

ON THE BEHAVIOR OF EXTENSIONS OF VECTOR BUNDLES UNDER THE FROBENIUS MAP

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Introduction.

Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p > 0$, and let X be a curve defined over k . The aim of this paper is to study the behavior of the Frobenius map $F^*: H^1(X, E) \rightarrow H^1(X, F^*E)$ for a vector bundle E .

Our main result is the following.

THEOREM 15. *Let X be a curve of genus $g > 0$. Let $n(X)$ be the integer defined by*

$$n(X) = \max \left\{ \sum_{x \in X} \left[\frac{v_x(df)}{p} \right]; f \text{ runs over all rational functions on } X \right. \\ \left. \text{with } df \neq 0 \right\}.$$

Then

(i) *for any line bundle L such that $\deg L > n(X)$, the Frobenius map $F^*: H^1(X, \check{L}) \rightarrow H^1(X, F^*\check{L})$ is injective.*

(ii) *if $n(X) > 0$, then there exists a line bundle M of degree $n(X)$ such that the Frobenius map $F^*: H^1(X, \check{M}) \rightarrow H^1(X, F^*\check{M})$ is not injective. (where \check{L} is the dual line bundle of L)*

This main result leads us to a counter example to a question posed by R. Hartshorne:

QUESTION. Assume the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is non-singular. Is the Frobenius map $F^*: H^1(X, \check{L}) \rightarrow H^1(X, F^*\check{L})$ injective for any ample line bundle L ?

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Notations.

Throughout this paper, we mean by a variety (resp. curve) an irreducible complete non-singular variety (resp. curve) defined over an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p > 0$. We denote by \mathcal{O}_X the structure sheaf of X , by $K = K(X)$ the field of rational functions on X and by Ω_X^i the sheaf of germs of regular differential i -forms.

We use the words vector bundle and locally free sheaf interchangeably. For any vector bundle E of rank n on a curve, there exists a series of subbundles of E

$$0 = E_0 \subset E_1 \subset E_2 \subset \dots \subset E_n = E$$

where $L_i = E_i/E_{i-1}$ is a line bundle (cf. Atiyah [1])

(L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n) will be called a splitting of E . A line subbundle L of E will be called a maximal line subbundle of E , if L satisfies the following condition: for any line subbundle M of E , $\deg L \geq \deg M$.

A splitting (L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n) will be called a maximal splitting of E , if it satisfies the following conditions:

- (i) L_1 is a maximal line subbundle of E ,
- (ii) (L_2, L_3, \dots, L_n) is a maximal splitting of E/L_1 .

We denote by \check{E} the dual vector bundle of E and denote by $h^i(E)$ the dimension of the k -vector space $H^i(X, E)$.

1. Let X be a variety of $\dim n$. Let $F: X \rightarrow X$ be the Frobenius morphism. (cf. [4]). The natural derivation $d: \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \Omega_X^1$ gives rise to a k -linear map $d: \Omega_X^i \rightarrow \Omega_X^{i+1}$ for each i , which induce a \mathcal{O}_X -homomorphism $F_*d: F_*\Omega_X^i \rightarrow F_*\Omega_X^{i+1}$ for each i . We denote by \mathcal{Z}_X^i (resp. \mathcal{B}_X^{i+1}) the kernel (resp. image) of $F_*d: F_*\Omega_X^i \rightarrow F_*\Omega_X^{i+1}$. Let x be a point of X and let u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n be local parameters of X at x . Then we have the following Propositions, due to Cartier (cf. [10]).

PROPOSITION 1. $\mathcal{Z}_{X,x}^i = \mathcal{B}_{X,x}^i \oplus (\oplus \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^p(u_{j_1}, u_{j_2}, \dots, u_{j_i})^{p-1} d u_{j_1} \wedge d u_{j_2} \wedge \dots \wedge d u_{j_i})$ where $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^p = \{f^p; f \in \mathcal{O}_{X,x}\}$, $\mathcal{Z}_{X,x}^i$ is an $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ -module through the p -th power map.

PROPOSITION 2. *There are \mathcal{O}_X -homomorphisms $C: \mathcal{Z}_X^i \rightarrow \Omega_X^i$, called the Cartier operator, with the following properties.*

- (i) $C(\omega_1 + \omega_2) = C(\omega_1) + C(\omega_2)$
- (ii) $C(f^p \omega) = fC(\omega)$
- (iii) $C(\omega) = 0$ if $\omega \in \mathcal{B}_{X,x}^i$
- (iv) $C((f_1 f_2 \cdots f_i)^{p-1} df_1 \wedge df_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge df_i) = df_1 \wedge df_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge df_i$

where $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega \in \mathcal{Z}_{X,x}^i$ and $f, f_1, f_2, \dots, f_i \in \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$.

