

## ON ENDOMORPHISM RINGS OF LOCAL COHOMOLOGY MODULES

M. HELLUS AND J. STÜCKRAD

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ABSTRACT. Let  $R$  be a local complete ring. For an  $R$ -module  $M$  the canonical ring map  $R \rightarrow \text{End}_R(M)$  is in general neither injective nor surjective; we show that it is bijective for every local cohomology module  $M := H_I^h(R)$  if  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l \neq h$  ( $= \text{height}(I)$ ) ( $I$  an ideal of  $R$ ); furthermore the same holds for the Matlis dual of such a module. As an application we prove new criteria for an ideal to be a set-theoretic complete intersection.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

For an ideal  $I$  of a local ring  $(R, m)$  we denote the  $n$ -th local cohomology functor with support in  $I$  by  $H_I^n$  and the (contravariant) Matlis dual functor by  $D$ ; i.e.,  $D(M) = \text{Hom}_R(M, E)$  for any  $R$ -module  $M$ , where  $E := E_R(R/m)$  is a fixed  $R$ -injective hull of the residue field  $R/m$ .

Let  $R$  be a (always commutative, unitary) ring and  $M$  an  $R$ -module. Consider the canonical map  $\mu_M : R \rightarrow \text{End}_R(M)$  that maps  $r \in R$  to multiplication by  $r$  on  $M$ ; it is a homomorphism of (associative)  $R$ -algebras. In general,  $\mu_M$  is neither injective nor surjective. In section 2 we will show that, if  $R$  is Noetherian local complete and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$  such that  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l \neq h$  ( $= \text{height}(I)$ ), then  $\mu_{H_I^h(R)}$  is bijective. In particular, the endomorphism ring of the  $R$ -module  $H_I^h(R)$  is commutative and  $\text{Ann}_R(H_I^h(R)) = 0$ .

The proof of this result uses a generalization of Theorem 3.2 from [11], which says that, for a special class of Noetherian local complete rings  $R$ , it is true that  $D(H_I^h(D(H_I^h(R))))$  is either zero or isomorphic to  $R$  if  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l > h = \text{height}(I)$ ; the generalization is due to Khashyarmanesh ([14, Corollary 2.6]) and says that  $D(H_I^h(D(H_I^h(R)))) \cong R$  for every Noetherian local complete ring and every ideal  $I \subseteq R$  such that  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for  $l \neq h = \text{height}(I)$ .

We also show in section 2 that  $\mu_{D(H_I^h(R))}$  is an isomorphism if  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l \neq h$ .

Recently there was some work on Matlis duals of local cohomology modules (e.g. [6, 7, 10, 11, 12]). In [10, Corollary 1.1.4] the following was proved: If, for some  $h \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for all  $l > h$  and  $\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h \in I$  is an  $R$ -regular sequence,

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then one has the following equivalence:

$$\sqrt{I} = \sqrt{\underline{x}R} \iff \underline{x} \text{ is a } D(H_I^h(R)) \text{ regular sequence.}$$

In section 3 we extend this equivalence:

**Theorem.** *Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local complete ring and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$  such that  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l > h := \text{height}(I) \geq 1$ ; let  $\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h \in I$  be an  $R$ -regular sequence. Set  $D := D(H_I^h(R))$ . The following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\sqrt{I} = \sqrt{\underline{x}R}$ ; in particular,  $I$  is a set-theoretic complete intersection.
- (ii)  $\underline{x}$  is a  $D$ -regular sequence.
- (iii) The canonical map  $D/\underline{x}D \rightarrow H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D)$  (coming from  $H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D) = \varinjlim_{l \in \mathbb{N}} D/\underline{x}^l D$ ) is injective.
- (iv) The canonical map  $\{r \in R \mid \forall l \in \mathbb{N} \exists s \in \mathbb{N} r \cdot I^s \subseteq \underline{x}^l R\} \rightarrow \Gamma_I(R/\underline{x}R)$  is surjective.

The equivalence of (ii) and (iii) is inspired by a result of Marley and Rogers ([18, Prop. 2.3], which is a version of (ii)  $\iff$  (iii) for (arbitrary) finitely generated modules  $D$ .

