

We also have the commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E \times F & \xrightarrow{\iota_{\otimes}} & E \otimes F \\ (f' \circ f) \times (g' \circ g) \downarrow & & \downarrow (f' \circ f) \otimes (g' \circ g) \\ E'' \times F'' & \xrightarrow{\iota''_{\otimes}} & E'' \otimes F''. \end{array}$$

Since we immediately verify that

$$(f' \circ f) \times (g' \circ g) = (f' \times g') \circ (f \times g),$$

by uniqueness of the map between $E \otimes F$ and $E'' \otimes F''$ in the above diagram, we conclude that

$$(f' \circ f) \otimes (g' \circ g) = (f' \otimes g') \circ (f \otimes g),$$

as claimed. □

The above formula (*) yields the following useful fact.

Proposition 33.11. *If $f: E \rightarrow E'$ and $g: F \rightarrow F'$ are isomorphisms, then $f \otimes g: E \otimes F \rightarrow E' \otimes F'$ is also an isomorphism.*

Proof. If $f^{-1}: E' \rightarrow E$ is the inverse of $f: E \rightarrow E'$ and $g^{-1}: F' \rightarrow F$ is the inverse of $g: F \rightarrow F'$, then $f^{-1} \otimes g^{-1}: E' \otimes F' \rightarrow E \otimes F$ is the inverse of $f \otimes g: E \otimes F \rightarrow E' \otimes F'$, which is shown as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (f \otimes g) \circ (f^{-1} \otimes g^{-1}) &= (f \circ f^{-1}) \otimes (g \circ g^{-1}) \\ &= \text{id}_{E'} \otimes \text{id}_{F'} \\ &= \text{id}_{E' \otimes F'}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (f^{-1} \otimes g^{-1}) \circ (f \otimes g) &= (f^{-1} \circ f) \otimes (g^{-1} \circ g) \\ &= \text{id}_E \otimes \text{id}_F \\ &= \text{id}_{E \otimes F}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f \otimes g: E \otimes F \rightarrow E' \otimes F'$ is an isomorphism. □

The generalization to the tensor product $f_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes f_n$ of $n \geq 3$ linear maps $f_i: E_i \rightarrow F_i$ is immediate, and left to the reader.