

## 2-ABSORBING IDEALS IN FORMAL POWER SERIES RINGS

Malek Achraf, Hamed Ahmed and Benhissi Ali

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**Abstract** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity. A proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is said to be 2-absorbing if whenever  $x_1x_2x_3 \in I$  for  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in R$ , then there are 2 of the  $x_i$ 's whose product is in  $I$ . In this paper, we prove that if  $R$  is a Noetherian ring, then for every proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal if and only if  $I[[X]]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal in the formal power series ring  $R[[X]]$ .

### 1 Introduction

All rings considered in this paper are commutative and unitary. Let  $R$  be a commutative and unitary ring and  $P$  a proper ideal of  $R$ . We say that  $P$  is a prime ideal if for all  $a, b \in R$  such that  $ab \in P$ , we have  $a \in P$  or  $b \in P$ . Prime ideals are very important for the study of commutative rings. Many generalizations of prime ideals were introduced like weakly prime ideals [8],  $n$ -absorbing ideals [1] and strongly prime ideals. In [2], Badawi generalized the concept of prime ideals as follows, a proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is a 2-absorbing ideal if whenever  $x_1x_2x_3 \in I$ , for  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in R$ , then there are 2 of the  $x_i$ 's whose product is in  $I$ . Additionally, Badawi introduces a generalization of primary ideals in [4]. For more references about 2-absorbing ideals see [6], [7] and [3]. In [1], D. F. Anderson and A. Badawi asked the question: If  $I$  is an  $n$ -absorbing ideal of  $R$ , is  $I[X]$  an  $n$ -absorbing ideal of the polynomial ring  $R[X]$ ? For  $n = 2$ , they showed that  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal if and only if  $I[X]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R[X]$ , see ([Theorem 4.15, [1] or [Corollary 1.7, [9]]). It is natural to think about these results in the formal power series ring. In this paper, we show that in a Noetherian ring  $R$ ,  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal if and only if  $I[[X]]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of the formal power series ring  $R[[X]]$ .

### 2 2-absorbing ideals

**Definition 2.1.** A proper ideal  $I$  of a ring  $R$  is said to be  $n$ -absorbing if whenever  $x_1 \cdots x_{n+1} \in I$  for  $x_1, \dots, x_{n+1} \in R$ , then there are  $n$  of the  $x_i$ 's whose product is in  $I$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $I$  be an ideal of a Noetherian ring  $R$ . Then

- (i)  $I[[X]] = IR[[X]]$ .
- (ii)  $\sqrt{I[[X]]} = \sqrt{I}[[X]]$ .

*Proof.* (i) See [Corollary 2.2.3, [5]].

- (ii) " $\subseteq$ " Since for all  $P \in \text{spec}(R)$  with  $I \subseteq P$ , we have  $I[[X]] \subseteq P[[X]]$  then,  $\sqrt{I[[X]]} \subseteq P[[X]]$ . Thus  $\sqrt{I[[X]]} \subseteq \bigcap_{I \subseteq P} P[[X]] = (\bigcap_{I \subseteq P} P)[[X]] = \sqrt{I}[[X]]$ .

" $\supseteq$ " We have  $I \subseteq I[[X]]$ , so  $\sqrt{I} \subseteq \sqrt{I[[X]]}$ . Thus  $\sqrt{I}R[[X]] \subseteq \sqrt{I[[X]]}$ . Since  $R$  is Noetherian, so  $\sqrt{I}R[[X]] = \sqrt{I}[[X]]$  by (1). Hence the result. □

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $I$  be a 2-absorbing ideal of a Noetherian ring  $R$  and  $f = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i X^i \in \sqrt{I}[[X]]$ .

