

# WEAK LEFSCHETZ PROPERTY OF GRADED GORENSTEIN ALGEBRAS ASSOCIATED TO THE APÉRY SET OF A NUMERICAL SEMIGROUP

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(Received: 28 June 2021; Accepted: 9 November 2021)

**Abstract.** It has been conjectured that *all* graded Artinian Gorenstein algebras of codimension three have the weak Lefschetz property over a field of characteristic zero. In this paper, we study the weak Lefschetz property of associated graded algebras  $A$  of the Apéry set of  $M$ -pure symmetric numerical semigroups generated by four natural numbers. These algebras are graded Artinian Gorenstein algebras of codimension three.

**Keywords:** Apéry set, Artinian Gorenstein algebras, numerical semigroups, weak Lefschetz property

## 1 Introduction

The weak Lefschetz property (WLP for short) for an Artinian graded algebra  $A$  over a field  $K$  simply says that the multiplication by a general linear form  $\times L: [A]_i \rightarrow [A]_{i+1}$  has a maximal rank in every degree  $i$ . At first glance, this might seem to be a simple problem of linear algebra. However, determining which graded Artinian  $K$ -algebras have the WLP is notoriously difficult. Most authors have studied the problem from different points of view, applying tools from representation theory, topology, vector bundle theory, plane partitions, differential geometry, among others (see for instance [1-9]).

One of the most interesting open problems in this field is whether *all* graded Artinian Gorenstein algebras of codimension three have the WLP in characteristic zero. In the special case of codimension three complete intersections, a positive answer was obtained in characteristic zero in [10] by using the Grauert-Mülich theorem. For positive characteristic, however, only the case

of monomial complete intersections has been studied (see [11, 12]), applying different approaches from combinatorics.

For the case of Gorenstein algebras of codimension three that are not necessarily complete intersections, it is known that for each possible Hilbert function, an example exists, having the WLP [13]. Some partial results are given in [14] to show that for certain Hilbert functions, all such Gorenstein algebras have the WLP. It was shown in [15] that all codimension three Artinian Gorenstein algebras of socle degree at most 6 have the WLP in characteristic zero, but the general case remains completely open.

In this work, we study whether Artinian Gorenstein algebras of codimension three associated to the Apéry set of numerical semigroups have the WLP. More precisely, we consider a numerical semigroup  $P$  generated by  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4\} \subset \mathbb{N}^4$  with  $\gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = 1$ . The Apéry set  $Ap(P)$  of  $P$  with respect to the minimal generator of the semigroup is defined as follows:

$$Ap(P) := \{a \in P \mid a - a_1 \notin P\} = \{0 = \omega_1 < \omega_2 < \dots < \omega_{a_1}\}.$$

Notice that  $Ap(P)$  is a finite set and  $\#Ap(P) = a_1$ . Recall that a numerical semigroup  $P$  is said to be  $M$ -pure symmetric if for each  $i = 1, \dots, a_1$ ,  $\omega_i + \omega_{a_1-i+1} = \omega_{a_1}$  and

$$ord(\omega_i) + ord(\omega_{a_1-i+1}) = ord(\omega_{a_1}), \text{ where}$$

$$ord(a) := \max\left\{\sum_{i=1}^4 \lambda_i \mid a = \sum_{i=1}^4 \lambda_i a_i\right\}$$

is the order of  $a \in P$ . Therefore, the Apéry set of a  $M$ -pure symmetric semigroup has the structure of a symmetric lattice.

Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic zero and consider the homomorphism

$$\Phi : S := K[x_1, \dots, x_4] \rightarrow K[P] := K[t^{a_1}, \dots, t^{a_4}],$$

which sends  $x_i \mapsto t^{a_i}$ . Then,  $K[P] \cong S / \text{Ker}(\Phi)$  is a one-dimensional ring associated to  $P$ . Now, set  $\bar{S} = S / (x_1)$ . Then, there is one to one correspondence between the elements of  $Ap(P)$  and the generators of  $\bar{S}$  as a  $K$ -vector space. Let  $\bar{\mathfrak{m}}$  be the maximal homogeneous ideal of  $\bar{S}$ , define the associated graded algebra of the Apéry set of  $P$

$$A = gr_{\bar{\mathfrak{m}}}(\bar{S}) := \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} \frac{\bar{\mathfrak{m}}^{-i}}{\bar{\mathfrak{m}}^{-i+1}}.$$

