# Tilted String Algebras 

François Huard and Shiping Liu

## Introduction

Tilted algebras, that is endomorphism algebras of tilting modules over a hereditary algebra, have been one of the main objects of study in representation theory of algebras since their introduction by Happel and Ringel [10]. As a generalization, Happel, Reiten and Smalø studied endomorphism algebras of tilting objects of a hereditary abelian category which they call quasi-tilted algebras [9]. The latter has attracted a lot of attention of recent investigations. So far all complete characterizations of tilted or quasi-tilted algebras are module-theoretical $[\mathbf{9}, \mathbf{1 0}]$. On the other hand, Gabriel's theorem says that a finite-dimensional algebra over an algebraically closed field is determined, up to Morita equivalence, by its bound quiver [6] . It is then natural and interesting to characterize tilted or quasi-tilted algebras in terms of their bound quiver. This has been done for tilted algebras of type $\mathbf{A}_{n}, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{n}$ and for tame concealed algebras $[\mathbf{1 , 1 1 , 1 5 ]}$. As the problem in general seems very difficult, if not impossible, we shall consider it for string algebras, that is monomial biserial algebras $[\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{5}]$. As results we shall find some simple combinatorial criteria for a string algebra to be tilted or quasi-tilted. As a consequence, this will enable one to construct a lot of new examples of tilted algebras. Finally we shall determine all quasi-tilted string algebras which are not tilted.

## 1. Preliminaries

We first fix some terminology and notations which will be used throughtout this paper. Let $Q$ be a finite quiver. For an arrow $\alpha$ of $Q$, denote by $s(\alpha)$ its start-point, by $e(\alpha)$ its end-point and by $\alpha^{-1}$ its formal inverse with startpoint $s\left(\alpha^{-1}\right)=e(\alpha)$ and end-point $e\left(\alpha^{-1}\right)=s(\alpha)$, and write $\left(\alpha^{-1}\right)^{-1}=\alpha$.

A walk in $Q$ of length $n(>0)$ is a sequence $w=c_{1} \cdots c_{n}$ with $c_{i}$ an arrow or the inverse of an arrow such that $e\left(c_{i+1}\right)=s\left(c_{i}\right)$ for $1 \leq i<n$. We call the $c_{i}$ edges of $w$, in particular $c_{1}$ the initial edge and $c_{n}$ the terminal edge. Moreover, we define $s(w)=s\left(c_{1}\right)$ and $e(w)=e\left(c_{n}\right)$ and say that $w$ is a walk from $s(w)$ to $e(w)$. Finally we define $w^{-1}=c_{n}^{-1} \cdots c_{1}^{-1}$. A trivial walk at a vertex $a$ is the trivial path $\varepsilon_{a}$ with $e\left(\varepsilon_{a}\right)=s\left(\varepsilon_{a}\right)$.

A walk $w$ in $Q$ is called reduced if $w$ is trivial or $w=c_{1} \cdots c_{n}$ such that $c_{i+1} \neq c_{i}^{-1}$ for all $1 \leq i<n$. A non-trivial reduced walk $w=c_{1} \cdots c_{n}$ is called a reduced cycle if $s(w)=e(w)$ and $c_{n} \neq c_{1}^{-1}$; and a simple cycle if in addition $s\left(c_{1}\right), \ldots, s\left(c_{n}\right)$ are distinct. Note that a reduced cycle can be written in many equivalent forms by choosing different vertex as its start-point.

Let $w=c_{1} \cdots c_{n}$ be a non-trivial reduced walk in $Q$. Let $w_{1}=c_{i} \cdots c_{j}$ with $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$ and $w_{2}=c_{r} \cdots c_{t}$ with $1 \leq r \leq t \leq n$ be subwalks of $w$. We say that $w_{1}$, $w_{2}$ point to the same direction in $w$ if there are paths $p, q$ of $Q$ such that either $w_{1}=p, w_{2}=q$ or $w_{1}=p^{-1}, w_{2}=q^{-1}$ and otherwise they point to opposite directions in $w$.

Let $k$ be an algebraically closed field. Denote by $k Q^{+}$the ideal of the path algebra $k Q$ generated by the arrows of $Q$. If $I$ is an ideal of $k Q$ such that $\left(k Q^{+}\right)^{n} \subseteq I \subseteq\left(k Q^{+}\right)^{2}$ for some $n \geq 2$, then the pair $(Q, I)$ is called a bound quiver. We say that a bound quiver $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ is a full bound subquiver of $(Q, I)$ if $Q^{\prime}$ is a full subquiver of $Q$ and $I^{\prime}=k Q^{\prime} \cap I$.

Let $(Q, I)$ be a bound quiver. A path $p$ in $Q$ is called a zero-path if $p \in I$. A zero-path is called a zero-relation on $Q$ if none of its proper subpaths is a zero-path. Let $w=c_{1} \cdots c_{n}$ be a non-trivial reduced walk in $Q$. We say that a subwalk $u=c_{i} \cdots c_{i+r}$ is a zero-relation contained in $w$ if $u=p$ or $p^{-1}$ with $p$ a zero-relation on $Q$. By saying that a reduced cycle contains no zero-relation we mean none of its written forms contains a zero-relation. Note that a zero-relation on $Q$ may appear many times in a reduced walk.

Let $A$ be a finite-dimensional basic $k$-algebra. Then $A \cong k Q / I$ with ( $Q, I$ ) a bound quiver. We shall identify the category of the finite-dimensional right $A$-modules with that of the finite-dimensional representations of $(Q, I)$.
1.1. Definition [3]. $A k$-algebra $A$ is called a string algebra if $A \cong k Q / I$ with $(Q, I)$ a bound quiver satisfying the following:
(1) $I$ is generated by a set of paths.
(2) each vertex of $Q$ is start-point or end-point of at most two arrows.
(3) for an arrow $\alpha$, there is at most one arrow $\beta$ such that $\alpha \beta \notin I$ and at most one arrow $\gamma$ such that $\gamma \alpha \notin I$.

In the sequel by saying that $A=k Q / I$ is a string algebra, we mean that $(Q, I)$ is a bound quiver satisfying the above-stated conditions. We now state some known facts about string algebras.
1.2. Proposition [3, 13]. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra. Then
(1) $A$ is of tame representation type.
(2) $A$ is of finite representation type if and only if all reduced cycle of $Q$ contains at least one zero-relation.
(3) $A$ is of directed representation type if and only if all reduced cycle of $Q$ contains at least two zero-relations pointing to opposite directions.

The first two statements follow directly from the facts that each indecomposable module over a string algebra is either a string module or a band module (see sections 2 and 3 for definitions) and that there is at most finitely many isoclasses of string modules of each dimension. The third one is a reformulation of a result of de la Peña [13].

## 2. Quasi-tilted string algebras

In this section we shall find a simple combinatorial criterion for deciding whether a string algebra is quasi-tilted or not. Recall that a finitedimensional $k$-algebra is quasi-tilted if and only if its global dimension is at most two and each indecomposable module is either of projective dimension at most one or of injective dimension at most one [9].

Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra. A reduced walk in $Q$ is called a string if it contains no zero-relation. One says that a string $w$ starts or ends in a deep if there is no arrow $\gamma$ such that $\gamma^{-1} w$ or $w \gamma$ is a string, respectively; and it starts or ends on a peak if there is no arrow $\delta$ such that $\delta w$ or $w \delta^{-1}$ is a string, respectively.

If $w=\varepsilon_{a}$ is the trivial path at $a$, then the string module $M(w)$ is the simple module at $a$. Let now $w=c_{1} c_{2} \cdots c_{n}$ be a non-trivial string. For
$0 \leq i \leq n$, let $U_{i}=k$; and for $1 \leq i \leq n$, let $U_{c_{i}}$ be the identity map sending $x \in U_{i}$ to $x \in U_{i+1}$ if $c_{i}$ is an arrow and otherwise the identity map sending $x \in U_{i+1}$ to $x \in U_{i}$. The string module $M(w)$ is then defined as follows: for a vertex $a, M(w)_{a}$ is the direct sum of the spaces $U_{i}$ such that $s\left(c_{i}\right)=a$ if $a$ appears in $w$, otherwise $M(w)_{a}=0$; for an arrow $\alpha, M(w)_{\alpha}$ is the direct sum of the maps $U_{c_{i}}$ such that $c_{i}=\alpha$ or $c_{i}^{-1}=\alpha$ if $\alpha$ appears in $w$, otherwise $M(w)_{\alpha}$ is the zero map.

For a vertex $a$ of $Q$, we denote by $P(a)$ and $I(a)$ the indecomposable projective and injective module at $a$, respectively. It is then well-known that $P(a)=M\left(u^{-1} v\right)$, where $u, v$ are paths starting with $a$ such that $u^{-1} v$ is a string starting and ending in a deep; and $I(a)=M\left(p q^{-1}\right)$, where $p, q$ are paths ending with $a$ such that $p q^{-1}$ is a string starting and ending on a peak.
2.1. Lemma. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra. Let $w=p_{1}^{-1} q_{1} \cdots p_{r}^{-1} q_{r}$ be a string, where the $p_{i}, q_{j}$ are paths which are non-trivial for $1<i \leq r$ and $1 \leq j<r$. If the projective dimension of $M(w)$ is greater than one, then one of the following holds:
(1) there is a non-trivial path $z_{i}$ with $2 \leq i \leq r$ such that $p_{i} z_{i}$ and $q_{i-1} z_{i}$ are both zero-paths.
(2) there is a non-trivial path $z_{1}$ such that $z_{1}^{-1} w$ is a reduced walk and $p_{1} z_{1}$ is a zero-path while $p_{1} \alpha$ is not a zero-path, where $\alpha$ is the initial arrow of $z_{1}$.
(3) there is a non-trivial path $z_{r+1}$ such that $w z_{r}$ is a reduced walk and $q_{r} z_{r+1}$ is a zero-path while $q_{r} \beta$ is not a zero-path, where $\beta$ is the initial arrow of $z_{r+1}$.

Proof. Assume that the projective dimension of $M(w)$ is greater than one. For each $1 \leq i \leq r$, write $a_{i}=s\left(q_{i}\right)$ and let $u_{i}, v_{i}$ be the paths of non-negative length such that $u_{i}^{-1} p_{i}^{-1} q_{i} v_{i}$ is a string which starts and ends in a deep. Then $P\left(a_{i}\right)=M\left(u_{i}^{-1} p_{i}^{-1} q_{i} v_{i}\right)$. It is easy to see that $P=\oplus_{i=1}^{r} P\left(a_{i}\right)$ is the projective cover of $M(w)$. Let $K$ be the kernel of the canonical epimorphism from $P$ to $M(w)$. By calculating the dimensions, we see that $K \cong \oplus_{i=1}^{r+1} K_{i}$, where $K_{1}=0$ if $u_{1}$ is trivial and otherwise $K_{1}=M\left(u^{-1}\right)$ with $u$ the path so that $u_{1}=\alpha u$ for an arrow $\alpha ; K_{i}=M\left(u_{i}^{-1} v_{i-1}\right)$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; and $K_{r+1}=0$ if $v_{r}$ is trivial and otherwise $K_{r+1}=M(v)$ with $v$ the path so that $v_{r}=\delta v$ for an arrow $\delta$. Since $M(w)$ is of projective dimension greater than one, at least one of the $K_{i}$ is not projective.

Suppose first that $K_{i}=M\left(u_{i}^{-1} v_{i-1}\right)$ is not projective for some $2 \leq i \leq r$. Then $u_{i}^{-1} v_{i-1}$ does not start or not end in a deep. In the first case, there is an arrow $\beta_{i}$ such that $\beta_{i}^{-1} u_{i}^{-1} v_{i-1}$ is a string. In particular the initial arrow of $u_{i} \beta_{i}$ is not contained in the path $v_{i-1}$. Hence $q_{i-1} u_{i} \beta_{i}$ is a zero-path. Moreover $p_{i} u_{i} \beta_{i}$ is a zero-path since $u_{i}^{-1} p_{i}^{-1} q_{i} v_{i}$ is a string starting in a deep. Let $z_{i}=u_{i} \beta_{i}$ in this case. Similarly in the second case there is an arrow $\gamma_{i}$ such that $q_{i-1} v_{i} \gamma_{i}$ and $p_{i} v_{i} \gamma_{i}$ are zero-paths. Let $z_{i}=v_{i} \gamma_{i}$ in this case. Hence (1) holds.

Suppose now that $K_{1}$ is not projective. Then $u_{1}=\alpha u$ with $\alpha$ an arrow and $K_{1}=M\left(u^{-1}\right)$. Since $M\left(u^{-1}\right)$ is not projective, $u^{-1}$ does not start or not end in a deep. In the first case, there is an arrow $\beta_{1}$ such that $\beta_{1}^{-1} u^{-1}$ is a string. However $p_{1} \alpha u \beta_{1}=p_{1} u_{1} \beta_{1}$ is a zero-path since $u_{1}^{-1} p_{1}^{-1} q_{1} v_{1}$ is a string starting in a deep. Let $z_{1}=\alpha u \beta_{1}$ in this case. Otherwise there is an arrow $\gamma_{1}$ such that $u^{-1} \gamma_{1}$ is a string. Note then that $u$ is non-trivial. Therefore $\alpha \gamma_{1}$ is a zero-relation. Let $z_{1}=\alpha \gamma_{1}$ in this case. Thus (2) holds. Similarly we can show that $(3)$ holds if $K_{r+1}$ is not projective. The proof is completed.

The following notion is essential for our characterization of quasi-tilted string algebras.
2.2. Definition. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra. A reduced walk $w$ is called a sequential pair of zero-relations in $(Q, I)$ if $w$ contains exactly two zero-relations and these two zero-relations point to the same direction in $w$.

Note that the two zero-relations in a sequential pair of zero-relations can be the same zero-relation on the quiver. For instance one can get such a sequential pair of zero-relations from a simple cycle containing exactly one zero-relation.
2.3. Lemma. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra such that there is no sequential pair of zero-relations in $(Q, I)$. Then each string module is either of projective dimension at most one or of injective dimension at most one.

