## Total variation, absolute continuity, and the Borel $\sigma$ -algebra of C(I)

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## 1 Total variation

Let a < b. A **partition** of [a, b] is a sequence  $t_0, t_1, \ldots, t_n$  such that

$$a = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = b.$$

The **total variation** of a function  $f:[a,b]\to\mathbb{C}$  is

$$\operatorname{Var}_{f}[a,b] = \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} |f(t_{i}) - f(t_{i-1})| : t_{0}, t_{1}, \dots, t_{n} \text{ is a partition of } [a,b] \right\}.$$

If  $\operatorname{Var}_f[a,b] < \infty$  then we say that f has bounded variation.

**Lemma 1.** If  $a \le c < e < d \le b$ , then

$$\operatorname{Var}_f[c,d] = \operatorname{Var}_f[c,e] + \operatorname{Var}_f[e,d].$$

The following theorem establishes properties of functions of bounded variation.  $^{1}$ 

**Theorem 2.** Suppose that  $f:[a,b] \to \mathbb{R}$  is of bounded variation and define

$$F(x) = \operatorname{Var}_f[a, x], \qquad x \in [a, b].$$

Then:

- 1.  $|f(y) f(x)| \le F(y) F(x)$  for all  $a \le x < y \le b$ .
- 2. F is a nondecreasing function.
- 3. F f and F + f are nondecreasing functions.
- 4. For  $x_0 \in [a, b]$ , f is continuous at  $x_0$  if and only if F is continuous at  $x_0$ .

 $<sup>^{1}\</sup>mathrm{Charalambos}$  D. Aliprantis and Owen Burkinshaw, Principles of Real Analysis, third ed., p. 377, Theorem 39.10.

*Proof.* If  $t_0, \ldots, t_n$  is a partition of [a, x] then  $t_0, \ldots, t_n, y$  is a partition of [a, y], so

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |f(t_i) - f(t_{i-1})| + |f(y) - f(x)| \le F(y).$$

Since this is true for any partition  $t_0, \ldots, t_n$  of [a, x],

$$F(x) + |f(y) - f(x)| \le F(y).$$

This shows in particular that  $F(x) \leq F(y)$ , and thus that F is nondecreasing. For  $a \leq x < y \leq b$ ,

$$f(y) - f(x) \le |f(y) - f(x)| \le F(y) - F(x),$$

thus

$$F(x) - f(x) \le F(y) - f(y),$$

showing that  $x \mapsto F(x) - f(x)$  is nondecreasing. Likewise,

$$f(x) - f(y) \le |f(y) - f(x)| \le F(y) - F(x),$$

thus

$$f(x) + F(x) \le f(y) + F(y),$$

showing that  $x \mapsto F(x) + f(x)$  is nondecreasing.

Suppose that F is continuous at  $x_0$  and let  $\epsilon > 0$ . There is some  $\delta > 0$  such that  $|x - x_0| < \delta$  implies that  $|F(x) - F(x_0)| < \epsilon$ . If  $|x - x_0| < \delta$ , then

$$|f(x) - f(x_0)| < |F(x) - F(x_0)| < \epsilon$$

showing that f is continuous at  $x_0$ .

Suppose that f is continuous at  $x_0$  and let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then there is some  $\delta > 0$  such that  $|x - x_0| < \delta$  implies that  $|f(x) - f(x_0)| < \epsilon$ , and such that  $x_0 - \delta > a$ . Let  $x_0 - \delta < s < x_0$ , and let  $t_0, \ldots, t_n$  be a partition of [s, b] such that

$$\operatorname{Var}_{f}[s, b] < \sum_{i=1}^{n} |f(t_{i}) - f(t_{i-1})| + \epsilon$$

and such that none of  $t_0, \ldots, t_n$  is equal to  $x_0$ . Say that  $t_k < x_0 < t_{k+1}$ . Then

$$t_0,\ldots,t_k,x_0,t_{k+1},\ldots,t_n$$

is a partition of [s, b]. For  $t_k < x < x_0$  we have  $|x - x_0| < \delta$  and therefore

