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Daniel Barlet

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Finite determination of regular (a,b) -modules.

Daniel Barlet*

22/04/07

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SUMMARY. The concept of (a,b) -module comes from the study the Gauss-Manin lattices of an isolated singularity of a germ of an holomorphic function. It is a very simple "abstract algebraic structure", but very rich, whose prototype is the formal completion of the Brieskorn-module of an isolated singularity.

The aim of this article is to prove a very basic theorem on regular (a,b) -modules showing that a given regular (a,b) -module is completely characterized by some "finite order jet" of its structure. Moreover a very simple bound for such a sufficient order is given in term of the rank and of two very simple invariants : the regularity order which count the number of times you need to apply $b^{-1}.a \simeq \partial_z.z$ in order to reach a simple pole (a,b) -module. The second invariant is the "width" which corresponds, in the simple pole case, to the maximal integral difference between to eigenvalues of $b^{-1}.a$ (the logarithm of the monodromy).

In the computation of examples this theorem is quite helpfull because it tells you at which power of b in the expansions you may stop without loosing any information.

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Introduction.

The concept of (a,b) -module comes from the study the Gauss-Manin lattices of an isolated singularity of a germ of an holomorphic function. It is a very simple "abstract algebraic structure", but very rich, whose prototype is the formal completion of the Brieskorn-module of an isolated singularity.

It appears that this structure induces an interesting approach in the study of singular points of linear differential systems (in one variable). As it will be apparent in this article, this point of view leads to study some finite type left modules over the non-commutative \mathbb{C} -algebra generated by two variables a, b :

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}} := \left\{ \sum_{\nu=0}^{+\infty} b^\nu \cdot P_\nu(a) \right\}$$

where P_ν are in $\mathbb{C}[z]$ and with the commutation relation $a.b - b.a = b^2$, assuming the continuity of left and right multiplication by a for the b -adic topology of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$. Of course this commutation relation is satisfied by the "standard model"

$$a := \times z, \quad b := \int_0^z .$$

The aim of this article is to prove a very basic theorem on regular (a,b) -modules showing that a given regular (a,b) -module is completely characterized by some "finite order jet" of its structure. Moreover a very simple bound for such a sufficient order is given in term of the rank and of two very simple invariants : the regularity order which count the number of times you need to apply $b^{-1}.a \simeq \partial_z.z$ in order to reach a simple pole (a,b) -module. The second invariant is the "width" which corresponds in the simple pole case to the maximal integral difference between to eigenvalues of $b^{-1}.a$ (the logarithm of the monodromy).

In the computation of examples this theorem is quite helpfull because it tells you at which power of b in the expansions you may stop without loosing any information.

1 Basic properties.

1.1 Definition and examples.

First recall the definition of an (a,b) -module.

Definition 1.1.1 *An (a,b) -module E is a free finite type $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -module with a \mathbb{C} -linear endomorphism $a : E \rightarrow E$ which is continuous for the b -adic topology of E and satisfies $a.b - b.a = b^2$.*

The rank of E , denote by $\text{rank}(E)$, will be the rank of E as a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -module.

REMARKS.

1. Let (e_1, \dots, e_k) a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -basis of a free finite type $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -module. Then choosing arbitrarily elements $(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_k)$ and defining $a.e_j = \varepsilon_j \quad \forall j \in [1, k]$ gives an (a,b) -module: the commutation relation implies $a.b^n = b^n.a + n.b^{n+1} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ so a is defined on $\sum_{j=1}^k \mathbb{C}[b].e_j$. The continuity assumption gives its (unique) extension.

2. There is natural (a,b) -module associated to every algebraic linear differential system (see [B.97] p.42)

$$Q(z) \cdot \frac{dF}{dz} = M(z) \cdot F(z), \quad Q \in \mathbb{C}[z], \quad M \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^n) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathbb{C}[z].$$

In the sequel of this article we shall mainly consider regular (a,b) -modules (see definition recalled below). To try to convince the reader that the "general" (a,b) -module structure is interesting, let me quote the following result, which is quite elementary in the regular case, but which is not so easy in general.

Theorem 1.1.2 ([B.97] th.1bis p.31) *Let E be an (a,b) -module. Then the kernel and cokernel of "a" are finite dimensional.*

This result implies a general finiteness theorem for extensions of (a,b) -modules (see [B.97] and also section 1.3).

Definition 1.1.3 *We shall say that an (a,b) -module E has a **simple pole** when the inclusion $a.E \subset b.E$ is satisfied.*

This terminology comes from the terminology for meromorphic connexions (see for instance [D.70]).

EXAMPLE. For any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ define the simple pole rank 1 (a,b) -module E_λ as $E := \mathbb{C}[[b]].e_\lambda$ where "a" is defined by the relation $a.e_\lambda = b.e_\lambda$. \square

As an introduction to our main theorem, the reader may solve the following exercise by direct computation.

EXERCICE. For any $S \in \mathbb{C}[[b]]$ show that the simple pole (a,b) -module defined by $E := \mathbb{C}[[b]].e_S$ and $a.e_S = b.S(b).e_S$ is isomorphic to E_λ with $\lambda = S(0)$ (hint: begin by looking for $\alpha_1 \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $(a - S(0).b)(e + \alpha_1.b.e) \in b^3.E$). \square

For a simple pole (a,b) -module, the linear map $b^{-1}.a : E \rightarrow E$ is well defined and induces an endomorphism $f := b^{-1}.a : E/b.E \rightarrow E/b.E$. For any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ we shall denote by λ_{min} the smallest eigenvalue of f which is in $\lambda + \mathbb{Z}$. Then for $\lambda = \lambda_{min} - k$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ the bijectivity of the map $f - \lambda$ on $E/b.E$ implies easily its bijectivity on E (see the exercise above). It gives then the equality

$$(a - \lambda.b).E = b.E.$$

Using this remark, it is not difficult to prove the following result from [B.93] (prop.1.3. p.11) that we shall use later on.

Proposition 1.1.4 *Let E be a simple pole (a,b) -module, and let $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\kappa \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\lambda - \kappa \leq \lambda_{min}$. If $y \in E$ satisfies $(a - \lambda.b).y \in b^{\kappa+2}.E$ then there exists an unique $\tilde{y} \in E$ such that $(a - \lambda.b).\tilde{y} = 0$ and $\tilde{y} - y \in b^{\kappa+1}.E$.*

An easy consequence of this proposition is that for an eigenvalue λ of f such that $\lambda = \lambda_{min}$ there always exists a non zero $x \in E$ such that $(a - \lambda.b).x = 0$. This gives an embedding of E_λ in E . Remark also that if E is a non zero simple pole (a,b) -module, such a λ always exists. This leads to a rather precise description a of "general" simple pole (a,b) -module (see [B.93] th. 1.1 p.15).

Definition 1.1.5 An (a,b) -module E is **regular** when its saturation by $b^{-1}.a$ in $E[b^{-1}]$ is finitely generated on $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$.

We shall denote E^\sharp this saturation. It is a simple pole (a,b) -module and it is the smallest simple pole (a,b) -module containing E in the sense that for any (a,b) -linear morphism $j : E \rightarrow F$ where F is a simple pole (a,b) -module, there exists a unique (a,b) -linear extension $j^\sharp : E^\sharp \rightarrow F$ of j .

It is easy to show that a regular (a,b) -module of rank 1 is isomorphic to some E_λ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. The classification of rank 2 regular (a,b) -module is not so obvious. We recall it here for a later use

Proposition 1.1.6 (see [B.93] prop.2.4 p. 34) The list of rank 2 regular (a,b) -modules is, up to isomorphism, the following :

1. $E_\lambda \oplus E_\mu$ for $(\lambda, \mu) \in \mathbb{C}^2/\mathfrak{S}_2$.
2. For any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ and any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ let $E_\lambda(n)$ be the simple pole (a,b) -module with basis (x, y) such that

$$a.x = (\lambda + n).b.x + b^{n+1}.y \quad \text{and} \quad a.y = \lambda.b.y.$$

3. For any $(\lambda, \mu) \in \mathbb{C}^2/\mathfrak{S}_2$ let $E_{\lambda, \mu}$ the rank 2 regular (a,b) -module with basis (y, t) such that

$$a.y = \mu.b.y \quad \text{and} \quad a.t = y + (\lambda - 1).b.t.$$

4. For any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, any $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and any $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^*$ let $E_{\lambda, \lambda-n}(\alpha)$ be the rank 2 regular (a,b) -module with basis (y, t) such that

$$a.y = (\lambda - n).b.y \quad \text{and} \quad a.t = y + (\lambda - 1)b.t + \alpha.b^n.y$$

To conclude this first section, let me recall also the theorem of existence of Jordan-Hölder sequences for regular (a,b) -module, which will be usefull in the induction in the proof of our main result .

