

## Multiplication-Like Modules

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### Abstract

In this paper we introduce the concept of multiplication-like modules and we obtain some related results. We show that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is multiplication-like if and only if for each ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $I = (IM :_R M)$ . We prove that any multiplication-like module is faithful and  $r$ -multiplication. So we get that any flat and multiplication-like module is faithfully flat.

*Keywords* : Modules; Free modules, Flat modules, Multiplication modules; Multiplication-like modules.

## 1 Introduction

Throughout this paper, all rings are commutative with identity and all modules are unitary. Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. For a submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , let  $(N :_R M)$  denote the set of all elements  $r$  in  $R$  such that  $rM \subseteq N$ . The annihilator of  $M$ , denoted by  $Ann_R(M)$ , is  $(0 :_R M)$ . A proper submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is called prime (*primary*) if  $rx \in N$ , for  $r \in R$  and  $x \in M$ , implies that either  $x \in N$  or  $r \in (N :_R M)$  ( $r^n \in (N :_R M)$ , for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ). We denote the set of prime submodules of  $M$  by  $Spec(M)$ . For a submodule  $N$  of  $M$ ,  $V(N)$  denotes  $\{P \in Spec(M) | N \subseteq P\}$ , and  $rad(N) = \bigcap V(N)$ , is called the radical of  $N$  and was introduced in [9], [10] and [11]. A proper submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is said to be primary-like if  $rm \in N$ , for  $r \in R$  and  $m \in M$ , implies that

either  $m \in rad(N)$  or  $r \in (N :_R M)$  (see [7]).

It is said that  $M$  is a multiplication module, if for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there is an ideal  $I$  of  $R$ , such that  $N = IM$ . Equivalently,  $M$  is a multiplication module if and only if for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , we have  $N = (N :_R M)M$  [5] and [6].

In [3] the notion of a comultiplication module was introduced as a dual of the concept of a multiplication module. An  $R$ -module  $M$  is called comultiplication, if for every submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there exists an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $N = (0 :_M I)$ . For example, the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $\mathbb{Z}_p^\infty$  is a comultiplication module since all of its proper submodules are of the form  $(0 :_M P^i\mathbb{Z})$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots$ . It is clear that  $M$  is comultiplication if and only if for every submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , we have  $N = (0 :_M (0 :_R N))$ . An  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be strong comultiplication, if for every submodule  $N$  of  $M$  there is exactly one ideal  $I$  of  $R$  with  $N = (0 :_M I)$  (see [4]).

$M$  is said to be an  $r$ -multiplication module, when  $IM \neq M$  for every proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  (see [12]). A non-zero submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is said to be

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second, if for each  $a \in R$ , the homomorphism  $N \xrightarrow{a} N$  is either surjective or zero [15]. An  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be distributive, if the lattice of its submodule is distributive, i.e.  $(X + Y) \cap Z = (X \cap Z) + (Y \cap Z)$ , for any of its submodules  $X, Y$  and  $Z$ . A non-zero module  $M$  over a ring  $R$  is said to be prime, if the annihilator of  $M$  is the same as the annihilator of  $N$  for every non-zero submodule  $N$  of  $M$  (see [2]).

In this article, we introduce multiplication-like module and obtain some basic results and characterizations.

## 2 Multiplication-Like Modules

**Definition 2.1.** An  $R$ -module  $M$  is said multiplication-like, if for any ideal  $I$  of  $R$ , there exists a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  such that  $I = (N :_R M)$ .

**Example 2.1.** (i) Every vector space is multiplication-like.

(ii)  $R[X]$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

(iii)  $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^\infty}$  as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module are not multiplication-like.

It is clear that every free module is multiplication-like; but  $M = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$  is a multiplication-like  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module, which is not free.

**Lemma 2.1.** An  $R$ -module  $M$  is multiplication-like if and only if for each ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $I = (IM :_R M)$ .