$$\begin{split} \operatorname{Var}_f[s,x] + \operatorname{Var}_f[x,b] &= \operatorname{Var}_f[s,b] \\ &< \sum_{i=1}^n |f(t_i) - f(t_{i-1})| + \epsilon \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^k |f(t_i) - f(t_{i-1})| + |f(x) - f(t_k)| \\ &+ |f(x_0) - f(x)| \\ &+ |f(t_{k+1}) - f(x_0)| + \sum_{i=k+2}^n |f(t_i) - f(t_{i-1})| + \epsilon \\ &\leq \operatorname{Var}_f[s,x] + |f(x) - f(x_0)| + \operatorname{Var}_f[x_0,b] + \epsilon \\ &< \operatorname{Var}_f[s,x] + \operatorname{Var}_f[x_0,b] + 2\epsilon, \end{split}$$

giving

$$\operatorname{Var}_f[x,b] - \operatorname{Var}_f[x_0,b] < 2\epsilon.$$

As  $\operatorname{Var}_f[a,b] = \operatorname{Var}_f[a,x] + \operatorname{Var}_f[x,b]$  and also  $\operatorname{Var}_f[a,b] = \operatorname{Var}_f[a,x_0] + \operatorname{Var}_f[x_0,b]$ , we have  $F(x) + \operatorname{Var}_f[x,b] = F(x_0) + \operatorname{Var}_f[x_0,b]$ , and therefore

$$F(x_0) - F(x) < 2\epsilon.$$

Thus, if  $t_k < x < x_0$  then  $|F(x_0) - F(x)| < 2\epsilon$ , showing that F is left-continuous at  $x_0$ . It is straightforward to show in the same way that F is right-continuous at  $x_0$ , and thus continuous at  $x_0$ .

If  $f:[a,b]\to\mathbb{R}$  is of bounded variation, then Theorem 2 tells us that F and F+f are nondecreasing functions. A monotone function is differentiable almost everywhere,<sup>2</sup> and it follows that f=(F+f)-F is differentiable almost everywhere.

## 2 Absolute continuity

Let a < b and let I = [a, b]. A function  $f : I \to \mathbb{C}$  is said to be **absolutely continuous** if for any  $\epsilon > 0$  there is some  $\delta > 0$  such that for any n and any collection of pairwise disjoint intervals  $(\alpha_1, \beta_1), \ldots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)$  satisfying

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\beta_i - \alpha_i) < \delta,$$

we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i)| < \epsilon.$$

It is immediate that if f is absolutely continuous then f is uniformly continuous.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Charalambos D. Aliprantis and Owen Burkinshaw, *Principles of Real Analysis*, third ed., p. 375, Theorem 39.9.

**Lemma 3.** If  $f:[a,b]\to\mathbb{C}$  is absolutely continuous then f has bounded variation.

*Proof.* Because f is absolutely continuous, there is some  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $(\alpha_1, \beta_1), \ldots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)$  are pairwise disjoint and

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\beta_i - \alpha_i) < \delta,$$

then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i)| < 1.$$

Let N be an integer that is  $> \frac{b-a}{\delta}$  and let  $a = x_0 < \dots < x_N = b$  such that  $x_i - x_{i-1} < \frac{b-a}{N}$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . Then

$$\operatorname{Var}_{f}[a, b] = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \operatorname{Var}_{f}[x_{i-1}, x_{i}] \leq N,$$

showing that f has bounded variation.

Let  $\lambda$  be Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb R$  and let  $\mathfrak M$  be the collection of Lebesgue measurable subsets of  $\mathbb R$ .

The following theorem establishes connections between absolute continuity of a function and Lebesgue measure.<sup>3</sup> In the following theorem, we extend  $f:[a,b]\to\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}$  by defining f(x)=f(b) for x>b and f(x)=f(a) for x<a. In particular, for any x>b, f'(x) exists and is equal to 0, and for any x<a, f'(x) exists and is equal to 0.

**Theorem 4.** Suppose that I = [a,b] and that  $f: I \to \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and nondecreasing. Then the following statements are equivalent.

