

\mathcal{L} -INJECTIVE HULLS OF MODULES

LIXIN MAO AND NANQING DING

Let R be a ring and \mathcal{L} a class of R -modules. An R -module N is called \mathcal{L} -injective if $\text{Ext}_R^1(L, N) = 0$ for all $L \in \mathcal{L}$. An \mathcal{L} -injective hull of an R -module M is defined to be a homomorphism $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ with F \mathcal{L} -injective such that for any monomorphism $f : M \rightarrow F'$ with F' \mathcal{L} -injective, there is a monomorphism $g : F \rightarrow F'$ satisfying $g\phi = f$. The aim of this paper is to study \mathcal{L} -injective hulls and their relations with \mathcal{L} -injective envelopes in Enochs' sense.

1. INTRODUCTION

Recall that an injective module E is called an injective hull of a module M if M essentially embeds in E . It is well known that the injective hull of M can be regarded simultaneously as the unique minimal injective extension and also the unique maximal essential extension of M (up to isomorphism). Eckmann and Schöpf [3] proved that every module has an injective hull. The result together with the Matlis' structure theorem [11] for injective modules has played an important role in homological algebra and commutative algebra.

Let R be a ring, \mathcal{C} a class of R -modules and M an R -module. Enochs [4] introduced the concepts of \mathcal{C} -(pre)envelopes of M . A homomorphism $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ with $F \in \mathcal{C}$ is called a \mathcal{C} -preenvelope of M if for any homomorphism $f : M \rightarrow F'$ with $F' \in \mathcal{C}$, there is a homomorphism $g : F \rightarrow F'$ such that $g\phi = f$. Moreover, if every endomorphism $g : F \rightarrow F$ such that $g\phi = \phi$ is an isomorphism, the \mathcal{C} -preenvelope ϕ is called a \mathcal{C} -envelope of M . \mathcal{C} -envelopes may not exist in general, but if they exist, they are unique up to isomorphism. In particular, let \mathcal{C} be the class of all injective modules, then \mathcal{C} -envelopes in Enochs' sense agree with the injective hulls in Eckmann-Schöpf's sense by [17, Theorem 1.2.11].

Given a class \mathcal{L} of R -modules. We let \mathcal{L}^\perp be the class of R -modules M such that $\text{Ext}_R^1(L, M) = 0$ for all $L \in \mathcal{L}$. Similarly, ${}^\perp\mathcal{L}$ denotes the class of R -modules N such that $\text{Ext}_R^1(N, L) = 0$ for all $L \in \mathcal{L}$. An R -module M is called \mathcal{L} -injective (see [7]) if $M \in \mathcal{L}^\perp$, or equivalently, if M is injective with respect to every exact sequence $0 \rightarrow A$

Received 16th February, 2006

This research was partially supported by SRFDP (No. 20050284015), NSFC (No. 10331030), NSF of Jiangsu Province of China (No. BK 2005207) and the Nanjing Institute of Technology of China.

Copyright Clearance Centre, Inc. Serial-fee code: 0004-9727/06 \$A2.00+0.00.

$\rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ with $C \in \mathcal{L}$. \mathcal{L} -injective modules stand for several known modules such as injective modules, FP -injective modules, divisible modules and cotorsion modules in case of different \mathcal{L} . \mathcal{L} -injective (pre)envelopes of modules for some special \mathcal{L} have been studied by many authors (see, for example, [6, 10, 16, 17]).

In this short note, we introduce the concept of \mathcal{L} -injective hulls of modules which generalises that of injective hulls of modules from another point of view. An \mathcal{L} -injective hull of a module M is defined to be the “minimal” \mathcal{L} -injective extension of M . More precisely, an \mathcal{L} -injective hull of a module M is a homomorphism $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ with F \mathcal{L} -injective such that for any monomorphism $f : M \rightarrow F'$ with F' \mathcal{L} -injective, there is a monomorphism $g : F \rightarrow F'$ satisfying $g\phi = f$. It is shown that, if an R -module has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull, then it is unique up to isomorphism. It is also shown that, if \mathcal{L} is closed under extensions, quotients and direct limits, then every R -module has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull. Some relations between \mathcal{L} -injective hulls and \mathcal{L} -injective envelopes are also studied.

