



# How to determine a curve singularity

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*Abstract.* We characterize the finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras of  $\mathbf{k}[[t]]$  as the solutions of a computable finite family of higher differential operators. For this end, we establish a duality between such a sub-algebras and the finite codimension  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector spaces of  $\mathbf{k}[u]$ , this ring acts on  $\mathbf{k}[[t]]$  by differentiation.

## 1 Introduction

It is well-known that the normalization of a curve  $X$  is a non-singular curve  $Y$ . Serre considers in [26, Chapter IV] the opposite direction, he showed how to construct a curve  $X$  from a given non-singular curve  $Y$  such that this curve is the normalization of  $X$ . This idea appears in several different contexts. For instance, in [17, 18, 23] and the references therein, is studied how to determine the finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B$  of  $\mathbf{k}[[t]]$ . Notice that, in this case,  $X = \text{Spec}(B)$  is an algebraic curve and the affine line  $Y = \text{Spec}(\mathbf{k}[t])$  is its normalization. These sub-algebras are defined recursively on the codimension by linear and higher differential conditions. Only for low codimensions, explicit conditions are known. Since not all higher differential conditions define sub-algebras of  $\mathbf{k}[[t]]$ , it is an open problem for the characterization of families of linear higher differential operators defining finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras of  $\mathbf{k}[[t]]$  (see [18]).

In the search of one-dimensional reduced local rings with locally decreasing Hilbert function, Roberts constructed such a local rings as connex, finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras of  $\prod_{i=1}^r \mathbf{k}[[t_i]]$  defined by linear and first-order differentials conditions (see [19]). See [11] for the proof of Sally's conjecture on the monotony of Hilbert functions of one-dimensional Cohen–Macaulay local rings.

In this paper, we consider the local complete case. We characterize the finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B$  of  $\Gamma = \mathbf{k}[[t]]$  as the solutions of a computable finite codimension  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space  $B^\perp \subset \Delta = \mathbf{k}[u]$  of higher differential operators (see Theorem 3.9). For this purpose, we establish a Macaulay-like duality between finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B$  of  $\Gamma$  and finite codimension  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspaces  $B^\perp$ , so-called algebra-forming vector spaces, of the polynomial ring  $\Delta$ . The polynomial ring  $\Delta$  acts on  $\Gamma$  by differentiation as in Macaulay's duality (see [14–16, 20]). At the end

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of Section 3, we describe the linear maps  $B_2^1 \rightarrow B_1^1$  induced by  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra morphisms  $B_1 \rightarrow B_2$  between two finite codimension  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B_1, B_2$ .

In Section 4, we study the algebra-forming vector spaces, showing that such a condition can be checked effectively (see Proposition 4.1). After this, we prove that for any finite codimension  $\delta$   $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B$  there exist a finite filtration of  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras, so-called standard filtration of  $B$ ,  $B = B_0 \subset B_1 \subset \dots \subset B_\delta = \Gamma$  such that  $\dim_{\mathbf{k}}(B_{i+1}/B_i) = 1$  for  $i = 0, \dots, \delta - 1$ . As corollary of this construction, we get that we only need to consider algebra-forming single elements in order to define recursively a finite codimension  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras. Moreover, we show how to recover the standard filtration by considering recursively derivations of the local rings appearing in the filtration (see Corollary 4.6).

Section 5 is devoted to study the inverse system of monomial  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras and the special case of monomial Gorenstein algebras. We end the section relating the inverse system of a curve singularity with its generic plane projection and its saturation.

In the last section, we link  $B^1$  with the canonical module of  $B$  (see Proposition 6.1).

The computations of this paper are performed by using the computer algebra system singular (see [8]).

## 2 Preliminaries

Let  $R$  denote the power series ring  $\mathbf{k}[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]$  over an algebraically closed characteristic zero field  $\mathbf{k}$  and we denote by  $\max = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  its maximal ideal.

Let  $A$  be a one-dimensional local ring with maximal ideal  $\max$ . We denote by  $\text{HF}_A$  the Hilbert function of  $A$ , i.e.,  $\text{HF}_A(i) = \text{Length}_A(\max^i / \max^{i+1})$ ,  $i \geq 0$ . It is well-known that  $\text{HF}_A^0(i) = e_0(A)$ ,  $i \gg 0$ , where  $e_0(A)$  is the multiplicity of  $A$ . The first integral of  $\text{HF}_A$  is defined by,  $i \geq 0$ ,

$$\text{HF}_A^1(i) = \sum_{j=0}^i \text{HF}_A(j) = \text{Length}_A(A/\max^{i+1}).$$

We write  $\text{HF}_A^0 = \text{HF}_A$ . There exists an integer  $e_1(A)$  such that  $\text{HF}_A^1(i) = e_0(A)(i + 1) - e_1(A)$  for  $i \gg 0$ ; the (first) Hilbert polynomial is  $\text{HP}_A^1(T) = e_0(A)(T + 1) - e_1(A)$ . See [22, Chapter XII] for the basic properties of the Hilbert functions of one-dimensional Cohen–Macaulay local rings.

A branch  $X$  is an irreducible curve singularity of  $(\mathbf{k}^n, 0) = \text{Spec}(R)$ , i.e.,  $X$  is a one-dimensional, integral scheme  $X = \text{Spec}(R/I)$ ; we write  $\mathcal{O}_X = R/I$  and  $I(X) = I$ .

Let  $\nu: \bar{X} = \text{Spec}(\bar{\mathcal{O}}_X) \rightarrow (X, 0)$  be the normalization of  $(X, 0)$ , where  $\bar{\mathcal{O}}_X \cong \mathbf{k}[[t]]$  is the integral closure of  $\mathcal{O}_X$  on its full field of fractions  $\text{tot}(\mathcal{O}_X)$ . The singularity order of  $X$  is  $\delta(X) = \dim_{\mathbf{k}}(\bar{\mathcal{O}}_X/\mathcal{O}_X)$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{C}$  the conductor of the finite extension  $\nu^*: \mathcal{O}_X \hookrightarrow \bar{\mathcal{O}}_X$  and by  $c(X)$  the dimension of  $\bar{\mathcal{O}}_X/\mathcal{C}$ .

