

The Dimension of Tensor Products of Commutative Algebras Over a Zero-Dimensional Ring

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0. Introduction

All the rings and algebras considered in this paper will be commutative, with identity elements and ring-homomorphisms will be unital. If A is a ring, then $\dim A$ will denote the (Krull) dimension of A , that is, the supremum of lengths of chains of prime ideals of A . An integral domain D is said to have valuative dimension n (in short, $\dim_v D = n$) if each valuation overring of D has dimension at most n and there exists a valuation overring of D of dimension n . If no such integer n exists, then D is said to have infinite valuative dimension (see [G]). For reader's convenience, recall that for any ring A , $\dim_v A = \sup\{\dim_v(A/P) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A)\}$, and that a finite-dimensional domain D is a Jaffard domain if $\dim D = \dim_v D$. As the class of Jaffard domains is not stable under localization, an integral domain D is defined to be a locally Jaffard domain if D_P is a Jaffard domain for each prime ideal P of D (see [ABDFK]). Analogous definitions are given in [C] for a finite-dimensional ring.

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In [S] Sharp proved that if K and L are two extension fields of a field k , then

$$\dim(K \otimes_k L) = \min(\text{t. d.}(K : k), \text{t. d.}(L : k)).$$

This result provided a natural starting point to explore dimensions of tensor products of somewhat general k -algebras and it was concretized by Wadsworth in [W], where the result of Sharp was extended to AF-domains (for "altitude formula"), that is, integral domains A such that

$$\text{ht } P + \text{t. d.}(A/P : k) = \text{t. d.}(A : k)$$

for all prime ideals P of A . He showed that if A_1 and A_2 are AF-domains, then

$$\dim(A_1 \otimes_k A_2) = \min(\dim A_1 + \text{t. d.}(A_2 : k), \dim A_2 + \text{t. d.}(A_1 : k)).$$

He also stated a formula for $\dim(A \otimes_k R)$ which holds for an AF-domain A , with no restriction on R . At this point, it is worthwhile to recall that an AF-domain is a (locally) Jaffard domain [Gi].

In [BGK1] we were concerned with AF-rings. A k -algebra A , where k is a field, is said to be an AF-ring provided $\text{ht } P + \text{t. d.}(A/P : k) = \text{t. d.}(A_P : k)$, for all prime ideals P of A (for non domains, $\text{t. d.}(A) = \sup\{\text{t. d.}(A/P : k) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A)\}$). A tensor product of AF-domains is perhaps the most natural example of an AF-ring. We then developed quite general results for AF-rings, showing that the results do not extend trivially from integral domains to rings with zero-divisors.

The purpose of this note is to extend all the known results on the dimension of tensor products of k -algebras to the general case where k is any zero-dimensional ring, denoted by R . The most remarkable outcome is perhaps that $\dim(A_1 \otimes_R A_2)$, where A_1 and A_2 are two R -algebras, depends on a subtle relation which intertwines their two R -module structures. Such phenomenon does not hold in the field case since any k -algebra ($\neq 0$) contains k . Thus, our investigation relies on a mild new assumption that keeps under control most results involving the ideal structures of $A_1 \otimes_R A_2$.

In the first section we extend, in a natural way, the definition of the transcendence degree over a field as well as some basic Wadsworth's results to the zero-dimensional ring case. In the same regard, Section 2 and 3 establish adequate analogues of all the results stated in [BGK1] for AF-rings. Some examples throw more light on the new phenomenon (cited above).

1. Background and preliminaries on tensor products of algebras over a zero-dimensional ring

Throughout this paper R denotes a zero-dimensional ring. We denote by (A, λ_A) an R -algebra A and its associated ring homomorphism $\lambda_A : R \rightarrow A$; we denote by λ_A^* the associated spectral map $\text{Spec}(A) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R)$.

If P is a prime ideal of A , $\lambda_A^{-1}(P)$ is a maximal ideal of R ; so we can consider the transcendence degree of the integral domain A/P over the field $R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P)$; we put:

$$\begin{aligned} t(A :_{\lambda_A} R) &= \sup\{\text{t. d.}(A/P : R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P)) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A)\} \\ &= \sup\{\text{t. d.}(A/P : R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P)) \mid P \in \text{Min}(A)\} \end{aligned}$$

and we say that $t(A :_{\lambda_A} R)$ is the transcendence degree of the R -algebra A over R ; we write $t(A : R)$ as an abbreviation for $t(A :_{\lambda_A} R)$, when there is no ambiguity. All along this note we consider only R -algebras (A, λ_A) such that $t(A :_{\lambda_A} R) < \infty$. This, of course, ensures that $\dim A < \infty$. If A is an integral domain, p_A denotes $\ker \lambda_A$.

First of all we note that the transcendence degree of an R -algebra A depends on its R -module structure, as it is shown by the next example:

Example 1. Let $R = k(X) \times k$ and $A = k(X)$, where k is a field. Let $\lambda_1 : R \rightarrow A$ be the ring homomorphism defined by $\lambda_1(x, y) = x$, and $\lambda_2 : R \rightarrow A$ be the ring homomorphism defined by $\lambda_2(x, y) = y$. We have $t(A :_{\lambda_1} R) = \text{t. d.}((k(X) : k(X))) = 0$ and $t(A :_{\lambda_2} R) = \text{t. d.}(k(X) : k) = 1$. Thus $t(A :_{\lambda_1} R) \neq t(A :_{\lambda_2} R)$.

