

## A CLASS OF $J$ -QUASIPOLAR RINGS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we introduce a class of  $J$ -quasipolar rings. Let  $R$  be a ring with identity. An element  $a$  of a ring  $R$  is called *weakly  $J$ -quasipolar* if there exists  $p^2 = p \in comm^2(a)$  such that  $a + p$  or  $a - p$  are contained in  $J(R)$  and the ring  $R$  is called *weakly  $J$ -quasipolar* if every element of  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. We give many characterizations and investigate general properties of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings. If  $R$  is a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring, then we show that (1)  $R/J(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, (2)  $R/J(R)$  is commutative, (3)  $R/J(R)$  is reduced. We use weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings to obtain more results for  $J$ -quasipolar rings. We prove that the class of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings lies between the class of  $J$ -quasipolar rings and the class of quasipolar rings. Among others it is shown that a ring  $R$  is abelian weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if  $R$  is uniquely clean.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper all rings are associative with identity unless otherwise stated. Given a ring  $R$ , the symbol  $U(R)$  and  $J(R)$  stand for the group of units and the Jacobson radical of  $R$ , respectively.

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $a \in R$ . We adopt the notations  $comm(a) = \{b \in R \mid ab = ba\}$  while the *second commutant*  $comm^2(a) = \{b \in R \mid bc = cb \text{ for all } c \in comm(a)\}$  and  $R^{qnil} = \{a \in R \mid 1 + ax \text{ is invertible for each } x \in comm(a)\}$ . An element  $a$  of a ring  $R$  is called *quasipolar* (see [8]) if there exists  $p^2 = p \in R$  such that  $p \in comm^2(a)$ ,  $a + p \in U(R)$  and

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$ap \in R^{qnil}$ . Any idempotent  $p$  satisfying the above conditions is called a *spectral idempotent* of  $a$ , and this term is borrowed from spectral theory in Banach algebra and it is unique for  $a$ . Quasipolar rings have been studied by many ring theorists (see [5],[7], [8] and [12]). Recently,  $J$ -quasipolar rings are introduced in [6]. For an element  $a$  of a ring  $R$ , if there exists  $p^2 = p \in comm^2(a)$  such that  $a + p \in J(R)$ , then  $a$  is called  *$J$ -quasipolar* and a ring  $R$  is called  *$J$ -quasipolar*, if every element of  $R$  is  *$J$ -quasipolar*. It is proved that every  *$J$ -quasipolar* ring is quasipolar.

Motivated by these classes of polarity versions of rings, we introduce weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings, generalizing  $J$ -quasipolar rings. Throughout this paper, some basic properties of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring are studied, also examples and counter examples are given. We show that the class of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings lies properly between the class of  $J$ -quasipolar rings and the class of quasipolar rings. It is proved that  $R$  is  *$J$ -quasipolar* if and only if  $R$  is weakly  *$J$ -quasipolar* and  $2 \in J(R)$ . Then some of the main results of  $J$ -quasipolar rings are special cases of our results for this general setting. Given a ring  $R$ , if  $M_n(R)$  and  $T_n(R)$  denote the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices and triangular matrices over  $R$ , then we investigate necessary and sufficient conditions as to weakly  $J$ -quasipolarity of  $T_2(R)$  over a commutative local ring  $R$ . Further, it is proven that  $M_n(R)$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar for  $n \geq 2$ . Finally, we determine under what conditions a  $2 \times 2$  matrix over a commutative local ring is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

In what follows,  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  denote the set of natural numbers, the ring of integers and for a positive integer  $n$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is the ring of integers modulo  $n$ . The notations  $detA$  and  $trA$  denote the determinant and the trace of a square matrix  $A$  over a commutative ring and  $I_n$  denotes the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.

## 2. WEAKLY $J$ -QUASIPOLAR RINGS

In this section, we introduce a class of quasipolar rings which is a generalization of  $J$ -quasipolar rings. By using weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings, we obtain more results for  $J$ -quasipolar rings. It is clear that every  $J$ -quasipolar ring is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar and we supply an example to show that the converse does not hold in general (see Example 2.9). Moreover, it is shown that the class of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings lies strictly between the class of  $J$ -quasipolar rings and the class of quasipolar rings (see Example 2.9, Corollary 2.11 and Example 2.12). We investigate general properties of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $R$  be a ring and  $a \in R$ . The element  $a$  is called *weakly  $J$ -quasipolar* if there exists  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$  such that  $a + p \in J(R)$  or  $a - p \in J(R)$ . The idempotent which satisfies the above condition is called a *weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotent* and  $R$  is called *weakly  $J$ -quasipolar* if every element of  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

Lemma 2.2 shows that weakly  $J$ -quasipolar elements and rings are abundant.

