

**PROJECTIVE LINES OVER  
ONE-DIMENSIONAL SEMILOCAL DOMAINS  
AND SPECTRA OF BIRATIONAL EXTENSIONS**

WILLIAM HEINZER, DAVID LANTZ, AND SYLVIA WIEGAND

*Dedicated to Shreeram S. Abhyankar on his 60-th birthday*

**1. Introduction.** In [Na1], Nashier asked if the condition on a one-dimensional local domain  $R$  that each maximal ideal of the Laurent polynomial ring  $R[y, y^{-1}]$  contracts to a maximal ideal in  $R[y]$  or in  $R[y^{-1}]$  implies that  $R$  is Henselian. Motivated by this question, we consider the structure of the projective line  $\text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  over a one-dimensional semilocal domain  $R$  (the projective line regarded as a topological space, or equivalently as a partially ordered set). In particular, we give an affirmative answer to Nashier's question. (Nashier has also independently answered his question [Na3].) Nashier has also studied implications on the prime spectrum of the Henselian property in [Na2] as well as in the papers cited above.

We also investigate the structure of prime spectra of finitely generated birational extensions of  $R[y]$  and of blowups of parameter ideals of a two-dimensional Cohen-Macaulay local domain. In each case we note some analogies with  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$ , which was analyzed in [HW].

Since the Henselian property is so crucial to this work, it seems appropriate to thank Professor Abhyankar here for his inspiration and contributions to an earlier paper [AHW]. In [AHW] an example was constructed of a non-Henselian local two-dimensional domain  $D$  such that  $D/P$  is Henselian for each height-one prime ideal  $P$  of  $D$ .

The present paper is in part an extension and generalization of work in [HW]. One of the results of that paper is the following:

**Theorem.** *Let  $R$  be a countable one-dimensional semilocal domain.*

*(1) If  $R$  is not Henselian and has exactly  $n$  maximal ideals, then  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$  is isomorphic (as topological spaces or partially ordered sets) to  $\text{Spec}(L[y])$ , where  $L$  is a localization of the integers  $\mathbf{Z}$  outside  $n$  distinct nonzero prime ideals.*

*(2) If  $R$  is Henselian (which implies  $R$  is local), then  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Spec}(H[y])$ , where  $H$  is a Henselization within the complex numbers of  $\mathbf{Z}$  localized outside  $2\mathbf{Z}$ .*

In analogy with the affine case given in the Theorem above, we prove in Theorem 2.3 that if  $R$  is a countable one-dimensional Noetherian domain with  $n$  maximal ideals, then up to homeomorphism or isomorphism, there are exactly two possibilities for  $\text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  if  $n = 1$ , and only one if  $n > 1$ . As before, the two cases distinguish between Henselian and non-Henselian rings.

In Section 3 we consider certain birational extensions of the polynomial ring  $R[y]$ , where  $R$  is a one-dimensional semilocal domain. For example, if  $(R, \mathbf{m})$  is a countable one-dimensional local domain and  $f \in R[y] - \mathbf{m}[y]$ , then  $\text{Spec}(R[y]) \cong \text{Spec}(R[y, 1/f])$ . But if the ideal  $fR[y]$  has prime radical and  $B$  is a finitely generated  $R$ -algebra that is properly between  $R[y]$  and  $R[y, 1/f]$ , we show in Proposition 3.1 that  $\text{Spec}(B)$  is not homeomorphic to  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$ .

Section 4 concerns the blowup of a parameter ideal of a two-dimensional Cohen-Macaulay local domain. We show in Proposition 4.1 that affine pieces of this blowup satisfy many of the axioms satisfied by the spectrum of a polynomial ring in one variable over a one-dimensional local domain. Proposition 4.2 gives similar results for the entire blowup.

All rings we consider are commutative and contain a multiplicative identity. The terms “local” and “semilocal” include “Noetherian.” The symbol  $<$  between sets means proper inclusion.

It will be convenient to set some notation for partially ordered sets from earlier papers:

*1.1 Notation.* For  $U$  a partially ordered set,  $u \in U$ , and  $T$  a subset of  $U$ ,

$$G(u) = \{w \in U \mid w > u\}, \quad L(u) = \{w \in U \mid w < u\},$$

$$L_e(T) = \{w \in U \mid G(w) = T\}.$$

Note that the set called  $L(T)$  in [HW] is denoted  $L_e(T)$ , the “exactly-less-than” set, here.

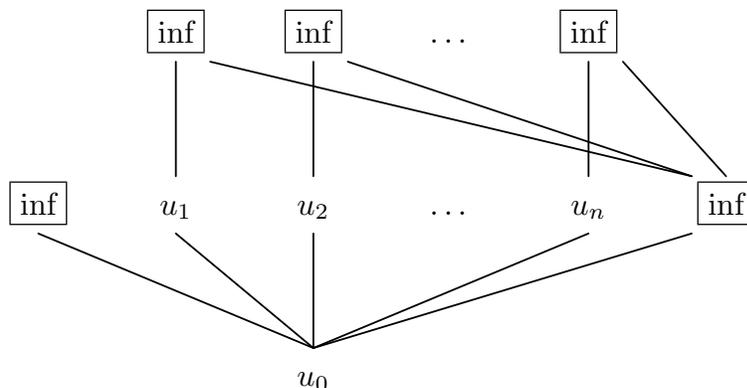
We will be concerned with partially ordered sets of dimension two with a unique minimal element, specifically the spectra of two-dimensional integral domains. In this context, if  $P$  is a height-one prime, then  $G(P)$  is the set of maximal ideals containing  $P$ , while if  $T$  is a set of height-two maximal ideals, then  $L_e(T)$  is the set of height-one primes contained in the intersection of the elements of  $T$  and not contained in any other maximal ideal of the ring.

Roger Wiegand has conjectured in [rW] that the spectrum of any two-dimensional domain that is a finitely generated algebra over  $\mathbf{Z}$  is homeomorphic to the spectrum of the polynomial ring  $\mathbf{Z}[y]$ . It is shown in [rW] that if  $k$  is a field and  $A$  is a two-dimensional domain that is finitely generated as a  $k$ -algebra, then  $\text{Spec}(A) \cong \text{Spec}(\mathbf{Z}[y])$  if and only if  $k$  is contained in the algebraic closure of a finite field. His method was to provide an axiom system characterizing  $\text{Spec}(\mathbf{Z}[y])$  up to homeomorphism or isomorphism. Motivated by his result, the following axiom systems were formulated in [HW]:

**1.2 Definition.** A partially ordered set  $U$  is “ $C\mathbf{Z}(n)P$ ” if it satisfies:

- (P0)  $U$  is countable.
- (P1)  $U$  has a unique minimal element  $u_0$ .
- (P2)  $U$  has dimension two.
- (P3) There exist infinitely many height-one maximal ideals.
- (P4) There exist  $n$  height-one nonmaximal “special” elements  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  satisfying: (i)  $G(u_1) \cup \dots \cup G(u_n) = \{ \text{height-two elements of } U \}$ , (ii)  $G(u_i) \cap G(u_j) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ , and (iii)  $G(u_i)$  is infinite for each  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .
- (P5) For each height-one nonspecial element  $u$ ,  $G(u)$  is finite.
- (P6) For each nonempty finite subset  $T$  of  $\{ \text{height-two elements of } U \}$ ,  $L_e(T)$  is infinite.

