



**$*_p$ -MODULES AND A SPECIAL CLASS OF MODULES  
DETERMINED BY THE ESSENTIAL CLOSURE OF THE  
CLASS OF ALL  $*$ -RINGS**

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**Abstract**

A ring  $A$  is called a  $*$ -ring if  $A$  is a prime ring and  $A$  has no nonzero proper prime homomorphic image. The  $*$ -ring was introduced by Korolczuk in 1981. Since  $*$ -rings have an important role in radical theory of rings, the properties of  $*$ -ring have been being investigated

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intensively. Since every ring can be viewed as a module over itself, the generalization of  $*$ -ring into module theory is an interesting investigation. We would like to present the generalization of  $*$ -rings in module theory named  $*_p$ -modules. An  $A$ -module  $M$  is called a  $*_p$ -module if  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module and  $M$  has no nonzero proper prime submodule. According to the result of our investigation, we show that every  $*$ -ring is a  $*_p$ -module over itself. Furthermore, let  $A$  be a ring, let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, and let  $I$  be an ideal of  $A$  with  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$ , where  $(0 : M)_A = \{a \in A \mid aM = \{0\}\}$ . We show that  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$  if and only if  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A/I$ . On the other hand, the essential closure  $*_k$  of the class of all  $*$ -rings is a special class of rings. As the last result of our investigation, we present the special class of modules determined by  $*_k$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $A$  be a ring. A ring  $A$  is called a *prime ring* if  $\{0\}$  is a prime ideal of  $A$  (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]). Any homomorphic image of a ring  $A$  can be represented as  $A/I$ , where  $I$  is an ideal of  $A$ . The homomorphic image  $A/I$  of  $A$  is called a *prime homomorphic image* if  $A/I$  is a prime ring. The class of rings  $\sigma$  is hereditary if  $\sigma$  contains all ideals of a ring  $A \in \sigma$ . The class of rings  $\sigma$  is essentially closed if  $\sigma$  is closed under essential extensions. Let  $\pi$  denote the class of all prime rings. A subclass  $\mu$  of  $\pi$  is called a *special class* if  $\mu$  is hereditary and  $\mu$  is essentially closed. For hereditary class of rings  $\varrho$ , the upper radical  $\mathcal{U}(\varrho)$  is defined as the class of all ring  $A$  such that  $A$  has no nonzero homomorphic image in  $\varrho$ . The prime radical  $\beta$  is the upper radical determined by the class of all prime rings  $\pi$ .

A prime ring  $A$  is called a  *$*$ -ring* if  $A$  has no nonzero proper ideal  $I$  of  $A$  such that  $A/I$  is a prime ring (Korolczuk [6]). Some properties of  $*$ -rings were presented in (France-Jackson [2]).  $*$ -rings have been being studied intensively in radical theory of rings because of Gardner's question

mentioned in (Gardner [4]). Let  $*$  denote the class of all  $*$ -rings and let  $*_k$  denote the essential closure of  $*$ . The essential closure  $*_k$  of  $*$  is a special class of rings. Gardner asked whether the prime radical  $\beta$  coincide with the upper radical  $\mathcal{U}(*_k)$  determined by  $*_k$ . (France-Jackson et al. [3]) have given an alternative solution of this question to have a positive answer.

On the other hand, let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module. An  $A$ -module  $M$  is called a *prime  $A$ -module* if  $AM \neq \{0\}$  and for  $m \in M$  and  $J \triangleleft A$  such that  $Jm = \{0\}$  implies  $m = 0$  or  $JM = \{0\}$ . The set  $(0 : M)_A = \{a \in A \mid aM = \{0\}\}$  is called an *annihilator* of an  $A$ -module  $M$ . An  $A$ -module is faithful if  $(0 : M)_A = \{0\}$  (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]).

