

Data And Uncertainty
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Ex1.1)

Let $\Omega = \mathbb{N}$, show that \mathbf{A} , the set of all cofinite subsets in Ω , 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 μ is normalised and additive.

1. $\mu(\mathbb{N}) = 1$ since \mathbb{N} is infinite, therefore μ 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 μ is not continuous at the empty set.

We take $A_k = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$, all A_k are cofinite, in fact $A_k^c = \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$, a finite set, and in addition, by construction, $\cap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} A_k = \emptyset$ and $A_1 \supset A_2 \dots$. We have $\mu(A_k) = 1$ as A_k is infinite $\forall k$.

We 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 $\cap_j A_j = \emptyset$. 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.

Ex2.1)

Let (Ω, \mathbf{A}, P) be a probability space. Let f be a non negative random variable, and suppose that $\int f dP = 1$, on \mathbf{A} define the set function F by $F(A) = \int 1_A \cdot f dP$.

Show that F is a probability on (Ω, \mathbf{A}) .

The proof is done by checking the properties of a probability on a sigma algebra: normalisation and sigma additivity. Sigma (infinite) additivity proves both simple (non infinite) additivity and continuity at \emptyset (result used without proof from the lecture notes: exercise 2.2, point 2).

1. $F(\Omega) = \int 1_{\Omega} \cdot f dP$, remembering the definition of the indicator function, we have that $F(\Omega) = \int 1_{\Omega} \cdot f dP = \int_{\Omega} f dP = 1$ by hypothesis.
2. Let $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathbf{A}, A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset, i \neq j$. We define $C = \cup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k, B_n = \cup_{k=1}^n A_k$ we know both $C, B \subseteq \mathbf{A}$ since \mathbf{A} is a sigma algebra and

therefore closed under infinite unions. Define $g_n = f \cdot 1_{B_n}$, g_n is measurable since f is measurable by hypothesis and the indicator function is measurable too and the product of measurable functions is measurable. Define $g = f \cdot 1_C$. Since $f \geq 0$, we have that $0 \leq g_1 \leq g_2 \leq \dots \leq g$, in fact $f \cdot 1_{B_n} \leq f \cdot 1_{B_{n+1}} \leq f \cdot 1_C$ as $B_n \subseteq B_{n+1} \subseteq C$. In addition, by construction, $g_n \uparrow g$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. We are therefore in the monotone convergence theorem hypotheses, and we can say that: $F(C) = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot 1_C dP = \int_{\Omega} g dP = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} g_n dP$ (the last equality comes from the Monotone Convergence Theorem). Remembering that $g_n = f \cdot 1_{B_n}$ and that $B_n = \cup_{k=1}^n A_k$ where all of the A_k are mutually disjoint, we have that $g_n = f \cdot 1_{B_n} = \sum_{k=1}^n f \cdot 1_{A_k}$, and therefore $F(\cup_{k=1}^n A_k) = \int_{\Omega} g_n dP = \int \sum_{k=1}^n f \cdot 1_{A_k} dP = \sum_{k=1}^n \int f \cdot 1_{A_k} dP = \sum_{k=1}^n F(A_k)$. And it follows from previous results that $F(C) = F(\cup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k) = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot 1_C dP = \int_{\Omega} g dP = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} g_n dP = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n F(A_k) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} F(A_k)$. And this proves the sigma additivity.

Ex2.2)

Show that $P(A) = 0 \implies F(A) = 0$.

We start by proving for simple f . Let $f = \sum_{j=1}^p f_j \cdot 1_{B_j}$, then we have $F(A) = \int f \cdot 1_A dP = \int \sum_{j=1}^p f_j \cdot 1_A \cdot 1_{B_j} dP = \sum_{j=1}^p \int f_j \cdot 1_{A \cap B_j} dP = \sum_{j=1}^p f_j P(A \cap B_j) = 0$, the zero equality coming from the fact that we have $P(A) = 0$ by hypothesis and $A \cap B_j \subseteq A$ therefore it must be $0 \leq P(A \cap B_j) \leq P(A) = 0$. We have therefore proved that for f simple $P(A) = 0 \implies F(A) = 0$.

We now consider the case of a positive function that is not simple. We consider $f_n = \sum_{j=1}^{p_n} f_{jn} \cdot 1_{B_{jn}}$, with $\{f_n\}$ an increasing sequence of simple functions s.t. $f_n \uparrow f$, and therefore (thanks to the Monotone Convergence Theorem) $\int f_n dP \uparrow \int f dP$ (the construction of an increasing sequence of simple functions is in the lecture notes, in the paragraph "The integral"). We have demonstrated in the first part of this exercise 2.2 that for a simple function, if $P(A) = 0$ the integral will always be zero, therefore it will be $\int f_n \cdot 1_A dP = \int \sum_{j=1}^{p_n} f_{jn} \cdot 1_A \cdot 1_{B_{jn}} dP = \sum_{j=1}^{p_n} f_{jn} P(A \cap B_{jn}) = 0$, therefore $\int f_n \cdot 1_A dP = 0 \forall n$, and $0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n \cdot 1_A dP = \int f \cdot 1_A dP = F(A)$, so we have demonstrated that $P(A) = 0 \implies F(A) = 0$.

Ex2.3)

Show that $\int g dP = F = \int f dP \implies f = g$ a.e. (\Leftarrow is trivial).

We can use the result that for $z \geq 0$, $\int z dP = 0 \implies z = 0$ a.e. We have by hypothesis that $\int (f - g) dP = 0$, let $h = f - g$, using $h_+ = \max\{f, 0\}$ and $h_- = \min\{f, 0\}$, we have $h = h_+ - h_-$. We consider $\Omega_1 = \{x \in \Omega \mid f \geq g\}$ and $\Omega_2 = \{x \in \Omega \mid f < g\}$, it's $\Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2 = \emptyset$ and $\Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2 = \Omega$. Since the property $\int_A h dP = 0$ holds on any $A \subseteq \Omega$, we have $\int_{\Omega_1} h dP = 0$ and $\int_{\Omega_2} h dP = 0$. So, using definitions of h_+ and h_- , we have $\int_{\Omega_1} h dP = \int_{\Omega_1} h_+ dP = 0$ and $\int_{\Omega_2} h dP = -\int_{\Omega_2} h_- dP = 0 \implies \int_{\Omega_2} h_- dP = 0$: in both cases we can use the result $z \geq 0$, $\int z dP = 0 \implies z = 0$ a.e. and therefore we have $f = g$ a.e. on $\Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2 = \Omega$.

Ex3.1)

Show that $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathbf{A}$, $A_1 \supset A_2 \dots$ and $P(A_k) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, then $\int_{A_k} f dP \rightarrow 0$ for $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $f \geq 0$.

We start by proving for simple f. Let $f = \sum_{j=1}^p f_j \cdot 1_{B_j}$, then we have $\int f \cdot 1_{A_k} dP = \int \sum_{j=1}^p f_j \cdot 1_{A_k} \cdot 1_{B_j} dP = \int \sum_{j=1}^p f_j \cdot 1_{A_k \cap B_j} dP = \sum_{j=1}^p f_j P(A_k \cap B_j)$ and we know that $0 \leq P(A_k \cap B_j) \leq P(A_k)$, with, by assumption, $P(A_k) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, therefore we have $\int f \cdot 1_{A_k} dP \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.