We begin by giving a simple generalization of a well-known result [ZS] for algebras over a field.

Lemma 1.1. *Let (A, λ_A) be an R -algebra and $P \in \text{Spec}(A)$. Then*

$$\text{ht } P + t(A/P : R) \leq t(A_P : R).$$

Proof. Clearly, $t(A/P : R) = \text{t. d.}(A/P : R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P))$. If $P' \in \text{Spec}(A)$ and $P' \subseteq P$, then for the prime ideal P/P' of the $R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P)$ -algebra A/P' , by [ZS, p.10], we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ht}(P/P') + \text{t. d.}(A/P : R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P)) &\leq \text{t. d.}(A/P' : R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P)) \\ &= \text{t. d.}(A_P/P' A_P : R/\lambda_A^{-1}(P')). \end{aligned}$$

The result then follows. \square

The following elementary properties will be used frequently. These statements admit routine proofs.

Lemma 1.2. *Let (A, λ_A) be an R -algebra.*

(1) *If P is a prime ideal of A and $p = \lambda_A^{-1}(P)$, then*

$$\text{ht } P = \text{ht}(P/pA) \quad \text{and} \quad t(A_P : R) = t((A/pA)_{P/pA} : R).$$

(2) *If P is a prime ideal of A and $p = \lambda_A^{-1}(P)$, then for each $n \geq 1$*

$$\text{ht } P[X_1, \dots, X_n] = \text{ht}(P/pA)[X_1, \dots, X_n].$$

- (3) If A is a locally Jaffard ring; then A/pA is a locally Jaffard ring for each prime ideal p of R such that $pA \neq A$.

Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be R -algebras. For $i = 1, 2$, we denote by $\mu_i : A_i \rightarrow A_1 \otimes_R A_2$ the canonical A_i -algebra homomorphism. The R -algebra $A_1 \otimes_R A_2$, when not specifically indicated, has $\lambda_{A_1 \otimes_R A_2} = \mu_1 \circ \lambda_1 = \mu_2 \circ \lambda_2$ as its associated ring homomorphism. If $P_i \in \text{Spec}(A_i)$, $i = 1, 2$, j_i denotes the inclusion of P_i into A_i , t_{P_i} denotes the transcendence degree of the local ring A_{i, P_i} over R and $k(P_i)$ denotes the residue field of A_{i, P_i} . At last, we set $\Gamma(A_1, A_2) = \{(P_1, P_2) \mid P_1 \in \text{Spec}(A_1), P_2 \in \text{Spec}(A_2) \text{ and } \lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2)\}$.

A tensor product of R -algebras may be zero. We are interested in R -algebras (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) such that $A_1 \otimes_R A_2 \neq 0$, and say that such algebras are *tensorially compatible*. The next result provides some elementary and useful characterizations of tensorially compatible R -algebras. For a more general result, we refer the reader to [GD, Corollary 3.2.7.1].

Proposition 1.3. Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be R -algebras. The following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) are tensorially compatible.
- (2) $\lambda_1^*(\text{Spec}(A_1)) \cap \lambda_2^*(\text{Spec}(A_2)) \neq \emptyset$.
- (3) There exists a prime ideal P_1 of A_1 such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1)A_2 \neq A_2$.
- (4) There exists a prime ideal P_2 of A_2 such that $\lambda_2^{-1}(P_2)A_1 \neq A_1$.
- (5) There exists a prime ideal p of R such that $pA_1 \neq A_1$ and $pA_2 \neq A_2$.
- (6) $\ker \lambda_1 + \ker \lambda_2 \neq R$.

Proof. (1) \implies (2). If (1) holds, then there exists a prime ideal Q of $A_1 \otimes_R A_2$; therefore $\mu_1^{-1}(Q) \in \text{Spec}(A_1)$ and $\mu_2^{-1}(Q) \in \text{Spec}(A_2)$ are such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(\mu_1^{-1}(Q)) = \lambda_2^{-1}(\mu_2^{-1}(Q))$, and hence, $\lambda_1^*(\text{Spec}(A_1)) \cap \lambda_2^*(\text{Spec}(A_2)) \neq \emptyset$.

(2) \implies (3). Let P_1 be a prime ideal of A_1 and P_2 a prime ideal of A_2 such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2)$; then $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1)A_2 \subseteq P_2$ and so $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1)A_2 \neq A_2$.

The implications (3) \implies (4), (4) \implies (5) and (5) \implies (6) are apparent.

