

Normality of Monomial Ideals

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Abstract

Given the monomial ideal $I = (x_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, x_n^{\alpha_n}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ where α_i are positive integers and K a field and let J be the integral closure of I . It is a challenging problem to translate the question of the normality of J into a question about the exponent set $\Gamma(J)$ and the Newton polyhedron $NP(J)$. A relaxed version of this problem is to give necessary or sufficient conditions on $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ for the normality of J . We show that if $\alpha_i \in \{s, l\}$ with s and l arbitrary positive integers, then J is normal.

Introduction

Let I be an ideal in a Noetherian ring R . The integral closure of I is the ideal \bar{I} that consists of all elements of R that satisfy an equation of the form

$$x^n + a_1 x^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} x + a_n = 0, \quad a_i \in I^i$$

The ideal I is said to be integrally closed if $I = \bar{I}$. Clearly one has that $I \subseteq \bar{I} \subseteq \sqrt{I}$. An ideal is called normal if all of its positive powers are integrally closed. It is known that if R is a normal integral domain, then the Rees algebra $R[It] = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I^n t^n$ is normal if and only if I is a normal ideal of R . This brings up the importance of normality of ideals as the Rees algebra is the algebraic counterpart of blowing up a scheme along a closed subscheme.

It is well known that the integral closure of monomial ideal in a polynomial ring is again a monomial ideal, see [SH] or [Vit] for a proof. The problem of finding the integral closure for a monomial ideal I reduces to finding monomials r , integer i and monomials m_1, m_2, \dots, m_i in I such that $r^i + m_1 m_2 \dots m_i = 0$, see [SH]. Geometrically, finding the integral closure of monomial ideals I in $R = K[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ is the same as finding all the integer lattice points in the convex hull $NP(I)$ (the Newton polyhedron of I) in \mathbb{R}^n of $\Gamma(I)$ (the Newton polytope of I) where $\Gamma(I)$ is the set of all exponent vectors of all the monomials in I . This makes computing the integral closure of monomial ideals simpler.

A power of an integrally closed monomial ideal need not be integrally closed. For example, let J be the integral closure of $I = (x^4, y^5, z^7) \subset K[x, y, z]$. Then J^2 is not integrally closed (observe that $y^3 z^3 \in J$ as $(y^3 z^3)^5 = y^{15} y^5 y^5 z^7 z^8 \in I^5$. Now $x^2 y^4 z^5 \in \bar{J}^2$ since $(x^2 y^4 z^5)^2 = (x^4 \cdot y^5) (y^3 z^3 \cdot z^7) \in (J^2)^2$. On the other hand we used the algebra software Singular [GPS05] to show that $x^2 y^4 z^5 \notin J^2$). However, a nice result of Reid et al. [RRV, Proposition 3.1] states that if the first $n - 1$ powers of a monomial ideal, in a polynomial ring of n variables over a field, are integrally closed, then the ideal is normal. For the case

$n = 2$ this follows from the celebrated theorem of Zariski [ZS] that asserts that the product of integrally closed ideals in a 2-dimensional regular ring is again integrally closed.

In general, there is no good characterization for normal monomial ideals. It is a challenging problem to translate the question of normality of a monomial ideal I into a question about the exponent set $\Gamma(I)$ and the Newton polyhedron $NP(I)$. Under certain hypotheses, some necessary conditions are given. Faridi [Far] gives necessary conditions on the degree of the generators of a normal ideal in a graded domain. Vitulli [Vit] investigated the normality for special monomial ideals in a polynomial ring over a field.

