

# Lecture 8: Tensor products.

Bilinear maps.  $R$  a ring,  $M, N, P$  modules.

$\alpha: M \times N \rightarrow P$  bilinear if it is linear in each variable. Set of bilinear maps  $Bil_R(M \times N; P)$ .

Tensor product.  $R$  a ring,  $M, N$  modules.

Their tensor product  $M \otimes_R N$ , or  $M \otimes N$ , is the quotient of the free module

~~$R[M \times N]$~~   $R[M \times N]$  by the relations

$$(m+m', n) - (m, n) - (m', n)$$

$$(m, n+n') - (m, n) - (m, n')$$

$$(xm, n) - x(m, n)$$

$$(m, xn) - x(m, n)$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} m, m' \in M \\ n, n' \in N \\ x \in R \end{array} \right\}$$

Ex.  $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z} / \gcd(m, n)$   
 $\mathbb{Q} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Q}$ .

This yields a canonical bilinear map  $\beta: M \times N \rightarrow M \otimes_R N$ .  $\beta(m, n) = m \otimes n$ .

Thm. (UMP of tensor product).

$M \otimes_R N$  is universal  $P$  for the property of having a bilinear map  $M \times N \rightarrow P$ .

I.e., the map  $\text{Hom}_R(M \otimes_R N, P) \rightarrow Bil_R(M \times N; P)$  is an isomorphism.

Pf. Clear.

Bifunctoriality:  $\otimes_R$  is a functor in each variable that is  $R$ -linear on morphisms.

Prop. 1)  $M \otimes_R N \cong N \otimes_R M$  by the usual switch map  
(commutative law)

2)  $R \otimes_R M \cong M$ .

(unitary law)

Pf easy.

Bimodules.  $R, R'$  rings. An  $R, R'$ -bimodule is an  $R$ -module  $M$  and  $R'$ -module s.t.  
 $\forall x \in R, x' \in R', m \in M \quad x(x'm) = x'(xm)$ .

Can also think of  $R$ -module structure as left and  $R'$  as right. Then the bimodule axiom takes the form of associativity:  $(xm)x' = x(mx')$ .

If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module,  $N$  an  $(R, R')$ -bimodule then  $M \otimes_R N$  is an  $(R, R')$ -bimodule.

$(m \otimes n)x' = m \otimes nx'$ . E.g. if  $M$  is an  $R$ -mod then  $M \otimes_R R'$  is an  $R'$ -module.

(extension of scalars)

$\text{Hom}_R(M, N)$  is an  $(R, R')$ -bimodule  
 $\text{Hom}_R(N, P)$   <sup>$R$ -mod</sup> is an  $(R, R')$ -bimod.

Thm. -3-  $N$  an  $(R, R')$ -bimodule

Let  $R, R'$  be rings,  $M$  an  $R$ -module,  $P$  an  $R'$ -module. Then we have two canonical  $(R, R')$ -isomorphisms:

$$1) M \otimes_R (N \otimes_{R'} P) \longrightarrow (M \otimes_R N) \otimes_{R'} P \quad (\text{associative law})$$

$$2) \text{Hom}_{R'}(M \otimes_R N, P) \cong \text{Hom}_R(M, \text{Hom}_{R'}(N, P)) \quad (\text{adjoint assoc.})$$

Pf. 1)  $\text{Hom}_{(R, R')} (M \otimes_R (N \otimes_{R'} P), Q) =$

$$= \text{Bil}(M, N \otimes_{R'} P; Q) = \text{Tril}(M, N, P; Q)$$

and same for the other one. So the statement follows from Yoneda lemma.

2)  ~~$\text{Hom}_{R'}(M \otimes_R N, P) \cong \text{Bil}(M, N, P)$~~

Define  $\alpha: \text{Hom}_{R'}(M \otimes_R N, P) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, \text{Hom}_{R'}(N, P))$

by  $\alpha(\gamma)(m)(n) = \gamma(m \otimes n)$ .

Need to check:

1) Well defined (relations of  $M \otimes_R N$  hold (this is straight forward)).

2)  $\alpha$  is invertible. Need to define  $\alpha^{-1}$ .

Take  $\eta \in \text{Hom}_R(M, \text{Hom}_{R'}(N, P))$ .

Define  $z: M \times N \rightarrow P$  by  $z(m, n) = \eta(m)(n)$ .

Then  $z$  is biadditive, and also  $\forall x \in R$

$$z(xm, n) = \eta(xm)(n) = \eta(m)(xn) = z(m, xn),$$

so  $z$  induces a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear map  $\delta: M \otimes N \rightarrow P$ .

