



Syracuse University

MATH 701: Real Variables I

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0 Introduction

0.1 Course Description

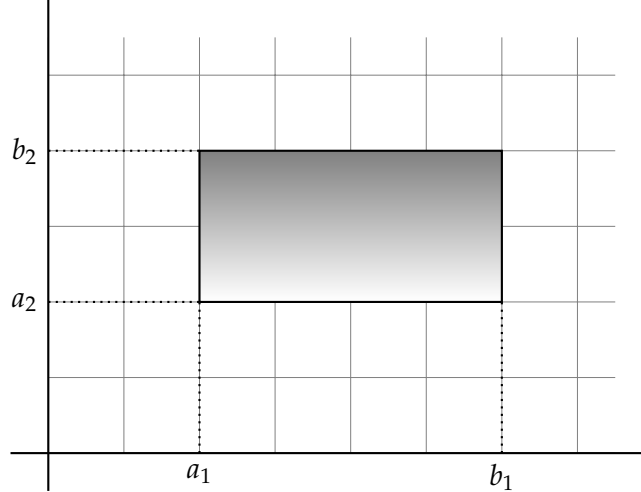
MAT 701 Real Variables I: Measure and integration, including basic theorems on integration and differentiation of sequences of functions; modes of convergence, product measures.

0.2 Disclaimer

These notes were taken in Fall 2018 in a course taught by Professor Leonid Kovalev. In some places, notation/material has been changed or added. Any errors in this text should be attributed to the typist – Caleb McWhorter – and not the instructor or any referenced text.

1 Outer Measure & Lebesgue Measure

We want to assign a notion of ‘size’ to sets. We denote this ‘size’ by ν . Let $\mathbb{R}^n = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_i \in \mathbb{R}\}$ denote ordinary Euclidean space. By an ‘interval’ in \mathbb{R}^n , we mean a set $\{(a_1, b_1) \times (a_2, b_2) \times \dots \times (a_n, b_n) : a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, a_i < b_i\}$. By a closed interval in \mathbb{R}^n , we mean a set $\{[a_1, b_1] \times [a_2, b_2] \times \dots \times [a_n, b_n] : a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, a_i < b_i\}$. We will often say ‘box’, which will always mean an open or closed interval in \mathbb{R}^n .



In defining a ‘size’ for sets, it makes sense to begin with a simple shape like a box. In the case of the plane, we know the a good notion of size is the area, and the area of a box $[a_1, b_1] \times [a_2, b_2]$ is $(b_1 - a_1) \cdot (b_2 - a_2)$. We can immediately generalize this to \mathbb{R}^n as follows: if $I \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is an interval, then we define

$$\nu(I) := \prod_{j=1}^n (b_j - a_j) = (b_1 - a_1)(b_2 - a_2) \cdots (b_n - a_n)$$

But the question remains, how do we generalize this to an arbitrary region E ? Given the above definition, it is natural to try to generalize to arbitrary sets E by approximating E by boxes, i.e. an open covering $\{I_k\}$ of E by intervals (see Figure 1).

It then becomes clear that whatever the measure of E is, it should satisfy

$$\nu(E) \leq \sum_k \nu(I_k),$$

since the intervals cover E . After all, it would be strange indeed to allow E to have greater measure than its covering. Furthermore, if a notion of measure is going to be defined in terms of coverings, then the measure need be invariant of the choice of covering. These ideas are our guiding principles. So we take the following definition

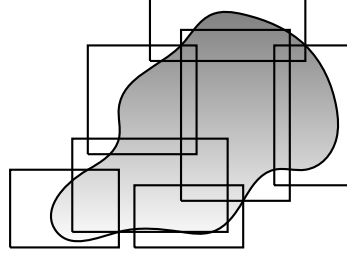


Figure 1: Approximating a set E by intervals.

Definition (Outer Measure). For a set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, the outer measure (or exterior measure) of E , denoted $|E|_e$, is the function $\nu : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ given by

$$|E|_e := \inf_{E \subset \bigcup_k I_k} \sum \nu(I_k),$$

where the infimum is taken over all *countable* coverings $\{I_k\}$ of E .

The coining of the term ‘outer measure’ is immediately obvious—we are measuring the size of a set via external objects, namely the open cover. However, less obvious is the need to restrict to countable coverings. The need to eliminate uncountable coverings is apparent, as then trouble arises defining the summation. But why not only allow finite coverings? For this consider the case $E = \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$. In any finite covering of $[0, 1]$ by intervals, the intervals cannot all be pairwise disjoint. The reader will confirm, with a bit of thought, that if the intervals were all pairwise disjoint then there would be a rational number missed by the ‘covering.’ But this contradicts the fact that the collection was an open cover. The only possible open covering by intervals is the entire interval itself so that $\inf \sum \nu(I_k) = 1$. This violates the notation that there isn’t any ‘length’ or ‘area’ here since we have a sparse collection of points.

Furthermore, the same logic applies to the set $E' = \mathbb{Q}^c \cap [0, 1]$. So if the outer measure of E were 1, then this would be true too of E' . But clearly the outer measure of $[0, 1]$ is 1. Now $[0, 1] = E \cup E'$, and $E \cap E' = \emptyset$. As $1 + 1 \neq 1$, this breaks countable subadditivity of the measure we are trying to define. By defining the outer measure in terms of countable covers, we obtain the expected answer $|E|_e = 0$.

Example 1.1. Let $E = \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$ and $\epsilon > 0$ be given. Since \mathbb{Q} is countable, so too is E countable. Enumerate the rationals in E as $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n, \dots\}$. Now the set $\{O_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $O_n := (q_n - \frac{1}{2^{n+k+1}}, q_n + \frac{1}{2^{n+k+1}})$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ is fixed, is a (countable) open covering of E by intervals. Furthermore, the O_n are pairwise disjoint. Choose k sufficiently large so that $2^{-k} < \epsilon$. The measure of this covering is then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \nu(O_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\left(q_n + \frac{1}{2^{n+k+1}} \right) - \left(q_n - \frac{1}{2^{n+k+1}} \right) \right] = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2^{n+k+1}} = \frac{1}{2^k} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2^k} < \epsilon.$$

◁

It is also important to note that our notion of measure preserves our notion of ‘size’ for intervals. Before proving this in the general case, we begin with the case for intervals in \mathbb{R} .

Proposition 1.1. $|[a, b]|_e = b - a$.

Proof. Clearly, $|[a, b]|_e \leq b - a$, so it remains to show that $b - a \leq |[a, b]|_e$. Suppose that $[a, b]$ is a finite union of intervals of the form $[c_j, d_j]$. There exists j_1 such that $c_{j_1} \leq a$. If $d_{j_1} \geq b$, then $|[a, b]|_e \geq d_{j_1} - c_{j_1} \geq b - a$, and we are done. Otherwise, it must be that $d_{j_1} < b$. There then exists j_2 such that $c_{j_2} \leq d_{j_1}$. Continue this process inductively until one finally obtains $d_{j_r} \geq b$. But then taking the sum of these differences, one obtains a telescoping series

$$\underbrace{(d_{j_r} - c_{j_r})}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{(d_{j_{r-1}} - c_{j_{r-1}})}_{\geq 0} + \cdots + \underbrace{(d_{j_1} - c_{j_1})}_{\geq 0} \geq b - a.$$

□

We now prove this for general intervals.

Proposition 1.2. For an interval I , $|I|_e = \nu(I)$.

Proof. As I serves as an open covering for itself, we know that $|I|_e \leq \nu(I)$. It remains to show that $\nu(I) \leq |I|_e$. Suppose $\{I_k\}_k$ is a countable open covering of I , and let $\epsilon > 0$. Every interval I is contained in the interior of a slightly larger interval I' , i.e. $I \subseteq \text{int}(I')$, where $\nu(I') - \nu(I) < \epsilon$. Let I'_k denote an interval containing I_k in its interior with $\nu(I'_k) \leq (1 + \epsilon)\nu(I_k)$. We know that $I \subset \bigcup_k \text{int}(I'_k)$. Now I is compact so that Heine Borel implies that there is an integer N such that $I \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^N I'_k$. We know $\nu(I) \leq \sum_{k=1}^N \nu(I'_k)$. But then

$$\nu(I) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \sum_{k=1}^N \nu(I_k) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \nu(I_k).$$

It then follows that $\nu(I) \leq |I|_e$, completing the proof. □

More generally, $\left| \bigcup_{k=1}^N I_k \right|_e = \sum_{k=1}^N \nu(I_k)$, provided the I_k are non-overlapping intervals, i.e. $\text{Int}(I_k) \cap \text{Int}(I_j) = \emptyset$, see Figure 2. The proof of this is rather ugly—an exercise in making ‘obvious’ geometric facts obvious, and an exercise in bookkeeping—and we shall not concern ourselves with it.

As a final remark, observe that the exterior measure is a function to the nonnegative extended real line; that is, the exterior measure allows infinite values. Sets with an infinite exterior measure are considered measurable. For example, our intuition is that \mathbb{R} should have infinite length, and the reader routinely verifies that $|\mathbb{R}|_e = \infty$. The outer measure $|\cdot|_e$ defined above does meet all our guiding principles as the following proposition verifies.

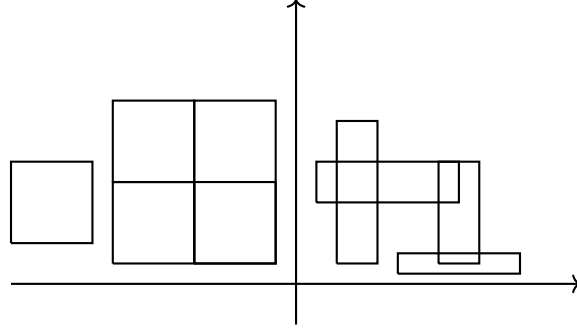


Figure 2: The intervals in Quadrant II are non-overlapping, while those in Quadrant I overlap.

Proposition 1.3.

- (i) $\nu(\emptyset) = 0$.
- (ii) *Monotonicity:* if $E_1 \subset E_2$, then $|E_1|_e \leq |E_2|_e$.
- (iii) *Countable Subadditivity:* $\left| \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} E_k \right|_e \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |E_k|_e$

Proof.