It follows that  $A$  is a standard graded Artinian  $K$ -algebra of codimension three. In his work [16], Bryant proved that  $A$  is Gorenstein if and only if  $P$  is  $M$ -pure symmetric. In a recent paper [17], Guerrieri showed that if  $A$  is an Artinian Gorenstein algebra that is not a complete intersection, then  $A$  is of form  $A = R/I$  when  $R = K[x, y, z]$  and

$$I = (x^a, y^b - x^{b-\gamma} z^\gamma, z^c, x^{a-b+\gamma} y^{b-\beta}, y^{b-\beta} z^{c-\gamma}), \quad (1.1)$$

where

$$1 \leq \beta \leq b-1, \max\{1, b-a+1\} \leq \gamma \leq \min\{b-1, c-1\}$$

and  $a \geq c \geq 2$ . The integers  $a, b, c, \beta$  and  $\gamma$  are determined from the structure of  $Ap(P)$  [17, Section 5].

Our goal is to study the WLP of the graded algebra  $A$ . Our main results are as follows:

**Theorem.** Consider the ideal  $I$  as in (1.1). If  $a \geq b+c-2$ , then  $R/I$  has the WLP for any  $1 \leq \beta \leq \min\{a-b-c+3, b-1\}$ . As a consequence, if  $a \geq 2b+c-4$ , then  $R/I$  has the WLP.

Then, we recover a result in [8, Theorem 3.7], with a shorter and easier proof.

**Corollary.** Let  $I$  be as in (1.1). If one of the  $a, b$  and  $c$  is equal to two, then  $R/I$  has the WLP.

## 2 Background and preparatory results

In this section, we fix the notations, and we recall the known facts needed later in this work. We fix  $K$  as a field of characteristic zero and  $R = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Let

$$A = R/I = \bigoplus_{i=0}^D [A]_i$$

be a graded Artinian algebra.

**Definition 2.1.** For any graded Artinian algebra  $A = R/I = \bigoplus_{i=0}^D [A]_i$ , the Hilbert function of  $A$  is the function

$$h_A : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

defined by  $h_A(t) = \dim_K [A]_t$ . As  $A$  is Artinian, its Hilbert function is equal to its  $h$ -vector that one can express as a sequence

$$\underline{h}_A = (1 = h_0, h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_D),$$

where  $h_i = h_A(i) > 0$ , and  $D$  is the last index with this property. The integer  $D$  is called the

socle degree of  $A$ . The  $h$ -vector  $h_A$  is said to be symmetric if  $h_{D-i} = h_i$  for every  $i = 0, 1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor$ .

**Definition 2.2.** [18, Proposition~2.1] A graded Artinian algebra  $A$  as above is Gorenstein if and only if  $h_D = 1$  and the multiplication map

$$[A]_i \times [A]_{D-i} \rightarrow [A]_D \cong K$$

is a perfect pairing for all  $i = 0, 1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor$ .

It follows that the  $h$ -vector of a graded Artinian Gorenstein is symmetric.

**Definition 2.3.** A graded Artinian  $K$ -algebra  $A$  has the weak Lefschetz property, briefly, WLP, if there exists  $L \in [A]_1$  such that the map  $\times L: [A]_i \rightarrow [A]_{i+1}$  has a maximal rank for each  $i$ . We also say that a homogeneous ideal  $I$  has the WLP if  $R/I$  has the WLP.

We can determine the WLP by considering the rank of the multiplication map by a general linear form in every degree. However, for a standard graded Artinian Gorenstein  $K$ -algebra, the WLP is determined by considering only the multiplication map in one degree.

**Proposition 2.4.** [4, Proposition 2.1] Let  $A$  be a standard graded Artinian Gorenstein  $K$ -algebra with the socle degree  $D$  and  $k := \lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor$ . Then, we have

1. If  $D$  is odd,  $A$  has the WLP if and only if there is an element  $L \in [A]_1$  such that the multiplication map  $\times L: [A]_k \rightarrow [A]_{k+1}$  is an isomorphism.

2. If  $D$  is even,  $A$  has the WLP if and only if there is an element  $L \in [A]_1$  such that the multiplication map  $\times L: [A]_k \rightarrow [A]_{k+1}$  is surjective or equivalently the multiplication map  $\times L: [A]_{k-1} \rightarrow [A]_k$  is injective.

