

# Rigid Dualizing Complexes and Perverse Coherent Sheaves

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1. Background on Dualizing Complexes
2. Rigid Complexes over Rings
3. Rigid Dualizing Complexes over Rings
4. Rigid Dualizing Complexes over Schemes
5. Perverse Coherent Sheaves
6. Cohen-Macaulay Complexes



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This talk is about joint work with James Zhang (Seattle).



# 1. Background on Dualizing Complexes



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The full subcategory of bounded complexes with coherent cohomologies is  $D_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{O}_X)$ . It is equivalent to  $D^b(\text{Coh } \mathcal{O}_X)$ .



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- (i)  $\mathcal{R}$  has finite injective dimension.
- (ii) The canonical morphism  $\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_X}(\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{R})$  is an isomorphism.



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It follows that the functor

$$\mathcal{M} \mapsto \mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_X}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{R})$$

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When  $X = \text{Spec } A$  is affine, the complex  $R := \mathbf{R}\Gamma(X, \mathcal{R}) \in \mathbf{D}_f^b(\text{Mod } A)$  is called a dualizing complex over  $A$ , and

$$M \mapsto \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_A(M, R)$$

is an auto-duality of  $\mathbf{D}_f^b(\text{Mod } A)$ .



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For other approaches see the papers in the references, mainly by Joseph Lipman and his coauthors.



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But in general one has to use DG algebras to define  $\mathrm{Sq}_{B/A} M$ .



The functor  $\mathrm{Sq}_{B/A}$  is quadratic, in the following sense. Given a morphism  $\phi : M \rightarrow N$  in  $\mathbf{D}(\mathrm{Mod} B)$ , and an element  $b \in B$ , one has

$$\mathrm{Sq}_{B/A}(b\phi) = b^2 \mathrm{Sq}_{B/A}(\phi)$$

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**Definition 2.1.** Let  $B$  be a noetherian  $A$ -algebra, and let  $M$  be a complex in  $\mathbf{D}_f^b(\mathrm{Mod} B)$  that has finite flat dimension over  $A$ . Assume

$$\rho : M \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathrm{Sq}_{B/A} M$$

is an isomorphism in  $\mathbf{D}(\mathrm{Mod} B)$ . Then the pair  $(M, \rho)$  is called a **rigid complex over  $B$  relative to  $A$** .



**Definition 2.2.** Say  $(M, \rho)$  and  $(N, \sigma)$  are rigid complexes over  $B$  relative to  $A$ . A morphism  $\phi : M \rightarrow N$  in  $\mathbf{D}(\text{Mod } B)$  is called a **rigid morphism relative to  $A$**  if the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{\rho} & \text{Sq}_{B/A} M \\ \phi \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Sq}_{B/A}(\phi) \\ N & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \text{Sq}_{B/A} N \end{array}$$

is commutative.



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Note that the only rigid automorphism of a rigid dualizing complex  $(R, \rho)$  is the identity  $\mathbf{1}_R$ . Indeed, any automorphism  $\phi$  of  $R$  has to be of the form  $\phi = a\mathbf{1}_R$  for some invertible element  $a \in A$ . If  $\phi$  is rigid then  $a^2 = a$ , and hence  $a = 1$ .



Recall that an  $A$ -algebra  $B$  is called **essentially finite type** if it is a localization of some finitely generated  $A$ -algebra.



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**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be essentially finite type  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebras, and let  $f^* : A \rightarrow B$  be a **finite** homomorphism. Then the complex  $\mathrm{RHom}_A(B, R_A)$  has an induced rigidifying isomorphism, and there is a unique rigid isomorphism*

$$\mathrm{RHom}_A(B, R_A) \cong R_B.$$



We say that  $B$  is **essentially smooth** of relative dimension  $n$  over  $A$  if it is essentially finite type, formally smooth, and the rank of the projective  $B$ -module  $\Omega_{B/A}^1$  is  $n$ . When  $n = 0$  we say  $B$  is **essentially étale**.



