

## MINIMAL LINKAGE AND THE GORENSTEIN LOCUS OF AN IDEAL

CRAIG HUNEKE\* AND BERND ULRICH\*

### Introduction

Let  $I$  be a Cohen-Macaulay ideal of grade  $g > 0$  in a local Gorenstein ring  $(R, m)$  with residue class field  $k$ . An  $R$ -ideal  $J$  is said to be linked to  $I$  with respect to the regular sequence  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g \subset I \cap J$  if  $J = (\underline{\alpha}): I$  and  $I = (\underline{\alpha}): J$  ([6]). In this paper we are concerned with the following question: how big is  $\dim_k((\underline{\alpha}, mJ)/mJ)$ ? Obviously this dimension is at most  $g$ , but it could be as small as 0. If it is  $g$  then the link from  $J$  to  $I$  is called a minimal link, which is in most respects the desired type of link. The only general result known in this direction is that if  $I$  is Gorenstein, then  $\dim_k((\underline{\alpha}, mJ)/mJ) = g$  unless both  $I$  and  $J$  are complete intersections (see [1], Proposition 5.2). We are able to generalize this fact to the case where  $(R/I)_p$  is Gorenstein for all prime ideals  $p$  in  $R/I$  with  $\dim(R/I)_p \leq 4$ ; however we have to assume that  $I$  is generically a complete intersection ideal, and that  $R$  is a complete intersection (Theorem 2.3). Without the assumption on  $R$  we prove that if  $I$  is generically a complete intersection, and if for a fixed integer  $r$  the type of  $(R/I)_p$  is at most  $r$  for all prime ideals  $p$  in  $R/I$  with  $\dim(R/I)_p \leq (r+1)^2$ , then  $\dim_k((\underline{\alpha}, mJ)/mJ) \geq g - r$  (Proposition 2.1). If  $r = 1$ , i.e. if  $R/I$  is Gorenstein in codimension 4, then this estimate shows the dimension is at least  $g - 1$ . Theorem 2.3 can also be interpreted to yield a strong upper bound for the codimension of the non-Gorenstein-locus of certain perfect ideals: Let  $R$  be a regular local ring. Let  $I$  be an  $R$ -ideal which is generically a complete intersection, and assume that  $I$  is in the even linkage class of a Gorenstein ideal (i.e., there exists a sequence of links  $I \sim I_1 \sim I_2 \sim \dots \sim I_{2n}$  with  $I_{2n}$  a Gorenstein ideal); then  $I$  is a Gorenstein ideal provided that  $(R/I)_p$  is Gorenstein for all prime ideals  $p$  of  $R/I$  with  $\dim(R/I)_p \leq 4$  (Corollary 3.1).

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## §1. General facts about linkage

In this section, we fix the notations we will be using throughout the paper and review some definitions and results from [4].

Let  $(R, m)$  be a local Noetherian ring, let  $I$  be an  $R$ -ideal, and  $M$  a finitely generated  $R$ -module. By  $\nu(M)$  we denote the minimal number of generators of  $M$ ,  $\text{ht}(I)$  is the height of  $I$  and  $r(R) = \dim_{R/m}(\text{Ext}_R^d(R/m, R))$  stands for the type of  $R$  (if  $R$  is Cohen-Macaulay of dimension  $d$ ). We say that  $I$  is Cohen-Macaulay or Gorenstein if the ring  $R/I$  has any of these properties. The ideal  $I$  is a complete intersection if  $I$  is generated by a regular sequence,  $I$  is called generically a complete intersection if  $I$  is unmixed and  $I_p$  is a complete intersection for all  $p \in \text{Ass}(R/I)$ , and  $I$  is an almost complete intersection if  $\nu(I) \leq \text{grade}(I) + 1$ . We say that  $R$  is a complete intersection if  $\hat{R}$  is a regular local ring modulo a complete intersection ideal. For an integer  $k$ ,  $R$  satisfies  $(R_k)$  if  $R_p$  is regular for all  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  with  $\dim R_p \leq k$ ,  $R$  is  $(G_k)$  if  $R_p$  is Gorenstein for all  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  with  $\dim R_p \leq k$ , and  $I$  satisfies  $(CI_k)$  if  $I_p$  is a complete intersection for all  $p \in \text{Spec}(R/I)$  with  $\dim(R/I)_p \leq k$ . For a matrix  $A$  with entries in  $R$ ,  $I_t(A)$  is the  $R$ -ideal generated by all  $t \times t$  minors of  $A$ , and for a set of elements  $\underline{f} = f_1, \dots, f_n \subset R$  we will denote by  $(\underline{f})$  the  $R$ -ideal generated by  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  whereas  $(\underline{f})^t$  stands for the transpose of the matrix  $(f_1 \cdots f_n)$ . If  $X$  is a finite set of indeterminates we set  $R(X) = R[X]_{mR[X]}$ .

