

# Background on Valuations

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**Definition 1** (Discrete Valuation Ring (D.V.R.)).

*A discrete valuation ring is a principal ideal domain  $O$  with a unique maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{p} \neq 0$ .*

**Definition 2** (Uniformizing Parameter).

*Let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be the unique maximal ideal of D.V.R.  $O$ . Since  $O$  is a PID, there exists a prime  $\pi$  in  $O$  such that  $\mathfrak{p} = (\pi)$ . Such a  $\pi$  is called a uniformizing parameter.*

**Definition 3** (Discrete Valuation).

*A discrete valuation is a function  $v_{\mathfrak{p}} : K^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  where  $K$  is the field of fractions of  $O$ . The valuation  $v_{\mathfrak{p}}$  can be extended to  $K$  by setting  $v_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) = \infty$ . Further  $v_{\mathfrak{p}}$  satisfies the following*

- I.  $v_{\mathfrak{p}}(ab) = v_{\mathfrak{p}}(a) + v_{\mathfrak{p}}(b)$ .
- II.  $v_{\mathfrak{p}}(a + b) \geq \min\{v_{\mathfrak{p}}(a), v_{\mathfrak{p}}(b)\}$ .

**Proposition 1** (Nonarchimedean).

*A valuation  $v(x)$  is nonarchimedean if and only if it satisfies  $v(x + y) \leq \max\{v(x), v(y)\}$ . All discrete valuations are nonarchimedean.*

**Proposition 2.**

*Let  $O$  be a noetherian integral domain.  $O$  is a Dedekind domain if and only if, for all prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p} \neq 0$ , the localizations  $O_{(\mathfrak{p})}$  are discrete valuation rings.*

**Definition 4** (Prolongation of a valuation).

*If  $A \subset B$  are rings with  $B$  integral over  $A$ ,  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime in  $A$ , and  $\mathfrak{q}$  prime in  $B$  dividing  $\mathfrak{p}$  with ramification index  $e_{\mathfrak{q}}$  then  $v_{\mathfrak{q}}(x) = e_{\mathfrak{q}} v_{\mathfrak{p}}(x)$  is a prolongation of  $v_{\mathfrak{p}}$  with index  $e_{\mathfrak{q}}$ .*