

Notes on the book:
Ash, Probability and Measure Theory,
2nd edition

Meng-Gen Tsai
plover@gmail.com

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Chapter 1: Fundamentals of Measure and Integration Theory

1.1. Introduction

Problem 1.1.1.

Establish formulas (1)-(5).

Formulas.

(1) If $A_n \uparrow A$, then $A_n^c \downarrow A^c$; If $A_n \downarrow A$, then $A_n^c \uparrow A^c$.

(2)

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = A_1 \cup (A_1^c \cap A_2) \cup (A_1^c \cap A_2^c \cap A_3) \\ \cup \dots \cup (A_1^c \cap \dots \cap A_{n-1}^c \cap A_n).$$

(3) Furthermore,

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_1^c \cap \dots \cap A_{n-1}^c \cap A_n).$$

(4) If the A_n form an increasing sequence, then

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = A_1 \cup (A_2 - A_1) \cup \dots \cup (A_n - A_{n-1}).$$

(5) If the A_n form an increasing sequence, then

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n - A_{n-1})$$

(take A_0 as the empty set).

Proof of Formula (1).

(1) Suppose that $A_n \uparrow A$ is an increasing sequence of sets with limit A . Then $A_1 \subset A_2 \subset \dots$ and $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = A$. So $A_1^c \supset A_2^c \supset \dots$ and

$$\bigcap_n A_n^c = \left(\bigcup_n A_n \right)^c = A^c$$

by the De Morgan laws. Hence $A_n \uparrow A$ implies that $A_n^c \downarrow A^c$.

- (2) Conversely, suppose that $A_n \downarrow A$ is an decreasing sequence of sets with limit A . Then $A_1 \supset A_2 \supset \cdots$ and $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = A$. So $A_1^c \subset A_2^c \subset \cdots$ and

$$\bigcup_n A_n^c = \left(\bigcap_n A_n \right)^c = A^c$$

by the De Morgan laws. Hence $A_n \downarrow A$ implies that $A_n^c \uparrow A^c$.

□

Proof of Formula (2).

- (1) Set

$$B_i = A_1^c \cap \cdots \cap A_{i-1}^c \cap A_i$$

for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Observe that $B_1 = A_1$. So it is equivalent to show that

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i.$$

- (2) Since each B_i is a subset of A_i , $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \supset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i$.
(3) Conversely, given any $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$. $x \in A_j$ for some j . Now take the minimal value of j such that $x \in A_j$. The minimality of j implies that $x \notin A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{j-1}$. Hence

$$x \in A_1^c \cap \cdots \cap A_{j-1}^c \cap A_j = B_j \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i.$$

Therefore, $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i$.

- (4) By (2)(3), $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ and $\bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i$ are equal.

□

Proof of Formula (3). Same as the proof of formula (2) since the minimality of j described in part (3) exists. □

Proof of Formula (4).

- (1) As A_n form an increasing sequence, $A_1 \subset A_2 \subset \cdots$ or $A_1^c \supset A_2^c \supset \cdots$.
Hence

$$A_1^c \cap \cdots \cap A_{i-1}^c = A_{i-1}^c.$$

Therefore, B_i is reduced to

$$B_i = A_1^c \cap \cdots \cap A_{i-1}^c \cap A_i = A_{i-1}^c \cap A_i = A_i - A_{i-1}.$$

(2) Now formula (2) becomes

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n (A_i - A_{i-1}).$$

□

Proof of Formula (5). Note that $B_n = A_n - A_{n-1}$ in the proof of formula (4). Formula (3) becomes $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n - A_{n-1})$. □

Problem 1.1.2.

Define sets of real numbers as follows. Let $A_n = (-\frac{1}{n}, 1]$ if n is odd, and $A_n = (-1, \frac{1}{n}]$ if n is even. Find $\limsup_n A_n$ and $\liminf_n A_n$.

Proof.

(1) Write

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k &= \left(\bigcup_{k=\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} A_{2k+1} \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{k=\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} A_{2k} \right) \\ &= \left(\bigcup_{k=\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{2k+1}, 1 \right] \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{k=\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} \left(-1, \frac{1}{2k} \right] \right) \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{2\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1}, 1 \right] \cup \left(-1, \frac{1}{2\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor} \right] \\ &= (-1, 1] \end{aligned}$$

for each k . Hence

$$\limsup_n A_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1, 1] = (-1, 1].$$

(2) Similarly, for each k we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k &= \left(\bigcap_{k=\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} A_{2k+1} \right) \cap \left(\bigcap_{k=\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} A_{2k} \right) \\ &= \left(\bigcap_{k=\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{2k+1}, 1 \right] \right) \cap \left(\bigcap_{k=\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor}^{\infty} \left(-1, \frac{1}{2k} \right] \right) \\ &= [0, 1] \cup (-1, 0] \\ &= \{0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\liminf_n A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{0\} = \{0\}.$$

□

Problem 1.1.5.

