

## *nil*-INJECTIVE RINGS

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ABSTRACT. A ring  $R$  is called left *nil*-injective if every  $R$ -homomorphism from a principal left ideal which is generated by a nilpotent element to  $R$  is a right multiplication by an element of  $R$ . In this paper, we first introduce and characterize a left *nil*-injective ring, which is a proper generalization of left  $p$ -injective ring. Next, various properties of left *nil*-injective rings are developed, many of them extend known results.

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### 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper  $R$  denotes an associative ring with identity, and  $R$ -modules are unital. For  $a \in R$ ,  $r(a)$  and  $l(a)$  denote the right annihilator and the left annihilator of  $a$ , respectively. We write  $J(R)$ ,  $Z_l(R)$  ( $Z_r(R)$ ),  $N(R)$ ,  $N_1(R)$  and  $S_l(R)$  ( $S_r(R)$ ) for the Jacobson radical, the left (right) singular ideal, the set of nilpotent elements, the set of non-nilpotent elements and the left (right) socle of  $R$ , respectively.

### 2. Characterizations of left *nil*-injective rings

Call a left  $R$ -module  $M$  *nil*-injective if for any  $a \in N(R)$ , any left  $R$ -homomorphism  $f : Ra \rightarrow M$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow M$ , or equivalently,  $f = \cdot m$  where  $m \in M$ . Clearly, every left  $p$ -injective module (c.f. [8] or [16]) is left *nil*-injective. If  $R_R$  is *nil*-injective, then we call  $R$  a left *nil*-injective ring. Hence every left  $p$ -injective ring (c.f. [16]) is left *nil*-injective. Our interest here is in left *nil*-injective rings. The following theorem is an application of [16, Lemma 1.1].

**Theorem 2.1.** *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is a left *nil*-injective ring.
- (2)  $rl(a) = aR$  for every  $a \in N(R)$ .
- (3)  $b \in aR$  for every  $a \in N(R), b \in R$  with  $l(a) \subseteq l(b)$ .
- (4)  $r(l(a) \cap Rb) = r(b) + aR$  for all  $a, b \in R$  with  $ba \in N(R)$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $aR \subseteq rl(a)$  is clear. Now let  $x \in rl(a)$ . Then  $f : Ra \rightarrow R$  defined by  $f(ra) \mapsto rx, r \in R$  is a left  $R$ -homomorphism. Since  $R$  is a left *nil*-injective ring and  $a \in N(R)$ , there exists a  $c \in R$  such that  $f = \cdot c$ . Therefore  $x = f(a) = ac \in aR$ . Hence  $rl(a) \subseteq aR$  and so  $aR = rl(a)$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) Assume that  $a \in N(R), b \in R$  and  $l(a) \subseteq l(b)$ . By (2),  $b \in rl(b) \subseteq rl(a) = aR$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) Obviously,  $r(b) + aR \subseteq r(l(a) \cap Rb)$  always holds. Let  $x \in r(l(a) \cap Rb)$ . Then  $l(ba) \subseteq l(bx)$ . By (3),  $bx \in baR$  because  $ba \in N(R)$ . Write  $bx = bac, c \in R$ . Then  $x - ac \in r(b)$  and so  $x \in r(b) + aR$ . Therefore  $r(l(a) \cap Rb) = r(b) + aR$ .

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Let  $a \in N(R)$  and  $f : Ra \rightarrow R$  be any left  $R$ -homomorphism. Since  $l(a) \subseteq l(f(a))$  and  $a \in N(R)$ ,  $f(a) \in rl(f(a)) \subseteq rl(a) = r(l(a) \cap R1) = r(1) + aR = aR$  by (4). This shows that  $R$  is left *nil*-injective ring.  $\square$

**Example 2.2.** *The ring  $\mathbb{Z}$  of integers is left *nil*-injective ring which is not  $p$ -injective.*

The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Theorem 2.1.

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $R = \prod_{i \in I} R_i$  be a direct product of rings. Then  $R$  is left *nil*-injective if and only if  $R_i$  is left *nil*-injective for all  $i \in I$ .*

Recall that a ring  $R$  is left universally mininjective [14] if  $kR = rl(k)$  for every minimal left ideal  $Rk$  of  $R$ .  $R$  is called right minannihilator [14] if  $Rk$  being minimal left ideal of  $R$  always implies that  $kR$  is a minimal right ideal.  $R$  is called left universally mininjective [14] if  $Rk$  being a minimal left ideal of  $R$  implies that  $Rk = Re, e^2 = e \in R$ . Call a ring  $R$  left MC2 [19] if  $aRe = 0$  implies  $eRa = 0$ , where  $a, e^2 = e \in R$  and  $Re$  is a minimal left ideal of  $R$ . A ring  $R$  is called left Johns [15] if it is left noetherian and every left ideal is an annihilator.  $R$  is said to be a left CEP-ring [15] if every cyclic left  $R$ -module can be essentially embedded in a projective module.

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be a left *nil*-injective ring. Then*

- (1)  $R$  is a left mininjective ring.
- (2)  $R$  is left minsymmetric ring.

- (3)  $R$  is left MC2-ring.
- (4)  $R$  is a right minannihilator ring.
- (5) If  $R$  is a left Johns ring, then  $R$  is quasi-Frobenius.
- (6) If  $R$  is a left CEP-ring, then  $R$  is quasi-Frobenius.
- (7) If  $R$  is a left noetherian ring with essential left socle, then  $R$  is left artinian.
- (8) If  $R$  is a left continuous ring and  $R/S_r(R)$  is left Goldie, then  $R$  is quasi-Frobenius.

**Proof.** (1) Assume that  $Rk$  is any minimal left ideal of  $R$ . If  $(Rk)^2 = 0$ , then  $k \in N(R)$ . By hypothesis and Theorem 2.1,  $Rk = rl(k)$ ; we are done. If  $(Rk)^2 \neq 0$ , then  $Rk = Re, e^2 = e \in R$ . Write  $e = ck, c \in R$ . Then  $k = ke = kck$ . Set  $g = kc$ . Then  $g^2 = g, k = gk$  and  $kR = gR$ . Hence  $l(k) = l(g)$  and so  $kR = gR = rl(g) = rl(k)$ ; we are also done. Therefore  $R$  is a left mininjective ring.

(2) It follows from [14, Theorem 1.14].

(3) Assume that  $Re, e^2 = e \in R$  is a minimal left ideal of  $R$  and  $a \in R$  with  $aRe = 0$ . If  $eRa \neq 0$ , then there exists a  $b \in R$  such that  $eba \neq 0$ . Since  $eba \in N(R)$ ,  $ebaR = rl(eba)$  by hypothesis. Clearly,  $l(e) = l(eba)$ , so  $ebaR = eR$ . Therefore  $eR = eReR = ebaReR = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $eRa = 0$  and so  $R$  is a left MC2 ring.

(4) Assume that  $kR$  is a minimal right ideal of  $R$ . If  $(kR)^2 \neq 0$ , then  $kR = eR, e^2 = e \in R$ . So  $rl(k) = rl(kR) = rl(eR) = rl(e) = eR = kR$ . If  $(kR)^2 = 0$ , then  $k \in N(R)$  so, by hypothesis,  $rl(k) = kR$ .

(5) It follows from [15, Theorem 4.6].

(6) Since any left CEP-ring is left Johns, (6) follows from (5).

(7) According to [17, Theorem 2], any left noetherian left minsymmetric ring with essential left socle is left artinian, so we derive (7).

(8) This is an immediate consequence of [18, Corollary 1].  $\square$

**Example 2.5.** Let  $V = Fv \oplus Fw$  be a two-dimensional vector space over a field  $F$ . The trivial extension  $R = T(F, V) = F \oplus V$  is a commutative, local, artinian ring with  $J(R)^2 = 0$  and  $J(R) = Z_l(R)$ . Since  $(0, v) \in N(R)$  and  $rl((0, v)) \neq (0, v)R$ ,  $R$  is not a left nil-injective ring.

