ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS OF NONSINGULAR RINGS

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By an essential product of two rings is meant a subdirect product which contains an essential right ideal of the direct product. The aim of this paper is to investigate the utility of this concept in the study of nonsingular rings. The first section derives some basic properties of essential products and develops some criteria for recognizing essential products. In the second section, a study of the socles of nonsingular modules leads to a theorem that any nonsingular ring is an essential product of a ring with essential socle and a ring with zero socle. The third section is devoted to a theorem which tells when an essential product can be a splitting ring, i.e., a ring such that the singular submodule of any right module is a direct summand. In the final section, this theorem is used to construct two examples of splitting rings of types previously unknown.

In this paper all rings are associative with identity, and all modules are unital. We also require that a subring of a ring have the same identity as the ring. Unless otherwise noted, all modules are right modules.

Inasmuch as we use singular and nonsingular modules throughout this paper, we recall the relevant definitions here. Given a ring $R$, we use $\mathcal{S}(R)$ to denote the collection of essential right ideals of $R$; then the singular submodule of a right $R$-module $A$ is the set $Z_R(A) = \{a \in A | aI = 0 \text{ for some } I \in \mathcal{S}(R)\}$. The module $A$ is said to be singular [nonsingular] provided $Z_R(A) = A[Z_R(A) = 0]$. The singular submodule of $R_R$ is a two-sided ideal of $R$, called the right singular ideal of $R$ and denoted $Z_r(R)$; $R$ is a right nonsingular ring when $Z_r(R) = 0$.

1. Essential products. Given two right nonsingular rings $R_1$ and $R_2$, we define an essential product of $R_1$ and $R_2$ to be any subdirect product $R$ of $R_1$ and $R_2$ which contains an essential right ideal of $R_1 \times R_2$. [Recall that for $R$ to be a subdirect product of $R_1$ and $R_2$, $R$ must be a subring of $R_1 \times R_2$ such that the projections $R \rightarrow R_1$ and $R \rightarrow R_2$ are both surjective.] The aim of this section is to consider the relationships among singular and nonsingular modules over $R_1$, $R_2$, and $R$, and to establish criteria for judging which rings are essential products.

N.B.-For the first three propositions in this section, we assume that $R$ is an essential product of two right nonsingular rings $R_1$ and
We define $E_1 \subset R_1$ and $E_2 \subset R_2$ by the conditions $E_1 \times 0 = R \cap (R_1 \times 0)$ and $0 \times E_2 = R \cap (0 \times R_2)$. Inasmuch as $E_1 \times 0$ is a two-sided ideal of $R$ and $R$ is a subdirect product of $R_1$ and $R_2$, $E_1$ must be a two-sided ideal of $R_*$. Likewise, $E_2$ is a two-sided ideal of $R_2$, hence $E_1 \times E_2$ is a two-sided ideal of $R_1 \times R_2$ as well as a two-sided ideal of $R$. Note that the induced ring homomorphisms $R/(E_1 \times 0) \rightarrow R_1$ and $R/(0 \times E_2) \rightarrow R_2$ are both isomorphisms, from which we conclude that the induced ring homomorphisms

$$R/(E_1 \times E_2) \rightarrow R_1/E_1 \times R_2/E_2$$

are also isomorphisms.

Since $R$ is an essential product, it must contain some essential right ideal $I$ of $R_1 \times R_2$. Noting that $I = I_1 \times I_2$ for some $I_1 \in \mathcal{S}(R_1)$ and $I_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R_2)$, we infer from $I_1 \times 0 \subseteq E_1 \times 0$ that $E_1 \in \mathcal{S}(R_1)$; likewise $E_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R_2)$. Consequently $E_1 \times E_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R_1 \times R_2)$.

PROPOSITION 1. Let $T = R_1 \times R_2$ and $E = E_1 \times E_2$.

(a) $\mathcal{S}(T) = \{K \leq T \mid K \cap R \in \mathcal{S}(R)\}$.
(b) $\mathcal{S}(R) = \{J \leq R_R \mid JE \in \mathcal{S}(T)\}$.
(c) $Z_\gamma(A) = Z_{\gamma R}(A)$ for all $A_\gamma$.
(d) $Z_\gamma(T) = Z_{\gamma R}(T) = 0$.

Proof. (a) Suppose that $K \in \mathcal{S}(T)$ and $A \leq R_R$ such that $A \cap (K \cap R) = 0$. Then $AE \cap K = 0$, hence from $K \in \mathcal{S}(T)$ we obtain $AE = 0$. Since $E \in \mathcal{S}(T)$ it follows that $A \leq Z_\gamma(T) = 0$, and so $K \cap R \in \mathcal{S}(R)$.

Now let $K \leq T_\gamma$ and assume that $K \cap R \in \mathcal{S}(R)$. If $A \leq T_\gamma$ and $A \cap K = 0$, then from $(A \cap R) \cap (K \cap R) = 0$ we obtain $A \cap R = 0$, hence $A \cap E = 0$. Thus $A = 0$ and so $K \in \mathcal{S}(T)$.

(b) If $J \leq R_R$ and $JE \in \mathcal{S}(T)$, then $JE \in \mathcal{S}(R)$ by (a), whence $J \in \mathcal{S}(R)$.

