

## ABSORBING ELEMENTS IN LATTICE MODULES

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper we introduce and investigate 2-absorbing,  $n$ -absorbing,  $(n, k)$ -absorbing, weakly 2-absorbing, weakly  $n$ -absorbing and weakly  $(n, k)$ -absorbing elements in a lattice module  $M$ . Some characterizations of 2-absorbing and weakly 2-absorbing elements of  $M$  are obtained. By counter example it is shown that a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$  need not be 2-absorbing. Finally we show that if  $N \in M$  is a 2-absorbing element, then  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .

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### 1. Introduction

The concept of 2-absorbing and weakly 2-absorbing ideals in commutative rings was introduced by A. Badawi in [4] and A. Badawi et. al. in [5] respectively as a generalization of prime and weakly prime ideals. D. F. Anderson et. al. in [3] generalized the concept of 2-absorbing ideals to  $n$ -absorbing ideals. A. Y. Darani et. al. in [8] generalized the concept of 2-absorbing and weakly 2-absorbing ideals to submodules of a module over a commutative ring. Further this concept was extended to  $n$ -absorbing submodules by A. Y. Darani et. al. in [9]. In multiplicative lattices, the study of 2-absorbing elements and weakly 2-absorbing elements was done by C. Jayaram et. al. in [11] while the study of  $n$ -absorbing elements and weakly  $n$ -absorbing elements was done by S. Ballal et. al. in [6]. Our aim is to extend the notion of absorbing elements in a multiplicative lattice to a notion of absorbing elements in lattice modules and study its properties.

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  $e \in L$  is called *meet principal* if  $a \wedge be = ((a : e) \wedge b)e$  for all  $a, b \in L$ . An element  $e \in L$  is called *join principal* if  $(ae \vee b) : e = (b : e) \vee a$  for all  $a, b \in L$ . An element  $e \in L$  is called *principal*

if  $e$  is both meet principal and join principal. An element  $a \in L$  is called *compact* if for  $X \subseteq L$ ,  $a \leq \vee X$  implies the existence of a finite number of elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  in  $X$  such that  $a \leq a_1 \vee a_2 \vee \dots \vee a_n$ . The set of compact elements of  $L$  will be denoted by  $L_*$ . If each element of  $L$  is a join of compact elements of  $L$ , then  $L$  is called a *compactly generated lattice* or simply a *CG-lattice*.  $L$  is said to be a *principally generated lattice* or simply a *PG-lattice* if each element of  $L$  is the join of principal elements of  $L$ . Throughout this paper  $L$  denotes a compactly generated multiplicative lattice with 1 compact in which every finite product of compact elements is compact.

An element  $a \in L$  is said to be *proper* if  $a < 1$ . A proper element  $p \in L$  is called a *prime element* if  $ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b \leq p$  where  $a, b \in L$  and is called a *primary element* if  $ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b^n \leq p$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  where  $a, b \in L_*$ . A proper element  $p \in L$  is called a *weakly prime element* if  $0 \neq ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b \leq p$  where  $a, b \in L$  and is called a *weakly primary element* if  $0 \neq ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b^n \leq p$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  where  $a, b \in L_*$ . A proper element  $q \in L$  is called *p-primary* if  $q$  is primary and  $p = \sqrt{q}$  is prime. A proper element  $q \in L$  is called *p-weakly primary* if  $q$  is weakly primary and  $p = \sqrt{q}$  is weakly prime. For  $a, b \in L$ ,  $(a : b) = \vee\{x \in L \mid xb \leq a\}$ . The radical of  $a \in L$  is denoted by  $\sqrt{a}$  and is defined as  $\vee\{x \in L_* \mid x^n \leq a, \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$ . An element  $a \in L$  is said to be *nilpotent* if  $a^n = 0$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . A multiplicative lattice  $L$  is said to be a *reduced lattice* if  $0 \in L$  is the only nilpotent element of  $L$ . The reader is referred to [2] for general background and terminology in multiplicative lattices.

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: (1)  $(\vee_{\alpha} a_{\alpha})A = \vee_{\alpha} a_{\alpha} A$ , (2)  $a(\vee_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}) = \vee_{\alpha} a A_{\alpha}$ , (3)  $(ab)A = a(bA)$ , (4)  $1A = A$ , (5)  $0A = O_M$ , for all  $a, a_{\alpha}, b \in L$  and  $A, A_{\alpha} \in M$  where 1 is the supremum of  $L$  and 0 is the infimum of  $L$ . We denote by  $O_M$  and  $I_M$  for the least element and the greatest element of  $M$ , respectively. 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 an  $L$ -module. For  $N \in M$  and  $a \in L$ ,  $(N : a) = \vee\{X \in M \mid aX \leq N\}$ . For  $A, B \in M$ ,  $(A : B) = \vee\{x \in L \mid xB \leq A\}$ . An  $L$ -module  $M$  is called a *multiplication lattice module* if for every element  $N \in M$  there exists an element  $a \in L$  such that  $N = aI_M$ . An element  $N \in M$  is said to be *proper* if  $N < I_M$ . A proper element  $N \in M$  is said to be *prime* if for  $a \in L$  and  $X \in M$ ;  $aX \leq N$  implies  $X \leq N$  or  $a \leq (N : I_M)$ . A proper element  $N \in M$  is said to be *weakly prime* if for  $a \in L$  and  $X \in M$ ;  $O_M \neq aX \leq N$  implies  $X \leq N$  or  $a \leq (N : I_M)$ .

If  $N \in M$  is a prime element, then  $(N : I_M)$  is a prime element in  $L$ . An element  $N < I_M$  in  $M$  is said to be *primary* if for  $a \in L$  and  $X \in M$ ;  $aX \leq N$  implies  $X \leq N$  or  $a^n \leq (N : I_M)$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . An element  $N < I_M$  in  $M$  is said to be *weakly primary* if for  $a \in L$  and  $X \in M$ ;  $O_M \neq aX \leq N$  implies  $X \leq N$  or  $a^n \leq (N : I_M)$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . A proper element  $N \in M$  is said to be *p-primary* if  $N$  is primary and  $p = \sqrt{N : I_M}$  is prime. A proper element  $N \in M$  is said to be *p-weakly primary* if  $N$  is weakly primary and  $p = \sqrt{N : I_M}$  is weakly prime. An element  $N \in M$  is called a *radical element* if  $(N : I_M) = \sqrt{(N : I_M)}$  where  $\sqrt{(N : I_M)} = \vee \{x \in L_* \mid x^n \leq (N : I_M), \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} = \vee \{x \in L_* \mid x^n I_M \leq N, \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$ . An element  $N \in M$  is called *meet principal* if  $(b \wedge (B : N))N = bN \wedge B$  for all  $b \in L, B \in M$ . An element  $N \in M$  is called *join principal* if  $b \vee (B : N) = ((bN \vee B) : N)$  for all  $b \in L, B \in M$ . An element  $N \in M$  is said to be *principal* if  $N$  is both meet principal and join principal. An element  $N \in M$  is called *compact* if  $N \leq \bigvee_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}$  implies  $N \leq A_{\alpha_1} \vee A_{\alpha_2} \vee \cdots \vee A_{\alpha_n}$  for some finite subset  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \cdots, \alpha_n\}$ . The set of compact elements of  $M$  is denoted by  $M_*$ . If each element of  $M$  is a join of compact elements of  $M$ , then  $M$  is called a *CG-lattice L-module*. If  $(O_M : I_M) = 0$ , then  $M$  is called a *faithful L-module*.  $M$  is said to be a *PG-lattice L-module* if each element of  $M$  is the join of principal elements of  $M$ . For all the definitions in a lattice module and some other definitions, one can refer [7].

