TRIANGULAR REPRESENTATIONS OF SPLITTING RINGS

BY
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ABSTRACT. The term "splitting ring" refers to a nonsingular ring R such that for any right R -module M , the singular submodule of M is a direct summand of M . If R has zero socle, then R is shown to be isomorphic to a formal triangular matrix ring $\begin{pmatrix} A & C \\ 0 & B \end{pmatrix}$, where A is a semiprime ring, C is a left and right artinian ring, and ${}_CB_A$ is a bimodule. Also, necessary and sufficient conditions are found for such a formal triangular matrix ring to be a splitting ring.

1. Introduction and notation. In [5, Theorem 10], we showed that any right nonsingular ring is an essential product of a ring with essential right socle and a ring with zero right socle. [An essential product of two rings is any subdirect product which contains an essential right ideal of the direct product.] Using this result, [5, Theorem 12] reduces the problem of characterizing splitting rings to characterizing those with either essential socle or zero socle. Since the case of essential socle has been taken care of by [4, Corollary 5.4], only the case of zero socle remains. The purpose of this paper is to study the structure of such a splitting ring with zero socle by representing the ring as a formal triangular matrix ring.

In this paper all rings are associative with identity, and all modules are unital. Unspecified modules are right modules; thus any statement about a bimodule ${}_CB_A$ refers to the module B_A unless the module ${}_CB$ is specifically mentioned. The reader is assumed to be familiar with the standard notions of singular and nonsingular modules; [3] or [4] may be consulted for details.

We give here for reference our notation, which coincides with that in [4]. For any ring R , we let $\mathcal{S}(R)$ denote the collection of essential right ideals of R . The singular submodule of a module A is denoted $Z(A)$, and for a ring R , we use $Z_r(R)$ in place of $Z(R_R)$. A submodule A of a module B is said to be $\mathcal{S}$ -closed in B provided B/A is nonsingular, and we let $L^*(B)$ denote the collection of $\mathcal{S}$ -closed submodules of B . Given any submodule A of B , there is a smallest $\mathcal{S}$ -closed submodule C of B which contains A , and C is called the $\mathcal{S}$ -closure of A in B . We note that the $\mathcal{S}$ -closure of a two-sided ideal in a ring R is again a two-sided ideal of R . For ease of expression, a two-sided ideal of R which belongs to $L^*(R)$ is referred to as a "two-sided ideal in $L^*(R)$ ". Finally, we use S° (or S_R°) to stand for the localization functor associated with a right nonsingular ring R : S° is an exact functor from right R -modules to right modules over the ring $S^\circ R$ (which coincides with the maximal right quotient ring of R).

Received by the editors August 4, 1972.

AMS (MOS) subject classifications (1970). Primary 16A48.

Key words and phrases. Nonsingular ring, singular submodule, splitting properties, splitting ring.

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2. The representation of a splitting ring. In this section, we represent a right nonsingular splitting ring R (with zero socle) as a formal triangular matrix ring $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & C \end{pmatrix}$, where A is a semiprime ring and C is a left and right artinian ring. In order to accomplish this, some sort of chain condition on R is needed. This is provided by Theorem 1, which shows that the prime radical of R is finite dimensional. We conjecture that in fact R itself must be finite dimensional.

Theorem 1. *Let R be a right nonsingular splitting ring such that $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$. If P denotes the prime radical of R , then P_R is finite dimensional.*

Proof. Our general procedure is to show first that all nilpotent ideals of R are finite dimensional. This allows us to prove that P has plenty of finite-dimensional submodules, which we use to show that P itself is finite dimensional. Organizationally, the proof consists of a series of lemmas, some of which are proved in slightly more generality than needed here in order to be used in subsequent theorems. We stipulate that Lemmas C through J include the hypothesis that R is a right nonsingular splitting ring with $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$.

Lemma A. *Let $Z_r(R) = 0$, and let N be any nilpotent two-sided ideal of R . If M is the $\mathcal{S}$ -closure of N_R in R_R , then M is a two-sided ideal in $L^*(R)$ whose left annihilator belongs to $\mathcal{S}(R)$.*

Proof. Letting H denote the left annihilator of M , we infer from the nonsingularity of R that H is also the left annihilator of N . To get $H \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, it suffices to show that any element $x \in R \setminus H$ has a nonzero right multiple in H . Observing that $xN \neq 0$, we infer that there must be a positive integer k for which $xN^k \neq 0$ and $xN^{k+1} = 0$. Choosing some $r \in N^k$ such that $xr \neq 0$, we see that xr is a nonzero element of H .

Lemma B. *Let A be any nonsingular right R -module with zero socle. If B is any submodule of A , then B is the intersection of those essential submodules of A which contain B .*

Proof. Given $x \in A \setminus B$, let K be maximal among those submodules of A which contain B but not x . We claim that K is essential in A .

Letting $f: A \rightarrow A/K$ denote the natural map, we see from the maximality of K that fx is a nonzero element of A/K which is contained in every nonzero submodule of A/K . Thus $(fx)R$ is a simple, essential submodule of A/K . Inasmuch as $\text{soc}(A) = 0$, $(fx)R$ cannot be projective. Recalling that all simple modules are either singular or projective [4, pp. 55, 56], we see that $(fx)R$ must be singular. Since $(A/K)/(fx)R$ is singular also, we infer that A/K is singular. Inasmuch as A is nonsingular, we conclude that K is essential in A .

Lemma C. *Let M be a two-sided ideal in $L^*(R)$ whose left annihilator belongs to $\mathcal{S}(R)$. Then M_R is a direct summand of R_R .*

Proof. If H denotes the left annihilator of M , then H is a two-sided ideal in $\mathcal{S}(R)$. Inasmuch as R/M is a nonsingular right R -module, [4, Lemma 5.2] says that $(R/M)/(R/M)H$ is a projective right (R/H) -module. Then $R/(M+H)$ is projective as an (R/H) -module, whence $(M+H)/H$ is a direct summand of R/H . Thus there exists an element $m \in M$ such that $m^2 - m \in H$ and $mR + H = M + H$.

