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**Abstract:** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with  $1 \neq 0$  and  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Suppose that  $S \subseteq R$  is a multiplicatively closed set of  $R$ . Recently Sevim et al. in [19] introduced the notion of an  $S$ -prime submodule which is a generalization of a prime submodule and used them to characterize certain classes of rings/modules such as prime submodules, simple modules, torsion free modules,  $S$ -Noetherian modules and etc. Afterwards, in [2], Anderson et al. defined the concepts of  $S$ -multiplication modules and  $S$ -cyclic modules which are  $S$ -versions of multiplication and cyclic modules and extended many results on multiplication and cyclic modules to  $S$ -multiplication and  $S$ -cyclic modules. Here, in this article, we introduce and study  $S$ -comultiplication modules which are the dual notion of  $S$ -multiplication module. We also characterize certain classes of rings/modules such as comultiplication modules,  $S$ -second submodules,  $S$ -prime ideals and  $S$ -cyclic modules in terms of  $S$ -comultiplication modules. Moreover, we prove  $S$ -version of the dual Nakayama's Lemma.

**Key words:**  $S$ -multiplication module,  $S$ -comultiplication module,  $S$ -prime submodule,  $S$ -second submodule

## 1. Introduction

Throughout this article we focus only on commutative rings with a unity and nonzero unital modules.  $R$  will always denote such a ring and  $M$  will denote such an  $R$ -module. This paper aims to introduce and study the concept of  $S$ -comultiplication modules which are both the dual notion of  $S$ -multiplication modules and a generalization of comultiplication modules. Sevim et al. in their paper [19] gave the concept of  $S$ -prime submodules and used them to characterize certain classes of rings/modules such as prime submodules, simple modules, torsion-free modules and  $S$ -Noetherian rings. A nonempty subset  $S$  of  $R$  is said to be a multiplicatively closed set (briefly, m.c.s.) of  $R$  if  $0 \notin S$ ,  $1 \in S$  and  $st \in S$  for each  $s, t \in S$ . From now on  $S$  will always denote a m.c.s. of  $R$ . Suppose that  $P$  is a submodule of  $M$ ,  $K$  is a nonempty subset of  $M$  and  $J$  is an ideal of  $R$ . Then the residuals of  $P$  by  $K$  and  $J$  are defined as follows:

$$(P : K) = \{x \in R : xK \subseteq P\}$$

$$(P :_M J) = \{m \in M : Jm \subseteq P\}.$$

In particular, if  $P = 0$ , we sometimes use  $\text{ann}(K)$  instead of  $(0 : K)$ . Recall from [19] that a submodule  $P$  of  $M$  is said to be  $S$ -prime if  $(P : M) \cap S = \emptyset$  and there exists  $s \in S - S$  such that  $am \in P$  for some  $a \in R$  and  $m \in M$  implies either  $sa \in (P : M)$  or  $sm \in P$ . In particular, an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is said to be  $S$ -prime if  $I$  is an

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$S$ -prime submodule of  $M$ . We note here that if  $S \subseteq u(R)$ , where  $u(R)$  is the set of all units in  $R$ , the notions of an  $S$ -prime submodule and a prime submodule are the same.

Recall that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be multiplication if each submodule  $N$  of  $M$  has the form  $N = IM$  for some ideal  $I$  of  $R$  [12]. It is easy to note that  $M$  is a multiplication module if and only if  $N = (N : M)M$  [16]. The authors in [16] showed that for a multiplication module  $M$ , a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is prime if and only if  $(N : M)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$  [16, Corollary 2.11].

The dual notion of prime submodule which is called a second submodule was first introduced and studied by S. Yassemi in [20]. Recall that a nonzero submodule  $P$  of  $M$  is said to be second if for each  $a \in R$ , either  $aP = 0$  or  $aP = P$ . Note that if  $P$  is a second submodule of  $M$ , then  $\text{ann}(P)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ . For the last twenty years the dual notion of a prime submodule has attracted many researchers and it has been studied in many papers. See, for example, [5–7, 9, 13, 14]. Also, the notion of comultiplication module which is the dual notion of a multiplication module was first introduced by Ansari-Toroghy and Farshadifar in [8] and has been widely studied by many authors. See, for instance, [1, 10, 11, 15]. Recall from [8] that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be comultiplication if each submodule  $N$  of  $M$  has the form  $N = (0 :_M I)$  for some ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . Note that  $M$  is a comultiplication module if and only if  $N = (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$ . for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ .

Recently Anderson et al. in [2], introduced the notions of  $S$ -multiplication modules and  $S$ -cyclic modules, and they extended many properties of multiplication and cyclic modules to these two new classes of modules. They also showed that for  $S$ -multiplication modules, any submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule if and only if  $(N : M)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal of  $R$  [2, Proposition 4]. An  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be  $S$ -multiplication if for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there exist  $s \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $sN \subseteq IM \subseteq N$ . Also  $M$  is said to be an  $S$ -cyclic module if there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sM \subseteq Rm$  for some  $m \in M$ . They also showed that every  $S$ -cyclic module is an  $S$ -multiplication module and they characterized finitely generated multiplication modules in terms of  $S$ -cyclic modules (See, [2, Proposition 5] and [2, Proposition 8]).

Farshadifar in her paper [17] defined the dual notion of an  $S$ -prime submodule which is called an  $S$ -second submodule and investigated its many properties similar to second submodules. Recall that a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is said to be an  $S$ -second if  $\text{ann}(N) \cap S = \emptyset$  and there exists  $s \in S$  such that either  $saN = 0$  or  $saN = sN$  for each  $a \in R$ . In particular, the author in [17] investigated the  $S$ -second submodules of comultiplication modules. Here we introduce  $S$ -comultiplication modules which are the dual notion of  $S$ -multiplication modules and investigate their many properties. Recall that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be an  $S$ -comultiplication module if for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there exist an  $s \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $s(0 :_M I) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M I)$ .

