

# ON GENERALIZED REAL SEMIPRIME IDEALS

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ABSTRACT. Let  $R$  be an associative unital ring. A subset  $T$  of  $R$  is a  $P_n$ -preordering if  $-1 \notin T$ ,  $1 \in T$ ,  $T + T \subseteq T$ ,  $T \cdot T \subseteq T$  and  $xt_1 \cdots xt_n \in T$  for every  $x \in R$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in T$ . Our first result is that for every maximal  $P_n$ -preordering  $P$  on  $R$  there exists a (not necessarily abelian)  $n$ -torsion group  $G$  and a surjective semigroup homomorphism  $\sigma: R \rightarrow G \cup \{0\}$  such that  $P = \sigma^{-1}(\{0, 1\})$ . If  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq R$  then for every  $P_n$ -preordering  $T$  the set  $T \cap -T$  is a two-sided ideal in  $R$ . Our second result is that every such ideal is semiprime (resp. prime) if and only if it is radical (resp. completely prime).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Orderings are the basic objects of real algebraic geometry because they generalize the notion of a real point. A subset  $P$  of a commutative unital ring  $R$  is an *ordering* if it is closed for addition and multiplication,  $P \cup -P = R$  and  $P \cap -P$  is a prime ideal. An alternative definition is that  $P$  is closed for addition, does not contain  $-1$  and there exists a semigroup homomorphism  $\sigma: R \rightarrow \{-1, 0, 1\}$  such that  $P = \sigma^{-1}(\{0, 1\})$ . It is well-known that a commutative ring  $R$  has an ordering if and only if  $-1 \notin \sum R^2$ , i.e.  $-1$  is not a sum of squares. In [10], orderings on associative unital rings are defined using the first definition from above. It is shown that every prime ideal of the form  $P \cap -P$  is also completely prime, hence the first and the second definition from above are also equivalent for noncommutative rings. An associative ring  $R$  admits an ordering if and only if  $-1$  is not a sum of “permuted” products of squares of elements from  $R$ .

We are interested in generalized orderings that are defined by replacing the group  $\{-1, 1\}$  from above by an arbitrary group. More

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precisely, if  $R$  is an associative unital ring and  $G$  a group, then a subset  $P$  of  $R$  is a  $G$ -ordering if  $P + P \subseteq P$ ,  $-1 \notin P$  and there exists a semigroup homomorphism  $\sigma: R \rightarrow G \cup \{0\}$  such that  $P = \sigma^{-1}(\{0, 1\})$ .

For every even integer  $n$  write  $\mu_n = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid z^n = 1\}$ . A commutative ring  $R$  admits a  $\mu_n$ -ordering if and only if  $-1 \notin \sum R^n$ , see [2]. It is conjectured that an associative ring  $R$  admits a  $\mu_n$ -ordering if and only if  $-1 \notin \sum \Pi_n(R)$ , where  $\Pi_n(R)$  is the set of all products which are up to a permutation of factors the products of  $n$ -th powers of elements from  $R$  and  $\sum \Pi_n(R)$  is the set of all finite sums of elements from  $\Pi_n(R)$ . This is true if either  $R$  is Noetherian or  $n$  is a power of 2, see [3, 4]. The theory is based on earlier papers [1, 7, 11, 12].

The aim of this paper is to characterize rings that admit a  $G$ -ordering for  $G$  a (not necessarily abelian) torsion group of finite exponent. Let  $P_n(R)$  be the smallest subset of  $R$  such that  $1 \in P_n(R)$  and  $xt_1 \cdots xt_n \in P_n(R)$  for every  $x \in R$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in P_n(R)$ . Write  $\sum P_n(R)$  for the set of all finite sums of elements from  $R$ . We prove:

**Theorem A.** *For every associative unital ring  $R$  and even  $n$ ,  $-1 \notin \sum P_n(R)$  if and only if  $R$  admits a  $G$ -ordering for some  $n$ -torsion group  $G$ . In particular,  $-1 \notin \sum \Pi_n(R)$  if and only if  $R$  admits a  $G$ -ordering for some abelian  $n$ -torsion group  $G$ .*

The second assertion of theorem A is a special case of the first. It can be seen as a contribution to the open problem mentioned above. Since every 2-torsion group is abelian, Theorem A implies that for every ring  $R$ ,  $-1 \notin \sum P_2(R)$  if and only if  $-1 \notin \sum \Pi_2(R)$ . However, if  $n \geq 4$  is even then by the main result of [6], there exists a skew-field  $D$  such that  $-1 \notin \sum P_n(D)$  and  $-1 \in \sum \Pi_n(D)$ . The proof of Theorem A for skew-fields is much easier than for general associative rings.