We close this section by recalling a result of Guerrieri.

**Proposition 2.5.** [17, Theorem 2.1] Assume that  $G = \bigoplus_{i=0}^D [G]_i$  is a standard graded Artinian Gorenstein  $K$ -algebra with the socle degree  $D$  that has the WLP. If  $\ell \in [G]_1$  is a linear element, then the quotient ring

$$A = \frac{G}{(0 :_G \ell)}$$

is also a standard graded Artinian Gorenstein  $K$ -algebra. Assume that  $G$  and  $A$  have the same codimension and set  $k := \lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor$ . Then  $A$  has also the WLP, whenever  $D$  is odd; or  $D$  is even and  $\dim_K [G]_{k-1} = \dim_K [G]_k$ .

### 3 The WLP for a class of Artinian Gorenstein algebras of codimension three

From now on, we study the WLP of the ideal in the following setting.

**Setting 3.1.** Let  $R = K[x, y, z]$  be the standard graded polynomial ring over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero and consider the ideal

$$I = (x^a, y^b - x^{b-\gamma} z^\gamma, z^c, x^{a-b+\gamma} y^{b-\beta}, y^{b-\beta} z^{c-\gamma}) \subset R,$$

where

$$1 \leq \beta \leq b-1, \max\{1, b-a+1\} \leq \gamma \leq \min\{b-1, c-1\}$$

and  $a \geq c \geq 2$ .

It is clear that  $a \geq b-c+2$ . Firstly, we need the following result.

**Proposition 3.2.** [8, Proposition 3.1] Let  $I_\beta := I$  be as in Setting 3.1. Set  $A_\beta = R/I_\beta$  and  $G = R/a$ , where  $a := (x^a, y^b - x^{b-\gamma} z^\gamma, z^c)$ . Then, one has:

1.  $I_\beta = a :_R y^\beta$ . Therefore,  $A_\beta$  is an Artinian Gorenstein algebra of codimension three and its socle degree is  $D = a + b + c - \beta - 3$ .

2.  $G$  is an Artinian complete intersection of codimension three, and hence it has the WLP. For all  $2 \leq \beta \leq b - 1$

$$A_1 = \frac{G}{(0 :_G y)} \quad \text{and} \quad A_\beta = \frac{A_{\beta-1}}{(0 :_{A_{\beta-1}} y)}.$$

3. The free resolution of  $A_\beta$  is

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} R(-a-b+\beta) & & R(-a) & & & & \\ \oplus & & \oplus & & & & \\ R(-a-c+\beta) & & R(-b) & & & & \\ \oplus & & \oplus & & & & \\ 0 \rightarrow R(-a-b-c+\beta) \rightarrow R(-b-c+\beta) \rightarrow & R(-c) & \rightarrow R \rightarrow A_\beta \rightarrow 0. \\ \oplus & \oplus & & & & & \\ R(-a-\gamma) & & R(-a-\gamma+\beta) & & & & \\ \oplus & & \oplus & & & & \\ R(-b-c+\gamma) & & R(-b-c+\gamma+\beta) & & & & \end{array}$$

Next, we study the Hilbert functions of these algebras.

**Proposition 3.3.** *With notations as in Proposition 3.2. Set  $k := \lfloor \frac{a+b+c-3}{2} \rfloor$ .*

If  $a \geq b+c+1$ , then  $H_G(k) = H_G(k-1)$ .

*Proof.* We first observe that as  $a \geq b+c+1$ , we have  $k-a+1 \leq 0, k-b \geq 0$  and  $k-c \geq 0$ . Notice that  $G$  is resolved by the Koszul complex, we get

$$H_G(k) - H_G(k-1) = b+c-k-1 + \binom{k-b-c+1}{1}.$$

We now consider the following two cases.

**Case 1.  $a+b+c$  is odd.** In this case, one has  $k = \frac{a+b+c-3}{2}$  and

$$H_G(k) - H_G(k-1) = \frac{b+c-a+1}{2} + \binom{a-b-c-1}{2}.$$

First, if  $a = b+c+1$ , then

$$H_G(k) - H_G(k-1) = 0$$

and now if  $a \geq b+c+3$ , then  $a-b-c-1 \geq 2$ . It follows that

$$H_G(k) - H_G(k-1) = \frac{b+c-a+1}{2} + \frac{a-b-c-1}{2} = 0,$$

which completes the argument whenever  $a+b+c$  is odd.

