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## ON FINITELY GENERATED MULTIPLICATION MODULES

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*Abstract.* We shall prove that if  $M$  is a finitely generated multiplication module and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ , then there exists a distributive lattice  $\overline{M}$  such that  $\text{Spec}(M)$  with Zariski topology is homeomorphic to  $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  to Stone topology. Finally we shall give a characterization of finitely generated multiplication  $R$ -modules  $M$  such that  $\text{Ann}(M)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ .

*Keywords:* prime submodules, multiplication modules, distributive lattices, spectral spaces

*MSC 2000:* 13C13, 13C99

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this note all rings are commutative with identity and all modules are unital.

For any submodule  $N$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$ , we define  $(N : M) = \{r \in R : rM \subseteq N\}$  and denote  $(0 : M)$  by  $\text{Ann}(M)$ . A submodule  $P$  of  $M$  is called prime if  $P \neq M$  and whenever  $r \in R$ ,  $m \in M$  and  $rm \in P$ , then  $m \in P$  or  $r \in (P : M)$ . It is easy to show that if  $P$  is a prime submodule of an  $R$ -module  $M$ , then  $(P : M)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ . The set of all prime submodules of  $M$  is denoted by  $\text{Spec}(M)$ . As defined in [4] the radical of a submodule  $N$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$  is given by  $\text{rad}(N) = \bigcap P$ , where the intersection is over all prime submodules of  $M$  containing  $N$ . If there is no prime submodule containing  $N$ , then we define  $\text{rad}(N) = M$ . The radical of an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is denoted by  $\sqrt{I}$ .

An  $R$ -module  $M$  is called a multiplication module provided for any submodule  $N$  of  $M$  there exists an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $N = IM$ . It is easy to check that  $M$  is a multiplication module if and only if  $N = (N : M)M$  for every submodule  $N$  of  $M$  (see [8]).

In this paper at first we shall construct a distributive lattice  $\overline{M}$  and discuss some properties of  $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$ , where  $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  is the set of all prime ideals in the lattice  $\overline{M}$ . We shall then prove that if  $M$  is a finitely generated multiplication module and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ , then  $\text{Spec}(M)$  and  $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  are homeomorphic. Finally we shall generalize the notion of reticulated and semi-reticulated rings for modules and characterize some classes of semi-reticulated modules.

## 2. ON THE LATTICE $\overline{M}$ AND ITS PRIME SPECTRUM

Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $\text{FI}(R)$  be the set of all finitely generated ideals of  $R$ . Now let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $\text{su}(M)$  the  $\text{FI}(R)$ -semimodule generated by the principal  $R$ -submodules of  $M$  and  $M$  under the operations  $N + K$ ,  $IN$ , where  $N, K \in \text{su}(M)$  and  $I \in \text{FI}(R)$ . Hence

$$\text{su}(M) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k I_i R m_i + J_i M : I_i, J_i \in \text{FI}(R), m_i \in M, k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}.$$

It is clear that if  $M$  is a finitely generated  $R$ -module then  $\text{su}(M)$  is the set of all finitely generated submodules of  $M$ .

Define the equivalence relation on  $\text{su}(M)$ , “ $\sim$ ” by  $N \sim L$  if and only if  $\text{rad}(N) = \text{rad}(L)$  [6, p. 1470], and denote the resulting set of equivalence classes by  $\overline{M}$ ; i.e.,  $\overline{M} = \{[K] : K \in \text{su}(M)\}$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $N, N', K, K' \in \text{su}(M)$  and  $I, I' \in \text{FI}(R)$ . If  $N \sim N'$  and  $K \sim K'$ , then we have*

- (i)  $(N + K) \sim (N' + K')$ ;
- (ii) if  $\sqrt{I} = \sqrt{I'}$  then  $IN \sim I'N'$ .

*Proof.* (i) By [6, Lemma 1.5].

(ii) Let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and  $IN \subseteq P$ . Hence  $N \subseteq P$  or  $I \subseteq (P : M)$ . If  $N \subseteq P$  then  $I'N' \subseteq N' \subseteq \text{rad}(N') = \text{rad}(N) \subseteq P$ . Suppose that  $I \subseteq (P : M) \in \text{Spec}(R)$ . Hence  $I' \subseteq \sqrt{I} = \sqrt{I} \subseteq (P : M)$ . Thus  $I'N' \subseteq I'M \subseteq P$ . Therefore  $\text{rad}(I'N') \subseteq \text{rad}(IN)$ . Similarly  $\text{rad}(IN) \subseteq \text{rad}(I'N')$  and hence  $IN \sim I'N'$ .  $\square$

Let  $[N], [K]$  belong to  $\overline{M}$  and  $I \in \text{FI}(R)$ .

