

## Quasi-ideals in near-rings

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## Quasi-ideals in near-rings

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### 1. Introduction

In ring theory the notion of quasi-ideal, introduced by O. Steinfeld in [2], has proved very useful. It is only natural to ask whether this notion may be extended to near-rings. The purpose of this note is to show that this is indeed the case.

We shall introduce the notion of quasi-ideal in near-rings and consider its elementary properties. Applying these properties, we shall characterize those near-rings which are near-fields, in terms of quasi-ideal.

### 2. Preliminaries on near-rings

By a *near-ring* we mean a non-empty set  $N$  in which an addition  $+$  and a multiplication  $\cdot$  are defined such that

- (1)  $(N, +)$  is a group,
- (2)  $(N, \cdot)$  is a semigroup,
- (3)  $(n+n')n'' = nn'' + n'n''$  ( $n, n', n'' \in N$ ).

In dealing with general near-rings the neutral element of  $(N, +)$  will be denoted by 0.

In this section,  $N$  will denote a near-ring. The set  $N_0 = \{n \in N \mid n0 = 0\}$  is called *the zero-symmetric part* of  $N$ ;  $N_c = \{n \in N \mid n0 = n\}$  is called *the constant part* of  $N$ .  $N$  is called *zero-symmetric* if  $N = N_0$ ;  $N$  is called *constant* if  $N = N_c$ .

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two non-empty subsets of  $N$ . We shall define two types of products:

$$AB = \{\sum a_i b_i \mid a_i \in A, b_i \in B\},$$

and

$$A*B = \{\sum (a_i(a_i' + b_i) - a_i a_i') \mid a_i, a_i' \in A, b_i \in B\},$$

where  $\sum$  denotes all possible additions of finite terms. In case that  $B = \{b\}$ ,

we denote  $AB$  by  $Ab$ , and so on.

A subgroup  $S$  of  $(N, +)$  is called an  $N$ -subgroup of  $N$  if  $NS \subseteq S$ . A subgroup  $M$  of  $(N, +)$  with  $MM \subseteq M$  is called a *subnear-ring*. A subnear-ring  $M$  of  $N$  is called *invariant* if  $MN \subseteq M$  and  $NM \subseteq M$ .  $N_0$  and  $N_c$  are subnear-rings of  $N$ .

A normal subgroup  $I$  of  $(N, +)$  is called an *ideal* of  $N$  if

- (a)  $IN \subseteq I$ ,
- (b)  $N^*I \subseteq I$ .

A normal subgroup  $I$  of  $(N, +)$  with (a) is called a *right ideal* of  $N$ , while a normal subgroup  $I$  of  $(N, +)$  with (b) is said to be a *left ideal* of  $N$ .

An element  $d$  of  $N$  is called *distributive* if  $d(n+n') = dn + dn'$  for all elements  $n, n'$  of  $N$ . The set of all distributive elements of  $N$  will be denoted by  $N_d$ .

### 3. Quasi-ideals and elementary properties

Let  $N$  be a near-ring. A subgroup  $Q$  of  $(N, +)$  is called a *quasi-ideal* of  $N$  if  $QN \cap NQ \cap N^*Q \subseteq Q$ .

It is clear that right ideals, left ideals,  $N$ -subgroups and invariant subnear-rings of  $N$  are quasi-ideals of  $N$ . In particular, the zero-symmetric part  $N_0$  and the constant part  $N_c$  of  $N$  are quasi-ideals of  $N$ .

We have the following elementary properties of quasi-ideals.

