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## Topology, intersections and flat modules



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#### TOPOLOGY, INTERSECTIONS AND FLAT MODULES

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ABSTRACT. It is well-known that, in general, multiplication by an ideal I does not commute with the intersection of a family of ideals, but that this fact holds if  $I$  is flat and the family is finite. We generalize this result by showing that finite families of ideals can be replaced by compact subspaces of a natural topological space, and that ideals can be replaced by submodules of an epimorphic extension of a base ring. As a particular case, we give a new proof of a conjecture by Glaz and Vasconcelos.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $D$  be an integral domain with quotient field  $K$ . An *overring* of D is a ring between D and K. The set of all overrings of D is denoted by  $Over(D)$ , and can be endowed with a natural topology (called the Zariski topology) whose basis of open sets consists of the sets of the form

$$
\mathcal{B}(x_1,\ldots,x_n):=\{T\in \mathrm{Over}(D):x_1,\ldots,x_n\in T\},\
$$

as  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$  vary in K. Under this topology, Over(D) is a compact  $T_0$  space with a unique closed point (D itself) and a generic point (the quotient field  $K$ ). One of the clues that this topology is the most natural to be put on  $Over(D)$  is that it makes the localization map

$$
\lambda \colon \operatorname{Spec}(D) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Over}(D)
$$

$$
P \longmapsto D_P
$$

a topological inclusion [4, Lemma 2.4].

This topology, whose origins can be traced back to Zariski's study of the space  $\text{Zar}(D)$  of the valuation overrings of an integral domain D [25, Chapter 6, §17] (what is now called the *Zariski space* or the Riemann-Zariski space of  $D$ ), has recently been studied in greater detail (see for example [7, 8, 21, 20]). For example, it has been proved that  $\text{Over}(D)$  is a *spectral space*, meaning that there is a ring R such that  $Spec(R)$  is homeomorphic to  $Over(D)$  [5, Proposition 3.5]; the same can be proved of several distinguished subspaces of  $Over(D)$ , like for

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example local overrings [7, Corollary 2.14] or integrally closed overrings [5, Proposition 3.6].

The aim of this paper is to prove a simple and very general result (Theorem 3, in the form of Corollary 5) which intertwines the Zariski topology on  $\text{Over}(D)$  with the algebraic properties of the overrings, namely the possibility to commute intersections and products in the case of compact spaces of overrings. In this way, we generalize [13, Lemma 1.1] (which deal with locally finite intersections) and [21, Theorem 3.5] (which proves the same for Noetherian collections of integrally closed overrings). As a consequence, we obtain a new proof of the Graz-Vasconcelos conjecture [12, page 340], independent from the one obtained in [23]. Since it poses no additional challenge, we also work in a more general setting, substituing to the extension  $D \subseteq K$ any ring extension that is also an epimorphism, and using modules instead of only overrings.

#### 2. RESULTS

Let  $A \subseteq B$  be a ring extension; we denote by  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  the collection of all the A-submodules of B. The set  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  becomes a  $T_0$  topological space by declaring, as a basis of open sets, the family of the sets of the form  $\mathcal{B}(x_1, ..., x_n) := \{ G \in \mathcal{F}(B|A) : x_1, ..., x_n \in G \}$ , for  $x_1, ..., x_n$ varying in B. Note that, since  $\mathcal{B}(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = \mathcal{B}(x_1) \cap \cdots \cap \mathcal{B}(x_n)$ , a convenient subbasis for this topology is  $\{\mathcal{B}(x) : x \in B\}$ . We call this topology the Zariski topology, as it generalizes the Zariski topology on  $Over(D)$  defined in the Introduction. Note that, in particular, the set  $\mathcal{I}(A)$  of all the integral ideals of A becomes then a subspace of  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$ . On the set  $Spec(A)$  of the prime ideals of A, this topology does not coincide with the classical Zariski topology, but rather with the socalled inverse topology (see [14] and the discussion before Example 2.2 of [22]). This should, however, not cause any confusion; the only place where we will consider  $Spec(R)$  will be Proposition 11.

If X is any topological space and  $Y \subseteq X$ , we will denote by  $\overline{Y}$  the closure of Y in X.

**Remark 1.** Let  $A \subseteq B$  be a ring extension and let  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  be endowed with the Zariski topology. The following properties hold.