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. Then we have the followings.*

- (1) *Every idempotent in  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*
- (2) *An element  $a \in R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if  $-a \in R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*
- (3) *Every element in  $J(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*
- (4) *Boolean rings are weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*
- (5)  *$J$ -quasipolar rings are weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*

In the sequel, we state elementary properties of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar elements and weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. If  $u \in U(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then 1 is the weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotent of  $u$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $u \in U(R)$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, so  $u + p \in J(R)$  or  $u - p \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(u)$ . If  $u - p \in J(R)$ , then  $u^{-1}u - u^{-1}p = 1 - u^{-1}p \in J(R)$ . Hence,  $u^{-1}p \in U(R)$  and so  $p \in U(R)$ . Thus, we have  $p = 1$ . In case  $u + p \in J(R)$ , the proof is similar.  $\square$

By using the concept of  $J$ -quasipolarity, we obtain a characterization for local rings.

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring. Then  $R$  is a local ring if and only if  $R$  has only trivial idempotents.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $R$  is a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring and has only trivial idempotents. Let  $a \in R$ , so  $a + 1 \in J(R)$  or  $a - 1 \in J(R)$  or  $a \in J(R)$ . If  $a + 1 \in J(R)$  or  $a - 1 \in J(R)$ , then  $a \in U(R)$ . In the last condition,  $a \in J(R)$ . Consequently,  $R$  is a local ring. The converse statement is clear.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. If  $a \in R$  and  $u \in U(R)$ , then  $a$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if  $u^{-1}au$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $a$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Then there exists  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$  such that  $a - p \in J(R)$ . If  $q$  is taken as  $q = u^{-1}pu$ , then  $q^2 = q \in R$  and  $u^{-1}au - u^{-1}pu = u^{-1}(a - p)u \in J(R)$ . Let  $b \in \text{comm}(u^{-1}au)$ , then  $(u^{-1}au)b = b(u^{-1}au)$  and so  $a(ubu^{-1}) = (ubu^{-1})a$ .

Thus  $ubu^{-1} \in \text{comm}(a)$ . Since  $p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ ,  $(ubu^{-1})p = p(ubu^{-1})$ . Hence  $b(u^{-1}pu) = (u^{-1}pu)b$ . Consequently,  $u^{-1}pu \in \text{comm}^2(u^{-1}au)$  and so  $u^{-1}au$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Conversely, assume that  $u^{-1}au - q \in J(R)$ , so  $a - uqu^{-1} \in J(R)$ . Also  $(uqu^{-1})^2 = uqu^{-1} \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ . If  $a + p \in J(R)$ , then proof is similar.  $\square$

The proof of Lemma 2.5 reveals that  $p$  is weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotent of  $a$  if and only if  $u^{-1}pu$  is the weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotent of  $u^{-1}au$ . We need the following lemma in order to prove Theorem 2.7.

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. If  $a = j_1 - p \in J(R)$  or  $a = j_2 + p \in J(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar decomposition of  $a$  in  $R$ , then  $\text{ann}_l(a) \subseteq \text{ann}_l(p)$  and  $\text{ann}_r(a) \subseteq \text{ann}_r(p)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $r \in \text{ann}_l(a)$ , then  $ra = 0$ . Assume that  $a + p = j_1 \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ . Then  $rp = r(j_1 - a) = rj_1$  and so  $rp = rj_1p = rpj_1$ . Hence  $rp(1 - j_1) = rp - rpj_1 = 0$ . Since  $1 - j_1 \in U(R)$ ,  $r \in \text{ann}_l(p)$ . If  $r \in \text{ann}_r(a)$ , then  $ar = 0$ . Thus  $pr = (j_1 - a)r = j_1r$  and so  $pr = pj_1r$ . Since  $a \in \text{comm}(a)$  and  $p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ ,  $ap = pa$ . Hence  $(j_1 - p)p = p(j_1 - p)$  and so  $j_1p = pj_1$ . Therefore  $pr = pj_1r = j_1pr$ . Also  $(1 - j_1)pr = pr - j_1pr = 0$ . Because of  $1 - j_1 \in U(R)$ ,  $r \in \text{ann}_r(p)$ . If  $a - p = j_2 \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ , then the proof is similar to above.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.7.** *If  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then so is  $fRf$  for all  $f^2 = f \in R$ .*

