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## Finitistic Dimension Conjectures for representations of quivers

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**Abstract:** Let  $R$  be a ring and  $Q$  be a quiver. We prove the first Finitistic Dimension Conjecture to be true for  $RQ$ , the path ring of  $Q$  over  $R$ , provided that  $R$  satisfies the conjecture. In fact, we prove that if the little and the big finitistic dimensions of  $R$  coincide and equal  $n < \infty$ , then this is also true for  $RQ$  and, both the little and the big finitistic dimensions of  $RQ$  equal  $n + 1$  when  $Q$  is non-discrete and  $n$  when  $Q$  is discrete. We also prove that  $RQ$  is a quasi-Frobenius ring if and only if  $R$  is quasi-Frobenius and  $Q$  is discrete.

**Key words:** Finitistic dimension conjecture, path ring, quasi-Frobenius ring, quiver representation

### 1. Introduction

In 1960 ([2]), Bass published the so-called *Finitistic Dimension Conjectures*: For a finite dimensional algebra  $\Lambda$ , (I)  $\text{findim } \Lambda = \text{Findim } \Lambda$  and (II)  $\text{findim } \Lambda < \infty$ , where

$$\text{findim } \Lambda = \sup\{\text{pd } M \mid M \text{ is a finitely generated left } \Lambda\text{-module with } \text{pd } M < \infty\}$$

is the (*left*) *little finitistic dimension of*  $\Lambda$ , and

$$\text{Findim } \Lambda = \sup\{\text{pd } M \mid M \text{ is a left } \Lambda\text{-module with } \text{pd } M < \infty\}$$

is the (*left*) *big finitistic dimension of*  $\Lambda$ . The first conjecture was proved to be false in [13]. In fact, it was proved that for any field  $k$  and any integer  $n \geq 2$ , there exist finite dimensional  $k$ -algebras  $\Lambda$  such that  $\text{findim } \Lambda = n$ , while  $\text{Findim } \Lambda = n + 1$ . Also, it has been proved to be true, for instance, for left perfect rings when the little finitistic dimension is zero ([2]), and for Iwanaga-Gorenstein rings ([8]). However, the second conjecture still remains open. It has been proved to be true, for example, for finite dimensional monomial algebras ([7]), for Artin algebras with vanishing cube radical ([14]), or Artin algebras with representation dimension bounded by 3 ([9]).

Our goal in this paper is to provide a partial positive solution to the first Finitistic Dimension Conjecture. Let  $R$  be any ring and  $Q$  be any quiver. We prove that the path ring of  $Q$  over  $R$ , denoted by  $RQ$ , does satisfy the first Finitistic Dimension Conjecture provided that  $R$  satisfies the conjecture below, Theorem 3.9. In fact, we prove that if  $\text{Findim}(R) = \text{findim}(R) = n (< \infty)$ , then (i)  $\text{Findim}(RQ) = \text{findim}(RQ) = n + 1$  when  $Q$  is non-discrete, and (ii)  $\text{Findim}(RQ) = \text{findim}(RQ) = n$  when  $Q$  is discrete. In particular, we infer from

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Theorem 3.2 in [8] that if  $R$  is  $n$ -Gorenstein ring, that is a two-sided noetherian ring of finite self-injective dimension  $n$  on both sides, then  $RQ$  satisfies the first Finitistic Dimension Conjecture. Moreover, we prove that  $RQ$  is a quasi-Frobenius ring if and only if  $R$  is a quasi-Frobenius ring and  $Q$  is a discrete quiver, where  $R$  is called *quasi-Frobenius* if a left  $R$ -module is projective if and only if it is injective (or, equivalently,  $R$  is a 0-Gorenstein ring) (Proposition 3.10).

