On the existence of Auslander-Reiten n-exangles in n-exangulated categories

Jian He, Jiangsheng Hu, Dongdong Zhang and Panyue Zhou

Abstract. Let \mathscr{C} be an *n*-exangulated category. In this note, we show that if \mathscr{C} is locally finite, then \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten *n*-exangles. This unifies and extends results of Xiao–Zhu, Zhu–Zhuang, Zhou and Xie–Lu–Wang for triangulated, extriangulated, (n+2)-angulated and *n*-abelian categories, respectively.

1. Introduction

The notion of extriangulated categories was introduced by Nakaoka–Palu in [19], which can be viewed as a simultaneous generalization of exact categories and triangulated categories. The data of such a category is a triplet ($\mathscr{C}, \mathbb{E}, \mathfrak{s}$), where \mathscr{C} is an additive category, $\mathbb{E}: \mathscr{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathscr{C} \to A\mathbf{b}$ is an additive bifunctor and \mathfrak{s} assigns to each $\delta \in \mathbb{E}(C, A)$ a class of 3-term sequences with end terms A and C such that certain axioms hold. However, there are some other examples of extriangulated categories which are neither exact nor triangulated. In particular, Nakaoka and Palu [19, Remark 2.18] proved extension closed subcategories of extriangulated categories are extriangulated categories. For example, let A be an artin algebra and $K^{[-1,0]}(\text{proj}A)$ the category of complexes of finitely generated projective A-modules concentrated in degrees -1 and 0, with morphisms considered up to homotopy. Then $K^{[-1,0]}(\text{proj}A)$ is an extension closed subcategory of the bounded homotopy

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category $K^b(\text{proj}A)$ which is not exact and triangulated, see [12, Example 6.2]. This construction gives extriangulated categories which are not exact and triangulated. Recently, Herschend-Liu-Nakaoka [7] introduced the notion of *n*-exangulated categories for any positive integer *n*. It is not only a higher dimensional analogue of extriangulated categories, but also gives a common generalization of *n*-exact categories in the sense of Jasso [15] and (n+2)-angulated in the sense of Geiss-Keller-Oppermann [5]. However, there are some other examples of *n*-exangulated categories which are neither *n*-exact nor (n+2)-angulated, see [7]-[9], [18].

Auslander-Reiten theory was introduced by Auslander and Reiten in [1], [2]. Since its introduction, Auslander-Reiten theory has become a fundamental tool for studying the representation theory of Artin algebras. Later it has been generalized to the situation of exact categories [14], triangulated categories [6], [20] and their subcategories [3], [16] and some certain additive categories [16], [17], [21] by many authors. Iyama, Nakaoka and Palu [12] developed Auslander–Reiten theory for extriangulated categories. This unifies Auslander–Reiten theories in exact categories and triangulated categories independently. Xiao and Zhu [23], [24] showed that if a triangulated category $\mathscr C$ is locally finite, then $\mathscr C$ has Auslander-Reiten triangles. Recently, Zhu and Zhuang [27] proved that if an extriangulated category \mathscr{C} is locally finite, then \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten \mathbb{E} -triangles. Later, Zhou [26] extended Xiao-Zhu's result into (n+2)-angulated categories. Namely, Zhou proved that if an (n+2)-angulated category \mathscr{C} is locally finite, then \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten (n+2)angles. Subsequently, Xie-Lu-Wang [22] proved a similar result to Zhou. More precisely, they showed that if an *n*-abelian category \mathscr{C} is locally finite, then \mathscr{C} has n-Auslander-Reiten sequences. Based on this idea, we have a natural question of whether the results of Zhou [26] and Xie-Lu-Wang [22] can be unified under the framework of *n*-exangulated categories or whether the result of Zhu-Zhuang [27] has a higher counterpart. In this article, we give an affirmative answer.

Our main result is the following.

Theorem 1.1. (See Theorem 3.12 for details) Let \mathscr{C} be a locally finite n-exangulated category. If $X \in ind(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-projective object, then there exists an Auslander-Reiten n-exangle ending at X, and if $Y \in ind(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-injective object, then there exists an Auslander-Reiten n-exangle starting at Y. In this case, we say that \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten n-exangles.

This article is organized as follows: In Section 2, we recall the definition of n-exangulated category and review some results. In Section 3, we show our main result.

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we briefly review basic concepts and results concerning n-exangulated categories.

Let \mathscr{C} be an additive category and $\mathbb{E}: \mathscr{C}^{\mathrm{op}} \times \mathscr{C} \to \mathsf{Ab}$ (Ab is the category of abelian groups) an additive bifunctor. For any pair of objects $A, C \in \mathscr{C}$, an element $\delta \in \mathbb{E}(C, A)$ is called an \mathbb{E} -extension or simply an extension. We also write such δ as $A\delta_C$ when we indicate A and C. The zero element $A0_C = 0 \in \mathbb{E}(C, A)$ is called the split \mathbb{E} -extension. For any pair of \mathbb{E} -extensions ${}_{A}\delta_{C}$ and ${}_{A'}\delta'_{C'}$, let $\delta \oplus \delta' \in$ $\mathbb{E}(C \oplus C', A \oplus A')$ be the element corresponding to $(\delta, 0, 0, \delta')$ through the natural isomorphism $\mathbb{E}(C \oplus C', A \oplus A') \simeq \mathbb{E}(C, A) \oplus \mathbb{E}(C, A') \oplus \mathbb{E}(C', A) \oplus \mathbb{E}(C', A').$

For any $a \in \mathscr{C}(A, A')$ and $c \in \mathscr{C}(C', C)$, $\mathbb{E}(C, a)(\delta) \in \mathbb{E}(C, A')$ and $\mathbb{E}(c, A)(\delta) \in \mathbb{E}(C, A')$ $\mathbb{E}(C', A)$ are simply denoted by $a_*\delta$ and $c^*\delta$, respectively.

Let ${}_{A}\delta_{C}$ and ${}_{A'}\delta'_{C'}$ be any pair of \mathbb{E} -extensions. A morphism $(a,c): \delta \to \delta'$ of extensions is a pair of morphisms $a \in \mathscr{C}(A, A')$ and $c \in \mathscr{C}(C, C')$ in \mathscr{C} , satisfying the equality $a_*\delta = c^*\delta'$.

Let \mathscr{C} be an additive category as before, and let *n* be any positive integer.

