

# Commutative Algebra: Tensor Products

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# Outline

First steps

$- \otimes_A M$  as a Functor

Exactness of  $- \otimes_A M$

Tensor Products of Algebras

# Tensor Product as Quotient

Let  $A$  be a ring,  $M, N$  be  $A$ -modules.

- Take  $A$ -linear combinations of pairs in  $M \times N$ . Typical element:

$$\sum_{i \in I} a_i (m_i, n_i) =: A^{(M \times N)}$$

- Let  $D$  be the submodule of  $A^{(M \times N)}$  generated by:
  - $a(m, n) - (am, n)$ .
  - $a(m, n) - (m, an)$ .
  - $(m_1 + m_2, n) - (m_1, n) - (m_2, n)$
  - $(m, n + n_2) - (m, n_1) - (m, n_2)$ .

## Tensor Product as Quotient

$$M \otimes N := A^{(M \times N)} / D.$$

$\forall (x, y) \in A^{(M \times N)}$   $\rightsquigarrow$  image in  $M \otimes N$   
is written as  $x \otimes y$ .

$$ax \otimes y = x \otimes (ay) = a(x \otimes y)$$

$$x_1 + x_2 \otimes y = x_1 \otimes y + x_2 \otimes y$$

$$x \otimes (y_1 + y_2) = x \otimes y_1 + x \otimes y_2.$$

# Tensor Product by Universal Property

For  $M, N$   $A$ -modules, there exists an  $A$ -module  $M \otimes N$  and an  $A$ -bilinear map  $g: M \times N \rightarrow M \otimes N$  with following property:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & & \\ \downarrow g & \nearrow f & \\ M \otimes N & \xrightarrow{\exists! f'} & P \end{array}$$

For any  $A$ -module  $P$ ,  $A$ -bilinear map  $f: M \times N \rightarrow P$ , there is a unique  $A$ -mod homom  $f': M \otimes N \rightarrow P$  s.t.  $f' \circ g = f$ .

# Tensor Product by Universal Property

Suppose  $M \square N$  satisfies  
the same property:

the property forces  
a unique  $A$ -module  
isomorphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{f} & P \\ \downarrow g & & \exists! f' \\ M \otimes N & \xrightarrow{\exists! f'} & P \end{array}$$

$M \square N$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{g} & M \otimes N \\ \downarrow g' & \exists! & \xrightarrow{\exists!} \\ M \square N & & M \otimes N \end{array}$$

# Multi-linear Tensor Product

Differences:

① A-linear in each factor.

② In the existence proof, the free module and its submodule look diff.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M_1 \times \cdots \times M_r & & \\ \downarrow g & \nearrow f & \\ M_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes M_r & \xrightarrow{\exists! f'} & P \end{array}$$

# Some Quick Isomorphisms (Prop 2.14)

$$(M \otimes N) \cong (N \otimes M)$$

$$x \otimes y \mapsto y \otimes x$$

$$(M \otimes N) \otimes P \cong M \otimes (N \otimes P) \cong M \otimes N \otimes P$$

$$(x \otimes y) \otimes z \mapsto x \otimes (y \otimes z) \mapsto (x \otimes y \otimes z)$$

$$(M \oplus N) \otimes P \cong (M \otimes P) \oplus (N \otimes P)$$

$$(x, y) \otimes z \mapsto x \otimes z, y \otimes z$$

$$A \otimes M \cong M$$

$$a \otimes m \mapsto am.$$

$$M \otimes (N \otimes P) \xrightarrow{f} M \otimes N \otimes P$$

$$\text{Fix } x \in M. \quad f_x : N \times P \rightarrow M \otimes N \otimes P$$

$$(y, z) \mapsto x \otimes y \otimes z$$

This is  $A$ -bilinear  $\Rightarrow \exists! f'_x : N \otimes P \rightarrow M \otimes N \otimes P$ .

$$\text{Now let } f : M \times (N \otimes P) \rightarrow M \otimes N \otimes P$$

$$(x, t) \mapsto f'_x(t)$$

$$\text{This is } A\text{-bilinear} \Rightarrow \exists! f' : M \otimes (N \otimes P) \rightarrow M \otimes N \otimes P$$

$$x \otimes (y \otimes z) \mapsto x \otimes y \otimes z$$

$$g : M \times N \times P \rightarrow M \otimes (N \otimes P) \quad A\text{-trilinear}$$

$$(x, y, z) \mapsto x \otimes (y \otimes z) \quad \Rightarrow \exists! g' : M \otimes N \otimes P \rightarrow M \otimes (N \otimes P)$$

$$(M \oplus N) \otimes P \cong (M \otimes P) \oplus (N \otimes P)$$

Exercise!

