

# Regularity of quasi-symbolic and bracket powers of Borel type ideals

Mircea Cimpoeaş

## Abstract

In this paper, we show that the regularity of the  $q$ -th quasi-symbolic power  $I^{((q))}$  and the regularity of the  $q$ -th bracket power  $I^{[q]}$  of a monomial ideal of Borel type  $I$ , satisfy the relations  $\text{reg}(I^{((q))}) \leq q \text{reg}(I)$ , respectively  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) \geq q \text{reg}(I)$ . Also, we give an upper bound for  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]})$ .

**Keywords:** Monomial ideals, Borel type ideals, Mumford-Castelnuovo regularity.

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## Introduction

Let  $K$  be an infinite field, and let  $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $n \geq 2$  the polynomial ring over  $K$ . Bayer and Stillman [1] note that Borel fixed ideals  $I \subset S$  satisfy the following property:

$$(*) \quad (I : x_j^\infty) = (I : (x_1, \dots, x_j)^\infty) \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, n.$$

Herzog, Popescu and Vladoiu [8] define a monomial ideal  $I$  to be of *Borel type* if it satisfies (\*). We mention that this concept appears in [3, Definition 1.3] as the so called *weakly stable ideal*. Also, this concept appears in [2, Definition 3.1], as the so called *monomial ideal of nested type*. We further studied this class of monomial ideals in [4] and [5].

In the first section, we recall some results regarding ideals of Borel type. Also, we discuss the relation between the sequential chain of an ideal of Borel type  $I$ , defined in [8], and the primary decomposition of  $I$ .

Let  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal and  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i$  the an irredundant primary decomposition of  $I$ , obtained in a canonical way. We define  $I^{((q))} := \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i^q$ , the  $q$ -th *quasi-symbolic* power of  $I$ , see Definition 2.1. We prove that if  $I$  is an ideal of Borel type, then  $I^{((q))}$  and  $I^{[q]}$  are also ideals of Borel type, where  $I^{[q]} = (u^q : u \in I \text{ monomial})$  is the  $q$ -th bracket power of  $I$ .

In [5], we proved that  $\text{reg}(I^q) \leq q \text{reg}(I)$ . We give a similar result for the  $q$ -th quasi-symbolic power. More precisely, we prove that  $\text{reg}(I^{((q))}) \leq q \text{reg}(I)$ , see Theorem 2.4. Also, we prove that  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) \geq q \text{reg}(I)$ , see Theorem 2.6. In Proposition 2.11, we prove that  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) \leq q \text{reg}(I) + (q-1)(n-1)$ .

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# 1 Some basic facts on Borel type ideals.

Firstly, we recall the following equivalent characterizations of ideals of Borel type given in [8] and in [2].

**Proposition 1.1.** *Let  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a)  *$I$  is an ideal of Borel type.*
- (b) *For any  $1 \leq j < i \leq n$ , we have  $(I : x_i^\infty) \subset (I : x_j^\infty)$ .*
- (c) *Each  $P \in \text{Ass}(S/I)$  has the form  $P = (x_1, \dots, x_m)$  for some  $1 \leq m \leq n$ .*

Let  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal of Borel type. Since each prime ideal  $P \in \text{Ass}(S/I)$  is of the form  $P = (x_1, \dots, x_m)$  for some  $1 \leq m \leq n$ , we can assume that  $I$  has an irredundant primary decomposition:

$$I = \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i; \text{ such that } P_i := \sqrt{Q_i} = (x_1, \dots, x_{n_{i-1}}), \quad n \geq n_0 > n_1 > \dots > n_{r-1} \geq 1. \quad (1)$$

For each  $0 \leq i \leq r-1$ , we define  $I_i := \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r Q_j$ . We claim that  $I_{i+1} = (I_i : x_{n_i}^\infty)$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq r-1$ . Indeed, since  $Q_{i+1}$  is  $P_{i+1}$ -primary, it follows that there exists a positive integer  $k$  such that  $x_{n_i}^k \in Q_{i+1}$ . So  $(I_i : x_{n_i}^\infty) \supseteq ((Q_{i+1} \cdot I_{i+1}) : x_{n_i}^\infty) \supseteq (x_{n_i}^k \cdot I_{i+1} : x_{n_i}^\infty) = I_{i+1}$ . For the converse inclusion, note that  $(I_i : x_{n_i}^\infty) \subseteq (Q_{i+1} : x_{n_i}^\infty) \cap (I_{i+1} : x_{n_i}^\infty) = S \cap I_{i+1} = I_{i+1}$ .