Finally, assume (6). Since $\ker \lambda_1 + \ker \lambda_2 \neq R$, there exists a prime ideal p of R such that $\ker \lambda_1 + \ker \lambda_2 \subseteq p$; this ensures that there exist a prime ideal P_1 of A_1 and a prime ideal P_2 of A_2 such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2) = p$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (A_1 \otimes_R A_2) / (\text{Im}(j_1 \otimes id_{A_2}) + \text{Im}(id_{A_1} \otimes j_2)) &\cong (A_1/P_1) \otimes_R (A_2/P_2) \\ &\cong (A_1/P_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/P_2) \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so $A_1 \otimes_R A_2 \neq 0$. \square

By induction, we obtain the following:

Proposition 1.4. Let $(A_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (A_n, \lambda_n)$ be R -algebras. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) $A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n \neq 0$.
- (2) $\lambda_1^*(\text{Spec}(A_1)) \cap \lambda_2^*(\text{Spec}(A_2)) \cap \dots \cap \lambda_n^*(\text{Spec}(A_n)) \neq \emptyset$.
- (3) There exists a prime ideal p of R such that $pA_i \neq A_i$ for every $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

The next result establishes an analogue to [W, Proposition 2.3].

Proposition 1.5. Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be R -algebras. Let $P_1 \in \text{Spec}(A_1)$ and $P_2 \in \text{Spec}(A_2)$ such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2) = p$. Let

$$T = A_1 \otimes_R A_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \Omega = \{Q \in \text{Spec}(A_1 \otimes_R A_2) \mid \mu_i^{-1}(Q) = P_i, i = 1, 2\}.$$

Then

- (1) Ω is lattice isomorphic to $\text{Spec}(T')$, where $T' = k(P_1) \otimes_{R/p} k(P_2)$.
- (2) A prime ideal Q of Ω is minimal in Ω if and only if $t(T/Q : R) = t(A_1/P_1 : R) + t(A_2/P_2 : R)$.
- (3) If $Q_0 \in \text{Spec}(T)$ and $\mu_i^{-1}(Q_0) \supseteq P_i, i = 1, 2$, then there exists $Q \in \Omega$ such that $Q \subseteq Q_0$.

Proof. (1) is an immediate consequence of [GD, Corollary 3.2.7.1(ii)]. The proof of (2) and (3) is quite similar to that of Wadsworth. \square

Proposition 1.5 allows us to extend partially some results of [W] to R -algebras.

Corollary 1.6. Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be tensorially compatible R -algebras. Let $Q \in \text{Spec}(A_1 \otimes_R A_2)$. Then

$$\text{ht } Q \geq \text{ht}(\mu_1^{-1}(Q)) + \text{ht}(\mu_2^{-1}(Q)).$$

We omit the proof because of its similarity to that of [W, Corollary 2.5].

Corollary 1.7. Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be tensorially compatible R -algebras. Then

$$t(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) = \sup\{t(A_1/P_1 : R) + t(A_2/P_2 : R) \mid (P_1, P_2) \in \Gamma(A_1, A_2)\}.$$

Consequently,

$$t(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) \leq t(A_1 : R) + t(A_2 : R).$$

Proof. Let $(P_1, P_2) \in \Gamma(A_1, A_2)$. Then by Proposition 1.5 there exists a prime ideal Q of $A_1 \otimes_R A_2$ such that $t((A_1 \otimes_R A_2)/Q : R) = t(A_1/P_1 : R) + t(A_2/P_2 : R)$. So

$$\sup\{t(A_1/P_1 : R) + t(A_2/P_2 : R) \mid (P_1, P_2) \in \Gamma(A_1, A_2)\} \leq t(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R).$$

Conversely, let Q be a prime ideal of $A_1 \otimes_R A_2$; the prime ideals $P_1 = \mu_1^{-1}(Q)$ and $P_2 = \mu_2^{-1}(Q)$ are such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2) = p$; let $T = A_1 \otimes_R A_2$; then, by using [W, Corollary 2.4], we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} t(T/Q : R) &= t.d.(T/Q : R/p) \\ &= t.d.\left(\frac{T/(\text{Im}(j_1 \otimes id_{A_2}) + \text{Im}(id_{A_1} \otimes j_2))}{Q/(\text{Im}(j_1 \otimes id_{A_2}) + \text{Im}(id_{A_1} \otimes j_2))} : R/p\right) \\ &\leq t.d.((A_1/P_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/P_2) : R/p) \\ &= t.d.(A_1/P_1 : R/p) + t.d.(A_2/P_2 : R/p) \\ &= t(A_1/P_1 : R) + t(A_2/P_2 : R), \end{aligned}$$

as desired. \square

Remark 1. Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be tensorially compatible R -algebras. Clearly, $t(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) = t(A_1 : R) + t(A_2 : R)$ if and only if there exist $P_1 \in \text{Spec}(A_1)$, and $P_2 \in \text{Spec}(A_2)$ such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2)$ and $t(A_1 : R) = t(A_1/P_1 : R)$, $t(A_2 : R) = t(A_2/P_2 : R)$. The second condition holds, for instance, if A_1 and A_2 are integral domains or if $\text{Spec}(R)$ is reduced to only one prime ideal. In general, the equality fails as it is shown in the next example. Moreover, when R is a field, we have $\dim(A_1 \otimes_R A_2) \geq \dim A_1 + \dim A_2$ [W, Corollary 2.5]. This is not, in general, true in the zero-dimensional case. The next example deals with these matters.

