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THE HOMOGENEOUS SPECTRUM OF A GRADED COMMUTATIVE RING

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ABSTRACT. Suppose Γ is a torsion-free cancellative commutative monoid for which the group of quotients is finitely generated. We prove that the spectrum of a Γ -graded commutative ring is Noetherian if its homogeneous spectrum is Noetherian, thus answering a question of David Rush. Suppose A is a commutative ring having Noetherian spectrum. We determine conditions in order that the monoid ring $A[\Gamma]$ have Noetherian spectrum. If rank $\Gamma \leq 2$, we show that $A[\Gamma]$ has Noetherian spectrum, while for each $n \geq 3$ we establish existence of an example where the homogeneous spectrum of $A[\Gamma]$ is not Noetherian.

0. INTRODUCTION.

All rings we consider are assumed to be nonzero, commutative and with unity. All the monoids are assumed to be torsion-free cancellative commutative monoids. Let Γ be a monoid such that the group of quotients G of Γ is finitely generated, and let $R = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma} R_{\gamma}$ be a commutative Γ -graded ring. A goal of this paper is to answer in the affirmative a question mentioned to one of us by David Rush as to whether Spec R is necessarily Noetherian provided the homogeneous spectrum, h-Spec R, is Noetherian.

If I is an ideal of a ring R, we let rad(I) denote the radical of I, that is $rad(I) = \{r \in R : r^n \in I \text{ for some positive integer } n\}$. We say that I is a radical ideal if rad(I) = I. A subset S of the ideal I generates I up to radical if rad(I) = rad(SR). The ideal I is radically finite if it is generated up to radical by a finite set.

We recall that a ring R is said to have *Noetherian spectrum* if the set Spec R of prime ideals of R with the Zariski topology satisfies the descending chain condition on closed subsets. In ideal-theoretic terminology, R has Noetherian spectrum if and only if R satisfies the ascending chain condition (a.c.c.) on radical ideals.

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Thus a Noetherian ring has Noetherian spectrum and each ring having only finitely many prime ideals has Noetherian spectrum. As shown in [8, Prop. 2.1], Spec R is Noetherian if and only if each ideal of R is radically finite. It is well known that Rhas Noetherian spectrum if and only if R satisfies the two properties: (i) a.c.c. on prime ideals, and (ii) every ideal of R has only finitely many minimal prime ideals [6], [3, Theorem 88, page 59 and Ex. 25, page 65].

In analogy with the result of Cohen that a ring R is Noetherian if each prime ideal of R is finitely generated, it is shown in [8, Corollary 2.4] that R has Noetherian spectrum if each prime ideal of R is radically finite. It is shown in [8, Theorem 2.5] that Noetherian spectrum is preserved under polynomial extension in finitely many indeterminates. Thus finitely generated algebras over a ring with Noetherian spectrum again have Noetherian spectrum.

In Section 1 we prove that if R is a Γ -graded ring, where Γ is a monoid with finitely generated group of quotients, and if h-Spec R is Noetherian, then Spec Ris Noetherian (Theorem 1.7). In Section 2 we deal with monoid rings. It turns out that if M is a monoid with finitely generated group of quotients and k is a field, then the homogeneous spectrum of the monoid ring k[M] is not necessarily Noetherian (Example 2.9). On the positive side, h-Spec A[M] is Noetherian if A is a ring with Noetherian spectrum and M is a monoid of torsion-free rank ≤ 2 .

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1. The homogeneous spectrum

The homogeneous spectrum, h-Spec R, of a graded ring $R = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma} R_{\gamma}$ is the set of homogeneous prime ideals of R. The most common choices for the commutative monoid Γ are the monoid \mathbb{N} of nonnegative integers or its group of quotients \mathbb{Z} . A standard technique using homogeneous localization shows the following: if $R = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} R_n$ is a \mathbb{Z} -graded integral domain, if t is a nonzero element of R_1 , and if H is the multiplicative set of nonzero homogeneous elements of R, then the localization R_H of R with respect to H is the graded Laurent polynomial ring $K_0[t, t^{-1}]$, where K_0 is a field [10, page 157]. This implies the following remark.

Remark 1.1. Suppose $R = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} R_n$ is a graded integral domain and P is a nonzero prime ideal of R. If zero is the only homogeneous element contained in P, then the localization R_P is one-dimensional and Noetherian.

If $R = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} R_n$ is a graded ring with no nonzero homogeneous prime ideals, then R_0 is a field and either $R = R_0$, or R is a Laurent polynomial ring $R_0[x, x^{-1}]$ [1, page 83].

