

DEGREE BOUNDS FOR GENERATORS OF COHOMOLOGY MODULES AND CASTELNUOVO-MUMFORD REGULARITY

UWE NAGEL AND PETER SCHENZEL

1. INTRODUCTION

Let \mathcal{F} denote a coherent sheaf on the projective space $\mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{P}_K^n$, K denotes an algebraically closed field. In [15], Lecture 14, \mathcal{F} is called m -regular, $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, provided $H^i(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{F}(m-i)) = 0$ for all $i > 0$. Then it turns out, see loc. cit., that $\mathcal{F}(k)$ is generated as $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}$ -module by its global sections if $k \geq m$. By more recent results, see e. g. [5], this is generalized to the generation of \mathcal{S}_j , the j -th sheaf of syzygies of \mathcal{F} . Here we want to show another generalization of Mumford's result. In order to formulate our approach we fix a few notation. For $s > 0$ let

$$r_s(\mathcal{F}) := \min\{m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid H^i(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{F}(m-i)) = 0 \text{ for all } i \geq s\}.$$

Note that $\text{reg } \mathcal{F} = r_1(\mathcal{F})$ is called the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of \mathcal{F} . Hence \mathcal{F} is m -regular for all $m \geq \text{reg } \mathcal{F}$. Furthermore, define $e_i^+(\mathcal{F})$ the smallest integer $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $H^i(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{F}(k))$ is spanned by $H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1)) \otimes H^i(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{F}(k-1))$ for all $k > m$. By Serre's vanishing result this is true for all $m \gg 0$. More precisely, Mumford's result, see loc. cit., says $e_0^+(\mathcal{F}) \leq \text{reg } \mathcal{F}$. Its extension is our first main result.

Theorem 1.1. *Let \mathcal{F} be a coherent sheaf on \mathbb{P}^n . Then there is the following bound*

$$e_i^+(\mathcal{F}) \leq r_{i+1}(\mathcal{F}) - i$$

for all $i \geq 0$.

This result is shown in Section 2 where we prove more general degree bounds for the minimal generators of local cohomology modules. That is, we prove 1.1 by considering local cohomology modules of graded modules.

Another point of our considerations are estimates of $\text{reg } \mathcal{F}$ under additional assumptions on the local behaviour of \mathcal{F} , in particular when \mathcal{F} is a Cohen-Macaulay $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}$ -module. More precisely, let $S = K[x_0, \dots, x_n]$, denote the polynomial ring in $n+1$ variables over K . Then a Cohen-Macaulay $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}$ -module \mathcal{F} is called k -Buchsbaum whenever the S -module $\bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} H^i(\mathbb{P}_K^n, \mathcal{F}(j))$ is annihilated by $(x_0, \dots, x_n)^k$ for all i with $1 \leq i < \dim \mathcal{F}$. Note that every Cohen-Macaulay sheaf is k -Buchsbaum for some k . Using our results on the generators of cohomology modules we explore some of the restrictions on the vanishing of the cohomology of k -Buchsbaum sheaves as demonstrated by:

Theorem 1.2. *Let \mathcal{F} denote a k -Buchsbaum $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}$ -module. Then*

$$\text{reg } \mathcal{F} \leq e(\mathcal{F}) + (d-1)(k+1) + 2,$$

where $d = \dim \mathcal{F}$ and $e(\mathcal{F}) = \max\{m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid H^d(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{F}(m)) \neq 0\}$.

The previous result shows that (in the case of a "nice" local behaviour of \mathcal{F}) the number $e(\mathcal{F})$ is dominating for $\text{reg } \mathcal{F}$. A bound of this type has first been shown in [8] by completely different means. Theorem 1.2 is a considerable improvement of the corresponding estimate in [8]. It will be proved in Section 3. By some examples we show that certain of the finer bounds obtained in that section are best possible.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 13 D 45, 14 B 15; Secondary 14 M 05.

Key words and phrases. minimal generator, local cohomology, cohomological annihilator, Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity, k -Buchsbaum scheme.

In the case of $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{J}_X$, the ideal sheaf of a projective scheme $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$, there are estimates of $e(\mathcal{J}_X)$ by simple invariants. Here X is called k -Buchsbaum scheme whenever \mathcal{J}_X is a k -Buchsbaum sheaf. For an integral nondegenerate k -Buchsbaum scheme X this leads to bounds of the following type

$$\operatorname{reg} X \leq \left\lceil \frac{\deg(X) - 1}{\operatorname{codim}(X)} \right\rceil + C(k),$$

where $\operatorname{reg} X = \operatorname{reg} \mathcal{J}_X$. In [9] it was shown that $C(k) \leq \binom{d+1}{2}k - d + 1$, $d = \dim X$. In [18] resp. in [8] (in a slightly weaker form) this was improved to $C(k) \leq (2d - 1)k - d + 1$. Our applications to Castelnuovo bounds presented in Section 4 provide a further improvement.

Theorem 1.3. *Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ denote an integral nondegenerate k -Buchsbaum scheme, $k \geq 1$, of dimension d . Then there is the bound*

$$\operatorname{reg} X \leq \left\lceil \frac{\deg(X) - 1}{\operatorname{codim}(X)} \right\rceil + dk.$$

So it turns out that $C(k) \leq dk$. It is an open problem – due to Eisenbud and Goto (see [5]) – whether

$$\operatorname{reg}(X) \leq \deg(X) - \operatorname{codim}(X) + 1.$$

It has been shown for the case X an integral non-degenerate curve, see [6], resp. for a smooth surface, see [11]. The first case in which the problem was open, i.e. the case of a possible singular surface which is 2-Buchsbaum, was settled in the affirmative by Brodmann and Vogel, see [4].

