Rev. Mat. Iberoam. 40 (2024), no. 5, 1989–2001
DOI 10.4171/RMI/1497

Flat morphisms with regular fibers do not preserve F-rationality

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Abstract. For each prime integer $p > 0$, we construct a standard graded F-rational ring R, over a field K of characteristic p, such that $R \otimes_K \overline{K}$ is not F-rational. By localizing, we obtain a flat local homomorphism $(R, \mathfrak{m}) \to (S, \mathfrak{n})$ such that R is F-rational, $S/\mathfrak{m}S$ is regular (in fact, a field), but S is not F-rational. In the process, we also obtain standard graded F-rational rings R for which $R \otimes_K R$ is not F-rational.

1. Introduction

Let $\mathcal{P}$ denote a local property of noetherian rings. The following types of *ascent* have been studied extensively; recall that for K a field, a noetherian K-algebra A is *geometrically regular* over K if $A \otimes_K L$ is regular for each finite extension field L of K.

($\mathrm{ASC_I}$) For a flat local homomorphism $(R, \mathfrak{m}) \to (S, \mathfrak{n})$ of excellent local rings, if R is $\mathcal{P}$ and the closed fiber $S/\mathfrak{m}S$ is regular, then S is $\mathcal{P}$.

($\mathrm{ASC_{II}}$) For a flat local homomorphism $(R, \mathfrak{m}) \to (S, \mathfrak{n})$ of excellent local rings, if R is $\mathcal{P}$ and the closed fiber $S/\mathfrak{m}S$ is geometrically regular over $R/\mathfrak{m}$, then S is $\mathcal{P}$.

Our main interest here is when $\mathcal{P}$ is F-rationality, a property rooted in Hochster and Huneke's theory of tight closure [14]: a local ring $(R, \mathfrak{m})$ of positive prime characteristic is *F-rational* if R is Cohen–Macaulay and each ideal generated by a system of parameters for R is tightly closed. Smith [22] proved that F-rational rings have rational singularities, while Hara [11] and Mehta–Srinivas [19] independently proved that rings with rational singularities have F-rational type. Rational singularities of characteristic zero satisfy ($\mathrm{ASC_I}$), as proven by Elkik, see Théorème 5 in [5].

In the situation of ($\mathrm{ASC_{II}}$), geometric regularity of the closed fiber $R/\mathfrak{m} \to S/\mathfrak{m}S$ implies that of each fiber

$$k(\mathfrak{p}) \to S \otimes_R k(\mathfrak{p}) \quad \text{for } \mathfrak{p} \in \operatorname{Spec} R,$$

Mathematics Subject Classification 2020: 13A35.
Keywords: tight closure, F-rationality.

see [3], p. 297. The ascent (ASC_{II}) holds for F-rationality; this, and its variations, are due to Vélez (Theorem 3.1 in [23]), Enescu (Theorem 2.27 in [6]), Hashimoto (Theorem 6.4 in [12]), and Aberbach–Enescu (Theorem 4.3 in [2]). A common thread amongst these is that each affirmative answer requires assumptions along the lines that the fibers are *geometrically* regular.

The situation is similar for F-injectivity in this regard; a local ring $(R, \mathfrak{m})$ of positive prime characteristic is *F-injective* if the Frobenius action on local cohomology modules

$$F : H^k_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) \to H^k_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$$

is injective for each $k \geqslant 0$. Datta and Murayama, see Theorem A in [4], proved that if $(R, \mathfrak{m})$ is F-injective, and $(R, \mathfrak{m}) \to (S, \mathfrak{n})$ is a flat local map such that $S/\mathfrak{m}S$ is Cohen–Macaulay and *geometrically* F-injective over $R/\mathfrak{m}$, then S is F-injective; see also Theorem 4.3 in [7] and Corollary 5.7 in [12]. We present examples demonstrating that the geometric assumptions are indeed required, i.e., that F-rationality and F-injectivity do not satisfy (ASC_I):

Theorem 1.1. *For each prime integer $p > 0$, there exists a flat local map $(R, \mathfrak{m}) \to (S, \mathfrak{n})$ of excellent local rings of characteristic p such that the ring R is F-rational, $S/\mathfrak{m}S$ is regular, but S is not F-rational or even F-injective.*

