

THE SET OF TRACE IDEALS OF CURVE SINGULARITIES

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ABSTRACT

We investigate a problem of when commutative local domains have a finite number of trace ideals. The problem is left for the case of dimension one. In this paper, with a necessary assumption, we give a complete answer by using integrally closed ideals. We also explore properties of such domains related to birational extensions, reflexive ideals, and reflexive Ulrich modules. Special attention is given in the case of numerical semigroup rings of non-gap four. We then obtain a criterion for a ring to have a finite number of reflexive ideals up to isomorphism. Non-domains arising from fiber products are also explored.

1. Introduction

Classification of ideals is one of the most classical problems in commutative ring theory. It has been studied at least since the works of Dedekind on rings of algebraic numbers. For a (one-dimensional) Dedekind domain, its ideal class

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group classifies the isomorphism classes of ideals. If a ring is not a Dedekind domain, the situation becomes more complicated. One of the reasons may originate from the fact that classification of ideals relates to representations of the ring in a one-dimensional local ring. Actually, the result by Greuel and Knörrer [11] shows that a one-dimensional Cohen–Macaulay local ring satisfying some mild assumptions has a finite number of isomorphism classes of ideals exactly when it is of finite representation type (see also [22, Theorem 4.13]). Here we say that a one-dimensional local ring is of **finite representation type** if it has only finitely many torsion-free modules up to isomorphism (this definition is not the usual one, but equivalent to it under our assumption; see [22] for details). More generally, for some special class \mathcal{X} of ideals/module, the finiteness problem, that is, the problem of when does \mathcal{X} have only finitely many elements up to isomorphism, is well considered. One can find references, for example, [2, 7] and references therein.

In this paper, we study isomorphism classes of ideals in rings which are not necessarily of finite representation type. We then focus on trace ideals for this study. Let us recall their definition to explain our motivation and results more precisely. Let R be a commutative Noetherian local ring. The **trace ideal** of an R -module M is defined to be the ideal

$$\mathrm{tr}_R(M) = \sum_{f \in \mathrm{Hom}_R(M, R)} \mathrm{Im} f.$$

Then an ideal I in R is called a **trace ideal** if $I = \mathrm{tr}_R(M)$ for some R -module M . While the notion of trace ideals has long been used as a technical tool in commutative algebra, it itself has gained new attention in recent years [6, 8, 16, 20, 23]. We should also mention the recent use of trace ideals to develop the theory of rings which are close to Gorenstein [5, 12, 14].

One of the advantages in studying trace ideals can be explained by a simple fact: if I and J are distinct trace ideals of a ring R , then they are non-isomorphic (see [16, Corollary 1.2(a)] for example). By this fact, to see how many non-isomorphic trace ideals there are, we only need to know what is the set of trace ideals. We should mention a previous study [9] on the set of trace ideals. As a particular question, the following is raised naturally and explored in several papers:

Question 1.1 ([8, Question 3.7], [7, Question 7.16(1)], [16, 21]): When does a Noetherian local ring have a finite number of trace ideals?

In [21], the second author proved that if a local domain R has a finite number of trace ideals, then $\dim R \leq 1$ and R is analytically unramified ([21, Lemma 2.4 and Theorem 2.6]). In the case of dimension one, it is also proven that analytically irreducible Arf local domains have a finite number of trace ideals ([21, Corollary 5.5]). Here we refer to the paragraph before Corollary 3.10 for the definition of Arf rings. Note that the notion of Arf rings originates from a classification of certain singular points of plane curves ([24]). We also remark that, under some suitable assumptions, a Gorenstein local ring of dimension one has a finite number of trace ideals if and only if it is a ring of finite representation type [7, 16]. However, other than Arf rings and rings of finite representation type, only few examples of rings having a finite number of trace ideals are known.

Due to the previous results, we mainly deal with analytically irreducible local domains of dimension one. Then our first aim is to give a complete answer to Question 1.1 by assuming some mild conditions. Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be analytically irreducible local domains of dimension one. Then the integral closure \overline{R} of R in the total ring of fraction $Q(R)$ of R is finitely generated as an R -module and a local ring. Suppose that the canonical map $k \rightarrow \overline{R}/\mathfrak{n}$, where \mathfrak{n} is the maximal ideal of \overline{R} , is an isomorphism (for instance, this is fulfilled if k is algebraically closed). Let $\mathfrak{c} = R : \overline{R}$ denote the **conductor** of R , where the colon is considered in $Q(R)$. Set $n = \ell_R(R/(R : \overline{R}))$, where $\ell_R(*)$ denotes the length. Let $v(x)$ denote the **value** of $x \in Q(R)$. For $0 \leq i \leq n$, there exists a unique integrally closed ideal I_i such that $\ell_R(R/I_i) = i$ (see Setup 3.1). Let

$$\mathsf{T}(R) = \{\text{nonzero trace ideals of a domain } R\}.$$

With these notations and assumptions, we obtain a criterion for a ring to have a finite number of trace ideals. Note that for an ideal I , choosing $q \in I$ such that $v(q) = \min\{v(x) \mid x \in I\}$ is equivalent to saying that (q) is a minimal reduction of I .

THEOREM 1.2 (Theorems 3.8 and 4.1): *Let $n = \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c}) \geq 3$. If k is infinite, then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $\mathsf{T}(R)$ is a finite set.
- (2) All nonzero trace ideals are integrally closed ideals and contain the conductor \mathfrak{c} , that is, $\mathsf{T}(R) = \{I_i \mid 0 \leq i \leq n\}$.
- (3) For each $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$, there exists $q_i \in R$ such that

$$v(q_i) = \min\{v(x) \mid x \in I_i\} \quad \text{and} \quad I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2}.$$

If R is a numerical semigroup ring $k[[H]]$ of a numerical semigroup

$$H = \{a_0 = 0 < a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_n < a_{n+1} < a_{n+2} < \cdots\} \subseteq \mathbb{N},$$

then the following is also equivalent to the above conditions.

$$(4) \quad a_j + a_{i+1} - a_i \in H \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, n-2\} \text{ and } j \in \{i+2, \dots, n\}.$$

As a corollary, we obtain that $T(R)$ is a finite set and equal to the set of integrally closed ideals if $n = \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c}) \leq 3$ (Corollary 3.9). Furthermore, we see that there are abundant examples of rings having a finite number of trace ideals other than Arf rings (Examples 4.3 and 4.4). It is also observed that the finiteness of $T(R)$ is inherited by that of $T(I_i : I_i)$ (Theorem 3.11). This can be regarded as an analogue of a characterization of Arf rings by Lipman ([24, Theorem 2.2]).

By using Theorem 1.2, we also try to understand the set $\text{Ref}(R)$ of isomorphism classes of reflexive modules over a ring R . Here, an R -module M is called *reflexive* if the canonical homomorphism $M \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(\text{Hom}_R(M, R), R)$ is an isomorphism. We remark that reflexive modules play an important role in representation theory of Cohen–Macaulay rings. We refer to [7] for a brief history of the study of reflexive modules. In this context, it is natural to ask when $\text{Ref}(R)$ is a finite set. In this paper, we mainly restrict our attention to reflexive modules of rank one, that is, reflexive ideals. Such a restriction is inspired by the following theorem given by Dao, Maitra, and Sridhar.

THEOREM 1.3 ([7, Propositions 7.3 and 7.9]): *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be a Cohen–Macaulay local ring of dimension one. Assume R is almost Gorenstein, contains \mathbb{Q} , and k is algebraically closed. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $\text{Ref}(R)$ is a finite set.
- (2) R has a finite number of reflexive ideals up to isomorphism.
- (3) $T(R)$ is a finite set.

We also note that if R is Arf, then $\text{Ref}(R)$ is a finite set ([18, Theorem 3.5] and [4, Corollary 3.5]).

As a consequence of Theorem 1.2, we deduce that under the same assumption as in Theorem 1.2, R has only finitely many reflexive ideals up to isomorphism (Theorem 6.2) provided that $T(R)$ is a finite set. In particular, we verify the implication (3) \Rightarrow (2) of Theorem 1.3 by assuming that R is a domain instead of that R is almost Gorenstein.

Special attention is given in the case of $n = 4$. By observing Theorem 1.2, we see that all rings R have a finite number of trace ideals if $n \leq 3$. On the other hand, it is also known that all rings R have a finite number of reflexive ideals if $n \leq 3$ ([7, Theorem 6.8]). Hence, the case of $n = 4$ is the next step to study the relation between trace ideals and reflexive ideals. In conclusion, we determine conditions under which a numerical semigroup ring has finite reflexive ideals up to isomorphism for $n = 4$, as follows.

THEOREM 1.4 (Theorem 7.1): *Let $R = k[[H]]$ be a numerical semigroup ring of a numerical semigroup*

$$H = \{a_0 = 0 < a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_n < a_{n+1} < a_{n+2} < \cdots\} \subseteq \mathbb{N},$$

where k is a field. Suppose that $n = 4$ and k is infinite. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) R has a finite number of reflexive ideals up to isomorphism.
- (2) R has a finite number of reflexive trace ideals.
- (3) All reflexive ideals are isomorphic to some monomial ideal containing the conductor \mathfrak{c} .
- (4) Either one of the following holds true:
 - (i) $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 \geq a_4$, that is, $T(R)$ is finite.
 - (ii) $2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$.

As a corollary, we obtain examples of a ring which has infinitely many trace ideals, but has a finite number of reflexive ideals (Example 7.6). Note that such examples do not exist when the rings are assumed to be Arf or almost Gorenstein.

Let us explain how we organize this paper. In Section 2, we note several lemmas, which we use throughout this paper. In particular, we study an equality $IJ = qJ$ for ideals I, J and $q \in I$. Recall that this equality is used to characterize the finiteness of trace ideals in Theorem 1.2(3). We also note that the condition $IJ = qJ$ is saying that J is I -Ulrich in [7, Definition 4.1]. In Section 3, we prove Theorem 1.2. In Section 4, we apply Theorem 1.2 to numerical semigroup rings, and give examples.

The subject of Section 5 is a little different from that of the other sections. According to our results, the case of analytically irreducible domains is well-explored. However, the case of non-domains is left open. Thus, in Section 5, we examine the set of trace ideals of fiber products as a trial run. We describe

the set of trace ideals containing a non-zerodivisor of fiber product $R_1 \times_k R_2$ by those of R_1 and R_2 (Theorem 5.1). Section 6 comes back to the main focus of this paper. We prove that for each ring R having finite trace ideals, R has a finite number of reflexive ideals up to isomorphism. We also investigate reflexive Ulrich modules under similar assumptions. In Section 7 we prove Theorem 1.4.

Convention 1.5: In the rest of this paper, all rings are commutative Noetherian rings with identity. Let R be a ring. Then, $Q(R)$ and \overline{R} denote the total ring of the fraction of R and the integral closure of R , respectively. We denote by R^\times the set of units of R .

