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AND LOCAL COHOMOLOGY

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PREPRINT SERIES IN MATHEMATICS

No. 7/1978



BUCUREȘTI

Med 15335

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February 1978

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Singular sets of a module and local cohomology

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Constantin Bănică and Manuela Stoia

When X is an analytic complex space and \mathcal{F} an analytic coherent sheaf, one can define singular sets $S_k(\mathcal{F})$ ([8], [11]). These ones have an important place in the study of local cohomology. In particular, they provide enunciations to vanishing and coherence theorems for sheaves $\mathcal{H}_d^i \mathcal{F}$ of local cohomology with supports of dimension $\leq d$ ([11] §3; see also [1] Ch.II, §5).

In the case of algebraic geometry the singular sets $S_k^*(\mathcal{F})$ are introduced in ([2] Ch.IV, §10). In accordance with the analytic case, the sheaves of local cohomology with supports of dimension $\leq d$ can be considered and vanishing and coherence theorems can be also proved. The proofs, which would be obtained by this way, were of geometric nature making systematically use of sheaves and for the finitude theorem one need too the difficult theorem of finitude of the cohomology with supports in a closed subset ([3] Exposé VIII; [11]). However, as is pointed out in [6] and [10], it is interesting to define local cohomological invariants in algebraic language and to have for them enunciations and proofs involving only commutative algebra.

The aim of this paper is to introduce the modules of cohomology with supports of dimension $\leq d$ and to prove pure algebraically vanishing and finitude theorems for these modules.

As one knows, the depth of a module behaves badly to localization; the vanishing and finitude theorems we will give, show that this behaviour (under reasonable assumptions) is not so bad.

(I) Let A be a commutative noetherian ring (with unit element "1"), M an A -module of finite type. For any integer k , put:

$$S_k^*(M) = \{p \in \text{Spec } A \mid \text{depth } M_p + \dim A/p \leq k\}.$$

These are called the singular sets of M and are introduced in [2]. It is true the following:

"If A is quotient of a regular ring biequidimensional and M is an A -module of finite type, then the singular sets are closed in Zariski topology of $\text{Spec } A$ and moreover, $\dim S_k^*(M) \leq k$ ". The first assertion is proved in ([2] Ch.IV, §). Let us sketch another argument (cf. [12]). We can suppose A regular, biequidimensional and denote $n = \dim A$. Then

$$S_k^*(M) = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} \text{Supp} (\text{Ext}_A^{n-k+i}(M, A)).$$

Indeed, for any p , $n = \dim A/p + \dim A_p$, $\text{depth } M_p = \dim A_p - \text{dh } M_p$ and one can apply to A_p the following well-known characterization of the homological dimension:

"If A is a local regular ring, M an A -module of finite type and s an integer, then $\text{dh } M \leq s$ iff $\text{Ext}_A^i(M, A) = 0$ for all $i > s$."

The evaluation of the dimension is done in [12] and is inspired by the analytic case. It is obtained by localization from the following result [4]:

"If A is a regular local ring and M is an A -module of finite type, then $\dim (\text{Ext}_A^s(M, A)) \leq \dim A - s$."

(II) Let A be a commutative ring, M an A -module and d an integer ≥ 0 . We will write :

$$L_d M = \{m \in M \mid \dim (Am) \leq d\}.$$

Evidently, $L_d M = \{m \in M \mid \exists \underline{a}, \dim A/\underline{a} \leq d, \underline{a}m = 0\}$.

If $M \xrightarrow{\varphi} N$ is an A -linear map, there is an induced map $L_d \varphi : L_d M \longrightarrow L_d N$. One gets a left-exact functor, canonically

isomorphic to the functor $\varinjlim_{\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d} \text{Hom}(A/\underline{a}, *)$, where \varinjlim is taken over ideals $\underline{a} \subset A$ such that $\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d$.

We denote $(H_d^i)_{i \geq 0}$ the right-derived functor associated to L_d . $(H_d^i M)_{i \geq 0}$ are called the modules of cohomology with supports of dimension $\leq d$, associated to M .

$H_d^0 M$ equals $L_d M$. There are isomorphisms:

$$H_d^i M \cong \varinjlim_{\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d} \text{Ext}_A^i(A/\underline{a}, M).$$

In [10], one defines for an ideal \underline{a} the functor $L_{\underline{a}}(*)$ and its derived functors $R^i L_{\underline{a}}(*)$ - the modules of cohomology with supports in $V(\underline{a})$. One gets easily:

$$H_d^i M \cong \varinjlim_{\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d} R^i L_{\underline{a}} M;$$

these isomorphisms, as well as those written above, are functorial and agree with short exact sequences.