A subset  $M$  of  $R$  is a  $P_n$ -module if  $1 \in M$ ,  $M + M \subseteq M$  and  $P_n(R) \cdot M \cdot P_n(R) \subseteq M$ . A two-sided ideal  $J$  of  $R$  is  $P_n$ -real if there exists a proper  $P_n$ -module  $M$  such that  $J = M \cap -M$ . Replacing  $P_n(R)$  with  $\Pi_n(R)$  we obtain the definition of a  $\Pi_n$ -module and  $\Pi_n$ -real ideal. We prove a generalization of a result from [10] mentioned above.

**Theorem B.** *Let  $R$  be an associative unital ring and  $n$  an even integer. Every  $P_n$ -real ideal  $R$  on is prime if and only if it is completely prime. If also  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq R$  then every  $P_n$ -real ideal on  $R$  is semiprime if and only if it is radical.*

Since  $P_n(R) \subseteq \Pi_n(R)$ , every  $\Pi_n$ -real ideal is  $P_n$ -real. We will also show that every prime  $P_2$ -real ideal is  $\Pi_2$ -real. However, if  $n \geq 4$  and  $D$  is a skew-field such that  $-1 \notin \sum P_n(D)$  and  $-1 \in \sum \Pi_n(D)$  (see above), then  $\{0\}$  is a  $P_n$ -real prime ideal of  $D$  which is not  $\Pi_n$ -real.

## 2. THE MAIN TECHNICAL RESULT

From now on  $R$  will be a fixed associative unital ring and  $n$  an even integer. We will write  $P_n = P_n(R)$ . A subset  $U \subseteq P_n$  is a  $P_n$ -system if  $1 \in U$  and for every elements  $x, y \in U$  there exists some  $c \in P_n$  such that  $xcy \in U$ . Every multiplicative subset of  $P_n$  containing 1 is a  $P_n$ -system.

Theorem 1 is motivated by [13, Theorem 1.1.4]. It will be used in the proofs of Theorems A and B.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $U$  be a  $P_n$ -system such that the family  $\mathbf{M}$  of all  $P_n$ -modules avoiding  $-U$  is nonempty. Every element of  $\mathbf{M}$  is contained in some maximal element of  $\mathbf{M}$ . For every maximal element  $S$  of  $\mathbf{M}$  we have that  $S \cup -S = R$  and  $S \cap -S$  is a completely prime ideal.*

*Proof.* The first assertion follows from the Zorn's Lemma. Let  $S$  be a maximal element of the family  $\mathbf{M}$ .

*Claim 1:* *If  $kr \in S$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $r \in R$  then  $r \in S$ .*

The set  $S^e := \{r \in R \mid kr \in S \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is clearly a  $P_n$ -module. If  $-u \in S^e$  for some  $u \in U$ , then  $-ku \in S$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $u \in P_n \subseteq S$ , it follows that  $-u = -ku + (k-1)u \in S$ , a contradiction. It follows that  $S^e \in \mathbf{M}$ . By the maximality of  $S$ , we have that  $S^e = S$ . The claim follows.

*Claim 2:* *The set  $J := S \cap -S$  is a two-sided ideal.*

To prove that the set  $J$  is a left ideal take any  $b \in J$  and  $a \in R$ . The identity  $n!a = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-i-1} \binom{n-1}{i} ((a+i)^n - i^n)$  implies that there exist  $s, t \in \Sigma P_n$  such that  $n!a = s - t$ . Clearly, the set  $J$  is an additive subgroup of  $R$  containing  $sb$  and  $tb$ . It follows that  $n!ab \in J$ . Since  $S^e = S$  by Claim 1, it follows that  $ab \in J$ . The proof that  $J$  is a right ideal is similar.