We define  $[N] + [K] := [N + K]$  and  $I[N] := [IN]$ . Then by Lemma 2.1,  $\overline{M}$  becomes an  $\text{FI}(R)$ -semimodule. Furthermore we define  $[N] \leq [K]$  if for each  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ ,  $K \subseteq P$  implies that  $N \subseteq P$ . Therefore  $(\overline{M}, \leq)$  is a partially ordered set.

Let  $N$  be a subset of  $M$ .

We define  $\overline{M}(N) = \{[L] \in \overline{M} : L \sim K, \text{ for some } K \subseteq N\}$ . If  $0 \in N$  then  $[0] \in \overline{M}(N)$  and hence  $\overline{M}(N) \neq \emptyset$ .

Now let  $N$  be a subset of  $\overline{M}$ . We define  $M[N] = \{x \in M : [Rx] \in N\}$ . If  $[0] \in N$  then  $0 \in M[N]$  and hence  $M[N] \neq \emptyset$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . Then  $M[\overline{M}(P)] = P$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in P$ . Then  $Rx \subseteq P$  and hence  $[Rx] \in \overline{M}(P)$ . Therefore  $x \in M[\overline{M}(P)]$ . Now let  $x \in M[\overline{M}(P)]$ . Then  $[Rx] \in \overline{M}(P)$  and so  $Rx \sim L$  for some  $L \subseteq P$ . Thus  $Rx \subseteq \text{rad}(Rx) = \text{rad}(L) \subseteq P$ . Hence  $x \in P$  □

For the remainder of this section we let  $M$  be a finitely generated multiplication  $R$ -module and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** *Suppose that  $M$  is an  $R$ -module. Then  $(\overline{M}, \leq)$  is a distributive lattice.*

*Proof.* Put  $0 := [0_M]$  and  $1 := [M]$ .

Define for any  $N, K \in \text{su}(M)$ ;  $[N] \vee [K] := [N + K]$  and  $[N] \wedge [K] = [(N : M)K]$ . Since  $M, N$  and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  are finitely generated, by [8, Proposition 13],  $(N : M)$  is finitely generated. Therefore  $(N : M) \in \text{FI}(R)$  and so  $(N : M)K \in \text{su}(M)$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication module, the infimum of  $[N]$  and  $[K]$  is well-defined.

We now show that  $\overline{M}$  is a distributive lattice. It is enough to show that

$$[(N : M)K + L] = [(N + L : M)(K + L)].$$

Let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$  be such that  $(N : M)K + L \subseteq P$ . Then  $(N : M)K \subseteq P$  and  $L \subseteq P$ . Hence  $K \subseteq P$  or  $(N : M) \subseteq (P : M)$ . If  $K \subseteq P$  then  $(N + L : M)K \subseteq P$  and since  $(N + L : M)L \subseteq P$ , we get  $(N + L : M)(K + L) \subseteq P$ . If  $(N : M) \subseteq (P : M)$ , then since  $M$  is a multiplication module,  $N = (N : M)M \subseteq P$ . Hence  $(N + L) \subseteq P$  and so  $(N + L : M)K \subseteq P$ . Therefore

$$[(N : M)K + L] \leq [(N + L : M)(K + L)].$$

Similarly  $[(N + L : M)(K + L)] \leq [(N : M)K + L]$ . □

Let  $N$  be an ideal of  $\overline{M}$ . Since  $R(x + y) \subseteq Rx + Ry$  and  $R(rx) \subseteq Rx$ , where  $x, y \in M$  and  $r \in R$ , we see that  $M(N)$  is an  $R$ -submodule of  $M$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $M$  is a finitely generated  $R$ -module, then  $\overline{M}(M[N]) = N$ , for all ideals  $N$  of  $\overline{M}$ .*

