

## Numerical Invariants on a Ring $F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$ for a Field $F$

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### Abstract

We provide a complete proof that the existence of a system of parameters, which is a reduction of the maximal ideal, is essential in Koh-Lee's conjecture.

**Key words** : Column-Row Invariants, Hypersurface Ring, Minimal Reduction of a Maximal Ideal

### 1. Basic Definitions and Facts

In this section, we rewrite a definition and some facts as a background for readers' convenience<sup>[1]</sup>.

Throughout this paper, we assume that  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  is a commutative Noetherian local ring, and all modules are unitary. We first state the following result<sup>[2]</sup>, on which the definitions of our invariants are based:

**Theorem 1.1.**<sup>[2]</sup> Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a Noetherian local ring. Then there is an integer  $t \geq 1$  such that for each finitely generated  $A$ -module  $M$  of infinite projective dimension, the ideal generated by the entries of the map  $\varphi_i$  is not contained in  $\mathfrak{m}^t$  for all  $i > 1 + \text{depth}(A)$  ( $i > \text{depth}(A)$ , if  $A$  is Cohen-Macaulay), where

$$(E_{\bullet}, \varphi_{\bullet}) : \cdots \rightarrow A^{n_{j+1}} \xrightarrow{\varphi_{j+1}} A^{n_j} \xrightarrow{\varphi_j} A^{n_{j-1}} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A^{n_0} \rightarrow 0$$

is a minimal (free) resolution of  $M$ .

Using the argument of the above theorem, some new numerical invariants of local rings were introduced<sup>[2]</sup>. They are  $\text{col}(A)$  and  $\text{row}(A)$  associated with the columns and rows, respectively, of the maps in infinite minimal resolutions. Two more invariants<sup>[3]</sup> were defined, say  $\text{crs}(A)$  and  $\text{drs}(A)$ , which are associated with the Cyclic modules determined by Regular Sequences and their Matlis duals, respectively. We

remark here that the 'dual' invariants  $\text{row}(A)$  and  $\text{drs}(A)$ , which correspond to  $\text{col}(A)$  and  $\text{crs}(A)$  respectively, can be defined using the finitely generated modules of finite injective dimension and the vanishing of Ext-modules.

More precisely, we have the following definitions :

**Definition 1.2.**<sup>[3]</sup> In defining  $\text{row}(A)$  and  $\text{drs}(A)$  below, we assume that  $A$  is a Cohen-Macaulay ring. We denote by  $\varphi_i(M)$  the  $i$ -th map in a minimal resolution of a finitely generated  $A$ -module  $M$ . We also use the usual notation  $\text{Soc}(M) := \text{Hom}_A(A/\mathfrak{m}, M)$  to denote the socle of  $M$ .

i)  $\text{col}(A) := \inf\{t \geq 1 : \text{for each finitely generated } A\text{-module } M \text{ of infinite projective dimension, each column of } \varphi_i(M) \text{ contains an element outside } \mathfrak{m}^t, \text{ for all } i > 1 + \text{depth}(A)\}$

$\text{row}(A) := \inf\{t \geq 1 : \text{for each finitely generated } A\text{-module } M \text{ of infinite projective dimension, each row of } \varphi_i(M) \text{ contains an element outside } \mathfrak{m}^t, \text{ for all } i > 1 + \text{depth}(A)\}$

ii)  $\text{crs}(A) := \inf\{t \geq 1 : \text{Soc}(A/(x)) \not\subset \mathfrak{m}^t(A/(x)) \text{ for some maximal regular sequence } x = x_1, \dots, x_d\}$ .

$\text{drs}(A) := \inf\{t \geq 1 : \text{Soc}((A/(x))^\vee) \not\subset \mathfrak{m}^t((A/(x))^\vee) \text{ for some system of parameters } x = x_1, \dots, x_d\}$ .

When  $A$  is regular local, we interpret the above definition as  $\text{col}(A) = \text{row}(A) = 1$ .

These invariants are related as follows:

**Proposition 1.3.**<sup>[3]</sup> Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a Noetherian local ring.

i)  $1 \leq \text{col}(A) \leq \text{crs}(A) < \infty$ .

ii) If  $A$  is Cohen-Macaulay, then

$$1 \leq \text{row}(A) \leq \text{drs}(A) < \infty.$$

iii)  $A$  is a regular local ring if and only if any,

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equivalently all, of the invariants in i) and ii) is 1.

