JOURNAL OF THE CHUNGCHEONG MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY Volume 30, No. 4, November 2017 http://dx.doi.org/10.14403/jcms.2017.30.4.435

THE MINIMAL GRADED FREE RESOLUTION OF THE UNION OF TWO STAR CONFIGURATIONS IN \mathbb{P}^n AND THE WEAK LEFSCHETZ PROPERTY

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ABSTRACT. We find a graded minimal free resolution of the union of two star configurations X and Y (not necessarily linear star configurations) in \mathbb{P}^n of type s and t for $s, t \ge 2$, and $n \ge 3$. As an application, we prove that an Artinian ring $R/(I_X + I_Y)$ of two linear star configurations X and Y in \mathbb{P}^3 of type s and t has the weak Lefschetz property for $s \ge \lfloor \frac{1}{2} \binom{t}{2} \rfloor$ and $t \ge 2$.

1. Introduction

A star configuration set of points in \mathbb{P}^2 (see [5]), which was introduced by Geramita, Migliore, and Sabourin in 2006, will be called a linear star configuration in this paper. Configurations of this type and their natural generalizations to \mathbb{P}^n have been proved to be a very interesting family of points, hypersurfaces, and so on. For example, it is easy to describe their defining ideals algebraically (see [6, 8]). Moreover, the graded Betti numbers and shifts of a graded minimal free resolutions of star configurations in \mathbb{P}^n can be described in terms of the number and the degrees of defining forms in $R = \Bbbk[x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ (see [8]). In addition, Catalisano, Geramita, Gimigliano, Migliore, Nagel, and Shin [3] have studied star configurations in \mathbb{P}^n to calculate the dimensions of the secant varieties to the varieties of reducible curves (see also [2]). There have been continual efforts, which have further developed the properties of star configurations in \mathbb{P}^n (see [1, 2, 6, 7, 9]).

We briefly recall generic Hilbert function and the weak Lefschetz property. Let k be an infinite field of characteristic free and R =

Received August 15, 2017; Accepted September 26, 2017.

²⁰¹⁰ Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 13A02; Secondary 16W50.

Key words and phrases: Hilbert functions, star configurations, minimal graded free resolution, the weak Lefschetz property.

This research was supported by a grant from Sungshin Women's University.

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 $k[x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ be an (n + 1)-variable polynomial ring over a field k. If I is a homogeneous ideal in R, the numerical function $\mathbf{H}_{R/I}(t) := \dim_k R_t - \dim_k I_t$ is called the *Hilbert function of the ring* R/I. If $I := I_{\mathbb{X}}$ is the ideal of a subscheme \mathbb{X} in \mathbb{P}^n , then we denote the Hilbert function of \mathbb{X} by $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{X}}(t) := \mathbf{H}_{R/I_{\mathbb{X}}}(t)$. In particular, if \mathbb{X} is a finite set of points in \mathbb{P}^n , then we say that \mathbb{X} has generic Hilbert function if $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{X}}(t) = \min\{|\mathbb{X}|, {t+n \choose n}\}$ for every $t \ge 0$. In addition, for a finite set \mathbb{X} of points in \mathbb{P}^n , we define $\sigma(\mathbb{X}) = \min\{i \mid \mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{X}}(i-1) = \mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{X}}(i)\}$.

Let R/I be a standard graded Artinian algebra. We say that R/I has the weak Lefschetz property if, for a general linear form $L \in R$ and for every $d \geq 0$, the multiplication map by L, $[R/I]_d \xrightarrow{\times L} [R/I]_{d+1}$, has maximal rank. In this case, L is said to be a Lefschetz element. Over the years, there have been several papers which have devoted to a classification of possible Artinian quotients having the weak Lefschetz property (see [4, 9]). Note that since R/I is Artinian, $A_d = 0$ for $d \gg 0$, and so only a finite number of maps have to be considered. The strong Lefschetz property says that for every $i \geq 1$ the multiplication map by L^i , $[R/I]_d \xrightarrow{\times L^i} [R/I]_{d+i}$, has maximal rank for every $d \geq 0$.

The Lefschetz properties for a standard graded Artinian k-algebra are algebraic abstractions introduced by Stanley [12]. The weak Lefschetz property has recently received more attendition, and is a very fundamental and natural property of Artinian algebras (see [4, 7, 12]).

