

CATEGORICAL KRULL-REMAK-SCHMIDT FOR TRIANGULATED CATEGORIES

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ABSTRACT. Let R be a commutative ring. If \mathcal{C}_1 and \mathcal{C}_2 are R -linear triangulated categories then we can give an obvious triangulated structure on $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_1 \oplus \mathcal{C}_2$ where $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U, V) = 0$ if $U \in \mathcal{C}_i$ and $V \in \mathcal{C}_j$ with $i \neq j$. We say a R -linear triangulated category \mathcal{C} is disconnected if $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_1 \oplus \mathcal{C}_2$ where \mathcal{C}_i are non-zero triangulated subcategories of \mathcal{C} . Let \mathcal{C}_i and \mathcal{D}_j be connected triangulated R -categories with $i \in \Gamma$ and $j \in \Lambda$. Suppose there is an equivalence of triangulated R -categories

$$\Phi: \bigoplus_{i \in \Gamma} \mathcal{C}_i \xrightarrow{\cong} \bigoplus_{j \in \Lambda} \mathcal{D}_j$$

Then we show that there is a bijective function $\pi: \Gamma \rightarrow \Lambda$ such that we have an equivalence $\mathcal{C}_i \cong \mathcal{D}_{\pi(i)}$ for all $i \in \Gamma$. We give several examples of connected triangulated categories and also of triangulated subcategories which decompose into utmost finitely many components.

1. INTRODUCTION

We use [6] for notation on triangulated categories. However we will assume that if \mathcal{C} is a triangulated category then $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ is a set for any objects X, Y of \mathcal{C} . Throughout R is some commutative ring. All our additive categories will be R -categories (for this notion see [2, p. 28]).

1.1. Direct Sum of triangulated categories:

Let \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} be additive R -categories. By $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}$ we mean a category with

- (1) Objects of \mathcal{T} are direct sums $U \oplus V$ where U is an object of \mathcal{C} and V is an object in \mathcal{D} .
- (2) Morphism are defined by $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{T}}(U_1 \oplus V_1, U_2 \oplus V_2) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U_1, U_2) \oplus \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(V_1, V_2)$.

It is clear that \mathcal{T} is an additive R -category.

If \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} are triangulated R -categories then we can define a triangulated structure on \mathcal{T} as follows: First define the shift operator on \mathcal{T} as $\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} = \Sigma_{\mathcal{C}} \oplus \Sigma_{\mathcal{D}}$. We say a sequence

$$U_1 \oplus V_1 \xrightarrow{(f_1, g_1)} U_2 \oplus V_2 \xrightarrow{(f_2, g_2)} U_3 \oplus V_3 \xrightarrow{(f_3, g_3)} \Sigma_{\mathcal{C}} U_1 \oplus \Sigma_{\mathcal{D}}(V_1),$$

to be a distinguished triangle in \mathcal{T} if

$$U_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} U_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} U_3 \xrightarrow{f_3} \Sigma_{\mathcal{C}} U_1,$$

is a distinguished triangle in \mathcal{C} and

$$V_1 \xrightarrow{g_1} V_2 \xrightarrow{g_2} V_3 \xrightarrow{g_3} \Sigma_{\mathcal{D}} V_1,$$

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is a distinguished triangle in \mathcal{D} . It is a routine exercise that these distinguished triangles give a triangulated structure on \mathcal{T} . Note \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} are thick subcategories of \mathcal{T} .

Analogously one can define a triangulated structure on $\bigoplus_{i \in \Gamma} \mathcal{C}_i$ where \mathcal{C}_i are triangulated categories for all $i \in \Gamma$.

Definition 1.1. Let \mathcal{C} be a triangulated category. We say \mathcal{C} is *connected* if

- (1) $\mathcal{C} \neq 0$.
- (2) If $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_1 \oplus \mathcal{C}_2$ where $\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2$ are triangulated categories then either $\mathcal{C}_1 = 0$ or $\mathcal{C}_2 = 0$.