In view of the above proposition, it seems natural to consider the following conjecture:

**Koh-Lee Conjecture.**<sup>[3]</sup> Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a Noetherian local ring such that some system of parameters is a reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Then

- (i)  $col(A) = crs(A)$ ,
- (ii) if  $A$  is Cohen-Macaulay,  $row(A) = drs(A)$ .

Koh and Lee proved that the conjecture is in the affirmative in a few cases: (1) (i) If  $depth(A) = 0$ , then  $col(A) = crs(A)$ , and (ii) If  $\dim A = 0$ , then  $row(A) = drs(A)$ <sup>[3]</sup>. (2) Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a non-regular Cohen-Macaulay local ring such that some system of parameters is a reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Then  $A$  is of minimal multiplicity, i.e.,  $mult(A) = 1 + edim A - \dim A$ , if and only if all of its four invariants are equal to 2<sup>[3]</sup>. (3) If  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  is a hypersurface ring, then  $col(A) = mult(A)$ . Moreover, if some system of parameters is a reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ , then all four invariants of  $A$  are equal to  $mult(A)$ <sup>[3]</sup>. (4) Let  $R = k[[t^e, t^{e+1}, t^{(e-1)e-1}]]$ , where  $k$  is a field and  $e \geq 4$ . Then (i)  $col(R) = 2 = crs(R)$ , (ii)  $row(R) = e - 1 = drs(R)$ <sup>[1]</sup>.

**Remark 1.4.** S. Ding<sup>[4]</sup> defined the numerical invariant called the index of a Gorenstein local ring  $R$ :  $index(R)$  is the smallest positive integer  $t$  such that  $\delta(R/\mathfrak{m}^t) \neq 0$ , where  $\delta(M)$  is defined to be the maximal rank of free summands of  $X_M$  in a minimal Cohen-Macaulay approximation of a finite  $R$ -module  $M$ . One<sup>[5]</sup> conjectures the following: (Ding's Conjecture<sup>[5]</sup>) Let  $R$  be a Gorenstein local ring. Is  $index(R)$  the minimum of all integers  $n$  for which there exists a system of parameters  $\mathbf{x}$  of  $R$  such that  $\mathfrak{m}^t \subseteq (\mathbf{x})$ ? This minimum number is called the generalized Loewy length of  $R$ , and denoted by  $\ell\ell(R)$ . Thus the question can be written simply as  $index(R) = \ell\ell(R)$ . It is shown that if Koh-Lee conjecture holds, then Ding's conjecture does<sup>[6]</sup>.

## 2. On a Ring $F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$ for a Field $F$

M. Hashimoto and A. Shida<sup>[7]</sup> showed that Ding's conjecture may not hold unless the residue field of  $R$  is infinite; their example is  $R = F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$ , where  $F$  is a field with two elements. (We note here that Ding's conjecture is still open with the additional condition that the residue field is infinite.) Using this

example  $R$ , it is remarked with a simple explanation<sup>[3]</sup> that Koh-Lee conjecture does not hold in  $R$ , which has no a system of parameter that is a reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ . In this section, we provide a complete and elementary proof that the existence of a system of parameters, which is a reduction of the maximal ideal, is essential in Koh-Lee's conjecture since its proof is simply sketched<sup>[3]</sup>, and not perfect.

Throughout this section, we assume that  $F$  is a field with two elements, and  $F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$ , unless specified. We note that  $R$  is a hypersurface ring of dimension 1.

We will show the following main theorem:

**Main Theorem.** Let  $R = F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Then,  $col(R) = 3$ , and  $crs(R) = 4$ , i.e., Koh-Lee conjecture does not hold in  $R$ , which implies that the assumption about a minimal reduction is essential.

To prove the above theorem, we need some preparation. We first show that  $R$  has no a system of parameter that is a reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ . We first recall that a system of parameters  $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_n$  of a local ring  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  is a reduction of the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  if the ideal  $(\mathbf{x})$  is a reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ , i.e.  $(\mathbf{x})\mathfrak{m}^r = \mathfrak{m}^{r+1}$  for some  $r$ . (It is known that the minimal reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$  exists if a residue field  $A/\mathfrak{m}$  is infinite<sup>[8]</sup>.)