## 2. Preliminaries

A *quiver* is a directed graph whose edges are called arrows. As usual we denote a quiver by  $Q$ , understanding that  $Q = (V, E)$  where  $V$  is the set of vertices and  $E$  is the set of arrows. An arrow of a quiver from a vertex  $v_1$  to a vertex  $v_2$  is denoted by  $a : v_1 \rightarrow v_2$ . In this case we write  $s(a) = v_1$  as the initial (starting) vertex, and  $t(a) = v_2$  as the terminal (ending) vertex. An arrow  $a$  in which  $s(a) = t(a)$  is called a *loop*. A quiver is said to be *discrete* if it has no arrows. A *path*  $p$  of a quiver  $Q$  is a sequence of arrows  $a_n \cdots a_2 a_1$  with  $t(a_i) = s(a_{i+1})$ . Thus  $s(p) = s(a_1)$  and  $t(p) = t(a_n)$ . Two paths  $p$  and  $q$  can be composed, getting another path  $qp$  (or  $pq$ ) whenever  $t(p) = s(q)$  ( $t(q) = s(p)$ ).

A quiver  $Q$  may be thought as a category in which the objects are the vertices of  $Q$  and the morphisms are the paths of  $Q$ .

A representation by modules  $X$  of a given quiver  $Q$  is a functor  $X : Q \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}$ . Such a representation is determined by giving a module  $X(v)$  to each vertex  $v$  of  $Q$  and a homomorphism  $X(a) : X(v_1) \rightarrow X(v_2)$  to each arrow  $a : v_1 \rightarrow v_2$  of  $Q$ . A morphism  $\eta$  between two representations  $X$  and  $Y$  is a natural transformation, so it will be a family  $\eta_v$  such that  $Y(a) \circ \eta_{v_1} = \eta_{v_2} \circ X(a)$  for any arrow  $a : v_1 \rightarrow v_2$  of  $Q$ . Thus, the representations of a quiver  $Q$  by modules over a ring  $R$  is a category, denoted by  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$ .

For a given quiver  $Q$  and a ring  $R$ , the path ring of  $Q$  over  $R$ , denoted by  $RQ$ , is defined as the free left  $R$ -module, whose base are the paths  $p$  of  $Q$ , and where the multiplication is the obvious composition between two paths. This is a ring with enough idempotents, so in fact it is a ring with local units (see [12, Ch.10, §49]). We denote by  $RQ\text{-Mod}$  the category of unital  $RQ$ -modules (i.e.  ${}_{RQ}M$  such that  $RQM = M$ ). It is known that  $RQ$  is a projective generator of the category and that the categories  $RQ\text{-Mod}$  and  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  are equivalent categories, and so  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  is a Grothendieck category with enough projectives.

For a given quiver  $Q$ , one can define a family of projective generators from an adjoint situation as it was shown in [10]. For every vertex  $v \in V$  and the embedding morphism  $\{v\} \subseteq Q$  the family  $\{S_v(R) : v \in V\}$  is a family of projective generators of  $Q$  where the functor  $S_v : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow (Q, R\text{-Mod})$  is defined in [10, §28] as  $S_v(M)(w) = \bigoplus_{Q(v,w)} M$  where  $Q(v, w)$  is the set of paths of  $Q$  starting at  $v$  and ending at  $w$ . Then  $S_v$  is the left adjoint functor of the evaluation functor  $T_v : (Q, R\text{-Mod}) \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}$  given by  $T_v(X) = X(v)$  for any representation  $X \in (Q, R\text{-Mod})$ . There is also an algorithm for providing injective cogenerators in  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  due to [5].

Throughout the paper, by a representation of a quiver we will mean a representation by modules over a ring  $R$ . The letter  $R$  will usually denote a nontrivial associative ring with identity and not necessarily commutative. All modules will be unitary left  $R$ -modules, unless otherwise specified. The category of left  $R$ -modules will be denoted by  $R\text{-Mod}$ . By  $pd$  and  $id$  we denote the *projective dimension* and the *injective dimension* respectively. We refer to [6], [5] and [1] for any undefined notion used in the text.

**3. Finitistic Dimension Conjectures over path rings**

Any non-discrete quiver  $Q$  must contain proper or loop arrows. So the main idea of our proof is to consider first that  $Q$  has an arrow that is not a loop and then that  $Q$  has a loop.