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**Example 3.4.** If  $A'$  is a localization of  $A$  then  $A \rightarrow A'$  is essentially étale. If  $B = A[t_1, \dots, t_n]$  is a polynomial algebra then  $A \rightarrow B$  is essentially smooth of relative dimension  $n$ .



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**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be essentially finite type  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebras, and let  $f^* : A \rightarrow B$  be an **essentially smooth** homomorphism of relative dimension  $n$ . Then the complex  $\Omega_{B/A}^n[n] \otimes_A R_A$  has an induced rigidifying isomorphism, and there is a unique rigid isomorphism*

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Taking  $n = 0$  we get an important corollary:



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**Corollary 3.6.** *Given an essentially étale homomorphism  $f^* : A \rightarrow B$ , there is a unique rigid isomorphism*

$$B \otimes_A R_A \cong R_B.$$



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1.  $\mathcal{R} \in \mathbf{D}_c^b(\text{Mod } \mathcal{O}_X)$  is a dualizing complex on  $X$ .
2.  $\rho = \{\rho_U\}$  is a collection of rigidifying isomorphisms, indexed by the affine open sets of  $X$ . Namely, for any affine open set  $U$ ,  $\rho_U$  is a rigidifying isomorphism for the dualizing complex  $R\Gamma(U, \mathcal{R})$  over the  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra  $A := \Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_X)$ .



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The condition is:

- (†) For any inclusion  $V \subset U$  of affine open sets, with  $A := \Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_X)$  and  $B := \Gamma(V, \mathcal{O}_X)$ , the canonical isomorphism

$$B \otimes_A \mathbf{R}\Gamma(U, \mathcal{R}) \cong \mathbf{R}\Gamma(V, \mathcal{R})$$

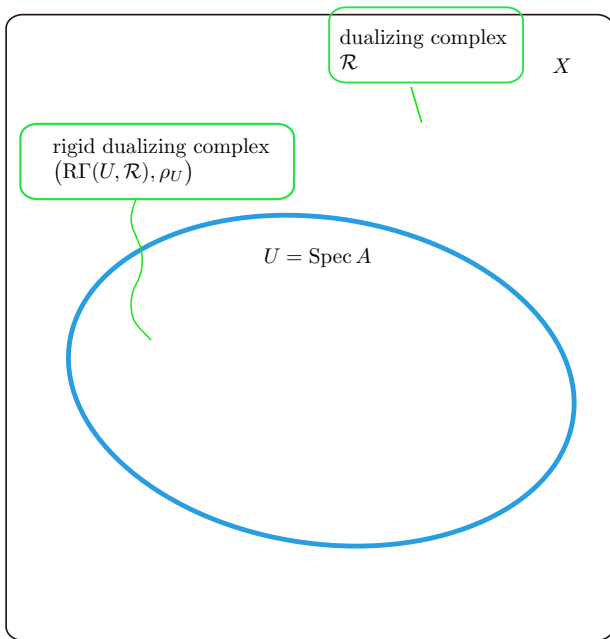
is rigid, with respect to the rigidifying isomorphisms  $\rho_U$  and  $\rho_V$ .

