

## Some Characterizations of Submodules of *QTAG*-MODULES

<sup>a</sup>Alveera Mehdi    <sup>b</sup>Fahad Sikander

ABSTRACT. A module  $M$  over an associative ring with unity is a *QTAG*-module if every finitely generated submodule of any homomorphic image of  $M$  is a direct sum of uniserial modules. There are many fascinating concepts related to these modules of which  $h$ -pure submodules and  $N$ -high submodules are very significant. Here we characterize  $h$ -pure hulls of *QTAG*-module in terms of  $N$ -high submodules of  $M$ . We also characterize submodules of *QTAG*-modules which are the intersections of finitely many  $h$ -pure submodules.

### 1. Introduction

All rings considered here contain unity and modules are unital *QTAG*-modules. The structure of these modules is studied by various authors, but the concept of  $h$ -pure modules still fascinates. Sometimes a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is not  $h$ -pure but it is contained in a  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$ . The minimal  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  containing  $N$  is the  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$ . We call these submodules as semi  $h$ -pure submodules. We find that for every semi  $h$ -pure submodule  $N$ , there exists a subsocle  $S$  of  $M$  such that all  $h$ -pure hulls of  $N$  are  $S$ -high submodules of  $M$ . We also characterize the intersection of finitely many  $h$ -pure submodules containing  $N$ .

A module with totally ordered lattice of submodules with finite composition length is a uniserial module. An element  $x \in M$  is uniform if  $xR$  is a nonzero uniform (hence uniserial) module and for any module  $M$  over  $R$  with a unique composition series,  $d(M)$  denotes its composition length. For a uniform element  $x \in M$ ,  $e(x) = d(xR)$  and  $H_M(x) = \sup\{d(\frac{yR}{xR}) \mid y \in M, x \in yR \text{ and } y \text{ is uniform}\}$  are the exponent and height of  $x$  in  $M$ , respectively.  $H_k(M)$  is the submodule of  $M$  generated by the elements of height at least  $k$ . A submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is  $h$ -pure in  $M$  if  $N \cap H_k(M) = H_k(N)$ ,  $\forall k \geq 0$  and  $M$  is  $h$ -divisible if  $H_1(M) = M$ . A submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is dense in  $M$  if  $N = \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} (N + H_k(M))$  and  $N$  is almost dense in  $M$  if

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$\text{soc}(H_k(M)) \subset N + H_{k+1}(M), k \geq 0$ . For other concepts we refer to [3,4,5].

## 2. Semi $h$ -pure Submodules and Intersections of Pure Hulls.

First of all we should mention the following notations used by Khan [2].

$$N^k(M) = (N + H_{k+1}(M)) \cap \text{Soc}(H_k(M))$$

$$N_k(M) = (N \cap \text{Soc}(H_k(M))) + \text{Soc}(H_{k+1}(M))$$

$$Q_k(M, N) = N^k(M)/N_k(M)$$

We start by defining the following:

**Definition 1.** A submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is semi  $h$ -pure in  $M$  if it is not  $h$ -pure but it is contained in a  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$ . The minimal  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$ , containing  $N$  is said to be the  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$ .

**Remark 2.** It is important to note that  $h$ -pure hull need not be unique.

**Definition 3.** A submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is a  $kV$ -submodule of  $M$  if there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $N^t(M) \cong N_t(M), \forall t \geq k$ . If  $k = 0$ , then  $N$  is a  $V$ -submodule of  $M$ .

**Lemma 4.** Let  $N$  be a semi  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  and  $K$  a  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$ . Then for an integer  $k$  the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $\text{Soc}(H_{k-1}(K)) \not\subset N, \text{Soc}(H_k(K)) \subset N$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .
- (ii)  $N$  is a  $kV$ -submodule of  $M$ .

**Proof.** Since  $K$  is the minimal  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  containing  $N$ ,  $\text{Soc}(H_k(K)) \subseteq N + H_{k+1}(K)$ , therefore  $N$  is almost dense in  $K$ .

Again  $\text{Soc}\left(\frac{H_t(K) + N}{N}\right) = \left(\frac{\text{Soc}(H_{t+1}(K)) + N}{N}\right)$  if and only if  $N^t(M) \cong N_t(M)$ .