For $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ let $I(\alpha)$ be the integral closure of $(x_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, x_n^{\alpha_n}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. Reid et. al. [RRV] showed that if $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ with pairwise relatively prime entries, then the ideal $I(\alpha)$ is normal if and only if the additive submonoid $\Lambda = \langle 1/\alpha_1, \dots, 1/\alpha_n \rangle$ of \mathbb{Q}_{\geq} is quasinormal, that is, whenever $x \in \Lambda$ and $x \geq p$ for some $p \in \mathbb{N}$, there exist rational numbers y_1, \dots, y_p in Λ with $y_i \geq 1$ for all i such that $x = y_1 + \dots + y_p$. Thus for the case where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ are pairwise relatively prime, the normality condition on the n -dimensional monoid is reduced to the quasinormality condition on the 1-dimensional monoid. Another nice result of Reid et. al. [RRV] is that the monomial ideal $I(\alpha)$ is normal if $\gcd(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) > n - 2$. In particular, if $n = 3$ and $\gcd(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3) \neq 1$, then $I(\alpha)$ is normal. Therefore, in $k[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ it remains to investigate the normality of $I(\alpha)$ whenever $\gcd(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3) = 1$ and the integers are not pairwise relatively prime.

A important result of Reid et. al. [RRV], which we use to improve our result in this paper, is as following. Choose i and set $c = \text{lcm}(\alpha_1, \dots, \hat{\alpha}_i, \dots, \alpha_n)$. Put $\alpha' = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-1}, \alpha_i + c, \alpha_{i+1}, \dots, \alpha_n)$. If $I(\alpha')$ is normal then $I(\alpha)$ is normal. Conversely, If $I(\alpha)$ is normal and $\alpha_i \geq c$, then $I(\alpha')$ is normal.

The goal of this paper is to show that the integral closure of the ideal $(x_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, x_n^{\alpha_n}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is normal provided that $\alpha_i \in \{s, l\}$ with s and l arbitrary positive integers. The following theorem provide us with a technique that we mainly depend on to prove the integral closedness.

Theorem 1 (Proposition 15.4.1, [SH]) *Let I be a monomial ideal in the polynomial ring $R = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ with K a field. If I is primary to (x_1, \dots, x_n) and $\bar{I} \cap (I : (x_1, \dots, x_n)) \subseteq I$, then I is integrally closed.*

Proposition 2 (Corollary 5.3.2, [SH]) *If $I \subseteq J$ are ideals in a ring R , then $J \subseteq \bar{I}$ if and only if each element in some generating set of J is integral over I .*

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Let $(x_1^s, \dots, x_m^s, y_1^l, \dots, y_n^l) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n]$ with K a field, x_i and y_i indeterminates over K , and s and l positive integers such that (without loss of generality) $l \geq s$.

Notation 3 *For the remaining of this paper fix positive integers s and l with $l \geq s$ and let $\lambda_a = \left\lceil a \frac{l}{s} \right\rceil$ where a is any integer. Also, let k be any positive integer.*

Let x and y be positive integers and write $x = ts + r$ with $1 \leq r \leq s$. Then $y \left\lceil \frac{x}{s} \right\rceil = y \frac{x + s - r}{s} = y \frac{s - r}{s} + y \frac{x}{s} \leq y \frac{s - r}{s} + \left\lceil y \frac{x}{s} \right\rceil$. Therefore, $\left\lceil y \frac{x}{s} \right\rceil \geq y \left(\left\lceil \frac{x}{s} \right\rceil - \frac{s - r}{s} \right)$. This inequality helps to prove the following lemma which is a key in this paper.

Lemma 4 *If $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, ks\}$, then $kl(ks - i - 1) + \lambda_i \geq (ks - i)(\lambda_{ks-1} - \frac{s-r}{s})$, where $(ks - 1)l = ts + r$ with $1 \leq r \leq s$.*

Proof. By the note before the lemma we have $kl(ks - i - 1) + \lambda_i = \left\lceil \frac{[ks(ks-i-1)+i]l}{s} \right\rceil = \left\lceil (ks - i) \frac{(ks-1)l}{s} \right\rceil \geq (ks - i) \left(\left\lceil \frac{(ks-1)l}{s} \right\rceil - \frac{s-r}{s} \right) = (ks - i) \left(\lambda_{ks-1} - \frac{s-r}{s} \right)$. ■