Throughout this paper, R is an associative ring with identity and all modules are unitary right R -modules. \mathcal{L} stands for a class of R -modules which is closed under isomorphisms and contains 0. For an R -module M , $E(M)$ denotes the injective hull of M . We use $N \leq_e M$ to indicate that N is an essential submodule of M . For other unexplained concepts and notations, we refer the reader to [1, 6, 14, 17].

2. DEFINITION AND RESULTS

We start with the following

DEFINITION 2.1: Let \mathcal{L} be a class of R -modules and M an R -module. A homomorphism $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ with F \mathcal{L} -injective is called an \mathcal{L} -injective hull of M if for any monomorphism $f : M \rightarrow F'$ with F' \mathcal{L} -injective, there is a monomorphism $g : F \rightarrow F'$ such that $g\phi = f$.

REMARK 2.2. (1) If we choose \mathcal{L} to be the class of all R -modules, then \mathcal{L} -injective hulls agree with injective hulls by [1, Corollary 18.11]. However, if we choose \mathcal{L} such that the class of injective modules is a proper subclass of \mathcal{L} -injective modules, then there exists an \mathcal{L} -injective M whose \mathcal{L} -injective hulls do not agree with its injective hulls.

(2) Note that the injective hull $E(M)$ of M is \mathcal{L} -injective and is an essential extension of M , so every \mathcal{L} -injective hull $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ is an essential monomorphism by [1, Exercise 5.14 (1), p. 77] (if it exists).

It is well known that \mathcal{L} -injective envelopes are unique up to isomorphism if they exist. Now we have the analogous result for \mathcal{L} -injective hulls.

THEOREM 2.3. *If an R -module has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull, then it is unique up to isomorphism.*

PROOF: Let M be an R -module and $\mathfrak{S} = \{N : M \leq N \leq E(M), N \text{ is } \mathcal{L}\text{-injective}\}$. Note that the set \mathfrak{S} is nonempty since $E(M) \in \mathfrak{S}$. We shall show that \mathfrak{S} has a minimal

element. Let $\{N_\alpha \in \mathfrak{S} : \alpha \in I\}$ be a descending chain. It is enough to show that $\bigcap N_\alpha \in \mathfrak{S}$ by Zorn's Lemma. We shall prove that any exact sequence $0 \rightarrow \bigcap N_\alpha \xrightarrow{i} P \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ with $C \in \mathcal{L}$ is split (we may regard i as an inclusion). In fact, we have the following pushout diagram of the inclusions i and λ_α :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \bigcap N_\alpha & \xrightarrow{i} & P & \longrightarrow & C \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \lambda_\alpha \downarrow & & \mu_\alpha \downarrow & & \parallel \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & N_\alpha & \xrightarrow{\nu_\alpha} & A_\alpha & \xrightarrow{t_\alpha} & C \longrightarrow 0, \end{array}$$

