



## Primary Decomposition in Lattice Modules

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we study primary decomposition of elements in lattice modules. A necessary and sufficient condition for a prime element  $p$  of a multiplicative lattice  $L$  to be equal to some associated prime of an element in a lattice module having primary decomposition is obtained.

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### 1. Introduction

A multiplicative lattice  $L$  is a complete lattice provided with commutative, associative and join distributive multiplication in which the largest element  $1$  acts as a multiplicative identity. An element  $a \in L$  is called proper if  $a < 1$ . A proper element  $p$  of  $L$  is said to be prime if  $ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b \leq p$ . If  $a \in L, b \in L$ ,  $(a : b)$  is the join of all elements  $c$  in  $L$  such that  $cb \leq a$ . A proper element  $p$  of  $L$  is said to be primary if  $ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b^n \leq p$  for some positive integer  $n$ . If  $a \in L$ , the radical of  $a$  denoted by  $\sqrt{a} = \vee \{x \in L \mid x^n \leq a, n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$ . An element  $a \in L$  is called compact if  $a \leq \bigvee_{\alpha} b_{\alpha}$  implies  $a \leq b_{\alpha_1} \vee b_{\alpha_2} \vee \dots \vee b_{\alpha_n}$  for some finite subset  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ . Throughout this paper,  $L$  denotes a multiplicative lattice which satisfies the ACC so that each element of  $L$  is compact. If  $q$  is a primary element of  $L$  then

$$p_q = \vee \{x \in L \mid x^n \leq q, \text{ for some integer } n\}$$

is a prime element containing  $q$ . It is easily verified that,  $p_q$  is a minimal prime containing  $q$  [2]. The prime  $p_q$  which is same as  $\sqrt{q}$  is called the prime associated with  $q$  and has the properties,  $p_q^k \leq q \leq p_q$  for some integer  $k$  and  $ab \leq q$  implies  $a \leq q$  or  $b \leq p_q$ .

An element  $a$  is said to have a primary decomposition if there exist primary elements  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  such that  $a = q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge q_n$ . If some  $q_i$  contains the meet of remaining ones

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then this  $q_i$  can be dropped from the primary decomposition. After deleting such primary components and combining the primary components with same associated prime we get a reduced primary decomposition in which distinct primaries are associated with distinct primes. Such a primary decomposition is also called an irredundant primary decomposition, reduced primary decomposition or normal primary decomposition. Let  $a = q_1 \wedge q_2 \dots \wedge q_n$  be a reduced primary decomposition of  $a$  and let  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  denotes the associated primes of  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  respectively, which are also called associated primes of  $a$ . A subset  $C$  of  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$  is called isolated if  $p_i \in C$  implies  $p_j \in C$  whenever  $p_j \leq p_i$ .

Let  $M$  be a complete lattice and  $L$  be a multiplicative lattice. Then  $M$  is called  $L$ -module or module over  $L$  if there is a multiplication between elements of  $L$  and  $M$  written as  $aB$  where  $a \in L$  and  $B \in M$  which satisfies the following properties,

$$\text{i) } (\bigvee_{\alpha} a_{\alpha})A = \bigvee_{\alpha} a_{\alpha}A \quad \forall a_{\alpha} \in L, A \in M$$

$$\text{ii) } a(\bigvee_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}) = \bigvee_{\alpha} aA_{\alpha} \quad \forall a \in L, A_{\alpha} \in M$$

$$\text{iii) } (ab)A = a(bA) \quad \forall a, b \in L, A \in M$$

$$\text{iv) } IB = B$$

$$\text{v) } 0B = 0_M, \text{ for all } a, a_{\alpha}, b \in L \text{ and } A, A_{\alpha} \in M,$$

where  $I$  is the supremum of  $L$  and  $0$  is the infimum of  $L$ . We denote by  $0_M$  and  $I_M$  the least element and the greatest element of  $M$ . The elements of  $L$  will generally be denoted by  $a, b, c, \dots$  and elements of  $M$  will generally be denoted by  $A, B, C, \dots$

Let  $M$  be a  $L$ -module. If  $N \in M$  and  $a \in L$  then  $(N : a) = \bigvee \{X \in M \mid aX \leq N\}$ . If  $A, B \in M$ , then  $(A : B) = \bigvee \{x \in L \mid xB \leq A\}$ . An  $L$ -module  $M$  is called a multiplication  $L$ -module if for every element  $N \in M$  there exists an element  $a \in L$  such that  $N = aI_M$  [4].