Thus, the chain of ideals  $I = I_0 \subset I_1 \subset \dots \subset I_{r-1} \subset I_r := S$  is the *sequential chain* of  $I$ , as it was defined in [8]. Note that  $n_i = \max\{j : x_j | u \text{ for some } u \in G(I_i)\}$ , where we denoted by  $G(I_i)$  the set of minimal monomial generators of  $I_i$ .

Let  $J_i$  be the monomial ideal generated by  $G(I_i)$  in  $S_i := K[x_1, \dots, x_{n_i}]$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq r$ . Then, the saturation  $J_i^{\text{sat}} = (J_i : \mathbf{m}_i^\infty)$  is generated by the elements of  $G(I_{i+1})$ , where  $\mathbf{m}_i = (x_1, \dots, x_{n_i})S_i$ . It follows that  $I_{i+1}/I_i \cong (J_i^{\text{sat}}/J_i)[x_{n_{i+1}}, \dots, x_n]$ .

It would be appropriate to recall the definition of the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity. We refer the reader to [6] for further details on the subject.

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $K$  be an infinite field, and let  $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $n \geq 2$  the polynomial ring over  $K$ . Let  $M$  be a finitely generated graded  $S$ -module. The Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity  $\text{reg}(M)$  of  $M$  is

$$\max_{i,j} \{j - i : \beta_{ij}(M) \neq 0\},$$

where  $\beta_{ij}(M) = \dim_K(\text{Tor}_i(K, M))_j$  denotes the  $ij$ -th graded Betti number of  $M$ .

If  $M = \bigoplus_{t \geq 0} M_t$  is an artinian graded  $S$ -module, we denote  $s(M) = \max\{t : M_t \neq 0\}$ . Herzog, Popescu and Vlădoiu proved the following formula for the regularity of a monomial ideal of Borel type:

**Proposition 1.3.** [8, Corollary 2.7] *If  $I$  is a Borel type ideal, with the notations above, we have*

$$\text{reg}(I) = \max\{s(J_0^{\text{sat}}/J_0), \dots, s(J_{r-1}^{\text{sat}}/J_{r-1})\} + 1.$$

**Example 1.4.** We consider the ideal  $Q = (x_1^{a_1}, \dots, x_m^{a_m}) \subset S$ , where  $1 \leq m \leq n$  and  $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \dots \geq a_m \geq 1$ . According to Proposition 1.3,  $\text{reg}(Q) = s(\bar{S}/\bar{Q}) + 1$ , where  $\bar{S} = K[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  and  $\bar{Q} = \bar{S} \cap Q$ . Since  $u = x_1^{a_1-1} \dots x_m^{a_m-1} \in \bar{S}$  is the monomial of the highest degree which is not contain in  $\bar{Q}$ , it follows that

$$\text{reg}(Q) = \sum_{i=1}^m (a_i - 1) + 1 = a_1 + \dots + a_m - m + 1.$$

We consider the ideal  $Q^q = (x_1^{qa_1}, \dots, x_m^{qa_m}, x_1^{(q-1)a_1} x_2^{a_2}, \dots)$ . Note that  $Q^q \cap \bar{S} = \bar{Q}^q$  and therefore  $\text{reg}(Q^q) = s(\bar{S}/\bar{Q}^q) + 1$ . One can easily see that  $u = x_1^{qa_1-1} x_2^{a_2-1} \dots x_m^{a_m-1}$  is the monomial of the highest degree which is not contain in  $\bar{Q}^q$ . Thus:

$$\text{reg}(Q^q) = qa_1 - 1 + \sum_{i=2}^m (a_i - 1) + 1 = qa_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_m - m + 1.$$

Note that  $\text{reg}(Q^q) \leq q \text{reg}(Q)$ , as we already know from [5, Corollary 1.8], and the equality holds if and only if  $a_2 = \dots = a_m = 1$ .

