

CHAPTER 8

Toolbox

5. Algebras

Let \mathbb{K} be a commutative ring. In most of our applications \mathbb{K} will be a field. Tensor products of \mathbb{K} -modules will be simply written as $M \otimes N := M \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} N$. Every such tensor product is again a \mathbb{K} -bimodule since each \mathbb{K} -module M resp. N is a \mathbb{K} -bimodule (see 8.4.14).

Definition 8.5.1. A \mathbb{K} -*algebra* is a vector space A together with a *multiplication* $\nabla : A \otimes A \rightarrow A$ that is associative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \otimes A \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \nabla} & A \otimes A \\ \nabla \otimes \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow \nabla \\ A \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & A \end{array}$$

and a *unit* $\eta : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow A$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{K} \otimes A \cong A \cong A \otimes \mathbb{K} & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \eta} & A \otimes A \\ \eta \otimes \text{id} \downarrow & \searrow \text{id} & \downarrow \nabla \\ A \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & A. \end{array}$$

A \mathbb{K} -algebra A is *commutative* if the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\tau} & A \otimes A \\ \swarrow \nabla & & \searrow \nabla \\ & A. & \end{array}$$

Let A and B be \mathbb{K} -algebras. A *homomorphism of algebras* $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a \mathbb{K} -linear map such that the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \otimes A & \xrightarrow{f \otimes f} & B \otimes B \\ \nabla_A \downarrow & & \downarrow \nabla_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathbb{K} & \\ \eta_A \swarrow & & \searrow \eta_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B. \end{array}$$

Remark 8.5.2. Every \mathbb{K} -algebra A is a ring with the multiplication

$$A \times A \xrightarrow{\otimes} A \otimes A \xrightarrow{\nabla} A.$$

The unit element is $\eta(1)$, where 1 is the unit element of \mathbb{K} .

Obviously the composition of two homomorphisms of algebras is again a homomorphism of algebras. Furthermore the identity map is a homomorphism of algebras. Hence the \mathbb{K} -algebras form a category $\mathbb{K}\text{-Alg}$. The category of commutative \mathbb{K} -algebras will be denoted by $\mathbb{K}\text{-cAlg}$.

Problem 8.5.1. 1. Show that $\text{End}_K(V)$ is a \mathbb{K} -algebra.

2. Show that $(A, \nabla : A \otimes A \rightarrow A, \eta : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow A)$ is a \mathbb{K} -algebra if and only if A with the multiplication $A \times A \xrightarrow{\otimes} A \otimes A \xrightarrow{\nabla} A$ and the unit $\eta(1)$ is a ring and $\eta : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \text{Cent}(A)$ is a ring homomorphism into the center of A .

3. Let V be a \mathbb{K} -module. Show that $D(V) := \mathbb{K} \times V$ with the multiplication $(r_1, v_1)(r_2, v_2) := (r_1 r_2, r_1 v_2 + r_2 v_1)$ is a commutative \mathbb{K} -algebra.

Lemma 8.5.3. *Let A and B be algebras. Then $A \otimes B$ is an algebra with the multiplication $(a_1 \otimes b_1)(a_2 \otimes b_2) := a_1 a_2 \otimes b_1 b_2$.*

PROOF. Certainly the algebra properties can easily be checked by a simple calculation with elements. We prefer for later applications a diagrammatic proof.

Let $\nabla_A : A \otimes A \rightarrow A$ and $\nabla_B : B \otimes B \rightarrow B$ denote the multiplications of the two algebras. Then the new multiplication is $\nabla_{A \otimes B} := (\nabla_A \otimes \nabla_B)(1_A \otimes \tau \otimes 1_B) : A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B \rightarrow A \otimes B$ where $\tau : B \otimes A \rightarrow A \otimes B$ is the symmetry map from Theorem 8.4.15. Now the following diagrams commute

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1^3} & A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B & \xrightarrow{\nabla \otimes \nabla \otimes 1^2} & A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B \\
 \downarrow 1^3 \otimes \tau \otimes 1 & & \swarrow 1^3 \otimes \tau \otimes 1 & & \downarrow 1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1 \\
 & & A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B & & \\
 & & \swarrow 1^2 \otimes \tau \otimes 1^2 & & \downarrow 1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1 \\
 A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1^3} & A \otimes A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B \otimes B & \xrightarrow{\nabla \otimes 1 \otimes \nabla \otimes 1} & A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B \\
 \downarrow 1 \otimes \nabla \otimes \nabla & & \downarrow 1 \otimes \nabla \otimes 1 \otimes \nabla & & \downarrow \nabla \otimes \nabla \\
 A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1} & A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B & \xrightarrow{\nabla \otimes \nabla} & A \otimes B
 \end{array}$$

