



## Some Remarks on F-weak Multiplication Modules

Hamid Agha Tavallae<sup>1</sup> and Robabeh Mahtabi Oghani

School of Mathematics Iran University of Science and Technology,  
Narmak, Tehran 16844, Iran  
e-mail : tavallae@iust.ac.ir,  
r.mahtabi@gmail.com

**Abstract :** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity and  $M$  be a unitary  $R$ -module. In this work we introduce a weak multiplication module of certain kind and consider various properties of such a module. Also a number of results concerning associated and supported prime submodules of a module are proved.

**Keywords :** Weak multiplication module; Primeful module; Associated prime submodule.

**2010 Mathematics Subject Classification :** 13E05; 13E10; 13C99.

---

### 1 Introduction

In this paper all rings are commutative with identity and all modules are unitary. If  $K$  and  $N$  are submodules of an  $R$ -module  $M$  we recall that  $(N :_R K) = (N : K) = \{r \in R \mid rK \subseteq N\}$ , which is an ideal of  $R$ . A proper submodule  $N$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be prime if for every  $r \in R, x \in M; rx \in N$  implies that  $x \in N$  or  $r \in (N : M)$ . In such a case  $p = (N : M)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$  and  $N$  is said to be  $p$ -prime. An  $R$ -module  $M$  is called a multiplication module if for any submodule  $N$  of  $M$  there exists an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $N = IM$ . Clearly  $M$  is a multiplication module if and only if  $N = (N : M)M$  for any submodule  $N$  of  $M$ . If  $S$  is a non-empty subset of an  $R$ -module  $M$ , the annihilator of  $S$ , denoted by  $Ann_R(S)$  or simply  $Ann(S)$ , is defined as  $\{r \in R \mid rS = 0\}$ . The set of all prime (maximal) submodules of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is denoted by  $Spec(M)$  ( $Max(M)$ ). If

---

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author email: tavallae@iust.ac.ir (H.A. Tavallae)

$R$  is a ring (not necessarily an integral domain) and  $M$  is an  $R$ -module, the subset  $T(M)$  of  $M$  is defined by  $T(M) = \{m \in M \mid \exists r \neq 0, r \in R \text{ such that } rm = 0\}$ . Clearly, if  $R$  is an integral domain then  $T(M)$  is a submodule of  $M$  called the torsion submodule. If  $T(M) = 0$  we say that  $M$  is torsion-free.

In Section 2, we introduce  $F$ -weak multiplication modules and then prove a number different results concerning these modules. Section 3 deals with associated and supported prime ideals (submodules) of a module. Here, among other things, we find the supported prime ideals (submodules) of module  $S^{-1}M$  in terms of supported prime ideals (submodules) of  $M$  itself. Also some relations between the sets of associated prime submodules, supported prime submodules and  $\text{Spec}(M)$  has been found.

## 2 Some basic results

We begin this section with the following definitions which have the main role in the whole work.

**Definition 2.1.** An  $R$ -module  $M$  is called *weak multiplication* if  $\text{Spec}(M) = \emptyset$  or for every prime submodule  $N$  of  $M$  we have  $N = IM$ , where  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$ .

It is clear that every multiplication module is weak multiplication. Also if  $N$  is a  $p$ -prime submodule of a weak multiplication module  $M$  it can be shown that  $N = pM$ .

**Definition 2.2.** An  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be  *$F$ -weak multiplication* if it satisfies the following conditions:

- (1)  $M$  is weak multiplication;
- (2) For every  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$ ,  $pM$  is a prime submodule of  $M$  and  $(pM : M) = p$ .

For example we can show that the  $R$ -module  $M$  is  $F$ -weak multiplication in the following cases:

- (i)  $M$  is a finitely generated multiplication  $R$ -module such that  $\text{Ann}(M) \subseteq p$  for every  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$ . In a very particular case, when  $M$  is a free weak multiplication module, it is  $F$ -weak multiplication module.
- (ii) In (i) we assume  $\text{Ann}_R(M) = 0$ , that is,  $M$  is faithful.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $M$  be an  $F$ -weak multiplication  $R$ -module, where  $R$  is a Noetherian ring. Then the number of minimal prime submodule of  $M$  is finite.*