Now consider any $J \in \mathcal{S}(R)$. Inasmuch as $E \in \mathcal{S}(T)$ and $Z_\gamma(T) = 0$, the left annihilator of $E$ in $T$ is zero. In particular, it follows that every nonzero element of $J$ has a nonzero right multiple in $JE$. Thus $JE$ is an essential $R$-submodule of $J$, hence $JE \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, and then $JE \in \mathcal{S}(T)$ by (a).

(c) follows directly from (a) and (b).

(d) According to (c), $Z_{\gamma R}(T) = 0$, and then $Z_\gamma(R) = 0$ also.

Letting $Q_1$ and $Q_2$ denote the respective maximal right quotient rings of $R_1$ and $R_2$, then $Q_1 \times Q_2$ is the maximal right quotient ring of $R_1 \times R_2$. Inasmuch as $Z_\gamma(R_1 \times R_2) = 0$, [4, Theorem 1 + 2, p. 69] says that $Q_1 \times Q_2$ is a right self-injective ring.

PROPOSITION 2. $Q_1 \times Q_2$ is also the maximal right quotient ring of $R$. 
Proof. Set \( T = R_1 \times R_2 \), \( E = E_1 \times E_2 \), and \( Q = Q_1 \times Q_2 \). Note that \( T \cap Z_T(Q) = Z_T(T) = 0 \), from which we obtain \( Z_T(Q) = 0 \).

We first show that \( Q \) is a right quotient ring of \( R \), i.e., that \( Q \) is a rational extension of \( R \). (See [4, pp. 58, 64].) Inasmuch as \( Z_T(R) = 0 \), [4, Proposition 5, p. 59] says that it suffices to prove that \( Q \) is an essential extension of \( R \). Thus consider any \( A \subseteq Q \) such that \( A \cap R = 0 \). Then \( AE \cap E = 0 \). Since \( E \) is an essential right ideal of \( T \) it must be an essential \( T \)-submodule of \( Q \), so that we obtain \( AE = 0 \) and \( A \leq Z_T(Q) = 0 \). Therefore \( Q \) is a right quotient ring of \( R \), hence we may assume that \( Q \) is a subring of the maximal right quotient ring \( P \) of \( R \). The injectivity of \( Q \) implies that \( P = Q \oplus B \) for some \( B \). Then from \( R \cap B = 0 \) we infer that \( B = 0 \) and \( P = Q \).

In view of Proposition 2, we may refer again to [4, Theorem 1 + 2, p. 69] and conclude that \((Q_1 \times Q_2)_R \) is an injective hull for \( R \). Now we obtain from [7, Proposition 1, p. 427] the following alternate description of the singular submodule of a right \( R \)-module \( A \): \( Z_R(A) = \cap \{ \ker f | f \in \text{Hom}_R(A, Q_1 \times Q_2) \} \). In particular, \( A \) is singular if and only if \( \text{Hom}_R(A, Q_1 \times Q_2) = 0 \), from which we conclude that any extension of a singular module by a singular module is singular. The corresponding property for nonsingular modules is a consequence of the observation that \( A \) is nonsingular if and only if \( \text{Hom}_R(R/I, A) = 0 \) for all \( I \in \mathcal{S}(R) \).

According to Proposition 1, any nonsingular right \( R_1 \times R_2 \)-module is also a nonsingular right \( R \)-module. We can view this as saying that the direct sum of a nonsingular right \( R \)-module with a nonsingular right \( R_2 \)-module gives a nonsingular right \( R \)-module. The converse is false unless \( R \) is actually the direct product of \( R_1 \) and \( R_2 \), but according to the next proposition we can at least realize any nonsingular right \( R \)-module as an extension of a nonsingular right \( R_1 \)-module by a nonsingular right \( R_2 \)-module.

**Proposition 3.** (a) A right \( R \)-module \( A \) is nonsingular if and only if it has a submodule \( A' \) such that \( A' \) is a nonsingular right \( R_1 \)-module and \( A/A' \) is a nonsingular right \( R_2 \)-module.

(b) A right \( R \)-module \( C \) is singular if and only if it has a submodule \( C' \) such that \( C' \) is a singular right \( R_1 \)-module and \( C/C' \) is a singular right \( R_2 \)-module.

**Proof.** (a) If \( A \) has such a submodule \( A' \), then according to Proposition 1, \( A' \) and \( A/A' \) are both nonsingular \( R \)-modules, hence \( A \) must be nonsingular.
Now assume that $A$ is nonsingular. In view of the discussion above, the intersection of the kernels of the homomorphisms from $A$ into $Q_1 \times Q_2$ must be zero. Thus we may assume that $A$ is a submodule of some direct product $B$ of copies of $Q_1 \times Q_2$. Note that $B = B_i \oplus B_i$, where $B_i$ is a direct product of copies of $Q_i$; since $Q_i$ is the maximal right quotient ring of $R_i$, $B_i$ is a nonsingular right $R_i$-module. Consequently, $A' = A \cap B_i$ is a nonsingular right $R_i$-module, and $A/A'$ is a nonsingular right $R_i$-module.

(b) If $C$ has such a submodule $C'$, then according to Proposition 1, $C'$ and $C/C'$ are both singular $R$-modules, whence $C$ must be singular.