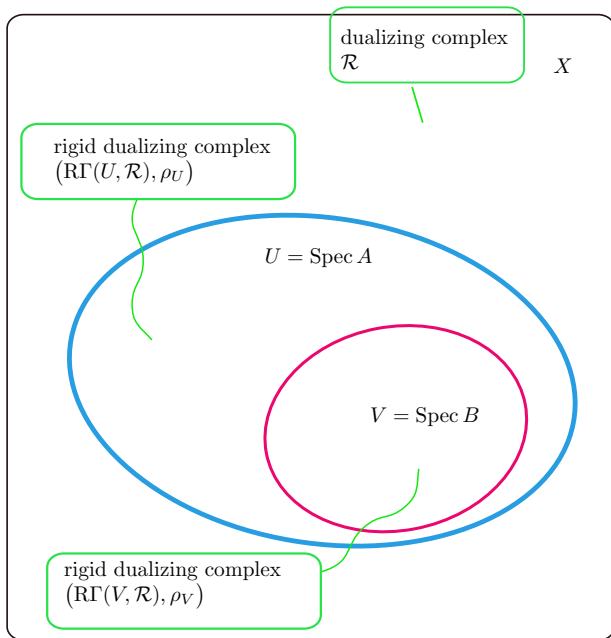


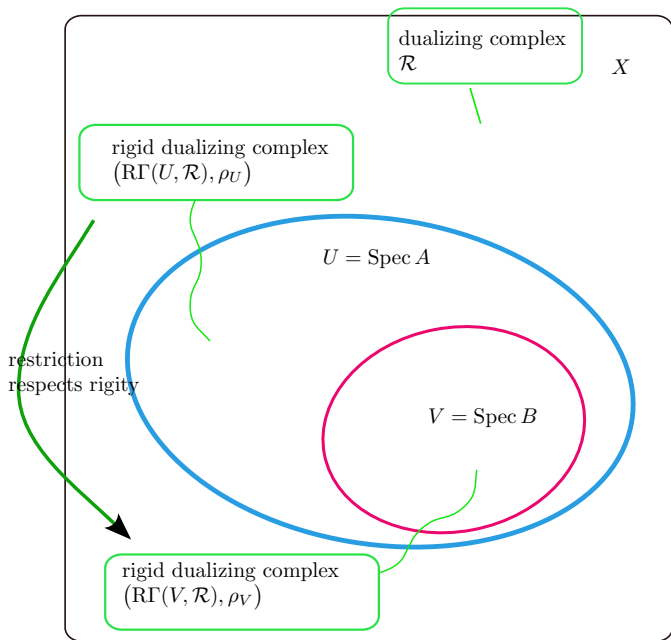
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Now suppose  $V \subset U$  is another affine open set, with  $B := \Gamma(V, \mathcal{O}_X)$  and rigid dualizing complex  $(R_B, \rho_B)$ . According to Corollary 3.6 there is a unique isomorphism

$$\phi_{V/U} : \mathcal{R}_U|_V \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{R}_V \quad (4.2)$$

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Therefore given an affine open set  $W \subset V$ , these isomorphisms satisfy

$$\phi_{W/V} \circ \phi_{V/U} = \phi_{W/U}.$$



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**Remark 4.3.** For noncommutative ringed schemes one is forced to use perverse coherent sheaves, since Cousin complexes are ill-behaved. See [YZ3].



## 5. Perverse Coherent Sheaves



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The notion of 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  $\mathbf{D}(\mathrm{Mod} \mathbb{K}_X)$ , where  $\mathbb{K}_X$  is a constant sheaf of rings on  $X$ .



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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 [YZ3].



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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Here is an observation. Suppose  $A$  is an essentially finite type  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra, where as before  $\mathbb{K}$  is a finite dimensional regular noetherian ring. Let  $R_A$  be the rigid dualizing complex of  $A$ .



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

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The next theorem was proved in [YZ3].



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$$\mathbf{R}\Gamma(U, \mathcal{M}) \in {}^{\text{p}}\mathbf{D}_{\mathbb{f}}^{\text{b}}(\text{Mod } A)^{\star}$$

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*Then:*

(1) *The pair*

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



Part (2) says that the objects of  ${}^p\mathbf{D}_c^b(\mathrm{Mod} \mathcal{O}_X)^0$ , which we call **perverse coherent sheaves**, can be glued. They behave like sheaves, and hence the name.