Lemma Let A be a commutative ring and M an A -module. Then

a) if A is the quotient of a noetherian ring B , under the morphism φ , then

$$(H_d^i M)_{[\varphi]} \cong H_d^i M_{[\varphi]};$$

b) if A is the quotient of a noetherian, catenary, biequidimensional ring, then for any $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } A$,

$$(H_d^i M)_{\mathfrak{p}} \cong H_{d-\dim A/\mathfrak{p}}^i M_{\mathfrak{p}}.$$

Proof a) If I is an injective A -module, then $R^i L_{\underline{b}} I_{[\varphi]} = 0$ for any ideal $\underline{b} \subset B$ and $i > 0$ ([10], Corollary 4.2). Consequently, $H_d^i I_{[\varphi]} = 0$ for $i > 0$, therefore $I_{[\varphi]}$ is acyclic relatively to L_d .

As $(H_d^0 I)_{[\varphi]} \cong H_d^0 I_{[\varphi]}$ for any A -module I , the conclusion follows.

b) Using a) one may suppose A itself noetherian, catenary and biequidimensional. Let consider an injective resolution of M ; since the injectivity is preserved by localization, it suffices

to prove b) when $i=0$, that is $(L_d^M)_p = L_{d-\dim A/p} M_p$. Both modules are sub-modules of M_p and for any $m \in M$, the trace of $\text{Supp}(Am)$ on $\text{Spec } A_p$ equals the support of the A_p -module $A_p m$. Accordingly, the inclusion $(L_d^M)_p \subset L_{d-\dim A/p} M_p$ easily follows. Let m/s be a class of M_p (i.e., $m \in M$, $s \notin p$) such that $\dim(A_p \cdot m/s) \leq d - \dim A/p$. Let q be a prime minimal in $\text{Supp}(Am)$. If $q \subset p$, then $\dim A/q = \dim A/p + \dim(A/q)_p \leq \dim A/p + d - \dim A/p = d$. Suppose now, $q \not\subset p$ and choose $1 \in q \setminus p$. The A_q -module of finite type $(Am)_q$ is concentrated in qA_q , hence killed by a suitable power $q^n A_q$. In particular, $1^n m$ is equal to zero in M_q . $\text{Supp}(A1^n m) \subset \text{Supp}(Am)$ but $q \notin \text{Supp}(A1^n m)$. Going on we can build an element $t \notin p$ such that $\dim(Atm) \leq d$ and the proof is over.

(III) In ([3], Exposé III) one considers the depth of a module relative to an ideal. It is convenient to consider for an integer $d \geq 0$ and a module M of finite type over a noetherian ring A :

$$\text{depth}_d M = \inf_{\dim A/\mathfrak{a} \leq d} \text{depth}_{\mathfrak{a}} M$$

which will be called d -depth of M .

By ([3] Exposé III Prop. 2.9) one gets $\text{depth}_d M = \inf_{\dim A/p \leq d} \text{depth}_p M$

Vanishing Theorem Let A be a noetherian ring and M an A -module of finite type, $d \geq 0$ and $n \geq 0$ two integers. Then the following are equivalent:

- a) $H_d^i M = 0$ for $i < n$.
- b) $\text{depth}_d M \geq n$.
- c) (If A is the quotient of a regular biequidimensional ring)
 $\dim S_{k+n}^* M \leq k$ for all $k \leq d$.

Proof $a) \Leftrightarrow b)$ is nothing but a straightforward consequence of ([3] Exposé III, 2):

$a) \Rightarrow b)$ For any \underline{a} such that $\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d$, we need $\text{Ext}_A^i(A/\underline{a}, M) = 0$ for all $i < n$. Since $\text{depth}_{\underline{a}} M \geq \text{depth}_d M \geq n$, this follows by ([3] Exposé III, Prop. 2.4).

$b) \Rightarrow a)$ For, let proceed inductively by n . The case $n=0$ is obvious. Let suppose the implication already proved for $n-1$ and let show it for n . One has $\text{depth}_d M \geq n-1$ or equivalently $\text{depth}_{\underline{a}} M \geq n-1$ for all ideals \underline{a} such that $\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d$. Consequently, by the same proposition of [3], $\text{Ext}_A^i(N, M) = 0$ for $i \leq n-2$ and each A -module N of finite type annihilated by an ideal \underline{a} such that $\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d$, or equivalently for which $\dim N \leq d$. Let $\underline{a} \subset \underline{b}$, $\underline{a}, \underline{b}$ ideals such that $\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d$ and $\dim A/\underline{b} \leq d$. From the exactness of

$$\text{Ext}_A^{n-2}(\underline{b}/\underline{a}, M) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_A^{n-1}(A/\underline{b}, M) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_A^{n-1}(A/\underline{a}, M)$$

the mapping $\text{Ext}_A^{n-1}(A/\underline{b}, M) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_A^{n-1}(A/\underline{a}, M)$ arises injective.

