

j -stretched ideals and Sally's Conjecture

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Joint work(s) with Yu Xie (U. of Notre Dame)

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Based on the following papers:

P. Mantero and Y. Xie, *On the Cohen-Macaulayness of the conormal module of an ideal* (2010), 24 pages, submitted.
Available at [arxiv:1103.5518](https://arxiv.org/abs/1103.5518).

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Cohen-Macaulayness of the conormal module

Question 1 (Vasconcelos 1987, 1994)

Let R be a RLR and I be a perfect ideal that is generically a complete intersection (i.e., $I_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is a complete intersection $\forall \mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}_R(R/I)$).

If I/I^2 (equivalently, R/I^2) is CM $\stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow}$ R/I is Gorenstein?

Answer is YES for:

- perfect *prime* ideals of height 2 (Herzog, 1978);
- licci ideals (Huneke and Ulrich, 1989);
- squarefree monomial ideals (Rinaldo, Terai and Yoshida, 2011).

In particular, it is true for all perfect ideals of height 2.

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Cohen-Macaulayness of the conormal module, cont'd

Using tools from linkage theory, we proved the following

Proposition 2 (M-Xie 2010)

Question 1 can be reduced to the case of prime ideals.

Theorem(s) 3 (M-Xie 2010)

Question 1 holds true for:

- (a) *any monomial ideal I ;*
- (b) *almost every ideal I defining a short algebra;*
- (c) *any ideal I such that R/I has multiplicity $\leq \text{ecodim} R/I + 4$;*
- (d) *any ideal I such that R/I is a **stretched** algebra.*

We also provide examples of a prime ideal \mathfrak{p} such that $e(R/\mathfrak{p}) = \text{ecodim} R/I + 5$ and answer to Vasconcelos' Question is NO.

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Stretched algebras

- An Artinian local ring (A, \mathfrak{n}) is **stretched** if \mathfrak{n}^2 is a principal ideal.

Example

Set $A_n = k[[X, Y, Z]]/(X^2, XY, XZ, YZ, Z^n - Y^2)$ with $n \geq 2 \Rightarrow A_n$ is a stretched algebra.

- An Artinian algebra is stretched iff its Hilbert function has the shape

$$1 \quad c \quad 1 \quad \dots \quad 1 \quad 0 \rightarrow$$

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Structure of Artinian stretched algebras

Theorem 4 (Sally 1981, Elias-Valla 2008, M-Xie 2010)

*Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a RLR of dimension c with $\text{char } R/\mathfrak{m} \neq 2$. Let $I \subseteq \mathfrak{m}^2$ be an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal with R/I stretched with $\mathfrak{m}_{R/I}^2 \neq 0$. Write $\tau(R/I) = r + 1$ for some non negative integer r .
 $\Rightarrow \exists$ minimal generators x_1, \dots, x_c for \mathfrak{m} , and units u_{r+1}, \dots, u_{c-1} in R with*

$$I = (x_1\mathfrak{m}, \dots, x_r\mathfrak{m}) + J$$

where

$$J = (x_{r+i}x_{r+j} \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq c-r) + (x_c^s - u_{r+i}x_{r+i}^2 \mid 1 \leq i \leq c-r-1).$$

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An example

Example

If R/I is Artinian algebra with Hilbert function

$$1 \quad 3 \quad 1 \quad 0 \longrightarrow$$

and type 2 $\Rightarrow \exists$ a regular system of parameters, x, y, z , for R , and a unit u of R with

$$I = (x^2, xy, xz, yz, x^3 - uy^2).$$

Other examples

- A Cohen-Macaulay local ring (R, \mathfrak{m}) is **stretched** if there exists a minimal reduction J of \mathfrak{m} ($J\mathfrak{m}^n = \mathfrak{m}^{n+1}$ for some n) so that R/J is Artinian stretched.

If R is a Cohen-Macaulay local ring, Abhyankar proved that

$$e(R) \geq \text{ecodim } R + 1.$$

- If $e(R) = \text{ecodim } R + 1$, then R has *minimal multiplicity*;
- If $e(R) = \text{ecodim } R + 2$, then R has *almost minimal multiplicity*.

Example

Let R be a Cohen-Macaulay local algebra with minimal or almost minimal multiplicity $\Rightarrow R$ is stretched.

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Sally's Conjecture

Theorem 5

Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be Cohen-Macaulay local ring.