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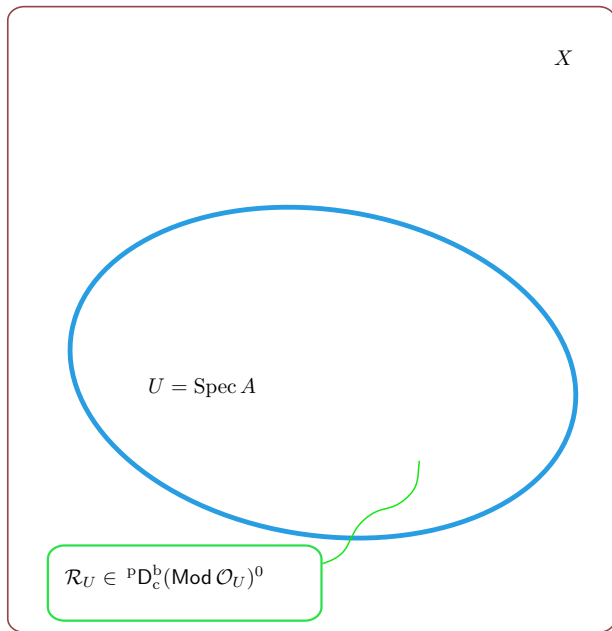
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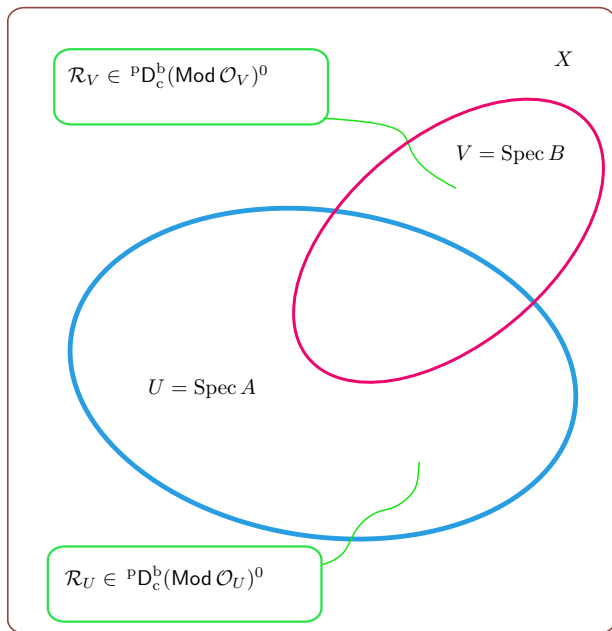
Thus we can use the isomorphisms

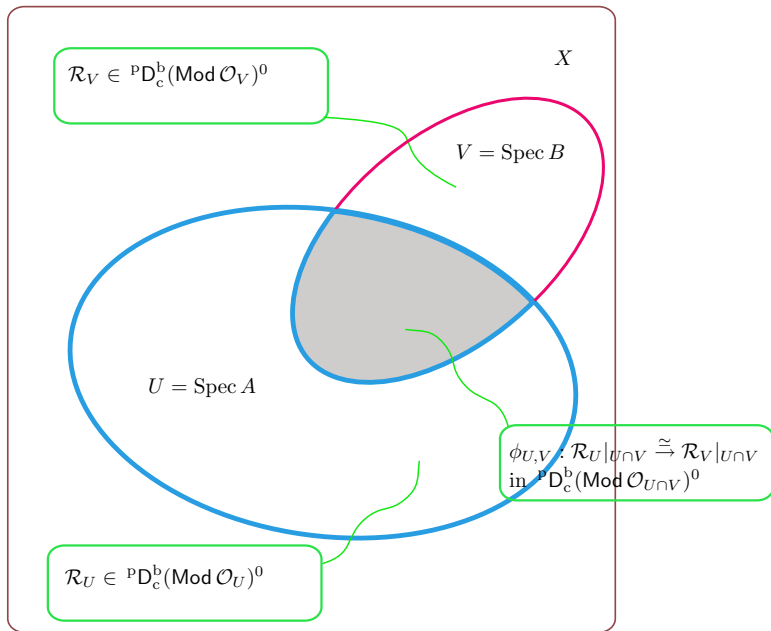
$$\phi_{U,V} : \mathcal{R}_U|_{U \cap V} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{R}_V|_{U \cap V},$$

deduced from equation (4.2), to glue the affine dualizing complexes.









