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**Louiza Fouli\*** (lfouli@math.nmsu.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, New Mexico State University, P. O. Box 30001, Dept 3MB, Las Cruces, NM 88003, and **Janet C Vassilev** and **Adela Vraciu**. *Tight closure and reductions of an ideal.*

Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring and let  $I$  be an ideal. Recall that  $J$  is a reduction of  $I$  if  $J \subset I$  and  $\overline{J} = \overline{I}$ , where  $\overline{I}$  and  $\overline{J}$  denote the integral closure of  $I$  and  $J$ , respectively. Northcott and Rees proved that if  $R$  is a Noetherian local ring with infinite residue field then there are infinitely many reductions of  $I$ . The core of  $I$ ,  $\text{core}(I)$ , is defined to be the intersection of all reductions of  $I$ .

When  $R$  is a Noetherian ring of characteristic  $p > 0$ , Epstein defines tight closure reductions. In particular, an ideal  $J$  is a  $*$ -reduction of  $I$  if  $J \subset I$  and  $J^* = I^*$ , where  $*$  denotes the tight closure of the corresponding ideal. Similarly we define the tight closure core of  $I$ ,  $*$ -core( $I$ ), to be the intersection of all the  $*$ -reductions of  $I$ . We explore  $*$ -reductions,  $*$ -core( $I$ ) and its connection to  $\text{core}(I)$ . We also provide formulas for computing  $*$ -core( $I$ ). This is joint work with Janet C. Vassilev and Adela Vraciu. (Received January 26, 2010)