

## Weakly 2-Absorbing ideals in Non-Commutative Rings

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### Abstract

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity. Various generalizations of 2-absorbing ideals have been studied. For example, a proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is weakly 2-absorbing (resp., almost 2-absorbing ideal) if  $a, b, c \in R$  with  $0 \neq abc \in I$  (resp.,  $abc \in I - I^2$ ), then either  $ab \in I$  or  $ac \in I$ , or  $bc \in I$ . In this paper we only consider non-commutative rings and introduce weakly 2-absorbing ideals and show that it enjoys analogs of many of the properties of 2-absorbing ideals.

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### INTRODUCTION

Various generalizations of 2-absorbing ideals over commutative rings have been studied. A proper ideal  $P$  of a commutative ring  $R$  with unity is called 2-absorbing ideal if whenever  $a, b, c \in R$  and  $abc \in P$ , then  $ab \in P$  or  $ac \in P$ , or  $bc \in P$  (See [1]). Also a proper ideal  $P$  of a commutative ring  $R$  with unity is called weakly 2-absorbing ideal if whenever  $a, b, c \in R$  and  $0 \neq abc \in P$ , then  $ab \in P$  or  $ac \in P$ , or  $bc \in P$  (see [2]). A proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is called almost 2-absorbing ideal if for all  $a, b, c \in R$ ,  $abc \in I - I^2$  implies that  $ab \in I$  or  $ac \in I$  or  $bc \in I$  (see [5]). The following statements are equivalent for an ideal  $P$  of a commutative ring  $R$ :

(i)  $P$  is 2-absorbing ideal.

(ii) For ideals  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$  with  $ABC \subseteq P$ , then either  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$ , or  $BC \subseteq P$ . For rings that are not necessarily commutative, it is obvious that (ii) does not imply (i), so the standard definition of a 2-absorbing ideal  $P$  of non-commutative ring  $R$  is that, for ideals  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$  and  $ABC \subseteq P$ , then either  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$ , or  $BC \subseteq P$ . Badawi and Darani have closed their article with the question; for the weakly 2-absorbing ideal  $P$  of a commutative ring which is not 2-absorbing ideal and  $0 \neq ABC \subseteq P$ , for some ideals  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$ , does it imply that  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$ , or  $BC \subseteq P$ ?

Note that, every 2-absorbing ideal is weakly 2-absorbing, but the converse need not to be true (see [1]). For

non-commutative rings, we define that a proper ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is said to be weakly 2-absorbing ideal if whenever,  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$  with  $ABC \subseteq P$ , then either  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$ , or  $BC \subseteq P$ , for some ideals  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$ .

### WEAKLY 2-ABSORBING IDEALS

Throughout,  $R$  will be non-commutative ring.

**Definition 2.1** A proper ideal  $P$  of a ring  $R$  is said to be weakly 2-absorbing if whenever,  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$  with  $ABC \subseteq P$ , then either  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$ , or  $BC \subseteq P$ , for some ideals  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$ .

**Theorem 2.2** Let  $P$  be an ideal of a ring  $R$ . If  $P$  is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then  $P^3 = 0$ .

**proof** Since  $P$  is not 2-absorbing, then there exist ideals  $A, B$  and  $C$  of  $R$  such that  $AB \not\subseteq P$ ,  $AC \not\subseteq P$ ,  $BC \not\subseteq P$  and  $ABC \subseteq P$ . If  $P^3 \neq 0$ , then

$0 \neq P^3 \subseteq (A+P)(B+P)(C+P) \subseteq P$  since  $P$  is weakly 2-absorbing then  $AB \subseteq (A+P)(B+P) \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq (A+P)(C+P) \subseteq P$  or  $BC \subseteq (B+P)(C+P) \subseteq P$  which is contradiction. Hence  $P^3 = 0$ .