Theorem 1.1.7 (see [B.93] th. 2.1 p.30) For any regular rank k (a,b) -module E there exists a sequence of sub- (a,b) -modules

$$0 = E^0 \subset E^1 \subset \dots \subset E^{k-1} \subset E^k = E$$

such that for any $j \in [1, k]$ the quotient E^j/E^{j-1} is isomorphic to E_{λ_j} . Moreover we may choose for E^1 any normal¹ rank 1 sub- (a,b) -module of E .

Of course the result in [B.93] is much more precise, but this weak version will be enough for our purpose.

¹normal means $E^1 \cap b.E = b.E^1$, so that E/E^1 is again free on $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$.

1.2 The regularity order.

Definition 1.2.1 Let E be a regular (a,b) -module. We define the **regularity order of E** as the smallest integer $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that the inclusion

$$a^{k+1}.E \subset \sum_{j=0}^k a^j.b^{k-j+1}.E \quad (\text{reg.})$$

is valid. We shall note this integer $or(E)$.

We define also **the index $\delta(E)$ of E** as the smallest integer $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $E^\sharp \subset b^{-m}.E$.

REMARKS.

- i) The (a,b) -module E has a simple pole if and only if $or(E) = 0$.
- ii) The inclusion (reg.) implies that $(b^{-1}.a)^{k+1}.E \subset \Phi_k(E) := \sum_{j=0}^k (b^{-1}.a)^j.E$ and this implies that $\Phi_k(E)$ is stable by $b^{-1}.a$. So $\Phi_k(E)$ is a simple pole (a,b) -module contained in $b^{-k}.E \subset E[b^{-1}]$. This implies clearly the regularity of E .
For $k = or(E)$ we have $E^\sharp = \Phi_k(E) \subset b^{-k}.E$. So we have $\delta(E) \leq or(E)$.
- iii) As the quotient $b^{-k}.E/E$ is a finite dimensional \mathbb{C} -vector space, the quotient E^\sharp/E is always a finite dimensional \mathbb{C} -vector space. \square

The remark iii) shows that for a regular (a,b) -module E there always exists a simple pole sub- (a,b) -module of E which is a finite codimensional vector space in E . This comes from the fact that for $k = \delta(E)$ we have $b^k.E^\sharp \subset E$ and that $b^k.E^\sharp$ has a simple pole.

EXAMPLE. The inequality $\delta(E) \leq or(E)$ may be strict for $or(E) \geq 2$. For instance the (a,b) -module of rank 3 with $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -basis e_1, e_2, e_3 with $a.e_1 = e_2$, $a.e_2 = b.e_3$, $a.e_3 = 0$ has index 1 and regularity order 2 : an easy computation gives that a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -basis for E^\sharp is given by $e_1, b^{-1}.e_2, b^{-1}.e_3$, and that a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -basis for $E + b^{-1}.a.E$ is given by $e_1, b^{-1}.e_2, e_3$. \square

Definition 1.2.2 Let E be a regular (a,b) -module. The **biggest simple pole sub- (a,b) -module of E** exists and has finite \mathbb{C} -codimension in E . We shall note it E^b .

In general, for $k = \delta(E)$ the inclusion $b^k.E^\sharp \subset E^b$ is strict. For instance this is the case for $E_{\lambda,\mu} \oplus E_\nu$.

Lemma 1.2.3 Let E be a regular (a,b) -module. The smallest integer m such we have $b^m.E \subset E^b$ is equal to $\delta(E)$.

PROOF. Let $k := \delta(E)$. Then $b^k.E^\sharp$ is a simple pole sub- (a,b) -module of E . So we have $b^k.E \subset b^k.E^\sharp \subset E^b$. Conversely, an inclusion $b^m.E \subset E^b$ gives $E \subset b^{-m}.E^b$. As $b^{-m}.E^b$ has a simple pole this implies $E^\sharp \subset b^{-m}.E^b \subset b^{-m}.E$. So $\delta(E) \leq m$. \blacksquare

Lemma 1.2.4 *Let E be a regular (a,b) -module. Then the order of regularity of E is at most the rank of E . More precisely, for any exact sequence of (a,b) -modules*

$$0 \rightarrow E' \rightarrow E \xrightarrow{\pi} E'' \rightarrow 0 \quad (*)$$

we have $or(E'') \leq or(E) \leq rank(E') + or(E'')$.

PROOF. We shall prove the second assertion by induction on the rank of E' . The inequality $or(E'') \leq or(E)$ is trivial because an inequality

$$a^{k+1}.E \subset \sum_{j=0}^k a^j.b^{k-j}.E$$

implies the same for E'' and, by definition, the best such integer k is the order of regularity.

The crucial case is when E' is of rank 1. So we may assume that $E' \simeq E_\lambda$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ (see 1.1.7 or [B.93] prop.2.2 p.23). Let $k = or(E'')$. Then the inclusion

$$a^{k+1}.E'' \subset \sum_{j=0}^k a^j.b^{k-j}.E'' \quad (1)$$

implies that

$$a^{k+1}.E \subset \sum_{j=0}^k a^j.b^{k-j}.E + b^l.E_\lambda \quad (2)$$

for some $l \in \mathbb{N}$. In fact we can take for l the smallest integer such that the generator e_λ of E_λ (define up to \mathbb{C}^* by the relation $a.e_\lambda = \lambda.b.e_\lambda$) satisfied $b^l.e_\lambda \in \Psi_k = \sum_{j=0}^k a^j.b^{k-j}.E$.

Remark that this integer $l \geq 0$ is well defined because $b^k.e_\lambda \in \Psi_k$. Moreover, as Ψ_k is a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -submodule of E , $b^l.e_\lambda \in \Psi_k$ implies $b^l.E_\lambda \subset \Psi_k$.

Now, thanks to (2) we have

$$a^{k+2}.E \subset \sum_{j=1}^k a^j.b^{k+1-j}.E + a.b^l.E_\lambda \quad (3)$$

which gives

$$a^{k+2}.E \subset \sum_{j=0}^k a^j.b^{k+1-j}.E \quad (4)$$

because $a.b^l.E_\lambda = b.b^l.E_\lambda \subset b.\Psi_k$.

This proves that $or(E)$ is at most $k+1 = or(E'') + or(E') + 1$.

Assume now that our inequality is proved for E' of rank $p-1$ and consider an

exact sequence (*) with $\text{rank}(E')$ equal $p \geq 2$. Let $E_\lambda \subset E'$ be a normal rank 1 sub- (a,b) -module of E' (see 1.1.7 or [B.93] prop.2.2 p.23 for a proof of the existence of such sub- (a,b) -module) and consider the exact sequence of (a,b) -modules (using the fact that E_λ is also normal in E ; see lemma 2.5 of [B.93])

$$0 \rightarrow E'/E_\lambda \rightarrow E/E_\lambda \rightarrow E'' \rightarrow 0$$

Using the induction hypothesis and the rank 1 case we get

$$\text{or}(E) \leq \text{or}(E/E_\lambda) + 1 \leq p - 1 + \text{or}(E'') + 1 = p + \text{or}(E'').$$

Now using an easy induction (or a Jordan-Hölder sequence for E) we obtain $\text{or}(E) \leq \text{rank}(E)$ for any regular E . ■

1.3 Duality.

In this section we consider the associative and unitary \mathbb{C} -algebra

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}} := \left\{ \sum_0^\infty b^n \cdot P_n(a) \quad \text{with} \quad P_n \in \mathbb{C}[z] \right\}$$

with the commutation relation $a \cdot b - b \cdot a = b^2$, and such that the left and right multiplications by a are continuous for the b -adic topology² of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$.

THE RIGHT STRUCTURE AS A COMMUTING LEFT-STRUCTURE ON $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$.

