

A partial characterization of Hilbert quasi-polynomials in the non-standard case

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Abstract

In this paper we present some work towards a complete characterization of Hilbert quasi-polynomials for a polynomial ring with non standard grading. In this setting a Hilbert quasi-polynomial splits in a polynomial and a lower degree quasi-polynomial. We give a description of the periodic structure of the quasi-polynomial. Moreover, we give an explicit formula for the second and third coefficient of the polynomial, together with a method to determine the others.

Keywords: Non-standard gradings, Hilbert quasi-polynomial.

1 Introduction

Hilbert functions, in their basic form describing the degree structure of the graded vector space $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ modulo an ideal, are a classical tool in commutative algebra. By the Hilbert-Serre theorem, Hilbert functions are encoded into rational series, and in the standard grading case, they are definitely polynomial, while they are definitely quasi-polynomial in general. The standard grading case is well known. In the last years, there has been growing interest for non standard grading situation, but in this case a complete characterization is still lacking.

In section 2, we provide a very short overview of the theory for Hilbert function, Hilbert-Poincaré series and Hilbert polynomial of graded rings, omitting details and proofs, which can be found in any introductory commutative algebra book (i.e. [KR05]). Moreover, we present and give elementary proofs for the known facts regarding the structure of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial, mainly its degree and first coefficient. See also [Bav95].

In section 3, we present the main results of the paper, the periodic structure of the Hilbert quasi polynomial for a non standard graded ring and the explicit formulas for the second and third coefficient, when they are constant. We also present a method for the determination of the other coefficients.

In section 4 we detail an algorithm for the explicit computation of Hilbert quasi-polynomials, optimized using the results of the preceding section. This algorithm has been implemented in Singular high level code.

In the last section we briefly discuss further work towards a complete characterization of Hilbert quasi-polynomials.

2 Hilbert functions and Hilbert quasi-polynomials

From now on, \mathbb{K} will be a field and $(R/I, W)$ stands for the polynomial ring R/I , where $R := \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_k]$ is a quotient ring graded by $W := [d_1, \dots, d_k] \in \mathbb{N}_+^k$ and I is a W -homogeneous ideal of R , that is

$$\deg(x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_k^{\alpha_k}) := d_1\alpha_1 + \cdots + d_k\alpha_k$$

with the usual definition for the n -graded component of R/I . Due to Macaulay's lemma, we can suppose that I is a monomial ideal. Recall that if $W = [1, \dots, 1]$ the grading is called **standard**.

The **Hilbert function** $H_{R/I}^W : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ of $(R/I, W)$ is defined by

$$H_{R/I}^W(n) := \dim_{\mathbb{K}}((R/I)_n)$$

and the Hilbert-Poincaré series of $(R/I, W)$ is given by

$$HP_{R/I}^W(t) := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} H_{R/I}^W(n)t^n \in \mathbb{N}[[t]]$$

When the grading given by W is clear from the context, we denote respectively the Hilbert function and the Hilbert-Poincaré series of $(R/I, W)$ by $H_{R/I}$ and $HP_{R/I}$. The following two well-known results characterize the Hilbert-Poincaré series and the Hilbert function, but the latter holds only for standard grading.

Theorem 1 (Hilbert-Serre) *The Hilbert-Poincaré series of $(R/I, W)$ is a rational function, that is for suitable $h(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ we have that*

$$HP_{R/I}(t) = \frac{h(t)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - t^{d_i})} \in \mathbb{Z}[[t]]$$

The polynomial $h(t)$ which appears in the denominator of $HP_{R/I}$ is called *h-vector* and we denote it by $\langle I \rangle$.

Definition 2 *Let R be a polynomial standard graded ring and I a homogeneous ideal of R . Then there exists a polynomial $P_{R/I}(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ such that*

$$H_{R/I}(n) = P_{R/I}(n) \quad \forall n \gg 0$$

*This polynomial is called **Hilbert polynomial of R/I** .*

As we will see, in the case of non-standard grading, the Hilbert function of $(R/I, W)$ is definitely equal to a quasi-polynomial $P_{R/I}^W$ instead of a polynomial. The main aim of this section is to investigate the structure of $P_{R/I}^W$, such as its degree, its leading coefficient and properties of its coefficients.

2.1 Existence of the Hilbert quasi-polynomials

We recall that a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a (rational) *quasi-polynomial of period s* if there exists a set of s polynomials $\{p_0, \dots, p_{s-1}\}$ in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ such that we have $f(n) = p_i(n)$ when $n \equiv i \pmod{s}$. Let $d := \text{lcm}(d_1, \dots, d_k)$. We are going to show that the Hilbert function of $(R/I, W)$ is definitely equal to a quasi-polynomial of period d .

Proposition 3 *Let $(R/I, W)$ be as above. There exists a unique quasi-polynomial $P_{R/I}^W := \{P_0, \dots, P_{d-1}\}$ of period d such that $H_{R/I}(n) = P_{R/I}^W(n)$ for all $n \gg 0$, that is*

$$H_{R/I}(n) = P_i(n) \quad \forall i \equiv n \pmod{d} \quad \text{and} \quad \forall n \gg 0$$

$P_{R/I}^W$ is called the **Hilbert quasi-polynomial associated to $(R/I, W)$** .

Proof. From the Hilbert-Serre theorem, we know that the Hilbert-Poincaré series of R/I can be written as a rational function

$$HP_{R/I}(t) = \frac{h(t)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - t^{d_i})} \in \mathbb{Z}[[t]]$$

Let ζ be a primitive d th root of unity, so we can write

$$\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - t^{d_i}) = \prod_{j=0}^{d-1} (1 - \zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}, \quad \text{for some } \alpha_j \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \alpha_j = \sum_{i=1}^k d_i$$

By using this relation and partial fractions, we have

$$HP_{R/I}(t) = \frac{h(t)}{\prod_{j=0}^{d-1} (1 - \zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}} = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \frac{Q_j(t)}{(1 - \zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}} \quad (1)$$

where $Q_j(t) \in \mathbb{C}[t]$ is a polynomial of degree n_j for all $j = 0, \dots, d-1$, namely $Q_j(t) := \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} t^h$.