**Example 2.6.** If  $R$  is not a left nil-injective, then the polynomial ring  $R[x]$  is not nil-injective (In fact, there exists  $a \in N(R)$  such that  $r_R l_R(a) \neq aR$ . Hence  $a \in N(R[x])$  and  $r_{R[x]} l_{R[x]}(a) = (r_R l_R(a))[x] \neq (aR)[x] = a(R[x])$ ). On the other hand, since  $S_l(R[x]) = 0$ ,  $R[x]$  is a left mininjective ring. Hence there exists a left mininjective ring which is not left nil-injective.

Hence we have:  $\{\text{left } p\text{-injective rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left } nil\text{-injective rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left mininjective rings}\}$ .

A ring  $R$  is said to be **NI** if  $N(R)$  forms an ideal of  $R$ . A ring  $R$  is said to be  $2$ -prime if  $N(R) = P(R)$ , where  $P(R)$  is the prime radical of  $R$ . Clearly, every  $2$ -prime ring is **NI**.

A ring  $R$  is called zero commutative (briefly **ZC**) [4] if for  $a, b \in R$ ,  $ab = 0$  implies  $ba = 0$ . A ring  $R$  is called **ZI** [4] if for  $a, b \in R$   $ab = 0$  implies  $aRb = 0$ . According to [4], every **ZC** ring is **ZI**. A ring  $R$  is called reduced if  $N(R) = 0$ . Clearly, reduced rings are **ZC**. A ring  $R$  is Abelian if every idempotent of  $R$  is central.

**Corollary 2.7.** *Let  $R$  be a left  $nil$ -injective ring. Then the following statements hold:*

- (1) *If  $a \in N(R)$  and  ${}_R Ra$  is projective, then  $Ra = Re$  with  $e^2 = e \in R$ .*
- (2)  *$P(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$ .*
- (3) *If  $R$  is an **NI** ring, then  $N(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$ .*
- (4) *If  $R$  is a  $2$ -prime ring, then  $N(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$ .*
- (5) *The following conditions are equivalent:*
  - (a)  *$R$  is a reduced ring.*
  - (b)  *$R$  is a **ZC** left nonsingular ring.*
  - (c)  *$R$  is a **ZI** left nonsingular ring.*
  - (d)  *$R$  is a left nonsingular  $2$ -prime ring.*
  - (e)  *$R$  is a left nonsingular **NI** ring.*

**Proof.** (1) Since  ${}_R Ra$  is projective,  $l(a) = Rg, g^2 = g \in R$ . By hypothesis and Theorem 2.1,  $(1 - g)R = r(Rg) = rl(a) = aR$ . Write  $1 - g = ac$  and  $e = ca$ . Then  $a = (1 - g)a = aca = ae$ ,  $e^2 = e$  and  $Ra = Re$ .

(2) If  $b \in P(R)$  and  $b \notin Z_l(R)$ , then there exists a nonzero left ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $I \cap l(b) = 0$ . Let  $0 \neq c \in I$ . Then  $cb \neq 0$ . Set  $f : Rcb \rightarrow R$  via  $rcb \mapsto rc, r \in R$ . Then  $f$  is a well-defined left  $R$ -homomorphism. Since  $cb \in P(R) \subseteq N(R)$ ,  $f = \cdot u, u \in R$ . Therefore  $c = f(cb) = cbu$  and so  $c(1 - bu) = 0$  and so  $c = 0$  because  $1 - bu$  is invertible. This is a contradiction. Hence  $b \in Z_l(R)$  and so  $P(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$

- (3) The proof is similar to that of (2).
- (4) Follows by (3).
- (5) Since every **ZI** ring is a  $2$ -prime, (c)  $\Rightarrow$  (d) holds.

(e)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) Since  $R$  is an  $NI$  ring, by Corollary 2.4,  $N(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$ . Hence  $N(R) = 0$  because  $Z_l(R) = 0$  by (e). This shows that  $R$  is a reduced ring.

The rest of the implications are clear.  $\square$

Recall that a ring  $R$  is left  $PP$  if every principal left ideal of  $R$  is projective as a left  $R$ -module. A ring  $R$  is left  $PS$  [13] if every minimal left ideal is projective as a left  $R$ -module. A ring  $R$  is said to be left  $NPP$  if  ${}_R Ra$  is projective for all  $a \in N(R)$ . Hence left  $PP$  rings, Von Neumann regular rings and reduced rings are left  $NPP$ .

**Example 2.8.** *Since there exists a reduced left  $p$ -injective ring which is not Von Neumann regular, there exists a left  $p$ -injective left  $NPP$  ring which is not Von Neumann regular. Since a ring  $R$  is Von Neumann regular if and only if  $R$  is left  $p$ -injective left  $PP$  ring, there exists a left  $p$ -injective left  $NPP$  ring which is not left  $PP$ . Therefore there exists a left  $NPP$  ring which is not left  $PP$ .*

**Theorem 2.9.** *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is a reduced ring.
- (2)  $R$  is a left  $NPP$   $ZC$  ring.
- (3)  $R$  is a left  $NPP$   $ZI$  ring.
- (4)  $R$  is a left  $NPP$  Abelian ring.

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) are obvious.

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Let  $a \in R$  with  $a^2 = 0$ . Since  $R$  is a left  $NPP$  ring,  ${}_R Ra$  is projective, so  $l(a) = R(1 - e)$  where  $e^2 = e \in R$ . Hence  $a = ea = ae$  because  $R$  is an Abelian ring. Since  $a \in l(a) = R(1 - e)$ ,  $a = a(1 - e)$ . Thus  $a = ae = a(1 - e)e = 0$ , which implies that  $R$  is reduced.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.10.** *(1)  $R$  is a left  $NPP$  ring if and only if every homomorphic image of any nil-injective left  $R$ -module is nil-injective.*

- (2) *If  $R$  is a left  $NPP$  ring, then  $R$  is a left nonsingular ring.*
- (3) *If  $R$  is a left  $NPP$  ring, then  $R$  is a left  $PS$  ring.*
- (4) *Let  $R$  be a ring such that the polynomial ring  $R[x]$  is left  $NPP$  ring. Then  $R$  is a left  $NPP$  ring.*

**Proof.** (1) Assume that  $R$  is a left  $NPP$  ring and  $f : Q \rightarrow W$  is an  $R$ -epic where  ${}_R Q$  is left nil-injective. Let  $a \in N(R)$  and  $g : Ra \rightarrow W$  be a left  $R$ -homomorphism. Since  ${}_R Ra$  is projective, there exists a left  $R$ -homomorphism  $h : Ra \rightarrow Q$  such that  $fh = g$ . Since  ${}_R Q$  is nil-injective and  $a \in N(R)$ , there exists a left  $R$ -homomorphism  $\gamma : R \rightarrow Q$  such that  $\gamma i = h$  where  $i : Ra \hookrightarrow R$  is

the inclusion map. Set  $\sigma = f\gamma : R \rightarrow W$ . Then  $\sigma i = f\gamma i = fh = g$ . This shows that  ${}_R W$  is *nil*-injective.

Conversely, suppose that every homomorphic image of any *nil*-injective left  $R$ -module is *nil*-injective and  $a \in N(R)$ . In order to show that  $Ra$  is projective, let  $g : E \rightarrow W$  be an epimorphism of left  $R$ -module and  $h : Ra \rightarrow W$  an  $R$ -homomorphism where  ${}_R E$  is any injective module. By hypothesis,  ${}_R W$  is *nil*-injective, so there exists a left  $R$ -homomorphism  $\gamma : R \rightarrow W$  such that  $\gamma i = h$ . Therefore there exists a left  $R$ -homomorphism  $\sigma : R \rightarrow E$  such that  $g\sigma = \gamma$ . Set  $f = \sigma i : Ra \rightarrow E$ . Then  $gf = g\sigma i = \gamma i = h$ . This implies that  ${}_R Ra$  is projective.

