

GIORDANO GALLINA

## Near-rings arising from coupling maps

**Abstract.** By contemporaneous consideration of coupling maps and of “multiplicative” endomorphisms, a class of near-rings is given. We prove in particular that various of them are local.

**Keywords.** Near-ring, coupling map, local near-ring.

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### 1 - Introduction

In this article, all near-rings will be assumed to be left near-rings, that is in which the product is distributive on the left with respect to the sum (see for example [1], [2], [8]). In order to summarize completely this concept, we recall that a (left) near-ring is a structure  $[N; +, \cdot]$ , with two operations, addition and multiplication, defined onto  $N$ , such that *i*)  $[N; +]$  is a group; *ii*)  $[N; \cdot]$  is a semi-group; *iii*)  $\forall x, y, z \in N \ x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$ . A near-ring  $N$  is called zero-symmetric ([1], Def. 3.2), if  $0 \cdot x = 0$  for any  $x \in N$ , and  $N$  is called near-field ([1], Def. 2.17) if  $[N \setminus \{0\}; \cdot]$  is a group. According to [5], Def. 2.1, a zero-symmetric near-ring  $N$  with (multiplicative) identity is said to be local if the set  $L(N)$  of elements of  $N$  without right inverses is a subgroup of  $[N; +]$ , such that  $L(N)N \subseteq N$ . A zero-symmetric near-ring  $N$  with identity is local if and only if  $L(N)$  is a subgroup of  $[N; +]$  (by Theorem 2.3 of [5], and we notice that in [5], [6], [7] notations for right near-rings, instead of for left, are used).

We now follow the terminology of [7]. Given a ring  $[A; +, \cdot]$ , a coupling map for  $A$  is defined as a function  $\varphi : A \rightarrow \text{End}[A; +, \cdot]$ <sup>1</sup> ( $a \rightarrow \varphi_a$ ) such that  $\varphi_0 = 0_A$ , and, for any  $a, b \in A$ ,  $\varphi_a \circ \varphi_b = \varphi_{a\varphi_a(b)}$ . From a coupling map  $\varphi$  for  $A$ , a (left) near-ring  $[A; +, \circ]$  is introduced, which is said to be the near-ring coupled with  $A$  by  $\varphi$  ([7] page 155), where  $\circ$  is given by  $a \circ b = a\varphi_a(b)$  (which implies  $\varphi_{a \circ b} = \varphi_a \circ \varphi_b$ ). In this paper, we generalize and we complicate the description of the local near-rings on elementary abelian  $p$ -groups of order  $p^2$  of [6], starting from a near-ring  $[A; +, \circ]$  coupled with a ring  $[A; +, \cdot]$  by a suitable coupling map  $\varphi$ . We introduce a function  $\rho$  of  $A \setminus \{0\}$  into  $A \setminus \{0\}$  satisfying appropriate hypotheses with respect to the previous  $\varphi$ . From  $\varphi$  and from  $\rho$  we derive an operation  $\circ_1$  onto  $A \times A$ , finding a class of near-rings; we verify that these near-rings, under some conditions, are local. Furthermore we classify, by a necessary and sufficient condition, all  $S$ -near-rings ([4]), among the near-rings in such a way introduced. In Section 3, we analyze when, given (arbitrarily) two, of the near-rings here obtained, they can be non-isomorphic.

For further generalities on the theory of near-rings, we refer to the treatises [1], [2], [8], [9],[10].

## 2 - A class of near-rings

Let  $[A; +, \cdot]$  be a ring with identity  $1 \neq 0$  without divisors of zero. The symbol  $id_A$  will be used to designate the identity map on  $A$ . Put  $A^* = A \setminus \{0\}$ . Let  $\varphi$  be a coupling map for  $A$ , with  $\varphi_a$  injective for every  $a \in A^*$ . Since  $1$  is the only idempotent in  $[A^*; \cdot]$ , we have then  $\varphi_x(1) = 1$  for all  $x \in A^*$ . Let  $R = [A; +, \circ]$  be the (left) near-ring coupled with  $[A; +, \cdot]$  by  $\varphi$ . We recall that, here,  $x \circ y = x\varphi_x(y)$  and  $\varphi_{x \circ y} = \varphi_x \circ \varphi_y$ . On the basis of our hypotheses, each element of  $A^*$  is left cancelable with respect to  $\circ$ . By theorem 4.4 of [7],  $R$  has identity  $1$ .<sup>2</sup> Moreover,  $1$  is the unique idempotent in  $[A^*; \circ]$ .<sup>3</sup> It is now clear that  $1$  is fixed by every endomorphism of  $[A^*; \circ]$ . For the given  $[A; +, \cdot]$  and  $\varphi$ , we denote by  $A_\varphi^*$  the set of all endomorphisms  $\rho$  of  $[A^*; \circ]$  verifying the condition

