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# How to determine a curve singularity

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Abstract. We characterize the finite codimension sub-k-algebras of 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 k-vector spaces of k[u], this ring acts on 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-**k**-algebras *B* of **k**[*t*]. Notice that, in this case, X = 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 **k**[*t*], it is an open problem for the characterization of families of linear higher differential operators defining finite codimension sub-**k**-algebras of **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-**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-**k**-algebras *B* of  $\Gamma = \mathbf{k}[[t]]$  as the solutions of a computable finite codimension **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-**k**-algebras *B* of  $\Gamma$  and finite codimension **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  $B_2^{\perp} \rightarrow B_1^{\perp}$  induced by **k**-algebra morphisms  $B_1 \rightarrow B_2$  between two finite codimension **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*,  $B = B_0 \subset B_1 \subset \cdots \subset B_{\delta} = \Gamma$  such that dim<sub>k</sub>( $B_{i+1}/B_i$ ) = 1 for  $i = 0, \ldots, \delta - 1$ . 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 **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  $B^{\perp}$  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  $\mathbf{k}[[x_1, ..., x_n]]$  over an algebraically closed characteristic zero field  $\mathbf{k}$  and we denote by max =  $(x_1, ..., x_n)$  its maximal ideal.

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

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

We write  $\operatorname{HF}_{A}^{0} = \operatorname{HF}_{A}$ . There exists an integer  $e_{1}(A)$  such that  $\operatorname{HF}_{A}^{1}(i) = e_{0}(A)(i+1) - e_{1}(A)$  for  $i \gg 0$ ; the (first) Hilbert polynomial is  $\operatorname{HP}_{A}^{1}(T) = e_{0}(A)(T+1) - e_{1}(A)$ . 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 onedimensional, integral scheme X = Spec(R/I); we write  $\mathcal{O}_X = R/I$  and I(X) = I.

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

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

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

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i.e., 
$$I(X(a_1,...,a_n)) = \ker(\gamma)$$
. If  $gcd(a_1,...,a_n) = 1$ , then the induced map  
 $\gamma : R/I(X(a_1,...,a_n)) \longrightarrow \mathbf{k}[[t]]$ 

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

We denote by  $D_X$  the semigroup of values of X: the set of integers  $v_t(f) = ord_t(t)$  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-**k**-algebra of  $\Gamma$  then  $X = \operatorname{Spec}(B)$  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

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

Let  $d: \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow \Omega_X$  the universal derivation, then we have a **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  $\mu(X) = \dim_k(\omega_X/d\mathcal{O}_X)$ , [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 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)

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

(ii) It holds

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

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

(iii) If X is singular, then  $\delta(X) + 1 \le c(X) \le 2\delta(X)$ , 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-**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

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

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

(1) 
$$\begin{array}{cccc} \bot : & \Delta \times \Gamma & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{k} \\ & (g, f) & \mapsto & g \perp f = (g \circ f)(0). \end{array}$$

**Definition 3.1** Given a sub-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 k-vector subspace of  $\Delta$ , this is, following the classic Macaulay's duality terminology, the inverse system of B. Given a k-vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$  we consider  $\operatorname{Ann}(V) \subset \Gamma$  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-**k**-algebra of  $\Gamma$ . Then we have a non-singular **k**-bilinear perfect pairing:

(2) 
$$\begin{array}{cccc} \bot : & B^{\perp} \times \frac{\Gamma}{B} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{k} \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & g \perp f \end{array}$$

We denote by Perp(B), the **k**-vector space of maps

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

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  $d > \deg(g)$ . We denote by  $Der_{\mathbf{k}}(B)$  the **k**-vector space of **k**-derivations of *B*. Since  $Der_{\mathbf{k}}(B) \cong (\max_{B} / \max_{B}^{2})^{*}$ , we can identify  $Der_{\mathbf{k}}(B)$  with the **k**-vector space of elements  $\sigma$  of the dual space of *B* such that  $\sigma(\max_{B}^{2}) = 0$ .