Given a set of nonnegative integers  $1 \leq a_1 < \dots < a_n$ , we consider the monomial curve singularity  $X(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  defined by the parameterization

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma: R &\longrightarrow \mathbf{k}[[t]] \\ x_i &\longmapsto t^{a_i}, \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $I(X(a_1, \dots, a_n)) = \ker(\gamma)$ . If  $\gcd(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 1$ , then the induced map

$$\gamma : R/I(X(a_1, \dots, a_n)) \longrightarrow \mathbf{k}[[t]]$$

is the normalization map of  $\mathcal{O}_{X(a_1, \dots, a_n)} = R/I(X(a_1, \dots, a_n)) = \mathbf{k}[[t^{a_1}, \dots, t^{a_n}]]$ .

We denote by  $D_X$  the semigroup of values of  $X$ : the set of integers  $v_i(f) = \text{ord}_i(t)$  where  $f \in \mathcal{O}_X \setminus \{0\}$ . It is easy to see that  $\delta(X) = \#(\mathbb{N} \setminus D_X)$ . If  $B$  is a finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$  then  $X = \text{Spec}(B)$  is branch. We write  $D_B = D_X$ .

Let  $\omega_X$  be the dualizing module of  $X$ ; we can consider the composition of  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -module morphisms

$$\gamma_X : \Omega_X \longrightarrow \nu_* \Omega_{\bar{X}} \cong \nu_* \omega_{\bar{X}} \longrightarrow \omega_X.$$

Let  $d : \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow \Omega_X$  the universal derivation, then we have a  $\mathbf{k}$ -linear map  $\gamma_X d$  that we also denote by  $d : \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow \omega_X$ . Recall that the Milnor number of  $X$  is  $\mu(X) = \dim_{\mathbf{k}}(\omega_X/d\mathcal{O}_X)$ , [5]. Since we only consider branches we have that  $\mu(X) = 2\delta(X)$  (see [5, Proposition 1.2.1]). Notice that  $X$  is non-singular iff  $\mu(X) = 0$  iff  $\delta(X) = 0$  iff  $c(X) = 0$ .

We denote by  $\pi : Bl(X) \longrightarrow X$  the blowing-up of  $X$  on its closed point. The fiber of the closed point of  $X$  has a finite number of closed points: the so-called points of the first neighborhood of  $X$ . We can iterate the process of blowing-up until we get the normalization of  $X$  (see [7, 24]). We denote by  $\text{Inf}(X)$  the set of infinitely near points of  $X$ . The curve singularity defined by an infinitely point  $p$  of  $X$  will be denote by  $(X, p)$ ; we set  $(X, 0) = X$ .

**Proposition 2.1** *Let  $X$  be a branch. Then*

(i)

$$\delta(X) = \sum_{p \in \text{Inf}(X)} e_i(X, p).$$

(ii) *It holds*

$$e_0(X) - 1 \leq e_1(X) \leq \delta(X) \leq \mu(X)$$

and  $e_1(X) \leq \binom{e_0(X)}{2} - \binom{n-1}{2}$ .

(iii) *If  $X$  is singular, then  $\delta(X) + 1 \leq c(X) \leq 2\delta(X)$ , and  $c(X) = 2\delta(X)$  if and only if  $\mathcal{O}_X$  is a Gorenstein ring.*

**Proof** (i) [25]. (ii) [5, Proposition 1.2.4(i)] and [10, 12, 25]. (iii) [26, Proposition 7, page 80] and [2]. ■

### 3 Macaulay-like duality

In this section, we establish a Macaulay-like duality for the family of sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B$  of  $\Gamma = \mathbf{k}[[t]]$  of finite codimension. For the classical Macaulay's duality, see [20], [14], and for the generalization to higher dimension of Macaulay's duality, see [15]. Recall that Macaulay's duality is a particular case of Matlis' duality (see [4]).

We write  $\Delta = \mathbf{k}[u]$ ;  $\Gamma$  is a  $\Delta$ -module with  $\Delta$  acting on  $\Gamma$  by derivation. This action denoted by  $\circ$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \circ : \Delta \times \Gamma &\longrightarrow \Gamma \\ (g, f) &\mapsto g \circ f = g(\partial_t)(f), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\partial_t$  denotes the derivative with respect to  $t$ . This action induces a non-singular  $\mathbf{k}$ -bilinear perfect pairing:

$$(1) \quad \perp : \Delta \times \Gamma \longrightarrow \mathbf{k} \\ (g, f) \mapsto g \perp f = (g \circ f)(0).$$

**Definition 3.1** Given a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B$  of  $\Gamma = \mathbf{k}[[t]]$  we define  $B^\perp$  as the set of  $g \in \Delta$  such that  $g \perp f = 0$  for all  $f \in B$ . Notice that  $B^\perp$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace of  $\Delta$ , this is, following the classic Macaulay’s duality terminology, the inverse system of  $B$ . Given a  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$  we consider  $\text{Ann}(V) \subset \Gamma$  as the set of power series  $f \in \Gamma$  such that  $g \perp f = 0$  for all  $g \in V$ .

Let  $B$  be a finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$ . Then we have a non-singular  $\mathbf{k}$ -bilinear perfect pairing:

$$(2) \quad \perp : B^\perp \times \frac{\Gamma}{B} \longrightarrow \mathbf{k} \\ (g, \overline{f}) \mapsto g \perp f.$$

We denote by  $\text{Perp}(B)$ , the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space of maps

$$\begin{aligned} g^\perp : B &\longrightarrow \mathbf{k} \\ f &\mapsto g \perp f \end{aligned}$$

for all  $g \in \Delta$ . These maps are the elements of the dual space of  $B$  with finite support:  $g^\perp(\max_B^d) = 0$  for  $d > \text{deg}(g)$ . We denote by  $\text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B)$  the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space of  $\mathbf{k}$ -derivations of  $B$ . Since  $\text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B) \cong (\max_B / \max_B^2)^*$ , we can identify  $\text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B)$  with the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space of elements  $\sigma$  of the dual space of  $B$  such that  $\sigma(\max_B^2) = 0$ .

We have  $\text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B) \subset \text{Perp}(B)$ , this inclusion is strict. Let us consider the codimension 8 algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[t^4, t^7, t^{17}]]$ . The linear map  $(u^{11})^\perp : B \longrightarrow \mathbf{k}$  is not a derivation since  $t^{11} \in \max_B^2$  and  $(u^{11})^\perp(t^{11}) = 11! \neq 0$ .

