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RADICALS OF CROSSED PRODUCTS

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ABSTRACT. Let $K_\rho^\sigma G$ be a crossed product of the group G and the ring K with respect to the factor set ρ and the map σ . In this paper, using simple techniques, we prove that if G is an SN-group and K is a central simple F -algebra over an algebraically closed field F of characteristic zero, then the Jacobson radical $J(K_\rho^\sigma G)$ is trivial, i.e. $J(K_\rho^\sigma G) = 0$. Moreover, if H is a normal subgroup of G and G/H is a locally finite group, then $J(K_\rho^\sigma H)$ is contained in $J(K_\rho^\sigma G)$ for every ring K .

Let G be an arbitrary group and K be a ring with an additive group $K(+)$ without G -torsions. If K is a commutative ring with no nilpotent elements, then the upper nilradical $U(K_\rho G)$ is trivial for each twisted group ring $K_\rho G$. If K is a simple ring or a commutative integral domain, then $U(K_\rho^\sigma G) = 0$. Therefore, if K is a semisimple ring and the order of any torsion element $g \in G$ is invertible in K , then $U(K_\rho G) = 0$.

Let G be a multiplicative group and K be an associative ring with an identity. Suppose that we are given a map $\sigma : g \rightarrow g\sigma$ from G to the group of automorphisms $\text{Aut } K$ of K and a map $\rho : (g, h) \rightarrow \rho(g, h)$ from $G \times G$ to the group of units K^* of K . The family

$$\rho = \{\rho(g, h) \in K^* \mid g, h \in G\}$$

is called a factor set of G into K under the map σ if the equalities

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(g, hf)\rho(h, f) &= \rho(gh, f)\rho(g, h)^{f\sigma}, \\ \alpha^{g\sigma \cdot h\sigma} &= \rho(g, h)^{-1} \alpha^{(gh)\sigma} \rho(g, h) \end{aligned}$$

hold for all $g, h, f \in G$ and $\alpha \in K$, where $\alpha^{g\sigma}$ denotes the image of α under the action of $g\sigma \in \text{Aut } K$.

The ring $K * G = K_\rho^\sigma G$ is a crossed product [1] of the the group G over the ring K with respect to the factor set ρ and the map σ if $K * G$ is a free K -module with a basis $\bar{G} = \{\bar{g} \in K * G \mid g \in G\}$, where

$$\bar{g}\bar{h} = \bar{gh}\rho(g, h), \quad \alpha\bar{g} = \bar{g}\alpha^{g\sigma}$$

for all $g, h \in G$ and $\alpha \in K$. Thus every element $x \in K * G$ is uniquely written as a finite sum of the form

$$(1) \quad x = \bar{g}_1\alpha_1 + \bar{g}_2\alpha_2 + \dots + \bar{g}_n\alpha_n \quad (\alpha_i \in K).$$

If σ maps G onto the identity automorphism of K , the crossed product $K * G$ is called a twisted group ring, which we denote by $K_\rho G$.

We shall denote by $\text{tr } x$ the coefficient of the basis element $\bar{1}$ in the expression (1) of x . If

$$x = \sum_{g \in G} \bar{g}\alpha_g \quad (\alpha_g \in K),$$

then the set

$$\text{Supp } x = \{g \in G \mid \alpha_g \neq 0\}$$

is said to be the support of x . The support subgroup of x is $\langle \text{Supp } x \rangle$, i.e. the subgroup of G generated by the elements of $\text{Supp } x$.

The Jacobson radical of the ring R will be denoted by $J(R)$; the upper nilradical, by $U(R)$; the prime radical, by $P(R)$ and the Brown-McCoy radical, by $B(R)$. If $J(R) = 0$, then the ring R is called semiprimitive and if $B(R) = 0$, then R is said to be semisimple.

Let G_{ker} be the set of all elements of G mapped by σ into the subgroup of inner automorphisms of K . Then G_{ker} is a normal subgroup of G . Moreover, it is known [1] that if H is a subgroup of G , then $K_\rho^\sigma H$ is a subring of $K * G$ where ρ and σ are restricted upon $H \times H$ and H , respectively.