$$\forall x \in A^* \quad \varphi_x = \varphi_{\rho(x)}.$$

<sup>1</sup> We will note  $0_A$  the function  $A \rightarrow A$  which sends every element of  $A$  to  $0$ .

<sup>2</sup> For a direct verification, we remember that  $\varphi_1(1) = 1$ ; thus  $\varphi_1 = \varphi_{1\varphi_1(1)} = \varphi_1 \circ \varphi_1$ . Since  $\varphi_1$  is injective,  $\varphi_1 = id_A$ ; hence  $1$  is identity for  $R$ .

<sup>3</sup> If  $e \neq 0$  is such that  $e \circ e = e$ , then  $e \circ e = e \circ 1$ , which implies  $e = 1$ , by left-cancellability of  $e$ .

Examples. First of all, if  $[M; \cdot]$  is any monoid and if  $z \in M$  has (two-sided) inverse  $z^{-1}$ , we will call inner automorphism of  $M$  induced by  $z$  the function  $M \rightarrow M$ ,  $y \rightarrow z^{-1}yz$ . Now we consider the above mentioned structure  $[A^*; \circ]$  and we observe that, if  $\beta$  is an inner automorphism of  $[A^*; \circ]$  induced by an element  $z$  (endowed with inverse in  $[A^*; \circ]$ ), which we denote  $z^{-1}$  by [10] page 69) with  $\varphi_z$  belonging to the center of  $[\varphi(A); \circ]$ , then  $\beta \in A_\varphi^*$ . Indeed, by our assumption,  $\forall x \in A^*$

$$\varphi_{\beta(x)} = \varphi_{z^{-1} \circ x \circ z} = \varphi_z^{-1} \circ \varphi_x \circ \varphi_z = \varphi_x$$

(see also [10], page 69).

Moreover, let  $[C; +, \cdot]$  be an unitary integral domain,  $T \in \text{Aut}[C; +, \cdot]$ ,  $B = C[X]$ . We denote by  $\bar{T}$  the natural extension of  $T$  to  $B$  (defined by  $\bar{T}(c_0 + \dots + c_n X^n) = T(c_0) + \dots + T(c_n)X^n$ ). Assume the order of  $T$  in  $\text{Aut}[C; +, \cdot]$  to be a natural number  $h$ . Let  $m$  be a natural number congruent to 1 mod  $h$ . Consider the coupling map  $\varphi'$  for  $B$  defined by (see also [7], paragraph 6):

$$\varphi'_f = 0_B, \quad \forall f \in B^* = B \setminus \{0\} \quad \varphi'_f = \bar{T}^{\deg f}.$$

Then the function  $\rho' : B^* \rightarrow B^*$ ,  $\rho' : f \rightarrow f^m$  ( $f^m$  calculated in  $[B; \cdot]$ ) is an element of  $B_{\varphi'}^*$  (by our general notations). In fact,  $\bar{T}^m = \bar{T}$ , hence for  $f \in B^*$  we have

$$\varphi'_{\rho'(f)} = \varphi'_{f^m} = \bar{T}^{\deg f^m} = (\bar{T}^m)^{\deg f} = \bar{T}^{\deg f} = \varphi'_f,$$

and, given the near-ring  $[B; +, \circ']$ , coupled with  $[B; +, \cdot]$  by  $\varphi'$ , for  $f, g \in B^*$ , the following steps holds

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'(f) \circ' \rho'(g) &= f^m \circ' g^m = f^m \varphi'_{f^m}(g^m) = f^m \cdot (\bar{T}^{\deg f^m}(g^m)) = f^m \cdot ((\bar{T}^m)^{\deg f}(g^m)) \\ &= f^m \cdot (\bar{T}^{\deg f}(g^m)) = f^m \cdot (\bar{T}^{\deg f}(g))^m = (f \cdot (\bar{T}^{\deg f}(g)))^m = (f \varphi'_f(g))^m \\ &= (f \circ' g)^m = \rho'(f \circ' g), \end{aligned}$$

hence  $\rho'$  is also endomorphism of  $[B^*; \circ']$ .

