This is a collection of old real analysis qualifier exam solutions.

August 2019

Problem 1

(a) Recall that the Cantor set $\mathcal{C}$ is defined to consist of all $x \in [0,1]$ such that x only contains 0 and 2 in the ternary expansion of x. Writing $a \in [0,2]$ as

$$a = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{3^k},$$

where $a_k \in \{0,1,2\}$, we may then find a_k at each ternary expansion slot for k as follows:

- if $a_k = 0$, we may find $b_k, c_k \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $b_k = c_k = 0$
- if $a_k = 2$, we may find $b_k, c_k \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $b_k = 2$ and $c_k = 0$ or vice versa.
- if $a_k = 1$, we may find $b_k, c_k \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $b_{k+1} = c_{k+1} = 2$.

Therefore, since every digit of every ternary expansion in $[0,2]$ can be obtained from $\mathcal{C}$, we see that $\mathcal{C} + \mathcal{C} = [0,2]$.

(b) We may set B to be the union of all integer translates of $\mathcal{C}$, and set $A = \mathcal{C}$. This yields closed subsets of $\mathbb{R}$ with Lebesgue measure zero that sum to $\mathbb{R}$.

Problem 2

Consider the sequence of functions

$$f_n(x) = n\mathbb{1}_{\left[\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n}\right]},$$

defined on $[0,1]$. This sequence is pointwise convergent everywhere to zero, as $f_n(0) = 0$ and the Archimedean property give that for any $x \in (0,1]$, there is some n large enough that gives $\frac{1}{n} < x$. Furthermore, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\int f_n \, d\mu &= n\left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1} \\ &\to 0.\end{aligned}$$

Finally, we see that by taking suprema, we have the integral

$$\begin{aligned}\int \Phi \, d\mu &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} \\ &\to \infty.\end{aligned}$$

Problem 4

Suppose toward contradiction that both f and $1/f$ are in $L_1(\mathbb{R})$. Then, from Hölder's Inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\infty &= \int 1 \, d\mu \\ &\leqslant \left(\int f \, d\mu\right)^{1/2} \left(\int \frac{1}{f} \, d\mu\right)^{1/2} \\ &< \infty,\end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

Problem 5

(a) Let $f \in L_2([-1,1])$. We may find $g \in C([-1,1])$ such that $\|f-g\|_{L_2} < \varepsilon/2$. Similarly, we may find a polynomial p such that $\|g-p\|_u < \varepsilon/4$, meaning that $|p(x)-g(x)| < \varepsilon/4$ for all $x \in [-1,1]$. This yields

$$\begin{aligned}\|p-g\|_{L_2} &= \left(\int_{-1}^{1} |p(x)-g(x)|^2\,dx\right)^{1/2}\\ &< \left(\int_{-1}^{1}\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{4}\right)^2\,dx\right)^{1/2}\\ &= \left(\frac{\varepsilon^2}{8}\right)^{1/2}\\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2},\end{aligned}$$

so $\|f-p\|_{L_2} < \varepsilon$, meaning that the closed linear span of the monomials is dense in L_2, and the Legendre polynomials form an orthonormal system.

(b) We see that at every step in evaluating the expression

$$L_n(x) = c_n \frac{d^n}{dx^n}\left(x^2-1\right)^n, \tag{$*$}$$

the degree of the polynomial increases by 1, so each $L_n(x)$ has degree n. To verify that the polynomials generated from $(*)$ are orthogonal to each other, we let $n > m$ without loss of generality, and use integration by parts to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\langle L_n, L_m\rangle &= \int_{-1}^{1}\left(\frac{d^n}{dx^n}\left(x^2-1\right)^n\right)\left(\frac{d^m}{dx^m}\left(x^2-1\right)^m\right)dx\\ &= \frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}}\left(x^2-1\right)^n \frac{d^m}{dx^m}\left(x^2-1\right)^m\Bigg|_{-1}^{1} - \int_{-1}^{1}\frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}}\left(x^2-1\right)^n\frac{d^{m+1}}{dx^{m+1}}\left(x^2-1\right)^m dx\\ &\vdots\\ &= (-1)^n\int_{-1}^{1}\frac{d^{m+n}}{dx^{m+n}}\left(x^2-1\right)^m dx\\ &= (-1)^n\int_{-1}^{1}\frac{d^n}{dx^n}\left(\frac{d^m}{dx^m}\left(x^2-1\right)^m\right)dx\\ &= (-1)^n\int\frac{d^n}{dx^n}L_m(x)\,dx\\ &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

seeing as we are taking n derivatives of a degree $m < n$ polynomial.

