



## ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF $\alpha$ -KRULL MODULES

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### Abstract

It is proved that for any ring  $R$  and right  $R$ -module  $M$ , if  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull (i.e., for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , either  $k\text{-dim } N \leq \alpha$  or  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} \leq \alpha$  and  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property), then  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$  or  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ . The main aim of this paper is to characterize modules, which are  $\alpha$ -Krull if and only if their Krull dimension is equal to  $\alpha$ .

### 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, all rings are associative with  $1 \neq 0$ , and all modules are unitary right modules. Letting  $M$  be an  $R$ -module, by  $k\text{-dim } M$  and  $n\text{-dim } M$ , we mean the Krull dimension and the Noetherian dimension (dual of Krull dimension of  $M$ , see Karamzadeh [9] and Lemonnier [17]) of  $M$  over  $R$ , respectively. The notation  $N \subseteq M$  (resp.,  $N \subset M$ ) will mean  $N$

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is a submodule (resp. proper submodule) of  $M$ . It is convenient when we are dealing with the latter dimensions, to begin our list of ordinals with  $-1$ . In [5], the authors by using the concept of Noetherian dimension introduced and investigated the concept of  $\alpha$ -short modules. They called an  $R$ -module  $M$  to be  $\alpha$ -short if for every submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , either  $n\text{-dim } N \leq \alpha$  or  $n\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} \leq \alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property. Using this concept, they extended almost all basic results of short-modules to  $\alpha$ -short modules, see [5]. They showed that in case  $\alpha$  is countable, every submodule of  $M$  is countably generated. They also observed that any  $\alpha$ -short module has Noetherian dimension equal to either  $\alpha$  or  $\alpha + 1$ . In particular, a semiprime ring  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -short if and only if  $n\text{-dim } R = \alpha$ . This fact raised the natural question, namely, for which  $R$ -module  $M$ ,  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -short if and only if  $n\text{-dim } M = \alpha$ . In [8], we answered this question. We proved that any semiprime module  $M$  (in the sense of [21] and [20]) is  $\alpha$ -short if and only if  $n\text{-dim } M = \alpha$ . The concept of  $\alpha$ -Krull modules, that is dual of  $\alpha$ -short modules, introduced and extensively investigated in [4] and the dual of almost all of single results in [5], were obtained. It is proved that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull if and only if  $M$  has Krull dimension equal to either  $\alpha$  or  $\alpha + 1$ . In this paper, we are going to characterize  $\mathcal{A}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{B}$ ), the category of  $R$ -modules  $M$ , that for any ordinal number  $\alpha$ ,  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull if and only if  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$  (resp.  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ ). To reach this goal, after reviewing some necessary preliminaries, we investigate some basic properties of  $\alpha$ -Krull modules. For instance, we show that an  $R$ -module  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull module if and only if there exists a submodule  $A(\alpha)$  of  $M$  such that  $k\text{-dim } A(\alpha) \leq \alpha$  and  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{B} \leq \alpha$  for any submodule  $B \not\subseteq A(\alpha)$  and  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property. Finally, we show that  $M \in \mathcal{A}$  if and only if either  $k\text{-dim } M$  is a limit ordinal or  $k\text{-dim } M = k\text{-dim } N$ , for any co-critical submodule  $N$  of  $M$ . Also, we observe that if  $M$  is a Noetherian uniserial  $R$ -module, then  $M$  is either  $-1$ -Krull or  $0$ -Krull.

For all concepts and basic properties of rings and modules which are not defined in this paper, we refer the reader to [6] and [18].

## 2. Preliminaries

We need the following definition, see [4, Definition 3.1].

**Definition 2.1.** An  $R$ -module  $M$  is called  $\alpha$ -Krull, if for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , either  $k\text{-dim } N \leq \alpha$  or  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} \leq \alpha$  and  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property.

**Remark 2.2** [4, Remark 3.2]. If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module with  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$ , then  $M$  is  $\beta$ -Krull for some  $\beta \leq \alpha$ .