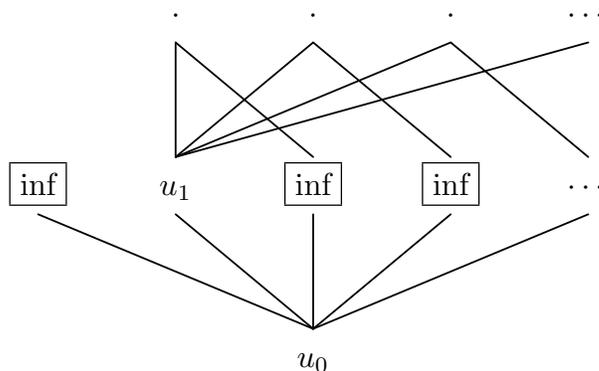
(Pictorially, a  $C\mathbf{Z}(n)P$  partially ordered set looks like this:



The relationships of the lower right boxed section, determined by (P5) and (P6), are too complicated to display.)

**1.3 Definition.** A partially ordered set  $U$  is “ $CHP$ ” if it satisfies:

- (P0)–(P5) Same as  $C\mathbf{Z}(1)P$  above.
- (P6) For each finite subset  $T$  of { height-two elements of  $U$  } of cardinality greater than one,  $L_e(T) = \emptyset$ . For each singleton  $t \in \{ \text{height-two elements of } U \}$ ,  $L_e(\{t\})$  is infinite.



It was shown in [HW] that (1) these axiom systems are categorical; (2) if  $(R, \mathbf{m}_1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_n)$  is a countable semilocal one-dimensional domain that is not Henselian, then  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$  is  $C\mathbf{Z}(n)P$ ; and (3) if  $R$  is a countable Henselian one-dimensional (local) domain, then  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$  is  $CHP$ . We use these facts in the present paper.

R. Wiegand proves in [rW] that if  $D$  is an order in an algebraic number field, then  $\text{Spec}(D[y]) \cong \text{Spec}(\mathbf{Z}[y])$ . A crucial point in this proof is his axiomatic characterization of  $\text{Spec}(\mathbf{Z}[y])$ , and the crucial axiom here is (rW5), called (P5) in [rW], which states that if  $P_1, \dots, P_r$  are height-one primes and  $M_1, \dots, M_s$  are maximal ideals, then there exists a height-one prime  $Q$  such that  $Q \subset M_i$ , for each  $i = 1, \dots, s$ , and if  $M$  is a maximal ideal containing  $Q$  and some  $P_i$ , then  $M$  is one of the  $M_j$ . If  $A$  is a two-dimensional domain that is finitely generated as a  $\mathbf{Z}$ -algebra and if  $P$  is a height-one prime of  $A$ , then it is known that every maximal ideal of  $A/P$  is the radical of a principal ideal. It follows that  $\text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies a restricted version of axiom (rW5) where  $r = 1$  and  $s = 1$ . This motivates the following

*Question.* Suppose  $A$  is a two-dimensional Noetherian domain having the property that  $\text{Spec}(A)$  is countable, every height-one prime of  $A$  is contained in infinitely many maximal ideals, and for each height-one prime  $P$  and each maximal ideal  $M$  containing  $P$ , there exists a height-one prime  $Q$  such that  $P + Q$  is  $M$ -primary, does it follow that  $\text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies axiom (rW5) mentioned above?

Our work in this paper is part of an on-going study of the general question: What partially ordered sets arise as the prime spectrum of a Noetherian ring? This question is entirely open, even for two-dimensional rings. It is even unknown how to characterize polynomial rings over one-dimensional countable rings (even polynomial rings in two variables over a countable field).

## 2. The projective line over a one-dimensional semilocal domain.

Let  $(R, \mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2, \dots, \mathbf{m}_n)$  be a one-dimensional semilocal domain and  $s, t$  be indeterminates. In this section, we study the projective line  $X$  over  $R$ . It will be convenient to use two interpretations of the projective line: (1)  $X = \text{Proj}(R[s, t])$ , the set of relevant homogeneous primes in the polynomial ring in two indeterminates over  $R$ , and (2)  $X$  is the union of its affine pieces  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$  and  $\text{Spec}(R[1/y])$ , where  $y = s/t$ . (The only elements in the second affine piece that are not in the first are the height-one prime  $(1/y)R[1/y]$  and the height-two maximals  $(\mathbf{m}_i, 1/y)R[1/y]$ , and the two pieces intersect in  $\text{Spec}(R[y, 1/y])$ .) We will refer to homogeneous relevant prime ideals of  $R[s, t]$  as points of  $X$ . Each height-two point of  $X$  has the form  $(\mathbf{m}, f(s, t))R[s, t]$  where  $\mathbf{m}$  is a maximal ideal of  $R$  and  $f$  is a homogeneous polynomial of which the image mod  $\mathbf{m}$  is irreducible in  $(R/\mathbf{m})[s, t]$ . In such an  $f$  the highest power of at least one of  $s, t$  has coefficient not in  $\mathbf{m}$ ; and if only one (say  $s$ ) has coefficient not in  $\mathbf{m}$ , then  $f(s, t)$  can be taken to be  $s$  times an element of  $R - \mathbf{m}$ . (Warning: If  $R$  is not integrally closed, the ideal  $f(s, t)R[s, t]$  need not be prime despite the fact that its image in  $(R/\mathbf{m})[s, t]$  is a prime ideal.)

In analogy with the axiom systems in [rW] and [HW], we introduce the following:

**2.1 Definition.** We say that the partially ordered set  $U$  is “**PCZ**( $n$ ) $P$ ” if it satisfies:

- (P0)  $U$  is countable.
- (P1)  $U$  has a unique minimal element  $u_0$ .
- (P2)  $U$  has dimension two.
- (P3) Every maximal element has height two.
- (P4) There exist  $n$  height-one nonmaximal “special” elements  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  satisfying: (i)  $G(u_1) \cup \dots \cup G(u_n) = \{ \text{height-two elements of } U \}$ , (ii)  $G(u_i) \cap G(u_j) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ , and (iii)  $G(u_i)$  is infinite for each  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .
- (P5) For each height-one nonspecial element  $u$ ,  $G(u)$  is finite and  $G(u) \cap G(u_i) \neq \emptyset$  for each  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .
- (P6) For each nonempty finite subset  $T$  of  $\{ \text{height-two elements of } U \}$  such that  $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\} \subseteq \bigcup \{L(t) \mid t \in T\}$ ,  $L_e(T)$  is infinite. (Here  $L_e(T)$  is the exactly-less-than set.)

**2.2 Definition.** We say that the partially ordered set  $U$  is “**PCHP**” if it satisfies:

- (P0)–(P5) Same as **PCZ**(1) $P$  above.
- (P6) For each finite subset  $T$  of  $\{ \text{height-two elements of } U \}$  of cardinality greater than one,  $L_e(T) = \emptyset$ . For each singleton  $t \in \{ \text{height-two elements of } U \}$ ,  $L_e(\{t\})$  is infinite. ( $L_e(T)$  as above.)

