

RESOLUTIONS OF MONOMIAL IDEALS AND COHOMOLOGY OVER EXTERIOR ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. This paper studies the homology of finite modules over the exterior algebra E of a vector space V . To such a module M we associate an algebraic set $V_E(M) \subseteq V$, consisting of those $v \in V$ that have a non-minimal annihilator in M . A cohomological description of its defining ideal leads, among other things, to complementary expressions for its dimension, linked by a ‘depth formula’. Explicit results are obtained for $M = E/J$, when J is generated by products of elements of a basis e_1, \dots, e_n of V . A (infinite) minimal free resolution of E/J is constructed from a (finite) minimal resolution of S/I , where I is the squarefree monomial ideal generated by ‘the same’ products of the variables in the polynomial ring $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. It is proved that $V_E(E/J)$ is the union of the coordinate subspaces of V , spanned by subsets of $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ determined by the Betti numbers of S/I over S .

INTRODUCTION

Let V be a vector space with basis e_1, \dots, e_n over a field K , and let $E = \bigwedge(V)$ be the exterior algebra over V . The standard basis elements $e_{k_1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{k_s}$ of E , $k_1 < \dots < k_s$, are called monomials in E . An ideal $J \subseteq E$ generated by monomials is called a monomial ideal. We study the (co)homological algebra of such ideals.

Along with J , we consider the corresponding squarefree monomial ideal I in the polynomial ring $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. Each S -module F_i in a minimal multigraded free resolution F of S/I can be written in the form

$$F_i = \bigoplus_{j=1}^{\beta_i} S(-a_{ij}) \quad \text{with uniquely determined } a_{ij} \in \mathbb{N}^n.$$

A well known formula of Hochster [12] on the multigraded Betti numbers of squarefree monomial ideals shows that F is itself squarefree, in the sense that the coordinates of all shifts a_{ij} are equal to 0 or 1. Furthermore, there exist interesting non-minimal squarefree resolutions, for example the Taylor resolution [15].

Given any squarefree resolution F of the monomial ideal $I \subseteq S$, we choose a homogeneous basis B of F and construct a multigraded free resolution G of the monomial ideal J in the exterior algebra E . The resolution depends on B , but different choices of multihomogeneous bases lead to isomorphic complexes; if F is minimal, then so is G . The construction is given in Section 1.

Received by the editors September 30, 1997.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 13D02, 13D40, 16E10, 52B20.

Work on this paper started while the first and second author visited the third author; the hospitality of the University of Essen is gratefully acknowledged.

The second author was partially supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Section 2 contains applications. An explicit formula gives the multigraded Betti numbers of the monomial ideal $J \subseteq E$ in terms of those of I . As a consequence, some interesting properties of J , like the linearity of its minimal resolution or the independence of its Betti numbers from the characteristic of the base field K , are seen to be equivalent to the corresponding properties of I . We also show that if I is a Gotzmann ideal in S , then J is a Gotzmann ideal in E . Our method yields exterior algebra analogues of the Taylor [15] and Eliahou-Kervaire [10] resolutions.

In Section 3 we associate with each finite E -module M an algebraic set $V_E(M) \subseteq V$. As for modular representations of finite groups, which provide the model, there are two constructions: in terms of the action of the graded ring $\text{Ext}_E(K, K)$ on $\text{Ext}_E(M, K)$, following Quillen [14], or in terms of the action of V on M , mimicking Carlson [7]. We prove that they yield the same result. Along with other properties of $V_E(M)$, this parallels results over group algebras; techniques developed for that case have been successfully extended to other Hopf algebras, but they do not always apply here, because E is *not* a Hopf algebra (in the category of rings). Our approach is similar to that used in [4] to study modules over complete intersections, and takes advantage of the simple structure of $\text{Ext}_E(K, K)$; by Cartan [8] it is the symmetric algebra of $\text{Hom}_K(V, K)$. In particular, we prove that the dimension of $V_E(M)$ is complementary to the (appropriately defined) depth of M over E .

When Δ is a simplicial complex and $J = J_\Delta$ is the ideal in E generated by all monomials $e_{k_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{k_s}$ such that $\{k_1, \dots, k_s\} \notin \Delta$, the K -algebra $K\langle\Delta\rangle = E/J_\Delta$ is called the indicator algebra of Δ . It has proved to be important in the study of the f -vector of Δ ; see for example [3]. The corresponding squarefree ideal $I = I_\Delta$ in S defines the more familiar Stanley-Reisner ring $K[\Delta] = S/I_\Delta$. In Section 4 we prove that $V_E(K\langle\Delta\rangle)$ is a union of coordinate subspaces of V , determined by the supports of the shifts of a minimal free resolution of the Stanley-Reisner ring $K[\Delta]$ over S . This has consequences for the simplicial cohomology of Δ .

We are grateful to Ragnar-Olaf Buchweitz for several inspiring discussions.

1. THE MAIN CONSTRUCTION

In the rest of the paper we fix some—mostly standard—notation.

An n -tuple $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ is *squarefree* if $0 \leq a_j \leq 1$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$. For $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ we set $|a| = a_1 + \cdots + a_n$, and $\text{supp}(a) = \{j \mid a_j \neq 0\}$; by convention, $\text{supp}(0) = \emptyset$, and $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$. For an element u of an n -graded vector space $M = \bigoplus_{a \in \mathbb{Z}^n} M_a$, the notation $\deg(u) = a$ is equivalent to $u \in M_a$; we set $\text{supp}(\deg(u)) = \text{supp}(u)$ and $|\deg(u)| = |u|$. The decomposition $M = \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} M_j$, where $M_j = \bigoplus_{a \in \mathbb{Z}^n, |a|=j} M_a$, turns M into a graded vector space.

Let $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be the polynomial ring on n commuting variables, and let $E = K\langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle$ be the exterior algebra on n alternating variables. They are n -graded by $\deg(x_j) = \deg(e_j) = \varepsilon_j = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, with 1 in the j th position. For $\sigma \subseteq [n]$ we set $x^\sigma = x_{k_1} \cdots x_{k_s}$ and $e_\sigma = e_{k_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{k_s}$, where $\sigma = \{k_1, \dots, k_s\}$ with $k_1 < \cdots < k_s$; we say that e_σ is a *monomial* in E . For $a \in \mathbb{N}^n$ we set $x^a = x_1^{a_1} \cdots x_n^{a_n}$ and $e_a = e_{\text{supp}(a)}$.

The following simple observation is used in many computations.

Observation 1.0. For monomials $u, v \in E$ with $\text{supp}(v) \subseteq \text{supp}(u)$ there exists a unique monomial $u' \in E$ such that $vu' = u$; we then set $v^{-1}u = u'$. For monomials $u, v, w, z \in E$ the equalities below hold whenever the left hand side is defined:

$$(v^{-1}u)w = v^{-1}(uw) \quad \text{and} \quad (z^{-1}v)(v^{-1}u) = z^{-1}u.$$

Construction 1.1. Let (F, θ) be a *squarefree complex* of n -graded S -modules, meaning that each F_i has a basis B_i with $\deg(f)$ squarefree for all $f \in B_i$.

Let P_i be an n -graded K -vector space with basis B_i , and set $B = \bigsqcup_i B_i$. Let C_j be the n -graded right E -module with basis $\{y^{(a)} \mid a \in \mathbb{N}^n, \deg(y^{(a)}) = a, |a| = j\}$. The tensor product $C_j \otimes_K P_i$ becomes a right n -graded E -module, by

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(y^{(a)} \otimes f) &= a + b; \\ (y^{(a)} \otimes f)e &= (-1)^{|b|} y^{(a)} e \otimes f, \end{aligned} \quad \text{where } b = \deg(f).$$

Let G_ℓ be the residue module of $\bigoplus_{\ell=j+i} C_j \otimes_K P_i$ by the submodule generated by $\{y^{(a)} \otimes f \mid \text{supp}(a) \not\subseteq \text{supp}(f)\}$, and write $y^{(a)}f$ for the image of $y^{(a)} \otimes f$ in G_ℓ . Thus, G_ℓ is the n -graded right E -module with basis

$$Y_\ell = \left\{ y^{(a)}f \mid \begin{array}{l} a \in \mathbb{N}^n, f \in B_i, \text{supp}(a) \subseteq \text{supp}(f) \\ \ell = |a| + i, \deg(y^{(a)}f) = a + \deg(f) \end{array} \right\}.$$

If in the complex (F, θ) the differential of $f \in B_i$ has the form

$$\theta(f) = \sum_{j: f_j \in B_{i-1}} \lambda_j x^{b-b_j} f_j \quad \text{with } \lambda_j \in K, b = \deg(f), b_j = \deg(f_j),$$

then define homomorphisms $G_\ell \rightarrow G_{\ell-1}$ of n -graded E -modules by

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(y^{(a)}f) &= (-1)^{|b|} \sum_{k \in \text{supp}(a)} y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k, \\ \vartheta(y^{(a)}f) &= (-1)^{|a|} \sum_{j: f_j \in B_{i-1}} y^{(a)} f_j \lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b. \end{aligned}$$

and set $\partial = \delta + \vartheta: G_\ell \rightarrow G_{\ell-1}$.

