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Adjunction conditions for 1-forms on surfaces in projective three-space

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Abstract

We study the relation between a certain graded part of the Jacobian ring of a projective hypersurface and a certain graded quotient for the Hodge filtration of its primitive cohomology, in the case that the hypersurface has at most isolated singularities. We distinguish a class of singularities for which this relation is best possible. The main examples refer to the surface case.

Introduction

Let $X \subset P = \mathbb{P}^{n+1}(\mathbb{C})$ be a smooth hypersurface given by a homogeneous polynomial F of degree d. We let

$$\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{C}[X_0, \dots, X_{n+1}]$$
 $\mathcal{S}_k = \{G \in \mathcal{S} \mid G \text{ homogeneous of degree } k\}$
 $\mathcal{J}(F) = \text{ideal in } \mathcal{S} \text{ generated by } \partial_0 F, \dots, \partial_{n+1} F$
 $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{S}/\mathcal{J}(F)$

Then we have isomorphisms

$$\mathcal{R}_{d(p+1)-n-2} \to H_0^{n-p,p}(X)$$

where H_0 denotes primitive cohomology.

We intend to investigate the relation between $\mathcal{R}_{d(p+1)-n-2}$ and the cohomology of X in the case where X has isolated singularities. More precisely we investigate for which singularities there is a direct relation between $\operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-p}H^n(X,\mathbb{C})$ and $\mathcal{R}_{d(p+1)-n-2}$.

It appears that $\mathcal{R}_{d(p+1)-n-2}$ is closely related with the cohomology groups of the sheaf ω_X^{n-p} of residues of logarithmic n-p+1-forms on \mathbb{P}^{n+1} , whereas

 $\operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-p}H^n(X,\mathbb{C})$ is related to the (n-p)-th graded piece of the *filtered de Rham complex* $\tilde{\Omega}_X^{\bullet}$ of X. So our question boils down to a comparison of ω_X^{n-p} (the sheaf of *Barlet forms*) and $\operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-p}\tilde{\Omega}_X^{\bullet}$.

The case p=0 is classical. The n-th graded part of the filtered de Rham complex of X is the sheaf of meromorphic n-forms on X which lift holomorphically to any resolution. For each isolated singular point x of X one has an ideal $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ with the property that the residue along X of a rational n+1-form

$$\omega = \frac{A\Omega}{F}$$

on \mathbb{P}^{n+1} with a first order pole along X extends holomorphically to any resolution if and only if $A_x \in I$ for each x. These conditions are called the *adjunction conditions* and rational singularities are characterized by the fact that they do not impose adjunction conditions, i.e. $\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$.

In this paper we study the case p=1. It will become clear that the main case of interest is the surface case. We come to a satisfactory picture in the case that X is a surface with only a certain class of singularities, which includes the rational double points and cusps. We also deal with the case of surfaces in weighted projective spaces. We will give examples which show that the analogous class of singularities in dimensions different from two is probably empty.

Our interest in this problem was roused by a question of Remke Kloosterman.

1 Differentials on singular spaces

We recall some facts concerning sheaves of holomorphic differentials on singular spaces.

Recall that a V-manifold is a complex analytic space which is locally isomorphic to the quotient of a complex ball by a finite group of biholomorphic transformations. Local models for n-dimensional V-manifolds are of the form B^n/G where B^n is the n-dimensional open unit ball and G is a *small* finite subgroup of $\mathrm{U}(n,\mathbb{C})$ i.e. no element of G has 1 as an eigenvalue of multiplicity n-1.

For a V-manifold X one defines sheaves $\tilde{\Omega}_X^p$, $p \geq 0$ on X as follows. Let Σ be the singular locus of X. Because a V-manifold is normal, it has codimension at least two in X. Let $j: X \setminus \Sigma \to X$ denote the inclusion map, and put

$$\tilde{\Omega}_X^p := j_* \Omega_{X \setminus \Sigma}^p. \tag{1}$$

Theorem 1 1. If X is a V-manifold and $\pi: \tilde{X} \to X$ a resolution of singularities, then

$$\tilde{\Omega}_X^p \simeq \pi_* \Omega_{\tilde{X}}^p;$$

2. If X = Y/G with Y a complex manifold and G a finite group of biholomorphic transformations of Y, then

$$\tilde{\Omega}_{X}^{p} \simeq (\rho_{*}\Omega_{Y}^{p})^{G}$$
.

