

ON THE HOMOGENEOUS PIECES OF GRADED GENERALIZED
LOCAL COHOMOLOGY MODULES

BY

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Abstract. We study, in certain cases, the notions of finiteness and stability of the set of associated primes and vanishing of the homogeneous pieces of graded generalized local cohomology modules.

1. Introduction. Throughout the paper R is a commutative Noetherian ring with identity and M is an R -module. Also, we denote the set of positive (resp. non-negative) integers by \mathbb{N} (resp. \mathbb{N}_0). For an ideal \mathfrak{a} of R , the \mathfrak{a} -torsion submodule of M is $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(M) := \bigcup_{n \geq 0} (0 :_M \mathfrak{a}^n)$. Let $\mathcal{C}(R)$ denote the category of R -modules and R -homomorphisms. It is well known that $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\cdot) : \mathcal{C}(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(R)$ is a covariant, R -linear and left exact functor. For a non-negative integer i , the i th right derived functor of $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\cdot)$ is denoted by $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(\cdot)$ and is called the i th local cohomology functor with respect to \mathfrak{a} . Note that $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(\cdot) \cong \varinjlim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{Ext}_R^i(R/\mathfrak{a}^n, \cdot)$.

The following generalization of the local cohomology functor was given in the local cases by J. Herzog [5], and in the general case by M. H. Bijan-Zadeh [2]. The i th generalized local cohomology functor, $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathcal{C}(R) \times \mathcal{C}(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(R)$ is defined by

$$H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N) := \varinjlim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{Ext}_R^i(M/\mathfrak{a}^n M, N) \quad \text{for all } M, N \in \mathcal{C}(R).$$

If M is finitely generated, then, of course, there are other approaches to the construction of generalized local cohomology functors. In the following we recall two of those.

(a) Following [7, 2.1], let M be finitely generated and let \mathbf{J}^N be an injective resolution for an R -module N . Then

$$H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N) \cong H^i(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\text{Hom}_R(M, \mathbf{J}^N))) \cong H^i(\text{Hom}_R(M, \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\mathbf{J}^N))).$$

In fact, for a fixed finitely generated R -module M , it is easy to see that the functors $H^i(\text{Hom}_R(M, \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\mathbf{J}^i)))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ constitute a connected sequence of functors, for which $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^0(M, \cdot)$ and $H^0(\text{Hom}_R(M, \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\mathbf{J})))$ are isomorphic; so this

sequence is isomorphic to the connected sequence $(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, \cdot))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ of functors. In the same way one shows that $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N) \cong H^i(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\text{Hom}_R(M, \mathbf{J}^N)))$. Observe that the above isomorphisms imply that all the $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$ are \mathfrak{a} -torsion modules.

(b) There is another approach to the construction of the generalized local cohomology functors which uses double complexes. Following [2, 4.2], let a_1, \dots, a_n ($n > 0$) be a generating set of \mathfrak{a} and let K^t denote the Koszul complex of R with respect to a_1^t, \dots, a_n^t . Let P be a projective resolution for M . If \mathbf{C}^t denotes the single complex associated to the double complex $K^t \otimes P$, then

$$H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N) \cong \varinjlim_{t \in \mathbb{N}} H^i(\text{Hom}_R(\mathbf{C}^t, N))$$

for all $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

Since each term in the complex \mathbf{C}^t is a projective R -module, one can see, by the standard arguments in homological algebra, that the sequence $(\varinjlim_{t \in \mathbb{N}} H^i(\text{Hom}_R(\mathbf{C}^t, \cdot)))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ is a connected sequence of functors and that if M is finitely generated then the sequences

$$(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, \cdot))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \quad \text{and} \quad (\varinjlim_{t \in \mathbb{N}} H^i(\text{Hom}_R(\mathbf{C}^t, \cdot)))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}$$

of functors are isomorphic.