There exists a unique \mathbb{C} -linear (bijective) map $\theta : \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ with the following properties

- i) $\theta(1) = 1, \quad \theta(a) = a, \quad \theta(b) = -b;$
- ii) $\theta(x \cdot y) = \theta(y) \cdot \theta(x) \quad \forall x, y \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}.$
- iii) θ is continuous for the b -adic topology of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$

The uniqueness is an easy consequence of iii) and the fact that the conditions i) and ii) implies $\theta(b^p \cdot a^q) = (-1)^p \cdot a^q \cdot b^p \quad \forall p, q \in \mathbb{N}$. Existence is then clear from the explicit formula deduced from this remark.

We define a new structure of left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module on $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$, **called the θ -structure** and denote by $x_* \square$, by the formula

$$x_* y = y \cdot \theta(x).$$

It is easy to see that this new left-structure on $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ commutes with the ordinary one and that with this θ -structure $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ is still free of rank one as a left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module.

Definition 1.3.1 *Let E be a (left) $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module. On the \mathbb{C} -vector space $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ we define a left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module structure using the θ -structure on $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$. Concretely this means that for $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ and $x \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ we let*

$$\forall e \in E \quad (x \cdot \varphi)(e) := x_* \varphi(e) = \varphi(e) \cdot \theta(x).$$

We obtain in this way a left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module that we shall still denote $\text{Hom}_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$.

²remark that for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$ $b^k \cdot \tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \cdot b^k$.

It is clear that $E \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ is a contravariant functor which is left exact in the category of left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules. As every finite type left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module has a resolution of length ≤ 2 by free finite type modules (see [B.97] cor.2 p.29), we shall denote by $\text{Ext}_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^i(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}), i \in [0, 2]$ the right derived functors of this functor. They are finite type left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules when E is finitely generated because $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ is left noetherian (see [B.97] prop.2 p.26).

Any (a,b) -module is a left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module. They are characterized by the existence of special simple resolutions.

Lemma 1.3.2 *Let M be a (p,p) matrix with entries in the ring $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$. Then the left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -linear map $\text{Id}_p.a - M : \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p$ given by*

$${}^tX := (x_1, \dots, x_p) \rightarrow {}^tX.(Id_p.a - M)$$

is injective. Its cokernel is the (a,b) -module E given as follows :

E has a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ base $e := (e_1, \dots, e_p)$ and a is defined by the two conditions

1. $a.e := M(b).e$;
2. *the left action of a is continuous for the b -adic topology of E .*

Any (a,b) -module is obtained in this way and so, as a $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -left-module, has a resolution of the form

$$0 \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p \xrightarrow{{}^t\Box.(Id_p.a - M)} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0. \quad (@)$$

PROOF. First remark that for $x \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ the condition $x.a \in b.\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ implies $x \in b.\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$. Now let us prove, by induction on $n \geq 1$, that, for any (p,p) matrix M with entries in $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ the condition ${}^tX.(Id_p.a - M) = 0$ implies ${}^tX \in b^n.\tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p$.

For $n = 1$ this comes from the previous remark. Let assume that the assertion is proved for $n \geq 1$ and consider an $X \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p$ such that ${}^tX.(Id_p.a - M) = 0$. Using the induction hypothesis we can find $Y \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p$ such that $X = b^n.Y$. Now we obtain, using $a.b^n = b^n.a + n.b^{n+1}$ and the fact that $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ has no zero divisor, the relation

$${}^tY(Id_p.a - (M + n.Id_p.b)) = 0$$

and using again our initial remark we conclude that $Y \in b.\tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p$ so $X \in b^{n+1}.\tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p$.

So such an X is in $\bigcap_{n \geq 1} b^n.\tilde{\mathcal{A}}^p = (0)$.

The other assertions of the lemma are obvious. ■

We recall now a construction given in [B.97] which allows to compute more easily the vector spaces $\text{Ext}_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^i(E, F)$ when E, F are (a,b) -modules

Definition 1.3.3 *Let E, F two (a,b) -modules. Then the $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -module $\text{Hom}_b(E, F)$ is again a free and finitely generated $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -module. Define on it an (a,b) -module structure in the following way.*

1. *First change the sign of the action of b . So $S(b) \in \mathbb{C}[[b]]$ acts as $\check{S}(b) = S(-b)$.*

2. Define a using the linear map $\Lambda : \text{Hom}_b(E, F) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_b(E, F)$ given by $\Lambda(\varphi)(e) = \varphi(a.e) - a.\varphi(e)$.

We shall denote $\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F)$ the corresponding (a,b) -module.

The verification that $\Lambda(\varphi)$ is $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -linear and that $\Lambda.\check{b} - \check{b}.\Lambda = \check{b}^2$ are easy (and may be found in [B.97] p.31).

REMARK. In *loc. cit.* we defined the (a,b) -module structure on $\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F)$ with opposite signs for a and b . The present convention is better because it fits with the usual definition of the formal adjoint of a differential operator : $z^* = z$ and $(\partial/\partial z)^* = -\partial/\partial z$. \square

The following lemma is also proved in *loc. cit.*

Lemma 1.3.4 *Let E, F two (a,b) -modules. Then there is a functorial isomorphism of \mathbb{C} -vector spaces*

$$H^i(\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F) \xrightarrow{a} \text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F)) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\check{\mathcal{A}}}^i(E, F) \quad \forall i \geq 0.$$

Here the map a of the complex $\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F) \xrightarrow{a} \text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F)$ is the Λ defined above which is, by definition, the operator a of the (a,b) -module $\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F)$.

Now the following corollary of the lemma 1.3.2 gives that the two natural ways of defining the dual of an (a,b) -module give the same answer.

Corollary 1.3.5 *Let E an (a,b) -module. There is a functorial isomorphism of (a,b) -modules between the following two (a,b) -modules constructed as follows :*

1. $\text{Ext}_{\check{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, \check{\mathcal{A}})$ with the $\check{\mathcal{A}}$ -structure defined by the θ -structure of $\check{\mathcal{A}}$.
2. $\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, E_0)$ where $E_0 := \check{\mathcal{A}}/\check{\mathcal{A}}.a$.

PROOF. Using a free resolution (\textcircled{a}) of E deduced from a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -basis $e := (e_1, \dots, e_p)$ we obtain, by the previous lemma, an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \check{\mathcal{A}}^p \xrightarrow{(Id_p, a - {}^t M)} \check{\mathcal{A}}^p \rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\check{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, \check{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow 0. \quad (\textcircled{a}\textcircled{a})$$

of left $\check{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules where $\check{\mathcal{A}}^p$ is endowed with its θ -structure. Writing the same exact sequence with the ordinary left-module structure of $\check{\mathcal{A}}^p$ gives

$$0 \rightarrow \check{\mathcal{A}}^p \xrightarrow{{}^t \square \cdot (Id_p, a - {}^t \check{M})} \check{\mathcal{A}}^p \rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\check{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, \check{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow 0. \quad (\textcircled{a}\textcircled{a} \text{ bis})$$

where ${}^t \check{M}(b) := {}^t M(-b)$.

Denote by $e^* := (e_1^*, \dots, e_p^*)$ the dual basis of $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}[[b]]}(E, E_0)$. By definition of the action of a on $\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, E_0)$ we get, if ω is the class of 1 in E_0 :

$$(a.e_i^*)(e_j) = e_i^*(a.e_j) - a.e_i^*(e_j) = e_i^*\left(\sum_{h=1}^p m_{j,h}.e_h\right) - a.\delta_{i,j}.\omega = \check{m}_{j,i}.\omega$$

because $a.\omega = 0$ in E_0 , and the definition of the action of b on $\text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, E_0)$. So we have $a.e^* = {}^t \check{M}.e^*$ concluding the proof. \blacksquare

Definition 1.3.6 For any (a,b) -module E the **dual** of E , denoted by E^* , is the (a,b) -module $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \simeq Hom_{a,b}(E, E_0)$.

Of course, for any $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -linear map $f : E \rightarrow F$ between two (a,b) -modules we have an $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -linear "dual" map $f^* : F^* \rightarrow E^*$.

It is an easy consequence of our previous description of $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ that we have a functorial isomorphism $(E^*)^* \rightarrow E$.

EXAMPLES.

