The Ratliff-Rush Closure of Initial Ideals of Certain Prime Ideals

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Abstract

Let $K$ be a field and let $m_0, ..., m_n$ be an almost arithmetic sequence of positive integers. Let $C$ be a monomial curve in the affine $(n + 1)$-space, defined parametrically by $x_0 = t^{m_0}, ..., x_n = t^{m_n}$. In this article we prove that the initial ideal of the defining ideal of $C$ is Ratliff-Rush closed.

Introduction

In Section 1 we introduce the Ratliff-Rush closure of an ideal and refer to some procedures used to compute it. In Section 2 we recall the Groebner bases of the prime ideals that are the defining ideals of monomial curves as a result of a previous study. Section 3 contains the main result of this article proving that the initial ideals of these prime ideals are Ratliff-Rush closed.

1 The Ratliff-Rush Closure

Let $R$ be a commutative Noetherian ring with unity and $I$ a regular ideal in $R$, that is, an ideal that contains a nonzero divisor. Then the ideals of the form $I^{n + 1} : I^n = \{x \in R \mid xI^n \subseteq I^{n + 1}\}$ increase with $n$. Let us denote

$$\bar{I} = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} (I^{n + 1} : I^n).$$

As $R$ is Noetherian, $\bar{I} = I^{n + 1} : I^n$ for all sufficiently large $n$. Ratliff and Rush (1978) [Theorem 2.1] proved that $\bar{I}$ is the unique largest ideal for which $(\bar{I})^n = I^n$ for sufficiently large $n$. The ideal $\bar{I}$ is called the Ratliff-Rush closure of $I$ and $I$ is called Ratliff-Rush closed if $I = \bar{I}$. It is easy to see that $I \subseteq \bar{I}$ and that an element
of \((I^n : I^{n+1})\) is integral over \(I\). Hence for all regular ideals \(I\),
\[
I \subseteq \overline{I} \subseteq \tilde{I} \subseteq \sqrt{I}.
\]
where \(\tilde{I}\) is the integral closure of \(I\). Thus all radical and integrally closed regular ideals are Ratliff-Rush closed. But there are many ideals which are Ratliff-Rush closed but not integrally closed.

Rossi and Swanson (2003) examine the behavior of the Ratliff-Rush closure with respect to some properties such as the Ratliff-Rush closure of powers of ideals. They established new classes of ideals for which all the powers are Ratliff-Rush closed. They also show that the Ratliff-Rush closure does not behave well under several properties, such as, taking powers of ideals, leading terms ideals, and the minimal number of generators. They present many examples illustrating the different behaviors of the Ratliff-Rush closure.

As yet, there is no algorithm to compute the Ratliff-Rush closure for regular ideals in general. To compute \(\cup_n(I^{n+1} : I^n)\) we need to find a positive integer \(N\) such that \(\cup_n(I^{n+1} : I^n) = I^{N+1} : I^N\). However, \(I^{n+1} : I^n = I^{n+2} : I^{n+1}\) does not imply that \(I^{n+1} : I^n = I^{n+3} : I^{n+2}\) (see Example 1.8 in Rossi and Swanson (2003)). Some different approaches have been used to decide the Ratliff-Rush closure; Heinzer et al. (1992) established that a regular ideal \(I\) (and also every powers of \(I\)) is Ratliff-Rush closed if and only if the associated graded ring, \(gr_I (R) = \oplus_{n \geq 0} I^n / I^{n+1}\), has a nonzerodivisor (has a positive depth). Elias (2003) established a procedure for computing the Ratliff-Rush closure of \(m\)-primary ideals of a Cohen-Macaulay local ring with maximal ideal \(m\).

From the definition, it is clear that the Ratliff-Rush closure of a monomial ideal is a monomial ideal, and this makes some computations easier. The following two theorems and proposition serve us as a technique to compute the Ratliff-Rush closure of the monomial ideals of interest in this article.

