

Intersection Alexander polynomials

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Abstract

By considering a (not necessarily locally-flat) PL knot as the singular locus of a PL stratified pseudomanifold, we can use intersection homology theory to define *intersection Alexander polynomials*, a generalization of the classical Alexander polynomial invariants for smooth or PL locally-flat knots. We show that the intersection Alexander polynomials satisfy certain duality and normalization conditions analogous to those of ordinary Alexander polynomials, and we explore the relationships between the intersection Alexander polynomials and certain generalizations of the classical Alexander polynomials that are defined for non-locally-flat knots. We also investigate the relations between the intersection Alexander polynomials of a knot and the intersection and classical Alexander polynomials of the link knots around the singular strata. To facilitate some of these investigations, we introduce spectral sequences for the computation of the intersection homology of certain stratified bundles.

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1 Introduction

In [2], Cappell and Shaneson adapted the theory of intersection homology to study stratified manifolds with embedded subpseudomanifolds as the singular loci. In particular, if we consider the case of a knot K given by a PL-sphere pair $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$, we can think of S^n as a stratified manifold with singular locus $K \cong S^{n-2}$. If we choose a local coefficient system Γ defined on $S^n - K$ with stalks $\Gamma = \mathbb{Q}[\mathbb{Z}] = \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$ and action of the fundamental group given so that $\alpha \in \pi_1(S^n - K)$ acts on Γ by multiplication by $t^{\ell_K(\alpha)}$, where $\ell_K(\alpha)$ is the linking number of α with the knot K (see [5, Section 4.3]), then following [10] and [2], we can define the intersection homology groups $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$. These will be torsion Γ -modules, and we can study their associated polynomials $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t)$, which, following Cappell and Shaneson, we will call the *intersection Alexander polynomials*. As we shall see, these polynomials possess interesting properties of their own as well as some relations with the ordinary Alexander polynomials of non-locally-flat knots as studied in the author's dissertation (see [7] and [5]).

The structure of this paper is as follows:

Section 2 consists of some algebraic preliminaries that will be of use, while Sections 3 and 4 contain some introductory material concerning our approach to intersection homology theory.

In Section 5, we apply the superduality results of Cappell and Shaneson [2] to show that the intersection Alexander polynomials possess a duality analogous to that for traditional Alexander polynomials:

Theorem 1.1 (Theorem 5.1). *Let $K \cong S^{n-2} \subset S^n$ be a knot, not necessarily locally-flat, and let \bar{p} and \bar{q} be a superdual perversity and superperversity as defined in [2], i.e. $\bar{p}(k) + \bar{q}(k) = k - 1$ for all $k \geq 2$. Then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim I\lambda_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}}(t^{-1})$, where \sim denotes similarity in Γ .*

Note that (again following Cappell and Shaneson) we allow intersection homology modules defined by the Deligne process ([10],[4]) to have *superperversities*, i.e. perversities \bar{q} such that $\bar{q}(2) = 1$. In Section 4, we show that these superperverse intersection homology modules do *not* necessarily agree with those obtained from the geometric (simplicial or singular) intersection homology theories. By contrast, it is known that the theories do agree for traditional perversities, \bar{p} , which satisfy $\bar{p}(2) = 0$. Theorem 1.1 allows us to concentrate on the traditional perversity polynomials for the remainder of the paper, since the corresponding results for the superperverse polynomials can be obtained by duality. Thus for the remainder of this introduction, the perversity \bar{p} refers to a traditional perversity with $\bar{p}(2) = 0$.

In Section 6, we obtain a normalization condition on the $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$. Suppose that γ is an element of Γ . Recall that there is an element, say $\bar{\gamma}$, in the similarity class of Γ which is primitive in $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}] = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$, i.e. the coefficients are relatively prime (though not necessarily pairwise so), and this element is unique up to similarity class in Λ (see, e.g., [16] or [5]). We will say that γ is a polynomial of Alexander type if $\bar{\gamma}(1) = \pm 1$. Another classical property of the Alexander polynomials of locally-flat knots $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$ is that they are of Alexander type for $0 < i < n - 1$ ([16]). In fact, this is also true of the Alexander polynomials of knots which are not locally flat ([5], [7]), where in this case the polynomials are again defined to be those associated to the modules $H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. We show that the same property holds for intersection Alexander polynomials:

Theorem 1.2 (Theorem 6.1). *For any PL-knot $K \cong S^{n-2} \subset S^n$, not necessarily locally-flat, and traditional perversity \bar{p} , $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ is of Alexander type for $i > 0$, $I\lambda_0^{\bar{p}} \sim t - 1$, and $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim 1$ for $0 \neq i \geq n - 1$.*

This is proven by a double induction on the dimension of the knot and the codimension of the strata, using the results of [5] on the “ordinary” Alexander polynomials of knots as the “base step”.

In Section 7, we compare the intersection Alexander polynomials with the “ordinary” Alexander polynomials in several interesting cases. For locally-flat knots, we see, not surprisingly, that they are identical, i.e. $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \lambda_i$. For a knot with a point singularity, we obtain a more complicated relationship between the intersection Alexander polynomials and the ordinary Alexander polynomials. It will be useful to introduce some notation from [7] and [5]. Let D be the open regular neighborhood of the singular point of the embedding. Then the complement of D in the pair (S^n, S^{n-2}) is a locally flat disk knot bounded by a locally-flat sphere knot, which is the link knot around the singular point. Furthermore, the knot complement $S^n - K$ is homotopy equivalent to the complement of the induced disk knot (see [5, §3] for details). We can then define Alexander polynomials λ_i , ν_i , and μ_i associated to the homology modules of the disk knot complement C , the boundary sphere knot complement X , and the pair (C, X) . Note that the λ_i also represent the Alexander polynomials of the sphere knot K and the ν_i are just the usual Alexander polynomials of the locally-flat link knot. Furthermore, these polynomials factor into terms which they share, i.e. we can write $\nu_i \sim a_i b_i$, $\lambda_i \sim b_i c_i$ and $\mu_i \sim c_i a_{i-1}$. (Analogous polynomials can be defined for any PL knots; see [5], [7], and Section 7.3 below.) In this language, we obtain the following formula:

Proposition 1.3 (Proposition 7.2). *With the notation as above, the intersection Alexander*

der polynomial of a knot K embedded with a single point singularity is given by

$$I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \begin{cases} \lambda_i(t), & i < n - 1 - \bar{p}(n) \\ c_i(t), & i = n - 1 - \bar{p}(n) \\ \mu_i(t), & i > n - 1 - \bar{p}(n). \end{cases}$$

Notice how this provides a nice example of the sort of filtering of ordinary homology theories that we often see in intersection homology as we run through a range of perversities.

More generally, if the singularity of the embedding consists of only one connected singular stratum, Σ , of any dimension, then this will be a closed manifold. In this case, the open regular neighborhood $N(\Sigma)$ will be a block bundle pair with blocks of the form $D^i \times c(S^k, S^{k-2})$, the product of a disk with the open cone on a locally-flat knot pair (the *link pair*). If we make the further assumption that $N(\Sigma) \cong \Sigma \times c(S^k, S^{k-2})$, a product, then we obtain similar explicit, but more complicated, filtering formulae:

$$I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \mathbf{a}_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t) \mathbf{b}_i^{< k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t) c_i(t),$$

where $\mathbf{a}_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ is a polynomial which divides $a_{i-1}(t)$ and $\mathbf{b}_i^{< k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ is a polynomial which divides $b_i(t)$. See Section 7.3 for the exact definitions of these polynomials.

In Section 8, we continue to assume that that the singular set Σ is a manifold, but we no longer assume that its neighborhood can be written as a product. We then obtain some relationships between the prime divisors of the intersection Alexander polynomials and those of both the ordinary Alexander polynomials of the knot and to the Alexander polynomials of the locally-flat knotted link pair. At first, we assume $N(\Sigma)$ can be given the structure of a fiber bundle pair with fiber given by the cone on the link knot pair (so that the neighborhood will in fact be tubular). Then, as a tool to obtain our results, we develop the hypercohomology spectral sequence of a Leray intersection homology sheaf associated to the bundle neighborhood:

Proposition 1.4 (Proposition 8.2). *Let (E, B, F, π) be a fiber bundle with base space B a manifold, total space E , paracompact stratified fiber F , and projection π such that for sufficiently small open $U \subset B$, $\pi^{-1}(U) \cong U \times F$, where the stratification is given by $F_i \times U$, F_i the strata of F . Then, for any fixed perversity \bar{p} which we omit from the notation, there is a spectral sequence abutting to the sheaf intersection cohomology $IH_c^i(E; \Gamma)$ with E_2 term*

$$E_2^{p,q} = H_c^p(B; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)),$$

where $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^i(F; \Gamma|F)$ is a local coefficient system (sheaf) with stalks $IH_c^i(F; \Gamma|F)$.

Using this proposition, we prove the following theorems at first under the assumption that the singularity Σ has such a bundle neighborhood. However, by invoking some further results from [7] and [6], we later argue that the theorems holds for any knots in which the singular set of the embedding consists of only one singular stratum. We state the theorems here in their full generality; the versions with the fiber bundle assumption occur in the text as Theorems 8.4 and 8.5:

Theorem 1.5. *Let K be a non-locally flat knot with singularity $\Sigma = \Sigma_{n-k-1}$ a manifold. Let ξ_j be the Alexander polynomials of the locally-flat link knot ℓ which is given by the link pair of Σ in S^n . Let \bar{p} be a traditional perversity. Then, for $0 < i < n - 1$ and for any prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$, $\gamma | I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ only if $\gamma | c_i$ or $\gamma | \xi_s$ for some s such that $0 \leq i - s \leq n - k$ and $0 < s < k - 1$. In other words, the prime factors of c_i and ξ_s , s in the allowable range, are the only possible prime factors of $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$.*

Theorem 1.6. *With the same hypotheses, suppose γ is a prime element of Γ which does not divide $\lambda_i(t)$. Suppose $\gamma | \xi_s$ only if $s < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$. Then $\gamma \nmid I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$.*

The polynomial c_i mentioned in these theorems is a factor of the polynomial corresponding to the torsion Γ -module $H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. If Σ is a point singularity, this is the same c_i as that in Proposition 1.3. See [5] and Section 7.3 below for more details.

As a corollary to these theorems, we can determine some cases in which the intersection Alexander polynomial agrees with one of the ordinary Alexander polynomials:

Corollary 1.7 (Corollary 8.10). *For a knot $K \subset S^n$ with a manifold singularity of dimension $n - k - 1$:*

1. *If $i < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \lambda_i(t)$.*
2. *If $\bar{p}(k + 1) \leq 1$ or if $H_i(S^k - \ell; \Gamma) = 0$ for $i \geq j$ and $\bar{p}(k + 1) \leq k - j$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \lambda_i(t)$ for all i .*
3. *If $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k + 1) + 1$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \mu_i(t)$.*

Once again, the polynomial $\mu_i(t)$ is analogous to that in Proposition 1.3 (see [5] and below).

Finally, in Section 9, we develop some relations between the intersection Alexander polynomials of a knot, its ordinary Alexander polynomials, and both the intersection and ordinary Alexander polynomials of its link knots. We show the following:

Theorem 1.8 (Theorem 9.5). *Let ξ_{iks} denote the s th intersection Alexander polynomial of the link $L_{i,k}$ of the k th connected component $X_{i,k}$ of the i th stratum $X_i = \Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}$ of a knot. A prime element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ divides the intersection Alexander polynomial $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ only if $\gamma | \lambda_j$ or $\gamma | \xi_{iks}$ for some set of indices i, k , and s such that $0 \leq j - s \leq i - 1$ and $0 \leq s < n - i - 2$. Furthermore, $\gamma \nmid I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ if, for all i, k , $\gamma | \xi_{iks}$ only if $s < n - i - 1 - \bar{p}(n - i)$.*

Theorem 1.9 (Theorem 9.8). *Let ζ_{iks} be the s th ordinary Alexander polynomial of the link knot pair $L_{i,k}$. A prime element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ divides the s th intersection Alexander polynomial $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ only if $\gamma | \lambda_j$ or $\gamma | \zeta_{iks}$ for some set of indices i, k , and s , such that $0 \leq j - s \leq i - 1$ and $0 \leq s < n - i - 2$.*

We also obtain some results on the maximal powers to which prime divisors of the intersection Alexander polynomials can occur:

Theorem 1.10 (Theorem 9.7). *Let γ_{ipq} be the maximal power to which the prime γ occurs as a divisor of the polynomial e_{ipq} of $H_p(\Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L; \Gamma))$ (see Section 9 for a description of the local coefficient system $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L; \Gamma)$ whose fibers are the intersection homology modules of the link knots of the stratum $\Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}$). In other words, $\gamma^{\gamma_{ipq}} | e_{ipq}$, but $\gamma^{\gamma_{ipq}+1} \nmid e_{ipq}$. Let*

γ_i denote the maximal power to which γ occurs in the Alexander polynomial λ_i of the knot K . The prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$ cannot occur in the polynomial $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ to a power greater than

$$\gamma_j + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \left(\sum_{\substack{p+q=j \\ q=0, q < n-i-1-\bar{p}(n-i)}} \gamma_{ipq} \right) + \left(\sum_{p+q=j-1} \gamma_{ipq} \right).$$

This work originally appeared in the author's dissertation [7] as part of a general program to study polynomial invariants of PL-knots which are not locally-flat (see also [5]). I thank my advisor, Sylvain Cappell, for all of his generous and invaluable guidance.

2 Polynomial algebra

In this section, we provide some basic results on what we call *polynomial algebra*. The polynomials in question are those associated with torsion modules over the principle ideal domain of rational Laurent polynomials $\Gamma := \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$. In particular, given such a module, we can take as the associated polynomial the determinant of a square presentation matrix or, equivalently, the product of its torsion coefficients. So if the Γ -torsion module M has the form $\bigoplus_i \Gamma/(p_i)$, $p_i \in \Gamma$, then the associated polynomial is $\prod_i p_i$. Our main interest is in the relations that occur between such polynomials associated to torsion modules in exact sequences. A detailed study is given in [7] and [5]. Here, we simply summarize the results that we will need and prove one additional lemma.

Let $\Gamma = \mathbb{Q}[\mathbb{Z}] = \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$ be the ring of Laurent polynomials with rational coefficients. In other words, the elements of Γ are polynomials $\sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} a_i t^i$ such that each $a_i \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $a_i = 0$ for all but a finite number of i . Γ is a principal ideal domain [16, §1.6]. Unless otherwise specified, we will generally not distinguish between elements of Γ and their similarity classes up to unit. Let $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}] = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$, the ring of Laurent polynomials with integer coefficients. Then $\Gamma = \Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$. We call a polynomial in Λ *primitive* if its set of non-zero coefficients have no common divisor except for ± 1 . Any element of Γ has an associate in Γ which is a primitive polynomial in Λ : Any element $at^i \in \Gamma$ is a unit and, in particular then, any $a \in \mathbb{Q}$. So given an element of Γ , we can first clear denominators and then divide out any common divisors without affecting similarity (associate) class in Γ . We will often choose to represent an element of Γ (technically, its associate class) by such a primitive element of Λ .

Lemma 2.1. *Let r and s be powers of distinct (non-associate) prime elements of Γ . Then the only Γ -module morphism $f : \Gamma/(r) \rightarrow \Gamma/(s)$ is the 0 map.*

Corollary 2.2. *Let $M_i(p)$ be the p -primary direct summand of the torsion Γ -module M_i . Given an exact sequence*

$$0 \xrightarrow{d_0} M_1 \xrightarrow{d_1} M_2 \xrightarrow{d_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{d_{n-1}} M_n \xrightarrow{d_n} 0, \quad (1)$$

then for any prime $p \in \Gamma$, the sequence

$$0 \xrightarrow{e_0} M_1(p) \xrightarrow{e_1} M_2(p) \xrightarrow{e_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{e_{n-1}} M_n(p) \xrightarrow{e_n} 0 \quad (2)$$

is exact, where the maps e_i are the restrictions of the the maps d_i to the direct summands $M_i(p)$.

Note that this lemma together with its corollary allows us to write the exact sequence (1) as the direct sum of exact sequences of the form (2).

This lemma and its corollary can then be used to prove the following proposition.

Proposition 2.3. *Suppose we have an exact sequence of finitely generated torsion Γ -modules*

$$0 \xrightarrow{d_0} M_1 \xrightarrow{d_1} M_2 \xrightarrow{d_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{d_{n-1}} M_n \xrightarrow{d_n} 0, \quad (3)$$

and suppose that Δ_i is the determinant of a square presentation matrix of M_i (which we will refer to as the polynomial associated to the module). Then, taking $\Delta_{n+1} = 1$ if n is odd, the alternating product $\prod_{i=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil} \frac{\Delta_{2i-1}}{\Delta_{2i}} \in \mathbb{Q}(t)$ is equal to a unit of Γ , and, in particular, with a consistent choice of normalization within associate classes for the elementary divisors of the M_i (in the language of [13]), this product is equal to 1.

Corollary 2.4. *With the notation and assumptions as above, each $\Delta_i = \delta_i \delta_{i+1}$, where $\delta_{i+1} | \Delta_{i+1}$ and $\delta_i | \Delta_{i-1}$. Furthermore, if we represent the Δ_i by the elements in their similarity classes in Γ which are primitive in Λ , the δ_i will also be primitive in Λ .*

This corollary will be used often in what follows.

For convenience, we introduce the following notation. Suppose $\Delta_i \in \Gamma$. We will refer to an exact sequence of polynomials, denoted by

$$\longrightarrow \Delta_{i-1} \longrightarrow \Delta_i \longrightarrow \Delta_{i+1} \longrightarrow ,$$

to mean a sequence of polynomials such that each $\Delta_i \sim \delta_i \delta_{i+1}$, $\delta_i \in \Gamma$. As we have seen, such a sequence arises in the case of an exact sequence of torsion Γ -modules, M_i , and, in that case, the factorization of the polynomials is determined by the maps of the modules. In fact, each δ_i is the polynomial of the module $\ker(M_i \rightarrow M_{i+1})$.

Observe that knowledge of two thirds of the terms of an exact sequence of polynomials (for example, all Δ_{3i} and Δ_{3i+1} , $i \in \mathbb{Z}$) and the common factors of those terms (the δ_{3i+1}), allows us to deduce the missing third of the sequence ($\Delta_{3i+2} = \delta_{3i+2} \delta_{3i+3} = \frac{\Delta_{3i+1}}{\delta_{3i+1}} \cdot \frac{\Delta_{3i+3}}{\delta_{3i+4}}$).

Note also that for any bounded exact sequence of polynomials (or even a half-bounded sequence), the collections $\{\Delta_i\}$ and $\{\delta_i\}$ carry the same information. That is, suppose that one (or both) end(s) of the polynomial sequence is an infinite number of 1's (by analogy to extending any bounded or half-bounded exact module sequence to an infinite number of 0 modules). Clearly, the Δ_i can be reconstructed from the δ_i by $\Delta_i \sim \delta_i \delta_{i+1}$. On the other hand, if Δ_0 is the first nontrivial term in the polynomial sequence, then $\delta_0 \sim 1$, $\delta_1 \sim \Delta_0$, and $\delta_i \sim \Delta_{i-1} / \delta_{i-1}$ for all $i > 1$. Similar considerations hold for a sequence which is bounded on the other end. Therefore, we will often study properties of the polynomials Δ_i in an exact sequence by studying the δ_i instead. We will refer to the δ_i as the *subpolynomials* of the sequence and to the process of determining the subpolynomials from the polynomials as “dividing in from the outside of the sequence”.

