

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

PROJECTIVE QUASI-COHERENT SHEAVES OF MODULES

RICHARD ARTHUR LEVARO

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Let R be a commutative ring and \tilde{R} the structure sheaf over the prime spectrum of R .

THEOREM: Suppose R has only finitely many minimal primes. Then \tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module if and only if R is a finite direct product of local rings.

Let R be a nonzero commutative ring with identity, and let $x = \text{Spec}(R)$, the prime spectrum of R endowed with the Zariski topology. Let \tilde{R} be the structure sheaf of R on X . We shall use the terminology and notation of [5] in describing the category of \tilde{R} -Modules, $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$.

There is a functor $T: \text{mod}(R) \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ given $T(M) = \tilde{M}$ and $T(f) = \tilde{f}$, where \tilde{M} is the \tilde{R} -Module associated to M , and \tilde{f} is defined at each stalk of \tilde{M} to be the localization of f . The functor T is full, faithful and exact; moreover T preserves direct sums [5, Corollaire I.1.3.8 and I.1.3.9.]. In addition, T determines an equivalence between $\text{mod}(R)$ and the category of quasi-coherent \tilde{R} -Modules. In § 1, we shall show that if \tilde{R} is a generator, then $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ is equivalent to $\text{mod}(R)$. In § 2 necessary and sufficient conditions are given for \tilde{R} to be a projective \tilde{R} -Module.

The author wishes to thank J. J. Rotman and the Referee for their suggestions regarding the preparation of this paper.

1. The equivalence of $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ and $\text{mod}(R)$. C. J. Mulvey [8] has given a necessary and sufficient condition for \tilde{R} to be a generator in $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$. For the case of the affine scheme ($X = \text{Spec}(R), \tilde{R}$), we can state Mulvey's condition as follows:

PROPOSITION 1.1 (Mulvey, [8]). *A necessary and sufficient condition that \tilde{R} be a generator in $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ is that the stalks of \tilde{R} may be generated by global sections of \tilde{R} of arbitrarily small support. If this condition holds, then $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ is necessarily a regular topological space.*

THEOREM 1.2. *The following are equivalent:*

- (i) $T: \text{mod}(R) \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ is an equivalence of categories, i.e., every \tilde{R} -Module is quasi-coherent;
- (ii) \tilde{R} is a generator for the category $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$;
- (iii) $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ is T_1 ;
- (iv) $R/N(R)$ is von Neumann regular, where $N(R)$ is the nil-

radical of R . If \tilde{R} is a flabby (flasque) \tilde{R} -Module, then the equivalent conditions (i)-(iv) are satisfied.

Proof. (i) implies (ii). Since R is a generator of $\text{mod}(R)$, this implication is clear.

(ii) implies (i). Since \tilde{R} is a generator, it is immediate that every \tilde{R} -Module is of the form \tilde{M} .

(ii) implies (iii). Because \tilde{R} is a generator, by Proposition 1.1, $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ is a regular topological space. But X is always T_0 , so it is also T_1 .

(iii) implies (iv). This is well-known and appears as an exercise in [2, page 143].

(iv) implies (ii). Since $R/N(R)$ is von Neumann regular and $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ is homeomorphic to $\text{Spec}(R/N(R))$, X has a basis of closed and open sets. We shall use the criterion of Proposition 1.1 to show \tilde{R} is a generator. Let $x \in X$, and let U be an open set in X with $x \in U$. Let V be an open and closed (basic) set such that $x \in V \subseteq U$. Define sections $s_1 \in \tilde{R}(V)$ and $s_0 \in \tilde{R}(X - V)$ by $s_1(z) = 1_z \in R_{p_z}$ for all $z \in V$, and $s_0(z) = 0_z \in R_{p_z}$ for all $z \in X - V$. Since V partitions X , we can collate s_1 and s_0 to obtain a global section s of \tilde{R} with $s(z) = 1_z$ if $z \in V$ and $s(z) = 0_z$ if $z \notin V$. Clearly s generates \tilde{R}_x , and the support of s is $V \subseteq U$. Therefore, by the Proposition, \tilde{R} is a generator.

