1038-19-258   **G Cortinas**, **C Haesemeyer** and **Mark Walker*** (`mwalker5@math.unl.edu`), 203 Avery Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0130, and **C Weibel**. *On a question of Bass.*

In 1972, Bass asked whether $K_n(R) = K_n(R[x])$ implies $K_n(R) = K_n(R[x, y])$. In other words, Bass' question was whether the vanishing of NK_n for a given ring R entailed the vanishing of $N^2 K_n$.

Building on the work discussed in Chuck Weibel's talk in this conference, we have more-or-less completed settled Bass' question for rings R essentially of finite type over a field of characteristic zero. On the one hand, if the field in question has infinite transcendence degree over the rationals, then the answer to Bass' question is "yes". On the other hand, for any number field K, there is a normal, two-dimensional, hypersurface singularity over K with ring of regular functions R such that the answer the Bass' question for R is "no" even for $n = 0$. (Received February 11, 2008)

1