Now, we consider  $[A; +, \cdot]$ ,  $\varphi$ ,  $R$  as defined before these examples, in this section, and, from now on, we denote by  $\rho$  a fixed (on the other hand, arbitrary) element of  $A_\varphi^*$ .

We introduce a structure  $R_1 = [A \times A; +, \circ_1]$  in the following way. Let  $(x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2) \in A \times A$ . We define  $(x_1, x_2) + (y_1, y_2) = (x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2)$ . Moreover, if  $x_1 \neq 0$ , then put

$$(x_1, x_2) \circ_1 (y_1, y_2) = (x_1 \circ y_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2)),$$

and, if  $x_1 = 0$ , then put  $(0, x_2) \circ_1 (y_1, y_2) = (0, x_2 \circ y_1)$ . Let  $J = \{0\} \times A$ . We observe that, since  $\rho \in A_\varphi^*$ , for  $x_1 \in A^*$  we have

$$\rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2) = \rho(x_1) \varphi_{\rho(x_1)}(y_2) = \rho(x_1) \circ y_2.$$

**Theorem 2.1.** *The structure  $R_1$  is a (zero-symmetric) near-ring having identity  $(1, 0)$ , in which  $J$  is an ideal with  $\frac{R_1}{J}$  isomorphic to  $R$ . Furthermore,  $J$  coincides with the set of nilpotent elements of  $R_1$ , and  $J \circ_1 J = \{(0, 0)\}$ .*

**Proof.** We verify the associativity of  $\circ_1$ . Let  $(x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2), (z_1, z_2) \in A \times A$ . Suppose  $x_1 \neq 0, y_1 \neq 0$ . From the definition of  $\circ_1$ , we can write

$$\begin{aligned} ((x_1, x_2) \circ_1 (y_1, y_2)) \circ_1 (z_1, z_2) &= (x_1 \circ y_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2)) \circ_1 (z_1, z_2) \\ &= (x_1 \circ y_1 \circ z_1, (x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2)) \varphi_{x_1 \circ y_1}(z_1) + \rho(x_1 \circ y_1) \varphi_{x_1 \circ y_1}(z_2)). \end{aligned}$$

We recall that, since  $\rho \in A_\rho^*$ , we have  $\rho(x_1 \circ y_1) = \rho(x_1) \circ \rho(y_1)$ . Therefore the last ordered pair is equal to

$$(x_1 \circ y_1 \circ z_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) \varphi_{x_1 \circ y_1}(z_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2) \varphi_{x_1 \circ y_1}(z_1) + (\rho(x_1) \circ \rho(y_1)) \varphi_{x_1 \circ y_1}(z_2)).$$

We bear in mind that (1)  $\varphi_{x_1}$  is an endomorphism of  $[A; +, \cdot]$ , (2)  $\varphi_{x_1} = \varphi_{\rho(x_1)}$ , (3)  $y_1 \circ z_1 = y_1 \varphi_{y_1}(z_1)$ ; we then have

$$\begin{aligned} (x_1, x_2) \circ_1 ((y_1, y_2) \circ_1 (z_1, z_2)) &= (x_1, x_2) \circ_1 (y_1 \circ z_1, y_2 \varphi_{y_1}(z_1) + \rho(y_1) \varphi_{y_1}(z_2)) \\ &= (x_1 \circ y_1 \circ z_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1 \circ z_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2 \varphi_{y_1}(z_1) + \rho(y_1) \varphi_{y_1}(z_2))) \\ &= (x_1 \circ y_1 \circ z_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1 \varphi_{y_1}(z_1)) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2)(\varphi_{x_1} \circ \varphi_{y_1})(z_1) \\ &\quad + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(\rho(y_1))(\varphi_{x_1} \circ \varphi_{y_1})(z_2)) \\ &= (x_1 \circ y_1 \circ z_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1)(\varphi_{x_1} \circ \varphi_{y_1})(z_1) \\ &\quad + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2)(\varphi_{x_1} \circ \varphi_{y_1})(z_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{\rho(x_1)}(\rho(y_1))(\varphi_{x_1} \circ \varphi_{y_1})(z_2)). \end{aligned}$$