In the left upper rectangle of the diagram the quadrangle commutes by the properties of the tensor product and the two triangles commute by inner properties of τ . The right upper and left lower rectangles commute since τ is a natural transformation and the right lower rectangle commutes by the associativity of the algebras A and B .

Furthermore we use the homomorphism $\eta = \eta_{A \otimes B} : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{K} \otimes K \rightarrow A \otimes B$ in the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbb{K} \otimes A \otimes B \cong A \otimes B \cong A \otimes B \otimes \mathbb{K} & \longrightarrow & A \otimes B \otimes \mathbb{K} \otimes \mathbb{K} & \xrightarrow{1^2 \otimes \eta \otimes \eta} & A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B \\
 \downarrow & \searrow & \downarrow 1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1 & & \downarrow 1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1 \\
 \mathbb{K} \otimes \mathbb{K} \otimes A \otimes B & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1} & \mathbb{K} \otimes A \otimes \mathbb{K} \otimes B & & A \otimes \mathbb{K} \otimes B \otimes \mathbb{K} \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \eta \otimes 1 \otimes \eta} A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B \\
 \downarrow \eta \otimes \eta \otimes 1^2 & \searrow & \downarrow \eta \otimes 1 \otimes \eta \otimes 1 & & \downarrow \nabla \otimes \nabla \\
 A \otimes B \otimes A \otimes B & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \tau \otimes 1} & A \otimes A \otimes B \otimes B & \xrightarrow{\nabla \otimes \nabla} & A \otimes B.
 \end{array}$$

□

Definition 8.5.4. Let \mathbb{K} be a commutative ring. Let V be a \mathbb{K} -module. A \mathbb{K} -algebra $T(V)$ together with a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $\iota : V \rightarrow T(V)$ is called a *tensor algebra over V* if for each \mathbb{K} -algebra A and for each homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $f : V \rightarrow A$ there exists a unique homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -algebras $g : T(V) \rightarrow A$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V & \xrightarrow{\iota} & T(V) \\
 & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\
 & & A
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

Note: If you want to define a homomorphism $g : T(V) \rightarrow A$ with a tensor algebra as domain you should define it by giving a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules defined on V .

Lemma 8.5.5. *A tensor algebra $(T(V), \iota)$ defined by V is unique up to a unique isomorphism.*

PROOF. Let $(T(V), \iota)$ and $(T'(V), \iota')$ be tensor algebras over V . Then

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & V & & \\
 & \swarrow & & \searrow & \\
 & \iota & & \iota' & \\
 T(V) & \xrightarrow{h} & T'(V) & \xrightarrow{k} & T(V) \xrightarrow{h} T'(V)
 \end{array}$$

implies $k = h^{-1}$.

□

Proposition 8.5.6. (Rules of computation in a tensor algebra) *Let $(T(V), \iota)$ be the tensor algebra over V . Then we have*

1. $\iota : V \rightarrow T(V)$ is injective (so we may identify the elements $\iota(v)$ and v for all $v \in V$),
2. $T(V) = \{\sum_{n, \vec{i}} v_{i_1} \cdot \dots \cdot v_{i_n} | \vec{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \text{ multiindex of length } n\}$,
3. if $f : V \rightarrow A$ is a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules, A is a \mathbb{K} -algebra, and $g : T(V) \rightarrow A$ is the induced homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -algebras, then

$$g\left(\sum_{n, \vec{i}} v_{i_1} \cdot \dots \cdot v_{i_n}\right) = \sum_{n, \vec{i}} f(v_{i_1}) \cdot \dots \cdot f(v_{i_n}).$$

PROOF. 1. Use the embedding homomorphism $j : V \rightarrow D(V)$, where $D(V)$ is defined as in 8.5.3. to construct $g : T(V) \rightarrow D(V)$ such that $g \circ \iota = j$. Since j is injective so is ι .

