

## LYUBEZNIK RESOLUTIONS AND THE ARITHMETICAL RANK OF MONOMIAL IDEALS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we prove that the length of a Lyubeznik resolution of a monomial ideal gives an upper bound for the arithmetical rank of the ideal.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $S$  be a polynomial ring over a field  $K$ . Let  $I$  be a monomial ideal of  $S$  and  $G(I) = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_\mu\}$  the minimal set of monomial generators of  $I$ . In general, it is unknown how to construct a minimal graded free resolution of  $S/I$ . In 1960, Taylor [16] discovered a graded free resolution of  $S/I$ , which is called the *Taylor resolution* of  $I$ :

$$T_\bullet : 0 \longrightarrow T_\mu \xrightarrow{d_\mu} T_{\mu-1} \xrightarrow{d_{\mu-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{d_1} T_0 \longrightarrow S/I \longrightarrow 0,$$

where

$$T_0 = Se_\emptyset, \quad T_s = \bigoplus_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_s \leq \mu} Se_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_s},$$

$$d_s(e_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_s}) = \sum_{j=1}^s (-1)^{j-1} \frac{\text{lcm}(m_{i_1}, \dots, m_{i_s})}{\text{lcm}(m_{i_1}, \dots, \widehat{m_{i_j}}, \dots, m_{i_s})} e_{i_1 \cdots \widehat{i_j} \cdots i_s}.$$

Here  $e_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_s}$  ( $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_s \leq \mu$ ) are free basis elements of  $T_s$ , and the degree of  $e_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_s}$  is defined by

$$\deg e_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_s} = \deg \text{lcm}(m_{i_1}, m_{i_2}, \dots, m_{i_s}).$$

In 1988, Lyubeznik [13] constructed a graded free resolution of  $S/I$  as a subcomplex of the Taylor resolution of  $I$ . This complex is called a *Lyubeznik resolution*.

We recall the definition of a Lyubeznik resolution. Let  $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_s \leq \mu$ . If  $m_q$  does not divide  $\text{lcm}(m_{i_t}, m_{i_{t+1}}, \dots, m_{i_s})$  for all  $t < s$  and for all  $q < i_t$ , then the symbol  $e_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_s}$  is said to be *L-admissible*. The *Lyubeznik resolution* of  $I$  is a subcomplex of the Taylor resolution of  $I$  generated by all *L-admissible* symbols. Note that a Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  depends on the order of the generators  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_\mu$ . We define the *L-length* of  $I$  as the minimum length of Lyubeznik resolutions of  $I$ . The Taylor resolution of  $I$  is far from being a minimal graded free resolution in general, but a Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  often gives a minimal graded

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free resolution or a graded free resolution whose length is equal to the projective dimension of  $S/I$ .

The *arithmetical rank* of  $I$  is defined by

$$\text{ara } I := \min \left\{ r \in \mathbb{N} : \text{there exist } a_1, \dots, a_r \in I \text{ such that } \sqrt{(a_1, \dots, a_r)} = \sqrt{I} \right\}.$$

A trivial upper bound for  $\text{ara } I$  is the cardinality of the minimal set of monomial generators of  $I$ , denoted by  $\mu(I) = \mu$ , which is equal to the length of the Taylor resolution of  $I$ . In this paper, we prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $I$  be a monomial ideal of  $S$ . If the  $L$ -length of  $I$  is  $\lambda$ , then*

$$\text{ara } I \leq \lambda.$$

It is known from Lyubeznik [12] that if  $I$  is a squarefree monomial ideal, then  $\text{pd}_S S/I \leq \text{ara } I$ , where  $\text{pd}_S S/I$  is the projective dimension of  $S/I$ . It is natural to ask when  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I$  holds for a squarefree monomial ideal  $I$ . The author together with Terai and Yoshida ([9, 10]; see also [11]) has proved that  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I$  for squarefree monomial ideals  $I$  with  $\mu(I) - \text{height } I \leq 2$ . Barile [3, 4, 5, 6, 7], Barile and Terai [8], and Schmitt and Vogel [15] also proved the same equality for some classes of squarefree monomial ideals. Since the projective dimension of  $S/I$  is equal to the length of the minimal graded free resolution of  $S/I$ , we have the following corollary:

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $I$  be a squarefree monomial ideal of  $S$ . If the  $L$ -length of  $I$  is equal to the projective dimension of  $S/I$ , then*

$$\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I.$$

*In particular, if the Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  with respect to some order of monomial generators is minimal, then the same assertion is true.*

In Section 2, we prove Theorem 1 and several corollaries. In Section 3, we give examples of squarefree monomial ideals  $I$  whose  $L$ -length is equal to the projective dimension of  $S/I$ ; see Barile [1, 2]. We also show that for the Stanley–Reisner ideal  $I$  of the triangulation of the projective plane with 6 vertices, the  $L$ -length of  $I$  coincides with  $\text{ara } I$ . Notice that Yan [17] proved that  $\text{ara } I = 4 > 3 = \text{pd}_S S/I$  when  $\text{char } K \neq 2$ .

## 2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

In this section, we prove Theorem 1, which is the main result in this paper.

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Let  $G(I) = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_\mu\}$  be the minimal set of monomial generators of  $I$ . We consider the Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  with respect to this order.

To prove the theorem, it is enough to find  $\lambda$  elements  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_\lambda$  such that

$$\sqrt{(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_\lambda)} = \sqrt{I}.$$

We set

$$\begin{cases} g_1 = m_1, \\ g_2 = m_2 + \sum_{\substack{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{\lambda-1}] \in L_{\lambda-1} \\ i_1 \geq 3}} m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_{\lambda-1}}, \\ \vdots \\ g_\ell = m_\ell + \sum_{\substack{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{\lambda-\ell+1}] \in L_{\lambda-\ell+1} \\ i_1 \geq \ell+1}} m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_{\lambda-\ell+1}}, \\ \vdots \\ g_\lambda = m_\lambda + \sum_{\substack{[i_1] \in L_1 \\ i_1 \geq \lambda+1}} m_{i_1} = m_\lambda + m_{\lambda+1} + \cdots + m_\mu, \end{cases}$$

where

$$L_s := \left\{ [i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in \mathbb{N}^s : \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_s \leq \mu, \\ e_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_s} \text{ is } L\text{-admissible} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Put  $J = (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_\lambda)$ . We prove that  $m_\ell \in \sqrt{J}$  for all  $\ell = 1, 2, \dots, \mu$  by induction on  $\ell$ . We need the following lemma:

**Lemma 3.** *Suppose  $[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_s$ . Then:*

- (1)  $[i_{j_1}, \dots, i_{j_t}] \in L_t$  for all  $t \leq s$  and for all  $1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_t \leq s$ .
- (2) If  $i_1 > 1$ , then  $[1, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_{s+1}$ . In particular, if  $[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\lambda] \in L_\lambda$ , then  $i_1 = 1$ .
- (3) Suppose  $\ell < i_1$ . If  $[\ell, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \notin L_{s+1}$ , then  $m_\ell m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_s}$  is divisible by at least one of  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{\ell-1}$ .

*Proof.* These follow from the definition of  $L$ -admissibility. □

The case  $\ell = 1$  is clear because  $m_1 = g_1$ . For  $\ell = 2$ , we consider  $m_2 g_2$ . Then

$$m_2 g_2 = m_2^2 + \sum_{\substack{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{\lambda-1}] \in L_{\lambda-1} \\ i_1 \geq 3}} m_2 m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_{\lambda-1}} \in J.$$

Since  $[2, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{\lambda-1}] \notin L_\lambda$  by Lemma 3 (2), the second term is divisible by  $m_1$  by Lemma 3 (3). Hence  $m_2^2 \in J$ , and thus  $m_2 \in \sqrt{J}$ .

We assume  $\ell > 2$  and  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{\ell-1} \in \sqrt{J}$ . Set  $\nu = \nu_\ell = \min\{\ell - 2, \lambda - 2\}$ . Then we show that

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{[\ell, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_s} m_\ell m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_s} \in \sqrt{J}$$

by descending induction on  $s$  ( $\lambda - \nu \leq s \leq \lambda - 1$ ).