1. For each $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ we have $(E_\lambda)^* \simeq E_{-\lambda}$.
2. For $(\lambda, \mu) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ we have $E_{\lambda, \mu}^* \simeq E_{-\mu+1, -\lambda+1}$.
3. Let E be the rank two simple pole (a,b) -module $E_1(0)$ defined by $a.e_1 = b.e_1 + b.e_2$ and $a.e_2 = b.e_2$. Then its dual is isomorphic to $E_{-1}(0)$.
It is also an elementary exercise to show the following isomorphisms :

$$E_1(0) \simeq \mathbb{C}[[z]] \oplus \mathbb{C}[[z]].Logz \quad \text{and} \quad E_{-1}(0) \simeq \mathbb{C}[[z]] \frac{1}{z^2} \oplus \mathbb{C}[[z]].\frac{Logz}{z^2}$$

with $a := \times z$ and $b := \int_0^z$.

Proposition 1.3.7 For any exact sequence of (a,b) -modules

$$0 \rightarrow E' \xrightarrow{u} E \xrightarrow{v} E'' \rightarrow 0$$

we have an exact sequence of (a,b) -modules

$$0 \rightarrow (E'')^* \xrightarrow{v^*} E^* \xrightarrow{u^*} (E')^* \rightarrow 0.$$

If E is a simple pôle (a,b) -module, E^* has a simple pole.

For any regular (a,b) -module E its dual E^* is regular. Moreover, if E^b and E^\sharp are respectively the biggest simple pole submodule of E and the saturation of E by $b^{-1}.a$ in $E[b^{-1}]$, we have

$$(E^\sharp)^* \simeq (E^*)^b \quad \text{and} \quad (E^b)^* \simeq (E^*)^\sharp.$$

PROOF. The first assertion is a direct consequence of the vanishing of $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^i(E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ for $i = 0, 2$, for any (a,b) -module and the long exact sequence for the "Ext".

The condition that E has a simple pole is equivalent to the fact that for any choosen basis e of E the matrix M has its coefficients in $b.\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \tilde{\mathcal{A}}.b$. Then this remains true for ${}^t\tilde{M}$.

To prove the regularity of E^* when E is regular, we shall use induction on the rank of E . The rank 1 case is obvious because we have a simple pole in this case. Assume that the assertion is true for $rank < p$ and consider a $rank = p$ regular (a,b) -module E . Using the theorem 1.1.7 we have an exact sequence of (a,b) -modules

$$0 \rightarrow E_\lambda \rightarrow E \rightarrow F \rightarrow 0$$

where F is regular of rank $p-1$. This gives a short exact sequence, thanks to the vanishing of the $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^i(G, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ for $i=0,2$ for any (a,b) -module G ,

$$0 \rightarrow F^* \rightarrow E^* \rightarrow E_{-\lambda} \rightarrow 0$$

and the regularity of F^* and of $E_{-\lambda}$ implies the regularity of E^* . Now the inclusions $E^b \subset E \subset E^\sharp$ gives exact sequences

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E/E^b, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow E^* \rightarrow (E^b)^* \rightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(E/E^b, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow 0 \\ 0 \rightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E^\sharp/E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow (E^\sharp)^* \rightarrow E^* \rightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(E^\sharp/E, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

and the next lemma will show that the $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(V, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) = 0$ for any $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module which is a finite dimensional vector space, and also the finiteness (as a vector space) of $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(V, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$. This implies, thanks to the fact that $(E^b)^*$ and $(E^\sharp)^*$ have simple poles, that we have, for any regular (a,b) -module, the inclusions

$$E^* \subset (E^b)^* \quad \text{and} \quad (E^\sharp)^* \rightarrow E^*.$$

They imply

$$(E^*)^\sharp \subset (E^b)^* \quad \text{and} \quad (E^\sharp)^* \subset (E^*)^b.$$

But the inclusion $(E^*)^b \subset E^*$ gives

$$E = (E^*)^* \subset ((E^*)^b)^* \subset ((E^\sharp)^*)^* = E^\sharp$$

and the minimality of E^\sharp gives $((E^*)^b)^* = E^\sharp$ because $((E^*)^b)^*$ has a simple pole and contains E . Dualizing again gives $(E^\sharp)^* \simeq (E^*)^b$. The last equality is obtained in a similar way from $E^* \subset (E^*)^\sharp$. \blacksquare

Lemma 1.3.8 *Let V be an $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module of finite dimension over \mathbb{C} . Then we have $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^i(V, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) = 0$ for $i=0,1$ and $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(V, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ is again a $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module (via the θ -structure of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$) which is a finite dimensional vector space. Moreover it has the same dimension than V and there is a canonical $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module isomorphism*

$$Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(V, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}), \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \simeq V.$$

PROOF. We begin by proving the first assertion of the lemma for the special case $V_\lambda := \tilde{\mathcal{A}}/\tilde{\mathcal{A}}.(a-\lambda) + \tilde{\mathcal{A}}.b$ for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. Let us show that we have the free resolution

$$0 \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^2 \xrightarrow{\beta} \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow V_\lambda \rightarrow 0$$

where $\alpha(x) := (x.b, -x.(a-b-\lambda))$, $\beta(u,v) := u.(a-\lambda) + v.b$. The map α is clearly injective and $\beta(\alpha(x)) = x.(b.a - \lambda.b - (a-b-\lambda).b) = 0$. If we have $\beta(u,v) = 0$ then $u \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}.b$; let $u = x.b$. Then we get

$$x.(a-b-\lambda).b + v.b = 0 \quad \text{and so} \quad v = -x.(a-b-\lambda).$$

This gives the exactness of our resolution.

Now the $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^i(V_\lambda, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ are given by the cohomology of the complex

$$0 \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \xrightarrow{\beta^*} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}^2 \xrightarrow{\alpha^*} \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow 0.$$

The map $\beta^*(x) = ((a-\lambda).x, b.x)$ and $\alpha^*(u, v) = b.u - (a-b-\lambda).v$ are $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -linear for the θ -structure of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$. Clearly β^* is injective and $\alpha^*(\beta^*(x)) \equiv 0$. If $\alpha^*(u, v) = 0$ set $v = b.y$ and conclude that $u = (a-\lambda).y$. This gives the vanishing of the Ext^i for $i = 0, 1$. The Ext^2 is the cokernel of β^* which is easily seen to be isomorphic to V_λ .

Consider now any finite dimensional $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module V over \mathbb{C} . We make an induction on $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(V)$ to prove the vanishing of the Ext^i for $i = 0, 1$ and the assertion on the dimension of the Ext^2 .

The $\dim V = 1$ case is clear because reduced to the case $V = V_\lambda$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. Assume that the case $\dim V = p$ is proved, for $p \geq 1$ and consider some V with $\dim V = p + 1$. Then $Ker b$ is not $\{0\}$ and is stable by a . Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ an eigenvalue of a acting on $Ker b$. Then a eigenvector generates in V a sub- $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module isomorphic to V_λ .

The exact sequence of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow V_\lambda \rightarrow V \rightarrow W \rightarrow 0$$

where $W := V/V_\lambda$ has dimension p allows us to conclude, looking at the long exact sequence of Ext.

The last assertion follows from the remark that we produce a free resolution of $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(V, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ by taking $Hom_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(-, \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ of a free (length two, see [B.97]) resolution of V because of the already proved vanishing of the Ext^i for $i = 0, 1$. Doing this again gives back the initial resolution (remark that we use here that the $\theta \circ \theta$ -structure on $Hom_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(Hom_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(\tilde{\mathcal{A}}, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}), \tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ is the usual left structure on $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$). ■

Lemma 1.3.9 *For any pair of (a,b) -modules E and F there is a canonical isomorphism of vector spaces*

$$D : Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, F) \rightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(F^*, E^*)$$

associated to the correspondance between 1-extensions (i.e. short exact sequences)

$$(0 \rightarrow F \rightarrow G \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0) \xrightarrow{D} (0 \rightarrow E^* \rightarrow G^* \rightarrow F^* \rightarrow 0).$$

PROOF. We have a obvious isomorphism of $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -modules³

$$I : Hom_b(E, F) \rightarrow Hom_b(Hom_b(F, E_0), Hom_b(E, E_0)) \simeq Hom_b(F^*, E^*)$$

because $E_0 \simeq \mathbb{C}[[b]]$ as a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -module. But recall that $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, F)$ (resp. $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(F^*, E^*)$) is the cokernel of the \mathbb{C} -linear map "a" defined on $Hom_b(E, F)$ by the formula

$$(a.\varphi)(x) = \varphi(a.x) - a.\varphi(x)$$

So it is enough to check that this isomorphism commutes with "a" in order to get an isomorphism between the cokernels of "a" in these two spaces.

