

Duality in Noncommutative Algebraic Geometry

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This is a continuation of my talk “Dualizing Complexes over Noncommutative Rings”. Here is the plan of the lecture:

1. Noncommutative Projective Schemes:
Review
2. Grothendieck-Serre Duality for Proj A
3. Quasi-Coherent Ringed Schemes
4. Dualizing Complexes on Noncommutative Ringed Schemes
5. Differential Quasi-Coherent Ringed Schemes
6. Perverse Coherent Sheaves
7. The Auslander Condition Revisited

Most of the work is joint with James Zhang (UW, Seattle).

1 Noncommutative Projective Schemes: Review

Let \mathbb{K} be a field and let A be a noetherian connected graded \mathbb{K} -algebra. Recall that “connected” means that $A = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} A_i$, with $A_0 = \mathbb{K}$ and each A_i a finitely generated \mathbb{K} -module.

Artin and Zhang [AZ] define the *noncommutative projective spectrum* $\text{Proj } A$ as follows.

Let $\text{GrMod } A$ be the category of graded left A -modules. In it there is the subcategory $\text{Tors } A$ consisting of \mathfrak{m} -torsion modules with respect to the augmentation ideal \mathfrak{m} of A .

Consider the quotient abelian category

$$\text{Tails } A := \frac{\text{GrMod } A}{\text{Tors } A},$$

also denoted by $\text{QGr } A$, with projection functor π .

The “noncommutative space $\text{Proj } A$ ” is the space such that “the category of quasi-coherent sheaves on $\text{Proj } A$ is $\text{Tails } A$ ”.

Thus if we write $X := \text{Proj } A$ then

$$\text{QCoh } X = \text{Tails } A$$

tautologically.

The subcategory $\text{Coh } X$ of “coherent sheaves” is the image under π of the finitely generated modules.

Remark 1.1. $\text{Proj } A$ is not a genuine space. It is only a metaphor, invented for heuristic purposes.

The category $\text{QCoh } X$ is equipped with a “global sections functor”

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(X, -) &:= \text{Hom}_{\text{QCoh } X}(\mathcal{O}_X, -) : \\ &\text{QCoh } X \rightarrow \text{Mod } \mathbb{K}, \end{aligned}$$

where \mathcal{O}_X is the class of the graded module A .

There is also a Serre twist functor: if $\mathcal{M} \in \text{QCoh } X$ is the class of a graded module M , then $\mathcal{M}(1)$ is the class of the shifted module $M(1)$.

Recall Serre's Theorem on projective schemes: if X is a projective (commutative) scheme over \mathbb{K} and \mathcal{L} is an ample invertible sheaf then the commutative graded algebra

$$A := \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{L}^i)$$

is noetherian, and $X \cong \text{Proj } A$.

The noncommutative definition of [AZ] in effect takes Serre's Theorem and turns it around.

2 Grothendieck-Serre Duality for Proj A

There is a version of Grothendieck-Serre Duality for noncommutative projective schemes. Here we must assume that the algebra A admits a balanced dualizing complex R_A (see first lecture).

By [YZ1, VdB] this is equivalent to A satisfying the χ condition on both sides, and the functors $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{m}}, \Gamma_{\mathfrak{m}^{\text{op}}}$ having finite cohomological dimension.

Let \mathcal{R}_X be the class in $D(\text{QCoh } X)$ of $R_A[-1]$.

Theorem 2.1. ([YZ1]) *There is a functorial isomorphism*

$$\text{RHom}_{\text{QCoh } X}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{R}_X) \cong \text{R}\Gamma(X, \mathcal{M})^*$$

for $\mathcal{M} \in D^b(\text{Coh } X)$.

In the theorem $(-)^*$ denotes \mathbb{K} -linear dual.

This duality has a few generalizations. Let $X^{\text{op}} := \text{Proj } A^{\text{op}}$ be the opposite noncommutative projective scheme, with projection functor

$$\pi^{\text{op}} : \text{GrMod } A^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{QCoh } X^{\text{op}}.$$

Let

$$\underline{\Gamma} : \text{QCoh } X \rightarrow \text{GrMod } A$$

be the functor

$$\underline{\Gamma} \mathcal{M} := \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{M}(i)).$$

The next duality result appeared in the paper of Kapustin, Kuznetsov and Orlov (in a slightly weaker form). They used it to define vector bundles on $\text{Proj } A$, in the study of noncommutative instantons.