**Lemma 1.1** Let \(R, S\) be Noetherian rings. Assume \(R\) is a faithfully flat \(S\)-algebra and \(I \subseteq S\) an ideal. Then \(IR\) is Ratliff-Rush closed in \(R\) iff \(I\) is Ratliff-Rush closed in \(S\).

**Proposition 1.2** Let \(R = K[x_0, ..., x_n]\) and \(S = K[x_0, ..., x_m]\) with \(m \leq n\) where \(K\) is a field. Let \(I \subseteq S\) be an ideal. Then \(IR\) is Ratliff-Rush closed in \(R\) iff \(I\) is Ratliff-Rush closed in \(S\).
Theorem 1.3 Let $I$ be an ideal in the polynomial ring $R = K[x_0, \ldots, x_n]$ with $K$ a field. Let $r \geq 1$. If $I$ is primary to $(x_r, \ldots, x_n)$ and $\bar{I} \cap (I : (x_r, \ldots, x_n)) \subseteq I$ then $I$ is Ratliff-Rush closed.

Proof. Assume $I$ is not Ratliff-Rush closed. Let $m$ be an element such that $m \in \bar{I} \setminus I$. As $I$ is primary to $(x_r, \ldots, x_n)$ then there exists an integer $k$ such that $(x_r, \ldots, x_n)^k \subseteq I$. In particular, $(x_r, \ldots, x_n)^l m \subseteq I$ for some $l$. Choose $l \geq 1$ the smallest possible such integer. Then $(x_r, \ldots, x_n)^{l-1} m \not\subseteq I$. Let $m' \in (x_r, \ldots, x_n)^{l-1}$ be a monomial such that $m'm \notin I$. Then $(x_r, \ldots, x_n)m'm \subseteq (x_r, \ldots, x_n)^lm \subseteq I$. Thus $m'm \in I : (x_r, \ldots, x_n)$ and $m'm \in \bar{I}$ as $m \in \bar{I}$. Therefore, $m'm \in \bar{I} \cap (I : (x_r, \ldots, x_n)) \setminus I$. ■

2 The Defining Ideals of Certain Monomial Curves

Let $n \geq 2$, $K$ a field and let $x_0, \ldots, x_n, t$ be indeterminates. Let $m_0, \ldots, m_n$ be an almost arithmetic sequence of positive integers, that is, some $n-1$ of these form an arithmetic sequence, and assume $\gcd(m_0, \ldots, m_n) = 1$. Let $P$ be the kernel of the $K$-algebra homomorphism $\eta : K[x_0, \ldots, x_n] \to K[t]$, defined by $\eta(x_i) = t^{m_i}$. A set of generators for the ideal $P$ was explicitly constructed in Patil and Singh (1990). We call these generators the “Patil-Singh generators”. In a previous study we proved that Patil-Singh generators form a Groebner basis for the prime ideal $P$ with respect to the grevlex monomial order using the grading $wt(x_i) = m_i$ with $x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n$ (in this case $\prod_{i=0}^{n} x_i^{a_i} >_{\text{grevlex}} \prod_{i=0}^{n} x_i^{b_i}$ if in the ordered tuple $(a_1 - b_1, \ldots, a_n - b_n)$ the left-most nonzero entry is negative). Before we state the Groebner basis we need to introduce some notations and terminology that Patil and Singh (1990) used in their construction of the generating set for the ideal $P$.

Let $n \geq 2$ be an integer and let $p = n - 1$. Let $m_0, \ldots, m_p, m_n$ be an almost arithmetic sequence of positive integers and $\gcd(m_0, \ldots, m_n) = 1$, $0 < m_0 < \cdots < m_p$, and $m_n$ is arbitrary. Let $\Gamma$ denote the numerical semigroup that is minimally generated by $m_0, \ldots, m_p, m_n$, i.e. $\Gamma = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \mathbb{N} m_i$. Put $\Gamma' = \sum_{i=0}^{p} \mathbb{N} m_i$ and $\Gamma = \Gamma' + \mathbb{N} m_n$.

