

INTEGER-VALUED POLYNOMIALS, PRÜFER DOMAINS, AND LOCALIZATION

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ABSTRACT. Let A be an integral domain with quotient field K and let $\text{Int}(A)$ be the ring of integer-valued polynomials on A : $\{P \in K[X] \mid P(A) \subset A\}$. We study the rings A such that $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain; we know that A must be an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields. First we state necessary conditions, which allow us to prove a negative answer to a question of Gilmer. On the other hand, it is enough that $\text{Int}(A)$ behaves well under localization; i.e., for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is the ring $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ of integer-valued polynomials on $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$. Thus we characterize this latter condition: it is equivalent to an “immediate subextension property” of the domain A . Finally, by considering domains A with the immediate subextension property that are obtained as the integral closure of a Dedekind domain in an algebraic extension of its quotient field, we construct several examples such that $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper A is assumed to be a domain with quotient field K , and $\text{Int}(A)$ denotes the ring of integer-valued polynomials on A :

$$\text{Int}(A) = \{P \in K[X] \mid P(A) \subset A\}.$$

The case where A is a ring of integers of an algebraic number field K was first considered by Pólya [13] and Ostrowski [12]. In this case we know that $\text{Int}(A)$ is a non-Noetherian Prüfer domain [1, 4]. More generally, if A is a Noetherian domain, $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain if and only if A is a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields [5, Corollary 6.5].

In the general case, we have shown that if $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain, then A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields [5, Proposition 6.3]. Recall that A is an *almost Dedekind domain* if $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a rank-one discrete valuation domain for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A [7]. The problem of determining conditions under which $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer has not been resolved.

In [9] Gilmer shows that various classical examples of non-Noetherian almost Dedekind domains do not have the finite residue fields property, and hence $\text{Int}(A)$ is not Prüfer (as indeed he even proves that $\text{Int}(A) = A[X]$). However, using a theorem of Krull [11, Theorem 3] concerning extensions of valuations,

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he gives a construction of non-Noetherian almost Dedekind domains with finite residue fields, yielding both examples where $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer and where it is not. Then he states two open questions, the second being closely related to his construction.

Q₄. If A is an almost Dedekind domain such that $\{|A/\mathfrak{m}| \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\}$ is bounded, is $\text{Int}(A)$ a Prüfer domain?

Q₅. Suppose A_0 is a semilocal principal ideal domain with quotient field K_0 and K is an infinite algebraic extension of K_0 that is expressed as the union of a strictly ascending sequence $\{K_i\}$ of finite algebraic extensions of K_0 . Let A_i be the integral closure of A_0 in K_i and A the union of the A_i . If $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain, must there exist $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for all i, j with $N \leq i \leq j$, $\text{Int}(A_i) \subset \text{Int}(A_j)$?

Throughout this paper we will generally assume that A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and with quotient field K ; we will try to find necessary or sufficient conditions for $\text{Int}(A)$ to be Prüfer.

In the first section we determine necessary conditions on every subfield K_0 of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension. This allows us to answer Q₄ negatively, but raises a new question:

Q₆. Are these conditions sufficient?

In a second section we determine a sufficient condition: if A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and if, for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ (we will say that $\text{Int}(A)$ behaves well under localization), then $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain. This raises another question:

Q₇. Is it necessary for $\text{Int}(A)$ to behave well under localization to be Prüfer?

Next we state a necessary condition for good behaviour of localization called the *immediate subextension property*.

In the fourth section we restrict ourselves to the case where there is a subfield K_0 of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension and the intersection $A_0 = A \cap K_0$ is a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and quotient field K_0 . We show that in this case the immediate subextension property is equivalent to good behaviour of localization.

In the following section we assume, moreover, that A is the integral closure of A_0 in K . We then show that Gilmer's condition in question Q₅ is necessary and sufficient for $\text{Int}(A)$ to behave well under localization. We show also that if K is a normal extension of K_0 , then $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer if and only if A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields.

In the sixth and last section we give examples using Gilmer's construction; the first one provides a negative answer to Q₄, another shows that, when A_0 is not semilocal, the answer to Q₅ may be negative, and yet another shows that the answers to Q₆ and Q₇ are not both affirmative.

1. NECESSARY CONDITIONS

First, recall that

1.1 [5, Proposition 6.3]. *If $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain, then A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields.*

If \mathfrak{m} is a maximal ideal of an almost Dedekind domain A , then $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is the ring of a rank-one discrete valuation $v_{\mathfrak{m}}$. If K_0 is a subfield of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension, then the restriction of $v_{\mathfrak{m}}$ to K_0 is a rank-one discrete valuation and the valuation ring of this restriction $v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0}$ is $A_{\mathfrak{m}} \cap K_0$. Let $e_{\mathfrak{m}}(K/K_0)$ be the ramification index of $v_{\mathfrak{m}}$ over $v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0}$.

Similar to Gilmer's residue field condition in question Q_4 :

(α) $\{|A/\mathfrak{m}| \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\}$ is bounded,

we propose the following ramification condition:

(β) For any subfield K_0 of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension, $\{e_{\mathfrak{m}}(K/K_0) \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\}$ is bounded.