The hypothesis $H_d^{n-1} M = \varinjlim_{\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d} \text{Ext}_A^{n-1}(A/\underline{a}, M) = 0$ implies that

$\text{Ext}_A^{n-1}(A/\underline{a}, M) = 0$, hence $\text{depth}_{\underline{a}} M \geq n$ for \underline{a} such that $\dim A/\underline{a} \leq d$ and therefore $\text{depth}_d M \geq n$.

$b) \Rightarrow c)$ Let $\mathfrak{p} \in S_{k+n}^*(M)$ ($k < d$), i.e. $\text{depth}_{\mathfrak{p}} M + \dim A/\mathfrak{p} \leq k+n$. In accordance with the hypothesis $\text{depth}_d M = \inf_{\dim A/\mathfrak{p}' \leq k} \text{depth}_{\mathfrak{p}'} M \geq n$.

Let suppose $\dim A/\mathfrak{p} \leq d$. Since $\text{depth}_{\mathfrak{p}} M \geq \text{depth}_d M \geq n$, $n + \dim A/\mathfrak{p} \leq \text{depth}_{\mathfrak{p}} M + \dim A/\mathfrak{p} \leq k+n$, hence $\dim A/\mathfrak{p} \leq k$. It remains only to show that the case $\dim A/\mathfrak{p} = d+r$, $r > 0$ does not occur.

Let $\mathfrak{p}' \supset \mathfrak{p}$ such that $\dim A/\mathfrak{p}' = d$. As $S_{k+n}^*(M)$ is a closed set \mathfrak{p}' must belong too to $S_{k+n}^*(M)$, hence by the same argument we get $d = \dim A/\mathfrak{p}' \leq k$, contradiction!

$c) \Rightarrow b)$ results from definitions.

This theorem provides characterizations for torsion-free and reflexive modules.

Corollary Let A be an integral domain, quotient of a regular biequidimensional ring and M an A -module of finite type. Then

- i) M is torsion-free iff $\dim S_k^*(M) \leq k-1$ for any $k \leq \dim A$.
- ii) M is reflexive iff $\dim S_k^*(M) \leq k-2$ for any $k \leq \dim A$.

The proof can be done exactly as in analytic case ([11], §1). We will give only the proof of a). If M is torsion-free, then there is a monomorphism $0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow A^r$ for a suitable r and let denote $K = \text{coker}(M \rightarrow A^r)$. So we get the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow A^r \rightarrow K \rightarrow 0.$$

We claim $S_k^*(M) \subset S_{k-1}^*(K)$ for $k \leq t = \dim A$ and the conclusion follows using the estimation of the dimension of singular sets. Let $p \in S_k^*(M)$. Since $k < t$ it results that M_p is not free. As a consequence, K_p cannot be free, hence $\text{depth } K_p = \text{depth } M_p - 1$ and henceforth $p \in S_{k-1}^*(K)$.

For the converse, let consider the canonical morphism $M \rightarrow M^{**}$ (here, $*$ means the dual). It suffices to show that $K = \ker(M \rightarrow M^{**})$ is null. For any $p \notin S_{t-1}^*(M)$, M_p will be a free module and therefore $K_p = 0$. Accordingly, $\text{Supp } K \subset S_{t-1}^*(M)$, hence $\dim K \leq t-1$. Therefore $K = H_{t-1}^0 K$. As $H_{t-1}^0 K \subset H_{t-1}^0 M$, if we will prove that $H_{t-1}^0 M = 0$, we get $K = 0$. But this follows by means of the vanishing theorem for M , $n = 1$ and $d = t-1$.

(IV) We will make use of the following peculiar case of the finitude theorem of Grothendieck for local cohomology sheaves:

"Let A be a regular local ring, \mathfrak{m} the maximal ideal, M an A -module of finite type and $n \geq 0$ an integer. Then $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i M$ are A -modules of finite type (that is of finite length, because their supports are $\subseteq \{\mathfrak{m}\}$) for any $i \leq n$ iff $\text{depth } M_p > n - \dim A/p$ whenever $p \neq \mathfrak{m}$."