**2.3 Theorem.** *Let  $R$  be a countable one-dimensional semilocal Noetherian domain with  $n$  maximal ideals. If  $n = 1$ , then the projective line over  $R$  is **PCHP** if  $R$  is Henselian and **PCZ(1)P** otherwise. If  $n > 1$ , then the projective line over  $R$  is **PCZ(n)P**.*

The proof of this result will occupy most of this section. We show first that these axiom systems are categorical:

**2.4 Lemma.** *Every two partially ordered sets which satisfy the axioms **PCHP** are order-isomorphic. The same is true for **PCZ(n)P** for any fixed positive integer  $n$ .*

*Proof.* We show this for **PCZ(n)P**; the argument for **PCHP** is similar, and both are only slight adaptations of those of [rW] or [HW]: Given two posets  $U, V$  satisfying **PCZ(n)P**, define the order-isomorphism  $f : U \rightarrow V$  by sending the minimal element  $u_0$  to the minimal element  $v_0$ , the  $n$  height-one special elements  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  bijectively to the  $n$  height-one special elements  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , and for each  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , the elements of  $G(u_i)$  to the elements of  $G(f(u_i))$ , each in any bijective way. Now enumerate the nonspecial height-one elements of  $U$ :  $u_{n+1}, u_{n+2}, \dots$ , and for  $k > n$ , enumerate  $L_e(f(G(u_k)))$  in such a way that if  $k' < k$  but  $G(u_{k'}) = G(u_k)$ , then  $L_e(f(G(u_k)))$  is enumerated in the same order as  $L_e(f(G(u_{k'})))$ . Then inductively define  $f(u_k)$  to be the first element of  $L_e(f(G(u_k)))$  that is not of the form  $f(u_{k'})$  for some  $k' < k$ .  $\square$

We now begin to show that for a countable one-dimensional semilocal domain  $R$ ,  $X = \text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  is either **PCZ(n)P** or **PCHP**. Since we are assuming that  $R$  is countable, so is  $R[s, t]$ . The relevant homogeneous primes in  $R[s, t]$  are generated by finite subsets, so  $X$  is also countable, and (P0) holds. This is the only use we make of the hypothesis of countability on  $R$ .

Of course (0) is the unique minimal element of  $X$ , so (P1) holds. Since  $R[s, t]$  has Krull dimension 3 and the irrelevant maximal ideals  $(\mathbf{m}_i, s, t)$  are not elements of  $X$ , we see that  $\dim(X) = 2$ , i.e., (P2) holds.

Axiom (P3) follows from the second assertion in (P5). For (P4), as in the affine case, the “special” elements are the extensions  $\mathbf{m}_i[s, t]$  to  $R[s, t]$  of the maximal ideals  $\mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2, \dots, \mathbf{m}_n$  of  $R$ . Since any two of these extensions generate the unit ideal  $R[s, t]$ , it is clear that no point of  $X$  contains two of them; so (P4)(ii) holds. Since  $\text{Proj}((R/\mathbf{m}_i)[s, t])$  is the (infinite) projective line over the field  $R/\mathbf{m}_i$ , we also have (P4)(iii).

To see that  $X$  satisfies (P4)(i) and (P5), we picture  $X$  as the union of its affine pieces  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$  and  $\text{Spec}(R[1/y])$ . Since these affine spectra are either **CZ(n)P** or **CHP** [HW, p. 583], we see that each height-two point in  $X$  contains one of the special elements, i.e., that (P4)(i) holds; and that each nonspecial height-one element is contained in only finitely many height-two points, i.e., that the first part of (P5) holds.

To see that the second part of (P5) holds, assume by way of contradiction that the height-one nonspecial prime  $P$  in  $R[y]$  is comaximal with the special prime  $\mathbf{m}[y]$  in  $X$ . We may safely localize all the rings in question at the complement of  $\mathbf{m}$  in  $R$ , so we assume that  $R$  is local and  $P$  is a height-one maximal in  $R[y]$ . Since  $yR[y]$  is not maximal,  $y \notin P$ , so  $P$  survives in the localization  $R[y, 1/y]$  of  $R[y]$  at the powers of  $y$ , i.e.,  $PR[y, 1/y] \in \text{Spec}(R[y, 1/y])$ . There are polynomials  $f(y)$  in  $P$  and  $g(y)$  in  $\mathbf{m}[y]$  for which  $1 = f(y) + g(y)$ , so the coefficients of  $f(y)$ , except the constant term, are in  $\mathbf{m}$  but the constant term is a unit. Hence the

extension of  $P$  to  $R[y, 1/y]$  contains  $f(0)^{-1}f(y)/y^{\deg(f)}$ , a monic polynomial in  $1/y$ . Let  $Q = R[1/y] \cap PR[y, 1/y]$  (i.e., the element in  $\text{Spec}(R[1/y])$  corresponding to  $P$  in  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$ ). Then since  $Q$  contains a monic polynomial and meets  $R$  in  $(0)$ ,  $R[1/y]/Q$  is integral over  $R$ , so it has a maximal ideal lying over  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and hence  $Q$  is contained in a maximal ideal of  $R[1/y]$  that also contains  $\mathfrak{m}[1/y]$ . It follows that the element of  $X$  represented by  $P$  or  $Q$  is not comaximal with the special element represented by the extension of  $\mathfrak{m}$ , the desired contradiction.

We now begin the proof that  $X = \text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  satisfies P(6) of **PCZ**( $n$ ) $P$  or **PCHP**. We deal first with the non-Henselian case. Note first that by adjoining to the field of fractions  $K$  of  $R$  the roots and a  $\deg(f)$ -th root of the leading coefficient of a dehomogenized version of  $f(s, t)$  (i.e.,  $f(s/t, 1)$  or  $f(1, t/s)$ ) to obtain a field  $L$ , and letting  $S$  be the integral closure of  $R$  in  $L$ , we have that each of the points of  $\text{Proj}(S[s, t])$  lying over a height-two point of  $X$  is of the form  $(\mathfrak{n}, as + bt)S[s, t]$  where  $\mathfrak{n}$  is a maximal ideal of  $S$  and  $a, b \in S$ , not both in  $\mathfrak{n}$ .

We use the following lemma to deduce the existence of a generic point (in the sense of [K, Def. 4.7, p. 25]) for a certain subset of  $\text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  from the fact that an appropriate set in  $\text{Proj}(S[s, t])$  has a generic point.