(2) Let  $0 \neq a \in Z_l(R)$  with  $a^2 = 0$ . Since  $R$  is a left *NPP* ring,  ${}_R Ra$  is projective. So  $l(a)$  is a direct summand of  $R$  as a left  $R$ -module. But  $a \in Z_l(R)$ ,  $l(a)$  must be essential in  ${}_R R$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $Z_l(R) = 0$ .

(3) By (2),  $Z_l(R) = 0$  and so  $S_l(R) \cap Z_l(R) = 0$ . By [2],  $R$  is a left *PS* ring.

(4) Assume that  $a \in N(R)$ . Then  $a \in N(R[x])$  and so  $l_{R[x]}(a) = R[x]e$  where  $e^2 = e \in R[x]$  by hypothesis. Let  $e = e_0 + e_1x + e_2x^2 + \cdots + e_nx^n$  where  $e_i \in R, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Thus  $e_0^2 = e_0$  and  $l_R(a) = Re_0$ , which implies that  $R$  is a left *NPP* ring.  $\square$

**Example 2.11.** *The trivial extension  $R = T(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}_{2^\infty})$  is a commutative ring for which  $Z_r = J \neq 0$  and  $S_l(R)$  is simple and essential in  $R$ . Hence  $S_l(R) \cap Z_l(R) = S_l(R) \neq 0$ , so  $R$  is not left *PS* by [13]. By Theorem 2.10(3),  $R$  is not left *NPP*. Hence  $R[x]$  is not left *NPP*. But  $R[x]$  is left *PS* because  $S_l(R[x]) = 0$ . Therefore there exists a left *PS* ring which is not left *NPP*.*

**Example 2.12.** *Let  $F$  be a division ring and  $R = \begin{pmatrix} F & F \\ 0 & F \end{pmatrix}$ . Then  $N(R) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Let  $0 \neq u \in F$ . Then  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & u \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} R = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & uF \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . On the other hand,  $rl\left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & u \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} F & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & u \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} R$ . Hence  $R$  is not left *nil*-injective. Since  $R$  is left *PP*,  $R$  is left *NPP*. Therefore there exists a left *NPP* ring which is not left *nil*-injective.*

**Example 2.13.** *If  ${}_R V_R$  is a bimodule over a ring  $R$ , then the trivial extension  $R = T(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$  is a commutative ring with  $J(R) = Z_l(R) \neq 0$  and  $S_l(R) = 0$ . Hence  $R$  is a left *PS* ring that is not left nonsingular.*

**Remark 2.14.** *Since there exists a commutative nonsingular semiprimary ring  $R$  which is not semisimple. Hence  $R$  is not left NPP ring by Theorem 2.9. This implies that there exists a left nonsingular ring which is not left NPP. Hence we have:*

$\{\text{left PP rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left NPP rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left nonsingular rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left PS rings}\}.$

Recall that a ring  $R$  is  $I$ -finite if it contains no infinite orthogonal family of idempotents. Evidently, every semiperfect ring is  $I$ -finite. Call a nonzero right ideal  $I$  of  $R$  right weakly essential if  $I \cap aR \neq 0$  for all  $0 \neq a \in N(R)$ . Clearly, every essential right ideal of  $R$  is right weakly essential.

**Theorem 2.15.** *Let  $R$  be a left nil-injective ring and let  $a \in N(R)$ ,  $b \in R$ .*

- (1) *If  $\sigma : {}_R R a \longrightarrow {}_R R b$  is epic, then  $bR_R$  can be embedded in  $aR_R$ .*
- (2) *Let  $R$  be a ZC ring or  $N(R) \subseteq c(R)$ . If  ${}_R R a \cong {}_R R b$ , then  $aR_R \cong bR_R$ .*
- (3) *If  $R$  is a left Kasch ring, then  $r(J)$  is weakly essential as a right ideal of  $R$ .*
- (4) *If  $K$  is a singular simple left ideal of  $R$ , then  $KR$  is the homogeneous component of  $S_l(R)$  containing  $K$ .*
- (5) *If  $R$  is  $I$ -finite, then  $R = R_1 \times R_2$ , where  $R_1$  is semisimple and every simple left ideal of  $R_2$  is nilpotent.*

**Proof.** (1) Let  $\sigma = \cdot u, u \in R$ . Then  $au = \sigma(a) = vb, v \in R$ . Set  $\varphi : bR \longrightarrow aR$  defined by  $\varphi(br) = vbr = aur \in aR$ . Then  $\varphi$  is a right  $R$ -homomorphism. If  $\varphi(br) = 0$ , then  $aur = vbr = 0$ . Since  $b = \sigma(ca), c \in R, b = cau$ . Hence  $br = caur = 0$ , which implies that  $\varphi$  is a monic.

(2) Let  $\varphi, u, v$  as (1). Under the hypothesis, we can show that  $\sigma(a) \in N(R)$ . Since  $l(a) = l(\sigma(a)), \sigma(a)R = rl(\sigma(a)) = rl(a) = aR$  by Theorem 2.1. Thus  $aR = auR$ , which implies that  $\varphi$  is epic.

(3) Assume that  $0 \neq a \in N(R)$  and  $M$  is a maximal submodule of  ${}_R R a$ . Then there exists a left  $R$ -monic  $\sigma : Ra/M \longrightarrow R$  because  $R$  is a left Kasch ring. Let  $\rho : Ra \longrightarrow R$  defined by  $\rho(ra) = \sigma(ra + M)$ . Then  $\rho = \cdot u, u \in R$  because  $R$  is a left nil-injective ring. Clearly  $au = \rho(a) = \sigma(a + M) \neq 0$  and  $Jau = J\sigma(a + M) = \sigma(Ja + M) = 0$  because  $JRa \subseteq M$ . Hence  $0 \neq au \in aR \cap r(J)$ , which shows that  $r(J)$  is right weakly essential.

(4) Let  $K = Rk, k \in R$  and  $\sigma : K \longrightarrow S$  be a left  $R$ -isomorphism, where  $S$  is a left ideal of  $R$ . Since  $K$  is a singular simple left ideal of  $R$ ,  $K^2 = 0$ , and so  $k \in N(R)$ . By hypothesis,  $kR = rl(k) = rl(\sigma(k)) = \sigma(k)R$  because  $l(k) = l(\sigma(k))$

and  $\sigma(k) \in N(R)$ . Hence  $S = R\sigma(k) \subseteq RkR = KR$ , so the  $K$ -component is in  $KR$ . The other inclusion always holds.