Proposition 1.2. *The preceding construction yields a complex (G, ∂) of right n -graded E -modules. If (G', ∂') is the complex obtained from homogeneous bases B'_i of F_i , then $G' \cong G$ as complexes of n -graded E -modules.*

Hochster's formula [12] for the Betti numbers of a squarefree monomial ideal $I \subseteq S$ shows that its minimal free resolution (F, θ) is squarefree. In that case, we can say more about the complex (G, ∂) described above.

Theorem 1.3. *Let Σ be a set of subsets of $[n]$, let $I \subseteq S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be the ideal generated by the squarefree monomials $\{x^\sigma \mid \sigma \in \Sigma\}$, and let $J \subseteq E = K\langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle$ be the ideal generated by the monomials $\{e_\sigma \mid \sigma \in \Sigma\}$.*

If (F, θ) is a (minimal) free resolution of S/I over S , then the complex (G, ∂) of Construction 1.1 is a (minimal) free resolution of E/J over E .

Proof of the proposition. To show that $\partial^2 = 0$ we establish equalities

$$\delta^2 = 0; \quad \vartheta^2 = 0; \quad \delta\vartheta = -\vartheta\delta.$$

The first one comes from an easy direct computation.

Writing $\theta(f_j) = \sum_{k: g_k \in B_{i-2}} \mu_{kj} x^{b_j-c_k} g_k \in F_{i-2}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^2(f) &= \sum_j \lambda_j x^{b-b_j} \theta(f_j) = \sum_j \lambda_j x^{b-b_j} \sum_k \mu_{kj} x^{b_j-c_k} g_k \\ &= \sum_k \left(\sum_j \mu_{kj} \lambda_j \right) x^{b-c_k} g_k = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\sum_j \mu_{kj} \lambda_j = 0$, so we get the second equality from:

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta^2(y^{(a)}f) &= (-1)^{|a|} \sum_j \vartheta(y^{(a)}f_j)(\lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b) \\ &= \sum_j \left(\sum_k y^{(a)}g_k(\mu_{kj} e_{c_k}^{-1} e_{b_j}) \right) (\lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b) \\ &= \sum_k y^{(a)}g_k \left(\sum_j \mu_{kj} \lambda_j (e_{c_k}^{-1} e_{b_j})(e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b) \right) \\ &= \sum_k y^{(a)}g_k \left(\sum_j \mu_{kj} \lambda_j \right) e_{c_k}^{-1} e_b = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Note that if $f \in B$ with $\deg(f) = b$ and $e \in E$ with $\deg(e) = c$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(y^{(a)}fe) &= \delta(y^{(a)}f)e \\ \vartheta(y^{(a)}fe) &= \vartheta(y^{(a)}f)e \end{aligned} \quad \text{provided} \quad \text{supp}(a) \subseteq \text{supp}(b) + \text{supp}(c).$$

When $\text{supp}(a) \subseteq \text{supp}(b)$, these formulas hold by definition. If $\text{supp}(a) \not\subseteq \text{supp}(b)$, then $y^{(a)}f = 0$, so we check that the right hand sides vanish. On the one hand, $\delta(y^{(a)}fe) = \pm \sum_{k \in \text{supp}(a)} y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e$; if $\text{supp}(a-\varepsilon_k) \not\subseteq \text{supp}(b)$, then $y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f = 0$; otherwise, $k \in \text{supp}(a) \setminus \text{supp}(f)$, hence $k \in \text{supp}(c)$, so $e_k e = 0$. On the other hand, $\vartheta(y^{(a)}f) = \pm \sum_j y^{(a)}g_j(\lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b)$ with $g_j \in B$. Since $\text{supp}(g_j) \subseteq \text{supp}(f)$, for all j we have $\text{supp}(a) \not\subseteq \text{supp}(g_j)$, and hence $y^{(a)}g_j = 0$.

The third equality now results from the computation:

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta(\delta(y^{(a)}f)) &= (-1)^{|b|} \vartheta \left(\sum_{k \in \text{supp}(a)} y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k \right) = (-1)^{|b|} \sum_{k \in \text{supp}(a)} \vartheta(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f) e_k \\ &= (-1)^{|b|+|a|-1} \sum_{k \in \text{supp}(a)} \left(\sum_{j: f_j \in B_{i-1}} y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f_j \lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b \right) e_k \\ &= (-1)^{|a|-1} \sum_{j: f_j \in B_{i-1}} \left(\sum_{k \in \text{supp}(a)} (-1)^{|b_j|} y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f_j e_k \right) \lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b \\ &= (-1)^{|a|-1} \sum_{j: f_j \in B_{i-1}} \delta(y^{(a)}f_j) \lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b \\ &= (-1)^{|a|-1} \delta \left(\sum_{j: f_j \in B_{i-1}} y^{(a)}f_j \lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b \right) = -\delta(\vartheta(y^{(a)}f)). \end{aligned}$$

When (G', ∂') is a complex obtained from a homogeneous basis B' of F , write each $f' \in B'_i$ in the form $f' = \sum_{j: f_j \in B_i} \lambda_j x^{b'-b_j} f_j$ with $b' = \deg(f')$ and $b_j = \deg(f_j)$, and define homomorphisms of E -modules $\gamma_i: G'_i \rightarrow G_i$ by

$$\gamma_i(y^{(a)}f') = \sum_{j: f_j \in B_i} y^{(a)}f \lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_{b'}.$$

Computations similar to (and more straightforward than) those above show that $\gamma(\partial'(y^{(a)}f')) = \vartheta(\gamma(y^{(a)}f'))$ and $\gamma(\delta'(y^{(a)}f')) = \delta(\gamma(y^{(a)}f'))$, so γ is a chain map. It is clearly bijective, so we have the desired isomorphism. \square

Proof of the theorem. Let (F, θ) be an n -graded free resolution of S/I over S , and let (G, ∂) be the complex obtained from it by Construction 1.1. To show that it is a resolution of E/J , we construct a K -linear chain homotopy χ such that

$$(*) \quad \chi\partial + \partial\chi = \text{id}_{\tilde{G}}$$

where \tilde{G} is the complex obtained from G by replacing G_0 with J .

Since F is exact, there is a homogeneous K -linear chain homotopy τ such that

$$\tau\theta + \theta\tau = \text{id}_{\tilde{F}}$$

where \tilde{F} is the complex obtained from F by replacing F_0 with I .

Thus, for $f \in B$ with $\deg(f) = b$ and $\sigma \subseteq [n]$ such that $\text{supp}(b) \cap \sigma = \emptyset$, we have

$$\tau(fx^\sigma) = \sum_k \mu_k x^\sigma x^{b-a_k} h_k \quad \text{where } \mu_k \in K, \quad h_k \in B, \quad a_k = \deg(h_k).$$

We define a K -linear map χ on the K -basis of \tilde{G} described in Construction 1.1 by

$$\chi(y^{(a)} f e_\sigma) = \begin{cases} \sum_k h_k \mu_k e_{a_k}^{-1}(e_b e_\sigma) & \text{if } a = 0 \text{ and } \text{supp}(b) \cap \sigma = \emptyset & (1) \\ (-1)^{r+|b|} y^{\varepsilon_s} f e_{\sigma \setminus \{s\}} & \text{if } a = 0 < \min(\text{supp}(b) \cap \sigma) = s & (2) \\ 0 & \text{if } a \neq 0 \text{ and } \text{supp}(b) \cap \sigma = \emptyset & (3) \\ 0 & \text{if } 0 < \min(a) < \min(\text{supp}(b) \cap \sigma) & (4) \\ (-1)^{r+|b|} y^{(a+\varepsilon_s)} f e_{\sigma \setminus \{s\}} & \text{if } \min(a) \geq \min(\text{supp}(b) \cap \sigma) = s & (5) \end{cases}$$

where $b = \text{supp}(f)$ and $r = |\{k \in \sigma \mid k < \min(\text{supp}(b) \cap \sigma)\}|$.

