



## Decomposition in Neotherian Gamma Rings

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### ABSTRACT

Let  $M$  be a  $\Gamma$ -ring and Let  $R$  be a unital, finitely generated left  $\Gamma M$ -module. Suppose that  $N$  is a sub  $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$ . Here we define primary radical of  $N$  and tertiary radical of  $N$ . Some characterizations of these two radicals are obtained. Finally we obtain the decomposition of Neotherian Gamma rings.

### INTRODUCTION

The notion of a  $\Gamma$ -ring was first introduced by N. Nobusawa [7] and then Barnes [1] generalized the definition of Nobusawa's gamma rings. Now a day we consider as a  $\Gamma$ -ring which is given by Barnes [1].

May Mathematican workesd on  $\Gamma$ -rings and they obtained some remarkable results. I.N. Herstein [4] obtained some results on decomposition of Noetherian rings. J. A. Riley [8] worked on primary and tertiary decompositions of rings and he proved some fruitful results relating to this.

In this paper, we generalize some works of I.N. Herstein in  $\Gamma$ -rings. We obtain decomposition of Noetherian  $\Gamma$ -rings by means of sub  $\Gamma M$ -Modules.

### 2. PRELIMINARIES

#### 2.1. Definitions.

**Gamma Ring.** Let  $M$  and  $\Gamma$  be two additive abelian groups. Suppose that there is a mapping from  $M \times \Gamma \times M \rightarrow M$  (sending  $(x, \alpha, y)$  into  $x\alpha y$ ) such that

- i)  $(x + y)\alpha z = x\alpha z + y\alpha z$   
 $x(\alpha + \beta)z = x\alpha z + x\beta z$   
 $x\alpha(y + z) = x\alpha y + x\alpha z$
- ii)  $(x\alpha y)\beta z = x\alpha(y\beta z)$ ,

Where  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Then  $M$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -ring. A  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$  is called commutative if  $a\gamma b = b\gamma a$  for all  $a, b \in M$  and all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

**Identity element of a  $\Gamma$ -ring.** Let  $M$  be a  $\Gamma$ -ring.  $M$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -ring with identity if there exists an element  $e \in M$  such that  $a\gamma e = e\gamma a = a$  for all  $a \in M$  and some  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

We shall frequently denote  $e$  by  $1$  and when  $M$  is a  $\Gamma$ -ring with identity, we shall often write  $1 \in M$ . Note that not all  $\Gamma$ -rings have an identity. When a  $\Gamma$ -ring has an identity, then the identity is unique.

**Ideal of  $\Gamma$ -rings.** A subset  $A$  of the  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$  is a left (right) ideal of  $M$  if  $A$  is an additive subgroup of  $M$  and  $M\Gamma A = \{c\alpha a \mid c \in M, \alpha \in \Gamma, a \in A\}(\Gamma M)$  is contained in  $A$ . If  $A$  is both a left and a right ideal of  $M$ , then we say that  $A$  is an ideal or two sided ideal of  $M$ .

**Prime ideal.** An ideal  $P$  of a  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$  is prime if  $P \neq M$  and for any ideals  $A$  and  $B$  of  $M$ ,  $A\Gamma B \subseteq P$ , implies  $A \subseteq P$  or  $B \subseteq P$ .

**Nilpotent element.** Let  $M$  be a  $\Gamma$ -ring. An element  $x$  of  $M$  is called nilpotent if for every  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , there exists a positive integer  $n = n(\gamma)$  such that  $(x\gamma)^n x = (x\gamma x\gamma \dots \gamma x\gamma)x = 0$ .

**Nil ideal.** An ideal  $A$  of a  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$  is a nil ideal if every element of  $A$  is nilpotent that is, for all  $x \in A$  and every  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ ,  $(x\gamma)^n x = (x\gamma x\gamma \dots \gamma x\gamma)x = 0$ , where  $n$  depends on the particular element  $x$  of  $A$ .

**Nilpotent ideal.** An ideal  $A$  of a  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$  is called nilpotent if  $(A\Gamma)^n A = (A\Gamma A\Gamma \dots \Gamma A\Gamma)A = 0$ , where  $n$  is the least positive integer.