We can also use this polynomial algebra to say something about the relationship between the prime factors of the polynomial of a module and the prime factors of the polynomials of its submodules and quotient modules: Suppose that M is a torsion Γ -module with submodule N . Associated to the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow M/N \longrightarrow 0,$$

we have a short exact polynomial sequence of the form

$$0 \longrightarrow f \longrightarrow h \longrightarrow g \longrightarrow 0,$$

where $f, g, h \in \Gamma$, f is the polynomial associated to N , h is the polynomial associated to M , and g is the polynomial associated to M/N . Further, from the properties of exact polynomial sequences, we know that we must have $h = fg$. It is immediate, therefore, that if a prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$ divides f or g then it divides h . Conversely, if it divides h then it must divide f or g . We can then drawing the following conclusion:

Lemma 2.5. *Suppose that A is a subquotient of the torsion Γ -module M (i.e. a quotient module of a submodule of M). Then a prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$ can divide the polynomial associated to A only if it divides the polynomial associated to M .*

Proof. For suppose $A = N/P$, where $P \subset N \subset M$. If γ divides the polynomial of A , then by the above arguments it must divide the polynomial of N . But then similarly γ must divide the polynomial of M . \square

In Section 8, we will use this fact to study the polynomial algebra of spectral sequences.

3 Intersection homology notations and conventions

We now fix our notation and conventions for dealing with intersection homology.

Let us recall the definition of a stratified pair of paracompact Hausdorff spaces (Y, X) as given in [2]. Let $c(Z)$ denote the open cone on the space Z , and let $c(\emptyset)$ be a point. Then the stratification of (Y, X) is defined by a filtration

$$Y = Y_n \supset Y_{n-1} \supset Y_{n-2} \supset \cdots \supset Y_0 \supset Y_{-1} = \emptyset$$

such that for each point $y \in Y_i - Y_{i-1}$, there exists a distinguished neighborhood N , a compact Hausdorff pair (G, F) , a filtration

$$G = G_{n-i-1} \supset \cdots \supset G_0 \supset G_{-1} = \emptyset,$$

and a homeomorphism

$$\phi : \mathbb{R}^i \times c(G, F) \rightarrow (N, N \cap X)$$

that takes $\mathbb{R}^i \times c(G_{j-1}, G_{j-1} \cap F)$ onto $(Y_{i+j}, Y_{i+j} \cap X)$. For (Y, X) a compact PL pair, such a stratification exists with each ϕ a PL map and the filtration refining the filtration by k -skeletons (see [4]).

Now suppose that we have a PL knot K , i.e. a PL embedding $K : S^{n-2} \hookrightarrow S^n$ (though by the standard abuse of notation we also sometimes use K to stand for the image of the embedding). In this case, we have $Y = S^n$, and K represents the PL knotted subspace S^{n-2} , which we take as $Y_{n-1} = Y_{n-2}$ in the filtration. Thus K forms the subspace which is usually referred to as the singular locus. We will use Σ_k to represent the lower dimensional subspaces of the filtration. In particular, Σ_{n-4} , which we will often abbreviate as simply Σ , will contain all of the points at which the embedding of K is not locally-flat. (Note that

our notation differs from the usual use of Σ in this context.) Thus our stratification has the form

$$S^n \supset K \supset \Sigma_{n-4} \supset \Sigma_{n-3} \supset \cdots \supset \Sigma_0 \supset \Sigma_{-1} = \emptyset.$$

Of course, we can have $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_{k-1}$. Recall that by [10] and [2], the intersection homology modules with a given coefficient system on $S^n - K$ are independent of the choice of further stratification. We use $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$ to stand for the intersection homology modules with perversity \bar{p} and with coefficient system Γ defined on the complement $S^n - K$ by stalks Γ and action of the fundamental group given by multiplication by $t^{\ell(\alpha, K)}$, where $\ell(\alpha, K)$ is the linking number of $\alpha \in \pi_1(S^n - K)$ with K . For simplicity, we will also use Γ to refer to the restriction of the coefficient system to a subset.

As in [2], we will allow perversities, \bar{p} , with $\bar{p}(2)$ equal to either 0 or 1 (see the following section for a discussion of the case where $\bar{p}(2) = 1$, which we shall call *superperversities*). Recall, however, that a perversity function must be a function from the integers ≥ 2 to the non-negative integers satisfying $\bar{p}(m) \leq \bar{p}(m+1) \leq \bar{p}(m) + 1$. We will usually employ the homology notation $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$ with boundary maps decreasing dimension (as opposed to the cohomology notation which is also commonly employed). Where sheaves can be avoided, we will think of these modules as being defined using finite PL-chains as in [9] or finite singular chains as in [15]. As noted in [15], for geometrically defined intersection homology (see Section 4, below), these theories agree with that of Goresky and MacPherson [10] on compact spaces but not in general unless the sheaf cohomology and hypercohomology are taken with compact supports. Hence, our homology theories will always be those with compact supports, though we avoid referring to this in the notation except where confusion may arise. Note also that the versions of the theory developed in [9] and [15] do not take advantage of a local coefficient system defined on the complement of the singular set, but the definitions there can be modified to do so easily by taking advantage of the fact, noted in [10] where local coefficients are first introduced to the theory, that the allowability conditions prevent the simplices of any simplicial or singular chain and the simplices of its boundary from lying entirely within the singular set.

Since it will be used often in the sequel, we state here for convenience the formula for the intersection homology of a cone. This formula, proved in [15], holds for geometrically defined intersection homology (e.g. singular intersection homology) for any perversity. It holds for sheaf intersection homology for traditional perversities ($\bar{p}(2) = 0$). See the following section (Section 4) for a discussion of nontraditional perversities and the resulting difference between geometric and sheaf intersection homology in those cases. Now, suppose that X is a stratified space of dimension $n - 1$ with filtration $\{\Sigma_i\}$ and that the open cone $c(X)$ is the stratified space filtered by the cone point, $*$, and the collection $\{c(\Sigma_i)\}$. If Γ is a local coefficient system on $X - \Sigma$, then $\Gamma \times \mathbb{R}$ is a local coefficient system on $c(X) - c(\Sigma)$. Conversely, if Γ is a local coefficient system on $c(X) - c(\Sigma)$, then $\Gamma \cong \Gamma|_X \times \mathbb{R}$. Thus, to simplify notation, we will simply refer to the local coefficient system Γ . The cone formula is then:

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(c(X); \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \neq i \geq n - 1 - \bar{p}(n) \\ IH_0^{\bar{p}}(X; \Gamma), & i = 0 \text{ and } \bar{p}(n) \geq n - 1 \\ IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X; \Gamma), & i < n - 1 - \bar{p}(n). \end{cases}$$

This theorem in [15] does not include local coefficients, but the proof goes through unaltered.

For references to the intersection homology theory, the reader is advised to consult [9], [10], [15], and [4].

4 Superperversities

Some extra care must be taken when considering the perversities which satisfy $\bar{p}(2) = 1$. In [2], Cappell and Shaneson define the intersection (co)homology modules with such perversities via the Deligne sheaf process. For perversities with $\bar{p}(2) = 0$, the Deligne sheaf complex is quasi-isomorphic to the complex of sheaves determined geometrically by the presheaf $U \rightarrow IC_{n-i}^{\bar{p}, \infty}(U)$, the module of intersection chains with closed support on U (see [10], [4]). This is the route by which one shows that the intersection (co)homology as defined by the Deligne sheaves coincides with the intersection (co)homology defined geometrically via allowability conditions on geometric chains. For $\bar{p}(2) = 1$, however, these theories do *not* coincide. To see this, recall that the Deligne sheaves, and all sheaves quasi-isomorphic to them, are required to satisfy a set of axioms determined by the stratification of the space and the choice of perversity [4]. These axioms are satisfied by the Deligne sheaves for any perversity, by construction, and by the geometrically defined intersection chain sheaves for $\bar{p}(2) = 0$. However, the axioms are not necessarily satisfied by the geometrically defined intersection chains when $\bar{p}(2) = 1$.

Consider, for example, the stratified space given by the sphere S^2 with singular locus consisting of a single point, x . Let $\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet}$ denote the sheaf complex of intersection chains with \mathbb{Z} coefficients and perversity satisfying $\bar{p}(2) = 1$ (note that we employ the codimension as index so that the differentials will be maps of ascending dimension in keeping with the general practices of sheaf theory; see [4, §II]). Note that the proof that these sheaves are soft in [4, §II.5] holds for any perversity. Now, if these sheaves were to satisfy the axioms, then, for $j \leq \bar{p}(2) = 1$, there would be an isomorphism $\mathcal{H}^j(\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet})_x \cong \mathcal{H}^j(i_*(\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet}|_{S^2-x}))_x$, where $i : S^2 - x \rightarrow S^2$ is the inclusion map and we have used the fact that the \mathcal{IC} are soft to replace the functor Ri_* with i_* in the usual adjunction axiom. We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet})_x &= \varinjlim_{x \in U} H^1(\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet}^\infty(U)) \\ &= \varinjlim_{x \in U} H_1(IC_\bullet^\infty(U)). \end{aligned}$$

We can take each U to be a distinguished neighborhood of x , i.e. a disk about x . Then this group is 0 because all 2-chains and 1-cycles are allowable, and we know that the closed-support (Borel-Moore) homology of a disk $H_1^\infty(D^2) = 0$. On the other hand:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}^1(i_*(\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet}|_{S^2-x}))_x &= \varinjlim_{x \in U} H^1(i_*(\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet}|_{S^2-x})(U)) \\ &= \varinjlim_{x \in U} H^1(\mathcal{IC}_{2-\bullet}|_{S^2-x}(U-x)) \\ &= \varinjlim_{x \in U} H_1^\infty(U-x), \end{aligned}$$

the last equality because the sheaf of intersection chains restricted to $S^2 - x$ is simply the sheaf of closed chains on $S^2 - x$, as can be verified locally, because there are no allowability conditions on $S^2 - x$. Once again taking each $U \cong D^2$, the unit disk, each $H_1^\infty(U - x)$ is non-trivial, generated by the cycle whose support is given in polar coordinates by $(r, 0)$, $0 < r < 1$, and which does not bound. In fact, the directed sequence is constant generated by restrictions of this cycle. Hence, the necessary condition of the axiom can not be satisfied. Similar counter-examples can be constructed for higher dimensions and for local coefficients.

The heart of the difficulty is the following: the fact that the geometric intersection chain sheaf satisfies the axioms is generally proven by exhibiting, in a certain range of dimensions, isomorphisms between the intersection homology of a distinguished neighborhood of a point on a given stratum and the intersection homology of its link, modulo certain dimension shifts (see [4, §II] for the details). In particular, it is shown that $IH_i^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n-k} \times cL)$ equals $IH_{i-(n-k+1)}(L)$ for $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k)$ and equals 0 otherwise. This is proven by constructing a map $\tau_{\geq n - \bar{p}(k)} IC_{\bullet-(n-k+1)}^\infty(L) \rightarrow IC_{\bullet}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n-k} \times cL)$ and examining the induced map on homology. This chain map is the composition of a ‘‘cone map’’ followed by several ‘‘suspension maps’’, where the cone map

$$c : \tau_{\geq k - \bar{p}(k)} IC_{\bullet-1}^\infty(L) \rightarrow IC_{\bullet}^\infty(cL) \quad (4)$$

is induced simply by taking the open cones on allowable chains in the link. Simple dimensional and allowability arguments show that for perversities satisfying $\bar{p}(2) = 0$, the cone on such an allowable chain, $\xi_{i-1} \in IC_{i-1}(L)$, is itself allowable in the following situations:

$$\begin{cases} i > k - \bar{p}(k), & \text{any } \xi \\ i = k - \bar{p}(k), & \text{only if } \xi \text{ is a cycle} \\ i < k - \bar{p}(k), & \text{no } \xi. \end{cases}$$

Hence, the cone map is well-defined, one goes on to show that it is a quasi-isomorphism, and the arguments proceed. For $\bar{p}(2) = 1$, however, we are stopped dead in our tracks. These perversities allow the possibility of $i = k - \bar{p}(k) = 1$, but an allowable vertex in the link does *not* cone to an allowable chain in cL because the cone on a vertex will have a boundary vertex in the singular locus (note that this problem does not arise for the traditional perversities with $\bar{p}(2) = 0$ because the above dimension and allowability conditions already forbid us from coning a vertex). Thus the cone map (4) does not necessarily exist. Of course, one could devise a new cone map by changing the range of the truncation, but following the program through with this new cone map will not ultimately yield a set of axioms equivalent to those satisfied by the Deligne sheaves with these perversities.

To keep matters straight, we shall adopt the following definitions. We will use ‘‘perversity’’ or ‘‘traditional perversity’’ to refer to the perversities with $\bar{p}(2) = 0$, and we will refer to those satisfying $\bar{p}(2) = 1$ as *superperversities*. All intersection homology groups with superperversities will be those as defined by the Deligne sheaf. Hence, in these cases, we take $IH_i = IH^{n-i}$ for a space of dimension n , where the latter are hypercohomology modules of the Deligne sheaf (recall that we assume compact supports unless otherwise noted). In the case where $\bar{p}(2) = 1$, it is not even clear how to define a geometrical (simplicial or singular) version of intersection homology with local coefficients (though of course there is a perfectly well-defined theory for constant coefficients; see, e.g, [15], [14]). Note that even for superperversities, sheaf intersection homology is a topological invariant by a straightforward

adaption of the proofs in [10] and [4] (or even, in the cases with which we will be concerned, by the superduality of Cappell and Shaneson (see below)). *Unless specified otherwise, we will assume below that all perversities are traditional perversities with $\bar{p}(2) = 0$.* This is not a large restriction, as we may employ Theorem 5.1 below to calculate the superperverse intersection homology modules from those with traditional perversities. Also, recall again that simplicial, singular, and sheaf intersection homology with compact supports all agree for traditional perversities, and in this case, we are free to make use of the singular geometric theory of King [15].

5 Duality properties of intersection Alexander polynomials

We first prove a general theorem concerning the duality of intersection Alexander polynomials which is analogous to that for the usual Alexander polynomials: Given a locally-flat knot $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$, let λ_i be the polynomial associated to the homology module $H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$, where Γ is defined as above. Then for $0 < i < n - 1$, $\lambda_i(t) \sim \lambda_{n-i-1}(t^{-1})$, where \sim indicated similarity up to associates in Γ ([16]).

For non-locally flat knots, we let $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t)$ represent the analogous intersection Alexander polynomials, which are defined as the polynomials of the modules $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$. (That these intersection homology modules are torsion modules, and hence have well-defined associated polynomials, is a consequence of [2, Proposition 2.4].)

Theorem 5.1. *Let $K \cong S^{n-2} \subset S^n$ be a knot, not necessarily locally-flat, and let \bar{p} and \bar{q} be a superdual perversity and superperversity as defined in [2], i.e. $\bar{p}(k) + \bar{q}(k) = k - 1$ for all $k \geq 2$. Then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim I\lambda_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}}(t^{-1})$.*

Proof. In [2], Cappell and Shaneson define a sub-pseudomanifold X of a sphere S^n to be of *finite (homological) type* if $H_i(S^{n+2} - X; \Upsilon)$ is finite dimensional as a \mathbb{Q} -vector space. They define a sub-pseudomanifold X of a manifold Y to be of *finite local type* if the link of each component of any stratification is of finite type. (See [2, Section 1] for a detailed description of the local coefficient system Υ (there denoted Λ , but changed here to avoid conflict with our other $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}]$)). For our purposes, Υ will always be the coefficient system Γ , as above, and in this case, by [2, Proposition 2.2], the knot K has finite type and finite local type. Thus by [2, Corollary 3.4], for the knot K and superdual perversities \bar{p} and \bar{q} ,

$$\overline{IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)} \cong \text{Hom}(IH_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}}(S^n; \Gamma), \mathbb{Q}(t)/\Gamma),$$

where $\mathbb{Q}(t)$ is the field of fractions of Γ , i.e. the field of rational functions, and \bar{A} is the Γ -module obtained from the Γ -module A by composing all module structures with the involution $p(t) \rightarrow p(t^{-1})$.

We claim that $\text{Hom}(\Gamma/(p), \mathbb{Q}(t)/\Gamma) \cong \Gamma/(p)$. Since Γ is an integral domain, we have $\text{Hom}(\Gamma/(p), \mathbb{Q}(t)/\Gamma) \cong \text{Ext}(\Gamma/(p), \Gamma)$ by [3, Proposition VII,2.3]. Then, from the short exact sequence (and free resolution)

$$0 \longrightarrow \Gamma \xrightarrow{p} \Gamma \longrightarrow \Gamma/(p) \longrightarrow 0,$$

the long exact sequence of left derived functors of $\text{Hom}(-, \Gamma)$ gives

$$0 \leftarrow \text{Ext}(\Gamma/(p), \Gamma) \leftarrow \text{Hom}(\Gamma, \Gamma) \xleftarrow{p} \text{Hom}(\Gamma, \Gamma) \leftarrow \text{Hom}(\Gamma/(p), \Gamma) \leftarrow 0,$$

where the leftmost term is 0 because $\text{Ext}(\Gamma, \Gamma) = 0$, Γ being a free Γ -module. Since $\text{Hom}(\Gamma/(p), \Gamma) = 0$, because any map from a torsion module to a free module is 0, and since $\text{Hom}(\Gamma, \Gamma) \cong \Gamma$, this becomes the short exact sequence

$$0 \longleftarrow \text{Ext}(\Gamma/(p), \Gamma) \longleftarrow \Gamma \xleftarrow{p} \Gamma \longleftarrow 0.$$

Therefore, $\text{Hom}(\Gamma/(p), \mathbb{Q}(t)/\Gamma) \cong \text{Ext}(\Gamma/(p), \Gamma) \cong \Gamma/(p)$.

By [2, Proposition 2.4], the intersection homology modules $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$ are finite dimensional as \mathbb{Q} -vector spaces because K has finite type and finite local type. Therefore, they must be finitely generated torsion Γ -modules. Thus, $IH_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}}(S^n; \Gamma) \cong \bigoplus_j \Gamma/(p_{n-1-i,j}^{\bar{q}})$, and $I\lambda_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}} \cong \prod_j p_{n-1-i,j}^{\bar{q}}$. By the results of the preceding paragraphs and the fact that $\text{Hom}(\bigoplus A_j, B) \cong \bigoplus \text{Hom}(A_j, B)$ for finite direct sums,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)} &\cong \text{Hom}(IH_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}}(S^n; \Gamma), \mathbb{Q}(t)/\Gamma) \\ &\cong IH_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}}(S^n; \Gamma) \\ &\cong \bigoplus_j \Gamma/(p_{n-1-i,j}^{\bar{q}}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \cong \bigoplus_j \Gamma/(p_{n-1-i,j}^{\bar{q}}(t^{-1})),$$

$$\text{and } I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \prod_j p_{n-1-i,j}^{\bar{q}}(t^{-1}) = I\lambda_{n-1-i}^{\bar{q}}(t^{-1}). \quad \square$$

Corollary 5.2. *For a not necessarily locally-flat knot $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$, $\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim 1$ for $i \geq n$.*

Proof. This is a consequence of the theorem and the fact that $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) = 0$ for all $i < 0$. □

This is also a convenient place to point out the following:

Corollary 5.3. *For a not necessarily locally-flat knot $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$, $I\lambda_0^{\bar{p}} \sim t-1$ for a traditional perversity \bar{p} .*

Proof. Because $\bar{p}(2) = 0$, we can employ the geometric theory, and the allowable zero- and one-chains are those which lie in $S^n - K$. Therefore,

$$IH_0^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \cong H_0(S^n - K; \Gamma) \cong \Gamma/(t-1),$$

the second isomorphism being clear from the identification of the homology of $S^n - K$ with local coefficient system Γ with the rational homology (viewed as a Γ -module) of the infinite cyclic cover of $S^n - K$ (see [5, §4.3.2] or [7]). □

6 Normalization properties of $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$

Suppose that p is an element of Γ . Recall that there is an element, say p' , in the similarity class of Γ which is primitive in $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$, i.e. the coefficients are relatively prime (though not necessarily pairwise so), and this element is unique up to similarity class in Λ (see, e.g., [16] or [5]). We will say that p is a polynomial of Alexander type if $p'(1) = \pm 1$. Another classical property of the Alexander polynomials of locally-flat knots $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$ is that they are of Alexander type for $0 < i < n - 1$ ([16]). In fact, this is also true of the Alexander polynomials of knots which are not locally flat ([5], [7]), where in this case the polynomials are again defined to be those associated to the modules $H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. We wish to show that the same property holds for intersection Alexander polynomials.

