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**NOTES OF 18 AVRIL 2018 : PERVERSE SHEAVES–DECOMPOSITION  
THEOREM**

HIRONORI OYA

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**1. Perverse sheaves**

Let  $X$  be a quasi-projective scheme over a field  $k$ . Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\leq 0}(X) &= \{B \in \mathbf{D}_c^b(X, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell) ; \dim \operatorname{supp} \mathcal{H}^{-1}B \leq i, \forall i \in \mathbf{Z}\} \\ {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\geq 0}(X) &= \{B \in \mathbf{D}_c^b(X, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell) ; \dim \operatorname{supp} \mathcal{H}^{-1}\mathbf{D}_X B \leq i, \forall i \in \mathbf{Z}\} \end{aligned}$$

is a t-structure and that  $\operatorname{Perv}(X, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell) = {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\leq 0}(X) \cap {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\geq 0}(X)$  is defined to be the category of perverse sheaves on  $X$ . Here  $\mathbf{D}_X = \mathcal{H}om(-, \omega_X)$  is the dualising functor so that  $\operatorname{id} \cong \mathbf{D}_X \circ \mathbf{D}_X$  and that  $f_* \circ \mathbf{D}_X \cong \mathbf{D}_Y \circ f_!$  for any  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ .

If  $\varphi : X \rightarrow S = \operatorname{Spec} \mathbf{k}$  denotes the projection, then  $\omega_X = \varphi^!(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell, S)$ .

**Remark 1.1.** — Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf. The support of  $\mathcal{F}$  is defined to be

$$\operatorname{supp} \mathcal{F} = \overline{\{j(\overline{x}) \in X ; j : \overline{x} \rightarrow X \text{ is a geometric point, } j^*\mathcal{F} \neq 0\}}$$

A geometric point is defined to be a morphism  $j : \operatorname{Spec} K \rightarrow X$  where  $K$  is a separably closed field.

The category  $\operatorname{Perv}(X)$  is preserved by Verdier duality since  $\mathbf{D}_X$  exchanges  ${}^p\mathbf{D}^{\leq 0}$  and  ${}^p\mathbf{D}^{\geq 0}$ .

**Remark 1.2.** — If  $X$  is smooth and equi-dimensional, then  $\omega_X = \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell[2 \dim X](\dim X)$ . More generally, if  $B \in \operatorname{Perv}(X)$  is a smooth complex (local system), then the cohomological degree is concentrated on  $-\dim X$ .

**2. Gluing**

Let  $j : U \hookrightarrow X$  be an open inclusion and  $i : Y \hookrightarrow X$  its complement. Then

$$\begin{aligned} i_* &: \operatorname{Perv}(Y) \rightarrow \operatorname{Perv}(X) \\ i^* &: {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\geq 0}(X) \rightarrow {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\geq 0}(Y) \\ i^! &: {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\leq 0}(X) \rightarrow {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\leq 0}(Y) \\ j^* &: \operatorname{Perv}(X) \rightarrow \operatorname{Perv}(U) \\ j_* &: {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\leq 0}(U) \rightarrow {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\leq 0}(X) \\ j_! &: {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\geq 0}(U) \rightarrow {}^p\mathbf{D}^{\geq 0}(X) \end{aligned}$$

One can compose them with the perverse cohomology functor  ${}^pH^0$  to get perverse sheaves. We denote the composites by  ${}^p i_*$ ,  ${}^p i^*$ , etc.

Besides, there is a unique functor  $j_{!*} : \text{Perv}(U) \rightarrow \text{Perv}(X)$ , called **intermediate extension**, such that

$$j^* \circ j_{!*} \cong \text{id}, \quad i^* \circ j_{!*} \cong 0, \quad i^! \circ j_{!*} \cong 0.$$

Concretely, it is described by image ( ${}^p j_! \rightarrow {}^p j_*$ ). It has the property that  $\mathbf{D}_X \circ j_{!*} \cong j_{!*} \circ \mathbf{D}_U$ . If  $U$  is smooth, then  $\mathbf{D}_X(j_{!*} \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell[\dim U]) \cong j_{!*} \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell[\dim U](\dim U)$ . Thus  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell[\dim U]$  is self-dual up to Tate twist.

**Remarque 2.1.** — In representation theory, quite often a canonical basis is obtained as intermediate extension of some self-dual sheaf, which is again self-dual. This “categorifies” the bar-invariance of canonical basis. Moreover, the PBW-basis is often the  ${}^p j_!$  extension.

**Théorème 2.2 (classification of simple objects in  $\text{Perv}(X)$ ).** — *Let  $B \in \text{Perv}(X)$  is an object. Then  $B$  is simple if and only if there is an irreducible smooth locally open  $U \xrightarrow{j \text{ open}} Y \xrightarrow{i \text{ closed}} X$  and a smooth irreducible  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $U$  and an isomorphism*

$$B \cong i_* j_{!*}(\mathcal{F}[\dim U]) =: \text{IC}(\mathcal{F}).$$

**Remarque 2.3.** — The category  $\text{Perv}(X)$  is noetherian and artinian.

### 3. Decomposition theorem of BBDG

Let  $X_0$  be an separated scheme of finite type over a finite field  $\mathbf{k}$ . We fix an isomorphism  $\tau : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell \cong \mathbf{C}$ .

We say that  $B_0 \in \text{D}_c^b(X_0, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell)$  is  $\tau$ -**mixed** all its cohomology sheaves are  $\tau$ -mixed. A  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf is  $\tau$ -mixed if it admits a filtration whose successive quotient is  $\tau$ -pure. A sheaf is  $\tau$ -pure of weight  $w \in \mathbf{R}$  if for each closed point  $x \in |X_0|$ , the Frobenius  $F_x : \mathcal{F}_{\overline{x}} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{\overline{x}}$  has its eigenvalues  $\alpha$  satisfying  $|\tau(\alpha)| = \#k(x)^{w/2}$ .

For any  $\tau$ -mixed sheaf  $\mathcal{F}_0$ , let

$$w(\mathcal{F}_0) = \max \{ \tau\text{-weights appearing in the successive quotients} \}.$$

For any  $\tau$ -mixed complex  $\mathcal{B}_0$ , let

$$w(\mathcal{B}_0) = \max \{ w(\mathcal{H}^i(\mathcal{B}_0)) - i \}.$$

We say that  $B_0$  is  $\tau$ -pure of weight  $\beta$  if

$$w(B_0) = -w(\mathbf{D}_{X_0}(B_0)) = \beta$$

**Théorème 3.1 (Decomposition theorem).** — *Let  $B_0 \in \text{D}_c^b(X_0, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell)$  be  $\tau$ -pure and let  $B$  be the base change of  $B_0$  on  $X = X_0 \otimes_{\mathbf{k}} \overline{\mathbf{k}}$ . Then*

$$B \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{A \in \text{Perv}(X) \\ i \in \mathbf{Z}}} A[i]^{\oplus m_{A,i}}$$

**Corollaire 3.2.** — *Let  $f_0 : X_0 \rightarrow Y_0$  be a proper morphism and  $U_0 \subseteq X_0$  a smooth locally closed. Then  $f_* \text{IC}(U, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\ell)$  is  $\tau$ -pure and admits a decomposition into a sum of simple perverse sheaves on  $Y = Y_0 \otimes_{\mathbf{k}} \overline{\mathbf{k}}$ .*