

## THE MULTIPLICITY OF ISOLATED TWO-DIMENSIONAL HYPERSURFACE SINGULARITIES

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**ABSTRACT.** Consider an isolated two-dimensional complex analytic hypersurface singularity  $(V, p)$ . A relation is given between the abstract topology of  $(V, p)$  and the multiplicity of  $(V, p)$ , yielding an upper bound for the multiplicity. This relation is a necessary condition for a Gorenstein singularity to be a hypersurface.

**I. Introduction.** Let  $(V, p)$  be an isolated two-dimensional hypersurface complex-analytic singularity. In this paper we ask: What conditions are imposed on the abstract topology of  $(V, p)$  by the *hypersurface* hypothesis? Recall, essentially [6, Theorem 2.10, p. 18], that any isolated singularity is a cone over its link  $L$ . Moreover, in dimension two,  $L$  is a compact real 3-manifold whose oriented homeomorphism type determines and is determined by the weighted dual graph  $\Gamma$  of a canonically determined resolution  $\pi: (M, A) \rightarrow (V, p)$  [7]. So, we may equivalently ask: What conditions does the existence of a hypersurface representative  $(V, p)$  put on a weighted dual graph  $\Gamma$ ? A hypersurface singularity  $(V, p)$  is Gorenstein [2, 4]. So there exists an integral cycle  $K$  on  $\Gamma$  which satisfies the adjunction formula (2.1) below [9]. This paper is primarily devoted to deriving an additional necessary relation, Theorem 3.1, between  $K$  and the pull-back to  $(M, A)$  of the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of the hypersurface  $V$  at  $p$ . This relation is in general not satisfied by  $(V, p)$  which are merely Gorenstein. Consider Example 4.1, the simple elliptic singularities [8, 5]. These are Gorenstein for all values of  $Z \cdot Z$ , but are hypersurfaces only for  $-Z \cdot Z \leq 3$ . These singularities fail to satisfy the condition of Theorem 3.1 for  $-Z \cdot Z > 3$ .

This paper was somewhat inspired by the Zariski multiplicity question [12]. Some very mild implications towards a positive answer to Zariski's question do follow from Theorem 3.1. An upper bound, Corollary 3.6, is obtained for the multiplicity of a hypersurface  $(V, p)$  in terms of  $\Gamma$  of the minimal resolution. A lower bound is well known to be given by  $-Z \cdot Z$ , where  $Z$  is the fundamental cycle [1, 10]. Unfortunately, often neither bound is sharp. One cannot hope always to determine the multiplicity of  $(V, p)$  from its nonembedded topology alone, or even from the topology and the Milnor number. Namely, Example 4.3 includes two surface

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singularities which have different multiplicities but the same  $\Gamma$  and the same Milnor numbers. These two singularities do have very different characteristic polynomials [6].

**II. Known preliminaries.** Consider a resolution  $\pi: (M, A) \rightarrow (V, p)$  of the normal two-dimensional singularity  $(V, p)$ . Throughout this paper  $A = \cup A_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , will be the decomposition of  $A$  into irreducible components. Consider the canonical bundle  $K$  on  $M$ . The adjunction formula [9] gives, for all  $i$ ,

$$(2.1) \quad A_i \cdot K = -A_i \cdot A_i + 2g_i - 2.$$

Recall [3], that an  $A_j$  is an exceptional curve of the first kind, i.e. may be blown down without introducing a singularity, if and only if  $A_j$  is a nonsingular rational curve of self-intersection  $-1$ . Observe then from (2.1) that

$$\begin{aligned} A_i \cdot K &= -1 && \text{if } A_i \text{ is exceptional of the first kind,} \\ A_i \cdot K &\geq 0 && \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

$\pi$  is the minimal resolution if and only if no  $A_i$  is exceptional of the first kind.

Since the intersection matrix  $(A_i \cdot A_j)$  is nonsingular, there are unique rational numbers  $k_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , such that the rational cycle

$$(2.2) \quad \tilde{K} = \sum k_i A_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n$$

satisfies  $A_i \cdot K = A_i \cdot \tilde{K}$  for all  $i$ .