**PROPOSITION 1.** *The set of all quasi-ideals of a near-ring  $N$  forms a Moore-system on  $N$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $Q_\lambda (\lambda \in A)$  be any set of quasi-ideals of  $N$ . Then  $\bigcap_{\lambda \in A} Q_\lambda$  is clearly a subgroup of  $(N, +)$ . Moreover, for every  $Q_\mu (\mu \in A)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \left( \bigcap_{\lambda \in A} Q_\lambda \right) N \cap N \left( \bigcap_{\lambda \in A} Q_\lambda \right) \cap N^* \left( \bigcap_{\lambda \in A} Q_\lambda \right) \\ &\subseteq Q_\mu N \cap N Q_\mu \cap N^* Q_\mu \subseteq Q_\mu. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $D \subseteq \bigcap_{\lambda \in A} Q_\lambda$ , that is,  $\bigcap_{\lambda \in A} Q_\lambda$  is a quasi-ideal of  $N$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.** *The intersection of a quasi-ideal  $Q$  and a subnear-ring  $M$  of a near-ring  $N$  is a quasi-ideal of  $M$ .*

**PROOF.**  $Q \cap M$  is clearly a subgroup of  $(M, +)$ . Moreover, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (Q \cap M)M \cap M(Q \cap M) \cap M^*(Q \cap M) \\ & \subseteq (Q \cap M)M \cap M(Q \cap M) \subseteq MM \subseteq M \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & (Q \cap M)M \cap M(Q \cap M) \cap M^*(Q \cap M) \\ & \subseteq QN \cap NQ \cap N^*Q \subseteq Q. \end{aligned}$$

These imply that  $Q \cap M$  is a quasi-ideal of  $M$ .

**PROPOSITION 3.** *Let  $N$  be a zero-symmetric near-ring. Then a subgroup  $Q$  of  $(N, +)$  is a quasi-ideal of  $N$  if and only if  $QN \cap NQ \subseteq Q$ .*

**PROOF.** We first remark that  $NQ \subseteq N^*Q$ . In fact, for any elements  $n$  of  $N$  and  $q$  of  $Q$ , we have

$$nq = n(0+q) - n0,$$

since  $N$  is zero-symmetric. Hence  $NQ \subseteq N^*Q$ .

From this property, we have

$$QN \cap NQ \cap N^*Q = QN \cap NQ,$$

by which this proposition is easily seen.

Proposition 3 implies that, in the case of rings, quasi-ideals in our sense coincide with those in [2].

#### 4. Quasi-ideals which are subnear-rings

It is known that each quasi-ideal of a ring  $R$  is a subring of  $R$  (see [3, Proposition 2.1]). This proposition has no analogue for near-rings, as we will give an example later. In this section, we are going to characterize those quasi-ideals which are subnear-rings.

Let  $N$  be a near-ring and  $Q$  a quasi-ideal of  $N$ . By Proposition 2,  $Q_0 = Q \cap N_0$  is a quasi-ideal of  $N_0$  and  $Q_c = Q \cap N_c$  is a quasi-ideal of  $N_c$ . If  $Q = Q_0 + Q_c = \{q + q' \mid q \in Q_0, q' \in Q_c\}$ , we say that  $Q$  is of the first kind.

We now characterize those quasi-ideals which are subnear-rings:

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $N$  be a near-ring and  $Q$  a quasi-ideal of  $N$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $Q$  is a subnear-ring of  $N$ ;

- (2)  $Q0 \subseteq Q$ ;  
 (3)  $Q$  is of the first kind.

PROOF. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): In fact,  $Q0 \subseteq QQ \subseteq Q$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3): For any element  $q$  of  $Q$ , we have

$$q = (q - q0) + q0,$$

where  $q - q0 \in N_0$  and  $q0 \in N_c$ . By assumption  $q0 \in Q$ , so  $q - q0 \in Q$ . Hence  $q - q0 \in Q_0$  and  $q0 \in Q_c$ , which imply that  $Q \subseteq Q_0 + Q_c \subseteq Q$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): For any element  $q$  of  $Q$ , we can write  $q = q_0 + q_c$  with  $q_0 \in Q_0$  and  $q_c \in Q_c$ .

Then, for any elements  $q, q'$  of  $Q$ , we have

$$qq' = (q_0 + q_c)q' = q_0q' + q_cq' = q_0q' + q_c.$$

Moreover, we have

$$q_0q' = q_0(0 + q') - q_00 \in N^*Q,$$

whence  $q_0q' \in QN \cap NQ \cap N^*Q \subseteq Q$ .

