

§8.37: LOCAL CHARACTERIZATION OF DIMENSION

**PROPOSITION:** Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, and  $\mathfrak{p}$  an ideal of height  $h$ . Then there exist  $f_1, \dots, f_h \in R$  such that  $\mathfrak{p}$  is a minimal prime of  $(f_1, \dots, f_h)$ .

**THEOREM:** Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a Noetherian local ring. Then

$$\dim(R) = \min \left\{ t \geq 0 \mid \exists f_1, \dots, f_t \in R \text{ such that } \mathfrak{m} = \sqrt{(f_1, \dots, f_t)} \right\}.$$

(1) Deduce the Theorem from the Proposition.

(2) Let  $K$  be a field, and  $R = \left( \frac{K[X, Y, Z]}{(XY, XZ)} \right)_{(x, y, z)}$ . Verify that  $\dim(R) = 2$  and  $\sqrt{(y, x + z)} = (x, y, z)$ .

(3) Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, and  $\mathbf{f} = f_1, \dots, f_t \in R$  be a sequence of elements in  $R$ . For convenience<sup>1</sup>, let us say that  $\mathbf{f}$  is a “*min-avoiding sequence*” if

$$f_1 \notin \bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}((0))} \mathfrak{p}, \quad f_2 \notin \bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}((f_1))} \mathfrak{p}, \quad f_3 \notin \bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}((f_1, f_2))} \mathfrak{p}, \quad \dots, \quad \text{and} \quad f_t \notin \bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Min}((f_1, \dots, f_{t-1}))} \mathfrak{p};$$

and let us say that  $\mathbf{f}$  is a “*height sequence*” if

$$\text{height}((f_1)) = 1, \quad \text{height}((f_1, f_2)) = 2, \quad \dots, \quad \text{and} \quad \text{height}((f_1, f_2, \dots, f_t)) = t.$$

Prove that  $\mathbf{f}$  is a min-avoiding sequence if and only if  $\mathbf{f}$  is a height sequence.

(4) Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring and  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime of height  $h$ . Prove that there exists a min-avoiding sequence of  $h$  elements in  $\mathfrak{p}$ , and deduce the Proposition.

(5) Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring of dimension  $d$  and  $I$  an arbitrary ideal.

(a) Show that if  $R$  is local, then there exist  $f_1, \dots, f_d \in R$  such that  $\sqrt{(f_1, \dots, f_d)} = \sqrt{I}$ .

(b) Show that, in general, there exist  $f_1, \dots, f_{d+1} \in R$  such that  $\sqrt{(f_1, \dots, f_{d+1})} = \sqrt{I}$ .

<sup>1</sup>The terms “*min-avoiding sequence*” and “*height sequence*” are not real, and have just been made up here to simplify the discussion.