We are going to consider individually any addend in (1), so

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{Q_j(t)}{(1 - \zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}} &= \left(\sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} t^h \right) \cdot \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}} \\ &= \left(\sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} t^h \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n + \alpha_j - 1}{n} \zeta^{jn} t^n \right) \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left[\sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{n - h} \zeta^{j(n-h)} \right] t^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} b_{jn} t^n \end{aligned}$$

where

$$b_{jn} := \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{n - h} \zeta^{j(n-h)}$$

We can rewrite the Hilbert-Poincaré series in the following way:

$$HP_{R/I}(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \frac{Q_j(t)}{(1 - \zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}} = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \sum_{n \geq 0} b_{jn} t^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{d-1} b_{jn} \right) t^n$$

and, therefore, for all $n \geq \max_j \{n_j\}$, we have

$$H_{R/I}(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} b_{jn} = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{n - h} \zeta^{j(n-h)} = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} S_j(n) \zeta^{jn}$$

where

$$S_j(n) := \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{n - h} \zeta^{-jh}$$

So, given $n \geq \max_j \{n_j\}$, let i be an integer such that $0 \leq i \leq d-1$ and $i \equiv n \pmod{d}$, the Hilbert function evaluated at n is equal to the evaluation at n of the polynomial

$$P_i(x) := S_0(x) + S_1(x)\zeta^i + \cdots + S_{d-1}(x)\zeta^{(d-1)i}$$

□

By the proof, we find out that $H_{R/I}(n) = P_{R/I}^W(n)$ for all $n \geq \max_j \{n_j\}$, where n_j are the degrees of the polynomials $Q_j(t)$ which appear in Equation (1) of the Hilbert-Poincaré series.

Remark 4. Proposition 3 asserts that the Hilbert quasi-polynomial consists of d polynomials, but it doesn't assure that they are all distinct. Actually, it can happen that some of them are equal to each other, a trivial example is given for $\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_k) \neq 1$, as we will see. Remark that the proof of proposition yields a way to compute the Hilbert quasi-polynomial of $(R/I, W)$, when the Hilbert-Poincaré series is known.

Remark 5. All the polynomials of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial $P_{R/I}^W$ have rational coefficients. In fact, we recall that if a polynomial $P(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ of degree n is such that $P(x_i) \in \mathbb{Z}$ for some $x_0, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $P(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$. By definition, $P_i(n) \in \mathbb{N}$ for all sufficiently large $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $i \equiv n \pmod{d}$.

Due to the following result, we can restrict our study to the case (R, W) where W is such that $d = 1$.

Proposition 6 *Let $W' := a \cdot W = [d'_1, \dots, d'_k]$ for some $a \in \mathbb{N}_+$ and let*

$$HP_{R/I}(t) = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^r a_j t^j}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - t^{d_i})}. \text{ Then it holds:}$$

- (i) $P_{R/I}^W(n) = \sum_{j=0}^r a_j P_R^W(n - j) \forall n \gg 0$
- (ii) $P_R^{W'} = \{P'_0, \dots, P'_{ad-1}\}$ is such that

$$P'_i(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } a \nmid i \\ P_{\frac{i}{a}}^{\frac{x}{a}} & \text{if } a \mid i \end{cases}$$

Proof. (i) Since

$$HP_R(t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} H_R(n) t^n = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - t^{d_i})}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} HP_{R/I}(t) &= \frac{h(t)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1-t^{d_i})} = \left(\sum_{n \geq 0} H_R(n) t^n \right) \left(\sum_{j=0}^r a_j t^j \right) \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\sum_{j=0}^r a_j H_R(n-j) \right) t^n \end{aligned}$$

with the convention $H_R(n) = 0$ for all $n < 0$. Therefore, for all $n \geq r$, $H_{R/I}(n) = \sum_{j=0}^r a_j H_R(n-j)$. Given that $H_R(n) = P_R^W(n)$ for all sufficiently large n , then $H_R(n-j) = P_R^W(n-j)$ for all sufficiently large n and so $H_{R/I}(n) = \sum_{j=0}^r a_j P_R^W(n-j)$ for all sufficiently large n . The statement follows.

- (ii) Let i be a positive integer such that a doesn't divide i . We observe that $H_R^{W'}(n) = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $n \equiv i \pmod{ad}$. Indeed, assume that $H_R^{W'}(n) \neq 0$ for some $n \equiv i \pmod{ad}$. Then there exist $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $a_1 d'_1 + \dots + a_k d'_k = n$. By hypothesis, a divides d'_1, \dots, d'_k , hence a divides n and so a divides i , which is a contradiction. Since $P'_i(n) = H_R^{W'}(n)$ for all sufficiently large n such that $n \equiv i \pmod{a}$, then P'_i has an infinitive number of roots and so $P'_i = 0$.

Let i be a positive integer such that a divides i . Recall that for all sufficiently large n such that $n \equiv i \pmod{d}$, we have

$$P_i(n) = H_R^W(n) = \#\{(a_1, \dots, a_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k \mid a_1 d_1 + \dots + a_k d_k = n\}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} P'_i(n) &= H_R^{W'}(n) = \#\{(b_1, \dots, b_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k \mid ab_1 d_1 + \dots + ab_k d_k = n\} \\ &= \#\{(b_1, \dots, b_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k \mid b_1 d_1 + \dots + b_k d_k = n/a\} \\ &= H_R^W\left(\frac{n}{a}\right) = P_{\frac{i}{a}}\left(\frac{n}{a}\right) \end{aligned}$$

□

To avoid endlessly repeating these hypothesis, we shall use W to denote a weight vector $[d_1, \dots, d_k]$ such that $\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_k) = 1$, throughout the remainder of this section.

2.2 Degree and leading coefficient of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial

In this subsection, we investigate some proprieties of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial of (R, W) . First of all, we introduce the following notation which will help us to rewrite the denominator of the Hilbert-Poincaré series of (R, W) in a suitable way. Given $d_1, \dots, d_k \in \mathbb{N}_+$, with $d := \text{lcm}(d_1, \dots, d_k)$, we define

- $\delta := \max\{|I| \mid \gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} \neq 1 \text{ and } I \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}\}$,
- $\hat{d}_s := \frac{d}{d_s}$,

- $M_s := \{\hat{d}_s, 2\hat{d}_s, \dots, (d_s - 1)\hat{d}_s\}$ for all $s = 1, \dots, k$,
- $T_r := \bigcup_{\substack{J \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\} \\ |J|=r}} \left(\bigcap_{s \in J} M_s \right)$ for all $r = 1, \dots, k$.

Observe that T_r is the set of the elements $p \in \bigcup_{i=1}^k M_i$ which belong to exactly r sets M_i .

Now we'll analyse the denominator of the Hilbert-Poincaré series of (R, W) , which we denote by $g(t)$. Let $\zeta := \zeta_d$ be a primitive d th root of unity. We remark that $\zeta_{d_j} = \zeta^{\hat{d}_j}$ for all $j = 1, \dots, k$. Then we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
g(t) &= \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - t^{d_i}) = (1 - t)^k \prod_{i=1}^k \left[(1 - \zeta^{\hat{d}_i} t) \dots (1 - \zeta^{(d_i-1)\hat{d}_i} t) \right] \\
&= (1 - t)^k \prod_{j \in M_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \dots \prod_{j \in M_k} (1 - \zeta^j t) \\
&= (1 - t)^k \prod_{j \in T_k} (1 - \zeta^j t)^k \dots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t)
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

We are now going to show some lemmas concerning the sets M_s and T_r .