where $A_\alpha = (P \oplus N_\alpha) / \{(a, -a) : a \in \bigcap N_\alpha\}$, $\mu_\alpha(p) = \overline{(p, 0)}$ for any $p \in P$, $\nu_\alpha(q) = \overline{(0, q)}$ for any $q \in N_\alpha$. Since N_α is \mathcal{L} -injective, the second row is split. Thus we get a split exact sequence $0 \rightarrow \bigcap N_\alpha \xrightarrow{\nu} \bigcap A_\alpha \xrightarrow{t} C \rightarrow 0$. We claim that $P \cong \bigcap A_\alpha$. Indeed, there exists $\beta : P \rightarrow \bigcap A_\alpha$ such that $\beta(p) = \mu_\alpha(p)$ for any $p \in P$ and $\alpha \in I$. Note that β is monic since μ_α is monic. Now we define $\gamma : \bigcap A_\alpha \rightarrow P$ via $\overline{(p_\alpha, n_\alpha)} \mapsto p_\alpha + n_\alpha$. Assume $\overline{(p_\alpha, n_\alpha)} \in \bigcap A_\alpha$, then for any $\beta \in I$, $\overline{(p_\alpha, n_\alpha)} \in A_\beta$, and so $\overline{(p_\alpha, n_\alpha)} = \overline{(p_\beta, n_\beta)}$ for some $p_\beta \in P$ and $n_\beta \in N_\beta$. Then $\overline{(p_\alpha - p_\beta, n_\alpha - n_\beta)} = 0$, and hence $n_\alpha - n_\beta = -a$ for some $a \in \bigcap N_\alpha$. Thus $n_\alpha = n_\beta - a \in N_\beta$, it follows that $n_\alpha \in \bigcap N_\alpha$. Therefore $p_\alpha + n_\alpha \in P$, and so γ is well-defined. Note that $\beta\gamma = 1$, and hence β is an isomorphism. Thus the first row in the pushout diagram above is split, and so $\bigcap N_\alpha$ is \mathcal{L} -injective. Consequently, \mathfrak{S} has a minimal element N_0 .

Suppose $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ is any \mathcal{L} -injective hull of M . Then there exists a monomorphism $\psi : F \rightarrow N_0$ such that $\psi\phi = \iota$, where $\iota : M \rightarrow N_0$ is the inclusion. It is obvious that $\psi(F) \subseteq N_0$. In addition, $M = \iota(M) = \psi\phi(M) \subseteq \psi(F)$. Since $\psi(F) \cong F$ is \mathcal{L} -injective, $\psi(F) \in \mathfrak{S}$. So $\psi(F) = N_0$ by the minimality of N_0 , and hence $F \cong N_0$.

This completes the proof. \square

REMARK 2.4. By Theorem 2.3, if an R -module M has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull, then we may choose the minimal \mathcal{L} -injective extension of M contained in $E(M)$ as its \mathcal{L} -injective hull.

PROPOSITION 2.5. *Let $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ be a homomorphism.*

- (1) *If ϕ is an \mathcal{L} -injective preenvelope, then ϕ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull if and only if ϕ is an essential monomorphism.*
- (2) *If M admits an \mathcal{L} -injective envelope, then ϕ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull if and only if ϕ is an \mathcal{L} -injective envelope and ϕ is an essential monomorphism.*

PROOF: (1) The necessity follows from Remark 2.2 (2). Conversely, assume that ϕ is essential. For any \mathcal{L} -injective module N and any monomorphism $f : M \rightarrow N$, there exists $g : F \rightarrow N$ such that $g\phi = f$ since ϕ is an \mathcal{L} -injective preenvelope. Thus g is a monomorphism by [1, Corollary 5.13], and so ϕ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull.

(2) The sufficiency holds by (1). Conversely, suppose that ϕ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull. Let $\lambda : M \rightarrow N$ be an \mathcal{L} -injective envelope of M , then there exists $f : N \rightarrow F$ such that $f\lambda = \phi$, and there exists a monomorphism $g : F \rightarrow N$ such that $g\phi = \lambda$. Thus $gf\lambda = \lambda$,

and hence gf is an isomorphism. Thus g is an isomorphism. It follows that $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective envelope. \square

Recall that an R -module M is called cotorsion [5] if $\text{Ext}_R^1(F, M) = 0$ for all flat R -modules F . It is well known that every R -module has a cotorsion envelope [6]. So, if $\phi : M \rightarrow F$ is a cotorsion hull of M , then ϕ is a cotorsion envelope of M by Proposition 2.5 (2). But the converse is not true in general as shown by the following example.

EXAMPLE 2.6. Let $P = \{p : p \text{ is a prime}\}$, $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)} = \{a/b : b \notin \mathbb{Z}p, (a, b) = 1\}$, where $p \in P$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : \mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow \prod_{p \in P} \mathbb{Z}_{(p)} \\ x &\mapsto (x/1) \end{aligned}$$

is a cotorsion envelope of \mathbb{Z} . However φ is not essential. In fact, it is easy to observe that $\prod_{p \in P} (p/(p+1)) \neq 0$, but $\text{im}(\varphi) \cap \prod_{p \in P} (p/(p+1)) = 0$. Thus φ is not a cotorsion hull of \mathbb{Z} by Proposition 2.5 (1).