2. ENDOMORPHISM RINGS

**Definition 2.1.** (i) Let  $R$  be a ring and  $M$  an  $R$ -module. The map

$$R \rightarrow \text{End}_R(M), \quad r \mapsto \text{multiplication by } r \text{ on } M$$

is an  $R$ -algebra homomorphism and will be denoted by  $\mu_M$ .

(ii) Let  $R$  be a local ring and  $M$  an  $R$ -module.  $M$  has a canonical embedding

$$M \rightarrow D(D(M)) = D^2(M), \quad m \mapsto (\varphi \mapsto \varphi(m))$$

into its bidual; this map will be denoted by  $\iota_M$ . We will consider  $M$  as a submodule of  $D^2(M)$  via  $\iota_M$ .

(iii) Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local ring and  $\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h$  a sequence of elements of  $R$ . For every  $R$ -module  $M$  there is a canonical map

$$M/\underline{x}M \xrightarrow{\iota_{M, \underline{x}}} H_{\underline{x}R}^h(M)$$

(coming from the description  $H_{\underline{x}R}^h(M) = \varinjlim_{l \in \mathbb{N}} M/(x_1^l, \dots, x_h^l)M$ , where the transition maps are induced by multiplication by  $x_1 \cdots x_h$ ).

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local complete ring and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$  such that  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l \neq h$  ( $h$  is then necessarily the height of  $I$ ). Set  $H := H_I^h(R)$ .*

- (i)  $\text{Hom}_R(H, \iota_H) : \text{End}_R(H) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(H, D^2(H))$  is an isomorphism.
- (ii) There is a canonical isomorphism

$$\gamma_H : \text{Hom}_R(H, D^2(H)) \rightarrow D(H_I^h(D(H))).$$

(iii)  $\mu_H : R \rightarrow \text{End}_R(H)$  is an isomorphism of  $R$ -algebras. Consequently there is a canonical isomorphism

$$\gamma_H \circ \text{Hom}_R(H, \iota_H) \circ \mu_H : R \rightarrow D(H_I^h(D(H))).$$

*Proof.* (i) It is clear that  $\text{Hom}_R(H, \iota_H)$  is injective. To show surjectivity, let  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_R(H, D^2(H))$  be arbitrary; let  $x \in H$  be arbitrary and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $I^n \cdot x = 0$ . This implies  $I^n \cdot \varphi(x) = 0$ ; i.e.

$$\varphi(x) \in (0 :_{D^2(H)} I^n) = D^2((0 :_H I^n)) = (0 :_H I^n) \subseteq H$$

(the first equality follows from exactness of  $D$ ; for the second equality we remark that  $(0 :_H I^n)$  is finitely generated, as the spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} = \text{Ext}_R^p(R/I^n, H_I^q(R)) \Rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^{p+q}(R/I^n, R)$$

shows  $(0 :_H I^n) = \text{Ext}_R^h(R/I^n, R)$ . This means that the image of  $\varphi$  is contained in  $H \subseteq D^2(H)$ , which was precisely what we had to show.

(ii) Hom-Tensor adjointness shows

$$\text{Hom}_R(H, D^2(H)) = D(H \otimes_R D(H)).$$

On the other hand, our hypotheses imply  $H_I^l = 0$  for every  $l > h$ ; in particular,  $H_I^h$  is right exact, we get

$$H \otimes_R D(H) = H_I^h(R) \otimes_R D(H) = H_I^h(D(H))$$

and statement (ii) is now clear.

(iii) [14, Corollary 2.6] implies that there exists an isomorphism of  $R$ -modules

$$D(H_I^h(D(H))) \cong R.$$

Therefore, (i) and (ii) show that the  $R$ -module  $\text{End}_R(H)$  is free of rank one. Fix any isomorphism  $R \cong \text{End}_R(H)$  and let  $\psi \in \text{End}_R(H)$  be the element corresponding to  $1 \in R$ . In particular there exists a (unique)  $x \in R$  such that  $\text{id}_H = x \circ \psi$ , where  $x$  is multiplication by  $x$  on  $H$ . This implies  $\varphi = x \circ \psi \circ \varphi$  for every  $\varphi \in \text{End}_R(H)$ ; in particular, multiplication by  $x$  is surjective on  $\text{End}_R(H) \cong R$ ,  $x$  is a unit in  $R$  and  $\mu_H$  is bijective. □

*Remark 2.3.* The hypothesis of the previous theorem is fulfilled if  $I$  is perfect and  $R$  is regular and has positive characteristic. This was shown in [19, Prop. 4.1].