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**Theorem 5.2.** *Let  $X$  be a finite type  $\mathbb{K}$ -scheme. There exists a rigid dualizing complex  $(\mathcal{R}_X, \rho_X)$  over  $X$  relative to  $\mathbb{K}$ , and it is unique up to a unique rigid isomorphism.*



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1. *If  $f$  is finite, then there is a unique isomorphism*

$$Rf_* \mathcal{R}_X \cong R\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_Y}(f_* \mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{R}_Y)$$

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*which respects rigidity.*

2. *If  $f$  is smooth of relative dimension  $n$ , then there is a unique isomorphism*

$$\Omega_{X/Y}^n[n] \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} f^* \mathcal{R}_Y \cong \mathcal{R}_X$$

*which respects rigidity.*



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**Remark 5.4.** Recently I discovered a totally new proof of the duality theorem for proper morphisms, which uses perverse sheaves only, avoiding residue calculations. If correct, the new proof will make the paper [Ye6] much shorter.



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**Remark 5.5.** I think all the results here work also for essentially finite type  $\mathbb{K}$ -schemes.



## 6. Cohen-Macaulay Complexes



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Given a point  $x \in X$  let  $k(x)$  be its residue field. We denote by  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}}(x)$  the unique integer  $i$  such that

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Then the function

$$\dim_{\mathbb{K}} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

is a dimension function, i.e.

$$\dim_{\mathbb{K}}(y) = \dim_{\mathbb{K}}(x) - 1$$

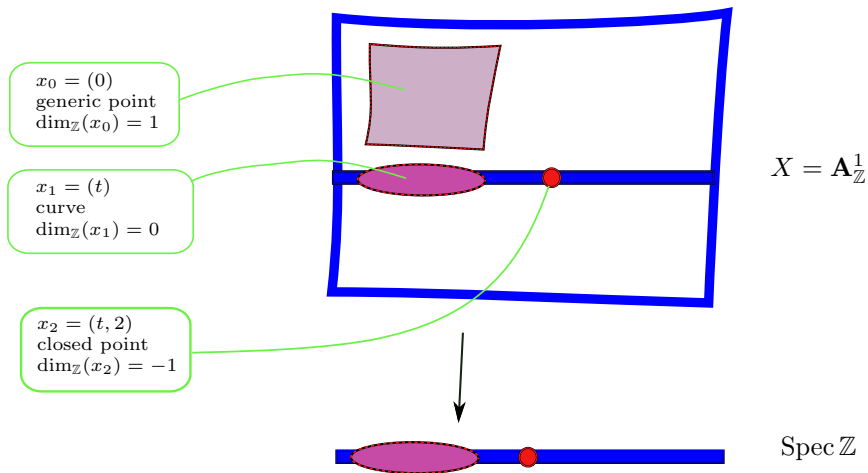
when  $y$  is an immediate specialization of  $x$ .



**Example 6.1.** Take  $\mathbb{K} := \mathbb{Z}$ , the ring of integers, and  $X := \mathbf{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^1 = \text{Spec } \mathbb{K}[t]$ , the affine line. Consider the following points in  $X$ :  $x_0$  is the generic point;  $x_1$  is the prime ideal  $(t)$ ; and  $x_2$  is the maximal ideal  $(t, 2)$ . Then

$$\dim_{\mathbb{K}}(x_i) = 1 - i.$$





Recall from [RD] that a complex  $\mathcal{M} \in \mathbf{D}_c^b(\mathbf{Mod} \mathcal{O}_X)$  is called **Cohen-Macaulay** if for every point  $x$  the local cohomologies  $H_x^i \mathcal{M}$  all vanish except for  $i = -\dim_{\mathbb{K}}(x)$ .



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Here is another result from [YZ3].



**Theorem 6.2.** *Let  $X$  be a finite type scheme over  $\mathbb{K}$ , let  $\mathcal{R}_X$  be the rigid dualizing complex of  $X$ , and let  $\mathbf{D}$  be the duality functor  $\mathbf{R}\mathcal{H}\text{om}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(-, \mathcal{R}_X)$ .*



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