Among other results in this paper, we characterize certain classes of rings/modules such as comultiplication modules,  $S$ -second submodules,  $S$ -prime ideals and  $S$ -cyclic modules (See, Theorem 2.9, Theorem 2.14, Proposition 3.1, Theorem 3.4, Theorem 3.5, Theorem 3.6 and Theorem 4.6). Also, we prove the  $S$ -version of the Dual Nakayama's Lemma (See, Theorem 2.16).

## 2. $S$ -comultiplication modules

**Definition 2.1** Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $S \subseteq R$  be a m.c.s. of  $R$ .  $M$  is said to be an  $S$ -comultiplication module if for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there exist an  $s \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $s(0 :_M I) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M I)$ . In particular, a ring  $R$  is said to be an  $S$ -comultiplication ring if it is an  $S$ -comultiplication module over itself.

**Example 2.2** Every  $R$ -module  $M$  with  $\text{ann}(M) \cap S \neq \emptyset$  is trivially an  $S$ -comultiplication module.

**Example 2.3 (An  $S$ -comultiplication module that is not  $S$ -multiplication)** Let  $p$  be a prime number and consider the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module

$$E(p) = \{\alpha = \frac{m}{p^n} + \mathbb{Z} : m \in \mathbb{Z}, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}\}.$$

Then every submodule of  $E(p)$  is of the form  $G_t = \{\alpha = \frac{m}{p^t} + \mathbb{Z} : m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  for some fixed  $t \geq 0$ . Take the multiplicatively closed set  $S = \{1\}$ . Note that  $(G_t : E(p))E(p) = 0_{E(p)} \neq G_t$  for each  $t \geq 1$ . Then  $E(p)$  is not an  $S$ -multiplication module. Now we will show that  $E(p)$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module. Let  $t \geq 0$ . Then it is easy to see that  $(0 :_{E(p)} \text{ann}(G_t)) = (0 :_{E(p)} p^t \mathbb{Z}) = G_t$ . Therefore  $E(p)$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.

**Example 2.4** Every comultiplication module is also an  $S$ -comultiplication module. Also the converse is true provided that  $S \subseteq u(R)$ .

**Example 2.5 (An  $S$ -comultiplication module that is not comultiplication)** Consider the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $M = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $S = \text{reg}(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$ . Now take the submodule  $N = m\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $m \neq 0, \pm 1$ . Then  $(0 : \text{ann}(m\mathbb{Z})) = \mathbb{Z} \neq m\mathbb{Z}$  so that  $M$  is not a comultiplication module. Now take a submodule  $K$  of  $M$ . Then  $K = k\mathbb{Z}$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $k = 0$ , then choose  $s = 1$  and note that  $s(0 : \text{ann}(K)) = (0) = k\mathbb{Z}$ . If  $k \neq 0$ , then choose  $s = k$  and note that  $s(0 : \text{ann}(K)) \subseteq k\mathbb{Z} = K \subseteq (0 : \text{ann}(K))$ . Therefore  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.

**Lemma 2.6** Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. The following statements are equivalent.

- (i)  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.
- (ii) For each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$ .
- (iii) For each submodule  $K, N$  of  $M$  with  $\text{ann}(K) \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$ , there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sN \subseteq K$ .

**Proof** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) : Suppose that  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module and take a submodule  $N$  of  $M$ . Then by definition, there exist  $s \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $s(0 :_M I) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M I)$ . Then note that  $IN = (0)$  and so  $I \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$ . This gives that  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq s(0 :_M I) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$  which completes the proof.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii) : Suppose that  $\text{ann}(K) \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$  for some submodules  $N, K$  of  $M$ . By (ii), there exist  $s_1, s_2 \in S$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} s_1(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) &\subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \\ s_2(0 :_M \text{ann}(K)) &\subseteq K \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(K)). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\text{ann}(K) \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$ , we have  $(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(K))$  and so

$$\begin{aligned} s_1 s_2 (0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) &\subseteq s_2 N \subseteq s_2 (0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \\ &\subseteq s_2 (0 :_M \text{ann}(K)) \subseteq K \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) : Suppose that (iii) holds. Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Then it is clear that  $\text{ann}(N) = \text{ann}(0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$ . Then by (iii), there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$ .

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) : It is clear. □

Let  $S$  be a m.c.s. of  $R$ . The saturation  $S^*$  of  $S$  is defined by  $S^* = \{x \in R : x|s \text{ for some } s \in S\}$ . Also  $S$  is said to be a saturated m.c.s. of  $R$  if  $S = S^*$ . Note that  $S^*$  is always a saturated m.c.s. of  $R$  containing  $S$ .

**Proposition 2.7** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $S$  be a m.c.s. of  $R$ . The following assertions hold.*

(i) *Let  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  be two m.c.s. of  $R$  and  $S_1 \subseteq S_2$ . If  $M$  is an  $S_1$ -comultiplication module, then  $M$  is also an  $S_2$ -comultiplication module.*

(ii)  *$M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module if and only if  $M$  is an  $S^*$ -comultiplication module, where  $S^*$  is the saturation of  $S$ .*

**Proof** (i): Clear.

(ii): Assume that  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module. Since  $S \subseteq S^*$ , the result follows from the part (i).

Suppose  $M$  is an  $S^*$ -comultiplication module. Take a submodule  $N$  of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is  $S^*$ -comultiplication module, there exists  $x \in S^*$  such that  $x(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$  by Lemma 2.6. Since  $x \in S^*$ , there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x|s$ , that is,  $s = rx$  for some  $r \in R$ . This implies that  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq x(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$ . Thus  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module. □

Anderson and Dumitrescu, in 2002, defined the concept of  $S$ -Noetherian rings which is a generalization of Noetherian rings and they extended many properties of Noetherian rings to  $S$ -Noetherian rings. Recall from [4] that a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is said to be an  $S$ -finite submodule if there exists a finitely generated submodule  $K$  of  $M$  such that  $sN \subseteq K \subseteq N$ . Also,  $M$  is said to be an  $S$ -Noetherian module if each submodule is  $S$ -finite. In particular,  $R$  is said to be an  $S$ -Noetherian ring if it is an  $S$ -Noetherian  $R$ -module.