Let I be a totally ordered set. A set $(\Lambda_i, \nu_i; i \in I)$ of pairs of subgroups of G is called a series of G if

1. ν_i is a normal subgroup of Λ_i for all $i \in I$.
2. Λ_i is a subgroup of ν_j whenever $i < j$.
3. $G \setminus 1 = \bigcup_{i \in I} (\Lambda_i \setminus \nu_i)$.

The series is said to be Abelian if all the factors Λ_i/ν_i are Abelian. A group with an Abelian series is called SN-group [8].

It was shown in [8] that every group algebra FG of an SN-group G over a field F of characteristic zero is semiprimitive. Similarly, it can be proved that the latter result can be generalized for crossed products as well. In addition, we prove the following result.

Theorem 1. *If G is an SN-group and K is a central simple F -algebra where F is an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero, then $K * G$ is semiprimitive.*

Proof. Suppose that $J(K * G) \neq 0$. It follows from [2] that

$$J(K * G) \cap K * G_{\text{ker}} \neq 0$$

and we have $J(K * G_{\ker}) \neq 0$ since

$$J(K * G) \cap K * G_{\ker} \subseteq J(K * G_{\ker}).$$

Therefore, in order to establish that $J(K * G) = 0$, it is sufficient to show that $J(K * G_{\ker}) = 0$.

Since the automorphism $g\sigma$ is inner for all $g \in G_{\ker}$, we have $\alpha^{g\sigma} = \alpha_g \alpha \alpha_g^{-1}$ for each $\alpha \in K$ and some $\alpha_g \in K^*$. We set $\bar{g} = \bar{g}\alpha_g$. Thus, $\alpha\bar{g} = \bar{g}\alpha$ yields

$$K_\rho^\sigma G_{\ker} = K_{\bar{\rho}}^{\bar{g}} G_{\ker} = K_{\bar{\rho}} G_{\ker}.$$

So, in order to prove the theorem, it suffices to establish that $J(K_\rho G) = 0$, where G is an SN-group and K is a central simple F -algebra.

Let the element

$$y = \bar{g}_1 \gamma_1 + \bar{g}_2 \gamma_2 + \dots + \bar{g}_n \gamma_n$$

from $J(K_\rho G)$ be of minimal length $\|y\| = n$. According to [2], we may choose y so that $\gamma_1 = 1$.

Let $\alpha \neq 0$ be an arbitrary element of K . Consider the element

$$\alpha y - y \alpha = \sum_{i=2}^n \bar{g}_i (\alpha \gamma_i - \gamma_i \alpha).$$

It belongs to $J(K_\rho G)$ and its length $\|\alpha y - y \alpha\|$ is smaller than n . Thus, $\alpha y - y \alpha = 0$, i.e. $\alpha y = y \alpha$ which yields $\alpha \gamma_i = \gamma_i \alpha$ for all $\alpha \in K$. Hence, γ_i are elements of the center F . On the other hand, $\sigma = 1$ yields $\rho(g, h)\alpha = \alpha\rho(g, h)$ for all $g, h \in G$ and $\alpha \in K$, i.e. F contains the factor set ρ . So, the twisted group ring $F_\rho G$ exists and y belongs to it. Therefore, according to [6], in order to prove that $J(K_\rho G) = 0$, it is sufficient to show that $J(F_\rho G) = 0$.

Suppose that $J(F_\rho G) \neq 0$ and $x \in J(F_\rho G)$ is a nonzero element. Now we can apply the approach from [8]. Let x be represented in the form

$$x = \bar{g}_1 \alpha_1 + \bar{g}_2 \alpha_2 + \dots + \bar{g}_n \alpha_n.$$

As $J(F_\rho G)$ is an ideal of $F_\rho G$, we can assume that $g_1 = 1$. Let $H = \langle \text{Supp } x \rangle$ be the support subgroup of x . Then x belongs to $J(F_\rho H)$. Furthermore, H is an SN-group and there exists a series $(\wedge_i, \vee_i; i \in I)$ of H with cyclic \wedge_i/\vee_i of prime order for each $i \in I$. Since H is finitely generated, there exists $j \in I$ so that $\wedge_j = H$. We set $\vee_j = W$. Then $H = \langle W, t \rangle$ where $t^p \in W$ for a prime integer p . Thus, each element u of $F_\rho H$ can be written as

$$u = \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} t^i \bar{\beta}_i \quad (\beta_i \in F_\rho W).$$

Let μ be a primitive p -root of unity of F . We define the map

$$\varphi : \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} t^i \beta_i \rightarrow \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} t^i \beta_i \mu^i.$$

It is clear that φ is an automorphism of $F_\rho H$.

