

## TENSOR PRODUCTS OF $\sigma$ -WEAKLY CLOSED NEST ALGEBRA SUBMODULES

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we prove that for any unital  $\sigma$ -weakly closed algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  which is  $\sigma$ -weakly generated by finite-rank operators in  $\mathcal{A}$ , every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\mathcal{A}$ -submodule has *Property  $S_\sigma$* . In the case of nest algebras, if  $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_n$  are nests, we obtain the following  $n$ -fold tensor product formula:

$$\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\phi_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \phi_n},$$

where each  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_i}$  is the  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}_i$ -submodule determined by an order homomorphism  $\phi_i$  from  $\mathcal{L}_i$  into itself.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the central results in the theory of tensor products of von Neumann algebras is Tomita's commutation formula:

$$(1) \quad \mathcal{M}' \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N}' = (\mathcal{M} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N})',$$

where  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  are von Neumann algebras. It was observed in [2] that if we let  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  denote the projection lattices of  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  respectively, then (1) can be rewritten as

$$(2) \quad \text{Alg}\mathcal{L}_1 \overline{\otimes} \text{Alg}\mathcal{L}_2 = \text{Alg}(\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \mathcal{L}_2).$$

This version of Tomita's theorem makes sense for any pair of reflexive algebras  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}_2$ . It remains a deep open question whether the tensor product formula (2) is valid for general reflexive algebras, or even general CSL algebras. However, (2) has been verified in a number of special cases ([2], [4], [5], [6], [7]). In particular, it is known that if  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is a commutative subspace lattice that is either completely distributive [8] or of finite width [4], then (2) is valid for  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and any subspace lattice  $\mathcal{L}_2$ .

The main purpose of this paper is to study tensor products of  $\sigma$ -weakly closed submodules of some reflexive algebras (in particular, of nest algebras). Section 1 of this paper is devoted to notation and preliminaries. In Section 2, we make use of slice maps to show that if  $\mathcal{A}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed algebra which is  $\sigma$ -weakly generated by finite-rank operators in  $\mathcal{A}$ , then every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\mathcal{A}$ -submodule has *Property  $S_\sigma$* . As a corollary, we obtain  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2}$ , where each  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$  is

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a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i$ -submodule and  $\mathcal{L}_i$  is a nest. However, the 2-fold tensor product formula cannot be generalized to the  $n$ -fold formula by induction (see the beginning of Section 3). So in Section 3, we use another method to prove the  $n$ -fold tensor product formula  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1} \overline{\otimes} \cdots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\phi_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$ , where each  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_i}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i$ -submodule and  $\mathcal{L}_i$  is a nest. The key to this proof is [3, Theorem 2] and [2, Proposition 2.4].

In this paper, all Hilbert spaces will be separable. Let  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  be the algebra of bounded operators on  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H})$  be the set of finite-rank operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ . A sublattice  $\mathcal{L}$  of the projection lattice of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  is said to be a subspace lattice if it contains 0 and  $I$  and is strongly closed, where we identify projections with their ranges. If the elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  pairwise commute,  $\mathcal{L}$  is a commutative subspace lattice (CSL). A nest is a totally ordered subspace lattice. If  $\mathcal{L}$  is a subspace lattice,  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$  denotes the set of operators in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  that leave the elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  invariant. Note that  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subalgebra of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ . If  $\mathcal{L}$  is a CSL,  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$  is said to be a CSL algebra. If  $\mathcal{L}$  is a nest,  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$  is said to be a nest algebra.

If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a subset of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ , then  $\text{Lat } \mathcal{A}$ , the set of projections left invariant by each element of  $\mathcal{A}$ , is a subspace lattice. A subalgebra  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  is reflexive if  $\mathcal{A} = \text{Alg Lat } \mathcal{A}$ . The reflexive algebras are precisely the algebras of the form  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$ , where  $\mathcal{L}$  is a subspace lattice. If  $\mathcal{L}_i \subseteq \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_i)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are subspace lattices,  $\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n$  is the subspace lattice in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_n)$  generated by  $\{P_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes P_n : P_i \in \mathcal{L}_i, i = 1, \dots, n\}$ . If  $\mathcal{S}_i \subseteq \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_i)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspaces, then  $\mathcal{S}_1 \overline{\otimes} \cdots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{S}_n$  denotes the  $\sigma$ -weakly closed linear span of  $\{S_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes S_n : S_i \in \mathcal{S}_i\}$  in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_n)$ .