*Proof.* Let  $0 = Q_1 \cap \dots \cap Q_n$  be a normal primary decomposition of the zero ideal, where  $Q_i$  is  $p_i$ -primary ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ). Then all the minimal prime ideals of  $R$  can be found in the set  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$ . Let  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$ , where  $k \leq n$ , be the set of minimal prime ideals of  $R$ . We know that there is a one-to-one inclusion preserving correspondence between prime ideals of  $R$  and prime submodules of  $M$

in such a way that if  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  corresponds to  $N \in \text{Spec}(M)$  then  $N = pM$  and  $p = (N : M)$ . This implies that  $\{p_1M, \dots, p_kM\}$  is the set of all minimal prime submodules of  $M$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be a non-trivial ring and  $M \neq 0$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  has a maximal submodule.*

*Proof.* We know that  $R$  has a maximal ideal  $\underline{m}$ -say. But  $\underline{m} \in \text{Spec}(R)$  implies that  $\underline{m}M \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and  $(\underline{m}M : M) = \underline{m}$ . Let a submodule  $H$  of  $M$  be such that  $\underline{m}M \subseteq H \subsetneq M$ . By [1, Proposition 3],  $H$  is an  $\underline{m}$ -prime submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is F-weak multiplication,  $H = \underline{m}M$  and so  $\underline{m}M$  is a maximal submodule of  $M$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a non-trivial ring and  $M$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module, then  $IM \neq M$  for each proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an arbitrary proper ideal of  $R$ , then there exists  $\underline{m} \in \text{Max}(R)$  containing  $I$ . Then  $IM \subseteq \underline{m}M \subset M$ , since  $\underline{m}M$  is a prime submodule of  $M$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.6.** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $M$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is torsion-free.*

*Proof.* Let  $T(M) \neq 0$  so there exists a non-zero element  $x \in T(M)$ . Since  $\text{Ann}(x) \neq 0$  there exists  $c \in R$ ,  $c \neq 0$  such that  $cx = 0$ . We know that  $(0) \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and so  $(0)M = 0 \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . Now  $cx = 0$  implies that  $x \in (0)M = 0$  or  $c \in ((0)M : M) = \text{Ann}_R(M) = (0)$ . But  $c \neq 0, x \neq 0$ , a contradiction. Therefore  $T(M) = 0$ , that is,  $M$  is torsion-free.  $\square$

Note that under the hypotheses of above proposition we also conclude that  $M$  is a faithful  $R$ -module.

**Corollary 2.7.** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $M$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module. Then every proper direct summand of  $M$  is prime. Hence  $M$  is indecomposable.*

*Proof.* By the preceding proposition  $M$  is torsion-free and by [1, Result 1], every direct summand of  $M$  is a prime submodule. Now we show that  $M$  is indecomposable. If  $M = M_1 \oplus M_2$  where  $M_1, M_2 \neq 0$  then by the current form of the corollary,  $M_1$  is a  $p$ -prime for some prime ideal  $p$  of  $R$ . Thus  $M_1 = pM = pM_1 \oplus pM_2$ . Hence  $pM_2 = 0$ . Since  $M$  is torsion-free and  $M_2 \neq 0$ , we have  $p = 0$  and hence  $M_1 = 0$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.8.** *Let  $M$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module and let  $I \trianglelefteq R$ ,  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$ . If  $IM \subseteq pM$  then  $I \subseteq p$ .*

*Proof.* If  $IM \subseteq pM$  then  $(IM : pM) \subseteq (pM : M)$ . But  $(pM : M) = p$  and clearly  $I \subseteq (IM : M)$ . Therefore  $I \subseteq p$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.9.** An  $R$ -module  $M$  is called *primeful*, if  $M = 0$  or the natural map of  $\text{Spec}(M)$  is surjective.

