

## ON SEMISIMPLE SEMIGROUP RINGS

MARK L. TEPLY,<sup>1</sup> E. GEIS TURMAN AND ANTONIO QUESADA

**ABSTRACT.** Let  $\pi$  be a property of rings that satisfies the conditions that (i) homomorphic images of  $\pi$ -rings are  $\pi$ -rings and (ii) ideals of  $\pi$ -rings are  $\pi$ -rings. Let  $S$  be a semilattice  $P$  of semigroups  $S_\alpha$ . If each semigroup ring  $R[S_\alpha]$  ( $\alpha \in P$ ) is  $\pi$ -semisimple, then the semigroup ring  $R[S]$  is also  $\pi$ -semisimple. Conditions are found on  $P$  to insure that each  $R[S_\alpha]$  ( $\alpha \in P$ ) is  $\pi$ -semisimple whenever  $S$  is a strong semilattice  $P$  of semigroups  $S_\alpha$  and  $R[S]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple. Examples are given to show that the conditions on  $P$  cannot be removed. These results and examples answer several questions raised by J. Weissglass.

Let  $\pi$  be a property of rings. A ring is called a  $\pi$ -ring if it has property  $\pi$ . An ideal  $I$  of a ring is a  $\pi$ -ideal if  $I$  is a  $\pi$ -ring. A ring is  $\pi$ -semisimple if it has no nonzero  $\pi$ -ideals. Henceforth, we assume that the property  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions, (i) homomorphic images of  $\pi$ -rings are  $\pi$ -rings and (ii) ideals of  $\pi$ -rings are  $\pi$ -rings. For example, the properties of being nil, nilpotent, or left quasi-regular are such properties.

Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $S$  be a semigroup. Then the *semigroup ring*  $R[S]$  consists of all formal sums  $\sum_{s \in S} r_s s$  such that  $r_s \in R$  and  $r_s = 0$  for all but finitely many  $s \in S$ ; addition and multiplication are defined in the obvious manner (see [1], [2], [3], [6], [7]). Several authors have studied properties  $\pi$  for specialized semigroup rings. For example, Gilmer and Parker [2] compute the nil radical of  $R[S]$  under the assumption that  $R[S]$  is commutative. Passman [4] discusses many radical properties under the assumption that  $R$  is a field and  $S$  is a group. Krempe [3] computes the lower Baer radical of  $R[S]$  when  $S$  is a cancellative  $\Omega_1$ -semigroup. Quesada [6] also computes the lower Baer radical of  $R[S]$  in several interesting cases.

Let  $P$  be a semilattice whose natural order is indicated by  $>$ . As in [5], a semigroup  $S$  is called a *strong semilattice*  $P$  of semigroups  $S_\alpha$  if there exists a family of homomorphisms  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}: S_\alpha \rightarrow S_\beta$  ( $\alpha, \beta \in P$ ;  $\alpha > \beta$ ) satisfying the following conditions.

- (a)  $S$  is the disjoint union of the semigroups  $S_\alpha$ .
- (b)  $\varphi_{\alpha,\alpha}$  is the identity map  $S_\alpha$ .
- (c) If  $\alpha > \beta > \gamma$ , then  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}\varphi_{\beta,\gamma} = \varphi_{\alpha,\gamma}$ .
- (d) If  $a \in S_\alpha$  and  $b \in S_\beta$ , then multiplication in  $S$  is determined by  $a \cdot b = (a\varphi_{\alpha,\alpha\beta}) \cdot (b\varphi_{\beta,\alpha\beta}) \in S_{\alpha\beta}$ .

---

Received by the editors November 14, 1978 and, in revised form, February 16, 1979.

AMS (MOS) subject classifications (1970). Primary 20M25; Secondary 16A12, 16A20, 16A21.

Key words and phrases. Semigroup ring, semilattice,  $\pi$ -semisimple.

<sup>1</sup>This author received support from NSF grant MCS 77-01818.

