

## RADICALS OF SUBMODULES AND CLOSED SUBMODULES

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**Abstract** In this note we characterize the radical of a submodule by its envelope under some conditions and prove propositions about closed submodules.

### 1. Introduction

In this paper, all rings are commutative with identity, all modules are unitary and  $B \leq A$  means that  $B$  is a submodule of the  $R$ -module  $A$ .  $M$ -radical of a submodule  $B \leq A$  is the intersection of all prime submodules of  $A$  containing  $B$ .  $P \leq A$  is a *prime submodule* provided  $P \neq A$  and for  $r \in R, a \in A \setminus P$ , such that  $ra \in P$ , it follows that  $rA \subseteq P$ . In case  $A = R$ , clearly prime submodules coincide with prime ideals.

The *envelope* of  $B$ ,  $E_A(B)$ , is the collection of all  $x \in A$  which there exists  $r \in R, a \in A$  such that  $x = ra$  and  $r^n a \in B$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . The envelope of a submodule is not, in general, a submodule. We say that  $A$  satisfies the *radical formula* (A.s.t.r.f.) if for every  $B \leq A$ , the radical of  $B$  is the submodule generated by its envelope, i.e.,  $\text{rad } B = \langle E_A(B) \rangle$ . Clearly,  $\text{rad } A = \langle E_A(A) \rangle$ . In the section 2 of this note, we prove that multiplication modules and vector spaces satisfy the radical formula (Theorem 2.6 and Proposition 2.7) In section 3, Using the concept of closure (Theorem 3.3), we find out an equivalent condition to be a closed submodule under some conditions (Theorem 3.2 and Theorem 3.4).

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Received February 11, 1998.

1991 AMS Subject Classification: 13C10, 13G05.

Key words and phrases : *radical, envelope, closed submodule.*

## 2. Radicals of Submodules

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** *Let  $B \leq A$ . Then  $\langle E_A(B) \rangle \subseteq \text{rad}B$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in E_A(B)$  and  $P$  a prime submodule of  $A$  containing  $B$ . Then,  $x = ra, r \in R, a \in A$  and  $r^n a \in B$ . Thus  $r^n a \in P$ . Since  $P$  is a prime submodule of  $A, a \in P$  or  $r^n A \subseteq P$ . If we note that  $(P : A)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ , then we know that  $rA \subseteq P$ . So, in any case,  $x = ra \in P$ . Hence,  $E_A(B) \subseteq \text{rad}B$  and so  $\langle E_A(B) \rangle \subseteq \text{rad}B$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.2.** *Let  $A$  and  $A'$  be  $R$ -modules with  $\phi : A \rightarrow A'$  an  $R$ -module epimorphism and  $B \leq A$  such that  $B \supseteq K = \text{Ker}\phi$ . Then,  $\phi(E_A(B)) = E_{A'}(\phi(B))$  and  $\phi(\langle E_A(B) \rangle) = \langle E_{A'}(\phi(B)) \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* First, let  $\phi(x) \in \phi(E_A(B))$  and  $x \in E_A(B)$ . Then  $x = ra, r^n a \in B$  for some integer  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  $\phi(x) = \phi(ra) = r\phi(a) \in A', r^n \phi(a) \in \phi(B)$  i.e.,  $\phi(x) \in E_{A'}(\phi(B))$ . On the other hand, if  $x' \in E_{A'}(\phi(B))$ , then  $x' = ra'$  and  $r^s a' \in \phi(B)$  for some integer  $s \in \mathbb{Z}^+, a' \in A'$ . Hence,  $x' = \phi(ra), \phi(r^s a) = \phi(b)$  for some  $b \in B, a \in A$ .  $r^s a - b \in K \subseteq B$ . Thus,  $r^s a \in B$ . Since  $ra \in E_A(B), x' = \phi(E_A(B))$ .

Now let  $x \in \phi(\langle E_A(B) \rangle)$ . Then,  $x = \phi(s_1 x_1 + \cdots + s_k x_k)$  and  $s_i \in R, x_i \in E_A(B)$ . Since  $\phi(E_A(B)) = E_{A'}(\phi(B)), \phi(x_i) = r_i a'_i, r_i^n a'_i \in \phi(B)$ . Hence  $x = s_1 \phi(x_1) + \cdots + s_k \phi(x_k) = s_1 r_1 a'_1 + \cdots + s_k r_k a'_k \in \langle E_{A'}(\phi(B)) \rangle$ . i.e.,  $\phi(\langle E_A(B) \rangle) \subseteq \langle E_{A'}(\phi(B)) \rangle$

