

## On N–Flat Rings

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### ABSTRACT

Let  $I$  be a right ideal of  $R$ , then  $R / I$  is a right  $N$ –flat if and only if for each  $a \in I$ , there exists  $b \in I$  and a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $a^n = ba^n$ . In this paper, we first give and develop various properties of right  $N$ -flat rings, by which, many of the known results are extended. Also, we study the relations between such rings and regular,  $\pi$ -biregular ring.

**Key word:**  $N$ -flat rings, weakly continuous rings, biregular rings.

### حول الحلقات المسطحة من النمط – $N$

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### الملخص

ليكن  $I$  مثالي أيمن في  $R$ ، فإن  $R/I$  حلقة مسطحة يمنية من النمط  $N$  إذا وفقط إذا لكل  $a \in I$  يوجد  $b \in I$  وعدد صحيح موجب  $n$  بحيث  $a^n \neq 0$  و  $a^n = ba^n$  في هذا البحث أعطينا أولاً خواصاً متنوعة للحلقات المسطحة من النمط  $N$ ، كما قمنا بتطوير عدد من النتائج المعروفة. كذلك درسنا العلاقة بين تلك الحلقات والحلقات المنتظمة والحلقات المنتظمة ثنائياً من النمط  $\pi$ .

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الحلقات المسطحة من النمط  $N$ ، الحلقات المستمرة بضعف، الحلقات المنتظمة الثنائية.

### 1. Introduction:

Throughout this paper  $R$  is associative ring with identity, and  $R$ -module is unital. For  $a \in R$ ,  $r(a)$  and  $l(a)$  denote the right annihilator and the left annihilator of  $a$ , respectively. We write  $J(R)$ ,  $P(R)$ ,  $Y(R)$  ( $Z(R)$ ) and  $N(R)$  for the Jacobson radical, the prime radical, the right (left) singular ideal and the set of nilpotent elements of  $R$ , respectively.

(1) A ring  $R$  is called a right **SF-ring** [8] if every simple right  $R$ -module is flat. (2) A ring  $R$  is said to be right (left) **quasi-duo** [11] if every maximal right (left) ideal is a two-sided ideal of  $R$ . (3) A ring  $R$  is said to be **reversible** [3] if  $ab = 0$  implies  $ba = 0$ ,  $a, b \in R$ . (4) A ring  $R$  is called **reduced** if contains no non-zero nilpotent elements. (5) A ring  $R$  is called **Von Neumann (strongly resp.) regular** provided that for every  $a \in R$  there exists  $b \in R$  such that  $a = aba$  ( $a = a^2b$ , resp.). (6) A ring  $R$  is called **biregular** [7] if for any  $a \in R$ ,  $RaR$  is generated by a central idempotent. (7) A ring  $R$  is said to be  **$\pi$ -biregular** [7] if for any  $a \in R$ ,  $Ra^nR$  is generated by a central idempotent for some positive integer  $n$ . (8) A ring  $R$  is called right (left) **Kasch ring** [4] if every maximal right (left) ideal of  $R$  is a right (left) annihilator. (9) A ring  $R$  is called **2-primal** if the set of nilpotent elements of the ring coincides with the prime radical.

### 2. Simple N–flat:

We introduce the notion of a right  $N$ –flat with some of their basic properties. We also give some relation between right  $N$ –flat rings and other rings.

**Definition 2.1:** Let  $I$  be a right (left) ideal of  $R$ . Then  $R / I$  is a right (left)  $N$ -flat if and only if for each  $a \in I$ , there exists  $b \in I$  and a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $a^n = ba^n$  ( $a^n = a^n b$ ). ■

The following example illustrates the above definition.

**Examples:**

(1) Let  $Z_{10}$  be the ring of integers modulo 10 and  $I = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8\}$ ,  $J = \{0, 5\}$ . Then  $Z_{10}/I$  and  $Z_{10}/J$  are  $N$ -flat.

(2) Let  $Z_9$  be the ring of integers modulo 9 and  $K = \{0, 3, 6\}$ . Then  $Z_9/K$  is not  $N$ -flat.

