

REPRESENTATION OF NEAR-RING MORITA CONTEXTS AND RECOGNIZING MORITA NEAR-RINGS

By

Shoji KYUNO and Stefan VELDSMAN

Abstract. Subject to certain faithfulness requirements in a morita context for near-rings, a canonical representation thereof is provided. Necessary and sufficient conditions (using an idempotent element) on a near-ring are given which determine when the near-ring is a morita near-ring.

1. Introduction and preliminaries

In [2] we defined a morita context $\Gamma = (L, G, H, R)$ for near-rings as well as the associated morita near-ring $M_2(\Gamma)$. The examples provided in [3] probably best motivates the reason for defining and investigating these concepts for near-rings (for the ring case, they stood the test of time, see for example Amitsur [1] or Rowen [4]). It is a generalization of one of these examples, which also appeared in [2], in which we are interested here. In fact, in Section 2 we show, subject to some mild faithfulness requirements, that every morita context for near-rings can be embedded in a context of this type.

In the next section we give necessary and sufficient conditions on a near-ring to ensure that it is a morita near-ring. As is usual with matrices or matrix-like structures, this involves idempotents. Firstly we recall some relevant definitions and results from [2]:

All near-rings considered will be right distributive and 0-symmetric. Let R and L be near-rings and let G be a group. G is a *left L -module* if there is a mapping $L \times G \rightarrow G, (x, g) \mapsto xg$ such that $(x_1 + x_2)g = x_1g + x_2g$ and $(x_1x_2)g = x_1(x_2)g$ for all $x, x_1, x_2 \in L$ and $g \in G$. G is a *right R -module* if there is a mapping $G \times R \rightarrow G, (g, r) \mapsto gr$ such that $(g_1 + g_2)r = g_1r + g_2r$ and $(gr_1)r_2 = g(r_1r_2)$ for all $g, g_1, g_2 \in G, r, r_1, r_2 \in R$. G is an *L - R -bimodule* if it is both a left L -module and a right R -module for which $(xg)r = x(gr)$ for all $x \in L, g \in G, r \in R$. Strictly speaking we should talk about, for example, a left near-ring L -module G , for even if L is a ring, G is not necessarily a left ring L -

module. A normal subgroup K of G , G an L - R -bimodule, is an *ideal* of G if $x(g+k) - xg \in K$ and $kr \in K$ for all $x \in L, g \in G, k \in K$, and $r \in R$.

For each $i, j \in N_2 := \{1, 2\}$, let Γ_{ij} be a group. The quadruple $\Gamma = (\Gamma_{11}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{22})$ is a *near-ring morita context* if for every $i, j, k \in N_2$, there is a function

$$\Gamma_{jk} \times \Gamma_{ki} \rightarrow \Gamma_{ji}, (x, y) \mapsto xy,$$

which satisfies $(a+b)c = ac + bc$ and $(db)e = d(be)$ for all $a, b \in \Gamma_{jk}, c \in \Gamma_{ki}, d \in \Gamma_{ij}$ and $e \in \Gamma_{km}$ where $i, j, k, m \in N_2$.

It is clear that if $\Gamma = (\Gamma_{11}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{22})$ is a morita context, then so is $(\Gamma_{22}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{11})$; the one being called the dual of the other. For $\Delta_{ij} \subseteq \Gamma_{ij}$ and $\Delta_{jk} \subseteq \Gamma_{jk}$, we define

$$\Delta_{ij} \Delta_{jk} := \{xy \mid x \in \Delta_{ij}, y \in \Delta_{jk}\}$$

and

$$\Delta_{ij} * \Delta_{jk} := \{x(z+y) - xz \mid x \in \Delta_{ij}, y \in \Delta_{jk}, z \in \Gamma_{jk}\}.$$

When necessary, the additive identity of the group Γ_{ij} will be denoted by 0_{ij} , otherwise we just write 0 . Since the near-rings Γ_{11} and Γ_{22} are 0 -symmetric, $x0_{jk} = 0_{ik}$ for all $x \in \Gamma_{ij}$, for all $i, j, k \in N_2$.