For the last statement, suppose \tilde{R} is flabby and $s \in R$. Then the restriction map $\tilde{R}(X) \rightarrow \tilde{R}(D(s))$ is onto, and hence the localization map $R \rightarrow R_s$ is onto. Now $D(s) \approx \text{Spec}(R_s)$, and because $R \rightarrow R_s$ is onto, $\text{Spec}(R_s)$ is homeomorphic to a closed set of X . Hence the usual basis is both open and closed; therefore points in X are closed and X is T_1 .

R. Wiegand has shown, using different techniques, that a reduced prescheme (X, \mathcal{R}) is regular (i.e., X can be covered by open sets U_i such that $(U_i, \mathcal{R}|_{U_i})$ is the affine scheme of a von Neumann regular ring) if and only if every \tilde{R} -Module is quasi-coherent [9].

The Theorem provides examples of rings for which there are projectives in $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$.

COROLLARY 1.3. *Suppose $R/N(R)$ is von Neumann regular where $N(R)$ is the nilradical of R . The \tilde{R} -Module F is projective if and only if $F(X)$ is a projective R -module. In particular, P is a projective R -module if and only if \tilde{P} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module.*

2. Projective quasi-coherent \tilde{R} -Modules. Suppose \tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module. If P is a projective R -module, then there is an R -module Q such that $P \oplus Q \cong \sum R$; hence $\tilde{P} \oplus \tilde{Q} \cong \sum \tilde{R}$ since T

preserves direct sums. Therefore, \tilde{P} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module. Thus, to discover when projective R -module yield projective \tilde{R} -Modules, it is enough to determine when \tilde{R} is projective.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *If R is a local (not necessarily Noetherian) ring, then \tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module.*

Proof. Since $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{R}}(\tilde{R}, F)$ is naturally isomorphic to $F(X)$ for every \tilde{R} -Module F , we need only show the global section functor is exact. Let p_x be the unique maximal ideal of R . For any \tilde{R} -Module F , $F_x = \lim_{\rightarrow} F(U)$ where the direct limit is taken over all open sets containing x . Because $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ is the only open set containing x , $F_x = F(X)$. Now, the formation of stalks is exact, so $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{R}}(\tilde{R},)$ is exact, i.e., \tilde{R} is projective.

R. Bkouche [1] introduced the notion of soft rings.

DEFINITION. The ring R is *soft* (mou) if $\text{Max}(R)$, the maximal spectrum of R , is Hausdorff and $J(R) = 0$, where $J(R)$ is the Jacobson radical of R .

For our purposes, we need a notion a bit more general.

DEFINITION. The ring R is *quasi-soft* if for every $x \in \text{Max}(R)$, the localization map $\alpha_x: R \rightarrow R_{p_x}$ is onto.

Every local ring is quasi-soft, but not necessarily soft. Every von Neumann regular ring is quasi-soft. The relation between soft and quasi-soft rings is given by the following.

PROPOSITION 2.2. *If R is quasi-soft, then $R/J(R)$ is soft, where $J(R)$ is the Jacobson radical of R . Every soft ring is quasi-soft.*

Proof. If R is quasi-soft, then $\text{Max}(R)$ is regular as can be seen by imitating the proof for soft rings [1, Proposition 1.6.1 and 1.6.2]. But $\text{Max}(R)$ is always T_1 ; hence $\text{Max}(R)$ is Hausdorff. Since $\text{Max}(R) \approx \text{Max}(R/J(R))$ and $J(R/J(R)) = 0$, $R/J(R)$ is soft.

Now suppose R is soft, $x \in \text{Max}(R)$, and let $\alpha_x: R \rightarrow R_{p_x}$ be the localization map. Because $J(R) = 0$ and $\text{Max}(R)$ is Hausdorff, $V_M(\ker(\alpha_x)) = \{x\}$, where $V_M(I) = \text{Max}(R) \cap V(I)$ for an ideal I of R . Therefore, $R/\ker(\alpha_x)$ is a local ring with maximal ideal p_x , and so every element outside p_x is invertible. By the universal mapping property of localization, $R/\ker(\alpha_x) \cong R_{p_x}$; hence R is quasi-soft.