³but be carefull with the $b \rightarrow \check{b}$!

Let $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_b(E, F)$ and $\xi \in F^*$. Then $I(\varphi)(\xi) = \varphi \circ \xi$. So, for $x \in E$ we have (using Λ to avoid too many "a")

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda(I(\varphi)(\xi) &= I(\varphi)(a.\xi) - a.(I(\varphi)(\xi)) \\ \Lambda(I(\varphi)(\xi)(x) &= (\varphi \circ \xi)(a.x) - a.\xi(\varphi(x)) - (\xi(\varphi(a.x)) - a.\xi(\varphi(x))) \\ &= [(\Lambda(\varphi)) \circ \xi](x) = I(\Lambda(\varphi))(x). \end{aligned}$$

So $\Lambda \circ I = I \circ \Lambda$. The map I gives an isomorphism of complexes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F) & \xrightarrow{\Lambda} & \text{Hom}_{a,b}(E, F) \\ \downarrow I & & \downarrow I \\ \text{Hom}_{a,b}(F^*, E^*) & \xrightarrow{\Lambda} & \text{Hom}_{a,b}(F^*, E^*) \end{array}$$

and this conclude the proof, using lemma 1.3.4. ■

For an (a,b) -module E and an integer $m \in \mathbb{N}$ it is clear that $b^m.E$ is again an (a,b) -module. This can be generalize for any $m \in \mathbb{C}$.

Definition 1.3.10 For any (a,b) -module E and any complex number $m \in \mathbb{C}$ define the (a,b) -module $b^m.E$ as follows : as an $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -module we let $b^m.E \simeq E \simeq \mathbb{C}[[b]]^{\text{rank}(E)}$; the operator a is defined as $a + m.b$.

Precisely, this means that if (e_1, \dots, e_k) is a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -basis of E such that we have $a.e = M(b).e$ where $M \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^p) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathbb{C}[[b]]$, the (a,b) -module $b^m.E$ admit a basis, denote by $(b^m.e_1, \dots, b^m.e_k)$, such that the operator a is defined by the relation $a.(b^m.e) := (M(b) + m.b.Id_k).(b^m.e)$.

Remark that for $m \in \mathbb{N}$ this notation is compatible with the preexisting one, because of the relation $a.b^m = b^m.(a + m.b)$.

For any $m \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists a canonical (a,b) -morphism

$$b^m.E \rightarrow E$$

which is an isomorphism of $b^m.E$ on $\text{Im}(b^m : E \rightarrow E)$. But remark that the map $b^m : E \rightarrow E$ is not a -linear (but the image is stable by a).

For any $m \in \mathbb{N}$ there is also a canonical (a,b) -morphism

$$E \rightarrow b^{-m}.E$$

which induces an isomorphism of E on $\text{Im}(b^m : b^{-m}.E \rightarrow b^{-m}.E)$. So we may write, via this canonical identification, $b^m.(b^{-m}.E) = E$.

It is easy to see that for any $m, m' \in \mathbb{C}$ we have a natural isomorphism

$$b^{m'}.(b^m.E) \simeq b^{m+m'}.E \quad \text{and also} \quad b^0.E \simeq E.$$

REMARK. It is easy to show that for any $m \in \mathbb{C}$ there exists an unique \mathbb{C} -algebra automorphism

$$\eta_m : \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \quad \text{such that} \quad \eta(1) = 1, \eta(b) = b \quad \text{and} \quad \eta(a) = a + m.b.$$

Using this automorphism, one can define a left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module $b^m.F$ for any left $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -module F and any $m \in \mathbb{C}$. This is, of course compatible with our definition in the context of (a,b) -modules. \square

The behaviour of the correspondance $E \rightarrow b^m.E$ by duality is given by the following easy lemma; the proof is left as an exercise.

Lemma 1.3.11 *For any (a,b) -module E and any $m \in \mathbb{C}$ there is natural (a,b) -isomorphism*

$$(b^m.E)^* \rightarrow b^{-m}.E^*.$$

The following corollary of the lemma 1.2.3 and the proposition 1.3.7 allows to show that duality preserves the index.

Lemma 1.3.12 *Let E be a regular (a,b) -module. Then we have $\delta(E^*) = \delta(E)$.*

PROOF. By definition $\delta(E)$ is the smallest integer $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $E^\sharp \subset b^{-k}.E$. Now $E^\sharp \subset b^{-m}.E$ implies by duality that $b^m.E^* \subset (E^*)^\sharp$. So, by lemma 1.2.3, we have $m \geq \delta(E^*)$. This proves that $\delta(E) \leq \delta(E^*)$ and we obtain the equality by symmetry. \blacksquare

REMARK. Duality does not preserve the order of regularity : in the example given before the definition 1.2.2 we have $or(E) = 2$ and $or(E^*) = 1$. \square

Let us conclude this section by an easy exercise.

EXERCICE. For any (a,b) -modules E, F and any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ there are natural (a,b) -isomorphisms

1. $b^\lambda.E_\mu \simeq E_{\lambda+\mu}$.
2. $b^\lambda.Hom_{a,b}(E, F) \simeq Hom_{a,b}(b^{-\lambda}.E, F) \simeq Hom_{a,b}(E, b^\lambda.F)$.
3. Then deduce from the previous isomorphisms that $Hom_{a,b}(E, E_\lambda) \simeq b^{-\lambda}.E^*$, and $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(E, E_\lambda) \simeq E^*/(a + \lambda.b).E^*$.

1.4 Width of a regular (a,b) -module.

NOTATION. For a complex number λ we shall note by $\tilde{\lambda}$ is class in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} . We shall order elements in each class *modulo* \mathbb{Z} by its natural order on real parts. \square

Definition 1.4.1 *Let E be a regular (a,b) -module and let $\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$. We define the following complex numbers :*

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E) &:= \inf\{\lambda \in \tilde{\lambda}/\exists \text{ a non zero morphism } E_\lambda \rightarrow E\} \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{max}(E) &= \sup\{\lambda \in \tilde{\lambda}/\exists \text{ a non zero morphism } E \rightarrow E_\lambda\} \\ L_{\tilde{\lambda}}(E) &= \tilde{\lambda}_{max}(E) - \tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E) \in \mathbb{Z} \\ L(E) &= \sup\{\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} / L_{\tilde{\lambda}}(E)\} \end{aligned}$$

with the following conventions :

$$\inf\{\emptyset\} = +\infty, \sup\{\emptyset\} = -\infty \quad \text{et} \quad -\infty - \lambda = -\infty \quad \forall \lambda \in]-\infty, +\infty].$$

We shall call $L(E)$ **the width of E** .

REMARKS.

1. A non zero morphism $E_\lambda \rightarrow E$ is necessarily injective. Its image is a normal submodule in E or there exists an integer $k \geq 1$ and a morphism $E_{\lambda-k} \rightarrow E$ whose image is normal and contains the image of the previous one.
2. In a dual way, a non zero morphism $E \rightarrow E_\lambda$ has an image equal to $b^k.E_\lambda \simeq E_{\lambda+k}$, where $k \in \mathbb{N}$.
3. A non zero morphism $E_\lambda \rightarrow E_\mu$ implies that λ lies in $\mu + \mathbb{N}$. But nevertheless it is possible that for some E we have $\tilde{\lambda}_{max}(E) < \tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E)$. For instance this is the case for the rank 2 regular (a,b) -module $E_{\lambda,\mu}$ from 1.1.6. So the width of a regular but not simple pole (a,b) -module is not necessarily a non negative integer.
4. Every submodule of E isomorphic to E_λ is contained in E^b . So we have $\tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E) = \tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E^b)$, for every regular (a,b) -module E and every $\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$.
5. In a dual way, every morphism $E \rightarrow E_\lambda$ extends uniquely to a morphism $E^\# \rightarrow E_\lambda$ with the same image. So for every regular (a,b) -module E and every $\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$, we get $\tilde{\lambda}_{max}(E) = \tilde{\lambda}_{max}(E^\#)$.
6. If E has a simple pole, it easily seen that, if $S(E)$ denotes the spectrum of the linear map $b^{-1}.a : E/b.E \rightarrow E/b.E$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E) &= \inf\{\lambda \in S(E) \cap \tilde{\lambda}\} \quad \text{and} \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{max}(E) &= \sup\{\lambda \in S(E) \cap \tilde{\lambda}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that in this case we have $L_{\tilde{\lambda}}(E) \geq 0$ when it is finite. □