Proof. Assume that there is a string $w$ such that $M(w)$ has both projective dimension and injective dimension greater than one. Let $w=p_{1}^{-1} q_{1} \cdots p_{r}^{-1} q_{r}$, where the $p_{i}, q_{j}$ are paths which are non-trivial for $1<i \leq r, 1 \leq j<r$. We shall obtain a sequential pair of zero-relations by considering only the case where $p_{1}$ is non-trivial and $q_{r}$ is trivial, since the other cases can be treated similarly. Assume that this is the case. Then by Lemma 2.1, there is a path
$z_{1}=\alpha z_{1}^{\prime}$ with $\alpha$ an arrow such that $p_{1} z_{1}$ is a zero-path whereas $p_{1} \alpha$ is not; or there is a non-trivial path $z_{i}$ with $2 \leq i \leq r$ such that $p_{i} z_{i}$ and $q_{i-1} z_{i}$ are zero-paths; or there is a zero-path $z_{r+1}=\beta z_{r+1}^{\prime}$ with $\beta$ an arrow so that $w z_{r}$ is a reduced walk.

We now write $w=q_{0} p_{1}^{-1} q_{1} \cdots q_{r-1} p_{r}^{-1}$ with $q_{0}$ a trivial path. Then by the dual of Lemma 2.1, there is a zero-path $y_{0}=y_{0}^{\prime} \gamma$ with $\gamma$ an arrow such that $y_{0} w$ is a reduced walk; or there is a non-trivial path $y_{i}$ for some $1 \leq i \leq r-1$ such that both $y_{i} q_{i}$ and $y_{i} p_{i}$ are zero-paths; or there is a path $y_{r}=y_{r}^{\prime} \delta$ with $\delta$ an arrow so that $y_{r} p_{r}$ is a zero-path whereas $\delta p_{r}$ is not.

Suppose first that $y_{0}=y_{0}^{\prime} \gamma$ exists. If $z_{1}=\alpha z_{1}^{\prime}$ exists, then $\gamma \alpha$ is a zerorelation since $p_{1} \alpha$ is not a zero-path. Therefore $y_{0} \alpha=y_{0}^{\prime} \gamma \delta$ is a sequential pair of zero-relations. If $z_{j}$ exists for some $1<j<r$, then $y_{0} p_{1}^{-1} q_{1} \cdots p_{j-1}^{-1} q_{j-1} z_{j}$ is a sequential pair of zero-relations.

Suppose now that $y_{i}$ exists for some $0<i<r$. If $z_{j}$ exists for some $1 \leq j \leq i$, then $y_{i} p_{i} q_{i-1}^{-1} \cdots q_{j}^{-1} p_{j} z_{j}$ is sequential pair of zero-relations. If $z_{j}$ exists for some $i<j<r$, then $y_{i} q_{i} p_{i+1}^{-1} \cdots p_{j-1}^{-1} q_{j-1} z_{j}$ is a sequential pair of zero-relations.

Suppose finally that $y_{r}=y_{r}^{\prime} \delta$ exists. If $z_{j}$ exists for some $1 \leq j \leq r$, then $y_{r} p_{r} q_{r-1}^{-1} \cdots q_{j}^{-1} p_{j} z_{j}$ is a sequential pair of zero-relations. If $z_{r+1}=\beta z_{r+1}^{\prime}$ exists, then $\delta \beta$ is a zero-relation since $p_{r} \delta$ is non-zero. Hence $y_{r}^{\prime} \delta \beta$ is a sequential pair of zero-relations. This completes the proof of the lemma.

Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra. A reduced cycle $w=c_{1} c_{2} \cdots c_{n}$ in $Q$ is called a band if $w$ is not a power of a reduced cycle of less length and all its powers contain no zero-relation. Let $\phi$ be an indecomposable automorphism of a $k$-vector space $V$. For $1 \leq i \leq n$, define $V(i)=V$. For $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, let $f_{c_{i}}$ be the identity map from $V(i)$ to $V(i+1)$ if $c_{i}$ is an arrow; and otherwise the identity map from $V(i+1)$ to $V(i)$, and let $f_{c_{n}}$ be the map sending $x \in V(n)$ to $\phi(x) \in V(1)$ if $c_{n}$ is an arrow; and otherwise the map sending $x \in V(1)$ to $\phi^{-1}(x) \in V(n)$. The band module $N=N(w, \phi)$ determined by $w$ and $\phi$ is then defined as follows: for each vertex $a$ of $Q$, if $a$ appears in $w$, then $N_{a}$ is the direct sum of the spaces $V(i)$ such that $s\left(c_{i}\right)=a$, and otherwise $N_{a}$ is the zero-space. For each arrow $\alpha$ of $Q$, if $\alpha$ appears in $w$, then $N_{\alpha}$ is the direct sum of the maps $f_{c_{i}}$ such that $c_{i}=\alpha$ or $c_{i}=\alpha^{-1}$; and otherwise $N_{\alpha}$ is the zero-map. For $1 \leq i \leq n$, denote by $h_{i}$ the canonical projection from $N_{s\left(c_{i}\right)}$ to $V(i)$. Then for $1 \leq i \leq n, h_{i} f_{c_{i}}=N_{c_{i}} h_{i+1}$ if $c_{i}$ is an arrow; and $N_{c_{i}^{-1}} h_{i}=h_{i+1} f_{c_{i}}$ if $c_{i}$ is the inverse of an arrow (we identify $i+1$ with its remainder divided by $n$ ).
2.4. Lemma. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra such that there is no sequential pair of zero-relations in $(Q, I)$. Then each band module is either of projective dimension at most one or of injective dimension at most one.

Proof. Let $w=c_{1} c_{2} \cdots c_{n}$ be a band. Let $N=N(w, \phi)$ be a band module as defined above, and we keep all the notations. Assume that the injective and projective dimension of $N$ are both greater than one. We shall find a sequential pair of zero-relations. Note that $\mathrm{D} \operatorname{Tr}(N)=N[\mathbf{3}$, section 3]. Thus $\operatorname{Hom}\left(D\left({ }_{A} A\right), N\right) \neq 0$ and $\operatorname{Hom}_{A}(N, A) \neq 0[\mathbf{1 3},(2.4)]$. Let $a_{0}$ be a vertex such that there is a non-zero homomorphism $f$ from $I\left(a_{0}\right)$ to $N$. Note that $I\left(a_{0}\right)=M\left(p q^{-1}\right)$, where $p, q$ are paths so that $p q^{-1}$ is a string starting and ending in a peak. Clearly $I\left(a_{0}\right)$ is not simple since $B$ is indecomposable. Thus $f$ factors through the socle factor of $I\left(a_{0}\right)$. Therefore we may assume that $p=u \alpha_{0}$ with $\alpha_{0}$ an arrow such that there is a non-zero homomorphism $g$ from $M(u)$ to $N$. Let $u=\alpha_{t-1} \cdots \alpha_{1}$ with $\alpha_{i}: a_{i+1} \rightarrow a_{i}$ an arrow for $0<i<t$ (when $t=1, u=\varepsilon_{a_{1}}$ ). Note that the homomorphism $g$ from $M(u)$ to $N$ consists of a family of linear maps $g_{a}: M(u)_{a} \rightarrow N_{a}$, where $a$ runs over the vertices of $Q$. Let $r$ with $1 \leq r \leq t$ be minimal so that $g_{a_{r}}$ is non-zero. We shall show that $a_{r}$ appears in $w$ as a sink. In fact, there is some $1 \leq m \leq n$ such that $g_{a_{r}} h_{m} \neq 0$. Hence $a_{r}=s\left(c_{m}\right)$. Assume that $c_{m}$ is an arrow, say from $a_{r}$ to $b$. Then $g_{b}=0$, this follows from the minimality of $r$ if $b=a_{r-1}$ and otherwise from the fact that $M(u)_{b}=0$. We now have $g_{a_{r}} h_{m} f_{c_{m}}=M(u)_{c_{m}} g_{b} h_{m+1}=0$ (we identify $m+1$ with its remainder divided by $n$ ). This is contrary to the fact that $f_{c_{m}}$ is an isomorphism. Thus $c_{m}$ is the inverse of an arrow. Using the same argument we see that $c_{m-1}$ is an arrow. Therefore $a_{r}$ does appear in $w$ as a sink.

