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A Characterization of Quasi-Frobenius Rings

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In this note we shall consider the problem: in what ring A can every homomorphism between two left ideals be extended to a homomorphism of A ? ("Homomorphism" means "operator homomorphism"). We shall call this condition as *Shoda's condition*.¹⁾ When A is a ring with a unit element, Shoda's condition is equivalent to the next one:

(a): *every homomorphism between two left ideals is given by the right multiplication of an element of A .*

The main purpose of this note is to show that if A is a ring with a unit element satisfying the minimum condition for left and right ideals, then A satisfies Shoda's condition if and only if A is a quasi-Frobenius ring.

T. Nakayama characterized quasi-Frobenius rings as the rings in which the duality relations $l(r(I)) = I$ and $r(l(r)) = r$ hold for every left ideal I and right ideal r .²⁾ Our result gives another characterization of quasi-Frobenius rings.

A denotes always a ring with the minimum condition for left and right ideals. Let N be the radical of A and $\bar{A} = A/N = \bar{A}_1 + \cdots + \bar{A}_n$ be the direct decomposition of \bar{A} into simple two-sided ideals. Then, as is well known, we have two direct decompositions of A :

$$A = \sum_{\kappa=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^{f(\kappa)} A e_{\kappa, i} + l(E) = \sum_{\kappa=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^{f(\kappa)} e_{\kappa, i} A + r(E) \quad (1)$$

where $E = \sum_{\kappa=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^{f(\kappa)} e_{\kappa, i}$, $e_{\kappa, i}$ ($\kappa = 1, 2, \dots, n$; $i = 1, 2, \dots, f(\kappa)$) are mutually orthogonal primitive idempotents, $A e_{\kappa, i} \cong A e_{\kappa, 1} = A e_{\kappa}$ for $i = 1, \dots, f(\kappa)$, $A e_{\kappa, i} \cong A e_{\lambda, j}$ if $\kappa \neq \lambda$ and the same is true for $e_{\kappa, i} A$, and $l(*)$ ($r(*)$) is the left annihilator (right annihilator) of $*$. Moreover we use matrix units $c_{\kappa, i, j}$ ($\kappa = 1, \dots, n$; $i, j = 1, \dots, f(\kappa)$), $c_{\kappa, 1, 1} = e_{\kappa, 1} = e_{\kappa}$, $c_{\kappa, i, i} = e_{\kappa, i}$ and $c_{\kappa, i, j} c_{\lambda, k, l} = \delta_{\kappa, \lambda} \delta_{j, k} c_{\kappa, i, l}$.

We start with the following preliminary lemmas.

1) This problem was suggested by Prof. K. Shoda. Cf. K. Shoda [4].

2) See T. Nakayama [1], [2].

Lemma 1. *If A satisfies (a) for simple left ideals, then A has a right unit element.*

Proof. To prove this, we show $l(E) = 0$ in (1). If $l(E) \neq 0$, then it contains a simple left subideal $l \neq 0$. The identity automorphism of l is given, from (a), by the right multiplication of an element a . $a = Ea + (a - Ea)$, where $a - Ea \in r(E)$. Since $l(E)$ and $r(E)$ are contained in N , $l = la = l(a - Ea) \subset N^2$. Since $l \subset N^2$, $l = l(a - Ea) \subset N^3$. Thus we have finally $l = 0$, which is a contradiction.

Lemma 2. *If A has a left unit element and satisfies (a) for simple left ideals, then A has a unit element and there exists a permutation π of $(1, 2, \dots, n)$ such that the largest completely reducible left subideal of $Ae_{\kappa, i}$ is a direct sum of simple left subideals which are isomorphic to $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$.*