*Claim 3:* *If  $a \in R$  and  $aP_n a \subseteq J$ , then  $a \in J$ .*

If Claim 3 is false, then there exists an element  $a \in R$  such that  $aP_n a \subseteq J$  and  $a \notin S$ . Since the  $P_n$ -module  $S + \Sigma(P_n a P_n)$  properly contains  $S$ , it must meet  $-U$ . Hence, there exist elements  $v \in U$ ,  $m \in S$  and  $z \in \Sigma(P_n a P_n)$  such that  $-v = m + z$ . Since  $U$  is a  $P_n$ -system, there exist elements  $c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in P_n$  such that  $u := vc_1vc_2v \cdots c_{n-1}v \in U$ . It follows that  $(v+z)c_1(v+z)c_2 \cdots c_{n-1}(v+z) = u + x + y$ , where  $x = zc_1vc_2 \cdots v + vc_1zc_2 \cdots v + \dots + vc_1vc_2 \cdots z$  and  $y \in \Sigma(RzP_nzR) \subseteq \Sigma(RaP_n aR) \subseteq J$ . We have that  $x = (-m - v)c_1vc_2 \cdots v + vc_1(-m - v)c_2 \cdots v + \dots + vc_1vc_2 \cdots (-m - v) = -nu - m'$  where  $m' = mc_1vc_2v \cdots c_{n-1}v + vc_1mc_2v \cdots c_{n-1}v + \dots + vc_1vc_2v \cdots c_{n-1}m \in S$ . This implies a contradiction  $-u = (u + x + y) + (n-2)u + m' - y \in P_n + \Sigma P_n + S + J \subseteq S$  with the assumption  $-U \cap S = \emptyset$ .

*Claim 4:*  $S \cup -S = R$ .

If the Claim 4 is false, then there exists an element  $a \notin S \cup -S$ . Since the  $P_n$ -modules  $S + \Sigma(P_n a P_n)$  and  $S - \Sigma(P_n a P_n)$  properly contain  $S$ , they must meet  $-U$ . Hence, there exist elements  $u, v \in U$ ,  $m_1, m_2 \in S$  and  $z, w \in \Sigma(P_n a P_n)$  such that  $-u = m_1 + z$  and  $-v = m_2 - w$ . Since  $U$  is a  $P_n$ -system, there exists an element  $c \in P_n$  such that  $ucv \in U$ . Write  $z' := zcv \in \Sigma(P_n a P_n)$ . Pick any  $c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in P_n$  and write  $t_1 := vc_1 z' c_2 z' \cdots z' c_{n-1} z c w$  and  $t_2 := z' c_1 z' c_2 \cdots z' c_{n-1} z$ . Since  $t_1, t_2 \in (\Sigma(P_n a P_n))^n \subseteq \Sigma P_n$  and  $z c t_1 = t_2 c w$ , we have that  $-u c t_1 - t_2 c v = (m_1 + z) c t_1 + t_2 c (m_2 - w) = m_1 c t_1 + t_2 c m_2 \subseteq S$ . Consequently,  $z' c_1 z' c_2 \cdots z' c_{n-1} z' = t_2 c v \in J$  for any  $c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in P_n$ . Since  $J$  is an ideal, it follows that  $z' c_1 z' c_2 \cdots z' c_{2^n-1} z' \in J$  for any  $c_1, \dots, c_{2^n-1} \in P_n$ . Applying Claim 3  $n$ -times, we see that  $z' \in J$ . This implies a contradiction  $-ucv = m_1 c v + z' \in -U \cap S = \emptyset$ .

