

## ON THE STRUCTURE OF FINITE RINGS II

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**In this paper we develop a structure theory for modules and bimodules over complete matrix rings over Galois rings, and we use this module theory to study the additive structure of the components of a Peirce decomposition of a general finite ring.**

We recall that any finite ring is the direct sum of rings of prime power characteristic. This follows from noticing that when one decomposes the additive group of a finite ring into its primary components, the components are ideals of prime power characteristic (cf. [4]). We thus restrict ourselves to considering rings of prime power characteristic without loss of generality up to direct sum formation.

We next recall the definition of a Galois ring. Let  $k, r$  be positive integers and  $p$  be a prime integer. The *Galois ring of characteristic  $p^k$  and order  $p^{kr}$*  is defined to be  $Z[x]/(p^k, f(x))$  [8], [10] where  $Z$  denotes the rational integers and  $f(x) \in Z[x]$  is monic of degree  $r$  and irreducible. A Galois ring is uniquely determined up to isomorphism by the integers  $p, k$ , and  $r$ , and we shall denote the Galois ring of characteristic  $p^k$  and order  $p^{kr}$  by  $G(k, r)$ . The prime  $p$  will generally be clear from context. Note that  $G(1, r) \cong GF(p^r)$  and  $G(k, 1) \cong Z/(p^k)$ .

If  $R$  is a finite ring of characteristic  $p^k$  which contains a 1 then  $R$  contains a Galois ring  $G(k, r)$  for some  $r$  which contains the 1 of  $R$ . Indeed  $Z/(p^k) \cdot 1$  will always be such a ring. Therefore, any finite ring of characteristic  $p^k$  is thus a faithful left and right  $G(k, r)$ -module for some  $r$ .

We now seek to develop a module theory for matrix rings over Galois rings. In a sense, the theory is already developed in that a matrix ring over a Galois ring is Morita equivalent to a Galois ring and hence the categories of modules will be category isomorphic, and a module and bimodule theory already is known for modules over Galois rings [11]. However, we seek slightly more information than is given by the category isomorphism from Morita theory. In what follows  $Q$  will denote the matrix ring  $M_n(G(k, r))$ .

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Let  $M$  be a finitely generated left  $Q$ -module. Then  $M$  is a direct sum of cyclic left  $Q$ -modules.*

*Proof.* Every finitely generated left  $G(k, r)$ -module is a direct sum of cyclic left  $G(k, r)$ -modules by Corollary 2 to Proposition 1.1 of [11].

Therefore, by Proposition 2.7 of [9] every finitely generated left  $Q$ -module is a direct sum of cyclic  $Q$ -modules.

We have thus reduced the study of  $Q$ -modules to the study of cyclic  $Q$ -modules. Let  $Qx$  be a cyclic left  $Q$ -module. Consider the map  $q \mapsto qx$  from  $Q$  to  $Qx$ . This map is clearly a  $Q$ -module homomorphism and thus has a kernel  $L$  which is a left ideal of  $Q$ . We are thus led to consider the left ideals of quasi-simple rings.

**PROPOSITION 2.** *For  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $e_j$  denote the matrix whose only nonzero entry is a 1 in the  $jj$ th position. Let  $L$  be a left ideal in  $Q$ . Then  $L$  is isomorphic to  $\sum_{j=1}^t p^{i_j} Qe_j$  for some choice of integers  $0 \leq i_1, \dots, i_t < k$  and some  $t \leq n$ .*

*Proof.* The proposition boils down to showing that  $L$  is isomorphic to a sum of  $p^i$ th multiples of columns of  $M_n(G(k, r))$ . Let  $M$  denote the set of all top rows of matrices in  $L$ .  $M$  is then, in a natural way a left  $G(k, r)$ -module and is thus isomorphic to a direct sum of cyclic left  $G(k, r)$ -modules. Say  $M \cong \sum_{j=1}^t G(k, r)x_j$  where the  $x_j$ 's are  $n$ -tuples over  $G(k, r)$ . In fact they are the top rows of certain matrices in  $L$ . Note that, since  $M$  is contained in a  $G(k, r)$ -module which is free on  $n$  generators, we must conclude that  $t \leq n$ . Let  $a_j$  be the smallest positive integer such that  $p^{a_j}x_j = 0$ . Note that  $0 < a_j \leq k$  for all  $j = 1, \dots, t$ . Now any left ideal of  $M_n(G(k, r))$  is completely determined by its set of top rows, because to multiply on the left by elements of  $M_n(G(k, r))$  is to perform operations on the rows of matrices in  $L$ . Thus it follows that  $L \cong \sum_{j=1}^t p^{k-a_j} Qe_j$ , since the set of top rows of the ideal on the right is isomorphic to the set of top rows of  $L$ .