According to [11], a proper element  $q \in L$  is said to be a *2-absorbing* element if for every  $a, b, c \in L$ ;  $abc \leq q$  implies either  $ab \leq q$  or  $bc \leq q$  or  $ca \leq q$  and a proper element  $q \in L$  is said to be a *weakly 2-absorbing* element if for every  $a, b, c \in L$ ;  $0 \neq abc \leq q$  implies either  $ab \leq q$  or  $bc \leq q$  or  $ca \leq q$ . Obviously a prime element of  $L$  is a 1-absorbing element and a weakly prime element of  $L$  is a weakly 1-absorbing element. According to [6], a proper element of  $q \in L$  is said to be a *n-absorbing* element if for every  $a_1, a_2, \cdots, a_n, a_{n+1} \in L$ ;  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n a_{n+1} \leq q$  implies there are  $n$  of  $a'_i$ 's whose product is less than or equal to  $q$ , that is,  $\widehat{a}_i \leq q$  for some  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq (n+1)$ ) where  $\widehat{a}_i$  is the element  $a_1 \cdots a_{i-1} a_{i+1} \cdots a_n a_{n+1}$  and a proper element of  $q \in L$  is said to be a *weakly n-absorbing* element if for every  $a_1, a_2, \cdots, a_n, a_{n+1} \in L$ ;  $0 \neq a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n a_{n+1} \leq q$  implies there are  $n$  of  $a'_i$ 's whose product is less than or equal to  $q$ . In this paper we introduce and investigate 2-absorbing,  $n$ -absorbing,  $(n, k)$ -absorbing, weakly 2-absorbing, weakly  $n$ -absorbing and weakly  $(n, k)$ -absorbing elements in a lattice module  $M$ . We give characterization for 2-absorbing and weakly 2-absorbing elements of  $M$ . By counter example we show that a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$  need not be 2-absorbing. We establish a condition for a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$  to be a 2-absorbing

element. Finally we show if  $N \in M$  is a 2-absorbing element then  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .

This paper is motivated by [8] and [9]. Many of the results obtained in this paper are versions of results in [8] and [9]. It should be mentioned that there is a significant difference between our results and the already existing ones presented in [8] and [9], as principal elements of  $M$  are used in these proofs. We have generalized the important results of a multiplication module over a commutative ring obtained in [10] to a multiplication lattice module  $M$  over a multiplicative lattice  $L$ , using the principal elements so as to establish the results of  $rad(N)$ .

## 2. Absorbing elements in $M$

In this section we introduce and study absorbing elements of an  $L$ -module  $M$ . We begin with the following definitions.

**Definition 2.1.** A proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is said to be *2-absorbing* if for every  $a, b \in L$  and  $Q \in M$ ;  $abQ \leq N$  implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$ .

Obviously a prime element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is a 2-absorbing element. Also a prime element of  $M$  can be thought of as a 1-absorbing element.

**Definition 2.2.** A proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is said to be *weakly 2-absorbing* if for every  $a, b \in L$  and  $Q \in M$ ;  $O_M \neq abQ \leq N$  implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$ .

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . A proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is said to be  *$n$ -absorbing* if for every  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in L$  and  $Q \in M$ ;  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n Q \leq N$  implies either  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  or there are  $(n-1)$  of  $a'_i$ 's whose product with  $Q$  is less than or equal to  $N$ , that is, either  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $\widehat{a}_i Q \leq N$  for some  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) where  $\widehat{a}_i$  is the element  $a_1 \dots a_{i-1} a_{i+1} \dots a_n$ .

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . A proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is said to be *weakly  $n$ -absorbing* if for every  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in L$  and  $Q \in M$ ;  $O_M \neq a_1 a_2 \dots a_n Q \leq N$  implies either  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  or there are  $(n-1)$  of  $a'_i$ 's whose product with  $Q$  is less than or equal to  $N$ , that is, either  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $\widehat{a}_i Q \leq N$  for some  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) where  $\widehat{a}_i$  is the element  $a_1 \dots a_{i-1} a_{i+1} \dots a_n$ .

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $n, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  where  $n > k$ . A proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is said to be  *$(n, k)$ -absorbing* if for every  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in L$  and  $Q \in M$ ;  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n Q \leq N$  implies either there are  $k$  of the  $a'_i$ 's whose product is less than

or equal to  $(N : I_M)$  or there are  $(k - 1)$  of the  $a'_i$ 's whose product with  $Q$  is less than or equal to  $N$ .

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $n, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  where  $n > k$ . A proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is said to be *weakly  $(n, k)$ -absorbing* if for every  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in L$  and  $Q \in M$ ;  $O_M \neq a_1 a_2 \dots a_n Q \leq N$  implies either there are  $k$  of the  $a'_i$ 's whose product is less than or equal to  $(N : I_M)$  or there are  $(k - 1)$  of the  $a'_i$ 's whose product with  $Q$  is less than or equal to  $N$ .

Now we give the characterization of a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $M$  be a CG-lattice  $L$ -module and  $N$  be a proper element  $M$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .
- (2) for every  $a, b \in L$  and  $Q \in M$  such that  $N \leq Q$ ;  $abQ \leq N$  implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$ .
- (3) for every  $a, b \in L$  such that  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$ ; either  $(N : ab) = (N : a)$  or  $(N : ab) = (N : b)$ .
- (4) for any elements  $r, s \in L_*, K \in M_*$ ; if  $rsK \leq N$  then either  $rs \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $rK \leq N$  or  $sK \leq N$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) It is obvious.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) Suppose (2) holds. Let  $K \in M$  be such that  $K \leq (N : ab)$  and  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$  for  $a, b \in L$ . Then  $abK \leq N$ . Clearly  $ab(K \vee N) = (abK) \vee (abN) \leq N$ . Let  $U = K \vee N$ . Now as  $N \leq U$ ,  $abU \leq N$  and  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$ ; by (2) it follows that either  $aU \leq N$  or  $bU \leq N$  which implies either  $aK \leq N$  or  $bK \leq N$  and so either  $K \leq (N : a)$  or  $K \leq (N : b)$ . Hence we have either  $(N : ab) \leq (N : a)$  or  $(N : ab) \leq (N : b)$ . Obviously  $(N : a) \leq (N : ab)$  and  $(N : b) \leq (N : ab)$ . Thus either  $(N : ab) = (N : a)$  or  $(N : ab) = (N : b)$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) Suppose (3) holds. Let  $rsK \leq N$  and  $rs \not\leq (N : I_M)$  for  $r, s \in L_*, K \in M_*$ . Then by (3) we have either  $(N : rs) = (N : r)$  or  $(N : rs) = (N : s)$ . So as  $K \leq (N : rs)$  we have either  $K \leq (N : r)$  or  $K \leq (N : s)$ . Thus either  $rK \leq N$  or  $sK \leq N$ .