As another feature of our techniques we provide a new proof, see 4.10, of that result to which the whole paper [4] is devoted.

In the body of the paper we work in the context of graded modules and their local cohomology. The results mentioned above are just special cases of the more general statements we will prove in the next sections. In our terminology we follow [18].

2. DEGREE BOUNDS FOR THE GENERATORS OF LOCAL COHOMOLOGY MODULES

Let $R = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} R_n$ denote a graded Noetherian ring such that $R = R_0[R_1]$ and $K := R_0$ is a field. Put $\mathfrak{m} = \bigoplus_{n > 0} R_n$ the irrelevant maximal ideal of R . Let M denote a finitely generated graded R -module. We fix the basic notation of [18]. In particular, a homogeneous element $x \in R$ is called M -filter regular provided $0 :_M x$ is an R -module of finite length. A system of (homogeneous) elements $\underline{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\}$ is called an M -filter regular sequence whenever

$$(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})M : x_i / (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})M, \quad i = 1, \dots, r,$$

is an R -module of finite length. For an arbitrary graded R -module N let $e(N)$ denote

$$e(N) := \sup\{j \in \mathbb{Z} \mid N_j \neq 0\}.$$

Here N_j denotes the j -th graded piece of the graded R -module N . Thus $e(\{0\}) = -\infty$. Furthermore put

$$e^+(N) := e(N/\mathfrak{m}N).$$

Hence, in the case of a finitely generated module N it denotes the maximal degree of an element in a minimal generating set of N .

The following technical result does not look impressive but it will be proven useful with respect to the estimates announced in the introduction.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $\underline{y} = \{y_1, \dots, y_r\} \subset R$ denote a set of homogeneous elements of degree $\leq s$. Let $x \in R_t$ be an M -filter regular element. Then we have*

$$e(H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)/(x, \underline{y})H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)) \leq \max\{e(H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{i+1}(M)) + t + s, e(H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M/xM)/\underline{y}H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M/xM))\}$$

for all $i \geq 0$.

Proof. Since x is an M -filter regular element the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M/0 :_M x(-t) \xrightarrow{x} M \rightarrow M/xM \rightarrow 0$$

induced by multiplication by x provides a long exact sequence

$$(*) \quad H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M)(-t) \xrightarrow{x} H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M) \rightarrow H_{\mathfrak{m}}^i(M/xM) \rightarrow H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{i+1}(M)(-t) \xrightarrow{x} H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{i+1}(M)$$

for all $i \geq 0$. Hence, it induces a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H_0(x; H_m^i(M)) \rightarrow H_m^i(M/xM) \rightarrow H_1(x; H_m^{i+1}(M)) \rightarrow 0.$$

By applying the Koszul homology functor $H_\bullet(\underline{y}; \cdot)$ it provides an exact sequence

$$H_1(\underline{y}; H_1(x; H_m^{i+1}(M))) \rightarrow H_m^i(M)/(x, \underline{y})H_m^i(M) \rightarrow H_m^i(M/xM)/\underline{y}H_m^i(M/xM).$$

Call the module on the left hand side N . Note that it is a subquotient of

$$\oplus_j H_1(x; H_m^{i+1}(M))(-\deg y_j).$$

Whence it turns out that

$$e(N) \leq e(H_m^{i+1}(M)) + t + s.$$

So the claim follows by the previous exact sequence. \square

As a consequence there is the following bound of $e^+(H_m^i(M))$.

Corollary 2.2. *Let $x \in R_t$ denote an M -filter regular element. Then*

$$e^+(H_m^i(M)) \leq \max\{e(H_m^{i+1}(M)) + t + 1, e^+(H_m^i(M/xM))\}$$

for all $i < \dim M$.

Proof. Choose \underline{y} as a set of generators for the maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} . Note that all the generators have degree 1. So the claim is an immediate consequence of 2.1. \square

For a system of elements $\underline{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\}$ of R and an integer $0 \leq i \leq r$ let $\underline{x}_i = \{x_1, \dots, x_i\}$. Note that \underline{x}_0 is the empty set.

Theorem 2.3. *Let $\underline{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\}$ be an M -filter regular sequence consisting of homogeneous elements of degree $\leq t$. Let i denote an integer with $0 \leq i \leq \dim M =: d$. Then there exist the following bounds:*

- (a) $e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{x}H_m^i(M)) \leq \max\{e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}M), e(H_m^{i+1}(M/\underline{x}_jM)) + 2t \mid 0 \leq j \leq r-2\}$
for all i with $1 \leq r \leq d-i$.
- (b) $e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{x}H_m^i(M)) \leq \max\{e(H_m^{i+1}(M/\underline{x}_jM)) + 2t \mid 0 \leq j \leq d-i-1\}$ for all i with $i > d-r$.