See [15, Sect. 1]. Moreover we have

Theorem 2 For any V-manifold X the complex $\tilde{\Omega}_X^{\bullet}$ is a resolution of the constant sheaf \mathbb{C}_X and if moreover X is compact and has an algebraic structure, the Hodge spectral sequence

$$E_1^{pq} = H^q(X, \tilde{\Omega}_X^p) \Rightarrow H^{p+q}(X, \mathbb{C})$$
 (2)

degenerates at E_1 ; this gives the Hodge filtration on the cohomology of X.

For spaces with arbitrary singularities the properties of these sheaves of differentials cannot all be preserved. Depending on the property one prefers there is a different generalisation of the above complex.

The filtered de Rham complex

First let us focus on the Hodge-theoretic property. A filtered complex $(\tilde{\Omega}_X^{\bullet}, F)$ which resolves the constant sheaf \mathbb{C}_X and such that the Hodge spectral sequence (2) degenerates at E_1 has been constructed by Du Bois [6]. In the general case however the filtration F is no longer cutting off of the complex such that the graded complex $\tilde{\Omega}_X^p := \mathrm{Gr}_F^p \tilde{\Omega}^{\bullet}[-p]$ would be a single sheaf placed in degree p, but $\tilde{\Omega}_X^p$ is actually a complex with cohomology sheaves which may be non-zero on the whole range $0 \le j \le n - p$. This filtered complex $(\tilde{\Omega}_X^{\bullet}, F)$ is called the filtered de Rham complex of X.

Let X' denote the weak normalization of X. It is a complex variety over X which is homeomorphic to X, and sections of $\mathcal{O}_{X'}$ over an open set of X consist of those continuous functions whose restriction to the regular locus of X are holomorphic.

Suppose that X has isolated singularities only and that $\pi: Y \to X$ is a good resolution of singularities. This means that the inverse image $\pi^{-1}(\Sigma) =: E$, where Σ is the singular locus of X, is a divisor with normal crossings on Y. Then the cohomology sheaves of the filtered de Rham complex of X can be described as follows:

- $H^0(\tilde{\Omega}_X^0) = \mathcal{O}_{X'};$
- $H^q(\tilde{\Omega}_X^p) = R^q \pi_* \Omega_Y^p(\log E)(-E)$ when $(p,q) \neq (0,0)$.

Here $\Omega_Y^p(\log E)(-E)$ is the kernel of the natural map $\Omega_Y^p \to \Omega_E^p/\text{torsion}$, or alternatively, the twist of the sheaf $\Omega_Y^p(\log E)$ of logarithmic p-forms with the ideal sheaf $\mathcal{O}_Y(-E)$ of E. For q > 0 the sheaf $R^q \pi_* \Omega_Y^p(\log E)(-E)$ has support on Σ and its stalk at a point $x \in \Sigma$ has finite length $b^{p,q}$. These are the Du Bois invariants of the isolated singularity X, x). See [16].

Barlet differentials

From the point of view of duality, in the hypersurface case a natural notion of holomorphic forms turns out to be one defined as residues of a meromorphic form in the ambient space with logarithmic poles along the hypersurface. These holomorphic q-forms are the sections of Barlet's sheaf ω_V^q , which for q=n is the same as the Grothendieck dualizing sheaf, see [9] and [1] for details.

2 Barlet forms for hypersurfaces

Let P be a compact complex manifold of dimension n+1 and let \mathcal{L} be a line bundle on P. We consider a hypersurface $X=V(F)\subset P$ with at most isolated singularities, given as the zero set of a global section F of \mathcal{L} . Let $\Omega^k(\ell X)$ denote the sheaf of germs of meromorphic k-forms on P with poles of order at most k along X. We have inclusions $\Omega^k(\ell X)\subset \Omega^k((\ell+1)X)$ and differentiation $d:\Omega^k(\ell X)\to \Omega^{k+1}((\ell+1)X)$. We define

$$\Omega^k(\log X) = \ker(d: \Omega^k(X) \to \Omega^{k+1}(2X)/\Omega^{k+1}(X).$$

If X is smooth then the map $d: \Omega^n(X) \to \Omega^{n+1}(2X)/\Omega^{n+1}(X)$ is surjective; if X has isolated singularities, then the cokernel of this map is a skyscraper sheaf concentrated at the singular points of X. Its stalk at $x \in X$ is canonically isomorphic to $\Omega_X^{n+1} \otimes \mathcal{L}^2$ which in turn is non-canonically isomorphic to the quotient of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ by the ideal generated by a local equation f of X and the partial derivatives of f. This stalk has finite length $\tau(X,x)$, the Tjurina number of (X,x). Then

$$\chi(\Omega_X^{n+1}\otimes \mathcal{L}^2)=\tau:=\sum_{x\in X}\tau(X,x).$$

We have the resolution

$$0 \to \Omega^n(\log X) \to \Omega^n(X) \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^{n+1}(2X)/\Omega^{n+1}(X) \to \Omega^{n+1}_X \otimes \mathcal{L}^2 \to 0$$