Note that the band $w$ is not an oriented cycle. Thus up to equivalence, we can write $w=p_{1} q_{1}^{-1} \cdots p_{s} q_{s}^{-1}$, where the $p_{i}, q_{i}$ are non-trivial paths with $s\left(p_{1}\right)=s\left(q_{s}\right)$. Now $a_{r}=e\left(p_{s_{0}}\right)=e\left(q_{s_{0}}\right)$ for some $1 \leq s_{0} \leq s$. We want to show that both $q_{s_{0}} \alpha_{r-1} \cdots \alpha_{0}$ and $p_{s_{0}} \alpha_{r-1} \cdots \alpha_{0}$ are zero-paths. It suffices to show that both $q_{s_{0}}$ and $p_{s_{0}}$ contain a vertex which does not appear in $\alpha_{t-1} \cdots \alpha_{r}$. Suppose on the contrary that this is not the case. Then $p_{s_{0}}$ or $q_{s_{0}}$ is a subpath of $\alpha_{t-1} \cdots \alpha_{r}$. Assume that $q_{s_{0}}=\alpha_{r+d} \cdots \alpha_{r}$ with $0 \leq d<$ $t-r$. Since $a_{r}=s\left(c_{m}\right)$, we have $c_{m+i}=\alpha_{r+i}^{-1}$ for $0 \leq i \leq d$. Note that $g_{a_{r+1}} h_{m+1} f_{c_{m}}=M(u)_{\alpha_{r}} g_{a_{r}} h_{m} \neq 0$. Hence $g_{a_{r+1}} \neq 0$. Inductively $g_{a_{r+d+1}} \neq 0$. Now $a_{r+d+1}=s\left(q_{s_{0}}\right)=s\left(p_{s_{0}+1}\right)$ (we identify $s_{0}+1$ with its remainder divided by $s$ ). Hence $c_{m+d+1}$ is an arrow (we identify $m+d+1$ with it remainder
divided by $n$ ), say from $a_{r+d+1}$ to $x$. Then

$$
g_{a_{r+d+1}} h_{m+d+1} f_{c_{m+d+1}}=M(u)_{c_{m+d+1}} g_{x} h_{m+d+2} .
$$

However $g_{x}=0$ since $x$ does not appear in $u$, this is contrary to the fact that $f_{c_{m+d+1}}$ is an isomorphism. Thus $q_{s_{0}} \alpha_{r-1} \cdots \alpha_{0}$ and $p_{s_{0}} \alpha_{r-1} \cdots \alpha_{0}$ are zero-paths. Using the fact that $\operatorname{Hom}_{A}(N, A) \neq 0$, we can dually show that there is a non-trivial path $q$ so that for some $1 \leq t_{0} \leq s$, both $q q_{t_{0}}$ and $q p_{t_{0}}$ are zero-paths. It is now easy to see that we have a sequential pair of zero-relations. The proof of the Lemma is completed.

We are now ready to get our main result of this section.
2.5. Theorem. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra. Then $A$ is quasi-tilted if and only if there is no sequential pair of zero-relations in $(Q, I)$.

Proof. Assume first that $(Q, I)$ contains no sequential pair of zerorelations. In particular there is no path in $Q$ containing two overlapping zero-relations. Therefore the global dimension of $A$ is at most two $[\mathbf{7},(1.2)]$. Let $M$ be an indecomposable $A$-module. Then $M$ is either a string module or a band module [3]. Applying Lemmas 2.3 and 2.4, we see that either the projective dimension or the injective dimension of $M$ is at most one. Thus $A$ is quasi-tilted.

Conversely let $q$ be a sequential pair of zero-relations of $(Q, I)$. If $q$ is a path containing two overlapping zero-relations, then the global dimension of $A$ is greater than two [7, (1.2)]. Hence $A$ is not quasi-tilted. Otherwise we may assume that $q$ is of the form $q=z_{1} w z_{2}$, where $z_{1}, z_{2}$ are two paths which are zero-relations and $w=p_{1}^{-1} q_{1} \cdots p_{r}^{-1} q_{r}$ is a string such that the $p_{i}, q_{j}$ are paths which are non-trivial for $1<i \leq r, 1 \leq j<r$. We shall prove that $M(w)$ has projective and injective dimensions both greater than one. First write $z_{2}=\delta u \rho$ with $\delta, \rho$ arrows and $u$ a path of non-negative length. For each $1 \leq i \leq r$, let $a_{i}=s\left(p_{i}\right)$ and let $u_{i}, v_{i}$ be the paths such that $u_{i}^{-1} p_{i}^{-1} q_{i} v_{i}$ is a string starting and ending in a deep. Note that $u_{i}^{-1} v_{i-1}$ is a string for all $1<i \leq r$ and $v_{r}=\delta u$. Moreover $P\left(a_{i}\right)=M\left(u_{i}^{-1} p_{i}^{-1} q_{i} v_{i}\right)$, and $P=\oplus_{i=1}^{r} P\left(a_{i}\right)$ is the projective cover of $M(w)$. Let $K$ be the kernel of the canonical epimorphism from $P$ to $M(w)$. Then $K \cong \oplus_{i=1}^{r+1} K_{i}$, where $K_{1}=0$ if $u_{1}$ is trivial and otherwise $K_{1}=M\left(u^{-1}\right)$ with $u$ the path so that $u_{1}=\alpha u$ for an arrow $\alpha ; K_{i}=M\left(u_{i}^{-1} v_{i-1}\right)$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; and $K_{r+1}=M(v)$. Since $v \rho$ is not a zero-path, $K_{r+1}$ is not projective. This implies that $M(w)$ has projective dimension greater than one. Dually one can show that the
injective dimension of $M$ is greater than one. Therefore $A$ is not quasi-tilted. This completes the proof of the theorem.

## 3. Tilted string algebras

In this final section we shall find a sufficient and necessary condition for a string algebra to be tilted. Moreover we shall determine all quasi-tilted string algebras which are not tilted.

Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra, and let $\Theta$ be a simple cycle of $Q$ containing no zero-relation. Let $\alpha$ be an arrow of $Q$. We say that $\alpha$ enters $\Theta$ if $e(\alpha) \in \Theta$ whereas $s(\alpha) \notin \Theta$. Similarly we say that $\alpha$ leaves $\Theta$ if $s(\alpha) \in \Theta$ whereas $e(\alpha) \notin \Theta$. Finally we say that $\alpha$ is attached to $\Theta$ if it enters or leaves $\Theta$. Moreover, we call an arrow $\beta$ a left or right annihilator of $\alpha$ if $\beta \alpha$ or $\alpha \beta$ is a zero-relation, respectively. It follows easily from the definition of a string algebra that $\alpha$ has a left or right annihilator in $\Theta$ if $\alpha$ leaves or enters $\Theta$, respectively.
3.1. Lemma. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a connected quasi-tilted string algebra. Let $\Theta$ be a simple cycle of $Q$ containing no zero-relation. Let $\alpha$ be an arrow entering $\Theta$ and contained in only one zero-relation on $Q$. If $w$ is a reduced walk having $\alpha$ as its terminal edge, then $w$ contains no zero-relation and the start-point of each edge of $w$ is not on any reduced cycle of $Q$.

Proof. By Theorem 2.5, there is no sequential pair of zero-relations in $(Q, I)$. By assumption, $\alpha$ has exactly one right annihilator $\beta$ in $\Theta$. Write $\Theta=\beta u$ with $u$ a reduced walk such that $e(u)=s(\beta)=e(\alpha)$. Let $w=$ $c_{n} \cdots c_{1} c_{0}$ be a reduced walk, where $c_{0}=\alpha$ and $c_{i}=\alpha_{i}$ or $\alpha_{i}^{-1}$ with $\alpha_{i}$ an arrow for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Assume that $w$ contains a zero-relation, say $c_{s} \cdots c_{s_{0}}$ with $s_{0} \geq 0$ minimal. If $c_{s} \cdots c_{s_{0}}$ is a path, then $c_{s} \cdots c_{s_{0}} \cdots c_{0} \beta$ is a path containing two zero-relations, which is impossible. If $c_{s} \cdots c_{s_{0}}$ is the inverse of a path, then we consider the reduced walk $w_{1}=\alpha \beta u c_{0}^{-1} \cdots c_{s_{0}}^{-1} \cdots c_{s}^{-1}$. Note that $\beta u c_{0}^{-1} \cdots c_{s_{0}}^{-1} \cdots c_{s-1}^{-1}$ contains no zero-relation by the minimality of $s_{0}$ and the hypotheses on $\Theta$ and $\alpha$. Thus $w_{1}$ is sequential pair of zero-relations, which is a contradiction.

To prove the second part of the statement, we first show that $s\left(c_{i}\right)$ is not on $\Theta$ for all $0 \leq i \leq n$. If this is not the case, let $t$ with $0 \leq t \leq n$ be minimal such that $s\left(c_{t}\right) \in \Theta$. Then $t \geq 1$ and $e\left(c_{t}\right) \notin \Theta$. Thus $\alpha_{t}$ has a left or right
annihilator $\gamma$ in $\Theta$. Let $c=\gamma$ or $\gamma^{-1}$ such that $c c_{t}$ is a walk. Then $c c_{t}$ is a zero-relation contained in the reduced walk $c c_{t} \cdots c_{1} c_{0}$, which is impossibe as we have shown.

Suppose now that there is some minimal $r$ with $0 \leq r \leq n$ such that $s\left(c_{r}\right)$ is on a reduced cycle $\Theta_{0}$. If $c_{r}$ does not belong to $\Theta_{0}$, then $c_{r}$ is attached to $\Theta_{1}$, and hence it has a left or right annihilator $\delta$ in $\Theta_{0}$. Let $d=\delta$ or $\delta^{-1}$ such that $d c_{r}$ is a walk. Then $d c_{r}$ is a zero-relation contained in the reduced walk $d c_{r} \cdots c_{0}$, which is impossible by (1). If $c_{r}$ belongs to $\Theta_{0}$, then $r=0$ by the minimality of $r$. Thus we can write $\Theta_{0}=d_{1} \cdots d_{m} c_{0}$, where $d_{i}$ or $d_{i}^{-1}$ is an arrow for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $s\left(d_{1}\right)=e\left(c_{0}\right)=e(\alpha) \in \Theta$, which is contrary to our previous claim. The proof is completed.

Recall that a branch with pivot $b$ is a finite connected full bound subquiver containing the vertex $b$ of the following infinite bound quiver whose zerorelations are all possible $\alpha \beta$ :


Let $(\Gamma, J)$ be a bound quiver, and let $B$ be a branch with pivot $b$ and underlying quiver $\Delta$. One says that a bound quiver $(Q, I)$ is obtained from $(\Gamma, J)$ by adding $B$ at $b$ if $Q=\Gamma \cup \Delta, \Gamma \cap \Delta=\{b\}$, and all relation on $Q$ has its support either in $\Gamma$ or in $\Delta[\mathbf{1 4},(4.4)]$.
3.2. Lemma. Let $A=k Q / I, \Theta$ and $\alpha$ be as in Lemma 3.1. Let $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ be the full bound subquiver of $(Q, I)$ so that the vertices of $Q^{\prime}$ are those of $Q$ and the arrows of $Q^{\prime}$ are those of $Q$ different from $\alpha$. Let $B$ be the connected component of ( $Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}$ ) containing $s(\alpha)$ and $C$ the one containing $e(\alpha)$. Then
(1) $Q^{\prime}$ is the disjoint union of $B$ and $C$.
(2) $B$ is a branch with pivot $b$, where $b=s(\alpha)$.
(3) Let $(\Gamma, J)$ be the full bound subquiver of $(Q, I)$ generated by $C$ and $\alpha$. Then $(Q, I)$ is obtained from $(\Gamma, J)$ by adding the branch $B$ at $b$.

Proof. By Lemm 3.1, $B$ and $C$ are disconnected in $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$. Thus $Q^{\prime}$ is the disjoint union of $B$ and $C$ since $Q$ is connected. Let $\Delta$ be the underlying quiver of $B$. Then $\Delta \cap \Gamma=\{b\}$ and $\Delta \cup \Gamma=Q$. Moreover $\alpha$ appears in any reduced walk $w$ with $s(w) \in \Delta$ and $e(w) \in \Gamma$. Therefore all zero-relation on $Q$ lies completely either in $\Gamma$ or in $\Delta$ since $\alpha$ is contained in only one zero-relation $\alpha \gamma$, where $\gamma$ is the right annihilator of $\alpha$ in $\Theta$.

