

# A CLASS OF ALGEBRAS WITHOUT UNITY ELEMENT

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**1. Introduction.** In a study of the commuting algebra of tensor space representations of the orthogonal group  $W$ . P. Brown encountered a class of algebras for which the existence of a unity element was equivalent to semi-simplicity, but which were of interest whether or not semisimple. He gave these algebras the name *generalized-total matrix algebras* and proved **(2)** that each such algebra was characterized by three integers  $l, r, m$  and was isomorphic to the algebra of all square matrices of degree  $r + l + m$  which have zeros in the first  $l$  rows and in the last  $r$  columns.

Let  $F$  be any field, let  $K$  be an extension sfield of finite degree  $k$  over  $F$ , let  $m$  be a positive integer and let  $l, r$  be non-negative integers. We denote by  $C = C(K, m, l, r)$  the  $F$ -algebra of order  $k(m + l)(m + r)$  consisting of all  $K$ -matrices having zeros in the first  $l$  rows and in the last  $l$ -columns. We call  $C$  a *submatrix algebra*.

In the present paper we introduce a new family of algebras called *algebras of class  $Q$* . These algebras are defined in terms of certain simple properties possessed by submatrix algebras. Our main result is a proof that each algebra of class  $Q$  is a factor algebra of a direct sum of submatrix algebras. We also touch on the topics of automorphisms, isomorphisms, and representations, of algebras of class  $Q$ .

**2. Algebras of class  $Q$  and class  $Q'$ .** An  $F$ -algebra  $A$  (of finite dimension) is said to be of class  $Q$  if there exists an idempotent  $\epsilon$  in  $A$  such that the following three conditions hold:

- ( $Q_1$ )  $B = \epsilon A \epsilon$  is semisimple,
- ( $Q_2$ )  $A \epsilon A = A$ ,
- ( $Q_3$ )  $A = B + N$ , where  $N$  is the radical of  $A$ .

If instead of ( $Q_1$ ) we have the stronger condition

$$(Q_1') \quad B = \epsilon A \epsilon \text{ is simple,}$$

then we say that  $A$  is of class  $Q'$ .

It is easy to see that every submatrix algebra  $C(K, m, l, r)$  is of class  $Q'$ ; for we may take as the idempotent the matrix

$$(1) \quad \epsilon' = \left\| \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_m & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right\|$$

where the partitioning of rows and columns is given by  $l, m, r$ .

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**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $A$  be an algebra of class  $Q$ . Then  $ANA = 0$ .*

Since no non-zero element in a semisimple algebra can be in the radical we note that  $B \cap N = \{0\}$ ; hence the sum  $B + N$  is direct (in the vector space sense). Now multiply  $A$  on left and right by  $\epsilon$  and we get from  $(Q_3)$  that

$$(2) \quad \epsilon N \epsilon = 0.$$

Finally, we have

$$ANA = A\epsilon ANA\epsilon A \subseteq A\epsilon N\epsilon A = 0.$$

**COROLLARY 1.** *If  $A$  is of class  $Q$  then  $N^3 = 0$  and  $AN^2 = N^2A = 0$ .*

**THEOREM 2.** *If  $A$  is of class  $Q$  then*

$$(3) \quad A = B + \epsilon N + N\epsilon + N^2 \quad (\text{direct sum}).$$

We establish the theorem by identifying (3) with the Pierce decomposition of  $A$  relative to  $\epsilon$ . By  $(Q_1)$ ,  $B = \epsilon A \epsilon$  consists of all elements of  $A$  having  $\epsilon$  as two-sided unity. Next, suppose that  $\alpha$  is an element of  $A$  for which  $\alpha = \epsilon \alpha$  and  $\alpha \epsilon = 0$ . According to  $(Q_3)$  we can write  $\alpha = \beta + \eta$  where  $\beta \in B$  and  $\eta \in N$ . Now since  $\alpha = \epsilon \alpha$  we must have  $\epsilon \eta = \eta$ , and then  $\alpha \epsilon = \beta + \epsilon \eta \epsilon = \beta$  requires  $\beta = 0$ . This shows that  $\epsilon N$  contains all elements of  $A$  having  $\epsilon$  as left unity and right annihilator; moreover, it follows from (2) that each element of  $\epsilon N$  has this property. We show similarly that  $N\epsilon$  consists of all elements of  $A$  having  $\epsilon$  as right unity and left annihilator.

