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## ON MAXIMAL SUBMODULES OF A FINITE DIRECT SUM OF HOLLOW MODULES II

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### Introduction

We have given, in [3], the structure of right artinian rings satisfying the following conditions: i) the Jacobson radical of a ring is square zero and ii) every submodule of a direct sum of hollow (local) modules is also a direct sum of hollow modules. The latter property cited above implies that every maximal submodule of a direct sum of  $t+1$ -copies of a hollow module with length  $t$  contains a direct summand.

In this paper, we shall study this property for any right artinian ring, and reproduce, in §1, the results similar to ones in [3] without the assumption that the Jacobson radical is square zero. In §2 we shall give a characterization of some rings in terms of the property above.

### 1 Property (\*\*)

Let  $R$  be a ring with identity. In this paper, every  $R$ -module is a unitary right  $R$ -module. Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. We shall denote the Jacobson radical of  $M$  by  $J(M)$  and the radical of  $R$  by  $J$  or  $J(R)$ , respectively. Throughout this paper we assume that  $R$  is a right artinian (semi-perfect) ring and every  $R$ -module  $M$  has the finite composition length, which we denote by  $|M|$ . If  $M$  has a unique maximal submodule  $J(M)$ ,  $M$  is called *hollow (local)*. In this case  $M \approx eR/A$  for a primitive idempotent  $e$  and a right ideal  $A$  in  $eR$ .

Given a family  $N = \{N_i\}_{i=1}^t$  of (hollow) modules, we denote by  $D(N)$  the direct sum  $\sum_{i=1}^t \oplus N_i$ . If  $N_i = N$  for a fixed module  $N$ , we indicate this by  $N^{(i)}$ .

We have studied in [3] the following property:

(\*\*) *Every maximal submodule of  $D(N)$  contains a non-zero direct summand of  $D(N)$ .*

Since the above property is preserved by Morita equivalence, we may assume that  $R$  is a basic ring. Hence, from now on, we assume that  $R$  is a right artinian and basic ring. Let  $N$  be a hollow module with finite length. We put  $\bar{N} = N/J(N)$ , and  $S (= S_N) = \text{End}_R(N)$ . Then  $\Delta = \text{End}_R(\bar{N})$  is a division

ring. We have the natural homomorphism  $\varphi$  of  $S$  into  $\Delta$ . It is clear that  $\ker \varphi = J(S)$  and  $\text{im } \varphi$  is a subdivision ring of  $\Delta$ , because  $|N| < \infty$ . We put  $\text{im } \varphi = \bar{S}_N (= \bar{S})$ . We assume  $D = D(N_j, n) = \sum_i \bigoplus N_{1i} \bigoplus \sum_i \bigoplus N_{2i} \bigoplus \cdots \bigoplus \sum_i \bigoplus N_{ti}$ , where  $\bar{N}_{ki} \approx \bar{N}_{ki}$  and  $\bar{N}_{ii} \not\approx \bar{N}_{ji}$  if  $i \neq j$ . Let  $M$  be a maximal submodule of  $D$ . Then  $M \supset J(D)$  and  $\bar{M} = M/J(D)$  is expressed as  $\bar{M} = \sum_j \bigoplus \bar{M}_j$ , where  $\bar{M}_i$  is a maximal submodule of  $\sum_k \bigoplus \bar{N}_{ik}$  for some  $i$  and  $\bar{M}_j = \sum_k \bigoplus \bar{N}_{jk}$  for  $j \neq i$ . Therefore, when we study the property (\*\*), we may assume  $\bar{N}_i \approx \bar{N}_1$  for all  $i$ . We shall identify all  $\text{End}_R(\bar{N}_i)$  and denote them by  $\Delta$ . Then  $D = \bar{D}/J(D)$  is a  $\Delta$ -vector space and  $\bar{M}$  contains a subspace  $\bar{M}'$  which is a maximal subspace of  $\sum_{i \neq k} \bigoplus \bar{N}_i$  for some  $k$  ( $n \geq 3$ ), (cf. [3] §2). Hence  $M$  contains a submodule  $M'$  maximal in  $\sum_{i \neq k} \bigoplus N_i$ . Thus we obtain the following:

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $N = \{N_i\}_{i=1}^{k'}$  be a family of hollow modules with finite length. If  $D(N')$  satisfies (\*\*) for a subfamily  $N' = \{N_i\}_{i=1}^k$  of  $N$  with  $k' > k \geq 2$ , so does  $D(N)$  (for the case  $k=1$ , see Theorem 6 below).*

Since  $R$  is semi-perfect,  $N \approx eR/A$  for a primitive idempotent  $e$  and a right ideal  $A$  in  $eR$ . Then  $\Delta = eRe/eJe$  and  $S_N = \{x \in eRe \mid xA \subset A\}$ . We sometimes denote  $\bar{S}_N$  by  $\Delta(A)$ .

We have defined a max. quasiprojective module in [2]. This is nothing but  $\Delta = \bar{S}_N$  in our case.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $N$  be a hollow module with  $|N| < \infty$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- 1)  $N$  is a max. quasiprojective.
- 2)  $N^{(2)}$  has the lifting property of simple modules modulo the radical (see [1]).
- 3)  $N^{(n)}$  has the above property for  $n \geq 2$ .
- 4)  $N^{(2)}$  satisfies (\*\*).

**Proof.** It is clear from [1], [2], except 4).

1)  $\leftrightarrow$  4). This is clear from Theorem 2 below.

From Theorem 1 we are interested in case where  $\Delta \supseteq \bar{S}_N = \bar{S}$ . We may assume that  $\Delta$  is a right  $\bar{S}$ -vector space and we denote the dimension of  $\Delta$  by  $[\Delta: \bar{S}]$ .

**Theorem 2** ([3], Lemma 5). *Let  $N$ ,  $\Delta$ , and  $\bar{S}$  be as above. Then  $[\Delta: \bar{S}] = k < \infty$  if and only if  $N^{(k+1)}$  satisfies (\*\*), but  $N^{(k)}$  does not.*

We shall give a more general result than Theorem 2. Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be hollow modules with  $|N_1| \leq |N_2| < \infty$ . We assume  $\bar{N}_1 \approx \bar{N}_2$ . We shall identify

$\bar{N}_1$  and  $\bar{N}_2$  and denote  $\text{End}_R(\bar{N}_1)$  by  $\Delta$ . Then we have the natural mapping  $\varphi$  of  $\text{Hom}_R(N_2, N_1)$  into  $\Delta$ . Put  $\text{im } \varphi = \Delta(N_2, N_1)$  which is a right  $\bar{S}_{N_2}$ -subspace of  $\Delta$ . We can express  $N_i = eR/A_i$ ,  $i=1, 2$ . Then  $|A_1| \geq |A_2|$  and  $\text{Hom}_R(N_2, N_1) = \{x \in eRe \mid xA_2 \subset A_1\}$ .

**Theorem 2'.** *Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be hollow modules with finite length ( $\bar{N}_1 \approx \bar{N}_2$ ). If  $[\Delta/\Delta(N_2, N_1) : S_{N_2}] \leq k$ ,  $D = N_2^{(k+1)} \oplus N_1$  satisfies (\*\*). Conversely, if  $D$  satisfies (\*\*) and  $|N_2| \geq |N_1|$  then  $[\Delta/\Delta(N_2, N_1) : \bar{S}_{N_2}] \leq k$ .*