Proof. From Lemma 1, A has a unit element. Hence $r(N) = \sum_{\kappa=1}^n E_{\kappa} r(N) = \sum_{\kappa=1}^n r(N) E_{\kappa}$, where $E_{\kappa} = \sum_{i=1}^{r(\kappa)} e_{\kappa, i}$. $E_{\kappa} r(N)$ is a two-sided ideal for each κ , since $AE_{\kappa} r(N) = (\sum_{\lambda} E_{\lambda} AE_{\lambda} \cup N) E_{\kappa} r(N) = E_{\kappa} r(N)$. If $E_{\kappa} r(N) \neq 0$ and $a \neq 0$ is an arbitrary element of $E_{\kappa} r(N)$, then there exists an $e_{\kappa, i}$ such that $e_{\kappa, i} a \neq 0$. $Ae_{\kappa, i} a \cong Ae_{\kappa}/Ne_{\kappa}$ is obvious. Since $E_{\kappa} r(N)$ is a direct sum of simple left ideals which are isomorphic to Ae_{κ}/Ne_{κ} , each component has the form $Ae_{\kappa, i} ab$, and this shows that $E_{\kappa} r(N) = AaA$ and $E_{\kappa} r(N)$ is a simple two-sided ideal. Hence $E_{\kappa} r(N)N = 0$, $E_{\kappa} r(N) \subseteq l(N)$ and consequently $r(N) \subseteq l(N)$. Since $r(N)E_{\kappa}$ is the largest completely reducible left subideal of AE_{κ} , $r(N)E_{\kappa} \neq 0$. Since $r(N) \subseteq l(N)$, $r(N)E_{\kappa}A = r(N)E_{\kappa}(\sum_{\lambda} E_{\lambda} AE_{\lambda} \cup N) = r(N)E_{\kappa}$. Hence $r(N)E_{\kappa}$ is a non-zero two-sided ideal for each κ . Then, from $r(N) = \sum_{\kappa=1}^n E_{\kappa} r(N) = \sum_{\kappa=1}^n r(N) E_{\kappa}$, it follows that $r(N)E_{\kappa} = E_{\pi(\kappa)} r(N)$ is a non-zero simple two-sided ideal for each κ , where π is a permutation of $(1, 2, \dots, n)$. This shows that the largest completely reducible left subideal of $Ae_{\kappa, i}$ is a direct sum of simple subideals which are isomorphic to $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$.

In the case of algebras, we have by Lemma 2,

Proposition 1. *Let A be an algebra with a finite rank over a field F . If A has a left unit element and satisfies (a) for simple left ideals, then A is a quasi-Frobenius algebra.*

Proof. To prove this, we show that $r(N)e_{\kappa, i}$ is simple for each κ .

If $r(N)e_{\kappa, i}$ is not simple, then, by Lemma 2, $r(N)e_{\kappa, i} = \sum_{j=1}^s m_j$,

where $s > 1$ and $m_j \cong Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$. Since $m_1 \cong Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$, the endomorphism ring of m_1 , is isomorphic to $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$. On the other hand, every endomorphism of m_1 is given by the right multiplication of an element of $e_{\kappa, i}Ae_{\kappa, i}$. Since $r(N) \subseteq l(N)$, elements of $e_{\kappa, i}Ne_{\kappa, i}$ induce zero-endomorphism and those elements of $e_{\kappa, i}Ae_{\kappa, i}$ which are not in $e_{\kappa, i}Ne_{\kappa, i}$ induce isomorphisms. Hence we have a natural isomorphism of $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$ into $e_{\kappa, i}Ae_{\kappa, i}/e_{\kappa, i}Ne_{\kappa, i}$.

Since $s > 1$, this isomorphism is not an onto isomorphism, and $(e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ne_{\pi(\kappa)} : F) \not\cong (e_{\kappa, i}Ae_{\kappa, i}/e_{\kappa, i}Ne_{\kappa, i} : F) = (e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}/e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa} : F)$. Similarly $(e_{\pi^{\nu}(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi^{\nu}(\kappa)}/e_{\pi^{\nu}(\kappa)}Ne_{\pi^{\nu}(\kappa)} : F) \not\leq (e_{\pi^{\nu-1}(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi^{\nu-1}(\kappa)}/e_{\pi^{\nu-1}(\kappa)}Ne_{\pi^{\nu-1}(\kappa)} : F)$, where $\pi^{\nu}(\kappa) = \underbrace{\pi(\pi(\dots \pi(\kappa)))}_{\nu}$. Since π is a permutation, it follows that $(e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}/e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa} : F) \not\leq (e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}/e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa} : F)$. This is a contradiction. Hence $r(N)e_{\kappa, i}$ is simple. Then, by Nakayama's theorem,³⁾ we have our result.

