

ASSOCIATED PRIMES OF TOP LOCAL HOMOLOGY MODULES WITH RESPECT TO AN IDEAL

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ABSTRACT. Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and M be a non-zero Artinian R -module with $\text{Ndim}_R M = n$. In this paper we determine the associated primes of the top local homology module $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$.

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper assume that (R, \mathfrak{m}) is a commutative Noetherian local ring, \mathfrak{a} is an ideal of R and M is an R -module. In [2] Cuong and Nam defined the local homology modules $H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$ with respect to \mathfrak{a} by

$$H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) = \varprojlim_n \text{Tor}_i^R(R/\mathfrak{a}^n, M).$$

This definition is dual to Grothendieck's definition of local cohomology modules and coincides with the definition of Greenless and May in [6] for an Artinian R -module M . For basic results about local homology we refer the reader to [2, 3] and [13]; for local cohomology see [1].

In [8] Macdonald and Sharp studied the top local cohomology module with respect to the maximal ideal and showed that $\text{Att}(H_{\mathfrak{m}}^n(N)) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass } N : \dim R/\mathfrak{p} = n\}$, where N is a finitely generated R -module of dimension n . Cuong and Nam proved in [2] a dual result stating that

$$\text{Ass}_{\hat{R}}(H_d^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}_{\hat{R}}(M) : \dim \hat{R}/\mathfrak{p} = d\}$$

for a non-zero Artinian R -module M of Noetherian dimension d . In this paper we study the top local homology module $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$, where M is a non-zero Artinian R -module of Noetherian dimension n and \mathfrak{a} is an arbitrary ideal of R . The module $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$ is called a top local homology module because $\max\{i : H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \neq 0\} \leq n$ by [2, Proposition 4.8].

A non-zero R -module M is called secondary if the multiplication map by any element a of R is either surjective or nilpotent. A secondary representation of the R -module M is an expression for M as a finite sum of secondary modules. If such a representation exists, we will say that M is representable. A prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of R

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is said to be an attached prime of M if $\mathfrak{p} = (N :_R M)$ for some submodule N of M . If M admits a reduced secondary representation $M = S_1 + S_2 + \dots + S_n$, then the set of attached primes $\text{Att}_R(M)$ of M is equal to $\{\sqrt{0} :_R S_i \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n\}$. Note that every Artinian R -module M is representable and minimal elements of the set $V(\text{Ann}(M))$, the set of prime ideals of R containing ideal $\text{Ann}(M)$, belong to $\text{Att}(M)$. It is well known that if N is a submodule of Artinian R -module M , then $\text{Att}(M/N) \subseteq \text{Att}(M) \subseteq \text{Att}(N) \cup \text{Att}(M/N)$ (See [9, Section 6]).

We now recall the concept of Noetherian dimension $\text{Ndim}_R(M)$ of an R -module M . For $M = 0$ we define $\text{Ndim}_R(M) = -1$. Then by induction, for any integer $t \geq 0$, we define $\text{Ndim}_R(M) = t$ when

- i) $\text{Ndim}_R(M) < t$ is false, and
- ii) for every ascending chain $M_1 \subseteq M_2 \subseteq \dots$ of submodules of M there exists an integer m_0 such that $\text{Ndim}_R(M_{m+1}/M_m) < t$ for all $m \geq m_0$.

Thus M is non-zero and finitely generated if and only if $\text{Ndim}_R(M) = 0$. If M is Artinian module, then $\text{Ndim}_R(M) < \infty$. (For more details see [7] and [11]).

Following [5], for any R -module M , we define the cohomological dimension of M with respect to \mathfrak{a} as

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

By [1, Theorem 6.1.2 and Theorem 6.1.4], we have $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq \dim M$ and $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{m}, M) = \dim M$. We will call

$$\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) := \max\{i : H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \neq 0\}$$

the homological dimension of M with respect to \mathfrak{a} . It follows from [2, Propositions 4.8 and 4.10] that if M is an Artinian R -module, then $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq \text{Ndim}_R(M)$ and $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{m}, M) = \text{Ndim}_R(M)$.

