

Numbers of Generators of Maximal Ideals in Polynomial Rings

by

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1. Introduction

The cardinality of a minimal basis of an ideal I is denoted $\nu(I)$. Let A be a polynomial ring in $n > 0$ variables with coefficients in a Noetherian (commutative with $1 \neq 0$) ring R , and let M be a maximal ideal of A . In general, $\nu(MA_M) \leq \nu(M) \leq \nu(MA_M) + 1$. In many cases, the lower bound is attained.

In [3], it is shown that equality is attained in each of the following cases: (1) A_M is not regular, (2) $M \cap R$ is maximal in R and (3) $n > 1$. Hence the problem of determining whether $\nu(M) = \nu(MA_M)$ can be studied when $M \cap R$ is not maximal, A_M is regular and $n = 1$. The purpose of this paper is to provide some conditions in which the lower bound is satisfied, when $n = 1$, A_M is regular and $M \cap R$ is not maximal.

2. Preliminaries

Definition 1. An integral domain R satisfying the following equivalent conditions is called a Dedekind domain

- 1) Every non-zero ideal of R is invertible
- 2) R is Noetherian, integrally closed, and $\dim R \leq 1$

Definition 2. A super-regular ring is a Noetherian ring such that R_p is a regular local ring for every prime ideal in R .

Definition 3. Local ring S is complete intersection if $S = R/I$, where R is regular local ring and I is generated by a regular sequence.

Lemma 1. Let $A = R[X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n]$ with a maximal ideal M and $M \cap R = P$. Then R/P is a G -domain.

Proof. $A/PA = R[X_1, \dots, X_n]/PR[X_1, \dots, X_n] \simeq R/P[X_1, \dots, X_n]$. Since M/PA is a maximal ideal of A/PA such that $M/PA \cap R/P = 0$. By [4, Theorem 24] R/P is G-domain. ///

Lemma 2. A prime ideal I is generated by a regular sequence if and only if $\nu(I) = ht(I)$.

Proof. [2].

Lemma 3. Let R be a Dedekind domain with quotient field K . Let L be a finite-dimensional over K , and let T be the integral closure of R in L . Then T is a Dedekind domain.

Proof. [4, Theorem 98]

Lemma 4. D is a UFD and $K(\theta)$ is a quadratic extension field of K , where $\theta^2 \in D$, θ^2 not divisible by the square of a prime in D . Let J be the integral closure of D in $K(\theta)$.

If $\text{char } D \neq 2$, $J = \{a + b\theta \mid a, b \in K, 2a \in D, 2b \in D, a^2 - b^2\theta^2 \in D\}$

if $\text{char } D = 2$, $J = \{a + b\theta \mid a, b \in K, a^2 - b^2\theta^2 \in D\}$

if $D = Z$, $J = \{a + b\theta \mid a, b \in Z\}$ if $\theta^2 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$

while, $J = \{(a + b\theta)/2 \mid a, b \in Z, a \equiv b \pmod{2}\}$ if $\theta^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$

Proof. [7, p.100]

Lemma 5. Let I be an ideal of a ring R . Suppose that $\text{pro. dim } I < \infty$ and I/I^2 is free over R/I . If $\nu(I) = \nu(I/I^2)$ then I is generated by a regular sequence.

Proof. [1, proposition 1]

Lemma 6. Let R be a Noetherian ring. Let $J \subset I$ be two ideals of R with $\mathcal{B}(I) = \mathcal{B}(J)$, and let $\nu(I/J) = m$. Further let $p_1, \dots, p_m \in \text{Spec}(R)$ with $I \not\subset \bigcap_{i=1}^m P_i$ be given.

Then one can find elements $a_1, \dots, a_m \in I$ such that:

a) $I = (a_1, \dots, a_m) + J$

b) $a_i \notin \bigcap_{j=1}^m P_j \ (i=1, \dots, m)$

c) If $p \in \mathcal{B}(a_1, \dots, a_m)$, $P \notin \mathcal{B}(I)$, then $ht(p) \geq m$.