PROPOSITION 3. *The following sequence of \mathcal{O}_X -Modules are exact.*

- (i) $0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_X^i \longrightarrow F_* \Omega_X^i \xrightarrow{F_* d} \mathcal{B}_X^{i+1} \longrightarrow 0$
- (ii) $0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{F'} F_* \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{F_* d} \mathcal{B}_X^1 \longrightarrow 0$
- (iii) $0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_X^i \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_X^i \xrightarrow{C} \Omega_X^i \longrightarrow 0$

Since the Frobenius morphism F is affine, the canonical p -linear map $\alpha: H^i(X, F_* \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^i(X, \mathcal{F})$ is bijective, for any coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} on X and for any integer i , (cf. [3] III. 1. 3. 3.). Since $\mathcal{Z}_X^n = F_* \Omega_X^n$, $\dim H^n(X, \mathcal{Z}_X^n) = \dim H^n(X, \Omega_X^n) = 1$ and the Cartier operator $C^*: H^n(X, \mathcal{Z}_X^n) \rightarrow H^n(X, \Omega_X^n)$ is surjective, so we have that C^* is bijective. Let E be a vector bundle on X . Then there exists a natural map $\psi: E \otimes \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n \rightarrow \Omega_X^n$ and the cup product

$$U: H^i(X, E) \times H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n) \longrightarrow H^n(X, E \otimes \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n).$$

The composition map

$$H^i(X, E) \times H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n) \longrightarrow H^n(X, E \otimes \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n) \longrightarrow H^n(X, \Omega_X^n) \approx k.$$

gives the Serre duality between $H^i(X, E)$ and $H^{n-i}(X, E \otimes \Omega_X^n)$.

The following is well known (e.g. for curves Serre [9]).

PROPOSITION 4. *Let E be a vector bundle on X . Then the following two k -linear maps are dual to each other.*

- (i) $F'^*(i, E): H^i(X, E) \longrightarrow H^i(X, E \otimes F_* \mathcal{O}_X)$
- (ii) $C^*(n - i, \check{E}): H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{Z}_X^n) \longrightarrow H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n)$.

In particular, we have $\dim \text{Image } F'^*(i, E) = \dim \text{Image } C^*(n - i, \check{E})$.

For the sake of completeness we include a proof:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
H^i(X, E) \times H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n) & \xrightarrow{U} & H^n(X, E \otimes \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n) & \xrightarrow{\psi^*} & H^n(X, \Omega_X^n) \simeq k \\
\uparrow id \times C^*(n-i, \check{E}) & & \uparrow C^*(n, E \otimes \check{E}) & & \uparrow C^*(n, \mathcal{O}_X) \\
H^i(X, E) \times H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{Z}_X^n) & \xrightarrow{U} & H^n(X, E \otimes \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{Z}_X^n) & \xrightarrow{\psi^*} & H^n(X, \mathcal{Z}_X^n) \\
\downarrow F'^*(i, E) \times id & & \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \alpha \\
H^i(X, E \otimes F_*\mathcal{O}) \times H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{Z}_X^n) & & \Downarrow \alpha & & \Downarrow \alpha \\
\Downarrow \alpha & & & & \Downarrow \alpha \\
H^i(X, F^*E) \times H^{n-i}(X, F^*\check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n) & \xrightarrow{U} & H^n(X, F^*E \otimes F^*\check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^n) & \xrightarrow{\psi^*} & H^n(X, \Omega_X^n)
\end{array}$$

Giving the duality between $H^i(X, E \otimes F_*\mathcal{O}_X)$ and $H^{n-i}(X, \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{Z}_X^n)$ by the composition map $C^*(n, \mathcal{O}_X) \circ \alpha^{-1} \circ \psi^* \circ U \circ (\alpha \times a)$, we have the duality between $F'^*(i, E)$ and $C^*(n-i, E)$.

2. Let E be a vector bundle on X . We denote by $F^*(i, E)$, the composition map $\alpha \circ F'^*(i, E): H^i(X, E) \rightarrow H^i(X, F^*E)$.

THEOREM 5. *Let X be a curve and let E be a vector bundle on X . Then*

- (i) $\dim \text{Cokernel } F^*(1, E) = h^0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1)$
- (ii) $\dim \text{Kernel } F^*(1, \check{E}) = h_0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) - (h^0(F^*\check{E}) - h^0(\check{E}))$
 $\leq h^0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1)$

Proof. By virtue of Proposition 3, we have the following exact sequences,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1 & \longrightarrow & \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{Z}_X^1 & \xrightarrow{C} & \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^1 \longrightarrow 0 \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \check{E} & \longrightarrow & \check{E} \otimes F_*\mathcal{O}_X & \longrightarrow & \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1 \longrightarrow 0
\end{array}$$

and hence following cohomology exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(X, \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) & \longrightarrow & H^0(X, \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{Z}_X^1) & \xrightarrow{C^*(0, \check{E})} & H^0(X, \check{E} \otimes \Omega_X^1) \\
0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(X, \check{E}) & \longrightarrow & H^0(X, \check{E} \otimes F_*\mathcal{O}_X) & \longrightarrow & H^0(X, \check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) \\
& & \longrightarrow & H^1(X, \check{E}) & \xrightarrow{F'^*(1, \check{E})} & H^1(X, \check{E} \otimes F_*\mathcal{O}_X) &
\end{array}$$

Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\dim \text{Cokernel } F^*(1, E) &= \dim \text{Cokernel } F'^*(1, E) \\
&= h^1(E \otimes F_*\mathcal{O}_X) - \dim \text{Image } F'^*(1, E) \\
&= h^1(F^*E) - \dim \text{Image } C^*(0, \check{E}) \quad (\text{by virtue of Proposition 4}) \\
&= h^1(F^*E) - (h^0(\check{E} \otimes F_*\Omega_X^1) - h^0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1)) \\
&= h^0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1)
\end{aligned}$$

And we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\dim \text{Kernel } F^*(1, \check{E}) &= \dim \text{Kernel } F'^*(1, \check{E}) \\
&= h^0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) - h^0(\check{E} \otimes F'_* \mathcal{O}_X) + h^0(\check{E}) \\
&= h^0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) - (h^0(F^* \check{E}) - h^0(\check{E})) \\
&\leq h^0(\check{E} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1)
\end{aligned}$$

COROLLARY 6. *Let X be a curve and let E be a vector bundle. Assume that the Frobenius map $F^*(1, E)$ is surjective, then $F^*(1, \check{E})$ is injective and $h^0(F^* \check{E}) = h^0(\check{E})$.*

As a corollary of this Theorem 5, we have the following Theorem of Oda:

THEOREM 7. (T. Oda). *Let X be an elliptic curve and let E be an indecomposable vector bundle of rank r and of degree d . Then we have the following results.*

- (i) *When the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is not zero (i.e., $F^*(1, \mathcal{O}_X)$ is injective), the Frobenius map $F^*(1, E)$ is injective.*
- (ii) *When the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is zero (i.e., $F^*(1, \mathcal{O}_X)$ is the zero map), the Frobenius map $F^*(1, E)$ is not injective (and in fact the zero map) if and only if $r < p$, $d = 0$ and E has a non-zero section (i.e., in Atiyah's notation $E = F_r$ with $r < p$).*

COROLLARY 8. *(Corollary of the proof of Theorem 7) (cf. [1] p. 451) Let X be an elliptic curve.*

- (i) *When the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is not zero, then*
 $\mathcal{B}_X^1 \approx L_1 \oplus L_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus L_{p-1}$ *where*
 $\{\mathcal{O}_X, L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{p-1}\} = \{L; \text{line bundles with } L^{\otimes p} \approx \mathcal{O}_X\}$
- (ii) *When the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is zero, then $\mathcal{B}_X^1 \approx F_{p-1}$.*
- (iii) $F^* F'_* \mathcal{O}_X \approx \bigoplus^p \mathcal{O}_X$

Proof. Let E be an indecomposable vector bundle of rank r and of degree d . We use the following results of Atiyah (cf. [1]).

$$\begin{aligned}
h^0(E) &= d \quad \text{and} \quad h^1(E) = 0 \quad \text{when } d \text{ is positive} \\
h^0(E) &= 0 \quad \text{and} \quad h^1(E) = -d \quad \text{when } d \text{ is negative.} \\
h^0(E) &= h^1(E) = 0 \quad \text{when } d = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad E \not\approx F_r. \\
h^0(E) &= h^1(E) = 1 \quad \text{when } E \approx F_r.
\end{aligned}$$

When $d = 0$, there is a line bundle of degree 0 with $E \approx L \otimes F_r$. It is easy to see that \mathcal{B}_X^1 is a vector bundle of rank $p - 1$. Let $\mathcal{B}_X^1 \approx E_1 \oplus E_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_s$ be the decomposition of \mathcal{B}_X^1 into indecomposable factors. Let r_i be the rank of E_i and let d_i be the degree of E_i . Then we have $\sum d_i = \deg \mathcal{B}_X^1 = \chi(\mathcal{B}_X^1) = \chi(F_* \mathcal{O}_X) - \chi(\mathcal{O}_X) = 0$. Let L be a non trivial line bundle of degree 0, then $h^0(L \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) \neq 0$ (in fact equal to 1) if and only if $L^{\otimes p} \approx \mathcal{O}_X$ by virtue of following exact sequence.

$$0 = H^0(X, L) \longrightarrow H^0(X, L \otimes F_* \mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow H^0(X, L \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) \longrightarrow H^1(X, L) = 0.$$

This shows that $d_i \leq 0$ for all i and so $d_i = 0$ for all i . Let L_i be the line bundle with $E_i \approx L_i \otimes F_{r_i}$, then $L_i^{\otimes p} \approx \mathcal{O}_X$. By virtue of Lemma 13, we have the following results. When $h^0(\mathcal{B}_X^1) = 1$, then $s = 1$, $r_1 = p - 1$ and $L_1 \approx \mathcal{O}_X$. And when $h^0(\mathcal{B}_X^1) = 0$, then $s = p - 1$, $r_i = 1$ and $\{\mathcal{O}_X, L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{p-1}\} = \{L; \text{line bundles with } L^{\otimes p} \approx \mathcal{O}_X\}$. Let E be an indecomposable vector bundle of rank r and of degree d . If $d > 0$, then $h^1(E) = 0$. If $d < 0$, then $h^0(E \otimes L) = 0$ for all line bundle L of degree 0, and so $h^0(E \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) = 0$. Thus the Frobenius map $F^*(1, E)$ is injective when $d \neq 0$. When $d = 0$ and $E \not\approx F_r$ then $h^1(E) = 0$ and the Frobenius map $F^*(1, E)$ is injective. When $E = F_r$ and the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is not zero, then $h^0(E \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) = 0$ and the Frobenius map $F^*(1, E)$ is injective. When $E = F_r$ and the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is zero, then we have the following results by induction on r . $h^0(F^* F_r) = \min\{p, r\}$, $F^* F_r \approx \bigoplus^r \mathcal{O}_X$ for all r with $r \leq p$ and $F^*(1, F_r)$ is the zero map if and only if $r \leq p - 1$.