The main technical tool in Section 2 is the use of slice maps. Slice maps were introduced by Tomiyama in [11] and have been used extensively in the study of tensor products of  $C^*$ -algebras and tensor products of von Neumann algebras. We recall some definitions and results from [7] and refer the reader to [7] for further results and motivation. If  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  are von Neumann algebras, and  $\phi$  is in the predual  $\mathcal{M}_*$  of  $\mathcal{M}$ , then the right slice map  $R_\phi$  is the unique  $\sigma$ -weakly continuous linear map from  $\mathcal{M} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  such that

$$\langle X, \phi \otimes \psi \rangle = \langle R_\phi(X), \psi \rangle, \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{M} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N}, \psi \in \mathcal{N}_*.$$

If  $X = A \otimes B$  ( $A \in \mathcal{M}, B \in \mathcal{N}$ ), then  $R_\phi(X) = \langle A, \phi \rangle B$ . The left slice map  $L_\psi : \mathcal{M} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}, \psi \in \mathcal{N}_*$ , is similarly defined. If  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$  are  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspaces, let

$$F(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}) = \{X \in \mathcal{M} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N} : R_\phi(X) \in \mathcal{T} \text{ and } L_\psi(X) \in \mathcal{S}, \quad \forall \phi \in \mathcal{M}_*, \psi \in \mathcal{N}_*\}.$$

As noted in [7], we can replace  $\mathcal{M}$  by  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1)$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  by  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_2)$  without affecting  $F(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T})$ . Moreover  $\mathcal{S} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T} \subseteq F(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T})$ . Tomiyama proved in [12] that if  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{T}$  are von Neumann algebras, then

$$(3) \quad \mathcal{S} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T} = F(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}).$$

His proof uses Tomita's theorem and, in fact, Tomita's theorem (1) is equivalent to the validity of (3) for von Neumann algebras. Hence (3) can be considered as a possible general version of Tomita's theorem for  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspaces.

A  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  is said to have *Property  $S_\sigma$*  if

$$\{X \in \mathcal{S} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N} : R_\phi(X) \in \mathcal{T} \text{ for all } \phi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})_*\} = \mathcal{S} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T}$$

for all pairs  $\{\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{N}\}$ , where  $\mathcal{T}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{N}$ .  $\mathcal{S}$  has *Property  $S_\sigma$*  if and only if  $F(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}) = \mathcal{S} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T}$  for all  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspaces  $\mathcal{T}$  of each von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{N}$  ([7, Remark 1.5]).

2. PROPERTY  $S_\sigma$

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a reflexive subalgebra of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ . Suppose that  $E \rightarrow \tau(E)$  is an order homomorphism of  $\text{Lat } \mathcal{A}$  into itself (i.e.,  $E \leq F$  implies  $\tau(E) \leq \tau(F)$ ). Then the set  $\mathcal{U} = \{T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) : (I - \tau(E))TE = 0, \forall E \in \text{Lat } \mathcal{A}\}$  is clearly a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\mathcal{A}$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ . We denote  $\mathcal{U}$  by  $\mathcal{U}_\tau$ .

Erdos and Power in [1] proved that any  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\mathcal{A}$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  for a nest algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is of the above form. Here the following result is due to Han Deguang [3]:

**Theorem H.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a unital  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subalgebra which is  $\sigma$ -weakly generated by rank-one operators in  $\mathcal{A}$ , and let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\mathcal{A}$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}$  has the form*

$$\mathcal{U} = \{T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) : (I - \tau(E))TE = 0, \forall E \in \text{Lat } \mathcal{A}\},$$

