

*Dedicated to Professor Iulian Ursu on his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

## REDEFINING $n$ -MODULES

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### Abstract

We give a more general definition of (left)  $R$ - $n$ -modules by counting the condition of uniqueness of the central element of the algebraic  $n$ -group involved (this condition initially appeared in [1], and was always used in further papers concerning  $n$ -modules). We give some examples and properties of  $n$ -submodules, homomorphisms, congruences and factor  $n$ -modules. A class of special automorphisms and one of  $n$ -submodules are introduced. A correspondence between  $n$ -submodules of the factor  $n$ -module and certain  $n$ -submodules of the initial  $n$ -module is established.

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## 1 Introduction

In 1969 N. Celakowski [1] defined  $n$ -modules, over an associative and unital ring as a generalization of the usual concept of modules. Some further results concerning this new structure and its binary reducts as well as some categorical properties were established in [1],[4],[6],[7],[3]. However, in [1] a

strong restriction was imposed: the abelian  $n$ -group employed has a unique neutral element.

In this paper we use the same set of axioms in order to define  $n$ -modules, but we omit the above condition on unique neutral element. In this way, the structure introduced by Chikoszki in [1] becomes a particular case of what we shall call  $n$ -modules with zero.

A left  $R$ - $n$ -module, where  $n \geq 2$  and  $R$  is an arbitrary associative and unital ring, is an abelian  $n$ -group  $M$  together with a mapping  $\mu : R \times M \rightarrow M$  satisfying a certain set of axioms (the  $n$ -ary analogues of the ones employed in the binary case).

Homomorphisms between  $R$ - $n$ -modules ( $R$  and  $n$  are fixed) are the obvious ones, as are the notions of  $n$ -submodules, isomorphism, factor  $n$ -modules, simplicity, etc.

For notation and terminology see [1],[2],[3],[5], we just recall that in an  $n$ -ary sum we denote  $k$  successive terms  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  by  $x_i^k$  and if they are all equal to  $x$  then we denote the sequence by  $x^{(k)}$ . We will denote by  $\bar{x}$  the quotient (or the skew element) of  $x$ ; it has the properties:

$$\begin{cases} \left[ \begin{matrix} x^{(k)} \\ \bar{x} \end{matrix} \right]_1 = x \text{ for any } k = 1, \dots, n; \\ \left[ \begin{matrix} a \\ \bar{x} \end{matrix} \right]_1 \cdot \left[ \begin{matrix} x^{(k)} \\ \bar{x} \end{matrix} \right]_1 = \left[ \begin{matrix} x^{(k)} \\ \bar{x} \end{matrix} \right]_1 \cdot \left[ \begin{matrix} a \\ \bar{x} \end{matrix} \right]_1 = a, \text{ for any } k = 1, \dots, n-1. \end{cases}$$

We will also use the notation  $x^{(k)}$  for the  $k$ -th power defined in the sense of Dörnte (see [2],[5]).

## 2 Redefining $n$ -modules

In the sequel we shall denote by  $R$  an associative, unital ring ( $1 \neq 0$ ).

**Definition 2.1** A left  $R$ - $n$ -module is an abelian  $n$ -group  $(M, \{ \}_n)$  together with a mapping  $\mu : R \times M \rightarrow M$ , which satisfies the following set of conditions:

- 1)  $\mu(r, \{r_i^k\}_1) = \{\mu(r, x_1), \dots, \mu(r, x_n)\}_1$
- 2)  $\mu(r_1 + \dots + r_n, x) = \{\mu(r_1, x), \dots, \mu(r_n, x)\}_1$
- 3)  $\mu(r \cdot r', x) = \mu(r, \mu(r', x))$

$$4) \mu(1, x) = x$$

For all  $x, x_1, \dots, x_n \in M$  and  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in R$ .

Right  $R$ - $n$ -modules can be defined in the obvious way: replace condition 2) above by  $\mu(x, r) = \mu(r, x)$ . As in the binary case, the general study of right  $n$ -modules can be deduced from the study of left  $n$ -modules and conversely; for this reason we shall deal with left  $R$ - $n$ -modules only and refer to them as to  $R$ - $n$ -modules.

In order to simplify notation, we shall denote  $\mu(x, z)$  by  $xz$  (or, sometimes, by  $x \cdot z$ ,  $x \cdot x$ ,  $x \cdot x$ ) and call this the multiplication with the scalar  $x$ .