- (1) For any  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(B|A)$ , we have  $F \in \overline{\{G\}}$  if and only if  $F \subset G$ .
- (2) Any compact nonempty subspace C of  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  has minimal elements, with respect to the inclusion  $\subseteq$ . As a matter of fact, by Zorn's lemma it is enough to show that any chain (under inclusion)  $\Sigma \subset C$  has a lower bound. By (1), the collection of sets  $\mathcal{F} := \{ \overline{\{F\}} \cap C : F \in \Sigma \}$  is a chain. Thus, in particular, given any finite subset  $F_1, \ldots, F_n \in \Sigma$ , if G is contained in all  $F_i$ , then  $G \in \bigcap_{i=1}^n \overline{\{F_i\}} \cap C$ . This proves that  $\mathcal F$  is a collection of closed sets of  $\overline{C}$  with the finite intersection property. By

compactness, there exists a submodule  $F^* \in \overline{\{F\}} \cap C$ , for any  $F \in \Sigma$ , and applying again (1) we see that  $F^*$  is a lower bound of  $\Sigma$  in  $C$ .

Let now  $\phi : A \longrightarrow B$  be a ring homomorphism. Then,  $\phi$  is an epimorphism in the category of rings if, for every  $\psi_1, \psi_2 : B \longrightarrow C$ , the equality  $\psi_1 \circ \phi = \psi_2 \circ \phi$  implies that  $\psi_1 = \psi_2$ . If the inclusion map  $A \hookrightarrow B$  is an epimorphisms, we will call the ring extension  $A \subseteq B$  and epimorphic extension.

Examples of epimorphisms are surjective maps and localizations; more generally, a map  $\phi : A \longrightarrow B$  such that the induced homomorphism  $\phi_{\mathfrak{p}} : A_{\mathfrak{p}} \longrightarrow B_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is surjective for every  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(A)$  such that  $\phi(\mathfrak{p})B \neq B$  is an epimorphism (maps with this property are called weakly surjective [16, Chapter 1, §3]; on extensions, being an epimorphism and being weakly surjective are equivalent conditions [16, Theorem 4.4). In particular, if D is an integral domain and K is its quotient field, the ring extension  $D \subseteq K$  is an epimorphic extension. On the other hand, if  $X$  is an indeterminate over  $A$ , then the extension  $A \subseteq A[X]$  is not epimorphic: indeed, for every  $\alpha \in A$ , we can build a ring homomorphism  $\psi_{\alpha}: A[X] \longrightarrow A$  by defining  $\psi_{\alpha}(a) := a$  if  $a \in A$ and  $\psi_{\alpha}(X) = \alpha$ . In this case, we have  $\psi_{\alpha} \neq \psi_{\beta}$  if  $\alpha \neq \beta$ , but every  $i \circ \psi_{\alpha}$  is the identity on A.

The first step of our way is the following fact, which is a generalization of [1, Theorem 2].

**Proposition 2.** Let  $A \subseteq B$  be an epimorphic extension. Let I be a flat A-submodule of B, and let  $G_1, \ldots, G_n \in \mathcal{F}(B|A)$ . Then,

$$
I(G_1 \cap \ldots \cap G_n) = IG_1 \cap \ldots \cap IG_n.
$$

*Proof.* With a small abuse of notation, for any  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(B|A)$ , we will denote by  $F \otimes G$  the submodule of  $B \otimes B$  generated by the elements  $f \otimes q$ , as f varies in F and q varies in G. By induction, it suffices to show the statement for  $n = 2$ . Consider the map

$$
\lambda: B \otimes_A B \longrightarrow B
$$

$$
b_1 \otimes b_2 \longmapsto b_1 b_2.
$$

Clearly, if  $I, G \in \mathcal{F}(B|A)$ , then  $\lambda(I \otimes G) = IG$ ; therefore, by [18, Theorem 7.4]

$$
I(G_1 \cap G_2) = \lambda(I \otimes (G_1 \cap G_2)) = \lambda((I \otimes G_1) \cap (I \otimes G_2)).
$$

Since  $A \subseteq B$  is an epimorphic extension,  $\lambda$  is an isomorphism (indeed, this property actually characterizes epimorphisms [17, Lemma 1.0]); in particular,  $\lambda$  is a bijection, and thus

$$
\lambda((I \otimes G_1) \cap (I \otimes G_2)) = \lambda(I \otimes G_1) \cap \lambda(I \otimes G_2) = IG_1 \cap IG_2.
$$

This completes the proof.