We have  $Der_{\mathbf{k}}(B) \subset Perp(B)$ , 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 **k**-vector subspaces  $B^{\perp}$  of  $\Delta$ , where *B* ranges the family of finite codimension sub-**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 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-**k**-algebra B of  $\Gamma$ , and let  $C = (t^c)$  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  $\operatorname{Supp}(g) \subset [1, c-1]$ , and

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

(3) The following conditions are equivalent:

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(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 **k**-bilinear perfect pairing, we get  $\dim_k(B^{\perp}) = \delta$ , see the equation (2).

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

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

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

Notice that  $v_t(f) \ge e_0(B)$  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  $B^{\perp} \subset \langle u^2, u^3, \ldots \rangle$ , then  $t \in B$ , since *B* is a **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-**k**-algebra of  $\Gamma$  with conductor *c*. Then *B* is a finitely generated **k**-algebra; let  $f_1, \ldots, f_r$  be a system of generators of *B* as **k**-algebra. We denote by  $\downarrow_{B,d}$ ,  $d \ge c - 1$ , the finite set of polynomials  $[f_1^{l_1} \ldots f_r^{l_r}]_{\le d}$  with  $l_i \ge 0$ ,  $i = 1, \ldots, r$ , and  $l_1 + \cdots + l_r \le d$ . We denote by  $W(\{f_1, \ldots, f_r\}, d) \subset \Delta$  the **k**-vector space generated by the polynomials of  $\downarrow_{B,d}$ . Notice that  $W(\{f_1, \ldots, f_r\}, d) + \langle t^{d+1} \rangle = W(\{f_1, \ldots, f_r\}, d + 1)$ .

**Proposition 3.3** Let B be a finite codimension sub-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  $h \in \mathfrak{g}_{B,c-1}$ .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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  $\downarrow_{B,c-1}$ , 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 k-vector subspace of  $\Delta$  for any sub-k-algebra B of  $\Gamma$ , not all  $\operatorname{Ann}(V)$  is a k-algebra for a given k-vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$ . In fact, let us consider the k-vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$  generated by  $u^2$ . Then  $\operatorname{Ann}(V)$  is the set of  $f = \sum_{i\geq 0} a_i t^i \in \Gamma$  such that  $a_2 = 0$ . This is not a k-algebra because  $u^2 \perp t = 0$ , so  $t \in \operatorname{Ann}(V)$  and  $u^2 \perp t^2 = 2 \neq 0$ , so  $t^2 \notin \operatorname{Ann}(V)$ .

**Definition 3.6** A finite dimensional **k**-vector subspace  $V \subset \Delta$  is so-called algebraforming with respect to a **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  $f \in {}_{\downarrow B,c-1} = \{t^3 + t^4, t^5, t^6 + 2t^7\}$ . A simple computation shows that  $B^{\perp}$  is the **k**-vector space generated by the four linear independent polynomials  $u, u^2, u^3 - \frac{1}{4}u^4, u^6 - \frac{1}{27}u^7$ . 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  $B_2 = \text{Ann}\langle u^2 \rangle \cap B_3$ , 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 **k** algebra  $B \subset \Gamma$ , then Ann $(V) \cap B$  is a sub-**k**-algebra of  $\Gamma$ .

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

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

$$f_1f_2 = \frac{1}{2}((f_1 + f_2)^2 - f_1^2 - f_2^2),$$

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-**k**-algebra of  $\Gamma$ .

The following result is an extension of Macaulay's duality to finite codimension sub-**k**-algebras  $B \subset \Gamma$ .