This shows that the Pierce decomposition is

$$(4) \quad A = B + \epsilon N + N\epsilon + N_0 \quad (\text{direct sum})$$

where  $N_0$  consists of all elements of  $A$  having  $\epsilon$  as two-sided annihilator. All that remains is to show that  $N_0 = N^2$ . It is a consequence of Corollary 1 that  $N^2 \subseteq N_0$ . Next, it follows from  $(Q_2)$ , (4), and the fact that  $N$  is an ideal that

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} A &= A \cdot A = (B + N\epsilon)(B + \epsilon N) \\ &= B + N\epsilon + \epsilon N + N\epsilon N, \end{aligned}$$

where  $N\epsilon N \subseteq N^2 \subseteq N_0$ . Comparison of (4) and (5) then shows that  $N\epsilon N = N_0$  and hence

$$N^2 = N\epsilon N = N_0.$$

**3. Structure theory.** In this section we show how a general algebra of class  $Q$  can be built up from algebras of class  $Q'$  and in the following section we study the structure of algebras of class  $Q'$ .

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $A, A_1$ , and  $A_2$  be algebras of class  $Q$  and let  $M$  be an ideal (two-sided) in  $A$ . Then the direct sum  $A_1 \oplus A_2$  and the residue class algebra  $A - M$  are both of class  $Q$ .*

If  $\epsilon, \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2$  are the postulated idempotents in  $A, A_1, A_2$ , respectively, then  $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$  and  $\epsilon + M$ , respectively, are idempotents which satisfy  $(Q_1)$  and  $(Q_2)$  in  $A_1 + A_2$  and  $A - M$ . It is also easy to check  $(Q_3)$  in both cases.

THEOREM 4. *Let  $A$  be an algebra of class  $Q$ . Then  $A = A^* - M^*$  where  $A^*$  is a direct sum of algebras of class  $Q'$  and  $M^*$  is contained in the square of the radical of  $A^*$ .*

It follows from Theorem 3 that  $A^* - M^*$  is of class  $Q$  if  $A^*$  and  $M^*$  satisfy the conditions of Theorem 4.

Let  $A = B + N$  where  $B$  and  $N$  are related to  $A$  as in  $(Q_1), (Q_2), (Q_3)$ , and suppose that

$$(6) \quad B = B_1 + \dots + B_p$$

is the (unique) expression of  $B$  as a direct sum of simple subalgebras. Let  $\epsilon_i$  be the unity element of  $B_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, p$ ); then

$$(7) \quad \epsilon = \epsilon_1 + \dots + \epsilon_p$$

is an expression of  $\epsilon$  as a sum of orthogonal idempotents in the centre of  $B$ .

Now set

$$(8) \quad A_i = A \epsilon_i A \quad (i = 1, \dots, p),$$

and

$$(9) \quad N_i = A_i \cap N \quad (i = 1, \dots, p).$$

LEMMA 1.  *$A_i$  is of class  $Q'$  with idempotent  $\epsilon_i$ , simple summand  $B_i$ , and radical  $N_i$ .*

The equation

$$\epsilon_i A_i \epsilon_i = \epsilon_i (A \epsilon_i A) \epsilon_i = \epsilon_i \epsilon A \epsilon \epsilon_i \epsilon A \epsilon \epsilon_i = \epsilon_i B \epsilon_i B \epsilon_i = B_i B_i = B_i$$

verifies  $(Q_1')$ .

Next, we have

$$A_i \supseteq A_i \epsilon_i A_i = A \epsilon_i A \epsilon_i A \epsilon_i A \supseteq A \epsilon_i A = A_i,$$

and hence  $A_i = A_i \epsilon_i A_i$ . This verifies  $(Q_2)$ .