**Theorem 1.1** (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]). *Let  $A$  be a ring and let  $I \trianglelefteq A$ .*

(1) *If  $M$  is an  $A/I$ -module, then with scalar multiplication  $am = (a + I)m$ ,  $M$  forms an  $A$ -module with  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$ .*

(2) *If  $M$  is an  $A$ -module and  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$ , then  $M$  is an  $A/I$ -module with the scalar multiplication  $(a + I)m = am$ .*

(3) *If  $M$  is an  $A$ -module and  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$ , then  $N$  is a submodule of the  $A/I$ -module if and only if  $N$  is a submodule of the  $A$ -module  $M$ .*

(4)  $(0 : M)_A/I = (0 : M)_{A/I}$ .

(Gardner and Wiegandt [5]) For every ring  $A$ , let  $\Sigma_A$  denote the class of all  $A$ -modules  $M$  with  $AM \neq \{0\}$ , and  $\Sigma = \cup \Sigma_A$ . Let  $\ker(\Sigma_A) = \cap ((0 : M)_A \mid M \in \Sigma_A)$  and we consider the class  $\Sigma$  might satisfy the following conditions:

1. (M1) If  $M \in \Sigma_{A/I}$ , then  $M \in \Sigma_A$ .

2. (M2) If  $M \in \Sigma_A$  and  $I \trianglelefteq A$ ,  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$ , then  $M \in \Sigma_{A/I}$ .

3. (M3) If  $\ker(\Sigma_A) = \{0\}$ , then  $\Sigma_B \neq \{\emptyset\}$  for all nonzero ideals  $B$  of  $A$ .
4. (M4) If  $\Sigma_B \neq \{\emptyset\}$  whenever  $\{0\} \neq B \trianglelefteq A$ , then  $\ker(\Sigma_A) = \{0\}$ .

**Proposition 1.2** (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]). *Let  $A$  be a ring and let  $I \trianglelefteq A$ . Then there is a prime  $A$ -module  $M$  such that  $(0 : M)_A = I$  if and only if  $I$  is a prime ideal of  $A$ .*

**Definition 1.3** (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]). For every ring  $A$ , let  $\Sigma_A$  be a class of prime  $A$ -modules and let  $\Sigma = \bigcup \Sigma_A$ . The class  $\Sigma$  is called a *special class of modules* if  $\Sigma$  satisfies (M1), (M2), and the following conditions:

1. (SM3) If  $M \in \Sigma_A$ ,  $B \trianglelefteq A$  and  $BM \neq \{0\}$ , then  $M \in \Sigma_B$ .
2. (SM4) If  $B \trianglelefteq A$  and  $M \in \Sigma_B$ , then  $BM \in \Sigma_A$ .

If  $\Sigma$  is a special class of modules, then  $\mu = \{A \mid A \text{ has a faithful module in } \Sigma_A\}$  is a special class of rings. Conversely, if  $\mu$  is a special class of rings and we define  $\Sigma_A = \{M \mid M \text{ is a prime } A\text{-module and } A/(0 : M)_A \in \mu\}$ , then  $\Sigma = \bigcup \Sigma(A)$  is a special class of modules (Nicholson and Watters [7]).

**Example 1.4.** Let  $\pi$  denote the class of all prime rings and for every ring  $A$  let  $\Sigma_A = \{M \mid M \text{ is a prime } A\text{-module and } A/(0 : M)_A \in \pi\}$ . Since  $\pi$  is a special class of rings, the class  $\Sigma = \bigcup \Sigma_A$  is a special class of modules.

These basic theories motivate us to investigate the special class of modules generated by  $*_k$ .

## 2. Main Results

Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module. A homomorphic image  $M/N$  of  $A$ -module  $M$  is called a *prime homomorphic image* of  $M$  if  $M/N$  is a prime  $A$ -module. Since every ring can be viewed over itself, we will give a new type of module

named  $*_p$ -module. This kind of module is motivated by the existence of  $*_p$ -ring.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module.  $A$ -module  $M$  is called a  $*_p$ -module if  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module and  $M$  has no nonzero proper prime homomorphic image.