**PROPOSITION 3.** *Any finitely generated left  $Q$ -module is isomorphic to a direct sum of  $p^i$ th multiples of columns of  $M_n(G(k, r))$ . Moreover, any finitely generated indecomposable left  $Q$ -module is isomorphic to a  $p^i$ th multiple of a column of  $M_n(G(k, r))$ .*

*Proof.* From Proposition 1 it suffices to prove the result for cyclic left modules. As noted above a cyclic module is isomorphic to  $Q/L$  for some left ideal  $L$ . Apply Proposition 2 and let  $L \cong \sum_{i=1}^n p^{j_i} Qe_i$  where  $e_i$  is the element of  $Q$  corresponding to the matrix in  $M_n(G(k, r))$  which has a 1 in the  $ii$ th position and 0's elsewhere. Now  $0 \leq j_1, \dots, j_n \leq k$  so define  $M = \sum_{i=1}^n p^{k-j_i} Qe_i$ . It is easy to see that  $M \cong Q/L$ , and  $Qe_i$  is isomorphic to a column in  $M_n(G(k, r))$ .

To see that any finitely generated indecomposable left module is isomorphic to a  $p^i$ th multiple of a column of  $M_n(G(k, r))$ , let  $M$  be a finitely generated indecomposable left  $Q$ -module. Then being finitely

generated it is the sum of a finite number of modules isomorphic to  $p^j$ th multiples of columns of  $M_n(G(k, r))$ . But clearly any column of  $M_n(G(k, r))$  is indecomposable. Therefore, applying the Krull-Schmidt theorem we conclude that the decomposition of  $M$  as a sum of  $p^j$ th multiples of columns of  $M_n(G(k, r))$  consists of one  $p^j$ th column of  $M_n(G(k, r))$  and we are done.

We next turn our attention to bimodules over matrix rings over Galois rings. Let  $Q_1, Q_2$  be two such rings. If  $M$  is a  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module then it is a left  $Q_1 \otimes_Z Q_2^{o_p}$ -module where  $Q_2^{o_p}$  is a ring which has the same additive group as  $Q_2$  but in which multiplication is defined by  $a \cdot b = ba$ , the product on the right being taken in  $Q_2$ . But  $Q_2$  is a matrix ring over a commutative ring and matrix rings over commutative rings are anti-isomorphic to themselves via the transpose map.

We now consider the tensor product of matrix rings over Galois rings.

PROPOSITION 4. *Let  $Q_1 = M_{n_1}(G(k_1, r_1))$ ,  $Q_2 = M_{n_2}(G(k_2, r_2))$ . Let  $d = \text{gcd} \{r_1, r_2\}$ ,  $k = \min \{k_1, k_2\}$ ,  $m = \text{lcm} \{r_1, r_2\}$ . Then*

$$Q_1 \otimes_Z Q_2 \cong \sum_1^d M_{n_1 n_2}(G(k, m)) .$$

*Proof.* In order to prune the hanging gardens of subscripts in what follows we shall denote  $Z/(p^k)$  by  $K$ . We first note that

$$M_{n_1}(G(k_1, r_1)) \otimes_Z M_{n_2}(G(k_2, r_2)) \cong M_{n_1}(G(k, r_1)) \otimes_K M_{n_2}(G(k, r_2)) .$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 \otimes_Z Q_2 &\cong M_{n_1}(G(k, r_1)) \otimes_K M_{n_2}(G(k, r_2)) \\ &\cong M_{n_1}(K) \otimes_K G(k, r_1) \otimes_K G(k, r_2) \otimes_K M_{n_2}(K) \\ &\cong M_{n_1}(K) \otimes_K \sum_1^d G(k, m) \otimes_K M_{n_2}(K) \end{aligned}$$

(by Proposition 1.2 of [11])

$$\begin{aligned} &\cong \sum_1^d (G(k, m) \otimes_K M_{n_1}(K) \otimes_K M_{n_2}(K)) \\ &\cong \sum_1^d (G(k, m) \otimes_K M_{n_1 n_2}(K)) \\ &\cong \sum_1^d M_{n_1 n_2}(G(k, m)) . \end{aligned}$$

We are now able to obtain a description of  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -modules where  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are matrix rings over Galois rings.