Proposition 2. *Let A be a ring with a left unit element. If A satisfies (a) for every left ideal, then A is a quasi-Frobenius ring.*

Proof. By Lemma 2, $r(N)e_{\kappa} = \sum_{j=1}^s m_j$ and $m_j \cong Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$. Hence $m_j = Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}a_j$ for a suitable element a_j in m_j . Assume $s > 1$, then the correspondences $e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1 \rightarrow e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_2$ and $e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_2 \rightarrow e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1$ define an automorphism of $m_1 + m_2$. Then, by (a), there is an element c of $e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$ such that $e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1c = e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_2$ and $e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_2c = e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1$. Hence $e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1c^2 = e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1$ and $e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1(c^2 - e_{\kappa}) = 0$. $c^2 - e_{\kappa}$ is in $e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa}$. For, otherwise, it is a unit of $e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$ and consequently $e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1 = 0$. Hence $c = \pm e_{\kappa} + n$, where n belongs to $e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa}$. Since $r(N) \subseteq l(N)$, $e_{\pi(\kappa)}ac = e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1(\pm e_{\kappa} + n) = \pm e_{\pi(\kappa)}a_1$. This is a contradiction. Hence $r(N)e_{\kappa}$ is simple. Now if $l(N)e_{\kappa} \not\cong r(N)e_{\kappa}$, then $l(N)e_{\kappa}$ contains a left subideal I such that $I/r(N)e_{\kappa}$ is irreducible. We suppose $I/r(N)e_{\kappa} \cong Ae_{\pi(\lambda)}/Ne_{\pi(\lambda)}$. Since $r(N)e_{\lambda} \cong Ae_{\pi(\lambda)}/Ne_{\pi(\lambda)}$, there is a homomorphism θ between I and $r(N)e_{\lambda}$. This homomorphism θ is given by the right multiplication of an element of $e_{\kappa}Ae_{\lambda}$. If $\kappa \neq \lambda$, then $e_{\kappa}Ae_{\lambda} \subset N$ and $I \cdot e_{\kappa}Ae_{\lambda} \subseteq l(N)N = 0$. If $\kappa = \lambda$, θ is given by the right multiplication of an element of $e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa}$, since the homomorphisms defined by the elements of $e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$ which are not in $e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa}$ induce isomorphisms. Then $I \cdot e_{\kappa}Ne_{\kappa} \subseteq l(N) \cdot N = 0$. Thus we have contradictions. Hence $l(N)e_{\kappa} = r(N)e_{\kappa}$. Then it follows easily that $l(N)e_{\kappa, i} = r(N)e_{\kappa, i}$ and $l(N) = r(N)$. We write $l(N) = r(N) = M$. Since $E_{\pi(\kappa)}M = ME_{\kappa}$, the largest completely reducible right subideal of $e_{\pi(\kappa)}A$ is a direct sum of simple right subideals which are isomorphic to $e_{\kappa}A/e_{\kappa}N$. Since Me_{κ} is simple and is

3) See T. Nakayama [3].

