



A VERSION OF THE GABRIEL-POPESCU THEOREM

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Abstract

The aim of this article is to prove another version of the celebrated Gabriel-Popescu theorem and to present some applications.

Introduction

Let \mathcal{C} be a Grothendieck category with the generator U . Denote by A the ring $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(U)$ of endomorphisms of U and by S the functor $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U, -)$ from the category \mathcal{C} to the category $\text{Mod-}A$ of right A -modules. Let $T : \text{Mod-}A \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be a left adjoint of S (such a T always exists according to Gabriel). Denote by $\Phi : T \circ S \rightarrow 1_{\mathcal{C}}$ and by $\Psi : 1_{\text{Mod-}A} \rightarrow S \circ T$ the functorial morphisms associated to the adjoint functors S and T .

The Gabriel-Popescu Theorem. *With the above notations the following assertions hold:*

1. Φ is a functorial isomorphism.
2. The functor S is fully faithful.
3. The functor T is exact.

Key Words: Gabriel-Popescu theorem, Grothendieck category, enough idempotents, enough units.

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Let $\text{Ker}(T) = \{M \in \text{Mod} - A \mid T(M) = 0\}$. This is a localizing subcategory of $\text{Mod} - A$ (i.e. it is closed under subobjects, quotient objects, extensions and arbitrary direct sums). The Gabriel-Popescu Theorem says that \mathcal{C} is equivalent to the quotient category of $\text{Mod} - A$ by the localizing subcategory $\text{Ker}(T)$.

We know at least three proofs of this theorem.

The first is the original proof of P. Gabriel and N. Popescu which appears in [4]. More detailed presentations can be found in [13] and [14].

The second one is a very short proof given by M. Takeuchi [15]. The reader can find detailed presentations of this proof in [10] and [11].

The third proof belongs to B. Mitchell [9]. It is based on a result of Grothendieck from [6] saying that a Grothendieck category has enough injective objects.

In this paper, using the Gabriel-Popescu Theorem, we give a short proof of the fact that any Grothendieck category \mathcal{C} is a quotient category of $\text{Funct}(\mathcal{U}, \text{Ab})$, where \mathcal{U} is a family of generators for \mathcal{C} . This result appears in [5] with quite a long proof that follows closely the initial proof of the Gabriel-Popescu Theorem.

1 Preliminaries

In this section we review some preliminary results. For more details, the reader is referred to [16] and [1].

Let R be a ring (not necessarily with unit). We say that:

(1) R has enough units if for all finite non-empty subset X of R there exists an idempotent $e \in R$ such that $X \subseteq eRe$.

(2) R has enough right idempotents if there exists an orthogonal family $\{e_i\}_{i \in I}$ of idempotents (i.e. $e_i e_j = \delta_{ij} e_i$, for all $i, j \in I$) such that $R = \bigoplus_{i \in I} Re_i$.

(3) R has enough idempotents if there exists an orthogonal family $\{e_i\}_{i \in I}$ of idempotents such that $R = \bigoplus_{i \in I} Re_i = \bigoplus_{i \in I} e_i R$.

A ring with enough right idempotents has enough units (see [1]). As a consequence, any ring with enough idempotents is a ring with enough units.

Let R be a ring with enough units. We define the category $\text{MOD} - R$ as follows: the objects are the right R -modules with the property $MR = M$ and the morphisms are the right R -module morphisms. We list some properties of $\text{MOD} - R$:

(i) If R has a unity, $\text{MOD} - R$ is the category of unitary right R -modules.

(ii) If R is a ring with enough units, $\text{MOD} - R$ is a localizing subcategory of $\text{Mod} - R$ (see [1]).

In fact, $\text{MOD} - R$ is similar to the category of unitary modules over a unitary ring (there are some differences: for example, if $(M_i)_{i \in I}$ is a family of objects in $\text{MOD} - R$, the direct product is obtained by multiplying the cartesian product $\prod_{i \in I} M_i$ by R ; so the direct product of the given family in $\text{MOD} - R$ is $(\prod_{i \in I} M_i)R$).