PROPOSITION 5. Let  $Q_1 = M_{n_1}(G(k_1, r_1))$ ,  $Q_2 = M_{n_2}(G(k_2, r_2))$  and  $k = \min\{k_1, k_2\}$ ,  $m = \text{lcm}\{r_1, r_2\}$ .  $M$  is a  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module. Then  $M$  is of the form

$$M \cong \sum_{i=1}^n p^{j_i} M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$$

where  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  denotes the set of  $n_1 \times n_2$  matrices over  $(G(k, m))$ .

*Proof.* It is instructive to first ask how  $M_{n_1}(G(k_1, r_1))$  acts as a ring of left operators on  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  and how  $M_{n_2}(G(k_2, r_2))$  acts as a ring of right operators on  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$ . Well, since

$$G(k_1, r_1) \otimes_Z G(k_2, r_2) \cong \sum_1^d \cdot G(k, m)$$

where  $d = \text{gcd}\{r_1, r_2\}$  by Proposition 1.2 of [11] it follows that  $G(k_1, r_1)$  acts as a ring of left operators and that  $G(k_2, r_2)$  acts as a ring of right operators on  $G(k, m)$ . We can thus impose a  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module structure on  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  by defining

$$[a_{ij}][b_{ij}] = \left[ \sum_{q=1}^{n_1} a_{iq} b_{qj} \right]$$

if  $[a_{ij}] \in M_{n_1}(G(k_1, r_1))$ ,  $[b_{ij}] \in M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  and

$$[b_{ij}][c_{ij}] = \left[ \sum_{q=1}^{n_2} b_{iq} c_{qj} \right]$$

if  $[b_{ij}] \in M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  and  $[c_{ij}] \in M_{n_2}(G(k_2, r_2))$ .

Now let  $M$  be a  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module. Then  $M$  can be considered as a  $Q_1 \otimes_Z Q_2^{op}$ -module and as  $Q_2^{op} \cong Q_2$  it can be considered as a left  $Q_1 \otimes_Z Q_2$ -module. Let  $e_1, \dots, e_d$  be a complete set of orthogonal primitive central idempotents for  $\sum_1^d M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$ . Then since  $e_1 + \dots + e_d = 1$ ,  $M = 1M = (e_1 + \dots + e_d)M = e_1M + \dots + e_dM$  and this sum is direct since the  $e_i$  are orthogonal idempotents. Moreover, each  $e_iM$  is a left  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$ -module. We then conclude that  $M$  is isomorphic to a direct sum of  $p^j$ th multiples of columns of the component matrices  $\sum_1^d M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$ .

It thus suffices to show that a column of a component matrix in  $\sum_1^d M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m)) = Q_1 \otimes_Z Q_2^{op}$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  as a  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module. We first note the isomorphism from  $M_{n_1}(G(k_1, r_1)) \otimes_Z M_{n_2}(G(k_2, r_2))$  into

$$\sum_1^d \cdot M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m)) = M_{n_1, n_2} \left( \sum_1^d \cdot G(k, m) \right) = M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k_1, r_1) \otimes_Z (G(k_2, r_2)))$$

is defined by  $[a_{ij}] \otimes [b_{pq}] \rightarrow$

$$\left( \begin{array}{cccc} a_{11} \otimes b_{11} & \cdots & a_{11} \otimes b_{n_2 1} & \cdots & a_{1n_1} \otimes b_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n_1} \otimes b_{n_2 1} \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{11} \otimes b_{1n_2} & \cdots & a_{11} \otimes b_{n_2 n_2} & \cdots & a_{1n_1} \otimes b_{1n_2} & \cdots & a_{1n_1} \otimes b_{n_2 n_2} \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n_1 1} \otimes b_{11} & \cdots & a_{n_1 1} \otimes b_{n_2 1} & \cdots & a_{n_1 n_1} \otimes b_{11} & \cdots & a_{n_1 n_1} \otimes b_{n_2 1} \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n_1 1} \otimes b_{1n_2} & \cdots & a_{n_1 1} \otimes b_{n_2 n_2} & \cdots & a_{n_1 n_1} \otimes b_{1n_2} & \cdots & a_{n_1 n_1} \otimes b_{n_2 n_2} \end{array} \right).$$

One can check by straightforward computation that a column in this matrix ring, i.e., something of the form

