

To show that $R\pi_* \text{sheaf}(\dots)$ is quasicoherent we will use the following general theorem:

Theorem. Let \mathcal{A} be a quasicoherent sheaf of associative algebras on X . Then

$D_{\text{qcoh}}^b(\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A})) \cong D^b(\mathcal{M}_{\text{qcoh}}(\mathcal{A}))$, where the first category is the full subcategory of $D^b(\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A}))$ consisting of complexes of quasicoherent sheaves.

(When $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{O}$, this is a homework problem).

Using a decomposition of π into a locally closed embedding and projection, one can show that $\pi_* M$ has quasicoherent cohomologies.

There is also another proof, based on explicit construction of direct image.

Let K^\bullet be a complex of quasicoherent \mathcal{D} -modules representing $M \otimes_{\mathcal{D}_X}^L \mathcal{D}_X \rightarrow Y$.

Let us take a cover $X = \bigcup_i U_i$ of X by affine open sets. Consider the i th complex of K^\bullet corresponding to this cover, i.e. the total complex of the following bicomplex:

$$\bigoplus_{\alpha} (j_{\alpha})_* (K^{\bullet}|_{U_{\alpha}}) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2} (j_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2})_* (K^{\bullet})|_{U_{\alpha_1} \cap U_{\alpha_2}} \rightarrow \dots$$

Where $j_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m} : U_{\alpha_1} \cap \dots \cap U_{\alpha_m} \rightarrow X$

Then K^{\bullet} and $C^{\bullet}(K^{\bullet})$ are quasiisomorphic, and moreover $R\pi_*(K^{\bullet}) = \pi_* C^{\bullet}(K^{\bullet})$.

So $\pi_*(M) = R\pi_*(K^{\bullet})$ consists of quasicoherent modules.

It remains to construct a complex K^{\bullet} of quasicoherent modules representing $M \otimes_{D_X}^L D_{X \rightarrow Y}$. For this purpose, consider the Koszul complex $Kos(M) = M \otimes_{D_X} dR(D_X) \otimes_{D_X} K_X$

Since $dR(D_X)$ is a locally free resolution of K_X as a right D_X -module, $dR(D_X) \otimes_{D_X} K_X^{-1}$ is a locally free resolution of \mathcal{O}_X as a left D_X -module. (recall that $dR(D_X)$ is

~~$$D_X \rightarrow D_X \otimes D_X \rightarrow D_X^{\otimes 2} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow D_X^{\otimes n} \rightarrow \dots$$~~

$$0 \rightarrow D_X \rightarrow \Omega^1_{D_X} \otimes D_X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \Omega^n_{D_X} \otimes D_X \rightarrow 0$$

Members of the complex $Kos(M)$ are locally free in the D -direction, and such objects form a class

adapted to $\bigoplus_{\mathcal{D}_X} \mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y}$,
 since $\mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y}$ is locally free over \mathcal{O}_X .
 (this means that if we choose coordinates x_1, \dots, x_n , $Kos(M)$ consists of free $k[\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n]$ -modules). Thus K^\bullet is quasicoherent and represents $M \otimes_{\mathcal{D}_X}^L \mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y}$, as desired. \blacksquare

To compute direct images, one uses that any morphism $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ is a composition of a locally closed embedding and a projection. Namely, since we agreed that X is quasiprojective, we have a locally closed embedding $i: X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$, so we have

$$X \xrightarrow{i \times \pi} \mathbb{P}^N \times Y \xrightarrow{p} Y$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\pi}$

Here are some special cases.

- 1) If $j: X \rightarrow Y$ is an open embedding then direct image for \mathcal{D}_X -modules coincides with the usual (derived) direct image of \mathcal{O}_X -modules (as $\mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y} = \mathcal{O}_X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_Y} \mathcal{D}_Y = \mathcal{D}_X$ in this case), so $j_* M = Rj_* \text{sheaf}(M)$.

(2) If $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ is a closed embedding the
 the functor $\pi_* \text{sheaf}$ is exact, and
 the functor $\bigoplus_{D_x} D_{x \rightarrow y}$ is also exact,
 so π_* is exact and $\pi_* M = \pi_* \text{sheaf}(M \otimes_{D_x} \dots)$
 (locally it's the functor we defined
 before for affine varieties).

(3) Let $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ be smooth (i.e. a
 flat morphism with smooth fibers)
 In this case $M \otimes_{D_x} D_{x \rightarrow y}$ is represented
 by the relative de Rham complex

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow M \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{X/Y}} \Omega_{X/Y}^1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow M \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{X/Y}} \Omega_{X/Y}^{\dim X - \dim Y} \rightarrow 0,$$

where $\Omega_{X/Y}^i$ are fiberwise differential
 forms. (we discussed such an example
 when we discussed hypergeometric functions)
 So $\pi_*(M) = R\pi_* \text{sheaf}(dR_{X/Y}(M))$, i.e. if $M = \mathcal{O}$
 it is ~~generically~~ a bundle with a flat
 connection whose fibers are the de Rham
 cohomology of the fibers of π , and
 the connection is the Gauss-Manin
 connection.