Theorem 2.2. ([KKO]) *The functor*

$$\mathcal{M} \mapsto \pi^{\text{op}} \text{RHom}_A^{\text{gr}}(\text{R}\underline{\Gamma} \mathcal{M}, R_A[-1])$$

is a duality

$$D_c^b(\text{QCoh } X) \rightarrow D_c^b(\text{QCoh } X^{\text{op}}).$$

Van den Bergh and de Naeghel [NV] have recently proved yet another version of Serre Duality, this time in the bivariant formulation of Bondal-Kapranov [BK].

Define a functor

$$\mathcal{R}_X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X}^{\mathbb{L}} - : D^-(\mathrm{QCoh} X) \rightarrow D^-(\mathrm{QCoh} X)$$

by

$$\mathcal{R}_X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X}^{\mathbb{L}} \mathcal{M} := \pi(R[-1] \otimes_A^{\mathbb{L}} R\underline{\Gamma} \mathcal{M}).$$

Let $D_c^b(\mathrm{QCoh} X)_{\mathrm{fpd}}$ be the category of complexes with finite projective dimension (the compact objects in $D_c^b(\mathrm{QCoh} X)$).

Theorem 2.3. ([NV]) *There is a functorial isomorphism*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{D}(\mathrm{QCoh} X)}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{R}_X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X}^{\mathbf{L}} \mathcal{P}) \\ \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{D}(\mathrm{QCoh} X)}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{M})^* \end{aligned}$$

for

$$\mathcal{P} \in \mathbf{D}_c^b(\mathrm{QCoh} X)_{\mathrm{fpd}}$$

and

$$\mathcal{M} \in \mathbf{D}_c^b(\mathrm{QCoh} X).$$

The reduces to Theorem 2.1 when $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{O}_X$.

Definition 2.4. The noncommutative projective scheme X is *smooth* if the category $\text{Coh } X$ has finite global dimension; i.e. there is a number d such that

$$\text{Ext}_{\text{Coh } X}^i(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}) = 0$$

for all objects $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N} \in \text{Coh } X$ and all $i > d$.

If X is smooth then every object of $D_c^b(\text{QCoh } X)$ has finite projective dimension; and the functor $\mathcal{R}_X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X}^L -$ is an auto-duality of $D_c^b(\text{QCoh } X)$. Hence:

Corollary 2.5. ([NV]) *If X is smooth then the functor $\mathcal{R}_X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X}^L -$ is the Serre functor of $D_c^b(\text{QCoh } X)$.*

3 Quasi-Coherent Ringed Schemes

In this section we look at another kind of noncommutative space. Throughout \mathbb{K} is a base field.

Definition 3.1. ([YZ4]) Suppose X is a \mathbb{K} -scheme, \mathcal{A} is a sheaf of \mathbb{K} -algebras on X , and there is ring homomorphism $\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ making \mathcal{A} into a quasi-coherent \mathcal{O}_X -module on both sides. We call (X, \mathcal{A}) a *quasi-coherent ringed scheme over \mathbb{K}* .

Such ringed schemes are abundant; some prototypical examples are:

1. X is any \mathbb{K} -scheme and $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{O}_X$.
2. $X = \text{Spec } \mathbb{K}$ and \mathcal{A} is any \mathbb{K} -algebra.
3. X is smooth, $\text{char } \mathbb{K} = 0$ and $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{D}_X$, the sheaf of differential operators.
4. X is any \mathbb{K} -scheme and \mathcal{A} is any quasi-coherent \mathcal{O}_X -algebra.

Given a ringed scheme (X, \mathcal{A}) its opposite ringed scheme is $(X, \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}})$, and the product is a quasi-coherent ringed scheme which we denote by (X^2, \mathcal{A}^e) . The definition of the product is pretty obvious. See Figure 1.

It is not hard to show uniqueness of (X^2, \mathcal{A}^e) . Surprisingly existence is not automatic! In [YZ4] we proved that the product exists iff certain Ore conditions are satisfied. (There are counterexamples.)