**$\Gamma$ -ring with minimum condition.** A  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$  with identity element  $1$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -ring with minimum condition if the left ideals of  $M$  satisfy the descending chain condition or equivalently if in

every non-empty set of left ideals of  $M$ , there exists a left ideal which does not properly contain any other ideal in the set.

**Radical of a Gamma Ring.** Let  $M$  be a  $\Gamma$ -ring with minimum condition. The two-sided ideal which is the sum of all nilpotent left ideals of  $M$  is called the radical of  $M$  and is denoted by  $\text{rad}(M)$ .

**Gmma module.** Let  $M$  be a  $\Gamma$ -ring and let  $(R, +)$  be an abelian group. Then  $R$  is called a left  $\Gamma M$ -module if there exists a  $\Gamma$ -mapping ( $\Gamma$ -composition) from  $M \times \Gamma \times R$  to  $R$  sending  $(m, \alpha, r)$  to  $m\alpha r$  such that

- (i)  $(m_1 + m_2)\alpha r = m_1\alpha r + m_2\alpha r$
  - (ii)  $m\alpha(r_1 + r_2) = m\alpha r_1 + m\alpha r_2$
  - (iii)  $(m_1\alpha m_2)\beta r = m_1\alpha(m_2\beta r)$ ,
- for all  $r, r_1, r_2 \in R, m, m_1, m_2 \in M, \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

If in addition,  $M$  has an identity  $1$  and  $1\gamma r = r$  for all  $r \in R$  and some  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , then  $R$  is called a unital  $\Gamma M$ -module. We define right  $\Gamma M$ -module analogously.

**Sub- $\Gamma M$ -module.** Let  $M$  be a  $\Gamma$ -ring. Let  $R$  be a left  $\Gamma M$ -module. Let  $(Q, +)$  be a subgroup of  $(R, +)$ . We call  $Q$ , a sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  if  $m\gamma q \in Q$  for all  $m \in M, q \in Q$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

**Finitely Generated  $\Gamma M$ -module.** Let  $M$  be  $\Gamma$ -ring. A left  $\Gamma M$ -module  $R$  is called finitely generated if  $R$  can be generated by a finite set of elements, that is,  $R$  is finitely generated if and only if there exist finitely many elements  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in R$  such that for each  $r \in R$  can be expressed as a linear  $\Gamma$ -

combination  $r = \sum_{i=1}^n m_i \gamma x_i$  of the  $x_i$  with coefficients  $m_i \in M$  for some  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

In this paper, we consider all  $\Gamma M$ -modules  $R$  as unital, finitely generated left  $\Gamma M$ -modules.

### 3. Decomposition in Noetherian Gamma Rings

**3.1 Definition.** A  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$  is called left Noetherian if it satisfy the ascending chain condition on left ideals and will have unit elements. All  $\Gamma M$ -modules  $R$  will be unital, finitely generated left  $\Gamma M$ -modules.

**3.2 Definition.** An element  $a \in M$  is an annihilating element for  $R$  if  $a\Gamma N = 0$  for some sub- $\Gamma M$ -module  $N \neq 0$  of  $R$ . A left ideal  $I$  of  $M$  is an annihilating left ideal for  $R$  if  $I\Gamma N = 0$  for some sub- $\Gamma M$ -module  $N \neq 0$  of  $R$ .

We denote by  $O(R)$  the ideal  $\{a \in M \mid a\Gamma R = 0\}$  of  $M$ .

The next few definitions make sense for any  $\Gamma$ -ring and all or parts of the very early lemmas hold in this more general context, but all these will be of most interest in the Noetherian case.

**3.3 Definition.** If  $N$  is a sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  then the primary radical of  $N$ , written  $\text{rad}(N)$ , in the intersection of all prime ideals of  $M$  which contain  $O\left(\frac{R}{N}\right)$ .  $N$  is a primary sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  if all annihilating elements for  $\frac{R}{N}$  are in  $\text{rad}(N)$ .