where  $E \rightarrow \tau(E) = [\mathcal{U}E]$  is an order homomorphism of  $\text{Lat } \mathcal{A}$  into itself.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a unital  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subalgebra of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  with the property that the finite-rank operators of  $\mathcal{A}$  are  $\sigma$ -weakly dense in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\mathcal{A}$ -submodule has *Property  $S_\sigma$* .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\mathcal{U}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\mathcal{A}$ -submodule. Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{N}$ , and suppose that  $X \in \mathcal{U} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N}$  and  $R_\phi(X) \in \mathcal{T}$  for all  $\phi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})_*$ . It suffices to show that  $X \in \mathcal{U} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T}$ . Let  $\pi$  be the normal  $*$ -isomorphism of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  into  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N}$  defined by  $\pi(A) = A \otimes I$  for  $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ . If  $F_1, F_2 \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H})$  and  $\phi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})_*$ , a routine calculation shows that  $R_\phi(\pi(F_1)X\pi(F_2)) = R_{F_2\phi F_1}(X)$ , where  $F_2\phi F_1 \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})_*$  is defined by  $\langle A, F_2\phi F_1 \rangle = \langle F_1AF_2, \phi \rangle, A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ . Hence  $R_\phi(\pi(F_1)X\pi(F_2))$  is in  $\mathcal{T}$  for all  $\phi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})_*$ . Since  $\pi(F_1)(\mathcal{U} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N})\pi(F_2) = F_1\mathcal{U}F_2 \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{N}$  and  $F_1\mathcal{U}F_2$  has *Property  $S_\sigma$*  by [7, Proposition 1.7],  $\pi(F_1)X\pi(F_2)$  is in  $F_1\mathcal{U}F_2 \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T}$ . But  $F_1\mathcal{U}F_2 \subseteq \mathcal{U}$ ; thus  $\pi(F_1)X\pi(F_2) \in \mathcal{U} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T}$ . Let  $\{F_\alpha\}$  be a net in  $\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H})$  converging  $\sigma$ -weakly to the identity map  $I$ . Then  $\pi(F_\alpha)X\pi(F)$  converges  $\sigma$ -weakly to  $X\pi(F)$  for all  $F \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H})$ , and so  $X\pi(F) \in \mathcal{U} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T}$  for all  $F \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H})$ . Finally,  $X\pi(F_\alpha)$  converges  $\sigma$ -weakly to  $X$ , and so  $X \in \mathcal{U} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{T}$ . Hence  $\mathcal{U}$  has *Property  $S_\sigma$* .  $\square$

It is known from [10] that a commutative subspace lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  is completely distributive if and only if the rank-one subalgebra of  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$  is  $\sigma$ -weakly dense in  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$ . Thus we have the following result:

**Corollary 2.2.** *If  $\mathcal{L}$  is a completely distributive CSL, then every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$ -submodule has *Property  $S_\sigma$* .*

If  $\mathcal{L}$  is a completely distributive CSL, it follows from Theorem H that every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$ -submodule is of the form  $\mathcal{U}_\tau$ , where  $E \rightarrow \tau(E)$  is an order homomorphism of  $\mathcal{L}$  into itself.

**Corollary 2.3.** *Suppose that  $\mathcal{L}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are completely distributive CSLs, and that  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i$ -submodules respectively. Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2} = F(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2})$ .*

*Proof.* A  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $\mathcal{S}$  has *Property  $S_\sigma$*  if and only if  $\mathcal{S}\overline{\otimes}\mathcal{T} = F(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T})$  for all  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspaces  $\mathcal{T}$  ([7, Remark 1.5]). Thus the corollary follows from Corollary 2.2.  $\square$

In the case of nest algebras, we can say more about tensor products of  $\sigma$ -weakly closed nest algebra submodules. In the rest of this paper, we suppose that  $\mathcal{L}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are nests on separable complex Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_i$  and  $\tau_i$  are order homomorphisms of  $\mathcal{L}_i$  into  $\mathcal{L}_i$ .

If  $L \in \mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n$ , it follows from [2, Proposition 2.4] that

$$L = \vee\{E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n : E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n \leq L\}.$$

Thus we can define

$$(\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n)(L) = \vee\{\tau_1(E_1) \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n(E_n) : E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n \leq L\}.$$

Obviously,  $(\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n)(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n) = \tau_1(E_1) \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n(E_n)$ . Thus  $\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n$  is a well-defined order homomorphism of  $\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n$  into itself and  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n)$ -submodule. Hence the equality  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_1 \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_n = \text{Alg}(\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n)$  of [2, Theorem 2.6] can be rewritten as

$$\mathcal{U}_{I_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{I_n} = \mathcal{U}_{I_1 \otimes \dots \otimes I_n},$$

where  $I_i$  is the identity map of  $\mathcal{L}_i$  into  $\mathcal{L}_i$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be nests on separable Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_i$  and  $\tau_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be order homomorphisms of  $\mathcal{L}_i$  into  $\mathcal{L}_i$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} = F(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2})$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $X \in \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} \subseteq \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2)$ . If  $E_2 \in \mathcal{L}_2$  and  $\phi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1)_*$ , it follows from [7] (1.3) that