Lemma 1.4.2 *Let E and F be regular (a,b) -modules. If there is a surjective morphism $E \rightarrow F$ then for all $\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$ we have $\tilde{\lambda}_{max}(E) \geq \tilde{\lambda}_{max}(F)$. If there is an injective morphism $E' \rightarrow E$ then for all $\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$ we have $\tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E) \leq \tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E')$. For any regular (a,b) -module G we have*

$$\widetilde{(-\lambda)}_{max}(G^*) = -\tilde{\lambda}_{min}(G) \quad \widetilde{(-\lambda)}_{min}(G^*) = -\tilde{\lambda}_{max}(G).$$

This implies $L(G^) = L(G)$.*

Moreover for any $\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$ we have equivalence between

$$\tilde{\lambda}_{min}(G) \neq +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\lambda}_{max}(G) \neq -\infty.$$

PROOF. The easy proof of the first statements are left to the reader.

The last statement reduces to the case of a simple pole (a,b) -module using the remark 6 above, the proposition 1.1.4 and the duality. ■

Proposition 1.4.3 *Let E be a regular (a,b) -module and let $\tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$. Assume that $\lambda = \tilde{\lambda}_{\min}(E) < +\infty$. Consider an exact sequence of (a,b) -modules*

$$0 \rightarrow E_\lambda \rightarrow E \xrightarrow{\pi} F \rightarrow 0.$$

Then we have

1. for each $\tilde{\mu} \neq \tilde{\lambda}$ the relations

$$\tilde{\mu}_{\min}(F) \leq \tilde{\mu}_{\min}(E) \leq \tilde{\mu}_{\min}(F) + 1 \quad (\text{i})$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_{\max}(E) = \tilde{\mu}_{\max}(F) \quad (\text{ii})$$

2. and for $\tilde{\lambda}$

$$\lambda = \tilde{\lambda}_{\min}(E) \leq \tilde{\lambda}_{\min}(F) + 1 \quad (\text{iii})$$

with either $\tilde{\lambda}_{\min}(E) \geq \tilde{\lambda}_{\max}(E)$ or $\tilde{\lambda}_{\max}(E) = \tilde{\lambda}_{\max}(F)$.

This gives for all $\tilde{\mu} \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$ the inequality

$$L_{\tilde{\mu}}(F) \leq L_{\tilde{\mu}}(E) + 1. \quad (\text{iv})$$

PROOF. Let begin by the case of $\tilde{\lambda}$. Assume that we have $\lambda < \lambda' := \tilde{\lambda}_{\max}(E)$. Then there exists a surjective morphism $q : E \rightarrow E_{\lambda'}$, and, as the restriction of q to E_λ is zero, the map q can be factorized and gives a surjective morphism $\tilde{q} : F \rightarrow E_{\lambda'}$. So we get $\tilde{\lambda}_{\max}(E) \leq \tilde{\lambda}_{\max}(F)$, and the desired equality thanks to the preceding lemma.

To prove (iii), let $E_{\lambda-d} \hookrightarrow F$ with $d \geq 0$. Compare the rank 2 (a,b) -module $\pi^{-1}(E_{\lambda-d})$ with the list in prop. 1.1.6. This leads to the fact that we have $d = 0$ or $d = 1$. It implies $\tilde{\lambda}_{\min}(F) \geq \lambda - 1$.

For $\tilde{\mu} \neq \tilde{\lambda}$ consider an injective morphism $E_\mu \rightarrow E$ with $\mu = \tilde{\mu}_{\min}(E)$. The restriction of π to E_μ is injective and so it gives $\tilde{\mu}_{\min}(E) \geq \tilde{\mu}_{\min}(F)$. Assume now that we have an injective morphism $E_{\mu'} \hookrightarrow F$ with $\mu' = \tilde{\mu}_{\min}(F)$, and consider the rank 2 (a,b) -module $\pi^{-1}(E_{\mu'})$. Using the classification (see prop. 1.1.6) it can be easily check that (i) is satisfied.

To finish the proof we have to show that $\tilde{\mu}_{\max}(E) \leq \tilde{\mu}_{\max}(F)$. But a surjective morphism $q : E \rightarrow E_\mu$ is zero on E_λ , and this gives the desired inequality. ■

REMARK. We shall use later that in the situation of the previous proposition we have the inequality

$$\tilde{\lambda}_{\max}(F) \leq \lambda + L(E). \quad \square$$

Corollary 1.4.4 *In the situation of the previous proposition we have the inequality $L(E) + \text{rank}(E) \geq L(F) + \text{rank}(F)$. So this integer is always positive for any non zero regular (a,b) -module.*

PROOF. As the rank 1 case is obvious, an easy induction on the rank of E using the propositions 1.1.4 and 1.4.3 gives the proof. ■

EXAMPLES.

1. The (a,b) -module

$$J_k(\lambda) := \tilde{\mathcal{A}}/\tilde{\mathcal{A}}.(a - (\lambda + k - 1).b)(a - (\lambda + k - 2).b) \cdots (a - \lambda.b)$$

which has rank k , satisfies $\lambda_{max} = \lambda$ and $\lambda_{min} = \lambda + k - 1$. So its width is $L(J_k(\lambda)) = -k + 1$.

To understand easily the (a,b) -module $J_k(\lambda)$ the reader may use the following alternative definition of it : there is a $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -basis (e_1, \dots, e_k) in which the action of "a" is given by

$$a.e_1 = e_2 + \lambda.b.e_1, \quad a.e_2 = e_3 + (\lambda + 1).b.e_2, \dots, a.e_k = (\lambda + k - 1).b.e_k.$$

2. The rank 2 (a,b) -module $E_\lambda \oplus E_{\lambda+n}$ has width n . This shows that, despite the fact that the width is always bigger than $-rank(E) + 1$, the width may be arbitrarily big, even for a rank 2 regular (a,b) -module. □

2 Finite determination of regular (a,b) -modules.

2.1 Some more preliminaries.

Lemma 2.1.1 *Let E be a regular (a,b) -module of index $\delta(E) = k$. For $N \geq k+1$ the quotient map $q_N : E \rightarrow E/b^N.E$ induces a bijection between simple pole sub- (a,b) -modules F containing $b^k.E^\sharp$ and sub $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules $\mathcal{F} \subset E/b^N.E$ satisfying the following two conditions*

- i) $a.\mathcal{F} \subset b.\mathcal{F}$;
- ii) $b^k.E^\sharp/b^N.E \subset \mathcal{F}$.

PROOF. It is clear that if F is a simple pole sub- (a,b) -module of E containing $b^k.E^\sharp$ the image $\mathcal{F} := q_N(F)$ is a $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -submodule of $E/b^N.E$ such that i) and ii) are fulfilled. Conversely, if a $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -submodule \mathcal{F} satisfies i) and ii), let $F := q_N^{-1}(\mathcal{F})$. Of course, F is a sub- (a,b) -module of E and contains $b^k.E^\sharp$. The only point to see is that F has a simple pole. If $x \in F$ then $a.q_N(x) \in b.\mathcal{F}$ so $a.x \in b.F + b^N.E$. As $N \geq k+1$ we may write $a.x = b.y + b.z$ with $y \in F$ and $z \in b^{N-1}.E \subset b^k.E^\sharp \subset F$. This completes the proof. ■

REMARKS.

1. we may replace $b^k.E^\sharp$ by $b^k.E$ in the second condition imposed on F and \mathcal{F} : if a simple pole (a,b) -submodule F contains $b^k.E$ it contains $b^k.E^\sharp$ by definition of E^\sharp . This allows to avoid the use of E^\sharp in the previous lemma.