Next step is to characterize the vector  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspaces  $B^\perp$  of  $\Delta$ , where  $B$  ranges the family of finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras of  $\Gamma$ . First, we give some properties of  $B^\perp$  that we will use along the paper.

Given a polynomial  $g = \sum_{i=0}^d a_i u^i \in \Delta$  we denote by  $\text{Supp}(g)$  the support of  $g$ : the finite set of integers  $i$  such that  $a_i \neq 0$ .

**Proposition 3.2** Let  $B \subset \Gamma$  be a codimension  $\delta$  sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B$  of  $\Gamma$ , and let  $\mathcal{C} = (t^c)$  be the conductor of the extension  $B \subset \Gamma$ . Then:

- (1)  $\dim_{\mathbf{k}}(B^\perp) = \delta$ .
- (2) For all  $g \in B^\perp$ , we have  $\text{Supp}(g) \subset [1, c - 1]$ , and

$$u^{[1, e_0(B) - 1]} = \{u^i; i \in [1, e_0(B) - 1]\} \subset B^\perp \subset \langle u, u^2, \dots, u^{c-1} \rangle.$$

- (3) The following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $\delta = 0$ ,
- (ii)  $B = \Gamma$ ,
- (iii)  $B^\perp = 0$ ,
- (iv)  $B^\perp \subset \langle u^2, u^3, \dots \rangle$ .

**Proof** (1) Since  $\perp$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -bilinear perfect pairing, we get  $\dim_{\mathbf{k}}(B^\perp) = \delta$ , see the equation (2).

(2) Since  $B$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra, we have  $1 \in B$ , so if  $g = \sum_{j \geq 0} a_j u^j \in B^\perp$ , then  $0 = g \perp 1 = a_0$ . Hence  $B^\perp \subset \langle u^2, u^3, \dots \rangle$ . We know that  $(t^c) \subset B$  so for all  $g = \sum_{j \geq 0} a_j u^j \in B^\perp$ , we have

$$0 = g \perp t^{c+i} = (c+i)! a_{c+i}$$

$i \geq 0$ . Hence, if  $g \in B^\perp$ , then  $\deg(g) \leq c-1$ . From this, we deduce that  $B^\perp \subset \langle u, u^2, \dots, u^{c-1} \rangle$ .

Notice that  $v_t(f) \geq e_0(B)$  for all  $f \in B \setminus \{1\}$ , so given  $i \in [1, e_0(B) - 1]$  we have  $u^i \perp f = 0$ . Hence  $u^i \in B^\perp$  and then  $u^{[1, e_0(B) - 1]} \subset B^\perp$ .

(3) The condition of (i) is equivalent to (ii). (ii) trivially implies (iii) and this implies (iv). If  $B^\perp \subset \langle u^2, u^3, \dots \rangle$ , then  $t \in B$ , since  $B$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra, we get (ii). ■

For all power series  $f = \sum_{i \geq 0} b_i t^i \in \Gamma$  and given a nonnegative integer  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , we denote by  $[f]_{\leq s}$  the truncated polynomial  $[f]_{\leq s} = \sum_{i \geq 0}^s b_i t^i$ .

Let  $B$  be a finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$  with conductor  $c$ . Then  $B$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra; let  $f_1, \dots, f_r$  be a system of generators of  $B$  as  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra. We denote by  $\mathfrak{h}_{B,d}$ ,  $d \geq c-1$ , the finite set of polynomials  $[f_1^{l_1} \dots f_r^{l_r}]_{\leq d}$  with  $l_i \geq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$ , and  $l_1 + \dots + l_r \leq d$ . We denote by  $W(\{f_1, \dots, f_r\}, d) \subset \Delta$  the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space generated by the polynomials of  $\mathfrak{h}_{B,d}$ . Notice that  $W(\{f_1, \dots, f_r\}, d) + \langle t^{d+1} \rangle = W(\{f_1, \dots, f_r\}, d+1)$ .

**Proposition 3.3** *Let  $B$  be a finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$  with conductor  $c$ . Then  $B^\perp$  is the set of  $g \in \Delta$  of degree at most  $c-1$  and such that  $g \perp h = 0$  for all  $h \in \mathfrak{h}_{B,c-1}$ .*

**Proof** Let  $f_1, \dots, f_r$  be a system of generators of  $B$  as  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra, and let  $\mathfrak{h}_{B,c-1}$  be the associated set of polynomials.

If  $g \in B^\perp$ , then  $\deg(g) \leq c-1$ , Proposition 3.2(2), so

$$0 = g \perp (f_1^{l_1} \dots f_r^{l_r}) = g \perp [f_1^{l_1} \dots f_r^{l_r}]_{\leq c-1}$$

Hence,  $g \perp h = 0$  for all  $h \in \mathfrak{h}_{B,c-1}$ .

Let  $g \in \Delta$  be a polynomial with  $\deg(g) \leq c-1$  and such that  $g \perp h = 0$  for all  $h \in \mathfrak{h}_{B,c-1}$ . Any  $f \in B$  can be written as

$$f = \sum_{l_1, \dots, l_r \in \mathbb{N}} c_{l_1, \dots, l_r} f_1^{l_1} \dots f_r^{l_r}$$

with  $c_{l_1, \dots, l_r} \in \mathbf{k}$ . Since  $\deg(g) \leq c-1$ , we have

$$g \perp f = \sum_{l_1, \dots, l_r \in \mathbb{N}} c_{l_1, \dots, l_r} (g \perp f_1^{l_1} \dots f_r^{l_r}) = \sum_{l_1, \dots, l_r \in \mathbb{N}} c_{l_1, \dots, l_r} (g \perp [f_1^{l_1} \dots f_r^{l_r}]_{\leq c-1}) = 0,$$

so  $g \in B^\perp$ . ■

**Remark 3.4** Notice that Proposition 3.3 shows that the computation of  $B^\perp$  is effective. In fact, in the set  $\mathfrak{h}_{B,c-1}$ , there are involved a finite number of monomials and we only have to consider polynomials  $g$  of degree at most  $c - 1$ .

