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NOETHERIAN FIXED RINGS

DANIEL REUVEN FARKAS AND ROBERT L. SNIDER

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One of the basic questions of noncommutative Galois theory is the relation between a ring R and the ring S fixed by a group of automorphisms of R. This paper explores what happens when the group is finite and the fixed ring Sis assumed to be Noetherian. Easy examples show that Rmay not be Noetherian; however, in this paper it is shown that R is Noetherian with some rather natural assuptions. More precisely we prove the Theorem 2: Let S be a semiprime ring. Assume that G is a finite group of automorphisms of S and that S has no |G|-torsion. If S^{σ} is left noetherian then S is left noetherian.

Theorem 2 answers a question raised by Fisher and Osterburg [4]. This result rests on calculations which can best be described as belonging to noncommutative Galois theory. The basic theorem here may be of independent interest.

THEOREM 1. Let R be a semisimple artinian ring. If G is a finite group of automorphisms of R and |G| is invertible in R then R is a finitely generated ring R^{G} -module.

The proof of Theorem 1 follows the spirit of Karchenko's work on polynomial identity rings ([6]).

1. A proof of Theorem 1. We will repeatedly need Levitzki's fixed ring theorem ([8]): Suppose R is a semisimple artinian ring. If G is a finite group of automorphisms of R with |G| invertible in R then R^{σ} is semisimple artinian.

LEMMA 1. If Theorem 1 is true when G is a simple group then it is true for an arbitrary finite G.

Proof. By induction on the length of a composition series for G.

If G is not already simple choose $H \Delta G$ with $1 \neq H \neq G$. By Levitzki's theorem R^{H} is semisimple artinian. G/H acts on R^{H} and R^{H} has no |G/H|-torsion; by induction R^{H} is a finitely generated right R^{G} -module. Again, induction shows that R is a finitely generated right R^{H} -module. The lemma follows.

We eventually assume that G is simple. In that case either G consists entirely of outer automorphisms or entirely of inner automorphisms.

LEMMA 2. Let B be a simple artinian ring and let G be a finite group of outer automorphisms of B. Then B is a finitely generated right B^{G} -module.

Proof. By [1], B^c is a simple ring and B is a free module over B^c of rank |G|. (Cf. [5] for the case of a division ring.)

LEMMA 3. Let B be a simple artinian ring and let G be a finite group of inner automorphisms of B. Assume |G| is invertible in B. Then B is a finitely generated right B^{c} -module.

Proof. Let F be the center of B.

For each $g \in G$ pick one $x \in B$ such that ${}^{g}b = xbx^{-1}$ for all $b \in B$. Call the finite set so chosen, \overline{G} . Then collection of sums, $F\overline{G}$, is a finite dimensional algebra over F. Since $1/|G| \in F$, Maschke's theorem for twisted group algebras ([9]) states that $F\overline{G}$ is a separable algebra. Thus there is a finite extension field K of F such that K is a splitting field for each simple constituent of $F\overline{G}$.

 $K \bigotimes_F B$ is a simple artinian ring with center K. G acts on $K \bigotimes_F B$ by

$${}^{g}(k\otimes b)=k\otimes {}^{g}b$$
.

Obviously this action, too, is induced by inner automorphisms. A straight-forward calculation shows that $(K \otimes B)^{a} = K \otimes B^{a}$. Similarly, if $K \otimes B$ is a finitely generated right $(K \otimes B)^{a}$ -module then B is a finitely generated B^{a} -module.

Thus we replace B with $K\bigotimes_F B$ and assume each simple constituent of $F\overline{G}$ is a total matrix ring with entires in F. Let \mathscr{C} be the set of centrally primitive idempotents in $F\overline{G}$.