© 1980 American Mathematical Society  
0002-9939/80/0000-0250/\$02.75

For more details, see §III.7 of [5]. We note that each  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}$  has a natural extension to a ring homomorphism from  $R[S_\alpha]$  to  $R[S_\beta]$ :

$$\sum_{s \in S_\alpha} r_s s \rightarrow \sum_{s \in S_\alpha} r_s (s\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}).$$

We also denote this extension by  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}$  for convenience. *For the rest of this paper,  $S$  will denote a strong semilattice  $P$  of semigroups  $S_\alpha$ .*

The purpose of this paper is to study conditions relating the  $\pi$ -semisimplicity of  $R[S]$  to the  $\pi$ -semisimplicity of the  $R[S_\alpha]$  ( $\alpha \in P$ ). If each  $R[S_\alpha]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple, then  $R[S]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple. This result is an immediate consequence of Theorem 1, which generalizes [6, Theorem 4.21] and [7, Theorem 1 and Corollary 1] and which answers affirmatively Question 4 of Weissglass [7, p. 477]. However, if  $R[S]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple, not all of the  $R[S_\alpha]$  need be  $\pi$ -semisimple. A problem may occur if  $R[S_\alpha]$  has a nonzero  $\pi$ -ideal and there are infinitely many  $\beta \in P$  closely beneath  $\alpha$  in the order  $>$  of  $P$ . We determine conditions on  $P$  in our main result (Theorem 2) which guarantee that  $R[S]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple if and only if  $R[S_\alpha]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple for all  $\alpha \in P$ . The key part of the proof of Theorem 2 is the construction of a special type of ideal of  $R[S]$  from an ideal of  $R[S_\alpha]$ ; this construction is done in Lemma 2. Theorem 2 gives an answer to Question 1 of Weissglass [7, p. 477] for a semigroup ring case. Examples are given to show that the conditions on  $P$  in the hypothesis of Theorem 2 cannot be dropped when  $\pi$  is the property of being nil, nilpotent, or left quasi-regular, even if each  $S_\alpha$  is a group and  $R$  is a field. Thus these examples answer in the negative Question 7 of Weissglass [7, p. 477]. A modification of these examples is also used to answer in the negative Question 2 of Weissglass [7, p. 477] concerning the Jacobson radical of certain commutative rings.

Many interesting semigroups appear as strong semilattices  $P$  of semigroups  $S_\alpha$ , where  $S_\alpha$  is a special type of semigroup; for example, see [1, Theorem 4.11] and [5, Theorem IV.4.3 and Corollaries IV.4.6, IV.4.7]. Since conditions for many special types of semigroup rings to be  $\pi$ -semisimple are known, our theorems often provide a realistic test for the  $\pi$ -semisimplicity of  $R[S]$ .

Before stating our first result, we need a generalization of a semigroup ring  $R[S']$ , where  $S'$  is any semilattice of semigroups.

In [7], a ring  $T$  is called a *supplementary semilattice sum of subrings*  $T_\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in P$ ) if the following conditions hold:  $T = \sum_{\alpha \in P} T_\alpha$ ,  $T_\alpha T_\beta \subseteq T_{\alpha\beta}$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in P$ , and  $T_\alpha \cap (\sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} T_\beta) = 0$  for each  $\alpha \in P$ . Clearly,  $R[S]$  is always a supplementary semilattice sum of subrings with  $T_\alpha = R[S_\alpha]$ . If  $t \in T$ , we define

$$P\text{-supp } t = \left\{ \alpha \in P \mid t = \sum_{\alpha \in P} t_\alpha \text{ and } t_\alpha \neq 0 \right\}.$$

We are now ready to generalize [6, Theorem 4.21] and [7, Theorem 1].