Conversely, let  $y \in \langle E_{A'}(\phi(B)) \rangle$ . Then,  $y = t_1 a'_1 + \cdots + t_s a'_s, t_i \in R, a'_i \in E_{A'}(\phi(B))$ . Since  $E_{A'}(\phi(B)) = \phi(E_A(B)), a'_i = \phi(r_i a_i)$  and  $r_i a_i \in E_A(B)$ . Thus,  $y = t_1 a'_1 + \cdots + t_s a'_s = t_1 \phi(r_1 a_1) + \cdots + t_s \phi(r_s a_s) = \phi(t_1 r_1 a_1) + \cdots + \phi(t_s r_s a_s) = \phi(t_1 r_1 a_1 + \cdots + t_s r_s a_s) \in \phi(\langle E_A(B) \rangle)$ . Hence  $\langle E_{A'}(\phi(B)) \rangle \subseteq \phi(\langle E_A(B) \rangle)$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.3.** *Let  $A$  and  $A'$  be modules over a ring  $R$  and  $\phi : A \rightarrow A'$  an  $R$ -module epimorphism such that  $B \leq A$  and  $B \supseteq K = \text{Ker}\phi$ .*

*If  $\text{rad}\{B/(B : A)A\} = \langle E_{A/(B:A)A}(B/(B : A)A) \rangle$  in the  $R$ -module  $A/(B : A)A$ , then  $\text{rad}B = \langle E_A(B) \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* Consider an  $R$ -module epimorphism  $\phi : A \rightarrow A/(B : A)A$ . Clearly,  $\text{Ker}\phi = (B : A)A \subseteq B$ . Then we know that  $\text{rad}B =$

$rad\phi^{-1}(B/(B : A)A) = \langle E_A\{\phi^{-1}(B/(B : A)A)\} \rangle$  ([4], Theorem 1.5-(ii)) =  $\langle E_A(B) \rangle$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.4.** *Let  $B$  be a submodule of an  $R$ -module  $A$  such that  $R/(B : A)$  s.t.r.f. Then  $radB = \langle E_A(B) \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $R/(B : A)$  s.t.r.f, every  $R/(B : A)$ -module  $M$  s.t.r.f. Specially  $R/(B : A)$ -module  $A/(B : A)A$  s.t.r.f. Therefore  $rad(B/(B : A)A) = \langle E_{A/(B:A)A}(B/(B : A)A) \rangle$ . Hence  $radB = \langle E_A(B) \rangle$  (Proposition 2.3).

**PROPOSITION 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. If for every free  $R$ -module  $F$ ,  $F$  s.t.r.f then  $R$  s.t.r.f.*

*Proof.* We know that every  $R$ -module  $A$  is the epimorphic image of a free  $R$ -module  $F$ . Hence, there exists an  $R$ -module epimorphism  $\phi : F \rightarrow A$  where  $F$  is a free  $R$ -module.

For any  $B \leq A$ , there exist  $F_1 \leq F$  such that  $\phi(F_1) = B$  and  $F_1 \supseteq Ker\phi$  ([4], Result 1.1). Hence  $radB = rad\phi(F_1) = \phi(radF_1)$  ([4], Corollary 1.3). Since  $F$  s.t.r.f,  $\phi(radF_1) = \phi(\langle E_F(F_1) \rangle) = \langle E_A(\phi(F_1)) \rangle$  (Proposition 2.2) =  $\langle E_A(B) \rangle$ . i.e,  $radB = \langle E_A(B) \rangle$ .

**THEOREM 2.6.** *Let  $A$  be a multiplication  $R$ -module and  $B \leq A$ . Then,  $\langle E_A(B) \rangle = radB$ , i.e,  $A$  satisfies the radical formula.*

*Proof.* It is enough to show that  $radB \subseteq \langle E_A(B) \rangle$  (Proposition 2.1). By Theorem 2.12 of [1],  $rad B = rad(B : A)A$ . Let  $x \in radB$ . Then,  $x = r_1a_1 + \dots + r_na_n$  where  $r_i \in rad(B : A)$  and  $a_i \in A$ . Therefore there exist  $n_i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $r_i^{n_i} \in (B : A)$  and so  $r_i^{n_i}a_i \in B$  for each  $i$ . Thus,  $r_ia_i \in E_A(B)$ . So,  $rad B \subseteq \langle E_A(B) \rangle$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.7.** *Any vector space  $A$  satisfies the radical formula.*

*Proof.* It follows from the fact that any proper subspace of  $A$  is prime submodule ([2], Proposition 2.1) and Proposition 2.1.

### 3. Closed Submodules

Let  $R$  be an integral domain,  $A$  a projective  $R$ -module, and  $A^* = \text{Hom}_R(A, R)$ . Following [7], given  $B \leq A$ , let  $B^\perp = \{f \in A^* \mid B \subseteq \text{Ker} f\}$ . Also, given  $C \subseteq A^*$ , let  $C^\perp = \{a \in A \mid f(a) = 0, \forall f \in C\} = \bigcap_{f \in C} \text{Ker} f$ . In the case  $B = B^{\perp\perp}$ ,  $B$  is said to be closed.