We recall that the natural map of  $\text{Spec}(M)$  is defined as follows:

$$\psi : \text{Spec}(M) \rightarrow \text{Spec}\left(\frac{R}{\text{Ann}_R(M)}\right) \text{ such that } \psi(P) = \frac{(P : M)}{\text{Ann}_R(M)}, \forall P \in \text{Spec}(M).$$

**Proposition 2.10.** *Let  $M$  be an  $F$ -weak multiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a primeful  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* Let  $M \neq 0$  and  $\psi$  be the natural map of  $\text{Spec}(M)$ . We show that  $\psi$  is a surjection. Let  $\frac{p'}{\text{Ann}_R(M)} \in \text{Spec}\left(\frac{R}{\text{Ann}_R(M)}\right)$ , where  $p' \in \text{Spec}(R)$  is such that  $\text{Ann}_R(M) \subseteq p'$ . Thus  $p'M \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and  $(p'M : M) = p'$ . Hence  $\frac{p'}{\text{Ann}_R(M)} = \frac{(p'M : M)}{\text{Ann}_R(M)} = \psi(p'M)$  and therefore  $M$  is primeful.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.11.** *Let  $M$  be a non-zero free  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a primeful  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* It is clear that  $\text{Ann}_R(M) = 0$ . Now we use [2, Result 1.4] to see that the natural map of  $\text{Spec}(M)$  is surjective.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.12.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $\psi : \text{Spec}(M) \rightarrow \text{Spec}\left(\frac{R}{\text{Ann}_R(M)}\right)$  be the natural map of  $\text{Spec}(M)$ . Then  $M$  is  $F$ -weak multiplication in the following cases:*

- (i)  $M$  is a free  $R$ -module and  $\psi$  is injective.
- (ii)  $M$  is a faithful weak multiplication  $R$ -module and  $\psi$  is surjective.

*Proof.* (i) Since  $M$  is free, for every  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  we have  $pM \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and  $(pM : M) = p$ . It remains to show that  $M$  is weak multiplication. It is clear that  $\text{Ann}_R(M) = 0$  and so by the hypothesis  $\psi : \text{Spec}(M) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R)$  is injective. Let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . We show that  $P = (P : M)M$ . Since  $\psi(P) = (P : M) \in \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $M$  is free we have  $(P : M)M \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and hence  $\psi(P) = \psi((P : M)M)$ . But  $\psi$  is injective and hence  $P = (P : M)M$ .

(ii) It is enough to show that for every  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$ ,  $pM \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and  $(pM : M) = p$ . Since  $\text{Ann}_R(M) = 0$ , by the hypothesis  $\psi : \text{Spec}(M) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R)$  is surjective and hence for every  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  there exists  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$  such that  $\psi(P) = (P : M) = p$ . But  $P = (P : M)M = pM$  and so  $P = pM \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . Also  $(pM : M) = (P : M) = p$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.13.** *Let  $M$  be an  $F$ -weak multiplication  $R$ -module such that every prime submodule of  $M$  is finitely generated. Then  $M$  is a Noetherian module.*

*Proof.* We assume that  $M \neq 0$ . By Proposition 2.4,  $M$  has a maximal submodule  $L$ -say. Since  $L \subsetneq M$  there exists  $x \in M \setminus L$  and by the maximal property of  $L$  we have  $M = L + Rx$ . By [1, Proposition 4],  $L$  is a prime submodule of  $M$  and as a result finitely generated. Therefore  $M = L + Rx$  is also finitely generated. Now by [3, Theorem 2.7],  $M$  is a multiplication  $R$ -module. The result follows by [4, Theorem 3.2].  $\square$

**Definition 2.14.** An  $R$ -module  $M$  is called a *prime cancellation module* or a *p-cancellation module* if for every  $p, q \in \text{Spec}(R)$ ,  $pM = qM$  implies that  $p = q$ .

**Proposition 2.15.** *Let  $M$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a p-cancellation module.*

*Proof.* This is a particular case of Proposition 2.8.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.16.** *Let  $M$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module and let  $M'$  be an  $R$ -module. Let  $\phi : M \rightarrow M'$  be an epimorphism such that  $\ker \phi$  is contained in every prime submodules of  $M$ . Then  $M'$  is an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* First, let  $L'$  be an arbitrary prime submodules of  $M'$ . Then there exists a prime submodule  $L$  of  $M$  such that  $\phi(L) = L'$  and so  $\phi^{-1}(L') = L$ . Since  $M$  is F-weak multiplication, there exists an ideal  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  such that  $pM = L$ . Hence  $L = pM = \phi^{-1}(L')$  implies that  $\phi(pM) = L'$ , that is,  $p\phi(M) = L'$  which means  $pM' = L'$ . Therefore  $M'$  is a weak multiplication  $R$ -module.

