

# Semiorthogonal decompositions on singular varieties

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Categories and birational geometry

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# 1. Introduction & Motivation

Setup:

$X$  Gorenstein projective variety /  $\mathbb{C}$

Aim: Understand structure of

$$D^b(X) := D^b(\text{coh } X)$$

Using semiorthogonal decompositions (SOD)

Examples of SODs related to  
rationality questions:

$$D^b(X) = \langle E_1, \dots, E_n, \mathcal{A} \rangle \quad (*)$$

with  $E_i$  exceptional and

$$\mathcal{A} \subset \text{Perf}(X)$$

In particular: if  $\mathcal{A} = 0 \rightsquigarrow$  full exc. seq.

Observation:

$X$  singular  $\Rightarrow D^b(X)$  has no  
SODs of the form  $(*)$

In conjunction with recent work of Kawamata, this motivates

Def: An admissible SOD

$$D^b(X) = \langle C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m \rangle \text{ with } m \geq 1 \text{ and}$$

$$C_i \cong \begin{cases} D^b(R_i), R_i \text{ finite dim } \mathbb{C}\text{-algebra} & \text{OR} \\ \mathcal{A}_i \in \text{Perf}(X) \end{cases}$$

is called Kawamata semiorthogonal dec. (KSOD)

Rem: (a) The  $R_i$  are allowed to be non-comm.

They "contain the information about singularities of  $X$ ."

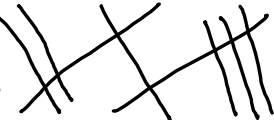
(b) for  $m \leq 2$  admissibility always holds.

Examples

a)  $X$  smooth  $\Rightarrow$  all SODs are KSODs

b) If  $X$  has a tilting obj.  $T \in D^b(X)$  then

$D^b(X) \cong D^b(\text{End}_X(T))$  is a KSOD.

Ex (Burban):  $X =$  tree of  $\mathbb{P}^1$ s, e.g. 

$D^b(\mathbb{P}^1 \vee \mathbb{P}^1 = X) = \langle G, D^b(R_{nd}) \rangle$  with

$R_{nd} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \xrightarrow{a} \\ \bullet \\ \xleftarrow{b} \\ \bullet \end{array}$  with relations  $ab = 0 = ba$

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c)  $X$  toric surface (not necessarily Gorenstein)

$D^b(X, \beta) \cong \langle D^b(R_1), \dots, D^b(R_m) \rangle$  SOD

(Karmazyn, Kuznetsov & Shinder '18)

with explicit finite dimensional local algebras  $R_i$  discovered in (K.-Karmazyn '17)

and  $\beta \in \text{Br}(X)$ .

If  $X$  Gorenstein  $\Rightarrow$  SOD is admissible

and  $R_i \cong \mathbb{C}[x]/(x^{n_i})$  with  $n_i \geq 1$ .

If additionally  $\text{Br}(X) = 0$  get KSOD

$$D^b(X) = \langle D^b(R_1), \dots, D^b(R_m) \rangle.$$

E.g.  $X = \mathbb{P}(1, 1, 2)$  or  $\mathbb{P}(1, 2, 3)$

where such decomp. were studied earlier  
by Kuznetsov and Kawamata.

d)  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  nodal quadric 3-fold

$$D^b(X) = \langle \mathcal{O}_X(-2H), \mathcal{O}_X(-H), D^b(R_{nd}), \mathcal{O}_X \rangle$$

(Kawamata and Kuznetsov)

e)  $X$  nodal del Pezzo 3-fold of degree 6

$$D^b(X) = \langle E_1, \dots, E_5, D^b(R_{nd}) \rangle$$

(Kawamata)

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We can use these examples together with Orlov's "blow-up formula" to construct further varieties with KSODs:



Prop (KPS)

Let  $\tilde{X} = \text{Bl}_Z(X)$ , where  $Z \subset X$

is a closed subvariety, which is a locally complete intersection.

If  $X$  and  $Z$  have KSODs, then

$\tilde{X}$  has a KSOD.

"Global" obstructions

to

Kawamata

semiorthogonal

decompositions

"Warm-up":

Lemma (KPS)

If  $X$  is a proj. Gorenstein variety  
with  $\omega_X \cong \mathcal{O}_X$ ,  $\dim X \geq 1$  and KSD,  
then  $X$  is smooth.

idempotent complete

$$\frac{D^b(X)}{\text{Perf}(X)} =: D_{\text{sg}}(X) \cong \langle D_{\text{sg}}(R_1), \dots, D_{\text{sg}}(R_m) \rangle$$

$\begin{matrix} \text{CM}(R_1) & \dots & \text{CM}(R_m) \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ D_{\text{sg}}(R_1) & & D_{\text{sg}}(R_m) \end{matrix}$

[Buchweitz]