In this paper, we obtain some results on graded generalized local cohomology modules. Let $R = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} R_i$ be a graded (Noetherian) ring. For graded R -modules $X = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} X_n$ and $Y = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} Y_n$, a homomorphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be *homogeneous* if $f(X_n) \subseteq Y_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. The category of all graded R -modules and homogeneous R -homomorphisms is denoted by ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$. For $t \in \mathbb{Z}$, we shall denote the t -shift functor by $(\cdot)(t) : {}^*\mathcal{C}(R) \rightarrow {}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$: thus, for a graded R -module $X = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} X_n$, we have $X(t)_n = X_{n+t}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$; also $f(t)[X(t)_n] = f[X_{n+t}]$ for each morphism f in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$ and all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. An R -module homomorphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is called *homogeneous of degree i* if $f(X_n) \subseteq Y_{n+i}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Note that f may be considered as a morphism $f : X(-i) \rightarrow Y$ in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$. We denote by $\text{Hom}_i(X, Y)$ the set of homogeneous homomorphisms of degree i . Then the \mathbb{Z} -submodules $\text{Hom}_i(X, Y)$ of $\text{Hom}_R(X, Y)$ form a direct sum, and it is obvious that ${}^*\text{Hom}_R(X, Y) := \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Hom}_n(X, Y)$ is a graded R -module which is a submodule of $\text{Hom}_R(X, Y)$. One can prove that ${}^*\text{Hom}_R(X, Y) = \text{Hom}_R(X, Y)$ whenever X is finitely generated (see [4, 1.5.19]).

Let \mathfrak{a} be a homogeneous ideal of R and suppose that the R -module M is graded and finitely generated. Let N be any graded R -module. In the following, we indicate three methods of grading $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$.

(i) If we consider a projective resolution of $M/\mathfrak{a}^n M$ in the category ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$ and apply the functor ${}^*\text{Hom}_R(-, N)$ to that complex, the i th homology

module of the resulting complex is ${}^*\text{Ext}_R^i(M/\mathfrak{a}^n M, N)$, which is a graded R -module. Since M is finitely generated we have ${}^*\text{Ext}_R^i(M/\mathfrak{a}^n M, N) = \text{Ext}_R^i(M/\mathfrak{a}^n M, N)$. (See [4, p. 33].) Hence the R -module

$$H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N) = \varinjlim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{Ext}_R^i(M/\mathfrak{a}^n M, N)$$

has the structure of a graded R -module.

(ii) As mentioned in (a), the connected sequences

$$(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, \cdot))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \quad \text{and} \quad H^i(\text{Hom}_R(M, \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\mathbf{J})))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}$$

of functors are isomorphic. But $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(N)$ is a graded submodule of N for any graded R -module N . So, if we consider an * injective resolution ${}^*\mathbf{J}^N$ of N and apply $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\cdot)$ and the functor $\text{Hom}_R(M, -)$ to that complex, the i th homology module $H^i(\text{Hom}_R(M, \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}({}^*\mathbf{J})))$ of the resulting complex is a graded R -module. Thus, in view of (a), $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$ can be equipped with a grading.

(iii) Finally, in order to establish a graded R -module structure on $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$, let a_1, \dots, a_n ($n > 0$) be homogeneous elements which generate \mathfrak{a} . Then, by [3, 12.4.4], K^t is in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$ and so, for a fixed projective resolution P of M in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$, the complex $K^t \otimes_R P$ is in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$. Hence \mathbf{C}^t , the single complex associated to the double complex $K^t \otimes_R P$, is in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$. Therefore $\varinjlim_{t \in \mathbb{N}} H^i(\text{Hom}_R(\mathbf{C}^t, N))$ has a graded R -module structure; and so $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$ inherits a grading in view of (b).

Although we have mentioned three methods of grading $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$, the same arguments as in [3, Chapter 12] show that these are the same, and are precisely those with respect to which $(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, \cdot))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ has the * restriction property [3, 12.2.5]. Thus in the rest of this note we endow the module $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$ with one of the above gradings and we use the notation $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)_n$ for the n th homogeneous piece of that module.

The aim of this note is to establish, in certain cases, some finiteness results for the homogeneous pieces of the module $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$, and to prove a vanishing theorem under certain hypotheses.

2. The results. Throughout this section, we assume that the R -module M is finitely generated. The following lemma is needed in the proof of the main results of this note.

