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## GPQ modules and generalized Armendariz modules

Liang Zhao, Xiaosheng Zhu

### Abstract

Let  $M_R$  be a right  $R$ -module. We introduce the concept of right generalized p.q.-Baer modules (or simply, right GPQ modules) to extend the notion of right p.q.-Baer modules. We study on the relationship between the GPQ property of a module  $M_R$  and various quasi-Armendariz properties. We prove that every right GPQ module is a quasi-Armendariz module. As a sequence, we obtain a general form of some known results considering the p.q.Baer property of a ring, some known results are extended. Moreover, we prove that for the formal triangular ring  $R$  constructed from a pair of rings  $S, T$  and a bimodule  ${}_S M_T$ ,  $R$  is weak Armendariz if and only if (1)  $S$  and  $T$  are weak Armendariz rings. (2)  ${}_S M$  and  $M_T$  are weak Armendariz as a left  $S$ -module and right  $R$ -module. (3) If  $s(x)s'(x) = t(x)t'(x) = 0$ , then  $s(x)M[x] \cap M[x]t'(x) = 0$ . This gives the relationship of weak Armendarizness between  $R$  and  $S, T, {}_S M_T$ , which plays a very important role in ring theory.

**Key Words:** GPQ modules; quasi-Armendariz modules; p.q.-Baer modules; weak Armendariz modules

### 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, all rings are associative with identity and modules are unital right modules and  $\alpha : R \rightarrow R$  is an endomorphism of the ring  $R$ . Clark defined quasi-Baer rings in [9] and use them to characterize when a finite dimensional algebra with unity over an algebraically closed field is isomorphic to a twisted matrix units semigroup algebra. A ring  $R$  is called quasi-Baer if the right annihilator of each right ideal of  $R$  is generated by an idempotent. As a generalization of quasi-Baer rings, Birkenmeier [5] introduced the concept of principally quasi-Baer rings. A ring  $R$  is called right principally quasi-Baer (or simply right p.q.-Baer) if the right annihilator of a principal right ideal of  $R$  is generated by an idempotent. Similarly, left p.q.-Baer rings can be defined. A ring  $R$  is called p.q.-Baer if it is both right and left p.q.-Baer. Another generalization of Baer rings is a p.p.-ring. A ring  $R$  is called a right (resp. left) p.p.-ring [6] if the right (resp. left) annihilator of every element of  $R$  is generated by an idempotent.  $R$  is called a p.p.-ring if it is both right and left p.p.

An ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is said to be right (resp. left) s-unital [18] if, for each  $a \in I$  there exists an element  $x \in I$  such that  $ax = a$  (resp.  $xa = a$ ). Note that if  $I$  and  $J$  are right s-unital ideal of  $R$ , then so is  $I \cap J$  (if  $a \in I \cap J$ , then  $a \in aIJ \subseteq a(I \cap J)$ ). It is well known that  $I$  is right s-unital if and only if  $R/I$  is flat as a left  $R$ -module if and only if  $I$  is pure as a left ideal of  $R$ .

For a subset  $X$  of a module  $M_R$ , let  $r_R(X) = \{r \in R : Xr = 0\}$ . In [15], Lee-Zhou introduced Baer modules, quasi-Baer modules, p.p.-modules and reduced modules as follows: (1)  $M_R$  is called *Baer* if, for any subset  $X$  of  $M$ ,  $r_R(X) = eR$  where  $e^2 = e \in R$ . (2)  $M_R$  is called *quasi-Baer* if, for any submodule  $N$  of  $M$ ,  $r_R(N) = eR$  where  $e^2 = e \in R$ . (3)  $M_R$  is called *p.p.* if, for any  $m \in M$ ,  $r_R(m) = eR$  where  $e^2 = e \in R$ . (4)  $M_R$  is said to be reduced if, for any  $m \in M$  and  $a \in R$ ,  $ma = 0$  implies  $mR \cap Ma = 0$ . It is clear that  $R$  is reduced if and only if  $R_R$  is a reduced module. Recently, Baser et al. introduced the notion of *principally quasi-Baer* modules. A module  $M_R$  is called *principally quasi-Baer* [3] (or simply *p.q.-Baer*) module if, for any  $m \in M$ ,  $r_R(mR) = eR$ , where  $e^2 = e \in R$ . It is clear that  $R$  is a right *p.q.-Baer* ring if and only if  $R_R$  is a *p.q.-Baer* module. Moreover, every quasi-Baer module is p.q.-Baer and every Baer module is quasi-Baer.

