On generalizations of an old theorem of Rickard's

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In honor of Manuel Saorin's 65th birthday

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1 Background on some classical derived categories

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- 2 Rickard's 1989 theorem
- 3 Understanding the object $R \in \mathbf{D}(R-Mod)$
- 4 The generalized Rickard theorem
- 5 The relation with finitistic dimension

Reminder: decorated derived categories

Let R be an associative ring.

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The derived categories of R come in many flavors, the following being a partial list.

 $\begin{array}{lll} \mathbf{D}(R-\mathrm{Mod}), & \mathbf{D}^-(R-\mathrm{Mod}), & \mathbf{D}^+(R-\mathrm{Mod}), & \mathbf{D}^b(R-\mathrm{Mod}) \\ \mathbf{D}^-(R-\mathrm{mod}) & \mathbf{D}^b(R-\mathrm{proj}) & \mathbf{D}^b(R-\mathrm{mod}) \end{array}$

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In all of these categories, the objects are cochain complexes of *R*-modules

$$\cdots \longrightarrow F^{-2} \longrightarrow F^{-1} \longrightarrow F^0 \longrightarrow F^1 \longrightarrow F^2 \longrightarrow \cdots$$

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and the decorations explain what restrictions we place on the complexes.

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Reminder: decorated derived categories, generalized to schemes

Let X be a scheme. One can form the derived categories

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{qc}}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{-}_{\mathbf{qc}}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{+}_{\mathbf{qc}}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{b}_{\mathbf{qc}}(X), \\ \mathbf{D}^{-}_{\mathbf{coh}}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{\mathrm{perf}}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{b}_{\mathbf{coh}}(X) \end{array}$$

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or refine to the relative version, where $Z \subset X$ is a closed subset

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{qc},Z}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{-}_{\mathbf{qc},Z}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{+}_{\mathbf{qc},Z}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{b}_{\mathbf{qc},Z}(X), \\ \mathbf{D}^{-}_{\mathbf{coh},Z}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{\mathrm{perf}}_{Z}(X), & \mathbf{D}^{b}_{\mathbf{coh},Z}(X) \end{array}$$

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If S and T are two triangulated categories, then $S \cong T$ will mean: there exists a triangulated equivalence between S and T.

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This can be found in Theorem 1.1 of:

Jeremy Rickard, *Derived categories and stable equivalence*, J. Pure and Appl. Algebra **61** (1989), 303–317.

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Question (Krause 2018): Is there an algorithm to produce $D^b(R-mod)$ out of $D^b(R-proj)$?

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Henning Krause, *Completing perfect complexes*, Math. Z. **296** (2020), no. 3-4, 1387–1427, With appendices by Tobias Barthel, Bernhard Keller and Krause.

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- Amnon Neeman, The categories \mathcal{T}^c and \mathcal{T}^b_c determine each other, https://arxiv.org/abs/1806.06471.

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An object $G \in \mathcal{T}$ is compact if Hom(G, -) commutes with coproducts.

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The object $R \in \mathbf{D}(R-Mod)$ is a compact generator.

Example (the standard *t*-structure on D(R-Mod))

We define two full subcategories of D(R-Mod):

- $\mathbf{D}(R-\mathrm{Mod})^{\leq 0} = \{A \in \mathbf{D}(R-\mathrm{Mod}) \mid H^i(A) = 0 \text{ for all } i > 0\}$
- $\mathbf{D}(R\operatorname{-Mod})^{\geq 0} = \{A \in \mathbf{D}(R\operatorname{-Mod}) \mid H^i(A) = 0 \text{ for all } i < 0\}$

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A *t*-structure on a triangulated category \mathcal{T} is a pair of full subcategories $(\mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0})$ satisfying

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 $\bullet \ \mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}[1] \subset \mathcal{T}^{\leq 0} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0} \subset \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0}[1]$

•
$$\operatorname{Hom}\left(\mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}[1] \ , \ \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0}\right) = 0$$

• Every object $B \in \mathcal{T}$ admits a triangle

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow$$

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with $A \in \mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}[1]$ and $C \in \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0}$.

