



# Study of the rings in which each element express as the sum of an idempotent and pure

Akram S. Mohammed<sup>a</sup>, Ibrahim S. Ahmed<sup>b,\*</sup>, Samah H. Asaad<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>College of Computer Science and Mathematics, Tikrit University, Tikrit, Salahaddin, Iraq

<sup>b</sup>College of Education-Tuzkhurmatu, Tikrit University, Tuzkhurmatu, Salahaddin, Iraq

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## Abstract

This article aims to introduce the concept of  $p$ -clean rings as a generalization of some concepts such as clean rings and  $r$ -clean rings. As the first result, we prove that every clean ring is a  $p$ -clean ring and every  $r$ -clean ring is a  $p$ -clean ring. Furthermore, we give the relation between von Neumann local ring and  $p$ -clean ring. Finally, we investigate many properties of  $p$ -clean rings.

*Keywords:* ring, clean ring, r-clean ring, local ring and regular ring

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## 1. Introduction

Goldman [7] studied the concept of unit element, where  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring, then an element  $u$  in  $\mathcal{R}$  is called unit element if there exist  $v$  such that  $u v = v u = 1_{\mathcal{R}}$ . Let the set of unit elements in  $\mathcal{R}$  denoted by  $U(\mathcal{R})$  that is  $U(\mathcal{R}) = \{ u \in \mathcal{R} ; u v = v u = 1, \text{ for some } v \in \mathcal{R} \}$ . The concept of idempotent element was studied by de Melo Hernández [2], where an element  $e$  in  $\mathcal{R}$  is called idempotent element if  $e^2 = e$ , let  $\text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  be the set of idempotent elements in  $\mathcal{R}$  that is  $\text{Id}(\mathcal{R}) = \{ e \in \mathcal{R} ; e^2 = e \}$ . The notion of regular element was first introduced by von Neumann in 1936, where an element  $r$  in  $\mathcal{R}$  is called regular element if there exist  $s$  in  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $r = r s r$ , a ring  $\mathcal{R}$  is called regular ring if each element in  $\mathcal{R}$  is regular. Many other authors interested in studying regular rings, for example see [10] and [9]. Let the set of regular element in  $\mathcal{R}$  be denoted by  $\text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$  that is  $\text{Reg}(\mathcal{R}) = \{ r \in \mathcal{R} ; r = r s r, \text{ for some } s \in \mathcal{R} \}$ . The concept of clean ring first introduced by Nicholson in 1977 [8], where the ring  $\mathcal{R}$  is called clean ring if for each  $c \in \mathcal{R}$  there exist  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $u \in U(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + u$ . Many other authors interested in studying clean rings, for example see [5], [12]

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\*Corresponding author

Email addresses: [akr\\_tel@tu.edu.iq](mailto:akr_tel@tu.edu.iq) (Akram S. Mohammed), [ibrahim1992@tu.edu.iq](mailto:ibrahim1992@tu.edu.iq) (Ibrahim S. Ahmed), [samah1989@tu.edu.iq](mailto:samah1989@tu.edu.iq) (Samah H. Asaad)

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and [3]. Ashrafi and Nasibi [4] in 2013 introduced the concept of  $r$ -clean ring, where the ring  $\mathcal{R}$  is called  $r$ -clean ring if for each  $c \in \mathcal{R}$  there exist  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $r \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + r$ . Many authors have studied  $r$ -clean rings such as [1] and [13]. Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring, then an element  $p$  in  $\mathcal{R}$  is called pure element if there exist  $q$  in  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p = pq$  [11] and the set of pure elements in  $\mathcal{R}$  write  $\text{Pu}(\mathcal{R}) = \{ p \in \mathcal{R} : p = pq, \text{ for some } q \in \mathcal{R} \}$ . The concept of von Neumann local ring was studied by Anderson [2], where a ring  $\mathcal{R}$  is called von Neumann local ring if for each  $r \in \mathcal{R}$  we have either  $r \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$  or  $1 - r \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ .

**Definition 1.1.** An element  $c \in \mathcal{R}$  is called  $p$ -clean if there exist  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + p$ .

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring. Then  $\mathcal{R}$  is called  $p$ -clean ring if each element in  $\mathcal{R}$  express as the sum of an idempotent and pure.

**Example 1.3.** The ring  $(\mathbb{Z}_6, +_6, \cdot_6)$  is a  $p$ -clean ring.

**Example 1.4.** The ring  $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$  is a  $p$ -clean ring.

**Proposition 1.5.** Every clean ring is a  $p$ -clean ring.

**Proof .** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a clean ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . Then  $c = e + u$ . Where  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $u \in \text{U}(\mathcal{R})$ . To proof  $c$  is  $p$ -clean, it remains only to prove that  $u$  is a pure element. Since  $u \in \text{U}(\mathcal{R})$ , then there is  $v \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $u v = v u = 1$ , hence  $1 \in \mathcal{R}$ .

