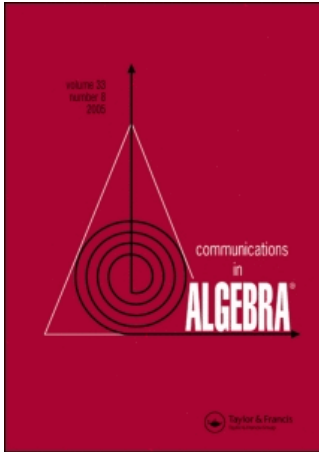


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### Ideals of some matrix rings

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## IDEALS OF SOME MATRIX RINGS<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

Let  $NT_n(K)$  be the ring of all (lower niltriangular)  $n \times n$  matrices over an associative ring  $K$  with zeros on and above the main diagonal. Let  $M_n(J)$  be the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices over an ideal  $J$  of  $K$ . In this paper we investigate ideals and structural connections of the ring  $NT_n(K) + M_n(J)$ , which is denoted by  $R_n(K, J)$ .

It was shown in [7] that for  $R = NT_n(K)$  and  $K = K^2$  the class  $\Omega_G(R)$  of all normal subgroups of the adjoint group of the ring  $R$  coincides with the class

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$\Omega_L(R)$  of all ideals of associated Lie ring. The question about characterization of all associative radical rings  $R$  satisfying  $\Omega_L(R) = \Omega_G(R)$  (see [5, question 10.19]) is still open. It is clear that if  $J$  is a quasi-regular ideal, then  $R_n(K, J)$  is a radical (Jacobson) ring. If the quasi-regular ideal  $J$  contains an element  $x$  satisfying  $x^2 \neq 0$ , then Example 1.1 below shows that there exists a normal subgroup of the adjoint group which is not an ideal of the groupoid  $(R_n(K, J), \star)$  with respect to associated Lie multiplication  $\alpha \star \beta = \alpha\beta - \beta\alpha$ . On the other hand we show in Section 1 that Example 1.1 gives also a new counterexample to the question in [7, Remark 1] and [4, question 6.19]. The first counterexample to this question was constructed by E.I. Khukhro [cf. comments to the question 6.19 in [4]].

Notice that all ideals of any radical ring  $R$  are placed in the intersection  $\Omega_G(R) \cap \Omega_L(R)$ . R. Dubish and S. Perlis [1, Thm. 9] gave a uniform construction of all ideals of the algebra  $NT_n(K)$  over a field  $K$ . Similar construction of ideals of the ring  $NT_n(K) (= R_n(K, 0))$  over a division ring  $K$  has been found in (V. M. Levchuk [7, sect. 2]). It is impossible to give a similar description of the ideals of  $NT_n(K)$  for the case  $K = Z$  (see [7]).

The aim of Section 2 is to get a description of all ideals of  $R_n(K, J)$  in an effective way within the line pointed in [1] and [7]. In this section we assume that  $K$  is a commutative ring with identity. Our main Theorem 2.2 describes all ideals of  $R_n(K, J)$  when  $J$  is a strongly maximal ideal of  $K$  (Definition 2.1), in particular, when  $K = Z$  or  $K = Z_m$ ,  $m > 1$  and  $J$  is a maximal ideal of  $K$ . This description is similar to the ones in [1], [7] and coincides with them, if  $K$  is a field and  $J = 0$ . At the end of Section 2 we give an example of a maximal ideal which is not strongly maximal.

In Section 3 we describe all maximal abelian ideals of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  when  $K = Z_{p^m}$  and  $J$  is the strongly maximal ideal  $(p)$ . Theorem 3.1 shows that if  $m$  is even, then  $M_n(J^{m/2})$  is a unique maximal abelian ideal of  $R_n(K, J)$ . But if  $m$  is an odd integer, then the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  has precisely  $(n - 2)p + 1$  of maximal abelian ideals. In proof of Theorem 3.1 we also use the known description of maximal abelian ideals of the ring  $NT_n(F)$  over a field  $F$  (see [7]).