**2.5 Lemma.** *Let  $B = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n$  be a graded ring and  $A = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n$  be a graded subring (in the sense that  $A \cap B_n = A_n$  for each  $n$ ) such that  $A \subseteq B$  satisfies the going-up property. (In particular, this holds if  $B$  is integral over  $A$ .) Let  $\mathcal{Q}$  be a set of homogeneous prime ideals in  $B$ . If there exists a homogeneous prime ideal  $\mathfrak{q}$  of  $B$  such that  $\mathcal{Q} = \{Q : Q \text{ is a homogeneous prime ideal in } B \text{ containing } \mathfrak{q}\}$ , then  $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{q} \cap A$  is a homogeneous (prime) ideal in  $A$ , and*

$$\{Q \cap A : Q \in \mathcal{Q}\} = \{P : P \text{ is a homogeneous prime ideal in } A \text{ containing } \mathfrak{p}\}.$$

*Proof.* The homogeneous components of an element of  $\mathfrak{q} \cap A$  are in both  $\mathfrak{q}$  and  $A$  (the latter because of the uniqueness of the expression of an element of  $B = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n$  as a sum of its homogeneous components); so  $\mathfrak{p}$  is homogeneous. Any  $Q \cap A$ , for  $Q$  in  $\mathcal{Q}$ , clearly contains  $\mathfrak{p}$ , so let  $P$  be a homogeneous prime of  $A$  containing  $\mathfrak{p}$ . By going-up, there is a prime ideal  $Q_1$  of  $B$  containing  $\mathfrak{q}$  and such that  $Q_1 \cap A = P$ . The homogeneous ideal  $\mathfrak{q} + PB$  of  $B$  is contained in  $Q_1$ , so  $Q_1$  contains a minimal prime  $Q$  of  $\mathfrak{q} + PB$ . By [K, Proposition 5.11, p. 34],  $Q$  is homogeneous, and  $\mathfrak{q} \subseteq Q$ , so  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$ . Also, since  $PB \subseteq Q \subseteq Q_1$ ,  $Q \cap A = P$ .  $\square$

We can now verify that, if  $R$  is not Henselian, then for a set  $T$  satisfying the hypothesis of (P6) of **PCZ**( $n$ ) $P$ ,  $L_e(T)$  is at least nonempty. Note that by the second assertion of (P5), if the set  $T$  does not satisfy the hypothesis of (P6), then  $L_e(T)$  is empty.

**2.6 Theorem.** *Suppose  $R$  is not Henselian. Then for each finite set  $M_1, \dots, M_r$  of height-two points of  $X = \text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  such that each maximal ideal of  $R$  is contained in at least one  $M_i$ , there is a height-one element  $P$  of  $X$  that is contained in  $M_1, \dots, M_r$  but not in any other height-two point of  $X$ .*

*Proof.* In view of Lemma 2.5, we may replace  $R$  by its integral closure in a finite algebraic extension of its field of fractions  $K$ , and the collection  $\{M_1, \dots, M_r\}$  by the (possibly larger) set of points in the projective line over that integral closure that lie over these  $M_i$ . Therefore, we may assume that each  $M_i$  has the form  $(\mathfrak{m}, as + bt)R[s, t]$  for some  $\mathfrak{m}$  maximal in  $R$  and some  $a, b \in R$ , not both in  $\mathfrak{m}$ .

Now we use the fact that  $R$  is not Henselian. Since each of the maximal ideals of  $R$  is  $\infty$ -split [HW, Theorem 1.1], there exists a finite algebraic extension  $L$  of  $K$  for which the integral closure  $S$  of  $R$  in  $L$  has the property that, for each  $\mathfrak{m}$  maximal in  $R$ , the number of maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{n}$  of  $S$  lying over  $\mathfrak{m}$  is greater than or equal to the number of  $M_i$  containing  $\mathfrak{m}$ . For each  $\mathfrak{n}$ , we pick an  $M_i = (\mathfrak{n} \cap R, as + bt)R[s, t]$  in such a way that every  $M_i$  is picked at least once, and set  $N_{\mathfrak{n}} = (\mathfrak{n}, as + bt)S[s, t]$ . Then  $N_{\mathfrak{n}} \cap R[s, t] = M_i$ .

Since the  $a, b$  now vary with  $\mathfrak{n}$ , we write them as  $a_{\mathfrak{n}}, b_{\mathfrak{n}}$ . By the Chinese Remainder Theorem, there are elements  $a, b$  of  $S$  for which  $a \equiv a_{\mathfrak{n}} \pmod{\mathfrak{n}}$  and  $b \equiv b_{\mathfrak{n}} \pmod{\mathfrak{n}}$  for every maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{n}$  of  $S$ . Let  $Q = (as + bt)S[s, t]$ . Since not both  $a_{\mathfrak{n}}, b_{\mathfrak{n}}$  are in  $\mathfrak{n}$  for each  $\mathfrak{n}$ ,  $a, b$  generate the unit ideal in  $S$ ; so  $Q$  is a prime ideal, that is,  $Q \in Y = \text{Proj}(S[s, t])$ . Observe that for each maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{n}$  of  $S$ , the polynomial  $as + bt$  is in exactly one height-two point of  $Y$  containing  $\mathfrak{n}$  (because the image of  $as + bt$  in the polynomial ring  $(S/\mathfrak{n})[s, t]$  over the field  $S/\mathfrak{n}$  is a nonzero linear form). Therefore, the set  $\{N_{\mathfrak{n}} : \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Mspec}(S)\}$  is precisely the set of height-two points of  $Y$  that contain  $Q$ . Since  $\{N_{\mathfrak{n}} \cap R[s, t] : \mathfrak{n} \in \text{Mspec}(S)\} = \{M_1, \dots, M_r\}$ , it follows from Lemma 2.5 that  $P = Q \cap R[s, t]$  is contained in  $M_1, \dots, M_r$  but not in any other height-two point of  $X$ .  $\square$

Next, we argue that, if  $R$  is Henselian, then (P6) in **PCHP** holds. Suppose  $R$  is Henselian (and hence local, with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ ). Then no two distinct height-two points of  $X$  contain the same nonspecial height-one element of  $X$ . For, if  $y = s/t$  and  $P$  is a height-one prime of the polynomial ring  $R[y]$  such that  $P \cap R = (0)$ , then  $P$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal of  $R[y]$  [HW, Proposition 1.4]; if  $P$  is not itself maximal, it suffices to observe that  $P$  contains a monic polynomial in  $y$  and therefore is not contained in the height-two point at infinity for  $\text{Spec}(R[y])$  in  $X$  (i.e., the prime in  $R[1/y]$  corresponding to  $P$  in  $X$  is not contained in the maximal ideal  $(\mathfrak{m}, 1/y)R[1/y]$ ). To see that  $P$  contains a monic polynomial in  $y$ , consider the domain  $R[y]/P = D$ , an algebraic extension of  $R$ . The integral closure  $S$  of  $R$  in the field of fractions  $L$  of  $D$  is a local domain since  $R$  is Henselian and a finite intersection of DVR's since  $R$  is a one-dimensional local domain. Therefore  $S$  is the unique DVR of  $L$  containing  $R$ . Since  $D$  is not a field, it follows that  $D \subseteq S$ , and hence  $P$  contains a monic polynomial in  $y$ . Thus we have shown that, for  $t$  a height-two element of  $X$ ,  $L_e(\{t\})$  is at least nonempty, since any nonspecial height-one element  $u$  contained in  $t$  is such that  $G(u) = \{t\}$ . (In fact, since a height-two prime in the Noetherian ring  $R[y]$  contains infinitely many height-one primes, we get the full strength of the second sentence in (P6) of **PCHP** immediately. But the next paragraph treats both Henselian and non-Henselian cases at once.)

