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## Twists and braids for general 3-fold flops

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**Abstract.** Given a quasi-projective 3-fold  $X$  with only Gorenstein terminal singularities, we prove that the flop functors beginning at  $X$  satisfy higher degree braid relations, with the combinatorics controlled by a real hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$ . This leads to a general theory, incorporating known special cases with degree 3 braid relations, in which we show that higher degree relations can occur even for two smooth rational curves meeting at a point. This theory yields an action of the fundamental group of the complexified complement,  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}})$ , on the derived category of  $X$ , for any such 3-fold that admits individually floppable curves. We also construct such an action in the more general case where individual curves may flop analytically, but not algebraically, and furthermore we lift the action to a form of affine pure braid group under the additional assumption that  $X$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial.

Along the way, we produce two new types of derived autoequivalences. One uses commutative deformations of the scheme-theoretic fibre of a flopping contraction, and the other uses noncommutative deformations of the fibre with reduced scheme structure, generalising constructions of Toda and the authors [T07, DW1] which considered only the case when the flopping locus is irreducible. For type  $A$  flops of irreducible curves, we show that the two autoequivalences are related, but in other cases they are very different, with the noncommutative twist being linked to birational geometry via the Bridgeland–Chen [B02, C02] flop-flop functor.

**Keywords.** Birational geometry, complex 3-fold, flops, rational curve, contraction algebra, Dynkin type, homological algebra, derived category, autoequivalence, braid-type group, hyperplane arrangement, Deligne groupoid

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## 1. Introduction

The derived category, through its autoequivalence group and associated Bridgeland stability manifold, is one of the fundamental tools that enriches and furthers our understanding of birational geometry, especially in low dimension. Amongst other things it is widely expected, and proved in many cases, that the derived category allows us to run the minimal model program [BM, BO, B02, C02, T13, W] and track minimal models [CI, T08, W], to illuminate new and known symmetries [D13, DS1, HLS, ST, T07], and to understand wall crossing phenomena [CI, C15, N], in both a conceptually and computationally easier manner.

Consider a general algebraic 3-fold flopping contraction  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$ , where  $X$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities. It is known that there are derived equivalences between  $X$  and its flops [B02, C02], and in this paper:

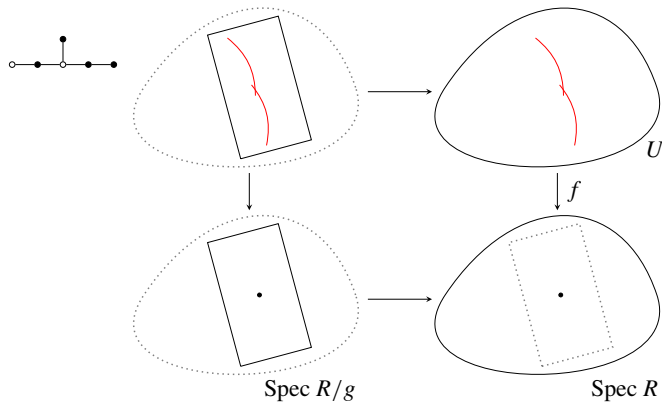
- (1) We prove that the flop functors satisfy higher degree braid relations, with combinatorics controlled by the real hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$  appearing in [W, §5–§7], which need not be Coxeter. We then show that the derived category of  $X$  carries an action of the fundamental group of the complexified complement of  $\mathcal{H}$ , which should be thought of as a natural generalisation of a pure braid group. We obtain this new group action via topological methods, without knowledge of a group presentation.
- (2) We give a geometric description of generators of this action using noncommutative deformations of multiple curves. Subsets  $J$  of the curves in the fibres of  $f$  need not flop algebraically, however for every subset we produce a twist autoequivalence, which we call the  $J$ -twist. We prove that the  $J$ -twist is inverse to a known flop-flop functor in the case when the latter exists, namely when the union of curves in  $J$  flop algebraically. However, the  $J$ -twist exists in full generality, and the ability to vary  $J$  regardless allows us to produce many more derived symmetries.
- (3) We also produce another new autoequivalence, using (commutative) deformations of the scheme-theoretic exceptional fibre, which we call the fibre twist. We explain why both the  $J$ -twist and the fibre twist must be understood in order to construct affine braid group actions on the derived category of  $X$ .

We remark that in special cases, braiding of flop functors is already known. In certain toric cases studied by Segal and the first author [DS2], and in other situations studied by Szendrői [S03], degree 3 braid relations  $F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \cong F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2$  exist between flops, which correspond to analogous degree 3 relations between Seidel–Thomas twists on surfaces [ST].

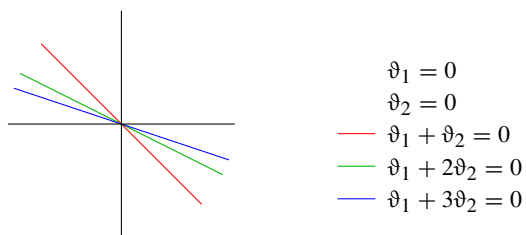
### 1.1. Motivation

Before describing our results in detail, we sketch why the general theory requires higher degree relations. Consider a contraction  $f: U \rightarrow \text{Spec } R$ , where  $R$  is an isolated 3-fold cDV singularity,  $U$  is a minimal model, and  $f$  contracts precisely two intersecting irreducible curves. There exist examples where a generic hyperplane section  $g \in R$  cuts to an ADE surface singularity  $R/g$  of type  $E_6$ , and  $U$  cuts to the partial crepant resolution

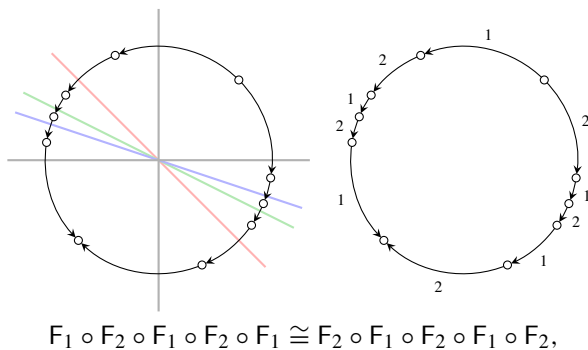
depicted below. With notation from [K91], this is described by the given marked Dynkin diagram, by blowing down the curves in the minimal resolution of  $R/g$  corresponding to the black vertices.



Since all minimal models of  $\text{Spec } R$  are connected by repeatedly flopping the two curves (see e.g. [Kol]), a degree 3 braid relation would imply that  $\text{Spec } R$  has only six minimal models. However, in the above example, by [P83] or [W, 7.2] the minimal models of  $\text{Spec } R$  correspond to the ten chambers in the following hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ :



This shows that a degree 3 braid relation cannot hold in this example, but does suggest a higher length braid relation given by



and indeed this follows from the general theory developed below. This example demonstrates that the braiding of 3-fold flops is not controlled by the dual graph, in contrast to the braiding of spherical twists associated to  $(-2)$ -curves on surfaces [ST].

### 1.2. Group actions from flops

We first describe the case where the flopping contraction  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  contracts precisely two irreducible curves, with each curve individually floppable. The general case will be described later.

Since there are two curves,  $f$  has an associated hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , by [W] (see §3.1). As in the example above, we write  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  for the Bridgeland–Chen flop functors associated to the two flopping curves in  $X$ . By abuse of notation, we also use  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  to denote flop functors at the varieties obtained after successive flops. The functor associated to the flop of the two curves together is denoted by  $F$ .

**Theorem 1.1** (= 3.10). *Suppose that  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  is a flopping contraction between quasi-projective 3-folds, contracting precisely two independently floppable irreducible curves. If  $X$  has at worst Gorenstein terminal singularities, then*

$$\underbrace{F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ \dots}_d \cong F \cong \underbrace{F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ \dots}_d$$

where  $d$  is the number of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Furthermore:

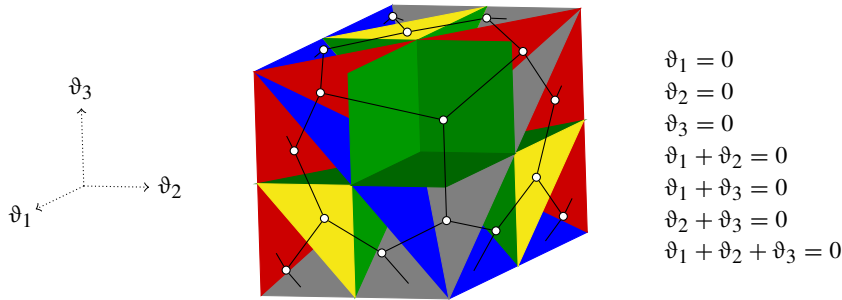
- (1) If the curves intersect, then  $d \geq 3$ .
- (2) If the curves are disjoint, then  $d = 2$ .

In fact  $d \leq 8$ , though we do not show this here. The proof of 1.1 uses moduli tracking, developed as part of the Homological MMP [W]. The strategy is to track skyscrapers  $\mathcal{O}_x$ , with the challenge being to show that the composition

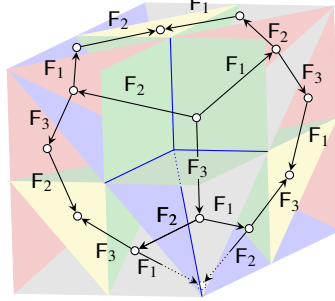
$$(F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1} \circ F_1^{-1} \circ \dots) \circ (\dots \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2)$$

applied to  $\mathcal{O}_x$  is also a skyscraper.

When there are  $n$  irreducible curves in the exceptional locus of the flopping contraction, braiding is controlled by a hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , which we prove is simplicial in 3.9. As a motivating example, consider the following hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , which arises from certain  $D_4$  flops with three curves above the origin. It has 7 hyperplanes and 32 chambers:



The Deligne groupoid associated to  $\mathcal{H}$  has by definition a vertex for every chamber, arrows between adjacent chambers, and relations corresponding to codimension-two walls (see 3.18 for full details). In the above example, four of these relations are illustrated in the picture below, corresponding to the four codimension-two walls marked blue.



We may now state our first main theorem.

**Theorem 1.2** (= 3.23). *Suppose that  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  is a flopping contraction between quasi-projective 3-folds, where  $X$  has Gorenstein terminal singularities and each of the  $n$  irreducible exceptional curves is individually floppable.*

- (1) *The flop functors  $F_i$  form a representation of the Deligne groupoid associated to  $\mathcal{H}$ .*
- (2) *There is a group homomorphism*

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}}) \rightarrow \text{Aut } D^b(\text{coh } X),$$

where  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}}$  denotes the complexification of  $\mathcal{H}$ .

To prove (1), we show that crashing through a codimension-two wall corresponds to flopping two curves together, so that the relations in the Deligne groupoid representation can be verified using 1.1. The proof does not require knowledge of a group presentation of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}})$ .

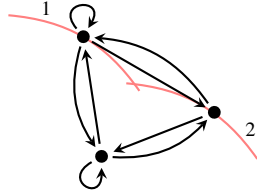
### 1.3. The $J$ -twists

In order to describe geometrically the action of some of the generators of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}})$  on the derived category of  $X$ , and also to describe the case when the curves are not individually floppable, we next associate intrinsic derived symmetries to a given flopping contraction  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$ .

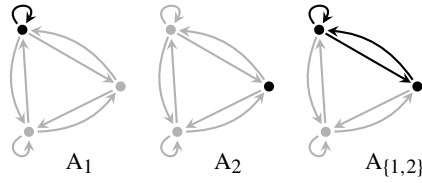
In the case  $n = 1$ , the authors previously described the action of a generator of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^1 \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}}) = \pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}) = \mathbb{Z}$  on  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$  by using noncommutative deformation theory of the reduced curve, and twisting around a universal family over the so-called contraction algebra [DW1]. However, in the general case considered here, the twists from [DW1] correspond only to monodromy around certain codimension-one walls, and in general this recovers only a small part of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}})$ .

To remedy this we describe the action of monodromies around higher codimension walls, by considering simultaneous deformations of multiple curves. We thus choose a subset  $J$  of the curves, and from this produce an autoequivalence, corresponding to monodromy around a codimension- $|J|$  wall.

To produce such a twist autoequivalence, we first construct the deformation base. Choosing a point  $p \in X_{\text{con}}$ , it is now well-known that the formal fibre above  $p$  is derived equivalent to a noncommutative ring  $A$  [V]. If there are  $n_p$  curves in the formal fibre, then this algebra has  $n_p$  idempotents corresponding to these curves, plus one other. Furthermore, as explained in [W, 2.15], the presentation of  $A$  depends on the intersection theory of the curves. An example with two curves is drawn below.



We generalise the contraction algebra of [DW1] to this setting (see 2.11), which in the example above can be visualised as follows. For any subset of the curves  $J \subseteq \{1, 2\}$ , we define  $A_J$  by factoring out all other idempotents, so that different  $A_J$  have presentations as drawn below:



It is shown in [DW2] that  $A_J$  represents the functor of simultaneous noncommutative deformations of the reduced curves in  $J$ . We then in 5.5 construct a functor

$$J\text{Twist}: D^b(\text{coh } X) \rightarrow D^b(\text{coh } X)$$

called the  $J$ -twist, which twists around the universal sheaf  $\mathcal{E}_J$  from the noncommutative deformation theory.

**Theorem 1.3** (= 5.23). *Suppose that  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  is a flopping contraction between quasi-projective 3-folds, where  $X$  has Gorenstein terminal singularities.*

- (1) *For any subset  $J$  of the flopping curves,  $J\text{Twist}$  is an equivalence.*
- (2) *If the curves  $J$  are contracted to a single point, then there is a functorial triangle*

$$\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_J, x) \otimes_{A_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J \rightarrow x \rightarrow J\text{Twist}(x) \rightarrow .$$

The construction of the functor  $J\text{Twist}$  is a three-step process. We first construct it on the formal fibre, then via an algebraic idempotent method we extend this to an open neighbourhood of the curves, before finally gluing to give a functor on  $X$ . At various stages, the proof requires the existence of adjoints. The new adjoint technology of Rizzardo [R15] allows us to construct these, in the process dropping the projectivity assumption from previous works [T07, DW1], and also relaxing the conditions on singularities in 1.3, and indeed throughout the whole paper. It turns out that almost all of our theorems only require Gorenstein terminal singularities in a neighbourhood of the contracted curves; our general setup is explained in 2.2.

When the union  $\bigcup_{j \in J} C_j$  of curves flops algebraically, the flop functor  $F_J$  exists, and so we are in a position to compare it to the  $J$ -twist.

**Theorem 1.4** (= 6.1). *With assumptions as above, for a choice of subset  $J$  of the flopping curves, suppose that  $\bigcup_{j \in J} C_j$  flops algebraically. Then  $J\text{Twist} \circ (F_J \circ F_J) \cong \text{Id}$ .*

Thus the  $J$ -twist gives an intrinsic characterisation of the inverse of the flop-flop functor, but has the advantage of always existing regardless of whether  $\bigcup_{j \in J} C_j$  flops algebraically. This leads to our main result in the purely algebraic setting, where individual curves are not necessarily floppable.

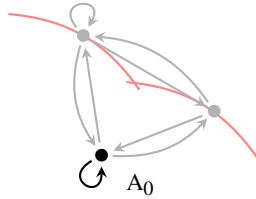
**Theorem 1.5** (= 6.3). *Suppose that  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  is a flopping contraction, where  $X$  is a quasi-projective 3-fold with only Gorenstein terminal singularities. The subgroup  $K$  of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}})$  generated by the  $J$ -twists, as  $J$  ranges over all subsets of curves, acts on  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$ .*

It can happen that  $K = \pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}})$  (see 6.4), but verifying this in any level of generality seems group-theoretically difficult; we discuss this briefly in §6.1.

#### 1.4. The fibre twist

We then construct new derived autoequivalences not in the image of the group homomorphism in 1.2. We expect these to coincide with the action of the affine element of some larger group, analogous to the affine braid group actions for chains of  $(-2)$ -curves on surfaces [B09]. This is remarkable, since hyperplane arrangements  $\mathcal{H}$  such as the one in §1.1 do not have affine versions, so there is no obvious candidate for this expected larger group.

From the viewpoint of idempotents of  $A$  in §1.3, the construction of the new autoequivalence is clear, namely we define a base  $A_0$  for the twist by factoring out the idempotents corresponding to all the curves. In the example from §1.3, this can be visualised as follows:



In contrast to the  $J$ -twist, whose base  $A_J$  represents simultaneous noncommutative deformations of the reduced curves, by [DW2]  $A_0$  represents both the commutative and noncommutative deformations of the whole scheme-theoretic exceptional fibre, and so in particular  $A_0$  is a finite-dimensional commutative local  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebra.

We then in 5.5 construct a functor

$$FTwist: D^b(\text{coh } X) \rightarrow D^b(\text{coh } X)$$

called the fibre twist, which twists around the universal sheaf  $\mathcal{E}_0$  from the commutative deformation theory.

**Theorem 1.6** (= 5.23). *Suppose that  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  is a flopping contraction of quasi-projective 3-folds, where  $X$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial and has Gorenstein terminal singularities.*

- (1) *The fibre twist  $FTwist$  is an equivalence.*
- (2) *There is a functorial triangle*

$$R\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_0, x) \otimes_{A_0}^L \mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow x \rightarrow FTwist_p(x) \rightarrow .$$

As with the  $J$ -twist, the construction of the functor  $FTwist$  is a three-step process. However, step one, establishing the functor  $FTwist$  on the formal fibre, is now significantly harder, and this results in the additional  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial assumption in 1.6. We explain the reasons for this briefly in the next subsection.

The fibre twist does not commute with the pushdown along the contraction  $\mathbf{R}f_*$ , and for this reason does not belong to the image of the homomorphism in 1.2. It is natural to ask whether it nevertheless lies in the subgroup generated by this image and twists by line bundles, and in particular whether the fibre twist and  $J$ -twist can be conjugate by a line bundle. The following theorem asserts that for the simplest type A case this may indeed hold, but in general the two twists are not conjugate in this way, and so both will be needed to understand the derived autoequivalence group.

**Theorem 1.7** (= 6.5). *Under the assumptions of 1.6, suppose further that  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  contracts a single irreducible rational curve to a point  $p$ . Then there exists a functorial isomorphism*

$$FTwist(x \otimes \mathcal{F}) \cong JTwist(x) \otimes \mathcal{F}$$

*for some line bundle  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$  if and only if the following conditions hold:*

- (1) *The point  $p$  is  $cDV$  of type A.*
- (2) *There exists a line bundle  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$  such that  $\deg(\mathcal{F}|_{f^{-1}(p)}) = -1$ .*

### 1.5. Mutation and MMAs

The construction of the functors  $JTwist$  and  $FTwist$  on the formal fibre  $\mathfrak{U} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathfrak{R}$ , and the proof that they are twist autoequivalences, both rely on the theory of mutation from [IW1, §6]. As in §1.3, there is a noncommutative ring  $A := \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)$  derived equivalent to  $\mathfrak{U}$ . Furthermore, as explained in 2.10,  $N$  has a Krull–Schmidt decomposition  $N = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{n_p} N_i$ , where  $N_0 = \mathfrak{R}$  and the remaining  $N_i$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the  $n_p$  exceptional irreducible curves.



To obtain the  $J$ -twist on  $\mathfrak{U}$ , we simply choose a subset of the curves, equivalently a subset  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_p\}$ . Then, by mutating the module  $N$  at  $N_J := \bigoplus_{j \in J} N_j$ , we obtain a new module denoted  $\nu_J N$  (see §2.6 for details). The following is an extension of [DW1, §5] to the case  $|J| > 1$ .

**Proposition 1.8** (= 4.6, 4.7). *Suppose that  $\mathfrak{U} \rightarrow \operatorname{Spec} \mathfrak{R}$  is a complete local 3-fold flopping contraction, where  $\mathfrak{U}$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities. Then for any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_p\}$ :*

- (1)  $\nu_J \nu_J N \cong N$ .
- (2)  $\operatorname{pd}_A A_J = 3$ , and further

$$\operatorname{Ext}_A^t(A_J, S_j) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} & \text{if } t = 0, 3, \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

for all simple  $A_J$ -modules  $S_j$ .

Part (1) is the key to establishing that the  $J$ -twist is an autoequivalence, and part (2) shows the link to spherical functors (see [AL1, AL2]). Both parts follow quite easily from the fact that  $\mathfrak{R}$  is a hypersurface singularity, using matrix factorisations.

However, to construct the fibre twist is significantly more complicated, since if we mutate the summand  $\mathfrak{R}$  twice and obtain  $\nu_0 \nu_0 N$ , there is no easy reason why  $\nu_0 \nu_0 N \cong N$  should be true. Thus establishing the analogue of 1.8 is much harder, and requires an additional assumption of  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factoriality. It is well-known that being  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial does not pass to the formal fibre, so this presents a significant technical challenge; we postpone the discussion here and refer the reader to 4.9 and 4.10.

After constructing the autoequivalences  $J\text{Twist}$  and  $F\text{Twist}$  on the formal fibre, we lift them to the Zariski local model. For  $J\text{Twist}$ , as in [DW1, §6], this lifting is quite easy, but lifting  $F\text{Twist}$  turns out to be more difficult, and requires a delicate argument that involves passing to a localisation and using lifting numbers. In the proof that  $F\text{Twist}$  lifts, we rely heavily on the theory of maximal modification algebras (= MMAs), as recalled in 2.15. These are the noncommutative version of minimal models. It is an open problem whether the property of being an MMA passes to localisations at maximal ideals (it is known that it does not pass to the completion), however in this paper we do establish and use the following, which may be of independent interest.

**Theorem 1.9** (= 2.16). *Suppose that  $R$  is a three-dimensional Gorenstein normal domain over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $\Lambda$  is derived equivalent to a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial terminalisation of  $\operatorname{Spec} R$ . Then  $\Lambda$  is an MMA, and further for all  $\mathfrak{m} \in \operatorname{Max} R$ , the algebra  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is an MMA of  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ .*

### 1.6. Conventions

We work over  $\mathbb{C}$ . Unqualified uses of the word *module* refer to right modules, and  $\operatorname{mod} A$  denotes the category of finitely generated right  $A$ -modules. If  $M \in \operatorname{mod} A$ , we let  $\operatorname{add} M$  denote all possible summands of finite sums of  $M$ . If  $S, T \in \operatorname{mod} R$  where  $S$  is a summand of  $T$ , then we define  $[S]$  to be the two-sided ideal of  $\operatorname{End}_R(T)$  consisting of all morphisms

factoring through  $\text{add } S$ . Further, we use the functional convention for composing arrows, so  $f \cdot g$  means  $g$  then  $f$ . With this convention,  $M$  is an  $\text{End}_R(M)^{\text{op}}$ -module,  $\text{Hom}_R(M, N)$  is an  $\text{End}_R(M)$ -module and an  $\text{End}_R(N)^{\text{op}}$ -module, in fact a bimodule. Note also that  $\text{Hom}_R({}_S M_R, {}_T M_R)$  is an  $S$ - $T$ -bimodule and  $\text{Hom}_{R^{\text{op}}}({}_R M_S, {}_R M_T)$  is a  $T$ - $S$ -bimodule.

