

Lecture 7: Modes of Convergence

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1 Mode of Convergence

1.1 Convergence of Functions in Measure Space

- **Remark (*Convergence of Functions vs. Convergence of Numbers and Vectors*)**
Convergence of numbers $a_n \rightarrow a$ and convergence of vector $\mathbf{v}_n \rightarrow \mathbf{v}$ are both *unambiguous*:

1. $a_n \rightarrow a$ means that $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for $n \geq N, |a_n - a| \leq \epsilon$;
2. $\mathbf{v}_n \rightarrow \mathbf{v}$ means that $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for $n \geq N, \|\mathbf{v}_n - \mathbf{v}\| \leq \epsilon$; Note that the choice of norm in Euclidean space will not affect the convergence results: convergence in ℓ_p will implies convergence in ℓ_q norm.

However, for functions $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, there can now be *many different ways* in which the sequence f_n may or may not converge to the limit f . Note that a_n can be thought as f_n with singular domain $X = \{1\}$ and \mathbf{v}_n can be thought of f_n with finite set $X = \{1, \dots, d\}$. On the other hand, once X becomes *infinite*, the functions f_n acquire an *infinite number of degrees of freedom*, and this allows them to approach f in any number of *inequivalent ways*.

- **Remark (*Two Basic Modes of Convergence*)** [Royden and Fitzpatrick, 1988, Tao, 2011]

1. **Definition (*Pointwise Convergence*)**

We say that f_n converges to f *pointwise* if, for any $x \in X$ and $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $N > 0$ (*that depends on ϵ and x*) such that for all $n \geq N, |f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$. Denoted as $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$.

2. **Definition (*Uniform Convergence*)**

We say that f_n converges to f *uniformly* if, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $N > 0$ (*that depends on ϵ only*) such that for all $n \geq N, |f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$ for every $x \in X$. Denoted as $f_n \rightarrow f$, *uniformly*.

Unlike pointwise convergence, the time N at which $f_n(x)$ must be permanently ϵ -close to $f(x)$ is not permitted to depend on x , but must instead be chosen *uniformly* in x .

- **Remark (*Uniform \Rightarrow Pointwise, Not Vice Versa*)**

Uniform convergence implies pointwise convergence, but not conversely.

Example The functions $f_n : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f_n(x) := x/n$ converge *pointwise* to the zero function $f(x) := 0$, but *not uniformly*.

- **Remark (*Modes of Convergence of Measurable Functions*)**

When the domain X is equipped with the structure of a measure space (X, \mathcal{B}, μ) , and the functions f_n (and their limit f) are measurable with respect to this space. In this context, we have some *additional modes of convergence*:

1. **Definition (*Pointwise Almost Everywhere Convergence*)**

We say that f_n converges to f *pointwise almost everywhere* if, for μ -*almost everywhere* $x \in X$, $f_n(x)$ converges to $f(x)$. It is denoted as $f_n \xrightarrow{a.e.} f$.

In other words, there exists *a null set* E , ($\mu(E) = 0$) such that for *any* $x \in X \setminus E$ and any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $N > 0$ (*that depends on ϵ and x*) such that for all $n \geq N, |f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$.

2. **Definition** (*Uniformly Almost Everywhere Convergence*) [Tao, 2011]

We say f_n converges to f uniformly almost everywhere, essentially uniformly, or in L^∞ norm if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists N such that for every $n \geq N$, $|f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$, for μ -almost every $x \in X$.

That is, $f_n \rightarrow f$ *uniformly* in $x \in X \setminus E$, for some E with $\mu(E) = 0$.

We can also formulate in terms of L^∞ **norm** as

$$\|f_n(x) - f(x)\|_{L^\infty(X)} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

where $\|f\|_{L^\infty(X)} = \text{ess sup}_x |f(x)| \equiv \inf_{\{E: \mu(E)=0\}} \sup_{x \in X \setminus E} |f(x)|$ is the **essential bound**. It

is denoted as $f_n \xrightarrow{L^\infty} f$.

3. **Definition** (*Almost Uniform Convergence*) [Tao, 2011]

We say that f_n converges to f almost uniformly if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an **exceptional set** $E \in \mathcal{B}$ of measure $\mu(E) \leq \epsilon$ such that f_n converges **uniformly** to f on the *complement* of E .

That is, for arbitrary δ there exists some E with $\mu(E) \leq \delta$ such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ *uniformly* in $x \in X \setminus E$.

4. **Definition** (*Convergence in L^1 Norm*)

We say that f_n converges to f in L^1 norm if the quantity

$$\|f_n - f\|_{L^1(X)} = \int_X |f_n(x) - f(x)| d\mu \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

It is also called the convergence **in mean**. Denoted as $f_n \xrightarrow{L^1} f$.

5. **Definition** (*Convergence in Measure*)

We say that f_n converges to f in measure if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, the measures

$$\mu(\{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq \epsilon\}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

Denoted as $f_n \xrightarrow{\mu} f$.

- **Remark** The difference between the **uniformly almost everywhere convergence** vs. the **almost uniformly convergence** is that:

1. the **former** corresponds to *uniform convergence outside a null set*, and
2. the **latter** corresponds to *uniform convergence outside an arbitrary small measure set (but still not a null set)*.

- **Remark** Observe that each of *these five modes of convergence* is **unaffected** if one **modifies** f_n or f on **a set of measure zero**. In contrast, the *pointwise* and *uniform* modes of convergence can be **affected** if one modifies f_n or f *even on a single point*.