First, we consider  $m_\ell g_2$ . By a similar argument as in the case  $\ell = 2$ , we have (2.1) for  $s = \lambda - 1$ .

Next, we assume

$$(2.2) \quad \sum_{[\ell, i_2, \dots, i_{s+1}] \in L_{s+1}} m_\ell m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_{s+1}} \in \sqrt{J}$$

and prove (2.1). Then  $m_\ell g_{\lambda-s+1} \in J$  implies that

$$m_\ell m_{\lambda-s+1} + \sum_{\substack{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_s \\ i_1 \geq \lambda-s+2}} m_\ell m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_s} \in J.$$

Since  $\lambda - s + 1 \leq \nu + 1 < \ell$  by the definition of  $\nu$ , we have

$$\sum_{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_s} m_\ell^2 m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_s} + \sum_{\substack{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_s \\ i_1 > \ell}} m_\ell m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_s} \in \sqrt{J}.$$

The second term can be written in the following form:

$$(2.3) \quad \sum_{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_{s+1}} m_\ell m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_s} + \sum_{\substack{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \in L_s \\ [\ell, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_s] \notin L_{s+1}}} m_\ell m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_s}.$$

The first term of (2.3) is in  $\sqrt{J}$  by assumption (2.2). The second term of (2.3) is in  $\sqrt{J}$  by Lemma 3 (3). Therefore (2.1) is also satisfied for  $s$ . Hence, (2.1) is satisfied for all  $s \geq \lambda - \nu$ .

Now, we prove that  $m_\ell \in \sqrt{J}$ . If  $\nu = \ell - 2$ , then we consider  $m_\ell g_\ell$ . By a similar argument as above, we have

$$m_\ell^2 + \sum_{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{\lambda-\ell+1}] \in L_{\lambda-\ell+2}} m_\ell m_{i_1} m_{i_2} \cdots m_{i_{\lambda-\ell+1}} \in \sqrt{J}.$$

Since (2.1) is satisfied for  $s = \lambda - \nu = \lambda - \ell + 2$ , we have  $m_\ell^2 \in \sqrt{J}$  and so  $m_\ell \in \sqrt{J}$  as required. For  $\nu = \lambda - 2$ , we consider  $m_\ell g_\lambda$ . By a similar argument as in the case of  $\nu = \ell - 2$ , we have  $m_\ell \in \sqrt{J}$ . □

*Proof of Corollary 2.* By Lyubeznik [12], we have  $\text{pd}_S S/I \leq \text{ara } I$ . On the other hand, our theorem gives the opposite inequality. □

We also have an upper bound on the arithmetical rank, which was proved by Terai.

**Corollary 4** (Terai). *Let  $I$  be a squarefree monomial ideal of  $S$ , and let  $G(I) = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_\mu\}$  be the minimal set of monomial generators of  $I$ . We set*

$$l = \max \left\{ l : \begin{array}{l} m_{j_1} \neq \text{lcm}(m_{j_1}, m_{j_2}) \neq \cdots \neq \text{lcm}(m_{j_1}, m_{j_2}, \dots, m_{j_s}) \\ \text{for some } m_{j_1}, m_{j_2}, \dots, m_{j_s} \in G(I) \end{array} \right\}.$$

Then we have

$$\text{ara } I \leq l.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\lambda$  denote the length of a Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$ . If  $e_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_\lambda}$  is  $L$ -admissible, then

$$m_{i_\lambda} \neq \text{lcm}(m_{i_\lambda}, m_{i_{\lambda-1}}) \neq \cdots \neq \text{lcm}(m_{i_\lambda}, m_{i_{\lambda-1}}, \dots, m_{i_1})$$

by the definition. Therefore  $\lambda \leq l$  holds and Corollary 2 gives the desired inequality. □

The next corollary was proved by Barile [1, 2].

