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LADDER FUNCTORS WITH AN APPLICATION TO **REPRESENTATION-FINITE ARTINIAN** RINGS

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Introduction

Ladders were introduced by Igusa and Todorov for the investigation of representation-finite artinian algebras and algebras over an algebraically closed field [7]. They prove a radical layers theorem [7] which exhibits the graded structure of Auslander-Reiten sequences. In a second article [8] they obtain a characterization of the Auslander-Reiten quivers of representation-finite artinian algebras. Their construction of ladders starts with an irreducible morphism $f_0: A_0 \to B_0$ in a module category \mathcal{A} . So f_0 factors through a right almost split map $u: \vartheta B_0 \to B_0$. Assume that $f_0 = ug$ with a split monomorphism g. Then g can be written as $g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ with respect to a decomposition $\vartheta B_0 = A_0 \oplus B_1$. This gives a pullback

$$\begin{array}{c} A_1 \longrightarrow A_0 \\ \downarrow f_1 & \downarrow f_0 \\ B_1 \longrightarrow B_0 \end{array}$$

which completes the first step of a ladder. Under favorite circumstances, the ladder can be extended. In the given situation, Igusa and Todorov [7] solved

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the extension problem by a careful examination of the bimodules of irreducible maps between objects.

Recently, Iyama [9] improved the construction as follows. Let \mathcal{A} be a category with left and right almost split sequences (see §1). He calls a morphism f_0 in \mathcal{A} special if for each morphism $r: A_0 \to B_0$ in $\operatorname{Rad}^2\mathcal{A}, f_0 + r$ is isomorphic to f_0 as a two-termed complex. Then it follows in a quite elementary way that each step f_n of the ladder, after splitting off trivial complexes $X \to 0$, admits a continuation f_{n+1} which is again special. Such ladders have been farreaching enough to get a solution of Igusa and Todorov's problem in dimension one. Namely, they yield a characterization of the Auslander-Reiten quivers of representation-finite orders over a complete discrete valuation domain [10].

In [19] we modify the theory of ladders in such a way that a functorial approach becomes possible. Apart from being functorial, this method has a two-fold advantage. Firstly, it applies to arbitrary morphisms $f_0 \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$, and secondly, it provides a kind of ladders with the property that the commutative squares between two steps are pullbacks and pushouts. Therefore, our ladders establish a bridge between almost split sequences and arbitrary short exact sequences.

In the present article, the method will be applied to the artinian situation. This gives a quick proof of Igusa and Todorov's characterization of the Auslander-Reiten quivers belonging to representation-finite artinian algebras. More generally, every cotilting module $_{\Lambda}U$ over a left artinian ring Λ defines a full subcategory $\mathbf{lat}(U)$ of Λ -mod, consisting of the Λ -modules $M \in \Lambda$ -mod finitely cogenerated by U. For example, the category of representations of a poset in the sense of Nazarova, Roïter [11], and Gabriel [6], and (generalized) vector space categories [20], are of that type. For a ring R, let R-**proj** denote the category of finitely generated projective left R-modules. We prove that the categories $\mathbf{lat}(U)$ with finitely many indecomposable objects can be characterized by two properties: They are equivalent to R-**proj** for an artinian ring R; and they have left and right almost split sequences for all of their objects.

1 τ -Rings and strict τ -categories

An additive category \mathcal{A} is said to be a *Krull-Schmidt* category, if every object is a finite direct sum of objects with local endomorphism rings. Then the ideal Rad \mathcal{A} generated by the non-invertible morphisms between indecomposable objects in \mathcal{A} is called the *radical* of \mathcal{A} . A morphism $f: \mathcal{A} \to B$ in \mathcal{A} is said to be *right (left) almost split* [4] if $f \in \operatorname{Rad}\mathcal{A}$, and every morphism $C \to B$ in (resp. $\mathcal{A} \to C$) in Rad \mathcal{A} factors through f. The class of indecomposable objects will be denoted by Ind \mathcal{A} , and ind \mathcal{A} will be a fixed representative system of the isomorphism classes in Ind \mathcal{A} . If ind \mathcal{A} is finite for a Krull-Schmidt category \mathcal{A} , then $R := \operatorname{End}(\bigoplus \operatorname{ind}\mathcal{A})^{\operatorname{op}}$ is a semiperfect ring with $\mathcal{A} \approx R$ -**proj**, the category of finitely generated projective left R-modules. Note that the functor $P \mapsto P^* := \operatorname{Hom}_R(P, R)$ provides a natural duality

$$(R-\mathbf{proj})^{\mathrm{op}} \approx R^{\mathrm{op}}-\mathbf{proj}.$$
 (1)

We define a τ -ring as a semiperfect ring R such that, as a left or right R-module, Rad R satisfies the following conditions:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \operatorname{Rad} R \text{ is finitely presented} \\ \operatorname{pd}(\operatorname{Rad} R) \leqslant 1 \\ \operatorname{Ext}_{R}(\operatorname{Rad} R, R) \text{ is semisimple.} \end{array} \right\}$$
(2)

This means that every simple R-module S has a minimal projective resolution

$$0 \to P_2 \xrightarrow{v} P_1 \xrightarrow{u} P_0 \twoheadrightarrow S \tag{3}$$

in $\mathcal{A} := R$ -**proj** (resp. $\mathcal{A} := R^{\text{op}}$ -**proj**) such that $u, v \in \mathcal{A}$ have the following properties:

$$\left.\begin{array}{l}
v = \ker u \\
u \text{ is right almost split} \\
v \text{ is left almost split.}\end{array}\right\}$$
(4)