Conversely, assume that $C$ is singular. Clearly $C' = C(E_i \times 0)$ is a right $R_i$-module [because $C'(0 \times E_i) = 0$] and $C/C'$ is a right $R_i$-module. Inasmuch as $C'$ and $C/C'$ are singular $R_i$-modules, Proposition 1 says that $C'$ is a singular $R_i$-module and $C/C'$ is a singular $R_i$-module.

N.B.-We now drop the a priori assumption that $R$ is an essential product of $R_1$ and $R_2$, in order to find conditions under which $R$ can be such an essential product.

**Theorem 4.** Let $R_1$ and $R_2$ be right nonsingular rings, $R$ any subring of $R_1 \times R_2$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

(a) $R$ is an essential product of $R_1$ and $R_2$.

(b) There exist two-sided ideals $E_1 \in \mathcal{S}(R_1)$ and $E_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R_2)$, and a ring isomorphism $\phi: R_1/E_1 \rightarrow R_2/E_2$, such that

$$R = \{(x, y) \in R_1 \times R_2 | \phi(x + E_1) = y + E_2\}.$$

(c) $R$ is a subdirect product of $R_1$ and $R_2$, $R/[R \cap (R_1 \times 0)]$ and $R/[R \cap (0 \times R_2)]$ are both nonsingular right $R$-modules, and $[R \cap (R_1 \times 0)] + [R \cap (0 \times R_2)] \in \mathcal{S}(R)$.

**Proof.** Set $H_1 = R \cap (R_1 \times 0)$ and $H_2 = R \cap (0 \times R_2)$, both of which are two-sided ideals of $R$.

(a) $\Rightarrow$ (c): By definition, $R$ is a subdirect product of $R_1$ and $R_2$. Set $E_1 \times 0 = H_1$ and $0 \times E_2 = H_2$; then $H_1 + H_2 = E_1 \times E_2$, which in the discussion prior to Proposition 1 is shown to belong to $\mathcal{S}(R_1 \times R_2)$. Quoting part (a) of Proposition 1, we see that $H_1 + H_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R)$. As for the modules $(R/H_1)_R$ and $(R/H_2)_R$, they are both isomorphic to submodules of $(R_1 \times R_2)_R$, which is nonsingular by Proposition 1.

(c) $\Rightarrow$ (b): Since $R$ is a subdirect product of $R_1$ and $R_2$, it follows as in the discussion before Proposition 1 that there exist two-sided ideals $E_1$ in $R_1$, and $E_2$ in $R_2$, such that $E_1 \times 0 = H_1$ and $0 \times E_2 = H_2$,
and that the induced maps $f: R/(E_1 \times E_2) \to R/E_1$ and $g: R/(E_1 \times E_2) \to R/E_2$ are ring isomorphisms. Setting $\phi = gf^{-1}$, we check that
\[ R = \{ (x, y) \in R_1 \times R_2 | \phi(x + E_1) = y + E_2 \} . \]

Inasmuch as $(R/H_i)_R$ is nonsingular and $H_1 + H_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, no nonzero element of $R/H_i$ is annihilated on the right by $H_1 + H_2$. Noting that the isomorphism $R/H_i \to R_2$ [induced by the projection $R \to R_2$] carries $(H_1 + H_2)/H_i$ onto $E_2$, we infer that the left annihilator of $E_2$ in $R_2$ is zero. Since $E_2$ is a two-sided ideal of $R_2$, it follows that every nonzero element of $R_2$ has a nonzero right multiple in $E_2$, whence $E_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R)$. Likewise, $E_1 \in \mathcal{S}(R)$.

(b) $\Rightarrow$ (a): It is easy to check that under these hypotheses, $R$ is a subdirect product of $R_1$ and $R_2$. Also, $R$ contains $E_1 \times E_2$, which is an essential right ideal of $R_1 \times R_2$, hence $R$ is an essential product.

Theorem 4 may be thought of as characterizing “external” essential products. As an immediate consequence of the equivalence of (a) and (c), we also get the following characterization of “internal” essential products.

**Corollary 5.** Let $R_1$ and $R_2$ be right nonsingular rings. Then a ring $R$ is isomorphic to an essential product of $R_1$ and $R_2$ if and only if there exist two-sided ideals $H_1$ and $H_2$ in $R$ such that
(a) $H_1 \cap H_2 = 0$.
(b) $R/H_1 \cong R$ and $R/H_2 \cong R_i$.
(c) $(R/H_1)_R$ and $(R/H_2)_R$ are both nonsingular.
(d) $H_1 + H_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R)$.

2. **Socles and antisocles.** The purpose of this section is to prove that any right nonsingular ring is isomorphic to an essential product of a ring with essential socle and a ring with zero socle. To this end we first develop some results about socles of nonsingular modules over an arbitrary ring $R$.

For any simple right $R$-module $R/M$, there are only two choices for the submodule $Z_n(R/M)$, hence $R/M$ must be either singular or nonsingular. In case it is nonsingular, then $M \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, whence $M \cap I = 0$ for some nonzero right ideal $I$ of $R$. By the maximality of $M$, $R = M \oplus I$. Thus we see that every simple right $R$-module is either singular or projective. Consequently, every nonsingular semi-simple right $R$-module is projective.