**Notation.** Let  $R$  be a ring of power series, and  $f \in R$ . We denote

$$mdeg(f) = \min \{ i : a_i \neq 0, \text{ where } f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i x^i \}.$$

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be a maximal ideal in  $F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Then for any  $f \in \mathfrak{m}$ , there is no nonnegative integer  $r$  such that  $\mathfrak{m}^{r+1} = (f)\mathfrak{m}^r$ , i.e., there is no minimal reduction of the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $x$  and  $y$  denote the images of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively in  $F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Suppose there is  $f \in \mathfrak{m}$  such that  $\mathfrak{m}^{r+1} = (f)\mathfrak{m}^r$  for some nonnegative integer  $r$ . Then  $mdeg(f) = 1$ . There are three cases:

**Case 1:**  $f = x + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 2$ .

Since  $y^{r+1} \in \mathfrak{m}^{r+1} = (f)\mathfrak{m}^r$ ,  $y^{r+1} = fg$  for some  $g \in \mathfrak{m}^r$ . Then  $y^{r+1} = (x + f^*)g$ , and hence  $y^{r+1} = f^*(0, y)g(0, y)$  by putting  $x = 0$ . Note that either  $f^*(0, y)g(0, y) = 0$  or  $mdeg(f^*(0, y)g(0, y)) \geq r + 2$ . But  $mdeg(y^{r+1}) = r + 1$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case2:**  $f = y + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 2$ .

Since  $x^{r+1} \in \mathfrak{m}^{r+1} = (f)\mathfrak{m}^r$ ,  $x^{r+1} = fg$  for some  $g \in \mathfrak{m}^r$ . Then  $x^{r+1} = (y + f^*)g$ , and hence  $x^{r+1} = f^*(x, 0)g(x, 0)$  by putting  $y = 0$ . Note that either  $f^*(0, y)g(0, y) = 0$  or  $mdeg(f^*(x, 0)g(x, 0)) \geq r + 2$ . But  $mdeg(x^{r+1}) = r + 1$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case3:**  $f = x + y + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 2$ .

Let  $x + y = z$ . Note that  $xz(x + z) = xy(x + y) = 0$  and  $F[[x, z]] = F[[x, x + y]] = F[[x, y]]$ .

Then

$$f = z + f^* \text{ in } F[[x, z]].$$

This is the same case as the above case. Thus this is also a contradiction.

It is known that  $col(A) = row(A)$  and  $crs(A) = drs(A)$  over a Gorenstein local ring  $A^{[3]}$ . Since  $R = F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$  is a hypersurface ring, which is Gorenstein, we will compute the value of  $drs(R)$  as it is easy to handle with.

In the following, we show  $drs(R) > 3$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be a maximal ideal in  $F[[X, Y]]$ . Then for any  $f \in \mathfrak{m}$ ,  $\langle X, Y \rangle^3 \not\subseteq \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . In particular, if  $R = F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$  and  $\mathfrak{m}_R$  is a maximal ideal of  $R$ , then  $\mathfrak{m}_R^3$  for any  $r \in \mathfrak{m}_R^3$ , i.e.,  $drs(R) > 3$ .

**Proof.** We will prove  $\langle X, Y \rangle^3 \not\subseteq \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$  for all,  $f \in \mathfrak{m} - \mathfrak{m}^2, f \in \mathfrak{m}^2 - \mathfrak{m}^3, f \in \mathfrak{m}^3 - \mathfrak{m}^4$  or  $f \in \mathfrak{m}^4$ .

**Step 1.** Let  $f \in \mathfrak{m} - \mathfrak{m}^2$ . Then  $mdeg(f) = 1$ . There are two cases:

**Case1:**  $f = X + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 2$ .

Suppose  $Y^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Then

$$Y^3 = (X + f^*)g_1 + XY(X + Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]].$$

If  $g_1 = 0$ , then  $g_2$  must have a nonzero constant term since  $\deg Y^3 = 3$ , and so  $Y^3 = XY(X + Y)$ , which is a contradiction. If  $mdeg(g_1) \leq 1$ , then the minimum degree of the right side is equal or less than 2 while the minimum degree of  $Y^3$  is 3. Thus, we must have  $mdeg(g_1) \geq 2$ . Also, from  $Y^3 = (X + f^*)g_1 + XY(X + Y)g_2$  we know  $Y^3 = f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y)$ . But,  $mdeg(Y^3) = 3$  and  $mdeg(f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y)) \geq 4$  unless  $f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y) = 0$ . This is a contradiction.

Thus  $Y^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Similarly, if  $f = Y + f^*$ , then we can show  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Case2:**  $f = X + Y + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 2$ .