Note that this proposition does not hold if  $A \subseteq B$  is not an epimorphism: for example, if X is an indeterminate over A,  $B = A[X] = I$ ,  $G_1 = A, G_2 = XA[X],$  then  $G_1 \cap G_2 = (0)$  and so  $I(G_1 \cap G_2) = (0),$ while  $IG_1 \cap IG_2 = A[X] \cap XA[X] = XA[X].$ 

**Theorem 3.** Let  $A \subseteq B$  be an epimorphic extension, let I be a flat A-submodule of B and let Y be a (nonempty) compact subspace of  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$ . Then, the following equality holds:

$$
I\left(\bigcap_{J\in Y} J\right) = \bigcap_{J\in Y} IJ
$$

*Proof.* The  $(\subseteq)$  containment is obvious. Take now an element  $x \in$  $\bigcap \{IJ : J \in Y\}$ . For any  $J \in Y$ , by definition, there exist a positive integer  $n_j$  and elements  $i_1^{(J)}$  $i_1^{(J)}, \ldots, i_{nJ}^{(J)} \in I, t_1^{(J)}, \ldots, t_{nJ}^{(J)} \in J$  such that

$$
x = i_1^{(J)} t_1^{(J)} + \dots + i_{n_J}^{(J)} t_{n_J}^{(J)} = \sum_{h=1}^{n_J} i_h^{(J)} t_h^{(J)}.
$$

Consider the open neighborhood  $\Omega_J := \mathcal{B}(\lbrace t_1^{(J)} \rbrace)$  $t_1^{(J)}, \ldots, t_{n_J}^{(J)}\}$  of J. Then the collection of sets  $\mathscr{A} := \{ \Omega_J : J \in Y \}$  is an open cover of Y. By compactness,  $\mathscr A$  admits a finite subcover, say  $\{\Omega_{J_1},\ldots,\Omega_{J_r}\}\,$  for suitable  $J_1, \ldots, J_r \in Y$ . For any  $l = 1, \ldots, r$ , set  $Y_l := \Omega_{J_l} \cap Y$ . By Proposition 2, we have

$$
I\left(\bigcap_{J\in Y}J\right)=I\left(\bigcap_{J\in Y_1}J\cap\ldots\cap\bigcap_{J\in Y_r}J\right)=I\left(\bigcap_{J\in Y_1}J\right)\cap\ldots\cap I\left(\bigcap_{J\in Y_r}J\right),
$$

and thus it suffices to show that  $x \in I(\bigcap_{J \in Y_l} J)$ , for each  $l = 1, \ldots, r$ . However, the elements  $t_1^{(J_l)}$  $t_1^{(J_l)}, \ldots, t_{n_{J_l}}^{(J_l)}$  belong to J for every  $J \in Y_l$ , and thus they belong to the intersection  $\bigcap \{J : J \in Y_l\}$ ; hence, the representation  $x =$  $\sum_{l}^{n_{J_l}}$  $h=1$  $i_h^{(J_l)}$  $\binom{(J_l)}{h} t_h^{(J_l)}$  $_{h}^{(J_l)}$  shows that  $x \in I(\bigcap_{J \in Y_l} J)$ .

Before giving some corollaries of independent interest, we state the following useful lemma.

**Lemma 4.** Let  $A \subseteq B$  be a ring extension and let  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  be endowed with the Zariski topology. Fix a submodule  $I \in \mathcal{F}(B|A)$ . Then, the maps

$$
s_I: \mathcal{F}(B|A) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(B|A) \quad and \quad m_I: \mathcal{F}(B|A) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(B|A)
$$

$$
J \longmapsto I + J \qquad and \qquad I \longmapsto IJ
$$

are continuous.

