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**Article:**

Katzman, M. and Zhang, W. (2019) Multiplicity bounds in prime characteristic. *Communications in Algebra*, 47 (6). pp. 2450-2456. ISSN: 0092-7872

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00927872.2018.1513014>

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This is an Accepted Manuscript of an article published by Taylor & Francis in *Communications in Algebra* on 22 Feb 2019, available online: <http://www.tandfonline.com/10.1080/00927872.2018.1513014>.

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## MULTIPLICITY BOUNDS IN PRIME CHARACTERISTIC

MORDECHAI KATZMAN AND WENLIANG ZHANG

*Dedicated to Gennady Lyubeznik on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday*

ABSTRACT. We extend a result by Huneke and Watanabe ([HW15]) bounding the multiplicity of  $F$ -pure local rings of prime characteristic in terms of their dimension and embedding dimensions to the case of  $F$ -injective, generalized Cohen-Macaulay rings. We then produce an upper bound for the multiplicity of any local Cohen-Macaulay ring of prime characteristic in terms of their dimensions, embedding dimensions and HSL numbers. Finally, we extend the upper bounds for the multiplicity of generalized Cohen-Macaulay rings in characteristic zero which have dense  $F$ -injective type.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In [HW15], Huneke and Watanabe proved that, if  $R$  is a noetherian,  $F$ -pure local ring of dimension  $d$  and embedding dimension  $v$ , then  $e(R) \leq \binom{v}{d}$  where  $e(R)$  denotes the Hilbert-Samuel multiplicity of  $R$ . The following was left as an open question in [HW15, Remark 3.4]:

**Question 1.1** (Huneke-Watanabe). Let  $R$  be a noetherian  $F$ -injective local ring with dimension  $d$  and embedding dimension  $v$ . Is it true that  $e(R) \leq \binom{v}{d}$ ?

In this note, we answer this question in the affirmative when  $R$  is generalized Cohen-Macaulay.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $R$  be a  $d$ -dimensional noetherian  $F$ -injective generalized Cohen-Macaulay local ring of embedding dimension  $v$ . Then*

$$e(R) \leq \binom{v}{d}.$$

Using reduction mod  $p$ , one can prove an analogous result for generalized Cohen-Macaulay rings of dense  $F$ -injective type in characteristic 0, cf. Theorem 5.2.

We also generalize these result to Cohen-Macaulay, non- $F$ -injective rings as follows.

**Definition 1.2** (cf. section 4 in [Lyu97]). Let  $A$  be a commutative ring and let  $H$  be an  $A$ -module with Frobenius map  $\theta : H \rightarrow H$  (i.e., an additive map such that  $\theta(ah) = a^p\theta(h)$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $h \in H$ ). Write  $\text{Nil } H = \{h \in H \mid \theta^e h = 0 \text{ for some } e \geq 0\}$ . The *Hartshorne-Speiser-Lyubeznik number* (henceforth *abbreviated HSL number*) is defined as

$$\inf\{e \geq 0 \mid \theta^e \text{Nil } H = 0\}.$$

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W.Z. is partially supported by NSF grants DMS #1606414 and DMS #1752081.

The HSL number of a local, Cohen-Macaulay ring  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  is defined as the HSL number of the top local cohomology module  $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{\dim R}(R)$  with its natural Frobenius map.

For artinian modules over a quotient of a regular ring, HSL numbers are finite. ([Lyu97, Proposition 4.4]).

Without the  $F$ -injectivity assumption, we have the following upper bound in the Cohen-Macaulay case which involves the HSL number of  $R$ .

**Theorem 1.2** (Theorem 3.1). *Assume that  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  is a reduced, Cohen-Macaulay noetherian local ring of dimension  $d$  and embedding dimension  $v$ . Let  $\eta$  be the HSL number of  $R$  and write  $Q = p^\eta$ . Then*

$$e(R) \leq Q^{v-d} \binom{v}{d}.$$

This bound is asymptotically sharp as shown in Remark 3.2.

## 2. BOUNDS ON $F$ -INJECTIVE RINGS

For each commutative noetherian ring  $R$ , let  $R^\circ$  denote the set of elements of  $R$  that are not contained in any minimal prime ideal of  $R$ .