PROPOSITION 2.7. *If $f : N \rightarrow M$ is a monomorphism with M \mathcal{L} -injective and $\text{coker}(f) \in \mathcal{L}$, then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) f is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull of N .
- (2) f is an essential monomorphism.

Moreover, if \mathcal{L} is closed under quotients, then the above conditions are also equivalent to:

- (3) f is an \mathcal{L} -injective envelope of N .

PROOF: We first note that $f : N \rightarrow M$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective preenvelope by assumption.

(1) \Leftrightarrow (2) holds by Proposition 2.5 (1).

(3) \Rightarrow (2). Let X be a submodule of M such that $f(N) \cap X = 0$, and let $\pi : M \rightarrow M/X$ be the quotient map. Put $g = \pi f$, then we get an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N \xrightarrow{g} M/X \rightarrow H \rightarrow 0$. So we have $H \cong M/X \not\!/ g(N)$. Note that $g(N) = (f(N) + X)/X$, and hence

$$H \cong M/X \not\!/ (f(N) + X)/X \cong M \not\!/ (f(N) + X) \cong M/f(N) \not\!/ (f(N) + X)/f(N).$$

Since $M/f(N) \in \mathcal{L}$ and \mathcal{L} is closed under quotients, we have $H \in \mathcal{L}$. Thus there exists $h : M/X \rightarrow M$ such that $f = hg = h\pi f$, and hence $h\pi$ is an isomorphism by (3). Consequently $X \cong h\pi(X) = 0$. It follows that f is essential.

(2) \Rightarrow (3). Let α be an endomorphism of M such that $\alpha f = f$. Then α is an essential monomorphism by [1, Corollary 5.13 and Exercise 5.14 (1)] since f is essential. Note that the sequence $M/f(N) = M/\alpha f(N) \rightarrow M/\alpha(M) \rightarrow 0$ is exact. Therefore $M/\alpha(M) \in \mathcal{L}$ by assumption, and we obtain a split exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\alpha} M \rightarrow M/\alpha(M) \rightarrow 0$. So $\alpha(M) = M$ since $\alpha(M) \leq_e M$. Thus α is an epimorphism, and hence an isomorphism, as desired. \square

REMARK 2.8. Let \mathcal{S} be a set of R -modules, then for every R -module N , there is an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N \xrightarrow{f} M \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ such that M is \mathcal{S} -injective and $C \in {}^\perp(\mathcal{S}^\perp)$ by [6, Theorem 7.4.1]. Thus f is an \mathcal{S} -injective hull if and only if f is an essential monomorphism by Proposition 2.5 (1). In addition, if ${}^\perp(\mathcal{S}^\perp)$ is closed under direct limits, then N has an \mathcal{S} -injective envelope by [6, Theorem 7.2.6], and so f is both an \mathcal{S} -injective hull and an \mathcal{S} -injective envelope by Proposition 2.5 (2) if f is essential.

As is well known, for two R -modules M and N , if $N \leq_e M$, then $E(N) = E(M)$ (see [1, Proposition 18.12]). Next we consider the similar question when N and M share a common \mathcal{L} -injective hull under the condition that $N \leq_e M$.

