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## Using semidualizing complexes to detect Gorenstein rings

SEAN SATHER-WAGSTAFF AND JONATHAN TOTUSHEK

**Abstract.** A result of Foxby states that if there exists a complex with finite depth, finite flat dimension, and finite injective dimension over a local ring  $R$ , then  $R$  is Gorenstein. In this paper we investigate some homological dimensions involving a semidualizing complex and improve on Foxby's result by answering a question of Takahashi and White. In particular, we prove for a semidualizing complex  $C$ , if there exists a complex with finite depth, finite  $\mathcal{F}_C$ -projective dimension, and finite  $\mathcal{I}_C$ -injective dimension over a local ring  $R$ , then  $R$  is Gorenstein.

**Mathematics Subject Classification.** 13D02, 13D05, 13D09.

**Keywords.** Depth, Flat dimension, Gorenstein rings, Injective dimension, Semidualizing complex, Semidualizing module, Small support.

**1. Introduction.** Throughout this paper let  $R$  be a commutative noetherian ring with identity. A result of Foxby states that, if there exists an  $R$ -complex  $X$  that has finite flat dimension and finite injective dimension, then  $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is a Gorenstein ring for all  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{supp}_R(X)$ ; see Section 2 for definitions. In this paper we generalize this theorem using a semidualizing  $R$ -module. A finitely generated  $R$ -module  $C$  is *semidualizing* if  $R \cong \text{Hom}_R(C, C)$  and  $\text{Ext}_R^{\geq 1}(C, C) = 0$ . Semidualizing modules are useful, e.g., for proving results about Bass numbers [4, 14] and compositions of local ring homomorphisms [4, 13].

Takahashi and White [17] define the  $C$ -projective dimension for an  $R$ -module  $M$  (denoted  $\mathcal{P}_C\text{-pd}_R(M)$ ) to be the length of the shortest resolution by modules of the form  $C \otimes_R P$  where  $P$  is a projective  $R$ -module. They define  $C$ -injective dimension ( $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}$ ) dually. In their investigation Takahashi and White posed the following question: When  $R$  is a local Cohen-Macaulay ring

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admitting a dualizing module and  $C$  is a semidualizing  $R$ -module, if there exists an  $R$ -module  $M$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_C\text{-pd}_R(M) < \infty$  and  $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(M) < \infty$ , must  $R$  be Gorenstein? If  $M$  has infinite depth, then the answer is false. However, if we additionally assume that  $M$  has finite depth, then an affirmative answer to this question would yield a generalization of Foxby's theorem.

Partial answers to Takahashi and White's question is given by Araya and Takahashi [1] and Sather-Wagstaff and Yassemi [16]. We give a complete answer to this question in the following result; see Section 2 for background on complexes and the derived category, and Theorem 3.2 for the proof.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $C$  be a semidualizing  $R$ -complex. If there exists an  $R$ -complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  such that  $\mathcal{F}_C\text{-pd}_R(X) < \infty$  and  $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(X) < \infty$ , then  $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is Gorenstein for all  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{supp}_R(X)$ .*

**2. Background.** Let  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  denote the derived category of complexes of  $R$ -modules, indexed homologically (see e.g. [11, 12]). A complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}(R)$  is *homologically bounded below*, denoted  $X \in \mathcal{D}_+(R)$ , if  $H_i(X) = 0$  for all  $i \ll 0$ . It is *homologically bounded above*, denoted  $X \in \mathcal{D}_-(R)$ , if  $H_i(X) = 0$  for all  $i \gg 0$ . It is *homologically degreewise finite*, denoted  $X \in \mathcal{D}^f(R)$ , if  $H_i(X)$  is finitely generated for all  $i$ . Set  $\mathcal{D}_b(R) = \mathcal{D}_+(R) \cap \mathcal{D}_-(R)$  and  $\mathcal{D}_*^f(R) = \mathcal{D}^f(R) \cap \mathcal{D}_*(R)$  for each  $*$   $\in \{+, -, b\}$ . Complexes in  $\mathcal{D}_b^f(R)$  are called *homologically finite*. Isomorphisms in  $\mathcal{D}(R)$  are identified by the symbol  $\simeq$ .

For  $R$ -complexes  $X$  and  $Y$ , let  $\text{inf}(X)$  and  $\text{sup}(X)$  denote the infimum and supremum, respectively, of the set  $\{i \in \mathbb{Z} \mid H_i(X) \neq 0\}$  with the convention  $\text{sup}(\emptyset) = -\infty$  and  $\text{inf}(\emptyset) = \infty$ . Let  $X \otimes_R^L Y$  and  $\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_R(X, Y)$  denote the left-derived tensor product and right-derived homomorphism complexes, respectively.