Lemma 7 *Let $d_1, \dots, d_k \in \mathbb{N}_+$. For any subset $\{j_1, \dots, j_r\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}$, it holds*

$$M_{j_1} \cap \dots \cap M_{j_r} = \left\{ \frac{d}{\gcd(d_{j_1}, \dots, d_{j_r})}, 2 \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(d_{j_1}, \dots, d_{j_r})}, \dots, (\gcd(d_{j_1}, \dots, d_{j_r}) - 1) \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(d_{j_1}, \dots, d_{j_r})} \right\}$$

Proof. We use induction on r , the number of intersected subsets. The case $r = 1$ is trivial. Suppose $r \geq 2$ and consider, without loss of generality, the subsets M_1, \dots, M_r instead of M_{j_1}, \dots, M_{j_r} . By induction hypothesis, we have

$$M_1 \cap \dots \cap M_{r-1} = \left\{ \frac{d}{\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_{r-1})}, 2 \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_{r-1})}, \dots, (\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_{r-1}) - 1) \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_{r-1})} \right\}$$

We observe that $M_1 \cap \dots \cap M_{r-1}$ has the same structure of M_a , where a is equal to $\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_{r-1})$ (without loss of generality we can suppose that a is one of the given integers). Therefore $M_1 \cap \dots \cap M_r = M_a \cap M_r$ and, by using again the induction hypothesis, we obtain

$$M_1 \cap \dots \cap M_r = \left\{ \frac{d}{\gcd(a, d_r)}, 2 \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(a, d_r)}, \dots, (\gcd(a, d_r) - 1) \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(a, d_r)} \right\}$$

and since $a = \gcd(d_1, \dots, d_{r-1})$, we are done. \square

Lemma 8 Let $d_1, \dots, d_k \in \mathbb{N}_+$. Then $T_{\delta+1} = \dots = T_k = \emptyset$.

Proof. We assume that $T_h \neq \emptyset$ for some $h = \delta + 1, \dots, k$. Consider $p \in T_h$ and suppose, without loss of generality, that $p \in M_1 \cap \dots \cap M_h$. By lemma 7, $p = p_1 \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_h)}$ with $1 \leq p_1 \leq \gcd(d_1, \dots, d_h) - 1$. Since $\delta < h$, we must have $\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_h) = 1$. Therefore p is a multiple of d , which is a contradiction because of $p < d$. \square

By lemma 8, in Equation (2) the set $T_{\delta+1}, \dots, T_k$ are empty, so ultimately we have

$$g(t) = \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - t^{d_i}) = (1 - t)^k \left[\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \right] \cdots \left[\prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] \quad (3)$$

and we obtain the following useful expression for the Hilbert-Poincaré series

$$HP_R(t) = \frac{1}{g(t)} = \frac{Q_0(t)}{(1-t)^k} + \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \frac{Q_j^{(\delta)}(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)^\delta} + \cdots + \sum_{j \in T_1} \frac{Q_j^{(1)}(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)} \quad (4)$$

Remark 9. We have already seen in the proof of Proposition 3 that any addend $\frac{Q_j(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}}$ of $HP_R(t)$, with $Q_j(t) = \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} t^h$, can be written in the following way

$$\frac{Q_j(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \left[\sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{\alpha_j - 1} \zeta^{j(n-h)} \right] t^n \quad (5)$$

Then the rational function $\frac{Q_j(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}}$ corresponds to a power series in t where the n th coefficient depends on n in a polynomial way through the binomial $\binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{\alpha_j - 1}$ and its degree in n is $\alpha_j - 1$.

We consider the equation (4) of the Hilbert-Poincaré series and, by using partial fractions, we get

$$HP_R(t) = \frac{1}{g(t)} = \frac{A_1}{1-t} + \frac{A_2}{(1-t)^2} + \cdots + \frac{A_k}{(1-t)^k} + \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \left[\frac{B_{j,1}^{(\delta)}}{1-\zeta^j t} + \cdots + \frac{B_{j,\delta}^{(\delta)}}{(1-\zeta^j t)^\delta} \right] + \cdots + \sum_{j \in T_1} \left[\frac{B_{j,1}^{(1)}}{1-\zeta^j t} \right] \quad (6)$$

for some $A_i, B_{j,h}^{(r)} \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Remark 10. By multiplying both sides of Equation (6) by $g(t)$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
1 &= \sum_{t=1}^k \left[A_t (1-t)^{k-t} \cdot \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] + \\
&+ \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \left\{ (1-t)^k \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\delta-1} \left[\prod_{r \in T_i} (1 - \zeta^j t)^i \right] \cdot \sum_{m=1}^k \left[B_{j,m}^{(\delta)} \cdot \prod_{\substack{s \in T_\delta \\ s \neq j}} (1 - \zeta^s t)^{\delta-m} \right] \right\} + \\
&+ \\
&\vdots \\
&+ \\
&+ \sum_{j \in T_1} \left[B_{j,1}^{(1)} (1-t)^k \cdot \prod_{r \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^r t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{r \in T_2} (1 - \zeta^r)^2 \prod_{\substack{s \in T_1 \\ s \neq j}} (1 - \zeta^s t) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Remark 11. By Equation (6), we have

$$Q_0(t) = A_1(1-t)^{k-1} + A_2(1-t)^{k-2} + \cdots + A_k \tag{8}$$

Proposition 12 *Let (R, W) and P_R^W be as above. The degree of P_i is equal to $k-1$ for all $i = 0, \dots, d-1$ and its leading coefficient $lc(P_i)$ is such that*

$$lc(P_i) = \frac{1}{(k-1)! \prod_{i=1}^k d_i}$$

Proof. Since $\delta < k$ by hypothesis and thanks to Equation (4) and remark 9, it suffices to analyse the term

$$\frac{Q_0(t)}{(1-t)^k} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \left[\sum_{h=0}^{k-1} a_h \binom{n-h+k-1}{k-1} \right] t^n$$

where $a_h := a_{0,h}$ for all $h = 0, \dots, k-1$.

We observe that $\sum_{h=0}^{k-1} a_h \binom{n-h+k-1}{k-1} = S_0(n)$ and then the degree of P_i is less or equal to $k-1$. It remains to show that the coefficient of n^{k-1} is not 0. In particular, we wish to show that it is equal to $\frac{1}{(k-1)! \prod_{i=1}^k d_i}$.

