

# On the Complete Integral Closure of Rings that Admit a $\phi$ -Strongly Prime Ideal

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## ABSTRACT:

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with 1 and  $T(R)$  be its total quotient ring such that  $Nil(R)$  (the set of all nilpotent elements of  $R$ ) is a divided prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $R$  is called a  $\phi$ -chained ring ( $\phi$ -CR) if for every  $x, y \in R \setminus Nil(R)$ , either  $x \mid y$  or  $y \mid x$ . A prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is said to be a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal if for every  $a, b \in R \setminus Nil(R)$ , either  $a \mid b$  or  $aP \subset bP$ . In this paper, we show that if  $R$  admits a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal, then either  $R$  does not admit a minimal regular prime ideal and  $c(R)$  (the complete integral closure of  $R$  inside  $T(R)$ ) =  $T(R)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR or  $R$  admits a minimal regular prime ideal  $Q$  and  $c(R) = (Q : Q)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR with maximal ideal  $Q$ . We also prove that the complete integral closure of a conducive domain is a valuation domain.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

We assume throughout that all rings are commutative with  $1 \neq 0$ . We begin by recalling some background material. As in [17], an integral domain  $R$ , with quotient field  $K$ , is called a *pseudo-valuation domain (PVD)* in case each prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is *strongly prime*, in the sense that  $xy \in P, x \in K, y \in K$  implies that either  $x \in P$  or  $y \in P$ . In [4], Anderson, Dobbs and the author generalized the study of pseudo-valuation domains to the context of arbitrary rings (possibly with nonzero zerodivisors). Recall from [4] that a prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is said to be *strongly prime (in  $R$ )* if  $aP$  and  $bR$  are comparable (under inclusion) for all  $a, b \in R$ . A ring  $R$  is called a *pseudo-valuation ring (PVR)* if each prime ideal of  $R$  is strongly prime. A PVR is necessarily quasilocal [4, Lemma 1(b)]; a chained ring is a PVR [4, Corollary 4]; and an integral domain is a PVR if and only if it is a PVD (cf. [1, Proposition 3.1], [2, Proposition 4.2], and [6, Proposition 3]). Recall from [7] and [14] that a prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is called *divided* if it is comparable (under inclusion) to every ideal of  $R$ . A ring  $R$  is called a *divided ring* if every prime ideal of  $R$  is divided.

In [8], the author gave another generalization of PVDs to the context of arbitrary rings (possibly with nonzero zerodivisors). As in [8], for a ring  $R$  with total quotient ring  $T(R)$  such that  $Nil(R)$  (the set of all nilpotent elements of  $R$ ) is a divided

prime ideal of  $R$ , let  $\phi : T(R) \rightarrow K := R_{Nil(R)}$  such that  $\phi(a/b) = a/b$  for every  $a \in R$  and every  $b \in R \setminus Z(R)$ . Then  $\phi$  is a ring homomorphism from  $T(R)$  into  $K$ , and  $\phi$  restricted to  $R$  is also a ring homomorphism from  $R$  into  $K$  given by  $\phi(x) = x/1$  for every  $x \in R$ . A prime ideal  $Q$  of  $\phi(R)$  is called a  $K$ -strongly prime ideal if  $xy \in Q$ ,  $x \in K, y \in K$  implies that either  $x \in Q$  or  $y \in Q$ . If each prime ideal of  $\phi(R)$  is  $K$ -strongly prime, then  $\phi(R)$  is called a  $K$ -pseudo-valuation ring ( $K$ -PVR). A prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is called a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal if  $\phi(P)$  is a  $K$ -strongly prime ideal of  $\phi(R)$ . If a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  contains a nonzerodivisor, then we say that  $P$  is a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal. If each prime ideal of  $R$  is  $\phi$ -strongly prime, then  $R$  is called a  $\phi$ -pseudo-valuation ring ( $\phi$ -PVR). For an equivalent characterization of a  $\phi$ -PVR, see Proposition 1.1(7). It was shown in [9, Theorem 2.6] that for each  $n \geq 0$  there is a  $\phi$ -PVR of Krull dimension  $n$  that is not a PVR. Also, recall from [10], that a ring  $R$  is called a  $\phi$ -chained ring ( $\phi$ -CR) if  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and for every  $x \in R_{Nil(R)} \setminus \phi(R)$ , we have  $x^{-1} \in \phi(R)$ . For an equivalent characterization of a  $\phi$ -CR, see Proposition 1.1(9). A  $\phi$ -CR is a divided ring [10, Corollary 3.3(2)], and hence is quasilocal. It was shown in [10, Theorem 2.7] that for each  $n \geq 0$  there is a  $\phi$ -CR of Krull dimension  $n$  that is not a chained ring.

Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of a commutative ring  $R$  such that  $R$  admits a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime. In this paper, we show that  $c(R)$  (the complete integral closure of  $R$  inside  $T(R)$ ) is a  $\phi$ -chained ring. In fact, we will show that either  $c(R) = T(R)$  or  $c(R) = (Q : Q) = \{x \in T(R) : xQ \subset Q\}$  for some minimal regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal  $Q$  of  $R$ .

In the following proposition, we summarize some basic properties of PVRs,  $\phi$ -PVRs, and  $\phi$ -CRs.

- PROPOSITION 1.1. 1. An integral domain is a PVR if and only if it is a  $\phi$ -PVR if and only if it is a PVD ([1, Proposition 3.1], [2, Proposition 4.2], [6, Proposition 3], and [8]).
2. A PVR is a divided ring [4, Lemma 1], and hence is quasilocal.
  3. A ring  $R$  is a PVR if and only if for every  $a, b \in R$ , either  $a \mid b$  in  $R$  or  $b \mid ac$  in  $R$  for each nonunit  $c$  in  $R$  [4, Theorem 5].
  4. If  $R$  is a PVR, then  $Nil(R)$  and  $Z(R)$  are divided prime ideals of  $R$  ([4], [8]).
  5. A PVR is a  $\phi$ -PVR [8, Corollary 7(3)].
  6. If  $P$  is a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ , then  $P$  is a divided prime. In particular, if  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -PVR, then  $R$  is a divided ring [8, Proposition 4], and hence is quasilocal.
  7. Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$ . Then a prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is  $\phi$ -strongly prime if and only if for every  $a, b \in R \setminus Nil(R)$ , either  $a \mid b$  in  $R$  or  $aP \subset bP$ . In particular, a ring  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -PVR if and only if for every  $a, b \in R \setminus Nil(R)$ , either  $a \mid b$  in  $R$  or  $b \mid ac$  in  $R$  for every nonunit  $c \in R$  [8, Corollary 7].
  8. Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$ . If  $P$  is a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$  and  $Q$  is a prime ideal of  $R$  contained in  $P$ , then  $Q$  is a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$  [8, Proposition 5].

9. Suppose that  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$ . Then a ring  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -CR if and only if for every  $a, b \in R \setminus \text{Nil}(R)$ , either  $a \mid b$  in  $R$  or  $b \mid a$  in  $R$  [10, Proposition 2.3].

10. A  $\phi$ -CR is a  $\phi$ -PVR [10, Corollary 2.3].  $\square$

## 2 The COMPLETE INTEGRAL CLOSURE OF RINGS THAT ADMIT A REGULAR $\phi$ -STRONGLY PRIME IDEAL

Throughout this section,  $\text{Nil}(R)$  denotes the set of all nilpotent elements of  $R$ ,  $Z(R)$  denotes the set of all zerodivisor elements of  $R$ , and  $c(R)$  denotes the complete integral closure of  $R$  inside  $T(R)$ . The following two lemmas are needed in the proof of Proposition 2.3.

LEMMA 2.1. Suppose  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P$  is a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . If  $s$  is a regular element of  $R$  and  $z \in Z(R)$ , then  $s \mid z$  in  $R$ . In particular,  $Z(R) \subset P$ .

