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This short note is subsequent to the work [4] and based on the results of Dimca [1]. As shown in [1] and [4], one may compute the Betti numbers of a hypersurface V in a weighted projective space $\mathbb{P}(w)$, which has 1-dimensional singularities in the affine cone. We are interested now in the following problem:

Let $f: \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a weighted homogeneous polynomial of degree d and weights w with 1-dimensional singularity. Describe the monodromy on the i -th complex cohomology of the Milnor fibre:

$$h^* : H^i(F) \rightarrow H^i(F)$$

induced by the geometric monodromy $h: F \rightarrow F$,

$$x \mapsto t \cdot x, \text{ with } t^d = 1.$$

The monodromy matrix is diagonalisable and has eigenvalues $t_a = \exp(2\pi i a)$, with $a=0, 1, \dots, d-1$. Denote by $H^i(F)_a$ the eigenspaces corresponding to these eigenvalues.

Note that $H^i(F)_0 \cong H^i(U)$, where $U := P(w) - V$ and V is the hypersurface defined by $f=0$.

We shall describe here a method to compute the dimensions of the eigenspaces.

Then we shall take one of the Zariski's examples, namely $f = (x^2 + y^2)^3 + (y^3 + z^3)^2$, and make the computations.

Also we give examples of curves $V \subset P^2$ for which the corresponding monodromy h^* is nontrivial. Among them, a class of irreducible curves with only one singularity. They are important because the fundamental group $\pi_1(U)$ is nonabelian, which is a consequence of the fact that $h^* \neq 1$, via one observation in [2].

1. The monodromy eigenspaces

In the following we shall use the notations from [1] and [4]. The projection $p: F \rightarrow U$ is a d -fold ramified covering. Using the isomorphism $p_* \Omega_F \cong \bigoplus_{a=0}^{d-1} \Omega_U(-a)$ between the complexes of algebraic forms (see [1, pag.3]) one can compute the eigenspaces $H^i(F)_a$ by a spectral sequence, as in [1]. Another way of finding these subspaces is the following.

Let $f'' = f + f'$, where f' is a polynomial of degree d in another set of variables $\{y_0, \dots, y_m\}$. By a Sebastiani-Thom-type property (see [1]), we have:

$$\widetilde{H}^k(F'')_0 = \bigoplus_{\substack{c=0 \\ s+t=k-1}}^{d-1} \widetilde{H}^s(F)_c \otimes \widetilde{H}^t(F')_{d-c}$$

and for the particular case $f' = y_0^d$:

$$\tilde{H}^k(F'')_0 = \bigoplus_{c=1}^{d-1} \tilde{H}^{k-1}(F)_c.$$

Here F' and F'' mean the Milnor fibre of f' , resp. f'' .

We may define a monodromy-type action on $\tilde{H}^k(F'')_0$ induced by a geometric one:

$$h': F'' \rightarrow F'' , \quad (x, y_0) \rightarrow (x, t_a \cdot y_0)$$

Then $\tilde{H}^{k-1}(F)_c$ will be isomorphic to the eigenspace which corresponds to the eigenvalue t_a of the "partial monodromy"

$$(h')^*: \tilde{H}^k(F'') \rightarrow \tilde{H}^k(F'').$$

Taking in account the isomorphism $H^k(F'')_0 \cong H^k(\tilde{U})$, where $\tilde{U} = P(w) \setminus \{f''=0\}$, we shall denote these subspaces by $H^k(\tilde{U})_a$, so

$$H^*(\tilde{U}) = \bigoplus_{a=1}^{d-1} H^*(\tilde{U})_a.$$

We may use the pole filtration and the spectral sequence of the algebraic de Rham complex $A' = \Gamma(\tilde{U}, \Omega_{\tilde{U}}^\bullet)$ to compute $H^*(\tilde{U})_a$. For this aim we have to work with forms $\omega = \frac{\gamma}{(f'')^s}$, where $\gamma \in \bar{\Omega}_{sd}^i$ and γ has in each term y_0 to some power congruent with a , modulo d . (We remind that Ω^i is the graded module of algebraic i -differentials and $\bar{\Omega}^i := \ker(\Delta: \Omega^i \rightarrow \Omega^{i-1})$, where Δ is the contraction with the Euler vector field).