Definition 2.1. ([7, Definition 2.7]) Let $\mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}$ be the category of complexes in \mathscr{C} . As its full subcategory, define $\mathbf{C}^{n+2}_{\mathscr{C}}$ to be the category of complexes in \mathscr{C} whose components are zero in the degrees outside of $\{0, 1, ..., n+1\}$. Namely, an object in $\mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$ is a complex $X_{\bullet} = \{X_i, d_i^X\}$ of the form

$$X_0 \xrightarrow{d_0^X} X_1 \xrightarrow{d_1^X} \dots \xrightarrow{d_{n-1}^X} X_n \xrightarrow{d_n^X} X_{n+1}.$$

We write a morphism $f_{\bullet}: X_{\bullet} \to Y_{\bullet}$ simply $f_{\bullet} = (f_0, f_1, ..., f_{n+1})$, only indicating the terms of degrees 0, ..., n+1.

Definition 2.2. ([7, Definition 2.11]) By Yoneda lemma, any extension $\delta \in$ $\mathbb{E}(C, A)$ induces natural transformations

$$\delta_{\sharp} \colon \mathscr{C}(-, C) \Longrightarrow \mathbb{E}(-, A) \text{ and } \delta^{\sharp} \colon \mathscr{C}(A, -) \Longrightarrow \mathbb{E}(C, -).$$

For any $X \in \mathscr{C}$, these $(\delta_{\sharp})_X$ and δ_X^{\sharp} are given as follows.

- (1) $(\delta_{\sharp})_X : \mathscr{C}(X, C) \to \mathbb{E}(X, A) : f \mapsto f^* \delta.$ (2) $\delta_X^{\sharp} : \mathscr{C}(A, X) \to \mathbb{E}(C, X) : g \mapsto g_* \delta.$

We simply denote $(\delta_{\sharp})_X(f)$ and $\delta_X^{\sharp}(g)$ by $\delta_{\sharp}(f)$ and $\delta^{\sharp}(g)$, respectively.

Definition 2.3. ([7, Definition 2.9]) Let $\mathscr{C}, \mathbb{E}, n$ be as before. Define a category $A := A := A^{n+2}_{(\mathscr{C}, \mathbb{E})}$ as follows.

(1) An object in $\mathcal{E}_{(\mathscr{C},\mathbb{E})}^{n+2}$ is a pair $\langle X_{\bullet},\delta\rangle$ of $X_{\bullet}\in \mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$ and $\delta\in\mathbb{E}(X_{n+1},X_0)$ satisfying

$$(d_0^X)_*\delta = 0$$
 and $(d_n^X)^*\delta = 0.$

We call such a pair an \mathbb{E} -attached complex of length n+2. We also denote it by

$$X_0 \xrightarrow{d_0^X} X_1 \xrightarrow{d_1^X} \dots \xrightarrow{d_{n-2}^X} X_{n-1} \xrightarrow{d_{n-1}^X} X_n \xrightarrow{d_n^X} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_n \xrightarrow{\delta} X_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_n \xrightarrow{\delta} X_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_n \xrightarrow{\delta}$$

(2) For such pairs $\langle X_{\bullet}, \delta \rangle$ and $\langle Y_{\bullet}, \rho \rangle$, a morphism $f_{\bullet} \colon \langle X_{\bullet}, \delta \rangle \rightarrow \langle Y_{\bullet}, \rho \rangle$ is defined to be a morphism $f_{\bullet} \in \mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}(X_{\bullet}, Y_{\bullet})$ satisfying $(f_0)_* \delta = (f_{n+1})^* \rho$.

We use the same composition and the identities as in $\mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$.

Definition 2.4. ([7, Definition 2.13]) An *n*-example is a pair $\langle X_{\bullet}, \delta \rangle$ of $X_{\bullet} \in \mathbb{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$ and $\delta \in \mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, X_0)$ which satisfies the following conditions.

(1) The following sequence of functors $\mathscr{C}^{\mathrm{op}} \to \mathsf{Ab}$ is exact.

$$\mathscr{C}(-,X_0) \xrightarrow{\mathscr{C}(-, d_0^X)} \dots \xrightarrow{\mathscr{C}(-, d_n^X)} \mathscr{C}(-,X_{n+1}) \xrightarrow{\delta_{\sharp}} \mathbb{E}(-,X_0)$$

(2) The following sequence of functors $\mathscr{C} \to \mathsf{Ab}$ is exact.

$$\mathscr{C}(X_{n+1},-) \xrightarrow{\mathscr{C}(d_n^X,-)} \dots \xrightarrow{\mathscr{C}(d_0^X,-)} \mathscr{C}(X_0,-) \xrightarrow{\delta^{\sharp}} \mathbb{E}(X_{n+1},-)$$

In particular any *n*-example is an object in \mathcal{E} . A morphism of *n*-examples simply means a morphism in \mathcal{E} . Thus *n*-examples form a full subcategory of \mathcal{E} .

Definition 2.5. ([7, Definition 2.22]) Let \mathfrak{s} be a correspondence which associates a homotopic equivalence class $\mathfrak{s}(\delta) = [{}_{A}X_{\bullet C}]$ to each extension $\delta = {}_{A}\delta_{C}$. Such \mathfrak{s} is called a *realization* of \mathbb{E} if it satisfies the following condition for any $\mathfrak{s}(\delta) = [X_{\bullet}]$ and any $\mathfrak{s}(\rho) = [Y_{\bullet}]$.

(R0) For any morphism of extensions $(a, c): \delta \to \rho$, there exists a morphism $f_{\bullet} \in \mathbb{C}^{n+2}_{\mathscr{C}}(X_{\bullet}, Y_{\bullet})$ of the form $f_{\bullet} = (a, f_1, ..., f_n, c)$. Such f_{\bullet} is called a *lift* of (a, c). In such a case, we simply say that " X_{\bullet} realizes δ " whenever they satisfy $\mathfrak{s}(\delta) = [X_{\bullet}]$.

Moreover, a realization \mathfrak{s} of \mathbb{E} is said to be *exact* if it satisfies the following conditions.

(R1) For any $\mathfrak{s}(\delta) = [X_{\bullet}]$, the pair $\langle X_{\bullet}, \delta \rangle$ is an *n*-example.

