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Rings whose multiplicative endomorphisms are power functions.

Let R be a ring. Then R is called an *E-ring* provided every additive endomorphism of R is given by multiplication by a scalar (that is, if for every endomorphism f of $(R, +)$, there exists $r \in R$ such that $f(x) = rx$ for all $x \in R$). Thus, in a sense, the *E-rings* are the rings for which all additive endomorphisms are “canonical”. Such rings are well-studied in the literature. In this talk, we consider the multiplicative analog of this notion. Let R be a commutative ring with identity, and let n be a positive integer. Then the power function $f(x) := x^n$ is easily seen to be 0-preserving monoid endomorphism of the structure $(R, \cdot, 0, 1)$. Say that a commutative ring R with identity is a *P-ring* provided every 0-preserving multiplicative monoid endomorphism (as above) is equal to a power function (i.e. every such endomorphism is “canonical”). We determine the *P-rings* up to isomorphism. (Received August 27, 2012)