DEFINITION 1.1 ([4]). Let  $(R, I)$  and  $(S, J)$  be pairs of Noetherian local rings  $R, S$ , and ideals  $I \subset R, J \subset S$ .

a)  $(S, J)$  is a *deformation* of  $(R, I)$  (with respect to  $\underline{a}$ ) if there is a sequence  $\underline{a} \subset S$  which is regular on  $S$  and  $S/J$  such that  $(S/(\underline{a}), (J, \underline{a})/(\underline{a})) = (R, I)$ .

b)  $(S, J)$  and  $(R, I)$  are *equivalent* if there are finite sets of variables  $X$  over  $S$ , and  $Z$  over  $R$ , and an isomorphism  $\varphi: S[X] \xrightarrow{\sim} R[Z]$  such that  $\varphi(JS[X]) = IR[Z]$ .

DEFINITION 1.2 ([6]). Let  $R$  be a local Cohen-Macaulay ring, and let  $I$  and  $J$  be two (proper)  $R$ -ideals, then  $I$  and  $J$  are said to be (algebraically) *linked* (with respect to  $\underline{\alpha}$ ) (written  $I \sim J$ ), if there exists a regular sequence  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g \subset I \cap J$  such that  $J = (\underline{\alpha}): I$  and  $I = (\underline{\alpha}): J$ .

It is known that if  $R$  is a local Gorenstein ring,  $I$  an unmixed  $R$ -ideal of grade  $g$ , and  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g \subset I$  a regular sequence with  $(\underline{\alpha}) \neq I$ , then  $J = (\underline{\alpha}): I$  is linked to  $I$  ([6]). If moreover  $I$  is Cohen-Macaulay,

then  $J$  is Cohen-Macaulay, and  $J/(\underline{\alpha})$  is the canonical module of  $R/I$  ([6]). Hence  $\nu(J/(\underline{\alpha})) = r(R/I)$ , and in particular,  $\nu(J) = r(R/I) + g$  if and only if  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$  form part of a minimal generating set of  $J$ . In this case, we say that the link from  $J$  to  $I$  is *minimal*. Two  $R$ -ideals  $I$  and  $J$  are said to be in the same linkage class if there is a sequence of  $n$  links  $I = I_0 \sim I_1 \sim \dots \sim I_n = J$ . If in addition  $n$  can be chosen to be even, then  $I$  and  $J$  are in the *same even linkage class*.

DEFINITION 1.3 ([3], [4]). Let  $R$  be a local Gorenstein ring, let  $I$  be an unmixed  $R$ -ideal of grade  $g$ , fix a generating sequence  $\underline{f} = f_1, \dots, f_n$  of  $I$ , let  $X = (X_{ij})$  be a generic  $g \times n$  matrix, let  $S = R[X]$ , 
$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_g \end{pmatrix} = X \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{pmatrix}.$$
 Then  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g \subset IS$  is an  $S$ -regular sequence, and we call  $L_1(\underline{f}) = (\underline{\alpha})S \subset IS \subset S$  a *first generic link* of  $I$ .

In [4], 2.11, it is shown that up to equivalence in the sense of Definition 1.1b, the pair  $(S, L_1(\underline{f}))$  only depends on  $I$ , but not on the chosen generating sequence  $\underline{f}$ . Hence we write  $L_1(I)$  instead of  $L_1(\underline{f})$ . In [4], 2.13, we also remarked that if  $L_1(I) \subset R[X]$  is a first generic link of  $I$ , and  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$ ,  $I \subset p$ , then  $L_1(I)R_p[X]$  is a first generic link of  $I_p$ . We will use the following property of generic links.

