

## ON STRONGLY ALMOST HEREDITARY RINGS

By

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M. Harada defined an almost projective module in [8] and showed that semisimple rings, serial rings, QF-rings and H-rings are well-characterized by the property of an almost projective module in [8], [9]. Using an almost projective module he further considered the following generalized condition of a hereditary ring in [7]:

$(*)_r$  Every submodule of a finitely generated projective right  $R$ -module is almost projective.

In this paper we call an artinian ring  $R$  a *right strongly almost hereditary ring* (abbreviated *right SAH ring*) if  $R$  satisfies  $(*)_r$ . On the other hand, an artinian hereditary ring is characterized by the following equivalent conditions:

- (a) Every submodule of a projective right  $R$ -module is also projective;
- (b) every submodule of a projective left  $R$ -module is also projective;
- (c) every factor module of an injective right  $R$ -module is also injective;
- (d) every factor module of an injective left  $R$ -module is also injective.

In section 2 we consider the following generalized condition of (c):

$(*^\sharp)_r$  Every factor module of an injective right  $R$ -module is a direct sum of an injective module and finitely generated almost injective modules.

Similarly we define  $(*^\sharp)_l$  for left  $R$ -modules. The first aim of this paper is to show that an artinian ring  $R$  is right SAH if and only if  $R$  satisfies  $(*^\sharp)_r$ . But we see that the equivalence between a right SAH ring and an artinian ring which satisfies  $(*^\sharp)_r$  does not hold in general.

In [7] M. Harada further considered the following two stronger conditions than  $(*)_r$ :

$(**)_r$  The Jacobson radical of  $M$  is almost projective for any finitely generated almost projective right  $R$ -module  $M$ ;

$(***)_r$  every submodule of a finitely generated almost projective right  $R$ -module is also almost projective.

And he showed that an artinian ring  $R$  satisfies  $(**)_r$  iff it satisfies  $(***)_r$ . In section 3 we consider the following generalized conditions of (c):

- $(**^\sharp)_r$   $M/\text{Socle}(M)$  is a direct sum of an injective module and finitely generated almost injective modules for any injective or finitely generated almost injective right  $R$ -module  $M$ ;
- $(***^\sharp)_r$  every factor module of an injective or finitely generated almost injective right  $R$ -module is a direct sum of an injective module and finitely generated almost injective modules.

We also consider  $(**^\sharp)_l$  and  $(***^\sharp)_l$  for left  $R$ -modules. The second aim of this paper is to show that an artinian ring  $R$  satisfies  $(**)_r$  if and only if  $R$  satisfies  $(**^\sharp)_l$  if and only if  $R$  satisfies  $(***^\sharp)_l$ . But we see that the equivalence between the two conditions  $(**)_r$  and  $(**^\sharp)_r$  does not hold in general.

## 1. Preliminaries

In this paper, we always assume that every ring is a basic artinian ring with identity and every module is unitary. Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $P(R) = \{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$  be a complete set of pairwise orthogonal primitive idempotents in  $R$ . We denote the *Jacobson radical*, an *injective hull* and the *composition length* of a module  $M$  by  $J(M)$ ,  $E(M)$  and  $|M|$ , respectively. Especially, we put  $J := J(R_R)$ . For a module  $M$  we denote the *socle* of  $M$  by  $S(M)$  and the  $k$ -th *socle* of  $M$  by  $S_k(M)$  (i.e.,  $S_k(M)$  is a submodule of  $M$  defined by  $S_k(M)/S_{k-1}(M) = S(M/S_{k-1}(M))$  inductively).

Let  $M$  and  $N$  be modules.  $M$  is called  *$N$ -projective* (resp.  *$N$ -injective*) if for any homomorphism  $\phi : M \rightarrow L$  (resp.  $\phi' : L \rightarrow M$ ) and any epimorphism  $\pi : N \rightarrow L$  (resp. monomorphism  $\iota : L \rightarrow N$ ) there exists a homomorphism  $\tilde{\phi} : M \rightarrow N$  (resp.  $\tilde{\phi}' : N \rightarrow M$ ) such that  $\phi = \pi\tilde{\phi}$  (resp.  $\phi' = \tilde{\phi}'\iota$ ). And  $M$  is called *almost  $N$ -projective* (resp. *almost  $N$ -injective*) if for any homomorphism  $\phi : M \rightarrow L$  (resp.  $\phi' : L \rightarrow M$ ) and any epimorphism  $\pi : N \rightarrow L$  (resp. monomorphism  $\iota : L \rightarrow N$ ) either there exists a homomorphism  $\tilde{\phi} : M \rightarrow N$  (resp.  $\tilde{\phi}' : N \rightarrow M$ ) such that  $\phi = \pi\tilde{\phi}$  (resp.  $\phi' = \tilde{\phi}'\iota$ ) or there exist a nonzero direct summand  $N'$  of  $N$  and a homomorphism  $\theta : N' \rightarrow M$  (resp.  $\theta' : M \rightarrow N'$ ) such that  $\phi\theta = \pi i$  (resp.  $\theta'\phi' = p\iota$ ), where  $i$  is an inclusion of  $N'$  in  $N$  (resp.  $p$  is a projection on  $N'$  of  $N$ ). Further  $M$  is called *almost projective* (resp. *almost injective*) if  $M$  is always almost  $N$ -projective (resp. almost  $N$ -injective) for any finitely generated  $R$ -module  $N$ .

We call an artinian ring  $R$  a *right almost hereditary ring* if  $J$  is almost projective as a right  $R$ -module. By [8, Theorem 1] this definition is equivalent to the condition:  $J(P)$  is almost projective for any finitely generated projective right  $R$ -module  $P$ .

A module is called *uniserial* if its lattice of submodules is a finite chain, i.e.,