Finally,

$$A_i = (B + N) \epsilon_i (B + N) = B \epsilon_i B + (N \epsilon_i B + N \epsilon_i N + B \epsilon_i N) \subseteq B_i + N_i$$

since  $A_i$  and  $N_i$  are ideals in  $A$ . But  $B_i \subseteq A_i, N_i \subseteq A_i$ , hence

$$(10) \quad A_i = B_i + N_i.$$

This sum is direct (in the vector space sense) since  $\epsilon_i$  is unity element for  $B_i$  and  $\epsilon_i N_i \epsilon_i \subseteq \epsilon_i N \epsilon_i = \epsilon_i \epsilon N \epsilon \epsilon_i = 0$ ; it follows that  $A_i - N_i \cong B_i$ , and hence the  $N_i$  is the radical of  $A_i$ . This establishes  $(Q_3)$ .

LEMMA 2.  *$A_i A_j = 0$  if  $i \neq j$ .*

If  $i \neq j$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_i A \epsilon_j &= \epsilon_i B \epsilon_j + \epsilon_i N \epsilon_j \\ &= B \epsilon_i \epsilon_j + \epsilon_i \epsilon N \epsilon \epsilon_j \\ &= 0 + 0; \end{aligned}$$

hence  $A_i A_j = A \epsilon_i A A \epsilon_j A = 0$ .

We are now ready to prove Theorem 4. Let  $A^*$  be the (ring) direct sum of  $A_1, \dots, A_p$ , i.e.,  $A^*$  consists of all  $p$ -tuples  $\alpha^* = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p)$  with  $\alpha_i$  in  $A_i$  and with addition and multiplication done componentwise. Consider the mapping

$$(11) \quad T : \alpha^* = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p) \rightarrow \alpha = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_p.$$

of  $A^*$  into  $A$ .

This mapping is clearly a linear transformation. It follows from Lemma 2 that it is a ring homomorphism. It is "onto" since

$$A^*T = A_1 + \dots + A_p = A\epsilon_1 A + \dots + A\epsilon_p A = A\epsilon A = A.$$

Let  $M^*$  be the kernel of  $T$ , and let  $N^*$  be the radical of  $A^*$ . All that remains is to show that  $M^* \subseteq (N^*)^2$ . Suppose that  $\alpha^* = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p)$  lies in  $M^*$ ;

$$(12) \quad \alpha = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_p = 0.$$

It follows from (3) that we can write

$$(13) \quad \alpha_i = \beta_i + \eta_i + \zeta_i + \tau_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, p)$$

where  $\beta_i = \epsilon_i \alpha_i \epsilon_i$ ,  $\eta_i = \epsilon_i \eta_i$ ,  $\zeta_i = \zeta_i \epsilon_i$  and  $\eta_i \epsilon_i = \epsilon_i \zeta_i = \epsilon_i \tau_i = \tau_i \epsilon_i = 0$ .

Now  $\epsilon_i \alpha \epsilon_i = \beta_i$ ,  $\epsilon_i \alpha = \beta_i + \eta_i$ ,  $\alpha \epsilon_i = \beta_i + \zeta_i$ , and since  $\alpha = 0$  this gives  $\beta_i = \eta_i = \zeta_i = 0$  ( $i = 1, \dots, p$ ) and hence

$$\alpha^* = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_p)$$

which is in  $(N^*)^2$ .

**4. Structure theory (continued).** Theorem 4 gives the structure of algebras of class  $Q$  in terms of algebras of class  $Q'$ . In this section we refine this result by an analysis of algebras of class  $Q'$ .

**THEOREM 5.** *Every algebra of class  $Q'$  is the homomorphic image of a submatrix algebra. The kernel of the homomorphism is contained in the square of the radical of the submatrix algebra.*

Let  $A$  be an algebra of class  $Q'$  with simple summand  $B = \epsilon A \epsilon$ . According to Wedderburn's Theorem (1),  $B$  is isomorphic to a total matrix algebra over a finite extension sfield  $K$  of  $F$ . Let  $\{\kappa_1, \dots, \kappa_k\}$  be a basis for  $K$  over  $F$ , let  $m$  be the degree of  $B$  over  $K$ , and let  $e_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, m$ ) be a matrix unit  $K$ -basis for  $B$ .