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Suppose (4) holds. Let  $abX \leq N$ ,  $aX \not\leq N$  and  $bX \not\leq N$  for  $a, b \in L, X \in M$ . As  $L$  and  $M$  are compactly generated, there exist  $r, s \in L_*$  and  $Y, Y' \in M_*$  such that  $r \leq a, s \leq b, Y \leq X, Y' \leq X, rY' \not\leq N$  and  $sY' \not\leq N$ . Then  $rs \leq ab$ . Now  $r, s \in L_*, (Y \vee Y') \in M_*$  such that  $rs(Y \vee Y') \leq abX \leq N, r(Y \vee Y') \not\leq N$  and  $s(Y \vee Y') \not\leq N$ . So by (4)  $rs \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$ . Therefore  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

A similar characterization of a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$  is as follows.

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let  $M$  be a CG-lattice  $L$ -module and  $N$  be a proper element of  $M$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $N$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .
- (2) For every  $a, b \in L$  and  $Q \in M$  such that  $N \leq Q$ ;  $O_M \neq abQ \leq N$  implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$ .
- (3) For every  $a, b \in L$  such that  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$ ; either  $(N : ab) = (O_M : ab)$  or  $(N : ab) = (N : a)$  or  $(N : ab) = (N : b)$ .
- (4) For every  $r, s \in L_*, K \in M_*$ ; if  $O_M \neq rsK \leq N$  then either  $rs \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $rK \leq N$  or  $sK \leq N$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) It is obvious.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) Suppose (2) holds. Let  $K \in M$  be such that  $K \leq (N : ab)$  and  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$  for  $a, b \in L$ . Then  $abK \leq N$ . If  $abK = O_M$ , then  $K \leq (O_M : ab)$ . If  $abK \neq O_M$ , then  $O_M \neq ab(K \vee N) = (abK) \vee (abN) \leq N$ . Let  $U = K \vee N$ . Now as  $N \leq U$ ,  $O_M \neq abU \leq N$  and  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$ ; by (2) it follows that either  $aU \leq N$  or  $bU \leq N$  which implies either  $aK \leq N$  or  $bK \leq N$  and so either  $K \leq (N : a)$  or  $K \leq (N : b)$ . Hence we have either  $(N : ab) \leq (O_M : ab)$  or  $(N : ab) \leq (N : a)$  or  $(N : ab) \leq (N : b)$ . Obviously  $(O_M : ab) \leq (N : ab)$ ,  $(N : a) \leq (N : ab)$  and  $(N : b) \leq (N : ab)$ . Thus either  $(N : ab) = (O_M : ab)$  or  $(N : ab) = (N : a)$  or  $(N : ab) = (N : b)$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) Suppose (3) holds. Let  $O_M \neq rsK \leq N$  and  $rs \not\leq (N : I_M)$  for  $r, s \in L_*, K \in M_*$ . Then by (3) we have either  $(N : rs) = (N : r)$  or  $(N : rs) = (N : s)$  or  $(N : rs) = (O_M : rs)$ . Since  $K \leq (N : rs)$  it follows that either  $K \leq (O_M : rs)$  or  $K \leq (N : r)$  or  $K \leq (N : s)$ . As  $K \leq (O_M : rs)$  gives  $rsK = O_M$ , a contradiction, we must have either  $K \leq (N : r)$  or  $K \leq (N : s)$  which implies either  $rK \leq N$  or  $sK \leq N$ .

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Suppose (4) holds. Let  $O_M \neq abX \leq N$ ,  $aX \not\leq N$  and  $bX \not\leq N$  for  $a, b \in L, X \in M$ . As  $L$  and  $M$  are compactly generated, there exist  $r, s \in L_*$  and  $Y, Y' \in M_*$  such that  $r \leq a, s \leq b, Y \leq X, Y' \leq X, rY' \not\leq N, sY' \not\leq N$  and  $O_M \neq rsY'$ . Then  $rs \leq ab$ . Now  $r, s \in L_*, (Y \vee Y') \in M_*$  such that  $O_M \neq rs(Y \vee Y') \leq abX \leq N, r(Y \vee Y') \not\leq N$  and  $s(Y \vee Y') \not\leq N$ . So by (4)  $rs \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$ . Therefore  $N$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

In the next theorem, we show that the meet and join of a family of ascending chain of 2-absorbing elements of  $M$  are again 2-absorbing.

**Theorem 2.9.** *Let  $\{N_i \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$  be a (ascending or descending) chain of 2-absorbing elements of an  $L$ -module  $M$ . Then*

- (1)  $\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .
- (2)  $\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$  if  $I_M$  is compact.

**Proof.** Let  $N_1 \leq N_2 \leq \dots \leq N_i \leq \dots$  be an ascending chain of 2-absorbing elements of  $M$ .

(1) Clearly,  $(\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i) \neq I_M$ . Let  $abQ \leq (\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i)$  and  $aQ \not\leq (\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i)$  for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Then  $aQ \not\leq N_j$  for some  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  but  $abQ \leq N_j$  which implies  $ab \leq (N_j : I_M)$  or  $bQ \leq N_j$  as  $N_j$  is a 2-absorbing element. Now let  $N_i \neq N_j$ . Then as  $\{N_i\}$  is a chain we have either  $N_i < N_j$  or  $N_j < N_i$ . If  $N_i < N_j$  then as  $N_i$  is a 2-absorbing element,  $abQ \leq N_i$  and  $aQ \not\leq N_i$  we have either  $ab \leq (N_i : I_M)$  or  $bQ \leq N_i$ . If  $N_j < N_i$  then either  $ab \leq (N_j : I_M) \leq (N_i : I_M)$  or  $bQ \leq N_j < N_i$ . Thus either  $ab \leq \bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} (N_i : I_M) = [(\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i) : I_M]$  or  $bQ \leq \bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i$  which proves that  $\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .

(2) Since  $I_M$  is compact,  $(\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i) \neq I_M$ . Let  $abQ \leq (\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i)$  and  $aQ \not\leq (\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i)$  for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Then as  $\{N_i\}$  is a chain we have  $abQ \leq N_j$  for some  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  but  $aQ \not\leq N_j$  which implies either  $abI_M \leq N_j \leq (\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i)$  or  $bQ \leq N_j \leq (\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i)$  as  $N_j$  is a 2-absorbing element and thus  $\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

The “weakly” version of above Theorem 2.9 is as follows.

