1014-54-474 **Melvin Henriksen*** (henriksen@hmc.edu), Harvey Mudd College, 1250 N. Dartmouth Ave, Claremont, CA 91711. *Tychonoff spaces X such that each maximal ideal of C(X) contains a minimal prime ideal P for which C(X)/P is a valuation domain.* Preliminary report.

A ring C(X) [space X] satisfying the conditions of the title is called an almost SV-ring [almost SV-space]. If for each pair of nonzero elements of C(X)/P, one must divide the other, then it is called a valuation domain and P a survaluation ideal. C(X) is an SV-ring if each of its prime ideals is a survaluation ideal. Finite unions of compact F-spaces are SV-spaces and no infinite SV-space contains the one-point compactification aN of a countably infinite discrete space. [X is an F-space if each maximal ideal of C(X) contain a unique maximal ideal.] Every SV-ring is an almost SV-ring, but the space obtained by attaching a copy of aN to betaN (or any infinite compact F-space) at a nonP-point is an almost SV-space. Proving topological theorems about such spaces is complicated by the fact that whether aN is or is not an almost SV-ring is undecidable in ZFC and depends on whether betaN / N has P-points. CH implies the latter, but there are models of ZFC in which it fails. Sample theorem: If aN is an almost SV-space, then so is aD and (aD)(aD) for any infinite discrete space D. Sample problem: Is [0,1] an almost SV-space under this assumption? (This is part of joint research with Bikram Banerjee of the University of Calcutta.) (Received September 17, 2005)