1 Measures

Let E be any set. A collection $\mathcal{E}$ of subsets of E is called a *σ-algebra* if the following holds:

1. $\emptyset \in \mathcal{E}$.
2. If $A \in \mathcal{E}$, then $A^c = E \setminus A \in \mathcal{E}$.
3. If $(A_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$, $A_n \in \mathcal{E}$, then $\bigcup_n A_n \in \mathcal{E}$.

Examples.

- $\mathcal{E} = \{\emptyset, E\}$
- $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{P}(E)$, the set of all subsets of E.

Note that $\bigcap_n A_n = (\bigcup_n A_n^c)^c$, any σ-algebra $\mathcal{E}$ is also closed under countable intersection of its elements. Also $B \setminus A = B \cap A^c \in \mathcal{E}$ whenever $A, B \in \mathcal{E}$.

Any set E with a choice of σ-algebra $\mathcal{E}$ is called a *measurable* space, and the elements of $\mathcal{E}$ are called *measurable sets*.

A *measure* μ is a set-function $\mu : \mathcal{E} \to [0, \infty]$ such that $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$, and for any $(A_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$, $A_n \in \mathcal{E}$ pairwise disjoint ($A_n \cap A_m = \emptyset$ for all $n \neq m$) then

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_n A_n\right) = \sum_n \mu(A_n) \qquad \text{(countable additivity of } \mu\text{)}$$

If $\mathcal{E}$ is countable, then for any $A \in \mathcal{P}(E)$ and a measure μ

$$\mu(A) = \mu\left(\bigcup_{x \in A} \{x\}\right) = \sum_{x \in A} \mu(\{x\})$$

hence there is a one-to-one correspondence between measures and mass functions on E.

For any collection $\mathcal{A}$ of subsets of E, we define the σ-algebra $\sigma(\mathcal{A})$ generated by $\mathcal{A}$ as

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) = \{A \subseteq E : A \in \mathcal{E} \ \forall \sigma\text{-algebras } \mathcal{E} \supseteq \mathcal{A}\}$$

which equals (Example sheet)

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcap_{\sigma\text{-algebras } \mathcal{E} \supseteq \mathcal{A}} \mathcal{E}$$

To construct good 'generators' we define

1. $\mathcal{A}$ is called a *ring over* E if $\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$; if $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$ then $B \setminus A \in \mathcal{A}$ and $A \cup B \in \mathcal{A}$.

2. $\mathcal{A}$ is called an *algebra over* E if $\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$; if $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$ then $A^c \in \mathcal{A}$, $A \cup B \in \mathcal{A}$.

Notice that in a ring $A \Delta B = (B \setminus A) \cup (A \setminus B) \in \mathcal{A}$ and $A \cap B = (A \cup B) \setminus (A \Delta B) \in \mathcal{A}$. Also, $B \setminus A = B \cap A^c = (B^c \cup A)^c \in \mathcal{A}$, so an algebra is a ring.

Fact: If $\bigcup_n A_n$, $A_n \in \mathcal{E}$, $\mathcal{E}$ some σ-algebra (or a ring if the union is finite) - then we can find $B_n \in \mathcal{E}$ disjoint such that $\bigcup_n A_n = \bigcup_n B_n$. Indeed, define $\tilde{A}_n = \bigcup_{j \leq n} A_j$, and set $B_n = \tilde{A}_n \setminus \tilde{A}_{n-1}$, then the fact follows. ["disjointification of countable unions"]

Definition. A *set function* on any collection $\mathcal{A}$ of subsets of E (where $\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$) is a map $\mu : \mathcal{A} \to [0, \infty]$ such that $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$. We say μ is

1. *increasing* if $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$ whenever $A \subseteq B$; $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$
2. *additive* if $\mu(A \cup B) = \mu(A) + \mu(B)$ whenever $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$; $A \cup B \in \mathcal{A}$ and $A \cap B = \emptyset$.
3. *countably additive* if $\mu\left(\cup_n A_n\right) = \sum_n \mu(A_n)$ for any $(A_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ where $A_n \in \mathcal{A}$ disjoint and $\cup_n A_n \in \mathcal{A}$.
4. *countably sub-additive* if $\mu(\cup_n A_n) \leq \sum_n \mu(A_n)$ for all $(A_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ such that $\cup_n A_n \in \mathcal{A}$

Remark: one can show that a measure μ on a σ-algebra satisfies 1-4 above.