(i) This holds essentially by fiat.

(ii) This follows immediately from the fact that we are taking an infimum, and any open cover of E_2 is an open cover of E_1 .

(iii) Let $E := \left| \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} E_k \right|_e$. If any of the E_k have infinite exterior measure, the result is immediate. Assume then that $|E_k|_e < \infty$ for all k . Choose $\epsilon > 0$ and cover each E_k by intervals $\{I_n\}$ such that $\sum_n \nu(I_n) \leq |E_k|_e + \epsilon/2^k$. Then $E \subset \bigcup_{k,n} I_{k,n}$ and $|E|_e \leq \sum_{k,n} \nu(I_{k,n}) = \sum_k \sum_n \nu(I_{k,n})$. But then

$$|E|_e \leq \sum_k \left(|E_k|_e + \epsilon/2^k \right) = \epsilon + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |E_k|_e.$$

The result then follows by letting ϵ tend to 0. □

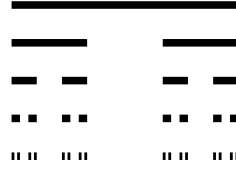
If one wants to generalize the notion of outer measures to spaces beyond \mathbb{R}^n , one can take the properties of Proposition 1.3 as the axioms for this abstract measure. Now we immediately have the following corollary:

Corollary 1.1. *Any subset of a set with outer measure zero has outer measure zero, and the countable union of sets with outer measure zero has outer measure zero. In particular, any countable set has outer measure zero.*

Proof. This follows immediately from the Countable Subadditivity of ν . \square

Now while Corollary 1.1 states that countable sets have outer measure zero, it need not be the case that uncountable sets need have positive measure.

Example 1.2 (Cantor Set). Begin with the closed unit interval $C_0 := [0, 1]$. From this interval, remove the middle third, i.e. $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3})$, and label $C_1 := [0, \frac{1}{3}] \cup [\frac{2}{3}, 1]$. Inductively construct C_n by removing the middle third of each closed subinterval of C_{n-1} . We define the Cantor Set by defining $C := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n$. The first few stages of the construction of C are shown below. The fact that the Cantor set is uncountable follows from the fact that it is a nonempty compact set without isolated points.



What is $|C|_e$? Note that C_n is the union of 2^n intervals, each having length $1/3^n$, and that $C \subset C_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. But then the Cantor set is contained in a union of 2^n intervals with length $1/3^n$, which has total length $2^n \cdot 1/3^n = (2/3)^n$. The fact that $|C|_e = 0$ is then clear as $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2/3)^n = 0$. \triangleleft

Note in general we do not have $|\bigcup E_k|_e = \sum |E_k|_e$ even if the E_k are disjoint or even in the case of finite unions! Equality holds when the sets are, in a sense, ‘unentangled.’ By this, we mean that open coverings of one set tend to be disjoint from open coverings of the other set. If this is the case, the sets have to be covered separately, see the example on the left in Figure 3. However if the sets are ‘entangled’, then their open covers result in a great deal of ‘multiple-covering’ for the union. This excess covering allows one to more ‘efficiently’ cover the union—hence the smaller measure, see the example on the right in Figure 3.

There are many connections between Topology and Measure Theory, especially in the case of \mathbb{R}^n . Topology on \mathbb{R}^n is primarily interested in the structure of open and compact sets. This will prove useful for us since our notion of measure is defined in terms of open sets. As an example, take the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. *For all $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an open set G such that $E \subset G$ and $|G|_e \leq |E|_e + \epsilon$.*

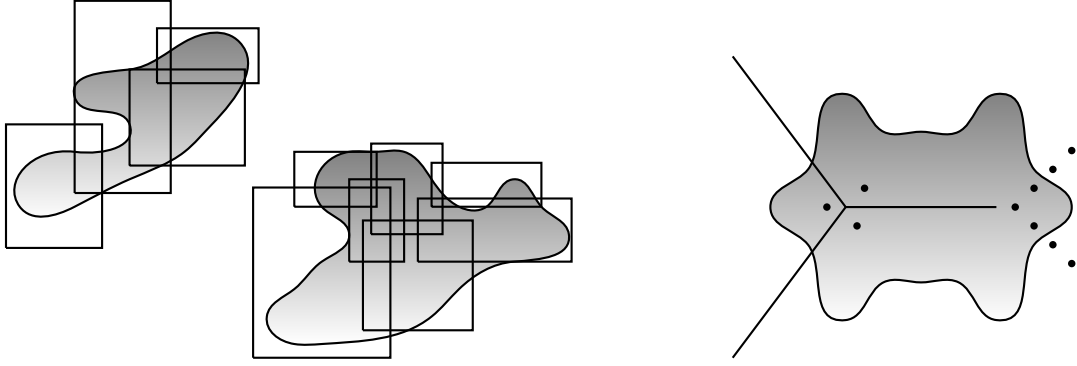


Figure 3: On the left, the two sets are ‘unentangled’ so that their opening coverings can be taken disjointly. On the right, the sets are the ‘blob’ and the line segments along with the points. These sets are ‘entangled’ and their open coverings will have ‘overlap.’

Proof. Every interval I is contained in the interior of a slightly larger interval I' , i.e. $I \subseteq \text{int}(I')$, where $\nu(I') - \nu(I) < \epsilon$. Choose intervals I_k such that $E \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} I_k$ and $\sum_k \nu(I_k) \leq |E|_e + \epsilon/2$. Now find I'_k such that $I_k \subset \text{int}(I'_k)$ and $\nu(I'_k) < \nu(I_k) + \epsilon/2^{k+1}$. Let $G = \bigcup_k \text{int}(I'_k)$. By construction, G is an open set containing E . To complete proof, observe

$$|G|_e \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \nu(I'_k) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \nu(I_k) + \epsilon \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{k+1}} \leq |E|_e + \epsilon.$$

□

Corollary 1.2. *For every set E , there exists a G_δ set G such that $E \subset G$ and $|E|_e = |G|_e$.*

Proof. By Theorem 1.1, we know that for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there is an open set $G_k \supset E$ with $|G_k|_e \leq |E|_e + 1/k$. Define $G := \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} G_k$. Then G is a G_δ set and $G \supset E$. Finally,

$$|E|_e \leq |G|_e \leq |G_k|_e \leq |E|_e + \frac{1}{k},$$

so that $|E|_e = |G|_e$.

□

The set G_δ referred to in Corollary 1.2 is a general type of set which will be of occasional interest and use for us:

Definition (G_δ -Set). A G_δ set is a countable intersection of open sets.

Notationally, the choice of ‘ G ’ is because the set is open, and the choice of ‘ δ ’ stems from the fact we are using an intersection.

Theorem 1.1 says we can always approximate any set by an open set with approximately the same size, i.e. approximately the same exterior measure. However, this does not mean that $|G \setminus E|_e \leq \epsilon$. We do know that $G = E \cup (G \setminus E)$. By subadditivity, we have $|G|_e \leq |E|_e + |G \setminus E|_e$. But we do not know the measure of the second set. In fact, it is possible that $|G \setminus E|_e$ could be very large. Now as it turns out for compact sets, it is sufficient to consider only finite coverings.

Proposition 1.4. *If $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is compact, then $|K|_e = \inf \{\sum_k \nu(I_k) : \{I_k\} \text{ finite cover of } K\}$.*

Proof. Let $\epsilon > 0$. By Theorem 1.1, every interval is contained some set $\text{Int}(I')$, where $\nu(I') < \nu(I) + \epsilon$. Given a countable cover I_k of K , choose I'_k such that $I_k \subset \text{Int}(I'_k)$ and $\nu(I'_k) < \nu(I_k) + \epsilon/2^k$. Then $\{\text{Int}(I'_k)\}_k$ is an open covering for K , so there exists a finite subcovering $\{I_{k,n}\}_{n=1}^N$. Therefore, we have $K \subset \bigcup_j I'_{k,j}$. By countable subadditivity,

$$\sum_{n=1}^N \nu(I'_{k,n}) < \epsilon + \sum_{n=1}^N \nu(I_k),$$

as desired. □

We now can define our notion of measurability with our notions of exterior measure firmly in place.

Definition (Measurable). A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is measurable if for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an open set G such that $G \supset E$ and $|G \setminus E|_e < \epsilon$.

Essentially, a set is measurable if it can be well approximated by open sets. We choose the above notion of ‘closeness’ in order to obtain additivity of measures. Notice we also have mentioned the underlying topology via the use of ‘open.’ We are able to avoid invoking the underlying topology using greater abstraction, which shall come later. Note that we always have an open set such that $|G|_e < |E|_e + \epsilon$ (c.f. Theorem 1.1), but this alone is weaker than the above definition; that is, if E is measurable then it satisfies the properties in Theorem 1.1. As a matter of notation, if E is measurable, we define $|E| := |E|_e$. The following propositions follow immediately from our definition.

Proposition 1.5. *Every open set is measurable.*

Proof. If E is an open set, choose $G = E$. □

Proposition 1.6. *If $|E|_e = 0$, then E is measurable.*

Proof. Choose G such that $|G|_e < |E|_e + \epsilon = \epsilon$. But then $|G \setminus E|_e \leq |G|_e < \epsilon$. □

Proposition 1.7. *A countable union of measurable sets is measurable, and*

$$|E| \leq \sum_k |E_k|.$$

Proof. Let $\epsilon > 0$. For each k , choose an open set G_k such that $E_k \subset G_k$ and $|G_k \setminus E_k|_e < \epsilon/2^k$. Now $G := \bigcup_k G_k$ is open, and $E \subset G$. Moreover since $G \setminus E \subset \bigcup_k (G_k \setminus E_k)$, we have

$$|G \setminus E|_e \leq \left| \bigcup_k (G_k \setminus E_k) \right|_e \leq \sum_k |G_k \setminus E_k|_e < \epsilon.$$

Therefore, $\bigcup_k E_k$ is measurable. The fact that $|\bigcup_k E_k| \leq \sum_k |E_k|$ follows from Proposition 1.3. \square

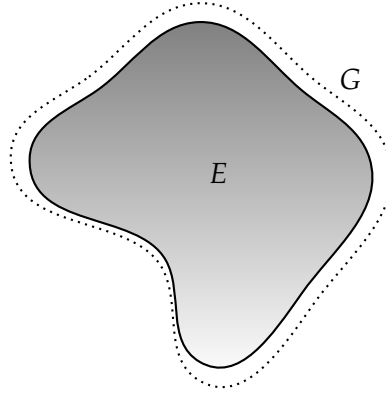


Figure 4: Open sets are not ‘fuzzy’ since they have a good notion of boundary. Similarly since G is not fuzzy and approximates E , it must be that E is not too close to being ‘fuzzy.’

