

ON THE SUM OF HOMOLOGICAL DIMENSION AND CODIMENSION OF MODULES OVER A SEMI-LOCAL RING

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Introduction.

Let M be a finitely generated module over a regular local ring R . It is well known that the sum of homological dimension and codimension of M is equal to the global dimension of R . For modules over an arbitrary ring, this is in general not true. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the properties of such sums in the semi-local case.

Throughout this paper, we shall use S to denote a semi-local ring, that is, a commutative noetherian ring with unity having only a finite number of maximal ideals. We shall also assume that S is of finite global dimension and that all S -modules are non-null, finitely generated and unitary. Known results are as a rule quoted without proof.

In Section 1, we collect some results concerning M -sequences and codimension. In Section 2, we generalize a proposition relative to local rings to the semi-local case. In Section 3, we define the pro-global and pro-total dimensions of S -modules and the total dimension of the ring S itself. Section 4 is concerned with the relations between the various dimensions. In Section 5, we show that the various dimensions remain unchanged on completion. The results are then applied in Section 6 to study the characterization of semi-local rings of total dimension 2.

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1. M -Sequences and Codimension.

DEFINITION 1.1. Let M be a finitely generated module over a noetherian ring R . A sequence of elements $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$ in an ideal \mathfrak{n} of R is called an M -sequence in \mathfrak{n} if u_{i+1} is not a zero divisor of $M/(u_1, \dots, u_i)M$

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for $1 \leq i < t$ and $M/(u_1, \dots, u_i)M \neq 0$. The sequence is said to be maximal if there does not exist any element $u_{t+1} \in \mathfrak{m}$ such that $\{u_1, \dots, u_t, u_{t+1}\}$ is an M -sequence in \mathfrak{m} .

Note. In the sequel, we shall write $M_{(i)}$ and $R_{(i)}$ to stand for $M/(u_1, \dots, u_i)M$ and $R/(u_1, \dots, u_i)$ respectively. The symbol (u_1, \dots, u_i) denotes the ideal generated by the u 's in R .

Let \mathfrak{m} be a maximal ideal of R . It is known that every M -sequence in \mathfrak{m} can be extended to a maximal M -sequence in \mathfrak{m} and that all such maximal M -sequences in \mathfrak{m} have the same length [12]. This leads to the following definition of codimension as given by Auslander and Buchsbaum [3].

DEFINITION 1. 2. The common maximal length of M -sequences in \mathfrak{m} is called the codimension of M in \mathfrak{m} and is denoted by $\mathfrak{m}\text{-codim}_R M$. The supremum of $\mathfrak{m}\text{-codim}_R M$, where \mathfrak{m} ranges over all maximal ideals of R is called the codimension of M and is denoted by $\text{codim}_R M$.

Let S be a semi-local ring with Jacobson radical \mathfrak{r} . For any S -module N , $\mathfrak{r}\text{-codim}_S N$ is equal to the smallest integer p such that $\text{Ext}_S^p(S/\mathfrak{r}, N) \neq 0$ (see [5], Prop. 2. 9, Cor. 2. 10, for instance). Thus, $\mathfrak{r}\text{-codim}_S N$ is just the grade of N as first introduced by Rees [11]. Since the properties of $\mathfrak{r}\text{-codim}_S N$ can be easily derived by using the functor $\text{Ext}_S^p(S/\mathfrak{r}, -)$, it is more convenient, in the semi-local case, to replace Defn. 1. 2 by the following definition as given by Serre [13].

DEFINITION 1. 3. The common maximal length of N -sequences in \mathfrak{r} is called the homological codimension of N and is denoted by $\text{cohd}_S N$.

We list without proof a few propositions which will be used later.

PROPOSITION 1. 4. *Let N be an S -module. Then*

- (i) $\text{codim}_S N = \sup_{\mathfrak{m}} \text{codim}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}}$, ([3], Thm. 1. 4)
- (ii) $\text{cohd}_S N = \inf_{\mathfrak{m}} \text{cohd}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}}$, ([13], Ch. IV, Prop. 9)

where \mathfrak{m} ranges over all maximal ideals of S .

Note. $N_{\mathfrak{m}}$ and $S_{\mathfrak{m}}$ denote respectively the module of fractions and the ring of fractions of N and S with respect to \mathfrak{m} .