**Corollary 5** (Barile [1, Proposition 2.4], [2, Remark 3]). *Let  $I$  be a squarefree monomial ideal and let  $G(I) = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_\mu\}$  be the minimal set of monomial generators of  $I$ . If there exists an integer  $s > 1$  such that  $m_1$  divides  $m_{i_1} \cdots m_{i_s}$  for all  $2 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_s \leq \mu$ , then*

$$\text{ara } I \leq s.$$

*Proof.* The assumption implies that  $L_{s+1} = \emptyset$ . Then the assertion follows from Corollary 2. □

### 3. EXAMPLES

In this section, we give some examples of Lyubeznik resolutions.

For two  $L$ -admissible symbols  $e_{i_1 \cdots i_s}$  and  $e_{j_1 \cdots j_t}$ , we say that

$$e_{i_1 \cdots i_s} \leq e_{j_1 \cdots j_t}$$

if  $i_1, \dots, i_s$  is a subsequence of  $j_1, \dots, j_t$ . This induces a partial order on the set of all  $L$ -admissible symbols. Barile [2, Remark 1] pointed out that a necessary and sufficient condition for a Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  to be minimal is that for all maximal  $L$ -admissible symbols  $e_{i_1 \cdots i_s}$ ,

$$\text{lcm}(m_{i_1}, \dots, m_{i_s}) \neq \text{lcm}(m_{i_1}, \dots, \widehat{m_{i_j}}, \dots, m_{i_s}) \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, s.$$

First, we consider an ideal  $I$  whose Lyubeznik resolution is minimal. The first example shows that a Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  is minimal for an ideal  $I$  with  $\mu(I) - \text{height } I \leq 1$ .

**Example 6** (See [9, Theorem 2.1]). Let  $I$  be a squarefree monomial ideal with  $\mu(I) - \text{pd}_S S/I \leq 1$ . Then the  $L$ -length of  $I$  is equal to  $\text{pd}_S S/I$ . In particular, we have  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I$  by Corollary 2.

Moreover we assume that  $\mu(I) - \text{height } I \leq 1$ . The author classified these ideals in [9, Theorem 4.4] with Terai and Yoshida. Then it is easy to see that a Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  is minimal.

*Remark 7.* For the ideal  $I$  in Example 6, there are many proofs of  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I$ . For example, we can also prove it by the method of Barile [2, Proposition 2].

When  $\mu(I) - \text{height } I = 2$ , a Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  is not necessarily minimal as the next example shows.

**Example 8.** Let  $I = (m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4)$  be a squarefree monomial ideal with  $\mu(I) - \text{height } I = 2$ . Assume that  $S/I$  is Cohen–Macaulay.

If  $m_1$  divides  $m_i m_j$  for all  $2 \leq i < j \leq 4$  upon renumbering the generators, then the Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  with respect to this order is minimal. Otherwise, the  $L$ -length of  $I$  is larger than the projective dimension of  $S/I$ , and thus Lyubeznik resolutions of  $I$  are not minimal for any order of generators.

Note that in both cases,  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I = 2$  holds by [10, Proposition 4.5].

The next example was considered by Barile [1].

**Example 9** (Barile [1, Example 2.6]). Let  $I$  be the squarefree monomial ideal generated by the following  $n + 2$  elements:

$$\begin{cases} m_i = x_1x_2x_{2i+1}x_{2i+2}, & i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1, \\ m_n = x_1x_3x_5 \cdots x_{2n-1}x_{2n+1}, \\ m_{n+1} = x_1x_4x_6x_8 \cdots x_{2n-2}x_{2n}x_{2n+1}, \\ m_{n+2} = x_2x_3 \cdots x_{2n}x_{2n+1}. \end{cases}$$

Barile [1, 2] proved that  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I = n$ . She computed  $\text{pd}_S S/I$  by proving that the Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  with this order is minimal.

For another example, Novik [14] proved that a Lyubeznik resolution is minimal for the matroid ideal of a finite projective space.

Secondly, we exhibit several ideals whose Lyubeznik resolutions are not necessarily minimal, but which have  $L$ -length equal to the projective dimension. Let  $\lambda$  be the length of the Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  with respect to some order of monomial generators of  $I$ . A sufficient condition for  $\lambda = \text{pd}_S S/I$  to hold is that one of the  $L$ -admissible symbols  $e_{i_1 \dots i_\lambda}$  must satisfy

$$(3.1) \quad \text{lcm}(m_{i_1}, \dots, m_{i_\lambda}) \neq \text{lcm}(m_{i_1}, \dots, \widehat{m_{i_j}}, \dots, m_{i_\lambda}) \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, \lambda.$$

The next example is a generalization of [10, Lemma 5.1].