We denote by  $e_{ij}$ , matrices unit and by  $\pi_{km}$ , the canonical projection on  $M_n(K)$  see [2]. Thus,  $\pi_{km}(e_{ij}) = 1$  if  $(k, m) = (i, j)$  and  $\pi_{km}(e_{ij}) = 0$  if  $(k, m) \neq (i, j)$ .

### §1. Structural connections of associated Lie ring and adjoint group

Recall that an ideal  $H$  of the associative ring  $R$  is called quasi-regular, if  $H$  is a group with respect to the adjoint multiplication  $a \circ b = a + b + ab$ , cf [2]. A ring

$R$  is called a radical (Jacobson) ring, if  $(R, \circ)$  is a group (adjoint group), that is, for each element  $a \in R$  there exists an element  $a' \in R$  such that  $a \circ a' = a' \circ a = 0$ . If  $a$  is a nilpotent element, then  $a' = -a + a^2 - a^3 + \dots$ . On the other hand, every associative ring  $R$  is also associated Lie ring  $(R, +, \star)$ , where  $\star$  is the associated Lie multiplication  $a \star b = ab - ba$ . It is clear that each ideal of the radical ring is a normal subgroup of the adjoint group and an ideal of the associated Lie ring, simultaneously. The following question is still open:

Characterize radical rings  $R$  such that the class  $\Omega_L(R)$  of all ideals of associated Lie ring coincides with the class  $\Omega_G(R)$  of all normal subgroups of the adjoint group [5, question 10.19].

Other relations between the adjoint group of a radical ring and the associated Lie ring were investigated by A.I. Mal'cev [9] and S.A. Jennings [3].

Taking into account relations

$$(xe_{ii})' = x'e_{ii}, (xe_{ij})' = -xe_{ij}, \quad i \neq j,$$

we can say that the ring  $R_n(K, J) = NT_n(K) + M_n(J)$  is radical if and only if  $J$  is a quasi-regular ideal of the associative ring  $K$ . It was shown in [7] that  $\Omega_L(NT_n(K)) = \Omega_G(NT_n(K))$ , if the ring  $K$  is generated by the set  $\{xy \mid x, y \in K\}$ , i.e,  $K = K^2$ . It does not hold when  $K = 2Z, n \geq 5$ . Examples of non-nilpotent radical rings  $R$  with the equality  $\Omega_L(R) = \Omega_G(R)$  was constructed in [8]. On the other hand, we have

**Example 1.1:** Let  $J$  be a quasi-regular ideal of an associative commutative ring  $K$  with identity and  $R = R_n(K, J)$ . Let  $e$  be an identity  $n \times n$  matrix. The following map  $\pi : \alpha \rightarrow e + \alpha$  ( $\alpha \in R$ ) is a monomorphism between the adjoint group of the ring  $R$  and  $GL_n(K)$ . Assume  $H = \pi^{-1}(\pi(R) \cap SL_n(K))$ . It is clear that  $H$  is a normal subgroup of the adjoint group of  $R$ . If  $ae_{11} + be_{22} \in H$ , then  $1 = (1+a)(1+b) = 1+a \circ b$  and  $b = a'$ . Thus  $a(e_{11} - e_{22}) = ae_{12} \star e_{21} \in H$  ( $a \in J$ ) holds only when  $a' = -a$  and hence  $a^2 = 0$ . Therefore, if the ideal  $J$  contains an element  $x$  satisfying  $x^2 \neq 0$ , then the normal subgroup  $H$  of the adjoint group of the ring  $R$  is not an ideal of the associated Lie ring and moreover it is not an ideal of the groupoid  $(R, \star)$ .

It was shown in [7, Lemma 2.3] that for arbitrary subgroup  $H$  of the adjoint group of the ring  $R = NT_n(K)$  over any associative ring  $K$  the following two conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $H$  is a normal subgroup of adjoint group  $(R, \circ)$ ;

(ii)  $H$  is an ideal of the groupoid  $(R, \star)$ .

In [7, Remark 1] and in [4, question 6.19] it was asked whether the above conditions (i) and (ii) are equivalent for any subgroup  $H$  of the adjoint group of any nilpotent associative ring  $R$ .

