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*Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal*, Vol. 53 (2003), No. 2, 277–287

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/127799>

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## MODULES WITH THE DIRECT SUMMAND SUM PROPERTY

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(Received February 27, 2000)

*Abstract.* The present work gives some characterizations of  $R$ -modules with the direct summand sum property (in short DSSP), that is of those  $R$ -modules for which the sum of any two direct summands, so the submodule generated by their union, is a direct summand, too. General results and results concerning certain classes of  $R$ -modules (injective or projective) with this property, over several rings, are presented.

*Keywords:* modules, direct summands, sum property, Artinian rings

*MSC 2000:* 16D10, 16D40, 16D50, 16D60, 16D70

### 1. PRELIMINARIES

In [11] we have proposed the following open problem for solving: “Characterize the  $R$ -modules (the abelian groups) in which the sum of two direct summands is again a direct summand.” This problem is the dual of Kaplansky’s ([6, ex. 51, p. 49]) and Fuchs’s ([4, problem 9, p. 96]) problems. The first solutions to this problem were obtained in [11]. The present work gives other solutions of this problem, that is, other characterizations of  $R$ -modules with the direct summand sum property (in short DSSP), that is of those  $R$ -modules for which the sum of any two direct summands, so the submodule generated by their union, is a direct summand, too. Throughout this paper we will denote by  $R$  an associative ring with unity, the modules, when not specified, will be considered left over these rings. Other (supplementary) conditions about the ring  $R$  or the  $R$ -modules will be imposed when needed.

The paper is structured in two sections: in this first section we present the definitions and the results obtained in [11] concerning the  $R$ -modules with DSSP that we need here, while in the second section the results of general character and results concerning certain classes of  $R$ -modules with DSSP are presented.

**Definitions.** If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module, we say that  $M$  has

1) the direct summand intersection property (in short DSIP) if the intersection of any two direct summands of  $M$  is a direct summand, too;

2) the strong direct summand intersection property (in short SDSIP) if the intersection of any number of direct summands of  $M$  is again a direct summand of  $M$ ;

3) the direct summand sum property (in short DSSP) if the sum (that is the submodule of  $M$  generated by the union) of any two direct summands of  $M$  is a direct summand, too;

4) the strong direct summand sum property (in short SDSSP) if the sum (that is the submodule of  $M$  generated by the union) of any number of direct summands of  $M$  is again a direct summand of  $M$ .

**Remark 1.1.** If an  $R$ -module has SDSIP, it also has DSIP; the converse is generally false (see [12, p. 32]).

**Remark 1.2.** If an  $R$ -module has SDSSP, it also has DSSP; the converse is generally false.

*P r o o f.* Let  $R$  be a left hereditary non-Noetherian ring. Then there is an infinite family  $\{M_i\}_{i \in I}$  of injective  $R$ -modules such that  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i$  is not injective. By Zorn's Lemma, choose such an independent family. Then the  $R$ -module  $M = \prod_{i \in I} M_i$  is injective and has DSSP (see (2.11)), but  $\sum_{i \in I} M_i = \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i$  is not a direct summand in  $M$ . It follows that  $M$  does not have SDSSP.  $\square$

We will present further on the principal results obtained in solving the problem of the  $R$ -modules with DSSP, results published in [11], and those needed here.

(1.3) Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and let  $S_M = \{T \leq M \mid T \text{ is a direct summand in } M\}$ . If  $M$  has both DSIP and DSSP then  $S_M$  is a lattice, that is  $S_M$  is a sublattice of the lattice  $S(M)$  of all submodules of  $M$ . If  $M$  has either SDSIP or SDSSP then  $S_M$  is a complete lattice, that is  $S_M$  is a complete sublattice of  $S(M)$ .

(1.4) Let  $R$  be a principal ideal ring, in particular a local Dedekind domain, and let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module which has a non-null divisible submodule. If  $M$  has DSIP then  $S_M$  is a complete lattice.

(1.5) Let  $R$  be an Artinian ring. Then the following statements are equivalent:

- a) All injective  $R$ -modules have DSIP.
- b) The ring  $R$  is (left) hereditary.
- c) All injective  $R$ -modules have DSSP.

(1.6) The statement from (1.5) is not valid for all Noetherian rings; for example: the ring  $\mathbb{Z}$  of integers is a hereditary Noetherian ring and there are divisible abelian groups which do not have DSIP.