Proof. We assume first  $|N_2| \geq |N_1|$ . We may assume  $N_i = eR/A_i$  for  $i=1, 2$ . Put  $D = eR/A_2 \oplus \dots \oplus eR/A_2 \oplus eR/A_1$ . Assume  $D$  satisfies (\*\*). Let  $\{\bar{\delta}_1, \bar{\delta}_2, \dots, \bar{\delta}_{k+1}\}$  be any set of elements in  $\Delta$ . We shall express every element in  $D$  as  $(\tilde{a}_1, \tilde{a}_2, \dots, \tilde{a}_{k+1}, \tilde{a}_{k+2})$ , where the  $a_i$  are in  $eR$  and  $\tilde{a}_i$  is the residue class of  $a_i$  in  $eR/A$ . Take  $\alpha_1 = (\tilde{e}, \tilde{o}, \dots, \tilde{o}, \bar{\delta}_1)$ ,  $\alpha_2 = (\tilde{o}, \tilde{e}, \tilde{o}, \dots, \tilde{o}, \bar{\delta}_2)$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\alpha_{k+1} = (\tilde{o}, \dots, \tilde{o}, \tilde{e}, \bar{\delta}_{k+1})$ . Let  $M$  be the submodule of  $D$  generated by  $\{\alpha_i\}_{i=1}^{k+1}$  and the elements in  $J(D)$ . Then  $M$  is a maximal submodule of  $D$ . Put  $\bar{D} = D/J(D) \supset \bar{M} = M/J(D)$ .  $M$  contains a non-zero direct summand  $M_1$  of  $D$  by (\*\*). We may assume that  $M_1$  is indecomposable and hence cyclic. Let  $\beta$  be its generator. Then  $\beta = \alpha_1 y_1 + \alpha_2 y_2 + \dots + \alpha_{k+1} y_{k+1} + j$ , where the  $y_i$  are in  $eR$  and  $j$  is in  $J(D)$ . Since  $\beta \notin J(D)$ , we may assume that the  $y_i$  are in  $eRe$  and  $\bar{y}_1 \neq 0$  ( $R$  is basic). Consider an epimorphism  $\psi$  of  $eR$  onto  $\beta eR$  given by setting  $\psi(r) = \beta r$ :  $r \in eR$ . Put  $\beta = (\tilde{e}y_1 + \tilde{j}_1, \tilde{e}y_2 + \tilde{j}_2, \dots, \tilde{e}y_{k+1} + \tilde{j}_{k+1}, \bar{\delta}_1 y_1 + \bar{\delta}_2 y_2 + \dots + \bar{\delta}_{k+1} y_{k+1} + \tilde{j}_{k+2})$ , where the  $j_p$  are in  $eJ$ , and put  $z = ey_1 + j_1$ . Let  $x$  be in  $\ker \psi$ . Then  $zx = zex \in A_2$ . Hence  $x \in (ze)^{-1}A_2$  and so  $|M_1| \geq |\beta eR| = |eR/\ker \psi| \geq |eR/(ze)^{-1}A_2| = |eR/A_2|$ . Since  $|eR/A_2| \geq |eR/A_1|$  and  $M_1$  is an indecomposable direct summand of  $D$ ,  $|M_1| \leq |eR/A_2|$ . Hence  $|M_1| = |eR/A_2|$ , which implies  $\ker \psi = (ze)^{-1}A_2$ . Therefore  $(ey_i + j_i)(ze)^{-1}A_2 \subseteq A_2$  for  $i=2, \dots, k+1$  and  $(\delta_1 y_1 + \dots + \delta_{k+1} y_{k+1} + j_{k+2})(ze)^{-1}A_2 \subseteq A_1$ . Accordingly,  $\varphi((ey_i + j_i)(ze)^{-1}) = \bar{y}_i z^{-1} \in \Delta(A_2)$  and  $\varphi((\delta_1 y_1 + \dots + \delta_{k+1} y_{k+1} + j_{k+2})(ze)^{-1}) = \bar{\delta}_1 + \bar{\delta}_2 y_2 z^{-1} + \dots + \bar{\delta}_{k+1} y_{k+1} z^{-1} \in \Delta(A_2, A_1)$ . Hence  $[\Delta/\Delta(A_2, A_1) : \Delta(A_2)] \leq k$ . Conversely, we assume that  $[\Delta/\Delta(A_2, A_1) : \Delta(A_2)] \leq k$  and  $M$  a maximal submodule of  $D$ . Then  $M \supset J(D)$ . Let  $\pi_i$  be the projection of  $D$  onto the  $i$ -th component. If  $\pi_j(\bar{M}) = 0$  for some  $j$ ,  $M = \sum_{i \neq j} \oplus N_i \oplus J(N_j)$ . Hence we may assume  $\pi_i(\bar{M}) \neq 0$  for all  $i$ . Then  $M$  contains a basis  $\{\bar{\alpha}_1, \bar{\alpha}_2, \dots, \bar{\alpha}_{k+1}\}$  as above. Since  $[\Delta/\Delta(A_2, A_1) : \Delta(A_2)] \leq k$ , there exists a set  $\{\bar{y}_1, \bar{y}_2, \dots, \bar{y}_{k+1}\}$  in  $\Delta(A_2)$  such that  $\sum \bar{\delta}_i y_i \in \Delta(A_2, A_1)$ . Hence  $M$  contains an element  $\beta = \sum \alpha_i y_i = (\bar{y}_1, \bar{y}_2, \dots, \bar{y}_{k+1}, \sum \bar{\delta}_i y_i)$ , and so  $M$  contains a direct summand of  $D$  by [3], Lemma 17. If we put  $N_1 = N_2$  in the theorem, then we have Theorem 2. Finally we assume  $|N_2| < |N_1|$ . Then there are no epimorphisms of  $N_2$  onto  $N_1$ , and so  $\Delta(N_2, N_1) = 0$ . Hence  $[\Delta/\Delta(N_2, N_1) : \bar{S}_{N_2}] = [\Delta : \bar{S}_{N_2}] \leq k$ . Therefore  $D(k+2)$  satisfies (\*\*) by Theorem 2 and Lemma 1.