Definition (equivalent *t*-structures)

Let \mathcal{T} be any triangulated category, and let $(\mathcal{T}_1^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}_1^{\geq 0})$ and $(\mathcal{T}_2^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}_2^{\geq 0})$ be two *t*-structures on \mathcal{T} . We declare them equivalent if they are a finite distance from each other.
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To spell it out: the two *t*-structures are equivalent if there exists an integer A > 0 with

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$$\mathcal{T}_1^{\leq -A} \subset \mathcal{T}_2^{\leq 0} \subset \mathcal{T}_1^{\leq A}.$$

It is a formal consequence that, for the same integer A > 0, we have

$$\mathcal{T}_1^{\geq -A} \supset \mathcal{T}_2^{\geq 0} \supset \mathcal{T}_1^{\geq A}.$$

Let \mathcal{T} be a triangulated category with coproducts, and let $G \in \mathcal{T}$ be a compact object. A 2003 theorem of Alonso, Jeremías and Souto teaches us that \mathcal{T} has a unique *t*-structure $(\mathcal{T}_{G}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}_{G}^{\geq 0})$ generated by G.

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Among all *t*-structures $(\mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0})$ such that $G \in \mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}$, there exists a unique one with minimal $\mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}$.

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If G and H are two compact generators for \mathcal{T} , then the *t*-structures $(\mathcal{T}_{G}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}_{G}^{\geq 0})$ and $(\mathcal{T}_{H}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}_{H}^{\geq 0})$ are equivalent.

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We say that a *t*-structure $(\mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0})$ is in the

preferred equivalence class

if it is equivalent to $(\mathcal{T}_G^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}_G^{\geq 0})$ for some compact generator G, hence for every compact generator.

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$$\mathcal{T}^- = \bigcup_n \mathcal{T}^{\leq n}, \qquad \mathcal{T}^+ = \bigcup_n \mathcal{T}^{\geq -n}, \qquad \mathcal{T}^b = \mathcal{T}^- \cap \mathcal{T}^+$$

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It's obvious that equivalent *t*-structures yield identical \mathcal{T}^- , \mathcal{T}^+ and \mathcal{T}^b .

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These are intrinsic, they're independent of any choice. In the remainder of the slides we only consider the "preferred" \mathcal{T}^- , \mathcal{T}^+ and \mathcal{T}^b .

Definition (the subtler categories $\overline{\mathcal{T}_c^b \subset \mathcal{T}_c^-}$)

Let \mathcal{T} be a triangulated category with coproducts, and assume it has a compact generator G. Choose a *t*-structure $(\mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0})$ in the preferred equivalence class.

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It's obvious that the category \mathcal{T}_c^- is intrinsic. As \mathcal{T}_c^- and \mathcal{T}^b are both intrinsic, so is their intersection \mathcal{T}_c^b .



Example (The special case $\mathcal{T} = \mathbf{D}_{qc,Z}(X)$, with X a coherent scheme and $Z \subset X$ a closed subset)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}^+ &= \mathbf{D}^+_{\mathbf{qc},Z}(X), \qquad \mathcal{T}^- &= \mathbf{D}^-_{\mathbf{qc},Z}(X), \qquad \mathcal{T}^c &= \mathbf{D}^{\mathrm{perf}}_Z(X), \\ \mathcal{T}^b &= \mathbf{D}^b_{\mathbf{qc},Z}(X), \qquad \mathcal{T}^-_c &= \mathbf{D}^-_{\mathbf{coh},Z}(X), \qquad \mathcal{T}^b_c &= \mathbf{D}^b_{\mathbf{coh},Z}(X) \end{aligned}$$

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Example (The special case $\mathcal{T}=\mathbf{D}($	($R ext{-Mod}$), with R a	ring)
$\mathcal{T}^+ = \mathbf{D}^+(R\text{-}\mathrm{Mod}),$	$\mathcal{T}^- = \mathbf{D}^-(R - \mathrm{Mod}),$	
$\mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{D}} = \mathbf{D}^{\mathcal{D}}(R-\mathrm{Mod}),$	$\mathcal{T}^{c} = \mathbf{D}^{b}(R-\mathrm{proj}),$	
$\mathcal{T}_c^- = \mathbf{D}^-(R-\mathrm{proj}),$	$\mathcal{T}_{c}^{b} = D^{b}(R - \mathrm{mod})$	

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For *R* not coherent, $D^{b}(R-mod)$ should be replaced by $\mathbf{K}^{-,b}(R-proj)$.

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For *R* not coherent, $D^b(R-mod)$ should be replaced by $K^{-,b}(R-proj)$. The objects are the bounded-above cochain complexes of finitely-generated projective modules, and the *b* in the superscript means that all but finitely many cohomology groups vanish.