Definition 5 *Let $F_k = \{x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-a}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}} \mid a = 0, 1, 2, \dots, ks, 1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_{ks-a} \leq m, \text{ and } 1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_a} \leq n\}$, J_k the ideal generated by all the monomials in F_k , and $I_k = (x_1^{ks}, \dots, x_m^{ks}, y_1^{kl}, \dots, y_n^{kl}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n]$. Also, let $J = J_1$, $F = F_1$, and $I = I_1$.*

Lemma 6 *J_k is integral over the ideal I_k , that is, $J_k \subseteq \overline{I_k}$.*

Proof. By Proposition 2 it suffices to show that every element of F_k is integral over I_k . Note $x_{i_1}^{ksl} \cdots x_{i_{ks-a}}^{ksl} \in I_k^{l(ks-a)}$ and $y_{j_1}^{ksl} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}}^{ksl} \in I_k^{s\lambda_a}$. Also note $l(ks-a) + s\lambda_a = ksl - la + s \left\lceil \frac{l}{s} \right\rceil \geq ksl$. Therefore, $(x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-a}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}})^{ksl} \in I_k^{ksl}$. ■

The figure below is an illustration of $J_3 \subset K[x, y, z]$ with $s = 2, l = 7$ and $I = (x^s, y^s, z^l)$. In this case $I_3 = (x^{3s}, y^{3s}, z^{3l}) = (x^6, y^6, z^{21})$ and $F_3 = \{x^i y^j z^{\lambda_6 - (i+j)} \mid i+j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 \text{ and } \lambda_6 = \left\lceil \frac{7a}{2} \right\rceil\}$. The elements of F_3 are represented by black circles. From the figure it is clear that the set F_3 minimally generates $\overline{I_3}$.

Later we will prove that J_k is the integral closure of I_k .

Lemma 7 $J^k = J_k$.

Proof. We show $J_k J = J_{k+1}$. Let $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{s-a}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}} \in F$ and $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-b}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_b}} \in F_k$. Multiplying these two monomials we get $x_{h_1} \cdots x_{h_{(k+1)s-(b+a)}} y_{t_1} \cdots y_{t_{\lambda_a+\lambda_b}}$ (with $1 \leq h_1 \leq h_2 \leq \dots \leq m$ and $1 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq \dots \leq n$). This is a multiple of $x_{h_1} \cdots x_{h_{(k+1)s-(b+a)}} y_{t_1} \cdots y_{t_{\lambda_a+\lambda_b}} \in J_{k+1}$ as $\lambda_{a+b} \leq \lambda_a + \lambda_b$. To show the other inclusion let $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{(k+1)s-a}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}} \in F_{k+1}$.

If $a \geq ks$, write $a = ks + r$ with $0 \leq r \leq s$, then $\lambda_a = \lambda_{ks+r} = \left[(ks+r) \frac{l}{s} \right] = kl + \lambda_r$. Thus this monomial equals $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{s-r}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_r+kl}}$. But $y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{kl}} \in F_k$ and $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{s-r}} y_{j_{kl+1}} \cdots y_{j_{kl+\lambda_r}} \in F$ as $0 \leq s-r \leq s$. If $a < ks$, then $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{(k+1)s-a}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}} = x_{t_1} \cdots x_{t_s} x_{h_1} \cdots x_{h_{ks-a}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}} \in J J_k$ as $x_{t_1} \cdots x_{t_s} \in J$ and $x_{h_1} \cdots x_{h_{ks-a}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_a}} \in J_k$. ■

The main goal of this paper is to prove the following theorem

Theorem 8 *The integral closure of the ideal $(x_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, x_n^{\alpha_n}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is normal, where $\alpha_i \in \{s, l\}$ with s and l arbitrary positive integers. Or equivalently, the ideal J is normal.*

By Lemma 6 and since $I_k \subseteq J_k$ we have

$$I_k \subseteq J_k \subseteq \overline{I_k} \subseteq \overline{J_k}$$

We will use Theorem 1 to show that J_k is integrally closed, hence J_k is the integral closure of I_k . Therefore we need the following.