It was shown that this question has a negative answer in general case. E.I. Khukhro (cf. comments to the question 6.19 in [4]) gave the first counterexample in the case of  $R$  to be a free nilpotent algebra of nilpotency class 3 over the field  $GF(2)$  generated by two elements, see also [6]. Example 1.1 shows that for rings  $R_n(K, J)$  with  $J \neq 0$  the answer to the question is usually negative.

## §2. The construction of ideals

Throughout this section  $K$  will denote a commutative (associative) ring with identity and  $J$  will be an ideal of  $K$ . First we will distinguish some special ideals of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$ . Consider following ordered sets of matrices positions

$$\mathcal{L} = \{(i_1, j_1), (i_2, j_2), \dots, (i_r, j_r)\}, \quad r \geq 1, \quad (1)$$

$$1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_r \leq n, \quad 1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_r \leq n;$$

$$\mathcal{L}' = \{(k_1, m_1), (k_2, m_2), \dots, (k_q, m_q)\}, \quad q \geq 0, \quad (2)$$

$$j_r < m_1 < m_2 < \dots < m_q \leq n, \quad 1 \leq k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_q < i_1.$$

We refer to  $\mathcal{L}$  as a “set of corners” of degree  $n$  (compare with [1, Sect. 7], [7, Sect. 2]). We also allow the possibility that  $\mathcal{L}' = \phi$ . Choose a  $J$ -submodule  $T$  of  $K$ . We now consider all  $J$ -submodules  $A$  of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  with the following conditions (i)-(iv):

(i) There exist sets  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}'$  defined by (1) and (2) such that

$$JB \subset A \subset B, \text{ where } B = \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} Te_{ij} + \sum_{(k,m) \in \mathcal{L}'} (JT)e_{km};$$

(ii) If  $JT = JTJ$  then  $\mathcal{L}' = \phi$  and also  $\mathcal{L} = \{(1, n)\}$  when  $JT = T$ ;

(iii) The ideal of  $K$  generated by  $\pi_{ij}(A)$  is equal to  $T$  if  $(n, 1) \neq (i, j) \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $\pi_{n1}(A) = T$ , if  $\mathcal{L} = \{(n, 1)\}$ ;

(iv)  $\pi_{km}(A)$  generates the ideal  $JT$  for all  $(k, m) \in \mathcal{L}'$ .

We call every  $J$ -submodule  $A$  with (i)-(iv) a  $T$ -boundary in  $R_n(K, J)$ . Notice that we can determine a  $T$ -boundary  $A = A(T; \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$  with  $\mathcal{L} = \{(n, 1)\}$  for any

$J$ -submodule  $T$  of  $K$ . If  $\mathcal{L} \neq \{(n, 1)\}$  then  $T$  is an ideal of  $K$ . It is clear that either  $T \subset J$  or  $i > j$  for all  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{L}$  because  $A \subset R_n(K, J)$ .

We now describe the ideal of  $R_n(K, J)$  which is generated by any  $T$ -boundary  $A$ . Regard the  $n \times n$  matrix as a square array of  $n^2$  points  $(i, j)$  (matrix position). Consider the following partial ordering:  $(i, j) < (k, m)$  (or  $(k, m) > (i, j)$ ), if  $i \leq k$ ,  $m \leq j$  and  $(i, j) \neq (k, m)$ . For any additive subgroup  $L$  of  $K$  we denote by  $N_{ij}(L)$  (resp. by  $Q_{ij}(L)$ ) the additive group generated by sets  $Le_{km}$  for all  $(k, m) \geq (i, j)$  (resp.  $(k, m) > (i, j)$ ). It can be easily shown that the ideal of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  generated by any  $T$ -boundary  $A = A(T; \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$  is equal to

$$I(A) = A + \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{ij}(T) + N_{i_1 n}(TJ) + N_{1 j_r}(JT) + M_n(JTJ) + \sum_{(k,m) \in \mathcal{L}'} Q_{km}(JT). \tag{3}$$

We associate "staircases" with sets  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}'$  as in [1], [7]. Then we can compare with the ideal  $I(A)$  the following matrix

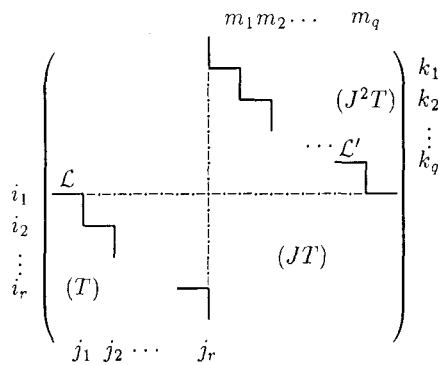


Figure 1.