For each $i, j \in N_2$ let $\Delta_{ij} \subseteq \Gamma_{ij}$. The quadruple $\Delta = (\Delta_{11}, \Delta_{12}, \Delta_{21}, \Delta_{22})$ is an *ideal of the morita context* $\Gamma = (\Gamma_{11}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{22})$ if each Δ_{ij} is a normal subgroup of Γ_{ij} , $\Delta_{ij} \Gamma_{jk} \subseteq \Delta_{ik}$ and $\Gamma_{ki} * \Delta_{ij} \subseteq \Delta_{jk}$ for all $i, j, k \in N_2$. In this case we get the quotient morita context

$$\Gamma/\Delta = (\Gamma_{11}/\Delta_{11}, \Gamma_{12}/\Delta_{12}, \Gamma_{21}/\Delta_{21}, \Gamma_{22}/\Delta_{22})$$

where the relevant maps are defined as is usual in the universal algebra:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{ij}/\Delta_{ij} \times \Gamma_{jk}/\Delta_{jk} &\rightarrow \Gamma_{ik}/\Delta_{ik} \\ (x + \Delta_{ij}, y + \Delta_{jk}) &\mapsto (x + \Delta_{ij})(y + \Delta_{jk}) := xy + \Delta_{ik}. \end{aligned}$$

Let Γ and Γ' be two morita contexts. A *morita context homomorphism* from Γ to Γ' is a quadruple $\alpha = (\alpha_{11}, \alpha_{12}, \alpha_{21}, \alpha_{22})$ such that each $\alpha_{ij} : \Gamma_{ij} \rightarrow \Gamma'_{ij}$ is a group homomorphism for which $\alpha_{kj}(xy) = \alpha_{ki}(x)\alpha_{ij}(y)$ for $x \in \Gamma_{ki}, y \in \Gamma_{ij}, i, j, k \in N_2$. We say α is an *embedding* (or *injective*) if each α_{ij} is injective and is *surjective* if each α_{ij} is surjective. As usual, if α is both injective and surjective, it is called an *isomorphism*. The *kernel* of α , $\ker \alpha$, is defined by $\ker \alpha = (\ker \alpha_{11}, \ker \alpha_{12}, \ker \alpha_{21}, \ker \alpha_{22})$. It is clear that $\ker \alpha$ is an ideal of the morita context Γ .

For a morita context $\Gamma = (\Gamma_{11}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{22})$, the associated morita near-ring $M_2(\Gamma)$ is the subnear-ring of $M_0(\Gamma^+) := \{f : \Gamma^+ \rightarrow \Gamma^+ \mid f(0) = 0\}$, Γ^+ is the matrix group $\Gamma^+ = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_{11} & \Gamma_{12} \\ \Gamma_{21} & \Gamma_{22} \end{bmatrix}$, generated by the functions

$$s_{ij}^x : \Gamma^+ \rightarrow \Gamma^+, s_{ij}^x \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

where $b_{i1} = xa_{j1}, b_{i2} = xa_{j2}, b_{ic1} = 0 = b_{ic2}$ (i_c denotes the complement of i in N_2), $x \in \Gamma_{ij}$. For later reference, we recall some useful facilities for doing calculations in $M_2(\Gamma)$:

PROPOSITION 1.1 [2].