Now (i) implies that  $\text{Soc}(H_{k-1}(K) + N) \not\cong N$  and  $\text{Soc}(H_t(K) + N) \cong N$  for all  $t \geq k$ . Therefore  $Q_{k-1}(K, N) \neq 0$  and  $Q_t(K, N) = 0$  for all  $t \geq k$ . Now  $N^{k-1}(M) \not\cong N_{k-1}(M)$  and  $N^t(M) \cong N_t(M)$  for all  $t \geq k$  implying that  $N$  is a  $kV$ -submodule of  $M$ .

On the other hand if  $N$  is a  $kV$ -submodule of  $M$  then  $N^{k-1}(K) \not\cong N_{k-1}(K)$  and  $N^t(K) \cong N_t(K)$  for all  $t \geq k$ . For a semi  $h$ -pure submodule  $N$  contained in a  $h$ -pure hull  $K \subset M$ ,  $K$  may be expressed as a direct sum  $K = A \oplus C$ , where  $C$  is bounded. Since  $C$  is bounded  $\text{Soc}(C) = \text{Soc}(N)$  and there exists a non negative integer  $l$  such that  $\text{Soc}(H_l(K)) \subset N$ . Since  $\text{Soc}(H_t(M)) + N \cong N$  for all  $t \geq l$ , we have  $l = k$ .

Consider a semi  $h$ -pure submodule  $N$  of  $M$  such that  $Q_t(M, N) = 0$  for all  $t \geq k$  for some  $k$ . If  $K$  is the  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$ , then there exists submodules  $A$  and  $C$

such that  $K = A \oplus C$ ,  $Soc(A) = Soc(N)$ ,  $H_{k-1}(C) \neq 0$  and  $H_k(C) = 0$  and

$$Soc((H_t(M) + N)/N) = Soc((H_t(K) + N)/N) \oplus (Soc(H_t(M) + N)/N).$$

Now we are able to prove the following:

**Theorem 5.** Let  $N$  be a semi  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$ . Then there exists a subsocle  $S$  of  $M$  such that every  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  is  $S$ -high in  $M$ .

**Proof.** Since  $N$  is semi  $h$ -pure in  $M$ , there exists a non-negative integer  $k$  such that

$$(N + H_{t+1}(M)) \cap Soc(H_t(M)) \cong (N \cap Soc(H_t(M))) + Soc(H_{t+1}(M))$$

$\forall t \geq k$  i.e.  $N$  is a  $kV$ -submodule of  $M$ . Consider the  $h$ -pure hull  $K$  of  $N$  in  $M$ , then

$$Soc(H_k(K)) = Soc(N \cap H_k(M)).$$

Therefore,

$$Soc(H_k(M)) = Soc(N \cap H_k(M)) \oplus S_k$$

for some subsocle  $S_k$  of  $M$ .

Since  $N^t(M) = N^t(K) + N_t(M)$  and  $Soc(H_t(K)) \subset Soc(H_{t+1}(K)) + N$ ,  $\forall t \geq 0$ ,  $Soc(H_{k-1}(M)) = N^{k-1}(M) \oplus S_{k-1}$  for some subsocle  $S_{k-1}$  of  $M$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} Soc(H_{k-1}(M)) &= N^{k-1}(K) + N_{k-1}(M) \oplus S_{k-1} \\ &= (Soc(H_{k-1}(K)) + Soc(H_k(M))) \oplus S_{k-1} \\ &= Soc(H_{k-1}(K)) \oplus S_k \oplus S_{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

On repeating the same process, after a finite number of steps we get

$$Soc(M) = Soc(K) \oplus S_k \oplus S_{k-1} \oplus \dots \oplus S_0.$$

where each  $S_i$  is a subsocle of  $M$ .

This implies that every  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$  is  $S$ -high in  $M$ , where  $S = S_k \oplus S_{k-1} \oplus \dots \oplus S_0$ .

An immediate consequence of the above result is stated below:

For any two  $h$ -pure hulls  $L, K$  of a submodule  $N$  of  $M$

$$Soc(H_k(M))/Soc(H_k(L)) \cong Soc(H_k(M))/Soc(H_k(K)), \text{ for } k \geq 0$$

But by [6] we can't say that  $Soc(H_k(L))$  and  $Soc(H_k(K))$  are congruent modulo  $M$ .

