

## ON COMMUTATIVE REDUCED FILIAL RINGS

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### Abstract

A ring in which every accessible subring is an ideal is called filial. We continue the study of commutative reduced filial rings started in [R. R. Andruszkiewicz and K. Pryszycepk, ‘A classification of commutative reduced filial rings’, *Comm. Algebra* to appear]. In particular we describe the Noetherian commutative reduced rings and construct nontrivial examples of commutative reduced filial rings without ideals which are domains.

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### 1. Introduction and preliminaries

Throughout this paper we assume that all rings are associative not necessarily with unity. We denote by  $\mathbb{Z}$  the ring of integers, and by  $\mathbb{P}$  the set of all prime integers. If  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  then we write  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  and  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for the ring of  $p$ -adic integers and the quotient field of  $p$ -adic integers, respectively. For arbitrary  $\Pi \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  we denote  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi = \prod_{p \in \Pi} \mathbb{Q}_p$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_\Pi = \prod_{p \in \Pi} \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

An associative ring  $R$  is called filial if  $A \triangleleft B \triangleleft R$  implies  $A \triangleleft R$  for all subrings  $A, B$  of  $R$ . The problem of describing filial rings was raised by Szász in [12]. The problem has been studied by various authors, namely, Ehrlich [5], Filipowicz and Puczyłowski [6, 7] Sands [10] and Veldsman [13].

A ring  $R$  is strongly regular if  $a \in Ra^2$  for every  $a \in R$ . It is well known that all strongly regular rings are von Neumann regular and for commutative rings the two properties coincide. The class of all strongly regular rings  $\mathbb{S}$  forms a radical in the sense of Kurosh and Amitsur [8]. A ring is reduced if it has no nontrivial nilpotent elements.

For a torsion-free ring  $R$  let  $\Pi(R) = \{p \in \mathbb{P} \mid pR \neq R\}$ . A ring  $R$  is called a CRF-ring if  $R$  is commutative, reduced and filial. Theorem 4.4 in [2] gives the following description of the  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-rings with an identity.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Let  $\Pi$  be an arbitrary nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{P}$ . Then a ring  $R$  is an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring with an identity, such that  $\Pi(R) = \Pi$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to a subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  of the form  $K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$  where  $K$  is the unique strongly regular subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity, such that for every  $a \in K$ ,  $a = (a_p)_{p \in \Pi}$ , we have  $a_p \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  for almost all  $p \in \Pi$ .*

The above theorem is important because every CRF-ring is an extension of a commutative strongly regular ring by an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring (see [2, Proposition 4.1]).

In the present paper we study some nontrivial consequences of Theorem 1.1. In particular, using some techniques from Boolean algebra theory we characterize Noetherian CRF-rings. We also prove a structure theorem for finitely generated CRF-rings. Finally, we describe CRF-rings without ideals which are domains, and we give some nontrivial examples of such rings.

We shall need the following result proved in [2].

**THEOREM 1.2.** *If  $R$  is an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple torsion-free CRF-ring without an identity, then  $R$  is isomorphic to some essential ideal of a ring  $S$ , where  $S$  is a torsion-free CRF-subring of the ring  $\text{End}_R(R)$  with an identity and  $\Pi(R) = \Pi(S)$ .*

Let  $K$  be a subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity. Take any  $a \in K$ . Let us denote by  $\text{supp}(a)$  the set  $\{p \in \Pi \mid a_p \neq 0\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}_K = \{\text{supp}(a) \mid a \in K\}$  is a Boolean algebra.