*Claim 5:* If  $a \in R$  and  $a^2 \in J$ , then  $a \in J$ . (i.e.  $J$  is radical)

By Claim 4, we may assume that  $a \in S$ . Pick any  $x \in P_n$  and note that either  $ax - xa \in S$  or  $xa - ax \in S$ . If  $ax - xa \in S$ , then  $(xa)^n (ax - xa) \in S$ . Since  $(xa)^n a x \in Ra^2 R \subseteq J$  and  $(xa)^{n+1} \in P_n \cdot S \subseteq S$ , it follows that  $(xa)^{n+1} \in J$ . If  $xa - ax \in S$ , then  $(xa - ax)(ax)^n \in S$ . Since  $xa(ax)^n \in Ra^2 R \subseteq J$  and  $(ax)^{n+1} \in S$ , it follows that  $(ax)^{n+1} \in J$ . Since  $J$  is an ideal and  $2n > n + 1$ , we have in both cases that  $(ax)^{2n-1} a \in J$ . If we put  $x = c_1 + \dots + c_n$ , where  $c_1, \dots, c_{2n-1} \in P_n$ , we get 
$$\sum_{1 \leq j_1, \dots, j_{2n-1} \leq 2n-1} a c_{j_1} a \cdots c_{j_{2n-1}} a \in J.$$
 Since every term of this sum belongs to  $P_n$ , it follows that all terms belong to  $J$ , in particular  $a c_1 a \cdots c_{2n-1} a \in J$ . Claim 3 implies that  $a \in J$ .

*Claim 6:* The ideal  $J$  is completely prime.

For any  $a, b \in R$  such that  $ab \in J$  we have that  $a^n b^n \in J$ . By Claim 4 either  $a^n - b^n \in S$  or  $b^n - a^n \in S$ . If  $a^n - b^n \in S$ , then  $-b^{2n} = (a^n - b^n)b^n - a^n b^n \in S$ . If  $b^n - a^n \in S$ , then  $-a^{2n} = a^n(b^n - a^n) - a^n b^n \in S$ . It follows that either  $a^{2n} \in J$  or  $b^{2n} \in J$ . Claim 5 implies that either  $a \in J$  or  $b \in J$ .  $\square$

### 3. THE PROOF OF THEOREM A

A subset  $T$  of  $R$  is a  $P_n$ -preordering if  $-1 \notin T$ ,  $T + T \subseteq T$ ,  $T \cdot T \subseteq T$  and  $(xT)^n \subseteq T$  for every  $x \in R$ . The set  $T^0 := T \cap -T$  is called the support of  $T$ , write also  $T^+ = T \setminus T^0$ . If  $-1 \notin \Sigma P_n(R)$  then  $\Sigma P_n(R)$  is the smallest  $P_n$ -preordering on  $R$ .

**Proposition 2.** *Every  $P_n$ -preordering is contained in a preordering whose support is a completely prime ideal.*

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be a  $P_n$ -preordering. Clearly,  $T$  is also a proper  $P_n$ -module. Applying Theorem 1 with  $U = \{1\}$ , we get a proper  $P_n$ -module  $S$  containing  $T$  such that  $S \cup -S = R$  and  $J := S \cap -S$  is a completely prime ideal. Write  $T' = T + J$ . It is easy to verify that  $T'$  is a  $P_n$ -preordering. We claim that  $T' \cap -T' = J$ . One direction is clear. Now, pick  $x \in T' \cap -T'$ . There exist  $t_1, t_2 \in T$  and  $z_1, z_2 \in J$  such that  $x = t_1 + z_1$  and  $-x = t_2 + z_2$ . It follows that  $t_1 = -z_1 - z_2 - t_2$ . Since  $t_1 \in S$  and  $-z_1 - z_2 - t_2 \in -S$ , it follows that  $t_1 \in J$ . So  $x \in J$ .  $\square$

For every  $P_n$ -preordering  $T$  whose support in a completely prime ideal we define its *division closure*  $\bar{T} := \{x \in R \mid xT^+ \cap T \neq \emptyset\}$ . We say that  $T$  is *divisible* if  $T = \bar{T}$ .

**Proposition 3.** *If  $T$  is a  $P_n$ -preordering with a completely prime support then  $\bar{T}$  is the smallest divisible  $P_n$ -preordering containing  $T$ . Moreover,  $\bar{T}^0 = T^0$  and  $ab \in \bar{T}$  is equivalent to  $ba \in \bar{T}$  for every  $a, b \in T$ .*

*Proof.* Clearly,  $T \subseteq \bar{T}$  and  $-1 \notin \bar{T}$ .

