

On inverse operations in the lattices of submodules

A. I. Kashu

*Dedicated to Prof. V.V. Kirichenko
on the occasion of his seventieth birthday*

ABSTRACT. In the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ of submodules of an arbitrary left R -module ${}_R M$ four operations were introduced and investigated in the paper [3]. In the present work the approximations of inverse operations for two of these operations (for α -product and ω -coproduct) are defined and studied. Some properties of *left quotient* with respect to α -product and *right quotient* with respect to ω -coproduct are shown, as well as their relations with the lattice operations in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ (sum and intersection of submodules). The particular case ${}_R M = {}_R R$ of the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R R)$ of left ideals of the ring R is specified.

1. Preliminaries

Let R be an associative ring with unity and $R\text{-Mod}$ be the category of unitary left R -modules. We denote by $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the lattice of submodules of an arbitrary left R -module ${}_R M$, and by $\mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$ the lattice of *characteristic* (fully invariant) submodules of ${}_R M$ (i.e. submodules $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ such that $f(N) \subseteq N$ for every $f : {}_R M \rightarrow {}_R M$).

We remind that a *preradical* r in the category $R\text{-Mod}$ is a subfunctor of identity functor of $R\text{-Mod}$, i.e. $r(M) \subseteq M$ and $f(r(M)) \subseteq r(M')$ for every

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$f : {}_R M \rightarrow {}_R M'$ ([4], [5], [6]). Every pair $N \subseteq M$, where $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, defines two preradicals α_N^M and ω_N^M by the rules:

$$\alpha_N^M(X) = \sum_{f: M \rightarrow X} f(N), \quad \omega_N^M(X) = \bigcap_{f: X \rightarrow M} f^{-1}(N),$$

for each $X \in R\text{-Mod}$. We mention the following two particular cases: every module ${}_R M$ defines the preradical r^M by $r^M(X) = \sum_{f: M \rightarrow X} \text{Im } f$ (i.e. $r^M = \alpha_M^M$) and the preradical r_M by $r_M(X) = \bigcap_{f: X \rightarrow M} \text{Ker } f$ (i.e. $r_M = \omega_0^M$). We denote by $\text{Gen}({}_R M)$ the class of modules generated by ${}_R M$.

Using the preradicals of types α_N^M and ω_N^M , in the works [1], [2] and [3] four operations in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ were introduced and studied for an arbitrary module ${}_R M$. We remind two of these operations (α -product and ω -coproduct), which will be used in continuation.

Definition 1.1. Let $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. The α -product of K and N is defined as the following submodule of ${}_R M$:

$$K \cdot N = \alpha_K^M(N) = \sum_{f: M \rightarrow N} f(K).$$

In the next statement we give some properties of this operation ([1], [2], [3]).

Proposition 1.1. 1) *The operation of α -product is monotone in both variables:*

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 \subseteq K_2 &\Rightarrow K_1 \cdot N \subseteq K_2 \cdot N, \text{ for every } N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M); \\ N_1 \subseteq N_2 &\Rightarrow K \cdot N_1 \subseteq K \cdot N_2, \text{ for every } K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M). \end{aligned}$$

$$2) K \cdot N = 0 \Leftrightarrow K \subseteq \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow N} \text{Ker } f (= r_N(M)); \text{ in particular, } 0 \cdot N = 0 \text{ and } K \cdot 0 = 0.$$

$$3) M \cdot N = \sum_{f: M \rightarrow N} f(M) (= r^M(N)); M \cdot N = N \Leftrightarrow N \in \text{Gen}({}_R M).$$

$$4) (K \cdot N) \cdot L \subseteq K \cdot (N \cdot L), \text{ for every } K, N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M).$$

5) *If ${}_R M$ is a projective module, then the operation of α -product is associative, i.e. $(K \cdot N) \cdot L = K \cdot (N \cdot L)$, for every $K, N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.*

$$6) \left(\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha \right) \cdot N = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (K_\alpha \cdot N), \text{ for every } K_\alpha, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M).$$

7) *If ${}_R M = {}_R R$, then the α -product of two left ideals $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ coincides with their ordinary product in the ring R : $K \cdot N = KN$. \square*

Now we remind the definition of ω -coproduct in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ and some properties of this operation ([1], [2], [3]).