any two submodules are comparable. An artinian ring  $R$  is called a *right serial ring* if every indecomposable projective right  $R$ -module is uniserial. And we call a ring  $R$  a *serial ring* if  $R$  is a right and left serial ring. Let  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n$  be primitive idempotents in a serial ring  $R$ . Then a sequence  $\{f_1R, f_2R, \dots, f_nR\}$  (resp.  $\{Rf_1, Rf_2, \dots, Rf_n\}$ ) of indecomposable projective right (resp. left)  $R$ -modules is called a *Kupisch series* if  $f_jJ/f_jJ^2 \cong f_{j+1}R/f_{j+1}J$  (resp.  $Jf_j/J^2f_j \cong Rf_{j+1}/Jf_{j+1}$ ) holds for any  $j = 1, \dots, n-1$ . Further  $\{f_1R, f_2R, \dots, f_nR\}$  (resp.  $\{Rf_1, Rf_2, \dots, Rf_n\}$ ) is called a *cyclic Kupisch series* if it is a Kupisch series with  $f_nJ/f_nJ^2 \cong f_1R/f_1J$  (resp.  $Jf_n/J^2f_n \cong Rf_1/Jf_1$ ) holds. Let  $R$  be a serial ring with a Kupisch series  $\{f_1R, f_2R, \dots, f_nR\}$ . If  $f_nJ = 0$  and  $P(R) = \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ , then  $R$  is called a *serial ring in the first category*. And if  $\{f_1R, f_2R, \dots, f_nR\}$  is a cyclic Kupisch series and  $P(R) = \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ , then  $R$  is called a *serial ring in the second category*. Moreover a serial ring is called a *strongly serial ring* if it is a direct sum of indecomposable serial rings  $R$  with a Kupisch series  $\{f_{1,1}R, f_{1,2}R, \dots, f_{1,\beta_1}R, f_{2,1}R, \dots, f_{m,\beta_m}R\}$  such that  $|f_{i,\beta_i}R| = 2$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, m-1$  and  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  or  $2$ , where  $P(R) = \{f_{i,j}\}_{i=1, j=1}^{m, \beta_i}$  and  $f_{i,j}R$  is injective iff  $j = 1$ . Then, if  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  (resp.  $= 2$ ), then  $R$  is a serial ring in the first (resp. second) category. Further we can easily check the following characterization of a strongly serial ring.

LEMMA 1. *Let  $R$  be an indecomposable strongly serial ring with a Kupisch series  $\{f_{1,1}R, f_{1,2}R, \dots, f_{1,\beta_1}R, f_{2,1}R, \dots, f_{m,\beta_m}R\}$ , where  $P(R) = \{f_{i,j}\}_{i=1, j=1}^{m, \beta_i}$  and  $f_{i,j}R$  is injective iff  $j = 1$ . Then the following hold:*

- (1)  $S(f_{i,j}R) \cong f_{i+1,1}R/f_{i+1,1}J$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, m-1$  and  $j = 1, \dots, \beta_i$  and  $S(f_{m,k}R) \cong f_{m,\beta_m}R/f_{m,\beta_m}J$  (resp.  $\cong f_{1,1}R/f_{1,1}J$ ) for any  $k = 1, \dots, \beta_m$  if  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  (resp.  $= 2$ );
- (2)  $\{f_{1,1}R/f_{1,1}J^j\}_{j=1}^{\beta_1+1} \cup \{f_{i,1}R/f_{i,1}J^j\}_{j=2}^{m-1, \beta_i+1} \cup \{f_{m,1}R/f_{m,1}J^j\}_{j=2}^{\beta_m}$  (resp.  $\{f_{i,1}R/f_{i,1}J^j\}_{j=1}^{m, \beta_i+1}$ ) is a basic set of indecomposable injective right  $R$ -modules if  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  (resp.  $= 2$ );
- (3)  $\{Rf_{m,\beta_m}, Rf_{m,\beta_m-1}, \dots, Rf_{m,1}, Rf_{m-1,\beta_{m-1}}, \dots, Rf_{1,1}\}$  is a Kupisch series (resp. a cyclic Kupisch series) of left  $R$ -modules with  $|Rf_{i,2}| = 2$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $|Rf_{1,1}| = 1$  (resp.  $= \beta_m + 1$ ) if  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  (resp.  $= 2$ );
- (4)  $S(Rf_{1,1}) \cong Rf_{1,1}/Jf_{1,1}$  (resp.  $\cong Rf_{m,1}/Jf_{m,1}$ ) if  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  (resp.  $= 2$ ),  $S(Rf_{i,1}) \cong Rf_{i-1,1}/Jf_{i-1,1}$  for any  $i = 2, \dots, m$ , and  $S(Rf_{k,j}) \cong Rf_{k,1}/Jf_{k,1}$  for any  $k = 1, \dots, m$  and  $j = 2, \dots, \beta_k$ ;
- (5)  $\{Rf_{i,1}/J^j f_{i,1}\}_{j=2}^{m, \beta_i-1+1} \cup \{Rf_{m,\beta_m}/J^j f_{m,\beta_m}\}_{j=1}^{\beta_m}$  (resp.  $\{Rf_{1,1}/J^j f_{1,1}\}_{j=2}^{\beta_m+1} \cup \{Rf_{i,1}/J^j f_{i,1}\}_{j=2}^{m, \beta_i-1+1}$ ) is a basic set of indecomposable injective left  $R$ -modules if  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  (resp.  $= 2$ ).

For a set  $S$  of  $R$ -modules, a subset  $S'$  of  $S$  is called a *basic set* of  $S$  if

- (a) for any  $M, M' \in S'$ ,  $M \approx M'$  as  $R$ -modules iff  $M = M'$  and
- (b) for any  $N \in S$ , there exists  $M \in S'$  such that  $M \approx N$  as  $R$ -modules.

## 2. Strongly almost Hereditary Rings

The following is a structure theorem of a right SAH ring given by M. Harada.

**THEOREM A** ([7, Theorem 3]). *A ring is right SAH if and only if it is a direct sum of the following rings:*

- (i) *Hereditary rings;*
- (ii) *strongly serial rings;*
- (iii) *rings  $R$  with  $P(R) = \{h_1, \dots, h_m, f_1^{(1)}, f_2^{(1)}, \dots, f_{n_1}^{(1)}, f_1^{(2)}, \dots, f_{n_2}^{(2)}, f_1^{(3)}, \dots, f_{n_k}^{(k)}\}$  such that, for each  $l = 1, \dots, k$  we put  $S_l := \sum_{j=1}^{n_l} f_j^{(l)}$  and  $H := \sum_{s=1}^m h_s + \sum_{l=1}^k f_1^{(l)}$ , the following three conditions hold for any  $l = 1, \dots, k$ :*
  - (x)  *$S_l R S_l$  is a strongly serial ring in the first category with a Kupisch series  $\{f_1^{(l)} R S_l, f_2^{(l)} R S_l, \dots, f_{n_l}^{(l)} R S_l\}$  of right  $S_l R S_l$ -modules,*
  - (y)  *$S_l R(1 - S_l) = 0$ ,  $(h_1 + \dots + h_m) R f_1^{(l)} \neq 0$  and  $(h_1 + \dots + h_m) \cdot R(f_2^{(l)} + \dots + f_{n_l}^{(l)}) = 0$ , and*
  - (z) *HRH is a hereditary ring.*

We note that by [4, Lemma 3.1] a ring in Theorem A (iii) coincides with a ring in [4, Theorem B (iii)] if it satisfies that  $\alpha_l = 1$  and  $S_l R S_l$  is a strongly serial ring for any  $l = 1, \dots, k$ , where  $\alpha_l$  and  $S_l$  are as in it.

