_{i \in I}$  and  $\{d_i\}_{i \in I}$  be the output of Algorithm 3.14, where  $I$  is a finite set. Let us set  $I = \{1, \dots, l\}$ . The ideal of  $E = k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$  defined by  $\{d_i\}_{i \in I}$  generates  $E$ . Hence, there exists  $c_i \in E$ ,  $i \in I$ , such that the Bézout identity holds:

$$\sum_{i=1}^l c_i d_i^p = 1.$$

Let us define the following matrices

$$\Delta_i(x_n, z) = H_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) H_i^{-1}(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, x_n + z), \quad i = 1, \dots, l,$$

and, in order to simplify the notations, we denote by  $\tilde{f}(x_n)$  the function  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}(x_n) \Delta_1(x_n, (a_n - x_n) c_1 d_1^p) &= \tilde{f}(x_n + (a_n - x_n) c_1 d_1^p), \\ \tilde{f}(x_n + (a_n - x_n) c_1 d_1^p) \Delta_2(x_n + (a_n - x_n) c_1 d_1^p, (a_n - x_n) c_2 d_2^p) &= \\ \tilde{f}\left(x_n + (a_n - x_n) \left(\sum_{i=1}^2 c_i d_i^p\right)\right), & \\ \vdots & \\ \tilde{f}\left(x_n + (a_n - x_n) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l-1} c_i d_i^p\right)\right) & \\ \Delta_l\left(x_n + (a_n - x_n) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l-1} c_i d_i^p\right), (a_n - x_n) c_l d_l^p\right) &= \tilde{f}(a_n). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we can prove that we have  $\Delta_i(x_n, d_i^p z) \in \text{GL}_p(D)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, l$ , ([26]) and

$$\begin{aligned} U_1 &= \Delta_1(x_n, (a_n - x_n) c_1 d_1^p) \Delta_2(x_n + (a_n - x_n) c_1 d_1^p, (a_n - x_n) c_2 d_2^p) \\ \dots \Delta_l\left(x_n + (a_n - x_n) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l-1} c_i d_i^p\right), (a_n - x_n) c_l d_l^p\right) &\in \text{GL}_p(D). \end{aligned}$$

The previous computations then show that  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) U_1 = f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, a_n)$ .

We can now state the main result.

**Theorem 3.16** [26, 53, 57, 59] *Let  $f \in D^{1 \times p}$  be a row vector which admits a right-inverse over the ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then, for every  $a \in k$ , there exists a matrix  $U \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that*

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) U(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, a).$$

Let us now consider a row vector  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in D^{1 \times p}$  which admits a right-inverse  $g(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in D^{p \times 1}$ . Applying inductively Theorem 3.16 to  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  for the values  $a_2, \dots, a_n \in k$ , we obtain  $U_1, \dots, U_{n-1} \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) U_1 = f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, a_n),$$

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-i}, a_{n-i+1}, \dots, a_n) U_{i+1} = f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-i-1}, a_{n-i}, \dots, a_n),$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, n-2$ . Hence, we get  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) (U_1 \dots U_{n-1}) = f(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  and we have simplified Problem 2 to the case of a row vector  $f(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  over a principal ideal domain  $k[x_1]$  which admits a right-inverse  $g(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  over  $k[x_1]$ . Using the first result of section 3.3, we can find a matrix  $U_n \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that

$$f(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) U_n(x_1) = (10 \dots 0) \Leftrightarrow U_n^{-1}(x_1) = \begin{pmatrix} f(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \\ \star \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence, Problem 2 is then solved if we take  $U = U_1 \dots U_n \in \text{GL}_p(D)$ . We also note that it is generally simpler to take the particular values  $a_2 = \dots = a_n = 0$ .

Now, let us find a matrix  $U'$  satisfying  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)U' = f(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ , where  $a_1 \in k$ . Let us define by  $U'_n(x_1) = U_n(x_1)U_n^{-1}(a_1) \in \text{GL}_p(D)$ . Then, we have

$$f(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)U'_n(x_1) = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0) \begin{pmatrix} f(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \\ \star \end{pmatrix} = f(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n).$$

Hence, the matrix  $U' = U_1 \dots U_{n-1} U'_n \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  satisfies

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n)U' = f(a_1, \dots, a_n).$$

Let us illustrate the QS-algorithm on a simple example.

**Example 3.17** Let us consider the commutative polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2]$  and the row vector  $R = (x_1 x_2^2 + 1 \quad 3x_2/2 + x_1 - 1 \quad 2x_1 x_2) \in D^{1 \times 3}$ . We can check that  $S = (1 \quad 0 \quad -x_1/2)^T$  is a right-inverse of  $R$ , a fact implying that the  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 3}/(DR)$  is projective, and thus, free by the Quillen-Suslin theorem. Let us compute a matrix  $U \in \text{GL}_3(D)$  such that  $RU = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ . As the first component of  $S$  is 1, we can easily find such a matrix  $U$  using the heuristic methods explained in section 3.3. However, let us illustrate the main algorithm previously described.

We first note that  $R$  contains the normalized component  $3x_2/2 + x_1 - 1$  over the ring  $D = E[x_2]$ , where  $E = \mathbb{Q}[x_1]$ . The second step consists in computing certain local solutions. Let us consider the maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}_1 = (x_1)$  of  $E$ . Using an effective version of Horrocks' theorem, we obtain that

$$H_1 = \frac{1}{d_1} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2(3x_1 + 2x_2 - 2) & 4x_1(3x_1 - 2) \\ 2x_1(3x_1 - 2x_2 - 2) & 4(x_1 x_2^2 + 1) & -4x_1(3x_1^2 x_2 - 2x_1 x_2 + 2) \\ 0 & 0 & 9x_1^3 - 12x_1^2 + 4x_1 + 4 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $d_1 = 9x_1^3 - 12x_1^2 + 4x_1 + 4 \notin \mathcal{M}_1$ . We can check that  $\det H_1 = 4/d_1$ , i. e.,  $H_1 \in \text{GL}_3(E_{\mathcal{M}_1}[x_2])$ , and  $RH_1 = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ , showing that  $H_1$  is a local solution.

The ideal  $J = (d_1)$  is strictly contained in  $E$ . Therefore, we consider another maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}_2$  such that  $J \subseteq \mathcal{M}_2$ . We can take  $\mathcal{M}_2 = (9x_1^3 - 12x_1^2 + 4x_1 + 4)$ . Using an effective version of Horrocks' theorem, we obtain the matrix

$$H_2 = \frac{1}{d_2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 4x_1(3x_1 - 2) \\ 8x_1 & -8x_1 x_2 & -4x_1(3x_1^2 x_2 - 2x_1 x_2 + 2) \\ -4 & 2(3x_1 + 2x_2 - 2) & 9x_1^3 - 12x_1^2 + 4x_1 + 4 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $d_2 = 4x_1(3x_1 - 2) \notin \mathcal{M}_2$ . We then have  $\det H_2 = -1/(x_1(3x_1 - 2))$ , i. e.,  $H_2 \in \text{GL}_3(E_{\mathcal{M}_2}[x_2])$  and  $RH_2 = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ . We can check that the ideal  $(d_1, d_2) = E$  as we have the Bézout identity  $c_1 d_1 + c_2 d_2 = 1$ , where  $c_1 = 1/4$  and  $c_2 = -(3x_1 - 2)/16$ .

The matrix  $\Delta_i(x_2, -c_1 d_1 x_2)$  is defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} (9x_1^4/4 - 3x_1^3 + x_1^2)x_2^2 + (3x_1^2/2 - x_1)x_2 + 1 \\ -(18x_1^4 - 24x_1^3 + 8x_1^2)x_1x_2^3/8 + (27x_1^5 - 54x_1^4 + 36x_1^3 - 20x_1^2 + 8x_1)x_1x_2^2/8 - x_1x_2 \\ 0 \\ -x_2 & -2x_1x_2 \\ x_1x_2^2 + (-3x_1^2/2 + x_1)x_2 + 1 & 2x_1^2x_2^2 - x_1^2(3x_1 - 2)x_2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We can check that  $R(x_1, x_2)\Delta_i(x_2, -c_1 d_1 x_2) = R(x_1, x_2 - c_1 d_1 x_2)$  as well as  $\Delta_1(x_2, -c_1 d_1 x_2) \in \text{GL}_3(D)$ . Moreover, the matrix  $\Delta_2(x_2 - c_1 d_1 x_2, -c_2 d_2 x_2)$  is defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (3x_1^2/2 - x_1)x_2 + 1 & x_1^2(3x_1 - 2)x_2 \\ (9x_1^2 - 12x_1 + 4)x_1x_2/8 & (-3x_1 + 2)x_2/4 & (-3x_1^2/2 + x_1)x_2 + 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We can also check that  $R(x_1, x_2 - c_1 d_1 x_2)\Delta_2(x_2 - c_1 d_1 x_2, -c_2 d_2 x_2) = R(x_1, 0)$  and  $\Delta_2(x_2 - c_1 d_1 x_2, -c_2 d_2 x_2) \in \text{GL}_3(D)$ . Defining the matrix

$$U_1 = \Delta_1(x_2, -c_1 d_1 x_2)\Delta_2(x_2 - c_1 d_1 x_2, -c_2 d_2 x_2) \in \text{GL}_3(D),$$

we then get  $R(x_1, x_2)U_1(x_1, x_2) = R(x_1, 0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3x_1/2 - 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Finally, if we denote by

$$U_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3x_1/2 + 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}_3(D),$$

then, the matrix  $R(x_1, 0)$  is then equivalent to  $(1 \ 0 \ 0)$ , i. e.,  $R(x_1, 0)U_2 = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ . Hence, if we define the matrix  $U = U_1U_2 \in \text{GL}_3(D)$ , i. e.,

$$\begin{pmatrix} (3x_1^2/2 - x_1)x_2 + 1 & (-9x_1^3/4 + 3x_1^2 - x_1 - 1)x_2 - 3x_1/2 + 1 \\ (-3x_1^3/2 + x_1^2)x_2^2 - x_1x_2 & (9x_1^4/4 - 3x_1^3 + x_1^2 + x_1)x_2^2 + (3x_1^2/2 - x_1)x_2 + 1 \\ (9x_1^2 - 12x_1 + 4)x_1x_2/8 & (-27x_1^4/16 + 27x_1^3/8 - 9x_1^2/4 - x_1/4 + 1/2)x_2 \\ & -2x_1x_2 \\ & 2x_1^2x_2^2 \\ & (-3x_1^2/2 + x_1)x_2 + 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

we finally obtain  $RU = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ .

In the third point of section 3.3, we saw that the case of a matrix  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  admitting a right-inverse over  $D$  can be solved by applying  $q$  times Theorem 3.16 on certain row vectors obtained during the process having smaller and smaller lengths. Hence, we obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.18** [26, 53, 57, 59] *Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a matrix which admits a right-inverse over  $D$ . Then, for all  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$ , there exists  $U \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that*

$$R(x_1, \dots, x_n) U(x_1, \dots, x_n) = R(a_1, \dots, a_n).$$

We note that as the matrix  $R(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  has full row rank over a field  $k$ , there always exists a right-inverse  $V \in k^{p \times q}$  such that  $R(a_1, \dots, a_n) V = I_q$ . Hence, we obtain that  $R(UV) = (I_q \ 0)$ , which also solves Problem 1. Another possibility is to first obtain a matrix  $W \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that  $R(x_1, \dots, x_n) W = R(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  and then compute a Smith canonical form of  $R(x_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  as we did for the row vector case.

**Remark 3.19** In [37], it was shown how a certain transformation maps a matrix  $\bar{R}$  with entries in a Laurent polynomial ring  $\bar{D} = k[x_1, \dots, x_n, x_1^{-1}, \dots, x_n^{-1}]$ , where  $k$  is a field, and which admits a right-inverse over  $D$  to a matrix  $R$  with entries in  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and which admits a right-inverse over  $D$ . Hence, we can use a QS-algorithm to solve Problems 2 and 1 over  $D$ . See [37] for more details. See also [9] for explicit examples. Finally, a new algorithm has recently been developed in [1].

### 3.4.4 Computation of bases of free modules

If  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  is a matrix which admits a right-inverse over  $D$ , then, in section 3.2, we showed that a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is defined by  $\{\pi(T_i)\}_{1 \leq i \leq (p-q)}$ , where  $\pi : D^{1 \times p} \rightarrow M$  denotes the canonical projection onto  $M$  and  $T_i$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of the matrix  $T \in D^{(p-q) \times p}$  defined by

$$U^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}_p(D).$$

**Example 3.20** Let us consider again Example 3.17. If we consider  $d_i = \partial/\partial x_i$  instead of  $x_i$ , i. e.,  $D = \mathbb{Q}[d_1, d_2]$ ,  $R = (d_1 d_2^2 + 1 \quad 3 d_2/2 + d_1 - 1 \quad 2 d_1 d_2) \in D^{1 \times 3}$ , denote by  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  and choose  $\mathcal{F} = C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , we then obtain that the underdetermined linear system of PDEs  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R) = \{y = (y_1 \ y_2 \ y_3)^T \in \mathcal{F}^3 \mid R y = 0\}$ , namely,

$$d_1 d_2^2 y_1(x) + y_1(x) + \frac{3}{2} d_2 y_2(x) + d_1 y_2(x) - y_2(x) + 2 d_1 d_2 y_3(x) = 0,$$

admits the parametrization  $(y_1(x) \ y_2(x) \ y_3(x))^T = Q(z_1(x) \ z_2(x))^T$ , where  $Q$  is the matrix of differential operators formed by the last two columns of the matrix  $U$  defined in Example 3.17 and  $z = (z_1 \ z_2)^T$  is any arbitrary element of  $\mathcal{F}^2$ , i. e.,

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = \left(-\frac{9}{4} d_1^3 + 3 d_1^2 - d_1 - 1\right) d_2 z_1 - \frac{3}{2} d_1 z_1 + z_1 - 2 d_1 d_2 z_2, \\ y_2 = \left(\frac{9}{4} d_1^4 - 3 d_1^3 + d_1^2 + d_1\right) d_2^2 z_1 + \left(\frac{3}{2} d_1^2 - d_1\right) d_2 z_1 + z_1 + 2 d_1^2 d_2^2 z_2, \\ y_3 = \left(-\frac{27}{16} d_1^4 + \frac{27}{8} d_1^3 - \frac{9}{4} d_1^2 - \frac{1}{4} d_1 + \frac{1}{2}\right) d_2 z_1 + \left(-\frac{3}{2} d_1^2 + d_1\right) d_2 z_2 + z_2. \end{cases}$$

Finally, if we denote by  $T \in D^{2 \times 3}$  the matrix formed by the last two rows of the matrix  $U^{-1}$ , namely,

$$\begin{pmatrix} d_1 d_2 & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{4}(3d_1^2 - 2d_1)d_2^2 + \frac{1}{8}(-9d_1^3 + 12d_1^2 - 4d_1)d_2 & \frac{1}{4}(3d_1 - 2)d_2 & \frac{1}{2}(3d_1^2 - 2d_1)d_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

we then have  $TQ = I_2$ , i. e., the parametrization  $Q$  of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is injective.

Now, if  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is a projective  $D$  which is defined by a non full row rank matrix  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ , then, using Proposition 3.1, we first compute a full row rank matrix  $R' \in D^{q' \times p'}$  satisfying

$$M \cong M' = D^{1 \times p'} / (D^{1 \times p'} R'),$$

and we then apply the previous QS-algorithm to  $R' \in D^{q' \times p'}$  to obtain  $U \in \text{GL}_{p'}(D)$  such that  $R'U = (I_{q'} \ 0)$ . Let  $S' \in D^{p' \times q'}$ ,  $Q' \in D^{p' \times (p' - q')}$ ,  $T' \in D^{(p' - q') \times p'}$  be the matrices defined by

$$U = (S' \ Q'), \quad U^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} R' \\ T' \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, we have the following split exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q'} \xrightarrow{\cdot R'} D^{1 \times p'} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q'} D^{1 \times (p' - q')} \longrightarrow 0. \quad (3.8)$$

$$\xleftarrow{\cdot S'} \qquad \qquad \qquad \xleftarrow{\cdot T'}$$

We now need to precisely describe the isomorphism between  $M$  and  $M'$  in order to get a basis of  $M$  from one of  $M'$ . In order to do that, we take the same notations as the ones used at the end of section 3.1, namely,  $R_1 = R$ ,  $T_1 = (R_1^T \ 0^T)^T$ ,  $R' = (T_1 \ S'_2)$ ,  $p_0 = p$ ,  $p_1 = q$ ,  $q' = p_1 + p'_3$ ,  $p' = p_0 + p'_2$ . We first easily check that we have the following commutative exact diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} D^{1 \times p_1} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R_1} & D^{1 \times p_0} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \uparrow \cdot X & & \uparrow \cdot I_{p_0} & & \uparrow \text{id}_M & & \\ D^{1 \times (p_1 + p'_3)} & \xrightarrow{\cdot T_1} & D^{1 \times p_0} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & M & \longrightarrow & 0, \end{array}$$

where  $X = (I_q^T \ 0^T)^T$ . Moreover, we also have the commutative exact diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} D^{1 \times (p_1 + p'_3)} & \xrightarrow{\cdot T_1} & D^{1 \times p_0} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \uparrow \cdot Z & & \uparrow \cdot Y & & \uparrow \sigma & & \\ D^{1 \times (p_1 + p'_3)} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R'} & D^{1 \times (p_0 + p'_2)} & \xrightarrow{\pi'} & M' & \longrightarrow & 0, \end{array}$$

where  $Y = (I_{p_0}^T \ 0^T)^T$ ,  $Z = (I_{p_1}^T \ 0^T)^T$  and the isomorphism  $\sigma$  is defined by

$$\forall m' = \pi'(\lambda), \quad \lambda = (\lambda_1 \ \lambda_2) \in D^{1 \times (p_0 + p'_2)}, \quad \sigma(m') = \pi(\lambda_1).$$

Combining the two commutative exact diagrams, we then obtain the following one:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} D^{1 \times p_1} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R_1} & D^{1 \times p_0} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \uparrow \cdot (ZX) & & \uparrow \cdot Y & & \uparrow \sigma & & \\ D^{1 \times (p_1+p'_3)} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R'} & D^{1 \times (p_0+p'_2)} & \xrightarrow{\pi'} & M' & \longrightarrow & 0. \end{array}$$

Hence, if we denote by  $\{f_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq (p'-q')}$  the standard basis of  $D^{1 \times (p'-q')}$ , using (3.8), we then obtain that  $\{\sigma(\pi'(f_i T')) = \pi(f_i(T'Y))\}_{1 \leq i \leq (p'-q')}$  is a basis of  $M$ , i. e., a basis of  $M$  is defined by taking the residue classes of the rows of  $(T'Y) \in D^{(p'-q') \times p_0}$ .

