THE STRUCTURE OF SEMIPERFECT RINGS

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ABSTRACT. Let $R$ be a ring with identity $1_R$ and let $U(R)$ denote the group of all units of $R$. A ring $R$ is called \textit{locally finite} if every finite subset in it generates a finite semigroup multiplicatively. In this paper, some results are obtained as follows: (1) for any semilocal (hence semiperfect) ring $R$, $U(R)$ is a finite (resp. locally finite) group if and only if $R$ is a finite (resp. locally finite) ring; $U(R)$ is a locally finite group if and only if $U(M_n(R))$ is a locally finite group where $M_n(R)$ is the full matrix ring of $n \times n$ matrices over $R$ for any positive integer $n$; in addition, if $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, then $U(R)$ is an abelian group if and only if $R$ is a commutative ring; (2) for any semiperfect ring $R$, if $E(R)$, the set of all idempotents in $R$, is commuting, then $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m D_i$ where each $D_i$ is a division ring for some positive integer $m$ and $|E(R)| = 2^m$; in addition, if $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, then every idempotent is central.

1. Introduction and basic definitions

Let $R$ be a ring with identity $1_R$, $J$ be the Jacobson radical of $R$, $U(R)$ be the group of all units of $R$ and $X(R)$ be the set of all nonzero nonunits of $R$. Recall that any group $G$ is called \textit{locally finite} if every finitely generated subgroup of $G$ is finite. In ring case, a ring $R$ is called \textit{locally finite} if every finite subset in it generates a finite semigroup multiplicatively (refer [5]). In [5], Lee and Kim have shown that (1) The direct limit of locally finite rings is locally finite [5, Proposition 2.1]; (2) $R$ is a locally finite ring if and only if each finite subset of $R$ generates a finite subring (not necessarily with identity) [5, Theorem 2.2]; (3) if $R/I$ and $I$ are both locally finite for some proper ideal $I$ in $R$ then so is $R$ [5, Theorem 2.2]; (4) a ring $R$ is locally finite if and only if the $n \times n$ full matrix ring over $R$ is locally finite for any positive integer $n$ [5, Corollary 2.3]. Of course, any finite ring is locally finite but the converse is not true by the following example:

Example 1. Let $S$ be a finite ring and let $R_n = M_{2^n}(S)$ be the full matrix ring of $2^n \times 2^n$ matrices over $S$ for any positive integer $n$. Consider an inclusion

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from $R_n$ to $R_{n+1}$ defined by $A \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ \hat{C} & \hat{D} \end{pmatrix}$. Then the direct limit of $R_n$ is equal to $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R_n$ and so is locally finite by [5, Proposition 2.1] but is not finite.

A ring $R$ is called semilocal if $R/J(R)$ is left artinian where $J(R)$ (or simply $J$) is the Jacobson radical of $R$, and hence by the Wedderburn-Artin Structure Theorem for semisimple artinian ring, $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m M_i(D_i)$ where $M_i(D_i)$ is the full matrix ring of all $n_i \times n_i$ matrices over a division ring $D_i$ for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$. A ring $R$ is called semiperfect if $R$ is semilocal, and every idempotent in $R/J$ can be lifted to $R$. In [1], Cohen and Koh have shown that for any compact ring $R$ with identity $1_R$, $U(R)$ is a finite group if and only if $R$ is a finite ring; in addition, if $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, then $U(R)$ is an abelian group if and only if $R$ is a commutative ring. In [7], Nicholson has shown that if $R$ is a semiperfect ring such that $U(R)$ is finite and abelian, then $R$ is finite. In section 2, we will show that for any semilocal (hence semiperfect) ring $R$ with identity $1_R$, $U(R)$ is a finite group if and only if $R$ is a finite ring; $U(R)$ is a locally finite group if and only if $R$ is a locally finite ring; in addition, if $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, then $U(R)$ is an abelian group if and only if $R$ is a commutative ring; $U(R)$ is a locally finite group if and only if $U(M_n(R))$ is a locally finite group where $M_n(R)$ is the full matrix ring of $n \times n$ matrices over $R$ for any positive integer $n$; if $U(R)$ is a finitely generated abelian group, then $R/J$ is finite. In group theory, the Burnside problem for matrix groups has been considering and Burnside has shown that a torsion group of matrices over a field is locally finite. We will answer partially Burnside problem for matrix group as follows; if $F$ is a locally finite field, $U(M_n(F))$ is a locally finite group for any positive integer $n$. It is also shown that if $R$ is a semiperfect ring $R$ such that $gx = xg$ for all $g \in U(R)$ and all $x \in X$, then $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m F_i$, where $F_i$ is a field for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$.