## Restriction & Extension of Scalars

Let  $A, B$  be rings. Take  $f: A \rightarrow B$  a ring homomorphism.

- 1) If  $M$  is a  $B$ -module, it has an  $A$ -module structure via  $ax = f(a)x$ .  
 $a \in A, x \in M$ .

- 2) If  $M$  is an  $A$ -module take  $B \otimes_A M \leftarrow$  this has a  $B$ -module structure.  $b(b' \otimes_A x) = bb' \otimes_A x$ .  
 $b \otimes ax = ab \otimes x = (f(a)b) \otimes x$ .

Claim:  $- \otimes_A M$  is a Functor  $A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow A\text{-Mod}$

Fix an  $A$ -module  $M$ .

Objects:  $N \rightarrow N \otimes_A M$

Morphisms:  $f: N \rightarrow P$   $\begin{matrix} A\text{-module} \\ \text{homomorphism} \end{matrix}$

$f': N \otimes_A M \rightarrow P \otimes_A M$

$n \otimes m \mapsto f(n) \otimes m$ .

In other words  $f' = f \otimes 1_M$ .

## "Defn": Adjoint Functors

Kinda like an inverse functor.

$$F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, \quad G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

For  $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}), Y \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, GY) \leftrightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(FX, Y).$$

in a natural way.

-  $\otimes M$  and  $\text{Hom}(M, \cdot)$  are Adjoints

Given  $N, P$  in category of  $A$ -modules  
there is a natural bijection

$$\text{Hom}(N \otimes M, P) \leftrightarrow \text{Hom}(N, \text{Hom}(M, P))$$

Given  $f: N \otimes M \rightarrow P \rightsquigarrow f': N \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, P).$

Fix  $n \in N$ . What results is  $f_n: M \rightarrow P$ .

Given  $f': N \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, P)$ ,  $\rightsquigarrow ?$   $f: N \otimes M \rightarrow P$   
 $f(n \otimes m) = f'(n)(m) \in P$ .

-  $\otimes M$  is a right-exact functor

Since  $-\otimes M$  is a left adjoint,  
it is right exact, i.e. given

$$N' \rightarrow N \rightarrow N'' \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{exact}$$

$$\Rightarrow N' \otimes M \rightarrow N \otimes M \rightarrow N'' \otimes M \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{exact}.$$

-  $\otimes M$  preserves cokernels.

-  $\otimes M$  is a right-exact functor

$$N' \rightarrow N \rightarrow N'' \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{exact}$$

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(N'', P) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(N, P) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(N', P) \quad \text{exact.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(N'', \text{Hom}(M, P')) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(N, \text{Hom}(M, P')) \\ &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(N', \text{Hom}(M, P')) \quad \text{exact.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(N'' \otimes M, P') &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(N \otimes M, P') \\ &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(N' \otimes M, P') \quad \text{exact.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \Rightarrow N' \otimes M \rightarrow N \otimes M \rightarrow N'' \otimes M \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{exact.}$$

-  $\otimes M$  is NOT left-exact

$A = \mathbb{Z}$ . Category:  $\mathbb{Z}\text{-mod.}$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\oplus_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_{2,2} \quad \downarrow$$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2 \xrightarrow{(\times 2, \oplus 1)} \mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow 0.$$

not exact

$$\text{Im}(0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2) = 0. \neq \text{Ker}(\mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2)$$

$$n \otimes x \mapsto 2n \otimes x \equiv n \otimes 2x \equiv 0$$

## Defn: Flat Module

TFAE conditions characterizing *flatness*.

$M$  is a flat module if

1.  $- \otimes M$  is an exact functor.
2.  $- \otimes M$  preserves short exact sequences.
3.  $f : N' \rightarrow N$  injective  $\implies f \otimes 1 : N' \otimes M \rightarrow N \otimes M$  injective.
4.  $f : N' \rightarrow N$  injective for  $N'$ ,  $N$  finitely generated  $\implies f \otimes 1 : N' \otimes M \rightarrow N \otimes M$  injective.

(1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (2) break down long to short.

(2)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (3)  $- \otimes M$  preserves cokernels  $\Leftrightarrow$  kernels.  
(3) means it preserves