**Remark (1):** Every SF – ring is simple  $N$ -flat. ■

**Proposition 2.2:** Let  $R$  be a ring whose every simple right  $R$ -module is right  $N$ -flat. Then,

(1) Every left non – zero divisor element is a right invertible.

(2)  $Z(R) \subseteq J(R)$ .

**Proof:** (1) Let  $a \neq 0$  be a left non – zero divisor, if  $aR \neq R$ , then there exists a maximal right ideal  $M$  of  $R$  containing  $aR$ . Since  $a \in aR \subseteq M$ , and  $R / M$  is right  $N$ -flat, then there exists a positive integer  $n$  and  $b \in M$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $a^n = ba^n$  which implies  $(1-b)a^n = 0$ . Since  $a$  is left non – zero divisor, then  $(1-b) = 0$ , and we get  $b = 1 \in M$  which is a contradiction. Thus  $aR = R$ , and hence  $a$  is right invertible.

(2) Let  $z \in Z(R)$ , then for any  $r \in R$ , we have  $l(1 - rz) = 0$ , which implies that  $(1-rz)$  is right invertible, so that  $z \in J(R)$ . Therefore  $Z(R) \subseteq J(R)$ . ■

**Proposition 2.3 :** If  $R$  is a ring whose every simple right  $R$ -module is right  $N$ -flat and  $R$  has a finite number of maximal right ideals whose product is contained in  $J(R)$ , then  $Z(R) = J(R) = 0$ .

**Proof:** Let  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_m$  be maximal right ideals of  $R$  such that  $M_1 M_2 \dots M_m \subseteq J(R)$ . First, suppose that  $J(R)$  is non – zero reduced. If  $x \in J(R)$ , and since  $x \in M_m$  and  $R / M_m$  is  $N$ -flat, then there exist a positive integer  $n_m$  and  $y_m \in M_m$  such that  $x^{n_m} = y_m x^{n_m}$ , which implies that  $1 - y_m \in r(x^{n_m})$ . Since  $J(R)$  is reduced and  $x \in J(R)$ , then  $r(x) = r(x^{n_m})$ , thus  $1 - y_m \in r(x^{n_m}) = r(x)$ . Therefore  $x = y_m x$ . Since  $y_m x \in J(R) \subseteq M_{m-1}$  and  $R / M_{m-1}$  is  $N$ -flat, there exist a positive integer  $n_{m-1}$  and  $y_{m-1} \in M_{m-1}$  such that  $x^{n_{m-1}} = y_{m-1} x^{n_{m-1}}$  and we get  $x = y_{m-1} x$ , and so on.

Finally, we have  $y_i \in M_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , such that

$$y_1 y_2 \dots y_{m-1} y_m \in M_1 M_2 \dots M_m \subseteq J(R) \text{ and } x = y_1 y_2 \dots y_{m-1} y_m x.$$

Now  $z(1 - y_1 y_2 \dots y_m) = 1$  for some  $z \in R$  which yields  $x = 1x = z(1 - y_1 y_2 \dots y_m)x = 0$ , which is a contradiction.

Now suppose that  $J(R)$  is not reduced. Then there exists  $0 \neq a \in J(R)$  such that  $a^2 = 0$ . Since  $a \in J(R) \subseteq M_m$  and  $R / M_m$  is  $N$ -flat, then  $a = b_m a$  for some  $b_m \in M_m$ . Since  $b_m a \in J(R) \subseteq M_{m-1}$  and  $R / M_{m-1}$  is  $N$ -flat, then  $a = b_m a = b_{m-1} b_m a$  for some  $b_{m-1} \in M_{m-1}$  and so on.

Finally we have  $b_i \in M_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , such that

$$b_1 b_2 \dots b_{m-1} b_m \in M_1 M_2 \dots M_{m-1} M_m \subseteq J(R) \text{ and } a = b_1 b_2 \dots b_{m-1} b_m a.$$

Now  $u(1 - b_1 b_2 \dots b_m) = 1$  for some  $u \in R$  which yields

$a = 1a = u(1 - b_1 \dots b_m)a = 0$ . Thus  $J(R) = 0$  and by Proposition 2.2  $Z(R) \subseteq J(R)$ , thus  $Z(R) = 0$ . ■

Recall that a ring  $R$  is right (left) **weakly continuous** if  $J(R)=Y(R)(J(R)=Z(R))$ ,  $R / J(R)$  is regular and idempotent can be left module  $J(R)$ . Clearly every regular ring is right (left) weakly continuous .

