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The Second Hilbert Coefficient of a Parameter Ideal in an Unmixed Ring.

In recent work, Ghezzi, Goto, Hong, Ozeki, Phuong, and Vasconcelos showed that an unmixed ring R is Cohen-Macaulay if and only if the first Hilbert coefficient satisfies $e_1(Q) = 0$ for some parameter ideal Q of R . Inspired by this result, we will look at what conclusions can be drawn when the second Hilbert coefficient, $e_2(Q)$, is zero for a parameter ideal Q . In particular, we will discuss the following result:

Theorem Let R be an unmixed Noetherian ring of dimension $d \geq 2$. Suppose that $\text{depth } R \geq d - 1$ and let Q be a parameter ideal for R . Then the following hold:

1. $e_2(Q) \leq 0$
2. $e_2(Q) = 0$ if and only if $H_Q(n) = P_Q(n) \forall n \geq 2 - d$ and $\text{grade } gr_Q(R)_+ \geq d - 1$
3. $e_2(Q) = 0$ implies $e_3(Q) = e_4(Q) = \cdots = e_d(Q) = 0$.

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