Projective resolutions

Suppose we are given an object $F^* \in \mathbf{D}(R-Mod)$, meaning a cochain complex

$$\cdots \longrightarrow F^{-2} \longrightarrow F^{-1} \longrightarrow F^0 \longrightarrow F^1 \longrightarrow F^2 \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Assume $F^* \in \mathbf{D}(R - Mod)^{\leq 0}$, meaning

$$H^i(F^*) = 0 \quad \text{ for all } i > 0.$$

Then F^* has a projective resolution. We can produce a cochain map



inducing an isomorphism in cohomology, and so that the P^i are projective.

Projective resolutions—a different perspective

We have found in D(R-Mod) an isomorphism $P^* \longrightarrow F^*$. Now consider



This gives in $\mathbf{D}(R-Mod)$ triangles



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with $D_n^* \in \mathbf{D}(R-\mathrm{Mod})^{\leq -n-1}$ and E_n^* not too complicated.

Let \mathcal{T} be a triangulated category. Let $G \in \mathcal{T}$ be an object, and let A > 0 be an integer. I ask the audience to accept, as a black box, that there are sensible constructions of the following four full subcategories of \mathcal{T} :

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(G)_A. This is classical, it consists of the objects of T obtainable from G using no more than A extensions.

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Also assumes T has coproducts: (G)^[-A,A]. This is new, both the allowed suspensions and the number of extensions allowed are bounded.

Let ${\mathcal T}$ be a triangulated category with coproducts. It is weakly approximable if

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Equivalently: Hom(G, G[n]) = 0 for $n \gg 0$.

• For every object $F \in \mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}$ there exists a triangle $E \longrightarrow F \longrightarrow D$, with $D \in \mathcal{T}^{\leq -1}$ and with $E \in \overline{\langle G \rangle}^{[-A,A]}$.





Let \mathcal{T} be a coherent, weakly approximable triangulated category.










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In a special case: how does one recognize $D^{b}(R-mod)$ in $D^{b}(R-Mod)$ or in $D^{+}(R-Mod)$?

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The objects $C \in \mathcal{T}_c^b$ are all compact, meaning $\operatorname{Hom}(C, -)$ commutes with the coproducts that exist in \mathcal{T}^+ or in \mathcal{T}^b .

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But also: for every object $C \in \mathcal{T}_c^b$



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In a special case: how does one recognize $D^{b}(R-\text{mod})$ in $D^{b}(R-\text{Mod})$ or in $D^{+}(R-\text{Mod})$?

The objects $C \in \mathcal{T}_c^b$ are all compact, meaning $\operatorname{Hom}(C, -)$ commutes with the coproducts that exist in \mathcal{T}^+ or in \mathcal{T}^b .

But also: for every object $C \in \mathcal{T}_c^b$, for every *t*-structure in the preferred equivalence class such that \mathcal{T}^{\heartsuit} is a Grothendieck abelian category, and for every filtered functor $F : I \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}^{\heartsuit}$, the natural map

$$\operatorname{Colim}\left(\operatorname{Hom}(\mathcal{C},\mathcal{F}(-))\right) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}\left(\mathcal{C},\operatorname{Colim}\mathcal{F}(-)\right)$$

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is an isomorphism.









Let \mathcal{T} be a coherent, weakly approximable triangulated category.



triangulated results in combination with enhancement techniques

Let \mathcal{T} be a coherent, weakly approximable triangulated category. If either \mathcal{T}^c or \mathcal{T}^b_c has a unique enhancement:



Work in progress: triangulated results in combination with enhancement techniques

Let \mathcal{T} be a weakly approximable triangulated category. If either \mathcal{T}^c or \mathcal{T}^b_c has a unique enhancement:





triangulated results in combination with enhancement techniques

Let X be a noetherian scheme, and let $Z \subset X$ be a closed subset.



Work in progress: triangulated results in combination with enhancement techniques

Let X be a

scheme, and let $Z \subset X$ be a closed subset.