Definition 1.2. Let $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. The ω -coproduct of N and K is defined as the following submodule of ${}_R M$:

$$\begin{aligned} N \odot K &= \pi_N^{-1}(\omega_K^M(M/N)) = \{m \in M \mid m + N \in \bigcap_{f: M/N \rightarrow M} f^{-1}(K)\} = \\ &= \{m \in M \mid f(m + N) \in K \quad \forall f: M/N \rightarrow M\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\pi_N: M \rightarrow M/N$ is the natural morphism. Therefore:

$$(N \odot K)/N = \omega_K^M(M/N) = \bigcap_{f: M/N \rightarrow M} f^{-1}(K).$$

In other form:

$$N \odot K = \{m \in M \mid g(m) \in K \quad \forall g: M \rightarrow M, g(N) = 0\}.$$

In the next statement we enumerate some properties of ω -coproduct which are necessary for the further investigations.

Proposition 1.2. 1) $N \odot K \supseteq N$, for every $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$; if $K \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$, then $N \odot K \supseteq K$.

2) $M \odot K = M$, for every $K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$; $N \odot M = M$, for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

3) $0 \odot K$ is the greatest characteristic submodule of M which is contained in K ; therefore, if $K \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$, then $0 \odot K = K$.

4) $N \odot 0 = \pi_N^{-1}(\bigcap_{f: M/N \rightarrow N} \text{Ker } f) = \pi_N^{-1}(r_M(M/N))$, for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

5) The operation of ω -coproduct is monotone in both variables.

6) $(N \odot K) \odot L \subseteq N \odot (K \odot L)$, for every $K, L, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

7) If the module ${}_R M$ is injective and artinian, then the operation of ω -coproduct in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ is associative:

$$(N \odot K) \odot L = N \odot (K \odot L), \text{ for every } K, L, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M).$$

8) $N \odot (\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N \odot K_\alpha)$, for every $N, K_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

9) If ${}_R M = {}_R R$, then $N \odot K = (K \odot (0 \odot N))_l$, for every left ideals $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R R)$. \square

2. Left quotient with respect to α -product

Now we introduce a new operation in the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, which in some sense can be considered as an (approximation of) inverse operation for the α -product (just as the left quotient $(N : K)_l = \{a \in R \mid aK \subseteq N\}$ of left ideals of R can be considered as the inverse operation for the product of left ideals in R).

Definition 2.1. Let $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. The **left quotient** of N by K with respect to α -product is defined as the greatest among submodules $L_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ with the property $L_\alpha \cdot K \subseteq N$. We denote this submodule by $N / . K$ and observe that it is defined by the conditions:

- a) $(N / . K) \cdot K \subseteq N$;
- b) if $L \cdot K \subseteq N$ for some $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, then $L \subseteq N / . K$.

The next statement is useful for applications.

Proposition 2.1. *If $K, N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, then:*

$$L \cdot K \subseteq N \Leftrightarrow L \subseteq N / . K.$$

Proof. (\Rightarrow) The condition *b)* in Definition 2.1.

(\Leftarrow) If $L \subseteq N / . K$, then by the monotony of α -product and condition *a)*, we have: $L \cdot K \subseteq (N / . K) \cdot K \subseteq N$. □

From the properties of α -product *the existence* of the left quotient for every pair of submodules follows.

Proposition 2.2. *For every submodules $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ there exists the left quotient $N / . K$ with respect to α -product and it can be represented in the form:*

$$N / . K = \sum \{L_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M) \mid L_\alpha \cdot K \subseteq N\}.$$

Proof. The indicated family of submodules L_α with $L_\alpha \cdot K \subseteq N$ is not empty, since it contains the submodule 0 , because $0 \cdot K = 0 \subseteq N$. By the distributivity of α -product with respect to the sum of submodules (Proposition 1.1, 6)) we obtain: $\left(\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} L_\alpha\right) \cdot K = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (L_\alpha \cdot K) \subseteq N$. Therefore the submodule $\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} L_\alpha$ satisfied the condition *a)*, and by construction it is clear that it is the greatest submodule with this property. □

In continuation we indicate other two forms of the left quotient $N / . K$ with respect to α -product.

Proposition 2.3. *For every submodules $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ we have:*

$$N / . K = \{l \in M \mid f(l) \in N \ \forall f : M \rightarrow K\}.$$

Proof. Denote by L the right side of this relation. Then $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ and since $f(L) \subseteq N$ for every $f : M \rightarrow K$, we obtain $L \cdot K = \sum_{f : M \rightarrow K} f(L) \subseteq N$. Moreover, if $L_1 \cdot K \subseteq N$ for some $L_1 \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, then $\sum_{f : M \rightarrow K} f(L_1) \subseteq N$, so $f(L_1) \subseteq N$ for every $f : M \rightarrow K$. From definition

of L we have $L_1 \subseteq L$, therefore L is the greatest submodule of M with $L \cdot K \subseteq N$, i.e. $L = N / . K$. \square

Corollary 2.4. $N / . K = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} f^{-1}(N \cap K)$ for every $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. (\supseteq) If $l \in \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} f^{-1}(N \cap K)$, then $f(l) \in N$ for every $f : M \rightarrow K$, so by Proposition 2.3 $l \in N / . K$.