The argument given in [3], §3 shows that the converse part in Theorem 2' does not hold without the assumption  $|N_2| \geq |N_1|$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $\{N_i\}_{i=1}^t$  ( $t \geq 2$ ) be a set of hollow modules. Assume  $|N_i| = |N_1|$ ,  $\bar{N}_i \approx \bar{N}_1$  and  $[\Delta: \bar{S}_{N_i}] = k < \infty$  for all  $i$ . Put  $D = N_1^{(s_1)} \oplus N_2^{(s_2)} \oplus \dots \oplus N_t^{(s_t)}$ , where  $k+1 = \sum s_i$ , and  $s_i \geq 1$ . Then  $D$  satisfies  $(**)$  if and only if  $N_i \approx N_1$  for all  $i$ .*

Proof. If  $N_i \approx N_1$  for all  $i$ , then  $D(N_i, k+1)$  satisfies  $(**)$  by Theorem 2. Conversely, assume the property above. Since  $t \geq 2$  and  $\sum s_i = k+1$ ,  $s_i \leq k$ . We shall first show that some two of  $\{N_i\}_{i=1}^t$  are isomorphic to each other. According to Theorem 2 there exists a maximal submodule  $M_0$  of  $N_t^{(s_t)}$ , which contains no non-zero direct summands of  $N_t^{(s_t)}$ . It is clear that  $M_0$  is generated by  $J(N_t^{(s_t)})$  and the set of elements  $\{\theta_i = (\tilde{o}, \dots, \overset{i}{\tilde{e}}, \tilde{o}, \dots, \tilde{\delta}_{ti}) \in N_t^{(s_t)}\}$ , where the  $\tilde{\delta}_{ik}$  are elements of  $eRe$ . Let  $\{\tilde{\delta}_{i1}, \tilde{\delta}_{i2}, \dots, \tilde{\delta}_{is_i}\}$  be a set of independent elements of  $\Delta$  over  $\bar{S}_{N_i}$  for  $i \leq t-1$ . We can assume  $N_i = eR/A_i$ . Let  $M$  be the submodule of  $D$  generated by  $\{\alpha_{ij} = (\tilde{o}, \dots, \overset{i}{\tilde{e}}, \tilde{o}, \dots, \tilde{\delta}_{ij})\}_{i=1, j=1}^t$ , where  $k_{ij} = s_1 + \dots + s_{i-1} + j$  and  $J(D)$ . As in the proof of Theorem 2', put  $\beta = (\tilde{e}y_{11} + \tilde{j}_{11}, \dots, \tilde{e}y_{1s_1} + \tilde{j}_{1s_1}, \dots, \tilde{e}y_{ts_t-1} + \tilde{j}_{ts_t-1}, \tilde{\delta}_{11}y_{11} + \dots + \tilde{\delta}_{ts_t-1}y_{ts_t-1} + \tilde{j}_{k+1})$  and assume that the direct summand  $M_1$  of  $D$ , and hence of  $M$ , is generated by  $\beta$ . Then  $M_1 = \beta R = \beta eR + (M_1 \cap J(D)) = \beta eR + J(M_1) = \beta eR$ . Since  $\beta \notin J(D)$ , some  $y_{ij}$  is not in  $eJe$ . Assume first that  $\bar{y}_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i \leq t-1$ . Then  $\bar{M}_1 \subseteq \bar{N}_t^{(s_t)}$ . Let  $\pi$  and  $\pi_{ij}$  be the projections of  $D$  onto  $M_1$  and the  $j$ th component of  $N_i^{(s_i)}$ , respectively. Since  $\bar{y}_{ij} \neq 0$  for some  $j$ ,  $\pi_{ij}(\bar{M}_1) \neq 0$ . Hence,  $M_1$  being isomorphic to some  $N_p$ ,  $M_1 \approx N_p$ . Since  $\bar{y}_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \leq t-1$ ,  $\beta = j + \theta$ , where  $j \in J(\sum_{i \leq t-1} \oplus N_i^{(s_i)})$ ,  $\theta = \sum \theta_{ij} y_{ij} + (0, \dots, 0, \tilde{j}_{11}, \dots, \tilde{j}_{k+1}) \in M_0 \subseteq N_t^{(s_t)}$ . Hence  $M_1 = \beta eR$  is epimorphic to  $M_0^* = \theta eR$ , and so  $|M_1| \geq |M_0^*|$ . Noting that  $\pi(\bar{M}_0^*) = \pi(\bar{M}_1) = \bar{M}_1$  and  $M_1$  is hollow, we know that  $\pi|_{M_0^*}$  is an epimorphism, and hence  $\pi|_{M_0^*}$  is an isomorphism. Therefore  $D = M_0^* \oplus \ker \pi$ , and so  $M_0^*$  ( $\subseteq M_0$ ) is a direct summand of  $N_t^{(s_t)}$ , which is a contradiction. Accordingly,  $\bar{y}_{ij} \neq 0$  for some  $i \leq t-1$ , say  $i = j = 1$ . If  $\bar{y}_{pq} = 0$  for  $p \neq 1$  and all  $q$ , then we have the situation similar to the proof of Theorem 2', and obtain  $\bar{y}_{1k}\bar{y}_{11}^{-1} \in \Delta(A_1)$ . Therefore  $\tilde{\delta}_{11}y_{11} + \tilde{\delta}_{12}y_{12} + \dots + \tilde{\delta}_{1s_1}y_{1s_1} \neq 0$ , and so  $\pi_{ts_t}(\bar{M}_1) \neq 0$ , which means  $N_t \approx M_1 \approx N_1$ . Thus we have shown that some two of  $\{N_i\}_{i=1}^t$  are isomorphic to each other. Hence we can show the theorem by induction on  $t$ .

