

Claim. For finite measure space (X, Σ, μ) , if $\{E_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset \Sigma$ and $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \mu(E_n) < \infty$, then $\mu(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n) = 0$.

Proof. By definition, we have

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty \bigcup_{k=n}^\infty E_k.$$

To tidy things up, we define the inner union as

$$A_n := \bigcup_{k=n}^\infty E_k$$

. Substituting our newly defined A_n into the equation, we can write.

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty A_n.$$

Now we note the descending structure of A_n . Since we only remove elements from $\{A_n\}$ as n increases, we have $A_1 \supset A_2 \supset A_3 \dots$. Thus, by continuity from above (a property of measure) we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n) &= \mu\left(\bigcap_{n=1}^\infty A_n\right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(A_n) && \text{(by continuity from above)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu\left(\bigcup_{k=n}^\infty E_k\right) && \text{(substituting back)} \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sum_{k=n}^\infty \mu(E_k)\right) && \text{(by countable subadditivity property of measure)} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The last line above follows intuitively. We are given that $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \mu(E_n)$ converges, so the tail end of the sum must tend to 0. More formally, but briefly: by definition, the corresponding partial sums S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots must converge, say, to L . Thus, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists some N such that for $k - 1 = N$, we have $|S_{k-1} - L| < \epsilon$. Decomposing L into the k -1th partial sum and the remaining tail, we subtract the two identical partial sums. We are left with the tail $\sum_{k=N}^\infty \mu(E_k) < \epsilon$. This is the limit in the second to last line, and it converges to 0. To complete the proof, by non-negativity of measure, we have the limit superior bounded below by 0, too. Thus, $\mu(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n) = 0$. \square