

## K-Clean Rings

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### ABSTRACT

Let  $R$  be an associative ring with identity.  $R$  is called a clean ring if every element of  $R$  is the sum of an idempotent and a unit. So far many types of clean rings is introduced. In this article we define K-clean rings as extending of 2-good rings, and study its properties, and express the result of it. So show under what conditions semilocal rings and semiperfect rings are K-clean ring. Finally, we define strongly K-clean ring and study its properties.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Clean rings were introduced by Nicholson<sup>13</sup>. An element  $r$  in a ring  $R$  is said to be clean if it can be written as the sum of a unit and an idempotent in  $R$ . A ring  $R$  is called a clean ring if every element of  $R$  is clean. Semiperfect and unit-regular rings are examples of clean rings as shown by Camillo and Yu<sup>10</sup> and Camillo and Khurana<sup>8</sup>. So far many types of clean rings is introduced such that it can be mentioned semiclean rings<sup>7</sup>, n-clean rings<sup>3</sup>, g(x)-clean rings<sup>6</sup> and G-clean rings<sup>4</sup>. In recent years, many authors have studied clean rings and their generalizations such as.

**Definition 1.1.** An element  $x \in R$  is said to be a full element if there exist  $s, t \in R$  such that  $sxt = 1$ . The set of all full elements of a ring  $R$  will be denoted by  $K(R)$ . Obviously, invertible elements and one-sided invertible elements are all in  $K(R)$ .<sup>1</sup>

A ring is called n-good<sup>2</sup> if every its element is a sum of  $n$  units. In this paper, we extend 2-good rings and introduce the concept of K-clean rings. Examples of K-clean rings are given. We study various properties of K-clean rings, and prove that  $M_n(R)$  is K-clean for any K-clean ring  $R$ . An element is a ring  $R$  is strongly clean if it is the sum of an idempotent and a unit that commute. A ring  $R$  is strongly clean if every

element of  $R$  is strongly clean. Local rings are obviously strongly clean ring. We define strongly  $K$ -clean ring and check it's primary properties. We use  $U(R)$ ,  $Id(R)$  and  $J(R)$  to denote the group of units, set of idempotent elements and Jacobson radical of  $R$ , respectively, and will write  $\bar{R} = R/J(R)$ . The  $n \times n$  upper triangular matrix ring over  $R$  is denoted by  $Tn(R)$ .

## 2. K-Clean RING AND IT'S PROPERTIES

**Definition 2.1.** An element  $r$  in a ring  $R$  is said to be  $K$ -clean if it can be written as the sum of a unit and an full element in  $R$ . A ring  $R$  is called a  $K$ -clean ring if every element of  $R$  is  $K$ -clean.

**Lemma 2.2.** The following statements hold for any ring  $R$ .

- (1) If  $w \in K(R)$ , then  $uw$  and  $wu$  are both in  $K(R)$  for any  $u \in U(R)$ .
- (2)  $w \in K(R)$  if and only if  $\bar{w} \in K(\bar{R})$ .
- (3) For any  $e \in Id(R)$ ,  $K(eRe) + K((1-e)R(1-e)) \subseteq K(R)$ .

**Proof.** Proof of (1), (2) is in (<sup>1</sup>, lemma 3.1). For (3), let  $x \in K(eRe)$  and  $y \in K((1-e)R(1-e))$ . Then there exist  $s, t \in eRe$  and  $s', t' \in (1-e)R(1-e)$  so that  $sxt = e, s'yt' = 1 - e$ .

Hence we have

$$(s + s')(x + y)(t + t') = sxt + sxt' + s'xt + s'xt' + syt + syt' + s'yt + s'yt' = e + (1 - e) = 1$$

Therefore (3) so is hold.  $\square$

Yu call a ring  $R$  to be a left quasi-duo ring if every maximal left ideal of  $R$  is a

two-sided ideal. commutative rings and local rings are belong to this class of rings.

**Lemma 2.3.** For a left quasi-duo ring  $R$ , the following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $R$  is a 2-good ring.
- (2)  $R$  is a  $K$ -clean ring.

