

1078-32-267

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As a parametrised version of Zariski's (still unanswered) question about the topological invariance of the multiplicity of a complex hypersurface singularity, Teissier conjectured in 1972 that families of isolated complex hypersurface singularities with constant Milnor number are equimultiple. We show that any possible drop in multiplicity in a polynomial family $F(z, t)$ of complex analytic hypersurface singularities with constant Milnor number, parametrised by t , is controlled by the powers of t in that the coefficient of t^k must have a multiplicity greater than or equal to $m - k + 1$ where m is the multiplicity of $f(z) = F(z, 0)$. We prove equimultiplicity of μ constant families of the form $f + tg + t^2h$ if the singular set of the tangent cone of $f = 0$ is not contained in the tangent cone of $h = 0$. Generalising our proof of this provides further constraints on possible counterexamples to Teissier's conjecture. (Received December 11, 2011)