- (1) $s_{ij}^x + s_{ij}^y = s_{ij}^{x+y}$
- (2) $s_{ij}^x + s_{km}^y = s_{km}^y + s_{ij}^x$ if $i \neq k$
- (3) $s_{ij}^x s_{km}^y = \begin{cases} s_{im}^{xy} & \text{if } j = k \\ 0 & \text{if } j \neq k \end{cases}$ (here, of course, $0 = s_{ij}^0 = s_{km}^0$)
- (4) $s_{ij}^x (s_{1k_1}^{y_1} + s_{2k_2}^{y_2}) = s_{ik_j}^{xyj}$
- (5) For any $U \in M_2(\Gamma)$, $U \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = U \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 0 \\ a_{21} & 0 \end{bmatrix} + U \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a_{12} \\ 0 & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$
- (6) For any $U, V \in M_2(\Gamma)$, $U \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 0 \end{bmatrix} + V \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix} = V \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix} + U \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
- (7) For $k \in N_2, C_k := \{s_{1k}^{x_1} + s_{2k}^{x_2} \mid x_i \in \Gamma_{ik}\}$ is a left invariant subgroup of $M_2(\Gamma)$
- (8) For $U \in M_2(\Gamma)$, $U \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ if and only if $U(s_{1i}^{a_{1i}} + s_{2i}^{a_{2i}}) = s_{1i}^{b_{1i}} + s_{2i}^{b_{2i}}$
for $i = 1, 2$. ■

For $U \in M_2(\Gamma)$, it is possible that U may be expressed in more than one way as a combination of a finite number of sums and products of the functions s_{ij}^x . The *weight* of U , written as $w(U)$, is the minimum number of s_{ij}^x 's which can appear in a representation of U .

2. Representation of a morita context

For a near-ring morita context $\Gamma = (L, G, H, R)$, G is a right R -module. Let

$$M_R(G) := \{f : G \rightarrow G \mid f(gr) = f(g)r \text{ for all } g \in G, r \in R\}$$

and

$$M_R(G, R) := \{f : G \rightarrow R \mid f(gr) = f(g)r \text{ for all } g \in G, r \in R\}.$$

Both these sets of functions are groups with respect to pointwise addition. The former is in fact a 0-symmetric near-ring with identity. As in [2], Example

1.2(3),

$$\Gamma^\# := (M_R(G), G, M_R(G, R), R)$$

is a morita context for near-rings with respect to:

$$M_R(G) \times G \rightarrow G, (f, g) \mapsto fg := f(g)$$

$$R \times M_R(G, R) \rightarrow M_R(G, R), (r, f) \mapsto rf : G \rightarrow R, (rf)(g) := rf(g)$$

$$M_R(G, R) \times M_R(G) \rightarrow M_R(G, R), (f, f') \mapsto ff' := f \circ f'$$

$$G \times M_R(G, R) \rightarrow M_R(G), (g, f) \mapsto gf : G \rightarrow G, (gf)(g') := gf(g') \text{ and}$$

$$M_R(G, R) \times G \rightarrow R, (f, g) \mapsto fg := f(g).$$

There are natural maps $\alpha_{11} : L \rightarrow M_R(G)$ and $\alpha_{21} : H \rightarrow M_R(G, R)$ given by

$$\alpha_{11}(x) = \alpha_{11}^x : G \rightarrow G, \alpha_{11}^x(g) := xg \text{ and}$$

$$\alpha_{21}(h) = \alpha_{21}^h : G \rightarrow R, \alpha_{21}^h(g) := hg$$

with

$$\ker \alpha_{11} = (0 : G)_L := \{x \in L \mid xG = 0\} \text{ and}$$

$$\ker \alpha_{21} = (0 : G)_H := \{h \in H \mid hG = 0\}.$$

If we let $\alpha_{12} : G \rightarrow G$ and $\alpha_{22} : R \rightarrow R$ be the identity mappings, then $\alpha = (\alpha_{11}, \alpha_{12}, \alpha_{21}, \alpha_{22}) : \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma^\#$ is a morita context homomorphism. Hence we have

PROPOSITION 2.1. $\alpha : \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma^\#$ is an embedding if and only if $(0 : G)_L = 0$ and $(0 : G)_H = 0$. ■

PROPOSITION 2.2. $\alpha : \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma^\#$ is an isomorphism if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:

(i) L has an identity

(ii) $(0 : G)_L = 0$ and $(0 : G)_H = 0$

(iii) For every $f \in M_R(G, R)$, there is an $h \in H$ (depending on f) such that $hg = f(g)$ for all $g \in G$.