It remains to show that $B$ is a branch with pivot $b$. First note that $B$ is a tree by Lemma 3.1. Thus for each arrow $\delta$ of $B$, there is a unique reduced walk $w(\delta)$ in $B$ from $s(\delta)$ to $b$. We define $\delta$ to be positive if the initial edge of $w(\delta)$ is $\delta$; and to be negative otherwise. One can easily conclude that $B$ is a branch with pivot $b$ from the following properties of $B$.
(a) There is at most one arrow $\delta_{+}$in $B$ starting with $b$ and at most one $\delta_{-}$ending with $b$. Moreover if $\delta_{+}, \delta_{-}$both exist, then $\delta_{+} \delta_{-}$is a zero-relation. In fact $s(\alpha)=b$ implies that there is at most one arrow in $B$ starting with $b$ since $\alpha \notin B$. If there are two arrows $\delta_{1}, \delta_{2}$ ending with $b$, then either $\delta_{1} \alpha$ or $\delta_{2} \alpha$ is a zero-relation, which contradicts Lemma 3.1. Suppose now that $\delta_{+}, \delta_{-}$ are arrows with $e\left(\delta_{+}\right)=s\left(\delta_{-}\right)=b$. Note that $\delta_{+} \alpha$ is not a zero-relation by Lemma 3.1. Hence $\delta_{+} \delta_{-}$is a zero-relation since $A$ is a string algebra.
(b) Let a be a vertex of $B$ other than $b$. Then there is in $B$ at most one arrow starting with $a$ of each sign and at most one ending with a of each sign. Moreover there are at most three arrows starting or ending with a in $B$. In fact, if $\delta_{1}, \delta_{2}$ are two distinct positive arrows starting with $a$, then $w\left(\delta_{1}\right), w\left(\delta_{2}\right)$ are two distinct reduced walks from $a$ to $b$, which is impossible. If $\delta_{1}, \delta_{2}$ are two distinct negative arrows starting with $a$, then $w\left(\delta_{1}\right)=w\left(\delta_{2}\right)=\gamma^{-1} v$, where $\gamma$ is an arrow ending with $a$ and $v$ is a reduced walk with $e(v)=b$. We may then assume that $\gamma \delta_{1}$ is a zero-relation. Therefore $\delta_{1}^{-1} \gamma^{-1} v \alpha$ is a reduced walk containing a zero-relation, which is contrary to Lemma 3.1. Thus there is at most one negative arrow of $B$ starting with $a$. Similarly one can show that there is at most one arrow ending with $a$ of each sign. Suppose now that there are four arrows $\gamma_{1}, \gamma_{2}, \gamma_{3}, \gamma_{4}$ starting or ending with $a$. We may assume that $s\left(\gamma_{1}\right)=s\left(\gamma_{2}\right)=a=e\left(\gamma_{3}\right)=e\left(\gamma_{4}\right)$, and further $\gamma_{1}$ is positive. Then $w\left(\gamma_{1}\right)=\gamma_{1} v_{1}$, where $v_{1}$ is a reduced walk with $e\left(v_{1}\right)=b$. By the definition of a string algebra, we can assume that $\gamma_{3} \gamma_{1}$ is a zero-relation. Hence $\gamma_{3} \gamma_{1} v_{1} \alpha$ is a reduced walk in $Q$ containing a zero-relation, which is contrary to Lemma 3.1.
(c) A path $p=\delta_{1} \cdots \delta_{n}$ in $B$ with $\delta_{1}$ negative or $\delta_{n}$ positive is not a zero-path. In fact, assume that $p$ is a zero-path. If $\delta_{n}$ is positive, then $w\left(\delta_{n}\right)=\delta_{n} v_{2}$, where $v_{2}$ is a reduced walk with $e\left(v_{2}\right)=b$. Hence $\delta_{1} \cdots \delta_{n} v_{1} \alpha$
is a reduced walk containing a zero-relation, which is impossible by Lemma 3.1. If $\delta_{1}$ is negative, then $\delta_{n}^{-1} \cdots \delta_{1}^{-1} w\left(\delta_{1}\right) \alpha$ is a reduced walk containing a zero-relation, which is also contrary to Lemma 3.1.
(d) If $\delta_{+} \delta_{-}$is a path with $\delta_{+}$positive and $\delta_{-}$negative, then it is zerorelation. Moreover all zero-relation in $B$ is of this form. In fact, suppose that $e\left(\delta_{+}\right)=s\left(\delta_{-}\right)=a$. We may assume to $a \neq b$ by (1). Since $\delta_{-}$is negative, $w\left(\delta_{-}\right)=d u$, where $d=\gamma$ or $\gamma^{-1}$ with $\gamma$ an arrow different from $\delta_{-}$ and $u$ is a reduced walk with $e(u)=b$. If $s(\gamma)=a$, then $\gamma$ is positive. So $\delta_{+} \gamma$ is not a zero-relation by (c). Hence $\delta_{+} \delta_{-}$is a zero-relation. If $e(\gamma)=a$, then $\gamma$ is negative by (b). Hence $\gamma \delta_{-}$is not a zero-relation by (c). Thus $\delta_{+} \delta_{-}$is a zero-relation. Finally let $p=\delta_{1} \cdots \delta_{n}$ with $n \geq 2$ be a zero-relation in $B$. Then $\delta_{1}$ is positive and $\delta_{n}$ is negative by (c). Thus there is some $1 \leq i \leq n$ such that $\delta_{i}$ is positive and $\delta_{i+1}$ is negative. Hence $\delta_{i} \delta_{i+1}$ is a zero-relation. Hence $i=1$ and $p=\delta_{1} \delta_{2}$. This completes the proof of the Lemma.
3.3. Lemma. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a quasi-tilted string algebra, and let $\Theta$ be a simple cycle in $Q$ containing no zero-relation. If there is an arrow entering $\Theta$ and one leaving $\Theta$, then
(1) all arrow attached to $\Theta$ is contained in only one zero-relation on $Q$,
(2) the arrows attached to $\Theta$ are pairwise disjoint, and
(3) the right annihilator of an arrow entering $\Theta$ and the left annihilator of an arrow leaving $\Theta$ point to opposite directions in $\Theta$.

Proof. Let $\alpha$ be an arrow entering $\Theta$ and $\beta$ be one leaving $\Theta$. Let $\gamma$ be a right annihilator of $\alpha$ and $\delta$ a left annihilator of $\beta$ in $\Theta$. Assume that $\gamma, \delta$ point to the same direction in $\Theta$. Then $\Theta$ contains a reduced walk $u_{1}$ with initial edge $\gamma$ and terminal edge $\delta$. Hence $\alpha u_{1} \beta$ is a sequential pair of zero-relations, which is a contradiction to Theorem 2.5. Thus (3) holds.

To show (1), let $p=\alpha_{1} \cdots \alpha_{n}$ be a zero-relation on $Q$ with $\alpha_{r}=\alpha$ for some $1 \leq r \leq n$. Then $r<n$ since otherwise $\alpha_{1} \cdots \alpha_{n} \gamma$ would be a sequential pair of zero-relations. If $\alpha_{r+1} \cdots \alpha_{n}$ does not lie in $\Theta$, then there is a minimal $t$ with $r<t \leq n$ such that $\alpha_{t}$ is not in $\Theta$. Note then that $\alpha_{t}$ leaves $\Theta$, and hence it has a left annihilator $\gamma_{t}$ in $\Theta$. If $t=r+1$, then $e\left(\gamma_{r+1}\right)=s\left(\alpha_{r+1}\right)=e\left(\alpha_{r}\right)=s(\gamma)$. Thus $\gamma_{r+1}, \gamma$ point to the same direction in $\Theta$, which is contrary to what we have proved. If $t>r+1$, then $\alpha_{r+1} \cdots \alpha_{t-1}$ lies in $\Theta$. Since $p$ is a zero-relation, $\alpha_{r+1} \neq \gamma$ and $\alpha_{t-1} \neq \gamma_{t}$. Then $\gamma, \gamma_{t}$ point to the same direction in $\Theta$, which is again contrary to what we have proved. Thus $\alpha_{r+1} \cdots \alpha_{n}$ lies in $\Theta$. Hence we can write $\Theta=\alpha_{r+1} \cdots \alpha_{n} u_{2} \gamma^{-1}$ with $u_{2}$ a reduced walk. If $\alpha_{r+1} \neq \gamma$, then $\alpha_{r+1}, \delta$ point to the same direction in $\Theta$.

