distinct treatment of HCF rings of Krull type and of URD's. But we have adopted this approach because it is easier going from HCF rings of Krull type to URD's in the sense that we get the concept of a packet using the strict definition of the rings of Krull type, which it would have been difficult to visualize in the general case.

## 1. Rings of Krull Type.

Griffin in [21] introduced the notion of a ring of Krull type as a special case of the rings of finite character. The basic notion in the theory of rings of finite character is that of a <u>valuation v over a field K.</u> And for the sake of completeness we include the

Definition 1. Let G be a totally ordered group under addition and let $G^* = G \cup \{\infty\}$ be the group including the symbol $\infty$ with the properties

$$g + \infty = \infty + g = \infty + \infty = \infty \quad ; \quad g \in G$$

then the function $v: K \longrightarrow G^*$ such that

(1) $v(a) = \infty$ iff $a = 0$

(2) $v(xy) = v(x) + v(y)$

(3) $v(x + y) \geqslant \min(\, v(x), v(y)\,)$

is called a valuation of K (or over K).

If v is a valuation of a field K, then the set

$R_v = \{\, x \in K \mid v(x) \geqslant 0 \,\}$ is a valuation domain and is called the <u>valuation ring of v.</u>

Let $\Omega$ be a family of valuations of a field K and let $R = \cap R_v$ ; $v \in \Omega$ then R is called the ring determined by the family $\Omega$. Moreover the family $\Omega$ of valuations of K is said to be of <u>finite character</u> if for each $x \in K$ the set $\{\, \omega \in \Omega \mid \omega(x) \neq 0 \}$ is finite.