Finally, we complete the proof of (P6) in both the Henselian and non-Henselian cases, by showing that if  $L_e(T)$  is nonempty, then it is infinite: For a height-one nonspecial element  $P$  of  $\text{Proj}(R[s, t])$ , recall  $G(P) = \{M \in \text{Proj}(R[s, t]) : \text{ht}(M) = 2 \text{ and } P \subset M\}$ . We contend that, given a finite set  $\mathcal{M}$  of height-two points of  $\text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  such that  $\mathcal{M} = G(P)$  for some height-one nonspecial element  $P$  of  $\text{Proj}(R[s, t])$ , there are infinitely many height-one nonspecial elements  $P$  of  $\text{Proj}(R[s, t])$  for which  $G(P) = \mathcal{M}$ . To see this, let  $S$  be a domain that is a finitely generated integral extension of  $R$  such that, in  $\text{Proj}(S[s, t])$ , there is a finite set of maximal ideals  $\mathcal{N}$  such that (1) each maximal ideal of  $S$  is contained in exactly one element of  $\mathcal{N}$  (i.e., the map  $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \text{Mspec}(S) : N \mapsto S \cap N$  is a bijection), (2) there is at least one  $N$  in  $\mathcal{N}$  lying over each  $M$  in  $\mathcal{M}$ , and (3) each  $N$  in  $\mathcal{N}$  has the

form  $N = (S \cap N, a_N s + b_N t)S[s, t]$  with  $a_N, b_N$  in  $S$ , not both in  $S \cap N$ . (In the non-Henselian case, we saw in the proof of Theorem 2.6 that such an  $S$  exists. In the Henselian case, there is only one  $M$ ; it contains the unique maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $R$ , and  $S$  can be any extension such that the generator of the image of  $M$  in  $(R/\mathfrak{m})[s, t]$  has a linear factor over the residue field of  $S$ .) Then choose  $a, b$  in  $S$  such that  $a \equiv a_N \pmod{S \cap N}$  and  $b \equiv b_N \pmod{S \cap N}$  for each  $N$  in  $\mathcal{N}$  and note that, if  $P = (as + bt)L[s, t] \cap R[s, t]$ , where  $L$  is the field of fractions of  $S$ , then  $P \subset M$  iff  $M \in \mathcal{M}$ . Note that  $P = f(s, t)K[s, t] \cap R[s, t]$ , where  $K$  is the field of fractions of  $R$  and  $f$  is an irreducible element in  $K[s, t]$ , unique up to constant multiple, of which  $as + bt$  is a factor in  $L[s, t]$ . Now, the choice of  $a, b$  above was determined only up to the (infinite) Jacobson radical  $J$  of  $S$ ; we could add any element of  $J$  to either of  $a, b$  without changing the resulting  $G(P)$ . But since a nonzero element  $f$  of  $K[s, t]$  has only finitely many nonassociate linear factors over an algebraic closure of  $K$ , if we fix a nonzero  $a$  and add to  $b$  nonzero elements of the Jacobson radical of  $S$ , then the prime ideals in  $L[s, t]$  generated by the elements  $as + bt$  are distinct, and only finitely many of these different primes can give the same  $P$ . Thus, there are infinitely many  $P$  that give the same  $G(P)$ .

The proof of Theorem 2.3 is now complete. We close this section by providing our affirmative answer to Nashier's question.

**2.7 Proposition.** *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a one-dimensional local domain and  $y$  an indeterminate. If for every maximal ideal  $P$  in  $R[y, 1/y]$ , either  $P \cap R[y]$  is maximal in  $R[y]$  or  $P \cap R[1/y]$  is maximal in  $R[1/y]$ , then  $R$  is Henselian.*

*Proof.* Assume  $R$  is not Henselian and let  $X = \text{Spec}(R[y]) \cup \text{Spec}(R[1/y])$  be the projective line over  $R$ . By the proof of Theorem 2.3,  $X$  satisfies (P1)–(P6) of  $\mathbf{PCZ}(1)P$ . If  $P$  is any height-one element of  $X$  that is in  $L_e((\mathfrak{m}, y)R[y], (\mathfrak{m}, 1/y)R[1/y])$ , then  $PR[y, 1/y]$  is maximal, while both  $PR[y]$  and  $PR[1/y]$  are nonmaximal.

An alternative proof, not using Theorem 2.3, is the following: Assuming  $R$  is not Henselian, by [N, (43.12)],  $R$  has a finite integral extension  $A$  that is not local, and the integral closure  $A'$  of  $A$  is also not local, though it is a semilocal PID. Let  $N_1, \dots, N_n$  be all the maximal ideals of  $A'$ , and pick an element  $c$  of the field of fractions  $K$  of  $A$  such that  $c \in N_1 A'_{N_1}$  and  $c \notin A'_{N_i}$  for  $2 \leq i \leq n$ . Then since none of the maximal ideals of  $A'$  survive in  $A'[c, 1/c]$ ,  $A'[c, 1/c]$  is a field. Since it is an integral extension of  $R[c, 1/c]$ ,  $R[c, 1/c]$  is also a field. Hence the kernel of the  $R$ -homomorphism  $R[y, 1/y] \rightarrow K: y \mapsto c$  is a maximal ideal  $P$ . But since  $R[c] \subseteq A'_{N_1}$  and  $R[1/c] \subseteq A'_{N_2}$ ,  $R[c]$  and  $R[1/c]$  are not fields, so neither  $P \cap R[y]$  nor  $P \cap R[1/y]$  is maximal.  $\square$

### 3. Spectra of birational extensions of the affine line.

In this section we establish the following result:

**3.1 Proposition.** *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_n)$  be a one-dimensional semilocal domain,  $K$  its field of fractions,  $y$  an indeterminate,  $A = R[y]$ ,  $f \in A - \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{m}_i[y]$ , and  $B$  a finitely generated  $A$ -algebra strictly between  $A$  and  $A[1/f]$ . Then  $\text{Spec}(B)$  satisfies the following axioms from  $\mathbf{CZ}(n)P$  or  $\mathbf{CHP}$  (Definitions 1.2 and 1.3):*

- (a) (P0) holds if  $R$  is countable.
- (b) (P1)–(P3) hold without additional hypotheses.
- (c) The number  $m$  of “special” elements (height-one elements  $u_1, \dots, u_m$  for which (P4)(iii) holds in  $C(u)$  is infinite), may be greater than the number  $n$  of

maximal ideals of  $R$ , but it is still finite, and (P4)(i) and (P5) hold (the latter trivially). Any “special” element meets  $R$  in a maximal ideal.

- (d) If  $fA$  has prime radical, then  $m > n$  and (P4)(ii) may fail, i.e., the “special” elements need not be comaximal.