Moreover, the condition (ii) in the above Theorem is not the same as [7, Theorem 3], i.e., when  $R$  is a serial ring in the second category, he wrote that “ $R$  is a serial ring in the second category with  $J^2 = 0$ ”. But this original condition is not suitable. We give an example. Let  $R$  be a serial ring in the second category with  $P(R) = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4\}$  such that  $\{f_1 R, f_2 R, f_3 R, f_4 R\}$  is a Kupisch series and  $|f_1 R| = 4$ ,  $|f_2 R| = 3$ ,  $|f_3 R| = 2$ ,  $|f_4 R| = 2$ . Then  $R$  is a strongly serial ring. So it is right SAH by the following proof. But  $J^2 \neq 0$ . In an unpublished lecture note written by M. Harada the condition is already corrected. Now we give a proof with respect to this part for reader’s convenience.

**PROOF.** Assume that  $R$  is an indecomposable right SAH serial ring in the second category. And we show that  $R$  is a strongly serial ring. Let

$\{f_1R, f_2R, \dots, f_nR\}$  be a Kupisch series with  $P(R) = \{f_i\}_{i=1}^n$ . We may assume that  $f_1R$  is injective and  $|f_1R| \geq |f_iR|$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

First suppose that  $f_1Jf_1 \neq 0$ . Then we claim that  $f_1Jf_1$  is simple as a right  $f_1Rf_1$ -module. Since  $f_1Jf_1 \neq 0$ ,  $f_1J^n/f_1J^{n+1} \cong f_1R/f_1J$ . Then a right  $R$ -module  $f_1J^n$  is almost projective (but not projective) because  $R$  is right SAH. So  $f_1R/S_i(f_1R)$  is injective for any  $i = 0, \dots, n-1$  by [8, Theorem 1] since the kernel of the projective cover:  $f_1R \rightarrow f_1J^n$  is  $S_n(f_1R)$ . Hence

( $\dagger$ )  $\{f_1R/S_i(f_1R)\}_{i=0}^{n-1}$  is a basic set of indecomposable injective right  $R$ -modules.

Assume that  $f_1J^2f_2 \neq 0$ . Then  $f_1J^{n+1}/f_1J^{n+2} \cong f_2R/f_2J$ . On the other hand,  $f_1J^{n+1}$  is almost projective (but not projective) because  $R$  is right SAH. Therefore  $f_2R$  must be injective by [8, Theorem 1]. This contradicts with ( $\dagger$ ). So  $f_1J^2f_2 = 0$ . Hence  $f_1Jf_1$  is simple as a right  $f_1Rf_1$ -module. Therefore  $S(f_iR) \cong f_1R/f_1J$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $|f_nR| = 2$  since  $f_jR$  is not injective for any  $j = 2, \dots, n$  by ( $\dagger$ ). In consequence,  $R$  is a strongly serial ring.

Next suppose that  $f_1Jf_1 = 0$ . Then we note that  $f_iJf_i = 0$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, n$  since  $|f_1R| \geq |f_iR|$ . Let  $k$  be an integer with  $S(f_1R) \cong f_kR/f_kJ$ . Then we claim that  $S(f_jR) \cong f_kR/f_kJ$  for any  $j = 1, \dots, k-1$  and  $|f_{k-1}R| = 2$ . Assume that  $S(f_{k-1}R) \not\cong f_kR/f_kJ$ . Then there exists an integer  $t \geq 2$  with  $f_{k-1}J \cong f_kR/f_kJ^t$  since  $f_{k-1}J/f_{k-1}J^2 \cong f_kR/f_kJ$ . On the other hand,  $S(f_1R)$  ( $\cong f_kR/f_kJ$ ) is almost projective because  $R$  is right SAH. But it is not projective since  $R$  is a serial ring in the second category. So  $f_kR/f_kJ^i$  is injective for any  $i = 2, \dots, |f_kR|$  by [8, Theorem 1]. Therefore  $f_{k-1}J$  ( $\cong f_kR/f_kJ^t$ ) is injective since  $t \geq 2$ . This contradicts with  $f_{k-1}J \subset f_{k-1}R$ . So  $S(f_{k-1}R) \cong f_kR/f_kJ$ . Hence  $S(f_jR) \cong f_kR/f_kJ$  for any  $j = 1, \dots, k-1$  and  $|f_{k-1}R| = 2$  hold since  $S(f_1R) \cong f_kR/f_kJ$  and  $f_1Jf_1 = 0$ . Moreover, let  $S(f_kR) \cong f_lR/f_lJ$  for some  $l$ . Then we obtain that  $S(f_jR) \cong f_lR/f_lJ$  for any  $j = k, \dots, l-1$  and  $|f_{l-1}R| = 2$  by the same argument as  $f_1R$ . Continue this argument, we see that  $R$  is a strongly serial ring.

Conversely, assume that  $R$  is a strongly serial ring in the second category. We can show that  $R$  is right SAH by the same way as the case that  $R$  is a strongly serial ring in the first category (see the proof of [7, Theorem 3]).

The purpose of this section is to show the following theorem.

**THEOREM 2.** *A ring  $R$  is right SAH if and only if  $R$  satisfies  $(\ast^\#)_l$ .*

To complete the proof, we give a lemma.

**LEMMA 3.** *Let  $R$  be a ring in [4, Theorem B (iii)] and we use the same*

notations as in it. Put  $E_s := E(Rh_s/Jh_s)$  and  $E_j^{(l)} := E(Rf_j^{(l)}/Jf_j^{(l)})$  for any  $s = 1, \dots, m$ ,  $l = 1, \dots, k$  and  $j = 1, \dots, n_l$ . Then the following hold for each  $s$ ,  $l$  and  $j$ .

- (1)  $HRh_s = Rh_s$ ,  $HRf_i^{(l)} = Rf_i^{(l)}$ ,  $HE_s = E_s$  and  $E_{(HRH)Rh_s/Jh_s} = E_s$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, \alpha_l$ .
- (2)  $E_j^{(l)} \cong Rf_{j'}^{(l)}/J^u f_{j'}^{(l)}$  for some positive integers  $j'$  ( $\geq \alpha_l + 1$ ) and  $u$  and they are uniserial left  $R$ -modules.
- (3)  $S_l E_j^{(l)} = E_j^{(l)}$  and  $E_{(S_l R S_l) S_l R f_j^{(l)}/S_l J f_j^{(l)}} = E_j^{(l)}$ .
- (4) If  $E_j^{(l)}/N$  is an almost injective left  $R$ -module for some submodule  $N$  of  $E_j^{(l)}$ , then it is almost injective also as a left  $S_l R S_l$ -module.
- (5) If  $R$  satisfies  $(*)^\sharp_l$ , then so does  $S_l R S_l$ .

