(明治大学理工学部研究報告) 第56 号(112) · 2020年3月)

# VI-028 超局面環上の極大コーエン・マコーレー加群圏の次元

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## THE DIMENSION OF THE CATEGORY OF MAXIMAL COHEN-MACAULAY MODULES OVER HYPERSURFACES

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#### Abstract

The dimension of subcategories of abelian categories was introduced by Dao and Takahashi in 2015 as an analogue of the dimension of triangulated categories. In this paper we investigate the category consisting of maximal Cohen-Macaulay *R*-modules CM(R) and we find an upper bound of the dimension of CM(R) for a given local hypersurface *R*.

## 1. Introduction

The dimension of triangulated category was introduced by Rouquier ([13]), which is defined as the number of triangles necessary to build the category from a single object, up to finite direct sum, direct summand and shift. As an analogue of this concept, Dao and Takahashi defined the dimension of subcategories of abelian categories with enough projective objects by comparing short exact sequences to triangles ([6]). For a Cohen-Macaulay local ring R, it is natural to ask what is the dimension of the category of maximal Cohen Macaulay *R*-modules CM(R), in the sense of Dao and Takahashi. When R is a Gorenstein local ring, it is known that the stable category of Cohen-Macaulay *R*-modules  $\underline{CM}(R)$  forms a triangulated category, so one can define the dimension of CM(R), in the sense of Rouquier. There exists some results about dim CM(R). For example, Bergh, Iyengar, Krause and Opperman proved that dim CM(R) is at least codim R-1 if R is a complete intersection ([2]). Kobayashi gave an example of a complete intersection R of dimension one with dim CM(R) = n for a given positive integer n([11]). In addition, there are many kinds of upper bounds of dim CM(R) under the condition that R has an isolated singularity. For example [7] by Dugas and Leuschke, [3] by Ballard, Favero and Katzarkov.

It is proved that if R is a local hypersurface, then dim CM(R) as a subcategory of mod R is equal to dim  $\underline{CM}(R)$  as a triangulated category ([6]). Let R be a complete local hypersurface over an algebraically closed field k of characteristic zero. If R has finite or countable Cohen-Macaulay representation type, then R is isomorphic to  $k [x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_d]/(f)$  and the form of the defining equation f is completely characterized. For the detail, see [4, 10, 14]. In particular,  $R = k [x, y]/(x^2)$  has countable Cohen-Macaulay representation type and it is proved that the dimension of CM(R) is equal to 1 by Araya, Iima and Takahashi ([1]). On the other hand, it is proved that  $R = k [x, y]/(x^n)$  with  $n \ge 3$  has uncountable maximal Cohen-Macaulay modules by Buchweitz, Greuel and Schreyer ([4]). In addition, Kawasaki, Nakamura and the author proved that the dimension of CM(R) is also equal to 1 for any  $n \ge 3([9])$ . In this paper, we consider CM(R) for a local hypersurface R and describe an upper bound of dim CM(R) using the information of  $CM(R/f_i R)$  where f is the defining

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<sup>2010</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification. 13C60, 13C14, 16G60.

*Key words and phrases.* dimension of categories, maximal Cohen-Macaulay modules, hyper surfaces.

equation of R and  $f=f_1 f_2 \cdots f_n$  is a factorization of f. As a simple conclusion of our argument, when  $R/f_iR$  has finitely Cohen-Macaulay representation type, it follows that dim  $CM(R) \le n$  dim R. We note that our main theorem is available for a local hypersurface which does not have an isolated singularity.

We denote by mod R the category of finitely generated R-modules for a noetherian local ring R. In this paper, we assume that all modules are finitely generated. When R is a Cohen-Macaulay local ring, we denote by CM(R) (resp. <u>CM</u>(R)) the category of maximal Cohen-Macaulay R-modules (resp. the stable category of maximal Cohen-Macaulay R-modules). For  $M \in \mod R$ ,  $\Omega_R^i M$  stands for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  syzygy module of M over R. When i=1, we simply denote it by  $\Omega_R M$ .