isomorphic to $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$, $Me_{\kappa} = Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}$ for a suitable element $e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}$ in Me_{κ} . Let x be an arbitrary element in $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}$ but not in $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$. Then the correspondence $e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} \rightarrow xe_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}$ defines an automorphism of Me_{κ} . For if $x'e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} = 0$, then $x' \in A(1 - e_{\pi(\kappa)}) \cup N$ and $x'xe_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} \in (A(1 - e_{\pi(\kappa)}) \cup N)e_{\pi(\kappa)}M = 0$. By (a), this automorphism is given by the right multiplication of an element of $e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$. Furthermore $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} = 0$ is obvious. Hence $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} \subseteq e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$. On the other hand, since $e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}A$ is a simple right subideal of $e_{\pi(\kappa)}M$ and $E_{\pi(\kappa)}M$ is a simple two-sided ideal, $e_{\pi(\kappa)}M$ is a direct sum of simple right subideals of the form $\xi e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}A$, where ξ is a suitable unit of $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}$. But, as was shown, $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} \subseteq e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}A$. Thus we see that $e_{\pi(\kappa)}M = e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}A$ is a unique simple left subideal of $e_{\pi(\kappa)}A$. This completes our proof.

Remark. From the assumption (a) for simple left ideals, we can not conclude that A has a left unit element. For example, let F be a field and $A = Fe + Fu$, where $e^2 = e$, $ue = u$, $eu = 0$, $u^2 = 0$. This algebra over F has no left unit element, but it satisfies (a).

If A is a ring and not an algebra, then we can not conclude that A is a quasi-Frobenius ring, from the assumption (a) for simple left ideals and the existence of a left unit element. For example, let $F(x)$ be a rational function field over a field F and $A = F(x) + uF(x)$, where $u^2 = 0$, $xu = ux^2$. Then this is not a quasi-Frobenius ring, but it has a unit element and (a) is valid for simple left ideals.

Proposition 3. *If A is a ring in which (a) is valid for simple left ideals and the same is true for simple right ideals, then A is a quasi-Frobenius ring.*

Proof. By Lemma 1, A has a unit element. $r(N) = l(N) = M$, $Me_{\kappa} = \sum_{j=1}^s m_j$ and $e_{\pi(\kappa)}M = \sum_{k=1}^r n_k$, by Lemma 2. As was shown in the proof of Theorem 2, $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} \subseteq e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$, if we write $m_1 = Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}$. Similarly $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} \supseteq e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$, since $e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}A$ is a simple right subideal of $e_{\pi(\kappa)}M$. Hence $e_{\pi(\kappa)}Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa} = e_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$. On the other hand, m_j has the form $m_1\xi = Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}me_{\kappa}\xi$, where ξ is an element of $e_{\kappa}Ae_{\kappa}$. Hence $s = 1$ and similarly $r = 1$. Thus A is a quasi-Frobenius ring.

Lemma 3. *Let A be a quasi-Frobenius ring and let $I = I_1 \cup I_2$ be a left ideal homomorphic to a left ideal I' by a homomorphism θ , where I_1 and I_2 are two left subideals of I . If the homomorphisms from I_1 and I_2 into I' induced by θ are given by the right multiplications of elements a_1 and a_2*

respectively, then there is an element a such that θ is given by the right multiplication of a .

Proof. Of course $I' = I_1^\theta \cup I_2^\theta$. Then elements a_1 and a_2 define the same homomorphism for $I_1 \cap I_2$. Hence $a_1 - a_2 \in r(I_1 \cap I_2) = r(I_1) \cup r(I_2)$, since A is a quasi-Frobenius ring. Hence $a_1 - a_2 = r_2 - r_1$ for suitable $r_1 \in r(I_1)$ and $r_2 \in r(I_2)$. We write $a_1 + r_1 = a_2 + r_2$ as a . Then a defines θ for I . For if l_i is an element of I_i ($i = 1, 2$), then $l_i a = l_i(a_i + r_i) = l_i a_i = l_i^\theta$.

Theorem 1. *Let A be a ring with a unit element. Then A satisfies Shoda's condition if and only if A is a quasi-Frobenius ring.*

Proof The "only if" part follows from Proposition 2.