Proposition 1.8. *All intervals are measurable.*

Proof (Sketch). We prove this only in the two dimensional case to avoid unnecessary complications. Given an interval $I = [a, b]$, choose $I' = [a', b']$ such that $I \subset \text{Int } I'$ and $\nu(I') < \nu(I) + \epsilon$. We need to show that $|I' \setminus I|_e < \epsilon$. Now $I' \setminus I = [a', a) \cup (b, b']$, and $|I' \setminus I|_e \leq a - a' + b' - b = (b' - a') - (b - a) < \epsilon$, as desired. Alternatively, one can use the fact that I is the union of its interior and its boundary, and that the boundary has measure zero. This alternative proof is left to the reader. \square

As we have seen, open sets are easily seen to be measurable. But the case of closed sets is more complicated. For example in \mathbb{R} , every open set is the countable union of intervals of the form (a_k, b_k) . These intervals can even be taken to be disjoint. However, the same is

not true for closed sets—take the Cantor set for example, c.f. Example 1.2. We do have that in \mathbb{R}^n , every open set is a countable union of non-overlapping intervals. To prove this we shall make use of dyadic cubes.

A dyadic cube of generation zero, \mathcal{D}_0 , are cubes with unit side lengths and integer vertices, i.e. $\mathcal{D}_0 := \{[0, 1]^n + \tau : \text{fixed } \tau \in \mathbb{Z}^n\}$. A generation one dyadic cube is $\mathcal{D}_1 := \{\frac{1}{2}Q : Q \in \mathcal{D}_0\}$. Generally, $\mathcal{D}_n := \{\frac{1}{2}Q : Q \in \mathcal{D}_{n-1}\} = \{\frac{1}{2^n}Q : Q \in \mathcal{D}_0\}$. Given \mathcal{D}_n , we say that \mathcal{D}_{n-1} is a parent of \mathcal{D}_n , and \mathcal{D}_i , where $i < n$, is an ancestor of \mathcal{D}_n . We say also that \mathcal{D}_{n+1} is a child of \mathcal{D}_n , and \mathcal{D}_j , where $j > n$, is a descendant of \mathcal{D}_n . One can allow n to be negative to create larger dyadic cubes. Define $\mathcal{D} := \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{D}_k$. If Q_1, Q_2 are dyadic, then either $Q_1 \subset Q_2$, $Q_2 \subset Q_1$, or they do not overlap. We now are in a position to prove the following lemma.

Lemma 1.1. *Every open set in \mathbb{R}^n is a countable union of non-overlapping intervals.*

Proof. Given an open set G , let $\{I_k\}$ be all dyadic cubes that are contained in G and for which their parent is not contained in G . By the selection of the I 's, it follows that they are pairwise disjoint for if I_k and I_j overlap, then one contains the other, contradicting the selection process. Clearly, we have selected only countably many intervals. Now if $x \in G$, there exists $r > 0$ such that there is an r -neighborhood of x contained in G . For sufficiently large n , all the cubes in \mathcal{D}_n have diameter less than r . But then there exists $Q \in \mathcal{D}_n$ such that $x \in Q$. Note that $Q \subset G$. Now either \mathcal{D}_n is contained in G or it has an ancestor that is contained in G . \square

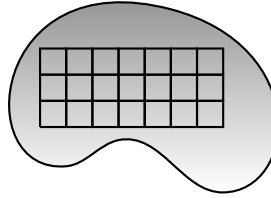


Figure 5: Tiling intervals inside an open set.

We can now make precise a discussion from earlier—if two sets are ‘unentangled’ then the measure of the union is the sum of the measures.

Lemma 1.2. *If $A, B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\text{dist}(A, B) > 0$, then $|A \cup B|_e = |A|_e + |B|_e$.*

Proof. We know by subadditivity that $|A \cup B|_e \leq |A|_e + |B|_e$. It remains to show that $|A|_e + |B|_e \leq |A \cup B|_e$. Let $\epsilon > 0$, and choose intervals $\{I_k\}$ such that $A \cup B \subset \bigcup_k I_k$ and $\sum_k |I_k| \leq |A \cup B|_e + \epsilon$. Possibly partitioning each I_k into a finite number of subintervals, we may assume that $\text{diam}(I_k) < \text{dist}(A, B)$. ‘Sort’ the set $\{I_k\}$ into two sets $\{I'_k\}$ and $\{I''_k\}$

which cover A and B , respectively. Then

$$|A|_e + |B|_e \leq \sum_k |I'_k| + \sum_k |I''_k| = \sum_k |I_k| \leq |A \cup B|_e + \epsilon.$$

Therefore, $|A|_e + |B|_e \leq |A \cup B|_e$, as desired. \square

Theorem 1.2. *Every closed set $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is measurable.*

Proof. Given $\epsilon > 0$, we can choose $G \supset A$ such that $|G|_e < |A|_e + \epsilon$. Now $G \setminus A$ is open. By Lemma 1.1, we can write $G \setminus A = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} I_k$, where the I_k are non-overlapping open intervals. We want to show that $\sum \nu(I_k) < \epsilon$, which will imply that $|G \setminus A|_e < \epsilon$. It suffices to show that $\sum_{k=1}^N \nu(I_k) < \epsilon$ for all N . Let $K = \bigcup_{k=1}^N I_k$, which is compact and disjoint from A . But A is closed so that $\text{dist}(K, A) > 0$. But then

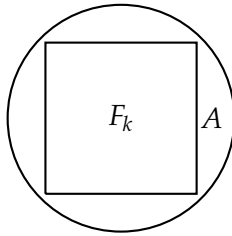
$$|K \cup A|_e = |K|_e + |A|_e = \sum \nu(I_k) + |A|_e \leq |G|_e < |A|_e + \epsilon.$$

\square

As it turns out, the measurability of a set is equivalent to the measurability of its complement. This turns out to be useful in circumstances where one set is ‘nicer’ than the other.

Theorem 1.3. *If E is measurable, then E^C is measurable.*

Proof. Suppose that E is measurable. For $k \in \mathbb{N}$, choose an open set G_k such that $E \subset G_k$ and $|G_k \setminus E|_e < 1/k$. Now as G_k is open, G_k^C is closed, and hence measurable by Theorem 1.2. Let $G := \bigcup_k G_k^C$. Being the countable union of measurable sets, G is measurable, and $G \subset E^C$. Write $E^C = G \cup Z$, where $Z = E^C \setminus G$. Then $Z \subset E^C \setminus G_k^C = G_k \setminus E$, and therefore, $|Z|_e < 1/k$ for all k . Hence, $|Z|_e = 0$, and so Z is measurable. But then E^C is the union of measurable sets, and is thus measurable. \square



While we have previously approximated sets by open sets containing them, we can do the same internally with closed sets and obtain the same notion of measurable, as the following proposition shows.

Proposition 1.9. A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is measurable if and only if given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a closed set $F \subset E$ such that $|E \setminus F|_e < \epsilon$.

Proof. E is measurable if and only if E^C is measurable, i.e. if and only if given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an open set G with $E^C \subset G$ and $|G \setminus E^C|_e < \epsilon$. But such an open set G exists, noting that $G \setminus E^C = E \setminus F$, if and only if G^C is closed, $F \subset E$, and $|E \setminus F|_e < \epsilon$. \square

The previous theorems and propositions have shown that the complements of measurable sets are measurable, and countable unions and intersections of measurable sets are measurable. This is a special case of the more general notion of σ -algebras.

Definition (σ -algebra). A nonempty collection of sets Σ is called a σ -algebra if it satisfies

- (i) $E^C \in \Sigma$ whenever $E \in \Sigma$.
- (ii) $\bigcup_k E_k \in \Sigma$ whenever $E_k \in \Sigma$ for all k .

Note that any collection of sets closed under countable unions is closed under countable intersections as $[\bigcap_k U_k]^C = \bigcup_k U_k^C$. The empty set and entire space are necessarily measurable sets. Generally, they are elements of any σ -algebra. Furthermore, if $\{E_k\}$ is a collection of measurable sets, then so are \limsup and \liminf ,

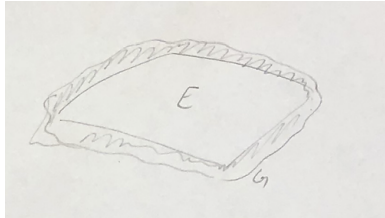
$$\limsup E_k = \bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=j}^{\infty} E_k \quad \text{and} \quad \liminf E_k = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=j}^{\infty} E_k.$$

We shall work with two special σ -algebras in particular.

Definition (Borel σ -algebra). The Borel σ -algebra is the smallest σ -algebra containing all open subsets of \mathbb{R}^n .

Definition (Lebesgue σ -algebra). The Lebesgue σ -algebra is the σ -algebra containing all measurable sets.

Note that the Borel σ -algebra is *strictly* contained in the Lebesgue σ -algebra—though this is not simple to see.



Recall that if E is measurable, then there exists G open such that $|G \setminus E|_e < \epsilon$. Also F closed, $F \subset E$, $|E \setminus F|_e < \epsilon$.

Quiz: Suppose $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ is measurable set. Claim for all $\epsilon > 0$, there is a compact set $K \subset A$ such that $|A \setminus K|_e < \epsilon$.

\mathbb{R} is measurable, K interval. $|\mathbb{R} \setminus K| = \infty$ for all compact sets.