*Proof.* The sufficiency is clear. Conversely, suppose that  $M$  is a multiplication-like. Then there exists a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  such that  $I = (N :_R M)$ . So we have  $IM \subseteq N$ . Hence  $I \subseteq (IM :_R M) \subseteq (N :_R M) = I$ . This implies that  $I = (IM :_R M)$  as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is multiplication-like if and only if for every ideal  $I$  of  $R$ , there exist submodules  $N_i$  of  $M$  ( $i \in J$ ), such that  $I = \sum_{i \in J} (N_i :_R M) = (\sum_{i \in J} N_i :_R M)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be multiplication-like and let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Then  $I = (IM :_R M)$ . On the other hand,  $I = \sum_{r_i \in I} Rr_i$  and for each  $r_i \in I$ ,

$$Rr_i = (r_i M :_R M). \text{ So we have } I = \sum_{r_i \in I} Rr_i = \sum_{r_i \in I} (r_i M :_R M) = (\sum_{r_i \in I} r_i M :_R M).$$

Hence the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then the following statements are equivalent.

(i)  $M$  is multiplication-like.

(ii) For every ideal  $I$  of  $R$  and each submodule  $N$  of  $M$  with  $I \subseteq (N :_R M)$ , there exists a submodule  $L$  of  $M$  such that  $L \subseteq N$  and  $I = (L :_R M)$ .

(iii) For every ideal  $I$  of  $R$  and each submodule  $N$  of  $M$  with  $I \subseteq (N :_R M)$ , there exists a submodule  $L$  of  $M$  such that  $L \subseteq N$  and  $I \subseteq (L :_R M)$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\implies$  (ii) Let  $I \subseteq (N :_R M)$ . Since  $M$  is multiplication-like,  $I = (IM :_R M)$ . Put  $L = IM \cap N$ . Since  $I = (IM :_R M) \subseteq (N :_R M)$ , hence  $L \subseteq N$  and we have  $(L :_R M) = (IM \cap N :_R M) = (IM :_R M) \cap (N :_R M) = I$ .

(ii)  $\implies$  (iii) It is obvious.

(iii)  $\implies$  (i) Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$  and put  $H = \{L : L \text{ is a submodule of } M \text{ and } I \subseteq (L :_R M)\}$ .

Clearly  $H$  is a non-empty set, so by Zorn's Lemma,  $H$  has a minimal member like  $K$  and so  $I \subseteq (K :_R M)$ . Assume that  $I \neq (K :_R M)$ . Then by part

(iii), there exists a submodule  $U$  of  $M$  with  $U \subset K$  and  $I \subseteq (U :_R M)$ . But this is a contradiction by the choice of  $K$ . Thus we have  $I = (K :_R M)$ . This shows that  $M$  is multiplication-like.  $\square$

**Example 2.2.** Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}_6$  and  $R = \mathbb{Z}_6$ . Then  $M$  is multiplication-like but,  $2\mathbb{Z}_6$  and  $3\mathbb{Z}_6$  are not multiplication-like modules.

Let  $M$  be a torsion-free  $R$ -module. Clearly, every non-zero cyclic submodule of  $M$  is a

multiplication-like  $R$ -module. But, if every non-zero cyclic submodule of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is multiplication-like, then  $M$  is not necessarily multiplication-like. As the following example Shows:

**Example 2.3.** Let  $M = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ . Then every non-zero cyclic submodule of  $M$  is free and so multiplication-like; but  $\mathbb{Q}$  is not a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $R$  be a comultiplication ring and  $M$  be a faithful  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

*Proof.* Assume that  $I$  is a proper ideal of  $R$  and  $rM \subseteq IM$ , for  $r \in R$ . Then  $rAnn_R(I)M = 0$ . Since  $M$  is faithful and  $R$  is a comultiplication ring, we have  $r \in I$ . Thus  $M$  is a multiplication-like module.  $\square$

It is straightforward to prove that  $R$  is a comultiplication ring if and only if  $(I :_R J) = (Ann_R(J) :_R Ann_R(I))$ , for each ideals  $I$  and  $J$  of  $R$ . So by Theorem 2.2, we have:

**Corollary 2.1.** Let  $R$  be a ring such that for every ideal  $I$  and  $J$  of  $R$ ,  $(I :_R J) = (Ann_R(J) :_R Ann_R(I))$ . Then every faithful  $R$ -module is multiplication-like module.

By Example 3.8 [3] and Theorem 2.2, we obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.2.** Let  $R$  be a semi-simple ring. Then every faithful  $R$ -module is multiplication-like.

**Corollary 2.3.** Let  $M$  be a strong comultiplication module which has a maximal submodule over a reduced ring  $R$  (recall that a reduced ring is one with no nilpotents). Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

*Proof.* As  $M$  is strong comultiplicatin, then  $Ann_R(M) = 0$ . Now it follows easily from Corollary 4.5 [12] and Corollary 2.2.  $\square$

By Proposition 4.3 [12] and Theorem 2.2, we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $M$  be a non-zero multiplication and strong comultiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

Clearly, if  $M'$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module and  $\rho : M \rightarrow M'$  is an  $R$ -epimorphism, then  $M$  is a multiplication-like module.

