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# On $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimensions and precovers

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**Abstract:** For a class of $R$-modules $\mathcal{X}$ containing all projective $R$-modules, the $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective $R$-modules vary from projective to Gorenstein projective $R$-modules. We characterize the rings over which the left global $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimensions are finite. If further $\mathcal{Y}$ contains all injective $R$-modules, we show the existence of a new left global Gorenstein dimension of $R$ with respect to $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ satisfying proper conditions. As an application we characterize Ding-Chen rings by this new global Gorenstein dimension and show the existence of Ding-Chen rings with infinite global Gorenstein dimension. We also show the existence of $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective precovers for a large class of rings.

**Key words:** Ding-Chen rings, Ding projective (injective) modules, global Gorenstein dimensions, precovers, $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective modules

## 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, $R$ denotes a unitary associative ring and all modules are left $R$-modules if not specified otherwise. As usual, we use $\mathcal{P}$, $\mathcal{I}$ and $\mathcal{F}$ to denote respectively the classes of all projective, injective and flat $R$-modules, and we use $pd(M)$, $id(M)$ and $fd(M)$ to denote respectively the projective, injective and flat dimension of an $R$-module $M$. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a class of $R$-modules that contains $\mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ a class of $R$-modules containing $\mathcal{I}$. To provide a unified approach to the study of projective (injective) and Gorenstein projective (injective) $R$-modules (please cf. [2, 6] for the original definition) and their homological dimension theory, the authors of [1] defined and studied the modules given by the following definition:

**Definition 1.1** An $R$-module $M$ is called $\mathcal{X}$*-Gorenstein projective*, if there exists an exact sequence of projective $R$-modules $\mathbb{P} = \cdots \to P_1 \to P_0 \to P^0 \to P^1 \to \cdots$ such that $M = \mathrm{Im}(P_0 \to P^0)$ and $\mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbb{P}, F)$ is exact whenever $F \in \mathcal{X}$. The sequence $\mathbb{P}$ is called an $\mathcal{X}$*-complete projective resolution*. We denote by $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ the class of all $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective $R$-modules. Dually we can define the $\mathcal{Y}$*-Gorenstein injective* $R$-modules and $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$.

In fact, let $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}$ be the class ${}_R\mathrm{Mod}$ of all left $R$-modules, then $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) = \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R) = \mathcal{I}$. Let $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{I}$, then $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ and $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$ become the classes of Gorenstein projective modules (denoted by $\mathcal{GP}(R)$) and Gorenstein injective $R$-modules (denoted by $\mathcal{GI}(R)$)). Furthermore, Let $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{FI}$, i.e., the class of all FP-injective $R$-modules (see Definition 2.17), then $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ and $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$ become respectively

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the classes of Ding projective and Ding injective $R$-modules defined in [9]. Plenty of works on these modules can be found in [2, 4, 9, 11–14]. As one can see that, various topics on these relative Gorenstein modules, such as homological dimension theory, (pre)covering and (pre)enveloping theory are studied. However, it is seemingly lacked of a universal approach to carry out all the homological discussions once and for all.

Regarding this, the paper is dedicating to a systematical study of the global homological dimension theory and precovering (preenveloping) theory of these modules. In details, let us denote by $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd($M$) the $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimension of $M$ (see the definition at the beginning of section 2). Furthermore we define the *(left) global $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimension* $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD($R$) of $R$ by $l.\mathcal{X}$- GPD($R$)=supf{$\mathcal{X}$-Gpd($M$)$|M$ is a (left) $R$-module.}. Also we have the dual definitions (see Notation 2.6). Moreover, given a class $\mathcal{F}$ of $R$-modules, recall that, a homomorphism $\varphi : F \to M$ is called an *$\mathcal{F}$-precover* of $M$ if $\mathrm{Hom}(F', F) \to \mathrm{Hom}(F', M)$ is surjective for all $F' \in \mathcal{F}$. An *$\mathcal{F}$-preenvelope* of $M$ can be defined dually.

The first main result of Section 2 (see Theorem 2.8) is a characterization of the rings over which the (left) global $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimensions are finite. Partial results of this theorem (for the unexplained notations and definitions, please see the words above Theorem 2.8) can be found in [4, 6, 14].

**Theorem 1.2** *(Theorem 2.8) Let $R$ be a ring and $\mathcal{X}$ be a class of $R$-modules that contains all projective $R$-modules. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) \leq n$.

(2) *Each $m$-th $(m \geq n)$ syzygy in any projective resolution of any module is in $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.*

(3) *$id(\mathcal{X}) \leq n$ and $pd(\mathcal{I}) \leq n$.*

(4) *$(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R), \check{\mathcal{I}}_n)$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair.*

(5) *$(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R), \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n)$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair and $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n = \check{\mathcal{I}}_n$.*

Note that $id(\mathcal{X})$ and $pd(\mathcal{I})$ are defined respectively as $\sup\{id(X)|X \in \mathcal{X}\}$ and $\sup\{pd(\mathcal{I})|I \in \mathcal{I}\}$. For two classes $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ which satisfy certain conditions, the theorem above and its dual version give rise to the existence of a new global dimension of a ring $R$ via the following result:

**Theorem 1.3** *(see Theorem 2.13) Let $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ be respectively projectively resolving and injectively coresolving classes of $R$-modules. Then $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) = l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R) = \max\{id(\mathcal{X}), pd(\mathcal{Y})\}$ (interpreted as $\infty$ if either $id(\mathcal{X})$ or $pd(\mathcal{Y})$ is infinite) whenever one of the following conditions is satisfied:*

(1) *$id(\mathcal{X}) = id(\mathcal{P})$ and $pd(\mathcal{Y}) = pd(\mathcal{I})$.*

(2) *$id(\mathcal{X}) = pd(\mathcal{Y})$.*

(3) *$\mathcal{X}$-$pd(\mathcal{Y}) = \mathcal{Y}$-$id(\mathcal{X})$.*

The common value of the quantities in this theorem is denoted as $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{X},\mathcal{Y}}(R)$, and is called the *(left) global Gorenstein dimension with respect to $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$* of $R$. We point out that this dimension becomes the left global dimension or the left global Gorenstein dimension of a ring $R$ (cf. [2] for the definition) by taking different $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ (cf. Remark 2.16). They further imply a sufficient condition for that the functor $\mathrm{Hom}_R(-,-)$ is right balanced by $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) \times \mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$ (Corollary 2.11).