Let R be a noetherian local ring. In the rest of this section, we recall the definition of the dimension of subcategories of mod R. To state the definition and some properties, we follow the notation used by Dao and Takahashi in [5] and [6]. Let R be a noetherian ring. For a subcategory X of mod R, we denote by [X] the smallest full subcategory of mod R that contains R and is closed under finite direct sums, direct summands and syzygies, i.e.,

 $[\mathbf{X}] = \operatorname{add}\{R, \Omega_R^i X | i \ge 0, X \in \mathbf{X}\}$ 

We note that [X] depends on the choice of the ground ring *R*. We write  $[X]^R$  when we should specify the ground ring *R*. When *X* consists of a single object *X*, we simply denote [X] by [X]. For subcategories *X* and *Y* of mod *R* we denote by  $X \circ Y$  the full subcategory of mod *R* consisting of objects *M* which fit into an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow M \rightarrow Y \rightarrow 0$  in mod *R* with  $X \in X$ and  $Y \in Y$ . We set  $X \bullet Y = [[X] \circ [Y]]$ . For a subcategory *X* of mod *R* we define inductively the iteration of the operator • as follows:

$$[\mathbf{X}]_{r} = \begin{cases} [\mathbf{X}] & (r=1) \\ [\mathbf{X}]_{r-1} \bullet [\mathbf{X}] & (r \ge 2) \end{cases}$$

When X consists of a single object X, we simply denote it by  $[X]_r$ . We write  $[X]_r^R$  when we should specify the ground ring R. Then we have the following properties. See [5, Proposition 2.2] for the detail.

**Proposition 1. 1.** Let *R* be a noetherian local ring and *X*, *Y* and *C* subcategories of mod *R*.

(1) For  $M \in \text{mod } R$ , M belongs to  $X \bullet Y$  if and only if there exist an exact sequence of the form  $0 \to A \to$ 

- $M \oplus U \to B \to 0 \text{ with } A \in \mathbf{X}, B \in \mathbf{Y} \text{ and } U \in \text{mod}$ R.
- (2)  $(\mathbf{X} \circ \mathbf{Y}) \circ \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{X} \circ (\mathbf{Y} \circ \mathbf{C}) and (\mathbf{X} \bullet \mathbf{Y}) \bullet \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{X} \bullet (\mathbf{Y} \bullet \mathbf{C})$
- (3) For integers n, m > 0,  $[\mathbf{X}]_n \bullet [\mathbf{X}]_m = [\mathbf{X}]_{n+m}$ .

**Definition 1. 2.** Let *R* be a noetherian ring, and let *X* be a subcategory of mod *R*. We define the *dimension* of *X*, denoted by dim *X*, as the infimum of the integers  $n \ge 0$  such that  $X = [G]_{n+1}$  for some  $G \in \text{mod } R$ . By definition, dim  $X \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0, \infty\}$ .

## 2. Main theorem

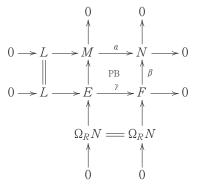
We begin with the following lemma. It might be a known result, but we give the proof for the sake of completeness.

**Lemma 2.1.** Let R be a noetherian local ring and  $0 \rightarrow L$  $\rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\alpha} N \rightarrow 0$  an exact sequence in mod R. Then there exist a finitely generated free R-module F and the following sequence

$$0 \to \Omega_R N \to L \oplus F \to M \to 0$$

is exact.

*Proof.* Since  $\Omega_R N$  is the first syzygy module of N, we can take a free R-module F and an exact sequence:  $0 \rightarrow \Omega_R N$  $\rightarrow F \xrightarrow{\beta} N \rightarrow 0$ . Taking the pull back of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , we obtain the following diagram:



Since F is a free R-module,  $\gamma$  is a split epimorphism. It means that E is isomorphic to  $L \oplus F$  and the assertion follows.

The next proposition is a key of our argument.

**Proposition 2.2.** Let *R* be a noetherian local ring of dimension *d* and *I* an ideal of *R*. We assume *R*/*I* is a Cohen-Macaulay local ring of dimension *d*. Let *X* be a subcategory of mod *R* with  $R/I \in X$  such that  $CM(R/I) \subseteq [X]_r^R$  for some integer *r*. Let *M* be an *R*/*I*-module and set t=d – depth *M*. Then  $\Omega_R^r M \in [X]_{r+t}^R$ .

Proof. We prove the following claim by induction on i.

The conclusion when i=t is the required result.

**Claim.** For all  $0 \le i \le t$ , it follows that  $\Omega_R^i(\Omega_{R/I}^{t-i}M) \in [\mathbf{X}]_{r+t}^R$ .

Let i=0. It is clear that  $\Omega_{R/I}^t M \in CM(R/I) \subseteq [X]_r^R$ .

