



Original Article

# On projection-invariant submodules of QTAG-modules



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**Abstract** A module  $M$  over an associative ring  $R$  with unity is a *QTAG*-module if every finitely generated submodule of a homomorphic image of  $M$  is a direct sum of uniserial modules. Here we study projection-invariant submodule of *QTAG*-module. A submodule  $N$  of a *QTAG*-module  $M$  is said to be projection-invariant in  $M$  if  $f(N) \subseteq N$ , for all idempotent endomorphisms  $f$  in  $\text{End}(M)$ . Clearly, projection-invariant submodules are projection-invariant. Mehdi et. al. characterized fully invariant submodules and characteristic submodules with the help of their socles. Here we investigate the socles of projection-invariant submodules of *QTAG*-modules.

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## 1. Introduction and preliminaries

All the rings  $R$  considered here are associative with unity and modules  $M$  are unital *QTAG*-modules. An element  $x \in M$  is uniform, if  $\langle x \rangle$  is a non-zero uniform (hence uniserial) module and for any  $R$ -module  $M$  with a unique composition se-

ries,  $d(M)$  denotes its composition length. For a uniform element  $x \in M$ ,  $e(x) = d(xR)$  and  $H_M(x) = \sup \{d(\frac{yR}{xR}) \mid y \in M, x \in yR \text{ and } y \text{ uniform}\}$  are the exponent and height of  $x$  in  $M$ , respectively.  $H_k(M)$  denotes the submodule of  $M$  generated by the elements of height at least  $k$  and  $H^k(M)$  is the submodule of  $M$  generated by the elements of exponents at most  $k$ .  $M$  is  $h$ -divisible if  $M = M^1 = \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} H_k(M)$  and it is  $h$ -reduced if it does not contain any  $h$ -divisible submodule. In other words it is free from the elements of infinite height. A *QTAG*-module  $M$  is said to be separable, if  $M^1 = 0$ . A family  $\mathcal{N}$  of submodules of  $M$  is called a nice system in  $M$  if.

- (i)  $0 \in \mathcal{N}$ ;
- (ii) If  $\{N_i\}_{i \in I}$  is any subset of  $\mathcal{N}$ , then  $\sum_I N_i \in \mathcal{N}$ ;
- (iii) Given any  $N \in \mathcal{N}$  and any countable subset  $X$  of  $M$ , there exists  $K \in \mathcal{N}$  containing  $N \cup X$ , such that  $K/N$  is countably generated [1].

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A  $h$ -reduced QTAG-module  $M$  is called totally projective if it has a nice system. A submodule  $B \subseteq M$  is a basic submodule of  $M$ , if  $B$  is  $h$ -pure in  $M$ ,  $B = \bigoplus B_i$ , where each  $B_i$  is the direct sum of uniserial modules of length  $i$  and  $M/B$  is  $h$ -divisible.

For a QTAG-module  $M$ , there is a chain of submodules  $M^0 \supseteq M^1 \supseteq M^2 \dots \supseteq M^\tau = 0$ , for some ordinal  $\tau$ .  $M^{\sigma+1} = (M^\sigma)^1$ , where  $M^\sigma$  is the  $\sigma$ th-Ulm submodule of  $M$ . A fully invariant submodule  $L \subset M$  is a large submodule of  $M$ , if  $L + B = M$  for every basic submodule  $B$  of  $M$ . It was proved that several results which hold for TAG-modules also hold good for QTAG-modules [2]. Notations and terminology are followed from [3].

The Ulm-sequence of  $x$  is defined as  $U(x) = (H(x), H(x_1), H(x_2), \dots)$ . This is analogous to the  $U$ -sequences in groups [4]. These sequences are partially ordered because  $U(x) \leq U(y)$  if  $H(x_i) \leq H(y_i)$  for every  $i$ . Transitive and fully transitive QTAG-modules are defined with the help of  $U$ -sequences. Ulm invariants and Ulm sequences play an important role in the study of QTAG-modules. Using these concepts transitive and fully transitive modules were defined in [5]. A QTAG-module  $M$  is fully transitive if for  $x, y \in M$ ,  $U(x) \leq U(y)$ , there is an endomorphism  $f$  of  $M$  such that  $f(x) = f(y)$  and it is transitive if for any two elements  $x, y \in M$ , with  $U(x) \leq U(y)$ , there is an automorphism  $f$  of  $M$  such that  $f(x) = f(y)$ .

