

MONOMIAL DIFFERENCE IDEALS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, basic properties of monomial difference ideals are studied. We prove the finitely generated property of well-mixed difference ideals generated by monomials. Furthermore, a finite prime decomposition of radical well-mixed monomial difference ideals is given. As a consequence, we prove that every strictly ascending chain of radical well-mixed monomial difference ideals in a difference polynomial ring is finite, which answers a question raised by E. Hrushovski in the monomial case.

1. INTRODUCTION

Monomial ideals in a polynomial ring have been extendedly studied because of their connections with combinatorics since the 1970s. Another reason to study monomial ideals is the fact that they appear as initial ideals of arbitrary ideals. Richard Stanley was the first to use squarefree monomial ideals to study simplicial complexes ([6]). Since then, the study of squarefree monomial ideals has become an active research area in combinatorial commutative algebra. In this paper, we study the basic properties of monomial difference (abbr. σ -) ideals and hope that they will play a similar role in the study of general σ -ideals in a σ -polynomial ring.

It is well known that Hilbert's basis theorem does not hold for σ -ideals in a σ -polynomial ring. Instead, we have the Ritt-Raudenbush basis theorem, which asserts that every perfect σ -ideal in a σ -polynomial ring has a finite basis. It is natural to ask if the finitely generated property holds for more σ -ideals. Let k be a σ -field and R a finitely σ -generated k - σ -algebra. In [2, Section 4.6], Ehud Hrushovski raised the question whether a radical well-mixed σ -ideal in R is finitely generated. The question is also equivalent to asking whether the ascending chain condition holds for radical well-mixed σ -ideals in R . For the sake of convenience, let us state it as a conjecture:

Conjecture 1.1. *Every strictly ascending chain of radical well-mixed σ -ideals in R is finite.*

Also in [2, Section 4.6], Ehud Hrushovski proved that the answer is yes under some additional assumptions on R . In [4], Alexander Levin showed that the ascending chain condition does not hold if we drop the radical condition. The counterexample given by Levin is a well-mixed σ -ideal generated by binomials. In [8, Section 9], Michael Wibmer showed that if R can be equipped with the structure of a k - σ -Hopf algebra, then Conjecture 1.1 is valid.

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The main result of this paper is that a well-mixed σ -ideal generated by monomials in a σ -polynomial ring is finitely generated. Furthermore, we give a finite prime decomposition of radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals. As a consequence, Conjecture 1.1 is valid for radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals in a σ -polynomial ring.

The paper will be organized as follows. In Section 2, we list some basic facts from difference algebra. In Section 3, several basic properties of monomial σ -ideals are proved. In Section 4, we will give a counterexample which shows that the well-mixed closure of a monomial σ -ideal may not be a monomial σ -ideal and prove the finitely generated property of well-mixed σ -ideals generated by monomials. In Section 5, we give a finite prime decomposition of radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals. In Section 6, a reflexive prime decomposition of perfect monomial σ -ideals will be given.

2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we list some basic notions and facts from difference algebra. For more details please refer to [7]. All rings in this paper will be assumed to be commutative and unital.

A *difference ring*, or σ -ring for short (R, σ) , is a ring R together with a ring endomorphism $\sigma: R \rightarrow R$. If R is a field, then we call it a *difference field*, or a σ -field for short. We usually omit σ from the notation, simply referring to R as a σ -ring or a σ -field. In this paper, k is always assumed to be a σ -field of characteristic 0.

Following [3], we use the notation of symbolic exponents. Let x be an algebraic indeterminate and $p = \sum_{i=0}^s c_i x^i \in \mathbb{N}[x]$. For a in a σ -ring R , denote $a^p = \prod_{i=0}^s (\sigma^i(a))^{c_i}$. It is easy to check that for $p, q \in \mathbb{N}[x]$, $a^{p+q} = a^p a^q$, $a^{pq} = (a^p)^q$.

Definition 2.1. Let R be a σ -ring. An ideal I of R is called a σ -ideal if for $a \in R$, $a \in I$ implies $a^x \in I$. Suppose I is a σ -ideal of R ; then I is said to be:

- *reflexive* if $a^x \in I$ implies $a \in I$ for $a \in R$;
- *well-mixed* if $ab \in I$ implies $ab^x \in I$ for $a, b \in R$;
- *perfect* if $a^g \in I$ implies $a \in I$ for $a \in R, g \in \mathbb{N}[x] \setminus \{0\}$;
- σ -*prime* if I is reflexive and a prime ideal as an algebraic ideal.

We give some basic properties about these σ -ideals and omit the proofs, which can be found in [7, Chapter 1].

Lemma 2.2.

- (i) A σ -ideal is perfect if and only if it is reflexive, radical, and well-mixed.
- (ii) A σ -prime σ -ideal is perfect.
- (iii) A prime σ -ideal is radical, well-mixed.

Lemma 2.3. Let R be a σ -ring. A σ -ideal I of R is perfect if and only if $a^{x+1} \in I$ implies $a \in I$ for $a \in R$.

Let R be a σ -ring. If $F \subseteq R$ is a subset of R , denote the minimal ideal containing F by (F) , the minimal σ -ideal containing F by $[F]$, and denote the minimal radical σ -ideal, the minimal reflexive σ -ideal, the minimal well-mixed σ -ideal, the minimal radical well-mixed σ -ideal, the minimal perfect σ -ideal containing F by

$\sqrt{F}, F^*, \langle F \rangle, \langle F \rangle_r, \{F\}$ respectively, which are called the *radical closure*, the *reflexive closure*, the *well-mixed closure*, the *radical well-mixed closure*, the *perfect closure* of F respectively.

It can be checked that $\sqrt{F^*} = \sqrt{F^*}$ and $\{F\} = \langle F \rangle_r^*$.

Let k be a σ -field. Suppose $y = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ is a set of σ -indeterminates over k . Then the σ -polynomial ring over k in y is the polynomial ring in the variables $y, \sigma(y), \sigma^2(y), \dots$. It is denoted by

$$k\{y\} = k\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$$

and has a natural k - σ -algebra structure.

3. BASIC PROPERTIES OF MONOMIAL DIFFERENCE IDEALS

In the rest of this paper, unless otherwise specified, R always refers to the σ -polynomial ring $k\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$. Denote $\mathbb{N}^* = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ and $\mathbb{N}[x]^* = \mathbb{N}[x] \setminus \{0\}$.

Definition 3.1. Suppose $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. A *monomial* in R is a product $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} = y_1^{u_1} \dots y_n^{u_n}$. A σ -ideal $I \subseteq R$ is called a *monomial σ -ideal* if it is generated by monomials.