We introduce the concept of right generalized p.q.-Baer modules (or simply right GPQ modules) to extend the notion of right p.q.-Baer modules. We prove that  $N_R$  is a right GPQ module if and only if  $M_n(N)$  is a right GPQ module and  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module if and only if  $M[x]_{R[x]}$  is a right GPQ module. We study the relationship between the GPQ property of a module  $M_R$  and various quasi-Armendariz properties (including skew power series, skew Laurent polynomials and skew polynomials). It is shown that every right GPQ module is a quasi-Armendariz module. As an immediate consequence of these facts, we obtain a unified form of some well-known results considering the p.q.Baer property of a ring. We show that if  $R$  is an  $\alpha$ -compatible ring, then  $R$  is a right p.q.-Baer ring if and only if  $R[x; \alpha]$  is a right p.q.-Baer-ring. We prove, among others, that the trivial extension  $T(R, R)$  of  $R$  by  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring if and only if the following two conditions are satisfied: (1)  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring. (2) If  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  in  $R[x]$ , then  $f(x)R[x] \cap R[x]g(x) = 0$ .

## 2. GPQ modules and quasi-Armendariz modules

Following [4],  $M_R$  is called *quasi-Armendariz* if, whenever  $m(x)R[x]f(x) = 0$  where  $m(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n m_i x^i \in M[x]$  and  $f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^s a_j x^j \in R[x]$ , then  $m_i R a_j = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . It is clear that  $R$  is a quasi-Armendariz ring if and only if  $R_R$  is a quasi-Armendariz right  $R$ -module. Note that every reduced module is a quasi-Armendariz module.

Our focus in this section is to introduce the concepts of right GPQ modules and quasi-Armendariz modules relative to skew power series modules, skew Laurent polynomial modules and skew polynomial modules, respectively. Moreover, we study on the relationship between the GPQ property of a module  $M_R$  and those of various quasi-Armendariz properties.

We first give the notion of a right GPQ module which is a generalization of right p.q.-Baer modules. We begin with the following definition.

**Definition 2.1.** *A module  $M_R$  is called right GPQ if the right annihilator  $r_R(mR)$  is left  $s$ -unital as an ideal of  $R$  for any  $m \in M$ .*

The left version for a left  $R$ -module can be defined similarly. It is obvious that every right *p.q.-Baer* module is a right GPQ module. Moreover, if  $M$  is a bimodule  ${}_R M_R$ , then every left *p.p.* module is right GPQ by [10, Proposition 1]. The following example shows that there exists a right GPQ module which is neither p.p. nor p.q.-Baer.

**Example 2.1** (see 17, Example 2.5) *Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the ring of integers. We consider the ring*

$$S = \left( \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \right) / \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \right).$$

It is clear that  $S$  is a Boolean ring. Let  $R = S[[x]]$ , then  $R_R$  is a right GPQ module by [17, Example 2.5], but it is neither p.p. nor p.q.-Baer.

Recall that a module  $M_R$  is called semicommutative if  $r_R(m)$  is an ideal of  $R$  for all  $m \in M$ , or equivalently, if for any  $m \in M$  and  $a \in R$ , then  $ma = 0$  implies that  $mRa = 0$ . It was shown in [1] that if  $M_R$  is a semicommutative module, then  $M_R$  is a p.q.-Baer module if and only if the right annihilator of every finitely generated submodule is generated (as a right ideal) by an idempotent. Similarly, we have the following

**Lemma 2.1** *The following conditions are equivalent for a module  $M_R$ :*

- (1)  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module.
- (2) If  $N$  is a finitely generated submodule of  $M_R$  then for all  $a \in r_R(N), a \in r_R(N)a$ .

**Proof.** The implication (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) is straightforward. Now suppose that  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module. Let  $N = m_1R + m_2R + \dots + m_nR$  be a finitely generated submodule of  $M_R$ , then  $r_R(N) = \cap_{i=1}^n r_R(m_iR)$ . If  $a \in r_R(N)$ , then  $a \in r_R(m_iR)$  for each  $i$ . Since  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module, there exists  $t_i \in r_R(m_iR)$  such that  $a = t_i a$  for each  $i$ . So we have  $ta = a$ , where  $t = t_n t_{n-1} \dots t_1 \in r_R(N)$ . This yields desired result.

