

ON STRONGLY REGULAR RINGS AND GENERALIZATIONS OF V -RINGS

Tikaram Subedi and Ardeline Mary Buhphang

Received: 3 April 2012; Revised: 4 June 2013

Communicated by Dolores Herbera

ABSTRACT. We prove that a left GP - V -ring is right non-singular. We also give some properties of left GP - V' -rings. Some characterizations of strongly regular rings and biregular rings are also given.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2010): 16E50, 16D25, 16D40

Keywords: Von Neumann regular rings, strongly regular rings, GP - V -ring, GP - V' -ring, W -ideals

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, R denotes an associative ring with identity and all our modules are unitary. The symbols $J(R)$, $Z({}_R R)$ ($Z(R_R)$), $I(R)$ respectively stand for the Jacobson radical, the left (right) singular ideal and the set of all idempotent elements of R . R is *semiprimitive* if $J(R) = 0$. R is *left (right) non-singular* if $Z({}_R R) = 0$ ($Z(R_R) = 0$). For any subset X of R , $l(X)$ ($r(X)$) denotes the left (right) annihilator of X and for any $a \in R$, $l(a)$ denotes $l(\{a\})$ and $r(a)$ denotes $r(\{a\})$. By an *ideal*, we mean a two sided ideal. Following [1], a ring R is called *complement left (right) bounded* if every non-zero complement left (right) ideal of R contain a non-zero ideal of R . R is (*von Neumann*) *regular* if for every $a \in R$, there exists some $b \in R$ such that $a = aba$ and R is *strongly regular* if for every $a \in R$, there exists some $b \in R$ such that $a = a^2b$. Over the last few decades, regular rings and strongly regular rings are extensively studied (for example cf. [1]-[12]). Clearly, R is strongly regular if and only if R is a reduced regular ring. Following [9], R is *biregular* if for every $a \in R$, RaR is generated by a central idempotent; a left (right) ideal I of R is *reduced* if it contains no non-zero nilpotent elements. A subset A of R is *regular* if for every $a \in A$, there exists some $b \in R$ such that $a = aba$ ([2]). Also following [3], a left (right) R -module M is *YJ -injective* if for each $0 \neq a \in R$, there exists a positive integer n such that $a^n \neq 0$ and every left (right) R -homomorphism from Ra^n ($a^n R$) to M extends to a left (right) R -homomorphism from R to M ; R is a *left (right) GP - V -ring* if every simple left (right) R -module is YJ -injective; R is a *left (right) GP - V' -ring* if every simple singular left (right) R -module is YJ -injective. By [7, Lemma 2], a regular ring is a left (right) GP - V -ring and hence a

left (right) $GP-V'$ -ring. But $GP-V$ -rings are not necessarily regular (cf. [3]). R is called a ZI (*zero insertive*)-ring ([3]), if for every $a, b \in R$, $ab = 0$ implies $aRb = 0$. It is well known that R is ZI if and only if for every $a \in R$, $l(a)$ is an ideal of R if and only if $r(a)$ is an ideal of R . Following [12], a ring R is called a *left (right) SF -ring* if every simple left (right) R -module is flat. It is well known that a ring R is regular if and only if every left (right) R -module is flat, hence a regular ring is a left (right) SF -ring, but till date it is unknown whether SF -rings are necessarily regular.

This paper presents some new properties of $GP-V$ -rings, $GP-V'$ -rings and also proves the regularity of a class of SF -ring.

2. Main Results

Lemma 2.1. *For any $0 \neq a \in Z(R_R)$, aR contains a non-zero nilpotent element.*

Proof. Since $0 \neq a \in Z(R_R)$, $r(a) \cap RaR \neq 0$. Let $0 \neq x \in r(a) \cap RaR$. Then $x = rar$ for some $0 \neq r \in R$. Then $ar \neq 0$ and $(ar)^2 = arar = 0$. This proves the lemma. \square