Then,

$$\bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)R[[X]] = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)[[X]] = (I : a_t)[[X]] \text{ for some } t \in \mathbb{N}.$$

*Proof.* (i) If  $\sqrt{I} = I$ , then  $f \in \sqrt{I}[[X]] = I[[X]]$ . Thus,  $(I : a_n) = R \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . So,

$$\left(\bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)\right)R[[X]] = R[[X]] = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)[[X]].$$

(ii) If  $\sqrt{I} \neq I$ , then set  $H := \{(I : a_n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . If  $a_n \in I$ , then  $(I : a_n) = R$ . Otherwise, for all  $a_n, a_m \in \sqrt{I} \setminus I$ , either  $(I : a_n) \subseteq (I : a_m)$  or  $(I : a_m) \subseteq (I : a_n) \forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  by [Theorem.2.5, [2]] and [Theorem.2.6, [2]]. Thus  $H$  is a nonempty totally ordered set of ideals of  $R$ . Since  $R$  is Noetherian, then  $H$  has a minimal element, and since  $H$  is totally ordered, this element is the smallest element. Hence  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n) = (I : a_t)$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . □

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $I$  be a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R$  and  $p, q$  two prime ideals of  $R$ .

(i) If  $\sqrt{I} = p$ , then  $(I :_R x)$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R$  for all  $x \in R \setminus p$  with  $\sqrt{(I :_R x)} = p$  and  $S = \{(I :_R x) \mid x \in R\}$  is a totally ordered set.

(ii) If  $\sqrt{I} = p \cap q$ , then  $(I :_R x)$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R$ , for all  $x \in R \setminus p \cup q$  with  $\sqrt{(I :_R x)} = p \cap q$  and  $S = \{(I :_R x) \mid x \in R \setminus p \cup q\}$  is a totally ordered set.

*Proof.* See [Theorem.1.4, [9]]. □

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $I$  be a 2-absorbing ideal of a Noetherian ring  $R$  and  $f(X) = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i X^i \in R[[X]]$ .

(i) If  $f(X) \in \sqrt{I}[[X]] \setminus I[[X]]$ , then  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I :_R a_t)R[[X]]$  for some  $t \geq 0$  and is a prime ideal of  $R[[X]]$ .

(ii) If  $f(X) \notin \sqrt{I}[[X]]$ , then either  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I :_R a_t)R[[X]]$  for some  $t \geq 0$  or  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = P[[X]] \cap Q[[X]]$ , where  $P$  and  $Q$  are two prime ideals of  $R$ .

*Proof.* (i) Suppose that  $f(X) \in \sqrt{I}[[X]] \setminus I[[X]]$ . First, we show that  $\bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]] =$

$$(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)). \text{ Let } g(X) = \sum_{j \geq 0} b_j X^j \in \bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]]. \text{ Then for all } i, j \in \mathbb{N}, b_j a_i \in$$

$$I. \text{ Thus } f(X)g(X) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}\right) X^n \in I[[X]]. \text{ So } \bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]] \subseteq (I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)).$$

Conversely, let  $g(X) \in (I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X))$ . We have  $g(X)f(X) \in I[[X]]$ . So

it is clear that  $b_0 \in (I : a_0)$ . Let  $n \geq 1$  and suppose that  $b_0 \in \bigcap_{k=0}^{n-1} (I : a_k)$ . We show that

$$b_0 \in \bigcap_{k=0}^n (I : a_k). \text{ We have } c_n := \sum_{k=0}^n b_k a_{n-k} \in I. \text{ Then } b_0 c_n = b_0^2 a_n + b_0 b_1 a_{n-1} + \dots +$$