Enescu had earlier demonstrated that F-injectivity does not satisfy (ASC_I), though the examples on p. 3075 of [7] are not normal; the question of whether normal F-injective rings satisfy (ASC_I) has been raised earlier, see, e.g., Question 8.1 in [20], and is settled in the negative by Theorem 1.1. There is a more recent notion, *F-anti-nilpotence*, developed in the papers [8, 17, 18]; in view of the implications

$$F\text{-rational} \implies F\text{-anti-nilpotent} \implies F\text{-injective},$$

Theorem 1.1 also shows that F-anti-nilpotence does not satisfy (ASC_I).

It is worth mentioning that the rings R in Theorem 1.1 are necessarily not Gorenstein, since F-rational Gorenstein rings are F-regular by Theorem 4.2 in [15], and F-regularity satisfies (ASC_I) by Theorem 3.6 in [1]. Another subtlety is that such examples can only exist over imperfect fields, since (ASC_I) and (ASC_{II}) coincide when $R/\mathfrak{m}$ is a perfect field, and F-rationality satisfies (ASC_{II}).

Some preliminary results are recorded in Section 2, including an extension of a criterion for F-rationality due to Fedder and Watanabe [9]. In Section 3, we construct two families of examples that each imply Theorem 1.1: the first has the advantage that the proofs are more transparent, though the transcendence degree of the imperfect field over $\mathbb{F}_p$ increases with the characteristic p; the second family accomplishes the desired with transcendence degree one, independent of the characteristic $p > 0$, though the calculations are more involved. The examples in Section 3 are constructed as standard graded rings, with the relevant properties preserved under passing to localizations. In the process, we also obtain standard graded F-rational rings R, with the degree zero component being a field K of positive characteristic, such that the enveloping algebra $R \otimes_K R$ is not F-rational.

2. Preliminaries

Following [13], p. 125, a local ring of positive prime characteristic is *F-rational* if it is a homomorphic image of a Cohen–Macaulay ring, and each ideal generated by a system of parameters is tightly closed. It follows from this definition that an F-rational local ring is Cohen–Macaulay, see Theorem 4.2 in [15], so the notion coincides with that in Section 1. Moreover, an F-rational local ring is a normal domain. A localization of an F-rational local ring at a prime ideal is again F-rational; with this in mind, a noetherian ring of positive prime characteristic – which is not necessarily local – is *F-rational* if its localization at each maximal ideal (equivalently, at each prime ideal) is F-rational.

For the case of interest in this paper, let R be an $\mathbb{N}$-graded Cohen–Macaulay normal domain, such that the degree zero component is a field K of characteristic $p > 0$, and R is a finitely generated K-algebra. Then R is F-rational if and only if the ideal generated by some (equivalently, any) homogeneous system of parameters for R is tightly closed; see Theorem 4.7 in [16] and the remark preceding it. An equivalent formulation in terms of local cohomology, following Proposition 3.3 in [21], is described next.

Fix a homogeneous system of parameters $x_1, \dots, x_d$ for R, i.e., a sequence of $d := \dim R$ homogeneous elements that generate an ideal with radical the homogeneous maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m}$ of R. The local cohomology module $H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ may then be computed using a Čech complex on $x_1, \dots, x_d$ as

$$H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) = \frac{R_{x_1 \cdots x_d}}{\sum_i R_{x_1 \cdots \hat{x}_i \cdots x_d}}.$$

This module admits a natural $\mathbb{Z}$-grading, where the cohomology class

$$\eta := \left[\frac{r}{x_1^k \cdots x_d^k}\right] \in H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R), \tag{2.1}$$

for $r \in R$ a homogeneous element, has

$$\deg \eta := \deg r - k \sum_{i=1}^{d} \deg x_i .$$

The Frobenius endomorphism $F \colon R \to R$ induces a map

$$F : H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) \;\to\; H^d_{F(\mathfrak{m})}(R) = H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$$

that is the *Frobenius action* on $H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$; this is simply the map

$$\eta = \left[\frac{r}{x_1^k \cdots x_d^k}\right] \longmapsto F(\eta) = \left[\frac{r^p}{x_1^{kp} \cdots x_d^{kp}}\right]. \tag{2.2}$$

Since R is Cohen–Macaulay by assumption, R is F-injective precisely when the map (2.2) is injective.

