

Powers of sums of ideals

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(Joint with Hop D. Nguyen, Ngo Viet Trung, Tran Nam Trung)

- Let k be a field. Let $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_r]$ and $B = k[y_1, \dots, y_s]$ be polynomial rings over k .
- Let $I \subseteq A$ and $J \subseteq B$ be nonzero proper homogeneous ideals.

Problem

Investigate algebraic invariants and properties of

$$(I + J)^n \text{ and } (I + J)^{(n)} \subseteq R = A \otimes_k B$$

via invariants and properties of powers of I and J .

- **Powers of ideals** appear naturally in singularities and multiplicity theories.

- **Fiber product:** Let $X = \text{Spec } A/I$ and $Y = \text{Spec } B/J$. Then

$$X \times_k Y = \text{Spec } R/(I + J).$$

- **Disjoint union:** Let G_1 and G_2 be simple graphs on vertex sets $V = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\}$ and $W = \{y_1, \dots, y_s\}$, and let $G = G_1 \sqcup G_2$ be their disjoint union. Then

$$I(G) = I(G_1) + I(G_2).$$

- **Hyperplane section:** $J = (y) \subseteq k[y] = B$. In this case,

$$I + J = (I, y) \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_r, y].$$

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Problem

Suppose that

- $I \subseteq A = k[x_1, \dots, x_r]$ is a homogeneous ideal,
- y is a new variable, and
- $R = A[y]$.

Compute the depth and regularity of $(I, y)^n$ and $(I, y)^{(n)}$ in R .

Definition

Let R be a standard graded k -algebra, and let \mathfrak{m} be its maximal homogenous ideal. Let M be a finitely generated graded R -module. Then

- $\text{depth } M := \min\{i \mid H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M) \neq 0\}$;
 - $\text{reg } M := \max\{t \mid H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)_{t-i} = 0 \forall i \geq 0\}$.
- Over polynomial rings, these invariants are related to the minimal free resolution.

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Powers of sums of ideals by approximation

- $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_r], B = k[y_1, \dots, y_s]$ and $R = A \otimes_k B$.
- $I \subseteq A$ and $J \subseteq B$ are proper homogeneous ideals.

Key observation: $(I + J)^n = \sum_{t=0}^n I^{n-t} J^t$.

- Set $Q_p := \sum_{t=0}^p I^{n-t} J^t$. Then

$$I^n = Q_0 \subset Q_1 \subset \dots \subset Q_n = (I + J)^n.$$

- $Q_p / Q_{p-1} = I^{n-p} J^p / I^{n-p+1} J^p$.
- There are 2 short exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow Q_p / Q_{p-1} \longrightarrow R / Q_{p-1} \longrightarrow R / Q_p \longrightarrow 0.$$

$$0 \longrightarrow Q_p / Q_{p-1} \longrightarrow R / I^{n-p+1} J^p \longrightarrow R / I^{n-p} J^p \longrightarrow 0.$$

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Lemma (Hoa - Tâm)

- 1 $\text{reg } R/IJ = \text{reg } A/I + \text{reg } B/J + 1.$
- 2 $\text{depth } R/IJ = \text{depth } A/I + \text{depth } B/J + 1.$

Theorem

(\dashv , **N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung**) For all $n \geq 1$, we have

① $\text{depth } R/(I + J)^n \geq$

$$\min_{i \in [1, n-1], j \in [1, n]} \left\{ \text{depth } A/I^{n-i} + \text{depth } B/J^i + 1, \right. \\ \left. \text{depth } A/I^{n-j+1} + \text{depth } B/J^j \right\},$$

② $\text{reg } R/(I + J)^n \leq$

$$\max_{i \in [1, n-1], j \in [1, n]} \left\{ \text{reg } A/I^{n-i} + \text{reg } B/J^i + 1, \right. \\ \left. \text{reg } A/I^{n-j+1} + \text{reg } B/J^j \right\}.$$

(**Hop D. Nguyen**) If, in addition, either $\text{char } k = 0$ or I and J are monomial ideals then we have the **equalities**.

Proposition

Assume that $\text{depth } A/I^2 \geq \text{depth } A/I + 1$.

- 1 If $\text{depth } B/J^2 \geq \text{depth } B/J + 1$ then
 $\text{depth } R/(I + J)^2 = \text{depth } A/I + \text{depth } B/J + 1$.
- 2 If $\text{depth } B/J^2 < \text{depth } B/J$ then
 $\text{depth } R/(I + J)^2 = \text{depth } A/I + \text{depth } B/J^2$.

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- 2 If $\text{reg } B/J^2 > \text{reg } B/J$ then
 $\text{reg } R/(I + J)^2 = \text{reg } A/I + \text{reg } B/J^2$.

Example (Conca)

Let $A = k[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ and $I = (x_1^4, x_1^3 x_2, x_1 x_2^3, x_2^4, x_1^2 x_2^2 x_3^5)$. Using Macaulay2, we get $\text{reg } A/I = 8$ and $\text{reg } A/I^2 = 7$.