**Corollary 2.4 :** Let  $R$  be a left weakly continuous, whose every simple right  $R -$  module is  $N -$  flat and  $R$  has a finite number of maximal right ideals whose product is contained in  $J(R)$ . Then  $R$  is regular. ■

**Lemma 2.5 :** [2]: A ring  $R$  has zero prime radical if and only if it contains no  $-$  nonzero nilpotent ideal. ■

**Theorem 2.6:** Let  $R$  be a semi-prime 2-primal ring whose every simple right  $R -$  module is  $N -$ flat. Then  $R$  is biregular.

**Proof :** Let  $0 \neq a \in R$  such that  $a^2 = 0$ . Thus,  $a \in P(R)$ . Now, since  $R$  is semi-prime ring then  $R$  has no non  $-$  zero nilpotent ideal, and by Lemma2.5,  $P(R) = 0$ , so  $a = 0$  and hence  $R$  is reduced.

Now, for any  $0 \neq a \in R$ ,  $r(RaR) = l(RaR) = l(aR) = r(aR)=r(a)$ . If  $E = RaR + r(a)$ , then  $E = RaR \oplus r(RaR)$  [since  $RaR \cap r(RaR) = 0$ ].

Suppose that  $E \neq R$ . Let  $M$  be a maximal right ideal of  $R$ . Since  $R/M$  is  $N -$  flat and  $a \in M$ , there exists  $b \in M$  and a positive integer  $n$ , such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $a^n = ba^n$  .

Now,  $1-b \in l(a^n) = r(a^n) = r(a) \subseteq M$  which implies that  $1 \in M$  a contradiction. We have proved that  $R= E = RaR \oplus r(RaR)$ . Since every idempotent in reduced ring is central, then  $RaR$  is generated by a central idempotent. ■

**Lemma 2.7.** [11]: If  $R$  is a right quasi-duo with  $J(R) = 0$  , then  $R$  is reduced. ■

We now consider other condition for right simple  $N$ -flat to be biregular.

**Theorem 2.8:** If  $R$  is right quasi duo ring whose every simple right  $R -$  module is  $N -$  flat and  $R$  has a finite number of maximal right ideals whose product is contained in  $J(R)$ , then  $R$  is biregular.

**Proof :** By Proposition 2.3,  $J(R) = 0$ . Since  $R$  is right quasi-duo, then  $R$  is reduced by Lemma 2.7. The proof of  $R$  being biregular is similar to that of Theorem 2.6. ■

**Remark (2) [5]:** If  $M$  is an essential right ideal, then  $R_R / M$  can not be projective.■

We consider the condition (\*) :  $R$  satisfies  $l(a) \subseteq r(a)$  for any  $a \in R$ .

We begin with a property of rings whose simple right  $R -$ module are either  $N -$  flat or projective.

**Theorem 2.9:** Let  $R$  b a ring satisfy condition (\*). If every simple right  $R -$  module is either  $N -$  flat or projective, then  $Z(R) \cap Y(R) = 0$  .

**Proof:** Let us first suppose that  $Z(R) \cap Y(R)$  is non-zero reduced ideal of  $R$ . If  $0 \neq x \in Z(R) \cap Y(R)$ ,  $r(x)$  is essential right ideal of  $R$  and  $xR \cap r(x) \neq 0$ . Let  $a \in R$  such that  $0 \neq xa \in r(x)$  . Since  $Z(R) \cap Y(R)$  is reduced and  $xax \in Z(R) \cap Y(R)$ , then  $(xax)^2=0$  which implies  $xax=0$ . Therefore  $(xa)^2 = 0$ , which yields  $xa = 0$ , a contradiction. Now, suppose that  $Z(R) \cap Y(R) \neq 0$  , then there exists  $0 \neq y \in Z(R) \cap Y(R)$  such that  $y^2=0$ . We will prove that  $RyR + r(y) = R$ .

