

## A CHARACTERIZATION OF PRIME SUBMODULES OF AN INJECTIVE MODULE OVER A NOETHERIAN RING

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we give a characterization of prime submodules of an injective module over a Noetherian ring.

### 0. Introduction

Throughout this paper all rings are commutative with identity and all modules are unitary. Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. We denote a (proper) submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , by  $(N \not\subseteq M) N \leq M$ . A proper submodule  $P$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is called prime, if  $rm \in P$  for some  $r \in R$  and  $m \in M$  implies  $m \in P$  or  $r \in (P : M)$ , where  $(P : M) = \{r \in R \mid rM \subseteq P\}$ . If  $P$  is a prime submodule of an  $R$ -module  $M$ , then  $(P : M)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ . The set of all prime submodules of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is denoted by  $\text{Spec}(M)$ . An  $R$ -module  $M$  is injective if for every  $R$ -module monomorphism  $f : N \rightarrow N'$  and for every  $R$ -module homomorphism  $g : N \rightarrow M$ , there exists an  $R$ -module homomorphism  $h : N' \rightarrow M$  such that  $hf = g$ . Let  $N \subseteq M$  be  $R$ -modules. We say that  $M$  is an essential extension of  $N$ , if for any nonzero  $R$ -submodule  $U$  of  $M$  one has  $U \cap N \neq 0$ . Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. An injective module  $E$  is called an injective envelope of  $M$ , if  $E$  is an essential extension of  $M$  and denoted by  $E(M)$ . We know that any module  $M$  can be embedded into an injective module; and injective envelope of  $M$  is the minimal embedding. In this case, the corresponding injective module is unique up to isomorphism. An element  $x$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is called torsion, if it has a nonzero annihilator in  $R$ . Let  $M_t$  be the set of all torsion elements of  $M$ . It is clear that if  $R$  is an integral domain, then  $M_t$  is a submodule of  $M$ . We say that  $M_t$  is the torsion submodule of  $M$ . An  $R$ -module  $M$  is divisible if for every  $0 \neq r \in R$ ,  $rM = M$ . It is easy to see that every injective module over an integral domain  $R$  is divisible. If  $M$  is a divisible  $R$ -module, then for every proper submodule  $N$  of  $M$ ,  $(N : M) = 0$ .

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Prime submodules of a module over a commutative ring have been studied by many authors, see [4, 7, 11]. Also prime submodules of a finitely generated free module over a PID were studied in [2, 3]. The authors in [2], described prime submodules of a finitely generated free module over a UFD and characterized the prime submodules of a free module of finite rank over a PID. The authors in [8, 9], extended some results obtained in [2] to a Dedekind and valuation domain. In [10], we have characterized prime submodules of an injective module over a Noetherian domain. In this paper, we extend our results to Noetherian ring.

### 1. Prime submodules of $E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$

In this section, we give some results about prime submodules of  $E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ , when  $R$  is a Noetherian ring and  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$ . Then we characterize all prime submodules of  $E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ .

**Lemma 1.1.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $E = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ . We have the following:*

- i)  $\text{ann}_R(E) \subseteq \mathfrak{p}$ .
- ii) If  $P \in \text{Spec}(E)$ , then  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (P : E)$ .
- iii) If  $0 \neq P \in \text{Spec}(E)$  and  $\mathfrak{q} = (P : E)$ , then  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} \subseteq P$  or  $P \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} = \frac{\mathfrak{a}}{\mathfrak{p}}$ .
- iv) If  $0 \neq P \in \text{Spec}(E)$  and  $(P : E) = \mathfrak{p}$ , then  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} \subseteq P$ .
- v) If  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Max}(R)$ , then  $\text{Spec}(E) = \{P \not\subseteq E \mid \mathfrak{p}E \subseteq P\}$  and in this case for every  $P \in \text{Spec}(E)$ , we have  $(P : E) = \mathfrak{p}$ .