If  $X$  is a scheme,  $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$  will denote the localisation of the structure sheaf at the closed point  $x \in X$ , whereas  $\mathcal{O}_x$  will always denote the skyscraper sheaf at  $x$ . We will write  $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_{X,x}$  for the completion of  $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$  at the unique maximal ideal. Throughout, *locally* will always mean Zariski locally, and when we discuss the completion, we will speak of working *complete locally*.

## 2. Flops setting and notation

In this section we fix notation, and provide the necessary preliminary results.

### 2.1. Perverse coherent sheaves

Consider a projective birational morphism  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  between noetherian integral normal  $\mathbb{C}$ -schemes with  $\mathbf{R}f_*\mathcal{O}_X = \mathcal{O}_{X_{\text{con}}}$  such that the fibres are at most one-dimensional.

**Definition 2.1.** For such a morphism  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$ , recall [B02, V] that  ${}^0\text{Per}(X, X_{\text{con}})$ , the category of perverse coherent sheaves on  $X$ , is defined by

$${}^0\text{Per}(X, X_{\text{con}}) = \left\{ a \in \text{D}^b(\text{coh } X) \left| \begin{array}{l} H^i(a) = 0 \text{ if } i \neq 0, -1, \\ f_*H^{-1}(a) = 0, \mathbf{R}^1f_*H^0(a) = 0, \\ \text{Hom}(c, H^{-1}(a)) = 0 \text{ for all } c \in \mathcal{C}^0 \end{array} \right. \right\},$$

where

$$\mathcal{C} := \{c \in \text{D}^b(\text{coh } X) \mid \mathbf{R}f_*c = 0\}$$

and  $\mathcal{C}^0$  denotes the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  whose objects have cohomology only in degree 0.

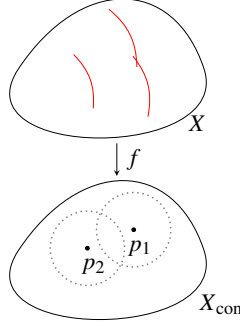
### 2.2. Global and local flops notation

In this subsection, and for the remainder of this paper, we will make use of the following geometric setup.

**Setup 2.2** (Global flops). We let  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  be a flopping contraction, where  $X$  is a quasi-projective 3-fold with only Gorenstein terminal singularities in a neighbourhood of the curves contracted. We write  $\text{Ram } f$  for the (finite) set of points in  $X_{\text{con}}$  above which  $f$  is not an isomorphism.

This is more general than the setup of [DW1], since the new adjoint technology of [R15] allows us to drop the assumption that  $X$  is projective, and also there is no global restriction on singularities. We will not assume that  $X$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial unless explicitly stated. With the assumptions in 2.2, around each point  $p \in \text{Ram } f$  we can find an affine open

neighbourhood  $\text{Spec } R$  containing  $p$  but none of the other points in  $\text{Ram } f$ , as shown below.



We set  $U := f^{-1}(\text{Spec } R)$  and thus consider the morphism of Gorenstein 3-folds

$$f|_U : U \rightarrow \text{Spec } R.$$

By construction, this is an isomorphism away from a single point, and above that point is a connected chain of rational curves. Many of our global problems can be reduced to the following Zariski local setup.

**Setup 2.3** (Zariski local flops, single chain). Suppose that  $f : U \rightarrow \text{Spec } R$  is a crepant projective birational contraction of 3-folds, with fibres at most one-dimensional, which is an isomorphism away from precisely one point  $\mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max } R$ . We assume that  $U$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities. As notation, above  $\mathfrak{m}$  is a connected chain  $C$  of  $n_p$  curves with reduced scheme structure  $C^{\text{red}} = \bigcup_{j=1}^{n_p} C_j$  such that each  $C_j$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$ .

Passing to the completion will bring technical advantages.

**Setup 2.4** (Complete local flops). With notation and setup as in 2.3, we let  $\mathfrak{R}$  denote the completion of  $R$  at the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ . We let  $\varphi : \mathfrak{U} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathfrak{R}$  denote the formal fibre. Above the unique closed point is a connected chain  $C$  of  $n_p$  curves with  $C^{\text{red}} = \bigcup_{j=1}^{n_p} C_j$  such that each  $C_j$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . Because  $R$  is Gorenstein terminal, necessarily  $\mathfrak{R}$  is an isolated hypersurface singularity, by [R83, 0.6(I)].

We will often denote  $n_p$  simply by  $n$  where no confusion arises.

### 2.3. The contraction and fibre algebras

In the Zariski local flops setup in 2.3, it is well-known [V, 3.2.8] that there is a bundle  $\mathcal{V} := \mathcal{O}_U \oplus \mathcal{N}$  inducing a derived equivalence

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^b(\text{coh } U) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\text{RHom}_U(\mathcal{V}, -)} & D^b(\text{mod End}_U(\mathcal{V})) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ {}^0\text{Per}(U, R) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{} & \text{mod End}_U(\mathcal{V}) \end{array} \quad (2.A)$$

In this Zariski local setting there is choice in the construction of  $\mathcal{V}$ , but in the setting of the formal fibre later in §2.4, there is a canonical choice.

Throughout we set

$$\Lambda := \text{End}_U(\mathcal{V}) = \text{End}_U(\mathcal{O}_U \oplus \mathcal{N}).$$

Recall that if  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G} \in \text{coh } U$  where  $\mathcal{F}$  is a summand of  $\mathcal{G}$ , then we define  $[\mathcal{F}]$  to be the two-sided ideal of  $\text{End}_U(\mathcal{G})$  consisting of all morphisms factoring through add  $\mathcal{F}$ .

**Definition 2.5.** With notation as above, we define the *contraction algebra* associated to  $\Lambda$  to be  $\Lambda_{\text{con}} := \text{End}_U(\mathcal{O}_U \oplus \mathcal{N})/[\mathcal{O}_U]$ .

We remark that  $\Lambda_{\text{con}}$  depends on  $\Lambda$  and thus on the choice of derived equivalence (2.A). In the complete local case there is a canonical choice for this; see §2.4 below.

**Lemma 2.6.** *Under the Zariski local setup of 2.3, the basic algebra Morita equivalent to  $\Lambda_{\text{con}}$  has precisely  $n$  primitive idempotents.*

*Proof.* As in [DW1, 2.17],  $\Lambda_{\text{con}} \cong \widehat{\Lambda}_{\text{con}}$ , and on the completion the assertion is clear, for example by (2.F) below.  $\square$

Since  $f$  is a flopping contraction, it follows from [V, 4.2.1] that

$$\Lambda = \text{End}_U(\mathcal{V}) \cong \text{End}_R(R \oplus f_*\mathcal{N}). \quad (2.B)$$

We set  $L := f_*\mathcal{N}$  so that  $\Lambda \cong \text{End}_R(R \oplus L)$ . If we translate 2.5 through this isomorphism, the contraction algebra associated to  $\Lambda$  becomes

$$\Lambda_{\text{con}} \cong \text{End}_R(R \oplus L)/[R] \cong \text{End}_R(L)/[R].$$

There is a canonical ring homomorphism  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_{\text{con}}$ , and we denote its kernel by  $I_{\text{con}}$ . Necessarily this is a two-sided ideal of  $\Lambda$ , so there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow I_{\text{con}} \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_{\text{con}} \rightarrow 0 \quad (2.C)$$

of  $\Lambda$ -bimodules. For global twist functors later, we need a more refined version of this. Under the Morita equivalence in 2.6,  $\Lambda_{\text{con}}$  inherits  $n$  primitive idempotents  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ . We pick a subset  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$  of these idempotents (equivalently, a subset of the exceptional curves in 2.3), and write

$$\Lambda_J := \frac{\Lambda_{\text{con}}}{\Lambda_{\text{con}}(1 - \sum_{j \in J} e_j)\Lambda_{\text{con}}}.$$

The composition of the ring homomorphisms  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_{\text{con}} \rightarrow \Lambda_J$  is a surjective ring homomorphism. We denote its kernel by  $I_J$ , which is a two-sided ideal of  $\Lambda$ , and thus for each subset  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ , there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow I_J \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_J \rightarrow 0 \quad (2.D)$$

of  $\Lambda$ -bimodules. This exact sequence is needed later in §5.1 to extract a Zariski local twist functor from the formal fibre.

Naively, we want to repeat the above analysis for  $\Lambda/[L] = \text{End}_R(R \oplus L)/[L]$  to obtain a similar exact sequence, as this will later give another, different, derived autoequivalence. However, by the failure of Krull–Schmidt it may happen that  $R \in \text{add } L$ , in which case  $\Lambda/[L] = 0$ . We get round this problem by passing to the localisation  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}$ , where we can use lifting numbers. Indeed, localising  $\Lambda$  with respect to the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  in Setup 2.3 gives  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}} \cong \text{End}_{R_{\mathfrak{m}}}(R_{\mathfrak{m}} \oplus L_{\mathfrak{m}})$ , so we can then use the following well-known lemma.

**Lemma 2.7.** *Suppose that  $(S, \mathfrak{m})$  is a commutative noetherian local ring and  $T \in \text{mod } S$ . Then we can write  $T \cong S^{\oplus a} \oplus X$  for some  $a \geq 0$  with  $S \notin \text{add } X$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\widehat{S}$  is complete local, we can write  $\widehat{T} \cong \widehat{S}^{\oplus a} \oplus X_1^{\oplus a_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus X_n^{\oplus a_n}$  as its Krull–Schmidt decomposition into pairwise nonisomorphic indecomposables, where  $a \geq 0$  and  $a_i \geq 1$  for all  $i$ . Since  $\widehat{S}^{\oplus a}$  is a summand of  $\widehat{T}$ , it follows that  $S^{\oplus a}$  is a summand of  $T$  (see e.g. [LW, 1.15]), so we can write  $T \cong S^{\oplus a} \oplus X$  for some  $X$ . Completing this decomposition, again by Krull–Schmidt we see  $\widehat{X} \cong X_1^{\oplus a_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus X_n^{\oplus a_n}$  and so  $\widehat{S} \notin \text{add } \widehat{X}$ . It follows that  $S \notin \text{add } X$ .  $\square$

By 2.7, we may pull out all free summands from  $L_{\mathfrak{m}}$ , and write

$$\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}} \cong \text{End}_{R_{\mathfrak{m}}}(R_{\mathfrak{m}}^{\oplus a} \oplus K)$$

for some  $K \in \text{mod } R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  with  $R_{\mathfrak{m}} \notin \text{add } K$ .

**Definition 2.8.** With the Zariski local flops setup in 2.3, we define the *fibre algebra*  $\Lambda_0$  to be  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}/[K]$ .

Since by construction  $R_{\mathfrak{m}} \notin \text{add } K$ , the fibre algebra  $\Lambda_0$  is nonzero. Furthermore, the composition of ring homomorphisms

$$\Lambda \xrightarrow{\psi_1} \Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}} \xrightarrow{\psi_2} \Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}/[K] = \Lambda_0$$

is a ring homomorphism, and we define  $I_0 := \text{Ker}(\psi_2\psi_1)$ .

**Lemma 2.9.** *With the Zariski local flops setup of 2.3, as an  $R$ -module,  $\Lambda_0$  is supported only at  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and further there is a short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow I_0 \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_0 \rightarrow 0 \tag{2.E}$$

*of  $\Lambda$ -bimodules.*

*Proof.* Since  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is an isolated singularity,  $\Lambda_0 = \Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}/[K]$  has finite length as an  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ -module by [IW1, 6.19(3)]. Thus, as an  $R$ -module, it is supported only at  $\mathfrak{m}$ . The only thing that remains to be proved is that  $\psi_2\psi_1$  is surjective. If we let  $C$  denote the cokernel, then since  $\Lambda_0$  is supported only at  $\mathfrak{m}$ ,  $(\Lambda_0)_{\mathfrak{n}} = 0$  for all  $\mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max } R$  with  $\mathfrak{n} \neq \mathfrak{m}$ , and so  $C_{\mathfrak{n}} = 0$  for all  $\mathfrak{n} \neq \mathfrak{m}$ . But on the other hand  $(\psi_1)_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is an isomorphism, and  $(\psi_2)_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is clearly surjective, hence  $(\psi_2\psi_1)_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is also surjective, so  $C_{\mathfrak{m}} = 0$ . Hence  $C = 0$ .  $\square$

#### 2.4. Complete local derived category notation

In this subsection we consider the complete local flops setup in 2.4, and fix notation. Completing the base in 2.3 with respect to  $\mathfrak{m}$  gives  $\mathrm{Spec} \mathfrak{R}$  and we consider the formal fibre  $\varphi : \mathfrak{U} \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec} \mathfrak{R}$ . The above derived equivalence (2.A) induces an equivalence

$$D^b(\mathrm{coh} \mathfrak{U}) \xrightarrow[\sim]{\mathrm{RHom}_{\mathfrak{U}}(\widehat{\mathcal{V}}, -)} D^b(\mathrm{mod} \widehat{\Lambda}).$$

This can be described much more explicitly. Let  $C = \varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{m})$  where  $\mathfrak{m}$  is the unique closed point of  $\mathrm{Spec} \mathfrak{R}$ . Then we have the reduced scheme  $C^{\mathrm{red}} = \bigcup_{j=1}^n C_j$  with  $C_j \cong \mathbb{P}^1$ . Let  $\mathcal{L}_j$  denote a line bundle on  $\mathfrak{U}$  such that  $\mathcal{L}_j \cdot C_i = \delta_{ji}$ . If the multiplicity of  $C_j$  is equal to one, set  $\mathcal{M}_j := \mathcal{L}_j$ , else define  $\mathcal{M}_j$  to be given by the maximal extension

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{U}}^{\oplus(r-1)} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_j \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_j \rightarrow 0$$

associated to a minimal set of  $r - 1$  generators of  $H^1(\mathfrak{U}, \mathcal{L}_j^*)$  [V, 3.5.4].

**Notation 2.10.** In the complete local flops setup of 2.4:

- (1) Set  $\mathcal{N}_j := \mathcal{M}_j^*$ ,  $\mathcal{N}_0 := \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{U}}$  and  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}} := \bigoplus_{j=0}^n \mathcal{N}_j$ .
- (2) Set  $N_j := H^0(\mathcal{N}_j)$  and  $N := H^0(\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}})$ . Set  $N_0 := \mathfrak{R}$ , so that  $N = \bigoplus_{j=0}^n N_j$ .
- (3) Put  $A := \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)$ .

By [V, 3.5.5],  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}}$  is a basic progenerator of  ${}^0\mathrm{Per}(\mathfrak{U}, \mathfrak{R})$ , and furthermore is a tilting bundle on  $\mathfrak{U}$ . The rank of  $N_j$  as an  $\mathfrak{R}$ -module,  $\mathrm{rank}_{\mathfrak{R}} N_j$ , is equal to the scheme-theoretic multiplicity of the curve  $C_j$  [V, 3.5.4]. Further, by [V, 3.5.5] we can write

$$\widehat{\mathcal{V}} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{U}}^{\oplus a_0} \oplus \bigoplus_{j=1}^n \mathcal{N}_j^{\oplus a_j} \quad (2.F)$$

for some  $a_j \in \mathbb{N}$  and so  $\widehat{\Lambda} \cong \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(\bigoplus_{j=0}^n \mathcal{N}_j^{\oplus a_j})$ , hence  $A$  is the basic algebra Morita equivalent to  $\widehat{\Lambda}$ .

**Definition 2.11.** For any  $J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , set:

- (1)  $\mathcal{N}_J := \bigoplus_{j \in J} \mathcal{N}_j$  and  $\mathcal{N}_{J^c} := \bigoplus_{k \notin J} \mathcal{N}_k$ , so that  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}} = \mathcal{N}_J \oplus \mathcal{N}_{J^c}$ .
- (2)  $N_J := \bigoplus_{j \in J} N_j$  and  $N_{J^c} := \bigoplus_{k \notin J} N_k$ , so that  $N = N_J \oplus N_{J^c}$ .

There are three important special cases:

- (3) When  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ , we write

$$A_J := \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)/[N_{J^c}],$$

and call  $A_J$  the *contraction algebra associated to  $\bigcup_{j \in J} C_j$* .

- (4) When  $J = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , we call  $A_J$  the *contraction algebra associated to  $\varphi$* , and denote it by

$$A_{\text{con}} \cong \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)/[\mathfrak{R}] \cong \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}\left(\bigoplus_{j=1}^n N_j\right)/[\mathfrak{R}].$$

- (5) When  $J = \{0\}$ , we write

$$A_0 := \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)/\left[\bigoplus_{j=1}^n N_j\right] \cong \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(\mathfrak{R})/\left[\bigoplus_{j=1}^n N_j\right] \cong \mathfrak{R}/\left[\bigoplus_{j=1}^n N_j\right],$$

and call  $A_0$  the *fibre algebra associated to  $\varphi$* .

It follows from the definition that  $A_0$  is always commutative.

**Remark 2.12.** We conjectured in [DW1, 1.4] that  $A_{\text{con}}$  distinguishes the analytic type of irreducible contractible flopping curves. We remark here that  $A_0$  certainly does not, as for example inspecting the Laufer flop in [DW1, 1.3] we see that  $A_0 = \mathbb{C}$ , but it is also well-known that  $A_0 = \mathbb{C}$  for the Atiyah flop. This already demonstrates that  $A_{\text{con}}$  gives more information than  $A_0$ , although both play a role in the derived symmetry group.

The following is shown in a similar way to [DW1, 2.16].

**Lemma 2.13.** *With the complete local setup as above, for all  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } \mathfrak{R}$ :*

- (1)  $(A_J)_{\mathfrak{p}} \cong (A_{\mathfrak{p}})_J$  and  $(A_J)_{\mathfrak{p}} \otimes_{\mathfrak{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}} \widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_{\mathfrak{p}} \cong (\widehat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}})_J$  for all  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ .
- (2)  $(A_0)_{\mathfrak{p}} \cong (A_{\mathfrak{p}})_0$  and  $(A_0)_{\mathfrak{p}} \otimes_{\mathfrak{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}} \widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_{\mathfrak{p}} \cong (\widehat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}})_0$ .

**Notation 2.14.** For the Zariski local flops setup 2.3, and its formal fibre 2.4, as notation for the remainder of this paper:

- (1) Write  $\mathbb{F}: \text{Mod } A \rightarrow \text{Mod } \widehat{\Lambda}$  for the Morita equivalence induced from (2.F).
- (2) For each  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  set  $E_i := \mathcal{O}_{C_i}(-1)$ , considered as a complex in degree zero. Further, set  $E_0 := \omega_C[1]$ .
- (3) For each  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , define  $T_i$  to be the simple  $\Lambda$ -module corresponding to the perverse coherent sheaf  $E_i$  across the derived equivalence (2.A). Further, set  $S_i := \mathbb{F}^{-1}\widehat{T}_i$ , which is the corresponding simple  $A$ -module.
- (4) For any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ , viewing  $\mathbb{F}A_J$  and  $\mathbb{F}A_0$  as  $\Lambda$ -modules via restriction of scalars, we put  $\mathcal{E}_J := \mathbb{F}A_J \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \mathcal{V}$  and  $\mathcal{E}_0 := \mathbb{F}A_0 \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \mathcal{V}$ . As in [DW1, 3.7], both are perverse coherent sheaves, with  $\mathcal{E}_J$  concentrated in degree zero, and  $\mathcal{E}_0$  concentrated in degree  $-1$ .

The above notation may be summarised as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{D}^b(\text{Qcoh } U) & \xrightleftharpoons[-\otimes_{\Lambda}^L \mathcal{V}]{\text{RHom}_U(\mathcal{V}, -)} & \text{D}^b(\text{Mod } \Lambda) & \xrightleftharpoons[\text{res}]{\otimes_{R_m} \widehat{R}} & \text{D}^b(\text{Mod } \widehat{\Lambda}) & \xleftarrow{\mathbb{F}} & \text{D}^b(\text{Mod } A) \\
 E_i & \longleftrightarrow & T_i & \longmapsto & \widehat{T}_i & \longleftrightarrow & S_i \\
 \mathcal{E}_J & \longleftrightarrow & \mathbb{F}A_J & \longleftarrow & \mathbb{F}A_J & \longleftrightarrow & A_J \\
 \mathcal{E}_0 & \longleftrightarrow & \mathbb{F}A_0 & \longleftarrow & \mathbb{F}A_0 & \longleftrightarrow & A_0
 \end{array} \tag{2.G}$$

### 2.5. Maximal modification algebras

Later the fibre twist autoequivalence requires a restriction to  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial singularities and some other technical results, which we review here. For a commutative noetherian local ring  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  and  $M \in \text{mod } R$  recall that the *depth* of  $M$  is defined to be

$$\text{depth}_R M := \inf \{i \geq 0 \mid \text{Ext}_R^i(R/\mathfrak{m}, M) \neq 0\},$$

which coincides with the maximal length of an  $M$ -regular sequence. Keeping the assumption that  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  is local we say that  $M \in \text{mod } R$  is *maximal Cohen–Macaulay* (= CM) if  $\text{depth}_R M = \dim R$ .

In the nonlocal setting, if  $R$  is an arbitrary commutative noetherian ring we say that  $M \in \text{mod } R$  is CM if  $M_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is CM for all prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p}$  in  $R$ , and we denote the category of CM  $R$ -modules by  $\text{CM } R$ . We say that  $R$  is a *CM ring* if  $R \in \text{CM } R$ , and if further  $\text{inj.dim}_R R < \infty$ , we say that  $R$  is *Gorenstein*. We write  $\text{ref } R$  for the category of reflexive  $R$ -modules.

Recall the following [IW1].

**Definition 2.15.** Suppose that  $R$  is a  $d$ -dimensional CM ring. We call  $N \in \text{ref } R$  a *maximal modifying* (= MM) module if

$$\text{add } N = \{X \in \text{ref } R \mid \text{End}_R(N \oplus X) \in \text{CM } R\}.$$

If  $N$  is an MM module, we call  $\text{End}_R(N)$  a *maximal modification algebra* (= MMA).

Throughout, we say a normal scheme  $X$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial if for every Weil divisor  $D$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  for which  $nD$  is Cartier; this condition can be checked on the stalks  $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$  of the closed points  $x \in X$ . However, this property is not complete local, so we say  $X$  is *complete locally  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial* if the completion  $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_{X,x}$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial for all closed points  $x \in X$ .

Recall that if  $X$  and  $Y$  are varieties over  $\mathbb{C}$ , then a projective birational morphism  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  is called *crepant* if  $f^*\omega_X = \omega_Y$ . A  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial terminalisation of  $X$  is a crepant projective birational morphism  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $Y$  has only  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial terminal singularities. When  $Y$  is furthermore smooth, we call  $f$  a *crepant resolution*.

In our geometric setup later, we will require that localisations of MMAs are MMAs. There is currently no known purely algebraic proof of this, but the following geometric proof suffices for our purposes.

**Theorem 2.16.** Suppose that  $R$  is a three-dimensional Gorenstein normal domain over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and that  $\Lambda$  is derived equivalent to a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial terminalisation of  $\text{Spec } R$ . Then for all  $\mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max } R$ ,  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is an MMA of  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ .

*Proof.* For  $\mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max } R$ , after base change

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X' & \xrightarrow{k} & X \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ \text{Spec } R_{\mathfrak{m}} & \xrightarrow{j} & \text{Spec } R \end{array}$$



$\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is derived equivalent to  $X'$ . But the stalks of  $\mathcal{O}_{X'}$  are isomorphic to stalks of  $\mathcal{O}_X$ , and so in particular all stalks of  $\mathcal{O}_{X'}$  are isolated  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial hypersurfaces. By [IW2, 3.2(1)],

$$D_{\text{sg}}(\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}) \hookrightarrow \bigoplus_{x \in \text{Sing } X'} \underline{\text{CM}} \mathcal{O}_{X',x}$$

and so  $D_{\text{sg}}(\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}})$  is rigid-free since each  $\underline{\text{CM}} \mathcal{O}_{X',x}$  is [D10, 3.1(1)]. Since  $\Lambda$  has isolated singularities [IW2, 4.2(2)], this implies that  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is an MMA [IW2, 2.14].  $\square$

## 2.6. Mutation notation

Throughout this subsection we consider the complete local flops setting 2.4, and use notation from 2.10 and 2.11, so in particular  $\mathfrak{R}$  is an isolated complete local Gorenstein 3-fold, and  $\mathbf{A} := \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)$ . We set  $(-)^* := \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(-, \mathfrak{R})$ .

Given our choice of summand  $N_J$ , we then mutate.

**Setup 2.17.** As in 2.11, write  $N_J = \bigoplus_{j \in J} N_j$  as a direct sum of indecomposables. For each  $j \in J$ , consider a *minimal right*  $(\text{add } N_{J^c})$ -approximation

$$V_j \xrightarrow{a_j} N_j$$

of  $N_j$ , which by definition means that:

- (1)  $V_j \in \text{add } N_{J^c}$  and  $(a_j \cdot) : \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, V_j) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, N_j)$  is surjective.
- (2) If  $g \in \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(V_j)$  satisfies  $a_j = a_j g$ , then  $g$  is an automorphism.

Since  $\mathfrak{R}$  is complete,  $\text{mod } \mathfrak{R}$  is a Krull–Schmidt abelian category, so such an  $a_j$  exists and is unique up to isomorphism (see e.g. [KS, 1.4, 1.5]). Thus there are exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ker } a_j \xrightarrow{c_j} V_j \xrightarrow{a_j} N_j, \quad (2.H)$$

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, \text{Ker } a_j) \xrightarrow{c_j \cdot} \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, V_j) \xrightarrow{a_j \cdot} \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, N_j) \rightarrow 0.$$

Summing the sequences (2.H) over all  $j \in J$  gives exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ker } a_J \xrightarrow{c_J} V_J \xrightarrow{a_J} N_J, \quad (2.I)$$

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, \text{Ker } a_J) \xrightarrow{c_J \cdot} \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, V_J) \xrightarrow{a_J \cdot} \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}, N_J) \rightarrow 0.$$

Note that applying  $\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, -)$  to (2.I) yields an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \text{Ker } a_J) \xrightarrow{c_J \cdot} \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, V_J) \xrightarrow{a_J \cdot} \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, N_J) \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_J \rightarrow 0 \quad (2.J)$$

of  $\mathbf{A}$ -modules.

Dually, for each  $j \in J$ , consider a minimal right  $(\text{add } N_{J^c}^*)$ -approximation

$$U_j^* \xrightarrow{b_j} N_j^*$$

of  $N_j^*$ , thus

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \operatorname{Ker} b_j &\xrightarrow{d_j} U_j^* \xrightarrow{b_j} N_j^*, \\ 0 \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}^*, \operatorname{Ker} b_j) &\xrightarrow{d_{j\cdot}} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}^*, U_j^*) \xrightarrow{b_{j\cdot}} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}^*, N_j^*) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

are exact. Summing over all  $j \in J$  gives exact sequences

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \operatorname{Ker} b_J &\xrightarrow{d_J} U_J^* \xrightarrow{b_J} N_J^*, \\ 0 \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}^*, \operatorname{Ker} b_J) &\xrightarrow{d_{J\cdot}} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}^*, U_J^*) \xrightarrow{b_{J\cdot}} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N_{J^c}^*, N_J^*) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.K)$$

**Definition 2.18.** With notation as above, in particular  $A := \operatorname{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)$ , we define the *left mutation* of  $N$  at  $N_J$  as

$$\mathbf{v}_J N := N_{J^c} \oplus (\operatorname{Ker} b_J)^*,$$

and set  $\mathbf{v}_J A := \operatorname{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(\mathbf{v}_J N)$ .

One of the key properties of mutation is that it always gives rise to a derived equivalence. With the setup as above, the derived equivalence between  $A$  and  $\mathbf{v}_J A$  is given by a tilting  $A$ -module  $T_J$  constructed as follows. There is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow N_J \xrightarrow{b_J^*} U_J \xrightarrow{d_J^*} (\operatorname{Ker} b_J)^* \quad (2.L)$$

obtained by dualising (2.K). Applying  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, -)$  induces  $(b_J^* \cdot): \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, N_J) \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, U_J)$ , so if we denote the cokernel by  $C_J$  there is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, N_J) \xrightarrow{b_J^* \cdot} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, U_J) \rightarrow C_J \rightarrow 0. \quad (2.M)$$

The tilting  $A$ -module  $T_J$  is defined to be  $T_J := \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, N_{J^c}) \oplus C_J$ . It turns out that  $\operatorname{End}_A(T_J) \cong \mathbf{v}_J A$  [IW1, 6.7, 6.8], and there is always an equivalence

$$\Phi_J := \mathbf{R}\operatorname{Hom}(T_J, -): \operatorname{D}^b(\operatorname{mod} A) \xrightarrow{\sim} \operatorname{D}^b(\operatorname{mod} \mathbf{v}_J A),$$

which is called the *mutation functor* [IW1, 6.8].

### 3. On the braiding of flops

In this section we establish the braiding of flop functors in dimension three, and describe the combinatorial objects that allow us to read off the length of the braid relations which appear. To account for the inconvenient fact that, algebraically, curves are often forced to flop together, we begin by establishing braiding in the complete local case, before addressing the Zariski local and global cases later. Thus throughout this section, we will assume that the curves are all individually floppable.

### 3.1. Moduli tracking

Throughout this subsection we consider the complete local flops setup of 2.4, and use the notation from §2.4. Thus there is a flopping contraction  $\varphi: \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathfrak{R}$  of 3-folds, where  $\mathcal{U}$  has Gorenstein terminal singularities, and  $\mathcal{U}$  is derived equivalent to  $A := \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)$  from 2.10, where  $N = \bigoplus_{i=0}^n N_i$ . The  $N_i$  with  $i > 0$  correspond to the  $n$  curves in the exceptional locus.

To prove the braiding of flops in this setting, we will heavily use the following moduli tracking result. As notation, we present  $A$  as a quiver with relations, and consider King stability; see for example [W, §5] for a brief introduction in this setting. In particular, we define the dimension vector  $\text{rk } A := (\text{rank}_{\mathfrak{R}} N_i)_{i=0}^n$ , and denote the space of stability parameters by  $\Theta$ .

Given  $\vartheta \in \Theta$ , denote by  $\mathcal{S}_{\vartheta}(A)$  the full subcategory of finite length  $A$ -modules which has as objects the  $\vartheta$ -semistable objects, and denote by  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{rk}, \vartheta}(A)$  the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{S}_{\vartheta}(A)$  consisting of those objects with dimension vector  $\text{rk } A$ . We let  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{rk}, \vartheta}(A)$  denote the moduli space of  $\vartheta$ -stable  $A$ -representations of dimension vector  $\text{rk } A$ .

Since by definition any stability condition satisfies  $\vartheta \cdot \text{rk } A = 0$ , the fact that  $N_0 = \mathfrak{R}$  has rank one then implies that

$$\vartheta_0 = - \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{rank}_{\mathfrak{R}} N_i) \vartheta_i$$

and so  $\Theta = \mathbb{Q}^n$ , with co-ordinates  $\vartheta_i$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

**Theorem 3.1** (Moduli tracking). *In the complete local flops setup of 2.4, choose a subset of curves  $J$ , equivalently a subset  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Applying the mutation setup of 2.17 to  $N = \bigoplus_{i=0}^n N_i$  with summand  $N_J := \bigoplus_{j \in J} N_j$ , consider the mutation exchange sequence (2.L)*

$$0 \rightarrow N_j \rightarrow U_j \rightarrow (\text{Ker } b_j)^*$$

for each  $j \in J$ . By Krull–Schmidt,  $U_j$  decomposes into

$$U_j \cong \bigoplus_{i \notin J} N_i^{\oplus b_{j,i}}$$

for some collection of  $b_{j,i} \geq 0$ . Write  $\mathbf{b}_J$  for the data  $(b_{j,i})$  with  $j \in J, i \notin J$ . Then for any stability parameter  $\vartheta \in \Theta$  define the vector  $\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{b}_J} \vartheta$  by

$$(\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{b}_J} \vartheta)_i = \begin{cases} \vartheta_i + \sum_{j \in J} b_{j,i} \vartheta_j & \text{if } i \notin J, \\ -\vartheta_i & \text{if } i \in J. \end{cases}$$

If  $\vartheta_j > 0$  for all  $j \in J$ , then:

- (1) The mutation functor  $\Phi_J$  restricts to a categorical equivalence

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{rk}, \vartheta}(A) \xrightarrow{\Phi_J} \mathcal{S}_{\text{rk}, \mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{b}_J} \vartheta}(\mathbf{v}_J A)$$

where the left-hand side has dimension vector  $\text{rk } A$ , and the right-hand side has dimension vector  $\text{rk } \mathbf{v}_J A$ . This categorical equivalence preserves  $S$ -equivalence

classes, and  $\vartheta$ -stable modules correspond to  $\nu_{\mathbf{b}_J}\vartheta$ -stable modules. Further,  $\vartheta$  is generic if and only if  $\nu_{\mathbf{b}_J}\vartheta$  is generic.

(2) As schemes,

$$\mathcal{M}_{rk, \vartheta}(A) \cong \mathcal{M}_{rk, \nu_{\mathbf{b}_J}\vartheta}(\nu_J A).$$

*Proof.* (1) This is a special case of [W, 5.12]; one uses [W, 2.25, 3.5] to see that the assumption (b) of [W, 5.12] is satisfied.

(2) This is [W, 5.13].  $\square$

The stability parameter space  $\Theta$  has a wall and chamber structure, and the combinatorics of this turns out to control the braiding. The strictly semi-stable parameters cut out codimension-one walls, separating the generic stability conditions into chambers. Within a given chamber, the set of semi-stable representations does not vary. The following is known.

**Proposition 3.2.** *In the complete local flops setup of 2.4:*

(1) *The region*

$$C_+ := \{\vartheta \in \Theta \mid \vartheta_i > 0 \text{ for all } i > 0\}$$

*of  $\Theta$  is a chamber.*

(2)  *$\Theta$  has a finite number of chambers, and the walls are given by a finite collection of hyperplanes containing the origin. The co-ordinate hyperplanes  $\vartheta_i = 0$  are included in this collection.*

(3) *Considering iterated mutations at indecomposable summands, tracking the chamber  $C_+$  from  $\nu_{j_1} \dots \nu_{j_i} A$  back to  $\Theta$  gives all the chambers of  $\Theta$ .*

*Proof.* This follows immediately from [W, 5.16, 5.23].  $\square$

**Remark 3.3.** Moduli tracking works in both directions, and this is important for our application. First, 3.2(3) allows us to fix the input  $A$ , and track moduli from some iterated mutation  $\nu_{j_1} \dots \nu_{j_i} A$  back to  $A$ . This procedure computes the chamber structure for the fixed  $A$ , which gives the combinatorial data needed to state theorems on braiding later on, in §3.4. Second, 3.1 also allows us to track moduli starting from  $A$  to some iterated mutation  $\nu_{j_1} \dots \nu_{j_i} A$ . This second direction is needed to prove the theorems, in particular to establish the braiding in 3.12.

**Remark 3.4.** In the complete local flops setup of 2.4, the chambers of  $\Theta$  can be identified with birational partners of  $\mathcal{U}$  [W, 4.15, 5.23], and thence with chambers of the movable cone. Wall crossings between chambers of  $\Theta$  correspond to flops, as in the movable cone.

### 3.2. Chamber structures

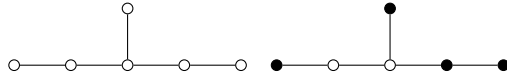
We keep the notation and setting from above. In this subsection we give an example of a chamber structure arising in 3-fold flops. Although not strictly needed for the proof of the main theorem, this illustrates some new phenomena and subtleties in the combinatorics.

With input the flopping contraction  $\mathfrak{U} \rightarrow \operatorname{Spec} \mathfrak{R}$  of 2.4, by Reid's general elephant principle [R83, 1.1, 1.14], cutting by a generic hyperplane section  $g \in \mathfrak{R}$  gives

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{U}_g & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{U} \\ \phi \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \operatorname{Spec}(\mathfrak{R}/g) & \longrightarrow & \operatorname{Spec} \mathfrak{R} \end{array}$$

where  $\mathfrak{R}/g$  is an ADE singularity and  $\phi$  is a partial crepant resolution. By general theory,  $\operatorname{End}_{\mathfrak{R}/g}(N/gN)$  is derived equivalent to  $\mathfrak{U}_g$ , and so the module  $N_i$  cuts to  $N_i/gN_i$ , which is precisely one of the CM modules corresponding to a vertex in an ADE Dynkin diagram via the McKay correspondence.

Following the notation from [K91], we encode  $\mathfrak{U}_g$  pictorially by describing which curves are blown down from the minimal resolution. The diagrams



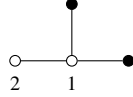
represent, respectively, the minimal resolution of the  $E_6$  surface singularity, and the partial resolution obtained from it by contracting the curves corresponding to the black vertices.

**Example 3.5.** There is an example [K91, 2.3] of a  $cD_4$  singularity  $\mathfrak{R}$  with crepant resolution  $X \rightarrow \operatorname{Spec} \mathfrak{R}$  with two curves above the origin, that cuts under generic hyperplane section to give the configuration



By 3.2(3), tracking moduli from iterated mutations back to  $A$  computes the chamber structure of  $\Theta_A$ . We illustrate this in the above example, referring the reader to [W, 7.2] for more examples.

**Example 3.6.** As notation, order the vertices



meaning that  $N_1$  corresponds to the middle curve, and  $N_2$  corresponds to the left-hand curve. The mutation exchange sequences are obtained by knitting (for details, see [W, 5.19, 5.24]), so that in this example the  $b$ 's are determined by the data

$$U_1 \cong N_2, \tag{3.B}$$

$$U_2 \cong R^{\oplus 2} \oplus N_1^{\oplus 2}. \tag{3.C}$$

First, we track the  $C_+$  chamber from  $v_1 A$  to  $A$ . By 3.1,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \phi_1 & \xrightarrow{(3.B)} & -\phi_1 \\ \phi_2 & & \phi_1 + \phi_2 \end{array}$$

since from (3.B) the relevant  $b$  is one, so we negate  $\phi_1$  and add  $1\phi_1$  to its neighbour. Thus the  $C_+$  chamber (namely  $\phi_1 > 0, \phi_2 > 0$ ) from  $\nu_1 A$  corresponds to the region  $\vartheta_1 < 0$  and  $\vartheta_1 + \vartheta_2 > 0$  of  $\Theta_A$ , and thus this gives a chamber for  $\Theta_A$ .

Next, we track the  $C_+$  chamber from  $\nu_2 \nu_1 A$  to  $\nu_1 A$  to  $A$ . By the same logic,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \phi_1 & \xrightarrow{(3.C)} & \phi_1 + 2\phi_2 \\ \phi_2 & \xrightarrow{} & -\phi_2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{(3.B)} & -(\phi_1 + 2\phi_2) \\ & \xrightarrow{} & -\phi_2 + (\phi_1 + 2\phi_2) \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} & & -\phi_1 - 2\phi_2 \\ & & \phi_1 + \phi_2 \end{array}$$

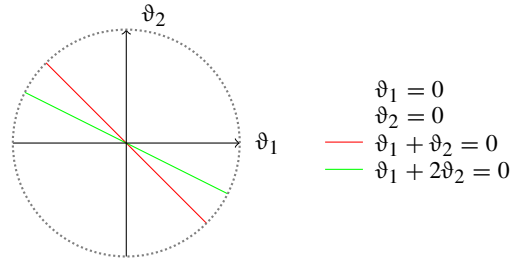
which gives the region  $\vartheta_1 + 2\vartheta_2 > 0$  and  $\vartheta_1 + \vartheta_2 < 0$  of  $\Theta_A$ , and so this too is a chamber.

Next, tracking  $C_+$  from  $\nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 A$  to  $\nu_2 \nu_1 A$  to  $\nu_1 A$  to  $A$  gives

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \phi_1 & \xrightarrow{(3.B)} & -\phi_1 \\ \phi_2 & \xrightarrow{} & \phi_1 + \phi_2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{(3.C)} & \phi_1 + 2\phi_2 \\ & \xrightarrow{} & -\phi_1 - \phi_2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{(3.B)} & -\phi_1 - 2\phi_2 \\ & \xrightarrow{} & \phi_2 \end{array}$$

which gives the region  $\vartheta_1 + 2\vartheta_2 < 0$  and  $\vartheta_2 > 0$ .

Continuing in this fashion we see that  $\Theta_A$  has the following eight chambers:



### 3.3. Hyperplane arrangements for 3-fold flops

In this subsection, we explain how to obtain a hyperplane arrangement for any flopping contraction  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  in the global quasi-projective setup of 2.2, and we describe its basic properties. This fixes notation for the remainder of the paper.

**Notation 3.7.** For each  $p \in \text{Ram } f$ , by considering the formal fibre above  $p$ , by 3.2(2) the space of stability conditions on this formal fibre has a chamber structure in which the codimension-one walls are all hyperplanes through the origin. We denote by  $\mathcal{H}^p$  the set of codimension-one walls.

Recall that for a hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^a$ , and a hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{B}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^b$ , their product is defined to be

$$\mathcal{A} \sqcap \mathcal{B} := \{H \oplus \mathbb{R}^b \mid H \in \mathcal{A}\} \cup \{\mathbb{R}^a \oplus H \mid H \in \mathcal{B}\},$$

which is a hyperplane arrangement in  $\mathbb{R}^{a+b}$ .

**Notation 3.8.** Under the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, we define

$$\mathcal{H} := \prod_p \mathcal{H}^p,$$

where  $p$  ranges over  $\text{Ram } f$ . This is a hyperplane arrangement in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , where  $n$  is the total number of irreducible curves contracted.

For our purposes later, we require more precise information regarding the structure of  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{H}^p$ . Recall that a real hyperplane arrangement is called *simplicial* if the intersection of all the hyperplanes is  $\{0\}$ , and furthermore every chamber is an open simplicial cone. The following result, which is an immediate consequence of the Homological MMP, will be used heavily.

**Lemma 3.9.** *With notation as above,  $\mathcal{H}^p$  is a simplicial hyperplane arrangement for all  $p \in \text{Ram } f$ , and so  $\mathcal{H}$  is a simplicial hyperplane arrangement.*

*Proof.* By 3.2(2), the codimension-one walls of  $\Theta_A$  are given by a finite collection of hyperplanes, all of which contain the origin, and furthermore the co-ordinate hyperplanes  $x_i = 0$  are included in this collection. It follows that the intersection of all the hyperplanes is the origin. Further, since  $C_+$  is clearly an open simplicial cone, and by 3.2(3) every chamber of  $\Theta_A$  is given by tracking the chamber  $C_+$  under moduli tracking, it follows that all chambers are open simplicial cones. This proves  $\mathcal{H}^p$  is a simplicial hyperplane arrangement for all  $p \in \text{Ram } f$ , and it is well-known that the product of simplicial arrangements is simplicial.  $\square$

As one further piece of notation, for a real hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^a$ , as is standard we write

$$\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{C}} := \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{A}} H_{\mathbb{C}}$$

where  $H_{\mathbb{C}}$  denotes the complexification of  $H$ . It is well-known that the fundamental group of the complexified complement behaves well under products, so

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}}) = \bigoplus_p \pi_1(\mathbb{C}^{n_p} \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^p)$$

where  $p$  ranges over  $\text{Ram } f$ .

### 3.4. Braiding: two-curve case

The aim of this subsection is to prove the following. As before, we use  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  to denote the Bridgeland–Chen flop functors associated to two flopping curves in  $X$ , and also the corresponding flop functors at the varieties obtained after successive flops. The functor associated to the flop of the two curves together is denoted by  $F$ .

**Theorem 3.10.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2, suppose that  $f$  contracts precisely two independently floppable irreducible curves. Then*

$$\underbrace{F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ \cdots}_d \cong F \cong \underbrace{F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ \cdots}_d$$

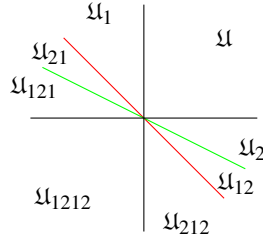
where  $d$  is the number of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Furthermore:

- (1) *If the curves intersect, then  $d \geq 3$ .*
- (2) *If the curves are disjoint, then  $d = 2$ .*

We split the proof: the statement and proof of 3.10(1) is contained in 3.16, and similarly 3.10(2) is contained in 3.17.

To prove 3.10(1), we give a complete local version of the result in 3.12. We then establish a Zariski local version in 3.14, before finally giving the result globally in 3.16. Before beginning the proof, which is notationally complicated, we first illustrate the strategy in an example.