If  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k)$  is local, the *depth* and *width* of an  $R$ -complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}(R)$  are defined by Foxby [7] and Yassemi [19] as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{depth}_R(X) &:= -\text{sup}(\mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_R(k, X)) \\ \text{width}_R(X) &:= \text{inf}(k \otimes_R^L X). \end{aligned}$$

One relation between these quantities is given in the following.

The *small support* of an  $R$ -complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}(R)$  is defined by Foxby [7] as follows:

$$\text{supp}_R(X) := \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R) \mid \kappa(\mathfrak{p}) \otimes_R^L X \neq 0\}.$$

An important property of the small support is given in the following.

**Fact 2.1 ([7, Proposition 2.7]).** If  $X, Y \in \mathcal{D}(R)$ , then

$$\text{supp}_R(X \otimes_R^L Y) = \text{supp}_R(X) \cap \text{supp}_R(Y).$$

The *flat dimension* of an  $R$ -complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}_+(R)$  is

$$\text{fd}_R(X) := \text{inf} \left\{ n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \begin{array}{l} F \xrightarrow{\simeq} X \text{ where } F \text{ is a bounded below complex of} \\ \text{flat } R\text{-modules such that } F_i = 0 \text{ for all } i > n \end{array} \right\}.$$

The *injective dimension* of an  $R$ -complex  $Y \in \mathcal{D}_-(R)$  is

$$\text{id}_R(X) := \inf \left\{ n \in \mathbb{Z} \left| \begin{array}{l} Y \xrightarrow{\simeq} I \text{ where } I \text{ is a bounded above complex of} \\ \text{injective } R\text{-modules such that } I_j = 0 \text{ for all } j > -n \end{array} \right. \right\}.$$

A homologically finite  $R$ -complex  $C$  is *semidualizing* if the homothety morphism  $\chi_C^R : R \rightarrow \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, C)$  is an isomorphism in  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ . An  $R$ -complex  $D$  is *dualizing* if it is semidualizing and has finite injective dimension. Dualizing complexes were introduced by Grothendieck and Hartshorne [12], and semidualizing complexes originate in work of Foxby [6], Avramov and Foxby [4], and Christensen [5]. For the non-commutative case, see, e.g., Araya, Takahashi, and Yoshino [2].

**Assumption 2.2.** For the rest of this paper, let  $C$  be a semidualizing  $R$ -complex.

The following classes were defined in [4, 5]. The *Auslander Class* with respect to  $C$  is the full subcategory  $\mathcal{A}_C(R) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  such that a complex  $X$  is in  $\mathcal{A}_C(R)$  if and only if  $C \otimes_R^L X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  and the natural morphism  $\gamma_X^C : X \rightarrow \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, C \otimes_R^L X)$  is an isomorphism in  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ . Dually, the *Bass Class* with respect to  $C$  is the full subcategory  $\mathcal{B}_C(R) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  such that a complex  $Y$  is in  $\mathcal{B}_C(R)$  if and only if  $\mathbf{RHom}_R(C, Y) \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  and the natural morphism  $\xi_Y^C : C \otimes_R^L \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, Y) \rightarrow Y$  is an isomorphism in  $\mathcal{D}(R)$ .

The  $\mathcal{F}_C$ -projective dimension and  $\mathcal{I}_C$ -injective dimension of an  $R$ -complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  are defined in [18] as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_C\text{-pd}_R(X) &:= \sup(C) + \text{fd}_R(\mathbf{RHom}_R(C, X)) \\ \mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(X) &:= \sup(C) + \text{id}_R(C \otimes_R^L X). \end{aligned}$$

The following fact shows that the above definitions are consistent with the ones given by Takahashi and White [17] when  $C$  is a semidualizing module.

**Fact 2.3 ([18, Theorem 3.9]).** Let  $X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$ .

- (a) We have  $\mathcal{F}_C\text{-pd}_R(X) < \infty$  if and only if there exists an  $R$ -complex  $F \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  such that  $\text{fd}_R(F) < \infty$  and  $X \simeq C \otimes_R^L F$ . When these conditions are satisfied, one has  $F \simeq \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, X)$  and  $X \in \mathcal{B}_C(R)$ .
- (b) We have  $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(X) < \infty$  if and only if there exists an  $R$ -complex  $J \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  such that  $\text{id}_R(J) < \infty$  and  $X \simeq \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, J)$ . When these conditions are satisfied, one has  $J \simeq C \otimes_R^L X$  and  $X \in \mathcal{A}_C(R)$ .

**3. Results.** The next result fully answers the question of Takahashi and White discussed in the introduction.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m}, k)$  be a local ring. If there is an  $R$ -complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  with finite depth,  $\mathcal{F}_C\text{-pd}_R(X) < \infty$  and  $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(X) < \infty$ , then  $R$  is Gorenstein.*

*Proof.* Case 1:  $\text{depth}_R(X) < \infty$  and  $R$  has a dualizing complex  $D$ .