(R2) For any $A \in \mathscr{C}$, the zero element ${}_{A}0_{0} = 0 \in \mathbb{E}(0, A)$ satisfies

$$\mathfrak{s}_{(A}0_0) = [A \xrightarrow{\mathrm{id}_A} A \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow 0].$$

Dually, $\mathfrak{s}(_00_A) = [0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow ... \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\mathrm{id}_A} A]$ holds for any $A \in \mathscr{C}$. Note that the above condition (R1) does not depend on representatives of the class $[X_{\bullet}]$. Definition 2.6. ([7, Definition 2.23]) Let \mathfrak{s} be an exact realization of \mathbb{E} .

(1) An *n*-example $\langle X_{\bullet}, \delta \rangle$ is called an \mathfrak{s} -distinguished *n*-example if it satisfies $\mathfrak{s}(\delta) = [X_{\bullet}]$. We often simply say distinguished *n*-example when \mathfrak{s} is clear from the context.

(2) An object $X_{\bullet} \in \mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$ is called an \mathfrak{s} -conflation or simply a conflation if it realizes some extension $\delta \in \mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, X_0)$.

(3) A morphism f in \mathscr{C} is called an \mathfrak{s} -inflation or simply an inflation if it admits some conflation $X_{\bullet} \in \mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$ satisfying $d_0^X = f$.

(4) A morphism g in \mathscr{C} is called an \mathfrak{s} -deflation or simply a deflation if it admits some conflation $X_{\bullet} \in \mathbb{C}^{n+2}_{\mathscr{C}}$ satisfying $d_n^X = g$.

Definition 2.7. ([7, Definition 2.27]) For a morphism $f_{\bullet} \in \mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}(X_{\bullet}, Y_{\bullet})$ satisfying $f_0 = \operatorname{id}_A$ for some $A = X_0 = Y_0$, its mapping cone $M_{\cdot}^f \in \mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$ is defined to be the complex

$$X_1 \xrightarrow{d_0^{M_f}} X_2 \oplus Y_1 \xrightarrow{d_1^{M_f}} X_3 \oplus Y_2 \xrightarrow{d_2^{M_f}} \dots \xrightarrow{d_{n-1}^{M_f}} X_{n+1} \oplus Y_n \xrightarrow{d_n^{M_f}} Y_{n+1} \oplus Y_n \xrightarrow{d_n^{M_f}} Y_n \oplus Y_n \oplus Y_n \oplus Y_n \xrightarrow{d_n^{M_f}} Y_n \oplus Y_n$$

The mapping cocone is defined dually, for morphisms h_{\bullet} in $\mathbf{C}_{\mathscr{C}}^{n+2}$ satisfying $h_{n+1} = \text{id.}$

Definition 2.8. ([7, Definition 2.32]) An *n*-exangulated category is a triplet (\mathscr{C} , \mathbb{E}, \mathfrak{s}) of additive category \mathscr{C} , additive bifunctor $\mathbb{E}: \mathscr{C}^{\mathrm{op}} \times \mathscr{C} \to \mathsf{Ab}$, and its exact realization \mathfrak{s} , satisfying the following conditions.

(EA1) Let $A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C$ be any sequence of morphisms in \mathscr{C} . If both f and g are inflations, then so is $g \circ f$. Dually, if f and g are deflations, then so is $g \circ f$.

(EA2) For $\rho \in \mathbb{E}(D, A)$ and $c \in \mathscr{C}(C, D)$, let $_A \langle X_{\bullet}, c^* \rho \rangle_C$ and $_A \langle Y_{\bullet}, \rho \rangle_D$ be distinguished *n*-exangles. Then (id_A, c) has a good lift f_{\bullet} , in the sense that its mapping cone gives a distinguished *n*-exangle $\langle M_{\bullet}^f, (d_0^X)_* \rho \rangle$.

 $(EA2^{op})$ Dual of (EA2).

Note that the case n=1, a triplet $(\mathscr{C}, \mathbb{E}, \mathfrak{s})$ is a 1-exangulated category if and only if it is an extriangulated category, see [7, Proposition 4.3].

Example 2.9. From [7, Proposition 4.34] and [7, Proposition 4.5], we know that *n*-exact categories and (n+2)-angulated categories are *n*-exangulated categories. There are some other examples of *n*-exangulated categories which are neither *n*-exact nor (n+2)-angulated, see [7]–[9], [18].

The following are some very useful lemmas and they will be needed later on.

Lemma 2.10. Let $\langle X_{\bullet}, \delta \rangle$ and $\langle Y_{\bullet}, \rho \rangle$ be distinguished n-exangles. Suppose that we are given a commutative square



in \mathscr{C} . Then there is a morphism $f_{\bullet} : \langle X_{\bullet}, \delta \rangle \rightarrow \langle Y_{\bullet}, \rho \rangle$ which satisfies $f_n = c$ and $f_{n+1} = d$.

Proof. This proof is the dual of [7, Proposition 3.6], and we omit it. \Box

Lemma 2.11. ([7, Claim 2.15]) Let \mathscr{C} be an n-exangulated category, and

(1)
$$A_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\theta} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\theta} A$$

be a distinguished n-exangle in \mathscr{C} . Then the following statements are equivalent:

(1) α_0 is a section (also known as a split monomorphism);

- (2) α_n is a retraction (also known as a split epimorphism);
- (3) $\theta = 0.$

If a distinguished n-example (1) satisfies one of the above equivalent conditions, it is called split.

Definition 2.12. ([25, Definition 3.14] and [18, Definition 3.2]) Let $(\mathscr{C}, \mathbb{E}, \mathfrak{s})$ be an *n*-exangulated category. An object $P \in \mathscr{C}$ is called *projective* if, for any distinguished *n*-exangle

$$A_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} A_{n+$$

and any morphism c in $\mathscr{C}(P, A_{n+1})$, there exists a morphism $b \in \mathscr{C}(P, A_n)$ satisfying $\alpha_n \circ b = c$. We denote the full subcategory of projective objects in \mathscr{C} by \mathcal{P} . The concept of injective objects is defined dually. The full subcategory of injective objects in \mathscr{C} is denoted by \mathcal{I} .

Lemma 2.13. ([18, Lemma 3.4]) Let $(\mathcal{C}, \mathbb{E}, \mathfrak{s})$ be an *n*-exangulated category. Then the following statements are equivalent for an object $P \in \mathcal{C}$.

(1) $\mathbb{E}(P, A) = 0$ for any $A \in \mathscr{C}$.

(2) P is projective.

(3) Any distinguished n-example $A_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} P^{-\stackrel{\delta}{-}}$ splits.

