CORRECTIONS TO: LECTURES ON RESOLUTION OF SINGULARITIES PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2007

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Here is a list of corrections to my book Lectures on Resolution of Singularities. Further corrections and comments are most welcome.

Incorrect statements

(1) Proposition 3.9.2 is incorrect. The proof shows that if a resolution that associates X' to X is functorial with respect to étale morphisms then the following holds:

If $Y \to X$ is a smooth morphism then there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y' & \to & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X^* & \to & X \end{array}$$

where $Y' \to X^*$ is smooth and $X^* \to X$ is some resolution. (Which may be different from our choice of X'.)

(2) As written, the proof of Theorem 3.36 (Resolution of Singularities III) works only for schemes that are pure dimensional and generically reduced. As far as the existence of resolutions is concerned, this is not a problem. For arbitrary X we can start by normalizing X (or taking the disjoint union of the irreducible components of red X) and then resolving the pure dimensional parts one dimension at a time.

For schemes that are irreducible but not generically reduced, we get a resolution functor but at the last step we need to replace X_n by red X_n ; this is not a blow-up.

A similar problem occurs in Theorem 3.35. The blow-up sequence functor \mathcal{BP} commutes with closed embeddings for pure dimensional ambient schemes, but not in general. This is again unlikely to cause problems in applications.

Mistakes

(1) p.39 top half. Several prolems here. The main one is that |R| is a linear system on the resolution of C, but it is not clear that it is a linear system of the singular curve C. So we work with |A| instead and we say that it has a base locus and R moving points. (So R is now a number.)

Two equalities should be inequalities as below:

By Bézout's theorem (cf. [Sha94,IV.2.1]),

$$R \le d(d-1) - \sum_{i} m_i(m_i - 1) = 2g_{app}(C) + 2(d-1).$$

On the other hand

$$\dim |A| \ge {d+1 \choose 2} - 1 - \sum_{i} {m_i \choose 2} = g_{app}(C) + 2(d-1).$$

The reference to (1.20.7) is incomplete. We need a stronger (equally easy to prove) form of it:

Claim. If a linear system |A| has R moving points then dim $|A| \leq R$.

(2) p.44, end of the proof of (1.65.3) is wrong. It should be:

To continue with the induction it is enough to show that

$$\operatorname{mult}_q \Delta' \leq 1$$
 for every $q \in B_p S$.

This is obvious for $q \notin E$. If $q \in E$ then by (1.40)

$$\operatorname{mult}_q \Delta' \leq (E \cdot \Delta') = \operatorname{mult}_p \Delta \leq 1$$

and we are done.

(3) p.47, proof of Lemma 1.70 is wrong. Here is a correct proof: Note that $R\left[\frac{y}{x^a}\right] \subset R + yR\left[\frac{1}{x}\right]$, hence

$$(x^b, y)R\left[\frac{y}{x^a}\right] \subset (x^b) + yR\left[\frac{1}{x}\right].$$

Thus

$$R\cap (x^b,y)R\big[\tfrac{y}{x^a}\big]\subset R\cap \big((x^b)+yR\big[\tfrac{1}{x}\big]\big)\subset (x^b)+\big(R\cap yR\big[\tfrac{1}{x}\big]\big)\,,$$

where the last inclusion holds since $(x^b) \subset R$. Furthermore, $R \cap yR\left[\frac{1}{x}\right] = (y)$ since x and y are relatively prime, hence

$$(x^b) + \left(R \cap yR\left[\frac{1}{x}\right]\right) \subset (x^b) + (y) = (x^b, y).$$

(4) p.74 proof of Theorem 2.12. Insert at the beginning of the proof: Any cycle Z can be written as $Z^+ - Z^-$ where Z^+, Z^- are both effective and without common irreducible components. Then

$$(Z \cdot Z) = (Z^+ \cdot Z^+) + (Z^- \cdot Z^-) - 2(Z^+ \cdot Z^-) \le (Z^+ \cdot Z^+) + (Z^- \cdot Z^-).$$

Thus it is enough to prove that $(Z \cdot Z) < 0$ for every nonzero effective cycle.

(5) p.193 para 3.110: Comment of Dan Abramovich: The definition of M(I) is not functorial for restriction to open subsets. One needs to allow different components of E^j to come with different coefficients, and then adjust step 3 accordingly.

Clarifications

- (1) p.7. line -6: The starting point of the induction, n=1 is the same as the Implicit Function Theorem.
- (2) p.10, bottom. Note that $\coprod_{i \in I} \Delta_1$ is the disjoint union of |I| copies of Δ_1 , and σ restricted to the *i*th copy equals σ_i .
- (3) p.22. Remark 1.28: In dimension 1, the converse is proved by (1.30).
- (4) p.28 Lemma 1.40: Working over a field k, in part (2), the stronger statement

$$\sum_{p \in C_1 \cap E} \deg (k(p)/k) \cdot \operatorname{mult}_p C_1 \le \operatorname{mult}_0 C$$

also holds and is more useful.

- (5) p.45, Theorem (1.67). The proof also works for imperfect residue fields, if we use the above stronger form of (1.40.2). Indeed, after one blow-up the multiplicity drops unless we have only 1 infinitely near point and the residue field remains unchanged. The rest of the proof works as before.
- (6) p.49: Note that $f^*|H|$ is obtained by first pulling |H| back to the locus where f is a morphism and then taking the closure, as a linear system.

Typos

- (1) p.5.line -4: $y = \epsilon x^{1/m} \cdots$ should be $y = \epsilon^i x^{1/m} \cdots$
- (2) p.9, last line of Sec.1.1. $y_s = -(\cdots)$; the sign is not needed.
- (3) p.13 line 11" "intersects C in two or more points" should be "intersects Cin two or more points besides p."
- (4) p.28 line 17: $(x,y)^m = x^m(y_1,1)^m$ clearer as $(x,y)^m = x^m(1,y_1)^m$

- (5) p.29, line 3: $f^1 = f_m(y_1, 1) + xr_1$ should be $f^1 = f_m(1, y_1) + xr_1$ (6) p.37 line -7: $\pi : C \to \mathbb{P}^1$ should be $\pi : C \to \mathbb{P}^1$. (7) p.46 line 5 of (1.69). $y_{k+1} = y_k a_k x^k$ should be $y_{k+1} = y_k a_{k+1} x^{k+1}$.
- (8) p.48 line -5: $H^0(S, \pi^*L)$ should be $H^0(S_m, \pi^*L)$; similarly in next line.
- (9) p.50 line 6 of 1.79: "very i" should be "every i"
- (10) p.155 line -4: S should be I
- (11) p.180, middle displayed formula, $(\lambda_i b)^s$ should be $(\lambda_i b)^s \cdot \frac{1}{s!}$.

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