**Example 3.11.** We continue the complete local example 3.6. Label the minimal models arising from the chambers by



By [W, 4.9], the above chamber structure implies that

$$\nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 N \cong \nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 N$$

since the chamber  $C_+$  for both  $\text{End}_{\mathfrak{H}}(\nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 N)$  and  $\text{End}_{\mathfrak{H}}(\nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 N)$  gives, under moduli tracking, the same chamber on  $\Theta_A$ . Hence there is a diagram of mutation functors

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & D^b(\nu_2 A) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & D^b(\nu_1 \nu_2 A) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & D^b(\nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 A) \\
 & \nearrow \Phi_2 & & & & & \searrow \Phi_1 \\
 D^b(A) & & & & & & D^b(\nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 A) \\
 & \searrow \Phi_1 & & & & & \nearrow \Phi_2 \\
 & & D^b(\nu_1 A) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & D^b(\nu_2 \nu_1 A) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & D^b(\nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 A)
 \end{array} \quad (3.D)$$

Further, by [W, 4.2] the inverse of the flop functor is functorially isomorphic to mutation, so (3.D) is functorially isomorphic to the diagram of functors

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & D^b(\mathcal{U}_2) & \xrightarrow{F_1^{-1}} & D^b(\mathcal{U}_{12}) & \xrightarrow{F_2^{-1}} & D^b(\mathcal{U}_{212}) \\
 & \nearrow F_2^{-1} & & & & & \searrow F_1^{-1} \\
 D^b(\mathcal{U}) & & & & & & D^b(\mathcal{U}_{1212}) \\
 & \searrow F_1^{-1} & & & & & \nearrow F_2^{-1} \\
 & & D^b(\mathcal{U}_1) & \xrightarrow{F_2^{-1}} & D^b(\mathcal{U}_{21}) & \xrightarrow{F_1^{-1}} & D^b(\mathcal{U}_{121})
 \end{array} \quad (3.E)$$

Now choose a skyscraper  $\mathcal{O}_x$  in  $D^b(\mathcal{U})$ . By [K14, §5.2], this corresponds to some  $\vartheta$ -stable module  $M$  in  $D^b(A)$  for  $\vartheta \in C_+$ . Remarkably, under the mutation functors in (3.D), this



module  $M$  is always sent to a module. This follows by using 3.1(1) repeatedly. Indeed, the new module is stable for some stability parameter, which may be calculated using the formula given in 3.1. Tracking this data we see that under mutation the module  $M$  gets sent to modules stable for parameters as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & \vartheta_1 + 2\vartheta_2 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & -\vartheta_1 - 2\vartheta_2 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & \vartheta_1 & \\
 \Phi_2 \nearrow & -\vartheta_2 & & \vartheta_1 + \vartheta_2 & & -\vartheta_1 - \vartheta_2 & \searrow \Phi_1 \\
 \vartheta_1 & & & & & & \\
 \vartheta_2 & & & & & & \\
 \Phi_1^{-1} \nwarrow & & & & & & \nwarrow \Phi_2^{-1} \\
 & -\vartheta_1 & \xleftarrow{\Phi_2^{-1}} & \vartheta_1 + 2\vartheta_2 & \xleftarrow{\Phi_1^{-1}} & -\vartheta_1 - 2\vartheta_2 & \\
 & \vartheta_1 + \vartheta_2 & & -\vartheta_1 - \vartheta_2 & & \vartheta_2 & 
 \end{array} \quad (3.F)$$

It follows immediately that the composition of mutations

$$\Phi_1^{-1} \circ \Phi_2^{-1} \circ \Phi_1^{-1} \circ \Phi_2^{-1} \circ \Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2 \circ \Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2$$

sends  $M$ , which is  $\vartheta$ -stable for  $\vartheta = (\vartheta_1, \vartheta_2) \in C_+$ , to a module which is also  $\vartheta$ -stable. Since (3.D) is functorially isomorphic to (3.E), it follows that

$$\Psi := F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1} \circ F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1}$$

sends the skyscraper  $\mathcal{O}_x$  to some object in  $D^b(\text{coh } \mathcal{U})$  corresponding to a  $\vartheta$ -stable module. But again by [K14, §5.2] these are precisely the skyscrapers. Hence  $\Psi$  is a Fourier–Mukai equivalence that takes skyscrapers to skyscrapers, fixes  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{U}}$  and commutes with the push-down  $\mathbf{R}f_*$ . It follows that  $\Psi \cong \text{Id}$  and so

$$F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \cong F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1.$$

The following proposition is a simple extension of the above example. Recall that  $\Phi_{\{1,2\}}$  denotes the mutation functor for the summand  $N_1 \oplus N_2$ .

**Proposition 3.12.** *Under the complete local flops setup  $\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathfrak{R}$  of 2.4, suppose that precisely two irreducible curves are contracted. Then*

$$\underbrace{\Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2 \circ \Phi_1 \circ \cdots}_d \cong \Phi_{\{1,2\}} \cong \underbrace{\Phi_2 \circ \Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2 \circ \cdots}_d$$

and

$$\underbrace{F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ \cdots}_d \cong F_{\{1,2\}} \cong \underbrace{F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ \cdots}_d$$

where  $d$  is the number of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}^p$ . Further,  $d \geq 3$ .

*Proof.* Consider  $A = \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)$ , which is derived equivalent to  $\mathfrak{U}$ . By 3.2,  $\mathcal{H}^p$  is a hyperplane arrangement in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , with  $C_+$  being a chamber. This implies that the hyperplane arrangement is

(3.G)

for some lines given by  $\ell_1 = 0, \dots, \ell_d = 0$ , where

$$\ell_1 = \vartheta_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \ell_d = \vartheta_1.$$

The fact that  $d \geq 3$  follows immediately by knitting on the AR quivers of Kleinian singularities, as in [W, 5.23, 5.19].

We first claim that the above chamber structure (3.G) implies that

$$\underbrace{\dots \nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2}_d N \cong \nu_{\{1,2\}} N \cong \underbrace{\dots \nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1}_d N. \quad (3.H)$$

For notation, as in 3.11, we let  $\mathfrak{U}_{\dots kji}$  denote the scheme obtained from  $\mathfrak{U}$  by first flopping curve  $i$ , then curve  $j$ , then curve  $k$  and so on (in that order). By [W, 4.2], we have

$$\nu_1 N \cong H^0(\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}_1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_2 N \cong H^0(\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}_2}).$$

Iterating, again by [W, 4.2] the left- and right-hand terms of (3.H) are  $H^0(\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}_{\dots 212}})$  and  $H^0(\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}_{\dots 121}})$ , respectively. Further, by [K14, 5.2.5], the scheme  $\mathfrak{U}_{\dots 212}$  can be obtained as the moduli in the chamber  $C_+$  for  $\dots \nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 A$ , and  $\mathfrak{U}_{\dots 121}$  can be obtained as the moduli in the chamber  $C_+$  for  $\dots \nu_1 \nu_2 \nu_1 A$ . Tracking these chambers back to  $\Theta_A$ , which we can do by 3.2(3) (see also the proof of [W, 5.22]), both give the region

$$C_- = \{\vartheta \mid \vartheta_i < 0 \text{ for } i = 1, 2\} \subset \Theta_A,$$

and so  $\mathfrak{U}_{\dots 212} \cong \mathfrak{U}_{\dots 121}$  as schemes over  $\text{Spec } \mathfrak{R}$ . In fact, again by moduli tracking, both  $\mathfrak{U}_{\dots 212}$  and  $\mathfrak{U}_{\dots 121}$  are isomorphic to the scheme obtained from  $\mathfrak{U}$  by flopping  $C_1 \cup C_2$ , which we denote by  $\mathfrak{U}_{\{1,2\}}$ . By [W, 4.2] once again, the middle term of (3.H) is  $H^0(\mathcal{V}_{\mathfrak{U}_{\{1,2\}}})$ . Taking global sections of the progenerator of perverse coherent sheaves on  $\mathfrak{U}_{\{1,2\}}$  gives (3.H), as claimed.

Because of (3.H), there exists a diagram of mutation functors

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & D^b(\nu_2 A) \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} \cdots \longrightarrow D^b(\cdots \nu_1 \nu_2 A) & \\
 \Phi_2 \nearrow & & \searrow \\
 D^b(A) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{(1,2)}} & D^b(\cdots \nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 A) \quad (3.I) \\
 \Phi_1 \searrow & & \nearrow \\
 & D^b(\nu_1 A) \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} \cdots \longrightarrow D^b(\cdots \nu_2 \nu_1 A) &
 \end{array}$$

where the functors on the right-hand side depend on whether  $d$  is odd or even; respectively they are

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 D^b(\cdots \nu_1 \nu_2 A) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & D^b(\cdots \nu_1 \nu_2 A) \\
 & \searrow & \searrow \\
 & D^b(\cdots \nu_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 A) & \text{and} \\
 & \nearrow & \nearrow \\
 D^b(\cdots \nu_2 \nu_1 A) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & D^b(\cdots \nu_2 \nu_1 A)
 \end{array}$$

We next chase moduli around (3.I), repeatedly applying 3.1 using the characterisation of the chamber structure (3.G). Consider a  $\vartheta$ -stable  $A$ -module  $M$ , for  $\vartheta \in C_+$ . Tracking  $M$  around (3.I), we find that it is sent to a module which is stable for the following parameters: when  $d$  is even,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & \ell_2 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & -\ell_2 & \cdots & -\ell_{n-2} & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & \ell_n \\
 \vartheta_1 = \ell_n & \nearrow \Phi_2 & -\ell_1 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & \ell_3 & \cdots & \ell_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & -\ell_{n-1} & \searrow \Phi_1 & -\ell_n = -\vartheta_1 \\
 \vartheta_2 = \ell_1 & \searrow \Phi_1 & -\ell_n & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & \ell_{n-2} & \cdots & \ell_2 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & -\ell_2 & \nearrow \Phi_2 & -\ell_1 = -\vartheta_2 \\
 & & \ell_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & -\ell_{n-1} & \cdots & -\ell_3 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & \ell_1 & & 
 \end{array}$$

and when  $d$  is odd,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & \ell_2 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & -\ell_2 & \cdots & -\ell_{n-1} & \\
 \vartheta_1 = \ell_n & \nearrow \Phi_2 & -\ell_1 & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & \ell_3 & \cdots & \ell_n \\
 \vartheta_2 = \ell_1 & \searrow \Phi_1 & -\ell_n & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & \ell_{n-2} & \cdots & \ell_1 \\
 & & \ell_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\Phi_2} & -\ell_{n-1} & \cdots & -\ell_2 \\
 & & & & & & \nearrow \Phi_1 & -\ell_1 = -\vartheta_2 \\
 & & & & & & & -\ell_n = -\vartheta_1
 \end{array}$$

In either case,

$$(\Phi_1^{-1} \circ \Phi_2^{-1} \circ \Phi_1^{-1} \circ \cdots) \circ (\cdots \circ \Phi_2 \circ \Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2) \quad (3.J)$$

sends a  $\vartheta$ -stable module to a  $\vartheta$ -stable module. Similarly, since  $\Phi_{\{1,2\}}$  negates both parameters,

$$\Phi_{\{1,2\}}^{-1} \circ (\cdots \circ \Phi_2 \circ \Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2) \quad (3.K)$$

sends a  $\vartheta$ -stable module to a module stable for some parameter in  $C_+$ .

Now by [W, 4.2] mutation is functorially isomorphic to the inverse of the flop functor, and by [K14, §5.2] under the derived equivalence skyscrapers correspond precisely to  $\vartheta$ -stable modules, for  $\vartheta \in C_+$ . Hence (3.J) and (3.K) are functorially isomorphic to the corresponding chain of inverse flop functors, and it follows that

$$(F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ \cdots) \circ (\cdots \circ F_2^{-1} \circ F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad F_{\{1,2\}} \circ (\cdots \circ F_2^{-1} \circ F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1})$$

are equivalences that take skyscrapers to skyscrapers. Since they also fix the structure sheaf  $\mathcal{O}_U$ , and commute with the pushdown  $\mathbf{R}f_*$  as in [DW1, 7.16(1)], it follows that both are naturally isomorphic to the identity. Finally, we deduce that (3.J) and (3.K) are also naturally isomorphic to the identity, and the result follows.  $\square$

We next lift the above to the algebraic setting. To do this, we use the Zariski local tilting bundle  $\mathcal{V}$  in §2.3.

**Lemma 3.13.** *Under the Zariski local flops setup  $U \rightarrow \text{Spec } R$  of 2.3, suppose that there are precisely two irreducible curves contracted, and that they intersect. Denote by  $U^+$  the flop of  $U$  at one of the curves, and consider the tilting bundles  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\mathcal{V}^+$  from §2.3. Set  $\Lambda := \text{End}_U(\mathcal{V})$  and  $\Lambda^+ := \text{End}_{U^+}(\mathcal{V}^+)$ . Then:*

- (1)  $Z := \text{Hom}_R(H^0(\mathcal{V}), H^0(\mathcal{V}^+))$  is a tilting  $\Lambda$ -module with  $\text{End}_\Lambda(Z) \cong \Lambda^+$ .
- (2) The following is a commutative diagram of equivalences:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^b(\text{coh } U) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_U(\mathcal{V}, -)} & D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda) \\ F^{-1} \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_\Lambda(Z, -) \\ D^b(\text{coh } U^+) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{U^+}(\mathcal{V}^+, -)} & D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda^+) \end{array} \quad (3.L)$$

*Proof.* (1) For the statement on endomorphism rings, by repeated use of (2.B) we see that

$$\text{End}_\Lambda(Z) \cong \text{End}_{\text{End}_R(H^0(\mathcal{V}))}(\text{Hom}_R(H^0(\mathcal{V}), H^0(\mathcal{V}^+))) \cong \text{End}_R(H^0(\mathcal{V}^+)) \cong \Lambda^+,$$

where the second isomorphism is reflexive equivalence. Now the property of being a tilting module can be checked complete locally, and certainly  $\widehat{Z}_n$  is a tilting  $\widehat{\Lambda}_n$ -module for all  $n \in \text{Max } R$  with  $n \neq m$ . Further, for the point  $m$ , by (2.F) we know that  $\text{add}(H^0(\mathcal{V}) \otimes_R \mathfrak{R}) = \text{add } N$  and similarly  $\text{add}(H^0(\mathcal{V}^+) \otimes_R \mathfrak{R}) = \text{add } N^+$ . But exactly as in [DW1, 5.8] (or in 4.4 below), there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda) & \xrightarrow{\text{Morita}} & D^b(\text{mod } \widehat{\Lambda}) \\ \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_\Lambda(\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, N^+), -) \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\widehat{Z}, -) \\ D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda^+) & \xrightarrow{\text{Morita}} & D^b(\text{mod } \widehat{\Lambda}^+) \end{array} \quad (3.M)$$

Say curve  $i$  has been flopped; then by [W, 4.17(1)],  $N^+ = \gamma_i N$ , and so the left-hand functor is the mutation functor (see e.g. [W, 2.22(1)] or 4.2(2)), which is an equivalence. Hence the right-hand functor is also an equivalence, and the statement follows.

(2) For each  $\mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max } R$  consider the formal fibre version of the diagram. If  $\mathfrak{n} \neq \mathfrak{m}$  then the diagram clearly commutes, since  $f : U \rightarrow \text{Spec } R$  is an isomorphism away from  $\mathfrak{m}$ . If  $\mathfrak{n} = \mathfrak{m}$  then the diagram commutes by combining (3.M) with [W, 4.2].

Now write  $\Psi$  for a composition of the four equivalences in the square (3.L) to give an autoequivalence of  $D^b(\text{coh } U)$ . Consider a skyscraper  $\mathcal{O}_u \in D^b(\text{coh } U)$ . Since the formal fibre versions of the diagram (3.L) commute, it follows that  $\Psi$  fixes  $\mathcal{O}_u$ . Furthermore  $\Psi$  fixes  $\mathcal{O}_U$ , and commutes with the pushdown  $\mathbf{R}f_*$  by the compatibility result of [W, 2.14(2)]. We conclude that  $\Psi$  is functorially isomorphic to the identity, and so (3.L) is functorially commutative.  $\square$

Using the above, we can now extend 3.12 to the Zariski local setting:

**Theorem 3.14.** *Under the Zariski local flops setup  $f : U \rightarrow \text{Spec } R$  of 2.3, suppose that  $f$  contracts precisely two independently floppable irreducible curves to a point  $p$ . Then*

$$\underbrace{F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ \cdots}_d \cong F_{\{1,2\}} \cong \underbrace{F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ \cdots}_d$$

where  $d$  is the number of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}^p$ . Further,  $d \geq 3$ .

*Proof.* Since each algebraic flop, after passing to the formal fibre, is still a flop, iteratively flopping all possible combinations of all possible subsets of the two curves (which, since the two curves are individually floppable, we may do) gives the same number of schemes in both cases, and the combinatorics are the same for both. In particular  $d \geq 3$  by 3.12.

To show braiding for a chain of algebraic flops, again we track skyscrapers  $\mathcal{O}_u$  under the chain

$$(F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ \cdots) \circ (\cdots \circ F_2^{-1} \circ F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1}). \quad (3.N)$$

Using 3.13(2), we can reduce the problem to tracking  $\mathfrak{d}$ -stable  $\Lambda$ -modules  $M$  for  $\mathfrak{d} \in C_+$ . Since  $M$  is supported only at a single point  $\mathfrak{n}$  as an  $R$ -module,

$$\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_\Lambda(Z, M) \otimes_R \widehat{R}_\mathfrak{n} \cong \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}_\mathfrak{n}}(\widehat{Z}_\mathfrak{n}, M)$$

and so it suffices to track  $M$  complete locally. If  $\mathfrak{n} \neq \mathfrak{m}$  it is clear that  $M$  tracks to itself. If  $\mathfrak{n} = \mathfrak{m}$  then by (3.M),  $\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\widehat{Z}, -)$  is naturally isomorphic to the mutation functor. Hence by 3.12 all skyscrapers track to skyscrapers under (3.N), so again since the structure sheaf is fixed and the functors all commute with the pushdown, (3.N) is functorially isomorphic to the identity. A similar argument shows that

$$F_{\{1,2\}} \circ (\cdots \circ F_2^{-1} \circ F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1})$$

is functorially isomorphic to the identity, and the result follows.  $\square$

Next we focus on the global setting of 3.10, for the case of two intersecting curves. Recall that we have a contraction  $f : X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  mapping these curves to a point  $p$ . As in §2.2,

put  $C = f^{-1}(p)$ , so that  $C^{\text{red}} = C_1 \cup C_2$  with  $C_i \cong \mathbb{P}^1$ . Then we choose an affine open neighbourhood  $U_{\text{con}} \cong \text{Spec } R$  around  $p$ , so that setting  $U := f^{-1}(U_{\text{con}})$ , we have the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} C & \xhookrightarrow{e} & U & \xhookrightarrow{i} & X \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow f|_U & & \downarrow f \\ p & \in & U_{\text{con}} & \hookrightarrow & X_{\text{con}} \end{array}$$

where  $e$  is a closed embedding, and  $i$  is an open embedding. Choose one of the curves  $C_i$ , and write  $U^+$  and  $X^+$  for the schemes obtained by flopping  $C_i$  in  $U$  and  $X$  respectively. The following is similar to [DW1, 7.8], and is well-known to experts.

**Lemma 3.15.** *In the setting of 3.10, and with notation as above, the following diagram is naturally commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Qcoh } U) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}i_*} & \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Qcoh } X) \\ \downarrow F_i & & \downarrow F_i \\ \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Qcoh } U^+) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}i^+_*} & \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Qcoh } X^+) \end{array}$$

*Proof.* Write  $\Gamma_U$  (respectively  $\Gamma_X$ ) for the fibre product of  $U$  (respectively  $X$ ) with its flop, over the contracted base  $U_{\text{con}}$  (respectively  $X_{\text{con}}$ ). Then there are maps

$$g_U: \Gamma_U \rightarrow U \times U^+ \quad \text{and} \quad g_X: \Gamma_X \rightarrow X \times X^+,$$

and a natural inclusion  $\iota: \Gamma_U \rightarrow \Gamma_X$ . Using this notation to translate the claim into the language of Fourier–Mukai kernels [H, 5.12], we require that

$$\mathbf{L}(i \times \mathrm{Id})^* g_{X*} \mathcal{O} \cong \mathbf{R}(\mathrm{Id} \times i^+)_* g_{U*} \mathcal{O}.$$

This follows by considering the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Gamma_U & \xrightarrow{h} & U \times X^+ \\ \downarrow \iota & & \downarrow i \times \mathrm{Id} \\ \Gamma_X & \xrightarrow{g_X} & X \times X^+ \end{array}$$

where  $h$  is the natural map  $(\mathrm{Id} \times i^+) \circ g_U$ . Under the birational correspondence between  $X$  and  $X^+$ , points of  $U$  correspond to points of  $U^+$  and vice versa, so this square is cartesian. The right-hand map is flat, and so base change gives  $\mathbf{L}(i \times \mathrm{Id})^* \mathbf{R}g_{X*} \cong \mathbf{R}h_* \mathbf{L}\iota^*$ . The result follows by applying this isomorphism to  $\mathcal{O}$  on  $\Gamma_X$ .  $\square$

Using 3.15, we can extend 3.14 to the global setting:

**Corollary 3.16.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2, suppose that  $f$  contracts precisely two independently floppable irreducible curves to a point  $p$ . Then*

$$\underbrace{F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ \cdots}_d \cong F_{\{1,2\}} \cong \underbrace{F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ \cdots}_d$$

where  $d$  is the number of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}^p$ . Further,  $d \geq 3$ .

*Proof.* Once again, we track skyscrapers  $\mathcal{O}_x$  under the chain

$$F_{\{1,2\}} \circ (\cdots \circ F_2^{-1} \circ F_1^{-1} \circ F_2^{-1}). \quad (3.O)$$

If  $x \notin U$ , then certainly  $x \notin C$ , so all the flop functors take  $\mathcal{O}_x$  to  $\mathcal{O}_x$ , and hence the composition does. On the other hand, if  $x \in U$  then we can combine 3.14 and 3.15 to conclude that the chain of functors in (3.O) takes  $\mathcal{O}_x$  to  $\mathcal{O}_x$ . Thus, either way, (3.O) preserves skyscrapers, so again since the structure sheaf is fixed and the functors commute with the pushdown, (3.N) is functorially isomorphic to the identity. This gives one of the isomorphisms in the statement, and the other follows by symmetry.  $\square$

In contrast, the disjoint curves case is easy, and is well-known.

**Lemma 3.17.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2, suppose that  $f$  contracts precisely two independently floppable disjoint curves. If the first curve contracts to a point  $p_1$ , and the second curve contracts to  $p_2$ , then*

- (1)  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{p_1} \sqcup \mathcal{H}^{p_2} = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x = 0\}, \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid y = 0\}$ , and so  $d$ , the number of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}$ , equals two.
- (2) There is a functorial isomorphism

$$\underbrace{F_1 \circ F_2}_d \cong F_{\{1,2\}} \cong \underbrace{F_2 \circ F_1}_d.$$

*Proof.* (1) Since each  $\mathcal{H}^{p_i}$  is a simplicial hyperplane arrangement in  $\mathbb{R}^1$ , this is clear.

(2) Since the curves are disjoint, from the definition of flop it is immediate that the order of flops does not matter. Further, since flop functors are local over the common singular base, chasing skyscrapers and using 3.13 gives the result immediately, by the same argument as in 3.16.  $\square$

### 3.5. Braiding: general case

The aim of this subsection is to use the braiding in the two-curve case above, together with properties of simplicial hyperplane arrangements, to extend the braiding results to more than two curves.

For this, recall that simplicial hyperplane arrangements were studied in the seminal work of Deligne [D72], and the resulting *Deligne groupoid* controls much of the combinatorics. This has many equivalent definitions in the literature, but here for convenience we follow Paris [P93, §2.A, §2.B].

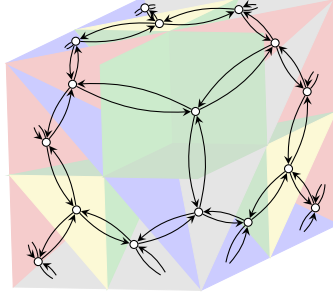
**Definition 3.18.** Given the real simplicial hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$  from §3.3, we first associate the oriented graph  $X_1$  which has vertices  $v_i$  corresponding to the chambers of  $\mathcal{H}$ , with an arrow  $a : v_i \rightarrow v_j$  between pairs of vertices corresponding to adjacent chambers. A path of length  $n$  in  $X_1$  is defined to be a formal symbol

$$a_1^{\varepsilon_1} a_2^{\varepsilon_2} \dots a_n^{\varepsilon_n}$$

with each  $\varepsilon_i$  in  $\{\pm 1\}$ , whenever there exists a sequence of vertices  $v_0, \dots, v_n$  of  $X_1$  such that  $a_i : v_{i-1} \rightarrow v_i$  if  $\varepsilon_i = 1$ , and  $a_i : v_{i-1} \leftarrow v_i$  if  $\varepsilon_i = -1$ . A path is said to be *positive* if each  $\varepsilon_i$  is 1. Such a path is called *minimal* if there is no positive path in  $X_1$  of smaller length and with the same endpoints.