Suppose $n \geq k-1$, then the n th coefficient of $HP_R(t)$ is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
S_0(n) &= \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} a_h \binom{n-h+k-1}{k-1} \\
&= \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} a_h \frac{(n-h+k-1)(n-h+k-2) \cdots (n-h+1)}{(k-1)!} \\
&= \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} a_h \cdot \frac{n^{k-1}}{(k-1)!} + \text{terms of degree in } n \text{ lower than } (k-1)
\end{aligned}$$

Then the leading coefficient of $S_0(n)$ is

$$\frac{1}{(k-1)!} \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} a_h = \frac{Q_0(1)}{(k-1)!} = \frac{A_k}{(k-1)!} = \frac{1}{(k-1)! \prod_{i=1}^k d_i} \quad (9)$$

where the last equality in (9) follows by the Lemma 13. \square

Lemma 13 *The constant A_k which appears in Equation (6) and (8) is such that*

$$A_k = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^k d_i}.$$

Proof. By evaluating Equation (7) at $t = 1$, we get

$$1 = A_k \cdot \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j)$$

If we prove that $\prod_{j \in \delta} (1 - \zeta^j)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j)$ is equal to $\prod_{i=1}^k d_i$, we are done. For this purpose, we consider the following two equations, the first of which derives from equation (3):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g(t)}{(1-t)^k} &= \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \\ \frac{g(t)}{(1-t)^k} &= \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{1 - t^{d_j}}{1-t} = \prod_{j=1}^k (1 + t + \cdots + t^{d_j-1}) \end{aligned}$$

Then, it holds

$$\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) = \prod_{j=1}^k (1 + t + \cdots + t^{d_j-1}) \quad (10)$$

By evaluating both sides of Equation (10) at $t = 1$, the statement follows. \square

Now, we'll give a degree bound for the Hilbert quasi-polynomial of $(R/I, W)$, when $I \neq (0)$.

Proposition 14 *Let $I \neq (0)$ a W -homogeneous ideal of R and let $P_{R/I}^W$ the Hilbert quasi-polynomial of $(R/I, W)$. Then the degree of P_i is less or equal to $k - 2$.*

In order to prove Proposition 14, we need the following results. Let $I \neq (0)$ be a homogeneous monomial ideal and consider the Hilbert-Poincaré series $HP_{R/I}(t) = \frac{f(t)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1-t^{d_i})} = \frac{f(t)}{g(t)}$ of $(R/I, W)$. Let $f(t) := q(t)g(t) + r(t)$, where $q(t), r(t) \in \mathbb{Q}(t)$ and $\deg r < \deg g$. Then, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} HP_{R/I}(t) &= \frac{f(t)}{g(t)} = q(t) + \frac{r(t)}{g(t)} = q(t) + \left\{ \frac{C_1}{1-t} + \frac{C_2}{(1-t)^2} + \cdots + \frac{C_k}{(1-t)^k} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \left[\frac{D_{j,1}^{(\delta)}}{1-\zeta^j t} + \cdots + \frac{D_{j,\delta}^{(\delta)}}{(1-\zeta^j t)^\delta} \right] + \cdots + \sum_{j \in T_1} \left[\frac{D_{j,1}^{(1)}}{1-\zeta^j t} \right] \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

for some $C_i, D_{j,h}^{(r)} \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Lemma 15 *The constant C_k which appears in Equation (11) is zero.*

Proof. By Equation (11), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
r(t) &= \sum_{t=1}^k \left[C_t (1-t)^{k-t} \cdot \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1-\zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1-\zeta^j t) \right] + \\
&+ \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \left\{ (1-t)^k \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\delta-1} \left[\prod_{r \in T_i} (1-\zeta^r t)^i \right] \cdot \sum_{m=1}^k \left[D_{j,m}^{(\delta)} \cdot \prod_{\substack{s \in T_\delta \\ s \neq j}} (1-\zeta^s t)^{\delta-m} \right] \right\} + \\
&+ \\
&\vdots \\
&+ \\
&+ \sum_{j \in T_1} \left[D_{j,1}^{(1)} (1-t)^k \cdot \prod_{r \in T_\delta} (1-\zeta^r t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{r \in T_2} (1-\zeta^r)^2 \prod_{\substack{s \in T_1 \\ s \neq j}} (1-\zeta^s t) \right] \quad (12)
\end{aligned}$$

By evaluating Equation (12) at $t = 1$, we have

$$r(1) = C_k \cdot \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1-\zeta^j)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1-\zeta^j)$$

We already know that $\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1-\zeta^j)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1-\zeta^j) = \prod_{i=1}^k d_i$, then we have to show that $r(1) = 0$. Actually, it suffices to prove that $f(1) = 0$, because $f(1) = q(1)g(1) + r(1)$ and $f(1) = g(1) = 0$ imply $r(1) = 0$. We prove that $f(1) = 0$ by induction on the cardinality s of a minimal set of generators of I . Suppose $s = 1$, since $I \neq (0)$ there exists $m \in I$ such that $I = (m)$. Then $f(t) = \langle I \rangle = 1 - t^{\deg w(m)}$, so obviously $f(1) = 0$. If $s \geq 2$, let $\{m_1, \dots, m_s\}$ a minimal set of generators of I , then $I = (m_1, \dots, m_s)$ and, by using properties of the h-vector, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
f(t) &= \langle (m_1, \dots, m_s) \rangle = \\
&\langle (m_1, \dots, m_{s-1}) \rangle - t^{\deg w(m_s)} \langle (m_1, \dots, m_{s-1}) : (m_s) \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

and we can conclude by induction hypothesis. \square

We can now demonstrate that for all $i = 0, \dots, d-1$ it holds $\deg(P_i) \leq k-2$.

Proof of Proposition 14. We consider the following expression for Hilbert-Poincaré series, which we have already seen in Equation (11)

$$\begin{aligned}
HP_{R/I}(t) &= \frac{f(t)}{g(t)} = q(t) + \frac{r(t)}{g(t)} = q(t) + \left\{ \frac{C_1}{1-t} + \frac{C_2}{(1-t)^2} + \cdots + \frac{C_k}{(1-t)^k} + \right. \\
&\left. + \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \left[\frac{D_{j,1}^{(\delta)}}{1-\zeta^j t} + \cdots + \frac{D_{j,\delta}^{(\delta)}}{(1-\zeta^j t)^\delta} \right] + \cdots + \sum_{j \in T_1} \left[\frac{D_{j,1}^{(1)}}{1-\zeta^j t} \right] \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\delta < k$, and by lemma 15, which asserts that $C_k = 0$, we have that the maximum power of t in the denominator of $HP_{R/I}$ is at most $k - 1$. Therefore, by recalling the construction of Hilbert quasi-polynomial done in the proof of proposition 3, we write

$$HP_{R/I}(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \frac{Q_j(t)}{(1 - \zeta^j t)^{\alpha_j}}$$

for some polynomials $Q_j(t) := \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} t^h \in \mathbb{C}[t]$ of degree n_j with $\alpha_j \leq k - 1$ for all $j = 0, \dots, d - 1$. Then, for all $n \geq \max_j \{n_j\}$, we have

$$H_{R/I}(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} S_j(n) \zeta^{jn} \quad \text{where } S_j(n) := \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - i}{\alpha_j - 1} \zeta^{-jh}$$

Observe that S_j is a polynomial in n of degree $\alpha_j - 1$. Finally, we get

$$P_i(x) := S_0(x) + S_1(x) \zeta^i + \dots + S_{d-1}(x) \zeta^{(d-1)i}$$

and, by our previous considerations, every S_j has degree less or equal to $k - 2$ and the statement follows. \square

3 Proprieties of the coefficients of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial

In this subsection, we present some proprieties of the coefficients of Hilbert quasi-polynomials. In particular, we show that a Hilbert quasi-polynomial of degree n splits into a polynomial of degree n and a lower degree quasi-polynomial which have a periodic structure that we will describe.