2 A Version of the Gabriel-Popescu Theorem

Let \mathcal{A} be a Grothendick category and $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a family of generators for \mathcal{A} . We construct a ring $R_{\mathcal{U}}$ with enough idempotents as follows. As an additive group, $R_{\mathcal{U}} = \bigoplus_{i,j \in I} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U_i, U_j)$; the multiplication is defined by the rule: if $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U_i, U_j)$ and $g \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U_k, U_l)$, then $fg = f \circ g$ if $i = l$ and 0 otherwise. If we put $e_i = 1_{U_i}$, $i \in I$, then $\{e_i\}_{i \in I}$ is a family of orthogonal idempotents. One can easily see that

$$R_{\mathcal{U}} = \bigoplus_{i \in I} R_{\mathcal{U}} e_i = \bigoplus_{i \in I} e_i R_{\mathcal{U}},$$

hence $R_{\mathcal{U}}$ is a ring with enough idempotents.

We denote by $\text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$ the category of $R_{\mathcal{U}}$ -right modules M which satisfy $MR_{\mathcal{U}} = M$. In this category, $(e_i R_{\mathcal{U}})_{i \in I}$ is a family of finitely generated projective generators. Moreover,

$$\text{Hom}_{R_{\mathcal{U}}}(e_i R_{\mathcal{U}}, e_j R_{\mathcal{U}}) \cong e_j R_{\mathcal{U}} e_i \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U_i, U_j).$$

In particular, $\text{End}_R(e_i R_{\mathcal{U}}) \cong e_i R_{\mathcal{U}} e_i \cong \text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(U_i)$. Also, if $U = \bigoplus_{i \in I} U_i$, then it is clear that $R_{\mathcal{U}}$ is a non-unital subring of $\text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(U)$.

The family \mathcal{U} can be viewed as a small subcategory of \mathcal{A} with objects U_i , $i \in I$. Consider the category $\text{Funct}(\mathcal{U}, \text{Ab})$ which is equivalent to $\text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$ (see [3]).

In this section we give a short proof of the following result which, as noted in the introduction, may be found, for example, in [5]:

Theorem 2.1. *Let \mathcal{A} be a Grothendick category and $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ a family of generators for \mathcal{A} . Consider the canonical functor $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$ with $F(M) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U_i, M)$, for $M \in \mathcal{A}$. Then F has a left adjoint exact functor G and $G \circ F \cong 1_{\mathcal{A}}$. In particular, G induces an equivalence between \mathcal{A} and the quotient category $\text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}} / \text{Ker}(G)$, where $\text{Ker}(G) = \{M \in \text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}} \mid G(M) = 0\}$ is a localizing subcategory of $\text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$.*

We note that for $\mathcal{U} = \{U\}$, we obtain the classical Gabriel-Popescu Theorem. We have $F(U_i) = e_i R_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $G(e_i R_{\mathcal{U}}) = U_i$.

Proof. Our proof is made up of two steps.

Step 1. We construct a ring R with enough right idempotents associated to the family of generators \mathcal{U} . Let $A = \text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(U)$, where $U = \bigoplus_{i \in I} U_i$. Following [8], we can consider the family of orthogonal idempotent elements $\{\eta_i\}_{i \in I}$ of A , where $\eta_i : U \rightarrow U$, $\eta_i = \epsilon_i \circ \pi_i$, with ϵ_i and π_i being the canonical injections and projections. For any $X \in \mathcal{A}$ and $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, X)$, consider the set

$$\overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, X) = \{f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, X) \mid \text{Supp}(f) < \infty\},$$

where $\text{Supp}(f) = \{i \in I \mid f \circ \eta_i \neq 0\}$. We denote by $R = \overline{\text{End}}_{\mathcal{A}}(U)$ the set $\overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, U)$, which is a non-unital subring of the endomorphism ring $A = \text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(U)$. In fact, R is a left idempotent ideal of A and $R = \bigoplus_{i \in I} R \eta_i$ is a ring with enough right idempotents [8]. Hence $\overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, X) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, X)R$. Moreover, if every U_i is a small object (i.e. the covariant functor $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(X, -)$ commutes with direct sums), then $R = \bigoplus_{i \in I} R \eta_i = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \eta_i R$, so R is a ring with enough idempotents (see [8]).

Consider the category $\text{MOD} - R$ (the right R -modules M with $MR = M$). From [1, Proposition 1.1] we have the following sequence of categories and adjoint functors:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{S} & \text{Mod} - A \\ \leftarrow T & & \leftarrow - \otimes_R A \\ & & \text{MOD} - R \end{array}$$

where S and T are the functors from the Gabriel-Popescu theorem and t is defined by $t(N) = NR$, for all $N \in \text{Mod} - A$, and it is a right exact adjoint functor of $- \otimes_R A$ such that $t \circ (- \otimes_R A) \simeq 1_{\text{Mod} - R}$.