Second, let  $p \in \text{Spec}(R)$  be an arbitrary prime ideal, we must prove that  $pM' \in \text{Spec}(M')$  and  $(pM' : M') = p$ . But  $pM' = p\phi(M) = \phi(pM) \leq M'$ . Since  $M$  is F-weak multiplication, then  $pM \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and so  $pM' = \phi(pM) \in \text{Spec}(M')$ . Now we must prove that  $(pM' : M') = p$ . Obviously,  $p \subseteq (pM' : M')$ . We show that  $(pM' : M') \subseteq p$ . But  $(pM' : M') = (p\phi(M) : \phi(M)) = (\phi(pM) : \phi(M))$ . Let  $r \in (pM' : M') = (\phi(pM) : \phi(M))$ , so  $r\phi(M) \subseteq \phi(pM)$ , that is,  $\phi(rM) \subseteq \phi(pM)$ . Since  $rM \subseteq \phi^{-1}(\phi(rM)) \subseteq \phi^{-1}(\phi(pM)) = \phi^{-1}(p\phi(M)) = \phi^{-1}(pM') = p\phi^{-1}(M') = pM$ , then  $rM \subseteq pM$  and so  $r \in (pM : M) = p$ . Therefore  $(pM' : M') \subseteq p$ .

Hence,  $(pM' : M') = p$  and so  $M'$  is an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.17.** *Let  $M$  be an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module and  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$  such that  $N$  is contained in every prime submodule of  $M$ . Then  $\frac{M}{N}$  is an F-weak multiplication  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* The proof is clear by the above theorem.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.18.** *Let  $\{M_i\}, 1 \leq i \leq n$ , be a collection of  $R$ -modules. If  $M = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n M_i$  is a weak multiplication  $R$ -module, then for every  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $M_i$  is a weak multiplication  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* We define the map  $\phi_i$  as follows:

$$\phi_i : M = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n M_i \longrightarrow M_i, \quad (\forall i = 1, \dots, n) \text{ by}$$

$$\phi_i(m_1, \dots, m_n) = m_i, \quad \forall (m_1, \dots, m_n) \in \bigoplus_{i=1}^n M_i.$$

Since  $\phi_i$  is an epimorphism, the result follows by the first part of the proof of Theorem 2.16.  $\square$

### 3 Associated and supported primes

We recall some definitions and notions which are needed in the sequel.

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module.

- (i) The prime ideal  $p$  of  $R$  is called an *associated prime ideal* of  $M$  if for some non-zero  $x \in M$ ,  $p = (0 : x) = \text{Ann}_R(x)$ . The set of all associated prime ideals of  $M$  is denoted by  $\text{Ass}_R(M)$ .
- (ii) The prime ideal  $p$  of  $R$  is called a *supported prime ideal* of  $M$  if  $M_p \neq 0$ . The set of all such prime ideals is denoted by  $\text{Supp}_R(M)$ , that is,  $\text{Supp}_R(M) = \{p \in \text{Spec}(R) \mid M_p \neq 0\}$ .

It can be proved that

$$\text{Supp}_R(M) = \{p \in \text{Spec}(R) \mid p \supseteq (0 : x) \text{ for some } x \in M, x \neq 0\}.$$

It is clear that  $\text{Ass}_R(M) \subseteq \text{Supp}_R(M)$ . Also for a Noetherian ring  $R$ ,  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$  if and only if  $p \supseteq q$  for some  $q \in \text{Ass}_R(M)$ , see [5, Chapter IV, Proposition 7].

**Definition 3.2.** Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $p$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ . We define

$$M(p) = \{x \in M \mid sx \in pM \text{ for some } s \in R \setminus p\}.$$

Clearly  $M(p)$  is a submodule of  $M$ . Also we recall that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be *weakly finitely generated* if for any  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$  the submodule  $M(p)$  is proper. In this situation it can be shown that  $M(p)$  is a  $p$ -prime submodule of  $M$ .

**Definition 3.3.** Let  $M$  be a weakly finitely generated  $R$ -module. The sets of *associated* and *supported prime submodules* of  $M$  are defined, respectively, as follows:

$$\text{Ass}_P(M) = \{M(p) \mid p \in \text{Ass}_R(M)\} \text{ and } \text{Supp}_P(M) = \{M(p) \mid p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)\}.$$

**Lemma 3.4.** Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring and  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then the sets of minimal elements of  $\text{Ass}_R(M)$  and that of  $\text{Supp}_R(M)$  are equal.