We establish (*), by four separate computations. To simplify notation, we set

$$s(c) = \text{supp}(c) \quad \text{for } c \in \mathbb{N}^n \quad \text{and} \quad u_j = \lambda_j e_{b_j}^{-1} e_b \quad \text{for } j \in [n].$$

(1) One has $\partial(fe_\sigma) = \sum_j f_j(u_j) e_\sigma$. Since $s(u_j) = s(b) \setminus s(b_j)$ for every j , we get

$$s(u_j) \cap \sigma = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad s(b_j) \cap s(u_j e_\sigma) = s(b_j) \cap \sigma = \emptyset.$$

Write $\tau(f_j x^\sigma x^{b-b_j}) = \sum_\ell g_\ell \nu_{\ell j} x^\sigma x^{b-c_\ell}$ with $g_\ell \in B$, $\nu_{\ell j} \in K$ and $c_\ell = \deg(g_\ell)$. As $e_{b_j} u_j e_\sigma = \lambda_j e_b e_\sigma$, one has $\chi(f_j u_j e_\sigma) = \lambda_j \sum_\ell g_\ell \nu_{\ell j} e_{c_\ell}^{-1}(e_b e_\sigma)$, therefore

$$\chi(\partial(fe_\sigma)) = \sum_\ell g_\ell \left(\sum_j \lambda_j \nu_{\ell j} \right) e_{c_\ell}^{-1}(e_b e_\sigma).$$

On the other hand, if $\theta(h_k) = \sum_\ell g_\ell \lambda_{\ell k} x^{a_k-c_\ell}$ with $\lambda_{\ell k} \in K$, then

$$\partial(\chi(fe_\sigma)) = \sum_k \sum_\ell g_\ell \mu_k \lambda_{\ell k} (e_{c_\ell}^{-1} e_{a_k})(e_{a_k}^{-1}(e_b e_\sigma)) = \sum_\ell g_\ell \left(\sum_k \mu_k \lambda_{\ell k} \right) e_{c_\ell}^{-1}(e_b e_\sigma).$$

Since $\theta\tau + \tau\theta = \text{id}_F$, we see that there exists a ℓ_0 such that $g_{\ell_0} = f$, and

$$\sum_k \mu_k \lambda_{\ell k} + \sum_j \lambda_j \nu_{\ell j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \ell = \ell_0; \\ 0 & \text{if } \ell \neq \ell_0. \end{cases}$$

This shows that $\partial\chi(fe_\sigma) + \chi\partial(fe_\sigma) = fe_\sigma$, as desired.

(2) and (5) In either case, $\partial\chi(y^{(a)} f e_\sigma)$ is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^r \sum_{k \in s(a+\varepsilon_s)} y^{(a+\varepsilon_s-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_{\sigma \setminus \{s\}} \\ + (-1)^{r+|b|+|a|+1} \sum_{j: s(b_j) \supseteq s(a+\varepsilon_s)} y^{(a+\varepsilon_s)} f_j u_j e_{\sigma \setminus \{s\}}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $y^{(a)}fe_\sigma$ appears above as a summand in the first sum for $k = s$. Now we compute $\chi(\partial(y^{(a)}fe_\sigma))$. If $s \notin s(b_j)$ for some j , then $s \in s(b) \setminus s(b_j) = s(u_j)$, therefore $u_j e_s = 0$, so that in $\partial(y^{(a)}fe_\sigma)$ only the summands $y^{(a)}f_j u_j e_\sigma$ with $s \in s(b_j)$ remain. In this case $\min(s(b_j) \cap s(u_j e_\sigma)) = s$, hence

$$\chi(y^{(a)}f_j u_j e_\sigma) = (-1)^{r+|b_j|+|u_j|} y^{(a+\varepsilon_s)} f_j u_j e_{\sigma \setminus \{s\}}.$$

Since $|u_j| + |b_j| = |b|$, we see that the second sum in $\partial\chi(y^{(a)}fe_\sigma)$ appears in $\chi(\partial(y^{(a)}fe_\sigma))$ with the opposite sign. If $k \in s(a)$ and $k \notin \sigma$, then $k \geq \min(a) \geq s$, so $\min(s(b) \cap (\sigma \cup k)) = s$. As $\min(a - \varepsilon_k) \geq \min(a) \geq s$, we get

$$(-1)^{|b|} \chi(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_\sigma) = (-1)^{r+1} y^{(a+\varepsilon_s-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_{\sigma \setminus \{s\}}.$$

The desired equality follows.

(3) For each j with $s(a) \subseteq s(b_j)$, one has $s(b_j) \cap \sigma = \emptyset$, hence $\chi(y^{(a)}f_j u_j e_\sigma) = 0$. Let $k \in s(a)$, $k \notin \sigma$ and consider $\chi(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_\sigma)$. We now have $s(b) \cap (\sigma \cup k) = k$. If $k > \min(a)$, then $\min(a - \varepsilon_k) = \min(a)$, therefore $\chi(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_\sigma) = 0$. Let $k = \min(a)$. Then $\min(a - \varepsilon_k) \geq k$, hence $(-1)^{|b|} \chi(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_\sigma) = y^{(a)} f e_\sigma$. This proves the desired equality.

(4) For each j with $s(a) \subseteq s(b_j)$, one has $u_j e_m = 0$ or $\min(s(b_j) \cap \sigma) = m$, so that in both cases $\chi(y^{(a)}f_j u_j e_\sigma) = 0$. Let $k \in s(a)$, $k \notin \sigma$ and consider $\chi(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_\sigma)$. If $k > \min(a)$, then $\min(a - \varepsilon_k) = \min(a) < m$, therefore $\min(a) < \min(s(b) \cap (\sigma \cup k))$ and by definition $\chi(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_\sigma) = 0$. Let $k = \min(a)$. Then $\min(s(b) \cap (\sigma \cup k)) = k \leq \min(a - \varepsilon_k)$, therefore $(-1)^{|b|} \chi(y^{(a-\varepsilon_k)} f e_k e_\sigma) = y^{(a)} f e_\sigma$. This proves (*). \square

2. APPLICATIONS

Recall that each finite n -graded module M over $A = E$ or $A = S$ has a unique up to isomorphism minimal resolution by free n -graded A -modules, and homogeneous A -linear homomorphisms. The *multigraded Betti number* $\beta_{ia}^A(M)$ is the number of basis elements of the i th free module in such a resolution, that are homogeneous of degree a . The *multigraded Poincaré series* of M over A is defined by

$$P_M^A(t, u) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{a \in \mathbb{N}^n} \beta_{ia}^A(M) t^i u^a.$$

For the rest of this section, I is an ideal generated by squarefree monomials in S , and J denotes the corresponding monomial ideal in E .

Counting ranks in the resolution of Theorem 1.3 we get a new proof of [3, (6.4)].

Proposition 2.1. *There is an equality of formal power series*

$$P_{E/J}^E(t, u) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{a \in \mathbb{N}^n} \beta_{ia}^S(S/I) \frac{t^i u^a}{\prod_{j \in \text{supp}(a)} (1 - t u_j)}. \quad \square$$

We record a couple of immediate consequences of this formula.

Corollary 2.2. (1) *The multigraded Betti numbers of I are independent of the characteristic of the field K if and only if this is true for J .*

(2) *The ideal I has a linear free resolution over S if and only if the ideal J has a linear free resolution over E .* \square

An important class of ideals in S with linear resolution are the Gotzmann ideals.

Recall that an ideal $L \subseteq A$, where $A = S$ or $A = E$, is called *Gotzmann* if it is generated by elements of the same degree, say d , and its span in degree $d+1$ is the smallest possible: $\text{rank}_K L_{d+1} \leq \text{rank}_K L'_{d+1}$ holds for all graded ideals $L' \subseteq A$ with $\text{rank}_K L'_d = \text{rank}_K L_d$. It is a widely open question which monomial ideals are Gotzmann. From a combinatorial point of view, it is particularly interesting for ideals generated by squarefree monomials.

Proposition 2.3. *If the ideal $I \subseteq S$ is Gotzmann, then so is the ideal $J \subseteq E$.*

Note that the converse may fail: $J = (e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3, e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_4, e_1 \wedge e_3 \wedge e_4) \subseteq E$ is a Gotzmann ideal, but $I = (x_1 x_2 x_3, x_1 x_2 x_4, x_1 x_3 x_4) \subseteq S$ is not.