A proper element  $N$  of  $M$  is said to be prime if  $aX \leq N$  implies  $X \leq N$  or  $aI_M \leq N$  that is  $a \leq (N : I_M)$  for every  $a \in L, X \in M$ . An element  $N < I_M$  in  $M$  is said to be primary if  $aX \leq N$  implies  $X \leq N$  or  $a^n I_M \leq N$  that is  $a^n \leq (N : I_M)$  for some integer  $n$ . An element  $N$  of  $M$  is called a radical element if  $(N : I_M) = \sqrt{(N : I_M)}$ . Noether lattice is a modular multiplicative lattice satisfying ascending chain condition in which every element is the join of principal elements. Let  $N$  be an element of a lattice module  $M$ . Then  $N$  is said to have a primary decomposition if there exist primary element  $Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_n$  such that  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_n$ . If some  $Q_i$  contains the meet of remaining ones then this  $Q_i$  can be dropped from the primary decomposition. Similarly, any other primary components which contains the meet of remaining ones can be dropped from the primary decomposition. If no  $Q_i$  can be dropped further we get a reduced primary decomposition of  $N$ . Such a primary decomposition is also called an irredundant primary decomposition. If  $Q$  is primary then  $\sqrt{Q} = \sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$  is prime. We note that,  $\sqrt{(N : I_M)}$  may also be denoted by  $\sqrt{N}$ .

## 2. Primary Decomposition of Elements

The following result gives the relation between a primary element  $Q$  and  $\sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$ .

**Theorem 1.** *If  $Q$  is a primary element of a lattice module  $M$  then  $\sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$  is a prime element of  $L$ . If  $a$  is an element of  $L$  and if  $a \leq p$  where  $p$  is a prime element of  $L$  then  $\sqrt{a} \leq p$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $ab \leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$  and suppose  $b \not\leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$ . Then  $(ab)^n = a^n b^n \leq (Q : I_M)$  for some positive integer  $n$ . Now  $b \not\leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$  implies  $b^m \not\leq (Q : I_M)$  for any positive integer  $m$ . In particular  $b^n \not\leq (Q : I_M)$ . As  $Q$  is primary,  $(a^n)^k \leq (Q : I_M)$  for some positive integer  $k$ . That is  $a^t \leq (Q : I_M)$  for some positive integer  $t$  and  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$ . Therefore  $\sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$  is prime. Let  $a \leq p$ . Take any  $x \leq \sqrt{a}$ . Then  $x^n \leq a \leq p$  for some positive integer  $n$ . As  $p$  is prime,  $x \leq p$  and hence  $\sqrt{a} \leq p$ .  $\square$

The following theorem gives the relation between meet of primary elements and their equal associated primes.

**Theorem 2.** *If  $Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_k$  are  $p$ -primary elements of a lattice module  $M$  then  $Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$  is  $p$ -primary.*

*Proof.* By hypothesis  $\sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)} = p, i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Let  $Q = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$ . We have,  $\sqrt{\wedge Q_i} = \sqrt{((\wedge Q_i) : I_M)} = \sqrt{(Q_1 : I_M)} \wedge \sqrt{(Q_2 : I_M)} \wedge \dots \wedge \sqrt{(Q_k : I_M)} = p$ . We show that  $\wedge Q_i$  is primary, where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Let  $aX \leq Q = \wedge Q_i$  where  $a \in L, X \in M$ . Suppose,  $X \not\leq Q$ . Then  $X \not\leq Q_i$  for some  $i (1 \leq i \leq k)$ . As  $Q_i$  is primary,  $aX \leq Q_i$  and  $X \not\leq Q_i$  implies  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)} = p$ . That is  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$ . Therefore,  $Q$  is primary.  $\square$

It is shown by Thakare and Manjarekar [6] that the radical of any element  $a$  of a multiplicative lattice satisfying the ACC can be written as the meet of minimal prime divisors of  $a$ . Hence, we have the following result.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $L$  be a multiplicative lattice satisfying the ACC and  $N$  be an element of  $M$  then  $\sqrt{(N : I_M)} = \wedge \{p \mid p \text{ is minimal prime containing } (N : I_M)\}$ .*

An element  $N$  of a lattice module  $M$  is said to be meet irreducible if for any two elements  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  of  $M, N = A_1 \wedge A_2$  implies either  $A_1 = N$  or  $A_2 = N$ .