Observe, first of all, that if the polynomial associated to a torsion Γ -module, M , is of Alexander type, then so are the polynomials associated to any submodule or quotient module of M , as follows immediately from the short exact polynomial sequence (see Section 2) associated to the short exact module sequence which represents the inclusion or quotient and from the fact that an integer polynomial factors over \mathbb{Q} if and only if it factors over \mathbb{Z} . Of course, if a primitive polynomial in Λ evaluates to ± 1 when $t = 1$, then this will be true of any of its factors in Λ , which will also be primitive. Thus, any factor of a polynomial of Alexander type is also of Alexander type. Note, in particular, that the element $1 \in \Gamma$ is of Alexander type.

Theorem 6.1. *For any PL-knot $K \cong S^{n-2} \subset S^n$, not necessarily locally-flat, and traditional perversity \bar{p} , $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ is of Alexander type for $i > 0$, $I\lambda_0^{\bar{p}} \sim t - 1$, and $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim 1$ for $0 \neq i \geq n - 1$.*

Proof. We will proceed by induction on the dimension n . We begin with a trivial low-dimensional case. For $n = 1$, we define the knot by the pair (S^1, \emptyset) and define the local coefficient system Γ so that the generator of $\pi_1(S^1)$ acts on the stalk Γ by multiplication by t . (This choice of Γ is made to be consistent with the coefficient system that will appear on S^1 when it is considered as the link of the top stratum for knots of higher dimension.) In this case it is clear that

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^1; \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^1; \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} \Gamma/(t - 1), & i = 0 \\ 0, & i > 0. \end{cases}$$

Since the polynomial associated to the zero module is 1, up to similarity, the theorem holds for $n = 1$.

From this case, we will proceed by induction on n , so let us assume that the theorem holds for knots in S^{n-1} and show that it holds for knots in S^n . This step will also proceed by induction, this time on the codimension of the strata. First, however, we will choose a useful stratification, as we are free to do by the topological invariance of intersection homology. In fact, we will merely refine the ‘‘natural’’ stratification defined by the embedding, so there will be no difficulty with the definition of the local coefficient system Γ . We continue to allow K , itself, to determine the singular locus, Σ_{n-2} , but we now define Σ_j , $j < n - 2$, to be the j -skeleton of $K \subset S^n$ for some triangulation of S^n for which K is a full subpolyhedron.

Let $U_j = S^n - \Sigma_{n-j}$, $2 \leq j \leq n + 1$. Thus $U_2 \cong S^n - K$, $U_3 \cong S^n - K \cup \{\text{the open } n - 2\text{-simplices of } K\}$, and so on up to $U_{n+1} \cong S^n$. The induction will be over this codimension

j . In other words, for each j we show $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(U_j; \Gamma)$ has associated polynomials which are of Alexander type for $0 < i < n - 1$, trivial (~ 1) for $i \geq n - 1$, and similar to $t - 1$ for $i = 0$. The theorem will then be proven for knots in S^n once we have inducted up to $j = n + 1$.

For $j = 2$, $U_2 \cong S^n - K$ and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n - K; \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. In this case, the desired conclusions hold because they are true for the ordinary (singular) homology modules of the knot complement ([5, Thm. 4.3]).

Suppose now that the claim holds for U_{j-1} , $j \geq 3$. We will show that it is true for U_j . Note that $U_j - U_{j-1}$ is the union of the (finite number of) open simplices of K of dimension $n - j + 1$, say $\{e_{n-j+1}^\alpha\}$. For each e_{n-j+1}^α , consider its neighborhood in U_j defined by taking, in a derived subdivision of the triangulation of S^n , the union of the open simplices whose closures intersects e_{n-j+1}^α . Note that, because e_{n-j+1}^α is the open simplex, we do not include in the neighborhood those open simplices whose closures only intersect $\partial \bar{e}_{n-j+1}^\alpha$. Let us call these neighborhoods N_{n-j+1}^α . Then $N = \cup_\alpha N_{n-j+1}^\alpha$ is a neighborhood of $U_j - U_{j-1}$ in U_j , and $N_{n-j+1}^\alpha \cap N_{n-j+1}^\beta = \emptyset$ for $\alpha \neq \beta$. Furthermore, each N_{n-j+1}^α is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^{n-j+1} \times cL^\alpha$, where cL^α is the open cone on the link determined by the stratification (hence $L^\alpha \cong S^{j-2}$, but the coefficient system on the link is determined by $\Gamma|L^\alpha$, which may depend on α). Note that $N_{n-j+1}^\alpha - e_{n-j+1}^\alpha \cong \mathbb{R}^{n-j+1} \times (cL^\alpha - *)$ where $*$ represents the cone point.

With N as above, let $N' = N \cap U_{j-1} = N - \cup_\alpha e_{n-j+1}^\alpha$, and consider the Mayer-Vietoris sequence

$$\rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N'; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N; \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(U_{j-1}; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(U_j; \Gamma) \rightarrow . \quad (5)$$

Firstly, for $i = 0$, $IH_0^{\bar{p}}(U_j; \Gamma) \cong H_0(U_j - K \cap U_j; \Gamma) \cong \Gamma/(t - 1)$, the first isomorphism because we assume $\bar{p}(2) = 0$ so that the 0- and 1-intersection chains must lie outside of K and the second because U_j is connected and the homology of the complement with coefficients in Γ is equal to the rational homology of the infinite cyclic cover as a Γ -module with trivial t action, i.e. $\mathbb{Q} \cong \Gamma/(t - 1)$. Furthermore, the same holds for the zero degree intersection homology of each component of N' and N with the inclusion of the generating points inducing an isomorphism $IH_0^{\bar{p}}(N'; \Gamma) \xrightarrow{\cong} IH_0^{\bar{p}}(N; \Gamma)$. In particular, the corresponding map of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence is injective.

Next, we consider $i > 0$. By the induction step, the polynomial associated to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(U_{j-1}; \Gamma)$ is of Alexander type, $i > 0$, and it is similar to 1 for $0 \neq i \geq n - 1$. By the Künneth theorem [15],

$$\begin{aligned} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N; \Gamma) &\cong \oplus_\alpha IH_i^{\bar{p}}(cL^\alpha; \Gamma) \\ IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N; \Gamma) &\cong \oplus_\alpha IH_i^{\bar{p}}(cL^\alpha - *; \Gamma) \cong \oplus_\alpha IH_i^{\bar{p}}(L^\alpha; \Gamma). \end{aligned}$$

But $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(L^\alpha; \Gamma)$ is the intersection homology of the link knot pair which, by induction (as the dimension of the link sphere is $< n$), has associated polynomial of Alexander type. Applying the formula for the intersection homology of a cone (see [15]), according to which $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(cL)$ is equal to either $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(L)$ or 0, the polynomial associated to each $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(cL^\alpha; \Gamma)$ is of Alexander type. Since the product of polynomials of Alexander type is of Alexander type, the same is true of the polynomials associated to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N; \Gamma)$ and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N'; \Gamma)$. Examining the long exact polynomial sequence (see Section 2) associated to the Mayer-Vietoris sequence (5), we can conclude that the polynomials associated to the $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(U_j; \Gamma)$ are of Alexander type as each is the product of factors of the preceding and following terms, and factors of polynomials of Alexander type are of Alexander type. (Note that we use here the injectivity results of the

last paragraph to see that the $t - 1$ factors of the polynomial of $IH_0^{\bar{p}}(N'; \Gamma)$ are not shared with the polynomial associated with $IH_1^{\bar{p}}(U_j; \Gamma)$.

Finally, by the induction on the dimension of the knot, $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N'; \Gamma) \cong \oplus_{\alpha} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(L^{\alpha}; \Gamma)$ has polynomial similar to 1 for $0 \neq i \geq n - 2$ (since the link is a sphere of dimension $< n$), and similarly for $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N; \Gamma) \cong \oplus_{\alpha} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(cL^{\alpha}; \Gamma)$ by again applying the formula for intersection homology of a cone. The same holds for $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(U_{j-1}; \Gamma)$, $0 \neq i \geq n - 1$, by the induction on the codimension j . Hence, the polynomial associated to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(U_j; \Gamma)$ for $0 \neq i \geq n - 1$ is 1.

This completes the induction step, and the proof follows. \square

Corollary 6.2. *Suppose that \bar{p} is a superperversity, and let $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ be the polynomial associated to the sheaf intersection homology module $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$ of the knot $K \subset S^n$, $n \geq 2$. Then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ is of Alexander type for $0 < i < n - 1$, is similar to 1 for $i = 0$ or $i > n - 1$, and is similar to $t - 1$ for $i = n - 1$.*

Proof. This follows immediately from the theorem and superduality (see Theorem 5.1). \square

7 Some relations with the ordinary Alexander polynomials

We now turn to calculating intersection Alexander polynomials in some special cases in terms of other polynomial invariants. We will consider a number of cases, each more general than the preceding. We could start at the end and deduce some of the earlier conclusions as special cases of the later ones, but it is more instructive to show the development in order of increasing complexity. Recall that we assume all perversities satisfy $\bar{p}(2) = 0$ unless otherwise specified.

7.1 Intersection homology of locally-flat knots

We will begin by showing that in the case of a locally-flat knot K , $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$, the usual Alexander module of the knot.

Proposition 7.1. *Let K be a locally-flat PL-knot $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$. Then, with the notation as above, $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) = H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$.*

Proof. Let $N(K)$ be an open regular neighborhood of K , let $N'(K)$ be a “smaller” open regular neighborhood of K with $\overline{N'(K)} \subset N(K)$, and let $X(K)$ be the knot exterior given by the open subset $S^n - \overline{N'(K)}$. Then, using the “generalized annulus theorem” (see [20, Proposition 1.5]), $X(K) \cap N(K) \cong \partial N(K) \times \mathbb{R}$.

We have the Mayer-Vietoris sequence

$$\rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(K); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(K); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \rightarrow$$

because, as noted in [15, p. §2], the standard singular homology proof carries through for intersection homology defined by singular intersection chains. This proof is unaltered for local coefficients. We will use this sequence to compute $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$.

We begin by observing that $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(K); \Gamma) \cong H_i(X(K); \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$ because the singular set K does not intersect $X(K)$, and it is well known that in this case intersection homology agrees with the standard homology theories (recall that we are assuming compactly supported homology at all times). The last isomorphism then follows from the homotopy equivalence of $X(K)$ and $S^n - K$. Hence this term is the usual Alexander module of the knot.

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) &\cong H_i(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) \\ &\cong H_i(\partial \overline{N(K)} \times \mathbb{R}; \Gamma) \\ &\cong H_i(\partial \overline{N(K)}; \Gamma). \end{aligned}$$

From the standard obstruction theory argument in the proof of the existence of Seifert surfaces (see [16]), we know that there is a trivialization $\partial \overline{N(K)} \rightarrow S^1$ so that $H_i(\partial \overline{N(K)}; \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^{n-2} \times S^1; \Gamma)$. This can be computed using the Künneth theorem. Since S^1 represents a meridian, an easy computation gives

$$H_i(S^1; \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} \Gamma/(t-1) \cong \mathbb{Q}, & i = 0 \\ 0, & i \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

(Whenever we write \mathbb{Q} , we will mean it as a Γ -module with trivial t action, i.e. $\mathbb{Q} \cong \Gamma/(t-1)$.) If $n \geq 4$, S^{n-2} is simply-connected so that, if π_1 and π_2 are the projections, the local coefficient system on $S^{n-2} \times S^1$ is $\pi_1^* \Gamma \otimes \pi_2^*(\Gamma|S^1)$, and

$$H_i(S^{n-2}; \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} \Gamma, & i = 0, n - 2 \\ 0, & i \neq 0, n - 2. \end{cases}$$

If $n = 3$, we can obtain the same equations by choosing for the first factor $S^{n-2} = S^1$ a “preferred longitude” (see [18]). Thus by the Künneth theorem, we have

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} \Gamma \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathbb{Q}, & i = 0, n - 2 \\ 0, & i \neq 0, n - 2. \end{cases}$$

Lastly, we consider the term $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(K); \Gamma)$. Since the knot is locally flat, $N(K)$ is homeomorphic to a disk bundle over the knot, and, by extending the trivialization of the boundary $\partial \overline{N(K)}$ to the interior of each disk, we have that $N(K) \cong S^{n-2} \times D^2$. Since S^{n-2} is an unstratified manifold, the Künneth theorem applies as proved in [15, §2], since the argument there easily extends to include local coefficient systems. We need to compute the terms of the Künneth formula. Here, $D^2 \cong c(S^1)$, where S^1 represents a meridian of the knot and the cone point is the singular set. In this case, we can use the formula for the intersection homology of a cone, also in [15, §2]. Since $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^1; \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^1; \Gamma)$ as in the last paragraph, we can calculate

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(D^2; \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} \Gamma/(t-1) \cong \mathbb{Q}, & i = 0 \\ 0, & i \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

And, just as above, we have

$$H_i(S^{n-2}; \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} \Gamma, & i = 0, n-2 \\ 0, & i \neq 0, n-2. \end{cases}$$

Therefore,

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(K); \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} \Gamma \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathbb{Q}, & i = 0, n-2 \\ 0, & i \neq 0, n-2. \end{cases}$$

From these calculations, we see that the proposition must be true for $i \neq 0, 1, n-1, n-2$. But, for $i = 0$, the map $i_* : IH_0^{\bar{p}}(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_0^{\bar{p}}(X(K); \Gamma)$ corresponds to the map $H_0(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) \rightarrow H_0(X(K); \Gamma)$ induced by the inclusion of a point. Hence, this map is an injection $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ by the usual arguments in dimension 0. Thus, the proposition will be proven if we can show that $i_* : IH_{n-2}^{\bar{p}}(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_{n-2}^{\bar{p}}(X(K); \Gamma)$ is an injection. Since this Mayer-Vietoris map is induced by inclusion, the calculations above and the naturality of the Künneth theorem provide that i_* is equivalent to the map $\text{id}_* \otimes j_* : H_{n-2}(S^{n-2}; \Gamma) \otimes H_0(S^1; \Gamma) \rightarrow H_{n-2}(S^{n-2}; \Gamma) \otimes H_0(D^2; \Gamma)$, where j is the inclusion $j : S^1 \rightarrow D^2 = c(S^1)$. By the computation of the intersection homology of a cone in [14, §4], j_* is a surjection, but any surjection $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ is also an isomorphism. Thus i_* is an injection. \square

7.2 Point singularities

We next consider the case where the knot K has a single point singularity. In other words, $\Sigma = \Sigma_0 = *$. It will be useful to introduce some notation from [7] and [5]. Let D be the open regular neighborhood of the singular point of the embedding. Then the complement of D in the pair (S^n, S^{n-2}) is a locally flat disk knot bounded by a locally-flat sphere knot, which is the link knot around the singular point. Furthermore, the knot complement $S^n - K$ is homotopy equivalent to the complement of the induced disk knot (see [5, §3] for details). We can then define Alexander polynomials λ_i , ν_i , and μ_i associated to the homology modules of the disk knot complement C , the boundary sphere knot complement X , and the pair (C, X) . Note that the λ_i also represent the Alexander polynomials of the sphere knot K and the ν_i are just the usual Alexander polynomials of the locally-flat link knot.

Let $\gamma_i \in \Gamma$. Recall that, in Section 2, we defined an *exact sequence of polynomials*, denoted by

$$\longrightarrow \gamma_{i-1} \longrightarrow \gamma_i \longrightarrow \gamma_{i+1} \longrightarrow ,$$

to mean a sequence of polynomials such that each $\gamma_i \sim \delta_i \delta_{i+1}$, $\delta_i \in \Gamma$. Recall also that such a sequence is determined by an exact sequence of torsion Γ -modules, and, in that case, the factorization of the polynomials is determined by the maps of the modules (in fact, each δ_i will be the polynomial of the kernel module of a map in the exact module sequence).

For knots, we therefore have the exact sequence

$$\longrightarrow \nu_i(t) \longrightarrow \lambda_i(t) \longrightarrow \mu_i(t) \longrightarrow \nu_{i-1}(t) \longrightarrow .$$

To emphasize the various shared factors, we sometimes rewrite this as

$$\rightarrow a_i(t)b_i(t) \rightarrow b_i(t)c_i(t) \rightarrow c_i(t)a_{i-1}(t) \rightarrow a_{i-1}(t)b_{i-1}(t) \rightarrow ,$$

and we refer to the polynomials a_i , b_i , and c_i as *Alexander subpolynomials* or just *subpolynomials*.

Recall also that knowledge of two thirds of the terms of an exact sequence of polynomials (for example, all γ_{3i} and γ_{3i+1} , $i \in \mathbb{Z}$) and the common factors of those terms (the δ_{3i+1}), allows us to deduce the missing third of the sequence ($\Delta_{3i+2} = \delta_{3i+2}\delta_{3i+3} = \frac{\Delta_{3i+1}}{\delta_{3i+1}} \cdot \frac{\Delta_{3i+3}}{\delta_{3i+4}}$). Therefore, the Alexander polynomials and subpolynomials carry the same information in a sequence that is only finitely non-trivial.

Proposition 7.2. *With the notation as above, the intersection Alexander polynomial of a knot, K , embedded with a single point singularity is given by*

$$I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \begin{cases} \lambda_i(t), & i < n - 1 - \bar{p}(n) \\ c_i(t), & i = n - 1 - \bar{p}(n) \\ \mu_i(t), & i > n - 1 - \bar{p}(n). \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let $N(\Sigma)$ be an open regular neighborhood of Σ , which will be an open PL-ball, D^n . Let $N'(\Sigma)$ be another open regular neighborhood of Σ with $\overline{N'(\Sigma)} \subset N(\Sigma)$, and let $X(\Sigma)$ be the knot exterior given by the open subset $S^n - \overline{N'(\Sigma)}$, which will also be a PL-ball, D^n . As in the last proposition, we will compute the intersection homology via the Mayer-Vietoris sequence

$$\rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \rightarrow .$$

The subspace $X(\Sigma)$ is an open ball, and the pair $(X(\Sigma), X(\Sigma) \cap K)$ is a locally-flat (open) disk knot. The arguments of Proposition 7.1 carry over with only minor alteration to show that $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) - K \cap X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$ (see also the proof of Proposition 7.4 below).

If $L(\Sigma)$ is the link of the point Σ , which will be a sphere S^{n-1} , then $X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma) \cong L(\Sigma) \times \mathbb{R}$ by the generalized annulus property. Therefore, using the Künneth Theorem for intersection homology ([15, Lemma 3]), $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong IH_i^{\bar{p}}(L(\Sigma) \times \mathbb{R}; \Gamma) \cong IH_i^{\bar{p}}(L(\Sigma); \Gamma)$. But the pair $(L(\Sigma), L(\Sigma) \cap K)$ is a locally-flat sphere knot pair, and $\Gamma|_{L(\Sigma)}$ gives the usual local coefficient system for a sphere knot because the linking number of K with a loop in L is the same as if we consider the loop to be in S^n . Thus, by Proposition 7.1, $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(L(\Sigma) - K \cap L(\Sigma); \Gamma)$, the Alexander module of the link knot.

Lastly, $N(\Sigma) \cong c(L(\Sigma))$, and we can use [15, Proposition 5] to compute

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(cL(K); \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \neq i \geq n - 1 - \bar{p}(n) \\ IH_0^{\bar{p}}(L(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong \Gamma/(t - 1), & i = 0, \bar{p}(n) \geq n - 1 \\ IH_i^{\bar{p}}(L(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(L(\Sigma) - K; \Gamma), & i < n - 1 - \bar{p}(n). \end{cases}$$

Since the map of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence $i_* : H_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is induced by inclusion and the above calculations show that this is equivalent to the map induced by the inclusion $i_* : H_i^{\bar{p}}(L(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(cL(\Sigma); \Gamma)$, Proposition 5 of [15] allows us to conclude that i_* is an isomorphism for $i = 0$ or $i < n - 1 - \bar{p}(n)$. Thus for $i < n - 1 - \bar{p}(n)$, $i_* : IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow H_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is an injection. Using this fact

and the calculations of the preceding paragraphs, we can break the Mayer-Vietoris sequence in this range into the short exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow H_i(L(\Sigma) - K; \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} H_i(L(\Sigma) - K; \Gamma) \oplus H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \rightarrow 0.$$

Therefore, $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$ and $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$ for $i < n - 1 - \bar{p}(n)$.