Let  $\sim$  be the smallest *identification* (an equivalence relation satisfying appropriate properties, see [P93, p. 152]) on the set of paths of  $X_1$  such that if  $f$  and  $g$  are both positive minimal paths with the same endpoints then  $f \sim g$ . Then the pair  $(X_1, \sim)$  determines a groupoid, the *Deligne groupoid*  $\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}}$ , where the objects are the vertices, and the morphisms are the equivalence classes of paths.

**Example 3.19.** The following illustrates part of the oriented graph  $X_1$  for the hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  from §1.2.



**Remark 3.20.** By [P93, S87] (see [P00, 2.1]), any vertex group of the groupoid  $\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}}$  defined above is isomorphic to  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{C}})$ , the fundamental group of the complexified complement of  $\mathcal{H}$ . We thus let  $\pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$  denote a vertex group of the Deligne groupoid.

By [D72, 1.10, 1.12], to produce a representation of the Deligne groupoid, it is sufficient to check certain codimension-two relations. As in the previous subsection, we first consider this problem in the formal fibre setting.

**Lemma 3.21.** *With notation as in the complete local setup of §3.1, suppose that  $c$  is a chamber in  $\Theta_A$  with a codimension-two wall  $w$ . Then:*

- (1) *From  $c$ , crashing through  $w$  corresponds to flopping a pair of curves  $C_{i_1} \cup C_{i_2}$  in  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{rk},c}(A)$ , where  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{rk},c}(A)$  is the scheme of  $c$ -stable  $A$ -modules of dimension vector  $\text{rk}$  corresponding to the chamber  $c$  in  $\Theta_A$ .*
- (2) *Iterating  $\dots \circ F_{i_1} \circ F_{i_2} \circ F_{i_1}$  traverses one direction around the codimension-two wall  $w$ , whilst  $\dots \circ F_{i_2} \circ F_{i_1} \circ F_{i_2}$  traverses the other direction.*



*Proof.* Viewing  $\mathcal{M}_{rk,c}(A)$  abstractly, we associate an algebra  $B$  to it using the procedure in §2.4. In turn, this algebra has a chamber structure, which we denote  $\Theta_B$ . By 3.2(3), the chamber  $c$  in  $\Theta_A$  is the tracking, under moduli tracking, of the chamber  $C_+$  in  $\Theta_B$ . Furthermore, since under moduli tracking walls get sent to walls, the codimension-two wall  $w$  corresponds to one of the codimension-two walls of  $C_+$  in  $\Theta_B$ , which without loss of generality we can assume is  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$ . Thus, since as schemes  $\mathcal{M}_{rk,c}(A) = \mathcal{M}_{rk,C_+}(B)$ , to prove (1) it suffices to prove that, from  $C_+$  in  $\Theta_B$ , crashing through the codimension-two wall  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$  corresponds to flopping  $C_1 \cup C_2$ . But this is immediate by [W, 4.16] and moduli tracking.

To prove (2), since in all the chamber structures crossing codimension-one walls corresponds to a flop [W, §5], it suffices to show that iterating  $\cdots \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1$  traverses one direction around the codimension-two wall  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$  in  $\Theta_B$ , whilst  $\cdots \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2$  traverses the other direction.

Beginning in the chamber  $C_+$  of  $\Theta_B$ , flopping  $F_1$  corresponds to crashing through the single codimension-one wall  $\vartheta_1 = 0$  [W, 5.21], and produces a new chamber that by the moduli tracking formula has a codimension-two wall  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$ . This new chamber can then be viewed as  $C_+$  on another algebra. Repeating the argument for that chamber then tracking back to  $\Theta_B$ , the iterate  $F_2 \circ F_1$  corresponds to crashing through two consecutive walls of  $\Theta_B$ . Further, by the moduli tracking formula, both of the chambers obtained share the codimension-two wall  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$ . By induction, iterating  $\cdots \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1$  produces a series of chambers, at each stage crossing a single codimension-one wall, and each chamber has a codimension-two wall  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$ . It follows that iterating  $\cdots \circ F_1 \circ F_2 \circ F_1$  traverses one direction around the codimension-two wall  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$ . By symmetry, necessarily  $\cdots \circ F_2 \circ F_1 \circ F_2$  traverses the other direction.  $\square$

**Definition 3.22.** With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $f : X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2, suppose that  $f$  contracts precisely  $n$  independently floppable irreducible curves. Given this data, the derived flops groupoid  $\mathbb{D}_{\text{Flop}}$  is defined by the following generating set. It has vertices  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$ , running over all varieties obtained from  $X$  by iteratively flopping the  $n$  curves, and as arrows we connect vertices by the Bridgeland–Chen flop functors, running through all possible combinations of single flopping curves.

The following is the main result of this section.

**Theorem 3.23.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $f : X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2, suppose that  $f$  contracts precisely  $n$  independently floppable curves. Then:*

- (1) *There is a homomorphism of groupoids  $\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_{\text{Flop}}$ .*
- (2) *The group  $\pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$  acts on  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$ .*

*Proof.* As in 3.14, since each algebraic flop, after passing to the formal fibre, is still a flop, iteratively flopping all possible single curves gives the same number of schemes in both cases, and the combinatorics are the same for both. Hence the braiding of the algebraic flop functors is governed by the same simplicial hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{H}$ .

By [D72, 1.10, 1.12] (see also [CM]), to prove (1) we only need to check that the relations on the flop functors in 3.22 arising from each codimension-two wall are satisfied

by the algebraic flop functors. But this follows immediately from 3.10 and 3.21. Part (2) follows directly from (1).  $\square$

**Remark 3.24.** The above proof does not require a presentation of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$ , which is convenient since we do not know one in general. It is known how to obtain a presentation given the explicit hyperplanes [A, R82, S87], but all the possible simplicial hyperplane arrangements arising from flops have not yet been fully classified.

#### 4. Mutation in the flops setting

We now work towards dropping the assumption that all the curves are individually floppable. The aim of this section is to apply the mutation in §2.6 to the setting of flops to obtain on the formal fibre various intrinsic derived autoequivalences. These will then be made algebraic in §5, and will give intrinsic algebraic autoequivalences regardless of whether the curves flop individually.

The results related to the fibre twist in §4.3 and §4.4 will require an additional assumption on the singularities.

##### 4.1. Mutation for flops

We keep the complete local flops setup of §2.4, and in particular the notation of 2.10 where  $A := \text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N)$ . As in 2.11, for any  $J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  we set  $N_J := \bigoplus_{j \in J} N_j$  and  $N_{J^c} := \bigoplus_{i \notin J} N_i$ , so that  $N = N_J \oplus N_{J^c}$ .

**Remark 4.1.** In later sections we will be interested in two special cases. The first is when  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ , as this will give the  $J$ -twist corresponding to the noncommutative simultaneous deformations of the family  $\{E_j \mid j \in J\}$ . The second will be when  $J = \{0\}$ , which will give the ‘fibre twist’ corresponding to deformations of the scheme-theoretic fibre  $\mathcal{O}_C$ .

The following is elementary.

**Lemma 4.2.** *In the complete local flops setup of 2.4, for any  $J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ :*

- (1)  $A_J$  is a finite-dimensional algebra.
- (2)  $T_J \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \nu_J N)$ , and is a tilting  $A$ -module of projective dimension one.

*Proof.* Since  $\mathfrak{R}$  is an isolated singularity, (1) is [IW1, 6.19(3)]. Part (2) then follows by [IW1, 6.14].  $\square$

As in §2.6, the mutation functor gives an equivalence

$$\Phi_J := \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_A(T_J, -): D^b(\text{mod } A) \xrightarrow{\sim} D^b(\text{mod } \nu_J A).$$

If further  $\nu_J \nu_J N \cong N$  (see 4.6 and 4.10 later) then we can mutate  $\text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(\nu_J N)$  back to obtain  $\text{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N) \cong A$ . Applying 4.2 to  $\nu_J N$ , we see that  $W_J := \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(\nu_J N, N)$  is

a tilting  $\nu_J A$ -module, giving rise to an equivalence which by abuse of notation we also denote

$$\Phi_J := \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\nu_J A}(W_J, -): D^b(\mathrm{mod} \nu_J A) \xrightarrow{\sim} D^b(\mathrm{mod} A).$$

The following is an easy generalisation of [DW1, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11].

**Proposition 4.3.** *In the complete local flops setup of 2.4, for any  $J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $\nu_J \nu_J N \cong N$ , the following statements hold:*

- (1)  $\Phi_J \circ \Phi_J \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_A([N_J^c], -)$ , where  $[N_J^c]$  is the two-sided ideal defined in §1.6.
- (2)  $\Phi_J \circ \Phi_J(A_J) \cong A_J[-2]$ .
- (3)  $\Phi_J \circ \Phi_J(S) \cong S[-2]$  for all simple  $A_J$ -modules  $S$ .

*Proof.* (1) By the assumption  $\nu_J \nu_J N \cong N$  it follows that  $(\mathrm{Ker} b_J)^* \cong \mathrm{Ker} a_J$ . The proof is then identical to [DW1, 5.10].

(2) Since  $(\mathrm{Ker} b_J)^* \cong \mathrm{Ker} a_J$ , combining (2.I) and (2.L) gives us a complex of  $R$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow (\mathrm{Ker} b_J)^* \xrightarrow{c_J} V_J \xrightarrow{b_J^* \cdot a_J} U_J \xrightarrow{d_J^*} (\mathrm{Ker} b_J)^* \rightarrow 0.$$

The proof of (2) is now word-for-word identical to [DW1, 5.9(1–2)], since although the above complex need not be exact, whereas it was in [DW1, 5.9], this does not affect anything.

(3) Since by (1)  $\Phi_J \circ \Phi_J(-) \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_A([N_J^c], -)$ , part (3) follows by tensoring both sides of (2) by  $A_J/\mathrm{Rad}(A_J)$ , just as in [DW1, 5.11], then applying idempotents.  $\square$

Since by (2.F),  $\widehat{\Lambda} \cong \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(\bigoplus_{i=0}^n N_i^{\oplus a_i})$ , which is only Morita equivalent to  $A$ , we need to describe the compatibility between mutation and Morita equivalence. For the positive integers  $a_i$  from (2.F), we set  $Z := \bigoplus_{i=0}^n N_i^{\oplus a_i}$  so that  $\widehat{\Lambda} = \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(Z)$ . For a choice of  $J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , consider the summand  $Z_J = \bigoplus_{j \in J} N_j^{\oplus a_j}$  of  $Z$  and set  $Z_{J^c} := \bigoplus_{i \notin J} N_i^{\oplus a_i}$ . In an identical way to the above, there is a mutation functor

$$\Phi'_J := \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(Z, \nu_J Z), -): D^b(\mathrm{mod} \widehat{\Lambda}) \xrightarrow{\sim} D^b(\mathrm{mod} \nu_J \widehat{\Lambda}).$$

where  $\nu_J \widehat{\Lambda} := \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}\left(\left(\bigoplus_{j \in J} (\mathrm{Ker} b_j)^{\oplus a_j}\right) \oplus \left(\bigoplus_{i \notin J} N_i^{\oplus a_i}\right)\right)$ . The following is elementary.

**Lemma 4.4.** *The following diagram commutes:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^b(\mathrm{mod} A) & \xrightarrow{\text{Morita}} & D^b(\mathrm{mod} \widehat{\Lambda}) \\ \Phi_J \downarrow & & \downarrow \Phi'_J \\ D^b(\mathrm{mod} \nu_J A) & \xrightarrow{\text{Morita}} & D^b(\mathrm{mod} \nu_J \widehat{\Lambda}) \end{array}$$

*Proof.* This was stated in [DW1, 5.8], but since we are working more generally we give the proof here. For simplicity, we drop all  $J$  from the notation. As in 2.14 we denote the top Morita functor by  $\mathbb{F}$ , and we also denote the bottom by  $\mathbb{G}$ . Since  $P := \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(N, Z)$  is a progenerator, it gives a Morita context  $(A, \text{End}_A(P), P_A, \text{Hom}_A(P, A))$  which by reflexive equivalence is  $(A, \widehat{\Lambda}, P_A, {}_A Q)$  where  $Q = \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(Z, N)$ . Standard Morita theory gives an equivalence of categories, and natural isomorphisms

$$\text{mod } A \xleftarrow[\text{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(Q, -) \cong - \otimes_{\widehat{\Lambda}} P]{\mathbb{F} := \text{Hom}_A(P, -) \cong - \otimes_A Q} \text{mod } \widehat{\Lambda}. \quad (4.A)$$

There is a similar left version, namely

$$\text{mod } A^{\text{op}} \xleftarrow[\text{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}^{\text{op}}}(P, -) \cong Q \otimes_{\widehat{\Lambda}} -]{\text{Hom}_{A^{\text{op}}}(Q, -) \cong P \otimes_A -} \text{mod } \widehat{\Lambda}^{\text{op}}. \quad (4.B)$$

Now on the one hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi' \circ \mathbb{F} &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(Z, \nu Z) \otimes_{\widehat{\Lambda}} P, -) && \text{(by adjunction)} \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(\text{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(Q, \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(Z, \nu Z)), -) && \text{(by (4.A))} \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(N, \nu Z), -). && \text{(by reflexive equivalence)} \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,  $\mathbb{G} = \text{Hom}_{\nu A}(P', -)$  for  $P' := \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(\nu N, \nu Z)$ , with inverse given by  $Q' = \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(\nu Z, \nu N)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{G} \circ \Phi &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(P' \otimes_{\nu A} \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(N, \nu N), -) && \text{(by adjunction)} \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(\text{Hom}_{(\nu A)^{\text{op}}}(Q', \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(N, \nu N)), -) && \text{(by (4.B)')} \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(\text{Hom}_{\nu A}(\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(N, \nu N)^*, (Q')^*), -) && ((-)^* \text{ duality on first term}) \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(\text{Hom}_{\nu A}(\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(\nu N, N), \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(\nu N, \nu Z)), -) \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_A(\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{H}}(N, \nu Z), -) && \text{(by reflexive equivalence)} \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\Phi' \circ \mathbb{F} \cong \mathbb{G} \circ \Phi$ , as required.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.5.** *In the complete local flops setup of 2.4, and with notation as in 2.14, for any  $J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $\nu_J \nu_J N \cong N$ , the following statements hold:*

- (1)  $\Phi'_J \Phi'_J(\mathbb{F}A_J) \cong \mathbb{F}A_J[-2]$ .
- (2)  $\Phi'_J \Phi'_J(\mathbb{F}S) \cong \mathbb{F}S[-2]$  for all simple  $A_J$ -modules  $S$ .

*Proof.* Since minimal approximations sum, it follows that  $\nu_J \nu_J Z \cong Z$ . Thus applying 4.4 twice gives a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^b(\text{mod } A) & \xrightarrow{\mathbb{F}} & D^b(\text{mod } \widehat{\Lambda}) \\ \Phi_J \Phi_J \downarrow & & \downarrow \Phi'_J \Phi'_J \\ D^b(\text{mod } A) & \xrightarrow{\mathbb{F}} & D^b(\text{mod } \widehat{\Lambda}). \end{array}$$

Hence the result follows from 4.3(2) and 4.3(3).  $\square$

#### 4.2. Application 1: the $J$ -twists

In this subsection we exclude 0 and consider the special case  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$  of §4.1. The situation  $n = 1$  was considered in [DW1].

**Proposition 4.6.** *In the complete local flops setup of 2.4, for any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ :*

- (1)  $\vee_J \vee_J N \cong N$ .
- (2) *The simple  $A_J$ -modules are precisely  $S_j$  for  $j \in J$ .*

*Proof.* Contract the curves in  $J$  to obtain  $\mathfrak{U} \rightarrow \mathfrak{U}_{\text{con}} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathfrak{R}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{U}$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities, and this is a flopping contraction,  $\mathfrak{U}_{\text{con}}$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities. Locally, it follows that  $\mathfrak{U}_{\text{con}}$  has only hypersurface singularities, so part (1) follows from [W, 2.25]. Part (2) is clear.  $\square$

The following is then the multi-curve analogue of [DW1, 5.6, 5.7].

**Proposition 4.7.** *In the complete local flops setup of 2.4, for any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ :*

- (1) *The minimal projective resolution of  $A_J$  as an  $A$ -module has the form*

$$0 \rightarrow P \rightarrow Q_1 \rightarrow Q_0 \rightarrow P \rightarrow A_J \rightarrow 0$$

*where  $P := \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, N_J)$ , and  $Q_i \in \text{add } Q$  for  $Q := \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, N_J^c)$ .*

- (2)  $\text{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_J = 3$  and  $\text{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{I}_J = 2$ .
- (3) *We have*

$$\text{Ext}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}^t(\mathbb{F}A_J, T_j) \cong \text{Ext}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}^t(\mathbb{F}A_J, \widehat{T}_j) \cong \text{Ext}_A^t(A_J, S_j) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} & \text{if } t = 0, 3, \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

*for all  $j \in J$ , and further  $A_J$  is a self-injective algebra.*

*Proof.* (1) This is [W, A.7(3)].

(2) Since projective dimension is preserved across Morita equivalence, using (1) it follows that  $\text{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \mathbb{F}A_J = 3$ . But  $\text{add}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \mathbb{F}A_J = \text{add}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_J$ , so  $\text{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_J = \text{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \mathbb{F}A_J = 3$ . The statement for  $\widehat{I}_J$  is then obvious from the completion of (2.D).

(3) The first two isomorphisms are consequences of the fact that the Ext groups are supported only at  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and the third isomorphism is a consequence of (1). Since  $\text{mod } A_J$  is extension-closed in  $\text{mod } A$ , we have

$$\text{Ext}_{A_J}^1(S_j, A_J) = \text{Ext}_A^1(S_j, A_J) \cong D \text{Ext}_A^2(A_J, S_j) \quad (4.C)$$

where the last isomorphism holds since  $A$  is 3-sCY [IW1, 2.22(2)],  $\text{pd}_A A_J < \infty$  and  $S_j$  has finite length. Thus (4.C) shows that  $\text{Ext}_{A_J}^1(S_j, A_J) = 0$  for all  $j \in J$ . Since  $A_J$  is finite-dimensional, every finitely generated module is filtered by simples, so  $A_J$  is self-injective.  $\square$

### 4.3. Application 2: the fibre twist

This subsection considers the special case  $J = \{0\}$  of §4.1, in which case  $A_J$  is the fibre algebra  $A_0$  of 2.11. Since  $J = \{0\}$ , this involves mutating the summand  $\mathfrak{R}$ , which results in reflexive modules that are not Cohen–Macaulay. Consequently, there is no easy reason for the assumption in 4.3 to be satisfied, and so this subsection is technically much harder than the previous one. As a result, it requires additional assumptions.

In the Zariski local setup of 2.3, of which the complete local flops setup 2.4 is the formal fibre,  $f: U \rightarrow \operatorname{Spec} R$  is a Zariski local crepant contraction, where  $U$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities, contracting precisely one connected chain  $C$  of curves with  $C^{\text{red}} = \bigcup_{j=1}^n C_j$  with  $C_j \cong \mathbb{P}^1$  to a point  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $\operatorname{Spec} R$ . We know that  $\Lambda := \operatorname{End}_R(R \oplus L)$  is derived equivalent to  $U$  and recall from §2.3 that we write  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}} \cong \operatorname{End}_{R_{\mathfrak{m}}}(R_{\mathfrak{m}}^{\oplus a} \oplus K)$ . Since  $f$  is crepant,  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}} \in \operatorname{CM} R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ , so necessarily  $K \in \operatorname{CM} R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ .

In this subsection, we make the additional assumption that  $U$  (not  $\mathfrak{U}$ ) is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial with only Gorenstein terminal singularities, so that  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is an MMA by 2.16.

**Remark 4.8.** If we assume in addition that  $U$  is complete locally  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, equivalently  $\mathfrak{U}$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial (which happens for example if  $U$  is smooth), then  $\widehat{\Lambda}$  and  $A$  are MMAs and so all the results in this subsection follow immediately from [IW1, §6.3]. However, later we will be working algebraically and it is well-known that the property of being  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial does not pass to the completion. Thus, since we are working with algebraic assumptions, this subsection requires some delicate global-local arguments.

**Theorem 4.9.** *Consider the formal fibre setup 2.4 where in the Zariski local flops setting 2.3,  $U$  is in addition  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial. Then:*

- (1)  $\operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0 = 3$ ,  $\operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{I}_0 = 2$  and  $\operatorname{pd}_A A_0 = 3$ .
- (2) *The minimal projective resolution of the  $A$ -module  $A_0$  has the form*

$$0 \rightarrow Q \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow Q \rightarrow A_0 \rightarrow 0$$

where  $Q := \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \mathfrak{R})$ , and  $P_i \in \operatorname{add} P$  for  $P := \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \bigoplus_{j=1}^n N_j)$ .

*Proof.* (1) Since  $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is an MMA of  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  by 2.16, and by definition  $\Lambda_0 = \Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}/[K]$ , it follows that  $\operatorname{pd}_{\Lambda_{\mathfrak{m}}} \Lambda_0 < \infty$  by [IW2, 4.16]. By 2.13,  $\Lambda_0 \otimes_{R_{\mathfrak{m}}} \mathfrak{R} \cong \widehat{\Lambda}_0$ . Since completion preserves finite projective dimension, it follows that  $\operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0 \leq 3$ . Hence by the Auslander–Buchsbaum formula (in this level of generality, see [IW1, 2.16])

$$\operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0 + \operatorname{depth}_{\mathfrak{R}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0 = \dim \mathfrak{R} = 3.$$

Since  $\widehat{\Lambda}_0$  is finite-dimensional,  $\operatorname{depth}_{\mathfrak{R}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0 = 0$ , thus  $\operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0 = 3$ . The statement  $\operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{I}_0 = 2$  follows by completing (2.E). Finally,  $\operatorname{add}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \mathbb{F}A_0 = \operatorname{add}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0$ , so  $\operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \mathbb{F}A_0 = \operatorname{pd}_{\widehat{\Lambda}} \widehat{\Lambda}_0 = 3$ . Since projective dimension is preserved across Morita equivalence,  $\operatorname{pd}_A A_0 = 3$  follows.

(2) This is very similar to the arguments in [IR, 4.3, 5.6] and [IW1, 6.23], but our assumptions here are weaker, so we include the proof. Since by (1),  $A_0$  has finite projective dimension as an  $A$ -module, it follows that  $\operatorname{inj.dim}_{A_0} A_0 \leq 1$  by e.g. [IW1, 6.19(4)],

in particular the injective dimension is finite. This being the case, since  $A_0$  is local we deduce that

$$\text{depth}_{\mathfrak{R}} A_0 = \dim_{\mathfrak{R}} A_0 = \text{inj.dim}_{A_0} A_0$$

by Ramras [R69, 2.15]. Since  $A_0$  is finite-dimensional, this number is zero and in particular  $A_0$  is a Cohen–Macaulay  $\mathfrak{R}$ -module of dimension zero.