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{B}(x)$  be a subbasic open set of  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$ , with  $x \in B$ . If  $J_0 \in s_I^{-1}$  $I_I^{-1}(\mathcal{B}(x))$ , then  $x = i + j$  for some  $i \in I, j \in J_0$ ; therefore,  $\mathcal{B}(j)$ is an open neighborhood of  $J_0$  contained in  $s_I^{-1}$  $I_I^{-1}(\mathcal{B}(x))$ , and thus  $s_I$  is

continuous. Similarly, if  $J_0 \in m_I^{-1}(\mathcal{B}(x))$ , then  $x = i_1 j_1 + \cdots + i_n j_n$ for some  $j_1, \ldots, j_n \in J_0$  and  $i_1, \ldots, i_n \in I$ . Then,  $J_0 \in \mathcal{B}(j_1, \ldots, j_n) \subseteq$  $m_I^{-1}(\mathcal{B}(x))$ , and this shows that  $m_I$  is continuous.

Note that the continuity of  $m<sub>I</sub>$  make it possible to shorten the proof of [21, Lemma 3.7].

**Corollary 5.** Let  $D$  be an integral domain, let  $I$  and  $T$  be  $D$ -submodules of the quotient field K of D, and let  $\Delta$  be a compact subset of Over(D). with respect to the Zariski topology. If  $T$  is flat over  $D$ , then

$$
\left(\bigcap_{U\in\Delta} IU\right)T = \bigcap_{U\in\Delta} (IUT).
$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 4, the collection  $\{IU : U \in \Delta\}$  is compact, since it is the continuous image of  $\Delta$  via  $m_I$ . The conclusion is now an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.

As a particular case of the main results, we provide now a new topological proof of the Glaz-Vasconcelos conjecture.

Corollary 6. [23, Theorem 1.7] Let D be an integrally closed integral domain, and let I be a D-submodule of its quotient field K. If I is flat over D, then  $I = \bigcap \{IV : V \in \text{Zar}(D)\}.$ 

*Proof.* The space  $\text{Zar}(D)$  is compact in the Zariski topology [25, Chapter 6, Theorem 40, moreover, since D is integrally closed,  $D = \bigcap \{V :$  $V \in \text{Zar}(D)$  [3, Corollary 5.22]. Hence, by Theorem 3,

$$
I = ID = I\left(\bigcap_{V \in \text{Zar}(D)} V\right) = \bigcap_{V \in \text{Zar}(R)} IV,
$$

as claimed.  $\square$ 

Another immediate consequence of the main results deals with intersections of localizations of integral domains.

**Corollary 7.** Let  $D$  be an integral domain, let  $Y$  be a compact nonempty subspace of  $\text{Over}(D)$  such that  $D = \bigcap \{R : R \in Y\}$ , and let S be a multiplicative subset of D. Then,  $S^{-1}D = \bigcap \{S^{-1}R : R \in Y\}.$ 

*Proof.* It suffices to use Theorem 3, keeping in mind that  $S^{-1}D$  is a flat  $D$ -module.

Corollary 8. [11, Proposition 43.5] Let D be an integral domain, let Y be a locally finite subspace of  $Over(D)$  (i.e., any nonzero element of  $D$  is noninvertible only in finitely many members of  $Y$ ) such that  $D = \bigcap \{R : R \in Y\}$ , and let S be a multiplicative subset of D. Then,  $S^{-1}D = \bigcap \{S^{-1}R : R \in Y\}$ 

Proof. By Corollary 7, it is enough to show that a locally finite collection of overrings of  $D$  is compact, with respect to the Zariski topology of  $Over(D)$ .

Let  $\mathscr A$  be an open cover of Y. By Alexander's Subbasis Theorem (see e.g. [15, Chapter 5, Theorem 6, page 139]), we can assume, without loss of generality, that  $\mathscr A$  consists of subbasic open sets of Over $(D)$ , say  $\mathscr{A} =$  $\int$  $\mathcal{B}$  $\int a_i$  $b_i$  $\setminus$ :  $i \in I$  $\mathcal{L}$ , where  $a_i, b_i \in D, b_i \neq 0$ , for any  $i \in I$ . Fix now an index  $i' \in I$  and note that, by assumption, the set  $Y' := \{R \in I\}$  $Y : b_{i'}^{-1}$  $i_l^{-1} \notin R$  is finite, say  $Y' = \{R_1, \ldots R_n\}$ . Thus, any member of  $Y - Y'$  belongs to  $\mathcal{B}\left(\frac{a_{i'}}{I}\right)$  $b_{i'}$  $\setminus$ and any  $R_j \in Y'$  belongs to some  $\mathcal{B}\left(\frac{a_{i_j}}{h}\right)$  $b_{i_j}$  $\setminus$ . The proof is now complete.  $\square$ 

Note that the main part of the proof of the previous corollary is also a consequence of [8, Proposition 2.9], where it was proved in the more general context of semistar operations; we inserted the proof here for the reader's convenience. Moreover, the proof of the previous corollary also extends [9, Remark 4.7], where the authors proved that any locally finite family of localizations is compact.