In section 3, it is shown that if $E(R)$, the set of all idempotents in a semiperfect $R$, is commuting, then $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m D_i$, where $D_i$ is a division ring for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$ and $|E(R)| = |E(R/J)| = 2^m$; in addition, if $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, then every idempotent is central.

2. Semilocal ring in which $U(R)$ is finite (resp. locally finite) or abelian (resp. finitely generated abelian)

We begin with the following lemma:

**Lemma 2.1.** Let $R$ be a ring with identity $1_R$. Then $g \in U(R)$ if and only if $g + J \in U(R/J)$.

**Proof.** ($\Rightarrow$) Clear.

($\Leftarrow$) Suppose that $\bar{g} = g + J \in U(R/J)$. Then there exists $\bar{h} = h + J \in R/J$ such that $\bar{g}\bar{h} = \bar{h}\bar{g} = 1_R$, where $1_R$ is the identity of $U(R/J)$. Hence $1_R - gh \in J$. By the definition of $J$, $1_R + J \subseteq U(R)$ and then $gh$ and $hg \in U(R)$. Hence $g \in U(R)$.

$\square$
In general, for a ring \( R \) it is not true that

\((*)\) \( U(R) \) is a finite (resp. locally finite) group if and only if \( R \) is a finite (resp. locally finite) ring by noting that the group of units in \( \mathbb{Z} \), the ring of all integers, is finite (resp. locally finite) but \( \mathbb{Z} \) is not finite (resp. locally finite).

On the other hand, the statement \((*)\) is true for a semilocal ring as follows:

**Theorem 2.2.** Let \( R \) be a semilocal ring. Then \( U(R) \) is a finite group if and only if \( R \) is a finite ring.

**Proof.** \((\Rightarrow)\) Suppose that \( U(R) \) is a finite group. Since \( R \) is a semilocal ring, by the Wedderburn–Artin Structure Theorem for semisimple artinian ring, \( R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} M_{n_i}(D_i) \), where \( M_{n_i}(D_i) \) is the full matrix ring of all \( n_i \times n_i \) matrices over a division ring \( D_i \) for each \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, m \) and for some positive integer \( m \). Since \( U(R) \) is a finite group, clearly \( U(R/J) \) is a finite group by Lemma 2.1. Then \( D_i \) is finite for each \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \). Indeed, suppose that \( D_i \) is finite for some \( i \). For simplicity of notation, we can assume that \( R/J = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} M_{n_i}(D_i) \). Consider \( U(R/J)_{n_i}^{\ast} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} H_i \), where \( H_i = \left\{(a_{ij}) \in M_{n_i}(D_i) : a_{11} \in D_i \setminus \{0_i\}, a_{ss} = 1_i(n_i \geq s \geq 2), a_{st} = 0_i(n_i \geq s, t \geq 2, s \neq t) \right\} \), where \( 0_i \) (resp. \( 1_i \)) is zero (resp. identity) of \( D_i \). Then \( U(R/J)_{n_i}^{\ast} \) is a subgroup of \( U(R/J) \) and \( |U(R/J)_{n_i}^{\ast}| = |D_i \setminus \{0_i\}| \) is infinite, which contradicts to the fact \( U(R/J) \) is a finite group. Hence \( D_i \) is finite for each \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \), and so \( R/J \) is finite. Since \( 1_R + J \subseteq U(R) \) and \( U(R) \) is a finite group, \( J \) is finite. Hence \( |R| = |J| \cdot |R/J| \) is finite.

\((\Leftarrow)\) Clear.

**Lemma 2.3.** Let \( R \) be a ring. If \( U(R) \) is a locally finite group, then \( U(R/J) \) is a locally finite group.

**Proof.** Clear.

In [5], the following theorem has been proved:

**Theorem 2.4.** Let \( R \) be a ring. Then \( R \) is a locally finite ring if and only if \( R/J \) and \( J \) are locally finite rings.

**Proof.** Refer [5, Theorem 2.2].

In [5], the following corollary has also been proved:

**Corollary 2.5.** Let \( R = M_n(S) \) be the full matrix ring of all \( n \times n \) matrices over a ring \( S \) for any positive integer \( n \). Then \( S \) is a locally finite ring if and only if \( R \) is a locally finite ring.