We can check that the  $D$ -morphism  $\sigma^{-1} : M \longrightarrow M'$  is defined by

$$\forall m = \pi(\lambda), \quad \lambda \in D^{1 \times p_0}, \quad \sigma^{-1}(m) = \pi'(\lambda Y^T).$$

Then, using (3.8), we obtain the following split exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R} & D^{1 \times p} & \xrightarrow{\cdot (Y^T Q')} & D^{1 \times (p'-q')} & \longrightarrow & 0, \\ & \xleftarrow{\cdot S} & & \xleftarrow{\cdot (T'Y)} & & & \end{array}$$

where  $S \in D^{p \times q}$  is a *generalized inverse* of  $R$ , i. e.,  $S$  satisfies  $RSR = R$  ([42]). If we denote by  $T' = (T'_1 \ T'_2)$ , where  $T'_1 \in D^{(p'-q') \times p}$  and  $T'_2 \in D^{(p'-q') \times p_2}$  and  $Q' = ((Q'_1)^T \ (Q'_2)^T)^T$ , where  $Q'_1 \in D^{p \times (p'-q')}$  and  $Q'_2 \in D^{p_2 \times (p'-q')}$ , we then get

$$Y^T Q' = Q'_1, \quad T'Y = T'_1,$$

i. e., we need to select the first  $p$  columns of  $T'$  and the first  $p$  rows of  $Q'$ .

**Remark 3.21** If the free  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is defined by the finite free resolution (3.1), where  $R_1 = R$ ,  $p_0 = p$  and  $p_1 = q$ , we point out that we only apply once the QS-algorithm to the matrix  $R'$  in order to obtain a basis of  $M$  contrary to the algorithm developed in [26] where the QS-algorithm is applied  $m$  times. Hence, our algorithm is generally more efficient than the one developed in [26].

If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $D$ -module, then applying the functor  $\text{hom}_D(\cdot, \mathcal{F})$  to the previous split exact sequence, by 2 of Proposition 2.15, we then obtain the following split exact sequence:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathcal{F}^q & \xleftarrow{\cdot R} & \mathcal{F}^p & \xleftarrow{\cdot Q'_1} & \mathcal{F}^{(p'-q')} & \longleftarrow & 0. \\ & \xrightarrow{\cdot S} & & \xrightarrow{\cdot T'_1} & & & \end{array}$$

The system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  admits the injective parametrization  $Q'_1$ , namely

$$\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.) = Q'_1 \mathcal{F}^{(p'-q')}, \quad T'_1 Q'_1 = I_{p'-q'}.$$

**Remark 3.22** Let us now explain how we can compute a basis of free  $D$ -modules  $\text{im}_D(\cdot R)$ ,  $\ker_D(\cdot R)$  and  $\text{coim}_D(\cdot R) \triangleq D^{1 \times q} / \ker_D(\cdot R)$ , where  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ .

1. A basis of  $\text{im}_D(.R) = D^{1 \times q} R$  can be obtained as follows: we first compute the first syzygy  $D$ -module of  $\text{im}_D(.R)$  and we obtain a matrix  $R_2 \in D^{r \times q}$  satisfying  $\ker_D(.R) = D^{1 \times r} R_2$ . Let us denote by  $M_2 = D^{1 \times q} / (D^{1 \times r} R_2) \cong D^{1 \times q} R$ . Using the method previously described, we can compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $M_2$ . We get  $Q_2 \in D^{q \times l}$  and  $T_2 \in D^{l \times q}$  such that we have the exact split sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} D^{1 \times r} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R_2} & D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{\cdot Q_2} & D^{1 \times l} & \longrightarrow & 0, \\ & & \xleftarrow{\cdot S_2} & & \xleftarrow{\cdot T_2} & & \end{array}$$

where  $S_2 \in D^{q \times r}$  denotes a generalized inverse of  $R_2$ . A basis of  $D^{1 \times q} R$  is then given by the  $D$ -linearly independent rows of the matrix  $T_2 R \in D^{l \times p}$  and we have  $D^{1 \times q} R = D^{1 \times l} (T_2 R)$ .

2. Using the same notations as before, we have  $\ker_D(.R) = D^{1 \times r} R_2$  and a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $\ker_D(.R)$  can then be obtained by computing a basis of  $D^{1 \times r} R_2$  as it was shown in the previous point.
3. Using again the same notations as in the first point, we get

$$\text{coim}_D(.R) = D^{1 \times q} / \ker_D(.R) = D^{1 \times q} / (D^{1 \times r} R_2),$$

and a basis of  $\text{coim}_D(.R)$  can be computed using the general method previously described in this section.

To finish, all the algorithms presented in this section were implemented in the package `QUILLENUSULIN` ([12]). See the appendix for more details and examples.

## 4 Flat multidimensional linear systems

### 4.1 Computation of flat outputs of flat multidimensional systems

Our first motivation to study and implement constructive versions of the Quillen-Suslin theorem was the computation of *flat outputs* and injective parametrizations of *flat multidimensional linear systems* and, particularly, differential time-delay systems. The study of flat linear ordinary differential time-delay systems has recently been initiated in [18, 30]. As for nonlinear ordinary differential systems ([17]), this class of systems has interesting mathematical properties which can be used to do motion planning and tracking as shown in [30] and the references therein on explicit examples.

However, the theory of flat linear ordinary differential time-delay systems is still in its infancy and some concepts developed for nonlinear ordinary differential systems seem to have no counterparts for this second class of systems. In particular, for flat linear differential time-delay systems, we can wonder which kind of linear systems could play a similar role as the one played by the Brunovský systems for flat nonlinear systems ([17]). To answer this question, we first need to understand which kind of equivalence plays a similar role for differential time-delay linear systems as the one played by the *Lie-Bäcklund equivalence* for nonlinear differential systems ([17]). To



our knowledge, these important questions have not been studied in the literature till now. This section aims at constructively answering these two questions.

As the differential time-delay systems is a particular class of multidimensional systems, we can define the concept of a flat multidimensional linear system in terms of the existence of an injective parametrization of the trajectories of the system ([5, 42, 62]).

**Definition 4.1** Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  a  $D$ -module. Then, the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is called *flat* if there exist  $Q \in D^{p \times m}$  and  $T \in D^{m \times p}$  satisfying

$$\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.) = Q \mathcal{F}^m, \quad T Q = I_m.$$

In terms of the module-theoretic/behaviour approach recently developed for multidimensional linear systems ([5, 39, 32, 62, 63]), it means that the module  $M$  intrinsically associated with the multidimensional linear system is free over the commutative polynomial ring  $D$  of functional operators ([5, 16, 17, 30, 42]).

**Proposition 4.2** [5] *Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ ,  $M = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q} R)$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  be an injective cogenerator  $D$ -module. Then,  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is a flat system iff the  $D$ -module  $M$  is free. Moreover, the bases of the  $D$ -module  $M$  are then in a one-to-one correspondence with flat outputs of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$ .*

**Remark 4.3** Using the end of the section 2, we obtain that the condition that  $M$  is a free  $D$ -module is a sufficient condition for  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  to be a flat system.

Using Proposition 4.2 and the Quillen-Suslin theorem (see 4 of Theorem 2.5), we then get the following important corollary.

**Corollary 4.4** *Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ ,  $M = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q} R)$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  be an injective cogenerator  $D$ -module. Then,  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is a flat system iff the  $D$ -module  $M$  is projective.*

When  $R$  has a full row rank, then, using Theorem 2.6, a constructive test for flatness of multidimensional linear systems with constant coefficients consists in checking if the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$  do not simultaneously vanish on complex common zeros ([23, 59]). This last result can algorithmically be checked by computing a Gröbner or Janet basis of the ideal  $I$  of  $D$  generated by the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$  and check whether or not  $1 \in I$ . We can also check whether or not  $R$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$  ([4, 5, 42]).

In the general case, using Theorem 2.6, the projectiveness of  $M$  can constructively be obtained by verifying the vanishing of  $\text{ext}_D^i(N, D)$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $N$  is the transposed  $D$ -module  $N = D^{1 \times q}/(D^{1 \times p} R^T)$ . Other possibilities are to compute the so-called *global dimension* of  $M$  ([53]) by means of Proposition 3.1 and Corollary 3.3 as it was shown in [49], check whether or not  $R$  admits a generalized inverse  $S$  over  $D$ , i. e., check for the existence of a matrix  $S \in D^{p \times q}$  satisfying  $R S R = R$  ([42]) or check some straightforward conditions on the so-called *Fitting ideals* of  $M$  as it is explained in [10].

However, we point out that, till now, there has been no easy way for obtaining the flat outputs of the system, i. e., the bases of the free  $D$ -module  $M$ . Hence, we are led

to use constructive versions of the Quillen-Suslin theorem developed in the symbolic algebra community ([19, 26, 27, 35, 58]) for computing a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $M$ . It was our first main purpose for developing the package `QUILLEN_SUSLIN` ([12]). See the appendix for more details and examples.

**Example 4.5** Let us consider the differential time-delay linear system (see [30])

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_1(t) - y_1(t-h) + 2y_1(t) + 2y_2(t) - 2u(t-h) = 0, \\ \dot{y}_1(t) + \dot{y}_2(t) - \dot{u}(t-h) - u(t) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

Let us denote by  $D = \mathbb{Q} \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \delta \right]$  the commutative ring of differential time-delay operators with rational constant coefficients, where  $(d/dt)y(t) = \dot{y}(t)$  and  $(\delta y)(t) = y(t-h)$ ,  $h \in \mathbb{R}_+$ . Let us also denote the matrix of functional operators defining (4.1) by

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} - \delta + 2 & 2 & -2\delta \\ \frac{d}{dt} & \frac{d}{dt} & -\frac{d}{dt}\delta - 1 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 3}.$$

Using the algorithms developed in [5, 42] and implemented in the package `OREMODULES` ([4]), we obtain that  $R$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$  defined by

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \frac{d}{dt}\delta + 2 & -2\delta \\ \frac{d}{dt} & -2 \end{pmatrix},$$

a fact proving that  $M = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 2} R)$  is a projective, and thus, a free  $D$ -module by the Quillen-Suslin theorem (see 4 of Theorem 2.5).

Using a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem (see also the heuristic methods developed in [5, 42]), we obtain the following split exact sequence of  $D$ -modules

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times 2} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\cdot R} \\ \xleftarrow{\cdot S} \end{array} D^{1 \times 3} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q} \\ \xleftarrow{\cdot T} \end{array} D \longrightarrow 0, \quad (4.2)$$

where  $T = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$  and

$$Q = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -\frac{d^2}{dt^2}\delta + \frac{d}{dt}\delta^2 - \frac{d}{dt} + \delta - 2 \\ \frac{d}{dt}\delta - \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Using the split exact sequence (4.2), we can check that we have

$$M = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 2} R) \cong (D^{1 \times 3} Q) = D,$$

i. e., we find again that  $M$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank 1.

Now, if  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $D$ -module (e. g.,  $\mathcal{F} = C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ ), by applying the functor  $\text{hom}_D(\cdot, \mathcal{F})$  to the split exact sequence (4.2), we then obtain the following split exact sequence of  $D$ -modules (see 2 of Proposition 2.15):

$$0 \longleftarrow \mathcal{F}^2 \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{R.} \\ \xrightarrow{S.} \end{array} \mathcal{F}^3 \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{Q.} \\ \xrightarrow{T.} \end{array} \mathcal{F} \longleftarrow 0.$$

Hence, for any  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$ , we get that the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  defined by (4.1) is parametrized by the following injective parametrization:

$$\forall x_1 \in \mathcal{F}, \begin{cases} y_1(t) = x_1(t), \\ y_2(t) = \frac{1}{2}(-\ddot{x}_1(t-h) + \dot{x}_1(t-2h) - \dot{x}_1(t) + x_1(t-h) - 2x_1(t)), \\ u(t) = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{x}_1(t-h) - \ddot{x}_1(t)). \end{cases} \quad (4.3)$$

We refer the reader to [49, 51] for a constructive algorithm for the computation of bases, and thus, of flat outputs of a class of linear systems defined by partial differential equations with polynomial or rational coefficients. See [50, 49] for an implementation of this algorithm in the package STAFFORD of the library OREMODULES.

Finally, we say that the  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is  $\pi$ -free, where  $\pi \in D$ , if the  $D_\pi$ -module  $D_\pi \otimes_D M$  is free, where  $D_\pi$  denotes the localization  $D_\pi = \{a/b \mid a \in D, b = \pi^i, i \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$  of the ring  $D$  with respect to the multiplicatively closed subset  $S_\pi = \{1, \pi, \pi^2, \dots\}$  of  $D$  ([53]). By extension, we can define the concept of a  $\pi$ -flat system. See [5, 30, 31] for more details. Given a finitely presented  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$ , constructive algorithms computing the corresponding polynomials  $\pi$  and basis of the free  $D_\pi$ -module  $D_\pi \otimes_D M$  were given in [5] and implemented in the OREMODULES package ([4, 6]). However, we can also use Remark 3.19 to compute the corresponding basis in the case where  $\pi = x_i$ . We refer the reader to [14] for more details and examples.

## 4.2 Equivalences of flat multidimensional systems

Using a QS-algorithm, the purpose of this section is to prove that a flat multidimensional linear system with constant coefficients is algebraically equivalent to a linear controllable 1-D system obtained by setting all but one functional operator to 0 in the system matrix. In particular, the algebraic equivalence we use is the natural equivalence developed in module theory, namely, two multidimensional linear systems are said to be algebraically equivalent if their canonical associated modules are isomorphic over the underlying commutative polynomial ring of functional operators  $D$ . This equivalence is nothing else than the natural substitute to the Lie-Bäcklund equivalence for multidimensional linear systems. In the case of ordinary differential linear systems, we already know that Lie-Bäcklund transformations correspond to isomorphisms of the

underlying modules (see e. g. [17] and the references therein). Finally, we prove that a flat differential time-delay linear system is algebraically equivalent to the controllable ordinary differential system without delays, namely, the system obtained by setting all the delay amplitudes to 0. This last system plays a similar role as the one played by the Brunovský canonical form in the nonlinear case.

We have the following corollary of Theorem 3.16.

**Corollary 4.6** *Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a full row rank and  $\mathcal{F}$  an injective cogenerator  $D$ -module. The flat multidimensional system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(x_1, \dots, x_n).)$  is then  $D$ -isomorphic to a controllable 1- $D$  linear system obtained by setting any functional operator to 0. For instance, the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(x_1, \dots, x_n).)$  is  $D$ -isomorphic to the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(x_1, 0, \dots, 0).)$  and the elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(x_1, \dots, x_n).)$  are in a one-to-one correspondence with the ones of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(x_1, 0, \dots, 0).)$*

*Proof.* Using Proposition 4.2, we obtain that  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  is a free  $D$ -module. Using the fact that  $R$  has full row rank, by Theorem 3.16, there exists a matrix  $U \in \text{GL}_p(D)$  such that  $RU = \bar{R}$ , where  $\bar{R} = R(x_1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Therefore, we have the following commutative exact diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R} & D^{1 \times p} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \parallel & & \downarrow \cdot U & & \downarrow f & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{\cdot \bar{R}} & D^{1 \times p} & \xrightarrow{\kappa} & M' & \longrightarrow & 0, \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 
\end{array}$$

where  $\kappa : D^{1 \times p} \longrightarrow M$  denotes the canonical projection onto  $M$  and the  $D$ -isomorphism  $f : M \longrightarrow M'$  is defined by

$$\forall m = \pi(\lambda), \quad \lambda \in D^{1 \times p}, \quad f(m) = \kappa(\lambda U).$$

Applying the functor  $\text{hom}_D(\cdot, \mathcal{F})$  to the previous commutative exact diagram and using the fact that horizontal exact sequences split because  $M \cong M'$  is a free  $D$ -module, we then obtain the following commutative exact diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
& & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
0 & \longleftarrow & \mathcal{F}^q & \xleftarrow{\cdot R} & \mathcal{F}^p & \xleftarrow{\pi^*} & \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.) & \longleftarrow & 0 \\
& & \parallel & & \uparrow U. & & \uparrow f^* & & \\
0 & \longleftarrow & \mathcal{F}^q & \xleftarrow{\cdot \bar{R}} & \mathcal{F}^p & \xleftarrow{\kappa^*} & \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(\bar{R}.) & \longleftarrow & 0. \\
& & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 
\end{array}$$

The  $D$ -isomorphism  $f^* : \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(\overline{R}.) \longrightarrow \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is defined by

$$\forall \eta \in \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(\overline{R}.), \quad f^*(\eta) = U \eta.$$

Hence,  $f^*$  induces a one-to-one correspondence between the elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(\overline{R}.)$  and those of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  and  $(f^*)^{-1}$  is defined by

$$\forall \zeta \in \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.), \quad (f^*)^{-1}(\zeta) = U^{-1} \zeta.$$

□

Using Corollary 3.3 and the end of the section 3.4, we can always reduce the case of a non full row rank matrix  $R$  to the case of a full row rank matrix  $R'$  and then apply Corollary 4.6 to  $R'$ .

Despite the fact that Corollary 4.6 is a straightforward consequence of the Quillen-Suslin theorem, its applications to flat multidimensional systems seem to be ignored. In particular, it shows that the Lie-Bäcklund equivalence in the nonlinear case needs to be replaced by the isomorphism equivalence in the multidimensional case. Moreover, the right substitute of the Brunovský linear system in the nonlinear case becomes the controllable 1-D linear linear system with constant coefficients obtained by setting all but one functional operator to 0.