The goal of this paper is to find a graded minimal free resolution of the union $\mathbb{X} \cup \mathbb{Y}$ of two star configurations \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} (not necessarily linear star configurations) in \mathbb{P}^n of type s, t with $s, t \geq 2$ and $n \geq 3$ (see Theorem 3.1) using the Künneth formula and a mapping cone construction. Furthermore, we show that an Artinian ring $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}})$ of two linear star configurations \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} in \mathbb{P}^3 of type s, t with $s \geq \lfloor \frac{1}{2} \binom{t}{2} \rfloor$ and $t \geq 2$ has the weak Lefschetz property (see Theorem 4.4).

2. A Graded Minimal Free Resolution of A Star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n

We first introduce notions of a star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n .

DEFINITION 2.1. Let $R = \mathbb{k}[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be a polynomial ring over a field \mathbb{k} . For positive integers r and s with $1 \leq r \leq \min\{n, s\}$, suppose F_1, \dots, F_s are general forms in R of degrees d_1, \dots, d_s , respectively. We

call the variety \mathbb{X} defined by the ideal

$$\bigcap_{1 < i_1 < \cdots < i_r < s} (F_{i_1}, \dots, F_{i_r})$$

a star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n of type (r, s). In particular, if \mathbb{X} is a star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n of type (2, s), then we simply call a star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n of type s for short.

Notice that, for $s \geq n$, each *n*-forms F_{i_1}, \ldots, F_{i_n} of *s*-general forms F_1, \ldots, F_s in R define $d_{i_1} \cdots d_{i_n}$ points in \mathbb{P}^n for each $1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_n \leq s$. Thus the ideal $\bigcap_{1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_n \leq s} (F_{i_1}, \ldots, F_{i_n})$ defines a finite set \mathbb{X} of points in \mathbb{P}^n with

$$\deg(\mathbb{X}) = \sum_{1 \le i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_n \le s} d_{i_1} d_{i_2} \cdots d_{i_n}$$

Furthermore, if F_1, \ldots, F_s are general linear forms in R, then we call \mathbb{X} a linear star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n of type s, respectively.

THEOREM 2.2 ([8, Theorem 3.4]). Let \mathbb{X} be a star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n of type (r, s) defined by general forms F_1, \ldots, F_s in $R = \Bbbk[x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ of degrees d_1, d_2, \ldots, d_s , where $2 \leq r \leq \min\{s, n\}$, and let $d = d_1 + \cdots + d_s$. Then a graded minimal free resolution of $I_{\mathbb{X}}$ is

(2.1)
$$0 \to \mathbb{F}_r^{(r,s)} \to \mathbb{F}_{r-1}^{(r,s)} \to \dots \to \mathbb{F}_1^{(r,s)} \to I_{\mathbb{X}} \to 0$$

where

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{F}_{r}^{(r,s)} &= R^{\alpha_{r}^{(r,s)}}(-d), \\ \mathbb{F}_{r-1}^{(r,s)} &= \bigoplus_{1 \leq i_{1} \leq s} R^{\alpha_{r-1}^{(r,s)}}(-(d-d_{i_{1}})), \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbb{F}_{\ell}^{(r,s)} &= \bigoplus_{1 \leq i_{1} < \cdots < i_{r-\ell} \leq s} R^{\alpha_{\ell}^{(r,s)}}(-(d-(d_{i_{1}} + \cdots + d_{i_{r-\ell}}))), \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbb{F}_{2}^{(r,s)} &= \bigoplus_{1 \leq i_{1} < \cdots < i_{r-2} \leq s} R^{\alpha_{2}^{(r,s)}}(-(d-(d_{i_{1}} + \cdots + d_{i_{r-2}}))), \\ \mathbb{F}_{1}^{(r,s)} &= \bigoplus_{1 \leq i_{1} < \cdots < i_{r-1} \leq s} R^{\alpha_{1}^{(r,s)}}(-(d-(d_{i_{1}} + \cdots + d_{i_{r-2}}))), \end{split}$$

with

$$\alpha_{\ell}^{(r,s)} = \binom{s-r+\ell-1}{\ell-1} \text{ and}$$
$$\operatorname{rank} \mathbb{F}_{\ell}^{(r,s)} = \binom{s-r+\ell-1}{\ell-1} \cdot \binom{s}{r-\ell}$$

for $1 \leq \ell \leq r$. In particular, the last free module $\mathbb{F}_r^{(r,s)}$ has only one shift d, i.e., a star configuration \mathbb{X} in \mathbb{P}^n is level. Furthermore, any star configuration \mathbb{X} in \mathbb{P}^n is arithmetically Cohen-Macaulay.