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} a_{1j} \otimes b_{p_1} \\ \vdots \\ a_{1j} \otimes b_{p_{n_2}} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n_1 j} \otimes b_{p_1} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n_1 j} \otimes b_{p_{n_2}} \end{array} \right)$$

is isomorphic to the matrix whose  $iq$ th entry is  $a_{ij} \otimes b_{pq}$  as a  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module. But

$$A = \left\{ \left( \begin{array}{c} a_{1j} \otimes b_{p_1} \\ \vdots \\ a_{1j} \otimes b_{p_{n_2}} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n_1 j} \otimes b_{p_1} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n_1 j} \otimes b_{p_{n_2}} \end{array} \right) \middle| a_{ij} \in G(k_1, r_1), b_{pq} \in G(k_2, r_2) \right\}$$

has a decomposition as a sum of indecomposable modules as a direct sum of  $d$  columns of  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  and the  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k_1, r_1)) \otimes_Z (G(k_2, r_2))$  which is isomorphic to  $A$  has a decomposition as a sum of indecomposable  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -modules as a direct sum of  $d$  copies of  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, r))$ . The Krull-Schmidt theorem tells us then that a column of a component matrix in  $\sum_1^d M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$  is isomorphic as a  $(Q_1, Q_2)$ -module to  $M_{n_1, n_2}(G(k, m))$ .

We now apply these results to the study of the additive structure of an arbitrary finite ring. But in order to do this we must first obtain the existence of a subring of our ring, which is a direct sum of matrix rings over Galois rings and which contains all of the idempotents. The existence of such a subring and its uniqueness up

to inner automorphism follows directly from Theorem 33 of [1] which was viewed by Azumaya as a generalization of the Wedderburn-Malcev theorem [3; §72.19]. In addition Clark [2] recently proved the existence of such a subring of a finite ring using elementary methods. However, in the case of a finite ring more can be said about this subring than existence and uniqueness up to inner automorphism. Specifically we have:

**PROPOSITION 6.** *Let  $R$  be a finite ring with 1 of characteristic  $p^k$  and radical  $J$ . Then  $R$  contains a subring  $Q$  isomorphic to a direct sum of matrix rings over Galois rings such that  $Q/pQ \cong R/J$  and a  $(Q, Q)$ -submodule  $M$  of  $J$  such that  $R = Q + M$  with  $Q \cap M = \{0\}$ .*

**REMARK.** Once we have the existence of  $Q$  it is immediate that  $Q$  is a direct summand of  $R$  when  $R$  is considered either as a left or a right  $Q$ -module because  $Q$  is quasi-Frobenius. However, it does not seem immediately obvious that a complementary left  $Q$  direct summand will be a right  $Q$ -module or that any complementary module can be chosen to be contained in  $J$ .

*Proof of Proposition 6.* Suppose  $R/J \cong \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(GF(p^{r_i}))$  and let  $\bar{e}_i$  be the multiplicative identity of the simple component of  $R/J$  isomorphic to  $M_{n_i}(GF(p^{r_i}))$ . Then  $\bar{e}_1, \dots, \bar{e}_m$  is a finite set of orthogonal idempotents in  $R/J$ . Let  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  be orthogonal idempotents of  $R$  such that  $e_i + J = \bar{e}_i$ , and such that  $e_1 + \dots + e_m = 1$  (Proposition 5 on p. 54 of [7]). Consider the Peirce decomposition of  $R$  with respect to this set of orthogonal idempotents.