We say that I is a *fractional ideal* if I is a finitely generated R -submodule of $Q(R)$ containing a non-zerodivisor of R . For fractional ideals I and J , we denote by $I : J$ the fractional ideal $\{x \in Q(R) \mid xJ \subseteq I\}$. It is known that an isomorphism $I : J \cong \text{Hom}_R(J, I)$ is given by the correspondence $x \mapsto \hat{x}$, where \hat{x} denotes the multiplication map of $x \in I : J$ (see [15, Lemma 2.1]). We say that an ideal I is **regular** if I contains a non-zerodivisor of R . For a finitely generated R -module M , $\ell_R(M)$ (resp. $\mu_R(M)$, $e(M)$) denotes the length of M (resp. the number of minimal generators of M , the multiplicity of M). Set

$$\mathsf{T}(R) = \{\text{regular trace ideals of } R\}.$$

Note that $\mathsf{T}(R)$ is precisely the set of nonzero trace ideals if R is a domain. In addition, if \overline{R} is finitely generated as an R -module, then $\mathfrak{c} = R : \overline{R}$ denotes the **conductor** of R .

2. Preliminaries

Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a Cohen–Macaulay local ring of dimension one. The aim of this section is to prepare several lemmas, which are used from the next section onward.

LEMMA 2.1 ([9, Corollary 2.2]): *Let I be a regular ideal of R . The following are equivalent:*

- (1) I is a trace ideal.
- (2) $(R : I)I = I$.
- (3) $R : I = I : I$.

LEMMA 2.2: *Let I and J be regular trace ideals of R such that $I \subseteq J$. Then, $J : J \subseteq I : I$. In particular, $(J : J)I = I$.*

Proof. Since $I \subseteq J$, we have $J : J = R : J \subseteq R : I = I : I$ by Lemma 2.1. By noting that $R \subseteq J : J$, we have $I \subseteq (J : J)I \subseteq (I : I)I = I$. ■

Next we consider an equality $IJ = qJ$, where I and J are regular ideals of R and $q \in I$. Such an equality plays a key role in our characterization of the finiteness of the set of regular trace ideals given in the next section (see Theorem 3.8). We also note that the condition $IJ = qJ$ is saying that J is I -Ulrich in [7, Definition 4.1].

LEMMA 2.3: *Let I and J be regular ideals of R and $q \in I$ is a non-zerodivisor of R . Then $J : I \subseteq q^{-1}J$. Furthermore, $J : I = q^{-1}J$ if and only if $IJ = qJ$. In particular, $I : I \subseteq q^{-1}I$, and $I : I = q^{-1}I$ if and only if $I^2 = qI$.*

Proof. Let $x \in J : I$. Then $qx \in Ix \subseteq J$. It follows that $x \in q^{-1}J$. Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} q^{-1}J = J : I &\iff q^{-1}J \subseteq J : I \iff q^{-1}IJ \subseteq I \\ &\iff IJ \subseteq qI \iff IJ = qI. \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 2.4: *Let I and J be regular ideals of R . Suppose that there exists an element $q \in I$ of R such that $IJ = qJ$. Then for each regular trace ideal L with $L \subseteq \text{tr}_R(J)$, an equality $IL = qL$ holds.*

Proof. Note that q is a non-zerodivisor of R since IJ is a regular ideal and $IJ = qJ \subseteq (q)$. Consider the evaluation map

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ev} : (R : J) \otimes_R J &\rightarrow \text{tr}_R(J), \\ x \otimes y &\mapsto xy, \end{aligned}$$

where $x \in R : J$ and $y \in J$. It induces a surjection $J^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \text{tr}_R(J)$ for some n . Tensoring $R/(q)$, we have a surjection $(J/qJ)^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \text{tr}_R(J)/q \text{tr}_R(J)$. Since $IJ = qJ$, J/qJ is annihilated by I . Hence, $I \text{tr}_R(J)/q \text{tr}_R(J) = 0$, that is, $I \text{tr}_R(J) = q \text{tr}_R(J)$.

Let L be a regular trace ideal L with $L \subseteq \text{tr}_R(J)$. Note that $I \text{tr}_R(J) = q \text{tr}_R(J)$ implies $q^{-1}I \subseteq \text{tr}_R(J) : \text{tr}_R(J)$. Then, we obtain that

$$q^{-1}I \subseteq \text{tr}_R(J) : \text{tr}_R(J) \subseteq L : L$$

by Lemma 2.2. It follows that $q^{-1}IL \subseteq L$; hence, $IL = qL$. ■

Next we give a correspondence between certain subsets of $\text{T}(R)$ and $\text{T}(I : I)$ for a pair of ideals I and J with $IJ = qJ$.

PROPOSITION 2.5: *Let I be a regular trace ideal of R , and let J be a regular ideal of R with $J \subseteq I$. Suppose that there exists an element $q \in I$ such that $IJ = qJ$. Then*

$$\{X \in T(I : I) \mid X \subseteq J : I\} = \{q^{-1}Y \mid Y \in T(R) \text{ such that } Y \subseteq J\}.$$

Proof. Set $S := I : I$. Note that $q^{-1}J = J : I \subseteq S$ by Lemma 2.3.

(\supseteq): Let $Y \in T(R)$ such that $Y \subseteq J$. Then $q^{-1}Y \subseteq q^{-1}J \subseteq S$. On the other hand, since $Y \subseteq I$, $q^{-1}YS = q^{-1}Y$ by Lemma 2.2. Hence, $q^{-1}Y$ is an ideal of S . Check the equalities

$$\begin{aligned} (S : q^{-1}Y)q^{-1}Y &= [(R : I) : q^{-1}Y]q^{-1}Y \\ &= (R : q^{-1}IY)q^{-1}Y = (R : Y)q^{-1}Y = q^{-1}Y, \end{aligned}$$

where the third equality follows from $IY = qY$ by Lemma 2.4. It follows that $q^{-1}Y \in T(S)$. By Lemma 2.4 again, $I(q^{-1}Y) = Y \subseteq J$. Thus, $q^{-1}Y \subseteq J : I$.

(\subseteq): Let $X \in T(S)$ such that $X \subseteq J : I$. Then

$$IX = I(S : X)X = I[(R : I) : X]X = (R : IX)IX.$$

This means that $IX \in T(R)$. Since $X \subseteq J : I$, $q^{-1}IX \subseteq q^{-1}J \subseteq S$. Hence, $q^{-1}I \subseteq S : X = X : X$. It follows that $q^{-1}IX \subseteq X$. Therefore, we obtain that $X = q^{-1}IX$. ■

We have some applications of Proposition 2.5. First we deal with the case of $I = J$. Then we obtain the following description of $T(I : I)$.

COROLLARY 2.6: *Let I be a regular trace ideal of R . Assume that there exists an element $q \in I$ such that $I^2 = qI$. Then*

$$T(I : I) = \{q^{-1}Y \mid Y \in T(R) \text{ such that } Y \subseteq I\}.$$

Proof. We may apply Proposition 2.5 by letting $J = I$. ■

Next we consider the case of $\ell_R(I/J) = 2$. If $I : I$ is local, then we get a description of $T(I : I)$ similar to Corollary 2.6. Before stating it, we prepare a lemma.

LEMMA 2.7: *Let I, J be regular trace ideals of R such that $J \subseteq I$ and $\ell_R(I/J) = 2$. Assume that $I : I$ is a local ring, and there exists an element $q \in I \setminus J$ such that $IJ = qJ$ and $I^2 \neq qI$. Then the maximal ideal of $I : I$ is $q^{-1}J$.*

Proof. Set $S := I : I$. By our assumption, we have $q^{-1}IJ = J \subseteq I$. It follows by Lemma 2.3 that

$$q^{-1}J \subsetneq S \subsetneq q^{-1}I.$$

Here the first inequality follows by observing $1 \in S \setminus q^{-1}J$. By noting that $\ell_R(q^{-1}I/q^{-1}J) = \ell_R(I/J) = 2$, we obtain that $\ell_R(S/q^{-1}J) = 1$. On the other hand, $q^{-1}J$ is an ideal of S by Lemma 2.2. Hence,

$$0 < \ell_S(S/q^{-1}J) \leq \ell_R(S/q^{-1}J) = 1.$$

This shows that $q^{-1}J$ is the maximal ideal of S . ■

COROLLARY 2.8: *Let I, J be nonzero trace ideals of R such that $J \subseteq I$ and $\ell_R(I/J) = 2$. Assume that $I : I$ is a local ring, and there exists an element $q \in I \setminus J$ such that $IJ = qJ$ and $I^2 \neq qI$. Then*

$$T(I : I) = \{q^{-1}Y \mid Y \in T(R) \text{ such that } Y \subseteq J\} \cup \{I : I\}.$$

Proof. Since $I : I$ is a local ring with the maximal ideal $q^{-1}J$, it follows that $T(I : I) = \{X \in T(I : I) \mid X \subseteq q^{-1}J\} \cup \{I : I\}$. Note that $q^{-1}J \subseteq J : I \subsetneq I : I$. So, applying Proposition 2.5, we see the equality

$$\{X \in T(I : I) \mid X \subseteq q^{-1}J\} = \{q^{-1}Y \mid Y \in T(R) \text{ such that } Y \subseteq J\}. \quad \blacksquare$$

3. Trace ideals of curve singularities

In this section, let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be an analytically irreducible local domain of dimension one, that is, \overline{R} is finitely generated as an R -module and \overline{R} is a local ring (hence, \overline{R} is a discrete valuation ring). We assume that the canonical map $k \rightarrow \overline{R}/\mathfrak{n}$, where \mathfrak{n} is the maximal ideal of \overline{R} , is an isomorphism (e.g., k is an algebraically closed field or R is a numerical semigroup ring). With this assumption, we investigate the structure of $T(R)$. We use the following notations:

- Setup 3.1:*
- (1) $v: Q(R) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \cup \{\infty\}$ denotes the **normalized valuation** associated to \overline{R} .
 - (2) $v(R) = \{v(r) \mid 0 \neq r \in R\}$ denotes the **value semigroup** of R . Set $H = v(R)$.
 - (3) We write $H = \{a_0 = 0 < a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < a_{n+1} < a_{n+2} < \dots\}$. Note that there exists an integer n such that $a_{n+i} = a_n + i$ for all $i \geq 0$. We choose such n as small as possible.

In addition, let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{T}(R) &= \{\text{regular trace ideals of } R\} \quad \text{as in the previous section, and} \\ \mathsf{I}(R) &= \{\text{integrally closed ideals of } R \text{ containing } \mathfrak{c}\}. \end{aligned}$$

By letting $I_i := \{r \in R \mid v(r) \geq a_i\}$ for all $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$, we obtain that

$$\mathsf{I}(R) = \{I_i \mid i = 0, \dots, n\}$$

([17, Proposition 6.8.4]). Note that $I_0 = R$, $I_1 = \mathfrak{m}$, and $I_n = \mathfrak{c}$.

Remark 3.2: (1) Let $r \in R$ be an element such that $v(r) = a_i$, where $0 \leq i \leq n$. Then the equality $I_i = (r) + I_{i+1}$ holds. In particular, $\ell_R(I_i/I_{i+1}) = 1$.

(2) The integer n appearing in Setup 3.1 (3) is equal to $\ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c})$. Indeed, we have equalities $n = \ell_R(R/I_1) + \ell_R(I_1/I_2) + \dots + \ell_R(I_{n-1}/I_n) = \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c})$.

Fact 3.3: (1) ([16, Proposition 2.2]): Let I be a regular trace ideal of R . Then, I contains \mathfrak{c} .