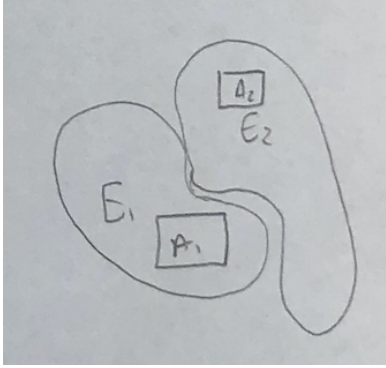
1.1 Properties of Measurable Sets

Recall $|E| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |E|_e$ when E is measurable.

Theorem 1.4 (Countable Additivity). *If $\{E_\alpha\}$ are measurable and disjoint, then $|\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n| = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |E_k|$.*

Recall we have subadditivity $|\bigcup E_k| \leq \sum |E_k|$.

Proof. Suffices to show $\sum |E_k| \leq |E|$, where $E = \bigcup_k E_k$. Suffices to show $\sum_{k=1}^N |E_k| \leq |E|$ for all N . We have $|A \cup B|_e = |A|_e + |B|_e$ if $\text{dist}(A, B) > 0$ (true for disjoint compact sets).



First assume each E_α is bounded. Choose compact (closed and bounded) subset $A_\alpha \subset E_k$ such that $|E_\alpha \setminus A_\alpha|_e < \epsilon/2^k$. So

$$\left| \bigcup_{k=1}^N A_k \right| = \sum_{k=1}^N |A_k| \geq \sum_{k=1}^N |E_k| - \epsilon$$

Since $\bigcup_{k=1}^N A_k \subset E$, we get $|E| \geq \sum_{k=1}^N |E_k| - \epsilon$.

$$|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3| = |A_1 \cup A_2| + |A_3| = |A_1| + |A_2 \setminus A_3| + \dots$$

1.2 Characterization of Measurable Sets

By definition, A is measurable if and only if for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an open set $G \supset A$ such that $|G \setminus A|_e < \epsilon$. But this makes use of the underlying topology. Can we avoid this? After all, all this 'open set-ness' is about continuity. Continuity is not even a requirement for integration, which is an end goal of ours. So we would like a description of measurability which avoids Topology entirely. Ironically, we shall first need more Topology.

Recall that G_δ is a set which is the countable intersection of open sets, F_σ is the countable union of closed sets, $G_{\delta,\sigma}$ are the countable intersection of closed sets.¹ One can even continue this to absurdity, i.e. $G_{\delta\sigma\delta\sigma}$. Furthermore, these are all subclasses of the Borel

¹Generally, G denotes open, F denotes closed, δ is for countable intersections, and σ is for countable unions.

σ -algebra. But are all Borel created by these procedures, i.e. formed by countable union or intersections of open or closed sets? It turns out that this is not the case. Though it is difficult to construct a set which is not a Borel set.

Theorem 1.5. *E is measurable if and only if $E = H \setminus Z$ if and only if $E = F \cup Z$.*

Proof. For all k , there exists an open set $G_k \supset E$ such that $|G_k \setminus E| < 1/k$. Then $H = \bigcap_k G_k$ works ($Z = H \setminus E$ has measure zero).

Simply take complements

2 or 3- \rightarrow 1 Because Borel sets are measurable, measure 0 implies measurable.

Theorem 1.5 essentially states that measurable sets are the Borel sets ‘plus or minus’ the measure zero sets.

Remark. This is different (in fact stronger) than $E \subset H$, H is a G_δ set with the same outer measure, i.e. $|H|_e = |E|_e$.

Theorem 1.6 (Carathéodory). *E is measurable if and only if for all $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $|A \cap E|_e + |A \setminus E|_e = |A|_e$.*

Proof. Suppose that E is measurable. Choose a G_δ set H such that $A \subset H$ and $|H|_e = |A|_e$. Since $H = (H \cap E) \cup (H \setminus E)$, and these are measurable sets, we have

$$|A|_e = |H| = |H \cap E| + |H \setminus E|.$$

But then $|A|_e = |H| = |H \cap E| + |H \setminus E| \geq |A \cap E|_e + |A \setminus E|_e$. By subadditivity, this must be an equality.

Now suppose that all $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $|A \cap E|_e + |A \setminus E|_e = |A|_e$. Let A be a G_δ set such that $E \subset A$ and $|E|_e = |A|$. Then on the left side of the equation, we have $|E|_e + |A \setminus E|_e = |A| = |E|_e$. Hence, $|A \setminus E|_e = 0$, so E is G_δ minus a measure zero set. Here we have subtracted $|E|_e$. But what if this is not finite?

But how to deal with sets of infinite measure? We know that $E = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j$ and $E_j = E \cap [-j, j]^n$. So it suffices to prove that E_j has the property $|A \cap E_j|_e + |A \setminus E_j|_e = |A|_e$. [Since E_j is measurable, then so are the countable union of the E_j .] We need to show that for all $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, we have $|A \cap E_j|_e + |A \cap E_j^c|_e = |A|_e$. We know that E satisfies this property so that $|A|_e = |A \cap E|_e + |A \cap E^c|_e$. We know also that $Q_j := [-j, j]^n$ satisfies this property, so $|A \cap E|_e = |A \cap E \cap Q_j|_e + |A \cap E \cap Q_j^c|_e$. Similarly, we have $|A \cap E^c|_e = |A \cap E^c \cap Q_j|_e + |A \cap E^c \cap Q_j^c|_e$. Combining these gives

$$|A|_e = |A \cap E \cap Q_j|_e + |A \cap E \cap Q_j^c|_e + |A \cap E^c \cap Q_j|_e + |A \cap E^c \cap Q_j^c|_e \geq |A \cap E_j|_e + |A \cap E_j^c|_e,$$

as desired. \square

1.3 Continuous & Lipschitz Transformations

If $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is measurable, and $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuous, is $f(E)$ always measurable? The answer to this is no. We shall see this shortly.

Lemma 1.3. *There is a continuous function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a set E with $|E| = 0$, such that $|f(E)| > 0$.*

Proof (Sketch).

Lemma 1.4. *If $|A| > 0$, then there exists $B \subset A$ such that B is not measurable.*

We now can show that it is not necessarily that if $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is measurable, and $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuous, that $f(E)$ always measurable. To see this, choose f and E as in Lemma 1.3. By Lemma 1.4, there exists a non-measurable subset of $f(E)$, say W . Let $V := f^{-1}(W) \cap E$. Observe that $f(V) = W$, and that V is measurable (being a subset of measure zero).

Definition (Lipschitz). We say that f is Lipschitz if there exists L such that $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq L|x - y|$ for all x, y in the domain of f .

That is, Lipschitz functions are the special case of uniformly continuous functions where we can always choose $\delta = \epsilon/L$. Therefore, if f is Lipschitz then it is uniformly continuous, and hence also continuous. However, not all uniformly continuous functions are Lipschitz.

The Lipschitz condition can be thought of as the boundedness of secant lines for a given function.

Lipschitz maps preserve sets of measure zero.

Theorem 1.7. *If $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is Lipschitz and $|E| = 0$, then $|f(E)| = 0$.*

Proof. For every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a countable cover of E by intervals $\{I_k\}$ so that $\sum |I_k| < \epsilon$.
 $|E|_e = \inf\{\sum \nu(I_k) : \bigcup I_k \supset E, \text{ and } I_k \text{ cubes}\}.$

Tile interior of I'_k by dyadic cubes.

So we have covering with cubes with $\sum \nu(I_k) < \epsilon$. $|f(I_k)| \leq C|I_k|$ by geometry. Note that C depends on L and n . Now cube has diameter at most $L \cdot a\sqrt{n}$. A cube of side length $2La\sqrt{n}$ covers it.

But then $|f(E)| \leq C \sum |I_k| \leq C\epsilon$. Therefore, $|f(E)| = 0$. □

Theorem 1.8. *If E is measurable and f is Lipschitz, then $f(E)$ is measurable.*

Proof. Since E is measurable, write $E = H \cup Z$, where H is F_σ and $|Z| = 0$. Now F_σ sets are the countable union of closed sets, which is equivalent to the countable union of compact sets.

Since f sends compact sets to compact sets, f preserves ' F_σ -ness.' We know by Theorem 1.7 that if $|E| = 0$, then $|f(E)| = 0$. But then $f(E) = f(H) \cup f(Z)$, a union of F_σ set and

a set of measure zero. □

Recall Cantor set maps to fat cantor set.

Theorem 1.9. *The continuous image of a Borel set is measurable.*

Not true that continuous map of Borel is Borel.

No explicit examples of non-measurable sets exist.

Axiom of Choice: For all collections of nonempty sets $\{E_\alpha\}$, one can choose an element from each E_α , i.e. there exists a function $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \bigcup E_\alpha$ such that $f(\alpha) \in E_\alpha$ for all α . Said differently, $\prod_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} E_\alpha \neq \emptyset$.

Vitali Set: A nonmeasurable subset of $[0, 1]$. Equivalence relation $x \sim y$ if $x - y \in \mathbb{Q}$. Let $\{E_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ be equivalence classes. Each E_α is countable. Index set \mathcal{A} is uncountable. By AC, we can prove one element from each $E_\alpha \cap [0, 1]$. This gives a set $V \subset [0, 1]$. We claim that V is nonmeasurable. Indeed, $V + \mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{R}$, in that $A \pm B = \{a \pm b : a \in A, b \in B\}$. Meaning, $\bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} (V + q) = \mathbb{R}$. But then $|V|_e > 0$ (otherwise, we get $|\mathbb{R}|_e = 0$). But $\bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]} V + q \subset [0, 2]$. So we have a disjoint union of countably many translated copies of V . If V were measurable, we would obtain $|[0, 2]| \geq \sum_{q \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]} |V + q| = \infty$.

