



Homological algebra/Algebraic geometry

Upper bounds for dimensions of singularity categories

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ABSTRACT

This paper gives upper bounds for the dimension of the singularity category of a Cohen–Macaulay local ring with an isolated singularity. One of them recovers an upper bound given by Ballard, Favero and Katzarkov in the case of a hypersurface.

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R É S U M É

Cet article donne des bornes supérieures pour la dimension de la catégorie de singularité d'un anneau local Cohen–Macaulay à singularité isolée. L'une de nos estimations redonne une borne fournie par Ballard, Favero et Katzarkov dans le cas des hypersurfaces.

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1. Results

The notion of the dimension of a triangulated category has been introduced by Bondal, Rouquier, and Van den Bergh [4,13]. Roughly speaking, it measures the number of extensions necessary to build the category out of a single object. The singularity category $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$ of a Noetherian ring/scheme R is one of the most crucial triangulated categories. This has been introduced by Buchweitz [6] under the name of stable derived category. There are many studies on singularity categories by Orlov [9–12] in connection with the Homological Mirror Symmetry Conjecture.

It is a natural and fundamental problem to find upper bounds for the dimension of the singularity category of a Noetherian ring. In general, the dimension of the singularity category is known to be finite for large classes of excellent rings containing fields [1,13], but only a few explicit upper bounds have been found so far. The Loewy length is an upper bound for an Artinian ring [13], and so is the global dimension for a ring of finite global dimension [7,8]. Recently, an upper bound for an isolated hypersurface singularity has been given [2].

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The main purpose of this paper is to give upper bounds for a Cohen–Macaulay local ring with an isolated singularity. The main result of this paper is the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be a complete equicharacteristic Cohen–Macaulay local ring with k perfect.*

- (1) *If R is an isolated singularity, then the sum \mathfrak{N}^R of the Noether differentials of R is \mathfrak{m} -primary.*
- (2) *Let I be an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal of R contained in \mathfrak{N}^R .*
 - (a) *One has $D_{\text{sg}}(R) = \langle k \rangle_{(\nu(I) - \dim R + 1)\ell\ell(R/I)}$. Hence there is an inequality*

$$\dim D_{\text{sg}}(R) \leq (\nu(I) - \dim R + 1)\ell\ell(R/I) - 1.$$

- (b) *Assume that k is infinite. Then $D_{\text{sg}}(R) = \langle k \rangle_{e(I)}$, and hence one has*

$$\dim D_{\text{sg}}(R) \leq e(I) - 1.$$

Here we explain the notation used in the above theorem. Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be a commutative Noetherian complete equicharacteristic local ring. Let A be a Noether normalization of R , that is, a formal power series subring $k[[x_1, \dots, x_d]]$, where x_1, \dots, x_d is a system of parameters of R . Let $R^e = R \otimes_A R$ be the enveloping algebra of R over A . Define a map $\mu : R^e \rightarrow R$ by $\mu(a \otimes b) = ab$ for $a, b \in R$. Then the ideal $\mathfrak{N}_A^R = \mu(\text{Ann}_{R^e} \text{Ker } \mu)$ of R is called the Noether different of R over A . We denote by \mathfrak{N}^R the sum of \mathfrak{N}_A^R , where A runs through the Noether normalizations of R . For an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal I of R , let $\nu(I) = \dim_k(I \otimes_R k)$ be the minimal number of generators of I and $e(I) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d}{dn} \ell(R/I^{n+1})$ the multiplicity of I , where $\ell(R/I^{n+1})$ stands for the (usual) length of the Artinian ring R/I^{n+1} . The Loewy length of an Artinian ring Λ is denoted by $\ell\ell(\Lambda)$, that is, the minimum positive integer n with $(\text{rad } \Lambda)^n = 0$.

Combining [Theorem 1.1](#) with [\[3, Corollary 5.10\]](#), we obtain the following inequality for a complete intersection.

Corollary 1.2. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be a complete equicharacteristic local complete intersection with k perfect. Let I be an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal of R contained in \mathfrak{N}^R . Then one has*

$$\text{codim } R \leq \min\{(\nu(I) - \dim R + 1)\ell\ell(R/I), e(I)\}.$$

Our [Theorem 1.1](#) yields the following result.

