Math 218a Lecture Notes, Fall 2020
Probability Theory
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Contents

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§1.1 Introduction

Consider a **random experiment** - this involves a state space Ω and some "probability" on it. The outcome of an experiment would be $\omega \in \Omega$.

> **Example 1.1** (Fair Coin Toss)
>
> $\Omega = \{0, 1\}, P(0) = 1/2, P(1) = 1/2$ models a fair coin toss. The outcomes are $\omega \in \Omega, \omega = 0$ or $\omega = 1$.

> **Example 1.2** (Continuous State Space)
>
> $\Omega = [0, 1]$, X is the outcome of a random experiment. Suppose X is uniformly distributed random variable. $P(X \in [0, \frac{1}{2}]) = 1/2$. Take $A = \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$. $P(x \in A) = 0$, since A has no "volume". Similarly, taking $A_1 = \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$, then $P(x \in A_1) = 1 - P(x \in A) = 1$. Finally, take $E \subset [0, 1]$. $P(x \in E) = $"volume" of E.

The issue: we need to define some notion of volume. Some properties we would like are the following:

- Translation Invariance

- Countable Additivity: $A_1, A_2, \ldots$ disjoint with $A = \bigcup A_i$, then $P(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$.

§1.2 Nonmeasurable Sets

Take $I = [-1, 2]$, and define $x \sim y$ iff $x - y \in \mathbb{Q}$. [Exercise: check that $\sim$ is an equivalence relation.] This decomposes I into equivalence classes $I/\sim$. Note that the equivalence classes are countable, since any class is $x + A, A \subset Q$.

For each equivalence class B, pick $x_B \in B \cap [0, 1]$. Define $E = \{x_B\}$ over all the equivalence classes. Note that x_B is a representative of B in E, so $B = \{x_b + q : x_b + q \in I, q \in \mathbb{Q}\}$.

Now, consider the set $[0, 1] \subset \bigcup_{q \in [-1,1]} E + q \subset [-1, 2]$. Equality doesn't hold, because there can be B s. t. x_b is close to 0. Then $E + (\mathbb{Q} \cap [-1, 1])$ will only recover elements of B near 1 and will not go up to 2.

> **Proposition 1.3**
>
> We claim that $E + q$ are disjoint for different values of q.

Proof. Suppose $E + q_1 \cap E + q_2 \neq \emptyset$ for some q_1, q_2. Then, there exists $x, y \in E$ such that $x + q_1 = y + q_2$. This implies that $x - y = q_2 - q_1 \in \mathbb{Q}$, so $x \sim y$, but by definition, there is exactly one member of each equivalence class in E. $\square$

The big question: What is $P(E)$? Suppose $P(E) > 0$. Then $\bigcup_{q \in [-1,1]} E + Q \subset [-1, 2]$ and $P(E + q_1) = P(E + q_2) = P(E)$ for all q_1, q_2. Furthermore, by countable additivity,

$$1 \geq P(\bigcup_{q \in [-1,1] E+q}) = \sum_{q \in [-1,1]} P(E + q) = \infty \cdot P(E).$$

This would imply that $P(E) = 0$. However,

$$[0,1] \subseteq \bigcup_{q \in [-1,1]} E + q \Rightarrow P([0,1]) = 1/3 \leq \sum_{q \in [-1,1]} P(E + q) = 0.$$

Hence, $P(E)$ cannot be defined.

The issue is the step where we pick x_B, since we need to pick x_B from uncountably many points, which assumes the axiom of choice. It was proved by Robert M. Solovay that all models of set theory excluding the axiom of choice have the property that all sets are Lebesgue measurable.

Our goal is thus to come up with a general framework where things can be consistently defined for a large class of sets.

§1.3 Measure Theory Beginnings

For the definitions, we take Ω to be the state space.

Definition 1.4 (Sigma-Algebra)**.** Suppose Σ follows the following properties:

1. $\emptyset \in \Sigma$

2. $A \in \Sigma \Rightarrow A^c \in \Sigma$

3. $A_1, A_2, \cdots \in \Sigma$, then $\bigcup A_i \in \Sigma$

Note that 2 and 3 imply 1 since $(A \cup A^c)^c = \emptyset$. Then Σ is a sigma-algebra.