Neither condition is necessary in such a global version: for the first one consider $A = \mathbb{Z}$ and observe that $\text{Int}(\mathbb{Z})$ is Prüfer; for the second one see Example 6.6. However, the next theorem shows that both weaker local versions are necessary; but each of them separately is not sufficient, and this will allow us to answer Gilmer's question Q_4 negatively.

1.2. Theorem. *Suppose $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain. Let K_0 be a subfield of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension. Then for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A :*

- (a) $\{|A/\mathfrak{n}| \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|_{K_0} = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0}\}$ is bounded, and
- (b) $\{e_{\mathfrak{n}}(K/K_0) \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|_{K_0} = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0}\}$ is bounded.

Condition (a) is also given by Gilmer [9, Theorem 13]. First let us recall two results:

1.3 [3, Corollary, p. 303]. *For each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is contained in the ring $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ of integer-valued polynomials on $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$.*

1.4 ([2, Proposition 2] or [4, Lemma 1]). *Let V be the ring of a rank-one discrete valuation v with finite residue field of cardinal q , and let P be an integer-valued polynomial on V of degree $d > 0$. Then $v(P) > -d/(q-1)$, where $v(P)$ denotes the infimum of the values of the coefficients of P .*

In fact, Lemma 1 of [4] shows that the A -module $\text{Int}(A)$ is generated by polynomials $Q_d(X)$, where $\deg(Q_d) = d$ and $v(Q_d) = \sum_{s>0} [d/q^s]$. Assertion 1.4 follows from the inequality $\sum_{s>0} [d/q^s] < \sum_{s>0} (d/q^s) = d/(q-1)$, for each $d > 0$.

1.5. Lemma. *Let A be an almost Dedekind domain and let K_0 be a subfield of K such that K/K_0 is an algebraic extension. Suppose there exists a rank-one discrete valuation v_0 of K_0 such that one of the following conditions fails:*

- (a) $\{|A/\mathfrak{m}| \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0} = v_0\}$ is bounded.
- (b) $\{e_{\mathfrak{m}}(K/K_0) \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0} = v_0\}$ is bounded.

Then $\text{Int}(A) \cap K_0[X]$ is contained in $V_0[X]$, where V_0 is the valuation ring of v_0 .

Proof. Let Q be a nonconstant polynomial belonging to $\text{Int}(A) \cap K_0[X]$, let d be its degree, and choose a maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A such that $v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0} = v_0$ and either $|A/\mathfrak{m}| > d$ or $e_{\mathfrak{m}}(K/K_0) > d$ (according to the failing condition). Since $Q(A) \subset A$, then $Q(A_{\mathfrak{m}}) \subset A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ (1.3); we will show that $v_{\mathfrak{m}}(Q) \geq 0$.

If $|A/\mathfrak{m}|$ is infinite, then clearly Q is in $A_{\mathfrak{m}}[X]$ [3, Proposition 5, Corollary 2]; if not we let $q = |A/\mathfrak{m}|$.

If $|A/\mathfrak{m}| > d$, then $v_{\mathfrak{m}}(Q) > -(d/q - 1) \geq -1$ (1.4), hence $v_{\mathfrak{m}}(Q) \geq 0$.

If $e_{\mathfrak{m}}(K/K_0) > d$, then $v_{\mathfrak{m}}(Q) > -(d/q - 1) \geq -d$, but Q belongs to $K_0[X]$ and $v_{\mathfrak{m}}(Q)$ is a multiple of $e_{\mathfrak{m}}(K/K_0)$, hence again $v_{\mathfrak{m}}(Q) \geq 0$. In any case, Q belongs to $A_{\mathfrak{m}}[X] \cap K_0[X] = V_0[X]$.

1.6. Lemma. *Let A be an almost Dedekind domain and let K_0 be a subfield of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension. Suppose there exists a maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A such that one of the following conditions fails:*

- (a) $\{|A/\mathfrak{n}| \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|_{K_0} = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0}\}$ is bounded.
- (b) $\{e_{\mathfrak{n}}(K/K_0) \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|_{K_0} = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{K_0}\}$ is bounded.

Then there exists a maximal ideal \mathfrak{n} of A such that $\text{Int}(A)$ is contained in $A_{\mathfrak{n}}[X]$.

Proof. Let $\{K_j\}$ be an ascending sequence of finite extensions of K_0 such that $\bigcup_j K_j = K$. Let $\mathfrak{n}_0 = \mathfrak{m}$ and let v_0 be the restriction to K_0 of the valuation associated to \mathfrak{m} . For each $j > 0$ we define a maximal ideal \mathfrak{n}_j of A in the following way: (i) one of the conditions (a) or (b) fails with respect to the extension K/K_j and the ideal \mathfrak{n}_j ; (ii) $v_j|_{K_{j-1}} = v_{j-1}$ where v_j denotes the restriction to K_j of the valuation associated to \mathfrak{n}_j . We can define such a sequence of maximal ideals \mathfrak{n}_j since, for each $j > 0$, there are only finitely many valuations of K_j extending v_{j-1} .

Let v be the rank-one valuation of K whose restriction to each K_j is v_j . Let V be the valuation ring of v and V_j the valuation ring of v_j . By construction $A \cap K_j$ is contained in V_j and $A = \bigcup_j (A \cap K_j)$ is contained in $\bigcup_j V_j = V$. Hence there is a maximal ideal \mathfrak{n} of A such that $A_{\mathfrak{n}} = V$ since A is an almost Dedekind domain. Now let Q be any element of $\text{Int}(A)$ and let j be an integer such that Q belongs to $K_j[X]$. Lemma 1.5 implies that Q belongs to $V_j[X]$ and hence Q belongs to $A_{\mathfrak{n}}[X]$.