$$R = \sum_{i=1}^m e_i R e_i + \sum_{i \neq j} e_i R e_j .$$

As is easy to check each  $e_i R e_j$  is a left  $\sum_{i=1}^m e_i R e_i$ -module and a right  $\sum_{i=1}^m e_i R e_i$ -module so this is a  $(\sum_{i=1}^m e_i R e_i, \sum_{i=1}^m e_i R e_i)$ -module direct sum decomposition of  $R$ . Now, as in the proof of Theorem 2 on p. 56 of [7] the  $e_i R e_i$  are primary rings which annihilate each other in pairs and for all  $i \neq j$   $e_i R e_j \subset J$ . Since each  $e_i R e_i$  is primary, again using Theorem 1 of p. 56 of [7] we have that each  $e_i R e_i$  is isomorphic to a complete matrix ring over a completely primary ring  $C_i$ ,  $e_i R e_i / e_i J e_i \cong M_{n_i}(GF(p^{r_i}))$  so by lifting idempotents again we conclude that  $e_i R e_i \cong M_{n_i}(C_i)$ . Let  $J_i$  be the radical of  $C_i$  with  $C_i / J_i \cong GF(p^{r_i})$ , and the characteristic of  $C_i$  be  $p^{k_i}$ . Then by Theorem 8 of [10] we have that  $C_i$  contains a subring isomorphic to  $G(k_i, r_i)$ , we define  $Q = \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(G(k_i, r_i))$ . Now by Proposition 2.2 of [11] each  $C_i$  contains a  $(G(k_i, r_i), (G(k_i, r_i))$ -submodule  $N_i$  with  $N_i \subset J_i$  such that  $C_i = G(k_i, r_i) + N_i$ . Thus  $e_i R e_i = M_{n_i}(C_i) = M_{n_i}(G(k_i, r_i)) + M_{n_i}(N_i)$  with

$M_{n_i}(N_i)$  a  $(M_{n_i}(G(k_i, r_i)), M_{n_i}(G(k_i, r_i))$ -submodule of  $M_{n_i}(C_i)$ . Since the  $e_iRe_i$  annihilate each other in pairs we conclude that each  $M_{n_i}(N_i)$  is a  $(Q, Q)$ -submodule. Now each  $e_iRe_j$  is a  $(\sum_{i=1}^m e_iRe_i, \sum_{i=1}^m e_iRe_i)$ -submodule so it is *a fortiori* a  $(Q, Q)$ -submodule, and we have the following  $(Q, Q)$ -module direct sum decomposition.

$$R = Q \dot{+} \sum_{i=1}^m \cdot M_{n_i}(N_i) \dot{+} \sum_{i \neq j} \cdot e_iRe_j$$

with  $M = \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(N_i) + \sum_{i \neq j} e_iRe_j \subset J$ . Moreover,  $Q = \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(G(k_i, r_i))$  and  $pQ = \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(pG(k_i, r_i))$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} Q/pQ &= \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(G(k_i, r_i)) / \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(pG(k_i, r_i)) \\ &\cong \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(G(k_i, r_i)/pG(k_i, r_i)) \\ &\cong \sum_{i=1}^m M_{n_i}(GF(p^{r_i}) \cong R/J. \end{aligned}$$

In the classical Wedderburn-Malcev theorem we have  $R = S + J$  where  $S$  is semi-simple and  $S \cap J = \{0\}$ . The question arises: in the decomposition we obtained,  $R = Q + M$  can we take  $M = J$ ? Well  $M \subset J$  so surely  $R = Q + J$ . However, one can see that  $Q \cap J = pQ$  and so if  $Q \cap J = (0)$  then the characteristic of  $Q$ , hence of  $R$  is  $p$ , since  $Q$  contains the multiplicative identity of  $R$ . So we ask instead, can we assume that  $M$  is an ideal of  $R$ , or at least a subring? First we note that since  $R = Q + M$  and  $M$  is a  $(Q, Q)$ -submodule of  $R$ , that  $M$  will be a two-sided ideal of  $R$  if and only if it is a subring of  $R$ . If the characteristic of  $R$  is  $p$  then  $R$  is an algebra over the field  $Z/(p)$ , and since any finite extension of a finite field is a separable extension, the hypotheses of the classical Wedderburn-Malcev theorem are satisfied and the answer is yes. However, in general the answer is no, as is shown by the following counterexample. Let

$$R = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 2c & d \end{bmatrix} \in M_2(Z/(4)) \mid a, b, c, d \in Z/(4) \right\}.$$

One can check that  $R$  is a completely primary finite ring with radical

$$J = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2a & b \\ 2c & 2d \end{bmatrix} \in M_2(Z/(4)) \mid a, b, c, d \in Z/(4) \right\}.$$

In this ring we can take

$$Q = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{bmatrix} \in M_2(Z/(4)) \mid a \in Z/(4) \right\}$$

and for all invertible  $x \in R$   $x^{-1}Qx = Q$ . So  $M$  is a direct complement

of  $Q$ ,  $M \subset J$  so every element of  $M$  is of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2a & b \\ 2c & 2d \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in R$$

so there must be some element of  $M$  of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2a & 1 \\ 2 & 2a \end{bmatrix}$$

for some  $a \in Z/(4)$ . But then

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2a & 1 \\ 2 & 2a \end{bmatrix}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \in Q$$

and we conclude that  $M$  is not a subring.