The element η as in (2.1) belongs to $0^*_{H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)}$, the *tight closure* of zero in $H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$, if there exists a nonzero element $c \in R$ such that for all $e \in \mathbb{N}$, one has

$$cF^e(\eta) = 0$$

in $H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$. This translates as

$$cr^{p^e} \in (x_1^{kp^e}, \dots, x_d^{kp^e})R$$

for all $e \in \mathbb{N}$. In particular, R is F-rational precisely when

$$0^*_{H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)} = 0.$$

It follows that an F-rational ring must be F-injective.

We next review Veronese subrings. Let S be an $\mathbb{N}$-graded ring for which the degree zero component is a field K, and S is a finitely generated K-algebra. Fix a positive integer n. Then the n-th *Veronese subring* of S is the ring

$$S^{(n)} := \bigoplus_{k\in\mathbb{N}} S_{nk}.$$

Set $R := S^{(n)}$. The extension $R \subseteq S$ is split, so if S is normal ring, then so is R. Let $\mathfrak{m}$ denote the homogeneous maximal ideal of R, and note that $\mathfrak{m}S$ is primary to the homogeneous maximal ideal $\mathfrak{n}$ of S. For all $i \leqslant d := \dim S = \dim R$, it follows that $H^i_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ is a direct summand of $H^i_{\mathfrak{m}}(S) = H^i_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$, and hence that the ring R is Cohen–Macaulay whenever S is. Moreover, by Theorem 3.1.1 in [10], one has

$$H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) = \bigoplus_{k\in\mathbb{Z}} [H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{nk}.$$

Suppose $S := K[x_0, \dots, x_d]/(f)$, where f is a homogeneous polynomial that is monic of degree m with respect to the indeterminate x_0. Then S is free over the polynomial subring $K[x_1, \dots, x_d]$, with basis $\{1, x_0, \dots, x_0^{m-1}\}$. The local cohomology module $H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$, as computed using a Čech complex on $x_1, \dots, x_d$, thus has a K-basis consisting of elements

$$\left[\frac{x_0^{\alpha_0}}{x_1^{\alpha_1+1} \cdots x_d^{\alpha_d+1}}\right] \in H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S) \tag{2.3}$$

where each α_i is a nonnegative integer, and $\alpha_0 \leqslant m-1$. When S is graded, by restricting to elements of appropriate degree, one obtains a basis for a graded component of $H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$, or for the local cohomology $H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ of the Veronese subring R. Similarly, for the enveloping algebra $S \otimes_K S$, one has a K-basis as follows: use $y_0, \dots, y_d$ for the second copy of S, and consider the maximal ideal $\mathfrak{N} := (x_0, \dots, x_d, y_0, \dots, y_d)$ of $S \otimes_K S$. Then the local cohomology module $H^{2d}_{\mathfrak{N}}(S \otimes_K S)$ has a K-basis

$$\left[\frac{x_0^{\alpha_0} y_0^{\beta_0}}{x_1^{\alpha_1+1} \cdots x_d^{\alpha_d+1} y_1^{\beta_1+1} \cdots y_d^{\beta_d+1}}\right], \tag{2.4}$$

where each α_i, β_j is a nonnegative integer, $\alpha_0 \leqslant m-1$, and $\beta_0 \leqslant m-1$.

The following is a variation of Theorem 2.8 in [9] and Theorem 7.12 in [16], and is used in the proof of Theorem 3.2.

Theorem 2.1. *Let S be an $\mathbb{N}$-graded Cohen–Macaulay normal domain, such that the degree zero component is a field K of positive characteristic, and S is a finitely generated K-algebra. Let $\mathfrak{n}$ denote the homogeneous maximal ideal of S, and set $d := \dim S$.*

Suppose each nonzero element of $\mathfrak{n}$ has a power that is a test element, and that there exists an integer $n > 0$ such that the Frobenius action on

$$[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{\leqslant -n}$$

is injective. Then the tight closure of zero in $H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$ is contained in $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{>-n}$.