Proof. First consider i with $1 \leq r \leq d-i$. Then a repeated application of 2.1 provides

$$\begin{aligned} e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{x}H_m^i(M)) &\leq \\ \max\{e(H_m^{i+1}(M)) + 2t, e(H_m^i(M/x_1M)/(x_2, \dots, x_r)H_m^i(M/x_1M))\} &\leq \\ \max\{e(H_m^{i+1}(M)) + 2t, e(H_m^{i+1}(M/x_1M)) + 2t, e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_2M)/(x_3, \dots, x_r)H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_2M))\} &\leq \\ \dots & \\ \max\{e(H_m^{i+1}(M/\underline{x}_jM)) + 2t, e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{r-1}M)/x_rH_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{r-1}M)) \mid 0 \leq j \leq r-2\}. & \end{aligned}$$

But now by an exact sequence as in the proof of 2.1 it is easy to see that

$$e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{r-1}M)/x_rH_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{r-1}M)) \leq e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_rM)).$$

Thus the statement in (a) follows. Now let $r > d-i$. Then first note that

$$e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{x}H_m^i(M)) \leq e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{x}_{d-i+1}H_m^i(M))$$

as easily seen. Similarly as above we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{x}_{d-i+1}H_m^i(M)) &\leq \\ \max\{e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{d-i}M)/x_{d-i+1}H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{d-i}M)), e(H_m^{i+1}(M/\underline{x}_jM)) \mid 0 \leq j \leq d-i-1\}. & \end{aligned}$$

But now it turns out that

$$e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{d-i}M)/x_{d-i+1}H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{d-i}M)) = -\infty$$

because $H_m^i(M/\underline{x}_{d-i+1}M) = 0$. Observe that $\dim M/\underline{x}_{d-i+1}M < i$. Therefore (b) is shown to be true. \square

Note that the previous result for $r = 2$, $t = 1$ was proved in [3], Lemma 4.1. In the special case of linear elements there is the following application.

Corollary 2.4. *Let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_d\} \subseteq R_1$ be an M -filter regular system of parameters, $d = \dim M$. Then*

- (a) $e^+(H_m^i(M)) \leq \max\{e(H_m^{i+1}(M/\underline{l}_j M)) + 2 \mid 0 \leq j \leq d - i - 1\}$ for all i with $1 \leq i < d$.
(b) $e^+(H_m^0(M)) \leq \max\{e^+(M), e(H_m^1(M/\underline{l}_j M)) + 2 \mid 0 \leq j < d\}$.

Proof. Because of $e^+(H_m^i(M)) \leq e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{l}H_m^i(M))$ the statement in (a) follows immediately by 2.3 (b). In order to prove (b) choose a system of elements $\underline{y} = \{y_1, \dots, y_s\}$ consisting of linear forms such that $(\underline{l}, \underline{y})R = \mathfrak{m}$. By 2.1 it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} e^+(H_m^0(M)) &= e(H_m^0(M)/(\underline{l}, \underline{y})H_m^0(M)) \\ &\leq \max\{e(H_m^0(M)/\underline{l}M)/\underline{y}H_m^0(M/\underline{l}M), e(H_m^1(M/\underline{l}_j M)) + 2 \mid 0 \leq j < d\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now $\dim(M/\underline{l}M) = 0$ and therefore $H_m^0(M/\underline{l}M) \simeq M/\underline{l}M$, i.e.,

$$e(H_m^0(M/\underline{l}M)/\underline{y}H_m^0(M/\underline{l}M)) = e(M/(\underline{l}, \underline{y})M) = e^+(M)$$

which proves the claim. \square

In order to continue we recall a definition, see [18], Definition 6.1. For an integer $s \geq 0$ put

$$r_s(M) := \max\{i + e(H_m^i(M)) \mid i \geq s\}.$$

Then $\text{reg } M := r_0(M) = r_{\text{depth } M}(M)$ is called the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of M . It is known, see e.g. [5], that $e^+(M) \leq \text{reg } M$.

Corollary 2.5. *There are the following estimates:*

- (a) $e^+(H_m^i(M)) \leq r_{i+1}(M) - i + 1$ for all $i > 0$.
(b) $e^+(H_m^0(M)) \leq \max\{e^+(M), r_1(M) + 1\}$ provided $d > 0$.

Proof. For $l \in R_1$ an M -filter regular element the short exact sequence (*) in the proof of 2.1 provides

$$r_i(M/lM) \leq r_i(M) \quad \text{for all } i,$$

see [17] for more details. Now let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_r\} \subset R_1$ be an M -filter regular sequence. Then by induction on r it turns out that $r_i(M/\underline{l}M) \leq r_i(M)$ for all i . Thus the statements of this corollary follow by 2.4. \square

Moreover $e^+(H_m^d(M)) = -\infty$ for $d = \dim M > 0$, since $H_m^d(M) = \mathfrak{m}H_m^d(M)$. It is also noteworthy to say that there is no bound for $e^+(H_m^0(M))$ which does not depend on $e^+(M)$. To this end note that

$$r_1(M) = r_1(M \oplus R_0(t))$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{Z}$.

For the following result let $H(\cdot) = \varinjlim \text{Hom}(\mathfrak{m}^t, \cdot)$ denote the functor of global transform. Let $R^i H, i \geq 1$, its right derived functors. For an R -module M there are a natural exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H_m^0(M) \rightarrow M \rightarrow H(M) \rightarrow H_m^1(M) \rightarrow 0$$

and natural isomorphisms $H_m^{i+1}(M) \simeq R^i H(M)$ for $i \geq 1$.

Lemma 2.6. *Let M denote a finitely generated graded R -module. Then*

$$e^+(H(M)) \leq r_2(M),$$

in particular $e^+(H(M))$ is a finite number.

