

rational numbers i.e.  $S = \{x^a y^b : a, b \text{ rational} \geq 0\}$  where  $x, y$  are indeterminates over the field of reals. Let  $R$  be the field of real numbers and consider the algebra  $R[S] = L$  say. It is not difficult to prove that  $L$  is an integral domain. Let

$$T = \{t \in L \mid t \text{ is co-prime to } x \text{ and } y \text{ both}\}.$$

The set  $T$  has elements of the type:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} t_1 &= r_1 + ax^a \\ t_2 &= r_2 + by^b \\ t_3 &= ax^a + by^b \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} &a, b \in R[S] \\ &r_1, r_2 \in R - \{0\} \\ &(y^b, a) = 1 = (x^a, b) \end{aligned}$$

and  $a, b \in R[S]$

when  $a, b \neq 0$

$t_4 = 2 + ax^a + by^b$

The forms of these elements show that  $T$  is a multiplicative set, and is saturated (cf Sec. 3). Now in the localization,  $(R[S])_T = D$ , every element  $d$  can be written as  $d = ux^a y^b$ ; where  $u$  is a unit and obviously this expression is unique. It can also be verified that  $x^a, y^b$  are prime quanta ( $a, b$  rational  $\geq 0$ ).

Example 7, above ensures the existence of GFD's and as we develop the theory further we shall see that there exists a sufficiently large class of integral domains which are GFD's but are not UFD's.

### 3. Some results analogous to Classical theorems.

First we recall that in a ring  $R$  a set  $S$  is said to be multiplicative if  $a, b \in S$  implies that  $ab \in S$  and  $S$  is saturated if  $ab \in S$  implies that  $a, b \in S$ . Further it is well known that in an integral domain  $R$  a set  $S$  generated by primes is multiplicative and saturated. Analogously we prove Proposition 3. Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $H$  the set generated multiplicatively by units and prime quanta then  $H$  is multiplicative and saturated.

/Proof. The hypothesis implies that if  $x \in H$  then

$x = q_1 q_2 \dots q_n$  where each  $q_i$  is a prime quantum or a