Throughout the paper, for an R -module M , $E(R/\mathfrak{m})$ denotes the injective envelope of R/\mathfrak{m} and $D(\cdot)$ denotes the Matlis duality functor $\text{Hom}_R(\cdot, E(R/\mathfrak{m}))$. It is well known that $\dim D(M) = \dim M$. Also, if M is an Artinian R -module, then $M \simeq DD(M)$ and $D(M)$ is a Noetherian \hat{R} -module. (See [1, Theorem 10.2.19] and [10, Theorem 1.6(5)]).

Note that if M is an Artinian R -module, then $H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \simeq D(H_{\mathfrak{a}}^i(D(M)))$ for all i (See [2, Proposition 3.3(ii)]), and therefore $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) = \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, D(M))$. Thus $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq \dim D(M) = \dim M$.

The main result of this paper shows that if M is a non-zero Artinian R -module such that $\text{Ndim}_R M = n$, then

$$\text{Ass}_R(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)) = \{\mathfrak{P} \cap R : \mathfrak{P} \in \text{Att}_{\hat{R}} M \text{ and } \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}, \hat{R}/\mathfrak{P}) = n\}.$$

2. THE RESULTS

To prove our main result, we need the following lemmas.

Lemma 2.1. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ be an exact sequence of Artinian R -modules. Then $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) = \text{Max}\{\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, L), \text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, N)\}$.*

Proof. Since $D(M)$ is Noetherian \hat{R} -module, by [5, Corollary 2.3(i)], $cd(a\hat{R}, D(N)) \leq cd(a\hat{R}, D(M))$. Hence by the Independence Theorem ([1, Theorem 4.2.1]), $cd(\mathfrak{a}, D(N)) \leq cd(\mathfrak{a}, D(M))$. Therefore $hd(a, N) \leq hd(a, M)$. From the long exact sequence

$$H_{i+1}^{\mathfrak{a}}(L) \rightarrow H_{i+1}^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \rightarrow H_{i+1}^{\mathfrak{a}}(N) \rightarrow H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(L) \rightarrow H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \rightarrow \dots$$

we deduce that $hd(\mathfrak{a}, L) \leq hd(\mathfrak{a}, M)$. Hence $\text{Max}\{hd(\mathfrak{a}, L), hd(\mathfrak{a}, N)\} \leq hd(\mathfrak{a}, M)$. From the above long exact sequence we also infer that $hd(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq \text{Max}\{hd(\mathfrak{a}, L), hd(\mathfrak{a}, N)\}$ and the proof is complete. \square

Lemma 2.2. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a complete local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and M be a non-zero Artinian module. Then $cd(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) \leq hd(\mathfrak{a}, M)$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M)$.*

Proof. Since $D(M)$ is a Noetherian R -module and $\text{Supp}(R/\mathfrak{p}) \subseteq \text{Supp}(D(M))$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass } D(M)$, by [5, Theorem 2.2] we infer that $cd(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) \leq cd(\mathfrak{a}, D(M))$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass } D(M)$. Since $\text{Att}(M) = \text{Ass } D(M)$ and $cd(\mathfrak{a}, D(M)) = hd(\mathfrak{a}, M)$, we obtain $cd(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) \leq hd(\mathfrak{a}, M)$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M)$. \square

Lemma 2.3. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and M be an Artinian R -module. Then $hd(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq cd(\mathfrak{a}, R/\text{Ann } M)$.*

Proof. Let $R' := R/\text{Ann } M$. By [12, Theorem 3.3], $H_i^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \simeq H_i^{\mathfrak{a}R'}(M)$ for all i . Thus $hd(\mathfrak{a}, M) = hd(\mathfrak{a}R', M)$. Since $hd(\mathfrak{a}R', M) \leq cd(\mathfrak{a}R', R')$ (see [6, Corollary 3.2]) and $cd(\mathfrak{a}R', R') = cd(\mathfrak{a}, R')$ (see [5, Lemma 2.1]), we conclude that $hd(\mathfrak{a}, M) \leq cd(\mathfrak{a}, R')$. \square

Lemma 2.4. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a complete local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and M be a non-zero Artinian module of dimension n with $hd(\mathfrak{a}, M) = n$. Then the set*

$$\Sigma := \{N' : N' \text{ is a submodule of } M \text{ and } hd(\mathfrak{a}, M/N') < n\}$$

has a smallest element N . The module N has the following properties:

- i) $hd(\mathfrak{a}, N) = \dim N = n$.*
- ii) N has no proper submodule L such that $hd(\mathfrak{a}, N/L) < n$.*
- iii) $\text{Att}(N) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M) : cd(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n\}$.*
- iv) $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(N) \simeq H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$.*

Proof. It is clear that $M \in \Sigma$ and thus Σ is not empty. Since M is an Artinian R -module, the set Σ has a minimal member N . By Lemma 2.1, if $N_1, N_2 \in \Sigma$, then $hd(\mathfrak{a}, M/N_1 \cap N_2) < n$. Since the intersection of any two members of Σ is again in Σ , it follows that N is contained in every member of Σ implying that N is the smallest element of Σ .

i) Since $hd(\mathfrak{a}, M/N) < n$, from the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N \rightarrow M \rightarrow M/N \rightarrow 0$ and Lemma 2.1 we obtain $hd(\mathfrak{a}, N) = n$. From $n = hd(\mathfrak{a}, N) \leq \dim N \leq \dim M = n$ we derive $\dim N = n$.

ii) Suppose that L is a submodule of N such that $hd(\mathfrak{a}, N/L) < n$. From the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow N/L \rightarrow M/L \rightarrow M/N \rightarrow 0$$

and Lemma 2.1 we infer $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M/L) < n$. Hence $L \in \Sigma$ and $L = N$.

iii) If $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(N)$, then $\mathfrak{p} = \text{Ann}(N/L)$, where L is a submodule of N . By (ii), $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, N/L) = n$. Hence $n = \text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, N/L) \leq \dim R/\mathfrak{p} \leq \dim(M) = n$. Thus $\dim(R/\mathfrak{p}) = \dim(M)$. Since $\dim(M) = \dim(R/\text{Ann}(M))$, we conclude that \mathfrak{p} is a minimal element of the set $V(\text{Ann}(M))$. Thus $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M)$.

On the other hand, using Lemma 2.3, we derive $n = \text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, N/L) \leq \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) \leq \dim(R/\mathfrak{p}) \leq \dim(M) = n$. Therefore $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n$.

Now suppose that $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M)$ and $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n$. Since $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M/N) < n$ and $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n$, Lemma 2.2 implies that $\mathfrak{p} \notin \text{Att}(M/N)$. Therefore $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(N)$.

iv) The exact sequence $0 \rightarrow N \rightarrow M \rightarrow M/N \rightarrow 0$ induces the exact sequence

$$H_{n+1}^{\mathfrak{a}}(M/N) \rightarrow H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(N) \rightarrow H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \rightarrow H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M/N) \rightarrow .$$

Since $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M/N) < n$, $H_{n+1}^{\mathfrak{a}}(M/N) = H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M/N) = 0$. Therefore $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(N) \simeq H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$. \square

Theorem 2.5. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a complete local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and M be a non-zero Artinian module of dimension n . Then*

$$\text{Ass}(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M) : \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n\}.$$

Proof. If $n = 0$, then M has a finite length and therefore $\mathfrak{a}^k M = 0$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence

$$\text{Ass}(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)) = \text{Ass}(M) = \{\mathfrak{m}\} = \text{Att}(M) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M) : \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = 0\}.$$

Thus we can assume that $n > 0$. If $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) = 0$, then $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) < n$. Hence by Lemma 2.2 $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) < n$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M)$. This implies $\{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M) : \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n\} = \emptyset = \text{Ass}(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M))$ and the result has been proved in this case. Now assume that $n > 0$ and $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \neq 0$. Then $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M) = \dim M = n$. By Lemma 2.4, we can assume that M has no proper submodule L with $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M/L) < n$ and we must show that $\text{Ass}(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)) = \text{Att}(M)$.

If $r \notin \cup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att} M} \mathfrak{p}$, then the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow (0 :_M r) \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{r} M \rightarrow 0$ induces the exact sequence $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(0 :_M r) \rightarrow H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \xrightarrow{r} H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$. Using [3, Lemma 4.7], we obtain $\text{Ndim}_R(0 :_M r) \leq n-1$, and therefore $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(0 :_M r) = 0$. Since $0 \rightarrow H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \xrightarrow{r} H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)$ is exact, we infer $r \notin \cup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass} H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)} \mathfrak{p}$ and $\cup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass} H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M)} \mathfrak{p} \subseteq \cup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att} M} \mathfrak{p}$. Since $\text{Att} M$ is a finite set, every $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}_R(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M))$ is included in some $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Att} M$. For such \mathfrak{q} there exists a submodule L of M satisfying $\mathfrak{q} = \text{Ann}(M/L)$. Hence $n = \text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M/L) \leq \dim M/L \leq \dim R/\mathfrak{q} \leq \dim R/\mathfrak{p} \leq n$. This shows $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{q}$ and $\text{Ass} H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \subseteq \text{Att}(M)$.