$r = 1$. It is obvious.

$p \geq r > 1$. We have the following exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow F_{r-1} \longrightarrow F_r \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow 0.$$

Hence we have $F^* F_r \approx \bigoplus^r \mathcal{O}_X$ and $h^0(F^* F_r) = r$ by the induction assumption. But we have $h^0(F_r \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) = h^0(F_r \otimes F_{p-1}) = \min\{r, p - 1\}$ (for all r , cf. [1] Lemma 17). Hence we have $h^0(F_r \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) - h^0(F^* F_r) + h^0(F_r) = 1$, if $r < p$. This shows that when $r < p$ the Frobenius map $F^*(1, F_r)$ is the zero map.

$p \leq r$. F_r has F_p as a subbundle and so $h^0(F^* F_r) \geq p$ by the induction assumption. Hence we have

$0 \leq h(F_r \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) - h^0(F^* F_r) + h^0(F_r) \leq 0$. This shows that $h_0(F^* F_r) = p$ and the Frobenius map $F^*(1, F_r)$ is injective.

divisors on X , and let G_p be the subgroup of elements $\bar{D} \in G$ such that $p\bar{D} = 0$. Then G_p is a finite group of order p^σ , where σ is the rank of the Hasse-Witt matrix of X .

Proof. See Serre [9] Proposition 10 § 2.

PROPOSITION 14. Let X be a curve of genus $g > 0$. Then $n(X) \geq 0$.

Proof. When the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is not zero. $G_p \neq 0$, by virtue of Lemma 13. So there exists a non-zero element $\bar{D} \in G$ such that $p\bar{D} = 0$. Therefore, there exists a rational function f such that $f \in K^p$ and $(f) = pD$. Hence $(df) > pD$. Thus $n(X) \geq \deg D = 0$.

When the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is zero, i.e., $F^*(1, \mathcal{O}_X)$ is the zero map. We have

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow H^0(X, F^*\mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{B}_X^1) \longrightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow 0$$

and hence we have $H^0(X, \mathcal{B}_X^1) \approx H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \neq 0$. Therefore $n(X) \geq 0$, by virtue of Remark.

THEOREM 15. Let X be a curve of genus $g > 0$. Then

(i) for any line bundle L such that $\deg L > n(X)$, the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{L}): H^1(X, \check{L}) \rightarrow H^1(X, F^*\check{L})$ is injective.

(ii) if $n(X) > 0$, then there exists a line bundle M of degree $n(X)$ such that the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{M})$ is not injective.

Proof. Let $\deg L > n(X)$. Then $H^0(X, \check{L} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) = 0$ by virtue of Remark. Therefore the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{L})$ is injective by virtue of Theorem 5.

(ii) $n(X) > 0$. There exists a line bundle M of degree $n(X) > 0$, with $H^0(X, \check{M} \otimes \mathcal{B}_X^1) \neq 0$. Since $h^0(F^*(\check{M})) = 0$, the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{M})$ is not injective by virtue of Theorem 5.

The following Proposition gives the relation between the number $n(X)$ and the rank of the Hasse-Witt matrix.

PROPOSITION 16. Let X be a curve of genus $g > 0$, and let $h(X)$ be the rank of the Hasse-Witt matrix of x . Then we have

$$g - h(X) \leq (p - 1)(n(X) + 1)$$

Proof. Let D be an effective divisor of degree $d > 0$, such that the

Frobenius map $F^*(1, \mathcal{O}(-D))$ is injective. Then we have the following exact commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & & & \\
 & & H^1(X, \mathcal{O}(-D)) & \longrightarrow & H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow F^*(1, \mathcal{O}(-D)) & & \downarrow F^*(1, \mathcal{O}) & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Kernel } \varphi & \longrightarrow & H^1(X, \mathcal{O}(-pD)) & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow 0
 \end{array}$$

And we have

$$\dim \text{Image } \varphi \circ F^*(1, \mathcal{O}(-D)) \geq h^1(\mathcal{O}(-D)) - \dim \text{Kernel } \varphi = g + d - pd .$$

Hence we have $h(X) \geq g + d - pd$, i.e., $g - h(X) \leq (p - 1)d$. Since, for any effective divisor D of degree $n(X) + 1$, the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \mathcal{O}(-D))$ is injective, we have

$$g - h(X) \leq (p - 1)(n(X) + 1) .$$

4. In this section we shall extend Theorem 15 from line bundles to indecomposable vector bundles of arbitrary rank.

PROPOSITION 17. *Let X be a curve of genus $g > 0$. Then for any r , there exists an indecomposable vector bundle which has a splitting*

$$(\Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-1)}, \Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-2)}, \dots, \Omega_X^1, \mathcal{O}_X) .$$

In order to prove Proposition 17, we need the following Lemmas.