**Proposition 6.** Let $J = \text{soc } (R_n)$. Then $\text{soc } (A) = AJ$ for any nonsingular right $R$-module $A$.

**Proof.** The module $AJ$ is clearly semisimple, hence $AJ \leq \text{soc } (A)$. 
On the other hand, any simple submodule $B$ of $A$ is projective and thus is isomorphic to $eR$ for some idempotent $e \in R$, whence $B = BeR \leq AJ$.

**Proposition 7.** Let $A$ be any nonsingular right $R$-module, $J = \text{soc} \left( R_R \right)$.

(a) $B = \{ a \in A \mid aJ = 0 \}$ is the largest submodule of $A$ with zero socle.

(b) $A/B$ has essential socle.

(c) $A/B$ is nonsingular.

**Proof.** (a) is immediate from Proposition 6.

(b) If $N/B$ is any nonzero submodule of $A/B$, then since $N \not\leq B$ we must have $NJ \neq 0$. We infer from the semisimplicity of $NJ$ that $NJ \cap B = 0$, whence $(NJ + B)/B \neq 0$ and thus $[N/B] \cap [(AJ + B)/B] \neq 0$. Therefore $(AJ + B)/B$ is an essential submodule of $A/B$. Inasmuch as $(AJ + B)/B$ is semisimple, we conclude that $A/B$ has essential socle.

(c) Noting that $AJ \cap B = 0$, we see that $(AJ + B)/B \cong AJ$, which is a nonsingular module. Thus $A/B$ is an essential extension of a nonsingular module, hence $A/B$ must be nonsingular.

According to Proposition 7, a nonsingular right $R$-module $A$ always has a largest submodule with zero socle; Professor Kaplansky has suggested the name antisocle for this submodule of $A$. We now proceed in a similar manner to show that $A$ also has a largest submodule with essential socle. We refrain from introducing a name for this submodule, since in the presence of a suitable notion of closure it is describable simply as the closure of $\text{soc} (A)$.

**Proposition 8.** Let $A$ be any nonsingular right $R$-module. Set $J = \text{soc} \left( R_R \right)$, and let $H$ be the left annihilator of $J$ in $R$.

(a) $C = \{ a \in A \mid aH = 0 \}$ is the largest submodule of $A$ with essential socle.

(b) $A/C$ is nonsingular.

(c) $A/C$ has zero socle.

**Proof.** Inasmuch as $J$ is a two-sided ideal of $R$, $H$ is a two-sided ideal also. Note that $J + H \in \mathcal{P}(R)$: For if $x \in R \setminus H$, then $xJ \neq 0$ and thus $x$ has a nonzero right multiple in $J + H$.

(a) will follow immediately from the following claim: A nonsingular right $R$-module $B$ has essential socle if and only if $BH = 0$.

First suppose that $B$ has essential socle, i.e., that $BJ$ is essential in $B$. Inasmuch as $BH \cap BJ$ is semisimple, we obtain $BH \cap BJ = (BH \cap BJ)J \leq BHJ = 0$, from which $BH = 0$ follows. Conversely, if
If \( N/C \) is any nonzero submodule of \( A/C \), then since \( N \not\subseteq C \) we must have \( NH \neq 0 \). Since \( NH \cap C \leq AH \cap C = 0 \), it follows that \( (NH + C)/C \neq 0 \), whence \( [N/C] \cap [(AH + C)/C] \neq 0 \). Thus \( A/C \) is an essential extension of the nonsingular module \( (AH + C)/C \), so \( A/C \) must be nonsingular.

(c) According to (a), \( \text{soc} (A) \leq C \). Inasmuch as the nonsingularity of \( A/C \) implies that \( \text{soc} (A/C) \) is projective, we conclude that \( \text{soc} (A/C) = 0 \).

When \( R \) is presented as an essential product of rings \( R_1 \) and \( R_2 \), both \( R_1 \) and \( R_2 \) are factor rings of \( R \). Thus we need to know that certain factor rings of \( R \) are nonsingular, for which reason we introduce the next proposition. The proof is routine, and may be found in [8, Proposition 1.11].

**Proposition 9.** Let \( H \) be a two-sided ideal of \( R \) such that \( (R/H)_R \) is nonsingular.

(a) \( \mathcal{S}(R/H) = \{ I/H \mid H \leq I \text{ and } I \in \mathcal{S}(R) \} \).

(b) \( Z(R/H) = Z_R(A) \) for all \( A_{R/H} \).

(c) \( Z_z(R/H) = 0 \).

**Theorem 10.** Let \( R \) be any right nonsingular ring. Then \( R \) is isomorphic to an essential product of two right nonsingular rings \( R_1 \) and \( R_2 \) such that \( R_1 \) has essential right socle and \( R_2 \) has zero right socle.

*Proof.* Let \( J = \text{soc} (R_2) \), \( H \) the left annihilator of \( J \) in \( R \), \( K \) the left annihilator of \( H \) in \( R \). Since \( J \) is a two-sided ideal, so are \( H \) and \( K \). The modules \( (R/H)_R \) and \( (R/K)_R \) are nonsingular according to Propositions 7 and 8, hence by Proposition 9, \( R_1 = R/H \) and \( R_2 = R/K \) are both right nonsingular rings.