*Proof.* For every  $a \in fRf$  there exists  $p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$  such that  $a - p \in J(R)$  or  $a + p \in J(R)$ . Let  $a + p = j_1 \in J(R)$  or  $a - p = j_2 \in J(R)$ . By Lemma 2.6, we have  $1 - f \in \text{ann}_l(a) \cap \text{ann}_r(a) \subseteq \text{ann}_l(p) \cap \text{ann}_r(p) = R(1 - p) \cap (1 - p)R = (1 - p)R(1 - p)$ . Then  $pf = p = fp$  and so  $a = fj_1f - fpf$ ,  $(fpf)^2 = fpf$  and  $fj_1f \in fJ(R)f = J(fRf)$ . Lastly, let  $xa = ax$  and  $x \in fRf$ , so  $x(fpf) = (fpf)x$ . If  $a - p = j_2 \in J(R)$ , then proof is similar. Consequently,  $a$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar in  $fRf$ .  $\square$

By the definition of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings, it is clear that every  $J$ -quasipolar ring is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. We now investigate under what condition a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring is  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Proposition 2.8.** *A ring  $R$  is  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar and  $2 \in J(R)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $R$  be a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring and  $2 \in J(R)$ . If  $a + p \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ , then it is clear. Let  $a - p \in J(R)$  and  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ . Since  $2 \in J(R)$ ,  $a - p + 2p \in J(R)$  and so  $a$  is  $J$ -quasipolar. The converse is clear.  $\square$

The next example illustrates that there are weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings but not  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Example 2.9.** The ring  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar but not  $J$ -quasipolar.

*Proof.* It is obvious that  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Since  $1 + 1 \notin J(\mathbb{Z}_6) = 0$ , by Proposition 2.8,  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  is not  $J$ -quasipolar.  $\square$

In [6], it is shown that every  $J$ -quasipolar element is quasipolar. We obtain the following result for this general setting.

**Proposition 2.10.** *Every weakly  $J$ -quasipolar element in a ring  $R$  is quasipolar.*

*Proof.* Let  $a \in R$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Then there exists  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$  such that  $a + p \in J(R)$  or  $a - p \in J(R)$ . If  $a + p \in J(R)$ , then  $a$  is quasipolar from [6, Proposition 2.4]. If  $a - p \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ , then  $a + (1 - p) \in U(R)$  and also  $(a - p)(1 - p) = a(1 - p) \in J(R) \subseteq R^{\text{qnil}}$ . Therefore  $a$  is a quasipolar element.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.11.** *If  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then it is quasipolar.*

The converse statement of Corollary 2.11 is not true in general, i.e., there are quasipolar rings but not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Example 2.12.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}_{(5)}$  be the localization ring of  $\mathbb{Z}$  at the prime 5. Then  $R$  is a local ring and thus quasipolar by [12, Corollary 3.3]. Since  $\frac{1}{3} \in \mathbb{Z}_{(5)}$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar,  $\mathbb{Z}_{(5)}$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

By Example 2.9, Corollary 2.11 and Example 2.12, it is clear that the class of weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings lies strictly between the class of  $J$ -quasipolar rings and the class of quasipolar rings.

**Proposition 2.13.** *Any weakly  $J$ -quasipolar element  $a \in R$  has a unique weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotent.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $p, q$  are weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotents of  $a \in R$ .

**Case 1:** If  $a + p \in J(R)$  and  $a + q \in J(R)$ , then  $1 - p$  and  $1 - q$  are spectral idempotents of  $-a$  by the proof of Proposition 2.10. By [6], the spectral idempotent of  $a$  and  $-a$  is equal. Also by [8, Proposition 2.3], the spectral idempotent of  $a$  is unique, so we obtain that  $1 - p = 1 - q$ . Then  $p = q$ .

**Case 2:** Assume that  $a + p \in J(R)$  and  $a - q \in J(R)$ . Then  $1 - p$  is spectral idempotent of  $-a$  and  $1 - q$  is spectral idempotent of  $a$ . The remaining proof is similar to Case 1.

**Case 3:** Assume that  $a - p \in J(R)$  and  $a + q \in J(R)$ , then similarly  $p = q$ .

**Case 4:** Assume that  $a - p \in J(R)$  and  $a - q \in J(R)$ , then similarly  $p = q$ .  $\square$

In [2], an element of a ring is called *strongly  $J$ -clean* provided that it can be written as the sum of an idempotent and an element in its Jacobson radical that commute. A ring is *strongly  $J$ -clean* in case each of its elements is strongly  $J$ -clean. From the definition of a strongly  $J$ -clean ring, one may suspects that every weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring is strongly  $J$ -clean. But the following example erases possibility.