Consider the sheaf ω_X^{n-1} on X defined by

$$\omega_X^{n-1} := \Omega^n(\log X)/\Omega^n$$

and define

$$c(\mathcal{L}) := \chi(\Omega^n \otimes \mathcal{L}) - \chi(\Omega^n) - \chi(\Omega^{n+1} \otimes \mathcal{L}^2) + \chi(\Omega^{n+1} \otimes \mathcal{L}).$$

Theorem 3

$$\chi(\omega_X^{n-1}) = \tau + c(\mathcal{L}).$$

This follows immediately from the exact sequences above.

3 Smoothing: the specialization sequence

We keep the notations of the previous section. Moreover we suppose that P is Kähler. Let G be a global section of \mathcal{L} which does not vanish at the singularities of X. Then there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for $t \in \mathbb{C}$ with $0 < |t| < \epsilon$ the hypersurface X_t given by F + tG = 0 is smooth. We have the exact sequence

$$0 \to H^1(X, \tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1}) \to \operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-1} H^n(\psi \mathbb{C}) \to \operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-1} H^n(\phi \mathbb{C}) \to H^2(X, \tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1}) \to 0$$
(3)

obtained by taking $\operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-1}$ from the specialisation sequence of the smoothing (cf. [15, Sect. 3]). Note that it implies

Theorem 4

$$\chi(\tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1}) = s_{n-1} + c(\mathcal{L})$$

where the invariant $s_{n-1} = \sum_{x \in X} s_{n-1}(X, x)$ is a sum of local contributions from each singularity: $s_{n-1}(X, x) = \dim \operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-1} H^n(\phi \mathbb{C})_x$.

This theorem is analogous to Theorem 3.

Corollary 5 Suppose that $X \subset P$ is a hypersurface with isolated singularities such that $\operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-1} \tilde{\Omega}_X^{\bullet}[n-1] \simeq \omega_X^{n-1}$. Then $s_{n-1} = \tau$.

In the next section we will see that the converse of this corollary also holds.

Singularity spectrum

For an isolated hypersurface singularity $f:(\mathbb{C}^{n+1},0)\to(\mathbb{C},0)$ we define its Milnor module

$$\Omega_f := \Omega^{n+1}/df \wedge \Omega^n.$$

It carries a decreasing filtration V^{\bullet} indexed by rational numbers a. The singularity spectrum is defined in terms of the V-filtration on Ω_f as follows: for $b \in \mathbb{Q}$ let $d(b) := \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathrm{Gr}_V^b \Omega_f$. We put

$$\mathrm{Sp}(f) := \sum_{b \in \mathbb{Q}} d(b)(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Q}]$$

where the latter is the integral group ring of the additive group of the rational numbers. It is called the singularity spectrum of f.

The Hodge numbers s_k of the Milnor fibre of f are expressed in terms of the singularity spectrum of f by the formula

$$s_k = \sum_{n-k-1 < b \le n-k} d(b).$$

See [14] for details.

4 Local comparison

In this section we will derive a direct relation between the Barlet and Du Bois differentials for a complete variety X with isolated singularities.

Let $\pi: Y \to X$ be a good resolution: if Σ is the set of singular points of X, then $\pi^{-1}\Sigma = E$ is a divisor with normal crossings on Y with smooth irreducible components. In this case the graded quotients of the filtered de Rham complex of X are given by

$$\tilde{\Omega}_X^p = R\pi_*\Omega_Y^p(\log E)(-E)$$

for $p \geq 1$ and $\tilde{\Omega}_X^0$ is the single complex associated to the sequence $R\pi_*\mathcal{O}_Y \to R\pi_*\mathcal{O}_E \to \mathbb{C}_{\Sigma}$. By [1] we have

$$\omega_X^q \simeq Hom(\Omega_X^{n-q}, \omega_X^n)$$

and $\omega_X^n = \omega_X$ is the dualizing sheaf.