Quasi-softness is the condition we must investigate to find necessary conditions for \tilde{R} to be a projective \tilde{R} -Module in view of the following result.

PROPOSITION 2.3. *If \tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module, then R is quasi-soft.*

Proof. Let $x \in \text{Max}(R)$ and set $A = \{x\}$. Then $A \subseteq X$ is closed, and we have the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \tilde{R}_{x-A} \longrightarrow \tilde{R} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \tilde{R}_A \longrightarrow 0$$

of \tilde{R} -Modules [4, Théorème 2.9.3.]. Since \tilde{R} is projective, $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{R}}(\tilde{R},)$ is exact, and hence $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{R}}(\tilde{R}, \tilde{R}) \xrightarrow{\alpha_*} \text{Hom}_{\tilde{R}}(\tilde{R}, \tilde{R}_A)$ is onto. Now $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{R}}(\tilde{R}, \tilde{R}) \cong R$ and $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{R}}(\tilde{R}, \tilde{R}_A) \cong R_{p_x}$, and it is routine to check that α_* may be identified with the localization map $\alpha_x: R \rightarrow R_{p_x}$ (i.e., the obvious diagram commutes). Therefore R is quasi-soft.

We can now state and prove the

MAIN THEOREM. *Suppose R has only finitely many minimal primes. Then \tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module if and only if R is finite direct product of local rings.*

Proof. Since R has only finitely many minimal primes, R is the finite direct product of connected rings, say $R = R_1 \times R_2 \times \dots \times R_n$ each having only finitely many minimal primes. If \tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module, \tilde{R}_i is a projective \tilde{R}_i -module for each i . By Proposition 2.3 R_i is quasi-soft. Hence $\text{Max}(R_i)$ is finite, since each prime ideal of a quasi-soft, ring is contained in a unique maximal ideal [1, Proposition 1.6.1]. Also, since R_i is quasi-soft, $\text{Max}(R_i)$ is the continuous image of $\text{Spec}(R_i)$ [1, Proposition 1.6.2]. (See also [3]). Thus, $\text{Max}(R_i)$ is finite and discrete, but also connected being the continuous image of $\text{Spec}(R_i)$. Therefore $\text{Max}(R_i)$ consists of a single point, and hence R_i is local.

Conversely, if $R = R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$ where each R_i is local, then \tilde{R}_i is a projective \tilde{R}_i -Module by Proposition 2.1. Hence, \tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module.

The Main Theorem resolves the problem of determining the projectivity of \tilde{R} for rings with only finitely many minimal primes; in particular, for Noetherian rings and integral domains.

Let R be a discrete valuation domain. In this case; $X = \text{Spec}(R) = \{(0), p\}$, where p is the unique maximal ideal of R . Since R is local,

\tilde{R} is a projective \tilde{R} -Module. Since $U = \{(0)\}$ is smallest open set containing (0) , \tilde{R}_U is also a projective \tilde{R} -Module. Thus, there are examples of projective \tilde{R} -Modules which are not quasi-coherent. Furthermore, since $\tilde{R} \oplus \tilde{R}_U$ is a generator for $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ [6, Proposition 3.1.1], in this case $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ has a small projective generator. Hence $\text{Mod}(\tilde{R})$ is equivalent to a category of modules [7, Theorem 4.1, page 104], but the functor T is not the equivalence since $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ is not T_1 .

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Received November 11, 1974 and in revised form March 10, 1975.

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The *Pacific Journal of Mathematics* is issued monthly as of January 1966. Regular subscription rate: \$72.00 a year (6 Vols., 12 issues). Special rate: \$36.00 a year to individual members of supporting institutions.

Subscriptions, orders for back numbers, and changes of address should be sent to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, 103 Highland Boulevard, Berkeley, California, 94708.

PUBLISHED BY PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Printed at Kokusai Bunken Insatsusha (International Academic Printing Co., Ltd.), 270, 3-chome Totsuka-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan.

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Pacific Journal of Mathematics

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