Remark 9 *Let $R = K[x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n]$. For $1 \leq i \leq m$, it is easy to see that $(J_k : (x_i))/J_k$ is generated by $\{z_{i_1} \cdots z_{i_{ks-a-1}} w_{j_1} \cdots w_{j_{\lambda_a}} \mid a = 0, \dots, ks-1; 1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_{ks-a-1} \leq m \text{ and } 1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_a} \leq n\}$ where z_i and w_i are the images of x_i and y_i , respectively, in R/J_k . Also, for $1 \leq j \leq n$ note that $(J_k : (y_j))/J_k$ is generated by $\{z_{i_1} \cdots z_{i_{ks-b}} w_{j_1} \cdots w_{j_{\lambda_b-1}} \mid b = 1, \dots, ks; 1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_{ks-b} \leq m \text{ and } 1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_b} \leq n\}$. As the intersection of two monomial ideals is generated by the set of the least common multiples of the generators of the two ideals, it follows that $(J_k : (x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n))/J_k$ is generated by $\{z_{i_1} \cdots z_{i_{ks-e}} w_{j_1} \cdots w_{j_{\lambda_e-1}} \mid e = 1, \dots, ks; 1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_{ks-e} \leq m \text{ and } 1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_e} \leq n\}$.*

Lemma 10 *The ideal J_k is integrally closed.*

Proof. By Theorem 1 we need to show that none of the preimages, in $K[x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n]$, of the monomial generators of $(J_k : (x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n))/J_k$ is in $\overline{J_k}$. Assume not, that is, assume $\sigma = x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-e}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_e-1}} \in \overline{J_k}$ for some $e \in \{1, \dots, ks\}$. This implies $\sigma^d \in J_k^d$ for some positive integer d , thus $\sigma^d = x_{i_1}^d x_{i_2}^d \cdots x_{i_{ks-e}}^d y_{j_1}^d \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_e-1}}^d$ equals the following product of products of the generators of J_k

$$\beta \prod_{1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{kl} \leq n} (y_{j_1} y_{j_2} \cdots y_{j_{kl}})^{c_{j_1, \dots, j_{kl}}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \prod_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 \leq m \\ 1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_{ks-1}} \leq n}} (x_{i_1} y_{j_1} y_{j_2} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_{ks-1}}})^{l_{i_1, j_1, \dots, j_{\lambda_{ks-1}}}} \\
& \prod_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq m \\ 1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_{ks-2}} \leq n}} (x_{i_1} x_{i_2} y_{j_1} y_{j_2} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_{ks-2}}})^{l_{i_1, i_2, j_1, \dots, j_{\lambda_{ks-2}}}} \\
& \vdots \\
& \prod_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_{ks-2} \leq m \\ 1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_2} \leq n}} (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-2}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_2}})^{l_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{ks-2}, j_1, \dots, j_{\lambda_2}}} \\
& \prod_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_{ks-1} \leq m \\ 1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_1} \leq n}} (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-1}} y_{j_1} \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_1}})^{l_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{ks-1}, j_1, \dots, j_{\lambda_1}}} \\
& \prod_{1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_{ks} \leq m} (x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_{ks}})^{l_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{ks}}}
\end{aligned}$$

where β is some monomial, $c_{j_1, \dots, j_{kl}}$ and $l_{i_1, \dots, i_t, j_1, \dots, j_{\lambda_{ks-t}}}$ (with $1 \leq t \leq ks$) are non-negative integers. For $1 \leq t \leq ks$ let $L_t = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_t \leq m \\ 1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{\lambda_{ks-t}} \leq n}} l_{i_1, \dots, i_t, j_1, \dots, j_{\lambda_{ks-t}}}$ and let

