



This is a repository copy of *Simplicity criteria for rings of differential operators*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:  
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/162843/>

Version: Accepted Version

---

**Article:**

Bavula, V.V. (2022) Simplicity criteria for rings of differential operators. Glasgow Mathematical Journal, 64 (2). pp. 347-351. ISSN 0017-0895

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0017089521000148>

---

This article has been published in a revised form in Glasgow Mathematical Journal, <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0017089521000148>. This version is free to view and download for private research and study only. Not for re-distribution, re-sale or use in derivative works. © The Author(s), 2021. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Glasgow Mathematical Journal Trust.

**Reuse**

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND) licence. This licence only allows you to download this work and share it with others as long as you credit the authors, but you can't change the article in any way or use it commercially. More information and the full terms of the licence here: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

**Takedown**

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing [eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk) including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



[eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk)  
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>

# Simplicity criteria for rings of differential operators

V. V. Bavula

## Abstract

Let  $K$  be a field of arbitrary characteristic,  $\mathcal{A}$  be a commutative  $K$ -algebra which is a domain of essentially finite type (eg, the algebra of functions on an irreducible affine algebraic variety),  $\mathfrak{a}_r$  be its *Jacobian ideal*,  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  be the algebra of differential operators on the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . The aim of the paper is to give a simplicity criterion for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ : *The algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  is simple iff  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})\mathfrak{a}_r^i\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  for all  $i \geq 1$  provided the field  $K$  is a perfect field.* Furthermore, a simplicity criterion is given for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  of differential operators on an arbitrary commutative algebra  $R$  over an arbitrary field. This gives an answer to an old question to find a simplicity criterion for algebras of differential operators.

*Mathematics subject classification 2010: 13N10, 16S32, 16D30, 13N15, 14J17, 14B05, 16D25.*

## 1 Introduction

The following notation will remain fixed throughout the paper (if it is not stated otherwise):  $K$  is a field of arbitrary characteristic (not necessarily algebraically closed), module means a left module,  $P_n = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is a polynomial algebra over  $K$ ,  $\partial_1 := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \partial_n := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \in \text{Der}_K(P_n)$ ,  $I := \sum_{i=1}^m P_n f_i$  is a **prime** but **not** a maximal ideal of the polynomial algebra  $P_n$  with a set of generators  $f_1, \dots, f_m$ , the algebra  $A := P_n/I$  which is a domain with the field of fractions  $Q := \text{Frac}(A)$ , the epimorphism  $\pi : P_n \rightarrow A$ ,  $p \mapsto \bar{p} := p + I$ , to make notation simpler we sometime write  $x_i$  for  $\bar{x}_i$  (if it does not lead to confusion), the **Jacobian**  $m \times n$  matrices  $J = (\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}) \in M_{m,n}(P_n)$  and  $\bar{J} = (\bar{J}_{ij}) \in M_{m,n}(A) \subseteq M_{m,n}(Q)$  where  $\bar{J}_{ij} := \frac{\partial \bar{f}_i}{\partial x_j}$ ,  $r := \text{rk}_Q(\bar{J})$  is the **rank** of the Jacobian matrix  $\bar{J}$  over the field  $Q$ ,  $\mathfrak{a}_r$  is the **Jacobian ideal** of the algebra  $A$  which is (by definition) generated by all the  $r \times r$  minors of the Jacobian matrix  $\bar{J}$  (Suppose that  $K$  is a perfect field. Then the algebra  $A$  is *regular* iff  $\mathfrak{a}_r = A$ , it is the **Jacobian criterion of regularity**, [5, Theorem 16.19]). For  $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_r)$  such that  $1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_r \leq m$  and  $\mathbf{j} = (j_1, \dots, j_r)$  such that  $1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_r \leq n$ ,  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})$  denotes the corresponding minor of the Jacobian matrix  $\bar{J} = (\bar{J}_{ij})$ , that is  $\det(\bar{J}_{i_\nu, j_\mu})$ ,  $\nu, \mu = 1, \dots, r$ , and the element  $\mathbf{i}$  (resp.,  $\mathbf{j}$ ) is called **non-singular** if  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}') \neq 0$  (resp.,  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}', \mathbf{j}) \neq 0$ ) for some  $\mathbf{j}'$  (resp.,  $\mathbf{i}'$ ). We denote by  $\mathbf{I}_r$  (resp.,  $\mathbf{J}_r$ ) the set of all the non-singular  $r$ -tuples  $\mathbf{i}$  (resp.,  $\mathbf{j}$ ).

