

135. Tensor Products of Positive Definite Quadratic Forms

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Let L, M, N be positive definite quadratic lattices over \mathbf{Z} . Our aim is to give some affirmative answers for the following two problems:

- i) If M, N are indecomposable, then is $M \otimes N$ indecomposable?
- ii) If $L \otimes M$ is isometric to $L \otimes N$, then is M isometric to N ?

Definitions and notations. By a positive definite quadratic lattice we mean a lattice L of a positive definite quadratic space V over the rational number field \mathbf{Q} ($\text{rank } L = \dim V$).

Let L be a positive definite quadratic lattice; then $m(L)$ denotes $\min Q(x)$, where Q is the quadratic form of L and x runs over non-zero elements of L , and moreover we call an element x of L a minimal vector of L if $Q(x) = m(L)$. $m(L)$ denotes the set of all minimal vectors of L , and \tilde{L} is by definition the submodule of L spanned by all minimal vectors of L .

Let L, M be positive definite quadratic lattices with bilinear forms B_L, B_M respectively. Then the tensor product $L \otimes M$ over \mathbf{Z} is a positive definite quadratic lattice with bilinear form B such that $B(x_1 \otimes y_1, x_2 \otimes y_2) = B_L(x_1, x_2)B_M(y_1, y_2)$ for any $x_i \in L, y_i \in M$.

Through this note $Q(x), B(x, y)$ denote quadratic forms and corresponding bilinear forms ($2B(x, y) = Q(x+y) - Q(x) - Q(y)$), and notations and terminologies will be those of O'Meara [2].

§ 1. Positive definite quadratic lattices of E -type and their properties.

Definition. Let L be a positive definite quadratic lattice. We say that L is of E -type if every minimal vector of $L \otimes M$ is of the form $x \otimes y$ ($x \in L, y \in M$) for any positive definite quadratic lattice M .

Theorem. (i) If L_1, L_2 are of E -type*, then $L_1 \perp L_2, L_1 \otimes L_2$ are of E -type.

(ii) If L is of E -type and if L_1 is a submodule of L with $m(L_1) = m(L)$, then L_1 is of E -type.

(iii) If L is a positive definite quadratic lattice such that either $m(L) \leq 6$ and the scale sL of $L \subseteq \mathbf{Z}$, or $\text{rank } L \leq 42$, then L is of E -type.

This is proved in [1].

§ 2. **Theorem.** Let L be an indecomposable positive definite

*) When we say that L is of E -type, L is assumed to be a positive definite quadratic lattice.