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $T = \sum_{\alpha \in P} T_\alpha$  be a supplementary semilattice sum of subrings. If  $T_\alpha$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple for each  $\alpha \in P$ , then  $T$  is also  $\pi$ -semisimple.*

PROOF. Let  $B$  be a  $\pi$ -ideal of  $T$ . We assume that  $0 \neq x \in B$  and seek a contradiction. Clearly there exists a  $\beta \in P$  satisfying the following conditions. (a)  $\beta \in P\text{-supp } x$ , and (b) if  $\alpha \in P\text{-supp } x$ , then  $\alpha \succ \beta$ . (In fact, by [7, Lemma 2] there will be more than one such  $\beta$ .) Let  $P' = \{\alpha \in P \mid \alpha < \gamma \text{ and } \gamma \in P\text{-supp } x\}$ ; then  $P'$  is a semilattice. Hence  $T' = \sum_{\alpha \in P'} T_\alpha$  is both a supplementary semilattice sum of subrings and an ideal of  $T$ . Let  $A = B \cap T'$ . Then  $x \in A$ . Since  $A$  is an ideal of the  $\pi$ -ring  $B$ , then  $A$  is  $\pi$ -ring by our standing hypothesis on  $\pi$ . Since  $A$  is also an ideal of  $T'$ , then  $A$  is a  $\pi$ -ideal of  $T'$ .

Let  $\theta: T' \rightarrow T_\beta$  be the projection map. Then  $0 \neq \theta(x) \in \theta(A)$  by (a). Clearly  $\theta$  preserves addition. Let  $c_1, c_2 \in T'$ , and write  $c_i = d_i + e_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), where  $d_i \in T_\beta$  and  $e_i \in \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} T_\alpha$ . By (b),  $\beta$  is maximal in  $P'$ ; hence  $c_1 c_2 = d_1 d_2 + f$ , where  $\{P\text{-supp } f\} \cap T_\beta = \emptyset$ . Thus  $\theta(c_1 c_2) = d_1 d_2 = \theta(c_1)\theta(c_2)$ . That is,  $\theta$  is a ring homomorphism of  $T'$  onto  $T_\beta$ . But then  $\theta(A)$  is a nonzero  $\pi$ -ideal of  $T_\beta$ , which contradicts the hypothesis that  $T_\beta$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple.

We now obtain three results needed in the proof of Theorem 2.

LEMMA 1. *If  $\mu$  is a zero element of  $P$  and if  $R[S]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple, then  $R[S_\mu]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple.*

PROOF. Let  $A$  be a  $\pi$ -ideal of  $R[S_\mu]$ . If  $s \in R[S_\alpha]$  for some  $\alpha$  and  $a \in A$ , then  $sa = (s\varphi_{\alpha,\mu})a \in A$  and  $as = a(s\varphi_{\alpha,\mu}) \in A$ . It follows that  $A$  is also an ideal of  $R[S]$ , and hence  $A = 0$ .

Let  $\alpha, \beta \in P$ . Then  $\beta$  is said to be *maximal under  $\alpha$*  if  $\beta < \alpha$  and there is no  $\gamma \in P$  such that  $\beta < \gamma < \alpha$ . Further,  $P$  is called an *m.u.-semilattice* if  $P$  satisfies the following conditions.

- (1) If  $\alpha, \delta \in P$  with  $\delta < \alpha$ , then there exists  $\beta$  maximal under  $\alpha$  such that  $\delta < \beta < \alpha$ .
- (2) The set  $\{\beta \in P \mid \beta \text{ is maximal under } \alpha\}$  is finite for each  $\alpha \in P$ .

LEMMA 2. *Let  $P$  be an m.u.-semilattice, and suppose  $\alpha \in P$  is not a zero of  $P$ . Let  $\{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n\}$  be the set of elements maximal under  $\alpha$ . For each nonempty subset  $\Delta$  of  $\{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n\}$ , let  $\Delta'$  denote the product (g.l.b.) of all the  $\beta_i$  in  $\Delta$ , and let  $|\Delta|$  denote the cardinality of  $\Delta$ . If  $A$  is an ideal of  $R[S_\alpha]$ , then for each  $a \in A$ , define*

$$a^* = a - \left[ \sum_{|\Delta|=1} a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta'} \right] + \sum_{|\Delta|=2} a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta'} - \left[ \sum_{|\Delta|=3} a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta'} \right] + \dots + (-1)^n a\varphi_{\alpha,\beta_1\beta_2\dots\beta_n}.$$

Then  $A^* = \{a^* \mid a \in A\}$  is an ideal of  $R[S]$ .