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THEOREM 2.3 ([10, Proposition 2.5]). Let X and Y be linear star configurations in \mathbb{P}^2 of type s and t defined by general linear forms L_1, \ldots, L_s and M_1, \ldots, M_t in $R = \Bbbk[x_0, x_1, x_2]$ with $s \ge \lfloor \frac{1}{2} \binom{t}{2} \rfloor$ and $t \ge 2$. Then the union $\mathbb{X} \cup \mathbb{Y}$ of two linear star configurations X and Y in \mathbb{P}^2 has generic Hilbert function.

3. A Graded Minimal Free Resolution of The Union of Two Star Configurations in \mathbb{P}^n

In this section, we shall fins a graded minimal free resolution of $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}})$ where \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} are star configurations in \mathbb{P}^n of type s and t with $s, t \geq 2$.

THEOREM 3.1. Let X and Y be star configurations in \mathbb{P}^n of type s and t defined by general forms of degrees d_1, \ldots, d_s and e_1, \ldots, e_t with $s, t \geq 2$. Let $d = d_1 + \cdots + d_s$ and $e = e_1 + \cdots + e_t$. Then, for $n \geq 3$, a graded minimal free resolution of $R/(I_X \cap I_Y)$ is

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 0 & \rightarrow & R^{(s-1)(t-1)}(-(d+e)) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \bigoplus_{1 \leq i \leq s} R^{t-1}(-(d+e-d_i)) \\ & \oplus \\ & \bigoplus_{1 \leq i \leq s} R^{s-1}(-(d+e-e_i)) \end{bmatrix} \\ & \rightarrow & \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq s \\ 1 \leq j \leq t}} R(-(d+e-d_i-e_j)) \rightarrow R \rightarrow R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}}) \rightarrow 0. \end{array}$$

In particular, if \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} are linear star configuration in \mathbb{P}^n of type s and t with $s, t \geq 3$ and $n \geq 3$, then the initial degree of $I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}}$ is s + t - 2.

Proof. We first recall that (2,1)

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (3.1) \\ 0 & \to & R^{s-1}(-d) & \to & \bigoplus_{1 \leq i \leq s} R(-(d-d_i)) & \to & R & \to & R/I_{\mathbb{X}} & \to & 0, \\ \\ 0 & \to & R^{t-1}(-e) & \to & \bigoplus_{1 \leq i \leq t} R(-(e-e_i)) & \to & R & \to & R/I_{\mathbb{Y}} & \to & 0 \end{array}$$

are a graded minimal free resolutions of the Cohen-Macaulay rings $R/I_{\mathbb{X}}$ and $R/I_{\mathbb{Y}}$ of codimension 2, respectively (see Theorem 2.2).

Notice that $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} + I_{\mathbb{Y}})$ is a Cohen-Macaulay ring of codimension 4 (see [3, Proposition 3.1]), which implies a projective dimension 4. Hence, by a mapping cone construction, the projective dimension of $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}})$ is 3. So we obtain the following diagram.

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where

0

$$\to \mathbb{F}_3 \to \mathbb{F}_2 \to \mathbb{F}_1 \to R \to R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}}) \to 0$$

is a graded minimal free resolution of $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}})$. Since $n \geq 3$, by Künneth formula (see [3, Theorem 2.14]), a graded minimal free resolution of $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} + I_{\mathbb{Y}})$ is (3.3)

$$\begin{array}{cccc} & & & \\ 0 & \rightarrow & R^{(s-1)(t-1)}(-(d+e)) & \rightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} \bigoplus_{1 \leq i \leq s} R^{t-1}(-(d+e-d_i)) \\ & \oplus \\ & & \oplus \\ & & \\ R^{t-1}(-e) \\ & \oplus \\ & & \\ \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq s} R^{t-1}(-(d+e-e_i)) \\ & & \\ R^{t-1}(-e) \\ & \oplus \\ & \oplus \\ & & \\ \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq s} R(-(d-d_i)) \\ & \oplus \\ & \oplus \\ & & \\ \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq s} R(-(e-e_i)) \\ & & \\ \end{array} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} \bigoplus_{1 \leq i \leq s} R(-(d-d_i)) \\ & \oplus \\ & \oplus \\ & & \\ \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq s} R(-(e-e_i)) \\ & & \\ \end{array} \end{bmatrix}$$