Proposition 2.1 is certainly known, but seems not to have appeared in the literature.

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** *With the above notation, suppose additionally that  $\pi$  is the minimal resolution. Then  $K = 0$ , i.e. is the trivial bundle, in case  $(V, p)$  is a rational double point. Otherwise,  $k_i < 0$  for all  $i$ .*

**PROOF.** Rational double points are classified in [1]. So we may consider only the second case,  $\tilde{K} \neq 0$ , and assume  $A_j \cdot K > 0$  for some  $j$ . Using rational coefficients, write  $\tilde{K} = C + D$ , where  $C \leq 0$  and  $D \geq 0$ . We assume that  $D \neq 0$  and reach a contradiction: Since  $D \neq 0$ ,  $D \cdot D < 0$ . Then there exists  $A_j$  such that  $A_j \cdot D < 0$ . Since  $C \leq 0$ ,  $A_j \cdot C \leq 0$ . Then  $A_j \cdot K < 0$ , contradicting the hypothesis that  $\pi$  is the minimal resolution. Hence  $\tilde{K} \leq 0$ . Since  $\tilde{K} \neq 0$ , should  $k_j = 0$  occur for some  $j$ , then we may further choose  $j$  so that  $A_j \cdot A_i > 0$  for some  $A_i$  with  $k_i < 0$ . Then  $A_j \cdot K < 0$ , which again contradicts the minimality of  $\pi$ .

Recall that for any Cartier divisor  $D$  on  $M$ ,  $\mathcal{O}(D)$  denotes the sheaf of germs of meromorphic functions  $f$  such that (locally),  $(f) + D \geq 0$ . We let  $\mathcal{O}(K)$  denote the sheaf of germs of sections of the canonical bundle  $K$ . In case  $(V, p)$  is Gorenstein, the  $\tilde{K}$  of (2.2) has integral coefficients. Moreover,  $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{K})$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{O}(K)$ . Thus in the Gorenstein case, we shall duplicate notation and use  $K$  also to denote the Cartier divisor  $\tilde{K}$ .

From now on in this paper, all “cycles” will be integral combinations of the  $A_i$ , i.e. Cartier divisors on  $M$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  denote the maximal ideal sheaf at  $p$  of  $(V, p)$ .  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})$ , the sheaf on  $M$  generated by the pull-back to  $M$  of generators of  $\mathfrak{m}$ , need not be locally principal. But there is a unique cycle  $D > 0$  such that  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})/\mathcal{O}(-D)$  is supported at only a finite number of points, called *embedded points* (for  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})$ ), on  $A$ . Following Yau [11], we shall call  $D$  the *maximal ideal cycle*. There is a minimal resolution  $\pi': (M', A') \rightarrow (V, p)$  with  $\pi'^*(\mathfrak{m})$  locally principal, i.e., such that  $\pi'^*(\mathfrak{m})$  has no embedded points.  $\pi'$  is obtained by starting with the minimal resolution  $\pi$  and successively blowing up at all embedded points. Let  $\nu$  denote the multiplicity of  $V$  at  $p$ . Then [10]  $\nu = -D' \cdot D'$ . Consider any two resolutions  $\pi''$  and  $\pi'''$  of  $(V, p)$  with corresponding maximal ideal cycles  $D''$  and  $D'''$ . If  $\pi'''$  is obtained from  $\pi''$  by blowing up at an embedded point, then  $-D''' \cdot D''' \geq 1 - D'' \cdot D''$ . Hence at most  $\nu - 1$  blowups are required to reach  $\pi'$  from  $\pi$ . Those resolutions  $\pi'': (M'', A'') \rightarrow (V, p)$ , including  $\pi$  and  $\pi'$ , which appear in going from  $\pi$  to  $\pi'$  via blowups may be characterized by: if  $A_j''$  is an exceptional curve of the first kind, then  $A_j'' \cdot D'' < 0$ .