Now we shall show that in certain cases all ideals of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  are ideals  $I(A)$ .

**Definition 2.1:** An ideal  $J$  of a ring  $K$  is called a strongly maximal ideal if for any  $J$ -submodule  $L$  of  $K$  every ideal of  $K$  which is between a  $J$ -submodule  $L$  and  $JL$ , is equal to  $L$  or  $JL$ .

Let  $J$  be a strongly maximal ideal of a ring  $K$ .

**Theorem 2.2:** If  $H$  is any ideal of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , then there exists a unique  $\pi_{n1}(H)$ -boundary  $A$  in  $R_n(K, J)$  such that  $H = I(A)$ .

We now require following lemmas.

**Lemma 2.3:** Let  $J$  be an arbitrary ideal of  $K$  and let  $H$  be an ideal of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  and  $H_{uv} = \pi_{uv}(H)$ . Then  $JH_{uv} \subset H_{iv} \cap H_{uj}$  for all  $i, j, u, v$ , and

$$J^2T \subset H_{uv} \subset KH_{uv} \subset H_{ij} \subset T \quad \text{for all } (u, v) < (i, j), \quad (4)$$

where  $T = H_{n1}$ . In particular, all projections  $H_{uv}$  are  $J$ -submodules of  $K$  and

$$M_n(J^2T) \subset H \subset M_n(T). \quad (5)$$

**Proof:** Notice that the product of matrices  $e_{ki}\alpha$  can have nonzero entries only in  $k$ -th row which is equal to  $i$ -th row of  $\alpha$ . Using the inclusion  $(Ke_{mi})H \subset H$  it follows  $KH_{ij} \subset H_{mj}$  for  $m > i$ . Similarly, we have  $KH_{sm} \subset H_{si}$  for  $m > i$ . Combining these inclusions we get  $KH_{uv} \subset H_{ij} \subset T$  for all  $(u, v) < (i, j)$  and hence  $H \subset M_n(T)$ . The ideal  $H$  contains a set  $J(e_{iu}H + He_{vj})$  and hence  $JH_{uv} \subset H_{iv} \cap H_{uj}$ . Since the additive group of  $M_n(J^2T)$  is generated by its elementary matrices and

$$(J^2H_{uv})e_{ij} = (Je_{iu})H(Je_{vj}) \subset H$$

we derive  $M_n(J^2T) \subset H$  and (4) which conclude the proof.

Let  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  be the set of all minimal (with respect to the relation  $\leq$ ) matrices positions  $(i, j)$  such that  $H_{ij}$  generates an ideal of  $K$  which contains  $T = H_{n1}$ . It is clear that the set  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  is defined uniquely for  $H$ .

**Lemma 2.4:** Keeping notation of Lemma 2.3 the following hold:

- (i) The set  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(H)$  is a set of corners which is defined by (1);
- (ii)  $H_{in} \cap H_{1j} \supset JT$  and  $H_{km} = T$  for all  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $(k, m) > (i, j)$ ;
- (iii) The  $J$ -submodule  $T$  is an ideal of  $K$  when  $\mathcal{L} \neq \{(n, 1)\}$ .

**Proof:** Since  $T = H_{n1} \subset KT$ , the set  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  is non-empty. Suppose that  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ . Taking into account (4) and the inclusion  $T \subset KH_{ij}$ , we obtain

$$KH_{ij} = H_{km} = T \quad \text{for all } (k, m) > (i, j).$$

Therefore the set  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(H)$  is a set of corners as in (1). Also, if  $\mathcal{L} \neq \{(n, 1)\}$ , then  $T$  is an ideal of  $K$ . Using Lemma 2.3 and the equality  $H_{n1} = T$  we obtain  $H_{in} \cap H_{1j} \supset JH_{ij} = JKH_{ij} = JT$  for all  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{L}$  and our lemma is proved.