*Proof.* It is clear that  $Ass_R(M) \subseteq Supp_R(M)$ . If  $p_0 \in Ass_R(M)$  is minimal in  $Supp_R(M)$ , then  $p_0$  is minimal in  $Ass_R(M)$ . Because if  $p \in Ass_R(M)$  and  $p \subset p_0$ , since  $p_0 \in Supp_R(M)$ , this contradicts the minimality of  $p_0$  in  $Supp_R(M)$ . Let  $p \in Ass_R(M)$  be minimal in  $Ass_R(M)$ . If there exists  $q_0 \in Supp_R(M)$  such that  $q_0 \subset p$ , then there exists  $p_0 \in Ass_R(M)$  such that  $p_0 \subseteq q_0$ . But then  $p_0 \subset p$ , a contradiction to minimality of  $p$  in  $Ass_R(M)$ . Therefore  $p$  is minimal in  $Supp_R(M)$ . Finally, we can show that no element of  $Supp_R(M) \setminus Ass_R(M)$  can be minimal in  $Supp_R(M)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $M$  be an  $F$ -weak multiplication  $R$ -module. Then:*

- (i)  $Spec(R) = Supp_R(M)$ ,  $Spec(M) = Supp_P(M)$  and the map  $p \mapsto pM$  is an order preserving bijection from  $Supp_R(M)$  to  $Supp_P(M)$ , under which  $Ass_R(M)$  is mapped to  $Ass_P(M)$ .
- (ii) If  $R$  is an integral domain, then  $Ass_P(M) = 0$ .
- (iii) If  $R$  is Noetherian, then minimal elements of  $Supp_P(M)$  and  $Ass_P(M)$  coincide.

*Proof.* (i): Let  $\phi : Spec(R) \rightarrow Spec(M)$  be the map defined by  $\phi(p) = pM$ . By the definition of an  $F$ -weak multiplication module and Proposition 2.15, it is clear that  $\phi$  is an order preserving bijection. Also for every prime ideal  $p$  of  $R$ , we have  $M(p) = pM$  which is a prime submodule, thus  $\phi(Supp_R(M)) = Supp_P(M)$  and  $\phi(Ass_R(M)) = Ass_P(M)$ . Thus to prove (i) we just need to show that  $Supp_R(M) = Spec(R)$ . Let  $p$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ . Since  $pM$  is  $p$ -prime,  $(pM)_p$  is a prime (and hence proper) submodule of  $M_p$ . Therefore  $M_p \neq 0$  and  $p \in Supp_R(M)$ .

(ii): By (i), it is sufficient to show that  $Ass_R(M) = 0$ . But by Proposition 2.6,  $M$  is torsion-free and hence  $Ann_R(m) = 0$  for every  $0 \neq m \in M$ .

(iii): It follows from part (i) and Lemma 3.4.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $M$  be a finitely generated multiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $Supp_P(M) = Spec(M)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $M$  is finitely generated multiplication as an  $R$ -module, then it is so as an  $\frac{R}{Ann_R(M)}$ -module. Also  $Spec(M)$  and  $Supp_P(M)$  remain the same if we consider  $M$  as  $\frac{R}{Ann_R(M)}$ -module. Thus we just need to prove the claim for faithful modules. But a faithful finitely generated multiplication module is  $F$ -weak multiplication and hence the claim holds by (i) of the above theorem.  $\square$

In the rest of our work we prove some results in which the  $R$ -module  $M$  is not necessarily  $F$ -weak multiplication.

**Lemma 3.7.** *Let  $S$  be a multiplicatively closed subset of a ring  $R$  and let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then the set of supported prime ideals of the  $S^{-1}R$ -module  $S^{-1}M$  is equal to:*

$$Supp_{S^{-1}R}(S^{-1}M) = \{S^{-1}p \mid p \in Supp_R(M) \text{ and } p \cap S = \emptyset\}.$$

*Proof.* We recall that

$$\text{Supp}_R(M) = \{p \in \text{Spec}(R) \mid p \supseteq (0 : x) = \text{Ann}_R(x) \text{ for some } 0 \neq x \in M\}.$$

