



Title	ALMOST RELATIVE INJECTIVE MODULES
Author(s)	Singh, Surjeet
Citation	Osaka Journal of Mathematics. 2016, 53(2), p. 425-438
Version Type	VoR
URL	<a href="https://doi.org/10.18910/58910">https://doi.org/10.18910/58910</a>
rights	
Note	

*The University of Osaka Institutional Knowledge Archive : OUKA*

<https://ir.library.osaka-u.ac.jp/>

The University of Osaka

## ALMOST RELATIVE INJECTIVE MODULES

SURJEET SINGH

(Received April 15, 2014, revised March 9, 2015)

### Abstract

The concept of a module  $M$  being almost  $N$ -injective, where  $N$  is some module, was introduced by Baba (1989). For a given module  $M$ , the class of modules  $N$ , for which  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective, is not closed under direct sums. Baba gave a necessary and sufficient condition under which a uniform, finite length module  $U$  is almost  $V$ -injective, where  $V$  is a finite direct sum of uniform, finite length modules, in terms of extending properties of simple submodules of  $V$ . Let  $M$  be a uniform module and  $V$  be a finite direct sum of indecomposable modules. Some conditions under which  $M$  is almost  $V$ -injective are determined, thereby Baba's result is generalized. A module  $M$  that is almost  $M$ -injective is called an almost self-injective module. Commutative indecomposable rings and von Neumann regular rings that are almost self-injective are studied. It is proved that any minimal right ideal of a von Neumann regular, almost right self-injective ring, is injective. This result is used to give an example of a von Neumann regular ring that is not almost right self-injective.

### Introduction

Let  $M_R$ ,  $N_R$  be two modules. As defined by Baba [4],  $M$  is said to be *almost  $N$ -injective*, if for any homomorphism  $f: A \rightarrow M$ ,  $A \leq N$ , either  $f$  extends to a homomorphism  $g: N \rightarrow M$  or there exist a decomposition  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  with  $N_1 \neq 0$  and a homomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow N_1$  such that  $hf(x) = \pi(x)$  for any  $x \in A$ , where  $\pi: N \rightarrow N_1$  is a projection with kernel  $N_2$ . A module  $M$  that is almost  $M$ -injective, is called an *almost self-injective module*. For a module  $M$ , the class of those modules  $N$  for which  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective, is not closed under direct sums. Let  $\{U_k: 0 \leq k \leq n\}$  be a finite family of uniform modules of finite composition lengths, and  $U = \bigoplus \sum_{k=1}^n U_k$ . Baba [4] has given a characterization for  $U_0$  to be almost  $U$ -injective in terms of the property of simple submodules of  $U$  being contained in uniform summands of  $U$ . Let  $M$  be a uniform module and  $V$  be a finite direct sum of indecomposable modules. In Section 1, we investigate conditions under which  $M$  is almost  $V$ -injective. The main result is given in Theorem 1.12 and it generalizes the result by Baba. An alternative short proof of a result by Harada [10] is given in Theorem 1.16. It is well known that a (commutative) integral domain  $R$  is almost self-injective if and only if it is a valuation domain. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring having no non-trivial idempotent and  $Q$  be its classical quotient ring. In Section 2, it is proved that  $R_R$  is almost self-injective

if and only if for any elements  $a, b \in R$  with  $\text{ann}(a) \subseteq \text{ann}(b)$ , either  $bR \subseteq aR$  or  $aR < bR$  with  $a = bc$  for some regular element  $c$ , and  $Q_R$  is injective and uniform. It follows that any commutative, indecomposable ring  $R$  that is almost self-injective but not self-injective, is local. In Section 3, von Neumann regular rings  $R$  with  $R_R$  almost self-injective are studied. A characterization of such rings is given in Theorem 3.1. It is proved that any von Neumann regular ring  $R$  that is either commutative or right  $CS$  is almost right self-injective. In Theorem 3.4, it is proved that any minimal right ideal of a von Neumann regular ring  $R$  that is almost right self-injective, is injective. This result is used to give an example of a von Neumann regular ring that is not almost right self-injective.

### Preliminaries

All rings considered here are with unity and all modules are unital right modules unless otherwise stated. Let  $M$  a module. Then  $E(M)$ ,  $J(M)$  denote its injective hull, radical respectively. The symbols  $N \leq M$ ,  $N < M$ ,  $N \subset_e M$  denote that  $N$  is a submodule of  $M$ ,  $N$  is a submodule different from  $M$ ,  $N$  is an essential submodule of  $M$  respectively. A module  $M$  whose ring of endomorphisms  $\text{End}(M)$  is local, is called an *LE module*. A module  $M$  such that its complement submodules are summands of  $M$ , is called a *CS module* (or a module satisfying condition  $(C_1)$ ). If a module  $M$  is such that for any two summands  $A, B$  of  $M$  with  $A \cap B = 0$ ,  $A + B$  is a summand of  $M$ , then it is said to satisfy condition  $(C_3)$ . A module  $M$  satisfying conditions  $(C_1)$ ,  $(C_3)$  is called a *quasi-continuous module*. The terminology used here is available in standard text books like [3], [6].

### 1. Direct sums of uniform modules

**DEFINITION 1.1.** Let  $M_R$  and  $N_R$  be any two modules. Then  $M$  is said to be *almost  $N$ -injective*, if given any  $R$ -homomorphism  $f: A \rightarrow M$ ,  $A \leq N$  either  $f$  extends to an  $R$ -homomorphism from  $N$  to  $M$  or there exist a decomposition  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  with  $N_1 \neq 0$ , and an  $R$ -homomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow N_1$  such that  $hf(x) = \pi(x)$  for any  $x \in A$ , where  $\pi: N \rightarrow N_1$  is a projection with kernel  $N_2$ .

One can easily prove the following two results. (See [2])

**Proposition 1.2.** (i) *A module  $M_R$  is almost  $N_R$ -injective, if and only if for any  $R$ -homomorphism  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  which is maximal with respect to the property that it cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$ , there exist a decomposition  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  with  $N_1 \neq 0$ , and an  $R$ -homomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow N_1$  such that  $hf(x) = \pi(x)$  for any  $x \in L$ , where  $\pi: N \rightarrow N_1$  is a projection with kernel  $N_2$ .*  
(ii) *If a module  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective and  $N$  is indecomposable, then any  $R$ -homomorphism  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L \subset_e N$  with  $\ker f \neq 0$  extends to an  $R$ -homomorphism from  $N$  to  $M$ .*

**Proposition 1.3.** *Let  $A_R, B_R$  any two modules and  $f: L \rightarrow B$ ,  $L < A$  be an  $R$ -homomorphism that is maximal with respect to the property that it cannot be extended from  $A$  to  $B$ . If  $C$  is a summand of  $A$  and  $L \cap C < C$ , then  $f_1 = f | L \cap C$  from  $L \cap C$  to  $B$  is a maximal homomorphism that cannot be extended from  $C$  to  $B$ .*

The following is well known. (See [12])

**Proposition 1.4.** *Let  $M_R, N_R$  be any two modules such that  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective.*

- (i) *Any summand  $K$  of  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective.*
- (ii) *If  $W$  is a summand of  $N$ , then  $M$  is almost  $W$ -injective.*
- (iii) *If  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  and  $M$  is not  $N$ -injective, then  $M$  is either not  $N_1$ -injective or not  $N_2$ -injective.*