*Proof.* It is clear that  $N \subseteq \overline{M}(M[N])$ . Let  $[L] \in \overline{M}(M[N])$ . Then for some finitely generated  $K \in \text{su}(M)$ ,  $K \in [L]$  and  $K \subseteq M[N]$ . Suppose that  $K = \sum_{i=1}^n m_i R$ . Therefore we have  $[L] = [K] = \sum_{i=1}^n [m_i R] \in N$ . We conclude that  $\overline{M}(M[N]) = N$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $N \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$ . Then  $M[N] \in \text{Spec}(M)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $M[N] = M$  then by Lemma 2.4,  $N = \overline{M}(M[N]) = \overline{M}(M) = \overline{M}$ , which is a contradiction. Suppose that  $N \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  and  $rm \in M[N]$ ,  $r \in R$ ,  $m \in M$ . Then  $[Rrm] \in \overline{M}(M[N]) = N$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication module, so  $(Rm : M)M = Rm$ . Hence  $[(Rm : M)rM] = [Rm] \wedge [rM] = [Rrm] \in N$ , and so  $[Rm] \in N$  or  $[rM] \in N$ . If  $[Rm] \in N$  then  $m \in M[N]$ . Now if  $[rM] \in N$ , then  $rM \subseteq M[N]$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.6.**

- (i) *If  $N \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  then  $\overline{M}(M[N]) = N$ .*
- (ii) *For every ideal  $N$  of  $\overline{M}$ ,*

$$N \subseteq \overline{M}(M[N]) \subseteq \text{rad}(N) = \bigcap \{P \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M}) : N \subseteq P\}.$$

*Proof.* (i) Clearly  $N \subseteq \overline{M}(M[N])$ . Let  $[K] \in \overline{M}(M[N])$ . Hence there exists  $L \subseteq M[N]$  such that  $L \sim K$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $M[N] \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and so  $K \subseteq M[N]$ . Since  $K \in \text{su}(M)$ , we have  $K = \sum_{i=1}^t I_i m_i R + J_i M$ , where  $I_i, J_i \in \text{FI}(R)$  and  $m_i \in M$ . Therefore  $I_i m_i R \subseteq M[N]$  and  $J_i M \subseteq M[N]$ , for all  $i$ . Thus  $m_i \in M[N]$  or  $I_i \subseteq (M[N] : M)$ . If  $m_i \in M[N]$  then  $[m_i R] \in N$ . Since  $[I_i m_i R] \leq [m_i R]$ , we get  $[I_i m_i R] \in N$ . Now if  $I_i \subseteq (M[N] : M)$  then  $[I_i m_i R] \in N$ . Therefore  $[I_i m_i R] \in N$ , for all  $i$ . By a similar proof  $[J_i M] \in N$ . We conclude that  $[K] \in N$ .

(ii) Let  $N$  be any ideal of  $\overline{M}$ . If  $N = \overline{M}$  then clearly  $N = \overline{M}(M[N])$ . Therefore assume that  $N \neq \overline{M}$ . Let  $[K] \in \overline{M}(M[N])$ . Hence  $K \sim L$ , for some  $L \subseteq M[N]$ . Choose a  $P \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$ , with  $N \subseteq P$ , then  $M[N] \subseteq M[P]$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $M[P] \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and hence  $K \subseteq \text{rad}(L) \subseteq \text{rad}(M[N]) \subseteq M[P]$ . Thus  $[K] \in \overline{M}(M[P]) = P$  (by (i)). So  $[K] \in \text{rad}(N)$ . Therefore  $\overline{M}(M[N]) \subseteq \text{rad}(N)$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $N$  a submodule of  $M$ . Then  $\overline{M}(N)$  is an ideal in the lattice  $\overline{M}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $[L_1], [L_2] \in \overline{M}(N)$ . Then there exist  $K_1 \subseteq N$  and  $K_2 \subseteq N$  such that  $K_1 \sim L_1$  and  $K_2 \sim L_2$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $(K_1 + K_2) \sim (L_1 + L_2)$  and so  $[L_1] \vee [L_2] = [L_1 + L_2] \in \overline{M}(N)$ . Now assume that  $[L] \in \overline{M}(N)$ ,  $[K] \in \overline{M}$  and  $[K] \leq [L]$ . We must show that  $[K] \in \overline{M}(N)$ . There exists  $L' \subseteq N$ ,  $L' \sim L$ . Put  $L_1 = (K : M)L'$ . It is clear that  $L_1 \subseteq N$ . Let  $Q \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and  $L_1 \subseteq Q$ . Then  $L' \subseteq Q$  or  $(K : M) \subseteq (Q : M)$ . If  $L' \subseteq Q$  then  $L \subseteq \text{rad}(L) = \text{rad}(L') \subseteq Q$  and hence  $K \subseteq Q$ , because  $[K] \leq [L]$ . Now if  $(K : M) \subseteq (Q : M)$  then  $K \subseteq Q$ . Clearly  $(K : M)L' \subseteq K \subseteq Q$ . Thus  $K \sim L_1$  and so  $[K] \in \overline{M}(N)$ .  $\square$

Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $\overline{M}$ .

Put  $(N : \overline{M}) = \{J \in \text{FI}(R) : \text{for all } [K] \in \overline{M}, \text{ there exists } [L] \in N; J[K] \leq [L]\}$ . It is easy to show that  $(N : \overline{M})$  is an ideal of  $\text{FI}(R)$ , i.e.  $J_1 + J_2 \in (N : \overline{M})$ ,  $IJ \in (N : \overline{M})$ , where  $J_1, J_2, J \in (N : \overline{M})$  and  $I \in \text{FI}(R)$ .

**Proposition 2.8.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then  $P \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  if and only if  $(P : \overline{M}) \in \text{Spec}(\text{FI}(R))$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(P : \overline{M}) = \text{FI}(R)$ . By assumption  $P \neq \overline{M}$ , so there exists  $[K] \in \overline{M} \setminus P$ . Since  $R \in (P : \overline{M})$ , we have  $R[K] = [K] \leq [L]$ , for some  $[L] \in P$ . So  $[K] \in P$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $(P : \overline{M}) \neq \text{FI}(R)$ . Assume that  $I, J \in \text{FI}(R)$  are such that  $IJ \in (P : \overline{M})$ . Let  $[K] \in \overline{M}$ . Then there exists  $[L] \in P$  such that  $IJ[K] \leq [L]$  and so  $[IJK] \in P$ . Clearly  $[(IK : M)JM] \leq [IJK]$ . Hence  $[IK] \wedge [JM] = [(IK : M)JK] = [IJK] \in P$ , and so  $[IK] \in P$  or  $[JM] \in P$ . We conclude that  $I \in (P : \overline{M})$  or  $J \in (P : \overline{M})$  and  $(P : \overline{M}) \in \text{Spec}(\text{FI}(R))$ . Conversely, let  $[K] \wedge [L] = [(K : M)L] \in P$  and  $[T] \in \overline{M}$ . Since  $[(K : M)(L : M)T] \leq [(K : M)L]$ , we have  $(K : M) \in (P : \overline{M})$  or  $(L : M) \in (P : \overline{M})$ . If  $(K : M) \in (P : \overline{M})$  then  $[(K : M)M] \in P$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication module,  $[K] = [(K : M)M] \in P$ . Similarly  $[L] \in P$  and hence  $P \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. If  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$  then  $\overline{M}(P) \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $\overline{M}(P) = \overline{M}$ . By Lemma 2.2,  $P = M[\overline{M}] = M$ , which is a contradiction. Now let  $[K] \wedge [L] = [(K : M)L] \in \overline{M}(P)$ . Then there exists  $L' \subseteq P$  such that  $(K : M)L \sim L'$ . Therefore  $(K : M)L \subseteq \text{rad}(L') \subseteq P$ . So  $L \subseteq P$  or  $K = (K : M)M \subseteq P$ . Thus  $[K] \in \overline{M}(P)$  or  $[L] \in \overline{M}(P)$ .  $\square$

### 3. TOPOLOGIES ON $\text{Spec}(M)$ AND $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$

We begin this section by introducing a topology called the Zariski topology on  $\text{Spec}(M)$  for any  $R$ -module  $M$ , in which closed sets are varieties

$$V(N) = \{P \in \text{Spec}(M) : (N : M) \subseteq (P : M)\}$$

of all submodules  $N$  of  $M$  [2, Proposition 1.1]. Similarly, for any ideal  $L$  of  $\overline{M}$ , put

$$\overline{V}(L) = \{Q \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M}) : L \subseteq Q\}.$$