PROPOSITION 1. 5. *Let $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$ be a maximal N -sequence (in (ii) below, the sequence is maximal in \mathfrak{r}). Then for $1 \leq i \leq t$, we have*

- (i) $\text{codim}_S N = \text{codim}_{S_{(\mathfrak{h})}} N_{(i)} + i$, ([3], Prop. 1. 11)
- (ii) $\text{cohd}_S N = \text{cohd}_S N_{(i)} + i$. ([13], Ch. IV, Cor. to Prop. 6)

2. Generalization of a Proposition Relative to Local Rings to Semi-Local Case.

Let N be an S -module. There exists a maximal ideal \mathfrak{h} of S such that

$$\text{hd}_{S_{\mathfrak{h}}} N_{\mathfrak{h}} = \text{hd}_S N.$$

If $\text{hd}_S N = p$, then since $S_{\mathfrak{h}}$ is a local ring, we have

$$\text{Tor}_p^{S_{\mathfrak{h}}}(N_{\mathfrak{h}}, K_{\mathfrak{h}}) \neq 0,$$

where K denotes the residue field S/\mathfrak{h} ([10], Ch. 9, Thm. 11). Using this fact, a useful proposition relative to local rings ([2], Prop. 1. 4) can be extended to the semi-local case as follows:

PROPOSITION 2. 1. *Let $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$ be a maximal N -sequence in the Jacobson radical \mathfrak{r} of S . Then for $1 \leq i \leq t$, we have*

$$\text{hd}_S N_{(i)} = \text{hd}_S N + i.$$

Proof. Since $N = \mathfrak{r}N$ implies $N = 0$, we see that $N_{(i)} \neq 0$ for each i . Furthermore, $N_{(i)}$ is finitely generated and $N_{(i)} = u_i N_{(i-1)}$. Thus, we need only prove the proposition for the case $i = 1$, of which the general case is a simple consequence.

Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \dashrightarrow N \xrightarrow{f} N \dashrightarrow N/u_1N \dashrightarrow 0$$

where f is multiplication by $u_1 \in \mathfrak{h}$, which is not a zero divisor of N . This gives rise to an exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \dashrightarrow \text{Tor}_{q+1}^S(N, K) \xrightarrow{f_{q+1}} \text{Tor}_{q+1}^S(N, K) \dashrightarrow \text{Tor}_{q+1}^S(N/u_1N, K) \\ \dashrightarrow \text{Tor}_q^S(N, K) \xrightarrow{f_q} \text{Tor}_q^S(N, K) \dashrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

where K has the meaning as already given. Since $u_1K = 0$, f_q is a null map for every $q \geq 0$. Hence, the sequence

$$0 \dashrightarrow \text{Tor}_{q+1}^S(N, K) \dashrightarrow \text{Tor}_{q+1}^S(N/u_1N, K) \dashrightarrow \text{Tor}_q^S(N, K) \dashrightarrow 0 \quad (*)$$

is also exact. Assume that $\text{hd}_S N = p$. Then the middle term of (*) is not zero for $q = p$. For if otherwise, we would lead to $\text{Tor}_p^S(N, K) = 0$, and consequently

$$\text{Tor}_p^{S_{\mathfrak{h}}}(N_{\mathfrak{h}}, K_{\mathfrak{h}}) \cong (\text{Tor}_p^S(N, K))_{\mathfrak{h}} = 0_{\mathfrak{h}} = 0,$$

which is not true. (For the proof of the above isomorphism, see [10], Ch. 8, Thm. 7). Hence, $\text{hd}_S(N/u_1N) \geq p + 1$.

Replacing K by an arbitrary S -module M in (*), we see that $\text{Tor}_{p+2}^S(N/u_1N, M) = 0$ for $q = p + 1$. It follows that $\text{hd}_S(N/u_1N) \leq p + 1$, and accordingly $\text{hd}_S(N/u_1N) = \text{hd}_S N + 1$ as desired.

3. Notions of Pro-Global, Pro-Total and Total Dimensions.

By combining Prop. 2. 1 with Prop. 1. 5, we obtain the following

PROPOSITION 3. 1. *Let $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$ be a maximal N -sequence in \mathfrak{r} . Then for $0 \leq i < j \leq t$, we have*

- (i) $\text{hd}_S N_{(i)} + \text{codim}_{S_{(i)}} N_{(i)} = \text{hd}_S N_{(j)} + \text{codim}_{S_{(j)}} N_{(j)}$,
- (ii) $\text{hd}_S N_{(i)} + \text{cohd}_S N_{(i)} = \text{hd}_S N_{(j)} + \text{cohd}_S N_{(j)}$

where by $N_{(0)}$ and $S_{(0)}$ we mean N and S respectively.

