

## Lecture 21: Tensor products, II.

1) Further discussion of tensor products.

2) Tensor-Hom adjunction.

Ref: [AM], Section 2.7.

1) Further discussion of tensor products.

Let  $A$  be a commutative ring &  $M_1, M_2$  be  $A$ -modules. In Lec 20 we have defined their tensor product  $M_1 \otimes_A M_2$  together with a bilinear map  $M_1 \times M_2 \rightarrow M_1 \otimes_A M_2, (m_1, m_2) \mapsto m_1 \otimes m_2$ , with the following universal property:  $\forall$   $A$ -bilinear map  $\beta: M_1 \times M_2 \rightarrow N \exists!$   $A$ -linear map  $\tilde{\beta}: M_1 \otimes_A M_2 \rightarrow N$  s.t.  $\beta(m_1, m_2) = \tilde{\beta}(m_1 \otimes m_2) \forall m_i \in M_i$ .

### 1.1) Generators

Lemma: If  $M_k = \text{Span}_A(m_k^i \mid i \in I_k)$   $k=1,2$ , then

$$M_1 \otimes_A M_2 = \text{Span}_A(m_1^i \otimes m_2^j \mid i \in I_1, j \in I_2).$$

In particular  $M_1 \otimes_A M_2 = \text{Span}_A(m_1 \otimes m_2 \mid m_i \in M_i)$ .

Proof: Let  $N = M_1 \otimes_A M_2 / \text{Span}_A(m_1^i \otimes m_2^j \mid i \in I_1, j \in I_2)$ , and let  $\pi: M_1 \otimes_A M_2 \rightarrow N$  be the projection. Consider  $\beta: M_1 \times M_2 \rightarrow N, (m_1, m_2) \mapsto \pi(m_1 \otimes m_2)$ , it's  $A$ -bilinear. We have  $\beta(m_1^i, m_2^j) = 0$  and since  $M_1 = \text{Span}_A(m_1^i), M_2 = \text{Span}_A(m_2^j)$ , from bilinearity we get  $\beta = 0$ . Now,  $\pi$  is the unique linear map w.  $\pi(m_1 \otimes m_2) = \beta(m_1, m_2)$  and since  $0$  also satisfies this equality,  $\pi = 0$ . Since  $\pi$  is surjective,  $N = 0 \Leftrightarrow m_1^i \otimes m_2^j$  span  $M_1 \otimes_A M_2$ .  $\square$

## 1.2) Tensor products of linear maps.

Let  $M_1, M'_1, M_2, M'_2$  be  $A$ -modules &  $\varphi_i \in \text{Hom}_A(M_i, M'_i)$ ,  $i=1,2$ .

Consider:  $M_1 \times M_2 \longrightarrow M'_1 \otimes_A M'_2$ ,  $(m_1, m_2) \mapsto \varphi_1(m_1) \otimes \varphi_2(m_2)$

**Exercise:** This map is  $A$ -bilinear.

So it gives rise to an  $A$ -linear map  $\varphi_1 \otimes \varphi_2: M_1 \otimes_A M_2 \longrightarrow M'_1 \otimes_A M'_2$  uniquely characterized by  $[\varphi_1 \otimes \varphi_2](m_1 \otimes m_2) = \varphi_1(m_1) \otimes \varphi_2(m_2) \quad \forall m_i \in M_i$ .

**Properties** of tensor products of maps:

- $\text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \text{id}_{M_2} = \text{id}_{M_1 \otimes_A M_2}$
- Compositions:  $M_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} M'_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi'_1} M''_1, M_2 \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} M'_2 \xrightarrow{\varphi'_2} M''_2$   
 $(\varphi'_1 \varphi_1) \otimes (\varphi'_2 \varphi_2) = (\varphi'_1 \otimes \varphi'_2)(\varphi_1 \otimes \varphi_2)$  b/c they coincide on generators  $m_1 \otimes m_2$  of  $M_1 \otimes_A M_2$ .

So: we have the tensor product functor

$$A\text{-Mod} \times A\text{-Mod} \longrightarrow A\text{-Mod}$$

We will usually fix an  $A$ -module  $L$  & consider the functor

$L \otimes_A \cdot: A\text{-Mod} \longrightarrow A\text{-Mod}$  sending an  $A$ -module  $M$  to  $L \otimes_A M$  & an  $A$ -linear map  $\varphi: M \rightarrow M'$  to  $\text{id}_L \otimes \varphi$ .