(2) ([3, Theorem 1]): $\mathsf{I}(R)$ is a subset of $\mathsf{T}(R)$.

(3) ([7, Theorem 6.8]): If $n = 2$, then $\mathsf{T}(R) = \{R, \mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{c}\} = \mathsf{I}(R)$.

On the basis of the above facts, we aim to explore the finiteness of $\mathsf{T}(R)$. Let us start with the following technical proposition.

PROPOSITION 3.4: *Let $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) *For any element $r \in R$ with $v(r) = a_i$, the equality $I_i I_{i+2} = r I_{i+2}$ holds.*
- (2) *There exists an element $q \in R$ such that $v(q) = a_i$ and the equality $I_i I_{i+2} = q I_{i+2}$ holds.*

Assume $i \leq n - 3$ and $s \in R$ is an element such that $v(s) = a_{i+1}$ and $I_{i+1} I_{i+3} = s I_{i+3}$. Then the following is also equivalent to both of the above conditions.

- (3) *There exists an element $q \in R$ such that $v(q) = a_i$ and the inclusion $s I_{i+2} \subseteq (q)$ holds.*

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2): This is obvious.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Let $r \in R$ with $v(r) = a_i$. We first prove the following claim.

CLAIM 1: $I_{i+1} I_j \subseteq (r)$ for all $i + 2 \leq j \leq n$.

Proof of Claim 1. We prove Claim 1 by descending induction on j . If $j = n$, then $r^{-1}I_{i+1}I_n \subseteq \{x \in Q(R) \mid v(x) \geq a_n\} = \mathfrak{c}$; hence,

$$I_{i+1}I_n \subseteq r\mathfrak{c} \subseteq (r).$$

Suppose that $j < n$ and $I_{i+1}I_{j+1} \subseteq (r)$. By noting that

$$q^{-1}I_{i+1}I_j \subseteq q^{-1}I_iI_{i+2} = I_{i+2} \subseteq R,$$

where the equality follows from the assumption (2), we obtain that

$$q^{-1}I_{i+1}I_j \subseteq R \cap \{x \in Q(R) \mid v(x) \geq a_j + (a_{i+1} - a_i)\} \subseteq I_{j+1}.$$

This means $I_{i+1}I_j \subseteq qI_{j+1}$. Choose a unit $u \in R^\times$ such that $q - ur \in I_{i+1}$. Then $I_{i+1}I_j \subseteq qI_{j+1} \subseteq urI_{j+1} + I_{i+1}I_{j+1}$. By the induction hypothesis, $I_{i+1}I_{j+1} \subseteq (r)$. Hence we get $I_{i+1}I_j \subseteq (r)$. Thus we may proceed with the induction. ■

By Claim 1, we obtain that $I_{i+1}I_{i+2} \subseteq (r)$. Remembering that $I_i = (r) + I_{i+1}$, it follows that

$$r^{-1}I_iI_{i+2} \subseteq R \cap \{x \in Q(R) \mid v(x) \geq a_{i+2}\} = I_{i+2},$$

that is, $I_iI_{i+2} = rI_{i+2}$.

Now assume $i \leq n - 3$ and $s \in R$ is an element such that $v(s) = a_{i+1}$ and $I_{i+1}I_{i+3} = sI_{i+3}$. The implication (2) \Rightarrow (3) is clear. We consider the reverse direction (3) \Rightarrow (2). Our assumption (3) says

$$q^{-1}sI_{i+2} \subseteq R \cap \{x \in Q(R) \mid v(x) \geq a_{i+3}\} = I_{i+3}.$$

On the other hand, we see inclusions

$$q^{-1}I_{i+2}I_{i+2} = s^{-1}I_{i+2}(q^{-1}sI_{i+2}) \subseteq s^{-1}I_{i+2}I_{i+3} \subseteq I_{i+3}.$$

Here the last inclusion follows by the assumption on s . Hence, we have inclusions $I_{i+2}I_{i+2}, sI_{i+2} \subseteq qI_{i+3}$. Remembering $I_i = (q) + (s) + I_{i+2}$, we get

$$I_iI_{i+2} = qI_{i+2} + sI_{i+2} + I_{i+2}I_{i+2} = qI_{i+2}. \quad \blacksquare$$

LEMMA 3.5: *When $i = n - 1$ or $i = n$, the equality $I_i^2 = q_iI_i$ holds, where $q_i \in I_i$ such that $v(q_i) = a_i$. (Thus, I_i is stable in the sense of [23].)*

Proof. This is clear if $i = n$. Assume that $i = n - 1$. Since $I_{n-1} = (q_{n-1}) + I_n$, we only need to check $I_n^2 \subseteq q_{n-1}I_{n-1}$. Since

$$q_{n-1}^{-1}I_n^2 \subseteq \{x \in Q(R) \mid v(x) \geq 2a_n - a_{n-1} (\geq a_n)\} \subseteq I_n \subseteq I_{n-1},$$

we see the inclusion $I_n^2 \subseteq q_{n-1}I_{n-1}$. ■

Let $n \geq 4$, and fix an integer i such that $1 \leq i \leq n - 3$. Fix elements $q, q' \in R$ such that $v(q) = a_i$ and $v(q') = a_{i+1}$. For each $\alpha \in R$, we set

$$J_\alpha^{(i)} := (q + \alpha q') + I_{i+2}.$$

Although the ideal above depends on the choice of q and q' (not only on i and α), we use this notation to avoid complications. The following proposition shows that $J_\alpha^{(i)}$ are trace ideals.

PROPOSITION 3.6: *Assume that $I_i I_{i+2} \neq q I_{i+2}$ and $I_{i+1} I_{i+3} = q' I_{i+3}$. Then the following hold true.*

- (1) For each $\alpha \in R$, $J_\alpha^{(i)} \in \mathbf{T}(R)$.
- (2) If $\alpha - \beta \notin \mathfrak{m}$, then $J_\alpha^{(i)} \not\subseteq J_\beta^{(i)}$.
- (3) If k is infinite, then $\mathbf{T}(R)$ is an infinite set.

Proof. Set $f := q + \alpha q'$.

(1): Let $g \in R : J_\alpha^{(i)}$. It is enough to prove that $g \in J_\alpha^{(i)} : J_\alpha^{(i)}$ (see Lemma 2.1). Since $\mathfrak{c} = I_n \subseteq J_\alpha^{(i)}$, $g \in R : \mathfrak{c} = \overline{R}$. Hence, we can write $g = u + h$, where $h \in \overline{R}$ with $v(h) \geq 1$ and either $u = 0$ or $u \in R^\times$. Indeed, if $v(g) > 0$, then we can choose u as 0 and h as g . If $v(g) = 0$, then there exists $u \in R$ such that $g - u \in \mathfrak{n}$ since $k \cong \overline{R}/\mathfrak{n}$. That is, $v(g - u) > 0$. Thus, we can define h as $g - u$. By noting that $u \in R$ and $g \in R : J_\alpha^{(i)}$, we have $h \in R : J_\alpha^{(i)}$. Moreover, to show $g \in J_\alpha^{(i)} : J_\alpha^{(i)}$, it is enough to check $h \in J_\alpha^{(i)} : J_\alpha^{(i)}$. We may assume $h \neq 0$.

Observe that $h \in R : J_\alpha^{(i)} \subseteq R : I_{i+2}$, and so $h I_{i+2} \subseteq (R : I_{i+2}) I_{i+2} = I_{i+2}$. Since $v(h) \geq 1$, we can obtain a more strict inclusion $h I_{i+2} \subseteq I_{i+3}$. As $f \in J_\alpha^{(i)}$, we have $h f \in R$. Thus $v(h) + a_i = v(fh) \in H$. Since $v(h) \geq 1$, this implies that either $v(h) + a_i = a_{i+1}$ or $v(h) + a_i \geq a_{i+2}$. Suppose $v(h) + a_i = a_{i+1}$. Then $v(fh) = v(f) + v(h) = a_{i+1}$; hence, $I_{i+1} I_{i+3} = fh I_{i+3}$ by Proposition 3.4. On the other hand, $fh I_{i+2} = f(h I_{i+2}) \subseteq f I_{i+3}$. By Proposition 3.4(3) \Rightarrow (1) with $q = f$ and $s = fh$, we reach an equality $I_i I_{i+2} = q I_{i+2}$. This contradicts our assumption. It follows that $v(h) + a_i \geq a_{i+2}$.

Hence,

$$h f \in R \cap \{x \in Q(R) \mid v(x) \geq a_{i+2}\} = I_{i+2} \subseteq J_\alpha^{(i)}.$$

By combining this inclusion with the inclusion $h I_{i+2} \subseteq I_{i+3} \subseteq J_\alpha^{(i)}$, we obtain the desired inclusion $h J_\alpha^{(i)} \subseteq J_\alpha^{(i)}$. Therefore, we conclude that $J_\alpha^{(i)}$ is a trace ideal of R .

(2): Suppose that $\alpha - \beta \notin \mathfrak{m}$ and $J_\alpha^{(i)} \supseteq J_\beta^{(i)}$. Then

$$(\alpha - \beta)q' = (q + \alpha q') - (q + \beta q') \in J_\alpha^{(i)}.$$

By noting that $\alpha - \beta$ is a unit of R , $q' \in J_\alpha^{(i)}$. This means that there exists $x \in R$ and $y \in I_{i+2}$ such that $q' = xf + y$ (note that $f = q + \alpha q'$). Since $v(q') = a_{i+1}$, we have $v(q' - y) = a_{i+1}$. It follows that

$$I_{i+1}I_{i+3} = (q' - y)I_{i+3}$$

by Proposition 3.4. On the other hand, since $q' - y = xf$, we can also observe that $(q' - y)I_{i+2} = xfI_{i+2} \subseteq (f)$. Thus, by Proposition 3.4(3) \Rightarrow (1), we get $I_iI_{i+2} = qI_{i+2}$. This contradicts our assumption.

(3): By (1) and (2), any pair of nonzero distinct representatives α and β of the residue field $k = R/\mathfrak{m}$ provides distinct trace ideals $J_\alpha^{(i)}$ and $J_\beta^{(i)}$. Hence, there are trace ideals more than the cardinality of k . ■

COROLLARY 3.7: *Let $n \geq 4$. Assume there exists $1 \leq i \leq n - 3$ such that $I_iI_{i+2} \neq qI_{i+2}$ for some (any) $q \in R$ with $v(q) = a_i$. Then the following hold true:*

- (1) $I(R) \subsetneq T(R)$.
- (2) *If k is infinite, then $T(R)$ is an infinite set.*

Proof. We first note that for any element $p \in I_{n-2}$ with $v(p) = n - 2$, the equality $I_{n-2}I_n = pI_n$ always holds. Thus we may pick i as the biggest integer such that the inequality $I_iI_{i+2} \neq qI_{i+2}$ holds for any $q \in R$ with $v(q) = a_i$. In particular, for such i , we have $I_{i+1}I_{i+3} = q'I_{i+3}$ for any $q' \in R$ with $v(q') = a_{i+1}$.