Let  $n$  be a positive integer and let  $M_n(R)$  be the ring of  $n \times n$  matrixes over  $R$ . For a module  $N_R$ , we denote  $M_n(N)$  the formal  $n \times n$  matrixes over  $N$ . Then  $M_n(N)$  is an Abelian group under obvious addition operation. Moreover,  $M_n(N)$  becomes a module over  $M_n(R)$  under the usual scalar product operation. The next result shows one way to build new GPQ-modules from old ones. □

**Proposition 2.1**  $N_R$  is a right GPQ module if and only if  $M_n(N)$  is a right GPQ module.

**Proof.** Suppose that  $N_R$  is a right GPQ module and  $\tilde{N} = (n_{ij}) \in M_n(N)$ . Let  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_n(R)$  is such that  $A \in r_{M_n(R)}(\tilde{N}M_n(R))$ , then we have  $\tilde{N}M_n(R)A = 0$ . Let  $E_{ij}$  denote the  $(i, j)$ -matrix unit. Then  $(\sum_{p,q} n_{pq} E_{pq}) r E_{ij} (\sum_{s,t} a_{st} E_{st}) = 0$  for any  $r \in R$  and any  $i$  and  $j$ , where  $n_{pq}$  is the element of  $\tilde{N}$  in  $(p, q)$  and  $a_{st}$  is the element of  $A$  in  $(s, t)$ . It is easy to see that  $\sum_{p,t} n_{pi} r a_{jt} E_{pt} = 0$ , this shows that  $n_{pi} r a_{jt} = 0$  for any  $p$  and  $t$ . Hence  $a_{jt} \in r_R(n_{pi}R)$  for all  $i, j, t$  and  $p$ . Then  $a_{st} \in r_R(\sum_{i,j} n_{ij}R)$  for all  $s, t$ , and so there exists  $c \in r_R(\sum_{i,j} n_{ij}R)$  such that  $a_{st} = ca_{st}$  for all  $s, t$  by Lemma 2.1. Now we have the following equation (†).

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} c & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & c & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & c \end{pmatrix} A \quad (\dagger), \quad \tilde{N}M_n(R) \begin{pmatrix} c & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & c & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & c \end{pmatrix} = 0. \quad (\ddagger)$$

It is straightforward to verify that (‡) is also true. This implies that  $M_n(N)$  is a right GPQ module.

Conversely, if  $M_n(N)$  is a right GPQ module. Let  $n \in N$  and  $a \in R$  such that  $a \in r_R(nR)$ . Let

$$\tilde{N} = \begin{pmatrix} n & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is clear that  $\tilde{N}M_n(R)A=0$ , so  $A \in r_{M_n(R)}(\tilde{N}M_n(R))$ . Since  $M_n(N)$  is a right GPQ module, there exists  $B = (b_{ij}) \in M_n(R)$  such that  $B \in r_{M_n(R)}(\tilde{N}M_n(R))$  and  $A = BA$ . Since  $\tilde{N}M_n(R)B=0$ , it follows that  $nRb_{11} = 0$ . This implies that  $b_{11} \in r_R(nR)$ . It is easy to see that  $a = b_{11}a$  and so  $N_R$  is a right GPQ module.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $M_R$  be a right  $R$ -module. If  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module, then  $M_R$  is a quasi-Armendariz module.*

**Proof.** Assume that  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module. Let  $m(x) = m_0 + m_1x + \cdots + m_nx^n \in M[x]$  and  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_sx^s \in R[x]$  such that  $m(x)R[x]f(x) = 0$  with  $m_i \in M$  and  $a_j \in R$ . We shall prove that  $m_iRa_j = 0$  for all  $i, j$ . Let  $c$  be an arbitrary element of  $R$ . Then we have the following equation:

$$0 = m(x)cf(x) = m_0ca_0 + \cdots + (m_nca_{s-2} + m_{n-1}ca_{s-1} + m_{n-2}ca_s)x^{n+s-2} + (m_nca_{s-1} + m_{n-1}ca_s)x^{n+s-1} + m_nca_sx^{n+s}. \tag{*}$$

It follows that  $m_nca_s = 0$ , and so  $a_s \in r_R(m_nR)$ . Since  $r_R(m_nR)$  is left s-unital by hypothesis, there exists  $t_n \in r_R(m_nR)$  such that  $t_na_s = a_s$ . Replacing  $c$  by  $ct_n$  in equation (\*), we obtain

$$m_0ct_na_0 + \cdots + (m_{n-1}ct_na_{s-1} + m_{n-2}ct_na_s)x^{n+s-2} + m_{n-1}ct_na_sx^{n+s-1} = 0$$

Then we have  $m_{n-1}ca_s = m_{n-1}ct_na_s = 0$ , so  $a_s \in r_R(m_nR + m_{n-1}R)$ . Since  $r_R(m_{n-1}R)$  is left s-unital, there exists  $h \in r_R(m_{n-1}R)$  such that  $ha_s = a_s$ . If we put  $t_{n-1} = ht_n$ , then  $t_{n-1}a_s = a_s$  and  $t_{n-1} \in r_R(m_nR + m_{n-1}R)$ . Next, replacing  $c$  by  $ct_{n-1}$  in equation (\*), we obtain  $m_{n-2}ca_s = 0$  in the same way as above. Hence we have  $a_s \in r_R(m_nR + m_{n-1}R + m_{n-2}R)$ . Continuing this process, we obtain  $m_iRa_s = 0$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Thus we get

$$(m_0 + m_1x + \cdots + m_nx^n)R[x](a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_{s-1}x^{s-1}) = 0.$$