Recall that an element  $e$  of an  $n$ -group  $(M, [ \ ])$  is called a *neutral element* of  $M$  if every  $n$ -sum of  $n-1$  terms  $e$  and one term  $x$  equals  $x$  for any  $x \in M$ . In an abelian  $n$ -group  $M$  an element  $e \in M$  is a neutral element if and only if  $e$  is an idempotent.

Let us make now the following remarks: the empty  $n$ -group  $\emptyset$  may be regarded as an  $R$ - $n$ -module, for any associative and unital ring  $R$ ; if  $M$  is a non-empty  $R$ - $n$ -module, then it necessarily has (at least) one neutral element (indeed, for every  $x \in M$ , the element  $0x$  is an idempotent, hence a neutral element).

Let us denote by  $\mathcal{N}$  (or more simply by  $\mathcal{N}_R$ ) the set of all  $n$ -sums  $\sum_{i=1}^n r_i x_i$  of the  $n$ -group  $M$  and define the subset  $\mathcal{N}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{N}$  as

$$\mathcal{N}_0 = \{e \in \mathcal{N} \mid e = 0x, \text{ for some } x \in M\}$$

Note that if  $e \in \mathcal{N}$  then  $re \in \mathcal{N}$ , for every  $r \in R$  and  $e \in \mathcal{N}_0$  iff  $re = e$ ,  $\forall r \in R$ .

If the set  $\mathcal{N}_0$  consists of exactly one element, then this will be called a *zero* of the  $R$ - $n$ -module and we shall denote it by  $0$ .

In particular, if an  $n$ -group  $M$  has a unique neutral element  $e$ , then  $e$  is a zero of any  $R$ - $n$ -module defined on  $M$ .

**Examples 2.2** 1) Let  $M$  be a one-element set. There is a unique  $n$ -group structure on  $M$ . Any ring  $R$  determines on this  $n$ -group a unique  $R$ - $n$ -module called the zero  $R$ - $n$ -module.

2) Let  $(M, [ \ ])$  be an abelian  $n$ -group with  $\mathcal{N}_R \neq \emptyset$  and let  $e$  be an arbitrary, fixed element of  $\mathcal{N}_R$ . We shall define a *standard*  $\mathbb{Z}$ - $n$ -module on  $M$ , by using the external operation  $\mu_e: \mathbb{Z} \times M \rightarrow M$ ,  $\mu_e(k, x) = kx$  where  $kx = \begin{bmatrix} x^{(k-1)} \\ x^{(k-2)} \\ \vdots \\ x^{(1)} \\ e \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $k = (n-1)q + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < n-1$ . The element

$e$  is a zero in this  $\mathbb{Z}$ - $n$ -module. All the standard  $\mathbb{Z}$ - $n$ -modules on  $M$  (defined by using all the neutral elements of  $M$ ) are isomorphic.

3) Take an integer  $p \geq 2$  and put  $m = p(p+1)$ ,  $n = p-2$ . Define on  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  the  $n$ -ary operation " $\cdot$ " by:  $\{x_i^n\}_1 = x_1 + \dots + x_n$  (here " $+$ " denotes addition modulo  $m$ ). It is easily seen that  $(\mathbb{Z}_m, \cdot)$  is an abelian  $n$ -group and its set of neutral elements,  $\mathcal{N} = \{0, p, 2p, \dots, p^2\}$ , defines the multiplication with scalars  $\mu: \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_m, \mu(k, x) = k * x, k * x = \{(k-1)p+k\} \cdot x$  (here " $\cdot$ " denotes multiplication modulo  $m$ ). It is easy to check that  $(\mathbb{Z}_m, \cdot)$  together with the mapping  $\mu$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ - $n$ -module which has no zero element; in fact,  $\mathcal{N}_0 = \mathcal{N}$ . Indeed, we have  $0 * x = -p \cdot x = p^2 - (x-1) \cdot p = (p+1-x) \cdot p$ .

4) Take two integers  $p, t \geq 1$  and put  $m = pt(pt+1)$ ,  $n = p^2t + p + 1$ . Define on  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  the  $n$ -ary operation " $\cdot$ " as before, by:  $\{x_i^n\}_1 = x_1 + \dots + x_n$ , and the external operation  $k * x = \{pt(k-1) + k\} \cdot x$ . As before, it is easy to check that  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  together with this external operation is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ - $n$ -module for which we have:

$$\mathcal{N} = \{0, t, 2t, \dots, (p^2t + p + 1)t\} \text{ and } \mathcal{N}_0 = \{0, pt, 2pt, \dots, p^2t^2\}$$

which is strictly included in  $\mathcal{N}$  (i.e.  $\mathcal{N}_0 \subset \mathcal{N}$ ).