DEFINITION 3. 2. The common sum of Prop. 3. 1 (i) is called the pro-total dimension of N and is denoted by $\text{ptd}_S N$. That of Prop. 3. 1 (ii) is called the pro-global dimension of N and is denoted by $\text{pgd}_S N$.

DEFINITION 3. 3. The supremum of $\text{ptd}_S N$, where N ranges over all S -modules, is called the total dimension of S and is denoted by $\text{Td } S$.

4. Relations Between Various Dimensions.

PROPOSITION 4. 1. *The following inequalities hold for any S -module N :*

$$\text{ptd}_S N \geq \text{Gd } S \geq \text{pgd}_S N$$

where $\text{Gd } S$ denotes the global dimension of S .

Proof. The inequality on the right follows from the fact that if $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$ is a maximal N -sequence in \mathfrak{r} , then $\text{cohd}_S N_{(t)} = 0$, and hence $\text{pgd}_S N = \text{hd}_S N_{(t)} \leq \text{Gd } S$.

To establish the inequality on the left, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ptd}_S N &= \sup_{\mathfrak{m}} \text{hd}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}} + \sup_{\mathfrak{m}} \text{codim}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}} \\ &\geq \sup_{\mathfrak{m}} (\text{hd}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}} + \text{codim}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}}) \\ &= \sup_{\mathfrak{m}} \text{Gd } S_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Gd } S. \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 4. 2. *For every semi-local ring S of finite global dimension, we have $\text{Gd } S = \text{codim}_S S$.*

Proof. Since for every maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of S , $S_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a regular local ring, we have $\text{Gd } S_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{codim}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} S_{\mathfrak{m}}$. Hence,

$$\text{Gd } S = \sup_{\mathfrak{m}} \text{Gd } S_{\mathfrak{m}} = \sup_{\mathfrak{m}} \text{codim}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} S_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{codim}_S S.$$

PROPOSITION 4. 3. *A semi-local ring S is a local ring iff*

$$\text{Gd } S = \text{pgd}_S S.$$

Proof. Necessity is obvious. To prove sufficiency, assume that S has more than one maximal ideal and that $\text{Gd } S = \text{pgd}_S S = t$. By Lemma 4. 2 and observing that $\text{pgd}_S S = \text{cohd}_S S$, we have $\text{codim}_S S = \text{cohd}_S S$, which means that every maximal S -sequence $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$ in \mathfrak{r} is also maximal in any maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of S . Clearly, $S_{(i)} \neq 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq t$. Thus, for every \mathfrak{m} , all elements in $\mathfrak{m} \setminus \mathfrak{r}$ are zero divisors of $S_{(i)}$. Let \mathfrak{m}_1 and \mathfrak{m}_2 be two distinct maximal ideals of S . Since \mathfrak{m}_1 and \mathfrak{m}_2 are comaximal, we can choose $v_i \in \mathfrak{m}_i \setminus \mathfrak{r}$, $i = 1, 2$, so that the ideal generated by v_1 and v_2 in S is the whole ring. But this cannot be true, for S , being a ring with unity which contains (u_1, \dots, u_t) properly, cannot consist entirely of zero divisors of $S_{(i)}$.

PROPOSITION 4. 4. *Let S be a semi-local ring having maximal ideals \mathfrak{m}_1 and \mathfrak{m}_2 satisfying the condition*

$$\mathfrak{m}_2\text{-codim}_S S \geq \mathfrak{m}_1\text{-codim}_S S > \text{cohd}_S S.$$

Then $\text{Td } S > \text{Gd } S$.

Proof. Let $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$ be a maximal S -sequence in \mathfrak{r} and $\{u_1, \dots,$

$u_i, u\}$ an extension of the sequence in \mathfrak{m}_1 . Then $\text{codim}_S(S/(u)) = \text{codim}_S S$. On the other hand, $\text{hd}_S(S/(u)) = 1 + \text{hd}_S(u) \geq 1$, since $(u) \neq (0)$. Hence, $\text{Td } S \geq \text{ptd}_S(S/(u)) \geq \text{codim}_S S + 1 > \text{Gd } S$.

Remark. From the proof of Prop. 4.3, it is clear that there exists at most one maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} with $\mathfrak{m}\text{-codim}_S S = \text{cohd}_S S$. Hence, the condition of Prop. 4.4 is always satisfied except in the case when S has exactly two maximal ideals, one of which, say \mathfrak{m} , has the property that $\mathfrak{m}\text{-codim}_S S = \text{cohd}_S S$.

