

# FACTORIZING NONNIL IDEALS INTO PRIME AND INVERTIBLE IDEALS

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ABSTRACT. For a commutative ring  $R$ , let  $\text{Nil}(R)$  be the set of all nilpotent elements of  $R$ ,  $Z(R)$  be the set of all zero divisors of  $R$ ,  $T(R)$  be the total quotient ring of  $R$ , and  $\mathcal{H} = \{R \mid R \text{ is a commutative ring and } \text{Nil}(R) \text{ is a divided prime ideal of } R\}$ . For a ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ , let  $\phi : T(R) \rightarrow R_{\text{Nil}(R)}$  such that  $\phi(a/b) = a/b$  for every  $a \in R$  and  $b \in R \setminus Z(R)$ . A ring  $R$  is called a *ZPUI ring* if every proper ideal of  $R$  can be written as a finite product of invertible and prime ideals of  $R$ . In this paper, we give a generalization of the concept of ZPUI domains which was extensively studied by Olberding to the context of rings that are in the class  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . If every nonnil ideal of  $R$  can be written as a finite product of invertible and prime ideals of  $R$ , then  $R$  is called a *nonnil-ZPUI ring*; if every nonnil ideal of  $\phi(R)$  can be written as a finite product of invertible and prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$ , then  $R$  is called a *nonnil- $\phi$ -ZPUI ring*. We show that the theory of  $\phi$ -ZPUI rings resembles that of ZPUI domains.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We assume throughout that all rings are commutative with  $1 \neq 0$ . Let  $R$  be a ring. Then  $T(R)$  denotes the total quotient ring of  $R$ ,  $Z(R)$  denotes the set of zero divisors of  $R$ , and  $\text{Nil}(R)$  denotes the set of nilpotent elements of  $R$ . The elements in  $R \setminus Z(R)$  are referred to as regular elements and an ideal  $I$  is said to be regular if it contains at least one regular element. For a nonzero ideal  $I$ , regular or not, we let  $I^{-1} = \{x \in T(R) \mid xI \subset R\}$ . An ideal  $I$  of a ring  $R$  is called *invertible* if  $II^{-1} = R$ .

We start by recalling some background materials. Recall from [12] and [5] that a prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is called a *divided prime* if  $P \subset (x)$  for every  $x \in R \setminus P$ ; thus a divided prime ideal is comparable to every ideal of  $R$ . In [4], [6], [7], [9], and [8], the author investigated the class of rings  $\mathcal{H} = \{R \mid R \text{ is a commutative ring and } \text{Nil}(R) \text{ is a divided prime ideal of } R\}$ . Also, D.F.Anderson, Tom Lucas, and the author made further investigation on the class  $\mathcal{H}$  in [2], [3], and most recently in [10]. In this paper, we give a generalization of the concept of factorization of ideals of an integral domain into a finite product of invertible and prime ideals which was extensively studied by Olberding [20] to the context of rings that are in the class  $\mathcal{H}$ . Observe that if  $R$  is an integral domain, then  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . An ideal  $I$  of a ring  $R$  is said to be a *nonnil ideal* if  $I \not\subset \text{Nil}(R)$ . For each  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ , the map  $\phi : T(R) \rightarrow R_{\text{Nil}(R)}$  defined by  $\phi(a/b) = a/b$  for each  $a \in R$  and  $b \in R \setminus Z(R)$  was introduced by the author in [4]. The map  $\phi$  is a ring homomorphism from  $T(R)$  into  $R_{\text{Nil}(R)}$  and  $\phi$  restricted to  $R$  is a ring homomorphism from  $R$  into