PROOF. (1).  $HRh_s = Rh_s$ ,  $HRf_i^{(l)} = Rf_i^{(l)}$  and  $HE_s = E_s$  by [4, Theorem 3.3 (a'), (b')]. So  $E_s$  is considered as a left  $HRH$ -module. And further we can easily see that  $E_s$  is injective also as a left  $HRH$ -module by [4, Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 3.3 (a'), (b')] using Baer's criterion and Azumaya's theorem (see, for instance, [1, 16.13. Proposition (2)]), i.e.,  $E_{(HRH)Rh_s/Jh_s} = E_s$ .

(2). By  $(**)$  in the proof for "if" part of [4, Theorem 4.1].

(3).  $S_l E_j^{(l)} = E_j^{(l)}$  by (2) and [4, Lemma 3.1 and Theorem B (iii)(b)]. So  $E_j^{(l)}$  is considered as a left  $S_l R S_l$ -module. And further we can easily see that  $E_j^{(l)}$  is  $S_l R f_i^{(l)}$ -injective for any  $i = 1, \dots, n_l$  by [4, Theorem 3.3 (a'), (b')]. Therefore  $E_j^{(l)}$  is injective as a left  $S_l R S_l$ -module using Baer's criterion and Azumaya's theorem (see, for instance, [1, 16.13. Proposition (2)]), i.e.,  $E_{(S_l R S_l) S_l R f_j^{(l)}/S_l J f_j^{(l)}} = E_j^{(l)}$ .

(4). If  $E_j^{(l)}/N$  is injective as a left  $R$ -module, it is also injective as a left  $S_l R S_l$ -module by (3). Assume that a (uniserial) left  $R$ -module  $E_j^{(l)}/N$  is almost injective but not injective. Then there is a positive integer  $p$  such that  $J^p E(E_j^{(l)}/N) = E_j^{(l)}/N$  and  $J^i E(E_j^{(l)}/N)$  is projective for any  $i = 0, \dots, p-1$  by [8, Theorem 1 $^\sharp$ ]. Let  $j''$  be an integer with  $J^{p-1} E(E_j^{(l)}/N) \cong Rf_{j''}^{(l)}$ . We note that  $\{Rf_{n_l}^{(l)}, Rf_{n_l-1}^{(l)}, \dots, Rf_1^{(l)}\}$  is a Kupisch series of left  $R$ -modules by [4, Lemma 3.4 (1)]. So  $J^i E(E_j^{(l)}/N) \cong Rf_{j''+p-1-i}^{(l)}$  for any  $i = 0, \dots, p-1$ . Further  $j'' \geq \alpha_l + 1$  from (2) since  $Jf_{j''}^{(l)} = J^p E(E_j^{(l)}/N) = E_j^{(l)}/N$ . Therefore  $J^i E(E_j^{(l)}/N)$  is projective also as a left  $S_l R S_l$ -module for any  $i = 0, \dots, p-1$  by [4, Lemma 3.1 and Theorem B (iii)(b)] since  $j'' + p - 1 - i \geq j'' \geq \alpha_l + 1$ . Hence  $E_j^{(l)}/N$  is almost injective also as a left  $S_l R S_l$ -module by (3) and [8, Theorem 1 $^\sharp$ ].

(5). By (3) and (4).

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. ( $\Rightarrow$ ). We may assume that  $R$  is an indecomposable ring in (i), (ii) or (iii) of Theorem A.

Suppose that  $R$  is a hereditary ring, then it is well known that  $(*)_I^\sharp$  holds (see, for instance, [4, §1 Preliminaries]).

Suppose that  $R$  is a strongly serial ring with a Kupisch series  $\{f_{1,1}R, f_{1,2}R, \dots, f_{1,\beta_1}R, f_{2,1}R, \dots, f_{m,\beta_m}R\}$ , where  $P(R) = \{f_{i,j}\}_{i=1, j=1}^{m, \beta_i}$  and  $f_{i,j}R$  is injective iff  $j = 1$ . Let  $E$  be an injective left  $R$ -module and let  $N$  be a proper submodule of  $E$ . First we consider that  $E$  is indecomposable. Then  $E/N \cong Rf_{m,\beta_m}/J^v f_{m,\beta_m}$  or  $\cong Rf_{u,1}/J^v f_{u,1}$  by Lemma 1 (5), where  $u$  and  $v$  are positive integers. If  $v \geq 2$  or  $E/N \cong Rf_{m,\beta_m}/Jf_{m,\beta_m}$ , then  $E/N$  is injective again by Lemma 1 (5). Assume that  $E/N \cong Rf_{u,1}/Jf_{u,1}$  for some  $u \in \{1, \dots, m-1\}$ . Then  $E/N \cong S(Rf_{u+1,1})$  by Lemma 1 (4). And  $E(E/N) \cong Rf_{u+1,1}$  with  $J^{\beta_u}E(E/N) = E/N$  and  $J^jE(E/N) \cong Rf_{u,\beta_u-j+1}$ , i.e., it is projective, for any  $j = 1, \dots, \beta_u - 1$  by Lemma 1 (3), (4), (5). Therefore  $E/N$  is almost injective by [8, Theorem 1 $^\sharp$ ]. If  $E/N \cong Rf_{m,1}/Jf_{m,1}$  and  $|f_{m,\beta_m}R| = 1$  (resp.  $= 2$ ), then  $E/N \cong S(Rf_{m,\beta_m})$  (resp.  $\cong S(Rf_{1,1})$ ). And we can see that  $E/N$  is almost injective by the same way as the case that  $E/N \cong Rf_{u,1}/Jf_{u,1}$  for some  $u \in \{1, \dots, m-1\}$ . In consequence,  $E/N$  is (injective or) almost injective, if  $E$  is indecomposable. Next we consider that  $E$  is not indecomposable. Since  $R$  is a serial ring, we can represent  $N = \bigoplus_{i \in I} N_i$ , where  $N_i$  is a nonzero uniserial submodule of  $N$  for any  $i \in I$ . There is a direct summand  $E'$  of  $E$  with  $E = E' \oplus (\bigoplus_{i \in I} E(N_i))$ . Then  $E/N \cong E' \oplus (\bigoplus_{i \in I} E(N_i)/N_i)$ . Therefore  $E/N$  is a direct sum of an injective module and finitely generated almost injective modules because a uniserial module  $E(N_i)/N_i$  is (injective or) almost injective for any  $i \in I$  by the case that  $E$  is indecomposable.