PROPOSITION 2.9. *Let $\iota : N \rightarrow M$ be an essential extension of N with $M/N \in \mathcal{L}$.*

- (1) *If \mathcal{L} is closed under cokernels of monomorphisms, and N has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull $f : N \rightarrow K$ with $\text{coker}(f) \in \mathcal{L}$, then M has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull $M \rightarrow K$.*
- (2) *If \mathcal{L} is closed under extensions, and M has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull $\lambda : M \rightarrow H$ with $\text{coker}(\lambda) \in \mathcal{L}$, then N has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull $N \rightarrow H$.*

PROOF: (1) Since $M/N \in \mathcal{L}$, there is $\alpha : M \rightarrow K$ such that $\alpha\iota = f$. Thus $K/\alpha(N) = K/f(N) = \text{coker}(f) \in \mathcal{L}$. By the exactness of $0 \rightarrow M/N \xrightarrow{\bar{\alpha}} K/\alpha(N) \rightarrow K/\alpha(M) \rightarrow 0$, we have $K/\alpha(M) \in \mathcal{L}$ since \mathcal{L} is closed under cokernels of monomorphisms. In addition, α is an essential monomorphism since f and ι are essential. So $\alpha : M \rightarrow K$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull by Proposition 2.7.

(2) Consider the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M/N \xrightarrow{\bar{\lambda}} H/\lambda(N) \rightarrow H/\lambda(M) \rightarrow 0$. Then $H/\lambda(N) \in \mathcal{L}$ since \mathcal{L} is closed under extensions. Note that $\lambda\iota$ is essential, and hence $\lambda\iota : N \rightarrow H$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull by Proposition 2.7. \square

Now we give a sufficient condition for the existence of \mathcal{L} -injective hulls.

THEOREM 2.10. *If \mathcal{L} is closed under extensions, quotients and direct limits, then every R -module has an \mathcal{L} -injective hull.*

PROOF: Let M be an R -module. Put $\mathfrak{T} = \{N : M \leq N \leq E(M), \text{ and } N/M \in \mathcal{L}\}$. Then \mathfrak{T} is a nonempty set since $M \in \mathfrak{T}$. Let $\{N_i \in \mathfrak{T} : i \in I\}$ be an ascending chain. Note that $M \leq \cup N_i \leq E(M)$ and $(\cup N_i)/M = \cup(N_i/M) = \varinjlim(N_i/M) \in \mathfrak{T}$ since \mathcal{L} is closed under direct limits. Thus $\cup N_i \in \mathfrak{T}$, and so \mathfrak{T} has a maximal element N' by Zorn's Lemma. We shall prove that N' is \mathcal{L} -injective. It is enough to show that any exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N' \xrightarrow{f} B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ with $C \in \mathcal{L}$ is split. Let $\iota : N' \rightarrow E(N')$ be the inclusion and $\pi : E(N') \rightarrow E(N')/N'$ the quotient map. Then there exist $\alpha : B \rightarrow E(N')$ and $\beta : C \rightarrow E(N')/N'$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & N' & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \longrightarrow & C \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & N' & \xrightarrow{\iota} & E(N') & \xrightarrow{\pi} & E(N')/N' \longrightarrow 0. \end{array}$$

Since $\beta(C) \leq E(N')/N'$, there exists H such that $N' \leq H \leq E(N')$ and $\beta(C) = H/N'$. So $H/N' \in \mathcal{L}$ since $C \in \mathcal{L}$ and \mathcal{L} is closed under quotients. Thus the exactness of $0 \rightarrow N'/M \rightarrow H/M \rightarrow H/N' \rightarrow 0$ implies that $H/M \in \mathcal{L}$ by hypothesis. But the maximality of N' forces that $N' = H$, and hence $\beta(C) = 0$. So $\alpha(B) \subseteq N'$. It follows that the first row is split, and hence N' is \mathcal{L} -injective.

On the other hand, M is an essential submodule of N' since $M \leq N' \leq E(M)$. Therefore the inclusion $M \rightarrow N'$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull by Proposition 2.7. \square

Recall that an R -module M is called *FP*-injective (or absolutely pure) [12, 15] if $\text{Ext}_R^1(N, M) = 0$ for any finitely presented R -module N . M is called divisible (or *P*-injective) [13, 16] if $\text{Ext}_R^1(R/aR, M) = 0$ for all $a \in R$. If R is a commutative domain, then M is divisible if and only if $Mr = M$ for any $0 \neq r \in R$. A ring R is called right semihereditary (right *PP*) if every finitely generated (principal) right ideal of R is projective.