**Proof.** It is similar to (<sup>1</sup>, Theorem 2.9).  $\square$

**Example 2.4.** Every element of the ring of all linear transformations of a vector space over a division ring of characteristic not 2 is  $K$ -clean<sup>14</sup>. The endomorphism ring of a complete module over a complete discrete valuation ring is  $K$ -clean<sup>12</sup>. Let  $M$  be a free  $R$ -modules where  $R$  is a  $PID$ , if the rank of  $M$  is finite and greater than 1, then  $end_R(M)$  is  $K$ -clean<sup>9</sup>. The endomorphism ring of a free  $R$ -module of rank at least 2 in  $K$ -clean, where  $R$  is a  $PID$ <sup>5</sup>.

**Proposition 2.5.** Any homomorphic image of a  $K$ -clean ring is  $K$ -clean.

**Proof.** Let  $R$  be a  $K$ -clean ring and let  $f: R \rightarrow S$  be a ring surjective homomorphism. Then for any  $y \in S$ , there exist  $x \in R$  such that  $f(x) = y$ . Since  $R$  is  $K$ -clean, therefore  $x = w + u$  with  $w \in K(R)$  and  $u \in U(R)$  so that exist  $s, t \in R$  with  $swt = 1$ . Hence  $f(x) = f(w) + f(u)$ . Obviously  $f(u) \in U(S)$  and  $1 = f(1) = f(swt) = f(s)f(w)f(t)$ .

Hence the proof is complete.

**Proposition 2.6.** A finite direct product  $R = \prod_{i=1}^n Ri$  of rings  $Ri$  is  $K$ -clean if and only if each  $Ri$  is  $K$ -clean.

**Proof.** If  $R$  is  $K$ -clean, then each  $Ri$  is  $K$ -clean by proposition 2.5.

Conversely, assume each  $R_i$  is K-clean, and  $x = (x_i) \in R$ . Then  $x_i = w_i + u_i$  with  $w_i \in K(R_i)$  and  $u_i \in U(R_i)$  for each  $i$ . We can identify  $R_i$  with  $(\dots, 0, R_i, 0, \dots)$  canonically. Let  $e_i = (\dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$ . Then we have  $(w_i) = (w_1, 0, \dots, 0) + (0, w_2, \dots, 0) + \dots + (0, 0, \dots, w_n) \in K(e_1 R e_1) + K(e_2 R e_2) + \dots + K(e_n R e_n) \subseteq K(R)$ .

Now  $x = (x_i) = (w_i + u_i) = (w_i) + (u_i)$ , with  $(w_i) \in K(R)$  and  $(u_i) \in U(R)$ , so  $R$  is a K-clean ring.

**Proposition 2.7.** *The ring  $R$  is K-clean if and only if the ring  $R[[x]]$  of formal power series over  $R$  is K-clean.*

**Proof.** If  $R[[x]]$  is K-clean, then  $R$  is K-clean by proposition 2.5. Now if  $R$  is K-clean, then for any  $f(x) \in R[[x]]$ ,

$$f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n + \dots$$

By assumption,  $a_0 = w + u$  with  $w \in K(R)$  and  $u \in U(R)$ . Hence

$$f(x) = w + u + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n + \dots \text{ with } w \in K(R) \subseteq K(R[[x]]) \text{ and } u + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n + \dots \in U(R[[x]]), \text{ as desired.}$$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $e \in Id(R)$  be such that  $eRe$  and  $(1 - e)R(1 - e)$  are both K-clean rings. Then  $R$  is a K-clean ring.*

**Proof.** For convenience, write  $r = 1 - e$  for each  $r \in R$ . By use the Pierce decomposition of the ring  $R$ , we have:

$$R = eRe + eR\bar{e} + \bar{e}Re + \bar{e}R\bar{e}.$$

Now let  $x = a + b + c + d$  where  $a \in eRe$ ,  $b \in eR\bar{e}$ ,  $c \in \bar{e}Re$  and  $d \in \bar{e}R\bar{e}$ .

