



Artinian and Non-Artinian Local Cohomology Modules

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Abstract. Let M be a finite module over a commutative noetherian ring R . For ideals \mathfrak{a} and \mathfrak{b} of R , the relations between cohomological dimensions of M with respect to \mathfrak{a} , \mathfrak{b} , $\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}$ and $\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}$ are studied. When R is local, it is shown that M is generalized Cohen–Macaulay if there exists an ideal \mathfrak{a} such that all local cohomology modules of M with respect to \mathfrak{a} have finite lengths. Also, when r is an integer such that $0 \leq r < \dim_R(M)$, any maximal element \mathfrak{q} of the non-empty set of ideals $\{\mathfrak{a} : H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M) \text{ is not artinian for some } i, i \geq r\}$ is a prime ideal, and all Bass numbers of $H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M)$ are finite for all $i \geq r$.

1 Introduction

Throughout, R is a commutative noetherian ring; \mathfrak{a} is a proper ideal of R ; X and M are non-zero R -modules, and M is finite (*i.e.*, finitely generated). Recall that the i -th local cohomology functor $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i$ is the i -th right derived functor of the \mathfrak{a} -torsion functor $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}$. Also, the cohomological dimension of X with respect to \mathfrak{a} , denoted by $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)$, is defined as

$$\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X) := \sup\{i : H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X) \neq 0\}.$$

In Section 2, we discuss the arithmetic of cohomological dimensions. We show that the inequalities $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, M) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M)$ and $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, X) \leq \text{ara}(\mathfrak{a}) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, X)$ hold true, and we find some equivalent conditions for which each inequality becomes an equality.

In Section 3, we study artinian local cohomology modules. We first observe that over a local ring (R, \mathfrak{m}) if there is an integer n such that $\dim_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X)) \leq 0$ for all $i \leq n$ (respectively, for all $i \geq n$), then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X) \cong H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(X)$ for all $i \leq n$ (respectively, for all $i \geq n + \text{ara}(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{a})$) (Theorem 3.2). In this situation, if X is finite, then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X)$ is artinian for all $i \leq n$ (respectively, for all $i \geq n + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{a}, X)$), which is related to the third of Huneke’s four problem in local cohomology [11]. Here, for ideals $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \mathfrak{b}$, $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, X)$ is introduced to be the infimum of the set $\{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{c}, X) : \mathfrak{c} \text{ is an ideal of } R \text{ and } \sqrt{\mathfrak{b}} = \sqrt{\mathfrak{c} + \mathfrak{a}}\}$. It is deduced that M is generalized Cohen–Macaulay if there exists an ideal \mathfrak{a} such that all local cohomology modules of M with respect to \mathfrak{a} have finite lengths (Corollary 3.4).

Section 4 is devoted to the study of the non-artinianness of local cohomology modules. Note that $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + Rx, X) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X) + 1$ for all $x \in R$ [9, Lemma 2.5]. We

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show that if there exist $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R$ such that $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + (x_1, \dots, x_n), X) = \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X) + n$, then $\dim_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)}(X)) \geq n$ and so $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)}(X)$ is not artinian (Corollary 4.1). For each integer $r, 0 \leq r < d$ ($d := \dim_R(M)$), we introduce $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$, the set of all ideals \mathfrak{a} for which $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M)$ is not artinian for some $i \geq r$. It is evident that if $d > 0$, then $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$ is not empty. We show that any maximal element \mathfrak{q} of $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$ is a prime ideal and that all Bass numbers of $H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M)$ are finite for all $i \geq r$. We conclude that this statement generalizes [5, Corollary 2] (see Theorem 4.7 and its comment).

2 Arithmetic of Cohomological Dimensions

Assume that $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b}$ are ideals of R and that X is an R -module. In this section, we study relationships between the numbers $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X), \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, X), \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, X), \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}, X)$ ($= \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}, X)$), $\text{ara}(\mathfrak{a})$, etc, which are interesting in themselves, and we use them to determine the artinianness and non-artinianness of certain local cohomology modules in the following sections.