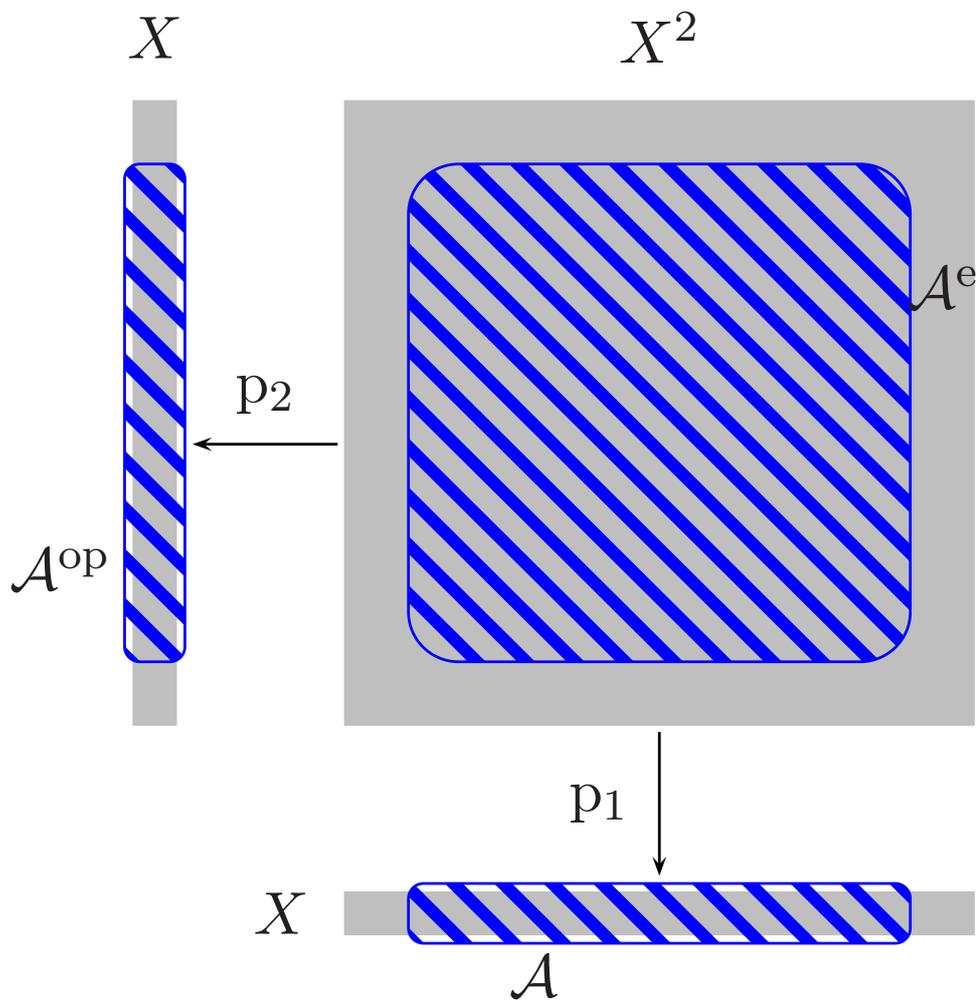


Figure 1: The product of (X, \mathcal{A}) and $(X, \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}})$.

4 Dualizing Complexes on Noncommutative Ringed Schemes

Let (X, \mathcal{A}) be a noetherian quasi-coherent ringed scheme. By noetherian I mean that X is noetherian, and for any affine open set U the ring $A := \Gamma(U, \mathcal{A})$ is noetherian.

Assume the product (X^2, \mathcal{A}^e) exists and is noetherian too.

Let $\mathcal{R} \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^e)$ be some complex. We may define a functor

$$D : D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}) \rightarrow D(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}})$$

as follows:

$$D\mathcal{M} := R p_{2*} R\mathcal{H}om_{p_1^{-1}\mathcal{A}}(p_1^{-1}\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{R}).$$