Lemma 1.5. *If $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $|E| > 0$, then there exists an interval I such that $|E \cap I| > (1 - \epsilon)|I|$.*

Proof. There exists an open set G such that $G \supset E$ and $|G| < \frac{|E|}{1 - \epsilon}$. Now $G = \bigcup (a_k, b_k)$, disjoint and union contains set E . So $|E| = \sum_k |E \cap (a_k, b_k)|$ and $|G| = \sum_k |(a_k, b_k)|$. If for all k , $|E \cap (a_k, b_k)| \leq (1 - \epsilon)(b_k - a_k)$, then \sum_k yields $|E| \leq (1 - \epsilon)|G|$, contradiction.

Lemma 1.6. *If $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $|E| > 0$, then $E \setminus E$ contains a neighborhood of 0.*

Proof. We claim there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $|x| < \delta$, then $E \cap (E + x) \neq \emptyset$. $x \in E \setminus E$ if and only if $E + x$ intersects E . $X = a - b$ if and only if $h + x = a$, where $a, b \in E$. Let I be an interval, $|E \cap I| > \frac{2}{3}|I|$. Let $\delta = \frac{1}{3}|I|$. If $|x| < \delta$.

$$|I \cup (I + \delta)| \leq \frac{4}{3}|I|.$$

If E and $E + x$ were disjoint, then $|(E \cap I) \cup (E \cap I + x)| = 2|E \cap I| > \frac{4}{3}|I| > |I \cup (I + x)|$, a contradiction (since one is a subset of the other). □

Theorem 1.10. *If $E \subset \mathbb{R}$, $|E| > 0$, then there exists $E \subset E$ such that W is nonmeasurable.*

Proof. Since $\bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} (V + q) = \mathbb{R}$, where V Vitali set. We have $\bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} [(V + q) \cap E] = E$. So there exists q such that $|(V + q) \cap E|_e > 0$. But $(V + q) \cap E$ is nonmeasurable as $V + q$ has no measurable subsets of positive measure.

$((V + q) - (V + q)) = V - V$ is disjoint from \mathbb{Q} . □

h	(*) is	Open	Borel	Measurable
	Open	Continuous	—	—
	Borel	Borel measurable	Borel measurable	—
	Measurable	Measurable	Measurable	?

2 Measurable Functions

When can we say that $f \circ g$ is measurable? What data about f and g would ensure this? We know that if f is measurable and g is continuous does not work from previous discussion. One possibility ensuring this would be f is continuous and g is measurable as $(f \circ g)^{-1}(U) = g^{-1}(f^{-1}(U))$, as U is open $f^{-1}(U)$ is open and g^{-1} of open is measurable (assuming g takes values in \mathbb{R} and f is continuous on some open set containing the range of g). More generally, this will hold if f is Borel measurable on some Borel set containing the range of g and g measurable and real-valued.

Example 2.1. If f is measurable (and \mathbb{R} -valued) then f^2 is measurable, $f^2 = \phi \circ f$, where $\phi(t) = t^2$. Similarly, $|f|$ is measurable since $|f| = \phi \circ f$, where $\phi(t) = |t|$. Also, $\text{sgn}(f) = \begin{cases} 1, & f = 0 \\ 0, & f = 0 \\ -1, & f < 0 \end{cases}$ is measurable since sign is Borel measurable (simple to see by checking preimages). So is $\text{floor}(x)$, where floor is supremum of integers which are at most x . As is $\text{ceilin}(x)$, defined mutatis mutandis. [They are both monotone,]

Theorem 2.1. If f, g are measurable, then $f \pm g, fg$, and f/g ($g \neq 0$ a.e.) are measurable.

Proof. $\{f + g > a\} = \bigcup_{b+c>a, b,c \in \mathbb{Q}} [\{f > b\} \cap \{g > c\}]$ hence measurable set (countable union of measurable sets). Just need to prove equality. \supset is obvious. Need only prove \subset . Suppose $f(x) + g(x) > a$. Let $\epsilon = f(x) + g(x) - a$. Use density of rationals to find $b \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $f(x) - \epsilon/2 < b < f(x)$ and $c \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $g(x) - \epsilon/2 < c < g(x)$. But then $b + c > f(x) + g(x) - \epsilon = a$.

Now $fg = \frac{1}{4} [(f+g)^2 - (f-g)^2]$ is then measurable. For quotient only need reciprocal. We know $\frac{1}{g}$ is $\phi \circ g$, where $\phi(t) = \frac{1}{t}$, which is continuous on $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$. Now g is nonzero almost everywhere, ϕ contains range of g (ignoring set where range is $g = 0$, since we can ignore for measurability). \square

Another way could combine is max of functions. Better to generalize to countable. So countable sup/inf of measurable functions is measurable.

Theorem 2.2. The above statement, including infinite values.

Proof. IF $f_k : E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is measurable for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then $\sup_k f_k$ and $\inf_k f_k$ are measurable. So $g(x) = \sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} f_k(x)$ is measurable. Same for inf.

$$\begin{aligned}\{g > a\} &= \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{f_k > a\} \\ \{g \geq a\} & \\ \{g < a\} & \\ \{g \leq a\} &\end{aligned}$$

First case done. Other follow similarly. HAND WAVE! For inf

$$\{\inf_k f_k < a\} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{f_k < a\}.$$

□

Theorem 2.3. Suppose $f_k : E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ are measurable, then $\lim f_k$ is measurable.

Proof. Follows immediately from preceding result. [$\lim = \limsup = \liminf$ when it exists.] □

Approximation: Given measurable f , find ‘simple’ functions f_k such that $f_k \rightarrow f$ pointwise. Here by simple we mean finite range.

Definition (Simple). g is simple if its range is finite subset of \mathbb{R} . [Need measurable?]

Need this to build notion of integration.

Theorem 2.4. For all measurable functions, there exists f_k such that $f_k \rightarrow f$ pointwise. If $f \geq 0$, we can take $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots$.

Proof. $2^{-k} \text{floor}(2^k f)$. (floor to $\frac{\text{integer}}{2^k}$). This converges monotonically since increasing k shortens the rounding distance, and then not as much difference so this converges to f uniformly. Range not finite but countable. So just need to distribute the values among many functions.

$$f_k(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{j-1}{2^k}, & \frac{j-1}{2^k} \leq f(x) < \frac{j}{2^k} \\ k, & f(x) \geq k \end{cases}$$

f_k simple and $f_k \rightarrow f$. Now $f_k = \min(k, \max(-k, 2^{-k} \text{floor}(2^k f)))$. $f \geq 0$, then $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots$. □

Definition. $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous at $a \in E$ if for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $x \in E$ and $|x - a| < \delta$, then $|f(x) - f(a)| < \epsilon$.

Why better than normal definition with limit? Because a can be a limit point not defined there. Take $f(x) = 1/x^2$, rather like allowing $f(0) = \infty$.

Semincontinuity means rather than bounding difference from above below, means one of inequality $-\epsilon < f(x) - f(a) < \epsilon$ holds.

Definition (Upper Semicontinuous (usc)). $f : E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is upper semicontinuous at $a \in E$ if for all $y > f(a)$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $|x - a| < \delta$, then $f(x) < y$.

Definition (Lower Semicontinuous (lsc)). $f : E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is lower semicontinuous at $a \in E$ if for all $y < f(a)$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $|x - a| < \delta$, then $f(x) > y$.

Example 2.2.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x^2}, & x \neq 0 \\ \infty, & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

This is usc (automatically because of the ∞ value, why?) and lsc.

Both types of these functions are measurable.

Remark: lsc \rightarrow measurable usc \rightarrow measurable

Proof. if f usc on measurable E , then $\{f > a\}$ is open in E . So $\{f > a\} = E \cap U$. Hence $\{f > a\}$ is measurable.

For USC, use $\{f < a\}$.

BV function

Given $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, define $V(f; a, b) = \sup_P \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})|$ sup over all partitions $P : a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n = b$. $V(x^2; -1, 1) = 2$ ($P = \{-1, 0, 1\}$ gives the maximum value.)

Definition. f is BV on $[a, b]$ if $V(f; a, b) < \infty$

Interesting not called finite variation.

Something which is not BV is

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(1/x), & x \in (0, 1] \\ 0, & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

Theorem 2.5. If f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) and $\int_a^b |f'| dx$ (riemann integral), then $V(f; a, b) = \int_a^b |f'| dx$.

C.f. examples above.

Proof. Mean Value Theorem.

$$\sum_i |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})| = \sum_i |f'(\xi_i)|(x_i - x_{i-1})$$

$x_{i-1} < \xi_i < x_i$, the above converges to integral. \square

3. Subadditive wrt f : $V(f + g; a, b) \leq V(f; a, b) + V(g; a, b)$.

Proof. Triangle inequality.

$$|f(x_i) + g(x_i) - (f(x_{i-1}) + g(x_{i-1}))|$$

then use triangle splits into two and done.

Why not exactly like integral, i.e. strict inequality. Take nonconstant function f and then $g = -f$. Note $f + g$ identically zero.

Sum of monotone functions are bounded variation.

Theorem 2.6 (BV Decomposition). *If f is BV on $[a, b]$, then there exists increasing g, h on $[a, b]$ such that $f = g - h$.*

Proof. Let $g(x) = V(f; a, x)$, increasing (monotonicity wrt interval). This forces $h(x) := g(x) - f(x)$. Why is $h(x) \leq h(y)$ for $x \leq y$? $V(f; a, x) - f(x) \leq V(f; a, y) - f(y)$. Why? $f(y) - f(x) \leq V(f; a, y) - V(f; a, x) = V(f; x, y)$, clearly this right side is $\geq |f(x) - f(y)|$. \square

Theorem 2.7 (Egorov's Theorem). *Suppose $\{f_k\}$ is a collection of measurable functions, $f_k : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $|E| < \infty$, and $f_k \rightarrow f$ a.e., where $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a closed set $E(\epsilon) \subset E$ such that $f_k \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $E(\epsilon)$ and $|E \setminus E(\epsilon)| < \epsilon$.*

Proof. We need to find a set on which $\{f_k\}$ converges uniformly. It suffices to find, for each $j \in \mathbb{N}$, $E_j \subset E$ such that $|E \setminus E_j| < \epsilon/2^j$, and $\sup_{E_j} |f - f_k| \leq 1/j$ for sufficiently large k . Indeed, letting $E(\epsilon) := \bigcap_j E_j$, then $f_k \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $E(\epsilon)$, and $|E \setminus E(\epsilon)| \leq \sum_j \epsilon/2^j < \epsilon$.