January 2020

Problem 1

(a) This is false. If $A \subseteq [0,1]$ is the "fat Cantor set" constructed similar to the traditional Cantor, but obtained by deleting the middle fourth of each subinterval rather than the middle third, then $\mu(A) = \frac{1}{2}$, but A is nowhere dense, meaning that if $U \subseteq A$ is open, then $U = \emptyset$.

To see that A is nowhere dense, we see that A is closed, so if $x \in A \subseteq [0,1]$, and $\varepsilon > 0$, we may show that the interval $(x-\varepsilon, x+\varepsilon)$ is not contained in A. In the recursive construction of A, we may see that there is some step n_1 such that $\frac{1}{4^{n_1}} < 2\varepsilon$, implying that $(x-\varepsilon, x+\varepsilon)$ is not contained in the recursive construction at n_1. Therefore $A^\circ = \emptyset$.

(b) This is true. By the definition of the Lebesgue outer measure, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there are $\{(a_k, b_k)\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ such that

$$\mu(A) + \varepsilon < \mu\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty}(a_k, b_k)\right),$$

so by setting

$$U = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty}(a_k, b_k),$$

we have that U is open, meaning that by the definition of infimum, we get

$$\mu(A) = \inf\left\{U \,\middle|\, A \subseteq U, U \text{ open}\right\}.$$

Remark: Part (a) can be solved by selecting $A = \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \cap [0,1]$.

Problem 3

(a) Consider the algebra of polynomials on $[0,1]$ without a constant term. Then, since linear combinations and multiplications still yield polynomials without constant term, and $f(x) = x$ separates points in $[0,1]$, this algebra satisfies the requirements of the question. Yet, since all elements of this algebra are equal to zero at $x = 0$, the uniform closure of the algebra yields all the continuous functions on $[0,1]$ with $f(0) = 0$.

(b) In order to satisfy the requirements of the Stone–Weierstrass theorem, we need the algebra $\mathcal{A}$ to include the constant functions.

Problem 4

We consider the signed measure on $\mathcal{F}$ defined by

$$\nu(E) = \int_E f \, d\mu,$$

meaning that $\nu \ll \mu$, so the function $g := \frac{d\nu}{d\mu}$, where $\frac{d\nu}{d\mu}$ denotes the Radon–Nikodym derivative of ν with respect to μ (where we restrict μ to $\mathcal{F}$), is $\mathcal{F}$-measurable (by Radon–Nikodym) and in $L_1(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$. This gives, for all $E \in \mathcal{F}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_E g \, d\mu &= \int_E \frac{d\nu}{d\mu} \, d\mu \\
&= \int_E d\nu \\
&= \nu(E) \\
&= \int_E f \, d\mu.
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 5

Let $M = \mu(X)$.

Let $(f_n)_n \to f$ in measure, and let $\varepsilon > 0$. If we let

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{x \mid |f_n(x) - f(x)| > \varepsilon/2M\} \\ B &= \{x \mid |f_n(x) - f(x)| \leqslant \varepsilon/2M\}, \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_X \min(1, |f_n - f|)\, d\mu &= \int_A \min(1, |f_n - f|)\, d\mu + \int_B \min(1, |f_n - f|)\, d\mu \\ &\leqslant \mu(A) + \varepsilon/2 \\ &< \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 \\ &= \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Meanwhile, if

$$\int_X \min(1, |f_n - f|)\, d\mu \to 0,$$

then by Chebyshev's Inequality, we have, for a fixed $0 < \varepsilon \leqslant 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\{x \mid |f_n - f| \geqslant \varepsilon\}) &= \mu(\{x \mid \min(1, |f_n - f|) \geqslant \varepsilon\}) \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_X \min(1, |f_n - f|)\, d\mu \\ &\to 0, \end{aligned}$$

so $(f_n)_n \to f$ in measure.

August 2020

Problem 1

This is false. To see this, let $\mathfrak{C}(x)$ denote the Cantor–Lebesgue function, and let

$$h(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \mathfrak{C}(x - n) + n.$$

Then, since $\mathfrak{C}(x)$ has derivative zero almost everywhere, the sum of a number of translates of $\mathfrak{C}(x)$ still has derivative zero almost everywhere. Then, setting

$$f(x) = h(x) + x,$$

we get that $f(x)$ has derivative equal to 1 almost everywhere. However, at the same time, $f(2) - f(1) = 2$.