Corollary 1.3. *Let k be a perfect field, and let $R = k[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]/(f_1, \dots, f_m)$ be a Cohen–Macaulay ring having an isolated singularity. Let J be the Jacobian ideal of R , namely, the ideal generated by the h -minors of the Jacobian matrix $(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j})$, where $h = \text{ht}(f_1, \dots, f_m)$.*

- (1) *One has $D_{\text{sg}}(R) = \langle k \rangle_{(\nu(J) - \dim R + 1)\ell\ell(R/J)}$. Hence there is an inequality $\dim D_{\text{sg}}(R) \leq (\nu(J) - \dim R + 1)\ell\ell(R/J) - 1$.*
- (2) *If k is infinite, then $D_{\text{sg}}(R) = \langle k \rangle_{e(J)}$, and it holds that $\dim D_{\text{sg}}(R) \leq e(J) - 1$.*

[Corollary 1.3](#) immediately recovers the following result, which is stated in [\[2\]](#).

Corollary 1.4 (Ballard–Favero–Katzarkov). *Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Let $R = k[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]/(f)$ be an isolated hypersurface singularity. Then $D_{\text{sg}}(R) = \langle k \rangle_{2\ell\ell(R/(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n})R)}$, and hence $\dim D_{\text{sg}}(R) \leq 2\ell\ell(R/(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n})R) - 1$.*

As another application of [Theorem 1.1](#), we obtain upper bounds for the dimension of the stable category $\underline{\text{CM}}(R)$ of maximal Cohen–Macaulay modules over an excellent Gorenstein ring R :

Corollary 1.5. *Let R be an excellent Gorenstein equicharacteristic local ring with perfect residue field k , and assume that R is an isolated singularity. Then $\mathfrak{N}^{\widehat{R}}$ is an $\widehat{\mathfrak{m}}$ -primary ideal of the completion \widehat{R} of R . Let I be an $\widehat{\mathfrak{m}}$ -primary ideal contained in $\mathfrak{N}^{\widehat{R}}$. Put $d = \dim R$, $n = \nu(I)$, $l = \ell\ell(\widehat{R}/I)$ and $e = e(I)$.*

- (1) *One has $\underline{\text{CM}}(R) = \langle \Omega^d k \rangle_{(n-d+1)l}$, and $\dim \underline{\text{CM}}(R) \leq (n - d + 1)l - 1$.*
- (2) *If k is infinite, then $\underline{\text{CM}}(R) = \langle \Omega^d k \rangle_e$, and one has $\dim \underline{\text{CM}}(R) \leq e - 1$.*

2. Proofs

This section is devoted to proving our results stated in the previous section. For the definition of the dimension of a triangulated category and related notation, we refer the reader to [\[13, Definition 3.2\]](#). We denote by $D(\mathcal{A})$ the derived category of an Abelian category \mathcal{A} . Let $H^i X$ (respectively, $Z^i X$, $B^i X$) denote the i -th homology (respectively, cycle, boundary) of a complex X of objects of \mathcal{A} , and set $HX = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} H^i X$.

Lemma 2.1. *Let \mathcal{A} be an Abelian category and X a complex of objects of \mathcal{A} .*

(1) *Let n be an integer. If $H^i X = 0$ for all $i > n$, then there exists an exact triangle*

$$Y \rightarrow X \rightarrow H^n X[-n] \rightsquigarrow$$

in $D(\mathcal{A})$ such that $H^i Y \cong \begin{cases} 0 & (i \geq n) \\ H^i X & (i < n). \end{cases}$

(2) *Let $n \geq m$ be integers. If $H^i X = 0$ for all $i > n$ and $i < m$, then $X \in \langle HX \rangle_{n-m+1}^{D(\mathcal{A})}$.*

Proof. (1) Truncating $X = (\dots \xrightarrow{d^{i-1}} X^i \xrightarrow{d^i} X^{i+1} \xrightarrow{d^{i+1}} \dots)$, we get complexes

$$X' = (\dots \xrightarrow{d^{n-2}} X^{n-1} \xrightarrow{d^{n-1}} Z^n X \rightarrow 0),$$

$$Y = (\dots \xrightarrow{d^{n-2}} X^{n-1} \xrightarrow{d^{n-1}} B^n X \rightarrow 0).$$

There are natural morphisms $Y \xrightarrow{f} X' \xrightarrow{g} X$, where f is a monomorphism and g is a quasi-isomorphism. We have a short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow Y \xrightarrow{f} X' \rightarrow H^n X[-n] \rightarrow 0$ of complexes, which induces an exact triangle as in the assertion.