We first observe that by [8, Theorem 4.6] we have that the following:

$$\text{depth}_R(\mathbf{RHom}_R(C, X)) = \text{width}_R(C) + \text{depth}_R(X) < \infty. \quad (3.1.1)$$

Note that  $\text{depth}_R(X)$  is finite by assumption, and  $\text{width}_R(C)$  is finite by Nakayama's Lemma as  $C$  is homologically finite: see [7, Lemma 2.1].

Set  $C^\dagger := \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, D)$ . The assumption  $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(X) < \infty$  with [18, Theorem 1.2] implies  $\mathcal{F}_{C^\dagger}\text{-pd}_R(X) < \infty$ . Hence by Fact 2.3(a) there exist  $R$ -complexes  $F, G$  of finite flat dimension such that  $C \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} F \simeq X \simeq C^\dagger \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} G$ . Since  $G$  has finite flat dimension, [5, Proposition 4.4] implies  $G \in \mathcal{A}_{C^\dagger}(R)$ , which explains the first isomorphism in the following display:

$$G \simeq \mathbf{RHom}_R(C^\dagger, C^\dagger \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} G) \simeq \mathbf{RHom}_R(C^\dagger, C \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} F) \simeq \mathbf{RHom}_R(C^\dagger, C) \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} F.$$

The last isomorphism is by tensor evaluation [3, Lemma 4.4(F)].

Fact 2.3(a) implies  $F \simeq \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, X)$ . By (3.1.1) we have  $\text{depth}_R(F) < \infty$ . It follows from [7, Proposition 2.8] that  $k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} F \not\cong 0$ . For the rest of the proof, set  $U := \mathbf{RHom}_R(C^\dagger, C)$ . Since  $C$  and  $C^\dagger$  are in  $\mathcal{D}_b^f(R)$ , we have  $U \in \mathcal{D}_-^f(R)$ .

Claim A:  $U \in \mathcal{D}_b^f(R)$ .

To prove this claim it suffices to show that  $U \in \mathcal{D}_+(R)$ . Assume by way of contradiction that  $\text{inf}(U) = -\infty$ . Then by [8, 4.5] we know that  $\text{inf}(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U) = -\infty$ . By tensor cancellation and the Künneth formula, we have isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} H_n(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U)) &\cong H_n((k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} F) \otimes_k^{\mathbf{L}} (k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U)) \\ &\cong \bigoplus_{p+q=n} H_p(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} F) \otimes_k H_q(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} F \not\cong 0$  and  $\text{inf}(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U) = -\infty$ , it follows that  $\text{inf}(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U)) = -\infty$ . On the other hand, since  $F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U \simeq G \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  we have  $k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U) \simeq k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} G \in \mathcal{D}_+(R)$ , so  $\text{inf}(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U)) > -\infty$ , a contradiction. This establishes Claim A.

Claim B: The complex  $U$  has finite projective dimension.

To show this claim, assume by way of contradiction that  $\text{pd}_R(U) = \infty$ . Then because  $U \in \mathcal{D}_b^f(R)$  we have  $\text{sup}(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U) = \infty$  by [3, Proposition 5.5]. As in the proof of Claim A, we conclude that  $\text{sup}(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U)) = \infty$ . On the other hand, we have  $k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U) \simeq k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} G$ . Since  $G$  has finite flat dimension, this implies that  $\text{sup}(k \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (F \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} U)) < \infty$ , a contradiction. This concludes the proof of Claim B.

Now [10, Theorem 1.4] implies that  $\Sigma^n C \simeq C^\dagger = \mathbf{RHom}_R(C, D)$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Hence by [9, Corollary 3.4] we deduce that  $R$  is Gorenstein. This concludes the proof of Case 1.

Case 2:  $\text{supp}_R(X) = \{\mathfrak{m}\}$ .

For the proof of Case 2, first observe that  $R$  is Gorenstein if and only if  $\widehat{R}$  is Gorenstein. Since  $\widehat{R}$  has a dualizing complex, by Case 1 it suffices to show that

- (1)  $\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \in \mathcal{D}_b(\widehat{R})$ ,
- (2)  $\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} C$  is a semidualizing  $\widehat{R}$ -complex,
- (3)  $\mathcal{F}_{\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} C}\text{-pd}_{\widehat{R}}(\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X) < \infty$ ,
- (4)  $\mathcal{I}_{\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} C}\text{-id}_{\widehat{R}}(\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X) < \infty$ , and
- (5)  $\text{depth}_{\widehat{R}}(\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X) < \infty$ .