Using induction on  $m+n$ , we obtain  $m_iRa_j = 0$  for all  $i, j$ . This implies that  $M_R$  is a quasi-Armendariz module, as desired.  $\square$

The following example shows that there exists a quasi-Armendariz module  $M_R$  which is not right GPQ.

**Example 2.2** (see 7, Example 2.3) *For a given field  $F$ . Let*

$$S = \{(a_n)_{n=1}^\infty \in \prod F \mid a_n \text{ is eventually constant}\},$$

*which is a subring of the countably infinite direct product  $\prod F$ . Then the ring  $S$  is a commutative von Neumann regular ring. Let  $R = S[[x]]$ . It is clear that  $S$  is a reduced ring, it follows from [17, Example 2.4] that  $R$  is a*

reduced ring and so  $R$  is Armendariz as a right  $R$ -module. This implies that  $R$  is quasi-Armendariz as a right  $R$ -module. But  $R$  is neither right p.q.Baer by [8, Example 3.6] nor GPQ as a right  $R$ -module by [17, Example 2.4].

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $M_R$  be a right  $R$ -module. If  $M[x]_{R[x]}$  is a right GPQ module, then  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module.*

**Proof.** Let  $m$  be any element of  $M$ . Suppose that  $M[x]_{R[x]}$  is a right GPQ module, then  $r_{R[x]}(mR[x])$  is left s-unital. Hence for any  $a \in r_R(mR)$ , there exists a polynomial  $f(x) \in R[x]$  such that  $f(x)a = a$ . Let  $b_0$  be the constant term of  $f(x)$ . Then  $b_0 \in r_R(mR)$  and  $b_0a = a$ . This implies that  $r_R(mR)$  is left s-unital.  $\square$

In view of the foregoing lemma, we are now in a position to give the following characterization of GPQ modules.

**Proposition 2.2** *Let  $M_R$  be a right  $R$ -module. Then  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module if and only if  $M[x]_{R[x]}$  is a right GPQ module.*

**Proof.** This follows directly from Lemma 2.2, Lemma 2.3 and [18, Theorem 1].  $\square$

Note that if  $M_R$  is a p.q.-Baer module and let  $m \in M$ . Then  $r_R(mR) = eR$  for some idempotent  $e^2 = e \in R$ , and so  $R/r_R(mR) = R/eR \cong (1 - e)R$  is projective. Therefore a p.q.-Baer module satisfies the hypothesis of Proposition 2.2, hence we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.1** [3, Theorem 11] *Let  $M_R$  be a right  $R$ -module. Then  $M_R$  is a p.q.Baer-module if and only if  $M[x]_{R[x]}$  is a p.q.Baer-module.*

Based on the fact that if  $R$  is a commutative ring then  $M_R$  is a p.p.-module if and only if  $M_R$  is a p.q.Baer-module. We have the following corollaries.

**Corollary 2.2** *Assume that  $R$  is a commutative ring. Then  $M_R$  is a p.p.-module if and only if  $M[x]_{R[x]}$  is a p.p.-module.*

**Corollary 2.3** [8, Theorem 3.1] *A ring  $R$  is a right p.q.Baer-ring if and only if  $R[x]$  is a right p.q.Baer-ring.*

In [15], Lee-Zhou introduced the following notation. For a module  $M_R$ , we consider  $M[[x; \alpha]] = \{\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} m_i x^i : m_i \in M\}$ . Then  $M[[x; \alpha]]$  becomes a module over  $R[[x; \alpha]]$  with the usual addition and the following scalar product operation: For  $m(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} m_i x^i \in M[[x; \alpha]]$  and  $f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j x^j \in R[[x; \alpha]]$ ,  $m(x)f(x) = \sum_k (\sum_{i+j=k} m_i \alpha^i(a_j)) x^k$ . The module  $M[[x; \alpha]]$  is called the *skew power series extension* of  $M$ .