In view of the identities  $\varphi_{x_1} \circ \varphi_{y_1} = \varphi_{x_1 \circ y_1}$ ,  $\rho(x_1) \varphi_{\rho(x_1)}(\rho(y_1)) = \rho(x_1) \circ \rho(y_1)$ , we now have

$$((x_1, x_2) \circ_1 (y_1, y_2)) \circ_1 (z_1, z_2) = (x_1, x_2) \circ_1 ((y_1, y_2) \circ_1 (z_1, z_2)).$$

If  $x_1 \neq 0, y_1 = 0$ , our argument is analogous (here, we recall the equalities before the statement); remaining cases are simpler. Hence we have the associativity of  $\circ_1$ . Since any  $\varphi_x$  is an endomorphism of  $[A; +]$  and since  $\circ$  is left distributive with respect to the sum onto  $A$ , the operation  $\circ_1$  is distributive on the left with respect to the sum defined onto  $A \times A$ . Further, we see that the function  $A \times A \rightarrow A$ ,  $(x_1, x_2) \rightarrow x_1$  is an epimorphism from the near-ring  $R_1$  to the near-ring  $R$ , whose kernel is  $J$ .

Finally, in consideration of the equality  $\rho(1) = 1$ , and since 1 is identity in  $R$ ,  $(1, 0)$  is identity in  $R_1$ . The rest is clear.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.** *If  $R$  is a local near-ring (in particular, if  $R$  is a near-field), then  $R_1$  is local also.*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $R$  is a local near-ring. We denote by  $L$  the set of elements of  $A$  without right inverses with respect to  $\circ$ , and by  $U$  the set  $A \setminus L$ . We have  $\varphi(U) \subseteq \text{Aut}[A; +, \cdot]$ <sup>4</sup>. We note that  $L \times A$  is a subgroup of  $[A \times A; +]$ , since  $L$  is a subgroup of  $[A; +]$ . We assert that  $L \times A$  consists of elements without right inverses with respect to  $\circ_1$ . Indeed suppose, on the contrary, that, for a  $(u, v) \in L \times A$ , there is a  $(t, w) \in A \times A$  such that  $(u, v) \circ_1 (t, w) = (1, 0)$ . Then  $u \circ t = 1$ , which contradicts the fact that  $u$  is in  $L$ . Hence, it remains to show that each element of

$$U \times A = (A \times A) \setminus (L \times A)$$

is endowed with right inverse with respect to  $\circ_1$  (see also Theorem 2.3 of [5]). We take  $(x_1, x_2)$  in  $U \times A$ . We demonstrate that there is an  $(y_1, y_2) \in A \times A$  such that  $(x_1, x_2) \circ_1 (y_1, y_2) = (1, 0)$ . This last condition is equivalent to the system

$$\begin{cases} x_1 \circ y_1 = 1, \\ x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Here  $y_1$  is uniquely determined as the two-sides inverse of  $x_1$  in  $[A; \circ]$  (Lemma 2.4 of [5]). From  $x_1 \circ y_1 = y_1 \circ x_1 = 1$ , we have  $\rho(x_1) \circ \rho(y_1) = \rho(y_1) \circ \rho(x_1) = \rho(1) = 1$ , that is  $\rho(x_1) \varphi_{\rho(x_1)}(\rho(y_1)) = \rho(y_1) \varphi_{\rho(y_1)}(\rho(x_1)) = 1$ . Then  $\rho(x_1), \rho(y_1)$  are in  $U$ ; thus  $\varphi_{\rho(x_1)}, \varphi_{\rho(y_1)}$  are automorphisms of  $[A; +, \cdot]$ , and consequently  $\rho(x_1)$  is invertible in  $[A; \cdot]$ . Since  $x_1 \in U$ , we have that  $\varphi_{x_1}$  is an automorphism of  $[A; +, \cdot]$  too. Therefore, from the second equality of the previous system, the element  $y_2$  is uniquely determined also.  $\square$