- **Remark** In the context of *probability theory*, in which f_n and f are interpreted as *random variables*, [Billingsley, 2008, Folland, 2013]

convergence in L^1 norm	\Leftrightarrow	convergence in <i>mean</i>
<i>pointwise convergence almost everywhere</i>	\Leftrightarrow	almost sure convergence
convergence in measure	\Leftrightarrow	convergence in probability

• **Proposition 1.1 (*Linearity of Convergence*)**. [Tao, 2011]

Let (X, \mathcal{B}, μ) be a measure space, let $f_n, g_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be sequences of measurable functions, and let $f, g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be measurable functions.

1. Then f_n converges to f along one of the above seven modes of convergence **if and only if** $|f_n - f|$ converges to 0 along **the same mode**.
2. If f_n converges to f along one of the above seven modes of convergence, and g_n converges to g along **the same mode**, then $f_n + g_n$ converges to $f + g$ along the same mode, and that $c f_n$ converges to $c f$ along the same mode for any $c \in \mathbb{C}$.
3. (**Squeeze test**) If f_n converges to 0 along one of the above seven modes, and $|g_n| \leq f_n$ **pointwise** for each n , then g_n converges to 0 along **the same mode**.

1.2 Modes of Convergence via Tail Support and Width

• **Remark (*Tail Support and Width*)**

Definition Let $E_{n,m} := \{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq 1/m\}$. Define the N -th tail support set

$$T_{N,m} := \{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq 1/m, \exists n \geq N\} = \bigcup_{n \geq N} E_{n,m}.$$

Also let $\mu(E_{n,m})$ be the **width** of n -th event $\mathbb{1}\{E_{n,m}\}$. Note that $T_{N,m} \supseteq T_{N+1,m}$ is **monotone nonincreasing** and $T_{N,m} \subseteq T_{N,m+1}$ is **monotone nondecreasing**.

1. The **pointwise convergence** of f_n to f indicates that for every x , every $m \geq 1$, there exists some $N \equiv N(m, x) \geq 1$ such that $T_{N,m}^c \ni x$ or $T_{N,m} \not\ni x$. Equivalently, the tail support shrinks to emptyset:

$$\bigcap_{N \in \mathbb{N}} T_{N,m} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} T_{N,m} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_{n,m} = \emptyset, \quad \text{for all } m.$$

Conversely, to prove **not pointwise convergence**, we need to find a $x \in X$ and for an arbitrary fixed $m \geq 1$ such that

$$x \in \bigcap_{N \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{n \geq N} \{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq 1/m\} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq 1/m\}.$$

2. The **pointwise almost everywhere convergence** indicates that there exists a **null set** F with $\mu(F) = 0$ such that for every $x \in X \setminus F$ and any $m \geq 1$, there exists some $N \equiv N(m, x) \geq 1$ such that $(T_{N,m} \setminus F) \not\ni x$. Equivalently, the tail support shrinks to a null set. Note that it makes no assumption on $(T_{N,m} \cap F)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} T_{N,m} \setminus F &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_{n,m} \setminus F = \emptyset, \quad \text{for all } m. \\ \Leftrightarrow \bigcap_{N \in \mathbb{N}} T_{N,m} &= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} T_{N,m} = F \\ \Leftrightarrow \mu \left(\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} T_{N,m} \right) &= \mu \left(\bigcap_{N \in \mathbb{N}} T_{N,m} \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, to prove **not pointwise almost convergence**, we need to find a $x \in X$ and for an arbitrary fixed $m \geq 1$ such that

$$x \in \bigcap_{N \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{n \geq N} \{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq 1/m\} \setminus F = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{x \in X \setminus F : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq 1/m\}.$$

3. The **uniform convergence** indicates that for each $m \geq 1$, there exists some $N(m) \geq 1$ (not depending on x) such that $T_{N,m} = \emptyset$. (i.e. $T_{N,m} \not\ni x$ for all $x \in X$.) So **the tail support is an empty set**
4. The **uniformly almost everywhere convergence** indicates that there exists some null set F with $\mu(F) = 0$ such that for each $m \geq 1$, there exists some $N(m) \geq 1$ (not depending on x) such that $(T_{N,m} \setminus F) = \emptyset$. (i.e. $T_{N,m} \not\ni x$ for all $x \in X \setminus F$.) Equivalently, **the tail support is a null set**:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{N,m} &= F \\ \Leftrightarrow \mu(T_{N,m}) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

5. The **almost uniform convergence** indicates that for every δ , there exists some measurable set F_δ with $\mu(F_\delta) < \delta$ such that for each $m \geq 1$ there exists some $N(m) \geq 1$ (not depending on x) such that $(T_{N,m} \setminus F_\delta) = \emptyset$. (i.e. $T_{N,m} \not\ni x$ for all $x \in X \setminus F_\delta$.) Equivalently, **the measure of tail support shrinks to zero**:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(T_{N,m}) &\leq \delta \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad T_{N,m} \subset F_\delta \\ \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mu(T_{N,m}) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