A complex $P_2 \xrightarrow{v} P_1 \xrightarrow{u} P_0$ in a Krull-Schmidt category \mathcal{A} that satisfies (4) is said to be a *right almost split sequence* for P_0 . In a dual way, *left almost split sequences* are defined. So the definition of a τ -ring just states that R-**proj** has left and right almost split sequences for each of its objects. Krull-Schmidt categories with this property are known as *strict* τ -*categories* [9]. Since a right almost split sequence for an object A is unique up to isomorphism, it will be denoted by

$$\tau A \xrightarrow{v_A} \vartheta A \xrightarrow{u_A} A.$$
 (5)

Similarly, a left almost split sequence for A is denoted by

$$A \xrightarrow{u^A} \vartheta^- A \xrightarrow{v^A} \tau^- A. \tag{6}$$

More generally, for a morphism $f: A \to B$ in a Krull-Schmidt category \mathcal{A} , we call $k: K \to A$ a weak kernel if fk = 0 and every morphism $k': K' \to A$

with fk' = 0 factors through k. If, in addition, each $g: C \to K$ with kg = 0lies in Rad A, then k is unique up to isomorphism (see [16], Proposition 7), and we write wher f := k. If a sequence (5) satisfies (4) except that ker u is replaced by wher u, we speak of a right τ -sequence for A. In a dual way, weak cohernels, work f, and left τ -sequences (6) are defined. A Krull-Schmidt category with left and right τ -sequences for each of its objects is said to be a τ -category [9].

Proposition 1 ([9], 2.3). Let R be a τ -ring, and let S be a simple R-module with pd S = 2. Then $\operatorname{Ext}_{R}^{i}(S, R) = 0$ for i < 2, and $\operatorname{Ext}_{R}^{2}(S, R)$ is simple.

Proof. For a minimal projective resolution (3) of S, consider the projective resolution

$$0 \to P^* \xrightarrow{i^*} P_1^* \xrightarrow{v^*} P_2^* \twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{Ext}^2_R(S, R)$$

of the semisimple *R*-module $\operatorname{Ext}_R^2(S, R)$. Then $u^* = i^*p^*$ for some $p: P \to P_0$, and u = pi. This gives a commutative diagram

with $C := \operatorname{Ext}_R^2(\operatorname{Ext}_R^2(S, R), R)$, where the horizontal sequences are projective resolutions. Our assumption $v \neq 0$ implies that $cp \neq 0$. Hence *e* is epic, and so *S* is a direct summand of the semisimple *R*-module *C*. Since $\operatorname{Ext}_R(C, R) = 0$, we infer that $\operatorname{Ext}_R(S, R) = 0$. Moreover, $cp \neq 0$ implies that *p* is a split epimorphism. Hence u^* is monic, and $\operatorname{Ext}_R(S, R) = 0$ shows that $u^* = \ker v^*$. Thus *e* is an isomorphism. Since the complex (3) is indecomposable, this completes the proof.

Proposition 1 shows that any right almost split sequence $P_2 \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0$ with P_0 indecomposable and $P_2 \neq 0$ is left almost split with P_2 indecomposable.

2 Ladder functors

An additive category \mathcal{A} is said to be *preabelian* if every morphism in \mathcal{A} has a kernel and a cokernel. Kernels (cokernels) in \mathcal{A} will be depicted by \rightarrow

(resp. \twoheadrightarrow). Monic and epic morphisms will be called *regular*. A sequence of morphisms

$$A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{b} C$$

in \mathcal{A} with $a = \ker b$ and $b = \operatorname{cok} a$ is said to be *short exact*. Since every commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \xrightarrow{a} & B \\
\downarrow b & \downarrow c \\
C & \xrightarrow{d} & D
\end{array}$$
(7)

in \mathcal{A} corresponds to a complex

$$A \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} a \\ -b \end{pmatrix}} B \oplus C \xrightarrow{(c \ d)} D, \tag{8}$$

we call (7) a left (right) almost split square resp. a left (right) τ -square if the corresponding property holds for (8). We call (7) exact if (8) is a short exact sequence. An object $Q \in \mathcal{A}$ is said to be projective (injective) if the functor $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(Q, -)$ (resp. $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(-, Q)$) preserves short exact sequences. The full subcategories of projective (injective) objects will be denoted by $\operatorname{Proj}(\mathcal{A})$ (resp. $\operatorname{Inj}(\mathcal{A})$). We say that \mathcal{A} has strictly enough projectives (injectives) [14] if for each object $A \in \mathcal{A}$ there is a cokernel $P \twoheadrightarrow A$ with $P \in \operatorname{Proj}(\mathcal{A})$ (resp. a kernel $A \rightarrowtail I$ with $I \in \operatorname{Inj}(\mathcal{A})$).

Let \mathcal{A} be a Krull-Schmidt category. The morphisms in \mathcal{A} form an additive category Mor(\mathcal{A}) with morphisms $\varphi: b \to c$ given by commutative squares (7). Let $[\mathcal{A}]$ be the ideal of morphisms $\varphi: b \to c$ in \mathcal{A} which are homotopic to zero, i. e. for which there exists a morphism $h: C \to B$ in \mathcal{A} with a = hb and d = ch. It is easy to see that $[\mathcal{A}]$ consists of the morphisms which factor through an object $1_E: E \to E$ in Mor(\mathcal{A}). Every object of Mor(\mathcal{A}) is isomorphic to $e \oplus 1_E$ for some $e \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$. Therefore, the homotopy category $\operatorname{Mor}(\mathcal{A})/[\mathcal{A}]$ is equivalent to a full subcategory $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$, consisting of the objects $e \in \operatorname{Mor}(\mathcal{A})/[\mathcal{A}]$ with $e \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$. There are two natural full embeddings ()⁺: $\mathcal{A} \hookrightarrow \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ and ()⁻: $\mathcal{A} \hookrightarrow \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ which map an object $A \in \mathcal{A}$ to $A^+: 0 \to A$ and $A^-: A \to 0$, respectively. So we have two full subcategories \mathcal{A}^+ and $\mathcal{A}^$ of $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ which are equivalent to \mathcal{A} :

$$\mathcal{A}^+ \hookrightarrow \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}) \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{A}^-.$$
(9)

By Rad⁺M(\mathcal{A}) (resp. Rad⁻M(\mathcal{A})) we denote the ideal of morphisms $b \to c$ in M(\mathcal{A}) given by a commutative square (7) with $d \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$ (resp. $a \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$).

