

# TORSION THEORIES AND PRIMARY DECOMPOSITION OF MODULES

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## Abstract

In this paper, the author obtains the following result: If  $R$  is a left semi-artinian max ring, then the primary decomposition theorem holds for all  $R$ -modules if and only if  $\text{Ext}(S_1, S_2) = 0$  for any non-isomorphic simple modules  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . By means of the primary decomposition of modules, the author proves: All torsion theories of  ${}_R\mu$  are simple type if and only if  $R$  is a left semi-artinian max ring and  $\text{Ext}(S_1, S_2) = 0$  for any non-isomorphic simple modules  $S_1, S_2$ .

It is well known that many torsion-theoretic results are obtained for hereditary torsion theories. Thus it is desirable to characterize ring  $R$  such that all torsion theories of  ${}_R\mu$ , the category of unitary left  $R$ -modules, are hereditary. K. Ohtake<sup>[1]</sup> has given an answer to this problem in the case of commutative rings. We shall answer the question in the case of left semi-artinian rings, and characterize ring  $R$  such that every torsion theory of  ${}_R\mu$  is simple type. In § 2 we establish a primary decomposition theorem, which is a generalization of Bronowitz and Teply's result<sup>[2]</sup>. It will be of interest in other situations.

## § 1. Preliminaries

Throughout this paper,  $R$  denotes an associative ring with identity and  ${}_R\mu$  the category of unitary left  $R$ -modules.

In [3], Dickson defined a torsion theory on  ${}_R\mu$  to be pair  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{F})$  of classes of modules such that:

- (1)  $\mathcal{T} \cap \mathcal{F} = 0$ ;
- (2)  $N \subseteq M$  and  $M \in \mathcal{T}$  imply  $M/N \in \mathcal{T}$ ;
- (3)  $N \subseteq M$  and  $M \in \mathcal{F}$  imply  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ;
- (4) For each  $M \in {}_R\mu$ , there exists a unique submodule  $M_t$  of  $M$  such that  $M_t \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $M/M_t \in \mathcal{F}$ .

The class  $\mathcal{T}$  is called the torsion class and  $\mathcal{F}$  the torsionfree class.  $M_t$  is called

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the  $\mathcal{T}$ -torsion submodule of  $M$ . A torsion class  $\mathcal{T}$ , and the associated torsion theory  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{F})$ , is called hereditary if  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under submodules.

Let  $\varphi$  be a complete set of representatives of the non-isomorphic simple  $R$ -modules. A torsion theory  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{F})$  is said to be simple type if  $\mathcal{T}$  is generated by a subset of  $\varphi$ <sup>[2,4]</sup>. For each  $S \in \varphi$ , we say that the  $R$ -module  $M$  is  $S$ -primary, if each non-zero homomorphic image of  $M$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $S$ . A ring  $R$  is said to have primary decomposition<sup>[5,6]</sup> if, for each  $M \in \mathcal{T}_\varphi$ , the torsion class generated by  $\varphi$ ,  $M = \bigoplus_{S \in \varphi} M_S$ , where  $M_S$  is the  $S$ -primary submodule of  $M$ .

Goldie's torsion class  $\mathcal{U}$  for  ${}_R\mu$ <sup>[7,8]</sup> is the smallest torsion class containing all modules  $M/N$ , where  $N$  is an essential submodule of  $M$ . The torsionfree class  $\mathcal{N}$  associated with  $\mathcal{U}$  is precisely the class of non-singular modules.  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{N})$  is called Goldie's torsion theory.

A ring  $R$  is called left semi-artinian<sup>[9]</sup> if non-zero  $R$ -modules have non-zero socles. In this case  $\mathcal{T}_\varphi = {}_R\mu$ . A ring  $R$  is said to be a left max ring if every left module has a maximal submodule.

