# SOME ASPECTS OF E-SECONDARY SUBMODULES

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Abstract Let R be a commutative ring with unity and M be an R-module. The aim of this article is to introduce and investigate certain properties of a new class of submodules namely e-secondary submodules. A submodule N of M is said to be e-secondary if the endomorphism given by multiplication by a,  $a \in R$ , that is,  $f : N \to N$  such that f(N) = aN, then either  $aN \leq_e M$  or  $a^t N = 0$ , for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . This notion is then further extended to introduce fully e-secondary submodules of a module.

## **1** Introduction

Let R be a ring with unity and M be an R-module. A non-zero submodule N of M is called essential if  $N \cap L \neq \{0\}$  for every non-zero submodule L of M [4]. A non-zero submodule S of M is said to be secondary if for each  $a \in R$ , the endomorphism of S given by multiplication by a is either surjective or nilpotent [12]. A non-zero submodule S of M is said to be second if for each  $a \in R$ , the homomorphism of S given by multiplication by a is either surjective or zero [17]. A submodule N of M is called closed if N has no proper essential extention in M, i.e, if N  $\leq_e K \leq M$  then N = K [4]. A module M is called uniform if the intersection of any two non-zero submodules of M is non-zero [18]. The R-module M is called faithful if rM = 0 (r  $\in$  R) implies r = 0 [6].

The first section of this article investigates various properties of e-secondary submodules and its relation with other classes of modules. The second section further extends the notion of e-secondary submodules to fully e-secondary submodules. The intersection and direct sum of fully e-secondary submodules have been discussed. A module M is called a multiplication module if every submodule N of M can be expressed as N = IM for some ideal I of R [7]. The third section of this paper deals with the behaviour of e-secondary submodules in multiplication modules.

Throughout this article, R will denote a commutative ring with unity and  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}$  denotes the set of integers, rationals and reals respectively.

## 2 e-secondary submodules of a module

In this section we define e-secondary submodules of a module. Certain properties of this class of modules is studied and its connection with other types of modules is investigated.

**Definition 2.1.** Let M be an R-module. A submodule N of M is said to be e-secondary if the endomorphism given by multiplication by a,  $a \in R$ , that is,  $f : N \to N$  such that f(N) = aN, then  $aN \leq_e M$  or  $a^t N = 0$ , for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Examples:

1)  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ ;  $M = \mathbb{Z}$ ;  $N = n\mathbb{Z}$  where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Consider  $f : n\mathbb{Z} \to n\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $f(n\mathbb{Z}) = an\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(a \in \mathbb{Z})$ . When a = 0, we get  $an\mathbb{Z} = 0$  and  $an\mathbb{Z} \leq_e \mathbb{Z}$  when  $a \neq 0$ .

2) Consider the  $\mathbb{Z}$  module  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ . Submodules of  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  are :  $\{0\} = I$ ,  $\{0, 2\} = N$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ . Consider  $f : N \to N$  such that f(N) = aN,  $(a \in \mathbb{Z})$ . When a = 2m,  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we have aN = 0 and when a = 2m

+ 1, m  $\in \mathbb{Z}$  , we get aN = {0, 2}  $\leq_e \mathbb{Z}_4$  .

3) Let M be a divisible R-module. Then M is an e-secondary submodule of itself. This follows from the definition that if M is a divisible module then rM = M for every non-zero  $r \in R$ and the fact that M is always an essential submodule of itself.

4) The R-module (0) = M is trivially considered as e-secondary as for any  $a \in R$  and any endomorphism  $f : M \to M$  such that f(M) = aM, then we get  $a^tM = 0$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## Remark 2.2. Submodule of e-secondary need not be e-secondary in general.

For example : Let us consider the  $\mathbb{Z}$  module  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then  $\mathbb{R}$  is a submodule of itself. Consider f :  $\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(\mathbb{R}) = a\mathbb{R}$ ,  $(a \in \mathbb{Z})$ . Then for a non-zero  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a\mathbb{R} \leq_e \mathbb{R}$  and  $a\mathbb{R} = 0$  when a = 0. But the submodule  $\mathbb{Q}$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  is not e-secondary as the intersection of submodule  $a\mathbb{Q}$  with the submodule  $\mathbb{Q}^c \cup \{0\}$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  is zero, that is,  $a\mathbb{Q} \cap (\mathbb{Q}^c \cup \{0\}) = 0$ .