If not, let  $M$  be a maximal right ideal containing  $RyR + r(y)$ . Since  $r(y)$  is essential right ideal then  $R / M$  can not be projective by Remark (2), whence it is  $N -$  flat. Since  $R / M$  is  $N -$  flat, then there exist  $d \in M$  and a positive integer  $n$  such that  $y^n \neq 0$  and  $y^n = dy^n$

, Since  $y^2 = 0$ , then  $n = 1$ , so that  $y = dy$  and we get  $1-d \in l(y) \subseteq r(y) \subseteq M$  and  $1 \in M$ . Whence  $M = R$ , contradicting the maximality of  $M$ . Therefore  $R = RyR + r(y)$ .

Now,  $1 = u + z$ ,  $u \in RyR$ ,  $z \in r(y)$  which implies that  $y = yu$ . Since  $u \in Z(R)$  and  $Ry \cap l(u) = 0$  then  $y = 0$  a contradiction. We have proved that  $Z(R) \cap Y(R) = 0$ . ■

**Corollary 2.10:** Let  $R$  be a right weakly continuous satisfy condition (\*). If every simple right  $R$ -module is  $N$ -flat or projective, then  $Z(R) \cap J(R) = 0$ . ■

**Corollary 2.11:** Let  $R$  be weakly continuous ring satisfying condition (\*). If every simple right  $R$ -module is  $N$ -flat or projective, then  $R$  is regular. ■

**Proposition 2.12:** Let  $R$  be a semi-prime ring satisfying condition (\*), whose every simple right  $R$ -modules is either  $N$ -flat or projective. Then  $R$  is left non-singular.

**Proof :** Suppose that  $Z(R) \neq 0$ . Then there exists,  $0 \neq z \in Z(R)$  such that  $z^2 = 0$ . Set  $L = RzR + r(z)$ . Let  $K$  be a complement right ideal of  $R$ , then  $E = L \oplus K$  is an essential right ideal of  $R$ .

Then  $KRzR \subseteq K \cap RzR \subseteq K \cap L = 0$  implies that  $(RzRK)^2 = 0$ . Since  $R$  is semi-prime then  $RzRK = 0$ , which yields  $K \subseteq r(z) \subseteq L$ . Whence  $K = K \cap L = 0$ . This shows that  $E = L$  is an essential right ideal of  $R$ .

Now suppose that  $L \neq R$ . Let  $M$  be a maximal right ideal of  $R$  containing  $L$ . Then  $R/M$  is  $N$ -flat, and there exists  $u \in M$  and a positive integer  $n$  such that  $z^n \neq 0$  and  $z^n = uz^n$  which yields  $n=1$  and  $1-u \in l(z) \subseteq r(z) \subseteq M$ . Thus  $1 \in M$ , contradicting  $M \neq R$ .

Therefore  $L = R$  and  $1 = s + t$  where  $s \in RzR$ ,  $t \in r(z)$  and we have  $z = zs + zt = zs$ . Now  $Rz \cap l(s) = 0$  implies that  $z = 0$ . This is a contradiction, thus  $R$  is left non-singular. ■

Applying Proposition 2.12 we get the next result.

**Corollary 2.13:** If  $R$  is a semi-prime left weakly continuous ring satisfying condition (\*) such that every simply right  $R$ -module is either  $N$ -flat or projective, then  $R$  is regular. ■

Recall that a ring  $R$  is called a FGP-injective ring [ 1 ] if, for any  $0 \neq a \in R$ , there exists  $0 \neq c \in R$  such that  $0 \neq ac = ca$  and any right  $R$ - homomorphism from  $aR$  to  $R$  extends to an endomorphism of  $R$ .

**Lemma 2.14** [9]: If  $Y(R) = 0$  and satisfy condition (\*), then  $R$  is reduced. ■

The following result is given in [1]

**Lemma 2.15:** If  $R$  is a right Kasch FGP-injective ring, then  $J(R)=Y(R)=Z(R)$ . ■

Comparing Theorem 2.9 with Lemma 2.15, we ask the following question:

**Question:** Is a ring satisfying condition (\*) whose every simple right  $R$ -module is either  $N$ -flat or projective strongly regular ring ?