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$R_{Nil(R)}$  given by  $\phi(x) = x/1$  for each  $x \in R$ . Note that  $T(\phi(R)) = R_{Nil(R)}$ . Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is said to be a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring, if each nonnil ideal  $I$  of  $\phi(R)$  can be written as  $I = JP_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ , where  $J$  is an invertible ideal of  $\phi(R)$  and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$ . If every nonnil ideal  $I$  of  $R$  can be written as  $I = JP_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ , where  $J$  is an invertible ideal of  $R$  and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are prime ideals of  $R$ , then  $R$  is said to be a *nonnil-ZPUI ring*. Commutative  $\phi$ -ZPUI rings that are in  $\mathcal{H}$  are characterized in Theorem 2.9. Examples of  $\phi$ -ZPUI rings that are not ZPUI rings are constructed in Theorem 2.13. It is shown in Theorem 2.14 that a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring is the pullback of a ZPUI domain. It is shown in Theorem 3.1 that a nonnil-ZPUI ring is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring. Examples of  $\phi$ -ZPUI rings that are not nonnil-ZPUI rings are constructed in Theorem 3.2.

If  $Nil(R)$  is divided, then it is also the nilradical of  $T(R)$  and the kernel of the map  $\phi$  is also a common ideal of  $R$  and  $T(R)$ . Other useful features of each ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  (see [4]) include the following: (i)  $\phi(R) \in \mathcal{H}$ , (ii)  $T(\phi(R)) = R_{Nil(R)}$  is quasilocal with maximal ideal  $Nil(\phi(R))$ , (iii)  $\phi(R)$  is naturally isomorphic to  $R/Ker(\phi)$ , (iv)  $Nil(R_{Nil(R)}) = \phi(Nil(R)) = Nil(\phi(R)) = Z(\phi(R))$ , and (v)  $R_{Nil(R)}/Nil(\phi(R)) = T(\phi(R))/Nil(\phi(R))$  is the quotient field of  $\phi(R)/Nil(\phi(R))$ . If  $I$  is a nonnil ideal of a ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ , then observe that  $Nil(R) \subset I$ .

Throughout the paper we will use the technique of idealization of a module to construct examples. Recall that for an  $R$ -module  $B$ , the idealization of  $B$  over  $R$  is the ring formed from  $R \times B$  by defining addition and multiplication as  $(r, a) + (s, b) = (r + s, a + b)$  and  $(r, a)(s, b) = (rs, rb + sa)$ , respectively. A standard notation for the ‘‘idealized ring’’ is  $R(+B)$ . See [17], [18] and [19] for basic properties of these rings.

## 2. $\phi$ -ZPUI RINGS

We recall the following two lemmas from [2].

**Lemma 2.1.** ([2, Lemma 2.3]) *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  with  $Nil(R) = Z(R)$ , and let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Then  $I$  is an invertible ideal of  $R$  if and only if  $I/Nil(R)$  is an invertible ideal of  $R/Nil(R)$ .*

**Lemma 2.2.** ([2, Lemma 2.5]) *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  and let  $P$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $R/P$  is ring-isomorphic to  $\phi(R)/\phi(P)$ . In particular,  $R/Nil(R)$  is ring-isomorphic to  $\phi(R)/Nil(\phi(R))$ .*

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring if and only if  $R/Nil(R)$  is a ZPUI domain.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring. Set  $D = \phi(R)/Nil(\phi(R))$ , and let  $L$  be a nonzero ideal of  $D$ . Then  $L = I/Nil(\phi(R))$  for some nonnil ideal  $I$  of  $\phi(R)$ . Thus  $I = JP_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ , where  $J$  is an invertible ideal of  $\phi(R)$  and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$ . Since  $Nil(\phi(R)) = Z(\phi(R))$ , we conclude that  $J/Nil(\phi(R))$  is an invertible ideal of  $D$  by Lemma 2.1. Thus  $L = I/Nil(\phi(R)) = (J/Nil(\phi(R)))(P_1/Nil(\phi(R))) \cdots (P_n/Nil(\phi(R)))$ , and hence  $D$  is a ZPUI domain. Since  $D$  is ring-isomorphic to  $R/Nil(R)$  by Lemma 2.2, we conclude that  $R/Nil(R)$  is a ZPUI domain.