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

- (1) sub-**k**-algebras B of  $\Gamma$  of codimension  $\delta$  as **k**-vector spaces such that the conductor of  $B \subset \Gamma$  is  $(t^c)$ ,
- (2) algebra forming, with respect to  $\Gamma$ , **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-**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-**k**-algebra *B* of  $\Gamma$ . Since we have a non-singular **k**-bilinear pairing:

we get that  $B^{\perp}$  is a **k**-vector subspace of dimension  $\delta$  of  $\Delta$ . By definition  $B^{\perp}$  is algebraforming 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  $\Gamma$ , **k**-vector subspace satisfying the conditions of (2). Let us consider the **k**-algebra  $B = \operatorname{Ann}(V)$ . 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 **k**-linear maps  $B_2^{\perp} \longrightarrow B_1^{\perp}$  induced by **k**-algebra isomorphisms  $B_1 \longrightarrow B_2$  between two finite codimension **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

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

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

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

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

The **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:

$$\Gamma = \overline{B_1} \stackrel{\overline{\phi}}{\cong} \overline{B_2} = \Gamma.$$

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

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

Then we have an isomorphism of k-vector spaces

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

and the perfect pairing induces a k-vector isomorphism

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

The matrix  $M_{\phi}$  associated with  $\phi$  in the basis  $t^i$ ,  $i = 0, \ldots, c-1$ , is the  $c \times c$  matrix whose columns are the coefficients of  $\phi(t^i) = h^i$ ,  $i = 0, \ldots, c-1$ , 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  $\frac{1}{i!}u^i$ ,  $i = 0, \ldots, c-1$ , is the transpose matrix  ${}^{\tau}M_{\phi}$  of  $M_{\phi}$ .

**Example 3.10** Let  $B_2 \subset \Gamma$  be a **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  $f_1 = t^2$ +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  $h = t + h_2 t^2 + \dots + h_5 t^5 + \dots$  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 **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  $t^i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, 5$ ,

$$M_{\phi} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_3 & 2h_2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_4 & 2h_3 + h_2^2 & 3h_2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & h_5 & 2b_4 + 2h_2h_3 & 3h_3 + 3h_2^2 & 4h_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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

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#### 4 Algebra-forming vector spaces

The first goal of this section is to characterize the algebra-forming k-vector spaces.

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

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

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

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

for all  $i = 1, \ldots, \delta$ , then

(4) 
$$\sum_{j=1}^{m} \lambda_{j}^{2} (g_{i} \perp h_{j}^{2}) + 2 \sum_{j=1, l=1, j \neq l}^{m} \lambda_{j} \lambda_{j} (g_{i} \perp h_{j} h_{l}) = 0$$

for all  $i = 1, \ldots, \delta$ .

**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  $f \in W = W(\{f_1, \ldots, f_s\}, d)$  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  $i = 1, ..., \delta$ . Similarly, the condition  $g_i \perp f^2 = 0$  is equivalent to

$$\sum_{j=1}^{m} \lambda_{j}^{2} (g_{i} \perp h_{j}^{2}) + 2 \sum_{j=1, l=1, j \neq l}^{m} \lambda_{j} \lambda_{j} (g_{i} \perp h_{j} h_{l}) = 0$$

for all  $i = 1, \ldots, \delta$ .

**Remark 4.2** The set of points  $(\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_m) \in \mathbb{P}_k^{m-1}$  satisfying the identities of (3) form a linear subvariety L, and the points satisfying the identities of (4) defines a subvariety  $Q \subset \mathbb{P}_k^{m-1}$  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-**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  $g_1 = t^{c-1}, \ldots, g_{\delta} = t$ . Then we define the so-called standard filtration of *B* as follows:  $B_i$  is the **k**-algebra generated by B and  $g_1, \ldots, g_i$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, \delta$ ; we set  $B_0 = B$ . Notice

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

$$B = B_0 \subset B_1 \subset \cdots \subset B_{\delta} = \Gamma$$

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

After the definition of standard filtration, we only have to consider algebra-forming elements  $g \in \Delta$ , with respect a suitable sub-**k**-algebras of  $\Gamma$ , in order to define a **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 **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 **k**-vector space. Then  $B_1$  is the **k**-algebra generated by B and  $t^7$ ,  $B_2$  is the **k**-algebra generated by  $B_1$  and  $t^4$ ,  $B_3$  is the **k**-algebra generated by B and  $t^2$ , and finally  $\Gamma$  is the **k**-algebra generated by B and t.