Now we shall try to find a relation between  $K/N$  and  $M/K$ , where  $K$  is a  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$ . If  $L$  and  $K$  are two  $h$ -pure hulls of a semi  $h$ -pure submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , then  $Soc(H_k(L/N)) \cong Soc(H_k(K/N))$  for all  $k \geq 0$ . The cardinality of the minimal generating set of  $Soc(H_k(K/N))$ , denoted by  $g(Soc(H_k(K/N)))$  plays a very important role in this study. Since  $Soc(H_k(L)) \cong Soc(H_k(K))$  this cardinal doesn't depend on

the  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  and it is a relative invariant of  $N$  in  $M$ . The  $\alpha^{th}$ -Ulm Kaplansky invariant (and other related concepts) of a QTAG-module was defined in [4] as

$$f_M(\alpha) = g\left(\frac{Soc(H_\alpha(M))}{Soc(H_{\alpha+1}(M))}\right)$$

**Proposition 6.** Let  $N$  be a semi  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  and  $K, L$  be the  $h$ -pure hulls of  $N$  in  $M$ . Then

$$f_{M/K}(t) = f_{M/L}(t), \forall t \geq 0.$$

**Proof.** As in Theorem 5,  $N^t(M) = N^t(K) + N_t(M)$  and  $Soc(H_t(K)) \subset N + H_{t+1}(K)$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . Therefore the  $t^{th}$ -Ulm Kaplansky invariant of  $N$  with respect to  $M$ ,  $f_t(M, N)$  is

$$g(Soc(H_t(M))/(Soc(H_t(K) + Soc(H_{t+1}(M))))$$

Since a submodule  $K$  is  $h$ -pure in  $M$  if all the elements of the  $Soc(K)$  have the same height in  $K$  as in  $M$ , this result with the above discussion enabled us to write  $t^{th}$  Ulm Kaplansky invariant of  $N$  with respect to  $M$ .

Again we have

$$f_{M/K}(t) = g(Soc(H_t(M/K))/(Soc(H_{t+1}(M/K))))$$

$$\text{As } Soc(H_t(M/K))/Soc(H_{t+1}(M/K)) \cong (K + Soc(H_t(M)))/(K + Soc(H_{t+1}(M)))$$

$$= (Soc(H_t(M)) + Soc(H_t(K)) + K)/(Soc(H_{t+1}(M)) + Soc(H_t(K)) + K)$$

$$\text{and } (Soc(H_t(M)) + Soc(H_t(K))) \cap K \subseteq Soc(H_{t+1}(M)) + Soc(H_t(K)),$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_{M/K}(t) &= g(Soc(H_t(M))/(Soc(H_t(K)) + Soc(H_{t+1}(M)))) \\ &= f_t(M, N). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly  $f_{M/L}(t) = f_t(M/N), \forall t \geq 0$  and the result follows.

**Lemma 7.** Let  $K$  be a  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  containing the submodule  $N$ . Then

$$Soc(H_k(M/N))/Soc(H_k(K/N)) \cong Soc(H_k(M))/Soc(H_k(K))$$

for every integer  $k \geq 0$ .

**Proof.** We shall prove this lemma by using the famous Dedekind short exact sequence.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Since } \text{Soc}((H_k(M) + N)/N)/\text{Soc}((H_k(K) + N)/N) \\
&= (\text{Soc}((H_k(K) + N)/N) + \text{Soc}((H_k(M) + N)/N))/\text{Soc}((H_k(K) + N)/N) \\
&\cong (\text{Soc}((H_k(M)) + N)/N)/(\text{Soc}(H_k(K) + N)/N) \cap (\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) + N)/N) \\
&\cong (\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) + N)/N)/(\text{Soc}(H_k(K)) + N)/N) \\
&\cong (\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) + N)/(\text{Soc}(H_k(K)) + N).
\end{aligned}$$

Again

$$\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) \cap N \subset K \cap \text{Soc}(H_k(M)) = \text{Soc}(H_k(K))$$

Therefore we have

$$(\text{Soc}(H_k(M) + N)/(\text{Soc}(H_k(K) + N))) \cong \text{Soc}(H_k(M))/\text{Soc}(H_k(K)).$$

By Dedekind short exact sequence we have

$$\text{Soc}\left(\frac{H_k(M) + N}{N}\right) / \left(\frac{\text{Soc}H_k(K) + N}{N}\right) \cong \text{Soc}(H_k(M))/\text{Soc}(H_k(K))$$

for every integer  $k \geq 0$ .