2.1. LEMMA. *Let \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R . Then:*

(i) *Let N be any \mathfrak{a} -torsion R -module. Then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N) \cong \text{Ext}_R^i(M, N)$ for all $i \geq 0$. Moreover, if N is finitely generated, then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N)$ is finitely generated for all $i \geq 0$.*

(ii) *If $\text{pd}(M)$, the projective dimension of M , is finite, then $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(M, N) = 0$ for all $i > \text{pd}(M) + \text{ara}(\mathfrak{a})$. Here $\text{ara}(\mathfrak{a})$ is the least number of elements of R required to generate an ideal which has the same radical as \mathfrak{a} [3, 3.3.2].*

Proof. Since N is an \mathfrak{a} -torsion R -module, by [3, 2.1.6] there is an injective resolution \mathbf{J}^N of N in which each term is an \mathfrak{a} -torsion R -module. By applying $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\cdot)$ to \mathbf{J}^N , we still have an injective resolution for N . Hence $H^i(\mathrm{Hom}_R(M, \Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(\mathbf{J}^N))) = \mathrm{Ext}_R^i(M, N)$ for all $i \geq 0$. Therefore the result follows by (a).

(ii) This follows from (b) and elementary facts on double complexes. ■

In the remaining part of this note we assume that $R = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} R_i$ is a positively graded (Noetherian) ring and that $R_+ = \bigoplus_{i \geq 1} R_i$. We say that R is *homogeneous* if it is generated as an R_0 -algebra by homogeneous elements of degree one; that is, $R = R_0[R_1]$. Also in the rest of the paper we assume that N is another finitely generated graded R -module.

The following well known lemma will be used several times:

2.2. LEMMA. *Let $X = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} X_n$ be a finitely generated graded R -module. Then, for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, X_n is a finitely generated R_0 -module. Moreover if $R_+^t X = 0$ for some $t \in \mathbb{N}$, then $X_{-n} = X_n = 0$ for all sufficiently large values of n .*

2.3. PROPOSITION. *Suppose that the projective dimension of M is finite. Then:*

(i) *For all $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, the R_0 -module $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n$ is finitely generated.*

(ii) *There exists $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n = 0$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and all $n \geq r$.*

Proof. In view of Lemma 2.1(ii), it is enough to show that, for fixed $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n$ is a finitely generated R_0 -module for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and that it is zero for all sufficiently large n . We prove this by induction on i . For $i = 0$, the result is true by (a) and Lemma 2.2. (Note that, by (a), $H_{R_+}^0(M, N)$ is finitely generated.) Now suppose that $i > 0$ and that the result has been proved for $i - 1$. Consider the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow \Gamma_{R_+}(N) \rightarrow N \rightarrow N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N) \rightarrow 0$ in ${}^* \mathcal{C}(R)$, leading to the exact sequence

$$(1) \quad H_{R_+}^i(M, \Gamma_{R_+}(N)) \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N) \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N)).$$

Now, by (a), each element of $H_{R_+}^i(M, \Gamma_{R_+}(N))$ is annihilated by some power of R_+ . So, in view of Lemma 2.1(i), there exists $h \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that $(R_+)^h H_{R_+}^i(M, \Gamma_{R_+}(N)) = 0$. Hence, it follows from Lemma 2.2 that $H_{R_+}^i(M, \Gamma_{R_+}(N))_n$ is a finitely generated R_0 -module for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, and it is zero for all sufficiently large n . Therefore, by using the exact sequence (1), it is enough to prove the induction step for $H_{R_+}^i(M, N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N))$. Thus we may assume that $0 \neq N$ is R_+ -torsion free. Then by [4, 1.5.10], there exists a homogeneous element $a \in R_+$ which is a non-zerodivisor on N . Let a be

of degree t . Consider the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N \xrightarrow{a} N(t) \rightarrow (N/aN)(t) \rightarrow 0$ in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$, yielding the exact sequence

$$(2) \quad H_{R_+}^{i-1}(M, N/aN)_{n+t} \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n \xrightarrow{a} H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+t}$$

of R_0 -modules for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. By the inductive hypothesis, there exists $s \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $H_{R_+}^{i-1}(M, N/aN)_j = 0$ for all $j \geq s$. Hence it follows from the exact sequence (2) that $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n = 0$ for all $n \geq s - t$, because the R -modules $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)$ are R_+ -torsion. Next, fix $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and let $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ be such that $n + kt \geq s - t$. Let $j = 0, 1, \dots, k - 1$. Successively using the exact sequences

$$H_{R_+}^{i-1}(M, N/aN)_{n+(j+1)t} \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+jt} \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+(j+1)t}$$

for $j = k - 1, k - 2, \dots, 0$, and the inductive hypothesis, we finally deduce that $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n$ is a finitely generated R_0 -module. This completes the inductive step. ■

It is well known (see for example [8, Theorem 2]) that whenever R is homogeneous and, for some $l \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \mathbb{Z}$, $H_{R_+}^i(N)_{r+1-i} = 0$ for all $i \geq l$, then $H_{R_+}^i(N)_{s-i} = 0$ for all $i \geq l$ and $s > r$. The next theorem establishes a similar result for generalized local cohomology modules.

