Interchanging Limits, Derivatives, and Integrals

IKHAN CHOI

1. Limit and derivative

 f_n pointwisely, Df_n uniformly

2. Limit and integral

We want to find a criterion for This question asks the convergence

$$f_n \to f$$
 in L^1 .

Theorem 2.1 (Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem). Let $\{f_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha}$ be a net of measurable functions $(X, \mu) \to \mathbb{R}$. Define a maximal function

$$Mf(x) = \sup_{\alpha} |f_{\alpha}(x)|.$$

If $||Mf||_1 < \infty$, then

$$\lim_{\alpha} |f_{\alpha}(x) - f(x)| = 0 \quad a.e. \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \lim_{\alpha} |f_{\alpha} - f||_{L^{1}} = 0.$$

continuity application

3. Derivative and integral

Theorem 3.1 (Scheffe). Let $\{f_n\}_n$ be a sequence of nonnegative functions in L^1 . Suppose it converges to f pointwisely. Then,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} ||f_n||_1 = ||f||_1 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \lim_{n \to \infty} ||f_n - f||_1 = 0.$$

Define the Newton quotient as

$$D_h f(t,x) := \frac{f(t+h,x) - f(t,x)}{h}$$

for $h \neq 0$. We mainly recognize D_h as an operator that maps f(0, x) to a function of x. Then, we can say that the partial derivative $\partial_t f(0, x)$ is well-defined a.e. x if and only if

$$\lim_{h\to 0} D_h f(0,x) = \partial_t f(0,x) \quad \text{a.e. } x.$$

We may ask about conditions for the following to hold:

$$\lim_{h\to 0} D_h f(0,x) = \partial_t f(0,x) \qquad \text{in } L^1_x(X).$$

This question naturally arise because it implies the commutability

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int f(t,x) \, dx = \int \frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(t,x) \, dx$$

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at t=0. As necessary conditions to formalize the statement, we must basically assume that $f(t,x) \in L^1_x$ for $|t| < \varepsilon$, and $\partial_t f(0,x) \in L^1_x$. Above this, if we give a stronger condition $\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{|t|<\varepsilon} |\partial_t f(t,x)| \in L^1_x$ than $\partial_t f(0,x) \in L^1_x$, then the L^1_x convergence is obtained.

Theorem 3.2 (Leibniz rule). Let $f:(-\varepsilon,\varepsilon)\times X\to\mathbb{R}$ be a curve of integrable functions such that f(t,x) is absolutely continuous in t for a.e. x. If

$$\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{|t|<\varepsilon}|\partial_t f(t,x)|$$

is in L_x^1 , then

$$\lim_{h \to 0} D_h f(0, x) = \partial_t f(0, x) \qquad \text{in } L_x^1(X).$$

Proof. Our strategy is to apply the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem. The pointwise convergence (in a.e. sense) is satisfied due to the absolute continuity.

Define the maximal function

$$Mf(x) := \sup_{|h| < \varepsilon} |D_h f(0, x)|.$$

The fundamental theorem of calculus for absolute continuous functions implies

$$D_h f(0,x) = \frac{f(h,x) - f(0,x)}{h} = \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h \partial_t f(t,x) dt,$$

so we have

$$|D_h f(0,x)| \le \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h |\partial_t f(t,x)| dt$$

$$\le \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{|t| \le |h|} |\partial_t f(t,x)| \left[\frac{1}{h} \int_0^h dt \right]$$

$$\le \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{|t| < \varepsilon} |\partial_t f(t,x)|.$$

Since the right hand side is constant with respect to h, we can deduce that Mf is in L_x^1 . By the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem, we get the desired result.

Remark. If f is assumed to be differentiable everywhere on $t \in (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$, then we may use the mean value theorem to prove the theorem instead of the fundamental theorem of calculus: we directly get

$$|D_h f(0,x)| \le \sup_{|t| < \varepsilon} |\partial_t f(t,x)|.$$

If f is assumed to be continuously differentiable on $t \in (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$, then