Proof. The hypotheses ensure that S has a homogeneous system of parameters $x_1, \dots, x_d$, where each x_i is a test element; we compute local cohomology using a Čech complex on such a homogeneous system of parameters. Suppose the assertion of the theorem is false; then there exists a nonzero homogeneous element η in $0^*_{H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)}$ with $\deg \eta \leqslant -n$. After possibly replacing the x_i by powers, we may assume that

$$\eta = \left[\frac{s}{x_1 \cdots x_d}\right],$$

for s a homogeneous element of S. Since each x_i is a test element, one has

$$x_i s^q \in (x_1^q, \dots, x_d^q)$$

for each $q = p^e$, and hence

$$s^q \in (x_1^q, \dots, x_d^q) :_R (x_1, \dots, x_d) = (x_1^q, \dots, x_d^q) + (x_1 \cdots x_d)^{q-1},$$

where the equality is because $x_1, \dots, x_d$ is a regular sequence. Since $F^e(\eta)$ is nonzero in view of the injectivity of the Frobenius action on $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{\leqslant -n}$, one has

$$s^q \notin (x_1^q, \dots, x_d^q).$$

This implies that $\deg s^q \geqslant \deg(x_1 \cdots x_d)^{q-1}$ for each $q = p^e$, which translates as

$$\deg s \geqslant \frac{q-1}{q} \deg(x_1 \cdots x_d).$$

Taking the limit $e \to \infty$ gives

$$\deg s \geqslant \deg(x_1 \cdots x_d),$$

so $\deg \eta \geqslant 0$. This contradicts $\deg \eta \leqslant -n < 0$. ∎

A ring S is *standard graded* if it is $\mathbb{N}$-graded, with the degree zero component being a field K, such that S is generated as a K-algebra by finitely many elements of S_1.

While Theorem 2.1 requires the injectivity of the Frobenius action on $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{\leqslant -n}$, additional hypotheses enable one to verify the injectivity of Frobenius on *one* graded component; the following corollary will be used in the proof of Theorem 3.2. Following [10], the *a-invariant* of a Cohen–Macaulay graded ring S, as in Theorem 2.1, is

$$a(S) := \max\{i \in \mathbb{Z} \mid [H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_i \neq 0\}.$$

Corollary 2.2. *Let S be a standard graded Gorenstein normal domain, of characteristic $p > 0$, such that the homogeneous maximal ideal $\mathfrak{n}$ is an isolated singular point. Set $d := \dim S$. Suppose $a(S) < 0$, and that there exists an integer n with $-n \leqslant a(S)$ such that the Frobenius action*

$$F\colon [H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-n} \to [H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-np}$$

is injective. Then the Veronese subring $S^{(n)}$ is F-rational.

Proof. Because $\mathfrak{n}$ is an isolated singular point, each nonzero element of $\mathfrak{n}$ has a power that is a test element, and Theorem 2.1 is applicable. Since S is Gorenstein, each nonzero homogeneous element η of $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{\leqslant -n}$ has a nonzero multiple $s\eta$ in the socle of $H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$, which is the graded component $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{a(S)}$. As S is standard graded, such a multiplier $s \in S$ can be chosen to be a product of elements of degree one, therefore η has a nonzero multiple $s'\eta$ in $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-n}$. Since $F(s'\eta)$ is nonzero, so is $F(\eta)$. It follows that the Frobenius action on $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{\leqslant -n}$ is injective, so Theorem 2.1 implies that the tight closure of zero in $H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$ is contained in $[H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{>-n}$.