Every ring can be viewed as a graded ring with the trivial gradation that assigns degree zero to every element of the ring. Thus Nagata in [7, Section 8] develops primary decomposition for graded ideals in a graded Noetherian ring. It is not surprising that there is an interrelationship among the Noetherian properties of Spec R, h-Spec R, Spec R[X] and h-Spec R[X].

Proposition 1.2 is useful in considering the Noetherian property of spectra. It follows by induction from [8, Prop. 2.2 (ii)], but we prefer to prove it directly.

Proposition 1.2. Let I be an ideal of a ring R. Let J be an ideal of R and S a subset of J such that $J = \operatorname{rad} SR$. If I + J is radically finite and if for each $s \in S$, the ideal IR[1/s] is radically finite, then I is radically finite.

Proof. Since I + J is radically finite and since $J = \operatorname{rad} SR$, there exist finite sets $F \subseteq I$ and $G \subseteq S$ such that $\operatorname{rad}(I + J) = \operatorname{rad}((F, G)R)$. For each $g \in G$ there exists a finite subset T_g of I such that $\operatorname{rad}(IR[1/g]) = \operatorname{rad}(T_gR[1/g])$. Let $I' = (F \cup \bigcup_{g \in G} T_g)R$, thus $I' \subseteq I$. Suppose $P \in \operatorname{Spec} R$ and $I' \subseteq P$. If $G \subseteq P$, then $I \subseteq P$ since $\operatorname{rad}(I' + GR) = \operatorname{rad}(I + J)$. Otherwise, we have $g \notin P$ for some element $g \in G$. Therefore $\operatorname{rad}(I'R[1/g]) = \operatorname{rad}(IR[1/g]) \subseteq PR[1/g]$. Since P is the preimage in R of PR[1/g], we have $\operatorname{rad}(I) \subseteq P$. Therefore $\operatorname{rad}(I') = \operatorname{rad}(I)$, so I is radically finite. □

For Corollary 1.3, we use that the (homogeneous) spectrum of a graded ring R is Noetherian iff each (homogeneous) ideal of R is radically finite.

- **Corollary 1.3.** (1) Let S be a finite subset of a ring R. If Spec(R/SR) is Noetherian and for each $s \in S$, Spec(R[1/s]) is Noetherian, then Spec R is Noetherian.
 - (2) Let S be a finite set of homogeneous elements of a graded ring R. If h-Spec(R/SR) is Noetherian and for each s ∈ S, h-Spec(R[1/s]) is Noetherian, then h-Spec R is Noetherian.

The hypotheses in Proposition 1.2 and Corollary 1.3 concerning the set S may be modified as follows and still give the same conclusion:

Proposition 1.4. Let I be an ideal of a ring R, and let S be a finite subset of R. Let U be the multiplicatively closed subset of R generated by S.

- (1) If I + sR is radically finite for each $s \in S$ and IR_U is radically finite, then I is radically finite.
- (2) If $\operatorname{Spec}(R/sR)$ is Noetherian for each $s \in S$ and $\operatorname{Spec} R_U$ is Noetherian, then $\operatorname{Spec} R$ is Noetherian.
- (3) If R is a Γ-graded ring for some monoid Γ, each s ∈ S is homogeneous with h-Spec(R/sR) Noetherian and if h-Spec R_U is Noetherian, then h-Spec R is Noetherian.

The next Corollary is a special case of Proposition 1.2.

Corollary 1.5. Suppose S is a subset of a ring R that generates R as an ideal and let I be an ideal of R. If IR[1/s] is radically finite for each $s \in S$, then I is radically finite.

If R[1/s] has Noetherian spectrum for each $s \in S$, then R has Noetherian spectrum.

In analogy with Corollary 1.5, it is a standard result in commutative algebra that if SR = R and R[1/s] is a Noetherian ring for each $s \in S$, then R is a Noetherian ring. However, the analogue of Corollary 1.3 for the Noetherian property of a ring is false: There exists a non-Noetherian ring R and an element $s \in R$ such that R/sR and R[1/s] are Noetherian. For example, let X, Y be indeterminates over a field k, let $R := k[X, \{Y/X^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}]$ and let s = X. Then $P = (\{Y/X^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty})$ is a nonfinitely generated prime ideal of R, so R is not Noetherian, although both R/XR = k and R[1/X] = k[X, Y, 1/X] are Noetherian. Incidentally, both the ideal (P + XR)/XR = (0) of R/XR and the ideal PR[1/X] of R[1/X] are principal.