We denote by $\operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}$ the Jacobson radical of \mathscr{C} . Namely, $\operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}$ is an ideal of \mathscr{C} such that $\operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}(A, A)$ coincides with the Jacobson radical of the endomorphism ring $\operatorname{End}(A)$ for any $A \in \mathscr{C}$.

Definition 2.14. ([10, Definition 3.3]) When $n \ge 2$, a distinguished *n*-example in \mathscr{C} of the form

$$A_{\bullet}: A_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \longrightarrow A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \longrightarrow A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \longrightarrow A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\alpha$$

is minimal if $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_{n-1}$ are in rad \mathscr{C} .

The following lemma shows that \mathbb{E} -extension in an equivalence class can be chosen in a minimal way in a Krull-Schmidt *n*-exangulated category.

Lemma 2.15. ([10, Lemma 3.4]) Let \mathscr{C} be a Krull-Schmidt *n*-exangulated category, $A_0, A_{n+1} \in \mathscr{C}$. Then for every equivalence class associated with \mathbb{E} -extension $\delta =_{A_0} \delta_{A_{n+1}}$, there exists a representation

$$A_{\bullet}: A_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} A_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} A_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{- \bullet} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha$$

such that $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_{n-1}$ are in rad_{\mathscr{C}}. Moreover, A. is a direct summand of every other equivalent \mathbb{E} -extension.

Remark 2.16. Let \mathscr{C} be a Krull-Schmidt *n*-exangulated category. By the Krull-Schmidt property of \mathscr{C} , every minimal distinguished *n*-exangle in each equivalence class is unique up to isomorphism.

3. Locally finite *n*-exangulated categories

The result of this section generalizes the work of Sections 3 in [22] and [26], but the proof is not too far from their case.

In this section, let k be a field. We always assume that \mathscr{C} is a k-linear Hom-finite Krull-Schmidt *n*-exangulated category. We denote by $\mathsf{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ the set of isomorphism classes of indecomposable objects in \mathscr{C} .

Assume that \mathscr{C} is an additive category. Recall that a morphism $\alpha_n: A_n \to A_{n+1}$ in \mathscr{C} is right almost split if it is not a split epimorphism and each $f: Y \to A_{n+1}$ in \mathscr{C} which is not a split epimorphism factors through α_n . Dually, a morphism $\alpha_0: A_0 \to A_1$ in \mathscr{C} is left almost split if it is not a split monomorphism and each $g: A_0 \to Z$ in \mathscr{C} which is not a split monomorphism factors through α_0 . Next, we introduce the notion of Auslander-Reiten n-exangle in an n-exangulated category. Definition 3.1. Let \mathscr{C} be an *n*-exangulated category. A distinguished *n*-exangle

$$A_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} A_$$

in \mathscr{C} is called an Auslander-Reiten *n*-example if α_0 is left almost split, α_n is right almost split and when $n \ge 2$, $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_{n-1}$ are in rad \mathscr{C} .

Remark 3.2. (1) If \mathscr{C} is an *n*-abelian category, then Definition 3.1 coincides with the definition of *n*-Auslander-Reiten sequence of *n*-abelian category (cf. [11], [22]), which is first introduced by Iyama in [11, Definition 3.1].

(2) If \mathscr{C} is an (n+2)-angulated category, then Definition 3.1 coincides with the definition of Auslander-Reiten (n+2)-angle of (n+2)-angulated category (cf. [4], [26]). It is worth noting that the original definition is introduced by Iyama and Yoshino in [13, Definition 3.8], but this allowed the endterms to be nonindecomposable objects, while the modified definition by Fedele restricts to indecomposable endterms in [4, Definition 5.1].

Lemma 3.3. Let \mathscr{C} be an *n*-exangulated category and

$$A_{\bullet}: A_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} A_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} A_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} A_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} A_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} A_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} A_{n+1}$$

be a distinguished n-example in \mathcal{C} . Then the following statements are equivalent:

(1) A. is an Auslander-Reiten n-exangle;

(2) End(A_0) is local, if $n \ge 2$, $\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_{n-1}$ are in rad \mathscr{C} and α_n is right almost split;

(3) End(A_{n+1}) is local, if $n \ge 2$, $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_{n-1}$ are in rad^{\mathscr{C}} and α_0 is left almost split.

Proof. The proof given in [4, Lemma 5.3] can be adapted to the context of n-exangulated categories, we omit it. \Box

For any $X \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$, we denote by $\operatorname{SuppHom}_{\mathscr{C}}(X, -)$ the subcategory of \mathscr{C} generated by objects Y in $\operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ with $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(X, Y) \neq 0$. Similarly, $\operatorname{Supp}\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(-, X)$ denotes the subcategory generated by objects Y in $\operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ with $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(Y, X) \neq 0$. If $\operatorname{Supp}\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(X, -)$ ($\operatorname{Supp}\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(-, X)$, respectively) contains only finitely many indecomposables, we say that $|\operatorname{Supp}\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(X, -)| < \infty$ ($|\operatorname{Supp}\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(-, X)| < \infty$, respectively).

Based on the definition of locally finite (n+2)-angulated categories and locally finite *n*-abelian categories, [22], [26], we define the notion of locally finite *n*-exangulated categories.

Definition 3.4. An *n*-examplated category \mathscr{C} is called *locally finite* if $|\operatorname{Supp} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(X, -)| < \infty$ and $|\operatorname{Supp} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(-, X)| < \infty$, for any object $X \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$.

Definition 3.5. Let \mathscr{C} be an *n*-examplated category and $X_{n+1}, Y_0 \in \mathsf{ind}(\mathscr{C})$. We define a set of distinguished *n*-examples as follows:

$$S(X_{n+1}) := \left\{ X_{\bullet} : X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} \right\}$$
$$\left| \begin{array}{c} X_{\bullet} \text{ is a non-split distinguished } n\text{-exangle} \\ \text{with } X_0 \in \mathsf{ind}(\mathscr{C}), \text{ and when} \\ n \ge 2, \ \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{n-1} \text{ in } \mathrm{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}. \end{array} \right\}$$

Dually, we can define a set of distinguished n-examples as follows:

$$T(Y_0) := \left\{ Y_{\bullet} : Y_0 \xrightarrow{\beta_0} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_{n-1}} Y_n \xrightarrow{\beta_n} Y_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta} \right\}$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{c} Y_{\bullet} \text{ is a non-split distinguished } n \text{-exangle} \\ \text{with } Y_{n+1} \in \mathsf{ind}(\mathscr{C}), \text{ and when} \\ n \geq 2, \ \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_{n-1} \text{ in } \mathsf{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}. \end{array} \right\}$$

Lemma 3.6. Let $(\mathscr{C}, \mathbb{E}, \mathfrak{s})$ be an *n*-exangulated category.