Conversely, suppose that  $R/Nil(R)$  is a ZPUI domain. Then  $D = \phi(R)/Nil(\phi(R))$  is a ZPUI domain by Lemma 2.2. Let  $I$  be a nonnil ideal of  $\phi(R)$ . Since  $\phi(R) \in \mathcal{H}$ ,  $I/Nil(\phi(R))$  is a nonzero ideal of  $D$ . Thus  $I/Nil(\phi(R)) =$

$(J/Nil(\phi(R)))(P_1/Nil(\phi(R))) \cdots (P_n/Nil(\phi(R)))$ , where  $J$  is an invertible ideal of  $\phi(R)$  (by Lemma 2.1) and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$ . We show that  $I = JP_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ . This follows since  $Nil(\phi(R)) \subset I$  because  $Nil(\phi(R)) \subset P_i$  for each  $i$  and  $Nil(\phi(R))$  is a divided prime ideal of  $\phi(R)$ . Thus  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  and let  $I$  be a nonnil ideal of  $R$ . Then  $I$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R$  if and only if  $I/Nil(R)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R/Nil(R)$ .*

*Proof.* (the proof is similar to the proof of [9, Theorem 2.2].) Suppose that  $I$  is a nonnil finitely generated ideal of  $R$ . Since  $Nil(R) \subset I$ , it is clear that  $I/Nil(R)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R/Nil(R)$ . Conversely, suppose that  $J = I/Nil(R)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R/Nil(R)$ . Then  $J = (i_1 + Nil(R), \dots, i_n + Nil(R))$  for some  $i_m$ 's in  $I$ . Since  $Nil(R)$  is divided, we may assume that all the  $i_m$ 's are nonnilpotent elements of  $R$ , and thus  $Nil(R) \subset (i_1)$ . Now let  $x$  be a nonnilpotent element of  $I$ . Then  $x + Nil(R) = c_1i_1 + \dots + c_ni_n + Nil(R)$  in  $R/Nil(R)$  for some  $c_m$ 's in  $R$ . Hence there is a  $w \in Nil(R)$  such that  $x + w = c_1i_1 + \dots + c_ni_n$  in  $R$ . Since  $x \in I \setminus Nil(R)$ ,  $x \mid w$  in  $R$ . Thus  $w = xf$  for some  $f \in Nil(R)$ . Hence  $x + w = x + xf = x(1 + f) = c_1i_1 + \dots + c_ni_n$  in  $R$ . Since  $f \in Nil(R)$ ,  $1 + f$  is a unit of  $R$ . Thus  $x \in (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ , and hence  $I$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ .  $\square$

Recall from [19] that a ring  $R$  is called a *Prüfer ring* if every finitely generated regular ideal of  $R$  is invertible. A Prüfer domain  $R$  is called a *strongly discrete Prüfer domain* as in [21] and [20] if  $R$  has no nonzero prime ideals  $P$  such that  $P^2 = P$ . A ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  is said to be a  $\phi$ -*Prüfer ring* as in [2] if  $\phi(R)$  is a Prüfer ring. We call a ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  a *nonnil-strongly discrete ring* if  $R$  has no nonnil prime ideal  $P$  such that  $P^2 = P$ . An integral domain  $R$  is called *h-local* as in [21] if each nonzero ideal of  $R$  is contained in at most finitely many maximal ideals of  $R$  and each nonzero prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal of  $R$ . A ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  is said to be *nonnil-h-local* if each nonnil ideal of  $R$  is contained in at most finitely many maximal ideals of  $R$  and each nonnil prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal of  $R$ .

The reader can easily verify the following two lemmas.

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is a nonnil-h-local ring if and only if  $R/Nil(R)$  is an h-local domain.*

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete Prüfer ring if and only if  $R/Nil(R)$  is a strongly discrete Prüfer domain.*

We recall the following result from [2].

**Proposition 2.7.** ([2]) *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring if and only if  $R/Nil(R)$  is a Prüfer domain.*

Combining Lemmas 2.5 and 2.6 with Proposition 2.7, we arrive at the following result.

**Proposition 2.8.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring if and only if  $R/Nil(R)$  is a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain.*

Since the class of integral domains is a subset of  $\mathcal{H}$ , the following result is a generalization of [20, Theorem 2.3].