As a vector space over k , we can write the σ -polynomial ring R as

$$R = k[\mathbb{N}[x]^n] = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n} R_{\mathbf{u}} = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n} k\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}},$$

where $R_{\mathbf{u}} = k\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}}$ is the vector subspace of R spanned by the monomial $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}}$. Since $R_{\mathbf{u}} \cdot R_{\mathbf{v}} \subseteq R_{\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v}}$, we see that R is an $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$ -graded ring. A monomial σ -ideal I defined above is just a graded σ -ideal of R , which means there exists a subset $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$ such that $I = k[S] := \bigoplus_{\mathbf{u} \in S} k\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}}$. Such S is called the *support set* of I .

For a set of monomials F , we denote $C(F) = \{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n \mid \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} \in F\}$.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Then $I = k[S]$ is a monomial σ -ideal if and only if S satisfies:*

- (1) if $\mathbf{u} \in S, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$, then $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in S$;
- (2) if $\mathbf{u} \in S$, then $x\mathbf{u} \in S$.

Proof. The necessity is obvious. For the sufficiency, let $a \in I$ and $b \in R$. Then $C(\text{supp}(a)) \subset S$. So by (1) and (2), $C(\text{supp}(ab)) \subset S$ and $C(\text{supp}(a^x)) \subset S$, which implies that $ab \in I$ and $a^x \in I$. □

A subset $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$ satisfying the above conditions is called a *character set*.

For $a \in R$, if we write $a = \sum a_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}}, a_{\mathbf{u}} \in k$, then

$$\text{supp}(a) := \{\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} \mid a_{\mathbf{u}} \neq 0\}$$

is called the *support* of a .

Lemma 3.3. *Let I be a σ -ideal of R . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) I is a monomial σ -ideal.
- (b) For $a \in R, a \in I$ if and only if $\text{supp}(a) \subset I$.

Proof. (a) \Rightarrow (b). One direction is obvious. For the other one, let $a \in I$. There exist monomials $h_1, \dots, h_m \in I$ and $a_1, \dots, a_m \in R$ such that $a = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i h_i$. It follows that $\text{supp}(a) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^m \text{supp}(a_i h_i)$. Note that $\text{supp}(a_i h_i) \subset I$ for all i , since

each monomial in $\text{supp}(a_i h_i)$ is a multiple of h_i and hence belongs to I . It follows that $\text{supp}(a) \subset I$ as desired.

(b) \Rightarrow (a). Let F be a set of generators of I . Since for any $a \in F$, $\text{supp}(a) \subset I$, it follows that $\bigcup_{a \in F} \text{supp}(a)$ is a set of monomial generators of I . \square

Lemma 3.4. *If I_1 and I_2 are monomial σ -ideals, then $I_1 + I_2$ and $I_1 \cap I_2$ are also monomial σ -ideals.*

Proof. Suppose $I_1 = k[S_1]$ and $I_2 = k[S_2]$. Then $I_1 + I_2 = k[S_1 \cup S_2]$, $I_1 \cap I_2 = k[S_1 \cap S_2]$. \square

If $I = k[S]$ is a monomial σ -ideal, then the conditions for I to be radical, reflexive, perfect and prime can be described using the support set S . To show this, we first define an order on $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Let $f = \sum_{i=0}^l f_i x^i, g = \sum_{i=0}^m g_i x^i \in \mathbb{N}[x]$. Let k be a positive integer with $k > \max\{l, m\}$, and set $f_i = 0$ for $l + 1 \leq i \leq k, g_i = 0$ for $m + 1 \leq i \leq k$. Then define $f < g$ if there exists $r \in \mathbb{N}, 0 \leq r \leq k$ such that $f_i = g_i$ for $i = r + 1, \dots, k$ and $f_r < g_r$. Extend the order $<$ to $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$ by comparing $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$ with respect to the lexicographic order. Obviously, this is a total order on $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$ and has the following properties.

Lemma 3.5. *The order $<$ defined above satisfies:*

- (1) For $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$, if $\mathbf{u}_1 < \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{u}_2 \leq \mathbf{v}_2$, then $\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2 < \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2$.
- (2) For $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$, if $\mathbf{u} < \mathbf{v}$, then $x\mathbf{u} < x\mathbf{v}$.

Let $a \in R$. We define $\text{deg}(a)$ to be the maximal element with respect to $<$ in $C(\text{supp}(a))$.

Proposition 3.6. *Let $I = k[S]$ be a monomial σ -ideal of R . Then:*

- (1) *I is radical if and only if for $m \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n, m\mathbf{u} \in S$ implies $\mathbf{u} \in S$;*
- (2) *I is reflexive if and only if for $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n, x\mathbf{u} \in S$ implies $\mathbf{u} \in S$;*
- (3) *I is perfect if and only if for $g \in \mathbb{N}[x]^*$ and $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n, g\mathbf{u} \in S$ implies $\mathbf{u} \in S$;*
- (4) *I is prime if and only if for $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n, \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in S$ implies $\mathbf{u} \in S$ or $\mathbf{v} \in S$.*

Proof. (1) “ \Rightarrow ” follows from the definition of radical ideals.

“ \Leftarrow ”. Suppose that $a = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_i} \in R, a_i \neq 0, \mathbf{u}_1 < \dots < \mathbf{u}_k$ and $a^m \in I$. We will show that $a \in I$ by induction on the number of terms of a . When $k = 1$, $a^m = (a_1 \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1})^m = a_1^m \mathbb{Y}^{m\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$. Therefore, $\mathbb{Y}^{m\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$ and hence $m\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$. So $\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$ or equivalently $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$, which implies $a \in I$. For the inductive step, assume now that $k \geq 2$. Note that $a^m = a_1^m \mathbb{Y}^{m\mathbf{u}_1} +$ the other terms. Since $m\mathbf{u}_1$ is minimal in the set of all possible combinations of $\mathbf{u}_{i_1} + \dots + \mathbf{u}_{i_m}$, the monomial $\mathbb{Y}^{m\mathbf{u}_1}$ cannot be cancelled in the expression of a^m and hence belongs to $\text{supp}(a^m)$. Since I is a monomial σ -ideal, $\text{supp}(a^m) \subseteq I$ and hence $\mathbb{Y}^{m\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$ or equivalently $m\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$. So $\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$ and $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$. Consider $a' = a - a_1 \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1}$ with $k - 1$ terms. Since $(a')^m = (a - a_1 \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1})^m = a^m - \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \cdot * \in I$, by the induction hypothesis, $a' \in I$. Thus $a = a' + a_1 \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$.

(2) “ \Rightarrow ” follows from the definition of reflexive ideals.

“ \Leftarrow ”. Suppose that $a = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_i} \in R, a_i \neq 0$ and $a^x \in I$. Since $a^x = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^x \mathbb{Y}^{x\mathbf{u}_i}$ and I is a monomial σ -ideal, it follows that $\mathbb{Y}^{x\mathbf{u}_i} \in I$ for every i . Therefore, $x\mathbf{u}_i \in S$ and hence $\mathbf{u}_i \in S$ for every i , which implies $\mathbb{Y}_i^{\mathbf{u}_i} \in S$ for every i . Thus $a \in I$.

(3) “ \Rightarrow ” follows from the definition of perfect ideals.