2. Let $B := \{\sum_{n, \vec{i}} v_{i_1} \cdot \dots \cdot v_{i_n} | \vec{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \text{ multiindex of length } n\}$. Obviously B is the subalgebra of $T(V)$ generated by the elements of V . Let $j : B \rightarrow T(V)$ be the embedding homomorphism. Then $\iota : V \rightarrow T(V)$ factors through a linear map $\iota' : V \rightarrow B$. In the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} V & \xrightarrow{\iota'} & B & \xrightarrow{j} & T(V) \\ & \searrow \iota' & \downarrow \text{id}_B & \nearrow p & \downarrow jp \\ & & B & \xrightarrow{j} & T(V) \end{array}$$

we have $\text{id}_B \circ \iota' = \iota'$. p with $p \circ j \circ \iota' = p \circ \iota = \iota' = \text{id}_{T(V)} \circ \iota$ exists since ι' is a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules. Because of $jp \circ \iota = j \circ \iota' = \iota = \text{id}_{T(V)} \circ \iota$ we get $jp = \text{id}_{T(V)}$, hence the embedding j is surjective and thus j is the identity.

3. is precisely the definition of the induced homomorphism. \square

Proposition 8.5.7. *Given a \mathbb{K} -module V . Then there exists a tensor algebra $(T(V), \iota)$.*

PROOF. Define $T^n(V) := V \otimes \dots \otimes V = V^{\otimes n}$ to be the n -fold tensor product of V . Define $T^0(V) := \mathbb{K}$ and $T^1(V) := V$. We define

$$T(V) := \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} T^i(V) = \mathbb{K} \oplus V \oplus (V \otimes V) \oplus (V \otimes V \otimes V) \oplus \dots$$

The components $T^n(V)$ of $T(V)$ are called *homogeneous components*.

The canonical isomorphisms $T^m(V) \otimes T^n(V) \cong T^{m+n}(V)$ taken as multiplication

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla &: T^m(V) \otimes T^n(V) \rightarrow T^{m+n}(V) \\ \nabla &: T(V) \otimes T(V) \rightarrow T(V) \end{aligned}$$

and the embedding $\eta : \mathbb{K} = T^0(V) \rightarrow T(V)$ induce the structure of a \mathbb{K} -algebra on $T(V)$. Furthermore we have the embedding $\iota : V \rightarrow T^1(V) \subseteq T(V)$.

We have to show that $(T(V), \iota)$ is a tensor algebra. Let $f : V \rightarrow A$ be a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules. Each element in $T(V)$ is a sum of decomposable tensors $v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n$. Define $g : T(V) \rightarrow A$ by $g(v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n) := f(v_1) \dots f(v_n)$ (and $(g : T^0(V) \rightarrow A) = (\eta : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow A)$). By induction one sees that g is a homomorphism of algebras. Since $(g : T^1(V) \rightarrow A) = (f : V \rightarrow A)$ we get $g \circ \iota = f$. If $h : T(V) \rightarrow A$ is a homomorphism of algebras with $h \circ \iota = f$ we get $h(v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n) = h(v_1) \dots h(v_n) = f(v_1) \dots f(v_n)$ hence $h = g$. \square

Proposition 8.5.8. *The construction of tensor algebras $T(V)$ defines a functor $T : \mathbb{K}\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}\text{-Alg}$ that is left adjoint to the underlying functor $U : \mathbb{K}\text{-Alg} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}\text{-Mod}$.*

PROOF. Follows from the universal property and 8.9.16. \square

Problem 8.5.2. 1. Let X be a set and $V := \mathbb{K}X$ be the free \mathbb{K} -module over X . Show that $X \rightarrow V \rightarrow T(V)$ defines a *free algebra* over X , i.e. for every \mathbb{K} -algebra A and every map $f : X \rightarrow A$ there is a unique homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -algebras $g : T(V) \rightarrow A$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & T(V) \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\ & & A \end{array}$$

commutes.

We write $\mathbb{K}\langle X \rangle := T(\mathbb{K}X)$ and call it the *polynomial ring over \mathbb{K} in the non-commuting variables X* .

2. Let $T(V)$ and $\iota : V \rightarrow T(V)$ be a tensor algebra. Regard V as a subset of $T(V)$ by ι . Show that there is a unique homomorphism $\Delta : T(V) \rightarrow T(V) \otimes T(V)$ with $\Delta(v) = v \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v$ for all $v \in V$.