(\subseteq) If $l \in N / . K$, then $f(l) \in N \cap K$ for every $f : M \rightarrow K$ (Proposition 2.3), therefore $l \in f^{-1}(N \cap K)$ for every $f : M \rightarrow K$, i.e. $l \in \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} f^{-1}(N \cap K)$. \square

Now we will show the value of left quotient $N / . K$ in some particular cases.

Proposition 2.5. 1) If $K \subseteq N$, then $N / . K = M$. If $K \in \text{Gen}({}_R M)$, then the inverse implication is true: $N / . K = M \Rightarrow K \subseteq N$. In particular, $N / . 0 = M$ for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ and $M / . K = M$ for every $K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

2) If $N = 0$, then $0 / . K = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} \text{Ker } f = r_K(M)$ for every $K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

3) If $K = M$, then for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the left quotient $N / . M$ is the greatest characteristic submodule of M which is contained in N .

Proof. 1) If $K \subseteq N$, then by Corollary 2.4

$$N / . K = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} f^{-1}(N \cap K) = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} f^{-1}(K) = M.$$

If $K \in \text{Gen}({}_R M)$, then every element $k \in K$ is of the form $k = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(m_i)$, where $f_i : M \rightarrow K$ and $m_i \in M$. Therefore, if $N / . K = M$ then $f_i(m_i) \in N$, for every $i = 1, \dots, n$, so $k \in N$, i.e. $K \subseteq N$.

2) It follows from definitions:

$$0 / . K = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} f^{-1}(K \cap 0) = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} f^{-1}(0) = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow K} \text{Ker } f = r_K(M).$$

3) If $K = M$, then by Corollary 2.4

$$L = N / . M = \bigcap_{f: M \rightarrow M} f^{-1}(N) \subseteq N,$$

since for $f = 1_M$ we have $f^{-1}(N) = N$.

Moreover, the submodule $L = N / . M$ is characteristic in ${}_R M$. Indeed, for every $g : M \rightarrow M$ and $l \in L$ we have $f(g(l)) = (fg)(l) \in N$ for every $f : M \rightarrow M$, so $g(l) \in L$. Therefore $g(L) \subseteq L$, i.e. $L \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$.

If $L_1 \subseteq N$ and $L_1 \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$, then for every $f : M \rightarrow M$ and $l_1 \in L_1$ we have $f(l_1) \in L_1 \subseteq N$ and by definition of $L = N / . M$ it follows $l_1 \in L$, i.e. $L_1 \subseteq L$. Thus L is the greatest characteristic submodule in ${}_R M$ which is contained in N . \square

The next two statements show the connection between the left quotient $N / . K$ and the partial order (\subseteq) in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proposition 2.6. (Monotony in the numerator). *If $N_1 \subseteq N_2$, then $N_1 / . K \subseteq N_2 / . K$ for every $K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.*

Proof. If $N_1 \subseteq N_2$, then $(N_1 / . K) \cdot K \subseteq N_1 \subseteq N_2$ and by the definition of left quotient it follows that $N_1 / . K \subseteq N_2 / . K$. \square

Proposition 2.7. (Antimonotony in the denominator). *If $K_1 \subseteq K_2$, then $N / . K_2 \subseteq N / . K_1$ for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.*

Proof. From $K_1 \subseteq K_2$ and the monotony of α -product it follows: $(N / . K_2) \cdot K_1 \subseteq (N / . K_2) \cdot K_2 \subseteq N$, therefore $N / . K_2 \subseteq N / . K_1$. \square

Proposition 2.8. $(L \cdot N) / . N \supseteq L$ for every submodules $N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. By definition $(L \cdot N) / . N$ is the greatest among submodules L_α with $L_\alpha \cdot N \subseteq L \cdot N$, and since L is one of such submodules, we have $L \subseteq (L \cdot N) / . N$. \square

Some properties of the left quotient $N / . K$ with respect to α -product can be proved by assumption that the operation of α -product in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ is *associative* (for example, it is sufficient to suppose that the module ${}_R M$ is projective, see Proposition 1.1, 5)).