Item (1) follows from the fact that  $\widehat{R}$  is flat over  $R$ . Items (2) and (3) follow from [5, Lemma 2.6] and [18, Proposition 3.11], respectively.

To prove (4) note that the first equality in the next sequence is by definition:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} C} \text{-id}_{\widehat{R}} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) &= \text{id}_{\widehat{R}} \left( \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} C \right) \otimes_{\widehat{R}}^{\mathbf{L}} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) \right) + \text{sup} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} C \right) \\ &= \text{id}_{\widehat{R}} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} \left( C \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) \right) + \text{sup} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} C \right). \end{aligned}$$

The second equality is by tensor cancellation. From the condition  $\mathcal{I}_C \text{-id}_R(X) < \infty$ , we have  $\text{id}_R(C \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X) < \infty$  by definition. Note that  $\mathfrak{m} \in \text{Spec}(R) = \text{supp}_R(C)$  by [15, Proposition 6.6]. Therefore Fact 2.1 implies

$$\text{supp}_R \left( C \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) = \text{supp}_R(C) \cap \text{supp}_R(X) = \{\mathfrak{m}\}.$$

Hence by [13, Lemma 3.4] the complex  $\widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} (C \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X)$  has finite injective dimension over  $\widehat{R}$ , so (4) holds.

For the proof of (5) consider the following sequence:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{depth}_{\widehat{R}} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) &= -\text{sup} \left( \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{\widehat{R}} \left( k, \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) \right) \\ &= -\text{sup} \left( \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_{\widehat{R}} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} k, \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) \right) \\ &= -\text{sup} \left( \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_R(k, X) \right) \\ &= -\text{sup} \left( \mathbf{R}\text{Hom}_R(k, X) \right) \\ &= \text{depth}_R(X) \\ &< \infty. \end{aligned}$$

The second equality is because  $k \cong \widehat{R} \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} k$ , and the fourth equality is because  $\widehat{R}$  is faithfully flat over  $R$ . This establishes (5) and concludes Case 2.

Case 3: general case.

Let  $\mathbf{x}$  be a generating sequence for  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and let  $K = K^R(\mathbf{x})$  be the Koszul complex. Then  $\text{supp}_R(K) = \{\mathfrak{m}\}$ . Since  $\text{depth}_R(X) < \infty$ , we have that  $\mathfrak{m} \in \text{supp}_R(X)$  by [7, Proposition 2.8]. Hence, we conclude from Fact 2.1 that

$$\text{supp}_R \left( K \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \right) = \text{supp}_R(K) \cap \text{supp}_R(X) = \{\mathfrak{m}\}.$$

By Case 2 it suffices to show that

- (a)  $\text{depth}_R(K \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X) < \infty$ ,
- (b)  $K \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$ ,
- (c)  $\mathcal{F}_C\text{-pd}_R(K \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X) < \infty$ , and
- (d)  $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(K \otimes_R^{\mathbf{L}} X) < \infty$ .

Item (a) follows from [7, Proposition 2.8]. For (b), use the conditions  $\text{pd}_R(K) < \infty$  and  $X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$ . Items (c) and (d) follow from [18, Proposition 4.5 and 4.7]. This concludes the proof of Case 3.  $\square$

The following result is Theorem 1.1 from the introduction.

**Theorem 3.2.** *If there is an  $R$ -complex  $X \in \mathcal{D}_b(R)$  such that  $\mathcal{F}_C\text{-pd}_R(X) < \infty$  and  $\mathcal{I}_C\text{-id}_R(X) < \infty$ , then  $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is Gorenstein for all  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{supp}_R(X)$ .*

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.1 it suffices to show the following:

- (i)  $X_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathcal{D}_b(R_{\mathfrak{p}})$ ,

- (ii)  $C_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is a semidualizing  $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -complex,
- (iii)  $\mathcal{F}_{C_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ - $\text{pd}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}(X_{\mathfrak{p}}) < \infty$ ,
- (iv)  $\mathcal{I}_{C_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ - $\text{id}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}(X_{\mathfrak{p}}) < \infty$ , and
- (v)  $\text{depth}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}(X_{\mathfrak{p}}) < \infty$ .

Item (i) follows from the fact that  $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is a flat over  $R$ , and item (ii) follows from [5, Lemma 2.5]. Items (iii) and (iv) are by [18, Corollary 3.12].

(v) As  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{supp}_R(X)$ , we have  $\mathfrak{p}R_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \text{supp}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}(X_{\mathfrak{p}})$  by [15, Proposition 3.6]. Since  $\mathfrak{p}R_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is the maximal ideal of the local ring  $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$ , we deduce from [7, Proposition 2.8] that  $\text{depth}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}}(X_{\mathfrak{p}}) < \infty$ .  $\square$

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