

Lecture 36: Canonical tensors & tensor algebra

Last time: Defined $V \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} W$ of 2 $\mathbb{K}$ -vector spaces V & W via universal property

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (v,w) & V \times W & \xrightarrow{f \text{ bilin}} W \\ \downarrow \varphi & \downarrow \text{bil} & \searrow \sigma \\ (v \otimes w) & V \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} W & \dashrightarrow \exists! \tilde{f} \text{ linear} \end{array}$$

Obs: We can define $\bigotimes_{i=1}^n V_i = V_1 \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} V_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} \dots \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} V_n$ by working with multilinear forms

$V_1 \times \dots \times V_n \longrightarrow W$ (linear in each factor, ones values in other factors are fixed)
& an analogous universal property

Prop: $B_V = \{v_i : i \in I\}$ basis for V
 $B_W = \{w_j : j \in J\}$ basis for W $\Rightarrow \{v_i \otimes w_j : i \in I, j \in J\}$ basis for $V \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} W$

Hom-Tensor adjointness $\exists V^* \otimes W \xrightarrow{\Phi} \text{Hom}(V, W)$ with $\Phi(\xi \otimes \omega) : v \mapsto \underbrace{\xi(v)}_{\in \mathbb{K}} \cdot \omega$
(1) Φ linear & injective. (2) If $\dim V < \infty$, Φ is surjective.

HW12: Many more properties for $\otimes$, including the rank of an element $u \in V \otimes W$ (Problem 17)

Corollary: Let V be finite dimensional. Choose a basis $B = \{v_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ for V and let $\{v_i^*\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ be its dual basis. Then: $\Omega = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i^* \otimes v_i$ is independent of the choice of basis. (canonical tensor in $V^* \otimes V$)

$$\dim V = n \quad B = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \quad \Omega = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i^* \otimes v_i \quad \text{canonical tensor in } V^* \otimes V$$

Obs 1: If $\dim V$ is infinite, we can't use this to define a canonical tensor. We need to put a topology on $V \otimes V^*$ & take completion.

Obs 2: This also shows Φ in Hom -tensor adjointness cannot be surjective if V is infinite-dimensional.

(Recall: $V^* \otimes W \xrightarrow{\Phi} \text{Hom}(V, W)$ with $\Phi(\xi \otimes \omega): v \mapsto \underbrace{\xi(v)}_{\in \mathbb{K}} \cdot \omega$)

Take $W = V$, then $\text{id}_V \notin \text{Im } \Phi$ (it would correspond to $\Phi(\Omega)$, but we don't have Ω if $\dim V = \infty$ (we can't have infinite sums in $V^* \otimes V$.)

Tensor Algebra

$V = \mathbb{K}$ -vector space

Inductively we define $T^k(V) = V^{\otimes k} = \underbrace{V \otimes \dots \otimes V}_{k \text{ terms}}$ for all $k \geq 2$

$\leadsto$ Collect all these tensors into 1 vector space via $\oplus$.

$$T^*(V) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} T^n(V) \quad (T^0(V) = \mathbb{K})$$

Prop: $T^*(V)$ is a $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra $\equiv \mathbb{K}$ -vector space + ring structure

$$T^*(V) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} T^n(V) \quad (T^0(V) = \mathbb{K})$$

Example: $V = \mathbb{K}^n$, then $T^n(V)$

Basis for $T^*(V)$: $\{v_i : i \in I\}$ basis for V

Then $\bigcup_{n \geq 0} \underbrace{\{v_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{i_n} : i_j \in I \forall j=1, \dots, n\}}_{= \text{basis for } T^n(V)}$ is a basis for $T^*(V)$

Symmetric & Exterior Algebras

Next, we define two quotients of $T^k(V)$ that allow us to swap entries in tensors, with/without a sign change. Here, char $K \neq 2$.

Definition: • $S^k(V) = \text{Sym}^k(V) = V^{\otimes k}$

Fix $k \geq 1$

(k^{th} symmetric product of V)

• Set $S^0(V) = K$

subspace spanned by

$$v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_k - v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_{i+1} \otimes v_i \otimes \dots \otimes v_k$$

$$1 \leq i \leq k-1$$

$$\uparrow \quad \uparrow$$

$$i \quad i+1$$

$$\text{for } v_1, \dots, v_k \in V$$

Obs 1: A typical summand of an element in $S^k(V)$ is written as $v_1 \dots v_k$

• $S^k(K^n) =$

Definition: • $\Lambda^k(V) = V^{\otimes k}$ (for $k \geq 2$)

subspace spanned by

$$v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_k + v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_{i+1} \otimes v_i \otimes \dots \otimes v_k$$

$1 \leq i \leq k-1$
 $\uparrow$
 $\uparrow$
 i
 $i+1$

for $v_1, \dots, v_k \in V$

(k^{th} exterior-alternating-product of V)

• Set $\Lambda^0(V) = \mathbb{K}$, $\Lambda^1(V) = V$

Lemma: $v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_k - \text{sg}(\sigma) v_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes v_{\sigma(k)} = 0$ in Λ^k_V $\forall \sigma \in S_k$
 $\forall v_1, \dots, v_k \in V$

Obs 2: A typical summand of an element in $\Lambda^k(V)$ is written as
 $v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k$ (order matters!)

• $v_{\sigma(1)} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{\sigma(k)} = \text{sign}(\sigma) (v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k)$ $\forall \sigma \in S_k$.

• $v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k = 0$ if $v_i = v_j$ for some $i \neq j$

Prop: Basis for $S^k(V)$ & $\Lambda^k(V)$:

→ (need axiom of choice!)

If $\{v_i : i \in I\}$ is a basis for V & I is totally ordered, then

(1) $\{v_{i_1}^{r_{i_1}} \cdots v_{i_s}^{r_{i_s}} : \substack{s \geq 1, \\ r_{i_1} + \cdots + r_{i_s} = k, \\ r_{i_j} \geq 1}\}$ is a basis for $S^k(V)$

(2) $\{v_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge v_{i_k} : i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k \text{ in } I\}$ is a basis for $\Lambda^k(V)$

Corollary: Assume $\dim V = n$. Then,

(0) $\dim T^k(V) =$

(1) $\dim S^k V =$

(2) $\dim (\Lambda^k V) =$

We can define **Symmetric** and **exterior algebras**:

• $\text{Sym}(V) = S^\bullet(V) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} S^n(V)$ ($S^0(V) = \mathbb{K}, S^1(V) = V$)

• $\Lambda^\bullet(V) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \Lambda^n(V)$ ($\Lambda^0(V) = \mathbb{K}, \Lambda^1(V) = V$)

Prop: $S^*(V)$ & $\Lambda^*(V)$ are $\mathbb{K}$ -algebras. (associative, unital)