Proposition 2.9. *Let ${}_R M$ be a module with the property that in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the operation of α -product is associative. Then for every submodules $K, N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the following relations are true:*

- 1) $(N / . K) / . L = N / . (L \cdot K)$;
- 2) $(N / . K) / . (L / . K) \supseteq N / . L$;
- 3) $(N \cdot K) / . (L \cdot K) \supseteq N / . L$;
- 4) $N \cdot (K / . L) \subseteq (N \cdot K) / . L$.

Proof. 1) (\subseteq) From the definition of left quotient it follows:

$$N \supseteq (N / K) \cdot K, \quad N / K \supseteq [(N / K) / L] \cdot L.$$

Multiplying on the right the last relation by K and using the monotony and associativity of α -product, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} N &\supseteq (N / K) \cdot K \supseteq [(N / K) / L] \cdot L \cdot K = \\ &= [(N / K) / L] \cdot (L \cdot K). \end{aligned}$$

By definition of left quotient (or by Proposition 2.1) we have: $(N / K) / L \subseteq N / (L \cdot K)$.

(\supseteq) By definition of left quotient and associativity of α -product we obtain:

$$N \supseteq [N / (L \cdot K)] \cdot (L \cdot K) = ([N / (L \cdot K)] \cdot L) \cdot K,$$

therefore $N / K \supseteq [N / (L \cdot K)] \cdot L$, which means that $(N / K) / L \supseteq N / (L \cdot K)$.

2) This statement (as well as the property 3)) follows from 1), but we prefer the direct proof.

By definition $L \supseteq (L / K) \cdot K$. Applying the monotony and associativity of α -product we have:

$$N \supseteq (N / L) \cdot L \supseteq (N / L) \cdot [(L / K) \cdot K] = [(N / L) \cdot (L / K)] \cdot K.$$

Therefore $(N / L) \cdot (L / K) \subseteq N / K$, thus

$$N / L \subseteq (N / K) / (L / K).$$

3) From $(N / L) \cdot L \subseteq N$, associativity and monotony of α -product it follows:

$$(N / L) \cdot (L \cdot K) = [(N / L) \cdot L] \cdot K \subseteq N \cdot K,$$

therefore $N / L \subseteq (N \cdot K) / (L \cdot K)$.

4) The similar reasons as above imply $(K / L) \cdot L \subseteq K$ and $[N \cdot (K / L)] \cdot L = N \cdot [(K / L) \cdot L] \subseteq N \cdot K$, therefore $N \cdot (K / L) \subseteq (N \cdot K) / L$. \square

Now we will discuss the question of the relations between the left quotient N / K in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ and the lattice operations of $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ (sum and intersection of submodules).

Proposition 2.10. $(N_1 \cap N_2) / K = (N_1 / K) \cap (N_2 / K)$ for every submodules $N_1, N_2, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. (\subseteq) It follows from the monotony of left quotient in the numerator (Proposition 2.6).

(\supseteq) We denote the right side of relation by L . Then $L \subseteq N_1 / . K$ and $L \subseteq N_2 / . K$, therefore $L \cdot K \subseteq N_1$ and $L \cdot K \subseteq N_2$, so $L \cdot K \subseteq N_1 \cap N_2$ and $L \subseteq (N_1 \cap N_2) / . K$. \square

Corollary 2.11. $N / . K = (N \cap K) / . K$ for every $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. Since $K / . K = M$ (Proposition 2.5, 1)), from Proposition 2.10 it follows:

$$(N \cap K) / . K = (N / . K) \cap (K / . K) = (N / . K) \cap M = N / . K. \quad \square$$

Remark. The relation of Proposition 2.10 can be obviously generalized for every family of submodules $\{N_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \mathfrak{A}\} \subseteq \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$:

$$\left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} N_\alpha \right) / . K = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N_\alpha / . K).$$

Some more statements on this subject follow from the monotony and antimotony of Propositions 2.6 and 2.7.

Proposition 2.12. 1) $(N_1 + N_2) / . K \supseteq (N_1 / . K) + (N_2 / . K)$;

$$2) N / . (K_1 + K_2) \subseteq (N / . K_1) \cap (N / . K_2);$$

$$3) N / . (K_1 \cap K_2) \supseteq (N / . K_1) + (N / . K_2). \quad \square$$

The next two statements show when the cancellation properties for the left quotient hold, supplementing Proposition 2.8.