*Remark 2.1.* If  $R$  is a reduced noetherian ring, then each  $c \in R^\circ$  is a non-zero-divisor.

Given any local ring  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$ , we can pass to  $S = R[x]_{\mathfrak{m}R[x]}$  which admits an infinite residue field: this does not affect the multiplicity, dimension, embedding dimension and Cohen-Macaulyness (cf. [HS06, Lemma 8.4.2]). In addition, since  $S$  is a faithfully flat extension of  $R$ ,  $H_{\mathfrak{m}S}^i(S) = H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(R) \otimes_R S$  and, if  $\phi_i : H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(R) \rightarrow H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(R)$  is the natural Frobenius map induced by the Frobenius map  $r \mapsto r^p$  on  $R$ , then the natural Frobenius map on  $H_{\mathfrak{m}S}^i(S)$  takes an element  $a \otimes x^\alpha$  to  $\phi_i(a) \otimes x^{\alpha p}$ . Therefore, passing to  $S$  preserves HSL numbers (and hence also  $F$ -injectivity). Therefore, for the purpose of seeking an upper bound of multiplicity, we may assume that all mentioned local rings  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  have infinite residue fields; consequently,  $\mathfrak{m}$  admits a minimal reduction generated by  $\dim R$  elements (cf. [HS06, Proposition 8.3.7]).

We begin with a Skoda-type theorem for  $F$ -injective rings which may be viewed as a generalization of [HW15, Theorem 3.2].

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a commutative noetherian ring of characteristic  $p$  and let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be an ideal that can be generated by  $\ell$  elements. Assume that each  $c \in R^\circ$  is a non-zero-divisor. Then*

$$\overline{\mathfrak{a}^{\ell+1}} \subseteq \mathfrak{a}^F,$$

where  $\overline{\mathfrak{a}^{\ell+1}}$  is the integral closure of  $\mathfrak{a}^{\ell+1}$  and  $\mathfrak{a}^F$  the Frobenius closure of  $\mathfrak{a}$ .

*Proof.* For each  $x \in \overline{\mathfrak{a}^{\ell+1}}$  pick  $c \in R^\circ$  such that for  $N \gg 1$ ,  $cx^N \in \mathfrak{a}^{(\ell+1)N}$  ([HS06, Corollary 6.8.12]). Note that  $c$  is a non-zero-divisor by our assumptions. We have  $cx^N \in c(\mathfrak{a}^{(\ell+1)N} : c) \subseteq cR \cap \mathfrak{a}^{(\ell+1)N}$ . An application of the Artin-Rees Lemma gives a  $k \geq 1$  such that  $cx^N \in c\mathfrak{a}^{(\ell+1)N-k}$  for all large  $N$ , and so  $x^N \in \mathfrak{a}^{(\ell+1)N-k}$  for all large  $N$ . For any large enough  $N = p^e$  we have  $x^{p^e} \in \mathfrak{a}^{[p^e]}$ , i.e.,  $x$ , and hence  $\overline{\mathfrak{a}^{\ell+1}}$  is in the Frobenius closure of  $\mathfrak{a}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a  $d$ -dimensional noetherian local ring of characteristic  $p$ . Assume that  $\mathfrak{m}$  admits a minimal reduction  $J$ . Then*

- (a)  $\mathfrak{m}^{d+1} \subseteq \overline{\mathfrak{m}^{d+1}} = \overline{J^{d+1}} \subseteq J^F$ , and
- (b)  $e(R) \leq \binom{v}{d} + \ell(J^F/J)$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\mathfrak{m}^{d+1} \subseteq \overline{\mathfrak{m}^{d+1}} = \overline{J^{d+1}}$ , (a) follows from Theorem 2.2.