~~This descends to a map  $\mathbb{R}$~~

This map is  $R'$ -linear, so set

$$\delta = \beta(\eta), \text{ and check } \alpha \circ \beta \stackrel{=id}{=} \beta \circ \alpha = id.$$

Corollary 1)  $(M \otimes_R R') \otimes_{R'} P = M \otimes_R P$  (cancellation law)

$$2) \text{Hom}_{R'}(M \otimes_R R', P) = \text{Hom}_R(M, P)$$

1)  $(\otimes_R R')$  is left adjoint to  $R'\text{-mod} \rightarrow R\text{-mod}$  forgetful f.v.

$$3) \text{Hom}_R(M, P) = \text{Hom}_{R'}(M, \text{Hom}_R(R', P)),$$

i.e.  $\text{Hom}_R(R', P)$  is right adjoint to the forgetful f.v.

Pf. This follows from the above.

Cor. If  $N$  is an  $R$ -module then the functor

$(\otimes_R N)$  on  $R\text{-mod}$  preserves direct limits,

or, equivalently, direct sums and cokernels.

Pf. This is because it's left adjoint.

Rem. Preserving cokernels in particular implies that it's right exact.

Rem.  $\otimes_R$  does not preserve kernels (~~kernel~~, e.g. not left exact).

E.g.  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{2} \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\text{Ker} = 0$ .

But if  $\otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_2$  get  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\text{Ker} = \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

Thm. (Watts)  $F: R\text{-mod} \rightarrow R\text{-mod}$  a linear functor. Then have a natural transf.

$\theta: \bullet \otimes_R F(R) \rightarrow F(\bullet)$  s.t.  $\theta(R) = 1$ , and

$\theta$  is an isomorphism if and only if  $F$  preserves direct limits (= direct sums and cokernels).

Pf. Since  $F$  is linear, there is a natural linear map  $\theta(M): \text{Hom}(R, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(F(R), F(M))$ .

Set  $N = F(R)$ . Then  $\overset{M}{\parallel}$  setting  $P = F(M)$  in adjoint associativity, we get

$\theta(M) \in \text{Hom}(M, \text{Hom}(N, F(M))) = \text{Hom}(M \otimes N, F(M))$ .

Namely,  $\theta(M)(m \otimes n) = F(\rho)(n)$ , where

$\rho: R \rightarrow M$ ,  $\rho(1) = m$ . If  $\theta$  is an isom, then  $F$  preserves direct sums and cokernels.

Conversely, suppose  $F$  preserves direct sums and cokernels, and let's show that  $\theta$  is an isomorphism.

Pick a presentation  $R^{\oplus \Sigma} \rightarrow R^{\oplus \Lambda} \rightarrow M$

Applying  $\theta$  to this presentation, we get a comm. diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 R^{\oplus \Sigma} \otimes N & \rightarrow & R^{\oplus \Lambda} \otimes N & \rightarrow & M \otimes N & \rightarrow & 0 \\
 \downarrow \theta(R^{\oplus \Sigma}) & & \downarrow \theta(R^{\oplus \Lambda}) & & \downarrow \theta(M) & & \\
 F(R^{\oplus \Sigma}) & \rightarrow & F(R^{\oplus \Lambda}) & \rightarrow & F(M) & \rightarrow & 0
 \end{array}$$

By construction,  $\theta(R) = 1_N$ . If  $F$  preserves direct sums,  $\theta(R^{\oplus \Lambda}) = 1_{N^{\oplus \Lambda}}$ ,  $\theta(R^{\oplus \Sigma}) = 1_{N^{\oplus \Sigma}}$

~~Add~~ (if  $T, U$  are functors preserving  $\oplus$  and  $\theta: T \rightarrow U$  an morphism, then it also preserves  $\oplus$ , i.e.  $\theta(\bigoplus_i M_i) = \bigoplus_i \theta(M_i)$ ).

Since  $F$  also preserves cokernels, and so does  $\otimes N$ , the rows are exact. So  $\theta(M)$  is an isomorphism.

Additive functors. An additive functor

is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear functor on  $R$ -mod.

Then  $F$  preserves finite direct sums (exer.).

(Recall that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{i_x} & X \oplus Y & \xrightarrow{p_x} & X & & p_x i_x = 1 \\
 Y & \xrightarrow{i_y} & & \xrightarrow{p_y} & Y & & p_y i_y = 1 \\
 & & & & & & i_x p_x + i_y p_y = 1.
 \end{array}$$

)

Conversely, any functor that preserves

finite direct sum is  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear:

if  $\alpha, \beta : M \rightarrow N$  then  $F(\alpha \oplus \beta) = F(\alpha) \oplus F(\beta)$

Also we have  $\delta_M : M \rightarrow M \oplus M$  (diagonal)

and  $\sigma_M : M \oplus M \rightarrow M$  (addition)  $\sigma_M(m_1, m_2)$

so  $F(\alpha + \beta) = F(\alpha) + F(\beta)$ .  $= m_1 + m_2$

But not every  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear functor is  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear. E.g. complex conj. functor on the category of  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector spaces.