**Theorem 2.10.** *Let  $\{N_i \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$  be a (ascending or descending) chain of weakly 2-absorbing elements of an  $L$ -module  $M$ . Then*

- (1)  $\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .
- (2)  $\bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} N_i$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$  if  $I_M$  is compact.

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.9 and hence omitted.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.11.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is a 2-absorbing element then  $(N : d)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$  for every  $d \in L$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $d, a, b \in L$  and  $Q \in M$ . Assume that  $abQ \leq (N : d)$ ,  $aQ \not\leq (N : d)$  and  $bQ \not\leq (N : d)$ . As  $ab(dQ) \leq N$ ,  $a(dQ) \not\leq N$ ,  $b(dQ) \not\leq N$  and  $N \in M$  is 2 absorbing we get  $abI_M \leq N$  which implies  $d(abI_M) \leq N$ . It follows that  $ab \leq ((N : d) : I_M)$  and hence  $(N : d)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

The following theorem shows that if an element in  $M$  (or  $L$ ) is 2-absorbing then its corresponding element in  $L$  (or  $M$ ) is also 2-absorbing.

**Theorem 2.12.** *Let  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module with  $I_M$  compact where  $L$  is also a PG-lattice. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .
- (2)  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ .
- (3)  $N = qI_M$  for some 2-absorbing element  $q \in L$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) Assume that  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ . Let  $abc \leq (N : I_M)$  such that  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$  and  $bc \not\leq (N : I_M)$  for  $a, b, c \in L$ . Then as  $ac(bI_M) \leq N$ ,  $a(bI_M) \not\leq N$ ,  $c(bI_M) \not\leq N$  and  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element we have  $ac \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Assume that  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ . Let  $abQ \leq N$  for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module,  $Q = qI_M$  for some  $q \in L$ . Then as  $abq \leq (N : I_M)$  and  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element we have either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $bq \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aq \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $bQ \leq N$  or  $aQ \leq N$  and hence  $N \in M$  is a 2-absorbing element.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) Assume that  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ . Then obviously (3) holds since in a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$  we have  $N = (N : I_M)I_M$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) Assume that  $N = qI_M$  for some 2-absorbing element  $q \in L$ . Also  $N = (N : I_M)I_M$  since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module. It follows that  $qI_M = (N : I_M)I_M$ . As  $I_M$  is compact, (2) holds by Theorem 5 of [7].  $\square$

In view of above Theorem 2.12 we give the following corollary without proof.

**Corollary 2.13.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is 2-absorbing, then  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ . The converse holds if  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module.*

The above Corollary 2.13 is true for “weakly” version provided  $M$  is faithful as shown below.

**Theorem 2.14.** *If a proper element  $N$  of a faithful  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing, then  $(N : I_M)$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $L$ . The converse holds if  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module.*

**Proof.** Assume that  $N$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$ . Let  $0 \neq abc \leq (N : I_M)$  such that  $ab \not\leq (N : I_M)$  and  $bc \not\leq (N : I_M)$  for  $a, b, c \in L$ . If  $acbI_M = O_M$  then as  $M$  is faithful we have  $abc \leq (O_M : I_M) = 0$ ; a contradiction. Now as  $N$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element with  $O_M \neq ac(bI_M) \leq N$ ,  $a(bI_M) \not\leq N$  and  $c(bI_M) \not\leq N$  we have  $ac \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ . Conversely assume that  $(N : I_M)$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of

$L$  and  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module. Let  $O_M \neq abQ \leq N$  for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module,  $Q = qI_M$  for some  $q \in L$ . If  $abq = 0$ , then  $abQ = O_M$ , a contradiction. Now as  $0 \neq abq \leq (N : I_M)$  and since  $(N : I_M)$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element we have either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $bq \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aq \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $bQ \leq N$  or  $aQ \leq N$  and hence  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

Result similar to Theorem 2.12 for a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$  is as follows.

**Theorem 2.15.** *Let  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module with  $I_M$  compact where  $L$  is also PG-lattice. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $N$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .
- (2)  $(N : I_M)$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $L$ .
- (3)  $N = qI_M$  for some weakly 2-absorbing element  $q \in L$ .

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.12 and hence omitted.  $\square$

Thus a proper element  $N$  of a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$  is a 2-absorbing element if and only if  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$  and a proper element  $N$  of a faithful multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element if and only if  $(N : I_M)$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of  $L$ .

**Theorem 2.16.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is prime, then  $N$  is a  $(2, 1)$ -absorbing element. The converse holds if  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module.*

**Proof.** Assume that  $N \in M$  is prime. Let  $abQ \leq N$  for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Then as  $N$  is prime we have either  $a \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $b \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $Q \leq N$  and we are done. Conversely assume that  $N \in M$  is  $(2, 1)$ -absorbing. Let  $aQ \leq N$  for  $a \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module,  $Q = qI_M$  for some  $q \in L$ . Then as  $a(qI_M) \leq N$  and  $N$  is  $(2, 1)$ -absorbing we have either  $a \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $q \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies either  $a \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $Q = qI_M \leq N$  and hence  $N$  is prime.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.17.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly prime, then  $N$  is a weakly  $(2, 1)$ -absorbing element. The converse holds if  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module.*

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.16 and hence omitted.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.18.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is 2-absorbing, then  $N$  is a  $(3, 2)$ -absorbing element. The converse holds if  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module.*

**Proof.** Assume that  $N \in M$  is 2-absorbing. Let  $abcQ \leq N$  for  $a, b, c \in L, Q \in M$ . Then by repeated use of the fact that  $N$  is 2-absorbing we get either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $[a(cQ) \leq N]$  or  $[b(cQ) \leq N]$  which implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $[ac \leq (N : I_M)]$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $cQ \leq N$  or  $[bc \leq (N : I_M)]$  or  $bQ \leq N$ . It follows that  $N$  is  $(3, 2)$ -absorbing. Conversely assume that  $N$  is a  $(3, 2)$ -absorbing element of a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$ . Let  $abQ \leq N$  for  $a, b \in L, Q \in M$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module,  $Q = qI_M$  for some  $q \in L$ . Then as  $ab(qI_M) \leq N$  and  $N$  is  $(3, 2)$ -absorbing we have either  $[abI_M \leq N]$  or  $[bqI_M \leq N]$  or  $[aqI_M \leq N]$  or  $[aI_M \leq N]$  or  $[bI_M \leq N]$  or  $[qI_M \leq N]$  which implies either  $[abI_M \leq N]$  or  $[bqI_M \leq N]$  or  $[aqI_M \leq N]$  or  $[baI_M \leq N]$  or  $[qbI_M \leq N]$  or  $[aqI_M \leq N]$ . It follows that either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $bQ \leq N$  or  $aQ \leq N$  and hence  $N$  is 2-absorbing.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.19.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing, then  $N$  is a weakly  $(3, 2)$ -absorbing element. The converse holds if  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module.*