Note that we also have countable intersections(this is an easy exercise).

§2 September 1st, 2020

Last time:

- We discussed the notation of a Σ-algebra, a reasonable class of sets on which we will define measures.

- Properties: $\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}, A \in \mathcal{A}, A^c \in \mathcal{A}, \bigcup A_i \in \mathcal{A}$.

§2.1 Measures

We are working in a space (Ω, Σ).

Definition 2.1 (Measure). A measure is a function $\mu : \Sigma \to [0, \infty]$ with the following properties:

- $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$

- "Countable Additivity": $\mu(\bigcup A)i) = \sum \mu(A_i)$ for disjoint $A_i \in \Sigma$.

> **Example 2.2**
>
> If Ω is finite, $1, 2, \ldots, n$, $\Sigma = 2^\Omega$, then all possible measures on (Ω, Σ) are given by fixing $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n \in [0, \infty]$ and $\mu(A) = \sum_{i \in A} a_i$.

Properties of measures:

- Monotonicity: $A \subset B$, then $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$.

  Proof. $B = A \cup (B \setminus A)$ and $B \setminus A \in \Sigma$, so

  $$\mu(B) = \mu(A) + \mu(B \setminus A) \geq \mu(A).$$

  $\square$

- Countable Subadditivity: $A \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty B_i$, then $\mu(A) \leq \sum \mu(B_i)$.

  Proof. We disjointify the B_i: Define $C_1 = B_1, C_i = B_i \setminus B_{i-1}$. Then

  $$\mu(A) \leq \mu(\bigcup C_i) = \sum \mu(C_i) \leq \sum \mu(B_i).$$

  $\square$

- : Continuity from below: If $A_i \uparrow A$, then $\mu(A_i) \uparrow \mu(A)$.

  Proof. $A = A_1 \cup (A_2 \setminus A_1) \cup (A_3 \setminus A_2) \ldots$, so by countable additivity

  $$\mu(A) = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \mu(C_i) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu(C_i) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mu(A_n).$$

  $\square$

- Continuity from above, if $A_i \downarrow A$, and $\mu(A_1) < \infty$, then $\mu(A_i) \to \mu(A)$

  Proof. We need the condition $\mu(A_i) < \infty$. Take $A_i = [i, \infty)$ as a counterexample if we don't have that condition.

  Define $A_1 \setminus A_i = B_i$, so $B_i \uparrow A_1 \setminus A$. Then, use the continuity from below. $\square$

§2.2 Sigma algebras

Fact 2.3. For any $A \subset 2^\Omega$, define

$$\Sigma(A) = \bigcap_{A \in \Sigma} \Sigma.$$

Then, $\Sigma(A)$ is a sigma-algebra.

Note that $\Sigma(A)$ is the smallest sigma-algebra containing A. For this reason, we call it the sigma-algebra **generated** by A.

Example 2.4

Take $X, Y \subset 2^\Omega$. We want to prove $\Sigma(X) = \Sigma(Y)$. It suffices to show $X \subseteq \Sigma(Y)$ and $Y \subseteq \Sigma(X)$.

Definition 2.5 (Borel Sigma-Algebra)**.** $(\Omega, \mathcal{U})$, a topological space with a family of open sets. The **Borel Sigma-Algebra** is $\mathcal{B} = \Sigma(\mathcal{U})$.

Example 2.6

For $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{B}$ is the sigma algebra generated by open sets in $\mathbb{R}$. We also have $\mathcal{B}$ is the sigma-algebra generated by open intervals in $\mathbb{R}$, which follows from the fact that any open set can be written as a countable union of open intervals. Furthermore,

$$\Sigma((a, b) : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}) = \Sigma([a, b] : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}),$$

since $[a, b] = \bigcap(a - 1/n, b + 1/n)$ and $(a, b) = \bigcup[a + 1/n, b - 1/n]$.

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§2.3 Uniform Measure on the Borel Sets

We will attempt to define the uniform measure on Borel sets of $\mathbb{R}$. Broadly, we do it as follows:

1. Define it on a semi-algebra containing the intervals.

2. Extend the definition to an algebra.

3. Extend it to a sigma-algebra.

Definition 2.7 (Semi-algebra)**.** $\Sigma \subset 2^\Omega$ is a semi-algebra if

- $A_1, A_2 \in \Sigma$ implies $A_1 \cap A_2 \in \Sigma$

- $A_1 \in \Sigma$ implies that $A_1^c = \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i$ for $B_i \in \Sigma$.