Let us illustrate Corollary 4.6 on an example.

**Example 4.7** Let us consider again the differential time-delay linear system defined by (4.1). In Example 4.5, we proved that the corresponding  $D$ -module  $M$  is free. It is well known that  $\mathcal{F} = C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  is not an injective  $D$ -module but, by Remark 4.3, the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is flat as the  $D$ -module  $M$  is free. Hence, according to Corollary 4.6, the flat system (4.1) is algebraically equivalent to the following controllable ordinary differential linear system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1(t) + 2z_1(t) + 2z_2(t) = 0, \\ \dot{z}_1(t) + \dot{z}_2(t) - v(t) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (4.4)$$

i. e., the system obtained by setting  $\delta$  to 0 in the matrix  $R$ . Using the constructive QS-algorithm to  $R$ , after a few computations, we obtain an invertible transformation which bijectively maps the trajectories of (4.1) to the ones of (4.4) is defined by

$$\begin{cases} y_1(t) = z_1(t), \\ y_2(t) = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{z}_1(t-2h) + z_1(t-h)) + z_2(t) + v(t-h), \\ u(t) = \frac{1}{2}\dot{z}_1(t-h) + v(t) \end{cases} \quad (4.5)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} z_1(t) = y_1(t), \\ z_2(t) = -\frac{1}{2}y_1(t-h) + y_2(t) - u(t-h), \\ v(t) = -\frac{1}{2}\dot{y}_1(t-h) + u(t). \end{cases}$$

Applying again Corollary 4.6 to (4.4), we get that the ordinary differential system (4.4) is equivalent to the purely algebraic system

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1(t) + 2x_2(t) = 0, \\ -w(t) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (4.6)$$

i. e., the system obtained by setting to  $\delta$  and  $d/dt$  to 0 in  $R$ . Applying a QS-algorithm to  $R$ , we obtain that a transformation which bijectively maps the trajectories of (4.4) to the ones of (4.6) is defined by

$$\begin{cases} z_1(t) = x_1(t), \\ z_2(t) = x_2(t) - \frac{1}{2} \dot{x}_1(t), \\ v(t) = w(t) - \frac{1}{2} \ddot{x}_1(t) + \dot{x}_1(t) + \dot{x}_2(t) \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x_1(t) = z_1(t), \\ x_2(t) = z_2(t) + \frac{1}{2} \dot{z}_1(t), \\ w(t) = v(t) + \dot{z}_1(t) + \dot{z}_2(t). \end{cases} \quad (4.7)$$

Combining (4.5) and (4.7), we finally obtain a one-to-one correspondence between the solutions of (4.1) and (4.6).

We note that the solutions of (4.1) (resp., (4.4)) are parametrized by means of (4.5) (resp., (4.7)), where  $z_1$ ,  $z_2$  and  $v$  (resp.,  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $w$ ) are not arbitrary functions as they must satisfy (4.4) (resp., (4.6)). However, solving the algebraic system (4.6), we obtain that  $x_2 = -x_1$  and  $w = 0$ . Substituting these values in (4.7) and the result into (4.5), we find that an injective parametrization of (4.1) is defined by (4.3).

Finally, we can check that an injective parametrization of (4.4) is obtained by setting  $\delta = 0$  in the matrix of operators defining (4.3), i. e.,

$$\forall \psi \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \begin{cases} z_1(t) = \psi(t), \\ z_2(t) = -\frac{1}{2} (\ddot{\psi}(t) + 2\dot{\psi}(t)), \\ v(t) = -\frac{1}{2} \ddot{\psi}(t). \end{cases}$$

Similarly, if we set  $\delta$  and  $d/dt$  to 0 in the matrix of operators defining (4.3), we obtain the following injective parametrization of (4.6):

$$\forall \varphi \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \begin{cases} x_1(t) = \varphi(t), \\ x_2(t) = -\varphi(t), \\ w(t) = 0. \end{cases}$$

These last results can be obtained by applying the functor  $(D/(D\delta)) \otimes_D \cdot$  (resp.,  $(D/(D\delta + D\frac{d}{dt})) \otimes_D \cdot$ ) to the split exact sequence (4.2) to get the corresponding split exact sequence of  $D/(D\delta)$ -modules (resp.,  $D/(D\delta + D\frac{d}{dt})$ -modules) ([53]).

See [13, 14] for more examples.

Using Corollary 3.18, we can also set the different functional operators appearing in the system matrix of a flat multidimensional linear system to any particular value belonging

to  $k$ . Applying this result to the class of flat differential time-delay linear systems, we show that a flat differential time-delay linear system is equivalent to the controllable ordinary differential linear system obtained by setting all the time-delay amplitudes to 0, i. e., to the corresponding ordinary differential system without delays.

**Corollary 4.8** *Let  $D = k \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_{n-1} \right]$  be the ring of differential incommensurable time-delay operators, namely, the amplitudes  $h_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$  of the time-delay operator  $(\delta_i y)(t) = y(t - h_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , are such that the  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space generated by  $h_1, \dots, h_{n-1}$  is  $n$ -dimensional. Let us consider  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  which admits a right-inverse over  $D$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  an injective cogenerator  $D$ -module. Then, the time-invariant flat differential time-delay linear system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R \left( \frac{d}{dt}, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_{n-1} \right) \cdot)$  is  $D$ -isomorphic to the controllable ordinary differential linear system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R \left( \frac{d}{dt}, 1, \dots, 1 \right) \cdot)$  obtained by setting the amplitudes of all the delays to 0, i. e., it is equivalent to the linear system without delays. In particular, the elements of the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R \left( \frac{d}{dt}, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_{n-1} \right) \cdot)$  are in a one-to-one correspondence with the ones of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R \left( \frac{d}{dt}, 1, \dots, 1 \right) \cdot)$ .*

Let us illustrate Corollary 4.8 on an example.

**Example 4.9** Let us consider again the flat differential time-delay linear system defined by (4.1). Applying Corollary 4.8 on (4.1), we obtain that (4.1) is equivalent to the ordinary differential linear system obtained by substituting  $h = 0$  into (4.1), i. e., by setting  $\delta = 1$  in the matrix  $R$  defined in Example 4.5, namely

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1(t) + z_1(t) + 2z_2(t) - 2v(t) = 0, \\ \dot{z}_1(t) + \dot{z}_2(t) - \dot{v}(t) - v(t) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (4.8)$$

Using a QS-algorithm, we then obtain that the following transformation

$$\begin{cases} z_1(t) = y_1(t), \\ z_2(t) = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{y}_1(t) - \dot{y}_1(t-h) + y_1(t) - y_1(t-h)) + y_2(t) + u(t) - u(t-h), \\ v(t) = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{y}_1(t) - \dot{y}_1(t-h)) + u(t), \end{cases} \quad (4.9)$$

whose inverse is defined by

$$\begin{cases} y_1(t) = z_1(t), \\ y_2(t) = -\frac{1}{2}(\dot{z}_1(t-h) - \dot{z}_1(t-2h) + z_1(t-h) - z_1(t)) + z_2(t) \\ \quad + v(t-h) - v(t), \\ u(t) = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{z}_1(t-h) - \dot{z}_1(t)) + v(t), \end{cases}$$

bijectionally maps the trajectories of (4.1) to the ones of (4.8). An injective parametriza-

tion of (4.8) can then be obtained by taking  $h = 0$  in (4.3), i. e.,

$$\forall \psi \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \begin{cases} z_1(t) = \psi(t), \\ z_2(t) = -\frac{1}{2}(\ddot{\psi}(t) + \psi(t)), \\ v(t) = \frac{1}{2}(-\ddot{\psi}(t) + \dot{\psi}(t)). \end{cases}$$

See [13, 14] for more examples.

In the previous example, we note that the invertible transformations can easily be computed by hand but it is generally not the case for more complicated examples. Hence, we need to use an implementation of constructive versions of the Quillen-Suslin theorem for computing the invertible transformations and the injective parametrizations of flat multidimensional linear systems. Such an implementation has recently been done in the package `QUILLENUSLIN` ([12]) which, with the library `OREMODULES` ([4]), allows us to effectively handle these difficult computations.

As for the flat nonlinear ordinary differential systems, using the fact that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the trajectories of the flat differential time-delay systems with those of the ordinary differential system without delays, we can use stabilizing controllers of the latter in order to stabilize the former. This approach echoes the Smith predictor method. We refer the reader to [13, 14] for more details and examples.

## 5 Pommaret's theorem of Lin-Bose's conjectures

The purpose of this section is to show how to use a QS-algorithm to constructively solve Pommaret's theorem of Lin-Bose's conjectures ([41]). Let us first recall this conjecture recently developed in the multidimensional systems theory which generalizes Serre's conjecture ([25]). Let us state a new problem.

**Problem 3** *Let  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a commutative polynomial ring with coefficients in a field  $k$ ,  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  a full row rank matrix and  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  the  $D$ -module finitely presented by  $R$ . We suppose that  $M/t(M)$  is a free  $D$ -module. Does exist a full row rank matrix  $R' \in D^{q \times p}$  satisfying*

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R')?$$

*If so, compute such a matrix  $R'$ .*

If we can solve Problem 3, we then have

$$t(M) = (D^{1 \times q} R') / (D^{1 \times q} R),$$

and using the fact that  $D^{1 \times q} R \subseteq D^{1 \times q'} R'$ , there exists  $R'' \in D^{q \times q}$  such that

$$R = R'' R'. \quad (5.1)$$



Let us denote by  $r = p!/((p - q)! q!)$ . The fact that  $M/t(M)$  is a projective  $D$ -module implies that there is no common zero in the  $q \times q$  minors  $\{m'_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq r}$  of  $R'$ , i. e., there exists a family  $\{p_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq r}$  of elements of  $D$  satisfying the following Bézout identity:

$$\sum_{i=1}^r p_i m'_i = 1. \quad (5.2)$$

Now, using the fact that we have  $m_i = (\det R'') m'_i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, r$ , where the  $m_i$  denote the  $q \times q$ -minors of  $R$ , we obtain that the following inclusion of ideals of  $D$ :

$$\sum_{i=1}^r D m_i \subseteq (D (\det R'')) \left( \sum_{i=1}^r D m'_i \right) = D (\det R'').$$

Multiplying (5.2) by  $\det R''$ , we obtain

$$\det R'' = \sum_{i=1}^r p_i (\det R'') m'_i = \sum_{i=1}^r p_i m_i,$$

which shows that  $D (\det R'') \subseteq \sum_{i=1}^r D m_i$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^r D m_i = D (\det R'')$ . Hence, the greatest common divisor of the  $q \times q$  minors  $\{m_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq r}$  is then equal to  $\det R''$ .

Solving Problem 3 gives us a way to factorize  $R$  under the form  $R = R'' R'$ , where  $R' \in D^{q \times p}$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$  and  $\det R''$  is the greatest common divisor of the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$ . The question of the possibility to achieve this factorization was first asked by Lin and Bose in [25] and solved by Pommaret in [41]. See also [36, 54, 60]. It was proved in [41] that this factorization problem is equivalent to Problem 3. The purpose of this paragraph is to give a general constructive algorithm which solves Problem 3, and thus, performs the corresponding factorization. The algorithm has recently been implemented in the package `QUILLENUSLIN`.

Based on the Quillen-Suslin theorem, we first prove that a matrix  $R'$  satisfying Problem 3 always exists. We then show how to effectively compute it.

The fact that  $R$  has full row rank implies that we have the following exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\pi} M \longrightarrow 0. \quad (5.3)$$

Let  $N = D^{1 \times q}/(D^{1 \times p} R^T)$  be the transposed  $D$ -module of  $M$  (see Remark 2.7), according to Theorem 2.6, there exists  $Q \in D^{q' \times p}$  such that

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q'} Q).$$

In particular, using the fact that  $(D^{1 \times q} R) \subseteq (D^{1 \times q'} Q)$ , there then exists a matrix  $P \in D^{q \times q'}$  satisfying  $R = P Q$ . We refer the reader to [4] for the implementation of the corresponding algorithms in the library `OREMODULES` as well as the large library of examples which demonstrates these results.

Then, we have the following commutative exact diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & \\
& & & & \downarrow & & \\
& & & 0 & t(M) & & \\
& & & \downarrow & \downarrow i & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & D^{1 \times q} & \xrightarrow{\cdot R} & D^{1 \times p} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & M \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow \cdot P & & \parallel & & \downarrow \rho \\
& & D^{1 \times q'} & \xrightarrow{\cdot Q} & D^{1 \times p} & \xrightarrow{\pi'} & M/t(M) \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
& & & & 0 & & 0
\end{array}$$

As, by hypothesis, the  $D$ -module  $M/t(M)$  is projective, using 1 of Proposition 2.15, we obtain that the following exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow (D^{1 \times q'} Q) \longrightarrow D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\pi'} M/t(M) \longrightarrow 0 \quad (5.4)$$

splits and we obtain

$$D^{1 \times p} \cong M/t(M) \oplus (D^{1 \times q'} Q),$$

which shows that  $D^{1 \times q'} Q$  is a projective  $D$ -module. By the Quillen-Suslin theorem, we obtain that  $D^{1 \times q'} Q$  is then a free  $D$ -module.

Let us compute the rank of the free  $D$ -module  $D^{1 \times q'} Q$ . Applying the exact functor  $K \otimes_D \cdot$  to the short exact sequence (5.4), where  $K = Q(D)$  denotes the quotient field of  $D$  ([53]), we obtain that

$$\text{rank}_D(D^{1 \times q'} Q) = p - \text{rank}_D(M/t(M)).$$

See [53] for more details (*Euler characteristic*). Similarly with the two short exact sequences (5.3) and

$$0 \longrightarrow t(M) \xrightarrow{i} M \xrightarrow{\rho} M/t(M) \longrightarrow 0,$$

and, using the fact that  $K \otimes_D t(M) = 0$  because  $t(M)$  is a torsion  $D$ -module ([53]), we then get

$$\text{rank}_D(M/t(M)) = \text{rank}_D(M) = p - q.$$

Therefore, we obtain  $\text{rank}_D(D^{1 \times q'} Q) = p - (p - q) = q$ , which shows that  $D^{1 \times q'} Q$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $q$ , i. e.,  $(D^{1 \times q'} Q) \cong D^{1 \times q}$ . Computing a basis of this free  $D$ -module, we obtain a full row rank matrix  $R' \in D^{q \times p}$  satisfying

$$D^{1 \times q'} Q = D^{1 \times q} R', \quad (5.5)$$

which implies that  $M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q} R')$  and we have the following finite free short resolution of  $M/t(M)$ :

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R'} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\pi'} M/t(M) \longrightarrow 0. \quad (5.6)$$

We note that if  $Q$  has full row rank, we then can take  $R' = Q$  and  $q' = q$ .

In order to compute the matrix  $R' \in D^{q \times p}$  which satisfies (5.5), we need to compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $D^{1 \times q'}$ . Hence, we can use the first point of Remark 3.22 to compute a basis of the  $D$ -module  $D^{1 \times q'}$ .

**Algorithm 5.1** • **Input:** A commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  over a computable field  $k$ , a full row rank matrix  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  and the finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q} R)$  such that  $M/t(M)$  is a free  $D$ -module.

- **Output:** A full row rank matrix  $R' \in D^{q \times p}$  such that

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q} R').$$

1. Transpose the matrix  $R$  and define the finitely presented  $D$ -module

$$N = D^{1 \times q}/(D^{1 \times p} R^T).$$

2. Compute the  $D$ -module  $\text{ext}_D^1(N, D)$ . We obtain a matrix  $Q \in D^{q' \times p}$  such that

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q'} Q).$$

3. Compute the first syzygy module  $\ker_D(\cdot, Q)$  of  $D^{1 \times q'}$ .
4. If  $\ker_D(\cdot, Q) = 0$ , then  $Q$  has full row rank and exit the algorithm with  $R' = Q$ . Else, denote by  $Q_2 \in D^{q_2' \times q'}$  a matrix satisfying  $\ker_D(\cdot, Q) = D^{1 \times q_2'} Q_2$ .
5. Compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module

$$L = D^{1 \times q'}/(D^{1 \times q_2'} Q_2).$$

In particular, we obtain a full row rank matrix  $B \in D^{q \times q'}$  such that

$$L = \pi_2(D^{1 \times q} B),$$

where  $\pi_2 : D^{1 \times q'} \rightarrow L$  denotes the canonical projection onto  $L$ .

6. Return the full row rank matrix  $R' = B Q \in D^{q \times p}$ .

**Remark 5.2** The computation of a basis of  $L$  gives two matrices  $P_2 \in D^{q' \times q}$  and  $B \in D^{q \times q'}$  such that we have the following split exact sequence:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & 0 & & \\ & & & & \uparrow & & \\ D^{1 \times q_2'} & \xrightarrow{\cdot Q_2} & D^{1 \times q'} & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} & L & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \uparrow \phi & & \\ & & D^{1 \times q'} & \xrightarrow{\cdot P_2} & D^{1 \times q} & \longrightarrow & 0, \\ & & & \xleftarrow{\cdot B} & \uparrow & & \\ & & & & 0 & & \end{array}$$

where  $\phi : D^{1 \times q} \rightarrow L$  denotes the corresponding isomorphism. We can now check that the matrix  $R' = BQ$  has full row rank. Let  $\lambda \in D^{1 \times q}$  be such that  $\lambda R' = 0$ . Then, we get  $(\lambda B)Q = 0$ , i. e.,  $\lambda B \in \ker_D(.Q) = D^{1 \times q_2'} Q_2$ , and thus, there exists  $\mu \in D^{1 \times q_2'}$  such that  $\lambda B = \mu Q_2$ . Using the identity  $B P_2 = I_q$ , we then obtain

$$\lambda = (\lambda B) P_2 = \mu (Q_2 P_2) = 0.$$

We illustrate Algorithm 5.1 on a simple example.