Also, let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . If  $\frac{M}{N}$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module, then we can conclude that  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. But, the converse is not true in general, as the following example shows:

**Example 2.4.**  $\mathbb{Z}$  as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module, but for submodule  $n\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}}{n\mathbb{Z}}$  is not a multiplication-like  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

(i) If for submodule  $N$  of  $M$ ,  $N \subseteq IM$  for each non-zero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  and  $\frac{M}{N}$  is faithful, then  $\frac{M}{N}$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

(ii) If  $M'$  is a faithful  $R$ -module,  $\rho : M \rightarrow M'$  is an epimorphism and for any non-zero ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $ker(\rho) \subseteq IM$ , then  $M'$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

*Proof.* We have  $I(\frac{M}{N}) = \frac{IM}{N}$ . Hence  $\frac{M}{N}$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.

(ii) This is clear by part (i).  $\square$

**Corollary 2.5.** Let  $N$  be a faithful second submodule of a multiplication-like  $R$ -module  $M$ . Then for every non-zero ideal  $I$  of  $R$ , there is a submodule  $L$  of  $\frac{M}{N}$  such that  $I = (L :_R \frac{M}{N})$ .

*Proof.* Since  $N$  is second and faithful, we have that  $IN = N$ , for each non-zero ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . So  $N \subseteq IM$ . By Lemma 2.2 (i), the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.2.** Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module and  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Then  $\frac{M}{IM}$  is a multiplication-like  $\frac{R}{I}$ -module.

*Proof.* It is enough to prove that for each ideal  $J$  of  $R$  containing  $I$ ,  $(\frac{J}{I}(\frac{M}{IM}) :_{\frac{R}{I}} \frac{M}{IM}) \subseteq \frac{J}{I}$ . Since  $M$  is multiplication-like, we have  $J = (JM :_R M)$ . If  $(r + I) \in (\frac{J}{I}(\frac{M}{IM}) :_{\frac{R}{I}} \frac{M}{IM})$ , then for every  $x \in M$ ,  $(r + I)(x + IM) \in \frac{J}{I}(\frac{M}{IM}) = \frac{JM}{IM}$ .

This implies that  $rx \in JM$ . So we have that  $r \in J$ . It follows  $r + I \in \frac{J}{I}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then for any ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $I \subseteq \text{Ann}_R(M)$ ,  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $\frac{R}{I}$ -module.*

**Remark 2.1.** The converse of previous corollary is not true in general. For example,  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is a multiplication-like  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ -module, while  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is not multiplication-like.

The following proposition shows the behavior of modules that are multiplication-like module over localizations.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $S$  be a multiplicative closed subset of  $R$ .*

(i) *If  $M$  is a finitely generated multiplication-like  $R$ -module, then  $M_S$  is a multiplication-like  $R_S$ -module.*

(ii) *If  $M_S$  is a multiplication-like  $R_S$ -module and for any ideal  $I$  of  $R$  and any  $r \notin I$ ,  $S \cap (I :_R r) = \emptyset$ , then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* (i) Since  $M$  is a multiplication-like module,  $I = (IM :_R M)$  for any ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . So we have  $I_S = (I_S M_S :_{R_S} M_S)$ , as  $M$  is finitely generated.

(ii) Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$  and  $r \in (IM :_R M)$ . So  $\frac{r}{1} M_S \subseteq I_S M_S$ . Since  $M_S$  is a multiplication-like  $R_S$ -module,  $\frac{r}{1} \in I_S$ . So there exists  $u \in S$  such that  $ur \in I$ . If  $r \notin I$ , then  $u \in S \cap (I :_R r)$  which is a contradiction. Hence  $r \in I$ .  $\square$

We now give an example to show that in Proposition 2.3 (ii), the condition is necessary.