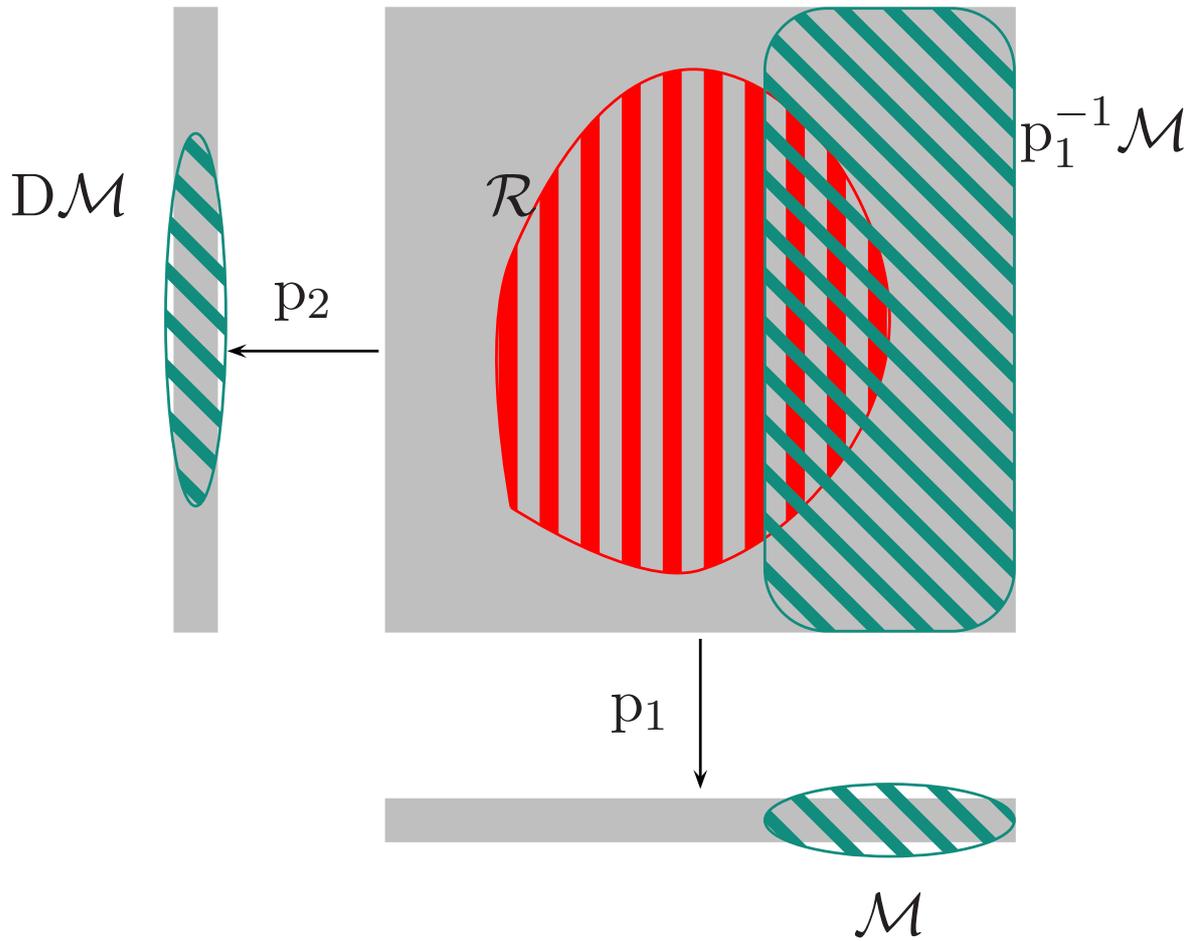


Figure 2: The duality functor D .

This is a contravariant Fourier-Mukai transform.

There is an opposite version of this functor:

$$D^{\text{op}} : D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}}) \rightarrow D(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}).$$

Definition 4.1. A complex $\mathcal{R} \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^e)$ is called a *dualizing complex* if the adjunction morphisms $\mathbf{1} \rightarrow D^{\text{op}}D$ and $\mathbf{1} \rightarrow DD^{\text{op}}$ are both isomorphisms. (I am suppressing some details.)

The definition I just gave allows for all kinds of exotic dualizing complexes.

Example 4.2. Say X is an elliptic curve and take $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{O}_X$. Then the product is

$$(X^2, \mathcal{A}^e) = (X^2, \mathcal{O}_{X^2}).$$

It turns out that the Poincaré bundle $\mathcal{R} \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^e)$ is a dualizing complex over (X, \mathcal{O}_X) in the noncommutative sense.

