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**Olga Plamenevskaya** and **Laura Starkston\*** (lstarkston@math.ucdavis.edu). *Unexpected Stein fillings and plane curve arrangements.*

We use singular braided symplectic surfaces in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  in comparison with algebraic curves in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  in order to exemplify differences between Stein fillings and algebraic deformations of a surface singularity. We work with Lefschetz fibrations and open book decompositions arising naturally from the projection of  $\mathbb{C}^2$  to  $\mathbb{C}$ . We develop a symplectic analogue to results in the complex algebraic setting by de Jong and van Straten. (Received August 17, 2020)