- 1. f is absolutely continuous.
- 2. If  $E \subset I$  and  $\lambda(E) = 0$  then  $\lambda(f(E)) = 0$ . (In words: f has the **Luzin** property.)
- 3. f is differentiable  $\lambda$ -almost everywhere on  $I, f' \in L^1(\lambda)$ , and

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_a^x f'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad a \le x \le b.$$

*Proof.* Assume that f is absolutely continuous and let  $E \subset I$  with  $\lambda(E) = 0$ . Let  $E_0 = E \setminus \{a, b\}$ ; to prove that  $\lambda(f(E)) = 0$  it suffices to prove that  $\lambda(f(E_0)) = 0$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Walter Rudin, Real and Complex Analysis, third ed., p. 146, Theorem 7.18.

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . As f is absolutely continuous, there is some  $\delta > 0$  such that for any n and any collection of pairwise disjoint intervals  $(\alpha_1, \beta_1), \ldots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)$  satisfying

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\beta_i - \alpha_i) < \delta,$$

we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i)| < \epsilon.$$

There is an open set V such that  $E_0 \subset V \subset I$  and such that  $\lambda(V) < \delta$ . (Lebesgue measure is outer regular.) There are countably many pairwise disjoint intervals  $(\alpha_i, \beta_i)$  such that  $V = \bigcup_i (\alpha_i, \beta_i)$ . Then

$$\sum_{i} (\beta_i - \alpha_i) = \lambda(V) < \delta,$$

so for any n,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\beta_i - \alpha_i) < \delta,$$

and because f is absolutely continuous it follows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i)| < \epsilon.$$

This is true for all n, so

$$\sum_{i} |f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i)| \le \epsilon.$$

Because f is continuous and nondecreasing,  $f(\alpha_i, \beta_i) = (f(\alpha_i), f(\beta_i))$  for each i. Therefore

$$f(V) = f\left(\bigcup_{i} (\alpha_i, \beta_i)\right) = \bigcup_{i} f(\alpha_i, \beta_i) = \bigcup_{i} (f(\alpha_i), f(\beta_i)),$$

which gives

$$\lambda(f(V)) = \sum_{i} (f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i)) = \sum_{i} |f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i)| \le \epsilon.$$

This is true for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , so  $\lambda(f(V)) = 0$ . Because  $f(E_0) \subset f(V)$ , it follows that  $f(E_0) \in \mathfrak{M}$  (Lebesgue measure is complete) and that  $\lambda(f(E_0)) = 0$ .

Assume that for all  $E \subset I$  with  $\lambda(E) = 0$ ,  $\lambda(f(E)) = 0$ . Define  $g: I \to \mathbb{R}$  by

$$g(x) = x + f(x), \qquad x \in I.$$

Because f is continuous and nondecreasing, g is continuous and strictly increasing. Thus if  $(\alpha, \beta) \subset I$  then  $g(\alpha, \beta) = (g(\alpha), g(\beta))$  and so

$$\lambda(g(\alpha,\beta)) = g(\beta) - g(\alpha) = \beta + f(\beta) - (\alpha + f(\alpha)) = \beta - \alpha + f(\beta) - f(\alpha),$$

showing that if  $J \subset I$  is an interval then  $\lambda(g(J)) = \lambda(J) + \lambda(f(J))$ . Suppose that  $E \subset I$  and  $\lambda(E) = 0$ , and let  $\epsilon > 0$ . There are countably many pairwise disjoint intervals  $(\alpha_i, \beta_i)$  such that  $E \subset \bigcup_i (\alpha_i, \beta_i)$  and  $\sum_i (\beta_i - \alpha_i) < \epsilon$ , and because  $\lambda(f(E)) = 0$ , there are countably many pairwise disjoint intervals  $(\gamma_i, \delta_i)$  such that  $f(E) \subset \bigcup_i (\gamma_i, \delta_i)$  and  $\sum_i (\delta_i - \gamma_i) < \epsilon$ . Let

$$N = f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_{i}(\gamma_i, \delta_i)\right) \cap \bigcup_{i}(\alpha_i, \beta_i) = \bigcup_{i, j}(f^{-1}(\gamma_i, \delta_i) \cap (\alpha_i, \beta_i)) \in \mathfrak{M}.$$

We check that

$$\lambda(g(N)) = \lambda(N) + \lambda(f(N)),$$

and because

$$\lambda(N) + \lambda(f(N)) \le \sum_{i} (\beta_i - \alpha_i) + \sum_{i} (\delta_i - \gamma_i) < 2\epsilon$$

we have

$$\lambda(g(N)) < 2\epsilon.$$

Finally,  $E \subset N$  so  $g(E) \subset g(N)$ . Therefore, for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there is some  $N \in \mathfrak{M}$  with  $g(E) \subset g(N)$  and  $\lambda(g(N)) < \epsilon$ , from which it follows that  $\lambda(g(E)) = 0$ .