**Proposition 2.8** *Let  $R$  be an  $S$ -Noetherian ring and  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication module. Then  $S^{-1}M$  is a comultiplication module.*

**Proof** Let  $W$  be a submodule of  $S^{-1}M$ . Then,  $W = S^{-1}N$  for some submodule  $N$  of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $s(0 :_M I) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M I)$  for some ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . Then we get  $S^{-1}(s(0 :_M I)) = S^{-1}((0 :_M I)) \subseteq S^{-1}N \subseteq S^{-1}((0 :_M I))$ , that is,  $S^{-1}N = S^{-1}((0 :_M I))$ . Now we will show that  $S^{-1}((0 :_M I)) = (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$ . Let  $\frac{m}{s'} \in S^{-1}((0 :_M I))$  where  $m \in (0 :_M I)$  and  $s' \in S$ . Then we have  $Im = (0)$  and so  $(S^{-1}I)(\frac{m}{s'}) = (0)$ . This implies that  $\frac{m}{s'} \in (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$ . For the converse, let  $\frac{m}{s'} \in (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$ . Then, we have  $(S^{-1}I)(\frac{m}{s'}) = (0)$ . This implies that for each  $x \in I$ , there exists  $s'' \in S$  such that  $s''xm = 0$ . Since  $R$  is an  $S$ -Noetherian ring,  $I$  is  $S$ -finite. So, there exists  $s^* \in S$  and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in I$  such that  $s^*I \subseteq (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \subseteq I$ . As  $(S^{-1}I)(\frac{m}{s'}) = (0)$  and  $a_i \in I$ , there exists  $s_i \in S$  such that  $s_i a_i m = 0$ . Now, put  $t = s_1 s_2 \dots s_n s^* \in S$ . Then we have  $t a_i m = 0$  for all  $a_i$  and so  $tIm = 0$ . Then we deduce  $\frac{m}{s'} = \frac{tm}{ts'} \in S^{-1}((0 :_M I))$ . Thus,  $S^{-1}((0 :_M I)) = (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$  and so  $W = S^{-1}N = (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$ . Therefore,  $S^{-1}M$  is a comultiplication module. □

Recall from [2] that a m.c.s.  $S$  of  $R$  is said to satisfy the maximal multiple condition if there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $t$  divides  $s$  for each  $t \in S$ .

**Theorem 2.9** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $S$  be a m.c.s. of  $R$  satisfying the maximal multiple condition. Then  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module if and only if  $S^{-1}M$  is a comultiplication module.*

**Proof** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) : Suppose that  $W$  is a submodule of  $S^{-1}M$ . Then  $W = S^{-1}N$  for some submodule  $N$  of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exist  $t' \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $t'(0 :_M I) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M I)$ . This implies that  $IN = (0)$  and so  $S^{-1}(IN) = (S^{-1}I)(S^{-1}N) = 0$ . Then we have  $S^{-1}N \subseteq (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$ . Let  $\frac{m'}{s'} \in (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$ . Then we get  $\frac{a}{1} \frac{m'}{s'} = 0$  for each  $a \in I$  and this yields that  $uam' = 0$  for some  $u \in S$ . As  $S$  satisfies the maximal multiple condition, there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $u|s$  for each  $u \in S$ . This implies that  $s = ux$  for some  $x \in R$ . Then we have  $sam' = x uam' = 0$ . Then we conclude that  $Ism' = 0$  and so  $sm' \in (0 :_M I)$ . This yields that  $t'sm' \in t'(0 :_M I) \subseteq N$  and so  $\frac{m'}{s'} = \frac{t'sm'}{t'ss'} \in S^{-1}N$ . Then we get  $S^{-1}N = (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$  and so  $S^{-1}M$  is a comultiplication module.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) : Suppose that  $S^{-1}M$  is a comultiplication module. Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Since  $S^{-1}M$  is comultiplication,  $S^{-1}N = (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I)$  for some ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . Then we have  $(S^{-1}I)(S^{-1}N) = S^{-1}(IN) = 0$ . Then for each  $a \in I, m \in N$ , we have  $\frac{am}{1} = 0$  and thus  $uam = 0$  for some  $u \in S$ . By the maximal multiple condition, there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sam = 0$  and so  $sIN = 0$ . This implies that  $N \subseteq (0 :_M sI)$ . Now, let  $m \in (0 :_M sI)$ . Then  $Ism = 0$  so it is easily seen that  $(S^{-1}I)\frac{m}{1} = 0$ . Then we conclude that  $\frac{m}{1} \in (0 :_{S^{-1}M} S^{-1}I) = S^{-1}N$ . Then there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $xm \in N$ . Again by the maximal multiple condition,  $sm \in N$ . Then we have  $s(0 :_M sI) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M sI)$ . Since  $sI$  is an ideal of  $R$ ,  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.10** *Let  $f : M \rightarrow M'$  be an  $R$ -homomorphism and  $tKer(f) = (0)$  for some  $t \in S$ .*

- (i) *If  $M'$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, then  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.*
- (ii) *If  $f$  is an  $R$ -epimorphism and  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, then  $M'$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.*

**Proof** (i) Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M'$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exist  $s \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $s(0 :_{M'} I) \subseteq f(N) \subseteq (0 :_{M'} I)$ . Then we have  $If(N) = f(IN) = 0$  and so  $IN \subseteq Ker f$ . Since  $tKer(f) = 0$ , we have  $tIN = (0)$  and so  $N \subseteq (0 :_M tI)$ . Now we will show that  $t^2s(0 :_M tI) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M tI)$ . Let  $m \in (0 :_M tI)$ . Then we have  $tIm = 0$  and so  $f(tIm) = tIf(m) = If(tm) = 0$ . This implies that  $f(tm) \in (0 :_{M'} I)$ . Thus we have  $sf(tm) = f(stm) \in s(0 :_{M'} I) \subseteq f(N)$  and so there exists  $y \in N$  such that  $f(stm) = f(y)$  and so  $stm - y \in Ker(f)$ . Thus we have  $t(stm - y) = 0$  and so  $t^2sm = tx$ . Then we obtain

$$t^2s(0 :_M tI) \subseteq tN \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M tI).$$

Now put  $t^2s = s' \in S$  and  $J = tI$ . Thus

$$s'(0 :_M J) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M J).$$

Therefore  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.