The necessary and sufficient condition for  $A$ -module  $M$  to be a  $*_p$ -module is given below.

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module. The following conditions are equivalent:*

1.  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ .
2.  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module and every proper prime submodule  $N$  of  $M$  implies  $N = \{0\}$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) Let  $M$  be a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ . By the definition, we have  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module. Furthermore,  $M$  has no nonzero proper prime image. Let  $N$  be a proper prime submodule of  $M$ . Suppose  $N \neq \{0\}$ . Then  $M/N$  is a nonzero proper prime homomorphic image of  $M$ , a contradiction.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Let  $M$  be a prime  $A$ -module and every proper prime submodule  $N$  of  $M$  implies  $N = \{0\}$ . Suppose  $M/N$  is a nonzero prime homomorphic image of  $M$ . This gives  $N$  is a proper prime submodule of  $M$ . This implies that  $N = \{0\}$ . So, we may conclude that  $M$  has no nonzero proper prime homomorphic image.  $\square$

Some modules are naturally  $*_p$ -module. In the next lemma, we show that every simple module  $M$  over a ring  $A$  is a  $*_p$ -module.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $A$  be a commutative ring and  $M$  be an  $A$ -module. If  $M$  is a simple  $A$ -module, then  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $a \in A$  and  $m \in M$  such that  $am = 0$ . Suppose  $a \neq 0 \Rightarrow a \in (0 : m)$ . Thus,  $m \in M_r$ , where  $M_r$  is a torsion submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is a simple  $A$ -module, we have  $M_r = \{0\} \Rightarrow m = 0$  or  $M_r = M \Rightarrow a \in (0 : M)$ . Hence,  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module. Since  $M$  is a simple  $A$ -module,  $A$ -module  $M$  has no nonzero proper prime homomorphic image. So,  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module.  $\square$

**Example 2.4.** 1. (Adkins and Weintraub [1]). An abelian group  $A$  is a simple  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module if and only if  $A$  is a cyclic group of prime order. Hence,  $A$  is a  $*_p$ -module over the ring  $\mathbb{Z}$  of integers if  $A$  is a cyclic group of prime order.

2. The integers modulo prime number  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is a simple  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module. Hence,  $A$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

3. (Adkins and Weintraub [1]). Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^2 = \{(a, b) | a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$  and consider the linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow V$  defined by  $T(u, v) = (-v, u)$ . Then the  $\mathbb{R}[X]$ -module  $V_T$  is a simple  $\mathbb{R}[X]$ -module. So, we may deduce that  $V_T$  is  $*_p$ -module over  $\mathbb{R}[X]$ .

The following theorem shows that every  $*\text{-ring}$  is a  $*_p$ -module.

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $A$  be a ring. If  $A$  is a  $*\text{-ring}$ , then  $A$  is a  $*_p$ -module over itself.*

**Proof.** We will show that  $A$  is a prime  $A$ -module. For this step, we can follow Corollary 3.14.17 in (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]) or we give the other way to proof. Since  $A$  is a prime ring,  $AA = A^2 \neq \{0\}$ . Suppose  $A$  is not a prime  $A$ -module. Then there exists  $J \triangleleft A$  with  $JA \neq \{0\}$  and  $0 \neq a \in A$  such that  $Ja = \{0\}$ . Since  $0 \neq a \in A$ , we can construct the nonzero ideal  $\langle a \rangle$  of  $A$  generated by  $a$  such that  $J\langle a \rangle = \{0\}$ , contrary to  $A$  is a prime ring.