For every  $Y \subseteq \Pi$ , we define  $\chi_Y = (a_p)_{p \in \Pi} \in \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$  to be

$$a_p = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \notin Y \\ 1 & \text{if } p \in Y. \end{cases} \tag{1.1}$$

**LEMMA 1.3.** *Let  $\Pi$  be an arbitrary nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{P}$ . Let  $K$  be a subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity. Then  $K$  is a strongly regular ring if and only if for every  $a \in K$  there exists  $b \in K$  such that  $ab = \chi_{\text{supp}(a)}$ . In particular, if  $K$  is a strongly regular ring, then  $\chi_Y \in K$  for every  $Y \in \mathcal{B}_K$ .*

**LEMMA 1.4.** *Let  $\Pi$  be an arbitrary nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{P}$ . Let  $K$  be a strongly regular subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity such that for every  $a \in K$ ,  $a = (a_p)_{p \in \Pi}$ , we have  $a_p \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  for almost all  $p \in \Pi$ . Put  $S = K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$ . Then:*

- (1) every ideal  $J$  of  $K$  is of the form  $J = \{(1/n)i \mid i \in J \cap S, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ;
- (2) if  $S$  is Noetherian, then  $K$  is also Noetherian;
- (3)  $S$  contains a nonzero ideal which is a domain, if and only if  $K$  contains a nonzero ideal which is a domain.

**PROOF.** (1) According to the proof of Theorem 4.4 of [2],  $K = \{(1/n)a \mid a \in S, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Let us first observe that  $J \triangleleft K$  implies that  $J \cap S \triangleleft S$ . We claim that  $J = \{(1/n)i \mid i \in J \cap S, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Indeed,  $(1/n)i = ((1/n) \cdot 1)i \in J$  for  $i \in J \cap S$ . If  $j \in J$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n \cdot j \in S$ . Then obviously  $j = (1/n)(nj)$ .

Parts (2) and (3) are direct consequences of (1). □

### 2. Finiteness conditions for $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-rings

For a nonempty subset  $X$  of a ring  $R$ ,  $\langle X \rangle$  will denote the additive subgroup by  $X$ , and  $[X]$  will denote the subring generated generated by  $X$ . Let  $(a, b)$  denote the greatest common divisor of given integers  $a$  and  $b$ .

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Given a ring  $R$  with an identity element, the following conditions are equivalent.*

- (1)  $R$  is a Noetherian  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring.
- (2)  $R \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n D_i$ , where  $D_i$  is a filial integral domain of characteristic 0, which is not a field for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $\Pi(D_i) \cap \Pi(D_j) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ .

**PROOF.** Suppose a ring  $R$  with an identity satisfies (1). We first note that by Theorem 1.1 there exist a nonempty subset  $\Pi \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  and a unique strongly regular subring  $K$  of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity, such that for every  $a \in K$ ,  $a = (a_p)_{p \in \Pi}$ , we have  $a_p \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  for almost all  $p \in \Pi$  and  $R \cong K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$ . Lemma 1.4 yields that  $K$  is Noetherian. Applying Lemma 1.3, we get that  $\mathcal{B}_K$  is an Artinian Boolean algebra ( $\mathcal{B}_K$  satisfies the descending chain condition).

Next, we can take pairwise disjoint atoms  $\Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_k \in \mathcal{B}_K$  such that  $\Pi = \Pi_1 \cup \Pi_2 \cup \dots \cup \Pi_k$ . This is possible thanks to some standard results in Boolean algebra theory (see [9]). A trivial verification and Lemma 1.3 show that  $\chi_{\Pi_1}, \chi_{\Pi_2}, \dots, \chi_{\Pi_k} \in K$  are pairwise orthogonal idempotents and  $1 = \chi_{\Pi_1} + \chi_{\Pi_2} + \dots + \chi_{\Pi_k}$ . Since  $\Pi_i$  is an atom,  $\chi_{\Pi_i}K$  is an integral domain. But  $\chi_{\Pi_i}K$  is an ideal in a strongly regular ring  $K$ , hence  $\chi_{\Pi_i}K \in \mathbb{S}$ . From this we conclude that  $\chi_{\Pi_i}K$  is a field. It follows that  $K = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k \chi_{\Pi_i}K$  and consequently  $R \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^k [(\chi_{\Pi_i}K) \cap \mathbb{Z}_{\Pi_i}]$ . Moreover, [1, Theorem 8.8] gives that  $D_i = (\chi_{\Pi_i}K) \cap \mathbb{Z}_{\Pi_i}$  is a filial integral domain of characteristic 0 and  $\Pi(D_i) = \Pi_i$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ .

Finally, suppose that (2) holds. Note that [4, Corollary 3] implies that  $R$  is an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring. From [1, Theorem 3.3] it follows that  $D_i$  is a Noetherian ring as a principal ideal domain. Obviously  $R$  is a Noetherian ring. □

We have been working under the assumption that a ring has an identity element. This condition was essential for the above proof. We will now show how to dispense with this assumption.

**THEOREM 2.2.** *The following conditions on a ring  $R$  are equivalent.*

- (1)  $R$  is a Noetherian  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring.
- (2)  $R \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n m_i D_i$ , where  $D_i$  is a filial integral domain of characteristic 0, which is not a field,  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$  for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $\Pi(D_i) \cap \Pi(D_j) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ .

**PROOF.** Let  $R$  be a Noetherian  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring. Let us first observe that Theorem 1.2 shows that there exists a torsion-free CRF-ring  $S$  with an identity such that  $R$  is an essential ideal in  $S$ . Since  $R$  is a Noetherian ring,  $\text{End}_R(R)$  is a

Noetherian  $R$ -module. But  $S$  is an  $R$ -submodule of  $\text{End}_R(R)$ , so  $S$  is a Noetherian  $R$ -module. Consequently  $S$  is a Noetherian ring. According to Theorem 2.1 we have  $S \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n D_i$ , where  $D_i$  is a filial integral domain of characteristic 0, which is not a field for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $\Pi(D_i) \cap \Pi(D_j) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ . Since  $R$  is an essential ideal of  $S$  it is easy to see that  $R \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n J_i$ , where  $J_i$  is a nonzero ideal of  $D_i$ . Applying [1, Theorem 3.3], we get  $J_i \cong m_i D_i$ ,  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$  for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Finally,  $R \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n m_i D_i$ . This shows that (1) implies (2).

Suppose that (2) holds. From [1, Theorem 3.3] we get that  $D_i$  is a Noetherian ring. By filiality of  $D_i$  it follows that  $m_i D_i$  is a Noetherian ring for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Consequently,  $R$  is a Noetherian ring. Moreover, from [4, Corollary 3] it may be concluded that  $R$  is an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring. □

Our next goal is to determine the structure of Noetherian CRF-rings. Suppose now that  $R$  is a Noetherian CRF-ring such that  $\mathbb{S}(R) \neq 0$ . It is easy to verify that  $\mathbb{S}(R)$  is a Noetherian ring with an identity. So  $\mathbb{S}(R)$  is a direct summand of  $R$ . Let  $R = \mathbb{S}(R) \oplus T$ . Since  $T$  satisfies conditions of Theorem 2.2 so we need only consider  $\mathbb{S}(R)$ . But the standard computation shows that every strongly regular, Noetherian CRF-ring is a finite direct sum of fields (see, for instance, [11]).

Applying the above observation and Theorem 2.2, one can immediately obtain the following structure theorem.

**THEOREM 2.3.** *The following conditions on a ring  $R$  are equivalent.*

- (1)  $R$  is a Noetherian CRF-ring.
- (2)  $R \cong (\bigoplus_{j=1}^k F_j) \oplus (\bigoplus_{i=1}^n m_i D_i)$ , where  $D_i$  is a filial integral domain of characteristic 0, which is not a field,  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$  for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\Pi(D_i) \cap \Pi(D_t) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq t$  and  $F_j$  is a field for every  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ .

As a final result in this section, we prove an analogue of Theorem 2.3 for finitely generated  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-rings.

**THEOREM 2.4.** *The following conditions on a ring  $R$  are equivalent.*

- (1)  $R$  is a finitely generated CRF-ring.
- (2)  $R \cong (\bigoplus_{j=1}^k F_j) \oplus (\bigoplus_{i=1}^n m_i D_i)$  where  $D_i$  is a finitely generated subring of  $\mathbb{Q}$  with identity,  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$  for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\Pi(D_i) \cap \Pi(D_t) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq t$  and  $F_j$  is a finite field for every  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ .

**PROOF.** Suppose that  $R$  satisfies condition (1). It is clear that  $R$  is Noetherian, so by Theorem 2.3 we obtain that  $R \cong (\bigoplus_{j=1}^k F_j) \oplus (\bigoplus_{i=1}^n m_i D_i)$ , where  $D_i$  is a filial integral domain of characteristic 0, which is not a field,  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$  for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\Pi(D_i) \cap \Pi(D_t) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq t$  and  $F_j$  is a field for every  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ . Moreover, every  $m_i D_i$  is a homomorphic image of the ring  $R$ . So  $m_i D_i$  is finitely generated, but by filiality of  $D_i$  we have  $D_i = m_i D_i + \mathbb{Z} \cdot 1$ , so consequently  $D_i$  is finitely generated. Applying [1, Theorem 5.1], we see at once

that  $D_i$  is a finitely generated subring of  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Every  $F_j$  is also a homomorphic image of  $R$ . Hence every  $F_j$  is finitely generated. But every finitely generated field is finite.

Suppose that (2) holds. Since  $D_i$  is a finitely generated subring of  $\mathbb{Q}$  with identity, there exists  $M \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $D_i = [1/M]$ . Hence there exists  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(k, M) = 1$  and  $m_i D_i = k[1/M]$  (where  $k = m_i / (m_i, M)$ ). We will show that  $m_i D_i = [k/M]$ . Clearly  $[k/M] \subseteq m_i D_i$ . Let  $a \in [1/M]$ . Then there exist  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a = l/M^t$ . But  $(k, M) = 1$ , so there are integers  $u, v$  such that  $k^{t-1}u + M^{t-1}v = 1$ . Thus  $ka = (k/M)^t lu + (k/M)lv \in [k/M]$ . Consequently,  $m_i D_i$  is finitely generated for every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . It is obvious that every  $F_j$  is finitely generated. Hence  $R$  is a finitely generated. Moreover,  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^n m_i D_i$  is a CRF-ring by [4, Corollary 3] and  $\bigoplus_{j=1}^k F_j$  is clearly a subidempotent ring. Proposition 3 of [3] implies that  $R$  is filial.  $\square$

### 3. CRF-rings without ideals which are domains

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $\Pi$  be an arbitrary nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{P}$ . Then  $R$  is an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring with an identity without ideals which are domains, such that  $\Pi(R) = \Pi$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to a subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  of the form  $K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$  where  $K$  is the unique strongly regular subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity, such that for every  $a \in K$ ,  $a = (a_p)_{p \in \Pi}$ , we have  $a_p \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  for almost all  $p \in \Pi$  and the Boolean algebra  $\mathcal{B}_K$  is atom-free.*

**PROOF.** Let  $R$  be an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring with an identity without ideals which are domains, such that  $\Pi(R) = \Pi$ . From Theorem 1.1 we have that  $R$  is isomorphic to a subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  of the form  $K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$  where  $K$  is the unique strongly regular subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity, such that for every  $a \in K$ ,  $a = (a_p)_{p \in \Pi}$ , we have  $a_p \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  for almost all  $p \in \Pi$ . Lemma 1.4 implies that a ring  $K$  does not contain an ideal which is a domain. Take any nonempty  $Y \in \mathcal{B}_K$ . By Lemma 1.3,  $a = \chi_Y \in K$ . But  $I = Ka$  is not a domain so there exist  $c, d \in I$  such that  $cd = 0$ . Obviously  $\emptyset \neq \text{supp}(c) \subseteq Y$  and  $\emptyset \neq \text{supp}(d) \subseteq Y$ . Moreover,  $\text{supp}(c) \cap \text{supp}(d) = \emptyset$  because  $cd = 0$ . Hence  $\text{supp}(c) \subsetneq Y$  or  $\text{supp}(d) \subsetneq Y$  and  $\mathcal{B}_K$  is atom-free.

Conversely, according to Lemma 1.4 it is sufficient to prove that a ring  $K$  does not contain an ideal which is a domain. Let  $\{0\} \neq I \triangleleft K$ . Take any nonzero  $a \in I$ .  $\mathcal{B}_K$  is atom-free so exists  $Y \in \mathcal{B}_K$  such that  $\emptyset \neq Y \subsetneq \text{supp}(a)$ . Lemma 1.3 implies that  $\chi_Y, \chi_{\text{supp}(a) \setminus Y} \in K$  and  $a\chi_Y, a\chi_{\text{supp}(a) \setminus Y}$  are nonzero elements of  $I$ . Finally,  $I$  is not a domain and the proof is complete.  $\square$

From Theorems 1.2 and 3.1 we can easily obtain following structure theorem.