**Theorem 4.** *If a lattice module  $M$  satisfies ACC the chain  $A_1 \leq A_2 \leq \dots$  implies there exist positive integer  $m$  such that  $A_n = A_m$  for all  $n \geq m$ . Then every element of  $M$  can be written as the meet of a finite number of meet irreducible elements of  $M$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\tau$  be the set of all elements of  $M$  which can not be written as a meet of a finite number of meet irreducible elements of  $M$ . If  $\tau$  is empty we have nothing to prove. Suppose  $\tau$  is not empty. As  $M$  satisfies ACC,  $\tau$  has a maximal element say  $N$ . As  $N \in \tau, N$  is not irreducible. So there exists elements  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  of  $M$  such that  $N = A_1 \wedge A_2$  where  $N \neq A_1, N \neq A_2$ . So,  $N < A_1, N < A_2$ . This shows that both  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  can be written as the meet of a finite number of meet irreducible elements of  $M$ . So there are irreducible elements  $K_1, K_2, \dots, K_m$  and  $K'_1, K'_2, \dots, K'_n$  of  $M$  such that  $A_1 = K_1 \wedge K_2 \wedge \dots \wedge K_m$  and  $A_2 = K'_1 \wedge K'_2 \wedge \dots \wedge K'_n$ . But then  $N = K_1 \wedge K_2 \wedge \dots \wedge K_m \wedge K'_1 \wedge K'_2 \wedge \dots \wedge K'_n$ . That is  $N$  is the meet of a finite number of meet irreducible elements. This contradicts the fact that  $N \in \tau$ . Hence,  $\tau$  is empty.  $\square$

The study of primary elements and their associated primes for modules is carried out by P J Mc Carthy and Larsen [5]. We give equivalent formulation in the next theorems for lattice modules.

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $Q$  be a  $p$ -primary element of lattice module  $M$  and  $N$  be an element of  $M$ . If  $N \not\leq Q$  then  $(Q : N)$  is a  $p$ -primary element.*

*Proof.* First we show that  $(Q : N)$  is a  $p$ -primary element. Let  $a, b \in L$ ,  $ab \leq (Q : N)$  and suppose,  $a \not\leq (Q : N)$ . As  $a \not\leq (Q : N)$ ,  $aN \not\leq Q$ . Also as  $ab \leq (Q : N)$ ,  $abN \leq Q$ . But  $aN \not\leq Q$  and  $Q$  is a primary element implies that  $b^n \leq (Q : I_M)$  for some integer  $n$ . But  $b^n I_M \leq Q$  implies  $b^n N \leq Q$ . Hence,  $b \leq \sqrt{(Q : N)}$ . Therefore,  $(Q : N)$  is a primary element of  $L$ . Now since  $N \not\leq Q$ , there exists  $A \in M$  and  $A \leq N$  such that  $A \not\leq Q$ . Let  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q : N)}$ . Then  $a^n N \leq Q$ . Hence,  $a^n A \leq Q$ . But  $A \not\leq Q$  and  $Q$  is primary implies that  $(a^n)^k = a^m \leq (Q : I_M)$  for some integer  $m$ . That is  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)} = p$  and  $\sqrt{(Q : N)} \leq p$ . Conversely, let  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)} = p$ . Hence,  $a^n I_M \leq Q$  for some integer  $n$ . So  $a^n N \leq Q$  for some integer  $n$ . Thus  $a^n \leq (Q : N)$  and  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q : N)}$ . This shows that  $p \leq \sqrt{(Q : N)}$  and we have  $\sqrt{(Q : N)} = p$ . Therefore,  $(Q : N)$  is a  $p$ -primary element.  $\square$