Now simply write down in the spirit of [1], using the spectral sequence isomorphism from [1, Prop. 1.7], the formula for the dimension of $H^n(\tilde{U})_a$:

$$b_n(\tilde{U})_a = \sum_{\substack{s=0 \\ s+t=n}}^n \dim E_{n-s}^{s,t}(f'')_a = \sum_{\substack{s=0 \\ s+t=n}}^n \dim({}'E_{n-s}^{s,t})_a,$$

where ${}'E_1^{s,t} := H^{s+t}(\text{Gr}_F^s B')$, (see [1] for the notations and definitions) and the eigenspace $({}'E_1^{s,t})_a$ corresponding to a is the subspace of those forms which have y_0 to some power congruent with a , modulo d , in each term.

For the hypersurfaces with 1-dimensional singular locus in the affine cone we get the other nonzero Betti number $b_{n+1}(\tilde{U})$ by computing the Euler characteristic $\chi(\tilde{U})$. In the notations of [4]:

$b_n - b_{n+1} = T + S_0$, and moreover we may take the eigenvalue a corresponding part:

$$(b_n)_a - (b_{n+1})_a = T_a + (S_0)_a$$

About the second term of this formula, there is the following:

Lemma $(S_0)_a$ is the same for every $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$.

Proof $(S_0)_a$ is computable as shown in [4, pag.9] from the Poincaré series associated to the Koszul complex (see [3]). In fact, the Koszul complex decomposes into a direct sum of $(d-1)$ -complexes, each of them associated to a value $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$ (i.e. regarding to the power of y_0 , as explained above).

But these complexes are obviously isomorphic in the following explicit way:

$$\phi_{a_1, a_2}^i : (\Omega^i)_{a_1} \xrightarrow{\sim} (\Omega^i)_{a_2},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega^1 &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} y_o^{d \cdot j + a_1} \omega_j^1 + d(y_o^{d \cdot j + a_1}) \wedge \omega_j^1 \\ \downarrow \\ \omega^2 &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} y_o^{d \cdot j + a_2} \omega_j^2 + d(y_o^{d \cdot j + a_1}) \wedge \omega_j^1 \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that $(S_o)_a = \frac{1}{d-1} S_o$.

For simplicity, in the following we shall work only in the homogeneous case i.e. all the weights are equal to 1.

From [4] we have the formula:

$$T = \sum_{\alpha \in \phi} \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{r(\alpha)} \dim E_i^{-i, n+i}(g_\alpha, 0)}_{T_\alpha},$$

where $(g_\alpha, 0)$ denote germs of the transversal singularities to the singular locus $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+2}$.

As we are dealing with forms in this local spectral sequence also, for each value $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$ we get the following:

$(T)_a = \sum_{\alpha \in \phi} \sum_{i=1}^{r(\alpha)} \dim E_i^{-i, n+i}(g_\alpha, 0)_a$, where ϕ is the set of the singular points of $\tilde{V} = \{f'' = 0\}$.

The limits $r(\alpha)$ could be revealed by the condition:

$T_\alpha = \mu(g_\alpha, 0)$ = the Milnor number, or better:

$$\sum_{a=1}^{d-1} (T_\alpha)_a = \mu(g_\alpha, 0).$$

Proposition. For any transversal singularity $(g_\alpha, 0)$, the terms $(T_\alpha)_a$ are equal to $\frac{1}{d-1} T_\alpha$, for every $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$.

Proof. As in the preceding lemma, the local complex $(\Omega_{(g_\alpha, 0)}, d)$ decomposes, regarding the action of $t = \exp 2\pi i / d$, into a direct sum of $(d-1)$ subcomplexes which are isomorphic. Then this isomorphism induce one between spectral sequences, which at the E_1 -level looks

$$E_1^{s,t}(g_\alpha, 0)_{a_1} \cong E_1^{s,t}(g_\alpha, 0)_{a_2}.$$

Corollary. The Euler-Poincaré characteristic for each eigenvalue a , i.e. $\sum (-1)^i b_i(F)_a$, is the same for every $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$ and equal to $1/d-1 \chi(F'')_0$.

2. The Zariski's example

If every transversal singularity is quasihomogeneous, then the local spectral sequence degenerates at E_2 and this fact means that we have to know only the maps $g_\alpha: M(g_\alpha) \rightarrow M(g_\alpha)$, the multiplication by g_α inside the Milnor algebras ($[1, \text{Cor.3.10}]$).