**Remark 2.3** [4, Remark 3.3]. If  $M$  is an  $\alpha$ -Krull module, then each submodule and each factor module of  $M$  is  $\beta$ -Krull for some  $\beta \leq \alpha$ .

**Lemma 2.4** [4, Corollary 3.5]. *Let  $M$  be an  $\alpha$ -Krull module. Then  $M$  has Krull dimension and  $k\text{-dim } M \geq \alpha$ .*

**Proposition 2.5** [4, Proposition 3.6]. *An  $R$ -module  $M$  has Krull dimension if and only if  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull for some ordinal  $\alpha$ .*

It is well-known that any module with Krull dimension has finite uniform dimension. The following corollary is now evident.

**Corollary 2.6.** *Every  $\alpha$ -Krull module has finite uniform dimension.*

**Proposition 2.7** [4, Proposition 3.8]. *If  $M$  is an  $\alpha$ -Krull  $R$ -module, then either  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$  or  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ .*

**Corollary 2.8** [4, Corollary 3.9]. *If  $M$  is a 0-Krull module, then either  $M$  is Artinian or  $k\text{-dim } M = 1$ .*

**Proposition 2.9** [4, Proposition 3.12]. *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module, with  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal. Then  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull.*

We recall that a nonzero  $R$ -module  $M$  is said to be  $\alpha$ -critical if  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$  and  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} < \alpha$ , for every nonzero submodule  $N$  of  $M$ . A module is said to be *critical* if it is  $\alpha$ -critical for some ordinal  $\alpha$ . Also, a submodule  $N$  of a module  $M$  is called to be *co-critical* if the factor  $\frac{M}{N}$  is critical. It is proved that any nonzero module with Krull dimension has at least one critical submodule possibly not of the same dimension and every critical module is uniform, see [6, Theorem 2.1, Proposition 2.6]. Clearly, an  $R$ -module  $M$  is 0-critical if and only if  $M$  is a simple module.

In view of Proposition 2.7, the following remark is now evident.

**Remark 2.10.** A nonzero  $R$ -module  $M$  is  $-1$ -Krull if and only if it is simple. Thus, any  $-1$ -Krull module is 0-critical.

We also need the following well known results of Krull dimension, see [6, 9, 11] and [18].

**Theorem 2.11.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Then  $k\text{-dim } M = \sup\left\{k\text{-dim } N, k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}\right\}$  if either side exists.*

**Theorem 2.12.** *Let  $M$  be a module. Then*

$$(1) \ k\text{-dim } M = \sup\{k\text{-dim } N : 0 \neq N \subseteq M\}.$$

$$(2) \ k\text{-dim } M \leq \sup\left\{k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{E} + 1 : E \subseteq_e M\right\}.$$

**Lemma 2.13.** *If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module and for each submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , either  $N$  or  $\frac{M}{N}$  has Krull dimension, then so does  $M$ .*

**Theorem 2.14.** *If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module with Krull dimension and  $M = \sum_{i \in I} M_i$ , where  $k\text{-dim } M_i \leq \alpha$  for some ordinal  $\alpha$  and all  $i \in I$ , then  $k\text{-dim } M \leq \alpha$ .*

### 3. The Classification of $\alpha$ -Krull Modules

We cite the following result from [4, Lemma 4.1, Lemma 4.2].

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $N$  be a submodule of an  $R$ -module  $M$ . Then*

(1) *If  $N$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull and  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} \leq \alpha$ , then  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull.*

(2) *If  $\frac{M}{N}$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull and  $k\text{-dim } N \leq \alpha$ , then  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull.*

Next, we give a structure theorem for  $\alpha$ -Krull modules.