**Example 2.14.** It is clear that the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Since  $2 \notin J(\mathbb{Z}_3)$ , it is not strongly  $J$ -clean by [2, Proposition 3.1].

Recall that, a ring  $R$  is called *periodic* if for each  $x \in R$ , there exists distinct positive integers  $m, n$  depending on  $x$ , for which  $x^n = x^m$ . For an easy reference, we mention Lemma 2.15 which is one of Jacobson's theorem given in [9] relating to periodicity and commutativity of the rings.

**Lemma 2.15.** *Let  $R$  be a ring in which for every  $a \in R$  there exists an integer  $n(a) > 1$ , depending on  $a$  such that  $a^{n(a)} = a$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

We now give a useful result to determine whether  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Theorem 2.16.** *If a ring  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then  $R/J(R)$  is a periodic ring which has three period and  $R/J(R)$  is commutative.*

*Proof.* Let  $R$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar and  $r \in R$ . So  $r + p \in J(R)$  or  $r - p \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ . Clearly,  $\bar{r} = \bar{p}$  or  $\bar{r} = -\bar{p}$  and  $\bar{p}^2 = \bar{p}$ . If  $\bar{r} = \bar{p}$ , then  $\bar{r}^2 = \bar{r}$  and so  $\bar{r}^3 = \bar{r}$ . If  $\bar{r} = -\bar{p}$ , then it is clear that  $\bar{r}^3 = \bar{r}$ . Hence  $R/J(R)$  is a periodic ring which has period three. By Lemma 2.15,  $R/J(R)$  is commutative.  $\square$

The following example shows that the converse statement of Theorem 2.16 is not true in general.

**Example 2.17.** It is clear that the ring  $\mathbb{Z}$  is commutative,  $J(\mathbb{Z}) = 0$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/J(\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ . But  $\mathbb{Z}$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

By Theorem 2.16, we obtain the following important result for weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings.

**Corollary 2.18.** *If  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then  $R/J(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*

*Proof.* Proof is clear from Lemma 2.2 (1) and (2).  $\square$

Recall that a ring  $R$  is said to be *clean* if for each  $a \in R$  there exists  $e^2 = e \in R$  such that  $a - e \in U(R)$ . According to Nicholson and Zhou [11], a ring  $R$  is said to be *uniquely clean* if for each  $a \in R$  there exists unique idempotent  $e \in R$  such that  $a - e \in U(R)$ . In [6], it is proved that a ring  $R$  is uniquely clean if and only if  $R$  is abelian (i.e., each idempotent of  $R$  is central)  $J$ -quasipolar. In this direction we generalize this result for weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings.

**Theorem 2.19.** *A ring  $R$  is abelian weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if  $R$  is uniquely clean.*

*Proof.* Given  $a \in R$ , then  $-a \in R$ . Hence  $-a + p \in J(R)$  or  $-a - p \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in R$ . If  $-a + p \in J(R)$ , so  $a$  is uniquely clean. If  $-a - p \in J(R)$ , then  $a - (1 - p) \in U(R)$ . Uniqueness of the idempotent  $p$  follows from Proposition 2.13. Therefore  $R$  is a uniquely clean ring. The converse is clear by [6, Theorem 2.7].  $\square$

The next example illustrates that “abelian” condition is not superfluous in Teorem 2.19.

**Example 2.20.** The matrix ring  $T_2(\mathbb{Z}_2)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, but not abelian. By [11, Lemma 4],  $T_2(\mathbb{Z}_2)$  is not a uniquely clean ring.

In [1], Ungor et al. introduced and studied a new class of reduced rings (i.e., it has no nonzero nilpotent elements). A ring  $R$  is called *feckly reduced* if  $R/J(R)$  is a reduced ring. In this direction we show that every weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring is feckly reduced.

**Theorem 2.21.** *If  $R$  is a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring, then it is feckly reduced.*

*Proof.* Let  $R$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar and  $r^2 = 0$ . Therefore there exists  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(r)$  such that  $r + p \in J(R)$  or  $r - p \in J(R)$ . If  $r - p \in J(R)$ , then  $r(r - p) = r^2 - rp \in J(R)$ . Since  $r^2 = 0 \in J(R)$ ,  $rp \in J(R)$ . Also  $(r - p)p = rp - p \in J(R)$ . Hence  $p \in J(R)$  and so  $p = 0$ . Thus  $r \in J(R)$  and  $R/J(R)$  is reduced. If  $r + p \in J(R)$ , then similarly  $r \in J(R)$  and  $R/J(R)$  is reduced. Consequently,  $R$  is a feckly reduced ring.  $\square$

Let  $J^\sharp(R)$  denote the subset  $\{x \in R \mid \exists n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } x^n \in J(R)\}$  of  $R$ . It is obvious that  $J(R) \subseteq J^\sharp(R)$ . Weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings play an important role for the reverse inclusion.