Let  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$  and  $p \cap S = \emptyset$ . Then  $p \supseteq \text{Ann}_R(x)$  for some  $x \in M$ ,  $x \neq 0$ . Hence  $S^{-1}p \supseteq S^{-1}(\text{Ann}_R(x))$  and  $S^{-1}(\text{Ann}_R(x)) = S^{-1}(\text{Ann}_R(Rx)) = \text{Ann}(S^{-1}(Rx))$ . It is easy to show that  $\text{Ann}(S^{-1}(Rx)) = \text{Ann}(\frac{x}{s})$ , where  $s \in S$  (here  $\frac{x}{s} \neq 0$  since  $p \cap S = \emptyset$ ). Therefore  $S^{-1}p \supseteq \text{Ann}(\frac{x}{s})$  and so  $S^{-1}p \in \text{Supp}_{S^{-1}R}(S^{-1}M)$ .

Conversely, let  $p' \in \text{Supp}_{S^{-1}R}(S^{-1}M)$  then  $p' \supseteq \text{Ann}(\bar{x})$  for some  $\bar{x} \in S^{-1}M$ ,  $\bar{x} \neq 0$ . We know there exists a prime ideal  $p$  of  $R$  such that  $S^{-1}p = p'$  ( $p$  is the contraction of  $p'$  in  $R$ ). We have  $p' \supseteq \text{Ann}(S^{-1}(Rx)) = S^{-1}(\text{Ann}(Rx)) = S^{-1}(\text{Ann}(x))$  and so  $S^{-1}p \supseteq S^{-1}(\text{Ann}(x))$ . This implies  $p^S \supseteq (\text{Ann}(x))^S$ , the  $S$ -components of  $p$  and  $\text{Ann}(x)$ , respectively. But  $p^S = p$  and hence  $p \supseteq (\text{Ann}(x))^S$ . But  $\text{Ann}_R(x) \subseteq (\text{Ann}_R(x))^S$  and consequently  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $S$  be a multiplicatively closed subset of a ring  $R$  and let  $M$  be a weakly finitely generated  $R$ -module. Then the set of supported prime submodules of the  $S^{-1}R$ -module  $S^{-1}M$  is equal to:*

$$\text{Supp}_P(S^{-1}M) = \{S^{-1}Q \mid Q \in \text{Supp}_P(M), (Q : M) \cap S = \emptyset\}.$$

*Proof.* We recall that

$$\text{Supp}_P(M) = \{M(p) \mid p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)\},$$

$$\text{Supp}_P(S^{-1}M) = \{M(p') \mid p' \in \text{Supp}_{S^{-1}R}(S^{-1}M)\}.$$

Since  $M$  is a weakly finitely generated  $R$ -module hence for every  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$  the submodule  $M(p)$  is  $p$ -prime. Let  $M(p') \in \text{Supp}_P(S^{-1}M)$ . But  $p' \in \text{Supp}_{S^{-1}R}(S^{-1}M)$  and so  $p' = S^{-1}p$ , where  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$  and  $p \cap S = \emptyset$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} M(S^{-1}p) &= M(p') \\ &= \{x' \in S^{-1}M \mid s'x' \in S^{-1}pS^{-1}M \text{ for some } s' \in S^{-1}R \setminus S^{-1}p\} \\ &= \{x' \in S^{-1}M \mid s'x' \in S^{-1}(pM) \text{ for some } s' \in S^{-1}(R \setminus p)\} \\ &= \left\{ \frac{x}{s} \in S^{-1}M \mid x \in M, s \in S, \frac{\sigma}{\gamma} \cdot \frac{x}{s} \in S^{-1}(pM) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \text{for some } \sigma \in R \setminus p, \gamma \in S \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now  $\sigma x \in pM$ ,  $\sigma \in R \setminus p$  and  $x \in M$  imply that  $x \in M(p)$ . Hence

$$M(S^{-1}p) = \left\{ \frac{x}{s} \in S^{-1}M(p) \mid x \in M(p), s \in S \right\} = S^{-1}\bar{p},$$

where  $\bar{p} = M(p) \in \text{Supp}_P(M)$ . Finally we have  $(\bar{p} : M) \cap S = (M(p) : M) \cap S = p \cap S = \emptyset$ .  $\square$