We shall prove the "if" part. If a left ideal I' is a homomorphic image of a principal left ideal $I = Aa$, then I' is also a principal ideal. We denote this homomorphism by θ , and show that θ is given by the right multiplication of an element. Since θ is a homomorphism, $l(a) = l(Aa) \subseteq l(a^\theta) = l(a^\theta A)$. Since A is a quasi-Frobenius ring, $r(l(Aa)) = aA \supseteq r(l(a^\theta A)) = a^\theta A$. Hence there is an element c such that $a^\theta = ac$.

Since every left ideal I has a finite basis, we can write $I = \bigcup_{i=1}^s Aa_i$. Then, by Lemma 3, every homomorphism between two left ideals is given by the right multiplication of a suitable element. This completes our proof.

Theorem 2. *Let A be a quasi-Frobenius ring. Then for every isomorphism θ between two left ideals we can choose a suitable unit which defines θ , that is, every isomorphism between two left ideals can be extended to an isomorphism of A .*

Proof. Let θ be an isomorphism between I and I' . Then, by Theorem 1, there is an element a_θ which defines θ , that is, $la_\theta = I'$. Then $la_\theta r(I') = I' r(I') = 0$. This shows that $a_\theta r(I') \subseteq r(I)$.

Case I. $a_\theta r(I') = r(I)$.

If r is an arbitrary element of $r(I)$, then there is an element r' in $r(I')$ such that $a_\theta r' = r$. Let θ^{-1} be the inverse isomorphism of θ and let $b_{\theta^{-1}}$ be the element which defines θ^{-1} . It is easy to see that $1 - a_\theta b_{\theta^{-1}} = r_0 \in r(I)$. Then $a_\theta(b_{\theta^{-1}} + r_0) = a_\theta b_{\theta^{-1}} + r_0 = 1$. Hence a_θ is a unit.⁴⁾

Case II. $a_\theta r(I') \subsetneq r(I)$.

In this case, $\bar{I} = l(a_\theta r(I')) \supsetneq l(r(I)) = I$, since A is a quasi-Frobenius

4) Since A satisfies the minimum condition for left and right ideals, it $ab=1$, then $ba=1$.

ring. It follows, from $\bar{I}a_\theta r(I') = 0$, that $\bar{I}a_\theta \subseteq I'$. But $\bar{I}a_\theta \supseteq Ia_\theta = I'$. Hence $\bar{I}a_\theta = I'$. Let \bar{l} be an element of \bar{I} and $\bar{l}a_\theta = I'$, then I' is in I' and there is an element l of I such that $la_\theta = I'$. Hence $(\bar{l} - l)a_\theta = 0$. Since no element of I is annihilated by a_θ , \bar{I} is the direct sum of I and I_0 which is annihilated by a_θ . Let $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}a$ ($\cong Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$) be a simple left subideal of I_0 . We write $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}a + I = I^*$. Since $I^*/I \cong Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$, it follows evidently that $r(I)/r(I^*) \cong e_\kappa A/e_\kappa N$. Hence $r(I) = re_\kappa A \cup r(I^*)$ for a suitable element r of $r(I)$. Since $re_\kappa A \subset r(I)$, the homomorphism defined by $a_\theta + re_\kappa b$, for an arbitrary b of A , coincides with θ in I . $I^*(a_\theta + re_\kappa b)$ is homomorphic to I^* and contains $I(a_\theta + re_\kappa b) = I'$. Now if we take a suitable b , then $I(a_\theta + re_\kappa b)$ is actually different from I' . For otherwise, $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}a(a_\theta + re_\kappa b) = Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}are_\kappa b \subset I(a_\theta + re_\kappa b) = I'$ for every b of A . Hence $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}are_\kappa A \subset I'$. Since $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}are_\kappa \subset ME_\kappa$ ⁵⁾ and ME_κ is a simple two-sided ideal, $ME_\kappa = Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}are_\kappa A \subset I'$ and $I'b_{\theta^{-1}} = I \supset ME_\kappa$. On the other hand $ME_\kappa = E_{\pi(\kappa)}M$ contains every simple left ideal which is isomorphic to $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}/Ne_{\pi(\kappa)}$. Hence ME_κ contains $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}a$. Thus I contains $Ae_{\pi(\kappa)}a$. But this contradicts $I \cap I_0 = 0$. Thus we can take an element b such that $I^*(a_\theta + re_\kappa b) \supseteq I'$. Obviously $I^*(a_\theta + re_\kappa b) \cong I^*$. We write the isomorphism between I^* and $I^*(a_\theta + re_\kappa b)$ defined by the right multiplication of $a_\theta + re_\kappa b$, by Θ . Then Θ coincides with θ in I , as was shown.