**Remark 3.5** Although  $B^\perp$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace of  $\Delta$  for any sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B$  of  $\Gamma$ , not all  $\text{Ann}(V)$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra for a given  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$ . In fact, let us consider the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$  generated by  $u^2$ . Then  $\text{Ann}(V)$  is the set of  $f = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i t^i \in \Gamma$  such that  $a_2 = 0$ . This is not a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra because  $u^2 \perp t = 0$ , so  $t \in \text{Ann}(V)$  and  $u^2 \perp t^2 = 2 \neq 0$ , so  $t^2 \notin \text{Ann}(V)$ .

**Definition 3.6** A finite dimensional  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$  is so-called algebra-forming with respect to a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B \subset \Gamma$  iff the following conditions hold:

- (a)  $g(0) = 0$  for all  $g \in V$  and,
- (b) for all  $f \in B$  such that  $g \perp f = 0$  for all  $g \in V$  it holds  $g \perp f^2 = 0$  for all  $g \in V$ .

An element  $g \in \Delta$  is so-called algebra-forming with respect to  $B$  if  $V = \langle g \rangle$  is algebra-forming with respect to  $B$ .

**Example 3.7** Let us consider the codimension  $\delta = 4$  algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[t^3 + t^4, t^5]]$  of  $\Gamma$ . The conductor of  $B$  is  $c = 8$ . Then  $B^\perp$  is the set of polynomials  $g \in \Delta$  of degree at most 7 such that  $g \perp f = 0$  for  $f \in \mathfrak{h}_{B,c-1} = \{t^3 + t^4, t^5, t^6 + 2t^7\}$ . A simple computation shows that  $B^\perp$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space generated by the four linear independent polynomials  $u, u^2, u^3 - \frac{1}{4}u^4, u^6 - \frac{1}{2.7}u^7$ . Let us consider

$$B_2 = \mathbf{k}[[t^3, t^4, t^5]] \subset B_3 = \mathbf{k}[[t^2, t^3]],$$

then we have  $B_2 = \text{Ann}(u^2) \cap B_3$ , i.e.,  $u^2$  is an algebra-forming element with respect to  $B_2$ .

In the following result, we prove that, in fact, if  $V \subset \Delta$  is algebra-forming with respect to a  $\mathbf{k}$  algebra  $B \subset \Gamma$ , then  $\text{Ann}(V) \cap B$  is a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$ .

**Proposition 3.8** Let  $V \subset \Delta$  be an algebra-forming  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace with respect to a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B \subset \Gamma$ . Then  $\text{Ann}(V) \cap B$  is a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$ .

**Proof** Clearly  $C = \text{Ann}(V) \cap B$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace of  $\Gamma$ . Given  $f_1, f_2 \in C$  we have that  $f_1 + f_2 \in C$  and from

$$f_1 f_2 = \frac{1}{2}((f_1 + f_2)^2 - f_1^2 - f_2^2),$$

we deduce that  $g \perp (f_1 f_2) = 0$ , i.e.,  $f_1 f_2 \in C$ . Since  $g(0) = 0$  for all  $g \in V$  we get  $1 \in C$ , so  $C$  is a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$ . ■

The following result is an extension of Macaulay’s duality to finite codimension sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B \subset \Gamma$ .

**Theorem 3.9** Given a nonnegative integers  $\delta > 0$  and  $c \geq \delta + 1$ , there is a one-to-one correspondence  $\perp$  between the following sets:

- (1) sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B$  of  $\Gamma$  of codimension  $\delta$  as  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector spaces such that the conductor of  $B \subset \Gamma$  is  $(t^c)$ ,
- (2) algebra forming, with respect to  $\Gamma$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$  of dimension  $\delta$ , generated by polynomials of degree at most  $c - 1$  and such that there is a polynomial  $g \in V$  with  $\deg(g) = c - 1$ .

This correspondence is inclusion reversing: given two sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  of  $\Gamma$ ,  $B_1 \subset B_2$  if and only if  $B_2^\perp \subset B_1^\perp$ .

**Proof** Let  $B$  be a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B$  of  $\Gamma$ . Since we have a non-singular  $\mathbf{k}$ -bilinear pairing:

$$\begin{aligned} \perp: B^\perp \times \frac{\Gamma}{B} &\longrightarrow \mathbf{k} \\ (g, f) &\mapsto g \perp f, \end{aligned}$$

we get that  $B^\perp$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace of dimension  $\delta$  of  $\Delta$ . By definition  $B^\perp$  is algebra-forming with respect to  $\Gamma$ . Being  $c$  the conductor we have  $(t^c) \subset B$ , so  $\deg(g) \leq c - 1$  for all  $g \in B^\perp$  and there exist  $g \in B^\perp$  of degree  $c - 1$ .

Let  $V$  be an algebra forming, with respect to  $\Gamma$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace satisfying the conditions of (2). Let us consider the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B = \text{Ann}(V)$ . From the perfect pairing (1), we get that the codimension of  $B$  in  $\Gamma$  is  $\delta$ . Since  $V$  is generated by polynomials of degree at most  $c - 1$  we have that  $(t^c) \subset B$ , so the conductor of  $B$  is at most  $c$ . Furthermore, since there is  $g \in V$  with  $\deg(g) = c - 1$  we deduce that  $c$  is the conductor of  $B$ .

It is straightforward to prove the inclusion reversing from the definition of the inverse system  $B^\perp$ . ■

We end this section by describing the  $\mathbf{k}$ -linear maps  $B_2^\perp \longrightarrow B_1^\perp$  induced by  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra isomorphisms  $B_1 \longrightarrow B_2$  between two finite codimension  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  of  $\Gamma$ . Let  $c$  be an integer bigger than the conductors of  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ .

The perfect pairing (1) induce a perfect pairing

$$\begin{aligned} \perp: \Delta_{\leq c-1} \times \frac{\Gamma}{(t^c)} &\longrightarrow \mathbf{k} \\ (g, f) &\mapsto g \perp f = (g \circ f)(0), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Delta_{\leq c-1}$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space of polynomials of degree at most  $c - 1$ . We consider the usual  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector basis of  $\Gamma/(t^c)$  of the cosets of  $t^i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, c - 1$ . Its dual basis is  $\frac{1}{i!}u^i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, c - 1$ , since

$$\left(\frac{1}{i!}u^i\right) \perp t^j = \delta_{i,j}$$

$1 \leq i, j \leq c - 1$ .