These imply that  $qq' \in Q$ , so  $QQ \subseteq Q$ .

**COROLLARY** *If  $N$  is zero-symmetric or constant, then each quasi-ideal of  $N$  is a subnear-ring of  $N$ .*

PROOF. For each quasi-ideal  $Q$  of  $N$ , if  $N$  is zero-symmetric then  $Q0 = \{0\} \subseteq Q$ . If  $N$  is constant then  $Q0 = Q$ .

The following example due to [1, 2.19 Remarks] shows that there exists a quasi-ideal which is not a subnear-ring: Let  $Z$  be the ring of integers and  $Z[x]$  the ring of polynomials in  $x$  over  $Z$ . Then  $N = (Z[x], +, \circ)$  is a near-ring, where  $+$  means usual addition and  $\circ$  usual substitution. Consider

$$L = \{\sum a_i x^i \mid \sum a_i \in 2Z\}.$$

It is easy to see that  $L$  is a quasi-ideal of  $N$ , but it is not of the first kind.

### 5. Characterizations of near-rings which are near-fields

A near-ring  $N$  is called a *near-field*, if the set of all non-zero elements of  $N$  forms a group under multiplication.

Let  $Z_2$  be the integers modulo 2. We recall that  $(Z_2, +)$  with  $0 \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$ ,  $1 \cdot 0 = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$  is a near-field (see [1, 1.15 Examples]). As usual, in this section, we will exclude those near-fields which are isomorphic to this near-field.

There are some characterizations of those 'zero-symmetric' near-rings which are near-fields (see [1, 8.3 Theorem]). In this section we are going to characterize those 'general' near-rings which are near-fields.

Let  $N$  be a near-ring. Clearly  $\{0\}$  and  $N$  are quasi-ideals of  $N$ . If  $N$  has no quasi-ideals except  $\{0\}$  and  $N$ , we say that  $N$  is *Q-simple*.

**PROPOSITION 4.** *A near-ring  $N$  is Q-simple, then either  $N$  is zero-symmetric or  $N$  is constant.*

**PROOF.** Since the zero-symmetric part  $N_0$  of  $N$  is a quasi-ideal of  $N$ , either  $N_0 = N$  or  $N_0 = \{0\}$ , that is, either  $N$  is zero-symmetric or  $N$  is constant.

We now characterize those near-rings which are near-fields:

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $N$  be a near-ring with more than one element. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $N$  is a near-field;
- (2)  $N$  is Q-simple and  $N$  has a left identity;
- (3)  $N$  is Q-simple,  $N_a \neq \{0\}$  and for each non-zero element  $n$  of  $N$  there exists an element  $n'$  of  $N$  such that  $n'n \neq 0$ .

**PROOF.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): Clearly  $N$  has a left identity and  $N$  is zero-symmetric. Let  $Q$  be a quasi-ideal of  $N$  and  $q$  a non-zero element of  $Q$ , then  $N = qN = Nq$ . Hence we have by Proposition 3

$$N = qN \cap Nq \subseteq QN \cap NQ \subseteq Q,$$

whence  $Q = N$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3): If  $N$  has a left identity  $e$ , then  $e$  is non-zero and distributive. Hence  $N_a \neq \{0\}$  and  $en = n \neq 0$  for every non-zero element  $n$  of  $N$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1):  $N_a \neq \{0\}$  implies that  $N$  is not constant. Hence  $N$  is zero-symmetric by Proposition 4. Moreover, let  $n$  be a non-zero element of  $N$ , then  $Nn$  is a quasi-ideal of  $N$  and  $n'n \in Nn$ , where  $n'$  is an element of  $N$  such that  $n'n \neq 0$ . Hence  $Nn = N$ .

Therefore, it follows from [1, 8.3 Theorem] that  $N$  is a near-field.

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