This assertion can be proved pure algebraically ([3], Corollaire 3.6, p.71) : in virtue of the theorem of local duality ([3], Th.2.1, p.64, or [6] Vortrag 5, Satz 5.2 and Satz 5.9), $H_{\underline{m}}^i(M)$ is of finite type iff $\text{Ext}_A^{t-i}(M, A)$ ($t = \dim A$) is of finite length, thus iff $(\text{Ext}_A^{t-i}(M, A))_{\underline{p}} \cong \text{Ext}_{A_{\underline{p}}}^{t-i}(M_{\underline{p}}, A_{\underline{p}})$ are zero provided that $\underline{p} \neq \underline{m}$, and one applies the characterization of the depth in regular rings reminded in (I).

Theorem of finiteness Let A be a ring, quotient of a regular biequidimensional ring, M an A -module of finite type and $d \geq 0$, $n \geq 0$ two integers. Then the following are equivalent

- a) $H_d^i M$ is of finite type for any $i \leq n$.
- b) $\dim S_{n+d}^*(M) \leq d$.

Proof By the previous lemma, one may suppose A itself regular and biequidimensional and denote $t = \dim A$.

a) \Rightarrow b) Let $\underline{p} \in S_{n+d}^*(M)$ and suppose contrary to b) that $\dim A/\underline{p} > d$. Choose a prime ideal $\underline{q} \supset \underline{p}$ such that $\dim A/\underline{q} = d$. By the lemma, $(H_d^i M)_{\underline{q}} \cong H_{d-\dim A/\underline{q}}^i M_{\underline{q}} \cong H_0^i M_{\underline{q}} \cong H_{\underline{q}A}^i M_{\underline{q}}$. Therefore

$H_{\underline{q}A}^i M_{\underline{q}}$ is of finite type over $A_{\underline{q}}$ for $i \leq n$. Consequently,

$\text{depth } M_{\underline{p}} > n - \dim(A_{\underline{q}}/\underline{p}A_{\underline{q}}) = n - \dim A/\underline{p} + \dim A/\underline{q} = n - \dim A/\underline{p} + d$, contradiction!

b) \Rightarrow a) Let study first the case $n \geq t-d$. In this case the hypothesis implies $\dim M \leq d$, but therefore $H_d^0 M = M$ and $H_d^i M = 0$ for all $i > 0$ (one uses lemma a) for $A \rightarrow A/\text{Ann } M$!) and the finiteness of the modules $H_d^i M$ is proved.

Now, take $n = t-d-1$. In this case, the hypothesis means that $\dim S_{t-1}^*(M) \leq d$, i.e. the set $\{\underline{p} \mid M_{\underline{p}} \text{ is not free}\}$ is of dimension smaller than d .

We must actually prove that $H_d^i M$ are of finite type if $i \leq t-d-1$. We will proceed by induction on i , $0 \leq i \leq t-d-1$, to prove that the hypothesis done on $S_{t-1}^{**} M$ implies the finiteness of $H_d^i M$. If $i = 0$, $H_d^0 M$ is always of finite type. Let $i < t-d-1$ and prove the induction step $i \rightarrow i+1$. We use an idea of Trautmann [15] to consider a resolution of the dual and dualizing it. Let $0 \rightarrow N \rightarrow L \rightarrow M^* \rightarrow 0$ be an exact sequence with L a free module of finite rank. By dualizing we get an injective map $M^{**} \rightarrow L^*$ and let $P = \text{coker}(M^{**} \rightarrow L^*)$. Therefore we get the exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow M^{**} \rightarrow L^* \rightarrow P \rightarrow 0.$$

We claim $\dim S_{t-1}^* P \leq d$. For, we need that if $\dim A/p > d$ then P_p is free; but M_p is free, hence M_p^* is also free and the sequence $0 \rightarrow N_p \rightarrow L_p \rightarrow M_p^* \rightarrow 0$ splits; therefore N_p will be free too and P_p equals the very dual of N_p , so it will be free. Consequently, $H_d^i P$ arises of finite type in virtue of the induction hypothesis.