Let $g_i = t^{m_i} w_i$ where $w_i \in W$ and $0 \leq m_i \leq p - 1$. Then $g_1 = 1$ implies $t^{m_1} w_1 = 1$ which yields $m_1 = 0$ and $w_1 = 1$. Since

$$H = \langle g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n \rangle = \langle W, t \rangle,$$

there exists $m_j \neq 0$. Otherwise, all $g_i \in W$ and W contains H which is impossible. Let $m_2 \neq 0$.

The radical $J(F_\rho H)$ is invariant under the automorphisms of $F_\rho H$. Hence,

$$\varphi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \overline{t^{m_i} w_i} \alpha_i \mu^{m_i} = \sum_{i=1}^n \overline{t^{m_i}} \gamma_i \mu^{m_i} \in J(F_\rho H),$$

where $\gamma_i = \overline{w_i} \rho(t^{m_i}, w_i)^{-1} \alpha_i$. Since $J(F_\rho H)$ is an ideal of $F_\rho H$, the product

$$x \mu^{m_2} = \sum_{i=1}^n \overline{t^{m_i}} \gamma_i \mu^{m_2}$$

also belongs to $J(F_\rho H)$. Thus,

$$z = \varphi(x) - x \mu^{m_2} \in J(F_\rho H)$$

and $\|z\| < \|x\|$.

Going on, we come to the conclusion that there exists an SN-group, say M , with an element of length 1 in $J(F_\rho M)$. Then it follows, that $J(F_\rho M) = F_\rho M$ which is impossible since $F_\rho M$ is not a radical ring. The contradiction proves the theorem. \square

The approach used for Lemma 4.2 from [11] can be similarly applied to prove the following result.

Lemma. *Let F be a field and x be an element of $F_\rho G$. In the case of char $F = p > 0$, we suppose that $\text{Supp } x$ contains no p -element. Then $\text{tr } x = 0$ if x is nilpotent.*

We should recall that the additive group $K(+)$ of the ring K has no G -torsions if $n\alpha = 0$ yields $\alpha = 0$ for any $\alpha \in K$ and any integer n which is the order of any torsion element of G .

It was proved in [11] that the group ring KG has no nonzero nil ideals if $K(+)$ has no G -torsions and $U(K) = 0$. Using a similar approach we shall expand this result for crossed products.

Theorem 2. *Let G be an arbitrary group and K be a ring with $K(+)$ having no G -torsions. Then*

1. *If K is a commutative ring without nonzero nilpotent elements, then $U(K_\rho G) = 0$ for any twisted group ring $K_\rho G$.*

2. *If K is a simple ring or a commutative integral domain, then $U(K_\rho^\sigma G) = 0$ for any crossed product $K_\rho^\sigma G$.*

Proof. 1. Let K be a commutative ring and $U(K) = 0$. Suppose that $U(K_\rho G) \neq 0$ and let the element

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i \alpha_i \in U(K_\rho G)$$

be nonzero. As $U(K_\rho G)$ is an ideal of $K_\rho G$, we can assume that $g_1 = 1$. If $\text{Supp } x$ contains elements of prime power order, let m be the product of all prime q such that $\text{Supp } x$ contains q -element. Otherwise, we set $m = 1$. So, $K(+)$ has no m -torsion as $K(+)$ has no G -torsions. Thus, $m\alpha_1 \neq 0$.