Let i > 0 and we assume the claim is true for i - 1. We take the following exact sequence:

 $0 \to \Omega_{R/I}^{t-i+1}M \to G \to \Omega_{R/I}^{t-i}M \to 0$ 

of R/I-modules, where G is a free R/I-module. Applying the horseshoe lemma to the above exact sequence, we obtain the following one:

 $0 \rightarrow \Omega_R^{i-1}(\Omega_{R/I}^{t-i+1}M) \rightarrow (\Omega_R^{i-1}G) \oplus F_1 \rightarrow \Omega_R^{i-1}(\Omega_{R/I}^{t-i}M) \rightarrow 0,$ where  $F_1$  is a free *R*-module. We apply Lemma 2.1 to this exact sequence, then we get

 $0 \rightarrow \Omega^{i}_{R}(\Omega^{t-i}_{R/I}M)) \rightarrow (\Omega^{i-1}_{R}(\Omega^{t-i+1}_{R/I}M)) \oplus F_{2}$ 

 $\rightarrow \Omega_R^{i-1} G \oplus F_1 \rightarrow 0,$ 

where  $F_2$  is a free *R*-module. Applying Lemma 2.1 again, we get

 $0 \to \Omega_R^i G \to (\Omega_R^i (\Omega_{R/I}^{i-i}M)) \oplus F_3$  $\to \Omega_R^{i-1} (\Omega_{R/I}^{i-i+1}M)) \oplus F_2 \to 0,$ 

where  $F_3$  is a free R-module. The left side object belongs to  $[R/I]^R$ , which is contained in  $[\mathbf{X}]^R$  since  $R/I \in \mathbf{X}$ . The right side object belongs to  $[\mathbf{X}]^R_{r+i-1}$  by the hypothesis of induction. By Proposition 2.1, it follows that the middle object belongs to  $[\mathbf{X}]^R_{r+i}$ . Hence, its direct summand  $\Omega^i_R(\Omega^{t-i}_{R'I}M)$  belongs to  $[\mathbf{X}]^R_{r+i}$ .  $\square$ **Remark 2. 3.** Under the situation of Proposition 2.2, if  $s \ge t=d$  – depth M, then we have  $\Omega^s_R M \in [\mathbf{X}]^R_{r+i}$  because

 $[\mathbf{X}]_{r+t}^{R}$  is a category being closed under taking syzygies. When *R* is a local hypersurface, we can state the next

lemma. See [12, Lemma 2.6] for a proof.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let *S* be a regular local ring and  $x, y \in S$ non-zero elements. Let  $M \in CM(S/(x))$ . Then for each integer n > 0, one has an inclusion  $[M]_n^{S/(x)} \subseteq [M \oplus S/(x) \oplus \Omega_{S/(x)}M]_n^{S/(xy)}$ . In particular, if dim  $CM(S/(x)) \leq r$ , then there exists  $N \in CM(S/(xy))$  such that CM(S/(x)) $\subseteq [N]_{r+1}^{S/(xy)}$ .

The following theorem is the main result of this paper. **Theorem 2. 5.** Let *S* be a regular local ring of dimension d+1 with d > 0 and  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in S$  non-zero non-unit elements. Then

dim CM  $(S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)) \leq$ 

 $\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} \dim \operatorname{CM}(S/(x_i)) + n - 1 \quad (d=1),\right]$ 

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \dim CM(S/(x_i)) + nd - 2 \quad (d > 1).$ 

*Proof.* We may assume that dim  $CM(S/(x_i)) < \infty$  for all  $i=1, \ldots, n$  and set  $r_i = \dim CM(S/(x_i))$ . Then there exists  $G_i \in CM(S/(x_1 \cdots x_n))$  such that  $CM(S/(x_i)) \subseteq$ 

 $[G_i]_{r_i+1}^{S/(x_1-x_n)}$  by Lemma 2.4. Note that  $[\bigoplus_{i=1}^n G_i]_r^{S/(x_1-x_n)} \subseteq$ CM  $(S/(x_1\cdots x_n))$  for any positive integer r since  $G_i \in$ CM  $(S/(x_1\cdots x_n))$  for each  $1 \le i \le n$ .

Let  $M \in CM$   $(S/(x_1 \cdots x_n))$ . Setting  $M_i :=$  $(0:_M x_1 \cdots x_i)$ , we have a filtration  $0=M_0 \subseteq M_1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq$  $M_n=M$  of *S*-submodules of *M* such that  $M_i/M_{i-1}$  is an *S*/ $(x_i)$ -module. Note that there is an isomorphism  $M_i/M_{i-1}$  $\rightarrow (0:_{x_1 \cdots x_{i-1}M} x_i)$  given by  $\overline{z} \mapsto x_1 \cdots x_{i-1}z$  for  $z \in M_i$ . The target is a submodule of *M*, and hence it has positive depth.