Following [11], a ring  $R$  is called  $\alpha$ -compatible if for each  $a, b \in R$ ,  $ab = 0 \Leftrightarrow a\alpha(b) = 0$ . According to Krempa [13], an endomorphism  $\alpha$  of a ring  $R$  is called to be *rigid* if  $a\alpha(a) = 0$  implies  $a = 0$  for  $a \in R$ . A ring  $R$  is said to be  $\alpha$ -rigid if there exists a rigid endomorphism  $\alpha$  of  $R$ . It was shown in [11, Lemma 2.2] that  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -rigid if and only if  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible and reduced. Thus the  $\alpha$ -compatible ring is a generalization of  $\alpha$ -rigid rings to the more general case where  $R$  is not assumed to be reduced. We extend the definition of an  $\alpha$ -compatible ring to the version of modules as follows.

**Definition 2.2** *A module  $M_R$  is called  $\alpha$ -compatible if, for any  $m \in M$  and any  $a \in R$ ,  $ma = 0$  if and only if  $m\alpha(a) = 0$ .*

The left version for a left  $R$ -module can be defined similarly. Motivated by the results in Baser [4], Lee and Zhou [15], we introduce the concept of *power series  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz* modules which is the power series version of quasi-Armendariz modules.

**Definition 2.3**  $M_R$  is called a power series  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz module if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1)  $M_R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible.
- (2) For any  $m(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} m_i x^i \in M[[x; \alpha]]$  and  $f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j x^j \in R[[x; \alpha]]$ ,  $m(x)R[[x; \alpha]]f(x) = 0$  implies that  $m_i R a_j = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ .

**Proposition 2.3** Let  $M_R$  be a  $\alpha$ -compatible module. Then we have the following:

- (1) If  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module, then  $M_R$  is a power series  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz module.
- (2) If  $M[[x; \alpha]]_{R[[x; \alpha]]}$  is a right GPQ module, then  $M_R$  is right GPQ.

**Proof.** (1) Assume that  $m(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} m_i x^i \in M[[x; \alpha]]$  and  $f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j x^j \in R[[x; \alpha]]$  such that  $(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} m_i x^i)R[[x; \alpha]](\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j x^j) = 0$  with  $m_i \in M$ ,  $a_j \in R$ . Let  $c$  be an arbitrary element of  $R$ . Then we have the following equation:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\sum_{i+j=k} m_i x^i c a_j x^j) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\sum_{i+j=k} m_i \alpha^i (c a_j) x^{i+j}) = 0. \tag{*}$$

We will show that  $m_i R a_j = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . We proceed by induction on  $i + j$ . It is true for  $i + j = 0$  since  $m_0 R b_0 = 0$  by (\*). Suppose that  $m_i R a_j = 0$  is true for  $i + j \leq n - 1$ . Then  $a_j \in r_R(m_i R)$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$  and  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1 - j$ . Since  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module, there exists  $t_{ij} \in r_R(m_i R)$  such that  $t_{ij} a_j = a_j$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$  and  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1 - j$ . From (\*), we have

$$\sum_{i+j=k} m_i \alpha^i (c a_j) = 0 \text{ for all } k \geq 0. \tag{\dagger}$$

Let  $f_j = t_{n-1-j, j} \cdots t_{1, j}$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ . It is clear that  $f_j a_j = a_j$ , and so  $f_j \in r_R(m_0 R) \cap r_R(m_1 R) \cap \cdots \cap r_R(m_{n-1-j} R)$ . If  $k = n$ , then the equation (\dagger) becomes

$$m_0 c a_n + m_1 \alpha (c a_{n-1}) + \cdots + m_n \alpha^n (c a_0) = 0. \tag{\#}$$

Replacing  $c$  by  $c f_0$  in (\#), we obtain  $m_0 c f_0 a_n + m_1 \alpha (c f_0 a_{n-1}) + \cdots + m_n \alpha^n (c f_0 a_0) = 0$ . Since  $M_R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible and  $m_0 R f_j = m_1 R f_j = \cdots = m_{n-1-j} R f_j = 0$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ , it follows that  $m_n \alpha^n (c f_0 a_0) = m_n c f_0 a_0 = m_n c a_0 = 0$ . Hence  $m_n R a_0 = 0$ . Continuing this process by replacing  $c$  by  $c f_j$  in (\dagger) and using  $\alpha$ -compatibility of  $M_R$ , we obtain  $m_i R a_j = 0$  for all  $i + j = n$ . This shows that  $M_R$  is power series  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz.

- (2) The proof is similar to that of Lemma 2.3. □

**Corollary 2.4** Let  $R$  be an  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. If  $R$  is right GPQ as a module, then  $R$  is a power series  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz ring.

For a module  $M_R$ , let  $M[x; \alpha] = \{\sum_{i=0}^s m_i x^i : s \geq 0, m_i \in M\}$ . Then  $M[x; \alpha]$  becomes a module over  $R[x; \alpha]$ . Recall that  $M_R$  is called  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz module if the following conditions are satisfied:

(1)  $M_R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible.