Our categorical Krull-Remak-Schmidt theorem is as follows:

Theorem 1.2. Let \mathcal{C}_i and \mathcal{D}_j be connected triangulated R categories with $i \in \Gamma$ and $j \in \Lambda$. Suppose there is an equivalence of triangulated R -categories

$$\Phi: \bigoplus_{i \in \Gamma} \mathcal{C}_i \xrightarrow{\cong} \bigoplus_{j \in \Lambda} \mathcal{D}_j$$

Then there is a bijective function $\pi: \Gamma \rightarrow \Lambda$ such that we have an equivalence $\mathcal{C}_i \cong \mathcal{D}_{\pi(i)}$ for all $i \in \Gamma$.

Theorem 1.2 is interesting only if we can give a good stock of examples of triangulated categories which are a finite sum of connected triangulated categories. We show that many triangulated categories which arise in theory of Artin Algebras, commutative algebra and algebraic geometry can be decomposed into a finite direct sum of connected triangulated categories.

A natural question is whether a triangulated category decomposes into a direct sum of connected triangulated categories. In this regard we prove the following result

Theorem 1.3. Let \mathcal{C} be a Krull-Remak-Schmidt triangulated category. Assume the class of thick subcategories of \mathcal{C} is a set. Then \mathcal{C} decomposes as a direct sum of connected triangulated categories.

Remark 1.4. If \mathcal{C} is a skeletally small triangulated category then note that the class of thick subcategories of \mathcal{C} is a set.

Perhaps the assumption on \mathcal{C} to be KRS is bit strong. We also prove

Theorem 1.5. Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a Noetherian local ring. Let \mathcal{C} be an A -linear triangulated category such that $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ is a finitely generated A -module for any $X, Y \in \mathcal{C}$. Assume the class of thick subcategories of \mathcal{C} is a set. Then \mathcal{C} decomposes as a direct sum of connected triangulated categories.

As a consequence of Theorem 1.5 and remark 1.4 we obtain

Corollary 1.6. Let k be a field. Let \mathcal{C} be a Hom-finite k -linear triangulated category. Assume \mathcal{C} is skeletally small. Then \mathcal{C} decomposes as a direct sum of connected triangulated categories.

Here is an overview of the contents of this paper. In section two we give a proof of Theorem 1.2. In the next section we give some examples of triangulated categories which decompose into finitely many subcategories. In section four we give some examples of connected categories. In section five we prove Theorems 1.3 and 1.5. Finally in the last section we give an example of a triangulated category which decomposes into infinitely many components.

2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

In this section we give

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Let $U \subseteq \bigoplus_{j \in \Lambda} \mathcal{D}_j$ be a *connected* thick subcategory.

Claim-1: $U \subseteq \mathcal{D}_j$ for some j .

Let U_i be the full subcategory consisting of objects in \mathcal{D}_i which are contained in U . Then U_i is triangulated. We assert that

$$U = \bigoplus_{j \in \Lambda} U_j.$$

Indeed it is clear that $U \supseteq \bigoplus_{j \in \Lambda} U_j$. To see the reverse inclusion let X be an object in U . Then $X = X_1 \oplus X_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus X_m$ where X_i is an object in \mathcal{D}_{j_i} . As U is thick it contains all direct summands of its objects. So $X_i \in U_{j_i}$. Thus our assertion holds. As U is connected it follows that $U = U_j$ for some j and $U_i = 0$ for $i \neq j$. This proves Claim=1.

Fix i . Let $\text{im } \Phi_i$ be the essential image of \mathcal{C}_i in $\bigoplus_{j \in \Lambda} \mathcal{D}_j$. Then by our claim $\text{im } \Phi \subseteq \mathcal{D}_j$ for some j . As Φ is an equivalence we get Φ restricts to an equivalence $\mathcal{C}_i \rightarrow \text{im } \Phi_i$.

Claim-2: $\text{im } \Phi_i = \mathcal{D}_j$.

Indeed consider the inverse Φ^{-1} . Notice $\Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{D}_j) \cap \mathcal{C}_i \neq 0$. It follows from Claim-1 that $\Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{D}_j) \subseteq \mathcal{C}_i$. Claim-2 follows.