A remark which holds for any  $\Gamma$ -ring  $M$ : if  $x \in \text{rad}(N)$  then  $(x\gamma)^t x \in O\left(\frac{R}{N}\right)$  for some  $t$  depending on  $x$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , This is true since the intersection all prime ideals of a  $\Gamma$ -ring is a nil ideal. One further definition at this point:

**3.4 Definition.** The tertiary radical of  $N$ ,  $N$  a sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$ , written  $t\text{-rad}(N)$ , is the set of all elements of  $M$  which are annihilating elements for all non-trivial sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules of  $\frac{R}{N}$ .

One immediately sees that:

$$t\text{-rad}(N) = \{a \in M \mid \text{for all } p \notin N \text{ there exists } q \in R, q \notin N \text{ with } a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N\}.$$

**3.5 Lemma.** Let  $N$  be a sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$ ; if  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  then, given

$p \in R, p \notin N$  there is a  $q \in M\Gamma p, q \notin N$  such that  $a_i \Gamma M \Gamma q \subset N$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Proof.** We go by induction on  $n$ . If  $n=1$  this is merely the definition of  $t\text{-rad}(N)$ . Suppose then that we have found a  $r \in M\Gamma p, r \notin N$  such that  $a_i \Gamma M \Gamma r \subset N$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ . Since  $a_n \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  there is a  $q \in M\Gamma r \subset M\Gamma p, q \notin N$  such that  $a_n \Gamma M \Gamma q \subset N, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . However for  $1 < n$ ,  $a_i \Gamma M \Gamma q \subset a_i \Gamma M \Gamma r \subset N$ , thereby the lemma is proved.

**3.6 Corollary.**  $t\text{-rad}(N)$  is a two-sided ideal of  $M$ .

**Proof.** From the very definition of  $t\text{-rad}(N)$  we immediately have that  $a\Gamma M \subset t\text{-rad}(N)$  and  $M\Gamma a \subset t\text{-rad}(N)$  for all  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N)$ . To finish we merely need that  $a, b \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  forces  $a-b \in t\text{-rad}(N)$ ; this is however clear from the lemma 3.5.

**3.7 Corollary.** Let  $I = t\text{-rad}(N)$ ; given  $p \notin N$  there is a  $q \in M\Gamma p$  such that  $q \notin N, I\Gamma q \subset N$ . **Proof.**

Since  $M$  is left Noetherian and  $I$  is an ideal of  $M$ ,

$I = M\Gamma a_1 + M\Gamma a_2 + \dots + M\Gamma a_n$  for appropriate  $a_i \in I$ . Pick by the lemma 3.5,  $q \in M\Gamma p, q \notin N$  such that  $a_i \Gamma q \subset N$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \gamma \in \Gamma$ ; then  $I\Gamma q \subset N$ .

**3.8 Corollary.** Let  $I = t\text{-rad}(N)$  and let  $N^t = \{p \in R \mid I\Gamma p \subset N\}$ . Then  $N^t \supset N$  and  $N^t \neq N$ .

**Proof.** Since  $I$  is a 2-sided ideal of  $M$ ,  $N^t$  is a sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$ . Clearly  $N^t \supset N$ . By Corollary 3.7 we can find  $q \notin N$  such that  $I\Gamma q \subset N$ ; since  $q \in N^t, q \notin N$  this finishes the proof.

In fact, we have proved a good deal more about the nature of  $N^t$  for we know that in each  $M\Gamma p, p \notin N$  there are elements of  $N^t$ . We formulize this lemma 3.9 but first a definition.

As usual and as used before in these notes,  $R$  is said to be an essential extension of  $A$  modulo  $B, B \subset A$  sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules of  $R$ , if whenever  $C$  is a sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  such that  $C \cap A \subset B$  then  $C \subset B$ .

That is  $R/B$  the  $\Gamma M$ -module  $A/B$  meets all non-zero sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules non-trivially.

**3.9 Lemma.**  $R$  is an essential extension of  $N^t$  modulo  $N$ .

**Proof.** This is immediate from Corollary 3.7.

Before proceeding, we examine the relation of  $\text{rad}(N)$  to  $t\text{-rad}(N)$ .