**Rem:** Analogously to Case 2 in Sec 2.1 of Lec 20, if  $K \subset M$  is a submodule, then  $L \otimes_A (M/K)$  is the quotient of  $L \otimes_A M$  by  $\text{Span}_A(\ell \otimes k \mid \ell \in L, k \in K)$ . The latter submodule can be described

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as  $\text{im}(\text{id}_L \otimes L)$ , where  $L: K \hookrightarrow M$  is the inclusion.

**Important exercise:** Prove that  $(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) \mapsto \varphi_1 \otimes \varphi_2$ :

$\text{Hom}_A(M_1, M'_1) \times \text{Hom}_A(M_2, M'_2) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}_A(M_1 \otimes_A M_2, M'_1 \otimes_A M'_2)$   
is  $A$ -bilinear (hint: check on generators of  $M_1 \otimes_A M_2$ )

### 1.3) "Algebra properties" of tensor products.

**Theorem:** Let  $M_1, M_2, M_3$  be  $A$ -modules. Then:

1) There is a unique isomorphism  $(M_1 \otimes_A M_2) \otimes_A M_3 \xrightarrow{\sim} M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \otimes_A M_3)$  s.t.  $(m_1 \otimes m_2) \otimes m_3 \mapsto m_1 \otimes (m_2 \otimes m_3)$ . (i.e. tensor product is associative).

2)  $\exists!$  isom'm  $M_1 \otimes_A M_2 \xrightarrow{\sim} M_2 \otimes_A M_1$  w.  $m_1 \otimes m_2 \mapsto m_2 \otimes m_1$ .

3)  $\exists!$  isom'm  $M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \oplus M_3) \xrightarrow{\sim} M_1 \otimes_A M_2 \oplus M_1 \otimes_A M_3$  w.  
 $m_1 \otimes (m_2, m_3) \mapsto (m_1 \otimes m_2, m_1 \otimes m_3)$

4)  $\exists!$  unique isom'm  $A \otimes_A M \xrightarrow{\sim} M$  s.t.  $a \otimes m \mapsto am$ .

**Proof:** (1)

We want to establish the existence of an  $A$ -linear map

$\tilde{\beta}: (M_1 \otimes_A M_2) \otimes_A M_3 \longrightarrow M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \otimes_A M_3)$  s.t.  $(m_1 \otimes m_2) \otimes m_3 \mapsto m_1 \otimes (m_2 \otimes m_3)$

Such a map will be unique b/c the elements  $m_1 \otimes m_2$  span  $M_1 \otimes_A M_2$  hence  $(m_1 \otimes m_2) \otimes m_3$  span  $(M_1 \otimes_A M_2) \otimes_A M_3$ , see Sec 1.1.

So, we need a bilinear map  $\beta: (M_1 \otimes_A M_2) \times M_3 \longrightarrow M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \otimes_A M_3)$  s.t.  
 $(m_1 \otimes m_2, m_3) \mapsto m_1 \otimes (m_2 \otimes m_3)$ .

Fix  $m_3 \rightsquigarrow$  a linear map  $M_2 \rightarrow M_2 \otimes_A M_3$ ,  $m_2 \mapsto m_2 \otimes m_3$ . Define

$\beta_{m_3}: M_1 \otimes_A M_2 \rightarrow M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \otimes_A M_3)$  to be the tensor product of  $\text{id}_{M_1}$  &  $[m_2 \mapsto m_2 \otimes m_3]$  so  $\beta_{m_3}(m_1 \otimes m_2) = m_1 \otimes (m_2 \otimes m_3)$

Note that  $\beta_{m_3}$  depends linearly on  $m_3$  (e.g.  $\beta_{am_3} = a\beta_{m_3}$  b/c both send  $m_1 \otimes m_2$  to  $a \cdot m_1 \otimes (m_2 \otimes m_3)$  &  $\text{Span}_A(m_1 \otimes m_2) = M_1 \otimes_A M_2$ ).

$\leadsto A$ -bilinear map  $\beta: (M_1 \otimes_A M_2) \times M_3 \rightarrow M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \otimes_A M_3)$ ,

$\beta(x, m_3) := \beta_{m_3}(x) \leadsto \tilde{\beta}$  as needed.