*Proof.* i) Let  $r \in \text{ann}_R(E)$ . So  $rE = 0$  and hence  $r(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}) = 0$ . Thus  $r + \mathfrak{p} = r(1 + \mathfrak{p}) = \mathfrak{p}$  and so  $r \in \mathfrak{p}$ . Therefore  $\text{ann}_R(E) \subseteq \mathfrak{p}$ .

ii) Let  $\mathfrak{q} = (P : E)$  and  $\mathfrak{p} \not\subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ . We show that for every  $x \in E$ ,  $\text{ann}_R(x) \not\subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ . Let  $y \in E$  and  $\text{ann}_R(y) \subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ . Since  $R$  is Noetherian, by [6, Theorem 3.4(1)],  $E = \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m$ , where  $A_m = \{x \in E \mid \mathfrak{p}^m x = 0\}$ . So there exists  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mathfrak{p}^m y = 0$  and hence  $\mathfrak{p}^m \subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore for every  $x \in E$ ,  $\text{ann}_R(x) \not\subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ . Now Let  $x \in E$ . So there exists  $r \in R \setminus \mathfrak{q}$  such that  $rx = 0$  and hence  $x \in P$ . Now we have  $P = E$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ .

iii) Let  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} \not\subseteq P$ . We show that  $P \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} = \frac{\mathfrak{a}}{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{q}E \subseteq P$ ,  $\mathfrak{q}(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}) \subseteq P$  and hence  $\frac{\mathfrak{a}}{\mathfrak{p}} \subseteq P \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Now let  $P \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} = \frac{\mathfrak{a}}{\mathfrak{p}}$  for some ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  of  $R$ . If  $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{p}$ , then  $P \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} = \{0\}$  and since  $E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$  is an essential extension of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ ,  $P = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $\mathfrak{a} \neq \mathfrak{p}$ . Let  $r \in \mathfrak{a} \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ . So  $r + \mathfrak{p} = r(1 + \mathfrak{p}) \in P$  and since  $1 + \mathfrak{p} \notin P$ , we have  $r \in \mathfrak{q}$ . Therefore  $P \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} = \frac{\mathfrak{a}}{\mathfrak{p}}$ .

iv) It follows by part (iii).

v) Let  $P \in \text{Spec}(E)$ . By part (ii),  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (P : E)$  and hence  $\mathfrak{p}E \subseteq P$ . Conversely, let  $P \not\subseteq E$  and  $\mathfrak{p}E \subseteq P$ . Then  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (P : E) \neq R$ . Since  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Max}(R)$ , we have  $(P : E) = \mathfrak{p}$ . Therefore  $P \in \text{Spec}(E)$ .  $\square$

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$ ,  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $N \leq M$ . Lu in [5], defined the saturation of  $N$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{p}$  by  $S_{\mathfrak{p}}(N) = \{x \in M \mid sx \in N \text{ for some } s \in R \setminus \mathfrak{p}\}$ .

**Proposition 1.2.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $E = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ . Then*

- i)  $S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) = \{0\}$ , where  $\{0\}$  is the zero submodule of  $E$ .
- ii)  $\text{ann}_R(E) = \mathfrak{p}$  if and only if  $\{0\} \in \text{Spec}(E)$ .

*Proof.* i) Let  $S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} = \frac{\mathfrak{a}}{\mathfrak{p}}$ , where  $\mathfrak{a}$  is an ideal of  $R$ . Suppose that  $\mathfrak{a} \neq \mathfrak{p}$  and choose  $r \in \mathfrak{a} \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ . So  $r + \mathfrak{p} \in S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0)$  and hence there exists  $s \in R \setminus \mathfrak{p}$  such that  $sr + \mathfrak{p} = s(r + \mathfrak{p}) = \mathfrak{p}$ . Then  $sr \in \mathfrak{p}$  and hence  $r \in \mathfrak{p}$  or  $s \in \mathfrak{p}$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{p}$ . Thus  $S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) \cap \frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} = \{0\}$  and since  $E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$  is an essential extension of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ ,  $S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) = \{0\}$ .

ii) Let  $\text{ann}_R(E) = \mathfrak{p}$ . Suppose that  $0 \neq x \in E$ ,  $r \in R$  such that  $rx = 0$ . If  $r \in R \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ , by part (i), we have  $x \in S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) = \{0\}$ , which is a contradiction. So  $r \in \mathfrak{p}$  and hence  $\{0\} \in \text{Spec}(E)$ . Conversely, let  $\{0\} \in \text{Spec}(E)$ . By Lemma 1.1, parts (i) and (ii), we have  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (0 : E) = \text{ann}_R(E) \subseteq \mathfrak{p}$  and hence  $\text{ann}_R(E) = \mathfrak{p}$ .  $\square$

In [10, Theorem 2.6], the authors prove that, if  $R$  is a Noetherian domain with quotient field  $K$  and  $M$  is an injective  $R$ -module, then

- i)  $M = M_t \oplus N$ , where  $N \simeq \bigoplus_{i \in I} K$  for some index set  $I$ .
- ii)  $\text{Spec}(M) = \emptyset$  or  $\text{Spec}(M) = \{M_t \oplus D \mid D \not\subseteq N, D \simeq \bigoplus_{j \in J} K \text{ for some index set } J\}$ .