Lemma 2.1 *Let X be an R -module, and let t be a non-negative integer such that for all $r, 0 \leq r \leq t, H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{t-r}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^r(X)) = 0$. Then $H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^t(X)$ is also zero.*

Proof By [14, Theorem 11.38], there is a Grothendieck spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} := H_{\mathfrak{a}}^p(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^q(X)) \xrightarrow{p} H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^{p+q}(X).$$

For all $r, 0 \leq r \leq t$, we have $E_{\infty}^{t-r,r} = E_{t+2}^{t-r,r}$ since $E_i^{t-r-i,r+i-1} = 0 = E_i^{t-r+i,r+1-i}$ for all $i \geq t+2$. Note that $E_{t+2}^{t-r,r}$ is a subquotient of $E_2^{t-r,r}$, which is zero by assumption. Thus $E_{t+2}^{t-r,r}$ is zero, that is $E_{\infty}^{t-r,r} = 0$. There exists a finite filtration

$$0 = \phi^{t+1}H^t \subseteq \phi^tH^t \subseteq \dots \subseteq \phi^1H^t \subseteq \phi^0H^t = H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^t(X)$$

such that $E_{\infty}^{t-r,r} = \phi^{t-r}H^t / \phi^{t-r+1}H^t$ for all $r, 0 \leq r \leq t$. Therefore, we have

$$0 = \phi^{t+1}H^t = \phi^tH^t = \dots = \phi^1H^t = \phi^0H^t = H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^t(X)$$

as desired. ■

The following corollary is the first application of the above lemma.

Corollary 2.2 *For a finite R -module M , the following statements hold true.*

- (i) $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, M) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M)$.
- (ii) $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}, M) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M)$.
- (iii) $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq \sum_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}(\mathfrak{a})} \text{cd}(\mathfrak{p}, M)$.

Proof (i) Assume that t is a non-negative integer such that $t > \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M)$. We will show that $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{t-r}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^r(M)) = 0$ for all $r, 0 \leq r \leq t$. If $r > \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M)$, then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{t-r}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^r(M)) = 0$ by the definition of cohomological dimension. Otherwise, $t-r > \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M)$. Since $\text{Supp}_R(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^r(M)) \subseteq \text{Supp}_R(M)$, $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) \geq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, H_{\mathfrak{b}}^r(M))$ (see [6, Theorem 1.4]). Therefore, $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{t-r}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^r(M)) = 0$. Now, applying Lemma 2.1, we see that $H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^t(M) = 0$, which yields the assertion.

(ii) Consider the Mayer–Vietoris exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}(M) \longrightarrow \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \oplus \Gamma_{\mathfrak{b}}(M) \longrightarrow \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}}(M) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

$$\cdots \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^t(M) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{a}}^t(M) \oplus H_{\mathfrak{b}}^t(M) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}}^t(M) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^{t+1}(M) \longrightarrow \cdots,$$

and use part (i).

(iii) As $\sqrt{\mathfrak{a}} = \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}(\mathfrak{a})} \mathfrak{p}$, the claim follows from part (ii). ■

Remark 2.3 In the above corollary, one may state more precise statements in certain cases as follows:

(ii') If $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) > 0$ and $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M) > 0$, then

$$\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}, M) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M) - 1.$$

(iii') If R is local and M is not \mathfrak{a} -torsion, then

$$\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq \sum_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}(\mathfrak{a})} \text{cd}(\mathfrak{p}, M) - |\text{Min}(\mathfrak{a})| + 1.$$

Note that the proof of (ii') is similar to that of Corollary 2.2(ii). For (iii'), we have $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{p}, M) > 0$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}(\mathfrak{a})$, since M is not \mathfrak{a} -torsion. The result follows by induction on $|\text{Min}(\mathfrak{a})|$.

For a general module X , not necessarily finite, we have the following result.

Corollary 2.4 *Let X be an arbitrary R -module. Then the following statements hold.*

- (i) $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, X) \leq \text{ara}(\mathfrak{a}) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, X)$.
- (ii) $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}, X) \leq \text{ara}(\mathfrak{a}) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, X)$.
- (iii) $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, X) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X) + \text{ara}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a})$ whenever $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \mathfrak{b}$.

Proof The proofs of (i) and (ii) are similar to those of Corollary 2.2(i) and (ii), respectively. For (iii), let $e = \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)$ and $f = \text{ara}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a})$. There exist $x_1, \dots, x_f \in R$ such that $\sqrt{\mathfrak{b}} = \sqrt{(x_1, \dots, x_f) + \mathfrak{a}}$. Now, use part (i). ■

We need some sufficient conditions for the isomorphism $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^s(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^t(X)) \cong H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^{s+t}(X)$ for given non-negative integers s and t , which is crucial for the rest of the paper, e.g., to determine equalities in Corollaries 2.2(i) and 2.4(i).