In case of the Zariski's example $f = (x^2 + y^2)^3 + (y^3 + z^3)^2$ we have six cusps as transversal singularities. By adjunction of y_0 we get $f'' = f + y_0^6$ with transversal singularities of type $g \sim x^2 + y^3 + y_0^6$. Hence $\mu(g) = 10$ and $M(g) \cong \mathbb{C} \langle 1, z, y_0, y_0^2, y_0^3, y_0^4, zy_0, zy_0^2, zy_0^3, zy_0^4 \rangle$. So we get:

$$\begin{aligned} (T_\alpha)_1 &= \dim M(g)_0 = \dim \mathbb{C} \langle 1, z \rangle = 2, \\ (T_\alpha)_2 &= \dim M(g)_1 = \dim \mathbb{C} \langle y_0, zy_0 \rangle = 2, \\ (T_\alpha)_3 &= \dim M(g)_2 = \dim \mathbb{C} \langle y_0^2, zy_0^2 \rangle = 2, \\ (T_\alpha)_4 &= \dim M(g)_3 = \dim \mathbb{C} \langle y_0^3, zy_0^3 \rangle = 2, \\ (T_\alpha)_5 &= \dim M(g)_4 = \dim \mathbb{C} \langle y_0^4, zy_0^4 \rangle = 2, \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } (T)_a = \sum_{\alpha \in \phi} (T_\alpha)_a = 6 \times 2 = 12, \text{ for any } a \in \{1, 2, \dots, 5\}.$$

To get S_0 , we must find some coefficients c_i of the Poincaré series $P_{\text{reg}}(t) = \prod_{i=0}^3 \frac{(1-t^5)}{1-t} = (1+t+t^2+t^3+t^4)^4$, because $S_0 = -\sum_{k=1}^3 c_{6k-4}$.

We get easily $(S_0)_a = -\frac{105}{5} = -21$, for every $a \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. Hence $\chi(F)_a = -\chi(\tilde{U})_a = -((T)_a + (S_0)_a) = -12 + 21 = 9$ and $\chi(F)_0 = 8$.

Let's find now the Betti numbers $b_1(F)_a$. First:

$$b_1(F)_0 = b_1(U) = \dim E_2^{0,1}(f) + \dim E_1^{1,0}(f).$$

$$\text{We have } E_1^{0,1}(f) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^3 \mathbb{C} \langle [\omega] \rangle, \text{ where}$$

$$\omega = -xy^2 dx \wedge dy - z^2 y dy \wedge dz + xz^2 dz \wedge dx,$$

but $E_2^{0,1}(f) = 0$ by some computation. As $E_1^{1,0}(f) = 0$ obviously, it follows that $b_1(F)_0 = 0$.

Further, for the other values of $a \geq 1$, $b_1(F)_a = \sum_{s=-1}^1 \dim E_{2-s}^{s, 2-1-s}(f)_a$. It is clear that $E_1^{1,0}(f)_a = 0$ and also:

$$E_2^{0,1}(f)_a = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} \langle [\omega] \rangle, & \text{for } a=1 \\ 0, & \text{for } a \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

For $E_3^{-1,2}(f)_a$, by studying the Koszul complex of f , we get

$$E_3^{-1,2}(f)_a = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} \langle [f\omega] \rangle, & \text{for } a=1 \\ 0, & \text{for } a \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{The final result is } b_1(F)_a = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{for } a=5 \\ 0, & \text{for } a=0, 2, 3, 4, 1, \end{cases}$$

$$\text{and } b_2(F)_a = \begin{cases} 8 & , \text{ for } a=0 \\ 11 & , \text{ for } a=5 \\ 9 & , \text{ for } a=2,3,4,1 \end{cases} .$$

3. Some other examples of plane curves with $\pi_1(U)$ nonabelian

Let's look to the plane curve $f=x^3y^3+z^6$. We can see rapidly that $b_1(F)_3 \geq 1$ because there is the form $\omega = xdy \wedge dz - ydx \wedge dz$ for which $\omega \wedge df = 0$ and $d\omega = 0$.

(Our V has now two singularities). By some remark in [2], this is enough to imply that $\pi_1(U)$ is nonabelian, and the same is true for the Zariski's example.

Let's give now two examples of curves V for which $\pi_1(U)$ be nonabelian.

1) $f=y^k+z^k$, which is a union of planes.

Here the forms of type $y^i dy \wedge dz$ give a nonzero class $[\omega] \in (E_2^{0,1})_a$, for $a \neq 0$.

2) $f=xy^k+z^{k+1}$, an irreducible curve, for $k \geq 2$.

The forms of type $\omega = z^k(kx dy \wedge dz + y dx \wedge dz)$ produce a nonzero class $[\omega] \in (E_3^{-1,2})_{k-1}$.

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