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.18 and hence omitted.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.20.** *Let  $N$  be a proper element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  and  $n, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  such that  $n > k$ .*

- (1) *If  $N$  is  $(n, k)$ -absorbing, then  $N$  is  $(k + 1, k)$ -absorbing.*
- (2) *If  $N$  is  $(n, k)$ -absorbing, then  $N$  is  $(n, k')$ -absorbing for every positive integer  $k' > k$ .*

**Proof.** (1) Assume that  $N \in M$  is  $(n, k)$ -absorbing. Let  $a_1a_2 \cdots a_nQ \leq N$  where  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in L, Q \in M$ . Since  $N$  is  $(n, k)$ -absorbing it follows that either the product of any  $k$  of the  $a_i$ 's is less than or equal to  $(N : I_M)$  or there are  $(k - 1)$  of the  $a_i$ 's whose product with  $Q$  is less than or equal to  $N$  and hence  $N$  is  $(k + 1, k)$ -absorbing.

(2) Assume that  $N \in M$  is  $(n, k)$ -absorbing. Let  $k' \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  such that  $k' > k$ . Let  $a_1a_2 \cdots a_nQ \leq N$  where  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in L, Q \in M$ . Since  $N$  is  $(n, k)$ -absorbing, we have either  $b_1b_2 \cdots b_k \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $c_1c_2 \cdots c_{k-1}Q \leq N$  where these  $b_i$ 's and  $c_i$ 's are some of the  $a_i$ 's obtained on renaming. It follows that either  $bb_1b_2 \cdots b_k \leq (N : I_M)$  for any element  $b$  among  $a_i$ 's but other than  $b_i$ 's or  $cc_1c_2 \cdots c_{k-1}Q \leq N$  for any element  $c$  among  $a_i$ 's but other than  $c_i$ 's and hence continuing the same argument we get  $N$  is  $(n, k')$ -absorbing.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.21.** *Let  $N$  be a proper element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  and  $n, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  such that  $n > k$ .*

- (1) *If  $N$  is weakly  $(n, k)$ -absorbing, then  $N$  is weakly  $(k + 1, k)$ -absorbing.*
- (2) *If  $N$  is weakly  $(n, k)$ -absorbing, then  $N$  is weakly  $(n, k')$ -absorbing for every positive integer  $k' > k$ .*

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.20 and hence omitted.  $\square$

Corollary 2.13 for an  $n$ -absorbing element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is as follows.

**Theorem 2.22.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is  $n$ -absorbing, then  $(N : I_M)$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $L$ . The converse holds if  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module.*

**Proof.** Let  $N$  be an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $M$  and let  $\hat{a}_i = a_1 \cdots a_{i-1} a_{i+1} \cdots a_n$  where  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in L$ . Assume that  $a_1 \cdots a_n a_{n+1} \leq (N : I_M)$  and  $\hat{a}_i a_{n+1} \not\leq (N : I_M)$  for every  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ). Then as  $N$  is  $n$ -absorbing,  $a_1 \cdots a_n (a_{n+1} I_M) \leq N$  and  $\hat{a}_i a_{n+1} I_M \not\leq N$  we have  $a_1 \cdots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  which implies  $(N : I_M)$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $L$ . Conversely assume that  $(N : I_M)$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $L$  and  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module. Let  $a_1 \cdots a_n Q \leq N$  for  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module,  $Q = q I_M$  for some  $q \in L$ . Then as  $a_1 \cdots a_n q \leq (N : I_M)$  and since  $(N : I_M)$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element we have either  $a_1 \cdots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  or there exist  $(n - 1)$  of  $a'_i$ 's whose product with  $q$  is less than or equal to  $(N : I_M)$  which implies either  $a_1 \cdots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  or there exist  $(n - 1)$  of  $a'_i$ 's whose product with  $q I_M = Q$  is less than or equal to  $N$  and hence  $N$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.23.** *Let  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is  $n$ -absorbing then  $N$  is an  $m$ -absorbing element of  $M$  for all  $m > n$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  be such that  $m > n$ . Let  $x_1 \cdots x_m Q = x_1 \cdots x_n (x_{n+1} \cdots x_m Q) \leq N$  for  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . Then as  $N$  is  $n$ -absorbing, we have either  $x_1 \cdots x_n \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $x_1 \cdots x_{i-1} x_{i+1} \cdots x_n (x_{n+1} \cdots x_m Q) \leq N$  for some  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) which implies either  $x_1 \cdots x_n \cdots x_m \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $(x_1 \cdots x_{i-1} x_{i+1} \cdots x_n x_{n+1} \cdots x_m) Q \leq N$  for some  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) and thus  $N$  is an  $m$ -absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

In view of above Lemma 2.23, we have the following definition.

**Definition 2.24.** If a proper element  $N$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $M$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , then we define  $\omega(N) = \min\{n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid N \text{ is an } n\text{-absorbing element of } M\}$  otherwise we write  $\omega(N) = \infty$ . Moreover we define  $\omega(I_M) = 0$ .

Thus for any element  $N \in M$  we have  $\omega(N) \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \cup \{0, \infty\}$  with  $\omega(N) = 1$  if and only if  $N$  is a prime element of  $M$  and  $\omega(N) = 0$  if and only if  $N = I_M$ . So  $\omega(N)$  measures in some sense how far ' $N$ ' is from being a prime element of  $M$ .

**Theorem 2.25.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is  $p$ -primary such that  $p^n I_M \leq N$  where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , then  $N$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $M$ . Moreover,  $\omega(N) \leq n$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $a_1 \cdots a_n Q \leq N$  with  $\widehat{a}_i Q \not\leq N$  for every  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) where  $\widehat{a}_i$  is the element  $a_1 \cdots a_{i-1} a_{i+1} \cdots a_n$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in L, Q \in M$ . As  $N$  is  $p$ -primary,  $a_i(\widehat{a}_i Q) \leq N$  and  $\widehat{a}_i Q \not\leq N$ , we have  $a_i \leq \sqrt{N : I_M} = p$  for every  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) which implies  $a_1 \cdots a_n \leq p^n$ . It follows that  $a_1 \cdots a_n \leq (N : I_M)$  and thus  $N$  is an  $n$ -absorbing element of  $M$ . The "moreover" statement is clear.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.26.** *Let a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  be  $p$ -primary. Then  $N$  is 2-absorbing if and only if  $p^2 I_M \leq N$ .*

**Proof.** Let a  $p$ -primary element  $N \in M$  be 2-absorbing. Then by Corollary 2.13  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$  which implies  $(\sqrt{N : I_M})^2 \leq (N : I_M)$  by Lemma 2(iii) of [11] and thus  $p^2 I_M \leq N$ . The converse part is clear by Theorem 2.25.  $\square$

We define a classical prime element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  as follows.