2.4. THEOREM. *Suppose that R is homogeneous and $\text{pd}(M)$ is finite. Let $r, l \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $l \geq \text{pd}(M) + 1$ and assume that $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{r+1-i} = 0$ for all $i \geq l$. Then $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{s-i} = 0$ for all $s > r$ and $i \geq l$.*

Proof. By employing a similar argument to the one used in [3, pp. 282–284], we may assume that R_0 is local with infinite residue field. We prove the theorem by induction on $\dim N$ (the Krull dimension of N), which is finite (note that since we may assume that R_0 is local, R is a * local ring). If $\dim N = 0$, the result follows from [2, 5.1]. Now suppose that $\dim N > 0$ and the result has been proved for all finitely generated graded R -modules of smaller dimension. Considering the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow \Gamma_{R_+}(N) \rightarrow N \rightarrow N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N) \rightarrow 0$ in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$ and using 2.1(i) we obtain the homogeneous isomorphism $H_{R_+}^i(M, N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N)) \cong H_{R_+}^i(M, N)$ for all $i \geq l$. Therefore we may replace N by $N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N)$. Then, in view of [4, 1.5.12], there exists $a \in R_1$ which is a non-zero-divisor on N . Now consider the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N \xrightarrow{a} N(1) \rightarrow (N/aN)(1) \rightarrow 0$, yielding the exact sequence

$$H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n-1} \xrightarrow{a} H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N/aN)_n \rightarrow H_{R_+}^{i+1}(M, N)_{n-1}$$

of R_0 -modules for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Using the above exact sequences, we see that if $n = r + 1 - i$, then $H_{R_+}^i(M, N/aN)_{r+1-i} = 0$ for all $i \geq l$. Since $\dim(N/aN) < \dim N$, we deduce, by the induction hypothesis, that

$H_{R_+}^i(M, N/aN)_{s-i} = 0$ for all $s > r$ and $i \geq l$. Now, successive use of the exact sequence

$$H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n-1-i} \xrightarrow{a} H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n-i} \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N/aN)_{n-i}$$

with $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{r+1-i} = 0 = H_{R_+}^i(M, N/aN)_{r+2-i}$, and of the inductive hypothesis, yields $H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{s-i} = 0$ for all $s > r$ and $i \geq l$ and the inductive step is complete. ■

For a finitely generated graded R -module N over a positively graded homogeneous ring R , the *Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity* of N at and above level l ($l \geq 0$) is defined by $\text{reg}^l(N) := \sup\{\text{end}(H_{R_+}^i(N)) + i \mid i \geq l\}$, where for any graded R -module $X = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} X_n$, $\text{end}(X) = \sup\{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid X_n \neq 0\}$ (see [3, 15.2.9]). It is well known [3, 15.2.12 and 15.2.13] that $\text{reg}^1(N) = -\infty$ if and only if $N_n = 0$ for all sufficiently large values of n and that $\text{reg}^0(N) = -\infty$ if and only if $N = 0$. The following theorem generalizes the above results in a certain case for general local cohomology modules.

2.5. THEOREM. *Assume that (R, \mathfrak{m}) is homogeneous \ast local with unique \ast maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} and that the finitely generated graded R -module M is non-zero and projective. Then:*

- (i) $H_{R_+}^i(M, N) = 0$ for all $i \geq 1$ if and only if $N_n = 0$ for sufficiently large n .
- (ii) $H_{R_+}^i(M, N) = 0$ for all $i \geq 0$ if and only if $N = 0$.

Proof. (i) First suppose that $N_n = 0$ for sufficiently large n . Then there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(R_+)^{n_0}N = 0$. Hence, by 2.1(i), $H_{R_+}^i(M, N) = 0$ for all $i \geq 1$.