Theorem 2.2. *If R is a left $GP-V$ -ring, then R is right non-singular.*

Proof. Suppose $Z(R_R) \neq 0$. Then by Lemma 2.1, there exists some $0 \neq a \in Z(R_R)$ such that $a^2 = 0$. If $l(a) + RaR \neq R$, let M be a maximal left ideal of R such that $l(a) + RaR \subseteq M$. Since R is a left $GP-V$ -ring, R/M is YJ -injective. Since $a^2 = 0$, every left R -homomorphism from Ra to R/M extends to one from R to R/M . Define $f : Ra \rightarrow R/M$ by $f(ra) = r + M$. Clearly f is well-defined. It follows that there exists some $b \in R$ such that $1 - ab \in M$. But $ab \in RaR \subseteq M$, whence $1 \in M$, a contradiction. Hence $l(a) + RaR = R$. This implies that $x + \sum y_i az_i = 1$ for some $x \in l(a)$, $y_i, z_i \in R$. This yields $(1 - \sum y_i az_i)a = 0$, that is $a \in r(1 - \sum y_i az_i)$. Now $a \in Z(R_R)$, hence $r(\sum y_i az_i)$ is essential right ideal of R . Therefore it follows from $r(1 - \sum y_i az_i) \cap r(\sum y_i az_i) = 0$ that $r(1 - \sum y_i az_i) = 0$, whence $a = 0$. This is a contradiction to $a \neq 0$. Thus $Z(R_R) = 0$. \square

Proposition 2.3. *If R is a left $GP-V'$ -ring, then $Z({}_R R) \cap Z(R_R) = 0$.*

Proof. Suppose $Z({}_R R) \cap Z(R_R) \neq 0$, then there exists some $0 \neq a \in Z({}_R R) \cap Z(R_R)$ such that $a^2 = 0$. If $l(a) + RaR \neq R$, let M be a maximal left ideal of R such that $l(a) + RaR \subseteq M$. Clearly M is essential so that R/M is YJ -injective. Proceeding as in Theorem 2.2, we get a contradiction. Thus $Z({}_R R) \cap Z(R_R) = 0$. \square

Proposition 2.4. *If R is a left $GP-V'$ -ring, then the center C of R is a reduced ring.*

Proof. Let $0 \neq a \in C$ such that $a^2 = 0$. There exists a maximal left ideal M of R containing $l(a)$. If M is not essential, then $M = l(e)$ for some $0 \neq e \in I(R)$. Now $a \in l(a) \subseteq M = l(e)$, hence $ea = ae = 0$. Therefore $e \in l(a) \subseteq M = l(e)$ yielding $e = e^2 = 0$, a contradiction. Hence M is essential and so R/M is YJ -injective. It follows that there exists some $b \in R$ such that $1 - ab \in M$. But as $a \in C \cap M$, we have $ab \in M$, whence $1 \in M$, a contradiction. Therefore C is reduced. \square

We recall the following two definitions following [12].

Definition 2.5. A left ideal L of a ring R is a *weak ideal* (W -ideal) if for all $0 \neq a \in L$, there exists a positive integer n such that $a^n \neq 0$ and $a^n R \subseteq L$. A right ideal K of R is defined similarly to be a W -ideal.

Definition 2.6. A left ideal L of a ring R is a *generalized weak ideal* (GW -ideal) if for all $a \in L$, there exists a positive integer n such that $a^n R \subseteq L$. A right ideal K of R is defined similarly to be a GW -ideal.

By ([12], Example 1.2), there exists a ring R in which $\{\text{ideals of } R\} \subsetneq \{W\text{-ideals of } R\} \subsetneq \{GW\text{-ideals of } R\}$.

Lemma 2.7. *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring R .*

- (1) R is abelian.
- (2) $l(e)$ is a GW -ideal of R for every $e \in I(R)$.
- (3) $r(e)$ is a GW -ideal of R for every $e \in I(R)$.

Proof. Clearly (1) \Rightarrow (2) and (1) \Rightarrow (3).