Proof. If $d = \dim M \leq 1$, then $e^+(H(M)) = -\infty$, so the claim is true. Let $d \geq 2$. Let $l \in R_1$ denote an M -filter regular element. The multiplication by l induces a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H(M)/lH(M) \rightarrow H(M/lM) \rightarrow H_1(l; H_m^2(M))(-1) \rightarrow 0.$$

Now a Koszul homology argument as in the proof of 2.2 provides that

$$e^+(H(M)) \leq \max\{e^+(H(M/lM)), e(H_m^2(M)) + 2\}.$$

Furthermore, by induction hypothesis

$$e^+(H(M/lM)) \leq r_2(M/lM).$$

Because of $r_2(M/lM) \leq r_2(M)$ and $e(H_m^2(M)) + 2 \leq r_2(M)$ the inductive step is complete. \square

Now we prove Theorem 1.1 of the introduction.

Proof. We use the notation of the introduction. Choose M a finitely generated graded S -module such that \tilde{M} , the sheafification of M , satisfies $\tilde{M} = \mathcal{F}$. Then there are graded isomorphisms

$$H(M) \simeq \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{F}(j)) \quad \text{and} \quad H_m^{i+1}(M) \simeq \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} H^i(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{F}(j))$$

for $i \geq 1$, see, e.g., [7]. That is, $e_i^+(\mathcal{F}) = e^+(H_m^{i+1}(M))$ and $r_i(\mathcal{F}) = r_{i+1}(M)$ for $i \geq 1$. So the claim of 1.1 is a consequence of 2.5 and 2.6. \square

3. RESTRICTIONS ON THE COHOMOLOGY IMPOSED BY LARGE COHOMOLOGICAL ANNIHILATORS

For a graded R -module M let $\mathfrak{a}_i(M) = \text{Ann}_R H_m^i(M)$, $i \in \mathbb{Z}$, denote the i -th cohomological annihilator of M . See [18] for basic results and applications. For an M -filter regular element $x \in \mathfrak{a}_i(M) \cap \mathfrak{a}_{i+1}(M)$ the long exact cohomology sequence induced by multiplication by x provides a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H_m^i(M) \rightarrow H_m^i(M/xM) \rightarrow H_m^{i+1}(M)(-t) \rightarrow 0,$$

$t = \deg x$, see (*) in the proof of 2.1. So there is a good comparison of $r_i(M)$ and $r_i(M/xM)$. Pursuing this point of view further we show estimates of $e(H_m^i(M))$ by $e(H_m^d(M))$ and the “size” of $\mathfrak{a}_j(M)$, $i \leq j < d$.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_{d-i+1}\} \subset R_1$, $1 \leq i \leq d$, denote an M -filter regular sequence with $d = \dim M$. Suppose that*

$$l_{d-j+1}^{\mu_j} H_m^j(M) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \leq j < d$$

and certain integers $\mu_j \geq 0$. Then

$$e(H_m^i(M)) \leq e(H_m^d(M)) + \sum_{j=i}^{d-1} (\mu_j + 1).$$

Before we shall prove 3.1 let us mention an interesting consequence. In fact, it is helpful in order to streamline the proof of 3.1. It gives bounds of $r_i(M)$ in terms of $e(H_m^d(M))$ and the “size” of $\mathfrak{a}_j(M)$. If in addition $H_m^i(M)$ is a finitely generated R -module, one can measure the “size” of $\mathfrak{a}_i(M)$ by the integer

$$\lambda_i(M) = \min\{\lambda \in \mathbb{N} \mid \mathfrak{m}^\lambda \subset \mathfrak{a}_i(M)\}.$$

Corollary 3.2. *With the assumptions of 3.1 there are the following estimates:*

- (a) $r_i(M) \leq e(H_m^d(M)) + d + \sum_{j=i}^{d-1} \mu_j$, provided $i > 0$.
- (b) $\text{reg}(M) \leq \lambda_0(M) + \max\{e^+(M) - 1, e(H_m^d(M)) + d + \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \mu_j\}$.

Proof. By the definition of $r_i(M)$, the claim in (a) follows by 3.1. If $\lambda_0(M) = 0$, i.e., equivalently $H_m^0(M) = 0$, then $\text{reg}(M) = r_1(M)$ and the statement in (b) follows by (a). If $\lambda_0(M) > 0$, then $\text{reg}(M) = \max\{e(H_m^0(M)), r_1(M)\}$. On the other hand by Lemma 3.3 below it follows that

$$e(H_m^0(M)) \leq e^+(H_m^0(M)) + \lambda_0(M) - 1.$$

Therefore, by 2.5 we get

$$\text{reg}(M) \leq \lambda_0(M) + \max\{e^+(M) - 1, r_1(M)\}.$$

So the statement in (b) follows by virtue of (a). \square

In the proof of the previous corollary we have already used the following observation.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $I \subset R$ be an ideal generated by elements of R_1 and let M be a finite graded R -module. Suppose there is an integer $\mu > 0$ such that $I^\mu M = 0$. Then*

$$e(M) \leq e(M/IM) + \mu - 1.$$

Proof. Let r denote the number of generators of I . For an integer $t \geq 1$ there is the natural epimorphism

$$(M/IM(-t)) \binom{r+t-1}{r-1} \twoheadrightarrow I^t M / I^{t+1} M.$$

Thus $e(I^t M / I^{t+1} M) \leq e(M/IM) + t$. Because of $e(M/I^t M) = \max\{e(I^{t-1} M / I^t M), e(M/I^{t-1} M)\}$ the conclusion follows now. \square

Now let us continue with the proof of 3.1

Proof. In order to prove the desired bound we make induction on $d - i \geq 0$. In the case $d - i = 0$ the statement is empty. Let $0 < i < d$. If $\mu_i = 0$, i.e., $H_m^i(M) = 0$, then $e(H_m^i(M)) = -\infty$ and the statement is true. Let $\mu_i > 0$. Then by 3.3

$$e(H_m^i(M)) \leq e(H_m^i(M)/lH_m^i(M)) + \mu_i - 1.$$

By combining 2.3 (b) with the fact that

$$r_i(M/l_jM) \leq r_i(M)$$

for all i, j with $0 \leq j \leq d - i - 1$ it turns out that

$$e(H_m^i(M)) \leq r_{i+1}(M) - i + 1 + \mu_i - 1.$$

By the induction hypothesis the claim is true for $d - (i + 1)$.