6. The **convergence in measure** indicates that for any $m \geq 1$ and any $\delta > 0$, there exists $N \equiv N(m, \delta) \geq 1$ such that for all $n \geq N$, the **width of n -th event shrinks to zero**:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(E_{n,m}) &\leq \delta \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(E_{n,m}) &:= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(\{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq \epsilon\}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- **Definition** Define the **maximum variation** between (f_n) and f as $\sup_{x \in X} |f_n(x) - f(x)|$. Note that

$$\sup_{x \in X} |f_n(x) - f(x)| \geq \sup_{x \in X \setminus F, \mu(F)=0} |f_n(x) - f(x)|.$$

- **Remark** From *Borel-Cantelli Lemma*, we see that in order to show the **pointwise almost everywhere convergence**, i.e. $\mu(\bigcap_N T_{N,\epsilon}) = \mu(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_{n,\epsilon}) = 0$ it suffice to show that **the measure of the tail support is finite**, $\mu(T_{N,\epsilon}) = \sum_{n=N}^{\infty} \mu(E_{n,\epsilon}) < \infty$. Note that this condition implies that it not only converges **in measure** $\mu(E_{n,\epsilon}) \rightarrow 0$ but converge in **an absolutely summable** fashion.

1.3 Relationships between Different Modes of Convergence

- **Proposition 1.2** [Tao, 2011]
Let (X, \mathcal{F}, μ) be a measure space, and let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be measurable functions

1. If f_n converges to f **uniformly**, then f_n converges to f **pointwisely**.
2. If f_n converges to f **uniformly**, then f_n converges to f in L^∞ **norm**. **Conversely**, if f_n converges to f in L^∞ **norm**, then f_n converges to f **uniformly outside of a null set** (i.e. there exists a null set E such that the restriction $f_n|_{X \setminus E}$ of f_n to the complement of E converges to the restriction $f|_{X \setminus E}$ of f).
3. If f_n converges to f in L^∞ **norm**, then f_n converges to f **almost uniformly**.
4. If f_n converges to f **almost uniformly**, then f_n converges to f **pointwise almost everywhere**.
5. If f_n converges to f **pointwise**, then f_n converges to f **pointwise almost everywhere**.
6. If f_n converges to f in L^1 **norm**, then f_n converges to f **in measure**.
7. If f_n converges to f **almost uniformly**, then f_n converges to f **in measure**.

Proof: 1. It is from the definition.

2. Note that for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $N(\epsilon) \geq 1$, such that for all $n \geq N(\epsilon)$, $|f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$ for all $x \in X$. Therefore, $\sup_{x \in X} |f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$. Then it holds that for any $x \in X \setminus E$, $\mu(E) = 0$, $\sup_{x \in X \setminus E} |f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$, so f_n converges to f in L^∞ norm.

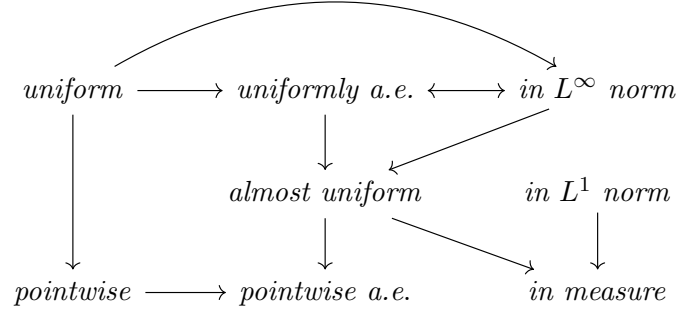
Since $f_n \xrightarrow{L^\infty} f$, then for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $N(\epsilon) \geq 1$, for all $n \geq N(\epsilon)$ such that the **infimum** of all essential upper bound M less than ϵ . In other words, let $d = \|f_n(x) - f(x)\|_{L^\infty} < \epsilon$, so given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an upper bound $d + \epsilon > M > 0$ such that for any $x \in X \setminus E$ with some E such that $\mu(E) = 0$, and $|f_n|_{X \setminus E}(x) - f|_{X \setminus E}(x)| \leq M < 2\epsilon$. Therefore f_n converges to f uniformly outside a null set E .

3. This follows from the argument above.
4. Let (E_n) be a sequence of measurable sets in \mathcal{B} such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $\mu(E_n) \leq 1/n$ and (f_n) converges uniformly to f on $X \setminus E_n$. Now pick an arbitrary $x \in X$. We have two cases.
 - In the first case $x \in \cap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} E_n$, in which case $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x)$ is not necessarily $f(x)$. But this is not harmful, since $\mu(\cap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} E_n) = 0$.
 - In the second case $x \notin \cap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} E_n$, which implies $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x)$ from the uniform convergence.
5. This follows from the definition.
6. Apply the *Markov inequality*, then the result follows.
7. Pick an arbitrary $\delta > 0$, so that there exists an exceptional set E such that $\mu(E) \leq \delta$ and $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $X \setminus E$. That is, we can find $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for $n \geq N(\epsilon)$, $|f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$ for all $x \in X \setminus E$. For $n \geq N$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu(\{x \in X : |f_n(x) - f(x)| > \epsilon\}) &= \mu(\{x \in E : |f_n(x) - f(x)| > \epsilon\}) \\
&\quad + \mu(\{x \in X \setminus E : |f_n(x) - f(x)| > \epsilon\}) \\
&\leq \mu(E) + \mu(\emptyset) = \delta + 0 = \delta \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

• **Remark** This diagram shows the *relative strength* of different *modes of convergence*. The

direction arrows $A \rightarrow B$ means “if A holds, then B holds”.