(2) \Rightarrow (1) Let $e \in I(R)$ and $x \in R$. Since $1 - e \in l(e)$ and $l(e)$ is a GW -ideal of R , there exists a positive integer n such that $(1 - e)^n x \in l(e)$ which implies that $xe = exe$. Again $1 - e \in I(R)$ and $e \in l(1 - e)$, arguing similarly we see that $ex = exe$. Hence, $ex = xe$. Thus, R is abelian. Similarly, we can prove (3) \Rightarrow (1). \square

Theorem 2.8. *Let R be a left GP - V' -ring in which $l(e)$ is a GW -ideal of R for every $e \in I(R)$, then R is right non-singular.*

Proof. If $Z(R_R) \neq 0$, there exists some $0 \neq a \in Z(R_R)$ such that $a^2 = 0$. Suppose $l(a) + RaR \neq R$ and M be a maximal left ideal of R such that $l(a) + RaR \subseteq M$. If M is not essential, then $M = l(e)$ for for some $0 \neq e \in I(R)$. Since $a \in M = l(e)$, it follows from Lemma 2.7 that $ea = 0$. Hence $e \in l(a) \subseteq M = l(e)$, whence $e = e^2 = 0$, a contradiction to $e \neq 0$. Thus M is essential. Since R is a left GP - V' -ring, R/M is YJ -injective. Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 2.2, we get a contradiction. Thus $l(a) + RaR = R$. Arguing again as in the proof of Theorem 2.2, we get a contradiction. This proves that $Z(R_R) = 0$. \square

Corollary 2.9. *If R is a ZI, left GP- V' -ring, then R is right non-singular.*

Remark 2.10. *Corollary 2.9 shows that some of the hypotheses in [3, Theorem 2.1] are not necessary.*

Proposition 2.11. *The following conditions are equivalent.*

- (1) R is a complement left bounded ring.
- (2) Every non-zero complement left ideal of R contains a non-zero left ideal which is a W -ideal.

Proof. Clearly (1) \Rightarrow (2).

(2) \Rightarrow (1) Let L be a non-zero complement left ideal of R . By hypothesis, L contains a non-zero left ideal I of R which is a W -ideal. Let $0 \neq a \in I$. Then there exists some positive integer n such that $a^n \neq 0$ and $a^n R \subseteq I$. Therefore $Ra^n R \subseteq RI \subseteq RL = L$. Hence L contains the non-zero ideal $Ra^n R$. \square

Proposition 2.12. *Let R be a complement left bounded ring. If $a \in R$ is nilpotent then $a \in Z({}_R R)$. In particular, a complement left bounded and left non singular ring is reduced.*

Proof. Let $0 \neq a \in R$ such that $a^2 = 0$. If $a \notin Z({}_R R)$ then every complement of $l(a)$ in R is non-zero. Let L be a complement of $l(a)$ in R . Then $l(a) \cap L = 0$ and $L \neq 0$. By hypothesis, L contains a non-zero ideal I of R . Let $0 \neq b \in I$, then

$$ba \in I \cap l(a) \subseteq L \cap l(a) = 0.$$

Therefore $b \in L \cap l(a) = 0$. This is a contradiction to $b \neq 0$. Hence $a \in Z({}_R R)$. This implies that a complement left bounded and a left non singular ring is reduced. \square

Theorem 2.13. *Let R be a complement left bounded ring. The following conditions are equivalent.*

- (1) R is strongly regular.
- (2) R is a left GP- V' -ring whose maximal essential left ideals are GW-ideals.
- (3) R is a left GP- V' -ring whose maximal essential right ideals are GW-ideals.

Proof. Clearly (1) \Rightarrow (2) and (3).

(2) \Rightarrow (1) Let $a \in R$. If $l(a) + Ra$ is not essential, then there exists a non-zero complement left ideal L of R such that $(l(a) + Ra) \cap L = 0$. Since R is complement left bounded, there exists a non-zero ideal I of R and $I \subseteq L$. Let $0 \neq x \in I$. Then

$$xa \in I \cap Ra = 0.$$

This implies that $x \in l(a) \cap I = 0$. This is a contradiction to $x \neq 0$. Therefore $l(a) + Ra$ is an essential left ideal of R . If $l(a) + Ra \neq R$, then there exists a maximal left ideal M of R such that $l(a) + Ra \subseteq M$. Since $l(a) + Ra$ is essential,

M is essential. Therefore it follows from R being a left $GP-V'$ -ring that R/M is YJ -injective. Following the proof of (2) \Rightarrow (1) of Theorem 3.1 of [6], we get a contradiction. Hence $l(a) + Ra = R$. Hence $x + ya = 1$ for some $x \in l(a)$ and $y \in R$ which yields $a = ya^2$. This proves that R is strongly regular.