(1): By Proposition 3.6(1), we have $J_1^{(i)} = (q + q') + I_{i+2} \in T(R)$. On the other hand, by Proposition 3.6(2), $J_1^{(i)}$ cannot contain $J_0^{(i)}$. In particular, $J_1^{(i)} \neq I_i$ since $J_0^{(i)} \subseteq I_i$. This shows that $J_1^{(1)} \notin I(R)$. Hence we obtain that $I(R) \neq T(R)$. By recalling Fact 3.3, this proves $I(R) \subsetneq T(R)$.

(2): Now we assume k is infinite. Then, by Proposition 3.6(3), $T(R)$ contains an infinite subset $\{J_\alpha^{(i)} \mid \alpha \text{ is a nonzero representative of } k\}$. ■

Here we achieve the main theorem of this section.

THEOREM 3.8: *Let $n \geq 3$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $T(R) = I(R)$.
- (2) *For each $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$, there exists an element q_i such that $v(q_i) = a_i$ and $I_iI_{i+2} = q_iI_{i+2}$.*

- (3) For each $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$ and each element $q_i \in R$ with $v(q_i) = a_i$, the equality $I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2}$ holds.

If the residue field k is infinite, then the following is also equivalent to the above conditions.

- (4) $T(R)$ is a finite set.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (4): This is trivial.

(4) \Rightarrow (2): If $n = 3$, then the condition (2) is $I_1 I_3 = q_1 I_3$, and this is automatically satisfied since $I_3 = \mathfrak{c}$ and \overline{R} is a discrete valuation ring. Hence, the assertion holds true. Assume that k is infinite and $n \geq 4$. Then the assertion holds by Corollary 3.7.

Hence, it is enough to prove that (1), (2), (3) are equivalent. (2) \Leftrightarrow (3) follows from Proposition 3.4. Note that for the case of $n = 3$, the condition (2) is automatically satisfied by Lemma 3.5. Hence, it is enough to prove the implications (1) \Rightarrow (2) for $n \geq 4$ and (3) \Rightarrow (1) for $n \geq 3$.

(1) \Rightarrow (2): This implication follows from Corollary 3.7.

(3) \Rightarrow (1): Let $I \in T(R)$. We aim to prove $I \in I(R)$. Let i be an integer such that $a_i = \min\{v(x) \mid x \in I\}$, and we choose $q_i \in I$ such that $v(q_i) = a_i$. Note that I contains \mathfrak{c} by Fact 3.3(1). Hence, $I = \mathfrak{c}$ if $i = n$. If $i = n - 1$, we obtain that $\mathfrak{c} \subsetneq I \subseteq I_{n-1}$. It follows that $I = I_{n-1}$. Hence, we may assume that $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$.

Since I contains \mathfrak{c} , we can write $I = (q_i, f_2, \dots, f_l) + \mathfrak{c}$ for some $l \geq 2$, where $f_2, \dots, f_l \in I_{i+1}$.

CLAIM 2: I contains I_j for each $j \in \{i + 2, \dots, n\}$.

Proof of Claim 2. We proceed by descending induction on j . The case of $j = n$ is trivial. Suppose that $j < n$ and $I \supseteq I_{j+1}$. Since $j \geq i+2$ and $i+1 \geq i$, we have $I_{i+1} I_j \subseteq I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2}$. In other words, $q_i^{-1} I_j I_{i+1} \subseteq I_{i+2} \subseteq R$. Hence, by noting that $f_2, \dots, f_l \in I_{i+1}$, we obtain that $q_i^{-1} I_j [(f_2, \dots, f_l) + \mathfrak{c}] \subseteq q_i^{-1} I_j I_{i+1} \subseteq R$. It follows that

$$q_i^{-1} I_j I = q_i^{-1} I_j [(q_i, f_2, \dots, f_l) + \mathfrak{c}] \subseteq I_j + q_i^{-1} I_j I_{i+1} \subseteq R.$$

In other words, we have $q_i^{-1} I_j \subseteq R : I = I : I$, where the last equality follows from Lemma 2.1. Therefore, we obtain that

$$I_j = q_i^{-1} I_j q_i \subseteq q_i^{-1} I_j I \subseteq (I : I) I = I. \quad \blacksquare$$

By Claim 2, we have $I_{i+2} \subsetneq I \subseteq I_i$. By noting that $\ell_R(I_i/I_{i+2}) = 2$ (see Remark 3.2) and there is nothing to prove if $I = I_i$, we may write $I = (q_i) + I_{i+2}$. Let $q_{i+1} \in R$ such that $v(q_{i+1}) = a_{i+1}$. By noting that $I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2}$, we obtain that

$$(q_i^{-1} q_{i+1}) I_{i+2} \subseteq (q_i^{-1}) I_{i+1} I_{i+2} \subseteq (q_i^{-1}) I_i I_{i+2} = (q_i^{-1}) q_i I_{i+2} = I_{i+2} \subseteq R$$

and

$$(q_i^{-1} q_{i+1}) q_i = q_{i+1} \in R.$$

From the above inclusions, we deduce $q_i^{-1} q_{i+1} \in R : I$. Hence, $q_{i+1} \in (R : I) I = I$. Thus, we conclude $I = (q_i, q_{i+1}) + I_{i+2} = I_i$. ■

COROLLARY 3.9: *Let $n \leq 3$. Then the equality $\mathsf{T}(R) = \mathsf{I}(R)$ holds. In particular, $\mathsf{T}(R)$ is a finite set.*

We aim to apply Theorem 3.8 to Arf rings. Here we say that a local ring (R, \mathfrak{m}) is *Arf* if every regular integrally closed ideal I satisfies $I^2 = xI$ for some $x \in I$ (cf. [24, Theorem 2.2]).

COROLLARY 3.10 ([18, Proposition 3.1]): *If R is an Arf ring, then $\mathsf{T}(R) = \mathsf{I}(R)$.*

Proof. Since R is an Arf ring, $I_i^2 = q_i I_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$. By Lemma 2.4, $I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$. Hence, the assertion follows from Theorem 3.8. ■

The following theorem shows that the finiteness of $\mathsf{T}(R)$ is inherited by that of $\mathsf{T}(I_i : I_i)$.

THEOREM 3.11: *Assume the equality $\mathsf{I}(R) = \mathsf{T}(R)$ holds. Let $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $q_i \in R$ be an element such that $v(q_i) = a_i$. Then*

$$\mathsf{T}(I_i : I_i) = \begin{cases} \{q_i^{-1} I_j \mid i \leq j \leq n\} & \text{if } I_i^2 = q_i I_i, \\ \{q_i^{-1} I_j \mid i + 2 \leq j \leq n\} \cup \{I_i : I_i\} & \text{if } I_i^2 \neq q_i I_i. \end{cases}$$

In particular, $\mathsf{T}(I_i : I_i)$ is a finite set.

Proof. Note that every intermediate ring between R and \overline{R} is a local ring because \overline{R} is a local ring and finitely generated as an R -module. In particular, $I_i : I_i$ is a local ring for all $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Suppose that either $i = n$ or $n - 1$. Then, the equality $I_i^2 = q_i I_i$ holds by Lemma 3.5.

Thus, the assertion follows by Corollary 2.6. Now let $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$. By Theorem 3.8, we have an equality $I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2}$. Note that $q_i \in I_i \setminus I_{i+2}$ and $\ell(I_i/I_{i+2})=2$. Therefore, the assertion can be derived from Corollary 2.8. ■

Note that the reverse of Theorem 3.11 does not hold in general:

Example 3.12: Let $R = k[[t^5, t^6, t^7]]$ be a numerical semigroup ring over an infinite field k . Then $T(R)$ is infinite (see Example 7.6), but as $\mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m}$ is equal to $k[[t^5, t^6, t^7, t^8, t^9]]$, which is an Arf ring, we see that $T(\mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m})$ is finite.

4. Trace ideals of numerical semigroup rings

In this section we focus on numerical semigroup rings. Throughout this section, let $H \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ be a numerical semigroup. Then, H defines a local k -subalgebra

$$R = k[[H]] = k[[t^h \mid h \in H]] \subseteq k[[t]],$$

where $k[[t]]$ is the formal power series ring over a field k . Then R satisfies the assumption written in the beginning of Section 3; hence, we reuse the notation of Setup 3.1. Note that H is equal to the value semigroup $v(R)$ of R .

THEOREM 4.1: *Let $n \geq 3$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $T(R) = I(R)$.
- (2) $I_i I_{i+2} = (t^{a_i}) I_{i+2}$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$.
- (3) $a_j + a_{i+1} - a_i \in H$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$ and $j \in \{i + 2, \dots, n\}$.

If the residue field k is infinite, then the following is also equivalent to the above conditions.

- (4) $T(R)$ is a finite set.

Proof. The equivalence of (1), (2), and (4) follows by Theorem 3.8.

(2)⇒(3): Assume (2). This means that $t^{-a_i} I_i I_{i+2} = I_{i+2}$ for each $i = 1, \dots, n - 2$. Then, the elements $t^{a_{i+1}} \in I_{i+1}$ and $t^{a_j} \in I_{i+2}$, where $j \in \{i + 2, \dots, n\}$, satisfy $t^{-a_i} t^{a_{i+1}} t^{a_j} \in I_{i+2} \subseteq R$. It shows that $a_j + a_{i+1} - a_i \in H$.

(3)⇒(2): Note that the assumption (3) is equivalent to saying that $t^{a_{i+1}} I_{i+2} \subseteq (t^{a_i}) I_{i+2}$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$. We then show that for each $i \in \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$, the equality $I_i I_{i+2} = t^{a_i} I_{i+2}$ holds by descending induction on i . We know that the equality $I_{n-2} I_n = t^{a_{n-2}} I_n$ always holds. Let $i < n - 2$. By the induction hypothesis, we have $I_{i+1} I_{i+3} = (t^{a_{i+1}}) I_{i+3}$. Thanks to Proposition 3.4 (3)⇒(1), we deduce the equality $I_i I_{i+2} = t^{a_i} I_{i+2}$. ■

We also note a characterization of numerical semigroups with $T(R) = I(R)$ and $n = 4$ as a special case of Theorem 4.1. In Section 7, we consider such a situation again with paying attention to reflexive ideals.

COROLLARY 4.2: *Assume k is infinite and $n = 4$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $T(R)$ is finite.
- (2) $T(R) = I(R)$.
- (3) $a_2 - a_1 \geq a_4 - a_3$.

Proof. Since $n = 4$, the condition (3) of Theorem 4.1 is stated as follows:

$$a_3 + a_2 - a_1, \quad a_4 + a_2 - a_1, \quad a_4 + a_3 - a_2 \in H.$$

Since the last two of the above are larger than a_4 , $a_4 + a_2 - a_1$ and $a_4 + a_3 - a_2$ are automatically in H . Furthermore, we have $a_3 < a_3 + a_2 - a_1$. Hence, $a_3 + a_2 - a_1 \in H$ if and only if $a_3 + a_2 - a_1 \geq a_4$. Therefore, the assertion follows from Theorem 4.1. ■

By using Theorem 4.1 and Corollary 4.2, we obtain infinitely many rings R satisfying $T(R) = I(R)$ other than Arf rings (see Corollary 3.10). Since Arf rings have minimal multiplicity, we explored rings that are not of minimal multiplicity. Although, at least to our knowledge, we are not able to describe every numerical semigroups satisfying the conditions above by giving their systems of minimal generators, we note some of them.