We have the following exact sequences

$$0 \to M_1 \to M_2 \to M_2/M_1 \to 0,$$
  

$$0 \to M_2 \to M_3 \to M_3/M_2 \to 0,$$
  

$$\vdots$$
  

$$0 \to M_{n-1} \to M \to M/M_{n-1} \to 0$$

of  $S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)$ -modules. When d > 1, depth  $M_i \ge 2$  since depth  $M_i/M_{i-1} > 0$ . Proposition 2.2 and Lemma 2.4 imply that

$$(\ast) \begin{cases} \Omega^{d-2}_{S'(x_1\cdots x_n)} M_1 \in [G_1]_{r_1+d-1}^{S/(x_1\cdots x_n)} \text{ and} \\ \Omega^{d-1}_{S'(x_1\cdots x_n)} M_{i'}/M_{i-1} \in [G_i]_{r_1+d}^{S/(x_1\cdots x_n)} \text{ for all } 2 \le i \le n. \end{cases}$$

Applying horseshoe lemma to the above sequences, we get short exact sequences

$$0 \to \Omega^{d-1}_{S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)} M_{i-1} \to \Omega^{d-1}_{S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)} M_i \oplus (S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)) \stackrel{\oplus}{\to} \Omega^{d-1}_{S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)} M_i/M_{i-1} \to 0$$

for all  $2 \le i \le n$ . When i=2, it follows that

 $\Omega^{d-1}_{S/(x_1\cdots x_n)}M_2 \in [G_1 \oplus G_2]^{S/(x_1\cdots x_n)}_{r_1+r_2+2d-1}$ 

from (\*). Iterating this procedure, we have that

$$\Omega^{d-1}_{S/(x_1\cdots x_n)}M \in \left[\bigoplus_{i=1}^n G_i\right]^{S/(x_1\cdots x_n)}_{\Sigma^n_{i=1}r_i+nd-1}.$$

Since  $S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)$  is a local hypersurface, M is isomorphic to the  $(d-1)^{\text{th}}$  or  $d^{\text{th}}$  syzygy of itself. See [14, Chapter 7] for the detail. Therefore  $\text{CM}(S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)) \subseteq \left[ \bigoplus_{i=1}^n G_i \right]_{\sum_{i=1}^n j_i + i n d-1}^{S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)}$ .

When d=1,  $M_i \in CM(S/(x_i)) \subseteq [G_i]_{r_i+1}^{S/(x_1\cdots x_n)}$  for all  $1 \le i \le n$  since

depth  $M_i > 0$ . Therefore M belongs to  $[\bigoplus_{i=1}^{n} G_i]_{\Sigma_{i=1}^{m}r_i+n}^{S^{\backslash \{x_1,\dots,x_n\}}}$ .  $\Box$ We will give some examples of Theorem 2.5.

**Example 2.6.** Under the same notations as in Theorem 2.5, we assume that  $S/(x_i)$  has finite Cohen-Macaulay representation type for all  $1 \le i \le n$ , i.e., there exist only finitely many isomorphism classes of indecomposable maximal Cohen-Macaulay  $S/(x_i)$  -modules. Then it is clear that dim CM $(S/(x_i)) = 0$ . Therefore, Theorem 2.5 implies that

dim CM 
$$(S/(x_1 \cdots x_n)) \le \begin{cases} n-1(d=1), \\ nd-2(d>1). \end{cases}$$

For example, when  $S=k [X_0, \ldots, X_d]$  with d > 1, where k is a field and  $x_1 = \cdots = x_n = X_0$ , Theorem 2.5 implies that

dim CM(S/(X\_0^n)) 
$$\leq \begin{cases} n-1(d=1), \\ nd-2(d>1). \end{cases}$$

for each positive integer n > 0.

However, there exists the better upper bound if dim  $S/(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = 1$  under the same notation as in Theorem 2.5, one has the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.7** ([12]). Let *S* be a regular local ring of dimension two and  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in S$ . Then one has

dim CM  $(S/(x_1, \ldots, x_n)) \leq \sup\{\dim CM(S/(x_i))\}_{i=1,\ldots,n}$ +1.