3. Show that $(\Delta \otimes 1)\Delta = (1 \otimes \Delta)\Delta : T(V) \rightarrow T(V) \otimes T(V) \otimes T(V)$.

4. Show that there is a unique homomorphism of algebras $\varepsilon : T(V) \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ with $\varepsilon(v) = 0$ for all $v \in V$.

5. Show that $(\varepsilon \otimes 1)\Delta = (1 \otimes \varepsilon)\Delta = \text{id}_{T(V)}$.

6. Show that there is a unique homomorphism of algebras $S : T(V) \rightarrow T(V)^{op}$ with $S(v) = -v$. ($T(V)^{op}$ is the *opposite algebra* of $T(V)$ with multiplication $s * t := ts$ for all $s, t \in T(V) = T(V)^{op}$ and where st denotes the product in $T(V)$.)

7. Show that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T(V) & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} & \mathbb{K} & \xrightarrow{\eta} & T(V) \\ \Delta \downarrow & & & & \uparrow \nabla \\ T(V) \otimes T(V) & \xrightarrow{\frac{1 \otimes S}{S \otimes 1}} & T(V) \otimes T(V) & & \end{array}$$

commute.

Definition 8.5.9. Let \mathbb{K} be a commutative ring. Let V be a \mathbb{K} -module. A \mathbb{K} -algebra $S(V)$ together with a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $\iota : V \rightarrow S(V)$, such that $\iota(v) \cdot \iota(v') = \iota(v') \cdot \iota(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$, is called a *symmetric algebra over V* if for each \mathbb{K} -algebra A and for each homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $f : V \rightarrow A$, such that $f(v) \cdot f(v') = f(v') \cdot f(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$, there exists a unique homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -algebras $g : S(V) \rightarrow A$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{\iota} & S(V) \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\ & & A \end{array}$$

commutes.

Note: If you want to define a homomorphism $g : S(V) \rightarrow A$ with a symmetric algebra as domain you should define it by giving a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $f : V \rightarrow A$ satisfying $f(v) \cdot f(v') = f(v') \cdot f(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$.

Lemma 8.5.10. *A symmetric algebra $(S(V), \iota)$ defined by V is unique up to a unique isomorphism.*

PROOF. Let $(S(V), \iota)$ and $(S'(V), \iota')$ be symmetric algebras over V . Then

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & V & & \\ & \swarrow \iota & & \searrow \iota' & \\ S(V) & \xrightarrow{h} & S'(V) & \xrightarrow{k} & S(V) & \xrightarrow{h} & S'(V) \\ & \swarrow \iota & & \searrow \iota' & \end{array}$$

implies $k = h^{-1}$. □

Proposition 8.5.11. (Rules of computation in a symmetric algebra) *Let $(S(V), \iota)$ be the symmetric algebra over V . Then we have*

1. $\iota : V \rightarrow S(V)$ is injective (we will identify the elements $\iota(v)$ and v for all $v \in V$),
2. $S(V) = \{ \sum_{n, \vec{i}} v_{i_1} \cdots v_{i_n} | \vec{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \text{ multiindex of length } n \}$,
3. if $f : V \rightarrow A$ is a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules satisfying $f(v) \cdot f(v') = f(v') \cdot f(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$, A is a \mathbb{K} -algebra, and $g : S(V) \rightarrow A$ is the induced homomorphism \mathbb{K} -algebras, then

$$g\left(\sum_{n, \vec{i}} v_{i_1} \cdots v_{i_n}\right) = \sum_{n, \vec{i}} f(v_{i_1}) \cdots f(v_{i_n}).$$

PROOF. 1. Use the embedding homomorphism $j : V \rightarrow D(V)$, where $D(V)$ is the commutative algebra defined in 8.5.3. to construct $g : S(V) \rightarrow D(V)$ such that $g \circ \iota = j$. Since j is injective so is ι .