Since  $r$  is the rank of the Jacobian matrix  $\bar{J}$ , it is easy to show that  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}) \neq 0$  iff  $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbf{I}_r$  and  $\mathbf{j} \in \mathbf{J}_r$ , [3, Lemma 2.1].

A localization of an *affine* algebra is called an algebra of **essentially finite type**. Let  $\mathcal{A} := S^{-1}A$  be a localization of the algebra  $A = P_n/I$  at a multiplicatively closed subset  $S$  of  $A$ . Suppose that  $K$  is a perfect field. Then the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is *regular* iff  $\mathfrak{a}_r = \mathcal{A}$  where  $\mathfrak{a}_r$  is the Jacobian ideal of  $\mathcal{A}$ , it is the **Jacobian criterion of regularity**, [5, Theorem 16.19]. For any regular algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  over a perfect field, explicit sets of generators and defining relations for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  are given in [3] ( $\text{char}(K)=0$ ) and [4] ( $\text{char}(K) > 0$ ).

Let  $R$  be an arbitrary commutative  $K$ -algebra. We denote by  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  the algebra of differential operators on the algebra  $R$  and by  $\text{Der}_K(R)$  the  $R$ -module of  $K$ -derivations of  $R$ . The action of a derivation  $\delta$  on an element  $a$  is denoted by  $\delta(a)$ .

**Simplicity criterion for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  where the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is a domain of essentially finite type.** Theorem 1.1 is a simplicity criterion for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  where the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is a domain of essentially finite type.

**Theorem 1.1** *Let the  $K$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  be a commutative domain of essentially finite type over a perfect field  $K$ , and  $\mathfrak{a}_r$  be its Jacobian ideal. The following statements are equivalent:*

1. *The algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  of differential operators on  $\mathcal{A}$  is a simple algebra.*
2. *For all  $i \geq 1$ ,  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})\mathfrak{a}_r^i\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ .*
3. *For all  $k \geq 1$ ,  $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbf{I}_r$  and  $\mathbf{j} \in \mathbf{J}_r$ ,  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})^k\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ .*

As an application of Theorem 1.1 we show that the algebra of differential operators on the cusp is simple.

**Simplicity criterion for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  where  $R$  is an arbitrary commutative algebra.** An ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  of the algebra  $R$  is called  $\text{Der}_K(R)$ -stable if  $\delta(\mathfrak{a}) \subseteq \mathfrak{a}$  for all  $\delta \in \text{Der}_K(R)$ . Theorem 1.2.(2) is a simplicity criterion for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  where  $R$  is an arbitrary commutative algebra. Theorem 1.2.(1) shows that every nonzero ideal of the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  meets the subalgebra  $R$  of  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ . If, in addition, the algebra  $R = \mathcal{A}$  is a domain of essentially finite type, Theorem 1.2.(3) shows that every nonzero ideal of the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  contains a power of the Jacobian ideal of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Theorem 1.2** *Let  $R$  be a commutative algebra over an arbitrary field  $K$ .*

1. *Let  $I$  be a nonzero ideal the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ . Then the ideal  $I_0 := I \cap R$  is a nonzero  $\text{Der}_K(R)$ -stable ideal of the algebra  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{D}(R)I_0\mathcal{D}(R) \cap R = I_0$ . In particular, every nonzero ideal of the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  has nonzero intersection with  $R$ .*
2. *The ring  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  is not simple iff there is a proper  $\text{Der}_K(R)$ -stable ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  of  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{D}(R)\mathfrak{a}\mathcal{D}(R) \cap R = \mathfrak{a}$ .*
3. *Suppose, in addition, that  $K$  is a perfect field and the algebra  $\mathcal{A} = R$  is a domain of essentially finite type,  $\mathfrak{a}_r$  be its Jacobian ideal,  $I$  be a nonzero ideal of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  and  $I_0 = I \cap \mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{a}_r^i \subseteq I_0$  for some  $i \geq 1$ .*

Theorem 1.3 is simplicity criterion for the ring of differential operators on an irreducible affine algebraic curve.