(2) Applying (1) repeatedly, for each $0 \leq j \leq n - m$, we obtain an exact triangle

$$X_{j+1} \rightarrow X_j \rightarrow H^{n-j} X[-(n-j)] \rightsquigarrow$$

in $D(\mathcal{A})$ with $X_0 = X$ such that $H^i X_j \cong 0$ for $i > n - j$ and $H^i X \cong H^i X$ for $i \leq n - j$. Hence $X_{n-m+1} \cong 0$ in $D(\mathcal{A})$, which implies that X_{n-m} is in $\langle H^m X \rangle$. Inductively, we observe that $X = X_0$ belongs to $\langle H^m X \oplus H^{m+1} X \oplus \dots \oplus H^n X \rangle_{n-m+1} = \langle HX \rangle_{n-m+1}$. \square

For a commutative Noetherian ring R , we denote by $\text{mod } R$ the category of finitely generated R -modules, and by $D^b(\text{mod } R)$ the bounded derived category of $\text{mod } R$. For a sequence $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_n$ of elements of R and an R -module M , let $K(\mathbf{x}, M)$ denote the Koszul complex of \mathbf{x} on M .

Proposition 2.2. *Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a commutative Noetherian local ring and I an \mathfrak{m} -primary ideal of R . Let $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_n$ be a sequence of elements of R that generates I . Then for any finitely generated R -module M one has $K(\mathbf{x}, M) \in \langle k \rangle_{(n-t+1)l}$ in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$, where $t = \text{depth } M$ and $l = \ell(R/I)$.*

Proof. Set $K(\mathbf{x}, M) = K = (0 \rightarrow K^{-n} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow K^0 \rightarrow 0)$. By [5, Proposition 1.6.5(b)], each homology $H^i = H^i K$ is annihilated by I , and H^i is regarded as a module over R/I . There is a filtration $0 = \mathfrak{m}^l(R/I) \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq \mathfrak{m}(R/I) \subsetneq R/I$ of ideals of R/I . For each integer i , we have a filtration

$$0 = \mathfrak{m}^l H^i \subseteq \dots \subseteq \mathfrak{m} H^i \subseteq H^i$$

of submodules of H^i , which shows $H^i \in \langle k \rangle_l$ in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$. We see from [5, Theorem 1.6.17(b)] that $H^i = 0$ for all $i < t - n$ and $i > 0$. It follows from Lemma 2.1(2) that K is in $\langle \bigoplus_{i=t-n}^0 H^i \rangle_{n-t+1}$ in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$, which is contained in $\langle k \rangle_{(n-t+1)l}$. \square

Recall that the singularity category $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$ of a (commutative) Noetherian ring R is defined as the Verdier quotient of $D^b(\text{mod } R)$ by the full subcategory of perfect complexes. (A perfect complex is by definition a bounded complex of finitely generated modules.)

Proposition 2.3. *Let R be a commutative Noetherian ring, and let M be a finitely generated R -module. Let $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_n$ be a sequence of elements of R such that the multiplication map $M \xrightarrow{x_i} M$ is a zero morphism in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$ for every $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then M is isomorphic to a direct summand of $K(\mathbf{x}, M)$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$.*

Proof. By definition the Koszul complex $K(x_i, M) = (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{x_i} M \rightarrow 0)$ is the mapping cone of the multiplication map $M \xrightarrow{x_i} M$, and there is an exact triangle $M \xrightarrow{x_i} M \rightarrow K(x_i, M) \rightsquigarrow$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. By assumption, we have an isomorphism $M \oplus M[1] \cong K(x_i, M) = K(x_i, R) \otimes_R M$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} K(\mathbf{x}, M) &= K(x_1, R) \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R K(x_{n-1}, R) \otimes_R (K(x_n, R) \otimes_R M) \\ &> K(x_1, R) \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R K(x_{n-2}, R) \otimes_R (K(x_{n-1}, R) \otimes_R M) \\ &\dots \\ &> K(x_1, R) \otimes_R M \triangleright M, \end{aligned}$$

where $A \triangleright B$ means that A has a direct summand isomorphic to B in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. \square

Lemma 2.4.

(1) Let \mathcal{A} be an Abelian category. Let $P = (\dots \xrightarrow{d^{b-1}} p^b \xrightarrow{d^b} \dots \xrightarrow{d^{a-1}} p^a \rightarrow 0)$ be a complex of projective objects of \mathcal{A} with $H^i P = 0$ for all $i < b$. Then one has an exact triangle

$$F \rightarrow P \rightarrow C[-b] \rightsquigarrow$$

in $D(\mathcal{A})$, where $F = (0 \rightarrow p^{b+1} \xrightarrow{d^{b+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{d^{a-1}} p^a \rightarrow 0)$ and $C = \text{Coker } d^{b-1}$.

(2) Let R be a commutative Noetherian ring.

(a) For any $X \in D_{\text{sg}}(R)$ there exist $M \in \text{mod } R$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $X \cong M[n]$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$.