$b_0 a_0 b_n \in I$ . Thus  $b_0^2 a_n \in I$  and hence  $b_0^2 \in (I : a_n)$ . We have  $f \in \sqrt{I}[[X]] = \sqrt{I}[[X]]$  by Lemma 2.2. So  $a_n \in \sqrt{I}$ . If  $a_n \in I$ , then  $(I : a_n) = R$ . Otherwise,  $a_n \in \sqrt{I} \setminus I$  and then  $(I : a_n)$  is prime by [Theorem.2.5, [2]] or [Theorem.2.6, [2]]. Hence  $b_0 \in (I : a_n)$ . So  $b_0 \in (I : a_n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now, let  $k \geq 1$  and suppose that  $b_0, \dots, b_{k-1} \in (I : a_n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We prove that  $b_k \in (I : a_n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For  $n = 0$ ,  $b_k c_k = b_k b_0 a_k + b_k b_1 a_{k-1} + \dots + b_k^2 a_0 \in I$ . Thus  $b_k^2 a_0 \in I$ . This means that  $b_k^2 \in (I : a_0)$ , so  $b_k \in (I : a_0)$  since  $(I : a_0)$  prime for  $a_0 \in \sqrt{I} \setminus I$ . Let  $n \geq 1$ . Suppose that  $b_k \in (I : a_i), \forall i \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ . We prove that  $b_k \in (I : a_n)$ . We have  $c_{k+n} = a_0 b_{k+n} + a_1 b_{k+n-1} + \dots + a_n b_k + a_{n+1} b_{k-1} + \dots + a_{k+n} b_0$ . So  $b_k c_{k+n} = b_k a_0 b_{k+n} + b_k a_1 b_{k+n-1} + \dots + a_n b_k^2 + b_k a_{n+1} b_{k-1} + \dots + b_k a_{k+n} b_0$ . Then  $a_n b_k^2 \in I$

and thus  $b_k^2 \in (I : a_n)$ . So  $b_k \in (I : a_n)$  since  $(I : a_n)$  is prime for  $a_n \in \sqrt{I} \setminus I$ . Hence  $b_k \in (I : a_n) \forall k \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow b_k \in \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Therefore  $g(X) \in \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)[[X]]$ .

Thus,

$$(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)R[[X]] = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)[[X]].$$

Now we show that  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I :_R a_t)R[[X]]$  for some  $t \geq 0$  and is a prime ideal of  $R[[X]]$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n) = (I : a_t)$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . So

$(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I : a_t)R[[X]] = (I : a_t)[[X]]$  is prime because  $(I : a_t)$  is prime for  $a_t \in \sqrt{I} \setminus I$  by [Theorem.2.8, [2]] and [Theorem.2.9, [2]].

(ii) Suppose that  $f(X) \notin \sqrt{I[[X]]}$ . First, we show that  $\bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]] = (I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X))$ .

Let  $g(X) = \sum_{j \geq 0} b_j X^j \in \bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]]$ . Then for all  $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $b_j a_i \in I$ . Thus

$$f(X)g(X) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k} \right) X^n \in I[[X]]. \text{ So } \bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]] \subseteq (I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)).$$

Conversely, let  $g(X) \in (I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X))$ . We have  $g(X)f(X) \in I[[X]]$ . We show that  $b_k \in (I : a_0) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

a. If  $a_0 \in \sqrt{I}$ .

i. If  $\sqrt{I} = P$ , then  $f(X)g(X) \in I[[X]] \subseteq \sqrt{I}[[X]] = P[[X]]$ . Since  $f(X) \notin P[[X]]$  then  $g(X) \in P[[X]]$ . Thus  $a_0 b_k \in P^2 \subseteq I \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$  by [Theorem.2.4, [2]].

ii. If  $\sqrt{I} = P \cap Q$ , then  $f(X) \notin P[[X]]$  or  $f(X) \notin Q[[X]]$  since  $f(X) \notin \sqrt{I}[[X]] = (P \cap Q)[[X]] = P[[X]] \cap Q[[X]]$ . Note first that if  $f(X) \notin P[[X]] \cup Q[[X]]$ , then  $g(X) \in P[[X]] \cap Q[[X]] = (P \cap Q)[[X]]$  since  $f(X)g(X) \in P[[X]] \cap Q[[X]]$ . Thus  $b_k \in P \cap Q = \sqrt{I} \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence  $b_k a_0 \in PQ \subseteq I$  by [Theorem.2.4, [2]]. So  $b_k \in (I : a_0) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ . On the other hand, if  $f(X) \in P[[X]]$  and  $f(X) \notin Q[[X]]$ , then  $g(X) \in Q[[X]]$  since  $f(X)g(X) \in Q[[X]]$ . Thus  $b_k \in (I : a_0) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$  since  $b_k a_0 \in QP \subseteq I$  by [Theorem.2.4, [2]].