**Theorem 1.3** ([10, Theorem B]) *Let  $X$  be an irreducible affine algebraic curve over an algebraically closed field  $K$  of characteristic zero,  $\tilde{X}$  be its normalization and  $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$  be the natural projection,  $\mathcal{D}(X)$  and  $\mathcal{D}(\tilde{X})$  be the rings of differential operators on  $X$  and  $\tilde{X}$ , respectively. The following are equivalent:*

1.  *$\pi$  is injective.*
2.  *$\mathcal{D}(X)$  is a simple ring (and Morita equivalent to  $\mathcal{D}(\tilde{X})$ ).*
3. *The global dimension of the ring  $\mathcal{D}(X)$  is 1.*
4.  *$\text{gr}(\mathcal{D}(x))$  is a finitely generated  $K$ -algebra (equivalently,  $\text{gr}(\mathcal{D}(x))$  is Noetherian).*

Theorem 1.4 is simplicity criterion for the ring of differential operators on an irreducible affine algebraic surface with smooth normalization.

**Theorem 1.4** ([9, Corollary 3.5]) *Suppose that  $X$  is an irreducible affine algebraic variety of dimension 2, such that  $\tilde{X}$  is non-singular. Then  $\mathcal{D}(X)$  is a simple ring if and only if  $X$  is  $S_2$  and  $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$  is injective. Furthermore, in this case  $\mathcal{D}(X)$  is Noetherian and Morita equivalent to  $\mathcal{D}(\tilde{X})$ .*

## 2 Proofs of Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2

In this section, proofs of Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2 are given.

Let  $R$  be a commutative  $K$ -algebra. The ring of ( $K$ -linear) **differential operators**  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  on  $R$  is defined as a union of  $R$ -modules  $\mathcal{D}(R) = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{D}_i(R)$  where

$$\mathcal{D}_i(R) = \{u \in \text{End}_K(R) \mid [r, u] := ru - ur \in \mathcal{D}_{i-1}(R) \text{ for all } r \in R\}, \quad i \geq 0, \quad \mathcal{D}_{-1}(R) := 0.$$

In particular,  $\mathcal{D}_0(R) = \text{End}_R(R) \simeq R$ ,  $(x \mapsto bx) \leftrightarrow b$ . The set of  $R$ -bimodules  $\{\mathcal{D}_i(R)\}_{i \geq 0}$  is the **order filtration** for the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ :

$$\mathcal{D}_0(R) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_1(R) \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \mathcal{D}_i(R) \subseteq \cdots \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{D}_i(R)\mathcal{D}_j(R) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_{i+j}(R) \quad \text{for all } i, j \geq 0.$$

The subalgebra  $\Delta(R)$  of  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  which is generated by  $R \equiv \text{End}_R(R)$  and the set  $\text{Der}_K(R)$  of all  $K$ -derivations of  $R$  is called the **derivation ring** of  $R$ .

Suppose that  $R$  is a regular affine domain of Krull dimension  $n \geq 1$  and  $\text{char}(K)=0$ . In geometric terms,  $R$  is the coordinate ring  $\mathcal{O}(X)$  of a smooth irreducible affine algebraic variety  $X$  of dimension  $n$ . Then

- $\text{Der}_K(R)$  is a finitely generated projective  $R$ -module of rank  $n$ ,
- $\mathcal{D}(R) = \Delta(R)$ ,
- $\mathcal{D}(R)$  is a simple (left and right) Noetherian domain of Gelfand-Kirillov dimension  $\text{GK } \mathcal{D}(R) = 2n$  ( $n = \text{GK}(R) = \text{Kdim}(R)$ ).

For the proofs of the statements above the reader is referred to [7], Chapter 15. So, the domain  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  is a simple finitely generated infinite dimensional Noetherian algebra ([7], Chapter 15).

If  $\text{char}(K) > 0$  then  $\mathcal{D}(R) \neq \Delta(R)$  and the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  is not finitely generated and neither left nor right Noetherian but analogues of the results above hold but the Gelfand-Kirillov dimension has to be replaced by a new dimension introduced in [2].