#### Proposition 2.3. Every non-zero e-secondary submodule of a module is essential.

*Proof.* Let M be an R-module and N be a non-zero e-secondary submodule of M. Since  $aN \subseteq N$  and  $aN \cap L \neq \{0\}$ , for all  $L \leq M$ , this implies  $N \cap L \neq \{0\}$ . Thus, N is essential in M. Note: Here we have used the fact that  $aN \leq_e M$  for atleast one  $a \in R$ . Since  $aN \leq_e M$  or  $a^tN = 0$  holds for every  $a \in R$ , so for a = 1 (unity of R), we get  $a^tN = 1^tN = N \neq 0$ . Therefore  $1.N \leq_e M$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** Let M and X be R-modules and N be a non-zero e-secondary submodule of M. Let  $g: M \to X$  be a homomorphism and f be the restriction of g on N. If f is a monomorphism, then so is g.

*Proof.* As N is e-secondary, by previous result N is also essential. Given that f is the restriction of g on N, i.e, f:  $N \rightarrow X$ . Let  $x \in N \cap$  Kerg. This implies  $x \in N$  and  $x \in$  Kerg. Therefore,  $x \in N$  and g(x) = 0, which ultimately gives f(x) = 0 (since f is the restriction of g on N). As f is a monomorphism, so f(x) = 0 implies x = 0. Therefore,  $N \cap$  Kerg = (0). Since  $N \leq_e M$  and Kerg  $\leq M$ , we get Kerg = {0}. Thus, g is a monomorphism.

**Remark 2.5.** Essential submodule need not be e-secondary.

For example : Consider the  $\mathbb{Z}$  module  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ . The submodules are:  $\{0\}$ ,  $\{0, 2, 4\}$ ,  $\{0, 3\}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ . Then  $\mathbb{Z}_6 \leq_e \mathbb{Z}_6$ . But consider the endomorphism  $f : \mathbb{Z}_6 \to \mathbb{Z}_6$  such that f(x) = 2x,  $(x \in \mathbb{Z}_6)$ . Then  $2\mathbb{Z}_6 = \{0, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{0, 2, 4\} \cap \{0, 3\} = \{0\}$ . Therefore,  $2\mathbb{Z}_6$  is not essential in  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  and also  $2^t\mathbb{Z}_6 \neq 0$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus,  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  is an essential submodule of  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  but is not an e-secondary submodule.

**Proposition 2.6.** Let M be an R-module where R is a field. Let N be a cyclic submodule of M such that N is also essential in M. Then N is an e-secondary submodule of M.

*Proof.* Since N is cyclic, so by definition there exists some  $m \in M$  such that N is of the form N = {rm :  $r \in R$ }. Consider the endomorphism f: N  $\rightarrow$  N given by multiplication by a, a  $\in R$ , i.e, f(N) = aN. Now aN = a(Rm)= (aR)m = Rm = N and since N is essential in M, so aN  $\leq_e M$ .  $\Box$ 

**Remark 2.7.** There are submodules which are both essential and e-secondary.

Example:

- 1) A simple module is both an essential as well as an e-secondary submodule (of itself).
- 2) Submodule N =  $\{0, 2\}$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  is both essential and e-secondary.
- 3) Every uniform module is both essential and e-secondary.

In [21] Heuberger gave an equivalent definition of an essential submodule as : The submodule N of the right R-module M is essential in M if for all  $0 \neq x \in M$ ,  $r \in R$  and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  exists, such that  $0 \neq xr + nx \in N$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** Let K, N be submodules of an R-module M such that  $N \le K \le M$ . If K is an e-secondary submodule of M, then the submodule  $\frac{K}{N}$  is an e-secondary submodule of the quotient module  $\frac{M}{N}$ .

*Proof.* Consider the endomorphism f from  $\frac{K}{N}$  to  $\frac{K}{N}$  given by multiplication by a,  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , ie,  $f(x+N) = a(x+N), x \in \mathbb{K}$ .

Case 1:  $aK \leq_e M$ Then using the above mentioned definition, we get for all non-zero x in M,  $r \in R$  and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  exists, such that  $0 \neq xr + nx \in aK$ . This implies  $(xr + nx) + N \in aK + N$ . Thus,  $a(\frac{K}{N}) \leq_e \frac{M}{N}$ Case 2: If  $a^tx = 0$ , then  $a^t(x+N) = a^tx + a^tN = 0 + N = N$ . Therefore,  $a^t(x+N) = 0$  in  $\frac{M}{N}$ .  $\Box$ 

Remark 2.9. The concept of secondary and e-secondary need not imply each other.