**Definition 2.27.** A proper element  $N \in M$  is said to be *classical prime* if for each element  $K \in M$  and elements  $a, b \in L$ ;  $abK \leq N$  implies either  $aK \leq N$  or  $bK \leq N$ .

**Theorem 2.28.** *Let  $N$  be a proper element of an  $L$ -module  $M$ . Then  $N$  is prime implies  $N$  is classical prime implies  $N$  is 2-absorbing implies  $N$  is weakly 2-absorbing.*

**Proof.** Assume that  $N \in M$  is prime. Let  $abK \leq N$  for  $a, b \in L, K \in M$ . Then as  $N$  is prime we have either  $a \leq (N : I_M) \leq (N : K)$  or  $bK \leq N$  which implies either  $aK \leq N$  or  $bK \leq N$  and thus  $N$  is classical prime. Now let  $N$  be classical prime and let  $abK \leq N$  for  $a, b \in L, K \in M$ . Then as  $N$  is classical prime we have either  $aK \leq N$  or  $bK \leq N$  and thus  $N$  is 2-absorbing. Last implication is obvious since every 2-absorbing element is weakly 2-absorbing.  $\square$

From the above Theorem 2.28, it is clear that every 2-absorbing element is weakly 2-absorbing. But the converse is not true as shown in the following example.

**Example 2.29.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $M = \mathbb{Z}/(30\mathbb{Z})$ . Then  $M$  is a module over  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose that  $L(R)$  is the set of all ideals of  $R$  and  $L(M)$  is the set of all submodules of  $M$ . Then  $L(M)$  is a lattice module over  $L(R)$ . Obviously  $N = \{30\mathbb{Z}\}$  being the zero element of  $L(M)$  is weakly 2-absorbing. However  $N$  is not a 2-absorbing element of  $L(M)$  since  $(2)(3)(5 + 30\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq N$  and  $(2)(3) \not\subseteq (N : M)$ ,  $(2)(5 + 30\mathbb{Z}) \not\subseteq N$ ,  $(3)(5 + 30\mathbb{Z}) \not\subseteq N$ .

The following theorem shows that under particular condition a weakly 2-absorbing element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is 2-absorbing.

**Theorem 2.30.** *If a weakly 2-absorbing element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is such that  $(N : I_M)^2 N \neq O_M$ , then  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element.*

**Proof.** Assume that  $(N : I_M)^2 N \neq O_M$ . Let  $abQ \leq N$  for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $Q \in M$ . If  $abQ \neq O_M$ , then as  $N$  is weakly 2-absorbing we get either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$  and we are done. So let  $abQ = O_M$ . First assume that  $abN \neq O_M$ . Then  $abN_0 \neq O_M$  for some  $N_0 \leq N$  in  $M$ . As  $O_M \neq ab(Q \vee N_0) \leq N$  and  $N$  is weakly 2-absorbing we have either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $a(Q \vee N_0) \leq N$  or  $b(Q \vee N_0) \leq N$  which implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$  and we are done. Hence we may assume that  $abN = O_M$ . If  $a(N : I_M)Q \neq O_M$ , then  $ar_0Q \neq O_M$  for some  $r_0 \leq (N : I_M)$  in  $L$ . Since  $O_M \neq ar_0Q \leq a(b \vee r_0)Q \leq N$  and  $N$  is weakly 2-absorbing we have either  $a(b \vee r_0) \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $(b \vee r_0)Q \leq N$  which implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$  and we are done. So we can assume that  $a(N : I_M)Q = O_M$ . Likewise we can assume that  $b(N : I_M)Q = O_M$ . As  $(N : I_M)^2 N \neq O_M$ , there exist  $a_0, b_0 \leq (N : I_M)$  and  $X_0 \leq N$  with  $a_0 b_0 X_0 \neq O_M$ . If  $ab_0 X_0 \neq O_M$  then  $O_M \neq ab_0 X_0 \leq a(b \vee b_0)(Q \vee X_0) \leq N$ . As  $N$  is weakly 2-absorbing we get either  $a(b \vee b_0) \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $a(Q \vee X_0) \leq N$  or  $(b \vee b_0)(Q \vee X_0) \leq N$  which implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$  and we are done. So we can assume that  $ab_0 X_0 = O_M$ . Likewise we can assume that  $a_0 b_0 Q = O_M$  and  $a_0 b X_0 = O_M$ . Then as  $O_M \neq a_0 b_0 X_0 \leq (a \vee a_0)(b \vee b_0)(Q \vee X_0) \leq N$  and  $N$  is weakly 2-absorbing we get either  $(a \vee a_0)(b \vee b_0) \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $(a \vee a_0)(Q \vee X_0) \leq N$  or  $(b \vee b_0)(Q \vee X_0) \leq N$  which implies either  $ab \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $aQ \leq N$  or  $bQ \leq N$  and thus  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element.  $\square$

We define a nilpotent element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  in the following manner.

**Definition 2.31.** A proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is said to be *nilpotent* if  $(N : I_M)^k N = O_M$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ .

The consequences of Theorem 2.30 are presented in the form of following corollaries.

**Corollary 2.32.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then  $N$  is a nilpotent element of  $M$ .*

**Proof.** The proof is obvious. □

**Corollary 2.33.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then  $(N : I_M)^3 N = O_M$ .*

**Proof.** As  $(N : I_M)^3 \leq (N : I_M)^2$ , we have  $(N : I_M)^3 N \leq (N : I_M)^2 N = O_M$  by Theorem 2.30 and hence  $(N : I_M)^3 N = O_M$ . □

**Corollary 2.34.** *If a proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then  $(N : I_M)^n N = O_M$  for every  $n \geq 3$ .*

**Proof.** The proof is obvious. □

**Corollary 2.35.** *If a proper element  $N$  of a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then  $(N : I_M)^3 I_M = O_M$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module, we have  $N = (N : I_M)I_M$ . By Theorem 2.30, we have  $(N : I_M)^2 N = O_M$  which implies  $(N : I_M)^3 I_M = O_M$ . □

**Corollary 2.36.** *If a proper element  $N$  of a faithful multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then  $(N : I_M) \leq \sqrt{0}$  and hence  $\sqrt{N : I_M} = \sqrt{0}$ . Moreover, if  $L$  is a reduced lattice then  $(N : I_M) = 0$ .*

**Proof.** The proof is obvious. □

**Corollary 2.37.** *Let  $L$  be a reduced lattice. If  $O_M < N < I_M$  is a weakly 2-absorbing element of a faithful multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$ , then  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .*

**Proof.** The proof is obvious. □

### 3. $rad(N)$ as a 2-absorbing element of $M$

In this section, we prove  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  if  $N \in M$  is a 2-absorbing element. We begin with defining the radical of an element of a lattice module. In view of the definition of the  $M$ -radical of a submodule of an  $R$ -module  $M$  in [12], the definition of the radical of an element of an  $L$ -module  $M$  is as follows.