Proposition 1.6 is the graded analogue of [8, Theorem 2.5].

Proposition 1.6. Suppose Γ is a torsion-free cancellative commutative monoid with group of quotients G and $R = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma} R_{\gamma}$ is a Γ -graded commutative ring. Fix $g \in G$, and consider the polynomial ring R[X] as a graded extension ring of Runiquely determined by defining X to be a homogeneous element of degree g. If h-Spec R is Noetherian, then h-Spec R[X] is Noetherian.

Proof. Assume that h-Spec R is Noetherian, but h-Spec R[X] is not Noetherian. Then there exists a homogeneous prime ideal P of R[X] that is maximal with respect to not being radically finite. Since $P \cap R = p$ is a homogeneous prime ideal of Rand h-Spec R is Noetherian, we may pass from R[X] to $R[X]/p[X] \cong (R/p)[X]$ and

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assume that $P \cap R = (0)$. Then R is a graded domain and h-Spec R is Noetherian. Choose an element $f \in P$ having minimal degree d as a polynomial in R[X]. By replacing f by one of its nonzero homogeneous components, we may assume that $f = a_d X^d + a_{d-1} X^{d-1} + \cdots + a_0$, where the elements $a_i \in R$ are homogeneous elements of R with $a_d \neq 0$. Since $P \cap R = (0)$, we have d > 0 and $a_d \notin P$. The maximality of P with respect to not being radically finite implies $(P, a_d)R[X]$ is radically finite. Since $a_d^{-1}f$ is a polynomial of minimal degree in $PR[1/a_d][X]$ and since this polynomial is monic in $R[1/a_d][X]$, we see that $PR[1/a_d][X] = (f)$. But Proposition 1.4 (1) then implies that P is radically finite, a contradiction.

We use Proposition 1.6 in the proof of Theorem 1.7.

Theorem 1.7. Let $R = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma} R_{\gamma}$ be a Γ -graded commutative ring, where Γ is a nonzero torsion-free cancellative commutative monoid such that its group of quotients G is finitely generated. If h-Spec R is Noetherian, then Spec R is also Noetherian.

Proof. Up to a group isomorphism, we have $G \cong \mathbb{Z}^d$ for some positive integer d. Hence we may assume $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$. For $1 \leq i \leq d$, let g_i be the element of G having 1 as its *i*-th coordinate and zeros elsewhere. Consider the graded polynomial extension ring $R[\mathbf{X}] := R[X_1, \ldots, X_d]$ obtained by defining X_i to be a homogeneous element of degree g_i for $i = 1, \ldots, d$. Proposition 1.6 implies that h-Spec $R[\mathbf{X}]$ is Noetherian. We associate with each nonzero element $r \in R$ a homogeneous element $\tilde{r} \in R[\mathbf{X}]$ such that deg $(\tilde{r}) = (c_1, \ldots, c_d)$, where c_i is the maximum of the *i*-th coordinates of the degrees of the nonzero homogeneous components of $r \in R$ as follows: let $r = r_0 + \cdots + r_k$ be the homogeneous decomposition of r; set $\tilde{r} = \sum_{i=1}^k r_i \mathbf{X}^{m_i}$, where $m_i = (c_1, \ldots, c_d) - \deg r_i$ for each i and $\mathbf{X}^{(a_1, \ldots, a_d)} = \prod_{i=1}^d X_i^{a_i}$ for each sequence (a_1, \ldots, a_d) in \mathbb{Z}^d . We define $\tilde{0} = 0$. With each ideal I of R, let \tilde{I} denote the homogeneous ideal of $R[\mathbf{X}]$ generated by $\{\tilde{r}: r \in I\}$ (\tilde{r} is the homogenization of r and \tilde{I} is the homogenization of I).

Let $\phi : R[\mathbf{X}] \to R$ denote the *R*-algebra homomorphism defined by $\phi(X_i) = 1$ for i = 1, ..., n. Since ϕ is an *R*-algebra homomorphism and $\phi(\tilde{r}) = r$ for each $r \in R$, for each ideal *I* of *R*, we have $\phi(\tilde{I}) = I$ (the meaning of ϕ is *dehomogenization*). Therefore the map $I \to \tilde{I}$ is a one-to-one inclusion preserving correspondence of the set of ideals of *R* into the set of homogeneous ideals of $R[\mathbf{X}]$.