Proposition

Assume that $\text{reg } A/I^2 \leq \text{reg } A/I + 1$.

- 1 If $\text{reg } B/J^2 \leq \text{reg } B/J + 1$ then
 $\text{reg } R/(I + J)^2 = \text{reg } A/I + \text{reg } B/J + 1$.
- 2 If $\text{reg } B/J^2 > \text{reg } B/J$ then
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Corollary

Assume that J is generated by variables. Then

- 1 $\text{depth } R/(I + J)^n = \min_{i \leq n} \text{depth } A/I^i + \dim B/J$, and
- 2 $\text{reg } R/(I + J)^n = \max_{i \leq n} \{\text{reg } A/I^i - i\} + n$.

Powers of sums of ideals by decomposition

Proposition

$$(I + J)^n / (I + J)^{n+1} = \bigoplus_{i+j=n} (I^i / I^{i+1} \otimes_k J^j / J^{j+1}).$$

Lemma (Goto - Watanabe)

Let M and N be graded modules over A and B , respectively. Let \mathfrak{u} and \mathfrak{v} be the maximal homogeneous ideals of A and B , respectively, and let \mathfrak{m} be the maximal homogeneous ideal of R . Then

$$H_{\mathfrak{m}}^n(M \otimes_k N) = \bigoplus_{i+j=n} H_{\mathfrak{u}}^i(M) \otimes_k H_{\mathfrak{v}}^j(N).$$

In particular,

- $\text{depth } M \otimes_k N = \text{depth } M + \text{depth } N$, and
- $\text{reg } M \otimes_k N = \text{reg } M + \text{reg } N$.

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- 2 $\text{reg } M \otimes_k N = \text{reg } M + \text{reg } N$.

Theorem (—, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

For all $n \geq 1$, we have

- 1 $\text{depth} \frac{(I + J)^n}{(I + J)^{n+1}} = \min_{i+j=n} \{ \text{depth } I^i / I^{i+1} + \text{depth } J^j / J^{j+1} \},$
- 2 $\text{reg} (I + J)^n / (I + J)^{n+1} = \max_{i+j=n} \{ \text{reg } I^i / I^{i+1} + \text{reg } J^j / J^{j+1} \}.$

Corollary

The following are equivalent:

- 1 $R/(I + J)^t$ is Cohen-Macaulay for all $t \leq n$;
- 2 $(I + J)^{n-1}/(I + J)^n$ is Cohen-Macaulay;
- 3 A/I^t and B/J^t are Cohen-Macaulay for all $t \leq n$;
- 4 I^t/I^{t+1} and J^t/J^{t+1} are Cohen-Macaulay for all $t \leq n - 1$.

Definition

An ideal is said to have a *constant depth function* if the depth of all its powers are the same.

Proposition (—, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

Let I and J be squarefree monomial ideals. Then $I + J$ has a constant depth function if and only if so do I and J .

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- **Brodmann:** $\text{depth } A/I^n = \text{constant}$ for $n \gg 0$.

Theorem (—, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{depth } R/(I + J)^n = \min \left\{ \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{depth } A/I^i + \min_{j \geq 0} \text{depth } B/J^j, \min_{i \geq 0} \text{depth } A/I^i + \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \text{depth } B/J^j \right\}.$$

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- **Cutkosky-Herzog-Trung; Kodiyalam; Trung-Wang:**

$$\operatorname{reg} I^n = an + b \text{ for } n \gg 0.$$

Theorem (—, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

Assume that $\operatorname{reg} I^n = dn + e$ for $n \geq \operatorname{lin}(I)$ and $\operatorname{reg} J^n = cn + f$ for $n \geq \operatorname{lin}(J)$, where $c \geq d$. Set $e^* = \max_{i \leq \operatorname{lin}(I)} \{\operatorname{reg} I^i - ci\}$ and $f^* = \max_{j \leq \operatorname{lin}(J)} \{\operatorname{reg} J^j - dj\}$. Then, for $n \gg 0$, we have

$$\operatorname{reg}(I + J)^n = \begin{cases} c(n+1) + f + e^* - 1 & \text{if } c > d, \\ d(n+1) + \max\{e^* + f, e + f^*\} - 1 & \text{if } c = d. \end{cases}$$

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Symbolic powers of ideals

Definition

Let R be a commutative ring with identity, and let $I \subseteq R$ be a proper ideal. The n -th *symbolic power* of I is defined to be

$$I^{(n)} := R \cap \left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}_R(R/I)} I^n R_{\mathfrak{p}} \right).$$

Example

- 1 If $I = \mathfrak{p}_1 \cap \cdots \cap \mathfrak{p}_s$ is the defining ideal of s points in \mathbb{A}_k^n then

$$I^{(n)} = \mathfrak{p}_1^n \cap \cdots \cap \mathfrak{p}_s^n.$$

- 2 If I is a squarefree monomial ideal, $I = \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}(R/I)} \mathfrak{p}$, then

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Binomial expansion for symbolic powers

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- $I \subseteq A$ and $J \subseteq B$ are nonzero proper homogeneous ideals.
- $R = A \otimes_k B = k[x_1, \dots, x_r, y_1, \dots, y_s]$.