Corollary 9. Let  $D$  be a Prüfer domain with quotient field  $K$ , let  $\mathfrak a$  be an ideal of D, and let  $Y \subseteq \mathcal{I}(D)$  be compact. Then,

$$
\mathfrak{a}+\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}\mathfrak{b}=\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}(\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}).
$$

*Proof.* It suffices to prove that, for every prime ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$ , the equality

$$
\mathfrak{a}D_{\mathfrak{p}} + \left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}\mathfrak{b}\right)D_{\mathfrak{p}} = \left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b})\right)D_{\mathfrak{p}}
$$

holds. Fix thus a prime ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$ , and let  $V := D_{\mathfrak{p}}$ ; since D is a Prüfer domain, V is a valuation domain.

Since V is flat over D and  $\{a + b : b \in Y\}$  is compact (Lemma 4), we have, by Theorem 3,

(1) 
$$
\left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}(\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b})\right)V=\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}((\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b})V)=\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}(\mathfrak{a}V+\mathfrak{b}V)
$$

Observe now that, since  $V$  is a valuation domain, the collection of ideals  $Y' := \{ bV : b \in Y \}$  is totally ordered and compact, by Lemma 4. Thus, since by compactness  $Y'$  has minimal elements under inclusion (Remark 1), it follows that  $Y'$  has a minimum. Then, there is an ideal  $\mathfrak{b}_0 \in Y$  such that  $\mathfrak{b}_0 V \subseteq \mathfrak{b} V$ , for any  $\mathfrak{b} \in Y$ . It follows that the last member of the equality (1) becomes

$$
\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}(\mathfrak{a}V + \mathfrak{b}V) = \mathfrak{a}V + \mathfrak{b}_0V = \mathfrak{a}V + \left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}\mathfrak{b}V\right) = \mathfrak{a}V + \left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{b}\in Y}\mathfrak{b}\right)V,
$$

where the last equality is again a consequence of Theorem 3. The proof is now complete.

Remark 10. The previous corollary is closely related to the dual AB-5<sup>∗</sup> of Grothendieck AB-5 (see, for example, [2]). Precisely, if  $D$  is a Prüfer domain and any filter base of ideals of D is compact, with respect to the Zariski topology of  $\mathcal{I}(D)$ , then D is AB-5<sup>\*</sup> (as D-module).

In the case of Prüfer domains, we can also prove a partial converse of Theorem 3. Recall that a prime ideal  $P$  of a Prüfer domain  $D$  is *branched* if the set of prime ideals of  $D$  properly contained in  $P$  has a maximum (see e.g. [11, Theorem 17.3]). If the dimension of  $D$  is finite, every prime ideal is branched.

**Proposition 11.** Let D be a Prüfer domain with quotient field  $K$ , and let  $\Delta \subseteq \text{Spec}(D)$  be a nonempty set.

(a)  $\Delta$  is compact (in the "classical" Zariski topology of  $Spec(D)$ ) if

and only if, for every flat D-submodule I of K,  $\bigcap$ p∈∆  $ID_{\mathfrak{p}} = I \bigcap$ p∈∆

(b) Suppose that every prime ideal of D is branched. Then,  $\Delta$  is compact (in the "classical" Zariski topology of  $Spec(R)$ ), if and

$$
\text{only if } \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in \Delta} D_{\mathfrak{q}} D_{\mathfrak{p}} = D_{\mathfrak{q}} \left( \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in \Delta} D_{\mathfrak{p}} \right) \text{ for every } \mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(D).
$$

Proof. In both points, one implication follows from Corollary 7 and the fact that the map  $\lambda : \text{Spec}(D) \longrightarrow \text{Over}(D), P \mapsto D_P$ , is a topological inclusion. Suppose  $\Delta$  is not compact, and let  $T := \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \in \Delta} D_{\mathfrak{p}}$ ; note that, without loss of generality, we can suppose that  $\Delta = \Delta^{\downarrow} = \{ \mathfrak{q} \in$  $\operatorname{Spec}(D)$ :  $\mathfrak{q} \subset \mathfrak{p}$  for some  $\mathfrak{p} \in \Delta$ , since  $\Delta$  is compact if and only if  $\Delta^{\downarrow}$ is compact.