Notation 2.1 For $c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ let $[c, d] = \{t \in \mathbb{Z} \mid c \leq t \leq d\}$. For $t \geq 0$, let $q_t \in \mathbb{Z}$, $r_t \in [1, p]$ and $g_t \in \Gamma'$ be defined by $t = q_t p + r_t$ and $g_t = q_t m_p + m_r$. Let $S = \{\gamma \in \Gamma \mid \gamma - m_0 \notin \Gamma\}$. The following is a part of Lemma (1.6) given in Patil (1993) that gives an explicit description of $S$. 
Lemma 2.2 (Patil (1993) Lemma 1.6)) Let \( u = \min\{t \geq 0 \mid g_t \notin S\} \) and \( v = \min\{b \geq 1 \mid bm_n \in \Gamma'\} \). Then there exist unique integers \( w \in [0, v-1] \), \( z \in [0, u-1] \), \( \lambda \geq 1 \), \( \mu \geq 0 \), and \( \nu \geq 2 \) such that

(i) \( g_u = \lambda m_0 + wm_n \);
(ii) \( vm_n = \mu m_0 + gz \);
(iii) \( g_{u-z} + (v-w)m_n = \begin{cases} \lambda + \mu + 1, & \text{if } u_z < r_u; \\ \lambda + \mu, & \text{if } u_z \geq r_u. \end{cases} \)

Notation 2.3 Let \( q = q_u, r = r_u \). For the rest of this article the symbols \( q, r, u, v, w, z, \lambda \) and \( \mu \) will have the meaning assigned to them by the lemma and the notations above.

Let \( \epsilon = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } r > r_z; \\ 1, & \text{if } r \leq r_z. \end{cases} \)

We state Patil-Singh generators as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\varphi_i &= x_{i+r} q_p - x_0^{\lambda-1} x_i x_n^w, & \text{for } 0 \leq i \leq p-r; \\
\psi_j &= x_{j+p+r-r_z+j} q - q_z - \epsilon p - x_u - w x_n - x_0^{\lambda+\mu+1} x_j, & \text{for } j \in [0, (1-\epsilon)p + r_z - r]; \\
\theta &= x_u - x_0^\mu x_r x_p^u, \\
\alpha_{i,j} &= x_{i+j} - x_{i-1} x_{j+1}, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq j \leq p-1.
\end{align*}
\]

Theorem 2.4 (Al-Ayyoub 2004)) The set \( \{\varphi_i \mid 0 \leq i \leq p-r\} \cup \{\theta\} \cup \{\alpha_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i \leq j \leq p-1\} \cup \{\psi_j \mid 0 \leq j \leq (1-\epsilon)p + r_z - r\} \) forms a Groebner basis for the ideal \( P \) with respect to the grevlex monomial order with \( x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n \) and with the grading \( wt(x_i) = m_i \).

3 The Main Result

In this section we prove that the initial ideal \( inP \), of the defining ideal of the monomial curves introduced in Section 2 is Ratliff-Rush closed. The previous section states a Groebner basis for the defining ideal \( P \) with respect to the grevlex monomial order with the grading \( wt(x_i) = m_i \) with \( x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n \). Therefore, \( inP \) is generated by the following monomials

\[
\begin{align*}
x_i x_p^q, & \quad \text{for } i \in [r, p]; \\
x_j x_p^{q-\epsilon} x_n^w, & \quad \text{for } j \in [(1-\epsilon)p + r_z, p]; \\
x_n^w, \\
x_i x_j, & \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq j \leq p-1.
\end{align*}
\]

Now we state the main result of the article:
**Theorem 3.1** Let $P$ be the defining ideal of the monomial curves as defined before. Then the ideal $inP$ is Ratliff-Rush closed.