Referring to Propositions 7 and 8 again, we see that \( H_R \) has zero socle while \( K_R \) has essential socle, hence \( H \cap K = 0 \). We must also note that \( H + K \in \mathcal{S}(R) \): For if \( x \in R \setminus K \), then \( xH = 0 \) and so \( x \) has a nonzero right multiple in \( H + K \). According to Corollary 5, we obtain that \( R \) is isomorphic to an essential product of \( R_1 \) and \( R_2 \).

Inasmuch as \( (R/H)_R \) has essential socle by Proposition 7, \( (R/H)_{R/H} \) must have essential socle. Similarly, \( (R/K)_R \) has zero socle by Proposition 8, whence \( (R/K)_{R/K} \) has zero socle.

3. Splitting rings. This section is concerned with the question
of when an essential product can be a splitting ring, by which we mean a ring $R$ such that for every right $R$-module $A$, $Z_R(A)$ is a direct summand of $A$. As is noted in [2, Proposition 1.12], $R$ is a splitting ring if and only if $\text{Ext}_R(A, C) = 0$ for all nonsingular $A_R$ and all singular $C_R$.

N.B.-Throughout this section, we assume that $R$ is an essential product of two right nonsingular rings $R_1$ and $R_2$. Setting $E_i \times 0 = R \cap (R_i \times 0)$ and $0 \times E_i = R \cap (0 \times R_i)$, we recall from §1 that each $E_i$ is a two-sided ideal in $\mathcal{S}(R_i)$. According to Proposition 1, we also have $E_1 \times E_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R)$. Setting $H_1 = E_1 \times 0$ and $H_2 = 0 \times E_2$, we recall that $R/H_1 \cong R_1$ and $R/H_2 \cong R_2$, while from Theorem 4 we obtain that $R/H_1$ and $R/H_2$ are nonsingular right $R$-modules.

**Lemma 11.** Let $T$ be a splitting ring, $H$ a two-sided ideal in $\mathcal{S}(T)$, $A$ any nonsingular right $T$-module.

(a) $\text{Tor}^T_1(A, T/H) = 0$.

(b) $A/AH$ is a projective right $(T/H)$-module.

*Proof.* (a) Choosing a divisible abelian group $D$ which contains $\text{Tor}^T_1(A, T/H)$, we note that $\text{Hom}_T(T/H, D)$ is a two-sided $T$-module. As a right $T$-module, $\text{Hom}_T(T/H, D)$ is singular because $H \in \mathcal{S}(T)$, whence $\text{Ext}^T_1(A, \text{Hom}_T(T/H, D)) = 0$. According to [1, Proposition 5.1, p. 120], we obtain $\text{Hom}_T(\text{Tor}^T_1(A, T/H), D) = 0$, and thus

$$\text{Tor}^T_1(A, T/H) = 0.$$  

(b) Choose an exact sequence $S: 0 \to K \to F \to A/AH \to 0$, where $F$ is a free right $(T/H)$-module. Inasmuch as $KH = 0$ and $H \in \mathcal{S}(T)$, $K$ is a singular right $T$-module. Thus $\text{Ext}^T_1(A, K) = 0$, hence the natural map $p: A \to A/AH$ lifts to a map $f: A \to F$. Since $FH = 0$, $f$ induces a map $g: A/AH \to F$ which splits $S$.

**Theorem 12.** $R$ is a splitting ring if and only if

(a) $R_1$ and $R_2$ are splitting rings.

(b) If $L_i$ is any essential right $R_i$-submodule of $E_i$, then $E_i/L_i$ is a direct summand of $R_i/L_i$.

*Proof.* Assume that $R$ is a splitting ring. If $H = H_1$ or $H = H_2$, and $A$ is any right $(R/H)$-module, then $Z_{R/H}(A) = Z_R(A)$ by Proposition 9, hence $Z_{R/H}(A)$ is a summand of $A$. Therefore $R/H_1$ and $R/H_2$ are splitting rings; i.e., $R_2$ and $R_1$ are splitting rings.

Next consider any essential right $R_1$-submodule $L_i \leq E_i$. Noting that $L_i \times 0$ is an essential right $R$-submodule of $H_i$, we see that $H_i/(L_i \times 0)$ is a singular right $R$-module. Inasmuch as $(R/H_1)_R$ is
nonsingular, the exact sequence

\[ 0 \to H_i/(L_i \times 0) \to R/(L_i \times 0) \to R/H_i \to 0 \]

must split. Tensoring with \( R/H_i \), we obtain another split exact sequence

\[ 0 \to (E_i \times 0)/(L_i \times 0) \to R/(L_i \times E_i) \to R/(E_i \times E_i) \to 0 , \]

from which we infer that \( E_i/L_i \) is a summand of \( R_i/L_i \). By symmetry, \( E_i/L_i \) is also a summand of \( R_i/L_i \) whenever \( L_i \) is an essential right \( R_i \)-submodule of \( E_i \).

Now suppose that (a) and (b) hold. Inasmuch as \( E_i \in \mathcal{S}(R_i) \) and \( Z_i(R_i) = 0 \), the left annihilator of \( E_i \) in \( R_i \) is zero. In particular, every nonzero element of \( E_i \) has a nonzero right multiple in \( E_i \), hence \( E_i \) is an essential right \( R_i \)-submodule of \( E_i \). According to (b), \( E_i/E_i \) must be a summand of \( R_i/E_i \), from which we infer that \( E_i = E_i \). Thus \( H_i = H_i \), and likewise \( H_2 = H_2 \).