- (a) (Sally 1979) If R has minimal multiplicity $\Rightarrow \operatorname{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ is Cohen-Macaulay;*
- (b) (Sally 1981, Rossi-Valla 1994, Wang 1994) If R has almost minimal multiplicity $\Rightarrow \operatorname{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ is almost Cohen-Macaulay (i.e., $\operatorname{depth} \operatorname{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) \geq \dim R - 1$).*

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Stretched \mathfrak{m} -primary ideals

Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be Cohen-Macaulay, I be an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal, J be a minimal reduction of I ($JI^n = I^{n+1}$ for some n). Then, I is **stretched** if

- (i) $HF_{I/J}(2) \leq 1$, and
- (ii) $I^2 \cap J = JI$.

When $I = \mathfrak{m}$, this definition is equivalent to say that R/J is a stretched algebra.

- Rossi and Valla (2001) proved the \mathfrak{m} -primary analogue of Sally's Conjecture for stretched \mathfrak{m} -primary ideals, under some additional assumptions on the ideal.
- **Problematic Remark:** \mathfrak{m} -primary stretched ideals do not generalize ideals defining algebras with almost minimal multiplicity.

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Goals

The goals we achieve in our paper with Y. Xie are:

- provide a generalized notion of stretched (' j -stretched') such that
 - (1) it is well-defined even when $\dim R/I > 0$;
 - (2) it removes the intersection property.
 - (3) it generalizes the 'higher dimensional version' of minimal and almost minimal multiplicity.
- Characterize the CM-ness of $gr_I(R)$ for these ideals.
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Our tools come from residual intersection theory and j -multiplicity theory (=the higher-dimensional version of Hilbert-Samuel multiplicity).

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j -stretched ideals

1-dimensional definition

Let R be a 1-dimensional Cohen-Macaulay local domain, I be a non zero ideal of R , and let J' be a general principal reduction of I . Then,

$$I \text{ is } j\text{-stretched} \iff \lambda(I^2/J'I + I^3) \leq 1.$$

Definition 6

Let R be a Noetherian local ring and I be an ideal with analytic spread $\ell(I) = \dim R = d$. I is **j -stretched** if, for a general minimal reduction $J = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$ of I , one has

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Observations and Facts

Recall that j -multiplicity is the higher-dimensional version of Hilbert-Samuel multiplicity.

Remark. I has minimal/almost minimal j -multiplicity $\Rightarrow I$ is j -stretched
(while I with almost minimal multiplicity $\nRightarrow I$ stretched!)

Proposition 7

If I has the corresponding length property with respect to one minimal reduction $\Rightarrow I$ is j -stretched.

Comment. Proposition 7 is useful from the computational perspective.

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Remark. I has minimal/almost minimal j -multiplicity $\Rightarrow I$ is j -stretched
(while I with almost minimal multiplicity $\nRightarrow I$ stretched!)

Proposition 7

If I has the corresponding length property with respect to one minimal reduction $\Rightarrow I$ is j -stretched.

Comment. Proposition 7 is useful from the computational perspective.

j -stretched ideals vs. stretched ideals

Theorem 8 (M-Xie)

Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local Cohen-Macaulay ring, and I be an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal. If I is stretched $\Rightarrow I$ is j -stretched.

Therefore, j -stretched ideals generalize simultaneously ideals having minimal/almost minimal j -multiplicity, and \mathfrak{m} -primary stretched ideals.

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CM-ness of the associated graded ring

Under some residual assumptions, we can characterize the j -stretched ideals for which $\text{gr}_I(R)$ is CM.

Theorem 9 (M-Xie)

Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local CM ring with $|R/\mathfrak{m}| = \infty$, and let I be a j -stretched ideal. Let $J = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$ be a general minimal reduction of I . Assume either

- I is \mathfrak{m} -primary and $(x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}) \cap I^2 = (x_1, \dots, x_{d-1})I$, or*
- $\ell(I) = \dim R = d$, I satisfies G_d , AN_{d-2}^- , $\text{depth}(R/I) \geq 1$.*

TFAE:

- (a) $G = \text{gr}_I(R)$ is Cohen-Macaulay;*
- (b) $I^{K+1} = JI^K$;*
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Sally's Conjecture for j -stretched ideals

The next result proves Sally's Conjecture for j -stretched ideals, generalizing to any dimension several classical results.

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A concrete example

Example 11

Let $R = k[[t^4, t^6, t^{11}, t^{13}]]$, $\mathfrak{m} = (t^4, t^6, t^{11}, t^{13})$, $I = (t^4, t^6, t^{11})$.
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- I is an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal,
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- I is j -stretched on R .

Remark. Therefore, j -stretched \nRightarrow stretched.

Final Remark. All these definitions and results actually hold, more in general, for (associated graded) modules.

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