Lemma 2.5 *Let X be an arbitrary R -module, and let s, t be non-negative integers such that*

- (a) $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{s+t-i}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(X)) = 0$ for all $i \in \{0, \dots, s+t\} \setminus \{t\}$,
- (b) $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{s+t-i+1}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(X)) = 0$ for all $i \in \{0, \dots, t-1\}$, and
- (c) $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{s+t-i-1}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(X)) = 0$ for all $i \in \{t+1, \dots, s+t\}$.

Then we have the isomorphism $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^s(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^t(X)) \cong H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^{s+t}(X)$.

Proof Consider the Grothendieck spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} := H_a^p(H_b^q(X)) \underset{p}{\Rightarrow} H_{a+b}^{p+q}(X).$$

For all $r \geq 2$, let $Z_r^{s,t} = \ker(E_r^{s,t} \rightarrow E_r^{s+r,t+1-r})$ and $B_r^{s,t} = \text{Im}(E_r^{s-r,t+r-1} \rightarrow E_r^{s,t})$. We have exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow B_r^{s,t} \longrightarrow Z_r^{s,t} \longrightarrow E_{r+1}^{s,t} \longrightarrow 0$$

and

$$0 \longrightarrow Z_r^{s,t} \longrightarrow E_r^{s,t} \longrightarrow E_r^{s,t}/Z_r^{s,t} \longrightarrow 0.$$

Since, by assumptions (b) and (c), $E_2^{s+r,t+1-r} = 0 = E_2^{s-r,t+r-1}$, $E_r^{s+r,t+1-r} = 0 = E_r^{s-r,t+r-1}$. Therefore $E_r^{s,t}/Z_r^{s,t} = 0 = B_r^{s,t}$ which shows that $E_r^{s,t} = E_{r+1}^{s,t}$ and so

$$H_a^s(H_b^t(X)) = E_2^{s,t} = E_3^{s,t} = \dots = E_{s+t+1}^{s,t} = E_{s+t+2}^{s,t} = E_\infty^{s,t}.$$

There is a finite filtration

$$0 = \phi^{s+t+1}H^{s+t} \subseteq \phi^{s+t}H^{s+t} \subseteq \dots \subseteq \phi^1H^{s+t} \subseteq \phi^0H^{s+t} = H_{a+b}^{s+t}(X)$$

such that $E_\infty^{s+t-r,r} = \phi^{s+t-r}H^{s+t} / \phi^{s+t-r+1}H^{s+t}$ for all $r, 0 \leq r \leq s+t$.

Note that for each $r, 0 \leq r \leq t-1$ or $t+1 \leq r \leq s+t$, $E_\infty^{s+t-r,r} = 0$ by assumption (a). Therefore we get

$$0 = \phi^{s+t+1}H^{s+t} = \phi^{s+t}H^{s+t} = \dots = \phi^{s+2}H^{s+t} = \phi^{s+1}H^{s+t}$$

and

$$\phi^sH^{s+t} = \phi^{s-1}H^{s+t} = \dots = \phi^1H^{s+t} = \phi^0H^{s+t} = H_{a+b}^{s+t}(X).$$

Hence $H_a^s(H_b^t(X)) = E_\infty^{s,t} = \phi^sH^{s+t} / \phi^{s+1}H^{s+t} = H_{a+b}^{s+t}(X)$ as desired. ■

Now, we are able to discuss conditions under which inequalities Corollaries 2.2(i) and 2.4(i) become equalities.

Corollary 2.6 *Suppose that M is a finite R -module such that $(a + b)M \neq M$. Then the following statements hold true.*

- (i) $H_{a+b}^{\text{cd}(a,M)+\text{cd}(b,M)}(M) \cong H_a^{\text{cd}(a,M)}(H_b^{\text{cd}(b,M)}(M))$.
- (ii) *The following statements are equivalent:*
 - (a) $\text{cd}(a + b, M) = \text{cd}(a, M) + \text{cd}(b, M)$.
 - (b) $\text{cd}(a, M) = \text{cd}(a, H_b^{\text{cd}(b,M)}(M))$.
 - (c) $\text{cd}(b, M) = \text{cd}(b, H_a^{\text{cd}(a,M)}(M))$.