In the proof of Lemma 3.1, we use the following result: Let  $Q$  be the quiver consisting of a single vertex  $v$  and infinitely many loops  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$ . Then the defining basis of the path ring  $RQ$  is the set of all words on  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots\}$  with the empty word equal to the trivial path  $v$ ; this is the identity of  $RQ$ . Thus,  $RQ \cong R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  where the elements of  $R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  are non-commuting polynomials in indeterminates  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  with coefficients in  $R$ . The isomorphism being induced by the  $R$ -linear map such that  $v \mapsto 1_R$  and  $\alpha_k \mapsto x_k$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ .

**Lemma 3.1** *Let  $Q$  be any non-discrete quiver. If  $Q$  contains an arrow (respectively, a loop), then any projective representation over  $Q$  is also projective when it is restricted to the quiver  $Q_1 \equiv v_1 \xrightarrow{a} v_2$  (respectively,  $Q_2$ , a quiver with one vertex and one loop).*

**Proof** Let  $P$  be a projective representation over  $Q$ . Then  $\oplus_{t(a)=v} P(s(a)) \rightarrow P(v)$  is always a splitting monomorphism and  $P(v)$  is a projective  $R$ -module for all  $v \in V$  (for any quiver  $Q$ ). So, in particular, for the quiver  $Q_1$ ,  $P(v_1) \xrightarrow{P(a)} P(v_2)$  will be a splitting monomorphism. Thus it is a projective representation over  $Q_1$  (since  $Q_1$  is left rooted) (see [3]). Now for the quiver  $Q_2$ , we may assume that  $Q$  contains a vertex with infinitely many loops, and that  $Q_2$  is one of these loops. Then we have that

$$(Q, R\text{-Mod}) \cong R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\} - \text{Mod},$$

where the elements of  $R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  are non-commuting polynomials in indeterminates  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  with coefficients in  $R$ . Without loss of generality we may assume that  $(Q_2, R\text{-Mod}) \cong R[x_1] - \text{Mod}$ . Now if  $P$  is a projective representation over  $Q$ , that is, a projective  $R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ -module, then  $P \oplus L = R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}^{(I)}$  for some representation  $L$  over  $Q$  and an index set  $I$ . But,

$$R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\} \cong \bigoplus_{p \in x_1 < X >} R[x_1] \cdot p$$

as  $R[x_1]$ -modules, where  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ ,  $< X >$  is the free monoid of words on  $X$ , and  $x_1 < X >$  is the submonoid of  $< X >$  of words which does not start by  $x_1$  (notice that if  $p$  is the empty word, then we set  $R[x_1] \cdot p = R[x_1]$ ). Since  $R[x_1] \cdot p \cong R[x_1]$  as  $R[x_1]$ -modules, then  $\bigoplus_{p \in x_1 < X >} R[x_1] \cdot p$  is  $R[x_1]$ -projective. So  $P$  is  $R[x_1]$ -projective as a direct summand, or equivalently  $P$  is a projective representation in  $(Q_2, R\text{-Mod})$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $Q_1 = (V_1, E_1)$  be a subquiver of  $Q = (V, E)$ . Assume that every projective representation over  $Q$  is also projective when it is restricted to  $Q_1$ . Let  $M$  be any representation of  $Q_1$ . If  $\text{pd}_{Q_1}(M) = n$ , then  $\text{pd}_Q(\widetilde{M}) \geq n$ , where  $\widetilde{M}$  is the following representation of  $Q$ :  $\widetilde{M}(v) = M(v) \ \forall v \in V_1, \ \widetilde{M}(v) = 0 \ \forall v \in V - V_1$ , and  $\widetilde{M}(a) = M(a) \ \forall a \in E_1, \ \widetilde{M}(a) = 0 \ \forall a \in E - E_1$ .*