**Corollary 2.22.** *If  $R$  is a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring, then  $J(R) = J^\sharp(R)$*

*Proof.* Let  $R$  be a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring. By Theorem 2.21,  $R$  is feckly reduced and so  $J(R) = J^\sharp(R)$  from [1, Proposition 2.6].  $\square$

The following result follows from Corollary 2.22.

**Corollary 2.23.** *If  $R$  is a  $J$ -quasipolar ring, then  $J(R) = J^\#(R)$ .*

Corollary 2.22 is helpful to show that a ring is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Example 2.24.** Let  $R$  denote the ring  $M_2(\mathbb{Z}_2)$ . Then

$$J^\#(R) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

and  $J(R) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ . By Corollary 2.22,  $R$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $a, b \in R$ . Then  $R$  is called *directly finite*, if  $ab = 1$  then  $ba = 1$ . It is well known that  $R$  is directly finite if and only if  $R/J(R)$  is directly finite.

**Proposition 2.25.** *If a ring  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then  $R$  is directly finite.*

*Proof.* The proof is clear from [1, Proposition 4.8].  $\square$

Since every  $J$ -quasipolar ring is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, the following result follows from Proposition 2.25.

**Corollary 2.26.** *If  $R$  is a  $J$ -quasipolar ring, then  $R$  is directly finite.*

In [10], strongly clean rings are introduced and studied. A ring  $R$  is *strongly clean*, if for every  $a \in R$  there exists  $e^2 = e \in R$  such that  $a - e \in U(R)$  and  $ae = ea$ . At the end of that paper, the authors ask some open questions. One of them is “Is every strongly clean ring directly finite?”. By Proposition 2.25, weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings are both strongly clean and directly finite.

### 3. WEAKLY $J$ -QUASIPOLARITY OF MATRIX RINGS

In this section we study weakly  $J$ -quasipolarity of some matrix rings. It is important to determine whether an individual matrix is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. In particular, we investigate necessary and sufficient conditions weakly  $J$ -quasipolarity of the matrix ring  $T_2(R)$  over a commutative local ring  $R$ . We determine under what conditions a single  $2 \times 2$  matrix over a commutative local ring is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

We start with the obvious proposition.

**Proposition 3.1.** (1) *Let  $R$  be a commutative local ring. Then  $A \in M_2(R)$  is an idempotent if and only if either  $A = 0$ , or  $A = I_2$ , or  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & 1 - a \end{bmatrix}$  where  $bc = a - a^2$ .*



(2) Let  $R$  be a commutative local ring and  $P \in T_2(R)$ . Then  $P$  is an idempotent if and only if  $P$  has a form  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & x \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  for some  $x \in R$ .

*Proof.* (1) is clear from [3, Lemma 16.4.10] and (2) is straightforward.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.2.** Let  $R$  be a commutative local ring.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ 0 & a_3 \end{bmatrix}$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar in  $T_2(R)$  if and only if one of the following holds:

- (1)  $A \in J(T_2(R))$ ,
- (2)  $A \in \pm 1 + J(T_2(R))$ ,
- (3)  $A + P$  or  $A - P \in J(T_2(R))$  where  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  such that  $x = (a_1 - a_3)^{-1}a_2$ ,
- (4)  $A - P$  or  $A + P \in J(T_2(R))$  where  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  such that  $x = (a_3 - a_1)^{-1}a_2$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Case 1:** Let  $A + P \in J(T_2(R))$  such that  $P^2 = P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$ .

Since  $A + P = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 + p_1 & a_2 + p_2 \\ 0 & a_3 + p_3 \end{bmatrix} \in J(T_2(R))$ ,  $a_1 + p_1 \in J(R)$  and  $a_3 + p_3 \in J(R)$ . Besides assume that  $B \in \text{comm}(A)$  and take  $B = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 \\ 0 & b_3 \end{bmatrix}$ , so  $\begin{bmatrix} b_1 a_1 & b_1 a_2 + b_2 a_3 \\ 0 & b_3 a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 b_1 & a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_3 \\ 0 & a_3 b_3 \end{bmatrix}$ . Therefore  $a_2(b_1 - b_3) = b_2(a_1 - a_3)$ .

(i) If  $a_1, a_3 \in J(R)$ , then  $p_1 = p_3 = 0$ . Hence  $p_2 = 0$ .