2. Main results

Mehdi et al. characterized fully invariant submodules and characteristic submodules with the help of their socles and defined socle-regular and strongly socle-regular QTAG-modules [6,7]. We start by recalling their definitions:

A QTAG-module  $M$  is said to be socle-regular (resp. strongly socle-regular) if for all fully invariant (respectively characteristic) submodules  $K$  of  $M$ , there exists an ordinal  $\sigma$  (depending on  $K$ ) such that  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(M))$ . It is self evident that strongly socle-regular QTAG-modules are themselves socle-regular.

**Definition 2.1.** A submodule  $N$  of a QTAG-module  $M$  is said to be projection-invariant if  $f(N) \subseteq N$  for all idempotent endomorphisms  $f$  of  $M$ . Clearly, fully invariant submodules are projection-invariant but the converse is not true in general [8].

It is not true that  $N$  is projection-invariant in  $M$  if and only if,  $f(N) = N \cap f(M)$  for every projection  $f \in \text{End}(M)$ . Projection-invariant submodules satisfies the property of being distributed across the direct sum i.e., if  $M = P \oplus Q$  and  $N$  is projection-invariant, then  $N = (P \cap N) \oplus (Q \cap N)$  [8].

Motivated by the concepts of socle-regular and strongly socle-regular QTAG-modules we make the following definition:

**Definition 2.2.** A QTAG-module  $M$  is said to be projectively socle-regular if for each projection-invariant submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , there is an ordinal  $\sigma$  (depending on  $N$ ) such that  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(M))$ .

It is obvious that projectively socle-regular QTAG-modules are socle-regular.

Let us recall the terminology used in [6]:

For a submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , put  $\sigma = \min\{H_M(x) | x \in \text{Soc}(N)\}$  and denote  $\sigma = \inf(\text{Soc}(N))$ . Here  $\text{Soc}(N) \subseteq \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(M))$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** If  $N$  is a projection-invariant submodule of a QTAG-module  $M$  and  $\inf(\text{Soc}(N)) = k$ , a positive integer, then  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_k(M))$ . Consequently, if  $M$  is separable, then  $M$  is projectively socle-regular.

**Proof.** Suppose that  $N$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$  and  $\inf(\text{Soc}(N)) = k < \omega$ . It remains to show that  $\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) \subseteq \text{Soc}(N)$ . As  $\inf(\text{Soc}(N)) = k$ , there is an element  $x \in \text{Soc}(N)$  such that  $H(x) = k$  and so  $d(\frac{yR}{xR}) = k$ , for  $y \in M$ . Since every element of exponent  $k$  and finite height can be embedded in a direct summand, by [9]  $yR$  is a summand of  $M$  containing  $x$ , therefore  $M = yR \oplus M'$ , for some submodule  $M'$  of  $M$ . Let  $z$  is an arbitrary element of  $\text{Soc}(H_k(M))/\text{Soc}(H_{k+1}(M))$ , then there exists  $u \in H^{k+1}(M)$  such that  $d(\frac{uR}{yR}) = k$  and hence  $yR \oplus M' = uR \oplus M''$ . Now,  $d(uR) = d(yR) = k$ , implying that  $uR = yR$ . Then we have that  $u = ry + m'$ , for some  $r \in R$  and  $m' \in M'$ . We may define  $\phi : yR \oplus M' \rightarrow M'$  by  $\phi(y) = y$ ,  $\phi(M') = 0$ . Now,  $\phi$  is the difference of two idempotent endomorphisms of  $M$  and we define  $\theta : M \rightarrow M$  by  $\theta(m) = r(\psi(m)) + \phi(m)$ , where  $\psi$  is the projection map given by  $\psi(y) = y$ ,  $\psi(M') = 0$ . Here  $\theta$  is a sum of idempotents and  $\theta(y) = ry + m' = u$ . Since  $\theta(x) = v$  such that  $d(\frac{vR}{\theta(yR)}) = k$  and  $vR = zR$  as  $d(\frac{uR}{zR}) = k$  and  $x \in N$ , which is a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$ , we conclude that  $z \in \text{Soc}(N)$ . Hence  $\text{Soc}(H_k(M))/\text{Soc}(H_{k+1}(M)) \subseteq \text{Soc}(N)$ . However, if  $s \in \text{Soc}(H_{k+1}(M))$ , then  $z + s \in \text{Soc}(H_k(M))$  and so by the argument above,  $z + s \in \text{Soc}(N)$ . Thus we have that  $\text{Soc}(H_k(M)) \subseteq \text{Soc}(N)$  and we are done.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.1.** If  $M$  is a QTAG-module such that  $d(H_\omega(M)) = 1$ , then  $M$  is projectively socle-regular.