**Proof** Suppose for the contrary that  $r = \text{pd}_Q(\widetilde{M}) < n$ . Then there exists an exact sequence in  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$

$$0 \rightarrow P_r \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow \widetilde{M} \rightarrow 0,$$

with  $P_i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq r$  being projective representations over  $Q$ . Now by the assumption,

$$0 \rightarrow P_r|_{Q_1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_1|_{Q_1} \rightarrow P_0|_{Q_1} \rightarrow \widetilde{M}|_{Q_1} = M \rightarrow 0$$

is a projective resolution of  $M$  in  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  with  $r < n$ . This contradicts with  $\text{pd}_{Q_1}(M) = n$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3** *Let  $M$  be a module such that  $\text{pd}_R(M) = n$ . Then:*

1.  $\text{pd}_Q(\overline{M}) = n + 1$ , where  $\overline{M} \equiv M \rightarrow 0$  is a representation of the quiver  $Q \equiv \bullet \rightarrow \bullet$ .
2.  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(M) = n + 1$ , where  $R[x]$  is a polynomial ring and  $M$  is considered as an  $R[x]$ -module (via  $xM = 0$ ).

**Proof**

1. Let us fix the notation  $\overline{X} \equiv X \rightarrow 0$  for any module  $X$  in this proof. We show that  $\text{pd}_Q(\overline{M}) = n + 1$  by induction on  $n$ . For  $n = 0$ ,  $M$  will be projective. So from the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{id} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow id & & \downarrow 0 & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{id} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

it follows that  $\text{pd}_Q(\overline{M}) = 1$ . (Indeed,  $\overline{M}$  cannot be projective since  $M \xrightarrow{0} 0$  cannot be a splitting epimorphism.) Now suppose that  $\text{pd}_R(M) = n$ . Then there exist sequences of modules  $0 \rightarrow P_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow K \rightarrow 0$  and  $0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$ , where  $P_i$  is a projective module for every  $0 \leq i \leq n$  and  $K = \text{Ker}(P_0 \rightarrow M)$ . Since  $\text{pd}_R(K) = n - 1$ , then by induction hypothesis  $\text{pd}_Q(\overline{K}) = n$ . Since  $P_0$  is a projective module, we know that  $\text{pd}_Q(\overline{P_0}) = 1$ . Therefore from the short exact sequence of representations  $0 \rightarrow \overline{K} \rightarrow \overline{P_0} \rightarrow \overline{M} \rightarrow 0$  we get the long exact sequence of homology

$$\begin{aligned} \cdots \rightarrow 0 &= \text{Ext}_Q^n(\overline{P_0}, X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_Q^n(\overline{K}, X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_Q^{n+1}(\overline{M}, X) \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow \text{Ext}_Q^{n+1}(\overline{P_0}, X) = 0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_Q^{n+1}(\overline{K}, X) = 0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_Q^{n+2}(\overline{M}, X) \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow \text{Ext}_Q^{n+2}(\overline{P_0}, X) = 0 \rightarrow \cdots \end{aligned}$$

So, we have  $\text{Ext}_Q^{n+j}(\overline{M}, X) = 0$ ,  $\forall j \geq 2$  and for any representation  $X$ . Since  $\text{pd}_Q(\overline{K}) = n$ , then  $0 \neq \text{Ext}_Q^n(\overline{K}, X) \cong \text{Ext}_Q^{n+1}(\overline{M}, X)$ , and this implies that  $\text{pd}_Q(\overline{M}) = n + 1$ .

2. We show that  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(M) = n + 1$  by induction on  $n$ . If  $n = 0$ , then by [11, Lemma 9.27]  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(M[x]) = \text{pd}_R(M) = 0$ , that is,  $M[x]$  is  $R[x]$ -projective, where  $M[x] = R[x] \otimes_R M$ . Moreover, we have a short exact sequence of  $R[x]$ -modules  $0 \rightarrow M[x] \rightarrow M[x] \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$  (see [11, Lemma 9.29]). So,  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(M) = 1$  since  $M$  cannot be  $R[x]$ -projective (otherwise the sequence would split, but it is impossible). Now suppose that  $\text{pd}_R(M) = n$  where  $n \geq 2$ . Then we have a short exact sequence of  $R$ -modules  $0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow P \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$

where  $P$  is projective and  $\text{pd}_R(K) = n - 1$ . So by induction hypothesis, we know that  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(K) = n$  and  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(P) = 1$  (via  $xK = 0$  and  $xP = 0$ ). In fact, we can consider this short exact sequence over  $R[x]$ -modules, and from this sequence we get the long exact sequence of  $R[x]$ -modules:

$$\begin{aligned} \cdots \rightarrow 0 = \text{Ext}^n(P, Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^n(K, Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+1}(P, Y) = 0 \\ \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+1}(K, Y) = 0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+2}(M, Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+2}(P, Y) = 0 \rightarrow \cdots \end{aligned}$$