As an important application, we study the global dimensions related to Ding projective and injective modules. We prove the existence of $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R)$ for certain ring $R$ (Proposition 2.22), and we show that if it exists, then it coincides with the left global Gorenstein dimension of $R$ (Theorem 2.19). At last we give a characterization of a Ding-Chen ring (see Definition 2.18) or commutative coherent ring by $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R)$. This discussion gives many of the results in [4, 11, 13]. As an important conclusion we get the following result:

**Corollary 1.4** *(see Corollary 2.25) There exists a Ding-Chen ring with infinite global Gorenstein dimension.*

This shows a difference between Ding-Chen rings and $n$-Gorenstein rings, since for any $n$-Gorenstein ring, we always have $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}(R) = id(_RR) = n$, but for a Ding-Chen ring $R$ it may hold $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R) > \mathcal{FI}$-$id(_RR)$.

The main result of Section 3 is the following result concerning the existence of the $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$-precovers (see Theorem 3.2 and the dual result Theorem 3.3). It derives many well-known results as corollaries when applying to the context of [4, 6, 13].

**Theorem 1.5** *Let $R$ be a ring, $\mathcal{X}$ a class of $R$-modules that contains all projective $R$-modules. If every module in $\mathcal{X}$ has finite injective dimension, then every $R$-module has a $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$-precover.*

## 2. $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimensions

Let $R$ be a ring and $M$ any $R$-module, for a given class $\mathcal{W}$ of $R$-modules, M is said to have a left *$\mathcal{W}$-resolution* if there exists an exact sequence $\cdots \to W_n \to \cdots \to W_1 \to W_0 \to M \to 0$ with each $W_i \in \mathcal{W}$ for $i \geq 0$, and we call each $K_i = \mathrm{Ker}(W_i \to W_{i-1})$ the $i$-th *syzygy* of this left $\mathcal{W}$-resolution. We further define $\mathcal{W}$-pd($M$) as the minimum number $n$ (if it exists) such that there exists a left $\mathcal{W}$-resolution for $M$ with all $W_i = 0$ for all $i > n$, otherwise we set it equal to $\infty$. Similarly we can define the *right $\mathcal{W}$-resolution* of $M$, the $i$-th *cosyzygy* and the dimension $\mathcal{W}$-id($M$). For convenience, we use $\widehat{\mathcal{W}}$ (resp. $\check{\mathcal{W}}$ ) to denote the class of $R$-modules with finite left (resp. right) $\mathcal{W}$-resolutions. In particular, for given two certain classes $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$, when $\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ (resp. $\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$), for clarity, we write $\mathcal{W}$-pd($M$) (resp. $\mathcal{W}$-id($M$)) by $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd($M$) (resp. $\mathcal{Y}$-Gid($M$)). For a class of $R$-modules $\mathcal{X}$, it is also convenient to use $\mathcal{W}$-pd($\mathcal{X}$) to denote $\sup\{\mathcal{W}\text{-pd}(X) | X \in \mathcal{X}\}$, similarly the meaning of $\mathcal{W}$-id($\mathcal{X}$) is clear. In particular, the notations $pd(\mathcal{X})$, $id(\mathcal{X})$ and $fd(\mathcal{X})$ are also clear.

Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a class of $R$-modules and $\mathcal{H}$ some subclass of $\mathcal{X}$. We recall that, if for any $R$-module $X \in \mathcal{X}$ there exists a short exact sequence $0 \to X \to H \to X' \to 0$ with $H \in \mathcal{H}$ and $X' \in \mathcal{X}$, and it holds that $\mathrm{Ext}^1_R(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{H}) = 0$, then the class $\mathcal{H}$ is called an Ext-*injective cogenerator* of $\mathcal{X}$ (see also, eg., [16]). Note that by definition $\mathcal{P}$ is an Ext-injective cogenerator of $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.

The following is a direct result of [16, Theorem 3.1] and [1, Theorem 2.3], which will be frequently used in the sequel.

**Proposition 2.1** *Let $R$ be a ring and $\mathcal{X}$ a class of $R$-modules that contains all projective $R$-modules, $M$ an $R$-module with $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) < \infty$. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) \leq n$.

(2) *Each $m$-th $(m \geq n)$ syzygy in any projective resolution of $M$ is in $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.*

(3) *Each $m$-th $(m \geq n)$ syzygy in any $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ resolution of $M$ is in $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.*

(4) $\mathrm{Ext}^m_R(M, X) = 0$ *for all $m > n$ and all $X \in \mathcal{P}$.*

(5) $\mathrm{Ext}^m_R(M, H) = 0$ *for all $m > n$ and all $H \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(R)$.*

(6) *There exists a short exact sequence* $0 \to M \to W \to X \to 0$ *with* $pd(W) \leq n$ *and* $X \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.

(7) *There exists a short exact sequence* $0 \to K \to X \to M \to 0$ *with* $pd(K) = n-1$ *and* $X \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.

(8) $M$ *admits a surjective* $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$*-precover* $\varphi : X \to M$ *with* $K = ker\varphi$ *satisfying* $pd(K) \leq n-1$.

We also have:

**Proposition 2.2** *Let* $R$ *be a ring,* $M$ *an* $R$*-module, and let* $\mathcal{X}$ *be a class of* $R$*-modules containing all projective* $R$*-modules. If it holds either* $\mathcal{X}$*-*$pd(M) < \infty$ *or* $id(M) < \infty$*, then* $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) = pd(M)$.

**Proof** Suppose first $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(M) = n < \infty$. Apparently we have $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) \leq pd(M)$. For the inverse inequality, suppose that $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) = n < \infty$, we shall show that $pd(M) \leq n$. By Proposition 2.1(7) we have a short exact sequence $0 \to K \to X \to M \to 0$ with $pd(K) = n-1$ and $X \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$. Thus we obtain another short exact sequence: $0 \to X \to P \to H \to 0$ with $P$ projective and $H \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$. Consider the push out diagram of $X \to M$ and $X \to P$:

$$
\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & K & \longrightarrow & X & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \| & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & K & \longrightarrow & P & \longrightarrow & L & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & & & H & = & H & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & & & 0 & & 0 & &
\end{array}
$$

It follows that $pd(L) \leq n$ from the second row of the diagram, while the last column splits follows from $\mathrm{Ext}^1_R(H, M) = 0$ since $\mathcal{X}$-pd$(M) = n$, one has $pd(M) \leq n$, as needed.