Let  $e = e_{11}$ ; then  $K$  is isomorphic to  $K' = eBe$  and every irreducible left- $B$ -space  $W$  is isomorphic to  $eB$ . In particular,  $eW \neq 0$  and there exists a vector  $w$  in  $W$  such that  $\{w (= e_{11} w), e_{21} w, \dots, e_{m1} w\}$  is a  $K$ -basis for  $W$ . Then the  $mk$  vectors  $\kappa_h e_{i1} w$  ( $h = 1, \dots, k; i = 1, \dots, m$ ) form an  $F$ -basis for  $W$ .

$\epsilon N$  is a left  $B$ -space and as such is a direct sum of irreducible left  $B$ -spaces. Hence, there exist vectors  $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l$  in  $eN$  such that

$$(14) \quad \{\kappa_h e_{i1} \eta_s \ (h = 1, \dots, k; i = 1, \dots, m; s = 1, \dots, l)\}$$

is an  $F$ -basis for  $\epsilon N$ .

Similarly, there exist vectors  $\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_r$  in  $N\epsilon$  such that

$$(15) \quad \{\zeta_t e_{ij} \kappa_h \quad (h = 1, \dots, k; j = 1, \dots, m; t = 1, \dots, r)\}$$

is an  $F$ -basis for  $N\epsilon$ .

Finally,  $N^2 = N\epsilon N$  is spanned by all products of basis vectors for  $N\epsilon$  and  $\epsilon N$ ; i.e. by all products of the form

$$\zeta_t e_{1j} \kappa_h \kappa_{h'} e_{i1} \eta_s.$$

Next, we observe that the matrix units  $e_{ij}$  commute with elements of  $K$ , hence  $e_{1j} \kappa_h \kappa_{h'} e_{i1}$  is equal to zero unless  $i = j$  and then it is equal to  $e_{\kappa_h \kappa_{h'}}$ . Now  $\zeta_t \epsilon = \zeta_t$  and  $\epsilon \eta_s = \eta_s$ ; hence  $N^2$  is spanned by the  $klr$  products

$$(16) \quad \{\zeta_t \kappa_h \eta_s \quad (h = 1, \dots, k; s = 1, \dots, l; t = 1, \dots, r)\}.$$

In general these products will not be independent but will satisfy certain linear conditions

$$(17) \quad \sum_{t,h,s} a_q(t, h, s) \zeta_t \kappa_h \eta_s = 0 \quad (q = 1, \dots, g).$$

We may suppose that these conditions are independent; then the  $F$ -dimension of  $N^2$  is  $klr - g$ .

We now let  $C = C(K, m, l, r)$ . Let  $\epsilon'$  be the matrix given in (1), and let  $C = B' + N'$  be the decomposition  $(Q_3)$  for  $C$ . Then we can choose matrix units  $e_{ij}'$  for  $B'$  and elements  $\eta_1', \dots, \eta_l'$  in  $e_{11}' N'$ ,  $\zeta_1', \dots, \zeta_r'$  in  $N' e_{11}'$  such that the  $k(m + l)(m + r)$  elements

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} &\kappa_h e_{ij}, \kappa_h e_{i1}' \eta_s', \zeta_t' e_{1j} \kappa_h, \zeta_t' \kappa_h \eta_s' \\ &(h = 1, \dots, k; i, j = 1, \dots, m; s = 1, \dots, l; t = 1, \dots, r) \end{aligned}$$

form an  $F$ -basis for  $C$ . Then the unique linear transformation of  $C$  onto  $A$  which sends each of these basis vectors into the corresponding unprimed element of  $A$  is clearly a ring homomorphism whose kernel lies in  $(N')^2$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 5.

Next we combine the results of Theorems 4 and 5 and get our main structure theorem.