Moreover, here are some counter statements:

- $L^\infty \not\rightarrow L^1$: see the “*Escape to Width Infinity*” example below.
- **uniform** $\not\rightarrow L^1$: see the “*Escape to Width Infinity*” example below.
- $L^1 \not\rightarrow$ **uniform** : see the “*Typewriter Sequence*” example below.
- **pointwise** $\not\rightarrow L^1$: see the “*Escape to Horizontal Infinity*” example below.
- **pointwise** $\not\rightarrow$ **uniform**: see the “ $f_n = x/n$ ” example above.
- For finite measure space, **pointwise a.e.** \rightarrow **almost uniform**: see the Egorov’s theorem.
- **almost uniform** $\not\rightarrow L^1$: see the “*Escape to Vertical Infinity*” example below.
- **almost uniform** $\not\rightarrow L^\infty$: see the “*Escape to Vertical Infinity*” example below. The converse is true, however.
- For bounded $f_n \leq G, a.e. \forall n$, then **pointwise a.e.** $\rightarrow L^1$: see *Dominated Convergence Theorem*.
- $L^1 \not\rightarrow$ **pointwise a.e.** : see the “*Typewriter Sequence*” example below.
- **in measure** $\not\rightarrow$ **pointwise a.e.** : see the “*Typewriter Sequence*” example below.
- $L^1 \rightarrow$ **convergence in integral**: by triangle inequality. Note that the other modes of convergence does **not directly** lead to convergence in integral.

1.4 Counter Examples

- **Example (*Escape to Horizontal Infinity*)**.

Let X be the real line with Lebesgue measure, and let

$$f_n(x) \equiv \mathbb{1} \{x \in [n, n+1]\}.$$

Note that the height and width do not shrink to zero, but the tail set shrinks to the empty set. We have the following statements on different modes of convergence:

1. f_n converges pointwise to $f = 0$, (thus **pointwise a.e.**)
2. f_n does not converges to $f = 0$ uniformly,

3. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ in L^∞ **norm**,
4. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ **almost uniformly**
5. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ **in measure**.
6. $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f_n dx = 1$ **does not** converge to $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f dx = 0$.
7. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ in L^1 **norm**.

Somehow, *all the mass* in the f_n has *escaped* by moving off to infinity in a **horizontal direction**, leaving none behind for the pointwise limit f . In frequency domain, it corresponds to escaping to spatial infinity.

• **Example (Escape to Width Infinity).**

Let X be the real line with Lebesgue measure, and let

$$f_n \equiv \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{1} \{x \in [0, n]\}.$$

See that *the height goes to zero*, but the width (and tail support) go to infinity, causing the L^1 norm to stay **bounded away from zero**. We have the following statements on different modes of convergence:

1. f_n **converges** to $f = 0$ **uniformly**. (Thus, *pointwise, pointwise a.e., uniformly a.e., almost uniformly, in L^∞ norm and in measure*)
2. $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f_n dx = 1$ **does not** converge to $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f dx = 0$. This is due to the **increasingly wide** nature of the **support** of the f_n . If all the f_n were supported in a single set of finite measure, this will not happen.
3. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ in L^1 **norm**.

In frequency domain, it corresponds to escaping to zero frequency.

• **Example (Escape to Vertical Infinity).**

Let X be the unit interval $[0, 1]$ with Lebesgue measure (restricted from \mathbb{R}), and let

$$f_n = n \mathbb{1} \{x \in [n^{-1}, 2n^{-1}]\}.$$

Note that the **height goes to infinity**, but the **width (and tail support) go to zero** (or the empty set), causing the L^1 norm to stay bounded away from zero. We have the following statements on different modes of convergence:

1. f_n **converges pointwise** to $f = 0$, (thus *pointwise a.e.*)
2. f_n **converges** to $f = 0$ **almost uniformly**, (thus *in measure*)
3. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ **uniformly**,
4. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ in L^∞ **norm**,
5. $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f_n dx = 1$ **does not** converge to $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f dx = 0$.
6. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ in L^1 **norm**.

Note that we have finite measure on $X = [0, 1]$. This time, the mass has *escaped vertically*, through the **increasingly large** values of f_n . In frequency domain, it corresponds to escaping to infinity frequency.

- **Example (Typewriter Sequence).**

Let f_n be defined by the formula

$$f_n \equiv \mathbf{1} \left\{ x \in \left[\frac{n - 2^k}{2^k}, \frac{n + 1 - 2^k}{2^k} \right] \right\}$$

whenever $k \geq 0$ and $2^k \leq n < 2^k + 1$. This is a sequence of indicator functions of intervals of decreasing length, marching across the unit interval $[0, 1]$ over and over again. See that the width goes to zero, but the height and the tail support stay fixed (and thus bounded away from zero). We have the following statements on different modes of convergence:

1. f_n **converges** to $f = 0$ in L^1 **norm**, (thus **in measure**)
2. f_n **does not** converges to $f = 0$ **pointwise a.e.**, (thus **not pointwise**, **not almost uniformly**, **not uniformly a.e.**, **not uniformly**, **not in L^∞ norm**)

1.5 Uniqueness

- **Proposition 1.3** Let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence of measurable functions, and let $f, g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be two additional measurable functions. Suppose that f_n converges to f **along one of the seven modes of convergence** defined above, and f_n converges to g **along another of the seven modes of convergence** (or perhaps the same mode of convergence as for f). Then f and g **agree almost everywhere**.
- **Remark** It suffice to show that when f_n converges to f **pointwise almost everywhere**, and f_n converges to g **in measure**. We need to show that $f = g$ **almost everywhere**.
- **Remark** Even though the modes of convergence all *differ* from each other, they are all **compatible** in the sense that they **never disagree** about *which function* f a sequence of functions f_n **converges to**, outside of a set of measure zero.