If  $[N; +, \cdot]$  is a near-ring, for every  $a \in N$  define  $A_l(a) = \{z \in N \mid za = 0\}$ . In [4], a near-ring  $N$  is said to be an  $S$ -near-ring if,  $\forall a \in N$ , the relation  $S_a$  defined onto  $N$  by  $xS_a y \Leftrightarrow xa = ya$  is a congruence of  $N$ . From [3], [4] it is clear that a zero-symmetric near-ring  $N$  is  $S$ -near-ring if and only if,  $\forall a \in N$ ,  $A_l(a)$  is an ideal, such that  $\forall x \in N$   $[x]_{S_a} = x + A_l(a)$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** *The near-ring  $R_1$  is  $S$ -near-ring if and only if:*

1.  $\rho$  is injective,
2. each non-null element of  $A$  is cancelable with respect to  $\circ$ .

**Proof.** We remember that every non-null element of  $A$  is left cancelable with respect to  $\circ$ . Suppose that 1., 2. holds. Let  $a = (0, y_2) \in A \times A$ ,  $y_2 \neq 0$ . It is

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<sup>4</sup> In fact, by Lemma 2.4 of [5], every element of  $U$  is invertible in  $[A; \circ]$ . Then, for a generic  $a \in U$ , there is  $b \in U$  such that  $a \circ b = b \circ a = 1$ ; thus  $\varphi_{a \circ b} = \varphi_{b \circ a} = \varphi_1$ , which implies  $\varphi_a \circ \varphi_b = \varphi_b \circ \varphi_a = id_A$ , so  $\varphi_a$  is an automorphism of  $[A; +, \cdot]$ .

immediate that  $A_l(a) = J^5$ . We demonstrate that two elements of  $A \times A$  are equivalent with respect to  $S_a$ <sup>6</sup> if and only if they belongs to the same coset of  $J$ . Suppose  $(x_1, x_2)S_a(x'_1, x'_2)$  with  $x_1 \neq 0$  (hence also  $x'_1 \neq 0$ ). We have  $(x_1, x_2) \circ_1 (0, y_2) = (x'_1, x'_2) \circ_1 (0, y_2)$ , that is  $(0, \rho(x_1) \circ y_2) = (0, \rho(x'_1) \circ y_2)$ . Because of 2.,  $\rho(x_1) = \rho(x'_1)$ ; therefore, by 1.,  $x_1 = x'_1$ , so  $(x_1, x_2) + J = (x'_1, x'_2) + J$ . If  $x_1 = 0$  then also  $x'_1 = 0$ , hence  $(x_1, x_2) + J = J = (x'_1, x'_2) + J$ . Conversely, by a direct verification we see that, for arbitrary  $x_1, x_2 \in A$ , any two elements of  $(x_1, x_2) + J = (x_1, 0) + J$  are equivalent with respect to  $S_a$ . For all  $b \notin J$  we demonstrate that  $S_b$  is the discrete relation, so is congruence. We take  $b = (y_1, y_2)$ ,  $y_1 \neq 0$ . Let  $(x_1, x_2)S_b(x'_1, x'_2)$ . If  $x_1 \neq 0$ , then  $x'_1 \neq 0$ , and  $x_1 \circ y_1 = x'_1 \circ y_1$ . From 2.,  $x_1 = x'_1$ . Therefore,

$$x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2) = x'_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \rho(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2);$$

since  $y_1 \neq 0$ , this implies  $x_2 = x'_2$ . If  $x_1 = 0$ , then  $x'_1 = 0$ , and  $(0, x_2 \circ y_1) = (0, x'_2 \circ y_1)$ , thus, by 2.,  $x_2 = x'_2$ . Consequently,  $R_1$  is an  $S$ -near-ring.

