Beiträge zur Algebra und Geometrie
Contributions to Algebra and Geometry
Volume 50 (2009), No. 2, 363-368.

On Armendariz Rings

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Abstract. In this work, we construct a class of Armendariz rings and a class of non-Armendariz rings. For this we study the transfer of the Armendariz property to trivial ring extension and direct product. The article includes a brief discussion of the scope and precision of our results.

Keywords: Armendariz ring, Gaussian ring, trivial ring extension, direct product

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper all rings are assumed to be commutative with identity elements and all modules are unital.

Let R be a commutative ring. The content $C(f)$ of a polynomial $f \in R[X]$ is the ideal of R generated by all coefficients of f. One of its properties is that $C(.)$ is semi-multiplicative, that is $C(fg) \subseteq C(f)C(g)$; and a polynomial $f \in R[X]$ is said to be Gaussian over R if $C(fg) = C(f)C(g)$, for every polynomial $g \in R[X]$. A polynomial $f \in R[X]$ is Gaussian provided $C(f)$ is locally principal by [8, Remark 1.1]. A ring R is said a Gaussian ring if $C(fg) = C(f)C(g)$ for any polynomials f, g with coefficients in R. A domain is Gaussian if and only if it is a Prüfer domain. See for instance [1], [3], [6], [8].

A ring R is called an Armendariz ring if whenever polynomials $f = \sum_{i=0}^{m} a_i X^i$ and $g = \sum_{i=0}^{n} b_i X^i \in R[X]$ satisfy $fg = 0$, we have $C(f)C(g) = 0$ (that is $a_i b_j = 0$ for every i and j). It is easy to see that subrings of Armendariz rings are also Armendariz. E. Armendariz ([2, Lemma 1]) noted that any reduced ring (i.e., ring without non-zero nilpotent elements) is an Armendariz ring. Also, D. D. Anderson and V. Camillo ([1]) show that a ring R is Gaussian if and only if every homomorphic image of R is Armendariz. See for instance [1], [2], [11], [12].

Let A be a ring, E be an A-module and $R := A \propto E$ be the set of pairs (a, e) with pairwise addition and multiplication given by $(a, e)(b, f) = (ab, af + be)$. R is called the trivial ring extension of A by E. Considerable work has been concerned with trivial ring extensions. Part of it has been summarized in Glaz's book [5] and Huckaba's book (where R is called the idealization of E by A) [9]. See for instance [5], [9], [10].

The goal of this work is to exhibit a class of Armendariz rings and a class of non-Armendariz rings. For this purpose, we study the transfer of the Armendariz property to trivial ring extension and direct product.

2. Main results

This section develops a result of the transfer of the Armendariz property for a particular context of trivial ring extensions. And so, we will construct a new class of Armendariz rings (with zero-divisors).

First, we examine the context of trivial ring extension of a local ring (A, M) by an A-module E such that $ME = 0$. Remark that this ring is a total ring by the proof of [10, Theorem 2.6 (1)].

Theorem 2.1. *Let (A, M) be a local ring, E an A-module such that $ME = 0$, and let $R := A \propto E$ be the trivial ring extension of A by E. Then, R is an Armendariz ring if and only if A is it too.*

Proof. If R is an Armendariz ring, then so is A since A is a subring of R.

Conversely, assume that A is an Armendariz ring. Let $f = \sum_{i=0}^{n}(a_i, e_i)X^i$ and $g = \sum_{i=0}^{m}(b_i, f_i)X^i$ be two polynomials in $R[X]$ such that $fg = 0$, where n and m are positive integers. Two cases are then possible.

Case 1. $a_i \notin M$ for some $i = 0, \dots, n$. In this case, a_i is invertible in A and then (a_i, e_i) is invertible in R. Hence, $C_R(f) = R$ and f is a Gaussian polynomial (by [8, Remark 1.1]) and so $C_R(f)C_R(g) = C_R(fg) = 0$ as desired.

Case 2. $a_i \in M$ for each $i = 0, \dots, n$. Two cases are then possible:

∗ If there exists $b_j \notin M$ for some $j = 0, \dots, m$, then by Case 1, g is a Gaussian polynomial and then $C_R(f)C_R(g) = C_R(fg) = 0$ as desired.