(2)  $m(x)R[x; \alpha]f(x) = 0$  with  $m(x) = \sum_{i=0}^s m_i x^i \in M[x; \alpha]$  and  $f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^t a_j x^j \in R[x; \alpha]$  implies that  $m_i R a_j = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ .

By analogy with the case of Lemma 2.3 and the proof of Proposition 2.3 we give the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.4** *Let  $M_R$  be an  $\alpha$ -compatible module. Then  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module if and only if  $M[x; \alpha]_{R[x; \alpha]}$  is a right GPQ module. In this case,  $M_R$  is  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz.*

**Corollary 2.5** *Let  $R$  be an  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. Then  $R$  is a right p.q.-Baer ring if and only if  $R[x; \alpha]$  is a right p.q.-Baer-ring.*

For a module  $M_R$ , consider  $M[x, x^{-1}; \alpha] = \{\sum_{i=-s}^t m_i x^i : s \geq 0, t \geq 0, m_i \in M\}$ . Then  $M[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]$  becomes a module over  $R[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]$ . We give the following definition by considering the definition of a quasi-Armendariz module.

**Definition 2.4** *A module  $M_R$  is called Laurent  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz if the following conditions are satisfied:*

(1)  $M_R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible.

(2) For any  $m(x) = \sum_{i=-s}^t m_i x^i \in M[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]$  and  $f(x) = \sum_{j=-\alpha}^{\beta} a_j x^j \in R[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]$ ,  $m(x)R[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]f(x) = 0$  implies that  $m_i R a_j = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ .

**Proposition 2.5** *Let  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of a ring  $R$  and let  $M_R$  be an  $\alpha$ -compatible module. Then  $M_R$  is a right GPQ module if and only if  $M[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]_{R[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]}$  is a right GPQ module. In this case,  $M_R$  is Laurent  $\alpha$ -quasi-Armendariz.*

**Corollary 2.6** *Let  $R$  be an  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. Then  $R$  is a right p.q.-Baer ring if and only if  $R[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]$  is a right p.q.-Baer-ring.*

**Corollary 2.7** *Let  $R$  be an  $\alpha$ -rigid ring. Then  $R$  is a right p.q.-Baer ring if and only if  $R[x, x^{-1}; \alpha]$  is a right p.q.-Baer-ring.*

### 3. Related topics

In this section we relate the problem on the weak Armendariz property of a module to the formal triangular matrix ring constructed from a pair of rings  $S, T$  and a bimodule  ${}_S M_T$ . Due to Lee and Wong [14], a ring  $R$  is called weak Armendariz if for given  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1 x$  and  $g(x) = b_0 + b_1 x \in R[x]$ ,  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  implies that  $a_i b_j = 0$  for each  $i, j$  (the converse is obviously true).

We say a module  $M_R$  is a weak Armendariz module if whenever  $m(x)f(x) = 0$  where  $m(x) = m_0 + m_1 x \in M[x]$  and  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1 x \in R[x]$ , then  $m_i a_j = 0$  for each  $i, j$ . It is obvious that Armendariz modules are weak Armendariz. Note that there exists a weak Armendariz module  $M_R$  which is not right GPQ by Example 2.2. The following example shows that there exists a weak Armendariz module which is not Armendariz.

**Example 3.1** *Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}_3[x, y]/(x^3, x^2 y^2, y^3)$ , where  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  is the Galois field of order 3.  $\mathbb{Z}_3[x, y]$  is the polynomial*



ring with two indeterminates  $x, y$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ , and  $(x^3, x^2y^2, y^3)$  is the ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}_3[x, y]$  generated by  $x^3, x^2y^2, y^3$ . Let  $R[t]$  be the polynomial ring with an indeterminate  $t$  over  $R$ . Since  $(\bar{x} + \bar{y}t)^3 = (\bar{x} + \bar{y}t)(\bar{x}^2 + 2\bar{x}\bar{y}t + \bar{y}^2t^2) = 0$ , but  $\bar{x}\bar{y}^2 \neq 0$ . Then  $R_R$  is not Armendariz, but it is weak Armendariz by [14, Example 3.2].