Suppose that  $E \subset I$  belongs to  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Because  $E \in \mathfrak{M}$ , there are  $E_0, E_1 \in \mathfrak{M}$  such that  $E = E_0 \cup E_1$ ,  $\lambda(E_0) = 0$ , and  $E_1$  is a countable union of closed sets (namely, an  $F_{\sigma}$ -set). On the one hand, as  $E_1 \subset I$ ,  $E_1$  is a countable union of compact sets, and because g is continuous,  $g(E_1)$  is a countable union of compact sets, and in particular belongs to  $\mathfrak{M}$ . On the other hand, because  $\lambda(E_0) = 0$ ,  $g(E_0) \in \mathfrak{M}$ . Therefore  $g(E) = g(E_0) \cup g(E_1) \in \mathfrak{M}$ . Define  $\mu : \mathfrak{M} \to [0, \infty)$  by

$$\mu(E) = \lambda(g(E \cap I)), \qquad E \in \mathfrak{M}.$$

If  $E_i$  are countably many pairwise disjoint elements of  $\mathfrak{M}$ , then  $g(E_i \cap I)$  are pairwise disjoint elements of  $\mathfrak{M}$ , hence

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{i} E_{i}\right) = \lambda\left(g\left(\left(\bigcup_{i} E_{i}\right) \cap I\right)\right)$$

$$= \lambda\left(\bigcup_{i} g(E_{i} \cap I)\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i} \lambda(g(E_{i} \cap I))$$

$$= \sum_{i} \mu(E_{i}),$$

showing that  $\mu$  is a measure. If  $\lambda(E) = 0$ , then  $\lambda(E \cap I) = 0$  so  $\lambda(g(E \cap I)) = 0$ , i.e.  $\mu(E) = 0$ . This shows that  $\mu$  is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\lambda$ . Therefore by the Radon-Nikodym theorem<sup>4</sup> there is a unique  $h \in L^1(\lambda)$  such that

$$\mu(E) = \int_E h d\lambda, \qquad E \in \mathfrak{M}.$$

 $h(x) \geq 0$  for  $\lambda$ -almost all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Suppose that  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and let E = [a, x]. Then g(E) = [g(a), g(x)], and

$$\mu(E) = \int_{E} h(t)d\lambda(t) = \int_{a}^{x} h(t)d\lambda(t).$$

On the other hand,

$$\mu(E) = \lambda(g(E)) = \lambda([g(a), g(x)]) = g(x) - g(a) = x + f(x) - (a + f(a)).$$

Hence

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_{a}^{x} h(t)d\lambda(t) - (x - a),$$

i.e.,

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_{a}^{x} (h(t) - 1)d\lambda(t).$$

By the Lebesgue differentiation theorem,<sup>5</sup> f'(x) = h(x) - 1 for  $\lambda$ -almost all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , and it follows that  $f' \in L^1(\lambda)$  and

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_{a}^{x} f'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad x \in I.$$

Assume that f is differentiable  $\lambda$ -almost everywhere in I,  $f' \in L^1(\lambda)$ , and

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_{a}^{x} f'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad x \in I.$$

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and let  $(\alpha_1, \beta_1), \ldots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)$  be pairwise disjoint intervals satisfying

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\beta_i - \alpha_i) < \delta.$$

Because f is nondecreasing, for  $\lambda$ -almost all  $x \in I$ ,  $f'(x) \geq 0$ , and hence the measure  $\mu$  defined by  $d\mu = f'd\lambda$  is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\lambda$ . It follows<sup>6</sup> that there is some  $\delta > 0$  such that for  $E \in \mathfrak{M}$ ,  $\lambda(E) < \delta$  implies that  $\mu(E) < \epsilon$ . This gives us

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n(\alpha_i,\beta_i)\right)<\epsilon,$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Walter Rudin, Real and Complex Analysis, third ed., p. 121, Theorem 6.10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Walter Rudin, Real and Complex Analysis, third ed., p. 141, Theorem 7.11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Walter Rudin, Real and Complex Analysis, third ed., p. 124, Theorem 6.11.

and as

$$\mu(\alpha_i, \beta_i) = \int_{\alpha_i}^{\beta_i} f'(t) d\lambda(t) = f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i),$$

we get

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} f(\beta_i) - f(\alpha_i) < \epsilon.$$

This shows that f is absolutely continuous, completing the proof.