Proof (i) Apply Lemma 2.5 with $s = \text{cd}(a, M)$ and $t = \text{cd}(b, M)$.

(ii) The implications (a) \Rightarrow (b) and (a) \Rightarrow (c) are clear from part (i) and [6, Theorem 1.4]. For implications (b) \Rightarrow (a) and (c) \Rightarrow (a), one may use part (i) and Corollary 2.2(i). ■

With a similar argument, one has the following result for an arbitrary module.

Corollary 2.7 *Suppose that X is an arbitrary R -module. Then we have*

- (i) $H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^{\text{ara}(\mathfrak{a})+\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b},X)}(X) \cong H_{\mathfrak{a}}^{\text{ara}(\mathfrak{a})}(H_{\mathfrak{b}}^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b},X)}(X))$.
- (ii) *The following statements are equivalent:*
 - (a) $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, X) = \text{ara}(\mathfrak{a}) + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, X)$.
 - (b) $\text{ara}(\mathfrak{a}) = \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, H_{\mathfrak{b}}^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b},X)}(X))$.

3 Artinian Local Cohomology Modules

In this section, we study the artinian property of local cohomology modules. For this purpose, for ideals $\mathfrak{b} \supseteq \mathfrak{a}$, we introduce the notion of cohomological dimension of an R -module X with respect to $\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}$.

Definition 3.1 Let $\mathfrak{b} \supseteq \mathfrak{a}$ be ideals of R , and let X be an R -module. Define the cohomological dimension of X with respect to $\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}$ as

$$\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, X) := \inf\{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{c}, X) : \mathfrak{c} \text{ is an ideal of } R \text{ and } \sqrt{\mathfrak{b}} = \sqrt{\mathfrak{c} + \mathfrak{a}}\}.$$

It is easy to see that $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, X) \leq \text{ara}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a})$ and, for a finite R -module M ,

$$\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, M) \geq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M) - \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M)$$

by Corollary 2.2(i). Note that when $\mathfrak{a}X = 0$, we have $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, X) = \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, X) = \text{cd}_{R/\mathfrak{a}}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, X)$. One may notice that if $\text{Supp}_R(X) \subseteq \text{Supp}_R(M)$, then $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, X) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, M)$.

Now we can state the following theorem.

Theorem 3.2 *Let $\mathfrak{b} \supseteq \mathfrak{a}$ be ideals of R , let X be an arbitrary R -module and let n be a non-negative integer.*

- (i) *If $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X)$ is \mathfrak{b} -torsion for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$, then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X) \cong H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(X)$ for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$.*
- (ii) *If $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X)$ is \mathfrak{b} -torsion for all $i \geq n$, then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X) \cong H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(X)$ for all $i \geq n + \text{ara}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a})$.*
- (iii) *Assume that M is a finite R -module and that $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M)$ is \mathfrak{b} -torsion for all $i \geq n$. Then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M) \cong H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(M)$ for all $i \geq n + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, M)$.*

Proof Let $u = \text{ara}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a})$ and $v = \text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}, M)$. There exist $x_1, \dots, x_u \in R$ and an ideal \mathfrak{c} of R such that $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{c}, M) = v$ and $\sqrt{(x_1, \dots, x_u) + \mathfrak{a}} = \sqrt{\mathfrak{b}} = \sqrt{\mathfrak{c} + \mathfrak{a}}$. In computing local cohomology modules, we may assume that $(x_1, \dots, x_u) + \mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c} + \mathfrak{a}$. Now, for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$ (respectively, $i \geq n + u, i \geq n + v$), apply Lemma 2.5 with $s = 0$ and $t = i$ to obtain the isomorphisms $\Gamma_{(x_1, \dots, x_u)}(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X)) \cong H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(X)$ for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$, (respectively, $\Gamma_{(x_1, \dots, x_u)}(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(X)) \cong H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(X)$ for all $i \geq n + u$, $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{c}}(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M)) \cong H_{\mathfrak{b}}^i(M)$ for all $i \geq n + v$). Therefore all of the assertions follow. ■

Corollary 3.3 *Let R be a local ring with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} , let M be a finite R -module, and let n be a non-negative integer. If $\dim_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M)) \leq 0$ for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$ (respectively, for all $i \geq n$), then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M)$ is artinian for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$ (respectively, for all $i \geq n + \text{cd}(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{a}, M)$).*

Proof Since $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)$ is artinian for all i , the assertion follows from Theorem 3.2. ■

Recall that a finite R -module M over a local ring (R, \mathfrak{m}) is called a *generalized Cohen–Macaulay* module if $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)$ is of finite length for all $i < \dim_R(M)$. The following result gives us a characterization for a finite module M over a local ring to be generalized Cohen–Macaulay in terms of the existence of an ideal \mathfrak{a} for which $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M)$ is of finite length for all $i < \dim_R(M)$.