$\cong \langle D^b(R_1)/\text{Perf}(R_1), \dots \rangle$

after mutation

$$D^b(X) = \langle \mathcal{A}, D^b(R_1), \dots, D^b(R_m) \rangle \quad (\text{KSOD})$$

Using admissibility

$$\text{Perf}(X) = \langle \mathcal{A}, \text{Perf}(R_1), \dots, \text{Perf}(R_m) \rangle$$

$\begin{matrix} \cup & \cup & \cup \\ \text{Perf}(R_1) & \text{Perf}(R_2) & \text{Perf}(R_m) \end{matrix}$

$- \otimes W_X[\dim X]$   
 Serre functor  
 (since  $X$  Gorenstein)

induces Serre functors  
 [Happel]  $R_i$  are Gorenstein, i.e.  
 $\text{injdim}_{R_i} R_i < \infty$   
 $\text{injdim}_{R_i} R_i < \infty$

## Corollary (KPS)

If  $X$  has a KSOD then the following equivalent statements hold:

(a)  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(X)$  is idempotent complete.

(b)  $K_{-1}(X) = 0$ .

Ex: [Weibel, Barban]  $X$  connected proj. curve with only nodal singularities and all irred components are rational. TFAE

(i)  $X$  has a KSOD

(ii)  $K_{-1}(X) = 0$

(iii)  $X$  is a tree of  $\mathbb{P}^1$ 's

Ex [Karmazyn, Uiznetov & Shinder, KPS]

$X$  proj. Gor. toric surface. TFAE

(i)  $X$  has a  $\mathcal{K}SOD$

(ii)  $K_{-1}(X) = 0$

Prop (KPS) Let  $X$  normal  
irreducible 3-fold with isolated singularities  
If  $s \in \text{Sing}(X)$  is a nodal singularity s.t.

$\mathcal{O}_{X,s}$  is factorial

then  $X$  has no KSOD.

Rmk:

This explains why Kawamata's  
construction of KSODs fails in  
such examples.

"Complete local"

↓  
Obstructions to

Kawamata SCDs



Observation:

All known odd-dimensional varieties with isolated singularities and KSOD are nodal.

Aim: Understand this observation to some extent. using singularity categories.

# Setup:

$X$  3-dimensional (for simplicity, we remark on general case later)

proj. Gor. with isolated singularities.

# Notation:

$ADE(X) := \{s \in \text{Sing}(X) \mid \hat{O}_{X,s} \text{ is an ADE-singularity}\}$

$NCCR(X) := \{s \in \text{Sing}(X) \mid \hat{O}_{X,s} \text{ is normal domain with NCCR}\}$

$SMALL(X) := \{s \in \text{Sing}(X) \mid \text{Spec}(\hat{O}_{X,s}) \text{ has a small resolution}\}$

Rem: (i)  $SMALL(X) \subseteq NCCR(X)$  by Van den Bergh

(ii)  $SMALL(X) \cap ADE(X)$  can be non-empty.

Theorem (KPS). Assume Setup above.

If  $X$  has a KSOD and

$$\text{Sing}(X) = \text{ADE}(X) \cup \text{NCCR}(X)$$

then the following implications hold

(a)  $s \in \text{SMALL}(X)$  or  $s \in \text{ADE}(X) \setminus \{A_{2n}\}$

$$\implies \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{X,s} \cong \frac{\mathbb{C}[w,x,y,z]}{(wx-yz)} \text{ is nodal}$$

(b)  $\text{Sing}(X) = \text{ADE}(X) \cup \text{SMALL}(X)$

$\implies X$  is nodal, i.e.

$$\hat{\mathcal{O}}_{X,s} \cong \frac{\mathbb{C}[w,x,y,z]}{(wx-yz)} \text{ for all } s \in \text{Sing}(X)$$

Rem:

Proof only uses the structure of the triangulated category

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(X) := \mathcal{D}^b(X) / \text{Perf}(X)$$

Knörrer's periodicity shows

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}\left(\frac{\mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_d]}{(f)}\right) \cong \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}\left(\frac{\mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_d, y, z]}{(f + yz)}\right), \quad (\text{for } f \neq 0)$$

Thus there are odd-dimensional varieties  $Y$  with  $\dim(Y) \neq 3$

and

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(Y) \cong \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(X)$$

If  $X$  has no KSOD then  $Y$  has no KSOD

Idea of the

proof

Recall from  
before ...

$$\frac{D^b(X)}{\text{Perf}(X)} =: \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(X) \cong \langle \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(R_1), \dots, \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(R_m) \rangle$$

$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{CM}(R_1) & \dots & \text{CM}(R_m) \\ \parallel & & \parallel \text{ [Buchweitz]} \\ \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(R_1) & & \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(R_m) \end{array}$

← idempotent complete →

$$D^b(X) = \langle \mathcal{A}, D^b(R_1), \dots, D^b(R_m) \rangle \quad (\text{KSO})$$

$$\text{Perf}(X) = \langle \mathcal{A}, \text{Perf}(R_1), \dots, \text{Perf}(R_m) \rangle$$