**Example 10.** Let  $I = (m_1, m_2, \dots, m_\mu)$  be a squarefree monomial ideal with  $\mu(I) - \text{pd}_S S/I = 2$ . We assume that  $m_i m_j$  is divisible by one of  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{\mu-3}$  for all  $\mu - 2 \leq i < j \leq \mu$ . Then the  $L$ -length of  $I$  is equal to  $\text{pd}_S S/I$ . In particular, we have  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I$  by Corollary 2.

*Remark 11.* For an ideal  $I$  as in Example 10, we also have  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I$  by the result of Schmitt–Vogel [15, Lemma].

The next example was considered by Barile [1, Example 2.7].

**Example 12** (Barile [1, Example 2.7]). Let  $I$  be the squarefree monomial ideal generated by the following 8 elements:

$$x_1x_2x_3, x_1x_4x_5x_6, x_2x_7, x_3x_8, x_1x_9, x_4x_{10}, x_5x_{11}, x_6x_{12}.$$

Barile proved that  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I = 6$ .

In the left (resp. right) table below, the element in the  $i$ th column and  $j$ th row is  $\beta_{i,i+j}^S(S/I) := \dim_K[\text{Tor}_S^i(K, S/I)]_{i+j}$  (resp. the cardinality of the set  $\{t_1, \dots, t_i \in L_i : \deg e_{t_1 \dots t_i} = i + j\}$ ):

|    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|
|    | 0 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5 | 6 |    | 0 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5 | 6 |
| 0: | 1 |    |    |    |    |   |   | 0: | 1 |    |    |    |    |   |   |
| 1: | 6 |    |    |    |    |   |   | 1: | 6 |    |    |    |    |   |   |
| 2: | 1 | 18 | 3  |    |    |   |   | 2: | 1 | 18 | 3  |    |    |   |   |
| 3: | 1 | 7  | 34 | 13 |    |   |   | 3: | 1 | 7  | 34 | 13 |    |   |   |
| 4: |   | 3  | 17 | 46 | 32 | 6 |   | 4: |   | 3  | 17 | 46 | 33 | 8 |   |
| 5: |   |    |    |    | 1  | 1 |   | 5: |   |    |    | 1  | 3  | 1 |   |

The difference between these tables arises from the  $L$ -admissibility of  $e_{124678}$ ,  $e_{123678}$  and  $e_{12678}$ . As these tables show, the Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  is not minimal, but the  $L$ -length of  $I$  is equal to  $\text{pd}_S S/I = 6$ .

The next example is a generalization of the ideals in [10, Subsection 4.4].

**Example 13.** Let  $j, k, \ell, n$  be integers with  $1 \leq j \leq k \leq \ell < n - 2$ . Let  $I$  be the squarefree monomial ideal generated by the following  $n$  elements:

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 &= x_1 \cdots x_k y_{\ell+1} \cdots y_{n-2}, \\ m_2 &= x_1 \cdots x_k y_j \cdots y_\ell, \\ m_{i+2} &= x_i y_i z_{t_i}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n - 2. \end{aligned}$$

Set  $x_i = 1$  for  $k < i \leq n - 2$  and  $y_i = 1$  for  $1 \leq i < j$ . Then the product  $m_3 \cdots m_n$  is divisible by  $m_1$ . We consider the product  $m_3 \cdots \widehat{m}_i \cdots m_n$ . When  $i \leq \ell$ , a product  $m_2 m_3 \cdots \widehat{m}_i \cdots m_n$  is divisible by  $m_1$ . When  $i > \ell$ , a product  $m_3 \cdots \widehat{m}_i \cdots m_n$  is divisible by  $m_2$ . This means that the  $L$ -length of  $I$  is at most  $n - 2$ . Hence  $\text{ara } I \leq n - 2$ .