Proof. Let $J' \subseteq E$ be an ideal generated in degree d , with $\text{rank}_K J'_d = \text{rank}_K J_d$.

The algebraic Kruskal-Katona Theorem [3, (4.4)] yields a monomial ideal J^{lex} generated in degree d , with $\text{rank}_K J_d^{\text{lex}} = \text{rank}_K J'_d$ and $\text{rank}_K J_{d+1}^{\text{lex}} \leq \text{rank}_K J'_{d+1}$. For the squarefree monomial ideal $I' \subseteq S$ corresponding to J^{lex} , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rank}_K J_{d+1} &= n\beta_{0d}(J) - \beta_{1d+1}(J) \\ &= n\beta_{0d}(I) - (\beta_{1d+1}(I) + d\beta_{0d}(I)) \\ &= \text{rank}_K I_{d+1} - d\text{rank}_K I_d \\ &\leq \text{rank}_K I'_{d+1} - d\text{rank}_K I'_d \\ &= n\beta_{0d}(I') - (\beta_{1d+1}(I') + d\beta_{0d}(I')) \\ &= n\beta_{0d}(J^{\text{lex}}) - \beta_{1d+1}(J^{\text{lex}}) \\ &= \text{rank}_K J_{d+1}^{\text{lex}} \end{aligned}$$

where the inequality is the Gotzmann hypothesis on I , the second and penultimate equalities come from Proposition 2.1, the rest are read off from the corresponding minimal resolutions. Altogether, we get $\text{rank}_K J_{d+1} \leq \text{rank}_K J'_{d+1}$, as desired. \square

Applying Theorem 1.3 to the Taylor resolution of monomial ideals in polynomial rings (cf. [15] or [9, p. 439]), we obtain an analogue over exterior algebras.

For a set of monomials $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ and a subset $\tau \subseteq [m] = \{1, \dots, m\}$, we denote u_τ to be the least common multiple of the monomials $\{u_j \mid j \in \tau\}$.

Proposition 2.4. *Let $J \subseteq E$ be an ideal generated by a set $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ of monomials. The right E -modules T_i with basis*

$$\{y^{(a)} f_\tau \mid a \in \mathbb{N}^n, |a| + |\tau| = i, \tau \subseteq [m], \text{supp}(a) \subseteq \text{supp}(u_\tau)\}$$

where $\deg(y^{(a)} f_\tau) = a + \deg u_\tau$, and the E -linear maps defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(y^{(a)} f_\tau) &= (-1)^{|u_\tau|} \sum_{k \in \text{supp}(a)} y^{(a - \varepsilon_k)} f_\tau e_k \\ &\quad + \sum_{j: \text{supp}(u_{\tau \setminus \{j\}}) \supseteq \text{supp}(a)} (-1)^{r_j + |a|} y^{(a)} f_{\tau \setminus \{j\}} u_{\tau \setminus \{j\}}^{-1} u_\tau \end{aligned}$$

where $r_j = |\{t \in \tau \mid t < j\}|$, form an n -graded resolution of E/J . \square

Example 2.5. When $J = (e_1, \dots, e_n)$, the proposition provides a minimal n -graded resolution of $K = E/(e_1, \dots, e_n)$ over E . Another one is the *Cartan resolution* (C, ∂) , where C_i has a basis $\{w^{(c)} \mid c \in \mathbb{N}^n, |c| = i\}$, and

$$d(w^{(c)}) = \sum_{k \in \text{supp}(c)} w^{(c - \varepsilon_k)} e_k.$$

To get an isomorphism of complexes $\gamma: C \rightarrow T$, note that each $c \in \mathbb{N}^n$ can be written uniquely as $c = a + b$ with $\text{supp}(c) = \text{supp}(b)$ and b squarefree, and set

$$\gamma(w^{(c)}) = (-1)^{|b|(|a| + (|b|-1)/2)} y^{(a)} f_{\text{supp}(b)}.$$

Our last application is to stable ideals, a notion extended in [3] from polynomial rings to exterior algebras: setting $\max(e_\sigma) = \max\{i \mid i \in \sigma\}$, call a monomial ideal $J \subseteq E$ *stable* if $e_j e_{\sigma \setminus \{m\}} \in J$ for each $e_\sigma \in J$ and each $j < m = \max(e_\sigma)$.

For a monomial ideal $J \subseteq E$, we denote $G(J)$ the uniquely defined minimal generating set of J consisting of monomials. As in [10], it is easily seen that each monomial $u' \in J$ has a unique decomposition $u' = uw$ with $u \in G(J)$ and $\max(u) < \min(w)$. Applying Theorem 1.3 to the resolution of squarefree stable ideals in S given in [2], we get a resolution for stable monomial ideals in E .

Proposition 2.6. *If $J \subseteq E$ is a stable ideal, then E/J has a minimal resolution (G, ∂) by n -graded free E -modules G_ℓ with basis*

$$\left\{ y^{(a)} f_{\sigma, u} \mid \begin{array}{l} a \in \mathbb{N}^n, \sigma \subseteq [n], u \in G(J) \\ \text{supp}(a) \subseteq \sigma \cup \text{supp}(u), \sigma \cap \text{supp}(u) = \emptyset, \max(\sigma) < \max(u) \\ i = |a| + |\sigma| + 1, \deg(y^{(a)} f_{\sigma, u}) = a + \deg(e_\sigma) + \deg(u) \end{array} \right\}$$

and differentials $\partial_\ell: G_\ell \rightarrow G_{\ell-1}$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(y^{(a)} f_{\sigma, u}) &= (-1)^{|u| + |\sigma|} \sum_{\ell \in \text{supp}(a)} y^{(a - \varepsilon_\ell)} f_{\sigma, u} e_\ell \\ &\quad + (-1)^{|a|} \sum_{j \in \sigma} \left((-1)^{|\sigma|} y^{(a)} f_{\sigma \setminus \{j\}, u} e_j + (-1)^{(|\sigma|-1)|w_j|} f_{\sigma \setminus \{j\}, u_j} w_j \right) \end{aligned}$$

where $u_j \in G(J)$ is determined from the unique decomposition $ue_j = u_j w_j$ described above, and $y^{(b)} f_{\rho, v} = 0$ if $\max(\rho) > \max(v)$ or $\text{supp}(b) \not\subseteq \rho \cup \text{supp}(v)$. \square

The preceding result was originally proved by different means in [3, (2.1)].

3. COHOMOLOGY

We study right modules over the exterior algebra E . Since the ideal $(V) \subset E$ is nilpotent, each (finite) E -module M has a unique up to isomorphism minimal free resolution F by (finite) free E -modules. The rank $\beta_i^E(M)$ of the free E -module F_i is known as the i th *Betti number* of M over E . The size of F is measured by the *complexity* of M over E , and is introduced as follows:

$$\text{cx}_E M = \inf\{c \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \beta_i^E(M) \leq \alpha i^{c-1} \text{ for some } \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and all } i \geq 1\}.$$

For each $v \in V = E_1$, the equality $v^2 = 0$ implies $Mv \subseteq \text{Ann}_M(v)$. We say that v is M -*regular* if equality holds, or, equivalently, if the infinite complex of K -spaces

$$(M, \rho^v): \quad \dots \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\rho^v} M \xrightarrow{\rho^v} M \rightarrow \dots \quad \text{where} \quad \rho^v(y) = yv$$

has trivial homology $H_*(M, \rho^v)$. Otherwise, we say that v is M -*singular*.

The set $V_E(M) \subseteq V$ of M -singular elements is called the *rank variety* of M .

If $M = \bigoplus_{a \in \mathbb{Z}} M_a$ is *graded*, regularity can also be introduced by the vanishing of the cohomology $H^*(M, v)$ of the finite complex of K -vector spaces

$$(M, v): \quad \dots \rightarrow M_{a-1} \xrightarrow{\rho_{a-1}^v} M_a \xrightarrow{\rho_a^v} M_{a+1} \rightarrow \dots$$

Recall that when M and N are graded E -modules, their *graded* tensor product $M \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} N$ and homomorphism space $\text{Hom}_K^{\text{gr}}(N, M)$ have *diagonal actions*:

$$\begin{aligned} (x \otimes y)e_\sigma &= \sum_{\tau \subseteq \sigma} (-1)^{k|\tau|} \text{sgn}_{\sigma \setminus \tau}^\tau x e_\tau \otimes y e_{\sigma \setminus \tau} \\ (\gamma e_\sigma)(y) &= \sum_{\tau \subseteq \sigma} (-1)^{|\tau|(k+|\tau|+1)/2} \text{sgn}_{\sigma \setminus \tau}^\tau \gamma(y e_\tau) e_{\sigma \setminus \tau} \end{aligned} \quad \text{for } y \in N_k \text{ and } \sigma \subseteq [n]$$

where $\text{sgn}_{\sigma \setminus \tau}^\tau$ is the sign of the permutation $(\tau, \sigma \setminus \tau)$; that these are (graded) E -modules follows from the fact that E is a *super* Hopf algebra.