Example 4.3: The following numerical semigroup rings R satisfy $T(R) = I(R)$ and $n = 4$, but are not of minimal multiplicity. Let k be a field.

- (1) $R = k[[t^{11}, t^{14}, t^{18}, t^{20}, t^{21}, t^{23}, t^{24}, t^{26}, t^{27}, t^{30}]]$.
- (2) $R = k[[t^9, t^{12}, t^{16}, t^{19}, t^{20}, t^{22}, t^{23}, t^{26}]]$.
- (3) $R = k[[t^5, t^8, t^{12}, t^{14}]]$.

Example 4.4: Let $n \geq 3$ be an integer, and let

$$H = \{0\} \cup \{3n + 3i \in \mathbb{N} \mid 0 \leq i \leq n - 1, \text{ but } i \neq 2\} \cup \{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid j \geq 6n\}$$

be a numerical semigroup. Set $R = k[[H]]$. Then

$$T(R) = I(R) \quad \text{and} \quad \ell_R(R/(R : \overline{R})) = n.$$

Furthermore, R does not have minimal multiplicity. In particular, R is not an Arf ring.

Proof. We have

$$a_1 = 3n, a_2 = 3n + 3, a_3 = 3n + 9, a_4 = 3n + 12, \dots, a_{n-1} = 6n - 3,$$

and

$$a_{n+k} = 6n + k \quad \text{for all } k \geq 0.$$

Hence, $\ell_R(R/(R : \overline{R})) = n$. By noting that $a_{i+1} - a_i$ is either 3 or 6, where $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n - 3\}$, we obtain that for all $j \in \{i + 2, \dots, n - 1\}$, $a_j + a_{i+1} - a_i$ is either $a_j + 3$ or $a_j + 6$. In both cases, we have $a_j + a_{i+1} - a_i \in H$. It follows that H satisfies Theorem 4.1 (3), thus $T(R) = I(R)$.

Since $a_{n+6} = 6n + 6 = 2(3n + 3) = 2a_2$, it is straightforward to check that R does not have minimal multiplicity. ■

Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be an analytically irreducible local domain of dimension one. In what follows, we note the relation between the conditions $T(R) = I(R)$ and $T(k[[v(R)]]) = I(k[[v(R)]])$.

Remark 4.5: Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be an analytically irreducible local domain of dimension one as in Section 3. We reuse the notation of Setup 3.1. Suppose that $T(R) = I(R)$. Then, $T(k[[H]]) = I(k[[H]])$.

Proof. Since $T(R) = I(R)$, we have $I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2}$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$. It follows that for all $j \in \{i + 2, \dots, n\}$,

$$q_{i+1} q_j \in I_i I_{i+2} = q_i I_{i+2} \subseteq (q_i).$$

Hence, $q_i^{-1} q_{i+1} q_j \in R$. Thus, $-a_i + a_{i+1} + a_j \in H$. This concludes the assertion by Theorem 4.1. ■

On the other hand, the reverse of the assertion in Remark 4.5 does not hold in general.

Example 4.6: Let $R = k[[t^{15} + t^{16}, t^{18}, t^{24}, t^{27}, t^n \mid n \geq 30]]$. Then

$$v(R) = \{0, 15, 18, 24, 27\} \cup \{n \mid n \geq 30\}.$$

Set $H = v(R)$. Note that $k[[H]]$ is the ring of Example 4.4, where $n = 5$. Hence,

$$T(k[[H]]) = I(k[[H]]).$$

On the other hand, one can obtain that $T(R) \supsetneq I(R)$.

Indeed, assume that $T(R) = I(R)$. Then, we have $I_1I_3 = (t^{15} + t^{16})I_3$ by Theorem 3.8. It follows that

$$t^{42} = t^{18}t^{24} \in I_1I_3 = (t^{15} + t^{16})I_3 \subseteq (t^{15} + t^{16})I_3 + t^{44}\overline{R} = (t^{39} + t^{40}, t^{42} + t^{43}) + t^{44}\overline{R}.$$

Hence, we can write $t^{42} = f(t^{39} + t^{40}) + g(t^{42} + t^{43}) + h$, where $f, g \in R$ and $h \in t^{44}\overline{R}$. Write $f = a + f_1$ and $g = b + g_1$, where $a, b \in k$ and $f_1, g_1 \in R$ with $v(f_1), v(g_1) \geq 15$. Then

$$t^{42} - a(t^{39} + t^{40}) - b(t^{42} + t^{43}) = f_1(t^{39} + t^{40}) + g_1(t^{42} + t^{43}) + h \in t^{44}\overline{R}.$$

This is impossible. Hence, $I_1I_3 \neq (t^{15} + t^{16})I_3$. It follows that $T(R) \not\supseteq I(R)$.

5. Trace ideals over fiber products

In this section, we discuss trace ideals over fiber products of local rings as a trial for the case of non-domains. Let

$$R = R_1 \times_k R_2$$

be a fiber product of Noetherian local rings (R_1, \mathfrak{n}_1, k) and (R_2, \mathfrak{n}_2, k) over k , i.e., R is a subring $\{(s, t) \in R_1 \times R_2 \mid \pi_1(s) = \pi_2(t)\}$ of a usual product $R_1 \times R_2$, where $\pi_1 : R_1 \rightarrow k$ and $\pi_2 : R_2 \rightarrow k$ are canonical surjections. Let \mathfrak{m} denote the maximal ideal of R . The canonical maps $p_1 : R \rightarrow R_1$ and $p_2 : R \rightarrow R_2$ are surjective homomorphisms of rings. In addition, there are isomorphisms

$$i_1 : \mathfrak{n}_1 \cong \text{Ker } p_2 = \mathfrak{n}_1 \times (0) \text{ and } i_2 : \mathfrak{n}_2 \cong \text{Ker } p_1 = (0) \times \mathfrak{n}_2$$

as R -modules. And \mathfrak{m} has a decomposition $\mathfrak{m} = \text{Ker } p_2 \oplus \text{Ker } p_1$ as an R -module.

THEOREM 5.1: *Let (R_1, \mathfrak{n}_1, k) and (R_2, \mathfrak{n}_2, k) be (not necessarily one-dimensional Cohen–Macaulay) local rings with positive depth. Let R be a fiber product $R_1 \times_k R_2$ of R_1 and R_2 over k . Then*

$$T(R) = \{i_1(I) \oplus i_2(J) \mid I \in X_1, J \in X_2\} \cup \{R\},$$

where X_1 and X_2 are defined as follows:

- (1) If R_1 (resp. R_2) is a discrete valuation ring, then $X_1 = \{\mathfrak{n}_1\}$ (resp. $X_2 = \{\mathfrak{n}_2\}$).
- (2) If R_1 (resp. R_2) is not a discrete valuation ring, then $X_1 = T(R_1) \setminus \{R_1\}$ (resp. $X_2 = T(R_2) \setminus \{R_2\}$).

Proof. (\subseteq): Let L be an ideal in $T(R)$ with $I \neq R$. Then one has an equality $L = i_2p_2(L) \oplus i_1p_1(L)$. Indeed, the inclusion $L \subseteq i_2p_2(L) \oplus i_1p_1(L)$ is clear. Since there are surjections $i_1p_1: L \rightarrow i_1p_1(L)$ and $i_2p_2: L \rightarrow i_2p_2(L)$, it yields that $i_2p_2(L) \oplus i_1p_1(L) \subseteq \text{tr}_R(L) = L$. Thus we only need to know what $p_1(L)$ and $p_2(L)$ are. Note that both $p_1(L)$ and $p_2(L)$ are nonzero. Indeed, if $p_1(L) = 0$, then $L = i_2p_2(L)$ is annihilated by $i_1(n_1)$. This means that L is not a regular ideal of R .

(1): If R_1 is a discrete valuation ring, then $p_1(L)$ is isomorphic to $R_1 \cong \mathfrak{n}_1$. Thus, we have a surjection $L \rightarrow i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1) (\subseteq \mathfrak{m})$. Therefore, $i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1)$ is contained in $\text{tr}_R(L) = L$. In particular, one obtains $\mathfrak{n}_1 \supseteq p_1(L) \supseteq p_1(i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1)) = \mathfrak{n}_1$.

(2): Suppose that R_1 is not a discrete valuation ring. What we need to prove is that $p_1(L)$ belongs to $T(R_1) \setminus \{R_1\}$. In order to show this, let $f: p_1(L) \rightarrow R_1$ be a homomorphism of modules. Assume that $\text{Im } f = R_1$. Then, since there exists a surjection $R_1^{\oplus a} \rightarrow \mathfrak{n}_1$ for some integer $a > 0$, we obtain the surjective homomorphism $L^{\oplus a} \rightarrow R_1^{\oplus a} \rightarrow \mathfrak{n}_1$. Thus, $i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1)$ is contained in $\text{tr}_R(L)(= L)$, which yields that $p_1(L) = \mathfrak{n}_1$. It follows that f induces a surjection $\mathfrak{n}_1 \rightarrow R_1$; hence, R_1 is a discrete valuation ring. This contradicts our assumption. We now see that an inclusion $\text{Im } f \subseteq \mathfrak{n}_1$ holds for any homomorphism $f \in \text{Hom}_{R_1}(p_1(L), R_1)$. Take the composition $i_1fp_1: L \rightarrow R$. We have $\text{Im}(i_1fp_1) \subseteq \text{tr}_R(L) = L$. Hence, we obtain that $p_1(L) \supseteq \text{Im}(p_1i_1fp_1) = \text{Im}(p_1i_1f) = \text{Im } f$. This means that $p_1(L)$ is a trace ideal of R_1 .

(\supseteq): Let $L = i_1(I) \oplus i_2(J)$, where $I \in X_1$ and $J \in X_2$. Then, since $\mu_R(L) = \mu_R(i_1(I)) + \mu_R(i_2(J)) > 1$, L has no free summands. Hence,

$$\text{Hom}_R(L, R) = \text{Hom}_R(L, \mathfrak{m}) = \text{Hom}_R(i_1(I) \oplus i_2(J), i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1) \oplus i_2(\mathfrak{n}_2)).$$

Assume that $f \in \text{Hom}_R(i_1(I), i_2(\mathfrak{n}_2))$. Then, since $i_1(I)$ is annihilated by $i_2(\mathfrak{n}_2)$, $\text{Im } f$ is also annihilated by $i_2(\mathfrak{n}_2)$. By noting that $\text{depth } R_2 > 0$, it follows that $f = 0$. By the same argument, we have $\text{Hom}_R(i_2(J), i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1)) = 0$. Hence,

$$\text{Hom}_R(L, \mathfrak{m}) = \text{Hom}_R(i_1(I), i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1)) \oplus \text{Hom}_R(i_2(J), i_2(\mathfrak{n}_2)).$$

Therefore, it is enough to prove that

$$(5.1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_R(i_1(I), i_1(\mathfrak{n}_1)) &= \text{Hom}_R(i_1(I), i_1(I)) \quad \text{and} \\ \text{Hom}_R(i_2(J), i_2(\mathfrak{n}_2)) &= \text{Hom}_R(i_2(J), i_2(J)). \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, (5.1.1) shows that $\text{Hom}_R(L, \mathfrak{m}) = \text{Hom}_R(L, L)$.

