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By Auslander-Buchsbaum-Serre, a local ring  $(R, m, k)$  is regular if and only if every finitely generated  $R$ -module has finite projective dimension. Moreover, the residue field  $k$  can be used as a test module:  $R$  is regular if and only if  $k$  has finite projective dimension. This characterization can be extended to the derived category  $D^f(R)$ , where every object is small if and only if  $R$  is regular.

Recent results of Pollitz extend this to complete intersections:  $R$  is a complete intersection if and only if every object in  $D^f(R)$  is proxy small. In this talk, we will discuss a return to the world of  $R$ -modules, and search for finitely generated  $R$ -modules that are not proxy small whenever  $R$  is not a complete intersection. We give an algorithm to construct such modules in certain settings, including when  $R$  is equigenerated. (Received July 30, 2020)