**Example 5.3** Let us consider the differential time-delay model of a flexible rod with a force applied on one end developed in [30]:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_1(t) - \dot{y}_2(t-1) - u(t) = 0, \\ 2\dot{y}_1(t-1) - \dot{y}_2(t) - \dot{y}_2(t-2) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (5.7)$$

Let us define the ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[\frac{d}{dt}, \delta]$  of differential time-delay operators with rational constant coefficients. The system matrix of (5.7) is defined by

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} & -\frac{d}{dt}\delta & -1 \\ 2\frac{d}{dt}\delta & -\frac{d}{dt}\delta^2 - \frac{d}{dt} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 3}.$$

Let  $M = D^{1 \times 3}/(D^{1 \times 2} R)$  be the  $D$ -module associated with (5.7) and its transposed  $D$ -module  $N = D^{1 \times 2}/(D^{1 \times 3} R^T)$ .  $N$  admits the following finite free resolution

$$0 \leftarrow N \xleftarrow{\sigma} D^{1 \times 2} \xleftarrow{\cdot R^T} D^{1 \times 3} \xleftarrow{\cdot R_2^T} D \leftarrow 0,$$

where  $R_2^T = (-\delta^2 - 1 \quad -2\delta \quad \frac{d}{dt}\delta^2 - \frac{d}{dt})$ . The defects of exactness of the complex

$$0 \rightarrow D^{1 \times 2} \xrightarrow{\cdot R} D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_2} D \rightarrow 0$$

are then defined by

$$\begin{cases} \text{ext}_D^0(N, D) = \ker_D(.R) = 0, \\ \text{ext}_D^1(N, D) = \ker_D(.R_2)/(D^{1 \times 2} R), \\ \text{ext}_D^2(N, D) = D/(D^{1 \times 3} R_2). \end{cases}$$

Computing the first syzygy module  $\ker_D(.R_2)$  of  $D^{1 \times 2} R$ , we obtain  $\ker_D(.R_2) = D^{1 \times 3} Q$ , where the matrix  $Q$  is defined by

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} -2\delta & \delta^2 + 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{d}{dt} & \frac{d}{dt}\delta & 1 \\ \frac{d}{dt}\delta & -\frac{d}{dt} & \delta \end{pmatrix} \in D^{3 \times 3}. \quad (5.8)$$

We get  $t(M) \cong (D^{1 \times 3} Q)/(D^{1 \times 2} R)$  and reducing the rows of  $Q$  with respect to  $D^{1 \times 2} R$ , we obtain that the only non-trivial torsion element of  $M$  is defined by

$$\begin{cases} m = -2\delta y_1 + (\delta^2 + 1)y_2, \\ \frac{d}{dt} m = 0, \end{cases}$$

where  $y_1, y_2$  and  $y_3$  denote the residue classes of the standard basis of  $D^{1 \times 3}$  in  $M$ .

Following Algorithm 5.1, we compute the first syzygy module  $\ker_D(\cdot Q)$  and obtain  $\ker_D(\cdot Q) = D Q_2$ , where

$$Q_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} & -\delta & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{1 \times 3}. \quad (5.9)$$

We now have to compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $L = D^{1 \times 3}/(D Q_2)$ . Using a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem, we obtain the split exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow D \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q_2} \\ \xleftarrow{\cdot S_2} \end{array} D^{1 \times 2} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\cdot P_2} \\ \xleftarrow{\cdot B} \end{array} D \longrightarrow 0$$

with the following notations:

$$S_2 = (0 \ 0 \ 1)^T, \quad P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ \frac{d}{dt} & \delta \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Computing  $R' = B Q$ , we obtain that the following full row rank matrix

$$R' = \begin{pmatrix} 2\delta & -\delta^2 - 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{d}{dt} & \frac{d}{dt}\delta & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 3}$$

satisfies  $D^{1 \times 3} Q = D^{1 \times 2} R'$ . Finally, we have the factorization  $R = R'' R'$ , where the  $R''$  is defined by

$$R'' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ \frac{d}{dt} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and satisfies  $\det R'' = d/dt$ , where  $d/dt$  is the greatest common divisor of the  $2 \times 2$  minors of  $R$  and is the functional operator which annihilates the torsion element  $m$ .

Using the fact that  $M/t(M)$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $p - q$ , i. e., there exists an isomorphism

$$\psi : M/t(M) \longrightarrow D^{1 \times (p-q)},$$

and the exact sequence (5.6), we then obtain the following exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R'} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\cdot P} D^{1 \times (p-q)} \longrightarrow 0, \quad (5.10)$$

where  $P \in D^{p \times (p-q)}$  is the matrix defining the morphism  $\pi' \circ \psi$  in the standard bases of  $D^{1 \times p}$  and  $D^{1 \times (p-q)}$ . As the exact sequence (5.10) ends with a free  $D$ -module, by 1 of Proposition 2.15, it splits, i. e., there exist  $S \in D^{p \times q}$  and  $T \in D^{(p-q) \times p}$  such that we have the following Bézout identities:

$$\begin{pmatrix} R' \\ T \end{pmatrix} (S \ P) = \begin{pmatrix} I_q & 0 \\ 0 & I_{p-q} \end{pmatrix} = I_p, \quad (5.11)$$

$$(S \ P) \begin{pmatrix} R' \\ T \end{pmatrix} = I_p. \quad (5.12)$$

Now, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} R'' R' \\ T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} R'' & 0 \\ 0 & I_{p-q} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R' \\ T \end{pmatrix}$$

and using (5.11), we obtain that  $\det((R'^T \ T^T)^T) = 1$  and

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} R'' & 0 \\ 0 & I_{p-q} \end{pmatrix} \det \begin{pmatrix} R' \\ T \end{pmatrix} = \det R''.$$

Finally, using the fact that we have proved that  $\det R''$  is the greatest common divisor of the  $q \times q$  minors of the matrix  $R$ , we then have solved the following problem.

**Problem 4** Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a full row rank matrix such that the ideal  $\sum_{i=1}^r D m_i$  of  $D$  generated by the  $q \times q$  minors  $\{m_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq r}$  of the matrix  $R$  satisfies

$$\sum_{i=1}^r D m_i = D d,$$

where  $d$  denotes the greatest common divisor of the  $q \times q$  minors of the matrix  $R$ . Find a matrix  $T \in D^{(p-q) \times p}$  such that we have

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} = d.$$

To our knowledge, such a problem was first stated by Bose and Lin in [25]. Let us give a constructive algorithm solving Problem 4.

**Algorithm 5.4** • **Input:** A commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  over a computable field  $k$ , a full row rank matrix  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  such that the ideal of  $D$  generated by the  $q \times q$  minors  $\{m_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq r}$  of  $R$  satisfies  $\sum_{i=1}^r D m_i = D d$ , where  $d$  denotes the greatest common divisor of the  $q \times q$  minors of  $R$ .

• **Output:** A matrix  $T \in D^{(p-q) \times p}$  such that  $\det \begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} = d$ .

1. Transpose the matrix  $R$  and define the finitely presented  $D$ -module

$$N = D^{1 \times q} / (D^{1 \times p} R^T).$$

2. Compute the  $D$ -module  $\text{ext}_D^1(N, D)$ . We obtain a matrix  $Q \in D^{q' \times p}$  such that

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q'} Q).$$

3. Compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q'} Q)$ . In particular, we obtain a full row rank matrix  $T \in D^{(p-q) \times p}$  such that  $M/t(M) = \pi'(D^{1 \times (p-q)} T)$ , where  $\pi' : D^{1 \times p} \rightarrow M/t(M)$  denotes the canonical projection on  $M/t(M)$ .

4. Return the matrix  $U = (R^T \ T^T)^T$  which satisfies  $\det U = d$ .

We illustrate Algorithm 5.4 on an example.

**Example 5.5** We consider again the model of a flexible rod defined in (5.7). In Example 5.3, we have proved that  $M/t(M) = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 3} Q)$ , where the matrix  $Q$  is defined by (5.8). Let us compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $M/t(M)$ . The  $D$ -module  $M/t(M)$  admits the following free resolution

$$0 \rightarrow D \xrightarrow{\cdot Q_2} D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q} D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\pi'} M/t(M) \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $Q_2$  is defined by (5.9). Using the fact that  $Q_2$  admits the right-inverse  $S_2$  defined by (5.3), we obtain the following minimal free resolution of  $M/t(M)$

$$0 \rightarrow D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\cdot \bar{Q}} D^{1 \times 4} \xrightarrow{\pi' \oplus 0} M/t(M) \rightarrow 0,$$

where the full row rank matrix  $\bar{Q}$  is defined by  $\bar{Q} = (Q^T \ S_2^T)^T$ .

Applying a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem to  $\bar{Q}$ , we then find that a basis of  $M/t(M)$  is given by  $(\pi' \oplus 0)(\bar{T})$ , where  $\bar{T}$  denotes the matrix

$$\bar{T} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} \delta & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If we denote by  $T$  the matrix defined by the first three entries of  $\bar{T}$ , we then obtain a square matrix  $U = (R^T \ T^T)^T$  satisfying  $\det U = d/dt$ .

The explicit computation of  $\text{ext}_D^1(N, D)$  gives a matrix  $R_{-1} \in D^{p \times m}$  which satisfies  $\ker_D(\cdot R_{-1}) = D^{1 \times q'} Q$ , i. e., such that we have the following exact sequence:

$$D^{1 \times q'} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_{-1}} D^{1 \times m}.$$

A direct way to solve Problem 4 exists when the matrix  $R_{-1}$  admits a left-inverse  $S_{-1} \in D^{m \times p}$ . Then, we have  $M/t(M) \cong D^{1 \times p} R_{-1} = D^{1 \times m}$  and using the fact that

$\text{rank}_D(M/t(M)) = p - q$ , we get  $m = p - q$ . The fact that  $D^{1 \times q'} Q$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $q$  implies that there exists a full row rank matrix  $R' \in D^{q \times p}$  satisfying  $D^{1 \times q'} Q = D^{1 \times q} R'$ . Combining this result with the previous exact sequence, we obtain the split exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow D^{1 \times q} \xrightarrow{\cdot R'} D^{1 \times p} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_{-1}} D^{1 \times (p-q)} \longrightarrow 0,$$

which shows that  $P = R_{-1}$  and  $T = S_{-1}$  solve Problem 4.

Let us illustrate this last remark on an example.

**Example 5.6** Let us consider again the model of a flexible rod defined in (5.7) and let us compute  $T \in D^{1 \times 3}$  such that the determinant of the matrix  $(R^T \quad T^T)^T$  equals  $d/dt$ . In Example 5.3, we proved that we have the exact sequence

$$D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\cdot Q} D^{1 \times 3} \xrightarrow{\cdot R_2} D,$$

where  $R_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -\delta^2 - 1 & -2\delta & \frac{d}{dt} \delta^2 - \frac{d}{dt} \end{pmatrix}^T$ .  $R_2$  admits a left-inverse  $T$  defined by

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2}\delta & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

which proves that  $M/t(M)$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank 1 as we have the isomorphisms

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 3} Q) \cong (D^{1 \times 3} R_2) \cong D.$$

We finally obtain that the matrix defined by

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} R \\ T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} & -\frac{d}{dt} \delta & -1 \\ 2 \frac{d}{dt} \delta & -\frac{d}{dt} \delta^2 - \frac{d}{dt} & 0 \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \delta & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfies  $\det U = d/dt$ , which solves Problem 4.

To finish, let us show how to handle an example given in [61] by means of Algorithms 5.1 and 5.4.

**Example 5.7** Let us consider the commutative polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[z_1, z_2, z_3]$  and the following matrix defined in [61]:

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & 0 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 \\ z_1^2 z_3^2 + z_3 & -z_3 & -z_1^3 z_3 - z_1 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 3}.$$

Let us define the  $D$ -modules  $M = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 2} R)$  and  $N = D^{1 \times 2} / (D^{1 \times 3} R^T)$ . Computing  $\text{ext}_D^1(N, D)$ , we then get

$$\begin{cases} t(M) = (D^{1 \times 4} Q) / (D^{1 \times 2} R), \\ M/t(M) = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 4} Q), \\ M/t(M) \cong (D^{1 \times 3} P), \end{cases}$$



with the notations

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} -z_2^2 z_3 & z_2^2 z_3 & z_1 z_2^2 - z_1 z_3 \\ -z_3 - z_1^2 z_3^2 & z_3 & z_1 + z_1^3 z_3 \\ -z_1^2 z_3 - 1 & z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 & 0 \\ 0 & z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & -z_1^2 z_3 - 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 \\ z_1^2 z_3 + 1 \\ z_1 z_2^2 z_3 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5.13)$$

Reducing the rows of  $Q$  with respect to the rows of  $R$ , we obtain that the only torsion element of  $M$  is defined by

$$\begin{cases} m = -(z_1^2 z_3 + 1) y_1 + (z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1) y_2, \\ z_3 m = 0, \end{cases}$$

where  $y_1, y_2$  and  $y_3$  denote the residue classes of the standard basis of  $D^{1 \times 3}$  in  $M$ . We refer the reader to [4] for more details concerning the explicit computations.

We can easily check that  $P$  admits the left-inverse  $T = (-z_1^2 z_3 \quad 1 \quad z_1^3)$ , a fact showing that  $M/t(M)$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank 2. Then, the matrix  $U = (R^T \quad T^T)^T$  defined by

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & 0 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 \\ z_1^2 z_3^2 + z_3 & -z_3 & -z_1^3 z_3 - z_1 \\ -z_1^2 z_3 & 1 & z_1^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfies  $\det U = z_3$ , which solves Problem 4.

Let us solve Problem 3. From the previous result, we know that  $\ker_D(.P) = D^{1 \times 4} Q$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank 2. In order to be able to apply a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem, we first need to compute the first syzygy module of  $D^{1 \times 4} Q$ . We obtain that  $\ker_D(.Q) = D^{1 \times 2} Q_2$ , where the matrix  $Q_2 \in D^{2 \times 4}$  is defined by

$$Q_2 = \begin{pmatrix} z_1^2 z_3 + 1 & z_3 - z_2^2 & -z_3^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -z_3 & z_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence, we have  $D^{1 \times 4} Q \cong L = D^{1 \times 4} / (D^{1 \times 2} Q_2)$ . Applying a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem to  $Q_2$ , we then obtain  $L = \pi_2(D^{1 \times 2} B)$ , where the full row rank matrix  $B$  is defined by

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} z_1^4 & 0 & -z_1^2 z_3 + 1 & 0 \\ 0 & z_1^3 z_3 (z_2^2 - z_3) & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and  $\pi_2 : D^{1 \times 2} \rightarrow L$  denotes the canonical projection onto  $L$ . Hence, we get that the full row rank matrix defined by

$$R' = BQ = \begin{pmatrix} R'_{11} & R'_{12} & R'_{13} \\ R'_{21} & R'_{21} & R'_{23} \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 3},$$

where

$$\begin{cases} R'_{11} = -z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 + z_1^4 z_3^2 - 1, \\ R'_{12} = z_1^2 z_2^2 - z_1^2 z_3 + 1, \\ R'_{13} = z_1^5 (z_2^2 - z_3), \\ R'_{21} = -z_1^3 z_3^2 (z_2^2 - z_3) (z_1^2 z_3 + 1), \\ R'_{22} = -z_1^3 z_3^3 + z_1^3 z_2^2 + z_1 z_2^2 z_3, \\ R'_{23} = -z_1^4 z_3^2 - z_1^6 z_3^2 + z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 + z_1^6 z_2^2 z_3^2 - z_1^2 z_3 - 1, \end{cases}$$

satisfies  $D^{1 \times 4} Q = D^{1 \times 2} R'$  and the two independent rows of  $R'$  define a basis of  $D^{1 \times 4} Q$ . Finally, we obtain that  $R = R'' R'$ , where the matrix  $R''$  is defined by

$$R'' = \begin{pmatrix} -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 - z_1^3 z_2^2 z_3^2 + z_1^3 z_3^3 & z_1^2 z_2^2 - z_1^2 z_3 + 1 \\ -z_1^2 z_3^2 - z_3 & z_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $\det R'' = z_3$ , which solves Problem 3.

We note that we can use the fact that  $P$  has a full column rank in order to also solve Problem 3. Indeed, we can use a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem to compute a basis of  $\ker_D(P)$ . Indeed, if we transpose the column vector  $P$ , we then obtain the row vector defined in Example 3.11. Hence, if we take the last two rows of  $U^T$ , where  $U$  is the unimodular matrix defined in (3.6), we obtain that the full row rank  $R'_2$  defined by

$$R'_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 + z_1^2 z_3 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 & -z_1^3 (z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1) \\ z_1^3 z_3^2 z_2^2 & -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & -z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 + 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (5.14)$$

satisfies  $D^{1 \times 4} Q = D^{1 \times 2} R'_2$  and we obtain the factorization  $R = R''_2 R'_2$ , where:

$$R''_2 = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 \\ z_3 & -z_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \det R''_2 = z_3.$$

## 6 Computation of (weakly) doubly coprime factorizations of rational transfer matrices

We now turn to another application of the constructive proofs of the Quillen-Suslin theorem in multidimensional systems theory, namely, the problem of finding (weakly) left-/right-/doubly coprime factorizations of rational transfer matrices over the commutative polynomial ring  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with coefficients in a field  $k$ . The general problem of the existence of (weakly) left-/right-/doubly coprime factorizations for general linear systems was recently studied and solved in [48].

Let us recall a few definitions.

**Definition 6.1** [48] Let  $D$  be a commutative integral domain, its quotient field

$$K = \{n/d \mid 0 \neq d, n \in D\},$$

and  $P \in K^{q \times r}$  a transfer matrix.

1. A *fractional representation* of  $P$  is a representation of  $P$  of the form

$$P = D_P N_P^{-1} = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1},$$

where

$$\begin{cases} R = (D_P & -N_P) \in D^{q \times (q+r)}, \\ \tilde{R} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{N}_P \\ \tilde{D}_P \end{pmatrix} \in D^{(q+r) \times r}, \end{cases} \quad (6.1)$$

i. e., the entries of the matrices  $R$  and  $\tilde{R}$  belong to the ring  $D$ .