**Proposition 1.3.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$ ,  $E = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$  and  $\text{ann}_R(E) = \mathfrak{p}$ . Let  $K$  be the quotient field of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ . We have:*

- i)  $E \simeq \bigoplus_{i \in I} K$  for some index set  $I$ .
- ii)  $\text{Spec}(E) = \{P \not\subseteq E \mid P \simeq \bigoplus_{j \in J} K \text{ for some index set } J\}$ .
- iii) If  $P \in \text{Spec}(E)$ , then  $(P : E) = \mathfrak{p}$ .

*Proof.* i) If  $\text{ann}_R(E) = \mathfrak{p}$ , then  $E$  is an  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module. Since  $E$  is an injective  $R$ -module, by the Baer's Criterion it is easy to show that  $E$  is an injective  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module. Since  $E_t = S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0)$  as  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module, then by Proposition 1.2(i),  $E_t = 0$ . Now by [10, Theorem 2.6(i)],  $E \simeq \bigoplus_{i \in I} K$ , for some index set  $I$ .

ii) It follows by part (i) and [10, Theorem 2.6(ii)].

iii) Since  $E$  is an injective  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module,  $E$  is a divisible  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module and hence  $(P :_{R/\mathfrak{p}} E) = 0$ . So  $(P :_R E) = \mathfrak{p}$ .  $\square$

For the characterization of prime submodules of  $E = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ , we need the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.4.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $E = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ . If  $s \in R \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ , then the  $R$ -homomorphism  $f_s : E \rightarrow E$  defined by  $x \mapsto sx$  is an automorphism of  $E$ .*

*Proof.* [6, Lemma 3.2(2)].  $\square$

**Theorem 1.5.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $E = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ . Then  $\text{Spec}(E) = \{P \not\subseteq E \mid \mathfrak{p} \subseteq (P : E) = \mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(R) \text{ and } \frac{E}{P} \text{ is a } K\text{-module, where } K \text{ is the quotient field of } \frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\Sigma = \{P \not\subseteq E \mid \mathfrak{p} \subseteq (P : E) = \mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(R) \text{ and } \frac{E}{P} \text{ is a } K\text{-module, where } K \text{ is the quotient field of } \frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}\}$ . We show that  $\text{Spec}(E) = \Sigma$ . Let  $P \in \Sigma$ . Since every proper submodule of a vector space is  $\{0\}$ -prime,  $\{P\}$  is a  $\{0\}$ -prime submodule of  $K$ -vector space  $\frac{E}{P}$ . So  $P$  is a  $\{0\}$ -prime submodule of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}$ -module  $\frac{E}{P}$  and hence  $P$  is a  $\mathfrak{q}$ -prime submodule of  $R$ -module  $E$ . Thus  $\Sigma \subseteq \text{Spec}(E)$ . Conversely, let  $P \in \text{Spec}(E)$ . By Lemma 1.1(ii),  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (P : E) = \mathfrak{q}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{q}E \subseteq P$ ,  $\frac{E}{P}$  is an  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}$ -module. Let  $K$  be the quotient field of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}$ . For every  $r \in R$ ,  $s \in R \setminus \mathfrak{q}$  and  $x \in E$ , we put  $\bar{r} = r + \mathfrak{q}$ ,  $\bar{s} = s + \mathfrak{q}$  and  $\bar{x} = x + P$ . By Lemma 1.4, for every  $s \in R \setminus \mathfrak{q}$  and  $x \in E$  there exists a unique  $y \in E$  such that  $sy = x$ . Now we define the map  $K \times \frac{E}{P} \rightarrow \frac{E}{P}$  by  $\frac{\bar{r}}{\bar{s}} \cdot \bar{x} = \bar{r}\bar{y}$ , where  $sy = x$ . We show that this map is well-defined. Let  $\frac{\bar{r}}{\bar{s}} = \frac{\bar{r}'}{\bar{s}'}$ ,  $\bar{x} = \bar{x}'$ , where  $sy = x$  and  $s'y' = x'$ . So  $rs' - sr' \in \mathfrak{q}$ ,  $x - x' \in P$  and hence  $sy - s'y' \in P$ . We prove that  $ry - r'y' \in P$ . Since  $rr'(sy - s'y') \in P$ , hence  $rr'sy - rr's'y' = rr'sy - r'^2sy' + r'^2sy' - rr's'y' = r's(ry - r'y') + (r's - rs')r'y' \in P$ . But  $r's - rs' \in \mathfrak{q}$  and  $\mathfrak{q}E \subseteq P$ , hence  $(r's - rs')r'y' \in P$ . Thus  $r's(ry - r'y') \in P$ . If  $r' \in \mathfrak{q}$ , then  $r \in \mathfrak{q}$  and we have  $ry - r'y' \in P$ . Let  $r' \notin \mathfrak{q}$ . Since  $r's \notin \mathfrak{q}$  and  $P$  is a  $\mathfrak{q}$ -prime submodule,  $ry - r'y' \in P$ . So  $\frac{E}{P}$  is a  $K$ -module and hence  $P \in \Sigma$ . Therefore  $\text{Spec}(E) = \Sigma$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1.6.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$ ,  $E = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ . Suppose that  $\sqrt{\text{ann}_R(E)} = \mathfrak{p}$ . Then there exists  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $A_m = \{x \in E \mid \mathfrak{p}^m x = 0\} \in \text{Spec}(E)$  and  $(A_m : E) = \mathfrak{p}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $R$  is a Noetherian ring and  $\sqrt{\text{ann}_R(E)} = \mathfrak{p}$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mathfrak{p}^n \subseteq \text{ann}(E)$  and  $\mathfrak{p}^{n-1} \not\subseteq \text{ann}(E)$ . Put  $m = n - 1$ . By [6, Theorem 3.4(4)], we have  $\frac{E}{A_m}$  is a  $K$ -module, where  $K$  is the quotient field of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ . So by the first part of the proof of Theorem 1.5, we have  $A_m$  is a  $\mathfrak{p}$ -prime submodule of  $E$ .  $\square$