Proof of Theorem 1.2. If $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer, then A is an almost Dedekind domain (1.1). Suppose there exists a subfield K_0 of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension and there exists a maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A such that one of conditions (a) or (b) fails. Then $\text{Int}(A)$ is contained in $A_{\mathfrak{n}}[X]$ for some maximal ideal \mathfrak{n} of A (Lemma 1.6). Every overring of the Prüfer domain $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer; but $A_{\mathfrak{n}}[X]$ is not Prüfer since $A_{\mathfrak{n}}$ is not a field. This is a contradiction.

Note that if conditions (a) and (b) of Theorem 1.2 are satisfied for a subfield K_0 of K , then they are also satisfied for any subfield K_1 of K containing K_0 . In the last paragraph we give examples of almost Dedekind domains A , which are integral extensions of the discrete valuation domain \mathbb{Z}_p (with $p = 2$); hence $K_0 = \mathbb{Q}$ is the smallest subfield of K . In Example 6.2, condition (a) is satisfied (and even condition (α) of Gilmer), but not (b); in Example 6.3 condition (b) is satisfied (and even condition (β)) but not (a). Therefore the domains $\text{Int}(A)$ are not Prüfer. Thus neither condition (α) nor (β) separately is sufficient, and in particular,

1.7. Corollary. *The answer to question Q_4 is negative.*

1.8. Question Q_6 . Let A be an almost Dedekind domain with quotient field K and K_0 a subfield of K such that K/K_0 is an infinite countably generated

algebraic extension. If for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A :

- (a) $\{|A/\mathfrak{n}| \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|K_0 = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|K_0\}$ is bounded, and
- (b) $\{e_{\mathfrak{n}}(K/K_0) \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|K_0 = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|K_0\}$ is bounded,

is $\text{Int}(A)$ a Prüfer domain?

2. LOCALIZATION

Now, in order to get sufficient conditions, we consider localization properties.

2.1. Theorem. *Let A be an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields. If, for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$, then $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain.*

Proof. We have to show that, for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{P} of $\text{Int}(A)$, $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{P}}$ is a valuation domain. If $\mathfrak{P} \cap A$ is a maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , then $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{P}} = (\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}})_{\mathfrak{P}_{\mathfrak{m}}}$ and it is enough to show that $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a Prüfer domain. If $\mathfrak{P} \cap A = (0)$, then, for any maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{P}} = (\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}})_{\mathfrak{P}_{\mathfrak{m}}}$ and it is also enough to show that $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a Prüfer domain. This results from 2.2 below, since, for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a rank-one discrete valuation domain with finite residue field and $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ is Prüfer.

2.2 [4, Propositions 1 and 2]. *If V is a rank-one discrete valuation domain with finite residue field and with quotient field K , then:*

(i) *the prime ideals of $\text{Int}(V)$ lying over the ideal (0) of V are the ideals $\mathfrak{P}_S = \{Q \in \text{Int}(V) \mid Q = S \cdot R, R \in K[X]\}$ where S is an irreducible polynomial of $K[X]$;*

(ii) *the prime ideals of $\text{Int}(V)$ lying over the maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of V are the maximal ideals $\mathfrak{m}_{\alpha}(V) = \{Q \in \text{Int}(V) \mid Q(\alpha) \in \mathfrak{m}V^*\}$, where V^* is the completion of V and α is any element of V^* ;*

(iii) *the localization of $\text{Int}(V)$ with respect to \mathfrak{P}_S is the valuation ring $K[X]_{(S)}$ and the localization of $\text{Int}(V)$ with respect to $\mathfrak{m}_{\alpha}(V)$ is the valuation ring $V_{\alpha} = \{R \in K(X) \mid R(\alpha) \in V^*\}$.*

We will say that $\text{Int}(A)$ behaves well under localization if the condition of Theorem 2.1 is fulfilled. Note that it is always the case when A is Noetherian [3, p. 303]; this yields the well-known fact:

2.3 [5, Corollary 6.5]. *If A is Noetherian, $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer if and only if A is a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields.*

We know that $\text{Int}(A)$ does not always behave well under localization when A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields [9, Theorem 13]. Conversely we ask:

2.4. Question Q_7 . For $\text{Int}(A)$ to be Prüfer, is it necessary that it behaves well under localization?

2.5. Remark. If $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain, then, for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A and each element α of the completion $A_{\mathfrak{m}}^*$ of $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$, the localization of $\text{Int}(A)$ with respect to $\mathfrak{m}_{\alpha} = \{Q \in \text{Int}(A) \mid Q(\alpha) \in \mathfrak{m}A_{\mathfrak{m}}^*\}$ is the valuation domain $V_{\alpha} = \{R \in K(X) \mid R(\alpha) \in A_{\mathfrak{m}}^*\}$. To see this, note that the domain $\text{Int}(A)$ is contained in $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ (1.3) and the ideal \mathfrak{m}_{α} is the intersection of $\text{Int}(A)$ with the ideal $(\mathfrak{m}A_{\mathfrak{m}})_{\alpha}$ of $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$. If $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain, then the localization

of $\text{Int}(A)$ with respect to \mathfrak{m}_α is a valuation domain. This latter domain is contained in the valuation domain V_α and its maximal ideal is contained in the maximal ideal of V_α . Thus these valuation domains coincide. So when $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer, every localization of $\text{Int}(A_\mathfrak{m})$ is a localization of $\text{Int}(A)$. Thus an equivalent form of Q_7 asks whether every prime ideal of $\text{Int}(A)$ lying over a maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A is an ideal \mathfrak{m}_α .