Lemma 1. Let \mathcal{A} be a Krull-Schmidt category. A morphism $\varphi: b \to c$ in $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ given by (7) is invertible if and only if (8) is a split short exact sequence.

Proof. Assume first that (8) is a split short exact sequence. Then there are morphisms $\binom{e}{a}: D \to B \oplus C$ and $(f - h): B \oplus C \to A$ with

$$(c d) {e \choose g} = 1, \quad (f -h) {a \choose -b} = 1, \quad {a \choose -b} (f -h) + {e \choose g} (c d) = {1 \ 0 \ 1}.$$
(10)

This gives six equations in \mathcal{A} . Five of these equations, except ah = ed, imply that

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
B & \xrightarrow{f} & A \\
\downarrow c & \downarrow b \\
D & \xrightarrow{g} & C
\end{array}$$
(11)

is an inverse of φ . Conversely, let (11) be an inverse of φ . Then there are morphisms $e: D \to B$ and $h': C \to A$ with

$$\begin{array}{ll}
1 - af = ec & 1 - dg = ce \\
1 - fa = h'b & 1 - gd = bh'.
\end{array}$$
(12)

Since $b, c \in \text{Rad}\mathcal{A}$, this implies that a and d are isomorphisms. Hence (8) is a split short exact sequence.

Remark. Without use of the Krull-Schmidt property, the proof can be completed as follows. Equations (12) remain valid if we replace h' by h := h' - f(ah' - ed). In fact,

$$\begin{aligned} f(ah'-ed)b &= fah'b - fedb = fa(1-fa) - feca = f(1-af-ec)a = 0 \text{ and} \\ bf(ah'-ed) &= bfah' - bfed = b(1-h'b)h' - gced = bh'gd - g(1-dg)d = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Now (10) follows, since ah - ed = ah' - ed - af(ah' - ed) = (1 - af)(ah' - ed) = ec(ah' - ed) = ecah' - eced = edbh' - e(1 - dg)d = ed(1 - gd) - e(1 - dg)d = 0.

Let \mathcal{A} be a strict τ -category, and let $a: A_1 \to A_0$ be an object in $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$. Any decomposition $A_0 = C \oplus P$ defines a morphism $\pi_C: a \to \overline{a}$, given by a commutative square

$$A_1 \xrightarrow{1} A_1$$

$$\downarrow a \qquad \qquad \downarrow \overline{a}$$

$$C \oplus P \xrightarrow{(1 \ 0)} C.$$

In [19] we define a morphism

$$\lambda_{C,a}: L_C a \to a \tag{13}$$

in $M(\mathcal{A})$ with the following universal property:

 $(U) \begin{cases} \pi_C \lambda_{C,a} \in \operatorname{Rad}^+ \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}), \text{ and for every } \varphi \colon x \to a \text{ with } \pi_C \varphi \in \operatorname{Rad}^+ \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}) \\ \text{there is a unique factorization } \varphi = \lambda_{C,a} \varphi'. \end{cases}$

Let us repeat the construction of (13). For any decomposition $A_1 = B \oplus U$, we can write a as a matrix $a = {b \ r \ s \ q}$: $B \oplus U \to C \oplus P$. We choose U as a maximal direct summand of A_1 such that $r \in \text{Rad}^2 \mathcal{A}$. Then we have a right almost split square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C' & \xrightarrow{f'} & B \\ & \downarrow b' & \downarrow b \\ & B' & \xrightarrow{f} & C. \end{array}$$
(14)

Thus $r = (f \ b) {t \choose t'}$ with $t, t' \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$. We modify $B \oplus U$ by ${1 - t' \choose 0 - 1} \in \operatorname{Aut}(B \oplus U)$, replacing the matrix of a by ${b \choose s - q} {1 - t' \choose 0 - 1} = {b \choose s - p}$ with p := q - st'. Then (13) is given by the commutative square

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
C' \oplus U & \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} f' & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}} & B \oplus U \\
\begin{pmatrix} b' & t \\ sf' & p \end{pmatrix} & & & \downarrow \begin{pmatrix} b & ft \\ s & p \end{pmatrix} \\
& & & \downarrow \begin{pmatrix} f & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \downarrow \begin{pmatrix} b & ft \\ s & p \end{pmatrix} \\
& & & & & \\ B' \oplus P & \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} f & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}} & C \oplus P.
\end{array}$$
(15)

Notice the symmetric structure of (15). We apply (13) in two particular cases. First, we choose P as the largest direct summand of A_0 with $\tau P = 0$. Then we simply write λ_a : $La \to a$ instead of (13). Together with its dual, we obtain a pair of additive functors L, L^- : $M(\mathcal{A}) \to M(\mathcal{A})$ with natural transformations

$$L \xrightarrow{\lambda} 1 \xrightarrow{\lambda^{-}} L^{-}.$$
 (16)

In fact, let $\underline{\operatorname{Rad}} \mathcal{A}$ (resp. $\overline{\operatorname{Rad}} \mathcal{A}$) be the ideal of morphisms $r + s \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $r \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$, and s factors through an object $Q \in \mathcal{A}$ with $\tau Q = 0$ (resp. $\tau^{-}Q = 0$). By $\underline{\operatorname{Rad}}^{+}\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ (resp. $\overline{\operatorname{Rad}}^{-}\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$) we denote the ideal of morphisms φ : $b \to c$ in $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ given by (7) such that $d \in \underline{\operatorname{Rad}} \mathcal{A}$ (resp. $a \in \overline{\operatorname{Rad}} \mathcal{A}$). Then the universal property (U) specializes to

 $(\mathbf{U}_{\lambda}) \begin{cases} \lambda_a \in \underline{\mathrm{Rad}}^+ \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}) \text{ for each object } a \in \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}), \text{ and every morphism } x \to a \\ \mathrm{in} \ \underline{\mathrm{Rad}}^+ \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}) \text{ factors through } \lambda_a \text{ in a unique manner.} \end{cases}$

Therefore, a morphism $\varphi: a \to b$ in $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ determines a commutative square

$$La \xrightarrow{\lambda_a} a$$

$$\downarrow L\varphi \qquad \qquad \downarrow \varphi$$

$$Lb \xrightarrow{\lambda_b} b$$

$$(17)$$

with a unique morphism $L\varphi$. This shows that L is a functor with a natural transformation $\lambda: L \to 1$.