Example 2. There exist two tensorially compatible R -algebras (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) with

$$t(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) < t(A_1 : R) + t(A_2 : R)$$

and

$$\dim(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) < \dim A_1 + \dim A_2.$$

Let $R = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$, $A_1 = \mathbb{R}$ and $A_2 = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}[X]$. Let $\lambda_1 : R \rightarrow A_1$ be the ring homomorphism defined by $\lambda_1(x, y) = x$ and let $\lambda_2 : R \rightarrow A_2$ be the ring homomorphism defined by $\lambda_2(x, y) = (x, y)$. Then

$$t(A_1 :_{\lambda_1} R) = t(\mathbb{R} :_{\lambda_1} R) = t.d.(\mathbb{R} : \mathbb{R}) = 0$$

and

$$t(A_2 :_{\lambda_2} R) = t(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}[X] :_{\lambda_2} R) = \sup\{t.d.(\mathbb{R} : \mathbb{R}), t.d.(\mathbb{R}[X] : \mathbb{R})\} = 1$$

and so

$$t(A_1 :_{\lambda_1} R) + t(A_2 :_{\lambda_2} R) = 1.$$

Moreover, by Corollary 1.7,

$$t(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) = \sup\{t(A_1/P_1 : R) + t(A_2/P_2 : R) \mid (P_1, P_2) \in \Gamma(A_1, A_2)\} = t(A_1 :_{\lambda_1} R) + t(A_2/((0) \times \mathbb{R}[X]) : R) = t.d.(\mathbb{R} : \mathbb{R}) + t.d.(\mathbb{R} : \mathbb{R}) = 0.$$

Further

$$\dim(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) \leq t(A_1 \otimes_R A_2 : R) = 0 < \dim A_1 + \dim A_2 = 1. \quad \square$$

2. Tensor products of AF-rings

Definition 2.8. An R -algebra (A, λ_A) is an AF-ring if for every $P \in \text{Spec}(A)$

$$\text{ht } P + t(A/P : R) = t(A_P : R).$$

Remark 2. The AF-ring concept does not depend on the structure of algebra over R defined by the associated ring homomorphism.

Indeed, let A be a ring and let λ and $\bar{\lambda}$ be two ring homomorphisms defining two different structures of algebra over R on A . Let $P \in \text{Spec}(A)$. Let $\pi : A \rightarrow A/P$ be the natural ring homomorphism. Let $p = \ker(\pi \circ \lambda) = \lambda^{-1}(P)$ and $q = \ker(\pi \circ \bar{\lambda}) = \bar{\lambda}^{-1}(P)$. We can view R/p and R/q as subfields of A/P . Let $k = R/p \cap R/q$. We have:

$$t(A/P :_{\lambda} R) = t.d.(A/P : R/p) = t.d.(A/P : k) - t.d.(R/p : k)$$

and

$$t(A/P :_{\bar{\lambda}} R) = t.d.(A/P : R/q) = t.d.(A/P : k) - t.d.(R/q : k).$$

On the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} t(A_P :_{\lambda} R) &= \sup\{t.d.(A/Q : R/p) \mid Q \in \text{Spec}(A) \text{ and } Q \subseteq P\} \\ &= \sup\{t(A/Q : k) \mid Q \in \text{Spec}(A) \text{ and } Q \subseteq P\} - t.d.(R/p : k) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} t(A_P :_{\bar{\lambda}} R) &= \sup\{t.d.(A/Q : R/q) \mid Q \in \text{Spec}(A) \text{ and } Q \subseteq P\} \\ &= \sup\{t(A/Q : k) \mid Q \in \text{Spec}(A) \text{ and } Q \subseteq P\} - t.d.(R/q : k). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $t(A/P :_{\lambda} R) - t.d.(A_P :_{\lambda} k) = t(A/P :_{\bar{\lambda}} R) - t(A_P :_{\bar{\lambda}} R)$. Consequently, (A, λ) is an AF-ring if and only if $(A, \bar{\lambda})$ is an AF-ring.

Let \mathcal{R} be the class of R -algebras that are AF-rings. Since $R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ satisfies the first chain condition for prime ideals [G, Corollary 31.17], any finitely generated R -algebra or any integral extension of such an algebra is an AF-ring. Moreover the class \mathcal{R} is stable under localization and direct product.

The next result presents some properties of the class \mathcal{R} , and our proof of Proposition 2.3 uses the following lemma.

Lemma 2.9. *Let (A, λ_A) be an R -algebra. Then A is an AF-ring if and only if A/pA is an AF-ring over the field R/p , for each prime ideal p of R such that $pA \neq A$.*

Proof. Let P be a prime ideal of A and let $p = \lambda_A^{-1}(P)$. According to Lemma 1.2, $\text{ht } P = \text{ht}(P/pA)$ and $t(A_P : R) = t.d.((A/pA)_{P/pA} : R/p)$.