Now suppose $id(M) = n < \infty$. If we still have $pd(M) < \infty$, then we are through by the first part of the proof. So assume $pd(M) = \infty$, and we need to show $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) = \infty$. Suppose it is not the case, say $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) = m$, then as above once again one gets a short exact sequence $0 \to M \to L \to H \to 0$ with $pd(L) = n$ and $H \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$. Thus we have a complete projective resolution of $H$: $\cdots \to P_1 \to P_0 \to P^0 \to P^1 \to \cdots$. Set $N = Ker(P^k \to P^{k+1})$ for some $k \geq n$, we have $\mathrm{Ext}^1_R(H, M) \cong \mathrm{Ext}^{k+1}_R(N, M) = 0$ since $id(M) = n$. It follows that $M$ is a direct summand of $L$, thus we have $pd(M) \leq pd(L) \leq m$, and it contradicts. So we have $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M) = pd(M) = \infty$, as desired. □

For an $R$-module $M$, it is interesting to ask how the two dimensions $\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M)$ and $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(M)$ are related. The following result gives a partial answer. Let us recall that, a class $\mathcal{X}$ of $R$-modules is called *projectively resolving* if $\mathcal{X}$ contains all projective $R$-modules, and for every short exact sequence $0 \to X' \to X \to X'' \to 0$ with $X'' \in \mathcal{X}$ the conditions $X' \in \mathcal{X}$ and $X \in \mathcal{X}$ are equivalent. The *injectively coresolving* class of $R$-modules can be defined dually. It is easy to see that the class $\mathcal{F}$ of flat $R$-modules is projectively resolving. Furthermore, if $\mathcal{X}$ is closed under direct sums then the class $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ is projectively resolving and closed under arbitrary direct sums and under direct summands by an almost the same proof as that of [12, Theorem 2.5].

**Corollary 2.3** *Let $M$ be an $R$-module and $\mathcal{X}$ a projectively resolving class of $R$-modules. If either $pd(M)<\infty$ or $id(M)<\infty$ holds, then we have $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(M)\leq\mathcal{X}$-$\mathrm{Gpd}(M)$ and the equality holds if and only if $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}\cap\mathcal{X}=\mathcal{P}$.*

**Proof** The first assertion follows from the obvious inequality $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(M)\leq pd(M)$ and Proposition 2.2, while the second assertion follows by [16, Propositon 2.3(2)]. □

It is obvious that the class $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ is usually a subclass of $\mathcal{GP}(R)$ by our definition. On the other hand, let $\mathcal{X}=\mathcal{GP}(R)$, $M$ be an $R$-module such that $pd(M)<\infty$, by Corollary 2.3 we get that $pd(M)=\mathcal{GP}(R)$-$\mathrm{Gpd}(M)$. This particularly implies that $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)=\mathcal{P}$. In fact, more generally we have

**Proposition 2.4** *Let $R$ be a ring, and let $\mathcal{X}\subseteq\mathcal{X}'$ be two classes of $R$-modules which both contain all projective $R$-modules. If $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)\subseteq\mathcal{X}'$, then $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)=\mathcal{P}$.*

**Proof** Only the inclusion $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)\subseteq\mathcal{P}$ needs to be shown. Let $M\in\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)$ be an $R$-module. By definition we have a short exact sequence: $0\to M'\to P\to M\to 0$ with $P$ some projective $R$-module and $M'\in\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}$. In fact we have $M'\in\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)\subseteq\mathcal{X}'$ since $\mathcal{X}\subseteq\mathcal{X}'$. Now it follows from $\mathrm{Ext}^1_R(M,M')=0$ that the above sequence splits, and the result follows. □

**Remark 2.5** By Proposition 2.4 one may ask, for any two class $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{X}'$ of $R$-modules which both contain all projective $R$-modules, in what conditions do we have $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)=\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)$? In the case where $l.\mathcal{X}$-$\mathrm{GPD}(R)\leq n$ or $l.\mathcal{X}'$-$\mathrm{GPD}(R)\leq n$ holds, we will show that the equality holds true if and only if $\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n=\widehat{\mathcal{X}}'_n=\widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n$ (see Corollary 2.9 below).

We introduce some notations for later use.

**Notation 2.6** The usual and well-investigated *(left) finite projective dimension* $l.\mathrm{FPD(R)}$ of $R$ is defined by $l.\mathrm{FPD}(R)$=sup{pd$(M)|M$ is a (left) $R$-module with finite left projective dimension}, and we define the *(left) global $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimension* $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD(R) of $R$ by $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)$=sup{$\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M)|M$ is a (left) $R$-module}. Similarly we define the *(left) finitistic $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimension* of $R$ by $l.\mathcal{X}$-FGPD$(R)$=sup{$\mathcal{X}$-Gpd$(M)|M$ is a (left) $R$-module with finite left $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimension}. Note that the *(left) finite injective dimension* FID$(R)$, the *(left) global $\mathcal{Y}$-Gorenstein injective dimension* $l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R)$ and the *(left) finitistic $\mathcal{Y}$-Gorenstein injective dimension* $l.\mathcal{Y}$-FGID$(R)$ of $R$ can all be defined dually.

The next result extends [12, Proposition 2.28].

**Proposition 2.7** *For any ring $R$ and any class $\mathcal{X}$ of $R$-modules that contains all projective $R$-modules, there is an equality $\mathcal{X}$-$\mathrm{FGPD}(R)=\mathrm{FPD}(R)$.*

**Proof** Clearly we have $l.\mathrm{FPD}(R)\leq l.\mathcal{X}$-$\mathrm{FGPD}(R)$. For inverse inequality, note that for any $R$-module $M$ with $\mathcal{X}$-$\mathrm{Gpd}(M)=n$, there exists a short exact sequence $0\to M\to W\to X\to 0$ with $pd(W)=n$ and $X\in\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ by Proposition 2.1(6). This shows that $l.\mathrm{FPD}(R)\geq l.\mathcal{X}$-$\mathrm{FGPD}(R)$, and it completes the proof. □