Since our assertion is true for A , suppose now that our assertion is true for every left ideal L for which A/L has a shorter composition length than that of A/I . Then we can choose a unit a_θ for Θ . a_θ defines Θ for I^* , hence a_θ defines θ for I . This completes our proof.

The following lemma is trivial.⁶⁾

Lemma 4. *Let A be a ring with a unit element. If every residue class ring of A satisfies Shoda's condition, then A is a uni-serial ring, and conversely.*

Theorem 3.⁷⁾ *Let A be such a ring with a unit element that if $I/m \sim I'/m$ for any two left ideals I, I' with their common left subideal m , then for every homomorphism θ from I/m onto I'/m there is such a homomorphism Θ from I onto I' that is given by the right multiplication of an element of A and that coincides with θ in I/m . Then A is a direct sum of a semi-simple ring and completely primary uni-serial rings, and conversely.*

5) See T. Nakayama [2] p. 10.

6) See M. Ikeda [5] p. 239. Cf. K. Shoda [4].

7) Cf. K. Shoda [4].

Proof. It is clear that every residue class ring satisfies Shoda's condition. Hence A is a uni-serial ring. Since the above assumption holds for primary components of A , we prove our assertion for a primary uni-serial ring A_1 satisfying the above assumption. If A_1 is neither a simple ring nor a completely primary uni-serial ring, then A_1 is a total matrix ring of degree $n > 1$ over a completely primary uni-serial ring D . The radical N_D of D is a principal ideal: $N_D = D\pi = \pi D$. Then the principal ideal $A\pi = \pi A$ is the radical N of A . Let $N^{p-1} \neq 0$ and $N^p = 0$. Then $N^{p-1}e_1 = A\pi^{p-1}e_1 = Ae_1\pi^{p-1}$ and $N^{p-1}e_2 = A\pi^{p-1}e_2 = Ae_2\pi^{p-1}$ are the unique simple left subideals of Ae_1 and Ae_2 respectively. $Ae_1\pi^{p-1} \cong Ae_2\pi^{p-1}$ by the correspondence $e_1\pi^{p-1} \leftrightarrow c_{12}\pi^{p-1}$. Then $N^{p-1}(e_1 + c_{12}) = A(e_1 + c_{12})\pi^{p-1}$ is a simple left ideal and contained in $A(e_1 + c_{12})$. Since $A(e_1 + c_{12})$ is an indecomposable left ideal, $N^{p-2}(e_1 + c_{12})$ contains $N^{p-1}(e_1 + c_{12})$ as its unique simple left subideal. It is clear that $N^{p-2}(e_1 + c_{12})/N^{p-1}(e_1 + c_{12}) \cong N^{p-1}e_1 + N^{p-1}e_2 / N^{p-1}(e_1 + c_{12})$. But, as was shown, $N^{p-2}(e_1 + c_{12})$ is not isomorphic to $N^{p-1}e_1 + N^{p-1}e_2$. This contradicts our assumption. Thus if A_1 is a primary uni-serial ring satisfying our assumption, then A_1 is either a simple ring or a completely primary uni-serial ring. The converse is trivial.

Remark. Let A be such a ring with a unit element that if $I/m \sim I'/m$ for any two left ideal I, I' with their common left subideal m , then for every homomorphism θ from I/m onto I'/m and every endomorphism φ of m there is a homomorphism Θ from I onto I' which is given by the right multiplication of an element of A and coincides with θ in I/m and with φ in m . Then A is a semi-simple ring and conversely.

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