**Theorem 2.3** Let  $P$  be a proper ideal of a ring  $R$  with unity, then  $P$  is weakly 2-absorbing ideal of  $R$  if and only if  $0 \neq aRbRc \subseteq P$  implies that  $a \in P$  or  $b \in P$  or  $c \in P$  for any  $a, b, c \in R$

**proof** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $P$  is weakly 2-absorbing of  $R$ , let  $a, b, c \in R$  such that  $0 \neq aRbRc \subseteq P$ , since  $R$  has a unity  $0 \neq (aR)(bR)(cR) \subseteq P$  and  $P$  is weakly 2-absorbing then  $ab \in (aR)(bR) \subseteq P$  or  $ac \in (aR)(cR) \subseteq P$  or  $bc \in (bR)(cR) \subseteq P$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let  $A, B$  and  $C$  be ideal of  $R$  such that  $0 \neq ABC \subseteq P$ . Suppose that  $AB \not\subseteq P$ ,  $AC \not\subseteq P$ ,  $BC \not\subseteq P$ , then there exists  $x \in AB - P$ ,  $y \in AC - P$  and  $z \in BC - P$ . Assume that  $\alpha \in AB \cap P$ ,  $\beta \in AC \cap P$  and  $\gamma \in BC \cap P$  then  $x + \alpha, y + \beta$ , and  $z + \gamma \notin P$ , so  $(x + \alpha)R(y + \beta)R(z + \gamma) = 0$ . Taking all

combinations when  $\alpha$  and(or)  $\beta$  and(or)  $\gamma$  equal zero proves that

$$0 = xyz = xy\alpha = xy\beta = xy\gamma = x\alpha z \\ = x\beta z = x\gamma z = \alpha yz = \beta yz = \gamma yz = \alpha\beta y = \dots$$

Hence,  $ABC=0$  which is a contradiction, so P is weakly 2-absorbing ideal of R. ■

Now we are interested in the structure of ring in which every ideal is weakly 2-absorbing. Note that it is not possible that every ideal of a ring is weakly 2-absorbing. However, a ring whose zero ideal is 2-absorbing is called a 2-absorbing ring. In the same sense, every ring is a weakly 2-absorbing ring since the zero ideal is always weakly 2-absorbing.

So, every ideal of a ring is weakly 2-absorbing, when every proper ideal of the ring is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal.

If  $R^3=0$ , then it is evident that every ideal of R is weakly 2-absorbing. In particular; if an ideal P of a ring R is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then every ideal of P as a ring is weakly 2-absorbing by Theorem 2.2.

**Theorem 2.4** Every ideal of a ring R is weakly 2-absorbing ideal if and only if for any ideals A,B and C of R,  $AB=ABC$  or  $AC=ABC$  or  $BC=ABC$  or  $ABC=0$ .

**Proof** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let A,B and C be ideals of R. If  $ABC \neq R$ , then ABC is weakly 2-absorbing. Suppose that  $ABC \neq 0$ , then  $0 \neq ABC \subseteq ABC$  and  $AB \subseteq ABC$  or  $AC \subseteq ABC$  or  $BC \subseteq ABC$  and hence  $AB=ABC$  or  $AC=ABC$  or  $BC=ABC$ . If  $ABC=R$ , then  $A=B=C=R$ . Therefore,  $R^3=R$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let P be a proper ideal of R, suppose that  $0 \neq ABC \subseteq P$  for some ideals A,B and C of R then  $AB=ABC \subseteq P$  or  $AC=ABC \subseteq P$  or  $BC=ABC \subseteq P$ . Hence, P is weakly 2-absorbing ideal of R. ■

**Theorem 2.5** If every ideal of a ring R is weakly 2-absorbing and  $R^3=R^2=R$ , then R has at most three maximal ideal.

**Proof** Suppose that  $M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4$  are distinct maximal ideal of R. Let  $P = M_1 \cap M_2 \cap M_3$ . Hence P is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of R that is not a 2-absorbing ideal of R.