By hypothesis, write  $a = w + u$  where  $w \in K(eRe)$  and  $u \in U(eRe)$  with inverse  $u_1$ . Then  $d - cu_1b \in \bar{e}R\bar{e}$ , so write  $d - cu_1b = y + v$  where  $y \in K(\bar{e}R\bar{e})$  and  $v \in U(\bar{e}R\bar{e})$  with inverse  $v_1$ . Hence  $x = (w + y) + u + b + c + v +$

$cu_1b$  and it suffices to show that  $u + b + c + v + cu_1b$  is a unit in  $R$ . To this end compute

$$\begin{aligned} (u + b + c + v + cu_1b)(u_1 + u_1bv_1cu_1 - u_1bv_1 - v_1cu_1 + v_1) &= (e + bv_1cu_1 - bv_1) \\ &+ (-bv_1cu_1 + bv_1) + (cu_1 + cu_1bv_1cu_1 - cu_1bv_1) \\ &+ (-cu_1 + 1 - e) + (-cu_1bv_1cu_1 + cu_1bv_1) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $(u_1 + u_1bv_1cu_1 - u_1bv_1 - v_1cu_1 + v_1)(u + b + c + v + cu_1b) = 1$ .

Note that  $w + y \in K(eRe) + K(\bar{e}R\bar{e}) \subseteq K(R)$ . Therefore proof is complete.

Using Lemma 2.8, an inductive argument gives immediately.

**Theorem 2.9.** *If  $1 = e_1 + \dots + e_n$  in a ring  $R$  where  $e_i$  are orthogonal idempotents and for each  $e_i$ ,  $e_i R e_i$  is K-clean, then  $R$  is K-clean.*

The following two results are direct consequences of Theorem 2.9:

**Corollary 2.10.** *If  $R$  is a K-clean ring, then also is the matrix ring  $M_n(R)$ .*

**Corollary 2.11.** *If  $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_n$  are modules and  $end(M_i)$  is K-clean for each  $i$ , then  $end(M)$  is K-clean.*

### 3. K-Clean AND KSR RINGS

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $a, b \in R$  satisfy  $aR + bR = R$ , then  $R$  is called KSR, if exist  $w \in K(R)$  such that  $a + bw \in U(R)$ .<sup>1</sup>

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $R$  is KSR.
- (2) Whenever  $a, b \in R$  satisfy  $ax + b = 1$ , there exist  $w \in K(R)$  such that  $a + bw \in U(R)$ .

(3) Whenever  $a, b \in R$  satisfy  $ax + b = 1$ , there exist  $y \in R$  such that  $a + by \in U(R)$  and  $1 - xy \in K(R)$ .<sup>(1)</sup>, Proposition 3.3)

**Corollary 3.3.** Let  $R$  is a KSR ring, then  $R$  is  $K$ -clean.

**Proof.** Since  $1 = x + (1 - x)$  for any  $x \in R$  and  $R$  is KSR ring, so there exist  $w \in K(R)$  such that  $x + w \in U(R)$ . Hence the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** Let  $R$  be a ring. Then  $R$  is KSR ring if and only if so does  $\bar{R}$ .<sup>(1)</sup>, Proposition 3.5)

**Example 3.5.** Let  $R$  be a local ring with  $2 \notin J(R)$ . Then  $R$  is  $K$ -clean. <sup>(1)</sup>, Example 3.6)

**Lemma 3.6.** Let  $R$  be a ring. Then  $R$  is  $K$ -clean ring if and only if so does  $\bar{R}$ .

**Proof.** It is clear by Lemma 2.2 and <sup>(11)</sup>, Proposition 4.8).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7.** <sup>1</sup> Let  $R$  be any left semisimple ring. Then  $R \cong M_{n_1}(D_1) \times \dots \times M_{n_r}(D_r)$  for suitable division rings  $D_1, \dots, D_r$  and positive integers  $n_1, \dots, n_r$ . The number  $r$  is uniquely determined, as are the pairs  $(n_1, D_1), \dots, (n_r, D_r)$  (up to a permutation).<sup>(11)</sup>, Theorem 3.5).