As we are interested in the case p=n-1 the first case to consider is where X is a curve and n=1. Then $\tilde{\Omega}_X^0 = \mathcal{O}_{X'}$ where X' is the weak normalization of X. Let us compare this with the sheaf $\omega_X^0 = Hom(\Omega_X^1, \omega_X)$.

This question was first considered in the plane curve case by Kyoji Saito [13]. He proved that in this case the sheaf $\Omega^1(\log X)$ is locally free.

Lemma 6 Let X be a plane curve. Then ω_X^{n-1} is torsion free of rank one. There is a natural injection $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_X \to \omega_X^0$, the quotient ω_X^0/\mathcal{O}_X is concentrated in the singular locus of X and its stalk at $x \in X$ has length $\tau(X, x)$. Suppose $X = V(f) \subset (\mathbb{C}^2, 0)$ is a reduced quasi-homogeneous plane curve singularity: $w_x x f_x + w_y y f_y = f$. Then the forms $\frac{df}{f}$ and $\frac{w_y y dx - w_x x dy}{f}$ form a local basis of $\Omega^1(\log X)$. If f is not quasi-homogeneous, then $\frac{df}{f} \in (x,y)\Omega^1(\log X)$.

Proof On the regular locus of X we have an isomorphism between ω_X^0 and \mathcal{O}_X by the residue map. Let us check that it extends to the desired injection. This, and the fact that ω_X^0 is torsion free, can be checked locally near every singular point. So consider the case of a reduced plane curve singularity $(X,0)\subset (\mathbb{C}^2,0)$ given by a squarefree function germ $f\in \mathbb{C}\{x,y\}$. We have $\mathbb{C}\{x,y\}dx\oplus \mathbb{C}\{x,y\}dy\subset \Omega^1(\log X)_0\subset \mathbb{C}\{x,y\}dx/f\oplus \mathbb{C}\{x,y\}dy/f$ so writing $\mathcal{O}=\mathcal{O}_{X,0}$ we have $\omega_{X,0}^0\subset \mathcal{O}dx/f\oplus \mathcal{O}dy/f$, so it is a subsheaf of a locally free sheaf. Hence ω_X^0 is torsion free, and its rank is the same as the rank of its restriction to the regular locus, which equals one.

The element $a\ dx/f + b\ dy/f$ with $a,b \in \mathcal{O}$ belongs to $\omega_{X,0}^0$ iff $a\eta - b\xi = 0$ where ξ, η are the images of f_x, f_y in \mathcal{O} respectively. This equation has the obvious solution $a = \xi, b = \eta$ which corresponds to the germ df/f and hence to $1 \in \mathcal{O}$. The injection $\mathcal{O} \hookrightarrow \omega_X^0$ is therefore given by $c \mapsto c\xi \ dx/f + c\eta \ dy/f$.

To compute the length of the stalk of ω_X^0/\mathcal{O}_X at a singular point of X we use a global argument, even if the question is local. To this end, suppose that $x \in X$ is the unique singular point of a plane projective curve of degree d. Then the length of ω_X^0/\mathcal{O}_X at x is the same as the Euler Poincaré characteristic

 $\chi(\omega_X^0/\mathcal{O}_X) = \chi(\omega_X^0) - \chi(\mathcal{O}_X). \text{ Recall that } \chi(\omega_X^0) = \tau + 1 - c_d \text{ whereas } \chi(\mathcal{O}_X) = 1 - c_d. \text{ Hence } \chi(\omega_X^0/\mathcal{O}_X) = \tau.$ To show that ω_X^0 contains $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_X$ observe that for any $\omega \in \Omega_X^1$ and $a \in \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_X$,

To show that $\widetilde{\omega_X^0}$ contains $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_X$ observe that for any $\omega \in \Omega_X^1$ and $a \in \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_X$, the product $a\omega$ lies in $\Omega_{\widetilde{X}}$ so has no residues; hence it belongs to ω_X , i.e. $a \in Hom(\Omega_X^1, \omega_X)$.

The remaining statements are left to the reader. See also [13, Proof of Theorem 2.11]. QED

Example Let X be a projective plane curve with only ordinary double points. Then $\omega_X^0 \simeq \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_X$. In particular $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \to H^0(X, \omega_X^0)$ is an isomorphism if and only if X is irreducible.

Recall that X' denotes the weak normalization of the curve X.

Theorem 7 Suppose that X is a plane curve such that $\mathcal{O}_{X'} = \omega_X^0$. Then X is smooth.