We assume now  $R_1$  to be  $S$ -near-ring. Consider elements  $x_1, x_2 \in A^*$  such that  $x_1 \neq x_2$ . We prove that  $\rho(x_1) \neq \rho(x_2)$ . Suppose on the contrary that  $\rho(x_1) = \rho(x_2)$ . Then there are two elements of  $A \times A$  equivalent with respect to  $S_{(0,1)}$ , belonging to two distinct cosets of  $J = A_l((0, 1))$ , that is the elements  $(x_1, 0)$ ,  $(x_2, 0)$ :

$$(x_1, 0) \circ_1 (0, 1) = (0, \rho(x_1)) = (0, \rho(x_2)) = (x_2, 0) \circ_1 (0, 1).$$

This contradicts the fact that  $R_1$  is  $S$ -near-ring. Let  $x_1, x'_1 \in A$ ,  $x \in A^*$ ,  $x_1 \circ x = x'_1 \circ x$ . We assert that  $x_1 = x'_1$ . Assume  $x_1 \neq x'_1$ . We then have

$$(x_1, 0) \circ_1 (x, 0) = (x'_1, 0) \circ_1 (x, 0)$$

with  $(x_1, 0)$ ,  $(x'_1, 0)$  belonging to two distinct cosets of  $A_l((x, 0)) = \{(0, 0)\}$ , a contradiction. Thus, 1.,2. holds.  $\square$

### 3 - Equivalence

Throughout this section, in addition to the previous  $\rho$  and  $R_1$ , we consider another (arbitrary) element  $\gamma$  of  $A_\varphi^*$ , and, if  $f$  is any automorphism of  $[A \times A; +]$  (in which  $+$  is the componentwise operation as above), then we will note  $f_1 = \pi_1 \circ f \circ i_1$ ,  $f_2 = \pi_2 \circ f \circ i_2$ ,  $f_3 = \pi_2 \circ f \circ i_1$ , where  $i_1, i_2 : A \rightarrow A \times A$  are the canonical injections, while  $\pi_1, \pi_2 : A \times A \rightarrow A$  are the canonical projections. The  $f_i$  are endomorphisms of  $[A; +]$ . Furthermore, let  $R_2 = [A \times A; +, \circ_2]$  be the near-ring derived from  $R$  and

<sup>5</sup> Obviously, here  $A_l(a) = \{(z, t) \in A \times A \mid (z, t) \circ_1 a = (0, 0)\}$ .

<sup>6</sup> Defined here onto  $A \times A$  by  $(z, t)S_a(u, v) \Leftrightarrow (z, t) \circ_1 a = (u, v) \circ_1 a$ .

from  $\gamma$ , on the analogy of  $R_1$ . Explicitly, the addition in  $R_2$  is again componentwise operation, while the operation  $\circ_2$  is such that, for  $(x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2) \in A \times A$ , if  $x_1 \neq 0$  then  $(x_1, x_2) \circ_2 (y_1, y_2) = (x_1 \circ y_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \gamma(x_1) \varphi_{x_1}(y_2))$ , if  $x_1 = 0$  then  $(0, x_2) \circ_2 (y_1, y_2) = (0, x_2 \circ y_1)$ .

$\rho$  will be called equivalent to  $\gamma$  if  $R_1$  is isomorphic to  $R_2$ . More precisely, we say that  $\rho$  is equivalent to  $\gamma$  by  $f$ , if  $f$  is an isomorphism from  $R_1$  to  $R_2$ , and we remark that, in this case, we have in particular  $f \in \text{Aut}[A \times A; +]$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *If  $\rho$  is equivalent to  $\gamma$  by  $f$ , then  $f(J) = J$ ,  $f_1 \in \text{Aut}R$ ,  $f_2 \in \text{Aut}[A; +]$  and  $f_3(1) = 0$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $J$  is the ideal of nilpotent elements of  $R_1$ , and, at the same time, of nilpotent elements of  $R_2$ , and  $f$  is isomorphism, we have  $f(J) = J$ . Therefore, for all  $y \in A$ ,  $f((0, y)) = (0, f_2(y))$ ; hence  $f_2$  is bijective.

Let  $z \in A$ . Since  $f$  is surjective, there is an  $(x, y) \in A \times A$  such that  $f((x, y)) = (z, 0)$ . Then  $(z, 0) = f((x, 0) + (0, y)) = f((x, 0)) + f((0, y)) = (f_1(x), f_3(x)) + (0, f_2(y)) = (f_1(x), f_3(x) + f_2(y))$ . Hence  $z = f_1(x)$ , so  $f_1$  is surjective. We state that  $f_1$  is also injective. Suppose, on the contrary, the existence of an  $x \in A^*$ ,  $x \in \text{Ker}f_1$ . Then  $f((x, 0)) = (f_1(x), f_3(x)) = (0, f_3(x)) \in J$ , so the non-nilpotent element  $(x, 0)$  of  $R_1$  is sent by  $f$  to a nilpotent element of  $R_2$ , a contradiction.