(1.7) Let  $R$  be an Artinian domain. Then the following statements are equivalent:

- a) All injective  $R$ -modules have SDSIP.
- b) All injective  $R$ -modules have DSIP.
- c) The ring  $R$  is (left) hereditary.
- d) For all injective  $R$ -modules  $M$ ,  $S_M$  is a complete lattice.
- e) All injective  $R$ -modules have DSSP.
- f) Every injective  $R$ -module  $M$  is either
  - i) torsion-free, or
  - ii) of torsion, and every indecomposable direct summand of  $M$  is fully invariant.

## 2. MODULES (AND RINGS) WITH DSSP

In this section we will present a series of results of general character, concerning the  $R$ -modules with DSSP. We begin our investigations with a few results analogous to those for  $R$ -modules with DSIP presented in [2], [5] and/or [12].

**Remark 2.1.** If the  $R$ -module  $M$  has DSSP (SDSSP), then every direct summand of  $M$  also has DSSP (respectively SDSSP).

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module with DSSP and let  $A$  be a direct summand in  $M$ . If  $T$  and  $S$  are two direct summands in  $A$ , then  $T + S$  is a direct summand in  $M$ , but contained in  $A$ . It follows that  $T + S$  is a direct summand in  $A$  and  $A$  has DSSP. The proof for SDSSP is similar. □

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  has DSSP if and only if for every pair of direct summands  $T$  and  $S$ ,  $\pi^{-1}(\pi(T))$  is a direct summand of  $M$ , where  $\pi: M \rightarrow S$  is the canonical projection of  $M$  along  $S$ .*

*Proof.* We suppose that  $M$  has DSSP. If  $T$  and  $S$  are direct summands of  $M$  and  $\pi: M \rightarrow S$  is the canonical projection of  $M$  along  $S$ , then  $\pi^{-1}(\pi(T)) = T + S'$  is a direct summand in  $M$ , where  $S'$  is a complement of  $S$  in  $M$ . Conversely, if  $M = S \oplus S' = T \oplus T'$  and  $\varrho: M \rightarrow S'$  is the canonical projection of  $M$  along  $S'$ , then  $\varrho^{-1}(\varrho(T)) = T + S$  is a direct summand in  $M$  and thus  $M$  has DSSP. □

The converse of (2.1) is true for fully invariant direct summands.

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $M = \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i$  be an  $R$ -module, where for every  $i \in I$ ,  $M_i$  is fully invariant in  $M$ . Then  $M$  has DSSP (SDSSP) if and only if for every  $i \in I$ ,  $M_i$  has DSSP (respectively SDSSP).

*Proof.* We suppose that  $M$  has DSSP. By virtue of (2.1), for every  $i \in I$ ,  $M_i$  has DSSP. Conversely, we suppose that for every  $i \in I$ ,  $M_i$  has DSSP. Let  $T$  and  $S$  be two direct summands in  $M$ ,  $M = S \oplus S' = T \oplus T'$ . Then, according to the hypothesis,  $M_i = (S \cap M_i) \oplus (S' \cap M_i) = (T \cap M_i) \oplus (T' \cap M_i)$  for every  $i \in I$ . It follows that  $M = \bigoplus_{i \in I} [(S \cap M_i) \oplus (S' \cap M_i)] = \left[ \bigoplus_{i \in I} (S \cap M_i) \right] \oplus \left[ \bigoplus_{i \in I} (S' \cap M_i) \right]$ , and  $S = \bigoplus_{i \in I} (S \cap M_i)$ . Analogously we obtain that  $T = \bigoplus_{i \in I} (T \cap M_i)$ . It follows that  $T + S = \left[ \bigoplus_{i \in I} (S \cap M_i) \right] + \left[ \bigoplus_{i \in I} (T \cap M_i) \right] = \bigoplus_{i \in I} [(S \cap M_i) + (T \cap M_i)] = \bigoplus_{i \in I} D_i$ , where  $D_i = (S \cap M_i) + (T \cap M_i)$  is, according to the hypothesis, a direct summand in  $M_i$ . Hence  $T + S$  is a direct summand in  $M$  and thus  $M$  has DSSP. The proof for SDSSP is similar.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $R$  be a principal ideal domain and  $P$  the set of all unassociated prime elements from  $R$ . If  $M = \bigoplus_{p \in P} M_p$  is a torsion  $R$ -module, decomposed according to [8, 6.11.3], then  $M$  has DSSP (SDSSP) if and only if for every  $p \in P$ ,  $M_p$  has DSSP (respectively SDSSP).