The bound in Theorem 3.1 is also optimal in the case when M has more than two non-vanishing cohomology modules. In order to illustrate this situation consider:

Example 3.7. For $r \geq 2$ put $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_{2r}]$ and $R = S/\mathfrak{a}$ with $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{b} \cap \mathfrak{c}$, where $\mathfrak{b} = (x_1, \dots, x_r) \cap (x_{r+1}, \dots, x_{2r})$ and

$$\mathfrak{c} = \begin{cases} (x_1, \dots, x_{\frac{r+1}{2}}, (x_{\frac{r+1}{2}+1}, \dots, x_{2r})^3) & \text{if } r \text{ is odd,} \\ (x_1, \dots, x_{\frac{r}{2}}, x_{\frac{r}{2}+1}x_{2r}, \dots, x_r x_{2r}, (x_{\frac{r}{2}+1}, \dots, x_{2r})^3) & \text{if } r \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Then $H_m^i(R) \simeq H_m^i(S/\mathfrak{b})$ for $i > 0$ and thus

$$H_m^i(R) = \begin{cases} K & \text{for } i = 1, \\ 0 & \text{for } 1 < i < r. \end{cases}$$

Finally $H_m^0(R) \simeq \mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a} \simeq K(-2)^{\binom{r}{2}}$. Therefore we have $e(H_m^r(R)) = -r, \lambda_0(R) = \lambda_1(R) = 1, \lambda_2(R) = \dots = \lambda_{r-1}(R) = 0$, and $\text{reg } R = 2$. Thus in 3.4 (b) equality holds.

Now recall that M is called a k -Buchsbaum R -module if $\lambda_i(M) \leq k$ for all i with $0 \leq i < \dim M$. Note that 0-Buchsbaum means Cohen-Macaulay. Observe that 3.7 shows that the bound in [8], 2.8, is not true for 1-Buchsbaum rings which are not arithmetically Buchsbaum. Instead, we have the following estimations in case of k -Buchsbaum modules.

Corollary 3.8. *Let M be k -Buchsbaum R -module. Then there are the bounds:*

- (a) $r_i(M) \leq e(H_m^d(M)) + d + (d - i)k$ for all $i > 0$.
- (b) $\text{reg}(M) \leq \max\{e^+(M) + k - 1, e(H_m^d(M)) + d(k + 1)\}$.

Proof. By the definitions this is an immediate consequence of 3.4. □

Remark 3.9. (1) First note that Theorem 1.2 of the introduction is a consequence of 3.8 by the same translation procedure as in the proof of Theorem 1.1.

(2) Put $M = R$. Then $e^+(R) = 0$. Moreover, it is known that $e(H_m^d(R)) + d \geq 0$, see e. g., [10]. Let R denote a k -Buchsbaum ring. Then 3.8 yields the following estimate

$$\text{reg}(R) \leq e(H_m^d(M)) + d + (d - t)k,$$

where $t = \text{depth } R$.

(3) Note that 3.8 improves the main results of [8] for k -Buchsbaum modules. It is often much easier to check if a module M is k -Buchsbaum than to decide if \mathfrak{m}^k is an M -standard ideal. Note that the main results of [8] stated under this latter assumption are also improved by 3.8 in case $i + k > d$.

4. APPLICATIONS TO CASTELNUOVO BOUNDS

First let us recall the definition of an (r, i) -standard sequence introduced in [18]. To this end let $\underline{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\}, 1 \leq r \leq \dim M =: d$, denote an M -filter regular sequence. For $i \leq d - r$ it is called an (r, i) -standard sequence with respect to M provided

$$x_{n+1}H_m^{i+j}(M/(x_1, \dots, x_n)M) = 0$$

for all non-negative j, n with $0 \leq j + n < r$. This notion generalizes the notion of a standard system of parameters. In [18] it is shown to be useful in order to control the vanishing of graded local cohomology. This point of view is pursued further in this section.

Lemma 4.1. *Let $\underline{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\} \subset R_k$ be an (r, i) -standard sequence with respect to M . Then*

$$e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}M)) = \max\{e(H_m^{i+j}(M)) + jk \mid 0 \leq j \leq r\}.$$

Proof. In [18], 6.3, it is shown that

$$e(H_m^{i+j}(M)) \leq e(H_m^i(M/\underline{x}M)) - jk$$

for $j = 0, 1, \dots, r$. This proves that the left-hand side is bounded by the maximum on the right. Since \underline{x} is an (r, i) -standard sequence there are short exact sequences of local cohomology modules

$$H_m^{i+j}(M/(x_1, \dots, x_n)M) \rightarrow H_m^{i+j}(M/(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1})M) \rightarrow H_m^{i+j+1}(M/(x_1, \dots, x_n)M)(-k).$$

Thus an easy induction on r proves the claim. □

As an application 4.1 implies a bound of $r_i(M)$. Thereby we use the notation $\underline{l}^{(k)} := \{l_1^k, \dots, l_r^k\}$ for $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_r\}$ a sequence of elements of R .