We must show that \( \text{Ext}^1_R(A, C) = 0 \) for any nonsingular \( A \) and any singular \( C \). By Proposition 3, \( C \) has a submodule \( C' \) such that \( C' \) is a singular right \( R_i \)-module and \( C/C' \) is a singular right \( R_i \)-module. Since it suffices to prove that

\[ \text{Ext}^1_R(A, C') = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Ext}^1_R(A, C/C') = 0 , \]

we may thus assume that \( C \) is a singular module over either \( R_i \) or \( R_2 \). In view of symmetry, we need only consider the case when \( C \) is a singular right \( R_i \)-module.

Proposition 3 also says that \( A \) has a submodule \( A' \) such that \( A' \) is a nonsingular right \( R_i \)-module and \( A/A' \) is a nonsingular right \( R_i \)-module. Inasmuch as it suffices to show that \( \text{Ext}^1_R(A', C) = 0 \) and \( \text{Ext}^1_R(A/A', C) = 0 \), we may thus assume that \( A \) is a nonsingular module over either \( R_i \) or \( R_2 \).

**Case I.** \( A \) is a nonsingular right \( R_i \)-module.

Consider any exact sequence \( S: 0 \to C \to B \to A \to 0 \) of right \( R \)-modules. Since \( C \) and \( A \) are both \( R_i \)-modules, we infer from the relation \( H_i = H_i \) that \( BH_i = 0 \) also; i.e., that \( S \) is an exact sequence of \( R_i \)-modules. Thus \( S \) must split, because \( R_i \) is a splitting ring.

**Case II.** \( A \) is a nonsingular right \( R_2 \)-module.

Inasmuch as \( R_2 \) is a splitting ring and \( E_2 \in \mathcal{S}(R_2) \), Lemma 11 implies that \( \text{Tor}^{R_2}_1(A, R_2/E_2) = 0 \). Equivalently,

\[ \text{Tor}^{R_2}_{i+1}(A, R/(H_i \oplus H_i)) = 0 , \]

from which we infer that \( \text{Tor}^{R_2}_i(A, R/(H_i \oplus H_i)) = 0 \). It follows that
the map $A \otimes_R H \to A \otimes_R (H_1 \oplus H_2) \to A$ is a monomorphism, hence $\text{Tor}^R_1 (A, R/H) = 0$.

Consider any exact sequence $S: 0 \to C \to B \to A \to 0$ of right $R$-modules. Inasmuch as $CH_2 = 0$ and $\text{Tor}^R_1 (A, R/H) = 0$, we obtain another exact sequence $S^*: 0 \to C \to B/H \to A/AH \to 0$. An easy diagram chase shows that $S$ will split if $S^*$ does, so it suffices to prove that $\text{Ext}^R_1 (A/AH, C) = 0$. According to Lemma 11, $A/AE$ is a projective right $(R/E)$-module. Noting that $AH = 0$, it follows that $A/AH$ is a projective right module over $R/(H_1 + H_2)$. Therefore to get $\text{Ext}^R_1 (A/AH, C) = 0$, it suffices to prove that

$$\text{Ext}^R_1 (R/(H_1 + H_2), C) = 0.$$  

Thus consider any map $f: H_1 + H_2 \to C$. Noting that $CH_2 = 0$ and $H_2 = H_2$, we see that $H_2 \leq \ker f$. Inasmuch as $f$ induces an isomorphism of $[(H_1 + H_2)/H_2]/[(\ker f)/H_2]$ onto a submodule of $C$, we see that $[(H_1 + H_2)/H_2]/[(\ker f)/H_2]$ must be a singular right $(R/H)$-module. Since also $Z_*(R/H) = 0$, it follows easily that $(\ker f)/H_2$ is an essential submodule of $(H_1 + H_2)/H_2$. Considering that the isomorphism of $R/H$ onto $R$ carries $(H_1 + H_2)/H_2$ onto $E_1$, we obtain from (b) that

$$[(H_1 + H_2)/H_2]/[(\ker f)/H_2]$$

must be a direct summand of $[R/H]/[(\ker f)/H_2]$. Thus $(H_1 + H_2)/(\ker f)$ is a summand of $R/(\ker f)$, hence $f$ extends to a map $R \to C$. Therefore $\text{Ext}^R_1 (R/(H_1 + H_2), C) = 0$.

The combination of Theorems 12 and 10 reduces the problem of characterizing splitting rings to characterizing those with either zero socle or essential socle. Since the splitting rings with essential socle have already been characterized [8, Corollary 5.4], only the case of zero socle remains.

4. EXAMPLES. In this section we indicate the usefulness of Theorem 12 in constructing splitting rings. The first example shows that essential products [as opposed to direct products] are definitely needed in the study of splitting rings, for this example is a splitting ring which cannot be decomposed into a direct product of a ring with essential socle and a ring with zero socle. The second example shows that a splitting ring with zero socle can have global dimension 2.