*3.2 Remark.* (1)  $\text{Spec}(A[1/f]) \cong \text{Spec}(A)$ , since  $\text{Spec}(A[1/f])$  and  $\text{Spec}(A)$  both satisfy the axioms for either  $CZ(n)P$  or  $CHP$ . The reason for this is that, in localizing  $A$  at  $f$ , only finitely many height-one primes of  $A$  are lost, none of them special, and consequently only finitely many maximal ideals (those containing those height-one nonspecials) are lost.

(2) If  $B$  were a non-Noetherian ring strictly between  $A$  and  $A[1/f]$ , then (P6) of both  $CZ(n)P$  and  $CHP$  could fail, and the partially ordered set  $\text{Spec}(B)$  could fail to represent  $\text{Spec}(C)$  for any Noetherian ring  $C$ . For example, if  $R = k[x]_{(x)}$ ,  $f = y$ , and  $B = R[y, x/y, x/y^2, x/y^3, \dots]$ , then  $B$  has a height-two maximal ideal  $M = yB$ , that contains only one height-one prime  $P = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} y^n B$ ; cf. [Ka, page 7, Exercise 5]. But this phenomenon is impossible in a Noetherian ring: By Krull’s Principal Ideal Theorem, every height-two prime ideal  $M$  in a Noetherian ring must contain infinitely many height-one primes. (For, if  $M$  contained only  $r$  height-one primes  $P_1, \dots, P_r$ , then for any  $a$  in  $M - \bigcup_{i=1}^r P_i$ , the height-two prime ideal  $M$  would be minimal over  $a$ , a contradiction.)

(3) The stronger hypothesis that  $B$  is finitely generated as an algebra over  $A$  is used below to insure that the dimension formula holds.

We now begin the proof of Proposition 3.1. If  $R$  is countable, then so is  $B$ , and since  $B$  is also Noetherian,  $\text{Spec}(B)$  is countable.

Of course,  $\text{Spec}(B)$  always has unique minimal element (0).

We claim that  $B$  has dimension two. Indeed, a bit more generally, if  $f \in A - \text{Jac}(R)A$  and  $B \subseteq A[1/f]$ , then  $\dim(A[1/f]) = 2$  and since  $A[1/f] = B[1/f]$ ,  $\dim(B) \geq 2$ . Since  $B$  is also a birational extension of the two-dimensional Noetherian domain  $A$ , we have  $\dim(B) \leq 2$  so  $\dim(B) = 2$ .

At most finitely many of the height-one maximals in  $A$  (those containing  $f$ ) extend to the unit ideal in  $B$ . Let  $Q$  be a prime of  $B$  lying over a height-one maximal  $P$  in  $A$  not containing  $f$ . Then  $B_Q = A_P$  and  $Q = PA_P \cap B$  (since  $P \cap R = 0$ , so  $A_P$  is a localization of  $K[y]$  and hence a DVR), and  $A/P \subseteq B/Q \subseteq A_P/PA_P = A/P$  (the last equality because  $P$  is maximal), and hence  $Q$  is a height-one maximal in  $B$ . Therefore  $\text{Spec}(B)$  has infinitely many height-one maximals.

We want to see that the number of height-one primes  $Q$  in  $\text{Spec}(B)$  such that  $G(Q)$  is an infinite set is finite: Let  $Q$  be one of them. If it meets  $A$  in a non-special height-one prime  $P$ , then, because none of the height-two maximals of  $B$  containing  $Q$  meet  $A$  in  $P$  (for, if  $N$  is a prime in  $B$  such that  $N \cap A = P$ , then  $B_N$  is between the one-dimensional Noetherian domain  $A_P$  and its field of fractions and hence has dimension at most one), we get an infinite-to-finite map on the maximal spectra  $\text{Mspec}(B/Q) \rightarrow \text{Mspec}(A/P)$ , so that at least one of the extensions of maximals in  $A/P$  to the Noetherian ring  $B/Q$  would have infinitely many minimal primes, a contradiction. Thus  $Q$  meets  $A$  in either a special height-one prime or a height-two maximal, and in either case it meets  $R$  in a maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and hence  $Q$  is a minimal prime of  $\mathfrak{m}B$ . But since  $R$  is semilocal, so is  $\bigcup\{\{\text{minimal primes of } \mathfrak{m}B\} : \mathfrak{m} \in \text{Mspec}(R)\}$ .

Since  $B < A[1/f]$ ,  $fB \neq B$ , so  $fB$  has at least one minimal prime  $Q$ , and since  $B$  is Noetherian,  $\text{ht}(Q) = 1$ . Since  $B$  is Cohen-Macaulay,  $A = B[Y]$  is Cohen-

Macaulay, so every associated prime of  $fA$  is of height one. If  $P_1, \dots, P_m$  are the associated primes of  $fA$ , then

$$A = A[1/f] \cap A_{P_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{P_m} = B \cap A_{P_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{P_m} .$$

Suppose that  $m = 1$ , i.e., that  $fA$  has prime radical  $P$  (e.g.,  $f = y$ ). In this case, since  $f \notin \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{m}_i A$ ,  $P \cap R = 0$ , so  $P$  is contracted from  $K[y]$ , and hence  $A_P$  is a DVR. Assume that the center on  $A$  of a prime  $Q$  of  $B$  is exactly  $P$ ; then  $A_P \subseteq B_Q < K(y)$ , and hence (since  $A_P$  is a DVR)  $A_P = B_Q$ . So:

$$B \subseteq A[1/f] \cap B_Q = A[1/f] \cap A_P = A ,$$

a contradiction. Therefore, for each minimal prime  $Q$  of  $fB$ ,  $Q \cap A$  properly contains  $P$  and hence is a height-two maximal in  $A$ . By the dimension formula, e.g., [M, pages 84–86] (since  $A$  is Cohen-Macaulay, it is universally catenary),

$$1 = \text{ht}(Q) = \text{ht}(Q \cap A) + \text{tr.deg.}(B/A) - \text{tr.deg.}(B/Q)/(A/(Q \cap A)) .$$

Since  $\text{ht}(Q \cap A) = 2$ , and  $\text{tr.deg.}(B/A) = 0$ , we see that  $\text{tr.deg.}(B/Q)/(A/(Q \cap A)) = 1$ , and since  $B/Q$  is finitely generated over the field  $A/(Q \cap A)$ ,  $B/Q$  has infinitely many maximal ideals. So  $Q$  is contained in infinitely many maximal ideals of  $B$ , i.e., the closure  $G(Q)$  is infinite. But for each maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $R$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}A[1/f] \cap B$  is also a height-one prime with infinite closure.

Finally, to see that the height-one primes  $Q$  of  $\text{Spec}(B)$  with infinite closure need not be comaximal, we provide an example: Let  $R$  be a discrete rank-one valuation domain with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m} = aR$ , let  $f = y$ , and let  $B = A[a/y]$ . Now  $yB$  and  $(a/y)B$  are height-one primes with infinite closures (since  $B/yB \cong B/(a/y)B \cong (R/\mathfrak{m})[t]$ ); but they are not comaximal, because  $(y, a/y)B$  is a proper ideal of  $B$ . This completes the proof of Proposition 3.1.

