# RESULTS ON BETTI SERIES OF THE UNIVERSAL MODULES OF SECOND ORDER DERIVATIONS

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### Abstract

Let R be the coordinate ring of an affine irreducible curve presented by  $\frac{k[x,y]}{(f)}$  and m a maximal ideal of R. Assume that  $R_m$ , the localization of R at m, is not a regular ring. Let  $\Omega_2(R_m)$  be the universal module of second order derivations of  $R_m$ . We show that, under certain conditions,  $B(\Omega_2(R_m),t)$ , the Betti series of  $\Omega_2(R_m)$ , is a rational function. To conclude, we give examples related to  $B(\Omega_2(R_m),t)$  for various rings R.

**Keywords:** Universal module, Universal differential operators, Betti series, Minimal resolution.

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## 1. Introduction

Let R be a commutative k-algebra over a field of characteristic zero. Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \to I \to R \otimes_k \xrightarrow{\varphi} R \to 0.$$

where  $\varphi(a \otimes b) = ab$  for  $a, b \in R$  and  $I = \ker \varphi$ .

For any  $n \geq 1$ ,  $I^n$  is an ideal contained in I. Let us define a k-linear map  $\Delta_n: R \to \frac{I}{I^{n+1}}$  by  $\Delta_n(r) = 1 \otimes r - r \otimes 1 + I^{n+1}$ ,  $\Delta_n(k) = 0$ . The left R-module  $\frac{I}{I^{n+1}}$  is called the universal module of  $n^{\text{th}}$  order derivations, and  $\Delta_n$  is the universal derivation of order n. Denote  $\frac{I}{I^{n+1}}$  by  $\Omega_n(R)$ . (A definition of  $\Omega_n(R)$  may be found in [3]). We note that  $\Omega_n(R) \otimes_R R_T \cong \Omega_n(R_T)$  and that  $\Omega_n(R)$  is a finitely generated R-module when R is a finitely generated R-algebra, and that  $\Omega_n(R)$  is a free R-module of rank  $\binom{n+k}{k} - 1$  with basis

$$\left\{\Delta_n(x_1^{\alpha_1}x_2^{\alpha_2}\cdots x_k^{\alpha_k}): 1 \le \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \cdots + \alpha_k \le n\right\}$$

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when  $R = k[x_1, ..., x_k]$ , (see [2]).

Assume that R is a local k-algebra with maximal ideal m. A resolution

$$\cdots F_2 \stackrel{\partial_2}{\to} F_1 \stackrel{\partial_1}{\to} F_0 \stackrel{\varepsilon}{\to} \Omega_n(R) \to 0$$

of  $\Omega_n(R)$  by free modules of finite rank, such that  $\partial_n(F_n) \subseteq mF_{n-1}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , is called a *minimal resolution*. It is known that the minimal free resolution is unique up to isomorphism of complexes. The *Betti series* of  $\Omega_n(R)$  is defined to be the series

$$B(\Omega_n(R), t) = \sum_{i>0} \dim_{R/m} \operatorname{Ext}^i \left(\Omega_n(R), \frac{R}{m}\right) t^i$$

for all  $n \geq 1$ .

It is interesting to know if  $B(\Omega_n(R), t)$  is a rational function. If R is a finitely generated regular algebra then  $\Omega_n(R_m)$  is a free  $R_m$ -module, where m is a maximal ideal of R. Therefore  $B(\Omega_n(R_m), t)$  is obviously a rational function for all  $n \geq 1$ .

### 2. Main results

We first state a known result:

**2.1. Lemma.** Let  $R = \frac{k[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k]}{(f)}$ . Then we have an exact sequence

$$0 \to \ker \alpha \to \frac{\Omega_n(k[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k])}{f\Omega_n(k[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k])} \to \Omega_n(R) \to 0$$

of R-modules, (see [1]).

**2.2. Lemma.** Let k[x,y] be a polynomial algebra and m a maximal ideal containing f. Suppose that  $\Delta_2(yf), \Delta_2(xf)$  and  $\Delta_2(f)$  are elements of  $m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$ . Then the module generated by  $\{\Delta_2(g): g \in fk[x,y]\}$  is a submodule of  $m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$ , where

$$\Delta_2: k[x,y] \to \Omega_2(k[x,y])$$

is the second order derivation.

*Proof.* Since  $\Delta_2$  is a k-linear map, it suffices to show that  $\Delta_2(x^iy^jf) \in m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$ , By the definition of  $\Delta_2$  we have that

$$\Delta_2(x^i y^j f) = a(x, y)\Delta_2(xf) + b(x, y)\Delta_2(yf) + c(x, y)f\Delta_2(\alpha),$$

where  $\alpha \in \Omega_2(k[x,y])$ ,  $a(x,y), b(x,y), c(x,y) \in k[x,y]$ . By assumption  $\Delta_2(xf), \Delta_2(yf) \in m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$  and  $f \in m$ . Hence each summand belongs to  $m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$ . Therefore  $\Delta_2(x^iy^jf) \in m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$ , as required.

We now give a well-known result.

**2.3. Lemma.** Let R be a local ring with maximal ideal m. Let M be a finitely generated R-module. Suppose that

$$0 \to F_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\to} F_0 \to M \to 0$$

is a minimal resolution of M. Then  $\operatorname{Ext}^1(M, R/m)$  is not zero.