LEMMA 18. *Let E and E' be vector bundle on X , and let (L_1, L_2, \dots, L_r) be a splitting of E , and suppose that $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ is a generically surjective morphism. Then there exists a splitting $(L'_1, L'_2, \dots, L'_s)$ of E' which satisfies the following condition; There exists a sequence $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots, < i_s$ such that $\text{Hom}(L_{i_j}, L'_j) \neq 0$ for all j , in particular $\text{deg } L_{i_j} \leq \text{deg } L'_j$.*

Proof of Lemma 18. It is easy.

LEMMA 19. *Let X be a curve and let E' be an indecomposable vector bundle which has a splitting (L_1, L_2, \dots, L_r) . Let L be a line bundle such that $\text{deg } L < \text{deg } L_j$ for all j . If an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow E' \xrightarrow{\alpha} E \xrightarrow{\varphi} L \rightarrow 0$ does not split, then E is indecomposable.*

Proof of Lemma 19. Tensoring the sequence with \check{L} we may assume

that $L = \mathcal{O}_X$ and $\deg L_j > 0$ for all j . Suppose E is decomposable. Let $E = E_1 \oplus E_2$ and let ψ_i be the injection $E_i \rightarrow E$ ($i = 1, 2$). We may assume that $\varphi \circ \psi_1 \neq 0$. By virtue of Lemma 18, there exists a splitting $(L'_1, L'_2, \dots, L'_{r_1})$ of E_1 such that $\deg L'_i \geq 0$ for all i . Therefore $\varphi \circ \psi$ is surjective. And we have the following exact commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & E'' & \longrightarrow & E_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi \circ \psi_1} & \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow \psi'_1 & & \downarrow \psi_1 & & \parallel \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & E' & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \uparrow \psi'_2 & & \uparrow \psi_2 & & \uparrow \eta \\
 & & E''' & \xrightarrow{\alpha'} & E_2 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & 0 & & 0 & &
 \end{array}$$

where E'' is the kernel of $\varphi \circ \psi_1$, ψ'_1 is the injection induced by ψ_1 , E''' is the cokernel of ψ'_1 and α' is the homomorphism induced by α . By virtue of Snake Lemma, the map α' is an isomorphism. Since $\deg L_i > 0$ for all j , the composition map $\varphi \circ \psi_2 \circ \alpha' \circ \eta' = 0$, by virtue of Lemma 18, since η is a surjection, $\varphi \circ \psi_2 \circ \alpha' = 0$. Hence, there exists a map $\psi'_2: E''' \rightarrow E'$ such that $\alpha \circ \psi'_1 = \psi_2 \circ \alpha'$. It is easy to show that $\eta' \circ \psi'_2 = \text{identity}$. Therefore $E' = E'' \oplus E'''$. $E'' = 0$, since E' is indecomposable and $E''' \approx E_2 \neq 0$. Hence $E_1 = \mathcal{O}_X$. This shows that the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow E' \xrightarrow{\alpha} E \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow 0$ splits. This is a contradiction. Therefore E is indecomposable.

Proof of Proposition 17. When $g = 1$. $\Omega_X^1 \approx \mathcal{O}_X$ and F_r has a splitting $(\mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{O}_X, \dots, \mathcal{O}_X)$ (cf. [1]).

When $g > 1$. We prove this by induction on r .

$r = 1$. It is obvious.

$r > 1$. By induction assumption, there exists an indecomposable vector F_{r-1} which has a splitting $(\Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-2)}, \Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-3)}, \dots, \Omega_X^1, \mathcal{O}_X)$. Since $H^1(X, F_{r-1} \otimes \Omega_X^1) = H^0(X, \check{F}_{r-1}) \neq 0$, there exists a non-split exact sequence $0 \rightarrow F_{r-1} \otimes \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow E \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow 0$.

Applying Lemma 19 to this exact sequence, we see that E is indecomposable. It is easy to show that E has a splitting $(\Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-1)}, \Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-2)}, \dots, \mathcal{O}_X)$.

PROPOSITION 20. Let X be a curve of genus $g \geq 2$. Let E be an indecomposable vector bundle of rank r on X and let (L_1, L_2, \dots, L_r) be a maximal splitting of E . If $d_0 = \min\{\deg L_1, \deg L_2, \dots, \deg L_r\}$, then

$$\deg E \leq r(r-1)(g-1) + rd_0.$$

In order to prove Proposition 20, we need the following Lemmas.

LEMMA 21. Let X be a curve of genus g . Let E (resp. E') be a vector bundle of rank r (resp. r') on X and let (resp. (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_s)) be a splitting of E (resp. E'). Suppose that $\deg L_i > \deg M_j + 2(g-1)$, for all i, j , then $H^1(X, \check{E} \otimes E') = 0$.

Proof of Lemma 21. $(L_i \otimes \check{M}_j)$ i, j is a splitting of $E \otimes \check{E}'$. Since $\deg \Omega_X^1 \otimes M_j \otimes \check{L}_i < 0$, we have $H^1(X, L_i \otimes \check{M}_j) = H^0(X, \Omega_X^1 \otimes M_j \otimes \check{L}_i) = 0$. Therefore we have $H^1(X, E \otimes \check{E}') = 0$.