Before showing our results, we present an example.

Example 16. Consider $R = \mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_5]$ graded by $W = [1, 2, 3, 4, 6]$. We have $k = 5$ and $d = 12$ and the Hilbert quasi-polynomial $P_R^W = \{P_0, \dots, P_{11}\}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} P_0(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 5/48x^2 + 1/2x + 1 \\ P_1(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 19/192x^2 + 43/108x + 1705/3456 \\ P_2(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 5/48x^2 + 25/54x + 125/216 \\ P_3(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 19/192x^2 + 5/12x + 75/128 \\ P_4(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 5/48x^2 + 13/27x + 20/27 \\ P_5(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 19/192x^2 + 41/108x + 1001/3456 \\ P_6(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 5/48x^2 + 1/2x + 7/8 \\ P_7(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 19/192x^2 + 43/108x + 1705/3456 \\ P_8(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 5/48x^2 + 25/54x + 19/27 \\ P_9(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 19/192x^2 + 5/12x + 75/128 \\ P_{10}(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 5/48x^2 + 13/27x + 133/216 \\ P_{11}(x) &= 1/3456x^4 + 1/108x^3 + 19/192x^2 + 41/108x + 1001/3456 \end{aligned}$$

We have 12 polynomials of degree 4 with leading coefficient equal to $1/3456$, that's just what we expected. As can be seen by comparing polynomials, the following facts hold:

- The coefficient of the term of degree 3 is the same for all polynomials.

- The coefficient of the term of degree 2 has periodicity 2, i.e. $5/48$ is the coefficient of the term of degree 2 of all $P_i(x)$ such that $i \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ and $19/192$ is the coefficient of the term of degree 2 of all $P_i(x)$ such that $i \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$.
- The coefficient of the term of degree 1 has periodicity 6, i.e. $1/12$ is the coefficient of the term of degree 1 of all $P_i(x)$ such that $i \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$, $43/108$ is the coefficient of the term of degree 1 of all $P_i(x)$ such that $i \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$, $5/48$ is the coefficient of the term of degree 1 of all $P_i(x)$ such that $i \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$ and so on.
- The constant term seems not to have any kind of regularity.

The goal of next two results is to see if we can predict which and how coefficients change. We use δ to denote $\max\{|I| \mid \gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} \neq 1 \text{ and } I \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}\}$.

Proposition 17 *Let (R, W) and P_R^W be as above. Then*

$$P_R^W(x) = Q(x) + R(x)$$

where $Q(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ is a polynomial of degree $k - 1$, whereas $R(x)$ is a quasi-polynomial with rational coefficients of degree $\delta - 1$.

Proof. Recall that due to Lemma 8 we can write the Hilbert-Poincaré series of (R, W) as

$$HP_R(t) = \frac{Q_0(t)}{(1-t)^k} + \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \frac{Q_j^{(\delta)}(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)^\delta} + \dots + \sum_{j \in T_1} \frac{Q_j^{(1)}(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)} \quad (13)$$

Thanks to remark 9, we have that the coefficients of the terms of degrees $\delta, \dots, k - 1$ don't change and the result follows. \square

Let us return to example 24. In that case, δ is equal to 3. By proposition 17, the coefficients of the terms of degree $\delta, \dots, k - 1$, that is the 3th and 4th coefficient, don't change and this is exactly what happens in the example.

Proposition 18 *Let (R, W) and P_R^W be as above. The r th coefficient of P_R^W , for $r = 0, \dots, k - 1$, has periodicity equal to*

$$\delta_r := \text{lcm}(\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} \mid |I| = r + 1, I \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\})$$

Formally, the proposition asserts that if we denote the r th coefficient of $P_i(x)$ by a_{ir} , then $a_{jr} = a_{ir}$ when $j = i + \delta_r \pmod{d}$.

Proof. Let $\delta = \max\{|I| \mid \gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} \neq 1 \text{ and } I \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}\}$ be as usual. Then $\delta_r = 1$ for $\delta \leq r \leq k - 1$ and, by proposition 17, the assertion follows. Let $r \leq \delta - 1$. Recall that $P_i(x) = S_0(x) + S_1(x)\zeta^i + \dots + S_{d-1}(x)\zeta^{(d-1)i}$, where $S_j(x) = \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{x+\alpha_j-h-1}{\alpha_j-1} \zeta^{-jh}$. Note that each $S_j(x)$ doesn't depend on i and its degree is equal to $\alpha_j - 1$. Therefore the r th coefficient of $P_i(x)$ is the r th coefficient of

$$S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_v}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_v}$$

with

$$\{j_1, \dots, j_v\} = \bigcup_{s \geq r+1} T_s = \bigcup_{r+1 \leq s \leq \delta} T_s \quad (14)$$

where the second equality holds because of $T_{\delta+1} = \dots = T_k = \emptyset$. We recall that

$$T_s = \bigcup_{\substack{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}, |I|=s \\ \gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} \neq 1}} \left\{ \frac{d}{\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I}}, \dots, (\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} - 1) \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I}} \right\}$$

To prove that the r th coefficient of $S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_v}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_v}$ has period δ_r we use the induction on number N of non-empty sets T_s in Equation (14). Let $N = 1$, then $r = \delta - 1$. We observe that $\zeta^{\delta_r \cdot j_t} = 1$ for all $t = 1, \dots, v$, (in fact, j_t can be written as $a \cdot \frac{d}{\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I}}$ for some integer $1 \leq a \leq (\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} - 1)$, with $|I| = r + 1$; since $\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I}$ divides δ_r , then d divides $\delta_r \cdot j_t$). So we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_u}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_u} &= \\ S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{(i+\delta_r) \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_u}(x)\zeta^{(i+\delta_r) \cdot j_u} \end{aligned}$$

and we are done. Let $N \geq 2$, then $r \leq \delta - 2$, and let us suppose that the thesis is true for $\bigcup_{r' \leq s \leq \delta} T_s$, with $r' > \delta - N$, which means that the r' th coefficient has period equal to $\delta_{r'}$. We can order the set $\{j_1, \dots, j_u, j_{u+1}, \dots, j_v\}$ in such a way that

- $j_1, \dots, j_u \in T_s$, with $s > r + 1$, and $j_i \notin T_{r+1}$, for all $i = 1, \dots, u$;
- $j_{u+1}, \dots, j_v \in T_{r+1}$.