Proof If $\mathcal{O}_{X'} = \omega_X^0$ then $\mathcal{O}_{X'}/\mathcal{O}_X$ and ω_X^0/\mathcal{O}_X have stalks of the same lengths at all singular points. Hence for such a singularity one has the equality $\delta - r + 1 = \tau$. By [5, Lemma 6.1.2 and Cor. 6.1.4] $\tau \geq \delta + m - r$ where m is the multiplicity. Hence m = 1 so X has no singular point.

Here is another argument, based on the spectrum. Consider $Q^f = \Omega^2/df \wedge \Omega^1$ with its spectral V-filtration. We have $fQ^f \subset V^{>0}Q^f$ so $\tau = \dim Q^f/fQ^f \geq \dim Q^f/V^{>0} = \delta$ with equality iff r=1 and $fQ^f = V^{>1}$. So X is an irreducible plane curve singularity, and multiplication by f gives an isomorphism $Q^f/V^{>0} \to V^{>0}$. If $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_\delta$ are the positive spectral numbers of f in increasing order, then the spectrum of f is $-\alpha_\delta, \ldots, -\alpha_1, \alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_\delta$. We find that $\alpha_j + \alpha_{\delta-j+1} \geq 1$ for all j. This implies that the surface singularity with equation $f(x,y) + z^2 = 0$ has geometric genus $p_g \geq \mu/4$, but Némethi [12] has shown that for such a surface singularity $p_g \leq \mu/6$. This means that the spectral numbers have to lie closer to the middle than forced by the condition $fQ^f = V^{>0}Q^f$.

Another argument is based on Hertling's conjecture [10] on the variance of the spectrum, which has been proved by Brélivet in the curve case [3]. If $\alpha_j + \alpha_{\delta-j+1} \geq 1$, then $\alpha_j^2 + \alpha_{\delta-j+1}^2 \geq \frac{1}{2}$ so $\sum_{i=1}^{\mu} \alpha_j^2 \geq \mu/4$. On the other hand, by Hertling's conjecture

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} \alpha_j^2 \le \frac{1}{12} (\alpha_{\mu} - \alpha_1) \le \frac{1}{6}.$$

QED

Next we turn to the study of ω_X^1 in the case $n \geq 2$. Note that ω_X^1 coincides with Ω_X^1 on $X \setminus \Sigma$. Moreover ω_X^1 fits in the exact sequence

$$0 \to \omega_X^1 \to \Omega^n(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \to \Omega^{n+1}(2X) \otimes \mathcal{O}_X$$

hence $\omega_X^1 \simeq j_* \Omega_X^{n-1}$ where $j: X \setminus \Sigma \hookrightarrow X$. We see that $\omega_X^1 \simeq \tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1}$ if X is a V-manifold. Let us look for the class of singularities which one may admit for

this to be true. Consider a good resolution $\pi:(Y,E)\to (X,x)$ of an isolated n-dimensional singularity. Define

$$q'(X,x) = \ell \left(j_* \Omega_X^{n-1} / \pi_* \Omega_Y^{n-1} (\log E) (-E) \right)_x$$

and the Du Bois invariant (cf. [16])

$$b^{n-1,1}(X,x) = \ell \left(R^1 \pi_* \Omega_Y^{n-1}(\log E)(-E) \right)_x.$$

Then clearly one has the

Theorem 8 Let X be an n-dimensional complex space with only isolated singularities, with $n \ge 2$. The following are equivalent:

1.
$$\omega_X^{n-1} = \tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1}$$
;

2.
$$q'(X,x) = b^{n-1,1}(X,x) = 0$$
 for each singular point of X.

Indeed, if q' = 0 then

$$\omega_X^{n-1} = j_* \Omega_X^{n-1} = \pi_* \Omega_Y^{n-1} (\log E) (-E)$$

and if moreover $b^{n-1,1}=0$ then $R^1\pi_*\Omega_Y^{n-1}(\log E)(-E)=0$ so $\pi_*\Omega_Y^{n-1}(\log E)(-E)=R\pi_*\Omega_Y^{n-1}(\log E)(-E)$. Conversely, the equality $\omega_X^{n-1}=\tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1}$ implies equality of their Euler characteristics, whose difference is equal to $q'+b^{n-1,1}$.