Set $\pi(i) = j$. It follows that π is bijective and $\mathcal{C}_i \cong \mathcal{D}_{\pi(i)}$ as triangulated categories. \square

Our proof of Theorem 1.2 also shows the following

Lemma 2.1. *Let U be a connected triangulated category. Suppose $U \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ is thick in \mathcal{D} . Suppose $\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{j \in \Lambda} \mathcal{D}_j$. Then $U \subseteq \mathcal{D}_i$ for some i .*

Remark 2.2. In Lemma 2.1 we do not insist that \mathcal{D}_i are also connected.

3. EXAMPLES

We give a large class of examples of triangulated categories \mathcal{C} where we can show that \mathcal{C} is a direct sum of utmost finitely many connected categories. It takes some effort to prove whether a triangulated category is connected.

I. If a triangulated category \mathcal{C} has no proper thick subcategories then clearly \mathcal{C} is connected.

Examples:

- (1) Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a Noetherian local ring and let $K_f^b(\text{proj } A)$ be the bounded homotopy category of finitely generated projective A -modules with finite length cohomology. Then $K_f^b(\text{proj } A)$ has no proper thick subcategories, see [5, 1.2]
- (2) Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a hypersurface singularity (i.e., the completion $\hat{A} = Q/(f)$ where (Q, \mathfrak{n}) is regular local and $f \in \mathfrak{n}^2$). Let $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ be the stable category of maximal Cohen-Macaulay A -modules and let $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ be the thick subcategory of MCM A -modules which are free on the punctured spectrum of A . Then $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ has no proper thick subcategories, [10, 6.6]

II Let \mathcal{C} be a Krull-Remak-Schmidt triangulated category. Let $X \in \mathcal{C}$ be non-zero. Then clearly $\mathcal{D} = \text{thick}(X)$ is utmost a direct sum of r subcategories where r is the number of indecomposable summands of X . Examples :

- (1) Let A be a R -Artin algebra where R is a commutative Artin ring. Let $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ be the bounded derived category of $\text{mod}(A)$; the category of all finitely generated A -modules. Then it is well-known that $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ is

a Krull-Remak-Schmidt triangulated category. Furthermore $D^b(\text{mod}(A)) = \text{thick}(A/\text{rad}(A))$ where $\text{rad}(A)$ is the radical of A , see [8, 7.37]. In particular if A is local then $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ is connected.

- (2) Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a Henselian Gorenstein local ring of dimension d . Let $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ be the stable category of maximal Cohen-Macaulay A -modules and let $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ be the thick subcategory of MCM A -modules which are free on the punctured spectrum of A . Then $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A) = \text{thick}(\Omega_A^d(k))$ where $\Omega_A^d(k)$ is the d^{th} -syzygy of k , see [10, 2.6, 2.9]. Thus $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ is a finite direct sum of connected subcategories. If $\Omega_A^d(k)$ is indecomposable then $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ is connected. Note when $d = 0$ clearly $\Omega_A^0(k) = k$ is indecomposable. If the multiplicity of A is at least three and $d = 1, 2$ then $\Omega_A^d(k)$ is indecomposable, see [9, Theorems A, B].

III: Let \mathcal{A} be an Abelian category. Let \mathcal{B} be a Krull-Remak-Schmidt Serre-subcategory of \mathcal{A} . Let $D_{\mathcal{B}}^b(\mathcal{A})$ be the bounded derived category of \mathcal{A} with cohomology in \mathcal{B} . Let $X \in D_{\mathcal{B}}^b(\mathcal{A})$ and let $r = \text{number of irreducible summands of } H^*(X)$. Then it is clear that X cannot be a direct sum of $r + 1$ non-zero elements in $D_{\mathcal{B}}^b(\mathcal{A})$. It follows that $\text{thick}(X)$ is a finite direct sum of up to r connected summands. Examples:

- (1) Let V be a projective variety over an algebraically closed field k . Let $\mathcal{A} = \text{coh}(V)$ be the category of coherent sheaves on V . Then \mathcal{A} is a Krull-Schmidt category, see [1]. By [8, 7.38], $D^b(\mathcal{A}) = \text{thick}(E)$ for some E . Thus $D^b(\mathcal{A})$ is a finite direct sum of connected triangulated categories.
- (2) Let A be a Noetherian ring. Let $\mathcal{A} = \text{mod}(A)$ and let \mathcal{B} be its Serre-subcategory consisting of modules of finite length.