The crux of this lemma is to show that if $e \in \mathscr{C}$ then eBe is a finitely generated right B^{e} -module. An element of B^{e} commutes with elements of $F\bar{G}$ so it certainly commutes with e; hence eBe is a right B^{e} -module. Let ε_{ij} be a set of matrix units for $eF\bar{G}$. If x is in eBe, set

$$\pi_{ij}(x) = \sum_k \varepsilon_{ki} x \varepsilon_{jk}$$

 $\pi_{ij}(x)$ commutes with each of the matrix units. Since F is the center of B, it commutes with $eF\bar{G}$. Thus it commutes with $F\bar{G}$. In other words, $\pi_{ij}(x)$ is in B^{c} . The map $\pi_{ij}: eBe \to B^{c}$ is a right B^{c} -module map by the argument at the beginning of this paragraph. We claim that the map

$$\sum_{i,j} \pi_{ij}$$
: $eBe \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{i,j} \sum B^{g}$

is injective. For if $\sum_k \varepsilon_{ki} x \varepsilon_{jk} = 0$ for all *i* and *j*, multiple on the right by ε_{ij} :

$$\varepsilon_{ii}x\varepsilon_{jj}=0$$
 for all i and j .

Hence exe = 0. But $x \in eBe$ implies exe = x. We finish this paragraph by noticing that Levitzki's theorem says that B^{σ} is right noetherian. Since eBe is isomorphic to a submodule of a finitely generated B^{σ} module, eBe is finitely generated.

Next we show that if e and f are different elements of \mathscr{C} then fBe is a finitely generated right B^{σ} -module. (Of course it is a B^{σ} -module as above.) Since B is simple, BeB = B. Thus we can choose $v_i \in fBe$ and $u_i \in eBf$ so that

$$f=\sum_i v_i u_i$$
 .

Define $\varphi: fBe \to \bigoplus \sum_i eBe$ by $\varphi(y) = (u_i y)$, a right B^c -module map. $\varphi(y) = 0 \Rightarrow u_i y = 0$ for each $i \Rightarrow (\sum v_i u_i)y = 0 \Rightarrow fy = 0$. But fy = y. Hence φ is injective. Finish the argument as before.

Because $B = \sum_{e, f \in e} fBe$, B is a finitely generated right B^{d} -module.

Proof of Theorem 1. Induct on the order of G. Assume G is simple.

Let e be a centrally primitive idempotent in R. eR is a simple artinian ring. Moreover the stabilizer $H = \operatorname{Stab}_{\mathcal{G}}(e)$ acts on eR and $1/|H|e \in eR$. By Lemmas 2 and 3, eR is a finitely generated right $(eR)^{H}$ -module.

Claim. $(eR)^{H} = e(R^{G}).$

Certainly $e(R^{\sigma}) \subseteq (eR)^{H}$. Let $G = \bigcup_{\tau \in \Gamma} \gamma H$ be a coset decomposition of G with $1 \in \Gamma$. G permutes the centrally primitive idempotents of R and for $\alpha \neq \beta$ in Γ , ${}^{\alpha}e \neq {}^{\beta}e$. Equivalently, if $\gamma \neq 1$ is in Γ , $e({}^{\tau}e) = 0$. If $x \in (eR)^{H}$ define $t_{\Gamma}(x) = \sum_{\tau \in \Gamma} ({}^{\tau}x)$. If $g \in G$, $\{g\gamma | \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ are also coset representatives for H. Thus ${}^{\sigma}t_{\Gamma}(x) = t_{\Gamma}(x)$. That is, $t_{\Gamma}(x) \in R^{\sigma}$. But $et_{\Gamma}(x) = x$ by the remarks above about multiplying idempotents. Thus $(eR)^{H} \subseteq (eR^{\sigma})$.

We now know that eR is a finitely generated right $e(R^{\sigma})$ -module. That means eR is a finitely generated R^{σ} -module. Since $R = \sum_{e} eR$, we are done.

2. Theorem 2 and its relatives.

LEMMA 4. Let A be a semiprime ring. Assume G is a finite group of automorphisms of A and A has no |G|-torsion. Then tr_{g} does not vanish on any nonzero right ideal of A.