For part (b), since  $\overline{J^{d+1}} \subseteq J^F$  and  $J$  is generated by  $d$  elements, we have  $\ell(R/J^F) \leq \binom{v}{d}$  (as in the proof of [HW15, Theorem 3.1]). Then

$$e(R) \leq \ell(R/J) = \ell(R/J^F) + \ell(J^F/J) \leq \binom{v}{d} + \ell(J^F/J).$$

□

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Let  $\hat{R}$  denote the completion of  $R$ . Then  $R$  is  $F$ -injective and generalized Cohen-Macaulay if and only if  $\hat{R}$  is so, and  $e(R) = e(\hat{R})$ . Hence we may assume that  $R$  is complete. Since  $R$  is  $F$ -injective, it is reduced ([SZ13, Remark 2.6]) and hence each  $c \in R^\circ$  is a non-zero-divisor by Remark 2.1. It is proved in [Ma15, Theorem 1.1] that a generalized Cohen-Macaulay local ring is  $F$ -injective if and only if every parameter ideal is Frobenius closed. Let  $J$  denote a minimal reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}$ , then  $J^F = J$ . Our theorem follows immediately from Corollary 2.3. □

### 3. BOUNDS ON MULTIPLICITY USING HSL NUMBERS

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  is a reduced, Cohen-Macaulay noetherian local ring of dimension  $d$  and embedding dimension  $v$ . Let  $\eta$  be the HSL number of  $R$  and write  $Q = p^\eta$ . Then  $e(R) \leq Q^{v-d} \binom{v}{d}$ .*

*Proof.* We may assume that  $R$  is complete since  $e(R) = e(\hat{R})$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{m}$  admits a minimal reduction  $J$  (generated by  $d$  elements). We have  $e(R) = \ell(R/J)$ , and Theorem 2.2 shows that  $\mathfrak{m}^{d+1} \subseteq J^F$ . Now  $(J^F)^{[Q]} = J^{[Q]}$  for  $Q = p^\eta$  hence  $(\mathfrak{m}^{d+1})^{[Q]} \subseteq J^{[Q]}$ .

Extend a set of minimal generators  $x_1, \dots, x_d$  of  $J$  to a minimal set of generators  $x_1, \dots, x_d, y_1, \dots, y_{v-d}$  of  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Now  $R/J^{[Q]}$  is spanned by monomials

$$x_1^{\gamma_1} \dots x_d^{\gamma_d} y_1^{\alpha_1 Q + \beta_1} \dots y_{v-d}^{\alpha_{v-d} Q + \beta_{v-d}}$$

where  $0 \leq \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_d, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_{v-d} < Q$  and  $0 \leq \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_{v-d} < d+1$ . The number of such monomials is  $Q^v \binom{v}{d}$  and so  $\ell(R/J^{[Q]}) \leq Q^v \binom{v}{d}$ .

Note that as  $J$  is generated by a regular sequence,  $\ell(R/J^{[Q]}) = Q^d \ell(R/J)$  and we conclude that

$$\ell(R/J) = \ell(R/J^{[Q]})/Q^d \leq Q^{v-d} \binom{v}{d}.$$

□

*Remark 3.2.* The next family of examples shows that the bound in Theorem 3.1 is asymptotically sharp.

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field of prime characteristic  $p$ , let  $n \geq 2$ , and let  $S$  be  $\mathbb{F}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Let  $\mathfrak{m} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)S$ , and let  $E$  denote the injective hull of the residue field of  $S_{\mathfrak{m}}$ .

Define  $f = \sum_{i=1}^n x_1^p \dots x_{i-1}^p x_i x_{i+1}^p \dots x_n^p$  and  $h = x_1 \dots x_{n-1}$ . We claim that  $f$  is square-free: if this is not the case write  $f = r^\alpha s$  where  $r$  is irreducible of positive degree, and  $\alpha \geq 2$ . Let  $\partial$  denote the partial derivative with respect to  $x_n$ . Note that  $\partial f = h^p$  and so

$$h^p = \alpha r^{\alpha-1} (\partial r) s + r^\alpha (\partial s) = r^{\alpha-1} (\alpha (\partial r) s + r (\partial s)).$$

We deduce that  $r$  divides  $h$ , but this would imply that  $x_i^2$  divides all terms of  $f$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ , which is false. We conclude that  $S/fS$  is reduced.