Now, consider the exact sequence

$$H_d^i P \rightarrow H_d^{i+1} M^{**} \rightarrow H_d^{i+1} L^*.$$

By the vanishing theorem $H_d^{i+1} L^* = 0$ ($i+1 < t-d$). Therefore $H_d^{i+1} M^{**}$ is of finite type. The natural morphism $M \rightarrow M^{**}$ is an isomorphism whenever we will localize at prime ideal of dimension $> d$, hence its kernel and cokernel are of dimension $\leq d$. As for such modules H_d^i vanish for $i > 0$ (and H_d^0 is obviously of finite type) hence easily follows that $H_d^{i+1} M$ is of finite type and the step of induction is proved.

The implication $b) \Rightarrow a)$ being proved when $n \geq t-d-1$ it reminds only to consider the case $n < t-d-1$. We will proceed by

decreasing induction on n , $0 \leq n \leq t-d-2$. Let consider an exact sequence of the type $0 \rightarrow N \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$ with L free module of finite rank. We claim that N fulfils b) for $n+1$, i.e. $\dim S_{n+1+d}^* N \leq d$; from the exact sequence

$$H_d^i L \rightarrow H_d^i M \rightarrow H_d^{i+1} N$$

we deduce that the induction works and the proof of the theorem will be over.

Choose $\mathfrak{p} \in S_{n+1+d}^* N$. $M_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is not free, otherwise $N_{\mathfrak{p}}$ will be free, hence $\text{depth } N_{\mathfrak{p}} + \dim A/\mathfrak{p} = t > n+1+d$ -contradiction! By means of the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N_{\mathfrak{p}} \rightarrow L_{\mathfrak{p}} \rightarrow M_{\mathfrak{p}} \rightarrow 0$ we get $\text{depth } M_{\mathfrak{p}} = \text{depth } N_{\mathfrak{p}} - 1$ and therefore $\mathfrak{p} \in S_{n+d}^* M$. Consequently $S_{n+1+d}^* N \subseteq S_{n+d}^* M$ and the claim is proved.

Remark If the ring A is Jacobson, then one can avoid in the proof of the theorem the use of finiteness theorem concerning the invariants $H_{\underline{m}}^i(M)$. This remark is useful for the geometric case of schemes (in accordance with the next section).

Let retake the proof of $a) \Rightarrow b)$. First note that if $H_d^i M$ is an A -module of finite type then $\dim(H_d^i M) \leq d$. Indeed, if s_1, \dots, s_k is a system of generators for $H_d^i M$, then $\text{Supp } H_d^i M \subseteq \subseteq (\text{Supp } As_1) \cup \dots \cup (\text{Supp } As_k)$ and moreover $\dim(As_j) \leq d$ for all j . Let $\mathfrak{p} \in S_{n+d}^* M$; we will show that $\dim A/\mathfrak{p} > d$ cannot happen. On the contrary, assume $\dim A/\mathfrak{p} > d$. By the previous remark $\mathfrak{p} \notin \bigcup_{i=0}^n \text{Supp } H_d^i M$. Since A is Jacobson, we can find a prime ideal \mathfrak{q} which does not lie in the closed set $\bigcup_{i=0}^n \text{Supp } H_d^i M$ and moreover $\mathfrak{q} \supset \mathfrak{p}$ and $\dim A/\mathfrak{q} = d$. The modules $(H_d^i M)_{\mathfrak{q}} = H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i M_{\mathfrak{q}}$ are zero for all $i \leq n$. By the vanishing theorem $\text{depth } M_{\mathfrak{q}} > n$, hence $\text{depth } M_{\mathfrak{q}} + \dim A/\mathfrak{q} > n+d$. As $\mathfrak{q} \supset \mathfrak{p}$ and $S_{n+d}^* M$ is a closed

set, that is a contradiction!

(V) Remarks a) Just as in the analytic case ([14] and [11] Ch.II §2) the connection between $H_d^0 M$ and the primary decomposition is stated as follow:

"Let A be a noetherian ring, M an A -module of finite type. If $0 = \bigcap M_i$ is a primary decomposition of $0 \subseteq M$ and \mathfrak{p}_i are the corresponding prime ideals, then

$$H_d^0 M = \bigcap_i \{ M_i \mid \dim(A/\mathfrak{p}_i) > d \}."$$

The proof can be easily derived from definitions. Let note the following consequence of this :

"Let A be a noetherian local ring, quotient of a Cohen-Macaulay ring, M an A -module of finite type and $d \geq 0$ an integer. Then $H_d^0(M)^\wedge \cong H_d^0(\hat{M})$ (here \wedge means the completion in the radical topology)."