For the remainder of this section we let  $M$  be a finitely generated multiplication  $R$ -module and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Put  $\overline{T} = \{\overline{V}(L) \mid L \text{ is an ideal of } \overline{M}\}$ . Then  $\overline{T}$  is the collection of closed sets of the Stone topology on  $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$ .*

*Proof.* It is easy to show that  $\overline{V}([0]) = \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  and  $\overline{V}(\overline{M}) = \emptyset$ . Let  $L$  and  $N$  be ideals of  $\overline{M}$ . We show that  $\overline{V}(L) \cup \overline{V}(N) = \overline{V}(L \cap N)$ . Suppose that  $Q \in \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  is such that  $L \cap N \subseteq Q$  and  $L \not\subseteq Q$ . Then there exists  $[K] \in L \setminus Q$ . Let  $[K_1] \in N$ . Clearly  $[K] \wedge [K_1] \in L \cap N$ . Therefore  $[K_1] \in Q$ . Hence  $\overline{V}(L \cap N) \subseteq \overline{V}(L) \cup \overline{V}(N)$ . It is clear that  $\overline{V}(L) \cup \overline{V}(N) \subseteq \overline{V}(L \cap N)$ . Let  $\{N_i \mid i \in I\}$  be a family of ideals of  $\overline{M}$ . Then  $\bigcap_{i \in I} \overline{V}(N_i) = \overline{V}\left(\sum_{i \in I} N_i\right)$ .  $\square$

For any subset  $X \subseteq \text{Spec}(M)$ , let  $\overline{X} = \{\overline{M}(P) : P \in X\}$ . Since  $M$  is a finitely generated multiplication  $R$ -module and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  is a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ , by Lemma 2.9  $\overline{X} \subseteq \text{Spec}(\overline{M})$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ ,  $\overline{V}(N) = \overline{V}(\overline{M}(N))$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\overline{M}(P) \in \overline{V}(N)$ , so  $P \in V(N)$ . Thus  $(N : M) \subseteq (P : M)$ . Let  $[L] \in \overline{M}(N)$ . Then  $L \sim L'$ , for some  $L' \subseteq N$ . But  $(N : M)M = N$  and hence  $L' \subseteq P$ . Therefore  $[L] \in \overline{M}(P)$ . We conclude that  $\overline{M}(N) \subseteq \overline{M}(P)$  and so  $\overline{V}(N) \subseteq \overline{V}(\overline{M}(N))$ . Now let  $Q \in \overline{V}(\overline{M}(N))$ , then  $\overline{M}(N) \subseteq Q$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $M[Q] = P \in \text{Spec}(M)$ . Hence by Lemma 2.4,  $\overline{M}(P) = \overline{M}(M[Q]) = Q$ . We claim that  $(N : M) \subseteq (P : M)$ . If  $rM \subseteq N$  then  $[rM] \in \overline{M}(N) \subseteq Q$  and so  $rR[M] \in Q$ . Hence  $rM \subseteq M[Q] = P$ . We conclude that  $Q \in \overline{V}(N)$ .  $\square$

Put  $T = \{V(N) \mid N \text{ is a submodule of } M\}$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $M$  be a finitely generated multiplication  $R$ -module and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ . Then the topological spaces  $(\text{Spec}(M), T)$  and  $(\text{Spec}(\overline{M}), \overline{T})$  are homeomorphic.*

*Proof.* Define

$$\varphi: \text{Spec}(M) \longrightarrow \text{Spec}(\overline{M}); \quad \varphi(P) = \overline{M}(P)$$

and

$$\psi: \text{Spec}(\overline{M}) \longrightarrow \text{Spec}(M); \quad \psi(L) = M[L].$$

By Lemmas 2.9 and 2.5,  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are well-defined. By Lemmas 2.2 and 2.4, we have