Thus  $P^3 = \{0\}$  by Theorem 2.2. Hence,  $P^3 = M_1^3 M_2^3 M_3^3 = \{0\} \subset M_4$ , and thus one of the  $M_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , is contained in  $M_4$ , which is a contradiction.

Hence R has at most three maximal ideals. ■

**Corollary 2.6** Let R be a Ring in which every ideal of R is weakly 2-absorbing ideal, then for any ideal P of R,  $P^3=P^2$  or  $P^3=0$ .

The following example shows that the condition  $R^3=R^2=R$  in Theorem 2.5 cannot be dropped.

**Example 2.7 [3]** Let R be the unique maximal ideal of  $Z_4$ , then  $S=R \oplus R \oplus R$  is an example of a ring all of whose

ideals are weakly 2-absorbing and have more than three maximal ideals.

**Theorem 2.8** Suppose that every ideal of a ring R is weakly 2-absorbing, if R has three maximal ideals then their product is zero.

**proof** Let  $X_1, X_2$  and  $X_3$  be the maximal ideal of R. Then since  $X_1 \cap X_2 \cap X_3$  is weakly 2-absorbing and  $X_1 X_2 X_3 \subseteq X_1 \cap X_2 \cap X_3$ , we have  $X_1 X_2 X_3 = 0$ . ■

**Theorem 2.9** Suppose that every ideal of a ring R is weakly 2-absorbing, if R has three maximal ideal and R has identity element, then R is direct sum of three simple rings.

**proof** Let A,B,C be distinct maximal of R, if R has identity element, then

$$A \cap B \cap C = (A \cap B \cap C)R \\ = (A \cap B \cap C)(A + B + C) \subseteq CA + BA + AC = 0$$

and this implies that  $R \cong R/A \oplus R/B \oplus R/C$ . ■

**Theorem 2.10** Suppose that every ideal of a ring R is a weakly 2-absorbing, then every non-zero ideal P of R such that  $P^3=P^2$  is 2-absorbing.

**proof** Suppose that every ideal of a ring R is weakly 2-absorbing by Theorem 2.2 and Corollary 2.6, any nontrivial idempotent ideal of R is 2-absorbing ideal. ■

Recall that the intersection of all 2-absorbing ideals of a ring R is called the 2-absorbing radical of R, we denote the 2-absorbing radical of R by  $P(R)$ , and the sum of all ideals whose triple is zero by  $N(R)$ .

**Theorem 2.11** Suppose that every ideal of a ring R is weakly 2-absorbing and  $R^3=R^2=R$ , then  $P(R)=N(R)$  and  $(P(R))^3=(N(R))^3=0$ .

**proof** Take  $a_1, a_2, a_3 \in N(R)$  then there are finitely many triple-zero ideals  $I_1, I_2, I_3, \dots, I_m$  such

that  $a_1, a_2, a_3 \in I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + \dots + I_m$  since  $I_j^3=0$  for each j

,  $(I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + \dots + I_m)^k = 0$  for some k but then

$(I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + \dots + I_m)^3 = 0$  by Corollary 2.6, Hence

$(N(R))^3=0$ . This implies that if P is any 2-absorbing ideal of R,  $N(R) \subseteq P$  and consequently  $N(R) \subseteq P(R)$  Note that R contains at least one 2-absorbing ideal. If R contains a nonzero idempotent ideal then by above it must be 2-absorbing. If every ideal is nilpotent then since  $R^3=R^2=R$ ,  $N(R) \neq R$  is 2-absorbing ideal.

If P(R) is not 2-absorbing, then  $(P(R))^3=0$  this implies that  $P(R) \subseteq N(R)$  by the definition of N(R), and hence the result follows.

Suppose  $P(R)$  is 2-absorbing, In this case we will show that  $N(R)$  must be 2-absorbing, this implies that  $P(R) \subseteq N(R)$  by definition of  $P(R)$ , and hence the result follows.