Given a ring  $B$  and a non-nilpotent element  $s \in B$ . Suppose that the set  $S_s := \{s^i \mid i \geq 0\}$  is a left denominator set of  $B$ . The localization  $S_s^{-1}B$  of the ring  $B$  at  $S_s$  is also denoted by  $B_s$ .

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** 1. (i) *The ideal  $I_0$  of  $R$  is a  $\text{Der}_K(R)$ -stable ideal:* For all  $\delta \in \text{Der}_K(R)$ ,  $I_0 \supseteq [\delta, I_0] = \delta(I_0)$ .

(ii)  $\mathcal{D}(R)I_0\mathcal{D}(R) \cap R = I_0$ :  $I_0 \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R)I_0\mathcal{D}(R) \cap R \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R)I\mathcal{D}(R) \cap R = I \cap R = I_0$ , and the statement (ii) follows.

(iii)  $I_0 \neq 0$ : Recall that the ring  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  admits the order filtration  $\{\mathcal{D}(R)_i\}_{i \geq 0}$ . Therefore,  $I = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} I_i$  where  $I_i = I \cap \mathcal{D}(R)_i$ . Let  $s = \min\{i \geq 0 \mid I_i \neq 0\}$ . Then  $I_s \neq 0$  and

$$[r, I_s] \subseteq I_{s-1} = \{0\} = \mathcal{D}_{-1}(R) \quad \text{for all } r \in R,$$

i.e.  $I_s \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R)_0 = R$ , by the *definition of the order filtration* on  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ , and so  $s = 0$ , as required.

2. ( $\Rightarrow$ ) If the ring  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  is not simple then there is proper ideal, say  $I$ , of  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ . Then, by the statements (i) and (ii) in the proof of statement 1, it suffices to take  $\mathfrak{a} = I_0$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) The implication is obvious.

3. Recall that the Jacobian ideal  $\mathfrak{a}_r$  of the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is generated by the *finite* set  $\{\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in \mathbf{I}_r, \mathbf{j} \in \mathbf{J}_r\}$ . For each element  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})$ , the algebra  $\mathcal{A}_{\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})}$  is a regular domain of essentially finite type. So, the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}_{\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})}) \simeq \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})_{\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})}$  is simple (the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})_{\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})}$  is a left and right localization of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  at the powers of the element  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})$ ). Therefore,  $1 \in I_{\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})}$ , and so  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})^l \in I \cap \mathcal{A} = I_0$  for some  $l \geq 1$ . So,  $\mathfrak{a}_r^i \subseteq I_0$  for some  $i \geq 1$ .  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** (1  $\Rightarrow$  3) The implication is trivial.

(3  $\Rightarrow$  2) The implication follows from the fact that the Jacobian ideal  $\mathfrak{a}_r$  of the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is generated by the finite set  $\{\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in \mathbf{I}_r, \mathbf{j} \in \mathbf{J}_r\}$ . In particular,  $\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})^k \subseteq \mathfrak{a}_r^k$  for all  $k \geq 1$ , and so  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})\Delta(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j})^k\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})\mathfrak{a}_r^k\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ .

(2  $\Rightarrow$  1) Suppose that the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  is not simple, we seek a contradiction. Fix a proper ideal, say  $I$ , of the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ . By Theorem 1.2.(3),  $\mathfrak{a}_r^i \subseteq I_0$  for some natural number  $i \geq 1$ . Then

$$\mathcal{A} \neq I_0 = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})I_0\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) \cap \mathcal{A} \supseteq \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})\mathfrak{a}_r^i\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) \cap \mathcal{A}.$$

Therefore,  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})\mathfrak{a}_r^i\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) \neq \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

Given a commutative algebra  $R$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{C}_R$  the set of *regular elements* of  $R$  (i.e. non-zero-divisors) and by  $Q(R) := \mathcal{C}_R^{-1}R$  its *quotient algebra*.

