

There is a point of view on twisting by n that has always made more sense to me than the usual definition (as well as helping me keep track of indices). Let $X = \text{Proj } S$. The usual Proj construction gives us a sheaf of rings \mathcal{O}_X on X ; however, with a slight modification of this construction, we obtain instead a sheaf of graded rings

$$\mathcal{S} = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{O}_X(n).$$

This can be used as the definition for the twisting sheaves $\mathcal{O}_X(n)$. A more precise explanation follows.

Let S_\bullet be a \mathbb{Z}^+ -graded ring, finitely generated over $A = S_0$ and generated in degree one. Let $X = \text{Proj } S_\bullet$.

Let M be a graded S -module. Then

$$\Gamma(D_+(f), \mathcal{M}) = M_f$$

defines a quasicoherent sheaf \mathcal{M} of graded \mathcal{O}_X -modules. We then have

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}_+ &= \mathcal{M}_0 \\ \widetilde{M}_+(n) &= \mathcal{M}_n. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to define a natural map $M \rightarrow \Gamma(X, \mathcal{M})$. Since this respects grading, we obtain maps $M_n \rightarrow \Gamma(X, \widetilde{M}_+(n))$.

In the particular case that $M = S$, we have that \mathcal{S} is in fact the graded \mathcal{O}_X -algebra

$$\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{O}_X(n).$$

If S is a polynomial ring over A , so that $X = \mathbb{P}_A^n$, then it is not hard to show that the natural maps $S_n \rightarrow \Gamma(X, \mathcal{S}_n)$ are isomorphisms, telling us precisely the global sections of $\mathcal{O}(n)$ in this case. One can do something similar to equate rational sections with homogeneous rational functions in this case.

One shows that

$$\mathcal{S}_n \otimes \widetilde{M}_+ \rightarrow \widetilde{M}_+(n)$$

is an isomorphism by restricting to $D_+(f)$, where f is of degree one. These cover X since S is generated in degree one. Thus, for a general quasicoherent sheaf \mathcal{F} , we may define $\mathcal{F}(n) = \mathcal{O}_X(n) \otimes \mathcal{F}$, as usual. This shows in particular that the notion of twisting by n as defined above is well-defined on quasicoherent sheaves.