**Case 2.  $a+b+c$  is even.** In this case, one has  $k = \frac{a+b+c-4}{2}$  and

$$H_G(k) - H_G(k-1) = \frac{b+c-a+2}{2} + \binom{a-b-c-2}{2}.$$

If  $a = b+c+2$ , then

$$H_G(k) - H_G(k-1) = 0$$

and if  $a \geq b+c+4$ , then  $a-b-c-2 \geq 2$ . It follows that

$$H_G(k) - H_G(k-1) = \frac{b+c-a+2}{2} + \frac{a-b-c-2}{2} = 0,$$

which gives the claim for this case. Thus, we complete the proof.

**Proposition 3.4.** Let  $I_\beta := I$  be as in Setting

3.1. Set  $A_\beta = R/I_\beta$  and  $k = \lfloor \frac{a+b+c-\beta-3}{2} \rfloor$ . If  $a \geq b+c$ , then

$$H_{A_\beta}(k) = H_{A_\beta}(k-1),$$

provided  $1 \leq \beta \leq a-b-c+1$ .

*Proof.* Since we have the free resolution of  $A_\beta$  as in Proposition 3.2(iii), we get

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= \binom{k+1}{1} - \binom{k-a+1}{1} - \binom{k-b+1}{1} \\ &- \binom{k-c+1}{1} - \binom{k-a-\gamma+\beta+1}{1} - \binom{k-b-c+\beta+\gamma+1}{1} \\ &+ \binom{k-a-b+\beta+1}{1} + \binom{k-a-c+\beta+1}{1} + \binom{k-b-c+\beta+1}{1} \\ &+ \binom{k-a-\gamma+1}{1} + \binom{k-b-c+\gamma+1}{1} - \binom{k-a-b-c+\beta+1}{1} \end{aligned}$$

with convention  $\binom{n}{m} = 0$  if  $n < m$ . The condition  $\beta \leq a-b-c+1$  implies that  $k-a+\beta+1 \leq 0$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{cases} k-a+1 \leq 0 \\ k-a-\gamma+1 \leq 0 \\ k-a-\gamma+\beta+1 \leq 0 \\ k-a-b+\beta+1 \leq 0 \\ k-a-c+\beta+1 \leq 0 \\ k-a-b-c+\beta+1 \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

On the other hand, we also have that  $k-b \geq 0$  and  $k-c \geq 0$  since  $\beta \leq a-b-c+1$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= b+c-k-1 - \binom{k-b-c+\gamma+\beta+1}{1} \\ &+ \binom{k-b-c+\beta+1}{1} + \binom{k-b-c+\gamma+1}{1}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

To prove the proposition, we consider the following two cases.

**Case 1.**  $a+b+c-\beta$  is odd. In this case,

$k = \frac{a+b+c-\beta-3}{2}$ . By (3.1), we get that

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= \frac{b+c-a+\beta+1}{2} - \binom{a-b-c+\beta-1}{2} + \binom{a-b-c+\beta-1}{1} \\ &+ \binom{a-b-c-\beta-1}{2} + \gamma \\ &= b+c-a+1-\gamma + \binom{a-b-c+\beta-1}{1} + \binom{a-b-c-\beta-1}{2} + \gamma \end{aligned}$$

as  $a-b-c+\beta-1 \geq 0$  under the condition  $1 \leq \beta \leq a-b-c+1$ . Therefore, if  $\beta = a-b-c+1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= b+c-a+1-\gamma + \binom{\beta-1}{1} + \binom{\gamma-1}{1} \\ &= 2-\beta-\gamma + \binom{\beta-1}{1} + \binom{\gamma-1}{1} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\beta \leq a-b-c-1$ , then  $a \geq b+c+2$ , and hence

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= b+c-a+1-\gamma + \frac{a-b-c+\beta-1}{2} + \frac{a-b-c-\beta-1}{2} + \gamma = 0. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 2.**  $a+b+c-\beta$  is even. In this case,