(ii) If  $a_1, a_3 \in U(R)$ , then  $p_1 = p_3 = 1$ . Hence  $p_2 = 0$ .

(iii) If  $a_1 \in J(R)$ ,  $a_3 \in U(R)$ , then  $p_1 = 0, p_3 = 1$  and  $p_2 = x \in R$ . Since  $a_1 - a_3 \in U(R)$ ,  $b_2 = (a_1 - a_3)^{-1}a_2(b_1 - b_3)$ . Providing  $x = (a_3 - a_1)^{-1}a_2$ , then  $P \in \text{comm}(B)$ . Hence  $P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$ .

(iv) If  $a_1 \in U(R)$ ,  $a_3 \in J(R)$ , then  $p_1 = 1, p_3 = 0$  and  $p_2 = x \in R$ . Because of  $a_1 - a_3 \in U(R)$ ,  $b_2 = (a_1 - a_3)^{-1}a_2(b_1 - b_3)$ . Providing  $x = (a_1 - a_3)^{-1}a_2$ , then  $P \in \text{comm}(B)$ . Therefore  $P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$ .

**Case 2:** Let  $A - P \in J(T_2(R))$  such that  $P^2 = P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$ . Proof is similar to proof of Case 1.

The converse statement is clear.  $\square$

The following result is a direct consequence of Proposition 3.2 for  $J$ -quasipolar rings.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative local ring.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ 0 & a_3 \end{bmatrix}$  is  $J$ -quasipolar in  $T_2(R)$  if and only if one of the following holds:*

- (1)  $A \in J(T_2(R))$ .
- (2)  $A \in -1 + J(T_2(R))$ .
- (3)  $A + P \in J(T_2(R))$  where  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  such that  $x = (a_1 - a_3)^{-1}a_2$  or  $x = (a_3 - a_1)^{-1}a_2$ .

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. If  $T_n(R)$  with  $n \geq 2$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $T_n(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Let  $f$  be the unit matrix with  $(1, 1)$  entry is 1 and the other entries are 0, then  $fT_n(R)f \cong R$ . By Theorem 2.7,  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.  $\square$

The following example illustrates that the converse statement of Corollary 3.4 is not true in general.

**Example 3.5.** If  $R = \mathbb{Z}_3$ , then  $R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. For  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \in U(T_2(R))$ ,  $A + I_2 \notin J(T_2(R))$  and  $A - I_2 \notin J(T_2(R))$ . Therefore  $T_2(R)$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

Our next endeavor is to find conditions under which an individual matrix in  $M_2(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. Then  $A \in U(M_2(R))$  and  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if  $A - I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$  or  $A + I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $A$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Since  $A \in U(M_2(R))$ , weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotent of  $A$  is  $I_2$ . Hence  $A + I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$  or  $A - I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ . Conversely, if  $A - I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ , then  $A \in I_2 + J(M_2(R)) \subseteq U(M_2(R))$ . If  $A + I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ , then it is clear from the proof of [6, Lemma 4.3] that  $A \in U(M_2(R))$ .  $\square$

The following lemma is important to study especially in a matrix ring.

**Lemma 3.7.** *If  $R$  is a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring, then  $6 \in J(R)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $R$  be a weakly  $J$ -quasipolar ring, then there exists  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(2)$  such that  $2 - p \in J(R)$  or  $2 + p \in J(R)$ . Assume that  $2 - p = j \in J(R)$ , therefore  $2 - j = p$  and  $(2 - j)^2 = 2 - j$ . Thus

$2 = j(3 - j) \in J(R)$ . As a consequence  $6 \in J(R)$ . If  $2 + p = j_1 \in J(R)$ , then  $(j_1 - 2)^2 = (j_1 - 2)$ . So  $6 = j_1(5 - j_1) \in J(R)$ .  $\square$

Lemma 3.7 is helpful to show a ring is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Example 3.8.** Since  $6 \notin J(\mathbb{Z}_{15}) = 0$ , by Lemma 3.7,  $\mathbb{Z}_{15}$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

The converse statement of Lemma 3.7 is not true in general, i.e., for a ring  $R$ , if  $6 \in J(R)$ , then  $R$  need not be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Example 3.9.** It is obvious that  $6 \in J(T_2(\mathbb{Z}_3))$ . By Example 3.5, the ring  $T_2(\mathbb{Z}_3)$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.

Proposition 2.8 shows that in case of  $2 \in J(R)$ , weakly  $J$ -quasipolar rings and  $J$ -quasipolar rings are the same. The following example indicates that it does not hold in case of  $6 \in J(R)$ .