(Here
$$tr_{G}(a) = \sum_{g \in G} ({}^{g}a)$$
.)

Proof. Suppose I is a right ideal of A with $tr_G(I) = 0$. If $J = \sum_{g \in G} {}^{g}I$ then J is a G-invariant right ideal of A with $tr_G(J) = 0$. By [2], J is nilpotent. But the only nilpotent right ideal in a semi-prime ring is 0.

Proof of Theorem 2. S^{G} is left Goldie, so according to [6], S is (semiprime) left Goldie. Let R be the left quotient ring for S; R is semisimple artinian. By Theorem 1 we can find a finite set of generators x_{1}, \dots, x_{n} for R as a right R^{G} -module. Choose a regular t and s_{i} both in S such that $x_{i} = t^{-1}s_{i}$.

 $R = \sum_{i=1}^{n} t^{-1} s_i R^{\sigma} \Rightarrow tR = \sum_i s_i R^{\sigma}$. But tR = R since t is invertible. Thus we assume $x_i \in S$.

Define $T: S \to \bigoplus \sum_{i=1}^{n} S^{d}$ by $T(a) = [tr_{d}(ax_{i})]_{i=1}^{n}$. T is clearly a left S^{d} -module map. We will be done once we prove that T is injective.

T(a) = 0 implies $tr_{G}(ax_{i}) = 0$ for all *i*. But tr_{G} is a right R^{d} -module map. Thus $tr_{G}(aR) = 0$. By the previous lemma, a = 0.

We have actually proved that S is a finitely generated S^{G} -module!

One might well ask whether the requirement that S have no |G|-torsion can be dropped. Consider the following counterexample. Let F be a field of characteristic p > 2 and let Φ be the free group on x and y. If S denotes the ring of two-by-two matrices over the group algebra $F[\Phi]$ then S is semiprime but not noetherian. Let G be the multiplicative subgroup of S generated by

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & y \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

G is isomorphic to the semidirect product of $Z/p \oplus Z/p \oplus Z/p$ with Z/2. Since char $F \neq 2$, $S^{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}}$ is the collection of diagonal matrices. The only diagonal matrices fixed by $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ are the scalar matrices. Now a simple calculation shows that S^{a} consists of those scalars in the center of $F[\Phi]$. But it is well known that the center is *F*, a patently noetherian ring.

However, the |G|-torsion restriction is not needed when S is (semiprime) commutative or, more generally, when S has no nilpotent elements. There are several difficulties in proving the last statement along the lines of Theorem 2. First, there are division rings on which tr_{g} vanishes. Even if this objection is met, our induction and restriction techniques all ignore the question of fidelity of action. Reconsider, for instance, Lemma 4. The Bergman-Isaacs theorem states that if H is a group of *automorphisms* of J and $tr_{H}(J) = 0$ then J = 0. Thus implicit in our argument is the proposition that $tr_G(J) = 0 \Rightarrow tr_{G/K}(J) = 0$ where K is the kernel of the action of G on J. The implication is true because J has no |K|-torsion.

We avoid these complications (and, of course, replace them with other complications) by refining the notion of trace. Let G be a finite group acting on a ring R. If \wedge is a subset of G define t_{\wedge} : $R \rightarrow R$ by

$$t_{\wedge}(r) = \sum_{\lambda \in \wedge} (^{\lambda}r)$$
 .

 t_{\wedge} is an R^{g} -bimodule map. Notice that $tr_{g} \equiv t_{g}$.

LEMMA 5. Let G be a finite group acting on the division ring D. Then there is a subset $\wedge \subseteq G$ such that t_{\wedge} is a mapping from D onto D^{σ} .

Proof. Suppose we can find \wedge such that t_{\wedge} is a nonzero function from D into D^{d} . Say $d \in D$ such that $t_{\wedge}(d) = w \neq 0$. If $x \in D^{d}$, $t_{\wedge}(dw^{-1}x) = t_{\wedge}(d)w^{-1}x = x$. Thus t_{\wedge} is surjective.