IV: Let A be a Noetherian ring of finite global dimension. Then $D^b(\text{mod}(A)) = \text{thick}(A)$. If A is indecomposable then $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ is connected.

- (1) If A is a commutative domain then A is indecomposable. So $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ is connected.
- (2) If $A = A_n(K)$ the n^{th} -Weyl Algebra over a field K of characteristic zero. By [7] A has finite global dimension. We claim that A is indecomposable. Suppose if possible A is decomposable. Say $A = U \oplus V$ where U, V are left modules. Let \mathcal{F} be the Bernstein filtration on A . Then $G_{\mathcal{F}}(A) = K[X_1, \dots, X_n, \overline{\partial}_1, \dots, \overline{\partial}_n]$ is a polynomial ring in $2n$ -variables, see [3, I.2.2]. By considering the induced filtration on U we get that its associated is a submodule of $G_{\mathcal{F}}(A)$ which is a domain. So $\dim U = 2n$. Similarly $\dim V = 2n$. So the multiplicity $e(A) = e(U) + e(V) \geq 2$, a contradiction since multiplicity of A is one. Thus A is indecomposable. So $D^b(\text{mod } A)$ is connected.

4. SOME EXAMPLES OF CONNECTED CATEGORIES

In this section we prove that some natural triangulated categories are connected.

4.1. Let X be a Noetherian scheme. Let $D^b(X)$ be the bounded derived category of coherent sheaves on X . Then $D^b(X)$ is connected if and only if X is connected, see [4, 3.2].

4.2. The technique to show some triangulated categories are connected is based on the following:

Lemma 4.1. *Let \mathcal{C} be a triangulated category. Let \mathcal{D} be a triangulated subcategory of \mathcal{C} such that*

- (1) \mathcal{D} is thick.
- (2) \mathcal{D} is connected.

(3) If \mathcal{T} is a non-zero thick subcategory of \mathcal{C} then $\mathcal{D} \cap \mathcal{T} \neq 0$.

Then \mathcal{C} is also connected.

Proof. Suppose if possible \mathcal{C} is not connected. So $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_1 \oplus \mathcal{C}_2$ where $\mathcal{C}_i \neq 0$. By 2.1 we get that $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{C}_i$ for some i . But by (3) of our hypotheses $\mathcal{D} \cap \mathcal{C}_j \neq 0$ for both $j = 1, 2$, a contradiction. \square

We first prove

Proposition 4.2. *Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a Noetherian local ring. Let $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ be the bounded derived category of $\text{mod}(A)$; the abelian category of all finitely generated A -modules. Then $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ is connected.*

Remark 4.3. This also follows from 4.1 as $\text{Spec}(A)$ is connected. However we give a purely algebraic proof for the convenience of algebraists reading this paper.

We now give:

Proof of 4.2. We identify $D^b(\text{mod}(A))$ with $\mathcal{C} = K^{b,*}(\text{proj } A)$ the category of bounded above complexes of finitely generated projective A -modules with bounded cohomology. Let \mathcal{C}_f be complexes in \mathcal{C} with finite length cohomology. It is clear that \mathcal{C}_f is a thick subcategory of \mathcal{C} .

We first show that \mathcal{C}_f is connected. Suppose if possible \mathcal{C}_f is not connected. Say $\mathcal{C}_f = \mathcal{D}_1 \oplus \mathcal{D}_2$ where $\mathcal{D}_i \neq 0$. Let X be a minimal free resolution of $k = A/\mathfrak{m}$. Then X is indecomposable. Say $X \in \mathcal{D}_1$. Let $Y \in \mathcal{D}_2$ be non-zero. We may assume Y is a minimal complex. After shifting we may assume $Y^i = 0$ for $i > 0$ and $Y^0 \neq 0$. As Y is a minimal complex we get $Z = H^0(Y) \neq 0$. Note Z is a non-zero finite length module. Let $\epsilon: Z \rightarrow k$ be any surjective map. Then ϵ has a lift $\tilde{\epsilon}: Y \rightarrow X$. Note $\tilde{\epsilon} \neq 0$ as the map on zeroth cohomology is non-zero. This contradicts the fact that $\text{Hom}(D_1, D_2) = 0$ for $D_i \in \mathcal{D}_i$. Thus \mathcal{C}_f is connected.