Proposition 2.13. For every submodules $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the following conditions are equivalent:

$$1) (N \cdot K) / . K = N;$$

$$2) N = L / . K \text{ for some submodule } L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M).$$

Proof. 1) \Rightarrow 2) is obvious.

2) \Rightarrow 1). If $N = L / . K$, then using the inclusion $(L / . K) \subseteq L$ and the monotony of left quotient in the numerator, we obtain:

$$(N \cdot K) / . K = [(L / . K) \cdot K] / . K \subseteq L / . K = N.$$

By Proposition 2.8 $(N \cdot K) / . K \supseteq N$, therefore $(N \cdot K) / . K = N$. \square

Proposition 2.14. *For every submodules $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the following conditions are equivalent:*

- 1) $(N /_ . K) \cdot K = N$;
- 2) $N = L \cdot K$ for some submodule $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. 1) \Rightarrow 2) is obvious.

2) \Rightarrow 1). Let $N = L \cdot K$. By definition $(N /_ . K) \cdot K \subseteq N$ and by Proposition 2.8 $(L \cdot K) /_ . K \supseteq L$. Now the monotony implies:

$$(N /_ . K) \cdot K = [(L \cdot K) /_ . K] \cdot K \supseteq L \cdot K = N,$$

therefore $(N /_ . K) \cdot K = N$. \square

Finishing this section we consider the particular case when ${}_R M = {}_R R$.

Proposition 2.15. *In the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R R)$ of left ideals of the ring R the left quotient $N /_ . K$ of left ideals $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R R)$ coincides with their ordinary left quotient in R :*

$$N /_ . K = (N : K)_l = \{a \in R \mid aK \subseteq N\}.$$

Proof. In the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R R)$ the α -product coincides with the ordinary product of left ideals in R (Proposition 1.1, 7)): $L \cdot K = LK$. So we have $(N : K)_l K \subseteq N$ and it is obvious that $(N : K)_l$ is the greatest left ideal of R with this property. \square

Since the α -product (\equiv product) of left ideals in $\mathbf{L}({}_R R)$ is associative (${}_R R$ is projective), all mentioned above properties of left quotients hold in the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R R)$.

3. Right quotient with respect to ω -coproduct

In this section we introduce and investigate the inverse operation for the ω -coproduct (see Section 1) in the lattice of submodules $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ of an arbitrary module ${}_R M \in R\text{-Mod}$.

Definition 3.1. Let $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. The **right quotient** of K by N with respect to ω -coproduct is defined as the least submodule $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ with the property $N \odot L \supseteq K$. We denote this submodule by $N \odot \setminus K$. It is determined by the conditions:

- a) $N \odot (N \odot \setminus K) \supseteq K$;
- b) if $N \odot L \supseteq K$ for some $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, then $L \supseteq N \odot \setminus K$.

The right quotient $N \circlearrowleft K$ is described by the following statement.

Proposition 3.1. *If $K, N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, then:*

$$K \subseteq N \odot L \Leftrightarrow N \circlearrowleft K \subseteq L.$$

Proof. (\Rightarrow) The condition *b*) of Definition 3.1.

(\Leftarrow) If $N \circlearrowleft K \subseteq L$, then from the condition *a*) and the monotony of the operation \odot it follows:

$$K \subseteq N \odot (N \circlearrowleft K) \subseteq N \odot L. \quad \square$$

From the properties of ω -coproduct (Proposition 1.2) the *existence* of the right quotient $N \circlearrowleft K$ for every pair of submodules of ${}_R M$ follows.

Proposition 3.2. *For every submodules $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ there exists the right quotient $N \circlearrowleft K$ with respect to ω -coproduct, and it can be presented in the form:*

$$N \circlearrowleft K = \bigcap \{L_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M) \mid N \odot L_\alpha \supseteq K\}.$$

Proof. Since $N \odot M = M \supseteq K$, the indicated family of submodules is not empty. By Proposition 1.2, 8) we have:

$$N \odot \left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} L_\alpha \right) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N \odot L_\alpha) \supseteq K,$$

therefore $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} L_\alpha$ has the property *a*), while *b*) follows from construction. □

Remark. For every submodules $N, K, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ from the definition of $N \odot L$ it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} N \odot L \supseteq K &\Leftrightarrow f(k + N) \in L \quad \forall k \in K, \quad \forall f : M/N \rightarrow N \Leftrightarrow \\ &\Leftrightarrow f((K + N)/N) \subseteq N \quad \forall f : M/N \rightarrow N. \end{aligned}$$

Now we can indicate another form of representation of the right quotient $N \circlearrowleft K$.