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $M$  be a lattice module and  $a$  be an element of  $L$ ,  $p$  be a prime element of  $L$  and  $Q$  be  $p$ -primary element of  $M$ . If  $a \not\leq p$  then  $(Q : a) = Q$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a \not\leq p$  where  $p = \sqrt{(Q : I_M)}$ . Since,  $a \not\leq p$  there is some  $b \leq a$  such that  $b \not\leq p$ . Let  $X \leq (Q : a)$ . Then  $aX \leq Q$  and hence  $bX \leq Q$  where  $b \not\leq \sqrt{(Q : I_M)} = p$ . As  $Q$  is a  $p$ -primary,  $X \leq Q$ . Hence,  $(Q : a) \leq Q$ . Conversely let  $X \leq Q$ . Since  $a \leq 1$ ,  $aX \leq Q$ . So  $X \leq (Q : a)$  and hence  $Q \leq (Q : a)$ . Therefore,  $Q = (Q : a)$ .  $\square$

The following theorem gives the characterisation of a prime element  $p$  of  $L$  to be equal to some associated prime of an element which has a primary decomposition.

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $N \neq I_M$  be an element of a lattice module  $M$  and assume that  $N$  has a primary decomposition. Let  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$  be a reduced primary decomposition of  $N$  and  $p$  be prime element of  $L$ . Then  $p = \sqrt{Q_i}$  for some  $i$  if and only if  $(N : X)$  is a  $p$ -primary element of  $L$  for some  $X \not\leq N$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$  be a reduced primary decomposition of  $N$ . First suppose that,  $p = \sqrt{Q_i}$  for some  $i$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $p = \sqrt{(Q_1 : I_M)}$  where  $p_i = \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)}$   $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . We prove that,  $(N : X)$  is a  $p$ -primary element of  $L$  for some  $X \not\leq N$ . Since the decomposition is reduced  $Q_i \not\leq Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{i-1} \wedge Q_{i+1} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . In particular,  $Q_1 \not\leq Q_2 \wedge Q_3 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$ . So there exists  $X \leq Q_2 \wedge Q_3 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$  such that  $X \not\leq Q_1$  and hence  $X \not\leq N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$ . Also

$$(N : X) = (Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k) : X = (Q_1 : X) \wedge (Q_2 : X) \wedge \dots \wedge (Q_k : X).$$

For  $i = 2, 3, \dots, k$  we show that  $(Q_i : X) = 1$ . Since  $X \leq Q_2 \wedge Q_3 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$ , we have  $X \leq Q_i$  for all  $i = 2, 3, \dots, k$ . Then  $aX \leq Q_i$  for all  $a \in L$  and for all  $i = 2, 3, \dots, k$ . That is  $a \leq (Q_i : X)$  for all

$i = 2, 3, \dots, k$ . So  $1 \leq (Q_i : X)$ . But  $(Q_i : X) \leq 1$  implies  $(Q_i : X) = 1$  for  $i = 2, 3, \dots, k$ . Hence,  $(N : X) = (Q_1 : X) \wedge 1 \wedge \dots \wedge 1 = (Q_1 : X)$ . So by above result,  $(Q_1 : X)$  is p-primary element implies  $(N : X)$  is a p-primary element of  $L$  where  $X \not\leq N$ . Conversely assume that  $(N : X)$  is a p-primary element of  $L$  for some  $X \not\leq N, X \in M$ . We prove that  $\sqrt{Q_i} = p$  for some  $i$ . We have,  $p = \sqrt{(N : X)} = \sqrt{[(Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k) : X]} = \sqrt{(Q_1 : X)} \wedge \sqrt{(Q_2 : X)} \wedge \dots \wedge \sqrt{(Q_k : X)}$ . We claim that for each  $i$ ,  $\sqrt{(Q_i : X)} = p_i$  or 1 and equal to  $p_i$  for at least one  $i$ . We have  $X \not\leq N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$  implies  $X \not\leq Q_i$  for at least one  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq k$ ). Suppose  $X \not\leq Q_r$  ( $1 \leq r \leq k$ ) and  $X \leq Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{r-1} \wedge Q_{r+1} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_k$  that is  $X \leq \bigwedge_{i \neq r} Q_i$ , where  $(i \neq r)$ . We have,  $aX \leq Q_i$  for all  $i \neq r$  and  $a \in L$ . Hence,  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q_i : X)}$  for all  $a \in L$ . In particular,  $1 \leq \sqrt{(Q_i : X)}$  for all  $i \neq r$ . But,  $\sqrt{(Q_i : X)} \leq 1$  for all  $i \neq r$ . Therefore,  $\sqrt{(Q_i : X)} = 1$  for all  $i \neq r$ . For  $i = r, X \not\leq Q_r$ . Let  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q_r : X)}$ . Hence,  $a^n X \leq Q_r$ , for some positive integer  $n$ , where  $X \not\leq Q_r$ . As  $Q_r$  is primary,  $a^n \leq \sqrt{(Q_r : I_M)} = p_r$ . Thus,  $a \leq p_r$ , since  $p_r$  is prime and we have,  $\sqrt{(Q_r : X)} \leq p_r$ . On the other hand, let  $a \leq p_r = \sqrt{Q_r} = \sqrt{(Q_r : I_M)}$ . Hence,  $a^n \leq (Q_r : I_M)$  for some positive integer  $n$ . That is  $a^n I_M \leq Q_r$  and therefore,  $a^n X \leq Q_r$ , for some positive integer  $n$ . Consequently,  $a^n \leq (Q_r : X)$  and hence  $a \leq \sqrt{(Q_r : X)}$ . This gives  $p_r \leq \sqrt{(Q_r : X)}$ . Hence,  $\sqrt{(Q_r : X)} = p_r$  where  $X \not\leq Q_r$ . We have shown that for each  $i$ ,  $\sqrt{(Q_i : X)} = p_i$  or 1 and is equal to  $p_i$  for at least one  $i$ , since  $X \not\leq N$ . Then,