Let  $e$  be the idempotent in  $A$  corresponding to the summand  $\mathfrak{R}$ , so that  $Q = eA$ ,  $P = (1 - e)A$  and  $A_0 = A/A(1 - e)A$ . By (1) we have a minimal projective resolution

$$0 \rightarrow P_3 \rightarrow P_2 \rightarrow P_1 \xrightarrow{f} eA \rightarrow A_0 \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.D)$$

with  $f$  a minimal right  $(\text{add}(1 - e)A)$ -approximation since it is a projective cover of  $eA(1 - e)A$ . In particular,  $P_1 \in \text{add } P$ . Now  $A_0$  is finite-dimensional and  $A$  is perfect, so since  $A$  is 3-sCY we have

$$\text{Ext}_A^t(A_0, A) \cong D \text{Ext}_A^{3-t}(A, A_0),$$

which is zero for  $t \neq 3$ . Hence applying  $(-)^{\vee} := \text{Hom}_A(-, A)$  to (4.D) we obtain an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow (eA)^{\vee} \rightarrow (P_1)^{\vee} \rightarrow (P_2)^{\vee} \rightarrow (P_3)^{\vee} \rightarrow \text{Ext}_A^3(A_0, A) \rightarrow 0, \quad (4.E)$$

which is the minimal projective resolution of  $\text{Ext}_A^3(A_0, A)$  as an  $A^{\text{op}}$ -module. But we have

$$\text{Ext}_A^3(A_0, A) \cong \text{Ext}_{\mathfrak{R}}^3(A_0, \mathfrak{R})$$

by [IR, 3.4(5)], and this is a projective  $A_0^{\text{op}}$ -module by [GN, 1.1(3)]. Since  $A_0$  is a local ring, it is a free  $A_0^{\text{op}}$ -module. Further, since  $A_0$  is a Cohen–Macaulay  $\mathfrak{R}$ -module of dimension zero, we have

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathfrak{R}}^3(\text{Ext}_{\mathfrak{R}}^3(A_0, \mathfrak{R}), \mathfrak{R}) \cong A_0$$

and so the rank has to be one, forcing  $\text{Ext}_{\mathfrak{R}}^3(A_0, \mathfrak{R}) \cong A_0$  as  $A_0^{\text{op}}$ -modules. Hence (4.E) is the minimal projective resolution

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(eA, A) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(P_1, A) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(P_2, A) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(P_3, A) \rightarrow A_0 \rightarrow 0$$

of  $A_0$  as an  $A^{\text{op}}$ -module. Thus we have  $\text{Hom}_A(P_3, A) \cong Ae$  and so  $P_3 \cong eA = Q$ . Similarly  $\text{Hom}_A(P_2, A) \in \text{add } A(1 - e)$  forces  $P_2 \in \text{add } (1 - e)A = \text{add } P$ .  $\square$

The following corollary ensures that the assumption in 4.3 is satisfied.

**Corollary 4.10.** *Consider the formal fibre setup 2.4 where in the Zariski local flops setting 2.3,  $U$  is in addition  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial. Then for  $I = \{0\}$ ,  $\nu_I \nu_I N \cong N$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $M := \bigoplus_{i=1}^n N_i$  so that  $N = N_0 \oplus M = \mathfrak{R} \oplus M$ . By 4.2,

$$T_I \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, (\text{Ker } b_0)^* \oplus M)$$

is a tilting  $A$ -module with  $\mathrm{pd}_A T_I = 1$ . We claim that

$$T := \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, (\mathrm{Ker} a_0) \oplus M)$$

is also a tilting  $A$ -module with  $\mathrm{pd}_A T = 1$ . Then, since the projective dimension of both being one implies that both are not isomorphic to the ring  $A$ , and further as  $A$ -modules  $T_I$  and  $T$  share all summands except possibly one, by a Riedtmann–Schofield type theorem [IR, 4.2] they must coincide, i.e.  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, (\mathrm{Ker} b_0)^* \oplus M) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, (\mathrm{Ker} a_0) \oplus M)$ . By reflexive equivalence and Krull–Schmidt it then follows that  $(\mathrm{Ker} b_0)^* \cong \mathrm{Ker} a_0$ , proving the statement.

Now  $T = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, M) \oplus \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \mathrm{Ker} a_0)$ , and the first summand is projective. Further the sequence (2.J) becomes

$$0 \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \mathrm{Ker} a_0) \xrightarrow{c} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, V_0) \xrightarrow{a} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \mathfrak{R}) \rightarrow A_0 \rightarrow 0,$$

which is the beginning of the minimal projective resolution of  $A_0$ . Since  $\mathrm{pd}_A A_0 = 3$  by 4.9, it follows that  $\mathrm{pd}_A \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}(N, \mathrm{Ker} a_0) = 1$  and so  $\mathrm{pd}_A T = 1$ .

Now by reflexive equivalence  $\mathrm{End}_A(T) \cong \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(M \oplus (\mathrm{Ker} a_0))$ , and this is a CM  $\mathfrak{R}$ -module by [IW1, 6.10]. Thus  $\mathrm{depth}_{\mathfrak{R}} \mathrm{Ext}_A^1(T, T) > 0$  by the depth lemma (see e.g. [IW1, 2.7]). But on the other hand, for any prime  $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathrm{Spec} \mathfrak{R}$  of height two,  $T_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathrm{CM} A_{\mathfrak{p}}$  since reflexive modules are CM for two-dimensional rings. Thus  $\mathrm{depth}_{\mathfrak{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}} T_{\mathfrak{p}} = 2$ . But since  $\mathrm{pd}_{A_{\mathfrak{p}}} T_{\mathfrak{p}} \leq 1$ , we can apply the Auslander–Buchsbaum formula

$$\mathrm{pd}_{A_{\mathfrak{p}}} T_{\mathfrak{p}} + \mathrm{depth}_{\mathfrak{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}} T_{\mathfrak{p}} = \dim \mathfrak{R}_{\mathfrak{p}} = 2$$

to deduce that  $T_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is projective, and so  $\mathrm{Ext}_A^1(T, T)_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathrm{Ext}_{A_{\mathfrak{p}}}^1(T_{\mathfrak{p}}, T_{\mathfrak{p}}) = 0$ . This implies that  $\mathrm{Ext}_A^1(T, T)$  has finite length. Combining, we obtain  $\mathrm{Ext}_A^1(T, T) = 0$ , and since  $\mathrm{pd}_A T = 1$ , we deduce that  $\mathrm{Ext}_A^i(T, T) = 0$  for all  $i > 0$ . Hence  $T$  is a partial tilting  $A$ -module with exactly  $n + 1$  nonisomorphic summands. By the Bongartz completion and Krull–Schmidt, it follows that  $T$  is a tilting  $A$ -module with projective dimension one.  $\square$

#### 4.4. Summary of complete local twists

The following corollary summarises the main results in the previous two subsections.

**Corollary 4.11.** *With the Zariski local setup in 2.3, and its formal fibre setup in 2.4, then with notation as in (2.D) and (2.E):*

- (1) For any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\Phi'_J \circ \Phi'_J \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\widehat{I}_J, -)$$

*is an autoequivalence of  $D^b(\mathrm{mod} \widehat{\Lambda})$ , and  $\widehat{I}_J$  is a tilting  $\widehat{\Lambda}$ -module of projective dimension two. This autoequivalence sends*

- (a)  $\mathbb{F}A_J \mapsto \mathbb{F}A_J[-2]$ ,
- (b)  $\mathbb{F}S_j \mapsto \mathbb{F}S_j[-2]$  for all  $j \in J$ .



(2) If further  $U$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then

$$\Phi'_0 \circ \Phi'_0 \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\widehat{I}_0, -)$$

is an autoequivalence of  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{mod} \widehat{\Lambda})$ , and  $\widehat{I}_0$  is a tilting  $\widehat{\Lambda}$ -module of projective dimension two. This autoequivalence sends

- (a)  $\mathbb{F}A_0 \mapsto \mathbb{F}A_0[-2]$ ,
- (b)  $\mathbb{F}S_0 \mapsto \mathbb{F}S_0[-2]$ .

*Proof.* (1) The two-sided ideal  $[Z_{J^c}]$  of  $\widehat{\Lambda} = \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(Z)$  is  $\widehat{I}_J$ , so the first statement  $\Phi'_J \circ \Phi'_J \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\widehat{I}_J, -)$  is identical to 4.3(1). Since mutation is an equivalence, this means that  $\widehat{I}_J$  must be a tilting module, and it has projective dimension two by 4.7(2). Statements (a) and (b) are special cases of 4.5.

(2) The two-sided ideal  $[\widehat{K}]$  of  $\mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(Z)$  is  $\widehat{I}_0$ , so the proof is identical to (1), except now 4.9(1) is used to establish that the projective dimension of  $\widehat{I}_0$  is two.  $\square$

## 5. Global twists

In this section we define the  $J$ -twist associated to a subset  $J$  of the exceptional reduced curves in the fibres of a global flopping contraction, as well as the fibre twist associated to the whole scheme-theoretic fibre. The key result is 5.23, establishing that these are autoequivalences, and describing their action on  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} X)$  by certain functorial triangles. We study relations between these autoequivalences, and relate the  $J$ -twist to the flop functor, in §6.

### 5.1. Zariski local twists

We first revert to the Zariski local setup in 2.3, namely  $f: U \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec} R$  is a Zariski local crepant contraction, where  $U$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities, contracting precisely one connected chain  $C$  of  $n$  curves with  $C^{\mathrm{red}} = \bigcup_{j=1}^n C_j$  such that each  $C_j$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . We know that  $U$  is derived equivalent to  $\Lambda := \mathrm{End}_R(R \oplus L)$ , with the basic complete local version  $A = \mathrm{End}_{\mathfrak{R}}(\mathfrak{R} \oplus N)$ .

The aim of this subsection is to lift the complete local equivalences established in 4.11 to the Zariski open set  $U$ . To do this we use the sequences of bimodules (2.C) and (2.E).

**Corollary 5.1.** *With the Zariski local flops setup in 2.3:*

- (1) For any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $I_J$  is a tilting  $\Lambda$ -module of projective dimension two.
- (2) If  $U$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, then  $I_0$  is a tilting  $\Lambda$ -module of projective dimension two.

In either case, if we let  $I$  denote either  $I_J$  or  $I_0$ , viewing  $I$  as a right  $\Lambda$ -module we have  $\Lambda \cong \mathrm{End}_{\Lambda}(I)$ , and under this isomorphism the bimodule  ${}_{\mathrm{End}_{\Lambda}(I)}I_{\Lambda}$  coincides with the natural bimodule structure  ${}_{\Lambda}I_{\Lambda}$ .

*Proof.* (1) The statement is local, and since  $\Lambda_J$  is supported only at  $\mathfrak{m}$ , it is clear that  $(I_J)_n$  is free for all  $n \in \text{Max } R$  with  $n \neq \mathfrak{m}$ . Thus it suffices to check that  $(I_J)_\mathfrak{m}$  is a tilting  $\Lambda_\mathfrak{m}$ -module of projective dimension two. Since  $R_\mathfrak{m}$  is local, and a module being zero can be detected on the completion, the statement is equivalent to  $\widehat{I}_J = I_J \otimes_R \widehat{R}$  being a tilting  $\widehat{\Lambda}$ -module of projective dimension two. But this is just 4.11(1).

(2) By the same logic as in (1), the statement is equivalent to  $\widehat{I}_0$  being a tilting  $\widehat{\Lambda}$ -module of projective dimension two. Again, since  $U$  is now  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, this is just 4.11(2).

The final statements follow immediately by repeating the argument in [DW1, 6.1].  $\square$

The following is the extension of 4.11 to the Zariski local setting.

**Proposition 5.2.** *With the Zariski local setup in 2.3:*

(1) *For all  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,*

$$\mathbf{RHom}_\Lambda(I_J, -): D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda) \xrightarrow{\sim} D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda), \quad (5.A)$$

*and further this autoequivalence sends*

- (a)  $\mathbb{F}A_J \mapsto \mathbb{F}A_J[-2]$ ,
- (b)  $T_j \mapsto T_j[-2]$  for all  $j \in J$ .

(2) *If further  $U$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, then*

$$\mathbf{RHom}_\Lambda(I_0, -): D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda) \xrightarrow{\sim} D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda), \quad (5.B)$$

*and further this autoequivalence sends*

- (a)  $\mathbb{F}A_0 \mapsto \mathbb{F}A_0[-2]$ ,
- (b)  $T_0 \mapsto T_0[-2]$ .

*Proof.* (1) By 4.11(1),  $\mathbf{RHom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\widehat{I}_J, \mathbb{F}A_J) \cong \mathbb{F}A_J[-2]$ . Since  $\mathbb{F}A_J$  is supported only at the point  $\mathfrak{m}$ ,  $\mathbf{RHom}_\Lambda(I_J, \mathbb{F}A_J) \cong \mathbb{F}A_J[-2]$  is a formal consequence, as in [DW1, 6.3]. Since  $\mathbb{F}S_j = \widehat{T}_j$  by 2.14, the second statement is also a formal consequence of 4.11(1).

(2) Similarly  $\mathbf{RHom}_{\widehat{\Lambda}}(\widehat{I}_0, \mathbb{F}A_0) \cong \mathbb{F}A_0[-2]$  by 4.11(2), and again  $\mathbb{F}A_0$  is supported only at the point  $\mathfrak{m}$ .  $\square$

By passing across the equivalence  $D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda) \cong D^b(\text{coh } U)$ , (5.A) and (5.B) give autoequivalences on  $U$ . To describe these, consider the projections  $p_1, p_2: U \times U \rightarrow U$ , and set  $\mathcal{V}^\vee \boxtimes \mathcal{V} = p_1^* \mathcal{V}^\vee \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{U \times U}}^L p_2^* \mathcal{V}$ . Then there is an induced derived equivalence

$$D^b(\text{coh } U \times U) \xrightleftharpoons[-\otimes_{\Lambda^e}^L(\mathcal{V}^\vee \boxtimes \mathcal{V})]{\mathbf{RHom}_{U \times U}(\mathcal{V}^\vee \boxtimes \mathcal{V}, -)} D^b(\text{mod } \Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \Lambda^{\text{op}}) \quad (5.C)$$

as in [BH], where we denote the enveloping algebra by  $\Lambda^e := \Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \Lambda^{\text{op}}$ . Applying the lower functor in (5.C) to (2.D) and (2.E), we obtain exact triangles of Fourier–Mukai kernels on  $U \times U$  denoted

$$\mathcal{W}_J \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\Delta, U} \xrightarrow{\phi_J} \mathcal{Q}_J \rightarrow, \quad (5.D)$$

$$\mathcal{W}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\Delta, U} \xrightarrow{\phi_0} \mathcal{Q}_0 \rightarrow. \quad (5.E)$$

Dualizing (2.D) to obtain an exact triangle

$$\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_\Lambda(\Lambda_J, \Lambda) \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_\Lambda(I_J, \Lambda) \rightarrow,$$

then applying the lower functor in (5.C), and similarly for (2.E), we obtain exact triangles of Fourier–Mukai kernels on  $U \times U$  denoted

$$\mathcal{Q}'_J \xrightarrow{\phi'_J} \mathcal{O}_{\Delta, U} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}'_J \rightarrow, \quad (5.F)$$

$$\mathcal{Q}'_0 \xrightarrow{\phi'_0} \mathcal{O}_{\Delta, U} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}'_0 \rightarrow. \quad (5.G)$$

Then, using the obvious adjunctions given by restriction and extension of scalars from the ring homomorphisms  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_J$  and  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_0$ , passing through the above derived equivalence and the Morita equivalence  $\mathbb{F}$  from 2.14, exactly as in [DW1, 6.10, 6.11, 6.16] we deduce that (5.F) and (5.G) yield functorial triangles

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_U(\mathcal{E}_J, -) \otimes_{\Lambda_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J &\rightarrow \mathrm{Id} \rightarrow \mathrm{FM}(\mathcal{W}'_J) \rightarrow, \\ \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_U(\mathcal{E}_0, -) \otimes_{\Lambda_0}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_0 &\rightarrow \mathrm{Id} \rightarrow \mathrm{FM}(\mathcal{W}'_0) \rightarrow, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathrm{FM}(\mathcal{W}'_J)$  is the autoequivalence on  $U$  corresponding to (5.A), and  $\mathrm{FM}(\mathcal{W}'_0)$  is the autoequivalence on  $U$  corresponding to (5.B).

Translating 5.2 through (2.G) immediately gives the following.

**Corollary 5.3.** *With the Zariski local setup in 2.3:*

- (1)  $\mathrm{FM}(\mathcal{W}'_J): \mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} U) \rightarrow \mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} U)$  is an autoequivalence sending
  - (a)  $\mathcal{E}_J \mapsto \mathcal{E}_J[-2]$ ,
  - (b)  $E_j \mapsto E_j[-2]$  for all  $j \in J$ .
- (2) If further  $U$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then  $\mathrm{FM}(\mathcal{W}'_0): \mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} U) \rightarrow \mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} U)$  is an autoequivalence sending
  - (a)  $\mathcal{E}_0 \mapsto \mathcal{E}_0[-2]$ ,
  - (b)  $E_0 \mapsto E_0[-2]$ .

## 5.2. Definition of global twists

We now define twist functors for the global quasi-projective flops setup  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\mathrm{con}}$  of 2.2. As in [DW1, §7], it is technically easier to construct their inverse functors, and this proceeds by gluing in the Zariski local construction of §5.1.

Recall that for each point  $p \in \mathrm{Ram} f$  we chose an affine open neighbourhood containing  $p$  but none of the other points in  $\mathrm{Ram} f$ , and considered the open set in  $X$  given by the inverse image of this affine open, under  $f$ , which we denote by  $U_p$ , with inclusion  $i: U_p \hookrightarrow X$ .

Given the setup above, we have the following definition. We denote the projections from  $X \times X$  to its factors by  $\pi_1, \pi_2$ .

**Definition 5.4.** With the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, and notation in (5.I), for any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_p\}$ :

- (1) The inverse  $J$ -twist functor  $J\text{Twist}_p^*$  on  $X$  is defined to be

$$J\text{Twist}_p^* := \mathbf{R}\pi_{2*}(\mathcal{C}_J \otimes_{X \times X}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_1^*(-))$$

where  $\mathcal{C}_J := \text{Cone } \phi_{J,X}[-1]$ , with  $\phi_{J,X}$  defined to be the composition

$$\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,X} \xrightarrow{\eta_{\Delta}} \mathbf{R}(i \times i)_* \mathcal{O}_{\Delta,U_p} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}(i \times i)_* \phi_J} \mathbf{R}(i \times i)_* \mathcal{Q}_J. \quad (5.H)$$

The notation here comes from (5.D), and the natural morphism  $\eta_{\Delta}$  is described explicitly in [DW1, 7.3].

- (2) If  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, the inverse fibre twist  $F\text{Twist}_p^*$  on  $X$  is defined in an identical way, with the use of  $\phi_0$  from (5.E).

We may then make the following general definition of (inverse)  $J$ -twist and fibre twists for a flopping contraction. Recall  $n_p$  denotes the number of curves above a point  $p \in \text{Ram } f$ .

**Definition 5.5.** With the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, we enumerate the points of the non-isomorphism locus  $\text{Ram } f$  as  $\{p_1, \dots, p_t\}$ , and let  $J$  denote a collection  $(J_1, \dots, J_t)$  of subsets  $J_i \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_{p_i}\}$ . We then define the *inverse  $J$ -twist* to be

$$J\text{Twist}^* := J_1\text{Twist}_{p_1}^* \circ \dots \circ J_t\text{Twist}_{p_t}^*.$$

Similarly, when  $X$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial we set

$$F\text{Twist}^* := F\text{Twist}_{p_1}^* \circ \dots \circ F\text{Twist}_{p_t}^*$$

and call it the *inverse fibre twist*.

**Remark 5.6.** The order of the compositions in the definitions does not matter, since the individual functors all commute. This may be shown, for instance, by tracking skyscraper sheaves as in 3.17, or using 6.2(1) later.

We will prove in 5.23 that these functors are always equivalences, regardless of whether  $\bigcup_{j \in J} C_j$  flops algebraically. Being able to vary  $J$  without worrying about whether the curves flop is the key to obtaining group actions on derived categories without strong assumptions on the flopping contraction.

Since  $X$  is quasi-projective, it embeds as an open subscheme of a projective variety  $\bar{X}$ , so that we have

$$U_p \xhookrightarrow{i} X \xhookrightarrow{k} \bar{X}. \quad (5.I)$$

We remark that  $\bar{X}$  need not be Gorenstein, as we make no assumptions on the complement of  $X$ . However, the projectivity of  $\bar{X}$  will be used to prove that the inverse  $J$ -twist is an equivalence on  $\bar{X}$  in §5.5, before deducing the analogous result on  $X$  in §5.6. The construction of the inverse  $J$ -twist on  $\bar{X}$  proceeds by gluing, in the same manner as 5.4.

**Definition 5.7.** With the setup as above:

- (1) The inverse  $J$ -twist functor  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  on  $\bar{X}$  is defined, by slight abuse of notation, to be

$$J\mathrm{Twist}_p^* := \mathbf{R}\pi_{2*}(\mathcal{D}_J \otimes_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_1^*(-))$$

where  $\mathcal{D}_J := \mathrm{Cone} \phi_{J, \bar{X}}[-1]$ , with  $\phi_{J, \bar{X}}$  defined to be the composition

$$\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, \bar{X}} \xrightarrow{\eta_{\Delta}} \mathbf{R}(ki \times ki)_* \mathcal{O}_{\Delta, U_p} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}(ki \times ki)_* \phi_J} \mathbf{R}(ki \times ki)_* \mathcal{Q}_J.$$

- (2) The  $J$ -twist functor  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p$  on  $\bar{X}$  is defined to be

$$J\mathrm{Twist}_p := \mathbf{R}\pi_{1*}(\mathcal{D}_J^R \otimes_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_2^*(-))$$

where  $\mathcal{D}_J^R := \mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}om_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}(\mathcal{D}_J, \pi_2^! \mathcal{O}_{\bar{X}})$ .

- (3) If  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, the inverse fibre twist  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  and fibre twist  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p$  on  $\bar{X}$  are defined similarly.

### 5.3. First properties

We establish basic properties of the functors defined in 5.4 and 5.7, after the following proposition, which studies the pushforwards of  $\mathcal{E}_J$  to  $X$  and  $\bar{X}$ . Recall that  $\mathrm{per}(Z)$  denotes the category of perfect complexes on a scheme  $Z$ .

**Proposition 5.8.** *With the global quasi-projective setup of 2.2, and notation in (5.I),*

- (1) *For a fixed  $p \in \mathrm{Ram} f$ , and for any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_p\}$ ,*

- (a)  $\mathbf{R}i_* \mathcal{E}_J = i_* \mathcal{E}_J \in \mathrm{per}(X)$ ,
- (b)  $\mathbf{R}(ki)_* \mathcal{E}_J = (ki)_* \mathcal{E}_J \in \mathrm{per}(\bar{X})$ .

*By abuse of notation we denote these simply by  $\mathcal{E}_J$ . Furthermore,*

- (c)  $\mathcal{E}_J \otimes_{\bar{X}}^{\mathbf{L}} \omega_X \cong \mathcal{E}_J$ ,
- (d)  $\mathcal{E}_J \otimes_{\bar{X}}^{\mathbf{L}} \omega_{\bar{X}} \cong \mathcal{E}_J$ .