To find E_j , consider the set $G_m := \{x : |f_k(x) - f(x)| < 1/j \text{ for all } k \geq m\}$. Since $|f_k - f| \rightarrow 0$ a.e., $\bigcup_m G_m$ is almost E , i.e. $|\bigcup_m G_m| = |E|$. By continuity of measure for nested unions, $|G_m| \rightarrow |E|$. Therefore, there exists m such that $|E \setminus G_m| < \epsilon/2^j$. Defining $E_j := G_m$ completes the proof. \square

Theorem 2.8 (Lusin's Theorem). *Let E be a measurable set. A function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable if and only if for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a closed set $E(\epsilon) \subset E$ such that $f|_{E(\epsilon)}$ is continuous, and $|E \setminus E(\epsilon)| < \epsilon$.*

Proof. Suppose that f is a simple function, i.e. $f = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \chi_{E_k}$, where E_1, \dots, E_n are disjoint measurable sets. Choose a closed subset $E'_k \subset E_k$ such that $|E_k \setminus E'_k| < \epsilon/n$. Then $E(\epsilon) := \bigcup_{k=1}^n E'_k$ so that $|E \setminus E(\epsilon)| < \epsilon$. It only remains to check that $f|_{E(\epsilon)}$ is continuous, but this is immediate as the preimage of any set is closed.

Now suppose only that $|E| < \infty$. There is a collection of simple functions $\{f_k\}$ such that $f_k \rightarrow f$ pointwise. Choose some $E(\epsilon/2^k)$ for f_k as in the case above. By Egorov's Theorem, $f_k \rightarrow f$ uniformly on a set $E(\epsilon)$. Now f is continuous on $E(\epsilon) \cap (\bigcap_k E_k(\epsilon/2^k))$, which has compliment of measure at most $\epsilon + \sum_k \epsilon/2^k = 2\epsilon$.

Now suppose that $|E| = \infty$. Write $E = \bigcup [E \cap \{|j| \leq |x| \leq j+1\}]$. In each shell, we have $E_j(\epsilon/2^j)$, closed set such that $f|_{E_j(\epsilon/2^j)}$ is continuous. Note that f continuous on $\bigcup_j E_j(\epsilon/2^j)$. □

The converse direction of Lusin's theorem is simple since $f|_{E(1/j)}$ is continuous, then we have f Borel on $\bigcup E(1/j)$ simply because $\{x \in \bigcup E(1/j) : f > a\} = \bigcup \{x \in E(1/j) : f > a\}$, countable union of Borel sets. and the rest has measure 0.

3 Quiz Problems

4 Quiz Solutions

5 Homework Problems

Problem 1. Given an arbitrary set $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ and a number $c > 0$, let $B = \{ca : a \in A\}$. Prove that $|B|_e = c |A|_e$.

Problem 2. Suppose that a set $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ is measurable. Prove that for every $c > 0$ the set $B = \{ca : a \in A\}$ is also measurable.

Problem 3. Given a sequence of continuous functions $f_k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let B be the set of all points $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the sequence $\{f_k(x)\}$ is bounded. Prove that B is a measurable set. [Hint: try to construct B from the sets $\{x : |f_k(x)| \leq M\}$ by using countable unions and intersections.]

Problem 4. Given a sequence of continuous functions $f_k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let C be the set of all points $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_k(x) = 0$. Prove that C is a measurable set.

Problem 5. Prove that the set

$$A = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \exists k \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } |2^x - 2^k| \leq 1\}$$

is measurable and $|A| < \infty$.

Problem 6. Prove that the set

$$A = \{x \in [0, 1] : \forall q \in \mathbb{N} \exists p \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } |x - p/q| \leq 1/q^2\}$$

is measurable and $|A| = 0$.

Problem 7. Suppose E and Z are sets in \mathbb{R}^n such that $E \cup Z$ is measurable and $|Z| = 0$. Prove that E is measurable.

Problem 8. Given a continuous function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, define $\mathcal{M} = \{E \subset \mathbb{R}^n : f^{-1}(E) \text{ is Borel}\}$.

(a) Prove that \mathcal{M} is a σ -algebra.

(b) Prove that if E is Borel, then $f^{-1}(E)$ is Borel. [Hint: Use (a).]

Problem 9. Suppose $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function with a continuous derivative. Prove that for every measurable set E , the set $f(E)$ is also measurable. [Hint: although f need not be Lipschitz, its restriction to any bounded interval is Lipschitz.]

Problem 10. Given a set $E \subset [0, \infty)$, define a function $f: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ by $f(x) = |E \cap [0, x]|_e$.

- (a) Prove that f is Lipschitz continuous.
- (b) Prove that for every number b with $0 < b < |E|_e$ there exists a set $F \subset E$ such that $|F|_e = b$.

Problem 11. Show that there exists a nested sequence of sets $E_1 \supset E_2 \supset \cdots$ such that $|E_1|_e < \infty$ and $\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} E_k = \emptyset$ but $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |E_k|_e > 0$; that is, outer measure is not continuous under nested intersections. [Hint: Use the translates of the Vitali set.]

Problem 12. Show that for the standard middle-third Cantor set $C \subset [0, 1]$, the difference set $C - C$ contains a neighborhood of 0. [Hint: C is the intersection of nested sets C_n where $C_0 = [0, 1]$ and $C_{n+1} = \frac{1}{3}C_n \cup (\frac{1}{3}C_n + \frac{2}{3})$. Find $C_n - C_n$ using induction.]

Remark: This shows that having $|E| > 0$ is not necessary for $E - E$ to contain a neighborhood of 0.

Problem 13. Suppose that $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function such that $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable and $f^{-1}(t)$ is measurable for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that f is measurable.

Problem 14. Prove that without the assumption “ $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable” the statement in Problem 13 would not be true.

Problem 15. Suppose that $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable, and $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuously differentiable with $g' > 0$ everywhere. Prove that $f \circ g$ is measurable.

Problem 16.

- (a) Suppose $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function such that f^2 is measurable. Prove that f is measurable.
- (b) Prove that the statement in (a) is false if f is not assumed continuous.

Problem 17. Suppose that $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a measurable function, where $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is measurable.

- (a) Prove that there exists a Borel set $H \subset E$ such that the restriction $f|_H$ is Borel measurable and $|E \setminus H| = 0$.
- (b) If, in addition, E is a Borel set, prove that there exists a Borel measurable function $g : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f = g$ a.e.. [Hint: For part (a), take a countable union of closed sets obtained from Lusin's Theorem.]

Problem 18. Suppose $\phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is a function such that $\phi(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Consider a sequence of measurable functions $\{f_k\}$, $f_k : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, such that $|f_k(x)| \leq \phi(|x|)$ for every k , and $f_k \rightarrow f$ a.e.. Prove that the conclusion of Egorov's Theorem holds in this situation; that is, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a closed set $E(\epsilon) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $|\mathbb{R}^n \setminus E(\epsilon)| < \epsilon$ and $f_k \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $E(\epsilon)$. [Hint: Follow the proof of Egorov's theorem.]

Problem 19. Suppose that $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function such that $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable and $f^{-1}(t)$ is measurable for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that f is measurable.

Problem 20. Prove that without the assumption " $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable" the statement in Problem 19 would not be true.

6 Homework Solutions

Solution Problem 1. Given an arbitrary set $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ and a number $c > 0$, let $B = \{ca : a \in A\}$. Prove that $|B|_e = c |A|_e$.

Proof. Given $\epsilon > 0$, let $\{[s_k, t_k]\}$ be a countable cover of A such that

$$\sum_k (t_k - s_k) \leq |A|_e + \epsilon$$

The intervals $[cs_k, ct_k]$ cover B , since every point of B is of the form ca where $a \in A$ is covered by some interval $[s_k, t_k]$. Therefore,

$$|B|_e \leq \sum_k (ct_k - cs_k) = c \sum_k (t_k - s_k) \leq c |A|_e + \epsilon$$

Since $\epsilon > 0$ was arbitrary, it follows that $|B|_e \leq c |A|_e$.

It remains to observe that $A = c^{-1}B$, which by the above implies $|A|_e \leq c^{-1} |B|_e$, i.e., $|B|_e \geq c |A|_e$. Thus, $|B|_e = c |A|_e$. \square

Solution Problem 2. Suppose that a set $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ is measurable. Prove that for every $c > 0$ the set $B = \{ca : a \in A\}$ is also measurable.

Proof. Given $\epsilon > 0$, let G be an open set that contains A and satisfies $|G \setminus A|_e < \epsilon/c$. Since the function $f(x) = x/c$ is continuous, the preimage of G under this function is also open. This preimage $f^{-1}(G)$ is cG . Since $A \subset G$, it follows that $B \subset cG$. Moreover by Problem 1,

$$|(cG) \setminus B|_e = |c(G \setminus A)|_e = c |G \setminus A|_e < \epsilon.$$

Since ϵ was arbitrary, this proves that B is measurable. \square

Solution Problem 3. Given a sequence of continuous functions $f_k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let B be the set of all points $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the sequence $\{f_k(x)\}$ is bounded. Prove that B is a measurable set. [Hint: try to construct B from the sets $\{x : |f_k(x)| \leq M\}$ by using countable unions and intersections.]

Proof. For $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$, let

$$A(k, m) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : |f_k(x)| \leq m\} = f_k^{-1}([-m, m]).$$

Being the preimage of a closed set under a continuous function, $A(k, m)$ is closed, and in particular measurable. Let

$$A := \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} A(k, m),$$

which is also measurable, being obtained from measurable sets by countable set operations. We claim that $A = B$.

If $x \in A$, then there exists $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|f_k(x)| \leq m$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, which shows the sequence $\{f_k(x)\}$ is bounded.

Conversely, if the sequence $\{f_k(x)\}$ is bounded, then there exists $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that all elements of the sequence are at most m in absolute value. This means $|f_k(x)| \leq m$ for all k , hence $x \in A$. \square

Solution Problem 4. Given a sequence of continuous functions $f_k: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let C be the set of all points $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_k(x) = 0$. Prove that C is a measurable set.