3. IMMEDIATE SUBEXTENSION PROPERTY

Now we state a necessary condition for $\text{Int}(A)$ to behave well under localization. Recall that the *prime field* of a field K is the smallest subfield contained in K ; it is isomorphic to \mathbb{Q} or to \mathbb{F}_p .

3.1. Proposition. *Let \mathfrak{m} be a maximal ideal of A such that $A_\mathfrak{m}$ is a rank-one discrete valuation domain with finite residue field. If $\text{Int}(A)_\mathfrak{m} = \text{Int}(A_\mathfrak{m})$, then there exists a subfield K_1 of K , finitely generated over the prime field of K , such that, if $A_1 = A \cap K_1$ and $\mathfrak{m}_1 = \mathfrak{m} \cap K_1$, then for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{n} of A lying over \mathfrak{m}_1 ,*

$$\mathfrak{n}A_\mathfrak{n} = \mathfrak{m}_1A_\mathfrak{n} \quad \text{and} \quad A/\mathfrak{n} \cong A_1/\mathfrak{m}_1.$$

Proof. We first construct the field K_1 . Let a_0, \dots, a_{q-1} be a complete set of residues of \mathfrak{m} in A and let t be a local parameter of v , which belongs to A . The polynomial $P = (X - a_0) \cdots (X - a_{q-1})/t$ belongs to $\text{Int}(A_\mathfrak{m})$ and also to $\text{Int}(A)_\mathfrak{m}$ by hypothesis. Let s be an element of $A \setminus \mathfrak{m}$ such that sP belongs to $\text{Int}(A)$ and define K_1 to be the subfield of K generated over \mathbb{Q} or \mathbb{F}_p by a_0, \dots, a_{q-1} , t , and s .

If we set $A_1 = A \cap K_1$ and $\mathfrak{m}_1 = \mathfrak{m} \cap K_1$, then $A_1/\mathfrak{m}_1 \cong A/\mathfrak{m}$ and $tA_1 \subset \mathfrak{m}_1$. Let \mathfrak{n} be a maximal ideal of A such that $\mathfrak{n} \cap A_1 = \mathfrak{m} \cap A_1 = \mathfrak{m}_1$. Let a be any element of A . Since $sP(a)$ belongs to A , $stP(a) = s(a - a_0) \cdots (a - a_{q-1})$ belongs to $tA \subset \mathfrak{n}$. The element s of A_1 does not belong to \mathfrak{m} , hence it does not belong to \mathfrak{n} , and there exists i such that $a - a_i$ belongs to \mathfrak{n} . Therefore $A/\mathfrak{n} \cong A_1/\mathfrak{m}_1$. Let b be any element of \mathfrak{n} . Since $sP(b + a_0)$ is in A , $stP(b + a_0) = sb(b + a_0 - a_1) \cdots (b + a_0 - a_{q-1})$ is in tA ; but $s(b + a_0 - a_1) \cdots (b + a_0 - a_{q-1})$ is in the multiplicative system $A \setminus \mathfrak{n}$, hence b belongs to $tA_\mathfrak{n}$. Therefore $\mathfrak{m}_1A_\mathfrak{n}$ contains \mathfrak{n} and $\mathfrak{m}_1A_\mathfrak{n} \cong \mathfrak{n}A_\mathfrak{n}$.

Recall that a valuation v of K is *essential* for the domain A if the valuation ring of v is the localization of A with respect to a prime ideal \mathfrak{m} . Recall also that an extension v of a valuation v_1 of a field K_1 is an *immediate extension* if v and v_1 have the same value group and same residue field; in this case we will say that v is *immediate over K_1* .

If $A_\mathfrak{n}$ is the ring of a valuation v , letting v_1 be the restriction of v to K_1 , the conditions $\mathfrak{n}A_\mathfrak{n} = \mathfrak{m}_1A_\mathfrak{n}$ and $A/\mathfrak{n} \cong A_1/\mathfrak{m}_1$ of Proposition 3.1 imply that v is immediate over K_1 . We then make the following definitions:

3.2. Definitions. Let A be a Prüfer domain with quotient field K .

(i) A valuation v of K , which is essential for A , is said to be *totally A-immediate over* a subextension K_1 if, letting v_1 be the restriction of v to K_1 , each extension w of v_1 to K , which is essential for A , is immediate over K_1 .

(ii) The domain A is said to have the *immediate subextension property* over a subfield K_0 of K if, for each valuation v , which is essential for A , there

exists a subextension K_1 of K finitely generated over K_0 , over which v is totally A -immediate.

If the valuation v of K is totally A -immediate over a subfield K_0 , then v is totally A -immediate over every subfield K_1 containing K_0 , and, if A has the immediate subextension property over a subfield K_0 of K , then A has the immediate subextension property over every subfield K_1 of K containing K_0 .