LEMMA 22. Let X be a curve of genus g . Let E be an indecomposable vector bundle of rank r on X and let (L_1, L_2, \dots, L_r) be a splitting of E . Then for any m with $1 \leq m \leq r$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \min\{\deg L_1, \deg L_2, \dots, \deg L_{m-1}\} \\ & \leq \max\{\deg L_m, \deg L_{m+1}, \dots, \deg L_r\} + 2(g-1). \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Lemma 22. It is obvious by virtue of Lemma 21.

LEMMA 23 (M. Nagata). Let X be a curve of genus g . Let E be a vector bundle of rank 2 and let (L_1, L_2) be a maximal splitting of E . Then

$$\deg L_2 \leq \deg L_1 + g.$$

Proof of Lemma 23. See M. Nagata [7] or M. Maruyama [6] Theorem 3. 13.

LEMMA 24. Let X be a curve of genus g . Let E be a vector bundle of rank r on X and let (L_1, L_2, \dots, L_r) be a maximal splitting of E . Then

$$\deg L_r \leq \deg L_1 + (r-1)g.$$

Proof of Lemma 24. It is obvious by virtue of Lemma 23.

Proof of Proposition 20. We shall define a sequence of integers,

$1 = i_n < i_{n-1} < \dots < i_2 < i_1 < i_0 = r + 1$, which satisfies the following condition.

$$\deg L_{i_m} = \min \{ \deg L_1, \deg L_2, \dots, \deg L_{i_{m-1}-1} \} \quad (m > 0).$$

We define a one-to-one onto map

$$\varphi: \{1, 2, \dots, r\} \longrightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, r-1\},$$

such that $\varphi(j) = r + j - i_m - i_{m-1} + 1$ where $i_m \leq j < i_{m-1}$. We shall prove that

$$\deg L_j \leq d_0 + 2\varphi(j)(g-1)$$

by induction on m such that $i_m \leq j < i_{m-1}$.

For $m = 1$. Since $(L_{i_1}, L_{i_1+1}, \dots, L_j)$ is a maximal splitting of a vector bundle, we have $\deg L_j \leq d_0 + (j - i_1)g$, by virtue of Lemma 24. Since $\varphi(j) = j - i_1$ and $g \leq 2(g-1)$, we have

$$\deg L_j \leq d_0 + 2\varphi(j)(g-1).$$

For $m > 1$. Since $(L_{i_m}, L_{i_m+1}, \dots, L_j)$ is a maximal splitting of a vector bundle, we have $\deg L_j \leq \deg L_{i_m} + (j - i_m)g \leq \deg L_{i_m} + 2(j - i_m)(g-1)$. Since $\varphi(i_{m-2} - 1) \geq \varphi(q)$ for all $i_{m-1} \leq q \leq r$, we have

$$\deg L_q \leq d_0 + 2\varphi(q)(g-1) \leq d_0 + 2\varphi(i_{m-2} - 1)(g-1),$$

for all $i_{m-1} \leq q \leq r$, by induction assumption. For any $1 \leq q' < i_{m-1}$, $\deg L_{q'} \geq \deg L_{i_m}$. Hence by virtue of Lemma 22, we have

$$\deg L_{i_m} \leq d_0 + 2\varphi(i_{m-2} - 1)(g-1) + 2(g-1).$$

Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \deg L_j &\leq d_0 + 2(r - i_{m-1} + 1)(g-1) + 2(j - i_m)(g-1) \\ &= d_0 + 2\varphi(j)(g-1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\deg E = \sum_{j=1}^r \deg L_j \leq rd_0 + \sum_{j=1}^r 2\varphi(j)(g-1) = rd_0 + r(r-1)(g-1).$$

THEOREM 25. *Let X be a curve of genus $g > 1$. Then*

(i) *for any indecomposable vector bundle of rank r such that $\deg E > r(r-1) + (g-1) + rn(X)$, the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{E})$ is injective.*

(ii) if $n(X) > 0$, then for any $r > 0$, there exists an indecomposable vector bundle E' of rank r with $\deg E' = r(r-1)(g-1) + rn(X)$ such that the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{E}')$ is not injective

Proof. (i) Let (L_1, L_2, \dots, L_r) be a maximal splitting of E . Then $\deg L_j > n(X)$, by virtue of Proposition 20. Hence the Frobenius map $F^*(1, L_j)$ is surjective for all j , and the Frobenius map $F^*(1, E)$ is surjective. Therefore, the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{E})$ is injective by virtue of Corollary 8.

(ii) When $n(X) > 0$, there exists a line bundle M of degree $n(X)$, such that the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{M})$ is not injective. There exists an indecomposable vector bundle F_r which has a splitting $(\Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-1)}, \Omega_X^{1 \otimes (r-2)}, \dots, \Omega_X^1, \mathcal{O}_X)$. Put $E' = F_r \otimes M$. Then E' is an indecomposable vector bundle of rank r , and of degree $r(r-1)(g-1) + rn(X)$, which has M as a quotient line bundle. And $H^0(X, \check{E}') = H^0(X, \check{E}'^{(p)}) = 0$. Therefore, the Frobenius map $F^*(1, \check{E}')$ is not injective, by virtue of Corollary 6.