- (2) *If further  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, then the corresponding statements hold for  $\mathcal{E}_0$ , and we abuse notation similarly.*

*Proof.* (1) By 4.7,  $\mathrm{pd}_{\hat{\Lambda}} \mathbb{F}A_J = 3$ , so since  $\mathbb{F}A_J$  is supported only at  $\mathfrak{m}$ , it follows that  $\mathbb{F}A_J$  is a perfect  $\Lambda$ -module. Since by 2.14,  $\mathcal{E}_J$  corresponds to  $\mathbb{F}A_J$  across the derived equivalence, it follows that  $\mathcal{E}_J$  is perfect on  $U_p$ . This in turn implies that  $i_* \mathcal{E}_J \in \mathrm{per}(X)$  and  $(ki)_* \mathcal{E}_J \in \mathrm{per}(\bar{X})$ , since we can check perfectness locally. Since  $\mathcal{E}_J$  has a finite filtration by objects  $\mathcal{O}_{C_j}(-1)$  for  $j \in J$ , it follows that  $\mathbf{R}i_* \mathcal{E}_J = i_* \mathcal{E}_J$  and  $\mathbf{R}(ki)_* \mathcal{E}_J =$

$(ki)_*\mathcal{E}_J$ . Lastly,  $\mathbb{F}A_J$  is supported only at  $\mathfrak{m}$ , so just as in [DW1, 6.6] the Serre functor on  $\Lambda$  acts trivially on  $\mathbb{F}A_J$ . Across the equivalence, by uniqueness of Serre functor this means that the Serre functor on  $U_p$  acts trivially on  $\mathcal{E}_J$ . This then implies (c), since

$$\mathcal{E}_J \otimes_X^L \omega_X \cong \mathbf{R}i_* \mathcal{E}_J \otimes_X^L \omega_X \cong \mathbf{R}i_*(\mathcal{E}_J \otimes_{U_p}^L i^* \omega_X) \cong \mathbf{R}i_*(\mathcal{E}_J \otimes_{U_p}^L \omega_{U_p}) \cong \mathbf{R}i_* \mathcal{E}_J \cong \mathcal{E}_J.$$

The proof of (d) is identical.

(2) The proof is identical to (1), using 4.9 instead to give  $\mathrm{pd}_{\hat{\Lambda}} A_0 = 3$ .  $\square$

The next result describes  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  and  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  on both  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} X)$  and  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  as ‘twists’ by fitting them into certain functorial triangles, and shows that they preserve the bounded derived categories.

**Proposition 5.9.** *With the setup as above, let  $\mathcal{X}$  denote either  $X$  or  $\bar{X}$ .*

(1) *For each  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_p\}$ , there exist adjunctions*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & G_J^{\mathrm{LA}} & \\ \swarrow & & \searrow \\ D(\mathrm{Mod} A_J) & \xrightarrow{G_J} & D(\mathrm{Qcoh} \mathcal{X}) \\ \nwarrow & & \nearrow \\ & G_J^{\mathrm{RA}} & \end{array}$$

where  $G_J := - \otimes_{A_J}^L \mathcal{E}_J$ . Furthermore:

(a) *For all  $x \in D(\mathrm{Qcoh} \mathcal{X})$ ,*

$$J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*(x) \rightarrow x \rightarrow G_J \circ G_J^{\mathrm{LA}}(x) \rightarrow$$

*is a triangle in  $D(\mathrm{Qcoh} \mathcal{X})$ .*

(b) *For all  $x \in D^-(\mathrm{coh} \mathcal{X})$ ,  $G_J^{\mathrm{LA}}(x) \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{A_J}(\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{X}}(-, \mathcal{E}_J), A_J)$ .*

(c)  *$J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  preserves the bounded derived category  $D^b(\mathrm{coh} \mathcal{X})$ .*

(2) *If further  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then there is a version of (1) for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$ .*

*Proof.* (1) This follows as in [DW1, (7.D), (7.E)], with the use of 5.8 above.

(a) This is shown as in [DW1, 7.4(1)].

(b) Exactly as in the proof of [DW1, (7.E)],  $G_J^{\mathrm{RA}} \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathcal{E}_J, -)$ . Further, setting

$$\alpha := \begin{cases} i & \text{if } \mathcal{X} = X, \\ ki & \text{if } \mathcal{X} = \bar{X}, \end{cases} \quad (5.J)$$

we have

$$G_J^{\mathrm{LA}} := \mathbb{F}^{-1} \circ (- \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \Lambda_J) \circ \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{U_p}(\mathcal{V}, -) \circ \alpha^*$$

where  $\mathbb{F}$  is the Morita equivalence between  $\mathrm{mod} \Lambda_J$  and  $\mathrm{mod} A_J$  induced from (4.A).

Thus the functor  $G_J^{\mathrm{LA}}$  takes  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} \mathcal{X})$  to  $D^-(\mathrm{mod} A_J)$ , and also takes  $D^b(\mathrm{coh} \mathcal{X})$  to  $D^b(\mathrm{mod} A_J)$ , since each individual functor does:  $\mathbb{F}^{-1}$  and  $\alpha^*$  since they are already exact,  $\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{U_p}(\mathcal{V}, -)$  since it is a tilting equivalence [TU, 3.3], and  $- \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \Lambda_J$  since  $\Lambda_J$  has finite projective dimension.

Since  $A_J$  is a self-injective algebra, we can now use duality as in [YZ, 1.3]. Denoting restriction of scalars from  $\Lambda_J$  to  $\Lambda$  by  $\text{res}$ , we see

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{RHom}_{A_J}(G_J^{\text{LA}}(-), A_J) &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_{\mathcal{X}}(-, \mathbf{R}\alpha_* \circ (- \otimes_{U_p}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{V}) \circ \text{res} \circ \mathbb{F}(A_J)) \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_{\mathcal{X}}(-, \mathbf{R}\alpha_* \mathcal{E}_J) && \text{(by (2.G))} \\ &\cong \mathbf{RHom}_{\mathcal{X}}(-, \mathcal{E}_J). \end{aligned}$$

But now being self-injective,  $A_J$  is clearly a dualising complex for  $\mathbf{D}(\text{Mod } A_J)$ , and so since  $G_J^{\text{LA}}(x) \in \mathbf{D}^-(\text{mod } A_J)$  for all  $x \in \mathbf{D}^-(\text{coh } \mathcal{X})$ , applying the dualising functor  $\mathbf{RHom}_{A_J}(-, A_J)$  gives the result.

(c) As remarked above,  $G_J^{\text{LA}}$  takes  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } \mathcal{X})$  to  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{mod } A_J)$ . The functor  $G_J$  takes the simple  $A_J$ -modules to the coherent sheaves  $E_i$ , hence since  $A_J$  is a finite-dimensional algebra, it follows that  $G_J$  takes  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{mod } A_J)$  to  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } \mathcal{X})$ . We conclude that the composition  $G_J \circ G_J^{\text{LA}}$  preserves  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } \mathcal{X})$ , and so since clearly the identity functor enjoys this property, by two-out-of-three, so does  $J\text{Twist}_p^*$ .

(2) is identical to the above, using all the corresponding properties of  $\mathcal{E}_0$  and  $A_0$ .  $\square$

#### 5.4. Projective twist and adjoints

The first difficulty in proving that our twist functors are equivalences, exactly as in [DW1, 7.7], is to produce adjoints. For this, we use recent work of Rizzardo [R15]. For a projective variety  $Z$ , denote the two projections from  $Z \times Z$  by  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  respectively.

**Theorem 5.10** ([R15]). *Suppose that  $Z$  is a projective variety, and that  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathbf{D}(\text{Qcoh } Z \times Z)$  is such that both*

$$F = \mathbf{R}\pi_{2*}(\mathcal{P} \otimes_{Z \times Z}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_1^*(-)) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{R}\pi_{1*}(\mathcal{P} \otimes_{Z \times Z}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_2^*(-))$$

*preserve  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } Z)$ . Then:*

- (1) *The functor  $F: \mathbf{D}(\text{Qcoh } Z) \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(\text{Qcoh } Z)$  admits both a left and right adjoint.*
- (2) *The left and right adjoints of  $F$  preserve  $\mathbf{D}^-(\text{coh } Z)$ .*
- (3) *The right adjoint of  $F$  furthermore preserves  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } Z)$ .*

*Proof.* Using the assumptions that the two functors preserve  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } Z)$ , by [R15, 5.3] we see that  $\mathcal{P}$  is both  $\pi_1$ - and  $\pi_2$ -perfect (for the definition of this, see [R15, 2.4]). In particular  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } Z \times Z)$ . Thus (1) follows immediately from [R15, 3.1, 4.1], with adjoints given by

$$F^{\text{LA}} := \mathbf{R}\pi_{1*}(\mathcal{P}^L \otimes_{Z \times Z}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_2^*(-)) \quad \text{and} \quad F^{\text{RA}} := \mathbf{R}\pi_{1*}(\mathcal{P}^R \otimes_{Z \times Z}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_2^*(-))$$

where  $\mathcal{P}^L := \mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}om_{Z \times Z}(\mathcal{P}, \pi_1^! \mathcal{O}_Z)$  and  $\mathcal{P}^R := \mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}om_{Z \times Z}(\mathcal{P}, \pi_2^! \mathcal{O}_Z)$ .

(2) Since  $\pi_1, \pi_2$  are projective and flat, it is well-known and easy to see that Fourier–Mukai functors preserve  $\mathbf{D}^-(\text{coh } Z)$  provided that their kernels belong to  $\mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } Z \times Z)$ . Thus it suffices to show that  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}^L, \mathcal{P}^R \in \mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } Z \times Z)$ . We know that  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathbf{D}^b(\text{coh } Z \times Z)$  by the above.

Next, recall by [AIL, 2.3.9] that for any morphism of schemes  $g: X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ , if  $\mathcal{R}$  is a perfect complex on  $X_2$  then  $\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{X_1}(-, g^!\mathcal{R})$  takes  $g$ -perfect complexes to  $g$ -perfect complexes. Thus  $\mathcal{P}^R$  is  $\pi_2$ -perfect and  $\mathcal{P}^L$  is  $\pi_1$ -perfect. By definition, this in particular means that  $\mathcal{P}^R, \mathcal{P}^L \in \mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} Z \times Z)$ .

(3) We know that  $F$  preserves  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} Z)$  by assumption. Since  $\mathcal{P}^R$  is  $\pi_2$ -perfect, and the functor  $F^{\mathrm{RA}}$  is defined by first pulling up using  $\pi_2^*$ , it follows again from [R15, 5.3] that  $F^{\mathrm{RA}}$  preserves  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} Z)$ .  $\square$

It is unclear in general whether both adjoints restrict to  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ , and so the next series of results are mainly concerned with properties of  $\mathrm{D}^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  instead of the more usual  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ .

**Corollary 5.11.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, and notation in (5.1):*

- (1)  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Qcoh} \bar{X}) \rightarrow \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Qcoh} \bar{X})$  has both left and right adjoints.
- (2)  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: \mathrm{D}^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X}) \rightarrow \mathrm{D}^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  has both left and right adjoints.
- (3)  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: \mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X}) \rightarrow \mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  has a right adjoint.

*In all cases, the right adjoint is  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p$ . If further  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then there are similar versions of (1)–(3) for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$ .*

*Proof.* With the notation of 5.7(1), write  $\mathcal{Q} := \mathbf{R}(ki \times ki)_* \mathcal{Q}_J$ , so there is a triangle

$$\mathcal{D}_J \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\Delta, \bar{X}} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \quad (5.K)$$

of FM kernels in  $\bar{X} \times \bar{X}$ . The proof of [DW1, 7.6(1)] shows that both

$$\mathbf{R}\pi_{2*}(\mathcal{Q} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_1^*(-)) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{R}\pi_{1*}(\mathcal{Q} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_2^*(-))$$

preserve  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ . Since the identity functor obviously preserves  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ , by two-out-of-three it follows that both  $\mathbf{R}\pi_{2*}(\mathcal{D}_J \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_1^*(-))$  and  $\mathbf{R}\pi_{1*}(\mathcal{D}_J \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}}^{\mathbf{L}} \pi_2^*(-))$  preserve  $\mathrm{D}^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ . Statements (1)–(3) then follow immediately from 5.10, and further as in the proof of 5.10 all the right adjoints are given by the kernel  $\mathcal{D}_J^R$ , which is precisely what defines  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p$ . The  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p$  version is identical.  $\square$

Using the above, we fit the  $J$ -twist into a functorial triangle, as we did for the inverse  $J$ -twist in 5.9(1)(a). This will be used in the proof that the inverse  $J$ -twist is an equivalence in 5.22.

**Corollary 5.12.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, and notation in (5.1), for all  $y \in \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Qcoh} \bar{X})$ , there is a functorial triangle*

$$\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\bar{X}}(\mathcal{E}_J, y) \otimes_{\mathcal{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J \rightarrow y \rightarrow J\mathrm{Twist}_p(y) \rightarrow .$$

*If further  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, there is a similar triangle for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p$ .*

*Proof.* By the above, all kernels in (5.K) have right adjoints given by applying  $(-)^R := \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\bar{X} \times \bar{X}}(-, \pi_2^! \mathcal{O}_{\bar{X}})$ . We know that  $\mathcal{D}_J^R$  gives  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p$ , and clearly the right adjoint of the identity functor is the identity. Further by 5.9 the FM functor given by  $\mathcal{Q}$  is  $G_J \circ G_J^{\mathrm{LA}}$ , and it has right adjoint  $G_J \circ G_J^{\mathrm{RA}}$ . Since  $G_J := - \otimes_{\mathcal{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J$ , it is clear that  $G_J \circ G_J^{\mathrm{RA}} \cong \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\bar{X}}(\mathcal{E}_J, -) \otimes_{\mathcal{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J$ .  $\square$



### 5.5. The projective twist is an equivalence

A formal consequence of the twist definition 5.4 is the following intertwinement lemma.

**Proposition 5.13.** *The following diagram is naturally commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 D(\mathrm{Qcoh} U_p) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}i_*} & D(\mathrm{Qcoh} X) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}k_*} & D(\mathrm{Qcoh} \bar{X}) \\
 \mathrm{FM}(\mathcal{W}_J) \downarrow & & \downarrow J\mathrm{Twist}_p^* & & \downarrow J\mathrm{Twist}_p^* \\
 D(\mathrm{Qcoh} U_p) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}i_*} & D(\mathrm{Qcoh} X) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}k_*} & D(\mathrm{Qcoh} \bar{X})
 \end{array}$$

If  $U_p$  is in addition  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, there is a similar diagram for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$ .

*Proof.* This is a standard application of Fourier–Mukai techniques, following [DW1, 7.8] line for line.  $\square$

Recall, for an object  $\mathcal{E} \in D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}^\perp := \{a \in D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X}) \mid \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\bar{X}}(\mathcal{E}, a) = 0\},$$

$${}^\perp\mathcal{E} := \{a \in D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X}) \mid \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\bar{X}}(a, \mathcal{E}) = 0\}.$$

Moreover  $\Omega \subseteq D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  is called a *spanning class* if, for any  $a \in D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ :

- (1)  $\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\bar{X}}(a, c) = 0$  for all  $c \in \Omega$  implies that  $a = 0$ .
- (2)  $\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\bar{X}}(c, a) = 0$  for all  $c \in \Omega$  implies that  $a = 0$ .

The following lemma will be used in 5.15 for the construction of a spanning class for  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ .

**Lemma 5.14.** *Suppose that  $Z$  is a projective variety, and let  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathrm{per}(Z)$  with  $\mathcal{P} \otimes_Z^{\mathbf{L}} \omega_Z \cong \mathcal{P}$ . Then for all  $a \in D^-(\mathrm{coh} Z)$ ,*

$$\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(a, \mathcal{P}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(\mathcal{P}, a) = 0.$$

*Proof.* If  $h: Z \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec} \mathbb{C}$  denotes the structure morphism, the statement follows since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(a, \mathcal{P}) = 0 &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(a, \mathcal{P} \otimes_Z^{\mathbf{L}} \omega_Z) = 0 && \text{(by assumption)} \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(\mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}om_Z(\mathcal{P}, a), \omega_Z) = 0 && (\mathcal{P} \text{ is perfect}) \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(\mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}om_Z(\mathcal{P}, a), h^!\mathbb{C}) = 0 && \text{(definition of } \omega_Z) \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(\mathcal{P}, a), \mathbb{C}) = 0 && \text{(Grothendieck duality)} \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(\mathcal{P}, a) = 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

where in the last step we have used [YZ, 1.3], namely that  $\mathbb{C}$  is clearly a dualising complex for  $D(\mathrm{Mod} \mathbb{C})$ , and  $\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_Z(\mathcal{P}, a)$  has finite-dimensional cohomology groups.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.15.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, and notation in (5.1):*

- (1)  $\mathcal{E}_J^\perp = {}^\perp\mathcal{E}_J$  in  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ .
- (2)  $\Omega := \mathcal{E}_J \cup \mathcal{E}_J^\perp$  is a spanning class of  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ .

If further  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, then  $\mathcal{E}_0^\perp = {}^\perp\mathcal{E}_0$  and  $\mathcal{E}_0 \cup \mathcal{E}_0^\perp$  is a spanning class of  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ .

*Proof.* By 5.8(1),  $\mathcal{E}_J$  satisfies the two hypotheses of 5.14, so part (1) follows. Part (2) is a formal consequence of (1) (see e.g. [DW1, 7.9]). The remaining statements follow in an identical way, since by 5.8(2),  $\mathcal{E}_0$  satisfies the two hypotheses of 5.14.  $\square$

The proof that  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  and  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  are autoequivalences on  $\bar{X}$  will use the spanning classes in 5.15, and the following lemma describes the action of the functors  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  and  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  on these classes.

**Lemma 5.16.** *With the setup as above, on  $D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ :*

- (1)  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  sends  $\mathcal{E}_J \mapsto \mathcal{E}_J[2]$ , and is functorially isomorphic to the identity on  $\mathcal{E}_J^\perp$ .
- (2) If further  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, then the same is true for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  with the subscript  $J$  replaced by 0.

*Proof.* We explain only (1), as (2) is similar. The last statement is a consequence of the functorial triangle in 5.9, and in addition of  $\mathcal{E}_J^\perp = {}^\perp \mathcal{E}_J$  by 5.15(1). The other statements follow by combining 5.3 with 5.13, after inverting the local twists appearing there.  $\square$

The following lemma gives appropriate sufficient conditions for a fully faithful functor to be an equivalence. The right adjoint version is used, as in [DW1], to show the equivalence property on  $\bar{X}$  in 5.18; the left adjoint version is used on  $X$  in 5.22.

**Lemma 5.17.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a triangulated category, and  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  an exact fully faithful functor with right adjoint  $F^{\mathrm{RA}}$  (respectively left adjoint  $F^{\mathrm{LA}}$ ). Suppose that there exists an object  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $F(c) \cong c[i]$  for some  $i$ , and further  $F(x) \cong x$  for all  $x \in c^\perp$  (respectively  $x \in {}^\perp c$ ). Then  $F$  is an equivalence.*

*Proof.* The right adjoint version is [DW1, 7.11]. The argument for the left adjoint version is identical: we give it here for the convenience of the reader.

First note that, by [H, 1.24],  $F$  fully faithful gives  $F^{\mathrm{LA}} \circ F \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{Id}$ , and thence we deduce that for all  $x \in {}^\perp c$ ,  $F^{\mathrm{LA}}(x) \cong x$ . Now by [H, 1.51],  $F$  is an equivalence if  $F^{\mathrm{LA}}(x) = 0$  implies  $x = 0$ . Supposing then that  $F^{\mathrm{LA}}(x) = 0$ , it suffices to show that  $x \in {}^\perp c$ . But

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, c[j]) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, F(c)[j-i]) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^{\mathrm{LA}}(x), c[j-i]) = 0,$$

and so the claim is proved.  $\square$

Combining the above gives the main result of this subsection.

**Theorem 5.18.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, and notation in (5.1), for any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_p\}$  the inverse  $J$ -twist*

$$J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: D^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X}) \rightarrow D^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$$

*is an equivalence. If furthermore  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, the same is true for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$ .*

*Proof.* We first establish that

$$F := J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X}) \rightarrow D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$$

is fully faithful. Since by 5.11 it has both left and right adjoints, and further by 5.15(2),  $\Omega := \mathcal{E}_J \cup \mathcal{E}_J^\perp \subseteq D^-(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  is a spanning class, by [H, 1.49] we just need to show that

$$F: \mathrm{Hom}_{D(\bar{X})}(a, b[i]) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{D(\bar{X})}(Fa, Fb[i]) \quad (5.L)$$

is a bijection for all  $a, b \in \Omega$  and all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Exactly as in [DW1, 7.12] this splits into four cases: the first case  $a = b = \mathcal{E}_J$  follows by the commutativity of 5.13, and in the second case  $a = \mathcal{E}_J, b \in \mathcal{E}_J^\perp$  it is obvious from 5.16 that both sides of (5.L) are zero. Similarly, in the third case  $a \in \mathcal{E}_J^\perp, b = \mathcal{E}_J$  both sides of (5.L) are zero by 5.16 and 5.15(1). The last case  $a, b \in \mathcal{E}_J^\perp$  follows since  $F$  is functorially isomorphic to the identity on  $\mathcal{E}_J^\perp$  by 5.16.

It follows that  $F$  is fully faithful, and so in particular its restriction to  $D^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  is fully faithful. But by 5.9(1)(c),  $F$  preserves  $D^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$ , so

$$F := J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: D^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X}) \rightarrow D^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$$

is fully faithful. But also by 5.11(3) this functor has a right adjoint, and so it is an equivalence by combining 5.17 with 5.16.

The proof for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  is identical, by using the  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  version of all the results referenced above.  $\square$

**Remark 5.19.** Since the assumptions on the singularities in 5.18 are local, the above gives more evidence for the conjecture [W, B.1], namely there is a flop equivalence if and only if  $\mathcal{E}$  is a perfect complex. The main point of the conjecture is that we should expect flop equivalences not by some global restriction on singularities, but instead by only assuming that  $\mathcal{E}$  is perfect, which is a local condition.

### 5.6. The quasi-projective twist is an equivalence

We next restrict the equivalences in the previous subsection to  $X$ . Since  $X$  is only quasi-projective, obtaining adjoints is tricky. Consequently we do not use a spanning class argument as in 5.18 (which requires both left and right adjoints) to prove the functors are equivalences on  $X$ ; instead we appeal to the theory of compactly generated triangulated categories. The following is standard.

**Corollary 5.20.** *With notation as in 5.18:*

- (1)  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: \mathrm{per}(\bar{X}) \rightarrow \mathrm{per}(\bar{X})$  is an equivalence.
- (2)  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*: D(\mathrm{Qcoh} \bar{X}) \rightarrow D(\mathrm{Qcoh} \bar{X})$  is an equivalence.

*If furthermore  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then the same is true for  $F\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$ .*

*Proof.* (1) This follows immediately since perfect complexes can be intrinsically characterised inside  $D^b(\mathrm{coh} \bar{X})$  as the homologically finite complexes [O, 1.11].

