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Let (R, \mathfrak{m}, k) be a commutative noetherian local ring. For finitely generated R -modules L , M , and N the a natural map

$$L \otimes \mathrm{Hom}(M, N) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(\mathrm{Hom}(L, M), N)$$

is a bijection of modules, if L is free. More generally, all the maps in homology

$$\theta_n^{LMN} : H_n(L \otimes^{\mathbf{L}} \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}(M, N)) \rightarrow H_n(\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}(\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}(L, M), N))$$

are bijections, if L has a finite free resolution. Thus, if R is regular then

$$\theta_n^{kMk} : H_n(k \otimes^{\mathbf{L}} \mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}(M, k)) \rightarrow H_n(\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}(\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}(k, M), k))$$

is a bijection for all modules M and all integers n .

If the dimension of R is odd, a strong converse holds: If θ_n^{kRk} is bijective for some n , then R is regular. This fails in even dimension; I shall discuss this and related questions. (Received August 16, 2005)