**THEOREM 6.** *Let  $A$  be an algebra of class  $Q$ . Then  $A = A^* - M^*$  where  $A^*$  is a direct sum of submatrix algebras and  $M^*$  is contained in the square of the radical of  $A^*$ .*

**5. Representation theory.** Let  $A$  be an algebra of class  $Q$  and let  $V$  be a (left) representation space for  $A$ . Consider the chain  $V \supseteq AV \supseteq NAV \supseteq ANAV = 0$ . Clearly both the spaces  $V/AV$  and  $NAV$  are annihilated by every element of  $A$ , and  $AV/NAV$  is a completely reducible non-degenerate  $A$ -space. Hence, by suitable choice of basis vectors we get the following matrix form for the representation:

$$(19) \quad \alpha \rightarrow V_{(\alpha)} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ V_{21}(\alpha) & V_{22}(\alpha) & 0 \\ V_{31}(\alpha) & V_{32}(\alpha) & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

where  $V_{22}$  is in completely reduced form. We may suppose the basis elements so chosen that  $V_{22}(\epsilon)$  is the identity matrix, and if  $\alpha = \beta + \eta + \zeta + \tau$  is a splitting of  $\alpha$  according to (3) then

$$V_{22}(\alpha) = V_{22}(\beta), V_{21}(\alpha) = V_{21}(\eta), V_{32}(\alpha) = V_{32}(\zeta),$$

and

$$V_{31}(\alpha) = V_{31}(\tau).$$

It is easy to show that if any of the integers  $l_i, r_i$  defined by the ideals  $A_i$  of  $A$  given by (8) exceeds unity, then  $A$  has unbounded representation type (3). Consequently, it is not likely that there is any simple classification of the indecomposable representations of algebras of class  $Q$ .

**6. Uniqueness and automorphisms.** Since the structure theorems depend on the decomposition  $A = B + N$  it seems desirable to study its uniqueness. Since  $N$  is the radical any lack of uniqueness must come from the semisimple summand  $B$ . But since  $B = \epsilon A \epsilon$  is uniquely determined by  $\epsilon$  any second decomposition must correspond to a second idempotent  $\epsilon'$ .

It is easy to verify for any  $\eta_0, \zeta_0$  in  $\epsilon N, N\epsilon$ , respectively, that

$$(20) \quad \epsilon' = \epsilon + \eta_0 + \zeta_0 + \zeta_0 \eta_0 = (\epsilon + \zeta_0)(\epsilon + \eta_0)$$

is an idempotent for which  $Q_1, Q_2$ , and  $Q_3$  hold. Moreover, if either  $\eta_0$  or  $\zeta_0$  is different from zero,  $B' = \epsilon' A \epsilon'$  is not the same as  $B$ . Hence all we can expect for  $B$  is uniqueness to within an automorphism and this is established in the following theorem.

**THEOREM 7.** *Let  $A$  be an algebra of class  $Q$  and let  $\epsilon, \epsilon'$  be idempotents for which  $Q_1, Q_2, Q_3$  hold. Then there is an automorphism  $T$  of  $A$  which sends  $\epsilon$  into  $\epsilon'$ . More precisely, if  $\alpha = \beta + \eta + \zeta + \tau$  is a splitting of  $\alpha$  according to (3) then the mapping*

$$T : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha T = \alpha' = \epsilon' \beta \epsilon' + \epsilon' \eta + \zeta \epsilon' + \tau$$

*is an automorphism of  $A$  which sends  $\epsilon$  into  $\epsilon'$ .*

Both  $\epsilon$  and  $\epsilon'$  are mapped into the identity element of  $A - N$  under the natural mapping; hence  $\epsilon' - \epsilon$  is in  $N$  and so from (3) we get

$$\epsilon' = \epsilon + \eta_0 + \zeta_0 + \tau_0.$$

Now  $\epsilon' = (\epsilon')^2 = \epsilon + \eta_0 + \zeta_0 + \zeta_0 \eta_0$ ; i.e.,  $\epsilon'$  has the form (20). Note in particular that  $\epsilon \epsilon' \epsilon = \epsilon$ .