PROOF. Let  $a^* \in A^*$ , and let  $x \in R[S_\gamma]$  for some  $\gamma \in P$ . We wish to show that  $xa^* \in A^*$ .

Suppose that  $\gamma \succ \alpha$ . Since  $(x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha})a \in A$ , then

$$xa^* = (x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha})a - \left[ \sum_{|\Delta|=1} ((x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha})a)\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta'} \right] + \left[ \sum_{|\Delta|=2} ((x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha})a)\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta'} \right] - \dots + (-1)^n ((x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha})a)\varphi_{\alpha,\beta_1\beta_2\dots\beta_n} \in A^*.$$

Suppose that  $\gamma < \alpha$ . Then, after reindexing,  $\gamma < \beta_1 \beta_2 \cdots \beta_k$  for some maximal  $k$ , where  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . If  $\pm a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta}$  is a term of  $a^*$  and  $\Delta \subseteq \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k\}$ , then  $\pm x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta}) = \pm x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma})$ . The sum of the terms of  $xa^*$  having this form is

$$x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma}) \left[ 1 - k + \binom{k}{2} - \binom{k}{3} + \cdots + (-1)^k \right] = x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma}) [1 + (-1)]^k = 0. \quad (\dagger)$$

All other terms of  $xa^*$  involve some  $\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta\Gamma'}$ , where  $\Delta$  is a subset of  $\{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k\}$ ,  $\Gamma'$  is a nonempty subset of  $\{\beta_{k+1}, \beta_{k+2}, \dots, \beta_n\}$ , and  $\Gamma'$  is the product (g.l.b.) of the elements of  $\Gamma$ . For a given  $\Gamma$ ,

$$x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta\Gamma'}) = (x\varphi_{\gamma,\gamma\Delta\Gamma'})(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma\Delta\Gamma'}) = (x\varphi_{\gamma,\gamma\Gamma'})(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma\Gamma'}) = x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma\Gamma'})$$

for all  $\Delta$ . In  $xa^*$ , the sign of the  $\Delta\Gamma'$  term is equal (opposite) that of the  $\Gamma'$  term if  $|\Delta|$  is even (odd). Hence, for a given  $\Gamma$ , the sum over  $\Delta$  of the  $\Delta\Gamma'$  terms is

$$x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma\Gamma'}) \left[ 1 - k + \binom{k}{2} - \binom{k}{3} + \cdots + (-1)^k \right] = 0. \quad (\dagger\dagger)$$

Since every term of  $xa^*$  appears exactly once in an expression  $(\dagger)$  or  $(\dagger\dagger)$ , then  $xa^* = 0 \in A^*$ .

Suppose that  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  are not related by  $<$ ; i.e., suppose that neither  $\alpha < \gamma$  nor  $\alpha > \gamma$  holds. Then for all nonempty  $\Delta \subseteq \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n\}$ ,

$$x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta}) = (x\varphi_{\gamma,\gamma\Delta})(a\varphi_{\alpha,\gamma\Delta}) = (x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha\gamma\varphi_{\alpha\gamma,\alpha\gamma\Delta}})(a\varphi_{\alpha,\alpha\gamma\Delta}) = (x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha\gamma})(a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta}).$$

If  $\Delta$  is the empty set, define  $x(a\varphi_{\alpha,\Delta}) = xa$ . Thus we may replace  $x$  by  $x\varphi_{\gamma,\alpha\gamma}$  in this case; hence it follows from the preceding paragraph that  $xa^* = 0 \in A^*$ .