**Proposition 2.3** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ - $n$ -module. Then for all  $x \in M$ ,  $r \in R$  we have*

$$0x = rx, \quad (-r)x = \{0r, 0x, \overset{(n-1)}{rx}, rx\}_1, \quad x = (-n+2)x + (-1)x + \dots + (-1)x$$

*if  $R$  is a division ring, then  $rx \in \mathcal{N}$  implies  $r = 0$  or  $x \in \mathcal{N}$ .*

*Proof.* We have  $rx = r[\overset{(n-1)}{x}, x]_1 = [\overset{(n-1)}{rx}, rx]_1$ , which shows that  $rx = rx$ . In order to prove the next identity, note that  $0x = ((-r) + r + 0 + \dots + 0)x = [(-r)x, rx, \overset{(n-2)}{0x}]_1$ . This implies that  $(-r)x = \{0r, 0x, \overset{(n-2)}{rx}, rx\}_1$ . Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} (-n+2)x &= ((-1) + \dots + (-1) + 0 + 0)x = [(-1)x, 0r, 0x]_1 = \\ &= [\overset{(n-2)}{0r}, \overset{(n-2)}{0x}, \overset{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}, \overset{(n-3)}{2}, 0r, 0x]_1 + [\overset{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}, \overset{(n-3)}{2}, \overset{(n-3)}{2}]_1 = x. \end{aligned}$$

If  $rx \in \mathcal{N}$  and  $r \neq 0$  then  $r^{-1}(rx) \in \mathcal{N}$  (i.e.  $x \in \mathcal{N}$ ). ■

**Definition 2.4** A subset  $S$  of an  $R$ - $n$ -module  $M$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M$  if

- 1)  $\forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in S, [x_i]_i \in S$
- 2)  $\forall r \in R, \forall x \in S, rx \in S$

**Remarks 2.5** 1) The empty subset  $\emptyset$  is the smallest  $n$ -submodule of  $M$  and  $M$  itself is the biggest  $n$ -submodule of  $M$ . It is easy to check that the partially ordered set  $(\mathcal{S}_n(M), \subseteq)$  of all  $n$ -submodules of  $M$  is a complete lattice.

- 2)  $N$  and  $N_0$  are  $n$ -submodules of  $M$ .
- 3)  $\{e\}$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M$  iff  $e \in N_0$ .
- 4) For every non-empty  $n$ -submodule  $S$  of  $M$  we have  $S \cap N_0 \neq \emptyset$ .
- 5) If  $N, T$  are two  $n$ -submodules of  $M$ , with  $N \subseteq T$ , then  $N_{0S} \subseteq N_{0T}$  and  $N_S \subseteq T_S$ .
- 6) The notion of  $n$ -submodule generated by a subset  $X \subseteq M$  is defined in the obvious way. We have:  $\langle \emptyset \rangle = \emptyset$  and for  $X \neq \emptyset$

$$\langle X \rangle = \{ \sum_{i=1}^n r_i x_i \mid r_i \in R, x_i \in X, 1 \leq i \leq n \} \quad \blacksquare$$

**Definition 2.6** Let  $M_1, M_2$  be two  $R$ - $n$ -modules. A map  $f: M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  is called  $R$ - $n$ -module homomorphism if

$$f([x_i]_i) = [f(x_i)]_i, \text{ for each } x_1, \dots, x_n \in M_1,$$

$$f(rx) = rf(x), \text{ for each } r \in R \text{ and } x \in M_1.$$

We shall denote by  $\text{Hom}_{Rn}(M_1, M_2)$  the set of all  $R$ - $n$ -module homomorphisms from  $M_1$  to  $M_2$  and define an  $n$ -ary addition:  $[f_1, \dots, f_n], [g] = [f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)]_i$ . It is easy to check that  $\text{Hom}_{Rn}(M_1, M_2)$  together with the addition defined above is an abelian  $n$ -group and its set of neuters is  $\mathcal{N} = \{f \in \text{Hom}_{Rn}(M_1, M_2) \mid f(M_1) \subseteq N_0\}$ . If the ring  $R$  is commutative, then  $\text{Hom}_{Rn}(M_1, M_2)$  is an  $R$ - $n$ -module (the external operation being given by:  $(rf)(x) = rf(x)$ ).