Now we are in a position to state the first main reult of this section. But before doing this, we need some notations and definitions that can be found in [10]. Given a class $\mathcal{C}$ of $R$-modules, we denote by ${}^{\perp}C$ (resp. $C^{\perp}$) the class of $R$-modules $F$ such that $\mathrm{Ext}_R^1(F,C)=0$ (resp. $\mathrm{Ext}_R^1(C,F)=0$) for all $C\in\mathcal{C}$. ${}^{\perp}C$ ($C^{\perp}$) is called the *left (right) orthogonal class* of $\mathcal{C}$. Recall that a pair $(\mathcal{F},\mathcal{C})$ of classes of $R$-modules is called a *cotorsion pair* if $\mathcal{F}^{\perp}=\mathcal{C}$ and ${}^{\perp}\mathcal{C}=\mathcal{F}$. Further, a cotorsion pair $(\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B})$ is said to be *complete* if for every $R$-module $X$ there exist two exact sequences $0\to B\to A\to X\to 0$ and $0\to X\to B'\to A'\to 0$ with $A,A'\in\mathcal{A}$ and $B,B'\in\mathcal{B}$. Meanwhile a cotorsion pair $(\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B})$ is said to be *hereditary* if for every short exact sequence $0\to A'\to A\to A''\to 0$ with $A$, $A''\in\mathcal{A}$, then $A'\in\mathcal{A}$, or equivalently, if $0\to B'\to B\to B''\to 0$ is exact with $B'$, $B\in\mathcal{B}$, then $B''\in\mathcal{B}$. We use $\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n$ (resp. $\check{\mathcal{Y}}_n$) to denote the class of $R$-modules $M$ with $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(M)\leq n$ (resp. $\mathcal{Y}$-$id(M)\leq n$) for some $n\geq 0$. The following theorem is a generalization of [4, Theorems 4.1 and 4.2] and many results in [14], it reveals that the left global $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective dimension of a ring $R$ is strictly controlled by the classes $\mathcal{X}$, $\mathcal{I}$ and special cotorsion pairs.

**Theorem 2.8** *Let $R$ be a ring and $\mathcal{X}$ be a class of $R$-modules that contains all projective $R$-modules. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)\leq n$.*

(2) *Each $m$-th $(m\geq n)$ syzygy in any projective resolution of any module is in $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.*

(3) *$id(\mathcal{X})\leq n$ and $pd(\mathcal{I})\leq n$.*

(4) *$(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R),\check{\mathcal{I}}_n)$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair.*

(5) *$(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R),\widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n)$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair and $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n=\check{\mathcal{I}}_n$.*

**Proof**

(5) $\Rightarrow$ (4) is obvious. (1) $\Leftrightarrow$ (2) is also obvious by Proposition 2.1.

(1) $\Rightarrow$ (3). Suppose $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)\leq n$. We first show that id$(\mathcal{X})\leq n$. Indeed, otherwise we will have id$(\mathcal{X})> n$, then at least for some two $R$-modules $M$ and $X\in\mathcal{X}$, it holds that $\mathrm{Ext}_R^{n+1}(M,X)\neq 0$. But since $\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)\leq n$, so by dimension shifting we get that $\mathrm{Ext}_R^{n+1}(M,X)=0$, hence a contradiction. We still need to show $pd(\mathcal{I})\leq n$. Assume the contrary, then $pd(\mathcal{I})=m\geq n+1$. It follows that there exists an injective $R$-module $I$ and an $R$-module $B$ such that $\mathrm{Ext}_R^m(I,B)\neq 0$. Choose a short exact sequence $0\to K\to P\to B\to 0$ and we have an associated long exact sequence:

$$\cdots\to\mathrm{Ext}_R^m(I,P)\to\mathrm{Ext}_R^m(I,B)\to\mathrm{Ext}_R^{m+1}(I,K)\to\cdots.$$

Hence we obviously have $\mathrm{Ext}_R^m(I,P)\neq 0$, but by Proposition 2.1 this contradicts with the fact that $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)\leq n$ and $m\geq n+1$.

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (1). We first show that, any exact complex of projective $R$-modules $\mathbb{P}=\cdots\to P^{-2}\to P^{-1}\to P^0\to P^1\to\cdots$ is a complete $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective resolution. So let $A$ be any $R$-module in $\mathcal{X}$, by hypothesis there is a finite injective resolution of $A$: $0\to A\to I_0\to I_1\to\cdots\to I_{n-1}\to I_n\to 0$ with $n$ some positive integer. Set $K_{n-1}=\mathrm{Ker}(I_{n-1}\to I_n)$, it follows from the short exact sequence of complexes of $R$-modules:

$$0\to\mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbb{P},K_{n-1})\to\mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbb{P},I_{n-1})\to\mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbb{P},I_n)\to 0.$$

that $\mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbb{P},K_{n-1})$ is exact by the exactness of the other two complexes. Iterating this procedure we get that $\mathrm{Hom}_R(\mathbb{P},A)$ is exact, as wanted.

Now we have to show that every $R$-module has a $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$-resolution of length no greater than $n$. So let $M$ be any $R$-module, we shall construct such a resolution. The construction is essentially contained in the proof of [8, Theorem 4.1], but for the sake of completeness, we shall give it in details. Let us choose an injective resolution of $M: 0 \to M \to I^0 \to I^1 \to I^2 \to \cdots$. Then for each $I^i$ we can choose a projective resolution $\mathbb{P}^i = \cdots \to P_1^i \to P_0^i \to I^i \to 0$. Set $C_n^i = \mathrm{Ker}(P_{n-1}^i \to P_{n-2}^i)$, then $C_n^i$ is projective for all $i \geq 0$ since $pd(\mathcal{I}) \leq n$. Let $J_k$ be the kernel of $P_k^0 \to P_k^1$ for all $0 \leq k \leq n-1$ , then we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & C & \longrightarrow & C_n^0 & \longrightarrow & C_n^1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & J_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & P_{n-1}^0 & \longrightarrow & P_{n-1}^1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & J_0 & \longrightarrow & P_0^0 & \longrightarrow & P_0^1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & I^0 & \longrightarrow & I^1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots
\end{array}$$

where $C = \mathrm{Ker}(C_n^0 \to C_n^1)$. Thus we get that all these $R$-modules $J_k$ and $C$ have complete $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective resolutions by the above discussion, just note that any module naturally admits a left projective resolution. So the following resolution of $M$ appeared in the above diagram is a desired $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$-resolution of length $n$:

$$0 \to C \to J_{n-1} \to \cdots \to J_0 \to M \to 0.$$

(1) $\Rightarrow$ (5). Before showing this implication, we first claim that if (1) holds, then $(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R), \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n)$ is a cotorsion pair and $\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n$. To do this we shall show that $\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n = \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)^{\perp}$ and $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) = {}^{\perp}\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n$. The inclusions

$$\widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n \subseteq \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)^{\perp}$$

follow directly by dimension shifting and the definition. To show $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)^{\perp} \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n$, let $M \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)^{\perp}$, then we have a short exact sequences: $0 \to M \to I \to L \to 0$ with $I$ injective. Furthermore, by (1) and Proposition 2.1, there exists another short exact sequence $0 \to K \to G \to L \to 0$ with $pd(K) \leq (n-1)$ and $G \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$.