- (ii) Let  $N'$  be a submodule of  $M'$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exist  $s \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that

$$s(0 :_M I) \subseteq f^{-1}(N') \subseteq (0 :_M I).$$

This implies that  $If^{-1}(N') = (0)$  and so  $f(If^{-1}(N')) = IN' = (0)$  since  $f$  is surjective. Then, we have  $N' \subseteq (0 :_{M'} I)$ . On the other hand, we get  $f(s(0 :_M I)) = sf((0 :_M I)) \subseteq f(f^{-1}(N')) = N'$ . Now, let  $m' \in (0 :_{M'} I)$ . Then,  $Im' = 0$ . Since  $f$  is epimorphism, there exists  $m \in M$  such that  $m' = f(m)$ . Then we have  $Im' = If(m) = f(Im) = 0$  and so  $Im \subseteq Kerf$ . Since  $tKer(f) = 0$ , we have  $tIm = (0)$  and so  $tm \in (0 :_M I)$ . Then we get  $f(tm) = tf(m) = tm' \in f((0 :_M I))$ . Thus we have  $t(0 :_{M'} I) \subseteq f((0 :_M I))$  and hence  $st(0 :_{M'} I) \subseteq sf((0 :_M I)) \subseteq N' \subseteq (0 :_{M'} I)$ . Thus  $M'$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.  $\square$

As an immediate consequences of previous theorem, we give the following explicit results.

**Corollary 2.11** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module,  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$  and  $S$  be a m.c.s. of  $R$ . Then we have the following.*

- (i) *If  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, then  $N$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.*
- (ii) *If  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module and  $tM \subseteq N$  for some  $t \in S$ , then  $M/N$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication  $R$ -module.*

**Proposition 2.12** *Let  $M_i$  be an  $R_i$ -module and  $S_i$  be a m.c.s. of  $R_i$  for each  $i = 1, 2$ . Suppose that  $M = M_1 \times M_2$ ,  $R = R_1 \times R_2$  and  $S = S_1 \times S_2$ . The following assertions are equivalent.*

- (i)  *$M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication  $R$ -module.*
- (ii)  *$M_1$  is an  $S_1$ -comultiplication  $R_1$ -module and  $M_2$  is an  $S_2$ -comultiplication  $R_2$ -module.*

**Proof** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) : Assume that  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication  $R$ -module. Take a submodule  $N_1$  of  $M_1$ . Then  $N_1 \times \{0\}$  is a submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exist  $s = (s_1, s_2) \in S_1 \times S_2$  and an ideal  $J = I_1 \times I_2$  of  $R$  such that  $(s_1, s_2)(0 :_M I_1 \times I_2) \subseteq N_1 \times \{0\} \subseteq (0 :_M I_1 \times I_2)$ , where  $I_i$  is an ideal of  $R_i$ . Then we can easily get  $s_1(0 :_{M_1} I_1) \subseteq N_1 \subseteq (0 :_{M_1} I_1)$  which shows that  $M_1$  is an  $S_1$ -comultiplication module. Similarly, taking a submodule  $N_2$  of  $M_2$  and a submodule  $\{0\} \times N_2$  of  $M$ , we can show that  $M_2$  is an  $S_2$ -comultiplication module.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) : Now assume that  $M_1$  is an  $S_1$ -comultiplication module and  $M_2$  is an  $S_2$ -comultiplication module. Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Then we can write  $N = N_1 \times N_2$  for some submodule  $N_i$  of  $M_i$ . Since  $M_1$  is an  $S_1$ -comultiplication module,

$$s_1(0 :_{M_1} I_1) \subseteq N_1 \subseteq (0 :_{M_1} I_1)$$

for some ideal  $I_1$  of  $R_1$  and  $s_1 \in S_1$ . Since  $M_2$  is an  $S_2$ -comultiplication module,

$$s_2(0 :_{M_2} I_2) \subseteq N_2 \subseteq (0 :_{M_2} I_2)$$

for some ideal  $I_2$  of  $R_2$  and  $s_2 \in S_2$ . Put  $s = (s_1, s_2) \in S$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} s(0 :_M I_1 \times I_2) &= s_1(0 :_{M_1} I_1) \times s_2(0 :_{M_2} I_2) \\ &\subseteq N_1 \times N_2 \subseteq (0 :_{M_1} I_1) \times (0 :_{M_2} I_2) = (0 :_M I_1 \times I_2) \end{aligned}$$

where  $I_1 \times I_2$  is an ideal of  $R$  and  $(s_1, s_2) \in S$ , as needed.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.13** *Let  $M = M_1 \times M_2 \times \dots \times M_n$  be an  $R = R_1 \times R_2 \times \dots \times R_n$ -module and  $S = S_1 \times S_2 \times \dots \times S_n$  be a m.c.s. of  $R$  where  $M_i$  are  $R_i$ -modules and  $S_i$  are m.c.s. of  $R_i$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , respectively. The following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication  $R$ -module.
- (ii)  $M_i$  is an  $S_i$ -comultiplication  $R_i$ -module for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Proof** Here, induction can be applied on  $n$ . The statement is true when  $n = 1$ . If  $n = 2$ , result follows from Proposition 2.12. Assume that statements are equivalent for each  $k < n$ . We will show that it also holds for  $k = n$ . Now put  $M' = M_1 \times M_2 \times \dots \times M_{n-1}$ ,  $R = R_1 \times R_2 \times \dots \times R_{n-1}$  and  $S = S_1 \times S_2 \times \dots \times S_{n-1}$ . Note that  $M = M' \times M_n$ ,  $R = R' \times R_n$  and  $S = S' \times S_n$ . Then by Proposition 2.12,  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication  $R$ -module if and only if  $M'$  is an  $S'$ -comultiplication  $R'$ -module and  $M_n$  is an  $S_n$ -comultiplication  $R_n$ -module. The rest follows from the induction hypothesis.  $\square$