(5) By Corollary 2.4, this is an immediate consequence of [14, Theorem 1.12].  $\square$

**Remark 2.16.** *If  $R$  is a commutative nil-injective ring, then the singular homogeneous component of  $S_l(R)$  are simple. We generalize this fact as follows: If  $A \cap B = 0$  where  $A$  and  $B$  are left ideals of left nil-injective ring  $R$ . If  $A$  is a nil ideal of  $R$ , then  $\text{Hom}_R(A, B) = 0$  by Theorem 2.1.*

**Theorem 2.17.** *Let  $R$  be a left nil-injective ring. If  $ReR = R$  where  $e^2 = e \in R$ , then  $eRe$  is left nil-injective.*

**Proof.** Assume that  $a \in N(S)$  where  $S = eRe$ . Then  $a \in N(R)$  and so  $aR = r_R l_R(a)$  by Theorem 2.1. Let  $x \in r_S l_S(a)$ . Then  $l_S(a) \subseteq l_S(x) \subseteq l_R(x)$ . Now let  $y \in l_R(a)$ . Then  $ya = 0$ . Write  $1 = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i e v_i$ ,  $u_i, v_i \in R$ . Clearly  $ev_i y x = ev_i y e x = 0$  for all  $i$  because  $l_S(a) \subseteq l_S(x)$ . Therefore  $y x = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i e v_i y x = 0$ , so  $y \in l_R(x)$ . This implies that  $l_R(a) \subseteq l_R(x)$  and so  $x \in r_R l_R(x) \subseteq r_R l_R(a) = aR$ . Therefore  $x = x e \in aRe = aeRe = aS$ , which shows that  $r_S l_S(a) \subseteq aS$ . Hence  $aS = r_S l_S(a)$  and so  $eRe = S$  is a left nil-injective ring by Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

Call a ring  $R$   $n$ -regular if  $a \in aRa$  for all  $a \in N(R)$ . Examples include Von Neumann regular rings and reduced rings. Clearly, every  $n$ -regular ring is semiprime.

**Theorem 2.18.** *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is a  $n$ -regular ring.
- (2) Every left  $R$ -module is nil-injective.
- (3) Every cyclic left  $R$ -module is nil-injective.
- (4)  $R$  is left nil-injective left NPP ring.

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) Assume that  $M$  is left  $R$ -module and  $f : Ra \rightarrow M$  is any left  $R$ -homomorphism for  $a \in N(R)$ . By (1),  $a = aba$ ,  $b \in R$ . Write  $e = ba$ . Then  $e^2 = e$  and  $a = ae$ . Set  $m = f(e)$ . Then  $f = \cdot m$ , which implies that  ${}_R M$  is nil-injective.

(2)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (3) It is clear.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) Clearly  $R$  is a left nil-injective ring by (3). Assume that  $a \in N(R)$ . Then  ${}_R Ra$  is nil-injective by (3), so  $I = \cdot c$ ,  $c \in Ra$  where  $I : {}_R Ra \rightarrow {}_R Ra$  is the identity map. Therefore  $a = I(a) = ac \in aRa$ . Write  $c = ba$ ,  $b \in R$ . Then  $a = ac = aba$ ,  $c^2 = baba = ba = c$  and  $Ra = Rc$  is a projective left  $R$ -module.

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Suppose that  $a \in N(R)$ . By (4) and Theorem 2.1,  $aR = r l(a)$ . Since  $R$  is left NPP ring,  $l(a) = R(1 - e)$ ,  $e^2 = e \in R$ . Therefore  $aR = eR$ . Write

$e = ac, c \in R$ . Then  $a = ea = aca \in aRa$ , which implies that  $R$  is  $n$ -regular ring.  $\square$

**Remark 2.19.** *Since there exists a reduced ring which is not Von Neumann regular ring, there exists an  $n$ -regular ring which is not Von Neumann regular ring. For example,  $\mathbb{Z}$ .*

**Remark 2.20.** *The ring introduced in Example 2.12 is left  $NPP$  which is not  $n$ -regular because  $R$  is not left nil-injective.*

According to [14], a ring  $R$  is left universally mininjective if and only if  $R$  is left mininjective left  $PS$ . Since  $n$ -regular rings are semiprime, every  $n$ -regular ring is left universally mininjective. On the other hand, the ring  $R[x]$  in Example 2.11 is left universally mininjective which is not left  $NPP$  and so is not  $n$ -regular by Theorem 2.18. It is well known that there exists a semiprime ring  $R$  such that  $Z_l(R) \neq 0$ . Hence there exists a semiprime ring which is not left  $NPP$  by Theorem 2.10(2). Therefore there exists a semiprime ring which is not  $n$ -regular. Since there exists a polynomial ring  $R[x]$  which is not semiprime and all polynomial rings are left universally mininjective, we have:

$\{\text{Von Neumann regular rings}\} \subsetneq \{n\text{-regular rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{semiprime rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left universally mininjective rings}\}$ .

Call a ring  $R$  left  $NC2$  if  ${}_R Ra$  projective implies  $Ra = Re, e^2 = e \in R$  for all  $a \in N(R)$ . Clearly, every left  $C2$  ring (c.f. [15]) is left  $NC2$ . By Corollary 2.7(1), we know that every left nil-injective ring is left  $NC2$ .

**Example 2.21.** *The trivial extension  $R = T(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}_{2^\infty})$  is a commutative ring with  $Z_l(R) = J(R) \neq 0$  which is not left  $C2$  by [15, Example 3.2]. Since  $N(R) \subseteq J(R)$ ,  $R$  is left  $NC2$ . Therefore there exists a left  $NC2$  ring which is not left  $C2$ .*

The ring  $\mathbb{Z}$  of integers is also left  $NC2$  ring which is not left  $C2$ .

The ring  $R$  in Example 2.5 is left  $NC2$  which is not left nil-injective.

**Theorem 2.22.** (1) *If  $R$  is a left  $NC2$  ring, then  $R$  is left  $MC2$  ring.*

(2) *If  $R[x]$  is a left  $NC2$  ring, then so is  $R$ .*

**Proof.** (1) Assume that  $Rk$  is a minimal projective left ideal  $R$ . If  $(Rk)^2 \neq 0$ , then  $Rk = Re, e^2 = e \in R$ , we are done; If  $(Rk)^2 = 0$ , then  $k \in N(R)$ . Since  $R$  is a left  $NC2$  ring,  $Rk = Rg, g^2 = g \in R$ .

(2) Suppose that  $a \in N(R)$  and  ${}_R Ra$  is projective. Then  $l_R(a) = Re, e^2 = e \in R$ . Since  $l_{R[x]}(a) = R[x]e$  and  $a \in N(R[x])$ ,  ${}_{R[x]} R[x]a$  is projective. Therefore  $R[x]a =$

$R[x]h, h^2 = h \in R[x]$  by hypothesis. Let  $h = h_0 + h_1x + h_2x^2 + \cdots + h_nx^n$  where  $h_i \in R, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Clearly,  $Ra = Rh_0, h_0^2 = h_0$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.23.** Let  $F$  be a division ring and let  $R = \begin{pmatrix} F & F \\ 0 & F \end{pmatrix}$ . Then  $R$  is not left MC2 ring, so  $R$  is not left NC2 by Theorem 2.22 (1). Therefore  $R[x]$  is not left NC2 by Theorem 2.22 (2). But  $R[x]$  is left mininjective, so  $R[x]$  is left MC2. Hence there exists a left MC2 ring which is not left NC2. Hence we have:

$$\{\text{left C2 rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left NC2 rings}\} \subsetneq \{\text{left MC2 rings}\}$$

**Theorem 2.24.** (1)  $R$  is  $n$ -regular ring if and only if  $R$  is left NC2 left NPP ring.

(2) If  $R$  is  $n$ -regular ring, then  $N(R) \cap J(R) = 0$ .

**Proof.** (1) By Theorem 2.18, every  $n$ -regular ring is left NC2 left NPP ring. Conversely, let  $a \in N(R)$ . Since  $R$  is left NPP,  ${}_R Ra$  projective. Since  $R$  is left NC2 ring,  $Ra = Re, e^2 = e \in R$ . Thus  $a = ae \in aRa$ . Hence  $R$  is left  $n$ -regular ring.

(2) If  $a \in N(R) \cap J(R)$ , then  $a = aba, b \in R$ . Hence  $a(1 - ba) = 0$ . Since  $a \in J(R), ba \in J(R)$ . Hence  $1 - ba$  is invertible and so  $a = 0$ .  $\square$

According to [15], a ring  $R$  is said to be left weakly continuous if  $Z_l(R) = J(R)$ ,  $R/J(R)$  is Von Neumann regular ring and idempotents can be lifted modulo  $J(R)$ . Every Von Neumann regular ring is left weakly continuous. Since every Von Neumann regular ring is left PP, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.25.** The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .

- (1)  $R$  is an Von Neumann regular ring.
- (2)  $R$  is a left weakly continuous left PP ring.
- (3)  $R$  is a left weakly continuous left NPP ring.
- (4)  $R$  is a left weakly continuous left nonsingular ring.

### 3. $Wnil$ -injective Modules

Call a left  $R$ -module  $M$   $Wnil$ -injective if for any  $0 \neq a \in N(R)$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and any left  $R$ -morphism  $f : Ra^n \rightarrow M$  can be extends to  $R \rightarrow M$ , or equivalently,  $f = \cdot m$  where  $m \in M$ . Clearly, every left  $YJ$ -injective module (c.f. [3], [20] or [4]) and left  $nil$ -injective modules are all left  $Wnil$ -injective. The following theorem is a proper generalization of [10, Proposition 1].

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a ring whose every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective. If  $R$  satisfies one of the following conditions, then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $Z_r(R) \cap Z_l(R) = 0$ .
- (2)  $Z_l(R) \cap J(R) = 0$ .
- (3) If  $R$  is left MC2 ring, then  $Z_r(R) = 0$ .
- (4)  $R$  is a left PS ring.

**Proof.** (1) If  $Z_r(R) \cap Z_l(R) \neq 0$ , then there exists a  $0 \neq b \in Z_r(R) \cap Z_l(R)$  such that  $b^2 = 0$ . We claim that  $RbR + l(b) = R$ . Otherwise there exists a maximal essential left ideal  $M$  of  $R$  containing  $RbR + l(b)$ . So  $R/M$  is a simple singular left  $R$ -module, and then it is left  $Wnil$ -injective by hypothesis. Set  $f : Rb \rightarrow R/M$  defined by  $f(rb) = r + M$ . Then  $f$  is well-defined left  $R$ -homomorphism. Hence  $f = \cdot \bar{c}, c \in R$  and so  $1 - bc \in M$ . Since  $bc \in RbR \subseteq M, 1 \in M$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $1 = x + y, x \in RbR, y \in l(b)$ , and so  $b = xb$ . Since  $RbR \subseteq Z_r(R)$ ,  $x \in Z_r(R)$ . Thus  $r(1 - x) = 0$  and so  $b = 0$ , which is a contradiction. This shows that  $Z_r(R) \cap Z_l(R) = 0$ .

(2) can be done with an argument similar to that of (1).

(3) Suppose that  $Z_r(R) \neq 0$ . Then there exists  $0 \neq a \in Z_r(R)$  such that  $a^2 = 0$ . If there exists a maximal left ideal  $M$  of  $R$  containing  $RaR + l(a)$ . then  $M$  must be an essential left ideal. Otherwise  $M = l(e), e^2 = e \in R$ . Hence  $aRe = 0$ . We claim that  $eRa = 0$ . Otherwise there exists a  $c \in R$  such that  $eca \neq 0$ . Since  ${}_R Re \cong {}_R Reca$ ,  ${}_R Reca$  is projective. Thus  $Reca = Rg, g^2 = g \in R$ , which implies that  $reca = Rg = RgRg = RecaReca = Rec(aRe)ca = 0$ . This is a contradiction. Therefore  $eRa = 0$  and so  $e \in l(a) \subseteq M = l(e)$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $M$  is essential and so  $R/M$  is  $Wnil$ -injective by hypothesis. As proved in (1), there exists a  $c \in R$  such that  $1 - ac \in M$ . Since  $ac \in RaR \subseteq M, 1 \in M$ , which is also a contradiction. Thus  $RaR + l(a) = R$  and so  $1 = x + y, x \in RaR, y \in l(a)$ . Hence  $a = xa$ . and so  $a = 0$  because  $x \in RaR \subseteq Z_r(R)$ . This is also a contradiction, which shows that  $Z_r(R) = 0$ .

(4) Let  $Rk$  be minimal left ideal of  $R$ . If  $(Rk)^2 \neq 0$ , then  $Rk = Re, e^2 = e \in R$ , so  ${}_R Rk$  is projective. If  $(Rk)^2 = 0$ , then  $l(k)$  is a summand of  ${}_R R$ . Otherwise  $l(k)$  is a maximal essential left ideal. So  $R/l(k)$  is a  $Wnil$ -injective left  $R$ -module by hypothesis. Therefore the left  $R$ -homomorphism  $f : Rk \rightarrow R/l(k)$  defined by  $f(rk) = r + l(k), r \in R$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow R/l(k)$ . This implies that there exists a  $c \in R$  such that  $1 - kc \in l(k)$ . Since  $RkRkR = 0, 1 - kc$  is invertible.

Hence  $l(k) = R$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $l(k)$  is a summand of  ${}_R R$  and so  ${}_R Rk$  is projective. Consequently,  $R$  is a left *PS* ring.  $\square$

Recall that  $R$  is a left *GQ*-injective ring [9] if, for any left ideal  $I$  isomorphic to a complement left ideal of  $R$ , every left  $R$ -homomorphism of  $I$  into  $R$  extends to an endomorphism of  ${}_R R$ . It is clear that left *GQ*-injective rings generalize left continuous rings. We know that if  $R$  is left *GQ*-injective, then  $J(R) = Z_l(R)$  and  $R/J(R)$  is Von Neumann regular ring. Since every left module over a Von Neumann regular ring is  $p$ -injective, the following corollary to Theorem 3.1 generalizes [3, Theorem 2] and [10, Corollary 1.2].

**Corollary 3.2.** (1)  *$R$  is a Von Neumann regular ring if and only if  $R$  is a left weakly continuous ring whose simple singular left  $R$ -modules are  $Wnil$ -injective.*

(2) *Let  $R$  be a left *GQ*-injective ring whose simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective. Then  $R$  is a Von Neumann regular ring.*

(3) *Let  $R$  be a ring whose simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective. Then  $Z_l(R) = 0$  if and only if  $Z_l(R) \subseteq J(R)$ .*

(4) *Let  $R$  be a ring whose simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $nil$ -injective. Then  $Z_l(R) = 0$  if and only if  $Z_l(R) \subseteq Z_r(R)$ .*

(5) *If  $R$  is a left MC2 right *GQ*-injective ring such that every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective. Then  $R$  is a Von Neumann regular ring*

(6) *If  $R$  is a left MC2 right weakly continuous ring such that every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective. Then  $R$  is a Von Neumann regular ring*

According to [6], a left  $R$ -module  $M$  is called Small injective if every homomorphism from a small left ideal to  ${}_R M$  can be extended to an  $R$ -homomorphism from  ${}_R R$  to  ${}_R M$ .

A left  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be left weakly principally small injective (or, *WPSI*) if for any  $0 \neq a \in J(R)$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and any left  $R$ -homomorphism from  $Ra^n \rightarrow M$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow M$ . Evidently, left Small injective modules are left *WPSI*. We do not know whether the converse is true. A ring  $R$  is called left *WPSI* if  ${}_R R$  is a left *WPSI*. It is easy to show that  $R$  is a left *WPSI* ring if and only if for every  $0 \neq a \in J(R)$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $rl(a^n) = a^n R$ . Clearly, every left *YJ*-injective ring is left *WPSI*. The following corollary generalizes [10, Corollary 1.3].

**Corollary 3.3.** (1) If  $R$  is a left WPSI ring, then the following statements hold:

- (a)  $J(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$ .
- (b)  $R$  is a left mininjective ring.
- (c) If  $e^2 = e \in R$  is such that  $ReR = R$ , then  $eRe$  is a left WPSI ring.
- (d) If  $R$  is an NI, then  $R$  is a left nil-injective ring.