Theorem (Caratheodory)**.** *Let μ be a countably additive set function on a ring $\mathcal{A}$ of subsets of E. Then there exists a measure μ^* on $\sigma(\mathcal{A})$ such that $\mu^*|_{\mathcal{A}} = \mu$.*

Proof. For $B \subseteq E$ define the *outer measure* μ^* as

$$\mu^*(B) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mu(A_n) : A_n \in \mathcal{A}, B \subseteq \bigcup_n A_n \right\}$$

and set $\mu^*(B) = \infty$ if the set within the infimum is empty.

Define

$$\mathcal{M} = \{A \subseteq E : \mu^*(B) = \mu^*(B \cap A) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c) \ \forall B \subseteq E\}$$

the "μ^*-measurable" sets.

Step 1: μ^* is countably sub-additive on $\mathcal{P}(E)$. For any $B \subseteq E$ and $B_n \subseteq E$ such that $B \subseteq \bigcup_n B_n$ we have

$$\mu^*(B) \leq \sum_n \mu^*(B_n) \tag{\dagger}$$

WLOG we assume $\mu^*(B_n) < \infty$ for all n so for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists A_{nm} such that $B_n \subseteq \bigcup_m A_{nm}$ and

$$\mu^*(B_n) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2^n} \geq \sum_m \mu(A_{nm})$$

Now since μ^* and since $B \subseteq \bigcup_n B_n \subseteq \bigcup_{n,m} A_{nm}$, hence

$$\mu^*(B) \leq \mu^*\left(\bigcup_{n,m} A_{nm}\right) \leq \sum_{n,m} \mu(A_{nm}) \leq \sum_n \mu^*(B_n) + \underbrace{\sum_n \frac{\varepsilon}{2^n}}_{=\varepsilon}$$

so (†) follows since ε was arbitrary.

Step 2: μ^* extends μ. Let $A \in \mathcal{A}$. Clearly $A = A \cup \emptyset \cup \ldots \cup \emptyset$, so by definition of μ^*, $\mu^*(A) \leq \mu(A) + 0 + \ldots + 0$. So we need to prove $\mu(A) \leq \mu^*(A)$. Again, assume $\mu^*(A) < \infty$ WLOG, and let $A_n \in \mathcal{A}$ be such that $A \subseteq \bigcup_n A_n$. Then $A = \bigcup_n (\underbrace{A \cap A_n}_{\in \mathcal{A}})$, and since μ is countably sub-additive on $\mathcal{A}$, we have

$$\mu(A) = \mu\left(\bigcup_n (A \cap A_n)\right) \leq \sum_n \mu(\underbrace{A \cap A_n}_{\subseteq A_n}) \leq \sum_n \mu(A_n)$$

so since the (A_n) were arbitrary, by taking infima, we have $\mu(A) \leq \mu^*(A)$.

Step 3: $\mathcal{M} \supseteq \mathcal{A}$. Let $A \in \mathcal{A}$, then $B \subseteq (B \cap A) \cup (B \cap A^c) \cup \emptyset \ldots \cup \emptyset = \bigcup_n B_n$ so by (†) we have

$$\mu^*(B) \leq \mu^*(B \cap A) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c) + 0 \ldots + 0$$

so we need to prove $\mu^*(B) \geq \mu^*(B \cap A) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c)$. Again, WLOG assume $\mu^*(B) < \infty$, and so for all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exist $A_n \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $B \subseteq \bigcup_n A_n$ and

$$\mu^*(B) + \varepsilon \geq \sum_n \mu(A_n) \tag{$\circ$}$$

now $B \cap A \subseteq \bigcup_n (\underbrace{A_n \cap A}_{\in \mathcal{A}})$ and $B \cap A^c \subseteq \bigcup_n (\underbrace{A_n \cap A^c}_{A_n \setminus A \in \mathcal{A}})$. Therefore by definition of inf in μ^* and additivity of μ