“ \Leftarrow ”. Suppose that $a = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_i} \in R, a_i \neq 0, \mathbf{u}_1 < \dots < \mathbf{u}_k$ and $a^{x+1} \in I$. We will prove that $a \in I$ by induction on the number of terms of a . When $k = 1, a^{x+1} = (a_1 \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1})^{x+1} = a_1^{x+1} \mathbb{Y}^{(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$. Therefore, $\mathbb{Y}^{(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$ and hence $(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$. So $\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$ or equivalently $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$, which implies $a \in I$. For the inductive step, assume now that $k \geq 2$. Note that $a^{x+1} = a_1^{x+1} \mathbb{Y}^{(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1} +$ the other terms. Since $\mathbf{u}_1 < \dots < \mathbf{u}_k$ and $x\mathbf{u}_1 < \dots < x\mathbf{u}_k, (x+1)\mathbf{u}_1$ is minimal in the set of all possible combinations of $\mathbf{u}_i + x\mathbf{u}_j$. So the monomial $\mathbb{Y}^{(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1}$ cannot be cancelled in the expression of a^{x+1} and hence belongs to $\text{supp}(a^{x+1})$. Since I is a monomial σ -ideal, $\text{supp}(a^{x+1}) \subseteq I$ and hence $\mathbb{Y}^{(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$ or equivalently $(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$. So $\mathbf{u}_1 \in S$ and $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$. Consider $a' = a - a_1 \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1}$ with $k - 1$ terms. Since $(a')^{x+1} = a^{x+1} - a_1 a^x \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} - a a_1^x \mathbb{Y}^{x\mathbf{u}_1} + a_1^{x+1} \mathbb{Y}^{(x+1)\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$, by the induction hypothesis, $a' \in I$. Thus $a = a' + a_1 \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \in I$.

(4) “ \Rightarrow ” follows from the definition of prime ideals.

“ \Leftarrow ”. Suppose it’s not true, so there exist a and b in R such that $ab \in I$ but $a \notin I$ and $b \notin I$. Let a and b be such a pair such that $\text{deg}(a) + \text{deg}(b)$ is minimal. Since I is a monomial σ -ideal, $\text{supp}(ab) \subset I$. In particular, the highest degree term is in I . The highest degree term is just the product of the leading terms of a and b , which we will call $\text{ld}(a)$ and $\text{ld}(b)$. So $\text{ld}(a) \cdot \text{ld}(b) \in I$, and since they are monomials, we see that either $\text{ld}(a)$ or $\text{ld}(b)$ in I . Without loss of generality, assume it’s $\text{ld}(a)$. In that case $(a - \text{ld}(a)) \cdot b \in I$, but neither $a - \text{ld}(a)$ nor b is in I , and this violates the minimality of the pair a and b . □

Suppose that $I = k[S]$ is a monomial σ -ideal. If I is radical, reflexive, well-mixed, perfect, or prime, then we call the corresponding support set S *radical, reflexive, well-mixed, perfect, or prime* respectively.

Let S be a subset of $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Denote

$$\begin{aligned} [S] &= \{x^i \mathbf{u} + t \mid \mathbf{u} \in S, i \in \mathbb{N}, t \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n\} \\ &= \{g\mathbf{u} + t \mid \mathbf{u} \in S, g \in \mathbb{N}[x]^*, t \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{S} &= \{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n \mid m\mathbf{u} \in [S], m \in \mathbb{N}^*\}, \\ S^* &= \{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n \mid x^m \mathbf{u} \in [S], m \in \mathbb{N}\}, \\ \{S\} &= \{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n \mid g\mathbf{u} \in [S], g \in \mathbb{N}[x]^*\}. \end{aligned}$$

One can check that $[\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S] = k[[S]]$ and if $I = k[S]$ is a monomial σ -ideal, then $[S] = S$.

Proposition 3.7. *Let $I = k[S]$ be a monomial σ -ideal of R . Then $\sqrt{I} = k[\sqrt{S}], I^* = k[S^*],$ and $\{I\} = k[\{S\}]$.*

Proof. Clearly, $k[\sqrt{S}] \subseteq \sqrt{I}, k[S^*] \subseteq I^*,$ and $k[\{S\}] \subseteq \{I\}$. So we only need to show that $k[\sqrt{S}], k[S^*], k[\{S\}]$ are a radical σ -ideal, a reflexive σ -ideal, a perfect σ -ideal respectively.

Suppose $\mathbf{u} \in \sqrt{S}$ and $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$; then there exists $m \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that $m\mathbf{u} \in S$. So $m(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = m\mathbf{u} + m\mathbf{v} \in S, m(x\mathbf{u}) = x(m\mathbf{u}) \in S$ and hence $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, x\mathbf{u} \in \sqrt{S}$. Therefore, $k[\sqrt{S}]$ is a σ -ideal. Suppose $m \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $m\mathbf{u} \in \sqrt{S}$. Then there exists $m' \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that $m'm\mathbf{u} \in S$, and it follows $\mathbf{u} \in \sqrt{S}$. Thus by Proposition 3.6(1), $k[\sqrt{S}]$ is radical.

Suppose $\mathbf{u} \in S^*$ and $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$; there exists $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x^m \mathbf{u} \in S$. So $x^m(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = x^m \mathbf{u} + x^m \mathbf{v} \in S$, $x^m(x\mathbf{u}) = x^{m+1} \mathbf{u} \in S$ and hence $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, x\mathbf{u} \in S^*$. Therefore, $k[S^*]$ is a σ -ideal. Suppose $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x^m \mathbf{u} \in S^*$. Then there exists $m' \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x^{m'+m} \mathbf{u} \in S$, and it follows $\mathbf{u} \in S^*$. Thus by Proposition 3.6(2), $k[S^*]$ is reflexive.

Suppose $\mathbf{u} \in \{S\}$ and $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$; then there exists $g \in \mathbb{N}[x]^*$ such that $g\mathbf{u} \in S$. So $g(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = g\mathbf{u} + g\mathbf{v} \in S$, $g(x\mathbf{u}) = x(g\mathbf{u}) \in S$ and hence $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, x\mathbf{u} \in \{S\}$. Therefore, $k[\{S\}]$ is a σ -ideal. Suppose $g \in \mathbb{N}[x]^*$ and $g\mathbf{u} \in \{S\}$. Then there exists $g' \in \mathbb{N}[x]^*$ such that $g'g\mathbf{u} \in S$, and it follows $\mathbf{u} \in \{S\}$. Thus by Proposition 3.6(3), $k[\{S\}]$ is perfect. \square