$$\psi \circ \varphi(P) = \psi(\overline{M}(P)) = M[\overline{M}(P)] = P$$

and

$$\varphi \circ \psi(L) = \varphi(M[L]) = \overline{M}(M[L]) = L.$$

Hence the two mappings  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are inverses of each other. The bijection  $\varphi$  induces a map  $\overline{\varphi}: T \longrightarrow \overline{T}$  by  $\overline{\varphi}(V(N)) = \overline{V(N)}$ . By Lemma 3.2,  $\overline{V(N)} = \overline{V}(\overline{M}(N))$  and so  $\overline{\varphi}$  is well-defined. We claim that this induced map is also a bijection. Suppose  $\overline{V(N)} = \overline{V(L)}$ . By Lemma 3.2, we have  $\overline{V}(\overline{M}(N)) = \overline{V}(\overline{M}(L))$ . We must show that  $V(N) = V(L)$ . Let  $P \in \text{Spec}(M)$  and  $(N : M) \subseteq (P : M)$ . Suppose that  $rM \subseteq L$ . Hence  $[rM] \in \overline{M}(L)$ . Since  $\overline{M}(P) \in \overline{V}(\overline{M}(N)) = \overline{V}(\overline{M}(L))$ , we get  $[rM] \in \overline{M}(P)$ . Therefore  $rM \subseteq P$ . We conclude that  $P \in V(L)$  and so  $V(N) \subseteq V(L)$ . By symmetry we infer that  $V(L) = V(N)$ . Hence  $\overline{\varphi}$  is one-to-one. Now let  $\overline{V}(L) \in \overline{T}$ . Since  $L$  is an ideal of  $\overline{M}$ , we have  $\overline{\varphi}(V(M[L])) = \overline{V}(\overline{M}(M[L])) = \overline{V}(L)$  and so  $\overline{\varphi}$  is onto.  $\square$

Following M. Hochster [3], we say that a topological space  $W$  is a spectral space if  $W$  is homeomorphic to  $\text{Spec}(S)$  with the Zariski topology, for some ring  $S$ .

**Definition.** A semi-reticulation for an  $R$ -module  $M$  is a pair  $(\overline{M}, \lambda)$  where  $\overline{M}$  is a distributive lattice with 0, 1 and  $\lambda: M \longrightarrow \overline{M}$  is a mapping such that

- (I)  $\lambda(x + y) \leq \lambda(x) \vee \lambda(y)$ ;
- (II)  $\lambda(rx) \leq \lambda(x) \wedge \lambda(y)$ , for some  $y \in rM$ ;
- (III)  $\lambda(0) = 0$ ;
- (IV) the inverse image map induced by  $\lambda$  is a homeomorphism between  $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  and  $\text{Spec}(M)$  (with the Stone and the Zariski topologies respectively).

Moreover, if  $\lambda(m) = 1$ , for some  $m \in M$ , then we say that  $M$  has a reticulation (this generalizes [7]).



**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $M$  be a finitely generated  $R$ -module and  $\text{Ann}(M)$  be a finitely generated ideal of  $R$ . Then the following are equivalent.*

- (i)  $M$  is a multiplication module;
- (ii) there exists a semi-reticulation for  $M$ ;
- (iii)  $\text{Spec}(M)$  is spectral.

*Proof.* (i)  $\rightarrow$  (ii) Define  $\lambda: M \rightarrow \overline{M}$  by  $\lambda(x) = [Rx]$ , where  $x \in M$ . Clearly (I), (II) and (III) are satisfied. By Theorem 3.3, we have  $\lambda^{-1}(Q) = \psi(Q)$ . Hence the inverse image map induced by  $\lambda$  is a homeomorphism between  $\text{Spec}(\overline{M})$  and  $\text{Spec}(M)$ .

(ii)  $\rightarrow$  (iii) It is well known that the prime ideal space of a distributive lattice with 0, 1, is spectral under the Stone topology (see [1]). By Proposition 2.3 and Theorem 3.3,  $\text{Spec}(M)$  is spectral.

(iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i) By [5, Corollary 6.6]. □

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $M$  be a finitely generated  $R$ -module. Suppose that  $R$  is a Noetherian ring or  $M$  is a faithful module (i.e.  $\text{Ann}(M) = 0$ ). Then  $M$  is multiplication if and only if  $M$  has a semi-reticulation.*

**Corollary 3.7.** *Let  $M$  be a cyclic  $R$ -module. Suppose that  $R$  is a Noetherian ring or  $M$  is a faithful module, then  $M$  has a reticulation.*

*Proof.* By Corollary 3.6,  $M$  has a semi-reticulation. Since  $M$  is a cyclic  $R$ -module, there exists  $m \in M$  such that  $Rm = M$ . Therefore  $\lambda(m) = [Rm] = [M] = 1$ . We conclude that  $M$  has a reticulation. □

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