(iv) For every $f \in M_R(G)$, there is an $x \in L$ (depending on f) such that $xg = f(g)$ for all $g \in G$.

PROOF. If α is an isomorphism, then $\alpha_{11} : L \rightarrow M_R(G)$ is an isomorphism. Since $M_R(G)$ has an identity, so does L . The remainder of the proof follows from Proposition 2.1 and the fact that $\alpha_{11} : L \rightarrow M_R(G)$ is surjective iff for every $f \in M_R(G)$ there is an $x \in L$ such that $\alpha_{11}^x = f$, i.e. $xg = f(g)$ for all $g \in G$. A similar argument takes care of (iii). ■

The conditions in Proposition 2.2 can be realized if, for example, L has an identity, the right (respt. left) L -module H (respt. G) is unital and $L = GH := \{gh \mid g \in G, h \in H\}$. Indeed, if 1 is the identity of L , then $1 = g_0 h_0$ for some $g_0 \in G, h_0 \in H$. If $xG = 0$ ($x \in L$), then $x = x1 = (xg_0)h_0 = 0$; hence $(0 : G)_L = 0$. If $hG = 0$ ($h \in H$), then $h = h1 = (hg_0)h_0 = 0$ and thus $(0 : G)_H = 0$. For $f \in M_R(G, R)$, let $f(g_0) = r_0$. Then $x := r_0 h_0 \in H$ and for every $g \in G$, $f(g) = f(1g) = f(g_0(h_0g)) = f(g_0)(h_0g) = r_0(h_0g) = (r_0 h_0)g = xg$. A similar argument shows that (iv) is also satisfied.

Not every morita context may have the faithfulness required in Proposition 2.1, but it has at least a homomorphic image which does. For the morita context $\Gamma = (L, G, H, R) = (\Gamma_{11}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{22})$ let $\Delta_{11} = (0 : G)_L$, $\Delta_{12} = 0$, $\Delta_{21} = (0 : G)_H$ and $\Delta_{22} = 0$. Then $\Delta = (\Delta_{11}, \Delta_{12}, \Delta_{21}, \Delta_{22})$ is an ideal of Γ .

Let $\beta : \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma/\Delta = (\Gamma_{11}/\Delta_{11}, \Gamma_{12}/\Delta_{12}, \Gamma_{21}/\Delta_{21}, \Gamma_{22}/\Delta_{22})$ be the canonical morita context homomorphism. Then

$$(0 : \Gamma_{12}/\Delta_{12})_{\Gamma_{11}/\Delta_{11}} = 0 \text{ and } (0 : \Gamma_{12}/\Delta_{12})_{\Gamma_{21}/\Delta_{21}} = 0.$$

3. Recognizing morita near-rings

Let A be a near-ring with an identity 1 . For an idempotent $e \in A$, let $e_1 = e$ and let $e_2 = 1 - e$. For $i = 1, 2$, let $D_i = \{e_1 a e_i + e_2 b e_i \mid a, b \in A\}$ and let S be the subnear-ring of A generated by $\{e_i a e_j \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq 2, a \in A\}$.

PROPOSITION 3.1. *Let A be a near-ring with identity. Then A is isomorphic to a morita near-ring $M_2(\Gamma)$ for some morita context $\Gamma = (\Gamma_{11}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{22})$ where Γ_{11} and Γ_{22} are near-rings with identity (all modules in Γ are unital) if and only if A contains a distributive idempotent e for which the following holds:*

- (i) $ea + (1 - e)b = (1 - e)b + ea$ for all $a, b \in A$
- (ii) $(0 : D_1)_A \cap (0 : D_2)_A = 0$
- (iii) $S = A$.