Example: (i)  $\mathbb{Z}$  as a  $\mathbb{Z}$  module is e-secondary but not secondary as  $n\mathbb{Z} \leq_e \mathbb{Z}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  but  $n\mathbb{Z} \neq \mathbb{Z}$  for any  $n \neq 1$ , -1 and  $n\mathbb{Z} = 0$  only when n = 0. (ii) Consider the  $\mathbb{Z}$  module  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ . The submodule  $N = \{0, 3\}$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  is secondary as for every  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , aN = N or  $a^tN = 0$  but N is not e-secondary.

**Proposition 2.10.** Let N be a non-zero secondary submodule of M. Then N is an e-secondary submodule of M if and only if N is essential in M.

*Proof.* Let M be an R module and N be a secondary submodule of M. Then for any endomorphism  $f: N \to N$  such that f(N) = aN ( $a \in R$ ), we have either aN = N (i.e surjective) or  $a^tN = 0$ . Suppose N is an essential submodule of M. If  $a^tN = 0$  then result holds trivially. If aN = N, then N being essential, we get  $aN \leq_e M$ . Thus, N is an e-secondary submodule of M. Conversely, let N be an e-secondary submodule of M. Result follows from prop 2.3.

**Corollary 2.11.** Let N be a non-zero second submodule of M. Then N is an e-secondary submodule of M if and only if N is essential in M.

*Proof.* Since every second submodule is also a secondary submodule, so result follows from the previous proposition.  $\Box$ 

**Proposition 2.12.** Let *M* be an *R*-module and *N* be an *e*-secondary submodule of *M*. If every submodule of *N* is a closed submodule of *N*, then *N* is a secondary submodule of *M*.

*Proof.* Consider the endomorphism from N to N given by multiplication by a, for any  $a \in R$ , i.e,  $f: N \to N$  such that f(N) = aN. Since N is e-secondary, if  $a^t N = 0$ , then result holds trivially. If not, then  $aN \leq_e M$ . This implies  $aN \leq_e N$ . But aN being a closed submodule of N,  $aN \leq_e N \leq M$  implies that aN = N. Thus, N is a secondary submodule of M.

**Theorem 2.13.** Let  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$  be *R*-modules and  $g: M_1 \to M_2$  be an isomorphism. If N is an *e*-secondary submodule of  $M_1$ , then g(N) is an *e*-secondary submodule of  $M_2$ .

*Proof.* Since N is an e-secondary submodule of  $M_1$ , so for any endomorphism  $f : N \to N$  such that f(N) = aN,  $a \in R$ , then  $aN \leq_e M_1$  or  $a^tN = 0$ . Suppose  $a^tN = 0$ . As g is one-one homomorphism,  $g(a^tN) = g(0) = 0$ , i.e.  $a^tg(N) = 0$ . Now, suppose  $aN \leq_e M_1$ . This implies  $aN \cap L \neq \{0\}$  for any non-zero submodule L of  $M_1$ . As g is an isomorphism, so  $g(aN \cap L) \neq g(0) = \{0\}$ . This implies  $g(aN) \cap g(L) \neq \{0\}$ . Since g is a homomorphism, this gives  $ag(N) \cap g(L) \neq \{0\}$ . As g(L) is an arbitrary submodule of  $M_2$ , thus we get g(N) is an e-secondary submodule of  $M_2$ .

Recall that any monomorphism f : A  $\rightarrow$  B is said to be an essential monomorphism if Imf  $\leq_e$  B [4].

**Lemma 2.14.** Let M be an R module and f be an endomorphism from M to M given by multiplication by a, for any  $a \in R$ . If f is an essential monomorphism, then M is an e-secondary submodule of itself.

Proof. Follows from the definition.

Recall that a module M is called a Quasi-dedekind module if for each endomorphism f of M,  $f \neq 0$ , then kerf = 0 [19].

**Proposition 2.15.** Let M be an R-module, where R is a boolean ring. If M is a quasi dedekind module, then M is also e-secondary.