2. A fractional representation  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  of  $P$  is called a *weakly left-coprime factorization* of  $P$  if we have

$$\forall \lambda \in K^{1 \times q} : \lambda R \in D^{1 \times (q+r)} \Rightarrow \lambda \in D^{1 \times q}.$$

3. A fractional representation  $P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  is called a *weakly right-coprime factorization* of  $P$  if we have

$$\forall \lambda \in K^r : \tilde{R} \lambda \in D^{(q+r) \times 1} \Rightarrow \lambda \in D^{r \times 1}.$$

4. A fractional representation  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  is called a *weakly doubly coprime factorization* of  $P$  if  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  is a weakly left-coprime factorization of  $P$  and  $P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  is a weakly right-coprime factorization of  $P$ .

5. A fractional representation  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  of  $P$  is called a *left-coprime factorization* of  $P$  if the matrix  $R$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$ , i. e., if there exists a matrix  $S = (X^T \ Y^T)^T \in D^{(q+r) \times q}$  satisfying

$$R S = D_P X - N_P Y = I_q.$$

6. A fractional representation  $P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  of  $P$  is called a *right-coprime factorization* of  $P$  if the matrix  $\tilde{R}$  admits a left-inverse over  $D$ , namely, if there exists a matrix  $\tilde{S} = (-\tilde{Y} \ \tilde{X}) \in D^{r \times (q+r)}$  satisfying

$$\tilde{S} \tilde{R} = -\tilde{Y} \tilde{N}_P + \tilde{X} \tilde{D}_P = I_r.$$

7. A fractional representation  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  is called a *doubly coprime factorization* of  $P$  if  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  is a left-coprime factorization of  $P$  and  $P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  is a right-coprime factorization of  $P$ .

In the case of a polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , a weakly coprime factorization of a rational transfer matrix is also called a *minor left-coprime factorization*.

The next definition will play an important role in what follows.

**Definition 6.2** [48] Let the matrix  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  have a full row rank. We call *D-closure*  $\overline{D^{1 \times q} R}$  of the  $D$ -submodule  $D^{1 \times q} R$  of  $D^{1 \times p}$  the  $D$ -module defined by

$$\overline{D^{1 \times q} R} = \{\lambda \in D^{1 \times p} \mid \exists 0 \neq d \in D : d\lambda \in D^{1 \times q} R\}.$$

We have the following characterizations of the closure of a  $D$ -submodule of  $D^{1 \times p}$ .

**Proposition 6.3** [48] Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  be a full row rank matrix and the finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$ . We then have

1.  $\overline{D^{1 \times q} R} = (K^{1 \times q} R) \cap D^{1 \times p}$ , where  $K$  denotes the quotient field of  $D$ .
2. The following equalities hold:

$$\begin{cases} t(M) = ((K^{1 \times q} R) \cap D^{1 \times p}) / (D^{1 \times q} R), \\ M/t(M) = D^{1 \times p} / ((K^{1 \times q} R) \cap D^{1 \times p}). \end{cases}$$

The next theorem gives necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of a (weakly) left-/right-/doubly coprime factorization of a transfer matrix.

**Theorem 6.4** [48] Let  $P \in K^{q \times r}$  and  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  be a fractional representation of  $P$ , where the matrices  $R$  and  $\tilde{R}$  are defined by (6.1). Then, we have

1.  $P$  admits a weakly left-coprime factorization iff the  $D$ -module  $\overline{D^{1 \times q} R}$  is free of rank  $q$ .
2.  $P$  admits a weakly right-coprime factorization iff the  $D$ -module  $\overline{D^{1 \times r} \tilde{R}^T}$  is free of rank  $r$ .
3.  $P$  admits a left-coprime factorization iff  $\overline{D^{1 \times q} R}$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $q$  and  $D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (\overline{D^{1 \times q} R})$  is a stably free  $D$ -module of rank  $r$ .
4.  $P$  admits a right-coprime factorization iff  $\overline{D^{1 \times r} \tilde{R}^T}$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $r$  and  $D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (\overline{D^{1 \times r} \tilde{R}^T})$  is a stably free  $D$ -module of rank  $q$ .
5.  $P$  admits a left-coprime factorization iff  $D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (\overline{D^{1 \times r} \tilde{R}^T})$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $q$ .
6.  $P$  admits a right-coprime factorization iff  $D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (\overline{D^{1 \times q} R})$  is a free  $D$ -module of rank  $r$ .

Testing the freeness of modules is a very difficult issue in algebra. Hence, using Theorem 6.4, we deduce that it is generally difficult to check whether or not a transfer matrix  $P \in K^{q \times r}$  admits a (weakly) left-/right-/doubly coprime factorization and if so, to compute them. See [48] for results for  $D = H_\infty(\mathbb{C}_+)$  or the ring of structural stable multidimensional systems.

However, if we consider the commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  over a field  $k$  and  $K = k(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  its quotient field, then we can use constructive versions of the Quillen-Suslin theorem in order to effectively compute (weakly) left-/right-/doubly coprime factorizations of a rational transfer matrix. We first note that using Proposition 6.3 and a computation of an extension module, we can explicitly compute the closure  $\overline{D^{1 \times q} R}$  and then test whether the necessary and sufficient conditions given in Theorem 6.4 are fulfilled. The next algorithm gives a constructive way to compute the corresponding factorizations.

**Algorithm 6.5** • **Input:** A commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  over a computable field  $k$ , a fractional representation  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  of a transfer matrix  $P \in K^{q \times r}$  which admits a weakly left-coprime factorization over  $D$ .

• **Output:** A weakly left-coprime factorization of  $P$ .

1. Define the matrix  $R = (D_P \quad -N_P) \in D^{q \times (q+r)}$  and the following  $D$ -module:

$$M = D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (D^{1 \times q} R).$$

2. Transpose the matrix  $R$  and define the finitely presented  $D$ -module

$$N = D^{1 \times q} / (D^{1 \times (q+r)} R^T).$$

3. Compute the  $D$ -module  $\text{ext}_D^1(N, D)$ . We obtain a matrix  $Q \in D^{q' \times (q+r)}$  such that

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (D^{1 \times q'} Q).$$

4. Compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $\overline{D^{1 \times q} R} = D^{1 \times q'} Q$ . We obtain a full row rank matrix  $R' \in D^{q \times (q+r)}$  such that  $D^{1 \times q'} Q = D^{1 \times q} R'$ .

5. Write  $R' = (D'_P \quad -N'_P)$ , where  $D'_P \in D^{q \times q}$  and  $N'_P \in D^{q \times r}$ . If  $\det D'_P \neq 0$ , then  $P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is a weakly left-coprime factorization of  $P$ .

Up to a transposition, weakly right-coprime factorizations can similarly be obtained.

Let us illustrate Algorithm 6.5 on an example.

**Example 6.6** Let us consider the commutative polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[z_1, z_2, z_3]$ ,  $K = \mathbb{Q}(z_1, z_2, z_3)$  the quotient field of  $D$  and the following rational transfer matrix:

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1}{z_1 z_2^2 z_3} \\ \frac{z_1^2 z_3 + 1}{z_1 z_2^2 z_3} \end{pmatrix} \in K^{2 \times 1}. \quad (6.2)$$

Let us check whether or not  $P$  admits a weakly left-coprime factorization and if so, let us compute one. We consider the fractional representation  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  of  $P$  obtained

by cleaning the denominators of  $P$ , i. e.,  $D_P$  and  $N_P \in D^{2 \times 1}$  are defined by

$$\begin{cases} D_P = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & 0 \\ 0 & z_1 z_2^2 z_3 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 2}, \\ N_P = \begin{pmatrix} z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 \\ z_1^2 z_3 + 1 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 1}. \end{cases}$$

We denote by  $R = (D_P \quad -N_P) \in D^{2 \times 3}$  and define the finitely presented  $D$ -modules

$$M = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 2} R), \quad N = D^{1 \times 2} / (D^{1 \times 3} R^T).$$

Computing  $\text{ext}_D^1(N, D)$ , we then obtain

$$\begin{cases} t(M) = (D^{1 \times 4} Q) / (D^{1 \times 2} R), \\ M/t(M) = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 4} Q), \end{cases}$$

where the matrix  $Q$  is defined by (5.14) in Example 5.7. Using the results obtained in Example 5.7, we get that the full row rank matrix  $R'_2 \in D^{2 \times 3}$  defined by (5.14) satisfies  $D^{1 \times 4} Q = D^{1 \times 2} R'_2$ . Therefore, if we denote by

$$\begin{cases} D'_P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 + z_1^2 z_3 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 \\ z_1^3 z_3^2 z_2^2 & -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 \end{pmatrix}, \\ N'_P = \begin{pmatrix} z_1^3 (z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1) \\ z_1^4 z_2^2 z_3 - 1 \end{pmatrix}, \end{cases} \quad (6.3)$$

$P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is then a weakly left-coprime factorization of  $P$ .

Finally, by construction, the  $D$ -module

$$M/t(M) = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 4} Q) = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 2} R'_2)$$

is torsion-free, and thus, by Theorem 2.6, we have  $\text{ext}_D^1(N', D) = 0$  with the notation  $N' = D^{1 \times 2} / (D^{1 \times 3} (R'_2)^T)$ . Moreover, we can easily check that  $\text{ext}_D^2(N', D) = 0$  and  $\text{ext}_D^3(N', D) = 0$ , which shows that  $M/t(M)$  is a projective, and thus, a free  $D$ -module by the Quillen-Suslin theorem. Hence, by 3 of Theorem 6.4, we obtain that  $P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is a left-coprime factorization of  $P$ . We find that the matrix  $R'_2$  admits the following right-inverse over  $D$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ z_1^2 z_3 & -z_1^3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore, we have the Bézout identity  $D'_P X - N'_P Y = I_2$ , where

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ z_1^2 z_3 & -z_1^3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y = (0 \quad 1).$$

The next algorithm gives us a way to compute left-coprime factorizations of a transfer matrix. Up to a transposition, right-coprime factorizations can similarly be obtained.

**Algorithm 6.7** • **Input:** A commutative polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  over a computable field  $k$ , a fractional representation  $P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  of a rational transfer matrix  $P \in K^{q \times r}$  which admits a left-coprime factorization over  $D$ .

• **Output:** A left-coprime factorization of  $P$ .

1. Define the matrix  $\tilde{R} = (\tilde{N}_P^T \quad \tilde{D}_P^T)^T \in D^{(q+r) \times r}$  and define the  $D$ -module

$$\tilde{M} = D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (D^{1 \times r} \tilde{R}^T).$$

2. Define the finitely presented  $D$ -module

$$\tilde{N} = D^{1 \times r} / (D^{1 \times (q+r)} \tilde{R}).$$

3. Compute  $\text{ext}_D^1(\tilde{N}, D)$ . We obtain a matrix  $\tilde{Q}^T \in D^{r' \times (q+r)}$  such that

$$\tilde{M}/t(\tilde{M}) = D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (D^{1 \times r'} \tilde{Q}^T).$$

4. Compute a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $\tilde{M}/t(\tilde{M})$ . We obtain a full column rank matrix

$$\tilde{L}^T = (D'_P \quad -N'_P)^T \in D^{(q+r) \times q},$$

where  $D'_P \in D^{q \times q}$  and  $N'_P \in D^{q \times r}$ , such that we have the following split exact sequence:

$$0 \longleftarrow D^{1 \times q} \xleftarrow{\tilde{L}^T} D^{1 \times (q+r)} \xleftarrow{\tilde{Q}^T} D^{1 \times r'}.$$

5. Transpose the matrix  $\tilde{L}^T$  to obtain  $\tilde{L} = (D'_P \quad -N'_P) \in D^{q \times (q+r)}$ . If  $\det D'_P \neq 0$ , then  $P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is a left-coprime factorization of  $P$ .

Let us illustrate Algorithm 6.7 on an example.

**Example 6.8** We consider again Example 6.6 and the rational transfer matrix  $P$  defined by (6.2). We have the fractional representation  $P = \tilde{N}_P \tilde{D}_P^{-1}$  of  $P$ , where

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{N}_P = \begin{pmatrix} z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 \\ z_1^2 z_3 + 1 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{2 \times 2}, \\ \tilde{D}_P = z_1^2 z_2^2 z_3 \in D. \end{cases}$$

Let us define the matrix  $\tilde{R} = (\tilde{N}_P^T \quad \tilde{D}_P^T)^T$  and the  $D$ -modules

$$\tilde{M} = D^{1 \times (q+r)} / (D^{1 \times r} \tilde{R}^T), \quad \tilde{N} = D^{1 \times r} / (D^{1 \times (q+r)} \tilde{R}).$$

The row vector  $\tilde{R}^T$  is exactly the one defined in Example 3.11. Hence, using the results obtained in Example 3.11, we obtain that the unimodular matrix  $U$  defined by (3.6)

satisfies  $\tilde{R}^T U = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ . Hence, selecting the last two columns of  $U$  and transposing the corresponding matrix, we then find again the matrix  $R'_2$  defined by (5.14). Hence, using Example 6.6, we obtain that  $P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is a left-coprime factorization of  $P$ , where the matrices  $D'_P$  and  $N'_P$  are defined by (6.3).

## 7 Decomposition of multidimensional linear systems

It was recently shown in [8] that the computation of bases of free modules plays a central role in the *decomposition problem* of multidimensional linear systems. We shall recall this problem as well as the main important results obtained in [8]. Let us first recall a few definitions and notations.

We shall denote by  $\text{end}_D(M)$  the non-commutative ring of  $D$ -endomorphisms of the  $D$ -module  $M$ , i. e., the ring formed by the  $D$ -morphisms (namely, the  $D$ -linear maps) from  $M$  to  $M$ . Moreover, we recall that if  $f$  is a  $D$ -morphism from a  $D$ -module  $M$  to a  $D$ -module  $N$ , then  $\text{coim} f$  is the  $D$ -module defined by  $\text{coim} f = M / \ker f$ , where  $\ker f = \{m \in M \mid f(m) = 0\}$  is the kernel of  $f$ .

Let  $M$  be a finitely presented  $D$ -module, i. e.,  $M$  is of the form

$$M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R),$$

where  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ , and let us denote by  $\pi : D^{1 \times p} \rightarrow M$  the canonical projection. We can easily prove that a  $D$ -endomorphism  $f$  of  $M$  is defined by  $f(m) = \pi(\lambda P)$ , where  $P \in D^{p \times p}$  is a matrix such that there exists  $Q \in D^{q \times q}$  satisfying  $R P = Q R$ , and  $\lambda$  is any element of  $D^{1 \times p}$  satisfying  $m = \pi(\lambda)$ . See [8] for more details and for constructive algorithms which compute the pairs of matrices  $(P, Q)$  satisfying  $R P = Q R$ . These algorithms have been implemented in the package MORPHISMS ([9]) of the library OREMODULES ([4]).

We have following results.

**Theorem 7.1** [8] *Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ ,  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$  and  $f \in \text{end}_D(M)$  defined by  $P \in D^{p \times p}$  and  $Q \in D^{q \times q}$ , i. e.,  $R P = Q R$ . If the  $D$ -modules*

$$\ker_D(.P), \quad \text{coim}_D(.P), \quad \ker_D(.Q), \quad \text{coim}_D(.Q),$$

*are free of rank  $m$ ,  $p-m$ ,  $l$ ,  $q-l$ , then there exist matrices  $U_1 \in D^{m \times p}$ ,  $U_2 \in D^{(p-m) \times p}$ ,  $V_1 \in D^{l \times q}$  and  $V_2 \in D^{(q-l) \times q}$  such that*

$$U = (U_1^T \quad U_2^T)^T \in \text{GL}_p(D), \quad V = (V_1^T \quad V_2^T)^T \in \text{GL}_q(D),$$

and

$$\bar{R} = V R U^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} V_1 R W_1 & 0 \\ V_2 R W_1 & V_2 R W_2 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{q \times p},$$

where  $U^{-1} = (W_1 \quad W_2)$ ,  $W_1 \in D^{p \times m}$  and  $W_2 \in D^{p \times (p-m)}$ .



In particular, the full row rank matrix  $U_1$  (resp.,  $U_2, V_1, V_2$ ) defines a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $\ker_D(.P)$  (resp.,  $\text{coim}_D(.P), \ker_D(.Q), \text{coim}_D(.Q)$ ), i. e., we have

$$\begin{cases} \ker_D(.P) = D^{1 \times m} U_1, \\ \text{coim}_D(.P) = \kappa(D^{1 \times (p-m)} U_2), \\ \ker_D(.Q) = D^{1 \times l} V_1, \\ \text{coim}_D(.Q) = \rho(D^{1 \times (q-l)} V_2), \end{cases}$$

where  $\kappa : D^{1 \times p} \rightarrow \text{coim}_D(.P)$  (resp.,  $\rho : D^{1 \times q} \rightarrow \text{coim}_D(.Q)$ ) denotes the canonical projection onto  $\text{coim}_D(.P)$  (resp.,  $\text{coim}_D(.Q)$ ). An important point in Theorem 7.1 is the computation of bases of the free  $D$ -modules  $\ker_D(.P), \text{coim}_D(.P), \ker_D(.Q)$  and  $\text{coim}_D(.Q)$ , which can be solved by means of constructive versions of the Quillen-Suslin theorem and their implementations in computer algebra systems. In order to do that, we use the package `QUILLENUSUSLIN` described in the appendix.

Let us illustrate Theorem 7.1 by means of an explicit example.

**Example 7.2** Let us consider the system of partial differential equations defined by

$$\sigma \partial_t \vec{A} + \frac{1}{\mu} \vec{\nabla} \wedge \vec{\nabla} \vec{A} - \sigma \vec{\nabla} V = 0, \quad (7.1)$$

where  $\sigma$  and  $\mu$  are two constants. The previous system corresponds to the equations satisfied by the electromagnetic quadri-potential  $(\vec{A}, V)$  when it is assumed that the term  $\partial_t \vec{D}$  can be neglected in the Maxwell equations. See [7] for more details. It seems that Maxwell was led to introduce the term  $\partial_t \vec{D}$  in his famous equations for purely mathematical reasons. See [7] for more details.