From the equation $m^2 - m \in H$, we obtain $m^3 - m \in H$. Since $m \in M$, this yields $m^4 - m^2 = 0$; hence the element $e = m^2$ is an idempotent. Observing that $eR + H = M + H$, we multiply this equation on the right by M to obtain $eM = M^2$, whence $M^2 = eR$. Thus M^2 is a direct summand of R_R ; hence it suffices to show that $M = M^2$.

If $M \neq M^2$, then according to Lemma B, M_R must have a proper essential submodule K which contains M^2 . We infer that $M/K = Z(R/K)$, from which it follows that M/K is a direct summand of R/K . Thus R must have a right ideal J such that $M + J = R$ and $M \cap J = K$. Observing that $M = M^2 + JM$, we obtain $M \leq J$, which leads to the contradiction $M = K$.

Lemma D. Let e be an idempotent in the ring $Q = S^\circ R$ such that $R \cap eQ$ is a two-sided ideal of R .

- (a) Re is a unital subring of eQe .
- (b) Re is an essential right (Re) -submodule of eQe .
- (c) $Z_r(Re) = 0$ and $S^\circ(Re) = eQe$.

Proof. (a) We must show that Re is closed under multiplication, and that e is an identity for Re . Given any $x \in R$, we have $x(R \cap eQ) \leq R \cap eQ \leq eQ$. Since $R \cap eQ$ is essential in eQ , it follows that $x(eQ) \leq eQ$. Therefore $Re \subset eQ$, from which the required results are immediate.

(b) If not, then eQe contains a nonzero element t such that $Re \cap tRe = 0$.

Since tQ is nonzero, it cannot be a singular right R -module. Thinking of t as an endomorphism of Q_R , it follows that $\ker t$ cannot be essential in Q_R . Inasmuch as R_R is essential in Q_R , we infer that $R \cap t^{-1}R$ is essential in Q_R , and thus that $(R \cap t^{-1}R \cap eQ) \otimes (1 - e)Q$ is essential in Q_R . Therefore $(R \cap t^{-1}R \cap eQ) \otimes (1 - e)Q$ cannot be contained in $\ker t$. Noting that $(1 - e)Q \leq \ker t$ already, we see that $R \cap t^{-1}R \cap eQ \not\leq R \cap \ker t$. In view of Lemma B, it follows that $R \cap t^{-1}R$ must have an essential submodule F which contains $R \cap \ker t$ but not $R \cap t^{-1}R \cap eQ$.

Set $I = \{(x, tx) \mid x \in F\}$ and $J = \{(x, tx) \mid x \in R \cap t^{-1}R\}$, both of which are submodules of R^2 . Since F is essential in $R \cap t^{-1}R$, it follows that I is essential in J , whence J/I is singular. There exists a map $f: R^2 \rightarrow Q$ given by $f(x, y) = y - tx$, and we check that $\ker f = J$. Thus R^2/J is nonsingular; hence $J/I = Z(R^2/I)$. Therefore R^2 must contain a submodule K for which $J + K = R^2$ and $J \cap K = I$.

There exists an element $x \in (R \cap t^{-1}R \cap eQ) \setminus F$. Set $m_1 = x$ and $m_2 = tx$,

and note that $m_1, m_2 \in R \cap eQ$. Also, let z_1 and z_2 denote the elements $(1,0)$ and $(0,1)$ in R^2 .

Since $R^2 = J + K$, we obtain $z_i + (u_i, tu_i) \in K$ for some $u_i \in R \cap t^{-1}R$. Note that $z_i m_i + (u_i m_i, tu_i m_i) \in K$ also. Observing that $tu_i \in R \cap tR$, we obtain $tu_i e \in Re \cap tRe = 0$, and thus $tu_i m_i = tu_i e m_i = 0$. Therefore $u_i m_i \in R \cap \ker t \leq F$, so that $(u_i m_i, tu_i m_i) \in I \leq K$, from which we get $z_i m_i \in K$.

Now $(x, tx) = z_1 m_1 + z_2 m_2 \in K$. Since $x \in R \cap t^{-1}R$, we also have $(x, tx) \in J$, whence $(x, tx) \in I$. Thus $x \in F$, which is a contradiction.

(c) Inasmuch as Q is a regular, right self-injective ring, eQ must be a nonsingular injective right Q -module. According to [4, Proposition 1.17], eQe is thus a regular, right self-injective ring. In view of (a) and (b), [4, Proposition 1.16] now says that $Z_r(Re) = 0$ and $S^\circ(Re) = eQe$.

Lemma E. *Let e be an idempotent in R such that eR is a two-sided ideal. If $R(1 - e) \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, then all nonsingular right (eRe) -modules are projective.*

Proof. Setting $C = eRe$, we see from Lemma D that $Z_r(C) = 0$ and $S^\circ C = eQe$, where $Q = S^\circ R$. Lemma D also shows that $C = Re$, from which we infer that $r \mapsto re$ is a unital ring map of R onto C . Therefore $C \cong R/R(1 - e)$. Since $R(1 - e) \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, it follows as in [4, Theorem 5.3] that C is a right perfect ring. According to [1, Theorem P], this means that all flat right C -modules are projective; hence it suffices to show that all nonsingular right C -modules are flat. By [4, Proposition 2.1], this is equivalent to showing that $(S^\circ C)_C$ is flat and that $\text{GWD}(C) \leq 1$. We shall prove this by showing that all right C -submodules of $S^\circ C$ are flat.

Thus consider any $E \leq (eQe)_C$. Noting that ER is a nonsingular right R -module and that $H = R(1 - e)$ is a two-sided ideal in $\mathcal{S}(R)$, we obtain from [4, Lemma 5.2] that ER/EH is a projective right (R/H) -module. We have an abelian group epimorphism $f: ER \rightarrow E$ given by $fx = xe$, and it is easily checked that the kernel of f is EH . Inasmuch as $f(xr) = (fx)(re)$ for all $x \in ER$ and $r \in R$, we conclude that E must be a projective right C -module. Therefore E_C is certainly flat.