Corollary 9 Suppose that (X, x) is an isolated hypersurface singularity. Then

$$q'(X,x) + b^{n-1,1}(X,x) = \tau(X,x) - s_{n-1}(X,x).$$

Next we investigate which surface singularities have $q'(X, x) = b^{1,1}(X, x) = 0$. First recall the following result of Wahl [18, Corollary 2.9]:

Theorem 10 For a two-dimensional smoothable normal Gorenstein singularity with Milnor fibre F write $\mu = \mu_0 + \mu_+ + \mu_-$ from diagonalizing the intersection pairing on $H_2(F, \mathbb{R})$. Then

$$\tau \ge \mu_0 + \mu_- = \mu - (2p_g - 2g - b).$$

Here p_g is the geometric genus, b is the first Betti number of the dual graph of a good resolution and g is the sum of the genera of the irreducible components of its exceptional divisor.

Theorem 11 For a two-dimensional smoothable normal Gorenstein singularity the following are equivalent:

1.
$$b^{1,1} = q' = 0$$
;

2.
$$\tau = \mu_0 + \mu_-$$
 and $q = 0$.

Proof In the surface case we have $\mu = s_0 + s_1 + s_2$ where $s_2 = p_g$ and $s_0 = p_g - g - b$. If $b^{1,1} = q' = 0$ then $\tau = s_1 = \mu - (2p_g - g - b) = \mu_0 + \mu_- - g$ hence by Theorem 4 we have g = 0 and $\tau = \mu_0 + \mu_-$. The converse implication is similar.

Corollary 12 The following surface singularities satisfy $q' = b^{1,1} = 0$:

- 1. rational double points (ADE-singularities)
- 2. cusps (singularities of type T_{pqr} with $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{r} < 1$);
- 3. generic μ -constant deformations of $z^2 + x^{2a+1} + y^{2a+2}$ (those which have minimal Tjurina number).

Indeed, the rational double points have $\mu = \tau = \mu_-$, whereas the cusps have $\mu_+ = 1 = \mu - \tau$. Finally the last category of examples was considered in [18, Example 4.6] and shown by Zariski to have $\tau = 3a(a+1) = \mu - 2p_g$. QED

Example According to SINGULAR, the singularity $x^7 + x^4y^2 + x^2y^4 + y^7 + z^2$ has $\mu = 27$ and $\tau = 23$. Moreover, $p_g = 3$ and b = 2, g = 0, and $\mu - (2p_g - b) = 27 - 4 = \tau$ so $q' = b^{1,1} = 0$.

Example The singularity $x^3 + y^{10} + z^{19}$ is considered in [11, Sect. 5]. A generic μ -constant deformation has $\tau = 246$ whereas $\mu = 324$ and $p_g = 39$, g = b = 0. so $\mu - \tau = 2p_g$ and $q' = b^{1,1} = 0$.

Example It is not always so that for a generic μ -constant deformation of a quasi-homogeneous surface singularity one has $q'=b^{1,1}=0$. The exceptional unimodal non-quasi-homogeneous singularities have $\tau=\mu-1,\ p_g=1$ and g=b=0. So $\mu_0=0,\ \mu_-=\mu-2$.

Take the singularity $x^5 + y^{11} + z^2$, also considered in [11, Sect. 5]. It has $\mu = 40$ and $\tau_{\min} = 34$ whereas $p_g = 4$, g = 0. That $\mu - \tau \le 6$ can be seen from the spectral numbers. The submodule fQ^f of $Q^f = \Omega^3/df \wedge \Omega^2$ is cyclic with generator $[f\omega] \in V^{\frac{87}{110}} = V^{\frac{89}{110}}$. But then

$$[xf\omega] \in V^{\frac{111}{110}}, \ [yf\omega] \in V^{\frac{99}{110}} = V^{\frac{101}{110}}, \ [y^2f\omega] \in V^{\frac{111}{110}}$$

so the spectral numbers of the filtration of fQ^f induced by V have the gaps $\frac{91}{111}$ and $\frac{93}{110}$.

Question Is this kind of lower bound for τ on the μ -constant stratum provided by the spectral numbers sharp?

Remark The only example of an isolated hypersurface singularity in dimension $n \geq 3$ I know that satisfies $q' = b^{n-1,1} = 0$ is the ordinary double point in dimension three. If Hertling's conjecture is valid, I can prove that no such singularities exist in dimension ≥ 9 , and no rational singularity in dimension ≥ 6 .