The following lemma establishes properties of the total variation of absolutely continuous functions.<sup>7</sup>

**Lemma 5.** Suppose that I = [a,b] and that  $f: I \to \mathbb{R}$  is absolutely continuous. Then the function  $F: I \to \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$F(x) = \operatorname{Var}_f[a, x], \qquad x \in I$$

is absolutely continuous.

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Because f is absolutely continuous, there is some  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $(a_1, b_1), \ldots, (a_m, b_m)$  are disjoint intervals with  $\sum_{k=1}^m (b_k - a_k) < \delta$ , then

$$\sum_{k=1}^{m} |f(b_k) - f(a_k)| < \epsilon.$$

Suppose that  $(\alpha_1, \beta_1), \ldots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)$  are disjoint intervals with  $\sum_{i=1}^n (\beta_i - \alpha_i) < \delta$ . If  $\alpha_i = t_{i,0} < \cdots < t_{i,m_i} = \beta_i$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, n$ , then  $(t_{i,j-1}, t_{i,j}), 1 \le i \le n$ ,  $1 \le j \le m_i$ , are disjoint intervals whose total length is  $< \delta$ , hence

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} |f(t_{i,j}) - f(t_{i,j-1})| < \epsilon.$$

It follows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |F(\beta_i) - F(\alpha_i)| = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \operatorname{Var}_f[\alpha_i, \beta_i] \le \epsilon,$$

which shows that F is absolutely continuous.

We now prove the fundamental theorem of calculus for absolutely continuous functions.  $^8$ 

**Theorem 6.** Suppose that I = [a, b] and that  $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$  is absolutely continuous. Then f is differentiable at almost all x in I,  $f' \in L^1(\lambda)$ , and

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_{a}^{x} f'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad x \in I.$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Walter Rudin, Real and Complex Analysis, third ed., p. 147, Theorem 7.19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Walter Rudin, Real and Complex Analysis, third ed., p. 148, Theorem 7.20.

*Proof.* Define  $F: I \to \mathbb{R}$  by

$$F(x) = \operatorname{Var}_f[a, x], \quad x \in I.$$

By Lemma 3, f has bounded variation, and then using Theorem 2, F - f and F + f are nondecreasing. Furthermore, by Lemma 5, F is absolutely continuous, so F - f and F + f are absolutely continuous. Let

$$f_1 = \frac{F+f}{2}, \qquad f_2 = \frac{F-f}{2},$$

which are thus nondecreasing and absolutely continuous. Applying Theorem 4, we get that  $f_1, f_2$  are differentiable at almost all  $x \in I$ ,  $f'_1, f'_2 \in L^1(\lambda)$ , and

$$f_1(x) - f_1(a) = \int_a^x f_1'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad a \le x \le b$$

and

$$f_2(x) - f_2(a) = \int_a^x f_2'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad a \le x \le b.$$

Because  $f = f_1 - f_2$ , f is differentiable at almost all  $x \in I$ ,  $f' = f'_1 - f'_2 \in L^1(\lambda)$ , and

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_{a}^{x} f'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad a \le x \le b,$$

proving the claim.

## 3 Borel sets

Let I = [a, b]. Denote by C(I) the set of continuous functions  $I \to \mathbb{C}$ , which with the norm

$$||f||_{C(I)} = \sup_{x \in I} |f(x)|, \qquad f \in C(I),$$

is a Banach space. Denote by AC(I) the set of absolutely continuous functions  $I \to \mathbb{C}$ . Let  $\mathscr{B}_{C(I)}$  be the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra of C(I). We have  $AC(I) \subset C(I)$ , and in the following theorem we prove that AC(I) is a Borel set in C(I).

Theorem 7.  $AC(I) \in \mathcal{B}_{C(I)}$ .