**Proof.** Refer [5, Corollary 2.3].

We can have the following question:
Question 1. For any ring \( R \) with identity and for any positive integer \( n \), is \( U(R) \) a locally finite group if and only if \( U(M_n(R)) \), the group of all nonsingular matrices of \( M_n(R) \), is a locally finite group?

The answer to the above question is negative by the following example.

Example 2. Let \( \mathbb{Z} \) be the ring of all integers. Then \( U(\mathbb{Z}) = \{1, -1\} \) is a locally finite group. But \( U(M_2(\mathbb{Z})) \) is not a locally finite group. Indeed, consider a cyclic subgroup \( H = \langle \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right) \rangle \) generated by \( \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right) \) for some \( a(\neq 0) \in \mathbb{Z} \). Then \( H = \{ \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1 & k \cdot a \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right) : k \in \mathbb{Z} \} \) is infinite. Hence \( U(M_2(\mathbb{Z})) \) is not a locally finite group.

On the other hand, the above question may be affirmative for any division ring by the following argument:

Proposition 2.6. Let \( R = M_n(D) \) be the full matrix ring of all \( n \times n \) matrices over a division ring \( D \) for any positive integer \( n \). Then the following are equivalent:

1. \( U(D) = D \setminus \{0\} \) is a locally finite group;
2. \( D \) is a locally finite ring;
3. \( R \) is a locally finite ring;
4. \( U(R) \) is a locally finite group.

Proof. (1) \( \leftrightarrow \) (2). Clear.
(2) \( \leftrightarrow \) (3). It follows from Corollary 2.5.
(3) \( \Rightarrow \) (4). Clear.
(4) \( \Rightarrow \) (3). Suppose that \( U(R) \) is a locally finite group. In order to show that \( R \) is a locally finite ring, it is enough to show that \( D \) is a locally finite ring by Corollary 2.5. Assume that \( D \) is not a locally finite ring. Then \( D \setminus \{0\} \) is not a locally finite group. Thus there exists a finite subset \( \{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_s\} \) of \( D \setminus \{0\} \) such that the subgroup \( \langle a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_s \rangle \) generated by \( \{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_s\} \) of \( D \setminus \{0\} \) is not a finite subgroup of \( D \setminus \{0\} \). Consider a subgroup \( \langle A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_s \rangle \) of \( U(R) \) generated by \( \{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_s\} \), where \( A_k = (p(k)_{ij}) \in R \) with \( p(k)_{11} = a_k \), \( p(k)_{ii} = 1 \) for all \( i \geq 2 \) and \( p(k)_{ij} = 0 \) for all \( i, j \geq 1 \) (\( i \neq j \)) for all \( k = 1, \ldots, s \). Since \( U(R) \) is a locally finite group, \( \langle A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_s \rangle \) is a finite subgroup of \( U(R) \) and \( \langle A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_s \rangle \) is isomorphic to \( \langle a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_s \rangle \) as groups, which is a contradiction. Therefore \( R \) is a locally finite ring. \( \square \)

Corollary 2.7. Let \( R \) be a semilocal ring. If \( U(R) \) is a locally finite group, then \( R/J \) is a locally finite ring.

Proof. Suppose that \( U(R) \) is a locally finite group. Since \( R \) is a semilocal ring, by the Wedderburn-Artin Structure Theorem for semisimple artinian ring, \( R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m M_i(D_i) \), where \( M_i(D_i) \) is the full matrix ring of all \( n_i \times n_i \) matrices over a division ring \( D_i \) for each \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, m \) and for some positive integer \( m \). Since a direct sum of locally finite rings is locally finite, it is enough to show that \( M_i(D_i) \) is a locally finite ring for each \( i \). Since \( U(R) \) is a locally finite
group, $U(R/J)$ is a locally finite group by Lemma 2.3, and then $U(M_i(D_i))$ is a locally finite group for each $i$. Hence $M_i(D_i)$ is a locally finite ring for each $i$ by Proposition 2.6, and so $R/J$ is a locally finite ring.

Remark 1. Note that any locally finite group is torsion but the converse is not true. In group theory, the Burnside problem for matrix groups has been considered. In [4, Theorem 2.3.5], Burnside has shown that a torsion group of matrices over a field is locally finite. By Proposition 2.6, we have answered partially the Burnside problem for matrix group as follows; for any locally finite field $F$, $U(M_n(F))$, the group of $n \times n$ invertible matrices over a field $F$, is locally finite.