The ring K is commutative and therefore $P(K) = U(K) = 0$. Thus, $m\alpha_1 \notin P(K)$ and hence, there exists a prime ideal P of K with $m\alpha_1 \notin P$. According to [3], $K_\rho G / (K_\rho G)P \cong (K/P)_{\bar{\rho}} G$ where K/P is a commutative integral domain. Let F be the quotient field of K/P . Then $(K/P)_{\bar{\rho}} G \subseteq F_{\bar{\rho}} G$ and

$$\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i (\alpha_i + P)$$

is a nilpotent element of $F_{\bar{\rho}} G$. Suppose that $\text{char } F = p > 0$. If $m = 1$, then $\text{Supp } x$ contains no p -element. If $m > 1$, then m and p are relatively prime since $m(\alpha_1 + P) \neq 0$. So, $\text{Supp } x$ contains no p -element again. The Lemma, applied to the nilpotent element \bar{x} , results in $\alpha_1 + P = 0$. The latter is a contradiction and we conclude that $U(K_\rho G) = 0$.

2. Let K be a simple ring and suppose that $U(K * G) \neq 0$. According to [2], we have $U(K * G) \cap K * G_{\text{ker}} \neq 0$ and therefore $U(K * G_{\text{ker}}) \neq 0$. Just as in the latter theorem $K_\rho^\sigma G_{\text{ker}} = K_{\bar{\rho}} G_{\text{ker}}$ and we can choose a nonzero element

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i \alpha_i \in K_{\bar{\rho}} G_{\text{ker}}$$

of minimal length for which $g_1 = 1$ and $\alpha_1 = 1$. Following the proof of the same theorem, we obtain that there exists the twisted group ring $F_{\bar{\rho}} G_{\text{ker}}$ where F is a field and $x \in F_{\bar{\rho}} G_{\text{ker}}$.

If $\text{char } F = p > 0$, $\text{Supp } x$ has no p -element, since $K(+)$ has no G -torsions. Thus, according to the Lemma, $\text{tr } x = 0$ in contradiction with $\text{tr } x = \alpha_1 = 1$. Hence, $U(K * G) = 0$ for each simple ring K .

Let K be a commutative integral domain. Suppose that $U(K * G) \neq 0$. It follows from [6] that $U(K_\rho G_{\ker}) \neq 0$ and it is a contradiction to the first part of the theorem, since $U(K) = 0$. Thus, $U(K * G) = 0$ for each commutative integral domain K . This completes the proof of the theorem. \square

Corollary 1. *Let K be a ring with $\text{char } K = m > 0$ and G be a group containing no p -element for every prime divisor p of the integer m . If K is a commutative ring without nonzero nilpotent elements, then $U(K_\rho G) = 0$. If K is a simple ring or a commutative integral domain, then $U(K * G) = 0$.*

Indeed, in order to apply Theorem 2, it is sufficient to show that $K(+)$ has no G -torsions. Let n be the order of an element of G . Then m and n are relatively prime and there exists integers k and r with $kn + rm = 1$. If $n\alpha = 0$ for some $\alpha \in K$, then $kn\alpha + rm\alpha = \alpha$ yields $\alpha = 0$. Hence, $K(+)$ has no G -torsions.

Corollary 2. *Let K be a semisimple ring and the order of each torsion element of G be invertible in K . If $K_\rho G$ is an arbitrary twisted group ring, then $U(K_\rho G) = 0$.*

Indeed, if P is any maximal ideal of K , then $\bar{K} = K/P$ is a simple ring with a unit and the order of each torsion element of G is invertible in \bar{K} . Since $K_\rho G / (K_\rho G)P \cong \bar{K}_{\bar{\rho}} G$ [3], we obtain $U(\bar{K}_{\bar{\rho}} G) = 0$, according to Theorem 2. Thus, $U(K_\rho G) \subseteq (K_\rho G)P$ for any maximal ideal P of K . Then

$$U(K_\rho G) \subseteq (K_\rho G)(\cap P) = (K_\rho G).B(K) = 0,$$

since the Brown-McCoy radical $B(K)$ of K is trivial.

We notice that the latter corollary is also valid for crossed products in which each maximal ideal P of K is G -invariant, i.e. $\bar{g}P\bar{g}^{-1} \subseteq P$ for all $g \in G$.