COROLLARY 2.11. *The following are true:*

- (1) *Every R -module over a right semihereditary ring R has an \mathcal{FI} -injective hull, where \mathcal{FI} denotes the class of all *FP*-injective R -modules.*
- (2) *Every R -module over a right *PP* ring R has a \mathcal{DI} -injective hull, where \mathcal{DI} denotes the class of all divisible R -modules.*

PROOF: (1) Note that \mathcal{FI} is closed under extensions, direct limits by [15, Theorem 3.2] and quotients by [12, Theorem 2] since R is a right semihereditary ring. Thus (1) follows from Theorem 2.10.

(2) \mathcal{DI} is clearly closed under extensions and direct sums. Since R is right *PP*, \mathcal{DI} is closed under quotients by [18, Theorem 2]. Note that the sequence $\oplus M_i \rightarrow \varinjlim M_i \rightarrow 0$ is exact, and so \mathcal{DI} is closed under direct limits. Therefore (2) holds by Theorem 2.10. \square

It is known that every finite direct sum of \mathcal{L} -injective envelopes is still an \mathcal{L} -injective envelope. But \mathcal{L} -injective envelopes are not closed under arbitrary direct sums in general (even if the class of \mathcal{L} -injective modules is closed under arbitrary direct sums) (see [17]). The next proposition shows that \mathcal{L} -injective hulls are preserved under arbitrary direct sums.

PROPOSITION 2.12. *The following are true:*

- (1) *If $\phi_i : M_i \rightarrow F_i$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull for $i = 1, 2$, then $\phi_1 \oplus \phi_2 : M_1 \oplus M_2 \rightarrow F_1 \oplus F_2$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull.*
- (2) *If the class of \mathcal{L} -injective modules is closed under direct sums, and $\phi_i : M_i \rightarrow F_i$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull for any $i \in I$, then $\oplus \phi_i : \oplus M_i \rightarrow \oplus F_i$ is an \mathcal{L} -injective hull.*

PROOF: (1) Let $f : M_1 \oplus M_2 \rightarrow N$ with N \mathcal{L} -injective be any monomorphism. Suppose $\iota_i : M_i \rightarrow M_1 \oplus M_2$ is the canonical injection and $\pi_i : F_1 \oplus F_2 \rightarrow F_i$ the

canonical projection, $i = 1, 2$. Then there exist monomorphisms $g_i : F_i \rightarrow N$ such that $g_i \phi_i = f \iota_i$. Define $g : F_1 \oplus F_2 \rightarrow N$ by $g(x_1, x_2) = g_1(x_1) + g_2(x_2)$. It is easy to verify that $g(\phi_1 \oplus \phi_2) = f$. Note that $\phi_1 \oplus \phi_2$ is an essential monomorphism by [1, Proposition 5.20] since ϕ_i are essential monomorphisms by Remark 2.2 (2). So g is a monomorphism by [1, Corollary 5.13], as desired.

(2) Note that $\oplus \phi_i$ is an essential monomorphism by [9, Proposition 1.1 (d)]. Thus (2) holds by the proof of (1). \square

We should point out that, although the class of \mathcal{L} -injective modules is closed under direct products, \mathcal{L} -injective hulls are not preserved under direct products in general (see [17, Example, p. 15]).

Finally, as an application of the results above, we consider the special case that R is a commutative domain.

PROPOSITION 2.13. *The following are equivalent for a commutative domain R :*

- (1) *Every free R -module has a divisible hull which is a divisible preenvelope.*
- (2) *R has a divisible hull which is a divisible preenvelope.*
- (3) *R has a divisible envelope.*

PROOF: (1) \Rightarrow (2) is trivial.

(2) \Rightarrow (1) follows from Proposition 2.12 and [17, Proposition 1.2.4] since the class of divisible modules is closed under direct sums.