Proof. Consider the given minimal resolution

$$0 \to F_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\to} F_0 \to M \to 0$$

of R-modules. Then we have the complex

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}(M, R/m) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon^*} \operatorname{Hom}(F_0, R/m) \xrightarrow{\partial^*} \operatorname{Hom}(F_1, R/m)$$

of R/m-modules. Since  $F_0$  and  $F_1$  are free modules it follows that  $\partial^*$  is a matrix whose entries are all in m. Hence  $\operatorname{Im} \partial^* \subseteq m\operatorname{Hom}(F_1,R/m)$ . By Nakayama's Lemma  $m\operatorname{Hom}(F_1,R/m) \neq \operatorname{Hom}(F_1,R/m)$ . Therefore  $\operatorname{Ext}^1(M,R/m) = \frac{\operatorname{Hom}(F_1,R/m)}{\operatorname{Im}\partial^*}$  is nonzero as required.

**2.4. Proposition.** Let k[x,y] be a polynomial ring and m a maximal ideal of k[x,y] containing an irreducible element f. If  $\Delta_2(yf), \Delta_2(xf)$  and  $\Delta_2(f)$  are elements of  $m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$ , then  $\Omega_2\left(\left(\frac{k[x,y]}{(f)}\right)_{\bar{m}}\right)$  admits a minimal resolution of  $\left(\frac{k[x,y]}{(f)}\right)_{\bar{m}}$  modules.

*Proof.* Set  $S = \frac{k[x,y]}{f}$ ,  $\bar{m}$  a maximal ideal of S. Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \to \ker \alpha_{\bar{m}} \to \left(\frac{\Omega_2(k[x,y])}{f\Omega_2(k[x,y])}\right)_{harm} \to \Omega_2(S_{\bar{m}}) \to 0$$

of  $S_{\bar{m}}$ -modules. By lemma 2.2 this exact sequence is minimal. To complete the proof we need to see that  $\ker \alpha_{\bar{m}}$  is a free  $S_{\bar{m}}$ -module. Notice that the Krull dimension of  $S_{\bar{m}}$  is one, and that  $\left(\frac{\Omega_2(k[x,y])}{f\Omega_2(k[x,y])}\right)_{\bar{m}}$  is free of rank five. Let K be the field of fractions of  $S_{\bar{m}}$ . The transcendental degree of K is one. Hence  $\dim_K \Omega_2(S_{\bar{m}}) \otimes_{S_{\bar{m}}} K = \dim_K \Omega_2(K) = 2$  as a K-vector space.

Therefore we have

$$\dim_K \ker \alpha_{\bar{m}} \otimes_{S_{\bar{m}}} K = \dim_K \left( \frac{\Omega_2(k[x,y])}{f\Omega_2(k[x,y])} \right)_{\bar{m}} \otimes_{S_{\bar{m}}} K - \dim_K \Omega_2(K) = 5 - 2 = 3.$$

On the other hand,  $\ker \alpha_{\bar{m}}$  is generated by  $\overline{\Delta_2(xf)}, \overline{\Delta_2(yf)}$  and  $\overline{\Delta_2(f)}$  as an S-module. Therefore  $\ker \alpha_{\bar{m}}$  must be a free  $S_{\bar{m}}$ -module, as required.

**2.5. Theorem.** Let k[x,y] be a polynomial ring and m a maximal ideal containing an irreducible polynomial f. Suppose that  $R = \frac{k[x,y]}{(f)}$  is not a regular ring at  $\bar{m} = \frac{m}{(f)}$ , and that  $\overline{\Delta_2(xf)}, \overline{\Delta_2(yf)}$  and  $\overline{\Delta_2(f)}$  are elements of  $m\Omega_2(k[x,y])$ . Then  $B(\Omega_2(R_{\bar{m}}),t)$  is a rational function.

Proof. By Proposition 2.4 we have the minimal resolution

$$0 \to F_1 \to F_0 \to \Omega_2(R_{\bar{m}}) \to 0$$

of 
$$\Omega_2(R_{\bar{m}})$$
. By Lemma 2.3,  $\operatorname{Ext}^1\left(\Omega_2(R_{\bar{m}}), \frac{R_{\bar{m}}}{\bar{m}R_{\bar{m}}}\right) \neq 0$ . Hence the result follows.  $\square$ 

We now give some examples.

**2.6. Example.** Let R = k[x, y, z] with  $y^2 = xz$ ,  $z^2 = x^3$  over a field k of characteristic zero and let m = (x, y, z) be the maximal ideal corresponding to the origin. It is known that R is not a regular ring at  $\bar{m}$ , that is the origin is a singular point of the variety. It was seen in [1] that

$$0 \to m \to R^2 \to R^6 \to R^8 \to J_2(R) \to 0$$

is an exact sequence of R-modules. Therefore the projective dimension of  $J_2(R)$  is not finite. Now we may conjecture that  $B(\Omega_2(R_m),t)$  is a rational function. Here  $J_2(R) = \Omega_2(R) \oplus R$ .

**2.7. Example.** Let R = k[x, y, z] with  $y^2 = x^3$ . R is not a regular ring at m = (x, y), the maximal ideal. It is known that the projective dimension of  $J_1(R)$  and  $J_2(R)$  is one. Hence  $B(J_1(R_m), t)$  and  $B(J_2(R_m), t)$  are rational functions. Here  $J_1(R) = \Omega_1(R) \oplus R$  and  $J_2(R) = \Omega_2(R) \oplus R$ .

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