2. Let $B := \{\sum_{n, \bar{i}} v_{i_1} \cdots v_{i_n} | \bar{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \text{ multiindex of length } n\}$. Obviously B is the subalgebra of $S(V)$ generated by the elements of V . Let $j : B \rightarrow S(V)$ be the embedding homomorphism. Then $\iota : V \rightarrow S(V)$ factors through a linear map $\iota' : V \rightarrow B$. In the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 V & \xrightarrow{\iota'} & B & \xrightarrow{j} & S(V) \\
 & \searrow \iota' & \downarrow \text{id}_B & \nearrow p & \downarrow jp \\
 & & B & \xrightarrow{j} & S(V)
 \end{array}$$

we have $\text{id}_B \circ \iota' = \iota'$, p with $p \circ j \circ \iota' = p \circ \iota = \iota'$ exists since ι' is a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules satisfying $\iota'(v) \cdot \iota'(v') = \iota'(v') \cdot \iota'(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$. Because of $jp \circ \iota = j \circ \iota' = \iota = \text{id}_{S(V)} \circ \iota$ we get $jp = \text{id}_{S(V)}$, hence the embedding j is surjective and thus the identity.

3. is precisely the definition of the induced homomorphism. \square

Proposition 8.5.12. *Let V be a \mathbb{K} -module. The symmetric algebra $(S(V), \iota)$ is commutative and satisfies the following universal property:*

for each commutative \mathbb{K} -algebra A and for each homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $f : V \rightarrow A$ there exists a unique homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -algebras $g : S(V) \rightarrow A$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V & \xrightarrow{\iota} & S(V) \\
 & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\
 & & A
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

PROOF. Commutativity follows from the commutativity of the generators: $vv' = v'v$ which carries over to the elements of the form $\sum_{n, \bar{i}} v_{i_1} \cdots v_{i_n}$. The universal property follows since the defining condition $f(v) \cdot f(v') = f(v') \cdot f(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$ is automatically satisfied. \square

Proposition 8.5.13. *Given a \mathbb{K} -module V . Then there exists a symmetric algebra $(S(V), \iota)$.*

PROOF. Define $S(V) := T(V)/I$ where $I = \langle vv' - v'v | v, v' \in V \rangle$ is the two-sided ideal generated by the elements $vv' - v'v$. Let ι be the canonical map $V \rightarrow T(V) \rightarrow S(V)$. Then the universal property is easily verified by the homomorphism theorem for algebras. \square

Proposition 8.5.14. *The construction of symmetric algebras $S(V)$ defines a functor $S : \mathbb{K}\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}\text{-cAlg}$ that is left adjoint to the underlying functor $U : \mathbb{K}\text{-cAlg} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}\text{-Mod}$.*

PROOF. Follows from the universal property and 8.9.16. \square

Problem 8.5.3. Let X be a set and $V := \mathbb{K}X$ be the free \mathbb{K} -module over X . Show that $X \rightarrow V \rightarrow S(V)$ defines a *free commutative algebra* over X , i.e. for every commutative \mathbb{K} -algebra A and every map $f : X \rightarrow A$ there is a unique homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -algebras $g : S(V) \rightarrow A$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & S(V) \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\ & & A \end{array}$$

commutes.

The algebra $\mathbb{K}[X] := S(\mathbb{K}X)$ is called the *polynomial ring over \mathbb{K} in the (commuting) variables X* .

2. Let $S(V)$ and $\iota : V \rightarrow S(V)$ be a symmetric algebra. Show that there is a unique homomorphism $\Delta : S(V) \rightarrow S(V) \otimes S(V)$ with $\Delta(v) = v \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v$ for all $v \in V$.

3. Show that $(\Delta \otimes 1)\Delta = (1 \otimes \Delta)\Delta : S(V) \rightarrow S(V) \otimes S(V) \otimes S(V)$.

4. Show that there is a unique homomorphism of algebras $\varepsilon : S(V) \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ with $\varepsilon(v) = 0$ for all $v \in V$.

5. Show that $(\varepsilon \otimes 1)\Delta = (1 \otimes \varepsilon)\Delta = \text{id}_{S(V)}$.

6. Show that there is a unique homomorphism of algebras $S : S(V) \rightarrow S(V)$ with $S(v) = -v$.

7. Show that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} S(V) & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} & \mathbb{K} & \xrightarrow{\eta} & S(V) \\ \Delta \downarrow & & & & \uparrow \nabla \\ S(V) \otimes S(V) & \xrightarrow{\frac{1 \otimes S}{S \otimes 1}} & S(V) \otimes S(V) & & \end{array}$$

commute.