Let  $R$  be the localization of  $S/fS$  at  $\mathfrak{m}$ . We compute next the HSL number  $\eta$  of  $R$  using the method described in sections 4 and 5 in [Kat08]. It is not hard to show that  $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{n-1}(R) \cong \text{ann}_E f$  where  $E = H_{\mathfrak{m}}^n(S)$ , and that, after identifying these, the natural Frobenius action on  $\text{ann}_E f$  is given by  $f^{p-1}T$  where  $T$  is the natural Frobenius action on  $E$ .

To find the HSL number  $\eta$  of  $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{n-1}(R)$  we readily compute  $I_1(f)$  (cf. [Kat08, Proposition 5.4]) to be the ideal generated by  $\{x_1 \dots x_{i-1} x_{i+1} \dots x_n \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} I_2(f^{p+1}) &= I_1(f I_1(f)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n I_1\left(\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} x_1^{p+1} \dots x_{j-1}^{p+1} x_j^2 x_{j+1}^{p+1} \dots x_{i-1}^{p+1} x_i^p x_{i+1}^{p+1} \dots x_n^{p+1}\right) \\ &\quad + x_1^{p+1} \dots x_{i-1}^{p+1} x_i x_{i+1}^{p+1} \dots x_n^{p+1} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=i+1}^n x_1^{p+1} \dots x_{i-1}^{p+1} x_i^p x_{i+1}^{p+1} \dots x_{j-1}^{p+1} x_j^2 x_{j+1}^{p+1} \dots x_n^{p+1} \\ &= I_1(f) \end{aligned}$$

and we deduce that  $\eta = 1$ .

We now compute

$$\Gamma_{n,p} := \frac{\deg f}{\binom{n}{n-1} p^\eta} = \frac{(n-1)p+1}{np}.$$

We have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_{n,p} = 1$  and  $\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_{n,p} = (n-1)/n$ , so we can find values of  $\Gamma_{n,p}$  arbitrarily close to 1.

#### 4. EXAMPLES

The injectivity of the natural Frobenius action on the top local cohomology  $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^d(R)$  does *not* imply  $e(R) \leq \binom{v}{d}$  as shown by the following example.

**Example 4.1.** Let  $S = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}[x, y, u, v]$ , let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be its ideal generated by the variables, define  $I = (v, x) \cap (u, x) \cap (v, y) \cap (u, y) \cap (y, x) \cap (v, u) \cap (y - u, x - v) = (xv(y - u), yu(x - v), yuv(y - u), xuv(x - v))$ , and let  $R = S/I$ : this is a reduced 2-dimensional ring.

We compute the following graded  $S$ -free resolution of  $I$

$$0 \longrightarrow S(-6) \xrightarrow{B} S^4(-5) \xrightarrow{A} S^2(-3) \oplus S^2(-4) \longrightarrow I \longrightarrow 0$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} u(x-v) & yu & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & xv & v(y-u) \\ 0 & -x & 0 & v-x \\ u-y & 0 & -y & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ v-x \\ u-y \\ x \end{bmatrix}$$

and note that  $R$  has projective dimension 3, hence depth 1 and so it is not Cohen-Macaulay. Also, we can read the Hilbert series of  $R$  from its graded resolution and we obtain

$$\frac{1 - 2t^3 - 2t^4 + 4t^5 - t^6}{(1-t)^4} = \frac{1 + 2t + 3t^2 + 2t^3 - t^4}{(1-t^2)}$$

and so the multiplicity of  $R$  is  $1 + 2 + 3 + 2 - 1 = 7$  exceeding  $\binom{4}{2} = 6$  (cf. [HH11, §6.1.1].)

Note that  $R$  is not  $F$ -injective, but the natural Frobenius action on the top local cohomology module is injective.

From the proof of Theorem 1.1, we can see that if a minimal reduction of the maximal ideal in an  $F$ -injective local ring  $R$  is Frobenius closed then the bound  $e(R) \leq \binom{v}{d}$  will hold. Hence we may ask whether minimal reductions would be Frobenius-closed in such rings (cf. Theorem 6.5 and Problem 3 in [QS17]). However, the following example shows this not to be the case.