Lemma F. *If N is any nilpotent two-sided ideal of R , then N_R is finite dimensional.*

Proof. Setting M equal to the $\mathcal{S}$ -closure of N_R in R_R , we see from Lemma A that M is a two-sided ideal in $L^*(R)$ whose left annihilator belongs to $\mathcal{S}(R)$. In view of Lemma C, there exists an idempotent $e \in R$ such that $eR = M$. Then Lemmas D and E say that $Z_r(eRe) = 0$ and that all nonsingular right (eRe) -modules are projective. According to [4, Theorem 2.11], eRe must be finite dimensional as a right module over itself. Letting $Q = S^\circ R$, we have $S^\circ(eRe) = eQe$ by Lemma D; hence [4, Theorem 1.26] says that eQe is a semisimple ring.

There must exist orthogonal idempotents $e_1, \dots, e_n \in eQe$ such that $e_1 + \dots + e_n = e$ and each $e_i Q e_i$ is a division ring. Noting that Q is a semiprime ring (because it is regular), we see from [6, Proposition 2, p. 63] that the $e_i Q$ are

minimal right ideals of Q . Therefore eQ is a finitely generated semisimple right Q -module. Observing that $S^\circ(eR) = eQ$, we infer from [4, Theorem 1.24] that $(eR)_R$ is finite dimensional, whence N_R is finite dimensional.

Lemma G. *Let P denote the prime radical of R . Then any nonzero submodule of P_R contains a nonzero finite-dimensional submodule.*

Proof. Let T denote the union of all nilpotent two-sided ideals of R , and note that T is a two-sided ideal. Any nonzero submodule A of T_R must have nonzero intersection with some nilpotent two-sided ideal N , and $A \cap N$ is a finite dimensional module by Lemma F. Therefore every nonzero submodule of T_R has a nonzero finite dimensional submodule. To prove that P_R satisfies the same property, it suffices to show that T_R is essential in P_R .

Let H be maximal among those two-sided ideals of R containing T for which T_R is essential in H_R . We claim that $P \leq H$.

Suppose not. Inasmuch as P is contained in every semiprime ideal of R [7, Theorem 4.20], H cannot be a semiprime ideal. Thus there exists a two-sided ideal K , properly containing H , such that $K^2 \leq H$. Due to the maximality of H , T_R is not essential in K_R , from which we infer that H_R is not essential in K_R . Therefore there exists a nonzero element $x \in K$ which has no nonzero right multiples in H . Letting J denote the left annihilator of K , we infer from the equation $K^2 \leq H$ that $x \in J \cap K$. But $J \cap K$ is nilpotent and hence contained in T , from which it follows that $x \in H$, which is impossible.

Therefore $P \leq H$; hence T_R is essential in P_R .

Lemma H. *The ring $Q = S^\circ R$ is a splitting ring.*

Proof. We first show that $Q \otimes_R Q$ is a nonsingular right R -module. According to [2, Theorem 1.6], it suffices to show that for any $a \in Q$, the right ideal $I = \{x \in R | ax \in R\}$ has a finitely generated essential submodule. Using [4, Theorem 4.6 and Proposition 4.8], we see that I is AFG, i.e., that $I/\text{soc}(I)$ is finitely generated. Inasmuch as $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$, it follows that I is finitely generated. Therefore $(Q \otimes_R Q)_R$ is nonsingular. According to [4, Lemma 1.25], it follows that the natural map $Q \otimes_R Q \rightarrow Q$ is an isomorphism.

We must show that any short exact sequence $E: 0 \rightarrow C \rightarrow B \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0$ splits, where A , B , and C are right Q -modules such that C is singular and A is nonsingular. According to [4, Proposition 1.10], C_R is singular and A_R is nonsingular, whence E splits as a sequence of R -modules. Thus we obtain a split exact sequence $E^*: 0 \rightarrow C \otimes_R Q \rightarrow B \otimes_R Q \rightarrow A \otimes_R Q \rightarrow 0$ of right Q -modules. Inasmuch as the natural map $Q \otimes_R Q \rightarrow Q$ is an isomorphism, we infer that E^* is naturally isomorphic to E , hence E must split.

Lemma I. *If $Q = S^\circ R$, then $\text{soc}(Q_Q)$ is finitely generated.*

Proof. According to [5, Theorem 10], Q is an essential product of a ring with essential right socle and ring with zero right socle. Inasmuch as Q is its own maximal right quotient ring, it follows from [5, Proposition 2] that Q is actually

a direct product $H \times K$, where H_H has essential socle and K_K has zero socle. If J denotes the socle of Q_Q , then we see that also $J = \text{soc}(H_H)$, and J_H is essential in H_H .

It follows from Lemma H that H is a splitting ring; hence [4, Corollary 5.4] says that H/J is a semiprimary ring. Since Q is a regular ring, we infer that H/J is also a regular ring, whence H/J is actually a semisimple ring.

Now suppose that J_Q is not finitely generated. Then we can write $J = \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} J_n$, where each J_n is an infinite direct sum of simple modules. Observing that H_H is injective (since Q_Q is injective), we infer that for each positive integer s , there must exist an idempotent $e_s \in H$ such that $e_s H$ is an injective hull for J_s and $(1 - e_s)H$ is an injective hull for $\bigoplus_{n \neq s} J_n$. Note that the idempotents e_s are mutually orthogonal. Inasmuch as $e_s H$ contains the infinite direct sum J_s , it follows that $e_s H$ cannot be semisimple. Thus $e_s H \not\leq J$, i.e., $e_s \notin J$. Therefore the images of the elements e_s in H/J form an infinite orthogonal sequence of nonzero idempotents, which contradicts the fact that H/J is a semisimple ring.