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ . Then we know that  $S_{\mathcal{P}} = R - \mathcal{P}$  is a m.c.s. of  $R$ . If an  $R$ -module  $M$  is an  $S_{\mathcal{P}}$ -comultiplication module for a prime ideal  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $R$ , then we say that  $M$  is a  $\mathcal{P}$ -comultiplication module. Now we will characterize comultiplication modules in terms of  $S$ -comultiplication modules.

**Theorem 2.14** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. The following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $M$  is a comultiplication module.
- (ii)  $M$  is a  $\mathcal{P}$ -comultiplication module for each prime ideal  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $R$ .
- (iii)  $M$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -comultiplication module for each maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $R$ .
- (iv)  $M$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -comultiplication module for each maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $R$  with  $M_{\mathcal{M}} \neq 0_{\mathcal{M}}$ .

**Proof** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) : Follows from Example 2.4.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii) : Follows from the fact that every maximal ideal is prime.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv) : Clear.

(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) : Suppose that  $M$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -comultiplication module for each maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $R$  with  $M_{\mathcal{M}} \neq 0_{\mathcal{M}}$ . Take a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  and a maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $R$ . If  $M_{\mathcal{M}} = 0_{\mathcal{M}}$ , then clearly we have  $N_{\mathcal{M}} = (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))_{\mathcal{M}}$ . So assume that  $M_{\mathcal{M}} \neq 0_{\mathcal{M}}$ . Since  $M$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -comultiplication module, there exists  $s_{\mathcal{M}} \notin \mathcal{M}$  such that  $s_{\mathcal{M}}(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N$ . Then we have

$$(0 :_M \text{ann}(N))_{\mathcal{M}} = (s_{\mathcal{M}}(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)))_{\mathcal{M}} \subseteq N_{\mathcal{M}} \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))_{\mathcal{M}}.$$

Thus we have  $N_{\mathcal{M}} = (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))_{\mathcal{M}}$  for each maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $R$ . Therefore,  $N = (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$  so that  $M$  is a comultiplication module.  $\square$

Now we shall give the  $S$ -version of dual Nakayama's Lemma for  $S$ -comultiplication modules. First, we need the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.15** *Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication  $R$ -module.*

- (i) If  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  with  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ , then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sM \subseteq IM$ .
- (ii) If  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  with  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ , then for every element  $m \in M$ , there exists  $s \in S$  and  $a \in I$  such that  $sm = am$ .
- (iii) If  $M$  is an  $S$ -finite  $R$ -module and  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  with  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ , then there exist  $s \in S$  and  $a \in I$  such that  $(s + a)M = 0$ .

**Proof** (i) : Suppose that  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  with  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ . Then we have  $((0 :_M I) : M) = (0 : IM) = (0 : M)$ . Then by Lemma 2.6 (iii), there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sM \subseteq IM$ .



(ii) : Suppose that  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  with  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ . Then for any  $m \in M$ , we have  $(0 : Rm) = ((0 :_M I) : Rm) = (0 : Im)$ . Again by Lemma 2.6 (iii), there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sRm \subseteq Im$  and so  $sm = am$  for some  $a \in I$ .

(iii) : Suppose that  $M$  is an  $S$ -finite  $R$ -module and  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  with  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ . Then there exists  $t \in S$  such that  $tM \subseteq Rm_1 + Rm_2 + \dots + Rm_n$  for some  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n \in M$ . Since  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ , by (i), there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sM \subseteq IM$ . This implies that  $stM \subseteq tIM = ItM \subseteq I(Rm_1 + Rm_2 + \dots + Rm_n) = Im_1 + Im_2 + \dots + Im_n$ . Then for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  we have  $stm_i = a_{i1}m_1 + a_{i2}m_2 + \dots + a_{in}m_n$  and so  $-a_{i1}m_1 - a_{i2}m_2 - \dots + (st - a_{ii})m_i + \dots - a_{in}m_n = 0$ . Now, let  $\Delta$  be the following matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} st - a_{11} & -a_{12} & \cdots & -a_{1n} \\ -a_{21} & st - a_{22} & \cdots & -a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -a_{n1} & -a_{n2} & \cdots & st - a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}_{n \times n}.$$

Then we have  $|\Delta|m_i = 0$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Thus we obtain that  $t|\Delta|M = 0$ . This implies that  $t(s^n t^n + a)M = (s^n t^{n+1} + at)M = 0$  for some  $a \in I$ . Now put  $u = s^n t^{n+1} \in S$  and  $b = at \in I$ . Then we have  $(u + b)M = 0$  which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.16 (S-dual Nakayama’s Lemma)** *Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication module, where  $S$  is a m.c.s. of  $R$  satisfying the maximal multiple condition. Suppose that  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  such that  $tI \subseteq Jac(R)$  for some  $t \in S$ . If  $(0 :_M tI) = 0$ , then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sM = 0$ .*

**Proof** Suppose that  $S$  satisfies the maximal multiple condition. Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $t|s$  for each  $t \in S$ . Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$  with  $tI \subseteq Jac(R)$  for some  $t \in S$  and  $(0 :_M tI) = 0$ . Then for each  $m \in M$ , by Proposition 2.15 (ii), there exists  $t' \in S$  such that  $t'Rm \subseteq tIm$  and so  $s^2 t'Rm \subseteq s^2 tIm \subseteq s^2 Im$ . Now, put  $u = s^2 t'$ . By the maximal multiple condition we have  $sRm \subseteq uRm \subseteq s^2 Im$  and so  $sm = s^2 am$  for some  $a \in R$ . On the other hand, we note that  $sI \subseteq tI \subseteq Jac(R)$ . Thus we have  $s(1 - sa)m = 0$ . Since  $sa \in Jac(R)$ , we get  $1 - sa$  is unit and so  $sm = 0$ . Thus we have  $sM = 0$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.17 (Dual Nakayama’s Lemma)** *Let  $M$  be a comultiplication module and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$  such that  $I \subseteq Jac(R)$ . If  $(0 :_M I) = 0$ , then  $M = 0$ .*

**Proof** Take  $S = \{1\}$  and apply Theorem 2.16.  $\square$

### 3. S-cyclic modules

In this section, we investigate the relations between  $S$ -comultiplication modules and  $S$ -cyclic modules.