Corollary 3.4 *Let R be a local ring with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} , and let M be a finite R -module. Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) M is generalized Cohen–Macaulay module.
- (ii) There exists an ideal \mathfrak{a} such that $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M)$ is of finite length for all i , $0 \leq i < \dim_R(M)$.

Proof (i) \Rightarrow (ii). This is trivial. (ii) \Rightarrow (i). This follows from Theorem 3.2(i). ■

A non-zero R -module X is called *secondary* if its multiplication map by any element a of R is either surjective or nilpotent. A prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of R is said to be an *attached prime* of X if $\mathfrak{p} = (T :_R X)$ for some submodule T of X . If X admits a reduced secondary representation, $X = X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_n$, then the set of attached primes $\text{Att}_R(X)$ of X is equal to $\{\sqrt{0} :_R X_i : i = 1, \dots, n\}$ (see [12]).

Assume that M is a finite R -module of finite dimension d and that \mathfrak{a} is an ideal of R . It is well known that $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M)$ is artinian. If (R, \mathfrak{m}) is local, then the first author and Yassemi in [7, Theorem A] (see also [10, Theorem 8.2.1]) showed that $\text{Att}_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M)) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Assh}_R(M) : H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(R/\mathfrak{p}) \neq 0\}$, which generalized the well-known result $\text{Att}_R(H_{\mathfrak{m}}^d(M)) = \text{Assh}_R(M) (= \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Supp}_R(M) : \dim(R/\mathfrak{p}) = d\})$ (see [13, Theorem 2.2]). In the following remark, those ideals \mathfrak{a} for which $\text{Att}_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M)) = \text{Assh}_R(M)$ are characterized. Denote the height support, $\text{hSupp}_R(M)$, of M as the set of all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$ such that $\mathfrak{p} \in V(\mathfrak{q})$ for some $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Assh}_R(M)$.

Remark 3.5 *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a complete local ring and let M be a non-zero finite R -module with Krull dimension d . Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M) \cong H_{\mathfrak{m}}^d(M)$.
- (ii) $\text{Att}_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M)) = \text{Assh}_R(M)$.
- (iii) $V(\mathfrak{a}) \cap \text{hSupp}_R(M) = \{\mathfrak{m}\}$.

The proof of (i) \Rightarrow (ii) is clear. To prove (ii) \Rightarrow (iii), one may use the Lichtenbaum–Hartshorne Vanishing Theorem. For (iii) \Rightarrow (i), choose a submodule N of M such that $\text{Ass}_R(N) = \text{Ass}_R(M) \setminus \text{Assh}_R(M)$ and $\text{Ass}_R(M/N) = \text{Assh}_R(M)$ to obtain $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M) \cong H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M/N)$ and $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^d(M) \cong H_{\mathfrak{m}}^d(M/N)$. Therefore $\text{Supp}_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M/N)) \subseteq \{\mathfrak{m}\}$ for all i . Applying Theorem 3.2(i) gives the claim. This remark shows that if M is equidimensional, then $\text{Att}_R(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^d(M)) \neq \text{Assh}_R(M)$ for each ideal \mathfrak{a} with $\text{ht}_M(\mathfrak{a}) < \dim_R(M)$.

Recall that an R -module X is said to be *minimax* if it has a finite submodule X' such that X/X' is artinian (see [15]). Note that the class of minimax modules includes all finite and all artinian modules. We close this section by showing that if \mathfrak{m} is a maximal ideal containing \mathfrak{a} , then $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(X)$ is artinian for all $i \leq n$ (respectively, for

all $i \geq n + \text{ara}(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{a})$ whenever $H_a^i(X)$ is minimax for all $i \leq n$ (respectively, for all $i \geq n$). We first present a lemma analogous to Lemma 2.1.