For any object $X \in \mathcal{A}$, we define the functor $S' = t \circ S$ by $S'(X) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, X)R = \overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{A}}(U, X)$.

For the second step, we need some preliminary results.

Proposition 2.2. *Let \mathcal{A} be a Grothendieck category, $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a family of generators of \mathcal{A} and S, T, t, S' be the above functors. Then the following assertions hold:*

1. $T' = T \circ (- \otimes_C A)$ is a left adjoint functor of $S' = t \circ S$.
2. T' is an exact functor.
3. $T' \circ S' \simeq 1_A$.

Moreover, S' induces an equivalence between the category \mathcal{A} and the quotient category of $\text{MOD} - R$ corresponding to the torsion class $\text{Ker}(T')$.

A proof of this result, consisting of making a series of simple constructions and applying the Gabriel-Popescu Theorem, can be found in [1]. An alternate proof, which follows closely the initial proof of the Gabriel-Popescu Theorem from [4], is given in [8].

For the convenience of the reader we sketch the proofs of the parts in the above proposition which are important in the sequel.

(1) This follows immediately from the Gabriel-Popescu Theorem and the fact that the composition of adjoint functors gives adjoint functors (see [7]).

(2) Let $0 \longrightarrow M' \xrightarrow{u} M \xrightarrow{v} M'' \longrightarrow 0$ be an exact sequence in $\text{MOD} - R$. By applying the functor $- \otimes_R A$, we obtain the exact sequence

$$M' \otimes_R A \xrightarrow{u \otimes A} M \otimes_R A \xrightarrow{v \otimes A} M'' \otimes_R A \longrightarrow 0.$$

If we put $X = \text{Ker}(u \otimes A)$, then we have $t(X) = t(\text{Ker}(u \otimes A)) \simeq \text{Ker}(u) = 0$. Therefore, $XR = 0$ or $X(RA) = 0$. For $RA \in \text{Ker}(T)$, we have $X \in \text{Ker}(T)$, so $T(X) = 0$. Hence, T' is an exact functor.

(3) Let X be an object of \mathcal{A} . Consider the canonical morphism of A -modules:

$$\gamma : S(X)R \otimes_R A \longrightarrow S(X), \quad \gamma(x \otimes a) = xa,$$

for any $x \in S(X)R$ and $a \in A$. If we apply the functor t to the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \text{Ker}(\gamma) \longrightarrow S(X)R \otimes_R A \xrightarrow{\gamma} S(X) \longrightarrow \text{Coker}(\gamma) \longrightarrow 0,$$

then we obtain $t(\text{Ker}(\gamma)) = t(\text{Coker}(\gamma)) = 0$. It follows that $\text{Ker}(\gamma)R = \text{Coker}(\gamma)R = 0$, and $\text{Ker}(\gamma)(RA) = \text{Coker}(\gamma)(RA) = 0$, so $\text{Ker}(\gamma), \text{Coker}(\gamma) \in \text{Ker}(T)$. In conclusion, $T(\gamma)$ is an exact isomorphism for T , hence $T'S'(X) \simeq T(t(S(X)) \otimes_R A) \simeq T(S(X)) \simeq X$.

We need two more lemmas.

Lemma 2.3. *Let $R = \bigoplus_{i \in I} R\eta_i$ be a ring with enough right idempotents. The following assertions hold:*

1. ηR is a finitely generated projective R -module, for every idempotent $\eta \in R$.
2. The family $\{\eta_i R\}_{i \in I}$ is a system of small projective generators of $\text{Mod} - R$.

Proof. (1) Let $\eta \in R$ be an arbitrary idempotent. We will prove first that ηR is R -projective. Consider the following diagram in $\text{MOD} - R$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \eta R & \\ h \swarrow & \downarrow f & \\ M & \xrightarrow{g} M' & \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

If $f(\eta) = m'$, then $f(\eta) = g(m)$, for a given $m \in M$. For every $r \in R$, $h : \eta R \rightarrow M$, $\eta r \mapsto m\eta r$, is a morphism of right R -modules and $g \circ h = f$, so the diagram is commutative. Hence, ηR is R -projective.

Let $\eta R = \bigcup_{i \in I} M_i$, where $\{M_i\}_{i \in I}$ is filtering family of subobjects of ηR . Because $\eta \in \eta R$, there exists an $i \in I$ such that $\eta \in M_i$. Therefore, $\eta R \subseteq M_i R = M_i$, so ηR is finitely generated in $\text{MOD} - R$.