Definition 8.5.15. Let \mathbb{K} be a commutative ring. Let V be a \mathbb{K} -module. A \mathbb{K} -algebra $E(V)$ together with a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $\iota : V \rightarrow E(V)$, such that $\iota(v)^2 = 0$ for all $v \in V$, is called an *exterior algebra or Grassmann algebra over V* if for each \mathbb{K} -algebra A and for each homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules $f : V \rightarrow A$, such that $f(v)^2 = 0$ for all $v \in V$, there exists a unique homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -algebras $g : E(V) \rightarrow A$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{\iota} & E(V) \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\ & & A \end{array}$$

commutes.

The multiplication in $E(V)$ is usually denoted by $u \wedge v$.

Note: If you want to define a homomorphism $g : E(V) \rightarrow A$ with an exterior algebra as domain you should define it by giving a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules defined on V satisfying $f(v)^2 = 0$ for all $v, v' \in V$.

Problem 8.5.4. 1. Let $f : V \rightarrow A$ be a linear map satisfying $f(v)^2 = 0$ for all $v \in V$. Then $f(v)f(v') = -f(v')f(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$.

2. Let 2 be invertible in \mathbb{K} (e.g. \mathbb{K} a field of characteristic $\neq 2$). Let $f : V \rightarrow A$ be a linear map satisfying $f(v)f(v') = -f(v')f(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$. Then $f(v)^2 = 0$ for all $v \in V$.

Lemma 8.5.16. *An exterior algebra $(E(V), \iota)$ defined by V is unique up to a unique isomorphism.*

PROOF. Let $(E(V), \iota)$ and $(E'(V), \iota')$ be exterior algebras over V . Then

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & V & & \\
 & \swarrow & & \searrow & \\
 & \iota & & \iota' & \\
 & \swarrow & & \searrow & \\
 E(V) & \xrightarrow{h} & E'(V) & \xrightarrow{k} & E(V) & \xrightarrow{h} & E'(V)
 \end{array}$$

implies $k = h^{-1}$. □

Proposition 8.5.17. (Rules of computation in an exterior algebra) *Let $(E(V), \iota)$ be the exterior algebra over V . Then we have*

1. $\iota : V \rightarrow E(V)$ is injective (we will identify the elements $\iota(v)$ and v for all $v \in V$),
2. $E(V) = \{ \sum_{n, \bar{i}} v_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{i_n} | \bar{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \text{ multiindex of length } n \}$,
3. if $f : V \rightarrow A$ is a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules satisfying $f(v) \cdot f(v') = -f(v') \cdot f(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$, A is a \mathbb{K} -algebra, and $g : E(V) \rightarrow A$ is the induced homomorphism \mathbb{K} -algebras, then

$$g\left(\sum_{n, \bar{i}} v_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{i_n}\right) = \sum_{n, \bar{i}} f(v_{i_1}) \cdot \dots \cdot f(v_{i_n}).$$

PROOF. 1. Use the embedding homomorphism $j : V \rightarrow D(V)$, where $D(V)$ is the algebra defined in 8.5.3. to construct $g : E(V) \rightarrow D(V)$ such that $g \circ \iota = j$. Since j is injective so is ι .

2. Let $B := \{ \sum_{n, \bar{i}} v_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{i_n} | \bar{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \text{ multiindex of length } n \}$. Obviously B is the subalgebra of $E(V)$ generated by the elements of V . Let $j : B \rightarrow E(V)$ be the embedding homomorphism. Then $\iota : V \rightarrow E(V)$ factors through a linear map

$\iota' : V \rightarrow B$. In the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 V & \xrightarrow{\iota'} & B & \xrightarrow{j} & E(V) \\
 & \searrow \iota' & \downarrow \text{id}_B & \swarrow p & \downarrow jp \\
 & & B & \xrightarrow{j} & E(V)
 \end{array}$$

we have $\text{id}_B \circ \iota' = \iota'$, p with $p \circ j \circ \iota' = p \circ \iota = \iota'$ exists since ι' is a homomorphism of \mathbb{K} -modules satisfying $\iota'(v) \cdot \iota'(v') = -\iota'(v') \cdot \iota'(v)$ for all $v, v' \in V$. Because of $jp \circ \iota = j \circ \iota' = \iota = \text{id}_{E(V)} \circ \iota$ we get $jp = \text{id}_{E(V)}$, hence the embedding j is surjective and thus j is the identity.