The  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B_i$  has conductor at most  $c$  so we can consider that  $B_i \subset \Gamma/(t^c)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . On the other hand, from Proposition 3.2, we have that  $B_i^\perp \subset \Delta_{\leq c-1}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

If  $B_1$  is isomorphic to  $B_2$  by  $\phi$ , then their normalizations are isomorphic:

$$\Gamma = \overline{B_1} \xrightarrow{\bar{\phi}} \overline{B_2} = \Gamma.$$

This automorphism is determined by a power series  $h(t) \in (t)$  such that  $u \perp h \neq 0$  and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{\phi}: & \Gamma & \longrightarrow & \Gamma \\ & f & \mapsto & f(h). \end{array}$$

Then we have an isomorphism of  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector spaces

$$\frac{\Gamma}{B_1} \xrightarrow{\bar{\phi}} \frac{\Gamma}{B_2}$$

and the perfect pairing induces a  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector isomorphism

$$\phi^* : B_2^\perp \longrightarrow B_1^\perp.$$

The matrix  $M_\phi$  associated with  $\phi$  in the basis  $t^i, i = 0, \dots, c - 1$ , is the  $c \times c$  matrix whose columns are the coefficients of  $\phi(t^i) = h^i, i = 0, \dots, c - 1$ , with respect to this basis. Hence, the matrix of  $\phi^* : B_2^* = B_2^\perp \longrightarrow B_1^* = B_1^\perp$  with respect to the basis  $\frac{1}{i!}u^i, i = 0, \dots, c - 1$ , is the transpose matrix  ${}^tM_\phi$  of  $M_\phi$ .

**Example 3.10** Let  $B_2 \subset \Gamma$  be a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra generated by two elements  $f_1, f_2$  with  $v_t(f_1) = 2$  and  $v_t(f_2) = 7$ . We may assume that  $f_1 = t^2 + \text{monomials of higher degree}$ . Then  $B_2$  is of finite codimension  $\delta = 3$  and conductor  $c = 6$ .

Since  $\Gamma$  is complete there exist a power series  $h \in (t)$  such that  $h^2 = f_1$ ; we write  $h = t + h_2t^2 + \dots + h_5t^5 + \dots$ . Notice that  $\Gamma = \mathbf{k}[[h]]$ .

Let  $\phi$  the automorphism of  $\Gamma$  defined by  $h$ , i.e.,  $\phi(f) = f(h)$ . Then  $\phi^{-1}(B_2)$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B_1$  generated by  $f_1' = t^2$  and  $f_2'(h)$  such that  $v_h(f_2') = 7$ . After a change of generators  $B_1$  is generated by  $f_1' = t^2$  and  $f_2' = t^7$ .

The induced isomorphism  $\phi : B_1 \longrightarrow B_2$  has the following  $6 \times 6$  associated matrix with respect the basis  $t^i, i = 0, \dots, 5$ ,

$$M_\phi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_3 & 2h_2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_4 & 2h_3 + h_2^2 & 3h_2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & h_5 & 2h_4 + 2h_2h_3 & 3h_3 + 3h_2^2 & 4h_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then the matrix of the isomorphism  $\phi^* : B_2^\perp \longrightarrow B_1^\perp$  with respect to  $\frac{1}{i!}u^i, i = 0, \dots, 5$ , is  $M_\phi^t$ . Since  $B_1$  is the monomial  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $\mathbf{k}[[t^2, t^7]]$ , the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space  $B_1^\perp$  is generated by  $u, u^3, u^5$ . From this, we can compute  $B_2^\perp$  by considering  $({}^tM_\phi)^{-1}$ .



### 4 Algebra-forming vector spaces

The first goal of this section is to characterize the algebra-forming  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector spaces.

**Proposition 4.1** *Let  $B$  be a  $\mathbf{k}$ -sub-algebra of finite codimension of  $\Gamma$  with conductor  $c$ , and let  $f_1, \dots, f_s$  be a system of generators of  $B$ . Given an integer  $d \geq c - 1$ , let  $h_1, \dots, h_m$  be a system of generators of  $W(\{f_1, \dots, f_s\}, d)$ .*

*Let  $V$  be a dimension  $\delta$   $\mathbf{k}$ -vector subspace of  $(u) \subset \Delta$  generated by polynomials of degree at most  $d - 1$ . Let  $g_1, \dots, g_\delta \in V$  be a basis of  $V$ .*

*Then  $V$  is algebra-forming with respect to  $B$  iff for all  $r$ -upla  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m) \in \mathbf{k}^m$  such that*

$$(3) \quad \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j (g_i \perp h_j) = 0$$

*for all  $i = 1, \dots, \delta$ , then*

$$(4) \quad \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^2 (g_i \perp h_j^2) + 2 \sum_{j=1, l=1, j \neq l}^m \lambda_j \lambda_l (g_i \perp h_j h_l) = 0$$

*for all  $i = 1, \dots, \delta$ .*

**Proof** From Proposition 3.2, we have to prove that for all  $f \in B$  such that  $g \perp f = 0$  for all  $g \in V$  we have that  $g \perp f^2 = 0$  for all  $g \in V$ . Since the polynomials of  $V$  are of degree at most  $d - 1$  we only have to prove that for all  $f \in W = W(\{f_1, \dots, f_s\}, d)$  such that  $g \perp f = 0$  for all  $g \in V$ , we have that  $g \perp f^2 = 0$  for all  $g \in V$ .

A general element of  $W$  can be written as  $f = \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j h_j$ . Hence the condition  $g_i \perp f = 0$  is equivalent to

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j (g_i \perp h_j) = 0$$

for all  $i = 1, \dots, \delta$ . Similarly, the condition  $g_i \perp f^2 = 0$  is equivalent to

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^2 (g_i \perp h_j^2) + 2 \sum_{j=1, l=1, j \neq l}^m \lambda_j \lambda_l (g_i \perp h_j h_l) = 0$$

for all  $i = 1, \dots, \delta$ . ■

**Remark 4.2** The set of points  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m) \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{m-1}$  satisfying the identities of (3) form a linear subvariety  $L$ , and the points satisfying the identities of (4) defines a subvariety  $Q \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{m-1}$  intersection of  $\delta$  quadrics. Hence,  $V$  is algebra forming with respect to  $B$  iff  $L \subset Q$ . This is a computable condition.