(2) If  $R$  is a left WPSI ring whose every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective, then

- (a)  $J(R) = 0 = Z_r(R)$ .
- (b) If  $R$  is a right  $GQ$ -injective, then  $R$  is Von Neumann regular ring.
- (c) If  $R$  is a right weakly continuous, then  $R$  is Von Neumann regular ring.

(3) If  $R$  is a right WPSI left MC2 ring whose every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective, then  $J(R) = 0$ .

**Proof.** (1) (a) If there exists a  $b \in J(R)$  with  $b \notin Z_l(R)$ . Then there exists a nonzero left ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $I \cap l(b) = 0$ . Let  $0 \neq a \in I$ . Then  $ab \neq 0$ . Evidently,  $ab \in J(R)$ . Hence there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $(ab)^n \neq 0$  and  $(ab)^n R = rl((ab)^n)$ . Since  $l((ab)^{n-1}a) = l((ab)^n)$ ,  $(ab)^{n-1}a \in rl((ab)^{n-1}a) = rl((ab)^n) = (ab)^n R$ . Write  $(ab)^{n-1}a = (ab)^n c$ ,  $c \in R$ . Then  $(ab)^{n-1}a(1 - bc) = 0$  and so  $(ab)^{n-1}a = 0$  because  $1 - bc$  is invertible. Hence  $(ab)^n = (ab)^{n-1}ab = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $J(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$ .

(b) Assume that  $Rk$  is a minimal left ideal of  $R$ . If  $(Rk)^2 \neq 0$ , then  $Rk = Re$ ,  $e^2 = e \in R$ . Set  $e = ck$ ,  $c \in R$  and  $g = kc$ . Then  $k = ke = kck = gk$ ,  $g^2 = kckc = kc = g$  and  $kR = gR$ . Therefore  $kR = gR = rl(g) = rl(k)$ , we are done. If  $(Rk)^2 = 0$ , then  $k \in J(R)$ . Since  $R$  is a left WPSI ring,  $rl(k) = kR$ . Hence  $R$  is a left mininjective ring.

(c) Similar to the proof of Theorem 2.24.

(2) (a) By Theorem 3.1 and (1),  $J(R) = Z_l(R) \cap J(R) = 0$  and  $R$  is a left mininjective ring, so  $R$  is a left MC2 by [1]. Hence  $Z_r(R) = 0$  by Theorem 3.1.

(b) Since  $R$  is a right  $GQ$ -injective,  $R/J(R)$  is Von Neumann regular. Hence  $R$  is Von Neumann regular ring because  $J(R) = 0$  by (a).

(c) Similar to (b).

(3) Similar to (1), we have  $J(R) \subseteq Z_r(R)$ . So  $J(R) = 0$  because  $Z_r(R) = 0$  by Theorem 3.1.  $\square$

It is well known that if every simple left  $R$ -module is injective, then  $R$  is semiprime. Since every simple singular left  $R$ -module is injective,  $R$  must not be semiprime.

According to [3], a ring  $R$  is idempotent reflexive if  $aRe = 0$  implies  $eRa = 0$  for all  $e^2 = e, a \in R$ . Clearly, every idempotent reflexive ring is left  $MC2$ .

**Proposition 3.4.** (1) *If every simple left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective, then  $R$  is semiprime.*

(2) *If every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective, then  $R$  is semiprime if it satisfies any one of the following conditions.*

- (a)  *$R$  is a left  $MC2$ .*
- (b)  *$R$  is an idempotent reflexive.*
- (c)  *$R$  is a left  $NC2$ .*

**Proof.** (1) Assume that  $a \in R$  such that  $aRa = 0$ . Then  $RaR \subseteq l(a)$ . If  $a \neq 0$ , then there exists a maximal left ideal  $M$  containing  $l(a)$ . By hypothesis,  $R/M$  is  $Wnil$ -injective. So there exists a  $c \in R$  such that  $1 - ac \in M$ . Hence  $1 \in M$ , which is a contradiction. So  $a = 0$  and then  $R$  is a semiprime ring.

(2) (a) Since  $R$  is left  $MC2$ , as proved in Theorem 3.1(3), we know that  $M$  as in (1) are essential in  ${}_R R$ . The rest proof containing (b), (c) are similar to (1).  $\square$

**Corollary 3.5.** *Suppose that every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective. Then the following conditions are equivalent.*

- (1)  *$R$  is a reduced ring.*
- (2)  *$R$  is a  $ZC$  ring.*
- (3)  *$R$  is a  $ZI$  ring.*
- (4)  *$R$  is an Abelian 2-prime ring.*
- (5)  *$R$  is an idempotent reflexive 2-prime ring.*
- (6)  *$R$  is a left  $MC2$  2-prime ring.*

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) and (4)  $\Rightarrow$  (5)  $\Rightarrow$  (6) are obvious.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) If  $R$  is a  $ZI$  ring, then  $R$  is an Abelian ring, and so  $R$  is a left  $MC2$  ring. By Proposition 3.4,  $R$  is semiprime. Now, let  $a \in R$  with  $a^2 = 0$ . then  $aRa = 0$  because  $R$  is a  $ZI$  ring. Hence  $a = 0$ . Therefore  $R$  is a reduced ring.

(6)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) By (6) and Proposition 3.4,  $R$  is a semiprime ring. So  $N(R) = P(R) = 0$  because  $R$  is a 2-prime ring.  $\square$

Call an element  $k \in R$  left (right, resp) minimal if  $Rk$  ( $kR$ , resp) is a minimal left (right, resp) ideal of  $R$ . Call an element  $e \in R$  is called left minimal idempotent if  $e^2 = e$  is a left minimal element.

According to [14], if  $R$  is a left minsymmetric ring, then  $S_l(R) \subseteq S_r(R)$ .

Call a ring  $R$  reflexive [3] if  $aRb = 0$  implies  $bRa = 0$  for all  $a, b \in R$ . Clearly, every semiprime ring is reflexive and every reflexive ring is idempotent reflexive. Hence we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.6.** *Suppose that every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $W$  nil-injective. Then the following conditions are equivalent.*

- (1)  $R$  is a semiprime ring.
- (2)  $R$  is a reflexive ring.
- (3)  $R$  is an idempotent reflexive ring.
- (4)  $R$  is a left MC2 ring.
- (5)  $S_l(R) \subseteq S_r(R)$ .
- (6)  $R$  is a left minsymmetric ring.
- (7)  $R$  is a left mininjective ring.
- (8)  $R$  is a left universally mininjective ring.
- (9) Every left minimal idempotent of  $R$  is right minimal.

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) and (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (8)  $\Rightarrow$  (7)  $\Rightarrow$  (6)  $\Rightarrow$  (5) are obvious. By Proposition 3.4, we have (4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1).