**Corollary 2.4.** *In the situation of Theorem 2.2 the endomorphism ring of  $H_I^h(R)$  is canonically isomorphic to  $R$ ; in particular, it is commutative and  $\text{Ann}_R(H_I^h(R)) = 0$  holds.*

Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local ring and  $M$  an  $R$ -module. Consider the sequence of  $R$ -modules

$$R \rightarrow \text{End}_R(D(M)) \rightarrow \text{End}_R(D^2(M)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, D^2(M)),$$

where the first map is  $\mu_{D(M)}$ , the second is given by  $\alpha \mapsto D(\alpha)$  and the third is restriction to  $M \subseteq D^2(M)$ . The composition of the second and third is always injective:

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local ring and  $M$  an  $R$ -module. The  $R$ -linear map*

$$\text{End}_R(D(M)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, D^2(M)), \quad \varphi \mapsto (m \mapsto (D(\varphi))(\iota_M(m)))$$

*is injective.*

*Proof.* This is straightforward: Let  $\varphi$  be in the kernel of the above map; this means that for all  $m \in M$  and for all  $\psi \in D(M)$  one has  $\varphi(\psi)(m) = 0$ , i.e.  $\varphi = 0$ . □

We apply this injectivity in the case where the local ring  $(R, m)$  is complete,  $M := H := H_I^h(R)$  and  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  such that  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l \neq h$ ; we

get  $R$ -linear maps

$$\begin{aligned}
 R \rightarrow \text{End}_R(D(H)) \rightarrow \text{End}_R(D^2(H)) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(H, D^2(H)) \\
 &\stackrel{2.2(i)}{=} \text{End}_R(H) \\
 &\stackrel{2.2(iii)}{=} R.
 \end{aligned}$$

The composition of all these maps is clearly  $\text{id}_R$ . Thus, the injectivity statement from Lemma 2.5 shows:

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local complete ring and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$  such that  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l \neq h$ . Then the canonical map*

$$\mu_{D(H_I^h(R))} : R \rightarrow \text{End}_R(D(H_I^h(R)))$$

*is an isomorphism of  $R$ -algebras.*

### 3. COMPLETE INTERSECTIONS AND LOCAL COHOMOLOGY

We need a couple of lemmata and remarks before we can prove Theorem 3.7, which is the main result of this section:

*Remark 3.1.* Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local ring,  $I$  an ideal of  $R$  and  $M$  an  $R$ -module such that

$$\text{Supp}_R(M) \subseteq V(I)$$

(where  $V(I) = \{p \in \text{Spec}(R) \mid p \supseteq I\}$ ). Let  $\hat{\phantom{x}}$  denote  $I$ -adic completion. Then the natural map

$$D(M) \rightarrow \widehat{D(M)}$$

is an isomorphism; in particular,  $\bigcap_{l \in \mathbb{N}} I^l \cdot D(M) = 0$ .

*Proof.* We have to show that the canonical map

$$D(M) \rightarrow \varprojlim_{l \in \mathbb{N}} (D(M)/I^l D(M))$$

is bijective, but one has

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(M) &= D(\Gamma_I(M)) \\
 &= D(\varinjlim_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \text{Hom}_R(R/I^l, M)) \\
 &= \varprojlim_{l \in \mathbb{N}} D(\text{Hom}_R(R/I^l, M)) \\
 &= \varprojlim_{l \in \mathbb{N}} D(M)/I^l D(M),
 \end{aligned}$$

and it is easy to see that this is the canonical map  $D(M) \rightarrow \widehat{D(M)}$ . □

Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local ring and  $\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h$  a sequence of elements of  $R$ . Marley and Rogers have shown ([18, Proposition 2.3]) that, for finitely generated  $M$ ,  $\iota_{M, \underline{x}}$  is injective iff  $\underline{x}$  is an  $M$ -regular sequence. In this context, note that the proof of the following lemma is strongly based on their proof; our additional ingredient is Remark 3.1.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local ring,  $I$  an ideal of  $R$ ,  $n, h \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h \in I$  an arbitrary sequence and  $N$  an  $R$ -module. Set  $H := H_I^n(N)$  and  $D := D(H)$ . The following two statements are equivalent:*

(i) *For every  $i = 1, \dots, h$ , multiplication by  $x_i$  on  $D/(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})D$  is injective (i.e.,  $\underline{x}$  is a  $D$ -quasiregular sequence).*

(ii)  *$D/\underline{x}D \xrightarrow{\iota_{D,\underline{x}}} H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D)$  is injective.*

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii): The finite case is well known; [20, Prop. 5.2.1] is a reference for the general case (note that (ii) holds trivially if  $D/\underline{x}D = 0$ ).

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i): By induction on  $h$ :  $h = 1$ : Set  $x = x_1$  and let  $\alpha \in D$  be such that  $x\alpha = 0$ . We have to show  $\alpha = 0$ .  $\alpha$  represents an element of  $\ker(\iota_{D,\underline{x}})$ ; therefore, by assumption,  $\alpha \in xD$ . Choose  $\alpha_1 \in D$  such that  $\alpha = x\alpha_1$ . We conclude  $x^2\alpha_1 = 0$ . Again,  $\alpha_1$  represents an element of  $\ker(\iota_{D,\underline{x}})$  and so there exists  $\alpha_2 \in D$  such that  $\alpha_1 = x\alpha_2$ . Continuing in this way, we get

$$\alpha \in \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} x^k D$$

and then  $\alpha = 0$ , by Remark 3.1.  $h > 1$ : First of all we prove injectivity of

$$D/(x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D \xrightarrow{\iota_{D,x_1,\dots,x_{h-1}}} H_{(x_1,\dots,x_{h-1})R}^{h-1}(D);$$

to do so, let  $\alpha \in \ker(\iota_{D,x_1,\dots,x_{h-1}})$  be arbitrary. We show  $\alpha \in (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D + x_h^k D$  for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  by induction on  $k$ :  $k = 0$  is trivial, we assume  $k > 0$  and we write  $\alpha = \omega + x_h^k \beta$  for some  $\omega \in (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D, \beta \in D$ . By our choice of  $\alpha$  there exists  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$(x_1 \cdots x_{h-1})^t x_h^k \beta \in (x_1^{t+1}, \dots, x_{h-1}^{t+1})D$$

and hence

$$(x_1 \cdots x_h)^{t+k} \beta \in (x_1^{t+k+1}, \dots, x_{h-1}^{t+k+1})D.$$

But  $\iota_{D,\underline{x}}$  is injective; we conclude  $\beta \in (x_1, \dots, x_h)D$  and our induction on  $k$  is finished:

$$\alpha \in \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} ((x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D + x_h^k D).$$

The  $R$ -module

$$D/(x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D = D(\text{Hom}_R(R/(x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})R, H))$$

is  $x_h R$ -adically separated by Remark 3.1. This means

$$\bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} ((x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D + x_h^k D) = (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D$$

and the stated injectivity of  $\iota_{D,x_1,\dots,x_{h-1}}$  follows. The induction hypothesis shows that  $x_1, \dots, x_{h-1}$  is  $D$ -quasiregular; we have to show that multiplication by  $x_h$  on  $D/(x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D$  is injective. Let  $\alpha \in D$  be such that  $x_h \alpha \in (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D$ . We state

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N} \alpha \in (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D + x_h^k D$$

and prove this statement by induction on  $k$ . We may assume  $k > 0$  and write  $\alpha = \omega + x_h^k \beta$  for some  $\omega \in (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D, \beta \in D$ . From  $x_h \alpha \in (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D$  we conclude  $x_h^{k+1} \beta \in (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D$ . Therefore,

$$(x_1^{k+1} \cdots x_h^{k+1})\beta \in (x_1^{k+2}, \dots, x_{h-1}^{k+2})D.$$

But  $\iota_{D, \underline{x}}$  is injective and so  $\beta \in (x_1, \dots, x_h)D$ , and induction on  $k$  is finished:

$$\alpha \in \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} ((x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D + x_h D) \stackrel{3.1}{=} (x_1, \dots, x_{h-1})D$$