**Example 2.5.** *Let  $M = \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $S = \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$ . Then  $M_S$  is a vector space on field  $R_S = \mathbb{Q}$ . So  $M_S$  is a multiplication-like  $R_S$ -module; but  $M$  is not a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.*

**Corollary 2.7.** *Let  $(R, m)$  be a local ring and  $M$  be a finitely generated  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module if and only if  $M_m$  is a multiplication-like  $R_m$ -module.*

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $M$  and  $N$  be  $R$ -modules and  $M \otimes_R N$  be a multiplication-like module. Then  $M$  and  $N$  are multiplication-like  $R$ -modules.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$  and  $r \in (IM :_R M)$ . Then  $rM \otimes_R N \subseteq IM \otimes_R N$ . This implies that  $r(M \otimes_R N) \subseteq I(M \otimes_R N)$ , so that  $r \in (I(M \otimes_R N) :_R M \otimes_R N) = I$ . Hence  $M$  and similarly  $N$  are multiplication-like  $R$ -modules.  $\square$

It is clear that, if  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module and  $N$  is a free  $R$ -module, then the converse of above proposition is true.

**Proposition 2.5.** *Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be two  $R$ -modules which  $M_1$  or  $M_2$  is multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $M_1 \oplus M_2$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$  such that  $r(M_1 \oplus M_2) \subseteq I(M_1 \oplus M_2)$  and  $M_1$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $I = (IM_1 :_R M_1)$  which implies that  $r \in I$ . Therefore,  $M_1 \oplus M_2$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.  $\square$

The converse of above lemma is not true in general.

**Example 2.6.** *Consider  $M = \mathbb{Z}_6 = (\bar{2}) \oplus (\bar{3})$  and  $R = \mathbb{Z}_6$ . Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. But it is easy to see that  $N = \bar{2}\mathbb{Z}_6$  and  $L = \bar{3}\mathbb{Z}_6$  are not multiplication-like module.*

**Corollary 2.8.** *Let  $M_i$  ( $i \in I$ ) be  $R$ -modules such that for some  $i$ ,  $M_i$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.*

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a ring and  $M$  be an  $R$ -module such that  $I \neq (IM :_R M)$ , for some ideal  $I$ . Then there exists an ideal  $K$  and  $r \notin K$  such that  $I \subseteq K$  and  $(K :_R r)$  is maximal ideal of ring  $R$ .*

*Proof.* By hypothesis there exists an element  $r$  in  $R$  such that  $r \in (IM :_R M)$  but  $r \notin I$ . Let  $S$  denote the collection of ideals  $L$  of  $R$  such that  $I \subseteq L$  but  $r \notin L$ . Clearly  $S$  is non-empty and so by Zorn's Lemma,  $S$  contains a maximal member like  $K$ .

Thus  $I \subseteq K$  and  $r \notin K$ . Let  $s$  be an element of  $R$  such that  $s \notin (K :_R r)$ . It follows that  $K$  is a

proper subset of  $K + Rsr$  and hence  $K + Rsr \notin S$ . Thus  $r \in K + Rsr$ . Therefore, there exists  $b \in R$  and  $u \in K$  such that  $r = u + bsr$  and so  $(1 - bs)r \in K$ . It follows that  $(K :_R r)$  is a maximal ideal of  $R$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. Then the following statements are equivalent for  $R$ -module  $M$ .*

- (i)  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.
- (ii)  $I = (IM :_R M)$ , for every ideal  $I$  of  $R$ .
- (iii) Given ideals  $I, J$  of  $R$ ,  $IM \subseteq JM$  implies that  $I \subseteq J$ .
- (iv) Given any ideal  $I$  of  $R$  and  $r \in R$ ,  $rM \subseteq IM$  implies that  $r \in I$ .
- (v) Given any ideal  $I$  of  $R$  and  $r \in R$ ,  $rM \subseteq IM$  implies that  $(I :_R r)$  is not a maximal ideal.

*Proof.* (i)  $\iff$  (ii) By Lemma 2.1.

(ii)  $\implies$  (iii) Let  $IM \subseteq JM$ . Then  $(IM :_R M) \subseteq (JM :_R M)$ . By (ii),  $I \subseteq J$ .

(iii)  $\implies$  (ii) We know that always  $IM = (IM :_R M)M$ . By (iii),  $I = (IM :_R M)$ .

(iii)  $\iff$  (iv) It is obvious.

(iv)  $\implies$  (v) Let  $rM \subseteq IM$ . By (iv),  $r \in I$ , and hence  $(I :_R r) = R$ . Therefore,  $(I :_R r)$  is not a maximal.