For $0 \neq i \geq n - 1 - \bar{p}(n)$, we have

$$\rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \rightarrow, \quad (6)$$

where the first map is induced by inclusion. Thus, by the calculations above and the homotopy equivalence properties for ordinary homology, the first map is equivalent to the map $i_* : H_i(L(\Sigma) - L(\Sigma) \cap K; \Gamma) \rightarrow H_i(\overline{X(\Sigma)} - \overline{X(\Sigma)} \cap K; \Gamma)$, which is the inclusion map of the usual exact sequence of a pair for a knot with a point singularity (see above or section [5]). We obtain the exact sequence of polynomials

$$\longrightarrow \nu_i(t) \longrightarrow \lambda_i(t) \longrightarrow I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \longrightarrow \nu_{i-1}(t) \longrightarrow$$

from the exact sequence of modules (6). Since the map i_* there is the same as the map of the usual homology sequence of the pair of the knot, the splitting of $\nu_i(t)$ and $\lambda_i(t)$ into factors in the polynomial sequence is determined in the same manner, and we obtain the sequence

$$\longrightarrow a_i(t)b_i(t) \longrightarrow b_i(t)c_i(t) \longrightarrow I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \longrightarrow a_{i-1}(t)b_{i-1}(t) \longrightarrow .$$

Thus, for $i > n - 1 - \bar{p}(n)$, the polynomial sequence determines that $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim c_i(t)a_{i-1}(t) \sim \mu_i(t)$.

For $i = n - 1 - \bar{p}(n)$, the exact sequence can be truncated to the exact sequence

$$\longrightarrow \nu_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}(t) \longrightarrow \lambda_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}(t) \longrightarrow I\lambda_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}^{\bar{p}}(t) \longrightarrow 0$$

due to the injectivity of i_* in the Mayer-Vietoris sequence for $i = n - 2 - \bar{p}(n)$. So calculating $I\lambda_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}^{\bar{p}}(t)$ from the exact polynomial sequence, using the known factorizations of $\lambda_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}(t)$ and $\nu_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}(t)$, gives $I\lambda_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim c_{n-1-\bar{p}(n)}(t)$.

This completes the proof of the proposition. \square

The result for knots with multiple point singularities is not quite as nice, but it will occur as a special case of the computations in the following section.

7.3 Manifold singularities with trivial neighborhoods

We turn next to the cases where $\Sigma = \Sigma_{n-k-1}$ is a manifold, so that the filtration of S^n is

$$S^n \supset K \supset \Sigma_{n-k-1}.$$

Furthermore, we assume that $N(\Sigma)$, the open regular neighborhood of Σ , has the structure of a product. In other words, we assume there exists a sphere knot $\ell \cong S^{k-2} \subset S^k$ so that the space pair of the regular neighborhood of Σ , $(N(\Sigma), N(\Sigma) \cap K)$, is homeomorphic to the product space $\Sigma \times c(S^k, \ell)$.

For example, this will allow us to compute the intersection Alexander polynomials of frame twist-spun knots (see [5] and [7]). Note that if π_1 and π_2 are the projections of $\Sigma \times (S^k - \ell)$ to its factors, then $\Gamma|_{\Sigma \times (S^k - \ell)} \cong \pi_1^* \Gamma|_{\Sigma} \otimes \pi_2^* \Gamma|_{S^k - \ell}$. For convenience of notation, however, we will simply refer to each restricted coefficient system as Γ .

We first recall that in [7] and [5] we extended the definitions of the polynomials λ_i , μ_i , ν_i , a_i , b_i , and c_i as follows: Let $\bar{N}(\Sigma)$ denote the closed regular neighborhood of the singular set Σ , and let $D = S^n - \bar{N}(\Sigma)$. Then we define λ_i as the polynomial of the module $H_i(D - D \cap K; \Gamma)$, ν_i as the polynomial of the module $H_i(\partial \bar{N}(\Sigma) - (\partial \bar{N}(\Sigma) \cap K); \Gamma)$, and μ_i as the corresponding polynomial of the homology of the pair $(D - D \cap K, \partial \bar{N}(\Sigma) \cap K)$ with coefficients Γ . Since $D - D \cap K$ is homotopy equivalent to $S^n - K$, λ_i is, in fact, just what we would expect to be the ordinary Alexander polynomial of the knot. However, ν_i is the polynomial of a locally-flat knotted manifold pair which does not necessarily consist of spheres and is not even necessarily connected. It is shown in [7] and [5] that these modules are all torsion Γ -modules so that these definitions make sense. We can then define the subpolynomials a_i , b_i , and c_i as above using the polynomial splitting in the exact sequence $\rightarrow \nu_i \rightarrow \lambda_i \rightarrow \mu_i \rightarrow$. In case Σ is a point singularity, these definitions reduce to those discussed in the last section.

Let A_i denote the kernel of the inclusion map in long exact homology sequence of a knot, i.e. the module whose polynomial we have referred to as $a_i(t)$. Let $\mathfrak{A}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}$ denote the submodule of $H_i(\partial \bar{N}(\Sigma) - (\partial \bar{N}(\Sigma) \cap K); \Gamma)$ given by

$$\mathfrak{A}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \cong A_i \cap \left(\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)] \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)] \right),$$

where we have identified the latter terms as submodules of $H_i(\partial \bar{N}(\Sigma) - (\partial \bar{N}(\Sigma) \cap K); \Gamma)$ using the Künneth theorem and the triviality assumptions concerning the neighborhood of Σ . Let $\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ denote the polynomial of $\mathfrak{A}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}$, and let $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ denote the polynomial of

$$\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)] \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)]$$

divided by $\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$. (See below for a formula for $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$). We will show below that this is a polynomial and that $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t) | b_i(t)$. Call the quotient $\mathfrak{b}_i^{< k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$. Then we can prove the following:

Proposition 7.3. *Given a knot $K \subset S^n$ as above, with $\Sigma = \Sigma_{n-k-1}$ a manifold and $(N(\Sigma), N(\Sigma) \cap K) \cong \Sigma \times c(S^k, \ell)$, then*

$$I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \mathfrak{a}_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t) \mathfrak{b}_i^{< k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t) c_i(t).$$

Proof. With the notation of Proposition 7.2 adapted in the obvious manner, we can once again form the Mayer-Vietoris sequence

$$\rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \rightarrow . \quad (7)$$

As before, we first claim that $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. Let $n(K) \cong N(K) \cap X(\Sigma)$ and $x(K) \cong X(K) \cap X(\Sigma)$. Then we have a Mayer-Vietoris sequence

$$\rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(x(K) \cap n(K); \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(x(K); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(n(K); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow .$$

But $x(K)$ does not intersect the singular set and is homotopy equivalent to the knot complement $S^n - K$, so $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(x(K); \Gamma) \cong H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. To prove the claim, it is thus sufficient to show that the map $i_* : IH_i^{\bar{p}}(x(K) \cap n(K); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(n(K); \Gamma)$ induced by inclusion is an isomorphism. Now, since the embedding of K is locally-flat away from Σ , $n(K)$ is homeomorphic to a bundle of disks $D^2 \cong c(S^1)$, and once again there exists a trivialization of this bundle as given in the proof of the existence of a Seifert surface ([5, Prop. 4.2]). Thus, if $\kappa = K \cap n(K)$, $n(K) \cong \kappa \times c(S^1)$ and $x(K) \cap n(K) \cong \kappa \times S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$. Since κ is an unstratified manifold, we can employ the Künneth theorem for intersection homology, as proven in [15, Theorem 4], observing that the usual functorial naturality holds since the theorem is proven by verifying the existence of an ‘‘Eilenberg-Zilber’’-type chain map which induces the appropriate homology isomorphisms. We obtain a diagram with split exact rows (in which all coefficients are the suitable restrictions of Γ):

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i=r+s} H_r(\kappa) \otimes IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^1 \times \mathbb{R}) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(x(K) \cap n(K)) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i-1=r+s} H_r(\kappa) * IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^1 \times \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \oplus(\text{id}_* \otimes j_*) & & \downarrow i_* & & \downarrow \oplus(\text{id}_* \otimes j_*) \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i=r+s} H_r(\kappa) \otimes IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^1)) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(n(K)) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i-1=r+s} H_r(\kappa) * IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^1)) \longrightarrow 0. \end{array}$$

But we saw in the proof of Proposition 7.1 that j_* is an isomorphism. Therefore, the left and right vertical maps are isomorphisms, and so i_* is an isomorphism by the five lemma. Note that the proof of the claim does not rely on any of the assumptions concerning the number or properties of the strata of the knot and therefore holds for any knot. In other words, we have shown that $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_*(S^n - K; \Gamma)$ for any knot.

Similarly, due to the hypotheses of the theorem, $N(\Sigma) \cong \Sigma \times c(S^k)$ and $N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma) \cong \Sigma \times S^k \times \mathbb{R}$, and, because Σ is a manifold, we can again use the Künneth theorem to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) &\cong \bigoplus_{i=r+s} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^k); \Gamma)] \\ &\quad \oplus \bigoplus_{i-1=r+s} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^k); \Gamma)] \\ IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma); \Gamma) &\cong \bigoplus_{i=r+s} [H_r(\Sigma; \nu g) \otimes IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^k \times \mathbb{R}; \Gamma)] \\ &\quad \oplus \bigoplus_{i-1=r+s} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^k \times \mathbb{R}; \Gamma)]. \end{aligned}$$

Since the link knot pair $\ell \subset S^k$ is locally-flat, $IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^k \times \mathbb{R}; \Gamma) \cong H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)$. For $IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^k); \Gamma)$, we can use the cone formula of [15] once again to obtain

$$IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^k); \Gamma) \cong \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1) \\ IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^k; \Gamma) \cong H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma), & s = 0, s < k - \bar{p}(k+1). \end{cases}$$

Note also that the embedding of K is locally flat in $N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma)$ and therefore $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma) - K; \Gamma)$. But this space is homomorphic to the product $[\partial\bar{N}(\Sigma) - (\partial\bar{N}(\Sigma) \cap K)] \times \mathbb{R}$ by the generalized annulus property, so using homotopy equivalence, $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is isomorphic to the ordinary homology module of the link complement $\partial\bar{N}(\Sigma) - K$ with corresponding polynomial $\nu_i(t)$.

Meanwhile, if ξ_{il} are the Alexander invariants of the knot $\ell \subset S^k$ and $H_i(\Sigma; \Gamma) = \Gamma^{\mathfrak{B}_i} \oplus \oplus_l \Gamma / \zeta_l$, then the polynomial of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is

$$\prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_l \xi_{sl}^{\mathfrak{B}_r} \cdot \prod_{j,l} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \cdot \prod_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_{j,l} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right],$$

where $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ indicated the greatest common divisor in Γ . So, from the Mayer-Vietoris sequence (7), we obtain the long exact polynomial sequence

$$\rightarrow \nu_i \rightarrow \lambda_i \cdot \prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_l \xi_{sl}^{\mathfrak{B}_r} \cdot \prod_{j,l} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \cdot \prod_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_{j,l} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \rightarrow I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \rightarrow .$$

In order to calculate the intersection Alexander polynomial, we now need only determine the polynomial of the kernel of i_* in the Mayer-Vietoris sequence (7). The map to the first summand,

$$i_* : IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(K) \cap N(K); \Gamma) \rightarrow H_i(S^m - K; \Gamma)$$

is induced by the inclusion of $X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)$ into $X(\Sigma)$, and on homology this induces the map $H_i(\Sigma \times (S^k - \ell); \Gamma) \rightarrow H_i(X(K); \Gamma)$ which, by homotopy equivalences, is the standard map from the homology of the link exterior of Σ to the homology of the exterior of K . This is isomorphic to the inclusion map in the long exact homology sequence of the knot.

The map to the second summand is the middle vertical map in the following diagram induced by the naturality of the Künneth theorem (in which all coefficients are the suitable restrictions of Γ):

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i=r+s} H_r(\Sigma) \otimes IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^k \times \mathbb{R}) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma)) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i-1=r+s} H_r(\Sigma) * IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^k \times \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \bigoplus(\text{id}_* \otimes j_*) \downarrow & & i_* \downarrow & & \bigoplus(\text{id}_* * j_*) \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i=r+s} H_r(\Sigma) \otimes IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^k)) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma)) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{i-1=r+s} H_r(\Sigma) * IH_s^{\bar{p}}(c(S^k)) \longrightarrow 0. \end{array} \quad (8)$$

The leftmost and rightmost vertical maps are all induced by inclusions and are the direct sums of $\text{id}_{\Sigma*} \otimes j_*$ or $\text{id}_{\Sigma*} * j_*$, where j_* is the homology map induced by the inclusion $S^k \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow c(S^k)$. By the calculation of intersection homology of a cone in [14, §4], the maps j_* are surjections on homology. Thus so are the maps $\text{id} \otimes j_*$ by the right exactness of the tensor product functor. Thus $\text{cok}(\bigoplus \text{id}_* \otimes j_*) = 0$, and the serpent lemma yields a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \ker[\bigoplus(\text{id}_* \otimes j_*)] \longrightarrow \ker[i_*] \longrightarrow \ker[\bigoplus(\text{id}_* * j_*)] \longrightarrow 0.$$

This sequence is split because the splitting map $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=r+s} H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes IH_s^{\bar{p}}(S^k \times \mathbb{R}; \Gamma)$ of the Künneth short exact sequence restricts to give a splitting of the sequence of kernels. Hence, the kernel of i_* is the direct sum of the kernels of the left- and righthand maps of diagram (8). Furthermore, each of these is the direct sum of the kernels of the maps $\text{id}_* \otimes j_*$ or $\text{id}_* * j_*$. But once again, the calculations of [15] and [14] tell us that j_* is an isomorphism for $s = 0$ or $s < k - \bar{p}(k+1)$ and it is the zero map for $0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)$. From this, we conclude that the kernel of the map i_* to the summand $H_i(S^n - K; \Gamma)$ is

$$\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)] \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} [H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)].$$

So now, we let A_i denote the kernel of the inclusion map in long exact homology sequence of the knot. It is a submodule of $H_i(\Sigma \times (S^k - \ell); \Gamma)$ with polynomial $a_i(t)$. We let

$$\mathfrak{A}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \cong A_i \cap \left(\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)) \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)) \right),$$

the kernel of i_* in the Mayer-Vietoris sequence (7). Let $\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ denote the polynomial of $\mathfrak{A}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}$, and let $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ denote the polynomial of

$$\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)) \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma))$$

divided by $\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$. In other words,

$$\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} = \frac{\prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_l \xi_{sl}^{\mathfrak{B}_r} \prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \cdot \prod_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right]}{\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}}.$$

Then $\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)|a_i(t)$ and, from the calculations of the last paragraph, this is the factor of the exact sequence of polynomials which is shared by $\nu_i(t)$ and $I\lambda_{i+1}^{\bar{p}}(t)$.

We also claim that $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)|b_i(t)$. To see this, note that by its definition, $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ is the polynomial of the module

$$\left[\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)) \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)) \right] / \mathfrak{A}_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}.$$

But this module is isomorphic to

$$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) / \left(A_i + \left[\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ s=0, s < k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)) \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ s=0, s < k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} (H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) * H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)) \right] \right),$$

which is a quotient module of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)/A_i$, whose polynomial is $b_i(t)$, because this intersection homology module is the module of the link complement, as previously noted. But from the polynomial sequence associated to a short exact sequence of modules, it is clear that the polynomial of a quotient of a module must divide the polynomial of the module. Thus $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}(t) | b_i(t)$.

Denote by $\mathfrak{b}_i^{< k-\bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ the quotient $b_i(t)/\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$. Then the polynomial shared by $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t)$ and the ‘‘middle’’ term of the exact polynomial sequence will be

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lambda_i \left[\prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_l \xi_{sl}^{\mathfrak{B}_r} \prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \prod_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \right] \div \frac{\nu_i}{\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \\
& \quad b_i c_i \cdot \prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_l \xi_{sl}^{\mathfrak{B}_r} \cdot \prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \cdot \prod_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \\
& = \frac{b_i c_i \cdot \prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_l \xi_{sl}^{\mathfrak{B}_r} \cdot \prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \cdot \prod_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right]}{\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)} \prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_l \xi_{sl}^{\mathfrak{B}_r} \cdot \prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right] \cdot \prod_{\substack{i-1=r+s \\ s=0, s < k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \left[\prod_{jl} d(\zeta_{rj}, \xi_{sl}) \right]} \\
& = \frac{b_i c_i}{\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} \\
& = \mathfrak{b}_i^{< k-\bar{p}(k+1)} c_i.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we conclude that

$$I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \mathfrak{a}_{i-1}^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}(t) \mathfrak{b}_i^{< k-\bar{p}(k+1)}(t) c_i(t).$$

□

If we assume that the local system of coefficients restricted to Σ is simple, i.e. we can identify Σ with $\Sigma \times * \subset \Sigma \times (S^k - \ell)$ in such a way that the action of the fundamental group on $\Gamma|_{\Sigma}$ is trivial, then the results of the previous proposition simplify slightly. This is the situation which occurs, for example, for frame-spun knots (see [5, §4.3]). We simply state the results of this special case of the previous proposition.

Let $\xi_i(t)$ denote the i th Alexander polynomial of the link knot ℓ . With the above assumptions, and identifying Σ with $\Sigma \times * \subset \Sigma \times (S^k - \ell)$, $H_i(\Sigma; \Gamma)$ is the free Γ module, Γ^{β_i} , where β_i is the i th Betti number of Σ . Then, using the Künneth theorem to calculate the Alexander module of the link pair complement of Σ (i.e. $\partial N(\Sigma) - K$), we have $\nu_i(t) = a_i(t) b_i(t) = \prod_{i=r+s} \xi_i(t)^{\beta_r}$ as the polynomial of the module $H_i(\Sigma \times (S^k - \ell); \Gamma) \cong \bigoplus_{i=r+s} H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma|_{S^k})$. Let A_i denote the kernel of the inclusion map of the link complement in the long exact homology sequence of a knot, i.e. the module whose polynomial we have referred to as $a_i(t)$. This, of course, is a submodule of $H_i(\Sigma \times (S^k - \ell); \Gamma)$. Let $A_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)} \cong A_i \cap \bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}} H_r(\Sigma; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma|_{S^k-\ell})$. Let $\mathfrak{a}_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ denote the polynomial of $A_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}$, and let $\mathfrak{b}_i^{\geq k-\bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$ denote the poly-

mial of $\bigoplus_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} H_r(M; \Gamma) \otimes H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)$ divided by $a_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$. In other words,

$$b_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t) = \frac{\prod_{\substack{i=r+s \\ 0 \neq s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}} \xi_s(t)^{\beta_r}}{a_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)}.$$

Then $b_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)|b_i(t)$, and we call the quotient $b_i^{< k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)$. Then the preceding proposition specializes to the following:

Proposition 7.4. *Given a knot $K \subset S^n$ as above, with $\Sigma = \Sigma_{n-k-1}$ a manifold and $(N(\Sigma), N(\Sigma) \cap K) \cong \Sigma \times c(S^k, \ell)$, suppose also that, taking $\Sigma \cong \Sigma \times *$ for $*$ $\in S^k - \ell$, $\Gamma|_\Sigma$ is a simple system of local coefficients (so that the action of each element of $\pi_1(\Sigma)$ on Γ is trivial). Then*

$$I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim a_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)b_i^{< k - \bar{p}(k+1)}(t)c_i(t).$$

In this case we have the following corollaries:

Corollary 7.5. *For a knot, K , as in Proposition 7.4:*

1. For $i < k - \bar{p}(k+1)$, $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$.
2. If $\bar{p}(k+1) \leq 1$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$ for all i . More generally, if $H_i(S^k - \ell; \Gamma) = 0$ for $i \geq j$ and $\bar{p}(k+1) \leq k - j$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$ for all i .
3. If $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k+1)$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \mu_i(t)$.