(note that the last equality has been explained above in a similar situation).  $\square$

Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local complete ring,  $I$  an ideal of  $R$ ,  $h \in \mathbb{N}$ ; assume that  $\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h \in I$  is an  $R$ -regular sequence. It follows from the Grothendieck spectral sequence belonging to the composed functors  $\Gamma_I \circ \Gamma_{\underline{x}R}$  that

$$H_I^h(R) = \Gamma_I(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R)) \subseteq H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R).$$

By applying the functors  $D$ ,  $H_{\underline{x}R}^h$  and then  $D$  again, we get a monomorphism (because  $D$  is exact and  $H_{\underline{x}R}^h$  is right exact)

$$D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D(H_I^h(R)))) \hookrightarrow D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R)))).$$

Because of [14, Corollary 2.6], there is an isomorphism

$$D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R)))) \cong R.$$

Clearly, this isomorphism is unique up to a unit of  $R$  and so we may consider  $D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D(H_I^h(R))))$  as an ideal of  $R$  (alternatively we use Theorem 2.2 and have a canonical isomorphism  $D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R)))) = R$ ; the resulting ideal  $J_{\underline{x}, I}$  is the same in both cases).

**Definition 3.3.** In the above situation, set

$$J_{\underline{x}, I} := D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D(H_I^h(R))))$$

and consider  $J_{\underline{x}, I}$  as an ideal of  $R$ .

*Remark 3.4.* Though the definition of  $J_{\underline{x}, I}$  is quite abstract, it also has the following concrete description: Because of the right exactness of  $H_{\underline{x}R}^h$ ,

$$D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D(H_I^h(R)))) = D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R) \otimes_R D(H_I^h(R)))$$

and by Hom-Tensor adjointness, the latter module is

$$\text{Hom}_R(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R), D^2(H_I^h(R))).$$

Now the arguments from the proof of Theorem 2.2 (i) show

$$\text{Hom}_R(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R), D^2(H_I^h(R))) = \text{Hom}_R(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R), H_I^h(R)).$$

But  $H_I^h(R) = \Gamma_I(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R))$  and we get

$$J_{\underline{x}, I} = \{\varphi \in \text{End}_R(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R)) \mid \text{im}(\varphi) \subseteq \Gamma_I(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R))\}.$$

We have  $\text{End}_R(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R)) \stackrel{\text{can}}{=} R$  and thus

$$J_{\underline{x}, I} = \{r \in R \mid r \cdot H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R) \subseteq \Gamma_I(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R))\}.$$

Using the description  $H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R) = \bigcup_{l \in \mathbb{N}} R/\underline{x}^l R$  (where  $\underline{x}^l = x_1^l, \dots, x_h^l$ ), we conclude

$$J_{\underline{x}, I} = \{r \in R \mid \forall l \in \mathbb{N} \exists s \in \mathbb{N} r \cdot I^s \subseteq \underline{x}^l R\} = \bigcap_{l \in \mathbb{N}} (\underline{x}^l R : \langle I \rangle).$$

Therefore, if we restrict the canonical map  $R \rightarrow R/\underline{x}R$  to  $J_{\underline{x},I}$ , we get a canonical map from  $J_{\underline{x},I}$  to  $\Gamma_I(R/\underline{x}R)$ :

**Definition 3.5.** In the above situation, the canonical map

$$J_{\underline{x},I} \rightarrow \Gamma_I(R/\underline{x}R)$$

is denoted by  $j_{\underline{x},I}$ .

*Remark 3.6.* Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local complete ring. Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ ,  $h \in \mathbb{N}$  and

$$\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h \subseteq I$$

an  $R$ -regular sequence. Then

$$I \subseteq \sqrt{\underline{x}R + \text{Ann}_R(J_{\underline{x},I})}.$$

In particular, if  $R$  is a domain and  $\sqrt{\underline{x}R} \subsetneq \sqrt{I}$ , then  $J_{\underline{x},R} = 0$ .