∗ If $b_j \in M$ for each $j = 0, \dots, m$, we set the two polynomials of $A[X]$: $f_A = \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_iX^i$ and $g_A = \sum_{i=0}^{m} b_iX^i$. We have $f_Ag_A = 0$ since $fg = 0$. Hence, $C_A(f_A)$ $C_A(g_A) = 0$ since A is an Armendariz ring. But $C(f)C(g) = (C_A(f_A)C_A(g_A), 0)$

since $a_i, b_j \in M$ for each $i = 0, \dots, n$ and for each $j = 0, \dots, m$ and $ME = 0$. Therefore, $C(f)C(g) = 0$ and this completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.

By Theorem 2.1 and since each domain is Armendariz, we have:

Corollary 2.2. *Let (A, M) be a local domain, E an A-module such that $ME = 0$. Then the trivial ring extension $R := A \propto E$ of A by E is an Armendariz ring.*

Next, we explore the Armendariz property to the trivial ring extension of the form $R := A \propto B$, where $A \subseteq B$ is an extension of domains.

Theorem 2.3. *Let $A \subseteq B$ be two domains. Then the trivial ring extension $R := A \propto B$ of A by B is an Armendariz ring.*

Proof. Let $f = \sum_{i=0}^{n} (a_i, e_i)X^i$ and $g = \sum_{i=0}^{m} (b_i, f_i)X^i$ be two non-zero polynomials in $R[X]$ such that $fg = 0$, where n and m are positive integers. Set $f_A = \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i X^i$ and $g_A = \sum_{i=0}^{m} b_i X^i$. We have $f_A g_A = 0$ (since $fg = 0$) and so $f_A = 0$ or $g_A = 0$ (since A is a domain). We can assume that $f_A = 0$, that is $a_i = 0$ for each $i = 0, \dots, n$ (the case $g_A = 0$ is similar).

Set $f_B = \sum_{i=0}^{m} e_i X^i \in B[X]$. Notice that $f_B \neq 0$ since $f \neq 0$ and $f_A = 0$. We have $f_B g_A = 0 \in B[X]$ (since $fg = 0$) and so $g_A = 0$ (since B is a domain and $f_B \neq 0$). Therefore, $C_R(f) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} R(0, e_i)X^i$ and $C_R(g) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} R(0, f_i)X^i$ and so $C_R(f)C_R(f) = 0$ as desired.

The next two examples prove that the condition A and B are domains in Theorem 2.3 is necessary even if A is Armendariz and $B = A$.

Example 2.4. Let K be a field, $A = K \propto K$ be the trivial ring extension of K by K, and let $R = A \propto A$ be the trivial ring extension of A by A. Then:

1) A is an Armendariz ring.

2) R is not an Armendariz ring.

Proof. 1) The ring A is Gaussian by [3, Example 2.3 (1.b)]. In particular, A is an Armendariz ring.

2) Our aim is to show that R is not Armendariz. Let $f = ((0,1),(0,0)) + ((0,0),(1,0))X$ and $g = ((0,1),(0,0)) + ((0,0),(-1,0))X$ be two polynomials in $R[X]$. We easily check that $fg = 0$ and $C(f)C(g) = [R((0,1),(0,0)) + R((0,0),(1,0))][R((0,1),(0,0)) + R((0,0),(-1,0))] = R((0,0),(0,1)) \neq 0$, as desired.

Example 2.5. Let $R := \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z} \propto \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$ be the trivial ring extension of $\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$ by $\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$. Then:

1) $\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$ is an Armendariz ring by [12, Theorem 2.2].
2) $R := \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z} \propto \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$ is not an Armendariz ring by [12, Example 3.2].

Now, we will construct a wide class of rings satisfying the Armendariz property. For this, we study the transfer of this property to direct product.

Theorem 2.6. *Let $(R_i)_{i=1,\dots,n}$ be a family of rings. Then $\prod_{i=1}^{n} R_i$ is an Armendariz ring if and only if so is R_i for each $i = 1, \dots, n$.*

Proof. We will prove the result for $i = 1, 2$, and the theorem will be established by induction on n.

Assume that $R_1 \times R_2$ is an Armendariz ring. We show that R_1 is an Armendariz ring (it is the same for R_2).

Let $f = \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i X^i$ and $g = \sum_{i=0}^{m} b_i X^i$ be two polynomials in $R_1[X]$ such that $fg = 0$, where n and m are positive integers. Set $f_1 = \sum_{i=0}^{n} (a_i, 0) X^i$ and $g_1 = \sum_{i=0}^{m} (b_i, 0) X^i$ $(\in (R_1 \times R_2)[X])$. We have $f_1 g_1 = (fg, 0) = (0, 0)$. Hence, $C_{R_1 \times R_2}(f_1) C_{R_1 \times R_2}(g_1) = 0$ since $R_1 \times R_2$ is an Armendariz ring.