The properties of $V_E(M)$ are similar to those of the varieties of modular representations, but proofs are simpler; compare the account by Benson [5].

Theorem 3.1. *If the field K is algebraically closed, then the rank varieties of finite E -modules M, N satisfy the following properties.*

- (1) $V_E(M)$ is a cone (that is, a homogeneous algebraic subset) in V .
- (2) $\dim V_E(M) = \text{cx}_E M$ and $2^{n - \text{cx}_E M}$ divides $\text{rank}_K M$.
- (3) $V_E(M) = \{0\}$ if and only if M is free.
- (4) $V_E(M) = V_E(N)$ if M is a syzygy of N .
- (5) If $M \subseteq N$, then each one of the three varieties $V_E(M)$, $V_E(N)$, $V_E(N/M)$, is contained in the union of the other two.
- (6) $V_E(M \oplus N) = V_E(M) \cup V_E(N)$.
- (7) $V_E(M \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} N) = V_E(M) \cap V_E(N) = V_E(\text{Hom}_K^{\text{gr}}(N, M))$ if M, N are graded.
- (8) Each cone in V is the rank variety of some graded E -module.

As over commutative rings, the notion of regularity can be extended to sequences. Elements $v_1, \dots, v_r \in V$ form an M -regular sequence if v_i is $(M/M(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}))$ -regular for $1 \leq i \leq r$, in other words, if $yv_i \in M(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1})$ implies that $y \in M(v_1, \dots, v_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$. It is clear that each M -regular sequence can be extended to a maximal one. The supremum of the lengths of M -regular sequences is called the *depth* of M over E , and denoted $\text{depth}_E M$.

Parts of the preceding theorem depend on a depth-formula for modules over exterior algebras that is similar to the extension of the classical Auslander-Buchsbaum equality to modules over complete intersections, obtained in [4].

Theorem 3.2. *If the field K is infinite and M is a finite E -module, then each maximal M -regular sequence has $\text{depth}_E M$ elements, and*

$$\text{depth}_E M + \text{cx}_E M = n.$$

Examples 3.3. (1) If $\text{rank}_K M$ is odd, then $\text{cx}_E M = n$.

Indeed, if $\text{depth}_E M > 0$, then taking an M -regular $v \in V$ we get $\text{rank}_K M = \text{rank}_K(\text{Ann}_M(v)) + \text{rank}_K(Mv) = 2 \text{rank}_K(Mv)$, so $\text{rank}_K M$ is even.

(2) The depth equality fails when K is finite and $n \geq 2$.

Indeed, if $v \in V \setminus \{0\}$, then $E \xrightarrow{\lambda_v} E \xrightarrow{\lambda_v} E$ with $\lambda_v(e) = ve$ is an exact complex of E -modules, so $\text{cx}_E(E/(v)) = 1$, and hence $M = \bigoplus_{v \in V} E/(v)$ has complexity 1; on the other hand, it is clear that $V_E(M) = V$, hence $\text{depth}_E M = 0$.

To begin the proofs, we record some simple facts on regularity.

Remarks 3.4. Let M be an E -module.

(1) When $v^2 = 0$, any $K[v]$ -module is a direct sum of copies of $K[v]$ and $K[v]/(v)$. Thus, $v \in V = E_1$ is regular if and only if M is free over the subalgebra $K[v] \subseteq E$.

(2) For $v \in V$, let $\pi: E \rightarrow E/(v)$ and $\rho: M \rightarrow M/Mv$ be canonical homomorphisms. If v is M -regular, then they induce isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ext}_\pi^i(\rho, K): \text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^i(M/Mv, K) &\cong \text{Ext}_E^i(M, K) \\ \text{Tor}_i^\pi(\rho, K): \text{Tor}_i^E(M, K) &\cong \text{Tor}_i^{E/(v)}(M/Mv, K) \end{aligned} \quad \text{for } i \geq 0.$$

Indeed, M is free over $K[v]$ by (2), so if G is a free resolution of M over E , then G/Gv is a free resolution of M/Mv over $E/(v)$. Thus, $\text{Ext}_\pi^*(\rho, K)$ and $\text{Tor}_*^\pi(\rho, K)$ are the maps induced in homology by the isomorphisms of complexes $\text{Hom}_{E/(v)}(G/Gv, K) \cong \text{Hom}_E(G, K)$ and $G \otimes_E K \cong (G/Gv) \otimes_{E/(v)} K$, respectively.

(3) Regularity of a sequence $\mathbf{v} = v_1, \dots, v_d \in V$ is detected by its *Cartan complex* $C(\mathbf{v}; M)$, defined by $C_i(\mathbf{v}, M) = \bigoplus_{a \in \mathbb{N}^n, |a|=i} w^{(a)} M$ with $w^{(a)} M \cong M$ for each $a \in \mathbb{N}^n$ and $\partial(w^{(a)} u) = \sum_{\ell \in \text{supp}(a)} w^{(a - \varepsilon_\ell)} u e_\ell$ for $u \in M$.

We set $H(\mathbf{v}; M) = H(C(\mathbf{v}; M))$, and note that the following are equivalent:

- (i) \mathbf{v} is M -regular.
- (ii) M is a free module over $K[v_1, \dots, v_d]$.
- (iii) $H_1(\mathbf{v}; M) = 0$.
- (iv) $H_i(\mathbf{v}; M) = 0$ for $i \geq 1$.

Indeed, let E' be an exterior algebra on alternating variables e'_1, \dots, e'_d , and let $\varphi: E' \rightarrow E$ be the homomorphism of K -algebras with $\varphi(e'_i) = v_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, d$. If C' is the Cartan resolution of the right E' -module K (cf. Remark 2.5), then $C(\mathbf{v}; M) = C' \otimes_{E'} M$, so $H_i(\mathbf{v}; M) = \text{Tor}_i^{E'}(K, M)$. Thus, (i) \implies (iv) by iterated use of (2). If (iii) holds, then $\text{Tor}_1^{E'}(K, M) = 0$. Computing Tor from a minimal free resolution of M over E' we see that M' is free over E' ; it follows that φ is an isomorphism, so (iii) \implies (ii) holds. Finally, (ii) \implies (i) is trivial.

(4) By (3), each permutation of an M -regular sequence is itself M -regular.

To study the geometry of $V_E(M)$ we use product structures in cohomology. We recall the basics, referring to Mac Lane [13] or Bourbaki [6] for details.

Construction 3.5. For E -modules M, L, N and $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$, *composition pairings*

$$\text{Ext}_E^j(L, N) \times \text{Ext}_E^i(M, L) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_E^{i+j}(M, N)$$

are introduced as follows. Let C and G be E -free resolutions of L and M , respectively, and represent elements in $\text{Ext}_E^i(M, L)$ and $\text{Ext}_E^j(L, N)$ by E -linear homomorphisms $\varkappa: G_i \rightarrow L$ with $\varkappa \partial_{i+1} = 0$ and $\xi: C_j \rightarrow N$ with $\xi \partial_{j+1} = 0$. Choosing a lifting of \varkappa to an E -linear chain map $\tilde{\varkappa}: G \rightarrow C$ of degree $-i$, define the product $\text{cl}(\xi) \text{cl}(\varkappa)$ to be the class of the composition $\xi \tilde{\varkappa}_{i+j}: G_{i+j} \rightarrow N$.

The pairings are K -bilinear, associative, and natural (hence, independent of the choices made above). They make $\text{Ext}_E^*(K, K) = \bigoplus_{i=0}^\infty \text{Ext}_E^i(K, K)$ into a graded algebra, and $\text{Ext}_E^*(M, K) = \bigoplus_{i=0}^\infty \text{Ext}_E^i(M, K)$ into a graded left module over it.