By equations 3.2 and 3.3, we have

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{F}_3 &= R^{(s-1)(t-1)}(-(d+e)), \\ \mathbb{F}_2 &= \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \le i \le s \\ 1 \le j \le t}} R^{t-1}(-(d+e-d_i)) \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \le i \le t \\ 1 \le j \le t}} R^{s-1}(-(d+e-e_i)), \\ \mathbb{F}_1 &= \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \le i \le s \\ 1 \le j \le t}} R(-(d+e-d_i-e_j)), \end{split}$$

as we wished. In particular, if X and Y are linear star configurations in \mathbb{P}^n with $n \geq 3$, then it is immediate from a graded minimal free

resolution of $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}})$ that the initial degree of $I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}}$ is (s+t-2). This completes the proof of this theorem.

4. An Artinian Ring of Codimension 4 and the Weak Lefschetz Property

We shall prove that a graded Artinian ring $R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} + I_{\mathbb{Y}})$ of two linear star configurations in \mathbb{P}^3 of type s and t with $s \ge \lfloor \frac{1}{2} \binom{t}{2} \rfloor$ and $t \ge 2$ has the weak Lefschetz property. There is a useful numerical characterization of Lefschetz elements, which need some notations.

DEFINITION 4.1. Let $\sum_{i\geq 0} a_i t^i$ be a formal power series, where $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then we define an associated power series with non-negative coefficients by

$$\left|\sum_{i\geq 0}a_{i}t^{i}\right|^{+}=\sum_{i\geq 0}b_{i}t^{i},$$

where

$$b_i = \begin{cases} a_i, & \text{if } a_j > 0 \text{ for all } j \le i, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The following lemma is immediate from the definition of the weak Lefschetz property, so we omit the proof here.

LEMMA 4.2. Let A be a standard artinian graded algebra, and let $L \in A$ be a linear form. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) L is a Lefschetz element of A.
- (b) The Hilbert function of A/LA is given by

 $\dim_{\mathbb{K}}[A/LA]_i = \max\{0, \dim_{\mathbb{K}}[A]_i - \dim_{\mathbb{K}}[A]_{i-1}\} \text{ for all integers } i.$

(c) The Hilbert series HS(A/LA) of A/LA is

$$\mathbf{HS}(A/LA) = |(1-t) \cdot \mathbf{HS}(A)|^+.$$

LEMMA 4.3. Let X and Y be linear star configurations X and Y in \mathbb{P}^2 of type s and t with $s \ge \lfloor \frac{1}{2} \binom{t}{2} \rfloor$ and $t \ge 2$. Then

(4.1)
$$\sigma(\mathbb{X} \cup \mathbb{Y}) < (s+t) - 1.$$

Proof. Recall that the union $\mathbb{X} \cup \mathbb{Y}$ has generic Hilbert function for $s \geq \lfloor \frac{1}{2} \binom{t}{2} \rfloor$ and $t \geq 2$ (see Theorem 2.3). It is enough to show that

$$\deg(\mathbb{X} \cup \mathbb{Y}) = \binom{s}{2} + \binom{t}{2} \le \binom{(s+t-3)+2}{2}.$$

This holds by a simple calculation, as we wished.

THEOREM 4.4. Let X and Y be linear star configurations in \mathbb{P}^3 of type s and t with $s \geq \lfloor \frac{1}{2} \binom{t}{2} \rfloor$ and $t \geq 2$, and let $R = \Bbbk[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]$. Then an Artinian ring $R/(I_X + I_Y)$ has the weak Lefschetz property.

For convenience, we shall use the following notations in the proof of Theorem 4.4.

- 1. $R = \Bbbk[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3].$
- 2. $S = \mathbb{k}[x_0, x_1, x_2] \simeq R/(L)$ where L is a general linear form in R.
- 3. X and Y are linear star configurations in \mathbb{P}^3 defined by general linear forms in $R = \mathbb{k}[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]$.
- 4. $\overline{\mathbb{X}}$ and $\overline{\mathbb{Y}}$ are linear star configurations in \mathbb{P}^2 , where $\overline{\mathbb{X}}$ and $\overline{\mathbb{Y}}$ are obtained from the restriction of \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} by a general hyperplane \mathbb{H} , respectively. So we can think of $\overline{\mathbb{X}}$ and $\overline{\mathbb{Y}}$ as two linear star configurations in $\mathbb{H} \cong \mathbb{P}^2$ (see Theorem 2.2).