We know that  $B^{\perp}$  is a four-dimensional **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  $B_3 = \operatorname{Ann}\langle u \rangle$ ,  $B_2 = \operatorname{Ann}\langle u^2 \rangle \cap B_3$ ,  $B_1 = \operatorname{Ann}\langle u^3 - \frac{1}{4}u^4 \rangle \cap B_2$ ,  $B = \operatorname{Ann}\langle u^6 - \frac{1}{2.7}u^7 \rangle \cap B_1$ . On the other hand, the **k**-algebra  $C_1 = \mathbf{k}[[t^3 + t^5, t^4]] \subset B_1$  can be obtained as

$$C_1 = \operatorname{Ann}\langle u^3 - \frac{1}{4.5}u^5\rangle \cap B_2,$$

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 **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-k-algebras of  $\Gamma$  such that  $\dim_k(B/C) = 1$ . There exist  $\alpha \in Der_k(B)$  such that  $\ker(\alpha) = C$ .

**Proof** If we denote by  $\max_B$ , the maximal ideal of *B* then  $\max_C \subset \max_B$ ,  $\dim_k(\max_B / \max_C) = 1$  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-k-algebra of finite codimension  $\delta$  of  $\Gamma$ . Let us consider the standard filtration of B:

$$B = B_0 \subset B_1 \subset \cdots \subset B_{\delta} = \Gamma.$$

For all  $i = 1, ..., \delta$ , there exists a derivation  $\partial_{l_i} \in Der_k(B_i)$ ,  $l_i \in max_{B_i}$ , 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  $\partial_{t^2} \in Der_k(B_3)$ , 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  $\partial_{t^3 - \frac{1}{4}t^4} \in Der_k(B_2)$ , so  $B_1 = \ker(\partial_{t^3 - \frac{1}{4}t^4})$ . Finally,  $\partial_{t^7} \in Der_k(B_1)$  and  $B = \ker(\partial_{t^7})$ .

#### 5 Monomial algebras

In this section, we first compute the inverse system of a monomial **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 **k**-vector space generated by:  $g_i = u^i$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N} \setminus D$ .

*Example 5.2* Let *B* be a sub-**k**-algebra of **k**[[*t*]] of codimension  $\delta = 1$ . Then *B* is the **k**-algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[D]]$ , where *D* is the sub-semigroup of  $\mathbb{N}$  generated by 2, 3. Hence,  $B^{\perp}$  is the **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-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 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  $g_1 = u$ ,  $g_2 = 6b_3u^2 + u^3$ . In the second case, *B* is the monomial k-algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[D_2]]$  so  $B^{\perp}$  is the sub-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 **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  $t^{11}g(1/t) = a_1t^{10} + a_2t^9 + a_3u^8 + a_4u^6 + a_5u^4$  have all exponents in *D*. The **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 = Spec(B) defined by *B*. Let *X'* be the generic plane projection of *X*, [3], and let  $\widetilde{X}$  be the saturation of *X*, [28] and the references therein. We have

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

and then

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

We have, [9],

$$\delta(\widetilde{X}) \le \delta(X) \le \delta(X') \le (e_0(X) - 1)\delta(\widetilde{X}) - \binom{e_0(X) - 1}{2}$$