b. If  $a_0 \notin \sqrt{I}$ . We have  $f(X)g(X) \in I[[X]]$  then  $b_0 a_0 \in I$ . Let  $k \geq 1$ , suppose that  $b_0, \dots, b_{k-1} \in (I : a_0)$ . We have  $c_k = a_0 b_k + \dots + a_k b_0$ . Thus,  $a_0 c_k = a_0^2 b_k + a_0 a_1 b_{k-1} + \dots + a_0 a_k b_0 \in I$ . Then  $a_0^2 b_k \in I$ . Hence  $a_0^2 \in I$  or  $a_0 b_k \in I$  since  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal. If  $a_0^2 \in I$ , then  $a_0 \in \sqrt{I}$  absurd. So  $a_0 b_k \in I$ .

Now we prove that  $b_k \in (I : a_n) \forall k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have already shown that  $b_k \in (I : a_0) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . We suppose that  $b_k \in (I : a_m) \forall 0 \leq m \leq n - 1, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$  and we prove that  $b_k \in (I : a_n) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Indeed, for  $k = 0$ , we have  $c_n = a_0 b_n + \dots + a_n b_0 \in I$ . Thus  $b_0 a_n \in I$ . Let  $k \geq 1$ . Suppose that  $b_r \in (I : a_n) \forall 1 \leq r \leq k - 1$ . We show that  $b_k \in (I : a_n)$ . we do the same proof of  $a_0$  to  $a_n$ .

a. If  $a_n \in \sqrt{I}$ .

i. If  $\sqrt{I} = P$ , then  $a_n b_k \in P^2 \subseteq I$  (as for  $a_0$ ).

ii. If  $\sqrt{I} = P \cap Q$ , then  $a_n b_k \in PQ \subseteq I$ .

b. If  $a_n \notin \sqrt{I}$ . We have  $a_n c_{n+k} = a_n a_0 b_{n+k} + a_n a_1 b_{n+k-1} + \dots + a_n a_{n-1} b_{k+1} + a_n^2 b_k + a_n a_{n+1} b_{k-1} + \dots + a_n a_{n+k} b_0 \in I$ . Thus  $a_n^2 b_k \in I$ . Hence  $b_k \in (I : a_n)$  since  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal and  $a_n \notin \sqrt{I}$ .

Thus  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = \bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]]$ . Now we are ready to show that either  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I :_R a_t)R[[X]]$  for some  $t \geq 0$  or  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = P[[X]] \cap Q[[X]]$ , where  $P$  and  $Q$  are two prime ideals of  $R$ .

(i) If  $\sqrt{I} = P$ , then the set  $\{(I : a_n) / a_n \in R\}$  is totally ordered by Lemma 2.4. Since  $R$  is Noetherian we deduce that  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n) = (I : a_t)$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . So  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I : a_t)R[[X]]$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ .

(ii) If  $\sqrt{I} = P \cap Q$ .

a. If there exists  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_t \notin P \cup Q$ , then  $\{(I : a_t) / a_t \notin P \cup Q\}$  is totally ordered and  $\sqrt{(I : a_t)} = P \cap Q$  by Lemma 2.4. Thus  $(I : a_t) \subseteq \sqrt{(I : a_t)} = P \cap Q$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $a_t \notin P \cup Q$ . If there exists  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $a_t \in P$  or  $Q$ , for example if  $a_t \in P$ , then  $Q \subseteq (I : a_t)$  because  $\forall x \in Q, xa_t \in QP \subseteq I$  by [Theorem.2.4, [2]]. By the same way if  $a_t \in Q$ , then  $P \subseteq (I : a_t)$ . Hence  $\forall t_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $a_{t_0} \notin P \cup Q$  we have  $(I : a_{t_0}) \subseteq \sqrt{(I : a_{t_0})} = P \cap Q \subseteq Q \subseteq (I : a_t) \forall a_t \in P$  and  $(I : a_{t_0}) \subseteq \sqrt{(I : a_{t_0})} = P \cap Q \subseteq P \subseteq (I : a_t) \forall a_t \in Q$ . So if there exists  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $a_t \notin P \cup Q$  we have  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n) = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)$  where  $a_n \notin P \cup Q$ . So

$$\bigcap_{n \geq 0} (I : a_n)R[[X]] = (I : a_t)R[[X]] \text{ for some } t \in \mathbb{N} \text{ since these ideals are comparable}$$

by Lemma 2.4 (2) and  $R$  is Noetherian.