Now,  $u = u \cdot 1$ , implies that  $u$  is a pure element. And hence  $u \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ , thus  $c$  is  $p$ -clean. Therefore  $\mathcal{R}$  is a  $p$ -clean ring.

The converse of above proposition is true.  $\square$

**Example 1.6.** The ring  $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$  is a  $p$ -clean ring. But not clean (because, not each element in  $\mathbb{Z}$  is unite).

**Theorem 1.7.** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $\text{Id}(\mathcal{R}) = \{0, 1\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{R}$  is  $p$ -clean ring if and only if it is clean ring.

**Proof .** Every clean ring is a  $p$ -clean ring by proposition 5. Conversely Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a  $p$ -clean ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . Then  $c$  is  $p$ -clean, then there exists  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + p$ . If  $p = 0$ , then  $c = e = (1 - e) + (2e - 1)$ .  $(1 - e)^2 = 1 - 2e + e^2 = 1 - 2e^2 + e^2 = 1 - e^2 = 1 - e$  and hence  $1 - e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$ . Now, since  $(2e - 1)^2 = 4e^2 - 4e + 1 = 4e - 4e + 1 = 1$ , then  $(2e - 1) \in \text{U}(\mathcal{R})$  and hence  $c$  is clean element, thus  $\mathcal{R}$  is clean ring. So, assume that  $p \neq 0$ . Since  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ , then there is  $d \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $p = pd$ . Consider  $d = qp$ , then  $p = pqp$ . Now,  $(pq)^2 = (pq)(pq) = (pqp)q = pq$  which implies that  $pq \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$ , hence by hypothesis either  $pq = 0$  or  $pq = 1$ . If  $pq = 0$ , then  $p = 0$  which is contradiction, thus  $pq = 1$ . On the other hand,  $(qp)^2 = (qp)(qp) = q(pqp) = qp$  which implies that  $qp \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$ , hence by hypothesis either  $qp = 0$  or  $qp = 1$ . If  $qp = 0$ , then  $p = 0$  which is contradiction, thus  $qp = 1$ . Consequentially,  $p \in \text{U}(\mathcal{R})$ . This implies that  $c$  is the sum of an idempotent and unit, and hence  $c$  is a clean element. Therefore,  $\mathcal{R}$  is a clean ring.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.8.** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $\text{Id}(\mathcal{R}) = \{0, 1\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{R}$  is  $p$ -clean ring if and only if it is a von Neumann local ring.

**Proof .** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $\text{Id}(\mathcal{R}) = \{0, 1\}$ . Assume  $\mathcal{R}$  is  $p$ -clean ring, then by Theorem 7 we get  $\mathcal{R}$  is clean ring. Let  $c \in \mathcal{R}$  we have  $c$  is the sum of an idempotent and unit, that is there exists  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $u \in \text{U}(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + u$ , but the unit element is a regular element which implies that  $u \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ . by hypothesis  $e = 0$  or  $1$ . If  $e = 0$ , then  $c = e + u = u$ , hence  $c \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ . If  $e = 1$ , then  $c = 1 + u$  and  $u = 1 - c$ , hence  $1 - c \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{R}$  is a von Neumann local ring.

Conversely, let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a von Neumann local ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . Then either  $c \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$  or  $1 - c \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ . if  $c \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ , put  $c = 0 + c$ , then to prove  $c$  is a  $p$ -clean, it remains only to prove that  $c$  is a pure element, since  $c \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$  then there is  $d \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $c = cdc$ . Consider  $q = dc$ , then  $c = cq$ , hence  $c \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ . If  $1 - c \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ , put  $c = 1 + (1 - c)$ . Since every regular element is pure, then  $(1 - c) \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ . Hence  $c$  is a  $p$ -clean. Therefore  $\mathcal{R}$  is a  $p$ -clean ring.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.9.** *Every  $r$ -clean ring is a  $p$ -clean ring .*

**Proof .** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a  $r$ -clean ring and let  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . Then  $c = e + r$ . Where  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $r \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ . To proof  $c$  is  $p$ -clean element in  $\mathcal{R}$ , it is suffices we prove that  $r$  is pure element, Since  $r \in \text{Reg}(\mathcal{R})$ , then there is  $s \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $r = r s r$ . Consider  $q = s r$ , then  $q \in \mathcal{R}$ . Hence  $r = r q$ , thus  $r$  is a pure element, consequentially  $c$  is  $p$ -clean element. Therefore  $\mathcal{R}$  is a  $p$ -clean ring. The converse of above proposition is not true.  $\square$