The following theorem was proved by Villamayor in the case of a group ring (see [9]) and it was generalized for crossed products over a field by Kolikov [5]. We shall show that it holds for an arbitrary crossed product. For this purpose we have used Ovsjannikov's approach [7] who proved that if K is a radical ring and G is a finite semigroup, then the semigroup ring KG is also radical, i.e. $J(KG) = KG$. Certainly, the theorem can be proved following Passman's arguments for group rings from [9] or [10]. But the approach we use is more elementary.

Theorem 3. *Let $K * G$ be an arbitrary crossed product of the group G and the ring K and H be a normal subgroup of G of finite index. Then*

$$J(K * H).K * G = K * G.J(K * H) \subseteq J(K * G).$$

Proof. The equality

$$J(K * H).K * G = K * G.J(K * H)$$

is obvious since $J(K * H)$ is an invariant ideal of $K * H$ under the automorphisms of $K * H$ generated by the elements \bar{g} ($g \in G$).

Let $\Pi(G/H) = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\}$ be a complete set of coset representatives for H in G . Then each element $a \in K * G$ can be written in the form

$$a = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i v_i \quad (v_i \in K * H).$$

In order to prove that

$$K * G.J(K * H) \subseteq J(K * G),$$

it suffices to establish that

$$J(K * H) \subseteq J(K * G).$$

For the latter we need to show that the element $1 - ax$ is invertible in $K * G$ for each $a \in K * G$ and $x \in J(K * H)$, i.e. for the element $y = ax$ there exists such an element $z \in K * G$ that the equality

$$(2) \quad y + z + yz = 0$$

holds. It means that y has to be quasi-invertible in $K * G$ [4]. We seek z in the form

$$z = \bar{g}_1 u_1 + \bar{g}_2 u_2 + \dots + \bar{g}_n u_n,$$

where $u_i \in K * H$ are unknown.

If $a = 0$ or $x = 0$, then $z = 0$. Let a and x be nonzero. Then equality (2) gives

$$(3) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i v_i x + \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i u_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i v_i x \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{g}_j u_j = 0$$

We set $w_i = v_i x \in J(K * H)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) and write down equality (3) as

$$(4) \quad (\bar{g}_1 w_1 + \bar{g}_2 w_2 + \dots + \bar{g}_n w_n) + (\bar{g}_1 u_1 + \bar{g}_2 u_2 + \dots + \bar{g}_n u_n) + (\bar{g}_1 w_1 + \dots + \bar{g}_n w_n) \bar{g}_1 u_1 + \dots + (\bar{g}_1 w_1 + \dots + \bar{g}_n w_n) \bar{g}_n u_n.$$

Let $g_i g_j = g_{k(i,j)} h_{i,j}$ for all $g_i, g_j \in \Pi(G/H)$, where $h_{i,j} \in H$ ($i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$). In particular, $k(i, 1) = k(1, i) = i$.

Since $\bar{g}_1, \bar{g}_2, \dots, \bar{g}_n$ are linearly independent over $K * H$, for the terms in (4) containing \bar{g}_1 , we obtain

$$\bar{g}_1 w_1 + \bar{g}_1 u_1 + \bar{g}_1 w_1 \bar{g}_1 u_1 + \sum_{\substack{k(i,j)=1 \\ i,j>1}} \bar{g}_i w_i \bar{g}_j u_j = 0.$$

This implies

$$(5) \quad \bar{g}_1 w_1 + \bar{g}_1 u_1 + \bar{g}_1 w'_1 u_1 + \sum_{\substack{k(i,j)=1 \\ i,j>1}} \bar{g}_i w'_i u_j = 0,$$

where

$$w'_1 = \rho(g_1, g_1) \bar{g}_1^{-1} w_1 \bar{g}_1, \quad w'_i = h_{i,j} \rho(g_i, h_{i,j})^{-1} \rho(g_i, g_j) \bar{g}_j^{-1} w_i \bar{g}_j$$

are elements of $J(K * H)$ as the radical is invariant under the automorphisms of $K * H$. Thus, for the coefficient of \bar{g}_1 in (5) we obtain