In this Lemma notation $\mathcal{B}(I)$ means $\mathcal{B}(I) = \{P \in \text{Spec}(R) \mid P \supset I\}$

Proof. [5, p.142]

3. Theorems

We consider the case, the lower bound is not satisfied, when $n=1$, A_M is regular and $M \cap R$ is not maximal. Z be a integer ring is a Dedekind domain with quotient field Q . Since $X^2+5=0$, $\sqrt{5}i$ is algebraic over Q . Hence $Q(\sqrt{5}i)$ be a finite dimensional field extension over Q . By Lemma 4, $Z[\sqrt{-5}]$ is the integral closure of Z in $Q(\sqrt{5}i)$. Hence by Lemma 3, $Z[\sqrt{-5}]$ is a Dedekind domain and not a UFD. By definition 1, $Z[\sqrt{-5}]$ is a Noetherian and $\dim Z[\sqrt{-5}] \leq 1$. We consider $\mathfrak{p} = \langle 3, 1 + 2\sqrt{-5} \rangle$ in $Z[\sqrt{-5}]$. Consider $P \cap Z$. We have $3 \in P \cap Z$, and if any integer not divisible by 3 lies in $P \cap Z$ then the form is $3n+1$, where $n \in Z$, $1 \in P \cap Z$ and we have the contradiction $\mathfrak{p} = Z[\sqrt{-5}]$. Hence we see that $P \cap Z = 3Z$. Given $x, y \in Z[\sqrt{-5}]$ let u, v be integers such that $x - u \in P$, $y - v \in P$. Suppose $xy \in P$. Then $uv \in P$ and, since $uv \in Z$, we have $uv \in P \cap Z = 3Z$. Thus $u \in 3Z$ or $v \in 3Z$, so either $x \in P$ or $y \in P$. Hence P is prime. Therefore $\dim Z[\sqrt{-5}] = 1$ and $\dim Z[\sqrt{-5}][X] = 2$. Let $R = Z[\sqrt{-5}]$. $A = R[X] = Z[\sqrt{-5}][X]$. $M = \langle \{\sqrt{5}iX - 1, aX - 1 \mid a \in Z\} \rangle$. Since A/M is a field, M is a maximal in A and $M \cap R = 0$ not maximal in R . Since any Dedekind domain is super-regular, A_M is a regular. And since $P[X] \subseteq M$, $\nu(MA_M) = ht(M) = 1$. $\nu(M)$ is at least 2 and $1 = \nu(MA_M) \leq \nu(M) \leq \nu(MA_M) + 1 = 2$. Hence $\nu(M) = 2 > \nu(MA_M) = 1$.

From now on, let $A = R[X]$, where R is a Noetherian commutative ring with $1 \neq 0$ and M is a maximal ideal of A such that $M \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$ is not maximal ideal of R and $\dim R = d$.

Theorem 1. Let R be a regular local ring with the maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} . Let R/\mathfrak{p} is a complete intersection. If $\mathfrak{m}^2 \cap \mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{m}$, then $\nu(M) = \nu(MA_M)$.

Proof. Since $\mathfrak{m}^2 \cap \mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{m}$, $\nu(\mathfrak{m}) = \nu(\mathfrak{p}) + \nu(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{p})$, by [8, p.27]. And since R/\mathfrak{p} is a complete intersection, \mathfrak{p} is generated by a regular sequence, $\nu(\mathfrak{p}) = ht(\mathfrak{p})$. Because R is regular, R is Cohen-Macaulay ring, $ht(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{p}) = ht(\mathfrak{m}) - ht(\mathfrak{p})$. Since R is regular and $\nu(\mathfrak{p}) = ht(\mathfrak{p})$, $\nu(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{p}) = \nu(\mathfrak{m}) - \nu(\mathfrak{p}) = ht(\mathfrak{m}) - ht(\mathfrak{p})$. We obtain $\nu(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{p}) = ht(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{p})$. Hence R/\mathfrak{p} is a regular ring. Therefore $(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{p})$ is a regular local ring, R/\mathfrak{p} is

UFD by [4, Theorem 184]. But $M/\mathfrak{p}R[X] \subset A/\mathfrak{p}A = R/\mathfrak{p}[X]$ is *UFD*, since $ht(M) = ht(\mathfrak{p}) + 1 = (d-1) + 1 = d$. The last two equality is that R/\mathfrak{p} is *G*-domain $\dim R/P \leq 1$. By hypothesis \mathfrak{p} is not maximal, $\dim R/\mathfrak{p} = 1$ and $ht(\mathfrak{p}) = d-1$. And $ht(\mathfrak{p}R[X]) = ht(\mathfrak{p}) = d-1$, hence $M/\mathfrak{p}R[X]$ is an ideal of ht 1 in *UFD*. Hence $\nu(M/\mathfrak{p}R[X]) = 1$ by [6, Theorem 47]. therefore $\nu(M) \leq \nu(\mathfrak{p}R[X]) + \nu(M/\mathfrak{p}R[X]) \leq \nu(\mathfrak{p}) + \nu(M/\mathfrak{p}R[X]) = ht(\mathfrak{p}) + 1 = \nu(\mathfrak{p}R\mathfrak{p}) + 1 = \nu(MA_M)$. Last equality is by [3, Lemma 3]. Hence $\nu(M) = \nu(MA_M)$. ///