Theorem (—, H.D. Nguyen, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

For all $n \geq 1$, we have

$$(I + J)^{(n)} = \sum_{t=0}^n I^{(n-t)} J^{(t)}.$$

- This expansion was recently proved for *squarefree monomial ideals* by Bocci, Cooper, Guardo, Harbourne, Janssen, Nagel, Seceleanu, Van Tuyl, and Vu.

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Corollary

$(I + J)^{(n)} = (I + J)^n$ if and only if $I^{(t)} = I^t$ and $J^{(t)} = J^t$ for all $t \leq n$.

Definition

For a homogeneous ideal K set $\alpha(K) := \min\{d \mid K_d \neq 0\}$. The *Waldschmidt constant* of K is defined to be

$$\hat{\alpha}(K) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha(K^{(n)})}{n}.$$

Corollary

$\hat{\alpha}(I + J) = \min\{\hat{\alpha}(I), \hat{\alpha}(J)\}$.

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Depth, regularity of symbolic powers by approximation

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Theorem (—, H.D. Nguyen, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

For $n \geq 1$, we have

- 1 $\text{depth } R / (I + J)^{(n)} \geq \min_{i \in [1, n-1], j \in [1, n]} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{depth } A / I^{(n-i)} + \text{depth } B / J^{(i)} + 1, \\ \text{depth } A / I^{(n-j+1)} + \text{depth } B / J^{(j)} \end{array} \right\}.$
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Moreover, if either $\text{char } k = 0$ or I and J are monomial ideals then we have the *equalities*.

Depth, regularity of symbolic powers by approximation

- Set $Q_p := \sum_{t=0}^p I^{(n-t)} J^{(t)}$. Then

$$I^{(n)} = Q_0 \subset Q_1 \subset \cdots \subset Q_n = (I + J)^{(n)}.$$

- $Q_p / Q_{p-1} = I^{(n-p)} J^{(p)} / I^{(n-p+1)} J^{(p)}$.

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Moreover, if either $\text{char } k = 0$ or I and J are monomial ideals then we have the **equalities**.

Corollary

Assume that J is generated by variables. Then

- 1 $\text{depth } R/(I + J)^{(n)} = \min_{i \leq n} \text{depth } A/I^{(i)} + \dim B/J$; and
- 2 $\text{reg } R/(I + J)^{(n)} = \max_{i \leq n} \{\text{reg } A/I^{(i)} - i\} + n$.

Proposition

$$(I + J)^{(n)} / (I + J)^{(n+1)} = \bigoplus_{i+j=n} (I^{(i)} / I^{(i+1)}) \otimes_k J^{(j)} / J^{(j+1)}.$$

Theorem (—, H.D. Nguyen, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

For all $n \geq 1$, we have

- 1 $\text{depth} \frac{(I + J)^{(n)}}{(I + J)^{(n+1)}} = \min_{i+j=n} \left\{ \text{depth} \frac{I^{(i)}}{I^{(i+1)}} + \text{depth} \frac{J^{(j)}}{J^{(j+1)}} \right\}.$
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Corollary

The following are equivalent:

- 1 $R/(I + J)^{(t)}$ is Cohen-Macaulay for all $t \leq n$;
- 2 $(I + J)^{(n-1)}/(I + J)^{(n)}$ is Cohen-Macaulay;
- 3 $A/I^{(t)}$ and $B/J^{(t)}$ are Cohen-Macaulay for all $t \leq n$;
- 4 $I^{(t)}/I^{(t+1)}$ and $J^{(t)}/J^{(t+1)}$ are Cohen-Macaulay for all $t \leq n - 1$.

Proof of the binomial expansion

How to prove the binomial expansion

$$(I + J)^{(n)} = \sum_{t=0}^n I^{(n-t)} J^{(t)}?$$

- Let $S_n = \sum_{t=0}^n I^{(n-t)} J^{(t)}$.
- $S_n \subseteq (I + J)^{(n)}$.
- Consider the short exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow S_{p-1}/S_p \longrightarrow R/S_p \longrightarrow R/S_{p-1} \longrightarrow 0$$

to get

$$\text{Ass}_R(R/S_n) = \bigcup_{p=1}^n \text{Ass}_R(S_{p-1}/S_p).$$

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Associated primes of tensor products

Problem

Let M and N be nonzero finitely generated modules over A and B , respectively. Describe the associated primes of the R -module $M \otimes_k N$ in terms of the associated primes of M and N .

Theorem (—, H.D. Nguyen, N.V. Trung and T.N. Trung)

Let $\text{Ass}_-(-)$ and $\text{Min}_-(-)$ denote the set of associated and minimal primes. Then

$$\text{Min}_R(M \otimes_k N) = \bigcup_{p \in \text{Min}_A(M), q \in \text{Min}_B(N)} \text{Min}_R(R/p + q).$$

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