Set $R := S^{(n)}$. The hypotheses $-n \leqslant a(S) < 0$ give

$$H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) \subseteq [H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{\leqslant -n}$$

where $\mathfrak{m}$ is the homogeneous maximal ideal of R. As the tight closure of zero in $H^d_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ is contained in the tight closure of zero in $H^d_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$, the assertion follows. ∎

3. The examples

Theorem 3.1. *Fix a prime integer $p > 0$. Let $t_1, \dots, t_p$ be indeterminates over the field $\mathbb{F}_p$ and set $K := \mathbb{F}_p(t_1, \dots, t_p)$. Consider the hypersurface*

$$S := K[x_0, \dots, x_p] / (x_0^p - t_1 x_1^p - \cdots - t_p\, x_p^p)$$

with the standard $\mathbb{N}$-grading, and its p-th Veronese subring $R := S^{(p)}$. Then:

1. *The ring R is F-rational.*
2. *The rings $R \otimes_K K^{1/p}$ and $R \otimes_K \overline{K}$ are not F-injective, hence not F-rational.*
3. *The enveloping algebra $R \otimes_K R$ is not F-injective, hence not F-rational.*

Proof. First consider the hypersurface

$$A := \mathbb{F}_p[t_1, \dots, t_p,\, x_0, \dots, x_p] / (x_0^p - t_1 x_1^p - \cdots - t_p\, x_p^p).$$

The Jacobian criterion shows A_{x_i} is regular for each i, so A is normal by Serre's criterion. By inverting an appropriate multiplicative set in A, one obtains the ring S, which therefore is also normal. Since R is a pure subring of the finite extension ring S, it follows that R is normal and Cohen–Macaulay.

Note that S is not F-injective: set $\mathfrak{n}$ to be the homogeneous maximal ideal of S; computing local cohomology $H^p_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$ using a Čech complex on the system of parameters $x_1, \ldots, x_p$ for S, the cohomology class

$$\left[\frac{x_0}{x_1 \cdots x_p}\right] \in H^p_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$$

maps to zero under the Frobenius action on $H^p_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$. We shall see that the Frobenius action on $H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$, with $\mathfrak{m}$ the homogeneous maximal ideal of R, is however injective.

First note that $[H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)]_{-p}$ is the socle of $H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$: it is the highest degree component, and any nonzero homogeneous element $\eta \in H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ has a nonzero multiple $s\eta$ in the socle of $H^p_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)$, which is $[H^p_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-1}$; but then it has a nonzero multiple $s'\eta$ in

$$[H^p_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-p} = [H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)]_{-p},$$

for s, s' homogeneous in S, in which case degree considerations imply that $s' \in R$.

To verify that the Frobenius action F on $H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ is injective, it suffices to prove the injectivity of F on the socle $[H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)]_{-p}$ which, following (2.3), is the K-vector space spanned by the cohomology classes

$$\eta_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} := \left[\frac{x_0^{\alpha_1+\cdots+\alpha_p}}{x_1^{\alpha_1+1} \cdots x_p^{\alpha_p+1}}\right] \in [H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)]_{-p},$$

where each α_i is a nonnegative integer, $\sum \alpha_i \leqslant p-1$, and $\boldsymbol{\alpha} := (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_p)$. Since

$$x_0^p = t_1 x_1^p + \cdots + t_p x_p^p$$

in the ring S, one has

$$F(\eta_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) = \left[\frac{(t_1 x_1^p + \cdots + t_p x_p^p)^{\sum \alpha_i}}{x_1^{p\alpha_1+p} \cdots x_p^{p\alpha_p+p}}\right] = \frac{(\sum \alpha_i)!}{\alpha_1! \cdots \alpha_p!}\left[\frac{t_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots t_p^{\alpha_p}}{x_1^p \cdots x_p^p}\right], \tag{3.1}$$

where the latter equality uses the pigeonhole principle. The elements $t_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots t_p^{\alpha_p}$ of K, as $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ varies subject to the conditions above, are linearly independent over the subfield K^p. It follows that for any nonzero K-linear combination η of the elements $\eta_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$, one has $F(\eta) \neq 0$. This proves that the ring R is F-injective.

One may now use Corollary 2.2 to conclude that R is F-rational; alternatively, one can also argue as follows: equation (3.1) shows that the image of $[H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)]_{-p}$ under F lies in the K-span of the cohomology class

$$\mu := \left[\frac{1}{x_1^p \cdots x_p^p}\right],$$

so it suffices to verify that μ does not belong to the tight closure of zero in $H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$. This holds since no nonzero homogeneous form in R annihilates

$$F^e(\mu) = \left[\frac{1}{x_1^{p^{e+1}} \cdots x_p^{p^{e+1}}}\right]$$

for each $e \geqslant 0$.

