

Data And Uncertainty  
Assignment 8 November 2017

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**Ex1.1)**

Let  $\Omega = \mathbb{N}$ , show that  $\mathbf{A}$ , the set of all cofinite subsets in  $\Omega$ , forms an algebra.

The proof is done by checking that the 3 properties of an algebra are satisfied: empty set, closeness to complement and closeness to finite unions.

1.  $\emptyset \in \mathbf{A}$  trivially because it is finite.
2. By definition if  $A \in \mathbf{A}$  it is cofinite, therefore either it is finite and its complement is infinite, or the other way around: in either case  $A \in \mathbf{A} \implies A^c \in \mathbf{A}$ .
3. Let  $A_1, A_2, A_3 \dots \in \mathbf{A}$ , then if all of the  $A_i$  are finite, clearly  $\cup_{k=1}^n A_i$  is finite and therefore  $\cup_{k=1}^n A_i \in \mathbf{A}$ . If at least one of the  $A_i$  is infinite, then  $\cup_{k=1}^n A_i$  is infinite, we have to show that  $(\cup_{k=1}^n A_i)^c$  is finite. Let's say at least  $A_k$  is infinite (and therefore  $A_k^c$  is finite because  $A_k$  is cofinite by hypothesis), we have that  $(\cup_{k=1}^n A_i)^c = \cap_{k=1}^n A_i^c$ , and since  $\cap_{k=1}^n A_i^c \subseteq A_k^c$  and  $A_k^c$  is finite, it must be that  $\cap_{k=1}^n A_i^c$  is finite and therefore we have shown that  $\cup_{k=1}^n A_i \in \mathbf{A}$ .

**Ex1.2)**

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be the algebra of cofinite sets and define the set function  $\mu(A) = 1$  if  $A$  is finite, and 0 otherwise: show that  $\mu$  is normalised and additive.

1.  $\mu(\mathbb{N}) = 1$  since  $\mathbb{N}$  is infinite, therefore  $\mu$  is normalised.
2. For additivity we have to show that  $\mu(\cup_{k=1}^n A_i) = \sum_{k=1}^n \mu(A_i)$ ,  $\forall A_k \in \mathbf{A}$  s.t.  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$   $i \neq j$ . If all  $A_k$  are finite, then  $\cup_{k=1}^n A_i$  is finite and therefore  $\mu(\cup_{k=1}^n A_i) = 1 = \sum_{k=1}^n \mu(A_i)$ , since  $\mu(A_k) = 1 \forall k$ . To address the case where at least one of the  $A_k$  is infinite, firstly we show that the condition  $A_1, A_2 \in \mathbf{A}, A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset, A_1 \cup A_2$  is infinite means that only one between  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  can be infinite, and not both. In fact, if we assume that  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are both infinite and that  $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$ , we have that  $A_1^c$  and  $A_2^c$  are both finite ( $A_1$  and  $A_2$  being cofinite sets) and therefore we would have:  $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset \implies A_1^c \cup A_2^c = \mathbb{N}$  and this is an absurd as the union of two finite sets would give the whole set

of natural numbers which is infinite. By applying the previous result to each pair  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset, i \neq j$ , we know that the condition  $A_k \in \mathbf{A} \forall k = 1, \dots, n, A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset, i \neq j, \cup_{k=1}^n A_i$  is infinite, implies that only one of the  $A_k$  can be infinite and therefore we have that  $\mu(\cup_{k=1}^n A_i) = 1$  since  $\cup_{k=1}^n A_i$  is infinite, and  $\sum_{k=1}^n \mu(A_i) = 1$  because only one of the  $k$  terms of the sum will be 1 (the contribution from the only infinite set) and all other contributions will be zero. Therefore we have shown that  $\mu(\cup_{k=1}^n A_i) = \sum_{k=1}^n \mu(A_i), \forall A_k \in \mathbf{A}$ .

### Ex1.3)

Show that  $\mu$  is not continuous at the empty set.

Let's fix  $n$  and consider the set  $B_n = \{0, 2, \dots, 2^{n-1}\}$ , and put  $A_k = B_n \setminus \{0, 2, \dots, 2^{k-1}\}, k = 0, \dots, n$ : clearly  $A_k \in \mathbf{A}$  in fact  $A_k \subset \mathbb{N}, k = 0, \dots, n$  and is finite. In addition, by construction we have that  $A_1 \supset A_2 \dots \supset A_n$  and  $\cap_j^n A_j = \emptyset$ . As  $n \rightarrow \infty, A_n \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0, 2, 4, \dots\}$ , i.e. to the set of odd numbers which is infinite and would therefore have measure 1. The set of cofinite sets is not a sigma algebra, in fact if we consider the  $\cup_{n=1}^\infty B_n = C$  where  $B_n = \{0, 2, \dots, 2^{n-1}\}$ , we have that  $C$  is the set of odd numbers, which is not cofinite as it is infinite and its complement (i.e. the set of even numbers) is infinite as well.