**3.10 Lemma.**  $\text{rad}(N) \subset t\text{-rad}(N)$ .

**Proof.** As we remarked earliar for all  $x \in \text{rad}(N), (x\gamma)^{n(x)} x \in t\text{-rad}(N)$ . Since  $M$  is Noetherian by a result of Levitzki  $(\text{rad}(N) \Gamma)^k \text{rad}(N) \subset t\text{-rad}(N)$ . From the definition of  $t\text{-rad}(N)$  this implies that  $\text{rad}(N) \subset t\text{-rad}(N)$ .

In the commutative case we can now easily establish equality for these two radicals.

**3.11 Theorem.** If  $M$  is a commutative Noetherian  $\Gamma$ -ring and if  $N$  is a sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  then  $\text{rad}(N) = t\text{-rad}(N)$ .

**Proof.** Lemma 3.10 already tells us  $\text{rad}(N) \subset t\text{-rad}(N)$ . Since  $M$  is Noetherian and  $R$  is a finitely generated unital  $\Gamma M$ -module,  $R$  has the ascending chain condition on

sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules. Let  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  and let  $J_n = \{p \in R \mid M\Gamma(a\gamma)^n a\gamma p \subset N, \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ . Then  $J_n$  form an ascending chain of sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules of  $R$  hence for some integer  $n, J_n = J_{n+1}$ . If  $(a\gamma)^n a\gamma p \notin N, \gamma \in \Gamma$  we can find  $p \in R$  with  $(a\gamma)^n a\gamma p \notin N$ ; since  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  there is an  $m \in M$  with  $m\gamma(a\gamma)^n a\gamma p \notin N$  but for which  $a\Gamma M\Gamma m\gamma(a\gamma)^n a\gamma p \subset N$ . Since  $M$  is commutative this yields  $M\Gamma(a\gamma)^{n+1} a\gamma m\gamma p \subset N$ , that is,  $m\gamma p \in J_{n+1} = J_n$  hence  $(a\gamma)^n a\gamma m\gamma p \in N$ , contrary to  $(a\gamma)^n a\gamma m\gamma p \notin N$ . Thus  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  implies

$(a\gamma)^ka \in \text{rad}(N)$ . Since  $\text{rad}(N)$  is the intersection of prime ideals, this forces  $a \in \text{rad}(N)$ , that is,  $t\text{-rad}(N) \subset \text{rad}(N)$ . This proves the theorem.

**3.12 Definition.**  $N$  is a tertiary sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  if the annihilating elements for  $R/N$  are all in  $t\text{-rad}(N)$ .

A quick verification reveals that  $N$  is a tertiary sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  if and only if

$$t\text{-rad}(N) = \{a \in M \mid \text{there is a } q \notin N \text{ with } a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N\}.$$

**3.13 Lemma.** Let  $N$  be a tertiary sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$ ; then  $P = t\text{-rad}(N)$  is a prime ideal of  $M$ .

**Proof.** By Lemma 3.9, since  $N^t \neq N$ , there exists a  $q \in R$ ,  $q \notin N$  such that for all  $a \in P$ ,  $a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N$ . Since  $N$  is tertiary,  $P$  consists of all elements  $a \in M$  such that  $a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N$ .

Suppose  $x, y \in M$  are such that  $x\Gamma M\Gamma y \subset P$ ; then  $x\Gamma M\Gamma y\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N$ . If  $y \notin P$  then  $y\Gamma M\Gamma q \not\subset N$  so by the tertiary nature of  $N$  we get  $x \in P$ . Therefore  $x\Gamma M\Gamma y \subset P$  implies that  $x \in P$  or  $y \in P$ , hence  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $M$ .

If  $N$  is a tertiary sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$  and the prime ideal  $P$  of  $M$  is  $t\text{-rad}(N)$  then we say that  $N$  is  $P$ -tertiary and that  $P$  is the prime ideal of  $N$ .

A sub- $\Gamma M$ -module  $N$  of  $R$  is called irreducible if is not the intersection of two strictly larger sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules.