Consider the pullback diagram of $I \to L$ and $G \to L$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & & & K & = & K & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & D & \longrightarrow & G & \longrightarrow & 0. \\
 & & \| & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & I & \longrightarrow & L & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & & & 0 & & 0 & &
\end{array}$$

It follows from $pd(I) \leq n$ and $pd(K) \leq (n-1)$ that $pd(D) \leq n$. The middle row in the above diagram splits since $G \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$, hence $pd(M) \leq n$, so we have

$$\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)^{\perp} \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n.$$

Combining it with the inclusions at the beginning we get $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)^{\perp} = \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n$. To conclude our claim, it still needs to show that $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) = {}^{\perp}(\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n)$. Obviously only the implication ${}^{\perp}(\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n) \subseteq \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ is nontrivial. So let $H \in {}^{\perp}(\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n)$ be any $R$-module, by Proposition 2.1 we have a short exact sequence $0 \to L \to B \to H \to 0$ with $pd(L) \leq (n-1)$ and $B \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$. This sequence splits since $L \in \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n$. It yields that $H$ is a direct summand of $B$, hence is in $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$, as desired.

The fact that the cotorsion pair $(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R), \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n)$ or $(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R), \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n)$ is hereditary complete follows from Proposition 2.1 and that the class $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ is projectively resolving. Also we deduce that $(1) \Rightarrow (5)$, since $(1)$ implies $(3)$, for any projective resolution of $M \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n$ with length $n$, $(3)$ and a discussion of dimension shifting give that $M \in \check{\mathcal{I}}_n$ and vice versa.

$(4) \Rightarrow (1)$. Let $A$ be any $R$-module. Consider the long exact sequence obtained from a projective resolution of $A : 0 \to J_n \to P_{n-1} \to \cdots \to P_0 \to A \to 0$ with all $P_i$ projective. For any $R$-module $L$, we see that $\mathrm{Ext}^1_R(J_n, L) \cong \mathrm{Ext}^{n+1}_R(A, L)$. Let $L$ vary in $\check{\mathcal{I}}_n$, (4) yields that $J_n \in {}^{\perp}(\check{\mathcal{I}}_n) = \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$, and (1) follows. □

Note that some well-known results in [6] are particular cases of Theorem 2.8, also note that the assumption $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) < \infty$ in [14, Proposition 3.14] can be taken off and the cotorsion pair in [14, Theorem 3.19] can be explicitly given. The following result gives a partial answer to the question asked in Remark 2.5.

**Corollary 2.9** *For any two classes $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{X}'$ of $R$-modules which both contain all projective $R$-modules, assume that either $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) \leq n$ or $l.\mathcal{X}'$-GPD$(R) \leq n$ holds. Then the two conditions are equivalent:* (1) $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) = \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)$; (2) $\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{X}'}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n$.

**Proof** Suppose that $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) \leq n$, the case where $l.\mathcal{X}'$-GPD$(R) \leq n$ holds can be proved similarly. We first show the implication $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$. It follows from the proof of Theorem 2.8 that we have $\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{X}'}_n$

Hence (2) holds. Now assume that (2) holds, then $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{X}}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{X}'}_n$ gives that $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) \supseteq \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)$. A similar argument shows $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) \subseteq \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)$, as desired. □

It is easy to formulate he dual version of Theorem 2.8:

**Theorem 2.10** *Let $R$ be a ring and $\mathcal{Y}$ be a class of $R$-modules that contains all injective $R$-modules. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R) \leq n$.*

(2) *Each $m$-th $(m \geq n)$ cosyzygy in any injective resolution of any module is in $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$.*

(3) *$pd(\mathcal{Y}) \leq n$ and $id(\mathcal{P}) \leq n$.*

(4) *$(\widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n, \mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R))$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair.*

(5) *$(\check{\mathcal{I}}_n, \mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R))$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair and $\check{\mathcal{I}}_n = \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_n$.*

To state the next result we recall from [5] that, for two classes of $R$-modules $\mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{D}$, the functor Hom$(-,-)$ is said to be right $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$ balanced if for any two $R$-modules $M$ and $N$, there exists a left $\mathcal{C}$-resolution $\mathbb{M}$ of $M$ and a right $\mathcal{D}$-resolution $\mathbb{N}$ of $N$ such that Hom$(\mathbb{M}, D)$ and Hom$(C, \mathbb{N})$ are always exact whenever $C \in \mathcal{C}$ and $D \in \mathcal{D}$. As a direct consequence of Theorem 2.8 and 2.10, we have the following corollary, which extends [6, Theorem 12.1.4].

**Corollary 2.11** *Let $R$ be a ring, $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ be the classes of $R$-modules that contains respectively all projective and all injective $R$-modules. Assume that $id(\mathcal{X}) \leq n$ and $pd(\mathcal{Y}) \leq n$, then* Hom$(-,-)$ *is right balanced by $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) \times \mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$.*

**Proof** By Theorems 2.8 and 2.10, we get that both of the cotorsion pairs $(\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R), \check{\mathcal{I}}_n)$ and $(\check{\mathcal{I}}_n, \mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R))$ are hereditary complete, then [5, Lemma 4.1] gives the desired result. □

**Theorem 2.12** *Let $\mathcal{X}' \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ be two classes of $R$-modules such that $\mathcal{X}'$ is projectively resolving. If $\mathcal{X}'$-$pd(\mathcal{X}) < \infty$, then $l.\mathcal{X}'$-GPD$(R)$=$l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)$. The dual result also holds.*