**Proof.** Suppose  $N$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$ . If  $\text{Soc}(N) \not\subseteq H_\omega(M)$ , then  $\inf(\text{Soc}(N))$  is finite and by Proposition 2.1 above we obtain that  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_k(M))$  for some integer  $k$ . So we may assume that  $\text{Soc}(N) \subseteq H_\omega(M)$ . Since the  $H_\omega(M)$  is a uniserial module of decomposition length 1, either  $N + \text{Soc}(N) = 0$  whence  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_{\omega+1}(M))$  or  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\omega(M))$  as required.  $\square$

The property of a QTAG-module  $M$  being projectively socle-regular is inherited by submodules of the form  $H_\sigma(M)$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** If  $M$  is a projectively socle-regular QTAG-module, then so also is  $H_\sigma(M)$ , for all ordinals  $\sigma$ .

**Proof.** Let  $K = H_\sigma(M)$  and suppose that  $N$  is a projection invariant submodule of  $K$ . Let  $f$  be an arbitrary idempotent in  $\text{End}(M)$ . Then  $f^* = f|_K$  is an idempotent endomorphism of  $K$ . Thus  $f(N) = f^*(N) \subseteq N$ , since  $N$  is projection-invariant submodule of  $K$ . Consequently  $N$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$  and so there is an ordinal  $\rho$  such that

$\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\rho(M))$ . Since  $N$  is contained in  $H_\sigma(M)$ , we infer that  $\rho \geq \sigma$ ; say  $\rho = \sigma + \gamma$ . But then  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_{\sigma+\gamma}(M)) = \text{Soc}(H_\rho(K))$ , showing that  $K$  is also a projectively socle-regular  $QTAG$ -module.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $M$  be a  $QTAG$ -module. If  $k$  is a non-negative integer and  $H_k(M)$  is projectively socle-regular  $QTAG$ -module, then  $M$  is a projectively socle-regular module.*

**Proof.** Let  $N$  be projection invariant submodule of  $M$ . If  $\text{inf}(\text{Soc}(N)) = k$  is finite, then by Proposition 2.1,  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_k(M))$ . Otherwise, if  $\text{inf}(\text{Soc}(N)) \geq \omega$ , then  $\text{Soc}(N) \subseteq \text{Soc}(H_\omega(M)) \subseteq H_k(M)$  and we consider an idempotent endomorphism  $f$  of  $H_k(M)$ . Since every endomorphisms of  $H_k(M)$  lifts to an endomorphism of  $M$ , there is an endomorphism  $\bar{f}$  of  $M$  such that  $\bar{f}|_{H_k(M)} = f$ . Also, there exists an idempotent  $g$  of  $M$  such that  $g|_{H_k(M)} = \bar{f}|_{H_k(M)} = f$ . If we define  $\bar{g}: M \rightarrow M$  such that  $\bar{g} = 0 + g$  then  $\bar{g}$  is idempotent endomorphism of  $M$  with  $\bar{g}|_{H_k(M)} = f$ . Hence  $f(\text{Soc}(N)) = \bar{g}(\text{Soc}(N)) \subseteq \text{Soc}(N)$ . As  $H_k(M)$  is projectively socle-regular we have that  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(H_k(M)))$ , for some ordinal  $\sigma$ . Thus,  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\rho(M))$ , where  $\rho = k + \sigma$  and  $M$  is projectively socle-regular.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.3.** *Transitive, fully transitive and totally projective  $QTAG$ -modules satisfying the following condition are projectively socle-regular: If  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  and  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m$  are two disjoint finite sequence of ordinals such that the Kaplansky invariants  $f_M(\alpha_i) \neq 0$  for each positive integer  $i$ , then there is a direct decomposition  $M = L \oplus K$  where  $f_L(\alpha_i) = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $f_L(\beta_j) = 0$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .*