The three preceding paragraphs show that  $A^*$  is closed under left multiplication by elements of any  $S_\gamma$  and hence by elements of  $R[S]$ . A symmetric argument shows that  $A^*$  is closed under right multiplication by elements of  $R[S]$ . Clearly  $A^*$  is closed under addition. Thus  $A^*$  is an ideal of  $R[S]$ .

**LEMMA 3.** *Under the hypotheses of Lemma 2, the mapping  $*$ :  $A \rightarrow A^*$ :  $a \rightarrow a^*$  is a ring isomorphism of  $A$  onto  $A^*$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $a_1, a_2 \in A$ . Then  $a_1^* a_2^* = a_1 a_2^* +$  terms of the form  $(a_1 \varphi_{\alpha,\gamma}) a_2^*$ , where  $\gamma < \alpha$ . It follows from the case  $\gamma \geq \alpha$  in the proof of Lemma 2 that  $a_1 a_2^* = (a_1 a_2)^*$ . It follows from the case  $\gamma < \alpha$  in the proof of Lemma 2 that each of the remaining terms  $(a_1 \varphi_{\alpha,\gamma}) a_2^*$  is 0. Hence  $a_1^* a_2^* = a_1 a_2^* = (a_1 a_2)^*$ . The formula  $a_1^* + a_2^* = (a_1 + a_2)^*$  follows from the commutativity of addition and the homomorphism properties of the  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}$ . Clearly,  $*$  is a 1-1 map.

We are now ready for our main result.

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $P$  be an m.u.-semilattice. Then  $R[S]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple if and only if  $R[S_\alpha]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple for each  $\alpha \in P$ .*

**PROOF.** The “if” part follows from Theorem 1.

For the “only if” part, let  $A$  be a  $\pi$ -ideal of  $R[S_\alpha]$  for some  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha$  is a zero of  $P$ , then  $A = 0$  by Lemma 1. If  $\alpha$  is not a zero of  $P$ , then  $A^* = \{a^* | a \in A\}$  is a  $\pi$ -ideal

of  $R[S]$  by Lemma 2 and 3; hence we must also have  $A = 0$  in this case. Therefore,  $R[S_\alpha]$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple.

Question 1 [7, p. 477] is as follows: Find a condition on  $P$  such that if  $T$  is a supplementary semilattice sum of  $T_\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in P$ ), then  $T$   $\pi$ -semisimple implies  $T_\alpha$  is  $\pi$ -semisimple for each  $\alpha \in P$ . Theorem 2 states that  $P$  being an m.u.-semilattice is such a condition when  $T = R[S]$ .

**COROLLARY 1.** *Let  $P$  be an m.u.-semilattice. Then  $R[S]$  is semiprime if and only if  $R[S_\alpha]$  is semiprime for each  $\alpha \in P$ .*

**COROLLARY 2.** *Let  $P$  be an m.u.-semilattice. Then  $R[S]$  is nil semisimple if and only if  $R[S_\alpha]$  is nil semisimple for each  $\alpha \in P$ .*

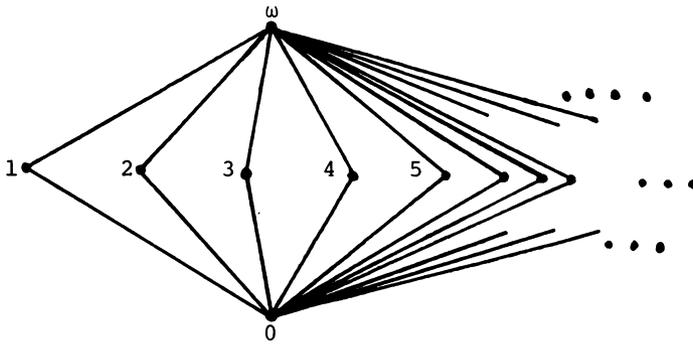
**COROLLARY 3.** *Let  $P$  be an m.u.-semilattice. Then  $R[S]$  is Jacobson semisimple if and only if  $R[S_\alpha]$  is Jacobson semisimple for each  $\alpha \in P$ .*

The condition that  $P$  be an m.u.-semilattice cannot be dropped from the hypothesis of Theorem 2. In fact, it is possible for  $R[S]$  to be Jacobson semisimple and for some  $R[S_\alpha]$  to have a nonzero nilpotent ideal if either of the two conditions in the definition of m.u.-semilattice is dropped. Example 1 (Example 2) shows that condition (1) (condition (2)) in the definition of m.u.-semilattice cannot be dropped. Both examples answer in the negative Question 7 of Weissglass [7, p. 477].