For (2), let $\overline{R}$ denote either of $R \otimes_K K^{1/p}$ or $R \otimes_K \overline{K}$. Note that

$$t_2^{1/p}\left[\frac{x_0}{x_1^2 x_2 \cdots x_p}\right] - t_1^{1/p}\left[\frac{x_0}{x_1 x_2^2 x_3 \cdots x_p}\right]$$

is a nonzero element of $H^p_{\mathfrak{m}}(\overline{R})$, since it is a nontrivial linear combination of basis elements as in (2.3). However, its image under the Frobenius action is

$$\begin{aligned} t_2\left[\frac{t_1 x_1^p + \cdots + t_p x_p^p}{x_1^{2p} x_2^p \cdots x_p^p}\right] - t_1\left[\frac{t_1 x_1^p + \cdots + t_p x_p^p}{x_1^p x_2^{2p} x_3^p \cdots x_p^p}\right] \\ = t_2\left[\frac{t_1}{x_1^p x_2^p \cdots x_p^p}\right] - t_1\left[\frac{t_2}{x_1^p x_2^p \cdots x_p^p}\right] \end{aligned}$$

which, of course, is zero.

Lastly, for (3), write the enveloping algebra $S \otimes_K S$ of S as

$$K[x_0, \ldots, x_p,\, y_0, \ldots, y_p] / (x_0^p - t_1 x_1^p - \cdots - t_p x_p^p,\; y_0^p - t_1 y_1^p - \cdots - t_p y_p^p),$$

with the $\mathbb{N}^2$-grading under which $\deg x_i = (1,0)$ and $\deg y_i = (0,1)$ for each i. Then

$$R \otimes_K R = \bigoplus_{k,l \in \mathbb{N}} [S \otimes_K S]_{(pk,pl)}.$$

Note that $R \otimes_K R$ admits a standard grading; let $\mathfrak{M}$ denote its homogeneous maximal ideal. Then $\mathfrak{M}(S \otimes_K S)$ is primary to $\mathfrak{N} := (x_0, \ldots, x_p,\, y_0, \ldots, y_p)$, the homogeneous maximal ideal of $S \otimes_K S$, and

$$H^{2p}_{\mathfrak{M}}(R \otimes_K R) = \bigoplus_{k,l \in \mathbb{N}} [H^{2p}_{\mathfrak{N}}(S \otimes_K S)]_{(pk,pl)}.$$

The cohomology class

$$\left[\frac{x_0 y_1 - x_1 y_0}{x_1^2 x_2 \cdots x_p\, y_1^2 y_2 \cdots y_p}\right] \in H^{2p}_{\mathfrak{M}}(R \otimes_K R)$$

is nonzero since it is a nontrivial linear combination of basis elements as in (2.4); however, it is readily seen to be in the kernel of the Frobenius action. ∎

Note that $R \otimes_K K^{1/p}$ and $R \otimes_K \overline{K}$ in the previous theorem are not reduced: for example,

$$(x_0 - t_1^{1/p} x_1 - \cdots - t_p^{1/p} x_p)\, x_1 \cdots x_{p-1}$$

is a nonzero nilpotent element. This gives an alternative proof of (2), since F-injective rings are reduced by Remark 2.6 in [20].

In the examples provided by Theorem 3.1, the transcendence degree of K over $\mathbb{F}_p$ increases with p; for the interested reader, the following theorem gets around this, though the proof is perhaps more technical.

Theorem 3.2. *Fix a prime integer $p > 0$. Let t be an indeterminate over the field $\mathbb{F}_p$ and set $K := \mathbb{F}_p(t)$. Consider the hypersurface*

$$S := K[w, x, y, z_1, \dots, z_{p-1}] / \left(w^{p+1} - tx^{p+1} - xy^p - \sum\nolimits_{i=1}^{p-1} z_i^{p+1}\right)$$

with the standard $\mathbb{N}$-grading, and set $R := S^{(p)}$. Then:

(1) *The ring R is F-rational.*

(2) *The rings $R \otimes_K K^{1/p}$ and $R \otimes_K \overline{K}$ are not F-injective, hence not F-rational.*