Proof. For $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$, let

$$A(k, m) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : |f_k(x)| < 1/m\} = f_k^{-1}((-1/m, 1/m)).$$

Being the preimage of an open set under a continuous function, $A(k, m)$ is open, and in particular measurable. Let

$$A := \bigcap_{m=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{N=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=N}^{\infty} A(k, m).$$

This set is also measurable, being obtained from measurable sets by countable set operations. We claim that $A = C$.

Suppose $x \in A$. Given $\epsilon > 0$, pick $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $1/m \leq \epsilon$. Since $x \in \bigcup_{N=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=N}^{\infty} A(k, m)$, there exists N such that $x \in \bigcap_{k=N}^{\infty} A(k, m)$, which means $|f_k(x)| < 1/m$ for all $k \geq N$. Thus, $|f_k(x)| < \epsilon$ for all $k \geq N$, which proves $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_k(x) = 0$.

Conversely, suppose $x \in C$. Given $m \in \mathbb{N}$, use the definition of the limit $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_k(x) = 0$ to find N such that $|f_k(x)| < 1/m$ for all $k \geq N$. The latter means $x \in \bigcap_{k=N}^{\infty} A(k, m)$. Therefore, for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$ the inclusion $x \in \bigcup_{N=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=N}^{\infty} A(k, m)$ holds. This means $x \in A$. \square

Solution Problem 5. Prove that the set

$$A = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \exists k \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } |2^x - 2^k| \leq 1\}$$

is measurable and $|A| < \infty$.

Proof. For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the inequality $|2^x - 2^k| \leq 1$ is equivalent to $\log_2(2^k - 1) \leq x \leq \log_2(2^k + 1)$. Thus, $A = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} I_k$, where $I_k = [\log_2(2^k - 1), \log_2(2^k + 1)]$. Begin an interval, each I_k is measurable. Hence, A is measurable. By countable subadditivity of measure, $|A| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |I_k|$. It remains to show the series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |I_k|$ converges. This can be done by the

comparison test, limit comparison test, or the ratio test. We use the Limit Comparison Test with $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-k}$ as a reference series:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|I_k|}{2^{-k}} &= \frac{\log_2(2^k + 1) - \log_2(2^k - 1)}{2^{-k}} \\ &= \frac{k + \log_2(1 + 2^{-k}) - (k + \log_2(1 - 2^{-k}))}{2^{-k}} \\ &= \frac{\log_2(1 + 2^{-k}) - \log_2(1 - 2^{-k})}{2^{-k}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\log 2} \left\{ \frac{\log(1 + 2^{-k})}{2^{-k}} + \frac{\log(1 - 2^{-k})}{-2^{-k}} \right\} \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\log 2} \end{aligned}$$

Here the last step is based on $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log(1+x)}{x} = 1$. Since $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-k}$ converges, so does $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |I_k|$. \square

Solution Problem 6. Prove that the set

$$A = \{x \in [0, 1] : \forall q \in \mathbb{N} \exists p \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } |x - p/q| \leq 1/q^2\}$$

is measurable and $|A| = 0$.

Proof. Let $A_q = \bigcup_{p=1}^{\infty} E(p, q)$, where $E(p, q) = \left[\frac{p}{q} - \frac{1}{q^2}, \frac{p}{q} + \frac{1}{q^2} \right] \cap [0, 1]$. This is a countable union of measurable sets $E(p, q)$ (which are intervals, possibly empty), so it is measurable. Then the set $A = \bigcap_{q \in \mathbb{N}} A_q$ is measurable too.

We have $|E(p, q)| \leq 2/q^2$ by construction of $E(p, q)$. Also, when $p > q + 1$, we have $\frac{p}{q} - \frac{1}{q^2} \geq 1 + \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{q^2} \geq 1$, which implies $E(p, q) = \emptyset$. By subadditivity,

$$|A_q| \leq \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} |E(p, q)| \leq \sum_{p=1}^{q+1} \frac{2}{q^2} = \frac{2q+2}{q^2}$$

By monotonicity, $|A| \leq |A_q|$ for each q . Since $|A_q| \xrightarrow{q \rightarrow \infty} 0$, it follows that $|A| = 0$. \square

Solution Problem 7. Suppose E and Z are sets in \mathbb{R}^n such that $E \cup Z$ is measurable and $|Z| = 0$. Prove that E is measurable.

Proof. Since $Z \setminus E \subset Z$, the monotonicity of outer measure implies $|Z \setminus E|_e = 0$, hence $Z \setminus E$ is measurable. Then

$$E = (E \cup Z) \setminus (Z \setminus E)$$

is measurable, being the difference of two measurable sets. [This could be done with Carathéodory's Theorem or with the " G_δ minus a null set" theorem, but it is easier without.] \square

Solution Problem 8. Given a continuous function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, define $\mathcal{M} = \{E \subset \mathbb{R}^n: f^{-1}(E) \text{ is Borel}\}$.

- (a) Prove that \mathcal{M} is a σ -algebra.
- (b) Prove that if E is Borel, then $f^{-1}(E)$ is Borel. [Hint: Use (a).]

Proof.

- (a) This proof does not involve f being continuous; the argument works for any map f . Taking preimages commutes with any set operations: for example,

$$f^{-1}(E^C) = \{x: f(x) \in E^C\} = \{x: f(x) \notin E\} = (f^{-1}(E))^C$$

and

$$f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_i E_i\right) = \{x: \exists i f(x) \in E_i\} = \bigcup_i f^{-1}(E_i).$$

If $E \in \mathcal{M}$, then $f^{-1}(E^C) = f^{-1}(E)^C$ is the complement of a Borel set, and hence is Borel. Hence, $E^C \in \mathcal{M}$. Also, if $E_k \in \mathcal{M}$ for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_k E_k\right) = \bigcup_k f^{-1}(E_k)$$

is the countable union of Borel sets, and hence is Borel. Therefore, $\bigcup_k E_k \in \mathcal{M}$.

The definition of a σ -algebra in the book also requires us to check that \mathcal{M} is nonempty: to do this, it suffices to notice that $f^{-1}(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ is Borel, hence $\emptyset \in \mathcal{M}$.

- (b) Since f is continuous, the preimage of any open set under f is open, and is hence Borel. This means \mathcal{M} contains all open sets. By definition, the Borel σ -algebra \mathcal{B} is the *smallest* σ -algebra that contains all open sets. Thus, $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{M}$, which by definition of \mathcal{M} means that $f^{-1}(E)$ is Borel whenever E is Borel.

[It is tempting to approach statement (b) by "writing a Borel set E in terms of open/closed sets" and concluding that $f^{-1}(E)$ can also be written in this way. But there is no such structural formula for Borel sets: one can only get the proper subclasses like G_δ , $G_{\delta\sigma}$, $G_{\delta\sigma\delta}$, and so on. The whole story is complicated: see [Borel hierarchy](#) on Wikipedia]. \square

Solution Problem 9. Suppose $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function with a continuous derivative. Prove that for every measurable set E , the set $f(E)$ is also measurable. [Hint: although f need not be Lipschitz, its restriction to any bounded interval is Lipschitz.]

Proof. For each $j \in \mathbb{N}$, the set $E_j = E \cap [-j, j]$ is measurable, as the intersection of two measurable sets is measurable. Since $E = \bigcup_j E_j$, it follows that $f(E) = \bigcup_j f(E_j)$. So it suffices to prove $f(E_j)$ is measurable for every j .

The derivative f' , being continuous, is bounded on the interval $[-j, j]$. By the Mean Value Theorem, f is Lipschitz on $[-j, j]$: indeed, $|f(a) - f(b)| \leq |a - b| \sup_{[-j, j]} |f'|$. A technical detail arises: we only proved the measurability of images for Lipschitz functions on all of \mathbb{R}^n . To get around this, define

$$f_j(x) = \begin{cases} f(x), & x \in [-j, j] \\ f(-j), & x < -j \\ f(j), & x > j \end{cases}$$

Such an extended function f_j is Lipschitz continuous on all of \mathbb{R} . Indeed in each of the three closed intervals $(-\infty, -j]$, $[-j, j]$, $[j, \infty)$, the Lipschitz condition holds by construction. For arbitrary $a < b$, partition the interval $[a, b]$ by the points $\{-j, j\}$ should they lie there, and apply the Lipschitz continuity to each interval, and use the triangle inequality.

Conclusion: $f_j(E_j)$, which is the same as $f(E_j)$, is measurable. \square

[Note: In fact, for every set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, any Lipschitz function $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ can be extended to a Lipschitz function $F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. Therefore, when discussing the measurability of $f(E)$, it suffices to check that f is Lipschitz on the set E .

Proof (Sketch). It suffices to extend a real-valued Lipschitz function $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, because the vector-valued case follows by extending each component. Let L be the Lipschitz constant of f , and define, for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$F(x) = \inf_{a \in E} (f(a) + L|x - a|).$$

It is an exercise with the definition of \inf to prove that F is Lipschitz with constant L , and that $F(x) = f(x)$ when $x \in E$. \square

Remark: Extending a map $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ in the above fashion, one finds the Lipschitz constant of the extension is at most $L\sqrt{n}$, where L is the Lipschitz constant of the original map. There is a deeper extension theorem (due to Kirszbraun) according to which an extension with the same Lipschitz constant L exists.]

Solution Problem 10. Given a set $E \subset [0, \infty)$, define a function $f: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ by $f(x) = |E \cap [0, x]|_e$.

- (a) Prove that f is Lipschitz continuous.
- (b) Prove that for every number b with $0 < b < |E|_e$ there exists a set $F \subset E$ such that $|F|_e = b$.

Proof.