Next, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon T &= \epsilon' \epsilon \epsilon' = (\epsilon + \zeta_0)(\epsilon + \eta_0)\epsilon(\epsilon + \zeta_0)(\epsilon + \eta_0) \\ &= (\epsilon + \zeta_0)(\epsilon + \eta_0) = \epsilon'. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly  $T$  is a linear transformation and a direct computation shows that  $(\alpha_1 \alpha_2)T = (\alpha_1 T)(\alpha_2 T)$ ; i.e.,  $T$  is an endomorphism on  $A$ .

To complete the proof that  $T$  is an automorphism, i.e. that it is one-to-one and onto we construct its inverse. Let  $\alpha = \beta' + \eta' + \zeta' + \tau$  be the splitting (3) for  $\alpha$  relative to  $\epsilon'$  and let  $\alpha T' = \epsilon\beta'\epsilon + \epsilon\eta' + \zeta'\epsilon + \tau$ . Then the equations  $TT' = T'T = I$  follow from  $\epsilon\epsilon'\epsilon = \epsilon$  and  $\epsilon'\epsilon\epsilon' = \epsilon'$ .

The automorphism  $T$  of the theorem is completely defined by  $\epsilon'$  and hence by  $\eta_0$  and  $\zeta_0$ ; we denote it by  $T(\eta_0, \zeta_0)$ . It is easy to verify that the set  $W$  of all  $T(\eta, \zeta)$  is a commutative group with composition rule

$$(21) \quad T(\eta_1, \zeta_1) \cdot T(\eta_2, \zeta_2) = T(\eta_1 + \eta_2, \zeta_1 + \zeta_2).$$

Let  $U_\epsilon$  denote the subgroup consisting of all automorphisms of  $A$  which leave  $\epsilon$  fixed; then the group  $G$  of all automorphisms has the factorization  $U_\epsilon W$ .

Let  $\gamma, \gamma'$  be elements of  $B$  for which  $\gamma\gamma' = \gamma'\gamma = \epsilon$ . Then the mapping  $S(\gamma)$  given by

$$(22) \quad \alpha = \beta + \eta + \zeta + \tau \rightarrow \alpha S(\gamma) = \gamma'\beta\gamma + \gamma'\eta + \zeta\gamma + \tau$$

is an automorphism of  $A$ . The set  $V$  of all  $S(\gamma)$  is a subgroup of  $U$ . We observe that  $N^2$  is elementwise fixed under the automorphisms in  $V$  and in  $W$ .

According to Theorem 6, the general question of conditions for isomorphism of algebras of class  $Q$  can be reduced to the study of conjugacy (under automorphisms) of ideals contained in the square of the radical of a direct sum of submatrix algebras.

In this paper we shall limit our study of isomorphism to the case of algebras of class  $Q'$  and in particular those for which  $K = F$ , i.e. for which  $B$  is a total matrix algebra. According to Theorem 5 we can reduce this to the following question. Let  $C = C(F, m, l, r)$ , and let  $M, M'$  be two ideals in the square of the radical of  $C$ . We ask for necessary and sufficient conditions for the conjugacy of  $M$  and  $M'$  under automorphisms of  $C$ . We first determine the group  $G$  of automorphisms of  $C$  which leave  $F$  elementwise fixed.

We have initially the factorization  $G = U_\epsilon W$ . Let  $U_B$  denote the subgroup of  $G$  consisting of automorphisms which leave  $B$  elementwise fixed and let  $T$  be any element of  $U_\epsilon$ . Then since  $B$  is a total matrix algebra  $T$  must agree on  $B$  with an inner automorphism of  $B$ , i.e., there exists  $\gamma$  in  $B$  such that  $T(\gamma)^{-1}$  leaves  $B$  elementwise fixed (1). This shows that  $U_\epsilon = U_B V$ . Now since  $W$  and  $V$  both leave  $N^2$  elementwise fixed,  $M$  and  $M'$  will be conjugate under  $G$  if and only if they are conjugate under  $U_B$ .

**THEOREM 8.** *Let  $G$  be the group of automorphisms of a submatrix  $F$ -algebra  $C = C(F, m, l, r)$ . Then  $G$  has the factorization*

$$G = U_B VW$$

where  $W$  is isomorphic to a vector space of dimension  $m^2lr$  over  $F$ , where  $V$  is isomorphic to the full linear group  $GL(m)$ , and where  $U_B$  is isomorphic to the direct product of  $GL(l)$  and  $GL(r)$ .