**Proof of Theorem 2.2:** Suppose that  $H_{uv} = \pi_{uv}(H)$ ,  $T = H_{n1}$  and  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(H)$ . If  $\mathcal{L} = \{(1, n)\}$ , in particular when  $T = JT$ , then we have  $H = H_{1n}e_{1n} + Q_{1n}(T)$  since

$$H \supset K(e_{ui}H + He_{jv}) \supset (KH_{ij})e_{uv}, \quad i < u, v < j. \tag{6}$$

Therefore, in this case  $H_{1n}e_{1n}$  is a unique  $T$ -boundary  $A$  such that  $H = I(A)$ . Assume that  $\mathcal{L} \neq \{(1, n)\}$ . Then we have  $T \neq JT$ . Choose an arbitrary matrix position  $(s, t)$  which is placed in the set

$$\{(i_1 - 1, 1), (i_2 - 1, j_1 + 1), \dots, (i_r - 1, j_{r-1} + 1), (n, j_r + 1)\}. \tag{7}$$

It is clear that  $(s, t) \geq (1, j_r)$  or  $(s, t) \geq (i_1, n)$ . Hence  $T \supset KH_{st} \supset H_{st} \supset JT$  by (4) and by Lemma 2.4 (ii). By definition of  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  the  $J$ -submodule  $H_{st}$  generates the ideal of  $K$  which does not contain  $T$ . Now, assume that  $J$  is a strongly maximal ideal of  $K$ . Then we conclude  $KH_{st} = JT = H_{st}$ .

Let  $(k, m)$  be an arbitrary matrix position which is placed above staircase  $\mathcal{L}(H)$ . Then there exists a matrix position  $(s, t) \geq (k, m)$  which is in the set (7). Therefore  $JT = H_{st} \supset KH_{km} \supset H_{km} \supset J(JT)$  by (4). This implies that either the set  $H_{km}$  generates the ideal  $JT$  or  $H_{km} = J^2T$ . Notice that if  $(k, m) \geq (i_1, n)$  or  $(k, m) \geq (1, j_r)$ , then  $H_{km} \supset JT$  by Lemma 2.4 (ii) and (4).

If  $JT \neq J^2T$  we define  $\mathcal{L}'(H)$  to be the set of all minimal matrices positions  $(k, m)$  such that  $1 \leq k < i_1, j_r < m \leq n$  and that the  $J$ -submodule  $H_{km}$  generates the ideal  $JT$ . If  $JT = J^2T$  then  $\mathcal{L}' = \emptyset$ . Thus, for  $H$  the set  $\mathcal{L}'(H)$  is defined uniquely and  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{L}'(H)$  is a set (2).

Suppose that  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{L}$ . Then  $JH_{ij} = JKH_{ij} = JT$  and hence

$$(Je_{1i})H = (JT)e_{1j} \text{ mod } Q_{1j}(JT) + M_n(J^2T).$$

Taking into account (6) we obtain  $N_{1j}(JT) \subset H$  and similarly,  $N_{in}(JT) \subset H$ . Therefore  $N_{i_1n}(JT) + N_{1j_r}(JT) + M_n(J^2T) \subset H$ . Using (6) it is easy to show that

$$Q_{ij}(T) + Q_{km}(JT) \subset H \quad \text{for all } (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } (k, m) \in \mathcal{L}'.$$

We choose the set  $A$  of all matrices  $\alpha = \| a_{uv} \| \in H$  with  $a_{uv} = 0$  if  $(u, v) \notin$



$\mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}'$ . It is clear that the set  $A = A(T; \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$  is a  $J$ -submodule of  $R_n(K, J)$  with conditions (i)-(iv). Therefore, the set  $A$  is a  $T$ -boundary and  $H = I(A)$ . Finally,  $T$ -boundary  $A$  is defined uniquely for  $H$ . This completes the proof.