(3) *The enveloping algebra $R \otimes_K R$ is not F-injective, hence not F-rational.*

Proof. We begin with the hypersurface

$$A := \mathbb{F}_p[t, w, x, y, z_1, \dots, z_{p-1}] / \left(w^{p+1} - tx^{p+1} - xy^p - \sum\nolimits_i z_i^{p+1}\right).$$

The Jacobian criterion shows that, up to radical, the defining ideal of the singular locus of A contains $(w, x, y, z_1, \dots, z_{p-1})$. The ring S is obtained from A by inverting an appropriate multiplicative set; it follows that S has an isolated singular point at its homogeneous maximal ideal $\mathfrak{n}$. In particular, S is normal by Serre's criterion.

To prove that R is F-rational, it suffices by Corollary 2.2 to verify that

$$F : [H^{p+1}_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-p} \to [H^{p+1}_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-p^2} \tag{3.2}$$

is injective. Using the Čech complex on $x, y, z_1 \dots, z_{p-1}$, the vector space $[H^{p+1}_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-p}$ has a K-basis, as in (2.3), consisting of cohomology classes

$$\eta_{\alpha,\beta,\boldsymbol{\gamma}} := \left[\frac{w^{1+\alpha+\beta+\sum\gamma_i}}{x^{\alpha+1}\, y^{\beta+1} \prod_i z_i^{\gamma_i+1}}\right],$$

where $\alpha, \beta, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{p-1}$ are nonnegative integers with $\alpha + \beta + \sum \gamma_i \leqslant p - 1$. The ring S admits a $(\mathbb{Z}/(p+1))^{p+1}$-grading with

$$\deg z_i = e_i, \quad \deg w = e_p \quad \text{and} \quad \deg x = e_{p+1} = \deg y,$$

where $e_1, \dots, e_{p+1}$ denote standard basis vectors modulo $p + 1$. Since $\gcd(p,\ p+1) = 1$, the action (3.2) maps distinct multigraded components to distinct multigraded components, so it suffices to verify the injectivity componentwise. Note that

$$\deg \eta_{\alpha,\beta,\boldsymbol{\gamma}} = \Big(-\gamma_1 - 1, \dots, -\gamma_{p-1} - 1, 1 + \alpha + \beta + \sum_i \gamma_i, -\alpha - \beta - 2\Big)$$

with respect to the multigrading. Thus, for fixed nonnegative integers k and γ_i with

$$0 \leqslant k + \sum_i \gamma_i \leqslant p - 1,$$

a homogeneous element of $[H^{p+1}_{\mathfrak{n}}(S)]_{-p}$ with multidegree

$$\Big(-\gamma_1 - 1,\ \dots,\ -\gamma_{p-1} - 1,\ 1 + k + \sum_i \gamma_i,\ -k - 2\Big)$$

has the form

$$\sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} c_\alpha\, \eta_{\alpha,\beta,\boldsymbol{\gamma}},$$

where α and β are nonnegative integers with $\alpha+\beta=k$, and $c_\alpha \in K$.

Set $m := k + \sum \gamma_i$, and suppose that the above element

$$\sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} c_\alpha\, \eta_{\alpha,\beta,\boldsymbol{\gamma}} = \sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} c_\alpha x^\beta y^\alpha \left[\frac{w^{m+1}}{x^{k+1}\, y^{k+1} \prod_i z_i^{\gamma_i+1}}\right] \tag{3.3}$$

belongs to the kernel of the Frobenius action. Then

$$\Big(\sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} c_\alpha^p x^{\beta p} y^{\alpha p}\Big) w^{(m+1)p}$$

belongs to the ideal

$$\big(x^{(k+1)p}, y^{(k+1)p}, z_1^{(\gamma_1+1)p}, \dots, z_{p-1}^{(\gamma_{p-1}+1)p}\big) S.$$