**Example 4.2.** Let  $S = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}[x, y, u, v, w]$ , let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be its ideal generated by the variables and let  $I_1 = (x, y) \cap (x+y, u+w, v+w)$ ,  $I_2 = (u, v, w) \cap (x, u, v) \cap (y, u, v) = (u, v, xyw)$ , and  $I = I_1 \cap I_2$ . Fedder's Criterion [Fed83, Proposition 1.7] shows that  $S/I_1$ ,  $S/I_2$  and  $S/(I_1 + I_2)$  are  $F$ -pure, and [QS17, Theorem 5.6] implies that  $S/I$  is  $F$ -injective. Also,  $S/I$  is almost Cohen-Macaulay: it is 3-dimensional and its localization at  $\mathfrak{m}$  has depth 2.

Its not hard to check that the ideal  $J$  generated by the images in  $S/I$  of  $w, y + v, x + u$  is a minimal reduction. However  $J^F \neq J$ : while  $v^2 \notin J$ , we have

$$v^4 = xyw^2 + v^2(y+v)^2 + yvw(x+y) + (v+w)(y^2v + xyw),$$

hence  $v^2 \in J^F \setminus J$ .

## 5. BOUNDS IN CHARACTERISTIC ZERO

Throughout this section  $K$  will denote a field of characteristic zero,  $T = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $R$  will denote the finitely generated  $K$ -algebra  $R = T/I$  for some ideal  $I \subseteq T$ , and  $\mathfrak{m} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)R$ ;  $d$  and  $v$  will denote the dimension and embedding dimension, respectively, of  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ . We also choose  $\mathbf{y} = y_1, \dots, y_d \in \mathfrak{m}$  whose images in  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  form a minimal reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}R_{\mathfrak{m}}$ .

We may, and do assume that the only maximal ideal containing  $\mathbf{y}$  is  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Otherwise, if  $\mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_t$  are all the maximal ideals distinct from  $\mathfrak{m}$  which contain  $\mathbf{y}$ , we can pick  $f \in (\mathfrak{m}_1 \cap \dots \cap \mathfrak{m}_t) \setminus \mathfrak{m}$ , and now the only maximal ideal containing  $\mathbf{y}$  in  $R_f$  is  $\mathfrak{m}R_f$ . We may now replace  $R$  with  $R' = K[x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}]/I + \langle x_{n+1}f - 1 \rangle \cong R_f$  and since  $R_{\mathfrak{m}} = (R_f)_{\mathfrak{m}}$  we are not affecting any local issues.

The main tool used in this section descent techniques described in [HH06]. We start by introducing a flavour of it useful for our purposes.

**Definition 5.1.** By *descent objects* we mean

- (1) a finitely generated  $K$ -algebra  $R$  as above,
- (2) a finite set of finitely generated  $T$ -modules,

- (3) a finite set of  $T$  linear maps between  $T$ -modules in (2),
- (4) a finite set of finite complexes involving maps in (3),

By *descent data* for these descent objects we mean

- (a) A finitely generated  $\mathbb{Z}$ -subalgebra  $A$  of  $K$ ,  $T_A = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $I_A \subseteq T_A$  such that with  $R_A = T_A/I_A$ 
  - $R_A \subseteq R$  induces an isomorphism  $R_A \otimes_A K \cong R \otimes_A K = R$ , and
  - $R_A$  is  $A$ -free.
- (b) For each  $M$  in (2), a finitely generated free  $A$ -submodule  $M_A \subseteq M$  such that this inclusion induces an isomorphism  $M_A \otimes_A K \cong M \otimes_A K = M$ .
- (c) For every  $\phi : M \rightarrow N$  in (3) an  $A$  linear map  $\phi_A : M_A \rightarrow N_A$  such that
  - $\phi_A \otimes 1 : M_A \otimes_A K \rightarrow N_A \otimes_A K$  is the map  $\phi$ , and
  - $\text{Im } \phi$ ,  $\text{Ker } \phi$  and  $\text{Coker } \phi$  are  $A$ -free.
- (d) For every homological complex