2 Modes of Convergence for Step Functions

2.1 Analysis

- **Remark** Consider the **step function** f_n as a constant multiple $f_n = A_n \mathbf{1} \{E_n\}$ of a measurable set E_n , which has a limit $f = 0$.
- **Definition** The modes of convergence for step function f_n is determined by the following quantities:
 1. the n -th **width** of f_n is $\mu(E_n)$;
 2. the n -th **height** of f_n is A_n ;
 3. the N -th **tail support** $T_N \equiv \bigcup_{n \geq N} E_n$ of the sequence f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots
- **Remark** Assume the **height** A_n exhibit *one of two modes of behaviour*:
 1. $A_n \rightarrow 0$, **converge to zero**;

2. (A_n) are **bounded away from zero** (i.e. there exists $c > 0$ such that $A_n \geq c$ for every n .)

• **Proposition 2.1** *The following regarding the seven modes of convergence of $f_n = A_n \mathbb{1}\{E_n\}$ to $f = 0$:*

1. f_n converges **uniformly** to zero if and only if $A_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
2. f_n converges **in L^∞ norm** to zero if and only if $A_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
3. f_n converges **almost uniformly** to zero if and only if $A_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, or $\mu(T_N) \rightarrow 0$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$.
4. f_n converges **pointwise** to zero if and only if $A_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, or $\bigcap_{N=1}^{\infty} T_N = \emptyset$.
5. f_n converges **pointwise almost everywhere** to zero if and only if $A_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, or $\bigcap_{N=1}^{\infty} T_N$ is a null set.
6. f_n converges **in measure** to zero if and only if $A_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, or $\mu(E_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
7. f_n converges **in L^1 norm** if and only if $A_n \mu(E_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

• **Remark** We summarize the above proposition:

- When the **height** goes to **zero**, then one has convergence to zero in **all modes except possibly for L^1 convergence**, which requires that the **product** of the **height** and the **width** goes to zero.
- If the **height is bounded away from zero (positive)** and the **width is positive** (finite support), then we **never** have **uniform** or **L^1** convergence.
 - * If the width goes to zero, we have convergence in **measure**.
 - * If the measure of tail support goes to zero, we have **almost uniform** convergence.
 - * If the tail support shrinks to a null set, we have **pointwise almost everywhere** convergence.
 - * If the tail support shrinks to the empty set, we have **pointwise** convergence.

• **Remark** Four counterexamples above are all step functions:

1. In the **escape to horizontal infinity** scenario, the height and width do not shrink to zero, but the tail set shrinks to the empty set (while remaining of infinite measure throughout)
2. In the **escape to width infinity** scenario, the height goes to zero, but the width (and tail support) go to infinity, causing the L^1 norm to stay bounded away from zero.
3. In the **escape to vertical infinity**, the height goes to infinity, but the width (and tail support) go to zero (or the empty set), causing the L^1 norm to stay bounded away from zero.

2.2 Comparison

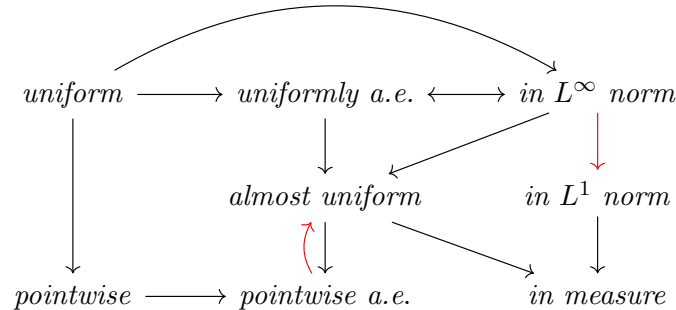
Table 1: Comparison of Modes of Convergence

	<i>tail support</i>	<i>width</i>	<i>maximum variation</i>	<i>subgraph</i>
definition	$T_{N,\epsilon} = \bigcup_{n \geq N} E_{n,\epsilon}$	$\mu(E_{n,\epsilon})$	$\sup_{x \in X} \{ f_n(x) - f(x) \}$	$\Gamma(f_n) = \{(x, t) : 0 \leq t \leq f_n(x)\}$
pointwise	$\bigcap_{N=1}^{\infty} T_{N,\epsilon} = \emptyset$		or, $\rightarrow 0$ on X	
point-wise a.e.	$\mu \left(\bigcap_{N=1}^{\infty} T_{N,\epsilon} \right) = 0$		or, $\rightarrow 0$ on $X \setminus E$	
uniform	$T_{N,\epsilon} = \emptyset$		equivalently, $\rightarrow 0$ on X	
uniform a.e.	$\mu(T_{N,\epsilon}) = 0$		equivalently, $\rightarrow 0$ on $X \setminus E$	
L^∞ norm	$\mu(T_{N,\epsilon}) = 0$		equivalently, $\rightarrow 0$ on $X \setminus E$	
almost uniform	$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mu(T_{N,\epsilon}) = 0$		or, $\rightarrow 0$ on $X \setminus E$	
in measure		$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(E_{n,\epsilon}) = 0$	or, $\rightarrow 0$ on $X \setminus E$	
L^1 norm			$\rightarrow 0$ and support fixed or non-increasing	area of $\Gamma(f_n) = \mathcal{A}(\Gamma(f_n))$ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{A}(\Gamma(f_n - f)) = 0$