$\tilde{\beta}$  is an isomorphism: have  $\tilde{\beta}': M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \otimes_A M_3) \rightarrow (M_1 \otimes_A M_2) \otimes M_3$   
 $m_1 \otimes (m_2 \otimes m_3) \mapsto (m_1 \otimes m_2) \otimes m_3$ . It's inverse of  $\tilde{\beta}$  b/c  $\tilde{\beta}' \circ \tilde{\beta} = \text{id}$  &  $\tilde{\beta} \circ \tilde{\beta}' = \text{id}$  on generators  $(m_1 \otimes m_2) \otimes m_3$ .  $\square$  of (1).

(2) - commutativity - is an **exercise** & (4) - unit - follows from our construction (Case 1 in Sec 2.1 of Lec 20)

Proof of (3) - distributivity: consider the projection

$\pi_i: M_2 \oplus M_3 \rightarrow M_i$ ,  $i=2,3$ ; & inclusion  $\iota_i: M_i \hookrightarrow M_2 \oplus M_3$

$\leadsto \text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \pi_i: M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \oplus M_3) \rightleftharpoons M_1 \otimes_A M_i: \text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \iota_i \leadsto$

$(\text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \pi_2, \text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \pi_3): M_1 \otimes_A (M_2 \oplus M_3) \rightleftharpoons M_1 \otimes_A M_2 \oplus M_1 \otimes_A M_3: (\text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \iota_2, \text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \iota_3)$   
 $\text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \iota_2(x) + \text{id}_{M_1} \otimes \iota_3(y) \longleftarrow (x, y)$

**Exercise:** check that these maps are mutually inverse.  $\square$

## 2) Tensor-Hom adjunction.

The goal of this section is to prove that tensor product functors are left adjoint to Hom functors.

## 2.1) Basic setting.

Let  $L$  be an  $A$ -module. We can consider the following functors  $A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow A\text{-Mod}$ :

- 1)  $L \otimes_A \cdot$  from Sec 1.2.
- 2)  $\underline{\text{Hom}}_A(L, \cdot)$  defined exactly as  $\text{Hom}_A(L, \cdot): A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$  but viewed as a functor to  $A\text{-Mod}$ , which makes sense b/c for an  $A$ -linear map  $\psi: M \rightarrow M'$ , the map  $\psi \circ ? : \text{Hom}_A(L, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(L, M')$  is  $A$ -linear (Prob 4 in HW1). Formally,  $\text{Hom}_A(L, \cdot) \cong \text{For} \circ \underline{\text{Hom}}_A(L, \cdot)$ , where  $\text{For}$  is the forgetful functor  $A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ .

**Thm** (tensor-Hom adjunction):  $L \otimes_A \cdot$  is left adjoint to  $\underline{\text{Hom}}_A(L, \cdot)$  (as functors  $A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow A\text{-Mod}$ ).

**Proof:** We need to construct "natural" bijections of sets  $\eta_{M,N}: \text{Hom}_A(L \otimes_A M, N) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_A(M, \text{Hom}_A(L, N))$  ( $M, N$  are  $A$ -modules) & check the commutativity of two diagrams. Pick  $\tau \in \text{Hom}_A(L \otimes_A M, N)$ .

Want to get  $\varphi_\tau \in \text{Hom}_A(M, \text{Hom}_A(L, N))$ . Choose  $m \in M$ . Then  $\ell \mapsto \ell \otimes m: L \rightarrow L \otimes_A M$  is a linear map, hence  $\tau_m := \ell \mapsto \tau(\ell \otimes m): L \rightarrow N$  is a linear map, i.e. an element of  $\text{Hom}_A(L, N)$ . So we get a map  $\varphi^\tau: M \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(L, N)$ ,  $m \mapsto \tau_m$ . It's  $A$ -linear: e.g. for  $a \in A$ ,  $\tau_{am}(\ell) = \tau(\ell \otimes am) = [(\ell, m) \mapsto \ell \otimes m \text{ is } A\text{-bilinear}] = a\tau(\ell \otimes m) = [a\tau_m](\ell) \forall \ell \in L$ .

So  $\varphi^\tau \in \text{Hom}_A(M, \text{Hom}_A(L, N))$ . We set  $\eta_{M,N}(\tau) = \varphi^\tau$ .

