Vanishing of Tor over complete intersections

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Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a Noetherian local ring, and let M and N be non-zero finitely generated R-modules. One says that M and N are *Tor-independent* provided $\operatorname{Tor}_{i}^{R}(M, N) = 0$ for every i > 0. In this talk we will seek conditions on M, N, and $M \otimes_{R} N$ that force M and N to be Tor-independent. One reason for seeking such conditions is that there are many situation in which Tor-independence implies the *depth formula*:

 $\operatorname{depth} M + \operatorname{depth} N = \operatorname{depth}(M \otimes_R N) + \operatorname{depth} R$

Auslander proved, more than 50 years ago, that Tor-independence implies the depth formula if one of the modules has finite projective dimension. About 20 years ago, Huneke and I proved that Tor-independence implies the depth formula if R is a complete intersection (a local ring of the form $S/(\underline{f})$, where $(\underline{f}) = (f_1, \ldots, f_c)$ is a regular sequence). (There are no known examples where Tor-independence does *not* imply the depth formula.)

The talk will be guided by the following

Conjecture. Suppose that $R = S/(\underline{f})$ as above and, in addition, that R is a domain. If $M \otimes_R N$ satisfies Serre's condition (S_{c+1}) , then M and N are Torindependent (and hence the depth formula holds).

The case c = 0 (that is, R is a regular local ring) was proved by Auslander and Lichtenbaum in the sixties. The case c = 1 was proved by Huneke and me in our 1994 paper. I will discuss some new tools for attacking this problem and give some positive results.

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