$1 \leq \beta \leq a-b-c$  and  $k = \frac{a+b+c-\beta-4}{2}$ . By (3.1),

we get that

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= \frac{b+c-a+\beta+2}{2} - \binom{a-b-c+\beta-2}{2} + \binom{a-b-c+\beta-2}{1} \\ &+ \binom{a-b-c-\beta-2}{2} + \gamma \end{aligned}$$

$$= b+c-a+2-\gamma + \binom{a-b-c+\beta-2}{2 \atop 1} + \binom{a-b-c-\beta-2}{2 \atop 1} + \gamma$$

as  $a-b-c+\beta-2 \geq 0$  under the condition  $1 \leq \beta \leq a-b-c$ . Therefore, if  $\beta = a-b-c$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= b+c-a+2-\gamma + \binom{\beta-1}{1} + \binom{\gamma-1}{1} \\ &= 2-\beta-\gamma + \binom{\beta-1}{1} + \binom{\gamma-1}{1} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\beta \leq a-b-c-2$ , then  $a \geq b+c+3$ , and hence,

$$\begin{aligned} H_{A_\beta}(k) - H_{A_\beta}(k-1) &= b+c-a+2-\gamma + \frac{a-b-c+\beta-2}{2} \\ &+ \frac{a-b-c-\beta-2}{2} + \gamma = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the proposition is completely proved.

We now state our main result.

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $I$  be as in Setting 3.1. If  $a \geq b+c-2$ , then  $R/I$  has the WLP for any  $1 \leq \beta \leq \min\{a-b-c+3, b-1\}$ . As a consequence, if  $a \geq 2b+c-4$ , then  $R/I$  has the WLP.*

*Proof.* Notice that the socle degree of  $A_{a-b-c+2}$  is odd; hence, by applying Propositions 2.5 and 3.2 and Lemma 3.4, it is enough to show that  $A_1$  has the WLP. We consider the following cases:

**Case 1.**  $a+b+c$  is even. Then, the socle degree of  $G$  is odd. Since  $G$  is an Artinian complete intersection algebra of codimension 3,  $G$  has the WLP [10, Corollary 2.4]. Thus, it follows that  $A_1$  has the WLP by Proposition 2.5(i).

**Case 2.**  $a+b+c$  is odd. If  $a-b-c \geq 1$ , then  $A_1$  has the WLP by Proposition 2.5 and Lemma 3.3. As  $a+b+c$  is odd, we only consider

the case where  $a=b+c-1$ . It remains to show that the ideal

$$I = (x^{b+c-1}, y^b - x^{b-\gamma} z^\gamma, z^c, x^{c-1+\gamma} y^{b-1}, y^{b-1} z^{c-\gamma})$$

has the WLP, where  $1 \leq \gamma \leq \min\{b-1, c-1\}$ . Note that the socle degree of  $R/I$  is  $2b+2c-5$ , and hence  $k=b+c-3$ . Let  $L = x-y-z$ . By Proposition 2.4, it is enough to show that the multiplication

$$\times L : [R/I]_{b+c-3} \rightarrow [R/I]_{b+c-2}$$

is surjective, or equivalently  $[R/(I,L)]_{b+c-2} = 0$ . We have that

$$R/(I,L) \cong K[y,z]/J$$

$$\text{where } J = ((y+z)^{b+c-1}, y^b - (y+z)^{b-\gamma} z^\gamma, z^c, (y+z)^{c-1+\gamma} y^{b-1}, y^{b-1} z^{c-\gamma}).$$

We will prove that  $[K[y,z]/J]_{b+c-2} = 0$ , or equivalently  $y^{b+c-2-i} z^i \in J$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq b+c-2$ . We do it by the induction on  $i$ .

We first observe that  $z^c \in J$  and  $c \leq b+c-2$ ; therefore, for any  $0 \leq i \leq b-2$

$$y^i z^{b+c-2-i} = y^i z^c z^{b-2-i} \in J.$$

Similarly, as  $y^{b-1} z^{c-\gamma} \in J$ , hence for every  $b-1 \leq i \leq b+\gamma-2$

$$y^i z^{b+c-2-i} = y^{b-1} z^{c-\gamma} y^{i-b+1} z^{b+\gamma-2-i} \in J.$$

It follows that  $y^i z^{b+c-2-i}$  for any  $0 \leq i \leq b+\gamma-2$ . Finally, for any

$$b+\gamma-1 \leq i \leq b+c-2, \quad i \geq b,$$

$$\text{and since } y^b - (y+z)^{b-\gamma} z^\gamma \in J,$$

we get that

$$y^i z^{b+c-2-i} = y^b y^{i-b} z^{b+c-2-i} = (y+z)^{b-\gamma} y^{i-b} z^{b+c-2-i+\gamma}$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{b-\gamma} \binom{b-\gamma}{j} y^{i-j-\gamma} z^{b+c-2-i+\gamma+j} \in J$$

by the induction hypothesis.