### III. Main results. We continue with the notation of §II.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $(V, p)$  be an isolated two-dimensional hypersurface singularity with multiplicity  $\nu$ . Let  $\pi: (M, A) \rightarrow (V, p)$  be a resolution. Let  $D = \sum d_i A_i$  be the maximum ideal cycle. Suppose that for each  $A_j$  which is exceptional of the first kind,  $A_j \cdot D < 0$ . Then for all  $A_i$ ,*

$$(3.1) \quad -k_i \geq 1 + (\nu - 3)d_i.$$

Theorem 3.1 will be proved in stages.

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** *Let  $\pi: (M, A) \rightarrow (V, p)$  be as in Theorem 3.1. Consider an  $A_i$  in  $A$ .*

(i) *If  $A_i \cdot D < 0$  and  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})$  has no embedded points on  $A_i$ , then there exist elements  $x$  and  $y$  of  $\mathfrak{m}$  such that  $\pi^*(x)$  and  $\pi^*(y)$  restrict to linearly independent (over  $\mathbb{C}$ ) elements of  $\Gamma(A_i, \mathcal{O}(-D)/\mathcal{O}(-D - A_i))$ .*

(ii) *Suppose that there do exist elements  $x$  and  $y$  of  $\mathfrak{m}$  such that  $\pi^*(x)$  and  $\pi^*(y)$  restrict to linearly independent (over  $\mathbb{C}$ ) elements of  $\Gamma(A_i, \mathcal{O}(-D)/\mathcal{O}(-D - A_i))$ . Then (3.1) holds for this  $A_i$ .*

**PROOF.** (i) Suppose that  $A_i \cdot D < 0$ . Then  $\mathcal{O}(-D)/\mathcal{O}(-D - A_i)$  is the sheaf of germs of sections of a line bundle  $L$  over  $A_i$  of positive chern class. Choose  $x$ , an element of  $\mathfrak{m}$ , such that  $\pi^*(x)$  does not vanish identically on  $A_i$ .  $\pi^*(x)$  has a zero, say at  $q$ , as a section of  $L$ . In the absence of embedded points for  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})$ , there must be a second element  $y$  of  $\mathfrak{m}$  such that  $\pi^*(y)$  is nonzero at  $q$  as a section of  $L$ . Then  $x$  and  $y$  are the desired elements of  $\mathfrak{m}$ .

(ii) Let  $F(x, y, z) = 0$  be a defining equation for  $V$  near  $p$ . Then

$$\omega = \frac{dx \wedge dy}{F_z} = \frac{dy \wedge dz}{F_x} = \frac{dz \wedge dx}{F_y}$$

is a nowhere zero meromorphic 2-form with  $p$  as its only pole. Then the divisor  $(\pi^*(\omega))$  equals  $K$ . We shall prove Proposition 3.2 by doing a calculation for  $\pi^*(\omega)$  near  $A_i$ : Since  $\pi^*(x)$  and  $\pi^*(y)$  project to linearly independent sections of  $L$ ,

$dx \wedge dy$  vanishes to order exactly  $2d_i - 1$  on  $A_i$ . Since  $V$  has multiplicity  $\nu$  at  $p$ ,  $F(x, y, z)$  has a zero of order  $\nu$  at  $p$ . Hence  $F_z$  has a zero of order at least  $\nu - 1$  at  $p$ . Then  $\pi^*(F_z)$  has a zero of order at least  $(\nu - 1)d_i$  on  $A_i$ . Hence  $k_i \leq 2d_i - 1 - (\nu - 1)d_i$ . This is (3.1).

Suppose that  $\pi: (M, A) \rightarrow (V, p)$  and  $\pi': (M', A') \rightarrow (V, p)$  are two resolutions of  $(V, p)$  such that  $\pi' = \lambda \circ \pi$  for a suitable composition of quadratic transformations  $\lambda$ . Then

$$(3.2) \quad K' = \lambda^{-1}(K) + J$$

where  $\lambda^{-1}(K)$  is the total transform of  $K$  and  $J$  is the divisor of the Jacobian of  $\lambda$ . In particular, if  $A_i$  is an irreducible component of  $A$ , let  $A'_i = \lambda^*(A_i)$ , the proper transform of  $A_i$ . Then  $k'_i = k_i$ . Also, in the special case that  $\lambda$  is the blowup at a single point  $q$ ,  $J = \lambda^{-1}(q)$ .