Let $\gamma := \text{lcm}(\gcd(d_i)_{i \in I} \mid |I| > r + 1)$, then by induction hypothesis we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_u}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_u} &= \\ S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{(i+\gamma) \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_u}(x)\zeta^{(i+\gamma) \cdot j_u} \end{aligned}$$

Since γ divides δ_r , it follows

$$\begin{aligned} S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_u}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_u} &= \\ S_0(x) + S_{j_1}(x)\zeta^{(i+\delta_r) \cdot j_1} + \dots + S_{j_u}(x)\zeta^{(i+\delta_r) \cdot j_u} \end{aligned}$$

In addition, since $\zeta^{\delta_r \cdot j_t} = 1$ for all $t = u + 1, \dots, v$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_{j_{u+1}}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_{u+1}} + \dots + S_{j_v}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot j_v} &= \\ S_{j_{u+1}}(x)\zeta^{(i+\delta_r) \cdot j_{u+1}} + \dots + S_{j_v}(x)\zeta^{(i+\delta_r) \cdot j_v} \end{aligned}$$

and then, by putting together the two equations above, we are done. \square

Remark 19. In some particular cases, for example when $k \gg \delta$ or if the periods δ_r are quite small, knowing the period of the coefficients could be exploited to reduce the cost of computation for the Hilbert quasi-polynomials.

Return to example 24. We already know that $\delta = 3$, then $\delta_r = 1$ for $r = 3, 4$. Consider the other cases: for $r = 2$, δ_r is exactly equal to 2 and for $r = 1$, δ_r is exactly equal to 6.

3.1 Formulas for the other coefficients of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial

In this subsection, we give formulas to recover the $(k-2)$ th and $(k-3)$ th coefficient of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial from the weights d_1, \dots, d_k , and we illustrate how recover the others.

We have already shown that if $\delta \leq k-2$ ($\delta \leq k-3$ respectively) then the $(k-2)$ th ($(k-3)$ th respectively) coefficient is the same for all P_i , $i = 0, \dots, d-1$. For this reason, we suppose that δ is small enough to guarantee that the considered coefficient is equal for all P_i .

Proposition 20 *Let (R, W) and P_R^W be as above. If $\delta \leq k-2$, we denote the $(k-2)$ th coefficient of P_i , for all $i = 0, \dots, d-1$, by c_{k-2} . Then, it holds*

$$c_{k-2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k d_i}{2 \cdot (k-2)! \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k d_i}$$

Proof. Let $P_i(x) = S_0(x) + S_1(x)\zeta^i + \dots + S_{d-1}(x)\zeta^{i(d-1)}$ be as usual, where

$$S_j(n) = \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{\alpha_j - 1} \zeta^{-jh}.$$

Since $\delta \leq k-2$ and by remark 9, the $(k-2)$ th coefficient of P_i is given by the $(k-2)$ th coefficient of $S_0(n)$. Let $a_i := a_{0i}$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_0(n) &= a_0 \binom{n+k-1}{k-1} + a_1 \binom{n+k-2}{k-1} + \dots + a_{k-1} \binom{n}{k-1} + a_k \binom{n-1}{k-1} = \\ &= a_0 \cdot \frac{(n+k-1) \cdots (n+1)}{(k-1)!} + a_1 \cdot \frac{(n+k-2) \cdots (n)}{(k-1)!} + \\ &+ \dots + a_{k-1} \cdot \frac{(n) \cdots (n-k+2)}{(k-1)!} + a_k \cdot \frac{(n-1) \cdots (n-k+1)}{(k-1)!} = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} c_i n^i \quad (15) \end{aligned}$$

By this equation, we get

$$\begin{aligned} c_{k-2} &= a_0 \left[\frac{(k-1) + (k-2) + \dots + 1}{(k-1)!} \right] + a_1 \left[\frac{(k-2) + (k-3) + \dots + 1}{(k-1)!} \right] + \\ &+ \dots + a_k \left[\frac{(-1) + (-2) + \dots + (-k+1)}{(k-1)!} \right] = \\ &= \frac{a_0}{(k-1)!} \cdot \frac{k(k-1)}{2} + \frac{a_1}{(k-1)!} \cdot \frac{(k-1)(k-2)}{2} + \dots + \frac{a_k}{(k-1)!} \cdot \frac{(-k)(k-1)}{2} = \\ &= \frac{1}{2(k-2)!} [ka_0 + (k-2)a_1 + \dots + (k-2k)a_k] = \\ &= \frac{1}{2(k-2)!} \left[k \sum_{i=0}^k a_i - 2 \sum_{i=0}^k (i \cdot a_i) \right] \quad (16) \end{aligned}$$

We observe that

$$\sum_{i=0}^k a_i = Q_0(1) \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=0}^k i \cdot a_i = Q'_0(1) \quad (17)$$

Since $Q_0(t) = A_1(1-t)^{k-1} + A_2(1-t)^{k-2} + \dots + A_{k-1}(1-t) + A_k$, by evaluating $Q_0(t)$ and $Q'_0(t)$ at $t = 1$ and by putting together Equation (16) and Equation (17), we have

$$c_{k-2} = \frac{1}{2(k-2)!} [k \cdot Q_0(1) - 2 \cdot Q'_0(1)] = \frac{1}{2(k-2)!} [k \cdot A_k + 2 \cdot A_{k-1}].$$

By the following lemma and by recalling that $A_k = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^k d_i}$, the proposition is proved. \square

Lemma 21 *The constant A_{k-1} which appears in Equation (6) of the expression of $Q_0(t)$ is such that*

$$A_{k-1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k d_i - k}{2 \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k d_i}$$

Proof. In order to obtain an expression for A_{k-1} , evaluating at $t = 1$ the derivative of the Equation (7) is a good strategy. Before doing it, we observe that the evaluation at $t = 1$ of the derivative of the equation gives 0 except for the terms in the first summation for $t = k - 1$ and $t = k$. For this reason, we'll consider only these addends and we'll calculate only their derivatives.

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[(A_{k-1}(1-t) + A_k) \cdot \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] \Big|_{t=1} \\ &= -A_{k-1} \cdot \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j) + \\ &\quad + A_k \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] \Big|_{t=1} \end{aligned}$$

We already know that

$$A_k = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^k d_i} \quad \text{and} \quad \prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j) = \prod_{i=1}^k d_i.$$

So, we have

$$A_{k-1} = \frac{1}{(\prod_{i=1}^k d_i)^2} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] \Big|_{t=1} \quad (18)$$

and it remains to calculate $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right]$ and evaluate it at $t = 1$.