We are interested in dualizing complexes \mathcal{R} that behave similarly to Grothendieck's dualizing complex $\pi^! \mathbb{K}$. Hence the definition below.

Definition 4.3. A *rigid dualizing complex* over (X, \mathcal{A}) is a pair (\mathcal{R}, ρ) , where:

1. $\mathcal{R} \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^e)$ is a dualizing complex supported on the diagonal in X^2 . (See Figure 3.)
2. $\rho = \{\rho_U\}$ is a collection of rigidifying isomorphisms. Namely for any affine open set $U \subset X$, letting $A := \Gamma(U, \mathcal{A})$ and

$$R := R\Gamma(U^2, \mathcal{R}) \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } A^e),$$

the pair (R, ρ_U) is a rigid dualizing complex over A .

3. The collection ρ satisfies a compatibility condition for inclusions of affine open sets.

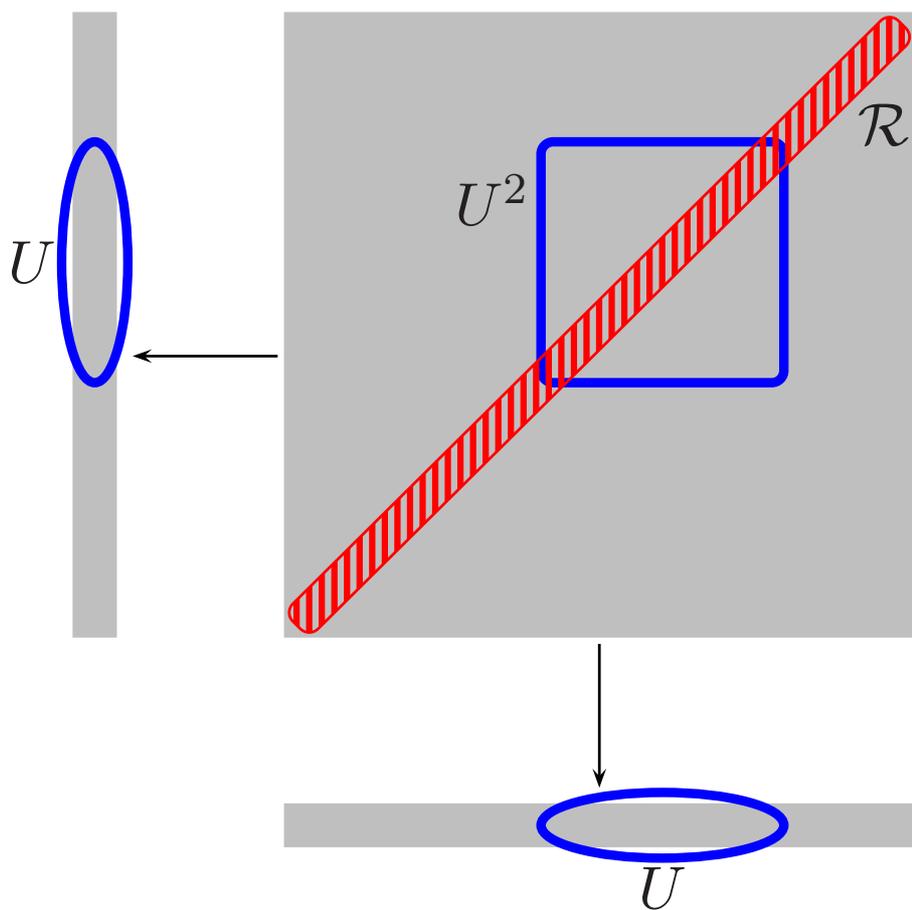


Figure 3: A dualizing complex \mathcal{R} supported on the diagonal.

Example 4.4. Consider a separated finite type \mathbb{K} -scheme X with structural morphism $\pi : X \rightarrow \operatorname{Spec} \mathbb{K}$.

If one looks carefully at the variance properties of the dualizing complex $\mathcal{R} := \pi^! \mathbb{K}$ that are worked out in [RD], one sees that this is in fact a rigid dualizing over (X, \mathcal{O}_X) .

5 Differential Quasi-Coherent Ringed Schemes

All quasi-coherent ringed schemes (X, \mathcal{A}) that “occur naturally” are of the following kind.