The following examples show that the assumptions of Corollary 1.6, are satisfied in both cases, that  $R$  is an integral domain or it is not.

**Example 1.7.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathfrak{p} = (0)$ . We have  $E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}) = \mathbb{Q}$ . Then

$$\sqrt{\text{ann}_{\mathbb{Z}}(E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}))} = \sqrt{(0)} = (0) = \mathfrak{p}.$$

**Example 1.8.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}_6$  and  $\mathfrak{p} = \langle \bar{2} \rangle$ . Clearly  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}} \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2$ . We show that  $E_{\mathbb{Z}_6}(\mathbb{Z}_2) = \mathbb{Z}_2$ . We know that  $E_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_{2^\infty}$  and  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbb{Z}_6, \mathbb{Z}_{2^\infty})$  is an injective

$\mathbb{Z}_6$ -module. It is easy to see that  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbb{Z}_6, \mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2$ . Then  $E_{\mathbb{Z}_6}(\mathbb{Z}_2) = \mathbb{Z}_2$ . Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\text{ann}_{\mathbb{Z}_6}(E_{\mathbb{Z}_6}(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}))} &= \sqrt{\text{ann}_{\mathbb{Z}_6}(E_{\mathbb{Z}_6}(\mathbb{Z}_2))} \\ &= \sqrt{\text{ann}_{\mathbb{Z}_6}(\mathbb{Z}_2)} = \sqrt{\langle 2 \rangle} = \langle 2 \rangle = \mathfrak{p}. \end{aligned}$$

## 2. Prime submodules of an injective module over a Noetherian ring

In this section we characterize the prime submodules of an injective module over a Noetherian ring  $R$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $M$  be an injective  $R$ -module such that  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \text{ann}_R(M)$ . Let  $K$  be the quotient field of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ . We have:*

- i)  $M = S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) \oplus N$  such that  $N \simeq \bigoplus_{i \in I} K$  for some index set  $I$ .
- ii)  $\text{Spec}(M) = \emptyset$  or  $\text{Spec}(M) = \{S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0) \oplus D \mid D \not\subseteq N \text{ and } D \simeq \bigoplus_{j \in J} K \text{ for some index set } J\}$ .
- iii) If  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ , then  $(P : M) = \mathfrak{p}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \text{ann}_R(M)$ ,  $M$  is an  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module and we have  $M_{\mathfrak{p}} = S_{\mathfrak{p}}(0)$  as  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module. Now the proof is similar to the proof of Proposition 1.3.  $\square$