*Proof.* We use the description of  $J_{\underline{x},R}$  from Remark 3.4. For the first statement we have to show

$$V(\text{Ann}_R(J_{\underline{x},I})) \cap V(\underline{x}R) \subseteq V(I);$$

i.e., for every  $r \in J_{\underline{x},R}$  we have to show

$$V(\text{Ann}_R(r)) \cap V(\underline{x}R) \subseteq V(I).$$

Let  $r \in J_{\underline{x},I}$  be arbitrary; by Remark 3.4,  $J_{\underline{x},I} = \{r \in R \mid \forall l \in \mathbb{N} \exists s \in \mathbb{N} r \cdot I^s \subseteq \underline{x}^l R\}$ . For every  $p \in V(\underline{x}R) \setminus V(I)$  we get

$$r \cdot R_p \subseteq \bigcap_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \underline{x}^l R_p \subseteq \bigcap_{l \in \mathbb{N}} p^l R_p = 0;$$

i.e.,  $\text{Ann}_R(r) \not\subseteq p$  and the first statement is proven. The second statement follows immediately from the first. □

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $(R, m)$  be a Noetherian local complete ring and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$  such that  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l > h := \text{height}(I) \geq 1$ ; let  $\underline{x} = x_1, \dots, x_h \in I$  be an  $R$ -regular sequence (clearly, this implies  $H_I^l(R) = 0$  for every  $l \neq h$ ). Set  $D := D(H_I^h(R))$ . The following statements are equivalent:

- (i)  $\sqrt{I} = \sqrt{\underline{x}R}$ ; in particular,  $I$  is a set-theoretic complete intersection.
- (ii)  $\underline{x}$  is a  $D$ -regular sequence.
- (iii)  $D/\underline{x}D \xrightarrow{\iota_D} H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D)$  is injective.
- (iv)  $j_{\underline{x},I}$  is surjective.
- (v)  $J_{\underline{x},I} = R$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\iff$  (ii) was shown (for more general  $R$ ) in [10, Cor. 1.1.4].

(ii)  $\iff$  (iii) is a special case of Lemma 3.2 (note that  $D/\underline{x}D = D(\text{Hom}_R(R/\underline{x}R, H_I^h(R))) \neq 0$ ).

(iii)  $\iff$  (iv): By definition,  $D(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D)) = J_{\underline{x},I}$ . We have

$$D(D/\underline{x}D) = D(D(\text{Hom}_R(R/\underline{x}R, H_I^h(R)))).$$

But  $H_I^h(R) = \Gamma_I(H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R))$  and, therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Hom}_R(R/\underline{x}R, H_I^h(R)) &= \Gamma_I(\mathrm{Hom}_R(R/\underline{x}, H_{\underline{x}R}^h(R))) \\ &= \Gamma_I(\mathrm{Ext}_R^h(R/\underline{x}R, R)) \\ &= \Gamma_I(R/\underline{x}R) \end{aligned}$$

(for the second and the third equality use the fact that  $\underline{x}$  is an  $R$ -regular sequence). The latter module is finitely generated. We get

$$D(D(\mathrm{Hom}_R(R/\underline{x}R, H_I^h(R)))) = \Gamma_I(R/\underline{x}R).$$

Thus  $D(\iota_{D, \underline{x}})$  is a map  $J_{\underline{x}, I} \rightarrow \Gamma_I(R/\underline{x}R)$ ; it is straightforward to see that it is in fact  $j_{\underline{x}, I}$  (to do so one should start with the description  $H_{\underline{x}R}^h(D) = \varinjlim_{I \in \mathbb{N}} (D/\underline{x}^I D)$ ).  $\square$

**Question 3.8.** In the situation of Definition 3.3, when exactly is  $J_{\underline{x}, I} = 0$ ?

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UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG, FAKULTÄT FÜR MATHEMATIK UND INFORMATIK, PF 10 09 20, D-04009,  
LEIPZIG, GERMANY

*E-mail address:* `hellus@math.uni-leipzig.de`

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG, FAKULTÄT FÜR MATHEMATIK UND INFORMATIK, PF 10 09 20, D-04009,  
LEIPZIG, GERMANY

*E-mail address:* `stueckrad@math.uni-leipzig.de`