Let I be an ideal of R. Since h-Spec $R[\mathbf{X}]$ is Noetherian there exists a finite set S such that rad $\tilde{I} = \operatorname{rad}(SR[\mathbf{X}])$. We have rad $I = \operatorname{rad}\phi(\tilde{I}) = \operatorname{rad}(\phi(S))R$, thus I is radically finite. Therefore Spec R is Noetherian.

The following corollary is immediate from Theorem 1.7.

Corollary 1.8. Let R be an \mathbb{N} -graded or a \mathbb{Z} -graded ring. If h-Spec R is Noetherian, then Spec R is Noetherian.

Without the assumption in Theorem 1.7 that the group of quotients of Γ is finitely generated, it is possible to have h-Spec R is Noetherian and yet Spec R is not Noetherian. For example, if K is an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero and $\Gamma = \mathbb{Q}$, then (0) is the only homogeneous prime ideal of the group ring $R := K[\mathbb{Q}]$ so h-Spec R is Noetherian, but as we note in Theorem 2.6 below, Spec Ris not Noetherian.

2. The Noetherian spectra of monoid rings

Suppose A is a ring and M is a cancellative torsion-free commutative monoid. We consider the monoid ring A[M] as a graded ring with its natural M-grading where the nonzero elements of A are of degree zero. The monoid M is naturally identified with a subset of A[M]. We write X^m for $m \in M \subseteq A[M]$. Note that $0 \in M$ is identified with $1 \in A[M]$.

A \mathbb{Q} -monoid in a \mathbb{Q} -vector space V is an additive submonoid of V that is closed under multiplication by positive rationals. A subset of a \mathbb{Q} -monoid W is called a \mathbb{Q} -ideal of the \mathbb{Q} -monoid W if it is an ideal of the monoid W that is closed under multiplication by positive (that is, strictly positive) rationals.

If M is a cancellative torsion-free monoid with group of quotients G, we denote by $M^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ the \mathbb{Q} -monoid generated by M in $G \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$; thus $M = \{qm \mid q > 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{Q}, m \in M\}$.

Remark 2.1. Let S be a subset of a monoid M, let R be a ring, and let I be a homogeneous ideal of R[M] containing S and generated by monomials in M. Then S generates I up to radical iff S generates the \mathbb{Q} -ideal $(I \cap M)^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ of $M^{(\mathbb{Q})}$.

Remark 2.2. Suppose M is a cancellative torsion-free commutative monoid and k is a field. There is a natural one-to-one inclusion preserving correspondence between the homogeneous radical ideals of the monoid domain k[M] and the \mathbb{Q} -ideals of the

 \mathbb{Q} -monoid $M^{(\mathbb{Q})}$. Indeed, to each \mathbb{Q} -ideal L of $M^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ (which is generated by $L \cap M$) we make correspond the ideal of k[M] generated by $L \cap M$.

Lemma 2.3. Suppose M is a torsion-free cancellative commutative monoid, A is a ring with Noetherian spectrum, and P is a homogeneous prime ideal of the monoid ring A[M]. Then the following two conditions are equivalent:

- (1) The prime ideal P is radically finite in A[M].
- (2) The \mathbb{Q} -ideal $(P \cap M)^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ of $M^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ is finitely generated.

Proof. Since P is prime and homogeneous, P is generated by $(P \cap A) \cup (P \cap M)$. Since Spec A is Noetherian, we see that P is radically finite iff the ideal in A[M] generated by $P \cap M$ is radically finite iff the \mathbb{Q} -ideal $(P \cap M)^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ of $M^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ is finitely generated (Remark 2.1). This proves Lemma 2.3.

The following is an immediate corollary to Lemma 2.3.

Corollary 2.4. Let M be a torsion-free cancellative commutative monoid and let A be a ring with Noetherian spectrum. Then the following two conditions are equivalent:

- (1) The monoid ring A[M] has Noetherian homogeneous spectrum.
- (2) Each \mathbb{Q} -ideal in the \mathbb{Q} -monoid $M^{(\mathbb{Q})}$ is finitely generated.

We denote the torsion-free rank of a monoid M by rank M.

Proposition 2.5. Suppose A is a ring and M is a cancellative torsion-free commutative monoid.