Suppose that  $R$  is a ring in Theorem A (iii). Let  $E$  be an injective left  $R$ -module and let  $N$  be a submodule of  $E$ . We may assume that  $E = (\bigoplus_{s=1}^m E(Rh_s/Jh_s)^{u_s}) \oplus (\bigoplus_{l=1, j=1}^k n_l E(Rf_j^{(l)}/Jf_j^{(l)})^{v_j^l})$ , where  $u_s$  and  $v_j^l$  are non-negative integers. Put  $E_1 := \bigoplus_{s=1}^m E(Rh_s/Jh_s)^{u_s}$  and  $E_2 := \bigoplus_{l=1, j=1}^k E(Rf_j^{(l)}/Jf_j^{(l)})^{v_j^l}$ . For each  $i = 1, 2$ , let  $\pi_i : E \rightarrow E_i$  be the projection with respect to  $E = E_1 \oplus E_2$  and put  $N^i := \pi_i(N)$  and  $N_i := N \cap E_i$ . Then there is an isomorphism  $\eta : N^1/N_1 \rightarrow N^2/N_2$  with  $N = \{x + y_x \mid x \in N^1, y_x \in N^2 \text{ with } y_x + N_2 = \eta(x + N_1)\} + N_1 + N_2$  (see, for instance, [6, p449] or [3, p54]). And we claim that there exists a homomorphism  $\eta' : N^1/N_1 \rightarrow N^2$  such that  $v_2\eta' = \eta$ , where  $v_2 : N^2 \rightarrow N^2/N_2$  is the natural epimorphism. Let  $H$  and  $S_l$  as in Theorem A (iii). By Lemmas 3 (1), (3)  $HN^1 = N^1$  and  $(\sum_{l=1}^k S_l)N^2 = N^2$ . So we can represent  $N^1/N_1 \cong N^2/N_2 \cong \bigoplus_{l=1}^k (Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)})^{w_l}$  by the definitions of  $H$  and  $S_l$ , where  $w_1, \dots, w_k$  are non-negative integers. On the other hand,  $(\sum_{l=1}^k f_1^{(l)})N^2 \subseteq (\sum_{l=1}^k f_1^{(l)})E_2 \subseteq S(E_2)$  by [4, Theorem 3.3 (a')] since  $(\sum_{l=1}^k S_l)E_2 = E_2$  from Lemma 3 (3). Hence there exists a homomorphism  $\eta' : N^1/N_1 \rightarrow N^2$  such

that  $v_2\eta' = \eta$ . Then we note that  $N = \{x + y_x \mid x \in N^1, y_x \in N^2 \text{ with } y_x + N_2 = \eta(x + N_1)\} + N_1 + N_2 = \{x + \eta'(x + N_1) \mid x \in N^1\} + N_2$ . Let  $v_1 : N^1 \rightarrow N^1/N_1$  be the natural epimorphism and put  $\psi := \eta'v_1$ . Then we obtain a homomorphism  $\tilde{\psi} : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  with  $\tilde{\psi}|_{N^1} = \psi$ . Put  $E_1(\tilde{\psi}) := \{x + \tilde{\psi}(x) \mid x \in E_1\}$  and  $N^1(\tilde{\psi}) := \{x + \tilde{\psi}(x) \mid x \in N^1\}$ . Then  $E = E_1(\tilde{\psi}) \oplus E_2$  and  $N = N^1(\tilde{\psi}) \oplus N_2$  hold because  $N = \{x + \eta'(x + N_1) \mid x \in N^1\} + N_2 = \{x + \tilde{\psi}(x) \mid x \in N^1\} + N_2$ . Therefore  $E/N \cong (E_1(\tilde{\psi})/N^1(\tilde{\psi})) \oplus E_2/N_2 \cong E_1/N^1 \oplus E_2/N_2$  since the restrictions of  $\pi_1$  induce isomorphisms  $E_1(\tilde{\psi}) \cong E_1$  and  $N^1(\tilde{\psi}) \cong N^1$ . Now  $E_1/N^1$  is injective by Lemma 3 (1) and Theorem A (iii)(z). And  $E_2/N_2$  is a direct sum of (uniserial) almost injective modules by Lemma 3 (3), Theorem A (iii)(x) and the case that  $R$  is a strongly serial ring. In consequence,  $E/N$  is a direct sum of an injective module and finitely generated almost injective modules.

( $\Leftarrow$ ). We may assume that  $R$  is an indecomposable ring satisfying  $(*\#)_l$ . And we show that  $R$  is a ring in either (i), (ii) or (iii) of Theorem A.

$R$  satisfies the condition  $(\#)_l$ . So we may assume that  $R$  is a ring in either (i), (ii) or (iii) of [4, Theorem B] by [4, Theorem 4.1].

Suppose that  $R$  is a serial ring in the first category. Let  $P(R) = \{g_{i,j}\}_{i=1,j=1}^{m,\gamma_i}$  such that  $\{Rg_{1,1}, Rg_{1,2}, \dots, Rg_{1,\gamma_1}, Rg_{2,1}, \dots, Rg_{m,\gamma_m}\}$  is a Kupisch series and  $Rg_{i,j}$  is injective iff  $j = 1$ . If  $m = 1$ , then clearly  $R$  is a strongly serial ring. Assume that  $m \geq 2$ . For each  $i = 2, \dots, m$ ,  $Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1}$  is almost injective by  $(*\#)_l$ . But it is not injective since there is a monomorphism:  $Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1} \rightarrow Rg_{i-1,\gamma_{i-1}}/J^2g_{i-1,\gamma_{i-1}}$ . Put  $p := |E(Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1})|$ . Then  $J^{p-1}E(Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1}) = Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1}$  and  $J^jE(Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1})$  is projective for any  $j = 0, \dots, p - 2$  by [8, Theorem 1 $\#$ ]. So, in particular,  $|J^{p-2}E(Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1})| = 2$  and  $J^{p-2}E(Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1}) \cong Rg_{i-1,\gamma_{i-1}}$  because  $Jg_{i-1,\gamma_{i-1}}/J^2g_{i-1,\gamma_{i-1}} \cong Rg_{i,1}/Jg_{i,1}$ . Therefore  $|Rg_{i-1,\gamma_{i-1}}| = 2$ . Further  $|Rg_{m,\gamma_m}| = 1$  since  $R$  is a serial ring in the first category. Hence  $R$  is a strongly serial ring.

Next suppose that  $R$  is a serial ring in the second category. By the same argument as the case that  $R$  is a serial ring in the first category with  $m \geq 2$ , we see that  $R$  is a strongly serial ring.