Proposition 3.3. *If $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ then:*

$$N \circlearrowleft K = \sum_{f : M/N \rightarrow N} f((K + N)/N).$$

Proof. We denote the right side of this relation by L . Since $f((K + N)/N) \subseteq L$ for every $f : M/N \rightarrow N$, from the above remark we have $N \odot L \supseteq K$.

If $N \odot L' \supseteq K$ for some $L' \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, then $f((K + N)/N) \subseteq L'$ for every $f : M/N \rightarrow N$ and so $L \subseteq L'$. Therefore L is the least submodule of ${}_R M$ with $N \odot L \supseteq K$, i.e. $L = N \circlearrowleft K$. □

Proposition 3.4. *If $K \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$, then $N \circlearrowleft K \subseteq K$ for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.*

Proof. From $K \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$ it follows that $K \subseteq N \odot K$ (Proposition 1.2, 1)), therefore by Proposition 3.1 we have $N \circlearrowleft K \subseteq K$. \square

Now we indicate the behaviour of the right quotient with respect to the order relation (\subseteq) of $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proposition 3.5. (Monotony in the numerator). *If $K_1 \subseteq K_2$, then $N \circlearrowleft K_1 \subseteq N \circlearrowleft K_2$ for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.*

Proof. By definition $N \odot (N \circlearrowleft K_2) \supseteq K_2 \supseteq K_1$, therefore Proposition 3.1 implies: $N \circlearrowleft K_2 \supseteq N \circlearrowleft K_1$. \square

Proposition 3.6. (Antimonotony in the denominator). *If $N_1 \subseteq N_2$, then $N_2 \circlearrowleft K \subseteq N_1 \circlearrowleft K$ for every $K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.*

Proof. By definition of right quotient, using the inclusion $N_1 \subseteq N_2$ and the monotony of ω -coproduct, we obtain:

$$K \subseteq N_1 \odot (N_1 \circlearrowleft K) \subseteq N_2 \odot (N_1 \circlearrowleft K),$$

therefore by Proposition 3.1 $N_2 \circlearrowleft K \subseteq N_1 \circlearrowleft K$. \square

Proposition 3.7. *For every submodules $N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ we have the relation:*

$$N \circlearrowleft (N \odot L) \subseteq L.$$

Proof. If we denote $K = N \odot L$, then by Proposition 3.1 from the inclusion $K \subseteq N \odot L$ it follows that $N \circlearrowleft K \subseteq L$. \square

The next statement show the value of the right quotient $N \circlearrowleft K$ in some particular cases.

Proposition 3.8. 1) *If $K \subseteq N$, then $N \circlearrowleft K = 0$. Therefore:*

- a) *if $N = M$, then $M \circlearrowleft K = 0$ for every $K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$;*
- b) *if $K = 0$, then $N \circlearrowleft 0 = 0$ for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$;*
- c) *if $N = K$, then $N \circlearrowleft N = 0$.*

2) *If $N = 0$, then $0 \circlearrowleft K$ is the least characteristic submodule of M which contains K ; so if $K \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$, then $0 \circlearrowleft K = K$.*

3) *If $K = M$, then $N \circlearrowleft M = \sum_{f: M/N \rightarrow M} \text{Im } f$ ($= r^{M/N}(M)$) for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.*

Proof. 1) Let $K \subseteq N$. Since $N \circlearrowleft K = \cap \{L_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M) \mid N \odot L_\alpha \supseteq K\}$, we have $N \odot L_\alpha \supseteq N \supseteq K$ for every $L_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. Therefore $\cap L_\alpha = 0$, i.e. $N \circlearrowleft K = 0$.

2) If $N = 0$, then from Proposition 3.3 we obtain:

$$L = 0 \circlearrowleft K = \sum_{f: M \rightarrow M} f(K) = \alpha_K^M(M) \supseteq K.$$

Therefore $L = 0 \circlearrowleft K$ is a characteristic submodule of M containing K . If $K' \in \mathbf{L}^{ch}({}_R M)$ and $K \subseteq K'$, then $f(K') \subseteq K'$ for every $f : M \rightarrow M$ and so $f(K) \subseteq f(K') \subseteq K'$. Therefore $L = \sum_{f: M \rightarrow M} f(K) \subseteq K'$ and $L = 0 \circlearrowleft K$ is the least characteristic submodule of M containing K .