Proof. 1. From the definitions, it is apparent that in this case $A_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} = 0$ because, with the assumptions of the proposition, $i - 1 = r + s$ and $s \geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)$ together imply that $r < 0$ (in fact that $r < -1$, but we shall need this extra room shortly). Therefore, $A_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} = A_{i-1} \cap 0$. Hence, again from the definitions, $a_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \sim 1$. Similary, these arguments hold for $A_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}$ and $a_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)}$ (here again using the implication $r < 0$) so that, by definition, we also obtain $b_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \sim 1$ and hence $b_i^{< k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \sim b_i(t)$. Therefore, by the proposition, $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim b_i(t)c_i(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$.

2. If $\bar{p}(k+1) \leq 1$, then $k - \bar{p}(k+1) \geq k - 1$, thus by the definitions and the fact that $H_s(S^k - \ell; \Gamma) = 0$ for $s \geq k - 1$, $A_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} = 0$ for all i . Similary, with $\bar{p}(k+1) \leq k - j$, we get $k - \bar{p}(k+1) \geq j$ so that $A_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} = 0$ for all i if $H_i(S^k - \ell; \Gamma) = 0$ for $i \geq j$. The rest of the argument now follows as for the previous item.

3. If $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k+1)$, $i = r + s$ or $i - 1 = r + s$, and $s < k - \bar{p}(k+1)$, then $r > n - k - 1$. Therefore, $A_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} = A_i$ and $A_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} = A_{i-1}$. It follows then that $a_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \sim a_i$, $a_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \sim a_{i-1}$, $b_i^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \sim 1$, and $b_{i-1}^{\geq k - \bar{p}(k+1)} \sim 1$. Therefore, by the proposition, $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim a_{i-1}(t)c_i(t) \sim \mu_i(t)$. □

In the general case, where the coefficient bundle is not simple, the corollaries generalize as follows:

Corollary 7.6. *For a knot, K , as in Proposition 7.3:*

1. *For $i < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$, $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$.*
2. *If $\bar{p}(k + 1) \leq 1$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$ for all i . More generally, if $H_i(S^k - \ell; \Gamma) = 0$ for $i \geq j$ and $\bar{p}(k + 1) \leq k - j$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_i(t)$ for all i .*
3. *If $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k + 1) + 1$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \mu_i(t)$.*

Proof. The proof is essentially the same as that of Corollary 7.5. For the first two items, it is easy to check that, in the definition of $\mathfrak{A}_i^{k-\bar{p}(k+1)}$, the torsion product terms are also 0 in the ranges for which we checked above that the tensor product terms are 0. For the last item, we need to vary the range slightly to account for the fact that the torsion product terms of $\mathfrak{A}_i^{k-\bar{p}(k+1)}$ have total degree $i - 1$ and not i . \square

8 Spectral sequences and theorems on prime components for knots with manifold singularities

In the following sections, we will use spectral sequences to derive some results concerning what prime elements in Γ may arise as factors of the intersection Alexander polynomials of knots with one singular stratum. Initially, for simplicity, we will assume that the neighborhood of this stratum can be given the structure of a fiber bundle. Then the computations can proceed by showing how the Leray-Serre spectral sequence can be used to compute the intersection homology of a fiber bundle with an unstratified manifold as the base space and a stratified pseudomanifold as the fiber.

As we will discuss at the end of this section, the assumption of the existence of a bundle neighborhood is unnecessary. In fact, as proven in [6], there always exists a spectral sequence for computing the intersection homology of the regular neighborhood of the bottom stratum of a stratified PL-pseudomanifold, and the E^2 terms consist of the homology of the bottom stratum with coefficients in a bundle whose stalks are given by the intersection homology of the cone on the link of the stratum. This generalizes the E^2 terms of spectral sequences we calculate here. Thus in each of the following results which depends on the hypothesis of a fiber bundle neighborhood, this particular hypothesis can be ignored. However, we leave it in for now in order to provide a more coherent framework and also as an excuse to develop a sheaf theoretic Leray-Serre spectral sequence for intersection homology which applies to more general base spaces than PL-pseudomanifolds and also to sheaf theoretic superperverse intersection homology. We will not need to treat such general base spaces in our applications (our manifolds will always be triangulable), but we begin with the sheaf theoretic approach mainly to establish the existence of the spectral sequence in this generality and to illustrate its application.

8.1 The sheaf theoretic spectral sequence for the intersection homology of a fiber bundle

We will construct a sheaf theoretic spectral sequence for the intersection homology of a fiber bundle with unstratified manifold base space and paracompact stratified fiber. We begin

with a lemma.

Lemma 8.1. *Let A be a paracompact subspace of a paracompact space X and Φ a family of paracompactifying supports on X (for example the collection of closed sets of X). Let \mathcal{N} be a collection of open subspaces of X containing A and directed downward by inclusion. Assume that, for each $K \in \Phi|X - A$, there is an $N \in \mathcal{N}$ with $N \subset X - K$. Suppose A is Φ -taut. Lastly, suppose that \mathcal{L}^* is a bounded differential sheaf. Then there is an isomorphism induced by restriction:*

$$\vartheta : \varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} \mathbb{H}_{\Phi \cap N}^*(N; \mathcal{L}^*|N) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}_{\Phi \cap A}^*(A; \mathcal{L}^*|A), \quad (9)$$

where \mathbb{H} represents hypercohomology (see [8, p. 213]).

Proof. By [1, II.10.6], there is an isomorphism for each \mathcal{L}^i ,

$$\theta : \varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} H_{\Phi \cap N}^*(N; \mathcal{L}^i|N) \rightarrow H_{\Phi \cap A}^*(A; \mathcal{L}^i|A), \quad (10)$$

induced by restriction (here H^* denotes sheaf cohomology). Let \mathcal{J}^{**} be the Cartan-Eilenberg resolution of \mathcal{L}^* given by the sheaves $\mathcal{J}^{p,q} = \mathcal{C}^p(X; \mathcal{L}^q)$ (see [1] for the definition of these flabby sheaves). Then, letting \mathcal{J}^* be the single complex associated to the double complex, $\mathbb{H}_{\Phi}^*(X; \mathcal{L}^*) = H^*(\Gamma_{\Phi}(X; \mathcal{J}^*))$, and, more generally, for any left-exact functor F such that the \mathcal{J}^{**} are F -acyclic, $H^i(F(\mathcal{J}^*))$ is the i th right derived functor of F on \mathcal{L}^* . See, e.g., [8, §III.7]. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} \mathbb{H}_{\Phi \cap N}^*(N; \mathcal{L}^*|N) &= \varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} H^*(\Gamma_{\Phi \cap N}(N; \mathcal{J}^*|N)) \\ &= H^*(\varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} \Gamma_{\Phi \cap N}(N; \mathcal{J}^*|N)). \end{aligned}$$

By spectral sequence theory, this is the abutment of a spectral sequence with E_2 term

$$\begin{aligned} E_2^{pq} &= H_{II}^p(H_I^q(\varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} \Gamma_{\Phi \cap N}(N; \mathcal{J}^{**}|N))) \\ &= H_{II}^p(\varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} H_I^q(\Gamma_{\Phi \cap N}(N; \mathcal{J}^{**}|N))) \\ &= H_{II}^p(\varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} H_{\Phi \cap N}^q(N; \mathcal{L}^*|N)), \end{aligned}$$

where the last identity holds because the $\mathcal{J}^{*,q}|N$ form a flabby resolution of the $\mathcal{L}^q|N$ because restriction is an exact functor and the restriction of a flabby sheaf to an open set is flabby.

On the other hand, if \mathcal{J}_A^{**} is a Cartan-Eilenberg resolution of $\mathcal{L}|A$ and \mathcal{J}_A^* is the associated single complex, then

$$\mathbb{H}_{\Phi \cap A}^*(A; \mathcal{L}^*|A) = H^*(\Gamma_{\Phi \cap A}(A; \mathcal{J}_A^*)),$$

which is the abutment of a spectral sequence with E_2 term

$$\begin{aligned} E_2^{pq} &= H_{II}^p(H_I^q(\Gamma_{\Phi \cap A}(A; \mathcal{J}_A^{**}|N))) \\ &= H_{II}^p(H_{\Phi \cap A}^q(A; \mathcal{L}^*|A)). \end{aligned}$$

Now if $r : \Gamma_{\Phi}(\mathcal{L}^*) \rightarrow \Gamma_{\Phi \cap A}(\mathcal{L}^*|A)$ is the restriction of sections, by [1, IV.4.2] r induces the isomorphisms $\theta : \varinjlim_{N \in \mathcal{N}} H_{\Phi \cap N}^*(N; \mathcal{L}^i|N) \rightarrow H_{\Phi \cap A}^*(A; \mathcal{L}^i|A)$. It is easy to check that r is a natural transformation of functors (for example, it is obvious if we think of the sheaves as “sheaf spaces”). Therefore, we have a natural isomorphism of the E_2 terms of the spectral sequence, which proves the lemma. \square

Proposition 8.2. *Let (E, B, F, π) be a fiber bundle with base space B a manifold, total space E , paracompact stratified fiber F , and projection π such that for sufficiently small open $U \subset B$, $\pi^{-1}(U) \cong U \times F$, where the stratification is given by $F_i \times U$, F_i the strata of F . Then, for any fixed perversity, \bar{p} , which we omit from the notation, there is a spectral sequence abutting to $IH_c^i(E; \Gamma)$ with E_2 term*

$$E_2^{p,q} = H_c^p(B; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)),$$

where $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^i(F; \Gamma|F)$ is a local coefficient system (sheaf) with stalks $IH_c^i(F; \Gamma|F)$ and c denotes the system of compact supports.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)$ be the sheaf of intersection chains on E with appropriate local coefficient system and perversity. $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)$ is soft [4] and hence Φ -soft for any paracompactifying system of supports. Then $\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)$ is c -soft by [1, p. 493, Property h], taking there $\Phi = \Psi = c$. So, applying [1, 2.1] to the differential sheaf $\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)$, there is a spectral sequence which abuts to $H^*(\Gamma_c(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)))$ and which has E_2 term $E_2^{p,q} = H_c^p(B; \mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)))$. By [1, §IV.5],

$$H^*(\Gamma_c(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E))) = H^*(\Gamma_{c(c)}(\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}_*(E))) = H^*(\Gamma_c(\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E))) = IH_c^*(E).$$

It remains to show that $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E))$ is locally constant and that its stalks, $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E))_y$ for $y \in B$, are isomorphic to $IH_c^i(F; \Gamma|F)$.

As in the arguments in [1, p. 213], $\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}_*(E)$ is the sheaf generated by the presheaf

$$\begin{aligned} U &\rightarrow \Gamma_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}(\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)|\pi^{-1}(U)) \\ &= \Gamma_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}(\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(\pi^{-1}(U))), \end{aligned}$$

where the equality is due to the fact that the sheaf of intersection chains on the open set $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is equal to the restriction to $\pi^{-1}(U)$ of the sheaf of intersection chains on E (for example, they each satisfy the axioms for $\Gamma|\pi^{-1}(U)$). Thus the derived homology sheaf $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E))$ is generated by the presheaf

$$\begin{aligned} U &\rightarrow H^q(\Gamma_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}(\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(\pi^{-1}(U)))) \\ &= IH_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}^q(\pi^{-1}(U)) \end{aligned}$$

as $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}_*(\pi^{-1}(U))$ is $c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)$ -soft, $c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)$ being paracompactifying.

Now, the stalk $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E))_y$ is thus by definition

$$\varinjlim IH_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}^q(\pi^{-1}(U)) = \varinjlim \mathbb{H}_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}^q(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)|\pi^{-1}(U)),$$

where the limit is taken over a descending series of open sets U with $y \in U$. We can now apply Lemma 8.1: $\pi^{-1}(y)$ is c -taut because it is a closed set and c is paracompactifying [1, p. 73]. The other condition on the U 's is obviously satisfied. Therefore, all of the conditions of Lemma 8.1 are satisfied, and $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E))_y$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{H}_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(y)}^*(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*(E)|\pi^{-1}(y))$.

Take now the neighborhoods U small enough that $\pi^{-1}(U) = U \times F$. Let f be the projection $U \times F \rightarrow F$, and let $\mathcal{P}^*(X; \mathcal{E})$ be the Deligne sheaf (see [4]) on the space X with coefficient system, \mathcal{E} , and perversity \bar{p} . \mathcal{P}^* is quasi-isomorphic to $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*$, and, because restriction is an exact functor, $\mathcal{P}^*|F$ is quasi-isomorphic to $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{C}^*|F$. By [4, V.3.14], $\mathcal{P}^*(U \times$

$F; \Gamma|U \times F) = f^*\mathcal{P}^*(F; \Gamma|F)$. Therefore, if $i : F \rightarrow U \times F$ is the inclusion homeomorphism which takes F homeomorphically onto $\pi^{-1}(y)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{P}^*(U \times F)|_{\pi^{-1}(y)} &= i^*\mathcal{P}^*(U \times F) \\
&= i^*f^*\mathcal{P}^*(F; \Gamma|F) \\
&= (fi)^*\mathcal{P}^*(F; \Gamma|F) \\
&= \text{id}^*\mathcal{P}^*(F; \Gamma|F) \\
&= \mathcal{P}^*(F; \Gamma|F).
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Again by the Lemma 8.1 and the fact that we can restrict the issue to a small neighborhood of $y \in B$, the stalk is therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{H}_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(y)}^*(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{IC}^*(U \times F)|_{\pi^{-1}(y)}) &= \mathbb{H}_{c \cap F}^*(F; \mathcal{IC}^*(U \times F)|_F) \\
&\cong \mathbb{H}_{c \cap F}^*(F; \mathcal{P}^*(U \times F)|_F) \\
&= \mathbb{H}_{c \cap F}^*(F; \mathcal{P}^*(F)) \\
&\cong \mathbb{H}_c^*(F; \mathcal{IC}^*(F)) \\
&= IH_c^*(F; \Gamma|F),
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that F is closed in $u \times F$ to replace $c \cap F$ by F and also the fact that quasi-isomorphisms induce hypercohomology isomorphisms for any system of supports.

That $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}^*(E))$ is locally constant follows, with the obvious modifications, as in the arguments in [1, p. 227-228] for the sheaf cohomology of a fiber bundle with coefficients in a single sheaf.

This completes the proof. \square

Remark 8.3. For superperversities, the above proof remains true for sheaf intersection homology if we replace the differential sheaf \mathcal{IC} with a soft resolution of the Deligne sheaf. Hence we obtain an analogous spectral sequence for superperverse sheaf intersection homology.

8.2 Prime factors of the intersection Alexander polynomials

Recall the following discussion from Section 2:

Suppose that M is a torsion Γ -module with submodule N . Associated to the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow M/N \longrightarrow 0,$$

we have a short exact polynomial sequence (see Section 2) of the form

$$0 \longrightarrow f \longrightarrow h \longrightarrow g \longrightarrow 0,$$

where $f, g, h \in \Gamma$, f is the polynomial associated to N , h is the polynomial associated to M , and g is the polynomial associated to M/N . Further, from the properties of exact polynomial sequences, we know that we must have $h = fg$. It is immediate, therefore, that if a prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$ divides f or g , then it divides h . Conversely, if it divides h then it must divide f or g . We can then drawing the following conclusion: Suppose that A is a subquotient of M (i.e. a quotient module of a submodule of M). Then a prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$ can divide the polynomial

associated to A only if it divides the polynomial associated to M . For suppose $A = N/P$, where $P \subset N \subset M$. If γ divides the polynomial of A , then by the above arguments it must divide the polynomial of N . But then similarly, γ must divide the polynomial of M .

We will use these elementary facts to identify what can be the prime factors of the intersection Alexander polynomials of a knot whose singular set is a manifold Σ_{n-k-1} and with the property that the open regular neighborhood of the singularity is a fiber bundle with fiber the cone on the link knot ℓ given by $S^{k-2} \subset S^k$. For a given range of dimensions, this will always be the case for a manifold singularity (see [12]). With these assumptions, we have the following theorem:

Theorem 8.4. *Let K be a non-locally-flat knot with singularity $\Sigma = \Sigma_{n-k-1}$ a manifold and such that $N(\Sigma)$ is a fiber bundle with base Σ and with fiber the cone on the link knot ℓ given by $S^{k-2} \subset S^k$. Let ξ_j be the Alexander polynomials of the locally-flat link knot ℓ . Let \bar{p} be a traditional perversity. Then, for $0 < i < n - 1$ and for any prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$, $\gamma | I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ only if $\gamma | c_i$ or $\gamma | \xi_s$ for some s such that $0 \leq i - s \leq n - k$ and $0 < s < k - 1$. In other words, the prime factors of c_i and ξ_s , s in the allowable range, are the only possible prime factors of $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$.*

Proof. Once again, we will employ the Mayer-Vietoris sequence

$$\rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) \rightarrow \quad (12)$$

with the notation as in Section 7 (see Propositions 7.4 and 7.3).

Also as before, the module $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is isomorphic to $H_i(X(K); \Gamma)$, and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is isomorphic to the homology of the of the link complement of Σ , $\partial N(\Sigma) - K$. The arguments we applied in the proofs of Propositions 7.4 and 7.3 to $X(\Sigma)$ apply again here because the embedding of K is locally flat in the complement of Σ , and the trivialization of the circle bundle over $K \cap X(\Sigma)$ restricts to a trivialization of the circle bundle over $K \cap X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)$. Therefore, the same reasoning as applied in those proofs shows that $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(X(\Sigma) - K; \Gamma)$ and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_i(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma) - K; \Gamma)$. But $X(\Sigma) - K$ is homotopy equivalent to $S^n - K$ and $X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma) - K$ is homotopy equivalent, by the generalized annulus property (see [20, Proposition 1.5]), to the link complement $\partial N(\Sigma) - K$. In particular, $\lambda_i(t)$ is the polynomial associated to the module $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ and $\nu_i(t) = a_i(t)b_i(t)$ is the polynomial associated to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$.

We will see below that all of the terms of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence (12) are torsion modules. Then from the exact polynomial sequence associated to the exact module sequence, we will know that $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ is the product of two polynomials, one dividing the polynomial associated to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ and one dividing the polynomial of $IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$. Hence, $\gamma | I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ only if it divides one of these factors, and it can divide the appropriate factor only if it divides the whole polynomial associated to the respective module. Thus it suffices to determine which primes divide the polynomials associated to the modules $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ and $IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$.

The polynomial of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is the product of the polynomials of the summands, the former of which we have already identified as $\lambda_i(t)$. We can actually do slightly better with this term. Since the map i_* of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence is induced by inclusion, we know that its kernel must be a submodule of the kernel of the restriction of i_* to the first summand. Thus the polynomial associated to the kernel of i_* must divide

a_i (see the discussion prior to Proposition 7.4). Then from the exact polynomial sequence associated to the Mayer-Vietoris sequence, this implies that b_i divides the polynomial of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$. This further implies that the polynomial factor which divides both $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$ is a factor of the product of the polynomial of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ and $\lambda_i/b_i = c_i$. (Note, however, that any prime factor of b_i may yet occur in one of the other remaining terms.)

Therefore, it remains to identify the prime factors of the polynomials associated to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ and $IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ in order to determine what other primes might divide $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$.

First, we show that each $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is a Γ -torsion module whose associated polynomial is divisible only by primes that divide one of the ξ_s , $0 \leq i - s \leq n - k - 1$ and $0 < s < k - 1$. For this we will employ the spectral sequence of Proposition 8.2. With our notation for compactly supported singular or simplicial intersection homology and Borel's [4] notation for sheaf intersection cohomology (and dropping the explicit perversity from each for simplicity), we have $IH_i = IH_c^{n-i}$, where the latter is the sheaf intersection homology with compact supports and we have assumed a space of dimension n . So, equivalently, we need to show that $IH_c^{n-i}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is a Γ -torsion modules whose associated polynomial has the desired properties. Since $N(\Sigma)$ is a fiber bundle, we can employ Proposition 8.2 by which $IH_c^{n-i}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is the abutment of a spectral sequence with E_2 terms given by

$$E_2^{p,q} = H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)),$$

where F is the cone on the link knot pair (S^k, ℓ) . Since Σ is compact, this is the same as $H^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F))$. We first show that each of these is a Γ -torsion module whose associated polynomial is a product of prime factors of ξ_{k+1-q} .