$C = \sum_{1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{kl} \leq n} c_{j_1, \dots, j_{kl}}$. By summing powers we have

$$L_{ks} + L_{ks-1} + \cdots + L_3 + L_2 + L_1 + C = d \quad (1)$$

Also, by the total-degree count of the monomial $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-e}}$ we have the following equality

$$(ks)L_{ks} + (ks-1)L_{ks-1} + \cdots + 3L_3 + 2L_2 + L_1 + \varepsilon = (ks-e)d \quad (2)$$

where ε is the total-degree of the monomial $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_{ks-e}}$ in β . By the total-degree count of the monomial $y_1 \cdots y_{j_{\lambda_e-1}}$ we must have the following inequality

$$\lambda_1 L_{ks-1} + \lambda_2 L_{ks-2} + \cdots + \lambda_{ks-3} L_3 + \lambda_{ks-2} L_2 + \lambda_{ks-1} L_1 + Ckl \leq (\lambda_e - 1)d \quad (3)$$

We finish the proof by showing that (1), (2), and (3) can not hold simultaneously.

From (1) and (2)

$$C = (ks-1)L_{ks} + (ks-2)L_{ks-1} + \cdots + 2L_3 + L_2 + \varepsilon - (ks-e-1)d \quad (4)$$

Recall, $(ks-1)l = ts + r$ with $1 \leq r \leq s$ and $\lambda_{ks-1} < \lambda_{ks} = kl$. Now consider the left-hand

side of (3)

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lambda_1 L_{ks-1} + \lambda_2 L_{ks-2} + \cdots + \lambda_{ks-3} L_3 + \lambda_{ks-2} L_2 + \lambda_{ks-1} L_1 + Ckl \\
= & \left[\sum_{i=0}^{ks-1} [kl(ks-1-i) + \lambda_i] L_{ks-i} \right] + \varepsilon kl - kl(ks-e-1)d \quad (\text{By (4)}) \\
\geq & \left[\sum_{i=0}^{ks-1} (ks-i) \left(\lambda_{ks-1} - \frac{s-r}{s} \right) L_{ks-i} \right] + \varepsilon kl - kl(ks-e-1)d \quad (\text{by Lemma 4}) \\
\geq & \left(\lambda_{ks-1} - \frac{s-r}{s} \right) (ks-e)d - kl(ks-e-1)d \quad (\text{By (2)}) \\
= & \frac{(ks-1)l}{s} (ks-e)d - kl(ks-e-1)d \\
= & \left(\frac{e}{s} \right) d \\
> & (\lambda_e - 1)d.
\end{aligned}$$

This is a contradiction to (3) as required. ■

Proof. (of Theorem 8) The proof follows by the above lemma and Lemma 7. ■

We have already proved that if $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ with the entries of α consisting of two positive integers, then $I(\alpha)$, the integral closure of $(x_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, x_n^{\alpha_n}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, is normal. Noting that the ideal $I(x^4, y^5, z^7) \subset K[x, y, z]$ is not normal, the following question arises: when is $I(\alpha)$ normal provided that α consists of three distinct positive integers? In the proposition below we give a partial answer for this question.

Theorem 11 (Theorem 5.1, [RRV]) Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$, $c = \text{lcm}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1})$. Let $I(\alpha)$ be the integral closure of $(x_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, x_n^{\alpha_n}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ and $I(\alpha')$ the integral closure of $(x_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, x_{n-1}^{\alpha_{n-1}}, x_n^{\alpha_n+c}) \subset K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. If $I(\alpha')$ is normal, then $I(\alpha)$ is normal. Conversely, if $I(\alpha)$ is normal and $\alpha_n \geq c$, then $I(\alpha')$ is normal.

Proposition 12 If $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ with $\alpha_i \in \{s, l\}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$ such that s divides l and l divides α_n , then $I(\alpha)$ is normal.

Proof. We proceed by induction on the integer $q = \alpha_n/l$. By Theorem 8 the ideal $I(\alpha)$ is normal whenever $q = 1$. Note $l = \text{lcm}\{s, l\}$ as s divides l . Assume $I(\alpha)$ is normal for $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, ql)$ with $\alpha_i \in \{s, l\}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$. Then by the above Theorem $I(\alpha')$ is normal where $\alpha' = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, ql+l)$. ■

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