Lemma 2.8. Let $R$ be a semilocal ring. If $U(R)$ is an abelian group, then $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m F_i$, where $F_i$ is a field for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$.

Proof. Since $R$ is a semilocal ring, by the Wedderburn-Artin Structure Theorem for semisimple artinian ring, $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m M_i(D_i)$, where $M_i(D_i)$ is the full matrix ring of all $n_i \times n_i$ matrices over a division ring $D_i$ for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$. Since $U(R)$ is an abelian group, $U(R/J)$ is also an abelian group. Since $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m M_i(D_i)$ and $U(R/J)$ is an abelian group, $U(M_i(D_i))$ is an abelian group for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$, and so $D_i$ must be a field for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$. Hence we have the result.

Theorem 2.9. Let $R$ be a semilocal ring such that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$. Then $U(R)$ is an abelian group if and only if $R$ is a commutative ring.

Proof. ($\Rightarrow$) Suppose that $U(R)$ is an abelian group. Then by Lemma 2.8, $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m F_i$, where $F_i$ is a field for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$. Since $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, $R$ is a commutative ring by [3, Lemma 4].

($\Leftarrow$) It is clear.

Note that in Theorem 2.9, the condition that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$ is essential by the following example:

Example 3. Let $R = \{(a \ b) : a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_2\}$, where $\mathbb{Z}_2$ is the ring of integers modulo 2. Then $R$ is a noncommutative semilocal ring with identity but $U(R) = \{(1 0), (0 1)\}$ is an abelian group.

Proposition 2.10. Let $R$ be a semilocal ring with identity $1_R$. If $U(R)$ is a finitely generated abelian group, then $R/J$ is finite.

Proof. Since $U(R)$ is an abelian group, then by Lemma 2.8, $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m F_i$, where $F_i$ is a field for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$. Since $U(R)$ is finitely generated, the group of units of each field $F_i$ is finitely generated (if and only if $F_i$ is finite in the proof of Theorem 2 in [3]). Hence $R/J$ is finite.
Corollary 2.11. Let $R$ be a semilocal ring with identity $1_R$. If $U(R)$ is a finitely generated abelian group, then $J$ is finite if and only if $R$ is finite.

Proof. If follows from the Proposition 2.10. \qed

Remark 2. In [7, Proposition 3], Nicholson has shown that for a semiperfect ring $R$ with a finitely generated abelian group $U(R)$, if $J$ is a nil ideal in $R$ (in this case, $R$ is a semiperfect ring if and only if $R$ is a semilocal ring), then $R$ is finite.

Proposition 2.12. Let $R$ be a semilocal ring with identity $1_R$. If $gx = xg$ for all $g \in U(R)$ and all $x \in X$, then $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^{m} F_i$, where $F_i$ is a field for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$.

Proof. By the Wedderburn-Artin Structure Theorem for semisimple artinian ring, $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^{m} M_i(D_i)$, where $M_i(D_i)$ is the full matrix ring of all $n_i \times n_i$ matrices over a division ring $D_i$ for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$. Let $\bar{U}$ (resp. $\bar{X}$) be the group of all units (resp. the set of all nonzero, nonunits) in $R/J$. Since $gx = xg$ for all $g \in U(R)$ and all $x \in X$,

$$\bar{g}x = \bar{x}\bar{g} \text{ for all } \bar{g} \in \bar{U} \text{ and all } \bar{x} \in \bar{X}. \tag{**}$$

We can easily check that if $n_i \geq 2$ for some $i$, then $M_i(D_i)$ does not satisfy (**). Hence $R/J \cong \oplus_{i=1}^{m} D_i$. Next, we will show that $D_i$ is a field for all $i$. Assume that $D_i$ is not a field for some $i$. Then there exists $a_i, b_i \in D_i$ such that $ab \neq ba$. Choose $\bar{a} = (a_1, \ldots, a_i, \ldots, a_m)$ and $\bar{b} = (b_1, \ldots, b_i, \ldots, b_m)$ with $a_i = a, a_j = 0_j$ for all $j \neq i$ and $b_i = b, b_j = 1_j$, where $0_j$ (resp. $1_j$) is the zero (resp. the identity) of $D_j$. Then $\bar{a} \in \bar{X}$ and $\bar{b} \in \bar{U}$ and $\bar{a}\bar{b} = (0_1, \ldots, ab, \ldots, 0_m) \neq (0_1, \ldots, ba, \ldots, 0_m) = \bar{b}\bar{a}$, which contradicts to (**). Hence we have the result. \qed

3. Commuting idempotents in a semiperfect ring

Recall that an element $e \in R$ is called an idempotent if $e^2 = e$ and an element $g \in R$ is called an involution if $g^2 = 1$. Let $E(R)$ (resp. $V(R)$) be the set of all idempotents (resp. involutions) in $R$. Note that if $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, then the mapping $e \rightarrow 1_R - 2e$ is a bijection from $E(R)$ to $V(R)$.