Since $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)$ is a locally constant sheaf, $H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F))$ is isomorphic to the classical singular cohomology with coefficients in a local system by [1, p. 179-80], and, by [11, §3.4.i], this is equivalent to the simplicial cohomology with local coefficients. Since the fiber of $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)$ is $IH_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)$ and the number of simplices of Σ is finite in each dimension, the classical simplicial cohomology theory with local coefficients [19] tells us that the i th dimensional cochain module $C^i(\Sigma; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F))$ is isomorphic to a direct sum of a finite number of copies of $IH_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)$. Once again, F is the cone on the link knot pair, (S^k, ℓ) , and therefore, as we have noted several times already, each of the modules $IH_c^q(F; \Gamma|F) = IH_{k+1-q}(F; \Gamma|F)$ is isomorphic either to zero or to the intersection homology group in the same dimension of the link pair (S^k, ℓ) , which is isomorphic to the usual Alexander module of ℓ . Therefore, $C^i(\Sigma; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F))$ is the direct sum of a finite number of torsion Γ -modules whose associated polynomials are trivial or ξ_{k+1-q} , and thus its polynomial is 1 or a power of ξ_{k+1-q} . Since the cohomology modules $H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F))$ are quotients of submodules of the cochain modules, we see that the prime factors of the polynomials associated to $H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F))$ must divide ξ_{k+1-q} according to the discussion preceding the theorem.

Now we turn the crank of the spectral sequence. Each of the $E_r^{p,q}$ terms is the quotient of a submodule of the $E_{r-1}^{p,q}$ term and hence, by induction, each has the property that the prime factors of its associated polynomial must divide ξ_{k+1-q} . Since this is a bounded first quadrant spectral sequence, each term converges in a finite number of steps, and $E_\infty^{p,q}$ is a Γ -torsion module such that the prime factors of its associated polynomial must divide ξ_{k+1-q} .

By spectral sequence theory (see [17]) and Proposition 8.2,

$$E_\infty^{p,q} \cong F^p IH_c^{p+q}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) / F^{p+1} IH_c^{p+q}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$$

where the modules $F^p IH_c^{p+q}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ form an ascending bounded module filtration of $IH_c^{p+q}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$. For simplicity, following McCleary [17], let us set $A = IH_c^*(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ as a graded module which is filtered by $F^p A$ and set $E_0^p(A) = F^p A / F^{p+1} A$. Then, for some N , we have

$$0 \subset F^N A \subset F^{N-1} A \subset \dots \subset F^1 A \subset F^0 A \subset F^{-1} A = A.$$

This yields the series of short exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & F^N A & \xrightarrow{\cong} & E_0^N(A) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & F^N A & \longrightarrow & F^{N-1} A & \longrightarrow & E_0^{N-1}(A) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \vdots & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & F^k A & \longrightarrow & F^{k-1} A & \longrightarrow & E_0^{k-1}(A) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \vdots & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & F^1 A & \longrightarrow & F^0 A & \longrightarrow & E_0^0(A) \longrightarrow 0 \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & F^0 A & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & E_0^{-1}(A) \longrightarrow 0. \end{array} \quad (13)$$

Let us see what happens at the j th grade of these graded modules. For clarity, we will indicate the grade with a superscript following the argument. For any p ,

$$\begin{aligned} E_0^p(A)^j &= (F^p A / F^{p+1} A)^j \\ &= F^p A^j / F^{p+1} A^j \\ &= F^p A^{p+j-p} / F^{p+1} A^{p+j-p} \\ &= E_\infty^{p,j-p}. \end{aligned}$$

We know that each of the prime factors of the polynomial of this module must be a prime factor of $\xi_{k+1-(j-p)}$. Further, from the construction of the spectral sequence and consideration of dimensions of spaces, we know that the $E_\infty^{p,j-p}$ are non-trivial only if $0 \leq p \leq n - k - 1$ and $0 \leq j - p \leq k + 1$. Hence, as p varies, the only prime factors under consideration are those of $\xi_{k+1-(j-p)}$ in this range, i.e they are the only possible prime factors of the $E_0^p(A)^j$, collectively in p (but within the fixed grade j).

Now, by induction down the above list of short exact sequences (13) and their corresponding polynomial sequences, we can conclude that $F^N A^j$, and subsequently $F^{N-1} A^j$, $F^{N-2} A^j, \dots, F^0 A^j$, and A^j , have the property of being torsion modules whose polynomials are products of polynomials whose prime factors are all factors of one of the ξ_{k+1-s} , where s must be chosen in the range $0 \leq j - s \leq n - k - 1$ and $0 \leq s \leq k + 1$. Since $IH_c^j(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is the submodule of A corresponding to the j th grade, it too has this property.

Lastly, to draw our conclusions concerning $IH_i(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$, we need only apply the above discussion to $IH_c^{n-i}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$. Then the relevant factors are those of ξ_{k+1-s} for $0 \leq n - i - s \leq n - k - 1$ and $0 \leq s \leq k + 1$. Reindexing, these are the polynomials ξ_s , $0 \leq i - s \leq n - k - 1$

and $0 \leq s \leq k + 1$. We can then strengthen this slightly by recalling that the ξ_s must be similar to 1 for $s \geq k - 1$, as these are the Alexander polynomials of a knot $S^{k-2} \subset S^k$. Furthermore, since $\xi_0 \sim t - 1$ and $I\lambda_i(1) \neq 0$, we can conclude that the only prime factors of $IH_i(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ which can also divide $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$ are those which divide at least one of the ξ_s , $0 \leq i - s \leq n - k - 1$ and $0 < s < k - 1$.

Now, turning to the term $IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$, the arguments are the same, as $X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)$ will also be a bundle with base Σ and fiber $(S^k, \ell) \times \mathbb{R}$. Thus the intersection homology groups of the fiber will be the ordinary Alexander modules, and the spectral sequence argument will be identical except that we must replace each occurrence of i by $i - 1$. Thus the prime factors which can divide the polynomial of $IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ are those which divide at least one of the ξ_s , $0 \leq i - 1 - s \leq n - k - 1$ and $0 < s < k - 1$. Putting these results together yields the conclusion of the theorem. \square

Although it may seem that we have imposed rather weak restrictions on where we allowed ourselves to look for possible prime factors in the proof, these results are perhaps the best that one can hope for in large generality. For example, if the perversities are sufficiently large, then most of the intersection homology modules of the fibers $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(c(S^k); \Gamma)$ will be trivial, and the map i_* will closely approximate the inclusion map $IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma)$. In this case, which prime factors of the ξ_s divide the polynomial of the kernel of i_* will depend entirely on the homological properties of this inclusion map. If i_* is trivial, then all of the prime factors of the ξ_s which appear in polynomials of $IH_{i-1}^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ will appear in $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t)$. But which of these occur in general of course relies heavily on the geometry of the bundle and the ensuing spectral sequence. For a trivial bundle, they might all occur (see Proposition 7.4). Nonetheless, there are some more specific conclusions that can be drawn in certain situations:

Theorem 8.5. *We continue to assume the hypotheses of Theorem 8.4. Suppose γ is a prime element of Γ which does not divide $\lambda_i(t)$. Suppose $\gamma | \xi_s$ only if $s < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$. Then $\gamma \nmid I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}$.*

Proof. We will show that the γ -primary summand of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ maps isomorphically to the γ -primary summand of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ under the map of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence (12) and similarly for dimension $i - 1$. Then the result will follow from the polynomial sequence associated to the Mayer-Vietoris sequence. In fact, we can split the long exact module sequence into the direct sum of an exact sequences involving the γ -primary summands of the modules and a sequence involving the other summands (see the remarks following Corollary 2.2 in Section 2), and we can study the associated exact polynomial sequences of each module exact sequence. For the latter sequence (from which all γ -primary terms have been removed), the associated polynomials have no γ factors. On the other hand, if the map $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is an isomorphism in the sequence of γ -primary summands and $H_i(X(K); \Gamma)$ has no γ -primary summand, then the γ -primary summand of $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$ must be 0 with associated polynomial 1. Therefore the total polynomial associated to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma)$, which is the product of the polynomials of its summands, can have no γ factors.

The remainder of the proof will entail a spectral sequence argument in which we keep special track of only the γ -primary terms. In particular, notice that just as in the case of an exact sequence of torsion modules, we can “split off” the direct summand corresponding

to any given p -primary summand in a spectral sequence of torsion modules. For example, consider the p -primary summands of each torsion module $E_2^{p,q}$ of a spectral sequence corresponding to a bounded filtration. All non-trivial maps out of or into each term must go to or come from a like summand of another term (see Section 2). When we turn the crank to go to the E_3 stage, the p -primary summand of the homology of each E_2 term is determined entirely by “ p -primary summands of the E_2 layer” as a \tilde{p} -primary module cannot arise as the quotient (or quotient of a submodule of) a p -primary module if $\tilde{p} \not\approx p$. This follows by considering short exact polynomial sequences. Hence to determine the p -primary summands at the E_3 stage, we are free to ignore any non- p -primary summands at the E_2 stage. Repeating this argument at each stage, E_r , we see that we can “peel off” the p -primary direct summands of the entire spectral sequence, all the way up to E_∞ . Similarly, for the filtration of the abutment, A , of the spectral sequence, it can be seen from diagram (13) that the p -primary components of A depend only on the p -primary components of the $E_\infty \cong E_0(A)$ modulo the usual extension problems. The point of this argument is that if we care only about some particular p -primary component of the abutment, we can ignore all of the non- p -primary terms along the way, and, in particular, if a map of spectral sequences induces an isomorphism on p -primary components in the E_2 term then it will induce isomorphisms of the p -primary terms of their abutments.

Consider now the map $i_* : IH_i^{\tilde{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\tilde{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence. It will be perhaps more convenient to study the equivalent sheaf theoretic cohomology form of this sequence. In general, consider a stratified pseudomanifold, X , and let \mathcal{IC}_U^* denote the extension by zero of the restriction of $\mathcal{IC}^*(X)$ to the open set U . If we take open sets U_1 and U_2 with $U_1 \cap U_2 = U$ and $U_1 \cup U_2 = X$, then we have an exact sequence of differential sheaves

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{IC}_U^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{IC}_{U_1}^* \oplus \mathcal{IC}_{U_2}^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{IC}^*(X) \longrightarrow 0$$

induced by inclusions, as shown in [1, §II.13] for a single sheaf. Since these sheaves are each soft and hence c-soft (a property preserved by the restriction and extension by zero [1, II.9.13]), we obtain an exact sequence of chain modules

$$0 \longrightarrow \Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}_U^*) \longrightarrow \Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}_{U_1}^*) \oplus \Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}_{U_2}^*) \longrightarrow \Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}^*(X)) \longrightarrow 0.$$

We can now apply homology and use the obvious identification $\Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}_U^i) = \Gamma_{c|U}(\mathcal{IC}^i|U)$ to obtain the long exact hypercohomology sequence

$$\rightarrow \mathbb{H}_c^i(\mathcal{IC}^*(U)) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}_c^i(\mathcal{IC}^*(U_1)) \oplus \mathbb{H}_c^i(\mathcal{IC}^*(U_2)) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}_c^i(\mathcal{IC}^*(X)) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}_c^{i+1}(\mathcal{IC}^*(U)) \rightarrow$$

or, equivalently,

$$\rightarrow IH_c^i(U) \rightarrow IH_c^i(U_1) \oplus IH_c^i(U_2) \rightarrow IH_c^i(X) \rightarrow IH_c^{i+1}(U) \rightarrow .$$

In our current situation, with the proper choices of open subsets, this gives us the sequence

$$\rightarrow IH_c^i(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \xrightarrow{i_*} IH_c^i(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_c^i(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_c^i(S^n; \Gamma) \rightarrow,$$

which is equivalent to our original Mayer-Vietoris sequence. Note that the increasing indices of the sequence are offset by the fact that $IH_i = IH_c^{n-i}$.

With this notation, the map $i_* : IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ becomes

$$i_* : IH_c^{n-i}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_c^{n-i}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$$

induced by the inclusion of sheaves $j : \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^* \hookrightarrow \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*$. This induces a map $\pi_c(j) : \pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^* \rightarrow \pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*$ and hence a map of the spectral sequences which can be used to compute $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ by Proposition 8.2 (note that $X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)$ is a sub-fiber bundle of $N(\Sigma)$, and it is easy to check that the proposition applies). We will show that, given the hypotheses of the theorem, there is an isomorphism of the γ -primary summands of the E_2 terms of the spectral sequences in such a range as to induce an isomorphism of the γ -primary terms of the abutments in dimension $n - i$. This will complete the proof of the theorem.

We will use the letters E, F , etc. when referring to the sequence for $N(\Sigma)$ in order to maintain consistency with the above. For $X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)$, we will use \bar{E}, \bar{F} , etc. As we computed above,

$$E_2^{p,q} = H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_c^q(F; \Gamma|F)),$$

where F is the cone on the link knot pair (S^k, ℓ) . By the formula for the intersection homology of a cone, these will all be trivial modules for $0 \neq k + 1 - q \geq k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$. By assumption, no non-trivial γ -primary terms can occur in $\bar{E}_2^{p,q} = H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_c^q(S^k; \Gamma))$ in this range (i.e. for $0 \neq k + 1 - q \geq k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$), due to the restrictions on $IH_*(S^k; \Gamma) \cong H_*(S^k - \ell; \Gamma)$. Thus, restricting to γ -primary summands, it is necessary only to show that the maps of the spectral sequence

$$\bar{E}_2^{p,q} = H^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_c^q(S^k \times \mathbb{R}; \Gamma)) \rightarrow H^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_c^q(c(S^k); \Gamma)) = E_2^{p,q}$$

induce isomorphisms on their γ -primary summands in the range $k + 1 - q < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$. In fact, we shall show that these are isomorphisms of the entire modules. This will imply that i_* induces an isomorphism of the γ -primary summands of the spectral sequences.

Now, once again, the map of the spectral sequence is induced by the map $\pi_c(j) : \pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^* \rightarrow \pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*$ of c-soft sheaves. Thus, if $\mathcal{H}^*(L^*)$ represents the derived cohomology sheaf of the differential sheaf L^* , the induced map on the E_2 terms is then

$$H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^*)) \rightarrow H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*)),$$

which comes from the functorial application of the homology functor to the sheaf map

$$\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c(j)) : \mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^*) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*). \quad (14)$$

As in Proposition 8.2, $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^*)$ and $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*)$ are the sheaves generated by the presheaves

$$\begin{aligned} U \subset \Sigma &\rightarrow H^*(\Gamma_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}(\mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma)}^* | \pi^{-1}(U))) \\ &= \mathbb{H}_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}^*(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma)}^* | \pi^{-1}(U)) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} U \subset \Sigma &\rightarrow H^*(\Gamma_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}(\mathcal{IC}^* | \pi^{-1}(U))) \\ &= \mathbb{H}_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(U)}^*(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{IC}^* | \pi^{-1}(U)), \end{aligned}$$

respectively (note again that the extension by zero of the restriction of a Φ -soft sheaf is Φ -soft [1]). The inclusion $\mathcal{IC}^*_{N(\Sigma)\cap X(\Sigma)}|_{\pi^{-1}(U)} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{IC}^*|_{\pi^{-1}(U)}$ thus induces a map of presheaves

$$\mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(U)}(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{IC}^*_{N(\Sigma)\cap X(\Sigma)}|_{\pi^{-1}(U)}) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(U)}(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{IC}^*|_{\pi^{-1}(U)}),$$

for $U \subset \Sigma$, which in turn induces the sheaf map (14). We wish to determine what this map is at the stalk $y \in \Sigma$.

In order to determine this map, we will replace the sheaves \mathcal{IC}^* with the quasi-isomorphic Deligne sheaves \mathcal{P}^* , recalling that the two give us isomorphic hypercohomology. Because restrictions and extensions by zero are exact functors, the corresponding maps

$$\mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(U)}(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{P}^*_{N(\Sigma)\cap X(\Sigma)}|_{\pi^{-1}(U)}) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(U)}(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{P}^*|_{\pi^{-1}(U)})$$

are induced by the corresponding inclusions $\mathcal{P}^*_{N(\Sigma)\cap X(\Sigma)}|_{\pi^{-1}(U)} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}^*|_{\pi^{-1}(U)}$. By Lemma 8.1, we may obtain the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \varinjlim_{y \in U} \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(U)}(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{P}^*_{N(\Sigma)\cap X(\Sigma)}|_{\pi^{-1}(U)}) & \longrightarrow & \varinjlim_{y \in U} \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(U)}(\pi^{-1}(U); \mathcal{P}^*|_{\pi^{-1}(U)}) \\ \downarrow \bar{r}_y^* & & \downarrow r_y^* \\ \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{P}^*_{N(\Sigma)\cap X(\Sigma)}|_{\pi^{-1}(y)}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{P}^*|_{\pi^{-1}(y)}), \end{array} \quad (15)$$

in which the vertical maps are isomorphisms and the bottom map is induced by the inclusion of the restriction, i.e. by the inclusion of sections $\Gamma_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\mathcal{P}^*_{N(\Sigma)\cap X(\Sigma)}|_{\pi^{-1}(y)}) \rightarrow \Gamma_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{P}^*|_{\pi^{-1}(y)})$. The commutativity is clear at the sheaf level of sections and is maintained upon applying the hypercohomology and direct limit functors.

Let $\bar{\pi} : N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma) \rightarrow \Sigma$ be the projection $\pi|_{N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma)}$. Using the computations of (11) in Proposition 8.2 and the fact that restrictions commute with extensions by zero, the bottom map of diagram (15) is

$$\mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{P}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{P}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))).$$

Here $\mathcal{P}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))$ is the Deligne sheaf on $\pi^{-1}(y)$ and the extension by zero in the first term is extension only to the rest of $\pi^{-1}(y)$. By reversing the arguments of the preceding paragraph in this context, this is the map

$$\mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^*_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\pi^{-1}(y); \mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y)))$$

induced by the inclusion $\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))$. By the $c \cap \pi^{-1}(y)$ -softness of these sheaves, this is the map

$$H^*(\Gamma_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)})) \longrightarrow H^*(\Gamma_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))))$$

induced by the inclusion $\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)} \rightarrow \mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))$.

But,

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)}(\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)}) &= \Gamma_{c\cap\pi^{-1}(y)|_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)}}(\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))|_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)}) \\ &= \Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}^*(\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y))) \end{aligned}$$

because the restriction of the intersection chain sheaf to an open subset is the intersection chain sheaf of the subset and by the identity $(c \cap \pi^{-1}(y))|_{\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)} = c$ on $\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y)$, which is easily verified. Therefore, the relevant inclusion of sheaves induces the inclusion of chains $\Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}^*(\bar{\pi}^{-1}(y))) \hookrightarrow \Gamma_{c \cap \pi^{-1}(y)}(\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y))) = \Gamma_c(\mathcal{IC}^*(\pi^{-1}(y)))$, the last equality because $\pi^{-1}(y)$ is a close subspace of $\pi^{-1}(U)$ (or of $N(\Sigma)$ in general). But this is the familiar inclusion which induces the map from the link intersection homology to that of its cone in simplicial intersection homology. Furthermore, we know that the induced map is an intersection homology isomorphism on this summand in the dimension range under consideration. Hence, the locally constant sheaves $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^*)$ and $\mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*)$ have identical stalk components which are identified isomorphically by the map induced by the sheaf inclusion. Thus the inclusion induces a sheaf isomorphism.

Returning then to map between the E_2 terms of the spectral sequence. It is, once again, the map

$$H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma)}^*)) \rightarrow H_c^p(\Sigma; \mathcal{H}^q(\pi_c \mathcal{IC}_{N(\Sigma)}^*))$$

induced by the sheaf inclusion. But we have just calculated that the map of coefficient sheaves is an isomorphism. Therefore, if, as in the proof of the last theorem, we think of these modules as given by simplicial homology with local coefficients, the inclusion map induces an isomorphism on the cochain modules. This in turn induces an isomorphism of the cohomology modules and hence of the relevant E_2 terms of the spectral sequences, as we were to show.