**Example 1.10.** *The ring  $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$  is a  $p$ -clean ring. But not  $r$ -clean ring.*

**Proposition 1.11.** *Every pure element of a ring  $\mathcal{R}$  is a  $p$ -clean.*

**Proof .** The proof follows from the definition of  $p$ -clean element.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.12.** *Every idempotent element of a ring  $\mathcal{R}$  is a  $p$ -clean.*

**Proof .** The proof follows from the definition of  $p$ -clean element.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.13.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . If  $c$  is  $p$ -clean, then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+, c^n$  is  $p$ -clean.*

**Proof .** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . Assume that  $c$  is  $p$ -clean, then there exists  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + p$ . Now  $c^n = (e + p)^n = e^n + p^n$ , we must prove  $e^n \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p^n \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ . Since  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  then  $e^2 = e$ . Now  $(e^n)^2 = (e^2)^n = (e)^n$ , hence  $e^n \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$ . Since  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ , then there is  $q \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $p = pq$ . Hence  $p^n = (pq)^n = p^n q^n$ . Since  $q \in \mathcal{R}$ , then  $q^n \in \mathcal{R} \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  thus  $p^n \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  Therefore,  $c^n$  is a  $p$ -clean ring.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.14.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . Then  $c$  is  $p$ -clean if and only if  $1 - c$  is  $p$ -clean.*

**Proof .** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . Assume that  $c$  is  $p$ -clean, then there exists  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + p$ . Now  $1 - c = 1 - (e + p) = (1 - e) + (-p)$ , we must prove  $1 - e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $(-p) \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ . Since  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  then  $e^2 = e$ . Now  $(1 - e)^2 = 1 - 2e + e^2 = 1 - 2e^2 + e^2 = 1 - e^2 = 1 - e$ , hence  $1 - e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$ . Since  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ , then there is  $q \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $p = pq$ . Hence  $-p = -pq = (-p)q$ , thus  $(-p) \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  Therefore,  $(1 - c)$  is a  $p$ -clean ring. Conversely: let  $1 - c$  is  $p$ -clean, then  $1 - c = e + p$  where  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ . Now,  $c = 1 - (e + p) = (1 - e) + (-p)$ , as a previous part we have  $1 - e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $(-p) \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  which implies that  $c$  is the sum of an idempotent and pure. Therefore,  $c$  is a  $p$ -clean.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.15.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ . If  $c$  is  $p$ -clean, then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+, 1 - c^n$  is  $p$ -clean.*

**Proof .** The proof follows from proposition 13 and proposition 14  $\square$

**Proposition 1.16.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a  $p$  – clean ring and  $\mathcal{R}'$  be a ring. If  $f: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}'$  is epimorphism, then  $\mathcal{R}'$  is a  $p$  – clean ring.*

**Proof .** Let  $c' \in \mathcal{R}'$ . Since  $f: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}'$  is epimorphism, then  $\exists c \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $c' = f(c)$ . But  $\mathcal{R}$  is a  $p$  – clean ring, then  $c = e + p$  where  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ .  $c' = f(c) = f(e + p) = f(e) + f(p)$ . Now, we must prove  $f(e) \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R}')$  and  $f(p) \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R}')$ . Since  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  then  $e^2 = e$ . Hence  $f(e) = f(e^2) = [f(e)]^2$ , thus  $f(e) \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R}')$ , since  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ , then there is  $q \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $p = pq$ . Hence  $f(p) = f(pq) = f(p).f(q)$ , but  $q \in \mathcal{R}$ , then  $f(q) \in \mathcal{R}'$ , which implies that  $f(p) \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R}')$ , thus  $c'$  is the sum of an idempotent and pure. Therefore,  $\mathcal{R}'$  is a  $p$  – clean ring.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.17.** *Let  $I$  be an Ideal of a  $p$  – clean ring  $\mathcal{R}$ . Then  $\frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$  is a  $p$  – clean ring.*

**Proof .** Let  $e + I \in \frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$ . Then  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , since  $\mathcal{R}$  is  $p$  – clean ring, there exists  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$  such that  $c = e + p$ . Hence  $c + I = e + p + I = e + I + p + I$ , to prove  $c + I$  is a  $p$  – clean element in  $\frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$  we must prove that  $e + I$  is an idempotent element in  $\frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$  and  $p + I$  is a pure element in  $\frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$ . Since  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$ ,  $e^2 = e$  and hence  $e + I = e^2 + I = e.e + I = (e + I) . (e + I) = (e + I)^2$ , thus  $(e + I)$  is an idempotent element in  $\frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$ . Since  $p \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R})$ , there is  $q \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $p = pq$ . Now,  $p + I = pq + I = (p + I) + (q + I)$ , which implies that  $p + I$  is a pure element in  $\frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$ , thus  $c + I$  is the sum of an idempotent and pure. Therefore,  $\frac{\mathcal{R}}{I}$  is a  $p$  – clean ring.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.18.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}_k$ , ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) be a  $p$  – clean ring. Then  $\prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$  is a  $p$  – clean ring.*