(3) \Rightarrow (1) Suppose $0 \neq a \in R$ such that $a^2 = 0$. Let M be a maximal left ideal of R containing $l(a)$. If $a \notin Z({}_R R)$, then proceeding as in Proposition 2.12, we get a contradiction. Hence $a \in Z({}_R R)$ and so M is an essential left ideal of R . Since R is a left $GP-V'$ -ring, it follows that there exists some $c \in R$ such that $1 - ac \in M$. If $ac \notin M$, then $M + Rac = R$ implying $u + vac = 1$ for some $u \in M, v \in R$. Since M is a GW -ideal and $cva \in M$, there exists $m > 0$ such that $(cva)^m c \in M$. Therefore

$$(1 - u)^{m+1} = (vac)^{m+1} = va(cva)^m c \in M.$$

This together with $u \in M$ implies that $1 \in M$, a contradiction. This proves that R is reduced and hence $l(w) = r(w)$ for all $w \in R$. Proceeding as in (3) \Rightarrow (1) of [6, Theorem 3.1] we can prove that $l(a) + aR = R$ for every $a \in R$, which implies that R is regular. Since R is also reduced, R is strongly regular. \square

Proposition 2.14. *Let R be a complement left bounded, left $GP-V'$ -ring. Then*

- (i) R is semiprimitive.
- (ii) R is right non-singular.
- (iii) If a is a non-zero divisor of R , then $RaR = R$.

Proof. (i). Suppose $0 \neq a \in J(R)$ such that $a^2 = 0$. If $a \notin Z({}_R R)$, then there exists a non-zero complement left ideal L of R such that $l(a) \oplus L$ is an essential left ideal of R . Proceeding as in the proof of Proposition 2.12, we get a contradiction. Therefore $a \in Z({}_R R)$. If $l(a) + RaR \neq R$, there exists a maximal essential left ideal M of R such that $l(a) + RaR \subseteq M$. Since R is a left $GP-V'$ -ring, R/M is YJ -injective. It follows that there exists some $c \in R$ such that $1 - ac \in M$. But $ac \in RaR \subseteq M$, whence $1 \in M$, a contradiction to $M \neq R$. Therefore $l(a) + RaR = R$. As $J(R)$ is small in R , $l(a) + RaR = R$ implies $l(a) = R$ so that $a = 0$. This proves that $J(R)$ is reduced.

Suppose $0 \neq b \in J(R)$. If $l(b) + RbR$ is not essential, then there exists a non-zero complement left ideal K of R such that $(l(b) + RbR) \oplus K$ is an essential left ideal of R . By hypothesis, K contains a non-zero ideal I of R . Let $0 \neq d \in I$. Then

$$db \in K \cap RbR = 0, d \in K \cap l(b) = 0.$$

This is a contradiction to $d \neq 0$. Therefore $l(b) + RbR$ is essential. If $l(b) + RbR \neq R$, there exists a maximal left ideal L of R such that $l(b) + RbR \subseteq L$. Since $l(b) + RbR$ is essential, L is essential. Therefore R/L is YJ -injective. Arguing as in the proof of Theorem 2.2, we get a contradiction. Hence $l(b) + RbR = R$. Proceeding again as in the first paragraph of this proof we get $b = 0$, a contradiction. This proves

that $J(R) = 0$.

(ii). Suppose $Z(R_R) \neq 0$. Then there exists some $0 \neq a \in Z(R_R)$ such that $a^2 = 0$. Suppose $l(a) + RaR \neq R$ and M be a maximal left ideal of R containing $l(a) + RaR$. If $l(a) + RaR$ is not essential, then there exists a non-zero complement left ideal K of R such that $(l(a) + RaR) \oplus K$ is essential left ideal of R . Since R is a complement left bounded ring, it is easy to see that $K = 0$. Hence $l(a) + RaR$ is essential and hence M is essential. Since R is a left GP - V' -ring, R/M is YJ -injective. Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 2.2, we get a contradiction. Hence $l(a) + RaR = R$. Arguing again as in the proof of Theorem 2.2, we get a contradiction. Thus $Z(R_R) = 0$.