The example in the last paragraph is somewhat special. We remark that even under the following hypotheses, it is possible that  $B$  has exactly two height-one primes with infinite closure, and these two primes are comaximal: Let  $R$  be a DVR with  $\mathfrak{m} = aR$ ,  $A = R[y]$ ,  $fA$  a height-one prime ideal of  $A$  such that  $fA \cap R = (0)$ ,  $g \in A - fA$  (so that  $A < A[g/f]$ ) such that  $(f, g)A < A$  (so that  $A[g/f] < A[1/f]$ ), and  $B = A[g/f]$ . One such example is obtained by setting  $f = y^2 + a^3$  and  $g = y$ . The two height-one primes of  $B$  with infinite closure are  $\mathfrak{m}B[1/f] \cap B$  and  $(a, y)B$ ; the former contains  $a^3/(y^2 + a^3)$ , and the latter  $y$ , so they are comaximal.

We close this section with two questions suggested by the axiom systems  $CZ(n)P$  and  $CHP$ .

*Questions.* 1. If  $R$  is not Henselian and  $\mathcal{M}$  is a finite set of height-two maximals of  $B$ , is there a height-one prime  $P$  of  $B$  for which  $\mathcal{M} = G(P)$  (i.e.,  $\mathcal{M}$  is precisely the set of maximal ideals of  $B$  that contain  $P$ )? We remark that if  $R$  is Henselian and  $P$  is a height-one prime of  $B$  distinct from the finitely many minimal primes of  $\mathfrak{m}B$ , then  $P$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal of  $B$ . Therefore, if  $R$  is Henselian, then there exist such sets  $\mathcal{M}$  for which there is no corresponding  $P$ .

2. Given a set  $\mathcal{M}$  such that  $\mathcal{M} = G(P)$  for one height-one prime  $P$  in  $B$ , are there infinitely many  $P$  for which  $\mathcal{M} = G(P)$ ?

#### 4. Spectra of parameter blowups of two-dimensional local domains.

Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a two-dimensional Cohen-Macaulay local domain and let  $x, y$  be a system of parameters for  $R$ , i.e., the ideal  $(x, y)R$  is primary for the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $R$ . In this section we examine the “blowup” of the ideal  $(x, y)R$ , to see how many of the axioms above it satisfies.

We consider first an affine piece  $A = R[y/x]$  of the blowup, and we refer to the axiom systems  $CZ(1)P$  and  $CHP$  (Definitions 1.2 and 1.3 above). Since  $x, y$  form a regular sequence, the kernel of the  $R$ -algebra homomorphism of the polynomial ring  $R[t] \rightarrow A$  defined by  $t \mapsto y/x$  is the principal ideal  $(xt - y)R[t]$ , which is contained in  $\mathfrak{m}R[t]$ , a height-two prime ideal of  $R[t]$ ; so  $\mathfrak{m}A$  is a height-one prime ideal of  $A$ . Moreover,  $A/\mathfrak{m}A \cong (R/\mathfrak{m})[t]$ , a polynomial ring in one indeterminate over the residue field of  $R$ . Thus, the maximal ideals of  $A$  containing  $\mathfrak{m}A$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the maximal ideals of this polynomial ring; in particular, there are infinitely many height-two maximal ideals of  $A$  containing  $\mathfrak{m}A$ . On the other hand, for any height-one prime  $Q$  of  $A$  distinct from  $\mathfrak{m}A$ ,  $Q \cap R = P$  is a height-one prime in  $R$ ; since the ideal  $(xt - y)R[t]$  is not contained in  $PR[t]$ , the image of  $y/x$  in  $A/Q$  is algebraic over  $R/P$ , and since this image generates  $A/Q$  over  $R/P$ ,  $A/Q$  is a semilocal Noetherian domain of dimension at most one. Therefore,  $\text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies axiom (P5) of either  $CHP$  or  $CZ(1)P$  in [HW]. Also, axioms (P1) and (P2) clearly hold for  $\text{Spec}(A)$ , as does (P0) if  $R$  is assumed to be countable. Let us observe that there are infinitely many height-one maximal ideals in  $A$ : No two of the elements  $x - y^{n+1}$ , as  $n$  varies over the natural numbers, are in the same height-one prime of  $R$ ; if  $P$  is a minimal prime of such an element, then since  $x \notin P$ ,  $A \subseteq R_P$  and  $PR_P \cap A = Q$  is maximal in  $A$  (since in  $A/Q$  the image of  $y/x$  is the inverse of the image of  $y^n$ , an element in the maximal ideal of  $R/P$ ). Thus, (P3) also holds. To see (P4), all that remains to show is that every height-two maximal  $N$  of  $A$  meets  $R$  in  $\mathfrak{m}$ ; so assume that for some  $N$ ,  $N \cap R = P$  has height one. Then the ring of fractions of  $A$  with respect to the complement of  $P$  in  $R$  lies between the one-dimensional Noetherian domain  $R_P$  and its field of fractions, so its dimension is at most one; but  $N$  survives in this ring of fractions, a contradiction.

Let  $Q$  be a height-one prime of  $A$  other than  $\mathfrak{m}A$ , and set  $P = Q \cap R$ . If  $R/P$  is Henselian, then  $A/Q$  is algebraic over a one-dimensional Henselian local domain and hence is local (cf. [HW, pp. 577–8]). Thus,  $Q$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal of  $A$ . Suppose that  $R/P$  is Henselian for each height-one prime  $P$  of  $R$ ; then each height-one prime of  $A$  other than  $\mathfrak{m}A$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal. If  $N$  is a height-two maximal of  $A$ , then  $N$  is the union of the height-one primes contained in it. Since each of these height-one primes other than  $\mathfrak{m}A$  is contained in no maximal ideal except  $N$ , we see that  $\text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies axiom (P6) of  $CHP$ .

Thus we have shown:

**4.1 Proposition.** *Let  $R$  be a two-dimensional Cohen–Macaulay local domain,  $x, y$  be a system of parameters of  $R$ , and  $A = R[y/x]$ . Then  $\text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies axioms (P1)–(P5) of [HW]. If  $R$  is countable and, for each height-one prime  $P$  of  $R$ ,  $R/P$  is Henselian, then  $\text{Spec}(A)$  is  $CHP$ .*

It is shown in [AHW] that the hypotheses in Proposition 4.1, including the assumption that  $R/P$  is Henselian for each height-one prime  $P$ , do not imply that  $R$  is Henselian.