**Proof:** Let  $s$  be a regular element of  $P$  and  $z \in Z(R)$ . Suppose that  $s \nmid z$  in  $R$ . Then  $sP \subset zP$  by Proposition 1.1(7). Since  $s \in P$ , we have  $z \mid s^2$  in  $R$ , which is impossible. Hence,  $s \mid z$  in  $R$ . Thus,  $Z(R) \subset P$ . Now, suppose that  $s$  is a regular element of  $R \setminus P$ . Since  $P$  is divided by Proposition 1.1(6), we conclude that  $P \subset (s)$ . Hence, since  $Z(R) \subset P$ , we conclude that  $s \mid z$  in  $R$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 2.2. Suppose that  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P$  is a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $x^{-1}P \subset P$  for each  $x \in T(R) \setminus R$ . In particular, if  $x \in T(R) \setminus R$ , then  $x$  is a unit of  $T(R)$ .

**Proof:** First, observe that  $Z(R) \subset P$  by Lemma 2.1. Now, let  $x = a/b \in T(R) \setminus R$  for some  $a \in R$  and for some  $b \in R \setminus Z(R)$ . Since  $b \nmid a$  in  $R$ ,  $Z(R) \subset P$ , and  $P$  is divided, we conclude that  $a \in R \setminus Z(R)$ . Hence,  $x^{-1} \in T(R)$ . Thus, since  $b \nmid a$  in  $R$ , we have  $bP \subset aP$  by Proposition 1.1(7). Thus  $x^{-1}P = \frac{b}{a}P \subset P$ .  $\square$

In light of the Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, we have the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 2.3. Suppose that  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P$  is a regular prime ideal of  $R$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:

1.  $P$  is a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ .
2.  $(P : P)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR with maximal ideal  $P$ .

**Proof:** (1)  $\implies$  (2). First, we show that  $P$  is the maximal ideal of  $(P : P)$ . Let  $s \in R \setminus P$ . Then  $s$  is a regular element of  $R$  (because  $P$  is a divided regular prime ideal of  $R$ , and therefore  $Z(R) \subset P$ ). Hence  $1/s \in (P : P)$ . Thus,  $s$  is a unit of  $(P : P)$ . Hence,  $P$  is the maximal ideal of  $(P : P)$ . Now, we show that  $(P : P)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR. Since  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$ ,  $\text{Nil}((P : P)) = \text{Nil}(R)$ . Let  $x, y \in (P : P) \setminus \text{Nil}(R)$  and suppose that  $x \nmid y$  in  $(P : P)$ . Then  $x = a/s, y = b/s$

for some  $a, b \in R \setminus Nil(R)$ , and some  $s \in R \setminus Z(R)$ . Since  $x \not\sim y$  in  $(P : P)$ , it is impossible that  $a$  be a regular element of  $R$  and  $b \in Z(R)$ . Thus, we consider three cases. Case 1: suppose that  $a \in Z(R)$  and  $b \in R \setminus Z(R)$ . Then  $b \mid a$  in  $R$  by Lemma 2.1. Hence,  $y \mid x$  in  $(P : P)$ . Case 2: suppose that  $a, b \in R \setminus Z(R)$ . Since  $x \not\sim y$  in  $(P : P)$ , we conclude that  $w = y/x \in T(R) \setminus R$ . Hence,  $w^{-1}P = \frac{x}{y}P \subset P$  by Lemma 2.2. Hence,  $y \mid x$  in  $(P : P)$ . Case 3: suppose that  $a, b \in Z(R)$ . Since  $x \not\sim y$  in  $(P : P)$ , we conclude that  $a \not\sim b$  in  $R$ . Thus,  $aP \subset bP$  by Proposition 1.1(7). Let  $h$  be a regular element of  $P$ . Then  $ah = bc$  for some  $c \in P$ . Suppose that  $h \mid c$  in  $R$ . Then  $b \mid a$  in  $R$ . Hence,  $y \mid x$  in  $(P : P)$ . Thus, suppose that  $h \not\sim c$  in  $R$ . Then,  $c$  is a regular element of  $P$ . Hence,  $f = c/h \in T(R) \setminus R$ . Thus,  $f^{-1}P = \frac{h}{c}P \subset P$  by Lemma 2.2. Hence,  $f^{-1} \in (P : P)$ . Thus,  $ah = bc$  implies that  $xf^{-1} = y$ . Hence,  $x \mid y$  in  $(P : P)$ , a contradiction. Thus,  $h \mid c$  in  $R$ , and therefore  $y \mid x$  in  $(P : P)$ . Hence,  $(P : P)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR by Proposition 1.1(9). (2)  $\implies$  (1). This is clear by Proposition 1.1(10).  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 2.4.** *Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P$  is a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $Q = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} (s^i)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$  for every regular element  $s$  of  $P$ .*