The *support* of  $x = \sum_{s \in S} r_s s \in R[S]$ , denoted by  $\text{supp } x$ , is the set  $\{s \in S \mid r_s \neq 0\}$ .

**EXAMPLE 1.** Let  $R$  be a field of characteristic  $p > 0$ , let  $Z_p$  be the cyclic group of  $p$  elements, and let  $C$  denote the complex numbers. Let  $P = [0, \omega]$ , the initial ordinal segment terminating at the first infinite ordinal  $\omega$ . For  $0 < n < \omega$ , let  $S_n = Z_p \wr C$  (wreath product); define  $S_\omega$  to be a direct sum of  $C$  copies of  $Z_p$ . We use the following maps  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}$  to define  $S = \bigcup_{\alpha < \omega} S_\alpha$  as a semilattice  $P$  of semigroups:  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}$  is the identity map on  $Z_p \wr C$  for  $0 < \beta < \alpha < \omega$ , and  $\varphi_{\omega,\beta}$  is the natural embedding of  $S_\omega$  as a normal subgroup of  $S_\beta = Z_p \wr C$  for  $0 < \beta < \omega$ . From [4, Lemma VII.4.12] it follows that  $R[S_\alpha]$  is Jacobson semisimple for  $0 < \alpha < \omega$ . Since  $S_\omega$  is an Abelian  $p$ -group, then  $R[S_\omega]$  has a nonzero nilpotent ideal by [4, Theorem IV.2.13]. Let  $K = \sum_{\alpha < \omega} R[S_\alpha]$ . Then  $K$  is an ideal of  $R[S]$ ; moreover,  $K$  is a Jacobson semisimple ring by Theorem 1. If  $N$  is a quasi-regular ideal of  $R[S]$ , then  $N \cap K = 0$ . Thus, if  $0 \neq x \in N$ , then  $\{\text{supp } x\} \cap S_\omega \neq \emptyset$ . If  $\{\text{supp } x\} \cap S_\alpha \neq \emptyset$  for some  $\alpha < \omega$ , let  $m = 1 + \max\{\alpha \mid 0 < \alpha < \omega \text{ and } \{\text{supp } x\} \cap S_\alpha \neq \emptyset\}$ ; otherwise, let  $m = 1$ . Let  $e_m$  denote the identity element of  $S_m$ . Then  $\{\text{supp } e_m x\} \cap S_m \neq \emptyset$  and  $e_m x \in K \cap N$ , which contradicts the fact that  $K \cap N = 0$ . Hence  $R[S]$  is a Jacobson semisimple ring.

**EXAMPLE 2.** Let  $P = [0, \omega]$  as a set, but impose a new order  $\gg$  on  $P$  (rather than the usual order  $>$ ) by the following rules: (i) if  $m, n, \omega$  are distinct elements of  $P$ , then  $m \wedge n = 0$  in the order  $\gg$ ; (ii) if  $m \neq \omega$ , then  $\omega \gg m$ . Thus  $P$  can be made into a semilattice with the following order structure.



