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Interpolating between Hilbert–Samuel and Hilbert–Kunz multiplicity

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ABSTRACT

We define a function, called s -multiplicity, that interpolates between Hilbert–Samuel multiplicity and Hilbert–Kunz multiplicity by comparing powers of ideals to the Frobenius powers of ideals. The function is continuous in s , and its value is equal to Hilbert–Samuel multiplicity for small values of s and is equal to Hilbert–Kunz multiplicity for large values of s . We prove that it has an Associativity Formula generalizing the Associativity Formulas for Hilbert–Samuel and Hilbert–Kunz multiplicity. We also define a family of closures such that if two ideals have the same s -closure then they have the same s -multiplicity, and the converse holds under mild conditions. We describe the s -multiplicity of monomial ideals in toric rings as a certain volume in real space.

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to investigate a function that interpolates continuously between Hilbert–Samuel multiplicity and Hilbert–Kunz multiplicity. First we define a limit that behaves like a multiplicity, then we normalize it to get a proper interpolation

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between the Hilbert–Samuel and Hilbert–Kunz multiplicities. This interpolating function, which we call s -multiplicity, is a single object which captures the behavior of both multiplicities as well as a family of multiplicity-like functions between them. Many of the similarities between the two multiplicities, such as the existence of an Associativity Formula and the connection to a closure, can be interpreted as special cases of a more general statement about s -multiplicity.

Throughout the paper we will assume that all rings are noetherian and equicharacteristic. By $\lambda_R(M)$ we mean the length of M as an R -module. When the ring R is understood we may write $\lambda(M)$ for $\lambda_R(M)$.

Definition 1.1. Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local ring of dimension d , $I \subseteq R$ an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal of R , and M a finitely generated R -module. The *Hilbert–Samuel multiplicity of M with respect to I* is defined to be

$$e(I; M) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d! \cdot \lambda(M/I^n M)}{n^d}.$$

We often write $e(I)$ for $e(I; R)$.

Many properties of the Hilbert–Samuel multiplicity are well known. For instance, if $I \subseteq J$ are ideals that have the same integral closure, then $e(I) = e(J)$, and if R is formally equidimensional, then the converse holds [9]. The Hilbert–Samuel multiplicity is always a nonnegative integer, $e(\mathfrak{m}) = 1$ if (R, \mathfrak{m}) is regular, and if R is formally equidimensional the converse holds [7, Theorem 40.6].

When R is of prime characteristic $p > 0$, the Frobenius map $F : R \rightarrow R$ taking $r \mapsto r^p$ is a ring homomorphism, and so we may treat R as a module over itself via the action $r \cdot x = r^p x$. In this case, we often denote the module R with this new action by $F_* R$, and elements of this module by $F_* r$ for $r \in R$. An R -module homomorphism $\varphi : F_* R \rightarrow R$ is called a p^{-1} -linear map, and has the property that for any $r, x \in R$, $r\varphi(F_* x) = \varphi(F_*(r^p x))$. If $F_* R$ is finitely generated as an R -module, we say the ring R is F -finite. For an ideal $I \subseteq R$ and $e \in \mathbb{N}$, the e th Frobenius power of I , denoted $I^{[p^e]}$, is the ideal generated by the p^e -th powers of the elements of I , equivalently by the p^e -th powers of a set of generators for I . For any p^{-1} -linear map φ and ideal $I \subseteq R$, $\varphi(F_*(I^{[p]})) \subseteq I$.

When R is a ring of positive characteristic, we can define a limit similar to the Hilbert–Samuel multiplicity using the Frobenius powers of the ideal instead of the powers.

Definition 1.2. Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local ring of dimension d , $I \subseteq R$ an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal of R , and M a finitely generated R -module. The *Hilbert–Kunz multiplicity of M with respect to I* is defined to be

$$e_{HK}(I; M) = \lim_{e \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\lambda(M/I^{[p^e]} M)}{p^{ed}}.$$

We often write $e_{HK}(I)$ for $e_{HK}(I; R)$.

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