From the proof above we have

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be hollow modules with  $\bar{N}_1 \approx \bar{N}_2$ . Assume  $|N_2| = |N_1|$  and  $[\Delta: \bar{S}_{N_2}] = k$ . Then  $N_1 \approx N_2$  if and only if  $D(k+1) = N_2^{(k)} \oplus N_1$  satisfies  $(**)$ .*

**Theorem 5.** Let  $\{N_i\}_{i=1}^t$  ( $t \geq 2$ ) be a set of hollow modules. Assume  $|N_i| = |N_1|$ ,  $\bar{N}_i \approx \bar{N}_1$ , and  $[\Delta: \bar{S}_{N_i}] \geq k_i < \infty$ . If  $N_1^{(k_1)} \oplus N_2^{(k_2)} \oplus \dots \oplus N_t^{(k_t)}$  satisfies (\*\*), then some two of  $\{N_i\}_{i=1}^t$  are isomorphic to each other.

## 2 Direct sums of hollow modules with same length

We assume again that  $R$  is a right artinian ring.

**Theorem 6.** Let  $N$  be a set of representatives of the isomorphism classes of hollow modules. Then there holds the following:

- 1) Every  $N \in N$  satisfies (\*\*) if and only if  $R$  is semi-simple.
- 2) Every  $N_1 \oplus N_2$  ( $N_i \in N$ ) satisfies (\*\*) if and only if  $R$  is right serial.

Proof. 1) Let  $e$  be an arbitrary primitive idempotent in  $R$ . If (\*\*) is satisfied then  $eR$  is hollow and hence  $eJ=0$ , which proves that  $R$  is semi-simple.

2) If  $R$  is right serial then, for any  $N \in N$ ,  $N \approx eR/A$  with a primitive idempotent  $e$  and a characteristic submodule  $A$  of  $eR$ . Hence  $\Delta(A) = \Delta$ , and therefore every  $N_1 \oplus N_2$  ( $N_i \in N$ ) satisfies (\*\*) by Theorem 2. Conversely, if every  $N_1 \oplus N_2$  ( $N_i \in N$ ) satisfies (\*\*) then, by Theorems 2 and 4,  $\Delta = \Delta(A)$  and  $eR/A \approx eR/B$  for any primitive idempotent  $e$  and maximal submodules  $A$  and  $B$  in  $eJ$ . Hence  $B = xA$  for some unit element  $x$  in  $eRe$ . In view of [3], Proposition 1, we may assume that  $J^2=0$ . Then, since  $\Delta = \Delta(A)$ , we have  $B = xA = A$ . Therefore  $R$  is right serial.

**Theorem 7.** Let  $N'$  be a set of hollow modules such that  $|N_i| = |N_j|$  and  $\bar{N}_i \approx \bar{N}_j$  for all  $N_i, N_j \in N'$ . Then all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus N_3$  satisfy (\*\*), but not all  $N_1 \oplus N_2$  ( $N_i \in N'$ ), if and only if  $N'$  satisfies either

- a) all  $N$  in  $N'$  are isomorphic to each other and  $[\Delta: \bar{S}_N] = 2$ , or
- b)  $\Delta = \bar{S}_N$  for all  $N \in N'$  and  $N'$  contains exactly two isomorphism classes.

Proof. This is immediate from Lemma 1 and Theorems 3, 4 and 5.

**Theorem 8.** Let  $N'$  be as in Theorem 7. Then all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus N_3 \oplus N_4$  satisfy (\*\*), but not all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus N_3$  ( $N_i \in N'$ ), if and only if  $N'$  satisfies one of the following:

- a) All  $N$  in  $N'$  are isomorphic to each other and  $[\Delta: \bar{S}_N] = 3$ .
- b) There are no  $N$  in  $N'$  such that  $[\Delta: \bar{S}_N] = 3$ , and if  $l=1$  or 2 then  $N'$  contains exactly one isomorphism class of  $N$  such that  $[\Delta: \bar{S}_N] = l$ .
- c)  $\Delta = \bar{S}_N$  for all  $N \in N'$  and  $N'$  contains exactly three isomorphism classes.