(iii). Suppose RaR is not an essential left ideal of R , then there exists a non-zero complement left ideal L of R such that $RaR \oplus L$ is an essential left ideal of R . By hypothesis L contains a non-zero ideal I of R . If $0 \neq b \in I$, then

$$ba \in I \cap RaR = 0.$$

This implies that $b \in l(a) = 0$, a contradiction to $b \neq 0$. Hence RaR is an essential left ideal of R . Suppose $RaR \neq R$ and M be a maximal left ideal of R containing RaR . Since RaR is essential and $RaR \subseteq M$, M is essential. Since R is a left GP - V' -ring, R/M is YJ -injective. Therefore there exists a positive integer n such that $a^n \neq 0$ and every left R -homomorphism from Ra^n to R/M extends to one from R to R/M . Define $f : Ra^n \rightarrow R/M$ by $f(ra^n) = r + M$, for every $r \in R$. Since $l(a) = 0$, f is well-defined. It is clear that $1 - a^n b \in M$. Since $a^n b \in RaR \subseteq M$, it follows that $1 \in M$, a contradiction. Therefore $RaR = R$. \square

Theorem 2.15. *Let R be a complement left bounded ring.*

- (i) *If for every $b \in R$, $RbR + l(RbR)$ is a complement left ideal of R , then R is reduced biregular.*
- (ii) *If for every $a \in R$, $Ra + l(a)$ is a complement left ideal of R , then R is strongly regular.*

Proof. (i). Let $a \in R$ such that $(RaR)^2 = 0$. Then $RaR \subseteq l(RaR)$. Suppose $l(RaR)$ is not an essential left ideal of R , then there exists a non-zero complement left ideal L of R such that $l(RaR) \oplus L$ is an essential left ideal of R . By hypothesis, L contains a non-zero ideal I of R . Now

$$IRaR \subseteq I \cap RaR \subseteq I \cap l(RaR) = 0, I \subseteq l(RaR) \cap L = 0.$$

This contradicts that $I \neq 0$. So $l(RaR)$ is an essential left ideal of R . By hypothesis $l(RaR)$ is a complement left ideal of R . It follows that $l(RaR) = R$. This implies that $RaR = 0$. This yields R is semiprime. Hence for every $c \in R$, we have $RcR \cap l(RcR) = 0$. Since R is complement left bounded and $RcR + l(RcR)$ is a complement left ideal of R , it is easy to see that $RcR \oplus l(RcR) = R$. Hence $RcR = Re$ for some $e \in I(R)$. Since R is semiprime it follows that e is central.

This shows that R is biregular. Hence by Proposition 2.12, we get R is reduced.

(ii). Let $b \in R$ such that $l(b) + Rb \neq R$. If $l(b) + Rb \neq R$ is not essential, then there exists a non-zero complement left ideal K of R such that $(l(b) + Rb) \oplus K$ is an essential left ideal of R . Since R is complement left bounded, it is easy to see that $K = 0$. Hence $l(b) + Rb$ is essential. Since $l(b) + Rb$ is also a complement left ideal of R , it follows that $l(b) + Rb = R$. This shows that R is strongly regular. \square

Proposition 2.16. *If every maximal left ideal of R is regular, then R is regular*

Proof. Let $a \in R$. If $Ra = R$, then $a = aba$ for some $b \in R$. If $Ra \neq R$, there exists a maximal left ideal M of R containing Ra . Since M is regular and $a \in M$, there exists some $c \in R$ such that $a = aca$. This shows that R is regular. \square

Lemma 2.17. [5, Lemma 3.14] *Let L be a left ideal of R . Then R/L is a flat left R -module if and only if for every $a \in L$, there exists some $b \in L$ such that $a = ab$.*

Notation: We write $N_1(R) = \{a \in R : a^2 = 0\}$.