PROPOSITION 1.4 ([4]). Let  $(R, m)$  be a local Gorenstein ring, let  $I$  be a Cohen-Macaulay  $R$ -ideal, and let  $J$  be linked to  $I$  with respect to the regular sequence  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$ . Fix a generating sequence  $\underline{f} = f_1, \dots, f_n$  of  $I$  and a  $g \times n$  matrix  $C = (C_{ij})$  with entries in  $R$  such that  $(\underline{\alpha})^t = C(\underline{f})^t$ . Let  $L_1(\underline{f}) \subset R[X]$  be a first generic link as defined in 1.3, and consider  $p = (m, X_{ij} - C_{ij})R[X] \in \text{Spec}(R[X])$ .

Then  $(R[X]_p, L_1(\underline{f})R[X]_p)$  is a deformation of  $(R, J)$ .

## §2. Minimal linkage

For the proof of the main result (Theorem 2.3) we need two propositions which might also be of independent interest.

PROPOSITION 2.1. Let  $(R, m)$  be a local Gorenstein ring with residue class field  $k$ , let  $I$  be a Cohen-Macaulay  $R$ -ideal of grade  $g$  which is generically a complete intersection, and assume that there is an integer  $r$  such that  $r((R/I)_p) \leq r$  for all  $p \in \text{Spec}(R/I)$  with  $\dim(R/I)_p \leq (r + 1)^2$ . Let  $J$  be an  $R$ -ideal linked to  $I$  with respect to the regular sequence  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$ .

Then  $\dim_k((\underline{\alpha}, m\mathcal{J})/m\mathcal{J}) \geq g - r$ .

*Proof.* Let  $L_1(I) \subset R[X]$  be a generic link of  $I$ , then by Proposition 1.4, there exists  $p \in \text{Spec}(R[X])$  such that  $(R[X]_p, L_1(I)_p)$  is a deformation of  $(R, \mathcal{J})$ . Set  $(\tilde{R}, \tilde{\mathcal{J}}) = (R[X]_p, L_1(I)_p)$  and let  $\tilde{\underline{\alpha}} = \tilde{\alpha}_1, \dots, \tilde{\alpha}_g$  be the  $\tilde{R}$ -regular sequence defining the link  $\tilde{I}\tilde{R} \sim \tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ . The  $\tilde{R}$ -ideal  $\tilde{I}\tilde{R}$  has the same properties as  $I$ ,  $\nu(\tilde{\mathcal{J}}) = \nu(\mathcal{J})$ , but since  $I$  is generically a complete intersection, and  $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}$  is the localization of a first generic link of  $I$  we also know that  $\tilde{\alpha}_1, \dots, \tilde{\alpha}_g$  generate  $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}$  generically ([3], 2.5). Moreover let  $\tilde{m}$  be the maximal ideal of  $\tilde{R}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_k((\tilde{\underline{\alpha}}, \tilde{m}\tilde{\mathcal{J}})/\tilde{m}\tilde{\mathcal{J}}) &= \nu(\mathcal{J}) - \nu(\tilde{\mathcal{J}}/(\tilde{\underline{\alpha}})) \\ &= \nu(\tilde{\mathcal{J}}) - r(R/\tilde{I}\tilde{R}) \\ &= \nu(\mathcal{J}) - r(R/I) \\ &= \nu(\mathcal{J}) - \nu(\mathcal{J}/(\underline{\alpha})) \\ &= \dim_k((\underline{\alpha}, m\mathcal{J})/m\mathcal{J}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence we do not change the assumptions or conclusions in the proposition if we replace  $I, \underline{\alpha}, \mathcal{J}$  by  $\tilde{I}\tilde{R}, \tilde{\underline{\alpha}}, \tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ . However we may now assume that  $\mathcal{J}$  is generically generated by  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$ .