Proof. This is also easy by Lemma 1 and Theorems 3, 4 and 5.

The following example will illustrate what Theorem 8 intends to expose.

Example 1. Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Let  $k$  be a field, and  $x$  an in-

determinate. Put  $L=k(x)$  and  $K_i=k(x^i)$ . Considering  $L$  as a  $K_n$ -vector space, for any hyper-subspaces  $V$  and  $V'$  in  $L$  we can show directly that  $\{x \in L \mid xV \subseteq V\} = K_i$  and  $yV = V'$  for some  $y$  in  $L$ . Put

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} L & \overbrace{L \cdots L}^{n_1} & L & \overbrace{L \cdots L}^{n_2} & L & \overbrace{L \cdots L}^{n_3} & \cdots \\ K_{i1} & \ddots & K_{i1} & K_{i2} & \ddots & K_{i2} & K_{i3} & \ddots & K_{i3} & \ddots \\ 0 & & 0 & & & & & & & \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $i_p \neq i_p$  if  $p \neq q$ . Then  $e_{11}J = \sum_p \sum_{q=1}^{n_p} \oplus L_{pq}$ , where  $L_{pq} = (0, 0, \dots, \overset{\swarrow}{L}, 0, \dots)$ ,  $i = \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} n_j + q + 1$ , and  $L_{pq} \not\cong L_{p'q'}$  if  $(p, q) \neq (p', q')$ . Hence, every maximal submodule in  $e_{11}J$  is of the form  $A_{pq} = (0, L, \dots, L, \overset{\swarrow}{V}, L, \dots)$ , where  $V$  is a hyper-subspace of  $L$  over  $K_{ip}$ . Further,  $A_{pq} = e_{11}ye_{11}A'_{pq}$  for some  $y$  in  $L$  and  $\Delta(A_{pq}) = K_{ip}$ . Therefore, for each  $i$  there exist exactly  $n_i$  non-isomorphic classes of maximal submodules  $N_i$  in  $e_{11}J$  such that  $[\Delta: \Delta(N_i)] = i$ .

**Theorem 9.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative and local artinian ring and let  $N$  be a set of representatives of the isomorphism classes of serial modules with length two. In case  $R/J$  is infinite, if there exists a natural number  $n$  such that all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus \dots \oplus N_n$  ( $N_i \in N$ ) satisfy (\*\*) then  $R$  is a serial ring, and conversely. In case  $R/J$  is finite, there exists a natural number  $n$  such that all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus \dots \oplus N_n$  satisfy (\*\*).*

Proof. Let  $K = R/J$  and  $J/J^2 = \sum_{j=1}^m \oplus A_j$  with simple  $K$ -modules  $A_j$ . If  $K$  is infinite, then  $A_1 \oplus A_2$  contains infinitely many submodules isomorphic to  $A_1$ . Hence  $N$  is infinite provided  $m \geq 2$ . Therefore  $J/J^2 = A_1$  if and only if there exists a natural number  $n$  such that all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus \dots \oplus N_n$  ( $N_j \in N$ ) satisfy (\*\*), and hence by [3], Proposition 1, if and only if  $R$  is serial. If  $K$  is finite, then  $J/J^2$  is also finite. Hence  $N$  contains  $m$  modules, and therefore all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus \dots \oplus N_{m+1}$  satisfy (\*\*).

Similarly, we can prove

**Theorem 10.** *Let  $R$  be a local algebra of finite dimension over an algebra-*

ically closed field. Let  $N$  be a representative set of the isomorphism classes of serial modules with length two. Then there exists a natural number  $n$  such that all  $N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus N_n$  ( $N_i \in N$ ) satisfy  $(**)$  if and only if  $R$  is right serial.

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