PROOF. Suppose $A \cong M_2(\Gamma)$. Let I be the identity of $M_2(\Gamma)$. Then $I = s_{11}^1 + s_{22}^1$ (we use 1 to denote both the identity of Γ_{11} and Γ_{22}). Let $e = e_1 = s_{11}^1$. Then e is a distributive idempotent and $s_{11}^1 U + (I - s_{11}^1)V = s_{11}^1 U + s_{22}^1 V = s_{22}^1 V + s_{11}^1 U = (I - s_{11}^1)V + s_{11}^1 U$ for all $U, V \in M_2(\Gamma)$. Using properties 1.1(7) and (4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} D_i &= \{s_{11}^1 U s_{ii}^1 + s_{22}^1 V s_{ii}^1 \mid U, V \in M_2(\Gamma)\} \\ &= \{s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2} \mid a_j \in \Gamma_{ji}\} \text{ for } i = 1, 2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, if $UD_i = 0$ for $i = 1, 2$, then

$$U \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = U \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 0 \\ a_{21} & 0 \end{bmatrix} + U \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a_{12} \\ 0 & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = U(s_{11}^{a_{11}} + s_{21}^{a_{21}}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + U(s_{12}^{a_{12}} + s_{22}^{a_{22}}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

for all $a_{jk} \in \Gamma_{jk}$, $j, k \in N_2$. Thus $U = 0$.

Finally, $\{s_{ij}^1 U s_{jj}^1 \mid U \in M_2(\Gamma), i, j \in N_2\} = \{s_{ij}^a \mid a \in \Gamma_{ij}, i, j \in N_2\}$ and so $S = M_2(\Gamma)$. Conversely, let $e_1 = e$ be a distributive idempotent of A which satisfies conditions (i), (ii) and (iii). Then $e_2 := 1 - e$ is idempotent. Furthermore, it is easily seen that e_2 is distributive by using condition (i). Note also $e_1 e_2 = 0 = e_2 e_1$. For each $i, j \in N_2$, let $\Gamma_{ij} = e_i A e_j$. Clearly Γ_{ij} is a subgroup of A and if the mappings

$$\Gamma_{ij} \times \Gamma_{jk} \rightarrow \Gamma_{ik} \text{ are defined by } (x, y) \mapsto xy,$$

we obtain a near-ring morita context $\Gamma = (\Gamma_{11}, \Gamma_{12}, \Gamma_{21}, \Gamma_{22})$. Each near-ring Γ_{ii} has an identity e_i and all Γ_{ii} -modules (left or right) are unital, $i = 1, 2$. Define $\theta: M_2(\Gamma) \rightarrow A = S$ by $\theta(U) = u$ where $u \in S$ is obtained from $U \in M_2(\Gamma)$ by replacing each s_{ij}^x present in U by x . At the outset we have to verify that θ is well-defined. We first need two remarks:

- (1) If $x \in \Gamma_{ij} = e_i A e_j$, then $x = e_i a e_j$ for some $a \in A$ and thus $x = e_i x e_j$.
- (2) If $U \in M_2(\Gamma)$ and $U(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = s_{1i}^{b_1} + s_{2i}^{b_2}$, then $u(a_1 + a_2) = b_1 + b_2$: We will substantiate this claim by induction on $w(U)$. If $w(U) = 1$, then $U = s_{jk}^x$ for some $x \in \Gamma_{jk}$. Thus $\theta(U) = u = x$ and $U(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = s_{jk}^x (s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = s_{ji}^{x a_k}$. Now $u(a_1 + a_2) = x(a_1 + a_2) = e_j x e_k (e_1 a_1 e_i + e_2 a_2 e_i) = e_j x e_k e_k a_k e_i = x a_k$. Suppose the result holds for all $V \in M_2(\Gamma)$ with $w(V) < m, m \geq 2$. If $w(U) = m$, then $U = U_1 + U_2$ or $U = U_1 U_2$ where $U_1 U_2 \in M_2(\Gamma)$ with $w(U_i) < m, i = 1, 2$. Suppose $U_1(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = (s_{1i}^{b_1} + s_{2i}^{b_2})$, $U_2(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = (s_{1i}^{c_1} + s_{2i}^{c_2})$ and $U_1(s_{1i}^{c_1} + s_{2i}^{c_2}) = (s_{1i}^{d_1} + s_{2i}^{d_2})$. If $U = U_1 + U_2$ then $U(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = s_{1i}^{b_1+c_1} + s_{2i}^{b_2+c_2}$ and $u(a_1 + a_2) = (u_1 + u_2)(a_1 + a_2) = b_1 + b_2 + c_1 + c_2 = b_1 + c_1 + b_2 + c_2$ since $b_2 + c_1 = e_2 b_2 e_i + e_1 c_1 e_i = e_1 c_1 e_i + e_2 b_2 e_i = c_1 + b_2$. If $U = U_1 U_2$, then $U(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = s_{1i}^{d_1} + s_{2i}^{d_2}$ and $u(a_1 + a_2) = u_1 u_2 (a_1 + a_2) = u_1 (c_1 + c_2) = d_1 + d_2$.