Proposition 2.18. *Let R be a ring such that $N_1(R)$ is regular. If every simple singular left R -module is flat or YJ -injective, then R is semiprimitive.*

Proof. Let $b \in J(R)$ such that $b^2 = 0$. By hypothesis, there exists some $c \in R$ such that $b = bcb$, that is $(1 - bc)b = 0$. As $b \in J(R)$, $1 - bc$ is invertible, hence $b = 0$. This proves that $J(R)$ is reduced. Hence $l(d) = r(d)$ for every $d \in J(R)$. Let $u \in J(R)$ such that $l(u) + Ru \neq R$. Then there exists a maximal left ideal M of R such that $l(u) + Ru \subseteq M$. If M is not essential then $M = l(e)$ for some $0 \neq e \in I(R)$. Since $u \in M = l(e)$, $ue = 0$. Hence $e \in r(u) = l(u) \subseteq M = l(e)$. Thus $e = e^2 = 0$ a contradiction. Therefore M is essential. Hence by hypothesis R/M is flat or YJ -injective. If R/M is flat, since $u \in M$, by Lemma 2.17, there exists some $v \in M$ such that $u = uv$, that is $1 - v \in r(u) = l(u) \subseteq M$, whence $1 \in M$, a contradiction. If R/M is YJ -injective, it follows that there exists a positive integer n such that $1 - u^n v \in M$. But $u^n v \in J(R) \subseteq M$, whence $1 \in M$, again a contradiction. Hence $l(u) + Ru = R$ and so $x + yu = 1$ for some $x \in R$, $y \in l(u)$, yielding $yu^2 = u$. As $u \in J(R)$, $1 - yu$ is invertible, hence $u = 0$. This shows that $J(R) = 0$. \square

Proposition 2.19. *Let R be a ring such that $N_1(R)$ is regular. Then R is left and right non-singular.*

Proof. If $Z({}_R R) \neq 0$, then there exists some $0 \neq a \in Z({}_R R)$ such that $a^2 = 0$. By hypothesis, there exists some $x \in R$ such that $a = axa$. Then $xa \in I(R)$. Since $Z({}_R R)$ cannot contain a non-zero idempotent, it follows that $xa = 0$, whence $a = axa = 0$. This contradicts that $a \neq 0$. Hence $Z({}_R R) = 0$. Similarly we can prove that $Z(R_R) = 0$. \square

Lemma 2.20. [5, Remark 3.13] *A reduced left (right) SF-ring is strongly regular.*

Theorem 2.21. *Let R be a left SF-ring such that $r(x)^n$ is an ideal for all $x \in N_1(R)$ and some positive integer n (n depending on x). Then R is strongly regular.*

Proof. Let $0 \neq b \in R$ such that $b^2 = 0$. By hypothesis there exists a positive integer m such that $r(b)^m$ is an ideal. If $Rr(b) \neq R$, then there exists a maximal left ideal M of R such that $Rr(b) \subseteq M$. Since $b \in r(b) \subseteq Rr(b) \subseteq M$ and R is left SF, there exists some $c \in M$ such that $b = bc$, that is $1 - c \in r(b) \subseteq M$, whence $1 \in M$, a contradiction to $M \neq R$. Hence $Rr(b) = R$. This yields $r(b) = r(b)^2$ and so $r(b) = r(b)^m$. Therefore $r(b)$ is an ideal of R . It follows that $R = Rr(b) \subseteq r(b)$ and so $b = 0$. This proves that R is reduced so that by Lemma 2.20, R is strongly regular. \square

Corollary 2.22. *Let R be a left SF-ring such that $r(x)$ is nilpotent for every $0 \neq x \in N_1(R)$. Then R is strongly regular.*

Corollary 2.23. [11, Theorem 10] *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring R .*

- (1) *R is strongly regular.*
- (2) *R is a ZI-ring whose simple left modules are flat.*

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Tikaram Subedi

Department of Mathematics
National Institute of Technology Meghalaya
Shillong, India.
email: tsubedi2010@gmail.com

A. M. Buh pang

Department of Mathematics
North Eastern Hill University
Shillong, India.
e-mail: ardeline17@gmail.com