## 2 Regularity of quasi-symbolic and bracket powers of Borel type ideals

Now, assume  $I \subset S$  is an arbitrary monomial ideal. Then  $I$  has a unique irredundant decomposition  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^s C_i$ , where  $C_i$  are irreducible monomial ideals. One obtains from this presentation a *canonical presentation* of  $I$  as an intersection of primary ideals,  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i$ , where each  $Q_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary and is defined to be the intersection of all  $C_j$ '-s with  $\sqrt{C_j} = P_i$ . See [7] for further details.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $q$  be a positive integer. We define the  $q$ -th quasi-symbolic power of  $I$  to be the ideal

$$I^{((q))} := \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i^q.$$

Note that,  $I^{(q)} \subset I^{((q))}$ , where  $I^{(q)} := S \cap \bigcap_{P \in \text{Ass}(S/I)} I^q S_P$  is the  $q$ -th symbolic power of  $I$ . The equality holds if all  $P_i$ '-s are pairwise incomparable, but, in general, this is not the case. On the other hand,  $I^q \subset I^{(q)}$ .

Now, assume  $I \subset S$  is of Borel type with the primary decomposition (1). One can easily see that  $I^q S_{P_1} \cap S = I^q$ , since all the minimal monomial generators of  $I$  are from  $K[x_1, \dots, x_{n_0}]$  and  $P_1 = (x_1, \dots, x_{n_0})$ . Therefore,  $I^{(q)} = I^q$ .

In the following, we will assume that the primary decomposition (1), of a Borel type ideal  $I \subset S$ , is canonical in the above sense. We have the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.2.** *If  $I \subset S$  is an ideal of Borel type and  $q$  is a positive integer, then  $\text{Ass}(S/I^{(q)}) \subset \text{Ass}(S/I)$ . In particular,  $I^{(q)}$  is an ideal of Borel type.*

*Proof.* Assume  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i$  is the primary decomposition of  $I$  given in (1). It follows that  $I^{(q)} := \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i^q$ . This primary decomposition of  $I^{(q)}$  is not necessarily irredundant. However, since  $\sqrt{Q_i^q} = \sqrt{Q_i}$ , it follows that  $\text{Ass}(S/I^{(q)}) \subset \text{Ass}(S/I)$ . Therefore, by Proposition 1.1(c),  $I^{(q)}$  is an ideal of Borel type.  $\square$

**Example 2.3.** We consider the following ideals,  $Q = (x^8, x^6y^2, x^2y^6, y^8) \subset S := K[x, y, z]$ ,  $Q' = Q + (x^4y^4) \subset S$ , and  $I := (Q, z^2) \cap Q' = (Q, x^4y^4z^2) \subset S$ . Since,  $Q \subsetneq Q'$ , it follows that  $(Q, z^2) \cap Q'$  is a primary decomposition of  $I$  and thus  $\text{Ass}(S/I) = \{(x, y), (x, y, z)\}$ .

We have  $Q = (x^8, y^2) \cap (x^6, y^6) \cap (x^2, y^8)$  and  $Q' = (x^8, y^2) \cap (x^4, y^6) \cap (x^6, y^4) \cap (x^2, y^8)$ . Therefore,  $I = Q' \cap (x^6, y^6, z^2)$  is the canonical primary decomposition of  $I$ , and thus  $I^{(2)} = Q^2 \cap (x^6, y^6, z^2)^2$ . On the other hand,

$$Q'^2 = Q^2 = (x^{16}, x^{14}y^2, x^{12}y^4, x^{10}y^6, x^8y^8, x^6y^{10}, x^4y^{12}, x^2y^{14}, y^{16}),$$