Thus, Theorem 2.2 describes all ideals of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  when  $J$  is a strongly maximal ideal of  $K$ . The next proposition indicates examples of such ideals.

**Proposition 2.5:** The zero ideal of any field and every maximal ideal of the rings  $Z$  and  $Z_m, m > 1$ , are strongly maximal ideals.

**Proof:** Straightforward.

Observe that the case  $J = 0$  of Theorem 2.2 gives well known description of ideals of the ring or algebra  $NT_n(K)$  over a field  $K$  (see [1, Thm. 9] and [7, Sect. 2]).

It is clear that any strongly maximal ideal of a ring  $K$ , which is not equal to  $K$ , is maximal. We conclude this section with an example.

**Example 2.6:** Consider the ring  $K = Z[x]$  of polynomials in one indeterminate  $x$  over  $Z$ . The ideal  $J = pZ + xK$  for an arbitrary prime  $p$  is maximal and

$$J^s = p^s Z + p^{s-1} xZ + \dots + px^{s-1} Z + x^s K.$$

Let  $T = J^s$  and  $s \geq 1$ . The quotient-ring  $T/JT$  is a ring with zero multiplication and with elementary abelian additive group of order  $p^{s+1}$ . Thus between  $T$  and  $JT$  we can find chains of ideals of  $K$  with arbitrary finite length varying  $s$  suitably. Hence, the ideal  $J$  of  $K$  is not strongly maximal.

### §3. Abelian ideals of $R_n(K, J)$

In this section we apply Theorem 2.2 in order to describe maximal abelian ideals of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  when  $K = Z_p m$  and  $J = (p)$ . It is convenient now to assume that always  $J^0 = K$ .

**Theorem 3.1:** Suppose that  $K = Z_p m$  and  $J = (p)$ . If  $m$  is even, then  $M_n(J^{m/2})$  is unique maximal abelian ideal of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . If  $m = 2s + 1$  is an odd integer, then the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  has  $(n - 2)p + 1$  maximal abelian ideals which have the form:

$$N_{i-1}(J^s) + M_n(J^{s+1}), \quad 1 < i \leq n, \text{ if } n = 2 \text{ and } s = 0 \text{ or } n > 2;$$

$$J^s e + N_{21}(J^s) + M_2(J^{s+1}) \text{ if } n = 2 \text{ and } s > 0;$$

$$N_{i+1-i-1}(J^s) + M_n(J^{s+1}) + J^s(e_{i1} + ce_{ni}), \quad 1 < i < n, \quad 1 \leq c < p.$$

**Proof:** Let  $H$  be an arbitrary maximal abelian ideal of  $R_n(K, J)$  and  $T = \pi_{n1}(H)$ . Since

$$\left(\sum_{k,u} a_{ku}e_{ku}\right)e_{1n}\left(\sum_{v,t} b_{vt}e_{vt}\right) = \sum_{k,t} (a_{k1}b_{nt})e_{kt}$$

we obtain  $\pi_{n1}(H \star (Je_{1n}H)) = \pi_{n1}(H(Je_{1n})H) = TJT$ . However,  $H \star (Je_{1n}H) = 0$  since  $H$  is an abelian ideal. Hence  $T^2J = 0$ . Taking into account inclusions (5) we obtain  $HM_n(JT) = M_n(JT)H = 0$  and

$$M_n(JT) \subset H \subset M_n(T) \tag{8}$$

since  $H$  is a maximal abelian ideal.

Now we find centralizer  $\mathcal{C}(M_n(T))$  of  $M_n(T)$  in the ring  $R_n(K, J)$ . Let  $Ann_K T$  be the annihilator of  $T$  in  $K$ , and  $\alpha = \| a_{uv} \| \in R_n(K, J)$ . Then  $\alpha$  is in the centralizer  $\mathcal{C}(Te_{km})$  of  $Te_{km}$  in  $R_n(K, J)$  if and only if  $a_{kk} = a_{mm} \pmod{Ann_K T}$  and all other elements of  $k$ -th column and  $m$ -th row of  $\alpha$  are contained in  $Ann_K T$ . Therefore

$$\mathcal{C}(M_n(T)) = Je + M_n(Ann_K T) \cap R_n(K, J)$$

where  $e$  is the identity matrix. It is clear that  $M_n(T)$  is an abelian ideal if and only if  $T^2 = 0$ . If  $Ann_K T = T \subset J$  then the ideal  $M_n(T)$  of  $R_n(K, J)$  is maximal abelian because any ideal of the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  which is between  $M_n(T)$  and  $Je + M_n(T)$  ( $= \mathcal{C}(M_n(T))$ ) is equal to  $M_n(T)$ .