(2) We know that  $J\mathrm{Twist}_p^*$  is an exact functor between compactly generated triangulated categories with infinite coproducts, which preserves coproducts (since it is a Fourier–Mukai functor) and restricts to an equivalence on compact objects by (1). The result is a standard application of compactly generated triangulated categories (see e.g. [S01, 3.3]).  $\square$

The following lemma, which parallels 5.16, is used in the proof that the  $J$ -twist is an equivalence on  $X$ , and later in 6.1 and 6.5.

**Lemma 5.21.** *With the setup as above, on  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$ :*

- (1)  $J\text{Twist}_p^*$  sends  $\mathcal{E}_J \mapsto \mathcal{E}_J[2]$ ,  $E_j \mapsto E_j[2]$  for all  $j \in J$ , and is functorially isomorphic to the identity on  ${}^\perp \mathcal{E}_J$ .
- (2) If further  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, then the same is true for  $F\text{Twist}_p^*$  with the subscripts  $J$  and  $j$  replaced by 0.

*Proof.* We show (1), as (2) is similar. The last statement follows from the functorial triangle in 5.9. The other statements follow, as in 5.16, by combining 5.3 with 5.13.  $\square$

The following is the main result of this subsection.

**Theorem 5.22.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2,*

$$J\text{Twist}_p^*: D^b(\text{coh } X) \rightarrow D^b(\text{coh } X)$$

*is an equivalence. If furthermore  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then the same is true for  $F\text{Twist}_p^*$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $F := J\text{Twist}_p^*$  on  $X$ , and set  $\bar{F} := J\text{Twist}_p^*$  on  $\bar{X}$ . First,  $F$  preserves  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$  by 5.9(1)(c). Then by 5.13, for all  $a, b \in D^b(\text{coh } X)$  the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{D^b(\text{coh } X)}(a, b) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\mathbf{R}k_*} & \text{Hom}_{D(\bar{X})}(\mathbf{R}k_*a, \mathbf{R}k_*b) \\ \downarrow F & & \downarrow \bar{F} \\ \text{Hom}_{D^b(\text{coh } X)}(Fa, Fb) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\mathbf{R}k_*} & \text{Hom}_{D(\bar{X})}(\bar{F}\mathbf{R}k_*a, \bar{F}\mathbf{R}k_*b) \end{array}$$

commutes, where the upper and lower morphisms are isomorphisms since  $k$  is an open immersion, and the right-hand morphism is an isomorphism by 5.20. It follows that the left-hand morphism is an isomorphism, and so  $F$  is fully faithful.

To show that  $F$  is an equivalence, by 5.17 and 5.21 it suffices to show that  $F$  possesses a left adjoint that preserves  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$ . But since  $\mathbf{R}k_*$  is fully faithful,  $k^!\mathbf{R}k_* \cong \text{Id}$ , so by 5.13,

$$F \cong k^! \circ \bar{F} \circ \mathbf{R}k_*.$$

Now  $\bar{F}$  is an equivalence by 5.18, so its left adjoint coincides with its right adjoint, which is  $J\text{Twist}_p$  by 5.11. Thus  $F$  has a left adjoint on  $D(\text{Qcoh } X)$ , given by

$$F^{\text{LA}} \cong k^* \circ J\text{Twist}_p \circ \mathbf{R}k_*. \quad (5.M)$$

We claim that  $F^{\text{LA}}$  preserves  $D^b(\text{coh } X)$ , so let  $x \in D^b(\text{coh } X)$ . Applying the functorial triangle in 5.12 to  $\mathbf{R}k_*x$ , then applying  $k^*$ , results in the triangle

$$k^*(\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{\bar{X}}(\mathcal{E}_J, \mathbf{R}k_*x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_J}^L \mathcal{E}_J) \rightarrow x \rightarrow F^{\text{LA}}(x) \rightarrow, \quad (5.N)$$

where we have used  $k^* \mathbf{R}k_* \cong \text{Id}$  since  $\mathbf{R}k_*$  is fully faithful, and also (5.M). But

$$\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_J, \mathbf{R}k_* x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J \cong \mathbf{R}k_*(\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_J, x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J),$$

so again using  $k^* \mathbf{R}k_* \cong \text{Id}$  we see that the left-hand term in (5.N) is isomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_J, x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J$ , which clearly belongs to  $\text{D}^b(\text{coh } X)$ . By two-out-of-three applied to (5.N), we deduce that  $F^{\text{LA}}$  preserves  $\text{D}^b(\text{coh } X)$ , and so we are done.  $\square$

Since  $J\text{Twist}_p^*: \text{D}^b(\text{coh } X) \rightarrow \text{D}^b(\text{coh } X)$  is an equivalence, we define  $J\text{Twist}_p$  to be its right adjoint, and likewise for  $J\text{Twist}$ . Similarly if  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial,  $F\text{Twist}_p^*$  is an equivalence on  $X$ , so we define  $F\text{Twist}_p$  to be its right adjoint. The following is a completely standard application of adjoint functors of equivalences, together with (5.N).

**Corollary 5.23.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2:*

- (1) *For any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n_p\}$ , the  $J$ -twist*

$$J\text{Twist}_p: \text{D}^b(\text{coh } X) \rightarrow \text{D}^b(\text{coh } X)$$

*is an equivalence. If  $U_p$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then the same is true for  $F\text{Twist}_p$ .*

- (2) *When the twists are defined, there are functorial triangles*

$$\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_J, x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J \rightarrow x \rightarrow J\text{Twist}_p(x) \rightarrow,$$

$$\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_0, x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_0}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow x \rightarrow F\text{Twist}_p(x) \rightarrow.$$

- (3) *For a general  $J$  as in 5.5,  $J\text{Twist}$  is an equivalence, and if  $X$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial then so is  $F\text{Twist}$ .*

The following result is used in the next subsection to compare autoequivalences.

**Corollary 5.24.** *The  $J$ -twist  $J\text{Twist}_p$  commutes with the pushdown  $\mathbf{R}f_*$ , i.e.*

$$\mathbf{R}f_* \circ J\text{Twist}_p \cong \mathbf{R}f_*.$$

*Proof.* This is shown by the method of [DW1, 7.15]. The key point is that  $\mathcal{E}_J$  is filtered by the  $E_j$ , and so  $\mathbf{R}f_* \mathcal{E}_J = 0$ .  $\square$

## 6. The autoequivalence group

In this final section we complete our study of the  $J$ -twist and fibre twist autoequivalences defined in §5. We show first that the  $J$ -twist gives an intrinsic characterisation of the inverse of the flop-flop functor, when the latter exists. This result is used to produce, in 6.3, a group action on the derived category in the general case where individual curves are not necessarily floppable. Finally in §6.2 we compare the two twists, and characterise circumstances in which they are conjugate.

### 6.1. $J$ -twists and group actions

The input to this subsection is a flopping contraction in the global quasi-projective flops setup  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2. We will sometimes restrict the singularities of  $X$  to be Gorenstein terminal, but we will only do this if we need to ensure that the flop functor is an equivalence [C02].

**Proposition 6.1.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, suppose that  $X$  has only Gorenstein terminal singularities and a subset  $J$  of the exceptional curves flops algebraically (e.g. when  $J$  equals all exceptional curves). Then  $J\text{Twist} \circ (F_J \circ F_J) \cong \text{Id}$ .*

*Proof.* Since the curves in  $J$  flop algebraically, there exists some factorisation of  $f$  into

$$X \xrightarrow{g} X_J \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$$

where  $g$  is a flopping contraction. First, note that  $\{E_j \mid j \in J\}$  generates

$$\mathcal{C}_g := \{c \in D^b(\text{coh } X) \mid \mathbf{R}g_*c = 0\},$$

since  $\mathcal{C}_g$  splits as a direct sum over the points  $p$  of the non-isomorphism locus of  $g$ , so we may follow the argument of [KIWY, 5.3].

We next argue that  $\Psi := J\text{Twist} \circ (F_J \circ F_J)$  preserves  ${}^0\text{Per}(X, X_J)$ , since the remainder of the proof then follows exactly as in [DW1, 7.18]. For this, note that

$$J\text{Twist}(E_j) = E_j[-2] \tag{6.A}$$

for all  $j \in J$ , since

$$J\text{Twist}_p(E_j) = \begin{cases} E_j[-2] & \text{if } C_j \in g^{-1}(p), \\ E_j & \text{if } C_j \notin g^{-1}(p), \end{cases}$$

where the top line holds by 5.21, and the bottom by 5.23(2) since if  $C_j \notin g^{-1}(p)$ , then  $E_j \in (i_{p*}\mathcal{E}_{J_p})^\perp$ . On the other hand,

$$(F_J \circ F_J)(E_j) = E_j[2] \tag{6.B}$$

for all  $j \in J$ , by using the description in [T08, §3(i)] of the action of the flop on the sheaves  $E_j = \mathcal{O}_{C_j}(-1)$ , noting a correction given in [T14, Appendix B] to the sign of the shift in [B02]. Combining (6.A) and (6.B), we find that  $\Psi$  fixes the set  $\{E_j \mid j \in J\}$  and thus preserves  $\mathcal{C}_g$ .

Next we note that  $\Psi$  commutes with the pushdown  $\mathbf{R}g_*$ . This follows because  $J\text{Twist}_p$  commutes with the pushdown by 5.24, and the flop-flop commutes with the pushdown exactly as in [DW1, 7.16(1)]. It then follows by the argument of [DW1, 7.17] that  $\Psi$  preserves  ${}^0\text{Per}(X, X_J)$ .

Finally, by combining as in [DW1, 7.16(2)], we see that  $\Psi(\mathcal{O}_X) \cong \mathcal{O}_X$ . By using this, and the fact that  $\Psi$  commutes with the pushdown  $\mathbf{R}g_*$  as noted above, the proof now follows just as in [DW1, 7.18].  $\square$

We next give a group action for any algebraic flopping contraction in the global setup of 2.2.

**Proposition 6.2.** *Under the Zariski local setup 2.3, or the global setup of 2.2:*

- (1)  $J\text{Twist}(\mathcal{O}_x) \cong \mathcal{O}_x$  for all  $x \notin \bigcup_{j \in J} C_j$ .
- (2) Choose  $p \in \text{Ram } f$  and a collection  $J_1, \dots, J_m$  of subsets of  $\{1, \dots, n_p\}$ . If the twists  $J_1\text{Twist}_p, \dots, J_m\text{Twist}_p$  satisfy some relation on the formal fibre above  $p$ , then they satisfy the same relation Zariski locally.

*Proof.* We give the proof in the Zariski local setup 2.3, since the proof in the global setup is obtained by simply replacing  $U$  by  $X$  throughout.

(1) Since  $\mathcal{E}_J$  is filtered by  $\mathcal{O}_{C_j}(-1)$  with  $j \in J$ , it follows that  $\mathbf{RHom}_U(\mathcal{E}_J, \mathcal{O}_x) = 0$  for all  $x \notin \bigcup_{j \in J} C_j$ , since  $x \notin \text{Supp } \mathcal{E}_J$  [BM, 5.3]. Thus, the triangle

$$\mathbf{RHom}_U(\mathcal{E}_J, \mathcal{O}_x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_J \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_x \rightarrow J\text{Twist}(\mathcal{O}_x) \rightarrow$$

implies that  $J\text{Twist}(\mathcal{O}_x) \cong \mathcal{O}_x$ .

(2) Suppose that the relation on the formal fibre above  $p$  can be written as

$$(J_{i_1}\text{Twist}_p)^{a_1} \dots (J_{i_\ell}\text{Twist}_p)^{a_\ell} \cong \text{Id} \quad (6.C)$$

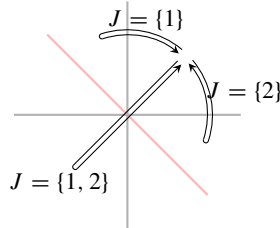
for some  $a_1, \dots, a_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$  and some  $i_1, \dots, i_\ell \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ . We again track skyscrapers. By (1), certainly the skyscrapers not supported on  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n_p} C_i$  are fixed under the left-hand side of (6.C), so we need only track the skyscrapers on  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n_p} C_i$ . As in the latter stages of the proof of 3.14, we can do this by passing to the formal fibre, and by assumption we know that the relation (6.C) holds there. Hence on the formal fibre these skyscrapers are fixed under the left-hand side of (6.C). Thus overall every skyscraper  $\mathcal{O}_x$  gets sent to some skyscraper under the left-hand side of (6.C), so since the twists commute with pushdown, as before it follows that the relation holds Zariski locally.  $\square$

Combining 5.6 with 6.2(2) shows that globally we can still view the  $J$ -twists as a subgroup of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$ . Since the  $J$ -twists are equivalences by 5.18, this then immediately gives the following, which is our main result.

**Corollary 6.3.** *With the global quasi-projective flops setup  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of 2.2, the subgroup  $K$  of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$  generated by the  $J$ -twists, as  $J$  ranges over all subsets of curves, acts on  $\text{D}^b(\text{coh } X)$ .*

We remark that the subgroup  $K$  can equal  $\pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$ , as the following example illustrates. As stated in the introduction, it is unclear in what level of generality this holds, and indeed this seems to be an interesting problem, both geometrically and group-theoretically.

**Example 6.4.** Consider an algebraic flopping contraction  $X \rightarrow X_{\text{con}}$  of two intersecting curves contracting to a  $cA_n$  singularity. In this situation the chamber structure and subgroup  $K$  are illustrated as follows:



Thus inside  $\pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$ , which is the pure braid group on three strands,  $K = \langle a^2, b^2, (aba)^2 \rangle$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are the standard braids in the classical presentation of the braid group. Now

$f := a^2ba^2b = ababab = (aba)^2 \in K$ , and hence also  $a^{-2}fb^{-2} = ba^2b^{-1} \in K$ . But it is well-known that the pure braid group is generated by  $a^2$ ,  $b^2$ , and  $ba^2b^{-1}$  (see e.g. [BB, p. 5]), and hence  $K = \pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$  in this case.

Similarly, it is possible to show that  $K = \pi_1(\mathbb{G}_{\mathcal{H}})$  for the  $A_3$  hyperplane arrangement.

## 6.2. Conjugacy of twists

It follows immediately from 6.1 that  $J\text{Twist}$  lies in the image of the homomorphism in 1.2. This cannot hold for  $F\text{Twist}$ , as it does not commute with the pushdown along the contraction  $\mathbf{R}f_*$ . Nevertheless we might ask whether  $F\text{Twist}$  lies in the subgroup generated by this image and twists by line bundles, and furthermore whether the two twists are ever conjugate. In the simplest case, for a smooth rational curve of type  $A$ , we find that the two twists may indeed be conjugate by a certain line bundle. When such a curve is not of type  $A$ , however, we show that the two twists are never related in this way. As stated in the introduction, the functor  $F\text{Twist}$  is not expected to be related to the flop-flop functor in general, instead it is expected to be the affine element in some (pure) braid action. Because of the intricacy of the combinatorics, we will return to this more general affine action in the future.

**Theorem 6.5.** *In the global quasi-projective flops setup of 2.2, for a contraction of a single irreducible curve to a point  $p$ , where in addition  $U$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, there exists a functorial isomorphism*

$$F\text{Twist}(x \otimes \mathcal{F}) \cong J\text{Twist}(x) \otimes \mathcal{F}$$

for some line bundle  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$  if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1) The point  $p$  is  $cDV$  of type  $A$ .
- (2) There exists a line bundle  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$  such that  $\deg(\mathcal{F}|_{f^{-1}(p)}) = -1$ .

*Proof.* By assumption  $J = \{1\}$ , corresponding to the single irreducible curve in the fibre  $C = f^{-1}(p)$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) We require a natural isomorphism of functors

$$F\text{Twist} \cong (- \otimes \mathcal{F}) \circ J\text{Twist} \circ (- \otimes \mathcal{F}^{-1}) =: J\text{Twist}_{\mathcal{F}}. \quad (6.D)$$

Observe that, by 5.23(2), there are functorial triangles for all  $x \in D(\text{Qcoh } X)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_0, x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_0}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{E}_0 &\rightarrow x \rightarrow F\text{Twist}(x) \rightarrow, \\ \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_X(\mathcal{E}_J \otimes \mathcal{F}, x) \otimes_{\mathbf{A}_J}^{\mathbf{L}} (\mathcal{E}_J \otimes \mathcal{F}) &\rightarrow x \rightarrow J\text{Twist}_{\mathcal{F}}(x) \rightarrow. \end{aligned}$$

By the arguments of [DW1, §3] (see also [DW2]), the objects  $\mathcal{E}_0$  and  $\mathcal{E}_J$  are universal families, corresponding to the representing objects  $\mathbf{A}_0$  and  $\mathbf{A}_J$  respectively, for the non-commutative deformations of

$$E_0 = \omega_C[1] \quad \text{and} \quad E_1 = \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}(-1).$$



Under our assumption (1), we have  $C = C^{\text{red}} \cong \mathbb{P}^1$ , and so  $\omega_C \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(-2)$ , and thence by (2),

$$E_0 \cong E_1 \otimes \mathcal{F}[1].$$

The functor  $(- \otimes \mathcal{F})[1]$  is an equivalence, and so we obtain an isomorphism of representing objects  $A_0 \cong A_J$ , and an isomorphism of universal families

$$\mathcal{E}_0 \cong \mathcal{E}_J \otimes \mathcal{F}[1], \quad (6.E)$$

respecting the module structures over the algebras  $A_0$  and  $A_J$ . We thus obtain isomorphisms between the objects in the functorial triangles above, and the natural isomorphism (6.D) follows.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose as in the statement that the twists are conjugate by some line bundle  $\mathcal{F}$ . It will be more convenient to work with perverse coherent sheaves in the category  ${}^{-1}\text{Per}$ , and so we conjugate by the dualising functor  $\mathbb{D}$  to find

$$(\mathbb{D} J \text{Twist } \mathbb{D}^{-1}) \circ (- \otimes \mathcal{F}) \cong (- \otimes \mathcal{F}) \circ (\mathbb{D} F \text{Twist } \mathbb{D}^{-1}).$$

Recall that  $\mathbb{D}$  exchanges  $E_0 = \omega_C[1]$  and  $\mathcal{O}_C$  [V, 3.5.8], so that by 5.21 we have

$$(\mathbb{D} F \text{Twist } \mathbb{D}^{-1})(\mathcal{O}_C) \cong \mathcal{O}_C[2].$$

It follows immediately that

$$(\mathbb{D} J \text{Twist } \mathbb{D}^{-1})(\mathcal{O}_C \otimes \mathcal{F}) \cong \mathcal{O}_C \otimes \mathcal{F}[2].$$

The functor  $\mathbb{D} J \text{Twist } \mathbb{D}^{-1}$  commutes with the pushdown  $\mathbf{R}f_*$ , by the argument of 5.24. The key point there was that  $\mathbf{R}f_* \mathcal{E}_J = 0$ , whereas here we use  $\mathbf{R}f_*(\mathbb{D} \mathcal{E}_J) = 0$ , which is obtained from relative Serre duality, as stated for instance in [DW1, 6.17]. We then deduce that  $\mathbf{R}f_*(\mathcal{O}_C \otimes \mathcal{F}) = 0$  by boundedness. As in §2.4 we may work complete locally around  $p$ , on a formal fibre  $\mathfrak{U}$ . It follows by base change that

$$\mathbf{R}f_*(\mathcal{O}_C \otimes \mathcal{F}|_{\mathfrak{U}}) = 0. \quad (6.F)$$

We now analyse this pushdown via the tilting equivalence on  $\mathfrak{U}$ , and use its vanishing to control the degree of  $\mathcal{F}$  on the contracted curve  $C$ .

From §2.4, we see that  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{U}} \oplus \mathcal{N}_1$  is a tilting bundle on  $\mathfrak{U}$ , so its dual  $\mathcal{W} := \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{U}} \oplus \mathcal{M}_1$  is also a tilting bundle, and so gives an equivalence

$$\text{D}^b(\text{coh } \mathfrak{U}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Phi = \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{U}}(\mathcal{W}, -)} \\ \sim \\ \xleftarrow{\Psi} \end{array} \text{D}^b(\text{mod } A^{\text{op}}).$$

We will place the natural surjection  $\mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}$  into a distinguished triangle, by passing through the equivalence  $\Phi$ .

Recall that there is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{U}}^{\oplus(r-1)} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{L} \rightarrow 0$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  is a line bundle having degree 1 on  $C^{\text{red}}$ , and  $r \geq 1$ , with  $r = 1$  occurring precisely when  $p$  is cDV of type  $A$ . We see immediately from the standard calculation of the cohomology of line bundles on  $C^{\text{red}} \cong \mathbb{P}^1$  that  $\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}) = 0$ , and we thence deduce that

$$\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{U}}, \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}) = \mathbb{C}, \quad \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{M}_1, \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}) = \mathbb{C}^{r-1}.$$

In particular,  $\Phi(\mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}})$  is a module in degree zero, which when viewed as a quiver representation has  $\mathbb{C}$  at the vertex 0, and  $\mathbb{C}^{r-1}$  at the vertex 1.

As  $\Phi$  is an equivalence,  $\Phi(\mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}})$  is a nonzero morphism. But  $\Phi(\mathcal{O}_C) = S_0$ , which is just  $\mathbb{C}$  at the vertex 0, and so this is simply a nonzero morphism between representations. Since  $\Phi(\mathcal{O}_C)$  is one-dimensional, necessarily this is injective, so we set  $\mathcal{G}$  to be the cokernel and so obtain an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{O}_C) \rightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \rightarrow 0.$$

By the above,  $\mathcal{G}$  is a module with a filtration consisting of  $r - 1$  copies of  $S_1$ . Applying  $\Psi$  we get a triangle

$$\mathcal{H} := \Psi(\mathcal{G})[-1] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}} \rightarrow \quad (6.G)$$

where  $\mathcal{H}$  is a sheaf with a filtration consisting of  $r - 1$  copies of  $\Psi(S_1)[-1] \cong \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}(-1)$ .

Tensoring (6.G) by  $\mathcal{F}|_{\mathcal{U}}$ , and writing  $d = \deg(\mathcal{F}|_{C^{\text{red}}})$  for convenience, we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(d) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_C \otimes \mathcal{F}|_{\mathcal{U}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}(d) \rightarrow 0$$

where as above  $\mathcal{H}$  is filtered by objects  $\mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}(-1)$ . Applying  $\mathbf{R}f_*$ , and using the cohomology vanishing (6.F), we find

$$\mathbf{R}f_*(\mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}(d)) \cong \mathbf{R}f_*(\mathcal{H}(d))[1].$$

We now make further use of the cohomology of line bundles on  $C^{\text{red}} \cong \mathbb{P}^1$  to deduce our result. The fibres of  $f$  are at most one-dimensional, so  $\mathbf{R}^{>1}f_*(\mathcal{H}(d)) = 0$ , and therefore  $\mathbf{R}^1f_*(\mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}(d)) = 0$ , which implies  $d \geq -1$ . Suppose, for a contradiction, that furthermore  $d \geq 0$ . Then, using the filtration of  $\mathcal{H}$ , we find that  $\mathbf{R}^{>0}f_*(\mathcal{H}(d)) = 0$  whereas  $f_*(\mathcal{O}_{C^{\text{red}}}(d)) \neq 0$ . It follows that  $d = -1$ , yielding (2). We then have  $\mathbf{R}f_*(\mathcal{H}(-1)) = 0$ , forcing  $\mathcal{H} = 0$ , so that  $r = 1$ , giving (1).  $\square$

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