

50. Invariants of Reflection Groups in Positive Characteristics

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Let k be a field of characteristic $p > 0$. Let V be a vector space over the field k and $k[V]$ be the symmetric algebra of V . Let G be a finite subgroup of $GL(V)$ with $p \parallel |G|$. Then G can be regarded as a subgroup of the automorphism group of $k[V]$. In [5], we classified irreducible groups G such that the invariant subrings $k[V]^G$ are polynomial rings under certain conditions. For a reflection group G , it is well known (e.g. [1]) that $k[V]^G$ is a unique factorization domain, but it has not been known whether $k[V]^G$ is a Macaulay ring. In this note we give some examples of reflection groups G such that $k[V]^G$ are not Macaulay rings.

Suppose that $p > 2$ and that n is an integer with $p \mid n$, $n \geq 5$. Let $E = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n kT_i$, $V = \bigoplus_{i=2}^n k(T_i - T_1)$ and $V' = V/k \sum_{i=1}^n T_i$ be vector spaces over k . The symmetric group S_n acts on $\{T_1, \dots, T_n\}$ as permutations. Then the k -spaces V and V' are naturally regarded as S_n -faithful kS_n -modules. The group S_n is generated by reflections in $GL(V)$ and $GL(V')$ respectively. It is proved in [5] that $k[V]^{S_n}$ and $k[V']^{S_n}$ are not polynomial rings. The purpose of this note is to show the following stronger result:

Theorem. *Suppose that $p \parallel n$ and $p \geq 7$. Then $k[V]^{S_n}$ and $k[V']^{S_n}$ are not Macaulay rings.*

Proof. Set $X_i = T_i - T_1$ ($2 \leq i \leq n$) and

$$u = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & \cdots & 1 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 2 \end{bmatrix} \in GL_{n-1}(k).$$

Put ${}^t[Y_2, \dots, Y_n] = u^t[X_2, \dots, X_n]$ and denote by \bar{Y}_i ($3 \leq i \leq n$) the canonical images of Y_i in V' . Let

$$a = {}^t[1, 2, \dots, p-1, 0, 1, \dots, p-1, \dots, 0, 1, \dots, p-1] \in k^{n-1}$$

and choose the element $a' = {}^t[a'_3, \dots, a'_n] \in k^{n-2}$ such that $ua = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ a' \end{bmatrix}$. Put

$$\begin{aligned} W_2 &= X_2 - 1, W_3 = X_3 - 2, \dots, W_p = X_p - (p-1), W_{p+1} = X_{p+1}, \\ W_{p+2} &= X_{p+2} - 1, \dots, W_{2p} = X_{2p} - (p-1), \dots, W_{n-p+1} = X_{n-p+1}, \\ W_{n-p+2} &= X_{n-p+2} - 1, \dots, W_n = X_n - (p-1). \end{aligned}$$

Let M be the maximal ideal of $k[V]$ generated by the set $\{W_2, \dots, W_n\}$