(v)  $\implies$  (iv) Let  $rM \subseteq IM$  such that  $r \notin I$ . By Lemma 2.3, there exists an ideal  $K$  of  $R$  such that  $I \subseteq K$ ,  $r \notin K$  and  $(K :_R r)$  is maximal ideal. But this is a contradiction.  $\square$

### 3 Properties of Multiplication-Like Modules

In this section we shall show that multiplication-like modules have some interesting properties.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then*

- (i)  $M$  is a faithful module.
- (ii)  $M$  is an  $r$ -multiplication module.
- (iii) The set of all prime submodules of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is non-empty ( $\text{Spec}_R(M) \neq \emptyset$ ).
- (iv) For every ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $\text{Ann}_R(I) = \text{Ann}_R(IM)$ .
- (v)  $Z(R) = \{a \in R : \exists \text{ non-zero submodule } N \text{ s.t. } (N :_R M) \neq 0, a(N :_R M) = 0\}$  (here  $Z(R)$  denotes the set of zero divisor of  $R$ ).

*Proof.* (i) By Lemma 2.1,  $0 = (0M :_R M) = \text{Ann}_R(M)$ .

(ii) If there exists a proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $IM = M$ , then  $I = (IM :_R M) = R$ . This is a contradiction and the proof is completed.

(iii) Let  $m \in \text{Max}(R)$ . By part (ii),  $m = (mM :_R M)$ . This shows that  $mM$  is a prime submodule of  $M$ .

(iv) It is enough to prove that  $\text{Ann}_R(IM) \subseteq \text{Ann}_R(I)$ . Now let  $r \in \text{Ann}_R(IM)$ , then  $rIM = 0$ . Now by using part (i), we have  $Ir = 0$ .

(v) Let  $a \in Z(R)$ . Then there exists  $0 \neq b \in R$  such that  $ab = 0$ . It implies that  $a(bM :_R M) = 0$ , because  $M$  is multiplication-like module. The converse is clear.  $\square$

The following examples show that Converse parts of the previous theorem do not hold in general.

**Example 3.1.** *Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $M = \mathbb{Q}$ . It is clear that  $M$  satisfies in parts (i), (iii), (iv) and (v), but  $M$  is not a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.*

**Example 3.2.** *Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $M = \bigoplus_{p \in \text{max}(R)} \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Clearly  $M$  is an  $r$ -multiplication and  $4\mathbb{Z} \neq (4\mathbb{Z}M :_R M) = 2\mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore  $M$  is not a multiplication-like module.*

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is multiplication-like and second module if and only if  $M$  is a vector space.*

*Proof.* It is sufficient to show that  $R$  is a field. For each non-unit such as  $r \in R$ ,  $rM \neq M$ , as  $M$  is multiplication-like module. So  $r = 0$ , because  $M$  is second and faithful. The set of non-units is zero ideal. Therefore  $R$  is a field and  $M$  is a vector space.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $M$  be an  $r$ -multiplication module which every proper submodule of it is multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $I = (I^2M :_R IM)$ . Let  $rM \subseteq IM$ . It follows that  $IrM \subseteq I^2M$ . So we have  $r \in I$ . Therefore,  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1.** *Let  $M$  be a finitely generated  $R$ -module that every submodule of it is multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like module.*

Example 2.2, show that if  $R$ -module  $M$  is multiplication-like module, then every non-zero submodule of  $M$  need not necessarily be multiplication-like. By Theorem 3.1 (ii) and Proposition 2.11.24 [13], we get the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $M$  be a flat and multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a faithfully flat.*

If  $M$  is a multiplication (comultiplication) module, then it is not concluded that  $M$  is a multiplication-like and conversely.

**Example 3.3.**

(i)  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is a multiplication module, but it is not multiplication-like.

(ii)  $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is multiplication-like, but is not multiplication.

(iii)  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^\infty}$  as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is a comultiplication, but is not multiplication-like.

(iv)  $\mathbb{Z}$  as a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is multiplication-like module, but is not a comultiplication module, by Example 3.9 [3].

**Remark 3.1.** By Example 2.2, we can see that if  $R$ -module  $M$  is multiplication-like, then every submodule of  $M$  is not  $r$ -multiplication.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a Noetherian domain which is not a field and  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then every non-zero maximal submodule of  $M$ , is  $r$ -multiplication.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $N$  is a non-zero maximal submodule of  $M$ . If  $N$  is not an  $r$ -multiplication, then there exists a proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $IN = N$ .