and thus  $I^{(2)} = Q^2$ , since  $Q^2 \subset (x^6, y^6, z^2)^2$ . We have  $s(K[x, y]/(Q' \cap K[x, y])) = 8$  and  $s(Q'/(Q, z^2x^4y^4)) = 11$ , and therefore, by Proposition 1.3, we get  $\text{reg}(I) = 12$ . Also,  $s(K[x, y]/(Q \cap K[x, y])^2) = 16$  and thus  $\text{reg}(I^{(2)}) = 17$ , according to Proposition 1.3.

Let  $I \subset S$  be a Borel type ideal with the primary decomposition  $I := \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i$  from (1). We consider the sequential chain  $I = I_0 \subset I_1 \subset \dots \subset I_r = S$  of  $I$ , where  $I_i := \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r Q_j$ . Note that  $I_i^{(q)} := \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r Q_j^q$ , since the previous primary decompositions of  $I_i$ 's are canonical. We consider the following chain of ideals

$$I^{(q)} = I_0^{(q)} \subset I_1^{(q)} \subset \dots \subset I_r^{(q)} = S.$$

In the chain above, we may have some equalities. Nevertheless, if we denote  $J_i$  be the monomial ideal generated by  $G(I_i)$  in  $S_i := K[x_1, \dots, x_{n_i}]$ , we have

$$I_{i+1}^{(q)}/I_i^{(q)} \cong ((J_i^{(q)})^{\text{sat}}/J_i^{(q)})[x_{n_{i+1}}, \dots, x_n].$$

Also, the sequential chain of  $I_i^{(q)}$  is obtain from the previous chain of ideal, by removing those ideals  $I_i$  with  $I_i = I_{i-1}$ . Thus, by Proposition 1.3,

$$\text{reg}(I^{(q)}) = \max\{s((J_i^{(q)})^{\text{sat}}/J_i^{(q)}), 0 \leq i \leq r-1\} + 1. \quad (2)$$

Now, we are able to prove the following Theorem.

**Theorem 2.4.** *With the above notations, we have  $\text{reg}(I^{(q)}) \leq q \cdot \text{reg}(I)$ .*

*Proof.* We fix  $0 \leq i \leq r-1$ . Since  $I_i := \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r Q_j$ , it follows that  $J_i = \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r \bar{Q}_j$ , where  $\bar{Q}_j$  is the ideal generated by  $G(Q_j)$  in  $S_i$ . On the other hand, since  $J_i^{\text{sat}}$  is generated by the elements of  $G(I_{i+1})$ , it follows that  $J_i^{\text{sat}} = \bigcap_{j=i+2}^r \bar{Q}_j$ . Note that

$$s(J_i^{\text{sat}}/J_i) + 1 = \min\{j : \mathbf{m}_i^j J_i^{\text{sat}} \subset J_i\}$$

and therefore  $s(J_i^{sat}/J_i) + 1 = \min\{j : \mathbf{m}_i^j \bar{Q}_k \subset \bar{Q}_{i+1} \text{ for all } k = i+2, \dots, r\}$ . Analogously, since  $I_i^{((q))} := \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r Q_j^q$ , it follows that

$$s((J_i^{((q))})^{sat}/J_i^{((q))}) + 1 = \min\{j : \mathbf{m}_i^j \bar{Q}_k^q \subset \bar{Q}_{i+1}^q \text{ for all } k = i+2, \dots, r\}.$$

Note that if  $\mathbf{m}_i^j \bar{Q}_k \subset \bar{Q}_{i+1}$  then  $\mathbf{m}_i^{jq} \bar{Q}_k^q = (\mathbf{m}_i^j \bar{Q}_k)^q \subset \bar{Q}_{i+1}^q$ . Therefore, we get

$$s((J_i^{((q))})^{sat}/J_i^{((q))}) + 1 \leq q \cdot (s(J_i^{sat}/J_i) + 1). \quad (3)$$

By applying Proposition 1.3 to  $I$  and (3) we get the required conclusion.  $\square$

Let  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal of Borel type. An interesting question is to find a relation between  $\text{reg}(I^q)$  and  $\text{reg}(I^{((q))})$ .