Proposition 3.6. *There is a natural isomorphism of graded K -algebras in V*

$$\text{Ext}_E^*(K, K) \cong \text{Sym}_K^*(V^\vee) \quad \text{where} \quad V^\vee = \text{Hom}_K(V, K).$$

If M is a finite E -module, then the $\text{Ext}_E^(K, K)$ -module $\text{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ is finite.*

Proof. Cartan's resolution (C, ∂) of K over E (cf. Example 2.5) is minimal, so

$$\mathrm{Ext}^i(K, K) = H^i(\mathrm{Hom}_E(C, K)) = \mathrm{Hom}_E\left(\bigoplus_{a \in \mathbb{N}^n, |a|=i} Ew^{(a)}, K\right).$$

The homomorphisms of E -modules $\{\chi^a: C_i \rightarrow K \mid a \in \mathbb{N}^n, |a|=i\}$, such that $\chi^a(w^{(b)}) = 1$ for $b = a$ and $\chi^a(w^{(b)}) = 0$ for $b \in \mathbb{N}^n$ with $|b| = i$ and $b \neq a$ form a K -basis of $\mathrm{Hom}_E(C, K)$. The E -linear maps

$$\tilde{\chi}_{i+j}^a: C_{i+j} \rightarrow C_j \quad \text{defined by} \quad \tilde{\chi}_{i+j}^a(w^{(b)}) = \begin{cases} w^{(b-a)} & \text{if } b-a \in \mathbb{N}^n; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

define a lifting of χ^a to a chain map $C \rightarrow C$. This means that $\chi^a \chi^b = \chi^{a+b}$ for all $b \in \mathbb{N}^n$, so $\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(K, K)$ is the polynomial ring on $\chi_1 = \chi^{\varepsilon_1}, \dots, \chi_n = \chi^{\varepsilon_n}$.

To see that the $\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(K, K)$ -module $\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ is finite we argue by induction on $q = \max\{r \mid ME_r \neq 0\}$. If $q = 1$, then $M \cong K^s$ for some s and the assertion is clear. If $q > 1$, then $M' = M(V) \neq 0$, so the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ of E -modules yields an exact sequence of $\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(K, K)$ -modules

$$(3.6.1) \quad \mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M', K) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M'', K)$$

in which those on the outside are noetherian by the induction hypothesis. \square

Remark 3.7. If χ_1, \dots, χ_n is the basis of V^\vee dual to the basis e_1, \dots, e_n of V , then we identify $\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(K, K)$ with the graded polynomial ring $\mathcal{S} = K[\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n]$ in which each χ_i has degree 1; the elements of \mathcal{S} act as functions on V .

Applied to the \mathcal{S} -module $\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$, the Hilbert-Serre theorem yields:

Corollary 3.8. *The Krull dimension of the \mathcal{S} -module $\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ is equal to $\mathrm{cx}_E M$, and there exists a polynomial $p_M(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ with $p_M(1) > 0$, such that*

$$P_M^E(t) = \frac{p_M(t)}{(1-t)^c} \quad \text{with} \quad c = \mathrm{cx}_E M. \quad \square$$

Now we give a basic cohomological description of the rank variety.

Theorem 3.9. *If K is algebraically closed and M is a finite E -module, then*

$$V_E(M) = \{v \in V \mid \xi(v) = 0 \text{ for all } \xi \in \mathrm{Ann}_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K))\}.$$

Proof. Let $\mathcal{I} = \mathrm{Ann}_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K))$. For $v \in V$, set $V^v = \mathrm{Ker}(V^\vee \rightarrow (vK)^\vee)$, and let \mathcal{P}_v denote the homogeneous prime ideal (V^v) of \mathcal{S} . By the Nullstellensatz, we have to prove that $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_v$ if and only if v is M -singular.

If v is singular, then by Remark 3.4 (1) we have an isomorphism of $K[v]$ -modules $M \cong K[v]^p \oplus K^q$ with $q > 0$. The inclusion $\iota: K[v] \hookrightarrow E$ induces a diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{Ext}_E^*(K, K) \otimes_K \mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Ext}_E^*(M, K) \\ \downarrow \mathrm{Ext}_\iota^*(K, K) \otimes \mathrm{Ext}_\iota^*(M, K) & & \downarrow \mathrm{Ext}_\iota^*(M, K) \\ \mathrm{Ext}_{K[v]}^*(K, K) \otimes_K \mathrm{Ext}_{K[v]}^*(M, K) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Ext}_{K[v]}^*(M, K). \end{array}$$

It commutes by naturality of composition products, so $\mathrm{Ext}_\iota^*(K, K)(\mathcal{I})$ annihilates

$$\mathrm{Ext}_{K[v]}^*(M, K) \cong K^p \oplus \mathrm{Ext}_{K[v]}^*(K, K)^q.$$

It is then equal to 0, that is, $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathrm{Ker} \mathrm{Ext}_\iota^*(K, K) = \mathcal{P}_v$.

If v is regular, then $\pi: E \rightarrow E/(v)$ and $\rho: M \rightarrow M/Mv$ induce a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Ext}_E^*(K, K) \otimes_K \text{Ext}_E^*(M, K) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}_E^*(M, K) \\ \uparrow \text{Ext}_\pi^*(K, K) \otimes \text{Ext}_\pi^*(\rho, K) & & \uparrow \text{Ext}_\pi^*(\rho, K) \\ \text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^*(K, K) \otimes_K \text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^*(M/Mv, K) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^*(M/Mv, K). \end{array}$$

It is commutative by naturality, and $\text{Ext}_\pi^*(\rho, K)$ is an isomorphism by Remark 3.4 (2). Since $\text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^*(M/Mv, K)$ is a finite $\text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^*(K, K)$ -module by Proposition 3.6, we conclude that $\text{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ is also. It follows that the composition

$$\text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^*(K, K) \xrightarrow{\text{Ext}_\pi^*(K, K)} \text{Ext}_E^*(K, K) = \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}/\mathcal{I}$$

is a finite homomorphism of rings. Assuming that $\mathcal{P}_v \supseteq \mathcal{I}$, we conclude that

$$\text{Sym}_K^*[V^v] \cong \text{Ext}_{E/(v)}^*(K, K) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}/\mathcal{P}_v = \text{Ext}_{K[v]}^*(K, K) \cong \text{Sym}_K^*[(Kv)^\vee]$$

is a finite homomorphism; this is absurd, since it maps V^v to 0. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.2. Let $\mathbf{v} = v_1, \dots, v_d$ be an arbitrary maximal M -regular sequence in V . We want to prove that $\text{depth}_E M = d$ and $\text{cx}_E M = n - d$.

We first assume that K is algebraically closed; the elements in a regular sequence being K -linearly independent, we have $d \leq n$, so we can induce on d . An equality $d = 0$ means that each element of V is M -singular, that is, $\text{depth}_E M = 0$; on the other hand, Theorem 3.9 yields $\text{cx}_R M = \dim V_E(M) = \dim V = n$.

If $d > 0$, then the images of v_2, \dots, v_d in $E/(v_1)$ form a maximal (M/Mv_1) -regular sequence. The induction hypothesis yields $\text{depth}_E(M/Mv_1) = d - 1$ and

$$\text{cx}_{E/(v_1)}(M/Mv_1) = (n - 1) - (d - 1) = n - d.$$

As $\text{cx}_{E/(v_1)}(M/Mv_1) = \text{cx}_E M$ by Remark 3.4 (2), we are done.