## § 2. The Primary Decomposition

**Lemma 2.1.**<sup>[5]</sup> *A ring  $R$  has a primary decomposition if and only if, for any  $R$ -module  $M$  and simple  $R$ -module  $S_0 \in \varphi$ , the extension of the form*

$$0 \rightarrow \sum_{S \neq S_0} M_S \rightarrow X \rightarrow S_0 \rightarrow 0$$

*is split exactly.*

In this section, our main result is the following

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a left semiartinian max ring, then  $R$  has a primary decomposition if and only if for any non-isomorphic simple modules  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ .*

To prove the theorem, the following two lemmas will be needed.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $X \in {}_R\mu$  and  $I = \bigcap \{L \subseteq X : L \neq 0, X/L \in \mathcal{U}\}$ . Then  $I \in \mathcal{N}$ . Here  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{N})$  is the Goldie's torsion theory for  ${}_R\mu$ .*

*Proof* By Zorn's lemma, there exists a submodule  $J$  of  $X$  maximal with respect to  $J \cap \mathcal{U}(I) = 0$ , then  $J + \mathcal{U}(I)$  is essential in  $X$ . Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \frac{J + \mathcal{U}(I)}{J} \rightarrow \frac{X}{J} \rightarrow \frac{X}{J + \mathcal{U}(I)} \rightarrow 0.$$

Since  $\mathcal{U}$  is closed under extension,  $X/J \in \mathcal{U}$ .  $J \supseteq I$  by the definition of  $I$ , and hence  $\mathcal{U}(I) = 0$  since  $J \supseteq I \supseteq \mathcal{U}(I)$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $S_0 \in \varphi$ . Then  $\text{Hom}(S_0, \prod_A M_S / \sum_A M_S) = 0$  for any module  $M$ , where  $M_S$  is the  $S$ -primary submodule of  $M$ , and  $A$  may be any subset of  $\varphi - \{S_0\}$ .*

*Proof* Suppose, to the contrary, that  $S_0$  is isomorphic to the submodule  $R((x_a))$

$+\sum_A M_s$ ) of  $\prod_A M_s/\sum_A M_s$ . Let  $N=(\sum_A M_s:(x_a))$ . Then  $R/N \cong S_0$ . For every  $n \in N$ ,  $n(x_a) \in \sum_A M_s$ , and so  $nx_a=0$  for all but finitely many  $a \in A$ . Hence  $N \subseteq \sum_{a \in A} (0:x_a)$ . Thus  $N = \sum_{a \in A} (0:x_a)$ , since  $R \neq \sum_{a \in A} (0:x_a)$ .

Finally,  $S_0 \cong R/N = R/\sum_{a \in A} (0:x_a)$ . This is a contradiction since  $R/(0:x_a) \cong S \neq S_0$  for each  $a \in A$ . Hence  $\text{Hom}(S_0, \prod_A M_s/\sum_A M_s) = 0$ .

*Proof of the theorem 2.2*

The necessity is obvious by Lemma 2.1.

We show that the condition in the theorem is sufficient.

Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $S_0 \in \varphi$ . Let  $X = \prod_{S \neq S_0} M_S$  and  $Y = \sum_{S \neq S_0} M_S$ . By Lemma 2.1 it is sufficient to show  $\text{Ext}(S_0, Y) = 0$ .

Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow Y \rightarrow X \rightarrow X/Y \rightarrow 0.$$

We get the exact sequence

$$\text{Hom}(S_0, X/Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}(S_0, Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}(S_0, X).$$

By Lemma 2.4  $\text{Hom}(S_0, X/Y) = 0$ . Thus it is sufficient to show  $\text{Ext}(S_0, X) = 0$ .

By noting that  $\text{Ext}(S_0, X) = \text{Ext}(S_0, \prod_{S \neq S_0} M_S) = \prod_{S \neq S_0} \text{Ext}(S_0, M_S)$ , it is clear that  $\text{Ext}(S_0, X) = 0$  if  $\text{Ext}(S_0, M_S) = 0$  for all  $S$ -primary modules, where  $S \in \varphi$ ,  $S \neq S_0$ .