Proposition 4.2. *Let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_{d-i}\} \subset R_1$ denote an M -filter regular sequence. Suppose that $\underline{l}^{(k)}$ is an $(d-i, i)$ -standard sequence. Then*

$$r_i(M) \leq e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}M)) + i + (d-i)(k-1).$$

Proof. By virtue of [18], 6.5, it follows that

$$e(H_m^j(M/\underline{l}^{(k)}M)) \leq e(H_m^j(M/\underline{l}M)) + (d-i)(k-1).$$

Therefore, by 4.1 it implies for $i \leq j \leq d$ that

$$\begin{aligned} e(H_m^j(M)) + (j-i)k &\leq e(H_m^j(M/\underline{l}^{(k)}M)) \\ &\leq e(H_m^j(M/\underline{l}M)) + (d-i)(k-1), \end{aligned}$$

which by definition proves the claim. \square

In the case of M a Buchsbaum module and $l = \{l_1, \dots, l_r\} \subset R_1$ a subsystem of a system of parameters 4.1 yields that

$$r_i(M) = r_i(M/\underline{l}M) \quad \text{for all } i \leq d-r.$$

This is the crucial observation in [20] in order to derive Castelnuovo bounds for Buchsbaum schemes. In contrast the basic result for our Castelnuovo bounds for k -Buchsbaum schemes is the following:

Proposition 4.3. *Let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_{d-i}\} \subset R_1$, $0 \leq i < d$, be an M -filter regular sequence. Suppose there are integers $\mu_j \geq 0$ such that $\underline{l}_{d-j}^{\mu_j} H_m^j(M) = 0$ for all $i \leq j < d$. Then*

$$r_i(M) \leq e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}M)) + i + c_i,$$

where

$$c_i = \begin{cases} \mu_i + \dots + \mu_{d-1} - 1 & \text{if } \mu_i + \dots + \mu_{d-1} > 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let $\mu_i + \dots + \mu_{d-1} = 0$, i. e., $H_m^j(M) = 0$ for $j = i, \dots, d-1$. Then the claim is a consequence of 4.1. Otherwise we make an induction on $d-i \geq 1$. Let $i = d-1$. If $\mu_{d-1} = 0$, then the claim follows by the previous argument. Let $\mu_{d-1} > 0$. By 3.3 we have

$$e(H_m^{d-1}(M)) \leq e(H_m^{d-1}(M/\underline{l}H_m^{d-1}(M))) + \mu_{d-1} - 1.$$

Whence by 2.3 (a)

$$e(H_m^{d-1}(M)) \leq e(H_m^{d-1}(M/\underline{l}M)) + \mu_{d-1} - 1.$$

Moreover, by [18], 6.2, we know that

$$e(H_m^d(M)) + 1 \leq e(H_m^{d-1}(M/\underline{l}M))$$

which proves the claim for $i = d-1$.

Suppose $0 < i < d-1$. If $\mu_i = 0$, then $r_i(M) = r_{i+1}(M)$. So the statement follows by the induction hypothesis. Now suppose that $\mu_i > 0$. By 2.3 (a) and observing that $r_i(M/\underline{l}M) \leq r_i(M)$ it turns out

$$(*) \quad \begin{aligned} e(H_m^i(M)) &\leq e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{l}H_m^i(M)) + \mu_i - 1 \\ &\leq \max\{e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}M)), r_{i+1}(M) - i + 1\} + \mu_i - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Due to the beginning of the proof we may assume $\mu_i + \dots + \mu_{d-1} > 0$. Now let us suppose that even $c_{i+1} > 0$. Then by the induction hypothesis and [18], 6.2, we get

$$\begin{aligned} r_{i+1}(M) &\leq e(H_m^{i+1}(M/\underline{l}_{d-i-1}M)) + i + 1 + c_{i+1} \\ &\leq e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}M)) + i + c_{i+1}. \end{aligned}$$

So (*) implies $e(H_m^i(M)) \leq e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}M)) + i + c_i$, i. e., the claim is true. In the remaining case of $c_{i+1} = 0$ we have $H_m^{i+1}(M/\underline{l}_jM) = 0$ for all $0 \leq j \leq d-i-2$, which follows by an easy induction. Thus 2.3 (a) reads as

$$e(H_m^i(M)/\underline{l}H_m^i(M)) \leq e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}M)).$$

Therefore (*) and the induction hypothesis complete the inductive step. \square

It is noteworthy to say that in 4.3 there is no finiteness condition for the cohomology modules in the case $i > 0$. Under additional finiteness conditions 4.3 yields the following:

Corollary 4.4. *Suppose that $H_m^j(M), j = i, \dots, d-1$, are finitely generated R -modules. Let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_{d-i}\} \subset R_1$, $0 \leq i < d$, be an M -filter regular sequence. Then*

$$r_i(M) \leq r_i(M/\underline{l}M) + d_i,$$

where

$$d_i = \begin{cases} \lambda_i(M) + \dots + \lambda_{d-1}(M) - 1 & \text{if } \lambda_i(M) + \dots + \lambda_{d-1}(M) > 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Remark 4.5. Consider the ring R of Example 3.7. R is 1-Buchsbaum and $\text{reg } R = 2$. Since $\text{rank}_K[\mathfrak{a}]_2 = \binom{r+1}{2}$ we obtain for general linear forms $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_r\}$ that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rank}_K[(a, \underline{l})_2] &= \text{rank}_K[\mathfrak{a}]_2 + \text{rank}_K[(\underline{l})_2] \\ &= \binom{r+1}{2} + \binom{2r+1}{2} - \binom{r+1}{2} \\ &= \text{rank}_K[K[x_1, \dots, x_{2r}]]_2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $e(H_m^0(R/\underline{l}R)) = e(R/\underline{l}R) = 1$. Whence

$$2 = \text{reg } R = e(H_m^0(R/\underline{l}R)) + \lambda_0(R) + \dots + \lambda_{r-1}(R) - 1.$$

That is, the bound in 4.4 is the best possible.