Finally, we conclude with remarks on the additive structure of general finite rings of characteristic  $p^k$ . Let  $R$  be a finite ring of characteristic  $p^k$ .

Let  $J$  be the radical of  $R$ . Lift the multiplicative identity of  $R/J$  to an idempotent  $e \in R$ . (If  $R = J$  then we take  $e = 0$ .) Then  $eRe$  is a finite ring of characteristic  $p^j$  for some  $j \leq k$  and with a multiplicative identity. So we apply Proposition 6 to  $eRe$  and obtain a subring  $Q$  and a  $(Q, Q)$ -submodule  $N \subset eJe$  which satisfy the properties of Proposition 6. We let  $M_1 = \{ea - eae \in R \mid a \in R\}$ ,  $M_2 = \{ae - eae \in R \mid a \in R\}$  and  $R_0 = \{a - ae - ea + eae \in R \mid a \in R\}$ . Then  $R = eRe \dot{+} M_1 \dot{+} M_2 \dot{+} R_0$  is an  $(eRe, eRe)$ -module direct sum decomposition hence *a fortiori* a  $(Q, Q)$ -module decomposition of  $R$ . We consider  $R_0$  as a  $(Z/(p^k), Z/(p^k))$ -module,  $M_1$  as a right  $Z/(p^k)$ -module and  $M_2$  as a left  $Z/(p^k)$ -module via the module structures they inherit as additive subgroups of a ring of characteristic  $p^k$ . We then let  $\bar{Q} = Q \dot{+} Z/(p^k)$  and define a  $(\bar{Q}, \bar{Q})$ -module structure on  $R$  by  $(q, z)(r_1 + m_1 + m_2 + r_0) = qr_1 + qm_1 + zm_2 + zr_0$  and  $(r_1 + m_1 + m_2 + r_0)(q, z) = r_1q + m_1z + m_2q + r_0z$  where  $q \in Q$ ,  $z \in Z/(p^k)$ ,  $r_1 \in eRe$ ,  $m_1 \in M_1$ ,  $m_2 \in M_2$ , and  $r_0 \in R_0$ . Then the decomposition  $R = eRe + M_1 + M_2 + R_0$  is a  $(\bar{Q}, \bar{Q})$ -module direct sum decomposition,  $M_1$  is a  $(Q, Z/(p^k))$ -module  $M_2$  is a  $(Z/(p^k), Q)$ -module and  $R_0$  is a nilpotent subring which is also a  $(Z/(p^k), Z/(p^k))$ -submodule. If  $eRe = Q + N$  is the decomposition given by Proposition 6 then if we define  $\bar{N} = N + M_1 + M_2 + R_0$  then  $R = Q + \bar{N}$  is a  $(\bar{Q}, \bar{Q})$ -module direct sum decomposition of  $R$  into a quasi-semi-simple ring and a  $(\bar{Q}, \bar{Q})$ -submodule of  $J$ .

We thus have a Peirce decomposition of a general finite ring of characteristic  $p^k$

$$R = \sum_{i=1}^m e_i Re_i + \sum_{i \neq j}^m e_i Re_j + \sum_{i=1}^m (1 - e) Re_i \\ + \sum_{i=1}^m e_i R(1 - e) + (1 - e)R(1 - e),$$

where  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  are a complete set of orthogonal idempotents which are central modulo the radical, and where  $e_1 + \dots + e_m = e$ . The  $e_i Re_i$  are matrix rings over completely primary finite rings and completely primary finite rings were studied in § 3 of [11]. If the completely primary finite rings of  $e_i Re_i$  is  $C_i$  and its radical is  $J_i$  with  $C_i/J_i \cong GF(p^{r_i})$  and the characteristic of  $C_i$  is  $p^{k_i}$  and  $e_i Re_i \cong M_{n_i}(C_i)$ , then  $e_i Re_j$  is a  $(M_{n_i}(G)(k_i, r_i), M_{n_j}(G)(k_j, r_j))$ -module, and the structure of such modules was studied in Propositions 1-5. Each  $(1 - e)Re_i$  is a right  $M_{n_i}(G)(k_i, r_i)$ -module and each  $e_i R(1 - e)$  is a left  $M_{n_i}(G)(k_i, r_i)$ -module and a structure theory for such modules was also developed in Propositions 1-5. Finally  $(1 - e)R(1 - e)$  is a nilpotent finite ring and nilpotent finite rings were also studied in § 3 of [11].

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