**Lemma 1.5.** *Let  $M_R$  and  $N_R$  be any two modules such that  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective, and  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  be a maximal homomorphism which cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$ . Let  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  with  $N_1 \neq 0$  and  $h: M \rightarrow N_1$  be a homomorphisms such that  $hf(x) = \pi(x)$  for  $x \in L$ , where  $\pi: N \rightarrow N_1$  is a projection with kernel  $N_2$ . Then the following hold.*

- (i)  *$f$  is monic on  $L \cap N_1$  and  $f(L \cap N_1)$  is a closed submodule of  $M$ .*
- (ii)  *$\ker h$  is a complement of  $f(N_1 \cap L)$ .*
- (iii)  *$f(N_2 \cap L) \subseteq \ker h$ .*
- (iv) *If  $M$  is a CS module, then  $f(N_1 \cap L)$  and  $\ker h$  are summands of  $M$ .*

Proof. (i) Now  $hf(x) = x$  for any  $x \in L \cap N_1$ , which gives  $f(L \cap N_1) \cap \ker h = 0$ . We get a complement  $H$  of  $\ker h$  containing  $f(L \cap N_1)$ . Then  $h | H$  is monic and  $N_1 \cap L \subseteq h(H) \subseteq N_1$ . Define  $\lambda: h(H) \rightarrow H$ ,  $\lambda(h(y)) = y$  for any  $y \in H$ . Then  $\lambda$  extends  $f | (L \cap N_1)$ . By Proposition 1.3,  $h(H) = L \cap N_1$ . Which proves that  $f(N_1 \cap L) = H$ . Hence  $f(L \cap N_1)$  is a closed submodule of  $M$  and is a complement of  $\ker h$ .

(ii) Let  $K$  be a complement of  $f(N_1 \cap L)$  containing  $\ker h$ . Then  $\ker h \subseteq_e K$ . Let  $x \in K$ . Suppose  $h(x) \neq 0$ . As  $h(x) \in N_1$ , there exists an  $r \in R$  such that  $0 \neq h(xr) \in L \cap N_1$ . Thus  $h(xr) = h(y)$  for some  $y \in f(L \cap N_1)$ ,  $xr - y \in \ker h \subseteq K$ . Which gives  $y \in K \cap f(L \cap N_1) = 0$ . Therefore,  $h(xr) = h(y) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $K = \ker h$ .

The last two parts are obvious. □

**Theorem 1.6.** *Let  $M_R$  be a quasi-continuous module and  $N_R$  any module. Then  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective if and only if for any homomorphism  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  which is maximal such that it cannot be extended to a homomorphism from  $N$  to  $M$ , the following hold.*

- (i) *There exist decompositions  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$ ,  $M = M_1 \oplus M_2$  with  $N_1 \neq 0$ .*
- (ii)  *$f$  is monic on  $L \cap N_1$  and  $f(N_1 \cap L) = M_1$ .*

- (iii)  $f(N_2 \cap L) \subseteq M_2$ .
- (iv)  $L = (L \cap N_1) \oplus (L \cap N_2)$ .

Proof. (i) Let  $M$  be almost  $N$ -injective. By Lemma 1.5, there exist a decomposition  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  and a homomorphism  $h: M \rightarrow N_1$  such that  $N_1 \neq 0$ ,  $f$  is monic on  $N_1 \cap L$ ,  $M_1 = f(N_1 \cap L)$  and  $M_2 = \ker h$  are summands of  $M$ , and  $hf(x) = \pi(x)$  for  $x \in L$ , where  $\pi: N \rightarrow N_1$  is a projection with kernel  $N_2$ . As  $M_1, M_2$  are complements of each other and  $M$  satisfies  $(C_3)$ , we get  $M = M_1 \oplus M_2$ . Thus  $h(M) = h(M_1)$ .

(ii) It is proved in Lemma 1.5.

(iii) Let  $z \in L$ . Then  $z = x_1 + x_2$  for some  $x_1 \in N_1, x_2 \in N_2$ . Then  $x_1 = hf(z) \in h(M_1) = h(N_1 \cap L) = N_1 \cap L$ , which also gives  $x_2 \in N_2 \cap L$ . Hence  $L = (L \cap N_1) \oplus (L \cap N_2)$ .

Conversely, let the above conditions hold. Define  $h: M \rightarrow N_1$  as follows. Let  $y \in M$ . Then  $y = y_1 + y_2$  for some  $y_1 \in M_1, y_2 \in M_2$ . Now  $y_1 = f(x_1)$  for some  $x_1 \in N_1 \cap L$ . Set  $h(y) = x_1$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1.7.** *Let  $M_R$  be a uniform module and  $N_R$  any module.*

- (i)  *$M$  is almost  $N$ -injective if and only if for any homomorphism  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  which is maximal such that it cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$ , there exists a decomposition  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  such that  $f(N_1 \cap L) = M$ ,  $N_2 = \ker f$  and  $L = (L \cap N_1) \oplus N_2$ .*
- (ii)  *$M$  is almost  $N$ -injective if and only if for any homomorphism  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  which is maximal such that it cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$ , there exists a decomposition  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  such that  $f$  is monic on  $N_1 \cap L$ ,  $f(N_1 \cap L) = M$  and  $L = (L \cap N_1) \oplus N_2$ .*
- (iii) *Let  $D$  be an (commutative) integral domain and  $F$  be its quotient field. Then  $D$  is almost  $F_D$ -injective.*

Proof. Clearly,  $M$  is quasi-continuous. (i) Suppose  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective. By Theorem 1.6,  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$ ,  $N_1 \neq 0$ ,  $f$  is monic on  $N_1 \cap L$ ,  $f(N_1 \cap L) = M$ , and  $f(N_2 \cap L) = 0$ . As  $f \mid N_2 \cap L = 0$ , it can be extended from  $N_2$  to  $M$ , therefore by Proposition 1.3,  $N_2 = N_2 \cap L$ . Hence  $L = (N_1 \cap L) \oplus N_2$ . The converse is immediate from Theorem 1.6.

(ii) Suppose the given condition holds. We get a homomorphism  $\lambda: N_2 \rightarrow (N_1 \cap L)$  such that for any  $x \in N_2$ ,  $\lambda(x) = y$ , whenever  $f(x) = f(y)$ . Then  $N_2' = \{x - \lambda(x): x \in N_2\} \subseteq \ker f$  and  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2'$ . After this (i) proves the result.

(iii) Let  $f: L \rightarrow D$ ,  $L < F_D$  be a homomorphism that cannot be extended from  $F$  to  $D$ . Then  $F \neq D$ . However  $F_D$  is injective, so  $f$  extends to an automorphism  $g$  of  $F_D$ . Let  $K = g^{-1}(D)$ . Then  $K = cD$  for some  $c \in F$  such that  $g(c) = 1$ . Clearly,  $L \subseteq K$ .  $g(K) = D$ . The maximality of  $f$  gives  $L = K$ . By (i),  $D$  is almost  $F_D$ -injective.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.8.** *Let  $M_R$  be uniform module and be almost  $N_R$ -injective. If  $N$  has a uniform summand  $N_1$  such that  $M$  is not  $N_1$ -injective, then for any uniform submodule  $V$  of  $N$ , there exists a proper summand  $K_2$  of  $N$  such that  $K_2 \cap V \neq 0$ .*

*If  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  with  $N_2$  also uniform, then  $K_2$  is uniform.*