(1) If $X_{n+1} \in ind(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-projective object, then $S(X_{n+1})$ is non-empty.

(2) If $Y_0 \in ind(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-injective object, then $T(Y_0)$ is non-empty.

Proof. We only show that (1), dually one can prove (2).

Since $X_{n+1} \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-projective, there is an object $X_0 \in \mathscr{C}$, such that $\mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, X_0) \neq 0$ by Lemma 2.13. That is to say, there exists a non-split distinguished *n*-example:

$$X_{\bullet}: X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_{n$$

Since \mathscr{C} is a Krull-Schmidt category, we decompose X_0 into a direct sum of indecomposable objects $X_0 = \bigoplus_{i=1}^d A_i$. Without loss of generality, we can assume that $X_0 = U \oplus V$ where U and V are indecomposable. Since $\mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, X_0) \simeq \mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, U \oplus V) \simeq \mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, U) \oplus \mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, V)$. We claim that at least one of the following two distinguished *n*-examples is non-split

$$U \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} C_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} C_2 \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\gamma_{n-1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\gamma_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta} V \xrightarrow{\beta_0} D_1 \xrightarrow{\beta_1} D_2 \xrightarrow{\beta_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_{n-1}} D_n \xrightarrow{\beta_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta'},$$

where $\eta := [1, 0]_* \delta$ and $\eta' := [0, 1]_* \delta$. Otherwise, $\delta = \eta \oplus \eta' = 0 \in \mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, X_0)$. This is a contradiction since δ is non-split.

We can take a distinguished *n*-example as we want by Lemma 2.15. This completes the proof. \Box

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Remark 3.7. Let

$$X_{\bullet}: X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_n \xrightarrow$$

be a non-split distinguished *n*-example and $X_0 = U \oplus V$, where U and V are indecomposable. From the proof of Lemma 3.6, we see that at least one of the following two distinguished *n*-examples is non-split

$$U \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} C_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} C_2 \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\gamma_{n-1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\gamma_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta} V \xrightarrow{\beta_0} D_1 \xrightarrow{\beta_1} D_2 \xrightarrow{\beta_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_{n-1}} D_n \xrightarrow{\beta_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta'},$$

where $\eta := [1, 0]_* \delta$ and $\eta' := [0, 1]_* \delta$.

Definition 3.8. Let \mathscr{C} be an *n*-examplated category, and

$$X_{\bullet}: X_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} X_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} X_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} U_{\bullet}: U_{0} \xrightarrow{\beta_{0}} U_{1} \xrightarrow{\beta_{1}} U_{2} \xrightarrow{\beta_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_{n-1}} U_{n} \xrightarrow{\beta_{n}} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta'} X_{n+1}$$

be two distinguished *n*-examples in $S(X_{n+1})$. We say that $X_{\bullet} > U_{\bullet}$ if there exists a morphism of distinguished *n*-examples as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c} X_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} X_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} X_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \cdots \longrightarrow X_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} X_{n+1} - \xrightarrow{\delta} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \downarrow \varphi_{0} & \downarrow \varphi_{1} & \downarrow \varphi_{2} & \downarrow \varphi_{n} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ U_{0} \xrightarrow{\beta_{0}} U_{1} \xrightarrow{\phi} U_{2} \xrightarrow{\beta_{2}} \cdots \longrightarrow U_{n} \xrightarrow{\beta_{n}} X_{n+1} - \xrightarrow{\delta'} \end{array}$$

We say that $X_{\bullet} \sim U_{\bullet}$ if φ_0 is an isomorphism.

Dually, let

$$Y_{\bullet}: Y_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} Y_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} Y_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} Y_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} Y_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta} Y_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta} Y_{n}: Y_{0} \xrightarrow{\beta_{0}} V_{1} \xrightarrow{\beta_{1}} V_{2} \xrightarrow{\beta_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_{n-1}} V_{n} \xrightarrow{\beta_{n}} V_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\eta'} Y_{n+1} \xrightarrow{$$

be two distinguished *n*-examples in $T(Y_0)$. We say that $Y_{\bullet} > V_{\bullet}$ if there exists a morphism of distinguished *n*-examples as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c} Y_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} Y_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} Y_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \cdots \longrightarrow Y_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} Y_{n+1} - \xrightarrow{\eta} \\ \parallel \varphi_0 & \mid \varphi_1 & \mid \varphi_2 & \mid \varphi_n & \mid \varphi_{n+1} \\ \parallel \varphi_0 & \downarrow \varphi_1 & \mid \varphi_2 & \mid \varphi_n & \mid \varphi_{n+1} \\ Y_0 \xrightarrow{\beta_0} V_1 \xrightarrow{\psi} \beta_1 & \psi_2 \xrightarrow{\beta_2} \cdots \longrightarrow V_n \xrightarrow{\psi} \beta_n & \psi_{n+1} - \xrightarrow{\eta'} \end{array}$$

We say that $Y_{\bullet} \sim V_{\bullet}$ if φ_{n+1} is an isomorphism.

Lemma 3.9. Let $Y, Z \in \mathcal{C}$, $X \in ind(\mathcal{C})$. If $f: Y \to X$ and $g: Z \to X$ are not split epimorphisms, then $[f, g]: Y \oplus Z \to X$ is also not split epimorphism.

Proof. If not, there exists a morphism $\begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} : X \to Y \oplus Z$ such that $[f,g] \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} = 1_X$ and then $fs+gt=1_X$. Since X is an indecomposable object, we have that End(X) is local which implies that either fs or gt is an isomorphism. Thus either f or g is a split epimorphism, a contradiction. \Box

In the following, we will consider a direct ordered set, namely, a partially ordered set with every pair of elements has a lower bound.

Lemma 3.10. $S(X_{n+1})$ is a direct ordered set with the relation defined in Definition 3.8, and $T(Y_0)$ is a direct ordered set with the relation defined in Definition 3.8.

Proof. We just prove the first statement, the second statement proves similarly. Assume that

$$X_{\bullet}: X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta}$$

and

$$U_{\bullet}: U_0 \xrightarrow{\beta_0} U_1 \xrightarrow{\beta_1} U_2 \xrightarrow{\beta_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_{n-1}} U_n \xrightarrow{\beta_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta'} X_{n+1$$

belong to $S(X_{n+1})$.