**Proof** By Definition we have $l.\mathcal{X}'$-GPD$(R) \leq l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)$, so it suffices to show the inverse inequality. If $l.\mathcal{X}'$-GPD$(R) = \infty$ then we are done, so suppose $l.\mathcal{X}'$-GPD$(R) = n < \infty$, and we shall show that $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) \leq n$. By Theorem 2.8, it suffices to show that $id(\mathcal{X}) \leq n$. Let $X \in \mathcal{X}$, then a left projective resolution of $X$ gives an exact sequence: $0 \to K_n \to P_{n-1} \to \cdots \to P_0 \to X \to 0$ where each $P_i \in \mathcal{P}$ $(0 \leq i \leq n-1)$ and $K_n$ is the $n$-th syzygy. It follows from [16, Proposition 1.2] we get that $\mathcal{X}'$-$pd(K_n) < \infty$ since $\mathcal{X}'$-$pd(X) < \infty$ by assumption. On the other hand by Theorem 2.8(2) we get $K_n \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}'}(R)$. So Proposition 2.2 implies that $K_n$ is projective. Now the above exact sequence implies $id(X) \leq n$ since by Theorem 2.8(3) and the assumption at the beginning of the proof we have $id(\mathcal{P}) \leq id(\mathcal{X}') \leq n$. □

**Theorem 2.13** *Let $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ be respectively projectively resolving and injectively coresolving classes of $R$-modules. Then $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) = l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R)$=max$\{id(\mathcal{X}),\ pd(\mathcal{Y})\}$ (interpreted as $\infty$ if either $id(\mathcal{X})$ or $pd(\mathcal{Y})$ is infinite) whenever one of the following conditions is satisfied:*

(1) *$id(\mathcal{X}) = id(\mathcal{P})$ and $pd(\mathcal{Y}) = pd(\mathcal{I})$.*

(2) *$id(\mathcal{X}) = pd(\mathcal{Y})$.*

(3) $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(\mathcal{Y}) = \mathcal{Y}$-$id(\mathcal{X})$.

**Proof** It is obvious that if $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) = l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R)$, then it naturally equals to $\max\{id(\mathcal{X}), pd(\mathcal{Y})\}$ by Theorem 2.8(3), Theorem 2.10(3) and the inequalities $id(\mathcal{P}) \leq id(\mathcal{X})$, $pd(\mathcal{I}) \leq pd(\mathcal{Y})$. To show that $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) = l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R)$, it needs only to show that the two inequalities $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) \leq n$ and $l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R) \leq n$ imply each other for any positive integer $n$. However, this is obvious by Theorem 2.8(3) and Theorem 2.10(3) whenever the condition (1) or (2) is satisfied.

Now suppose that (3) holds, we shall show that $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) \leq n$ implies $l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R) \leq n$, for the inverse implication the proof is similar. First note that $id(\mathcal{X}) \leq n$ and $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(\mathcal{Y}) = \mathcal{Y}$-$id(\mathcal{X}) \leq id(\mathcal{X}) \leq n$ follows from $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) \leq n$ by Theorem 2.8(3), so it needs only to show $pd(\mathcal{Y}) \leq n$. For this take any $Y \in \mathcal{Y}$, and it follows from a left projective resolution of $Y$ we get an exact sequence $0 \to K_n \to P_{n-1} \to \cdots \to P_0 \to Y \to 0$ where each $P_i \in \mathcal{P}$ $(0 \leq i \leq n-1)$ and $K_n \in \mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ by Theorem 2.8(2). Therefore, by [16, Proposition 2.2] and the assumption we have $\mathcal{X}$-$pd(K_n) < \infty$. Proposition 2.2 implies that $K_n$ is projective and so $pd(Y) \leq n$ for any $Y \in \mathcal{Y}$, as desired. □

We call the common value of the quantities in Theorem 2.13 the *left global Gorenstein dimension of $R$ with respect to $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$* if one of the conditions is satisfied, and denote it by $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{X},\mathcal{Y}}(R)$.

We conclude this section with a sequel of examples and applications of the above results.

**Example 2.14** Let $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y} = {}_R\mathrm{Mod}$, then $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R) = \mathcal{P}$, $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R) = \mathcal{I}$ and the value of the quantities $pd(R) = l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R) = l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R) = id(R)$ in Theorem 2.13 becomes the usual left global dimension of the ring $R$.

Next for $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{I}$, we carry out the main result of [2] as a corollary of Theorem 2.13 (cf. [2, Theorem 1.1]). For convenience, we rewrite for short the notations $l.\mathcal{X}$-GPD$(R)$ and $l.\mathcal{Y}$-GID$(R)$ as $l.$GPD$(R)$ and $l.$GID$(R)$ respectively when $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{I}$.

**Corollary 2.15 ([2])** *Let $R$ be a ring, then it holds the equality: $l.$GPD$(R) = l.$GID$(R)$.*

**Remark 2.16** The common value of the quantities in Corollary 2.15 is called the *left global Gorenstein dimension* of $R$ in [2]. In contrast to the proof of [2, Theorem 1.1], we do not need the notion of strongly Gorenstein projective $R$-modules here. This observation shows that the left global dimension and the left global Gorenstein dimension of a ring $R$ can be viewed as two different types of $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{X},\mathcal{Y}}(R)$ by taking proper $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$.

Other types of $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective and $\mathcal{Y}$-Gorenstein injective modules are studied in [4, 13]. Let us recall some definitions.

**Definition 2.17** An $R$-module $N$ is called FP-*injective* provided $\mathrm{Ext}_R^{n\geq 1}(M, N) = 0$ for any finite presented module $M$.

We use $\mathcal{FI}$ to denote the class of all FP-injective $R$-modules, and it is easy to check that $\mathcal{FI}$ is injectively coresolving. If we set $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{FI}$, following [10], the corresponding modules in $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$ and $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$ are called respectively *Ding projective* and *Ding injective modules* (which are first called *strongly Gorensein flat* and *Gorenstein* FP-*injective modules* in [4, 13]).

The following notion of Ding-Chen rings can be viewed as a generalization of that of $n$-Gorenstein rings (i.e. left and right Noetherian rings with self injective dimensions at most $n$ on both sides).

**Definition 2.18 ([9])** A ring $R$ is said to be a *Ding-Chen ring* if it is an $n$*-FC ring* for some integer $n \geq 0$, where an $n$-FC ring is a two-sided (left and right) coherent ring with $\mathcal{FI}$-$id({}_RR) \leq n$ and $\mathcal{FI}$-$id(R_R) \leq n$.

Our next aim is to show that, for any two-sided coherent ring $R$ with $\mathcal{FI}$-$id({}_RR) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id(R_R)$ the dimension $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R)$ exists, and it coincides with $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}(R)$ (see Proposition 2.22 below). For consistence of the notation, we write for short respectively $l.\mathrm{SGFP}(R)$ and $l.\mathrm{GFID}(R)$ instead of $l.\mathcal{X}$-$\mathrm{GPD}(R)$ and $l.\mathcal{Y}$-$\mathrm{GID}(R)$ when $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{FI}$, as used in [4, 13].