**Theorem 2.9.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring;
- (2) Every nonnil proper ideal of  $R$  can be written as a product of prime ideals of  $R$  and a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ ;
- (3) Every nonnil proper ideal of  $\phi(R)$  can be written as a product of prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$  and a finitely generated ideal of  $\phi(R)$ ;
- (4)  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring.

*Proof.* Set  $D = R/Nil(R)$ . (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Since  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring,  $D$  is a ZPUI domain by Theorem 2.3. Let  $I$  be a nonnil proper ideal of  $R$ . Then by [20, Theorem2.3] we have  $I/Nil(R) = J/Nil(R)P_1/Nil(R) \cdots P_n/Nil(R)$ , where  $J$  is a (nonnil) finitely generated ideal of  $R$  (by Lemma 2.4) and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are prime ideals of  $R$ . Since  $Nil(R)$  is divided, it is easily verified that  $I = JP_1 \cdots P_n$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). Let  $L$  be a nonnil proper ideal of  $\phi(R)$ . Then  $L = \phi(I)$  for some nonnil proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . Since  $I = JP_1 \cdots P_n$ , where  $J$  is a (nonnil) finitely generated ideal of  $R$  and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are prime ideals of  $R$ , it is easily verified that  $L = \phi(I) = \phi(J)\phi(P_1) \cdots \phi(P_n)$ , where  $\phi(J)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $\phi(R)$  and  $\phi(P_1), \dots, \phi(P_n)$  are (nonnil) prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4). Let  $F = \phi(R)/Nil(\phi(R))$ . Then every nonzero ideal of  $F$  can be written as a product of prime ideals of  $F$  and a finitely generated ideal of  $F$ , and thus  $F$  is a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain by [20, Theorem2.3]. Since  $F$  is ring-isomorphic to  $D$ , we conclude that  $D$  is a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain, and hence  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring by Proposition 2.8.

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Since  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring, we conclude that  $D = R/Nil(R)$  is a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain by Proposition 2.8. Thus  $D$  is a ZPUI domain by [20, Theorem2.3], and hence  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring by Theorem 2.3.  $\square$

Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $Z(R) = Nil(R)$ . Then  $\phi(R) = R$ , and hence  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring if and only if  $R$  is a nonnil-ZPUI ring. We state this connection in the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.10.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $Nil(R) = Z(R)$ . The following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $R$  is a nonnil-ZPUI ring;
- (2)  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring;
- (3) Every nonnil proper ideal of  $R$  can be written as a product of prime ideals of  $R$  and a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ ;
- (4)  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local Prüfer ring.

Recall that a *special primary ring* is a quasilocal commutative ring  $R$  with maximal ideal  $M$  such that every proper ideal of  $R$  is a power of  $M$ . We state the following useful lemma.

**Lemma 2.11.** *(see [20, Lemma 3.2 and Theorem 3.3]). Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is a ZPUI ring if and only if  $R$  is either a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain or a special primary ring.*

*Proof.* . Suppose that  $R$  is a ZPUI ring. First observe that if a ring  $A \cong A_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_n$  (where each  $A_i$  is a ring with  $1 \neq 0$ ) and  $n \geq 2$ , then  $\text{Nil}(A)$  is never divided, and hence  $A \notin \mathcal{H}$ . Now since  $R$  is a ZPUI ring, by [20, Theorem 3.3] we have  $R \cong D_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus D_n$ , where each  $D_i$  is either a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain or a special primary ring. Since  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is divided, by the observation we just stated, we conclude that  $n = 1$ , and thus  $R$  is either a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain or a special primary ring. The converse is clear by [20, Theorem 3.3].  $\square$

Our non-domain examples of  $\phi$ -ZPUI rings that are not ZPUI rings are provided by the idealization construction  $R(+ )B$  arising from a ring  $R$  and an  $R$ -module  $B$  as in [19, Chapter VI]. We recall this construction. Let  $R(+ )B = R \times B$ , and define:

- (1)  $(r, b) + (s, c) = (r + s, b + c)$ .
- (2)  $(r, b)(s, c) = (rs, sb + rc)$ .

Under these definitions  $R(+ )B$  becomes a commutative ring with identity. We recall the following two facts.