Note: The set of intervals $\{(a, b) : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is not a semi-algebra. If $(a, b)^c = [b, \infty)$ which is not finitely coverable by disjoint open sets. Similarly, $\{[a, b] : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is not a semi-algebra.

Claim: $\Sigma = \{(a, b] : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is a semi-algebra. [This is left as an exercise].

Now, $\mu((a, b]) = b - a$. The proof that μ is countable additive on Σ. If $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty B_i$, B_i disjoint, $A, B_i \in \Sigma$, then $\mu(A) = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \mu(B_i)$.

Proof. We first show that $\mu(A) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(B_i)$. This is an easy exercise, show $\mu(A) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mu(B_i)$, and we pass to the limit.

It suffices to show $\mu(A) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(B_i)$. We do this by exploiting compactness.

Let $A = (a, b] \supset [a + 1/n, b] = A'$;, take $B_i = (c_i, d] \subset c_i, d + \frac{\epsilon}{2^i} = B_i'$. Note that

$$A' \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i',$$

so there exists a finite subcover $A' \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} B_{i_j}'$. It is easy to show that $b - (a + 1/n) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k} (d_{i_j}' - c_{i_j}')$. But note that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k} (d_{i_j}' - c_{i_j}') \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k} d_{i_j} - c_{i_j} + \epsilon,$$

which implies that

$$\mu(A) - 1/n \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(B_i) + \epsilon \Rightarrow \mu(A) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(B_i).$$

$\square$

Definition 2.8. $\mathcal{A}$ is an algebra if

- $\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$

- $A_1 \in \mathcal{A}$ implies $A^c \in \mathcal{A}$

- $A_1, \ldots, A_n \in \mathcal{A}$, then $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} A_i \in A$.

The algebra generated by a semi-algebra is given by taking all possible disjoint finite unions.

Claim: $\Sigma_a = \{\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} A_i\}$ for disjoint A_i semialgebras is an algebra.

Proof. We show $A, B \in \Sigma_a \Rightarrow A \cup B \in \Sigma_a$ and $A^c \in \Sigma_a$. Note that $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i, B = \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} D_j$, so

$$A \cap B = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} C_i \cap D_j,$$

and $C_i \cap D_j$ are disjoint. Then $C_i, D_j \in \Sigma$ implies $C_i \cap D_j \in \Sigma$.

Then, if $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^{k} C_i$, then $A^c = \bigcap_{i=1}^{k} C_i^c$, and $C_i^c = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\ell} E_j \in \Sigma_a$. $\square$

We extend μ to an algebra by $\mu(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \mu(C_i)$, where $A = \bigcup C_i$ in the semi-algebra.

§3 September 3rd, 2020

Recall that we are aiming to define the uniform measure on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B})$.

Last time:

1. We defined a **premeasure** on a semi-algebra, which $\Sigma_{semi} = \{(a,b] : -\infty \leq a \leq b \leq \infty\}$, $\mu((a,b]) = b - a$ was countably additive.

2. Extend μ to an algebra $\Sigma_a = $ disjoint union of elements of Σ_{semi}.

3. For $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^{k} C_i \in \Sigma_a$,
$$\mu(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \mu(C_i).$$

§3.1 Uniform Measure on the Borel Sets

We first need show show μ is well defined. Suppose $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^{l} C_i, \bigcup_{j=1}^{\ell} B_j$ for $C_i, B_i \in \Sigma_{semi}$. We want
$$\mu(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \mu(C_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \mu(B_j).$$

Note that $C_i = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\ell}(C_i \cap B_j)$, which are all disjoint. Similarly, $B_j = \bigcup_{i=1}^{k}(B_j \cap C_i)$, disjoint. Thus, from the finite additivity of Σ_{semi}, we have
$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} \mu(C_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{k}\sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \mu(C_i \cap B_k) = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \mu(B_j),$$

as desired.

We will next show that μ is finitely additive additive. First, if we have $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n \in \Sigma_a$ disjoint, we show $\mu\left(\bigcup A_i\right) = \sum \mu(A_i)$.