Problem 2

We show the inverse problem, which is that every closed set in $\mathbb{R}^2$ is G_δ. To do this, we let $A \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^2$ be closed, nonempty, and proper (if $A = \emptyset$ or $A = \mathbb{R}^2$ the answer is trivial).

Then, there is some $x \in A^c$, and specifically there is $x \in A^c$ with rational coordinates (else, select $y \in \mathbb{Q}^2$ within the ball of radius ε that allows A^c to be open). Furthermore, since $\mathbb{R}^2$ is a metric space, $\mathbb{R}^2$ is regular, so there are open U_x and V_x such that $A \subseteq U_x$, $x \in V_x$, and $U_x \cap V_x = \emptyset$.

Therefore, we get

$$A = \bigcap \left\{ U_x \,\middle|\, x \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \setminus A \right\},$$

meaning that A is G_δ. Taking complements, we thus get that every open set is F_σ.

Problem 3

(a) We see that

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle Pf_i, f_j \right\rangle &= \delta_{i+1,j} \\ &= \delta_{i,j-1} \\ &= \left\langle f_i, f_{j-1} \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle f_i, P^* f_j \right\rangle, \end{aligned}$$

so that $Pf_n = f_{n-1}$ if $n > 1$. Else, if $n = 1$, then $P^* f_n = 0$.

(b) We see that, acting on the orthonormal basis $(f_n)_n$, $P^*P(f_n) = f_n$, and

$$PP^*(f_n) = \begin{cases} 0 & n = 1 \\ 1 & \text{else}, \end{cases}$$

so that $P^*P = I$ and PP^* is as above.

Problem 4

We see that

$$\mu(\{x \mid f_n(x) > t\}) = \mu(X) - \mu(\{x \mid f_n(x) \leqslant t\}),$$

so by taking limits, we find that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mu(\{x \mid f_n(x) > t\}) = \begin{cases} 1 & t < 0 \\ 0 & t \geqslant 0 \end{cases}.$$

So, if $\varepsilon > 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\{x \mid |f_n(x)| > \varepsilon\}) &= \mu(\{x \mid f_n(x) < -\varepsilon\}) + \mu(\{x \mid f_n(x) > \varepsilon\}) \\ &\leqslant \mu(\{x \mid f_n(x) \leqslant -\varepsilon\}) + \mu(\{x \mid f_n(x) > \varepsilon\}) \\ &\to 0. \end{aligned}$$

August 2022

Problem 1

We note that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{n \sin(x/n)}{x(1+x^2)} \right| &\leqslant \left| \frac{n(x/n)}{x(1+x^2)} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{1+x^2}, \end{aligned}$$

and since $\frac{1}{1+x^2}$ is integrable, we may use Dominated Convergence to switch limit and integral, giving

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{n\to\infty}\int_0^\infty \frac{n\sin(x/n)}{x(1+x^2)}\,dx &= \int_0^\infty \lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{n\sin(x/n)}{x(1+x^2)}\,dx\\
&= \int_0^\infty \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{\frac{1}{h}\sin(hx)}{x(1+x^2)}\,dx\\
&= \int_0^\infty \frac{x}{x(1+x^2)}\,dx\\
&= \frac{\pi}{2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 2

(a) Let f be Lipschitz, and let M denote the Lipschitz constant — i.e., $|f(x)-f(y)| \leqslant |x-y|$ for all $x, y \in [a,b]$. Set $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{M}$. Then, if $\left\{\left(a_j, b_j\right)\right\}_{j=1}^k$ is a partition such that $\sum_{j=1}^k \left|b_j - a_j\right| < \delta$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1}^k \left|f\left(b_j\right) - f\left(a_j\right)\right| &\leqslant M\sum_{j=1}^k\left|b_j - a_j\right|\\
&< \varepsilon.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, f is absolutely continuous. Now, if $x, x+h \in [a,b]$, we have that

$$\left|\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}\right| \leqslant M,$$

meaning that

$$\begin{aligned}
|f'(x)| &= \lim_{h\to 0}\left|\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}\right|\\
&\leqslant M,
\end{aligned}$$

and since $f'(x)$ exists for a.e. $x \in [a,b]$, we have that $\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x\in[a,b]}|f'(x)| \leqslant M$, so $f' \in L_\infty([a,b])$.

Let f be absolutely continuous with bounded derivative. Then, if M is the essential supremum of the f', the fundamental theorem of calculus gives

$$\begin{aligned}
|f(y)-f(x)| &= \left|\int_x^y f'(t)\,dt\right|\\
&\leqslant \int_x^y |f'(t)|\,dt\\
&\leqslant \int_x^y M\,dx\\
&= M|y-x|,
\end{aligned}$$

so f is Lipschitz.