Lemma J. *If P denotes the prime radical of R , then P_R is finite dimensional.*

Proof. Set $Q = S^\circ R$ and $J = \text{soc}(Q_Q)$, and let F denote the sum of all the finite-dimensional submodules of P_R . It follows from Lemma G that F is essential in P_R , from which we infer that $S^\circ F = S^\circ P$. If A is any finite-dimensional submodule of P_R , then [4, Theorem 1.24] says that $S^\circ A$ is a finitely generated semisimple right Q -module; hence $A \leq S^\circ A \leq J$. Thus $F \leq J$, and so $S^\circ P = S^\circ F \leq S^\circ J$.

According to Lemma I, J_Q is finitely generated. Inasmuch as Q is a regular ring, it follows that J is a direct summand of Q , from which we infer that $S^\circ J = J$. Therefore $S^\circ P \leq J$, whence $S^\circ P$ is a finitely generated semisimple right Q -module. By [4, Theorem 1.24], P_R must be finite dimensional.

Theorem 2. *Let R be a right nonsingular splitting ring with $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$. Then R is isomorphic to a formal triangular matrix ring $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ {}_c B & C \end{pmatrix}$, where A is a semiprime ring, C is a left and right artinian ring, and ${}_c B$ is faithful.*

Proof. We first need a maximal element in the collection $\mathcal{A}$ of those two-sided ideals in $L^*(R)$ whose left annihilators belong to $\mathcal{S}(R)$. Let P denote the prime radical of R , and set $\mathcal{B} = \{A \cap P \mid A \in \mathcal{A}\}$. Inasmuch as P_R is finite dimensional by Theorem 1, [4, Theorem 1.24] says that $L^*(P)$ has ACC. Thus $\mathcal{B}$ must have a maximal element, which is of the form $M \cap P$ for some $M \in \mathcal{A}$. We claim that M is maximal in $\mathcal{A}$.

Consider any ideal $N \in \mathcal{A}$ which contains M . Letting K denote the left annihilator of N , we see that $N \cap K$ is nilpotent and hence contained in P , whence $N \cap K \leq N \cap P$. The maximality of $M \cap P$ implies that $N \cap P = M \cap P$, from which we obtain $N \cap K \leq M$. Observing that $K \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, we see that $(N \cap K)_R$ is essential in N_R . Inasmuch as $M \in L^*(R)$, it follows that $N \leq M$. Therefore M is maximal in $\mathcal{A}$.

We next claim that R/M is a semiprime ring. If not, then it must have a nonzero nilpotent two-sided ideal N/M . Letting T denote the $\mathcal{S}$ -closure of N_R in R_R , it follows just as in Lemma A that the ideal $H = \{r \in R \mid rT \leq M\}$ must belong to $\mathcal{S}(R)$. Inasmuch as the left annihilator K of M also belongs to $\mathcal{S}(R)$, we see that R/K and K/KH are both singular right R -modules, whence R/KH is singular and $KH \in \mathcal{S}(R)$. Noting that $KHT = 0$, we infer that the left annihilator of T belongs to $\mathcal{S}(R)$. But then $T \in \mathcal{A}$, which contradicts the maximality of M .

According to Lemma C, there exists an idempotent $e \in R$ such that $eR = M$. Since eR is a two-sided ideal, we obtain $(1 - e)Re = 0$. Therefore R is isomorphic to the ring $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & C \end{pmatrix}$, where $A = (1 - e)R(1 - e)$, $B = eR(1 - e)$, and $C = eRe$. Observing that $R/M \cong A$, we see that A is a semiprime ring.

Since $M \in \mathcal{A}$, its left annihilator $R(1 - e)$ must belong to $\mathcal{S}(R)$. According to Lemmas D and E, $Z_r(C) = 0$ and all nonsingular right C -modules are projective; hence [4, Theorem 2.12] shows that C is left and right artinian. Any $x \in C$ satisfying $xB = 0$ must also satisfy $xR(1 - e) = 0$, and then $x = 0$ [because $R(1 - e) \in \mathcal{S}(R)$]. Therefore ${}_CB$ is faithful.

3. Formal triangular matrix rings. The purpose of this section is to derive a few basic properties of a formal triangular matrix ring $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & C \end{pmatrix}$. We are mainly interested in when such a ring can be nonsingular, and in finding the maximal quotient ring of such a ring.

Throughout this section, we assume that A and C are rings, that ${}_CB_A$ is a bimodule, and that R is the ring $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & C \end{pmatrix}$. In order to avoid some unnecessary complications, we also make the stipulation that ${}_CB$ is faithful.

Proposition 3. (a) *A right ideal I of R belongs to $\mathcal{S}(R)$ if and only if it contains a right ideal of the form $\begin{pmatrix} J & 0 \\ K & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, where $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$ and K_A is essential in B_A .*

(b) *R_R is nonsingular if and only if A_A and B_A are both nonsingular.*

$$(c) \quad \text{soc}(R_R) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{soc}(A_A) & 0 \\ \text{soc}(B_A) & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proof. (a) If $I \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, then it is easily seen to contain such a right ideal. Conversely, if I contains a right ideal $\begin{pmatrix} J & 0 \\ K & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ of the form described, then we easily infer that $\begin{pmatrix} J & 0 \\ K & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is essential in $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Inasmuch as ${}_CB$ is faithful, it follows that $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, from which we infer that $\begin{pmatrix} J & 0 \\ K & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, and then that $I \in \mathcal{S}(R)$.

(b) If R_R is nonsingular, then it is immediate from (a) that A_A and B_A are nonsingular. Conversely, assume that A_A and B_A are nonsingular, and consider any element $\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & c \end{pmatrix} \in Z_r(R)$. In view of (a), we obtain $\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J & 0 \\ K & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0$ for some $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$ and some essential submodule K of B . We have $aJ = 0$ and $bJ = 0$; hence $a = 0$ and $b = 0$. We also have $cK = 0$, whence cB is an epimorphic image of the singular module B/K . It follows that $cB = 0$, and then the faithfulness of ${}_CB$ implies that $c = 0$. Therefore $Z_r(R) = 0$.