Proof. Now  $M$  is almost  $N_1$ -injective. So there exists a maximal  $R$ -monomorphism  $\lambda: T \rightarrow M$ ,  $T < N_1$ , which cannot be extended from  $N_1$  to  $M$ . By Corollary 1.7,  $\lambda(T) = M$ . Now  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  for some  $N_2 < N$ . This gives a maximal  $R$ -homomorphism  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  which extends  $\lambda$  and  $N_2 = \ker f$ . We can take  $V \subseteq T \oplus N_2$ . We need only to discuss the case, when  $V \cap N_1 = 0 = V \cap N_2$ . We take  $V = xR$ ,  $x = x_1 + x_2$  with  $x_1 \in T$ ,  $x_2 \in N_2$ . We get an isomorphism  $g: x_2R \rightarrow x_1R$ ,  $g(x_2) = x_1$ . Define a mapping  $\mu: x_1R \oplus x_2R \rightarrow M$ ,  $\mu(x_1r_1 + x_2r_2) = f(x_1r_1 - g(x_2r_2)) = f(x_1(r_1 - r_2))$ . It is one-to-one on  $x_1R$  and it equals  $f$  on  $x_1R$ . So we have a maximal extension  $\eta: K \rightarrow M$ ,  $K \leq N$ , of  $\mu$ , which also extends  $f|T$ . As  $\lambda = f|T$  has no extension from  $N_1$  to  $M$ ,  $K < N$ . By Corollary 1.7, we have  $N = K_1 \oplus K_2$  such that with  $K_2 = \ker \eta$ . As  $x_1 + x_2 \in \ker \mu \subseteq \ker \eta$ , we get  $x_1 + x_2 \in K_2$ , which shows that  $V \cap K_2 \neq 0$ . The last part is obvious.  $\square$

REMARK. In the above proof,  $K_2$  need not be uniform.

**Theorem 1.9.** *Let  $M_R$  be uniform,  $N_R$  a module that is not indecomposable and  $M$  be almost  $T$ -injective for any proper summand  $T$  of  $N$ . Then  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective if and only if given any uniform summand  $K$  of  $N$  and uniform submodule  $V$  of  $N$  such that  $M$  is not  $K$ -injective and  $V$  embeds in  $K$ , there exists a proper summand  $K'$  of  $N$  such that  $K' \cap V \neq 0$*

Proof. If  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective, by Lemma 1.8,  $M$  satisfies the given condition. Conversely, let the given condition hold. Let  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  be a maximal homomorphism that cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$ . By the hypothesis, there exists a decomposition  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$  with  $0 < N_1 < N$ . Set  $f_1 = f|N_1 \cap L$ . Suppose  $f_1: N_1 \cap L \rightarrow M$  cannot be extended from  $N_1$  to  $M$ . As  $M$  is almost  $N_1$ -injective,  $N_1 = N_{11} \oplus N_{12}$ , such that  $f_1$  is monic on  $N_{11} \cap L$ ,  $f(N_{11} \cap L) = M$  and  $N_{12} = \ker f_1$ .

CASE 1.  $N_2 = N_2 \cap L$ . We get an  $R$ -homomorphism  $\lambda: N_2 \rightarrow N_{11}$  such that for any  $x \in N_2$ ,  $\lambda(x) = y \in (N_{11} \cap L)$  whenever  $f(x) = f(y)$ , i.e.  $f(x - y) = 0$ . Set  $K_2 = \{x - \lambda(x): x \in N_2\}$ . Then  $K_2 \subseteq \ker f$ ,  $N = N_{11} \oplus N_{12} \oplus N_2 = N_{11} \oplus N_{12} \oplus K_2 = N_{11} \oplus \ker f$ . In this case we finish.

CASE 2.  $N_2 \cap L < N_2$ . Then we also have  $N_2 = N_{21} \oplus N_{22}$  such that  $f_2 = f|N_{21}$  is monic on  $N_{21}$ ,  $f(N_{21} \cap L) = M$  and  $N_{22} = \ker f_2$ . As  $f(N_{11} \cap L) = M = f(N_{21} \cap L)$ , we have an isomorphism  $\lambda: N_{21} \cap L \rightarrow N_{11} \cap L$  such that for any  $x \in (N_{21} \cap L)$ ,  $y \in (N_{11} \cap L)$ ,  $\lambda(x) = y$  if and only if  $f(x) = f(y)$ . Then  $V = \{x - \lambda(x): x \in N_{21} \cap L\} \subseteq N_{11} \oplus N_{21}$ ,  $V$  is embeddable in  $N_{11}$  and  $V \subseteq \ker f$ .

Now  $N_{11}, N_{21}$  are uniform. If  $K = N_{11} \oplus N_{21} < N$ , then by the hypothesis,  $M$  is almost  $K$ -injective. Therefore  $K = U_1 \oplus U_2$  such that  $U_1$  is uniform,  $f$  is monic on  $U_1 \cap L$  and  $U_2 \subseteq \ker f$ , which gives  $N = U_1 \oplus \ker f$ , as already seen  $N_{12} \oplus N_{22} \subseteq \ker f$ .

Now suppose  $N = N_{11} \oplus N_{21}$ . By the hypothesis,  $N = U_1 \oplus U_2$  such that  $0 < U_2 < N$  and  $V \cap U_2 \neq 0$  for the  $V$  defined above. As  $U_2$  is uniform,  $\ker f \cap U_2 \neq 0$ . Thus  $f|_{U_2}$  is not monic, it follows from Corollary 1.7 that  $f|_{U_2 \cap L}$  can be extended from  $U_2$  to  $M$ . Therefore  $U_2 \subset L$ . Which gives  $U_1 \cap L < U_1$ ,  $f$  is monic on  $U_1 \cap L$  and  $f(U_1 \cap L) = M$ . We get a homomorphism  $\mu: U_2 \rightarrow U_1$  such that  $\mu(x) = y$  for any  $x \in U_2$ ,  $y \in U_1 \cap L$  whenever  $f(x) = f(y)$ . Then  $V_2 = \{x - \mu(x): x \in U_2\} \subseteq \ker f$ . We get  $N = U_1 \oplus \ker f$ .

Hence in any case  $N = U \oplus \ker f$  for some uniform submodule  $U$ ,  $f$  is monic on  $U \cap L$  and  $f(U \cap L) = M$ . By Corollary 1.7,  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.10.** *Let  $N_R = N_1 \oplus N_2$ , where  $N_i$  are indecomposable and their rings of endomorphisms are local. Let  $M_R$  be uniform and almost  $N$ -injective,  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  be a maximal homomorphism that cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$  and  $N_1 \cap L < N_1$ .*

- (i) *If  $g: W \rightarrow N_1 \cap L$ ,  $W \leq N_2 \cap L$  is a non-zero homomorphism, then either  $g$  extends from  $N_2$  to  $N_1$  or  $g$  is monic and  $g^{-1}$  on  $g(W)$  extends from  $N_1$  to  $N_2$ .*
- (ii) *If  $V$  is a uniform submodule of  $N$  such that  $V \subseteq (N_1 \cap L) \oplus (N_2 \cap L)$  and it naturally embeds in  $N_2$ , then there exists a proper summand  $U$  of  $N$  containing  $V$ .*
- (iii) *For any uniform submodule  $V_1$  of  $N$ , there exists a proper summand  $U$  of  $N$  such that  $V_1 \cap U \neq 0$ .*

Proof. (i) Now  $N_1 \cap L < N_1$  and  $f|_{(N_1 \cap L)}$  cannot be extended from  $N_1$  to  $M$ . As  $M$  is almost  $N_1$ -injective, by Corollary 1.7,  $f$  is monic on  $N_1 \cap L$  and  $f(N_1 \cap L) = M$ , which gives that  $N_1$  is uniform. Let  $W_1 = (N_1 \cap L) + W$ . Define  $f': W_1 \rightarrow M$ ,  $f'(x + y) = f(x - g(y))$ ,  $x \in N_1 \cap L$ ,  $y \in W$ . Then  $\ker f' = \{x + y: y \in W, x = g(y)\} \neq 0$ . We get a maximal homomorphism  $f_1: L_1 \rightarrow M$ ,  $L_1 \leq N$  which extends  $f'$  and  $f|_{N_1 \cap L}$ . Then  $L_1 < N$  and  $N = U_1 \oplus U_2$ , where  $U_1$  is uniform and  $U_2 = \ker f_1$ . In particular,  $\ker f' \subseteq U_2$ . By Krull–Schmidt–Azumaya theorem, we can get  $N = N_1 \oplus U_2$  or  $N = N_2 \oplus U_2$ .