**Remark 3.6.** Recently, the first author and Miró-Roig in [19] gave a general results on the WLP of  $R/I$  that recover the main result in Theorem 3.5. However, in this paper, we give another proof by using the properties of Hilbert function of  $A_\beta = R/I$  and Proposition 2.5 to reduce to the more simply case where  $\beta = 1$ .

Finally, we recover a result in [8, Theorem 3.7], with a shorter and easier proof.

**Corollary 3.7.** Let  $I$  be as in Setting 3.1. If one of the  $a, b$  and  $c$  is equal to two, then  $R/I$  has the WLP.

*Proof.* Recall that  $b \leq a + c - 2$  and by symmetry of  $x$  and  $z$ , without loss of generality, we assume that  $a \geq c$ . Now, we consider the two cases.

**Case 1.**  $b = 2$ . Since  $a \geq c$ , therefore  $a \geq 2b + c - 4$ . By Theorem 3.5,  $R/I$  has the WLP.

**Case 2.**  $c = 2$ . Since  $b \leq a + c - 2$ ,  $a \geq b$ , or equivalently  $a \geq b + c - 2$ . Theorem 3.5 implies that if  $a \geq 2b - 2$ , then  $R/I$  has the WLP for any  $1 \leq \beta \leq b - 1$  and if  $b \leq a \leq 2b - 3$ , then  $R/I$  has the WLP for any  $1 \leq \beta \leq a - b + 1$ . It remains to show that  $R/I$  has the WLP for any  $a - b + 2 \leq \beta \leq b - 1$ .

In this case, one has

$$I = (x^a, y^b - x^{b-1}z, z^2, x^{a-b+1}y^{b-\beta}, y^{b-\beta}z),$$

where  $a - b + 2 \leq \beta \leq b - 1$ . Note that the socle degree of  $R/I$  is  $a + b - \beta - 1$ . If  $\beta = a - b + 2$ , then the socle degree of  $R/I$  is odd, hence by applying Propositions 2.5 and 3.2, we can show that  $R/I$  has the WLP whenever  $a - b + 2 \leq \beta \leq b - 1$  and  $a + b - \beta$  is even. In this case,  $k = \frac{a + b - \beta - 2}{2}$ . Set  $L = x - y - z$ . From

Proposition 2.4, it is enough to show that the multiplication

$$\times L : [R/I]_k \rightarrow [R/I]_{k+1}$$

is surjective, or equivalently  $[R/(I, L)]_{k+1} = 0$ . We have that

$$R/(I, L) \cong K[y, z]/J$$

where

$$J = ((y + z)^a, y^b - (y + z)^{b-1}z, z^2, (y + z)^{a-b+1}y^{b-\beta}, y^{b-\beta}z).$$

We will prove that  $[K[y, z]/J]_{k+1} = 0$ , or equivalently  $y^{k+1-i}z^i \in J$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq k + 1$ .

Clearly,  $y^{k+1-i}z^i \in J$  for all  $2 \leq i \leq k + 1$ , as  $z^2 \in J$ . Since  $k \geq b - \beta$ ,

$$y^k z = y^{b-\beta} z y^{k-b+\beta} \in J.$$

Finally, it is easy to see that  $k \geq a - \beta$ . Since  $(y + z)^{a-b+1}y^{b-\beta} \in J$  and by the Newton binomial expansion formula

$$(y + z)^{a-b+1}y^{b-\beta} = \sum_{j=0}^{a-b+1} \binom{a-b+1}{j} y^{a-\beta+1-j} z^j,$$

we get

$$y^{a-\beta+1} = (y + z)^{a-b+1}y^{b-\beta} - \sum_{j=1}^{a-b+1} \binom{a-b+1}{j} y^{a-\beta+1-j} z^j \in J,$$

which shows that  $y^{k+1} \in J$ . The proof is completed.

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