(2) We will prove that $\{\eta_i R\}_{i \in I}$ is a family of generators for $\text{MOD} - R$. Since $\eta_i R$ is generated by one element, it is a small object in $\text{MOD} - R$ for any $i \in I$.

Consider $M \in \text{MOD} - R$, $M' \subseteq M$ with $M' \neq M$, and $x \in M \setminus M'$. Then $M R = M$ and $x = \sum_{i \in I} m_i \eta_i^x$. From the orthogonality relation $x \eta_j^x = m_j \eta_j^x$ we obtain that there exists an $i \in I$ such that $m_i \eta_i^x \notin M'$. So there exists $m \in M$ with $m \eta_i \notin M'$ for some $i \in I$. Therefore, we have $\text{Im}(f) \not\subseteq M'$, where $f : \eta_i R \rightarrow M$, $\eta_i r \mapsto m \eta_i r$, since $f(\eta_i) = m \cdot \eta_i \notin M'$. Hence $\{\eta_i R\}_{i \in I}$ is a family of generators for $\text{MOD} - R$. \square

Lemma 2.4. *If \mathcal{A} is a category with a family of small projective generators then it is equivalent to a category of modules over a ring with enough idempotents.*

Proof. The proof follows from Proposition 2.2. \square

Now we continue the proof of the main theorem.

Step 2. If R is the ring constructed in Step 1, then $\mathcal{U}' = \{\eta_i R\}_{i \in I}$ is a family of finitely generated projective generators for the category $\text{MOD} - R$. We have the ring isomorphism $R_{\mathcal{U}'} \cong R_{\mathcal{U}}$.

Using Lemma 2.4, we conclude that $\text{MOD} - R$ is equivalent to $\text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$. The equivalence is given by the scalar restriction functor $i_* : \text{MOD} - R \rightarrow \text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$ with the functor $- \otimes_{R_{\mathcal{U}}} R$ as its inverse, where $i : R_{\mathcal{U}} \rightarrow R$ is the inclusion morphism. According to Proposition 2.2, we have the following sequence of categories and adjoint functors:

$$\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{S} \text{Mod} - \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{t} \text{MOD} - R \xrightarrow{i_*} \text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}} .$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \xleftarrow{T} & \xleftarrow{- \otimes_R \mathcal{A}} & \xleftarrow{- \otimes_{R_{\mathcal{U}}} R} \end{array}$$

We put $F = i_* \circ t \circ S : \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $G = T \circ (- \otimes_R A) \circ (- \otimes_{R_{\mathcal{U}}}) : \text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$. We have $F(X) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(U_i, X)$ for any $X \in \mathcal{A}$. From the above lemmas, we conclude that G is a left adjoint for F . Moreover, G is an exact functor and $G \circ F \cong 1_{\mathcal{A}}$, so the proof ends. \square

As an immediate corollary of Theorem 2.1, we obtain the following result from [5]:

Corollary 2.5. *Let \mathcal{A} be a Grothendick category and $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ a family of generators for \mathcal{A} . Then \mathcal{A} is a quotient category of $\text{Funct}(\mathcal{U}, Ab)$.*

Proof. Since we know from a result of Gabriel (in [3]) that $\text{Funct}(\mathcal{U}, Ab)$ is equivalent to $\text{MOD} - R_{\mathcal{U}}$, the conclusion follows now if we apply Theorem 2.1. \square

We recall some facts about semiartinian categories and the Loewy series. Details can be found, for example, in [11].

Let \mathcal{A} be a category. An object $M \in \mathcal{A}$ is called *semiartinian* if for every subobject M' of M with $M' \neq M$, M/M' contains a simple object.

If M is an object of \mathcal{A} , we construct by transfinite induction, an ascending chain of subobjects of M as follows. Let α be an arbitrary ordinal.

If $\alpha = 0$, we set $L_0(M) = 0$.

If $\alpha = 1$, we set $L_1(M) = s_0(M)$, where s_0 is the the *socle* of M , i.e. the sum of all the simple subobjects of M .