3.3. Theorem. *Suppose A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields. If, for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$, then A has the immediate subextension property over the prime field of K .*

The theorem results from Proposition 3.1.

4. PARTIAL CONVERSE

We now restrict ourselves to the case where there is a subfield K_0 of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension and the intersection $A_0 = A \cap K_0$ is a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and quotient field K_0 . We will show that the immediate subextension property is then equivalent to good behaviour of localization; we start with a lemma under somewhat more general conditions.

4.1. Lemma. *Let A be a Prüfer domain with quotient field K . Suppose that K_0 is a subfield of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension. The following assertions are equivalent:*

- (i) *A has the immediate subextension property over K_0 .*
- (ii) *For each valuation v_0 of K_0 , which is the restriction of a valuation essential for A , there exists a finite extension K' of K_0 contained in K such that each extension of v_0 to K , which is essential for A , is immediate over K' .*

Proof. It is clear that (ii) implies (i). Now suppose (ii) does not hold and write K as the union of an ascending sequence of finite extensions K_n of K_0 . Then (ii) does not hold for at least one extension v_1 of v_0 to K_1 , which is the restriction of an essential valuation for A ; to see this, assume to the contrary that, for each extension w of v_0 to K_1 , which is the restriction of an essential valuation for A , there is an integer $j(w)$ such that each extension of w to K , essential for A , is immediate over $K_{j(w)}$; then taking j to be the supremum of these integers $j(w)$ (since there are only finitely many extensions of v_0 to K_1), each extension of v_0 to K , essential for A , would be immediate over K_j . By induction it is then possible to construct a sequence (v_n) of valuations, v_n extending v_{n-1} to K_n , such that there exists an extension w_n of v_n to K , essential for A , which is not an immediate extension of v_n . This sequence defines a valuation v of K , extending v_0 , and v is essential for A . Indeed if a is an element of A , then it belongs to a field K_n , and by construction $v(a) = v_n(a) = w_n(a) \geq 0$. Hence the ring of v contains A . Now for each n , v is not totally A -immediate over K_n , hence it is not totally A -immediate over any finite extension of K_0 .

4.2. Remark. If A is an almost Dedekind domain, it follows from Lemma 4.1 that the immediate subextension property over a subfield K_0 of K such that K/K_0 is a countably generated algebraic extension is stronger than conditions (a) and (b) of Theorem 1.2.

We are now ready for the main theorem of this section.

4.3. Theorem. *Let A be an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields. If the quotient field K of A is a countably generated algebraic extension of a field K_0 and if the ring $A_0 = A \cap K_0$ is a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and with quotient field K_0 , then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) *For each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$.*
- (ii) *A has the immediate subextension property over K_0 .*
- (iii) *A has the immediate subextension property over the prime field of K .*

Proof. Theorem 3.3 shows that (i) implies (iii), and it is trivial that (iii) implies (ii). Conversely, if (ii) holds, let \mathfrak{m} be a maximal ideal of A and P a polynomial in $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$. We have to show that P belongs to $(\text{Int}(A))_{\mathfrak{m}}$, i.e., that $P = Q/s$, where s belongs to $A \setminus \mathfrak{m}$ and Q to $\text{Int}(A)$.

Let K^0 be a finite extension of K_0 such that P belongs to $K^0[X]$. Let A^0 be the domain $A \cap K^0$; A^0 is a Dedekind domain since it contains the integral closure of A_0 in K^0 , which is a Dedekind domain. Let d be a nonzero element of A^0 such that the coefficients of dP are in A^0 . Then d belongs to only a finite number of maximal ideals \mathfrak{p}_k of A^0 . If no \mathfrak{p}_k is contracted from a maximal ideal of A , then d is a unit of A and the desired conclusion holds. For each \mathfrak{p}_k lying under some maximal ideal of A , let $K(\mathfrak{p}_k)$ be a finite extension of K^0 such that each extension of the valuation associated to \mathfrak{p}_k in K^0 to a valuation on K that is essential for A is immediate over $K(\mathfrak{p}_k)$ (Lemma 4.1). Define K^* to be the finite extension of K^0 generated by these fields $K(\mathfrak{p}_k)$.

Let A^* be the Dedekind domain $A \cap K^*$ and let \mathfrak{m}^* be the maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m} \cap K^*$ of A^* . The localization of A^* with respect to \mathfrak{m}^* is the intersection of $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ with K^* . By hypothesis $P(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ is contained in $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ so that $P(A_{\mathfrak{m}}^*)$ is contained in $A_{\mathfrak{m}} \cap K^* = (A^*)_{\mathfrak{m}^*}$ and P belongs to $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}}^*)$. But $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}}^*) = \text{Int}(A^*)_{\mathfrak{m}^*}$, because A^* is Noetherian [3, Corollary 5, p. 303]; hence $P = Q/s$, where s belongs to $A^* \setminus \mathfrak{m}^*$ and the polynomial Q is such that $Q(A^*) \subset A^*$.

It remains to prove that $Q(A) \subset A$, or equivalently, that for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{n} of A , $Q(A) \subset A_{\mathfrak{n}}$:

If $d \notin \mathfrak{n}$, then $dQ = dsP$ has its coefficients in A , and clearly $Q(A) \subset A_{\mathfrak{n}}$.