But $C_{R_1 \times R_2}(f_1) C_{R_1 \times R_2}(g_1) = (C_{R_1}(f) C_{R_1}(g), 0)$. Therefore, $C_{R_1}(f) C_{R_1}(g) = 0$ and this shows that R_1 is an Armendariz ring.

Conversely, assume that R_1 and R_2 are Armendariz rings. Let $f = \sum_{i=0}^{n} (a_i, e_i) X^i$ and $g = \sum_{i=0}^{m} (b_i, f_i) X^i$ be two polynomials in $(R_1 \times R_2)[X]$ such that $fg = 0$, where n and m are positive integers. Set $f_1 = \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i X^i \in R_1[X]$, $f_2 = \sum_{i=0}^{n} e_i X^i \in R_2[X]$, $g_1 = \sum_{i=0}^{m} b_i X^i \in R_1[X]$ and $g_2 = \sum_{i=0}^{m} f_i X^i \in R_2[X]$. We have $0 = fg = (f_1 g_1, f_2 g_2)$ which implies that $f_1 g_1 = 0$ and $f_2 g_2 = 0$. Hence $C_{R_1}(f_1) C_{R_1}(g_1) = 0$ and $C_{R_2}(f_2) C_{R_2}(g_2) = 0$ since R_1 and R_2 are Armendariz rings. But $C_{R_1 \times R_2}(f) C_{R_1 \times R_2}(g) = (C_{R_1}(f_1) C_{R_1}(g_1), C_{R_2}(f_2) C_{R_2}(g_2))$. Therefore, $C_{R_1 \times R_2}(f) C_{R_1 \times R_2}(g) = 0$ and this completes the proof of Theorem 2.4.

By Theorem 2.6 and since each domain is Armendariz, we have:

Corollary 2.7. *Let $(R_i)_{i=1,\dots,n}$ be a family of domains. Then $\prod_{i=1}^{n} R_i$ is an Armendariz ring.*

Now, we study the localization of Armendariz ring.

Theorem 2.8. *Let R be a ring. Then:*

1) *Assume that R is an Armendariz ring and S is a multiplicative subset of R. Then $S^{-1}R$ is an Armendariz ring.*
2) *A ring R is Armendariz if and only if R_M is Armendariz for each maximal ideal M of R.*

Proof. 1) Without loss of generality, we may consider the polynomials of the form $S^{-1}f$ and $S^{-1}g$ where $f = \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i X^i$ and $g = \sum_{i=0}^{m} b_i X^i \in R[X]$, such that $S^{-1}(f)S^{-1}(g) = 0$. Hence, there exists $t \in S$ such that $tfg = 0$ and so $tC_R(f)C_R(g) = C_R(tf)C_R(g) = 0$ since R is Armendariz. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{S^{-1}R}(S^{-1}f)C_{S^{-1}R}(S^{-1}g) &= S^{-1}(C_R(f))S^{-1}(C_R(g)) \\ &= S^{-1}[C_R(f)C_R(g)] \\ &= S^{-1}[tC_R(f)C_R(g)] \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $S^{-1}R$ is an Armendariz ring.

2) If R is Armendariz, then so is R_M for each maximal ideal M of R by 1).

Conversely, assume that R_M is Armendariz for each maximal ideal M and let $f, g \in R[X]$ such that $fg = 0$. Then $C(fg)_M = 0$ and so $[C(f)C(g)]_M (= C(f)_M C(g)_M) = 0$ for each maximal ideal M since R_M is Armendariz. Therefore, $C(f)C(g) = 0$ as desired.

By Theorem 2.8 and since each domain is Armendariz, we have:

Corollary 2.9. *A locally domain is an Armendariz ring.*

Remark 2.10. Let R be a non-Prüfer domain. Then R is an Armendariz ring which is not Gaussian. Hence, there exists an ideal I of R such that R/I is not an Armendariz ring by [1]. This shows that the homomorphic image of an Armendariz ring is not necessarily an Armendariz ring.

Acknowledgements. The authors would like to express their sincere thanks for the referee for his/her helpful suggestions.

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Received September 4, 2007