(c) According to [4, Corollary 1.3], the socle of any module is the intersection of its essential submodules; hence (c) follows immediately from (a).

Let us now assume that A_A and B_A are nonsingular, so that R_R is nonsingular. Set $T = \text{End}_A(S^\circ B)$ and $X = \text{Hom}_A(S^\circ B, S^\circ A)$. Since ${}_C B$ is faithful, we may think of C as a subring of the endomorphism ring of B_A . Then each element $c \in C$ induces a unique endomorphism $S^\circ c$ of $S^\circ B$; hence we obtain an embedding $c \mapsto S^\circ c$ of $C \rightarrow T$. For ease of notation, we may thus assume that C is a unital subring of T satisfying $CB \leq B$. We note that the faithfulness of ${}_C B$ is now a consequence of the assumption that C is a subring of T .

Proposition 4. $S^\circ R = \begin{pmatrix} S^\circ A & X \\ S^\circ B & T \end{pmatrix}$.

[Note. To multiply an element $b \in S^\circ B$ by an element $f \in X$, we just let bf stand for the map $x \mapsto b(fx)$.]

Proof. Set $Q = \begin{pmatrix} S^\circ A & X \\ S^\circ B & T \end{pmatrix}$. Recalling that the $S^\circ A$ -homomorphisms from $S^\circ A$ to $S^\circ A$ or to $S^\circ B$ are the same as the A -homomorphisms, we see that $S^\circ A$ and $S^\circ B$ may be identified with $\text{End}_A(S^\circ A)$ and $\text{Hom}_A(S^\circ A, S^\circ B)$. With these identifications, Q is naturally isomorphic to the ring $\text{End}_A(S^\circ A \otimes S^\circ B)$. Inasmuch as $S^\circ A \otimes S^\circ B$ is a nonsingular injective right A -module, it follows from [4, Proposition 1.17] that Q is regular and right self-injective.

Inasmuch as A is essential in $S^\circ A$ and B is essential in $S^\circ B$, we see that R_R is essential in the module $P_R = \begin{pmatrix} S^\circ A & 0 \\ S^\circ B & C \end{pmatrix}$. Now P is also a unital subring of Q , and we check that P_P is essential in Q_P , from which it is easy to infer that R_R is essential in Q_R . According to [4, Proposition 1.16], it follows that $S^\circ R = Q$.

4. Triangular splitting rings. This section is devoted to developing necessary and sufficient conditions for a formal triangular matrix ring (with zero socle) to be a splitting ring. In light of §3, we assume throughout this section that:

- (a) A is a right nonsingular ring.
- (b) B is a nonsingular right A -module.
- (c) C is a unital subring of $T = \text{End}_A(S^\circ B)$ such that $CB \leq B$.
- (d) $R = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & C \end{pmatrix}$.

For convenience, we label the following three two-sided ideals of R :

$$R_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ B & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad R_{23} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ B & C \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that ${}_R(R/R_{12})$ and $(R/R_{23})_R$ are projective, that $R_{12} \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, and that $R_{23} \in L^*(R)$.

Theorem 5. Assume that $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$. If R is a splitting ring, then

- (a) A is a splitting ring.
- (b) B_A is injective.
- (c) C_C is essential in T_C .
- (d) All nonsingular right C -modules are projective.

(For characterizations of rings satisfying (d), see [4, Theorems 2.11, 2.12, and 2.15].)

Proof. (a) Note that $A \cong R/R_{23}$. Since R_{23} is a two-sided ideal in $L^*(R)$, [4, Proposition 1.11] says that the singular submodule of any right (R/R_{23}) -module is the same whether considered as an (R/R_{23}) -module or as an R -module. Thus R/R_{23} must be a splitting ring.

(c)(d) The element $e = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ is an idempotent in R such that eR is a two-sided ideal and such that $R(1 - e) \in \mathcal{S}(R)$. In view of Proposition 4, we see that $eRe = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix}$ and $e(S^\circ R)e = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$. According to Lemmas D and E, it follows that C_C is essential in T_C and that all nonsingular right C -modules are projective. For use in the proof of (b), we note that Lemma D also says that $Z_r(C) = 0$ and that $S^\circ C = T$.

(b) We proceed via several lemmas. With the exception of Lemma N, we stipulate that Lemmas K through O all include the hypothesis that R is a splitting ring with $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$.

Lemma K. $S^\circ B$ is a finitely generated semisimple right $S^\circ A$ -module.

Proof. Since R_2 is nilpotent and therefore contained in the prime radical of R , Theorem 1 says that R_2 is a finite-dimensional right R -module. Thus B_A must be finite dimensional. According to [4, Theorem 1.24], $S^\circ B$ is finitely generated and semisimple.

Lemma L. If M is any simple $S^\circ A$ -submodule of $S^\circ B$, then there exists an idempotent $e \in C$ such that $e(S^\circ B) = M$ and $eTe = eCe$.

Proof. In view of Lemma K, M must be a direct summand of $S^\circ B$; hence $M = f(S^\circ B)$ for some idempotent $f \in T$. Inasmuch as the A -endomorphisms of M coincide with the $S^\circ A$ -endomorphisms, we infer that fTf is isomorphic to the ring of $S^\circ A$ -endomorphisms of M , from which it follows that fTf is a division ring. Noting that T is regular and therefore semiprime, we obtain from [6, Proposition 2, p. 63] that fT is a minimal right ideal of T .

Observing that $C/(C \cap fT)$ is a nonsingular right C -module, we see from (d) that $C \cap fT = eC$ for some idempotent $e \in C$. Since C_C is essential in T_C by (c), we obtain $C \cap fT \neq 0$, whence the minimality of fT implies that $eT = fT$. Therefore $e(S^\circ B) = f(S^\circ B) = M$. Since eT is a minimal right ideal of T , it follows as in the proof of [4, Theorem 2.14] that eT must be a uniserial right C -module. In particular, eC must be a characteristic submodule of eT , from which we infer that $(eTe)(eC) \leq eC$; hence $eTe = eCe$.