- (a) We claim that $0 \leq f(b) - f(a) \leq b - a$ for any $a, b \in [0, \infty)$ such that $a < b$; this yields the Lipschitz continuity with constant 1. On one hand, $f(b) \geq f(a)$ by the monotonicity of outer measure: $E \cap [0, a] \subset E \cap [0, b]$. On the other, $E \cap [0, b] \subset (E \cap [0, a]) \cup [a, b]$, which implies

$$f(b) \leq |(E \cap [0, a]) \cup [a, b]|_e \leq |E \cap [0, a]|_e + |[a, b]| = f(a) + (b - a)$$

by subadditivity.

- (b) By Theorem 3.27 in the textbook, the outer measure is continuous under nested unions even if the sets are not measurable. Since $E = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} (E \cap [0, k])$, it follows that

$$|E|_e = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |E \cap [0, k]|_e = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(k).$$

Since $b < |E|_e$, by the definition of limit there exists k such that $f(k) > b$. Also, $f(0) = |E \cap \{0\}| = 0$. Applying the Intermediate Value Theorem to f on the interval $[0, k]$ (which is possible since f is continuous by part (a)), we conclude that there exists $x \in (0, k)$ such that $f(x) = b$. Then the set $F = |E \cap [0, x]|$ meets the requirements.

□

Solution Problem 11. Show that there exists a nested sequence of sets $E_1 \supset E_2 \supset \dots$ such that $|E_1|_e < \infty$ and $\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} E_k = \emptyset$ but $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |E_k|_e > 0$; that is, outer measure is not continuous under nested intersections. [Hint: Use the translates of the Vitali set.]

Proof. Let $V \subset [0, 1]$ be the Vitali set described in these notes: recall that $|V|_e > 0$ and that the sets $V + q$ are disjoint for all $q \in \mathbb{Q}$. Let

$$E_k = \bigcup_{j=k}^{\infty} \left(V + \frac{1}{j} \right).$$

Then $E_1 \subset V + [0, 1] \subset [0, 2]$, hence $|E_1|_e \leq 2 < \infty$.

Suppose $x \in \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} E_k$. This means that for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $j \geq k$ such that $x \in V + 1/j$. In particular, $x \in V + 1/j$ for infinitely many distinct values of j . But this is impossible as the sets $V + 1/j$ are disjoint, a contradiction. Therefore, $\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} E_k$ is empty.

The sets E_k are nested by construction, hence $|E_k|_e$ is a non-increasing sequence. It is bounded from below by $|V|_e$ because each E_k contains a translated copy of V . Thus, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |E_k|_e \geq |V|_e > 0$. \square

Solution Problem 12. Show that for the standard middle-third Cantor set $C \subset [0, 1]$, the difference set $C - C$ contains a neighborhood of 0. [Hint: C is the intersection of nested sets C_n where $C_0 = [0, 1]$ and $C_{n+1} = \frac{1}{3}C_n \cup (\frac{1}{3}C_n + \frac{2}{3})$. Find $C_n - C_n$ using induction.]

Remark: This shows that having $|E| > 0$ is not necessary for $E - E$ to contain a neighborhood of 0.

Proof. Recall that $A - B = \{a - b : a \in A, b \in B\}$. This definition implies that

$$(A_1 \cup A_2) - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \bigcup_{i,j=1}^2 (A_i - B_j) \quad (*)$$

Furthermore, for any $t \in \mathbb{R}$ we have $(A + t) - B = (A + B) + t$, $A - (B + t) = (A - B) - t$, and $tA - tB = t(A - B)$; all these follow directly from the definition.

The equality $C_0 - C_0 = [-1, 1]$ holds because, on one hand, $|x - y| \leq 1$ when $x, y \in [0, 1]$, while on the other, $C_0 - C_0 \supset [0, 1] - \{0, 1\} = [0, 1] \cup [-1, 0] = [-1, 1]$.

Assume $C_n - C_n = [-1, 1]$. Use the relation $C_{n+1} = \frac{1}{3}C_n \cup (\frac{1}{3}C_n + \frac{2}{3})$ and distribute the difference according to (*) and other properties stated at the beginning:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{n+1} - C_{n+1} &= \left(\frac{1}{3}C_n - \frac{1}{3}C_n\right) \cup \left(\frac{1}{3}C_n - \frac{1}{3}C_n + \frac{2}{3}\right) \cup \left(\frac{1}{3}C_n - \frac{1}{3}C_n - \frac{2}{3}\right) \\ &= [-1/3, 1/3] \cup ([-1/3, 1/3] + 2/3) \cup ([-1/3, 1/3] - 2/3) \\ &= [-1/3, 1/3] \cup [1/3, 1] \cup [-1, -1/3] = [-1, 1] \end{aligned}$$

The set $(\frac{1}{3}C_n + \frac{2}{3}) - (\frac{1}{3}C_n + \frac{2}{3})$ is not included above because it is the same as $(\frac{1}{3}C_n - \frac{1}{3}C_n)$. By induction, $C_n - C_n = [-1, 1]$ for all n .

Since $C \subset C_n$ for every n , it follows that $C - C \subset [-1, 1]$. To prove the reverse inclusion, fix $a \in [-1, 1]$. For each n , there exist $x_n, y_n \in C_n$ such that $x_n - y_n = a$. Since all these numbers are contained in $[0, 1]$, we can pick a convergent subsequence $\{x_{n_k}\}$. So, $x_{n_k} \rightarrow x$ and since $x_{n_k} - y_{n_k} = a$, we also have $y_{n_k} \rightarrow y$ where y is such that $x - y = a$.

It remains to prove that $x, y \in C$. For each $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $x_{n_k}, y_{n_k} \in C_m$ for $k \geq m$ by construction. Since C_m is compact, it follows that $x, y \in C_m$. And since this holds for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $x, y \in C$. \square

Solution Problem 13. Suppose that $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function such that $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable and $f^{-1}(t)$ is measurable for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that f is measurable.

Proof. Let $B = f(\mathbb{R}^n)$, a countable subset of \mathbb{R} . For any $a \in \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$\{f > a\} = \bigcup_{b \in B, b > a} f^{-1}(b),$$

which is a countable union of measurable sets, and is hence measurable. The domain of f , which is \mathbb{R}^n , is also measurable. Thus f is measurable. \square

Solution Problem 14. Prove that without the assumption “ $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable” the statement in Problem 13 would not be true.

Proof. The statement in Problem 13 is made for any n . To disprove it, it suffices to show it fails for some n . With massive loss of generality, let $n = 1$. Let $V \subset [0, 1]$ be a Vitali set, and define $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 1, & x \in V \\ -|x|, & x \notin V \end{cases}$$

By construction $\{f > 0\} = V$, which is nonmeasurable. Thus, f is nonmeasurable. On the other hand, for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$ the set $f^{-1}(t)$ is finite and therefore measurable. Indeed, if t is negative, $f(x) = t$ holds for at most two values of x ; and when $t \geq 0$, there is at most one such value. \square

[Remark: If we wanted to construct such an example on \mathbb{R}^n for every n , one way is to let

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \begin{cases} x_1 + 1, & \forall i \ x_i \in V; \\ -|x_1|, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then $\{f > 0\} = V^n$ which is nonmeasurable, because on one hand, $V^n + \mathbb{Q}^n = \mathbb{R}^n$ forces $|V^n|_e > 0$; on the other, $V^n + (\mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1])^n$ is a bounded set containing infinitely many copies of V^n , which makes it impossible to have $|V^n| > 0$.

For every $t \in \mathbb{R}$, the preimage $f^{-1}(t)$ consists at most two hyperplanes of the form $\{x\} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$. So it is covered by countably many sets of the form $\{x\} \times [-j, j]^{n-1}$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Here $|\{x\} \times [-j, j]^{n-1}| = 0$ because this set is contained in a box of dimensions $(\epsilon, 2j, \dots, 2j)$ whose volume can be arbitrarily small. In conclusion, $|f^{-1}(t)| = 0$ for every t . Thus f is measurable.]

Solution Problem 15. Suppose that $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable, and $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuously differentiable with $g' > 0$ everywhere. Prove that $f \circ g$ is measurable.

Proof. By the Mean Value Theorem, g is strictly increasing; therefore, it has an inverse $h = g^{-1}$. By the Inverse Function Theorem, the inverse function h is also continuously differentiable.

Given $a \in \mathbb{R}$, consider the set $A = \{x : f(g(x)) > a\}$. It can be written as $\{x : g(x) \in B\}$, where $B = \{f > a\}$ is measurable; that is, $A = h(B)$. By Problem 9, the image of a measurable set under a continuously differentiable function is measurable. Therefore, A is measurable. \square

Solution Problem 16.

- (a) Suppose $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function such that f^2 is measurable. Prove that f is measurable.
- (b) Prove that the statement in (a) is false if f is not assumed continuous.

Proof.

- (a) Since f is continuous, it is measurable.
- (b) Let $n = 1$, let V be a Vitali set, and define $f(x) = 1$ when $x \in V$ and $f(x) = -1$ when $x \notin V$. Then $f^2 \equiv 1$ is measurable, being continuous. But $\{f > 0\} = V$ is not a measurable set, so f is not measurable. \square

Solution Problem 17. Suppose that $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a measurable function, where $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is measurable.

- (a) Prove that there exists a Borel set $H \subset E$ such that the restriction $f|_H$ is Borel measurable and $|E \setminus H| = 0$.
- (b) If, in addition, E is a Borel set, prove that there exists a Borel measurable function $g : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f = g$ a.e.. [Hint: For part (a), take a countable union of closed sets obtained from Lusin's Theorem.]

Solution Problem 18. Suppose $\phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is a function such that $\phi(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Consider a sequence of measurable functions $\{f_k\}$, $f_k : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, such that $|f_k(x)| \leq \phi(|x|)$ for every k , and $f_k \rightarrow f$ a.e.. Prove that the conclusion of Egorov's Theorem holds in this situation; that is, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a closed set $E(\epsilon) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $|\mathbb{R}^n \setminus E(\epsilon)| < \epsilon$ and $f_k \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $E(\epsilon)$. [Hint: Follow the proof of Egorov's theorem.]

Solution Problem 19. Suppose that $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function such that $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable and $f^{-1}(t)$ is measurable for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that f is measurable.

Solution Problem 20. Prove that without the assumption “ $f(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is countable” the statement in Problem 19 would not be true.