Last suppose that  $R$  is a ring in [4, Theorem B (iii)] and we use the same notations as in it. By Theorem A and [4, Lemma 3.1] we only show that  $S_lRS_l$  is a strongly serial ring and  $\alpha_l = 1$  for any  $l = 1, \dots, k$ . A serial ring  $S_lRS_l$  satisfies  $(*\#)_l$  by Lemma 3 (5). So  $S_lRS_l$  is a strongly serial ring by the above case. Next we show that  $\alpha_l = 1$ .  $Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$  has a simple subfactor which is isomorphic to  $Rh_s/Jh_s$  for some  $s \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  by the definition of  $\alpha_l$ . Therefore there exist a submodule  $N$  of  $Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$  and a nonzero homomorphism  $\phi : N \rightarrow Rh_s/Jh_s$ . Put  $E_s := E(Rh_s/Jh_s)$  and let  $\tilde{\phi} : Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)} \rightarrow E_s$  be an extension homomorphism of  $\phi$ . Then we claim

that  $\tilde{\phi}(f_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}) \in E_s - J(E_s)$ . Let  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^p Re_i$  be the projective cover of  $E_s$ , where  $\{e_1, \dots, e_p\} \subseteq P(R)$ . Then  $h_s Re_i \neq 0$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, p$ . So  $e_i \notin \{f_{\alpha_l+1}^{(l)}, \dots, f_{n_l}^{(l)}\}$  because  $h_s R(f_{\alpha_l+1}^{(l)} + \dots + f_{n_l}^{(l)}) = 0$  by the definition of  $\alpha_l$ . On the other hand, if  $g \in P(R)$  with  $f_{\alpha_l}^{(l)} Jg \neq 0$ , then  $g \in \{f_{\alpha_l+1}^{(l)}, \dots, f_{n_l}^{(l)}\}$  by [4, Theorem 3.3 (a')]. Hence  $f_{\alpha_l}^{(l)} J e_i = 0$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, p$ , i.e.,  $f_{\alpha_l}^{(l)} J(E_s) = 0$ . Therefore  $\tilde{\phi}(f_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}) \in E_s - J(E_s)$ . So we have a submodule  $X$  of  $E_s$  with  $E_s/X \cong Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}/Jf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$ . Therefore  $Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}/Jf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$  is almost injective by  $(\ast^\sharp)_l$ . But  $Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}/Jf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$  is not injective by Lemma 3 (2). Hence, put  $E_{\alpha_l}^{(l)} := E(Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}/Jf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)})$  and  $q := |E_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}|$ , then  $J^{q-1}E_{\alpha_l}^{(l)} \cong Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}/Jf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$  and  $J^i E_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$  is projective for any  $i = 0, \dots, q-2$  by [8, Theorem 1<sup>♯</sup>]. So, in particular,  $S(Rf_{\alpha_l+1}^{(l)}) \cong Rf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}/Jf_{\alpha_l}^{(l)}$  since  $\{Rf_{n_l}^{(l)}, Rf_{n_l-1}^{(l)}, \dots, Rf_1^{(l)}\}$  is a Kupisch series of left  $R$ -modules by [4, Lemma 3.4 (1)]. But  $S(Rf_{\alpha_l+1}^{(l)}) \cong Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$  by [4, Lemma 3.4 (2)]. Hence  $\alpha_l = 1$ .

A right SAH ring does not always satisfy  $(\ast^\sharp)_r$  and a ring satisfying  $(\ast^\sharp)_r$  is not always a right SAH ring. Now we give an example.

EXAMPLE 4. Consider a factor ring

$$R := \begin{bmatrix} D & D & 0 & D & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \\ 0 & D & 0 & D & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \\ 0 & 0 & D & D & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & D & D & \bar{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & D & D \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & D \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $D$  is a division ring. And we consider that  $R$  is a ring by the ordinary addition and the multiplication of matrices. Put  $H := e_1 + e_2 + e_3 + e_4$  and  $S_1 := e_4 + e_5 + e_6$ , where  $e_i$  is the  $(i, i)$ -matrix unit for any  $i$ .

Then  $HRH$  is a hereditary ring and  $S_1RS_1$  is a strongly serial ring in the first category. And  $R$  is a ring in Theorem A(iii), i.e.,  $R$  is a right SAH ring.

But we claim that  $R$  does not satisfies  $(\ast^\sharp)_r$ .  $e_4R$  is an injective right  $R$ -module with  $e_4R/S(e_4R) \cong e_4R/e_4J$ . And  $e_4R/S(e_4R)$  is not injective. Further  $e_4R/S(e_4R)$  is not almost injective by [8, Corollary 1<sup>♯</sup>] since  $e_1R \oplus e_3R$  is a projective cover of  $E(e_4R/e_4J)$ .

By Theorem 2  $R$  satisfies  $(\ast^\sharp)_l$  but is not a left SAH ring.

### 3. Stronger Conditions than that of a SAH Ring

The following is a structure theorem of an artinian ring which satisfies  $(\ast\ast)_r$  and  $(\ast\ast\ast)_r$  which are stronger conditions than that of a right SAH ring:

THEOREM B ([7, Theorem 4]). *For a ring the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *It satisfies  $(**)_{\mathcal{R}}$ ;*
- (b) *it satisfies  $(***)_{\mathcal{R}}$ ;*
- (c) *it is a direct sum of the following rings:*
  - (i) *Hereditary rings which are not serial;*
  - (ii) *serial rings with the radical square zero;*
  - (iii) *rings  $R$  in Theorem A (iii) such that  $HRH$  is not a serial ring and  $J(S_lRS_l)^2 = 0$  for any  $l = 1, \dots, k$ , where  $H$  and  $S_l$  are as in Theorem A (iii).*

The purpose of this section is to show the following theorem.

THEOREM 5. *For a ring  $R$  the following are equivalent:*

- (a)  *$R$  satisfies  $(**)_{\mathcal{R}}$  ( $\Leftrightarrow (***)_{\mathcal{R}}$ );*
- (b)  *$R$  satisfies  $(**^{\#})_l$ ;*
- (c)  *$R$  satisfies  $(***^{\#})_l$ .*

To complete the proof, we give a lemma.

LEMMA 6. *Let  $R$  be a ring in [4, Theorem B (iii)] and we use the same notations as in it.*

- (1) *Suppose that  $\alpha_l = 1$ . And let  $M$  be an indecomposable left  $R$ -module with  $HM = M$ . Then the following hold.*
  - (i)  *$Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$  is injective as a left  $HRH$ -module but not injective as a left  $R$ -module for any  $l$ .*
  - (ii) *If  $M$  is injective or finitely generated almost injective as a left  $R$ -module, then  $M$  is injective or finitely generated almost injective also as a left  $HRH$ -module.*
  - (iii) *If  $M$  is finitely generated almost injective but not injective as a left  $HRH$ -module, then  $M$  is finitely generated almost injective but not injective also as a left  $R$ -module.*
- (2) *Suppose that  $\alpha_l = 1$ . If  $R$  satisfies  $(**^{\#})_l$ , then  $HRH$  also satisfies  $(**^{\#})_l$ .*
- (3) *Let  $M$  be an indecomposable left  $R$ -module with  $S_lM = M$  for some  $l$ . Then  $M$  is almost injective but not injective as a left  $R$ -module if and only if  $M$  is almost injective but not injective as a left  $S_lRS_l$ -module.*
- (4) *If  $R$  satisfies  $(**^{\#})_l$ , then  $S_lRS_l$  also satisfies  $(**^{\#})_l$  for any  $l = 1, \dots, k$ .*

PROOF. Put  $E_s := E(Rh_s/Jh_s)$  and  $E_j^{(l)} := E(Rf_j^{(l)}/Jf_j^{(l)})$  for any  $s = 1, \dots, m$ ,  $l = 1, \dots, k$  and  $j = 1, \dots, n_l$ .