To prove the reverse inclusion, assume $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M)$. There exists a submodule L of M such that $\text{Att}(L) = \{\mathfrak{p}\}$. Since we have assumed that M has no proper submodule U with $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, M/U) < n$, Lemma 2.4 implies that $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n$. Hence by Lemma 2.2, we have $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, L) = n$ and $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(L) \neq 0$. Since $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = n$ and $\text{Att}(L/U) \subseteq \text{Att} L = \{\mathfrak{p}\}$ for all submodules U , Lemma 2.2 shows that L cannot have any proper submodule U such that $\text{hd}(\mathfrak{a}, L/U) < n$. Analogously as above, we obtain $\text{Ass} H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(L) \subseteq \text{Att}(L) = \{\mathfrak{p}\}$. Since $H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(L) \neq 0$, we establish that $\text{Ass} H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(L) = \{\mathfrak{p}\}$. However, from the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(L) \rightarrow H_n^{\mathfrak{a}}(M) \rightarrow$

$H_n^a(M/L)$ we see that $\{\mathfrak{p}\} = \text{Ass } H_n^a(L) \subseteq \text{Ass } H_n^a(M)$. Therefore $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass } H_n^a(M)$, that completes the proof. \square

Corollary 2.6. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a complete local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and M be a non-zero Artinian module of dimension n . Then*

$$\text{Ass}(H_n^m(M)) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Att}(M) : \dim(R/\mathfrak{p}) = n\}.$$

Proof. Since $\text{cd}(\mathfrak{m}, R/\mathfrak{p}) = \dim R/\mathfrak{p}$, it follows from Theorem 2.5. \square

The following Theorem is the main result of this paper.

Theorem 2.7. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a local ring, \mathfrak{a} be an ideal of R and M be a non-zero Artinian R -module with $\text{Ndim}_R M = n$. Then*

$$\text{Ass}_R(H_n^a(M)) = \{\mathfrak{P} \cap R : \mathfrak{P} \in \text{Att}_{\hat{R}} M \text{ and } \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}, \hat{R}/\mathfrak{P}) = n\}.$$

Proof. Since $\dim_{\hat{R}} D(M) = \dim_{\hat{R}} M = \text{Ndim}_R M = n$ (for details consult [4]), by [1, Theorem 7.1.6], $H_{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}^n(D(M))$ is an Artinian local cohomology module and $D(H_{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}^n(D(M))) \simeq H_n^{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}(M)$ is a Noetherian \hat{R} -module. It is well known that $\text{Ass}_R(L) = \{\mathfrak{P} \cap R : \mathfrak{P} \in \text{Ass}_{\hat{R}} L\}$ for each finitely generated \hat{R} -module L (See [9, Exercise 6.7]). Thus $\text{Ass}_R(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}(M)) = \{\mathfrak{P} \cap R : \mathfrak{P} \in \text{Ass}_{\hat{R}}(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}(M))\}$. Since by [13, Proposition 4.3], $H_n^a(M) \simeq H_n^{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}(M)$ as R -modules, we conclude that $\text{Ass}_R(H_n^a(M)) = \{\mathfrak{P} \cap R : \mathfrak{P} \in \text{Ass}_{\hat{R}}(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}(M))\}$. According to Theorem 2.5, $\text{Ass}_{\hat{R}}(H_n^{\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}}(M)) = \{\mathfrak{P} : \mathfrak{P} \in \text{Att}_{\hat{R}} M \text{ and } \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}, \hat{R}/\mathfrak{P}) = n\}$. Therefore $\text{Ass}_R(H_n^a(M)) = \{\mathfrak{P} \cap R : \mathfrak{P} \in \text{Att}_{\hat{R}} M \text{ and } \text{cd}(\mathfrak{a}\hat{R}, \hat{R}/\mathfrak{P}) = n\}$. \square

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