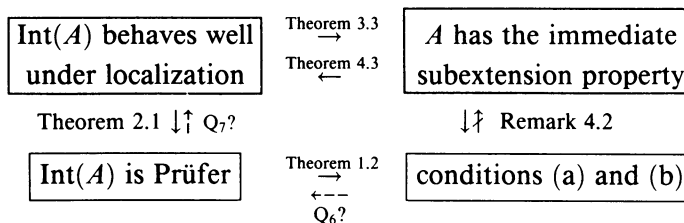
If $d \in \mathfrak{n}$, then let $\mathfrak{n}^* = \mathfrak{n} \cap A^*$. By construction $\mathfrak{n}A_{\mathfrak{n}} = \mathfrak{n}^*A_{\mathfrak{n}}$ and $A/\mathfrak{n} \cong A^*/\mathfrak{n}^*$. From $Q(A^*) \subset A^*$ it follows that $Q(A_{\mathfrak{n}}^*) \subset A_{\mathfrak{n}}^*$ [3], and this implies that $Q(A_{\mathfrak{n}}) \subset A_{\mathfrak{n}}$ (Proposition 4.4 below).

4.4. Proposition [6, Proposition 5.5]. *Let R be a Noetherian local domain with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} and quotient field K . Let R_0 be a local subring of R with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m}_0 . If $\mathfrak{m}_0R = \mathfrak{m}$ and $R/\mathfrak{m} \cong R_0/\mathfrak{m}_0$, then*

$$\text{Int}(R) = \{P \in K[X] \mid P(R_0) \subset R\}.$$

Note that, in order to prove Theorem 4.3, we only use the previous result in the case where R_0 is a discrete valuation domain with finite residue field. In this case, R is an immediate extension of R_0 and there is a basis of the R -module $\text{Int}(R)$ whose elements are polynomials belonging to $\text{Int}(R_0)$ [4, Lemma 1], and hence $\text{Int}(R_0) \subset \text{Int}(R)$.

Thus, with the hypothesis of Theorem 4.3, we have proved the following implications:



4.5. Corollary. *Let A be an integrally closed domain such that the quotient field K of A is a countably generated algebraic extension of a field K_0 and the ring $A_0 = A \cap K_0$ is a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and with quotient field K_0 . If A has the immediate subextension property over K_0 , then:*

- (i) A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields.
- (ii) For each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$.
- (iii) $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain.

Proof. In view of Theorem 4.3 and the diagram above, it suffices to prove (i). Note that A is a Prüfer domain since A is an overring of the integral closure of A_0 in K , which is a Prüfer domain. The immediate subextension property then implies that A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields.

5. INTEGRAL CLOSURE OF A DEDEKIND DOMAIN

Let A_0 be a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields, K_0 the quotient field of A_0 , K a countably generated algebraic extension of K_0 , and A the integral closure of A_0 in K . Under these hypotheses A is a Prüfer domain, and if A has the immediate subextension property, it is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields.

5.1. Proposition. *Let A_0 be a Dedekind domain with quotient field K_0 , K a countably generated algebraic extension of K_0 , and A the integral closure of A_0 in K . Suppose that A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) For each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$.
- (ii) A has the immediate subextension property over K_0 .
- (iii) For each valuation v_0 of K_0 , which is essential for A_0 , there exists a finite extension K_1 of K_0 such that each extension v of v_0 to K , which is essential for A , is immediate over K_1 .

Proof. The equivalence (i) \leftrightarrow (ii) results from Theorem 4.3. Lemma 4.1 shows the equivalence (ii) \leftrightarrow (iii) since each valuation v of K , which is essential for A , is the extension of—and has for restriction—a valuation v_0 of K_0 , which is essential for A_0 .

With regard to localization, the following corollary provides an affirmative answer to a question that is analogous to Gilmer's question Q_5 quoted in the introduction.

5.2. Corollary. *Let A_0 be a semilocal principal ideal domain with quotient field K_0 . Let K be the union of an ascending sequence of finite algebraic extensions*

K_n of K_0 . Let A be the integral closure of A_0 in K and, for each n , let $A_n = A \cap K_n$. If A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) For each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$.
- (ii) There exists n such that every valuation of K , which is essential for A , is immediate over K_n .
- (iii) There exists n such that for all i, j with $n \leq i \leq j$, $\text{Int}(A_i) \subset \text{Int}(A_j) \subset \text{Int}(A)$.

Proof. (i) \rightarrow (ii) results from Proposition 5.1 since A_0 is semilocal.

(ii) \rightarrow (iii) Let n be an integer as in condition (ii) and let i and j be such that $n \leq i \leq j$. Let \mathfrak{q} be a maximal ideal of A_j and let $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{q} \cap A_i$. The valuation associated with the ring $(A_j)_{\mathfrak{q}}$ is an immediate extension of the valuation associated with the ring $(A_i)_{\mathfrak{p}}$; then

$$\text{Int}(A_i) \subset \text{Int}((A_i)_{\mathfrak{p}}) \subset \text{Int}((A_j)_{\mathfrak{q}}) = \text{Int}(A_j)_{\mathfrak{q}}$$

for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{q} of A_j (Proposition 4.4). Therefore $\text{Int}(A_i) \subset \text{Int}(A_j)$.

Moreover, $\text{Int}(A_i) \subset \text{Int}(A)$; let Q be an element of $\text{Int}(A_i)$. For each element a of A , there exists $j > i$ such that a belongs to A_j ; thus $Q(a)$ belongs to A_j since $\text{Int}(A_i) \subset \text{Int}(A_j)$, and Q is in $\text{Int}(A)$.