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_2(E_2)R_\phi(X)E_2 &= R_\phi((I_1 \otimes \tau_2(E_2))X(I_1 \otimes E_2)) \\ &= R_\phi((I_1 \otimes \tau_2(E_2))(\tau_1(I_1) \otimes \tau_2(E_2))X(I_1 \otimes E_2)) \\ &= R_\phi((\tau_1(I_1) \otimes \tau_2(E_2))X(I_1 \otimes E_2)) \\ &= R_\phi(X(I_1 \otimes E_2)) = R_\phi(X)E_2. \end{aligned}$$

So  $R_\phi(X) \in \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2}$ . Similarly,  $L_\psi(X) \in \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1}$  for all  $\psi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_2)_*$ . Hence by the definition of  $F(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2})$ , we have  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} \subseteq F(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2})$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $X \in F(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2})$ . If  $E_2 \in \mathcal{L}_2$  and  $\phi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1)_*$ , then  $\tau_2(E_2)R_\phi(X)E_2 = R_\phi(X)E_2$ . Thus  $R_\phi((I_1 \otimes \tau_2(E_2))X(I_1 \otimes E_2)) = R_\phi(X(I_1 \otimes E_2))$  for all  $\phi \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1)_*$ . It follows from [7] (1.5) that

$$(I_1 \otimes \tau_2(E_2))X(I_1 \otimes E_2) = X(I_1 \otimes E_2).$$

Similarly, if  $E_1 \in \mathcal{L}_1$ , we have that  $X(E_1 \otimes I_2) = (\tau_1(E_1) \otimes I_2)X(E_1 \otimes I_2)$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} X(E_1 \otimes E_2) &= X(E_1 \otimes I_2)(I_1 \otimes E_2) \\ &= (\tau_1(E_1) \otimes I_2)X(I_1 \otimes E_2)(E_1 \otimes I_2) \\ &= (\tau_1(E_1) \otimes I_2)(I_1 \otimes \tau_2(E_2))X(E_1 \otimes E_2) \\ &= (\tau_1(E_1) \otimes \tau_2(E_2))X(E_1 \otimes E_2). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by virtue of [2, Proposition 2.4], it is easy to show that  $XL \subseteq (\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2)(L)$  for each  $L \in \mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \mathcal{L}_2$ . Hence  $X \in \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} = F(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2})$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_i$  and  $\tau_i$  be as in the preceding lemma. Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2}$ .*

*Proof.* Since every nest is a completely distributive CSL, the theorem follows from Corollary 2.3 and Lemma 2.4, obviously.  $\square$

3. THE *n*-FOLD TENSOR PRODUCT FORMULA

Since  $\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \mathcal{L}_2$  is not totally ordered in general, we cannot deduce the tensor product formula  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2 \otimes \tau_3} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_3}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2 \otimes \tau_3} &= \mathcal{U}_{(\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2) \otimes \tau_3} \\ &= \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_3} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_2} \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_3}. \end{aligned}$$

(In order to use Theorem 2.5, the second equality needs the totally ordered property of  $\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \mathcal{L}_2$ .) So we cannot generalize Theorem 2.5 to *n*-fold tensor products for  $n > 2$  by induction. In this section, instead of the slice maps, we shall use Theorem H to prove the *n*-fold tensor product formula. Let  $\mathcal{L}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) be nests and let  $\mathcal{U}_i$  be  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i$ -submodules. From Theorem H, it follows from  $\mathcal{U}_i = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$ , where  $\tau_i(E) = [\mathcal{U}_i E]$  for any  $E \in \mathcal{L}_i$ . In the rest of this section, we always use  $\tau_i$  to denote these special order homomorphisms.