Now let  $t = \dim_k((\underline{\alpha}, m\mathcal{J})/m\mathcal{J})$ . After extending the residue class field if needed and changing  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$  by elementary transformations, we may assume that  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_t$  form part of a minimal generating set of  $\mathcal{J}$  and of  $\mathcal{J}_p$  for all  $p \in \text{Ass}(R/\mathcal{J})$ . After factoring out  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_t$  we are in the following situation:  $(R, m)$  is a local Gorenstein ring,  $I$  is a Cohen-Macaulay  $R$ -ideal,  $r((R/I)_p) \leq r$  for all  $p$  with  $\dim(R/I)_p \leq (r + 1)^2$ ,  $\mathcal{J}$  is linked to  $I$  with respect to  $\underline{\alpha}$ ,  $\mathcal{J}$  is generically a complete intersection, but moreover  $\underline{\alpha} \subset m\mathcal{J}$ , and  $\text{grade } \mathcal{J} = g - t$ . We need to prove that  $\text{grade } \mathcal{J} \leq r$ , since then  $t \geq g - r$ . From now on we write again  $\text{grade } \mathcal{J} = g$ , and we will show  $g \leq r$ . We may assume  $g > 0$ .

Let  $\underline{f} = f_1, \dots, f_n$  be a generating set of  $\mathcal{J}$ . Since  $\underline{\alpha} \subset m\mathcal{J}$ , there exists a  $g \times n$  matrix  $A$  with entries in  $m$  such that  $(\underline{\alpha})^t = A(\underline{f})^t$ . Let  $X$  be a generic  $g \times n$  matrix, set  $(\tilde{\underline{\alpha}}) = X(\underline{f})^t$ , consider the first generic link  $L_1(\mathcal{J}) = L_1(\underline{f}) = (\tilde{\underline{\alpha}})R[X] : \mathcal{J}R[X]$ , and write  $T = R[X]_{(m, X)}$ . Because the entries of  $A$  are in  $m$ , it follows from Proposition 1.4 that  $(T, L_1(\underline{f})T)$  is a deformation of  $(R, I)$ . Since  $R/I$  has the property that  $r((R/I)_p) \leq r$  for all prime ideals  $p$  with  $\dim(R/I)_p \leq (r + 1)^2$ , any deformation of  $R/I$ , in particular  $T/L_1(\underline{f})T$ , has the same property (cf. [4], 2.3). But because the

locus  $\{p \mid p \in \text{Spec}(R[X]), r(R[X]/L_1(\underline{f})_p) \geq r + 1\} = \{p \mid p \in \text{Spec}(R[X]), \nu(JR[X]/(\underline{\alpha})_p) \geq r + 1\}$  is defined by a homogeneous ideal in  $R[X]$ , it even follows that  $r((R[X]/L_1(\underline{f}))_p) \leq r$  for all  $p \in \text{Spec}(R[X]/L_1(\underline{f}))$  with  $\dim(R[X]/L_1(\underline{f}))_p \leq (r + 1)^2$ .

For  $q \in \text{Ass}(R/J)$  let  $\underline{h} = h_1, \dots, h_g$  be a minimal generating set of  $J_q$ , let  $Y$  be a generic  $g \times g$  matrix, set  $(\beta)^t = Y(\underline{h})^t$ , and consider  $L_1(J_q) = L_1(\underline{h}) \subset R_q[Y]$ . Then by [4], 2.13.b,  $(R_q[Y], L_1(\underline{h}))$  is equivalent to the pair  $(R_q[X], L_1(\underline{f})R_q[X])$ , and hence also  $R_q[Y]/L_1(\underline{h})$  has the property that  $r((R_q[Y]/L_1(\underline{h}))_p) \leq r$  for all prime ideals  $p$  with  $\dim(R_q[Y]/L_1(\underline{h}))_p \leq (r + 1)^2$ . Instead of  $J_q$  and  $R_q$  we write again  $J$  and  $R$ . We have to show that  $g \leq r$ .