$$p = \sqrt{(N : X)} = \sqrt{(Q_1 : X)} \wedge \dots \wedge \sqrt{(Q_k : X)}$$

is the meet of some of the prime elements  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_l$  ( $1 \leq l \leq k$ ). That is

$$p = \sqrt{(N : X)} = p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \dots \wedge p_l.$$

We show that  $p = p_i$  for some  $i$ . We have,  $p \leq p_i$   $i = 1, 2, \dots, l$ . If for each  $i$ ,  $p \neq p_i$  then  $p_i \not\leq p$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l$ . This implies that there exist  $x_i \leq p_i$  such that  $x_i \not\leq p$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l$ . Then,  $x_1 x_2 \dots x_l \leq p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \dots \wedge p_l = p$ . This shows that  $x_i \leq p$  for at least one  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq l$ ) a contradiction. Hence,  $p = p_i$  for at least one  $i$ . □

This leads us to the following result.

**Theorem 8.** Let  $N \neq I_M$  be an element of a lattice module  $M$  and assume that  $N$  has a primary decomposition. If  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m = S_1 \wedge S_2 \wedge \dots \wedge S_n$  are two reduced primary decompositions of  $N$  then  $n = m$  and the  $Q_i$  and  $S_i$  can be so numbered that  $\sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)} = \sqrt{(S_i : I_M)}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

The above theorem proves the uniqueness of associated primes in reduced primary decomposition. The next result gives the relation between zero divisors of  $L$  and associated primes of zero.

**Theorem 9.** Let  $L$  be a Noetherian lattice and  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k$  be the prime divisors of the element 0 that is associated prime elements of element 0. Then every zero divisors of  $L$  is contained in  $p_1 \vee p_2 \vee \dots \vee p_k$ .

*Proof.* Let  $0 = q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge q_k$  be a reduced primary decomposition of 0 and  $p_i = \sqrt{q_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Suppose  $a$  is a zero divisor. Then if  $a = 0$  obviously  $a \leq p_1 \vee p_2 \vee \dots \vee p_k$ . Suppose,  $a$  is a proper zero divisor that is  $a \neq 0$  and let  $ab = 0$  where  $b \neq 0$ . Now,  $ab = 0 \leq q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge q_k = \{0\}$ . Hence,  $ab \leq q_i$  for all  $i$  and  $b \not\leq q_i$  for at least one  $i$ . Because,  $b \leq q_i$  for all  $i$  implies  $b \leq q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge q_k = \{0\}$  and hence  $b = 0$ , a contradiction. Let  $b \not\leq q_j$ . Then,  $ab \leq q_j$ ,  $b \not\leq q_j$  and  $q_j$  is a primary element. Therefore,  $a \leq \sqrt{q_j} = p_j$ , which shows that  $a \leq p_1 \vee p_2 \vee \dots \vee p_k$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 10.** Let  $M$  be a lattice module and  $N \neq I_M$  be an element of  $M$  which has a reduced primary decomposition  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m$ . If every  $Q_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) is a prime element then  $(N : I_M) = \sqrt{(N : I_M)}$  and the converse holds if  $(Q_i : I_M)$  are prime elements.