(1)(i). Since  $\alpha_l = 1$ ,  $H = \sum_{s=1}^m h_s + \sum_{l=1}^k f_1^{(l)}$ . So we can easily see that  $Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$  is injective as a left  $HRH$ -module by [4, Lemma 2.3 and Theorem 3.3 (a'), (b')] using Baer's criterion. And  $Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$  is not injective as a left  $R$ -module by Lemma 3 (2).

(ii). First assume that  $M$  is injective as a left  $R$ -module. Then  $M \cong E_s$  for some  $s$  by (i) since  $HM = M$ . Therefore  $M$  is injective also as a left  $HRH$ -module by Lemma 3 (1).

Next assume that  $M$  is finitely generated almost injective but not injective as a left  $R$ -module. Then  $S({}_R M)$  is simple by [8, Theorem 1<sup>#</sup>]. And  $S({}_R M) \cong Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$  for some  $l$  or  $\cong Rh_s/Jh_s$  for some  $s$  since  $HM = M$ . If  $S({}_R M) \cong Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$  for some  $l$ , then  $M$  is simple, i.e.,  $M \cong Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$ , by [4, Theorem 3.3 (a'), (b')] since  $\alpha_l = 1$ . Therefore  $M$  is injective as a left  $HRH$ -module by (i). So we consider that  $S({}_R M) \cong Rh_s/Jh_s$  for some  $s$ . Then there exists a positive integer  $p$  such that  $M \cong J^p E_s$  and  $J^i E_s$  is projective as a left  $R$ -module for any  $i = 0, \dots, p - 1$  by [8, Theorem 1<sup>#</sup>]. And  $J^j E_s = J(HRH)^j E_s$  for any  $j = 0, \dots, p$  and  $J^i E_s$  is projective also as a left  $HRH$ -module for any  $i = 0, \dots, p - 1$  by Lemma 3 (1). So  $M$  is almost injective but not injective as a left  $HRH$ -module by [8, Theorem 1<sup>#</sup>].

(iii).  $S({}_{HRH} M)$  is simple by [8, Theorem 1<sup>#</sup>]. But  $S({}_{HRH} M) \not\cong HRf_1^{(l)}/HJf_1^{(l)}$  ( $= Rf_1^{(l)}/Jf_1^{(l)}$ ) for any  $l$  by (i) because  $M$  is not injective as a left  $HRH$ -module. So  $S({}_{HRH} M) \cong HRh_s/HJh_s$  for some  $s$  since  $HM = M$ . Then there is a positive integer  $p$  such that  $M \cong J(HRH)^p E_s$  and  $J(HRH)^i E_s$  is projective as a left  $HRH$ -module for any  $i = 0, \dots, p - 1$  by [8, Theorem 1<sup>#</sup>] and Lemma 3 (1). And  $J(HRH)^j E_s = J^j E_s$  for any  $j = 0, \dots, p$  and  $J(HRH)^i E_s$  is projective also as a left  $R$ -module for any  $i = 0, \dots, p - 1$  by Lemma 3 (1). So  $M$  is almost injective but not injective as a left  $R$ -module by [8, Theorem 1<sup>#</sup>].

(2). Let  $M$  be an injective or finitely generated almost injective left  $HRH$ -module. We may assume that  $M$  is indecomposable and not simple.

Assume that  $M$  is injective as a left  $HRH$ -module. Then  $M \cong E_s$  for some  $s$  by [4, Theorem 3.3 (a'), (b')] and Lemma 3 (1) since  $\alpha_l = 1$  and  $M$  is not simple. Therefore  $M$  is injective also as a left  $R$ -module. So  $M/S(M)$  is a direct sum of an injective left  $R$ -module and finitely generated almost injective left  $R$ -modules by  $(**\#)_l$ . Hence  $M/S(M)$  is a direct sum of an injective left  $HRH$ -module and finitely generated almost injective left  $HRH$ -modules by (1)(ii).

Next assume that  $M$  is finitely generated almost injective but not injective as a left  $HRH$ -module. Then  $M$  is almost injective as a left  $R$ -module by (1)(iii). So

$M/S(M)$  is a direct sum of an injective left  $R$ -module and finitely generated almost injective left  $R$ -modules by  $(**\sharp)_l$ . Hence  $M/S(M)$  is a direct sum of an injective left  $HRH$ -module and finitely generated almost injective left  $HRH$ -modules by (1)(ii).

(3). First we note that  $M$  is a uniserial left  $R$ - and  $S_lRS_l$ -module since  $S_lM = M$ ,  $M$  is indecomposable and a ring  $S_lRS_l$  is serial.

Assume that  $M$  is almost injective but not injective as a left  $R$ -module. Then  $S(M)$  is simple by [8, Theorem 1 $\sharp$ ]. So  $E(M) \cong E_j^{(l)}$  for some  $j$  since  $S_lM = M$ . And there exists a positive integer  $p$  such that  $M \cong J^pE_j^{(l)}$  and  $J^iE_j^{(l)}$  is projective as a left  $R$ -module for any  $i = 0, \dots, p - 1$  by [8, Theorem 1 $\sharp$ ]. Now  $S_lE_j^{(l)} = E_j^{(l)}$  by Lemma 3 (3). And  $S_l \cdot S(Rf_i^{(l)}) \neq S(Rf_i^{(l)})$  for any  $t \in \{1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$  by [4, Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 3.4 (1)]. So there is  $j_i \in \{\alpha_l + 1, \dots, n_l\}$  with  $J^iE_j^{(l)} \cong Rf_{j_i}^{(l)}$  for any  $i = 0, \dots, p - 1$ . Therefore  $J^iE_j^{(l)} \cong S_lRf_{j_i}^{(l)}$ , i.e.,  $J^iE_j^{(l)}$  is projective also as a left  $S_lRS_l$ -module, by [4, Theorem B (iii)(b) and Lemma 3.1] since  $j_i \geq \alpha_l + 1$ . Hence  $M$  is almost injective but not injective as a left  $S_lRS_l$ -module by [8, Theorem 1 $\sharp$ ] and Lemma 3 (3).

We can show the converse by the same way.

(4). By the same way as the proof of (2) we can show using (3) and Lemma 3 (3).

PROOF OF THEOREM 5. We may assume that  $R$  is an indecomposable ring.