(5)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) First, we assume that  $Rk, Re$  are minimal left ideals of  $R$  with  ${}_R Rk \cong {}_R Re$  where  $e^2 = e, k \in R$ . It is easy to show that there exists an idempotent  $g \in R$  such that  $k = gk$  and  $l(k) = l(g)$ . Hence, by hypothesis,  $gR \supseteq mR$  where  $mR$  is a minimal right ideal of  $R$ , so  $l(g) = l(m)$ . It suffices to show that  $(Rm)^2 \neq 0$ . For, if  $(Rm)^2 = 0$ , then  $(mR)^2 = 0$ . So  $mR = hR, h^2 = h \in R$ . Consequently,  $gR = rl(g) = rl(m) = rl(h) = hR = mR$  is a minimal right ideal of  $R$  and so  $kR = gkR = gR$ . Write  $g = kc, c \in R$  and  $u = ck$ . Then  $k = gk = kck = ku$ ,  $u^2 = ckck = ck = u$  and  $Rk = Ru$ , we are done; Assume to the contrary  $(Rm)^2 = 0$ . Then there exists a right ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $RmR \oplus I$  is essential in  $R_R$ . So  $S_l(R) \subseteq S_r(R) \subseteq RmR \oplus I$ . Since  $RmR \oplus I \subseteq l(m)$ ,  $g \in S_l(R) \subseteq l(m) = l(g)$ , which is a contradiction. Next, let  $a, e^2 = e \in R$  with  $aRe = 0$ , where  $e$  is a left minimal element of  $R$ . If  $eRa \neq 0$ , then there exists a  $b \in R$  such that  $eba \neq 0$ . Since  ${}_R Re \cong {}_R Reba$ ,  $Reba = Rh, h^2 = h \in R$  by the proof above. Therefore  $Rh = RhRh = RebaReba = 0$ , which is a contradiction. This shows that  $eRa = 0$  and so  $R$  is a left MC2 ring.

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (9) Assume that  $e \in R$  is a left minimal idempotent. Let  $a \in R$  be such that  $ea \neq 0$ . Since  $Rea$  is a minimal left ideal and  $l(e) \subseteq l(ea)$ ,  $l(e) = l(ea)$ . If  $(Rea)^2 = 0$ , then  $eaR \subseteq l(ea) = l(e)$ , so  $eaRe = 0$ . Since  $(Rea)^2 \neq 0$  and so  $Rea = Rg, g^2 = g \in R$ . Therefore  $eaR = hR$  for some  $h^2 = h \in R$ . Since

$l(h) = l(ea) = l(e)$ ,  $eR = rl(e) = rl(ea) = rl(h) = hR = eaR$ , which implies that  $eR$  is a minimal right ideal of  $R$ , e.g.  $e$  is a right minimal element.

(9)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) Assume that  $Rk, Re$ ,  $e^2 = e$ ,  $k \in R$  are minimal left ideals of  $R$  with  ${}_R Rk \cong {}_R Re$ . Then there exists an idempotent  $g \in R$  such that  $k = gk$  and  $l(k) = l(g)$ . Hence, by hypothesis,  $gR$  is a minimal right ideal of  $R$ . Therefore  $kR = gkR = gR$  and so  $Rk = Rh$  for some  $h^2 = h \in R$ .  $\square$

Now we give some characteristic properties of reduced rings in terms of the  $Wnil$ -injectivity.

**Theorem 3.7.** *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is a reduced ring.
- (2)  $R$  is an Abelian ring whose every left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective.
- (3)  $R$  is an Abelian ring whose every cyclic left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective.
- (4)  $N(R)$  forms a right ideal of  $R$  and every left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective.
- (5)  $N(R)$  forms a right ideal of  $R$  and every cyclic left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective.
- (6)  $N(R)$  forms a right ideal of  $R$  and every simple left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective.

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) and (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (4)  $\Rightarrow$  (5)  $\Rightarrow$  (6) are clear.

(6)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Assume that  $a \in R$  such that  $a^2 = 0$ . If  $a \neq 0$ , then let  $M$  be a maximal left  $R$ -submodule of  $Ra$ . Then  $Ra/M$  is a simple left  $R$ -module. By (6),  $Ra/M$  is a  $Wnil$ -injective. So the canonical homomorphism  $\pi : Ra \rightarrow Ra/M$  can be expressed as  $\pi = \cdot ca + M$ ,  $c \in R$ . Hence  $a - aca \in M$ . By (6),  $ac \in N(R)$  so  $1 - ac$  is invertible. Thus  $a = (1 - ac)^{-1}(1 - ac)a = (1 - ac)^{-1}(a - aca) \in M$ , which is a contradiction. So  $a = 0$  and then  $R$  is a reduced ring.  $\square$

A ring  $R$  is called *MELT* [5] if every maximal essential left ideal of  $R$  is an ideal. The following theorem is a generalization of [10, Proposition 9].

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $R$  be ring whose every simple singular left  $R$ -module is  $Wnil$ -injective. If  $R$  satisfies one of the following conditions, then  $Z_l(R) = 0$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is an *MELT* ring.
- (2)  $R$  is a *ZI* ring.
- (3)  $N(R) \subseteq J(R)$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that  $Z_l(R) \neq 0$ . Then  $Z_l(R)$  contains a nonzero element  $z$  such that  $z^2 = 0$ . Therefore  $l(z) \neq R$ . Let  $M$  be a maximal left ideal of  $R$  containing  $l(z)$ . Then  $M$  is an essential left ideal of  $R$  which implies that  $R/M$  is a left  $Wnil$ -injective. Define a left  $R$ -homomorphism  $f : Rz \rightarrow R/M$  by  $f(rz) = r + M$  for all  $r \in R$ . Since  $R/M$  is  $Wnil$ -injective and  $z^2 = 0$ , there exists a  $c \in R$  such

that  $1 - zc \in M$ . If  $R$  is *MELT*, then  $M$  is an ideal of  $R$ . Since  $z \in l(z) \subseteq M$ ,  $zc \in M$ . If  $R$  is *ZI*, then  $zRz = 0$  because  $z^2 = 0$ , so  $zc \in l(z) \subseteq M$ . If  $N(R) \subseteq J(R)$ , then  $zc \in J(R) \subseteq M$ . Hence we always have  $1 \in M$ , contradicting that  $M \neq R$ . This proves that  $Z_l(R) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.9.** *Let  $R$  be an MELT ring whose every simple singular left  $R$ -module is Wnil-injective. Then:*

- (1) *If  $R$  is a left GQ-injective ring, then  $R$  is Von Neumann regular.*
- (2) *If  $R$  is a left weakly continuous ring, then  $R$  is Von Neumann regular.*

A left  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be *Wjcp-injective* if for each  $a \notin Z_l(R)$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and every left  $R$ -homomorphism from  $Ra^n$  to  $M$  can be extended to one of  $R$  to  $M$ . If  ${}_R R$  is *Wjcp-injective*, we call  $R$  is a left *Wjcp-injective* ring. Evidently, every left *YJ-injective* ring is *Wjcp-injective*.

It is easy to show that  $R$  is left *Wjcp-injective* if and only if for any  $0 \neq a \notin Z_l(R)$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $rl(a^n) = a^n R$ .

The ring in Example 2.5 is a left *Wjcp-injective* which is not left *YJ-injective*.

**Theorem 3.10.** (1) *Let  $R$  be a left Wjcp-injective ring. Then:*

- (a)  $Z_l(R) \subseteq J(R)$ .
- (b)  $R$  is a left *C2* ring.
- (c) *If  $R$  is also a left WPSI ring, then  $Z_l(R) = J(R)$ .*
- (d) *If every simple singular left  $R$ -module is Wnil-injective, then  $Z_l(R) = 0$ .*

*Hence  $R$  is a semiprime left YJ-injective ring.*

(2)  *$R$  is a left YJ-injective ring if and only if  $R$  is a left WPSI left Wjcp-injective ring.*

**Proof.** (1) (a) Assume that  $a \in Z_l(R)$ . Then  $1 - a \notin Z_l(R)$  because  $l(1 - a) = 0$ . Therefore  $rl((1 - a)^n) = (1 - a)^n R$ , so  $R = (1 - a)^n R$ . This shows that  $a$  is a right quasi-regular element of  $R$ . Since  $Z_l(R)$  is an ideal of  $R$ ,  $a \in J(R)$ . Hence  $Z_l(R) \subseteq J(R)$ .

(b) Let  $e^2 = e, a \in R$  be such that  ${}_R Ra \cong_R Re$ . Then there exists a  $g^2 = g \in R$  such that  $a = ga$  and  $l(a) = l(g)$ . Therefore  $a \notin Z_l(R)$  and so  $aR = rl(a) = rl(g) = gR$ . Then there exists  $h^2 = h \in R$  such that  $Ra = Rh$ . This shows that  $R$  is a left *C2* ring.