Analogous consideration apply for the intersection homology in dimension $i-1$, the slight fluctuation in allowable ranges accounted for by the hypotheses of the theorem. \square

As we mentioned at the beginning of this section, the assumptions in the previous two theorems that the singular set Σ has a fiber bundle neighborhood are unnecessary. This is due to the following theorem from [6] and [7]:

Theorem 8.6. *Let X be a finite-dimensional stratified pseudomanifold with locally finite triangulation and filtration $\emptyset = X_{-1} \subset X_0 \subset \dots \subset X^n = X$ such that $X_i = \emptyset$ for $i < k$. Let $N = N(X_k)$ be an open regular neighborhood of X_k , and let L be the link of the stratum X_k (if X_k is not connected, then we can treat each component separately and each component will have its own link). Then, for any fixed perversity \bar{p} and local coefficient system \mathcal{G} defined on $X - X_{n-2}$, there are homological-type spectral sequences $\bar{E}_{p,q}^r$ and $E_{p,q}^r$ that abut (up to isomorphism) to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N - X_k; \mathcal{G})$ and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N; \mathcal{G})$ with respective E^2 terms*

$$\bar{E}_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X_k; \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(L; \mathcal{G}|L)) \quad E_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X_k; \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cL; \mathcal{G}|cL))$$

($cL =$ the open cone on L), where $\mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(L; \mathcal{G}|L)$ and $\mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cL; \mathcal{G}|cL)$ are local coefficient systems with respective stalks $IH_q^{\bar{p}}(L; \mathcal{G}|L)$ and $IH_q^{\bar{p}}(cL; \mathcal{G}|cL)$. Furthermore, the map $i_* : IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N - X_k; \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N; \mathcal{G})$ induced by inclusion induces a map of spectral sequences which on the the E^2 terms is determined by the coefficient homomorphism $\mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(L; \mathcal{G}|L) \rightarrow \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cL; \mathcal{G}|cL)$ given by the map on the stalk intersection homology modules induced by the inclusion $L \hookrightarrow cL$.

For our study of a knot $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$ with only one singular stratum, recall that that we are stratifying S^n as $S^n \supset S^{n-2} \supset \Sigma$, where Σ is the singular set of the embedding. So

far in this section, we have deduced several results concerning the intersection Alexander polynomials of the knot by studying the long exact Mayer-Vietoris sequence corresponding to the pair $(N(\Sigma), X(\Sigma))$, where $N(\Sigma)$ was an open regular neighborhood of Σ and $X(\Sigma)$ was the complement a closed regular neighborhood of Σ contained in $N(\Sigma)$. Assuming that $N(\Sigma)$ had the structure of a fiber bundle, the arguments then involved the use of spectral sequences to compute and compare the intersection homologies of $N(\Sigma)$ and $N(\Sigma) \cap X(\Sigma)$. However, we can apply Theorem 8.6 to show that the assumption that $N(\Sigma)$ be a bundle is unnecessary. In fact, the spectral sequences of Theorem 8.6 simply take the role of the sheaf theoretic spectral sequences we have been using. It only remains to prove the following lemma and its corollary which address the compatibility of the sets mentioned in the theorem with those of the previous arguments in this section.

Lemma 8.7. *Suppose that Z is a subpolyhedron of the filtered polyhedron Y and that $\bar{N}(Z)$ is a filtered regular neighborhood of Z (such a neighborhood always exists; see [20, p. 26]). Let $N(Z)$ be the interior of $\bar{N}(Z)$, let $\bar{N}'(Z)$ be a closed regular neighborhood of Y in $N(Z)$ (and hence also in Y), and let $X(Z) = Y - \bar{N}'(Z)$. Then $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(Y - Z, X(Z); \mathcal{G}) = 0$.*

Proof. By its definition, $X(Z)$ is the complement in Y of a closed regular neighborhood of Z , $\bar{N}'(Z)$, which is contained in $N(Z)$. Suppose that we are given a singular intersection chain $\sigma : \Delta^i \rightarrow Y - Z$ (covered by local coefficients) which is a relative cycle. Since the image of σ is compact, we can find another closed regular neighborhood of Z , $\bar{N}''(Z) \subset \bar{N}'(Z)$, such that $\text{Im}(\sigma) \subset Z - \bar{N}''(Z)$. Hence, we have the inclusions $\bar{N}'' \subset \bar{N}' \subset \bar{N}$ in which each closed set is contained in the interior of the next. By [20, Prop. 1.5], $\text{cl}(\bar{N}(Z) - \bar{N}''(Z)) \cong_{PL} I \times \text{fr}(N''(Z))$, and this product respects the stratification. Thus, there exists a stratum-preserving deformation retraction $Y - \bar{N}''(Z) \rightarrow Y - N(Z)$ by retracting along the product lines. Furthermore, the homotopy which gives the retraction can be applied to give a relative homology of σ with a chain lying in $Y - \bar{N}'(Z)$ by the standard prism process (see [6] for proofs that this is allowable when using intersection homology). Note that while the sides of the prism may contribute to the boundary, those chains all lie in $Y - \bar{N}'(Z)$ by the assumption that σ is a relative cycle and the fact that our homotopy equivalence takes $Y - \bar{N}'(Z)$ into itself. Since we can apply this argument to any cycle in $IC_i^{\bar{p}}(Y - Z, X(Z); \mathcal{G})$, we conclude that $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(Y - Z, X(Z); \mathcal{G}) = 0$. \square

Corollary 8.8. *Consider the commutative diagram of Mayer-Vietoris sequences induced by the inclusions $X(\Sigma) \hookrightarrow S^n - \Sigma$:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma) \cap N(\Sigma); \Gamma) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) & \longrightarrow \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
\longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) - \Sigma; \Gamma) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \Sigma; \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) & \longrightarrow & IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n; \Gamma) & \longrightarrow \cdot
\end{array}$$

This diagram is an isomorphism of exact sequences.

Proof. The commutativity is obvious, as is the fact that the middle vertical map does not mix terms. It is sufficient to prove that the map induced by inclusion $i_* : IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma) \rightarrow$

$IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \Sigma; \Gamma)$ is an isomorphism, and the result will follow by the five-lemma. From the long exact sequence of the pair $(S^n - \Sigma, X(\Sigma))$, it suffices to show that $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \Sigma, X(\Sigma); \Gamma) = 0$, but this is the content of the lemma. \square

We can now repeat, up to isomorphism, any spectral sequence arguments used earlier in this section in the context of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence of the pair $(N(\Sigma); S^n - \Sigma)$, but without assuming any bundle structures. In fact, the bundle assumptions were only used to obtain the spectral sequences in the first place and to determine the maps between them. Of course those arguments using the cohomological language of sheaves must now be dualized from cohomological to homological indexing, a straightforward chore which we leave to the reader. Furthermore, we should point out that, according to Theorem 8.6, the map of the spectral sequences is induced by the inclusion $N(\Sigma) - \Sigma \hookrightarrow N(\Sigma)$ and is determined on the E^2 terms entirely by the coefficient homomorphism $\mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(L; \mathcal{G}|L) \rightarrow \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cL; \mathcal{G}|cL)$ given by the map on the stalk intersection homology modules induced by the inclusion $L \hookrightarrow cL$. Hence, this is either a canonical isomorphism or the 0 map, according to the dimension ranges in the usual cone formula. But this agrees precisely with the computation of the map for sheaf intersection cohomology used in the proof of Theorem 8.5.

Note also that, by the proof of the preceding lemma, $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \Sigma; \Gamma) \cong IH_i^{\bar{p}}(X(\Sigma); \Gamma)$, so there is no difficulty added to the computations involving the polynomials of the knot exterior, i.e. both of these modules are isomorphic to $H_i(S^n - \Sigma; \Gamma)$ according to our previous calculations.

Thus we conclude:

Theorem 8.9. *Theorems 8.4 and 8.5 concerning intersection Alexander polynomials of knots with one singular stratum remain true without the assumption of the existence of a fiber bundle neighborhood of the singular stratum.*

We conclude this section with a few corollaries:

Corollary 8.10. *For a knot $K \subset S^n$ with a manifold singularity of dimension $n - k - 1$:*

1. *If $i < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \lambda_i(t)$.*
2. *If $\bar{p}(k + 1) \leq 1$ or if $H_i(S^k - \ell; \Gamma) = 0$ for $i \geq j$ and $\bar{p}(k + 1) \leq k - j$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \lambda_i(t)$ for all i .*
3. *If $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k + 1) + 1$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \mu_i(t)$.*

Proof. 1. For $q < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$, the map $IH_q^{\bar{p}}(S^k; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_q^{\bar{p}}(cS^k; \Gamma)$ induced by inclusion is an isomorphism [15]. Hence the maps $\mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(S^k; \Gamma) \rightarrow \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cS^k; \Gamma)$ and $H_p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(S^k; \Gamma)) \rightarrow H_p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cS^k; \Gamma))$ are isomorphisms induced by inclusion for $q < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$. But these are the maps of all of the terms of the spectral sequences which abut to $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) - \Sigma; \Gamma)$ and $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$. Hence, by spectral sequence theory, the inclusion induces an isomorphism $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) - \Sigma; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ for $i < k - \bar{p}(k + 1)$. This implies the corollary by the Mayer-Vietoris sequence (12).

2. In these cases, the maps $H_p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(S^k; \Gamma)) \rightarrow H_p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cS^k; \Gamma))$ are all isomorphism, so we obtain an isomorphism of spectral sequences. Thus $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) - \Sigma; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ is an isomorphism for all i , and we conclude as above.

3. For this case, we note that if $p + q \geq n - \bar{p}(k + 1)$ then $H_p(\Sigma; \mathcal{IH}_q^{\bar{p}}(cS^k; \Gamma)) = 0$. Therefore, $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) = 0$ for $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k + 1)$, and, in this range, the kernel of the map $IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma) - \Sigma; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_i^{\bar{p}}(N(\Sigma); \Gamma) \oplus IH_i^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \Sigma; \Gamma)$ of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence is the kernel of the map $H_i(N(\Sigma) - \Sigma; \Gamma) \rightarrow H_i(S^n - \Sigma; \Gamma)$, using the fact that the intersection homology groups coincide with the ordinary homology groups of the complement for locally-flat embeddings (see the proofs in Section 7). Thus for $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k + 1)$ the polynomial sequence associated to the intersection homology Mayer-Vietoris sequence is isomorphic to the long exact polynomial sequence associated to the long exact sequence of the knot pair in ordinary homology in two thirds of its terms. Since the corresponding exact polynomial sequences agree in two-thirds of their terms and in the common factors of those terms, they must agree in the remaining terms (see Section 2) and $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}} \sim \mu_i(t)$ for $i \geq n - \bar{p}(k + 1) + 1$.

□

Corollary 8.11. *For a knot $K \subset S^n$ with manifold singularity of dimension $n - k - 1$ and a superperversity \bar{p} , then:*

1. *If $i > n - 1 - \bar{p}(k + 1)$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_{n-i-1}(t^{-1})$.*
2. *If $\bar{p}(k + 1) \geq k - 1$ or if $H_i(S^k - \ell; \Gamma) = 0$ for $i \geq j$ and $\bar{p}(k + 1) \geq j$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \lambda_{n-i-1}(t^{-1})$ for all i .*
3. *If $i \leq k - \bar{p}(k + 1) - 2$, then $I\lambda_i^{\bar{p}}(t) \sim \mu_{n-i-1}(t^{-1})$.*

Proof. These statements follow from the previous corollary and superduality. □

9 Relations between $I\lambda_i$ and the polynomials of the links for general non-locally-flat knots

In this section, we develop some relations between the intersection Alexander polynomials of a knot, its ordinary Alexander polynomials, and the intersection and ordinary Alexander polynomials of its link knots. For example, we determine what the possible prime divisors of the intersection Alexander polynomials can be in terms of the prime divisors of these other polynomials.

Once again, we consider the PL-knot K , given by $S^{n-2} \subset S^n$, as a stratified pseudo-manifold pair. The top skeleton of the filtration is $K \cong S^{n-2}$, and the lower skeleta are denoted Σ_i ; if there is no stratum of dimension k , then we let $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_{k-1}$. We do not place any unnatural limitation on the number of non-empty strata as we did in previous sections. Also, for consistency of notation, let $\Sigma_{n-2} = K \cong S^{n-2}$ and let $\Sigma_n = S^n$. We continue to let Σ , with no index, denote the set of points at which the embedding is non-locally-flat, i.e. the union of all strata of codimension greater than 2. We will assume, initially, that S^n is given a fixed triangulation with each Σ_i triangulated as a full subcomplex. We continue to employ the local coefficient system Γ defined on $S^n - S^{n-2}$.

Let \bar{N}_0 be a closed regular neighborhood of Σ_0 (or empty if Σ_0 is), let $W_1 = S^n - \bar{N}_0$, and let $X_1 = \Sigma_1 \cap W_1$. Then inductively define \bar{N}_i to be a closed regular neighborhood of X_i in W_i , $W_i = S^n - \cup_{j < i} \bar{N}_j$, and $X_i = \Sigma_i \cap W_i$. (We assume that all regular neighborhoods

are given by derived neighborhoods in sufficiently fine subdivisions so that, in particular, there are no connected components of $N_i \cap \Sigma_j$, $j > i$, which do not also intersect Σ_i .) For consistency, we also set $W_0 = S^n$ and $X_0 = \Sigma_0$. Notice that W_i is equal to either W_{i-1} or $W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1}$, depending on whether or not X_i is empty. Each W_i is open in S^n and in W_{i-1} , and X_i is a close subpolyhedron of W_i . Furthermore, the triangulation of S^n induces triangulations on W_i and X_i for each i , and W_i is a stratified pseudomanifold filtered by the restrictions of the Σ_k . Any distinguished neighborhood in W_i of a point in X_i is also a distinguished neighborhood in S^n , so the links, L_{ik} , of the connected components of X_i are the same as the links of the connected components of Σ_i . Also, for each i , let \bar{N}'_i be a closed regular neighborhood of \bar{N}_i in W_i , and let N'_i be the interior of \bar{N}'_i . Then \bar{N}'_i is also a closed regular neighborhood of X_i in W_i , $\bar{N}_i \subset N'_i$, and $W_i = N'_i \cup (W_i - \bar{N}_i)$, which is a union of open sets in W_i . Therefore, there are Mayer-Vietoris sequences

$$\rightarrow IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i \cap (W_i - \bar{N}_i); \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i; \Gamma) \oplus IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i - \bar{N}_i; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma) \rightarrow .$$

From the definitions, $W_i = W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1}$, and $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i \cap (W_i - \bar{N}_i); \Gamma) \cong IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$ by Lemma 8.7. So this Mayer-Vietoris sequence is isomorphic to the following long exact sequence:

$$\rightarrow IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i; \Gamma) \oplus IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_{i+1}; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma) \rightarrow . \quad (16)$$

The map from $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$ to the summand $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i; \Gamma)$ is the map induced by the inclusion $N'_i - X_i \hookrightarrow N'_i$.

Lemma 9.1. *For all i , $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma; \Gamma) \cong IH_*^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \bar{N}(\Sigma); \Gamma) \cong H_*(S^n - K; \Gamma)$.*

Proof. The second isomorphism is established in the proof of Proposition 7.4. For the first isomorphism, we will show that $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma; \Gamma) \cong IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_{i+1} - W_{i+1} \cap \Sigma; \Gamma)$ for all i . This suffices because $W_0 = S^n$ and $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \Sigma; \Gamma) \cong IH_*^{\bar{p}}(S^n - \bar{N}(\Sigma); \Gamma)$ by Lemma 8.7.

That $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma; \Gamma) \cong IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_{i+1} - W_{i+1} \cap \Sigma; \Gamma)$ is established by showing that $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma_i, W_{i+1} - W_{i+1} \cap \Sigma; \Gamma) = 0$, and the demonstration of this is essentially the proof of Lemma 8.7. Of course if $W_i = W_{i+1}$ the proof is trivial, so assume otherwise. If C is a relative cycle representing an element of $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma_i, W_{i+1} - W_{i+1} \cap \Sigma; \Gamma)$, then C lies in $W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma_i \subset W_i$ and its boundary lies in $W_{i+1} - W_{i+1} \cap \Sigma \subset W_{i+1} = W_i - \bar{N}_i$. Now, just as in the proof of Lemma 8.7, there is a stratum preserving homotopy which takes C into W_{i+1} while keeping ∂C in W_{i+1} , and, by the prism construction (see the proof of Lemma 8.7), this induces a relative homology from C to a chain in W_{i+1} . However, since Σ is a skeleton and the homotopy is stratum preserving, the homotopy on C lies entirely in $W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma$ and provides a homology in $W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma$ between C and a chain in $W_{i+1} - W_{i+1} \cap \Sigma$. Since C was an arbitrary relative cycle, we have $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma_i, W_{i+1} - W_{i+1} \cap \Sigma; \Gamma) = 0$. \square

Since $W_n - W_n \cap \Sigma = W_n$, we can hope to begin with $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_n; \Gamma)$, which by the preceding lemma is simply the Alexander module $H_*(S^n - K; \Gamma)$, and determine something about the composition of the polynomials of the $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma)$, $i < n$, by an induction involving the long exact sequences (16). Since $W_0 = S^n$, we induct down to the intersection Alexander module of the knot. The first few steps are trivial because $W_i - W_i \cap \Sigma = W_i$ for $n \geq i \geq n - 3$. After that, the singular strata of the embedding begin to come in. By polynomial algebra,

we know that the polynomial of $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma)$ must divide the product of the polynomials of $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_{i+1}; \Gamma)$, $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i; \Gamma)$, and $IH_{j-1}^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$. We can know something about the first by induction. To study the latter two, we note that X_i is the bottom stratum in W_i . So, as we discussed in the last section, by Theorem 8.6 each is the abutment of a spectral sequence whose $E_{p,q}^2$ term is the homology of X_i with a local coefficient system with fiber isomorphic to the intersection homology of the link, which is itself a knot pair. More specifically, by Theorem 8.6, for each connected component $X_{i,k}$ of X_k with link $L_{i,k}$ and regular neighborhood $\bar{N}_{i,k}$, there are homological-type spectral sequences $\bar{E}_{p,q}^r$ and $E_{p,q}^r$ which abut (up to isomorphism) to $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(N_{i,k} - X_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ and $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(N_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ with respective E^2 terms

$$\bar{E}_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma)) \quad E_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(cL; \Gamma)),$$

where $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(cL_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ are local coefficient systems with respective stalks $I\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ and $I\mathcal{H}_q(cL_{i,k}; \Gamma)$. Furthermore, the map $i_* : IH_*(N_{i,k} - X_{i,k}; \Gamma) \rightarrow IH_*(N_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ induced by inclusion induces a map of spectral sequence which on the the $E_{p,q}^2$ terms is determined by the coefficient homomorphism $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(cL_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ given by the map on the fiber intersection homology modules induced by the inclusion $L_{i,k} \hookrightarrow cL_{i,k}$. Once again, this latter intersection homology map is the identity map for $q = 0, q < n - i - 1 - \bar{p}(n - i)$ and the 0 map for $0 \neq q \geq n - i - 1 - \bar{p}(n - i)$.

It will be useful to know that $\bar{E}_{p,q}^2$ and $E_{p,q}^2$ are finitely generated Γ -modules. To establish this, we begin by demonstrating that if \mathcal{G} is a local coefficient system on X_i and $U_i = \Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}$, then $H_*(X_i; \mathcal{G}) \cong H_*(\Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}; \bar{\mathcal{G}})$, where $\bar{\mathcal{G}}$ is a suitable local coefficient system such that $\bar{\mathcal{G}}|_{X_i} = \mathcal{G}$. This can once again be proven inductively by the methods of Lemmas 8.7 and 9.1. Recall that, by definition, $X_i = \Sigma_i \cap W_i$ and W_i is equal to either W_{i-1} or $W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1}$. Consider $\Sigma_i \cap W_{i-1}$. If $W_i = W_{i-1}$, then $\Sigma_i \cap W_{i-1} = X_i$, and clearly $H_*(X_i; \mathcal{G}) = H_*(\Sigma_i \cap W_{i-1}; \mathcal{G})$. If $W_i = W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1}$, then $X_i = \Sigma_i \cap W_{i-1} - (\Sigma_i \cap \bar{N}_{i-1})$. But since $\Sigma_{i-1} \cap W_{i-1} \subset \bar{N}_{i-1}$, then $\Sigma_i \cap W_{i-1} - (\Sigma_i \cap \bar{N}_{i-1}) = (U_i) \cap (W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1}) = (U_i \cap W_{i-1}) - (U_i \cap \bar{N}_{i-1})$. Define $\Sigma_{i,j} = U_i \cap W_j$, and note that $X_i = \Sigma_{i,i}$. We now claim that $H_*(\Sigma_{i,i-1}, X_i; \bar{\mathcal{G}}) = 0$ for suitable $\bar{\mathcal{G}}$.