**Theorem 3.2.** *The following are equivalent for any  $R$ -module  $M$ :*

(1)  *$M$  is an  $\alpha$ -Krull module.*

(2) *There exists a submodule  $A(\alpha)$  of  $M$  such that  $k\text{-dim } A(\alpha) \leq \alpha$  and  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{B} \leq \alpha$  for any submodule  $B \not\subseteq A(\alpha)$  and  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property.*

**Proof.** Let  $M$  be an  $\alpha$ -Krull module and

$$\Delta = \{X \subseteq M : k\text{-dim } X \leq \alpha\}.$$

It is clear that  $0 \in \Delta$  and so  $\Delta \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $A(\alpha) = \sum_{X \in \Delta} X$ , indeed  $A(\alpha)$  is the  $\alpha$ -torsion submodule of  $M$  (see 2.18 in [18]). Then  $k\text{-dim } A(\alpha) \leq \alpha$  by Theorem 2.14. Now let  $B$  be a submodule of  $M$  such that  $B \not\subseteq A(\alpha)$ , then  $k\text{-dim } B \not\leq \alpha$  and so  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{B} \leq \alpha$ , for  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull. In order to show that  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property, it is sufficient to prove the converse. So let  $M$  has a submodule  $A(\alpha)$  with mentioned conditions and  $B \subseteq M$ , if  $B \subseteq A(\alpha)$ , then  $k\text{-dim } B \leq \alpha$ . But, if  $B \not\subseteq A(\alpha)$ , then  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{B} \leq \alpha$ , but  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property and so  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull. □

Our main aim in this paper is to characterize modules  $M$ , that for any ordinal number  $\alpha$ ,  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull if and only if  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$ . We use the following notations throughout the paper:

- (1)  $\mathcal{M}$  = the set of all modules with Krull dimension.
- (2)  $\mathcal{M}_\alpha$  = the set of all  $\alpha$ -Krull modules.
- (3)  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha$  = the set of all  $\alpha$ -Krull modules  $M$  with  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$  and  $\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_\alpha \mathcal{A}_\alpha$ .
- (4)  $\mathcal{B}_\alpha$  = the set of all  $\alpha$ -Krull modules  $M$  with  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \bigcup_\alpha \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .

**Remark 3.3.** It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha \cap \mathcal{B}_\alpha = \emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha \cup \mathcal{B}_\alpha = \mathcal{M}_\alpha$  and so  $\{\mathcal{A}_\alpha, \mathcal{B}_\alpha\}$  is a partition of  $\mathcal{M}_\alpha$ . Similarly,  $\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B} = \emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B}$ , so  $\{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}\}$  is a partition of  $\mathcal{M}$ .

Clearly,  $\mathcal{A}_{-1} = \{0\}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_{-1}$  is the set of all simple modules.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. If  $M \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$  and  $N \subseteq M$ , then either  $N \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$  or  $\frac{M}{N} \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .*

**Proof.** By the above notations,  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull and  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ . We have the following cases:

Case 1. If  $k\text{-dim } N > k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , then  $k\text{-dim } N = k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ , by Theorem 2.11. Also,  $N$  is  $\beta$ -Krull for some  $\beta \leq \alpha$ . If  $\beta < \alpha$ , by Proposition 2.7, we have  $k\text{-dim } N \leq \beta + 1 \leq \alpha$ . This is a contradiction. Consequently,  $N$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull with  $k\text{-dim } N = \alpha + 1$ . Therefore,  $N \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .

Case 2. If  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} > k\text{-dim } N$ , then  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} = k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ , by Theorem 2.11. Also,  $\frac{M}{N}$  is  $\beta$ -Krull for some  $\beta \leq \alpha$ . If  $\beta < \alpha$ , by Proposition

2.7, we have  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} \leq \beta + 1 \leq \alpha$ , a contradiction. Consequently,  $\frac{M}{N}$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull with  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} = \alpha + 1$ .

Therefore,  $\frac{M}{N} \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .

At last,

Case 3. If  $k\text{-dim } N = k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , then the same argument shows that both  $N$  and  $\frac{M}{N}$  belong to  $\mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .  $\square$

In view of the proof of Theorem 3.4, the following results are now immediate.