3 Modes of Convergence With Additional Conditions

3.1 Finite Measure Space

- **Remark** If we assume that (X, \mathcal{B}, μ) has **finite measure**, i.e. $\mu(X) < \infty$, we can shut down two of the four examples (namely, **escape to horizontal infinity** or **escape to width infinity**) and creates a few more equivalences.
- **Example** A probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is a finite measure space since $\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1$.
- **Theorem 3.1 (Egorov's theorem)**. [Royden and Fitzpatrick, 1988, Tao, 2011]
Let (X, \mathcal{F}, μ) be a **finite measure space**, that is, $\mu(X) < \infty$ and let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence of measurable functions that converge **pointwise almost everywhere** to another function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and let $\epsilon > 0$. Then there exists a μ -measurable set A of measure at most ϵ , such that f_n **converges uniformly** to f **outside** of A . That is, given finite measure space, convergence pointwise almost everywhere implies **converge almost uniformly**.
- **Remark** The **finite measure space** condition allows us to use **the downward convergence** of measure without much concern.
- **Proposition 3.2** Let X have **finite measure**, and let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be measurable functions. If f_n converges to f in L^∞ norm, then f_n also converges to f in L^1 norm.
- **Remark** For finite measure space,



3.2 Fast L^1 Convergence

- **Proposition 3.3 (Fast L^1 convergence)**.
Suppose that $f_n, f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are measurable functions such that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \|f_n f\|_{L^1(\mu)} < \infty$; thus, not only do the quantities $\|f_n f\|_{L^1(\mu)}$ go to zero (which would mean L^1 convergence), but they converge in **an absolutely summable** fashion. Then
 1. f_n converges **pointwise almost everywhere** to f .
 2. f_n converges **almost uniformly** to f .
- **Corollary 3.4 (Subsequence Convergence)**. [Tao, 2011]
Suppose that $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are a sequence of measurable functions that converge in L^1 norm to a limit f . Then there exists a **subsequence** f_{n_j} that converges **almost uniformly** (and

hence, *pointwise almost everywhere*) to f (while remaining convergent in L^1 norm, of course).

- **Corollary 3.5** (*Subsequence Convergence in Measure*). [Tao, 2011]
 Suppose that $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are a sequence of measurable functions that **converge in measure** to a limit f . Then there exists a subsequence f_{n_j} that converges **almost uniformly** (and hence, *pointwise almost everywhere*) to f .
- **Remark** It is instructive to see how this *subsequence* is extracted in the case of the *typewriter sequence*. In general, one can view the operation of passing to a subsequence as being able to *eliminate* “*typewriter*” situations in which the *tail support* is much larger than the *width*.
- **Exercise 3.6** [Tao, 2011] Let (X, \mathcal{B}, μ) be a measure space, let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence of measurable functions converging *pointwise almost everywhere* as $n \rightarrow \infty$ to a measurable limit $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and for each n , let $f_{n,m} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence of measurable functions converging *pointwise almost everywhere* as $m \rightarrow \infty$ (keeping n fixed) to f_n .
 1. If $\mu(X)$ is **finite**, show that there exists a sequence m_1, m_2, \dots such that f_{n, m_n} converges *pointwise almost everywhere* to f .
 2. Show the same claim is true if, instead of assuming that $\mu(X)$ is finite, we merely assume that X is **σ -finite**, i.e. it is the countable union of sets of finite measure.
- **Exercise 3.7** [Tao, 2011]
 Let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence of measurable functions, and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be another measurable function. Show that the following are equivalent:
 1. f_n converges **in measure** to f .
 2. Every **subsequence** f_{n_j} of the f_n has a **further subsequence** $f_{n_{j_i}}$ that converges **almost uniformly** to f .

3.3 Domination and Uniform Integrability

- **Remark** Now we turn to the reverse question, of whether **almost uniform** convergence, *pointwise almost everywhere* convergence, or convergence **in measure** can imply L^1 convergence. The escape to vertical and width infinity examples shows that without any further hypotheses, the answer to this question is **no**.
- **Remark** [Tao, 2011] There are **two major ways** to shut down loss of mass via *escape to infinity*.
 1. One is to enforce **monotonicity**, which **prevents each f_n from abandoning the location** where the mass of the preceding f_1, \dots, f_{n-1} was concentrated and which thus shuts down the above three escape scenarios. More precisely, we have the monotone convergence theorem.
 2. The other major way is to **dominate all of the functions involved by an absolutely convergent one**. This result is known as the dominated convergence theorem.
- **Definition** We say that a sequence $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is **dominated** if there exists an **absolutely**

integrable function $g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $|f_n(x)| \leq g(x)$ for all n and *almost every* x .