We start by showing that  $\bar{T} = \{x \in R \mid T^+x \cap T \neq \emptyset\}$ . Suppose that  $xt \in T$  for some  $t \in T^+$ . If  $x \in T^0$ , then  $1 \cdot x \in T$ . If  $x \notin T^0$ , then  $x^{nt} \in T^+$  and  $(x^{nt})x = x^{n-1}(xt)x \in (xT)^n \subseteq T$ . Hence, in both cases  $t'x \in T$  for some  $t' \in T^+$ . The same argument proves the opposite direction. Manipulating this equality it can be easily seen that  $\bar{T} + \bar{T} \subseteq \bar{T}$ ,  $\bar{T} \cdot \bar{T} \subseteq \bar{T}$ ,  $\bar{T}^0 = T^0$  and  $\bar{T}$  is divisible.

If  $ab \in \bar{T}$  some  $a, b \in R$  then  $abt \in T$  for some  $t \in T^+$ . It follows that  $b(abt)b^{n-1} \in T$  and  $btb^{n-1} \in T$ . We distinguish two cases. If  $btb^{n-1} \in T^+$  then  $ba \in \bar{T}$  since  $ba(btb^{n-1}) \in T$ . If  $btb^{n-1} \in T^0$  then  $b \in T^0$  so that  $ba \in T^0 \subseteq \bar{T}$  as well. Finally, suppose that  $x \in R$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in \bar{T}$ . Then  $x^n \in \bar{T}$ ,  $x^n t_1 \in \bar{T}$ ,  $x^{n-1} t_1 x \in \bar{T}$ ,  $x^{n-1} t_1 x t_2 \in \bar{T}$ ,  $x^{n-2} t_1 x t_2 x \in \bar{T}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $x t_1 \cdots x t_n \in \bar{T}$ . Hence  $(x\bar{T})^n \subseteq \bar{T}$ .  $\square$

Now we are able to prove Theorem A.

*Proof.* By Proposition 2, there exists a  $P_n$ -preordering  $T$  on  $R$  such that  $T^0$  is a completely prime ideal. Let  $\bar{T}$  be the division closure of  $T$ , cf Proposition 3. Let  $S$  be the multiplicative semigroup  $R \setminus T^0 = R \setminus \bar{T}^0$ . For any  $x, y \in S$  write  $x \sim y$  if and only if there exists  $z \in S$  such that  $xz, yz \in \bar{T}$ . Applying the property  $ab \in \bar{T} \Rightarrow ba \in \bar{T}$  several times, we can see that  $\sim$  is a congruence relation and that the factor semigroup  $G := S / \sim$  is an  $n$ -torsion group. The canonical projection  $S \rightarrow G$  can be extended to a semigroup homomorphism  $\sigma: R \rightarrow G^0$  by sending the elements of  $T^0$  to zero. Clearly,  $\sigma^{-1}(\{0, 1\}) = \bar{T}$ , hence  $\bar{T}$  is a  $G$ -ordering. If  $\Pi_n \subseteq T$ , then  $G$  is abelian. Hence the second assertion follows from the first.  $\square$

## 4. THE PROOF OF THEOREM B

We will split the proof of Theorem  $B$  into Propositions 4 and 5. Recall from the proof of Claim 2 of Theorem 1 that  $n!R \subseteq \Sigma P_n - \Sigma P_n$ .

**Proposition 4.** *If  $J$  is a  $P_n$ -real ideal then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $J$  is a completely prime ideal.
- (2)  $J$  is a prime ideal.
- (3) If  $a, b \in R$  and  $aP_nb \subseteq J$ , then either  $a \in J$  or  $b \in J$ .

*Proof.* Clearly (1) implies (2). If (2) is true and  $aP_nb \in J$  for some  $a, b \in R$ , then the relation  $n!R \subseteq \Sigma P_n - \Sigma P_n$  implies that  $n!(aRb) \subseteq J$ . Since  $J$  is an ideal, we have that  $(n!)RaRb \subseteq J$ . Note that  $n! \notin J$  because  $J$  is  $\Pi_n$ -real and  $1 \notin J$ . Since the ideal  $J$  is prime it follows that either  $a \in J$  or  $b \in J$ . Hence, (3) is true.