**Proposition 2.12.** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $B$  be an  $R$ -module, and  $Z(B)$  be the set of zerodivisors on  $B$ . Then:*

- (1) ([19, Theorem 25.1]) *The ideal  $J$  of  $R(+ )B$  is prime (respectively, maximal) if and only if  $J = P(+ )B$ , where  $P$  is a prime (respectively, maximal) ideal of  $R$ , and hence the Krull dimension of  $R$  is equal to the Krull dimension of  $R(+ )B$ ;*
- (2) ([19, Theorem 25.3])  *$(r, b) \in Z(R(+ )B)$  if and only if  $r \in Z(R) \cup Z(B)$ .*

Olberding in [20, Corollary 2.4] showed that for each  $n \geq 1$ , there exists a ZPUI domain with Krull dimension  $n$ . A Dedekind domain is a trivial example of a ZPUI domain.

**Theorem 2.13.** *Let  $A$  be a ZPUI domain (i.e.  $A$  is a strongly discrete h-local Prüfer domain by [20, Theorem 2.3]) with Krull dimension  $n \geq 1$  and quotient field  $F$ , and let  $K$  be an extension ring of  $F$  (i.e.  $K$  is a ring and  $F \subseteq K$ ). Then  $R = A(+ )K \in \mathcal{H}$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring with Krull dimension  $n$  that is not a ZPUI ring.*

*Proof.* It is easy to see that  $\text{Nil}(R) = \{0\}(+ )K$ . We show that  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is divided. Let  $(0, k) \in R$ , and  $(a, b) \in R \setminus \text{Nil}(R)$ . Then  $a \neq 0$ , and hence  $(0, k) = (a, b)(0, k/a)$ . Observe that  $k/a \in K$  because  $F \subseteq K$ . Thus  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ .  $R$  is not a ZPUI ring by Lemma 2.11. Since  $R/\text{Nil}(R) \cong A$  is a ZPUI domain,  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring by Theorem 2.3. The Krull dimension of  $R$  is  $n$  by Proposition 2.12(1).  $\square$

In the following theorem, we show that a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring is a pullback of a ZPUI domain. A good paper for pullback is the article by Fontana in [13].

**Theorem 2.14.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring if and only if  $\phi(R)$  is ring-isomorphic to a ring  $A$  obtained from the following pullback diagram:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & A/M \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ T & \longrightarrow & T/M \end{array}$$

where  $T$  is a zero-dimensional quasilocal ring with maximal ideal  $M$ ,  $A/M$  is a ZPUI ring that is a subring of  $T/M$ , the vertical arrows are the usual inclusion maps, and the horizontal arrows are the usual surjective maps.

*Proof.* Suppose  $\phi(R)$  is ring-isomorphic to a ring  $A$  obtained from the given diagram. Then  $A \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $\text{Nil}(A) = Z(A) = M$ . Since  $A/M$  is a ZPUI domain,  $A$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring by Theorem 2.3, and thus  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring.

Conversely, suppose that  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring. Then, letting  $T = R_{\text{Nil}(R)}$ ,  $M = \text{Nil}(R_{\text{Nil}(R)})$ , and  $A = \phi(R)$  yields the desired pullback diagram.  $\square$

### 3. NONNIL-ZPUI RINGS AND NONNIL-ZPI RINGS

We start with the following result.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  be a nonnil-ZPUI ring. Then  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring, and hence all the following statements hold:*

- (1)  $R/\text{Nil}(R)$  is a ZPUI domain.
- (2) Every nonnil proper ideal of  $R$  can be written as a product of prime ideals of  $R$  and a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ .
- (3) Every nonnil proper ideal of  $\phi(R)$  can be written as a product of prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$  and a finitely generated ideal of  $\phi(R)$ .
- (4)  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring.
- (5)  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local Prüfer ring.