Here is an outline for the proof of Theorem 3.1 from the generators above, it is clear that the monomial ideal $inP$ is primary to $(x_1,\ldots,x_n)$. Therefore we can use Theorem 1.3 to prove that $(inP)R$ is Ratliff-Rush closed in the polynomial ring $R = K[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$, and hence by Proposition 1.2 Ratliff-Rush closed in the polynomial ring $K[x_0,\ldots,x_n]$. In order to establish the details of this outline we need to compute $(inP : (x_{1},\ldots,x_{n}))/inP$. The following proposition is the first step in doing so.

**Proposition 3.2** with notation as before, then $(inP : (x_{1},\ldots,x_{p-1}))/inP = (\overline{x}_{1},\ldots,\overline{x}_{p-1})$, where $\overline{x}_{i}$ is the image of $x_{i}$ in the ring $R/inP$.

**Proof.** Let $\lambda = \min\{r, \epsilon p + r - r_{z}\}$ and let $\sigma = \max\{r, \epsilon p + r - r_{z}\}$. Note that $(inP : (x_{i}))/inP = (\overline{x}_{1},\ldots,\overline{x}_{p-1})$ for $1 \leq i < \lambda$, and $(inP : (x_{i}))/inP = (\overline{x}_{1},\ldots,\overline{x}_{p-1}, x_{i}^{q_{z} - \epsilon x_{i}^{\lambda - p}})$ for $\lambda \leq i < \sigma$. Also note that $(inP : (x_{i}))/inP = (\overline{x}_{1},\ldots,\overline{x}_{p-1}, x_{i}^{q_{z} - \epsilon x_{i}^{\lambda - p}})$ for $\sigma < i \leq p - 1$. Hence, it follows that $(inP : (x_{1},\ldots,x_{p-1}))/inP = \bigcap_{i=1}^{p-1} (inP : (x_{i}))/inP = (\overline{x}_{1},\ldots,\overline{x}_{p-1})$. 

**Notation 3.3** To simplify notations, in the sequel if a monomial happens to have an indeterminate with a negative exponent then that monomial is treated as 0. For example, $x_{1}^{2}x_{3} + x_{2}^{2} - x_{3}$ is $x_{2}^{2} - x_{3}$.

**Proposition 3.4** Let $p = n - 1$ as before, then $(inP : (x_{1},\ldots,x_{p}))/inP$ is minimally generated in $K[x_{1},\ldots,x_{n}]/inP$ by $\{x_{i}x_{p}^{q_{z} - \epsilon x_{i}^{\lambda - p}} \mid 1 \leq i \leq r - 1\} \cup \{x_{i}x_{p}^{\epsilon p + r - r_{z} - 1} - x_{i}^{\lambda - p} \mid 1 \leq i \leq \epsilon p + r - r_{z} - 1\}$.

**Proof.** We need to compute $\bigcap_{i=1}^{p-1} (inP : (x_{i}))/inP \cap (inP : (x_{p}))/inP$. Note that $(inP : (x_{p}))/inP$ is minimally generated by the following set of monomials $\{x_{p}^{q_{z} - \epsilon x_{p}^{\lambda - p}}, \ldots, x_{p-1}^{q_{z} - \epsilon x_{p}^{\lambda - p}}, x_{p}^{q_{z} - \epsilon x_{p}^{\lambda - p}}\}$ and $\{x_{i}x_{p}^{\epsilon p + r - r_{z} - 1} - x_{i}^{\lambda - p} \mid 1 \leq i \leq \epsilon p + r - r_{z} - 1\}$. As the intersection of two monomial ideals is generated by the least common multiple of the monomial generators of each of the two ideals, then the proposition follows by Proposition 3.2.