Suppose  $X^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Then

$$X^3 = (X + Y + f^*)g_1 + XY(X + Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]]$$

Let  $X + Y = Z$ . Then  $Y = X + Z$  and

$$X^3 = (Z + f^*)g_1 + XZ(X + Z)g_2 \text{ in } F[[X, Z]]$$

This is the same case as the above case, which is a contradiction. Thus  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Step 2.** Let  $f \in \mathfrak{m}^2 - \mathfrak{m}^3$ . Then  $mdeg(f) = 2$ . There are three cases:

**Case1:**  $f = Xf' + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(Xf') = 2 = \deg(Xf')$  and  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 3$ .

Suppose  $Y^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Then

$$Y^3 = (Xf' + f^*)g_1 + XY(X + Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]].$$

If  $g_1 = 0$ , then  $g_2$  must have a nonzero constant term since  $\deg Y^3 = 3$ , and so  $Y^3 = XY(X + Y)$ , which is a contradiction. If  $mdeg(g_1) = 0$ , then the minimum degree of the right side is 2 while the minimum degree of  $Y^3$  is 3. Thus, we must have  $mdeg(g_1) \geq 1$ . Also, from  $Y^3 = (Xf' + f^*)g_1 + XY(X + Y)g_2$  we know  $Y^3 = f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y)$ . But,  $mdeg(Y^3) = 3$  and  $mdeg(f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y)) \geq 4$  unless  $f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y) = 0$ . This is a contradiction. Thus,  $Y^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Similarly, if  $f = Yf' + f^*$ , then we can show  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Case2:**  $f = X^2 + Y^2 + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 3$ .

If  $X^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} X^3 &= (X^2 + Y^2 + f^*)g_1 + XY(X + Y)g_2 \\ &= ((X + Y)^2 + f^*)g_1 + XY(X + Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]] \end{aligned}$$

Let  $X + Y = Z$ . Then  $Y = X + Z$  and

$$X^3 = (Z^2 + f^*)g_1 + XZ(X + Z)g_2 \text{ in } F[[X, Z]]$$

This is the same case as the above case. Thus,

$X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Case3:**  $f = X^2 + XY + Y^2 + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 3$ .  
Suppose  $X^2Y \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Then

$$X^2Y = (X^2 + XY + Y^2 + f^*)g_1 + XY(X+Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]].$$

If  $g_1 = 0$  or  $mdeg(g_1) \geq 2$ , then  $g_2$  must have a nonzero constant term since  $\deg Y^3 = 3$ , and so  $X^2Y = XY(X+Y)$ , which is a contradiction. If  $mdeg(g_1) = 0$ , the minimum degree of the right side is 2 while the minimum degree of  $Y^3$  is 3. Thus, we must have  $mdeg(g_1) = 1$ . There are two subcases:

**subcase**  $g_1 = X + g_1^*$  and  $[g_2 = 0$  or  $mdeg(g_2) \geq 1]$ , where  $mdeg(g_1^*) \geq 2$ .

Since either  $XY(X+Y)g_2 = 0$  or  $mdeg(XY(X+Y)g_2) \geq 4$ , we must have  $X^2Y = (X^2 + XY + Y^2)X$  since  $\deg Y^3 = 3$ . This is a contradiction. Similarly, we can show both  $g_1 = Y + g_1^*$  and  $g_1 = X + Y + g_1^*$  are also contradiction when  $g_2 = 0$  or  $mdeg(g_2) = 1$

**subcase**  $g_1 = X + g_1^*$  and  $mdeg(g_2) = 0$ , where  $mdeg(g_1^*) \geq 2$ .

Then we must have  $X^2Y = (X^2 + XY + Y^2)X + XY(X+Y)$ , which is a contradiction. Similarly, we can show both  $g_1 = Y + g_1^*$  and  $g_1 = X + Y + g_1^*$  are also contradiction when  $mdeg(g_2) = 0$ .

Thus,  $X^2Y \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Step 3.** Let  $f \in \mathfrak{m}^3 - \mathfrak{m}^4$ . Then  $mdeg(f) = 3$ . There are three cases:

**Case1:**  $f = Xf' + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(Xf') = 3 = \deg(Xf')$  and  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 4$ .