We need some more notation. The unique polynomial $h_M(t)$ determined by $h_M(t) = \text{rank}_{R_0} M_t$ for $t \gg 0$ is called the Hilbert polynomial of M . Let $d = \dim M > 0$. Then it may be written as

$$h_M(t) = \text{mult}(M) \frac{t^{d-1}}{(d-1)!} + \text{terms of lower degree}$$

where $\text{mult}(M) \neq 0$. Then the multiplicity of M is defined to be $\text{mult}(M)$. If M is zero-dimensional its multiplicity is by definition $\text{mult}(M) = \text{length}(M)$. The codimension of R is $\text{codim } R := \text{rank}_{R_0} R_1 - \dim R$. Finally, recall that $\lceil a \rceil$ denotes the least integer $\geq a$ for $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

The following lemma concerns the most technical part of our estimates of the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity.

Lemma 4.6. *Let M denote a finitely generated graded R -module.*

(a) *Let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_{d-1}\} \subset R_1$ be an M -filter regular sequence where $d = \dim M$. Then we have for all $i > 0$*

$$d + e(H_m^d(M)) \leq i + e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}_{d-i}M)) \leq \text{mult}(M) + e^+(M) - 1.$$

(b) *Suppose that R is integral and $R_0 = K$ is an algebraically closed field. Let l_1, \dots, l_{d-1} be general linear forms where $d = \dim R$. Then we get for all $i > 0$*

$$d + e(H_m^d(R)) \leq i + e(H_m^i(R/\underline{l}_{d-i}R)) \leq \left\lceil \frac{\text{mult}(R) - 1}{\text{codim } R} \right\rceil.$$

Proof. In both statements the bounds on the left-hand side follow by [18], 6.2. In order to show (a) put $M' := (M/\underline{l}M)/H_m^0(M/\underline{l}M)$. Note that M' is an one-dimensional Cohen-Macaulay R -module. Since \underline{l} is an M -filter regular sequence it is well-known that

$$\text{mult}(M) = \text{mult}(M').$$

Furthermore,

$$e^+(M) \geq e^+(M/\underline{l}M) \geq e^+(M') \quad \text{and} \quad e(H_m^1(M/\underline{l}M)) = e(H_m^1(M'))$$

as easily seen. Now let us prove that

$$(**) \quad 1 + e(H_m^1(M')) \leq \text{mult}(M') + e^+(M') - 1.$$

To this end choose a general $l \in [R/\underline{l}R]_1$. Then we have $e^+(M') = e^+(M'/lM')$. Therefore $[M'/lM']_t = 0$ for a certain integer $t > e^+(M')$ implies $[M'/lM']_{t+1} = 0$, too. Now the multiplication by l on M' induces a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow [M'/lM']_t \rightarrow [H_m^1(M')]_{t-1} \rightarrow [H_m^1(M')]_t \rightarrow 0$$

for any integer t . It provides

$$\text{rank}[H_m^1(M')]_t \leq \max\{0, \text{rank}[H_m^1(M')]_{t-1} - 1\}$$

for all $t > e^+(M')$. But

$$\text{rank}[H_m^1(M')]_{e^+(M')} = \text{mult}(M) - \text{rank}[M']_{e^+(M')}.$$

Because of $\text{rank}[M']_{e^+(M')} > 0$ the inequality in (**) follows. But now

$$i + e(H_m^i(M/\underline{l}_{d-i}M)) \leq 1 + e(H_m^1(M/\underline{l}M))$$

for all $i > 0$. This proves part (a) of the claim.

In order to prove (b) we use the same notation as above. Then R' is the coordinate ring of a set of $\text{mult}(R)$ points in linear semi-uniform position, see [1]. Moreover, by [1] it follows that

$$1 + e(H_m^1(R')) \leq \left\lceil \frac{\text{mult}(R') - 1}{\text{codim } R'} \right\rceil.$$

Then the same arguments as above show (b). \square

Remark 4.7. (1) Because of $e^+(R) = 0$ part (a) of 3.7 is a generalization of [8], 3.1. Furthermore, part (b) of 3.7 is an extension of [17], Corollary 2, to the case of a ground field of arbitrary characteristic.

(2) The result in 4.4 is an improvement by one of the bound which follows by a direct combination of 3.4 and 4.6.

Now there are several bounds of Castelnuovo type by combining 4.2 resp. 4.3 with 4.7. Here we state only one which seems most interesting to us. Consider a Cohen-Macaulay scheme $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$. Let R denote its homogeneous coordinate ring. In accordance with the introduction put $\text{reg}(X) = \text{reg}(R) + 1$. Moreover, define $\lambda_i(X) = \lambda_i(R)$.