Suppose that  $g > r$ . Then  $p = (m, I_{g-r}(Y)) \in \text{Spec}(R[Y])$ , with  $p \supset (\beta, \det(Y)) = L_1(\underline{h})$ , and  $\dim(R[Y]/L_1(\underline{h}))_p = (r + 1)^2$ . However,  $r(R[Y]/L_1(\underline{h}))_p = \nu((JR[Y]/(\beta))_p) = r + 1$ , which is impossible by our assumptions. Therefore,  $g \leq r$ . □

**PROPOSITION 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian local ring which is a complete intersection, let  $I$  be an unmixed  $R$ -ideal of height one, and assume that  $I_p$  is principal for all  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  with  $\dim R_p \leq 3$ .*

*Then  $I$  is a principal ideal.*

*Proof.* By [2], Theorem 3.13, Exp. XI, any complete intersection of dimension at least 4 is parafactorial, i.e., the Picard group of its punctured spectrum is trivial.

Now assume  $I$  is not principal and localize at a minimal prime  $p$  such that  $I_p$  is not principal. Then  $R_p$  is a complete intersection of dimension  $\geq 4$  (by assumption) and  $I_p$  represents an element in  $\text{Pic}(U)$  where  $U = \text{Spec}(R_p) - \{p_p\}$ . Since  $R_p$  is parafactorial this element is trivial. Hence there is an element of  $a \in R$  such that  $(a)_q = I_q$  for all  $q_p \neq p_p$ . This implies that  $(a)_p: I_p$  is  $p$ -primary which is impossible or else  $I_p = (a)_p$  since  $I$  is unmixed. □

**THEOREM 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian local ring which is a complete intersection, let  $I$  be a Cohen-Macaulay  $R$ -ideal of grade  $g$ , and assume that  $(R, I)$  has a deformation  $(\tilde{R}, \tilde{I})$  where  $\tilde{I}$  is generically a complete intersection and  $\tilde{R}/\tilde{I}$  satisfies  $(G_4)$ . Let  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g \subset I$  be a regular sequence with  $(\underline{\alpha}) \neq I$ , and set  $J = (\underline{\alpha}): I$ .*

*Then either  $\underline{\alpha}$  form part of a minimal generating set of  $J$ , or both  $I$  and  $J$  are complete intersections.*

*Proof.* By [4], 2.16, there exists an  $\tilde{R}$ -ideal  $\tilde{J}$  linked to  $\tilde{I}$  with respect to a regular sequence  $\tilde{\alpha}$  such that  $(\tilde{R}, \tilde{J})$  is a deformation of  $(R, J)$ . As in the proof of Proposition 2.1 one sees that  $\underline{\alpha}$  is part of a minimal generating set of  $J$  if and only if  $\tilde{\alpha}$  is part of a minimal generating set of  $\tilde{J}$ . Hence we may replace  $I, \underline{\alpha}, J$ , by  $\tilde{I}, \tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{J}$  and thus assume that  $I$  is generically a complete intersection, and  $R/I$  satisfies  $(G_4)$ .

Then we may apply Proposition 2.1 with  $r = 1$ , and we obtain  $\dim_k((\underline{\alpha}, mJ)/mJ) \geq g - 1$ . After extending the residue class field of  $R$  if needed we may assume that  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{g-1}$  form part of a minimal generating set of  $J$ . Hence by factoring out  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{g-1})$  we do not change the assumptions and conclusion of the theorem (except possibly the assumption that  $I$  is generically a complete intersection, which is irrelevant for the remainder of this proof).

Hence from now on  $g = 1$ , and  $\alpha_1 = \alpha$ . Let  $m$  be the maximal ideal of  $R$ . Assuming that  $\alpha \subset mJ$  we will show that  $J$  is principal. Then also  $I$  is principal since  $g = 1$ . Let  $\underline{f} = f_1, \dots, f_n$  be a generating set of  $J$ , then  $\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n C_i f_i$  with  $C_i \in m$ . For variables  $X = X_1, \dots, X_n$  set  $\tilde{\alpha} = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i f_i \in R[X]$  and consider the first generic link  $L_1(J) = L_1(\underline{f}) = \tilde{\alpha}R[X]:JR[X]$ . Since  $C_i \in m$ ,  $(R[X]_{(m, X)}, L_1(\underline{f})R[X]_{(m, X)})$  is a deformation of  $(R, I)$ , and it follows as in the proof of Proposition 2.1 that  $R[X]/L_1(\underline{f})$  satisfies  $(G_4)$ .