We note once again as in the proof of Lemmas 8.7 and 9.1 that, for any compact set in $W_{i-1} - X_{i-1}$, there exists a stratum-preserving homotopy which retracts this set into $W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1}$. Since the homotopy is stratum-preserving, any compact set in $U_i \cap W_{i-1} = \Sigma_{i,i-1}$ retracts within $\Sigma_{i,i-1}$ into $U_i \cap (W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1})$. So in particular, any compact set in $\Sigma_{i,i-1}$ retracts into X_i , since $\Sigma_{i,i-1} \subset W_{i-1} - X_{i-1}$ and $U_i \cap (W_{i-1} - \bar{N}_{i-1}) = X_i$. Now, we can define $\bar{\mathcal{G}}$ on $\Sigma_{i,i-1}$. Choose a basepoint in X_i and any loop γ in $\Sigma_{i,i-1}$ representing an element of $\pi_1(\Sigma_{i,i-1})$. Since the image of γ is compact, we can retract the loop into a loop in $X_i = \Sigma_{i,i}$ representing the same element of $\pi_1(\Sigma_{i,i-1})$. Thus the action of γ on the fiber over the basepoint is given by the action of the retracted γ . Hence, we have determined a local coefficient system on $\Sigma_{i,i-1}$ which clearly restricts to \mathcal{G} on X_i . The proof that $H_*(\Sigma_{i,i-1}, \Sigma_{i,i}; \bar{\mathcal{G}}) = 0$ now also proceeds as in the cited lemmas by retracting relative cycles in X_i . This further implies that $H_*(X_i; \mathcal{G}) = H_*(\Sigma_{i,i}; \mathcal{G}) \cong H_*(\Sigma_{i,i-1}; \bar{\mathcal{G}})$.

We can now continue by downward induction to show that, for $j \leq i$, $H_*(\Sigma_{i,j-1}, \Sigma_{i,j}; \bar{\mathcal{G}}) = 0$. If $W_j = W_{j-1}$ this is again trivial. Otherwise, we need only note that once again $\Sigma_{i,j} = U_i \cap W_j = U_i \cap (W_{j-1} - \bar{N}_{j-1})$, while $\Sigma_{i,j-1} = U_i \cap W_{j-1}$. It now follows by the same methods as the preceding paragraph that $H_*(\Sigma_{i,j}, \Sigma_{i,j-1}; \bar{\mathcal{G}}) = 0$ for a similarly chosen

extension of the coefficient system and hence that $H_*(\Sigma_{i,j}; \bar{\mathcal{G}}) \cong H_*(\Sigma_{i,j-1}; \bar{\mathcal{G}})$. But $\Sigma_{i,0} = U_i \cap W_0 = U_i \cap S^n = U_i$. Therefore, $H_*(X_i; \mathcal{G}) \cong H_*(U_i; \bar{\mathcal{G}})$.

Now, with respect to our initial triangulation of S^n or one of its derived subdivisions, let $\bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1})$ be a closed regular neighborhood of Σ_{i-1} in S^n with interior $N(\Sigma_{i-1})$. Note that $\bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1})$ and $N(\Sigma_{i-1})$ are stratum-preserving homotopy equivalent as are $S^n - N(\Sigma_{i-1})$ and $S^n - \bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1})$ (for example, each member of the first pair has a stratum-preserving deformation retraction to any closed regular neighborhood of Σ_{i-1} interior to $N(\Sigma_{i-1})$, while each member of the latter pair has a stratum-preserving deformation retraction to any closed regular neighborhood of Σ_{i-1} which contains $\bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1})$ in its interior). Also, again by the methods of the preceding paragraphs, $H_*(U_i, U_i - U_i \cap \bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1}); \bar{\mathcal{G}}) = 0$ since $(U_i, U_i - U_i \cap \bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1})) = U_i \cap (S^n - \Sigma_{i-1}, S^n - \bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1}))$. Therefore, $H_*(U_i; \bar{\mathcal{G}}) \cong H_*(U_i - U_i \cap \bar{N}(\Sigma_{i-1}); \bar{\mathcal{G}}) \cong H_*(U_i - U_i \cap N(\Sigma_{i-1}); \bar{\mathcal{G}})$, the second isomorphism induced by the stratum-preserving homotopy equivalences noted above. But $U_i - U_i \cap N(\Sigma_{i-1}) = \Sigma_i - (\Sigma_i \cap N(\Sigma_{i-1}))$ is a closed subcomplex of S^n and, in particular, a finite complex. Thus, the homology module $H_*(U_i - U_i \cap N(\Sigma_{i-1}); \bar{\mathcal{G}})$ can be calculated as the simplicial homology with local coefficients of a finite complex. Therefore, it is a finitely generate module if the fiber G of \mathcal{G} is a finitely generated module over a Noetherian ring.

We have shown:

Lemma 9.2. *If \mathcal{G} is a local coefficient system on X_i whose fiber G is a finitely generated module over a Noetherian ring, then $H_*(X_i; \mathcal{G})$ is a finitely generated module.*

Corollary 9.3. *$\bar{E}_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma))$ and $E_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(cL; \Gamma))$ are finitely generated Γ -torsion modules for all (p, q) .*

Proof. It suffices to show this for the $\bar{E}_{p,q}^2$ since, as previously noted, each $E_{p,q}^2$ is equal to either $\bar{E}_{p,q}^2$ or zero.

Since $L_{i,k}$ is a knot pair (possibly non-locally-flat), $I\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ is a finitely generated Γ -torsion module since, by [2, Propositions 2.2 and 2.4], it is finitely generated as a \mathbb{Q} -vector space. It then follows from the preceding lemma that $H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma))$ is finitely generated as a Γ -module and as a \mathbb{Q} vector space and hence is a finitely generated Γ -torsion module. □

We can now say something about prime divisors of the polynomials of the modules $I\mathcal{H}_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma)$.

Lemma 9.4. *Let w_{ij} be the polynomial of the Γ -module $I\mathcal{H}_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma)$, and let ξ_{ikj} denote the j th intersection Alexander polynomial of the link $L_{i,k}$ of the k th connected component $X_{i,k}$ of X_i . Suppose that γ is a prime element of Γ . Then $\gamma | w_{ij}$ only if one of the following holds:*

1. $\gamma | w_{i+1,j}$,
2. $\gamma | \xi_{iks}$ for some k and for some s such that $0 \leq j - s \leq i - 1$ and $0 \leq s < n - i - 2$.

Furthermore, if $\gamma \nmid w_{i+1,j}$ and, for each k , $\gamma | \xi_{iks}$ only if $s < n - i - 1 - \bar{p}(n - i)$, then $\gamma \nmid w_{ij}$.

Proof. For W_{n-1} , this holds vacuously because $W_n = W_{n-1}$ and X_{n-1} is empty. Also each $w_{n-1,j}$ is a well-defined polynomial since, by Lemma 9.1, $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_n - W_n \cap \Sigma; \Gamma) \cong H_*(S^n - K; \Gamma)$, but $H_*(S^n - K; \Gamma)$ is the ordinary Alexander module of the knot.

The proof now proceeds by downward induction on i . Assuming that the statement is true for $i + 1$ and using the Mayer-Vietoris sequences (16), the lemma follows for i as in the proofs of Theorems 8.4 and 8.5. Although sheaf intersection cohomology is used there, the same spectral sequence arguments concerning prime divisors holds here, using instead the spectral sequences of Theorem 8.6 and the map between sequences given there. It is only necessary to use homological indexing throughout, instead of shifting to cohomological indexing and back as was done in the proofs of the theorems. That each w_{ij} is well-defined as the polynomial of a finitely generated torsion Γ -module follows from the fact that each of the other terms of the Mayer-Vietoris sequence is a finitely-generated torsion Γ -module either by induction or by the proofs of Theorems 8.4 and 8.5. \square

Theorem 9.5. *Let ξ_{iks} denote the s th intersection Alexander polynomial of the link $L_{i,k}$ of the k th connected component of $\Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}$. A prime element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ divides the intersection Alexander polynomial $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ only if $\gamma | \lambda_j$ or $\gamma | \xi_{iks}$ for some set of indices i, k , and s such that $0 \leq j - s \leq i - 1$ and $0 \leq s < n - i - 2$. $\gamma \nmid I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ if, for each i and k , $\gamma | \xi_{iks}$ only if $s < n - i - 1 - \bar{p}(n - i)$.*

Proof. Since $W_0 = S^n$, this follows from the lemma by induction and the fact noted in its proof that $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_n; \Gamma) \cong H_*(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. \square

We can also say something about the maximum power to which a prime divisor of the intersection Alexander polynomial can occur. Once again, suppose that γ is a prime element of Γ . Let γ_{ipq} be the maximum power to which γ occurs as a divisor of the polynomial e_{ipq} of $H_p(X_i; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L; \Gamma)) = \bigoplus_k H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{I}\mathcal{H}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma))$, i.e. $\gamma^{\gamma_{ipq}} | e_{ipq}$, but $\gamma^{\gamma_{ipq}+1} \nmid e_{ipq}$. Note that $\gamma_{ipq} = 0$ if $X_i = \emptyset$. Let γ_l denote the maximum power to which γ occurs in the Alexander polynomial λ_l of the knot K , and let γ_{ij} denote the maximum power to which γ occurs in $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma)$.

Lemma 9.6. *The prime factor γ cannot occur in the polynomial w_{ij} to a power greater than*

$$N = \gamma_{i+1,j} + \left(\sum_{\substack{p+q=j \\ q=0, q < n-i-1-\bar{p}(n-i)}} \gamma_{ipq} \right) + \left(\sum_{p+q=j-1} \gamma_{ipq} \right),$$

i.e. $\gamma^{N+1} \nmid w_{i,j}$.

Proof. This again follows from the fact that the polynomial w_{ij} of $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_i; \Gamma)$ must divide the product of the polynomials of $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(W_{i+1}; \Gamma)$, $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i; \Gamma)$, and $IH_{j-1}^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$, so the power of γ occurring in w_{ij} must be bounded by the sum of the powers to which it occurs in the other three polynomials. Hence, the summand $\gamma_{i+1,j}$ of N enters trivially, and it only remains to show that the powers of γ in the polynomials of $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i; \Gamma)$ and $IH_{j-1}^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$ are bounded by $\sum_{\substack{p+q=j \\ q=0, q < n-i-1-\bar{p}(n-i)}} \gamma_{ipq}$ and $\sum_{p+q=j-1} \gamma_{ipq}$, respectively.

Let us first consider $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$. It is the direct sum over k of the modules $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(N'_{ik} - X_{i,k}; \Gamma)$, which are the abutments of spectral sequences with $E_{p,q}^2$ terms given

by $H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{IH}_q(L_{i,k}; \Gamma))$. Since each term of the spectral sequence $E_{p,q}^r$ is a quotient of a submodule of $E_{p,q}^{r-1}$, the power of γ occurring in the polynomial of $E_{p,q}^r$, $r \geq 2$, must be less than or equal to that occurring in the polynomial of $E_{p,q}^2$. But we can also see from the series of short exact sequences (13) (suitably dualized for a homological spectral sequence) that the polynomial of the l th grade of the abutment is the product of the polynomials of the terms $E_{p,l-p}^\infty$. Therefore, the power of γ in the polynomial of $IH_l^{\bar{p}}(N'_{ik} - X_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ must be less than or equal to the sum of the powers of γ in $H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{IH}_{l-p}(L_{i,k}; \Gamma))$, where the sum is taken over p . Furthermore, since $IH_l^{\bar{p}}(N'_{ik} - X_{i,k}; \Gamma)$ is the direct sum over k of the $IH_l^{\bar{p}}(N'_{ik} - X_{i,k}; \Gamma)$, the power of γ in the polynomial of the former is equal to the sum of the powers in the polynomials of the latter. Thus the power of γ in the polynomial of $IH_l^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$ is less than or equal to the sums of the powers of γ in $H_p(X_{i,k}; \mathcal{IH}_{l-p}(L_{i,k}; \Gamma))$, the sum being taken over p and k . But for each fixed p , the sum over k gives the power $\gamma_{ip, l-p}$ of γ in the polynomial of $H_p(X_i; \mathcal{IH}_{l-p}(L_i; \Gamma))$, so the entire sum is $\sum_{p+q=l} \gamma_{ipq}$. Therefore, the desired bound for this term holds by taking $l = j - 1$.

The bound for the power of γ in the polynomial of $IH_j^{\bar{p}}(N'_i; \Gamma)$ is determined in the same manner once we have, again, observed that the $E_{p,q}^2$ terms of the spectral sequence that compute it are the same as the $E_{p,q}^2$ terms of the spectral sequence for $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(N'_i - X_i; \Gamma)$ when $q = 0$ or $q < n - i - 1 - \bar{p}(n - i)$ and are equal to 0 otherwise. \square

Theorem 9.7. *The prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$ cannot occur in the polynomial $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ to a power greater than*

$$\gamma_j + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \left(\left(\sum_{\substack{p+q=j \\ q=0, q < n-i-1-\bar{p}(n-i)}} \gamma_{ipq} \right) + \left(\sum_{p+q=j-1} \gamma_{ipq} \right) \right).$$

Proof. This follows by an induction on the preceding lemma and the facts that $W_0 = S^n$ and $IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_n; \Gamma) = IH_*^{\bar{p}}(W_{n-1}; \Gamma) \cong H_*(S^n - K; \Gamma)$. \square

Lastly, we can relate the divisors of $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ to the divisors of the ordinary Alexander polynomials ζ_{iks} of the link knots L_{ik} . We have seen in Theorem 9.5 that a prime $\gamma \in \Gamma$ can divide $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ only if it divides the ordinary Alexander polynomial λ_j of K or one of the intersection Alexander polynomials ξ_{iks} of the link L_{ik} , for s in a certain range. But then, again by Theorem 9.5, γ can divide ξ_{iks} only if it divides the ordinary Alexander polynomial of the link knot or the intersection Alexander polynomial of one of its links. However, in the stratified pseudomanifold S^n , the link of a stratum of a link is also a link of the original pseudomanifold. To see this, recall that if L_{ik} is the link of the k th connected component of the stratum $\Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}$, then for some point $x \in \Sigma_i - \Sigma_{i-1}$ there exists a topological neighborhood of x in S^n which is PL-homeomorphic to $D^i \times cL_{ik}$ and such that the filtration of L_{ik} and that of $D^i \times cL_{ik}$ induced by the cone and product filtrations are the same as those induced by the restriction of the filtration on S^n . Similarly, if the induced stratification on L_{ik} is given by the filtration $\{T_l\}$ and \mathcal{L} is the link of the j th stratum of L_{ik} , then for some point $y \in T_j - T_{j-1}$ there exists a topological neighborhood of y in L_{ik} which is PL-homeomorphic to $D^j \times c\mathcal{L}$ and such that the filtration of \mathcal{L} and $D^j \times c\mathcal{L}$ is the same as that induced by restriction of the filtration on L_{ik} . But now consider $D^i \times \mathbb{R} \times D^j \times c\mathcal{L} \cong D^{i+j+1} \times c\mathcal{L}$ as a PL-subspace of $D^i \times \mathbb{R} \times L_{ik} \cong D^i \times (cL_{ik} - *)$. Since the map of $D^i \times cL_{ik}$ to a neighborhood of x is

a PL-homeomorphism, its restriction to $D^{i+j+1} \times c\mathfrak{L}$ is also a PL-homeomorphism into its image in S^n . In particular, since the dimension of $D^{i+j+1} \times c\mathfrak{L}$ is clearly n by its construction, this set is a neighborhood of the image of y under the homeomorphism. Furthermore, the filtrations are all compatible so that the filtration of $D^{i+j+1} \times c\mathfrak{L}$ as a product of a cone of a filtered space must be the same as the restriction filtration induce by its inclusion in S^n . Therefore, $D^{i+j+1} \times c\mathfrak{L}$ is a distinguished neighborhood of the image of y , and \mathfrak{L} is in fact the link of one of the connected components of the stratum $\Sigma_{i+j+1} - \Sigma_{i+j}$ in S^n .

It now follows from Theorem 9.5 that γ divides the intersection Alexander polynomial of the knot pair L_{ik} only if it divides the ordinary Alexander polynomial of that knot pair or one of the intersection Alexander polynomials of another link of a stratum of S^n with smaller codimension. Thus, by induction and Theorem 9.5, we have the following:

Theorem 9.8. *Let ζ_{iks} be the s th ordinary Alexander polynomial of the link knot pair L_{ik} . A prime element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ divides the s th intersection Alexander polynomial $I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ only if $\gamma|\lambda_j$ or $\gamma|\zeta_{iks}$ for some set of indices i, k , and s , such that $0 \leq j - s \leq i - 1$ and $0 \leq s < n - i - 2$.*

Proof. It only remains to prove that this range of indices is the correct one. By Theorem 9.5, we know that $\gamma|I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ only if $\gamma|\lambda_j$ or $\gamma|\xi_{iks}$ for indices i, k, s such that $0 \leq j - s \leq i - 1$ and $0 \leq s < n - i - 2$ (call this Index Condition 1 for i and s). Similarly, applying Theorem 9.5 to the link knot L_{ik} of dimension $n - i - 1$, we know that γ divides the s th intersection Alexander polynomial ξ_{iks} of $L_{i,k}$ only if it divides the s th ordinary Alexander polynomial of L_{ik} , ζ_{iks} , or the r th intersection Alexander polynomial of some link of the link, say \mathfrak{L}_{al} , for some set of indices a, l , and r satisfying $0 \leq s - r \leq a - 1$ and $0 \leq r < n - i - 1 - a - 2 = n - (i + a + 1) - 2$ (call this Index Condition 2 for a and r). But by the discussion preceding the statement of the theorem, we know that $\mathfrak{L}_{al} = L_{i+a+1,m}$ for some m . We will show that if a collection of indices i, s, a , and r satisfy Index Condition 1 for i and s and Index Condition 2 for a and r , then Index Condition 1 is satisfied for $i + a + 1$ and r , i.e. with i and s replaced by $i + a + 1$ and r (note that j and n are fixed throughout and the indexing of connected components is irrelevant). This will imply that the relevant collection of r th intersection Alexander polynomials of the \mathfrak{L}_{al} will already have been included among the collection ζ_{iks} satisfying Index Condition 1 for i and s . Hence, by an induction, we can conclude that $\gamma|I\lambda_j^{\bar{p}}$ only if it divides λ_j or the ordinary Alexander polynomial ζ_{iks} for i and s satisfying Index Condition 1.

We now prove the claim on the Index Conditions: The second part of Index Condition 1 for $i + a + 1$ and r is exactly the second part of Index Condition 2 for a and r . From Index Condition 1 for i and s , $0 \leq j - s \leq i - 1$, and by Index Condition 2 for a and r , $0 \leq s - r \leq a - 1$. Adding these inequalities gives $0 \leq j - r \leq a + i - 2$, and certainly $a + i - 2 \leq a + i$. Therefore $0 \leq j - r \leq a + i$, which is Index Condition 1 for $i + a + 1$ and r . This completes the proof. \square

Remark 9.9. Note that the results of this section seem to depend upon the particular choice of stratification of the knot K . Hence, it is conceivable that specific choices of stratification might yield more precise information. In particular, it might be possible to obtain extra information by making clever choices of stratification dependent upon the specific prime γ under discussion.

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