If $\alpha = \beta + 1$, then $L_\alpha(M)$ is the subobject of M given by

$$L_\alpha(M)/L_\beta(M) = s_0(M/L_\beta(M)).$$

If α is a limit ordinal (i.e. it has no predecessor), we set

$$L_\alpha(M) = \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} L_\beta(M).$$

In this way, we obtain an ascending chain of subobjects of M

$$0 = L_0(M) \subseteq L_1(M) \subseteq \dots \subseteq L_\alpha(M) \subseteq L_{\alpha+1}(M) \subseteq \dots$$

indexed by the set of ordinal numbers. This chain is called the *Loewy series associated to M* . The semisimple objects $L_{\alpha+1}(M)/L_\alpha(M)$ are called the *factors* of the Loewy series. The smallest ordinal number that satisfies $L_\alpha(M) = L_{\alpha+1}(M) = \dots$ is called the *Loewy length* of the series and it is denoted by $\lambda(M)$.

It is clear that for two ordinal numbers $\xi < \eta \leq \lambda(M)$ we have that $L_\xi(M) \neq L_\eta(M)$. If there is an ordinal ξ with $L_\xi(M) = M$, then we say that M is of defined Loewy length.

Some well-known properties of semiartinian categories and of the Loewy series are listed below:

1. If M este the direct sum of the family of subobjects $(M_i)_{i \in I}$, then

$$L_\alpha(M) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} L_\alpha(M_i),$$

for any ordinal number α .

2. If N is a subobject of M , the following assertions hold:

- (a) $\lambda(N) \leq \lambda(M)$.
- (b) If M is of defined Loewy length, then $\lambda(M/N) \leq \lambda(M)$.
- (c) $\lambda(M) \leq \lambda(N) + \lambda(M/N)$.

3. If M is semiartinian object, then $s_0(M)$ is an essential subobject of M .
4. Let N be a subobject of M . Then M is semiartinian if and only if N and M/N are semiartinian.
5. A direct sum of semiartinian objects is a semiartinian object.
6. An object M is semiartinian if and only if M is of defined Loewy length.
7. If $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of objects, then the sequence $0 \rightarrow s_0(M') \rightarrow s_0(M) \rightarrow s_0(M'') \rightarrow 0$ is also exact.

If \mathcal{A} is a semiartinian Grothendick category (i.e. any object is semiartinian) with the family of generators $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$, let $\lambda(\mathcal{A}) = \sup\{\lambda(M) \mid M \in \mathcal{A}\} = \sup\{\lambda(U_i) \mid i \in I\}$. Then $\lambda(\mathcal{A})$ is an ordinal number and it always exists.

Corollary 2.6. *Let \mathcal{A} be a semiartinian Grothendick category and $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ a family of generators of \mathcal{A} such that $\lambda(\mathcal{A}) < \infty$ and the U_i 's are injective objects. Then \mathcal{A} is a semiperfect category (i.e. any simple object is contained in a projective one). In particular, \mathcal{A} has enough projective objects.*

Proof. Following the steps of the proof of [1, Theorem 4.1] and applying Theorem 2.1, we obtain the desired conclusion. \square

Let C be a coalgebra over a field k . We denote by ${}^C\mathcal{M}$ the category of left comodules over the coalgebra C . For details on coalgebras and comodules, the reader is referred to [2]. If $M \in {}^C\mathcal{M}$, we consider the Loewy series of M :

$$0 = M_0 \subseteq M_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq M_n \subseteq \dots \subseteq M.$$

We have that $\bigcup_{i \geq 0} M_i = M$ (see [12]), so the Loewy length has the property $\lambda(M) \leq \omega$, where ω is the first transfinite ordinal. If $\lambda(M) = n < \infty$, we say that M is a comodule of finite length. If $M = C$ (as a left C -comodule), the series $0 = C_0 \subseteq C_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq C_n \subseteq \dots \subseteq C$ is called the *coradical filtration* of the coalgebra C .

Corollary 2.7. *Let C be a coalgebra with a finite coradical filtration. If C is a generator of ${}^C\mathcal{M}$, then C is a quasi-co-Frobenius coalgebra.*

Proof. C can be written as the sum of a family of injective indecomposable objects $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ in ${}^C\mathcal{M}$, because C is a coalgebra that has the coradical filtration of finite length $n \geq 1$. From $\lambda(C) = n$, we obtain that $\lambda(U_i) \leq n$, for all $i \in I$, hence $\text{End}_{{}^C\mathcal{M}}(U_i)$ is a semiprimary ring, for all $i \in I$ (i.e. it is a local ring with the Jacobson radical of nilpotence degree smaller or equal to n). Since the conditions of the Corollary 2.6 hold in our case, we deduce that the category ${}^C\mathcal{M}$ is semiperfect, so from [12, Theorem 3.1] we obtain that C is quasi-co-Frobenius. \square

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