3) If $K = M$, then for every $N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ by definition of right quotient $N \circlearrowleft M = \cap \{L_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M) \mid N \odot L_\alpha = M\}$. Now by definition of ω -coproduct we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} N \odot L_\alpha = M &\Leftrightarrow \omega_{L_\alpha}^M(M/N) = M/N \Leftrightarrow \text{Im } f \subseteq L_\alpha \quad \forall f : M/N \rightarrow M \Leftrightarrow \\ &\Leftrightarrow \sum_{f: M/N \rightarrow M} \text{Im } f \subseteq L_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$N \circlearrowleft M = \cap \{L_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M) \mid \sum_{f: M/N \rightarrow M} \text{Im } f \subseteq L_\alpha\} = \sum_{f: M/N \rightarrow M} \text{Im } f. \quad \square$$

Now we formulate some properties of the right quotient $N \circlearrowleft K$ which hold in the case when the operation of ω -coproduct in $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ is *associative* (Proposition 1.2, 7)).

Proposition 3.9. *Let ${}_R M$ be a module with the property that in the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the operation of ω -coproduct is associative. Then for every submodules $K, N, L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the following relations hold:*

- 1) $L \circlearrowleft (N \circlearrowleft K) = (N \odot L) \circlearrowleft K$;
- 2) $(L \circlearrowleft N) \circlearrowleft (L \circlearrowleft K) \subseteq N \circlearrowleft K$;
- 3) $(L \odot N) \circlearrowleft (L \odot K) \subseteq N \circlearrowleft K$;
- 4) $L \circlearrowleft (N \odot K) \subseteq (L \circlearrowleft N) \odot K$.

Proof. 1) (\supseteq) By definition, $K \subseteq N \odot (N \circlearrowleft K)$ and $N \circlearrowleft K \subseteq L \odot [L \circlearrowleft (N \circlearrowleft K)]$. By the monotony and the associativity of ω -coproduct we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} K \subseteq N \odot (N \circlearrowleft K) &\subseteq N \odot [L \odot (L \circlearrowleft (N \circlearrowleft K))] = \\ &= (N \odot L) \odot [L \circlearrowleft (N \circlearrowleft K)]. \end{aligned}$$

From Proposition 3.1 it follows that $(N \odot L) \oslash K \subseteq L \oslash (N \oslash K)$.

(\subseteq) The inverse inclusion in 1) is obtained by the definition of right quotient and associativity of ω -coproduct:

$$K \subseteq (N \odot L) \odot [(N \odot L) \oslash K] = N \odot [L \odot ((N \odot L) \oslash K)].$$

Applying Proposition 3.1 we have $N \oslash K \subseteq L \odot [(N \odot L) \oslash K]$ and $L \oslash (N \oslash K) \subseteq (N \odot L) \oslash K$.

2) By definition, $N \subseteq L \odot (L \oslash N)$. From the monotony and associativity of ω -coproduct it follows:

$$\begin{aligned} K \subseteq N \odot (N \oslash K) &\subseteq [L \odot (L \oslash N)] \odot (N \oslash K) = \\ &= L \odot [(L \oslash N) \odot (N \oslash K)]. \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 3.1 $L \oslash K \subseteq (L \oslash N) \odot (N \oslash K)$, therefore $(L \oslash N) \oslash (L \oslash K) \subseteq N \oslash K$.

3) By definition, $K \subseteq N \odot (N \oslash K)$. From the monotony and associativity of ω -coproduct it follows:

$$L \odot K \subseteq L \odot [N \odot (N \oslash K)] = (L \odot N) \odot (N \oslash K),$$

therefore $(L \odot N) \oslash (L \odot K) \subseteq N \oslash K$.

4) In a similar way we have $N \subseteq L \odot (L \oslash N)$ and

$$N \odot K \subseteq [L \odot (L \oslash N)] \odot K = L \odot [(L \oslash N) \odot K],$$

therefore $L \oslash (N \odot K) \subseteq (L \oslash N) \odot K$. □

Now we will indicate some relations between the right quotient with respect to ω -coproduct and the lattice operations of $\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{R}M)$.

Proposition 3.10. *For every $N \in \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{R}M)$ and every family of submodules $\{K_\alpha \in \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{R}M) \mid \alpha \in \mathfrak{A}\}$ the following relation holds:*

$$N \oslash \left(\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha \right) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N \oslash K_\alpha).$$

Proof. (\supseteq) It follows from the monotony of right quotient in the numerator (Proposition 3.5).