**Proof:** Suppose that  $xy \in Q$  for some  $x, y \in R$ . Since  $Z(R) \subset (s^i)$  for each  $i \geq 1$  by Lemma 2.1, we conclude that  $Z(R) \subset Q$ . Hence, we may assume that neither  $x \in Z(R)$  nor  $y \in Z(R)$ . Thus, assume that  $x \notin Q$ . Then  $s^n \not\sim x$  for some  $n \geq 1$ . Hence,  $s^n P \subset xP$  by Proposition 1.1(7). In particular, since  $s^n \in P$ , we have  $s^{2n} \subset xP$ . Hence, we have  $xy \in (s^{2n+i}) \subset xs^i P \subset (xs^i)$  for every  $i \geq 1$ . Thus,  $y \in (s^i)$  for every  $i \geq 1$ . Hence,  $y \in Q$ .  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 2.5.** *Let  $P$  be a regular prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $(P : P) \subset c(R)$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $x \in (P : P)$ , and let  $s$  be a regular element of  $P$ . Then  $sx^n \in P$  for every  $n \geq 1$ . Hence,  $x$  is an almost integral element of  $R$ . Thus,  $x \in c(R)$ .  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 2.6.** *Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P$  is a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $T(R)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR.*

**Proof:** First, observe that  $Nil(T(R)) = Nil(R)$ . Hence, it suffices to show that if  $a, b \in R \setminus Nil(R)$ , then either  $a \mid b$  in  $T(R)$  or  $b \mid a$  in  $T(R)$ . Hence, let  $a, b \in R \setminus Nil(R)$ . Suppose that  $a \not\sim b$  in  $T(R)$ . Then  $a \not\sim b$  in  $R$ . Hence,  $aP \subset bP$  by Proposition 1.1(7). Thus, let  $s$  be a regular element of  $P$ . Then  $as = bc$  for some  $c \in P$ . Thus,  $a = b\frac{c}{s}$ . Hence,  $b \mid a$  in  $T(R)$ .  $\square$

Now, we state our main result in this section

**THEOREM 2.7.** *Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P$  is a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . Then exactly one of the following statements must hold:*

1.  $R$  does not admit a minimal regular prime ideal and  $c(R) = T(R)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR.
2.  $R$  admits a minimal regular prime ideal  $Q$  and  $c(R) = (Q : Q)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR with maximal ideal  $Q$ .

**Proof:** (1). Suppose that  $R$  does not admit a minimal regular prime ideal. We will show that  $1/s \in c(R)$  for every regular element  $s \in R$ . Hence, let  $s$  be a regular element of  $R$ . Suppose that  $s \in R \setminus P$ . Then  $1/s \in (P : P)$  because  $P$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  by Proposition 1.1(6). Hence  $1/s \in (P : P) \subset c(R)$  by Proposition 2.5. Thus, suppose that  $s \in P$ . We will show that there is regular prime ideal  $H \subset P$  such that  $s \notin H$ . Deny. Let  $F = \{D : D \text{ is a regular prime ideal of } R \text{ and } D \subset P\}$  and  $N = \bigcap_{D \in F} D$ . Then,  $s \in N$ . Now, by Proposition 1.1(8) and (6), we conclude that the prime ideals in the set  $F$  are linearly ordered. Hence,  $N$  is a minimal regular prime ideal of  $R$ , which is a contradiction. Thus, there is a regular prime ideal  $H \subset P$  such that  $s \notin H$ . Hence, once again  $1/s \in (H : H) \subset c(R)$  by Proposition 2.5. Thus,  $c(R) = T(R)$ . Now,  $T(R)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR by Proposition 2.6.