Proof Due to the invariance with respect to surjections one can assume A to be Cohen-Macaulay ring. Let $0 = \bigcap_i M_i$ be a primary decomposition of $0 \subseteq M$, \mathfrak{p}_i the corresponding prime ideals. For each i , let consider the primary decomposition $\hat{M}_i = \bigcap_{j_i} P_{j_i}$ of \hat{M}_i in \hat{M} . If $\mathfrak{p}_{j_i} \in \text{Spec } \hat{A}$ are the corresponding prime ideals, then $\dim \hat{A}/\mathfrak{p}_{j_i} = \dim A/\mathfrak{p}_i$ for all j_i ([9] Ch.IV Corollary of th. 7) and the conclusion follows.

Without the additional hypothesis done with respect to A , the statement need not be true, in accordance with the fact that in the primary decomposition of a completion of a prime ideal can arise embedded components.

The comparison of the invariants $H_d^i M$ and $H_d^i \hat{M}$ seems to be a difficult question. A partial result is the following:

"Let A be a noetherian local ring, quotient of a regular ring, M an A -module of finite type and $d \geq 0$, $n \geq 0$ two integers.

Assume $H_d^i M$ of finite type for all $i \leq n$. Then $H_d^i \hat{M}$ are of finite type for $i \leq n$ and moreover $(H_d^i M)^\wedge \cong H_d^i \hat{M}$ if $i \leq n$.

Proof We may suppose A regular. The condition that $H_d^i M$ are of finite type is equivalent with $\dim S_{n+d}^* M \leq d$. Take again the argument (as well as the notations) used in the proof of the implication $b) \Rightarrow a)$ of the finitude theorem. First, remark that there are natural morphisms $\theta^i(M): H_d^i M \otimes_A \hat{A} \longrightarrow H_d^i \hat{M}$, which are functorial with respect to M and which agree with short exact sequences, because we have natural morphisms $L_d M \otimes_A \hat{A} \longrightarrow L_d(M \otimes_A \hat{A})$ and \hat{A} is A -flat.

Let $t = \dim A$. If $n \geq t-d$ then $\dim M \leq d$, therefore $\dim \hat{M} \leq d$, and anyway $\theta^i(M)$ are evidently isomorphisms.

Actually, let $n = t-d-1$. We proceed by induction on i , $0 \leq i \leq t-d-1$, to prove that θ^i is an isomorphism. If $i=0$ the statement was already proved above. Let $i < t-d-1$ and show the induction step $i \rightarrow i+1$. One has $H_d^i P \cong H_d^{i+1} M^{**}$, $H_d^i \hat{P} \cong H_d^{i+1} \hat{M}^{**}$. In virtue of the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (H_d^i P) \otimes_A \hat{A} & \longrightarrow & (H_d^{i+1} M^{**}) \otimes_A \hat{A} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H_d^i(\hat{P}) & \longrightarrow & H_d^i(\hat{M}^{**}) \end{array}$$

we get $\theta^{i+1}(M^{**})$ is isomorphism. The kernel and the cokernel of the natural morphism $M \rightarrow M^{**}$ are both of dimension $\leq d$; the same is still true for $\hat{M} \rightarrow (\hat{M})^{**} \cong (M^{**})^\wedge$. Now one derives easily that $\theta^{i+1}(M)$ is isomorphism.

It remains only the case $n < t-d-1$. We will do induction (decreasing) on n , $0 \leq n < t-d-1$. If $i < t-d-1$ there are isomorphism morphisms $H_d^i M \cong H_d^{i+1} N$, $H_d^i \hat{M} \cong H_d^{i+1} \hat{N}$ and N fulfils the hypothesis for the integer $n+1$. So, one sees how the induction works.

b) Again let A be a commutative ring and M an A -module. For an integer $d \geq 0$, denote $L_{d/d-1}M = L_dM/L_{d-1}M$. The right-derived functors of the functor $L_{d/d-1}$ will be denoted by $H_{d/d-1}^i$. Then one gets the long sequence of cohomology

$$\dots \rightarrow H_{d-1}^i M \rightarrow H_d^i M \rightarrow H_{d/d-1}^i M \rightarrow H_{d-1}^{i+1} M \rightarrow \dots$$

Moreover, there are natural isomorphisms

$$H_{d/d-1}^i M \simeq \bigoplus_{\dim A/\mathfrak{p}=d} H_{\mathfrak{p}A}^i M_{\mathfrak{p}}$$