Assume that A is an AF-ring and let p be a prime ideal of R such that $pA \neq A$. Let P be a prime ideal of A containing pA ; then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ht}(P/pA) + t.d.((A/pA)/(P/pA) : R/p) &= \text{ht } P + t(A/P : R) \\ &= t(A_P : R) \\ &= t.d.((A/pA)_{P/pA} : R/p). \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, let P be a prime ideal of A and let $p = \lambda_A^{-1}(P)$. Then $pA \neq A$; so by hypothesis A/pA is an AF-ring over R/p , hence

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ht } P + t(A/P : R) &= \text{ht}(P/pA) + t.d.(A/P : R/p) \\ &= \text{ht}(P/pA) + t.d.((A/pA)/(P/pA) : R/p) \\ &= t.d.((A/pA)_{P/pA} : R/p) = t(A_P : R). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 2.10. *The class \mathcal{R} satisfies the following properties:*

- (1) *Let $(A_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (A_n, \lambda_n)$ be tensorially compatible R -algebras. If A_1, \dots, A_n are AF-rings, then $A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n$ is an AF-ring.*
- (2) *Let A be an AF-ring. Then the polynomial ring $A[X]$ is an AF-ring and for each prime ideal P of A , $\text{ht } P = \text{ht } P[X]$.*
- (3) *An AF-ring A is a locally Jaffard ring.*

Proof. (1) By induction, it suffices to consider the case $n = 2$. Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be tensorially compatible AF-rings. Let p be a prime ideal of R such that $p(A_1 \otimes_R A_2) \neq A_1 \otimes_R A_2$. By Lemma 2.2 A_1/pA_1 and A_2/pA_2 are AF-rings over the field R/p ; hence by [W, Proposition 3.1] $(A_1/pA_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/pA_2)$ is an AF-ring over R/p , so that $(A_1 \otimes_R A_2)/p(A_1 \otimes_R A_2) \cong (A_1/pA_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/pA_2)$ is an AF-ring over R/p . The proof is complete via Lemma 2.2.

(2) Since $A[X] \cong A \otimes_R R[X]$, the result follows from (1). Let P be any prime ideal of A ; so

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ht } P &\leq \text{ht } PA[X] \\ &= t(A[X]_{PA[X]} : R) - t(A[X]/PA[X] : R) \\ &\leq t(A_P[X] : R) - t((A/P)[X] : R) \\ &= \text{ht } P. \end{aligned}$$

(3) Let A be an AF-ring. By (2) we obtain that for any prime ideal P of A and for each positive integer n , $\text{ht } P = \text{ht } P[X_1, \dots, X_n]$. Hence, by [C, p.127], A is a locally Jaffard ring. \square

In the same regard, this section establishes adequate analogues of the main results stated in [BGK1] on the dimension of tensor products of AF-rings over a field. Let us consider for R -algebras the following functions (introduced in [W] for k -algebras): let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be tensorially compatible R -algebras; let $P_1 \in \text{Spec}(A_1)$ and $P_2 \in \text{Spec}(A_2)$ such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2)$. Set

$$\delta(P_1, P_2) = \sup\{\text{ht } Q \mid Q \in \text{Spec}(A_1 \otimes_R A_2) \text{ and } \mu_i^{-1}(Q) = P_i, i = 1, 2\}.$$

One may easily check that

$$\dim(A_1 \otimes_R A_2) = \sup\{\delta(P_1, P_2) \mid (P_1, P_2) \in \Gamma(A_1, A_2)\},$$

and

$$\delta(P_1, P_2) = \delta(P_1/pA_1, P_2/pA_2),$$

where $p = \lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2)$.

Let (A, λ_A) be an R -algebra, $P \in \text{Spec}(A)$ and d and s integers with $0 \leq d \leq s$. Set

$$\Delta(s, d, P) = \text{ht } PA[X_1, \dots, X_s] + \min(s, d + t(A/P : R)),$$

$$D(s, d, A) = \sup\{\Delta(s, d, P) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A)\}.$$

Next we provide a formula for the dimension of the tensor product $A \otimes_R B$, where A is an AF-ring and B is any ring.

Theorem 2.11. *Let (A, λ_A) be an AF-ring and (B, λ_B) be any R -algebra such that $A \otimes_R B \neq 0$. Let $(P, I) \in \Gamma(A, B)$. Then*

$$\delta(P, I) = \Delta(t_P, \text{ht } P, I)$$

where $t_P = t(A_P : R)$, and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(A \otimes_R B) &= \sup\{D(t_P, \text{ht } P, B/pB) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A), p = \lambda_A^{-1}(P) \text{ and } pB \neq B\} \\ &= \sup\{\text{ht } I[X_1, \dots, X_{t_P}] + \min(t_P, \text{ht } P + t(B/I : R)) \mid (P, I) \in \Gamma(A, B)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let $P \in \text{Spec}(A)$, $I \in \text{Spec}(B)$ such that $\lambda_A^{-1}(P) = \lambda_B^{-1}(I) = p$. As noted previously, $\delta(P, I) = \delta(P/pA, I/pB)$; moreover, by Lemma 2.2, A/pA is an AF-ring over the field R/p ; so we can apply Theorem 1.4 from [BGK1] to the (R/p) -algebras A/pA and B/pB , obtaining that

$$\delta(P/pA, I/pB) = \Delta(t_P, \text{ht}(P/pA), I/pB).$$

By Lemma 1.2, $\text{ht}(P/pA) = \text{ht } P$ and $t(A_P : R) = t((A/pA)_{P/pA} : R)$. Further, for any $n \geq 1$, $\text{ht } I[X_1, \dots, X_n] = \text{ht}(I/pB)[X_1, \dots, X_n]$. Hence

$$\delta(P/pA, I/pB) = \Delta(t_P, \text{ht } P, I).$$

It follows that $\delta(P, I) = \Delta(t_P, \text{ht } P, I)$, as asserted. Consequently, using the definitions of δ , Δ and D and the stated condition on $\delta(P, I)$, yields $\dim(A \otimes_R B) = \sup\{\delta(P, I) \mid (P, I) \in \Gamma(A, B)\} = \sup\{\Delta(t_P, \text{ht } P, I) \mid (P, I) \in \Gamma(A, B)\} = \sup\{D(t_P, \text{ht } P, B/pB) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A), p = \lambda_A^{-1}(P) \text{ and } pB \neq B\} = \sup\{\text{ht } I[X_1, \dots, X_{t_P}] + \min(t_P, \text{ht } P + t(B/I : R)) \mid (P, I) \in \Gamma(A, B)\}$ as we wished to show. \square