To show that  $N(R)$  is also 2-absorbing, suppose that  $IJK \subseteq N(R)$  for ideals  $I$  and  $J$  and  $K$  of  $R$ . Since  $N(R)$  is weakly 2-absorbing if  $IJK \neq 0$  then  $IJ \subseteq N(R)$  or  $IK \subseteq N(R)$  or  $JK \subseteq N(R)$ , suppose that  $IJK=0$  if  $I^3=0$  or  $J^3=0$  or  $K^3=0$  then  $IJ \subseteq N(R)$  or  $IK \subseteq N(R)$  or  $JK \subseteq N(R)$  if  $I, J, K$  are not triple zero then they are 2-absorbing, but then either  $I = I^3 \subseteq IJK = 0$  or  $J = J^3 \subseteq IJK = 0$  or  $K = K^3 \subseteq IJK = 0$  contradiction. This shows that  $N(R)$  is 2-absorbing ideal. ■

**Corollary 2.12** Suppose that every ideal of a right Noetherian ring  $R$  with identity is weakly 2-absorbing and  $R^3 = R^2 = R$  then  $P(R) = N(R) = J(R)$  and  $(J(R))^3 = (P(R))^3 = (N(R))^3 = 0$ , where  $J(R)$  is the Jacobson radical of  $R$ .

**proof** If  $J(R)^3 = (J(R))^2 = J(R)$  then  $J(R) = 0$  since  $P(R) \subseteq J(R)$ , the result follows if  $(J(R))^3 = 0$  then  $J(R) \subseteq P$  for every 2-absorbing ideal  $P$  in  $R$ , Hence  $J(R) \subseteq P(R)$ . ■

**Corollary 2.13** Suppose that every ideal of a ring  $R$  is weakly 2-absorbing, then every non zero ideal of  $R/N(R)$  is 2-absorbing ideal.

**Corollary 2.14** Suppose that every ideal of a ring  $R$  is weakly 2-absorbing, then  $(N(R))^3 = 0$  and every 2-absorbing ideal contains  $N(R)$  There are three possibilities:

1.  $N(R) = R$ .
2.  $N(R) = P(R)$  is the smallest 2-absorbing ideal and all other 2-absorbing ideal are idempotent if  $N(R) \neq 0$ , then it is the only non-idempotent 2-absorbing.
3.  $N(R) = P(R)$  is not a 2-absorbing ideal in this case, there exist three nonzero minimal 2-absorbing ideal  $J_1, J_2$  and  $J_3$  with  $N(R) = J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3$  and  $J_1 J_2 J_3 = J_3 J_2 J_1 = 0$  all other ideal containing  $N(R)$  also contains  $J_1 + J_2 + J_3$ .

**proof** If  $R^3 = 0$  then  $N(R) = R$ , so clearly  $(N(R))^3 = 0$ , and there are no 2-absorbing ideal. If  $R^3 = R^2 = R$  then by Theorem 2.11,  $P(R) = N(R)$  and  $(P(R))^3 = (N(R))^3 = 0$  by definition of  $P(R)$ , every 2-absorbing ideal contains  $N(R) = P(R)$  if  $N(R) = P(R)$  is 2-absorbing, it is the smallest 2-absorbing ideal and all other 2-absorbing ideals are idempotent. If  $N(R) = P(R)$  is not 2-absorbing then since every ideal of  $R/N(R)$  except  $\{0\}$  is 2-absorbing thus there exist three nonzero minimal 2-absorbing ideal  $J_1, J_2$  and  $J_3$  with

$N(R) = J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3$  moreover, all other ideals containing  $N(R)$  also contain  $J_1 + J_2 + J_3$ , since