$V \mapsto \bar{V}$  where  $\bar{V}$  is  $V$  with twisted scalar mult.  $F(\alpha) = \alpha$ . Then  $F(\lambda\alpha)(v) = \lambda\alpha v$ ,  $\lambda F(\alpha)(v) = \bar{\lambda}\alpha v$ ,

so  $F(\lambda\alpha) \neq \lambda F(\alpha)$ .

Lemma.  $M, N$   $\mathbb{R}$ -modules,  $n_\lambda$  gen. of  $N$

Then  $\forall t \in M \otimes N$  can be written as

$t = \sum m_\lambda \otimes n_\lambda$  with  $m_\lambda \in M$ , almost all 0.

Further,  $t = 0 \iff \exists \varphi_\sigma \in M, x_{\lambda\sigma} \in \mathbb{R} \quad (\sigma \in \Sigma)$

with  $m_\lambda = \sum x_{\lambda\sigma} \varphi_\sigma$ , and  $\sum x_{\lambda\sigma} n_\lambda = 0 \quad \forall \sigma$ .

Pf.  $M \otimes N$  is generated by  $m \otimes n$ ,

and  $n = \sum x_\lambda n_\lambda$ , so  $m \otimes n = \sum m x_\lambda \otimes n_\lambda$ .

So the sum repr. exists.

Supp.  $\varphi_\sigma, x_{\lambda\sigma}$  exist, then clearly  $t = 0$ .

Conversely, supp.  $t = 0$ . Then  $t =$

Pick a presentation  $R^{\oplus \beta} \rightarrow R^{\oplus \alpha} \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$  with  $e_\lambda \rightarrow n_\lambda$ .

So we have an exact <sup>-8-</sup> sequence

$$M \otimes R \xrightarrow{\oplus \Sigma \text{ } 1 \otimes \beta} M \otimes R \xrightarrow{\oplus \wedge \text{ } 1 \otimes \alpha} M \otimes N \rightarrow 0$$

Now ~~the~~  $(1 \otimes \alpha)(\sum m_\lambda \otimes e_\lambda) = 0$ . Hence by exactness  
 $\exists s \in M \otimes R$  s.t.  $(1 \otimes \beta)(s) = \sum m_\lambda \otimes e_\lambda$ .

Let  $\{e_\sigma\}$  be the standard basis of  $R^{\oplus \Sigma}$ ,  
 and write  $s = \sum p_\sigma \otimes e_\sigma$ ,  $p_\sigma \in M$ . Also

$$\beta(e_\sigma) = \sum x_{\lambda\sigma} e_\lambda. \text{ Then } \alpha\beta(e_\sigma) = \sum_\lambda x_{\lambda\sigma} m_\lambda,$$

$$\text{and } 0 = \sum m_\lambda \otimes e_\lambda - \sum p_\sigma \otimes \left( \sum_\lambda x_{\lambda\sigma} e_\lambda \right) =$$

$$= \sum (m_\lambda - \sum_\sigma x_{\lambda\sigma} p_\sigma) \otimes e_\lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow m_\lambda = \sum_\sigma x_{\lambda\sigma} p_\sigma.$$

$S, T$   $R$ -algebras  $\Rightarrow S \otimes T$  is an  $R$ -algebra  
 with  $(s_1 \otimes t_1)(s_2 \otimes t_2) = s_1 s_2 \otimes t_1 t_2$  (check that it's well def.)  
 Also, if  $V$  is an  $R$ -algebra and have

$s: S \rightarrow V$ ,  $t: T \rightarrow V$  algebra homom  
 then have  $\text{set}: S \otimes T \rightarrow V$ . This gives a  
 bijection

$$\text{Hom}_{R\text{-alg}}(S \otimes T, V) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{R\text{-alg}}(S, V) \times \text{Hom}_{R\text{-alg}}(T, V)$$

In other words,  $S \otimes_R T$  is the coproduct  
 of  $S, T$  in  $R\text{-alg}$ .



Ex.  $S$  an  $R$ -alg,  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  variables.

$$S \otimes_R R[x_1, \dots, x_n] = S[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

$$R[x_1, \dots, x_n] \otimes_R R[y_1, \dots, y_m] = R[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m].$$