CASE 1.  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2 = N_1 \oplus U_2$ . Let  $\pi_i: N \rightarrow N_i$  be associated projections. Then  $\pi_2(U_2) = N_2$ . Let  $\lambda = \pi_2|_{U_2}$ . We have  $\lambda^{-1}: N_2 \rightarrow U_2$ . Let  $y \in W$ . By definition  $g(y) + y \in (N_1 \cap L) \oplus (N_2 \cap L)$  and  $g(y) + y \in \ker f' \subseteq U_2$ . Thus  $\lambda(g(y) + y) = y$ , which gives  $\lambda^{-1}(y) = g(y) + y$ . Under the projection  $\pi_1: N \rightarrow N_1$ ,  $\pi_1\lambda^{-1}(y) = g(y)$ . Thus  $\pi_1\lambda^{-1}: N_2 \rightarrow N_1$  extends  $g$ .

CASE 2.  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2 = N_2 \oplus U_2$ . Then  $\pi_1(U_2) = N_1$ . Let  $\lambda_1 = \pi_1|_{U_2}$ . Then  $\lambda_1(g(y) + y) = g(y)$ , and as  $\lambda_1$  is monic,  $g(y) = 0$  if and only if  $y = 0$ , i.e.  $g$  monic. Now  $\lambda_1^{-1}(g(y)) = g(y) + y$ ,  $\pi_2\lambda_1^{-1}(g(y)) = y$ . Thus  $\pi_2\lambda_1^{-1}: N_1 \rightarrow N_2$  extends  $g^{-1}$  on  $g(W)$ .

(ii) Suppose  $V$  is a uniform submodule of  $N$  such that  $V \subseteq (N_1 \cap L) \oplus (N_2 \cap L)$  and  $V$  naturally embeds in  $N_2$ . Let  $W = \pi_2(V)$ . We get a homomorphism  $g: W \rightarrow N_1 \cap L$ ,  $g(\pi_2(x)) = \pi_1(x)$ ,  $x \in V$ . If  $g$  extends to an  $R$ -homomorphism  $g'$  from  $N_2$  to  $N_1$ , then  $U = \{x + g'(x): x \in N_2\}$  is a summand of  $N$  containing  $V$ . If  $g$  does not extend from  $N_2$  to  $N_1$ , by Case 2,  $g$  is monic and  $g^{-1}$  on  $g(W)$  extends to a homomorphism  $g': N_1 \rightarrow N_2$ . In this case  $U' = \{x + g'(x): x \in N_1\}$  contains  $V$  and is a summand of  $N$  isomorphic to  $N_1$ .

Take any uniform submodule  $V_1$  of  $N$  such that  $V_1 \cap N_1 = 0$ . Then  $V_1$  embeds in  $N_2$ . As  $L \cap N_2 \subset_e N_2$ , there exists a non-zero  $x = x_1 + x_2 \in V_1$  with  $x_1 \in N_1$ ,  $x_2 \in N_2 \cap L$ . Once again as  $N_1 \cap L \subset_e N_1$ , we can choose  $x$  to be also have  $x_1 \in N_1 \cap L$ . Then  $V = xR \subseteq (N_1 \cap L) \oplus (N_2 \cap L)$ , which, by (ii), is contained in a proper summand  $K$  of  $N$ . Clearly,  $V_1 \cap K \neq 0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.11.** *Let  $N_R = N_1 \oplus N_2$ , where  $N_i$  are indecomposable and their rings of endomorphisms are local. Let  $M_R$  be uniform. Then  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective if and only if either  $M$  is  $N$ -injective or  $M$  is almost  $N_i$ -injective for  $i = 1, 2$ , but is not  $N_j$ -injective for some  $j$ , say for  $j = 1$ , and any uniform submodule  $V$  of  $N$  has non-zero intersection with some indecomposable summand of  $N$ .*

Proof. In view of Lemma 1.10, we only need to prove the converse. Suppose the given conditions holds. Let  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  be a maximal  $R$ -homomorphism that cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$ .

Let  $L \cap N_1 < N_1$ . Then  $f$  is monic on  $L \cap N_1$ ,  $f(L \cap N_1) = M$ , which gives that  $V = \{x - y: x \in N_1 \cap L, y \in N_2 \cap L \text{ and } f(x) = f(y)\} \neq 0$ ,  $V \subseteq \ker f$  and it embeds in  $N_2$ . Suppose  $f|_{(N_2 \cap L)}$  is monic. Then  $V$  naturally embeds in  $N_1$ , therefore  $V$  is uniform. By the hypothesis,  $N = U_1 \oplus U_2$  with  $V \cap U_2 \neq 0$ . As  $M$  is almost  $U_2$ -injective and  $\ker f \cap U_2 \neq 0$ ,  $U_2 \subseteq L$ . Then  $L \cap U_1 < U_1$  and  $f$  is monic on  $U_1$ ,  $f(U_1 \cap L) = M$ . We get  $K = \{x - y: x \in U_1 \cap L, y \in U_2 \text{ and } f(x) = f(y)\} \cong U_2$  and  $K \subseteq \ker f$ . Trivially,  $N = U_1 \oplus \ker f$ . If  $f|_{N_2 \cap L}$  is not monic, then  $N_2 \subseteq L$ , as above we get  $N = N_1 \oplus \ker f$ .

Let  $L \cap N_1 = N_1$ . Then  $L \cap N_2 < N_2$  and once again, we continue as before. Hence  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.12.** *Let  $M_R$  be a uniform module and  $N_R = N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus \dots \oplus N_k$  a finite direct sum of modules whose rings of endomorphisms are local. Then  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective if and only if  $M$  is almost  $N_i$ -injective for every  $i$ , and if for some  $i$ ,  $M$  is not  $N_i$ -injective, then for every  $j \neq i$ ,  $N_i \oplus N_j$  has the property that for any uniform submodule  $V$  of  $N_i \oplus N_j$ , there exists a proper summand  $U$  of  $N_i \oplus N_j$  such that  $U \cap V \neq 0$ .*

Proof. In view of Theorem 1.11, we only need to prove the converse. Let  $f: L \rightarrow M$ ,  $L < N$  be a maximal homomorphism that cannot be extended from  $N$  to  $M$ . Then

for some  $i$ , say for  $i = 1$ ,  $f_1 = f | (N_1 \cap L)$ :  $(N_1 \cap L) \rightarrow M$  cannot be extended from  $N_1$  to  $M$ . As  $M$  is almost  $N_1$ -injective,  $f_1$  is monic and  $f(N_1 \cap L) = M$ . Consider any  $j \neq 1$  and  $f_j = f | (N_j \cap L)$ . By Theorem 1.11,  $M$  is  $N_1 \oplus N_j$ -injective. By Corollary 1.7,  $N_1 \oplus N_j = U_1 \oplus U_2$  for some uniform submodules  $U_1$  and  $U_2 \subseteq \ker f$ . Thus  $U_2 \subseteq L$  and  $L \cap U_1 < U_1$ . This proves that in the decomposition  $N_R = N_1 \oplus N_2 \oplus \dots \oplus N_k$ , we can replace  $N_1 \oplus N_j$  by a  $U_1 \oplus U_2$  with  $U_2 \subseteq \ker f$ . This proves that  $N = V \oplus \ker f$  for some uniform submodule  $V$ . By Corollary 1.7,  $M$  is almost  $N$ -injective.  $\square$

The above theorem generalizes the following result by Baba [4].