If R_1 (resp. R_2) is a discrete valuation ring, then $I = \mathfrak{n}_1$ (resp. $J = \mathfrak{n}_2$). Hence, (5.1.1) holds. If R_1 (resp. R_2) is not a discrete valuation ring, then $I \in \mathsf{T}(R_1) \setminus \{R_1\}$ (resp. $J \in \mathsf{T}(R_2) \setminus \{R_2\}$). In any case, (5.1.1) holds. This completes the proof. ■

COROLLARY 5.2: *Let R be a fiber product $R_1 \times_k R_2$ of local rings (R_1, \mathfrak{n}_1, k) and (R_2, \mathfrak{n}_2, k) with positive depth over k . Then $\mathsf{T}(R)$ is finite if and only if so are both $\mathsf{T}(R_1)$ and $\mathsf{T}(R_2)$.*

Example 5.3: Let R be a fiber product

$$k[[t^5, t^8, t^{12}, t^{14}]] \times_k k[[t^9, t^{12}, t^{16}, t^{19}, t^{20}, t^{22}, t^{23}, t^{26}]].$$

Then, it is clear that R is not a domain. On the other hand, since both $\mathsf{T}(k[[t^5, t^8, t^{12}, t^{14}]])$ and $\mathsf{T}(k[[t^9, t^{12}, t^{16}, t^{19}, t^{20}, t^{22}, t^{23}, t^{26}]])$ are finite by Example 4.3, $\mathsf{T}(R)$ is also finite.

6. Some special reflexive modules

Throughout this section, we employ Setup 3.1. Denote by $\mathsf{Ref}_1(R)$ the set of isomorphism classes of reflexive modules of rank one over R . We say a fractional ideal I is **reflexive** if $R : (R : I) = I$. Note that an ideal I is reflexive exactly when its isomorphism class belongs to $\mathsf{Ref}_1(R)$.

As a first part of this section, we prove that $\mathsf{Ref}_1(R)$ is finite when the equality $\mathsf{T}(R) = \mathsf{I}(R)$ holds.

LEMMA 6.1: *Let M be a reflexive R -module of rank one. Then there exists a reflexive ideal I of R such that I is isomorphic to M and contains \mathfrak{c} .*

Proof. First note that M is isomorphic to some nonzero ideal J of R . Set $a_i = \min\{v(x) \mid x \in J\}$ and take an element $q \in J$ such that $v(q) = a_i$. Then both of the integral closures of J and (q) are equal to I_i . Hence (q) is a minimal reduction of J , that is, $J^{\ell+1} = qJ^\ell$ for some $\ell > 0$. By [7, Theorem 3.5], J is isomorphic to an ideal I containing \mathfrak{c} . As $M \cong I$, it is clear that I is reflexive. ■

THEOREM 6.2: *Assume $\mathsf{T}(R) = \mathsf{I}(R)$. Let q_i be elements such that $v(q_i) = a_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$. Then there is an inclusion map from $\mathsf{Ref}_1(R)$ to $\mathsf{I}(R) \cup \{(q_i) + I_{i+2}\}_{i \in \{1, \dots, n-2\}}$. In particular, $\mathsf{Ref}_1(R)$ is a finite set.*

Proof. Set $J_\alpha^{(i)} := (q_i + \alpha q_{i+1}) + I_{i+2}$ for $\alpha \in R$ and $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$.

Let I be a reflexive ideal of R containing \mathfrak{c} . Fix an integer i and an element $q \in I$ such that $a_i = v(q) = \min\{v(f) \mid f \in I\}$. The inequality $i \leq n$ is obvious.

CLAIM 3: We have either $I = I_i$ or $i \leq n - 2$ and $I = J_\alpha^{(i)}$ for some $\alpha \in R$.

CLAIM 4: If $i \leq n - 2$ and $I = J_\alpha^{(i)}$ for some $\alpha \in R$, then I is isomorphic to $J_0^{(i)}$.

Proof of Claim 3. The case where $n - 2 \leq i \leq n$ is clear since I contains \mathfrak{c} . So we may assume $i \leq n - 3$. Since I contains \mathfrak{c} , $R : I \subseteq R : \mathfrak{c} = \overline{R}$. Then observe that $q(R : I) \subseteq q\overline{R} \cap R \subseteq \{x \in R \mid v(x) \geq v(q)\} = I_i$. Therefore

$$I = R : (R : I) \supseteq R : q^{-1}I_i.$$

Using Theorem 4.1 and the assumption $T(R) = I(R)$, we see that

$$q^{-1}I_i I_{i+2} \subseteq I_{i+2} \subseteq R.$$

It follows that $R : q^{-1}I_i \supseteq I_{i+2}$. We then have an inclusion $I \supseteq I_{i+2}$, which yields that either $I = I_i$ or $J_\alpha^{(i)}$ for some $\alpha \in R$. ■

Proof of Claim 4. We set $x := 1 + \alpha q_i^{-1}q_{i+1}$. Then $q_i x = q_i + \alpha q_{i+1}$.

In view of Theorem 4.1, the assumption $T(R) = I(R)$ implies $xI_{i+2} = I_{i+2}$. Indeed, $xI_{i+2} \subseteq I_{i+2}$ follows from

$$xI_{i+2} \subseteq I_{i+2} + \alpha q_i^{-1}q_{i+1}I_{i+2} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha q_i^{-1}q_{i+1}I_{i+2} \subseteq \alpha q_i^{-1}I_i I_{i+2} \subseteq I_{i+2}.$$

On the other hand, the inclusion $xI_{i+2} \supseteq I_{i+2}$ follows from the observation that xI_{i+2} contains \mathfrak{c} and all elements of order a_j for $i \leq j \leq n$ since $v(x) = 0$.

Thus we get

$$xJ_0^{(i)} = (xq_i) + xI_{i+2} = (q_i + \alpha q_{i+1}) + I_{i+2} = J_\alpha^{(i)}.$$

This means that $J_0^{(i)}$ is isomorphic to $J_\alpha^{(i)}$ via the multiplication by x . ■

By Claims 3 and 4, reflexive ideals containing \mathfrak{c} are only either I_j for $0 \leq j \leq n$ or $J_0^{(i)}$ for $0 \leq i \leq n - 2$ up to isomorphism. By combining this result with Lemma 6.1, a system of representatives of $\text{Ref}_1(R)$ is a subset of $I(R) \cup \{J_0^{(i)}\}_{i \in \{1, \dots, n-2\}}$. ■

Next we explore reflexive Ulrich modules over rings R satisfying an equality $\mathfrak{m}I_3 = qI_3$ for some $q \in \mathfrak{m}$. Note that rings R satisfying $T(R) = I(R)$ have the equality $\mathfrak{m}I_3 = qI_3$ (Theorem 3.8). Let us recall the notion of Ulrich modules.

Definition 6.3 ([10, Definition 3.1]): We say that a finitely generated R -module M is an **Ulrich module** if M is maximal Cohen–Macaulay (equivalently, torsion-free since $\dim R = \text{depth } R = 1$), and $e(M) = \mu_R(M)$, where $e(M)$ denotes the multiplicity of M and $\mu_R(M)$ denotes the number of minimal generators of M . It is known that M is Ulrich module if and only if $\mathfrak{m}M = qM$, where (q) is a minimal reduction of \mathfrak{m} (see [10]).

In what follows, throughout this section, let (q) be a minimal reduction of \mathfrak{m} .

LEMMA 6.4 ([1]): *Let M be a finitely generated reflexive R -module such that M has no free summands. Then, M can be regarded as an $\mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m}$ -module. That is, by regarding M as a submodule of $Q(R) \otimes_R M \cong Q(R)^{\text{rank}_R(M)}$, we have*

$$(\mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m})M = M.$$

LEMMA 6.5: *Let M be an Ulrich R -module. Then $\text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ is a reflexive Ulrich R -module.*

Proof. By applying the R -dual to $0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{q} M \rightarrow M/qM \rightarrow 0$, we obtain an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, R) \xrightarrow{q} \text{Hom}_R(M, R) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M/qM, R).$$

Note that $\text{Ext}_R^1(M/qM, R)$ is a free R/\mathfrak{m} -module since $\mathfrak{m}M = qM$. Hence, the above exact sequence proves that $\text{Hom}_R(M, R)/q\text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ is a free $R/(q)$ -module. It follows that

$$\mathfrak{m}\text{Hom}_R(M, R) \subseteq q\text{Hom}_R(M, R).$$

Hence, $\text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ is an Ulrich R -module. The reflexivity of $\text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ follows from a well-known fact; see [13, Lemma 4.1] for example. ■

LEMMA 6.6: *Set $S = \mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m}$. If M is a reflexive Ulrich R -module, then M is a reflexive S -module.*

Proof. By Lemma 6.4, M can be regarded as an S -module. Let X be the kernel of the canonical surjective S -homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{m} \otimes_S M &\rightarrow \mathfrak{m}M; \\ a \otimes x &\mapsto ax \end{aligned}$$

for $a \in \mathfrak{m}$ and $x \in M$. Note that X is of finite length as an R -module since there are equalities

$$\text{rank}_R(X) = \text{rank}_R(\mathfrak{m} \otimes_S M) - \text{rank}_R(\mathfrak{m}M) = 0.$$

Hence, by applying the R -dual to $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow \mathfrak{m} \otimes_S M \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}M \rightarrow 0$, we obtain an isomorphism $\text{Hom}_R(M \otimes_S \mathfrak{m}, R) \cong \text{Hom}_R(\mathfrak{m}M, R)$. Therefore, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_S(M, S) &= \text{Hom}_S(M, \text{Hom}_R(\mathfrak{m}, R)) \cong \text{Hom}_R(M \otimes_S \mathfrak{m}, R) \\ &\cong \text{Hom}_R(\mathfrak{m}M, R) = \text{Hom}_R(qM, R) \cong \text{Hom}_R(M, R). \end{aligned}$$

By noting that $\text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ is again a reflexive Ulrich R -module by Lemma 6.5, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_S(\text{Hom}_S(M, S), S) &\cong \text{Hom}_S(\text{Hom}_R(M, R), S) \\ &\cong \text{Hom}_R(\text{Hom}_R(M, R), R) \cong M. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, M is reflexive as an S -module ([13, Lemma 4.1]). ■

We now characterize reflexive Ulrich R -modules in terms of the endomorphism algebra $\mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m}$ of \mathfrak{m} .

THEOREM 6.7: *Suppose that an equality $\mathfrak{m}I_3 = qI_3$ holds. Set $S = \mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m}$. Let M be a finitely generated R -module such that R and S are not in the direct summand of M . Then, the following are equivalent:*

- (1) M is a reflexive Ulrich R -module.
- (2) M is a reflexive S -module.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2): This follows by Lemma 6.6.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Suppose that M is a reflexive S -module. Then M is reflexive as an R -module by [19, Theorem 1.3(1)]. Thus, we have only to show that M is an Ulrich R -module.