Definition 5.1. *A differential quasi-coherent ringed scheme of finite type over \mathbb{K} is a quasi-coherent ringed scheme (X, \mathcal{A}) such that:*

1. X is a finite type \mathbb{K} -scheme.
2. There is an exhaustive nonnegative filtration $G = \{G_i \mathcal{A}\}_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$ on the sheaf of rings \mathcal{A} , such that $\text{gr}^G \mathcal{A}$ is a coherent module over its center $Z(\text{gr}^G \mathcal{A})$, and $Z(\text{gr}^G \mathcal{A})$ is a quasi-coherent \mathcal{O}_X -algebra of finite type.

Example 5.2. If X is smooth in characteristic 0 and $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{D}_X$ is the ring of differential operators, then we can take G to be the order filtration on \mathcal{A} .

Example 5.3. If \mathcal{A} is a coherent \mathcal{O}_X -algebra (e.g. an Azumaya algebra) then we can take G to be the trivial filtration.

Let (X, \mathcal{A}) be a separated differential quasi-coherent ringed scheme of finite type over \mathbb{K} .

The fact that (X, \mathcal{A}) is differential implies that the product (X^2, \mathcal{A}^e) exists. It is not hard to show that the product itself is a differential quasi-coherent ringed scheme of finite type.

For any affine open set $U \subset X$ the ring $A := \Gamma(U, \mathcal{A})$ is a differential \mathbb{K} -algebra of finite type. As explained in the first lecture, Van den Bergh's existence criterion implies that A has a rigid dualizing complex R_A .

Furthermore, we proved in [YZ3] that R_A is supported on the diagonal in U^2 .

The fact that R_A is supported on the diagonal implies that it sheafifies to a complex

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}|_U} \in \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Mod} \mathcal{A}^e|_{U^2}),$$

which is a dualizing complex over the affine ringed scheme $(U, \mathcal{A}|_U)$.

Because of the uniqueness of rigid dualizing complexes we obtain canonical isomorphisms

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}|_U}|_{U^2 \cap V^2} \cong \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}|_V}|_{U^2 \cap V^2}$$

in $\mathrm{D}(\mathrm{Mod} \mathcal{A}^e|_{U^2 \cap V^2})$ for any two affine open sets U and V . See Figure 4