2. The biggest \mathcal{F} satisfying i) and ii) corresponds to E^b . So we may recover E^b from the quotient $E/b^N.E$ for $N \geq \delta(E) + 1$. \square

Corollary 2.1.2 *Let E be a regular (a,b) -module of order of regularity k . Fix $N \geq k + 1$ and assume that we has an isomorphism of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules*

$$\varphi : E/b^N.E \rightarrow E'/b^N.E'$$

where E' is an (a,b) -module. Then E' is regular and has order of regularity k . Moreover with have the equality $\varphi(E^b/b^N.E) = (E')^b/b^N.E'$.

PROOF. As k is the order of regularity of E we have $a^{k+1}.E \subset \sum_{j=0}^k b^{k-j}.a^j.E$. The inequality $N \geq k + 1$ gives $a^{k+1}.E/b^N.E \subset \sum_{j=0}^k b^{k-j}.a^j.E/b^N.E$, and this is also true for $E'/b^N.E'$, and implies $a^{k+1}.E' \subset \sum_{j=0}^k b^{k-j}.a^j.E'$. So the order of regularity of E' is at most k . We conclude that it is exactly k by symetry. The last stament comes from the second remark above, as $or(E) \geq \delta(E)$. \blacksquare

2.2 Finite determination for a rank one extension.

Lemma 2.2.1 *Let E be an (a,b) -module et fix a complex number λ . There exists $N(E, \lambda) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $N \geq N(E, \lambda)$ we have the following inclusion :*

$$b^N.E \subset (a - \lambda.b).E.$$

PROOF. With the b -adic topology, E is a Frechet space. The \mathbb{C} -linear map $a - \lambda.b : E \rightarrow E$ is continuous. The finiteness theorem of [B.97], theorem 1bis p.31 gives that the kernel and cokernel of this map are finite dimensional vector spaces. So the subspace $(a - \lambda.b).E$ is closed in E . This statement corresponds to the equality

$$\bigcap_{N \geq 0} [(a - \lambda.b).E + b^N.E] = (a - \lambda.b).E \quad (\textcircled{a})$$

But the images of the subspaces $b^N.E$ in the finite dimensional vector space $E/(a - \lambda.b).E$ is a decreasing sequence. So it is stationnary, and, as the intersection is $\{0\}$ thanks to (\textcircled{a}) , the result follows. \blacksquare

Proposition 2.2.2 *Let F be an (a,b) -module and λ a complex number. Consider a short exact sequence of (a,b) -modules*

$$0 \rightarrow E_\lambda \xrightarrow{\alpha} E \xrightarrow{\beta} F \rightarrow 0 \quad (\textcircled{a}\textcircled{a})$$

where $E_\lambda := \tilde{\mathcal{A}}/\tilde{\mathcal{A}}.(a - \lambda.b)$. Then, for any $N \geq N(F^*, -\lambda)$, the extension $(\textcircled{a}\textcircled{a})$ is uniquely determined by the following extension of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules which are finite dimensional vectors spaces

$$0 \rightarrow E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda \xrightarrow{\alpha} E/b^N.E \xrightarrow{\beta} F/b^N.F \rightarrow 0 \quad (\textcircled{a}\textcircled{a}_N)$$

obtained from $(\textcircled{a}\textcircled{a})$ by "quotient by b^N ".

COMMENTS. This statement needs some more explanations. Denote by K_N the kernel of the obvious map (forget "a")

$$ob_N : Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) \rightarrow Ext_b^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda)$$

where $Ext_b^1(-, -)$ is a short notation for $Ext_{\mathbb{C}[[b]]}^1(-, -)$. The short exact sequence correspondance $(@@) \rightarrow (@@_N)$ gives a map

$$\delta_N : Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(F, E_\lambda) \rightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda)$$

whose range lies in K_N , because the $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -exact sequence $(@@)$ is split as F is $\mathbb{C}[[b]]$ -free, and so is the exact sequence $(@@_N)$. The precise signification of the previous proposition is that for $N \geq N(F^*, -\lambda)$ the map δ_N is a \mathbb{C} -linear isomorphism between the vector spaces $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(F, E_\lambda)$ and K_N . \square

PROOF. As a first step to realize the map δ_N let us consider the following commutative diagram of complex vector spaces, deduced from the exact sequences of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -modules:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & E_{\lambda+N} & \rightarrow & E_\lambda & \rightarrow & E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda & \rightarrow & 0 \\ 0 & \rightarrow & b^N.F & \rightarrow & F & \rightarrow & F/b^N.F & \rightarrow & 0 \\ \\ Ext^1(F/b^N.F, E_{\lambda+N}) & \longrightarrow & Ext^1(F, E_{\lambda+N}) & \longrightarrow & Ext^1(b^N.F, E_{\lambda+N}) & & & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow & & & & \\ Ext^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda) & \longrightarrow & Ext^1(F, E_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{u} & Ext^1(b^N.F, E_\lambda) & & & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow v & & & & \\ Ext^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & Ext^1(F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{w} & Ext^1(b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) & & & & \end{array}$$

We have the following properties :

1. The surjectivity of the map β is consequence of the vanishing of the vector space $Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^2(F, E_{\lambda+N})$ thanks to the proposition 1.3.7.
2. the vanishing of the composition $u \circ v$ is consequence of lemma 1.3.4 and of the fact that the restriction map

$$Hom_b(F, E_\lambda) \rightarrow Hom_b(b^N.F, E_\lambda) \rightarrow Hom_b(b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda)$$

is obviously zero.

3. So the map w is zero and γ is surjective.
4. The kernel of γ is given by the image of the injective map

$$\delta : Hom_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) \hookrightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda).$$

This is a consequence of the vanishing of the map

$$Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^0(F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) \rightarrow Ext_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}^0(b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda).$$

Let us show now that for $N \geq N(F^*, -\lambda)$ the map α is zero. Using again the isomorphisms given by the lemma 1.3.4, α is induced by the obvious map $Hom_b(F, b^N.E_\lambda) \rightarrow Hom_b(F, E_\lambda)$, whose image is $b^N.Hom_b(F, E_\lambda)$. Denote respectively by G and H the (a,b) -modules given by $Hom_b(F, b^N.E_\lambda)$ and $Hom_b(F, E_\lambda)$ with the action of "a" defined by Λ (see 1.3.4). Then we have the following commutative diagramm

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{i} & H \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ G/a.G & \xrightarrow{\quad} & H/a.H \\ \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq \\ Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F, b^N.E_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F, E_\lambda) \end{array}$$

and the image of i is $b^N.H$. So the map α will be zero as soon as $b^N.H \subset a.H$ and this is fulfilled for $N \geq N(H, 0) = N(F^*, -\lambda)$. This last equality coming from the isomorphisms

$$H/a.H \simeq Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F, E_\lambda) \simeq Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(E_{-\lambda}, F^*) \simeq F^*/(a + \lambda.b).F^*$$

see the exercice concluding §1.3.

Consider now the commutative diagramm

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & & & \begin{array}{c} \delta_N \\ \delta_N \end{array} \\ & & & & & & Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F, E_\lambda) \\ & & & & & & \downarrow \beta \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & Hom_{\bar{A}}(b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) \\ & & \downarrow ob_N & & \downarrow ob_N & & \\ & & Hom_b(b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & Ext_b^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) & & \end{array}$$

The surjectivity of β implies that the map $i \circ \gamma$ is surjective (we know that the extensions in the image of δ_N comes from K_N , so δ_N factors in $\hat{\delta}_N \circ i$).

We have $i(K_N) \cap Im(\partial_N) = (0)$ because ob_N is injective on $Im(\partial_N)$.

So i induces an isomorphism of vector spaces from K_N to

$$Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F/b^N.F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda)/Im(\partial_N) \stackrel{\simeq}{\simeq} Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F, E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda) \stackrel{\beta^{-1}}{\simeq} Ext_{\bar{A}}^1(F, E_\lambda).$$

This completes the proof . ■

We shall need some bound for the integer $N(F^*, -\lambda)$ which appears in the previous proposition for the proof of our theorem.