**Theorem 3.8.** Let  $R$  has not any factor of  $M_n(\mathbb{Z}_2)$  where  $n \geq 1$ . Then every left semisimple ring  $R$  is a  $K$ -clean ring.

**Proof.** Since for any division ring  $D \neq \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $2 \in U(R)$ , so  $M_n(D)$  is  $K$ -clean. See example 3.5, proposition 2.6 and corollary 2.10.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.9.** Let  $R/\text{rad } R$  has not any factor of  $M_n(\mathbb{Z}_2)$  where  $n \geq 1$ . Then the following statements is hold:

(1) Every semiperfect ring  $R$  is a  $K$ -clean ring.

(2) Every semilocal ring  $R$  is a  $K$ -clean ring.

**Proof.** Proof is clear by theorem 3.8 and lemma 3.6.  $\square$

#### 4. STRONGLY $K$ -Clean RING

**Definition 4.1.** An element  $r$  of a ring  $R$  is called strongly  $K$ -clean if  $r = w + u$ , where  $w \in K(R)$ , and  $u$  is unit in  $R$  such that  $wu = uw$ . A ring  $R$  is called a strongly  $K$ -clean ring if every element of  $R$  is strongly  $K$ -clean.

**Theorem 4.2.** (1) Every homomorphic image of a strongly  $K$ -clean ring is strongly  $K$ -clean.

(2) A direct product  $R = \prod_{i=1}^n R_i$  of rings  $R_i$  is a strongly  $K$ -clean ring if and only if each  $R_i$  is a strongly  $K$ -clean ring.

**Proof.** (1), (2) are obvious from proposition 2.5, proposition 2.6.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.3.** a ring  $R$  is strongly  $K$ -clean if and only if for any ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $R/I$  is strongly  $K$ -clean.

**Corollary 4.4.** Let  $R$  be a ring and  $1 < n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $T_n(R)$  is strongly  $K$ -clean ring, then  $R$  is strongly  $K$ -clean.

**Proof.** Let  $A = (a_{ij}) \in T_n(R)$  with  $a_{ij} = 0$  and  $1 \leq j \leq i \leq n$ . Note that  $\phi : T_n(R) \rightarrow R$  with  $\phi(A) = a_{11}$  is a ring epimorphism.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.5.** Let  $R$  be a ring. If the formal power series ring  $R[[t]]$  is strongly  $K$ -clean, then  $R$  is strongly  $K$ -clean.

**Proof.** This is because  $\psi : R[[t]] \rightarrow R$  with  $\psi(f) = a_0$  is a ring epimorphism where

$f = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i t_i \in R[[t]]$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.6.** *If  $e^2 = e \in R$  and  $r \in eRe$  is strongly K-clean in  $eRe$  and  $(1-e) \in K((1-e)R(1-e))$ , then  $r$  is strongly K-clean in  $R$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $r$  is strongly K-clean in  $eRe$ , there exist a  $w \in K(R)$  and a unit  $u$  in  $eRe$  such that  $r = w + u$ ,  $wu = uw$  and  $uy = yu = e$  for  $y \in eRe$ . Then  $v = u(1-e)$  is a unit in  $R$  (with  $v^{-1} = y - (1-e)$ ) and  $r-v = w+(1-e)$ . Since  $w \in K(eRe)$  and  $(1-e) \in K((1-e)R(1-e))$ , Hence  $r - v \in K(R)$  and  $v(r-v) = [u - (1-e)][w+(1-e)] = uw+0+0-(1-e) = wu-(1-e) = [w + (1 - e)][u - (1 - e)] = (r - v)v$ . Therefore  $r$  is strongly K-clean in  $R$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.7.** *Let  $e$  is the central idempotent of  $R$ . For an element  $x \in R$ ,  $x$  is strongly K-clean in  $R$  if and only if  $ex$  is strongly K-clean in  $eRe$  and  $(1 - e)x$  is strongly K-clean in  $(1 - e)R(1 - e)$ .*