- (1) If Spec A[M] is Noetherian, then Spec A is Noetherian and rank M is finite.
- (2) If Spec A is Noetherian and if rank $M \leq 2$, then h-Spec A[M] is Noetherian.
- Proof. (1) Spec A is Noetherian since every ideal I of A satisfies $I = IA[M] \cap A$, and if I is a radical ideal of A, then IA[M] is a radical ideal in A[M]. If rank M is infinite, let B be an infinite set of elements in M which are linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} in the \mathbb{Q} -vector space $G \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$, where G is the group of quotients of M. Then the ideal of A[M] generated by $\{X^b - X^c : b, c \in B\}$ is not radically finite. Therefore Spec A[M] is not Noetherian.
 - (2) By Lemma 2.3 it suffices to show each Q-ideal in M^(Q) is finitely generated. We may assume that M ⊆ Q². Let W be a nonempty Q-ideal of M^(Q). We show that W is a finitely generated ideal of W̃ := W ∪ {0}. If W

spans a one-dimensional subspace and \mathbf{v} is a nonzero element of W, then the Q-ideal W is generated by $\mathbf{0}$ if $-\mathbf{v} \in W$, and by \mathbf{v} otherwise. If Wspans \mathbb{Q}^2 , then choose two linearly independent vectors in W. By changing coordinates, we may assume that these vectors are (1,0) and (0,1). If W contains a vector \mathbf{v} with both coordinates strictly negative, then W is generated by $\mathbf{0}$ as a Q-ideal. Otherwise, define vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} as follows: if $a = \min\{y \mid (1, y) \in W\}$ exists, let $\mathbf{u} = (1, a)$; if the minimum does not exist, let $\mathbf{u} = (1, 0)$. Similarly, define a vector \mathbf{v} with second coordinate 1. Then \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} generate W as a Q-ideal of \widetilde{W} .

Theorem 2.6. Let A be a ring with Noetherian spectrum and M be a cancellative torsion-free commutative monoid. If the group of quotients of M is finitely generated and if rank $M \leq 2$, then the monoid ring A[M] has Noetherian spectrum.

On the other hand, if A[M] has Noetherian spectrum and if A contains an algebraically closed field of zero characteristic, then the group of quotients of M is finitely generated.

Proof. Assume that the group of quotients of M is finitely generated and that rank $M \leq 2$. By Proposition 2.5 (2), A[M] has Noetherian homogeneous spectrum. By Theorem 1.7, Spec A[M] is Noetherian.

For the second statement, assume that the group of quotients of M is not finitely generated. By Proposition 2.5 (1), we may assume that M has finite rank. It follows that there exists an element $s \in M$ that is divisible by infinitely many positive integers. Since A contains all roots of unity and they are distinct, we obtain that over the element $X^s - 1$ of A[M] there are infinitely many minimal primes. Therefore Spec A[M] is not Noetherian.

With regard to 2.6, if the monoid M is finitely generated, then it follows from [8, Theorem 2.5], that Spec A[M] is Noetherian if Spec A is Noetherian.

Example 2.7. Over a field k of characteristic p > 0, there exists a monoid M for which the group of quotients is not finitely generated and yet the monoid domain k[M] has Noetherian spectrum. For example, if $M := \mathbb{Z}[\{1/p^n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}]$, then k[M] is an integral purely inseparable extension of $k[\mathbb{Z}]$ and Spec(k[M]) is Noetherian.

A prime \mathbb{Q} -ideal of a \mathbb{Q} -monoid M is a \mathbb{Q} -ideal Q of M that is a prime ideal, that is, if $a + b \in Q$, then either $a \in Q$ or $b \in Q$.

Let S be a subset of a vector space over \mathbb{Q} . S is \mathbb{Q} -convex if for any points p, qin S and rational $0 \le t \le 1$ we have $tp + (1 - t)q \in S$.

Remark 2.8. Let M be a \mathbb{Q} -monoid in a vector space over \mathbb{Q} , and let I be a subset of M that is closed under addition and under multiplication by positive rationals; thus I is a \mathbb{Q} -convex set. Then I is an ideal of M iff for any two points $p \in I$ and $q \in M$ and any rational 0 < t < 1, we have $tp + (1 - t)q \in I$. Moreover, for I as above, if I is an ideal, then I is prime iff the set $M \setminus I$ is \mathbb{Q} -convex.

We denote by C the unit circle in \mathbb{R}^2 , that is, $C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$. We let $C_{\mathbb{Q}} = C \cap \mathbb{Q}^2$. For any subset S of \mathbb{R}^n we denote by S^+ the set of points in S with nonnegative coordinates.