Let \mathfrak{n} be the maximal ideal of S . Since S is not in the direct summand of M , M can be regarded as an $\mathfrak{n} : \mathfrak{n}$ -module by Lemma 6.4. Suppose that $\mathfrak{m}^2 \neq q\mathfrak{m}$. Then, by Lemma 2.7, $\mathfrak{n} : \mathfrak{n} = q^{-1}I_3 : q^{-1}I_3 = I_3 : I_3$. Hence, we have

$$q^{-1}\mathfrak{m}M \subseteq (I_3 : I_3)M = M.$$

It follows that M is an Ulrich R -module.

Suppose that $\mathfrak{m}^2 = q\mathfrak{m}$. Then, by Lemma 2.3, $q^{-1}\mathfrak{m} = S$. Hence,

$$q^{-1}\mathfrak{m}M = SM = M,$$

that is, M is an Ulrich R -module. ■

As an application, we obtain the finiteness of reflexive Ulrich R -modules up to isomorphism when n is small. Before showing it, we need a lemma.

LEMMA 6.8: *Suppose that R is not a discrete valuation ring. Let $S = \mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m}$ and \mathfrak{c}_S denote the conductor of S . Then, $\ell_S(S/\mathfrak{c}_S) < \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c})$. Furthermore, $\ell_S(S/\mathfrak{c}_S) = \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c}) - 1$ if and only if R has minimal multiplicity.*

Proof. Note that $\mathfrak{c}_S = S : \overline{S} = (R : \mathfrak{m}) : \overline{R} = R : \mathfrak{m}\overline{R}$. Therefore, by noting that $\mathfrak{m}\overline{R} = q\overline{R}$, we obtain that $\mathfrak{c}_S = R : q\overline{R} = q^{-1}\mathfrak{c}$. It follows that

$$\ell_S(S/\mathfrak{c}_S) = \ell_R(S/\mathfrak{c}_S) = \ell_R(qS/\mathfrak{c}) \leq \ell_R(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{c}) = \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c}) - 1,$$

where the third inequality follows from $qS \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$.

The equality $\ell_S(S/\mathfrak{c}_S) = \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c}) - 1$ is equivalent to saying that $qS = \mathfrak{m}$. This is also equivalent to saying that $\mathfrak{m}^2 = q\mathfrak{m}$ by Lemma 2.3. ■

COROLLARY 6.9: *Assume that either of the following holds:*

- (1) $n \leq 3$.
- (2) $n = 4$, $\mathfrak{m}I_3 = qI_3$, and R is not of minimal multiplicity.

Then there exist only finitely many indecomposable reflexive Ulrich R -modules up to isomorphism.

Proof. Set $S = \mathfrak{m} : \mathfrak{m}$. By Theorem 6.7, it is enough to show that there exist only finitely many reflexive S -modules up to isomorphism.

By Lemma 6.8, $\ell_S(S/\mathfrak{c}_S) \leq 2$, where \mathfrak{c}_S is the conductor of S . Then, by Lemma 3.5, S has minimal multiplicity. Let \mathfrak{n} be the maximal ideal of S , and set $S_1 = \mathfrak{n} : \mathfrak{n}$. Then, $\ell_{S_1}(S_1/\mathfrak{c}_{S_1}) \leq 1$. It follows that S_1 again has minimal multiplicity by Lemma 3.5. Therefore, S_1 or the endomorphism algebra of the maximal ideal of S_1 is a discrete valuation ring. In any case, we obtain that S is an Arf ring by [24].

In particular, there exist only finitely many reflexive S -modules up to isomorphism by [18, Corollary 3.6]. ■

7. Reflexive ideals in numerical semigroup rings with small non-gaps

The purpose of this section is to explore the relation between the finiteness of $T(R)$ and that of $\text{Ref}_1(R)$ for numerical semigroup rings R . Here, $\text{Ref}_1(R)$ denotes the set of isomorphism classes of reflexive modules of rank one over R , as introduced in the beginning of Section 6. We maintain the notations of Section 4. We already saw that both $T(R)$ and $\text{Ref}_1(R)$ are finite if $n = \ell_R(R/\mathfrak{c}) \leq 3$ (Corollary 3.9 and [7, Theorem 6.8]). Thus, we focus on the case of $n = 4$. The

goal of this section is to prove Theorem 7.1. Let us prepare notations to describe Theorem 7.1. We say that an ideal I is *monomial* if I is generated by monomial elements. Set

$$\text{RT}(R) = \{I \in \text{T}(R) \mid I \text{ is reflexive}\}.$$

THEOREM 7.1: *Suppose that $n = 4$ and k is infinite. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) *For all $I \in \text{Ref}_1(R)$, I is isomorphic to some monomial ideal containing \mathfrak{c} .*
- (2) *$\text{Ref}_1(R)$ is finite.*
- (3) *$\text{RT}(R)$ is finite.*
- (4) *Either one of the following holds true:*
 - (i) *$a_2 - a_1 + a_3 \geq a_4$, that is, $\text{T}(R)$ is finite.*
 - (ii) *$2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$.*

To prove Theorem 7.1, we note several lemmas.

LEMMA 7.2: *Let I be an ideal of R containing \mathfrak{c} . Then, $R : I \subseteq \overline{R}$.*

Proof. Since $\mathfrak{c} \subseteq I$, we obtain that

$$R : I \subseteq R : \mathfrak{c} = R : t^{a_n} \overline{R} = t^{-a_n} (R : \overline{R}) = \overline{R}. \quad \blacksquare$$

LEMMA 7.3: *Let $I = (f) + \mathfrak{c}$ be an ideal of R , where $f \in R$. Then $I \cong (t^{v(f)} + \mathfrak{c})$.*

Proof. f can be written in the form $t^{v(f)} + t^{v(f)}x$, where $x \in \overline{R}$ with $v(x) \geq 1$. Hence, $\mathfrak{c} = (1 + x)\mathfrak{c}$ and

$$(t^{v(f)} + \mathfrak{c}) \cong (1 + x)[(t^{v(f)} + \mathfrak{c})] = (f) + (1 + x)\mathfrak{c} = I. \quad \blacksquare$$

LEMMA 7.4: *Let I be an ideal of R . Let $a_i = \min\{v(f) \in H \mid f \in I\}$. Then:*

- (1) *$R + t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R} \subseteq R : I$.*
- (2) *$R : [R + t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R}] = I_i$. Hence, $I \subseteq R : (R : I) \subseteq I_i$.*

Proof. (1): $R \subseteq R : I$ is trivial. Note that $t^{a_n - a_i} I \subseteq t^{a_n} \overline{R} = \mathfrak{c}$ since $v(f) \geq a_i$ for all $f \in I$. Hence, $t^{a_n - a_i} I \overline{R} \subseteq R$, that is, $t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R} \subseteq R : I$.

(2): Note that $R : [R + t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R}] = (R : R) \cap (R : t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R})$. On the other hand, we obtain that

$$R : t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R} = t^{a_i - a_n} (R : \overline{R}) = t^{a_i - a_n} t^{a_n} \overline{R} = t^{a_i} \overline{R}.$$

Hence, $R : [R + t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R}] = R \cap t^{a_i} \overline{R} = I_i$. Therefore, by (1), we obtain that $R : (R : I) \subseteq R : [R + t^{a_n - a_i} \overline{R}] = I_i$. \blacksquare

LEMMA 7.5: Assume that $n = 4$ and $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 \notin H$. Then the following hold true:

- (1) For each $\alpha \in R$, $J_\alpha^{(1)} := (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}) + I_3 \in \mathbf{T}(R)$.
- (2) Let $\alpha, \beta \in k$. If $\alpha \neq \beta$, then $J_\alpha^{(1)} \neq J_\beta^{(1)}$.

Proof. Since $n = 4$, the equality $I_2 I_4 = t^{a_2} I_4$ holds. On the other hand, the inequality $I_1 I_3 \neq t^{a_1} I_3$ follows by the assumption $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 \notin H$. So we may apply Proposition 3.6. ■

Now we prove Theorem 7.1.

Proof of Theorem 7.1. (1) \Rightarrow (2): This is clear.

(2) \Rightarrow (3): Recall that for $I, J \in \mathbf{T}(R)$, $I = J$ if $I \cong J$; see [16, Corollary 1.2(a)] for example. Hence, we can regard $\mathbf{RT}(R)$ as a subset of $\mathbf{Ref}_1(R)$. Thus, (2) \Rightarrow (3) holds.

(3) \Rightarrow (4): Suppose that $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 < a_4$ and $2a_3 - a_1 \geq a_4$. It is enough to prove that $\mathbf{RT}(R)$ is infinite. Let $\alpha \in k$ and $I = (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}, t^{a_3}) + \mathbf{c}$. Then, it is enough to show that $I \in \mathbf{Ref}_1(R)$. Indeed, by noting that $a_3 < a_2 - a_1 + a_3 < a_4$ implies that $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 \notin H$, we have $I = J_\alpha^{(1)} \in \mathbf{T}(R)$ by Lemma 7.5(1), where

$$J_\alpha^{(1)} := (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}) + I_3.$$

We further prove that $I = J_\alpha^{(1)}$ is a reflexive ideal for each $\alpha \in k$. Then, we complete the proof since $\mathbf{RT}(R)$ is infinite by Lemma 7.5(2).

Set $f = t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}$ and $x = -\alpha t^{a_2 - a_1}$. Then $f = t^{a_1}(1 - x)$. Set

$$g = t^{a_3 - a_1}(1 + x + \cdots + x^\ell),$$

where $\ell \geq a_4$. We obtain that

$$fg = t^{a_3}(1 - x^{\ell+1}), \quad t^{a_3}g = t^{2a_3 - a_1}(1 + x + \cdots + x^\ell), \quad \text{and} \quad g\mathbf{c} \subseteq \mathbf{c}.$$

Since we assume that $2a_3 - a_1 \geq a_4$, it follows that $g \in R : I$. By Lemma 7.4(1), $R + t^{a_n - a_1} \overline{R} + (g) \subseteq R : I$. Hence,

$$R : (R : I) \subseteq R : [R + t^{a_n - a_1} \overline{R} + (g)] = I_1 \cap (R : g)$$

by Lemma 7.4(2). Let $h \in I_1 \cap (R : g)$. We can write

$$h = d_1 t^{a_1} + d_2 t^{a_2} + d_3 t^{a_3} + \cdots,$$

where $d_i \in k$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} gh &\equiv t^{a_3-a_1}(1+x+\dots+x^\ell)(d_1t^{a_1}+d_2t^{a_2}+d_3t^{a_3}) && \pmod{\mathfrak{c}} \\ &\equiv (1+x+\dots+x^\ell)(d_1t^{a_3}+d_2t^{a_2+a_3-a_1}) && \pmod{\mathfrak{c}}. \end{aligned}$$

By noting that $v(x) = a_2 - a_1$, the gh 's coefficient of degree $a_2 + a_3 - a_1$ is $-\alpha d_1 + d_2$. On the other hand, we have $gh \in R$ and $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 \notin H$. Hence, we obtain that $-\alpha d_1 + d_2 = 0$. It follows that

$$h = d_1(t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}) + d_3t^{a_3} + \dots \in (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}, t^{a_3}) + \mathfrak{c} = I.$$

Hence, $I_1 \cap (R : g) \subseteq I$. In conclusion, we obtain that

$$I \subseteq R : (R : I) \subseteq I_1 \cap (R : g) \subseteq I.$$

Hence I is a reflexive ideal.