*Proof.* Let the ring  $R$  and the  $R$ -module  $M = \bigoplus_{p \in P} M_p$  be the same as in the statement. Since  $M_p$  is fully invariant in  $M$  for every  $p \in P$ , we can apply (2.3).  $\square$

**Proposition 2.5.** If the  $R$ -module  $M$  has DSSP, then the following statements hold:

- 1) For every decomposition  $M = A \oplus B$  and every homomorphism  $f: A \rightarrow B$ ,  $\text{Im } f$  is a direct summand in  $B$ .
- 2) If  $A$  and  $B$  are indecomposable  $R$ -modules and  $A \oplus B$  is a direct summand in  $M$ , then either
  - i)  $\text{Hom}(A, B) = 0$  or
  - ii) if  $0 \neq f \in \text{Hom}(A, B)$  then  $f$  is an epimorphism.

*Proof.* 1) Let  $S$  be the submodule of  $M$  generated by the set  $\{x + f(x) \mid x \in A\}$ . Then  $S + B = S \oplus B = A \oplus B = M$ , since  $S \cap B = 0$ . So  $S + A = A + \text{Im } f = A \oplus \text{Im } f$  is a direct summand in  $M$ . It follows that  $\text{Im } f$  is a direct summand of  $M$ , which is contained in  $B$ ; so  $\text{Im } f$  is a direct summand in  $B$ .

2) Let  $A$  and  $B$  be the same two  $R$ -modules as in the statement and let  $0 \neq f \in \text{Hom}(A, B)$ . Then, according to the hypothesis and to what has been proved in point 1),  $\text{Im } f = B$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.6.** The converse of (2.5) 1) is generally false.

*Proof.* Indeed, let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring which is not hereditary. Then, according to (2.11), there is an injective  $R$ -module  $M$  which does not have DSSP, but which can satisfy the conditions from (2.5) 1).  $\square$

As in [12], using (2.5) we can classify some rings  $R$  in terms of which  $R$ -modules have DSSP, and we can improve these results.

**Theorem 2.7.** *The following statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ :*

- 1)  $R$  is Artinian semi-simple.
- 2) All  $R$ -modules have SDSSP.
- 3) All  $R$ -modules have DSSP.
- 4) All projective  $R$ -modules have DSSP.

*Proof.* It is obvious that 1) implies 2) implies 3) implies 4). We are going to show that 4) implies 1). Let  $P$  be a projective  $R$ -module and let  $N$  be a submodule of  $P$ . Choose a free  $R$ -module  $F$  and an epimorphism  $f: F \rightarrow N$ . According to the hypothesis,  $F \oplus P$  has DSSP. So  $N = \text{Im } f$  is a direct summand in  $P$ . It follows that any submodule of  $P$  is a direct summand in  $P$ . According to [1, 9.6],  $P$  and any quotient  $R$ -module of  $P$  are semi-simple  $R$ -modules, since any homomorphic image of a semi-simple  $R$ -module is again a semi-simple  $R$ -module (see [10, 3.6]). Since each  $R$ -module is isomorphic to a quotient module of a projective  $R$ -module, it follows that, in our case, each  $R$ -module is isomorphic to a semi-simple  $R$ -module; so  $R$  is semi-simple. In this case any  $R$ -module is injective; let  $M$  be such an  $R$ -module and let  $T$  and  $S$  be two submodules of  $M$ . Then  $T \cap S$  is a submodule of  $M$ ; so  $T \cap S$  is a direct summand in  $M$ . It follows that  $T \cap S$  is injective and  $M$  satisfies the conditions from [3, Theorem 8, p. 62]. According to [3, p. 63],  $R$  is Artinian.  $\square$

Now the result from [12, Proposition 3.b] can be improved:

**Corollary 2.8.** *The following statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ :*

- 1)  $R$  is Artinian semi-simple.
- 2) All  $R$ -modules have SDSSP.
- 3) All  $R$ -modules have DSSP.
- 4) All projective  $R$ -modules have DSSP.
- 5) All  $R$ -modules have SDSIP.
- 6) All  $R$ -modules have DSIP.
- 7) All injective  $R$ -modules have DSIP.
- 8) For all  $R$ -modules  $M$ ,  $S_M (= S(M))$  is a complete lattice.
- 9) For all  $R$ -modules  $M$ ,  $S_M (= S(M))$  is a lattice.