**Theorem 2.16:** Let  $R$  be a right Kasch and right FGP-injective ring satisfying condition (\*) and whose every simple right  $R$ -module is  $N$ -flat or projective. Then  $R$  is strongly regular.

**Proof:** Since  $R$  is right Kasch, right FGP-injective ring, then  $Z(R)=J(R)=Y(R)$  by Lemma 2.15 and  $Z(R) \cap Y(R) = 0$  by Theorem 2.9, which implies  $Z(R)=Y(R)=0$ . Therefore  $R$  is reduced by Lemma 2.14. Let  $0 \neq a \in R$ , we shall prove that  $aR+r(a)=R$ . If not, then there exists a maximal right ideal  $M$  containing  $aR + r(a)$ . Since  $R$  is a right

Kasch ring, then there exists  $b \in R$  such that  $M = r(b)$ . Let  $x = ab + y$ , where  $b \in R, y \in r(a)$ . So  $x \in aR + r(a) \subseteq r(b)$  and  $bx = b(ab+y) = 0$ , since  $by = 0$ , then  $bab=0$ . But  $R$  is reduced so we have  $ab = ba = 0$ , which implies  $b \in r(a) \subseteq r(b)$ , therefore  $b^2=0$ , since  $R$  is reduced then  $b = 0$ , which is contradiction. So that  $aR+r(a)=R$  and therefore,  $R$  is strongly regular ring. ■

### 3. Rings Whose Simple Singular R – Modules are N–Flat

In this section, we give further properties of rings for which every simple singular R–modules are N–flat.

**Theorem 3.1:** If  $R$  is a ring whose every simple singular right R–module is N–flat and satisfying condition (\*), then  $J(R) \cap Y(R) = 0$ .

**Proof :** If  $J(R) \cap Y(R) \neq 0$ , there exists an element  $0 \neq a \in J(R) \cap Y(R)$  such that  $a^2 = 0$ . If  $r(a) + RaR \neq R$ , there exists a maximal right ideal  $M$  of  $R$  containing  $r(a)+RaR$ . Since  $a \in Y(R)$ , then  $r(a)$  is an essential and so  $M$  must be essential. By assumption, the simple singular right R–module  $R / M$  is N–flat. Thus there exists a positive integer  $n$  and  $b \in M$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $a^n = ba^n$ . Since  $a^2 = 0$ , then  $n = 1$ , and therefore  $a = ba$  which implies that  $1-b \in l(a) \subseteq r(a) \subseteq M$ . Thus  $1 \in M$ , which is a contradiction. This proves that  $r(a) + RaR = R$ , and hence  $a = ad$  for some  $d \in RaR \subseteq J(R)$ .

Thus  $(1-d)$  is invertible and we get  $a = 0$ , which is the required contradiction. Therefore  $J(R) \cap Y(R) = 0$ . ■

**Theorem 3.2:** If  $R$  is a ring satisfying condition (\*) and whose every simple singular right R–module is N – flat, then  $J(R) = 0$  if and only if  $J(R)$  is a reduced ideal of  $R$ .

**Proof :** Suppose that  $J(R)$  is reduced. If for any  $a \in J(R)$ , then set  $L = aR + r(a)$ . If  $L = R$ , then  $1 = ab + c$ , for some  $b \in R$  and  $c \in r(a)$ , which implies that  $a = a^2b$ . Since  $a \in J(R)$ , then  $a - aba \in J(R)$  and  $(a - aba)^2 = 0$  which yields  $a = aba$ .

Therefore  $a = ae$ , where  $e = ba$  is idempotent. Since  $J(R)$  can not contain a non–zero idempotent, then  $a = 0$ .

If  $L \neq R$ , then there exists a right ideal  $M$  of  $R$  such that  $L \oplus M$  is an essential right ideal of  $R$ .