4. PROPERTIES OF WELL-MIXED σ -IDEALS GENERATED BY MONOMIALS

Unlike the radical closure, the reflexive closure, and the perfect closure, the well-mixed closure of a monomial σ -ideal may not be a monomial σ -ideal. More precisely, it relies on the action of the difference operator. We will give an example to illustrate this. First let us give a concrete description of the well-mixed closure of a σ -ideal which has been mentioned in [4]. Suppose F is a subset of any σ -ring R . Let $F' = \{a\sigma(b) \mid ab \in F\}$. Note that $F \subset F'$. Let $F^{[0]} = F$ and recursively define $F^{[k]} = (F^{[k-1]})'$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots$). Then by Lemma 3.1 in [4], the well-mixed closure of F is

$$(4.1) \quad \langle F \rangle = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} F^{[k]}.$$

Example 4.1. Let $k = \mathbb{C}$ and $R = \mathbb{C}\{y_1, y_2\}$. Let us consider the σ -ideal $I = \langle y_1^2, y_2^2 \rangle$ of R . Owing to the above process of obtaining the well-mixed closure, we see that $1, y_1, y_1^x, y_2, y_2^x, y_1y_2$ cannot appear in $\text{supp}(c)$ for any $c \in I$. Since $y_1^2 - y_2^2 = (y_1 + y_2)(y_1 - y_2) \in I$, we have $(y_1 + y_2)(y_1 - y_2)^x = y_1^{x+1} + y_1^x y_2 - y_1 y_2^x - y_2^{x+1} \in I$. Note that $y_1^{x+1}, y_2^{x+1} \in I$, hence $y_1^x y_2 - y_1 y_2^x \in I$. We will show that if the difference operator on \mathbb{C} is the identity map, then $y_1^x y_2, y_1 y_2^x \notin I$. As a consequence, I is not a monomial σ -ideal.

Set $F = \{y_1^2, y_2^2\}$. By (4.1), $I = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} F^{[k]}$. To show $y_1^x y_2, y_1 y_2^x \notin I$, we will prove that for any $c \in I$, $y_1 y_2^x - y_1^x y_2$ always appears in c as a whole by induction on k . $k = 0$ is obvious. Assume that for any $c \in F^{[k]}$, $y_1 y_2^x - y_1^x y_2$ always appears in c as a whole, and so does $(F^{[k]})'$. Now for any $c \in F^{[k+1]}$, suppose $a = a_0 + a_1 y_1 + a_2 y_2 + a_3 y_1^x y_2 + a_4 y_1^x y_2^x + *$ and $b = b_0 + b_1 y_1 + b_2 y_2 + *$, where $a_i, b_j \in \mathbb{C}$, $0 \leq i \leq 4, 0 \leq j \leq 2$ and $*$ represents other terms, such that $ab \in (F^{[k]})'$, $c = ab^x$ and $y_1 y_2^x$ or $y_1^x y_2 \in \text{supp}(c)$. It is impossible that $a_0, b_0 \neq 0$ or $a_0 \neq 0, b_0 = 0$ since $1, y_1^x, y_2^x$ cannot appear in $\text{supp}(c)$. If $a_0 = 0, b_0 \neq 0$, then $a_1, a_2 = 0$ since y_1, y_2 cannot appear in $\text{supp}(c)$ and therefore $ab^x = b_0(a_3 y_1^x y_2 + a_4 y_1 y_2^x) + *$. The fact that $ab = b_0(a_3 y_1^x y_2 + a_4 y_1 y_2^x) + * \in (F^{[k]})'$ implies that $b_0(a_3 y_1^x y_2 + a_4 y_1 y_2^x)$ is some multiple of $y_1 y_2^x - y_1^x y_2$. Assume now that $a_0, b_0 = 0$. Then $ab = (a_2 b_1 + a_1 b_2) y_1 y_2 + *$. Since $y_1 y_2 \notin \text{supp}(ab)$, we have $a_2 b_1 + a_1 b_2 = 0$. So $c = ab^x = a_2 b_1 y_1^x y_2 + a_1 b_2 y_1 y_2^x + * = a_2 b_1 (y_1^x y_2 - y_1 y_2^x) + *$ and hence $y_1 y_2^x - y_1^x y_2$ appears in c as a whole.

On the other hand, if the difference operator on \mathbb{C} is the conjugation map (that is, $\sigma(i) = -i$), the situation is totally changed. Since

$$y_1^2 + y_2^2 = (y_1 + iy_2)(y_1 - iy_2) \in I,$$

$(y_1 + iy_2)(y_1 - iy_2)^x = y_1^{x+1} + iy_1^x y_2 + iy_1 y_2^x - y_2^{x+1} \in I$ and hence $y_1^x y_2 + y_1 y_2^x \in I$. Since we also have $y_1^x y_2 - y_1 y_2^x \in I$, then $y_1^x y_2, y_1 y_2^x \in I$. It follows that $I = [y_1^u, y_1^{w_1} y_2^{w_2}, y_2^v : 2 \preceq u, 2 \preceq v, x + 1 \preceq w_1 + w_2]$ (\preceq is defined below). In this case, $I = \langle y_1^2, y_2^2 \rangle$ is indeed a monomial σ -ideal.

In the rest of this section, we will prove that a well-mixed σ -ideal generated by monomials can be generated by finitely many monomials as a well-mixed σ -ideal. For the proof, we need a new order on $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$ and some lemmas.

Definition 4.2. Let $f = \sum_{i=0}^l f_i x^i, g = \sum_{i=0}^m g_i x^i \in \mathbb{N}[x]$. Let k be a positive integer with $k > \max\{l, m\}$, and set $f_i = 0$ for $l+1 \leq i \leq k, g_i = 0$ for $m+1 \leq i \leq k$. Then define $f \preceq g$ if $\sum_{j=i}^k f_j \leq \sum_{j=i}^k g_j$ for $i = 0, \dots, k$. Note that \preceq is a partial order on $\mathbb{N}[x]$. Extend \preceq to $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$ by defining $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \preceq \mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ if and only if $u_i \preceq v_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

It is straightforward from the definition that the partial order \preceq has the following properties.

Lemma 4.3. Let $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. If $\mathbf{u}_1 \preceq \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{u}_2 \preceq \mathbf{v}_2$, then $x\mathbf{u}_1 \preceq x\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2 \preceq \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2$.

Moreover, we have:

Lemma 4.4. Let $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. If $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v}$, then $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{v}} \in \langle \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} \rangle$.