**Remark 2.2.** Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $M$  be an injective  $R$ -module. We put  $M(\mathfrak{p}) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$  such that the number of indecomposable summands in the decomposition of  $M(\mathfrak{p})$  equals  $\dim_{k(\mathfrak{p})} \text{Hom}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}(k(\mathfrak{p}), M_{\mathfrak{p}})$ , where  $k(\mathfrak{p}) = \frac{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}{\mathfrak{p}R_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ . Let  $\{\mathfrak{p}_i \mid i \in \Omega\} \subseteq \text{Spec}(R)$  be the set of all prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $R$  such that  $\dim_{k(\mathfrak{p})} \text{Hom}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}(k(\mathfrak{p}), M_{\mathfrak{p}}) \neq 0$ . By [1, Theorem 3.2.8], we have  $M \simeq \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} M(\mathfrak{p}_i)$ . It is easy to show that there exist submodules  $N_i$  of  $M(i \in \Omega)$  such that  $M = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} N_i$  and for every  $i \in \Omega$ ,  $N_i \simeq M(\mathfrak{p}_i)$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *With the notation as Remark 2.2, we have the following:*

- i) If  $P \in \text{Spec}(M(\mathfrak{p}))$ , then  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (P : M(\mathfrak{p}))$ .
- ii) If  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Max}(R)$ , then  $\text{Spec}(M(\mathfrak{p})) = \{P \not\subseteq M(\mathfrak{p}) \mid \mathfrak{p}M(\mathfrak{p}) \subseteq P\}$ .

*Proof.* By Remark 2.2,  $M(\mathfrak{p}) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$ . Let  $j \in I$  and  $B_j = \bigoplus_{i \in I} A_i$  such that  $A_j = E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}})$  and for every  $i \in I \setminus \{j\}$ ,  $A_i = 0$ . We have  $M(\mathfrak{p}) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} B_i$ . Let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M(\mathfrak{p}))$  and  $Q_i = P \cap B_i (i \in I)$ . Then  $Q_i = B_i$  or  $Q_i \in \text{Spec}(B_i)$ . Since  $B_i \simeq E(\frac{R}{\mathfrak{p}}) (i \in \Omega)$ , by Lemma 1.1(ii), for every  $i \in I$ , we have  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (Q_i : B_i)$ . So  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} Q_i \subseteq P$  implies that  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq (\bigoplus_{i \in I} Q_i : M(\mathfrak{p})) \subseteq (P : M(\mathfrak{p}))$ .

- ii) The proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 1.1(v).  $\square$

In the following result, we give a characterization of prime submodules of injective modules over Artinian rings.