Lemma M. Let M be any simple $S^\circ A$ -submodule of $S^\circ B$. If $I = \{a \in A \mid (M \cap B)a = 0\}$, then $MI = 0$.

Proof. Set $Q = S^\circ R$ and $H = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, and note that H is a two-sided ideal of R . Since $S^\circ I$ is injective, we must have $S^\circ I = f(S^\circ A)$ for some idempotent $f \in S^\circ A$. Setting $g = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, we infer that H_R is essential in gQ , from which it

follows that $S^\circ H = gQ$. Thus $R \cap gQ$ is the $\mathcal{S}$ -closure of H_R in R_R , which is a two-sided ideal of R .

According to Lemma D, Rg is a unital subring of gQg and Rg is an essential right (Rg) -submodule of gQg . Observing that

$$Rg = \begin{pmatrix} Af & 0 \\ Bf & C \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad gQg = \begin{pmatrix} f(S^\circ A)f & fX \\ (S^\circ B)f & T \end{pmatrix},$$

we infer that Af is a unital subring of $f(S^\circ A)f$ and that Bf is an essential right (Af) -submodule of $(S^\circ B)f$.

According to Lemma L, there exists an idempotent $e \in C$ such that $e(S^\circ B) = M$. Since $e \in C$, we have $eB \leq B$, whence $eB = M \cap B$. Thus $eBI = 0$; hence $eB(S^\circ I)$ is a sum of epimorphic images of the singular module $S^\circ I/I$. It follows that $eB(S^\circ I) = 0$, whence $eBf = 0$. Observing that eBf is an essential right (Af) -submodule of $e(S^\circ B)f$, we obtain $e(S^\circ B)f = 0$, from which we conclude that $MI = 0$.

Lemma N. [*For this lemma, we only need the hypotheses that $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$ and that A is a splitting ring.*] Let M be any simple $S^\circ A$ -submodule of $S^\circ B$. If $I = \{a \in A \mid Ma = 0\}$, then $Z_r(A/I) = 0$, M is a simple right $S^\circ(A/I)$ -module, and $S^\circ(A/I)$ is a simple artinian ring.

Proof. Inasmuch as M is nonsingular, we see that $I \in L^*(A)$. According to [4, Proposition 1.11], it follows that $Z_r(A/I) = 0$ and that the singular submodule of any right (A/I) -module is the same whether considered as an (A/I) -module or as an A -module. Since A is a splitting ring, it follows that A/I is a splitting ring also. By Proposition 3, we have $\text{soc}(A_A) = 0$. Recalling that all simple nonsingular modules are projective [4, pp. 55, 56], we infer that the ring A/I must have zero right socle. Setting $P = S^\circ(A/I)$, we thus obtain from Lemma I that $\text{soc}(P_P)$ is finitely generated. Inasmuch as P is a regular ring, $\text{soc}(P_P)$ must thus be a direct summand of P_P .

Noting that M is finitely generated as an $S^\circ A$ -module, we see from [4, Proposition 1.15] that M is a direct summand of $S^\circ B$, from which it follows that M_A is injective. Since $MI = 0$, M is also an injective right (A/I) -module. Now M is nonsingular as an A -module and thus as an (A/I) -module; hence we obtain $S_{A/I}^\circ M = M$. Therefore M is a right P -module.

Inasmuch as $S_A^\circ M = M$, the simplicity of M implies that M is indecomposable as an A -module, from which we infer that M must also be indecomposable as a P -module. Noting from [4, Proposition 1.15] that all finitely generated P -submodules of M are direct summands of M , we conclude that M is a simple P -module.

Observing that $\{x \in P \mid Mx = 0\} \cap (A/I) = 0$, we obtain $\{x \in P \mid Mx = 0\} = 0$. Therefore M is a faithful simple P -module; hence P is a primitive

ring. In particular, P is a prime ring. The module M_P is also nonsingular and simple, hence projective, from which we see that P must contain a minimal right ideal. Thus $\text{soc}(P_P)$ is a nonzero two-sided ideal in the prime ring P ; hence the left annihilator of $\text{soc}(P_P)$ must be zero. It follows that $\text{soc}(P_P)$ is an essential right ideal of P . Since $\text{soc}(P_P)$ is also a direct summand of P , we conclude that $\text{soc}(P_P) = P$, i.e., P is a semisimple ring. Inasmuch as P is prime, it must therefore be simple artinian.

Lemma O. B_A is injective.

Proof. Suppose not. Since $S^\circ B$ is an injective A -module, we obtain $B < S^\circ B$. In view of Lemma K, $S^\circ B$ must contain a simple $S^\circ A$ -submodule M such that $M \not\leq B$, i.e., $M \cap B < M$. Setting $I = \{a \in A \mid (M \cap B)a = 0\}$ and $P = S^\circ(A/I)$, we see from Lemmas M and N that $MI = 0$, $Z_r(A/I) = 0$, M is a simple right P -module, and P is a simple artinian ring. Note that since $\{x \in P \mid (M \cap B)x = 0\} \cap (A/I) = 0$, we obtain $\{x \in P \mid (M \cap B)x = 0\} = 0$.

According to Lemma L, there exists an idempotent $e \in C$ such that $e(S^\circ B) = M$ and $eTe = eCe$. Inasmuch as $CB \leq B$, we infer that $M \cap B$ is a left (eTe) -submodule of M .

The P -endomorphisms of M coincide with the (A/I) -endomorphisms, and the A -endomorphisms of M are just the left multiplications by the elements of eTe ; hence we may identify eTe with the endomorphism ring of M_P . Since M_P is simple and P is a simple artinian ring, we infer that eTe is a division ring, that M is a finite-dimensional left vector space over eTe , and that P is the ring of all linear transformations on M . However, $M \cap B$ is a proper subspace of M , and no nonzero element of P annihilates $M \cap B$, which is impossible.