For both examples, we start with a left and right principal ideal domain $C$ such that $C$ is a simple ring but not a division ring, and such that every simple right $C$-module is injective. (Examples of such rings are constructed in [3].) In fact, all singular right $C$-modules are injective, which is proved in [8] in the discussion following Theorem 3.9. Thus $C$ is certainly a splitting ring; however, it
cannot be a factor in a nontrivial essential product because it has no nontrivial two-sided ideals. For this reason, we choose some maximal right ideal $M$ of $C$ and turn to the idealizer of $M$ in $C$, that is, to the ring $I = \{c \in C | cM \subseteq M\}$. In the following lemma, we establish the properties of $I$ and $M$ which are needed for our constructions.

**Lemma 13.** (a) $I$ is a right nonsingular right Noetherian ring with zero right socle.
(b) $I$ is a splitting ring.
(c) $M$ is a two-sided ideal in $\mathcal{S}(I)$, and $I/M$ is a division ring.
(d) If $L$ is any essential submodule of $M$, then $M/L$ is a direct summand of $I/L$.

**Proof.** (a) It is pointed out in [6] that $I$ is a right (and left) Noetherian integral domain in which $M$ is a nontrivial two-sided ideal. Inasmuch as $I$ is a domain it must be nonsingular; since it is not a division ring, we must also have $\text{soc}(I) = 0$.
(b) This is [6, Lemma 2]. (See also [9].)
(c) We observe from the definition of $I$ that $I/M$ is isomorphic to the endomorphism ring of the simple module $(C/M)\otimes$.
(d) Inasmuch as $LM$ is a nonzero right ideal of the right Ore domain $C$, we infer that $LM \in \mathcal{S}(C)$, and hence that $M/LM$ is a singular right $C$-module. We have already noted that all singular right $C$-modules are injective; thus $M/LM$ must be a direct summand of $C/LM$. Two applications of the modular law now show that, first, $M/LM$ is a summand of $I/LM$, and second, that $M/L$ is a summand of $I/L$.

**Example 1.** Let $R$ be the “matrix ring” $\begin{pmatrix} I/M & 0 \\ I/M \end{pmatrix}$. Then
(a) $R$ is a right nonsingular splitting ring.
(b) $\text{soc}(R_3)$ is neither zero nor essential in $R$.
(c) $R$ is indecomposable as a ring.
(d) $R$ cannot be the direct product of a ring with zero right socle and a ring with essential right socle.

**Proof.** (a) Set $R_i = \begin{pmatrix} I/M & 0 \\ I/M \end{pmatrix}$, $E_i = \begin{pmatrix} I/M & 0 \\ I/M \end{pmatrix}$, $R_i = I$, $E_s = M$. Each $E_i$ is a two-sided ideal of $R_i$, and we may identify $R_i/E_i$ with $R_i/E_i$ in the obvious manner. Now $R$ is isomorphic to the ring $R' = \{(x, y) \in R \times R | x + E_i = y + E_s\}$, hence it suffices to show that $R'$ is a right nonsingular splitting ring. We know from Lemma 13 that $\mathcal{Z}_r(R_3) = 0$ and $E_s \in \mathcal{S}(R_3)$, and it is easy to check that $E_i \in \mathcal{S}(R_i)$. Inasmuch as $I/M$ is a division ring, it follows easily that every ele-
ment of $\mathcal{S}(R_1)$ contains $E_1$, from which we infer that $Z_r(R_1) = 0$. Now according to Theorem 4, $R'$ is an essential product of $R_1$ and $R_2$. By Proposition 1, $Z_r(R') = 0$.

Since $I/M$ is a division ring, [8, Theorem 2.15] says that all nonsingular right $R_1$-modules are projective, whence $R_1$ must be a splitting ring. [Alternatively, it can be shown that all singular right $R_1$-modules are injective. (See [8, Chapter 3].)] By Lemma 13, $R_2$ is a splitting ring too.

If $L_i$ is any essential right $R_i$-submodule of $E_i$, it is easy to check that $L_i = E_i$, hence $E_i/L_i$ is certainly a summand of $R_i/L_i$. The corresponding property in $R_2$ is proved in Lemma 13, whence from Theorem 12 we see that $R'$ is a splitting ring.

(b) Since $\begin{pmatrix} I/M & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is a simple right ideal of $R$, $\text{soc}(R_n) \neq 0$.

By Lemma 13, we have $\text{soc}(I_i) = 0$, from which we infer that $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & M \end{pmatrix}$ is a nonzero right ideal of $R$ which has no simple submodules. Thus $\text{soc}(R_n)$ is not essential in $R_n$.

(c) Noting that $I$ is a domain and $I/M$ is a division ring, we see that neither $I$ nor $I/M$ has any nontrivial idempotents. It follows easily that the only nontrivial idempotents in $R$ are of the form $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ x & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ or $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ x & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, neither of which is central in $R$. Thus $R$ cannot be the direct product of two nonzero rings.

(d) is immediate from (b) and (c).

According to [2, Theorem 2.1], a commutative splitting ring has global dimension at most one, while [10, Theorem 2.2] shows that the right global dimension of a noncommutative splitting ring is at most 2. Examples have been constructed of splitting rings with right global dimension 2 ([6] and [8, Example 5.11]), but both of these examples have nonzero socle. Our next example shows that even with zero socle, a splitting ring can have right global dimension 2.