Each ideal of our ring  $K$  is equal to  $J^t$  for some  $t$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq m$ , and  $Ann_K J^t = J^{m-t}$ . It follows that if  $m$  is even then  $M_n(J^{m/2})$  is a maximal abelian ideal of  $R_n(K, J)$ . Suppose that  $T = J^s$ . Then we have  $J^{2s+1} = JT^2 = 0$  and hence  $2s + 1 \geq m$ . If  $d$  is the integer part of  $(m + 1)/2$  then  $M_n(J^d) \subset M_n(JT)$  or  $H \subset M_n(T) \subset M_n(J^d)$ . Since  $M_n(J^d)$  is an abelian ideal we have  $H \supset M_n(J^d)$  and so  $(m-1)/2 \leq s \leq d$ . When  $m$  is even we obtain  $d = m/2$  and  $H = M_n(J^{m/2})$ .

Assume that  $m$  is an odd integer. Then we have  $m = 2s + 1$  and  $T = J^s$ ,  $J^{s+1} = JT = Ann_K T$ . When  $s = 0$  the conclusion of our theorem holds by [7, Thm 3]. Let  $s$  be a positive integer. By 2.2 and by (8) there exists a set of corners  $\mathcal{L}$  as in (1) such that

$$H = A + \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{ij}(T) + M_n(JT)$$

where  $A \subset \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} Te_{ij}$ . It is not difficult to show that

$$\mathcal{C}(N_{ij}(T)) = Je + \{N_{j+1 i-1}(K) + M_n(Ann_K T)\} \cap R_n(K, J).$$

Suppose that  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $i \leq j$ . If  $i < n$  then  $N_{i+1i}(T) \subset H$  and so

$$H \subset C(N_{i+1i}(T)) \cap M_n(T) = Te + N_{i+1i}(T) + M_n(JT).$$

Hence  $i = j$  and  $n = 2$ . For  $j > 1$  we obtain the same result. Clear that  $Te + N_{21}(T) + M_2(JT)$  for  $T = J^s$  is a maximal abelian ideal of  $R_2(K, J)$ . As above all ideals  $N_{i+1i}(T) + M_n(JT)$  are maximal abelian in the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  for  $n > 2$ .

We now consider the case when  $N_{i+1i}(T) \not\subset H$  for all  $i$ . It is clear that  $H \subset NT_n(T) + M_n(JT)$  and if  $(i_1, j_1), (i_r, j_r) \in \mathcal{L}$  as in (1) then  $1 < i_1 \leq j_r < n$ . Suppose, if possible, that  $xe_{i_1} \in H$  for some  $i_1 \leq i$  and  $x \in (T - (JT))$ . Then we have  $H \subset C(xe_{i_1})$  and so  $\pi_{ui}(H) \subset \text{Ann}_K x = JT$  for all  $u$ . Consequently  $i_1 = j_r$  and if  $i = i_1$  then  $H \cap (Te_{i_1}) = JTe_{i_1}$  and  $H \cap (Te_{ni}) = JTe_{ni}$ . Therefore  $H$  is placed in the abelian ideal  $T(\epsilon_{i_1} + ce_{ni}) + N_{i+1i-1}(T) + M_n(JT)$  for some  $c \in K$  such that  $Tc = T$ . Clear that we can choose  $c$  such that  $1 \leq c < p$ .

Finally note that the number of all maximal abelian ideals in the ring  $R_n(K, J)$  for odd  $m$  is equal to  $(n - 1) + (n - 2)(p - 1) = (n - 2)p + 1$ . Theorem 3.1 is proved.

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