Note that each $A_i = \bigcup_{j=1}^{m_i} C_j^i$, which are disjoint, so
$$\mu\left(\bigcup A_i\right) = \mu\left(\bigcup_i \bigcup_j C_j^i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{m_i} \mu(C_j^i) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mu(A_i).$$

Next, we show μ is monotonic. For $A, B \in \Sigma_a, A \subseteq B, B = A \cup (B \setminus A)$, so
$$\mu(B) = \mu(A) + \mu(B \setminus A) \geq \mu(A).$$

We show countably additivity: Let $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i)$. We need to show $\mu(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i)$.

We first show $\mu(A) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i)$. It suffices to show $\mu(A) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mu(A_i)$. Since $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} A_i \subseteq A$, monotonicity gives $\mu\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} A_i\right) \leq \mu(A)$.

Next, we show $\mu(A) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i)$. First $A = \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} C_j$ for $C_j \in \Sigma_{semi}$, $A_i = \bigcup_{\ell}^{m_i} C_\ell^i$ for $C_\ell^j \in \Sigma_{semi}$.

Thus,
$$\mu(A) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \mu(C_j).$$

Hence, it suffices to show $\mu(C_j) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(C_j \cap A_i)$, since

$$\mu(A) = \sum \mu(C_j) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(C_j \cap A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \mu(C_j \cap A_i).$$

Note that $C_j = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{\ell}^{m_i} C_j \cap C_{\ell}^i$, and we finish by using countable additivity for Σ_{semi}.

It suffices extend to $\Sigma(\Sigma_a)$ which is the sigma-algebra generated by Σ_a.

Theorem 1 (Caratheodory's Extension Theorem)

We have the following:

- Given a countably additive measure μ on an algebra Σ_a, it can be extended to a measure on $\Sigma(\Sigma_a)$.

- If μ is σ-finite on Σ_a, the extension is unique.

A measure μ is σ-finite on Σ_a if there exists $A_1 \subseteq A_2 \subseteq \cdots \in \Sigma_a$ so that $\bigcup A_i = \Omega$, $\mu(A_i) \leq \infty$ for all i.

Proof. For example, consider $\Sigma_{semi} = \{(a, b] \cap \mathbb{Q}\}$. Then $\Sigma = 2^{\mathbb{Q}}$. The cardinality of every element in Σ_{semi} is either ∞ or 0. Define $\mu(A) = \infty$ if $|A| = \infty$, else 0. One can check μ is a measure on Σ_{semi}. We can also take the counting measure ν. This agrees on Σ_{semi}, but not on Σ. We can check that ν is not sigma-finite.

We now show uniqueness, given σ-finiteness. For simplicity, assume $\mu(\Omega) < \infty$. If we have two measures μ_1, μ_2 on Σ with $\mu_1(A) = \mu_2(A)$ for all $A \in \Sigma_a$, then we show $\mu_1(B) = \mu_2(B)$ for all $B \in \Sigma$.

A general strategy to show some property is true for a sigma-algebra is to show that the sets satisfying those properties must be closed under some natural operations and that any such family of sets must contain a sigma-algebra.

Theorem 2 (π - λ)

A class of sets P is said to be a π-system if $A, B \in P$ implies $A \cap B \in P$. A class of sets G is said to be a λ-system if $\Omega \in G$, $A \subset B, A, B \in G$, then $B \setminus A \in G$, and $A_i \in G$, $A_i \uparrow A \to A \in G$. If P is a π system contained in G, a λ-system, then $\Sigma(P) \subset G$.

Note that a semi-algebra is a π system. It suffices to consider the set $\mathscr{C} = \{A : \mu_1(A) = \mu_2(A)\}$. We know that $\Sigma_{semi} \subset \mathscr{C}$. To show $\Sigma \subset \mathscr{C}$, it suffices to show that $\mathscr{C}$ is a λ-system.

Note that a sigma-algebra is a λ-system, so given any π-system P, $\Sigma(P)$ is the smallest λ-system containing P.