Now consider Theorem 3.1 for the case  $\nu = 2$ , double points. Recall [10, p. 428]. Since  $d_i \geq 1$ , to prove (3.1) it suffices to show that  $k_i \leq 0$ . If  $\pi$  is the minimal resolution, in fact  $k_i \leq 0$  by Proposition 2.1. In any event, start by taking  $\pi$  as the minimal resolution. If  $D \cdot D = -2$  when  $\pi$  is the minimal resolution, then  $\pi$  must be the minimal resolution in Theorem 3.1. With  $\nu = 2$ ,  $D \cdot D = -1$  is the only other possibility when  $\pi$  is the minimal resolution. Then in fact  $D = Z$ , the fundamental cycle [1] and  $\pi^*(m)$  has an embedded point  $q$ . The only other candidate  $\pi'$  for  $\pi$  in Theorem 3.1 is to blow up, via  $\lambda$ , the minimal resolution at  $q$ . By Proposition 3.2, (3.1) holds for  $\lambda^{-1}(q)$ . (3.2) completes the proof of Proposition 3.3 below for the other irreducible components of  $A'$ .

**PROPOSITION 3.3.** *Theorem 3.1 is true when  $\nu = 2$ .*

**PROPOSITION 3.4.** *Let  $\pi: (M, A) \rightarrow (V, p)$  be as in Theorem 3.1. Consider an  $A_i$  in  $A$ . Suppose that  $\pi^*(m)$  has an embedded point at a point  $q$  in  $A_i$  such that  $q$  is a smooth point of  $A$ . Then  $-k_i \geq (\nu - 1) + (\nu - 3)d_i$ .*

**PROOF.** Consider the situation of (3.2) where  $\lambda$  consists of one blowup at  $q$ . Let  $A_l = \lambda^{-1}(q)$ . Then

$$(3.3) \quad D' = \lambda^{-1}(D) + cA_l, \quad c \geq 1.$$

From (3.2) and (3.3), we see that for each  $A_i$  we may associate a  $k_i$  and  $d_i$  which remain unchanged under taking proper transforms.

Drop the subscript  $i$ . Successively blow up at  $q$  and subsequent embedded points for as long as possible, naming the new curves (and their proper transforms) by the subscripts  $1, 2, \dots, t, \dots$ . We claim that, by induction on  $t$ , for each  $t \geq 1$ , there exist positive integers  $a_t$  and  $b_t$  such that

$$(3.4) \quad k_t = a_t k + b_t, \quad d_t \geq a_t d + b_t, \quad b_t \geq a_t.$$

Since  $q$  is a smooth point of  $A$ , for  $t = 1$ , via (3.2) and (3.3), (3.4) holds with  $a_t = b_t = 1$ . Each subsequent blowup occurs either at a smooth point of the exceptional set, in which case (3.4) follows by induction as for  $t = 1$  via (3.2) and (3.3), or at the transverse intersection of two curves, call them  $A_r$  and  $A_s$ .  $r = 0$ ,

corresponding to  $r = i$ , is possible here.  $a_0 = 1$  and  $b_0 = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} k_i &= k_r + k_s + 1 = (a_r + a_s)k + (b_r + b_s + 1), \\ d_i &\geq d_r + d_s + 1 \end{aligned}$$

and (3.4) follows.

Let  $A_l$  be the result of the last blowup. Then  $l \leq \nu - 1$ . By Proposition 3.2,  $-k_l \geq 1 + (\nu - 3)d_l$ . By Proposition 3.3, we may take  $\nu \geq 3$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} -a_l k - b_l &\geq 1 + (\nu - 3)(a_l d + b_l), \\ -k &\geq (1/a_l) + (\nu - 2) + (\nu - 3)d. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $a_l$  is positive, this proves Proposition 3.4.