**Lemma 3.1.** *For each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $E_i \in \mathcal{L}_i$  and  $f_i \in E_i$  such that  $[(\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i) f_i] = E_i$ . Then  $[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n)] = [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} E_1] \otimes \dots \otimes [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} E_n]$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i} \cdot \text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$ ,  $[\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i} E_i] = [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i} f_i]$ . By virtue of [2] Lemma 2.2,

$$E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n = [(\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_1 \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_n)(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)].$$

Thus, since  $(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_1 \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_n) = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n}$ ,

$$[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n)] = [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)].$$

Hence it suffices to prove that

$$[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)] = [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} f_1] \otimes \dots \otimes [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} f_n].$$

If  $g_i$  is any vector in  $[\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i} f_i]$ , then  $g_i$  can be norm approximated by vectors of the form  $T_i f_i$ , where  $T_i \in \mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$ . Hence  $g_1 \otimes \dots \otimes g_n$  can be approximated by vectors of the form  $T_1 f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes T_n f_n = (T_1 \otimes \dots \otimes T_n)(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)$ . Thus any vector of the form  $g_1 \otimes \dots \otimes g_n$  with  $g_i \in [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i} f_i]$  lies in  $[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)]$ . Since such vectors generate  $[\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} f_1] \otimes \dots \otimes [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} f_n]$ , we have  $[\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} f_1] \otimes \dots \otimes [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} f_n] \subseteq [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)]$ .

To prove the reverse inequality, for any  $T_i \in \mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} &[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} f_1) \otimes \dots \otimes (\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} f_n)](T_1 \otimes \dots \otimes T_n)(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n) \\ &= [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} E_1) \otimes \dots \otimes (\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} E_n)](T_1 \otimes \dots \otimes T_n)(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n) \\ &= (\tau_1(E_1) \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n(E_n))(T_1 \otimes \dots \otimes T_n)(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n) \\ &= \tau_1(E_1) T_1 E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n(E_n) T_n E_n \\ &= T_1 E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes T_n E_n \\ &= (T_1 \otimes \dots \otimes T_n)(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n). \end{aligned}$$

This shows that

$$\begin{aligned} &[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} f_1) \otimes \dots \otimes (\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} f_n)] [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n)] \\ &= [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n)]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)] &= [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n)] \\ &\leq [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} f_1] \otimes \dots \otimes [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} f_n]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)] = [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} f_1] \otimes \dots \otimes [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} f_n].$$

This completes the proof. □

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{U}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) be  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i$ -submodules and  $\tau_i(E) = [\mathcal{U}_i E]$  for any  $E \in \mathcal{L}_i$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n}$ .*

*Proof.* It is obvious that  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_1 \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_n$ -submodule. By virtue of [2, Theorem 2.6],  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n}$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n)$ -submodule. It follows from [2, Proposition 2.7] that  $\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n$  is a completely distributive CSL. Thus, Theorem H shows that  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n}$  is determined by the order homomorphism  $L \rightarrow [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})L]$  of  $\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n$  into itself.

Now suppose that  $E_i \in \mathcal{L}_i$ . For each  $i$ , choose a vector  $v_i \in E_i$  such that  $[(\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}_i)v_i] = E_i$  (the proof of the existence of such  $v_i$  is routine). It follows from Lemma 3.1 that

$$\begin{aligned} [(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n)] &= [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} E_1] \otimes \dots \otimes [\mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} E_n] \\ &= \tau_1(E_1) \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n(E_n) \\ &= (\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n)(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n). \end{aligned}$$

If  $L \in \mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n$ , [2, Proposition 2.4] shows that

$$L = \vee \{E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n : E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n \leq L\}.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} &[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})L] \\ &= \vee \{[(\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n})(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n)] : E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n \leq L\} \\ &= \vee \{(\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n)(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n) : E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n \leq L\} \\ &= (\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n)(L). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n}$  are  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n)$ -submodules determined by the same order homomorphism. This shows that

$$\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_n}.$$

□

Given general order homomorphisms  $\phi_i$  from  $\mathcal{L}_i$  into  $\mathcal{L}_i$ , we will consider the relation between  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1} \overline{\otimes} \dots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\phi_n}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \phi_n}$ . We need some lemmas at first.