**Proof.** The equivalence of these statements follows from (2.7), (1.3) and from [12, Proposition 3.b)].  $\square$

**Corollary 2.9.** *If all projective  $R$ -modules have DSSP, then  $R$  is left hereditary.*

**Proof.** Any semi-simple ring is left hereditary according to [9, p. 73]. (Otherwise: it follows from the proof of the above theorem that any submodule of a projective  $R$ -module is, in its turn, projective; therefore  $R$  is left hereditary according to [9, 4.10]).  $\square$

**Remark 2.10.** The converse of (2.9) is generally false, since if  $R$  is left hereditary, then the sum of any two direct summands of a projective  $R$ -module  $M$  is a projective submodule of  $M$ , which is not necessarily a direct summand (in  $M$ ); in fact not any left hereditary ring is semi-simple (see  $\mathbb{Z}$ ).

Using [3, Proposition 10, p. 62], for injective  $R$ -modules it can be easily proved that the statements from points (1.5) b) and (1.5) c) are equivalent for any ring  $R$ . So we have the following result:

**Theorem 2.11.** *The following statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ :*

- a) *All injective  $R$ -modules have DSSP.*
- b)  *$R$  is left hereditary.*

For Noetherian rings  $R$ , all  $R$ -modules have a unique maximal injective direct summand if and only if  $R$  is left hereditary (see [13, Theorem 2]). Now we are going to show that over any Noetherian ring, modules with DSSP have a unique direct summand of this kind, a result which is analogous to the one in [12, Proposition 5].

**Theorem 2.12.** *Let  $M$  be a module over a Noetherian ring  $R$ . If  $M$  has DSSP, then  $M$  has a unique maximal injective direct summand.*

**Proof.** According to Zorn's Lemma, we can choose a maximal independent set  $\{E_i\}_{i \in I}$  of indecomposable injective submodules of  $M$ . Since  $R$  is Noetherian,  $E = \bigoplus_{i \in I} E_i$  is injective too and so  $E$  is a direct summand in  $M$ . We claim that  $E$  contains all injective submodules of  $M$ . Let  $F$  be an injective submodule of  $M$ . According to the hypothesis,  $E + F$  is a direct summand in  $M$ . Suppose that  $F \not\subseteq E$ . Then  $E + F = E \oplus G$  with  $G \neq 0$ —a direct summand in  $M$ . It follows that  $F \setminus E \subseteq G$ . Let  $x \in F \setminus E$  and let  $F_1$  be the least direct summand of  $F$  which contains  $x$ . Then  $F_1$  is not a direct summand in  $E$ , but  $F_1$  has a direct summand in  $G$ . In this case the set  $\{E_i\}_{i \in I}$  does not contain all indecomposable direct summands of  $F_1$ ; so we have obtained a contradiction to the choice of  $\{E_i\}_{i \in I}$ .

It follows that  $F \subseteq E$  and  $E$  is the unique maximal injective direct summand of  $M$ .  $\square$

Now we prove the following

**Proposition 2.13.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative Artinian ring and let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be two indecomposable injective  $R$ -modules such that  $E_1$  is isomorphic to  $E_2$  and  $E_1 \oplus E_2$  has DSSP. Then there is a prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  such that for every  $0 \neq x \in E_1$ ,  $\text{Ann}(x) = P$ . ( $\text{Ann}(x)$  is the annihilator of  $x$ .)*