Now let K be an arbitrary infinite field. Taking an algebraic closure \bar{K} of K , we consider the finite module $\bar{M} = M \otimes_K \bar{K}$ over the exterior algebra $\bar{E} = E \otimes_K \bar{K}$ of the \bar{K} -vector space $\bar{V} = V \otimes_K \bar{K}$. Due to the flatness of \bar{E} over E , we see that (considered as a sequence in \bar{V}) any M -regular sequence in V is \bar{M} -regular, and that $\beta_i^{\bar{E}}(\bar{M}) = \beta_i^E(M)$ for each i . This yields

$$\text{depth}_E M \leq \text{depth}_{\bar{E}} \bar{M} = d \quad \text{and} \quad \text{cx}_E M = \text{cx}_{\bar{E}} \bar{M} = n - d.$$

Assuming that the \bar{M} -regular sequence \mathbf{v} is not maximal, we can find in $\bar{V}/\bar{K}\mathbf{v}$ an element v that is $(\bar{M}/\bar{M}(\mathbf{v}))$ -regular. As the set of regular elements is Zariski-open and K is infinite, we can even pick v in $V/(\mathbf{v})$, and get an M -regular sequence \mathbf{v}, v . This is absurd, so \mathbf{v} is a maximal \bar{M} -regular sequence and we have

$$d \leq \text{depth}_E M \leq \text{depth}_{\bar{E}} \bar{M} = d.$$

It follows that $\text{depth}_E M = d$ and $\text{depth}_E M + \text{cx}_E M = n$, as desired. \square

Lemma 3.10. *For each $\xi \in \text{Ext}_E^i(K, K)$ there is a graded E -module L_ξ such that*

$$V_E(L_\xi) = \{v \in V \mid \xi(v) = 0\}.$$

Proof. In the Cartan resolution C of K over E , set $D_i = \partial_i(C_i)$, let $\bar{\xi}: D_i \rightarrow K$ be the E -linear map that corresponds to ξ under the isomorphisms

$$\text{Ext}_E^i(K, K) = \text{Hom}_E(C_i, K) \cong \text{Hom}_E(D_i, K)$$

and set $L_\xi = \text{Ker } \bar{\xi}$. The exact sequence of E -modules

$$0 \rightarrow L_\xi \rightarrow D_i \rightarrow K \rightarrow 0$$

induces an exact sequence of graded modules over $\mathcal{S} = \text{Ext}^*(K, K)$,

$$\mathcal{S} \xrightarrow{\bar{\xi}^*} \text{Ext}_E^*(D_i, K) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_E^*(L_\xi, K) \xrightarrow{\bar{\theta}} \mathcal{S}(1) \xrightarrow{\bar{\xi}^*(1)} \text{Ext}_E^*(D_i, K)(1)$$

where $\bar{\xi}^* = \text{Ext}_E^*(\bar{\xi}, K)$ maps $1 \in \mathcal{S}^0$ to $\xi \in \text{Ext}_E^i(D_i, K) = \mathcal{S}^i$. Thus, $\bar{\xi}^*$ and $\bar{\xi}^*(1)$ are injective, yielding $\text{Ext}_E^*(L_\xi, K) \cong \mathcal{S}^{\geq i}(i)/\mathcal{S}\xi$. As $\sqrt{\mathcal{S}^{\geq i}(i)/\mathcal{S}\xi} = \sqrt{\mathcal{S}\xi}$, we conclude from Theorem 3.9 that $V_E(L_\xi)$ has the desired form. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.1. (1) Note that $\text{rank}_K(Mv) \leq \text{rank}_K(\text{Ann}_M(v))$ for each $v \in V$, and the inequality is strict precisely when v is M -singular. Setting $m = \text{rank}_K M$, we rewrite the inequality as $\text{rank}_K(\rho^v) < m - \text{rank}_K(\rho^v)$, that is, as $\text{rank}_K(\rho^v) < m/2$. Thus, $V_E(M)$ is the zero-set of the minors of order $\lceil m/2 \rceil$ of a matrix representing multiplication by a generic element of V . Clearly, $v \in V_E(M)$ implies $\lambda v \in V_E(M)$ for each $\lambda \in K$, so the variety is homogeneous.

(2) Let $\text{cx}_E M = c$. By Corollary 3.8 and elementary dimension theory, the number c is equal to the Krull dimension of the ring $\mathcal{S}/\text{Ann}_{\mathcal{S}}(\text{Ext}_E^*(M, K))$, which is the dimension of the variety $V_E(M)$.

Theorem 3.2 yields an M -regular sequence v_1, \dots, v_{n-c} in V , so M is free over $E' = K[v_1, \dots, v_{n-c}]$ by Remark 3.4, so $\text{rank}_K M = 2^{n-c} \text{rank}_{E'} M$.

(3) If $V_E(M) = \{0\}$, then $\text{cx}_E M = 0$, so the preceding argument works with $r = n$, and shows that M is free over $K[v_1, \dots, v_n] = E$. Conversely, if M is free over E the non-zero elements of V are obviously M -regular, hence $V_E(M) = \{0\}$.

(5) An exact sequence of E -modules $0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow M/N \rightarrow 0$ induces an exact sequence of complexes of vector spaces

$$0 \rightarrow (M, \rho^v) \rightarrow (N, \rho^v) \rightarrow (M/N, \rho^v) \rightarrow 0$$

and hence an exact sequence of homology spaces

$$H_*(M, \rho^v) \rightarrow H_*(N, \rho^v) \rightarrow H_*(M/N, \rho^v) \rightarrow H_*(M, \rho^v) \rightarrow H_*(N, \rho^v)$$

which implies that the desired assertions follow immediately.

(4) It suffices to consider the case when M and N appear in an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow P \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ with a free E -module P . By (5) and (3) we then have

$$V_E(M) \subseteq V_E(N) \cup V_E(P) = V_E(N) \subseteq V_E(M) \cup V_E(P) = V_E(M).$$

(6) follows immediately from the definitions.

(7) Recall that $v \in V$ acts on $M \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} M$ by the formula $(x \otimes y)v = x \otimes yv + (-1)^k xv \otimes y$, when $y \in N_k$. This means that $x \otimes y \mapsto y \otimes x$ is an isomorphism

$$(M \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} N, v) \cong (N, v) \otimes_K (M, v)$$

where the tensor product on the right hand side is one of complexes of K -vector spaces. The Künneth formula then gives an isomorphism of graded vector spaces

$$H^*(M \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} N, v) \cong H^*(N, v) \otimes_K H^*(M, v)$$

from which we get $V_E(M \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} N) = V_E(M) \cap V_E(N)$.

A similar argument yields $H^*(\text{Hom}_K^{\text{gr}}(N, M), v) \cong \text{Hom}_K(H^*(N, v), H^*(M, v))$, establishing the equality $V_E(\text{Hom}_K^{\text{gr}}(N, M)) = V_E(M) \cap V_E(N)$.

(8) Given a cone $W \subseteq V$, pick homogeneous polynomials $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s \in \mathcal{S}$ that define it, and note that $W = V_E(L_{\xi_1} \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} \dots \otimes_K^{\text{gr}} L_{\xi_s})$ by (7) and Lemma 3.10. \square

4. SIMPLICIAL COMPLEXES

For $\sigma \subseteq [n]$, let $K\sigma$ denote the coordinate subspace spanned by $\{e_j \mid j \in \sigma\}$.

In an n -graded situation, we refine some results of the preceding section.

Proposition 4.1. *Let M be a finite n -graded E -module.*

- (1) $\text{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ is a finite $(1+n)$ -graded left module over the polynomial ring $\mathcal{S} = K[\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n]$, in which χ_i has $(1+n)$ -degree $(1, \varepsilon_i)$.
- (2) There exists a polynomial $p_M(t, u_1, \dots, u_n) \in \mathbb{Z}[t, u_1, \dots, u_n]$ such that

$$P_M^E(t, u_1, \dots, u_n) = \frac{p_M(t, u_1, \dots, u_n)}{\prod_{j=1}^n (1 - tu_j)};$$

if $M_a = 0$, then no monomial $t^i u^a$ appears in $p_M(t, u_1, \dots, u_n)$.

- (3) The variety $V_E(M)$ is a union of coordinate subspaces of V .
- (4) Each union of coordinate subspaces is the variety of an n -graded E -module.

Proof. (1) Take an n -graded free resolution G of M , and let $\text{Ext}_E^{ia}(M, K)$ consist of those elements of $\text{Ext}_E^i(M, K) = H^i \text{Hom}(G, K)$ that can be represented by a homomorphism $\varkappa: G_i \rightarrow K$, such that $\varkappa(G_{ib}) = 0$ when $a \neq b \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. Performing Construction 3.5 with this G and the n -graded Cartan resolution C of K (cf. Example 2.5) and using n -homogeneous maps, one gets bilinear pairings

$$\text{Ext}_E^{jb}(K, K) \times \text{Ext}_E^{ia}(M, K) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_E^{i+j, a+b}(M, K) \quad \text{for all } i, j \in \mathbb{Z}; a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^n.$$

They make $\text{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ into a $(1+n)$ -graded left module over $\text{Ext}_E^*(K, K)$, and the identification $\text{Ext}_E^*(K, K) = \mathcal{S}$ of Remark 3.7 is compatible with this grading.

(2) The expression for $P_M^R(t, u_1, \dots, u_n)$ comes from (1), by the multigraded version of the Hilbert-Serre theorem. The assertion on the monomials in the numerator is obvious when $M \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^s K(a_i)$ with $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. Since (3.6.1) is an exact sequence of $(1+n)$ -graded vector spaces, we conclude by induction on $\text{rank}_K M$.