We now show that θ is well-defined. Suppose $U, V \in M_2(\Gamma)$ with $U = V$. For $i, j \in N_2$, let $a_{ij} \in \Gamma_{ij}$. Suppose

$$U \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = V \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix}.$$

By property 1.1(8),

$$U(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = V(s_{1i}^{a_1} + s_{2i}^{a_2}) = s_{1i}^{b_1} + s_{2i}^{b_2} \text{ for } i \in N_2.$$

From (2) above,

$$u(a_{1i} + a_{2i}) = v(a_{1i} + a_{2i}), \text{ i.e.}$$

$$(u - v)(e_1 a_{1i} e_i + e_2 a_{2i} e_i) = (u - v)(a_{1i} + a_{2i}) = 0$$

and so $u - v \in (0 : D_1)_A \cap (0 : D_2)_A = 0$. Hence $u = v$ and $\theta(U) = \theta(V)$. Thus θ is well-defined and clearly it is a near-ring homomorphism. For any $u \in A = S$, u is a finite combination of sums and products of $e_i a e_j$'s, $a \in A$. By replacing each $e_i a e_j$ in u by $s_{ij}^{e_i a e_j}$ we obtain an element U of $M_2(\Gamma)$ for which $\theta(U) = u$. Thus θ is surjective. Finally we show that θ is injective. Suppose $u = \theta(U) = 0$ for $U \in M_2(\Gamma)$. For all $i, j \in N_2$ and $a_{ij} \in \Gamma_{ij}$ if $U \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix}$, then $U(s_{1i}^{a_{1i}} + s_{2i}^{a_{2i}}) = s_{1i}^{b_{1i}} + s_{2i}^{b_{2i}}$ and so $0 = u(a_{1i} + a_{2i}) = b_{1i} + b_{2i}$ for $i \in N_2$. Thus for all $i, j \in N_2$, $0 = e_j(b_{1i} + b_{2i}) = e_j b_{ji} = b_{ji}$, hence $U = 0$. ■

Let us remark that if A is a ring, then any idempotent $e \in A$ satisfies the conditions of the previous result and A is isomorphic to the morita ring

$$\begin{bmatrix} eAe & eA(1-e) \\ (1-e)Ae & (1-e)A(1-e) \end{bmatrix}; \text{ of course,}$$

$$A = eAe + eA(1-e) + (1-e)Ae + (1-e)A(1-e)$$

is just the Peirce decomposition of A .

References

- [1] Amitsur, S. A., Rings of Quotients and Morita Contexts, *J. Algebra* **17** (1971), 273–298.
- [2] Kyuno, S. and Veldsman, S., Morita near-rings, *Quaest. Math.* **15** (1992), 431–449.
- [3] Kyuno, S. and Veldsman, S., A lattice isomorphism between sets of ideals of the near-rings in a near-ring morita context, *Comm. Algebra*, **23**(1995), 629–651.
- [4] Rowen, L. H., *Ring Theory* (Student Edition). Academic Press Inc., San Diego, 1991.

Department of Mathematics,
Tohoku Gakuin University,
Tagajo 985,
Japan.

Department of Mathematics,
University of Port Elizabeth,
P.O. Box 1600,
Port Elizabeth 6000,
South Africa.