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain,  $A$  a projective  $R$ -module. If  $B, C \leq A$  such that  $B \subseteq C$ , then (1)  $B^\perp \supseteq C^\perp$ , (2)  $B^{\perp\perp} \subseteq C^{\perp\perp}$  and (3)  $B^{\perp\perp}$  is a closure of  $B$ , i.e., the smallest closed submodule containing  $B$ .*

*Proof.* (1) and (2) are clear. Now let's prove (3). Since  $B^\perp = B^{\perp\perp\perp}$  ([7], p67),  $B^{\perp\perp}$  is a closed submodule of  $A$  containing  $B$ . Let  $\bar{B} = \bigcap_{B \subseteq B'} B'$  where  $B'$  is closed. Hence,  $\bar{B} \subseteq B^{\perp\perp}$ .

Conversely, Let  $B'$  be any closed submodule of  $A$  containing  $B$  and  $a \in B^{\perp\perp}$ . Then, by (2),  $a \in B'^{\perp\perp} = B'$ . Thus  $a \in \bar{B}$ .

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $F$  a finite dimensional free  $R$ -module. If  $B \leq F$  is closed then  $KB \neq KF$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $B$  is a proper closed submodule,  $B$  is prime ([4], Lemma 3.1). Therefore if  $KB = KF$  then,  $(B : F) \neq 0$  ([5], Theorem 1.7-(i)). Hence there exists  $r \neq 0 \in R$  such that  $rF \subseteq B$ . For each  $f \in B^\perp$ ,  $rF \subseteq \text{Ker} f$ . Thus  $f(rF) = 0$ . Since  $r \neq 0$  and  $R$  is a domain,  $f(F) = 0$ , i.e.,  $f = 0$ . However  $B = B^{\perp\perp} = \bigcap_{f \in B^\perp} \text{Ker} f = \text{Ker} 0 = F$ , we get a contradiction. So,  $KB \neq KF$ .

**THEOREM 3.3.** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $F$  a finite dimensional free  $R$ -module. Then, for  $B \leq F$ ,  $B^{\perp\perp} = KB \cap F$ , where  $K$  is the quotient field of  $R$ .*

*Proof.* In case  $KB = KF$  we show that  $B^{\perp\perp} = F$  and  $KB \cap F = F$ . Hence we know that  $B^{\perp\perp} = KB \cap F$ . In fact, given  $a \in F$ ,  $a \in KF = KB$  and  $a = \frac{t_1}{r_1} b_1 + \dots + \frac{t_s}{r_s} b_s$  where  $r_i \in R \setminus 0$ ,  $t_i \in R$  and  $b_i \in B$ . Let  $\prod_{i=1}^s r_i = r$ ,  $\hat{r}_i = r_1 \cdots r_{i-1} r_{i+1} \cdots r_s$ . Hence  $ra = t_1 \hat{r}_1 b_1 + \dots + t_s \hat{r}_s b_s$ . For  $f \in B^\perp$ ,  $f(ra) = rf(a) = t_1 \hat{r}_1 f(b_1) + \dots + t_s \hat{r}_s f(b_s) = 0$ . Since  $r \neq 0$ ,  $f(a) = 0$ , i.e.,  $a \in \bigcap_{f \in B^\perp} \text{Ker} f = B^{\perp\perp}$ . Thus  $B^{\perp\perp} = F$ .

In case  $KB \neq KF$ ,  $KB \cap F \neq F$  and  $KB \cap F$  is a prime and  $K(KB \cap F) = KB$  ([5], Theorem 1.9). So,  $K(KB \cap F) \neq KF$  and  $KB \cap F$  is closed ([5], Theorem 3.9). Furthermore  $KB \cap F$  contains  $B$ . By Proposition 3.1,  $B^{\perp\perp} \subseteq KB \cap F$ .

Conversely, if  $f \in B^\perp$ ,  $f : F \rightarrow R$  is an  $R$ -homomorphism. Now  $f$  can be extended to an  $\tilde{f} \in \text{Hom}(KF, K)$  as follows;

$\tilde{f} : KF \rightarrow K$ ,  $\tilde{f}(k_1e_1 + \dots + k_n e_n) = k_1f(e_1) + \dots + k_n f(e_n)$  where  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  is a base of  $F$ . Then  $\tilde{f}|_F = f$ . Thus,  $\forall f \in B^\perp$ ,  $f(B) = 0$ , so  $\tilde{f}(KB) = Kf(B) = 0$ . Therefore  $0 = \tilde{f}(KB \cap F) = f(KB \cap F)$  and so  $KB \cap F \subseteq \ker f$ . i.e,  $KB \cap F \subseteq \bigcap_{f \in B^\perp} \ker f = B^{\perp\perp}$ .

Now we give a partial converse of Theorem 3.2

**THEOREM 3.4.** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $F$  a finite dimensional free  $R$ -module. If  $B$  is a primary submodule of  $F$  such that  $KB \neq KF$ , then  $B$  is closed.*

*Proof.* We know that  $B$  is prime ([5], Theorem 1.7). Therefore  $B = KB \cap F$  ([5], Lemma 1.8). However,  $B^{\perp\perp} = KB \cap F$  (Theorem 3.3). Hence  $B = B^{\perp\perp}$ . i.e,  $B$  is closed.

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