

MONAD GIVEN BY AN OPERAD

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Let f be an operad¹, and for each object X let X^j denote its j -th tensor power. Then, let $\mathbf{f} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be given by

$$\mathbf{f} X = \bigoplus_{j \geq 0} f(j) \otimes_{k[\Sigma_j]} X^j$$

1.1. Tensor product over non-commutative rings. The definition of the monad associated to an operad involves tensor product over the group ring $k[\Sigma_j]$, which is non-commutative. I will write down what I think the definitions should be².

Definition 1. If the ring k is commutative, then there is no distinction between left- and right- modules. Therefore, the tensor product $A \otimes_k B$ of two k -modules is defined as

$$k^{\oplus A \times B} / W,$$

where W is the sub-module generated by the elements

$$\begin{aligned} (a + a', b) - ((a, b) + (a', b)) \\ (a, b + b') - ((a, b) + (a, b')) \\ x(a, b) - (xa, b) \\ x(a, b) - (a, xb). \end{aligned}$$

Then, we let $a \otimes b$ denote the equivalence class of (a, b) in this quotient.

However, if we let R denote an arbitrary ring³ and we let T denote some set, then the “direct sum” $R^{\oplus T}$ can only be guaranteed to make sense as an abelian group, since the left- and right- module structures need not coincide.

Definition 2. Let R be a non-commutative ring, A a right R -module, and B a left R -module. Define their *tensor product over R* as

$$A \otimes_R B := \mathbf{Z}^{\oplus A \times B} / W,$$

where W is the subgroup generated by the elements

$$\begin{aligned} (a + a', b) - ((a, b) + (a', b)) \\ (a, b + b') - ((a, b) + (a, b')) \\ (ar, b) - (a, rb) \end{aligned}$$

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¹Over the category \mathcal{C} used by May: differential \mathbf{Z} -graded k -modules.

²After confirming these, I will hopefully also add some *motivation* for their use.

³Rings for us are fixed to have 1, for the more general case we use the term *algebra*.

In the case where the non-commutative ring R contains a “nice” commutative ring k as a subring—as in differential operators and group rings—the tensor product is defined as the quotient of the free k –module modulo the analogous submodule. Explicitly, the relations for $A \otimes_{k[G]} B$ are those of k –bilinearity and

$$(ag, b) - (a, gb),$$

where A is a k –module with a right G –action and B is a k –module with a left G –action.

2. QUESTIONS

- What is $R \otimes_R R$ when R is not commutative?
- What is the defining mapping property of the abelian group $A \otimes_R B$ when R is not commutative?