$$\mathcal{C}_\bullet = \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_{i+2}} C_{i+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{i+1}} C_i \xrightarrow{\partial_i} \dots$$

in (4), an homological complex

$$\mathcal{C}_{A_\bullet} = \dots \xrightarrow{(\partial_{i+2})_A} (C_{i+1})_A \xrightarrow{(\partial_{i+1})_A} (C_i)_A \xrightarrow{(\partial_i)} \dots$$

such that  $H_i(\mathcal{C}_A \otimes_A K) = H_i(\mathcal{C}_A) \otimes_A K$ . For every cohomological complex in (4), a similar corresponding construction.

Descent data exist: see [HH06, Chapter 2].

Notice that for any maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$ , the fiber  $\kappa(\mathfrak{p}) = A/\mathfrak{p}$  is a finite field. Given any property  $\mathcal{P}$  of rings of prime characteristic, we say that  $R$  as in the definition above as *dense  $\mathcal{P}$  type* if there exists descent data  $(A, R_A)$  and such that for all maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$  the fiber  $R_A \otimes_A \kappa(\mathfrak{p})$  has property  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Notice also that for any complex  $\mathcal{C}$  of free  $A$  modules where the kernels and cokernels of all maps are  $A$ -free (as in Definition 5.1(c) and (d)),  $H_i(\mathcal{C} \otimes_A \kappa(\mathfrak{p})) = H_i(\mathcal{C}) \otimes_A \kappa(\mathfrak{p})$ .

The main result in this section is the following theorem.

**Theorem 5.2.** *If  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is Cohen-Macaulay on the punctured spectrum and has dense  $F$ -injective type, then  $e(R_{\mathfrak{m}}) \leq \binom{v}{d}$ .*

**Lemma 5.3.** *There exists descent data  $(A, R_A)$  for  $R$  with the following properties.*

- (a)  $y_1, \dots, y_d \in R_A$ ,
- (b) for all maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$  the images of  $y_1, \dots, y_d$  in  $R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}$  are a minimal reduction of  $\mathfrak{m}R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}$ ,
- (c) if  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is Cohen-Macaulay on its punctured spectrum, so is  $R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}$  for all maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$ .
- (d) if  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is unmixed, so is  $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$  for all maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$ .

*Proof.* Start with some descent data  $(A, R_A)$  where  $A$  contains all  $K$ -coefficients among a set of generators  $g_1, \dots, g_\mu$  of  $I$ ,  $I_A$  is the ideal of  $A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  generated by  $g_1, \dots, g_\mu$  and  $R_A = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I_A$ . Let  $\mathbf{x}$  denote  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . For (a) write  $y_i = Q_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) + I$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq d$  and extend  $A$  to include all the  $K$ -coefficients in  $Q_1, \dots, Q_d$ .

Assume that  $\mathfrak{m}^{s+1} \subseteq \mathbf{y}\mathfrak{m}^s$  for some  $s$ . Write each monomial of degree  $s+1$  in the form  $r_1(\mathbf{x})Q_1(\mathbf{x}) + \dots + r_d(\mathbf{x})Q_d(\mathbf{x}) + a(\mathbf{x})$  where  $r_1, \dots, r_d$  are polynomials of degrees at least  $s$  and  $a(\mathbf{x}) \in I$ ; enlarge  $A$  to include all the  $K$ -coefficients of  $r_1, \dots, r_d, a$ .

With this enlarged  $A$  we have  $(\mathbf{x}R_A)^{s+1} \subseteq (\mathbf{y}R_A)(\mathbf{x}R_A)^s$  and tensoring with any  $\kappa(\mathfrak{p})$  gives  $(\mathbf{x}R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})^{s+1} \subseteq (\mathbf{y}R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})(\mathbf{x}R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})^s$ .