**Proposition 3.1 .** *If  $M_R$  be a reduced module and  $R$  is a reduced ring. Then  $M_R$  is a weak Armendariz module if and only if its torsion submodule  $T(M)$  is weak Armendariz as a right  $R$ -module.*

**Proof.** If  $T(M)$  is weak Armendariz. Let  $m(x) = m_0 + m_1x \in M[x]$  and  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x \in R[x]$  such that  $m(x)f(x) = 0$ . Then we have  $m_0a_0 = 0$ ,  $m_0a_1 + m_1a_0 = 0$ ,  $m_1a_1 = 0$ . we can assume  $a_0 \neq 0$ . If we multiply the second equation by  $a_0$  from the right, we can obtain that  $m(x) \in T(M)[x]$  by the hypothesis. Since  $T(M)$  is weak Armendariz, it follows that  $m_i a_j = 0$  for each  $i, j$ . The other implication is trivial.  $\square$

Given a pair of rings  $S, T$  and a bimodule  ${}_S M_T$ , let  $R = \begin{pmatrix} S & M \\ 0 & T \end{pmatrix}$  denote the set of all symbols  $\begin{pmatrix} s & m \\ 0 & t \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $s \in S, t \in T, m \in M$ . It is straightforward to verify that  $R$  is a ring with the usual rules for addition and the following multiplication of matrices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} s & m \\ 0 & t \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s' & m' \\ 0 & t' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} ss' & sm' + mt' \\ 0 & tt' \end{pmatrix}.$$

The ring  $R$  above constructed from  $S, T$  and  ${}_S M_T$  is called the formal triangular matrix ring. Note that if  $M$  is an  $(S, T)$ -bimodule, then  $M[x]$  is an  $(S[x], T[x])$ -bimodule.

The rest of this section is devoted to a discussion of some basic facts concerning the foregoing formal triangular matrix ring. The following proposition gives the relationship of weak Armendariz property between  $R, S, T$  and  ${}_S M, M_T$ .

**Proposition 3.2** *Suppose that  $S$  and  $T$  are two rings,  $M$  is an  $(S, T)$ -bimodule and  $R$  is the formal triangular matrix ring constructed from  $S, T$  and  ${}_S M_T$ . Then  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring if and only if the following three conditions hold:*

- (1)  $S$  and  $T$  are weak Armendariz rings.
- (2)  ${}_S M$  and  $M_T$  are weak Armendariz as a left  $S$ -module and right  $R$ -module.
- (3) If  $s(x)s'(x) = t(x)t'(x) = 0$ , then  $s(x)M[x] \cap M[x]t'(x) = 0$ .

**Proof.** First we shall prove that  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring if the given three conditions are satisfied. Suppose that  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  with

$$f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} s_0 & m_0 \\ 0 & t_0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} s_1 & m_1 \\ 0 & t_1 \end{pmatrix} x, \quad g(x) = \begin{pmatrix} s'_0 & m'_0 \\ 0 & t'_0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} s'_1 & m'_1 \\ 0 & t'_1 \end{pmatrix} x \in R[x].$$

Let  $s(x) = s_0 + s_1x$ ,  $s'(x) = s'_0 + s'_1x$ ,  $m(x) = m_0 + m_1x$ ,  $m'(x) = m'_0 + m'_1x$  and  $t(x) = t_0 + t_1x$ ,  $t'(x) = t'_0 + t'_1x$ . Then  $s(x), s'(x) \in S[x]$ ,  $m(x), m'(x) \in M[x]$  and  $t(x), t'(x) \in T[x]$ . It is easy to see:

$$\left[ \begin{pmatrix} s_0 & m_0 \\ 0 & t_0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} s_1 & m_1 \\ 0 & t_1 \end{pmatrix} x \right] \left[ \begin{pmatrix} s'_0 & m'_0 \\ 0 & t'_0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} s'_1 & m'_1 \\ 0 & t'_1 \end{pmatrix} x \right]$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} s(x)s'(x) & s(x)m'(x) + m(x)t'(x) \\ 0 & t(x)t'(x) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus  $s(x)s'(x) = 0, t(x)t'(x) = 0$  and  $s(x)m'(x) + m(x)t'(x) = 0$ . Since  $S$  and  $T$  are both weak Armendariz rings, we have  $s_i s'_j = 0$  and  $t_i t'_j = 0$  for each  $i, j$ . Moreover,  $s(x)m'(x) = -m(x)t'(x) \in s(x)M[x] \cap M[x]t'(x) = 0$  by (3). It follows that  $s(x)m'(x) = m(x)t'(x) = 0$ . Since  ${}_S M$  and  $M_T$  are weak Armendariz as a left  $S$ -module and right  $R$ -module by (2), we have  $s_i m'_j = 0$  and  $m_i t'_j = 0$  for each  $i, j$ . Therefore

$$\begin{pmatrix} s_i & m_i \\ 0 & t_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s'_j & m'_j \\ 0 & t'_j \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} s_i s'_j & s_i m'_j + m_i t'_j \\ 0 & t_i t'_j \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

for all  $i$  and  $j$ . This shows that the desired implication is established.