*Proof.* Suppose each  $Q_i$  is a prime element. Let  $a \leq \sqrt{(N : I_M)}$ . Then

$$a^n I_M \leq N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m$$

for some positive integer  $n$ . This implies that,  $a^n I_M \leq Q_i$  for each  $i$ . As  $Q_i$  is a prime element,  $a I_M \leq Q_i$  or  $a^{n-1} I_M \leq Q_i$ . If  $a I_M \leq Q_i$  then  $a \leq (Q_i : I_M)$ . Otherwise  $a^{n-1} I_M \leq Q_i$  implies  $a I_M \leq Q_i$  or  $a^{n-2} I_M \leq Q_i$ . Continuing in this way we obtain,  $a \leq (Q_i : I_M)$  for each  $i$ . Therefore  $a \leq (Q_1 : I_M) \wedge (Q_2 : I_M) \wedge \dots \wedge (Q_m : I_M)$ . That is  $a \leq (N : I_M)$  and hence  $(N : I_M) = \sqrt{(N : I_M)}$ . Conversely assume that,  $(N : I_M) = \sqrt{(N : I_M)}$ . We show that  $(Q_i : I_M) = p_i$ . Let  $y \leq p_i = \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)}$ . As  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^m p_i$  is irredundant(reduced) there exists  $z \leq \bigwedge p_j$  such that  $z \not\leq p_i$  in  $L$ . Now  $yz \leq \bigwedge_{i=1}^m p_i = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)} = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m (Q_i : I_M)$  implies  $yz I_M \leq Q_i$  for each  $i$ . Since  $Q_i$  is primary,  $z \not\leq p_i$  gives  $y \leq (Q_i : I_M)$ . Hence,  $p_i \leq (Q_i : I_M)$ . Consequently,  $p_i = (Q_i : I_M)$ .  $\square$

Now we obtain a characterization of a prime element  $p$  of  $L$  containing some associated prime  $p_i$  of  $N \neq I_M$  in a lattice module  $M$ .

**Theorem 11.** Let  $N \neq I_M$  have a reduced primary decomposition  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m$  and  $p_i = \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)}$  be the associated primes of  $N$ . For a prime element  $p$  of  $L$  to contain  $(N : I_M)$  it is necessary and sufficient that  $p$  contains  $p_i$  for some  $i$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $p_i \leq p$  for some  $i$ . Then  $(N : I_M) = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m (Q_i : I_M)$  implies  $(N : I_M) \leq p$ . Conversely assume that  $(N : I_M) \leq p$ . Then  $(Q_1 : I_M) \wedge (Q_2 : I_M) \wedge \dots \wedge (Q_m : I_M) \leq p$  implies  $(Q_i : I_M) \leq p$  for some  $i$ . But  $\sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)} = p_i$  is the smallest prime containing  $(Q_i : I_M)$ . Hence,  $p_i \leq p$  for some  $i$ .  $\square$

In our next result we show that those  $Q_i^s$  can be uniquely determined which are isolated primary components of  $N \neq I_M$ .

**Theorem 12.** Let  $N \neq I_M$  have a reduced primary decomposition  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m$  and  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m$  be the associated primes of  $Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_m$  respectively. The element

$$Q_i^s = \vee \{X \in M \mid (N : X) \not\leq p_i\}$$

is an element of  $M$  which is contained in  $Q_i$ . If  $Q_i$  is an isolated primary component of  $N$  then  $Q_i = Q_i'$ .