Theorem 4.8. *Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}_K^n$ be a projective Cohen-Macaulay scheme of positive dimension d , where K is an algebraically closed field. Let*

$$c = \begin{cases} \lambda_1(X) + \cdots + \lambda_d(X) - 1 & \text{if } X \text{ is not arithmetically Buchsbaum,} \\ 0 & \text{if } X \text{ is arithmetically Buchsbaum.} \end{cases}$$

(a) *Then there is the following bound*

$$\text{reg}(X) \leq \text{deg}(X) + c.$$

(b) *Suppose in addition that X is integral and nondegenerate. Then*

$$\text{reg}(X) \leq \left\lceil \frac{\text{deg}(X) - 1}{\text{codim}(X)} \right\rceil + c + 1.$$

Proof. Let R be the homogeneous coordinate ring of X and let $\underline{l} = \{l_1, \dots, l_{d-1}\} \subset R$ be general linear forms. Suppose that X is arithmetically Buchsbaum. Then \underline{l} is an $(r, 1)$ -standard sequence and 4.1 provides that

$$\text{reg}(R) = 1 + e(H_m^1(M/\underline{l}M)).$$

Furthermore $\text{deg}(X) = \text{mult}(R)$. Thus the asserted bounds are a consequence of 4.6. If X is not arithmetically Buchsbaum the claims follow by 4.3 and 4.6. \square

Remark 4.9. (1) The statements in 4.8 are an improvement of [18], 6.9, and - as noted there - also of [8], 3.2 (ii) and 3.3 (ii). Moreover, Theorem 1.3 of the introduction is a particular case of 4.8(b).

(2) Let R denote a k -Buchsbaum ring with $k > 0$. Let \underline{l} denote a system of linear parameters. Then $\text{reg}(R/\underline{l}R) = e(H_m^0(R/\underline{l}R))$. Hence, it yields an improved bound in [18], 6.8. This follows by replacing the corresponding argument in [18], 6.7, by 4.4.

For an integral subscheme $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ it has been conjectured by Eisenbud and Goto, see [5], that

$$\text{reg}(X) \leq \text{deg}(X) - \text{codim}(X) + 1.$$

This is known to be true only for certain particular cases, see [5], [6], [11], [18], [20] and [19] for the precise description of the statements. Here we want to point out that our Theorem 4.8 can be used in order to show this claim in some further case. In particular, we give a new proof of a result to which the whole paper [4] is devoted.

Corollary 4.10. *Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}_K^n$ denote an integral 2-Buchsbaum surface where K is an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Then $\text{reg}(X) \leq \text{deg}(X) - \text{codim}(X) + 1$.*

Proof. We may assume that $\text{deg}(X) \geq \text{codim}(X) + 3$, because otherwise the claim is known by view of [20]. Let H denote a general hyperplane and $C = X \cap H$. Then by Corollary 4.4 we know that $\text{reg}(X) \leq \text{reg}(C) + 1$ for the curve $C \subset \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Thus we are done provided $\text{reg}(C) \leq \text{deg}(C) - \text{codim}(C)$ because $\text{deg}(C) = \text{deg}(X)$. The latter is true unless C is a smooth (connected) rational curve due to [6]. In this case it follows that X has only finitely many singular points, whence X is normal. To this end note that in case X has a curve $D \subset X$ as a singular locus. Then $D \cap C$ is singular and non-empty. But this contradicts the fact that C is smooth.

Let R denote the homogeneous coordinate ring of X . Let H be defined by the linear form l . Since X is normal the vanishing theorem of Kodaira-Mumford-Ramanujan, see [16], provides $[H_m^2(R)]_j \simeq H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X(j)) = 0$ for all $j < 0$. Moreover, since C has genus zero we get $[H_m^2(R/lR)]_j = 0$ for all $j \geq 0$. Whence the short exact sequence

$$H_m^2(-1) \rightarrow H_m^2(R) \rightarrow H_m^2(R/lR)$$

furnishes $[H_m^2(R)]_j = 0$ for all $j \geq 0$. Thus altogether it follows that $H_m^2(R) = 0$. But now 4.8 yields

$$\text{reg}(X) \leq \left\lceil \frac{\text{deg}(X) - 1}{\text{codim}(X)} \right\rceil + 2 \leq \text{deg}(X) - \text{codim}(X) + 1,$$

where the latter is true by our assumption on $\text{deg}(X) \geq \text{codim}(X) + 3$. \square

Observe that for the final estimate Theorem 1.3 is not sufficient. We have to use the finer bound in Theorem 4.8.

Imposing stronger conditions on the cohomological annihilators of a scheme is possible to improve Theorem 1.3 slightly. Recall that a scheme X is called (k, r) -Buchsbaum if $X \cap V$ is k -Buchsbaum for all complete intersections V of codimension $< r$ such that X and V meet properly. Thus a scheme is $(k, 1)$ -Buchsbaum if and only if it is k -Buchsbaum. But usually a k -Buchsbaum is not $(k, 2)$ -Buchsbaum. After having received an earlier version of this paper Miyazaki and Vogel [14] were able to improve the bound in Theorem 1.3 for a (k, r) -Buchsbaum scheme by $r - 1$. But their methods do not give a result as good as Theorem 4.8. Moreover, C. Miyazaki, see [13], has characterized those varieties for which the bound of 1.3 is attained.

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FACHBEREICH MATHEMATIK UND INFORMATIK, UNIVERSITÄT-GESAMTHOCHSCHULE PADERBORN, D — 33095 PADERBORN,
GERMANY

E-mail address: `uwen@uni-paderborn.de`

FACHBEREICH MATHEMATIK UND INFORMATIK, MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT HALLE-WITTENBERG, D — 06 099 HALLE,
GERMANY

E-mail address: `schenzel@mathematik.uni-halle.de`