It is worthwhile to note that $\dim(A \otimes_R B)$ depends on the R -module structure of A and B . The next example illustrates this fact:

Example 3. Let (A, λ_A) and (B, λ_B) be R -algebras such that A is an AF-ring and $A \otimes_R B \neq 0$. Let p be a prime ideal of R and let $\pi : R \rightarrow R/p$ be the canonical ring homomorphism. Let $\lambda_1 : R \times R \times R \rightarrow R/p \times A$ and $\lambda_2 : R \times R \times R \rightarrow R/p \times B$ be the ring homomorphisms defined respectively by $\lambda_1(x, y, z) = (\pi(x), \lambda_A(y))$ and $\lambda_2(x, y, z) = (\pi(x), \lambda_B(z))$. It is an easy matter to verify that $\Gamma(R/p \times A, R/p \times B) = \{(0) \times A, (0) \times B\}$. Hence via Theorem 2.4, it is easy to check that the dimension of the tensor product of $((R/p \times A), \lambda_1)$ and $((R/p \times B), \lambda_2)$ is zero. On the other hand, let $\lambda'_2 : R \times R \times R \rightarrow R/p \times B$ be the ring homomorphism defined by $\lambda'_2(x, y, z) = (\pi(x), \lambda_B(y))$; now by Theorem 2.4 we obtain that the dimension of the tensor product of $((R/p \times A), \lambda_1)$ and $((R/p \times B), \lambda'_2)$ is equal to $\dim(A \otimes_R B)$. Thus, it suffices to choose A and B such that $\dim(A \otimes_R B) > 0$ (for instance, when R is a field and A, B are non trivial R -algebras). Therefore the two values are different according to the $(R \times R \times R)$ -module structure of $R/p \times A$ and $R/p \times B$.

With the further assumption that A is an AF-domain, we obtain the following :

Corollary 2.12. Let (A, λ_A) be an AF-domain and let (B, λ_B) be any R -algebra such that $A \otimes_R B \neq 0$. Then

$$\dim(A \otimes_R B) = D(t(A : R), \dim A, B/p_A B)$$

where $p_A = \ker \lambda_A$. Furthermore, if B is an integral domain, then

$$\dim(A \otimes_R B) = D(t(A : R), \dim A, B).$$

Proof. Since A is an integral domain, for any prime ideal P of A , $\lambda_A^{-1}(P) = p_A$ and $t(A_P : R) = t(A : R)$; so Theorem 2.4 implies that $\dim(A \otimes_R B) = \sup\{D(t(A : R), \text{ht } P, B/p_A B) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A)\}$. Since $D(s, d, A)$ is

a nondecreasing function of the second argument, then $\dim(A \otimes_R B) = D(t(A : R), \dim A, B/p_A B)$, as asserted. \square

Next, we state a technical result that allows us to determine a necessary and sufficient condition under which the dimension of the tensor product of AF-rings over a zero-dimensional ring satisfies the formula of Wadsworth's Theorem 3.8.

Proposition 2.13. Let $(A_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (A_n, \lambda_n)$ be tensorially compatible AF-rings. Then

$$\dim(A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n) = \sup\{\min(\text{ht } M_1 + t_{M_2} + \dots + t_{M_n}, t_{M_1} + \text{ht } M_2 + \dots + t_{M_n}, \dots, t_{M_1} + \dots + t_{M_{n-1}} + \text{ht } M_n) \mid M_i \in \text{Max}(A_i) \text{ and } \lambda_1^{-1}(M_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(M_2) = \dots = \lambda_n^{-1}(M_n)\}.$$

Proof. It is deduced from the fact that $\dim(A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n) = \sup\{\dim((A_1/P_1) \otimes_R (A_2/P_2) \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R (A_n/P_n)) \mid P_i \in \text{Spec}(A_i) \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n \text{ and } \lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2) = \dots = \lambda_n^{-1}(P_n)\} = \sup\{\dim((A_1/pA_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/pA_2) \otimes_{R/p} \dots \otimes_{R/p} (A_n/pA_n)) \mid p \in \text{Spec}(R), \text{ and } pA_i \neq A_i \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n\}$; now we conclude via [BGK1, Lemma 1.6 and Remark 1.7]. \square

Theorem 2.14. Let $(A_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (A_n, \lambda_n)$ be tensorially compatible AF-rings with $t_i = t(A_i : R)$ and $d_i = \dim A_i$. Then $\dim(A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n) = t_1 + \dots + t_n - \max\{t_i - d_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ if and only if there exist maximal ideals M_1, \dots, M_n belonging respectively to A_1, \dots, A_n such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(M_1) = \dots = \lambda_n^{-1}(M_n)$, and there exists $r \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $\text{ht } M_r = d_r$ and for any $j \in \{1, \dots, n\} - \{r\}$, $t_{M_j} = t_j$ and $t(A_j/M_j : R) \leq t(A_r/M_r : R)$.