**Proof.** ( $\Rightarrow$ ). Since  $x$  is strongly K-clean in  $R$ , then  $x = w + u$  where  $w \in K(R)$ ,  $u \in U(R)$  and  $wu = uw$ . It is easy to say that  $ew \in K(eRe)$ ,  $eu \in U(eRe)$  and  $(ew)(eu) = (eu)(ew)$ . Thus  $ex = ew + eu$  is strongly K-clean. Similarly,  $(1-e)x$  is strongly K-clean in  $(1-e)R(1-e)$ . ( $\Leftarrow$ ). Since  $ex$  is strongly K-clean in  $eRe$  and  $(1 - e)x$  is strongly K-clean in  $(1 - e)R(1 - e)$ , then  $ex = f_1 + u_1$ ,  $(1 - e)x = f_2 + u_2$  where  $f_1 \in K(eRe)$ ,  $f_2 \in K((1 - e)R(1 - e))$  and  $u_1 \in U(eRe)$ ,  $u_2 \in U((1 - e)R(1 - e))$  and  $f_1 u_1 = u_1 f_1, f_2 u_2 = u_2 f_2$ .

Let  $f = f_1 + f_2$ , then  $f \in K(R)$ . Since  $u_1 v_1 = e = v_1 u_1$ ,  $u_2 v_2 = (1 - e) = v_2 u_2$  and  $u_1 v_2 = 0 = u_2 v_1$ , then  $(u_1 + u_2)(v_1 + v_2) = 1 = (v_1 + v_2)(u_1 + u_2)$ . So  $u = u_1 + u_2$  is unit in  $R$ . Furthermore we have  $fu = (f_1 + f_2)(u_1 + u_2) = f_1 u_1 + f_2 u_2 = u_1$

$f_1 + u_2 f_2 = (u_1 + u_2)(f_1 + f_2) = uf$ , and  $f + u = f_1 + f_2 + u_1 + u_2 = ex + (1 - e)x = x$ .

The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.8.** *Let  $e$  is a central idempotent of  $R$ .  $R$  is strongly K-clean if and only if  $eRe$  and  $(1-e)R(1-e)$  are both strongly K-clean.*

**Corollary 4.9.** *For an element  $x \in R$ . Let  $1 = e_1 + e_2 + \dots + e_n$  in  $R, n > 1$ , where  $e_i$  are orthogonal central idempotents. Then  $x$  is strongly K-clean in  $R$  if and only if  $e_i x$  is strongly K-clean in  $e_i R e_i$  for each  $i$ .*

**Corollary 4.10.** *Let  $1 = e_1 + e_2 + \dots + e_n$  in  $R, n > 1$ , where  $e_i$ 's are orthogonal central idempotents.  $R$  is strongly K-clean if and only if each  $e_i R e_i$  is strongly K-clean.*

A property  $P$  of rings is said to be Morita invariant if whenever two rings  $R$  and  $S$  have module categories which are categorically equivalent, then  $R$  has property  $P$  if and only if  $S$  has property  $P$ . It is well known that a property  $P$  is Morita invariant if and only

1. If  $R$  has  $P$ , and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $M_n(R)$  has  $P$ , and
2. if  $R$  has  $P$ , and  $e \in R$  is a full idempotent (i.e.  $ReR = R$ ), then  $eRe$  has  $P$ .

**Question1:** Is strongly K-clean a Morita invariant?

**Question2:** What is relation between strongly clean and strongly K-clean?

In case latter question, we can express this:

**Proposition 4.11.** *If  $R$  is strongly clean and  $2 \in U(R)$ , then  $R$  is strongly K-clean.*

**Proof.** Let  $R$  is strongly clean and  $x \in R$ . Then  $\frac{1}{2}(x+1) = e+u$  where  $e^2 = e$ ,  $u \in U(R)$  and  $eu = ue$ , therefore  $x = 2u + (2e - 1)$ . We can view that  $2u \in U(R)$ ,  $(2e-1) \in K(R)$  and  $(2u)(2e-1) = (2e-1)(2u)$ , easily. Hence  $x$  is strongly K-clean.  $\square$

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