Then we obtain that  $\text{Ext}^{n+j}(M, Y) = 0 \ \forall j \geq 2$  and for any  $R[x]$ -module  $Y$ . Since  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(K) = n$ , then  $0 \neq \text{Ext}^n(K, Y) \cong \text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, Y)$ . Hence  $\text{pd}_{R[x]}(M) = n + 1$ . □

**Lemma 3.4** *Let  $Q$  be any quiver. If  $\text{Findim}(R) = n$ , then  $\text{Findim}(RQ) \leq n + 1$ .*

**Proof** Let  $X$  be any representation in  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  such that  $\text{pd}_Q(X) < \infty$ . Then it is clear that  $\text{pd}_R(X(v)) < \infty$ , and so  $\text{pd}_R(X(v)) \leq n$  for any vertex  $v$  of  $Q$ . Now from the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow P_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow 0$$

of representations of  $Q$  where  $P_i$  is a projective representation  $\forall 0 \leq i \leq n - 1$  and  $K = \text{Ker}(P_{n-1} \rightarrow P_{n-2})$ , we obtain an exact sequence of modules

$$0 \rightarrow K(v) \rightarrow P_{n-1}(v) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_1(v) \rightarrow P_0(v) \rightarrow X(v) \rightarrow 0$$

for any vertex  $v$  of  $Q$ . Then  $K(v)$  must be a projective module since  $\text{pd}_R(X(v)) \leq n$ . Moreover, by the argument given in the proof of [10, Corollary 28.3], we have the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{a \in E} S_{t(a)}(K(s(a))) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in V} S_v(K(v)) \rightarrow K \rightarrow 0$$

for the representation  $K$  (in fact, it exists for every representation in  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$ ). Since the functor  $S$  preserves projectives, it follows that  $\text{pd}_Q(X) \leq n + 1$ , and this implies that  $\text{Findim}(RQ) \leq n + 1$ . □

**Proposition 3.5** *Let  $Q$  be a non-discrete quiver. If  $\text{Findim}(R) = n$ , then  $\text{Findim}(RQ) = n + 1$ .*

**Proof** By Lemma 3.4,  $\text{Findim}(RQ) \leq n + 1$ . Now let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module such that  $\text{pd}_R(M) = n$ . Since  $Q$  is a non-discrete quiver, we can assume that it contains an arrow, say  $Q_1$  or a loop, say  $Q_2$ . So in this case, by Lemma 3.3, there exists a representation  $M_1$  of  $Q_1$  (resp.,  $M_2$  of  $Q_2$ ) such that  $\text{pd}_{Q_1}(M_1) = n + 1$  (resp.,  $\text{pd}_{Q_2}(M_2) = n + 1$ ). (Notice that  $(Q_2, R\text{-Mod}) \cong R[x]\text{-Mod}$ .) Thus by Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2, it follows that  $\text{pd}_Q(\widetilde{M}_1) \geq n + 1$  (resp.  $\text{pd}_Q(\widetilde{M}_2) \geq n + 1$ ), where  $\widetilde{M}_1, \widetilde{M}_2$  are the representations given in Lemma 3.2. Hence  $\text{Findim}(RQ) \geq n + 1$ . □

**Corollary 3.6** *Let  $Q$  be a non-discrete quiver. If  $R$  is ring such that  $\text{Findim}(R) = \text{findim}(R) = n (< \infty)$ , then  $\text{Findim}(RQ) = \text{findim}(RQ) = n + 1$ .*