**Proposition 3.1** *Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication  $R$ -module and  $N$  be a minimal ideal of  $R$  such that  $(0 :_M N) = 0$ . Then  $M$  is an  $S$ -cyclic module.*

**Proof** Choose a nonzero element  $m$  of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exist  $s \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $s(0 :_M I) \subseteq Rm \subseteq (0 :_M I)$ . By the assumption  $(0 :_M N) = 0$ , we have

$$s((0 :_M N) :_M I) \subseteq Rm \subseteq ((0 :_M N) :_M I) \implies s(0 :_M NI) \subseteq Rm \subseteq (0 :_M NI).$$

Since  $0 \subseteq NI \subseteq N$  and  $N$  is minimal ideal of  $R$ , either  $NI = N$  or  $NI = 0$ . If the former case holds, we have  $s(0 :_M N) \subseteq Rm \subseteq (0 :_M N)$ . This means that  $Rm = 0$ , a contradiction. The second case implies  $s(0 :_M 0) \subseteq Rm \subseteq (0 :_M 0)$ . This means  $sM \subseteq Rm \subseteq M$  proving that  $M$  is  $S$ -cyclic.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.2** *Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication module of  $R$ . Let  $\{M_i\}$  be a collection of submodules of  $M$  with  $\bigcap_i M_i = 0$ . Then, for every submodule  $N$  of  $M$  there exists an  $s \in S$  such that*

$$s \bigcap_i (N + M_i) \subseteq N \subseteq \bigcap_i (N + M_i).$$

**Proof** Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, we have  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$  for some  $s \in S$ . This implies  $s(\bigcap_i M_i :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (\bigcap_i M_i :_M \text{ann}(N))$  since  $\bigcap_i M_i = 0$ . Then we obtain  $s \bigcap_i (M_i :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq \bigcap_i (M_i :_M \text{ann}(N))$ . Thus

$$s \bigcap_i (N + M_i) \subseteq s \bigcap_i (M_i :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq \bigcap_i (N + M_i).$$

$\square$

**Proposition 3.3** *Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication module. Then for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$  and each ideal  $I$  of  $R$  with  $N \subseteq s(0 :_M I)$  for some  $s \in S$  there exists an ideal  $J$  of  $R$  such that  $I \subseteq J$  and  $s(0 :_M J) \subseteq N$ .*

**Proof** Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module,  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(N))$  for some  $s \in S$ . So we obtain  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq s(0 :_M I)$ . Taking  $J = I + \text{ann}(N)$ ,

$$s(0 :_M J) = s(0 :_M I + \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq s(0 :_M I) \cap s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq s(0 :_M \text{ann}(N)) \subseteq N.$$

$\square$

Recall that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be torsion-free if the set of torsion elements  $T(M) = \{m \in M : rm = 0 \text{ for some } 0 \neq r \in R\}$  of  $M$  is zero. Also  $M$  is called a torsion module if  $T(M) = M$ . We refer the reader to [3] for more details on the torsion subset  $T(M)$  of  $M$ .

**Theorem 3.4** *Every  $S$ -comultiplication module is either  $S$ -cyclic or torsion.*

**Proof** Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication module. Assume that  $M$  is not an  $S$ -cyclic module and  $\text{ann}_R(m) = 0$  for some  $m \in M$ . Since  $Rm$  is a submodule of  $M$  and  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, we have  $s(0 :_M \text{ann}(m)) \subseteq Rm \subseteq (0 :_M \text{ann}(m))$ . This gives  $sM \subseteq Rm \subseteq M$  for some  $s \in S$ . This contradiction completes the proof. Hence,  $\text{ann}(m) \neq 0$  for all  $m \in M$  proving that  $M$  is a torsion module.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $M$  be an  $S$ -finite and  $S$ -comultiplication module. If  $sM$  is faithful for each  $s \in S$ , then  $M$  is an  $S$ -cyclic module.*

**Proof** Suppose that  $M$  is not an  $S$ -cyclic module. Then  $M$  is a torsion module by Theorem 3.4. Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -finite module, there exist  $s \in S$  and  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n \in M$  such that  $sM \subseteq Rm_1 + Rm_2 + \dots + Rm_n$ . This implies that  $\text{ann}(Rm_1 + Rm_2 + \dots + Rm_n) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n \text{ann}(m_i) \subseteq \text{ann}(sM) = 0$  since  $sM$  is faithful. Since

$R$  is an integral domain, there exists  $m_i \in M$  such that  $ann(m_i) = 0$  which is a contradiction. Hence  $M$  is an  $S$ -cyclic module.  $\square$

Recall from [19] that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be an  $S$ -torsion-free module if there exists  $s \in S$  and so that whenever  $am = 0$  for some  $a \in R$  and  $m \in M$ , then either  $sa = 0$  or  $sm = 0$ .