For  $x, y \in A$  the equality  $f_1(x \circ y) = f_1(x) \circ f_1(y)$  is immediate if  $x = 0$ . If  $x \neq 0$ , we bear in mind that  $f_1((x, 0) \circ_1 (y, 0)) = f((x, 0) \circ_2 f((y, 0)))$ , namely  $f((x \circ y, 0)) = (f_1(x), f_3(x)) \circ_2 (f_1(y), f_3(y))$  which implies

$$(f_1(x \circ y), f_3(x \circ y)) = (f_1(x) \circ f_1(y), s)$$

for a suitable  $s \in A$ . Hence,  $f_1(x \circ y) = f_1(x) \circ f_1(y)$ , so  $f_1 \in \text{Aut}R$ .

We recall now that  $(1, 0)$  is identity in  $R_1$  and in  $R_2$ . Consequently,  $(1, 0) = f((1, 0)) = (f_1(1), f_3(1)) = (1, f_3(1))$ , therefore  $f_3(1) = 0$ .  $\square$

We underline that, under the hypothesis of Theorem 3.1, we can write (for every  $x, y \in A$ )

$$(1) \quad f((x, y)) = (f_1(x), f_3(x) + f_2(y)).$$

**Theorem 3.2.**  *$\rho$  is equivalent to  $\gamma$  if and only if  $\exists h \exists a \in A^*$  such that*

1.  $h \in \text{Aut}[A; +, \cdot] \cap \text{Aut}R$
2.  $a$  is invertible in  $R$
3.  $\varphi_a = \text{id}_A$
4.  $\forall x \in A^* \quad a \circ h(\rho(x)) = (\gamma(h(x))) \circ a$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $\rho$  equivalent to  $\gamma$  by  $f$ . By Theorem 3.1, we have  $f_1 \in \text{Aut} R$ . Furthermore, for all  $y \in A$ ,  $f((0, 1) \circ_1 (y, 0)) = f((0, 1)) \circ_2 f((y, 0))$ , which signifies  $f((0, y)) = (0, f_2(1)) \circ_2 (f_1(y), f_3(y))$ , that is

$$(0, f_2(y)) = (0, f_2(1) \circ f_1(y)).$$

Hence

$$(2) \quad \forall y \in A \quad f_2(y) = f_2(1) \circ f_1(y).$$

We show that  $f_2(1)$  is invertible in  $R$ . Since  $f_2$  is bijective by Theorem 3.1, there is a  $t \in A$  such that  $f_2(t) = 1$ . So, by (2) we have  $f_2(1) \circ f_1(t) = 1$ . Therefore

$$f_2(1) \circ f_1(t) \circ f_2(1) = 1 \circ f_2(1) = f_2(1) \circ 1.$$

Since  $f_2(1)$  is left-cancellable in  $[A; \circ]$ , the equality  $f_1(t) \circ f_2(1) = 1$  is then also true.

For every  $x \in A^*$ ,  $f((x, 0) \circ_1 (0, 1)) = f((x, 0)) \circ_2 f((0, 1))$ , i.e.  $f(0, \rho(x)) = (f_1(x), f_3(x)) \circ_2 (0, f_2(1))$ , namely  $(0, f_2(\rho(x))) = (0, (\gamma(f_1(x))) \circ f_2(1))$ . Because of (2), it is possible to assert then that

$$\forall x \in A^* \quad f_2(1) \circ f_1(\rho(x)) = (\gamma(f_1(x))) \circ f_2(1).$$

For all  $x, y \in A$ , the following relation is true

$$f((1, x) \circ_1 (y, 0)) = f((1, x)) \circ_2 f((y, 0))$$

and consequently, recalling (1) and that  $f_3(1) = 0$  (Theorem 3.1),

$$f((y, xy)) = (1, f_2(x)) \circ_2 (f_1(y), f_3(y)).$$

So, on account of (1) we have  $(f_1(y), f_3(y) + f_2(xy)) = (f_1(y), f_2(x)f_1(y) + f_3(y))$ , which implies  $f_2(xy) = f_2(x)f_1(y)$ . Then, in consideration of (2) we can write