Consider the special case of "double suspension" singularities g=f(x,y)+zw with f squarefree. These are rational, and they belong to our class iff $\tau_f=\delta_f$. By the inequality $\tau\geq \delta+m-r$ for curve singularities this implies that r=m so f is a μ -constant deformation of a homogeneous singularity of degree m. This has finite order monodromy and highest spectral number $1-\frac{2}{m}$ and this implies that $V^{-\frac{2}{m}}Q^f$ is in the kernel of multiplication by f. Hence $\tau_f\geq \dim V^{-\frac{2}{m}}Q^f=\delta_f+2m-5$ so $\tau_f-\delta_f\geq 1$ unless m=2 and we have the ordinary double point!

5 Application to projective hypersurfaces

In this section we come back to the problem mentioned in the introduction: investigate the relation between the cohomology of a projective hypersurface with isolated singularities and certain graded parts of its Jacobian ring.

We consider a hypersurface $X = V(F) \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ of degree d with at most isolated singularities. Recall that $\Omega^k(\ell X)$ is the sheaf of germs of meromorphic k-forms on \mathbb{P}^{n+1} with poles of order at most k along X. We have inclusions $\Omega^k(\ell X) \subset \Omega^k((\ell+1)X)$ and differentiation $d: \Omega^k(\ell X) \to \Omega^{k+1}((\ell+1)X)$. We defined

$$\Omega^k(\log X) = \ker(d: \Omega^k(X) \to \Omega^{k+1}(2X)/\Omega^{k+1}(X).$$

If X is smooth then the map $d: \Omega^n(X) \to \Omega^{n+1}(2X)/\Omega^{n+1}(X)$ is surjective; if X has isolated singularities, then the cokernel $\Omega_X^{n+1}(2X)$ of this map is a skyscraper sheaf concentrated at the singular points of X. Its stalk at $x \in X$ is isomorphic to the quotient of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ by the ideal generated by a local equation f of X and the partial derivatives of f. This stalk has finite length $\tau(X,x)$, the Tiurina number of (X,x).

By Bott's vanishing theorem [2] $H^i(\Omega^n(X)) = H^i(\Omega^{n+1}(2X)/\Omega^{n+1}(X)) = 0$ for i > 0, so we have a resolution

$$0 \to \Omega^n(\log X) \to \Omega^n(X) \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^{n+1}(2X)/\Omega^{n+1}(X) \to \Omega^{n+1}_X(2X) \to 0$$

of $\Omega^n(\log X)$ by sheaves which are acyclic, hence the cohomology groups of the complex of global sections of these sheaves

$$0 \to H^0(\Omega^n(X)) \to H^0(\Omega^{n+1}(2X)/\Omega^{n+1}(X)) \to H^0(\Omega^{n+1}_X(2X)) \to 0$$

are isomorphic to the cohomology groups of $\Omega^n(\log X)$. Explicitly we have the complex

$$0 \to \mathcal{S}_{d-n-2} \xrightarrow{E} \mathcal{S}_{d-n-1}^{\oplus n+2} \xrightarrow{h} \mathcal{S}_{2d-n-2} / F \mathcal{S}_{d-n-2} \to H^{0}(\Omega_{X}^{n+1}(2X)) \to 0$$

where $E(B) = (X_0 B, \dots, X_{n+1} B)$ (corresponding to the Euler vector field) and

$$h(A_0, \dots, A_{n+1}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} A_i \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_i} \mod F$$

If X is smooth, we have the residue exact sequence

$$0 \to \Omega^n \to \Omega^n(\log X) \to \Omega_X^{n-1} \to 0$$

by which the cohomology groups of $\Omega^n(\log X)$ are identified with the primitive cohomology groups $H^{n-1,1}_{\text{prim}}(X)$.

Lemma 13 If X is smooth, then

$$\sum_{n>0} \dim \mathcal{R}_n t^n = \left(\frac{t^{d-1}-1}{t-1}\right)^{n+2}.$$

The proof uses the fact that the partials of F form a regular sequence in S, so we have the Koszul complex resolving R.