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be an Artinian ring. Let  $M$  be an injective  $R$ -module and  $M = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} N_i$  be as in Remark 2.2. Then  $\text{Spec}(M) = \{P \not\leq M \mid P = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i \text{ such that for every } i \in \Omega, P_i \leq N_i \text{ and there exists a unique } j \in \Omega \text{ such that } \mathfrak{p}_j N_j \subseteq P_j \neq N_j \text{ and for every } i \in \Omega \setminus \{j\}, P_i = N_i\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\Sigma = \{P \not\leq M \mid P = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i \text{ such that for every } i \in \Omega, P_i \leq N_i \text{ and there exists a unique } j \in \Omega \text{ such that } \mathfrak{p}_j N_j \subseteq P_j \neq N_j \text{ and for every } i \in \Omega \setminus \{j\}, P_i = N_i\}$ . We show that  $\text{Spec}(M) = \Sigma$ . Let  $P \in \Sigma$ . So  $P = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i$  such that for every  $i \in \Omega$ ,  $P_i \leq N_i$  and there exists a unique  $j \in \Omega$  such that  $\mathfrak{p}_j N_j \subseteq P_j \neq N_j$  and for every  $i \in \Omega \setminus \{j\}$ ,  $P_i = N_i$ . Since  $N_j \simeq M(\mathfrak{p}_j)$ , by Lemma 2.3(ii),  $P_j \in \text{Spec}(N_j)$ . It is easy to see that  $(P : M) = \mathfrak{p}_j \in \text{Max}(R)$  and hence  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . Conversely, let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and for every  $i \in \Omega$ ,  $P_i = P \cap N_i$ . We prove that  $P = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i$ . Assume that  $\Omega$  is a finite set and  $|\Omega| = n$ . By induction on  $n$ , we prove that  $P = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n P_i$ . Let  $n = 2$ . Then  $M = N_1 \oplus N_2$ . Clearly  $P_1 \oplus P_2 \subseteq P$ . If  $P_1 = N_1$  and  $P_2 = N_2$ , then  $P = M$ , which is a contradiction. Assume that  $N_2 \neq P_2$ . So  $(P_2 : N_2) = \mathfrak{p}_2$  and  $(P_1 : N_1) = \mathfrak{p}_1$  or  $R$ . Since  $\mathfrak{p}_1 \neq \mathfrak{p}_2$ , there exists  $r \in \mathfrak{p}_1 \setminus \mathfrak{p}_2$ . Put  $y = x_1 + x_2 \in P$ , where  $x_1 \in N_1$  and  $x_2 \in N_2$ . We have  $ry = rx_1 + rx_2 \in P$  and  $rx_1 \in P_1$ . So  $rx_2 = ry - rx_1 \in P \cap N_2 = P_2$  and hence  $x_2 \in P_2$ . Therefore  $x_1 = y - x_2 \in P \cap N_1 = P_1$ . So  $y \in P_1 \oplus P_2$  and we have  $P = P_1 \oplus P_2$ . Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and suppose the claim is true for  $n = k - 1$ . Let  $M = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k N_i$ . Clearly  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^k P_i \subseteq P$ . For every  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ , we have  $(P_i : N_i) = \mathfrak{p}_i$  or  $R$ . Since  $P \neq M$ , there exists  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  such that  $(P_i : N_i) = \mathfrak{p}_i$  and there exists  $j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  such that  $(P_j : N_j) \not\subseteq \bigcap_{i=1, i \neq j}^k (P_i : N_i)$ . Let  $j = 1$  and  $r \in (P_1 : N_1) \setminus \bigcap_{i=2}^k (P_i : N_i)$ . Put  $y = x_1 + \dots + x_k \in P$ , where  $x_i \in N_i (1 \leq i \leq k)$ . We prove that  $x_i \in P_i (1 \leq i \leq k)$ . Assume that  $N = \bigoplus_{i=2}^k N_i$  and  $D = P \cap N$ . If  $D = N$ , then for every  $i \in \{2, \dots, k\}$   $P_i = N_i$  and hence  $P_1 \neq N_1$ . So  $(P_1 : N_1) \subseteq \bigcap_{i=2}^k (P_i : N_i) = R$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $D \neq N$  and hence  $D \in \text{Spec}(N)$ . By assumption of induction, we have  $D = \bigoplus_{i=2}^k P_i$ . Now put  $y' = x_2 + \dots + x_k$ . We have  $ry = rx_1 + \dots + rx_k \in P$  and  $rx_1 \in P_1 \subseteq P$ . So  $ry' = ry - rx_1 \in P \cap N = D$ . Since  $r \notin \bigcap_{i=2}^k (P_i : N_i)$ ,  $r \notin (D : N)$  and thus  $y' \in D$ . Thus  $x_i \in P_i (2 \leq i \leq k)$  and hence  $x_i \in P_i (1 \leq i \leq k)$ . Therefore  $P = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k P_i$ . Then for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $|\Omega| = n$ , we have  $P = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n P_i$ . Now we show that  $P = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i$ . Clearly  $\bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i \subseteq P$ . Let  $z \in P$ . There exist  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $i_1, \dots, i_n \in \Omega$  such that  $z = \sum_{j=1}^n x_{i_j}$ , where  $x_{i_j} \in N_{i_j}$ . Assume that,  $N = \bigoplus_{j=1}^n N_{i_j}$  and  $D = P \cap N$ . We have  $D \in \text{Spec}(N)$  or  $D = N$ . By the above argument, we have  $x_{i_j} \in P_{i_j} (1 \leq j \leq n)$  and hence  $z \in \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i$ . So  $P = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} P_i$ . Now let  $i, j \in \Omega$ ,  $i \neq j$ ,  $P_i \neq N_i$  and  $P_j \neq N_j$ . Since  $\mathfrak{p}_i \neq \mathfrak{p}_j$ , there exist  $r \in \mathfrak{p}_i \setminus \mathfrak{p}_j$ ,  $x_i \in N_i \setminus P_i$ . Let  $x_j \in P_j$  and  $t = x_i + x_j$ . So  $rt = rx_i + rx_j \in P$ . Since  $r \notin \mathfrak{p}_j$ ,  $r \notin (P : M)$ . On the other hand,  $x_i \notin P_i$  and hence  $t \notin P$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $P \in \Sigma$  and we have  $\text{Spec}(M) = \Sigma$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring and  $M$  be an injective  $R$ -module. Then  $\text{Spec}(M) = \{P \not\subseteq M \mid (P : M) = \mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(R) \text{ and } \frac{M}{P} \text{ is a } K\text{-module, where } K \text{ is the quotient field of } \frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\Sigma = \{P \not\subseteq M \mid (P : M) = \mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(R) \text{ and } \frac{M}{P} \text{ is a } K\text{-module, where } K \text{ is the quotient field of } \frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}\}$ . We show that  $\text{Spec}(M) = \Sigma$ . Let  $P \in \Sigma$ . We have  $(P : M) = \mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $\frac{M}{P}$  is a  $K$ -module. Then  $\{P\}$  is a  $\{0\}$ -prime submodule of  $K$ -vector space  $\frac{M}{P}$ . So  $\{P\}$  is a  $\{0\}$ -prime submodule of  $\frac{R}{\mathfrak{q}}$ -module  $\frac{M}{P}$  and hence  $P$  is a  $\mathfrak{q}$ -prime submodule of  $R$ -module  $M$ . Thus  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . Conversely, let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . There exists  $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  such that  $(P : M) = \mathfrak{q}$ . By Remark 2.2, there exist an index set  $\Omega$  and a subset  $\{\mathfrak{p}_i \mid i \in \Omega\}$  of  $\text{Spec}(R)$  and submodules  $N_i$  of  $M$  ( $i \in \Omega$ ) such that  $M = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega} N_i$ , where  $N_i \simeq M(\mathfrak{p}_i)$  ( $i \in \Omega$ ). Let  $\Omega' = \{i \in \Omega \mid N_i \not\subseteq P\}$ . If  $\Omega' = \emptyset$ , then  $P = M$ , which is a contradiction. So  $\Omega' \neq \emptyset$ . Put  $A = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega'} N_i$  and  $B = \bigoplus_{i \in \Omega \setminus \Omega'} N_i$ , then  $M = A \oplus B$ . Clearly  $B \leq P$ . Let  $P_i = P \cap N_i$  ( $i \in \Omega'$ ). We have  $\bigoplus_{i \in \Omega'} P_i \subseteq P$ . Since  $P_i \cap B = \{0\}$  ( $i \in \Omega'$ ),  $(\bigoplus_{i \in \Omega'} P_i) \cap B = \{0\}$  and hence  $(\bigoplus_{i \in \Omega'} P_i) \oplus B \subseteq P$ . So by Lemma 2.3(i),  $\bigcap_{i \in \Omega'} \mathfrak{p}_i \subseteq \mathfrak{q}$ . Now we prove that  $\frac{E}{P}$  is a  $K$ -module. At first, we define  $R$ -homomorphism  $f_s : A \rightarrow A$  by  $f_s(\{x_i\}_{i \in \Omega'}) = \{sx_i\}_{i \in \Omega'}$ , where  $s \in R \setminus \mathfrak{q}$ . By Lemma 1.4, it is easy to see that  $f_s$  is an automorphism of  $A$ . For every  $r \in R$ ,  $s \in R \setminus \mathfrak{q}$ ,  $x \in M$ , we put  $\bar{r} = r + \mathfrak{q}$ ,  $\bar{s} = s + \mathfrak{q}$  and  $\bar{x} = x + P$ . Let  $x = a + b$ , where  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ . Since for every  $a \in A$ ,  $f_s$  is an automorphism of  $A$ , there exists a unique  $y \in A$  such that  $sy = a$ . Now we define the map  $K \times \frac{M}{P} \rightarrow \frac{M}{P}$  by  $\frac{\bar{r}}{\bar{s}} \cdot (\bar{a} + \bar{b}) = \bar{r}\bar{y}$ , where  $sy = a$ . By reasoning similar to the proof of Theorem 1.5, this map is well-defined and hence  $\frac{M}{P}$  is a  $K$ -module. Therefore  $P \in \Sigma$  and  $\text{Spec}(M) = \Sigma$ .  $\square$

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