Suppose that  $J$  is not principal, then by Proposition 2.2 there exists a prime ideal  $p \supset J$  with  $\dim R_p \leq 3$  such that  $J_p$  is not principal. On the other hand,  $R/I$  being  $(G_4)$  it follows that  $I_p$  is either Gorenstein or the unit ideal, and hence  $\nu(J_p) \leq g + 1 = 2$ . Thus  $\nu(J_p) = 2$ , since  $J_p$  is not principal. Moreover, any generic link of  $J_p$  is equivalent (in the sense of Definition 1.1b) to a localization of a generic link of  $J$ , and hence also satisfies  $(G_4)$ . Therefore localizing at  $p$  we may assume that  $\dim R \leq 3$ , and  $\nu(J) = 2$ . Let  $J = (h_1, h_2)$ ,  $\beta = Y_1 h_1 + Y_2 h_2 \in R[Y_1, Y_2] = S$ , and  $L_1(J) = L_1(h_1, h_2) = \beta S:JS$ . Then  $\dim S/L_1(J) \leq 4$ , and since  $S/L_1(J)$  is  $(G_4)$ , it follows that  $S/L_1(J)$  is Gorenstein. Therefore

$$\nu((JS/\beta S)_{(m, Y_1, Y_2)}) = r((S/L_1(J))_{(m, Y_1, Y_2)}) = 1$$

which is impossible, since  $\beta \in (Y_1, Y_2)J$  and therefore

$$\nu((JS/\beta S)_{(m, Y_1, Y_2)}) = \nu(J) = 2. \quad \square$$

§ 3. Applications

The following corollary generalizes a result from [4] which states that if  $I$  is an ideal in a regular local ring  $R$  such that  $I$  is in the linkage class of a complete intersection and  $R/I$  satisfies  $(G_4)$ , then  $I$  is Gorenstein.

**COROLLARY 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a regular local ring, let  $I$  be a perfect  $R$ -ideal which is generically a complete intersection, and assume that  $R/I$  satisfies  $(G_4)$ .*

*Then for any  $R$ -ideal  $J$  in the even linkage class of  $I$ ,  $r(R/J) \geq r(R/I)$ . In particular if  $I$  is in the even linkage class of a Gorenstein ideal, then  $I$  is Gorenstein.*

*Proof.* Assume that there is a sequence of links  $I = I_0 \sim I_1 \sim \dots \sim I_{2n} = J$ . We will prove by induction on  $n$  that  $r(R/J) \geq r(R/I)$ . Let  $n = 1$ . We may suppose that  $I$  is not a complete intersection. Let  $\underline{\alpha} = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$  be the regular sequence defining the link  $I \sim I_1$ . By Theorem 2.3,  $\underline{\alpha}$  is part of a minimal generating set of  $I_1$ , and hence  $\nu(I_1) = \nu(I_1/(\underline{\alpha})) + g = r(R/I) + g$ . Let  $\underline{\beta} = \beta_1, \dots, \beta_g$  be the regular sequence giving the link  $I_1 \sim J$ . Then  $\nu(I_1) \leq \nu(I_1/(\underline{\beta})) + g = r(R/J) + g$ . The above inequations now imply  $r(R/J) \geq r(R/I)$ . Now let  $n \geq 2$ . In [4], 2.17 we showed that in some local ring  $S = R(X)$ , which is obtained from  $R$  by a purely transcendental extension of the residue class field, one can find a sequence of links  $IS = J_0 \sim J_1 \sim \dots \sim J_{2n}$  such that  $S/J_{2n-2}$  is generically a complete intersection and satisfies  $(G_4)$  (since  $R/I$  has these properties), and moreover  $r(S/J_{2n}) \leq r(R/J)$ . Then by induction hypothesis, applied to  $IS$  and  $J_{2n-2}$ ,  $r(R/I) = r(S/IS) \leq r(S/J_{2n-2})$  and  $r(S/J_{2n-2}) \leq r(S/J_{2n})$ . Combining the above inequalities we obtain  $r(R/I) \leq r(R/J)$ . □