**Proposition 3.9.** *Let  $M$  be a weakly finitely generated  $R$ -module and let  $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$  be a subset of the set of minimal elements of  $Supp_R(M)$ . If  $p_1 \dots p_n M = 0$  then  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are the only minimal elements of  $Supp_R(M)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $p_1 \dots p_n M = 0$  we have  $p_1 \dots p_n \subseteq Ann_R(M)$ . Now let  $p$  be any minimal element of  $Supp_R(M)$ . Then  $p \supseteq Ann_R(x)$  for some  $x \in M, x \neq 0$ . Hence  $p_1 \dots p_n \subseteq Ann_R(M) \subseteq Ann_R(x) \subseteq p$ . This implies  $p_i \subseteq p$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . But by minimality of  $p$  we have  $p = p_i$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.10.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring and let  $\{M_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a family of  $R$ -modules in which  $M_i$  is weakly finitely generated for every  $i \in I$ . Then:*

$$Ass_P \left( \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \right) = \left\{ \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i(p) \mid M_j(p) \in Ass_P(M_j) \text{ for some } j \in I \right\}.$$

*Proof.* Since each  $M_i$  is weakly finitely generated, for any  $p \in Supp_R(M_i)$ , the submodule  $M_i(p)$  is  $p$ -prime. Now we have,

$$\begin{aligned} Ass_P \left( \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \right) &= \left\{ \left( \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \right) (p) \mid p \in Ass_R \left( \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \right) \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i(p) \mid p \in Ass_R \left( \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \right) \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i(p) \mid p \in \bigcup_{i \in I} Ass_R(M_i) \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i(p) \mid p \in Ass_R(M_j) \text{ for some } j \in I \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

and by using the definition of  $Ass_P(M)$ , for an  $R$ -module  $M$ , we have

$$Ass_P \left( \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \right) = \left\{ \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i(p) \mid M_j(p) \in Ass_P(M_j) \text{ for some } j \in I \right\}.$$

The proof is now complete.  $\square$

Here we recall that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is called a *quasi multiplication module* if  $M(p) = pM$ , for all  $p \in Supp_R(M)$ . Also it is clear that every  $F$ -weak multiplication  $R$ -module is a quasi multiplication module.

**Theorem 3.11.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring and  $M$  be a quasi multiplication  $R$ -module. Let  $p \in Spec(R)$  be such that  $M(p) \in Spec(M)$ . Then  $M(p) \in Supp_P(M)$  if and only if  $M(p) \supseteq Q$  for some  $Q \in Ass_P(M)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $M(p) \in \text{Supp}_P(M)$  then  $M(p) = pM$  and  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$ . Since  $R$  is Noetherian,  $p \supseteq q$  for some  $q \in \text{Ass}_R(M)$ . But  $Q = M(q) = qM \in \text{Ass}_P(M)$ . Hence  $pM \supseteq qM$  implies that  $M(p) \supseteq Q$ . On the other hand, let  $M(p) \supseteq Q$  for some  $Q \in \text{Ass}_P(M)$ . Then  $Q = M(q) = qM$  for some  $q \in \text{Ass}_R(M)$ . But  $M(p) \supseteq Q$  implies that  $(M(p) : M) \supseteq (Q : M)$ , that is,  $p \supseteq q$ . Also  $q = \text{Ann}_R(x)$  for some  $x \in M$ ,  $x \neq 0$ . Therefore we have  $p \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$  and hence  $M(p) \in \text{Supp}_P(M)$ .  $\square$

**Acknowledgements :** We would like to thank the referees for his comments and suggestions on the manuscript.

## References

- [1] C.P. Lu, Prime submodules of modules, *Comment. Math. Univ. Sancti Pauli* 33 (1) (1984) 61–69.
- [2] R.L. McCasland, M.E. Moore, Prime submodules, *Comm. in Algebra* 20 (6) (1992) 1803–1817.
- [3] A. Azizi, Weak multiplication modules, *Czech. Math. J.* 53 (2003) 529–536.
- [4] A. Gaur, A.K. Maloo, A. Parkash, Prime submodules in multiplication modules, *Int. J. Algebra* 1 (8) (2007) 375–380.
- [5] N. Bourbaki, *Commutative algebra, Elements of Mathematics, Chap. 1-7*, Springer-Verlag, 1989.

(Received 17 February 2010)

(Accepted 12 April 2011)