*Proof.* Let  $f: E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  be an isomorphism of  $R$ -modules. We suppose that there are  $x, y \in E_1 \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $\text{Ann}(x) \neq \text{Ann}(y)$ . We consider  $a \in \text{Ann}(x) \setminus \text{Ann}(y)$  and define  $g: E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  by: for every  $m \in E_1$ ,  $g(m) = f(am)$ . It is obvious that  $g$  is a homomorphism of  $R$ -modules. According to the hypothesis and to (2.5) 1),  $\text{Im } g$  is a direct summand in  $E_2$ , so either  $\text{Im } g = 0$  or  $\text{Im } g = E_2$ . Let us remark that  $g(x) = f(ax) = f(0) = 0$  and  $g(y) = f(ay) \neq 0$ . Hence  $g$  is neither null nor a monomorphism. It follows that  $\text{Im } g = E_2$ , so  $g$  is an epimorphism. Then  $f^{-1}g$  is an epimorphism, too. Since  $R$  is Artinian, according to [10, p. 120]  $E_1$  is a Noetherian  $R$ -module. According to the hypothesis and to [8, 6.5.8] it follows that  $f^{-1}g$  is an automorphism; so  $g$  is a monomorphism and  $\ker g = 0$ , which is impossible, since  $\ker g \neq 0$ . Hence all elements of  $E_1 \setminus \{0\}$  have the same annihilator; let it be  $P$ . So  $P = \text{Ann}(E_1 \setminus \{0\})$ . Let  $m \in E_1 \setminus \{0\}$  and let us suppose that  $rs \in P$ , and  $r \notin P$ . Then  $rm \neq 0$  and  $P \subseteq \text{Ann}(rm)$  for every  $m \in E_1 \setminus \{0\}$ . But  $\text{Ann}(rm) = P$  and since  $rs m = 0$ , it follows that  $s \in P$ . Therefore  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ .  $\square$

Now, for Artinian rings, the result from [12, Proposition 6] can be improved in the following way:

**Theorem 2.14.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative Artinian ring and let  $E$  be an injective  $R$ -module. The following statements are equivalent:*

- 1)  $E$  has DSIP.
- 2)  $E$  has SDSIP.
- 3)  $E$  has SDSSP.
- 4)  $E$  has DSSP.

*Proof.* According to [10, p. 78], [12, Proposition 6], [7, 1.4.47] and (1.2), we have that 1) is equivalent to 2) which is equivalent to 3) which implies 4). So we are going to show only that 4) implies 3). Let  $E$  be an injective  $R$ -module with DSSP. Then  $E = \bigoplus_{i \in I} E_i$ , where for every  $i \in I$ ,  $E_i$  is an indecomposable injective  $R$ -module of  $E$ . Let  $J_i = \{k \in I \mid E_k \cong E_i\}$ . Then we obtain the following equivalence relationship over  $I$ , denoted by “ $\approx$ ”:  $i_1 \approx i_2$  if and only if  $E_{i_1} \cong E_{i_2}$ , and  $\{J_i\}_{i \in I}$  is the partition corresponding to “ $\approx$ ” over  $I$ . So  $E = \bigoplus_{i \in I} E_i^*$ , where  $E_i^* =$



$\bigoplus_{k \in J_i} E_k$ . Since  $\text{Hom}(E_{i_1}^*, E_{i_2}^*) = \text{Hom}\left(\bigoplus_{k \in J_{i_1}} E_k, \bigoplus_{l \in J_{i_2}} E_l\right)$  is isomorphically embedded in  $\text{Hom}\left(\bigoplus_{k \in J_{i_1}} E_k, \prod_{l \in J_{i_2}} E_l\right) = \prod_{k \in J_{i_1}} \prod_{l \in J_{i_2}} \text{Hom}(E_k, E_l) = 0$ , according to [4, 43.1], [4, 43.2] and (2.5) 2) we obtain that for every  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  which are not equivalent,  $E_{i_1}^*$  and  $E_{i_2}^*$  are fully invariant. According to (2.3), it suffices to show that each  $E_i^*$  has SDSSP. So, for every  $i \in I$ ,  $E_i^*$  is a direct sum of isomorphic indecomposable injective submodules. If  $E_i^*$  is indecomposable, then it has SDSSP. If  $E_i^*$  is not indecomposable, then there is a prime ideal  $P$  of  $R$  such that  $E_k = E(R/P)$  for every  $k \in J_i$  and  $\text{Ann}(x) = P$  for every  $x \in E_k \setminus \{0\}$  according to [10, Theorem 2.32, Corollary] and (2.13). Then, for every  $k \in J_i$ ,  $E_k$  is a torsion-free injective module over the domain  $R/P$ . It follows that for every  $k \in J_i$ ,  $E_k$  is isomorphic to the quotient field of  $R/P$ . Under these conditions  $E_i^* = \bigoplus_{k \in J_i} E_k = \bigoplus_{k \in J_i} E(R/P)$  is a vector space over this field and thus  $E_i^*$  has SDSSP, too.  $\square$