Proof. For brevity, we just prove the case $n = 1$, since the case $n \geq 2$ is similar. Let $f, g \in \mathbb{N}[x]$. Without loss of generality, we can assume that $f = \sum_{i=0}^l f_i x^i, g = \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i$. We shall show that if $f \preceq g$, then $y_1^g \in \langle y_1^f \rangle$. Let us do this by induction on l . When $l = 0$, it is clear that $f_0 \preceq g_0$ implies that $y_1^{g_0} \in \langle y_1^{f_0} \rangle$. For the inductive step, assume now that $l \geq 1$. Since $\sum_{i=0}^l f_i \leq \sum_{i=0}^l g_i$, increase f_0 if necessary such that $\sum_{i=0}^l f_i = \sum_{i=0}^l g_i$. Then we have $f_0 \geq g_0$, since $\sum_{i=1}^l f_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^l g_i$. Let $f' = \sum_{i=2}^l f_i x^{i-1} + f_1 + f_0 - g_0, g' = \sum_{i=2}^l g_i x^{i-1} + g_1$. Then $f' \preceq g'$. So by the induction hypothesis, $y_1^{g'} \in \langle y_1^{f'} \rangle$. It follows that $y_1^g = y_1^{g'x+g_0} \in \langle y_1^{f'x+g_0} \rangle \subseteq \langle y_1^{f'x+g_0-(f_0-g_0)x+f_0-g_0} \rangle = \langle y_1^f \rangle$. \square

For $f = \sum_{i=0}^l f_i x^i \in \mathbb{N}[x]$, denote $|f| = \sum_{i=0}^l f_i \in \mathbb{N}$.

Lemma 4.5. Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]$ such that $|f|$ is a constant $a \in \mathbb{N}$ for all $f \in S$. Then the set of minimal elements of S with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite.

Proof. We shall prove the lemma by induction on a . The case $a = 0, 1$ is clear. For the inductive step, assume now $a \geq 2$. Choose an $f = \sum_{i=0}^l f_i x^i \in S$. The set $G = \{g = \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i \mid |g| \leq a\}$ is finite. For each $g = \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i \in G$, we define

$$S_g = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^m h_i x^i \in S \mid m > l, \sum_{i=0}^l h_i x^i = g \right\}$$

and

$$S'_g = \left\{ \sum_{i=l+1}^m h_i x^i \mid \sum_{i=0}^m h_i x^i \in S_g \right\}.$$

It follows $S = \bigcup_{g \in G} S_g$. For each $g \in G$, if $g \neq 0$, then for all $h \in S'_g, |h|$ is a constant which is lower than a . So by the induction hypothesis, the set of minimal

elements of S'_g with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite and hence so is S_g . Note that for any $h \in S_0, f \preceq h$. Therefore, the set of minimal elements of S is contained in the union of the set of minimal elements of S_g , where $g \in G, g \neq 0$, and $\{f\}$. Since the latter is a finite set, the former must be finite. \square

Lemma 4.6. *Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]$ such that for all $f \in S, |f| \leq a$ for some $a \in \mathbb{N}$. Then the set of minimal elements of S with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite.*

Proof. It is an immediate corollary of the above lemma. \square

Lemma 4.7. *Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]$ such that for all $f \in S, \deg(f) \leq k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Then the set of minimal elements of S with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite.*

Proof. We shall prove the lemma by induction on k . The case $k = 0$ is clear. For the inductive step, assume now that $k \geq 1$. Choose an $f = \sum_{i=0}^k f_i x^i \in S$ and denote $c = |f|$. For every $j, 0 \leq j < c, j \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists an integer, say $s, 0 \leq s \leq k$, such that $\sum_{i=s+1}^k f_i \leq j < \sum_{i=s}^k f_i$, and we define

$$U_j = \left\{ \sum_{i=s}^k g_i x^i \mid \sum_{i=s}^k g_i = j \right\},$$

which is obviously a finite set. For each $g \in U_j$, define

$$S_g = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k g_i x^i \in S \mid \sum_{i=s}^k g_i x^i = g \right\}$$

and

$$S'_g = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{s-1} g_i x^i \mid \sum_{i=0}^k g_i x^i \in S_g \right\}.$$

In addition, we define

$$S_f = \{h \in S \mid f \preceq h\}.$$

By the definition of \preceq , for an $h \in S$, if $h \not\preceq f$, then h must belong to some S_g . So we have

$$(4.2) \quad S = \left(\bigcup_{j=0}^{c-1} \bigcup_{g \in U_j} S_g \right) \cup S_f.$$

Note that for each $g \in U_j, \deg(h) < k$ for all $h \in S'_g$, so by the induction hypothesis, the set of minimal elements of S'_g with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite and hence so is S_g . Because of (4.2), we have that the set of minimal elements of S is contained in the union of the set of minimal elements of S_g and $\{f\}$, where $g \in U_j$ and $j = 0, \dots, c - 1$. Since the latter is a finite set, the former must be finite. \square

Lemma 4.8. *Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]$. Then the set of minimal elements of S with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite.*

Proof. Let us choose an $f = \sum_{i=0}^k f_i x^i \in S$ and denote $c = |f|$. For every $j, 0 \leq j < c - f_0, j \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists an integer, say $s, 1 \leq s \leq k$, such that

$\sum_{i=s+1}^k f_i \leq j < \sum_{i=s}^k f_i$, and we define

$$U_j = \left\{ \sum_{i=s}^l g_i x^i \mid \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i \in S, \sum_{i=s}^l g_i = j \right\},$$

$$S_j = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i \in S \mid \sum_{i=s}^l g_i = j \right\}$$

and

$$S'_j = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{s-1} g_i x^i \mid \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i \in S_j \right\}.$$

By Lemma 4.5, for each j , the set of minimal elements of U_j is finite, which is denoted by V_j . By Lemma 4.7, for each j , the set of minimal elements of S'_j is finite, which is denoted by W_j .

In addition, we define

$$S_c = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i \in S \mid \sum_{i=0}^l g_i < c \right\},$$

$$S_f = \{h \in S \mid f \preceq h\}.$$

By the definition of \preceq , for an $h \in S$, if $h \notin S_c$ and $h \notin S_f$, then h must belong to some S_j . So we have

$$(4.3) \quad S = \left(\bigcup_{j=0}^{c-f_0-1} S_j \right) \cup S_c \cup S_f.$$

By Lemma 4.6, the set of minimal elements of S_c is finite, which is denoted by C . We claim that the set of minimal elements of S is contained in $(\bigcup_{j=0}^{c-f_0-1} (V_j + W_j)) \cup C \cup \{f\}$, where $V_j + W_j$ means $\{g + h \mid g \in V_j, h \in W_j\}$. To prove this, let $g = \sum_{i=0}^l g_i x^i \in S$. By (4.3), if $g \notin S_c$ and $g \notin S_f$, then there exists j such that $g \in S_j$. By definition, $\sum_{i=s}^l g_i x^i \in U_j$ and $\sum_{i=0}^{s-1} g_i x^i \in S'_j$. So there exists $h \in V_j$ and there exists $h' \in W_j$ such that $h \preceq \sum_{i=s}^l g_i x^i$ and $h' \preceq \sum_{i=0}^{s-1} g_i x^i$. Therefore, $h + h' \in V_j + W_j$ such that $h + h' \preceq \sum_{i=s}^l g_i x^i + \sum_{i=0}^{s-1} g_i x^i = g$, which proves the claim.