**Example 3.10.** The ring  $\mathbb{Z}_9$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar and  $6 \in J(\mathbb{Z}_9)$ . Since there is not a  $J$ -spectral idempotent for 4 such that  $4 + p \in J(\mathbb{Z}_9)$ , it is not  $J$ -quasipolar.

**Lemma 3.11.** *Let  $R$  be a ring with  $6 \in J(R)$ . If  $a \in R$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then  $a + 5$  or  $a - 5$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*

*Proof.* Let  $a \in R$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Thus  $a + p \in J(R)$  or  $a - p \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ . Assume that  $a + p \in J(R)$  and  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ . Since  $6 \in J(R)$ ,  $a - 6 + p = (a - 5) - (1 - p) \in J(R)$ . So  $a - 5$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. If  $a - p \in J(R)$  such that  $p^2 = p \in \text{comm}^2(a)$ ,  $a + 6 - p = (a + 5) + (1 - p) \in J(R)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.12.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with  $6 \in J(R)$  and  $A \in M_2(R)$  such that  $A \notin J(M_2(R))$ . If both  $\det A$  and  $\text{tr} A$  are in  $J(R)$ , then  $A$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.*

*Proof.* If  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, then  $A - 5$  or  $A + 5$  weakly  $J$ -quasipolar by Lemma 3.11. Note that  $\det(A - 5) = \det A - 5(\text{tr} A + 5) \in U(R)$ . Hence weakly  $J$ -spectral idempotent of  $A - 5$  is  $I_2$  by Lemma 2.3. So  $A - 5 - I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$  or  $A - 5 + I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ . If  $A - 5 - I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ , then  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, which contradicts the assumption. In other condition, let  $A - 5 + I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$  and so  $A - 4 \in J(M_2(R))$ . Therefore  $a_{11} - 4, a_{22} - 4 \in J(R)$ ,  $a_{11} + a_{22} - 8 = \text{tr} A - 8 \in J(R)$ . Since  $\text{tr} A \in J(R)$ , so  $8 \in J(R)$  and  $8 - 6 = 2 \in J(R)$ . Thus  $A - 4 + 4 \in J(M_2(R))$  is a contradiction. As a consequence  $A$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Also in case of  $A + 5 \in J(M_2(R))$ , proof is similar. Finally  $A$  is not weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.13.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative local ring. Then  $A = \begin{bmatrix} j & 0 \\ 0 & u \end{bmatrix}$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar in  $M_2(R)$  if and only if one of the following holds.*

- (1)  $A \in J(M_2(R))$ .
- (2)  $A + I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ .
- (3)  $A - I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ .
- (4)  $u \in -1 + J(R)$  and  $j \in J(R)$ .
- (5)  $u \in J(R)$  and  $j \in -1 + J(R)$ .
- (6)  $u \in J(R)$  and  $j \in 1 + J(R)$ .
- (7)  $u \in 1 + J(R)$  and  $j \in J(R)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Then, there exists  $P^2 = P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$  such that  $A + P \in J(M_2(R))$  or  $A - P \in J(M_2(R))$ . If  $A + P \in J(M_2(R))$ , then (1), (2), (4), (5) hold by [6, Lemma 4.7]. Assume that  $A - P \in J(M_2(R))$ . If  $P = 0$  or  $P = I_2$  it is clear. Let  $P \neq 0$  and  $P \neq I_2$ . By Proposition 3.1,  $P = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & 1 - a \end{bmatrix}$  where  $bc = a - a^2$ .

Since  $F = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \text{comm}(A)$  and  $P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$ ,  $FP = PF$ . Then,  $b = c = 0$ . Thus,  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  or  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Since  $A - P \in J(M_2(R))$ ,  $u \in J(R)$  and  $j \in 1 + J(R)$  or  $u \in 1 + J(R)$  and  $j \in J(R)$ .

Conversely, if  $A \in J(M_2(R))$  or  $A + I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$  or  $A - I_2 \in J(M_2(R))$ , then  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. If  $u \in -1 + J(R)$  and  $j \in J(R)$  or  $u \in J(R)$  and  $j \in -1 + J(R)$ , then it follows from [6, Lemma 4.7]. Suppose that  $u \in J(R)$  and  $j \in 1 + J(R)$ . Let  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Then  $P^2 = P$  and  $A - P \in J(M_2(R))$ . To show that