(iii) \rightarrow (i) Let \mathfrak{m} be a maximal ideal of A and let Q be any element of $\text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$. Let K_i be an extension of K_0 such that Q belongs to $K_i[X]$ and let \mathfrak{p} be the ideal $\mathfrak{m} \cap K_i$. By hypothesis $Q(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ is contained in $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$, so that $Q((A_i)_{\mathfrak{p}}) \subset A_{\mathfrak{m}} \cap K_i = (A_i)_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and Q belongs to $\text{Int}((A_i)_{\mathfrak{p}}) = \text{Int}(A_i)_{\mathfrak{p}}$. Hence $Q = P/s$, where s is an element of $A_i \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ and P belongs to $\text{Int}(A_i)$. Since $\text{Int}(A_i)$ is contained in $\text{Int}(A)$, Q belongs to $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}}$.

If K is a normal algebraic extension of K_0 , the four properties in the diagram at the end of §4 are satisfied as soon as A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and we have a characterization of when $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain:

5.3. Theorem. Let A_0 be a Dedekind domain with finite residue fields and with quotient field K_0 . Let K be a countably generated normal algebraic extension of K_0 and let A be the integral closure of A_0 in K . The following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields.
- (ii) A has the immediate subextension property over K_0 .
- (iii) $\text{Int}(A)$ is a Prüfer domain.
- (iv) For each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A :
 - (a) $\{|A/\mathfrak{n}| \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|K_0 = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|K_0\}$ is bounded, and
 - (b) $\{e_{\mathfrak{n}}(K/K_0) \mid \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Max}(A), v_{\mathfrak{n}}|K_0 = v_{\mathfrak{m}}|K_0\}$ is bounded.

If A_0 is semilocal, the equivalence of (i) and (iii) is also proved by Gilmer [9, Theorem 12].

Proof. Implications (ii) \rightarrow (iii) \rightarrow (iv) result from Theorems 2.1 and 1.2; (iv) \rightarrow (i) is immediate. Let us prove (i) \rightarrow (ii). Let v be a valuation of K , which is essential for A . Since v is discrete and has a finite residue field, there exists a finite extension K_1 of K_0 such that v is an immediate extension of

its restriction v_1 to K_1 (K_1 is generated by a complete set of residues and by a local parameter of v). As the extension K/K_1 is normal, every extension of v_1 to K is also an immediate extension and v is totally A -immediate over K_1 .

6. COUNTEREXAMPLES

In order to answer some questions (and in particular Gilmer's question Q_4) and shed some light on the others, we will give several examples. We construct rings of algebraic numbers, which are integral closures of \mathbf{Z} or of localizations of \mathbf{Z} in algebraic extensions of \mathbf{Q} . As Gilmer does, we use Hasse's existence theorem about prime ideal decomposition in algebraic number fields.

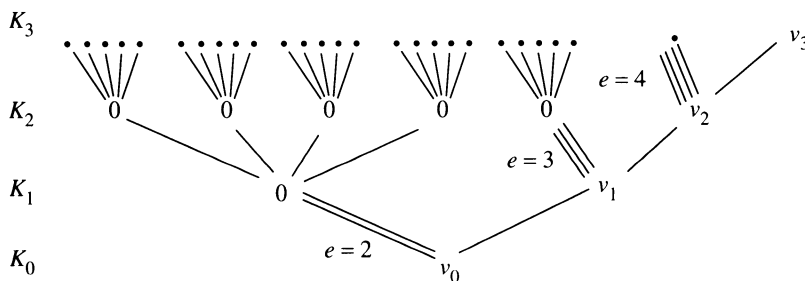
6.1 (Hasse [10]). Let K_0 be an algebraic number field and let $\mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_s$ be prime ideals of the ring A_0 of algebraic integers of K_0 . Suppose given, for each $i = 1, \dots, s$, $2r(i)$ positive integers e_{ij} and f_{ij} ($j = 1, \dots, r(i)$) in such a way that $\sum_{1 \leq j \leq r(i)} e_{ij} f_{ij} = n$ (for every $i = 1, \dots, s$). Then there exists an algebraic extension K of K_0 having degree n such that each prime ideal \mathfrak{m}_i decomposes in the field K as a product $\mathfrak{m}_i = \prod_{1 \leq j \leq r(i)} \mathfrak{M}_{ij}^{e_{ij}}$, where the \mathfrak{M}_{ij} are prime ideals of the ring A of algebraic integers of K and $[A/\mathfrak{M}_{ij} : A_0/\mathfrak{m}_i] = f_{ij}$.

In every example that we are going to construct, K is the union of a strictly ascending sequence of finite extensions K_n of $K_0 = \mathbf{Q}$. We define every extension K_n/K_{n-1} with Hasse's existence theorem, where $e_{ij} = 1$ or $f_{ij} = 1$.

6.2. **Example.** Let v_0 be the 2-adic valuation of $K_0 = \mathbf{Q}$ and $A_0 = \mathbf{Z}_{(2)}$ the valuation ring of v_0 . We define K_n by induction on n : K_n is an extension of K_{n-1} such that (i) $[K_n : K_{n-1}] = n + 2$; (ii) every valuation of K_{n-1} , which is ramified over the valuation v_0 of \mathbf{Q} has only immediate extensions to K_n ($e = 1$, $f = 1$); (iii) the valuation v_{n-1} of K_{n-1} , which is not ramified over v_0 has two extensions to K_n ; one of these is totally ramified ($e = [K_n : K_{n-1}] - 1$, $f = 1$), and the other, denoted by v_n , is immediate ($e = 1$, $f = 1$).