Proposition. For an ideal I of a Noetherian ring R ,

$$ht(I) \leq \nu(I/I^2) \leq \nu(I) \leq \nu(I/I^2) + 1.$$

Proof. For all $P \supset I$. Let $I_P/I_P^2 = \langle \bar{m}_1, \dots, \bar{u}_t \rangle$, where $t =$ minimal number of generators of I_P/I_P^2 . Then $I_P = \langle m_1, \dots, m_t \rangle + I_P^2 = \langle m_1, \dots, m_t \rangle + I_P \cdot I_P$. By Nakayama's Lemma $I_P = \langle m_1, \dots, m_t \rangle$. Hence $\nu(I_P) \leq \nu(I_P/I_P^2)$. Therefore $\nu(I_P) = \nu(I_P/I_P^2)$ for all $P \supset I$. In general, $ht(I) = ht(I_P) \leq \nu(I_P) = \nu(I_P/I_P^2) \leq \nu(I/I^2) \leq \nu(I)$. To show that $\nu(I) \leq \nu(I/I^2) + 1$. Consider elements $m_1, \dots, m_r \in I$. whose residue classes in I/I^2 form a minimal generating system. Let $R^* = R/\langle m_1, \dots, m_r \rangle$ and $I^* = I/\langle m_1, \dots, m_r \rangle \cdot (I^*)^2 = (I/\langle m_1, \dots, m_r \rangle)^2 = I^2 + \langle m_1, \dots, m_r \rangle / \langle m_1, \dots, m_r \rangle = I/\langle m_1, \dots, m_r \rangle = I^*$. The last two equality is $I/I^2 = \langle \bar{m}_1, \dots, \bar{m}_r \rangle$. Then I^* is principal. For $I^* = \langle a_1, \dots, a_s \rangle$, $s =$ minimal number of generators of I^* . Since $I^* = (I^*)^2$, $a_i = \sum_{k=1}^s r_{ik} a_k$, where $r_{ik} \in I^*$. Hence $\sum_{k=1}^s (\delta_{ik} - r_{ik}) a_k = 0$. Multiply by adjoint $(\delta_{ik} - r_{ik})$. Then $\det(\delta_{ik} - r_{ik}) \cdot a_k = 0 (k=1, \dots, s)$. $\det(\delta_{ik} - r_{ik}) = 1 - a$, $\exists a \in I^*$. Since a is a linear combination of the a_k . It follows from $\det(\delta_{ik} - r_{ik}) \cdot a_k = 0$ that $(1-a) \cdot a = 0$ so $a^2 = a$. From $(1-a) \cdot a_k = 0$. We get $a_k = a_k \cdot a \in \langle a \rangle$, so $I^* = \langle a \rangle$. Hence I is generated by $r+1$ elements. ///

Theorem 2. Let A_M is a regular ring. If $\nu(M/M^2) > \dim R + 1$ then $\nu(M) = \nu(MA_M)$.

Proof. Let $t = \nu(M/M^2)$. We first show that $\nu(M) \leq t$. By Lemma 6, we can choose elements a_1, \dots, a_t so that every $\mathcal{P} \in \mathcal{B}(a_1, \dots, a_t)$ with $\mathcal{P} \notin \mathcal{B}(M)$ has height $\geq t$. Since $\dim A < t$, $ht \mathcal{P} < t$. Hence $\mathcal{B}(a_1, \dots, a_t) - \mathcal{B}(M) = \emptyset$ that is, $(M/\langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle)^n = M^n + \langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle / \langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle = 0$, there exist positive integer n . Since $(M/\langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle)^2 = M/\langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle$. By the same method of $M/\langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle = \langle e \rangle$, where $e^2 = e$, $e \in M$. Hence $(M/\langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle)^n = M/\langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle$ for all $n \geq 1$. Therefore $M/\langle a_1, \dots, a_t \rangle = 0$. Then $\nu(M) \leq t$ and furthermore $\nu(M) = \nu(M/M^2)$. Since $pro. \dim M = pro. \dim MA_M \leq gl$.

$\dim A_M < \infty$ for A_M is regular. And M/M^2 is free over A/M . By Lemma 5, M is generated by a regular sequence. We have $ht M = ht MA_M = \nu(MA_M) \leq \nu(M) = ht M$. Hence $\nu(M) = \nu(MA_M)$.

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