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*Bimodules in crossed products and regular inclusions of finite factors.*

We study bimodules over a von Neumann algebra  $M$  in two related contexts. The first is in inclusions of the form  $M \subseteq M \rtimes_{\alpha} G$ , where  $G$  is a discrete group acting on a factor  $M$  by outer automorphisms. The second is a regular inclusion  $M \subseteq N$  of finite factors. In the crossed product setting, we characterize the  $M$ -bimodules in  $M \rtimes_{\alpha} G$  that are closed in the Bures topology, and show that this characterization extends to  $w^*$ -closed bimodules when the group  $G$  has the Approximation Property. As an application, we obtain a version for crossed products of a result of Mercer on extending certain  $w^*$ -continuous isometric bimodule maps. Similar results are obtained in the setting of a regular inclusion of finite factors, which generalizes the crossed product situation when the group  $G$  acts on a finite factor. This is joint work with Roger Smith. (Received July 28, 2014)