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $N$  be a proper element of an  $L$ -module  $M$ . Then the radical of  $N$  is denoted as  $rad(N)$  and is defined as the element  $\bigwedge \{P \in M \mid P \text{ is a prime element and } N \leq P\}$ . If  $N \not\leq P$  for any prime  $P \in M$ , then we write  $rad(N) = I_M$ .

Before proving  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ , we prove the results required to show that  $rad(aI_M) = \sqrt{a}I_M$  as proved in an  $R$ -module  $M$  in [10].

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $L$  be a PG-lattice and  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module. Then  $\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha I_M) = (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M$  where  $\{a_\alpha \in L \mid \alpha \in \Delta\}$ .*

**Proof.** Clearly  $(\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M \leq \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha I_M)$ . Let  $X \leq \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha I_M)$  where  $X \in M$ . We may suppose that  $X$  is a principal element. Assume that  $((\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M : X) \neq 1$ . Then there exists a maximal element  $q \in L$  such that  $((\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M : X) \leq q$ . As  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module and  $q \in L$  is maximal, by Theorem 4 of [7], two cases arise:

Case 1. For principal element  $X \in M$ , there exists a principal element  $r \in L$  with  $r \not\leq q$  such that  $rX = O_M$ . Then  $r \leq (O_M : X) \leq ((\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M : X) \leq q$  which is a contradiction.

Case 2. There exists a principal element  $Y \in M$  and a principal element  $b \in L$  with  $b \not\leq q$  such that  $bI_M \leq Y$ . Then  $bX \leq Y$ ,  $bX \leq b[\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha I_M)] \leq \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha bI_M) \leq \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha Y)$  and  $(O_M : Y)bI_M \leq (O_M : Y)Y = O_M$  since  $Y$  is meet principal. As  $M$  is faithful it follows that  $b(O_M : Y) = 0$ . Since  $Y$  is meet principal,  $(bX : Y)Y = bX \wedge Y = bX$ . Let  $s = (bX : Y)$  then  $sY = bX \leq \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha Y)$ . So  $s = (bX : Y) = (sY : Y) \leq [\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha Y) : Y] = \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha Y : Y) = \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} [a_\alpha \vee (O_M : Y)]$  since  $Y$  is join principal. Therefore  $bs \leq b[\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} [a_\alpha \vee (O_M : Y)]] \leq \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} [b[a_\alpha \vee (O_M : Y)]] = \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} [(ba_\alpha) \vee b(O_M : Y)] = \bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (ba_\alpha) \leq b \wedge (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) \leq (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha)$  and so  $b^2 X = b(bX) = bsY \leq (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) Y \leq (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M$ . Hence  $b^2 \leq ((\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M : X) \leq q$  which implies  $b \leq \sqrt{q} = q$ ; a contradiction.

Thus the assumption that  $((\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M : X) \neq 1$  is absurd and so we must have  $((\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M : X) = 1$  which implies  $X \leq (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M$ . It follows that  $\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha I_M) \leq (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M$  and hence  $\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} (a_\alpha I_M) = (\bigwedge_{\alpha \in \Delta} a_\alpha) I_M$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $L$  be a PG-lattice and  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module with  $I_M$  compact. If a proper element  $q \in L$  is a prime element, then  $qI_M$  is a prime element of  $M$ .*

**Proof.** As  $I_M$  is compact and  $q \in L$  is proper by Theorem 5 of [7] we have  $qI_M \neq I_M$ . Let  $aX \leq qI_M$  and  $a \not\leq (qI_M : I_M)$  for  $a \in L, X \in M$ . Then  $a \not\leq q$ . We may suppose that  $X$  is a principal element. Assume that  $((qI_M) : X) \neq 1$ . Then there exists a maximal element  $m \in L$  such that  $((qI_M) : X) \leq m$ . As  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module and  $m \in L$  is maximal, by Theorem 4 of [7], two cases arise:

Case 1. For principal element  $X \in M$ , there exists a principal element  $r \in L$  with  $r \not\leq m$  such that  $rX = O_M$ . Then  $r \leq (O_M : X) \leq ((qI_M) : X) \leq m$  which is a contradiction.

Case 2. There exists a principal element  $Y \in M$  and a principal element  $b \in L$  with  $b \not\leq m$  such that  $bI_M \leq Y$ . Then  $bX \leq Y$ ,  $baX \leq bqI_M = q(bI_M) \leq qY$  and  $(O_M : Y)bI_M \leq (O_M : Y)Y = O_M$  since  $Y$  is meet principal. As  $M$  is faithful it follows that  $b(O_M : Y) = 0$ . Since  $Y$  is meet principal,  $(bX : Y)Y = bX$ . Let  $s = (bX : Y)$  then  $sY = bX$  and so  $asY = abX \leq qY$ . Since  $Y$  is meet principal,  $abX = (abX : Y)Y = cY$  where  $c = (abX : Y)$ . Since  $cY = abX \leq qY$  and  $Y$  is join principal we have  $c \vee (O_M : Y) = (cY : Y) \leq (qY : Y) = q \vee (O_M : Y)$ . So  $bc \leq bq \leq q$ . On the other hand since  $Y$  is join principal,  $c = (abX : Y) = (asY : Y) = as \vee (O_M : Y)$  and so  $abs \leq abs \vee b(O_M : Y) = b(as \vee (O_M : Y)) = bc \leq q$ . If  $b \leq q$ , then  $b \leq q \leq ((qI_M) : X) \leq m$  which contradicts  $b \not\leq m$  and so  $b \not\leq q$ . Now as  $abs \leq q$ ,  $a \not\leq q$ ,  $b \not\leq q$  and  $q$  is prime, we have  $s \leq q$ . Hence  $bX = sY \leq qY \leq (qI_M)$  which implies  $b \leq ((qI_M) : X) \leq m$ ; a contradiction.

Thus the assumption that  $((qI_M) : X) \neq 1$  is absurd and so we must have  $((qI_M) : X) = 1$  which implies  $X \leq (qI_M)$ . Therefore  $qI_M$  is a prime element of  $M$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *In an  $L$ -module  $M$ , if a proper element  $Q \in M$  is prime such that  $X \leq Q$ , then  $(Q : I_M) \in L$  is prime such that  $\sqrt{X : I_M} \leq (Q : I_M)$  where  $X \in M$  is a proper element.*