*Proof.* If X, Y are Polish spaces,  $f: X \to Y$  is continuous,  $A \in \mathcal{B}_X$ , and f|A is injective, then  $f(A) \in \mathcal{B}_Y$ . Let  $X = \mathbb{C} \times L^1(I)$ , which is a Banach space with the norm

$$\|(A,g)\|_X = |A| + \int_a^b |g| d\lambda, \qquad (A,g) \in X.$$

 $<sup>^9 \, {\</sup>rm Alexander}$  Kechris, Classical Descriptive Set Theory, p. 89, Theorem 15.1.

Furthermore,  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $L^1(I)$  are separable and thus so is X, so X is indeed a Polish space. The Banach space C(I) is separable and thus is a Polish space. Define  $\Phi: X \to C(I)$  by

$$\Phi(A,g)(x) = A + \int_a^x g(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad (A,g) \in X, \qquad x \in I.$$

For  $(A_1, g_1), (A_2, g_2) \in X$ ,

$$\begin{split} \|\Phi(A_1,g_1) - \Phi(A_2,g_2)\|_{C(I)} &= \left\| (A_1 - A_2) + \int_a^x (g_1(t) - g_2(t)) d\lambda(t) \right\|_{C(I)} \\ &= |A_1 - A_2| + \sup_{x \in I} \left| \int_a^x (g_1(t) - g_2(t)) d\lambda(t) \right| \\ &\leq |A_1 - A_2| + \int_a^b |g_1(t) - g_2(t)| d\lambda(t) \\ &= \|(A_1,g_1) - (A_2,g_2)\|_X \,, \end{split}$$

which shows that  $\Phi: X \to C(I)$  is continuous.

Let  $(A, g) \in X$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ . Because  $g \in L^1(I)$ , there is some  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $\lambda(E) < \delta$  then  $\int_E |g| d\lambda < \epsilon^{10}$ . If  $(\alpha_1, \beta_1), \ldots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)$  are disjoint intervals whose total length is  $< \delta$ , then, with  $E = \bigcup_{i=1}^n (\alpha_i, \beta_i)$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |\Phi(A,g)(\beta_i) - \Phi(A,g)(\alpha_i)| = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left| \int_{\alpha_i}^{\beta_i} g(t) d\lambda(t) \right|$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} \int_{\alpha_i}^{\beta_i} |g(t)| d\lambda(t)$$

$$= \int_{E} |g| d\lambda$$

$$< \epsilon.$$

showing that  $\Phi(A, g)$  is absolutely continuous. On the other hand, let  $f \in AC(I)$ . From Theorem 6, f is differentiable at almost all  $x \in I$ ,  $f' \in L^1(I)$ , and

$$f(x) - f(a) = \int_{a}^{x} f'(t)d\lambda(t), \qquad x \in I.$$

Then  $(f(a), f') \in X$ , and the above gives us, for all  $x \in I$ ,

$$\Phi(f(a), f')(x) = f(a) + \int_a^x f'(t)d\lambda(t) = f(x),$$

thus  $\Phi(f(a), f') = f$ . Therefore

$$\Phi(X) = AC(I).$$

 $<sup>^{10} \</sup>text{Walter Rudin}, \, \textit{Real and Complex Analysis}, \, \text{third ed., p. 32}, \, \text{exercise 1.12}.$ 

If  $\Phi(A_1,g_1)=\Phi(A_2,g_2)$ , then  $\Phi(A_1,g_1)(a)=\Phi(A_2,g_2)(a)$  gives  $A_1=A_2$ . Using this, and defining  $G:I\to\mathbb{C}$  by  $G=\int_a^x(g_1(t)-g_2(t))d\lambda(t)$ , we have G(x)=0 for all  $x\in I$ . Then G'(x)=0 for all  $x\in I$ , and by the Lebesgue differentiation theorem<sup>11</sup> we have  $G'(x)=g_1(x)-g_2(x)$  for almost all  $x\in I$ . That is,  $g_1(x)=g_2(x)$  for almost all  $x\in I$ , and thus in  $L^1(I)$  we have  $g_1=g_2$ . Therefore  $\Phi:X\to C(I)$  is injective.

Therefore  $\Phi(X) \in \mathscr{B}_{C(I)}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Walter Rudin, *Real and Complex Analysis*, third ed., p. 141, Theorem 7.11.