This example also disproves a conjecture in [5] concerning the finitely generated splitting property (FGSP). [A ring has FGSP provided the singular submodule of any finitely generated right module is a direct summand.] In the case of a right nonsingular ring with zero right socle, this conjecture reduces to the assertion that such a ring has FGSP if and only if all finitely generated nonsingular right modules are projective. Our example has FGSP because it is a splitting ring, but it has a finitely generated nonsingular right module which is not even flat.

**Example 2.** Let $R = \{(x, y) \in I \times I \mid x + M = y + M\}$.

(a) $R$ is a right nonsingular splitting ring.

(b) $\text{soc}(R_n) = 0$.

(c) $\text{r.gl.dim.}(R) = \text{GWD}(R) = 2$. 
(d) Not all finitely generated nonsingular right \( R \)-modules are flat.

**Proof.** (a) Inasmuch as \( Z_r(I) = 0 \) and \( M \) is a two-sided ideal in \( \mathcal{S}(I) \), Theorem 4 shows that \( R \) is an essential product of \( I \) with itself. By Proposition 1, \( Z_r(R) = 0 \). Using Lemma 13 with Theorem 12, we see that \( R \) is a splitting ring.

(b) Observing that any simple submodule of \( (M \times M)_R \) would have to be contained in \( \text{soc}(I_I) \times \text{soc}(I_I) \), which is zero by Lemma 13, we obtain \( (M \times M) \cap \text{soc}(R_R) = 0 \). Recalling from Proposition 1 that \( M \times M \in \mathcal{S}(R) \), we see that \( \text{soc}(R_R) = 0 \).

(c) Since \( R \) is a splitting ring, [10, Theorem 2.2] says that \( \text{r.gl.dim.}(R) \leq 2 \). Inasmuch as \( GWD(R) \leq \text{r.gl.dim.}(R) \), it thus suffices to show that \( GWD(R) > 1 \).

Choose a nonzero \( m \in M \) and set \( A = (m, 0)R \). Noting that \( m \) is a non-zero-divisor in \( I \), we see that the right annihilator of \( (m, 0) \) in \( R \) is \( 0 \times M \), whence \( A \cong R/(0 \times M) \). According to Lemma 13, \( M_I \) is finitely generated, hence \( (0 \times M)_R \) is finitely generated and \( A_R \) is finitely presented. Observing that \( 0 \times M \) contains no nonzero idempotents, we see that \( A \) is not projective. Inasmuch as \( A \) is finitely presented, we conclude that \( A \) is a right ideal of \( R \) which is not flat, whence \( GWD(R) > 1 \).

(d) Since all right ideals of \( R \) are nonsingular, this is immediate from (c).

**References**


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Kenneth Paul Baclawski and Kenneth Kapp, *Induced topologies for quasigroups and loops* ................................................................. 393
D. G. Bourgin, *Fixed point and min – max theorems* ................................. 403
J. L. Brenner, *Zolotarev’s theorem on the Legendre symbol* ........................ 413
Jospeh Atkins Childress, Jr., *Restricting isotopies of spheres* ..................... 415
John Edward Coury, *Some results on lacunary Walsh series* ...................... 419
James B. Derr and N. P. Mukherjee, *Generalized Sylow tower groups. II* ........ 427
Paul Frazier Duvall, Jr., Peter Fletcher and Robert Allen McCoy, *Isotopy Galois spaces* ................................................................. 435
Mary Rodriguez Embry, *Strictly cyclic operator algebras on a Banach space* .... 443
Abi (Abiabdollah) Fattahi, *On generalizations of Sylow tower groups* .......... 453
Burton I. Fein and Murray M. Schacher, *Maximal subfields of tensor products* . 479
Ervin Fried and J. Sichler, *Homomorphisms of commutative rings with unit element* ................................................................. 485
Kenneth R. Goodearl, *Essential products of nonsingular rings* .................... 493
George Grätzer, Bjarni Jónsson and H. Lakser, *The amalgamation property in equational classes of modular lattices* ............................... 507
H. Groemer, *On some mean values associated with a randomly selected simplex in a convex set* ......................................................... 525
Marcel Herzog, *Central 2-Sylow intersections* ........................................... 535
Joel Saul Hillel, *On the number of type-k translation-invariant groups* ........... 539
Ronald Brian Kirk, *A note on the Mackey topology for $(C^b(X), C^b(X))$* .... 543
J. W. Lea, *The peripherality of irreducible elements of lattice* ...................... 555
John Stewart Locker, *Self-adjointness for multi-point differential operators* .... 561
Robert Patrick Martineau, *Splitting of group representations* ...................... 571
Robert Massagli, *On a new radical in a topological ring* ............................ 577
Fred Richman, *The constructive theory of countable abelian $p$-groups* ........ 621
Edward Barry Saff and J. L. Walsh, *On the convergence of rational functions which interpolate in the roots of unity* ............................... 639
Harold Eugene Schlais, *Non-aposyndesis and non-hereditary decomposability* ................................................................. 643
Mark Lawrence Teply, *A class of divisible modules* .................................... 653
Edward Joseph Tully, Jr., $\mathfrak{H}$-commutative semigroups in which each homomorphism is uniquely determined by its kernel ........................... 669
Garth William Warner, Jr., *Zeta functions on the real general linear group* ........ 681
Keith Yale, *Cocycles with range $\{\pm 1\}$* ........................................... 693
Chi-Lin Yen, *On the rest points of a nonlinear nonexpansive semigroup* ........ 699