If (3) is true, then the set  $U := P_n \setminus J$  is a  $P_n$ -system. Clearly,  $-U \cap \Sigma P_n = \emptyset$ . By Theorem 1, with  $M = \Sigma P_n$ , there exists a  $P_n$ -module  $S$  avoiding  $-U$  such that the set  $I = S \cap -S$  is a completely prime ideal. We claim that  $J = I$ . Clearly,  $I \cap P_n = J \cap P_n$ . If  $x \in I$ , then  $(xP_n)^{n-1}x \subseteq I \cap P_n = J \cap P_n \subseteq J$ . By (3), we have that  $x \in J$ . Hence, (1) is true.  $\square$

**Proposition 5.** *If  $\mathbb{Q} \subset R$  then the following assertions are equivalent for every  $P_n$ -real ideal  $I$  on  $R$ :*

- (1)  $I$  is semiprime.
- (2) If  $a \in R$  and  $aP_na \subset I$  then  $a \in I$ .
- (3)  $I$  is equal to an intersection of  $P_n$ -real prime ideals.
- (4)  $I$  is radical.

*Proof.* Clearly, (3) implies (4) and (4) implies (1). The equivalence between (1) and (2) follows from the identity  $n!R \subseteq \Sigma P_n - \Sigma P_n$  and the invertibility of  $n!$ .

To show that (2) implies (3) recall that every semiprime ideal is the intersection of all prime ideals containing it. Therefore, it suffices to show that for every prime ideal  $J \supset I$  there exists a real prime ideal  $J'$  such that  $J \supset J' \supset I$ . Note that the set  $U = \Pi_n \setminus J$  is a  $\Pi_n$ -system. If not, we can find  $x, y \in U$  such that  $x\Pi_n y \subseteq J$ . Since  $n!R \subseteq \Sigma P_n - \Sigma P_n$  and  $n!$  is invertible, we get  $xRy \subseteq J$ . Hence  $x \in J$  or  $y \in J$ , a contradiction. Since  $I$  is  $P_n$ -real, there exists a  $P_n$ -module  $M$  such that  $I = M \cap -M$ . Since  $J \supset I$ , we have that  $-U \cap M = \emptyset$ . By Theorem 1, there exists a  $P_n$  module  $S \supset M$  such that  $-U \cap S = \emptyset$  and  $J' := S \cap -S$  is a completely prime ideal. Clearly  $J'$  is a  $P_n$ -real prime ideal such that  $J' \supset I$ . Since  $U \cap J' = \emptyset$ , it follows that  $J' \cap P_n \subseteq P_n \setminus U = J \cap P_n$ . If  $a \in J'$  then  $(aP_n)^n \in J' \cap P_n$ , so

that  $(aP_n)^n \in J \cap P_n$ . Since  $J$  is an ideal and  $2^n > n$ , it follows that  $(aP_n)^{2^n} \in J$ . Applying (2)  $n$ -times, we get that  $a \in J$  as required.  $\square$

## 5. FURTHER COMMENTS

It would be interesting to know whether the assumption  $\mathbb{Q} \subset R$  in Corollary 5 can be omitted. Clearly, for any unital ring  $R$  there exists a bijective correspondence between the ideals on  $R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$  and ideals on  $R$  such that  $I^e = I$  (i.e.  $kx \in I$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x \in R$  implies that  $x \in I$ ). The correspondence preserves prime, semiprime and  $P_n$ -real ideals. Therefore, it suffices to prove that  $I^e = I$  for every  $P_n$ -real semiprime ideal  $I$ . I can only show this for  $\Pi_n$ -real ideals. Thus every  $\Pi_n$ -real ideal on every unital ring  $R$  is semiprime if and only if it is radical.

**Proposition 6.** *Every  $\Pi_n$ -real semiprime ideal  $I$  satisfies  $I^e = I$ .*

*Proof.* By modding out  $I$ , we may assume that  $0$  is a  $\Pi_n$ -real ideal. We want to prove that  $0^e = 0$ .