Since  $N$  is a maximal submodule and  $M$  is multiplication-like, we must have  $N = IM$  and  $I = I^2 = (N :_R M)$ . Hence there exists  $a \in I$  such that  $(1 - a)I = 0$ . Since  $R$  is domain, we have  $I = R$  or  $I = 0$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be a local Noetherian ring that is not a field and  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then every non-zero maximal submodule of  $M$  is  $r$ -multiplication.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $N$  is a non-zero maximal submodule of  $M$ . If  $N$  is not an  $r$ -multiplication, then there exists a proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $IN = N$ . Since  $N$  is a maximal submodule and  $M$  is multiplication-like, we have  $N = IM$  and  $I = I^2 = (N :_R M)$ . By Nakayama lemma,  $I = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $N$  is an  $r$ -multiplication.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $M$  be a multiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like if and only if  $M$  is finitely generated and faithful.*

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. By Theorem 3.1,  $M$  is faithful and for each proper ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $IM \neq M$ . It follows that  $M$  is finitely generated. Conversely, let  $I$  be a proper ideal of  $R$ . Note that  $IM = (IM :_R M)M$ . Since  $M$  is multiplication, faithful and finitely generated,  $I = (IM :_R M)$ . Therefore,  $M$  is multiplication-like.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $M$  be a faithful multiplication  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is an  $r$ -multiplication if and only if  $M$  is a multiplication-like.*

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. By Theorem 3.1,  $M$  is  $r$ -multiplication. Conversely, let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Note that  $IM =$

$(IM :_R M)M$ . Since  $M$  is faithful multiplication and  $r$ -multiplication, so  $M$  is finitely generated. Now by Lemma 3.4,  $M$  is multiplication-like.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** *If  $M$  is a multiplication and multiplication-like  $R$ -module, then  $|\text{Spec}_R(M)| = |\text{Spec}(R)|$ .*

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $M$  be a multiplication and multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then for every  $I$  ideal of  $R$ , there exists an unique  $R$ -submodule  $K$  of  $M$  such that  $I = (K :_R M)$ .*

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is multiplication if and only if for every  $I$  of  $R$ , there exists an unique submodule  $N$  of  $M$  such that  $I = (N :_R M)$ .*

**Lemma 3.6.** *Assume that  $M$  is a comultiplication and multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is a strong comultiplication.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . If there exist ideals  $I$  and  $J$  such that  $N = (0 :_M I)$  and  $N = (0 :_M J)$ , then  $IM = JM$ , by Proposition 4.1 [12]. Now by Theorem 2.3,  $I = J$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** *If  $M$  is a comultiplication and multiplication-like  $R$ -module, then for every submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there exists an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $(N :_R M) = \text{Ann}_R(I)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is a comultiplication  $R$ -module, there exists an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $N = (0 :_M I)$  and hence  $(N :_R M) = ((0 :_M I) :_R M) = \text{Ann}_R(IM) = \text{Ann}_R(I)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7.** *Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then for every ideal  $I$  and  $J$  of  $R$*

(i)  $(IJM :_R M) = (IM :_R M)(JM :_R M)$ .

(ii)  $(IM + JM :_R M) = (IM :_R M) + (JM :_R M)$ .

(iii)  $((I \cap J)M :_R M) = (IM :_R M) \cap (JM :_R M)$ .

*Proof.* This follows from Lemma 2.1.  $\square$

**Remark 3.2.** Lemma 3.7 shows properties which hold for multiplication-like modules (for ideals of ring), but part (ii) is not valid in general

for submodules of module.

Consider  $M = \mathbb{Z}[X] \oplus \mathbb{Z}[X]$  as  $R = \mathbb{Z}[X]$ -module. Then  $((X) \oplus \mathbb{Z}[X] :_R M) + (\mathbb{Z}[X] \oplus (X) :_R M) \subset ((X) \oplus \mathbb{Z}[X] + \mathbb{Z}[X] \oplus (X) :_R M) = R$ .

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $M$  be a Noetherian multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $R$  is Noetherian.*

*Proof.* Let  $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq I_3 \subseteq \dots$  be an ascending chain of ideals of  $R$ . It follows that  $I_1M \subseteq I_2M \subseteq I_3M \subseteq \dots$  is an ascending chain of submodules of  $M$ . So there exists a positive integer  $k$  such that  $I_kM = I_{k+1}M = \dots$ , and hence  $I_k = I_{k+1} = \dots$ , as  $M$  is multiplication-like.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.5.** *Let  $M$  be an Artinian multiplication-like  $R$ -module. Then  $R$  is Artinian.*

The following example shows that if  $M$  is multiplication-like over a Noetherian (Artinian) ring, then it is not necessarily to be a Noetherian (Artinian) module.