By the symmetry of (15), the universal property of λ admits a certain converse. Namely, every morphism $\varphi: La \to d$ in $\overline{\text{Rad}}^-\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ factors uniquely through λ_a ([19], Proposition 4). In particular, every morphism $\psi: La \to b$ satisfies $\lambda_b^- \psi \in \overline{\text{Rad}}^-\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$. Therefore, ψ induces a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
La & \xrightarrow{\lambda_a} & a \\
\downarrow \psi & \downarrow \psi' \\
b & \xrightarrow{\lambda_b^-} & L^-b
\end{array}$$
(18)

with a unique ψ' , and by symmetry, the correspondence $\psi \mapsto \psi'$ is bijective. Consequently, (18) together with (17) and its dual shows that L is left adjoint to L^- . We call L, L' the *ladder functors* of $M(\mathcal{A})$.

Another special case of (13) arises when we set P = 0. Then we obtain a pair of functors \widehat{L} , \widehat{L}^- : $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}) \to \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ with natural transformations

$$\widehat{L} \xrightarrow{\lambda} 1 \xrightarrow{\lambda^{-}} \widehat{L}^{-}$$
(19)

such that $\widehat{\lambda}_a := \lambda_{A_0,a}$ for any object $a: A_1 \to A_0$. Here the universal property (U) specializes to

 $(\mathrm{U}_{\widehat{\lambda}}) \begin{cases} \widehat{\lambda}_a \in \mathrm{Rad}^+\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}), \text{ and every morphism } x \to a \text{ in } \mathrm{Rad}^+\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}) \text{ factors} \\ \text{uniquely through } \widehat{\lambda}_a. \end{cases}$

The usefulness of L, L^- has been shown in [19]. An application of \hat{L}, \hat{L}^- will be given in the next section.

Let $\varphi: b \to c$ be a morphism (7) in $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$. We call φ a *pullback* (*pushout*) morphism if (7) is a pullback (*pushout*). If (7) is an exact square, we call φ

an *exact* morphism. Note that these concepts are invariant under homotopy. In fact, a homotopy $h: C \to B$ in (7) amounts to an isomorphic change of the complex (8):

By [19], Propositions 3 and 4, and Corollary 3 of Proposition 5, we have

Proposition 2. Let \mathcal{A} be a strict τ -category. Then λ_a is exact, and $\widehat{\lambda}_a$ is a pullback morphism for any object $a \in \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$. Moreover, L preserves exact morphisms.

For a full subcategory \mathcal{C} of an additive category \mathcal{A} , a morphism $f: A \to B$ in \mathcal{A} is said to be \mathcal{C} -epic (\mathcal{C} -monic) if every morphism $C \to B$ (resp. $A \to C$) with $C \in \mathcal{C}$ factors through f. In [19], Proposition 2, we characterize pullback morphisms in $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A})$ as \mathcal{A}^- -epic monomorphisms. By [\mathcal{C}] we denote the ideal of \mathcal{A} generated by the morphisms 1_C with $C \in \mathcal{C}$.

Let \mathcal{A} be a strict τ -category. We define $\operatorname{\mathbf{Proj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})$ (resp. $\operatorname{\mathbf{Inj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})$) as the full subcategory of objects $Q \in \mathcal{A}$ with $\tau Q = 0$ (resp. $\tau^{-}Q = 0$). By Proposition 1 we have the inclusions

$$\operatorname{Proj}(\mathcal{A}) \subset \operatorname{Proj}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A}); \quad \operatorname{Inj}(\mathcal{A}) \subset \operatorname{Inj}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A}).$$
(21)

By the universal properties (U_{λ}) and $(U_{\hat{\lambda}})$ there are unique natural transformations κ , κ^- which make the following triangles commutative:

More generally, there are natural transformations $\lambda^n \colon L^n \to 1$ and $\hat{\lambda}^n \colon \hat{L}^n \to 1$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with components

$$\lambda_a^n := \lambda_a \lambda_{La} \cdots \lambda_{L^{n-1}a}; \quad \widehat{\lambda}_a^n := \widehat{\lambda}_a \widehat{\lambda}_{\widehat{L}a} \cdots \widehat{\lambda}_{\widehat{L}^{n-1}a}.$$
(23)

As in (22) we find a unique natural transformation $\kappa^n \colon \widehat{L}^n \to L^n$ with $\lambda^n \kappa^n = \widehat{\lambda}^n$ for any given n.

Proposition 3. Let \mathcal{A} be a strict τ -category. For each object $a \in \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$, and $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the morphism $\kappa_a^n : \widehat{L}^n a \to L^n a$ is \mathcal{A}^+ -epic modulo [$\operatorname{\mathbf{Proj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})^+$].