We next compute $(inP : (x_{n}))/inP$. For the sake of notation we do so in two cases. Also, at the same time we will prove Theorem 3.1 for each of these cases separately. With the notations from Section 2 consider the following two cases: Case 1: $\epsilon > 0$ or $q_{z} > 0$, and Case 2: $\epsilon = q_{z} = 0$. 
3.1 Case 1: \( \varepsilon > 0 \) or \( q_z > 0 \)

In this case \( \text{in}P \) is generated by the following set of monomials

\[
\begin{align*}
&x_i x_p^a, & \text{for } r \leq i \leq p; \\
x_j x_p^{q_j - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_j}, & \text{for } \varepsilon p + r - r_z \leq j \leq p; \\
x_i^n, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq p - 1.
\end{align*}
\]

Therefore, \((\text{in}P : (x_n))/\text{in}P\) is minimally generated by

\[
\{x_p^{\varepsilon}, x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1}, \ldots, x_p^{\varepsilon} u_{p-1} x_p^{q_{p-1} - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_{p-1} - 1} \} \cup \{x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1} \}
\]

As the intersection of two monomial ideals is generated by the least common multiple of the monomial generators of each of the two ideals, then by Proposition 3.4 it is straightforward to compute that \((\text{in}P : ((x_1, \ldots, x_n))/\text{in}P = \bigcap_{i=1}^{p} (\text{in}P : (x_i))/\text{in}P = \bigcap_{i=1}^{p} (\text{in}P : (x_i))/\text{in}P \cap (\text{in}P : (x_n))/\text{in}P\) is generated by the monomials in the set \(\mathcal{q} \cup \chi\), where \(\mathcal{q} = \{x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1} \mid \varepsilon p + r - r_z \leq i \leq p - 1\}\) and \(\chi\) consists of the following monomials

\[
\begin{align*}
&x_p^{\varepsilon}, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq r - 1; \\
&x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1}, & \text{for } r \leq i \leq \varepsilon p + r - r_z - 1; \\
&x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1}, & \text{for } \varepsilon p + r - r_z \leq i \leq p - 1; \\
&x_i^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1}, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq \varepsilon p + r - r_z - 1.
\end{align*}
\]

Therefore, the preimages of the monomials in \(\mathcal{q} \cup \chi\) are the only monomials in \((\text{in}P : (x_1, \ldots, x_p))/\text{in}P\) in the ring \(K[x_1, \ldots, x_n]\). By Theorem 1.3 we prove that \(\text{in}P\) is Ratliff-Rush closed by showing that none of these monomials belongs to the Ratliff-Rush closure \(\overline{\text{in}P}\) of \(\text{in}P\). We show this separately for the monomials in \(\mathcal{q}\) and the monomials in \(\chi\). First, assume \(x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1} \in \mathcal{q}\) is in \(\text{in}P\) for \(\varepsilon p + r - r_z \leq i \leq p - 1\). Then by the definition of the Ratliff-Rush closure we must have \(x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1}(x_i^2)^m \in (\text{in}P)^{m+1}\) for some \(m \geq 1\). By degree count for \(x_p\) and \(x_n\) we must have \(x_p^{q_p - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_p - 1}(x_i^2)^m \in (x_i^2)^{m+1}\), contradiction by the \(i\) degree count.

Now assume \(x_i x_p^a x_n^b \in \overline{\text{in}P}\). Then \(x_i x_p^a x_n^b \in (\text{in}P)^{m+1}\) for some \(m \geq 1\). By \(x_n\) and \(x_i\)-degree count for \(1 \leq i \leq p - 1\) we must have \(x_i^{2m+1} x_p^a x_n^b \in (\delta_i x_i x_p^{q_i - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_i})^{m+1}\). Note if \(a = q\) then we must have \(i < r\), thus \(x_i^{2m+1} x_p^a x_n^b \in (\delta_i x_i x_p^{q_i - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_i})^{m+1}\). Assume \(a < q\). Then \(x_i^{2m+1} x_p^a x_n^b \notin (\delta_i x_i x_p^{q_i - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_i})^{m+1}\), hence \(x_i^{2m+1} x_p^a x_n^b \in (\delta_i x_i x_p^{q_i - \varepsilon} x_n^{w_i})^{m+1}\). In either case it implies that \(i \leq \varepsilon p + r - r_z\) and \(b \geq \varepsilon p + r - r_z\). But there are no such monomials in \(\chi\).
3.2 Case 2: \( \varepsilon = q_z = 0 \)