Now let  $R, S_\alpha, \varphi_{\alpha,\beta}, S, K,$  and  $N$  be defined as in Example 1, except that  $\gg$  replaces  $>$  in the definition of these terms. Thus  $R[S_\alpha]$  is Jacobson semisimple whenever  $\omega \gg \alpha$ ,  $R[S_\omega]$  has a nonzero nilpotent ideal, and  $K \cap N = 0$  for any quasi-regular ideal  $N$  of  $R[S]$ . Thus if  $0 \neq x \in N$ , then  $\{\text{supp } x\} \cap S_\omega \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $\{\text{supp } x\}$  is finite, there exists  $m \in P - \{0, \omega\}$  such that  $\{\text{supp } x\} \cap S_m = \emptyset$ . Let  $e_m$  denote the identity element of  $S_m$ . Then  $\{\text{supp } e_m x\} \cap S_m \neq \emptyset$  and  $e_m x \in K \cap N$ , which contradicts the fact that  $K \cap N = 0$ . Hence  $R[S]$  is a Jacobson semisimple.

J. Weissglass has asked the following question [7, Question 2, p. 477]. If  $T = \sum_{\alpha \in \Omega} T_\alpha$  is a supplementary semilattice sum and  $T$  is commutative, does  $T$  Jacobson semisimple imply that each  $T_\alpha$  is Jacobson semisimple? We apply our methods to answer this question in the negative in the following example.

EXAMPLE 3. Let  $P$  be the semilattice of Example 1. Let  $T_\omega$  be a commutative local integral domain with identity element that is not a field. Let  $T_n$  be the quotient field of  $T_\omega$  for  $0 < n < \omega$ . Define the homomorphisms  $\varphi_{\alpha,\beta}$  to be the identity map on  $T_n$  for  $0 < \beta < \alpha < \omega$ ; define  $\varphi_{\omega,\beta}$  to be the natural embedding of  $T_\omega$  into  $T_\beta$  for each  $\beta < \omega$ . Then  $T = \sum_{\beta < \omega} T_\beta$  forms a commutative supplementary semilattice sum of subrings  $T_\beta$  by naturally extending the multiplication  $x \cdot y = \varphi_{\alpha,\alpha \wedge \beta}(x) \cdot \varphi_{\beta,\alpha \wedge \beta}(y)$  for  $x \in T_\alpha, y \in T_\beta$ . Now  $T_\omega$  is not Jacobson semisimple. Since  $T_\beta$  is Jacobson semisimple for each  $\beta < \omega$ , then  $K = \sum_{\beta < \omega} T_\beta$  is Jacobson semisimple by Theorem 1. If  $N$  is a quasi-regular ideal of  $T$ , then  $K \cap N = 0$ . If  $0 \neq x \in N$ , then  $\omega \in P\text{-supp } x$ . If  $\alpha \in \{P\text{-supp } x\} \neq \emptyset$  for some  $\alpha < \omega$ , let  $m = 1 + \max\{\alpha \mid 0 < \alpha < \omega \text{ and } \alpha \in \{P\text{-supp } x\}\}$ ; otherwise, let  $m = 1$ . Let  $e_m$  denote the identity element of  $T_m$ . Then  $m \in P\text{-supp } e_m x$  and  $e_m x \in K \cap N$ , which contradicts the fact that  $K \cap N = 0$ . Hence  $T$  is a Jacobson semisimple ring.

REFERENCES

1. A. H. Clifford and G. B. Preston, *Algebraic theory of semigroups*, Vol. I, Math. Surveys, No. 7, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, R. I., 1961; reprinted 1964.
2. R. Gilmer and T. Parker, *Nilpotent elements of commutative semigroup rings*, Michigan Math. J. 22 (1975), 97-108.
3. J. Krempa, *On semigroup rings*. III, Bull. Acad. Polon. Sci. Sér. Sci. Math. Astronom. Phys. 25 (1977), 225-231.

4. D. S. Passman, *The algebraic structure of group rings*, Wiley, New York, 1977.
5. M. Petrich, *Introduction to semigroups*, Merrill, Columbus, Ohio, 1973.
6. A. Quesada, *Properties of twisted semigroup rings*, Thesis, Univ. of Florida, 1978.
7. J. Weissglass, *Semigroup rings and semilattice sums of rings*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **39** (1973), 471–478.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32611 (Current address of M. L. Teply and E. G. Turman)

*Current address* (Antonio Quesada): Department of Mathematics, The Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, Puerto Rico 00731