

**NOTES ON CHARACTERISTIC  $p$  COMMUTATIVE ALGEBRA**  
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*Remark 0.1.* Not every ring has a dualizing complex, but nearly all the rings we care about do. In particular, any ring that is a quotient of a regular ring (or more generally a Gorenstein ring) has a dualizing complex. In particular, if  $R = S/I$  where  $S$  is regular, then

$$\omega_R^\bullet = \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(R, S)$$

is a dualizing complex. It is certainly of finite injective dimension because if  $I$  is an injective  $S$ -module,  $\mathrm{Hom}_S(R, I)$  is an injective  $R$ -module (so if we take a finite injective resolution of  $S$  applying  $\mathrm{Hom}_S(R, \underline{\quad})$  gives a complex of  $R$ -modules finite injective dimension) and then observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(M, S), \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(R, S)) \\ & \cong \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(M, S) \otimes_R^L R, S) \\ & \cong \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(M, S), S) \\ & \cong M \end{aligned}$$

where the last  $\cong$  holds because  $S$  is a dualizing complex for  $S$ . In fact the argument we just used implies that if  $S \rightarrow R$  is any map of rings such that  $R$  is a finite  $S$ -module, and if  $\omega_S^\bullet$  is a dualizing complex for  $S$  then  $\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_S(R, \omega_S^\bullet)$  is a dualizing complex for  $R$ .

**Corollary 0.2.** *Suppose that  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  is an  $F$ -finite Noetherian local ring of characteristic  $p > 0$  with a dualizing complex. Then  $\mathrm{Hom}_R(F_*^e R, \omega_R^\bullet) =: \omega_{F_*^e R}^\bullet$  is a dualizing complex for  $F_*^e R$ . Furthermore,  $F_*^e \omega_R^\bullet \simeq_{\mathrm{qis}} \omega_{F_*^e R}^\bullet$ .*

**Exercise 0.1.** Prove Corollary 0.2.

*Hint:* The fact that it is a dualizing complex is just what was worked out in the above example. Dualizing complexes are unique up to shifting and twisting by rank-one projectives. Use the fact that it is local to handle the rank-1 projective case. Then use the that the localization of a dualizing complex is a dualizing complex to handle the shift (localize at a minimal prime).

*Remark 0.3.* With the notation in the above corollary, the induced map

$$F_*^e \omega_R^\bullet \rightarrow \omega_{F_*^e R}^\bullet$$

dual to  $R \rightarrow F_*^e R$  is often called the trace of Frobenius for reasons that we will see later.

**Example 0.4.** If  $R$  is Gorenstein with dualizing complex  $\omega_R^\bullet \simeq_{\mathrm{qis}} \omega_R[n]$  and if  $f \in R$  is a nonzero divisor, then  $R/f$  is Gorenstein with dualizing complex

$$\omega_{R/f}^\bullet = \omega_R/f[n-1] = \mathrm{Ext}^1(R/f, \omega_R[n])$$

To see this, consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow R \xrightarrow{\cdot f} R \rightarrow R/f \rightarrow 0$$

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and apply  $\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(\_, \omega_R^\bullet) = \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(\_, \omega_R[n])$ . We obtain

$$\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(R/f, \omega_R[n]) \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(R, \omega_R[n]) \xrightarrow{\cdot f} \mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(R, \omega_R[n]) \xrightarrow{+1}$$

and taking cohomology (starting at  $-n$ ) yields

$$0 \rightarrow \omega_R \xrightarrow{\cdot f} \omega_R \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}^1(R/f, \omega_R) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \dots$$

where the first zero  $0 = \mathrm{Hom}_R(R/f, \omega_R)$  holds because  $\omega_R$  is locally free and in particular, torsion free.

Finally, in order to state local duality, we need one more definition.

**Definition 0.5.** Suppose that  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  is a  $d$ -dimensional Noetherian local ring with dualizing complex  $\omega_R^\bullet \in D_{f.g.}^b(R)$ . The dualizing complex  $\omega_R^\bullet$  is called *normalized* if  $h^j(\omega_R^\bullet) = 0$  for  $j < -d$  and  $h^{-d}(\omega_R^\bullet) \neq 0$ .

The module  $h^{-d}(\omega_R^\bullet)$  is called the *canonical module* and typically denoted by  $\omega_R$ .

*Remark 0.6.* A normalized dualizing complex does not remain normalized after localization. In particular, if  $\omega_R^\bullet$  is normalized for  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  and  $\mathfrak{q} \in \mathrm{Spec} R$  is a prime, then  $(\omega_R^\bullet)_{\mathfrak{q}}$  is not normalized even though it is still surjective.

We now state local duality.

**Theorem 0.7** (Local duality). *Suppose that  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k)$  is a local Noetherian domain with dualizing complex  $\omega_R^\bullet$  and  $C^\bullet \in D_{f.g.}^b(R)$  and injective hull of the residue field  $E$ . Then*

$$\mathrm{Hom}(\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(C^\bullet, \omega_R^\bullet), E) \simeq_{qis} \mathbf{R} \Gamma_{\mathfrak{m}}(C^\bullet).$$

*In the case that  $R$  is complete, this can also be written as*

$$\mathbf{R} \mathrm{Hom}_R(C^\bullet, \omega_R^\bullet) \simeq_{qis} \mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbf{R} \Gamma_{\mathfrak{m}}(C^\bullet), E).$$

Note we do not need to derive the  $\mathrm{Hom}(\_, E)$  functor since  $E$  is injective.

We now specialize this to other settings in order to deduce standard facts (this is not the right way to prove these facts, but it's not a bad way to remember their statements).

**Corollary 0.8.** *A Noetherian local ring  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  with a dualizing complex  $\omega_R^\bullet$  is Cohen-Macaulay if and only if the dualizing complex for  $R$  is centered in one degree,*

$$\omega_R^\bullet \simeq_{qis} \omega_R[n].$$

**Corollary 0.9.** *With notation as above, if  $\omega_R^\bullet$  is a normalized dualizing complex then  $\mathrm{Hom}_R(\omega_R^\bullet, E) \cong \mathbf{R} \Gamma_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$ .*

While the above is obvious from the definition.

**Corollary 0.10.** *With notation as above,  $R$  is Gorenstein if and only if the normalized dualizing complex  $\omega_R^\bullet \simeq_{qis} R[\dim R]$ .*

**Definition 0.11.** A local ring  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  with a dualizing complex is called *quasi-Gorenstein* (or 1-Gorenstein) if  $\omega_R \cong R$ .

**Corollary 0.12.** *An  $F$ -injective quasi-Gorenstein  $F$ -finite local ring is  $F$ -split.*

*Proof.* We'll prove this next time. □