Proof. Let A be an object in \mathcal{A} . Then every morphism $\varphi: A^+ \to L^n a$ in $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ satisfies $\lambda_a^n \varphi = \rho + \sigma$ with $\rho \in (\mathrm{Rad}^+\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}))^n$ and $\sigma \in [\operatorname{\mathbf{Proj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})^+]$. Hence $(\mathrm{U}_{\widehat{\lambda}})$ gives $\rho = \widehat{\lambda}_a^n \rho'$ for some $\rho': A^+ \to \widehat{L}^n a$. Since λ_a^n is $\operatorname{\mathbf{Proj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})^+$ -epic by (U_{λ}) , we get $\sigma = \lambda_a^n \sigma'$ for some $\sigma' \in [\operatorname{\mathbf{Proj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})^+]$. Therefore, $\lambda_a^n (\varphi - \kappa_a^n \rho' - \sigma') = 0$, and thus $\varphi = \kappa_a^n \rho' + \sigma'$.

3 Artinian τ -rings

Let R be a τ -ring with $\mathcal{A} := R$ -**proj**. We define Fix L (resp. Fix L^- , Fix \widehat{L} , Fix \widehat{L}^-) as the full subcategory of objects $a \in \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ for which λ_a (resp. λ_a^- , $\widehat{\lambda}_a, \widehat{\lambda}_a^-$) is an isomorphism. (Note that a morphism $\varphi: b \to c$ in $\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ given by (7) is invertible if and only if a and d are invertible in \mathcal{A} .) By the definitions, a: $A_1 \to A_0$ belongs to Fix L (resp. Fix \widehat{L}) if and only if $\tau A_0 = 0$ (resp. $A_0 = 0$).

The category $M(\mathcal{A})$ is closely related to the categories R-mod and mod-R of finitely presented left resp. right R-modules. There are two additive functors

$$R\operatorname{-\mathbf{mod}} \stackrel{\operatorname{Cok}}{\longleftarrow} \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A}) \stackrel{\operatorname{Cok}^{-}}{\longrightarrow} (\operatorname{\mathbf{mod}} \operatorname{-} R)^{\operatorname{op}}$$
(24)

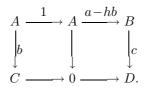
given by the cokernel of $a: A_1 \to A_0$ in *R*-mod and $\operatorname{Cok}^- a := \operatorname{Cok}(a^*)$.

Proposition 4. For a τ -ring R with $\mathcal{A} := R$ -**proj**, the functors (24) induce equivalences

$$R\text{-}\mathbf{mod} \approx \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})/[\mathcal{A}^{-}]; \quad (\mathbf{mod}\text{-}R)^{\mathrm{op}} \approx \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})/[\mathcal{A}^{+}].$$
(25)

In particular, an object $a \in M(\mathcal{A})$ satisfies $\operatorname{Cok} a = 0$ if and only if $a \in \mathcal{A}^-$.

Proof. Since the functors (24) are full and dense, we only have to show that a morphism $\varphi: b \to c$ given by (7) belongs to $[\mathcal{A}^-]$ if and only if there exists a morphism $h: C \to B$ in \mathcal{A} with d = ch. If such an h exists, φ admits a factorization



The converse is trivial.

Since $\widehat{\lambda}_a$: $\widehat{L}a \to a$ is a pullback morphism for every object $a \in \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$, and the embedding R-**proj** $\hookrightarrow R$ -**mod** preserves pullbacks, there is a natural embedding $\operatorname{Cok}(\widehat{L}a) \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Cok} a$. More precisely, we have (cf. [9], Theorem 4.1)

Proposition 5. Let R be a τ -ring. For any object $a \in M(R$ -proj),

$$\operatorname{Cok}(La) = \operatorname{Rad}(\operatorname{Cok} a). \tag{26}$$

Proof. Put $\mathcal{A} := R$ -**proj**, and assume that $\widehat{\lambda}_a$ is given by a commutative square

$$B_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} A_1$$

$$\downarrow \widehat{L}a \qquad \downarrow a$$

$$B_0 \xrightarrow{f_0} A_0.$$

Then $f_0 \in \operatorname{Rad} A$ implies that $\operatorname{Cok}(\widehat{L}a) \subset \operatorname{Rad}(\operatorname{Cok} a)$. Conversely, let $p: P \twoheadrightarrow$ Rad A_0 be a projective cover in R-mod. Consider the natural epimorphisms $c: A_0 \twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{Cok} a$ and $d: B_0 \twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{Cok}(\widehat{L}a)$, and the inclusion $i: \operatorname{Cok}(\widehat{L}a) \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Cok} a$. Then p induces a morphism $\varphi: P^+ \to a$ in $\operatorname{Rad}^+ M(A)$. By $(U_{\widehat{\lambda}})$ there is a morphism $\varphi': P^+ \to \widehat{L}a$ with $\varphi = \widehat{\lambda}_a \varphi'$. This gives morphisms $g: P \to B_0$ and $h: P \to A_1$ with $p - f_0 g = ah$. Hence $\operatorname{Rad}(\operatorname{Cok} a) = cp(P) = cf_0g(P) =$ $idg(P) \subset \operatorname{Cok}(\widehat{L}a)$.

Corollary. A τ -ring R with $\mathcal{A} := R$ -**proj** is artinian if and only if there is an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $\widehat{L}^n \mathcal{A}^+ \subset \mathcal{A}^-$. For such an n, every object $a \in \mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})$ satisfies $\widehat{L}^n a \in \mathcal{A}^-$ and $L^n a \in \operatorname{Fix} L$.

Proof. Note that R is artinian if and only if $\operatorname{Rad}^n R = 0$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. So the first statement follows by Propositions 4 and 5. Furthermore, $\widehat{L}^n a \in \mathcal{A}^-$ holds for each object $a \in \mathcal{A}$. By Proposition 3, κ_a^n is \mathcal{A}^+ -epic modulo $[\operatorname{\mathbf{Proj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})^+]$. Therefore, $\widehat{L}^n a \in \mathcal{A}^-$ implies that

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathsf{M}(\mathcal{A})}(\mathcal{A}^+, L^n a) \subset [\operatorname{\mathbf{Proj}}_{\tau}(\mathcal{A})^+],$$

whence $L^n a \in \operatorname{Fix} L$.