Let  $R$  be a regular local ring with residue class field  $k$ , and let  $I$  be an  $R$ -ideal. Consider the graded algebra  $A_\bullet = \text{Tor}_\bullet^R(R/I, k)$ . We are interested in the condition  $A_1^2 = 0$ , which means that in a minimal free  $R$ -resolution of  $R/I$ , none of the Koszul relations on  $I$  can occur among the minimal generators of the first syzygy module of  $I$ . It is well-known that  $A_1^2 = 0$  if  $I$  is a Gorenstein ideal of grade 3, but not a complete intersection ([1]). The next corollary generalizes this result:

**COROLLARY 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be a regular local ring, let  $I$  be a perfect  $R$ -ideal of grade 3, which is not a complete intersection, and assume that  $I$  is generically a complete intersection and  $R/I$  satisfies  $(G_4)$ .*

*Then  $A_1^2 = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $m$  be the maximal ideal of  $R$ , and let  $F: 0 \rightarrow F_3 \xrightarrow{\varphi_3} F_2 \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} F_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} F_0 \rightarrow R/I \rightarrow 0$  be a minimal free  $R$ -resolution of  $R/I$ . We choose bases  $F_2 = \oplus R d_i$ ,  $F_1 = \oplus R e_i$ , and set  $f_i = \varphi_1(e_i)$ .

Suppose that  $A_1^2 \neq 0$ . Then we may assume that  $\varphi_2(d_1) = f_2 e_1 - f_1 e_2$ . It is clear that  $\text{ht}(f_1 R + f_2 R) = 2$ , since otherwise  $f_1 = a b_1$  and  $f_2 = a b_2$  with  $0 \neq a \in m$ ,  $b_1 \in R$ ,  $b_2 \in R$ , and hence  $\varphi_2(d_1) = a(b_2 e_1 - b_1 e_2) \in \ker \varphi_1$  which is a contradiction to the minimality of  $F$ . Because  $\text{ht}(f_1 R + f_2 R) = 2$ , we may complete  $f_1, f_2$  to a regular sequence  $\underline{f} = f_1, f_2, f_3 \subset I$ . Let  $K = K(\underline{f}, R) = A(Rg_1 \oplus Rg_2 \oplus Rg_3)$  be the Koszul complex, and  $u: K \rightarrow F$  a morphism of complexes with  $u_0 = \text{id}_R$ . We may choose  $u_2(g_1 \wedge g_2) = -d_1$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & F_3 & \xrightarrow{\varphi_3} & F_2 & \longrightarrow & F_1 & \longrightarrow & F_0 \\ & & \uparrow u_3 & & \uparrow u_2 & & \uparrow u_1 & & \parallel \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & K_2 & \xrightarrow{\psi_3} & K_2 & \xrightarrow{\psi_2} & K_1 & \longrightarrow & K_0 \end{array}$$

Set  $J = (f): I$ . Since the  $R$ -dual (denoted by  $-^*$ ) of the mapping cone of  $u$ , yields a resolution of  $R/J$  ([6]), we obtain the following presentation of  $J$ :

$$K_1^* \oplus F_2^* \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} \psi_2^* & 0 \\ u_2^* & \varphi_3^* \end{pmatrix}} K_2^* \oplus F_3^* \longrightarrow J \longrightarrow 0$$

Since  $u_2(g_1 \wedge g_2) = -d_1$  and hence  $u_2^*(d_1^*) \notin mK_2^*$ , it follows that  $\nu(J) < \text{rank}(K_2^* \oplus F_3^*) = 3 + r(R/I)$ . Thus  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  cannot be part of a minimal generating set of  $J$ . This is a contradiction to Theorem 2.3.  $\square$

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C. Huneke  
*Department of Mathematics*  
*Purdue University*  
*West Lafayette, IN 47907*

B. Ulrich  
*Department of Mathematics*  
*Michigan State University*  
*East Lansing, MI 48824*