Suppose  $Y^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ , then

$$Y^3 = (Xf' + f^*)g_1 + XY(X+Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]].$$

We may assume that  $g_1 \neq 0$ . Then  $Y^3 = f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y)$ . But,  $mdeg(Y^3) = 3$  and  $mdeg(f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y)) \geq 4$  unless  $f^*(0, Y)g_1(0, Y) \neq 0$ . This is a contradiction. Thus,  $Y^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Similarly, if  $f = Yf' + f^*$ , then we can show  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Case2:**  $f = X^3 + Y^3 + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 4$ .

If  $X^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ , then

$$X^3 = (X^3 + Y^3 + f^*)g_1 + XY(X+Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]].$$

Let  $X + Y = Z$ . Then  $Y = X + Z$  and

$$X^3 = (Z(Z^2 + ZX + X^2) + f^*)g_1 + XZ(X+Z)g_2 \text{ in } F[[X, Y]].$$

This is the same case as the above case. Thus,  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

Similarly, if  $f = X^3 + X^2Y + XY^2 + Y^3 + f^* = (X+Y)^3 + f^*$ , then we can show  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Case3:**  $f = X^3 + X^2Y + Y^3 + f^*$ , where  $mdeg(f^*) \geq 4$ .  
Suppose  $X^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Then

$$X^3 = (X^3 + X^2Y + Y^3 + f^*)g_1 + XY(X+Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]].$$

We may assume that  $g_1 \neq 0$  or  $g_2 \neq 0$ . If  $mdeg(g_1) \neq 0$  and  $mdeg(g_2) \neq 0$ , the minimum degree of right side is equal or greater than 4 while the minimum degree of  $X^3$  is 3. Thus we must have  $mdeg(g_1) = 0$  or  $mdeg(g_2) = 0$ . There are three subcases:

**Subcase**  $mdeg(g_1) = 0$  and  $mdeg(g_2) \neq 0$ . Then we have  $X^3 = X^3 + X^2Y + Y^3$ , which is a contradiction.

**Subcase**  $mdeg(g_1) \neq 0$  and  $mdeg(g_2) = 0$ . Then we have  $X^3 = XY(X+Y)$ , which is a contradiction.

**Subcase**  $mdeg(g_1) = 0$  and  $mdeg(g_2) = 0$ . Then we have  $X^3 = X^3 + X^2Y + Y^3 + XY(X+Y)$ , which is a contradiction.

Thus,  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Similarly, if  $f = X^3 + XY^2 + Y^3 + f^*$ , then we can show  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

**Step 4.**  $f \in \mathfrak{m}^4$ . Then  $mdeg(f) \geq 4$ . If  $X^3 \in \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ ,

$$X^3 = fg_1 + XY(X+Y)g_2 \text{ with } g_1, g_2 \in F[[X, Y]].$$

Since either  $fg_1 = 0$  or  $mdeg(fg_1) \geq 4$ ,  $mdeg(g_2) = 0$  and hence we have  $X^3 = XY(X+Y)$ , which is a contradiction. Thus,  $X^3 \notin \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ .

In all,  $\langle X, Y \rangle^3 \not\subset \langle f, XY(X+Y) \rangle$  for all  $f \in \mathfrak{m}$ .

The next theorem shows that  $d_{rs}(R)$  is bounded by 4.

**Theorem 2.3.**  $\langle X, Y \rangle^4 \subset \langle Y - X^2, XY(X+Y) \rangle$  in  $F[[X, Y]]$ . In particular, if

$R = F[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$  and  $\mathfrak{m}_R$  is a maximal ideal of  $R$ , then  $\mathfrak{m}_R^4 \subset (y - x^2)$  in  $R$ , i.e.,  $\text{drrs}(R) \leq 4$ .

**Proof.** It is enough to show that  $X^4, Y^4, X^3Y, X^2Y^2$ , and  $XY^3$  are in  $\langle Y - X^2, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . First, we claim  $X^4 \in \langle Y - X^2, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Indeed,  $1 + X$  is a unit in  $F[[X, Y]]$  and

$$\begin{aligned} (Y - X^2)(X^2 + XY(1+X)^{-1}) + XY(X+Y)(1+X)^{-1} \\ = X^4 + X^2Y + X^2Y(1+X)^{-1} + X^3Y(1+X)^{-1} \\ = X^4 + X^2Y(1 + (1+X)^{-1}) + X(1+X)^{-1} \\ = X^4 + X^2Y(1 + (1+X)^{-1}(1+X)) \\ = X^4 \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $X^4 \in \langle Y - X^2, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} Y^2 &= (Y - X^2)(Y + X^2) + X^4, \\ X^3Y &= (Y - X^2)X^3 + X^5, \\ X^2Y^2 &= XY(X+Y)X - X^3Y, \text{ and} \\ XY^3 &= XY(X+Y)Y - X^2Y^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $Y^4, X^3Y, X^2Y^2$ , and  $XY^3$  are also in  $\langle Y - X^2, XY(X+Y) \rangle$ . This completes the proof.