**Proposition 2.7** Let  $M_1, M_2$  be two  $H$ - $n$ -modules and  $f \in \text{Hom}_H(M_1, M_2)$ . Then the following hold:

- 1)  $e \in N_1$  implies  $f(e) \in N_2$  and  $e \in N_{01}$  implies  $f(e) \in N_{02}$ .
- 2)  $f(x) = \bar{f}(x)$  for every  $x \in M_1$ .
- 3)  $S \in S_{01}(M_1)$  implies  $f(S) \in S_{02}(M_2)$  and  $T \in S_{01}(M_2)$  implies  $f^{-1}(T) \in S_{01}(M_1)$ .

As immediate consequences we have: if  $M_1, M_2$  are  $H$ - $n$ -modules with zero then  $f(0) = 0$ ; the set  $\text{Ker } f = \{x \in M_1 \mid f(x) \in N_{02}\} = f^{-1}(N_{02})$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M_1$ ;  $N_{02} \subset \text{Ker } f$ ; the set  $f(M_1)$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M_2$ .

**Proposition 2.8** Let  $M_1, M_2$  be two  $H$ - $n$ -modules and  $f \in \text{Hom}_H(M_1, M_2)$ . Then the following hold:

- 1)  $f$  is injective if and only if  $\text{Ker } f = N_{01}$  and  $f|_{N_{01}}$  is injective.
- 2)  $f$  is surjective if and only if  $f(M_1) = M_2$ .
- 3)  $f$  is a monomorphism if and only if  $f$  is injective.
- 4)  $f$  is an epimorphism if and only if  $f$  is surjective.

*Proof.* 1) If  $f$  is injective, then clearly its restriction to  $N_{01}$  is injective. Let  $e \in \text{Ker } f$ , i.e.  $f(e) \in N_{02}$  then we have  $rf(x) = f(x) \forall x \in H$  or equivalently  $f(rx) = f(x) \forall x \in H$ . Since  $f$  is injective, it follows that  $rx = x \forall x \in H$  which proves that  $x \in N_{01}$ .

Conversely, let us suppose that  $\text{Ker } f = N_{01}$  and  $f|_{N_{01}}$  is injective. Let  $x, y \in M_1$  with  $f(x) = f(y)$ . Then, for  $e \in N_{01}$  we have:

$$\{f(x), f(y), \bar{f}(e) = f(e)\} = f(e) \in N_{02} \text{ or } f(x, \bar{y}, \bar{y}, e) \in N_{02}$$

so  $[x, \bar{y}, \bar{y}, e] \in \text{Ker } f$ . This implies that  $[x, \bar{y}, \bar{y}, e] \in N_{01}$ ; now since the restriction of  $f$  to  $N_{01}$  is injective, it follows that  $[x, \bar{y}, \bar{y}, e] = e$ , which implies  $x = y$ .

3) Suppose  $f$  is a monomorphism and  $e_1, e_2 \in N_{01}$  with  $f(e_1) = f(e_2)$ . Consider the maps  $g, h: M \rightarrow M_2$ ;  $g(x) = e_1$ ,  $h(x) = e_2$  where  $M$  is an arbitrary  $H$ - $n$ -module; obviously  $g$  and  $h$  are homomorphisms and  $f \circ g = f \circ h$ . Now, since  $f$  is a monomorphism, it follows that  $g = h$ , i.e.  $e_1 = e_2$ .

Consider now the following homomorphisms  $g, h: \text{Ker } f \rightarrow M$ ,  $g(x) = 0$ ,  $h(x) = x$ . For  $x \in \text{Ker } f$  we have  $f(x) \in \mathcal{N}_0$  which implies  $0f(x) = f(0)$ ,  $\forall x \in \text{Ker } f$ . We have then

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(0) = f(x) = (f \circ h)(x),$$

hence  $f \circ g = f \circ h$ . Since  $f$  is a monomorphism it follows that  $g = h$ , i.e.  $x = 0, \forall x \in \text{Ker } f$ . Therefore  $\text{Ker } f = \mathcal{N}_0$ . By using 1) it follows now that  $f$  is injective. ■

**Proposition 2.9** Let  $f: M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ ,  $g: M_2 \rightarrow M_3$  be two  $R$ - $\alpha$ -module homomorphisms. Then  $g \circ f$  is an  $R$ - $\alpha$ -module homomorphism.