(b) If f is such that $f'(x)$ exists, then for $x, x+h \in [a,b]$, we have

$$\left|\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}\right| \leqslant \|f\|_{\text{Lip}},$$

so by taking limits, we have

$$|f'(x)| \leqslant \|f\|_{\text{Lip}}.$$

Thus, this ordering must respect essential suprema, meaning

$$\|f'\|_{L_\infty} \leqslant \|f\|_{\mathrm{Lip}}.$$

Furthermore, if $\varepsilon > 0$, there are $x, y \in [a, b]$ with $x < y$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
\|f\|_{\mathrm{Lip}} - \varepsilon &< \left|\frac{f(y) - f(x)}{y - x}\right| \\
&= \frac{1}{|y - x|}\left|\int_x^y f'(t)\,dt\right| \\
&\leqslant \frac{1}{|y - x|}\int_x^y |f'(t)|\,dt \\
&\leqslant \frac{1}{|y - x|}\int_x^y \|f'\|_{L_\infty}\,dt \\
&= \|f'\|_{L_\infty},
\end{aligned}$$

and since ε is arbitrary, we have $\|f\|_{\mathrm{Lip}} \leqslant \|f'\|_{L_\infty}$.

January 2023

Problem 1

By using Fatou's Lemma, and assuming WLOG that $(f_n)_n \to f$ pointwise everywhere, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_X |f|^p\,d\mu &= \int_X \liminf_{n\to\infty} |f_n|^p\,d\mu \\
&\leqslant \liminf_{n\to\infty} \int_X |f_n|^p\,d\mu \\
&\leqslant 1,
\end{aligned}$$

so $\|f\|_{L_p} \leqslant 1$.

Problem 2

Let

$$f(t) = \mu(E \cap (-\infty, t)),$$

and for any sequence $(t_n)_n$, define

$$E_n = E \cap (-\infty, t_n).$$

We will show that f is left- and right-continuous, hence continuous. To start, if $(t_n)_n \searrow t$, then

$$\bigcap_{n\in\mathbb{N}} E_n = E \cap (-\infty, t],$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}
f(t) &= \mu\left(\bigcap_{n\in\mathbb{N}} E_n \setminus \{t\}\right) \\
&= \mu\left(\bigcap_{n\in\mathbb{N}} E_n\right) - \mu(\{t\}).
\end{aligned}$$

Since μ is atomless, we see that $\mu(\{t\}) = 0$, so since $\mu(E) < \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \mu\left(\bigcap_{n\in\mathbb{N}} E_n\right)\\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} \mu(E_n)\\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} f(t_n). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, f is right-continuous. Similarly, if f is left-continuous, and $(t_n)_n \nearrow t$, then

$$\bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{N}} E_n = E \cap (-\infty, t),$$

so by continuity from below,

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \mu\left(\bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{N}} E_n\right)\\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} \mu(E_n)\\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} f(t_n). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, f is continuous. Since

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t\to-\infty} f(t) &= 0\\ \lim_{t\to\infty} f(t) &= \mu(E)\\ &> 0, \end{aligned}$$

the intermediate value theorem gives some $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} f(t_0) &= \mu(E \cap (-\infty, t_0))\\ &= \frac{1}{2}\mu(E). \end{aligned}$$

Problem 4

Let $(f_n)_n$ be Cauchy in $W_p([0,1])$. Then, for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there is $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $m, n \geqslant N$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_n - f_m\|_{W_p} &= |f_n(0) - f_m(0)| + \|f_n' - f_m'\|_{L_p}\\ &< \varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

meaning that both

$$\begin{aligned} |f_n(0) - f_m(0)| &< \varepsilon\\ \|f_n' - f_m'\|_{L_p} &< \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\mathbb{C}$ and $L_p([0,1])$ are complete, there is $c \in \mathbb{C}$ and $g \in L_p([0,1])$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} f_n(0) &\to c\\ f_n' &\to g. \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$f(x) = c + \int_0^x g(t)\,dt.$$

Then, we note that by the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus,

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= g(x) \\ &\in L_p([0,1]), \end{aligned}$$

so $f \in W_p([0,1])$. Finally, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_n - f\|_{W_p([0,1])} &= |f_n(0) - f(0)| + \|f_n' - f'\|_{L_p} \\ &= |f_n(0) - c| + \|f_n' - g\|_{L_p} \\ &\to 0, \end{aligned}$$

so $(f_n)_n \to f$ in W_p, meaning W_p is complete.