In this case \( inP \) is minimally generated by the following set of monomials

\[
\begin{align*}
x_i x_p^q, & \quad \text{for } r \leq i \leq p; \\
x_j x_p^q x_n^{w-u}, & \quad \text{for } r - r_z \leq j \leq r - 1; \\
x_n^u, & \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq j \leq p - 1.
\end{align*}
\]

Therefore, \( (inP : (x_n))/inP \) is minimally generated by \( \{x_{r-r_z} x_p x_n^{u-w-1}, \ldots, x_{r-1} x_p x_n^{u-w-1}\} \cup \{x_n^{u-1}\} \). By Proposition \ref{P3.3} it follows that \( inP : ((x_1, \ldots, x_n))/inP = (\bigcap_{i=1}^n (inP : (x_i))/inP = (\bigcap_{i=1}^p (inP : (x_i))/inP \cap (inP : (x_n))/inP \) is generated by the monomials in the set \( \rho \cup \chi \), where \( \rho = \{x_i x_p^{q-1} x_n^{u-1} | r - r_z \leq i \leq p - 1\} \) and \( \chi \) consists of the following monomials

\[
\begin{align*}
x_i x_p^{q-1} x_n^{u-1}, & \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq r - r_z - 1; \\
x_i x_p^{q-1} x_n^{u-1}, & \quad \text{for } r - r_z \leq i \leq r - 1;
\end{align*}
\]

Therefore, the preimages of the monomials in \( \rho \cup \chi \) are the only monomials in \( (inP : (x_1, \ldots, x_p))/inP \) in the ring \( K[x_1, \ldots, x_n] \). By Theorem \[T1.3\] we prove that \( inP \) is Ratliff-Rush closed by showing that none of these monomials belongs to the Ratliff-Rush closure \( \widetilde{inP} \) of \( inP \). We show this separately for the monomials in \( \rho \) and the monomials in \( \chi \). First, assume \( x_i x_p^{q-1} x_n^{u-1} \in \rho \) is in \( \widetilde{inP} \) for \( r - r_z \leq i \leq p - 1 \). Then by the definition of the Ratliff-Rush closure we must have \( x_i x_p^{q-1} x_n^{u-1} (x_i^2)^m \in (inP)^{m+1} \) for some \( m \geq 1 \). By degree count for \( x_p \) and \( x_n \) we must have \( x_i x_p^{q-1} x_n^{u-1} (x_i^2)^m \in (x_i^2)^{m+1} \), contradiction by the \( x_i \) degree count.

Now assume \( x_i x_p^q x_n^b \) is a monomial in \( \chi \) (\( b < u \)) such that \( x_i x_p^q x_n^b \in \widetilde{inP} \). Then \( x_i x_p^q x_n^b (x_i^2)^m \in (inP)^{m+1} \) for some \( m \geq 1 \). By \( x_n \) and \( x_i \)-degree count for \( 1 \leq i \leq p - 1 \) we must have \( x_i^{2m+1} x_p^q x_n^b \in (\delta_{i \geq r} x_i x_p^q, \delta_{i \geq r-r_z} x_i x_p^q x_n^{w-u})^{m+1} \). Note we must have \( i < r \), thus \( x_i^{2m+1} x_p^q x_n^b \in (\delta_{r-r_z \leq i \leq r} x_i x_p^q x_n^{w-u})^{m+1} \). This implies \( r - r_z \leq i \leq r - 1 \) and \( b \geq v - w \). But there are no such monomials in \( \chi \).

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