Consider an exact sequence

$$(*) \quad 0 \rightarrow M_S \rightarrow W \rightarrow S_0 \rightarrow 0.$$

If  $M_S$  is not essential in  $W$ , then there exists a submodule  $N$  of  $W$  such that  $N \cap M_S = 0$ . Thus  $W = M_S \oplus N$  and hence  $W$  has a submodule  $N$  isomorphic to  $S_0$ . This means that the sequence  $(*)$  splits.

If  $M_S$  is essential in  $W$ , then  $I = \bigcap \{L \subseteq W: L \neq 0, W/L \in \mathcal{U}\}$  is in  $\mathcal{N}$  by Lemma 2.3, and  $S \subseteq I$  since  $R$  is left semi-artinian and  $M_S$  is  $S$ -primary, thus  $S \in \mathcal{N}$ . By [10],  $S$  is a projective module. Since  $R$  is a max ring, there exists a maximal submodule  $K_S$  of  $M_S$  such that  $M_S/K_S \cong S$ , and hence  $M_S = S \oplus K_S$ , since  $S$  is projective. It is not difficult to show that  $M_S = M_0 \oplus K_S$ , since  $S$  is projective. It is not difficult to show that  $M_S = M_0 \oplus \text{Soc } M_S$ , since  $\text{Soc } M_S = \Sigma S$ . Since  $R$  is left semi-artinian,  $M_S$  is an essential extension of  $\text{Soc } M_S$ , and hence  $M_S = \text{Soc } M_S$ .

As before, we get an exact sequence

$$\text{Hom}(S_0, \Pi S/\Sigma S) \rightarrow \text{Ext}(S_0, \Sigma S) \rightarrow \text{Ext}(S_0, \Pi S).$$

By Lemma 2.4,  $\text{Hom}(S_0, \Pi S/\Sigma S) = 0$ .

On the other hand,  $\text{Ext}(S_0, \Pi S) = \Pi \text{Ext}(S_0, S) = 0$ , since  $S \neq S_0$ . Hence  $\text{Ext}(S_0, M_S) = 0$ . Thus the sequence  $(*)$  splits and so the proof is complete.

### § 3. Torsion Theory

**Theorem 3. 1.** *All torsion theories of  $R$  are simple type if and only if*

- (1)  *$R$  is a left semi-artinian ring;*
- (2)  *$R$  is a max ring;*
- (3)  *$\text{Ext}(S_1, S_2) = 0$  for any non-isomorphic simple modules  $S_1, S_2$ .*

*Proof* Necessity. See [2].

Sufficiency. Let  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}_+)$  be a torsion theory. It is sufficient to show that  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}_+)$  is hereditary since  $R$  is left semi-artinian.

Let  $M \in \mathcal{T}$ , and let  $S$  be a simple shbmodule of  $M$ . If we choose  $N \subseteq M$ , maximal with respect to  $N \cap S = 0$ , then  $S$  is essential in  $M/N$ . By Theorem 2.2,  $R$  has a primary decomposition. So  $M/N$  is a  $S$ -primary module. By (2), there exists a maximal submodule  $M'/N \subseteq M/N$ , then  $M/M' \cong S$ , and hence  $S \in \mathcal{T}$  since  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under homomorphic image.

Let  $\Delta = \{S: S \text{ is a simple } R\text{-module and } S \subseteq M/N \text{ for some } N \subseteq M\}$ . Then  $M \in \mathcal{T}_\Delta$  since  $R$  is left semi-artinian, where  $\mathcal{T}_\Delta$  is the torsion theory generated by  $\Delta$ . By the preceding paragraphs,  $\Delta \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ ; so  $\mathcal{T}_\Delta \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ . It follows that any submodule of  $M$  is in  $\mathcal{T}_\Delta$  since  $\mathcal{T}_\Delta$  is hereditary. Thus  $\mathcal{T}$  is hereditary and the proof is complete.

In the process of the proof of Theorem 3.1, we also prove the following

**Theorem 3. 2.** *Let  $R$  be a left semi-artinian ring. Then all torsion theories are hereditary if and only if*

- (i)  *$R$  is a max ring;*
- (ii)  *$\text{Ext}(S_1, S_2) = 0$  for any non-isomorphic simple modules  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ .*

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