We argue by induction on the length of a composition series for G. If G is simple and does not act faithfully then G acts trivially; choose $\wedge = \{1\}$. If G is simple group of automorphisms, a result of Faith ([3]) shows that t_G is not identically zero.

When G is not simple choose $H \Delta G$ with $H \neq 1$ and $H \neq G$. By induction there is a subset $A \subseteq H$ such that $t_A: D \to D^H$ is surjective. G/H acts on D^H , so we can find $C \subseteq G/H$ such that $t_c: D^H \to D^g$ is surjective. If B consists of representatives in G for elements of C then $t_c = t_B$. Now $t_{B \cdot A} = t_B \cdot t_A$ is the desired map.

Let S be a ring without nilpotent elements. Suppose G is a finite group of automorphisms of S such that S^{σ} is left noetherian. By [7] S is a semiprime left Goldie ring. By the Faith-Utumi theorem the quotient ring, R, of S has no nilpotent elements. Let e be a centrally primitive idempotent of R.

LEMMA 6. $S \cap eR$ is a finitely generated left S^{G} -module.

Proof. We first observe that the left quotient ring of $S \cap eR$ in eR is the entire division ring eR. Choose z and s in S with zregular such that $e = z^{-1}s$. Then $s = ze \in S \cap eR$. If $x \in eR$ choose q and w in S with q regular such that qx = w. Then (sq)x = sw. But sq and sw are in $S \cap eR$ with sq regular when considered as an element in eR.

 $H = \operatorname{Stab}_{G}(e)$ is a group which acts on $S \cap eR$. Pick a transversal, $G = \Gamma \cdot H$. As in Theorem 1, if $a \in S^{H} \cap eR$ then

$$t_{\scriptscriptstyle \Gamma}(a) \in S^{\scriptscriptstyle G}$$
 and $e \cdot t_{\scriptscriptstyle \Gamma}(a) = a$.

Thus t_{Γ} is an injective left S^{a} -module map from $S^{\mu} \cap eR$ into S^{a} .

The Galois theory for division rings ([5]) as applied to eR implies that eR is a finite dimensional right $(eR)^{H}$ -vector space. As in the proof of Theorem 2 we can choose a basis x_1, \dots, x_n in $S \cap eR$. Use Lemma 5 to find $\wedge \subseteq H$ so that t_{\wedge} is nondegenerate on eR. Define $T: S \cap eR \to \bigoplus \sum_{i=1}^{n} S^{G}$ by

$$T(a) = [t_{\Gamma \cdot \wedge}(ax_i)]_{i=1}^n$$
.

It is easy to check that T is a well defined left S^{a} -module map. The lemma is completed by showing that T is injective. Suppose $a \neq 0$ and T(a) = 0. Then $t_{\Gamma} \cdot t_{\wedge}(ax_{i}) = 0$ for each i. Since t_{Γ} is injective, $t_{\wedge}(ax_{i}) = 0$ for each i. That is, $t_{\wedge}(a \cdot eR) = 0$. But eR is a division ring: $a \cdot eR = eR$. We have contradicted the nonvanishing of t_{\wedge} .

THEOREM 3. Let S be a ring without nilpotent elements. If G is a finite group of automorphisms of S and S^{c} is left noetherian then S is left noetherian (in fact, is finitely generated as an S^{c} -module).

Proof. So far we have proved that $\sum_{e} (S \cap eR)$ is a finitely generated left S^{σ} -module, where the sum is taken over the centrally primitive idempotents of R.

As observed in the first paragraph of Lemma 6, $S \cap eR$ contains an element invertible in eR. Consequently there is an element $d \in \Sigma(S \cap eR)$ which is invertible in R. Define $f: S \to \Sigma(S \cap eR)$ by f(s) = sd. Since f is an injective left S^{c} -module map, S is a finitely generated left S^{c} -module.

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