(b) Let M be a finitely generated R -module. Then for an integer $n \geq 0$ there exists an exact triangle

$$F \rightarrow M \rightarrow \Omega^n M[n] \rightsquigarrow$$

in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$, where $F = (0 \rightarrow F^{-(n-1)} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow F^0 \rightarrow 0)$ is a perfect complex.

Proof. (1) There is a short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow F \rightarrow P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow 0$ of complexes, where $Q = (\dots \xrightarrow{d^{b-2}} p^{b-1} \xrightarrow{d^{b-1}} p^b \rightarrow 0)$. Then $Q \cong C[-b]$ in $D(\mathcal{A})$.

(2) The assertion (a) is immediate from (1). Setting $a = 0 \geq -n = b$ and letting P be a projective resolution of M in (1) implies (b). \square

Recall that a commutative Noetherian ring R is called an isolated singularity if the local ring $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is regular for every nonmaximal prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of R .

Proposition 2.5. Let R be a complete equicharacteristic Cohen–Macaulay local commutative ring. Then for an element $x \in \mathfrak{R}^R$ and a maximal Cohen–Macaulay R -module M , the multiplication map $M \xrightarrow{x} M$ is a zero morphism in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$.

Proof. Lemma 2.4(2) implies that there is an exact triangle

$$F \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} \Omega M[1] \rightsquigarrow$$

in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$, where F is a finitely generated free R -module. By virtue of [14, Corollary 5.13], the ideal \mathfrak{R}^R annihilates $\text{Ext}_R^1(M, \Omega M) = \text{Hom}_{D^b(\text{mod } R)}(M, \Omega M[1])$. Hence $gx = xg = 0$ in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$, and there exists a morphism $h : M \rightarrow F$ such that $fh = (M \xrightarrow{x} M)$ in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$. Send this equality by the localization functor $D^b(\text{mod } R) \rightarrow D_{\text{sg}}(R)$, and note that $F \cong 0$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. Thus the multiplication map $M \xrightarrow{x} M$ is zero in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. \square

Now we can prove the results given in the previous section.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. (1) As k is a perfect field and R is an isolated singularity, \mathfrak{R}^R is \mathfrak{m} -primary by [15, Lemma (6.12)].

(2) (a) Put $d = \dim R$, $n = \nu(I)$, $l = \ell\ell(R/I)$ and $e = e(I)$. We have $I = (\mathbf{x})$ for some sequence $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_n$ of elements in I . Let $X \in D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. Then, using Lemma 2.4(2), we see that $X \cong \Omega^d N[n]$ for some $N \in \text{mod } R$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Note that $M := \Omega^d N$ is a maximal Cohen–Macaulay R -module. Proposition 2.2 implies that $K(\mathbf{x}, M)$ belongs to $\langle k \rangle_{(n-d+1)l}$ in $D^b(\text{mod } R)$. Applying the localization functor $D^b(\text{mod } R) \rightarrow D_{\text{sg}}(R)$, we have $K(\mathbf{x}, M) \in \langle k \rangle_{(n-d+1)l}$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. Since M is isomorphic to a direct summand of $K(\mathbf{x}, M)$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$ by Propositions 2.3 and 2.5, we get $M \in \langle k \rangle_{(n-d+1)l}$ in $D_{\text{sg}}(R)$. Therefore $D_{\text{sg}}(R) = \langle k \rangle_{(n-d+1)l}$ follows.

(b) Since k is infinite, there exists a parameter ideal Q of R that is a reduction of I (cf. [5, Corollary 4.6.10]). Then we have $\nu(Q) = \dim R$, and it holds that

$$(\nu(Q) - \dim R + 1)\ell\ell(R/Q) = \ell\ell(R/Q) \leq \ell(R/Q) = e(Q) = e(I).$$

The assertion is a consequence of (a). \square

Proof of Corollary 1.3. We see from [14, Lemmas 4.3, 5.8 and Propositions 4.4, 4.5] that J is contained in \mathfrak{R}^R and defines the singular locus of R . Hence the assertion follows from Theorem 1.1. \square

Proof of Corollary 1.5. We notice that \widehat{R} is an isolated singularity. Suppose that $D_{\text{sg}}(\widehat{R}) = \langle k \rangle_r$ holds for some $r \geq 0$. Then it follows from [6, Theorem 4.4.1] that $\underline{\text{CM}}(\widehat{R}) = \langle \Omega_R^d k \rangle_r = \langle \widehat{\Omega_R^d k} \rangle_r$. The proof of [1, Theorem 5.8] shows that $\underline{\text{CM}}(R) = \langle \Omega_R^d k \rangle_r$. Thus, Theorem 1.1 completes the proof. \square

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