So we turn our attention to the case where some  $R/P$  is not Henselian, and try to prove (P6) of  $CZ(1)P$ . An example relevant to our situation here is the

following. Let  $k$  be a field and let  $x, y$  be indeterminates over  $k$ . Let  $R$  be the ring  $k[y(y-1), y^2(y-1)][[x]]$  localized at the maximal ideal generated by  $y(y-1), y^2(y-1)$ , and  $x$ . Let  $f = (x - y^2(y-1))/(y(y-1))$ , let  $A = R[f]$ , and let  $P$  be the height-one prime of  $R$  generated by  $x$ . Then  $A \subseteq R_P$ . Let  $Q = PR_P \cap A$ . Since the image of  $f$  in  $A/Q$  is the same as that of  $y$  and since adjoining this element to  $R/P \cong k[y(y-1), y^2(y-1)]_{(y(y-1), y^2(y-1))}$  gives a ring with two maximal ideals, we see that  $Q$  is contained in precisely two maximal ideals of  $A$ . Note that if  $P'$  is a height-one prime of  $R$  that is distinct from  $P$ , then  $R/P'$  is complete and therefore Henselian. Therefore, if  $Q'$  is a height-one prime of  $A$  distinct from both  $Q$  and  $\mathfrak{m}A$ , then as we observed above  $Q'$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal of  $A$ . Therefore in this example  $\text{Spec}(A)$  is neither  $CHP$  nor  $CZ(1)P$ . So it is natural to ask:

*Question.* If for each height-one prime  $P$  of  $R$  the ring  $R/P$  is not Henselian, does it follow that  $\text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies  $CZ(1)P$ ?

We can provide a first step toward a proof of (P6) of  $CZ(1)P$ : For each maximal ideal  $N$  of height two of  $A$  we show that there exists a height-one prime  $Q$  contained in  $N$  and not contained in any other maximal ideal of  $A$ : If  $N$  is a height-two maximal ideal in  $A$ , then as we saw above,  $\mathfrak{m} = N \cap R$ . Further above we noted that  $A/\mathfrak{m}A$  may be identified with the polynomial ring  $(R/\mathfrak{m})[t]$ , where  $t$  is the image of  $y/x$ . Hence  $N = (\mathfrak{m}, f)A$ , where the image  $\bar{f}$  of  $f$  in  $(R/\mathfrak{m})[t]$  is a monic irreducible polynomial. If  $\bar{f} = \bar{r}_0 + \bar{r}_1 t + \dots + t^n$  for  $r_i \in R$ , and we set  $f = r_0 + r_1(y/x) + \dots + (y/x)^n$ , then  $N$  is the unique height-two prime of  $A$  that contains  $f$ . It follows that there exists a height-one prime  $Q$  of  $A$  contained in  $N$  having the property that  $N$  is the unique maximal ideal of  $A$  containing  $Q$ : Take  $Q$  to be a minimal prime of the principal ideal  $fA$ .

It seems plausible that, given a height-two maximal ideal  $N$  in  $A$ , we can find infinitely many height-one primes  $Q$  contained in  $N$  but not in any other maximal ideal of  $A$ . But we wonder whether for every finite set of height-two maximal ideals of  $A$  there exists a height-one prime  $Q$  of  $A$  that is contained in precisely this set of maximal ideals. In certain examples this is the case. For instance, let  $x, y$  be indeterminates over a field  $k$ , and set  $R = k[x, y]_{(x, y)}$  and  $A = R[y/x]$ . Then using the fact that  $A$  is a ring of fractions of  $k[x]_{(x)}[y/x]$ , we see by Section 2 that  $\text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies  $CZ(1)P$ .

Now let us consider the entire blowup of the ideal  $I = (x, y)R$ , i.e.,  $X = \text{Proj}(T)$ , where  $T = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} I^n$  is the Rees algebra of  $I$ ; and refer to the axiom systems  $\mathbf{PCZ}(1)P$  and  $\mathbf{PCHP}$ . Since  $X$  is also the union of its affine pieces  $\text{Spec}(R[y/x])$  and  $\text{Spec}(R[x/y])$ , Proposition 4.1 provides some of the answers immediately: If  $R$  is countable, then so is  $X$ . The poset  $X$  has a unique minimal element and dimension two. Every height-two point of  $X$  contains the extension of the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $R$ , and there are infinitely many height-two points. For a height-one element  $P$  of  $X$  distinct from the extension of the maximal ideal of  $R$ ,  $G(P)$  is finite.

To show that  $X$  satisfies (P3), it suffices to show that if  $P$  is a height-one prime of  $R$ , then at least one of the rings  $R[y/x], R[x/y]$  is contained in  $R_P$ , and the center of  $R_P$  on at least one of these rings is not a maximal ideal. If  $x \in P$ , then  $y \notin P$ , so  $R[x/y] \subseteq R_P$ , and the center of  $R_P$  on  $R[x/y]$  is properly contained in  $(\mathfrak{m}, x/y)R[x/y]$ . So we may assume that  $x, y \notin P$ , and hence both  $R[y/x]$  and  $R[x/y]$  are contained in  $R_P$ . Assume by way of contradiction that the center of  $R_P$

on each ring is maximal, and let  $z$  denote the image of  $y/x$  in  $R_P/PR_P$ . Then the images  $(R/P)[z]$  and  $(R/P)[1/z]$  of  $R[y/x]$  and  $R[x/y]$  are both the field  $R_P/PR_P$ , so their intersection is again  $R_P/PR_P$ . But either  $z$  or  $1/z$  is in every valuation ring between  $R/P$  and its field of fractions  $R_P/PR_P$ , so  $(R/P)[z] \cap (R/P)[1/z]$  is integral over the one-dimensional domain  $R/P$ , the desired contradiction.

Suppose that for each height-one prime  $P$  of  $R$ ,  $R/P$  is Henselian. Then as we saw above, a height-one element of  $\text{Spec}(R[y/x])$  distinct from the extension of  $\mathfrak{m}$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal. So the first sentence of (P6) of **PCHP** can fail for  $X$  only if there is a height-one prime  $P$  of  $R$  such that both  $R[y/x]$  and  $R[x/y]$  are contained in  $R_P$  and the center of  $R_P$  on  $R[y/x]$  is properly contained in a maximal ideal that is lost in  $R[x/y]$  and vice versa. Let  $P$  be a height-one of  $R$  such that both  $R[y/x]$  and  $R[x/y]$  are contained in  $R_P$  and the center of  $R_P$  on each is nonmaximal. Again let  $z$  denote the image of  $y/x$  in  $R_P/PR_P$ . Then  $(R/P)[z]$  and  $(R/P)[1/z]$  are both properly contained in the field of fractions  $R_P/PR_P$  of  $R/P$ . Since  $R/P$  is one-dimensional and Henselian, both  $z$  and  $1/z$  are integral over  $R/P$ , so  $(R/P)[z] = (R/P)[1/z]$  (cf. for example [N, (10.5)]). Therefore the height-two point in  $\text{Spec}(R[y/x])$  containing  $P$  is the same point of  $X$  as the one in  $\text{Spec}(R[x/y])$ . The second sentence of (P6) of **PCHP** also follows, because a height-two maximal of  $R[y/x]$  is the union of the height-one primes in it.

Thus we have shown:

**4.2 Proposition.** *Let  $R$  be a two-dimensional Cohen–Macaulay local domain,  $x, y$  be a system of parameters of  $R$ ,  $I = (x, y)R$ , and  $T = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} I^n$ . Then the blowup  $\text{Proj}(T)$  of  $I$  satisfies axioms (P1)–(P5) of **PCZ(1)P** or **PCHP**. If  $R$  is countable and, for each height-one prime  $P$  of  $R$ ,  $R/P$  is Henselian, then  $\text{Proj}(T)$  is **PCHP**.*

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