

## Tensor of modules

\* Suppose for this section that  $R$  is a comm. ring w/  $1_R$ .  
Note: story is slightly more complicated otherwise

Motivation, part 1:

Suppose  $M$  and  $N$  are  $R$ -modules, and that we want to construct an  $R$ -module  $M \otimes_R N$  with the following prop:

$\exists$  a map  $\otimes : M \times N \rightarrow M \otimes_R N$  ← (Cartesian product)  
 $(m, n) \mapsto m \otimes n$

which is bilinear:

$$\bullet \forall m_1, m_2 \in M, n \in N$$

$$(m_1 + m_2) \otimes n = m_1 \otimes n + m_2 \otimes n$$

$$\bullet \forall m \in M, n_1, n_2 \in N,$$

$$m \otimes (n_1 + n_2) = m \otimes n_1 + m \otimes n_2.$$

$$\bullet \forall r \in R, m \in M, n \in N$$

$$(rm) \otimes n = r(m \otimes n) = m \otimes (rn).$$

Is this contrived? No, objects like this arise naturally in:

quantum physics  
electromagnetism  
gravitation  
differential topology ...

How to construct objects like this:

- 1) Start w/ the free Abelian gp. (i.e. free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module) generated by the set of all elems. of the form  $m \otimes n$ ,  $m \in M$ ,  $n \in N$ .
- 2) Quotient by the subgroup generated by all relations of the form

$$(m_1 + m_2) \otimes n = m_1 \otimes n + m_2 \otimes n$$

$$m \otimes (n_1 + n_2) = m \otimes n_1 + m \otimes n_2$$

$$(rm) \otimes n = m \otimes (rn).$$

Notes:

- The resulting quotient group is denoted  $M \otimes_R N$ , the tensor product over  $R$  of  $M$  with  $N$ .

Notation:  $m \otimes n$  will denote the coset of  $m \otimes n$  in this quotient.

$M \otimes_R N$  is an  $R$ -module, with scal. mult. def by

$$r(m \otimes n) = (rm) \otimes n = m \otimes (rn),$$

and extended linearly to all of  $M \otimes_R N$ .

- $\forall m \in M, n \in N$ , the coset  $m \otimes n$  is called a simple tensor. Every elem. of  $M \otimes_R N$  can be written (non-uniquely in general) as a sum of simple tensors  $\sum_{i=1}^n (m_i \otimes n_i)$ .

Thm.:  $M \otimes_R N$  is an  $R$ -module, w/ scal mult. defined as above.

The map  $\otimes$  is  $R$ -bilinear. Furthermore, if

$L$  is any  $R$ -module and  $\varphi: M \times N \rightarrow L$  is an  $R$ -bilin. map then  $\exists$  a unique  $R$ -mod. hom.  $\Phi: M \otimes_R N \rightarrow L$

s.t. the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{\otimes} & M \otimes_R N \\ & \searrow \varphi & \downarrow \Phi \\ & & L \end{array}$$

Universal property  
of  $M \otimes_R N$ .

Note: Since  $\varphi(M \times N) \cong \Phi(M \otimes_R N) / \ker \Phi$ , (1st. ism. thm for  $R$ -modules + a little thought)

The universal property shows that

$M \otimes_R N$  is the largest  $R$ -module (up to isom.) which can be generated from the image of an  $R$ -bilinear map from  $M \times N$  into another  $R$ -module.

Exs:

$$1) \forall m \in M, n \in \mathbb{N}, m \otimes 0 = 0 \otimes n = 0.$$

$$\text{Pf: } m \otimes 0 = m \otimes (0+0) = m \otimes 0 + m \otimes 0$$

$$\Rightarrow m \otimes 0 = 0$$

Same for  $0 \otimes n$ .  $\square$

$$2) R = \mathbb{Z}, M = \mathbb{Q}, G = \text{finite Abelian gp.}$$

What can we say about  $\mathbb{Q} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} G$ ?

let  $n = |G|$ . Then  $\forall r \in \mathbb{Q}, g \in G$ ,

$$r \otimes g = \left(n \cdot \frac{r}{n}\right) \otimes g = \left(\frac{r}{n}\right) \otimes (ng) = \left(\frac{r}{n}\right) \otimes 0 = 0.$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\mathbb{R}$ -mod. structure  
 $\rightarrow$  bilinearity

Conclusion:

$$\mathbb{Q} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} G = 0.$$

$$3a) \mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R} \quad (\text{note: } \mathbb{R} \text{ is a 1-dim v.s. over } \mathbb{R})$$

another note:  $\mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}$  is also an  $\mathbb{R}$ -v.s.

•  $\forall r, s \in \mathbb{R}, r \otimes s = rs(1 \otimes 1)$ , so  $1 \otimes 1$  generates  $\mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}$  as an  $\mathbb{R}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \leq 1$ .

• Define  $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $\varphi(r, s) = rs$ .

This is bilinear and surjective, so  $\exists$  a (unique)

$\mathbb{R}$ -mod. hom.  $\Phi: \mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , which has the univ. prop.

$\Phi$  is surj.  $\Rightarrow \dim(\mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}) \geq 1$ , so  $\mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{R}$ .

$$3b) \mathbb{R}^2 \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}^3 = V \quad (V \text{ is an } \mathbb{R}\text{-v.s.})$$

- This is generated <sup>b/c of bilin.</sup> as an  $\mathbb{R}$ -v.s. by

$$\{\vec{e}_{i,\mathbb{R}^2} \otimes \vec{e}_{j,\mathbb{R}^3} : 1 \leq i \leq 2, 1 \leq j \leq 3\}$$

$$\text{Ex: let } \vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

Then  $\vec{v} \otimes \vec{w}$

$$= \left( v_1 \vec{e}_{1,\mathbb{R}^2} + v_2 \vec{e}_{2,\mathbb{R}^2} \right) \otimes \left( w_1 \vec{e}_{1,\mathbb{R}^3} + w_2 \vec{e}_{2,\mathbb{R}^3} + w_3 \vec{e}_{3,\mathbb{R}^3} \right)$$

$$= v_1 w_1 (\vec{e}_{1,\mathbb{R}^2} \otimes \vec{e}_{1,\mathbb{R}^3}) + v_1 w_2 (\vec{e}_{1,\mathbb{R}^2} \otimes \vec{e}_{2,\mathbb{R}^3}) + v_1 w_3 (\vec{e}_{1,\mathbb{R}^2} \otimes \vec{e}_{3,\mathbb{R}^3})$$

$$+ v_2 w_1 (\vec{e}_{2,\mathbb{R}^2} \otimes \vec{e}_{1,\mathbb{R}^3}) + v_2 w_2 (\vec{e}_{2,\mathbb{R}^2} \otimes \vec{e}_{2,\mathbb{R}^3}) + v_2 w_3 (\vec{e}_{2,\mathbb{R}^2} \otimes \vec{e}_{3,\mathbb{R}^3})$$

Therefore,  $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} V \leq 2 \cdot 3 = 6$

... cont. next time