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu^*(B \cap A) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c) &\leq \sum_n \left(\mu(A \cap A_n) + \mu(A^c \cap A_n)\right) \\
&= \sum_n \mu(A_n) \\
&\underbrace{\leq}_{\circ} \mu^*(B) + \varepsilon
\end{aligned}$$

since ϵ was arbitrary, $\mu^*(B) = \mu^*(B \cap A) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c)$, so $A \in \mathcal{M}$.

Step 4: $\mathcal{M}$ is an algebra. Clearly $\emptyset \in \mathcal{M}$, and by the definition of $\mathcal{M}$ its obvious that $A^c \in \mathcal{M}$ whenever $A \in \mathcal{M}$. So let $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{M}$

$$\mu^*(B) = \mu^*(B \cap A_1) + \mu^*(B \cap A_1^c), \text{ since } A_1 \in \mathcal{M}$$

$$= \mu^*(B \cap A_1 \cap A_2) + \mu^*(B \cap A_1 \cap A_2^c) + \mu^*(B \cap A_1^c), \text{ since } A_2 \in \mathcal{M}$$

Clearly $A_1 \cap A_2^c = (A_1 \cap A_2^c) \cap A_1$ and $A_1^c = (A_1 \cap A_2)^c \cap A_1^c$ so

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mu^*(B) \\
&= \mu^*(B \cap A_1 \cap A_2) + \mu^*(B \cap (A_1 \cap A_2)^c \cap A_1) + \mu^*(B \cap (A_1 \cap A_2)^c \cap A_1^c) \\
&= \mu^*(B \cap A_1 \cap A_2) + \mu^*(B \cap (A_1 \cap A_2)^c), \text{ since } A_1 \in \mathcal{M}
\end{aligned}$$

so $A_1 \cap A_2 \in \mathcal{M}$, and $\mathcal{M}$ is an algebra.

Step 5: Let $A = \bigcup_n A_n$, $A_n \in \mathcal{M}$, WLOG A_n disjoint (disjointification). Want $A \in \mathcal{M}$ and $\mu^*(A) = \sum_n \mu^*(A_n)$. By (†) we clearly have

$$\mu^*(B) \le \mu^*(B \cap A) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c) + 0 + \ldots + 0$$

and

$$\mu^*(A) \le \sum_n \mu^*(A_n)$$

so we only need two converse inequalities. Similar to before

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mu^*(B) \\
&= \mu^*(B \cap A_1) + \mu^*(B \cap A_1^c) \\
&= \mu^*(B \cap A_1) + \mu^*(B \cap \underbrace{A_1^c \cap A_2}_{=A_2 \text{ as disjoint}}) + \mu^*(B \cap A_1^c \cap A_2^c) \\
&= \sum_{n \le N} \mu^*(B \cap A_n) + \mu^*(B \cap A_1^c \cap \ldots \cap A_N^c)
\end{aligned}$$

since $\bigcup_{n \le N} \subseteq A$ so $\bigcap_{n \le N} A_n^c \supseteq A^c$, taking limits

$$\mu^*(B) \ge \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu^*(B \cap A_n) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c)$$

and by (†)

$$\mu^*(B) \ge \mu^*(B \cap A) + \mu^*(B \cap A^c)$$

so $A \in \mathcal{M}$. Applying the previous with $B = A$, we see

$$\mu^*(A) \ge \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu^*(A \cap A_n) + \mu^*(A \cap A^c) = \sum_n \mu^*(A_n)$$

$\square$