Suppose  $A$  is not a  $*_p$ -module. Then there exists a nonzero proper prime submodule  $I$  of  $A$ . In the other words,  $A/I$  is a prime  $A$ -module. Now define  $(0 : A/I)_A = \{a \in A \mid a(A/I) = \{0\}\}$ . Clearly  $(0 : A/I)_A \neq \{0\}$ , because  $0 \neq I \subseteq (0 : A/I)_A$ . We will show that  $(0 : A/I)_A$  is a prime ideal of  $A$ . Let  $J, K \triangleleft A$  such that  $JK \subseteq (0 : A/I)_A$ . If  $K \not\subseteq (0 : A/I)_A$ , let  $k \in K$ ,  $\bar{a} = a + I \in A/I$  be such that  $k\bar{a} = \{\bar{0}\}$ . Then  $J(k\bar{a}) \subseteq JK\bar{a} \subseteq (0 : A/I)_A \bar{a} = \{\bar{0}\}$ . So,  $J(A/I) = \{\bar{0}\}$ . This gives  $J \subseteq (0 : A/I)_A$ . Hence,  $(0 : A/I)_A$  is a prime ideal of  $A$ , contrary to  $A$  is a  $*_p$ -ring.  $\square$

The converse above is not true in general.

**Example 2.6.** The ring  $J = \{2x/2y + 1 \mid \gcd(2x, 2y + 1) = 1, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is a  $*_p$ -ring. By Theorem 2.5, we have  $J$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $J$ . However, the module  $J$  over itself is not a simple module.

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $A$  be a ring. If  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ , then every nonzero proper homomorphic image of a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$  is not a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $A$  be a ring and consider  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ . Suppose  $M/N$  is a nonzero proper homomorphic image of  $M$ . Clearly,  $M/N$  is not a prime  $A$ -module. Hence,  $M/N$  is not a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ .  $\square$

In the following theorem, we give a sufficient condition for an  $A$ -module  $M$  to be a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let  $I$  be an ideal of a ring  $A$  with  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$  and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module such that  $AM \neq \{0\}$ . If  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over the factor ring  $A/I$ , then  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $M$  be a  $*_p$ -module over the factor ring  $A/I$ . Then  $M$  is a prime  $A/I$ -module. By Proposition 3.14.15 in (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]), we have  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module. Suppose there exists a nonzero proper prime homomorphic image  $M/N$  of  $M$  over  $A$ . It follows from Proposition 3.14.15 in Gardner and Wiegandt [5], we have  $M/N$  is a prime  $A/I$ -module. In the other words,  $M$  has a nonzero proper prime homomorphic image over  $A/I$ , contrary to  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module. Hence,  $M$  has no nonzero proper prime homomorphic image over  $A$ . Thus,  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A$ .  $\square$

The following theorem shows the consequence of the existence of a  $*_p$ -module  $M$  over a ring  $A$ .

**Theorem 2.9.** *Let  $I$  be an ideal of a ring  $A$  such that  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$  and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module such that  $AM \neq \{0\}$ . If  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over the ring  $A$ , then  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A/I$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $M$  be a  $*_p$ -module over the ring  $A$  and let  $I$  be an ideal of a ring  $A$  such that  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$ . Clearly,  $M$  is a prime  $A/I$ -module. Suppose there exists a nonzero proper prime homomorphic image  $M/N$  of  $M$  over  $A/I$ . Then  $M/N$  is a prime  $A/I$ -module. By Proposition 3.14.15 in (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]), we have  $M/N$  is a prime  $A$ -module, contrary to  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module. So, we may conclude that  $M$  is a  $*_p$ -module over  $A/I$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.10.** *Let  $*_k$  be the essential closure of the class of all  $*_k$ -rings and for every ring  $A$  let  $\Sigma_A = \{M \mid M \text{ is a prime } A\text{-module with } A/(0 : M)_A \in *_k\}$ . Then the class  $\Sigma = \bigcup \Sigma_A$  is a special class of modules.*

**Proof.** We can follow the construction of a special class of modules generated by a special class of rings presented in (Nicholson and Watters [7]) or we will explain the detail of proof by showing that the class  $\Sigma = \bigcup \Sigma_A$  satisfies (M1), (M2), (SM3), and (SM4). Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module such that