**Proof.** Obviously,  $(Q : I_M) \in L$  is prime by Proposition 3.6 of [1]. Further, if  $a \leq \sqrt{X : I_M}$ , then  $a^n \leq (X : I_M) \leq (Q : I_M)$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  which implies  $a \leq (Q : I_M)$  and so  $\sqrt{X : I_M} \leq (Q : I_M)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.** *For every proper element  $N$  of an  $L$ -module  $M$ ,  $(\sqrt{N : I_M})I_M \leq \text{rad}(N)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $P \in M$  be prime such that  $N \leq P$ . Then by Lemma 3.4,  $(P : I_M) \in L$  is prime such that  $\sqrt{N : I_M} \leq (P : I_M)$  which implies  $(\sqrt{N : I_M})I_M \leq P$ . Thus whenever  $P \in M$  is prime such that  $N \leq P$  we have  $(\sqrt{N : I_M})I_M \leq P$ . It follows that  $(\sqrt{N : I_M})I_M \leq \text{rad}(N)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $L$  be a PG-lattice and  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module with  $I_M$  compact. Then  $\text{rad}(N) = \sqrt{a}I_M$  for every proper element  $N = aI_M$  of  $M$  where  $a = (N : I_M) \in L$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $b = \bigwedge \{p \in L \mid p \text{ is a prime element and } a \leq p\} = \sqrt{a}$ . Then by Lemma 3.2,  $bI_M = \left( \bigwedge_{p \text{ is prime}; a \leq p} p \right) I_M = \bigwedge_{p \text{ is prime}; a \leq p} (pI_M)$ . Let  $p \in L$  be prime

such that  $a \leq p$ . Also as  $p \in L$  is a prime element by Lemma 3.3 we have  $pI_M \in M$  is a prime element. Then  $N = aI_M \leq pI_M$  and so  $rad(N) \leq pI_M$ . It follows that  $rad(N) \leq \bigwedge_{p \text{ is prime}; a \leq p} (pI_M) = bI_M$  and hence  $rad(N) \leq \sqrt{a}I_M$ . But by Lemma 3.5 we have  $\sqrt{a}I_M \leq rad(N)$ . Therefore  $rad(N) = \sqrt{a}I_M$ .  $\square$

Following corollary is an outcome of Corollary 2.35 and Theorem 3.6.

**Corollary 3.7.** *Let  $L$  be a PG-lattice and  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module with  $I_M$  compact. If a proper element  $N$  of  $M$  is weakly 2-absorbing but not 2-absorbing, then  $N \leq rad(O_M)$ .*

**Proof.** As  $O_M = (O_M : I_M)I_M = 0I_M$ , we have  $rad(O_M) = \sqrt{0}I_M$  by Theorem 3.6. By Corollary 2.35, we have  $(N : I_M)^3I_M = O_M$  which implies  $(N : I_M)^3 \leq (O_M : I_M) = 0$  and hence  $(N : I_M) \leq \sqrt{0}$ . It follows that  $N = (N : I_M)I_M \leq \sqrt{0}I_M = rad(O_M)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.8.** *In a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module  $M$ , the meet of each pair of distinct prime elements of  $M$  is a 2-absorbing element.*

**Proof.** Let  $N$  and  $K$  be any two distinct prime elements of  $M$ . Let  $abQ \leq (N \wedge K)$  with  $aQ \not\leq (N \wedge K)$  and  $bQ \not\leq (N \wedge K)$  for  $a, b \in L, Q \in M$ . Since  $M$  is a multiplication lattice  $L$ -module,  $Q = qI_M$  for some  $q \in L$ . Clearly  $aQ \not\leq N$  and  $bQ \not\leq N$  lead us to a contradiction because  $N$  is prime and  $a(bQ) \leq (N \wedge K) \leq N$  gives  $aI_M \leq N$  which implies  $qaI_M = aQ \leq N$ . Similarly  $aQ \not\leq K$  and  $bQ \not\leq K$  lead us to a contradiction. So assume that  $aQ \not\leq N$  and  $bQ \not\leq K$ . Now  $a(bQ) \leq (N \wedge K) \leq K$ ,  $bQ \not\leq K$ ,  $K$  is prime gives  $a \leq (K : I_M)$  and  $b(aQ) \leq (N \wedge K) \leq N$ ,  $aQ \not\leq N$ ,  $N$  is prime gives  $b \leq (N : I_M)$ . Hence  $ab \leq (a \wedge b) \leq [(K : I_M) \wedge (N : I_M)] = [(N \wedge K) : I_M]$  which implies  $(N \wedge K)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

Now we are in a position to prove  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$  which is the main aim of this section.

**Theorem 3.9.** *Let  $L$  be a PG-lattice and  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module with  $I_M$  compact. If a proper element  $N \in M$  is a 2-absorbing element, then  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .*

**Proof.** By Corollary 2.13,  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ . By Theorem 3 of [11], two cases arise:

Case 1.  $\sqrt{N : I_M} = p$  is a prime element of  $L$ . Then by Lemma 3.3 and Theorem 3.6, we have  $rad(N) = (\sqrt{N : I_M})I_M = pI_M$  is prime and hence  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .

Case 2.  $\sqrt{N : I_M} = p_1 \wedge p_2$  where  $p_1, p_2$  are the only distinct prime elements of  $L$  that are minimal over  $(N : I_M)$ . Then by Lemma 3.3,  $p_1 I_M$  and  $p_2 I_M$  are distinct prime elements of  $M$  and are minimal over  $N$ . So by Theorem 3.6 and Lemma 3.2, we have  $rad(N) = (\sqrt{N : I_M}) I_M = (p_1 \wedge p_2) I_M = p_1 I_M \wedge p_2 I_M$ . Hence by Lemma 3.8,  $rad(N)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $M$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.10.** *Let  $L$  be a PG-lattice and  $M$  be a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module with  $I_M$  compact. If a proper element  $N \in M$  is 2-absorbing, then one of the following statement holds true:*

- (1)  $rad(N) = p I_M$  is a prime element of  $M$  such that  $p^2 I_M \leq N$ .
- (2)  $rad(N) = p_1 I_M \wedge p_2 I_M$  and  $(p_1 p_2) I_M \leq N$  where  $p_1 I_M$  and  $p_2 I_M$  are the only distinct prime elements of  $M$  that are minimal over  $N$ .

**Proof.** By Corollary 2.13,  $(N : I_M)$  is a 2-absorbing element of  $L$ . Then by Theorem 3 of [11], we have either  $\sqrt{N : I_M} = p$  is a prime element of  $L$  such that  $p^2 \leq (N : I_M)$  or  $\sqrt{N : I_M} = p_1 \wedge p_2$  and  $p_1 p_2 \leq (N : I_M)$  where  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are the only distinct prime elements of  $L$  that are minimal over  $(N : I_M)$ . By Theorem 3.6, Lemma 3.3 and Lemma 3.2, it follows that either  $rad(N) = p I_M$  is a prime element of  $M$  such that  $p^2 I_M \leq N$  or  $rad(N) = (p_1 \wedge p_2) I_M = p_1 I_M \wedge p_2 I_M$  and  $(p_1 p_2) I_M \leq N$  where  $p_1 I_M$  and  $p_2 I_M$  are the only distinct prime elements of  $M$  that are minimal over  $N$ .  $\square$

Note that if  $N$  is a 2-absorbing element of a faithful multiplication PG-lattice  $L$ -module  $M$  with  $I_M$  compact, then  $(\sqrt{N : I_M}) rad(N) \leq N \leq rad(N)$ .

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