**Theorem 3.6** *Every  $S$ -comultiplication  $S$ -torsion-free module is an  $S$ -cyclic module.*

**Proof** Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication and  $S$ -torsion-free module. If  $sM = 0$  for some  $s \in S$ , then  $M$  is an  $S$ -cyclic module. So assume that  $sM \neq 0$  for each  $s \in S$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -torsion-free module, there exists  $t' \in S$  and such that whenever  $am = 0$  for some  $a \in R$  and  $m \in M$ , then either  $t'a = 0$  or  $t'm = 0$ . Since  $t'M \neq 0$ , there exists  $m \in M$  such that  $t'm \neq 0$ . As  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exists  $t \in S$  such that  $t(0 :_M ann(m)) \subseteq Rm$ . Since  $ann(m)m = 0$  and  $M$  is  $S$ -torsion-free module, we conclude either  $t'ann(m) = 0$  or  $t'm = 0$ . The second case is impossible. So we have  $t'ann(m) = 0$  and so  $t'M \subseteq (0 :_M ann(m))$ . This implies that  $t'tM \subseteq t(0 :_M ann(m)) \subseteq Rm$  where  $t't \in S$ , namely,  $M$  is an  $S$ -cyclic module.  $\square$

Let  $K$  be a nonzero submodule of  $M$ .  $K$  is said to be an  $S$ -minimal submodule if  $L \subseteq K$  for some submodule of  $M$ , then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sK \subseteq L$ .

**Theorem 3.7** *Every  $S$ -comultiplication prime  $R$ -module  $M$  is  $S$ -minimal.*

**Proof** Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication prime  $R$ -module. Assume that  $N$  is a submodule of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is prime,  $ann(N) = ann(M)$ . Also,  $(0 :_M ann(N)) = (0 :_M ann(M))$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module,  $s(0 :_M ann(N)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M ann(N))$  for some  $s \in S$ . Hence we get  $s(0 :_M ann(M)) \subseteq N \subseteq (0 :_M ann(M))$  and it shows that  $sM \subseteq N \subseteq M$ . Therefore  $M$  is  $S$ -minimal.  $\square$

#### 4. $S$ -second submodules of $S$ -comultiplication modules

This section is dedicated to the study of  $S$ -second submodules of  $S$ -comultiplication modules. Now, we need the following definition.

**Definition 4.1** *Let  $M$  and  $M'$  be two  $R$ -modules and  $f : M \rightarrow M'$  be an  $R$ -homomorphism.*

(i) *If there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $f(m) = 0$  implies that  $sm = 0$ , then  $f$  is said to be an  $S$ -injective (or, just  $S$ -monic).*

(ii) *If there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sM' \subseteq \text{Im } f$ , then  $f$  is said to be an  $S$ -epimorphism (or, just  $S$ -epic).*

The following proposition is explicit. Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. An element  $x \in R$  is called a zero divisor on  $M$  if there exists  $0 \neq m \in M$  such that  $xm = 0$ , or equivalently,  $ann_M(x) \neq (0)$ . The set of all zero divisor elements of  $R$  on  $M$  is denoted by  $z(M)$ .

**Proposition 4.2** *Let  $M$  and  $M'$  be two  $R$ -modules and  $f : M \rightarrow M'$  be an  $R$ -homomorphism.*

(i)  *$f$  is  $S$ -monic if and only if there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sKer(f) = (0)$ .*

(ii) *If  $f$  is monic, then  $f$  is  $S$ -monic for each m.c.s.  $S$  of  $R$ . The converse holds in case  $S \subseteq R - z(M)$ .*

(iii) *If  $f$  is epic, then  $f$  is  $S$ -epic for each m.c.s.  $S$  of  $R$ . The converse holds in case  $S \subseteq u(R)$ .*

Recall from [19] that a submodule  $P$  of  $M$  with  $(P : M) \cap S = \emptyset$  is said to be  $S$ -prime if there exists a fixed  $s \in S$  such that whenever  $am \in P$  for some  $a \in R, m \in M$ , then either  $sa \in (P : M)$  or  $sm \in P$ . In particular, an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is said to be  $S$ -prime if  $I$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule of  $M$ . We note here that Acraf and Hamed, in their paper [18], studied and investigated further properties of  $S$ -prime ideals. Now, we give the following required results which can be found in [19].

**Proposition 4.3** (i) ([19, Proposition 2.9]) *If  $P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule of  $M$ , then  $(P : M)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal of  $R$ .*

(ii) ([19, Lemma 2.16]) *If  $P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule of  $M$ , there exists a fixed  $s \in S$  such that  $(P :_M s') \subseteq (P :_M s)$  for each  $s' \in S$ .*

(iii) ([19, Theorem 2.18])  *$P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule of  $M$  if and only if  $(P :_M s)$  is a prime submodule of  $M$  for some  $s \in S$ .*

By the previous proposition, we deduce that  $P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule if and only if there exists a fixed  $s \in S$  such that  $(P :_M s)$  is a prime submodule and  $(P :_M s') \subseteq (P :_M s)$  for each  $s' \in S$ .

Sevim et al. in [19] gave many characterizations of  $S$ -prime submodules. Now we give a new characterization of  $S$ -prime submodules from another point of view.

Recall that a homomorphism  $f : M \rightarrow M'$  is said to be  $S$ -zero if there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sf(m) = 0$  for each  $m \in M$ , that is,  $s \operatorname{Im} f = (0)$ .

**Proposition 4.4** *Let  $P$  be a submodule of  $M$  with  $(P : M) \cap S = \emptyset$ . The following statements are equivalent.*

(i)  *$P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule of  $M$ .*

(ii) *There exist a fixed  $s \in S$  such that for any  $a \in R$  and the homothety  $M/P \xrightarrow{a} M/P$ , either  $S$ -zero or  $S$ -injective with respect to  $s \in S$ .*

**Proof** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) : Suppose that  $P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule of  $M$ . Then there exists a fixed  $s \in S$  such that  $am \in P$  for some  $a \in R, m \in M$  implies that  $saM \subseteq P$  or  $sm \in P$ . Now, take  $a \in R$  and assume that the homothety  $M/P \xrightarrow{a} M/P$  is not  $S$ -injective with respect to  $s \in S$ . Then there exists  $m \in M$  such that  $a(m+P) = am+P = 0_{M/P}$  but  $s(m+P) \neq 0_{M/P}$ . This gives that  $am \in P$  and  $sm \notin P$ . Since  $P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule, we have  $sa \in (P : M)$  and thus  $sam' \in P$  for each  $m' \in M$ . Then we have  $sa(m'+P) = 0_{M/P}$  for each  $m' \in M$ , that is, the homothety  $M/P \xrightarrow{a} M/P$  is  $S$ -zero with respect to  $s$ .