**Example 3.4.** *Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$ . It follows that  $V$  is multiplication-like and  $F$  is Artinian and Noetherian. But if  $V$  has an infinite dimension, then  $V$  is not Artinian and Noetherian.*

**Proposition 3.6.** *Let  $M$  be a faithful module over a Noetherian ring  $R$  such that for every primary ideal  $q$  of  $R$ ,  $q = (qM :_R M)$ . Then  $M$  is multiplication-like.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$  and let  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^n q_i$  be a reduced primary decomposition of  $I$  in  $R$ , where  $q_i$  are primary. It follows that  $I \subseteq (IM :_R M) = ((\bigcap_{i=1}^n q_i)M :_R M) \subseteq \bigcap_{i=1}^n (q_iM :_R M) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n q_i = I$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.8.** *If  $R$ -module  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module and each submodule of  $M$  has a reduced primary decomposition, then every ideal of  $R$  has a reduced primary decomposition.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Since  $M$  is multiplication-like it follows that  $I = (IM :_R M)$ . By hypothesis,  $IM = \bigcap_{i=1}^n q_i$ , when  $q_i$  are  $P_i$ -primary. Hence  $I = (IM :_R M) = (\bigcap_{i=1}^n q_i :_R M) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n (q_i :_R M)$ .

$M$ ).

It follows that  $I$  has reduced primary decomposition in  $R$ .  $\square$

Recall that an integral domain  $R$  is a valuation ring if and only if the ideals of  $R$  are totally ordered by inclusion.

**Lemma 3.9.** *Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module and  $R$  be an integral domain.*

*Then for any submodules  $N, L$  of  $M$ ,  $(N :_R M) \subseteq (L :_R M)$  or  $(L :_R M) \subseteq (N :_R M)$  if and only if  $R$  is valuation ring.*

*Proof.* Obvious  $\square$

**Proposition 3.7.** *If for some  $P \in \text{Max}(R)$ ,  $PM$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module, then  $M$  is a multiplication-like  $R$ -module.*

*Proof.* If  $PM = M$ , then the proof is complete. Now assume that  $PM \neq M$  and let  $I$  be any ideal of  $R$  and  $r \in (IM :_R M)$ .

It implies that  $rPM \subseteq PIM$ . Hence  $r \in I$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.3.** Example 2.6 shows that the converse of Proposition 3.7 is not true, in general.

Anderson and Fuller [1] called the submodule  $N$  a pure submodule, if  $IN = N \cap IM$  for every ideal  $I$  of  $R$ .

**Proposition 3.8.** *Let  $N$  be a pure submodule of an  $R$ -module  $M$ . If  $N$  is multiplication-like, then  $M$  is a multiplication-like module.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Then  $I = (IN :_R N)$ . Assume that  $rM \subseteq IM$ . Since  $N$  is pure, we have  $rN \subseteq IN$ , and hence  $r \in I$ . Therefore,  $M$  is multiplication-like.  $\square$

Recall that a ring  $R$  is discrete valuation ring (DVR) if and only if it is valuation and Noetherian ring. If  $R$  is a DVR, then every non-zero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is uniquely of the type  $I = m^n$  (for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ), where  $m$  is the unique maximal ideal  $R$ .

**Lemma 3.10.** *Let  $M$  be a faithful finitely generated module over discrete valuation ring  $R$ . Then  $M$  is a multiplication-like.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$  and  $m$  be the unique maximal ideal. Then there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $I = m^n$ . We have  $m^n \subseteq (m^n M :_R M) \subseteq m^{n-1}$ . Hence  $m^n = (m^n M :_R M)$  or  $(m^n M :_R M) = m^{n-1}$ . If  $(m^n M :_R M) = m^{n-1}$ , then  $m^n M = m^{n-1} M$ . Hence by Nakayama lemma,  $m = 0$  which is a contradiction. So  $(m^n M :_R M) = m^n$ .  $\square$

A Dedekind domain (D.d) is a Noetherian integrally closed domain in which every non-zero prime ideal is maximal.