3. is precisely the definition of the induced homomorphism. \square

Proposition 8.5.18. *Given a \mathbb{K} -module V . Then there exists an exterior algebra $(E(V), \iota)$.*

PROOF. Define $E(V) := T(V)/I$ where $I = \langle v^2 | v \in V \rangle$ is the two-sided ideal generated by the elements v^2 . Let ι be the canonical map $V \rightarrow T(V) \rightarrow E(V)$. Then the universal property is easily verified by the homomorphism theorem for algebras. \square

Problem 8.5.5. 1. Let V be a finite dimensional vector space of dimension n . Show that $E(V)$ is finite dimensional of dimension 2^n . (Hint: The homogeneous components $E^i(V)$ have dimension $\binom{n}{i}$).

2. Show that the symmetric group S_n operates (from the left) on $T^n(V)$ by $\sigma(v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n) = v_{\sigma^{-1}(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes v_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}$ with $\sigma \in S_n$ and $v_i \in V$.

3. A tensor $a \in T^n(V)$ is called a *symmetric tensor* if $\sigma(a) = a$ for all $\sigma \in S_n$. Let $\hat{S}^n(V)$ be the subspace of symmetric tensors in $T^n(V)$.

a) Show that $\mathcal{S} : T^n(V) \ni a \mapsto \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \sigma(a) \in T^n(V)$ is a linear map.

b) Show that \mathcal{S} has its image in $\hat{S}^n(V)$.

c) Show that $\text{Im}(\mathcal{S}) = \hat{S}^n(V)$ if $n!$ is invertible in \mathbb{K} .

d) Show that $\hat{S}^n(V) \hookrightarrow T^n(V) \xrightarrow{\nu} S^n(V)$ is an isomorphism if $n!$ is invertible in \mathbb{K} and $\nu : T^n(V) \rightarrow S^n(V)$ is the restriction of $\nu : T(V) \rightarrow S(V)$, the symmetric algebra.

4. A tensor $a \in T^n(V)$ is called an *antisymmetric tensor* if $\sigma(a) = \varepsilon(\sigma)a$ for all $\sigma \in S_n$ where $\varepsilon(\sigma)$ is the sign of the permutation σ . Let $\hat{E}^n(V)$ be the subspace of antisymmetric tensors in $T^n(V)$.

a) Show that $\mathcal{E} : T^n(V) \ni a \mapsto \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \varepsilon(\sigma)\sigma(a) \in T^n(V)$ is a linear map.

b) Show that \mathcal{E} has its image in $\hat{E}^n(V)$.

c) Show that $\text{Im}(\mathcal{E}) = \hat{E}^n(V)$ if $n!$ is invertible in \mathbb{K} .

d) Show that $\hat{E}^n(V) \hookrightarrow T^n(V) \xrightarrow{\nu} E^n(V)$ is an isomorphism if $n!$ is invertible in \mathbb{K} and $\nu : T^n(V) \rightarrow E^n(V)$ is the restriction of $\nu : T(V) \rightarrow E(V)$, the exterior algebra.

Definition 8.5.19. Let A be a \mathbb{K} -algebra. A *left A -module* is a \mathbb{K} -module M together with a homomorphism $\mu_M : A \otimes M \rightarrow M$, such that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \otimes A \otimes M & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \mu} & A \otimes M \\ \nabla \otimes \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu \\ A \otimes M & \xrightarrow{\mu} & M \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \cong \mathbb{K} \otimes M & \xrightarrow{\eta \otimes \text{id}} & A \otimes M \\ & \searrow \text{id} & \downarrow \mu \\ & & M \end{array}$$

commute.

Let ${}_A M$ and ${}_A N$ be A -modules and let $f : M \rightarrow N$ be a \mathbb{K} -linear map. The map f is called a *homomorphism of modules* if the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \otimes M & \xrightarrow{\mu_M} & M \\ 1 \otimes f \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ A \otimes N & \xrightarrow{\mu_N} & N \end{array}$$

commutes.

The left A -modules and their homomorphisms form the *category ${}_A \mathcal{M}$ of A -modules*.

Problem 8.5.6. Show that an abelian group M is a left module over the ring A if and only if M is a \mathbb{K} -module and an A -module in the sense of Definition 8.5.19.