We will introduce now a special class of automorphisms and one of submodules of an  $R$ - $\alpha$ -module, which will play an important role in the study of  $\alpha$ -modules.

Let  $M$  be an  $R$ - $\alpha$ -module and  $c, f \in \mathcal{N}_0$ . Define the map  $\varphi_{c,f}: M \rightarrow M$  by  $\varphi_{c,f}(x) = [x, \begin{smallmatrix} c & \\ & f \end{smallmatrix}]$ ; it is easily checked that  $\varphi_{c,f} \in \text{Aut}_R M$  and  $\varphi_{c,f}(c) = f$ . Moreover,  $\varphi_{c,f}(x) \in \mathcal{N}_0$  if and only if  $x \in \mathcal{N}_0$ .

**Proposition 4.10** Let automorphisms  $\varphi_{c,f}$ , where  $c, f \in \mathcal{N}_0$  have the following properties:

- 1) For any  $c, f, g \in \mathcal{N}_0$  we have  $\varphi_{c,f}(g) = \varphi_{c,g}(f)$ .
- 2) Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{N}_0$  arbitrary fixed. For any  $f, g \in \mathcal{N}_0$  we have  $\varphi_{f,g} = \varphi_{c,f} \circ \varphi_{c,g}$ , which proves that the set  $\Phi = \{\varphi_{f,g} \mid f, g \in \mathcal{N}_0\}$  coincides with the set  $\Phi_1 = \{\varphi_{c,f} \mid f \in \mathcal{N}_0\}$ .
- 3)  $\Phi$  is a commutative normal subgroup of the group  $(\text{Aut}_R M, \circ)$ .

*Proof.* 2) For any  $x \in M$  we have:

$$\varphi_{f,g}(x) = [x, \begin{smallmatrix} f & \\ & g \end{smallmatrix}] = [x, \begin{smallmatrix} c & \\ & c \end{smallmatrix}] \cdot \begin{smallmatrix} c & \\ & f \end{smallmatrix} \cdot \begin{smallmatrix} c & \\ & g \end{smallmatrix}] = \varphi_{c,cf}(g)(x).$$

3) It is easy to check that:

$$\varphi_{c,f} \circ \varphi_{c,g} = \varphi_{c,cf}(g) = \varphi_{c,g} \circ \varphi_{c,f} \varphi_{c,f} = \text{id}_M;$$

$$\varphi_{c,f}^{-1} = \varphi_{c,cf}(c)^{-1} \circ \varphi_{c,f} \circ \alpha = \varphi_{c,cf}(c) \varphi_{c,f}^{-1} \alpha^{-1}$$

for any  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}_R M$ . ■

Let  $M$  be an  $R$ - $n$ -module and  $e \in \mathcal{N}_0$ . The subset  $M_e = \{x \in M \mid 0x = e\}$  is a non-empty  $n$ -submodule of  $M$ . Indeed  $e \in M_e$ : if  $x \in M_e$ , then  $0(rx) = e(0x) = ex = e$ , which proves that  $rx \in M_e$ ; if  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in M_e$ , then  $0[x_1^*] = [0x_1, \dots, 0x_n] = [e^*] = e$ , so  $[x_1^*] \in M_e$ . Let us remark that the set of all  $M_e$ ,  $e \in \mathcal{N}_0$  form a partition of  $M$ , and that  $e$  is zero element in the  $n$ -module  $M_e$ .

It is also of interest the fact that for  $\alpha \in \text{Aut } M$ ,  $\alpha(M_e) = M_{\alpha(e)}$ , in particular  $\alpha_e(M_e) = M_e$ .

**Definition 2.11** Let  $M$  be an  $R$ - $n$ -module and  $S$  a non-empty  $n$ -submodule of  $M$ . The set  $M/S = \{x + (n-1)S \mid x \in M\}$ , where

$$x + (n-1)S = \{y \in M \mid \exists s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S \text{ such that } y = [x, s_1^*] \},$$

together with the operations  $[x_1 + (n-1)S, \dots, x_n + (n-1)S] = [x_1^*] + (n-1)S$ ;  $r(x + (n-1)S) = rx + (n-1)S$ , is an  $R$ - $n$ -module (called the factor  $n$ -module of  $M$  with respect to  $S$ ).