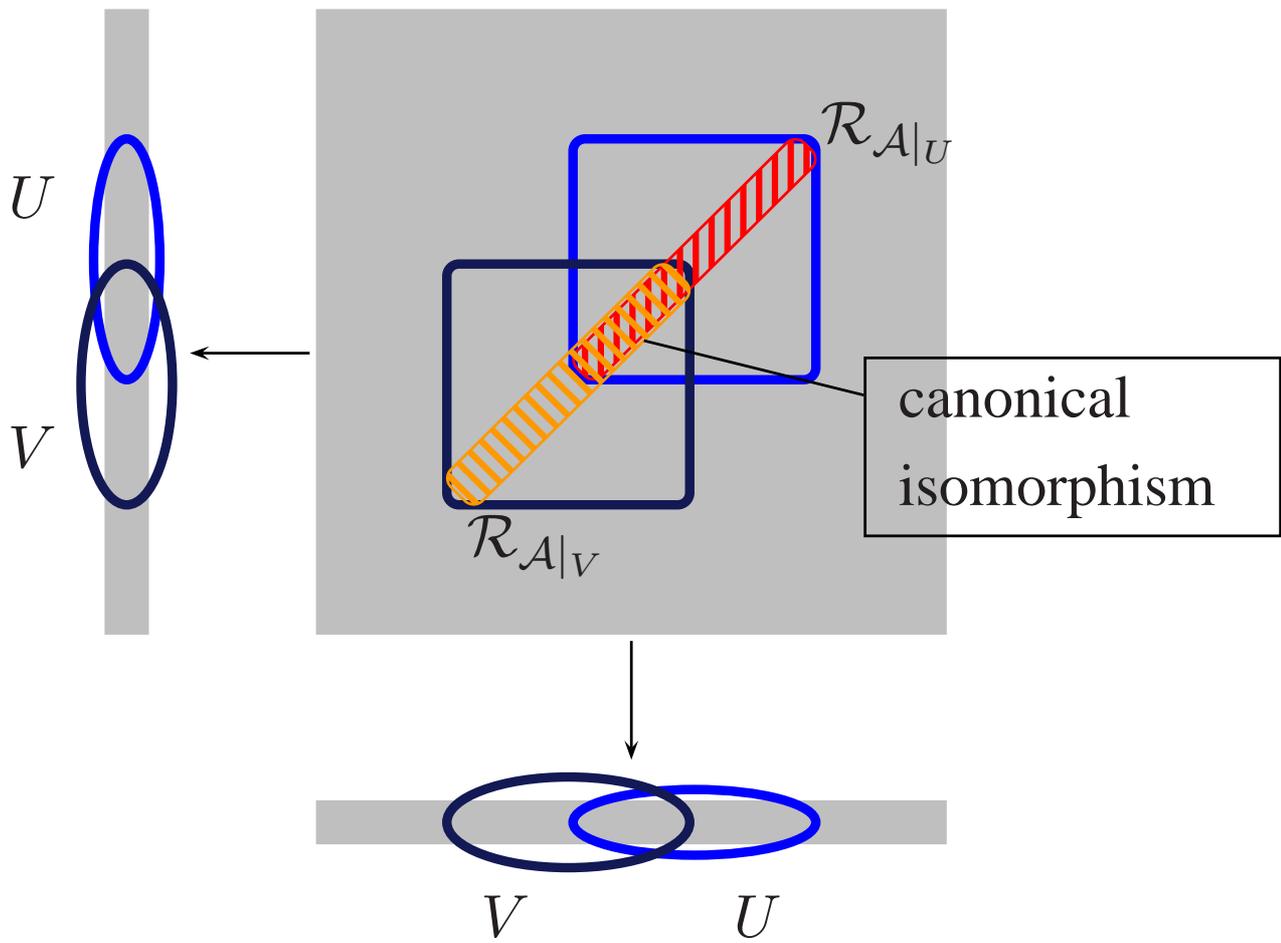


Figure 4: Gluing data for a rigid complex

We would like to glue the affine dualizing complexes $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}|U}$ into a global complex $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}} \in D(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^e)$.

But here we encounter a genuine problem: *usually objects in derived categories cannot be glued!*

Grothendieck's solution in the commutative case, in [RD], was to use Cousin complexes. However, as explained in [YZ2], this solution seldom applies in the noncommutative context.

The main discovery in [YZ4] is that *perverse coherent sheaves can be used instead of Cousin complexes to glue dualizing complexes.*

6 Perverse Coherent Sheaves

T-structures and perverse sheaves were introduced by Beilinson, Bernstein and Deligne [BBD] around 1980. This was in the context of intersection cohomology on singular spaces. For such a space X they were interested in t-structures on subcategories of $D(\text{Mod } \mathbb{K}_X)$, where \mathbb{K}_X is a constant sheaf of rings on X .

Perverse coherent sheaves came into the scene only very recently, independently in the work of Bezrukavnikov (after Deligne) [Bz], Bridgeland [Br], Kashiwara [Ka] and our paper [YZ4].

Let me recall what is a t-structure on a triangulated category D . It consists of the datum of two full subcategories $D^{\leq 0}$ and $D^{\geq 0}$ satisfying the axioms below, where $D^{\leq n} := D^{\leq 0}[-n]$ and $D^{\geq n} := D^{\geq 0}[-n]$.

- (i) $D^{\leq -1} \subset D^{\leq 0}$ and $D^{\geq 1} \subset D^{\geq 0}$.
- (ii) $\text{Hom}_D(M, N) = 0$ for $M \in D^{\leq 0}$ and $N \in D^{\geq 1}$.
- (iii) For any $M \in D$ there is a distinguished triangle

$$M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow M'[1]$$

in D with $M' \in D^{\leq 0}$ and $M'' \in D^{\geq 1}$.

When these conditions are satisfied one defines the *heart of D* to be the full subcategory $D^0 := D^{\leq 0} \cap D^{\geq 0}$. This is an abelian category.

Given a noetherian ringed scheme (X, \mathcal{A}) the derived category $D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})$ has the *standard t-structure*, in which

$$D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})^{\leq 0} :=$$

$$\{\mathcal{M} \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}) \mid H^i \mathcal{M} = 0 \text{ for all } i > 0\},$$

$$D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})^{\geq 0} :=$$

$$\{\mathcal{M} \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}) \mid H^i \mathcal{M} = 0 \text{ for all } i < 0\}.$$

The heart $D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})^0$ is equivalent to the category $\text{Coh } \mathcal{A}$ of coherent sheaves.