We begin this section with the following lemma:

Lemma 3.1. Let $R$ be a semiperfect ring with identity $1_R$ such that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$. Then every involution in $R/J$ can be lifted to $R$.

Proof. Let $\bar{v} = v + J$ be an arbitrary involution of $R/J$, i.e., $v^2 + J = 1_R + J$. Let $e = \frac{1_R - v}{2}$. Then $\bar{e} = e + J$ is an idempotent of $R/J$. Since $R$ is semiperfect, then $\bar{e}$ can be lifted to $R$, i.e., there is an idempotent $f \in R$ such that $f + J = e + J$. Let $v_0 = 1_R - 2f$. Then $v_0$ is an involution of $R$ and $v_0 + J = (1_R - 2e) + J = v + J$. Hence $\bar{v} = v + J$ in $R/J$ can be lifted to $R$. \qed
Lemma 3.2. Let $R$ be a ring with identity $1_R$ and let $V(R)$ be the set of all involutions of $R$. If $V(R)$ is finite, then $\langle V(R) \rangle$, the group generated by $V(R)$, is finite.

Proof. Let $m = |V(R)|$. If $m = 1$ or 2, then clearly $\langle V(R) \rangle$ is finite. Suppose that $m \geq 3$. For all $g \in \langle V(R) \rangle$, consider $l(g)$, the length of $g$, which is the smallest positive integer $k$ such that $g = v_1v_2 \cdots v_k$ for some $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_k \in V(R)$. We will show that $\langle V(R) \rangle = V(R)^{m-1}$. Assume that there exists $g \in \langle V(R) \rangle$ such that $l(g) \geq m$. Let $n = l(g)$, i.e., $g = v_1v_2 \cdots v_n$ for some $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n \in V(R) \setminus \{1_R\}$. Since $n \geq m = |V(R)|$ and $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n \in V(R) \setminus \{1_R\}$, there exist $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $v_i = v_{i+j}$ ($n \geq i + j > i \geq 1$). Let $h = v_{i+1} \cdots v_{i+j} \in \langle V(R) \rangle$. Then $h \in \langle V(R) \rangle$ and $l(h) = j + 1$ since $l(g) = n$. On the other hand, since $h = (v_{i+1}v_i)(v_{i+2}v_i) \cdots (v_{i+j-1}v_i) = (v_{i+1}v_{i+2}v_i) \cdots (v_{i+j-1}v_i)$ and $v_{i+1}v_{i+2}v_i, \ldots, v_{i+j-1}v_i \in V(R)$, $j - 1 \geq l(h)$, a contradiction. Hence for all $g \in \langle V(R) \rangle$, $m - 1 \geq l(g)$, and so $\langle V(R) \rangle = V(R)^{m-1}$. Consequently, $\langle V(R) \rangle$ is finite. 

Theorem 3.3. Let $R$ be a semiperfect ring with identity $1_R$ and let $E(R)$ be the set of all idempotents of $R$. If $E(R)$ is commuting, i.e., $e_1e_2 = e_2e_1$ for all $e_1, e_2 \in E(R)$, then $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m D_i$, where $D_i$ is a division ring for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$ and $|E(R)| = |E(R/J)| = 2^m$.

Proof. Since $E(R)$ is commuting, $E(R/J)$, the set of all idempotents of $R/J$, is also commuting. Indeed, for all $e_1 + J, e_2 + J \in E(R/J)$, there exist $f_1, f_2 \in E(R)$ such that $f_1 + J = e_1 + J, f_2 + J = e_2 + J$ since $R$ is semiperfect. Thus $(e_1 + J)(e_2 + J) = (f_1 + J)(f_2 + J) = f_1f_2 + J = f_2f_1 + J = (f_2 + J)(f_1 + J) = (e_2 + J)(e_1 + J)$. By the Wedderburn-Artin Structure Theorem for semisimple artinian ring, $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m M_i(D_i)$, where $M_i(D_i)$ is the full matrix ring of all $n_i \times n_i$ matrices over a division ring $D_i$ for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$. We will show that $n_i = 1$ for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$. Assume that $n_i \geq 2$ for some $i$. For all $a, b (a \neq b) \in D_i$, consider two idempotents

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in M_i(D_i)$.