For $Z \in \mathcal{C}$ let $\text{Supp}(Z) = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Supp}_A H^i(Z)$. Set $\dim Z = \dim \text{Supp}(Z)$.

Let \mathcal{T} be a non-zero thick subcategory of \mathcal{C} . We show $\mathcal{C}_f \cap \mathcal{T} \neq 0$. Let $Y \in \mathcal{T}$ be such that

$$\dim Y = \min\{\dim Z \mid Z \in \mathcal{T} \text{ and } Z \neq 0\}.$$

We assert $\dim Y = 0$. If not choose $x \in \mathfrak{m}$ such that

$$\ker\{H^*(Y) \xrightarrow{x} H^*(Y)\} \text{ has finite length.}$$

Let $Y \xrightarrow{x} Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow Y[1]$ be a triangle. Then $Z \in \mathcal{T}$ as \mathcal{T} is thick. Note by construction $\dim Z \leq \dim Y - 1$. Note if $Z = 0$ then the map $H^*(Y) \xrightarrow{x} H^*(Y)$ is surjective and so by Nakayama Lemma $H^*(Y) = 0$ and so $Y = 0$, a contradiction. Thus we have $Z \in \mathcal{T}$, $Z \neq 0$ with $\dim Z < \dim Y$, which is a contradiction. So $\dim Y = 0$. Thus $Y \in \mathcal{C}_f \cap \mathcal{T}$ and $Y \neq 0$.

By Lemma 4.1 we get that \mathcal{C} is connected. \square

The following result can be shown in a similar manner to 4.2. So we only sketch a proof.

Proposition 4.4. *Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a Noetherian local ring. Let $K^b(\text{proj } A)$ be the homotopy category of bounded complexes of finitely generated free A -modules. Then $K^b(\text{proj } A)$ is connected.*

Proof. Sketch Let $K_f^b(\text{proj } A)$ be the bounded homotopy category of finitely generated projective A -modules with finite length cohomology. Then $K_f^b(\text{proj } A)$ has no proper thick subcategories, see [5, 1.2]. So $K_f^b(\text{proj } A)$ is connected. Also clearly $K_f^b(\text{proj } A)$ is thick in $K^b(\text{proj } A)$.

An argument similar to one in 4.2 shows that if \mathcal{T} is a non-zero thick subcategory of $K^b(\text{proj } A)$ then $K_f^b(\text{proj } A) \cap \mathcal{T} \neq 0$.

Thus by Lemma 4.1 we get that $K^b(\text{proj } A)$ is connected. \square

Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a local Gorenstein ring. Let $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ be the stable category of maximal Cohen-Macaulay A -modules. Let $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ be the subcategory of MCM A -modules which are free on the punctured spectrum of A . Then it is easy to check that $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ is a thick subcategory of $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$. We show

Proposition 4.5. *If $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ is connected then $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ is connected.*

We first give an application of Proposition 4.5.

Corollary 4.6. *Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a local Gorenstein ring. Let $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ be the stable category of maximal Cohen-Macaulay A -modules. Then $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ is connected in the following cases:*

- (1) A is a hypersurface singularity.
- (2) $\dim A = 1, 2$ and multiplicity of A is ≥ 3 .

Proof. In all the cases we have $\underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$ is connected, see I.(2) and II.(2) in the previous section. So the result follows from 4.5. \square

We now give

Proof of Proposition 4.5. By 4.1 it suffices to show that if \mathcal{T} is a non-zero thick subcategory of $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ then $\mathcal{T} \cap \underline{\text{CM}}^0(A) \neq 0$.

For $M \in \underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ let

$$\text{Supp}(M) = \{P \mid P \text{ is prime and } M_P \neq 0 \in \underline{\text{CM}}(A_P)\}.$$

It is easily shown that $\text{Supp}(M) = \text{Supp}(\underline{\text{Hom}}(M, M))$.