To complete the proof of our main theorem, we need the following fact:

**Theorem 2.4.**<sup>[3]</sup> If  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  is a hypersurface ring, then  $\text{col}(A) = \text{mult}(A)$ . Moreover if  $A$  has a system of parameters which is a reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ , e.g.  $A/\mathfrak{m}$  is infinite, then all six invariants of  $A$  are equal to  $\text{mult}(A)$ .

**(Proof of Main Theorem)** By the above theorem,  $\text{col}(R) = \text{mult}(R) = 3$ . Also,  $\text{crs}(R) = \text{drrs}(R) = 4$  by Theorem 2.2, and Theorem 2.3. Hence the existence of a system of parameters, which is a reduction of the maximal ideal, is essential in Koh-Lee's conjecture.

We close this section by proving that if  $k$  is a field with more than two elements, then the maximal ideal of  $k[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle$  has a minimal reduction.

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $k$  be a field with  $|k| \geq 3$  and  $\mathfrak{m}$  be the maximal ideal in  $A = k[[X, Y]]/\langle XY(X+Y) \rangle = k[[x, y]]$ . Then  $\mathfrak{m}^3 = (x + \alpha y)\mathfrak{m}^2$  for  $\alpha \in k \setminus \{0, 1\}$ , i.e., a minimal reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$  exists. In particular,  $\text{col}(A) = 3 = \text{crs}(A)$ , which implies that Koh-Lee conjecture holds in  $A$ .

**Proof.** Since  $x + \alpha y \in \mathfrak{m}$ ,  $(x + \alpha y)\mathfrak{m}^2 \subset \mathfrak{m}^3$ . To show that  $\mathfrak{m}^3 \subset (x + \alpha y)\mathfrak{m}^2$ , it is enough to show that  $x^3, y^3, x^2y$ , and  $xy^2$  are in  $(x + \alpha y)\mathfrak{m}^2$ . First, we claim  $x^3 \in (x + \alpha y)\mathfrak{m}^2$ . Indeed,  $xy(x+y) = 0$ ,  $1 - \alpha$  is a unit in  $k[[x, y]]$  and

$$\begin{aligned} (x + \alpha y)(x^2(1 + \alpha y^2) + xy(1 - \alpha)^{-1}(x^2 - \alpha(1 + \alpha y^2)) + y^2x^2) \\ = x^3(1 + \alpha y^2) + x^2y(1 - \alpha)^{-1}(x^2 - \alpha(1 + \alpha y^2)) + xy^2x^2 \\ + \alpha x^2y(1 + \alpha y^2) + \alpha xy^2(1 - \alpha)^{-1}(x^2 - \alpha(1 + \alpha y^2)) + \alpha x^2y^3 \\ = x^3 + \alpha x^2y^2(x+y) + x^2y(1 - \alpha)^{-1}(x^2 - \alpha(1 + \alpha y^2)) - x^2y^2x^2 \\ + \alpha x^2y(1 + \alpha y^2) - \alpha x^2y(1 - \alpha)^{-1}(x^2 - \alpha(1 + \alpha y^2)) \\ = x^3 + x^2y(x^2 - \alpha(1 + \alpha y^2))(1 - \alpha)^{-1}(1 - \alpha) - x^2y(x^2 - \alpha(1 + \alpha y^2)) \\ = x^3. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $x^3 \in (x + \alpha y)\mathfrak{m}^2$ . Note that  $\alpha$  is a unit in  $k[[x, y]]$  and

$$\begin{aligned} y^3 &= ((x + \alpha y)(x^2 + xy + y^2) - x^3)\alpha^{-1}, \\ x^2y &= ((x + \alpha y)x^2 - x^3)\alpha^{-1}, \text{ and} \\ xy^2 &= (x + \alpha y)y^2 - \alpha y^3. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $y^3, x^2y$ , and  $xy^2$  are also in  $(x + \alpha y)\mathfrak{m}^2$ . In particular, by Theorem 2.4, we have  $\text{col}(A) = \text{mult}(A) = \text{crs}(A)$ , and  $\text{mult}(A) = 3$ . This completes the proof.

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