Since $(\bigcup_{j=0}^{c-f_0-1} (V_j + W_j)) \cup C \cup \{f\}$ is a finite set, it follows that the set of minimal elements of S is finite. □

Lemma 4.9. *Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Then the set of minimal elements of S with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite.*

Proof. We shall prove the lemma by induction on n . The case $n = 1$ is proved by Lemma 4.8. For the inductive step, assume now that $n \geq 2$. Define

$$S_1 = \{u_1 \mid (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in S\}.$$

By Lemma 4.8, the set of minimal elements of S_1 is finite, which is denoted by U . For each $u \in U$, define

$$S_u = \{(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) \in S \mid u \preceq u_1\}$$

and

$$S'_u = \{(u_2, \dots, u_n) \mid (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) \in S_u\}.$$

Obviously, we have $S = \bigcup_{u \in U} S_u$.

By the induction hypothesis, for each $u \in U$, the set of minimal elements of S'_u with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite, which is denoted by V_u . Let $u \times V_u = \{(u, \mathbf{v}) \mid \mathbf{v} \in V_u\}$. We claim that the set of minimal elements of S is contained in $\bigcup_{u \in U} u \times V_u$. To prove this, let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) \in S$. There exists $u \in U$ such that $\mathbf{u} \in S_u$. By definition, $(u_2, \dots, u_n) \in S'_u$. So there exists $\mathbf{v} \in V_u$ such that $\mathbf{v} \preceq (u_2, \dots, u_n)$. Therefore, $(u, \mathbf{v}) \preceq (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) = \mathbf{u}$ and $(u, \mathbf{v}) \in u \times V_u$, which proves the claim.

Since $\bigcup_{u \in U} u \times V_u$ is a finite set, the set of minimal elements of S is finite. \square

Now we can prove the finitely generated property of well-mixed σ -ideals generated by monomials.

Theorem 4.10. *Let $I = \langle \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S \rangle$ for some $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Then I is generated by a finite set of monomials as a well-mixed σ -ideal.*

Proof. If $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v}$, we can delete \mathbf{v} from the generating set S to get the same well-mixed σ -ideal, since $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{v}} \in \langle \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} \rangle$ by Lemma 4.4. So we only need to show that the set of minimal elements of S with respect to the partial order \preceq is finite, which follows from Lemma 4.9. \square

Corollary 4.11. *Any strictly ascending chain of well-mixed σ -ideals generated by monomials in R is finite.*

Proof. Assume that $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq I_k \dots$ is an ascending chain of well-mixed σ -ideals generated by monomials. Then $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} I_i$ is also a well-mixed σ -ideal generated by monomials. By Theorem 4.10, $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} I_i$ is finitely generated by monomials, say $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$. Then there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ large enough such that $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\} \subset I_k$. It follows that $I_k = I_{k+1} = \dots = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} I_i$. \square

Remark 4.12. It should be pointed out that a counterexample due to Levin in [4] shows that Corollary 4.11 does not hold even for well-mixed σ -ideals generated by binomials in R .

5. PRIME DECOMPOSITION OF RADICAL WELL-MIXED MONOMIAL σ -IDEALS

In this section, we will give a finite prime decomposition of radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals. First let us prove some lemmas. Notation follows as in Section 4.

Lemma 5.1. *Let F and G be subsets of any σ -ring R . Then*

- (a) $F^{[1]}G^{[1]} \subseteq (FG)^{[1]}$;
- (b) $F^{[i]}G^{[i]} \subseteq (FG)^{[i]}$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots$;
- (c) $F^{[i]} \cup G^{[i]} \subseteq \sqrt{(FG)^{[i]}}$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots$.

Proof. (a) Let $a\sigma(b) \in F^{[1]}$ and $c\sigma(d) \in G^{[1]}$ such that $ab \in (F)$ and $cd \in (G)$. Then $abcd \in (FG)$ and it follows that $ac\sigma(bd) = a\sigma(b)c\sigma(d) \in (FG)^{[1]}$. So $F^{[1]}G^{[1]} \subseteq (FG)^{[1]}$.

(b) We prove (b) by induction on i . The case $i = 1$ is proved by (a). For the inductive step, assume now that $i \geq 2$. Then by (a) and the induction hypothesis,

$$\begin{aligned} F^{[i]}G^{[i]} &= (F^{[i-1]})^{[1]}(G^{[i-1]})^{[1]} \subseteq (F^{[i-1]}G^{[i-1]})^{[1]} \\ &\subseteq ((FG)^{[i-1]})^{[1]} = (FG)^{[i]}. \end{aligned}$$

(c) For any $a \in F^{[i]} \cup G^{[i]}$, $a^2 \in F^{[i]}G^{[i]}$. It follows that $a \in \sqrt{F^{[i]}G^{[i]}} \subseteq \sqrt{(FG)^{[i]}}$. □

Proposition 5.2. *Let F and G be subsets of any σ -ring R . Then*

$$\langle F \rangle_r \cap \langle G \rangle_r = \langle FG \rangle_r.$$

As a corollary, if I and J are two σ -ideals of R , then

$$\langle I \rangle_r \cap \langle J \rangle_r = \langle I \cap J \rangle_r = \langle IJ \rangle_r.$$

Proof. $\langle F \rangle_r \cap \langle G \rangle_r \supseteq \langle FG \rangle_r$ is clear. It is enough to show the converse. Because of (4.1),

$$\begin{aligned} \langle F \rangle_r \cap \langle G \rangle_r &= \sqrt{\langle F \rangle} \cap \sqrt{\langle G \rangle} = \sqrt{\bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} F^{[i]}} \cap \sqrt{\bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} G^{[i]}} \\ &= \sqrt{\bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} (F^{[i]} \cap G^{[i]})} \subseteq \sqrt{\bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{(FG)^{[i]}}} = \langle FG \rangle_r, \end{aligned}$$

where the inclusion follows from Lemma 5.1(c). □

Lemma 5.3. *Let I be a radical well-mixed σ -ideal of R . Suppose $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1}, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2}$ are two monomials in R such that $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2} \in I$. Then*

$$I = \langle I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \rangle_r \cap \langle I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2} \rangle_r.$$

Proof. By Proposition 5.2,

$$\langle I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \rangle_r \cap \langle I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2} \rangle_r = \langle I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2} \rangle_r = I.$$

□

For $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in (\mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\})^n$, we define

$$\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}} := [y_i^{x^{b_i}} \mid b_i \neq -1],$$

which is a prime monomial σ -ideal.

For $m \in \mathbb{N}^*$, denote $[m] = \{1, \dots, m\}$.

Now we can prove the decomposition theorem of radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals.

Theorem 5.4. *Let $I = \langle \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S \rangle_r$ where $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Then I can be written as a finite intersection of prime monomial σ -ideals of the forms $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}}$. That is, there exist $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_s \in (\mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\})^n$ such that*

$$I = \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_1} \cap \dots \cap \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_s}.$$

Moreover, if the decomposition is irredundant, then it is unique.