Let $Y \in \mathcal{T}$ be non-zero such that

$$\dim \text{Supp}(Y) = \min\{\dim \text{Supp}(Z) \mid Z \in \mathcal{T} \text{ and } Z \neq 0\}.$$

We assert that $\dim \text{Supp}(Y) = 0$. If not let

$$x \in \mathfrak{m} \setminus \left(\bigcup_{P \in \text{Ass}(A)} P \cup \bigcup_{Q \text{ minimal in } \text{Supp}(Y)} Q \right).$$

Note x is a non-zero divisor of A (and hence of Y). We have a triangle

$$Y \xrightarrow{x} Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow Y[1].$$

It is evident that $\dim \text{Supp}(Z) \leq \dim \text{Supp}(Y) - 1$. Furthermore note $Z \neq 0$ in $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$ (i.e., Z is not free as an A -module, for otherwise we have an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow Q \rightarrow Z \rightarrow Y/xY \rightarrow 0$ with Q -free (this follows from the triangle structure in $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$). So Y/xY has finite projective dimension. As x is Y -regular it follows that Y has finite projective dimension. So Y is free as an A -module and thus $Y = 0$ in $\underline{\text{CM}}(A)$, a contradiction. As \mathcal{T} is thick we get $Z \in \mathcal{T}$. This is a contradiction by our choice of Y . Thus $\dim \text{Supp}(Y) = 0$, in other words $Y \in \underline{\text{CM}}^0(A)$. So $\mathcal{T} \cap \underline{\text{CM}}^0(A) \neq 0$. \square

5. PROOF OF THEOREMS 1.3 AND 1.5

In this section we give proofs of Theorems 1.3 and 1.5. We first give

Proof of Theorem 1.3. Let

$$\Lambda = \{\mathcal{D} \mid \mathcal{D} \text{ is a connected thick subcategory of } \mathcal{C}\}.$$

First note that Λ is a set. Let $X \in \mathcal{C}$ be indecomposable. Then we have $\text{thick}(X)$ is connected. So Λ is non-empty. We define a partial order on Λ with $\mathcal{D} \leq \mathcal{D}'$ if $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{D}'$.

We first assert that Λ has maximal elements. For that we use Zorn's Lemma. Let $\{\mathcal{D}_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Delta}$ be a chain in Λ . Set

$$\mathcal{D} = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} \mathcal{D}_\alpha.$$

Then it is easy to see that \mathcal{D} is a thick triangulated subcategory of \mathcal{C} . We show \mathcal{D} is connected. Suppose if possible \mathcal{D} is disconnected. Say $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_1 \oplus \mathcal{D}_2$, where $\mathcal{D}_1 \neq 0$ and $\mathcal{D}_2 \neq 0$. Let $\mathcal{D}_\gamma \cap \mathcal{D}_1 \neq 0$. Then by 1.1 it follows that $\mathcal{D}_\gamma \subseteq \mathcal{D}_1$. Similarly as $\mathcal{D}_2 \neq 0$ it follows that $\mathcal{D}_\beta \subseteq \mathcal{D}_2$. As $\{\mathcal{D}_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Delta}$ is a chain it follows that $\mathcal{D}_\gamma \subseteq \mathcal{D}_\beta$ or $\mathcal{D}_\beta \subseteq \mathcal{D}_\gamma$. Either case yields that $\mathcal{D}_1 \cap \mathcal{D}_2 \neq \phi$, a contradiction. So \mathcal{D} is connected. Thus Λ has maximal elements.

Let X be indecomposable. Set

$$\Lambda_X = \{\mathcal{D} \mid \mathcal{D} \text{ is a connected thick subcategory of } \mathcal{C} \text{ and } \mathcal{D} \supseteq \text{thick}(X)\}.$$

Then $\text{thick}(X) \in \Lambda_X$. We give the obvious partial order of Λ_X and similarly prove that Λ_X has maximal elements. Also note a maximal element in Λ_X is also maximal in Λ .