Let us consider the ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[\partial_t, \partial_1, \partial_2, \partial_3]$  of differential operators in  $\partial_t = \partial/\partial t$  and  $\partial_i = \partial/\partial x_i$  with rational constant coefficients, the system matrix of (7.1) defined by

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \partial_t - \frac{1}{\mu} (\partial_2^2 + \partial_3^2) & \frac{1}{\mu} \partial_1 \partial_2 & \frac{1}{\mu} \partial_1 \partial_3 & -\sigma \partial_1 \\ \frac{1}{\mu} \partial_1 \partial_2 & \sigma \partial_t - \frac{1}{\mu} (\partial_1^2 + \partial_3^2) & \frac{1}{\mu} \partial_2 \partial_3 & -\sigma \partial_2 \\ \frac{1}{\mu} \partial_1 \partial_3 & \frac{1}{\mu} \partial_2 \partial_3 & \sigma \partial_t - \frac{1}{\mu} (\partial_1^2 + \partial_2^2) & -\sigma \partial_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 4} / (D^{1 \times 3} R)$ .

The matrices  $P$  and  $Q$  defined by

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma \mu \partial_t & 0 & -\sigma \mu \partial_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma \mu \partial_t & -\sigma \mu \partial_3 \\ 0 & \partial_t \partial_2 & \partial_t \partial_3 & -(\partial_2^2 + \partial_3^2) \end{pmatrix} \in D^{4 \times 4},$$

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\partial_1 \partial_2 & \sigma \mu \partial_t - \partial_2^2 & -\partial_2 \partial_3 \\ -\partial_1 \partial_3 & -\partial_2 \partial_3 & \sigma \mu \partial_t - \partial_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{3 \times 3},$$

satisfy the relation  $RP = QR$ , and thus, define a  $D$ -endomorphism  $f$  of  $M$ . Moreover, we can check that  $\ker_D(.P)$ ,  $\text{coim}_D(.P)$ ,  $\ker_D(.Q)$  and  $\text{coim}_D(.Q)$  are free  $D$ -modules of rank 2, 2, 1 and 2. Hence, computing bases of these free  $D$ -modules by means of a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem, we obtain

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} U_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \partial_2 & \partial_3 & -\sigma\mu \end{pmatrix}, \\ U_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma\mu} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \end{array} \right. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} V_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ V_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{array} \right.$$

Defining  $U = (U_1^T \ U_2^T)^T \in \text{GL}_4(D)$  and  $V = (V_1^T \ V_2^T)^T \in \text{GL}_3(D)$ , we get that  $\bar{R} = VRU^{-1}$  is the block-triangular matrix defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sigma\partial_t - \frac{1}{\mu}(\partial_2^2 + \partial_3^2) & \frac{1}{\mu}\partial_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\mu}\partial_1\partial_2 & \frac{1}{\mu}\partial_2 & \sigma(\sigma\mu\partial_t - (\partial_1^2 + \partial_2^2 + \partial_3^2)) & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\mu}\partial_1\partial_3 & \frac{1}{\mu}\partial_3 & 0 & \sigma(\sigma\mu\partial_t - (\partial_1^2 + \partial_2^2 + \partial_3^2)) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now, we recall that an *idempotent*  $f \in \text{end}_D(M)$  is a  $D$ -endomorphism  $f$  of  $M$  satisfying  $f^2 = f$ . We can now state another important result of [8] on the decomposition of  $D$ -modules for which the Quillen-Suslin theorem plays a central role.

**Theorem 7.3** [8] *Let  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ ,  $M = D^{1 \times p}/(D^{1 \times q}R)$  and  $f \in \text{end}_D(M)$  be an idempotent defined by two idempotents  $P \in D^{p \times p}$  and  $Q \in D^{q \times q}$ , namely, they satisfy  $RP = QR$ ,  $P^2 = P$  and  $Q^2 = Q$ . Then, there exist four matrices  $U_1 \in D^{m \times p}$ ,  $U_2 \in D^{(p-m) \times p}$ ,  $V_1 \in D^{l \times q}$  and  $V_2 \in D^{(q-l) \times q}$  such that*

$$U = (U_1^T \ U_2^T)^T \in \text{GL}_p(D), \quad V = (V_1^T \ V_2^T)^T \in \text{GL}_q(D),$$

and

$$\bar{R} = VRU^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} V_1RW_1 & 0 \\ 0 & V_2RW_2 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{q \times p},$$

where  $U^{-1} = (W_1 \ W_2)$ ,  $W_1 \in D^{p \times m}$  and  $W_2 \in D^{p \times (p-m)}$ .

In particular, the full row rank matrix  $U_1$  (resp.,  $U_2$ ,  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ ) defines a basis of the free  $D$ -module  $\ker_D(.P)$ , (resp.,  $\text{im}_D(.P) = \ker_D(.P)$ ,  $\ker_D(.Q)$ ,  $\text{im}_D(.Q) = \ker_D(.Q)$ ) of rank respectively  $m$ ,  $p-m$ ,  $l$ ,  $q-l$ . In other words, we have

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \ker_D(.P) = D^{1 \times m} U_1, \\ \text{im}_D(.P) = D^{1 \times (p-m)} U_2, \\ \ker_D(.Q) = D^{1 \times l} V_1, \\ \text{im}_D(.Q) = D^{1 \times (q-l)} V_2. \end{array} \right.$$

Let us illustrate Theorem 7.3 by means of an example coming from control theory.

**Example 7.4** Let us consider the differential time-delay system describing the movement of a vibrating string with an interior mass studied in [31], namely,

$$\begin{cases} \phi_1(t) + \psi_1(t) - \phi_2(t) - \psi_2(t) = 0, \\ \dot{\phi}_1(t) + \dot{\psi}_1(t) + \eta_1 \phi_1(t) - \eta_1 \psi_1(t) - \eta_2 \phi_2(t) + \eta_2 \psi_2(t) = 0, \\ \phi_1(t - 2h_1) + \psi_1(t) - u(t - h_1) = 0, \\ \phi_2(t) + \psi_2(t - 2h_2) - v(t - h_2) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (7.2)$$

where  $h_1$  and  $h_2 \in \mathbb{R}_+$  are such that  $\mathbb{Q}h_1 + \mathbb{Q}h_2$  is a two-dimensional  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space (i. e., there exists no relation of the form  $mh_1 + nh_2 = 0$ , where  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ),  $\eta_1$  and  $\eta_2$  are two non-zero constant parameters of the system.

Let us consider the ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \right]$  of differential time-delay operators where  $(dy/dt)(t) = \dot{y}(t)$  and  $(\sigma_i y)(t) = y(t - h_i)$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ . The condition on  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  implies that the two time-delay operators  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$  are *incommensurable*, i. e., define two independent variables. Hence,  $D$  is a commutative polynomial ring. Let us denote by  $R$  the system matrix of (7.2), namely,

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 & \frac{d}{dt} - \eta_1 & -\eta_2 & \eta_2 & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_1^2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -\sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \sigma_2^2 & 0 & -\sigma_2 \end{pmatrix} \in D^{4 \times 6},$$

and the finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 6} / (D^{1 \times 4} R)$ .

Computing idempotents of  $\text{end}_D(M)$ , we obtain an idempotent  $f$  defined by the following two idempotent matrices:

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sigma_1^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\sigma_2^2 & 0 & \sigma_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 & \eta_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Moreover, we can check that  $\ker_D(.P)$ ,  $\text{im}_D(.P)$ ,  $\ker_D(.P)$  and  $\text{im}_D(.P)$  are free  $D$ -modules of rank 2, 4, 2 and 2. Computing bases by means of a constructive version of

the QuillenSuslin theorem, we then get:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \ker_D(.P) = D^{1 \times 2} U_1, \quad U_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -\sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \sigma_2^2 & 0 & -\sigma_2 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \\ \operatorname{im}_D(.P) = D^{1 \times 4} U_2, \quad U_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \\ \ker_D(.Q) = D^{1 \times 2} V_1, \quad V_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \\ \operatorname{im}_D(.Q) = D^{1 \times 2} V_2, \quad V_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & \frac{d}{dt} - \eta_1 & -\eta_2 \end{pmatrix}. \end{array} \right.$$

Forming the matrices  $U = (U_1^T \ U_2^T)^T \in \operatorname{GL}_6(D)$  and  $V = (V_1^T \ V_2^T)^T \in \operatorname{GL}_4(D)$ , we obtain that  $R$  is then equivalent to the block-diagonal matrix  $\bar{R} = V R U^{-1}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 - \sigma_1^2 & \sigma_2^2 - 1 & \sigma_1 & -\sigma_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_1^2 \left( \frac{d}{dt} - \eta_1 \right) - \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 \right) & -\eta_2 (\sigma_2^2 + 1) & -\sigma_1 \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 \right) & \eta_2 \sigma_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now, considering the second diagonal block, namely,

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \sigma_1^2 & \sigma_2^2 - 1 & \sigma_1 & -\sigma_2 \\ \sigma_1^2 \left( \frac{d}{dt} - \eta_1 \right) - \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 \right) & -\eta_2 (\sigma_2^2 + 1) & -\sigma_1 \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 \right) & \eta_2 \sigma_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

and the  $D$ -module  $L = D^{1 \times 4} / (D^{1 \times 2} S)$ . Using an algorithm developed in [8], we obtain that an idempotent  $g \in \operatorname{end}_D(L)$  is defined by the two idempotent matrices

$$P' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ a & 0 & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q' = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_2^2 + 1 & \frac{1}{\eta_2} (\sigma_2^2 - 1) \\ -\eta_2 (\sigma_2^2 + 1) & -\sigma_2^2 + 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

with the notations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a = \frac{1}{2\eta_2} \left( \sigma_1^2 \left( \frac{d}{dt} - (\eta_1 + \eta_2) \right) - \frac{d}{dt} + (\eta_2 - \eta_1) \right), \\ b = -\frac{\sigma_1}{2\eta_2} \left( \frac{d}{dt} - (\eta_1 + \eta_2) \right). \end{array} \right.$$

We can check that the  $D$ -modules  $\ker_D(.P')$ ,  $\text{im}_D(.P')$ ,  $\ker_D(.Q')$  and  $\text{im}_D(.Q')$  are free and, using a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem, we obtain that  $\ker_D(.P') = D U'_1$ ,  $\text{im}_D(.P') = D^{1 \times 3} U'_2$ ,  $\ker_D(.Q') = D V'_1$  and  $\text{im}_D(.Q') = D V'_2$ , where

$$U'_1 = 2\eta_2 \begin{pmatrix} a & -1 & b & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$U'_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sigma_1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2 (d - \eta_1 - \eta_2) - \sigma_2 (d + \eta_1 - \eta_2) & 0 & -\sigma_1 \sigma_2 (d - \eta_1 - \eta_2) & -2\eta_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$V'_1 = (\eta_2 \ 1), \quad V'_2 = (\eta_2 (\sigma_2^2 + 1) \ \sigma_2^2 - 1).$$

Defining  $U' = (U'_1{}^T \ U'_2{}^T)^T \in \text{GL}_4(D)$  and  $V' = (V'_1{}^T \ V'_2{}^T)^T \in \text{GL}_2(D)$ , we get

$$\bar{S} = V' S U'^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 + \eta_2 & \sigma_1 \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_2 - \eta_1 \right) & \sigma_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If we denote by  $\text{diag}(A, B)$  the diagonal matrix formed by the matrices  $A$  and  $B$  and define  $U'' = \text{diag}(I_2, U') \in \text{GL}_6(D)$  and  $V'' = \text{diag}(I_2, V') \in \text{GL}_4(D)$ , then we get

$$\bar{R} = (V'' V) R (U'' U)^{-1} = \text{diag}(I_2, \bar{S}).$$

The last result proves that the system defined by (7.2) with 6 unknowns and 4 equations is in fact equivalent to the following simple equation:

$$\dot{z}_1(t) + (\eta_1 + \eta_2) z_1(t) + \dot{z}_2(t - h_1) + (\eta_2 - \eta_1) z_2(t - h_1) - z_3(t - h_2) = 0. \quad (7.3)$$

Using the results summed up in Figure 2.1, the  $D$ -module defined by

$$M' = D^{1 \times 3} / \left( D \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 + \eta_2 & \sigma_1 \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_2 - \eta_1 \right) & \sigma_2 \end{pmatrix} \right) \cong M$$

is reflexive but not projective, i. e., not free, as we have

$$J = \text{ann}_D(\text{ext}_D^3(T(M'), D)) = \left( \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 + \eta_2 \right),$$

and  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V(J) = 0$ . As  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in J$ , we obtain that the  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_1^{-1} \right]$ -module  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_1^{-1} \right] \otimes_D M'$  is free, i. e., (7.3) is  $\sigma_1$ -free ([6, 30]). Computing an injective parametrization of (7.3), we obtain

$$\begin{cases} z_1 = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 y_1 + \sigma_1 \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_2 - \eta_1 \right) y_2, \\ z_2 = -\sigma_2 y_1 - \left( \frac{d}{dt} + \eta_1 + \eta_2 \right) y_2, \\ z_3 = -2\eta_1 y_1, \end{cases} \quad (7.4)$$

and a basis of  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_1^{-1} \right]$ -module  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_1^{-1} \right] \otimes_D M'$  is then defined by

$$y_1 = -\frac{1}{2\eta_1} \sigma_1^{-1} z_3, \quad y_2 = -\frac{1}{2\eta_1} (\sigma_1^{-1} z_1 + z_2).$$

Using (7.4) and the transformation  $(\phi_1, \psi_1, \phi_2, \psi_2, u, v)^T = (U'' U)^{-1} (z_1, z_2, z_3)^T$ , we get an injective parametrization of (7.2) if we also use the advance operator  $\sigma_1^{-1}$ .

Finally, the  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_2^{-1} \right]$ -module  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_2^{-1} \right] \otimes_D M'$  is free and, from (7.3), we obtain that

$$z_3(t) = \dot{z}_1(t + h_2) + (\eta_1 + \eta_2) z_1(t + h_2) + \dot{z}_2(t - h_1 + h_2) + (\eta_2 - \eta_1) z_2(t - h_1 + h_2),$$

showing that the  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_2^{-1} \right]$ -module  $\mathbb{Q}(\eta_1, \eta_2) \left[ \frac{d}{dt}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_2^{-1} \right] \otimes_D M'$  admits the basis  $\{z_1, z_2\}$ . Using the transformation defined by  $(U'' U)^{-1}$ , we get an injective parametrization of (7.2) if we also use the advance operator  $\sigma_2^{-1}$ .

Generalizations of Theorems 7.1 and 7.3 hold for some classes of non-commutative polynomial rings of functional operators. See [8] for more details. However, we need to be able to compute bases of free modules over the corresponding rings. A general algorithm has recently been developed in [49, 51] for the ring of differential operators with polynomial or rational coefficients (the so-called *Weyl algebras*). See [50] for an implementation of this algorithm and a library of examples which illustrates it.

Finally, we refer the reader to [8, 9] for numerous examples of decomposition of classical systems of partial differential equations and of differential time-delay equations appearing in mathematical physics and control theory and for a description of the package MORPHISMS ([9]) as well as a library of examples.

## 8 Conclusion

In this paper, we have shown new applications of constructive versions of the Quillen-Suslin theorem to mathematical systems theory. In particular, we explained that the construction of bases of a free module over a commutative polynomial ring  $D$  gives us a way to obtain flat outputs of a flat multidimensional linear system as well as injective parametrizations of its solutions over a  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$ . We have also shown that a flat multidimensional system was algebraically equivalent to the 1-D controllable linear systems obtained by setting all but one functional operator to particular values in the system matrix. This last result gives an answer to a natural question arising in the study of flat multidimensional linear systems and particularly in the study of differential time-delay systems. Moreover, we gave constructive algorithms for two well-known problems stated by Lin and Bose in the literature of multidimensional systems. These problems are generalizations of Serre's conjecture. We also showed that the computation of (weakly) left-/right-coprime factorizations of rational transfer matrices could constructively be solved by means of the Quillen-Suslin theorem. The need for the computation of bases of free  $D$ -modules recently appeared as an important issue in

the study of the decomposition problems of multidimensional linear systems. Finally, we have demonstrated the different algorithms by means of the recent implementation of the Quillen-Suslin theorem in the package `QUILLENUSUSLIN`. To our knowledge, this is the first implementation of the Quillen-Suslin theorem in a computer algebra system which is nowadays freely available and dedicated to applications of the Quillen-Suslin theorem and, in particular, to mathematical systems theory and control theory.

New applications of the Quillen-Suslin theorem and of the package `QUILLENUSUSLIN` will be studied in the future (e.g., algebraic geometry, signal processing). Moreover, an interesting but difficult problem is to constructively recognize when a finitely presented  $D = A[x]$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$ , where  $R \in D^{q \times p}$  and  $A$  is a commutative ring, is *extended*, namely, when there exists  $S \in A^{q' \times p'}$  such that  $M \cong D \otimes_A P$ , where  $P = A^{1 \times p'} / (A^{1 \times q'} S)$ . See [53] for more details. It is well known that the Quillen-Suslin theorem is a particular case of this problem when  $M$  is a projective  $D$ -module ([23, 24, 52, 53]). If we can effectively solve this problem for particular classes of  $D$ -modules, then, for every  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$ , we obtain  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.) \cong \ker_{\mathcal{F}}(S.)$ , which shows that the integration of the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is algebraically equivalent to the integration of the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(S.)$  which contains one functional operator less. Such a result may simplify the explicit integration of these classes of functional systems. Finally, another interesting problem is the computation of a minimal set of generators of a finitely presented  $D = A[x]$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times p} / (D^{1 \times q} R)$ , where  $R \in D^{q \times p}$ . The results recently obtained in [8, 9] were able to explicitly answer these last two questions on particular examples coming from mathematical physics and control theory. However, the general case seems to be far from being solved.

Finally, more heuristic methods need to be developed and implemented in `QUILLENUSUSLIN` in order to avoid as much as we can the use of a general algorithm for solving Problem 2. Different QS-algorithms need also to be implemented in `QUILLENQUILLEN` and particularly the one recently developed in [27, 58].

## 9 Appendix: The package `QUILLENUSUSLIN`

### 9.1 Description of `QUILLENUSUSLIN`: a package for computing bases of free modules over commutative polynomial rings

The package `QuillenSuslin` is an implementation of a constructive version of the Quillen-Suslin theorem. The main idea of the algorithm was inspired by the article of Logar and Sturmfels [26]. Nevertheless, many important changes were introduced. We have roughly described the implemented algorithm in section 3.4.