Base change property.

Suppose we have a morphism

$\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ and $\tau: S \rightarrow Y$. Then we can pull back π to S via τ , and get a

diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X \times_Y S & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\tau}} & X \\
 \downarrow \tilde{\pi} & & \downarrow \pi \\
 S & \xrightarrow{\tau} & Y
 \end{array}$$

For any $F \in \mathcal{D}^b(\mathcal{O}_X)$, we have

$$\tau^! \pi_* F \text{ and } \tilde{\pi}_* \tilde{\tau}^! F.$$

Theorem. We have a natural isomorphism

$$\tau^! \pi_* F \cong \tilde{\pi}_* \tilde{\tau}^! F.$$

Proof. Let's decompose τ as a locally closed embedding and a projection.

(1) for open embedding, statement is clear, since direct image is compatible to restriction to open subsets.

(2) let τ be a projection. So $S = Y \times Z$ (can take $Z = \mathbb{P}^n$), $X \times_Y S = X \times Z$.

We have the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times Z & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\tau}} & X \\ \downarrow \tilde{\pi} & & \downarrow \pi \\ Y \times Z & \xrightarrow{\tau} & Y \end{array}$$

We have $\tilde{\tau}^! F = F \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_Z[\dim Z]$

and $\tilde{\pi}_* \tilde{\tau}^! (F) = \pi_* F \otimes \mathcal{O}_Z[\dim Z] = \tau^! \pi_* F$.

(3) Suppose τ is a closed embedding ($\tau=i$)
Consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} W & \hookrightarrow & X & \longleftarrow & U \\ \downarrow \pi|_W & & \downarrow \pi & & \downarrow \pi|_U \\ S & \hookrightarrow & Y & \longleftarrow & V \end{array}$$

Here S is closed in Y and V is the complement of S , $W = \pi^{-1}(S)$, $U = \pi^{-1}(V)$.

We have an exact triangle ($\forall F$ on X)

$$i_* i^! F \rightarrow F \rightarrow j_* j^! F \quad (\text{see appendix,})$$

Which gives rise to the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \pi_* i_* i^! F & \rightarrow & \pi_* F & \rightarrow & \pi_* j_* j^! F \\ & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ i_* i^! \pi_* F & \rightarrow & \pi_* F & \rightarrow & j_* j^! \pi_* F \end{array} \quad \text{by (1).}$$

We need to construct an isomorphism between two left terms of this diagram.

Note that if we lived in an abelian category, and we had short exact

sequences on the rows, we'd get such an isomorphism automatically. But in the derived category we don't because of the non-canonicity of the cone.

However, it follows from the 5-lemma that if we construct any morphism that makes the diagram commutative then it is an isomorphism (as it's an isomorphism in cohomology, so a quasi-isomorphism)

This can be done in the following way. Let $R \in \mathcal{D}_S(\mathcal{D}_Y)$, $T \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{D}_V)$. (here $\mathcal{D}_S(\mathcal{D}_Y)$ is the category of \mathcal{D} -modules on Y set-theoretically supported on S .)

Then $\text{Hom}(R, j_* T) = \text{Hom}(j^! R, T) = 0$

Now take $R = \pi_* \tilde{i}_* \tilde{i}^! F$. Then from the above exact triangle we have

$$0 = \text{Hom}(R, j_* \pi^* j^! F[-1]) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R, i_* i^! \pi_* F) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R, \pi_* F) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R, j_* \pi^* j^! F) = 0.$$

Hence, $\text{Hom}(R, i_* i^! \pi_* F) = \text{Hom}(R, \pi_* F)$.

Since we have a canonical element of $\text{Hom}(R, \pi_* F)$, we also get an element of $\text{Hom}(R, i_* i^! \pi_* F)$. The fact that it makes

The diagram commutative is clear.

One can show that this isomorphism is independent on the decomposition of a morphism into a locally closed embedding and projection.

More Properties of π_* and $\pi^!$

Lemma. 1) $\pi^!$ maps coherent modules to coherent for smooth maps (in this case $\pi^!$ is exact up to shift).

2) π_* for projective morphism maps coherent modules to coherent ones.

Pf. 1) is clear from the definition. (reduces to affine case).

2) Note that for $\pi: X \rightarrow pt$, X smooth, $\pi(D_X) = \mathcal{O}_X$, so for X affine statement is false. To prove the statement, note that it is true for closed embeddings, so it's enough to prove it for

$X = \mathbb{P}^N \times Y$, $\pi: \mathbb{P}^N \times Y \rightarrow Y$ the projection to 2nd component, and Y is affine. In the category of coherent D -modules D_X is a projective generator (since \mathbb{P}^N is D -affine), so it's enough to prove the statement for D_X .