To study the intersections of finitely many  $h$ -pure submodules of  $M$  containing  $N$ , we need some notations and lemmas:

**Lemma 8.** Let  $N$  be a semi  $h$ -pure and  $kV$ -submodule of  $M$  contained in a  $h$ -pure submodule  $A$  of  $M$ . Then

$$g(((\text{Soc}(H_t(M)) + N)/N)/(\text{Soc}(H_t(A) + N)/N)) \leq g(\text{Soc}(H_t(M))/\text{Soc}(H_t(K)))$$

for every integer  $t \geq 0$  and  $h$ -pure hull  $K$  of  $N$  in  $M$ .

**Proof.** Since  $K$  is a  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$ ,  $\text{Soc}(H_k(K)) = \text{Soc}(N \cap H_k(M))$  and  $\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) = \text{Soc}(N \cap H_k(M)) \oplus S_k$  for some subsocle  $S_k$  of  $M$ . For every  $t \geq k$ , we have  $\text{Soc}(H_t(A)) = \text{Soc}(N \cap H_t(M)) \oplus (A \cap S_t)$  and  $\text{Soc}(H_t(M)) = \text{Soc}(H_t(A)) \oplus S'_t$  for some submodule  $S'_t$  of the subsocle  $S_t$ .

Now by Lemma 7,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Soc}((H_t(M) + N)/N)/\text{Soc}((H_t(A) + N)/N) \cong \text{Soc}(H_t(M))/\text{Soc}(H_t(A)) \\
& \cong S'_t \subset S_t \cong \text{Soc}(H_t(M))/\text{Soc}(H_t(K))
\end{aligned}$$

So we may assume  $t < k$ . On the similar lines of Theorem 5, we can say that

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Soc}(H_{k-1}(M)) &= ((N + H_k(M)) \cap \text{Soc}(H_{k-1}(M))) \oplus S_{k-1} \\
&= ((N + H_k(A)) \cap \text{Soc}(H_{k-1}(A))) + \text{Soc}(H_k(M)) \oplus S_{k-1} \\
&= ((N + H_k(A)) \cap \text{Soc}(H_{k-1}(A))) + \text{Soc}(N \cap H_k(M)) \oplus S_k \oplus S_{k-1}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $S_{k-1}$  is a subsocle of  $M$ .

Now we have  $Soc(H_{k-1}(M)) = Soc(H_{k-1}(A)) \oplus C_{k-1}$ , where  $C_{k-1}$  is a submodule of  $S_k \oplus S_{k-1}$ . Because  $Soc(H_{k-1}(M)) = Soc(H_{k-1}(K)) \oplus S_k \oplus S_{k-1}$ , the result holds for  $t = k - 1$ . On the lines of Lemma 4, if we repeat the steps we have

$$g((Soc(H_t(M) + N)/N)/(Soc((H_t(A) + N)/N)) \leq g(Soc(H_t(M)/Soc(H_t(N))).$$

**Lemma 9.** Let  $N$  be a semi  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  which is an intersection of finitely many  $h$ -pure submodules in  $M$ . Then there exist a positive integer  $l$  such that

$$g(Soc(K/N)) \leq l g(Soc M/Soc K)$$

where  $K$  is a  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$ .