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) : Suppose that (ii) holds. Let  $am \in P$  for some  $a \in R$  and  $m \in M$ . Assume that  $sm \notin P$ . Then we deduce the homothety  $M/P \xrightarrow{a} M/P$  is not  $S$ -injective. Thus by (ii),  $M/P \xrightarrow{a} M/P$  is  $S$ -zero with respect to  $s \in S$ , namely,  $sa(m'+P) = 0_{M/P}$  for each  $m' \in M$ . This yields  $sa \in (P : M)$ . Therefore  $P$  is an  $S$ -prime submodule of  $M$ . □

It is well known that a submodule  $P$  of  $M$  is a prime submodule if and only if every homothety  $M/P \xrightarrow{a} M/P$  is either injective or zero. This fact can be obtained by Proposition 4.4 by taking  $S \subseteq u(R)$ .

Recall from [17] that a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  with  $ann(N) \cap S = \emptyset$  is said to be an  $S$ -second submodule if there exists  $s \in S$  with  $srN = 0$  or  $srN = sN$  for each  $r \in R$ . Motivated by Proposition 4.4, we give a new characterization of  $S$ -second submodules from another point of view. Since the proof is similar to Proposition 4.4, we omit the proof.

**Theorem 4.5** *Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$  with  $\text{ann}(N) \cap S = \emptyset$ . The following assertions are equivalent.*

- (i)  $N$  is an  $S$ -second submodule.
- (ii) There exists  $s \in S$  such that for each  $a \in R$ , the homothety  $N \xrightarrow{a} N$  is either  $S$ -zero or  $S$ -surjective with respect to  $s \in S$ .
- (iii) There exists a fixed  $s \in S$  so that for each  $a \in R$ , either  $saN = 0$  or  $sN \subseteq aN$ .

The author in [17] proved that if  $N$  is an  $S$ -second submodule of  $M$ , then  $\text{ann}(N)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal of  $R$  and the converse holds under the assumption that  $M$  is comultiplication [17, Proposition 2.9]. Now we show that this fact is true even if  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module.

**Theorem 4.6** *Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication module. The following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $N$  is an  $S$ -second submodule of  $M$ .
- (ii)  $\text{ann}(N)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal of  $R$  and there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sN \subseteq s'N$  for each  $s' \in S$ .

**Proof** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) : The claim follows from [17, Proposition 2.9] and [17, Lemma 2.13].

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) : Suppose that  $\text{ann}(N)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal of  $R$ . Now we will show that  $N$  is an  $S$ -second submodule of  $M$ . To prove this take  $a \in R$ . Since  $\text{ann}(N)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal, by Proposition 4.3, there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $\text{ann}(sN)$  is a prime ideal and  $\text{ann}(s'N) \subseteq \text{ann}(sN)$  for each  $s' \in S$ . Assume that  $saN \neq (0)$ . Now we shall show that  $sN \subseteq aN$ . Since  $M$  is an  $S$ -comultiplication module, there exist  $s' \in S$  and an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $s'(0 :_M I) \subseteq aN \subseteq (0 :_M I)$ . This implies that  $aI \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$ . Since  $\text{ann}(N)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal, there exists  $s \in S$  such that either  $sa \in \text{ann}(N)$  or  $sI \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$  by Proposition 4.3. The first case is impossible since  $saN \neq (0)$ . Thus we have  $I \subseteq \text{ann}(sN)$ . Then we have  $s's(0 :_M \text{ann}(sN)) \subseteq s'(0 :_M I) \subseteq aN$ . This implies that  $s's^2N \subseteq s's(0 :_M \text{ann}(sN)) \subseteq aN$ . Then by (ii),  $sN \subseteq s's^2N \subseteq aN$ . Then by Theorem 4.5 (iii)  $N$  is an  $S$ -second submodule of  $M$ . □

**Theorem 4.7** *Let  $M$  be a comultiplication module. The following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $N$  is a second submodule of  $M$ .
- (ii)  $\text{ann}(N)$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ .

**Proof** Take  $S \subseteq u(R)$  and note that the concepts of  $S$ -comultiplication module and comultiplication modules are the same. On the other hand, the concepts of second submodule and  $S$ -second submodules are the same. The rest follows from Theorem 4.6. □

**Theorem 4.8** *Let  $M$  be an  $S$ -comultiplication module and let  $N$  be an  $S$ -second submodule of  $M$ . If  $N \subseteq N_1 + N_2 + \dots + N_m$  for some submodules  $N_1, N_2, \dots, N_m$  of  $M$ , then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sN \subseteq N_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .*

**Proof** Suppose that  $N$  is an  $S$ -second submodule of an  $S$ -comultiplication module  $M$ . Suppose that  $N \subseteq \sum_{i=1}^m N_i$  for some submodules  $N_1, N_2, \dots, N_m$  of  $M$ . Then we have  $\text{ann}(\sum_{i=1}^m N_i) = \bigcap_{i=1}^m \text{ann}(N_i) \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$ . Since  $N$  is an  $S$ -second submodule, by Theorem 4.6,  $\text{ann}(N)$  is an  $S$ -prime ideal of  $R$ . Then by [19, Corollary 2.6], there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $s\text{ann}(N_i) \subseteq \text{ann}(N)$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . This implies that  $\text{ann}(N_i) \subseteq \text{ann}(sN)$ . Then by Lemma 2.6 (iii),  $stN \subseteq N_i$  for some  $t \in S$  which completes the proof. □

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