Proposition 6. For an artinian τ -ring R, the category R-**proj** is preabelian and has strictly enough projectives and injectives.

Proof. A morphism $f \in \mathcal{A} := R$ -proj can be regarded as an object $f \in \mathcal{A}$ Mor(\mathcal{A}). So f is isomorphic to some $1_C \oplus a$ with $a \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$. Therefore, a (co-)kernel of a gives a (co-)kernel of f. By the above Corollary, there is an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $\widehat{L}^n \mathcal{A}^+ \subset \mathcal{A}^-$. In particular, $\widehat{L}^n a = K^-$ for some object $K \in \mathcal{A}$. Since $\widehat{\lambda}_a^n \colon \widehat{L}^n a \to a$ is a pullback morphism by Proposition 2, this gives a kernel of $a \in \mathcal{A}$. Now let A be an object in \mathcal{A} . By the above Corollary, $L^n A^+ \in \operatorname{Fix} L$. Since $\lambda_{A^+}^n$: $L^n A^+ \to A^+$ is exact by Proposition 2, we get a short exact sequence $B \xrightarrow{i} P \twoheadrightarrow A$ with $i = L^n A^+$. To show that P is projective, consider a short exact sequence $X \xrightarrow{x} Y \xrightarrow{y} Z$ in \mathcal{A} and a morphism $f: P \to Z$. We may assume without loss of generality that $x \in \operatorname{Rad} A$. Then y determines an exact morphism $\varphi: x \to Z^+$, and we have to show that $f^+: P^+ \to Z^+$ factors through φ . By (\mathbf{U}_{λ}) we have $f^+ = \lambda_{Z^+}^n \psi$ for some $\psi: P^+ \to L^n Z^+$. So it remains to be shown that ψ factors through $L^n \varphi$. Proposition 2 implies that $L^n \varphi$ is exact. By [16], Corollary of Proposition 8, every cokernel $D \twoheadrightarrow Q$ with $\tau Q = 0$ splits. Since $L^n Z^+ \in \text{Fix } L$, Lemma 1 shows that $L^n \varphi$ is an isomorphism. Hence P is projective. The rest follows by duality. \square

Remark. A preabelian category with strictly enough projectives and injectives is also called a *strict PI-category* [14]. Such categories form an important class of almost abelian categories (see [14], §5).

As a consequence, we get the following extension of Igusa and Todorov's theorem ([8], Theorem 3.4).

- **Corollary.** For a ring R with A := R-**proj**, the following are equivalent:
 - (a) R is an artinian τ -ring such that u_P is not epic for each $P \in \text{Ind} \mathcal{A}$ with $\tau P = 0$.
 - (b) There exists an artinian ring Λ with Λ -mod $\approx A$.

Proof. (a) \Rightarrow (b): Define $Q := \bigoplus (\operatorname{Proj}(\mathcal{A}) \cap \operatorname{ind} \mathcal{A})$ and $\Lambda := \operatorname{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(Q)^{\operatorname{op}}$. Then Λ is artinian, and $\operatorname{Proj}(\mathcal{A}) \approx \Lambda\operatorname{-proj}$. So it suffices to prove that \mathcal{A} is abelian, i. e. that every regular morphism $r: \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{B}$ in \mathcal{A} is invertible (see [14], Proposition 12). In Mor \mathcal{A} we have a decomposition $r \cong 1_C \oplus a$ with $a \in \operatorname{Rad} \mathcal{A}$. By the Corollary of Proposition 5, there is an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $L^n a \in \operatorname{Fix} L$. Now (a) implies that $L^n a$ is not epic, unless $L^n a \in \mathcal{A}^-$. Since a is epic, we get $L^n a \in \mathcal{A}^-$. As a is monic, the exactness of λ_a^n gives $L^n a = 0$, whence a = 0.

(b) \Rightarrow (a): By Auslander's general existence theorem ([3], Theorem 3.9), there is an almost split sequence $\mathbb{E}: A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$ in the category Λ -Mod of all Λ -modules for each non-projective $C \in \text{Ind}(\Lambda\text{-mod})$. Since A is finitely generated by [13], Corollary (4.4), \mathbb{E} is an almost split sequence in Λ -mod. By [21], Theorem 4, Λ -mod has a finitely generated injective cogenerator. Therefore, the dual argument implies that R is a τ -ring. By Harada and Sai's lemma ([12], 2.2), Rad R is nilpotent. Hence R is artinian. Since $\mathcal{A} \approx \Lambda$ -mod, this proves (a).

More generally, we get a characterization of arbitrary artinian τ -rings. Let Λ and Γ be left and right coherent rings, respectively (see [1], §19). By [17], Proposition 10, this means that Λ -mod and mod- Γ are abelian categories. A bimodule $_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ is said to be *cotilting* (cf. [5]) if $_{\Lambda}U$ and U_{Γ} are finitely presented with $\Lambda = \operatorname{End}(U_{\Gamma})$ and $\Gamma = \operatorname{End}(_{\Lambda}U)^{\operatorname{op}}$ such that for each $M \in \Lambda$ -mod and $N \in \operatorname{mod}-\Gamma$,

$$\operatorname{Ext}_{\Lambda}(U,U) = \operatorname{Ext}_{\Gamma}(U,U) = \operatorname{Ext}_{\Lambda}^{2}(M,U) = \operatorname{Ext}_{\Gamma}^{2}(N,U) = 0.$$
(27)

Since Γ is determined by $_{\Lambda}U$, the module $_{\Lambda}U$ is said to be a *cotilting module*. By $\mathbf{lat}(U)$ we denote the full subcategory of Λ -mod consisting of the modules $M \in \Lambda$ -mod which are finitely cogenerated by $_{\Lambda}U$ (i. e. which admit an embedding $M \hookrightarrow U^n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$). Then $\mathbf{lat}(U)$ is equivalent to the category of right Γ -modules $N \in \mathbf{mod}$ - Γ which are finitely cogenerated by U_{Γ} (see Appendix).