Proof of Theorem 4.4 . With notations as above, we define $\sigma := \sigma(\bar{\mathbb{X}} \cup \bar{\mathbb{Y}}) < s + t - 1$ (see Lemma 4.3). For every $d \ge \sigma - 1$ (4.2)

$$\mathbf{H}(S/(I_{\bar{\mathbb{X}}} \cap I_{\bar{\mathbb{Y}}}), d) = \mathbf{H}_{\bar{\mathbb{X}}}(d) + \mathbf{H}_{\bar{\mathbb{Y}}}(d) = \deg(\bar{\mathbb{X}}) + \deg(\bar{\mathbb{Y}}) = \binom{s}{2} + \binom{t}{2}.$$

Recall that L is a general linear form in R, and that, by Theorem 2.2, X and Y are arithmetically Cohen-Macaulay schemes in \mathbb{P}^3 of codimension 2. So for every $d \geq 0$

$$\Delta \mathbf{H}(R/I_{\mathbb{X}},d) = \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\overline{\mathbb{X}}},d) \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta \mathbf{H}(R/I_{\mathbb{Y}},d) = \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\overline{\mathbb{Y}}},d).$$

Hence we obtain the exact sequence (4.3)

It is from equations (4.2) and (4.3) that $[R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} + I_{\mathbb{Y}}, L)]_d = 0$ for every $d \ge \sigma - 1$, so the multiplication map by L

$$\left[R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}})\right]_{d-1} \stackrel{\times L}{\to} \left[R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}})\right]_{d} \rightarrow \left[R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}},L)\right]_{d} = 0$$

is surjective for such d. Hence, by Lemma 4.2, it suffices to show that the multiplication map by L

$$\left[R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}})\right]_{d-1} \xrightarrow{\times L} \left[R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}})\right]_{d}$$

is injective for $d < \sigma - 1$. In other words, $R/(I_X + I_Y)$ has the weak Lefschetz property if and only if Yong-Su Shin

 $\begin{array}{ll} (4.4) \\ \Delta(\mathbf{H}(R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}}),d) = \mathbf{H}(R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}},L),d) & \text{ for every } \quad d < \sigma -1. \\ \text{Recall that from equation (4.3)} \end{array}$

$$\mathbf{H}(R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}},L),d) = \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\bar{\mathbb{X}}},d) + \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\bar{\mathbb{Y}}},d) - \mathbf{H}(S/(I_{\bar{\mathbb{X}}}\cap I_{\bar{\mathbb{Y}}}),d)$$

for every $d < \sigma - 1$. Furthermore, notice that

the initial degree of I_X ∩ I_Y is (s + t − 2) (see Theorem 3.1), and
σ < s + t − 1 (see Lemma 4.3).

Hence for every $d < \sigma - 1 < s + t - 2$

(4.5)
$$\mathbf{H}(R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}}), d) = \binom{d+3}{3}.$$

Using the exact sequence

(4.6)
$$0 \to R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} \cap I_{\mathbb{Y}}) \to R/I_{\mathbb{X}} \bigoplus R/I_{\mathbb{Y}} \to R/(I_{\mathbb{X}} + I_{\mathbb{Y}}) \to 0,$$

we obtain that for every $d < \sigma - 1$

$$\begin{split} \Delta & \mathbf{H}(R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}}),d) \\ &= \Delta \mathbf{H}(R/I_{\mathbb{X}},d) + \Delta \mathbf{H}(R/I_{\mathbb{Y}},d) - \Delta \mathbf{H}(R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}\cap I_{\mathbb{Y}}),d) \\ &= \Delta \mathbf{H}(R/I_{\mathbb{X}},d) + \Delta \mathbf{H}(R/I_{\mathbb{Y}},d) - \binom{d+2}{2} \quad \text{(by equation (4.5))} \\ &= \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\overline{\mathbb{X}}},d) + \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\overline{\mathbb{Y}}},d) - \binom{d+2}{2} \\ &= \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\overline{\mathbb{X}}},d) + \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\overline{\mathbb{Y}}},d) - \mathbf{H}(S/I_{\overline{\mathbb{X}}}\cap I_{\overline{\mathbb{Y}}},d) \\ &= \mathbf{H}(S/(I_{\overline{\mathbb{X}}}+I_{\overline{\mathbb{Y}}}),d) \\ &= \mathbf{H}(R/(I_{\mathbb{X}}+I_{\mathbb{Y}},L),d), \end{split}$$

as we wished. This completes the proof of this theorem.

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