Let $\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}'$ be maximal elements in Λ . As $\text{thick}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}')$ is disconnected it follows that $\text{thick}(\mathcal{D} \oplus \mathcal{D}') = \mathcal{D} \oplus \mathcal{D}'$. An easy induction yields that if $\mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_n$ are maximal elements in Λ then

$$\text{thick}(\mathcal{D}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{D}_n) = \mathcal{D}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{D}_n.$$

Consider

$$\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{\substack{\mathcal{D}_\alpha \\ \mathcal{D}_\alpha \text{ maximal in } \Lambda}} \mathcal{D}_\alpha.$$

Then \mathcal{D} is clearly a thick subcategory of \mathcal{C} . Let $X \in \mathcal{C}$ be indecomposable. Then $\text{thick}(X) \subseteq \mathcal{D}'$ for some maximal element in Λ_X . As noted before \mathcal{D}' is maximal in Λ . So $X \in \mathcal{D}$. Therefore $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{C}$. The result follows. \square

Next we give

Proof of Theorem 1.5. We first prove:

Claim: Let $X \in \mathcal{C}$. Then X is a finite direct sum of indecomposables in \mathcal{C} .

Proof of Claim: If X is indecomposable then we have nothing to show. Otherwise $X = U_1 \oplus U_2$. If U_1, U_2 are indecomposable then we are done. Iterating we may assume $X = U_1 \oplus \dots \oplus U_n$. Note that $\bigoplus_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U_i, U_i)$ is a direct summand of $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, X)$. If E is a finitely generated A -module set $\mu(E) = \dim_A E/\mathfrak{m}E$. Notice $\mu(\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, X)) \geq n$. Thus if $\mu(\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, X)) = r$ then X decomposes as a direct sum of utmost r indecomposables.

We remark that if X is indecomposable then $\text{thick}(X)$ is connected. Rest of the proof is similar to proof of Theorem 1.3. \square

6. A TRIANGULATED CATEGORY WITH INFINITELY MANY COMPONENTS

We give an example of a triangulated category which decomposes into infinitely many components.

6.1. Let k be a field and let $A = k[X_1, \dots, X_d]$. Let $\mathcal{D} = D^b(\text{mod } A) = K^b(\text{proj } A)$ be the bounded derived category of A . We note that A has infinitely many maximal ideals. Set

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D}_f = \{X \in K^b(\text{proj } A) \mid H^*(X) \text{ has finite length}\}.$$

If \mathfrak{m} is a maximal ideal in A then set

$$\mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{m}} = \{X \in \mathcal{C} \mid \text{Supp}(H^*(X)) \subseteq \mathfrak{m}\}.$$

We claim that if $X \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{m}}$ and $Y \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{n}}$ where \mathfrak{m} and \mathfrak{n} are distinct maximal ideals then $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y) = 0$. To see this simply localize at a maximal ideal P of A . Then $X_P = 0$ or $Y_P = 0$. Thus

$$\mathcal{D} = \text{thick}(\mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{m}} : \mathfrak{m} \text{ a maximal ideal of } A) = \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{m} \in \text{MaxSpec}(A)} \mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{m}}.$$

To prove our result it suffices to show $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{C}$. We do this by induction on $\ell(H^*(X))$. We may assume that $H^0(X) \neq 0$ and $X^i = 0$ for $i > 0$. If $\ell(H^*(X)) = 1$ then note $H^0(X) = A/\mathfrak{m}$ for some maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A . It follows that $X \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{m}} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$. Next we assume that the result is known for all complexes with $\ell(H^*(X)) < n$ and we prove the result when $\ell(H^*(X)) = n$. We may assume that $X^i = 0$ for $i > 0$ and $H^0(X) \neq 0$. Let $\mathfrak{m} \in \text{Supp}(H^0(X))$. Then $H^0(X)/\mathfrak{m}H^0(X) \neq 0$ and so we have a surjection $H^0(X) \rightarrow A/\mathfrak{m}$. So we have a chain map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ where Y is a projective resolution of A/\mathfrak{m} . We note that $\ell(H^*(\text{Cone}(f))) = n - 1$ and so by induction hypothesis $\text{Cone}(f) \in \mathcal{D}$. Also $Y \in \mathcal{D}$. As \mathcal{D} is thick we have $X \in \mathcal{D}$. The result follows.

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