The general algorithm proceeds by induction on the number  $n$  of the independent variables  $x_i$  in the polynomial ring  $D = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and each inductive step, that reduces the problem by one independent variable, consists of the following three main parts:

1. Finding a normalized component in a polynomial vector by means of a change of coordinates (`NormalizationStep`).

2. Computing a finite number of local solutions (local loop) using Horrocks' theorem (Horrocks).
3. Patching local solutions of Problem 2 together to get a global one (Patch).

This general method is generally quite involved. The package consists of procedures completing a unimodular polynomial row which admits a right-inverse to a square invertible matrix over a given commutative polynomial ring with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Q}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}$ . The implementation was improved by many heuristic methods which are used as soon as it is possible. It allows us to avoid the inductive step and leads to simpler outputs (smaller coefficients and lower degrees).

QUILLENUSLIN uses the library INVOLUTIVE ([3]) for computing Janet bases over commutative polynomial rings.

```
> with(Involutive):

> with(QuillenSuslin);

[BasisOfCokernelModule, Cofactors, CompleteMatrix, DenomOf, Heuristic,
Horrocks, InjectiveParametrization, InvertibleIn, IsInS, IsMonic,
IsParkNormalized, IsRegular, IsUnimod, LC, LCFactorization, LM,
Laurent2Pol, LaurentNormalization, LinBose1, LinBose2, LowestDegree,
MaxMinors, MaximalFF, MaximalQQ, MaximalZZ, NormalizationStep,
OneLocalSol, OneStepEY, OneStepQS, ParkAlgorithm,
ParkMatrixNormalization, Patch, QSAAlgorithm, ReduceBasisDegree,
ReduceDeg, RightInverse, RightInverseFast, SHeuristic, SetLastVariableA,
SuslinLemma, WLCFactorization, WRCFactorization]
```

### 9.1.1 The main functions of the package QUILLENUSLIN

QSAAlgorithm	Compute a unimodular matrix $U$ which transforms a row vector admitting a right-inverse into a matrix of the form $(I \ 0)$
CompleteMatrix	Complete a matrix admitting a right-inverse to a unimodular matrix
HEURISTIC	Test whether or not a heuristic method can be applied for the given row vector
BasisOfCokernelModule	Compute a basis of a free module finitely presented by the given matrix



**9.1.2 Important functions of the package QUILLENUSLIN**

Horrocks	Implementation of Horrock's theorem which computes a solution of Problem 1 over a given local ring
IsMonic	Test whether or not a polynomial row vector has a monic component
IsRegular	Test whether or not a polynomial row vector forms a regular sequence
IsUnimod	Test whether or not a matrix admits a right-inverse
MaximalFF	Find a maximal ideal over a given one in a polynomial ring with coefficient in a finite field
MaximalQQ	Find a maximal ideal over a given one in a polynomial ring with rational coefficients
MaximalZZ	Find a maximal ideal over a given one in a polynomial ring with integer coefficients
NormalizationStep	Compute an invertible transformation and a change of variables such that the last component of the transformed row becomes monic in the last new variable
OneLocalSol	Compute a matrix which is unimodular over some localization of the polynomial ring and transforms the given matrix to $(I \ 0)$
OneStepEY OneStepQS	One inductive step of the general algorithm: return a unimodular matrix which transforms the given matrix into a matrix where the last variable equals 0
Patch	Patching procedure: patch local solutions together
SuslinLemma	Implementation of Suslin's lemma which computes a polynomial $h$ in the ideal generated by polynomials $p$ and $q$ such that $\deg(h) = \deg(p) - 1$ and its leading coefficient is a coefficient of the polynomial $q$

### 9.1.3 Low level functions of the package QUILLENUSLIN

Cofactors	Compute cofactors of a $(p - 1) \times p$ -matrix
DenomOf	Compute the common denominator of entries of a rational matrix
LM	Return the leading monomial of a polynomial with respect to the given variable
LC	Return the leading coefficient of a polynomial with respect to the given variable
MaxMinors	Return the maximal minors of a given matrix
ReduceDeg	Reduce degrees of the components of a polynomial row vector with respect to given variable
RightInverse, RightInverseFast	Compute a right-inverse of a row vector
ReduceBasisDegree	Reduce degrees of the elements of basis of a free module over a commutative polynomial ring

### 9.1.4 Functions of QUILLENUSLIN for mathematical systems theory

InjectiveParametrization	Compute an injective parametrization of a flat multidimensional linear system
LCFactorization	Compute a left-coprime factorization of a rational transfer matrix when it exists
LinBose1	Compute a solution of Problem 3 when it exists
LinBose2	Compute a solution of Problem 4 when it exists
RCFactorization	Compute a right-coprime factorization of a rational transfer matrix when it exists
SetLastVariableA	Compute a unimodular matrix which transforms the given matrix into a matrix where the last variable is set to a given constant $A$
WLCFactorization	Compute a weakly left-coprime factorization of a rational transfer matrix when it exists
WRCFactorization	Compute a weakly right-coprime factorization of a rational transfer matrix when it exists

### 9.1.5 Functions of QUILLENUSLIN for Laurent polynomial rings

IsParkNormalized	Test whether or not a Laurent polynomial is normalized, i. e., whether or not all its coefficients are Laurent monomials
Laurent2Pol	Compute a transformation which maps a row vector over a Laurent polynomial ring into a row vector over a polynomial ring
LaurentNormalization	Return a change of variables which normalizes a Laurent polynomial
LowestDegree	Return the lowest degree of a Laurent polynomial with respect to the given variable
ParkAlgorithm	Return a unimodular matrix over the Laurent polynomial ring which transforms the given matrix into a matrix of the form $(I \ 0)$

### 9.1.6 Functions of QUILLENUSLIN for localizations

InvertibleIn	Find an element in the intersection of an ideal and a multiplicative closed subset of the polynomial ring
IsInS	Test whether or not a polynomial belongs to a given multiplicative subset of the polynomial ring
SHeuristic	Test whether or not a heuristic method can be used over a localization of the polynomial ring

To our knowledge, the QUILLENUSLIN package is the only package dedicated to the implementation of the Quillen-Suslin theorem (see [11] for a partial one) and its applications to mathematical physics, control theory and signal processing. An ORE-MODULES version of QUILLENUSLIN will soon be available on the OREMODULES web site [4] which will extend [11]. Applications of the Quillen-Suslin theorem to algebraic geometry will be studied in the future.

## 9.2 Examples

### 9.2.1 Example taken from [19]

We consider the row vector  $R$  over the polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Z}[x]$  given in [19].

In the QUILLENUSLIN package, all the computations are performed for a commutative polynomial ring with rational coefficients if the last parameter is set to *true* and

with integer coefficients if the last parameter is set to *false*.

We first declare the independent variables  $x$  of the polynomial ring by setting

```
> var := [x];
      var := [x]
```

and then the row vector  $R$ :

```
> R := [13, x^2-1, 2*x-5];
      R := [13, x^2 - 1, 2x - 5]
```

Let us check whether or not  $R$  admits a right-inverse over the ring  $D$ .

```
> RightInverse(R, var, false);
      [55 - 36x + 6x^2, -6, 144 - 36x]
```

Applying the `QSAlgorithm` procedure to the row vector  $R$ , we then obtain

```
> U := QSAlgorithm(R, var, false);
      U := [55 - 36x + 6x^2, 6481 - 8532x + 4175x^2 - 900x^3 + 72x^4,
            -(55 - 36x + 6x^2)(2x - 5)][-6, -707 + 468x - 72x^2, -30 + 12x]
            [144 - 36x, -72(x - 4)(59 - 39x + 6x^2), 721 - 468x + 72x^2]
```

The matrix  $U$  is unimodular over  $D$  and  $RU = (1\ 0\ 0)$  as we have

```
> Determinant(U);
      1
> simplify(Matrix(R).U);
      [ 1  0  0 ]
```

We note that the `QSAlgorithm` procedure uses a heuristic method as the first two components of the right-inverse of  $R$  generate the ring  $D$ . Hence, the general algorithm can be avoided in this example:

```
> Heuristic(R, var, false);
      [55 - 36x + 6x^2, 6481 - 8532x + 4175x^2 - 900x^3 + 72x^4,
            -(55 - 36x + 6x^2)(2x - 5)]
      [-6, -707 + 468x - 72x^2, -30 + 12x]
      [144 - 36x, -72(x - 4)(59 - 39x + 6x^2), 721 - 468x + 72x^2]
```

We can check that  $R$  is the first row of the inverse  $U^{-1}$  of  $U$ :

```
> U_inv := CompleteMatrix(R, var, false);
      U_inv := [ 13          x^2 - 1          2x - 5
                 6          55 - 36x + 6x^2          0
                -144 + 36x  1188x - 360x^2 + 36x^3 - 1296  1 ]
```

The residue classes of the last two rows of the matrix  $U^{-1}$  define a basis of the  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 3}/(DR)$ .

```
> BasisOfCokernelModule(R, var, false);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 55 - 36x + 6x^2 & 0 \\ -144 + 36x & 1188x - 360x^2 + 36x^3 - 1296 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can reduce the degree of the components of the rows defining the basis:

```
> BasisOfCokernelModule(R, var, false, reduced);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 24 - 6x & 1 \\ 72 & 83 & -24 + 12x \end{bmatrix}$$

The injective parametrization of the system defined by  $R$  is then defined by

```
> InjectiveParametrization(Matrix(R), var, false);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6481 - 8532x + 4175x^2 - 900x^3 + 72x^4 & -(55 - 36x + 6x^2)(2x - 5) \\ -707 + 468x - 72x^2 & -30 + 12x \\ -72(x - 4)(59 - 39x + 6x^2) & 721 - 468x + 72x^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

### 9.2.2 Example taken from [22]

We consider the vector vector  $R$  with entries in the ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[x, y]$  defined by

```
> var := [x, y];
```

$$var := [x, y]$$

```
> R := [x^2*y+1, x+y-2, 2*x*y];
```

$$R := [x^2y + 1, x + y - 2, 2xy]$$

We can check that ideal generated by the entries of  $R$  generates  $D$  as we have

```
> IsUnimod(R, var);
```

$$true$$

Therefore, the row vector  $R$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$  and then defines a projective  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 2}/(DR)$ , i. e., free by the Quillen-Suslin theorem.

As the first and the last components of  $R$  generate the ring  $D$ , we know that we can use a heuristic method for computing a basis of the  $D$ -module  $M$ . This last result can be checked as follows once we note that we are working over the field  $\mathbb{Q}$  and then need to set the last parameter to *true* in the procedures:

```
> U:=Heuristic(R, var, true);
```

$$U := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 - y - x & -2xy \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{x}{2} & \frac{x(x+y-2)}{2} & x^2y + 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can check that the entries of the inverse  $U_{inv}$  of the matrix  $U$  belong to  $D$ , i. e.,  $U \in GL_3(D)$ , and its first row is  $R$ :

```
> U_inv:=CompleteMatrix(R, var, true);
```

$$U_{inv} := \begin{bmatrix} x^2 y + 1 & x + y - 2 & 2xy \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{x}{2} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The residue classes of the last two rows of  $U_{inv}$  in  $M$  form a basis of  $M$ . This result can directly be obtained as follows:

```
> BasisOfCokernelModule(Matrix(R), var, true);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{x}{2} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The injective parametrization of the system defined by  $R$  is given by the last two columns of  $U$ , a fact that can directly be obtained by

```
> InjectiveParametrization(Matrix(R), var, true);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 - y - x & -2xy \\ 1 & 0 \\ \frac{x(x+y-2)}{2} & x^2 y + 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### 9.2.3 Example given by A. van den Essen

The following example was given to us by A. van den Essen (Radboud University Nijmegen). We are grateful to him for letting us using it for illustrating the package QUILLENUSLIN. We consider the polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[t, x, y, z]$

```
> var:=[t,x,y,z];
```

$$var := [t, x, y, z]$$

and we consider the row vector  $R$  defined by

```
> R:=[2*t*x*z+t*y^2+1, 2*t*x*y+t^2, t*x^2];
```

$$R := [2txz + ty^2 + 1, 2txy + t^2, tx^2]$$

We check that the ideal of  $D$  generated by the entries of  $R$  defines the whole ring  $D$ :

```
> IsUnimod(R, var, true);
```

*true*

Hence, the row vector  $R$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$ , and thus, the finitely presented  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 3} / (DR)$  is projective, i. e., free by the Quillen-Suslin theorem. Let us solve Problem 2 and compute a basis of the  $D$ -module  $M$ . In order to do

that, we can first check that none of the heuristic methods described in section 3.3 and implemented in `QUILLENUSULIN` can be used to solve the problem:

```
> infolevel[QSAAlgorithm]:=3;
      infolevel_QSAAlgorithm := 3
> U:=QSAAlgorithm(R,var, true);
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: RowQS [2*t*x*z+t*y^2+1, 2*t*x*y+t^2,
t*x^2], [t, x, y, z]
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: Compute RightInverse
```

A right-inverse of the row vector  $R$  is defined by

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: RightInverse
[2*t^2*y^2*x*z-2*t*x*z+t^2*y^4-t*y^2+1,
8*x^3*z^2*y^3+8*x^2*z*y^5-4*x^2*z^2*t*y^2-4*t*y^4*x*z+4*x^2*z^2
+2*y^7*x-t*y^6+2*y^2*x*z, -16*y^4*x^2*z^2-16*y^6*x*z-8*y*x*z^2
-4*y^8-4*y^3*z]
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: RowQS Test heuristic methods. For more
information set infolevel[Heuristic]:=3
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: Not easy - no heuristic methods work
```

We obtain that none of the heuristic methods implemented in `QUILLENUSULIN` can be applied to  $R$ . Hence, we need to use the general algorithm presented in section 3.4. The first step of this algorithm is to compute a transformation which maps  $R$  to a row vector with a monic component in the last variable  $z$ . We obtain that the permutation of variables  $t \mapsto z, x \mapsto t, y \mapsto x, z \mapsto y$  normalizes  $R$ :

*normalization over  $QQ$*

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: The row after normalization
[2*z_*t_*y_+z_*x_^2+1, 2*z_*t_*x_+z_^2, z_*t_^2]
```

Let us call the new row vector  $\overline{R}$ . We can now test whether or not any of heuristic methods can be applied to  $\overline{R}$ :

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: Test heuristic methods for the
normalized row [2*z_*t_*y_+z_*x_^2+1, 2*z_*t_*x_+z_^2, z_*t_^2]
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: No heuristic methods work for the
normalized row
```

No heuristic method can be applied to  $\overline{R}$ . We can then check if it is possible to reduce the degree of the components of  $\overline{R}$  using its monic component  $z^2 + 2zt$ :

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: No reduction - the rows is already
reduced [2*z_*t_*y_+z_*x_^2+1, 2*z_*t_*x_+z_^2, z_*t_^2]
```

No simplification can be done. Now, we enter the general algorithm:

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: OneStep - Enter the inductive procedure
and reduce one variable:
```

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: OneStep - Compute local solutions and
patch them together!
```

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: OneStep - For more information set
infolevel[OneStepMore]:=3
```

After one inductive step, we obtain a matrix  $U \in \text{GL}_3(D)$  such that  $\overline{R}(t, x, y, z)U = \overline{R}(t, x, y, 0) = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ , which directly solves Problem 2:

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: After one step: [1, 0, 0]
```

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: Now repeat the computation for fm
[1, 0, 0]
```

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: RowQS [1, 0, 0], [t_, x_, y_]
```

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: Compute RightInverse
```

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: RightInverse [1, 0, 0]
```

```
QuillenSuslin/RowQS: RowQS Test heuristic methods. For more
information set infolevel[Heuristic]:=3
```

Hence, we obtain that the solution of Problem 2 is given by matrix  $U$  defined by

```
U :=
[1 - t y^2 + 4 x^2 z^2 t^2 - 2 t x z + t^2 y^4 + 4 t^2 y^2 x z + 2 y^7 x t^2 + 8 x^3 z^2 y^3 t^2
+ 8 x^2 z y^5 t^2,
4 y^6 t^2 x^2 + 8 x^3 z t^2 y^4 - 2 t x y - t^2 + 4 y z x^2 t^2,
2 z t^2 x^3 + t^2 y^2 x^2 - t x^2 + 4 t^2 x^4 z y^3 + 2 y^5 t^2 x^3]
[-8 z^3 t x^3 - t y^6 - 6 t y^4 x z - 12 x^2 z^2 t y^2 - 16 z^3 x^4 t y^3 - 24 y^5 z^2 x^3 t
- 12 y^7 x^2 z t - 2 t y^9 x,
1 + t y^2 - 4 t y^8 x^2 - 16 t x^4 z^2 y^4 - 16 t x^3 z y^6 + 2 t x z - 4 t y^3 z x^2 - 8 x^3 z^2 y t,
-4 z^2 x^4 t - 2 y^7 x^3 t - 8 z^2 x^5 t y^3 - 8 z x^4 y^5 t - 4 t y^2 z x^3 - y^4 x^2 t]
[32 t x^3 z^3 y^4 + 48 t z^2 x^2 y^6 + 16 x^2 z^3 t y + 24 t y^8 z x + 16 t y^3 z^2 x + 4 y^5 z t
+ 4 t y^10,
-4 t y^6 + 16 x^2 z^2 t y^2 + 32 y^5 z^2 x^3 t + 32 y^7 x^2 z t - 4 t y z + 8 t y^9 x,
1 + 4 t y^8 x^2 + 16 t x^4 z^2 y^4 + 16 t x^3 z y^6 + 4 t y^3 z x^2 + 8 x^3 z^2 y t]
> infolevel[QSAAlgorithm]:=0;
infolevel_QSAAlgorithm := 0
```

We can show that the matrix  $U$  is a unimodular matrix satisfying  $RU = (1 \ 0 \ 0)$ :

```
> LinearAlgebra[Determinant](U);
```

1

```
> simplify(Matrix(R).U);
```



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence, the first row of the inverse of  $U$  is the row  $R$ , a fact which can directly be checked using the command `CompleteMatrix`:

```
> B:=LinearAlgebra[MatrixInverse](U);
B:=
[2txz + ty^2 + 1, 2txy + t^2, tx^2]
[6ty^4xz + ty^6 + 2ty^9x + 24y^5z^2x^3t + 12y^7x^2zt + 16z^3x^4ty^3 + 12x^2z^2ty^2
+ 8z^3tx^3,
1 + 16tx^4z^2y^4 + 16tx^3zy^6 + 8x^3z^2yt + 4ty^3zx^2 + 4t^2y^2xz + t^2y^4 - 2txz
+ 4ty^8x^2 + 4x^2z^2t^2 + 2y^7xt^2 + 8x^3z^2y^3t^2 + 8x^2zy^5t^2 - ty^2,
8z^2x^5ty^3 + 4ty^2zx^3 + 4z^2x^4t + 2y^7x^3t + 8zx^4y^5t + y^4x^2t]
[-4ty^10 - 16x^2z^3ty - 32tx^3z^3y^4 - 48tz^2x^2y^6 - 24ty^8zx - 16ty^3z^2x
- 4y^5zt,
-16t^2y^4z^2x^2 - 16y^6zt^2x + 4ty^6 - 4y^3zt^2 - 8yxz^2t^2 + 4tyz
- 8ty^9x - 4t^2y^8 - 32y^5z^2x^3t - 32y^7x^2zt - 16x^2z^2ty^2,
1 - 16tx^4z^2y^4 - 16tx^3zy^6 - 8x^3z^2yt - 4ty^3zx^2 - 4ty^8x^2]
```

The residue classes of the last two rows of the matrix  $B$  in  $M$  form a basis of the  $D$ -module  $M$ .