Lemma 3.6 *Let X be an R -module, and let t be a non-negative integer such that $H_a^{t-r}(H_b^r(X))$ is artinian for all $r, 0 \leq r \leq t$. Then $H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^t(X)$ is artinian.*

Proof By the Grothendieck spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} := H_a^p(H_b^q(X)) \xrightarrow{p} H_{\mathfrak{a}+\mathfrak{b}}^{p+q}(X),$$

the proof is similar to that of Lemma 2.1. ■

Theorem 3.7 *Let \mathfrak{m} be a maximal ideal of R containing \mathfrak{a} , let X be an arbitrary R -module and let n be a non-negative integer.*

- (i) *If $H_a^i(X)$ is minimax for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$, then $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(X)$ is artinian for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq n$.*
- (ii) *If $H_a^i(X)$ is minimax for all $i \geq n$, then $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(X)$ is artinian for all $i \geq n + \text{ara}(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{a})$.*

Proof By considering Lemma 3.6, this is similar to that of Theorem 3.2. ■

4 Non-Artinian Local Cohomology Modules

In this section, we study those local cohomology modules that are not artinian. The following two results give us many non-artinian local cohomology modules.

Corollary 4.1 *Let X be an R -module, let n be a positive integer, and let $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R$ such that $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a} + (x_1, \dots, x_n), X) = \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X) + n$. Then $\dim_R(H_a^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)}(X)) \geq n$. In particular, $H_a^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)}(X)$ is not artinian.*

Proof By Corollary 2.4(i), $\text{ara}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = n$. By Corollary 2.7(ii) and the Grothendieck Vanishing Theorem, we have $\dim_R(H_a^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)}(X)) \geq n$ and so $H_a^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, X)}(X)$ is not artinian. ■

Corollary 4.2 ([2, Proposition 3.2]) *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local ring, and let M be a finite R -module with Krull dimension d . Assume also that \mathfrak{a} is generated by a subset of system of parameters x_1, \dots, x_n of M of length n . Then $\dim_R(H_a^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M)}(M)) = d - n$. In particular, if $n < d$, then $H_a^{\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M)}(M)$ is not artinian.*

Proof There exist $x_{n+1}, \dots, x_d \in R$ such that x_1, \dots, x_d is a system of parameters of M . Set $\mathfrak{b} = (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_d)$. As $\mathfrak{m} = \sqrt{\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b} + \text{Ann}_R(M)}$, we can, and do, assume that $\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{m}$. By Corollary 2.2(i), $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) = n$ and $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{b}, M) = d - n$. Now, by using Corollary 2.6(ii), we obtain $\dim_R(H_a^n(M)) \geq d - n$. On the other hand, we have $\dim_R(H_a^n(M)) \leq d - n$, since $\text{Supp}_R(H_a^n(M)) \subseteq \text{Supp}_R(M/\mathfrak{a}M)$. Thus $\dim_R(H_a^n(M)) = d - n$ as desired. ■

Now it is natural to raise the following question.

Question 4.3 Assume that M is a finite R -module and that $H_a^{cd(a,M)}(M)$ is not artinian. Is there an element x in R such that

$$cd(a + Rx, M) = cd(a, M) + 1?$$

It is clear that the above question has a positive answer if R is local and a is generated by a subset of system of parameters of M of length smaller than $\dim_R(M)$.

In the rest of the paper, we study the set of ideals b of R such that $H_b^i(M)$ is not artinian for some non-negative integer i .

Definition 4.4 Let M be a finite R -module and let r be a non-negative integer. Define the set of ideals

$$\mathcal{L}^r(M) := \{b : H_b^i(M) \text{ is not artinian for some } i \geq r\}.$$

Note that $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$ is the empty set for all $r \geq \dim_R(M)$. If $0 \leq r < \dim_R(M)$, $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$ is non-empty by Corollary 4.2. The following remark shows that the set $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$ is independent of the module structure.

Remark 4.5 Assume that L, M , and N are finite R -modules and that r is a non-negative integer. Then the following statements are true.

- (i) If $\text{Supp}_R(N) \subseteq \text{Supp}_R(M)$, then $\mathcal{L}^r(N) \subseteq \mathcal{L}^r(M)$.
- (ii) If $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence, then $\mathcal{L}^r(M) = \mathcal{L}^r(L) \cup \mathcal{L}^r(N)$.
- (iii) $\mathcal{L}^r(M) = \bigcup_{p \in \text{Ass}_R(M)} \mathcal{L}^r(R/p)$.