*Proof.* Let  $L$  be a nonnil proper ideal ideal of  $\phi(R)$ . Then  $L = \phi(I)$  for some nonnil proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . Since  $I = JP_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ , where  $J$  is an invertible ideal of  $R$  and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are prime ideals of  $R$ , it follows that  $L = \phi(I) = \phi(J)\phi(P_1) \cdots \phi(P_n)$ , where  $\phi(J)$  is an invertible ideal of  $\phi(R)$  and  $\phi(P_1), \phi(P_2), \dots, \phi(P_n)$  are prime ideals of  $\phi(R)$ . Thus  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring. Now statement (1) is clear by Theorem 2.3, and the statements (2), (3), and (4) are clear from Theorem 2.9. For statement (5), by [2] just observe that  $R$  is a Prüfer ring because  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring.  $\square$

In the following result, we show that if  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring, then  $R$  does not need to be a nonnil-ZPUI ring. In particular, we show that if  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  satisfies any of the five statements in Theorem 3.1, then  $R$  does not need to be a nonnil-ZPUI ring.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $A$  be a ZPUI domain that is not a Dedekind domain with Krull dimension  $n \geq 1$  and quotient field  $K$ . Then  $R = A(+)K/A \in \mathcal{H}$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring with Krull dimension  $n$  which is not a nonnil-ZPUI ring.*

*Proof.* Since  $\text{Nil}(R) = \{0\}(+)K/A$ , by a similar calculation as in the proof of Theorem 2.13, we conclude that  $\text{Nil}(R)$  is divided, and thus  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Since  $R/\text{Nil}(R) \cong A$  is a ZPUI domain,  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring by Theorem 2.3 and the Krull dimension of  $R$  is  $n$  by Proposition 2.12(1). Since every nonunit element of  $R$  is a zerodivisor of  $R$  by Proposition 2.12(2), we conclude that  $T(R) = R$ , and thus  $R$  is the only invertible ideal of  $R$ . Suppose that  $R$  is a nonnil-ZPUI ring. Then every nonnil proper ideal of  $R$  is a finite product of prime ideals of  $R$ , and hence every proper ideal of the integral domain  $R/\text{Nil}(R) \cong A$  is a finite product of prime ideals of  $R/\text{Nil}(R)$ . Thus  $R/\text{Nil}(R) \cong A$  is a Dedekind domain, a contradiction. Hence  $R$  is not a nonnil-ZPUI ring.  $\square$

Recall from [16] that a ring  $R$  is called a *ZPI-ring* if every nonzero proper ideal of  $R$  is uniquely a product of prime ideals of  $R$ , and  $R$  is called a *general ZPI-ring* if every nonzero proper ideal of  $R$  is a product of prime ideals of  $R$ . In [4], it is said that a ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  is a *nonnil-ZPI-ring* if every nonnil proper ideal of  $R$  is uniquely a product of (nonnil) prime ideals of  $R$ , and it is said that  $R$  is a *general nonnil-ZPI-ring* if every nonnil proper ideal of  $R$  is a product of (nonnil) prime ideals of  $R$ . A ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  is called a  $\phi$ -*Dedekind ring* as in [4] if every nonnil ideal of  $R$  is invertible. A ring  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  is called a *nonnil-Noetherian ring* as in [9] if every nonnil ideal of  $R$  is finitely generated. We recall the following two results from [4].

**Proposition 3.3.** ([4, Corollary 2.17]). *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -Dedekind ring;
- (2)  $R$  is a nonnil-ZPI-ring;
- (3)  $R$  is a general nonnil-ZPI-ring.

**Proposition 3.4.** ([4, Proposition 2.11]). *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  be a nonnil-Noetherian ring. Then  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -Dedekind ring if and only if  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring.*

Combining Propositions 3.3 and 3.4 with Theorem 2.9, we arrive at the following result.

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  be a nonnil-Noetherian ring. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $R$  is a  $\phi$ -ZPUI ring;
- (2)  $R$  is a nonnil-ZPUI ring;
- (3)  $R$  is a nonnil-ZPI ring;
- (4)  $R$  is a general nonnil-ZPI ring;
- (5)  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local  $\phi$ -Prüfer ring;
- (6)  $R$  is a nonnil-strongly discrete nonnil-h-local  $\phi$ -Dedekind ring.

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