Proposition 14 Let $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{S}/\mathcal{J}(F)$ as in the introduction. Then

$$\dim \mathcal{R}_{2d-n-2} = c_d - \dim H^0(X, \Omega^n(\log X)).$$

Moreover, the map $H^i(\Omega^n(logX)) \to H^i(\omega_X^{n-1})$ is an isomorphism for $i \neq n-1$ and we have the exact sequence

$$0 \to H^{n-1}(\Omega^n(\log X)) \to H^{n-1}(\omega_X^{n-1}) \to H^n(\Omega^n) \to 0.$$

Proof Note that

$$\mathcal{R}_{2d-n-2} = \operatorname{coker}(\mathcal{S}_{d-n-1}^{\oplus n+2} \xrightarrow{h} \mathcal{S}_{2d-n-2}/F\mathcal{S}_{d-n-2})$$

and that ker(h) = im(E) in the smooth case. Hence

$$c_d = \dim S_{2d-n-2} - (n+2) \dim S_{d-n-1} = {2d-1 \choose n+1} - (n+2) {d \choose n+1}$$

and

$$\ker(h)/\mathrm{im}(E) = H^0(X, \Omega^n(\log X))) = \ker\left(\mathcal{S}_{d-n-1}^{\oplus (n+2)} \to \mathcal{S}_{2d-n-2}\right).$$

To prove the remaining statements, note that $H^i(\Omega^n) = 0$ for all $i \neq n$. So we only have to show that

$$H^n(\Omega^n) \to H^n(\Omega^n(\log X))$$

is the zero map. We do this by induction on n. The case n=1 is obvious. Let $n \geq 2$. Consider a general hypersurface $L \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$; we have the commutative diagram with exact rows

which gives rise to the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^{n-1}(\Omega_L^{n-1}) & \stackrel{a}{\to} & H^{n-1}(\Omega_L^{n-1}(\log X \cap L)) \\ \downarrow b & & \downarrow \\ H^n(\Omega^n) & \stackrel{c}{\to} & H^n(\Omega^n(\log X)) \end{array}$$

By Lefschetz' theory, the Gysin map b is an isomorphism, and by induction hypothesis a is the zero map. Hence c is the zero map. QED

Corollary 15 Suppose that $H^0(\Omega^n(\log X)) = 0$. Then \mathcal{R}_{2d-n-2} has the expected dimension c_d and we have the exact sequence

$$0 \to H^1(\Omega^n(\log X)) \to \mathcal{R}_{2d-n-2} \to H^0(X, \Omega_X^{n+1}(2X)) \to H^2(\Omega^n(\log X)) \to 0$$

$$\tag{4}$$

Moreover $H^i(\Omega^n(\log X)) = 0$ for all $i \geq 2$.

From now on we suppose that $\omega_X^{n-1} \simeq \tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1}$, i.e. $q' = b^{n-1,1} = 0$ for all singular points of X. Moreover we will suppose that $n \geq 2$, as in the case n = 1 there are no singular points on X. This guarantees that we have isomorphisms

$$H^i(\Omega^n(\log X)) \simeq \operatorname{Gr}_F^{n-1} H^{n-1+i}(X)_{\text{prim}}.$$
 (5)

Lemma 16 $H^i(\mathbb{P}^{n+1}, \Omega^n(\log X)) = 0$ for all $i \neq 1, 2$

Proof This follows from (5) and the fact that for a hypersurface X in \mathbb{P}^{n+1} with isolated singularities one has $H^k(\mathbb{P}^{n+1},\mathbb{Q}) \simeq H^k(X,\mathbb{Q})$ for all $k \neq n, n+1, 2n$.

Corollary 17 dim $\mathcal{R}_{2d-n-2} = c_d$. Moreover we have the exact sequence

$$0 \to H^1(\Omega^n(\log X)) \to \mathcal{R}_{2d-n-2} \to H^0(X, \Omega_X^{n+1}(2X)) \to H^2(\Omega^n(\log X)) \to 0$$
(6)

Let G be a homogeneous form of degree d which does not vanish at the singularities of X. Then there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for $t \in \mathbb{C}$ with $0 < |t| < \epsilon$ the hypersurface X_t given by F + tG = 0 is smooth. We let \mathcal{R}^t denote its Jacobian ring. Note that $\lim_{t\to 0} \mathcal{J}(F+tG)_k$ makes sense in the Grassmannian of \mathcal{S}_k , and that it contains $\mathcal{J}(F)_k$. Hence, as \mathcal{R}_k and \mathcal{R}_k^t have equal dimension, they are equal. So we have the exact sequence

$$0 \to H^1(X, \tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1})_{\text{prim}} \to \mathcal{R}_{2d-n-2} \to \text{Gr}_F^{n-1}H^n(\phi C) \to H^2(X, \tilde{\Omega}_X^{n-1})_{\text{prim}} \to 0$$
(7)

Under our hypotheses, the sequences (6) and (7) are identical!

Remark Our reasoning also applies to hypersurfaces in weighted projective spaces, as long as they are transverse to the singular strata (so have isolated singularities only at regular points of the ambient space).

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