**Definition 4.3** Let  $B$  be a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of finite codimension  $\delta$  of  $\Gamma$  and conductor  $c$ . Let  $D$  be the semigroup of  $B$ ; we write the set  $t^{\mathbb{N} \setminus D_B} = \{t^i; i \in \mathbb{N} \setminus D_B\}$  as  $g_1 = t^{c-1}, \dots, g_\delta = t$ . Then we define the so-called standard filtration of  $B$  as follows:  $B_i$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra generated by  $B$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, \delta$ ; we set  $B_0 = B$ . Notice

that  $B_\delta = \Gamma$  and that we have

$$B = B_0 \subset B_1 \subset \dots \subset B_\delta = \Gamma$$

and  $\dim_{\mathbf{k}}(B_{i+1}/B_i) = 1, i = 0, \dots, \delta - 1$ .

After the definition of standard filtration, we only have to consider algebra-forming elements  $g \in \Delta$ , with respect a suitable sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras of  $\Gamma$ , in order to define a  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra recursively. The algebra-forming elements are not unique as the following example shows.

**Example 4.4** Let us consider the Example 3.7. The standard filtration of  $B$  is

$$B = \mathbf{k}[[t^3 + t^4, t^5]] \subset B_1 = \mathbf{k}[[t^3 + t^4, t^5, t^7]] \subset B_2 = \mathbf{k}[[t^3, t^4, t^5]] \subset B_3 = \mathbf{k}[[t^2, t^3]] \subset \Gamma.$$

The chain of  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras is defined as follows. The cosets of  $t, t^2, t^4, t^7$  in  $\Gamma/B$  form a basis of  $\Gamma/B$  as  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space. Then  $B_1$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra generated by  $B$  and  $t^7$ ,  $B_2$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra generated by  $B_1$  and  $t^4$ ,  $B_3$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra generated by  $B$  and  $t^2$ , and finally  $\Gamma$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra generated by  $B$  and  $t$ .

We know that  $B^\perp$  is a four-dimensional  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space generated by  $u, u^2, u^3 - \frac{1}{4}u^4, u^6 - \frac{1}{2.7}u^7$ ; we have  $B_3 = \text{Ann}(u), B_2 = \text{Ann}(u^2) \cap B_3, B_1 = \text{Ann}(u^3 - \frac{1}{4}u^4) \cap B_2, B = \text{Ann}(u^6 - \frac{1}{2.7}u^7) \cap B_1$ . On the other hand, the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $C_1 = \mathbf{k}[[t^3 + t^5, t^4]] \subset B_1$  can be obtained as

$$C_1 = \text{Ann}(u^3 - \frac{1}{4.5}u^5) \cap B_2,$$

i.e.,  $u^3 - \frac{1}{4.5}u^5$  is an algebra-forming element with respect to  $B_2$ . Notice that  $B_1$  and  $C_1$  are non analytically isomorphic codimension one  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras of  $B_2$ .

Next, we show how to build the standard filtration by using derivations.

**Proposition 4.5** Let  $C \subset B$  be two sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebras of  $\Gamma$  such that  $\dim_{\mathbf{k}}(B/C) = 1$ . There exist  $\alpha \in \text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B)$  such that  $\ker(\alpha) = C$ .

**Proof** If we denote by  $\max_B$ , the maximal ideal of  $B$  then  $\max_C \subset \max_B$ ,  $\dim_{\mathbf{k}}(\max_B / \max_C) = 1$  and  $\max_B^2 \subset \max_C$ . Since we have

$$\frac{\max_C}{\max_B^2} \subset \frac{\max_B}{\max_B^2},$$

we deduce that there exists a linear form  $\alpha : \frac{\max_B}{\max_B^2} \longrightarrow \mathbf{k}$  such that  $\ker(\alpha) = \frac{\max_C}{\max_B^2}$ . From this, we get the claim. ■

**Corollary 4.6** Let  $B$  be a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of finite codimension  $\delta$  of  $\Gamma$ . Let us consider the standard filtration of  $B$ :

$$B = B_0 \subset B_1 \subset \dots \subset B_\delta = \Gamma.$$

For all  $i = 1, \dots, \delta$ , there exists a derivation  $\partial_{l_i} \in \text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B_i), l_i \in \max_{B_i}$ , such that  $\ker(\partial_{l_i}) = B_i$ .

**Example 4.7** Let us consider the Example 4.4. The element  $u^\perp$  corresponds to the derivation  $\partial_t$  of  $\Gamma$  defined by  $t$ , so  $B_3 = \ker(\partial_t)$ . The maximal ideal of  $B_3$  is minimally generated by  $t^2, t^3$ , the element  $(u^2)^\perp$  is the derivation  $\partial_{t^2} \in \text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B_3)$ , so  $B_2 = \ker(\partial_{t^2})$ . The maximal ideal of  $B_2$  is minimally generated by  $t^3, t^4, t^5$ . The element  $(u^3 - \frac{1}{4}u^4)^\perp$  is the derivation  $\partial_{t^3 - \frac{1}{4}t^4} \in \text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B_2)$ , so  $B_1 = \ker(\partial_{t^3 - \frac{1}{4}t^4})$ . Finally,  $\partial_{t^7} \in \text{Der}_{\mathbf{k}}(B_1)$  and  $B = \ker(\partial_{t^7})$ .

## 5 Monomial algebras

In this section, we first compute the inverse system of a monomial  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra. After this, we characterize monomial Gorenstein curve singularities in terms of its inverse system. We end the section relating the inverse system of a curve singularity with its generic plane projection and its saturation.

The following result it is easy to deduce from the proof of the second part of Proposition 3.2(2).

**Proposition 5.1** *Let  $D$  be an additive sub-semigroup of  $\mathbb{N}$  with finite complement. Then  $B^\perp$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space generated by:  $g_i = u^i$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N} \setminus D$ .*

**Example 5.2** Let  $B$  be a sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\mathbf{k}[[t]]$  of codimension  $\delta = 1$ . Then  $B$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[D]]$ , where  $D$  is the sub-semigroup of  $\mathbb{N}$  generated by 2, 3. Hence,  $B^\perp$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space generated by  $u$ , i.e.,  $B$  is the set of power series  $f = \sum_{i \geq 0} b_i t^i \in \mathbf{k}[[t]]$  with  $u \perp f = b_1 = 0$  (see [26, Example b, Section 4 of Chapter IV] and [18, Section 22]).