$\begin{array}{ccc} \cup & \cup & \cup \\ \text{Perf}(R_1) & \text{Perf}(R_2) & \text{Perf}(R_m) \end{array}$

$- \otimes_{W_X} [\dim X]$   
 Serre functor  
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induces → Serre functors  
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 $\text{injdim}_{R_i} R_i < \infty$   
 $\text{injdim}_{R_i} R_i < \infty$

By Orlov and idempotent completeness  
of  $D_{\text{sg}}(X)$ :

$$D_{\text{sg}}(X) \cong \bigoplus_{S \in \text{Sing}(X)} D_{\text{sg}}(\hat{O}_{X,S})$$

By Auslander (+ Gor. assumption)  
these categories are 2-Calabi-Yau.

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\text{sg}}(X) &\cong \langle D_{\text{sg}}(R_1), \dots, D_{\text{sg}}(R_n) \rangle \\ &\cong D_{\text{sg}}(R_1) \oplus \dots \oplus D_{\text{sg}}(R_n) \\ &\cong D_{\text{sg}}(R) \end{aligned}$$

where  $R = R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$  is finite dim.  
and Gorenstein



Assume for simplicity:  $\text{Sing}(X) = \text{SMALL}(X)$

Van den Bergh  $\Rightarrow$  all  $\hat{G}_{X,s}$  have an NCCR

Iyama  $\Rightarrow$  all  $D_{\text{sg}}(\hat{G}_{X,s})$  contain

cluster-tilting objects  $T_s$

$\Gamma$  In our situation, cluster-tilting obj.  
are precisely the maximal rigid objects  $M$ :

i.e.  $\text{Hom}_{D_{\text{sg}}}(M, M[1]) = 0$  and if

$\text{Hom}_{D_{\text{sg}}}(M \oplus N, (M \oplus N)[1]) = 0$  for some

$N \in D_{\text{sg}}(\hat{G}_{X,s})$  then  $N \oplus N' \cong M^{\oplus n}$   $\square$

$\Rightarrow \bigoplus_{s \in \text{Sing}(X)} T_s$  is cluster-tilting in  $D_{\text{sg}}(X)$

Now  $D_{\text{sg}}(X) \cong D_{\text{sg}}(\mathbb{R})$

are Hom-finite, 2-CY triangulated categories with cluster-tilting objects  $T$ .

In particular,

$$\text{End}_{D_{\text{sg}}}(T) \cong \mathbb{C}Q / I$$

*finite quiver* (pointing to  $Q$ )  
*adm. ideal* (pointing to  $I$ )

is a finite dimensional algebra.

For  $T \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(\mathbb{R}) \cong \underline{\text{CM}}(\mathbb{R})$

cluster theory (cf. Buan-Iyama-Reineke-Scott)

shows that  $\mathcal{Q}$  does not have

(1)  loops and

(2)  2-cycles

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For  $T \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(X) \cong \bigoplus_{S \in \text{Sing}(X)} \mathcal{D}_{\text{sg}}(\hat{G}_{X,S})$

(cf. Wemyss's 3dim-Auslander-McKay corresp.)

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Vertices in} \\ \mathcal{Q} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{exceptional curves } C_i \\ \text{in small res. } Y_s \longrightarrow \text{Spec } \hat{G}_s \end{array} \right\}$

$i \rightleftarrows j$  if 

no loops at vertex  $i$  iff  $C_i$  is  $(-1, -1)$ -curve

Comparing these statements shows that the exceptional fibre of all small resolutions

$$Y_s \longrightarrow \text{Spec}(\hat{O}_{X,s})$$

contains a single  $(-1, -1)$ -curve  $C$ .

This implies that  $\hat{O}_{X,s}$

is an  $A_1$ -singularity and

completes the proof.

# Summary

- \* Kawamata SODs generalize the concept of full exc. seq. to the singular setting.
- \* Tilting is another special case.
- \* Known examples include
  - trees of rational curves with nodal singularities
  - toric surfaces  $S$  with  $\text{Br}(S) = 0$
  - certain non-factorial nodal Fano 3-folds (see also Evgeny's talk later in this workshop)
  - Can produce further examples from these by using blow-ups

\* If  $X$  has KSOD, then  $K_{-1}(X) = 0$   
equiv.  $D_{\text{sg}}(X)$  is idempotent complete.

This obstruction can be used  
to explain observations by  
Kawamata and rule out  
KSODs in further examples

\* If  $\dim(X)$  is odd &  $X$  has KSOD  
then we can use  $D_{\text{sg}}(X)$   
and cluster theory to restrict  
the analytic types of singularities  
of  $X$  to type  $A_1$ -hypersurfaces  
(= nodal singularities) in many  
cases.