**Remarks 2.12** 1) If  $S = \{e\} \subset \mathcal{N}_0$ , then  $M/S \cong M$ .

2)  $\mathcal{N}_{0M/S} = \{e + (n-1)S \mid e \in \mathcal{N}_0\}$ .

3) The  $R$ - $n$ -module  $M/S$  has a zero element if and only if  $S \supseteq \mathcal{N}_0$ .

4) The natural map

$$\rho_S: M \rightarrow M/S, \rho_S(x) = x + (n-1)S$$

is a surjective  $n$ -module homomorphism.

5)  $M/S = M/T$  if and only if there exists  $e \in \mathcal{N}_0$  such that  $T = e + (n-1)S$ .

Congruences on an  $R$ - $n$ -module are defined in the obvious way; let us note that the lattice of congruences is modular.

The connections between congruences and  $n$ -submodules are described in the following

**Proposition 2.13** Let  $M$  be a  $R$ - $n$ -module,  $S$  a non-empty  $n$ -submodule and  $\rho$  a congruence. Then:

1) The binary relation  $\rho_S$ , defined by  $x\rho_S y \Leftrightarrow \exists s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S$  such that  $y = [x, s_1^*]$ , is a congruence on  $M$ . Moreover,  $M/S = M/\rho_S$ .



- 2) The equivalence class  $\rho(x)$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M$ , for each  $x \in \mathcal{N}_0$ . Moreover,  $M/\rho = M/\rho(x)$ .
- 3) A coset  $x + (n-1)S$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M$  if and only if it contains at least one element of  $\mathcal{N}_0$ .

*Proof.* 1) Since  $S$  is a non-empty  $n$ -submodule of  $M$ , there exists  $x \in \mathcal{N}_0 \cap S$  so we can write any  $z \in M$  as  $z = [x, s_1^{(n-1)}]_1$ , which proves that  $\rho_x$  is reflexive. If  $z\rho_x y$  then  $y = [x, s_1^{(n-1)}]_1$ , for some  $s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S$ . Then  $z = [y, [s_{n-1}, s_{n-2}, \dots, s_2, s_1]_1, s_1, s_2]_1$ , i.e.  $z\rho_x x$ . The relation  $\rho_x$  is clearly transitive. If  $x\rho_x y$ , for  $s_1 = 1, \dots, n$  then  $y = [x, s_1^{(n-1)}]_1$ ; for some  $s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S$ .

We obtain

$$[y]_1 = [x, s_1^{(n-1)}, \dots, s_n, s_1^{(n-1)}]_1 = \dots$$

$[x]_1, [s_1^{(n-1)}, \dots, s_{n-1}, s_1^{(n-1)}]_1$ , which proves that  $[x]_1, \rho_x[M]_1$ .

2) If  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \rho(x)$ , then  $x_i\rho_x$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and so  $[x_i]_1, \rho_x^{(n)}[x]_1 = x$ , as well as  $x_i\rho(x) = x$ , for all  $x \in B$ . This proves that  $\rho(x)$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M$ .

3) Follows from 1) and 2).

Let  $M$  be an  $R$ - $n$ -module and  $S$  an non-empty  $n$ -submodule of  $M$ . Can one establish a connection (as in the binary case) between the  $n$ -submodules of  $M/S$  and certain  $n$ -submodules of  $M$ ? An answer to this question will be given in the sequel.

We define the map  $J_S: \mathcal{S}_n(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n(M)$  by  $J_S(T) = p^{-1}(p(T))$ , for any  $T \in \mathcal{S}_n(M)$ , where  $p$  is the natural homomorphism. The map  $J_S$  is well defined, since  $T$  is an  $n$ -submodule of  $M$  and  $p$  is a homomorphism. Note that  $J_S(T)$  can be described also as:

$$J_S(T) = \{y \in M \mid \exists s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S \text{ such that } y = [x, s_i^{(n-1)}]_1\}.$$

Remark as well that  $p(J_S(T)) = p(T)$  and that  $J_S(T)$  is the biggest  $n$ -submodule of  $M$  with this property. The mapping  $J_S(T)$  is a closure operator (we consider the set  $\mathcal{S}_n(M)$  partially ordered by set-inclusion).