Let  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal and let  $q$  be a nonnegative integer. We define the  $q$ -th bracket power of  $I$ , to be the ideal  $I^{[q]}$ , generated by all monomials  $u^q$ , where  $u \in I$  is a monomial. In particular,  $I^{[0]} = S$  and  $I^{[1]} = I$ . Note that if  $G(I) = \{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$  is the set of minimal monomial generators of  $I$ , then  $G(I^{[q]}) = \{u_1^q, \dots, u_m^q\}$ . Note that  $I^{[q]} \subset I^q$  for all  $q$ . In fact, when  $q \geq 2$ , the equality holds if and only if  $I$  is principal. Also, one can easily see that  $(I \cap J)^{[q]} = I^{[q]} \cap J^{[q]}$  for any monomial ideals  $I, J \subset S$ .

Now, assume  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i$  is an irredundant primary decomposition of  $I$ . We claim that  $I^{[q]} = \bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i^{[q]}$  is an irredundant primary decomposition of  $I^{[q]}$ , where  $q$  is a positive integer. In order to prove this, we fix an integer  $i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq r$  and we chose a monomial  $u \in Q_i \setminus \bigcap_{j \neq i} Q_j$ . Obviously,  $u^q \in Q_i^{[q]}$ . We claim that  $u^q \notin \bigcap_{j \neq i} Q_j$ . Assume this is not the case. It follows that  $u^q = u_j^q w_j$  for some monomials  $u_j \in Q_j$  and  $w_j \in S$ , for all  $j \neq i$ . Therefore,  $u_j | u$  for all  $j \neq i$ . It follows that  $u \in \bigcap_{j \neq i} Q_j$ , a contradiction.

As a consequence, we get the following Lemma.

**Lemma 2.5.** *If  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal and  $q$  a positive integer, then  $\text{Ass}(S/I) = \text{Ass}(S/I^{[q]})$ . In particular, if  $I$  is of Borel type, then  $I^{[q]}$  is of Borel type.*

Now, we are able to prove the following Theorem.

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal of Borel type. Then:*

$$\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) \geq q \cdot \text{reg}(I).$$

*Proof.* We consider the primary irredundant decomposition  $\bigcap_{i=1}^r Q_i$  of  $I$  from (1) and the sequential chain  $I = I_0 \subset I_1 \subset \dots \subset I_r := S$  of  $I$ , where  $I_i = \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r Q_j$ , for  $0 \leq i \leq r-1$ . Note that the sequential chain of  $I^{[q]}$ , is  $I^{[q]} = I_0^{[q]} \subset I_1^{[q]} \subset \dots \subset I_r^{[q]} = S$ . Indeed, all the inclusions are stricts.

We fix an integer  $0 \leq i \leq r-1$ . Let  $J_i$  be the monomial ideal generated by  $G(I_i)$  in  $S_i := K[x_1, \dots, x_{n_i}]$ . We denote  $\bar{Q}_j$ , the ideal generated by  $G(Q_j)$  in  $S_i$ , for all  $1 \leq j \leq r$ . With these notations, we have  $J_i = \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r \bar{Q}_j$  and  $J_i^{[q]} = \bigcap_{j=i+1}^r \bar{Q}_j^{[q]}$ . On the other hand, since  $J_i^{sat}$  is generated by the elements of  $G(I_{i+1})$ , it follows that  $J_i^{sat} = \bigcap_{j=i+2}^r \bar{Q}_j$ .