(a)  $\Rightarrow$  (c). We may assume that  $R$  is a ring in either (i), (ii) or (iii) in Theorem B (c).

Suppose that  $R$  is a hereditary ring which are not serial. Then  $Rg$  is not injective for any  $g \in P(R)$  by [7, Corollary 3]. Therefore every finitely generated almost injective left  $R$ -module is injective by [8, Theorem 1 $\sharp$ ]. So  $(***\sharp)_l$  holds since  $R$  is a hereditary ring.

Suppose that  $R$  is a serial ring with  $J^2 = 0$ . Let  $\{Rf_1, Rf_2, \dots, Rf_n\}$  be a Kupisch series with  $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n\} = P(R)$ . If  $R$  is a serial ring in the first (resp. second) category, then  $\{Rf_j, Rf_1/Jf_1\}_{j=1}^{n-1}$  (resp.  $\{Rf_j\}_{j=1}^n$ ) is a basic set of indecomposable injective left  $R$ -modules. So  $\{Rf_j, Rf_n, Rf_j/Jf_j\}_{j=1}^{n-1}$  (resp.  $\{Rf_j, Rf_j/Jf_j\}_{j=1}^n$ ) is a basic set of finitely generated almost injective left  $R$ -modules by [8, Theorem 1 $\sharp$ ]. Therefore because  $R$  is a serial ring with  $J^2 = 0$ , every factor module of a finitely generated almost injective module is represented as  $\bigoplus_{j=1}^{n-1} ((Rf_j)^{u_j} \oplus (Rf_n)^{u_n} \oplus (Rf_j/Jf_j)^{v_j})$  (resp.  $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n ((Rf_j)^{u_j} \oplus (Rf_j/Jf_j)^{v_j})$ ), where  $u_j, u_n, v_j$  are non-negative integers. Hence  $(***\sharp)_l$  holds.

Last suppose that  $R$  is a ring in Theorem B (c)(iii). We use the same notations as in Theorem A (iii). It is obvious that  $S_lRS_l$  is a serial ring in the first category

with a Kupisch series  $\{S_l R f_{n_l}^{(l)}, S_l R f_{n_l-1}^{(l)}, \dots, S_l R f_1^{(l)}\}$  of left  $S_l R S_l$ -modules from Theorem A (iii)(x). So  $S_l R f_j^{(l)}$  is injective as a left  $S_l R S_l$ -module for any  $l$  and  $j = 2, \dots, n_l$  since  $J(S_l R S_l)^2 = 0$ . Therefore  $R f_j^{(l)}$  is an injective left  $R$ -module with  $|R f_j^{(l)}| = 2$  for any  $l$  and  $j = 2, \dots, n_l$  by Lemma 3 (3). On the other hand, we claim that  $R h_s$  and  $R f_1^{(l)}$  are not injective for any  $s$  and  $l$ . Assume that  $R h_s$  (resp.  $R f_1^{(l)}$ ) is injective for some  $s$  (resp.  $l$ ). Then  $R h_s$  (resp.  $R f_1^{(l)}$ )  $\cong E_{s'}$  for some  $s'$  by Lemma 3 (1) and Theorem A (iii)(y). Therefore  $R h_s$  (resp.  $R f_1^{(l)}$ ) is injective also as a left  $HRH$ -module by Lemma 3 (1), i.e., there exists an injective projective left  $HRH$ -module. So  $HRH$  is a serial ring by [7, Corollary 3] and Theorem A (iii)(z). But  $HRH$  is not serial by assumption, a contradiction. In consequence, we obtain that  $\{R f_j^{(l)}\}_{l=1, j=2}^{k, n_l}$  is a basic set of indecomposable injective projective left  $R$ -modules. Therefore  $\{R f_j^{(l)}, J f_j^{(l)} (\cong R f_{j-1}^{(l)} / J f_{j-1}^{(l)})\}_{l=1, j=2}^{k, n_l}$  is a basic set of finitely generated indecomposable almost injective modules by [8, Theorem 1 $^\sharp$ ]. So  $(**\sharp)_l$  holds by the same reason as the case that  $R$  is a serial ring with  $J^2 = 0$ .

(c)  $\Rightarrow$  (b). Clear.

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a). Since  $R$  satisfies  $(**\sharp)_l$ , it satisfies  $(\sharp)_l$ , i.e.,  $R$  is a right almost hereditary ring by [4, Theorem 4.1]. So we may assume that  $R$  is a ring in either (i), (ii) or (iii) of [4, Theorem B]. And we show that it is a ring in either (i), (ii) or (iii) of Theorem B (c).

Suppose that  $R$  is a hereditary ring. Assume that  $Rg$  is not injective for any  $g \in P(R)$ , then  $R$  is not serial, i.e.,  $R$  is a ring in Theorem B (c)(i). Assume that there is  $f \in P(R)$  with  $Rf$  injective, then  $R$  is a serial ring by [7, Corollary 3].

Suppose that  $R$  is a serial ring. Assume that there exists  $f \in P(R)$  with  $|Rf| \geq 3$ . Then further we may assume that  $Rf$  is injective.  $Jf$  is almost injective by [8, Theorem 1 $^\sharp$ ]. And  $Jf/S(Rf)$  is also almost injective by  $(**\sharp)_l$ . But  $Jf/S(Rf)$  is not injective since there is an inclusion map:  $Jf/S(Rf) \rightarrow Rf/S(Rf)$ . Therefore there exist  $e \in P(R)$  and a positive integer  $p$  such that  $Re \cong E(Jf/S(Rf))$ ,  $J^p e \cong Jf/S(Rf)$  and  $J^i e$  is projective for any  $i = 0, \dots, p - 1$  by [8, Theorem 1 $^\sharp$ ]. So, in particular,  $J^{p-1} e$  is projective. But  $J^{p-1} e \cong Rf/S(Rf)$ , a contradiction.

Suppose that  $R$  is a ring in [4, Theorem B (iii)]. And let  $H$  and  $S_l$  as in it. Then  $S_l R S_l$  satisfies  $(**\sharp)_l$  for any  $l = 1, \dots, k$  by Lemma 6 (4). Therefore  $J(S_l R S_l)^2 = 0$  from the previous case that  $R$  is a serial ring. So  $\alpha_l = 1$  since  $E(R f_1^{(l)} / J f_1^{(l)}) \cong R f_j^{(l)} / J^u f_j^{(l)}$  for some  $j (\geq \alpha_l + 1)$  and  $u$  by Lemma 3 (2). Therefore  $HRH$  also satisfies  $(**\sharp)_l$  by Lemma 6 (2). Hence  $HRH$  is not serial or serial with  $J(HRH)^2 = 0$  by the previous two cases. In consequence,  $R$  is a ring in Theorem B (c)(ii) or (iii).

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