Establish formulas (10)-(13).

Formulas.

(10)

$$\left(\limsup_n A_n \right)^c = \liminf_n A_n^c.$$

(11)

$$\left(\liminf_n A_n \right)^c = \limsup_n A_n^c.$$

(12)

$$\liminf_n A_n \subset \limsup_n A_n.$$

(13) If $A_n \uparrow A$ or $A_n \downarrow A$, then $\liminf_n A_n = \limsup_n A_n = A$.

Proof of Formula (10). The De Morgan laws shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\limsup_n A_n \right)^c &= \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k \right)^c \\ &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k \right)^c \\ &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k^c \\ &= \liminf_n A_n^c. \end{aligned}$$

□

Proof of Formula (11). Similar to the proof of formula (10).

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(\liminf_n A_n\right)^c &= \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k\right)^c \\
&= \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k\right)^c \\
&= \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k^c \\
&= \limsup_n A_n^c.
\end{aligned}$$

□

Proof of Formula (12). Formulas (7) and (9) give all. □

Proof of Formula (13).

(1) If $A_n \uparrow A$, then

$$\limsup_n A_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A = A$$

and

$$\liminf_n A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = A.$$

(2) If $A_n \downarrow A$, then

$$\limsup_n A_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = A$$

and

$$\liminf_n A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A = A.$$

□

Problem 1.1.6.

Let $A = (a, b)$ and $B = (c, d)$ be disjoint open intervals of \mathbb{R} , and let $C_n = A$ if n is odd, $C_n = B$ if n is even. Find $\limsup_n C_n$ and $\liminf_n C_n$.

Proof.

(1)

$$\limsup_n C_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} C_k = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} (A \cup B) = A \cup B.$$

(2)

$$\liminf_n C_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} C_k = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \emptyset = \emptyset.$$

□

1.2. Fields, σ -Fields, and Measures

Problem 1.2.1.

Let Ω be a countably infinite set, and let \mathcal{F} consist of all subsets of Ω . Define $\mu(A) = 0$ if A is finite, $\mu(A) = \infty$ if A is infinite.

- (a) Show that μ is finitely additive but not countably additive.
- (b) Show that Ω is the limit of an increasing sequence of sets A_n with $\mu(A_n) = 0$ for all n , but $\mu(\Omega) = \infty$.

Proof of (a).

- (1) Show that μ is finitely additive. Given a finitely collection of disjoint sets A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n in \mathcal{F} . If each set A_k ($k = 1, 2, \dots, n$) is finite, then $\bigcup A_k$ is also finite and thus we have

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k\right) = 0 = \sum_{k=1}^n \mu(A_k).$$

If there is some $A_{k'}$ is infinite, then $\bigcup A_k \supset A_{k'}$ is also infinite and thus

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k\right) = \infty = \sum_{k=1}^n \mu(A_k).$$

- (2) Show that μ is not countably additive. Write

$$\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots\}$$

(since Ω is countably infinite) and $A_n = \{\omega_n\}$ for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Hence A_1, A_2, \dots is a countably infinitely collection of disjoint sets and $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \Omega$. Therefore,

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) = \mu(\Omega) = \infty$$

but

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 0 = 0.$$

□

Proof of (b).

- (1) Similar to the proof of (a). Write $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots\}$ and

$$A_n = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n\}.$$

for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$

- (2) Therefore, $A_n \uparrow \Omega$, $\mu(A_n) = 0$ for all n but $\mu(\Omega) = \infty$. (Theorem 1.2.7 implies that μ cannot be a countably additive.)

□

Problem 1.2.2.

Let μ be counting measure on Ω , where Ω is an infinite set. Show that there is a sequence of sets $A_n \downarrow \emptyset$ with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(A_n) \neq 0$.

Proof.

- (1) Take a sequence of elements

$$\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots$$

from Ω . It is possible since Ω is an infinite set.

- (2) Define

$$A_n = \{\omega_n, \omega_{n+1}, \dots\} \subset \Omega$$

for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$. So $A_n \downarrow \emptyset$ and each $\mu(A_n) = \infty$. Hence

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(A_n) = \infty.$$

□

Problem 1.2.5.

Let μ be a nonnegative, finitely additive set function on the field \mathcal{F} . If A_1, A_2, \dots are disjoint sets in \mathcal{F} and $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \in \mathcal{F}$, show that

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) \geq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n).$$

Proof.

- (1) Note that μ is a nonnegative, finitely additive set function on \mathcal{F} . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) &\geq \mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^m A_n\right) && \text{(Theorem 1.2.5)} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^m \mu(A_n) \end{aligned}$$

for every m .

- (2) Since $\sum_{n=1}^m \mu(A_n)$ is bounded by $\mu(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n)$ and μ is nonnegative, the result is established as letting $m \rightarrow \infty$.

□