$$w_1 + u_1 + w'_1 u_1 + \sum_{\substack{k(i,j)=1 \\ i,j>1}} w'_i u_j = 0$$

and hence,

$$(1 + w'_1) u_1 = -w_1 - \sum_{\substack{k(i,j)=1 \\ i,j>1}} w'_i u_j.$$

The element $1 + w'_1$ is invertible in $K * H$ since $w'_1 \in J(K * H)$. So, u_1 can be represented in the form

$$(6) \quad u_1 = \gamma_{11} + \gamma_{12} u_2 + \dots + \gamma_{1n} u_n \quad (\gamma_{1i} \in K * H).$$

We determine the coefficient of \bar{g}_2 in (4) by the equality

$$\bar{g}_2 w_2 + \bar{g}_2 u_2 + \bar{g}_1 w_1 \bar{g}_2 u_2 + \bar{g}_2 w_2 \bar{g}_1 u_1 + \sum_{\substack{k(i,j)=2 \\ i,j>2}} \bar{g}_i u_i \bar{g}_j u_j = 0,$$

after substituting u_1 by its representation (6). So, we have

$$w_2 + u_2 + w''_1 u_2 + w''_2 (\gamma_{11} + \gamma_{12} u_2 + \dots + \gamma_{1n} u_n) + \sum_{\substack{k(i,j)=2 \\ i,j>2}} w''_i u_j = 0,$$

where the elements $w''_1 = \rho(g_1, g_2) \bar{g}_2^{-1} w_1 \bar{g}_2$ $w''_2 = \rho(g_2, g_1) \bar{g}_1^{-1} w_2 \bar{g}_1$,

$$w''_i = \bar{h}_{i,j} \rho(g_2, h_{i,j})^{-1} \rho(g_i, g_j) \bar{g}_j^{-1} w_i \bar{g}_j$$

belong to $J(K * H)$ again. The latter equality can be written for suitable $\beta_i \in K * H$ as

$$u_2 + w''_1 u_2 + w''_2 \gamma_{12} u_2 = \beta_1 + \beta_3 u_3 + \dots + \beta_n u_n.$$

As the elements w''_1 , w''_2 belong to $J(K * H)$, the element $1 + w''_1 + w''_2 \gamma_{12}$ is invertible in $K * H$. So, we can express u_2 in the form

$$u_2 = \gamma_{21} + \gamma_{23} u_3 + \dots + \gamma_{2n} u_n,$$

where $\gamma_{2i} \in K * H$.

Proceeding further, we obtain the system

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= \gamma_{11} + \gamma_{12}u_2 + \dots + \gamma_{1n}u_n, \\ u_2 &= \gamma_{21} + \gamma_{23}u_3 + \dots + \gamma_{2n}u_n, \\ &\dots \\ u_{n-1} &= \gamma_{n-1,1} + \gamma_{n-1,n}u_n, \\ u_n &= \gamma_{n,1}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\gamma_{i,j} \in K * H$ ($i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$) are known. Now we can determine consecutively u_n, u_{n-1}, \dots, u_1 . Hence, there exists the element

$$z = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{g}_i u_i \in K * G$$

for which

$$y + z + yz = 0$$

and therefore $y = ax$ is quasi-invertible in $K * G$ for any $a \in K * G$ and $x \in J(K * H)$, i.e.

$$K * G.J(K * H) \subseteq J(K * G).$$

The theorem is proved.

Corollary. *If H is a normal subgroup of G and G/H is a locally finite group, then*

$$K * G.J(K * H) \subseteq J(K * G).$$

We shall show again that the element $1 - ax$ is invertible in $K * G$ for each $a \in K * G$ and $x \in J(K * H)$.

Indeed, if $G_0 = \langle H, \text{Supp } a \rangle$ is the subgroup of G generated by H and $\text{Supp } a$, then $|G_0/H| < \infty$ and therefore $x \in J(K * G_0)$. The latter implies that $1 - ax$ is invertible in $K * G_0$. So, $1 - ax$ is invertible in $K * G$.

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Received 29.07.1991