

The Regularity of Singularity, II

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Let \mathcal{K} be an infinite field, $\mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^n$, and $S = \mathcal{K}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ as the graded homogeneous ring of polynomials.

Previously we examined the following issues.

Question. Suppose that $\text{char } \mathcal{K} = 0$. Given a set $X \subset \mathcal{K}^n$ take the ideal $I(X)^{\langle k \rangle}$ of polynomials that are singular to order $k - 1$ at each point of X (including $I(X)^{\langle 1 \rangle} = I(X)$). Find the codimension of $I(X)^{\langle k \rangle}$ in S . (This may be extended naturally to any infinite field.)

We are particularly interested in an algebraic variety X : a set defined by polynomial equations of S . This includes any finite collection of points in \mathcal{K}^n . Further, to gain insight on the question for any variety X one may begin by examining finite sets; namely, those given by slicing X by planes. Thus we may begin with a focus on a set $\Gamma = \{p_1, \dots, p_d\} \subset \mathcal{K}^n$.

One may recall (or not!) how we examined this question for a *general* collection of d points: “ Γ is chosen at random”. In that case, the “fewest” polynomials of given degree m are singular (and are zero) on Γ , with respect to d, n , and m . We shall discuss here the problem for an arbitrary collection, with the broad conclusion: loosely speaking, if there are “many” polynomials that are singular on Γ for each degree and order of singularity, then there must be “many” polynomials that are zero on Γ as well. Thus we must quantify this statement in order to attach a meaning.

We considered the ideal $I(X)^k = \langle \{F_1 F_2 \dots F_k : F_1, \dots, F_k \subset I(X)\} \rangle$ and its relation to $I(X)^{\langle k \rangle}$; further, the ideal I^k is defined for any ideal I .

We defined the notion of *regularity* of an ideal, $\text{reg } I$, determined by its minimal free resolution. The regularity tells when the ideal starts to “act predictably”. We shall also refer to the modules of syzygies of I , the saturation of an ideal, and the Krull dimension of a module.

We show:

Theorem 1 *Suppose that $I \subset S$ is an ideal with Krull dimension $\dim S/I \leq 1$. Suppose that I is generated in degree at most m , its first syzygy module is generated in degree at most $s + 1$, and that I is not principal. Then for each $k \geq 2$ we have $\text{reg } I^k \leq (k - 2)m + s + \text{reg } I$.*

We shall comment on the extension to the case of $\dim S/I = 2$.