Example 2.9. Let $n \ge 3$. Then there exists a cancellative torsion-free commutative monoid M of rank n such that the group of quotients of M is finitely generated, but for any ring A the homogeneous spectrum of A[M] is not Noetherian. Furthermore, the monoid M is completely integrally closed. Hence, if A is an integrally closed (completely integrally closed) domain, then A[M] is an integrally closed (completely integrally closed) domain.

First let n = 3. Let W be the Q-submonoid of Q³ generated by the set $\{(x, y, 1) : (x, y) \in C_{\mathbb{Q}}\}$. We claim that the Q-ideal $W \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ of W is not finitely generated; moreover, if $(p, 1) \in C_{\mathbb{Q}} \times \{1\}$, then (p, 1) does not belong to the Q-ideal of W generated by $C_{\mathbb{Q}} \times \{1\} \setminus \{(p, 1)\}$. Indeed, by Remark 2.8, the set of points $(x, y, z) \in W$ such that $\frac{1}{z}(x, y) \neq p$ is a Q-ideal of W which does not contain (p, 1). Set $M = W \cap \mathbb{Z}^3$. More explicitly, since the convex hull of $C_{\mathbb{Q}}$ equals the rational unit disk, we see that $M = \{X^a Y^b Z^c \mid (a, b, c) \in \mathbb{Z}^3, c \geq 0 \text{ and } a^2 + b^2 \leq c^2\}$.

Now let A be any ring. Since the Q-ideal generated by $W \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ in W is not finitely generated, we obtain by Lemma 2.3 that the ideal in A[M] generated by the nonzero elements of M is not radically finite; thus h-Spec A[M] is not Noetherian.

If n > 3 let $\widetilde{M} = M \oplus \mathbb{Z}^{n-3}$, where M is the monoid defined above. Then rank $\widetilde{M} = n$ and \widetilde{M} satisfies our requirements.

Clearly, M is a completely integrally closed monoid. Thus the assertions on A[M] follow from [2, Corollary 12.7 (2) and Corollary 12.11 (2)].

We now elaborate on Example 2.9, but with W replaced by W^+ . As seen in Example 2.9, R is a completely integrally closed domain, and h-Spec R is not Noetherian. Moreover, R = k[M] is a subring of the polynomial ring k[X, Y, Z] and has fraction field k(X, Y, Z). By [2, Theorem 21.4], dim R = 3. It is interesting that the maximal homogeneous ideal N of R has height 3, but its homogeneous height (defined using just homogeneous prime ideals) is 2. Indeed, let $P \neq N$ be a nonzero prime homogeneous ideal of R. Let Q be the \mathbb{Q} -ideal of W generated by the points (a, b, c) in \mathbb{Q}^3 such that $X^a Y^b Z^c \in P$. Since Q is a prime \mathbb{Q} -ideal of W and since $C^+_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is dense in C^+ , by Remark 2.8 we easily obtain that Q contains $C^+_{\mathbb{Q}} \times \{1\}$ except one point. Thus the homogeneous height of N is at most 2. Since the \mathbb{Q} -ideal of W generated by $C^+_{\mathbb{Q}} \times \{1\}$ with one point removed is prime, we see that the homogeneous height of N is 2.

On the other hand, ht N = 3. More generally, if R is a k-subalgebra of a polynomial ring $k[\mathbf{X}] := k[X_1, \ldots, X_n]$ over a field k with the same fraction field $k(\mathbf{X})$, then ht $((\mathbf{X})k[\mathbf{X}] \cap R) = n$. Indeed, this prime ideal has height at most n since $k(\mathbf{X})$ has transcendence degree n over k. Moreover, each nonzero ideal of $k[\mathbf{X}]$ has a nonzero intersection with R. Since the primes of height n - 1 of $k[\mathbf{X}]$ contained in $(\mathbf{X})k[\mathbf{X}]$ intersect in zero, there exists such a prime ideal P_{n-1} of $k[\mathbf{X}]$ such that $P_{n-1} \cap R \subsetneq (\mathbf{X})k[\mathbf{X}] \cap R$. Repeating this argument, we find a strictly descending chain of prime ideals contained in $R: (\mathbf{X})k[\mathbf{X}] \cap R \supsetneq (P_{n-1} \cap R) \supsetneq \cdots \supsetneq P_0 = (0)$.

This behavior where the dimension of the homogeneous spectrum of a graded integral domain R is less than dim R also occurs in the case where R is an N-graded integral domain. For example, if A is a one-dimensional quasilocal integral domain such that the polynomial ring A[X] has dimension three [9], then the homogeneous spectrum of A[X] in its natural N-grading has dimension two.

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