COROLLARY 4.5. *For any semi-local ring S with more than two maximal ideals, we have*

$$\text{Td } S > \text{Gd } S > \text{cohd}_S S.$$

5. Effect of Completion on Various Dimensions.

In a semi-local ring S (resp. an S -module N), a topology can be introduced by taking the powers of the Jacobson radical \mathfrak{r}^n (resp. $\mathfrak{r}^n N$), $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, to be the neighbourhoods of 0. This is the natural topology of S (resp. N) with respect to which we can construct the completion \hat{S} (resp. \hat{N}) of S (resp. N). It is well known that the homological dimension of any S -module N remains unchanged on completion, and hence also $\text{Gd } S = \text{Gd } \hat{S}$ ([13], Ch. IV, Cor. 1 to Prop. 18). Furthermore, we have $\text{codim}_S N = \text{codim}_{\hat{S}} \hat{N}$ and $\text{cohd}_S N = \text{cohd}_{\hat{S}} \hat{N}$ ([13], Ch. IV, Prop. 8). We can thus easily deduce the following

PROPOSITION 5.1. *For any S -module N , we have*

$$\text{ptd}_S N = \text{ptd}_{\hat{S}} \hat{N} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{pgd}_S N = \text{pgd}_{\hat{S}} \hat{N}.$$

By taking the supremum over all S -modules N in the first equality above, we obtain

PROPOSITION 5.2. *For any S -module N , we have*

$$\text{Td } S = \text{Td } \hat{S}.$$

6. Semi-Local Rings of Total Dimension 2.

PROPOSITION 6.1. *Let S be a semi-local ring with more than two maximal*

ideals and $Td S = 2$. Then its completion \hat{S} is isomorphic to the direct sum of complete principal ideal domains.

Proof. It is known that the completion \hat{S} of S is isomorphic to the direct sum of \hat{S}_m , where m ranges over all maximal ideals of S ([8], Ch. II, Thm. 17. 7). We proceed to investigate the properties of \hat{S}_m .

For every m , S_m is a regular local ring since $Gd S$ is assumed to be finite in this paper. The Krull dimension of S_m (to be denoted by $Dim S_m$) is thus the same as that of its completion and we have

$$Dim \hat{S}_m = Dim S_m = Gd S_m \leq Gd S = 1,$$

since $2 = Td S > Gd S > 0$ (Cor. 4. 5). On the other hand, $Gd S_m = hd_S(S/m) = hd_S m + 1 \geq 1$ since $m \neq (0)$. Hence, \hat{S}_m is a regular local ring of Krull dimension 1. Our proposition then follows from the fact that every such ring is a local domain, of which all non-zero proper ideals are principal ideals ([9], Ch. IV, Prop. 7).

PROPOSITION 6. 2. *Let S be a semi-local ring with more than two maximal ideals and $Td S = 2$. Then S is a principal ideal ring. There is exactly one maximal ideal of S which is generated by a zero divisor of S .*

Proof. By Prop. 6. 1, \hat{S} is the direct sum of principal ideal domains and is thus a principal ideal ring ([14], Vol. I, Ch. IV, Thm. 33).

For any non-zero proper ideal π of S , we have $\pi = \hat{\pi} \cap S$ and so π is also a principal ideal. Denote the maximal ideals of S by (v_i) , where i ranges over a finite number of indices, and let $\tau = (u)$. Then u is a zero divisor of S since $Td S = 2$ implies $coh_S S = 0$. Since $\Pi_i v_i \in (u)$, at least one of the v_i is a zero divisor of S . Using the arguments as given in the last part of the proof of Prop. 4. 3, at most one of the v_i is a zero divisor of S . This completes the proof of our proposition.

PROPOSITION 6. 3. *Let S be a semi-local ring with more than two maximal ideals. If S is at the same time a principal ideal ring, then $Td S = 2$.*

Proof. It is easily seen that $Dim S = 1$ and hence $codim_S S = Gd S = 1$ ([3], Cor. 1. 7). By Cor. 4. 5, we have $Td S \geq 2$. To establish the reverse inequality, it suffices to show that $ptd_S N \leq 2$ for an arbitrary S -module N .

Since for every maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of S , $S_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a regular local ring, we have $\text{codim}_{S_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}} = \text{Gd } S_{\mathfrak{m}} \leq 1$. Thus, $\text{codim}_S N \leq 1$ by Prop. 1.4 (i), and so

$$\text{ptd}_S N = \text{hd}_S N + \text{codim}_S N \leq 1 + 1 = 2$$

as desired.

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