We have $D_{X \rightarrow Y} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes D_Y$. Hence

$$(\mathcal{O}_X \otimes \mathcal{D}_X)_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{D}_X \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathcal{Y} = ((\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^N}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^N}} \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{P}^N})$$

$$\otimes_{\mathcal{D}_X = \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^N}} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{P}^N} = \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes (\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^N} \otimes \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{P}^N})$$

Thus $\pi_* \mathcal{D}_X = \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{P}^N}[-N]$ (as $R\pi_*$ sheaf $(\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^N}) = \mathcal{O}[-N]$). This implies the statement. \square

Prop. Let $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ be projective. Then

- 1) π_* is left adjoint to $\pi^!$
- 2) π_* commutes with \mathbb{D} .

Pf. It's enough to assume that $X = \mathbb{P}^N \times Y$, where Y is affine (as for closed embedding we already know this). Let us prove (1).

Let $F \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{D}_X)$ and $G \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{D}_Y)$. We need to show that $\text{Hom}(\pi_* F, G) \cong \text{Hom}(F, \pi^! G)$.

It's enough to consider $F = \mathcal{D}_X$ since \mathcal{D}_X is a projective generator and $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{D}_X)$ is equivalent to the homotopy category of free complexes (we'll also need to check compatibility with morphisms).

As we computed, $\pi_* \mathcal{D}_X = \mathcal{D}_Y[-N]$.

$$\text{So } \text{Hom}(\pi_* \mathcal{D}_X, G) \cong \text{Hom}(\mathcal{D}_Y[-N], G) = R\Gamma(Y, G)[N]$$

On the other hand, $\pi^! \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{O}_{PN} \otimes \mathcal{G}[N]$, so
 $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{D}_X, \pi^! \mathcal{G}) = R\Gamma(\pi^! \mathcal{G})[N] = R\Gamma(Y, \mathcal{G})[N]$,
 as desired.

To prove the second statement, we again
 can construct the above isom. for \mathcal{D}_X ,
 which is done by a similar calculation.

Theorem. Let $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ be smooth. Then

- 1) $\mathbb{D}\pi^! [\dim Y - \dim X] = \pi^! \mathbb{D} [\dim X - \dim Y]$.
- 2) $\pi^! [2(\dim X - \dim Y)]$ is left adjoint to π_* .

Proof. Exercise.

Appendix to Lecture 16.

Exact triangle attached to a closed embedding.

Let X be a topological space, $Z \subset X$ a closed subset. Let \mathcal{F} be a sheaf on X . We say that a section $s \in \Gamma(U, \mathcal{F})$ ($U \subset X$ open) is supported on Z if $s|_{U \setminus Z} = 0$.

Let $j: X \setminus Z \hookrightarrow X$ be the open embedding and let $j^!: \mathcal{S}h(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}h(X \setminus Z)$ be the corresponding restriction functor. Also let j_* be the associated direct image functor $\mathcal{S}h(X \setminus Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}h(X)$. We have a natural exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_Z \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow j_* j^! \mathcal{F}$$

of sheaves on X , where \mathcal{F}_Z is the subsheaf of \mathcal{F} of sections supported on Z , i.e. $\forall U \subset X$
 $\Gamma(U, \mathcal{F}_Z) = \{s \in \Gamma(U, \mathcal{F}) \mid s \text{ is supported on } Z\}$.

Moreover, if \mathcal{F} is injective, the morphism

$\mathcal{F} \rightarrow j_* j^! \mathcal{F}$ is surjective (because injective sheaves are flabby, i.e. admit extensions of sections). So for injective sheaves we have $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_Z \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow j_* j^! \mathcal{F} \rightarrow 0$.

This means that for any \mathcal{F} (complex of sheaves), we have an exact triangle in the

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derived category of sheaves:

$$0 \rightarrow RF_2 \rightarrow F \rightarrow Rj_* j^! F \rightarrow 0$$

Now, assume that X is a smooth variety, $Z \subset X$ a (smooth) closed subvariety, and F is a quasi-coherent sheaf. Then note that $\Gamma(F_Z)$ is the sections of F set-theoretically supported on Z (i.e. killed by some power of the ideal of Z).

Now let F be a D -module (right). Then note that sections of $i_* i^! F$ are the sections of F set-theoretically supported on Z , and $i^!$ is ~~right~~ left exact (as we showed before). Hence in the derived category of D -modules we have an exact triangle

$$0 \rightarrow i_* i^! F \rightarrow F \rightarrow j_* j^! F \rightarrow 0$$

where F is a complex of D -modules, and $i^!$ stands for $Ri^!$, while $j_* = Rj_*$ sheaf.