(4)(i) \Rightarrow (1): This follows from Theorem 6.2.

(4)(ii) \Rightarrow (1): Suppose that I is a reflexive ideal. By Lemma 6.1, we may assume that $\mathfrak{c} \subseteq I$. Then I forms one of the following. Let $\alpha, \beta \in k$.

- (a) $I = I_0, I_1, I_2, I_3, I_4$.
- (b) $I = (t^{a_2} + \alpha t^{a_3}) + \mathfrak{c}$.
- (c) $I = (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2} + \beta t^{a_3}) + \mathfrak{c}$.
- (d) $I = (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}, t^{a_3}) + \mathfrak{c}$.
- (e) $I = (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_3}, t^{a_2} + \beta t^{a_3}) + \mathfrak{c}$.

For the case (a), there is nothing to prove. By Lemma 7.3, in the cases (b) and (c), I is isomorphic to some monomial ideal containing \mathfrak{c} . Thus, it is enough to prove the following claims:

CLAIM 5: Suppose that $2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$. Let $I = (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}, t^{a_3}) + \mathfrak{c}$. Then $R : (R : I) = I_1$.

CLAIM 6: Suppose that $2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$. Let $I = (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_3}, t^{a_2} + \beta t^{a_3}) + \mathfrak{c}$. Then the following hold true:

- (d-1) If $a_1 + a_3 \neq 2a_2$, then $R : (R : I) = I_1$.
- (d-2) If $a_1 + a_3 = 2a_2$ and $\alpha \neq -\beta^2$, then $R : (R : I) = I_1$.
- (d-3) If $a_1 + a_3 = 2a_2$ and $\alpha = -\beta^2$, then $I \cong (t^{a_1}, t^{a_2}) + \mathfrak{c}$.

Proof of Claim 5. It is enough to prove that $R : I \subseteq R + t^{a_4-a_1}\overline{R}$. Indeed, if $R : I \subseteq R + t^{a_4-a_1}\overline{R}$, then we have $R : I = R + t^{a_4-a_1}\overline{R}$ by Lemma 7.4(1). Hence, $R : (R : I) = I_1$ by Lemma 7.4(2).

Let $g \in R : I$. Then, by Lemma 7.2, we can write $g = c_0 + g'$, where $c_0 \in k$ and $g' \in R : I$ such that $v(g') > 0$. Then $g'(t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_2}) \in R$ and $g't^{a_3} \in R$ since $g'I \subseteq R$. This proves that

$$v(g') + a_1 \in H \quad \text{and} \quad v(g') + a_3 \in H.$$

Hence, we have $v(g') + a_1 = a_i$ for some $i \geq 2$, and $a_i - a_1 + a_3 \in H$. On the other hand, by the assumption, we have $a_3 < a_3 + a_2 - a_1 < 2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$. Thus, $a_3 + a_2 - a_1, 2a_3 - a_1 \notin H$. This proves that $i \neq 2, 3$. Therefore, $v(g') \geq a_4 - a_1$, that is, $g' \in t^{a_4 - a_1} \overline{R}$. It follows that $g = c_0 + g' \in R + t^{a_4 - a_1} \overline{R}$. \blacksquare

Proof of Claim 6. (d-1): This proof proceeds in the same way as the proof of Claim 5. As we explain in the beginning of the proof of Claim 5, it is enough to prove that $R : I \subseteq R + t^{a_4 - a_1} \overline{R}$. Let $g \in R : I$ and write $g = c_0 + g'$, where $c_0 \in k$ and $g' \in R : I$ such that $v(g') > 0$. Then $g'(t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_3}) \in R$ and $g'(t^{a_2} + \beta t^{a_3}) \in R$ since $g'I \subseteq R$. This proves that

$$v(g') + a_1 \in H \quad \text{and} \quad v(g') + a_2 \in H.$$

Hence, we have $v(g') + a_1 = a_i$ for some $i \geq 2$, and $a_i - a_1 + a_2 = a_j$ for some $j \geq 3$. We show that $i \geq 4$. Assume that $i = 2$. Then $2a_2 - a_1 = a_j$ for some $j \geq 3$. By the assumption of (d-1), we obtain that $j \neq 3$. But, because $2a_2 - a_1 < 2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$, $j \geq 4$ is also impossible. Thus, $i \neq 2$. Assume that $i = 3$. Then $a_3 - a_1 + a_2 = a_j$ for some $j \geq 3$. Since $a_3 < a_3 - a_1 + a_2$, $j \neq 3$. It follows that $a_3 - a_1 + a_2 \geq a_4$. This contradicts the assumption $2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$. Therefore, $i \geq 4$. It follows that $v(g') \geq a_4 - a_1$, that is, $g' \in t^{a_4 - a_1} \overline{R}$. Hence,

$$g = c_0 + g' \in R + t^{a_n - a_1} \overline{R}.$$

(d-2): Set $s = a_2 - a_1$. By the assumptions, $a_3 = 2a_2 - a_1 = a_1 + 2s$ and $a_3 + 2s = 2a_3 - a_1 < a_4$. Hence, we obtain that

$$(7.5.1) \quad a_2 = a_1 + s, \quad a_3 = a_1 + 2s, \quad \text{and} \quad a_4 - a_3 \geq 2s + 1.$$

Set

$$f_1 = t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_1 + 2s} \quad \text{and} \quad f_2 = t^{a_1 + s} + \beta t^{a_1 + 2s}.$$

Then $R : I = (R : f_1) \cap (R : f_2) \cap \overline{R}$ by Lemma 7.2. Let $g \in R : I$, and write $g = c_0 + c_1 t + c_2 t^2 + \cdots$, where $c_i \in k$. Then, for all $x \geq a_1 + 2s$, we obtain that

$$(7.5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{(the } f_1 g \text{'s coefficient of degree } x) &= c_{x-a_1} + \alpha c_{x-(a_1+2s)}, \\ \text{(the } f_2 g \text{'s coefficient of degree } x) &= c_{x-(a_1+s)} + \beta c_{x-(a_1+2s)}. \end{aligned}$$

Here, suppose that $x, x + s \notin H$. By (7.5.2), we obtain that

$$(7.5.3) \quad c_{x-a_1} + \alpha c_{x-(a_1+2s)} = 0,$$

$$(7.5.4) \quad c_{x+s-a_1} + \alpha c_{x+s-(a_1+2s)} = 0,$$

$$(7.5.5) \quad c_{x-(a_1+s)} + \beta c_{x-(a_1+2s)} = 0,$$

$$(7.5.6) \quad c_{x+s-(a_1+s)} + \beta c_{x+s-(a_1+2s)} = 0.$$

By (7.5.3), (7.5.6), and (7.5.5), we have

$$(7.5.7) \quad -\alpha c_{x-a_1-2s} = c_{x-a_1} = -\beta c_{x-a_1-s} = \beta^2 c_{x-a_1-2s}.$$

Therefore, since we assume that $\alpha \neq -\beta^2$, we obtain that $c_{x-a_1-2s} = 0$. It follows that

$$(7.5.8) \quad c_{x-a_1+s} = c_{x-a_1} = c_{x-a_1-s} = c_{x-a_1-2s} = 0$$

by (7.5.3)–(7.5.6). That is, if $x, x + s \notin H$, then we have (7.5.8).

On the other hand, $x, x + s \notin H$ holds for all $a_3 + 1 \leq x \leq a_4 - s - 1$. Note that the number of (consecutive) integers between $a_3 + 1$ and $a_4 - s - 1$ is $a_4 - s - 1 - a_3 \geq s$ by (7.5.1). Therefore, the fact that (7.5.8) holds for all $x = a_3 + 1, \dots, a_4 - s - 1$ turns out that

$$c_{(a_3+1)-a_1-2s} = \dots = c_{(a_4-s-1)-a_1+s} = 0.$$

By noting that $(a_3 + 1) - a_1 - 2s = 1$ and $(a_4 - s - 1) - a_1 + s = a_4 - a_1 - 1$ due to (7.5.1), we obtain that

$$g = c_0 + c_{a_4-a_1} t^{a_4-a_1} + c_{a_4-a_1+1} t^{a_4-a_1+1} + \dots \in R + t^{a_4-a_1} \overline{R}.$$

Therefore, by combining this result with Lemma 7.3,

$$R : (R : I) = R : (R + t^{a_4-a_1} \overline{R}) = I_1.$$

(d-3): Suppose that $a_1 + a_3 = 2a_2$ and $\alpha = -\beta^2$. Set $s = a_2 - a_1$. Note that we have (7.5.1). Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} (t^{a_1}, t^{a_2}) + \mathfrak{c} &= (t^{a_1}, t^{a_1+s}) + \mathfrak{c} = (t^{a_1} - \beta t^{a_1+s}, t^{a_1+s}) + \mathfrak{c} \\ &\cong (1 + \beta t^s)[(t^{a_1} - \beta t^{a_1+s}, t^{a_1+s}) + \mathfrak{c}] \\ &= (t^{a_1} - \beta^2 t^{a_1+2s}, t^{a_1+s} + \beta t^{a_1+2s}) + (1 + \beta t^s)\mathfrak{c} \\ &= (t^{a_1} + \alpha t^{a_1+2s}, t^{a_1+s} + \beta t^{a_1+2s}) + \mathfrak{c} \\ &= I. \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

By Claims 5 and 6, in the cases (d) and (e), a reflexive ideal I is isomorphic to some monomial ideal containing \mathfrak{c} , respectively. Therefore, for each of the cases (a)–(e), I is isomorphic to some monomial ideal containing \mathfrak{c} . ■

Example 7.6: Let $e \geq 5$ be an integer and set

$$R = k[[t^e, t^{e+1}, t^{e+2}, t^i \mid 2e + 5 \leq i \leq 3e - 1]],$$

a numerical semigroup ring over an infinite field k . Then $T(R)$ is infinite, but $\text{Ref}_1(R)$ is finite.

Proof. This is the case where $n = 4$, $a_1 = e$, $a_2 = e + 1$, $a_3 = e + 2$, and $a_4 = 2e$. It follows that $2a_3 - a_1 = e + 4 < 2e = a_4$ and $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 = e + 3 < 2e = a_4$. Hence, the conclusion follows from Corollary 4.2 and Theorem 7.1. ■

We note one of the easiest examples arising from Example 7.6.

Example 7.7: Let $R = k[[t^5, t^6, t^7]]$ be a numerical semigroup ring over an infinite field k . Then $T(R)$ is infinite, but $\text{Ref}_1(R)$ is finite.

Example 7.8: Let $e \geq 4$ be an integer and set

$$R = k[[t^e, t^{e+1}, t^{2e-2}, t^i \mid 2e + 3 \leq i \leq 3e - 3]],$$

a numerical semigroup ring over an infinite field k . Then $\text{Ref}_1(R)$ (and hence $T(R)$) is infinite.

Proof. This is the case where $n = 4$, $a_1 = e$, $a_2 = e + 1$, $a_3 = 2e - 2$, and $a_4 = 2e$. It follows that $2a_3 - a_1 = 3e - 4 \geq 2e = a_4$ since $e \geq 4$. We also have $a_2 - a_1 + a_3 = 2e - 1 < 2e = a_4$. Hence, the conclusion follows from Corollary 4.2 and Theorem 7.1. ■

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