Consider the following equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g(t)}{(1-t)^k} &= \left[\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \right] \cdots \left[\prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] \\ \frac{g(t)}{(1-t)^k} &= \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{1-t^{d_j}}{1-t} = \prod_{j=1}^k (1+t+\cdots+t^{d_j-1}) \end{aligned}$$

Then, it holds

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\prod_{j=1}^k (1+t+\cdots+t^{d_j-1}) \right] = \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \left[\prod_{j \neq i} (1+t+\cdots+t^{d_j-1}) \right] (1+2t+\cdots+(d_i-1)t^{d_i-2}) \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\prod_{j \in T_\delta} (1 - \zeta^j t)^\delta \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j t) \right] \Big|_{t=1} &= \sum_{i=1}^k \left[\left(\prod_{j \neq i} d_j \right) \frac{d_i(d_i-1)}{2} \right] = \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^k d_i \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{d_i-1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k d_i \cdot \left[\sum_{i=1}^k d_i - k \right] \end{aligned}$$

and by substituting this expression in Equation (18), we are done. \square

Now, we give a similar formula for the $(k-3)$ th coefficient of P_R^W , omitting the proof for lack of space, and we refer to [Mas14] for all the details.

Proposition 22 *Let (R, W) and P_R^W be as above. If $\delta \leq k-3$, we denote by c_{k-3} the $(k-3)$ th coefficient of P_i , for all $i = 0, \dots, d-1$. Then, it holds*

$$c_{k-3} = \frac{3 \left(\sum_{i=1}^k d_i \right)^2 - \sum_{i=1}^k d_i^2}{24(k-3)! \prod_{i=1}^k d_i}$$

So far we have given formulas for the leading coefficient, $(k-2)$ th and $(k-3)$ th coefficient of Hilbert quasi-polynomials. Unfortunately, we haven't found an explicit correlation between the formulas for these coefficients, meaning that we are not able to define a recurrence relation to obtain all coefficients of P_R^W . On the other hand, we can sketch a strategy to calculate formulas for any coefficient of Hilbert quasi-polynomials.

Let us see in detail the necessary steps to compute the r th coefficient of P_R^W , for $1 < r \leq k-1$, with the assumption that $\delta \leq r$.

First of all, let $P_i(x) = S_0(x) + S_1(x)\zeta^i + \dots + S_{d-1}(x)\zeta^{i \cdot (d-1)}$ as usual, where

$$S_j(n) = \sum_{h=0}^{n_j} a_{jh} \binom{n + \alpha_j - h - 1}{\alpha_j - 1} \zeta^{-jh}.$$

Since $\delta \leq r$ and by remark 9, the r th coefficient of P_i is given exactly by the r th coefficient of $S_0(n)$, which we denote by c_r . Let us recall the following useful expression for the Hilbert-Poincaré series

$$HP_R(t) = \frac{1}{g(t)} = \frac{Q_0(t)}{(1-t)^k} + \sum_{j \in T_\delta} \frac{Q_j^{(\delta)}(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)^\delta} + \dots + \sum_{j \in T_1} \frac{Q_j^{(1)}(t)}{(1-\zeta^j t)}$$

where $Q_0(t) = A_1(1-t)^{k-1} + A_2(1-t)^{k-2} + \dots + A_k \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$.

The coefficient c_r depends only on k and A_{r+1}, \dots, A_k . So, we need to compute the constants A_i , for $i = r+1, \dots, k$, in order to get a suitable expression for c_r . To compute A_i , we evaluate at $t = 1$ the i th derivative of the equation shown in (7). We observe that this evaluation gives 0 except for the terms in the first summation for $i \leq t \leq k$. For this reason, it needs to calculate only the derivatives of these addends.

4 How to compute Hilbert quasi-polynomials

In this section we present an algorithm for an efficient calculation of Hilbert quasi-polynomials. We have written Singular procedures to compute the Hilbert quasi-polynomial for rings $\mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_k]/I$. These procedures can be downloaded from the website www.dm.unipi.it/~caboara/Research/HilbertQP

4.1 The algorithm

Let $(R/I, W)$ be as usual, we wish to compute its Hilbert quasi-polynomial $P_{R/I}^W := \{P_0, \dots, P_{d-1}\}$. Since we know degree bounds for Hilbert quasi-polynomials, we can compute them by means of interpolation.

First off, let us consider $I = (0)$. Each P_j has degree equal to $k-1$, so, given $j = 0, \dots, d-1$, we want to calculate $P_j(x) := a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_{k-1}x^{k-1}$ such that

$$P_j(n) = H_R^W(n) \quad \text{for all } n \geq k-1 \text{ and such that } n \equiv j \pmod{d}$$

Therefore, let $\beta := \min\{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid j + md \geq k-1\}$ and we consider the following k positive integers congruent to $j + \beta d$ modulo d

$$x_r := j + \beta d + rd, \quad \text{for } r = 0, \dots, k-1$$

By construction, we have $P_j(x_r) = H_R^W(x_r)$, which means that the polynomial $P_j(x)$ interpolates the points $(x_r, H_R^W(x_r))$.

Since we know the leading coefficient c_{k-1} , we can reduce the number of data points x_r . Actually, if $\delta \leq k-3$, we can also exploit the formulas for c_{k-2} and

c_{k-3} . In the latter case, we get a system of linear equations in the coefficients a_i , with $i = 0, \dots, k-4$. The system in matrix-vector form reads

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \dots & x_0^{k-4} \\ 1 & x_1 & \dots & x_1^{k-4} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{k-4} & \dots & x_{k-4}^{k-4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_{k-4} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} H_R^W(x_0) - \sum_{i=k-3}^{k-1} c_i x_0^i \\ H_R^W(x_1) - \sum_{i=k-3}^{k-1} c_i x_1^i \\ \vdots \\ H_R^W(x_{k-4}) - \sum_{i=k-3}^{k-1} c_i x_{k-4}^i \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

We observe that this algorithm requires the computation of $k-3$ values of the Hilbert function, the construction of a Vandermonde matrix of dimension $k-3$ and its inversion. We have not yet shown how to calculate $H_R^W(x_r)$, for $r = 0, \dots, k-3$.

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The problem of calculating $H_R^W(n)$ is equivalent to the problem of determining the number of partitions of an integer into elements of a finite set $S := \{d_1, \dots, d_k\}$, that is, the number of solutions in non-negative integers, $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$, of the equation

$$\alpha_1 d_1 + \dots + \alpha_k d_k = n$$

This problem was solved in the nineteenth century ([Syl82], [Gla09]) and the solution is the coefficient of x^n in

$$[(1-x^{d_1}) \dots (1-x^{d_k})]^{-1} \quad (20)$$

We are going to give an efficient method for getting the coefficient of x^n in the power series expansion of Equation (20). We refer to [Lee92] for an in-depth analysis on the power series expansion of a rational function. Let

$$g(x) = \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - \lambda_i x)^{\alpha_i} \quad \text{and} \quad f(x) = \prod_{i=k+1}^l (1 - \lambda_i x)^{\alpha_i}$$

be any polynomials with constant coefficient 1, where λ_i are distinct and non-zero and the degree of $f(x)$ is less than that of $g(x)$.