- **Definition (Uniform integrability).**

A sequence $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ of **absolutely integrable** functions is said to be **uniformly integrable** if the following three statements hold:

1. (**Uniform bound on L^1 norm**) One has $\sup_n \|f_n\|_{L^1(\mu)} = \sup_n \int_X |f_n| d\mu < +\infty$.
2. (**No escape to vertical infinity**) One has

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_n \int_{|f_n| \geq M} |f_n| d\mu \rightarrow 0.$$

3. (**No escape to width infinity**) One has

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \sup_n \int_{|f_n| \leq \delta} |f_n| d\mu \rightarrow 0.$$

- **Proposition 3.8 (Property of Uniform Integrability)**

1. If f is an **absolutely integrable** function, then the constant sequence $f_n = f$ is **uniformly integrable**. (Hint: use the monotone convergence theorem.)
2. Every **dominated** sequence of measurable functions is **uniformly integrable**.

- **Exercise 3.9** Give an example of a sequence that is uniformly integrable but not dominated.

- **Remark** In the case of a **finite measure space**, there is *no escape to width infinity*, and the criterion for *uniform integrability* simplifies to just that of **excluding vertical infinity**:

Exercise 3.10 Suppose that X has finite measure, and let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence of measurable functions. Show that f_n is uniformly integrable **if and only if** $\sup_n \int_{|f_n| \geq M} |f_n| d\mu \rightarrow 0$ as $M \rightarrow \infty$.

- **Exercise 3.11 (Uniform L^p bound on finite measure implies uniform integrability).**

Suppose that X have finite measure, let $1 < p < \infty$, and suppose that $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a sequence of measurable functions such that $\sup_n \int_X |f_n|^p d\mu < +\infty$. Show that the sequence f_n is uniformly integrable.

- **Exercise 3.12** Give an example of a sequence f_n of uniformly integrable functions that converge **pointwise almost everywhere** to zero, but do **not converge almost uniformly, in measure, or in L^1 norm**.

- **Theorem 3.13 (Uniformly integrable convergence in measure).**

Let $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a **uniformly integrable** sequence of functions, and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be another function. Then f_n converges in L^1 **norm** to f **if and only if** f_n converges to f **in measure**.

- **Proposition 3.14** Suppose that $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are a **dominated** sequence of measurable functions, and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be another measurable function. Show that f_n converges **pointwise almost everywhere** to f **if and only if** f_n converges in **almost uniformly** to f .

4 Convergence in Distribution

- **Definition (Cumulative Distribution Function)** [Billingsley, 2008]

Let (X, \mathcal{F}, μ) be a measure space. Given any real-valued measurable function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we define the **cumulative distribution function** $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ of f to be the function $F(\lambda) := \mu_f((-\infty, \lambda]) = \mu(\{x \in X : f(x) \leq \lambda\})$ where $\mu_f = \mu \circ f^{-1}$ is a **measure** on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$ induced by function f .

- **Definition (Converge in Distribution)** [Van der Vaart, 2000]

Let (X, \mathcal{F}, μ) be a measure space, $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a sequence of real-valued *measurable functions*, and $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be another measurable function.

We say that f_n **converges in distribution** to f if the *cumulative distribution function* $F_n(\lambda)$ of f_n converges **pointwise** to the *cumulative distribution function* $F(\lambda)$ of f at all $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ for which F is *continuous*. Denoted as $f_n \xrightarrow{d} f$ or $f_n \rightsquigarrow f$.

Note that for the distribution $\mu_{f_n} \equiv \mu \circ f_n^{-1}$ is a measure on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$. Thus $f_n \xrightarrow{d} f$ if and only if

$$\mu_{f_n}(A) \rightarrow \mu_f(A), \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}).$$

- **Remark (Convergence of Measures Induced by Function)**

Convergence in distribution is also called **weak convergence** in probability theory [Folland, 2013]. In general, it is actually **not a mode of convergence of functions f_n itself** but instead is the **convergence of measures induced by function f_n on $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$** .

In functional analysis, however, **weak convergence** is actually reserved for a different mode of convergence, while **the convergence in distribution** is **the weak* convergence**.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{weak convergence} & \int f_n d\mu \rightarrow \int f d\mu, \quad \forall \mu \in \mathcal{M}(X), \\ \text{convergence in distribution} & \int f d\mu_n \rightarrow \int f d\mu, \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}_0(X) \end{array}$$

Definition (Weak* Topology on Banach Space)

Let X be a *normed vector space* and X^* be its dual space. The **weak* topology on X^*** is the **weakest topology on X^*** so that $f(x)$ is **continuous for all $x \in X$** .

The **weak* topology** on space of regular Borel measures $\mathcal{M}(X) \simeq (\mathcal{C}_0(X))^*$ on a **compact Hausdorff** space X , is often called **the vague topology**. Note that $\mu_n \xrightarrow{w^*} \mu$ if and only if $\int f d\mu_n \rightarrow \int f d\mu$ for all $f \in \mathcal{C}_0(X)$.

- **Theorem 4.1 (The Portmanteau Theorem).** [Van der Vaart, 2000]

The following statements are equivalent.

1. $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$.
2. $\mathbb{E}[h(X_n)] \rightarrow \mathbb{E}[h(X)]$ for all **continuous functions** $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that are non-zero only on a **closed and bounded set**.
3. $\mathbb{E}[h(X_n)] \rightarrow \mathbb{E}[h(X)]$ for all **bounded continuous functions** $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

4. $\mathbb{E}[h(X_n)] \rightarrow \mathbb{E}[h(X)]$ for all **bounded measurable functions** $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for which $\mathbb{P}(X \in \{x : h \text{ is continuous at } x\}) = 1$.