**Example 5.3** Assume now that  $B$  is sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra of  $\mathbf{k}[[t]]$  of codimension  $\delta = 2$ . Then its semi-group  $D_B$  is  $D_1 = \langle 2, 5 \rangle$  or  $D_2 = \langle 3, 4 \rangle$ . In the first case,  $B$  is generated as  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra by  $f_1 = t^2 + b_3 t^3$  and  $f_2 = t^5$ . The conductor is  $c = 4$ . Then  $B^\perp$  is generated by  $g_1 = u, g_2 = 6b_3 u^2 + u^3$ . In the second case,  $B$  is the monomial  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[D_2]]$  so  $B^\perp$  is the sub- $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra generated by  $g_1 = u$  and  $g_2 = u^2$ . The conductor is  $c = 5$  (see [18, Section 23]). It is known that the algebras of the first case are all analytically isomorphic to  $\mathbf{k}[[D_1]]$ .

The inverse system of a monomial Gorenstein  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra case can be handled. Let us recall the definition of symmetric semi-group and the celebrate result of Kunz.

**Definition 5.4** We say that a sub-semigroup  $D$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $\#(\mathbb{N} \setminus D) < \infty$  and with conductor  $c$  is symmetric if the condition  $t \in D$  is equivalent to  $c - 1 - t \notin D$ .

Kunz proved that the ring  $\mathbf{k}[[D]]$  is Gorenstein ring if and only if  $D$  is a symmetric semigroup,[21]. This symmetry is inherited by  $B^\perp$ .

**Proposition 5.5** *Let  $D$  be a sub-semigroup of  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $\#(\mathbb{N} \setminus D) < \infty$  and conductor  $c$ . The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\mathbf{k}[[D]]$  is Gorenstein,
- (2) for all  $g \in \mathbf{k}[[D]]^\perp$  it holds  $t^{c-1}g(1/t) \in \mathbf{k}[[D]]$ .

**Proof** Since  $B = \mathbf{k}[[D]]$  is a monomial  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra we know that  $B^\perp$  is generated by  $g = \sum_{i=1}^{c-1} a_i u^i$  such that  $a_i = 0$  for  $i \in D$  (see Proposition 5.1). Then the exponents of the nonzero terms of  $t^{c-1}g(1/t)$  are  $c - 1 - i$  with  $i \notin D$ . Then the claim is equivalent to the symmetry of  $D$ , i.e., the Gorensteinness of  $B$ . ■

**Example 5.6** Let  $D$  be the semigroup generated by 4, 6, and 9. This is a symmetric semigroup with conductor  $c = 12$ . The algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[D]]$  is Gorenstein and isomorphic to  $\mathbf{k}[[x, y, z]]/I$ , where  $I = (x^3 - y^2, y^3 - z^2)$ . Then  $B^\perp$  is generated by the polynomials  $g = a_1u + a_2u^2 + a_3u^3 + a_5u^5 + a_7u^7$ ,  $a_i \in \mathbf{k}$ . The polynomials  $t^{11}g(1/t) = a_1t^{10} + a_2t^9 + a_3t^8 + a_4u^6 + a_5u^4$  have all exponents in  $D$ . The  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space  $B^\perp$  is generated by the following elements  $g_1 = u, g_2 = u^2, g_3 = u^3, g_4 = u^5, g_5 = u^7$ .

Given a finite codimension subalgebra  $B$  of  $\Gamma$ , we consider the curve singularity  $X = \text{Spec}(B)$  defined by  $B$ . Let  $X'$  be the generic plane projection of  $X$ , [3], and let  $\tilde{X}$  be the saturation of  $X$ , [28] and the references therein. We have

$$\mathcal{O}_{X'} \subset \mathcal{O}_X = B \subset \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}} \subset \Gamma,$$

and then

$$\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^\perp \subset B^\perp \subset \mathcal{O}_{X'}^\perp.$$

We have, [9],

$$\delta(\tilde{X}) \leq \delta(X) \leq \delta(X') \leq (e_0(X) - 1)\delta(\tilde{X}) - \binom{e_0(X) - 1}{2}.$$

From [27, Proposition 1.6, page 971], we know that  $\tilde{X}$  is also the saturation of  $X'$ .

On the other hand,  $\tilde{X}$  is a monomial curve singularity. Assume that the coset of  $x_1$  in  $B$  is  $t^{e_0}$  with  $e_0$  the multiplicity of  $B$ . Since the rings are complete and the ground field is algebraically closed, we can assumed it after a suitable election of the uniformization parameter of  $\Gamma$ . Let  $\{e_0; \beta_1, \dots, \beta_g\}$  be the characteristic of  $X'$ , [28, Section 3, page 993], then  $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}$  is the monomial subalgebra with generators:

$$\begin{cases} t^{e_0}, \\ t^{s_\nu n_{\nu+1} \dots n_g}, & m_\nu \leq s_\nu \leq [m_{\nu+1}/n_{\nu+1}], \nu = 1, \dots, g - 1, \\ t^{m_g + i}, & 0 \leq i \leq e_0 - 1, \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta_\nu/e_0 = m_\nu/n_1 \dots n_\nu$  is the  $\nu$ th characteristic exponent of  $X'$ ,  $\nu = 1, \dots, g - 1$ , and  $\text{gcd}(m_i, n_i) = 1$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, g$  (see [28, Section 3, page 995]).

The facts  $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^\perp \subset B^\perp$  and Proposition 5.2 can be useful in order to simplify the computation of  $B^\perp$  as the next example shows.

**Example 5.7** Let us consider the  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[t^6, t^8 + t^{11}, t^{10} + t^{13}]]$ ; its saturation is  $\tilde{B} = \mathbf{k}[[t^6, t^8, t^{10}, t^{11}, t^{13}, t^{15}]]$  (see [6, Example 2.5.1]). The sequence of multiplicities of the resolution of  $X = \text{Spec}(B)$  is  $\{6, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, \dots\}$ . We can compute  $\delta(X)$  by computing  $e_1(C)$ , where  $C$  ranges the local rings of the resolution process, in this case, we get  $\{8, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots\}$ , so  $\delta(X) = 12$ . The semigroup of  $B$  is  $D = \{0, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22 \rightarrow\}$ , i.e., the conductor of  $D$  is 22.

