

## CHARACTERIZATION OF IDEMPOTENCY IN POWER-ASSOCIATIVE RINGS

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we extend Mosic's result for idempotency in associative rings to power-associative rings. We provide a necessary and sufficient condition for idempotency and give some examples.

**Keywords and Phrases:** Ring, power-associative, idempotent.

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### 1. Introduction

In this article we provide a necessary and sufficient condition for idempotency in power-associative rings, hence extending Mosic's result in [5]. Mosic gives the relation between idempotent and tripotent elements in an associative ring  $R$ , generalizing the result on matrices by Trenkler and Baksalary [8]. Namely, for any  $x \in R$ , where  $2, 3$  are invertible,  $x$  is idempotent if and only if  $x$  is tripotent and  $1 - x$  is tripotent or  $1 + x$  is invertible.

In [1], we pointed out that even though  $\mathbb{O}/\mathbb{Z}_p^{1,2}$  is not associative, the result does hold in some cases. For example, consider the tripotent  $x = 4 + 3e_1 + e_2 + 4e_3$  in  $\mathbb{O}/\mathbb{Z}_7$ , which is also an idempotent. It is not hard to check this directly or using