**Theorem 1.13.** *Let  $U_k$  be a uniform module of finite composition length for  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Then the following two conditions are equivalent.*

- (1)  $U_0$  is almost  $\bigoplus \sum_{k=1}^n U_k$ -injective.
- (2)  $U_0$  is almost  $U_k$ -injective for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and if  $\text{soc}(U_0) \cong \text{soc}(U_k) \cong \text{soc}(U_l)$  for some  $k, l \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  with  $k \neq l$ , then
  - (i)  $U_0$  is  $U_k$  and  $U_l$ -injective or
  - (ii)  $U_k \oplus U_l$  is extending for simple modules, in the sense that any simple submodule of  $U_k \oplus U_l$  is contained in a uniform summand of  $U_k \oplus U_l$ .

The following is known.

**Lemma 1.14.** *Let  $\{N, V_i\}$  be a family of modules over a ring  $R$ . Then  $M = \bigoplus \sum_{i=1}^n V_i$  is almost  $N$ -injective if and only if every  $V_i$  is almost  $N$ -injective.*

**Lemma 1.15.** *Let  $U_1, U_2$  be two uniform modules such that  $U_2$  is almost  $U_1$ -injective. Let  $V$  be a uniform submodule of  $N = U_1 \oplus U_2$  such that  $V \cap U_2 = 0$ . Then there exists a uniform summand  $K$  of  $N$  isomorphic to  $U_1$  or  $U_2$ , which contains  $V$ . Any uniform submodule of  $N$  has non-zero intersection with some uniform summand of  $N$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\pi_i: N \rightarrow U_i$  be associated projections. The hypothesis gives a homomorphism  $\sigma: \pi_1(V) \rightarrow \pi_2(V)$ ,  $\sigma(\pi_1(x)) = \pi_2(x)$  for any  $x \in V$ . We get a maximal homomorphism  $\eta: L \rightarrow U_2$ ,  $L \leq U_1$  extending  $\sigma$ . Then either  $L = U_1$ , or  $\eta$  is monic and  $\eta(L) = U_2$ . In the former case, take  $K = \{y + \eta(y): y \in U_1\}$  and in the later case, take  $K = \{y + \eta(y): y \in L\}$ . The second part is immediate.  $\square$

We get an alternative proof of the following result by Harada [10].

**Theorem 1.16.** *Let  $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$ , where each  $M_i$  has its ring of endomorphisms local. Then the following are equivalent.*

- (i)  $M$  is almost self-injective.
- (ii) For any  $i, j$ ,  $M_i$  is almost  $M_j$ -injective.

Proof. Suppose  $M$  is almost self-injective. Then each  $M_i$  is almost self-injective. Therefore each  $M_i$  is uniform. As  $M_i$  is almost  $M$ -injective, by Lemma 1.14, condition (ii) holds. Fix an  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Consider any  $1 \leq r, s \leq k$ . By the hypothesis,  $M_s$  is almost  $M_r$ -injective. By Lemma 1.15, given any uniform submodule  $V$  of  $W = M_r \oplus M_s$ , there exists a uniform summand  $K$  of  $W$  such that  $V \cap K \neq 0$ . By Theorem 1.12,  $M_i$  is almost  $M$ -injective. As  $M$  is a direct sum of  $M_i$ 's, it follows from Lemma 1.14 that  $M$  is almost self-injective.  $\square$

## 2. Commutative rings

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $R$  be any commutative indecomposable ring and  $Q$  be its quotient ring. If  $R$  is almost self-injective. Then the following hold.*

- (i) *If  $a, b \in R$  and  $\text{ann}(a) \subseteq \text{ann}(b)$ , then  $bR \subseteq aR$ , or  $aR < bR$  and  $a = bc$  for some regular element  $c \in R$ .*
- (ii) *If  $a, b \in R$  are regular, then either  $aR \subseteq bR$  or  $bR \subseteq aR$ .*
- (iii)  *$Q_R$  is injective and uniform.*

*Conversely, if  $R$  satisfies conditions (i) and (iii), then  $R$  is almost self-injective.*

Proof. Let  $a, b$  be two elements of  $R$  such that  $\text{ann}(a) \subseteq \text{ann}(b)$ . We have a homomorphism  $\sigma: aR \rightarrow bR$ ,  $\sigma(a) = b$ . If  $\sigma$  extends to an endomorphism  $\eta$  of  $R_R$ , then  $b = ac$ , where  $c = \eta(1)$ , which gives  $bR \subseteq aR$ . Suppose  $\sigma$  does not extend to an endomorphism of  $R_R$ . Then  $b \notin aR$ . As  $R_R$  is uniform, by Corollary 1.7, there exists a maximal extension  $\eta: L \rightarrow R$ .  $L < R$  of  $\sigma$  such that it is monic and  $\eta(L) = R$ . Thus  $L = cR$  where  $c$  is such that  $\eta(c) = 1$ . This  $c$  is regular, non-unit and  $a = bc$ . This proves (i). Now (ii) is immediate from (i).

(iii) Let  $\sigma: A \rightarrow Q_R$ ,  $A < R_R$  be a homomorphism. Suppose  $\sigma(A) \subseteq R$ . If it extends to an  $\eta \in \text{End}(R_R)$  and  $\eta(1) = c$ , then multiplication by  $c$  gives an endomorphism of  $Q_R$  extending  $\sigma$ . Otherwise for some regular element  $c \in R$  we have an  $\eta: cR \rightarrow R$  with  $\eta(c) = 1$ , which extends  $\sigma$ . Then  $c^{-1} \in Q$  and multiplication by  $c^{-1}$  gives an  $R$ -endomorphism of  $Q_R$  extending  $\sigma$ . This proves that if  $\sigma(A) \subseteq R$ , then  $\sigma$  extends to an endomorphism of  $Q_R$ .

Suppose  $\sigma(A) \not\subseteq R$ . Let  $S$  be the set of regular elements of  $R$ . Then  $Q = R_S$ . Set  $B = \sigma(A)$ . Let  $B' = B \cap R$ . Then  $B \subseteq B'_S$ . Let  $A' = \sigma^{-1}(B')$  and  $\sigma_1 = \sigma | A'$ . Then  $\sigma_1(A') = B' \subseteq R$ . Therefore  $\sigma_1$  extends to an endomorphism  $\eta$  of  $Q_R$ . Let  $x \in A$ . Then  $\sigma(x) = yc^{-1}$  for some regular element  $c \in R$ ,  $y \in B'$ . Which gives  $\sigma(xc) = y$ ,  $xc \in A'$ ,  $\eta(xc) = y$ . If  $\eta(x) = z$ , then  $y = zc$ ,  $\sigma(x) = z$ . Hence  $\eta$  extends  $\sigma$ . This proves that  $Q_R$  is injective. It also gives that  $Q_R = E(R_R)$ . As  $R$  is uniform,  $Q_R$  is uniform.

Conversely, let  $R$  satisfy the given conditions. Let  $f: A \rightarrow R_R$ ,  $A < R$  be a homomorphism that cannot be extended in  $\text{End}(R_R)$ . By (iii),  $\sigma$  extends to an  $R$ -endomorphism  $\eta$  of  $Q$ . It follows from (ii) that if an  $x \in Q$  is regular, then  $x \in R$  or  $x^{-1} \in R$ . Now  $\eta(1) = ac^{-1}$  for some  $a, c \in R$  with  $c$  regular.