The set of prime ideals **p** such that  $pT \neq T$  is the image of  $Spec(T)$ under the canonical map  $Spec(T) \longrightarrow Spec(D)$ ; since it contains  $\Delta$ , and  $\Delta$  is not compact, it must also contain a prime ideal  $\mathfrak{q} \notin \Delta$ . Since D is a Prüfer domain,  $q$  is a flat D-module; however,

$$
\bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in\Delta}\mathfrak{q}D_{\mathfrak{p}}=\bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in\Delta}D_{\mathfrak{p}}=T\neq\mathfrak{q}T=\mathfrak{q}\left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in\Delta}D_{\mathfrak{p}}\right),
$$

against the hypothesis. Therefore, part (a) is proved.

If every prime ideal of  $D$  is branched, so is  $\mathfrak{q}$ ; therefore, there is a prime ideal  $\mathfrak{q}_0$  directly below  $\mathfrak{q}$ . No ideal  $\mathfrak{p} \in \Delta$  contains  $\mathfrak{q}$ ; therefore,  $D_{\mathfrak{p}}D_{\mathfrak{q}} \supsetneq D_{\mathfrak{q}}$ , and in particular  $D_{\mathfrak{q}_0} \subseteq D_{\mathfrak{p}}D_{\mathfrak{q}}$ . Hence,

$$
\bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in\Delta}D_{\mathfrak{q}}D_{\mathfrak{p}}\supseteq D_{\mathfrak{q}_0}\supsetneq D_{\mathfrak{q}}=D_{\mathfrak{q}}T=D_{\mathfrak{q}}\left(\bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in\Delta}D_{\mathfrak{p}}\right),
$$

against the hypothesis. Part (b) is proved.  $\Box$ 

 $D_{\mathfrak{p}}$  $\setminus$ .

Note that part (b) of the previous proposition does not hold without the hypothesis that the prime ideals are branched: indeed, if V is a valuation domain with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  unbranched, and  $\Delta :=$  $Spec(V) \setminus \{\mathfrak{m}\},\$  then

$$
V_{\mathfrak{m}}V = V = \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \in \Delta} V_{\mathfrak{p}} = \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \in \Delta} V_{\mathfrak{p}}V_{\mathfrak{m}},
$$

despite  $\Delta$  not being compact.

Another question arising from Theorem 3 is if the equality  $I(\bigcap_{J\in Y}J)$  $\bigcap_{J\in Y} IJ$ , for all compact families Y of submodules of an epimorphic extension  $A \subseteq B$ , implies that I is flat. This is true if the base ring A is a domain, but fails in general (see [1, Theorem 2] and the subsequent discussion).

Remark 12. While Theorem 3 is quite general, it may be in general hard, or at least not easy, to find examples of compact subspaces to which it can be applied, or to prove that a given family is actually compact.

Some examples can be constructed using the fact that, under the Zariski topology,  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  is a spectral space, i.e., it is homeomorphic to the prime spectrum of a ring  $[22, \text{ Example } 2.2(2)].$  For example, it follows form Remark 1(1) and either [24, Proposition 2.3] or [19, Proposition 2.2 that a subset Y of  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  is compact if and only if every element of the closure of  $Y$ , with respect to the constructible topology, contains a point of  $Y$ , where the *constructible topology* on  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  is the coarsest topology on  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  for which any open and compact subspace of  $\mathcal{F}(B|A)$  is both open and closed.

Another class of examples comes from the domination map  $d : Zar(A) \longrightarrow$  $Spec(A)$  of the Zariski space of a domain A (i.e., the set of valuation overrings of A). For example, if S is a compact subspace of  $Spec(A)$ , then  $d^{-1}(S)$  is compact, by [19, Proposition 2.2 and Lemma 2.7(3)].

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