Since $w^{(m+1)p} = w^{p-m}\, w^{(p+1)m}$ and $1 \leqslant p-m \leqslant p$, it follows that

$$\Big(\sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} c_\alpha^p x^{\beta p} y^{\alpha p}\Big)\Big(t x^{p+1} + x y^p + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} z_i^{p+1}\Big)^m \tag{3.4}$$

belongs to the monomial ideal

$$\big(x^{(k+1)p}, y^{(k+1)p}, z_1^{(\gamma_1+1)p}, \dots, z_{p-1}^{(\gamma_{p-1}+1)\,p}\big) \tag{3.5}$$

in the polynomial ring $K[x, y, z_1, \dots, z_{p-1}]$. Bearing in mind that $m = k + \sum \gamma_i$, the terms in the multinomial expansion of (3.4) that include the monomial

$$\prod_i z_i^{(p+1)\,\gamma_i}$$

constitute the polynomial

$$\binom{m}{k, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{p-1}} \Big(\sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} c_\alpha^p x^{\beta p} y^{\alpha p}\Big) (t x^{p+1} + x y^p)^k \prod_i z_i^{(p+1)\gamma_i}$$

which, therefore, also belongs to the monomial ideal (3.5). But then

$$\Big(\sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} c_\alpha^p x^{\beta p} y^{\alpha p}\Big) (t x^{p+1} + x y^p)^k \in \big(x^{(k+1)p}, y^{(k+1)p}\big)$$

in the polynomial ring $K[x, y]$. This implies that the coefficient of $x^{kp+k} y^{kp}$ in the polynomial above must be zero, i.e., that

$$\sum_{\alpha+\beta=k} \binom{k}{\alpha} c_\alpha^p\, t^\alpha = 0.$$

Since $c_\alpha^p \in K^p$ for each α, and $k < [K^p(t) : K^p] = p$, this forces each c_α to be zero. But then the element (3.3) is zero, so the map (3.2) is indeed injective as claimed. This completes the proof of (1).

For (2), let $\mathfrak{m}$ denote the homogeneous maximal ideal of R, and let $\overline{R}$ denote either of $R \otimes_K K^{1/p}$ or $R \otimes_K \overline{K}$. Then

$$\left[\frac{w^2}{x^2 y \prod_i z_i}\right] - t^{1/p}\left[\frac{w^2}{xy^2 \prod_i z_i}\right] \in H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{p+1}(\overline{R})$$

is a nontrivial linear combination of basis elements as in (2.3). The ring $\overline{R}$ is not F-injective since under the Frobenius action on $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{p+1}(\overline{R})$, this element maps to

$$\left[\frac{w^{p-1}tx}{x^p y^p \prod_i z_i^p}\right] - t\left[\frac{w^{p-1}x}{x^p y^p \prod_i z_i^p}\right] = 0.$$

For (3), use w', x', y', z_i' for the second copy of S, and proceed as in the proof of Theorem 3.1. Using $\mathfrak{M}$ for the homogeneous maximal ideal of $R \otimes_K R$, the cohomology class

$$\left[\frac{(ww')^2\,(x'y - xy')}{(xx'yy')^2 \prod_i z_i \prod_i z_i'}\right] \in H_{\mathfrak{M}}^{2p+2}(R \otimes_K R)$$

is a nontrivial linear combination of basis elements as in (2.4), and is in the kernel of the Frobenius action on $H_{\mathfrak{M}}^{2p+2}(R \otimes_K R)$. It follows then that the ring $R \otimes_K R$ is not F-injective. ■

Theorem 1.1 follows readily from the results of this section.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let K and R be as in Theorem 3.1 or in Theorem 3.2, and let $S := R \otimes_K K^{1/p}$ or $R \otimes_K \overline{K}$. An example is then obtained after localizing at the homogeneous maximal ideals; note that the closed fiber is the field $K^{1/p}$ or $\overline{K}$ in the respective cases. ■

Acknowledgments. We are grateful to Ofer Gabber, Linquan Ma, Karl Schwede, and Kei-ichi Watanabe for helpful conversations, and to the referees for a number of useful comments and suggestions.

Funding. E. Quinlan-Gallego was supported by the NSF RTG grant DMS 1840190 and NSF postdoctoral fellowship DMS 2203065, A. Simpson by NSF postdoctoral fellowship DMS 2202890, and A. K. Singh by NSF grants DMS 1801285, DMS 2101671, and DMS 2349623.

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Received July 26, 2023; revised May 21, 2024.

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