**THEOREM 3.2.**  *$R$  is an  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring without ideals which are domains if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to some essential ideal of a ring of the form  $K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$ , where  $K$  is the unique strongly regular subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  with the same identity, such that for every  $a \in K$ ,  $a = (a_p)_{p \in \Pi}$ , we have  $a_p \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  for almost all  $p \in \Pi$  and the Boolean algebra  $\mathcal{B}_K$  is atom-free.*

### 4. Example

**EXAMPLE 4.1.** Let  $p$  be any prime number. Let  $A_{i,k} = \{p^i t + k \mid t \in \mathbb{N}\}$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and  $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, p^i - 1\}$ . Let

$$\mathfrak{D} = \left\{ \bigcup_{j=1}^n X_j \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \forall_j \exists_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \exists_{k \in \{0, 1, \dots, p^i - 1\}} X_j = A_{i,k} \right\}.$$

It is easy to see that for  $i_1 \leq i_2$ ,

$$A_{i_1, k_1} \cap A_{i_2, k_2} = \begin{cases} A_{i_2, k_2} & \text{if } k_1 \equiv k_2 \pmod{p^{i_1}} \\ \emptyset & \text{if } k_1 \not\equiv k_2 \pmod{p^{i_1}}. \end{cases}$$

So every element of  $\mathfrak{D}$  can be written as a disjoint sum of sets  $A_{i,k}$ . This means that if  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{D}$  then  $X \cap Y \in \mathfrak{D}$ . Next, it is also clear that  $A'_{i,k} = \mathbb{N} \setminus A_{i,k} = \bigcup_{j \in \{0, 1, \dots, p^i - 1\}, j \neq k} A_{i,j} \in \mathfrak{D}$ . So  $\mathfrak{D}$  is a field of sets. Of course, for every  $A_{i,k}$  and for every  $j > i$ ,  $A_{i,k} \supseteq A_{i,j}$ .

**EXAMPLE 4.2.** Let  $\Pi = \{p_1, p_2, \dots\}$  be any infinite subset of prime numbers. Let  $\mathfrak{D}$  be any atom-free Boolean algebra of subsets of  $\Pi$ . Such an algebra does exist, by Example 4.1. In  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$  we define

$$K = [a\chi_Y : Y \in \mathfrak{D}, 0 \neq a \in \mathbb{Q}]. \tag{4.1}$$

It is easy to see that

$$K = \langle a\chi_Y : Y \in \mathfrak{D}, 0 \neq a \in \mathbb{Q} \rangle. \tag{4.2}$$

Hence every nonzero  $d \in K$  can be written in the form

$$d = a_1\chi_{Y_1} + a_2\chi_{Y_2} + \dots + a_k\chi_{Y_k} \tag{4.3}$$

where  $0 \neq a_i \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\emptyset \neq Y_i \in \mathfrak{D}$  for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ ,  $Y_i \cap Y_j = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $\text{supp}(d) = Y_1 \cup Y_2 \cup \dots \cup Y_k$ . We claim that  $K$  is strongly regular. Let  $d$  be as in (4.3). Put  $d' = a_1^{-1}\chi_{Y_1} + a_2^{-1}\chi_{Y_2} + \dots + a_k^{-1}\chi_{Y_k}$ . Obviously  $d' \in K$ ; moreover,  $d \cdot d' = \chi_{\text{supp}(d)} \in K$ . So by Lemma 1.3,  $K$  is strongly regular subring of  $\mathbb{Q}_\Pi$ . Clearly  $K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi \neq \{0\}$ . It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{B}_K$  is atom-free, so Theorem 3.1 implies that  $K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi$  is a nonzero  $\mathbb{S}$ -semisimple CRF-ring, without an ideal which is a domain. Moreover,  $\Pi(K \cap \mathbb{Z}_\Pi) = \Pi$ .

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