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $M$  be a faithful finitely generated module over D.d  $R$ . Then for every non-zero prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$ ,  $M_P$  is multiplication-like  $R_P$ -module.*

**Proposition 3.9.** *Let  $M$  be a faithful finitely generated  $R$ -module. Then for every radical ideal like  $I$ ,  $I = (IM :_R M)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be a radical ideal of  $R$ . Then  $I = \sqrt{I} = \bigcap_{P \in V(I)} P$ . For each  $P \in V(I)$ ,  $(PM :_R M) = P$ , as  $M$  is a faithful finitely generated module. Thus

$$I \subseteq (IM :_R M) = ((\bigcap_{P \in V(I)} P)M :_R M) \subseteq \bigcap_{P \in V(I)} (PM :_R M) = \bigcap_{P \in V(I)} P = I. \quad \square$$

**Lemma 3.11.** *Let  $N$  be an  $R$ -submodule of  $M$ . If  $N$  is a multiplication-like such that for every ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $IN$  is primary-like submodule and  $\text{rad}(IN) \subset N$ , then  $M$  is a multiplication-like module.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Since  $N$  is a multiplication-like,  $I = (IN :_R N)$ . We show that  $IM \subseteq IN$ . It follows to show that  $I \subseteq (IN :_R M)$ . Let  $r \in I$ . Since  $\text{rad}_R(IN) \subset N$ , we can find an element  $n \in N - \text{rad}_R(IN)$ . Then  $rn \in IN$ . Hence  $r \in (IN :_R M)$ , as  $IN$  is primary-like. Therefore,  $M$  is multiplication-like.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.12.** *Let  $M$  be a distributive multiplication-like  $R$ -module and for any two submodule  $N$  and  $L$  of  $M$ ,  $(N :_R M) + (L :_R M) = (N + L :_R M)$ . Then  $R$  is a distributive ring.*



*Proof.* Let  $A, B$  and  $C$  be ideals of  $R$ . Since  $M$  is multiplication-like, there exist submodules  $N, K$  and  $L$  of  $M$  such that  $A = (N :_R M), B = (K :_R M)$  and  $C = (L :_R M)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (A + B) \cap C &= ((N :_R M) + (K :_R M)) \cap (L :_R M) \\ &= (N + K :_R M) \cap (L :_R M) \\ &= ((N + K) \cap L :_R M) = ((N \cap L) + (K \cap L) :_R M) \\ &= (N \cap L :_R M) + (K \cap L :_R M) = (N :_R M) \cap (L :_R M) + (K :_R M) \cap (L :_R M) \\ &= A \cap C + B \cap C. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

The following example shows that in above theorem, the conditions,  $M$  is distributive and for any two submodule  $N$  and  $L$  of  $M$ ,  $(N :_R M) + (L :_R M) = (N + L :_R M)$  can not be omitted.

**Example 3.5.** Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}[X] \oplus \mathbb{Z}[X]$ ,  $R = \mathbb{Z}[X]$ ,  $N = (X) \oplus \mathbb{Z}[X]$  and  $L = \mathbb{Z}[X] \oplus (X)$ . It is clear that  $((X) \oplus \mathbb{Z}[X] :_R M) + (\mathbb{Z}[X] \oplus (X) :_R M) \subset ((X) \oplus \mathbb{Z}[X] + \mathbb{Z}[X] \oplus (X) :_R M) = R$ . Also  $R$  is not distributive, by Theorem 6.6 [8] and  $M$  is not distributive module, by [14].

**Proposition 3.10.** Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. If  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  such that  $IM$  is a second submodule of  $M$ , then  $I$  is a second ideal of  $R$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\psi_a : I \rightarrow I$  be the non-zero homomorphism defined by  $r \mapsto ar$ . Thus  $aIM \neq 0$ , because  $M$  is faithful module. It follows that  $aIM = IM$ , since  $IM$  is a second submodule. Since  $M$  is multiplication-like

$$aI = (aIM :_R M) = (IM :_R M) = I. \quad \square$$

**Corollary 3.6.** Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like  $R$ -module. If  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  such that  $IM$  is a second submodule of  $M$ , then for each non-zero  $r \in R$ ,  $r \in Z(R)$  or  $I = Ir$ .

**Lemma 3.13.** Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like and prime  $R$ -module. Then for any non-zero ideal  $I$  of  $R$ ,  $Ann_R(I) = 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be any ideal of  $R$ . By Theorem 3.1 (i) and (iv),  $Ann_R(I) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.7.** Let  $M$  be a multiplication-like and prime  $R$ -module. Then  $Z(R) = 0$ .

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