$M \in \Sigma_{A/I}$ . Then  $M$  is a prime  $A/I$ -module with  $(A/I)/(0 : M)_{A/I} \in *_k$ . By Proposition 3.14.15 in (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]),  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module. Let  $\bar{a} \in (0 : M)_{A/I} \Rightarrow \bar{a}M = \{0\}$ , where  $\bar{a} = a + I$  for some  $a \in A$ . Since  $\{0\} = (a + I)M = aM$ ,  $a \in (0 : M)_A$  and by the assumption  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$  implies  $\bar{a} = a + I \in (0 : M)_{A/I}$ . Hence,  $(0 : M)_{A/I} \subseteq (0 : M)_A/I$ . On the other hand, let  $a \in (0 : M)_A \Rightarrow aM = \{0\}$ . Since  $\{0\} = aM = (a + I)M \Rightarrow a + I \in (0 : M)_{A/I}$ . Hence,  $(0 : M)_A/I \subseteq (0 : M)_{A/I}$ . So, we may conclude that  $(0 : M)_A/I = (0 : M)_{A/I}$ . This gives us the following isomorphism  $A/(0 : M)_A \cong (A/I)/(0 : M)_{A/I} = (A/I)/(0 : M)_{A/I} \in *_k$ . We can infer that  $M \in \Sigma_A$ .

Let  $M \in \Sigma_A$ . Then  $M$  is a prime  $A$ -module with  $A/(0 : M)_A \in *_k$ . By following Proposition 3.14.15 in (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]), we have  $M$  is a prime  $A/I$ -module, where  $I \subseteq (0 : M)_A$ . Since  $A/(0 : M)_A \in *_k$  and  $(A/I)/(0 : M)_{A/I} \cong A/(0 : M)_A$ , we have  $M \in \Sigma_{A/I}$ .

Let  $M \in \Sigma_A$  and let  $B \triangleleft A$  such that  $BM \neq \{0\}$ .

By Proposition 3.14.13 in (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]), we have  $M$  is a prime  $B$ -module. Since  $B/(0 : M)_B = B/(B \cap (0 : M)_A) \cong (B + (0 : M)_A)/(0 : M)_A \triangleleft A/(0 : M)_A \in *_k$  and  $*_k$  is a special class of rings, we have  $B/(0 : M)_B \in *_k$ .

Let  $B \triangleleft A$  and let  $M \in \Sigma_M$ . Then  $M$  is a prime  $B$ -module with  $B/(0 : M)_B \in *_k$ . By Proposition 3.14.14 in (Gardner and Wiegandt [5]), we have  $BM$  is a prime  $A$ -module with respect to a  $\sum b_i m_i = \sum (ab_i) m_i$ ,  $a \in A$ ,  $b_i \in B$ ,  $m_i \in M$ . We will show that  $A/(0 : BM)_A \in *_k$ . Furthermore,  $B/(0 : M)_B = B/(B \cap (0 : BM)_A) \cong (B + (0 : BM)_A)/(0 : BM)_A \in *_k$ . On the other hand,  $(B + (0 : BM)_A)/(0 : BM)_A \triangleleft A/(0 : BM)_A$ . Since  $*_k$  is a special class of rings,  $*_k$  satisfies the following condition:

If  $\{0\} \neq I \triangleleft A$ ,  $I \in *_k$  and  $A$  is a prime ring, then  $A \in *_k$ .

We have the following facts:

$$(B + (0 : BM)_A)/(0 : BM)_A \triangleleft A/(0 : BM)_A \text{ and}$$

$$(B + (0 : BM)_A)/(0 : BM)_A \text{ is a prime ring.}$$

So, we may conclude that  $A/(0 : BM)_A \in *_k$ . This implies  $BM \in \Sigma_A$ . Hence, the class  $\Sigma = \cup \Sigma_A$ , where  $\Sigma_A = \{M \mid M \text{ is a prime } A\text{-module such that } A/(0 : M)_A \in *_k\}$ , is the special class of modules determined by  $*_k$ .  $\square$

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