**Theorem 2.19** *Let $R$ be a ring, then $l.\mathrm{SGFP}(R) = l.\mathrm{GPD}(R)$.*

**Proof** Obviously we have $l.\mathrm{GPD}(R) \leq l.\mathrm{SGFP}(R)$. To show the inverse inequality, suppose that $l.\mathrm{GPD}(R) = n < \infty$. Thus by [2, Corollary 2.7] we get $pd(\mathcal{F}) \leq n$, and Theorem 2.12 gives the result. □

In the sequel we shall use the notation $M^+$ to denote the character module of an $R$-module $M$, which is defined as $\mathrm{Hom}_R(M, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$.

**Lemma 2.20** *Let $R$ be a two-sided coherent ring, then $fd(\mathcal{FI}) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id(\mathcal{F}_R) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id(R_R)$. The similar result also holds if we switch the left and right $R$-modules.*

**Proof** ($\leq$) First note that [3, , Theorem 3.8] implies $\mathcal{FI}$-$id(\mathcal{F}_R) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id(R_R)$. For any $M \in \mathcal{FI}$, by [3, Lemmas 2.1 and 2.4] we have $fd(M) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id(M^+) \leq \mathcal{FI}$-$id(\mathcal{F}_R)$.

($\geq$) Now for any $F \in \mathcal{F}_R$, by [3, Lemma 2.3] we have $\mathcal{FI}$-$id(F) = fd(F^+) \leq fd(\mathcal{I}) \leq fd(\mathcal{FI})$, as needed. □

**Lemma 2.21** *Let $R$ be a two-sided coherent ring, then $id(\mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id({}_RR) \leq pd(\mathcal{I}_R) \leq pd(\mathcal{FI}_R)$.*

**Proof** For any $F \in \mathcal{F}$, by [6, Proposition 5.3.9] we have a pure exact sequence: $0 \to F \to F^{++} \to F^{++}/F \to 0$. Since $R$ is right coherent, $F^{++}$ is left flat. Now the above short pure exact sequence yields that $F^{++}/F$ is left flat. Hence $F$ is a direct summand of $F^{++}$, and by [3, , Lemmas 2.1 and 2.4] we have $id(F) \leq id(F^{++}) = fd(F^+) \leq fd(\mathcal{I}_R)$, on the other hand we get $\mathcal{FI}$-$id({}_RR) = fd(\mathcal{I}_R) \leq id(\mathcal{F})$ by [3, Lemma 2.1 and Theorem 3.8], this gives the desired inequality $id(\mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id({}_RR) = fd(\mathcal{I}_R) \leq pd(\mathcal{I}_R) \leq pd(\mathcal{FI}_R)$. □

**Proposition 2.22** *Let $R$ be a two-sided coherent ring such that $\mathcal{FI}$-$id({}_RR) = \mathcal{FI}$-$id(R_R)$, then $\mathcal{FI}$-$id({}_RR) \leq l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R) = pd(\mathcal{I}) = pd(\mathcal{FI})$.*

**Proof** The existence of $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R)$ follows directly from Theorem 2.13 and Lemma 2.20. By Lemma 2.21, Theorems 2.13 and 2.19 we obtain

$$pd(\mathcal{FI}) = l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R) = l.\mathrm{GPD}(R) = \max\{id(\mathcal{P}), pd(\mathcal{I})\} = pd(\mathcal{I}),$$

thus $pd(\mathcal{FI}) = pd(\mathcal{I})$. □

We remark that for a two-sided coherent ring, $\mathcal{FI}\text{-}id({}_RR) = \mathcal{FI}\text{-}id(R_R)$ holds if and only if both $\mathcal{FI}\text{-}id({}_RR)$ and $\mathcal{FI}\text{-}id(R_R)$ are finite or infinite by [3, Corollary 3.18].

At last we shall use these results to characterize Ding-Chen rings and commutative coherent rings by $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R)$ . For this we recall from [7, Definition 1.1] that, a ring $R$ is said to be $n$-*perfect* provided that all flat $R$-modules have projective dimensions less or equal than $n$, i.e. $pd(\mathcal{F}) \leq n$. Note also that for a Ding-Chen ring, the following result could also be deduced from [11, Theorem 1.1].

**Theorem 2.23** *Let $R$ be a Ding-Chen ring or commutative coherent ring, if $\mathcal{FI}\text{-}id({}_RR)$ is finite, then for any integer $m \geq \mathcal{FI}\text{-}id({}_RR)$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{FI}}(R) = m$.

(2) $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}(R) = m$.

(3) $pd(\mathcal{I}) = pd(\mathcal{FI}) = m$.

(4) *The $m$-th syzygy of a projective resolution of any $R$-module is Ding projective.*

(5) *The $m$-th cosyzygy of an injective resolution of any $R$-module is Ding injective.*

(6) *All Gorenstein projective modules are Ding projective and $(\mathcal{GP}(R), \check{\mathcal{I}}_m)$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair.*

(7) *All Gorenstein injective modules are Ding injective and $(\widehat{\mathcal{P}}_m, \mathcal{GI}(R))$ is a hereditary complete cotorsion pair.*

*Furthermore, each of these conditions implies that $R$ is $m$-perfect. Otherwise if $\mathcal{FI}\text{-}id({}_RR)$ is infinite, then the equivalent statements (1-3) still validates except that $m$ is interpreted as $\infty$.*

**Proof** The equivalences of (1-5) follow from Corollary 2.15, Theorem 2.19 and Proposition 2.22. (1) ⇔ (6) and (1) ⇔ (7) follow from Theorems 2.8, 2.12 and Corollary 2.9. As to the last statement, obeserve that $id(\mathcal{F}) = n$ and $pd(\mathcal{I}) = m$ imply $pd(\mathcal{F}) \leq m$. □

**Remark 2.24** (1) First note that if $R$ is an $n$-FC and left $(n' - n)$-perfect ring with $n' \geq n$, then all the equivalent statements in above theorem hold for some $m$ such that $n' - n \leq m \leq n'$. To see this, let $m = pd(\mathcal{I})$ and observe that $n' - n \leq pd(\mathcal{I}) \leq n'$ follows from $pd(\mathcal{F}) \leq n' - n$ and $fd(\mathcal{I}) = n$ by the proof of Lemma 2.21.