CASE 1.  $a$  is regular. It follows from (ii) that  $\eta(1) \in R$  or  $\eta(1)^{-1} \in R$ . In the former case,  $\eta | R$  is an extension in  $\text{End}(R_R)$  of  $\sigma$ . Suppose  $\eta(1)^{-1} \in R$ , but  $\eta(1) \notin R$ .

Then for any  $x \in A$ ,  $\sigma(x) = \eta(1)x$ , gives  $x = \sigma(x)\eta(1)^{-1}$ . So that  $A \subseteq \eta(1)^{-1}R < R$ . We have an isomorphism  $\lambda: \eta(1)^{-1}R \rightarrow R$  with  $\lambda(\eta(1)^{-1}) = 1$ . Then  $\lambda$  extends  $\sigma$ .

CASE 2.  $a$  is not regular. By (i),  $a = cr$  for some  $r \in R$ , therefore  $\eta(1) = ac^{-1} = r$  and  $\eta \mid R$  is an extension in  $\text{End}(R_R)$  of  $\sigma$ . Hence  $R$  is almost self-injective.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative, indecomposable, almost self-injective ring. Let  $Q$  be the quotient ring of  $R$ .*

- (i) *Either  $Q = R$  or there exists a prime ideal  $P$  in  $R$  such that  $Q = R_P$ .*
- (ii)  *$R$  is a local ring.*

Proof. Suppose  $Q \neq R$ . Then  $R$  has a regular element that is not a unit. Let  $a \in R$  be regular but not a unit. We claim that  $A = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} a^k R$  is the unique maximal prime ideal such that  $a \notin A$ . And we also prove that any element in  $R \setminus A$  is regular. Let  $b \in R \setminus A$ . Then for some  $k$ ,  $b \notin a^k R$ . It follows from Proposition 2.1 that  $b$  is regular and  $a^k R < bR$ . Thus  $A$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ . As  $a^2 R < aR$ ,  $a \notin A$ . Let  $P'$  be a maximal prime ideal in  $R$  such that  $a \notin P'$ . Suppose  $P' \not\subseteq A$ . Then there exists a  $b \in P'$  such that  $b \notin A$ . Then, as seen above,  $a^k \in bR \subseteq P'$  for some  $k \geq 1$ , which gives  $a \in P'$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $A = P'$ . Thus to each regular non-unit  $a \in R$ , is associated a unique maximal prime ideal  $P_a = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} a^k R$  such that  $a \notin P_a$ . Every element of  $R \setminus P_a$  is regular. It follows from Proposition 2.1 (ii) that the family of  $P_a$  is linearly ordered. Let  $P$  be the intersection of these  $P_a$ 's. Then  $R \setminus P$  is the set of all regular elements in  $R$ . Hence  $Q = R_P$ .

Let  $P'$  be a prime ideal of  $R$  other than  $P$ . Suppose  $P' \not\subseteq P$ . As  $R \setminus P$  consists of regular elements, there exists a regular element  $a \in P'$ . Then  $P_a \subseteq P'$ , so  $P \subseteq P_a \subseteq P'$ . Let  $P_1, P_2$  be two prime ideals not contained in  $P$ . Suppose  $P_1 \not\subseteq P_2$ . Then there exists an  $a \in P_1 \setminus P_2$ . As  $a \notin P$ , it is regular. Let  $b \in P_2$ . By Proposition 2.1 (i),  $b \in a^k R$  for any  $k \geq 1$ . It follows that  $P_2 \subseteq P_a$ . Trivially,  $P_a \subseteq P_1$ . Hence  $P_2 \subseteq P_1$ . It follows that the family  $F$  of those prime ideals of  $R$  that are not contained in  $P$  is linearly ordered and each member of  $F$  contains  $P$ . Hence  $R$  is local.  $\square$

An indecomposable, commutative, almost self-injective ring need not be a valuation ring.

**EXAMPLE 1.** Let  $F$  be a field and  $Q = F[x, y]$  with  $x^2 = 0 = y^2$ . Then  $Q = F + Fx + Fy + Fxy$  is a local, self-injective ring. Choose  $F$  to be the quotient field of a valuation domain  $T \neq F$ . Set  $R = T + Fx + Fy + Fxy \subset Q$ . Any  $0 \neq a \in F$  is such that either  $a \in T$  or  $a^{-1} \in T$ ,  $J(Q) = Fx + Fy + Fxy \subset R$  and is nilpotent. Any element of  $R$  not in  $J(Q)$  is regular and is of the form  $au$  with  $a \in T$  and  $u$  a unit in  $R$ . By using this it follows that  $Q$  is the classical quotient ring of  $R$ . Let  $A$  be a non-zero ideal of  $R$ . Then  $\{a \in F: axy \in A\}$  is a non-zero  $T$ -submodule of  $F$ , which shows that  $R_R$  is uniform. The ideals  $Fx + Fxy, Fy + Fxy$  in  $R$  are not comparable. Therefore  $R_R$  is not uniserial. If  $A \not\subseteq J(Q)$ , then some  $au \in A$  with  $0 \neq a \in F$ ,  $u$  a unit in  $R$ , so  $a \in A$ ; which gives  $J(Q) = aJ(Q) \subset A$ .

Let  $\sigma: A \rightarrow R$ ,  $A < R_R$  be an  $R$ -homomorphism. Now  $A' = \{\alpha v: \alpha \in F, v \in A\}$  is an ideal of  $Q$  containing  $A$ ,  $\eta: A' \rightarrow Q$ , such that for any  $c \in F$ ,  $v \in A$ ,  $\eta(cv) = c\sigma(v)$  is a  $Q$ -homomorphism. As  $Q$  is self-injective, there exists an  $\omega \in Q$  such that  $\eta(cv) = \omega cv$  for any  $cv \in A'$ . If  $\omega \in R$ , obviously  $\sigma$  extends to an endomorphism of  $R_R$ . Suppose  $\omega \notin R$ . Then  $\omega = c^{-1}u$  for some non-zero  $c \in T$  which is not a unit in  $T$ , and  $u$  is a unit in  $R$ . Thus  $g = cu^{-1} \in R$ . For any  $v \in A$ ,  $\sigma(v) = g^{-1}v \in R$ ,  $v = g\sigma(v) \in gR$ . Thus  $A < gR$  and  $\lambda: gR \rightarrow R$ ,  $\lambda(g) = 1$ , extends  $\sigma$ . Hence  $R$  is a local ring that is almost self-injective and  $R_R$  is not uniserial.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $A, B$  be two rings such that  $A$  is local and  $M$  be an  $(A, B)$ -bimodule. Let  $R = \begin{bmatrix} A & M \\ 0 & B \end{bmatrix}$ . Then  $e_{11}R$  is uniform if and only if  $M_B$  is uniform and  ${}_A M$  is faithful.*

Proof. Let  $e_{11}R$  be uniform. Let  $x = a_{11}e_{11} + a_{12}e_{12}$ ,  $y = b_{11}e_{11} + b_{12}e_{22}$  be two non-zero elements in  $e_{11}R$ . Then for some  $r = r_{11}e_{11} + r_{12}e_{12} + r_{22}e_{22}$ ,  $s = s_{11}e_{11} + s_{12}e_{12} + s_{22}e_{22} \in R$ ,  $xr = ys \neq 0$ . Which gives  $a_{11}r_{11} = b_{11}s_{11}$ ,  $a_{11}r_{12} + a_{12}r_{22} = b_{11}s_{12} + b_{12}s_{22}$ .