**Proposition 2.14** Let  $S$  be a non-empty  $n$ -submodule of an  $R$ - $n$ -module  $M$ . Then the following hold:

- 1) If  $T \subseteq S$ , then  $J_S(T) = S$ .
- 2) If  $S \subseteq T$ , then  $J_S(T) = T$ .
- 3)  $\text{Ker } p = J_S(N_0)$ .
- 4)  $(S \cup T) = (S \cup J_S(T))$ .
- 5)  $S \cap T \neq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow S \subseteq J_S(T) \Leftrightarrow (S \cup T) = J_S(T)$ .
- 6)  $S \cap T = \emptyset \Leftrightarrow J_S(T) \cap S = \emptyset$ .
- 7) If  $N_0 \subseteq S$ , then  $J_S(T) = T$  if and only if  $S \subseteq T$ .

*Proof.* Statements 1) and 2) are immediate.

3) We have

$$\begin{aligned} x \in \text{Ker } p &\Leftrightarrow p(x) \in N_{0M/S} \Leftrightarrow \exists e \in N_0 : e \in p(x) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists e \in N_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S : x = [e, s_1^{n-1}]_+ \Leftrightarrow x \in J_S(N_0). \end{aligned}$$

4) From  $T \subseteq J_S(T)$  it follows that  $(S \cup T) \subseteq (S \cup J_S(T))$ . Conversely, take  $x \in (S \cup J_S(T))$ ; it follows that  $\exists x_1, \dots, x_k \in S, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_n \in J_S(T)$  such that  $x = [x_1^n]_+$ . For  $i = k+1, \dots, n$  there exist  $t_i \in T, s_{i1}, \dots, s_{i, n-i} \in S$  such that  $x_i = [t_i, s_{i1}^{n-i}]_+$ . We have now

$$x = [x_1^n, t_{k+1}^n, s_{k+1,1}^{k+1, n-1}, \dots, s_{n-1}^{n-1}]_+ \in (S \cup T),$$

which shows that  $(S \cup J_S(T)) \subseteq (S \cup T)$ .

5) If  $S \cap T \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\exists e \in N_0$  with  $e \in S \cap T$ . Since any  $x \in S$  can be written as  $x = [e^{(n-1)}, x]_+$ , it follows that  $S \subseteq J_S(T)$ . Conversely, if  $S \subseteq J_S(T)$ , then for any  $x \in S$  there exist  $t \in T, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S$  such that  $x = [t, s_1^{n-1}]_+$ ; now, since  $S$  is an  $n$ -submodule, it follows that  $t \in S$  and  $S \cap T \neq \emptyset$ .

If  $S \subseteq J_S(T)$ , then  $(S \cup T) \subseteq J_S(T)$ . From 4) we have that  $J_S(T) \subseteq (S \cup T)$ .

6) Take  $y \in J_S(T)$ . Then  $\exists r \in T, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \in S$  such that  $y = [r, s_1^{n-1}]_+$ . If  $y \in S$  too, then we obtain  $x \in S$ , hence  $x \in S \cap T$ . We have proved that if  $S \cap T = \emptyset$ , then  $J_S(T) \cap S = \emptyset$ . The converse follows immediately from  $T \subseteq J_S(T)$ .

7) Follows from 2) and 5). ■

We shall say that an  $n$ -submodule  $T$  of  $M$  is *closed with respect to  $S$* , if  $T = J_S(T)$ .

**Theorem 2.15** *The map  $T \mapsto p(T)$  is a lattice isomorphism between the set of the  $n$ -submodules of  $M$  which are closed with respect to  $S$  and the set of  $n$ -submodules of  $M/S$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $T_1, T_2$  be two closed  $n$ -submodules with  $p(T_1) = p(T_2)$ . Then  $p^{-1}(p(T_1)) = p^{-1}(p(T_2))$ , i.e.  $J_S(T_1) = J_S(T_2)$ , or  $T_1 = T_2$ . Take now an arbitrary  $U \in \mathcal{S}_{nc}(M/S)$  and put  $T = p^{-1}(U) \in \mathcal{S}_{nc}(M)$ . We have  $p(T) = U$  and  $p^{-1}(p(T)) = p^{-1}(U) = T$ , which means  $J_S(T) = T$ .

Finally, if  $T_1 \subseteq T_2$  it is known that  $p(T_1) \subseteq p(T_2)$ . ■

**Corollary 2.16** *If  $N_0 \subseteq S$  then the map  $T \mapsto T/S$  is a lattice isomorphism between the set of  $n$ -submodules of  $M$  which contain  $S$  and the set of  $n$ -submodules of  $M/S$ .*

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