*Proof.* Take any element  $A \in \{X \in M \mid (N : X) \not\leq p_i\}$ . Then  $(N : A) \not\leq p_i$ . So there exists  $a \in L$  such that  $aA \leq N$  and  $a \not\leq p_i = \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)}$ . Hence,  $a^n I_M \not\leq Q_i$  for any integer  $n$ . Now  $aA \leq Q_i$ ,  $a^n I_M \not\leq Q_i$  and  $Q_i$  is primary gives  $A \leq Q_i$ . Hence  $Q_i' \leq Q_i$  and the first part is proved. If  $p_i$  is a minimal associated primes of  $N$  it follows that  $p_j \not\leq p_i$  for  $i \neq j$ . Then there exists  $b_j \leq p_j$  in  $L$  such that  $b_j \not\leq p_i$ . We have  $b_j \leq p_j = \sqrt{(Q_j : I_M)} = \vee \{a_j \in L \mid a_j^{s_j} I_M \leq Q_j \text{ for some integer } s_j\}$ . Since each element of  $L$  is compact, we have  $b_j \leq p_j = \bigvee_{j=1}^n \{a_j \mid a_j^{s_j} I_M \leq Q_j \text{ for some integer } s_j\}$ . Put  $s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_n = k(j)$ . Then  $b_j^{k(j)} I_M \leq (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee \dots \vee a_n)^{k(j)} I_M \leq Q_j$ . Clearly  $b = \prod_{j \neq i} b_j^{k(j)} \not\leq p_i$  as  $p_i$  is prime. However,  $b I_M \leq \bigwedge_{j \neq i} Q_j$ . Next take any  $X \leq Q_i$ . Then  $X b I_M \leq \bigwedge_{i=1}^m Q_i = N$ . So  $b \leq (N : X) \not\leq p_i$ . This implies that  $X \in \{X \in M \mid (N : X) \neq p_i\}$ . Hence  $X \leq \vee \{X \in M \mid (N : X) \not\leq p_i\} = Q_i'$  and we have  $Q_i \leq Q_i'$ . Consequently,  $Q_i = Q_i'$ .  $\square$

We now relate the radical of  $N$  with the isolated primes of  $N \in M$ . In that direction we have:

**Theorem 13.** Let  $M$  be a lattice module and  $N \neq I_M$  have an irredundent(reduced) primary decomposition  $N = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_n$  then  $\sqrt{(N : I_M)}$  is the meet of isolated prime elements of  $N$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{(N : I_M)} &= \sqrt{(Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_n) : I_M} = \sqrt{(Q_1 : I_M)} \wedge \sqrt{(Q_2 : I_M)} \dots \wedge \sqrt{(Q_n : I_M)} \\ &= p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \dots \wedge p_n, \end{aligned}$$

where  $p_i = \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)}$  are associated primes of  $N$ . If some  $p_k$  is not isolated then  $p_k \geq p_i$  for some  $p_i$  and hence we can delete such elements from the above primary decomposition and we are through.  $\square$

We note that an element  $A = aI_M$  of  $M$  where  $a \in L$  is said to be nilpotent if  $a^n I_M = 0_M$  for some positive integer  $n$ . If a lattice module  $M$  satisfies the ACC and if every element of  $L$  is the join of meet principal elements then every element of  $M$  can be written as a meet of finite number of primary elements [1].

**Theorem 14.** Let  $M$  be a lattice module satisfying the ACC over a multiplicative lattice  $L$  in which every element is the join of meet principal elements. Then the join of the set of all elements  $a \in L$  such that  $aI_M$  is nilpotent is the meet of the isolated primes of  $0_M$ .

*Proof.* Let  $0_M = \bigwedge_{i=1}^n Q_i$  be a reduced primary decomposition of  $0_M$  and  $p_i = \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)}$  be an associated prime of  $Q_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . We have

$$\sqrt{(0_M : I_M)} = \vee \{a \in L \mid a^n I_M = 0_M \text{ for some positive integer } n\}$$

and  $\sqrt{(0_M : I_M)} = p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \dots \wedge p_k$  where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k$  are the isolated primes of  $0_M$ . Hence,  $\sqrt{(0_M : I_M)}$  is the meet of isolated primes of  $0_M$ .  $\square$

The primeness of the radical of  $A \in M$  is characterized in the following result.