We have already verified $\Sigma_a \subset \mathscr{C}$. Furthermore, $\Omega \in \mathscr{C}$ because Ω is an algebra. Finally, suppose we have $A \subset B$, $A, B \in \mathscr{C}$. We need $B \setminus A \in \mathscr{C}$. $\mu_1(A) = \mu_2(A), \mu_1(B) = \mu_2(B)$ and $\mu(\Omega) < \infty$. Since $\mu_1(\Omega) = \mu(\Omega) = \mu_2(\Omega) < \infty$,

$$\mu_1(B \setminus A) = \mu_1(B) - \mu_1(A) = \mu_2(B) - \mu_2(A) = \mu_2(B \setminus A).$$

For $A_i \uparrow A$, by continuity from below, $\mu_1(A_i) \to \mu_1(A), \mu_2(A_i) \to \mu_2(A)$, so $A \in \mathscr{C}$. $\square$

An easy exercise is to modify the above prove to include the sigma-finite case. The proof of the $\pi - \lambda$ theorem involves some set theory.

We'll sketch the existence proof. Suppose we have μ on Σ_a. For example, take $B \subset \mathbb{R}$. How do we define $\mu(B)$? We could try to approximate B by the union of intervals.

Define the outer measure, $\mu_*(B) = \inf \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i)$ defined over covers of B. Some properties are $\mu_*(B_1) \leq \mu_*(B_2)$ if $B_1 \subseteq B_2$, $\mu_*(\emptyset) = 0$, and $\mu_*(\bigcup C_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu_*(C_i)$.

Define $\mathcal{A} = \{A : \mu_*(E) = \mu_*(E \cap A) + \mu_*(E \cap A^C) \forall E\}$. $\mathcal{A}$ is a sigma algebra containing Σ_a and μ_* is a measure when restricted to $\mathcal{A}$.

§4 September 8th, 2020

Last time, we completed the construction of the uniform measure on the Borel sets.

§4.1 The Outer Measure

On an algebra Σ_a, let Σ_a^σ be the elements formed by taking countable unions of elements of Σ_a. Let $\Sigma_a^{\sigma\delta}$ contain countable intersections of elements of Σ_a^σ. Notice that from the definition of an outer measure, for any set B, there exists a set $B' \in \Sigma_a^{\sigma\delta}$ such that

$$B \subset B', \mu_*(B) = \mu_*(B').$$

This implies that $\mu_*(B' \setminus B) = 0$ and for every N such that $\mu_*(N) = 0$, we can check that N belongs to $\mathcal{A}$. Remark: The construction defines the measure μ_* on sets of the form $A \cup B$, where A is a Borel set and $\mu_*(B) = 0$. It is easy to check that $\mu_*(B) = 0$ implies that there exists a Borel set C such that $\mu_*(C) = 0$ and $B \subseteq C$. Thus, we call it the completion of Borel sets. This is a strictly larger sigma-algebra than the Borel sets, which follows from comparing cardinalities. Namely, the cardinality of the Borel sets is $2^{\aleph_0}$. Observe the Lebesgue sigma algebra contains $2^{\text{Cantor Set}} = 2^C$.

Meausres on the real line are characterized by distribution functions, which are non-decreasing right continuous functions F. One can adopt the same strategy to define a measure on the real line by defining $\mu((a, b]) = F(b) - F(a)$. Similarly, given μ on $(R, B(R))$, we can check that $F(b) = \mu((-\infty, b])$ is a distribution function.

We can also consider $(\mathbb{R}^d, B(\mathbb{R}^d))$, the Borel sets on $\mathbb{R}^d$. We claim that this is

$$\Sigma((a_1, b_1) \times (a_2, b_2) \times \cdots \times (a_d, b_d)) = \Sigma(B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_d : B_i \in B(R)).$$

For distribution functions on $\mathbb{R}^d$, consider the lexigraphical partial order. We would like them to satisfy,

- $F(x)$ is non-decreasing

- $F(x)$ is right continuous: If $x_i \downarrow x$, then $F(x_i) \to F(x)$.

- $F(x) \to 0$ as $x \downarrow -\infty$, $F(x) \to 1$ as $x \to \infty$.

The properties above are not actually enough to define a measure. (Consider the semibox in $\mathbb{R}^2$).

However, for any F such that $F(A) \geq 0$ for any $A \in \Sigma_{semi}$, the strategy to build a measure on $B(\mathbb{R}^d)$ from $\Sigma_{semi} \to \Sigma_a \to B(R^d)$ works.