We claim that  $L \oplus M = R$ . If not, there is a maximal essential right ideal  $K$  of  $R$  containing  $L \oplus M$ . By assumption, the simple singular right R–module  $R / K$  is N–flat. Since  $J(R)$  contains no non–zero nilpotent elements and  $a \in J(R)$ , then  $a \in K$  and  $a^n = da^n$  for some  $d \in K$ ,  $a^n \neq 0$  and a positive integer  $n$ .

Now  $(1-d) \in l(a^n) = r(a^n) = r(a) \subseteq K$ . Which implies that  $1 \in K$ , contradicting that  $K$  is maximal. This shows that  $L \oplus M = R$ .

Then  $aR + r(a) = eR$  with  $e^2 = e \in R$ . So  $a^2 = a^2e = aea = abaa = ba^2$ , for some  $b \in R$ . But  $a \in J(R)$ , thus  $a = 0$  by the proceeding proof. This proves that if  $J(R)$  is reduced, then  $J(R) = 0$ .

The converse is obvious. ■

Finally, there is an investigation of the Von Neumann regularity of whose simple singular right R–Modules are N–flat.

**Theorem 3.3:** If  $R$  is a ring satisfying condition (\*) and right weakly continuous whose every simple singular right R–module is N–flat, then  $R$  is a strongly regular ring.

**Proof :** From Theorem 3.1  $J(R) \cap Y(R) = 0$ . Since  $R$  is weakly continuous, then  $J(R) = Y(R) = 0$  and  $R$  is strongly regular ring. ■

**Lemma 3.4. [6]:** Let  $R$  be a semi-prime ring. Then  $R$  is reduced if it is a reversible ring. ■

Following [10] a right  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be **Wjcp-injective** if for  $a \notin Y(R)$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and every right  $R$ -homomorphism from  $a^n R$  to  $M$  can be extended to one of  $R$  to  $M$ . If  $R_R$  is Wjcp-injective, we call  $R$  is a right Wjcp-injective ring.

Before closing this section, we present the connection between simple singular  $N$ -flat and  $\pi$ -biregular rings.

**Theorem 3.5:** Let  $R$  be a semi-prime and reversible ring whose every simple singular right  $R$ -module is either Wjcp-injective or  $N$ -flat. Then  $R$  is a  $\pi$ -biregular ring.

**Proof :** For any  $0 \neq a \in R$ ,  $l(RaR) = r(RaR) = r(a) = l(a)$  by Lemma 3.4. If  $Ra^n R \oplus r(a^n) \neq R$ , then there exists a maximal right ideal  $M$  of  $R$  containing  $Ra^n R \oplus r(a^n)$ . If  $M$  is not essential in  $R$ , then  $M = r(e)$ ,  $0 \neq e^2 = e \in R$ . Therefore  $ea = 0$ . Since  $R$  is reversible, then  $ae = 0$ . Hence  $e \in r(a) \subseteq r(e)$ , which is a contradiction. So  $M$  is essential in  $R$ . By hypothesis  $R/M$  is either Wjcp-injective or  $N$ -flat. First we assume that  $R/M$  is Wjcp-injective and  $a \notin Y(R)$ . Hence, there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and any right  $R$ -homomorphism,  $a^n R \rightarrow R/M$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow R/M$ .

Set  $f : a^n R \rightarrow R/M$  defined by  $f(a^n r) = r + M$ ,  $r \in R$ . Then  $f$  is well-defined right  $R$ -homomorphism. Hence, there exists  $c \in R$  such that  $f(a^n r) = ca^n r + M$ . So  $1 + M = f(a^n) = ca^n + M$ , that is  $1 - ca^n \in M$ . Since  $ca^n \in Ra^n R \subseteq M$ , then  $1 \in M$ , which is a contradiction.

Hence  $R/M$  is  $N$ -flat. Since  $a \in M$ , then  $a^n \neq 0$ ,  $a^n = da^n$  for some  $d \in M$  and a positive integer  $n$ . Now  $1 - d \in l(a^n) = r(a^n) \subseteq M$ , which implies that  $1 \in M$ , again a contradiction. Hence  $Ra^n R \oplus r(a^n) = R$ , therefore  $R$  is  $\pi$ -biregular. ■

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