**Corollary 2.1** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a semiprime commutative algebra with finitely many minimal primes. Then the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  is a simple algebra iff the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is a domain and the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  is a simple algebra.*

*Proof.* ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose that the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is not a domain. Then its quotient algebra  $Q(\mathcal{A}) := \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{A}}^{-1}\mathcal{A} \simeq \prod_{i=1}^s K_i$  is a direct product of fields  $K_i$  where  $s \geq 2$  is the number of minimal primes of the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . Therefore,

$$\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{A}}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})) \simeq \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{A}}^{-1}\mathcal{A}) \simeq \mathcal{D}(Q(\mathcal{A})) \simeq \mathcal{D}\left(\prod_{i=1}^s K_i\right) \simeq \prod_{i=1}^s \mathcal{D}(K_i).$$

The algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  is an essential left  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{D}(Q(\mathcal{A}))$ . Therefore, the intersection  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}) \cap \mathcal{D}(K_1)$  is a proper ideal of the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$  since  $s \geq 2$ , a contradiction.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) The implication is trivial.  $\square$

*Example.* (THE ALGEBRA OF DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS ON THE CUSP) Let  $A = K[x, y]/(y^2 - x^3)$ , the algebra of regular functions on the cusp  $y^2 = x^3$ . The algebra  $A$  is isomorphic to the subalgebra  $K + \sum_{i \geq 2} Kx^i$  of the polynomial algebra  $K[x]$ . Notice that  $A \subseteq K[x] \subseteq A_x = K[x]_x = K[x, x^{-1}]$  and  $\mathcal{D}(K[x, x^{-1}]) = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} Dx^i = D[x, x^{-1}; \sigma]$  is a skew Laurent polynomial ring with coefficients in the polynomial algebra  $D = K[h]$ , where  $h = x\partial$ , and  $\sigma$  is a  $K$ -automorphism of  $D$  given by the rule  $\sigma(h) = h - 1$ . The algebra  $A_1 = K\langle x, \partial \mid \partial x - x\partial = 1 \rangle$  is called the (first) *Weyl algebra*. Then  $A_1 \simeq \mathcal{D}(K[x])$  and  $A_{1,x} \simeq \mathcal{D}(K[x])_x \simeq \mathcal{D}(K[x]_x) \simeq D[x, x^{-1}; \sigma] \simeq \mathcal{D}(A)_x$ . Notice that  $\mathcal{D}(A) = \{\delta \in \mathcal{D}(A)_x \mid \delta(A) \subseteq A\}$ . The algebra  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  is simple, [8, 10], and explicit generators can be found in [6]. Below we give short proofs of these results.

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $A = K + \sum_{i \geq 2} Kx^i$  ( $\simeq K[x, y]/(y^2 - x^3)$ ) and  $D = K[h]$ . Then*

1.  $\mathcal{D}(A) = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} Dw_i \subseteq \mathcal{D}(A_x)$  where  $w_0 = 1$ ,  $w_1 = (h - 1)x$  and  $w_i = x^i$  for  $i \geq 2$ ;  $w_{-1} = (h + 1)(h - 1)x^{-1}$ ,  $w_{-2} = (h + 2)(h - 1)x^{-2}$  and  $w_{-i} = (h - 1) \cdot (h + 1) \cdots (h + i - 2) \cdot (h + i)x^{-i}$  for  $i \geq 3$ .
2. The algebra  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  is a simple finitely generated Noetherian domain. Furthermore, the elements  $h$  and  $w_i$  ( $i = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3$ ) are algebra generators of  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ . For all  $i \geq 1$ ,  $w_{-2i} = w_{-2}^i$  and  $w_{-3-2i} = w_{-3}w_{-2}^i$ .
3.  $\text{Der}_K(A) = K[x]h$ ,  $\Delta(A) = K[h][x; \sigma]$  is a non-simple Noetherian algebra and  $\Delta(A) \neq \mathcal{D}(A)$ .
4. The Jacobian ideal  $\mathfrak{a}_1 = \sum_{i \geq 2} Kx^i$  of  $A$  is  $\Delta(R)$ -stable but not  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ -stable.

*Proof.* 1. Recall that  $\mathcal{D}(A_x) = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} Dx^i$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded algebra ( $Dx^i Dx^j \subseteq Dx^{i+j}$  for all  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ), the  $\mathcal{D}(A_x)$ -module  $A_x = K[x, x^{-1}]$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded module and the algebra  $A$  is a homogeneous subalgebra of  $A_x$ . Now, statement 1 follows from obvious computations and the fact that  $\mathcal{D}(A) = \{\delta \in \mathcal{D}(A)_x \mid \delta(A) \subseteq A\}$ .