$N(R) = J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3$  is weakly 2-absorbing must have

$$J_1 J_2 J_3 = J_3 J_2 J_1 = 0 \text{ otherwise } J_1 J_2 J_3 \subseteq J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3, \\ J_3 J_2 J_1 \subseteq J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3 \text{ implies either} \\ J_1 J_2 \subseteq J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3 \subseteq J_3 \text{ or} \\ J_1 J_3 \subseteq J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3 \subseteq J_2 \text{ or} \\ J_2 J_3 \subseteq J_1 \cap J_2 \cap J_3 \subseteq J_1 \text{ contradiction. } \blacksquare$$

**Definition 2.15 [4]** A nonzero proper ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is called almost prime ideal if for all  $A, B$  ideals of  $R$ , with  $AB \subseteq P - P^2$  implies  $A \subseteq P$  or  $B \subseteq P$ .

**Definition 2.16** A nonzero proper ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is called almost 2-absorbing ideal if for all  $A, B, C$  ideals of  $R$  with  $ABC \subseteq P - P^2$  implies that  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$  or  $BC \subseteq P$ .

Next proposition gives a relationship between weakly 2-absorbing and almost 2-absorbing ideals.

**Proposition 17** Let  $R$  be a ring and  $I$  be a proper ideal of  $R$ . Then

1. If  $P$  is a 2-absorbing ideal, then  $P$  is a almost 2-absorbing ideal.
2.  $P$  weakly 2-absorbing  $\Rightarrow P$  almost 2-absorbing.

**proof** (1) Suppose that  $ABC \subseteq P - P^2$  where  $A, B, C \subseteq R$ . Since  $\phi \subseteq P^2$ , we have  $ABC \subseteq P$  and therefore  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$  or  $BC \subseteq P$  thus  $P$  is almost 2-absorbing ideal

(2) Suppose that  $ABC \subseteq P - P^2$  where  $A, B, C \subseteq R$ . Since  $\{0\} \subseteq P^2$ , we have  $ABC \subseteq P$  and therefore  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$  or  $BC \subseteq P$  thus  $P$  is almost 2-absorbing ideal. ■

**Theorem 2.18** Let  $R$  be a ring with identity such that  $P$  is almost 2-absorbing that is not 2-absorbing. Then  $P^3 \cap P^2 \neq \phi$ .

**proof** Suppose that  $P^3 \cap P^2 \neq \phi$ , we show that  $P$  is 2-absorbing. Let  $A, B, C$  are ideal of  $R$ , such that  $ABC \subseteq P$ , If  $ABC \cap P^2 = \phi$ , then  $P$  is almost 2-absorbing ideal gives  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$  or  $BC \subseteq P$ . So let  $ABC \cap P^2 \neq \phi$  suppose that  $ABP \cap P^2 = \phi$  then  $ABP_0 \cap P^2 = \phi$  where  $P_0 \subseteq P$ . Then  $AB(C + P_0) \subseteq P - P^2$ . So  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $A(C + P_0) \subseteq P$  or  $B(C + P_0) \subseteq P$ , and hence  $AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$  or  $BC \subseteq P$ . So we can assume  $ABP \cap P^2 \neq \phi$ . Likewise  $ACP \cap P^2 \neq \phi$ ,  $BCP \cap P^2 \neq \phi$ . Since  $P^3 \cap P^2 \neq \phi$ , there exist  $P_1, P_2, P_3 \subseteq P$  with  $P_1 P_2 P_3 \cap P^2 = \phi$  then  $(A + P_1)(B + P_2)(C + P_3) \subseteq P - P^2$  so  $P$  is almost 2-absorbing ideal gives  $(A + P_1)(B + P_2) \subseteq P$  or

$(A + P_1)(C + P_3) \subseteq P$  or  $(B + P_2)(C + P_3) \subseteq P$  then

$AB \subseteq P$  or  $AC \subseteq P$  or  $BC \subseteq P$ , So P is 2-absorbing ideal. ▀

**Corollary 19** *Let P be almost 2-absorbing ideal and  $P^3 \cap P^2 = \phi$ . Then P is a 2-absorbing ideal.*

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