(c) Since  $R$  is left *WPSI* ring,  $J(R) \subseteq Z_l(R)$  by Corollary 3.3. By (a),  $Z_l(R) = J(R)$ .

(d) By Theorem 3.1,  $Z_l(R) \cap J(R) = 0$ . By (a),  $Z_l(R) = 0$ . By (b) and Corollary 3.6,  $R$  is semiprime.

(2) Follows from (1).  $\square$

[10, Proposition 3] shows that if  $R$  is a reduced ring whose every simple left module is either  $YJ$ -injective or flat, then  $R$  is a biregular ring. We can generalize the result as follows.

**Theorem 3.11.** *Let  $R$  be a reduced ring whose every simple singular left module is either  $Wjcp$ -injective or flat. Then  $R$  is a biregular ring.*

**Proof.** For any  $0 \neq a \in R$ ,  $l(RaR) = r(RaR) = r(a) = l(a)$ . If  $RaR \oplus l(a) \neq R$ , then there exists a maximal left ideal  $M$  of  $R$  containing  $RaR \oplus l(a)$ . If  $M$  is not essential in  ${}_R R$ , then  $M = l(e)$ ,  $e^2 = e \in R$ . Therefore  $ae = 0$ . Since  $R$  is Abelian,  $ea = 0$ . Hence  $e \in l(a) \subseteq l(e)$ , which is a contradiction. So  $M$  is essential in  ${}_R R$ . By hypothesis,  $R/M$  is either  $Wjcp$ -injective or flat. First we assume that  $R/M$  is  $Wjcp$ -injective. Since  $R$  is reduced,  $Z_l(R) = 0$ . Hence there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and any left  $R$ -homomorphism  $Ra^n \rightarrow R/M$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow R/M$ . Set  $f : Ra^n \rightarrow R/M$  defined by  $f(ra^n) = r + M, r \in R$ . Then  $f$  is a well defined left  $R$ -homomorphism. Hence there exists a  $g : {}_R R \rightarrow R/M$  such that  $1 + M = f(a^n) = g(a^n) = a^n g(1) = a^n c + M$  where  $g(1) = c + M$ , so  $1 - a^n c \in M$ . Since  $a^n c \in RaR \subseteq M$ ,  $1 \in M$ , which is a contradiction. So we assume that  $R/M$  is flat. Since  $a \in M$ ,  $a = ac$  for some  $c \in M$ . Now  $1 - c \in r(a) = l(a) \subseteq M$  which implies that  $1 \in M$ , again a contradiction. Hence  $RaR \oplus l(a) = R$  and so  $RaR = Re, e^2 = e \in R$ . Since  $R$  is an Abelian ring,  $R$  is a biregular ring.  $\square$

In [6, Proposition 2.3], semiprimitive rings are characterized in terms of Small injective modules. In the next theorem, we obtain a similar result.

**Theorem 3.12.** *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $J(R) = 0$ .
- (2) Every left  $R$ -module is  $WPSI$ .
- (3) Every cyclic left  $R$ -module is  $WPSI$ .
- (4) Every simple left  $R$ -module is Small injective.

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) and (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) are clear.

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) If  $J(R) \neq 0$ , then there exists  $0 \neq a \in J(R)$ . By (4),  $Ra/M$  is a left Small injective  $R$ -module where  $M$  is a maximal  $R$ -submodule of  $Ra$ . Hence any left  $R$ -homomorphism  $Ra \rightarrow Ra/M$  extends to  $R \rightarrow Ra/M$ . Therefore the left

$R$ -homomorphism  $f : Ra \hookrightarrow Ra/M$  defined by  $f(ra) = ra + M$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow Ra/M$ . So there exists a  $c \in R$  such that  $a - aca \in M$ . Hence  $(1 - ac)a \in M$  and so  $a \in M$  because  $1 - ac$  is invertible, which is a contradiction. Therefore  $J(R) = 0$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) If  $J(R) \neq 0$ , then there exists  $0 \neq a \in J(R)$ . By (3),  $Ra$  is a left WPSI  $R$ -module. Hence there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and any left  $R$ -homomorphism  $Ra^n \rightarrow Ra$  extends to  $R \rightarrow Ra$ . Therefore the left  $R$ -homomorphism  $f : Ra^n \rightarrow Ra$  defined by  $f(ra^n) = ra^n, r \in R$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow Ra$ . So there exists  $c \in R$  such that  $a^n = a^n ca = 0$ . Hence  $a^n(1 - ca) = 0$  and so  $a^n = 0$  because  $1 - ca$  is invertible, which is a contradiction. Therefore  $J(R) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.13.** *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is a left universally mininjective.
- (2) Every minimal left ideal of  $R$  is left WPSI.
- (3) Every small minimal left ideal of  $R$  is left WPSI.

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) Assume that  $Rk$  is a minimal left ideal of  $R$  and  $0 \neq a \in J(R)$ . For any positive integer  $n$  with  $a^n \neq 0$ , if  $f : Ra^n \rightarrow Rk$  is any left  $R$ -homomorphism, we claim that  $f = 0$ . Otherwise  $f$  is an epic. Since  $R$  is a left universally mininjective ring,  $Rk = Re, e^2 = e \in R$  is a projective left  $R$ -module. Therefore  $Ra^n = \ker f \oplus I$ , where  $I$  is a minimal left ideal of  $R$  which is isomorphic to  $Rk$  as a left  $R$ -module. Therefore  $I = Rg, g^2 = g \in R$  because  $R$  is left universally mininjective. But  $I \subseteq Ra^n \subseteq J(R)$  which is a contradiction. Hence  $f = 0$ . Certainly,  $f$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow Rk$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) is clear.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Let  $Rk$  be a minimal left ideal of  $R$ . If  $(Rk)^2 \neq 0$ , we are done; If  $(Rk)^2 = 0$ , then  $Rk \subseteq J(R)$ . Hence  $Rk$  is left WPSI module. Thus the identity map  $I : Rk \rightarrow Rk$  can be extended to  $R \rightarrow Rk$ , which implies that there exists a  $c \in R$  such that  $k = kck \in RkRk$ . Therefore  $k = 0$  which is a contradiction. Hence  $R$  is a left mininjective ring.  $\square$

The next theorem can be proved with an argument similar to [10, Theorem 4].

**Theorem 3.14.** *The following conditions are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is a division ring.
- (2)  $R$  is a prime left Wjcp-injective ring containing a non-zero reduced right ideal which is a right annihilator.

(3)  $R$  is a prime left  $Wjcp$ -injective ring containing a non-zero reduced right ideal which is a left annihilator.

**Theorem 3.15.**  $R$  is a Von Neumann regular ring if and only if  $R$  is a left  $PP$  left  $Wjcp$ -injective ring.

**Proof.** One direction is obvious. Suppose that  $R$  is a left  $PP$  left  $Wjcp$ -injective ring. Let  $0 \neq a \in R$ . Then  $a \notin Z_l(R)$  because  $Z_l(R) = 0$ . Then there exists  $n > 0$  such that  $a^n \neq 0$  and  $rl(a^n) = a^n R$  because  $R$  is left  $Wjcp$ -injective. Since  $R$  is a left  $PP$  ring,  $l(a^n) = l(e)$ ,  $e^2 = e \in R$ . Thus  $eR = rl(e) = rl(a^n) = a^n R$ . This implies that  $a^n$  is a regular element of  $R$ . If  $a^2 = 0$ , the argument above shows that  $a$  is a regular element. so by [2, Theorem 2.2],  $R$  is a Von Neumann regular ring.  $\square$

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