Lemma 2.2.3 *Let G be a regular (a,b) -module and let $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$. A sufficient condition on $N \in \mathbb{N}$ in order to have the inclusion $b^N.G \subset (a - \mu.b).G$ is*

$$N \geq \mu - \tilde{\mu}_{min}(G) + \delta(G) + 2.$$

PROOF. As we know that $\tilde{\mu}_{min}(G^b) = \tilde{\mu}_{min}(G)$, for $M \in \mathbb{N}$, the assumption $M > \mu - \tilde{\mu}_{min}(G)$ implies that $(a - (\mu - M).b).G^b = b.G^b$ (see the remark before proposition 1.1.4). By definition of the index of G we have $b^{\delta(G)}.G \subset G^b$. Combining both gives

$$b^{M+\delta(G)+1}.G \subset b^M.(a - (\mu - M).b).G = (a - \mu.b).b^M.G \subset (a - \mu.b).G.$$

Now let $N = M + \delta(G) + 1$; a sufficient condition on the integer N is now $N \geq \mu - \tilde{\mu}_{min}(G) + \delta(G) + 2$. ■

Corollary 2.2.4 *A sufficient condition for $N \geq N(F^*, -\lambda)$ in the situation of prop. 2.2.2 in the regular case is that $N \geq or(E) + L(E) + rank(E) + 1$.*

Remark that the inequality $L(E) + rank(E) \geq 1$ for any non zero regular E implies that we have $or(E) + L(E) + rank(E) + 1 \geq or(E) + 2$.

PROOF. We apply the previous lemma with $F^* = G$ and $\mu = -\lambda = -\tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E)$. The conclusion comes now from the following facts :

1. $-\widetilde{(-\lambda)}_{min}(F^*) = \tilde{\lambda}_{max}(F) \leq \lambda + L(E)$ this last inequality is proved in 1.4.3.
2. $\delta(F^*) = \delta(F) \leq or(F) \leq or(E)$ proved in 1.3.12 and 1.2.4 ■

2.3 The theorem.

Theorem 2.3.1 *Let E be a regular (a,b) -module. There exists an integer $N(E)$ such that for any (a,b) -module E' , any integer $N \geq N(E)$ and any $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -isomorphism*

$$\varphi : E/b^N.E \rightarrow E'/b^N.E' \tag{1}$$

there exists an unique $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -isomorphism $\Phi : E \rightarrow E'$ inducing the given φ . Moreover the choice $N(E) = N_0(E) := or(E) + L(E) + rank(E) + 1$ is possible.

REMARKS.

1. It is easy to see that for a rank 1 regular (a,b) -module the integer 2 is the best possible.
2. For the rank 2 (a,b) -modules $E_{\lambda,\mu}$ the integer $or(E) + L(E) + 2 + 1 = 1 - 1 + 3 = 3$ is again the optimal, as it is shown by the final lemma above.
3. For the rank 2 simple pole (a,b) -module $E_\lambda(0)$ the integer is $L(E) + rank(E) + 1 = 3$ and the best possible is 2 : the action of $b^{-1}.a$ on $E/b.E$ which is determined by $E/b^2.E$ characterizes this rank 2 regular (a,b) -module in the classification given in proposition 1.1.6.
4. For the (a,b) -module E associated to an holomorphic germ at the origine of \mathbb{C}^{n+1} with an isolated singularity we have the uniform bounds $or(E) \leq n$ and $L(E) \leq n$ so the choice $N(E) = 2n + \mu + 1$ is always possible, where μ is the Milnor number (equal to the rank). □

PROOF. We shall make an induction on the rank of E . So we shall assume that the result is proved for a rank $p - 1$ (a,b) -module and we shall consider a regular (a,b) -module E of rank $p \geq 1$, an (a,b) -module E' , an integer $N \geq N_0(E)$ and an $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -isomorphism φ as in (1).

From 2.1.2 we know that E' is then regular and has order of regularity $or(E') = or(E)$.

Choose now a complex number λ which is minimal *modulo* \mathbb{Z} such there exists an exact sequence of (a,b) -module (so $\lambda = \tilde{\lambda}_{min}(E)$ with the terminology of §1.3)

$$0 \rightarrow E_\lambda \xrightarrow{\alpha} E \xrightarrow{\beta} F \rightarrow 0. \quad (2)$$

This exists from theorem 1.1.7. The (a,b) -module F has rank $p - 1$ and from 2.2.4 we have $N_0(E) \geq N(F^*, -\lambda)$. So we know from 2.2.2 that the extension (2) is determined by the extension

$$0 \rightarrow E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda \xrightarrow{\alpha_N} E/b^N.E \xrightarrow{\beta_N} F/b^N.F \rightarrow 0. \quad (2_N)$$

Now, using the $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -isomorphism φ we obtain an injective $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ -linear map

$$j_N : E_\lambda/b^N.E_\lambda \hookrightarrow E'/b^N.E'.$$

Using the proposition 1.1.4 with the fact that $N \geq or(E') + 2$ there exists a unique normal inclusion $j : E_\lambda \hookrightarrow E'$ inducing j_N .

Define $F' := E'/j(E_\lambda)$. Then F' is a rank $p - 1$ (a,b) -module and the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow E_\lambda \xrightarrow{j} E' \rightarrow F' \rightarrow 0 \quad (2')$$

induced the extension (2_N) . Using the induction hypothesis, because the inequalities $or(E) \geq or(F)$ from 2.1.2 and $L(E) + rank(E) \geq L(F) + rank(F)$ from 1.4.4 implies $N_0(E) \geq N_0(F)$, we have a unique isomorphism $\Psi : F \rightarrow F'$ compatible with the one induced by φ between $F/b^N.F$ and $F'/b^N.F'$. Using 2.2.2, 2.2.4 and the inequality $N_0(E) \geq N(F^*, -\lambda)$ we have an unique isomorphism of extensions

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & E_\lambda & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & E & \xrightarrow{\beta} & F \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow = & & \downarrow \Phi & & \downarrow \Psi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & E_\lambda & \xrightarrow{j} & E' & \longrightarrow & F' \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

concluding the proof. ■

Lemma 2.3.2 Let $E_{\lambda,\mu}$ defined as in proposition 1.1.6 by a basis (y, t) such that

$$a.y = \mu.b.y \quad \text{and} \quad a.t = y + (\lambda - 1).bt$$

and consider now the rank 2 (a,b) -module $E(\alpha)$ defined by the basis

$$a.y' = \mu.b.y' + \alpha.b^2.t' \quad \text{and} \quad a.t' = y' + (\lambda - 1).bt'.$$

Define now $\varepsilon := y' + \beta.b.t'$. Then for $\alpha \neq 0$ the (a,b) -module $E(\alpha)$ is not isomorphic to $E_{\lambda,\mu}$.

PROOF. Define $\varepsilon := y' + \beta.b.t'$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} a.\varepsilon &= \mu.b.y' + \alpha.b^2.t' + \beta.(a.b.t') \\ &= \mu.b.y' + \alpha.b^2.t' + \beta.(b.(y' + (\lambda - 1).bt') + b^2.t') \\ &= (\mu + \beta).b.y' + (\alpha + \beta.(\lambda - 1) + \beta).b^2.t' \end{aligned}$$

To have $a.\varepsilon = (\mu + \beta).b.\varepsilon$ it is enough that β satisfies $\beta.(\mu + \beta) = \alpha + \lambda.\beta$. So we want to choose β solution of $\beta^2 + (\mu - \lambda).\beta - \alpha = 0$. Denote $\varepsilon_{\pm} := y' + \beta_{\pm}.b.t'$ where β_{\pm} are the solutions of the previous equation. We have

$$a.\varepsilon_{\pm} = (\mu + \beta_{\pm}).b.\varepsilon_{\pm}.$$

As $\beta_+ + \beta_- = \lambda - \mu$ we have

$$\lambda - \beta_+ = \mu + \beta_- \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda - \beta_- = \mu + \beta_+.$$

So our rank 2 (a,b) -module admits (ε_+, t') as basis and we have

$$a.\varepsilon_+ = (\mu + \beta_+).b.\varepsilon_+ \quad a.t' = \varepsilon_+ + (\lambda - \beta_+ - 1).b.t'$$

So we recognize $E_{\mu+\beta_+, \lambda-\beta_+} = E_{\lambda-\beta_-, \mu+\beta_-}$. For $\alpha \neq 0$ this (a,b) -module is not isomorphic to $E_{\lambda, \mu}$. ■

Of course we have, by construction, $E(\alpha)/b^2.E(\alpha) \simeq E_{\lambda, \mu}/b^2.E_{\lambda, \mu}$ for every $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$. So $N = 3$ is optimal for $E_{\lambda, \mu}$.

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