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $M \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$  and  $N \subseteq M$ . Then we have the following:*

- (1) *If  $k\text{-dim } N > k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , then  $N \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .*
- (2) *If  $k\text{-dim } N < k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , then  $\frac{M}{N} \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .*
- (3) *If  $k\text{-dim } N = k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , then  $N, \frac{M}{N} \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .*

**Corollary 3.6.** *If  $N \subseteq M$  and  $N, \frac{M}{N} \in \mathcal{A}$ , then  $M \in \mathcal{A}$ .*

**Corollary 3.7.** *If  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n \in \mathcal{A}$ , then  $M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_n \in \mathcal{A}$ .*

**Remark 3.8.** The converse of Corollary 3.7 is not true, in general. For example, if  $M = M_1 \oplus M_2$ , where  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are simple modules, then  $M_1, M_2 \in \mathcal{B}_{-1}$ . But  $M$  is a semisimple module with Krull dimension and so  $M \in \mathcal{A}$ . Note that any semisimple module with Krull dimension has finite uniform dimension and so is both Artinian and Noetherian.

**Remark 3.9.** Let  $M$  be an  $\alpha$ -critical module. If  $\alpha = \beta + 1$ , then  $M \in \mathcal{B}_\beta$  and if  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal, then  $M \in \mathcal{A}_\alpha$ .

**Theorem 3.10.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module, which is  $M \in \mathcal{M}_\alpha$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(1)  $M \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .

(2)  $\frac{M}{A(\alpha)}$  is  $(\alpha + 1)$ -critical, where  $A(\alpha)$  is the torsion submodule of  $M$ .

**Proof.** If  $M \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ , then  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ . But  $k\text{-dim } A(\alpha) \leq \alpha$ , by Theorem 2.14. This implies that  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{A(\alpha)} = k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ . Now let  $A(\alpha) \subsetneq B \subseteq M$ , then  $k\text{-dim } B \not\leq \alpha$  (note  $A(\alpha)$  is the summation of all submodules of  $M$  with Krull dimension at most  $\alpha$ ) and so  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{B} = k\text{-dim } \frac{M/A(\alpha)}{B/A(\alpha)} \leq \alpha$ , since  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull. It follows that  $\frac{M}{A(\alpha)}$  is  $(\alpha + 1)$ -critical. Conversely, if  $\frac{M}{A(\alpha)}$  is  $(\alpha + 1)$ -critical, then it is  $\alpha$ -Krull, by Remark 3.9. Moreover,  $k\text{-dim } A(\alpha) \leq \alpha$  and so  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull, by Theorem 3.1.  $\square$

In the next theorem, we determine  $\mathcal{B}$ , the category of  $R$ -modules  $M$ , that is  $\alpha$ -Krull if and only if  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$ , for every ordinal number  $\alpha$ .

**Theorem 3.11.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then the following are equivalent:*

(1)  $M \in \mathcal{B}$ .

(2)  $k\text{-dim } M$  is not a limit ordinal and  $M$  has a co-critical submodule  $N$  such that  $k\text{-dim } N < k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ .

**Proof.** If  $M \in \mathcal{B}$ , then there exists an ordinal number  $\alpha$  such that  $M \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ , so  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$  is not a limit ordinal. Also,  $A(\alpha)$  is co-critical and  $k\text{-dim } A(\alpha) \leq \alpha < \alpha + 1 = k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{A(\alpha)}$ , by Theorem 3.10.



Conversely, if  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha + 1$  and  $N$  is a co-critical submodule of  $M$  such that  $k\text{-dim } N < k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , then  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} = \alpha + 1$  so  $\frac{M}{N}$  is  $(\alpha + 1)$ -critical and hence it is  $\alpha$ -Krull, by Remark 3.9. Also,  $k\text{-dim } N \leq \alpha$  and so  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull, by Theorem 3.1, therefore,  $M \in \mathcal{B}$ .  $\square$

The next theorem, which is an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.11, is the main result of this paper and as we promised, determines  $\mathcal{A}$ , consisting of all modules, which are  $\alpha$ -Krull if and only if their Krull dimension are equal to  $\alpha$ , for every ordinal number  $\alpha$ .