Example not from representation theory or algebraic geometry

If \mathcal{T} is the homotopy category of spectra:



Back to Rickard's old result

If R is a coherent ring, not necessarily commutative:



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If R is a ring, not necessarily commutative: D(R-Mod) $D^{-}(R-Mod)$ $D^+(R-Mod)$??? $\mathbf{D}^{b}(R-\mathrm{Mod})$ $D^{-}(R - mod)$ $\mathbf{D}^{b}(R-\operatorname{proj})$ $\mathbf{D}^{b}(R-\mathrm{mod})$

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- Amnon Neeman, *Triangulated categories with a single compact generator and a Brown representability theorem*, arXiv:1804.02240.
- Jesse Burke, Amnon Neeman, and Bregje Pauwels, *Gluing approximable triangulated categories*, Forum Math. Sigma **11** (2023), Paper No. e110, 18 pages.
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Published articles by others, building the theory further

- Mikhail V. Bondarko and S. V. Vostokov, On weakly negative subcategories, weight structures, and (weakly) approximable triangulated categories, Lobachevskii J. Math. 41 (2020), 151–159.
- Martin Kalck, Nebojsa Pavic, and Evgeny Shinder, Obstructions to semiorthogonal decompositions for singular threefolds I: K-theory, Mosc. Math. J. 21 (2021), no. 3, 567–592.
- Joseph Karmazyn, Alexander Kuznetsov, and Evgeny Shinder, *Derived categories of singular surfaces*, J. Eur. Math. Soc. (JEMS) **24** (2022), no. 2, 461–526.
- Yongliang Sun and Yaohua Zhang, Ladders and completion of triangulated categories, Theory Appl. Categ. 37 (2021), Paper No. 4, 95–106.

Rudradip Biswas, Hongxing Chen, Kabeer Manali Rahul, Chris J. Parker, and Junhua Zheng, Bounded t-structures, finitistic dimensions, and singularity categories of triangulated categories, arXiv:2401.00130.

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- Mikhail V. Bondarko, Producing "new" semi-orthogonal decompositions in arithmetic geometry, arXiv:2203.07315.
- Yongliang Sun and Yaohua Zhang, *Localization theorems for approximable triangulated categories*, arXiv:2402.04954.

Suppose ${\mathcal S}$ be a triangulated category. We define

Definition Let $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S})$ be the collection of full subcategories $P \in \mathcal{S}$ satisfying $P[1] \subset P$. Then

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We declare P, P ∈ P(S) equivalent if there exists an integer A > 0 with

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If [P] and [P̃] denote the equivalence classes of P, P̃ ∈ P(S), then we declare that [P] ≤ [P̃] if there exists an integer A > 0 with P[A] ⊂ P̃.

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Now suppose \mathcal{T} is a weakly approximable triangulated category with $\mathcal{T}^c \subset \mathcal{T}^b_c$, and let G be a classical generator of \mathcal{T}^c



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- $\bullet [P_G] = [\mathcal{T}_c^b \cap \mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}] .$
- $\ \, {\color{black} 2} \ \, [Q_G] = [\mathcal{T}^b_c \cap \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0}] \ .$

Suppose \mathcal{T} is a weakly approximable triangulated category with $\mathcal{T}^c \subset \mathcal{T}_c^b$. Put $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{T}_c^b$ and let $H \in \mathcal{S}$ be any object. We say that H satisfies the strong hypothesis if

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For every object X ∈ S there exists an integer B > 0, depending on X, with

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• Hom $(P_H[A], Q_H) = 0.$

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Moreover there is an integer A > 0 such that the following hold:

Por every object F ∈ P_H, and every integer m > 0, there exists a triangle E_m → F → D_m with E_m ∈ ⟨H⟩^[1-m-A,A] and with D_m ∈ P_H[m].

 D^{\perp} containing \mathcal{T}_c^b .



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If ${}^{\perp}\mathcal{T}_{c}^{b} \cap \mathcal{T}_{c}^{-} = \{0\}$, then there is a recipe giving \mathcal{T}^{c} as a subcategory of \mathcal{T}_{c}^{b} .

Let \mathcal{T} be a weakly approximable triangulated category with $\mathcal{T}^c \subset \mathcal{T}_c^b$, and let $(\mathcal{T}^{\leq 0}, \mathcal{T}^{\geq 0})$ be a *t*-structure in the preferred equivalence class. Put

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 $\mathfrak{C}(\mathcal{T}) = \mathcal{T}^{-} \bigcap \left\{ \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(\bot [\mathcal{T}^{\leq -i}] \cap [\mathcal{T}^{\leq -i}]^{\perp} \right) \right\} .$

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It is known that there exists an integer B > 0 with

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The "big" finitistic dimension conjecture says that there exists an integer B>0 with

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The "small" finitistic dimension conjecture says that there exists an integer B > 0 with

$$\mathfrak{C}(\mathcal{T}) \cap [\mathcal{T}^{\leq -m}]^{\perp} \quad \subset \quad {}^{\perp}[\mathcal{T}^{\leq -m-B}] \; .$$

Thank you!

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