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**Title:** Families of Gorenstein and almost Gorenstein rings

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**Abstract:** Starting with a commutative ring  $R$  and an ideal  $I$ , it is possible to define a family of rings  $R(I)_{a,b}$ , with  $a, b \in R$ , as quotients of the Rees algebra  $\bigoplus_{n \geq 0} I^n t^n$ ; among the rings appearing in this family we find Nagata's idealization and amalgamated duplication. Many properties of these rings depend only on  $R$  and  $I$  and not on  $a, b$ ; in this talk I will focus on the Gorenstein and the almost Gorenstein properties, showing that they are independent of  $a, b$ . I will also give some applications to monomial curves and to algebroid branches.