Firstly, the axioms of reflexivity and transitivity are clear. Secondly, we show that if $X_{\bullet} > U_{\bullet}$ and $U_{\bullet} > X_{\bullet}$, then $X_{\bullet} \sim U_{\bullet}$.

Since $X_{\bullet} > U_{\bullet}$ and $U_{\bullet} > X_{\bullet}$, we have the following two commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{c} X_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} X_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} X_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \cdots \longrightarrow X_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} X_{n+1} - \stackrel{\delta}{\rightarrow} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \downarrow \varphi_{0} & \downarrow \varphi_{1} & \downarrow \varphi_{2} & \downarrow & \downarrow \varphi_{n} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ U_{0} \xrightarrow{\beta_{0}} & \downarrow_{1} \xrightarrow{\beta_{1}} & \downarrow_{2} \xrightarrow{\beta_{2}} \cdots \longrightarrow & \downarrow_{n} \xrightarrow{\beta_{n}} X_{n+1} - \stackrel{\delta'}{\rightarrow} \\ U_{0} \xrightarrow{\beta_{0}} & U_{1} \xrightarrow{\beta_{1}} & U_{2} \xrightarrow{\beta_{2}} \cdots \longrightarrow & U_{n} \xrightarrow{\beta_{n}} X_{n+1} - \stackrel{\delta'}{\rightarrow} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \downarrow \psi_{0} & \downarrow \psi_{1} & \downarrow \psi_{2} & \downarrow & \downarrow \psi_{n} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \chi_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} & \chi_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} & \chi_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \cdots \longrightarrow & \chi_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} X_{n+1} - \stackrel{\delta}{\rightarrow} \end{array}$$

We claim that $\psi_0 \varphi_0$ is an isomorphism. Since X_0 is an indecomposable, we have that $\operatorname{End}(X_0)$ is local implies that $\psi_0 \varphi_0$ is nilpotent or is an isomorphism. If $\psi_0 \varphi_0$ is nilpotent, there exists a positive integer m such that $(\psi_0\varphi_0)^m=0$. We write $\omega_i=\psi_i\varphi_i, i=1, 2, \dots, n$. Thus we have the following commutative diagram



Then $\delta = (\psi_0 \varphi_0)^m_* \delta = 0$. This is a contradiction by Lemma 2.11 since X_{\bullet} is non-split. Hence $\psi_0 \varphi_0$ is an isomorphism. By a similar argument we obtain that $\varphi_0 \psi_0$ is an isomorphism. This shows that φ_0 is isomorphism. So $X_{\bullet} \sim U_{\bullet}$.

Finally, we show that if $X_{\bullet}, U_{\bullet} \in S(X_{n+1})$, then there exists $C_{\bullet} \in S(X_{n+1})$ such that $X_{\bullet} > C_{\bullet}$ and $U_{\bullet} > C_{\bullet}$.

For the morphism $\beta_n : U_n \to X_{n+1}$, by (EA2), we can observe that $(\operatorname{id}_{X_0}, \beta_n)$ has a good lift $f_{\bullet} = (\operatorname{id}_{X_0}, \psi_1, ..., \psi_n, \beta_n)$, that is, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-examples

$$\begin{array}{c} X_0 \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} Z_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} Z_2 \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} \cdots \longrightarrow Z_n \xrightarrow{\gamma_n} U_n - \stackrel{\beta_n^* \delta}{-} \\ \\ \parallel & \mid \psi_1 & \mid \psi_2 & \mid \psi_n & \downarrow \beta_n \\ X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\psi_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \cdots \longrightarrow X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} - \stackrel{\delta}{-} \end{array}$$

such that $M_{\bullet}: Z_1 \longrightarrow M_1 \longrightarrow M_2 \longrightarrow ... \longrightarrow M_{n-1} \longrightarrow U_n \oplus X_n \xrightarrow{[\beta_n, \alpha_n]} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{(\gamma_0)_* \delta}$ is a distinguished *n*-exangle in \mathscr{C} , where $M_i = Z_{i+1} \oplus X_i$ (i=1,2,...,n-1). Since $X_{n+1} \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$, β_n and α_n are not split epimorphisms, we have that $[\beta_n, \alpha_n]$ is also not split epimorphism by Lemma 3.9. That is, M_{\bullet} is non-split.

Without loss of generality, we can assume that $Z_1 = U \oplus V$ where U and V are indecomposable. For the morphism $p_1 = [1, 0] : U \oplus V \to U$, by (EA2^{op}), we can observe that $(p_1, \mathrm{id}_{X_{n+1}})$ has a good lift $g_{\bullet} = (p_1, \varphi_1, ..., \varphi_n, \mathrm{id}_{X_{n+1}})$, that is, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-examples

$$U \oplus V \xrightarrow{[u, v]} M_1 \longrightarrow M_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow M_{n-1} \longrightarrow U_n \oplus X_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$

$$\downarrow^{p_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_$$

Similarly, for the morphism $p_2 = [0, 1]: U \oplus V \to V$, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-examples

$$U \oplus V \xrightarrow{[u, v]} M_1 \longrightarrow M_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow M_{n-1} \longrightarrow U_n \oplus X_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$

$$\downarrow^{p_2} \qquad \downarrow^{m_1} \qquad \downarrow \qquad \downarrow^{n_1} \qquad \downarrow^{n_2} \qquad \downarrow^{n_1} \qquad \downarrow^{n_2} \qquad \downarrow^{n_1} \qquad \downarrow^{n_2} \qquad \downarrow$$

By Remark 3.7, we conclude that at least one of the following two distinguished n-exangles is non-split

$$U \xrightarrow{\delta_0} L_1 \longrightarrow L_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$
$$V \xrightarrow{\eta_0} N_1 \longrightarrow N_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow N_{n-1} \longrightarrow N_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$

Without loss of generality, we assume that

$$U \xrightarrow{\delta_0} L_1 \longrightarrow L_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} \longrightarrow X_{$$

is non-split. By Lemma 2.15, there is a non-split distinguished *n*-example

$$C_{\bullet} \colon U \xrightarrow{\lambda_{0}} C_{1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{1}} C_{2} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-2}} C_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-1}} C_{n} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n}} X_{n+1} - \to$$

with $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, ..., \lambda_{n-1}$ in rad_{\mathscr{C}}. By (R0) and Lemma 2.10, we have the following commutative diagram

of distinguished *n*-examples. This shows that $X_{\bullet} > C_{\bullet}$.