(2) \Rightarrow (3). Let $f : R \rightarrow N$ be a divisible hull of R . We may assume that f is an inclusion. For any $0 \neq r \in R$, there exists $t_r \in N$ such that $rt_r = 1$ since N is divisible. Define $p_r : R \rightarrow N$ via $s \mapsto st_r$. If $st_r = 0$, then $s = srt_r = rst_r = 0$, so p_r is a monomorphism. Thus there exists a monomorphism $g_r : N \rightarrow N$ such that $t_r = p_r(1) = g_r f(1) = g_r(1)$. Define $h_r : N \rightarrow N$ via $x \mapsto rx$, then $f = g_r h_r f$. Thus $g_r h_r$ is a monomorphism since f is essential by Remark 2.2 (2), and hence h_r is a monomorphism. It follows that N is torsionfree. So N is injective by [2, Proposition VII. 1.3] or [8, Theorem VI. 4.1]. Therefore f is an injective hull (envelope) since f is essential. Hence every endomorphism $g : N \rightarrow N$ such that $gf = f$ is an isomorphism. Thus f is a divisible envelope since f is a divisible preenvelope.

(3) \Rightarrow (2). Let $f : R \rightarrow N$ be a divisible envelope of R . We may assume that f is an inclusion. It is easy to show that N is injective using an argument similar to that in the proof of (2) \Rightarrow (3). Therefore f is an injective envelope (hull) since f is a divisible envelope. Hence f is a divisible hull by Proposition 2.5 (1) since f is essential. \square

REFERENCES

- [1] F.W. Anderson and K.R. Fuller, *Rings and categories of modules* (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heideberg, New York, 1974).

- [2] H. Cartan and S. Eilenberg, *Homological algebra* (Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1956).
- [3] B. Eckmann and A. Schöpf, 'Über injektive moduln', *Arch. Math. (Basel)* **4** (1953), 75–78.
- [4] E.E. Enochs, 'Injective and flat covers, envelopes and resolvents', *Israel J. Math.* **39** (1981), 189–209.
- [5] E.E. Enochs, 'Flat covers and flat cotorsion modules', *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **92** (1984), 179–184.
- [6] E.E. Enochs and O.M.G. Jenda, *Relative homological algebra* (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 2000).
- [7] T.H. Fay and S.V. Joubert, 'Relative injectivity', *Chinese J. Math* **22** (1994), 65–94.
- [8] L. Fuchs and L. Salce, *Modules over valuation domains*, Lecture Notes in Pure and Appl. Math. **97** (Dekker, New York, 1985).
- [9] K.R. Goodearl, *Ring theory: Nonsingular rings and modules*, Monographs Textbooks Pure Appl. Math. **33** (Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York and Basel, 1976).
- [10] L.X. Mao and N.Q. Ding, 'Relative copure injective and copure flat modules', *J. Pure Appl. Algebra* (to appear).
- [11] E. Matlis, 'Injective modules over noetherian rings', *Pacific J. Math.* **8** (1958), 511–528.
- [12] C. Megibben, 'Absolutely pure modules', *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **26** (1970), 561–566.
- [13] W.K. Nicholson and M.F. Yousif, 'Principally injective rings', *J. Algebra* **174** (1995), 77–93.
- [14] J.J. Rotman, *An introduction to homological algebra* (Academic Press, New York, 1979).
- [15] B. Stenström, 'Coherent rings and FP -injective modules', *J. London Math. Soc.* **2** (1970), 323–329.
- [16] J. Trlifaj, *Covers, envelopes, and Cotorsion theories*, Lecture notes for the workshop (Homological Methods in Module Theory, Cortona, September 10-16, 2000).
- [17] J. Xu, *Flat covers of modules*, Lecture Notes in Math. **1634** (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1996).
- [18] W.M. Xue, 'On PP rings', *Kobe J. Math.* **7** (1990), 77–80.

Department of Basic Courses
Nanjing Institute of Technology
Nanjing 211167
China

and
Department of Mathematics
Nanjing University
Nanjing 210093
China
e-mail: maolx2@hotmail.com

Department of Mathematics
Nanjing University
Nanjing 210093
China
e-mail: nqding@nju.edu.cn