Theorem 6. Assume that $\text{soc}(R_R) = 0$. If the following conditions are satisfied, then R is a splitting ring:

- (a) A is a splitting ring.
- (b) B_A is injective.
- (c) C_C is essential in T_C .
- (d) All nonsingular right C -modules are projective.

Proof. Once again we organize the proof as a series of lemmas. We stipulate that each of Lemmas P through U contains conditions (a)–(d) in its hypotheses.

Lemma P. Any direct sum of copies of B_A is injective.

Proof. Since T is the endomorphism ring of the nonsingular injective module $S^\circ B$, [4, Proposition 1.17] says that T is a regular, right self-injective ring. In light of condition (c), we see from [4, Proposition 1.16] that $Z_r(C) = 0$ and $S^\circ C = T$. According to [4, Theorem 2.11], condition (d) implies that C_C is finite dimensional, whence [4, Theorem 1.26] says that T is a semisimple ring.

Now there exist orthogonal idempotents $e_1, \dots, e_n \in T$ such that $e_1 + \dots + e_n = 1$ and each $e_i T e_i$ is a division ring. Observing from condition (b) that $S^\circ B = B$, we see that $B = e_1 B \otimes \dots \otimes e_n B$, and that each $e_i B$ is an indecomposable A -module, hence an indecomposable $S^\circ A$ -module. According to [4, Proposition 1.15], every finitely generated $S^\circ A$ -submodule of B is a direct summand of B , from which we infer that the modules $e_i B$ are simple $S^\circ A$ -modules.

To show that any direct sum of copies of B_A is injective, it suffices to show that any direct sum of copies of M_A is injective, where M is any one of the modules $e_i B$. Setting $I = \{a \in A \mid Ma = 0\}$, we obtain from Lemma N that $Z_r(A/I) = 0$ and that $S^\circ(A/I)$ is a simple artinian ring. According to [4, Theorem 1.26], all direct sums of nonsingular injective (A/I) -modules are injective. Inasmuch as M is a nonsingular injective A -module, it must also be a nonsingular injective (A/I) -module; hence any direct sum $\bigoplus M_i$ of copies of M must be injective as an (A/I) -module. Noting that $\prod M_i$ is an (A/I) -module, we infer that $\bigoplus M_i$ is a direct summand of $\prod M_i$, from which it follows that $\bigoplus M_i$ is injective as an A -module.

Lemma Q. *If N is any nonsingular right R -module, then NR_{23} is a direct summand of N .*

Proof. The module NR_2 must be isomorphic to F/K for some direct sum F of copies of R_2 and some $K \in L^*(F)$. In view of Lemma P, we infer that F is injective as a right (R/R_{23}) -module. Inasmuch as $K \in L^*(F)$, it follows that K must be a direct summand of F , and thus that NR_2 is injective as an (R/R_{23}) -module. Noting that NR_{12} is an (R/R_{23}) -module which contains NR_2 , we conclude that $NR_{12} = NR_2 \otimes W$ for some W .

Since R_2 is essential in R_{23} , it follows that R_{23}/R_2 is a singular right R -module. Noting that NR_{23}/NR_2 is a sum of epimorphic images of R_{23}/R_2 , we see that NR_{23}/NR_2 is singular. Inasmuch as NR_{23} is nonsingular, it follows that NR_2 is essential in NR_{23} . We now take the equation $NR_2 \cap W = 0$ and infer from this that $NR_{23} \cap W = 0$. Checking that $N = NR_{23} + NR_{12} = NR_{23} + W$, we conclude that $N = NR_{23} \otimes W$.

Lemma R. *If N is any nonsingular right R -module, then N/NR_{12} is a projective right (R/R_{12}) -module.*

Proof. In view of condition (d), it suffices to show that N/NR_{12} is nonsingular as an (R/R_{12}) -module. Since N_R is nonsingular, there exists a monomorphism $N \rightarrow \prod Q_i$, where each Q_i is a copy of $Q = S^\circ R$. Inasmuch as ${}_R(R/R_{12})$ is finitely generated and projective, we obtain another monomorphism

$$N \otimes_R (R/R_{12}) \rightarrow (\prod Q_i) \otimes_R (R/R_{12}) \rightarrow \prod [Q \otimes_R (R/R_{12})].$$

Thus N/NR_{12} is embedded in a direct product of copies of Q/QR_{12} ; hence it suffices to show that Q/QR_{12} is nonsingular as an (R/R_{12}) -module. Using Proposition 4 to check that

$$Q/QR_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} S^\circ A & X \\ S^\circ B & T \end{pmatrix} / \begin{pmatrix} S^\circ A & 0 \\ S^\circ B & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

we infer that it suffices to prove that X_C and T_C are nonsingular.

As in Lemma P, we have $Z_r(C) = 0$ and $S^\circ C = T$, whence T_C is nonsingular. Now consider any element $f \in Z(X_C)$. Since f maps $S^\circ B$ into the nonsingular module $S^\circ A$, we have $\ker f \in L^*(S^\circ B)$. Inasmuch as $S^\circ B$ is injective, it follows that $\ker f = e(S^\circ B)$ for some idempotent $e \in T$. We now infer that $fT \cong (1 - e)T$, from which it follows that $(fT)_C$ is nonsingular, and thus $f = 0$. Therefore $Z(X_C) = 0$.

Lemma S. *Let n be any positive integer, and let $K \in L^*(B^n)$. If $J = \{x \in C^n \mid xB \leq K\}$, then $JB = K$.*

Proof. As in Lemma P, we have $Z_r(C) = 0$ and $S^\circ C = T$. In light of condition (d), we see from [4, Theorem 2.5] that C is right semihereditary and that $Z[(T \otimes_C T)_C] = 0$. Then [4, Lemma 2.2] says that ${}_C T$ is flat, while [4, Lemma 1.25] shows that the natural map $T \otimes_C T \rightarrow T$ is an isomorphism.