By (R0) and Lemma 2.10, we have the following commutative diagram

of distinguished *n*-examples. This shows that $U_{\bullet} > C_{\bullet}$. \Box

Lemma 3.11. Let \mathscr{C} be a locally finite *n*-exangulated category.

(1) If $X_{n+1} \in ind(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-projective object, then $S(X_{n+1})$ has a minimal element.

(2) If $Y_0 \in ind(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-injective object, then $T(Y_0)$ has a minimal element.

Proof. We just prove the first statement, the second statement proves similarly. Since $X_{n+1} \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-projective, there exists an object $X_0 \in \mathscr{C}$, such that $\mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}, X_0) \neq 0$ by Lemma 2.13. That is to say, there is a non-split distinguished *n*-example:

$$X_{\bullet}: X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta}$$

Since \mathscr{C} is a Krull-Schmidt category, we decompose X_n into a direct sum of indecomposable objects $X_n = \bigoplus_{k=1}^r B_k$. Thus X_{\bullet} can be written as

$$X_{\bullet}: X_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} X_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} X_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} \bigoplus_{k=1}^{r} B_{k} \xrightarrow{[b_{1}, b_{2}, \dots, b_{r}]} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{r} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow$$

where $b_k \in \operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}(B_k, X_{n+1}), k = 1, 2, ..., r.$

Since \mathscr{C} is locally finite, there are only finitely many objects $X_i \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$, i = 1, 2, ..., m such that $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{C}}(X_i, X_{n+1}) \neq 0$. We assume that λ_{ij} , $1 \leq j \leq q_i$ form a basis of the k-vector space $\operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}(B_k, X_{n+1})$. Put $M := (\bigoplus_{k=1}^r B_k) \oplus (\bigoplus_{i=1}^m (X_i)^{\oplus q_i})$, we consider the morphism

$$\gamma := [b_1, b_2, \dots, b_r, \lambda_{11}, \dots, \lambda_{ij}, \dots, \lambda_{mq_m}] \in \operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}(M, X_{n+1})$$

which is not split epimorphism. By (EA2), we deduce that there is a distinguished n-example in \mathscr{C} as follows:

$$M_{\bullet}: B \longrightarrow M_1 \longrightarrow M_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow M_{n-1} \longrightarrow M \xrightarrow{\gamma} X_{n+1} \dashrightarrow A$$

Thus M_{\bullet} is non-split since γ is not split epimorphism. Without loss of generality, we can assume that $B=U\oplus V$ where U and V are indecomposable. For the morphism $p_1=[1,0]: U\oplus V \to U$, by (EA2^{op}), we can observe that $(p_1, \operatorname{id}_{X_{n+1}})$ has a good lift $g_{\bullet}=(p_1, \varphi_1, ..., \varphi_n, \operatorname{id}_{X_{n+1}})$, that is, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-examples

Similarly, for the morphism $p_2 = [0, 1]: U \oplus V \to V$, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-examples

By Remark 3.7, we conclude that at least one of the following two distinguished n-examples is non-split

$$U \xrightarrow{\theta_0} L_1 \longrightarrow L_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$
$$V \xrightarrow{\eta_0} N_1 \longrightarrow N_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow N_{n-1} \longrightarrow N_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$

Without loss of generality, we assume that

$$U \xrightarrow{\theta_0} L_1 \longrightarrow L_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} \longrightarrow X_{$$

is non-split. By Lemma 2.15, we can find a non-split distinguished *n*-example

$$C_{\bullet} \colon U \xrightarrow{\omega_0} C_1 \xrightarrow{\omega_1} C_2 \xrightarrow{\omega_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\omega_{n-2}} C_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\omega_{n-1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\omega_n} X_{n+1} - \to$$

with $\omega_1, \omega_2, ..., \omega_{n-1}$ in rad \mathscr{C} . Then $C_{\bullet} \in S(X_{n+1})$. By (R0), we have the following commutative diagram



of distinguished *n*-examples. Any $D_{\bullet} \in S(X_{n+1})$ can be written as

$$D_{\bullet}: D \longrightarrow D_1 \longrightarrow D_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow D_{n-1} \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^p H_i \xrightarrow{d=[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_p]} X_{n+1} \longrightarrow X_{n+1} \longrightarrow$$

with $H_i \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C}), d_i \in \operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}(H_i, X_{n+1}), i=1, 2, ..., p$. Since $D_{\bullet} \in S(X_{n+1})$ is non-split, d is not split epimorphism implies that $d \in \operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}(\bigoplus_{i=1}^{p} H_i, X_{n+1})$. By the definitions of λ_{ij} and γ , there exists a morphism $\rho \colon \bigoplus_{i=1}^{p} H_i \to M$ such that $d = \gamma \rho$. By Lemma 2.10, we have the following commutative diagram



of distinguished *n*-examples, where $B = U \oplus V$. Thus we get the following commutative diagram



of distinguished *n*-examples. This shows that C_{\bullet} is a minimal element in S(X). \Box We are now ready to state and prove our main result. **Theorem 3.12.** Let \mathscr{C} be a locally finite n-exangulated category. If $X_{n+1} \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-projective object, then there exists an Auslander-Reiten n-exangle ending at X_{n+1} , and if $Y_0 \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-injective object, then there exists an Auslander-Reiten n-exangle starting at Y_0 . In this case, we say that \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten n-exangles.

Proof. Since $X_{n+1} \in \text{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-projective object, by Lemma 3.6 we know that the set $S(X_{n+1})$ is non-empty. Thus by Lemma 3.11, there is a distinguished *n*-example

$$X_{\bullet}: X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} X_{n$$

where $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_{n-1} \in \operatorname{rad}_{\mathscr{C}}$ and $X_0 \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$, such that X_{\bullet} is a minimal element in $S(X_{n+1})$. Then $\operatorname{End}(X_0)$ is local.

We want to prove that X_{\bullet} is an Auslander-Reiten *n*-exangle, by Lemma 3.3, it is enough to show that α_n is right almost split.