**Remark 2.15.** Let  $M$  be an indecomposable  $R$ -module and let  $M^* = M \oplus M$ . Then the following statements hold:

- i) If  $M^*$  has DSIP, then each  $0 \neq f \in \text{End}(M)$  is a monomorphism.
- ii) If  $M^*$  has DSSP, then each  $0 \neq f \in \text{End}(M)$  is an epimorphism.
- iii) If  $M^*$  has both DSIP and DSSP, then  $\text{End}(M)$  is a division ring.

*P r o o f.* Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module as in the statement.

- i) If  $M^*$  has DSIP, then, according to [5, 1.4], for every endomorphism  $f$  of  $M$ ,  $\ker f$  is a direct summand in  $M$ . So, either  $\ker f = 0$  or  $\ker f = M$ , that is either  $f$  is a monomorphism or  $f = 0$ .
- ii) We can apply (2.5) 2) for  $A = B = M$ .
- iii) The statement of this point follows from what we have proved in points i) and ii).  $\square$

From (1.7), (2.14) and (2.15) we obtain

**Corollary 2.16.** *The following statements are equivalent for a commutative Artinian ring  $R$ :*

- 1)  $R$  is semi-simple.
- 2) All  $R$ -modules have SDSSP.
- 3) All  $R$ -modules have DSSP.
- 4) All projective  $R$ -modules have DSSP.
- 5) All  $R$ -modules have SDSIP.
- 6) All  $R$ -modules have DSIP.
- 7) All injective  $R$ -modules have DSIP.

- 8) All injective  $R$ -modules have SDSIP.
- 9) All injective  $R$ -modules have DSSP.
- 10) All injective  $R$ -modules have SDSSP.
- 11) The ring  $R$  is left hereditary.
- 12) For all  $R$ -modules  $M$ ,  $S_M$  is a complete lattice.
- 13) For all  $R$ -modules  $M$ ,  $S_M$  is a lattice.
- 14) For all injective  $R$ -modules  $M$ ,  $S_M$  is a complete lattice.
- 15) For all injective  $R$ -modules  $M$ ,  $S_M$  is a lattice.
- 16) Every injective  $R$ -module  $M$  is either
  - i) torsion-free and for every indecomposable direct summand  $A$  of  $M$ ,  $\text{End}(A)$  is a division ring, or
  - ii) of torsion, and every indecomposable direct summand of  $M$  is fully invariant.

At the end of this section we are going to see under what conditions the ring  $E = \text{End}(M)$  of all endomorphisms of an  $R$ -module  $M$  has DSSP. To this aim, we will first prove the following technical result:

**Lemma 2.17.** *If  $\pi_1, \pi_2$  and  $\pi$  are three idempotent endomorphisms of an  $R$ -module  $M$  such that  $\pi_1 M + \pi_2 M = \pi M$ , then  $\pi_1 E + \pi_2 E = \pi E$ , where  $E = \text{End}(M)$ .*

*Proof.* First, we remark that for every idempotent  $\alpha \in E$ ,  $\alpha(M) = (\alpha E)M$ . Since  $\pi_1 M + \pi_2 M = \pi M$ , it follows that  $\pi_1 M \subseteq \pi M$  and  $\pi_2 M \subseteq \pi M$ . Then  $(\pi_1 E)M \subseteq (\pi E)M$  and  $(\pi_2 E)M \subseteq (\pi E)M$ . It follows that  $\pi_1 E \subseteq \pi E$  and  $\pi_2 E \subseteq \pi E$ ; therefore

$$(1) \quad \pi_1 E + \pi_2 E \subseteq \pi E.$$

Since  $(\pi_1 E)M + (\pi_2 E)M = (\pi E)M$ , it follows that

$$(2) \quad \pi E \subseteq \pi_1 E + \pi_2 E.$$

From the relationships (1) and (2) we obtain the desired equality. □

Now, we can prove a result analogous to [2, Theorem].

**Theorem 2.18.** *An  $R$ -module  $M$  has DSSP if and only if*

- (i)  $E = \text{End}(M)$  has DSSP, as a right  $E$ -module, and
- (ii) for all idempotents  $\pi$  and  $\varrho$  in  $E$ ,  $\pi M + \varrho M = (\pi E + \varrho E)M$ .