For this see ([5], p.225, Motif F), but a direct algebraic argument is not hard to be done. As a consequence one can prove that if A is Cohen-Macaulay (i.e. all localizations are Cohen-Macaulay) biequidimensional, n -dimensional ring, then $H_d^i A = 0$ whenever $i \neq n-d$. Consequently, when L is a free resolution of an A -module M , one can compute the invariants $H_d^i M$ taking the homology of the complex $H_d^{n-d} L$. Using the invariants $H_{d/d-1}^i$ one derives easily, by the characterization of the dimension for modules of finite type over local rings ([4], p.88, Prop.6.4 or [6], Satz 4.12), the following

"Let A be a noetherian ring and M an A -module of finite type, $d \geq 0$ and $n \geq 0$ two integers. Then $H_d^i M = 0$ for $i > n$ iff $\dim_d M \geq n$ (where $\dim_d M =: \sup_{\dim A/\mathfrak{p} \leq d} \dim M_{\mathfrak{p}}$)."

For "if" implication one proceed by increasing induction on d and for the converse, one localizes at prime ideals \mathfrak{p} of dimension $= d$ and uses the equality $\dim_d M = \sup_{\dim A/\mathfrak{p}=d} \dim M_{\mathfrak{p}}$.

c) One can consider invariants which are more general as H_d^i . Let M and N be modules over a commutative noetherian ring A . Denote $\text{Hom}_{A,d}(N,M)$ the submodule of $\text{Hom}_A(N,M)$ given by the morphisms with supports of dimension $\leq d$; that is $\text{Hom}_{A,d}(N,M) =$

$=L_d(\text{Hom}_A(N, M))$. When N is fixed one gets a functor and we will denote its right-derived functors by $\text{Ext}_{A,d}^*$ and called them "exts" with supports $\leq d$.

For $N = A$ one falls under H_d^1 . Remark the following:

"Suppose N of finite type, Then there is a spectral sequence of term $E_2^{p,q} = H_d^p(\text{Ext}_A^q(N, M))$ which converges to $\text{Ext}_{A,d}^{p+q}(N, M)$."

To prove that, we need only to notice that if I is an injective module, then for any module N , $\text{Hom}_A(N, I)$ is L_d -acyclic. For the reader of [5], the sheaf theoretically argument is the following: the sheaf \tilde{I} on $\text{Spec } A$ is \tilde{A} -injective ([5], Ch. II, Corollary 7.14),

$\mathcal{H}om_{\tilde{A}}(\tilde{N}, \tilde{I})$ follows flaby, further the flaby sheaves are acyclic to the local cohomology....

As we pointed out in the introduction, we want to remain with the arguments in the frame of commutative algebra, hence we write an algebraic argument as a straightforward consequence of results due to Matlis [7].

First, we will do the following remark: if $0 \rightarrow P' \rightarrow P \rightarrow P'' \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of A -modules of finite type, then the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{A,d}(P'', I) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{A,d}(P, I) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{A,d}(P', I) \rightarrow 0$$

is still exact. For, let prove that any morphism $\theta': P' \rightarrow I$ extends to a morphism $\theta: P \rightarrow I$ such that $\text{Supp } \theta' = \text{Supp } \theta$.

We may assume I to be a non-zero indecomposable injective, that is the injective envelope $I(p)$ of A_p/pA_p , where $p \in \text{Spec } A$.

$\text{Supp } I(p) = V(p)$ and moreover all fibers on $V(p)$ equal $I(p)$.

As a consequence $\theta' = 0$ or $p \in \text{Supp } \theta'$ and then $\text{Supp } \theta' = V(p)$.

If $\theta' = 0$ we put $\theta = 0$. If $\theta' \neq 0$, every extension $\theta: P \rightarrow I$ is good. Let show that $H_d^1 \text{Hom}_A(N, I) = 0$ for $i \geq 1$. Let

$0 \rightarrow P \rightarrow L \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ be an exact sequence with L free of

finite rank. We get the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \text{Hom}_{A,d}(N, I) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}_{A,d}(L, I) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}_{A,d}(F, I) \longrightarrow 0$$

Since $\text{Hom}_A(L, I)$ is an injective module, hence $H_d^i \text{Hom}_A(L, I) = 0$ for all $i > 0$, and the conclusion follows standardly.

d) As it is pointed out in the introduction, the aim of this paper is to give in the frame of commutative algebra some results in analogy to those of Thimm, Scheja, Siu and Trautmann in analytic geometry and to obtain on this way informations concerning the behaviour of the depth relative to localizations. Therefore we will do only some remarks about the geometrical case of schemes (on the other hand, one can give proofs closely following the analytic case).