$P^2 = P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$ , let  $B = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & t \end{bmatrix} \in \text{comm}(A)$ . Hence  $y = z = 0$  and so  $PB = BP$ . Thus  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. If  $u \in J(R)$  and  $j \in 1 + J(R)$ , similarly  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.14.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative local ring with  $6 \in J(R)$  and let  $A \in M_2(R)$  such that  $A \notin J(M_2(R))$  and  $\det A \in J(R)$ . Then  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if  $x^2 - (\text{tr}A)x + \det A = 0$  has a root in  $J(R)$  and a root in  $\mp 1 + J(R)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $A$  be weakly  $J$ -quasipolar,  $A \notin J(M_2(R))$  and  $\det A \in J(R)$ . Then there exists  $P^2 = P \in \text{comm}^2(A)$  such that  $A - P \in J(M_2(R))$  or  $A + P \in J(M_2(R))$ . Let  $A - P \in J(M_2(R))$ . So  $\text{tr}A \in U(R)$ , by Proposition 3.12. If  $x^2 - (\text{tr}A)x = -\det A$ , then  $x(x(\text{tr}A)^{-1} - 1) =$

$-\det A(\operatorname{tr} A)^{-1}$ . As  $R$  is commutative local,  $J(R)$  is a prime ideal in  $R$ . Hence  $x \in J(R)$  or  $x(\operatorname{tr} A)^{-1} - 1 \in J(R)$ . We discuss the following cases.

**Case 1:** If  $x \in J(R)$ , then  $x(\operatorname{tr} A)^{-1} - 1 \in -1 + J(R)$ .

**Case 2:** If  $x(\operatorname{tr} A)^{-1} - 1 \in J(R)$ , then  $x \in 1 + J(R)$ .

In case of  $A + P \in J(M_2(R))$ , the proof is similar. Conversely, let  $A =$

$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ . Assume that  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are roots of characteristic equation of  $A$

such that  $\gamma_1 \in J(R)$  and  $\gamma_2 \in \mp 1 + J(R)$ . It is clear that  $\operatorname{tr} A = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 \in U(R)$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $a \in U(R)$ . Let

$W = \begin{bmatrix} b & a - \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_1 - a & c \end{bmatrix} \in M_2(R)$ . Then  $\det W = bc - (a - \gamma_1)(\gamma_1 - a) \in$

$U(R)$  and  $W \in U(M_2(R))$ . So  $W^{-1}AW = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_2 \end{bmatrix}$ . By Lemma 3.13,

$W^{-1}AW$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Therefore  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar by Lemma 2.5.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.15.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative local ring with  $6 \in J(R)$ . The matrix  $A \in M_2(R)$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if one of the following holds:*

- (1) *Either  $A$  or  $A - I_2$  or  $A + I_2$  is in  $J(M_2(R))$ .*
- (2) *The equation  $x^2 - (\operatorname{tr} A)x + \det A = 0$  has a root in  $J(R)$  and a root in  $\mp 1 + J(R)$ .*

*Proof.* For the sufficiency, in the case (1) clearly  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Suppose that (2) holds. Then  $A \notin J(M_2(R))$  and  $\det A \in J(R)$ , so  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar, by Proposition 3.14.

For the necessity, suppose that  $A$ ,  $A - I_2$  and  $A + I_2$  are not contained in  $J(M_2(R))$ . Hence  $\det A \in J(R)$  by Lemma 3.6. Therefore (2) is guaranteed by Proposition 3.14.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.16.** [4, Lemma 1.5] *Let  $R$  be a commutative domain. Then  $A \in M_2(R)$  is an idempotent if and only if either  $A = 0$  or  $A = I_2$  or  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & 1 - a \end{bmatrix}$  where  $bc = a - a^2$ .*

**Proposition 3.17.**  *$A \in M_2(\mathbb{Z})$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar if and only if one of the following hold.*

- (1)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -a & b \\ c & a - 1 \end{bmatrix}$  such that  $bc = a - a^2$ .
- (2)  $A$  is idempotent.
- (3)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -a & -b \\ -c & a - 1 \end{bmatrix}$  such that  $bc = a - a^2$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Since  $J(M_2(\mathbb{Z})) = 0$ , proof is clear. Conversely, If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & 1-a \end{bmatrix}$  and  $bc = a - a^2$ , then  $A$  is idempotent. So  $A$  is weakly  $J$ -quasipolar. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -a & b \\ c & a-1 \end{bmatrix}$ . If idempotent is chosen as  $P = \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ -c & 1-a \end{bmatrix}$ , then it is clear. Lately, let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -a & -b \\ -c & a-1 \end{bmatrix}$ . The idempotent is chosen as  $P = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & 1-a \end{bmatrix}$ , it is clear.  $\square$

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