(2). Suppose that  $Q$  is a minimal regular prime ideal of  $R$ . First, observe that  $Q \subset P$  by Proposition 1.1(6). Thus,  $Q$  is a minimal  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$  by Proposition 1.1(8). Now,  $(Q : Q) \subset c(R)$  by Proposition 2.5. We will show that  $c(R) \subset (Q : Q)$ . Suppose there is an  $x \in c(R) \setminus R$ . Then  $x$  is a unit of  $T(R)$  by Lemma 2.2. We consider three cases. Case 1: suppose that  $x^{-1} \in T(R) \setminus R$ . Then  $xQ \subset Q$  by Lemma 2.2. Hence,  $x \in (Q : Q)$ . Case 2: suppose that  $x^{-1} \in R \setminus Q$ . Then  $Q \subset (x^{-1})$  by Proposition 1.1(6). Thus,  $x \in (Q : Q)$ . Case 3: suppose that  $x^{-1} \in Q$ . This case can not happen, for if  $x^{-1} \in Q$ , then  $D = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} (x^{-1})^i$  contains a regular element of  $R$  because  $x \in c(R)$ . But  $D$  is a prime ideal of  $R$  by Proposition 2.4. Hence,  $D$  is a regular prime ideal of  $R$  that is properly contained in  $Q$ . A contradiction, since  $Q$  is a minimal regular prime ideal of  $R$ . Hence,  $c(R) = (Q : Q)$ . Now,  $c(R) = (Q : Q)$  is a  $\phi$ -CR by Proposition 2.3.  $\square$

Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P \neq Nil(R)$  is a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . Then observe that  $Nil(\phi(R))$  is a divided prime ideal of  $\phi(R)$  and  $\phi(P)$  is a regular  $K$ -strongly prime ideal of  $\phi(R)$  (recall that  $K = R_{Nu(R)}$ ). Now, since  $\phi(R)_{Nu(\phi(R))} = K_{Nu(R)}$ , we may think of  $\phi(P)$  as a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $\phi(R)$ . In light of this argument and Theorem 2.7, we have the following corollary.

**COROLLARY 2.8.** *Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P \neq Nil(R)$  is a  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . Then exactly one of the following statements must hold:*

1.  $\phi(R)$  does not admit a minimal regular prime ideal and  $c(\phi(R)) = T(\phi(R)) = K_{Nu(R)}$  is a  $K$ -CR.
2.  $\phi(R)$  admits a minimal regular prime ideal  $Q$  and  $c(\phi(R)) = (Q : Q)$  is a  $K$ -CR.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 2.9.** *Suppose that  $R$  admits a regular strongly prime ideal. Then exactly one of the statements in Theorem 2.7 must hold.  $\square$*

**COROLLARY 2.10.** *Suppose that an integral domain  $R$  admits a nonzero strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . Then exactly one of the statements in Theorem 2.7 must hold (observe that in this case  $c(R)$  is a valuation domain).  $\square$*

**COROLLARY 2.11.** *Suppose that  $Nil(R)$  is a divided prime ideal of  $R$  and  $P$  is a regular  $\phi$ -strongly prime ideal of  $R$ . If  $P$  contains a finite number, say  $n$ , of regular*

prime ideals of  $R$ ,  $P_1 \subset P_2 \subset \dots \subset P_{n-1} \subset P_n = P$ , then  $c(R) = (P_1 : P_1)$ .  $\square$

Let  $J(R)$  denotes the Jacobson radical ideal of  $R$ . We have the following result.

**COROLLARY 2.12.** *Suppose that  $R$  is a Prüfer domain such that  $J(R)$  contains a nonzero prime ideal of  $R$ . Then exactly one of the statements in Theorem 2.7 must hold (once again, observe that in this case  $c(R)$  is a valuation domain).*

**Proof:** Let  $P$  be a nonzero prime ideal of  $R$  such that  $P \subset J(R)$ . Then  $P$  is a strongly prime ideal by [11, Proposition 1.3, and the proof of Theorem 4.3]. Hence, the claim is now clear.  $\square$

It is well-known [17, Proposition 3.2] that if  $R$  is a Noetherian pseudo-valuation domain (which is not a field), then  $R$  has Krull dimension one. The following is an alternative proof of this fact.