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

On the other hand,  $\widetilde{X}$  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  $\{e_0; \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_g\}$  be the characteristic of X', [28, Section 3, page 993], then  $\mathcal{O}_{\widetilde{X}}$  is the monomial subalgebra with generators:

$$\begin{cases} t^{e_0}, \\ t^{s_v n_{v+1} \dots n_g}, & m_v \le s_v \le [m_{v+1}/n_{v+1}], v = 1, \dots, g-1, \\ t^{m_g+i}, & 0 \le i \le e_0 - 1, \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta_v/e_0 = m_v/n_1 \dots n_v$  is the *v*th characteristic exponent of X',  $v = 1, \dots, g-1$ , and  $gcd(m_i, n_i) = 1$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, g$  (see [28, Section 3, page 995]). The facts  $\mathcal{O}_{\widetilde{X}}^{\perp} \subset B^{\perp}$  and Proposition 5.2 can be useful in order to simplify the

The facts  $\mathcal{O}_{\widetilde{X}}^{\perp} \subset B^{\perp}$  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 k-algebra  $B = \mathbf{k}[[t^6, t^8 + t^{11}, t^{10} + t^{13}]]$ ; its saturation is  $\widetilde{B} = \mathbf{k}[[t^6, t^8, t^{10}, t^{11}, t^{13}, t^{15}]]$  (see [6, Example 2.5.1]). The sequence of multiplicities of the resolution of X = Spec(B) is  $\{6, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, ...\}$ . 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  $\{8, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, ...\}$ , 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  $\mathcal{O}_{\widetilde{X}}$  is  $\{0, 6, 8, 10 \longrightarrow\}$ , its conductor is 10. Hence,  $\mathcal{O}_{\widetilde{X}}^{\perp}$  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  $\overline{X}$  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  $\Omega_{\overline{X}}(p)$ , the set of meromorphic forms in  $\overline{X}$  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  $v_*(\alpha)$ ,  $\alpha \in \Omega_{\overline{X}}(p)$ , such that for all  $F \in \mathcal{O}_X$ ,

$$\operatorname{res}_{p}(F\alpha) = 0$$

Notice that we have a mapping that we also denote by

$$d_R: \mathfrak{O}_X \longrightarrow \Omega_X \longrightarrow \nu_* \Omega_{\overline{X}} \hookrightarrow \omega_X^R.$$

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

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \frac{v_{\star} \mathcal{O}_{\overline{X}}}{\mathcal{O}_{X}} & \times & \frac{\omega_{(X,0)}}{v_{\star} \Omega_{\overline{X}}} & \stackrel{\eta}{\longrightarrow} & \mathbb{C} \\ F & \times & \alpha & \longrightarrow & \operatorname{res}_{p}(F\alpha) \end{array}$$

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

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

$$B^{\perp} \stackrel{\varepsilon}{\cong} \frac{\omega_X}{\nu_* \Omega_{\overline{X}}}$$

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

$$B^{\perp} \stackrel{\epsilon_1}{\cong} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{B}\right)^* \stackrel{\epsilon_2}{\cong} \frac{\omega_X}{\nu_* \Omega_{\overline{X}}}$$

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  $\xi : \Gamma^* \longrightarrow \mathbf{k}$  defined by: if  $f = \sum_{i \ge 0} a_i t^i \in \Gamma$ , 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  $\alpha = \sum_{i \ge -c} e_i t^i$  such that  $\operatorname{res}_0(\alpha F) = 0$  for all  $f \in B$ . Given  $f = \sum_{i \ge 0} a_i t^i \in \Gamma$ , we have

$$\operatorname{res}_{0}(f\alpha) = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} a_{i} e_{-i-1}$$

so  $\varepsilon_2^{-1}(\alpha)$  is the linear form induced by  $\xi' : \Gamma^* \longrightarrow \mathbf{k}$  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, ..., 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 **k**-vector space spanned by  $t^{-11}$ ,  $t^{-7}$ ,  $t^{-6}$ ,  $t^{-4}$ ,  $t^{-3}$ ,  $t^{-2}$ ,  $t^n$ ,  $n \ge 0$ , and the quotient  $\omega_X/\nu_*\Omega_{\overline{X}}$  admits as **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 **k**-vector space with basis  $u, u^2, u^3, u^5, u^6, u^{10}$ .

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