In particular, we have  $\text{ara } I = \text{pd}_S S/I = n - 2$  for the following cases:

- (1)  $z_{t_i} = z_i$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 2$ .
- (2)  $z_{t_k} = z_{t_{n-2}} = z_k$ , and  $z_{t_i} = z_i$  for  $i \neq k, n - 2$ .

In fact, the ideal in case (1) satisfies  $\mu(I) - \text{height } I = 2$  (see [10, Subsection 4.4]). In case (2),  $e_{1 \dots \widehat{k+2} \dots n-1}$  is  $L$ -admissible and satisfies (3.1).

*Remark 14.* Let  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n$  be squarefree monomials as in Example 13 and let  $w$  be a new variable. Put  $T \subset \{3, 4, \dots, n\}$  with  $\#T \geq 2$ . We set  $I' = (m'_1, m'_2, \dots, m'_n)$ , where

$$\begin{cases} m'_1 = m_1 w, \\ m'_2 = m_2, \\ m'_i = m_i w, & \text{if } i \in T, \\ m'_i = m_i, & \text{if } i \in \{3, 4, \dots, n\} \setminus T. \end{cases}$$

Then the same assertion as in Example 13 is true. For example, for the ideal  $I'$  generated by the following 6 elements, we have  $\text{ara } I' = \text{pd}_S S/I' = 4$ :

$$x_1 x_2 y_4 w, x_1 x_2 y_2 y_3, x_1 z_1 w, x_2 y_2 z_2 w, y_3 z_3, y_4 z_2.$$

Moreover, for this ideal  $I'$ , it seems to be difficult to show  $\text{ara } I' = \text{pd}_S S/I'$  by the method of Barile ([1, Proposition 1.1], [2, Propositions 1, 2]).

Finally, we give an ideal  $I$  whose  $L$ -length is not equal to the projective dimension of  $S/I$  but is equal to the arithmetical rank of  $I$ . In the following example, we consider the Stanley–Reisner ideal  $I$  of the triangulation of the projective plane with 6 vertices. The projective dimension of  $S/I$  depends on the characteristic of  $K$ , and Yan [17] proved that  $\text{ara } I = 4 > 3 = \text{pd}_S S/I$  if  $\text{char } K \neq 2$ . Our theorem provides the best upper bound for  $\text{ara } I$ .

**Example 15** (Yan [17]). Let  $I$  be the squarefree monomial ideal generated by the following 10 elements:

$$x_1 x_2 x_3, x_1 x_2 x_5, x_1 x_3 x_6, x_1 x_4 x_5, x_1 x_4 x_6, x_2 x_3 x_4, x_2 x_4 x_6, x_2 x_5 x_6, x_3 x_4 x_5, x_3 x_5 x_6.$$

This ideal is the Stanley–Reisner ideal of the triangulation of the projective plane with 6 vertices. Then a minimal graded free resolution of  $I$  is given by the following left (resp. right) diagram if  $\text{char } K \neq 2$  (resp. if  $\text{char } K = 2$ ):

|    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|
|    | 0  | 1  | 2 | 3 |    | 0  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 0: | 1  |    |   |   | 0: | 1  |    |   |   |   |
| 1: |    |    |   |   | 1: |    |    |   |   |   |
| 2: | 10 | 15 | 6 |   | 2: | 10 | 15 | 6 | 1 |   |
|    |    |    |   |   | 3: |    |    |   | 1 |   |

Hence, the projective dimension of  $S/I$  is given by

$$\mathrm{pd}_S S/I = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if char } K \neq 2, \\ 4 & \text{if char } K = 2. \end{cases}$$

Yan [17] proved that  $\mathrm{ara} I = 4$  for any characteristic of  $K$ .

On the other hand, the Lyubeznik resolution of  $I$  with respect to this order is given by the following diagram:

|    |    |    |    |   |   |
|----|----|----|----|---|---|
|    | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 |
| 0: | 1  |    |    |   |   |
| 1: |    |    |    |   |   |
| 2: | 10 | 15 | 18 | 9 |   |
| 3: |    | 12 | 9  |   |   |

In particular, the length is 4. Therefore Theorem 1 implies that the  $L$ -length of  $I$  coincides with  $\mathrm{ara} I$ .

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