**Proof .** Let  $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) \in \prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$ . Then  $c_k \in \mathcal{R}_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Since  $\mathcal{R}_k$  is  $p$  – clean ring, there exists  $e_k \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R}_k)$  and  $p_k \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R}_k)$  such that  $c_k = e_k + p_k \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) &= (e_1 + p_1, e_2 + p_2, \dots, e_n + p_n) \\ &= (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) + (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n). \end{aligned}$$

To prove  $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)$  is a  $p$  – clean element in  $\prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$ , we must prove that  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)$  is an idempotent element in  $\prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$  and  $(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$  is a pure element in  $\prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$ . Since  $e_k \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R}_k)$ ,  $e_k^2 = e_k$ , for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , hence  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) = (e_1^2, e_2^2, \dots, e_n^2)$  which implies that  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) = (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) . (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) = (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)^2$  and thus  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)$  is an idempotent element in  $\prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$ . Since  $p_k \in \text{Pu}(\mathcal{R}_k) \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , there is  $q_k \in \mathcal{R}_k$  such that  $p_k = p_k q_k \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) &= (p_1 q_1, p_2 q_2, \dots, p_n q_n) \\ &= (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) . (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $q_k \in \mathcal{R}_k \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , then  $(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n) \in \prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$ , which implies that  $(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$  is a pure element in  $\prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$ , thus  $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)$  is the sum of an idempotent and pure. Therefore,  $\prod_{k=1}^n \mathcal{R}_k$  is a  $p$  – clean ring.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.19.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be an abelian ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$  is  $p$  – clean. If  $e \in \text{Id}(\mathcal{R})$  and  $(-c)$  is a  $p$  – clean in  $\mathcal{R}$ , then  $(c + e)$  is a  $p$  – clean.*

**Proof .** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be an abelian ring and  $c \in \mathcal{R}$  is  $p$ -clean. Then  $1 - c$  is  $p$ -clean by Proposition 14. Similarly as in Proposition 14, we can prove that  $(-c)$  is a  $p$ -clean in  $\mathcal{R}$  iff  $(1 + c)$  is a  $p$ -clean element.

Now, let  $c = f + p$  where  $f^2 = f$  and  $p = pq$ ,  $1 + c = g + w$  where  $g^2 = g$  and  $w = wz$ .

$$\begin{aligned} c + e &= c + ce - ce + e = (c + 1)e + c(1 - e) \\ &= (g + w)e + (f + p)(1 - e) = ge + we + f(1 - e) + p(1 - e) \\ &= ge + f(1 - e) + we + p(1 - e). \end{aligned}$$

We note that

$$\begin{aligned} (ge + f(1 - e))^2 &= (ge + f(1 - e))(ge + f(1 - e)) \\ &= (ge)^2 + gef(1 - e) + f(1 - e)ge + (f(1 - e))^2 \\ &= ge + gef - ge^2f + fge - fe^2g + f(1 - e) \\ &= ge + gef - gef + fge - feg + f(1 - e) = ge + f(1 - e). \end{aligned}$$

Also,  $we + p(1 - e)$  is a  $p$ -clean element in  $\mathcal{R}$  (because  $we + p(1 - e)$  is a unit element)

$$\begin{aligned} (we + p(1 - e))(w^{-1}we + p^{-1}p(1 - e)) &= we + wep^{-1}p + p(1 - e)w^{-1}we + p(1 - e) \\ &= we + wep^{-1}p - wep^{-1}pe + pw^{-1}we - pew^{-1}we + p(1 - e) \\ &= we + p(1 - e). \end{aligned}$$

Since,  $we + p(1 - e)$  is a  $p$ -clean element in  $\mathcal{R}$ ,  $(c + e)$  is a  $p$ -clean.

□

## 2. Conclusion

Our aims in this work are to study the concepts of clean ring and  $r$ -clean ring which are stronger than of the concept  $p$ -clean ring. Furthermore, we give the relation between von Neumann local ring and  $p$ -clean ring and we prove that the finite direct product of  $p$ -clean rings is also  $p$ -clean ring. Finally, we studies many properties of  $p$ -clean rings.

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