Proof (i) Assume that a is an ideal of R that is not in $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$ so that $H_a^i(M)$ is artinian for all $i \geq r$. Therefore $H_a^i(N)$ is artinian for all $i \geq r$ by [1, Theorem 3.1]; that is, a does not belong to $\mathcal{L}^r(N)$. Thus $\mathcal{L}^r(N) \subseteq \mathcal{L}^r(M)$ as desired.

(ii) By (i), $\mathcal{L}^r(M) \supseteq \mathcal{L}^r(L) \cup \mathcal{L}^r(N)$. Assume that $a \in \mathcal{L}^r(M)$. There exists an integer $i, i \geq r$, such that $H_a^i(M)$ is not artinian. Now, by the exact sequence $H_a^i(L) \rightarrow H_a^i(M) \rightarrow H_a^i(N)$, the other inclusion follows.

(iii) By (i), we have the inclusion $\mathcal{L}^r(M) \supseteq \bigcup_{p \in \text{Ass}_R(M)} \mathcal{L}^r(R/p)$. Assume, conversely, that $b \notin \bigcup_{p \in \text{Ass}_R(M)} \mathcal{L}^r(R/p)$. There is a prime filtration $0 = M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \dots \subset M_s = M$ of M such that, for all $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, $M_j/M_{j-1} \cong R/p_j$ for some $p_j \in \text{Supp}_R(M)$. For each $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, there is $q_j \in \text{Ass}_R(M)$ contained in p_j and thus, by assumption and part (i), $b \notin \mathcal{L}^r(R/p_j)$. Now, by applying $H_b^i(-)$ on each exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow M_j \longrightarrow M_{j+1} \longrightarrow M_{j+1}/M_j \longrightarrow 0,$$

it follows that $b \notin \mathcal{L}^r(M)$. ■

Before stating the main theorem of this section, recall the following result, which is straightforward from the fact that, for an R -module X and for each $\alpha \in R$, the kernel (respectively, the cokernel) of the natural map $X \rightarrow X_\alpha$ is $H_{R\alpha}^0(X)$ (respectively, $H_{R\alpha}^1(X)$), where X_α denotes the localization of X at the set $\{1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3, \dots\}$.

Proposition 4.6 For any R -module X and for any $\alpha \in R$, there are exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow H_{R\alpha}^1(H_a^{i-1}(X)) \longrightarrow H_{\alpha+R\alpha}^i(X) \longrightarrow H_{R\alpha}^0(H_a^i(X)) \longrightarrow 0,$$

for all $i \geq 0$.

Proof See [4, Proposition 8.1.2] (see also [3, Theorem 2.5]). ■

The i -th Bass number of X with respect to the prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of R , denoted by $\mu^i(\mathfrak{p}, X)$, is defined to be the number of copies of the indecomposable injective module $E_R(R/\mathfrak{p})$ in the direct sum decomposition of the i -th term of a minimal injective resolution of X , which is equal to the rank of the vector space $\text{Ext}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}^i(k(\mathfrak{p}), X_{\mathfrak{p}})$ over the field $k(\mathfrak{p}) = R_{\mathfrak{p}}/\mathfrak{p}R_{\mathfrak{p}}$. When (R, \mathfrak{m}) is local, we write $\mu^i(X) := \mu^i(\mathfrak{m}, X)$ and refer it the i -th Bass number of X .

In the following theorem, we study Bass numbers of certain non-artinian local cohomology modules.

Theorem 4.7 Assume that (R, \mathfrak{m}) is a local ring and that M is a finite R -module with Krull dimension d . Let $r < d$ be a fixed non-negative integer. Then for each maximal element \mathfrak{q} of the non-empty set $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$,

- (i) $\mu^j(H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M)) < \infty$ for all $j \geq 0$ and all $i \geq r$;
- (ii) \mathfrak{q} is a prime ideal.