Thus $\Theta$ contains a reduced walk $u_{3}$ with initial edge $\alpha_{r+1}$ and terminal edge $\delta$. This implies that $\alpha_{1} \cdots \alpha_{r+1} \cdots \alpha_{n} u_{2} \gamma^{-1} u_{3} \beta$ is a sequential pair of zerorelations, which is a contradiction. Hence $\alpha_{r+1}=\gamma$. Consequently $p=\alpha \gamma$. We can dually show that $\delta \beta$ is the only zero-relation containing $\beta$.

It remains to show (2). If $s(\beta)=e(\alpha)$, then $\delta, \gamma$ point to the same direction in $\Theta$, which is impossible. If $e(\beta)=s(\alpha)$, then $\delta \beta \alpha \gamma$ is a sequential pair of zero-relations. Therefore $\alpha, \beta$ are disjoint. Let now $\alpha^{\prime} \neq \alpha$ be another arrow entering $\Theta$. By Lemma 3.1, $s\left(\alpha^{\prime}\right) \neq s(\alpha)$. Assume that $e\left(\alpha^{\prime}\right)=e(\alpha)$. Since $A$ is a string algebra, $\Theta$ contains two arrows $\gamma, \gamma^{\prime}$ starting with $e(\alpha)$. Since $\alpha \gamma$ is the only zero-relation containing $\alpha, \gamma^{\prime}$ is the right annihilator of $\alpha^{\prime}$ in $\Theta$. This implies that $\gamma^{\prime}, \delta$ point to the same direction in $\Theta$, which is contrary to (3). Therefore $\alpha, \alpha^{\prime}$ are disjoint. Similarly if $\beta^{\prime} \neq \beta$ is another arrow leaving $\Theta$, then $\beta, \beta^{\prime}$ are disjoint. The proof is completed.

We are now ready to have our promised criterion for deciding a string algebra is tilted or not.
3.4. Theorem. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a string algebra. Then $A$ is tilted if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:
(1) there is no sequential pair of zero-relations in $(Q, I)$;
(2) if $\Theta$ is a simple cycle of $Q$ containing no zero-relation, then the arrows attached to $\Theta$ either all enter $\Theta$ or all leave $\Theta$.

Proof. Assume first that $A$ is tilted. Then $A$ is quasi-tilted. Hence (1) is satisfied by Theorem 2.5. Suppose now that there are in $\Theta$ a simple cycle $\Theta$ containing no zero-relation, an arrow $\alpha$ entering $\Theta$ and an arrow $\beta$ leaving $\Theta$. By Lemma 3.3, $\alpha, \beta$ are disjoint. Moreover $\alpha$ is contained in only one zero-relation $\alpha \gamma$ and $\beta$ is contained in only one zero-relation $\beta \delta$, where $\gamma, \delta$ are arrows in $\Theta$. Let now ( $Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}$ ) be the full bound subquiver of $(Q, I)$ generated by $\Theta, \alpha$ and $\beta$. Combining Lemmas 3.3 and 3.1, we infer that $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ is convex in $(Q, I)$. Thus $A^{\prime}=k Q^{\prime} / I^{\prime}$ is tilted since $A$ is $[8,(6.5)]$. Let $\Gamma_{A^{\prime}}$ be the Auslander-Reiten quiver of $A^{\prime}$. It is easy to see that the indecomposable projective $A^{\prime}$-module at $s(\alpha)$ is in a ray tube and the others are in a preprojective component of $\Gamma_{A^{\prime}}$. Dually the indecomposable injective $A^{\prime}$-module at $e(\beta)$ is in a coray tube and the others are in a preinjective component of $\Gamma_{A^{\prime}}$. As a consequence the complete slice would lie in a regular component of $\Gamma^{\prime}$, which is well-known to be impossible since $A^{\prime}$ is tame. Hence (2) is also satisfied.

Conversely suppose that ( $Q, I$ ) satisfies both (1) and (2). We may further assume that $(Q, I)$ is connected. By Theorem 2.5, $A$ is quasi-tilted. If all possible simple cycle in $Q$ contains zero-relations, then $A$ is of finite representation type, and hence tilted $[\mathbf{9},(3.6)]$. Assume now that there is a simple cycle $\Theta$ which contains no zero-relation. If there is no arrow attached to $\Theta$, then $A$ is the hereditary algebra $k \Theta$. Otherwise let $\alpha_{1}, \cdots, \alpha_{t}$ be the arrows attached to $\Theta$, which we may assume all enter $\Theta$. Let $\gamma_{i}$ be a right annihilator of $\alpha_{i}$ in $\Theta$ for $1 \leq i \leq t$.

We first consider the case where there is some $\alpha_{i}$, say $\alpha_{1}$ is contained in two distinct zero-relations. One of these is $\alpha_{1} \gamma_{1}$, and let the other one be $p=\beta_{1} \cdots \beta_{m}$ with $\alpha_{1}=\beta_{r}$ for some $1 \leq r \leq m$. Then $r<m$ by (1). It follows from (2) that $\beta_{r+1} \cdots \beta_{m}$ lies completely in $\Theta$. Let $a=s(p)$ and $b=e(p)$. Write $p=\beta_{1} u \beta_{m}$ with $u$ a path containing no zero-relation. Note that $\beta_{r+1}$ is different from $\gamma_{1}$ since otherwise $p=\alpha_{1} \gamma_{1}$. Thus the string module $M(u)$ is a direct summand of the radical of $P(a)$. Moreover it is easy to see that $M(u)$ is also a direct summand of the socle factor of $I(b)$. Thus $P(a)$ and $I(b)$ lie in the same connected component of the Auslander-Reiten quiver of $A$. Hence $A$ is tilted since $A$ is quasi-tilted [4, (5.3)].

It remains to consider the case where each $\alpha_{i}$ with $1 \leq i \leq t$ is contained in only one zero-relation, that is $\alpha_{i} \gamma_{i}$. Then the $\gamma_{i}$ are distinct since $A$ is a string algebra. Let $b_{i}=s\left(\alpha_{i}\right)$ and $a_{i}=e\left(\alpha_{i}\right)$ for $1 \leq i \leq t$. By Lemma 3.1, the $b_{i}$ are distinct. Denote by $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ the full bound subquiver of $(Q, I)$ generated by $\Theta$ and the arrows $\alpha_{1}, \cdots, \alpha_{t}$. By Lemma 3.2, $(Q, I)$ is obtained from $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ by adding a branch at each vertex $b_{i}$. Note that $\operatorname{rad} P\left(b_{i}\right)=M\left(u_{i}\right)$, where $u_{i}$ is the maximal subpath (maybe trivial) of $\Theta$ starting with $a$ and not containing $\gamma_{i}$. Thus $\operatorname{rad} P\left(b_{i}\right)$ lies in the mouth of a non-homogeneous tube of the tame hereditary algebra $k \Theta$. Since the $\gamma_{i}$ are distinct, the $\operatorname{rad} P\left(b_{i}\right)$ are pairwise non-isomorphic, and hence pairwise orthogonal. Therefore $A$ is a domestic tubular extension of $k \Theta$, and hence tilted [14, (4.9)]. The theorem is now established.