5. In this section we shall give an example of a curve with positive $n(X)$ although the Hasse-Witt matrix of X is non-singular. We also give other examples of a curve X with positive $n(X)$.

EXAMPLE 1. Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic 3. Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}_k^2$ be the curve defined by the homogeneous equation

$$X_0^3 X_1 + X_1^3 X_2 + X_2^3 X_0 = 0.$$

One verifies easily that X is non-singular. Being a plane curve of degree 4, it has genus 3. (This example was given in [5]). The Hasse-Witt matrix of X is identically zero. (cf. [5]).

PROPOSITION 26. If X is the curve in Example 1, then $n(X) = 1$.

Proof. By Definition 11, $n(X) \leq 1$. Let $f = (X_0 - X_2/X_1) \in K = K(X)$. We have $(f)_\infty = (0, 0, 1) + 3(1, 0, 0)$. This shows that $f \notin K^3$. It is easy to show that $v_x(df) \geq -3$, if $x = (0, 0, 1)$ or $x = (1, 0, 0)$, and $v_x(df) \geq 3$, if $x = (1 - \alpha, -1, 1)$ $i = 1, 2, 3$ where α_i are the distinct roots of the equation $\alpha^3 = \alpha + 1$, and $v_x(df) \geq 0$, if $x \neq (1, 0, 0)$. This shows that $n(f) \geq 1$, and $n(X) = 1$.

EXAMPLE 2. Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic 3. Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}_k^2$ be the curve defined by the homogeneous equation

$$X_0^4 - X_1^3 X_2 - X_1 X_2^3 = 0.$$

One verifies easily that X is non-singular. Being a plane curve of degree 4, it has genus 3. (This example was given in [2]). The Hasse-Witt matrix of X is identically zero. (cf. [2]).

PROPOSITION 27. *If X is the curve in Example 2, then $n(X) = 1$.*

Proof. We prove this in the same way as in Proposition 26. We have $n(X) \leq 1$. Put $f = (X_2/X_1) \in K$, then $n(f) = 1$. Therefore we have $n(X) = 1$.

EXAMPLE 3. Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p \geq 3$. Let $X \subset \mathbf{P}_k^2$ be the curve defined by the homogeneous equation

$$X_0^{p+1} = X_1 X_2 (X_0^{p-1} + X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1}).$$

One verifies easily that X is non-singular. Being a plane curve of degree $p + 1$, it has genus $(1/2)p(p - 1)$.

PROPOSITION 28. *If X is the curve in Example 3, then $n(X) = p - 2 > 0$.*

Proof. We have $n(X) \leq p - 2$. Put $f = (X_0/X_1) \in K$, then we have $n(X) = p - 2$.

PROPOSITION 29. *If X is the curve in Example 3, then the Hasse-Witt matrix is non-singular, i.e., the Frobenius endomorphism of $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ is injective.*

Proof. $U_i = \{(X_0, X_1, X_2); X_i \neq 0\}$ $i = 1, 2$ are affine open subsets of \mathbf{P}_k^2 . Then $X \subset U_1 \cup U_2$. Let $f = X_0^{p+1} - X_1 X_2 (X_0^{p-1} + X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1}) \in k[X_0, X_1, X_2]$. Now let $\alpha \in H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$. Since $\{X \cap U_1, X \cap U_2\}$ is an affine open covering of X , we can realize α as a function \bar{h} on $X \cap U_1 \cap U_2$. This function extends to a function h on $U_1 \cap U_2$, i.e., to an element of the ring $k[X_0/X_1, X_2/X_1, X_1/X_2]$. The set of coboundaries is

$$\left\{ h_1 - h_2; h_1 \in k\left[\frac{X_0}{X_1}, \frac{X_2}{X_1}\right], h_2 \in k\left[\frac{X_0}{X_2}, \frac{X_1}{X_2}\right] \right\}.$$

h is a linear combination of monomials $X_0^i/X_1^j X_2^{i-j}$. Now if $i \geq p + 1$, we can write

$$\frac{X_0^i}{X_1^j X_2^{i-j}} \equiv \frac{X_0^{i-2}}{X_1^{j-1} X_2^{i-j-1}} + \frac{X_0^{i-p-1}}{X_1^{j-p} X_2^{i-j-1}} + \frac{X_0^{i-p-1}}{X_1^{j-1} X_2^{i-j-p}} \pmod{f}.$$

If $i \leq j$ or $j \leq 0$, then $X_0^i/X_1^j X_2^{i-j}$ is a coboundary. Let φ be the natural map $k[X_0/X_1, X_2 X_1, X_1 X_2] \rightarrow H^1(K, \mathcal{O}_X)$. Then we can choose $\varphi(X_0^2/X_1 X_2)$, $\varphi(X_0^3/X_1 X_2^2)$, $\varphi(X_0^3/X_1^2 X_2)$, \dots , $\varphi(X_0^p/X_1 X_2^{p-1})$, $\varphi(X_0^p/X_1^2 X_2^{p-2})$, \dots , $\varphi(X_0^p/X_1^{p-1} X_2)$ as a basis of $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$. Let $\alpha_{\varepsilon i j} = (X_0^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}/X_1^{i-j} X_2^{p-i-j+\varepsilon-1})$, for all i, j and $\varepsilon = 0$ or 1 . To complete the proof we need the following Lemma.

