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*Vertical components and local geometry of analytic mappings*

Vertical components constitute a new and powerful tool in the study of the local geometry of complex analytic mappings. One can exploit them to establish a certain level of algebraic control over the geometric complexity of analytic morphisms, along the lines of a classical Auslander's freeness criterion. On the other hand, when extended to the category of modules finitely generated over local analytic algebras, vertical components provide a natural setting for the study of homological properties of modules over noetherian rings, allowing for the use of transcendental methods where commutative algebra seemed to fail.