Let  $u \in J_i^{sat} \setminus J_i$  be a nonzero monomial. We claim that  $x_1^{q-1}u^q \in (J_i^{[q]})^{sat} \setminus J_i^{[q]}$ . It is clear that  $x_1^{q-1}u^q \in (J_i^{[q]})^{sat}$ . If we assume that  $x_1^{q-1}u^q \in J_i^{[q]}$ , it follows that  $x_1^{q-1}u^q = v^q \cdot w$ , where  $v \in J_i$  is a monomial and  $w \in S$  is a monomial. Since  $v^q | x_1^{q-1}u^q$ , it follows that  $v | u$  and therefore  $u \in J_i$ , a contradiction.

As a consequence, we get  $s((J_i^{[q]})^{sat}/J_i^{[q]}) \geq q \cdot s(J_i^{sat}/J_i) + q - 1$ . By applying Proposition 1.3, we get the required conclusion.  $\square$

**Remark 2.7.** The conclusions of Theorem 2.4 and Theorem 2.6 hold for monomial ideals  $I \subset S$  with  $Ass(S/I)$  totally ordered by inclusion. Indeed, if  $I$  is such an ideal, we can define a ring isomorphism  $\varphi : S \rightarrow S$  given by a reordering of variables, such that  $\varphi(I)$  is an ideal of Borel type. Since the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity is an invariant, it follows that  $reg(I) = reg(\varphi(I))$ .

Bermejo and Giemenes give in [2] a formula for the regularity of a Borel type ideal  $I$ , when the irredundant irreducible decomposition is known. More precisely, they proved the following Proposition.

**Proposition 2.8.** [2, Corollary 3.17] *Let  $I \subset S$  be a monomial ideal of Borel type. Assume  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^m C_i$  is the irredundant irreducible decomposition of  $I$ . Then:*

$$reg(I) = \max\{reg(C_i) : i = 1, \dots, m\}.$$

Since  $C_i$ 's are irreducible monomial ideals, they are generated by powers of variables. Since  $\sqrt{C_i} \in Ass(S/I)$  and  $I$  is of Borel type, we may assume that  $C_i = (x_1^{a_{i1}}, \dots, x_{r_i}^{a_{ir_i}})$ , where  $r_i$  is an integer with  $1 \leq r_i \leq n$  and  $a_{ij}$  are some positive integers. Denote  $S_i := K[x_1, \dots, x_{r_i}]$ . If we denote  $\bar{C}_i$  the ideal generated by  $G(C_i)$  in  $S_i$ , then, by Proposition 1.3, as in Example 1.5, we have  $reg(C_i) = s(S_i/\bar{C}_i) + 1 = a_{i1} + \dots + a_{ir_i} - r_i + 1$ . Therefore, we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.9.** *With the notations above,*

$$reg(I) = \max\{a_{i1} + \dots + a_{ir_i} - r_i + 1 : i = 1, \dots, m\}.$$

Let  $q$  be a positive integer and consider the ideal  $I^{[q]}$ . Since  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^m C_i$ , it follows that  $I^{[q]} = \bigcap_{i=1}^m C_i^{[q]}$  and  $C_i^{[q]} = (x_1^{qa_{i1}}, \dots, x_{r_i}^{qa_{ir_i}})$ . Note that  $\bigcap_{i=1}^m C_i^{[q]}$  is the irredundant irreducible decomposition of  $I^{[q]}$ . Indeed, we can argue in the same way as we did for the irreducible primary decomposition of  $I^{[q]}$ . Therefore, by Corollary 2.9, we get the following.

**Corollary 2.10.**  $reg(I^{[q]}) = \max\{qa_{i1} + \dots + qa_{ir_i} - r_i + 1 : i = 1, \dots, m\}$ .

The above formula leads us to the following upper bound for  $reg(I^{[q]})$ .

**Proposition 2.11.** *Let  $I \subset S$  be an ideal of Borel type and let  $q$  be a positive integer. Then:*

$$reg(I^{[q]}) \leq q reg(I) + (q - 1)(n - 1) = \alpha q reg(I) - (n - 1),$$

where  $\alpha = 1 + \frac{n-1}{reg(I)}$ .