Let K be the union of the extensions K_n and let A be the integral closure of $A_0 = \mathbf{Z}_{(2)}$ in K ; A is also the intersection of the valuation rings of the extensions of v_0 to K .

A tree may represent the extensions of valuations as follows: a single line represents an immediate extension, a multiple line represents a ramified extension (as depicted in the figure).



A valuation of K is a branch of the tree; each extension of v_0 has relative degree one and a finite ramification index. So A is an almost Dedekind domain and each residue field of A is isomorphic to \mathbb{F}_2 , while $\{v_{\mathfrak{m}}(2) \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\} = \mathbb{N}^*$. The condition (b) of Theorem 1.2 does not hold and we answer Gilmer's question Q_4 negatively:

$\text{Int}(A)$ is not a Prüfer domain and A is an almost Dedekind domain such that $\{|A/\mathfrak{m}| \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\} = \{2\}$ is bounded.

6.3. Example [9, Gilmer's Example 14]. We reverse the roles of e and f in Example 6.2: every valuation of K_{n-1} whose residue field is not isomorphic to \mathbb{F}_2 has only immediate extensions to K_n ($e = 1$, $f = 1$) and the valuation v_{n-1} of K_{n-1} whose residue field is isomorphic to \mathbb{F}_2 has two extensions to K_n ; one of these is such that $e = 1$ and $f = [K_n : K_{n-1}] - 1$, and the other, denoted by v_n , is immediate. Then A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields. For each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $v_{\mathfrak{m}}(2) = 1$, while $\{|A/\mathfrak{m}| \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\} = \{2^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}^*\}$. Condition (a) of Theorem 1.2 is not fulfilled and $\text{Int}(A)$ is not a Prüfer domain, but condition (b) is satisfied. Thus the condition that $\{v_{\mathfrak{m}}(\mathfrak{m} \cap A_0) \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\}$ is bounded is not sufficient for $\text{Int}(A)$ to be Prüfer.

Now let us show that the answer to question Q_5 would be negative if we did not hypothesize A_0 to be a semilocal domain.

6.4. Example. Let $K_0 = \mathbb{Q}$ and $A_0 = \mathbb{Z}$. Letting p_n be the n th prime number, we define K_n by induction on n ; K_n is an extension of K_{n-1} such that: (i) $[K_n : K_{n-1}] = 2$; (ii) every valuation of K_{n-1} , which is an extension of the 2-adic valuation or of the 3-adic valuation or \dots , the p_{n-1} -adic valuation of \mathbb{Q} is completely decomposed (has only immediate extensions to K_n); (iii) every valuation of K_{n-1} , which is an extension of the p_n -adic valuation of \mathbb{Q} , is totally ramified (has only one extension to K_n with $e = [K_n : K_{n-1}]$ and $f = 1$). [Note that for each step we only consider a finite number of valuations.]

Let K be the union of the K_n and A the integral closure of \mathbb{Z} in K . The ring A has the immediate subextension property: for every n , each extension of the p_n -adic valuation is immediate over K_n . Hence, for each maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A , $\text{Int}(A)_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Int}(A_{\mathfrak{m}})$ and $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer (Corollary 4.5). However, for $i < j$, each extension to K_j of the p_j -adic valuation is ramified over K_i , hence $\text{Int}(A_i)$ is not included in $\text{Int}(A_j)$ ([6, Proposition 5.3] or [9, Proposition 11]).

Let us show now that conditions (a) and (b) of Theorem 1.2 do not imply that $\text{Int}(A)$ behaves well under localization.

6.5. Example. A slightly different version of Example 6.2: $[K_n : K_{n-1}] = 3$. Then A is an almost Dedekind domain with finite residue fields since every extension of the 2-adic valuation v_0 has relative degree one and ramification index two, except the valuation v , whose restriction to each K_n is v_n and which is an immediate extension of v_0 . But, for each n , $v|_{K_n} = v_n$ has ramified extensions to K , and the immediate extension v of v_0 contradicts the immediate subextension property.

Hence $\text{Int}(A)$ does not behave well under localization although conditions (a) and (b) of Theorem 1.2 are fulfilled. We do not know if $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer, but if $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer the answer to Q_7 is negative and if $\text{Int}(A)$ is not Prüfer the answer to Q_6 is negative.

We said that $\text{Int}(\mathbf{Z})$ is Prüfer although $\{|\mathbf{Z}/\mathfrak{m}| \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(\mathbf{Z})\}$ is not bounded; let us construct now an example A such that $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer and $\{v_{\mathfrak{m}}(\mathfrak{m} \cap \mathbf{Z}) \mid \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Max}(A)\}$ is not bounded.

6.6. Example. A slightly different version of Example 6.4: $[K_n : K_{n-1}] = n+2$. The ring A has the immediate subextension property, hence $\text{Int}(A)$ is Prüfer (Corollary 4.5) and conditions (a) and (b) of Theorem 1.2 are fulfilled, but condition (β) on ramification index is not.

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