Theorem 1. For every artinian τ -ring R there exists a cotilting bimodule $_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ over artinian rings Λ, Γ such that R-**proj** \approx **lat**(U). Conversely, if $_{\Lambda}U$ is a cotilting module over a left artinian ring Λ with ind(**lat**(U)) finite, then Λ and $\Gamma := End_{\Lambda}(U)^{op}$ are artinian, and up to Morita equivalence, there is a unique artinian τ -ring R with R-**proj** \approx **lat**(U).

Proof. Let R be an artinian τ -ring with $\mathcal{A} := R$ -**proj**. We set $P := \bigoplus(\operatorname{Proj}(\mathcal{A}) \cap \operatorname{ind} \mathcal{A})$ and $I := \bigoplus(\operatorname{Inj}(\mathcal{A}) \cap \operatorname{ind} \mathcal{A})$. Then $\Lambda := \operatorname{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(P)^{\operatorname{op}}$ and $\Gamma := \operatorname{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(I)^{\operatorname{op}}$ are artinian. By Proposition 6 and the cotilting theorem ([14], Theorem 6; see Appendix), $\Lambda U_{\Gamma} := \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(P, I)$ is a cotilting bimodule with $\mathcal{A} \approx \operatorname{lat}(U)$.

Conversely, let ${}_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ be a cotilting bimodule with Λ left artinian such that ind \mathcal{A} is finite for $\mathcal{A} := \operatorname{lat}(U)$. We set $R := \operatorname{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(\bigoplus \operatorname{ind} \mathcal{A})^{\operatorname{op}}$. Then R-**proj** $\approx \mathcal{A}$. Consider \mathcal{A} as a full subcategory of Λ -**mod**. Then $\operatorname{Proj}(\mathcal{A}) = \Lambda$ -**proj** by [15], Lemma 4. Let $C \in \operatorname{Ind} \mathcal{A}$ be non-projective. Then there is a cokernel $c: C'' \to C'$ and a morphism $f: C \to C'$ in \mathcal{A} such that f does not factor through c. By [14], Proposition 12, \mathcal{A} is an almost abelian category (see Appendix). Therefore, the pullback of c and f yields a non-split short exact sequence $A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{b} C$ in \mathcal{A} . Consequently, there is an indecomposable direct summand D of A such that the projection $a': A \to D$ does not factor

through a. So the pushout of a and a' yields a non-split short exact sequence $D \xrightarrow{d} E \xrightarrow{e} C$ in \mathcal{A} . By the lemma of Harada and Sai (see [12], 2.2), Rad R is nilpotent. Hence there exists a morphism $g: D \to D'$ in Ind \mathcal{A} that does not factor through d such that for each non-invertible $h: D' \to D''$ in Ind \mathcal{A} , the composition hg factors through d. So the pushout of d and g yields a left almost split sequence $D' \to E' \to C$. For $P \in \mathbf{Proj}(\mathcal{A})$, the right almost split sequence in \mathcal{A} is given by $0 \to (\operatorname{Rad} \Lambda)P \to P$. If we regard \mathcal{A} as a full subcategory of $(\mathbf{mod}\text{-}\Gamma)^{\operatorname{op}}$, the preceding arguments can be dualized. Therefore, [18], Lemma 8, implies that \mathcal{A} is a strict τ -category. Hence R is an artinian τ -ring. Since the rings Λ, Γ are of the form eRe for some idempotent $e \in R$, they are artinian as well. Finally, R-**proj** $\approx \mathcal{A}$ implies that R is unique up to Morita equivalence.

Appendix: The general cotilting theorem

In this appendix we give a brief explanation and a short proof of the cotilting theorem ([14], Theorem 6). Let Λ (resp. Γ) be a left (resp. right) coherent ring. Then Λ -mod and mod- Γ are abelian categories (see [17], Proposition 10). Every bimodule $_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ with $_{\Lambda}U$ and U_{Γ} finitely presented gives rise to an adjoint pair of additive functors

$$\Lambda\operatorname{-\mathbf{mod}} \stackrel{E}{\underset{F}{\leftarrow}} (\operatorname{\mathbf{mod}}\nolimits\operatorname{-}\Gamma)^{\operatorname{op}}$$

$$(28)$$

with $E := \text{Hom}_{\Lambda}(-, U)$ and $F := \text{Hom}_{\Gamma}(-, U)$. Conversely, we have the following version of Watt's theorem.

Lemma 2. Every adjoint pair (28) is of the form $E \cong \text{Hom}_{\Lambda}(-, U)$ and $F \cong \text{Hom}_{\Gamma}(-, U)$ with a bimodule ${}_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ such that ${}_{\Lambda}U$ and U_{Γ} are finitely presented.

Proof. Define $U_{\Gamma} := E(\Lambda\Lambda)$. Then the right operation of Λ on $_{\Lambda}\Lambda$ makes U into a (Λ, Γ) -bimodule. For $M \in \Lambda$ -mod, consider a presentation $\Lambda^m \stackrel{a}{\to} \Lambda^n \twoheadrightarrow M$. Since E is a left adjoint, $EM = \operatorname{Cok}(Ea)$ in $(\operatorname{mod}\nolimits - \Gamma)^{\operatorname{op}}$. Thus $EM = \operatorname{Ker}\operatorname{Hom}_{\Lambda}(a, U)$ in $\operatorname{mod}\nolimits - \Gamma$, i. e. $E \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\Lambda}(-, U)$. Hence $FN = \operatorname{Hom}_{\Lambda}(\Lambda, FN) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\Gamma}(N, E\Lambda) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\Gamma}(N, U)$ for all $N \in \operatorname{mod}\nolimits - \Gamma$. In particular, $_{\Lambda}U = \operatorname{Hom}_{\Gamma}(\Gamma, U) \cong F\Gamma$ is finitely presented. \Box

For a given bimodule ${}_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ we simply write ()* for both functors $\operatorname{Hom}_{\Lambda}(-, U)$ and $\operatorname{Hom}_{\Gamma}(-, U)$. Then the unit η and the counit ε of the adjunction are given by

$$\eta_M: M \to M^{**}; \quad \varepsilon_N: N \to N^{**} \tag{29}$$

for $M \in \Lambda$ -mod and $N \in$ mod- Γ .