If  $R_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is Cohen-Macaulay on its punctured spectrum, then we can find a localization of  $R$  at one element whose only point at which it can fail to be non-Cohen-Macaulay is  $\mathfrak{m}$ . After adding a new variable to  $R$  as at the beginning of this section, we may assume that the non-Cohen-Macaulay locus of  $R$  is contained in  $\{\mathfrak{m}\}$ . The hypothesis in (c) is now equivalent to the existence of a  $k \geq 1$  such that  $\mathfrak{m}^k \text{Ext}_T^i(R, T) = 0$  for all  $\text{ht } I < i \leq n$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a free  $T$ -resolution of  $R$ . Include  $\mathfrak{m}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{C} = \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, T)$  in the descent objects. Now, with the corresponding descent data,  $\mathcal{F}_A$  is a  $T_A$ -free resolution of  $R_A$ . Localize  $A$  at one element, if necessary, so that  $\mathfrak{m}_A^k \text{Ext}_{T_A}^i(R_A, T_A)$  is  $A$ -free for all  $\text{ht } I < i \leq n$ . Fix any  $\text{ht } I < i \leq n$ ; we have

$$\text{Ext}_{T_A}^i(R_A, T_A) \otimes_A K = \text{H}^i(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}_A, T_A)) \otimes_A K = \text{H}^i(\mathcal{C}_A) \otimes_A K = \text{H}^i(\mathcal{C})$$

and hence  $\mathfrak{m}_A^k \text{Ext}_{T_A}^i(R_A, T_A) \otimes_A K = 0$  so  $\mathfrak{m}_A^k \text{Ext}_{T_A}^i(R_A, T_A) = 0$ . Now for any maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}^k \text{Ext}_{T_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}}^i(R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}, T_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}) = 0$ , and hence  $R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}$  is Cohen-Macaulay on its punctured spectrum.

The last statement is [HH06, Theorem 2.3.9]. □

*Proof of Theorem 5.2.* Using [BH93, Theorem 4.6.4] we write  $e(R_{\mathfrak{m}}) = \chi(\mathbf{y}; R_{\mathfrak{m}})$ , and using the fact that  $R$  was constructed so that  $\mathfrak{m}$  is the only maximal ideal containing  $\mathbf{y}$ , we deduce that  $e(R_{\mathfrak{m}}) = \chi(\mathbf{y}; R) = \sum_{i=0}^d (-1)^i \ell_R \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}, R)$ . We add to the descent objects in Lemma 5.3 the Koszul complex  $\mathcal{K}_{\bullet}(\mathbf{y}; R)$  and extend the descent data in Lemma 5.3 to cater for these.

For all  $0 \leq i \leq d$  we have  $\text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R) \cong \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_A) \otimes_A K$  and  $\ell(\text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R)) = \text{rank } \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_A)$ .

Pick any maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$ . We have  $\text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_A) \otimes_A \kappa(\mathfrak{p}) \cong \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})$ .

Note that that  $\text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})$  is only supported at  $\mathfrak{m} R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}$ . Otherwise, we can find an  $x \in \mathfrak{m} R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}$  such that  $0 \neq \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})_x \cong \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_A)_x \otimes_A \kappa(\mathfrak{p})$ , hence  $\text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_A)_x \neq 0$  and  $(\text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R_A) \otimes_A K)_x \cong \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R)_x = 0$ , contradicting the fact that  $\text{Supp } \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}; R) \subseteq \{\mathfrak{m}\}$ .

Now

$$\begin{aligned} e((R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})_{\mathfrak{m}}) &= \chi(\mathbf{y}; (R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})_{\mathfrak{m}}) = \chi(\mathbf{y}; R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^d (-1)^i \ell_R \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}, R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})}) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^d (-1)^i \text{rank } \text{H}_i(\mathbf{y}, R_A) \end{aligned}$$

and so Theorem 1.1 implies that  $e(R_{\mathfrak{m}}) = e((R_{\kappa(\mathfrak{p})})_{\mathfrak{m}}) \leq \binom{v}{d}$ . □

*Remark 5.4.* In [Sch09] it is conjectured that being a  $K$ -algebra with dense  $F$ -injective type is equivalent to being a Du Bois singularity. Recently, the multiplicity of Cohen-Macaulay Du Bois singularities has been bounded by  $\binom{v}{d}$  (see [Shi17]) and hence the results of this section provide further evidence for the conjecture above.

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