Conversely, assume that $H_{R_+}^i(M, N) = 0$ for all $i \geq 1$. Then one can easily see that $H_{R_+}^i(M, N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N)) = 0$ for all $i \geq 0$. Hence, by [2, 5.3 and 5.5], we have $(M/R_+M) \otimes_R (N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N)) = 0$, which in turn implies $M \otimes_R N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N) = 0$. Now R/\mathfrak{m} is either a field, or else $R/\mathfrak{m} \cong k[x, x^{-1}]$, where k is a field and x is a homogeneous element of positive degree which is transcendental over k ; see [4, 1.5.7]. Hence by the same argument as in [1, p. 31, Exercise 3], it follows that $N = \Gamma_{R_+}(N)$. Therefore, $N_n = 0$ for sufficiently large n .

(ii) (\Leftarrow) is clear.

(\Rightarrow) In view of [2, 5.3 and 5.5], we have $(M/R_+M) \otimes_R N = 0$. Hence $M \otimes_R N = 0$, which implies that $N = 0$. ■

2.6. COROLLARY. *Assume that R is homogeneous \ast local and that the projective dimension of M is finite. Let $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ be such that the R -module $H_{R_+}^j(M, N)$ is finitely generated for $j < i$. Then $\text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n)$ is asymptotically stable as $n \rightarrow -\infty$.*

Proof. It is clear that R_0 is a local ring. Let \mathfrak{m}_0 be the maximal ideal of R_0 . Let $R'_0 := R_0[x]_{\mathfrak{m}_0 R[x]}$, $R' := R \otimes_{R_0} R'_0$, $M' := M \otimes_{R_0} R'_0$ and $N' := N \otimes_{R_0} R'_0$, where x is an indeterminate. Then a similar argument to that in [3, 15.2.2] gives rise to isomorphisms of R'_0 -modules

$$H_{R'_+}^t(M', N')_n \cong H_{R_+}^t(M, N)_n \otimes_{R_0} R'_0 \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{N}_0 \text{ and all } n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

These show that the R'_0 -module $H_{R'_+}^j(M', N')_n$ is finitely generated for all $j < i$ and $\text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n) = \{P'_0 \cap R_0 \mid P'_0 \in \text{Ass}_{R'_0}(H_{R'_+}^i(M', N')_n)\}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ (see [6, (23.2)(ii)]). This shows that we can replace R , M and N respectively by R' , M' and N' and hence we may assume that R_0/\mathfrak{m}_0 is infinite.

Now we prove the corollary by induction on i . The case $i = 0$ follows from (a) and Lemma 2.2. So let $i > 0$. Since $\Gamma_{R_+}(N)$ has only finitely many non-zero homogeneous components, in view of Lemma 2.1(i) and using induction on the projective dimension on M , one can see that $H_{R_+}^t(M, \Gamma_{R_+}(N))_n = 0$ and so $H_{R_+}^t(M, N)_n \cong H_{R_+}^t(M, N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N))_n$ for all $t \geq 1$, and for all but finitely many $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus, we can replace N by $N/\Gamma_{R_+}(N)$, and so we may assume that there exists $a \in R_1$ which is a non-zero-divisor on N . Now, from the short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N \xrightarrow{a} N(1) \rightarrow (N/aN)(1) \rightarrow 0$ (in ${}^*\mathcal{C}(R)$), we obtain the exact sequence

$$H_{R_+}^{t-1}(M, N)(1) \rightarrow H_{R_+}^{t-1}(M, N/aN)(1) \rightarrow H_{R_+}^t(M, N) \xrightarrow{a} H_{R_+}^t(M, N)(1)$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Using the above exact sequences, we deduce that $H_{R_+}^{j-1}(M, N/aN)$ is finitely generated for all $j < i$. So, by induction, there exists $n_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$\text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^{i-1}(M, N/aN)_n) = \text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^{i-1}(M, N/aN)_{n_1}) =: B$$

for all $n \leq n_1$. On the other hand, by Lemma 2.2, there is $n_2 < n_1$ such that $H_{R_+}^{i-1}(M, N)_{n+1} = 0$ for all $n \leq n_2$. Therefore, for each $n \leq n_2$, the above exact sequence induces the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H_{R_+}^{i-1}(M, N/aN)_{n+1} \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n \rightarrow H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+1}$$

of R_0 -modules. From this we deduce that

$$B \subseteq \text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n) \subseteq B \cup \text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+1})$$

for all $n \leq n_2$. Hence

$$B \subseteq \text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_n) \subseteq \text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+1})$$

for $n < n_2$, because then

$$B \cup \text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+1}) = \text{Ass}_{R_0}(H_{R_+}^i(M, N)_{n+1}).$$

Since B is a finite set the result follows from this, and the inductive step is complete. ■

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