Assume that $g: M_{n+1} \to X_{n+1}$ is not a split epimorphism, we claim that g factors through α_n . By (EA2), we can observe that (id_{X_0}, g) has a good lift $g_{\bullet} = (\mathrm{id}_{X_0}, \varphi_1, ..., \varphi_n, g)$, that is, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-examples

$$\begin{array}{c} X_0 \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} B_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} B_2 \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} \cdots \longrightarrow B_n \xrightarrow{\gamma_n} M_{n+1} \xrightarrow{g^* \delta} \\ \parallel & \downarrow \varphi_1 & \downarrow \varphi_2 & \downarrow \varphi_n \\ X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\psi} \alpha_1 \xrightarrow{\chi_2} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \cdots \longrightarrow X_n \xrightarrow{\varphi_n} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\delta} \end{array}$$

such that

$$N_{\bullet} \colon B_1 \longrightarrow N_1 \longrightarrow N_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow N_{n-1} \longrightarrow M_{n+1} \oplus X_n \xrightarrow{[g, \alpha_n]} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{(\gamma_0)_* \delta} Y_{n+1} \xrightarrow{(\gamma_0)_* \delta} X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{(\gamma_0)_* \delta} Y_{n+1} \xrightarrow{(\gamma_0)_* \delta} Y_{n$$

is a distinguished *n*-example in \mathscr{C} , where $N_i = B_{i+1} \oplus X_i$, i=1,2,...,n-1. Since $X_{n+1} \in \operatorname{ind}(\mathscr{C})$, g and α_n are not split epimorphisms, we have that $[g, \alpha_n]$ is also not split epimorphism by Lemma 3.9. That is, N_{\bullet} is non-split.

Without loss of generality, we can assume that $B_1 = U \oplus V$ where U and V are indecomposable. For the morphism $p_1 = [1,0]: U \oplus V \to U$, by (EA2^{op}), we can observe that $(p_1, \operatorname{id}_{X_{n+1}})$ has a good lift $h_{\bullet} = (p_1, \phi_1, ..., \phi_n, \operatorname{id}_{X_{n+1}})$, that is, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-examples

$$\begin{array}{c} U \oplus V \xrightarrow{[u, v]} N_1 \longrightarrow N_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow N_{n-1} \longrightarrow M_{n+1} \oplus X_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \\ \downarrow p_1 & \downarrow \phi_1 & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ U \xrightarrow{\delta_0} L_1 \longrightarrow L_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \end{array}$$

Similarly, for the morphism $p_2 = [0, 1]: U \oplus V \to V$, there exists the following commutative diagram of distinguished *n*-exangles

$$U \oplus V \xrightarrow{[u, v]} N_1 \longrightarrow N_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow N_{n-1} \longrightarrow M_{n+1} \oplus X_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$

$$\downarrow^{p_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_1} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2} \qquad \downarrow^{q_2}$$

By Remark 3.7, we conclude that at least one of the following two distinguished n-examples is non-split

$$U \xrightarrow{\delta_0} L_1 \longrightarrow L_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} \longrightarrow X_{n+1} \longrightarrow X_{n+1} \longrightarrow V_{n-1} \longrightarrow Q_n \longrightarrow Q_1 \longrightarrow Q_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow Q_{n-1} \longrightarrow Q_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} \longrightarrow X$$

Without loss of generality, we assume that

$$U \xrightarrow{\delta_0} L_1 \longrightarrow L_2 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow$$

is non-split. By Lemma 2.15, we can find a non-split distinguished *n*-example

$$C_{\bullet} \colon U \xrightarrow{\lambda_0} C_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda_1} C_2 \xrightarrow{\lambda_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-2}} C_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\lambda_n} X_{n+1} - \to$$

with $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, ..., \lambda_{n-1}$ in rad_{\mathscr{C}}. By (R0) and Lemma 2.10, we have the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} X_{0} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{0}} X_{1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{1}} X_{2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{2}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} X_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n}} X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ U \oplus V \xrightarrow{[u, v]} N_{1} \longrightarrow N_{2} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow N_{n-1} \longrightarrow M_{n+1} \oplus X_{n} \xrightarrow{[g, \alpha_{n}]} X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \\ \downarrow p_{1} & \downarrow \phi_{1} & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ U \xrightarrow{\delta_{0}} L_{1} \longrightarrow L_{2} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow L_{n-1} \longrightarrow L_{n} \longrightarrow L_{n} \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \\ \parallel & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ U \xrightarrow{\lambda_{0}} \chi_{0} \xrightarrow{\downarrow} L_{1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{1}} \chi_{2} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{2}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-2}} \chi_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-1}} \chi_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n}} X_{n} \longrightarrow X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \end{array}$$

of distinguished *n*-examples. We obtain that $X_{\bullet} > C_{\bullet}$ implies that $X_{\bullet} \sim C_{\bullet}$ since X_{\bullet} is the minimal element in $S(X_{n+1})$. Thus there exists the following commutative

diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} U \xrightarrow{\lambda_0} C_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda_1} C_2 \xrightarrow{\lambda_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-2}} C_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{n-1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\lambda_n} X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ X_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-2}} X_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} X_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} X_{n+1} - \rightarrow \end{array}$$

of distinguished n-examples. Hence we get the following commutative diagram

of distinguished *n*-examples. It follows that $g = \alpha_n a$. This shows that α_n is right almost split.

Similarly, we can show that if $Y_0 \in \mathsf{ind}(\mathscr{C})$ is a non-injective object, then there exists an Auslander-Reiten *n*-exangle starting at Y_0 . Thus \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten *n*-exangles. \Box

By applying Theorem 3.12 to (n+2)-angulated categories, we have the following.

Corollary 3.13. ([26, Theorem 1.1]) Let \mathscr{C} be a locally finite (n+2)-angulated category. Then \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten (n+2)-angles.

By applying Theorem 3.12 to *n*-abelian categories, we have the following.

Corollary 3.14. ([22, Theorem 1.1]) Let \mathscr{C} be a locally finite n-abelian category. Then \mathscr{C} has n-Auslander-Reiten sequences.

By applying Theorem 3.12 to *n*-exact categories, we have the following.

Corollary 3.15. Let \mathscr{C} be a locally finite n-exact category. Then \mathscr{C} has n-Auslander-Reiten sequences.

Remark 3.16. As a special case of Theorem 3.12 when n=1, that is, if \mathscr{C} is a locally finite extriangulated category, then \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten \mathbb{E} -triangles, see [27, Theorem 3.12].

Remark 3.17. If \mathscr{C} is a locally finite triangulated category, then \mathscr{C} has Auslander-Reiten triangles, see [23, Proposition 1.3] and [24, Lemma 1.4.3].

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