**Corollary 3.7** *Let  $Q$  be a non-discrete quiver. If  $R$  is  $n$ -Gorenstein ring, then  $\text{Findim}(RQ) = \text{findim}(RQ) = n + 1$ .*

**Proof** Since  $R$  is an  $n$ -Gorenstein ring,  $\text{Findim}(R) = \text{findim}(R) = n$  by [8, Theorem 3.2]. So the result follows by Corollary 3.6.  $\square$

**Remark 3.8** *If the quiver  $Q$  is discrete, then a representation  $X$  of  $Q$  is projective if and only if  $X(v)$  is a projective module for all  $v \in V$ . So, if  $\text{Findim}(R) = \text{findim}(R) = n$ , then it is immediate that  $\text{Findim}(RQ) = \text{findim}(RQ) = n$ .*

**Theorem 3.9** *Let  $Q$  be any quiver. If  $R$  is a ring such that  $\text{Findim}(R) = \text{findim}(R) = n (< \infty)$ , then  $\text{Findim}(RQ) = \text{findim}(RQ) (< \infty)$ .*

**Proof** By Corollary 3.6 and Remark 3.8.  $\square$

Recall that a ring  $R$  is called *quasi-Frobenius* (briefly, a *QF-ring*) if a left  $R$ -module is projective if and only if it is injective. This notion can be extended to the path ring of any quiver  $Q$ . So we call  $RQ$  a quasi-Frobenius ring if a representation of  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  is projective if and only if it is injective.

**Proposition 3.10** *Let  $Q$  be a quiver. Then  $RQ$  is a QF-ring if and only if  $R$  is a QF-ring and  $Q$  is discrete.*

**Proof**  $(\Rightarrow)$  Suppose on the contrary that  $Q$  is not discrete. Then we have two cases:

1. Let  $Q$  contain an arrow  $v_1 \xrightarrow{a} v_2$ . We know that  $\bigoplus_{v \in V} S_v(R)$  is a projective generator of  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$ . So, the induced representation

$$S_v(R)(v_1) \xrightarrow{S_v(R)(a)} S_v(R)(v_2) \cong \bigoplus_{Q(v,v_1)} R \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{Q(v,v_2)} R$$

of the quiver  $v_1 \xrightarrow{a} v_2$  is projective (see [3, Theorem 3.1]). But since  $Q(v, v_1) \subsetneq Q(v, v_2)$ ,  $S_v(R)(a)$  cannot be a splitting epimorphism, and so the representation cannot be injective (see [4, Theorem 4.2]).

2. Let  $Q$  contain loops with one vertex. Then  $(Q, R\text{-Mod}) \cong R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}\text{-Mod}$ , where the elements of  $R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  are non-commuting polynomials in indeterminates  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  with coefficients in  $R$ . So  $R\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  is a projective module over itself, but not injective since it is not divisible (for instance,  $x_1$  doesn't have an inverse).

So in each case we have a contradiction with  $RQ$  to be a QF-ring. Hence  $Q$  must be a discrete quiver. Now it is easy to notice that a representation  $P$  of  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  is projective (resp., injective) if and only if  $P(v)$  is a projective left  $R$ -module, for each  $v \in V$  (resp., an injective left  $R$ -module, for each  $v \in V$ ). For instance this can be derived from the fact that a discrete quiver is, in particular, left rooted and right rooted, so we can use the characterization of projective (resp., injective) representations given in [3, Theorem 3.1] (resp., [4, Theorem 4.2]). Hence, if  $M$  is a projective (resp., an injective)  $R$ -module then we can easily construct a projective (resp., injective) representation  $X$  in  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$  by the assignment  $X(v) = M$  and  $X(w) = 0$ ,  $\forall w \in V, w \neq v$  (where  $v$  is any fixed vertex of  $Q$ ). Then by the hypothesis  $X$  will be an injective (resp., a projective) representation in  $(Q, R\text{-Mod})$ , that is,  $M$  will be an injective (resp., a projective) left  $R$ -module. So  $R$  is a QF-ring.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) It follows from the previous observation on projective (resp., injective) representations of discrete quivers.  $\square$

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