Pick any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\sum \Pi_n \cap - \sum \Pi_n = 0$ . Let  $n = 2^{m_0} + 2^{m_1} + \dots + 2^{m_r}$  be a binary representation of  $n$  (i.e.  $m_0 > m_1 > \dots > m_r$ ). Since  $n$  is even, we have that  $m_r > 0$ .

For every  $x$  in the torsion of  $(R, +)$  and any elements  $c_0, \dots, c_{m_0} \in R$  form a sequence  $x_0, \dots, x_{m_0+1}$  by setting  $x_0 = x$  and

$$x_{i+1} = \begin{cases} x_i c_i x_i c_i^{n-1} & \text{if } i \notin \{m_0, \dots, m_r\} \\ c_i^{n-1} x_i c_i x_i & \text{if } i \in \{m_0, \dots, m_r\} \end{cases} \quad (i = 0, \dots, m_0).$$

Note that there exist elements  $w_1, \dots, w_r \in R$  such that  $x_{m_0} = x_{m_1+1} w_1, \dots, x_{m_{r-1}} = x_{m_r+1} w_r$ . Write  $z = \prod_{j=0}^r c_{m_j}^{n-1} x_{m_j} c_{m_j}$  and  $w = x_{m_r} w_r \cdots w_1$ . A short computation shows that  $x_{m_0+1} = zw$ .

From the binary representation of  $n$  we see that  $z \in \Pi_n(R)$ . Since  $x$  is a torsion element, we have that  $kx = 0$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . It follows that  $kz = 0$ . The relation  $-z = (k-1)z$  implies that  $z \in \sum \Pi_n \cap - \sum \Pi_n = \{0\}$ . Hence,  $x_{m_0+1} = zw = 0$ . We claim that if  $x_{s+1} = 0$  for any  $c_1, \dots, c_s$  then  $x_s = 0$  for any  $c_1, \dots, c_{s-1}$ . It follows by induction on  $s$  that  $x = x_0 = 0$ .

To prove the claim assume that  $0 = x_{s+1} = x_s c_s x_s c_s^{n-1}$  for every  $c_s$ . (Similarly if  $0 = x_{s+1} = c_s^{n-1} x_s c_s x_s$  for every  $c_s$ .) For  $c_s = 1$ , we get  $x_s^2 = 0$ . For every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x_s c_s x_s c_s^k = 0$  for every  $c_s$  we have that  $0 = (x_s(1+c_s)x_s(1+c_s)^k) c_s^{k-1} = x_s c_s x_s (1+c_s)^k c_s^{k-1} = x_s c_s x_s c_s^{k-1} + \binom{k}{1} x_s c_s x_s c_s^k + \dots + \binom{k}{k-1} x_s c_s x_s c_s^{2k-2} + x_s c_s x_s c_s^{2k-1} = x_s c_s y_s c_s^{k-1}$ . The claim follows by induction on  $k$ .  $\square$

A similar argument shows that every  $P_2$ -real semiprime ideal  $I$  satisfies  $I^e = I$ . Hence, every  $P_2$ -real semiprime ideal is radical.

The following observation is also interesting.

**Proposition 7.** *If a prime ideal is  $P_2$ -real then it is  $\Pi_2$ -real. (The converse is clear.)*

*Proof.* Let  $J$  be a  $P_2$ -real prime ideal. Then  $0$  is a  $P_2$ -real and  $D = R/J$  is a domain. Write  $T = \sum P_2(D)$  and  $P = \sum \Pi_2(D)$ . For any  $x, y, z \in R$  we have that  $(xyz)(yxz)(yx)^2 = xy(zyx)^2yx \in T$  so that  $xyz \in \bar{T}$  if and only if  $yxz \in \bar{T}$ . Since every permutation is a product of transpositions of neighbouring elements, it follows that  $P \subset \bar{T}$ . Since  $T^0 = 0$ , it follows that  $\bar{T}^0 = 0$ , so that  $P^0 = 0$ . Hence,  $0$  is a  $\Pi_2$ -real ideal on  $D$  as required.  $\square$

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