*Proof.* We suppose that  $M$  has DSSP. Then, for every  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ -idempotents in  $E$ , there is a  $\pi$ -idempotent in  $E$  such that  $\pi_1M + \pi_2M = \pi M$ . Then, according to (2.17),  $\pi_1E + \pi_2E = \pi E$  and  $\pi_1M + \pi_2M = \pi M = (\pi E)M = (\pi_1E + \pi_2E)M$ .

Conversely, we suppose that the statements (i) and (ii) hold and let  $T$  and  $S$  be two direct summands of  $M$ . If  $\pi_1: M \rightarrow T$  and  $\pi_2: M \rightarrow S$  are the canonical projections of  $M$  along  $T$  and  $S$  respectively, then  $\pi_1E$  and  $\pi_2E$  are direct summands in  $E$ . According to the hypothesis, there is an idempotent  $\pi \in E$  such that  $\pi_1E + \pi_2E = \pi E$ . Then  $\pi M = (\pi E)M = (\pi_1E + \pi_2E)M = \pi_1M + \pi_2M = T + S$  is a direct summand in  $M$ . Therefore  $M$  has DSSP.  $\square$

For the rings with DSSP we have

**Proposition 2.19.** *If a ring  $R$  has DSSP as a right  $R$ -module, then the following statements hold:*

- (i) *For every idempotent  $e \in R$  and every  $r \in (1 - e)Re$ , the right ideal  $rR$  is projective.*
- (ii) *For every idempotent  $e \in R$  and every  $r, s \in (1 - e)Re$ ,  $rR + sR = (r + s)R \oplus L$ , where  $L$  is a direct summand in  $R$  with the property that  $rL = sL = 0$ .*

*Proof.* (i) We observe that in this case  $R = \text{End}_R(R_R)$ . If  $e = e^2 \in R$  and  $r \in (1 - e)Re$ , then  $r^2 = 0$  (which can be checked immediately) and there is a direct decomposition of  $R$  which assumes the form  $R = I \oplus J$  with  $rR = rI \subseteq J$  and  $rJ = 0$ . According to the hypothesis and to (2.5) 1),  $rI$  is a direct summand in  $J$ . If  $R = I \oplus rI \oplus K$ , where  $K$  is a direct summand in  $J$  with the property that  $rK = 0$ , then  $rR$  is a direct summand in  $R$ . It follows that  $rR$  is a projective ideal of  $R$ .

(ii) According to what we have proved in point (i), for every  $e \in R$  and every  $r, s \in (1 - e)Re$ , the ideals  $rR$  and  $sR$  are direct summands in  $R$ . It can be easily proved that then  $r + s \in (1 - e)Re$  and

$$(3) \quad rs = sr = 0;$$

so  $(r + s)R$  is a direct summand, too (in  $R$ ), contained in the direct summand  $rR + sR$ . It follows that

$$(4) \quad rR + sR = (r + s)R \oplus L,$$

where  $L$  is a direct summand in  $R$ . From the relationships (3) and (4) we obtain that  $rL = sL = 0$ .  $\square$

Let  $M$  and  $N$  be two  $R$ -modules. If we denote by  $S_M(N)$  the  $M$ -socle of  $N$ , that is the sum of all homomorphic images of  $M$  in  $N$ , then (2.19) and [2, p. 523] yield

**Corollary 2.20.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. If the ring  $E = \text{End}_R(M)$  has DSSP as a right  $E$ -module, then the following statements hold:*

- (i) *For every  $\pi = \pi^2 \in E$  and every  $\varepsilon \in (1 - \pi)E\pi$ ,  $S_M(\ker \varepsilon)$  is a direct summand in  $M$ .*
- (ii) *For every  $\pi = \pi^2 \in E$  and every  $\sigma, \tau \in (1 - \pi)E\pi$ ,  $\sigma E + \tau E = (\sigma + \tau)E \oplus L$ , where  $L$  is a direct summand in  $E$  with the property that  $\sigma L = \tau L = 0$ .*

**Acknowledgement.** I use the opportunity to express my gratitude to Professors G. Călugăreanu (from Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and R. Wisbauer (from Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf, Germany) for useful suggestions they gave me at revision of this paper.

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