(3) The annihilator of the multigraded \mathcal{S} -module $\text{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ being a monomial ideal in χ_1, \dots, χ_n , its radical is an intersection of prime ideals generated by subsets of $\{\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n\}$. The desired assertion follows from Theorem 3.9.

(4) Note that $\bigcap_{i=1}^s V_E(K\sigma_i) = V_E(\bigoplus_{i=1}^s E/(K\sigma_i))$. □

Theorem 4.2. *If J is a monomial ideal in E , and I is the corresponding squarefree monomial ideal in S , then*

$$V_E(E/J) = \bigcup_{a \in \Sigma} K \text{supp}(a)$$

where Σ is the set of shifts of a minimal free resolution of S/I over S , and so

$$\text{cx}_E(E/J) = \max\{|a| \mid a \in \Sigma\}.$$

The proof of the theorem is deferred to the end of the section.

Let Δ be a simplicial complex with n vertices, and set $K\langle\Delta\rangle = E/J$, where J is generated by $\{e_\sigma \mid \sigma \notin \Delta\}$. We give a combinatorial interpretation of the complex

$$(K\langle\Delta\rangle, v): \quad 0 \rightarrow K\langle\Delta\rangle_1 \xrightarrow{\rho^v} K\langle\Delta\rangle_2 \xrightarrow{\rho^v} \dots$$

For a subset $\rho \subseteq [n]$, we denote Δ_ρ the restriction of Δ to ρ , that is, the simplicial complex with faces $\sigma \in \Delta$ such that $\sigma \subseteq \rho$. Furthermore, for a face $\sigma \in \Delta$ we introduce the *link of σ in Δ_ρ* as the simplicial complex

$$\text{lk}_{\Delta_\rho} \sigma = \langle \tau \in \Delta_\rho \mid \tau \cup \sigma \in \Delta \rangle.$$

For $v \in V$, $v = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i e_i$, we call $\text{supp}(v) = \{i \mid \lambda_i \neq 0\}$ the *support* of v .

Now the cohomology of $(K\langle\Delta\rangle, v)$ can be interpreted as follows:

Proposition 4.3. *The complex $(K\langle\Delta\rangle, v)$ only depends on $\rho = \text{supp}(v)$, namely, it is isomorphic to $(K\langle\Delta\rangle, v_\rho)$ with $v_\rho = \sum_{j \in \rho} e_j$. Furthermore,*

$$H^i(K\langle\Delta\rangle, v) \cong \bigoplus_{\sigma \in \Delta, \sigma \subseteq [n] \setminus \rho} \tilde{H}^{i-1}(\text{lk}_{\Delta_\rho} \sigma; K)$$

where $\tilde{H}^*(\cdot; K)$ denotes reduced simplicial cohomology with coefficients in K .

Proof. The map $\varphi: V \rightarrow V$ given by $\varphi(e_j) = \lambda_j^{-1} e_j$ for $j \in \rho$ and $\varphi(e_j) = e_j$ for $j \notin \rho$ extends to an isomorphism of K -algebras $\varphi: K\langle\Delta\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\Delta\rangle$, with $\varphi(v) = v_\rho$.

As a $K\langle\Delta_\rho\rangle$ -module the algebra $K\langle\Delta\rangle$ decomposes as follows:

$$K\langle\Delta\rangle = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in \Delta, \sigma \subseteq [n] \setminus \rho} e_\sigma \cdot K\langle\Delta_\rho\rangle.$$

Now note that $e_\sigma K\langle\Delta_\rho\rangle \cong K\langle\text{lk}_{\Delta_\rho} \sigma\rangle$, and that $(K\langle\text{lk}_{\Delta_\rho} \sigma\rangle, v)$ is isomorphic to the augmented oriented cochain complex of $\text{lk}_{\Delta_\rho} \sigma$ with values in K . \square

By a theorem of Hochster [12], $\rho \subseteq [n]$ is the support of a shift of the resolution of $k[\Delta]$ if and only if $\tilde{H}(\Delta_\rho; K) \neq 0$, so Theorem 4.2 and Proposition 4.3 yield

Corollary 4.4. *Let Δ be a simplicial complex with n vertices. For a subset $\sigma \subseteq [n]$ and a field K the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) *There exists $\rho \subseteq [n]$ with $\sigma \subseteq \rho$ such that $\tilde{H}(\Delta_\rho; K) \neq 0$.*
- (ii) *There exists $\tau \in \Delta$ with $\tau \cap \sigma = \emptyset$, such that $\tilde{H}(\text{lk}_{\Delta_\sigma} \tau; K) \neq 0$.* \square

We single out a special case: For any simplicial complex Δ with $\tilde{H}^*(\Delta; k) \neq 0$ and any subset σ of the vertex set of Δ , there is a face τ of Δ such that $\tilde{H}(\text{lk}_{\Delta_\sigma} \tau; K) \neq 0$.

Proof of Theorem 4.2. Let F be a minimal free resolution of S/I over S , let G be the minimal free resolution of E/J over E of Theorem 1.3, and let Y_ℓ be the basis of G_ℓ from Construction 1.1. A homogeneous K -basis of $\text{Hom}_E(G_\ell, K) = \text{Ext}_E^\ell(E/J, K)$ is given by $\{\varkappa_f^a \mid \varkappa_f^a(y^{(a)}f) = 1 \text{ and } \varkappa_f^a(Y_\ell \setminus \{y^{(a)}f\}) = 0\}$.

In the Cartan resolution C of K over E (cf. Example 2.5) set $1 = w^{(0)}$ and $w_j = w^{(\varepsilon_j)}$. Fixing a homomorphism $\varkappa_f^a: G_\ell \rightarrow K$, with $f \in B_i$ and $\deg(f) = b$, we note that a lifting of \varkappa_f^a to a chain map $\tilde{\varkappa}_f^a: G \rightarrow C$ can be started by

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{\varkappa}_f^a)_\ell(y^{(a')}f') &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } a = a' \text{ and } f = f'; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases} \\ (\tilde{\varkappa}_f^a)_{\ell+1}(y^{(a')}f') &= \begin{cases} (-1)^{|b|}w_j & \text{when } a = a' + \varepsilon_j, j \in \text{supp}(b), \text{ and } f = f'; \\ & \text{when } a = a', j \in \text{supp}(b' - b), \\ & \text{and } \theta(f') = \sum_{g \in B_i} \lambda_{f'g} x^{b' - c} g \\ & \text{with } b' = \deg(f'), c = \deg(g); \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

These cases are disjoint because b' is squarefree, so by Construction 3.5 we have

$$\chi_j \varkappa_f^a = \begin{cases} (-1)^{|b|} \varkappa_f^{a + \varepsilon_j} & \text{for } j \in \text{supp}(f); \\ (-1)^{|a|} \sum_{f' \in B_{i+1}: b' = b + \varepsilon_j} \lambda_{f'f} \varkappa_{f'}^a & \text{for } j \in \text{null}(f) = [n] \setminus \text{supp}(f). \end{cases}$$

Ordering the subsets of $[n]$ by inclusion, we set $B[0] = \emptyset$ and

$$B[p] = \{ f \in B \setminus B[p-1] \mid \text{supp}(f) \text{ is maximal in } B \setminus B[p-1] \} \quad \text{for } p \geq 1.$$

The multiplication table shows that the K -span of $\{ \varkappa_f^a \mid \text{supp}(f) \in \bigcup_{p \leq q} B[p] \}$ is a submodule $\mathcal{M}[q]$ of $\mathcal{M} = \text{Ext}_E^*(M, K)$ over $\mathcal{S} = K[\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n]$, such that

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}[q]}{\mathcal{M}[q-1]} \cong \bigoplus_{f \in B[q]} \mathcal{S} \varkappa_f^0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Ann}_{\mathcal{S}}(\varkappa_f^0) = (\text{null}(f)).$$

From the finite filtration $0 = \mathcal{M}[0] \subseteq \dots \subseteq \mathcal{M}[n] = \mathcal{M}$ we get

$$\sqrt{\text{Ann}_{\mathcal{S}} \mathcal{M}} = \sqrt{\bigcap_{q=1}^n \text{Ann}_{\mathcal{S}} \frac{\mathcal{M}[q]}{\mathcal{M}[q-1]}} = \bigcap_{q=1}^n \sqrt{\text{Ann}_{\mathcal{S}} \frac{\mathcal{M}[q]}{\mathcal{M}[q-1]}} = \bigcap_{f \in B} (\text{null}(f)).$$

The desired result now follows from Theorem 3.9. \square

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