**3.14 Lemma.** If  $N$  is an irreducible sub- $\Gamma M$ -module of  $R$ , then it is tertiary,

**Proof.** If  $N$  is not tertiary there exist  $a \notin t\text{-rad}(N)$ ,  $p \notin N$  such that  $a\Gamma M\Gamma p \subset N$ . Since  $a \notin t\text{-rad}(N)$  there is a  $r \notin N$  with  $a\Gamma M\Gamma r^t \subset N$  where  $r^t \in M\Gamma r$  implies  $r^t \in N$ .

Let  $N^* = (N + M\Gamma p) \cap (N + M\Gamma r)$ ; clearly  $N^* \supset N$ . For  $q \in N^*$ ,  $q = p^t + m\gamma q$

$$= p^t + s\gamma r \text{ with } p^t, p^{tt} \in N, \gamma \in \Gamma. \text{ Thus } s\gamma r = (p^t - p^{tt}) + m\gamma p, \text{ so}$$

$a\Gamma M\Gamma s\gamma r \subset a\Gamma M\Gamma p \subset N$ . Since  $r^t = s\gamma r \in M\Gamma r$  satisfies  $a\Gamma M\Gamma r^t \subset N$ , we have that  $r^t \in N$ , hence  $q \in N$ .

Thus  $N^* \subset N$ . We have exhibited  $N$  as an intersection of larger sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules. This proves the lemma.

**3.15 Definition.** The decomposition  $N = N_1 \cap \dots \cap N_m$  of  $N$  by the  $N_i$  is irredundant if no  $N_i$  can be omitted.

**3.16 Lemma.** If  $N = N_1 \cap \dots \cap N_m$  is an irredundant decomposition of  $N$  by

$P_i$ -tertiary sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules  $N_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  then  $t\text{-rad}(N) = P_1 \cap \dots \cap P_m$ .

**Proof.** Let  $a \in P_1 \cap \dots \cap P_m$  and let  $p \in R$ ,  $p \notin N$ . Since  $p \notin N$ ,  $p$  is not in some  $N_i$  say  $p \notin N_1$ . From the fact that  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N_1)$  there is a  $p_1 \in M\Gamma p$ ,  $p_1 \notin N_1$  such that  $a\Gamma M\Gamma p_1 \subset N_1$ . If  $p_1 \in N_2$  then  $a\Gamma M\Gamma p_1 \subset N_1 \cap N_2$ ; if  $p_1 \notin N_2$  there is an element  $p_2 \in M\Gamma p_1 \subset M\Gamma p$ ,  $p_2 \notin N_2$  such that  $a\Gamma M\Gamma p_2 \subset N_2$ . Since  $a\Gamma M\Gamma p_2 \subset a\Gamma M\Gamma p_1 \subset N_1$  we have  $a\Gamma M\Gamma p_2 \subset N_1 \cap N_2$ . Continuing this way we get an element  $q \in M\Gamma p$ ,  $q \notin N$  such that  $a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N_1 \cap \dots \cap N_m = N$ . Thus by the definition of  $t\text{-rad}(N)$ ,  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  hence  $P_1 \cap \dots \cap P_m \subset t\text{-rad}(N)$ .

Suppose now that  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N)$  and that  $p \in N_j$  for all  $j \neq i$ ,  $p \notin N_i$ . Since  $N$  is the irredundant intersection of the  $N_i$ ,  $p \notin N$ . Therefore there is a  $q \in M\Gamma p$ ,  $q \notin N$  such that  $a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N \subset N_j$ . Since  $q \in N_j$  for  $j \neq i$  and

$q \notin N$  we must have that  $q \notin N_i$ . Since  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -tertiary we conclude that  $a \in P_i$ . But then  $a \in \bigcap_{i=1}^m P_i$ , whence  $t\text{-rad}(N) \subset P_1 \cap \dots \cap P_m$ . Hence  $t\text{-rad}(N) = P_1 \cap \dots \cap P_m$ .