Proof. By Lemma 5.3, if a monomial $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} \in I$ and $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2$, then $I = \langle I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1} \rangle_r \cap \langle I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2} \rangle_r$. Iterating this process eventually write I as follows:

$$I = \cap \langle y_{i_1}^{x^{b_{i_1}}}, \dots, y_{i_k}^{x^{b_{i_k}}} \rangle_r.$$

Note that $[y_{i_1}^{x^{b_{i_1}}}, \dots, y_{i_k}^{x^{b_{i_k}}}]$ is a prime σ -ideal; therefore

$$\langle y_{i_1}^{x^{b_{i_1}}}, \dots, y_{i_k}^{x^{b_{i_k}}} \rangle_r = [y_{i_1}^{x^{b_{i_1}}}, \dots, y_{i_k}^{x^{b_{i_k}}}]$$

and

$$I = \cap [y_{i_1}^{x^{b_{i_1}}}, \dots, y_{i_k}^{x^{b_{i_k}}}]$$

After deleting unnecessary members in the intersection, we can assume that the intersection is irredundant. Using an argument similar to the proof of Dickson’s lemma, we see that this irredundant intersection must be finite. So there exist $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_s \in (\mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\})^n$ such that

$$I = \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_1} \cap \dots \cap \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_s}.$$

Let $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_1} \cap \dots \cap \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_s} = \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_1} \cap \dots \cap \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_t}$ be two irredundant decompositions of I . We will show that for each $i \in [s]$, there exists $j \in [t]$ such that $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_j} \subseteq \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$. By symmetry, we then also have that for each $k \in [t]$, there exists $l \in [s]$ such that $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_l} \subseteq \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_k}$. This implies that $s = t$ and $\{\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_1}, \dots, \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_s}\} = \{\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_1}, \dots, \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_t}\}$.

In fact, let $i \in [s]$. We can assume that $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i} = [y_1^{x^{b_{i1}}}, \dots, y_r^{x^{b_{ir}}}]$. Suppose $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_j} \not\subseteq \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$ for all $j \in [t]$. Then for each j there exists $y_{l_j}^{x^{c_j}} \in \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_j} \setminus \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$. It follows that either $l_j \notin [r]$ or $c_j < b_{il_j}$. Let

$$a = \prod_{j=1}^t y_{l_j}^{x^{c_j}}.$$

We have $a \in \cap_{j=1}^t \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{a}_j} \subseteq \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$. Therefore, there exists $j \in [t]$ such that $l_j \in [r]$ and $b_{il_j} \leq c_j$. This is impossible. □

If I is a radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideal, then the irredundant prime decomposition of I obtained in Theorem 5.4 is called the *standard prime decomposition* of I and each $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$ is called an *irreducible component* of I .

Corollary 5.5. *The radical well-mixed closure of a monomial σ -ideal is still a monomial σ -ideal.*

Proof. Suppose I is a monomial σ -ideal. By Theorem 5.4, there exist $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_s \in (\mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\})^n$ such that $\langle I \rangle_r = \cap_{i=1}^s \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$. Since every $\mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$ is a monomial σ -ideal and the intersection of monomial σ -ideals is a monomial σ -ideal, it follows that $\langle I \rangle_r$ is a monomial σ -ideal. □

Corollary 5.6. *Every radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideal in R is generated by finitely many monomials as a radical well-mixed σ -ideal.*

Proof. Suppose I is a radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideal. Let $I = \cap_{i=1}^s \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$ be the standard prime decomposition of I . By Proposition 5.2, $\cap_{i=1}^s \mathbf{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$ equals a radical well-mixed σ -ideal which is generated by finitely many monomials, so I is finitely generated as a radical well-mixed σ -ideal. □

By Corollary 5.6, for a radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideal I of R , there exist $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m \in (\mathbb{N} \cap \{-1\})^n$ with $\mathbf{a}_j = (a_{ji})_{i=1}^n, j = 1, \dots, m$, such that

$$I = \langle \prod_{i=1}^n y_i^{x^{a_{1i}}}, \dots, \prod_{i=1}^n y_i^{x^{a_{mi}}} \rangle_r,$$

where we set $x^{-1} = 0$. We call $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m\}$ the *character vectors* of I and call $\{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i^{x^{a_{1i}}}, \dots, \prod_{i=1}^n y_i^{x^{a_{mi}}}\}$ the *set of minimal generators* of I , denoted by $G(I)$.

Corollary 5.7. *Any strictly ascending chain of radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals in R is finite.*

Proof. Assume that $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq I_k \dots$ is an ascending chain of radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals. Then $\bigcup_{i=1}^\infty I_i$ is also a radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideal. By Corollary 5.6, $\bigcup_{i=1}^\infty I_i$ is finitely generated by monomials, say $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$. Then there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ large enough such that $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\} \subset I_k$. It follows that $I_k = I_{k+1} = \dots = \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty I_i$. \square

Remark 5.8. By Corollary 5.7, Conjecture 1.1 is valid for radical well-mixed monomial σ -ideals.

In the following, we give a criterion to check if a monomial σ -ideal is radical well-mixed using its support set.

Lemma 5.9. *An intersection of prime σ -ideals is radical well-mixed.*

Proof. A prime σ -ideal is radical well-mixed, and an intersection of radical well-mixed σ -ideals is radical well-mixed. \square

Corollary 5.10. *Let $I = k[S]$ be a monomial σ -ideal of R . Then I is radical well-mixed if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:*

- (a) *For $m \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$, $m\mathbf{u} \in S$ implies $\mathbf{u} \in S$.*
- (b) *For $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$, $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in S$ implies $\mathbf{u} + x\mathbf{v} \in S$.*

Proof. “ \Rightarrow ” is clear.

“ \Leftarrow ”. For $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$, define $\deg(\mathbf{u}) = (\deg(u_1), \dots, \deg(u_n))$ and set $\deg(0) = -1$. If $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in (\mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\})^n$, then let $x^{\mathbf{b}} = (x^{b_1}, \dots, x^{b_n})$ and set $x^{-1} = 0$. So from (a) and (b), we obtain

$$\forall \mathbf{u} \in S \Rightarrow x^{\deg(\mathbf{u})} \in S.$$

Let U be the subset of S which is the set of minimal elements in $\{x^{\deg(\mathbf{u})} \mid \mathbf{u} \in S\}$ with respect to the order $\leq (\mathbf{u} = (u_i)_{i=1}^n \leq \mathbf{v} = (v_i)_{i=1}^n$ if and only if $\deg(u_i) \leq \deg(v_i)$ for all i). Using an argument similar to the proof of Dickson’s lemma, we see that U is a finite set. Moreover,

$$(5.1) \quad S = \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n \mid \mathbf{u} \leq \mathbf{v} \text{ for some } \mathbf{u} \in U\},$$

or equivalently,

$$(5.2) \quad S = \bigcup_{\mathbf{u} \in U} \bigcap_{i=1}^n \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n \mid \deg(u_i) \leq \deg(v_i)\}.$$