2. The Jacobian ideal  $\mathfrak{a}_1$  of  $A$  is equal to  $\sum_{i \geq 2} Kx^i$ . Since  $x^{2i} \in \mathfrak{a}_1^i$  for all  $i \geq 1$ , in order to prove simplicity of  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  it suffices to show that  $(x^i) = \mathcal{D}(A)$  for all  $i \geq 2$ , by Theorem 1.1. Notice that the polynomials of  $D = K[h]$ ,  $w_{-i}x^i$  and  $x^i w_{-i}$ , are coprime, hence  $(x^i) = \mathcal{D}(A)$

for all  $i \geq 2$ . In more detail,  $w_{-2}x^2 = (h+2)(h-1)$  and  $x^2w_{-2} = h(h-3)$ ; and for  $i \geq 3$ ,  $w_{-i}x^i = (h-1) \cdot (h+1) \cdots (h+i-2) \cdot (h+i)$  and  $x^iw_{-i} = (h-i-1) \cdot (h-i+1) \cdots (h-2) \cdot h$ .

The equalities in statement 2 are obvious. Then, by statement 1, the elements  $h$  and  $w_i$  ( $i = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3$ ) are algebra generators of  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ . The subalgebra  $\Lambda := K\langle h, w_3, w_{-3} \rangle$  is a generalized Weyl algebra  $D[w_3, w_{-3}; \sigma, a = (h+3)(h+1)(h-1)]$  which is a Noetherian algebra, [1]. The algebra  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  is a finitely generated left and right  $\Lambda$ -module, hence  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  is Noetherian.

3. By statement 2,  $\text{Der}_K(A) = K[x]h$  since  $w_1 = xh$ . The rest follows.

4. The Jacobian ideal  $\mathfrak{a}_1$  of  $A$  is  $\Delta(R)$ -stable since  $\text{Der}_K(A) = K[x]h$  and  $h(\mathfrak{a}_1) \subseteq \mathfrak{a}_1$ . Since  $x^2 \in \mathfrak{a}_1$  and  $\omega_{-2}(x^2) = -2 \notin \mathfrak{a}_1$ , so the ideal  $\mathfrak{a}_1$  is not  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ -stable.  $\square$

## References

- [1] V. V. Bavula, Generalized Weyl algebras and their representations. (Russian) *Algebra i Analiz*, **4** (1992) no. 1, 75–97; translation in *St. Petersburg Math. J.*, **4** (1993) no. 1, 71–92.
- [2] V. V. Bavula, Dimension, multiplicity, holonomic modules, and an analogue of the inequality of Bernstein for rings of differential operators in prime characteristic, *Representation Theory*, **13** (2009) 182–227.
- [3] V. V. Bavula, Generators and defining relations for the ring of differential operators on a smooth algebraic variety, *Algebras and Representation Theory*, **13** (2010) 159–187.
- [4] V. V. Bavula, Generators and defining relations for ring of differential operators on smooth algebraic variety in prime characteristic, *J. of Algebra*, **323** (2010) 1036–1051.
- [5] D. Eisenbud, *Commutative algebra. With a view toward algebraic geometry*. Graduate Texts in Mathematics, 150. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1995.
- [6] E. Eriksen, Differential operators on monomial curves, *J. Algebra* **264** (2003), no. 1, 186–198.
- [7] J. C. McConnell and J. C. Robson, *Noncommutative Noetherian rings*. With the cooperation of L. W. Small. Revised edition. Graduate Studies in Mathematics, 30. American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2001.
- [8] I. M. Musson, Some rings of differential operators which are Morita equivalent to the Weyl algebra  $A_1$ , *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **98** (1986), no. 1, 29–30.
- [9] M. Chamarie and J. T. Stafford, When rings of differential operators are maximal orders, *Math. Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc.* **102** (1987) 399–410.
- [10] S. P. Smith and J. T. Stafford, Differential operators on an affine curve. *Proc. London Math. Soc.* **56** (1988), no. 2, 229–259.

Department of Pure Mathematics  
University of Sheffield  
Hicks Building  
Sheffield S3 7RH  
UK  
email: v.bavula@sheffield.ac.uk