$$(3) \quad f_2(1) \circ f_1(xy) = (f_2(1) \circ f_1(x)) \cdot f_1(y).$$

For  $x = 1$ , (3) becomes  $f_2(1) \circ f_1(y) = f_2(1) \cdot f_1(y)$ ; so  $\varphi_{f_2(1)} = id_A$ . Therefore, (3) assumes the form  $f_2(1) \cdot f_1(xy) = f_2(1) \cdot f_1(x) \cdot f_1(y)$ , which gives  $f_1(xy) = f_1(x)f_1(y)$ . We now have  $f_1 \in \text{Aut} [A; +, \cdot] \cap \text{Aut} R$ . The conditions 1., 2., 3., 4. of the assertion are then verified, with  $h = f_1$ ,  $a = f_2(1)$ .

Conversely, we assume that there exists an  $h$ , and an  $a \in A^*$ , fulfilling the conditions 1., 2., 3., 4. of the statement. Let  $g$  be the automorphism of  $[A \times A; +]$  defined by

$$g : (x, y) \rightarrow (h(x), a \circ h(y)).$$

We show that  $g$  is an isomorphism from  $R_1$  to  $R_2$ .



For  $m = (x_1, x_2)$ ,  $n = (y_1, y_2)$  in  $A \times A$ , with  $x_1 \neq 0$ , we calculate, remembering that  $h \in \text{Aut}R$ , and  $\varphi_a = \text{id}_A$

$$\begin{aligned} g(m \circ_1 n) &= g(x_1 \circ y_1, x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1) + \rho(x_1) \circ y_2) = (h(x_1) \circ h(y_1), c + d) \\ g(m) \circ_2 g(n) &= (h(x_1), a \circ h(x_2)) \circ_2 (h(y_1), a \circ h(y_2)) = (h(x_1) \circ h(y_1), e + q) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} c &= a \circ h(x_2 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1)) \\ d &= a \circ h(\rho(x_1)) \circ h(y_2) \\ e &= a \cdot h(x_2) \cdot \varphi_{h(x_1)}(h(y_1)) \\ q &= (\gamma(h(x_1))) \cdot \varphi_{h(x_1)}(a \circ h(y_2)). \end{aligned}$$

We remark now that  $q$  equals  $(\gamma(h(x_1))) \circ a \circ h(y_2)$ , since, through  $\gamma \in A_\varphi^*$ , we have  $\varphi_{h(x_1)} = \varphi_{\gamma(h(x_1))}$ .

Because of 1., the following steps are true

$$h(x_1 \circ y_1) = h(x_1 \varphi_{x_1}(y_1)) = h(x_1) \cdot h(\varphi_{x_1}(y_1)) = h(x_1) \circ h(y_1) = h(x_1) \cdot \varphi_{h(x_1)}(h(y_1))$$

which implies  $h(\varphi_{x_1}(y_1)) = \varphi_{h(x_1)}(h(y_1))$ , so  $c = e$ . Moreover, by 4. we see that  $d = q$ .

Therefore,  $g(m \circ_1 n) = g(m) \circ_2 g(n)$ .

Furthermore, for arbitrary  $x_2, y_1, y_2 \in A$ , we have  $g((0, x_2) \circ_1 (y_1, y_2)) = g((0, x_2 \circ y_1)) = (0, a \circ h(x_2 \circ y_1)) = (0, a \circ h(x_2) \circ h(y_1)) = (0, a \circ h(x_2)) \circ_2 (h(y_1), a \circ h(y_2)) = g((0, x_2)) \circ_2 g((y_1, y_2))$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1.** *If the cardinality of  $\text{Imp}$  is distinct from the cardinality of  $\text{Im}\gamma$ , then  $\rho$  is non-equivalent to  $\gamma$ .*

**Proof.** This follows from the condition 4. of Theorem 3.2.  $\square$

**Remark.** We advise that the content of the present article exists also in the preprint, of the same author Giordano Gallina, by the title "Sotto-quasi-anelli di quasi-anelli" (Quaderno n. 122 of the Dipartimento di Matematica dell'Università di Parma, December 1995).

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GALLINA GIORDANO  
Dipartimento di Matematica  
Università degli Studi di Parma  
Parco Area delle Scienze 53/A  
43124 Parma, Italy  
e-mail: giordano.gallina@unipr.it