Exchange \cup and \cap in (5.2), and we obtain $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_s \in (\mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\})^n$ with $\mathbf{b}_i = \{b_{ij}\}_{j=1}^n, i = 1, \dots, s$ such that

$$(5.3) \quad S = \bigcap_{i=1}^s \bigcup_{j=1}^n \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n \mid b_{ij} \leq \deg(v_i)\}.$$

Because of (5.3), we have

$$I = k[S] = \bigcap_{i=1}^s \mathfrak{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}.$$

Since all $\mathfrak{m}^{\mathbf{b}_i}$ are prime σ -ideals, I is radical well-mixed. □

Suppose S is a subset of $\mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Let

$$S' = \{\mathbf{u} + x\mathbf{v} \mid \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in S, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n\}.$$

Let $S^{[0]} = S$, and recursively we define $S^{[k]} = [S^{[k-1]}]'$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots$). Denote

$$\langle S \rangle = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} S^{[k]}.$$

Corollary 5.11. *Let $I = k[S]$ be a monomial σ -ideal of R . Then $\langle I \rangle_r = k[\sqrt{\langle S \rangle}]$.*

Proof. Clearly, $\langle I \rangle_r \supseteq k[\sqrt{\langle S \rangle}]$. We just need to show that $k[\sqrt{\langle S \rangle}]$ is already a radical well-mixed σ -ideal. It is easy to check that $k[\sqrt{\langle S \rangle}]$ is a σ -ideal. To show that it is radical well-mixed, we need to check that $\sqrt{\langle S \rangle}$ satisfies the conditions (a) and (b) of Corollary 5.10. (a) is obvious. For (b), let $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$ such that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in \sqrt{\langle S \rangle}$; then there exists $m \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that $m(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) \in \langle S \rangle = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} S^{[k]}$. So there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $m(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) \in S^{[k]}$. Hence $m(\mathbf{u} + x\mathbf{v}) \in S^{[k+1]} \subseteq \langle S \rangle$. Therefore, $\mathbf{u} + x\mathbf{v} \in \sqrt{\langle S \rangle}$. □

Corollary 5.12. *Suppose $S_1, S_2 \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Then $k[\sqrt{\langle S_1 \cup S_2 \rangle}] = k[\sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle}] \cup k[\sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}]$.*

Proof. Clearly $k[\sqrt{\langle S_1 \cup S_2 \rangle}] \supseteq k[\sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle}] \cup k[\sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}]$. We only need to show that $k[\sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle} \cup \sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}]$ is already a radical well-mixed σ -ideal.

Obviously, $\sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle} \cup \sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}$ is a character set. Let $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$ such that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in \sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle} \cup \sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}$; then $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in \sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle}$ or $\sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}$ and hence $\mathbf{u} + x\mathbf{v} \in \sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle}$ or $\sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}$. So $\mathbf{u} + x\mathbf{v} \in \sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle} \cup \sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}$, which proves the condition (b) of Corollary 5.10. Similarly for the condition (a) of Corollary 5.10. Therefore, the corollary follows from Corollary 5.10. □

Corollary 5.13. *Let I, J be two monomial σ -ideals. Then $\langle I + J \rangle_r = \langle I \rangle_r + \langle J \rangle_r$.*

Proof. Suppose $I = k[S_1], J = k[S_2]$. Then $\langle I + J \rangle_r = k[\sqrt{\langle S_1 \cup S_2 \rangle}]$ and $\langle I \rangle_r + \langle J \rangle_r = k[\sqrt{\langle S_1 \rangle} \cup \sqrt{\langle S_2 \rangle}]$. So the equality follows from Corollary 5.12. □

6. σ -PRIME DECOMPOSITION OF PERFECT MONOMIAL σ -IDEALS

It is well known that in a σ -polynomial ring, any perfect σ -ideal is a finite intersection of σ -prime σ -ideals. In this section, we will give a σ -prime decomposition of perfect monomial σ -ideals in a σ -polynomial ring. The following lemma is taken from [7, Proposition 1.2.20].

Proposition 6.1. *Let F and G be subsets of any σ -ring R . Then*

$$\{F\} \cap \{G\} = \{FG\}.$$

Lemma 6.2. *Let I be a perfect σ -ideal of R . Suppose that $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1}, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2}$ are two monomials in R such that $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2} \in I$. Then*

$$I = \{I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1}\} \cap \{I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2}\}.$$

Proof. By Proposition 6.1,

$$\{I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1}\} \cap \{I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2}\} = \{I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2}\} = I.$$

□

For $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n$, we define

$$\mathfrak{p}^{\mathbf{b}} := [y_i \mid b_i \neq 0],$$

which is a σ -prime σ -ideal.

Theorem 6.3. *Let $I = \{\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S\}$ where $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}[x]^n$. Then I can be written as a finite intersection of σ -prime σ -ideals of the forms $\mathfrak{p}^{\mathbf{b}}$. That is, there exist $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_s \in \{0, 1\}^n$ such that*

$$I = \mathfrak{p}^{\mathbf{b}_1} \cap \dots \cap \mathfrak{p}^{\mathbf{b}_s}.$$

Moreover, if the decomposition is irredundant, then it is unique.

Proof. For $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in \mathbb{N}[x]^n$, define a vector $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n$ such that $a_i = 1$ if $u_i \neq 0$ and $a_i = 0$ otherwise, for $i = 1, \dots, n$. It is easy to see that if $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} \in I$, then $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{a}} \in I$. So without loss of generality, we can assume that $S \subseteq \{0, 1\}^n$. By Lemma 6.2, if a monomial $\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} \in I$ and $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2$, then $I = \{I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_1}\} \cap \{I, \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}_2}\}$. Iterating this process eventually write I as follows:

$$I = \cap \{y_{i_1}, \dots, y_{i_k}\} = \cap [y_{i_1}, \dots, y_{i_k}].$$

After deleting unnecessary members in the intersection, we can assume that the intersection is irredundant. It is easy to see that this irredundant intersection is finite. Thus there exist $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_s \in \{0, 1\}^n$ such that

$$I = \mathfrak{p}^{\mathbf{b}_1} \cap \dots \cap \mathfrak{p}^{\mathbf{b}_s}.$$

The uniqueness is similar to Theorem 5.4. □

Remark 6.4. In fact, it is more straightforward to get the σ -prime decomposition of perfect monomial σ -ideals by using Theorem 5.4. Assume $S \subseteq \{0, 1\}^n$. Then by Theorem 5.4, $\langle \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S \rangle_r = \cap \langle y_{i_1}, \dots, y_{i_k} \rangle_r = \cap [y_{i_1}, \dots, y_{i_k}]$. Since $[y_{i_1}, \dots, y_{i_k}]$ are σ -prime σ -ideals, it follows that $\langle \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S \rangle_r$ is a perfect σ -ideal. Thus

$$I = \{\mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S\} = \langle \mathbb{Y}^{\mathbf{u}} : \mathbf{u} \in S \rangle_r = \cap [y_{i_1}, \dots, y_{i_k}].$$

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