Proof (i) As $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)$ is artinian for all $i \geq 0$, we have $\mathfrak{q} \neq \mathfrak{m}$. Choose an element $x \in \mathfrak{m} \setminus \mathfrak{q}$. Thus $H_{\mathfrak{q}+Rx}^i(M)$ is artinian for all $i \geq r$. Using the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow H_{Rx}^1(H_{\mathfrak{q}}^{i-1}(M)) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{q}+Rx}^i(M) \longrightarrow H_{Rx}^0(H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M)) \longrightarrow 0,$$

it follows that, for each $i \geq r$, the modules $H_{Rx}^1(H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M))$ and $H_{Rx}^0(H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M))$ are artinian and so they have finite Bass numbers. It follows by [8, Theorem 2.1] that $\mu^j(H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M)) < \infty$ for all $j \geq 0$ and all $i \geq r$.

(ii) Assume that $x, y \in \mathfrak{m} \setminus \mathfrak{q}$ such that $xy \in \mathfrak{q}$. As $\mathfrak{q} + Rx$ and $\mathfrak{q} + Ry$ properly contain \mathfrak{q} , it follows that the modules $H_{\mathfrak{q}+Rx}^i(M)$, $H_{\mathfrak{q}+Ry}^i(M)$, and $H_{\mathfrak{q}+Rx+Ry}^i(M)$ are artinian for all $i \geq r$. Applying the Mayer–Vietoris exact sequence

$$H_{\mathfrak{q}+Rx}^i(M) \oplus H_{\mathfrak{q}+Ry}^i(M) \longrightarrow H_{(\mathfrak{q}+Rx) \cap (\mathfrak{q}+Ry)}^i(M) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{q}+Rx+Ry}^{i+1}(M),$$

we find that $H_{(\mathfrak{q}+Rx) \cap (\mathfrak{q}+Ry)}^i(M)$ is artinian for $i \geq r$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\mathfrak{q}} &\subseteq \sqrt{(\mathfrak{q} + Rx) \cap (\mathfrak{q} + Ry)} = \sqrt{(\mathfrak{q} + Rx)(\mathfrak{q} + Ry)} \\ &= \sqrt{\mathfrak{q}^2 + \mathfrak{q}x + \mathfrak{q}y + Rx y} \subseteq \sqrt{\mathfrak{q}}, \end{aligned}$$

and hence $H_{(\mathfrak{q}+Rx) \cap (\mathfrak{q}+Ry)}^i(M) \cong H_{\mathfrak{q}}^i(M)$ is artinian for $i \geq r$. This contradicts the fact that $\mathfrak{q} \in \mathcal{L}^r(M)$, and so \mathfrak{q} is a prime ideal. ■

There have been many attempts in the literature to find some conditions for the ideal \mathfrak{a} to have finiteness for the Bass numbers of the local cohomology modules supported at \mathfrak{a} . In [5, Corollary 2], Delfino and Marley showed that the Bass number $\mu^i(\mathfrak{p}, H_{\mathfrak{a}}^j(M))$ is finite for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } R$ and all i, j whenever M is a finite module over a ring R and \mathfrak{a} is an ideal of R with $\dim R/\mathfrak{a} = 1$.

Assume that \mathfrak{a} and \mathfrak{b} are two ideals of a local ring (R, \mathfrak{m}) with $\dim(R/\mathfrak{a}) = \dim(R/\mathfrak{b}) = 1$ such that $V(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}) = \{\mathfrak{m}\}$. Write the Mayer–Vietoris exact sequence

$$H_{\mathfrak{m}}^j(M) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{a}}^j(M) \oplus H_{\mathfrak{b}}^j(M) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}}^j(M) \longrightarrow H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{j+1}(M).$$

As $H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)$ is artinian for all i , we find that $H_{\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}}^j(M)$ has finite Bass numbers if and only if both $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^j(M)$ and $H_{\mathfrak{b}}^j(M)$ have finite Bass numbers. Therefore [5, Corollary 2] is equivalent to the case where the ideal \mathfrak{a} is prime.

Comment Assume that \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal of R such that $\dim(R/\mathfrak{p}) = 1$ and r is the smallest integer (if there is one) such that $H_{\mathfrak{p}}^i(M)$ is not artinian. Thus \mathfrak{p} is a maximal element of $\mathcal{L}^r(M)$. By Theorem 4.7, $\mu^j(H_{\mathfrak{p}}^i(M)) < \infty$ for all $j \geq 0$ and all $i \geq r$. As $H_{\mathfrak{p}}^i(M)$ is artinian for all $i < r$, all $H_{\mathfrak{p}}^i(M)$ have finite Bass numbers. Thus Theorem 4.7 generalizes [5, Corollary 2].

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