(\subseteq) We denote $N_0 = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N \oslash K_\alpha)$. Since $N \oslash K_\alpha \subseteq N_0$ for every $\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}$, by the definition and monotony we have:

$$K_\alpha \subseteq N \odot (N \oslash K_\alpha) \subseteq N \odot N_0$$

for every $\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}$. Therefore $\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha \subseteq N \odot N_0$ and from Proposition 3.1 it follows that $N \oslash \left(\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha \right) \subseteq N_0$. □

Corollary 3.11. $N \oslash K = N \oslash (K + N)$ for every $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. Since $N \oslash N = 0$ (Proposition 3.8, 1)), from Proposition 3.10 it follows:

$$N \oslash (K + N) = (N \oslash K) + (N \oslash N) = N \oslash K. \quad \square$$

We formulate also some more relations between the right quotient and the lattice operations of $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$, which immediately follow from the properties of monotony and antimotony of Propositions 3.5 and 3.6.

Proposition 3.12. *In the lattice $\mathbf{L}({}_R M)$ the following relations hold:*

- 1) $N \oslash \left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha \right) \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N \oslash K_\alpha)$;
- 2) $\left(\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} N_\alpha \right) \oslash K \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N_\alpha \oslash K)$;
- 3) $\left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} N_\alpha \right) \oslash K \supseteq \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N_\alpha \oslash K)$. □

In the next two statements it is shown when the cancellation properties hold (see Proposition 3.7).

Proposition 3.13. *Let $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- 1) $N = K \oslash (K \odot N)$;
- 2) $N = K \oslash L$ for some submodule $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. 1) \Rightarrow 2) is obvious.

2) \Rightarrow 1). Let $N = K \oslash L$, where $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. By definition and monotony we have $K \odot (K \oslash L) \supseteq L$ and

$$K \oslash [K \odot (K \oslash L)] \supseteq K \oslash L.$$

From Proposition 3.7 the inverse inclusion follows and so we obtain:

$$N = K \oslash L = K \oslash [K \odot (K \oslash L)] = K \oslash (K \odot N). \quad \square$$

Proposition 3.14. *Let $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- 1) $N = K \odot (K \oslash N)$;
- 2) $N = K \odot L$ for some submodule $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$.

Proof. 1) \Rightarrow 2) is obvious.

2) \Rightarrow 1). Let $N = K \odot L$, where $L \in \mathbf{L}({}_R M)$. From Proposition 3.7 it follows that $K \oslash (K \odot L) \subseteq L$ and by monotony

$$K \odot [K \oslash (K \odot L)] \subseteq K \odot L.$$

On the other hand, from the definition the inverse inclusion follows, therefore:

$$N = K \odot L = K \odot [K \oslash (K \odot L)] = K \odot (K \oslash N). \quad \square$$

Finally, we consider the case ${}_R M = {}_R R$ and show the form of the right quotient $N \oslash K$ for the left ideals of the ring R . It is known (Proposition 1.2, 9)) that for every $N, K \in \mathbf{L}({}_R R)$ the ω -coproduct of these left ideals is of the form:

$$N \odot K = (K : (0 : N)_r)_l = \{a \in R \mid ab \in K \ \forall b \in R, Nb = 0\}.$$

Proposition 3.15. $N \oslash K = K \cdot (0 : N)_r$, for every left ideals $K, N \in \mathbf{L}({}_R R)$, where $(0 : N)_r = \{b \in R \mid Nb = 0\}$.

Proof. Denote $L = K \cdot (0 : N)_r$, and verify the conditions a) and b) of Definition 3.1.

a) Since $N \odot L = (L : (0 : N)_r)_l$, we have:

$$N \odot L = N \odot [K \cdot (0 : N)_r] = ([K \cdot (0 : N)_r] : (0 : N)_r)_l \supseteq K.$$

b) If $N \odot L_0 \supseteq K$, then $(L_0 : (0 : N)_r)_l \supseteq K$, therefore $K \cdot (0 : N)_r \subseteq L_0$, i.e. $L \subseteq L_0$. \square

This form of the right quotient in $\mathbf{L}({}_R R)$ is convenient for proving a series of properties of this operation. For example (see Proposition 3.10):

$$\begin{aligned} N \oslash \left(\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha \right) &= \left(\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} K_\alpha \right) \cdot (0 : N)_r = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (K_\alpha \cdot (0 : N)_r) = \\ &= \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} (N \oslash K_\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

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CONTACT INFORMATION

A. I. Kashu

Institute of Mathematics and Computer
Science, Academy of Sciences of Moldova,
5 Academiei str., Chişinău,
MD – 2028 MOLDOVA
E-Mail: kashuai@math.md

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