For non-zero vectors  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ , the rank-one operator  $xy^*$  is defined by the equation

$$(xy^*)(z) = \langle z, y \rangle x, \quad \forall z \in \mathcal{H}.$$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Suppose that  $\mathcal{L}$  is a subspace lattice, and that  $\mathcal{U}_\phi$  is the  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$ -submodule determined by an order homomorphism  $\phi$  from  $\mathcal{L}$  into itself. Then a rank-one operator  $xy^* \in \mathcal{U}_\phi$  if and only if there exists an element  $N \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $x \in N$  and  $y \in \phi_\sim(N)^\perp$ , where  $\phi_\sim(N) = \vee \{G \in \mathcal{L} : \phi(G) \not\leq N\}$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is routine. We leave the details to the interested readers. □

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_i$  be a nest and  $\phi_i$  be an order homomorphism from  $\mathcal{L}_i$  into itself. Define  $\psi_i : I_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_i \otimes \dots \otimes I_n \rightarrow I_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{L}_i \otimes \dots \otimes I_n$  by*

$$\psi_i(I_1 \otimes \dots \otimes N_i \otimes \dots \otimes I_n) = I_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \phi_i(N_i) \otimes \dots \otimes I_n, \quad \forall N_i \in \mathcal{L}_i.$$

*Then the rank-one operator  $xy^* \in \mathcal{U}_{\psi_i}$  if and only if there exists an element  $N_i \in \mathcal{L}_i$  such that  $x \in I_1 \otimes \dots \otimes N_i \otimes \dots \otimes I_n$  and  $y \in I_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \phi_{i\sim}(N_i)^\perp \otimes \dots \otimes I_n$ .*



*Proof.* It follows from the definition of  $\mathcal{U}_\phi$  that

$$\tau(E) = [\mathcal{U}_\phi E] \leq \phi(E) \quad \text{for any } E \in \mathcal{L}.$$

So  $\tau \leq \phi$ .

Since  $\tau \leq \phi$ , we have  $\tau_\sim \geq \phi_\sim$ . So it suffices to show that  $\tau_\sim \leq \phi_\sim$ . If not, there exists  $E \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $\tau_\sim(E) \not\leq \phi_\sim(E)$ . It follows from the definition of  $\tau_\sim$  that there exists  $F \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $\tau(F) \not\leq E$  and  $F \not\leq \phi_\sim(E)$ . Thus we can choose non-zero vectors  $x, y$  such that  $x \in E$  and  $x \notin \tau(F)$ ,  $y \in \phi_\sim(E)^\perp$  and  $y \notin F^\perp$ . From Lemma 3.3, it follows that  $x \otimes y \in \mathcal{U}_\phi$ . Since  $(I - \tau(F))(x \otimes y)F \neq 0$ ,  $x \otimes y \notin \mathcal{U}_\tau$ . However it follows from the proof of Theorem H that  $\mathcal{U}_\tau = \mathcal{U}_\phi$ . This is a contradiction. Accordingly,  $\tau_\sim \leq \phi_\sim$  and  $\tau_\sim = \phi_\sim$ .  $\square$

Now we are in the position to show the general tensor product formula of  $\sigma$ -weakly closed Alg  $\mathcal{L}_i$ -submodules.

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) be nests and  $\phi_i$  be order homomorphisms from  $\mathcal{L}_i$  into itself. Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1} \overline{\otimes} \cdots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\phi_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$ .*

*Proof.* It follows from Theorem H that  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_i} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$ , where  $\tau_i(E) = [\mathcal{U}_{\phi_i} E]$  for any  $E \in \mathcal{L}_i$ . Thus by virtue of Theorem 3.2, we have that

$$\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1} \overline{\otimes} \cdots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\phi_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1} \overline{\otimes} \cdots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\tau_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_n}.$$

So it suffices to show  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$ . Since  $\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n$  is a completely distributive CSL ([2, Proposition 2.7]), it follows from [10] Theorem 3 that the rank-one operators of  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n)$  are  $\sigma$ -weakly dense in  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n)$ . So it is routine to show that the linear spans of rank-one operators in  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_n}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$  are  $\sigma$ -weakly dense in  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_n}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$  respectively. From Proposition 3.5 and Lemma 3.6, it follows that  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_n}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$  have the same rank-one operators. Therefore  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_{\phi_1} \overline{\otimes} \cdots \overline{\otimes} \mathcal{U}_{\phi_n} = \mathcal{U}_{\phi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_n}$ .  $\square$

*Remark 3.8.* Theorem 2.5 is a particular case of Theorem 3.2. In [9], Theorem 2.2 shows that  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are reflexive subspaces. Combining the above result, we know that the tensor product of  $\mathcal{U}_{\tau_i}$  is also reflexive. It is natural to ask whether the tensor product of reflexive subspaces is also reflexive. This seems a challenging problem.

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