**LEMMA 3.5.** *Let  $\pi: (M, A) \rightarrow (V, p)$  be as in Theorem 3.1. If  $\nu \geq 3$ , then  $-k_i \geq 1$  for all  $i$ .*

**PROOF.** Start with  $\pi$  as the minimal resolution. Then  $-k_i \geq 1$  by Proposition 2.1. Now blow up  $M$  successively at embedded points which occur at singularities of  $A$ , i.e. where  $A$  has multiplicity greater than 1. Then, by (3.2), also  $-k_i \geq 1$  for any such new exceptional curves. Eventually we reach a resolution where each embedded point satisfies the hypotheses of Proposition 3.4. At most  $(\nu - 1)$  additional blowups are needed to reach the minimal resolution  $\pi'$  with  $\pi'^*(\mathfrak{m})$  locally principal. By Proposition 3.4 and (3.2), for  $\nu \geq 4$ , each blowup yields a new  $A_i$  with  $-k_i \geq 1$ , proving Lemma 3.5 for  $\nu \geq 4$ . For  $\nu = 3$ , each blowup except possibly the last yields a new  $A_i$  with  $-k_i \geq 1$ . The last  $A_l$  satisfies the conditions of Proposition 3.2. Hence also  $-k_l \geq 1$ .

Observe that Lemma 3.5 yields Theorem 3.1 for  $\nu = 3$ .

It now suffices to prove Theorem 3.1 in the case that  $\nu \geq 4$  and  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})$  is locally principal. We claim, in analogy to the existence of the fundamental cycle  $Z$ , that  $(\nu - 3)D$  is the minimal cycle  $C = \sum c_i A_i$  such that

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} C &\geq 0, \\ c_i &\geq (\nu - 3)d_i \quad \text{for } A_i \cdot D < 0, \\ A_i \cdot C &\leq 0 \quad \text{for } A_i \cdot D = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since the (component-wise) minimum of two cycles which satisfy (3.5) also satisfies (3.5), a unique minimal  $C$  does exist.  $(\nu - 3)D$  does satisfy (3.5). Write

$$(\nu - 3)D = C + P, \quad P \geq 0.$$

Let  $P = \sum p_j A_j$ . If  $A_j \cdot D < 0$ , then  $p_j = 0$  and  $A_j \cdot P \geq 0$ . If  $A_j \cdot D = 0$ , then

$$0 = A_j \cdot C + A_j \cdot P \leq A_j \cdot P.$$

Hence  $P \cdot P \geq 0$  and by negative-definiteness,  $P = 0$ .

By Lemma 3.5,  $-K \geq 0$ . By Proposition 3.2,  $-k_j \geq (\nu - 3)d_j$  for  $A_j \cdot D < 0$ . By the adjunction formula and since  $A_j \cdot D < 0$  if  $A_j$  is exceptional of the first kind,  $A_j \cdot (-K) \leq 0$  if  $A_j \cdot D = 0$ . That is,  $-K$  satisfies (3.5). Then  $-K \geq (\nu - 3)D$ . Since in fact,  $-k_i \geq 1 + (\nu - 3)d_i$  for  $A_i \cdot D < 0$  and  $-K \cdot A_i \leq 0$  for  $A_i \cdot D = 0$ , a computation sequence argument as in [5] and the connectedness of  $A$  yields (3.1) for all  $i$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1.

COROLLARY 3.6. *Let  $(V, p)$  be an isolated two-dimensional hypersurface singularity with multiplicity  $\nu$ ,  $\nu \geq 4$ . Let  $K$  be the canonical divisor on the minimal resolution of  $(V, p)$ . Then*

$$-K \cdot K \geq 2 + \nu(\nu - 2)(\nu - 4).$$

PROOF. Suppose a resolution  $\pi'$  of  $(V, p)$  is obtained from some other resolution  $\pi''$  by a single blowup. Let  $K'$  and  $K''$  denote the canonical divisors for  $\pi'$  and  $\pi''$  respectively. By (3.2),  $-K' \cdot K' = -K'' \cdot K'' + 1$ . Now let  $\pi$  denote the minimal resolution and let  $\pi'$  be the minimal resolution with  $\pi'^*(\mathfrak{m})$  locally principal. There are at most  $(\nu - 1)$  blowups between  $\pi$  and  $\pi'$ . Thus

$$(3.6) \quad -K' \cdot K' \leq -K \cdot K + (\nu - 1).$$

By Theorem 3.1,  $-K' > (\nu - 3)D'$ . Since  $A_i \cdot D' \leq 0$  for all  $i$ ,

$$(3.7) \quad K' \cdot K' < (\nu - 3)^2 D' \cdot D' = \nu(\nu - 3)^2.$$

(3.7) and (3.6) yield the corollary.