Conversely, let  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_A(M, \text{Hom}_A(L, N))$ . Then  $(\ell, m) \mapsto [\varphi(m)](\ell)$  is  $A$ -bilinear map  $L \times M \rightarrow N$  (exercise). Let  $\tau_\varphi$  be the corresponding

$A$ -linear map  $L \otimes_A M \rightarrow N$ , uniquely characterized by

$$\tau_\varphi(l \otimes m) = [\varphi(m)](l)$$

The maps  $\tau \mapsto \varphi^\tau$  &  $\varphi \mapsto \tau_\varphi$  are inverse to each other: e.g. let's check  $\tau_{\varphi^\tau} = \tau$ . Since  $L \otimes_A M$  is spanned by  $l \otimes m$  w.  $l \in L, m \in M$ , it's enough to check the equality on these elements:

$$\tau_{\varphi^\tau}(l \otimes m) = [\varphi^\tau(m)](l) = \tau_m(l) = \tau(l \otimes m) \quad \checkmark$$

Let's check that the bijections  $\eta_{M,N}$ 's make one diagram in the definition of adjoint functors (Sec 2.1 of Lec 19) commutative (the other is an *exercise*). Pick  $\zeta \in \text{Hom}_A(M, M')$ . We need to show the following is commutative

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_B(L \otimes_A M', N) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{M',N}} & \text{Hom}_A(M', \text{Hom}_A(L, N)) \\ \downarrow \eta \circ (\text{id}_L \otimes \zeta) & & \downarrow \eta \circ \zeta \\ \text{Hom}_B(L \otimes_A M, N) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{M,N}} & \text{Hom}_A(M, \text{Hom}_A(L, N)) \end{array}$$

$$\downarrow \rightarrow : \tau \mapsto [m \mapsto [l \mapsto \tau \circ (\text{id}_L \otimes \zeta)(l \otimes m) = \tau(l \otimes \zeta(m))]]$$

$$\longrightarrow \downarrow : \tau \mapsto [m \mapsto [\eta_{M',N}(\tau)](\zeta(m)) = \tau(l \otimes \zeta(m))] \quad \checkmark \quad \square$$

## 2.2) Generalization.

It turns out that the same method gives left (and right) adjoint functors to pullback functors  $\varphi^*: B\text{-Mod} \rightarrow A\text{-Mod}$  (Sec 1.2 of Lec 19) for  $\varphi: A \rightarrow B$ , a homomorphism of commutative rings. These adjoints are important so we explore a more general setup.

Let  $L$  be a  $B$ -module (so also an  $A$ -module) &  $M$  be an  $A$ -module  $\leadsto A$ -module  $L \otimes_A M$ .

Lemme: 1) There is a unique  $B$ -module structure on  $L \otimes_A M$  s.t.

$$b(l \otimes m) = (bl) \otimes m \quad \forall b \in B, l \in L, m \in M$$

2) If  $\psi: M \rightarrow M'$  is an  $A$ -linear map, then  $\text{id}_L \otimes \psi$  is a  $B$ -linear map  $L \otimes_A M \rightarrow L \otimes_A M'$ .

Proof: 1) Consider the map  $\beta_b: L \times M \rightarrow L \otimes_A M, (l, m) \mapsto (bl) \otimes m$ . It's  $A$ -bilinear (exercise) so  $\exists!$   $A$ -linear map  $\tilde{\beta}_b: L \otimes_A M \rightarrow L \otimes_A M$  s.t.  $\tilde{\beta}_b(l \otimes m) = (bl) \otimes m$  ( $\forall b \in B, l \in L, m \in M$ ). Define a map

$$B \times (L \otimes_A M) \rightarrow L \otimes_A M, (b, x) \mapsto \tilde{\beta}_b(x).$$

We claim that it defines a  $B$ -module structure on  $L \otimes_A M$ . This is a boring check of axioms using that  $\tilde{\beta}_b$  is  $A$ -linear &  $\text{Span}_A(l \otimes m) = L \otimes_A M$  (Sec 1.1). For example, to check associativity,  $(b_1 b_2)x = b_1(b_2 x)$  it's enough to assume that  $x = l \otimes m$ . Then  $(b_1 b_2)x = (b_1 b_2 l) \otimes m = b_1(b_2(l \otimes m)) = b_1(b_2 x)$ .

2) is left as an exercise. □

This lemma gives us a functor  $L \otimes_A: A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow B\text{-Mod}$ .