Lemma 23 *Let*

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \sum_{n \geq 0} b(n) x^n$$

the power series expansion of $f(x)/g(x)$. Then,

$$nb(n) = \sum_{r=1}^n \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \lambda_i^r - \sum_{i=k+1}^l \alpha_i \lambda_i^r \right) b(n-r)$$

Proof. Since

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\log \left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right) \right] = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\alpha_i \lambda_i}{1 - \lambda_i x} - \sum_{i=k+1}^l \frac{\alpha_i \lambda_i}{1 - \lambda_i x}$$

we have

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} nb(n)x^{n-1} = \left[\sum_{r \geq 1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \lambda_i^r - \sum_{i=k+1}^l \alpha_i \lambda_i^r \right) x^{r-1} \right] \left[\sum_{s \geq 0} b(s)x^s \right]$$

and the result follows by picking out the coefficient of x^{n-1} on the right. \square

Let $\zeta := \zeta_d$ be a primitive d th root of unity. Since

$$\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - x^{d_i}) = (1 - x)^k \prod_{j \in T_k} (1 - \zeta^j x)^k \cdots \prod_{j \in T_1} (1 - \zeta^j x)$$

we can apply Lemma (23) with $g(x) := \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - x^{d_i})$ and $f(x) = 1$. Since by our assumptions, the d_i are coprime, then surely $T_k = \emptyset$. We define $\tilde{T}_i := T_i$ for all $i = 1, \dots, k-1$ and $\tilde{T}_k := \{0\}$ and thus we obtain the following recursive formula for computing $H_R^W(n)$

$$H_R^W(n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{r=1}^n \left[\sum_{i=1}^k i \left(\sum_{j \in \tilde{T}_i} \zeta^{jr} \right) \right] H_R^W(n-r) \quad (21)$$

It follows that if we know $H_R^W(i)$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, we can easily compute $H_R^W(n)$ by means of equation (21).

Given an equation $\alpha_1 d_1 + \cdots + \alpha_k d_k = n$ the problem of counting the number of non-negative integer solutions $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ could be solved also using brute force. But, given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, to compute $H_R^W(n)$ with brute force needs $O(n^k)$ operations, whereas the procedure which we have implemented has a quadratic cost in n , in fact it needs $O(kn^2)$ operations.

Up to now we have shown how to calculate P_R^W . For computing a quasi-polynomial $P_{R/I}^W = \{P_0, \dots, P_{d-1}\}$, for any vector W and any homogeneous ideal I of R , the procedure computes first $P_R^{W'}$, where W' is obtained by dividing W by $\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_k)$, and then it produces $P_{R/I}^W$ starting from P_R^W , using the relation between $P_R^{W'}$ and $P_{R/I}^W$ showed in propositions (6).

4.2 Some example

Example 24. Let $R = \mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_5]$ be the polynomial ring graded by the integer vector $W = [1, 2, 3, 4, 6]$ as in Example 16. We have already described P_R^W . Let us consider the ring R/I with $I = (x_1^3, x_2 x_3)$. The Hilbert quasi-polynomial

$$\begin{array}{l}
P_0(x) = 1/16x^2 + 1/2x + 1 \\
P_1(x) = 1/24x^2 + 1/3x + 5/8 \\
P_2(x) = 1/16x^2 + 1/2x + 3/4 \\
P_3(x) = 1/24x^2 + 1/3x + 5/8 \\
P_4(x) = 1/16x^2 + 1/2x + 1 \\
P_5(x) = 1/24x^2 + 1/3x + 7/24 \\
P_6(x) = 1/16x^2 + 1/2x + 3/4 \\
P_7(x) = 1/24x^2 + 1/3x + 5/8 \\
P_8(x) = 1/16x^2 + 1/2x + 1 \\
P_9(x) = 1/24x^2 + 1/3x + 5/8 \\
P_{10}(x) = 1/16x^2 + 1/2x + 3/4 \\
P_{11}(x) = 1/24x^2 + 1/3x + 7/24
\end{array}$$

$P_{R/I}^W$ is given by

The time of computation for all P_R^W and P_{R/I_i}^W is less than 1 second.

Example 25. Let $R := \mathbb{Q}[x, y, z, t, u]$ be graded by $W := [2, 4, 8, 16, 32]$. We have computed $P_R^W = \{P_0, \dots, P_{31}\}$ and also in this case the time of computation is less than 1 second. The odd indexed polynomials are equal to 0, while the even indexed are

$$\begin{array}{l}
P_0(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 43/3072x^2 + 11/48x + 1 \\
P_2(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 595/49152x^2 + 725/4096x + 4875/8192 \\
P_4(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 169/12288x^2 + 167/768x + 455/512 \\
P_6(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 583/49152x^2 + 681/4096x + 4147/8192 \\
P_8(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 43/3072x^2 + 11/48x + 35/32 \\
P_{10}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 595/49152x^2 + 725/4096x + 5643/8192 \\
P_{12}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 169/12288x^2 + 161/768x + 455/512 \\
P_{14}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 583/49152x^2 + 649/4096x + 4275/8192 \\
P_{16}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 43/3072x^2 + 11/48x + 5/4 \\
P_{18}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 595/49152x^2 + 725/4096x + 6923/8192 \\
P_{20}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 169/12288x^2 + 167/768x + 583/512 \\
P_{22}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 583/49152x^2 + 681/4096x + 6195/8192 \\
P_{24}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 43/3072x^2 + 11/48x + 35/32 \\
P_{26}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 595/49152x^2 + 725/4096x + 5643/8192 \\
P_{28}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 1/3072x^3 + 169/12288x^2 + 161/768x + 327/512 \\
P_{30}(x) = 1/393216x^4 + 5/16384x^3 + 583/49152x^2 + 649/4096x + 2227/8192
\end{array}$$

In this example, we have $k = 5$, $\delta = 2$, $\delta_4 = 2$, $\delta_3 = 4$, $\delta_2 = 8$, $\delta_1 = 16$ and $\delta_0 = 32$. We can easily check that P_R^W satisfies all proprieties that we have illustrated in the previous sections.

5 Conclusions and further work

In this work, we have produced a partial characterization of Hilbert quasi-polynomials for the \mathbb{N}_+^k -graded polynomial rings. It should be of interest to complete this characterization, finding closed formulas for as many coefficients of the Hilbert quasi-polynomial as possible, periodic part included. As a side effect, this will allow us to write more efficient procedures for the computation of Hilbert quasi-polynomials.

Actually, in section 2 we have sketched a strategy to recover coefficients for the fixed part, although this method leads to difficult computations.

To compute the r th coefficient of P_R^W , we have supposed $\delta \leq r$. We can ask what is the behaviour of the coefficients without any assumptions about δ . In section 2, we have proved that they keep repeating with a certain period δ_r . We are interested in understanding if it is possible to find formulas also in the general case. We have analysed some numerical experiments, and we have observed that there is a sort of regularity in the expression of the coefficients. Describing completely the coefficients of P_R^W requires considerable effort, but it is an interesting topic for future work. Moreover, we want to extend our work to \mathbb{N}_+^k -graded quotient rings $\mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_k]/I$, starting with simple cases (e.g. when the ideal I is generated by a regular sequence).

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