**Theorem 3.12.** *Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $M \in \mathcal{A}$ .
- (2) *Either  $k\text{-dim } M$  is a limit ordinal or  $k\text{-dim } N = k\text{-dim } M$ , for any co-critical submodule  $N$  of  $M$ .*

We know that every Noetherian module has Krull dimension. The next result is devoted to Noetherian  $\alpha$ -Krull modules.

**Theorem 3.13.** *A Noetherian module  $M$  is  $\alpha$ -Krull if and only if either  $k\text{-dim } N \leq \alpha$  or  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} \leq \alpha$ , for any co-critical submodule  $N$  of  $M$  and  $\alpha$  is the least ordinal number with this property.*

**Proof.** The “only if” part is true by definition. For the “if” part, let

$$\Sigma = \left\{ N \subsetneq M : k\text{-dim } N > \alpha, k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} > \alpha \right\}.$$

If  $\Sigma \neq \emptyset$ , then it has a maximal element say  $N_0$ , since  $M$  is Noetherian. Clearly,  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N_0} > \alpha$ . Now, if  $N_0 \subsetneq A \subseteq M$ , then  $k\text{-dim } A \geq k\text{-dim } N_0 > \alpha$ . But  $A \notin \Sigma$ , by maximality of  $N_0$  and so  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{A} \leq \alpha$ , thus  $k\text{-dim}$

$\frac{M/N_0}{A/N_0} \leq \alpha$ . This shows that  $\frac{M}{N_0}$  is critical, i.e.,  $N_0$  is a co-critical submodule of  $M$ , with  $k\text{-dim } N_0 > \alpha$  and  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N_0} > \alpha$ . This is a contradiction.  $\square$

We note that if  $M$  is a Noetherian module with  $k\text{-dim } M = \alpha$ , then for any ordinal  $\beta \leq \alpha$ , there exists a  $\beta$ -co-critical submodule  $N$  of  $M$  (i.e.,  $\frac{M}{N}$  is  $\beta$ -critical). It suffices to take  $N$  to be maximal with respect to this property that  $k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N} \geq \beta$ , which is similar to its dual in [13] and the comment which follows [15, Proposition 1.11].

In view of the above comment and previous theorem, we have the following fact.

**Corollary 3.14.** *Let  $M$  be a Noetherian  $\alpha$ -Krull module. Then for each ordinal  $\beta < \alpha$ , there exists a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  such that  $\frac{M}{N} \in \mathcal{B}_\beta$ .*

**Proof.** For any  $\beta < \alpha$ , we have  $\beta + 1 \leq \alpha$  and so by the above comment,  $M$  has a  $(\beta + 1)$ -co-critical submodule  $N$ . Thus  $\frac{M}{N}$  is  $(\beta + 1)$ -critical and  $\frac{M}{N} \in \mathcal{B}_\beta$ , by Remark 3.9.  $\square$

Recall that a module is uniserial if its submodules are linearly ordered under inclusion. Let us recall the next theorem, see [3, Theorem 4.17].

**Theorem 3.15.** *Let  $M$  be a Noetherian uniserial  $R$ -module. Then  $k\text{-dim } M \leq 1$ . Moreover, if  $k\text{-dim } M = 1$ , then  $M$  is 1-critical.*

The next result is now immediate.

**Corollary 3.16.** *If  $M$  is a Noetherian uniserial  $R$ -module, then  $M$  is either  $-1$ -Krull or  $0$ -Krull.*

It is easy to see that if  $M$  is an  $R$ -module with Krull dimension, which for every  $0 \subsetneq N \subsetneq M$ ,  $k\text{-dim } N \leq k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , then  $M \in \mathcal{A}$ . This raises the below natural question that we conclude the paper with.

**Question 3.17.** For which  $R$ -modules  $M$  with Krull dimension,  $k\text{-dim } N \leq k\text{-dim } \frac{M}{N}$ , for any  $0 \subsetneq N \subsetneq M$ ?

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