We have the following necessary conditions on a weighted dual graph  $\Gamma$  to come from a hypersurface singularity.

COROLLARY 3.7. *Let  $\Gamma$  be the weighted dual graph of the minimal resolution of an isolated hypersurface singularity. Then there is a cycle  $K = \sum k_i A_i$  on  $\Gamma$ , with integer coefficients, which satisfies the adjunction formula. Let  $Z = \sum z_i A_i$  be the fundamental cycle. Then, for all  $i$ ,  $-k_i \geq 1 + (-Z \cdot Z - 3)z_i$ .*

PROOF. Let  $D$  be the maximal ideal cycle on  $A$ . Then  $D \geq Z$ . Moreover, by [1], the multiplicity  $\nu$  satisfies

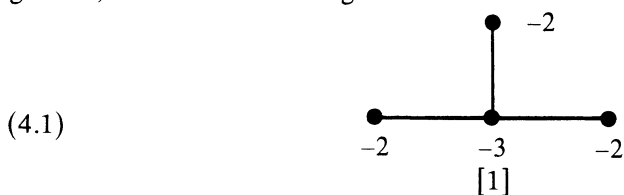
$$(3.8) \quad \nu \geq -Z \cdot Z.$$

Inequality (3.8) and Corollary 3.6 prove the corollary for  $-Z \cdot Z \geq 3$ . For  $-Z \cdot Z \leq 2$ , the corollary follows from Proposition 2.1, but is essentially vacuous.

**IV. Examples.** The general results of §III do not always yield results which are as complete as analyses which use techniques such as in [8 and 5]. However, §III does allow a more rapid, if less complete, calculation in many cases.

EXAMPLE 4.1. Recall the simply elliptic singularities [8], i.e. singularities  $(V, p)$  which have a minimal resolution  $(M, A)$  with  $A$  a smooth elliptic curve.  $(V, p)$  is Gorenstein [5]. It is known [8] that  $(V, p)$  is a hypersurface precisely for  $1 \leq -A \cdot A \leq 3$ . See also [5]. Let us apply Corollary 3.7. For all  $A \cdot A$ ,  $K = -A$  and  $Z = A$  on the minimal resolution. Then  $k_i = -1$  and  $z_i = 1$ . So a necessary condition for a simply elliptic singularity to be a hypersurface is  $1 \geq 1 + (-A \cdot A - 3)$ , or  $-A \cdot A \leq 3$ . The condition of Corollary 3.7 is sharp in this family.

EXAMPLE 4.2. Consider the weighted dual graph  $\Gamma$  of (4.1). The central curve has genus 1, while the arms have genus 0.



A hypersurface representative, of multiplicity 3, may be given for  $\Gamma$  by  $\{x^3 + y^3 + z^9 = 0\}$ .

Let  $(V, p)$  be an arbitrary isolated hypersurface singularity with  $\Gamma$  as the weighted dual graph of its minimal resolution. Number the vertices of  $\Gamma$  as in (4.2). Let  $\nu$  denote the multiplicity of  $(V, p)$ .



Then  $Z = A_1 + A_2 + A_3 + A_4$ .  $Z \cdot Z = -3$ , so  $\nu \geq 3$ .  $K = -A_1 - A_2 - 2A_3 - A_4$ . Let  $D$  be the maximal ideal cycle. Then  $D \geq Z$ . From Theorem 3.1, with  $i = 1, 2$ , or  $4$ ,  $\nu = 3$ . Then also,  $D = Z$  and there are no embedded points for  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})$ .