The statement about  $W$  follows from (21) and the fact that for  $C$  we have  $\dim \epsilon N = lm$  and  $\dim N\epsilon = rm$ . The statement about  $V$  follows from (22) since  $GL(m)$  is the group of inner automorphisms of a total matrix algebra of degree  $m$ .

Next, let  $T$  be any element of  $U_B$ , and choose  $e$  as in the proof of Theorem 5. Then, since  $e$  is in  $B$ ,  $eT = e$  and hence  $(eN)T = eN$  and  $(Ne)T = Ne$ ; moreover,  $T$  induces non-singular linear transformations  $T_L$  on  $eN$  and  $T_R$  on  $Ne$ . Let  $\tau$  be an element of  $N^2$ . Then we have (cf. (16))

$$(23) \quad \tau = \sum_{t,s} a_{ts} \zeta_t \eta_s.$$

(The factor  $\kappa_h$  appearing in (16) does not appear here since  $K = F$ .) Now,

$$(24) \quad \tau T = \sum_{t,s} a_{ts} (\zeta_t T_R) (\eta_s T_L);$$

hence  $T$  is completely determined by  $T_L$  and  $T_R$ . It follows that the mapping  $T \rightarrow (T_L, T_R)$  is a homomorphism of  $U_B$  into  $GL(l) \times GL(r)$ . Moreover, it follows from (24) that if  $T \rightarrow (I_l, I_r)$ , then  $T = I$ , i.e. this mapping is an isomorphism. Finally we show that the mapping is onto. Let  $T_L, T_R$  be any elements of  $GL(l)$   $GL(r)$  respectively. Then the mapping  $T = T(T_L, T_R)$  defined by

$$(25) \quad (\beta + \eta + \zeta + \tau)T = \beta + \eta T_L + \zeta T_R + \tau',$$

where  $\tau'$  is given by (24), is clearly an element of  $U_B$  which maps into  $(T_L, T_R)$ .

Now let  $M$  be an ideal of  $C$  contained in  $N^2$ , and let  $M$  have dimension  $g$  over  $F$ . Then (cf. (17))  $M$  has a basis of the form

$$(26) \quad \{\tau_q = \sum_{t,s} a_q(t,s) \zeta_t \eta_s \ (q = 1, \dots, g)\}$$

where the  $a_q(t,s)$  are elements of  $F$ . We can associate  $M$  and the given basis with the trilinear form

$$f_M : f_M(x, y, z) = \sum_{q,t,s} a_q(t,s) x_q y_s z_t.$$

A change of basis for  $M$  replaces  $f_M$  according to a non-singular linear transformation on the  $x_q$ . Under an automorphism  $T(T_L, T_R)$ ,  $M$  is replaced by a new ideal  $M'$  whose corresponding trilinear form is obtained from  $f_M$  by applying the substitutions  $T_L$  to the  $y_s$  and  $T_R$  to the  $z_t$ . Thus we see that *two ideals  $M$  and  $M'$  are conjugate under  $U_B$  and therefore under  $G$  if and only if their corresponding trilinear forms  $f$  and  $f'$  are equivalent*. Thus the problem of isomorphism of two algebras of class  $Q'$  (having  $K = F$ ) is reduced to the equivalence of trilinear forms.

To extend this result to the case where  $K \neq F$  would involve equivalence of quadrilinear forms under the full linear group on three of the sets of variables and under a finite group corresponding to automorphisms of  $K$  over  $F$  on the fourth set of variables. If the centre of  $K$  is inseparable over  $F$ , then Theorem 8 still remains valid except that  $U_B$  must be enlarged to account



for automorphisms of  $K$ . The factorization  $G = U_B VW$  is no longer valid (unless the centre of  $K$  is inseparable over  $F$ ). We leave the detailed analysis of this case as well as the general problem of isomorphism of algebras of class  $Q$  for future treatment.

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