On the other hand, the semigroup of  $\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X}}$  is  $\{0, 6, 8, 10 \rightarrow\}$ , its conductor is 10. Hence,  $\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X}}^\perp$  is generated by  $u^i$  with  $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9\}$ , and  $B^\perp$  is the set of polynomials  $g = \sum_{i=0}^{21} a_i u^i$  such that  $a_6 = 0, 990a_{11} - a_8 = 0, a_{12} = 0, 1716a_{13} - a_{10} = 0, a_{16} = 0, 4080a_{17} - a_{14} = 0, a_{18} = a_{19} = a_{20} = a_{21} = 0$ .

## 6 The canonical module

As in the Artin case, we can relate the canonical module with the inverse system. In that case, we have that if  $I$  is an Artinian ideal, then  $I^\perp \cong E_{R/I}(\mathbf{k}) \cong \omega_{R/I}$  (see [4, 14]). In the case of branches, we can determine the “negative” part of the canonical module.

Let  $X$  be a branch of  $(\mathbf{k}^n, 0)$  and  $\bar{X}$  its normalization. We first describe the canonical module  $\omega_X$  by using Rosenlicht’s regular differential forms (see [26, Chapter IV 9], [5, Section 1], see also [13]). We denote by  $\Omega_{\bar{X}}(p)$ , the set of meromorphic forms in  $\bar{X}$  with a pole at most in  $p = v^{-1}(0)$ . Then Rosenlicht’s differential forms are defined as follows:  $\omega_X^R$  is the set of  $v_*(\alpha)$ ,  $\alpha \in \Omega_{\bar{X}}(p)$ , such that for all  $F \in \mathcal{O}_X$ ,

$$\text{res}_p(F\alpha) = 0.$$

Notice that we have a mapping that we also denote by

$$d_R : \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \Omega_X \rightarrow v_*\Omega_{\bar{X}} \hookrightarrow \omega_X^R.$$

In [1, Chapter VIII], it is proved that  $\omega_X \cong \omega_X^R$  and  $d_R = \phi d$ , where  $d : \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \omega_X$  is the map defined in the Section 1. Since  $\mathcal{O}_X$  is a one-dimensional reduced ring, we know that  $\omega_{(X,0)}$  is a sub- $\mathcal{O}_X$ -module of  $\text{tot}(\mathcal{O}_X)$  (see [4, Proposition 3.3.18]). There is a perfect pairing, [26, Chapter IV],

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{v_*\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X}}}{\mathcal{O}_X} & \times & \frac{\omega_{(X,0)}}{v_*\Omega_{\bar{X}}} & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \mathbb{C} \\ F & \times & \alpha & \longrightarrow & \text{res}_p(F\alpha) \end{array}$$

notice that for all  $\lambda \in R$  it holds  $\eta(\lambda F, \alpha) = \text{res}_p(\lambda F\alpha) = \eta(F, \lambda\alpha)$ .

**Proposition 6.1** *Let  $X$  be a branch of  $(\mathbf{k}^n, 0)$  and  $\bar{X}$  its normalization. Then we have an isomorphism of the  $\delta(X)$  dimensional  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector spaces:*

$$B^\perp \stackrel{\varepsilon}{\cong} \frac{\omega_X}{v_*\Omega_{\bar{X}}}$$

such that  $\varepsilon(g)$  is the coset defined by  $\alpha = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} i!c_i t^{-i-1}$ , for all  $g = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} c_i u^i \in B^\perp$ .

**Proof** We write  $B = \mathcal{O}_X$ ,  $\Gamma = v_*\mathcal{O}_{\bar{X}}$ , and  $\Omega_{\bar{X}} = \Gamma dt$ . Then  $\varepsilon$  is the composition of the isomorphisms induced by the above two perfect pairings

$$B^\perp \stackrel{\varepsilon_1}{\cong} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{B}\right)^* \stackrel{\varepsilon_2}{\cong} \frac{\omega_X}{v_*\Omega_{\bar{X}}}.$$

Next, we describe both morphisms  $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2$ . Given  $g \in B^\perp$ , we can write it as

$$g = c_0 + c_1 u + \dots, c_{c-1} u^{c-1},$$

so  $\varepsilon_1(g)$  is the linear form induced by  $\xi : \Gamma^* \rightarrow \mathbf{k}$  defined by: if  $f = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i t^i \in \Gamma$ , then

$$\xi(f) = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} i! a_i c_i.$$

On the other hand, every  $\alpha \in \omega_X$  can be written as  $\alpha = t^n h(t) dt$  with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $h(t) \in \Gamma$  an invertible series. From [13, Proposition 2.6], we get that  $\alpha = \sum_{i \geq -c} e_i t^i$  such that  $\text{res}_0(\alpha F) = 0$  for all  $f \in B$ . Given  $f = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i t^i \in \Gamma$ , we have

$$\text{res}_0(f\alpha) = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} a_i e_{-i-1}$$

so  $\varepsilon_2^{-1}(\alpha)$  is the linear form induced by  $\xi' : \Gamma^* \rightarrow \mathbf{k}$  defined by

$$\xi'(f) = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} a_i e_{-i-1}.$$

From this, we deduce that  $e_{-i-1} = i! c_i$  for  $i = 0, \dots, c - 1$ . ■

**Example 6.2** [13, Example 2.7] Let us consider the monomial curve  $X$  with parameterization  $x_1 = t^4, x_2 = t^7, x_3 = t^9$ . We have  $c = 11, \delta = 6$ . Then  $\omega_X$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space spanned by  $t^{-11}, t^{-7}, t^{-6}, t^{-4}, t^{-3}, t^{-2}, t^n, n \geq 0$ , and the quotient  $\omega_X / \nu_* \Omega_{\overline{X}}$  admits as  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space base the cosets of  $t^{-11}, t^{-7}, t^{-6}, t^{-4}, t^{-3}, t^{-2}$ , and  $\mathcal{O}_X^{\perp}$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector space with basis  $u, u^2, u^3, u^5, u^6, u^{10}$ .

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