```
> BasisOfCokernelModule(Matrix(R), var, true);
normalization over QQ
[6ty^4xz + ty^6 + 2ty^9x + 24y^5z^2x^3t + 12y^7x^2zt + 16z^3x^4ty^3 + 12x^2z^2ty^2
+ 8z^3tx^3, 1 + 16tx^4z^2y^4 + 16tx^3zy^6 + 8x^3z^2yt + 4ty^3zx^2 + 4t^2y^2xz
+ t^2y^4 - 2txz + 4ty^8x^2 + 4x^2z^2t^2 + 2y^7xt^2 + 8x^3z^2y^3t^2 + 8x^2zy^5t^2 - ty^2,
8z^2x^5ty^3 + 4ty^2zx^3 + 4z^2x^4t + 2y^7x^3t + 8zx^4y^5t + y^4x^2t]
[-4ty^10 - 16x^2z^3ty - 32tx^3z^3y^4 - 48tz^2x^2y^6 - 24ty^8zx - 16ty^3z^2x
- 4y^5zt, -16t^2y^4z^2x^2 - 16y^6zt^2x + 4ty^6 - 4y^3zt^2 - 8yxz^2t^2 + 4tyz
- 8ty^9x - 4t^2y^8 - 32y^5z^2x^3t - 32y^7x^2zt - 16x^2z^2ty^2,
1 - 16tx^4z^2y^4 - 16tx^3zy^6 - 8x^3z^2yt - 4ty^3zx^2 - 4ty^8x^2]
```

We can try to reduce the degree of the basis elements using the option `reduce`:

```
> BasisOfCokernelModule(Matrix(R), var, true, reduce);
normalization over QQ
[-8x^3z^2y^3 - 8x^2zy^5 - 2y^7x - y^4 - 4y^2xz - 4x^2z^2,
-2ty^5x - 4ty^3zx^2 - ty^2 - 2txz + 1, 0]
[16y^4x^2z^2 + 16y^6xz + 4y^8 + 4y^3z + 8yxz^2, 4ty^6 + 8ty^4xz + 4tyz, 1]
```

We refer the reader to [14] for an explicit description of the corresponding local computations. See also [14] for more examples and, particularly, examples over the Laurent polynomial ring  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_1^{-1}, \dots, x_n, x_n^{-1}]$  using Park's transformation ([34, 37]).

### 9.3 Equivalences of flat multidimensional linear systems

#### Examples 4.5, 4.7 and 4.9

We consider the differential time-delay linear system defined by (4.1) ([30]). The matrix  $R$  associated with (4.1) is defined by

```
> R:=Matrix([[d-delta+2, 2, -2*delta],
> [d,d,-d*delta-1]]);
```

$$R := \begin{bmatrix} d - \delta + 2 & 2 & -2\delta \\ d & d & -d\delta - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $d$  denotes the time-derivative operator and  $\delta$  the time-delay operator. Hence, we need to consider the commutative polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[d, \delta]$  and the  $D$ -module defined by  $M = D^{1 \times 3} / (D^{1 \times 2} R)$ .

```
> var:=[d, delta];
```

$$\text{var} := [d, \delta]$$

Let us check whether or not the matrix  $R$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$ :

```
> IsUnimod(R, var);
```

*true*

As the matrix  $R$  admits a right-inverse over  $D$ , we then obtain that the  $D$ -module  $M$  is projective, i. e., free by the Quillen-Suslin theorem. Let us solve Problem 1:

```
> U:=QSAlgorithm(R, var);
```

$$U := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ \frac{d\delta}{2} + \frac{1}{2} & -\delta & d^2\delta + d - d\delta^2 - \delta + 2 \\ \frac{d}{2} & -1 & d^2 - d\delta \end{bmatrix}$$

We can check that  $U$  gives a solution of Problem 1 as we have  $RU = (I_2 \ 0)$ :

```
> simplify(R.U);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $U$  is a unimodular matrix over  $D$ , i. e.,  $U \in \text{GL}_3(D)$ :

```
> LinearAlgebra[MatrixInverse](U);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} d - \delta + 2 & 2 & -2\delta \\ d & d & -d\delta - 1 \\ -1/2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The residue class of the last row of the matrix  $U^{-1}$  in  $M$  defines a basis of  $M$ . Moreover, the system defined by  $R$  admits the following injective parametrization

```
> Q:=InjectiveParametrization(R, var, true);
```

$$Q := \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ d^2 \delta + d - d\delta^2 - \delta + 2 \\ d^2 - d\delta \end{bmatrix}$$

i. e., for any  $D$ -module  $\mathcal{F}$  (e. g.,  $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ ), every  $\mathcal{F}$ -solution  $\eta$  of the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  has the form  $\eta = Q\xi$  for a certain  $\xi \in \mathcal{F}$ . As the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R.)$  is flat, by Corollary 4.8, we know that  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, \delta).)$  is algebraically equivalent to the controllable ordinary differential system without time-delay, i. e., to  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, 1).)$ . We can compute an invertible transformation which maps elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, 1).)$  to elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, \delta).)$ :

```
> U[1]:=SetLastVariableA(R, var, 1, true);
```

$$U_1 := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}d\delta^2 - \frac{1}{2}d\delta + \frac{1}{2}\delta - \frac{1}{2} & 1 & \delta - 1 \\ \frac{d(\delta - 1)}{2} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can check that  $R(d, \delta)U_1 = R(d, 1)$ :

```
> R[1]:=simplify(R.U[1]);
```

$$R_1 := \begin{bmatrix} d+1 & 2 & -2 \\ d & d & -1-d \end{bmatrix}$$

Then, the inverse transformation, i. e., the transformation sending elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, \delta).)$  to elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, 1).)$ , is defined by the matrix  $U_1^{-1}$ :

```
> LinearAlgebra[MatrixInverse](U[1]);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2}d\delta - \frac{1}{2}\delta + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}d & 1 & -\delta + 1 \\ -\frac{d(\delta - 1)}{2} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

As the  $E = \mathbb{Q}[d]$ -module  $N = E^{1 \times 3} / (E^{1 \times 2} R_1)$  is also free, we can find  $U_2 \in GL_3(E)$  such that  $R_1 U_2 = (I_2 \ 0)$ . For instance, we get

> U[2]:=QSAAlgorithm(R[1], var);

$$U_2 := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{d}{2} & -1 & d^2 + 1 \\ \frac{d}{2} & -1 & d^2 - d \end{bmatrix}$$

As the ordinary differential linear system without delay  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, 1))$  is flat, it also admits an injective parametrization which can be computed by

> Q1:=InjectiveParametrization(R1, var, true);

$$Q1 := \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ d^2 + 1 \\ d^2 - d \end{bmatrix}$$

Similarly, we can prove that the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, \delta))$  is algebraically equivalent to the system  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, 0))$  by means of the following invertible transformation:

> V[1]:=SetLastVariableA(R, var, 0, true);

$$V_1 := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}d\delta^2 + \frac{1}{2}\delta & 1 & \delta \\ \frac{d\delta}{2} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then, the inverse transformation, i.e., the transformation sending elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, \delta))$  to elements of  $\ker_{\mathcal{F}}(R(d, 0))$ , is defined by the matrix  $V_1^{-1}$ :

> LinearAlgebra[MatrixInverse](V[1]);

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{\delta}{2} & 1 & -\delta \\ -\frac{d\delta}{2} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

As the  $E = \mathbb{Q}[d]$ -module  $P = E^{1 \times 3} / (E^{1 \times 2} R_0)$  is also free, we can find  $V_2 \in \text{GL}_3(E)$  such that  $R_0 V_2 = (I_2 \ 0)$ . In particular, we have

> V[2]:=QSAAlgorithm(R[0], var);

$$V_2 := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & d + 2 \\ \frac{d}{2} & -1 & d^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

See [14] for more examples.

## 9.4 Pommaret's theorem of the Lin-Bose conjecture

### Examples 5.3, 5.5 and 5.6

Let us consider the differential time-delay model of a flexible rod with a force applied on one end defined in Example 5.3 ([30]). The system matrix  $R$  with entries in the commutative polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[d, \delta]$ , where  $d$  denotes the time-derivative operator and  $\delta$  the time-delay operator, is defined by

```
> var:=[d, delta];
      var := [d, delta]
> R:=Matrix([[d, -d*delta, -1],
             [2*delta*d, -d*delta^2-d, 0]]);
      R := [ [ d      -d*delta  -1 ]
             [ 2*d*delta -d*delta^2-d  0 ] ]
```

Let us check whether or not the  $D$ -module  $M = D^{1 \times 3}/(D^{1 \times 2} R)$  is projective, i. e., free by the Quillen-Suslin theorem:

```
> IsUnimod(R, var);
      false
```

We obtain that  $R$  does not admit a right-inverse over  $D$  and the  $D$ -module  $M$  is not free. In particular, there does not exist a matrix  $U \in \text{GL}_3(D)$  such that  $RU = (I_2 \ 0)$  or, equivalently,  $R$  cannot be completed to a unimodular matrix over  $D$ . Let us compute the set of all maximal minors of  $R$ :

```
> m:=MaxMinors(R);
      m := [d^2*delta^2 - d^2, 2*d*delta, -d*delta^2 - d]
```

The ideal  $I$  of  $D$  defined by the maximal minors is generated by

```
> Involutive[InvolutiveBasis](m, var);
      [d]
```

i. e.,  $I = (d)$ , and thus,  $d$  is a greatest common divisor of the maximal minors of  $R$ . In particular, using Figure 2.1, we obtain that the torsion  $D$ -submodule  $t(M)$  of  $M$  is not reduced to 0. A solution of Problem 3 can directly be obtained by calling the QUILLENUSUSLIN procedure `LinBose1` as follows:

```
> F:=LinBose1(R, var);
      F := [ [ -1  0 ] , [ -d  d*delta  1 ]
            [  0 -d ] , [ -2*delta  delta^2+1  0 ] ]
```

The second matrix of the previous output corresponds to the matrix  $R'$  solving Problem 3, whereas the first one corresponds to the matrix  $R''$  satisfying  $R = R'' R'$  and  $\det R'' = d$ , where  $d$  denotes the greatest common divisor of the maximal minors of  $R$ .

```

> simplify(F[1].F[2]);
      [  d      -dδ   -1 ]
      [ 2dδ  -dδ²-d   0 ]
> LinearAlgebra[Determinant](F[1]);
      d
> IsUnimod(F[2], var);
      true

```

Let us now solve Problem 4. We can obtain a solution of Problem 4 by using the procedure `LinBose2`:

```

> C:=LinBose2(R, var);
      [  d      -dδ   -1 ]
      [ 2dδ  -dδ²-d   0 ]
      [ -1      δ     0 ]
      [                2 ]

```

The determinant of the matrix  $C$  equals to

```

> LinearAlgebra[Determinant](C);
      d

```

which solves the problem. See [14] for more examples.

## 9.5 (Weakly) coprime factorizations of rational transfer matrices

Let us consider the commutative polynomial ring  $D = \mathbb{Q}[z_1, z_2, z_3]$ :

```

> var:=[z[1],z[2],z[3]];
      var := [z1, z2, z3]

```

We consider the rational transfer matrix defined in Example 6.6, namely

```

> P:=Matrix(<(z[1]^2*z[2]^2+1)/(z[1]*z[2]^2*z[3]),
> (z[1]^2*z[3]+1)/(z[1]*z[2]^2*z[3]) >);

```

$$P := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1}{z_1 z_2^2 z_3} \\ \frac{z_1^2 z_3 + 1}{z_1 z_2^2 z_3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Cleaning the denominators of  $P$ , we obtain the fractional representation  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  of  $P$ , where the matrices  $D_P \in D^{2 \times 2}$  and  $N_P \in D^{2 \times 1}$  are defined by

```

> D_P:=LinearAlgebra[ScalarMatrix](DenomOf(P),2,2);

```

$$D_{-P} := \begin{bmatrix} z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & 0 \\ 0 & z_1 z_2^2 z_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

> `N_P := simplify(D_P.P);`

$$N_{-P} := \begin{bmatrix} z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 \\ z_1^2 z_3 + 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let us define the matrix  $Q = (D_P \quad -N_P) \in D^{2 \times 3}$ , namely

> `Q := Matrix([D_P, -N_P]);`

$$Q := \begin{bmatrix} z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & 0 & -z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1 \\ 0 & z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & -z_1^2 z_3 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The set of the maximal minors of  $Q$  is defined by

> `m1 := MaxMinors(Q);`

$$m1 := [z_1^2 z_2^4 z_3^2, z_1 z_2^2 z_3 (-z_1^2 z_3 - 1), -(-z_1^2 z_2^2 - 1) z_1 z_2^2 z_3]$$

The greatest common divisor of the maximal minors of  $Q$  is

> `d := {gcd(m1[1], m1[2]), gcd(m1[1], m1[3]),`  
> `gcd(m1[2], m1[3])};`

$$d := \{z_1 z_2^2 z_3\}$$

Hence,  $P = D_P^{-1} N_P$  is not a weakly left-coprime factorization of  $P$ . Let us check whether or not the rational transfer matrix  $P$  admits a weakly left-coprime factorization and, if so, compute one:

> `WLCF := WLCFactorization(P, var);`

$$WLCF := \left[ \begin{bmatrix} -z_1^2 z_3 - 1 & z_1^2 z_2^2 + z_1^4 z_3 z_2^2 + 1 \\ -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & z_1^3 z_2^4 z_3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} z_1^5 z_3 + z_1^3 \\ z_1^4 z_3 z_2^2 - 1 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

We obtain that  $P$  admits the weakly left-coprime factorization defined by

$$P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P,$$

where  $D'_P \in D^{2 \times 2}$  is the first matrix given in the previous output and  $N'_P \in D^{2 \times 1}$  is the second one. In particular, we can check that  $(D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is equal to  $P$ :

> `LinearAlgebra[MatrixInverse](WLCF[1]).WLCF[2];`

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1}{z_1 z_2^2 z_3} \\ \frac{z_1^2 z_3 + 1}{z_1 z_2^2 z_3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Moreover, if we define the matrix  $R = (D'_P \quad -N'_P) \in D^{2 \times 3}$ , namely

```
> R:=Matrix([WLCF[1],-WLCF[2]]);
```

$$R := \begin{bmatrix} -z_1^2 z_3 - 1 & z_1^2 z_2^2 + z_1^4 z_3 z_2^2 + 1 & -z_1^5 z_3 - z_1^3 \\ -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & z_1^3 z_2^4 z_3 & -z_1^4 z_3 z_2^2 + 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

then, the set of the maximal minors of  $R$  is defined by

```
> m2:=MaxMinors(R);
```

$$m2 := [z_1 z_2^2 z_3, -z_1^2 z_3 - 1, z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1]$$

and the greatest common divisor of the maximal minors of  $R$  is then equal to 1 as

```
> {gcd(m2[1],m2[2]),gcd(m2[1],m2[3]),
> gcd(m2[2],m2[3])};
```

{1}

and thus,  $P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is a weakly left-coprime factorization of  $P$ . Let us check whether or not the transfer matrix  $P$  admits a left-coprime factorization:

```
> LCF:=LCFactorization(P,var);
```

$$LCF := \left[ \begin{bmatrix} z_1^2 z_3 - 1 & -z_1^4 z_3 z_2^2 + z_1^2 z_2^2 + 1 \\ -z_1 z_2^2 z_3 & z_1^3 z_2^4 z_3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} z_1^3 (z_1^2 z_3 - 1) \\ -z_1^4 z_3 z_2^2 - 1 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

$P = (D'_P)^{-1} N'_P$  is a left-coprime factorization of  $P$  and  $R = (D'_P \quad -N'_P)$  admits the following right-inverse over  $D$ :

```
> Involutive[PolRightInverse](R,var);
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} z_1^2 z_2^2 & z_1^3 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

A weakly right-coprime factorization of  $P$  can be obtained in a similar way. See [14] for more details.

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**Author information**

Anna Fabiańska, Lehrstuhl B für Mathematik,  
RWTH - Aachen,  
Templergraben 64, 52056 Aachen, Germany.  
Email: [fabianska@momo.math.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:fabianska@momo.math.rwth-aachen.de)

Alban Quadrat, INRIA Sophia Antipolis,  
APICS project,  
2004 Route des Lucioles BP 93, 06902 Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France.  
Email: [Alban.Quadrat@sophia.inria.fr](mailto:Alban.Quadrat@sophia.inria.fr)