CASE 1.  $a_{11} = 0$  and  $b_{11} = 0$ . Then  $a_{12}r_{22} = b_{12}s_{22} \neq 0$ , which gives that  $M_B$  is uniform.

CASE 2.  $a_{11} \neq 0$ ,  $b_{11} = 0$ ,  $a_{12} = 0$ ,  $b_{12} \neq 0$ . Then  $a_{11}r_{12} = b_{12}s_{22} \neq 0$ . Therefore  $a_{11}M \neq 0$ . Hence  ${}_A M$  is faithful.

Conversely, let  $M_B$  be uniform and  ${}_A M$  be faithful. Then  $e_{12}M$  is a uniform right ideal of  $R$ , and for any  $x \neq 0$  in  $e_{11}R$ ,  $xR \cap e_{12}M \neq 0$ . Hence  $e_{11}R$  is uniform.  $\square$

The above lemma helps to get examples of non-commutative, almost self-injective rings.

**EXAMPLE 2.** Let  $A$  be a valuation domain and  $K$  be its quotient field. Let  $R = \begin{bmatrix} A & K \\ 0 & B \end{bmatrix}$ , where  $B$  is a valuation ring contained in  $K$  such that  $K$  is a quotient field of  $B$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $e_{11}R$  is uniform. Let  $f: L \rightarrow e_{11}R$ ,  $L < e_{11}R$  be a maximal homomorphism that cannot be extended to an endomorphism of  $e_{11}R$ . Now  $e_{12}K$  is a quasi-injective  $R$ -module and  $f(L \cap e_{12}K) \subseteq e_{12}K$ . Therefore  $f|_{(L \cap e_{12}K)}$  can be extended to an  $R$ -endomorphism  $g$  of  $e_{12}K$ . As  $f$  is monic on  $L \cap e_{12}K$ ,  $f$  is monic. Then  $f': L + e_{12}K \rightarrow e_{11}R$ ,  $f'(x + y) = f(x) + g(y)$  for any  $x \in L$ ,  $y \in e_{12}K$  extends  $f$ . Which gives  $e_{12}K \subseteq L$ ,  $L = (e_{11}A \cap L) \oplus (e_{12}K)$  as an abelian group. Now  $f(e_{12}) = e_{12}b$  for some  $b \in K$ . Then  $f(e_{12}c) = e_{12}cb$  for every  $c \in K$ . Let  $x = a_{11}e_{11} + a_{12}e_{12} \in L$  with  $a_{11} \neq 0$ . Then  $e_{11}a_{11} \in L$  and  $f(e_{11}a_{11}) = e_{11}a_{11}u$  for some  $u \in K$ . We get  $f(e_{12}a_{11}) = f(e_{11}a_{11})e_{12} = e_{12}u$ . On the other hand,  $f(e_{12}a_{11}) = e_{12}a_{11}b$ . Hence  $u = a_{11}b$ . Thus  $f(x) = xb = (e_{11}b)x$  for every  $x \in L$ . If  $b \in A$ ,  $f$  can be extended to an  $R$ -endomorphism of  $e_{11}R$  given by left multiplication by  $e_{11}b$ . Suppose  $b \notin A$ . Then  $b^{-1} \in A$ . Then the  $R$ -endomorphism  $h$  of  $e_{11}R$  given by left

multiplication by  $e_{11}b^{-1}$  is such that  $hf(z) = z$  for every  $z \in L$ . Hence  $e_{11}R$  is almost self-injective.

Any  $R$ -homomorphism  $\lambda: L \rightarrow e_{11}R$ ,  $L < e_{22}R$  is such that  $f(L) \subseteq e_{12}K$ . As  $e_{22}R = e_{22}B$ ,  $\lambda$  can be extended from  $e_{22}R$  to  $e_{12}R$ . It follows that  $e_{11}R$  is  $e_{22}R$ -injective. Let  $f: L \rightarrow e_{22}R$ ,  $L < e_{11}R$  be a non-zero homomorphism. Now  $L \cap e_{12}K \neq 0$ . As  $e_{22}R = e_{22}B$  it follows that for some  $b \in K$ ,  $g = f|_{L \cap e_{12}K}$  is such that  $g(e_{12}x) = e_{22}xb$  for any  $e_{12}x \in L \cap e_{12}K$ , therefore  $f$  is monic. If an  $x = a_{11}e_{11} \in L$ , then  $f(x) = 0$ . This proves that  $L \subseteq e_{12}K$ . Then  $h: e_{22}R \rightarrow e_{11}R$ ,  $h(e_{11}x) = e_{12}xb^{-1}$ ,  $x \in B$  is such that  $hf(u) = u$  for every  $u \in L$ . Hence  $e_{22}R$  is almost  $e_{11}R$ -injective. By Theorem 1.16,  $R_R$  is almost self-injective.

By using Theorem 1.16, one can easily prove that the ring  $T_n(D)$  of upper triangular matrices over a division ring  $D$  is almost right self-injective.

### 3. Von Neumann regular rings

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a von Neumann regular ring. Then  $R$  is almost right self-injective if and only if for any maximal homomorphism  $\sigma: A \rightarrow R_R$ ,  $A < R_R$  which cannot be extended to an  $R$ -endomorphism of  $R_R$ , there exist non-zero idempotents  $e, f \in R$ , such that  $eR \subseteq A$ ,  $\sigma|_{eR}$  is a monomorphism,  $\sigma(eR) = fR$ ,  $\sigma(A \cap (1-e)R) \subseteq (1-f)R$ .*

Proof. Let  $R$  be almost right self-injective, Let  $\sigma: L \rightarrow R_R$  be a maximal  $R$ -homomorphism that cannot be extended to an endomorphism of  $R_R$ . By definition,  $R = eR \oplus (1-e)R$  and there exists an  $R$ -homomorphism  $h: R_R \rightarrow eR$  such that  $hf(x) = ex$  for every  $x \in L$ . There exists  $u^2 = u \neq 0$  in  $L \cap eR$  such that  $eR = uR \oplus (e-u)R$ , and  $e-u$  is an idempotent orthogonal to  $u$ . Let  $\pi: eR \rightarrow uR$  be a projection with kernel  $(e-u)R$ . Then  $\pi h\sigma(x) = ux$ . So we take  $e = u$  and  $h = \pi h$ . As  $h(R) = eR$ ,  $R = gR \oplus (1-g)R$  for some idempotent  $g \in R$  such that  $\ker h = (1-g)R$ . Now  $h(R) = eR = h\sigma(eR)$ , we get  $R = \sigma(eR) \oplus \ker h$ . Thus, there exists an idempotent  $f \in R$ , such that  $R = fR \oplus (1-f)R$ ,  $\sigma(eR) = fR$ ,  $\ker h = (1-f)R$  and  $h|_{fR}$  is the inverse of  $\sigma|_{eR}$ . Clearly, for any  $x \in (1-e)R \cap A$ ,  $h\sigma(x) = 0$  gives  $\sigma(x) \in (1-f)R$ .