(2) Also note that there may not exist an positive integer $m = n$ such that one of the conditions in Theorem 2.23 is satisfied. For example, let $R = \prod F$, an infinite product of a field $F$; then $R$ is a commutative von Neumann regular ring and it is not semisimple (see [4]). Clearly, $R$ is 0-FC but the global dimension $m$ of $R$ is strictly greater than 0, thus $R$ is not left perfect as $pd(\mathcal{F}) = m$. Hence we conclude that the value $m$ in Theorem 2.23 is strictly greater than 0 if it is finite (for example, this happens if $F$ is the complex number field). Furthermore, for any commutative von Neumann regular ring with infinite global dimension, there exists no finite integer $m$ such that it satisfies the equivalent conditions in the theorem above.

We restate the above remark as follows.

**Corollary 2.25** *There exists a Ding-Chen ring with infinite global Gorenstein dimension.*

## 3. $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective precovers

In this section, we shall study the existence of $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$-precovers. We start with the following definition, remember that a subcategory $\mathcal{C}$ of an abelian category $\mathcal{A}$ is said to be *thick*, if for any short exact sequence $0 \to M \to M' \to M'' \to 0$ in $\mathcal{A}$, $M' \in \mathcal{C}$ if and only if $M$ and $M''$ are in $\mathcal{C}$.

**Definition 3.1 ([10])** *Given an abelian category $\mathcal{A}$, a complete cotorsion pair $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$ is called an projective cotorsion pair whenever $\mathcal{C}$ is thick and $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{C}$ is the class of projective objects in $\mathcal{A}$.*

For instance, the well-known cotorsion pair $(\mathcal{P}, {}_R\mathrm{Mod})$ is a canoical projective cotorsion pair in ${}_R\mathrm{Mod}$, in fact it is even more cogenerated by the 0 module, and for more examples one may refer to [10]. Now we turn to the main result of this section. Recall that Theorem 2.8 implies that for any ring $R$ with $id(\mathcal{P})$ and $pd(\mathcal{I})$ finite, every module has a special $\mathcal{GP}(R)$-precover, the following result shows that the first condition is enough for the existence of $\mathcal{GP}(R)$-precovers.

**Theorem 3.2** *Let $R$ be a ring, $\mathcal{X}$ a class of $R$-modules that contains all projective $R$-modules. If every module in $\mathcal{X}$ has finite injective dimension, then every $R$-module has a $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$-precover.*

**Proof** Suppose $\mathcal{X}$ is such a class. First note that, By the discussion at the beginning of "(3) $\Rightarrow$ (1)" part of the proof of Theorem 2.8, any long exact complex of projective $R$-modules $\mathbb{P} = \cdots \to P^{-2} \to P^{-1} \to P^0 \to P^1 \to \cdots$ is a complete $\mathcal{X}$-Gorenstein projective resolution of some module $M = \mathrm{Ker}(P^0 \to P^1)$.

Denote $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}$ the class of all exact degreewise projective complexes of $R$-modules. We now claim that every complex of $R$-modules has a $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}$-precover. In fact, this is a direct consequence of [10, Proposition 7.3], since the cotorsion pair $(\mathcal{P}, {}_R\mathrm{Mod})$ is a projective cotorsion pair cogenerated by some set in ${}_R\mathrm{Mod}$ as we saw.

Take any $R$-module $M$, we can associate a complex $M[1] = \cdots \to 0 \to M \stackrel{1_M}{\to} M \to 0 \to \cdots$, which is concentrated at degrees $-1$ and $0$ with the module $M$ and whose only nonzero differential $\partial_{-1}$ is the identity map of $M$. By what we have proved there exists a $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}$-precover $g : \mathbb{P} \to M[1]$ where $\mathbb{P} = \cdots \to P^{-2} \to P^{-1} \to P^0 \to P^1 \to \cdots$ is an exact complex of projective $R$-modules. Denote $G = \mathrm{Ker}(P^0 \to P^1)$, thus $g$ naturally induces a map $\tilde{g} : G \to M$. Now by a same argument as in the proof of [15, Theorem A], we can show that the map $\tilde{g} : G \to M$ is the desired $\mathcal{GP}_{\mathcal{X}}(R)$-precover of $M$, it then finishes the proof. □

Using [10, Proposition 7.2] and a dual argument to that of [15, Theorem A], one can get the dual result of Theorem 3.2 as follows.

**Theorem 3.3** *Let $R$ be a ring, $\mathcal{Y}$ a class of $R$-modules that contains all injective $R$-modules. If every module in $\mathcal{Y}$ has finite projective dimension, then every $R$-module has a $\mathcal{GI}_{\mathcal{Y}}(R)$-preenvelope.*

Let $\mathcal{X}$ be the class of projective $R$-modules, we then have the following results, and one can get their dual versions easily.

**Corollary 3.4** *Let $R$ be a ring such that all projective $R$-modules have finite injective dimensions, then every $R$-module has a Gorenstein projective precover.*

In particular we get the following known result ([6, Theorem 11.5.1]):

**Corollary 3.5** *Let $R$ be an $n$-Gorenstein ring, then every $R$-module has a Gorenstein projective precover.*

**Proof** Follows directly by Corollary 3.3 and [6, Theorem 9.1.11]. □

Let $\mathcal{X}$ be the class of flat $R$-modules, hence we have the following:

**Corollary 3.6** *Let $R$ be a ring such that all flat $R$-modules have finite injective dimensions, then every $R$-module has a Ding projetive precover.*

Thus by Lemma 2.21 we have the following result.

**Corollary 3.7** *Let $R$ be a Ding-Chen ring, then every $R$-module has a Ding projective precover.*

Similarly, take $\mathcal{Y}$ to be the class of FP-injective $R$-modules, then by the Theorem 3.3 we have the following result.

**Corollary 3.8** *Let $R$ be a ring such that all* FP*-injective $R$-modules have finite projective dimensions, then every $R$-module has a Ding injective preenvelope.*

For example, let $R$ be a Ding-Chen ring with $l.\mathrm{Ggldim}(R) < \infty$, then by Theorem 2.23 all FP-injective $R$-modules have finite projective dimensions. Furthermore, if $l.\mathrm{GFI}(R)$ is finite, then by Corollary 3.7 or Theorem 2.8 every $R$-module has a Ding injective preenvelope.

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