LEMMA 30. *Under the same notation as above,*

(i) *let $V_{\varepsilon i}$ be a vector subspace of $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ which is spanned by $\alpha_{\varepsilon i 0}, \alpha_{\varepsilon i 1}, \dots, \alpha_{\varepsilon i j(\varepsilon i)}$ where $j(\varepsilon i) = \min\{i-1, p-i+\varepsilon-2\}$, for all i such that $p+\varepsilon-2 \geq i \geq 1$. Then $V_{\varepsilon i}$ is stable under the Frobenius endomorphism.*

(ii) *$F^*(1, \mathcal{O}_X | V_{\varepsilon i})$ is an injection.*

(iii) $\bigoplus_{\varepsilon, i} V_{\varepsilon i} = H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$.

Proof. Let $1/2(p-1) \geq j \geq 1$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & X_0^{p(p-2j+\varepsilon+1)} - X_0^{p(p-2j+\varepsilon-1)}(X_1 X_2)^p \\ &= X_0^{p(p-2j+\varepsilon-1)}(X_0^2 - X_1 X_2)^p \\ &\equiv X_0^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}(X_0^2 - X_1 X_2)^{2j-\varepsilon+1} X_0^{p-1}(X_0^2 - X_1 X_2)^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1} \\ &\quad X_0^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}(X_0^2 - X_1 X_2)^{2j-\varepsilon+1}(X_1 X_2)^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}(X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1} \\ &\hspace{15em} \pmod{f} \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^j (-1)^m \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{m} X_0^{p-2j+2m+\varepsilon-1}(X_1 X_2)^{p-m}(X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1} \\ (1) \quad &+ \sum_{m=1}^{j-\varepsilon+1} (-1)^{j+m} \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{j+m} X_0^{p+2m+\varepsilon-1}(X_1 X_2)^{p-m-j}(X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1} \\ &\equiv \sum_{m=0}^j (-1)^m \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{m} X_0^{p-2j+2m+\varepsilon-1}(X_1 X_2)^{p-m}(X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1} \\ &\quad + \sum_{m=1}^{j-\varepsilon+1} \left(\sum_{n=m}^{j-\varepsilon+1} (-1)^{j+n} \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{j+n} \right) X_0^{2m+\varepsilon-2}(X_1 X_2)^{p-m-j+1} \\ &\hspace{15em} \times (X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon} \\ &\quad + \left(\sum_{n=1}^{j-\varepsilon+1} (-1)^{j+n} \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{j+n} \right) X_0^{p+\varepsilon-1}(X_1 X_2)^{p-j}(X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1} \\ &\hspace{15em} \pmod{f}. \end{aligned}$$

In the sequel, let $p > i$ and $0 \leq j-1 \leq j(\varepsilon i)$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(2) \quad & \varphi \left(\frac{X_0^{p-2j+2m+\varepsilon-1} (X_1 X_2)^{p-m} (X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}}{(X_1^{i-j+1} X_2^{p-i-j+\varepsilon})^p} \right) \\
& = (-1)^{i-j} \binom{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}{i-j} \varphi \left(\frac{X_0^{p-2j+2m+\varepsilon-1}}{X_1^{i-j+m} X_2^{p-i-j+m+\varepsilon-1}} \right) \\
& = (-1)^{i-j} \binom{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}{i-j} \alpha_{ij-m}.
\end{aligned}$$

$$(3) \quad \varphi \left(\frac{X_0^{2m+\varepsilon-2} (X_1 X_2)^{p-m-j+1} (X_1^{p-1} - X_2^{p-1})^{p-2j+\varepsilon}}{(X_0^{i-j+1} X_2^{p-i-j+\varepsilon})} \right) = 0.$$

By virtue of formulas (1), (2) and (3), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& F^*(1, \mathcal{O}_X)(\alpha_{\varepsilon ij-1}) - F^*(1, \mathcal{O}_X)(\alpha_{\varepsilon ij}) \\
& = \sum_{m=0}^{j-1} (-1)^m \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{m} (-1)^{i-j} \binom{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}{i-j} \alpha_{\varepsilon ij-m} \\
& \quad + a_{\varepsilon ij-1} (-1)^{i-j} \binom{p-2j+\varepsilon-1}{i-j} \alpha_{\varepsilon i0},
\end{aligned}$$

where $a_{\varepsilon ij-1} = \sum_{m=0}^{j-\varepsilon+1} (-1)^{j+m} \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{j+m}$

Since $j(\varepsilon i) + 1 \leq (1/2)(p-1)$ and $\alpha_{\varepsilon ij(\varepsilon i)+1} = 0$, formula (4) shows that (i) is true.

(ii) Since $a_{\varepsilon ij-1} + \sum_{m=0}^{j-1} (-1)^m \binom{2j-\varepsilon+1}{m} = 0$, it is easy to verify that $F^*(1, \mathcal{O}_X)|V_i$ is injective

(iii) It is obvious.

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