Conversely, let  $R$  satisfy the given conditions. Let  $\sigma: L \rightarrow R_R$  be a maximal homomorphism that cannot be extended to an endomorphism of  $R_R$ . Then there exist non-zero idempotents  $e, f \in R$  such that  $L = eR \oplus (L \cap (1-e)R)$ ,  $\sigma$  is monic on  $eR$ ,  $\sigma(eR) = fR$ ,  $\sigma((1-e)R \cap L) \subseteq (1-f)R$ . We define  $h: R \rightarrow eR$  as follows. Let  $y \in R$ . Then  $y = fy + (1-f)y$ . Now  $fy = \sigma(ex)$  for some uniquely determined  $ex \in eR$ . Set  $h(y) = ex$ . It follows that for any  $x \in L$ ,  $h\sigma(x) = ex$ . Hence  $R$  is almost right self-injective.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** *Any von Neumann regular ring  $R$  that is right CS, is almost right self-injective.*

Proof. Let  $\sigma: A \rightarrow R$ ,  $A < R_R$  be a non-zero  $R$ -homomorphism. As  $\ker \sigma$  is not large in  $A$ , there exists a non-zero idempotent  $e \in A$  such that  $eR \cap \ker \sigma = 0$ . Then  $\sigma(eR) = fR$  for some idempotent  $f \in R$ . Let  $B$  be a complement of  $eR$  in  $R_R$  containing  $\ker \sigma$ . As  $R$  is right  $CS$ ,  $B = bR$ . We get  $R = eR \oplus B$ . Hence we can take  $e$  to be such that  $B = (1 - e)R$ . Now  $A = eR \oplus (A \cap (1 - e)R)$ . Let  $a \in A \cap (1 - e)R$  such that  $\sigma(a) \in fR$ . Then for some  $x \in eR$ ,  $\sigma(x) = \sigma(a)$ ,  $x - a \in \ker \sigma$ ,  $x \in B$ , so  $x = 0$ . Hence  $\sigma(A \cap (1 - e)R) \cap fR = 0$ . Let  $C$  be a complement of  $fR$  containing  $\sigma(A \cap (1 - e)R)$ . We again have  $R = fR \oplus C$ . We get an idempotent  $g \in R$  such that  $fR = gR$ ,  $C = (1 - g)R$ . By Proposition 2.1,  $R$  is almost right self-injective.  $\square$

REMARK. Any von Neumann regular ring that is right  $CS$  is right continuous. In [7], examples of continuous commutative von Neumann regular rings that are not self-injective are given. Hence a von Neumann regular almost right self-injective need not be right self-injective.

**Proposition 3.3.** *Any von Neumann regular ring in which all idempotents are central, is almost self-injective.*

Proof. Let  $\sigma: A \rightarrow R$ ,  $A < R_R$  be a non-zero homomorphism. We get a non-zero idempotent  $e \in A$  such that  $f \mid eR$  is monic. Let  $\sigma(e) = x$ , then  $x = xe = ex$  gives  $\sigma(eR) \subseteq eR$ . Suppose  $\eta = \sigma \mid eR$ . Now  $\sigma(eR) = xR = fR$  for some idempotent  $f \in eR$ . Therefore  $x = xf$ ,  $\eta(e - f) = xf(e - f) = 0$ ,  $e = f$ . Hence  $\sigma(eR) = eR$ . It also follows that  $\sigma(A \cap (1 - e)R) \subseteq A \cap (1 - e)R$ . Hence  $R$  is almost right self-injective.  $\square$

The following result determines a class of von Neumann regular rings that are not almost right-injective.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $R$  be an almost right self-injective, von Neumann regular ring.*

- (i) *Any complement of a minimal right ideal of  $R$  is principal*
- (ii) *Any minimal right ideal of  $R$  is injective.*

Proof. Let  $A$  be a minimal right ideal of  $R$ . Then  $A = eR$  for some indecomposable idempotent  $e \in R$ . Let  $C$  be a complement of  $eR$ . We get a maximal homomorphism  $\sigma: L \rightarrow R_R$ ,  $L \leq R_R$  such that  $eR \oplus C \subseteq L$ ,  $\sigma$  is identity on  $eR$ , and is zero on  $C$ .

CASE 1.  $L = R$ . Then  $R_R = fR \oplus \ker \sigma$ , But  $C \subseteq \ker \sigma$ , therefore  $fR$  is uniform, hence minimal. As  $e \notin \ker \sigma$ , we get  $R_R = eR \oplus \ker \sigma$ . We get  $C = \ker \sigma$ , a principal right ideal.

CASE 2.  $L < R_R$ . By Theorem 3.1, there exist non-zero idempotents  $f \in L$ ,  $g \in R$  such that  $\sigma \mid fR$  is monic,  $\sigma(fR) = gR$ ,  $\sigma(L \cap (1 - f)R) \subseteq (1 - g)R$ . Now  $C \subseteq \ker \sigma \subseteq (1 - f)R$ . Thus  $fR$  is simple, as in Case 1.  $L = eR \oplus ((1 - f)R \cap L)$  and  $eR \not\subseteq (1 - f)R$ . As  $C \subset_e (1 - f)R$ , we get  $C = (1 - f)R$ .

Suppose  $A$  is not injective. Let  $E = E(A)$ . We get  $x \in E \setminus A$ . Then  $A < xR$ . Let  $C = \text{ann}_R(x)$ , As  $xR$  is non-singular,  $C$  is a closed right ideal of  $R$  and its complement in  $R_R$  is uniform. If  $C$  were principal, we would get  $R = B \oplus C$  with  $B$  simple, which is not possible, as  $xR$  is not simple. Hence  $C$  is not principal. Let  $H$  be a complement of  $C$ . As  $H$  is uniform, it is simple. This contradicts (i), Hence  $A$  is injective.  $\square$

**EXAMPLE 3.** Let  $F$  be any field and  $R$  be the ring of column finite matrices over  $F$ , indexed by the set  $\mathcal{N}$  of positive integers. This ring is right self-injective. Let  $S$  be subring of  $R$  consisting of matrices that are also row finite. Then  $R$  is a maximal right quotient ring of  $S$ . Consider the matrix unit  $e_{11}$ . Then  $e_{11}S$  is a minimal right ideal of  $S$ . However  $e_{11}S < e_{11}R$  and  $e_{11}R$ , as a right  $S$ -module is injective hull of  $e_{11}S$ . Hence  $S$  is not almost right self-injective.

**Acknowledgement.** The author is extremely thankful to the referee for his valuable suggestions that have helped in improving the paper.

---

#### References

- [1] A. Alahmadi and S.K. Jain: *A note on almost injective modules*, Math. J. Okayama Univ. **51** (2009), 101–109.
- [2] A. Alahmadi, S.K. Jain and S. Singh: *Characterizations of almost injective modules*; in Non-commutative Rings and Their Applications, Contemp. Math. **634**, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 11–17.
- [3] F.W. Anderson and K.R. Fuller: Rings and Categories of Modules, Springer, New York, 1974.
- [4] Y. Baba: *Note on almost  $M$ -injectives*, Osaka J. Math. **26** (1989), 687–698.
- [5] Y. Baba and M. Harada: *On almost  $M$ -projectives and almost  $M$ -injectives*, Tsukuba J. Math. **14** (1990), 53–69.
- [6] C. Faith: Algebra, II, Springer, Berlin, 1976.
- [7] K.R. Goodearl: Von Neumann Regular Rings, Monographs and Studies in Mathematics **4**, Pitman, Boston, MA, 1979.
- [8] M. Harada: *On modules with extending properties*, Osaka J. Math. **19** (1982), 203–215.
- [9] M. Harada: *On almost relative injectives on Artinian modules*, Osaka J. Math. **27** (1990), 963–971.
- [10] M. Harada: *Direct sums of almost relative injective modules*, Osaka J. Math. **28** (1991), 751–758.
- [11] M. Harada: *Note on almost relative projectives and almost relative injectives*, Osaka J. Math. **29** (1992), 435–446.
- [12] M. Harada: Almost Relative Projective Modules and Almost Relative Injective Modules, monograph.