Other t-structures will be referred to as *perverse t-structures*.

Here is an observation. Suppose the ring A has a rigid dualizing complex R_A . Then the duality $D := \mathrm{RHom}_A(-, R_A)$ gives rise to a perverse t-structure

$$\begin{aligned} {}^p\mathrm{D}_f^b(\mathrm{Mod} A)^{\leq 0} &:= \\ &\{M \mid H^i DM = 0 \text{ for all } i < 0\}, \\ {}^p\mathrm{D}_f^b(\mathrm{Mod} A)^{\geq 0} &:= \\ &\{M \mid H^i DM = 0 \text{ for all } i > 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

We call it the *rigid perverse t-structure*. The heart is denoted by ${}^p\mathrm{D}_f^b(\mathrm{Mod} A)^0$.

Theorem 6.1. ([YZ4]) *Let (X, \mathcal{A}) be a separated differential noetherian quasi-coherent ringed \mathbb{K} -scheme of finite type. Define*

$${}^pD_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})^* := \{ \mathcal{M} \in D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}) \mid \\ \mathbf{R}\Gamma(U, \mathcal{M}) \in {}^pD_f^b(\text{Mod } \Gamma(U, \mathcal{A}))^* \\ \text{for all affine open sets } U \}.$$

Then:

(1) *The pair*

$$({}^pD_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})^{\leq 0}, {}^pD_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})^{\geq 0})$$

is a t -structure on $D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A})$.

(2) *The assignment $V \mapsto {}^pD_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}|_V)^0$, for $V \subset X$ open, is a stack of abelian categories on X .*

The last piece in the puzzle is the fact that the affine dualizing complexes $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}|_U}$ are perverse bimodules, namely they lie in ${}^pD_f^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^e|_{U^2})^0$. Therefore the gluing data (arising from uniqueness of rigid dualizing complexes) becomes effective.

We thus obtain:

Theorem 6.2. ([YZ4]) *Let (X, \mathcal{A}) be a separated differential quasi-coherent ringed \mathbb{K} -scheme of finite type. Then there exists a rigid dualizing complex $(\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}}, \rho)$ over \mathcal{A} . It is unique up to a unique isomorphism in $D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{A}^e)$.*

7 The Auslander Condition Revisited

Let A be a differential algebra of finite type over \mathbb{K} . In the first lecture I stated that the rigid dualizing complex R_A of A satisfies the Auslander condition.

Definition 7.1. The canonical dimension $\text{Cdim } M$ of an A -module M is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cdim } M &:= \\ & - \inf \{q \mid \text{Ext}_A^q(M, R_A) \neq 0\} \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty\} \end{aligned}$$

for a finitely generated A -module M , and by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cdim } M &:= \\ & \sup \{\text{Cdim } M' \mid M' \subset M \text{ is finitely generated}\} \end{aligned}$$

in general.

The Auslander condition implies that Cdim is a “nice” dimension function.

Here is an alternative characterization of the rigid perverse t-structure on $D_f^b(\text{Mod } A)$, which resembles the original definition in [BBD].

For a module M and any integer i define $\Gamma_{M_i}M$ to be the biggest submodule of M with $\text{Cdim} \leq i$. This is a functor

$$\Gamma_{M_i} : \text{Mod } A \rightarrow \text{Mod } A,$$

and we denote by $H_{M_i}^j$ its j -th right derived functor. Thus $H_{M_i}^j M$ is the “ i -th cohomology of M with supports in M_i ”.

Theorem 7.2. ([YZ3]) *Let A be a differential \mathbb{K} -algebra of finite type and $M \in D_f^b(\text{Mod } A)$.*

1. *$M \in {}^pD_f^b(\text{Mod } A)^{\leq 0}$ iff $\text{Cdim } H^j M < i$ for all integers i, j such that $j > -i$.*
2. *$M \in {}^pD_f^b(\text{Mod } A)^{\geq 0}$ iff $H_{M_i}^j M = 0$ for all integers i, j such that $j < -i$.*

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