

1024-13-153

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$A$  denotes a commutative ring with identity and  $q(A)$  is its classical ring of quotients. Recall that  $A$  is called *complemented* if for every  $a \in A$  there is a  $b \in A$  such that  $ab = 0$  and  $a + b$  is not a divisor of 0. This property characterizes when  $q(A)$  is a von Neumann regular ring.

We define *weakly complemented* rings and investigate what properties  $q(A)$  has when  $A$  is weakly complemented. In particular, we investigate  $C(X)$  the ring of real-valued continuous functions on a Tychonoff space  $X$ . The pointwise ordering on  $C(X)$  plays an integral part and we shall discuss function rings. (Received January 06, 2007)