*Proof.* With the above notations, we may assume  $\text{reg}(I) = a_{i1} + \cdots + a_{ir_i} - r_i + 1$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . According to Corollary 2.9 and Corollary 2.10,  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) = qa_{i1} + \cdots + qa_{ir_i} - r_i + 1$ . Therefore,  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) = q \text{reg}(I) + (q-1)(r_i - 1)$ . Since  $r_i - 1 \leq n - 1$ , we get the required inequality. The remaining equality is trivial.  $\square$

We conclude our paper, with the following example.

**Example 2.12.** Let  $I = (x) \cap (x^2, y) = (x^2, xy) \subset S = K[x, y]$ . Let  $q$  be a positive integer. It follows that  $I^q = (x^{2q}, x^{2q-1}y, \dots, x^qy^q) = (x^q) \cap (x^{2q}, x^{2q-1}y, \dots, x^{q+1}y^{q-1}, y^q)$ .

Also, we obtain  $I^{((q))} = (x^q) \cap (x^2, y)^q = (x^q) \cap (x^{2q}, x^{2q-2}y, \dots, x^2y^{q-1}, y^q) = (x^{2q}, x^{2q-2}y, \dots, x^{2q-2} \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor y^{\lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor}, x^q y^{\lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor + 1})$ , where we denoted by  $\lfloor \alpha \rfloor$  the integer part of  $\alpha$ . On the other hand,  $I^{[q]} = (x^q) \cap (x^2, y^q) = (x^{2q}, x^qy^q)$ .

We consider the sequential chain of  $I$ ,  $I =: I_0 \subset I_1 \subset I_2 := S$ , where  $I_1 = (x)$ . We have  $J_0 = I \subset S$  and  $J_1 = (x) \subset K[x]$ . Therefore,  $J_0^q = I^q$ ,  $J_0^{((q))} = I^{((q))}$  and  $J_0^{[q]} = I^{[q]}$ . Also,  $J_1^q = J_1^{((q))} = J_1^{[q]} = (x^q) \subset K[x]$ . We get  $J_0^{\text{sat}} = (x)S$ ,  $(J_0^q)^{\text{sat}} = (J_0^{((q))})^{\text{sat}} = (J_0^{[q]})^{\text{sat}} = (x^q)S$  and  $J_1^{\text{sat}} = (J_1^q)^{\text{sat}} = (J_1^{((q))})^{\text{sat}} = (J_1^{[q]})^{\text{sat}} = K[x]$ .

We have  $s(J_1^{\text{sat}}/J_1) = 0$  and  $s((J_1^q)^{\text{sat}}/J_1^q) = s((J_1^{((q))})^{\text{sat}}/J_1^{((q))}) = s((J_1^{[q]})^{\text{sat}}/J_1^{[q]}) = q - 1$ .

Also, one can easily compute  $s(J_0^{\text{sat}}/J_0) = 1$ ,  $s((J_0^q)^{\text{sat}}/J_0^q) = 2q - 1$ ,  $s((J_0^{((q))})^{\text{sat}}/J_0^{((q))}) = 2q - 1$  and  $s((J_0^{[q]})^{\text{sat}}/J_0^{[q]}) = 3q - 2$ . By Proposition 1.3, it follows that  $\text{reg}(I) = 2$ ,  $\text{reg}(I^q) = \text{reg}(I^{((q))}) = 2q$  and  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) = 3q - 1$ .

Since  $I = (x) \cap (x^2, y)$  is also the irreducible irredundant decomposition of  $I$ , by Corollary 2.8 and Corollary 2.9, we can compute directly  $\text{reg}(I) = \max\{1 - 1 + 1, 2 + 1 - 2 + 1\} = 2$  and, respectively,  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) = \max\{q - 1 + 1, 2q + q - 2 + 1\} = 3q - 1$ .

Note that  $\text{reg}(I^{[q]}) = q \text{reg}(I) + (q-1)(2-1)$  and therefore, the upper bound given in Proposition 2.11 is the best possible.

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Mircea Cimpoeas, Simion Stoilow Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy  
E-mail: mircea.cimpoeas@imar.ro