Proof. It is deduced from the fact that $\dim(A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n) = \sup\{\dim((A_1/pA_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/pA_2) \otimes_{R/p} \dots \otimes_{R/p} (A_n/pA_n)) \mid p \in \text{Spec}(R) \text{ and } pA_i \neq A_i, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and [BGK1, Theorem 1.8]. \square

Corollary 2.15. Let $(A_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (A_n, \lambda_n)$ be tensorially compatible AF-rings with $t_i = t(A_i : R)$ and $d_i = \dim A_i$. If one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (1) There exist maximal ideals M_1, \dots, M_n belonging respectively to A_1, \dots, A_n such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(M_1) = \dots = \lambda_n^{-1}(M_n)$ and $\text{ht } M_i = d_i$, $t_{M_i} = t_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.
- (2) If M_1, \dots, M_n are maximal ideals belonging respectively to A_1, \dots, A_n such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(M_1) = \dots = \lambda_n^{-1}(M_n)$, then $t_{M_i} = t_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

- (3) If P_1, \dots, P_n are minimal prime ideals belonging respectively to A_1, \dots, A_n such that $\lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \dots = \lambda_n^{-1}(P_n)$, then $t(A_i/P_i : R) = t_i$, for $i = 1, \dots, n$.
- (4) A_1, \dots, A_n are equicodimensional.

then

$$\dim(A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n) = t_1 + \dots + t_n - \max\{t_i - d_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}.$$

The proofs of (1), (2), (3) and (4) are similar to those of [BGK1, Corollaries 1.10, 1.11, 1.13, and 1.14], respectively.

Corollary 2.16. Let $(A_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (A_n, \lambda_n)$ be tensorially compatible AF-domains with $t_i = t(A_i : R)$ and $d_i = \dim(A_i)$. Then

$$\dim(A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n) = t_1 + \dots + t_n - \max\{t_i - d_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}.$$

Proof. Since $A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n \neq 0$, by Proposition 1.4 we have $p_{A_1} = p_{A_2} = \dots = p_{A_n} = p$; then $A_1 \otimes_R \dots \otimes_R A_n \cong A_1 \otimes_{R/p} \dots \otimes_{R/p} A_n$. The result follows from [W, Theorem 3.8]. \square

Now we consider the special case in which $(A_1, \lambda_1) = (A_2, \lambda_2)$.

Corollary 2.17. Let (A, λ_A) be an AF-ring. Then $\dim(A \otimes_R A) = \dim A + t(A : R)$ if and only if there exist maximal ideals M and N in A such that $\lambda_A^{-1}(M) = \lambda_A^{-1}(N)$, $\text{ht } M = \dim A$, $t(A_N : R) = t(A : R)$ and $t(A/N : R) \leq t(A/M : R)$.

3. The valuative dimension of tensor products and Jaffard rings

[BGK1, Theorem 2.1] establishes that if A is an AF-ring over a field k and B is a locally Jaffard ring, then $A \otimes_k B$ is a locally Jaffard ring. We next extend this result to AF-rings over a zero-dimensional ring.

Theorem 3.18. Let (A, λ_A) be an AF-ring and (B, λ_B) a locally Jaffard ring such that $A \otimes_R B \neq 0$. Then $A \otimes_R B$ is a locally Jaffard ring.

Proof. It is sufficient to prove that for each prime ideal Q of $A \otimes_R B$ and for each nonnegative integer n , $\text{ht } Q[X_1, \dots, X_n] = \text{ht } Q$ (see [ABDFK] and [C]). Let $P = \mu_A^{-1}(Q)$, $I = \mu_B^{-1}(Q)$ and $p = \lambda_{A \otimes_R B}^{-1}(Q)$; according to Lemma 2.2, A/pA is an AF-ring over the field R/p ; moreover, by Lemma 1.2 B/pB is a locally Jaffard ring; so we can apply Theorem 2.1 of [BGK1] to the (R/p) -algebras A/pA and B/pB obtaining that $(A/pA) \otimes_{R/p} (B/pB)$ is a locally Jaffard ring. Since $(A/pA) \otimes_{R/p} B/pB \cong (A \otimes_R B)/p(A \otimes_R B)$, then for each nonnegative integer n , it results that $\text{ht}((Q/p(A \otimes_R B))[X_1, \dots, X_n]) =$

$\text{ht } (Q/p(A \otimes_R B))$; so according to Lemma 1.2, $\text{ht } Q = \text{ht } Q[X_1, \dots, X_n]$, as desired. \square

Remark 3. Let (A, λ_A) be an AF-ring and (B, λ_B) any R -algebra such that $A \otimes_R B \neq 0$. Let $Q \in \text{Spec}(A \otimes_R B)$, $P = \mu_A^{-1}(Q)$ and $I = \mu_B^{-1}(Q)$. We obtain from [BGK 1, Lemma 2.2] the following result:

$$\text{ht } Q + t((A \otimes_R B)/Q : R) = t_P + \text{ht } I[X_1, \dots, X_{t_P}] + t(B/I : R).$$

Let us recall that the valuative dimension of tensor products of algebras over a field does not seem to be effectively computable in general. However, [Gi, Proposition 3.1] states that provided A_1 and A_2 are two algebras over a field k , then

$$\dim_v(A_1 \otimes_k A_2) \leq \min(\dim_v A_1 + t.d.(A_2 : k), t.d.(A_1 : k) + \dim_v A_2).$$

The next result establishes the analogue of this result for the zero-dimensional case.