Then $A, B \in E(M_i(D_i))$ and $AB = B \neq A = BA$, a contradiction to the fact $E(R/J)$ is commuting. Hence $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m D_i$, where $D_i$ is a division ring for each $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$ and so $|E(R/J)| = 2^m$. Since every idempotents of $R/J$ can be lifted to $R$, $|E(R)| \geq 2^m$. Next, we will show that $|E(R)| = |E(R/J)|$. Suppose that there exist two idempotents $e$ and $f$ of $R$ ($e \neq f$) such that $e + J = f + J$. Then $e - f \in J$. Since $ef = fe$, $(e - f)^4 = (e - f)^2$, and so $(e - f)^2 \in E(R) \cap J = (0)$. Hence $(e - f)^2 = 0$, which implies that $e = f$, a contradiction. Therefore, $|E(R)| = |E(R/J)| = 2^m$ for some positive integer $m$. 

\qed
Remark 3. From Theorem 3.3, we note that if $R$ is a semiperfect ring with identity $1_R$ such that $E(R)$ is commuting, then $R/J$ is a finite product of division rings, and hence $R$ is a basic ring by [6, Proposition 25.10].

Corollary 3.4. Let $R$ be a semiperfect ring with identity $1_R$ such that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, and $V(R)$ be the set of all involutions of $R$. If $V(R)$ is commuting, i.e., $v_1v_2 = v_2v_1$ for all $v_1, v_2 \in V(R)$, then $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} D_i$, where $D_i$ is a division ring for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$ and $|V(R)| = |V(R/J)| = 2^m$.

Proof. Since $2$ is a unit in $R$ and $V(R)$ is commuting, there exists a bijection from $E(R)$ to $V(R)$ and $E(R)$ is commuting. Hence the result follows from Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 3.3.

Corollary 3.5. Let $R$ be a semiperfect ring with identity $1_R$ such that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$ and $V(R)$ is commuting. If $U(R)$ is a simple group, then $R$ is a finite commutative ring.

Proof. Since $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$ and $V(R)$ is commuting, $V(R)$ is a finite abelian group by Corollary 3.4. Since $U(R)$ is a simple group and $V(R) \neq \{1_R\}$ is a normal subgroup of $G$, $V(R) = U(R)$. Hence $R$ is a finite commutative ring by Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 2.9.

Corollary 3.6. Let $R$ be a semiperfect ring with identity $1_R$ such that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$ and $V(R)$ is commuting. If $U(R)$ is a simple group and $J$ is a nil ideal of $R$, then $J = (0)$, and so $R \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} F_i$, where $F_i$ is a finite field for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$ by Corollary 3.5.

Proof. Assume that there exists $j(\neq 0) \in J$. Since $J$ is nil ideal, $j^n = 0$ and $j^{n-1} \neq 0$ for some positive integer $n$. Since $U(R)$ is a simple group and $1_R + J(\neq \{1_R\})$ is a normal subgroup of $U(R)$, $U(R) = 1_R + J = V(R)$. Thus $(1_R + j)^2 = 1_R$, and so $2j = -j^2$. Since $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$, we have $j^{n-1} = 0$, a contradiction. Hence $J = (0)$, and so $R \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} F_i$, where $F_i$ is a finite field for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$.

Remark 4. From Corollary 3.6, we note that for a left artinian ring $R$ with identity $1_R$ such that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$ and $V(R)$ is commuting if $U(R)$ is a simple group, then $R$ is a finite semisimple artinian ring.

Corollary 3.7. Let $R$ be a semiperfect ring with identity $1_R$ such that $2 = 1_R + 1_R$ is a unit in $R$. If $E(R)$ is commuting, then every idempotent of $R$ is central.

Proof. Since $E(R)$ is commuting, $E(R) = E(R)^2$, where $E(R)^2 = \{ab|va, b \in E(R)\}$. By [2, Lemma 2.1 and Proposition 2.2], $ea = ae$ for all elements $e \in E(R)$ and $a \in J$. Since $E(R)$ is commuting, by Theorem 2.3, $R/J \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} D_i$, where $D_i$ is a division ring for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and for some positive integer $m$, and so every idempotent of $R/J$ is central and then every idempotent of $R$ is central by [2, Lemma 2.3].

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References


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