b. If  $a_t \in P \cup Q \forall t \in \mathbb{N}$ . Remark that  $(I : a_t) = Q$  (resp.  $(I : a_t) = P$ ) for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $a_t \in P \setminus Q$  (resp.  $a_t \in Q \setminus P$ ). Indeed,  $xa_t \in PQ \subseteq I \forall x \in Q$ . So  $Q \subseteq (I : a_t)$ . On the other hand, if  $xa_t \in I \subseteq \sqrt{I} = P \cap Q$ , then  $xa_t \in Q$ . Thus  $x \in Q$ . The same way for  $(I : a_t) = P$ . We have  $f(X) \notin \sqrt{I}[[X]] = (P \cap Q)[[X]]$ . Thus there exists  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_t \in P \setminus Q$  or  $a_t \in Q \setminus P$ . So for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $a_i \in P \cap Q = \sqrt{I}$  we have  $(I : a_t) = Q \subseteq (I : a_i)$  with  $a_t \in P \setminus Q$  and in the same way we have  $(I : a_t) = P \subseteq (I : a_i)$  with  $a_t \in Q \setminus P$  by [Theorem.2.4, [2]]. Thus  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = \bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]] = \bigcap_{i \geq 0} (I : a_i)[[X]]$  with  $a_i \in P \setminus Q$  or  $a_i \in Q \setminus P$ .

i. If there exists  $t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_{t_1} \in P \setminus Q$  and  $a_{t_2} \in Q \setminus P$  then  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (P \cap Q)R[[X]] = (P \cap Q)[[X]] = P[[X]] \cap Q[[X]]$ .

ii. If for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$   $a_t \in P \setminus Q$  (resp.  $Q \setminus P$ ), then  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I : a_t)R[[X]] = QR[[X]] = Q[[X]]$  (resp.  $PR[[X]] = P[[X]]$ ).

□

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $I$  be a proper ideal of a Noetherian ring  $R$ . Then,  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R$  if and only if  $I[[X]]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R[[X]]$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $I[[X]]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R[[X]]$ . Since  $I = I[[X]] \cap R$  hence  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R$ . Conversely, suppose that  $I$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R$ . We show that  $I[[X]]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R[[X]]$ .

(i) If  $\sqrt{I} = I$ , then  $\sqrt{I[[X]]} = \sqrt{I}[[X]] = I[[X]]$  but  $I$  is 2-absorbing so  $\sqrt{I} = P$  or  $\sqrt{I} = P \cap Q$  hence  $I[[X]] = P[[X]]$  or  $I[[X]] = (P \cap Q)[[X]] = P[[X]] \cap Q[[X]]$  therefore  $I[[X]]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R[[X]]$ .

(ii) If  $\sqrt{I} \neq I$ , then  $\sqrt{I[[X]]} \neq I[[X]]$ . For all  $f(x) \in \sqrt{I[[X]]} \setminus I[[X]]$  we have  $(I[[X]] :_{R[[X]]} f(X)) = (I : a_t)R[[X]]$  for some  $t \geq 0$  is a prime ideal of  $R[[X]]$  by Theorem 2.5 (1). Thus,  $I[[X]]$  is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $R[[X]]$  by [Theorem.2.8, [2]] and [Theorem.2.9, [2]].

□

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### Author information

Malek Achraf, Hamed Ahmed and Benhissi Ali, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Sciences, Monastir, Tunisia.

E-mail: [achraf\\_malek@yahoo.fr](mailto:achraf_malek@yahoo.fr), [hamed.ahmed@hotmail.fr](mailto:hamed.ahmed@hotmail.fr), [ali\\_benhissi@yahoo.fr](mailto:ali_benhissi@yahoo.fr)

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