A pair

$$\mathfrak{C} \underset{F}{\overset{E}{\leftrightarrow}} \mathfrak{B} \tag{30}$$

of additive functors with $E \dashv F$ is said to be a *pre-equivalence* [15] if the unit is epic, and the counit is monic. Then (30) induces an equivalence Im $F \approx \text{Im } E$, and the category $\mathcal{A} := \text{Im } F$ is *almost abelian*. This means that \mathcal{A} is preabelian, and cokernels (resp. kernels) are stable under pullback (pushout) [14]. Furthermore, the full subcategory $\overline{\text{Im } E}$ (resp. $\overline{\text{Im } F}$) of subobjects (quotient objects) of objects in Im E (resp. Im F) is abelian. If $\overline{\text{Im } E} = \mathcal{B}$ and $\overline{\text{Im } F} = \mathbb{C}$, we call (30) a *tilting*. In this case, up to isomorphism, the adjunction (30) is intrinsicly determined by the almost abelian category \mathcal{A} . In other words, tiltings and almost abelian categories are essentially the same thing (see [15], Theorem 1). In the particular case (28) we have the following characterization.

Theorem 2. An adjoint pair (28) is a tilting if and only if the corresponding bimodule $_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ is cotilting. When these equivalent conditions hold, $\mathbf{lat}(U)$ is the corresponding almost abelian category.

Proof. Let $\operatorname{Cog}_{\Lambda} U$ denote the class of finitely generated submodules of some $({}_{\Lambda} U)^n$. We show first that the conditions (27) can be replaced by

$$\operatorname{Ext}_{\Lambda}(M, U) = \operatorname{Ext}_{\Gamma}(N, U) = 0 \text{ for } M \in \operatorname{Cog}_{\Lambda} U \text{ and } N \in \operatorname{Cog}_{\Gamma} U.$$
(31)

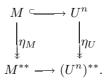
Assume (31). For any $M \in \Lambda$ -mod, there is a short exact sequence $M' \hookrightarrow \Lambda^n \twoheadrightarrow M$ with $M' \in \Lambda$ -mod. Since an epimorphism $\Gamma^m \twoheadrightarrow U$ gives an embedding $\Lambda = \operatorname{Hom}_{\Gamma}(U,U) \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\Gamma}(\Gamma^m,U) = U^m$, we have $\Lambda^n \in \operatorname{Cog}_{\Lambda} U$. Hence $\operatorname{Ext}^2_{\Lambda}(M,U) = \operatorname{Ext}^1_{\Lambda}(M',U) = 0$. By duality, this proves (27). Conversely, let $M \hookrightarrow U^n \twoheadrightarrow C$ be a short exact sequence in Λ -mod. Then

$$\operatorname{Ext}^{1}_{\Lambda}(U^{n}, U) \to \operatorname{Ext}^{1}_{\Lambda}(M, U) \to \operatorname{Ext}^{2}_{\Lambda}(C, U)$$

is exact. Hence (27) implies (31).

Now let (28) be a tilting with corresponding bimodule ${}_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$. Then ${}_{\Lambda}\Lambda \in \overline{\mathrm{Im}\,F}$ implies that there is an epimorphism $N^* \twoheadrightarrow {}_{\Lambda}\Lambda$. Since N^* is reflexive, i. e. η_{N^*} is invertible, we infer that Λ is reflexive. Hence $\mathrm{End}(U_{\Gamma}) = \Lambda$, and

similarly, $\operatorname{End}(\Lambda U) = \Gamma$. Any embedding $M \hookrightarrow U^n$ in Λ -mod gives rise to a commutative diagram



Since η_U is an isomorphism, η_M is monic. On the other hand, an epimorphism $\Gamma^m \twoheadrightarrow N$ yields $N^* \hookrightarrow U^m$, i. e. $N^* \in \operatorname{Cog}_{\Lambda} U$. Therefore, $\operatorname{Cog}_{\Lambda} U$ consists of the reflexive modules in Λ -mod. So for a given $M \in \operatorname{Cog}_{\Lambda} U$, the modules in a short exact sequence $K \xrightarrow{i} \Lambda^k \xrightarrow{p} M$ are reflexive. Applying ()* gives $M^* \xrightarrow{p^*} U^k \xrightarrow{i^*} K^*$ with $p^* = \ker i^*$. As a submodule of K^* , $\operatorname{Cok} p^*$ is reflexive. Hence $(\operatorname{cok} p^*)^* \cong \ker p = i$, and thus $i^* = \operatorname{cok} p^*$. This proves that $\operatorname{Ext}_{\Lambda}(M, U) = 0$.

Conversely, let ${}_{\Lambda}U_{\Gamma}$ be cotilting, and $M \in \Lambda$ -mod. Then a presentation $\Lambda^m \to \Lambda^n \xrightarrow{p} M$ leads to a short exact sequence $M^* \xrightarrow{p^*} U^n \to C$ and an embedding $C \hookrightarrow U^m$. By (31) it follows that $p^{**} \colon \Lambda^n \to M \xrightarrow{\eta_M} M^{**}$ is epic. Hence η_M is epic. Since Λ and Γ are reflexive, and every object in Λ -mod (resp. mod- Γ) is a factor module of a free module, (28) is a tilting. \Box

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