§4.2 Functions Between Measure Spaces

Suppose we have two measure spaces $(\Omega_1, \Sigma_1), (\Omega_2, \Sigma_2)$ and a function $f : \Omega_1 \to \Omega_2$.

Definition 4.1 (Measurable Function). f is said to be **measurable** if $f^{-1}(A_2) \in \Sigma_1$ for all $A \in \Sigma_2$. If $(\Omega_2, \Sigma_2) = (\mathbb{R}, B(\mathbb{R}))$, then f will be called a **random variable**.

Proposition 4.2

If $\Sigma_2 = \Sigma(\mathcal{A})$, then to check f is measurable, it suffices to check $f^{-1}(B) \in \Sigma_1$ for all $B \in \mathcal{A}$.

Proof.
$$\Sigma' = \{B : f^{-1}(B) \in \Sigma_1\}$$

is a sigma-algebra: If $B \in \Sigma'$, then $B^c \in \Sigma'$, since $f^{-1}(B^c) = (f^{-1}(B))^c$. $\Omega \in \Sigma'$ since $f^{-1}(\Omega_2) = \Omega_1$. It is easy to check countable unions. Σ' is a sigma algebra containing $\mathcal{A}$, so Σ' contains $\Sigma(\mathcal{A})$. $\qquad\square$

Fact 4.3. If we have $f : (\Omega_1, \Sigma_1, \mu_1) \to (\Omega_2, \Sigma_2)$, f induces a measure μ_2 on (Ω_2, Σ_2) where $\mu_2(B) = \mu(f^{-1}(B))$ for all $B \in \Sigma_2$.

Some properties:

- If we have $f : (\Omega_1, \Sigma_1) \to (\Omega_2, \Sigma_2), g : (\Omega_2, \Sigma_2) \to (\Omega_3, \Sigma_3)$, then $h = g \circ f$ is measurable.

- If X_1, X_2 are two random variables, then (X_1, X_2) is a measurable function into $(\mathbb{R}^2, B(\mathbb{R}^2))$.

  We know that $B(\mathbb{R}^2) = \Sigma(I_1 \times I_2)$ for intervals. Finally,
  $$(X_1, X_2)^{-1}(I_1 \times I_2) = X_1^{-1}(I_1) \cap X_2^{-1}(I_2)$$
  , so $(X_1, X_2)^{-1}(I_1 \times I_2)$ is measurable.

- Suppose F is a continuous function from $(\Omega_1, B(\Omega_1)) \to (\Omega_2, B(\Omega_2))$. Then F is measurable, since the preimage of open sets is open.

- if $X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_d$ is a random variable, then $X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_d$ is a random variable.

- If f_n are random variables and $f_n \to f$ pointwise. Then, f is measurable.

  Proof. Consider the set $\{f > x\} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{m=n}^{\infty} \{f_m > x\}$ is measurable. Then $(x, \infty)_{x \in \mathbb{R}}$ is a generating set. $\qquad\square$

- $X : (\Omega_1, \Sigma_1, \mu_1) \to (R, B(R))$ induces a measure μ on $(R, B(R))$, where $\mu(B) = \mu_1(X^{-1}(B))$ for all $B \in B(R)$. It also induces a distribution function F, which is nondecreasing, right continuous, and $F(x) \uparrow 1$ and $x \to \infty$, $F(x) \downarrow 0$ as $x \to -\infty$.

Given a distribution function, is there a random variable? Given a distribution function, we can construct a measure on $\mathbb{R}$ by the Caratheodory Extension Theorem. Let $I : (R, B(R), \mu) \to (R, B(R))$. We could also take $X : ([0, 1], B([0, 1], \mu) \to (R, B(R))$, where μ is uniform. Suppose F is continuous and strictly monotone. We want X to induce the distribution F, so it suffices to show $X^{-1}(\infty, y) = [0, F(y)]$. If we define $X(F(y)) = y,$, we get the above, but that's not always well defined. For general distributions, one can come up with various definitions of an "inverse" which induces the desired properties. One particular choice is

$$w \in (0, 1), X(\omega) = \sup\{y : F(y) < \omega\}.$$

It is an exercise to check that $\{\omega : X(\omega) < x\} = \{\omega : \omega \leq F(x)\}$, which implies that X is measureable.