Let X be a locally noetherian scheme, \mathcal{F} an algebraic coherent sheaf on X . For a point $x \in X$ define the "rectified depth" ([2] Ch. IV)

$$\text{depth}_x^* \mathcal{F} = \text{depth}_{\mathcal{O}_x} \mathcal{F}_x + \dim \overline{\{x\}}.$$

This notion is interesting in the geometric case if it has local character. For, X must fulfil in addition topological conditions, which are satisfied when X is Jacobson (for example, of finite type over $\text{Spec } k$ (k field) or $\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$).

One writes $S_k^*(\mathcal{F}) = \{x \in X \mid \text{depth}_x^* \mathcal{F} \leq k\}$. These sets are closed in X [2], of dimension $\leq k$ [12]. For an integer $d \geq 0$ and an algebraic sheaf \mathcal{F} (not necessarily coherent) one denotes by $\mathcal{H}_d^{\mathcal{F}}$ the subsheaf of \mathcal{F} given by the sections with supports of dimension $\leq d$. One gets a functor and its right-derived functors will be denoted \mathcal{H}_d^i and will be called the sheaves of local cohomology with supports of dimension $\leq d$.

If $X = \text{Spec } A$ and $\mathcal{F} = \tilde{F}$, then canonically $\mathcal{H}_d^i \mathcal{F} = (H_d^i F)^{\sim}$. This comes out because \tilde{I} is an \tilde{A} -injective sheaf when I is

an injective module over A [5] or using results from ([3] Expose III).

Actually one can state:

Vanishing Theorem Let X be a locally noetherian scheme,

$\mathcal{F} \in \text{Coh } X$, n and d two fixed integers. Then the following are equivalent:

1) $\mathcal{H}_d^i \mathcal{F} = 0$ if $i < n$.

2) $\text{depth}_d \mathcal{F} \geq n$ ($\text{depth}_d \mathcal{F} = \inf_{\substack{\dim A \leq d \\ A \text{ closed}}} \text{depth}_A \mathcal{F}$).

3) (If X is locally of finite type over an Jacobson regular biequidimensional scheme) $\dim S_{k+n}^* \mathcal{F} \leq k$ whenever $k < d$.

Finitude Theorem Let X be locally of finite type over an Jacobson, regular, biequidimensional scheme, $\mathcal{F} \in \text{Coh } X$, n and d two fixed integers. Then, there are the equivalent statements

1) $\mathcal{H}_d^i \mathcal{F} \in \text{Coh } X$ if $i \leq n$.

2) $\dim S_{d+n}^* \mathcal{F} \leq d$.

Geometric proofs following the analytic ones [11] and making use of the vanishing and finitude theorems for the cohomology with supports in a closed set due to Grothendieck ([3] Expose III, Prop. 3.3 and th. 2.1 of Expose VIII) can be find in [13].

The sheaf $\mathcal{H}_d^0 \mathcal{F}$ is also denoted by $\mathcal{F}_{[d]}$; it is a coherent subsheaf of \mathcal{F} and it was introduced by Thimm in the analytic case. A detailed study can be found in [14] and ([11] §2). Another important sheaf is the so called d -gap-sheaf, denoted by $\mathcal{F}^{[d]}$ and given by the presheaf:

$$U \rightsquigarrow \varinjlim_{\dim A \leq d} \mathcal{F}(U \setminus A).$$

There is a natural morphism $\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^{[d]}$ for which the kernel is

$\mathcal{H}_d^0 \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{[d]}$ and the cokernel $\mathcal{H}_d^1 \mathcal{F}$. In virtue of the

theorems one gets: $\mathcal{F}^{[d]} \in \text{Coh } X$ iff $\dim S_{d+1}^* \mathcal{F} \leq d$; the canonical

morphism $\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^{[d]}$ is injective (resp. bijective) iff

$\dim S_{k+1}^* \mathcal{F} \leq k$ (resp. $\dim S_{k+2}^* \mathcal{F} \leq k$) for all $k < d$.

When $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{G}$ are algebraic coherent sheaves, exactly as in the analytic case ([11], [14]) one can introduce and study the gap-sheaves of \mathcal{F} relative to \mathcal{G} .

In the analytic case the local cohomology is very useful to obtain theorems of extension of coherent sheaves. In the algebraic case, the coherent sheaves defined on an open set extend automatically to whole space ([2] Ch.I, 9.4). However, also in the algebraic case the invariants \mathcal{H}_d^0 may be of some use if we have to extend under special conditions, for example: "if the given sheaf has no sections of dimension $\leq d$, (or has no sections and 1-dimensional cohomology classes of dimension $\leq d$), then one requires an extension preserving the property."

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