We would like to point out that the characterization of tilted gentle algebras stated in $[\mathbf{1 2}]$ is not complete. In fact the statement there states essentially only the first condition of Theorem 3.4. Nevertheness it is true that all tilted gentle algebras are of type $\mathbf{A}_{n}$ or $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{n}$. However, by using the above result, it is easy to construct tilted string algebras of quite arbitrary types.
3.5. Definition. A bound quiver is said to be of type $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{n, r, t}$ with $n, r, t$ positive if
(1) the quiver consists of a non-oriented cycle $\Theta$ of type $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{n}$ and $r$ arrows $\alpha_{1}, \ldots, \alpha_{r}$ entering $\Theta$ and $t$ arrows $\beta_{1}, \ldots, \beta_{t}$ leaving $\Theta$ with the $r+t$ arrows $\alpha_{i}, \beta_{j}$ pairwise disjoint;
(2) the relations are $\alpha_{i} \gamma_{i}$ with $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $\delta_{j} \beta_{j}$ with $1 \leq j \leq s$, where the $\gamma_{i}, \delta_{j}$ are arrows in $\Theta$ such that each pair $\gamma_{i}, \delta_{j}$ point to opposite directions in $\Theta$.

We are now able to determine all quasi-tilted string algebras which are not tilted.
3.6. Theorem. Let $A=k Q / I$ be a connected string algebra. Then $A$ is a quasi-tilted algebra which is not tilted if and only if $(Q, I)$ is obtained from a bound quiver of type $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{n, r, t}$ by adding a branch at each of the vertices not on the cycle. Moreover in this case, $A$ is iterated tilted of type $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{m}$.

Proof. Assume that $A=k Q / I$ is quasi-tilted and not tilted. By Theorems 2.5 and 3.4 , there are in $Q$ a simple cycle $\Theta$ containing no zero-relation, an arrow entering $\Theta$ and an arrow leaving $\Theta$. Let $\alpha_{1}, \ldots, \alpha_{r}$ be the arrows entering $\Theta$ and $\beta_{1}, \ldots, \beta_{s}$ the ones leaving $\Theta$. By Lemma 3.3., the $r+t$ arrows $\alpha_{i}, \beta_{j}$ are disjoint. Moreover each $\alpha_{i}$ is contained in exactly one zero-relation $\alpha_{i} \gamma_{i}$ and each $\beta_{j}$ is contained in exactly one zero-relation $\beta_{j} \delta_{j}$, where $\gamma_{i}, \delta_{j}$ are arrows in $\Theta$ such that $\gamma_{i}, \delta_{j}$ point to opposite directions for all $1 \leq i \leq r, 1 \leq$ $j \leq t$. Let $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ be the full bound subquiver of $(Q, I)$ generated by $\Theta$ and the arrows $\alpha_{i}, \beta_{j}$ with $1 \leq i \leq r ; 1 \leq j \leq t$. Then $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ is a bound quiver of type $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{n, r, t}$. Moreover by Lemma 3.2 and its dual, $(Q, I)$ is obtained from $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ by by adding a branch at each of $s\left(\alpha_{1}\right), \ldots, s\left(\alpha_{r}\right), e\left(\beta_{1}\right), \ldots, e\left(\beta_{t}\right)$.

Conversely let $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ be a bound quiver of type $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{n, r, t}$ with $\Theta, \alpha_{i}, \gamma_{i}, \beta_{j}, \delta_{j}$ as defined in Definition 3.5. Assume that $(Q, I)$ is obtained from $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ by adding a branch $D_{i}$ at $s\left(\alpha_{i}\right)$ for each $1 \leq i \leq r$ and a branch $E_{j}$ at $e\left(\beta_{j}\right)$ for each $1 \leq j \leq t$. Clearly $A$ is a string algebra. Hence $A$ is not tilted by Theorem 3.4. Moreover $(Q, I)$ satisfies all the conditions as stated in part (iv) of Theorem (A) of $[\mathbf{2}]$. Thus $A$ is iterated tilted of type $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{m}$. It remains to show that $A$ is quasi-tilted. Assume that this is not the case. Then $(Q, I)$ contains sequential pairs of zero-relations by Theorem 2.5. Note that all zero-relation on $Q$ is of length two. Thus there is a reduced walk $w=c_{1} c_{2} \cdots c_{s-1} c_{s}$ with $s \geq 3$, where $c_{1}, c_{2}, c_{3}$ and $c_{4}$ are arrows such that $c_{1} c_{2}$
and $c_{s-1} c_{s}$ are the only zero-relations contained in $w$. By definition each zerorelation is completely contained either in $\left(Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}\right)$ or in a branch. Note that each branch contains no sequential pair of zero-relations and that all reduced walk lying completely in a branch starting or ending with the pivot contains no zero-relation. Thus both $c_{1} c_{2}$ and $c_{s-1} c_{s}$ are in ( $Q^{\prime}, I^{\prime}$ ). We consider only the case $c_{1} c_{2}=\alpha_{i_{0}} \gamma_{i_{0}}$ for some $1 \leq i_{0} \leq r$. We now show that $c_{2} \cdots c_{s-1}$ lies in $\Theta$. In fact if this is not the case, let $i_{1}$ with $2<i_{1} \leq s-1$ be minimal such that $c_{i_{1}}$ is not in $\Theta$, then either $c_{i_{1}}=\alpha_{i}^{-1}$ for some $1 \leq i \leq r$ or $c_{i_{1}}=\beta_{j}$ for some $1 \leq j \leq t$. Suppose that $c_{i_{1}}=\alpha_{i}^{-1}$. Then $c_{i_{1}+1}$ is in the branch $D_{i}$ since $c_{i_{1}+1} \neq \alpha_{i}$. As a consequence $c_{i_{1}+1} \cdots c_{s-1} c_{s}$ is reduced walk in $D_{i}$ satring with the pivot $s\left(\alpha_{i}\right)$ et containing a zero-relation, which is impossible. Similarly it is impossible that $c_{i_{1}}=\beta_{j}^{-1}$ with $1 \leq j \leq t$. Therefore $c_{2} \cdots c_{s-1}$ is contained in $\Theta$. In particular $c_{s-1} c_{s}=\delta_{j_{0}} \beta_{j_{0}}$ for some $1 \leq j_{0} \leq t$. Thus $\gamma_{i_{0}} \cdots c_{3} \cdots c_{s-2} \delta_{j_{0}}$ is a reduced walk contained in $\Theta$. This however implies that $\gamma_{i_{0}}, \delta_{j_{0}}$ point to the same direction in $\Theta$, which is a contradiction. The proof is completed.

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Département de Mathématiques et d'informatique
Université de Sherbrooke
Sherbrooke, Québec
Canada J1K 2R1