**3.17 Lemma.** If  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are  $P$ -tertiary sub- $\Gamma M$ -modules of  $R$  then so is  $N_1 \cap N_2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $N = N_1 \cap N_2$ ; by Lemma 3.13,  $t\text{-rad}(N) = P$ . To finish the proof we merely must show that  $N$  is tertiary. Let  $a \in M$ ,  $q \in R$ ,  $q \notin N$  such that  $a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N$ . Since  $q \notin N$ ,  $q \notin N_1$  or  $q \notin N_2$ . If  $q \notin N_1$ , since  $N_1$  is tertiary,  $a \in t\text{-rad}(N_1) = P$ ; similarly if  $q \notin N_2$ ,  $a \in P$ . Thus  $a\Gamma M\Gamma q \subset N$ ,  $q \notin N$  implies  $a \in P = t\text{-rad}(N)$ . Hence  $N$  is tertiary.

**3.18 Definition.** A decomposition  $N = N_1 \cap \dots \cap N_m$  of a sub- $\Gamma$ M-module  $N$  by  $P_i$ -tertiary sub- $\Gamma$ M-modules  $N_i$  is called reduced if it is irredundant and  $P_i$  are distinct. We now can prove the analog of the primary decomposition for commutative Noetherian  $\Gamma$ -rings.

**3.19 Theorem .** Every sub- $\Gamma$  M-module  $N$  of  $R$  has a reduced decomposition  $N = N_1 \cap \dots \cap N_m$  where  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -tertiary.

**Proof.** That every sub- $\Gamma$ M-module has an intersection of a finite number of irreducible ones is easy, just as in the commutative case. Merely consider the set of sub- $\Gamma$ M-modules which have no such representation; if this set is non-empty it has a maximal element. However, this maximal element is therefore irreducible, giving a contradiction. The rest follows from lemmas 3.13, 3.14 3.16 and 3.17. We now want to establish the uniqueness of the associated primes. To this end we prove

**3.20 Lemma.** If  $N, U, V, U^t, V^t$  are sub- $\Gamma$ M-modules of  $R$  such that  $U$  is  $P$ -tertiary,  $U^t$  is  $P^t$ -tertiary,  $P \neq P^t$  and  $N = U \cap V = U^t \cap V^t$  then  $N = V \cap V^t$ .

**Proof.** Let  $p \in V \cap V^t$ . Since  $P \neq P^t$ , there is an element in one and not in the other; say  $a \in P, a \notin P^t$ . If  $p \in N$  there exists a  $q \in M \Gamma p, q \notin N$  such that  $a \Gamma M \Gamma q \subset N$ . Thus  $a \Gamma M \Gamma q \subset U^t \cap V^t$ . Since  $q \notin N, q \notin U^t$ . Since  $U^t$  is  $P^t$ -tertiary and  $a \Gamma M \Gamma q \subset U^t$  we conclude that  $a \in P^t$ , a contradiction. Thus  $p \in N$ . That is.  $V \cap V^t \subset N$ ; since clearly  $N \subset V, N \subset V^t$  we get  $N \subset V \cap V^t$ . This proves the lemma.

The lemma immediately yields

**3.21 Theorem.** If the sub- $\Gamma$ M-module  $N$  of  $R$  has the two reduced decompositions  $N = N_1 \cap N_2 \cap \dots \cap N_m = N_1^t \cap \dots \cap N_s^t$  then  $m = s$  and the set of prime ideals  $P_i$  of the  $N_i$  coincides with the set of prime ideals  $P_i^t$  of the  $N_i^t$ .

**Proof.** We show  $P_i^t = P_i$  for some  $i$ . Suppose not. Since  $P_1^t = P_1$  and  $N = N_1 \cap \dots \cap N_m = N_1^t \cap \dots \cap N_s^t$ , by Lemma 3.20,  $N = N_2 \cap \dots \cap N_m \cap N_2^t \cap \dots \cap N_s^t$ . Since  $P_1^t \neq P_2$  we get  $N = N_3 \cap \dots \cap N_m \cap N_2^t \cap \dots \cap N_s^t$ . Continuing we arrive at  $N = N_2^t \cap \dots \cap N_s^t$  contrary to the irredundancy of the representation  $N = N_1^t \cap \dots \cap N_s^t$ . Thus  $P_i^t = P_i$ . In the same way given  $j, P_j^t = P_k$  for some  $k$ . This shows  $s \leq m$ . The argument is symmetric,  $m \leq s$ . Thus  $m = s$  and  $\{P_i^t\} = \{P_i\}$ .

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