**Example 2.8.** Let S = k [X, Y, Z], where k is an algebraically closed field with characteristic zero and let  $0 < n \le m$  positive integers. We consider dim CM  $(S/(X^m Y^m))$ .

When n=m=1, it is known that dim CM (S/(XY))=1 by [1, Proposition 2.2 (1)]. Using this fact and the result of Example 2.6, we have

dim CM(S/(X<sup>n</sup>Y<sup>m</sup>))  $\leq n \cdot \dim$  CM(S/(XY)) + dim CM(S/(Y<sup>m-n</sup>))+(n+1)  $\cdot 2 - 2$   $\leq n \cdot 1 + \{(m - n) \cdot 2 - 2\} + (n + 1) \cdot 2 - 2$ = 2m + n - 2.

The theory of the matrix factorization enables Example 2.6 and 2.8 to extend the higher dimensional cases. Here we recall the basic facts about matrix factorizations. For detail, we refer to [8, Chapter 6], [10],[14, Chapter 7].

Let  $(S, \mathfrak{n})$  be a regular local ring and  $f \in \mathfrak{n}$  a non-zero element. Let R = S/(f) and  $M \in CM(R)$ . Then we say that  $(\varphi, \psi)$  is a matrix factorization of *f* corresponding to *M* if the following conditions hold.

- Both φ and φ are n-th square matrices with entries in S, where n is the number of a minimal generating system of M.
- (2) There exists an exact sequence  $0 \to S^n \xrightarrow{\varphi} S^n \to M$  $\to 0$ .
- (3)  $\varphi \psi = f E_n$ , where  $E_n$  is the identity matrix of rank *n*. We denote by MF<sub>S</sub> (*f*) the category of the matrix factorizations of *f*. If  $(\varphi, \psi) \in MF_S$  (*f*), we obtain an object of CM(*R*) as the cokernel of the map  $S^n \xrightarrow{\varphi} S^n$ . This

correspondence gives a functor from  $MF_s$  (f) to CM(R). Eisenbud proved that this functor induces the equivalence between the quotient categories  $MF_s$  (f)/{{(1, f), (f, 1)} and  $\underline{CM}(R)$  [8, Chapter 6], where  $\underline{CM}(R)$  is the stable category of CM(R). The following theorem is called Knörrer's periodicity.

**Theorem 2. 9.** ([10, Theorem 3.1]) Let  $S = k [x_0, x_1, ..., x_d]$ and  $T = k [x_0, x_1, ..., x_n, y, z]$  be formal power series rings over an algebraically closed field k of characteristic zero

and  $f \in (x_0, ..., x_d)S$  a non-zero element. The functor  $MF_S(f) \rightarrow MF_T(f+yz)$  given by  $(\varphi, \psi) \mapsto \left(\begin{pmatrix} \varphi & y \\ z & -\psi \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \psi & y \\ z & -\varphi \end{pmatrix}\right)$  induces an equivalence between the stable categories CM(S/fS) and CM(T/(f+yz)T).

When *R* is a Gorenstein local ring,  $\underline{CM}(R)$  forms a triangulated category. Therefore we can define dim  $\underline{CM}(R)$  in the sense of Rouquier [13]. However, if *R* is a local hypersurface, there exists the equality dim  $\underline{CM}(R) = \dim \underline{CM}(R)$  [6, Proposition 3.5 (3)]. Therefore, we have the following inequalities as a corollary of Example 2.6 and 2.8.

**Corollary 2. 10**. Let n, m and d be integers such that  $0 < n \le m$  and  $d \ge 0$ . Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Then the following inequalities hold.

(1) dim CM 
$$\left(\frac{k [X_0, X_1, X_2, Y_1, \dots, Y_{2d}]]}{(X_0^n + Y_1^2 + Y_2^2 + \dots + Y_{2d}^2)}\right) \le 2n - 2.$$
  
(2) dim CM  $\left(\frac{k [X_0, X_1, X_2, Y_1, \dots, Y_{2d}]]}{(X_0^n X_1^m + Y_1^2 + Y_2^2 + \dots + Y_{2d}^2)}\right)$   
 $\le 2m + n - 2.$ 

Acknowlegments. I am grateful to my supervisor, Professor Yukio Nakamura for helpful discussions and comments on the manuscript, and thank Professor Tokuji Araya, Professor Takesi Kawasaki and Professor Ryo Takahashi for many helpful discussions. And I also thank to the referee for reading my paper deeply and giving me many suggestions.

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