Inasmuch as B_A is injective, we have $B = S^\circ B$; hence B is a left T -module. Then ${}_T B$ is flat because T is a regular ring, and we infer from the flatness of ${}_C T$ that ${}_C B$ must be flat.

Setting $L = \{x \in T^n \mid xB \leq K\}$, we note that L is a right T -submodule of T^n . We have a monomorphism $C^n/J \rightarrow T^n/L$, from which we obtain another monomorphism $(C^n/J) \otimes_C B \rightarrow (T^n/L) \otimes_C B$. Now $(C^n/J) \otimes_C B$ is naturally isomorphic to B^n/JB , and we also have natural isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} (T^n/L) \otimes_C B &\rightarrow (T^n/L) \otimes_T T \otimes_C T \otimes_T B \rightarrow (T^n/L) \otimes_T T \otimes_T B \\ &\rightarrow (T^n/L) \otimes_T B \rightarrow B^n/LB; \end{aligned}$$

hence we conclude that the natural map $B^n/JB \rightarrow B^n/LB$ is injective. Therefore $JB = LB$.

Inasmuch as B^n is injective and $K \in L^*(B^n)$, K must be a direct summand of B^n . Thus there exists an idempotent $n \times n$ matrix p over T such that $pB^n = K$. Given any $x \in K$, we can obtain $x = u_1 b_1 + \cdots + u_n b_n$ for appropriate choices of $u_i \in T^n$ and $b_i \in B$. Since each $pu_i B \leq pB^n = K$, we see that each $pu_i \in L$. Observing that $x = px$, it follows that $x \in LB$. Therefore $K = LB = JB$.

Lemma T. *If N is any nonsingular right R -module, then $\text{Tor}_1^R(N, R/R_{23}) = 0$.*

Proof. We may assume, without loss of generality, that N is finitely generated, and we shall prove that the map $N \otimes_R R_{23} \rightarrow N$ is injective. Inasmuch as NR_{23} is a direct summand of N by Lemma Q, the map $f: NR_{23} \otimes_R R_{23} \rightarrow N \otimes_R R_{23}$ is

injective. Noting that R_{23} is idempotent, we see that f is also surjective and hence an isomorphism. Thus it suffices to prove that $NR_{23} \otimes_R R_{23} \rightarrow NR_{23}$ is injective.

Since N is finitely generated, we obtain $NR_{23} \cong R_{23}^n/H$ for some positive integer n and some $H \in L^*(R_{23}^n)$. We check that $H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & K \end{pmatrix}$ for some $K \in L^*(B^n)$ and some $J \leq C^n$. Since H is a submodule of R_{23}^n , we must have $JB \leq K$. Given any $x \in C^n$ for which $xB \leq K$, we see that $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x \end{pmatrix} R_{12} \leq H$. Inasmuch as $R_{12} \in \mathcal{S}(R)$, it follows that $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x \end{pmatrix} \in H$, whence $x \in J$. Therefore $J = \{x \in C^n \mid xB \leq K\}$; hence according to Lemma S we obtain $JB = K$.

Now $HR_{23} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & J \end{pmatrix} = H$; hence the map $H/HR_{23} \rightarrow R_{23}^n/(R_{23}^n)R_{23}$ is injective. Inasmuch as R_{23}^n is projective, it follows that $\text{Tor}_1^R(R_{23}^n/H, R/R_{23}) = 0$, i.e., $\text{Tor}_1^R(NR_{23}, R/R_{23}) = 0$. Therefore $NR_{23} \otimes_R R_{23} \rightarrow NR_{23}$ is injective.

Lemma U. *R is a splitting ring.*

Proof. We must show that $\text{Ext}_R^1(N, W) = 0$ whenever N is a nonsingular right R -module and W is a singular right R -module. Since it suffices to show that $\text{Ext}_R^1(N, W/WR_{12}) = 0$ and $\text{Ext}_R^1(N, WR_{12}) = 0$, we may assume that either $WR_{12} = 0$ or $WR_{23} = 0$.

Case I. $WR_{12} = 0$. Consider any short exact sequence $E: 0 \rightarrow W \rightarrow V \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ of right R -modules. Since ${}_R(R/R_{12})$ is projective, we obtain another exact sequence $E^*: 0 \rightarrow W \rightarrow V/VR_{12} \rightarrow N/NR_{12} \rightarrow 0$. According to Lemma R, N/NR_{12} is a projective right (R/R_{12}) -module; hence E^* splits, from which we infer that E splits.

Case II. $WR_{23} = 0$. Consider any short exact sequence $E: 0 \rightarrow W \rightarrow V \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ of right R -modules. Noting from Lemma T that $\text{Tor}_1^R(N, R/R_{23}) = 0$, we obtain another exact sequence $E^*: 0 \rightarrow W \rightarrow V/VR_{23} \rightarrow N/NR_{23} \rightarrow 0$. Inasmuch as R_{23} is a two-sided ideal in $L^*(R)$, [4, Proposition 1.11] says that the singular submodule of any right (R/R_{23}) -module is the same whether considered as an (R/R_{23}) -module or as an R -module. In particular, W must be a singular (R/R_{23}) -module. Considering that NR_{23} is a direct summand of N by Lemma Q, we see that N/NR_{23} is nonsingular as an R -module and hence as an (R/R_{23}) -module. Inasmuch as R/R_{23} is a splitting ring by (a), it follows that E^* splits, from which we conclude that E splits.

5. Conclusion. Combining Theorems 2, 5, and 6, we obtain the following structure theorem for splitting rings with zero socle:

Theorem 7. *Let R be a right nonsingular ring with zero socle. Then R is a splitting ring if and only if R is isomorphic to a ring of the form $\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & C \end{pmatrix}$, where*

- (a) A is a semiprime right nonsingular splitting ring.
- (b) B is a nonsingular injective right A -module.
- (c) C is a unital subring of $T = \text{End}_A(B)$.
- (d) C_C is essential in T_C .
- (e) All nonsingular right C -modules are projective.

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