By way of contrast, consider a (non-Gorenstein) [5] singularity given by a “generic” choice of the complex structure on  $(M, A)$  with weighted dual graph  $\Gamma$  of (4.1). Then the line bundle  $L$  on  $A_3$  such that  $\mathcal{O}(L) = \mathcal{O}(-Z)/\mathcal{O}(-Z - A_3)$ , of chern class  $A_3 \cdot Z = 0$ , is not the trivial bundle and so lacks sections. Then  $D > Z$  and  $\nu \geq 4$ .

EXAMPLE 4.3. Even with the Milnor number  $\mu$  [6], the weighted dual graph  $\Gamma$  cannot always determine the multiplicity of an isolated hypersurface  $(V, p)$ . Consider  $\Gamma$  of (4.3). As in (4.1), genera equal to 0 are omitted from the labeling.



Here are some weighted-homogeneous representatives for  $\Gamma$  with their multiplicities, Milnor numbers, and characteristic polynomials  $\Delta(t)$  [6].

Equation	$\nu$	$\mu$	$\Delta(t)$
$z^2 + x^7 + y^{42} = 0$	2	246	$(t-1)^{-1}(t^2-1)(t^{14}-1)^{-1}(t^{42}-1)^6$
$z^2 + y(x^{12} + y^{18}) = 0$	2	210	$(t-1)^{-1}(t^2-1)(t^{19}-1)(t^{38}-1)^5$
$z^3 + x^4 + y^{36} = 0$	3	210	$(t-1)^{-1}(t^3-1)(t^4-1)(t^{12}-1)^{-1}(t^{36}-1)^6$

The author knows of no isolated hypersurface  $(V, p)$  having (4.3) as the weighted dual of its minimal resolution which does not lie in a  $\{\mu = \text{constant}\}$  family which contains one of the three singularities in (4.4). III provides some limited conditions on such a  $(V, p)$ , as follows. Number the vertices as in (4.5).



Then  $Z = A_1 + A_2 + A_3$  and  $K = -15A_1 - 10A_2 - 5A_3$ .  $D \geq Z$ . Then Theorem 3.1 with  $i = 3$  yields  $\nu \leq 7$ . By considering the various possibilities for  $D$ , we shall show further that  $\nu \leq 6$ . Recall [1] that for all  $A_i$ ,  $A_i \cdot D \leq 0$ .

Suppose that  $D = Z$ . Since  $Z \cdot Z = -1$  and a multiplicity of 1 is not possible for  $(V, p)$ ,  $\pi^*(\mathfrak{m})$  has an embedded point  $q$ .  $q$  necessarily satisfies the hypotheses of Proposition 3.4 with  $i = 3$ . The integer  $\nu$  satisfies  $\nu \leq 4$ .

For  $D > Z$ , necessarily  $D \geq Z_1$ , with  $Z_1 = 2A_1 + 2A_2 + A_3$ . Consider the case  $D = Z_1$ . If there are no embedded points, then  $\nu = -D \cdot D = 2$ . Any embedded point must occur at a point  $q$  which satisfies the hypotheses for Proposition 3.4 with  $i = 2$ . Then  $\nu \leq 5$ .

If  $D > Z_1$ , then  $D \geq 2Z$  or  $D = Z_2$ , with  $Z_2 = 3A_1 + 2A_2 + A_3$ . For  $D \geq 2Z$ , Theorem 3.1 with  $i = 3$  yields  $\nu \leq 5$ . Consider now the final case:  $D = Z_2$ . If there are no embedded points, then  $\nu = -D \cdot D = -3$ . Any embedded point must occur at a point  $q$  which satisfies the hypotheses for Proposition 3.4 with  $i = 1$ . Then  $\nu \leq 6$ .

ADDENDUM. Using a result of Y. Koyama, M. Tomari has proved the following stronger consequence of the hypotheses of Corollary 3.7: If  $\nu$  is even, then  $-K \cdot K \geq (\nu - 2)^2\nu$ . If  $\nu$  is odd, then  $-K \cdot K \geq \nu(\nu - 1)(\nu - 3)$ .

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