**Theorem 15.** For  $A \in M$ ,  $\sqrt{(A : I_M)}$  is prime if and only if  $A$  has a single isolated prime element.

*Proof.* Let  $A = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_n$  be primary decomposition of  $A$ . If  $A$  has a single isolated prime element  $p$  then  $\sqrt{(A : I_M)} = p$ . Conversely, assume that  $\sqrt{(A : I_M)}$  is prime and  $\sqrt{(A : I_M)} = p_1 \wedge p_2$  where  $p_1, p_2$  are isolated primes of  $A$ . Then there are  $x, y \in L$  such that  $x \leq p_1, x \not\leq p_2$  and  $y \leq p_2, y \not\leq p_1$ . Hence  $xy \leq \sqrt{(A : I_M)}$  which is prime. But then  $x \leq p_2$  or  $y \leq p_1$  which is a contradiction. Thus  $A$  has a single isolated prime element.  $\square$

In the remaining part we assume that a lattice module  $M$  satisfies the ACC over a multiplicative lattice  $L$  in which every element is the join of meet principal elements. This condition assures that any element  $M$  has a reduced primary decomposition.

**Theorem 16.** Let  $A$  be any element of  $M$  and  $b \in L$  be such that  $A \neq I_M$ . Then  $A = (A : b)$  if and only if  $b$  is contained in no associated prime element of  $A$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A = Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m$  be an irredundant primary decomposition of  $A$  and let  $p_i = \sqrt{(Q_i : I_M)}$ . Suppose  $b \not\leq p_i$  for any  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . This leads us to the fact  $b^n \not\leq p_i$  for any positive integer  $n$ . We know that  $(A : b)b \leq A$  [3] and thus  $(A : b)b \leq Q_i$  for all  $i$ . Since  $Q_i$  is primary and  $b \not\leq p_i$  we have  $(A : b) \leq Q_i$ . That is  $(A : b) \leq \bigwedge_{i=1}^m Q_i = A$ . But  $A \leq (A : b)$  gives  $(A : b) = A$ . Conversely, suppose  $(A : b) = A$  and if possible without loss of generality assume that  $b \leq p_1$ . Then  $(Q : b^s) = I_M$  for some integer  $s$ . We have  $(A : b) : b = A : b^2$  [3]. Continuing in this way  $A : b = A : b^s$ . But  $A : b = A$  implies  $A : b^s = A$ . Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= (A : b^s) = ((Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m) : b^s) = ((Q_1 : b^s) \wedge (Q_2 : b^s) \wedge \dots \wedge (Q_m : b^s)) \\ &= \bigwedge_{j \neq 1} (Q_j : b^s) \geq \bigwedge_{j \neq 1} Q_j \geq A. \end{aligned}$$

That is  $A = \bigwedge_{j \neq 1} Q_j$ . This contradicts the fact that  $A = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m Q_i$  is a reduced primary decomposition of  $A$ .  $\square$

The above theorem can be restated in the following form.

**Theorem 17.** Let  $N \neq I_M$  have a reduced primary decomposition  $Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_m$  and  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m$  be the associated primes of  $Q_i^s$ . For an element  $b$  of  $L$  to be contained in some associated prime element of  $N$  it is necessary and sufficient that  $(N : b) \neq N$ .

Direct application of the above theorem gives the following result.

**Theorem 18.** For an element  $b$  of  $L$  to be contained in some associated prime element of  $N$ , it is necessary and sufficient that there is an element  $Y \not\leq N$  such that  $bY \leq N$ .



An element  $X \in M$  is called a zero divisor if  $(0_M : X) \neq 0$  so there exists  $a \neq 0$  in  $L$  such that  $aX = 0_M$ .

**Theorem 19.** *Let  $M$  be a lattice module where  $M$  satisfies the ACC and every element of  $M$  is the join of meet principal elements. If  $X \in M$  then the join of all  $a \in L$  such that  $a \neq 0$  and  $aX = 0_M$  is contained in the join of all associated prime elements of  $0_M$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $X$  be a zero divisor of  $M$ . Then  $0_M : X \neq 0$  that is there exists  $a \neq 0$  in  $L$  such that  $aX = 0_M$ . We know that for an element  $b$  of  $L$  ( $b \neq 0, bX = 0_M$ ) to be contained in some associated prime of  $0_M$  it is necessary and sufficient that

$$(0_M : b) = \vee \{X \in M \mid bX = 0_M\} \neq 0_M.$$

Hence the join of all elements  $a$  of  $L$  such that  $a \neq 0$  and  $aX = 0_M$  is contained in the join of all associated prime elements of  $0_M$ , by Theorem 16.

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