*Proof.* Consider an endomorphism  $f : M \to M$  given by multiplication by a,  $a \in R$ . Claim:  $f^2 = f$ . Let  $x \in M$ . Consider  $f^2(x) = f(f(x)) = f(ax) = a.(ax) = a^2x = ax$  (since R is a boolean ring so  $a^2 = a$ ). Also, f(x) = ax. This implies  $f^2(x) = f(x) \Rightarrow f^2 = f$ . Let  $x \in M$ ; then  $f(x) \in M$ . Let  $y = x - f(x) \Rightarrow f(y) = f(x - f(x)) = f(x) - f^2(x) = f(x) - f(x)$  (since  $f^2 = f$ ). Thus  $f(y) = 0 \Rightarrow y \in Kerf$ . Since Kerf = 0, we get  $y = 0 \Rightarrow x - f(x) = 0 \Rightarrow f(x) = x \Rightarrow f$  is an identity mapping and therefore f(m) = m for every  $m \in M$  which implies  $f(M) = aM = M \leq_e M$ .

**Corollary 2.16.** If M is a finitely generated quasi-dedekind module, then M is e-secondary.

*Proof.* Follows from the fact that if M is a finitely generated quasi-dedekind module then M is uniform and every uniform submodule is e-secondary.  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 2.17.** Let M be an R-module and N be a submodule of M. The following are equivalent: (1) N is an e-secondary submodule of M. (2) For every ideal I of R, either  $I^t N = 0$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  or  $IN \leq_e M$  where  $I^t = \{i^t : i \in I\}$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) : If  $I^t N = 0$ , then result holds trivially. If not, then there exists some  $a \in I$  such that  $a^t N \neq 0$ . This implies  $aN \neq 0 \Rightarrow aN \leq_e M \Rightarrow aN \leq_e IN$ . Thus, we get  $IN \leq_e M$  (using Lemma 2.3 [20]). (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) : Clearly.

## **3** Fully e-secondary submodules

In this section we study a particular case of e-secondary submodule and name it as fully esecondary submodule of a module. Various properties exhibited by this class of modules is explored along with its interaction with other types of modules.

**Definition 3.1.** Let M be an R-module. A submodule N of M is said to be fully e-secondary if the endomorphism given by multiplication by a,  $a \in R$ , that is,  $f : N \to N$  such that f(N) = aN, then  $aN \leq_e M$  and if  $a^tN = 0$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , then a = 0. Example:  $\mathbb{Z}$  as a  $\mathbb{Z}$  module is fully e-secondary.

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let M be an R-module. If N is a fully e-secondary submodule of M, then every submodule of M containing N is also fully e-secondary.* 

*Proof.* Let N be a fully e-secondary submodule of M and K be a submodule of M containing N. So  $N \leq K$  implies  $aN \leq aK$  ( $a \in R$ ). As  $aN \leq_e M$ , so  $aN \cap L \neq \{0\}$ , for all  $L \leq M$ . Since  $aN \leq aK$ , therefore  $aK \cap L \neq \{0\}$ . Thus  $aK \leq_e M$ .

**Remark 3.3.** Every fully e-secondary submodule is e-secondary. However, the converse need not be true in general.

Example: Consider the submodule  $N = \{0, 2\}$  of the  $\mathbb{Z}$  module  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ . Then N is e-secondary but not fully e-secondary as 2N = 0 but  $2 \neq 0$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** *Every fully e-secondary submodule is faithful.* 

*Proof.* Since N is fully-secondary, so  $ann(N) = \{0\}$  which implies N is faithful.

The converse need not be true in general.

Example: The submodule  $\mathbb{Q}$  of the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $\mathbb{R}$  is faithful but it is not e-secondary and thus is not fully e-secondary.

**Theorem 3.5.** Let *M* be an *R*-module where *R* is a reduced ring. Then every e-secondary submodule *N* of *M* is fully e-secondary if and only if *N* is faithful.

Proof. Let N be fully e-secondary. Then N is faithful by Prop 3.4.

Conversely, let N be a faithful submodule of M. Since N is e-secondary, so either aN  $\leq_e$  M or  $a^t$ N = 0 for any a  $\in$  R. If aN  $\leq_e$  M for all non-zero a  $\in$  R, then result is true. Suppose for some a  $\in$  R,  $a^t$ N = 0. As N is faithful so  $a^t$ N = 0  $\Rightarrow$   $a^t$  = 0  $\Rightarrow$  a = 0 (as R is a reduced ring). Thus, N is fully e-secondary.