**Proof.** If  $N$  is a projection invariant submodule of  $M$ , then  $N$  is fully invariant in  $M$ . In view of [10],  $M$  is socle-regular. Thus  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(M))$ , for some ordinal  $\sigma$ , whence  $M$  is projectively socle-regular as required. Since a totally projective  $QTAG$ -module is both transitive and fully transitive and satisfies the above condition, it is projectively socle-regular.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.**

- (i) If  $H_\omega(M)$  is a direct sum of uniserial modules and  $H_\sigma(M)$  is projectively socle-regular, then  $M$  is projectively socle-regular.
- (ii) If  $H_\omega(M)$  is projectively socle-regular and  $M/H_\sigma(M)$  is totally projective, then  $M$  is projectively socle-regular. Here  $\sigma$  is an ordinal strictly less than  $\omega^2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $N$  be an arbitrary projection invariant submodule of  $M$  such that  $N \subseteq H_\omega(M)$ . We have to show that  $\text{Soc}(N)$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $H_\omega(M)$ . Let  $f$  be an idempotent endomorphism of  $H_\omega(M)$ , then there is an idempotent endomorphism  $g$  of  $M$  such that  $g|_{H_\omega(M)} = f$ . But then  $f(\text{Soc}(N)) = g(\text{Soc}(N)) \subseteq N$ , because  $N$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$ . Therefore  $\text{Soc}(N)$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $H_\omega(M)$ . So  $\text{Soc}(N) = \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(H_\omega(M))) = \text{Soc}(H_{\omega+\sigma}(M))$  for some ordinal  $\sigma$  and so  $M$  is projectively socle-regular, which completes the proof of (i).

For (ii), we use the transfinite induction. If  $\sigma \leq \omega$ , the result holds from (i). Now suppose that the result holds for all ordinals less than  $\sigma$ . There are two possibilities: either  $\sigma$  is a successor or  $\sigma$  is a limit ordinal of the form  $\omega \cdot n$ . In the first case  $\sigma = \beta + 1$ , for some  $\beta$ . Let  $X = H_\beta(M)$  and note that  $H(X) = H_\sigma(M)$  is projectively socle-regular. If  $M$  is projectively socle-regular and  $N$  a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$  such that  $H_\omega(N) = H_\omega(M)$ , then  $N$  is projectively socle-regular. Therefore  $X = H_\beta(M)$  is projectively socle-regular. Moreover as  $\beta < \sigma$ , it is easy to show that  $M/H_\beta(M)$  is totally projective. Inductively  $M$  is projectively socle-regular. In the second case  $\sigma = \beta + \omega$ , for some  $\beta$ . Set  $X = H_\beta(M)$  and  $H(X) = H_\sigma(M)$  is projectively socle-regular. Now  $X/H_\omega(X) \cong H_\beta(M)/H_\omega(M)$  and this is totally projective hence is a direct sum of uniserial modules. It now follows from part (i) above that  $X = H_\beta(M)$  is projectively socle-regular. Now,  $M/H_\beta(M)$  is totally projective and therefore inductively  $M$  is projectively socle-regular.  $\square$

The next assertion of Proposition 2.4 states that certain submodules inherit projective socle-regularity.

**Proposition 2.4.** *If  $M$  is a projectively socle-regular  $QTAG$ -module and  $N$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$  with the same Ulm-submodule, then  $N$  is projectively socle-regular.*

**Proof.** Suppose  $Q$  is an arbitrary projection-invariant submodule of  $N$ . Since the projection-invariant property is obviously transitive, it follows that  $Q$  is a projection-invariant submodule of  $M$ . Therefore there is an ordinal  $\sigma$  such that  $\text{Soc}(Q) = \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(M))$ . If  $\sigma \geq \omega$ , it follows that  $\text{Soc}(Q) = \text{Soc}(H_\sigma(N))$  and we are done. If now  $\sigma$  is a finite ordinal number, say  $n$ , then  $\text{Soc}(Q) = \text{Soc}(H_n(M)) \supseteq \text{Soc}(H_n(N))$  and so it is easy to check that  $\text{Soc}(Q) = \text{Soc}(H_k(N))$  for some natural number  $k$ , as required.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.** *If  $M$  is a projectively socle-regular  $QTAG$ -module and  $L$  is a large submodule of  $M$ , then  $L$  is projectively socle-regular.*

In the end we would like to mention an open problem as follows:

**Problem.** *If  $M$  is a socle-regular  $QTAG$ -module with finite  $H_\omega(M)$ , does it follow that  $M$  is projectively socle-regular?*

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