**Proof.** Let  $N = \bigcap_{i=1}^l K_i$ , where each  $K_i$  is  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  containing  $N$ . We may define  $K_0 = K$  and  $L_m = \bigcap_{i=0}^m Soc\left(\frac{K_i + N}{N}\right)$  and we have

$$g\left(\frac{L_0}{L_1}\right) + g\left(\frac{L_1}{L_2}\right) + \dots + g\left(\frac{L_{l-1}}{L_l}\right) = g\left(Soc\left(\frac{K}{N}\right)\right)$$

As

$$\frac{L_{m-1}}{L_m} = \frac{L_{m-1}}{L_m \cap Soc(K_m/N)} \cong \frac{L_m + Soc(K_m/N)}{Soc(K_m/N)} \subseteq Soc(M/N)/Soc(K_m/N).$$

By the previous lemma

$$g\left(\frac{L_{m-1}}{L_m}\right) \leq g(Soc(M/N)/Soc(K/N)) = g(Soc(M)/Soc(K)).$$

This implies that

$$g(Soc(K/N)) \leq l g(Soc(M)/Soc(N)).$$

**Lemma 10.** Let  $N$  be a semi  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$ . Then for every integer  $k \geq 0$ ,

$$g(Soc(H_k(K/N))) = g\left(Soc\left(\frac{H_k(M)}{H_k(M) \cap N}\right)\right) \text{ and}$$

$$g(Soc(H_k(M))/Soc(H_k(K))) = g(Soc(H_k(M))/Soc(H_k(M) \cap N))$$

**Proof.** Since  $K$  is a  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$ ,  $H_k(K)$  is a  $h$ -pure hull of  $N \cap H_k(M)$  in  $H_k(M)$  and  $N \cap H_k(M) = N \cap H_k(K)$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} g(\text{Soc}(H_k(K))/(H_k(K) \cap N)) &= g(\text{Soc}(H_k(K/N))) \\ &= g(\text{Soc}(H_k(M))/(\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) \cap N)) \text{ and} \\ &g(\text{Soc}(H_k(M))/(\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) \cap N)) = g\left(\frac{\text{Soc}(H_k(M))}{\text{Soc}(H_k(K))}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Now we can prove the following:

**Theorem 11.** Let  $N$  be a semi  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$ . If  $N$  is an intersection of finitely many  $h$ -pure submodules in  $M$ , then for all integer  $k \geq 0$ , there exist a positive integer  $l_k$  such that

$$g(\text{Soc}(H_k(K/N))) \leq l_k g\left(\frac{\text{Soc}(H_k(M))}{\text{Soc}(H_k(K))}\right)$$

where  $K$  is a  $h$ -pure hull of  $N$  in  $M$ .

**Proof.** Let  $N = \bigcap_{i=1}^l K_i$ , where each  $K_i$  is a  $h$ -pure submodule of  $M$  containing  $N$ . Now  $N \cap H_k(M)$  is semi  $h$ -pure in  $H_k(M)$  and we also have that

$$N \cap H_k(M) = \bigcap_{i=1}^l (K_i \cap H_k(M)) = \bigcap_{i=1}^l H_k(K_i)$$

and  $H_k(K_i)$  is a  $h$ -pure submodule of  $H_k(M)$  containing  $N \cap H_k(M)$ . Therefore by Lemma 9 and 10 there exists a positive integer  $l_k$

$$g(\text{Soc}(H_k(K/N))) \leq l_k g\left(\frac{\text{Soc}(H_k(M))}{\text{Soc}(H_k(K))}\right).$$

The above theorem does not throw any light on the sufficiency of the conditions. In the end we would like to state some open problems:

**Problem 1.** To find out the cases when the conditions of theorem 11 become sufficient for a semi  $h$ -pure submodules to be the intersection of  $h$ -pure submodules.

**Problem 2.** If  $(\text{Soc}(H_n(M)) + N)/N = (N \cap \text{Soc}(H_n(M))) + \text{Soc}(H_{n+1}(M)) = 0$  implies that  $\text{Soc}(H_k(\frac{M}{N})) = 0$  for every non negative integer  $n$  then is it possible to express  $N$  as the intersection of  $h$ -pure submodules in  $M$ ?

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<sup>a</sup> *Current address: Department of Mathematics,  
Aligarh Muslim University,  
Aligarh-202 002,  
INDIA*

*E-mail address: alveera\_mehdi@rediffmail.com*

<sup>b</sup> *Current address: Department of Mathematics,  
Aligarh Muslim University,  
Aligarh-202 002,  
INDIA*

*E-mail address: fahadsikander@gmail.com*