**Remark 3.6.** Intersection of two non-zero submodules of a module may be fully e-secondary even if the submodules themselves are not fully e-secondary.

Example: Consider the  $\mathbb{Z}$  module  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ . Intersection of its submodule  $N_1 = \{0, 2, 4\}$  and  $N_2 = \{0, 3\}$  is  $N_1 \cap N_2 = \{0\}$  which is fully e-secondary (trivially) but neither  $N_1$  nor  $N_2$  is fully e-secondary.

#### **Theorem 3.7.** Direct sum of fully e-secondary submodules is again fully e-secondary.

*Proof.* Let M be an R-module and  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be two fully e-secondary submodules of M. Then  $aN_1 \leq_e M$  and  $aN_2 \leq_e M$ . Since direct sum of essential is again essential, we get  $aN_1 \bigoplus aN_2 \leq_e M$ .  $\Box$ 

In [5], Ahmed introduced the notion of essential second modules and defined it as: Let M be an R-module. Then M is said to be essential second when for any  $a \in R$ , either Ma = 0 or  $Ma \leq_e M$ .

## Proposition 3.8. Every fully e-secondary submodule of M is essential second.

*Proof.* Consider a fully e-secondary submodule N of an R-module M. Then for any non-zero a  $\in \mathbb{R}$ , aN  $\leq_e \mathbb{N}$  which implies aN  $\leq_e \mathbb{N}$ .

The converse however need not be true in general. Example: The submodule  $N = \{0, 3\}$  of the  $\mathbb{Z}$  module  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  is essential second as aN  $\leq_e N$  for every  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Now consider the submodule  $K = \{0, 2, 4\}$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ . Since  $N \cap K = \{0\}$ , so  $1.N \leq_e M$ . Thus, N is not e-secondary and therefore, not fully e-secondary.

### 4 e-secondary submodules in multiplication modules

This section is dedicated to the study of e-secondary submodules and its behaviour in multiplication modules. The following two propositions discusses its relation with the essential ideals of the ring.

**Proposition 4.1.** Let M be a faithful multiplication R-module. Let N be a submodule of M such that N = IM. If N is fully e-secondary then I is an essential ideal of R.

*Proof.* Let if possible I is not an essential ideal of R. Then there exists some ideal S of R such that  $I \cap S = 0$ . Since M is a faithful multiplication module, so  $(0) = (I \cap S)M = IM \cap SM = N \cap SM$  [22, Th. 1.7]. As N is fully e-secondary, so N is essential and thus  $N \cap SM = 0$  implies SM = 0 which implies S = 0 (as M is faithful).

**Proposition 4.2.** Let *M* be a faithful multiplication *R*-module. If every ideal of *R* is essential in *R* then *M* is fully e-secondary.

*Proof.* Suppose M is not fully e-secondary. Then there exists a submodule S of M such that aM  $\cap$  S = 0 for some non-zero a  $\in$  R, which implies < a > M  $\cap$  S = 0. Denoting the ideal < a > = I, we get IM  $\cap$  S = 0. Since M is a multiplication module, there exists some ideal K such that S = KM. Therefore, we get IM  $\cap$  KM = 0  $\Rightarrow$  (I  $\cap$  K)M = 0  $\Rightarrow$  I  $\cap$  K = 0 as M is faithful. But I being an essential ideal, I  $\cap$  K = 0 implies K = 0. Thus, S = 0 and so aM  $\leq_e$  M.

**Theorem 4.3.** Let *M* be a non-zero multiplication *R*-module having a unique maximal submodule *N*. If *N* is secondary, then *N* is also e-secondary.

*Proof.* Let N be a secondary submodule of M and a be any arbitrary element of ring R.

Case 1: If  $a^t N = 0$  for some  $t \in N$ , then result holds clearly.

Case 2: If  $a^t N \neq 0$ , then aN = N.

Suppose N is not e-secondary. Then there exists a submodule K of M such that  $aN \cap K = 0$  $\Rightarrow N \cap K = 0$ . Since M is a multiplication module, so by [4] K is contained in some maximal submodule of M. But N is the only maximal submodule of M and so  $K \subseteq N$ . Therefore  $N \cap K =$  $0 \Rightarrow K = 0 \Rightarrow N$  is essential in M. Using Prop 2.10, N is an e-secondary submodule of M.

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