- We can reformulate the definition of *convergence in distribution* as below:

Definition [Wellner et al., 2013]

Let (Ω, d) be a *metric space*, and (Ω, \mathcal{B}) be a *measurable space*, where \mathcal{B} is **the Borel σ -field on Ω** , the smallest σ -field containing *all the open balls* (as the basis of *metric topology* on Ω). Let $\{P_n\}$ and P be **Borel probability measures** on (Ω, \mathcal{B}) .

Then the sequence P_n **converges in distribution** to P , which we write as $P_n \rightsquigarrow P$, if and only if

$$\int_{\Omega} f dP_n \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} f dP, \quad \text{for all } f \in \mathcal{C}_b(\Omega).$$

Here $\mathcal{C}_b(\Omega)$ denotes the set of *all bounded, continuous, real functions on Ω* .

We can see that **the convergence in distribution** is actually **a weak* convergence**. That is, it is **the weak convergence of bounded linear functionals** $I_{P_n} \xrightarrow{w*} I_P$ on the space of all probability measures $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X}) \simeq (\mathcal{C}_b(\mathcal{X}))^*$ on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{B})$ where

$$I_P : f \mapsto \int_{\Omega} f dP.$$

Note that the $I_{P_n} \xrightarrow{w*} I_P$ is equivalent to $I_{P_n}(f) \rightarrow I_P(f)$ for all $f \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathcal{X})$.

- **Remark** The density f_{ξ} of ξ is defined as for F_{ξ} uniformly continuous on \mathbb{R}

$$F_{\xi}(A) \equiv \mu \circ \xi^{-1}(A) \equiv \int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{\xi^{-1}(A)\}} d\mu \equiv \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_{\xi} \mathbb{1}_{\{A\}} dx$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ and the integral is the Lebesgue integral with respect to Lebesgue measure.

- **Remark** Note that $\xi_n \rightarrow \xi$ and $\eta_n \rightarrow \eta$ in distribution, but it is possible $\xi_n + \eta_n \not\rightarrow \xi + \eta$.
- **Remark** It is related to following convergence

$$\sup_{A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})} |F_n(A) - F(A)| \rightarrow 0$$

or $F_n(A) \rightarrow F(A), \forall A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$

- **Theorem 4.2 (Continuous Mapping Theorem)** [Van der Vaart, 2000]

Suppose that $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k, n \geq 1$ is a sequence of measurable functions and its limit $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ is a measurable function. Let $g : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be **continuous at every point** of a set $C \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ such that $\mu(\{x : f(x) \in C\}) = \mu(X) = 1$. Then

1. If $f_n \xrightarrow{a.e.} f$, then $g(f_n) \xrightarrow{a.e.} g(f)$;
2. If $f_n \xrightarrow{\mu} f$, then $g(f_n) \xrightarrow{\mu} g(f)$;
3. If $f_n \rightsquigarrow f$, then $g(f_n) \rightsquigarrow g(f)$.

Proof: 1. Directly by the property of continuous map, since $g(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{n,x}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(y_{n,x})$, where $y_{n,x} = f_n(x)$ for $x \in X/E, \mu(E) = 0$.

2. For any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that the set

$$B_\delta \equiv \left\{ z \in \mathbb{R}^k \mid \exists y, \|z - y\| \leq \delta, \|g(z) - g(y)\| > \epsilon \right\}.$$

Clearly, if $f(x) \notin B_\delta$ and $\|g(f_n(x)) - g(f(x))\| > \epsilon$, then $\|f_n(x) - f(x)\| > \delta$. So

$$\mu(\{x : \|g(f_n(x)) - g(f(x))\| > \epsilon\}) \leq \mu(\{x : \|f_n(x) - f(x)\| > \delta\}) + \mu(\{x : f(x) \in B_\delta\})$$

The first term on RHS converges to 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for every fixed $\delta > 0$ due to the convergence in measure. Since $B_\delta \cap C \downarrow 0$, by continuity of g , the second term converges to 0 as $\delta \rightarrow 0$.

3. The event $\{x : g(f_n(x)) \in F\} \equiv \{x : f_n(x) \in g^{-1}(F)\}$ for any closed/open set F . Note that

$$g^{-1}(F) \subseteq \overline{g^{-1}(F)} \subset g^{-1}(F) \cup C^c$$

Thus there exists a sequence of $y_m \rightarrow y$ and $g(y_m) \in F$ for every closed F . If $y \in C$, then $g(y_m) \rightarrow g(y)$, which is in F , since F is closed. Otherwise, $y \in C^c$. By the portmanteau lemma, since f_n converges to f in distribution,

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(\{x : g(f_n(x)) \in F\}) &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu\left(\left\{x : f_n(x) \in \overline{g^{-1}(F)}\right\}\right) \\ &\leq \mu\left(\left\{x : f(x) \in \overline{g^{-1}(F)}\right\}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Since $\mu(X) = \mu(C) = 1$, so $\mu(C^c) = 0$. Thus the RHS

$$\begin{aligned} \mu\left(\left\{x : f(x) \in \overline{g^{-1}(F)}\right\}\right) &= \mu(\{x : f(x) \in g^{-1}(F)\}) \\ &= \mu(\{x : g(f(x)) \in F\}). \end{aligned}$$

Again by applying the portmanteau lemma, $g(f_n)$ converges to $g(f)$ in distribution. ■

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