Proposition 3.19. Let (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) be tensorially compatible R -algebras. Then

$$\dim_v(A_1 \otimes_R A_2) \leq \min(\dim_v A_1 + t(A_2 : R), t(A_1 : R) + \dim_v A_2).$$

Proof. Let Q be any prime ideal of $A_1 \otimes_R A_2$; let $P_1 = \mu_1^{-1}(Q)$, $P_2 = \mu_2^{-1}(Q)$ and $p = \lambda_1^{-1}(P_1) = \lambda_2^{-1}(P_2)$. Let $T = A_1 \otimes_R A_2$. Then

$$\dim_v(T/Q) \leq \dim_v(T/(\text{Im}(j_1 \otimes id_{A_2}) + \text{Im}(id_{A_1} \otimes j_2))).$$

Moreover, using the canonical isomorphism

$$T/(\text{Im}(j_1 \otimes id_{A_2}) + \text{Im}(id_{A_1} \otimes j_2)) \cong (A_1/P_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/P_2)$$

and [Gi, Proposition 3.1], yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_v(T/Q) &\leq \dim_v((A_1/P_1) \otimes_{R/p} (A_2/P_2)) \\ &\leq \min(\dim_v A_1/P_1 + t(A_2/P_2 : R), \dim_v A_2/P_2 + t(A_1/P_1 : R)) \\ &\leq \min(\dim_v A_1 + t(A_2 : R), \dim_v A_2 + t(A_1 : R)). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

The next result handles the case where one of two R -algebras is an AF-ring.

Proposition 3.20. Let (A, λ_A) and (B, λ_B) be tensorially compatible R -algebras and A an AF-ring. Then, for any $r \geq \dim_v B - 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_v(A \otimes_R B) &= \\ \sup\{D(t_P + r, \text{ht } P + r, B/pB) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A), p = \lambda_A^{-1}(P) \text{ and } pB \neq B\} - r &= \\ \sup\{\text{ht } I[X_1, \dots, X_r] + \min(t_P, \text{ht } P + t(B/I : R)) \mid (P, I) \in \Gamma(A, B)\}. & \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let $r \geq \dim_v B - 1$. Then, by [C, Proposition 1, ii)], $B[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ is a locally Jaffard ring. So, according to Theorem 3.1, $A \otimes_R B[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ is a locally Jaffard ring and hence a Jaffard ring. Therefore, by Corollary 2.5, $\dim_v(A \otimes_R B[X_1, \dots, X_r]) = \dim(A \otimes_R B[X_1, \dots, X_r]) = \sup\{D(t_P, htP, (B/pB)[X_1, \dots, X_r]) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A) \text{ with } \lambda_A^{-1}(P) = p \text{ and } pB \neq B\}$. Hence, according to [BGK1, Lemma 2.3], $\dim_v(A \otimes_R B) = \sup\{D(t_P + r, htP + r, B/pB) \mid P \in \text{Spec}(A) \text{ with } \lambda_A^{-1}(P) = p \text{ and } pB \neq B\} - r = \sup\{htI[X_1, \dots, X_r] + \min(t_P, htP + t(B/I : R)) \mid (P, I) \in \Gamma(A, B)\}$. \square

We conclude this section with two results on AF-domains.

Corollary 3.21. *Let (A, λ_A) be an AF-domain and B any R -algebra such that $A \otimes_R B \neq 0$. Then for any $r \geq \dim_v B - 1$ $\dim_v(A \otimes_R B) = D(t+r, d+r, B/p_AB) - r = \sup\{htQ[X_1, \dots, X_r] + \min(t, d + t(B/I : R)) \mid I \in \text{Spec}(B) \text{ and } \lambda_B^{-1}(I) = p_A\}$, where $t = t(A : R)$ and $d = \dim A$.*

Corollary 3.22. *Let (A, λ_A) and (B, λ_B) be R -algebras such that A is an AF-domain and $A \otimes_R B \neq 0$. If $\dim_v B \leq t(A : R) + 1$, then $A \otimes_R B$ is a Jaffard ring.*

Remark 4. We thank the Referee for the following observation. Let A_{red} be the reduced ring associated to a ring A . Then $t(A : R) = t(A_{red} : R_{red})$ for any R -algebra (A, λ_A) ; moreover, if (A_1, λ_1) and (A_2, λ_2) are R -algebras, then $(A_1 \otimes_R A_2)_{red} = ((A_1)_{red} \otimes_{R_{red}} (A_2)_{red})_{red}$ [GD, Corollary 4.5.12]. One may therefore assume that R is absolutely flat and (A_1, λ_1) , (A_2, λ_2) are reduced R -algebras.

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