

ALGEBRAS WITH LARGE HOMOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS

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ABSTRACT. An example is given of a semiprimary ring with infinite finitistic dimension. The construction shows that the global dimensions of finite dimensional algebras of finite global dimension cannot be bounded by a function of only Loewy length and the number of nonisomorphic simple modules.

The (right) finitistic global dimension $\text{rFPD}(A)$ of a ring A is the supremum of the projective dimensions of the right A -modules of finite projective dimension; we denote the supremum of the projective dimensions of the right finitely generated A -modules of finite projective dimension by $\text{rfPD}(A)$. When A is a semiprimary ring with $(\text{rad } A)^2 = 0$ it is easy to show that $\text{rFPD}(A)$ is finite; in this note we present a semiprimary graded ring A with $(\text{rad } A)^4 = 0$ and $\text{rfPD}(A) = \infty$. It is a long standing open question (see [B]) whether $\text{rFPD}(A)$ (or $\text{rfPD}(A)$) is finite for all finite dimensional algebras A ; there has been some recent progress on the question (see [Z1, GKK, IZ, GZ-H]) including a proof [GZ-H] of the fact that $\text{rfPD}(A) < \infty$ when A is a right Artinian ring with $(\text{rad } A)^3 = 0$. The example in this note shows that the Finitistic Dimension Conjecture is not true for semiprimary rings; it, of course, remains open for finite dimensional algebras and Artinian rings.

A related question of current interest is to find bounds on the global dimension of a finite dimensional algebra A of finite global dimension. Schofield [S] proved that there exists an integer-valued function f , such that if A is a finite dimensional k -algebra with vector space dimension $[A: k] = n$ and with finite global dimension, then $\text{gldim}(A) \leq f(n)$; the nature of this function f is unknown, but in all known examples of algebras with finite global dimension, the global dimension of A does not exceed the vector space dimension of A . Examples of finite dimensional algebras of arbitrarily large finite global dimension can be produced by increasing either the number of isomorphism classes of simples or the Loewy length. It has been shown [G] that finite dimensional algebras with exactly two isomorphism classes of simple right modules can have

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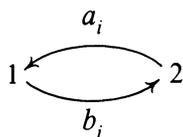
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arbitrarily large finite global dimension, but for certain classes of algebras, upper bounds on the global dimension of finite dimensional algebras of finite global dimension have been obtained (see [GHZ, Gu, Z1, Z2, Z-H]). Bounds on the finitistic dimension [GKK, GZ-H, Z-H], of course, are also bounds on the global dimension of algebras of finite global dimension; in [IZ] it is shown that $\text{rFPD}(A)$ is bounded by $[\text{rad } A : k]$ for any finite dimensional monomial algebra A . The example constructed in this note is a direct limit of finite dimensional algebras A_i of finite (but increasing) global dimensions; for each of the algebras A_i , $(\text{rad } A_i)^4 = 0$, there are exactly two isomorphism classes of simple right A_i -modules, $\text{gldim } A_i = 2i + 1$, and $[\text{rad } A_i : k] = 2i^2 + i$. Hence there does not exist an upper bound on the global dimension of a finite dimensional algebra A of finite global dimension which depends only upon the Loewy length of A and the number of isomorphism classes of simple right A -modules.

Let k be a field and Γ a directed graph. The path algebra $k\Gamma$ of Γ over k is the k -vector space with basis consisting of the set of all paths in Γ , and with multiplication of paths given by $\alpha \cdot \beta = \alpha\beta$ if the terminal vertex of α is the initial vertex of β and $\alpha \cdot \beta = 0$ otherwise; the multiplication is extended bilinearly to all of $k\Gamma$.

The example A with properties described above is a factor ring of the path algebra $k\Gamma$ of the quiver Γ below with the relations indicated, for arrows $\{a_i, b_i : i \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Quiver Γ :



Relations ρ : $b_i a_j b_l = 0$ for all i, j, l ,
 $a_i b_{i+l} - a_{i+l} b_{i+l} = 0$ for $l \geq 1$,
 $a_i b_j = 0$ for $i > j$,
 $b_i a_i = 0$ for all i .

Let $A = k\Gamma / \langle \rho \rangle$. It is not difficult to check that the following properties hold for A :

1. Letting e_i denote the idempotent associated to vertex i , a basis for A over k is: $\{e_i, a_i, b_i, a_i b_j, b_i a_j$ for $i \neq j, a_i b_i a_j$ for $i \neq j\}$.
2. There are exactly two isomorphism classes of simple right A -modules, $\text{rad } A = \langle a_i, b_i \rangle$, $(\text{rad } A)^4 = 0$, A is a semiprimary ring, and A is graded by powers of $\text{rad } A$ since the relations are homogeneous.
3. We compute right annihilators of certain elements of A :
 $\text{rannih } a_1 = e_2 A$,
 $\text{rannih } b_1 = a_1 A \oplus e_1 A$ (note that $a_j b_j = a_1 b_j \in a_1 A$ for $j \geq 2$),
 $\text{rannih } a_2 = b_1 A \oplus e_2 A$, and
 $\text{rannih } b_2 = a_2 A \oplus a_1 b_1 A \oplus e_1 A$ and $\text{rannih } a_1 b_1 = \text{rannih } b_1$.

For $i \geq 3$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rannih } a_i &= b_1 A \oplus \cdots \oplus b_{i-1} A \oplus e_2 A, \\ \text{rannih } b_i &= a_1 A \oplus a_1 b_1 A \oplus \cdots \oplus a_{i-1} b_{i-1} A \oplus e_1 A, \quad \text{and} \\ \text{rannih } a_i b_i &= \text{rannih } b_i. \end{aligned}$$

4. Considering the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow \text{rannih } x \rightarrow A \rightarrow xA \rightarrow 0$ it follows from 3 that $\text{pd}(a_1 A) = 0$, $\text{pd}(b_1 A) = 1$, $\text{pd}(a_2 A) = 2$, \dots , so that $\text{rFPD}(A) = \infty$.
5. Let Γ_i be the quiver above using only the arrows $\{a_j, b_j: j \leq i\}$, and let A_i be the algebra obtained by specifying relations as above. Then A_i is a finite dimensional algebra with $(\text{rad } A_i)^4 = 0$ and exactly two isomorphism classes of simple right A_i -modules. To compute $\text{gldim}(A_i)$ (and show it is finite) we need only compute $\text{pd}(\text{rad } A_i)$. The computation of right annihilators in A_i is the same as that in A . Note that $\text{rad } A_i = (a_1 A_i + \cdots + a_i A_i) \oplus (b_1 A_i + \cdots + b_i A_i)$ and $b_1 A_i + \cdots + b_i A_i = b_1 A_i \oplus \cdots \oplus b_i A_i$, so $\text{pd}(b_1 A_i + \cdots + b_i A_i) = 2i - 1$. To compute $\text{pd}(a_1 A_i + \cdots + a_i A_i)$ we inductively use the exact sequence,

$$0 \rightarrow I \cap y A_i \rightarrow I \oplus y A_i \rightarrow I + y A_i \rightarrow 0.$$

Noting that $\text{pd}(a_j A_i) = 2j - 2$, $(a_1 A_i + \cdots + a_{j-1} A_i) \cap a_j A_i = a_j b_j A_i$, and $\text{pd}(a_j b_j A_i) = 2j - 1$, we find that $\text{pd}(a_1 A_i + \cdots + a_i A_i) = 2i$. It follows that $\text{gldim } A_i = 2i + 1$; note that $[\text{rad } A_i: k] = 2i^2 + i$.

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