**PROPOSITION 2.13.** *([17, Proposition 3.2]). If  $R$  is a Noetherian pseudo-valuation domain (which is not a field), then  $R$  has Krull dimension one.*

**Proof:** Deny. Let  $M$  be the maximal ideal of  $R$ . Then there is a nonzero prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  such that  $P \subset M$  and  $M \neq P$ . Hence, there is an element  $m \in M \setminus P$ . Since  $P$  is divided, we have  $P \subset (m)$ . Thus,  $1/m \in c(R)$ . Since  $R$  is Noetherian,  $1/m$  is also integral over  $R$ , which is impossible. Hence,  $R$  has Krull dimension one.  $\square$

### 3 THE COMPLETE INTEGRAL CLOSURE OF CONDUCTIVE DOMAINS

Throughout this section,  $R$  denotes an integral domain with quotient field  $K$ , and  $c(R)$  denotes the integral closure of  $R$  inside  $K$ . If  $I$  is a proper ideal of  $R$ , then  $Rad(I)$  denotes the radical ideal of  $R$ . Recall from [11], that Houston and the author defined an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  to be *powerful* if, whenever  $xy \in I$  for elements  $x, y \in K$ , we have  $x \in R$  or  $y \in R$ . Also, recall that in [13, Theorem 4.5] Bastida and Gilmer proved that a domain  $R$  shares an ideal with a valuation domain iff each overring of  $R$  which is different from the quotient field  $K$  of  $R$  has a nonzero conductor to  $R$ . Domains with this property, called *conductive domains*, were explicitly defined and studied by Dobbs and Fedder [15], and further studied by Barucci, Dobbs, and Fontana [12] and [16]. In [11, Theorem 4.1], Houston and the author proved the following result.

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *([11, Theorem 4.1]) An integral domain  $R$  is a conductive domain if and only if  $R$  admits a powerful ideal.  $\square$*

The following proposition is needed in the proof of Theorem 3.2.

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** *([11, Theorem 1.5 and Lemma 1.1]). Suppose that  $I$  is a proper powerful ideal of  $R$ . Then  $I^2 \subset (s)$  for every  $s \in R \setminus Rad(I)$ , and  $x^{-1}I^2 \subset R$  for every  $x \in K \setminus R$ .  $\square$*

Now, we state the main result of this section.

**THEOREM 3.3.** *Suppose that  $R$  admits a nonzero proper powerful ideal  $I$ , that is,  $R$  is a conducive domain. Then exactly one of the following two statements must hold:*

1.  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I^n \neq 0$  and exactly one of the following two statements must hold:
  - (a)  $R$  does not admit a minimal regular prime ideal and  $c(R) = K$  is a valuation domain.
  - (b)  $R$  admits a minimal regular prime ideal  $Q$  and  $c(R) = (Q : Q)$  is a valuation domain.
2.  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I^n = 0$  and  $c(R) = \{x \in K : x^{-n} \notin \text{Rad}(I) \text{ for every } n \geq 1\}$  is a valuation domain.

**Proof:** (1). Suppose that  $P = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I^n \neq 0$ . Then  $P$  is a nonzero strongly prime ideal of  $R$  by [11, Proposition 1.8]. Hence, the claim is now clear by Theorem 2.7.

(2) Suppose that  $P = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I^n = 0$ . Let  $S = \{x \in K : x^{-n} \notin \text{Rad}(I) \text{ for every } n \geq 1\}$ , and let  $x \in c(R)$ . We will show that  $x \in S$ . Since  $P = 0$  and  $x \in c(R)$ ,  $x^{-n} \notin I$  for every  $n \geq 1$ . Hence,  $x \in S$ . Thus,  $c(R) \subset S$ . Now, let  $s \in S$ . We will show that  $s \in c(R)$ . Let  $d$  be a nonzero element of  $I^2$ . Hence, for every  $n \geq 1$  we have either  $s^{-n} \in K \setminus R$  or  $s^{-n} \in R \setminus \text{Rad}(I)$ . Thus,  $ds^n \in R$  for every  $n \geq 1$  by Proposition 3.2. Hence,  $s \in c(R)$ . Thus,  $S \subset c(R)$ . Therefore,  $S = c(R)$ . Now, we show that  $c(R) = S$  is a valuation domain. Let  $x \in K \setminus S$ . Then  $x^{-n} \in \text{Rad}(I)$  for some  $n \geq 1$ . Hence,  $x^n \notin \text{Rad}(I)$  for every  $n \geq 1$ . Thus,  $x^{-1} \in S$ . Therefore,  $c(R) = S$  is a valuation domain.  $\square$

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