Conversely, if  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring. We shall prove that the other implication is true.

(1) This is because

$$S \cong \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} s & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid s \in S \right\}, T \cong \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & t \end{pmatrix} \mid t \in T \right\}.$$

(2) Let  $s(x) = s_0 + s_1 x \in S[x], t(x) = t_0 + t_1 x \in T[x]$  and  $m(x) = m_0 + m_1 x, m'(x) = m'_0 + m'_1 x \in M[x]$ . Suppose  $s(x)m(x) = m'(x)t(x) = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \begin{pmatrix} s_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} s_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} x \right] \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} x \right] = \begin{pmatrix} s(x) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ & = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & s(x)m(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring, we have  $\begin{pmatrix} s_i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_j \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  for each  $i, j$ . This implies that  $s_i m_j = 0$  for each  $i, j$ . Therefore  ${}_S M$  is weak Armendariz as a left  $S$ -module. The argument that  $M_T$  is weak Armendariz as a right  $R$ -module is similar.

(3) Note that if  $R$  is weak Armendariz, we can prove that  $R[x]$  is weak Armendariz by a similar way in [2, Theorem 2]. Assume that  $s(x)s'(x) = t(x)t'(x) = 0$  and  $s(x)m(x) = -m'(x)t'(x) \neq 0$  with  $m(x), m'(x) \in M[x]$ . Then

$$\left[ \begin{pmatrix} s(x) & 0 \\ 0 & t(x) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m'(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} y \right] \cdot \left[ \begin{pmatrix} s'(x) & 0 \\ 0 & t'(x) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} y \right] = 0,$$

but

$$\begin{pmatrix} s(x) & 0 \\ 0 & t(x) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is a contradiction. It follows that (3) is true, as desired. □

Given a ring  $R$  and a bimodule  ${}_R M_R$ , the trivial extension of  $R$  by  $M$  is the ring  $T(R, M) = R \oplus M$  with the usual addition and the multiplication

$$(r_1, m_1)(r_2, m_2) = (r_1 r_2, r_1 m_2 + m_1 r_2).$$

This is isomorphic to the ring of all matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} r & m \\ 0 & r \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $r \in R$ ,  $m \in M$  and the usual matrix operations are used. Note that if  $M$  is an  $(R, R)$ -bimodule, then  $M[x]$  is an  $(R[x], R[x])$ -bimodule and  $T(R[x], M[x]) = T(R, M)[x]$ .

As an immediate consequence of the foregoing proposition we have the following characterization considering the trivial extension for a given ring  $R$  and a module  ${}_R M_R$ .

**Corollary 3.1** *Let  $M$  be an  $(R, R)$ -bimodule. Then the trivial extension  $T(R, M)$  is a weak Armendariz ring if and only if the following three conditions hold:*

- (1)  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring.
- (2)  $M$  is a left and right weak Armendariz  $R$ -module.
- (3) If  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  in  $R[x]$ , then  $f(x)M[x] \cap M[x]g(x) = 0$ .

As an application, we consider the case when the trivial extension  $T(R, R)$  of  $R$  by  $R$  is weak Armendariz if  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring.

**Corollary 3.2** *The trivial extension  $T(R, R)$  is a weak Armendariz ring if and only if the following two conditions are satisfied:*

- (1)  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring.
- (2) If  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  in  $R[x]$ , then  $f(x)R[x] \cap R[x]g(x) = 0$ .

The following example shows that the condition If  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  in  $R[x]$ , then  $f(x)M[x] \cap M[x]g(x) = 0$  in Corollary 3.2 is not superfluous.

**Example 3.2** *Let  $S$  be a reduced ring. Then the trivial extension  $T(S, S)$  is an Armendariz ring by [14, Theorem 2.3], and hence  $T(S, S)$  is weak Armendariz. Let  $R = T(S, S)$ , we prove that  $T(R, R)$  is not weak Armendariz. In fact, let*

$$f(x) = \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) + \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right) x$$

and

$$g(x) = \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) + \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) x$$

be two polynomials in  $T(R, R)$ . Then  $f(x)g(x) = 0$ , but

$$\left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \neq 0.$$

This shows that  $T(R, R)$  is not weak Armendariz.

It was shown in [15] that a module  $M_R$  is Armendariz if and only if  $M[x, x^{-1}]_{R[x, x^{-1}]}$  is Armendariz. Similar to the proof of [15, Theorem 1.12], we can get the following

**Proposition 3.3**  $M_R$  is a weak Armendariz module if and only if  $M[x, x^{-1}]_{R[x, x^{-1}]}$  is weak Armendariz.

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