

Measure Theory Homework 2

Michael Nelson

Throughout this homework, let (X, \mathcal{M}, μ) be a measure space. We say that (X, \mathcal{M}, μ) is a **finite** measure space if $\mu(X) < \infty$. Observe that in this case, we have $\mu(A) < \infty$ for all $A \in \mathcal{M}$, by monotonicity of μ .

Problem 1

Proposition 0.1. *Let (E_n) be a sequence of sets in \mathcal{M} . Then*

$$\mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(E_n)$$

Proof. Disjointify¹ (E_n) into the sequence (D_n) ; set $D_1 := E_1$ and

$$D_n := E_n \setminus \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} E_i \right)$$

for all $n > 1$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \right) &= \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} D_n \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(D_n) \\ &\leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(E_n), \end{aligned}$$

where we use countable additivity of μ to get from the first line to the second line and where we used monotonicity of μ to get from the second line to the third line. \square

Problem 2

Proposition 0.2. *Let (Y, \mathcal{N}, ν) be a measure space and suppose $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a function. Then $(X, f^{-1}(\mathcal{N}), f^*\mu)$ is a measure space, where*

$$f^{-1}(\mathcal{N}) = \{f^{-1}(B) \subseteq X \mid B \in \mathcal{N}\}$$

and where $f^\mu: f^{-1}(\mathcal{N}) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ is defined by*

$$(f^*\mu)(f^{-1}(B)) = \mu(B)$$

for all $f^{-1}(B) \in f^{-1}(\mathcal{N})$. In particular, if $\iota: A \rightarrow X$ denotes the inclusion map, then $(X, \mathcal{M}_A, \mu_A)$ is a measure space.

Proof. We first show that $f^{-1}(\mathcal{N})$ is a σ -algebra. This follows from the fact that f^{-1} commutes with unions and compliments:

$$f^{-1} \left(\bigcup_{j \in I} B_j \right) = \bigcup_{j \in I} f^{-1}(B_j) \quad \text{and} \quad f^{-1}(Y \setminus B) = f^{-1}(Y) \setminus f^{-1}(B)$$

¹See Appendix for details on disjointification.

for all subsets B and B_j of Y for all $j \in J$. Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} x \in \bigcup_{j \in J} f^{-1}(B_j) &\iff x \in f^{-1}(B_j) \text{ for some } j \in J \\ &\iff f(x) \in B_j \text{ for some } j \in J \\ &\iff f(x) \in \bigcup_{j \in J} B_j \\ &\iff x \in f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_{j \in J} B_j\right) \end{aligned}$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned} x \in f^{-1}(Y \setminus B) &\iff f(x) \in Y \setminus B \\ &\iff f(x) \in Y \text{ and } f(x) \notin B \\ &\iff x \in f^{-1}(Y) \text{ and } x \notin f^{-1}(B) \\ &\iff x \in f^{-1}(Y) \setminus f^{-1}(B). \end{aligned}$$

Now we show that the function $f^*\mu$ is a measure. First observe that $f^{-1}(\emptyset) = \emptyset$, and so

$$\begin{aligned} (f^*\mu)(\emptyset) &= \mu(\emptyset) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Next, let $(f^{-1}(B_n))$ be a sequence of pairwise disjoint members of $f^{-1}(\mathcal{N})$. Then (B_n) is a sequence of pairwise disjoint members of \mathcal{N} , and so we have

$$\begin{aligned} (f^*\mu)\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} f^{-1}(B_n)\right) &= \mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n\right) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(B_n) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (f^*\mu)(f^{-1}(B_n)). \end{aligned}$$

This implies $f^*\mu$ is a measure. □

Problem 3

Definition 0.1. A set $E \subseteq X$ is called **locally measurable** if $E \cap A \in \mathcal{M}$ for all $A \in \mathcal{M}$ with finite measure.

Proposition 0.3. Suppose (X, \mathcal{M}, μ) is a finite measure space. Let $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ be the collection of all locally measurable subsets of X . Then $\mathcal{M} = \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$.

Proof. Let first show that $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$. Let $E \in \mathcal{M}$. Then $E \cap A \in \mathcal{M}$ for all $A \in \mathcal{M}$ since \mathcal{M} is closed under finite intersections. In particular, this implies $E \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$. Thus $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$.

Now we show the reverse inclusion $\mathcal{M} \supseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$. Let $E \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$. Since $\mu(X) < \infty$ and E is locally measurable, we have

$$\begin{aligned} E &= E \cap X \\ &\in \mathcal{M}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\mathcal{M} \supseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$. □

Problem 4

Lemma 0.1. Let $A, B \in \mathcal{M}$ such that $A \subseteq B$. If $\mu(A) < \infty$, then

$$\mu(B \setminus A) = \mu(B) - \mu(A).$$

Proof. By finite additivity of μ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(B) &= \mu((B \setminus A) \cup A) \\ &= \mu(B \setminus A) + \mu(A). \end{aligned}$$

If moreover $\mu(A) < \infty$, then we may subtract $\mu(A)$ from both sides to obtain

$$\mu(B \setminus A) = \mu(B) - \mu(A).$$

□

Problem 4.a

Proposition 0.4. Suppose (X, \mathcal{M}, μ) is a finite measure space. Then

$$\mu(A \cup B) + \mu(A \cap B) = \mu(A) + \mu(B).$$

for all $A, B \in \mathcal{M}$.

Proof. Let $A, B \in \mathcal{M}$. Then by finite additivity of μ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(A \cup B) &= \mu(A \cup (B \setminus A)) \\ &= \mu(A) + \mu(B \setminus A) \\ &= \mu(A) + \mu(B \setminus (A \cap B)) \\ &= \mu(A) + \mu(B) - \mu(A \cap B), \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows Lemma (0.1) since (X, \mathcal{M}, μ) is a finite measure space.

□

Problem 4.b

Proposition 0.5. Let (A_n) be a sequence of “almost pairwise disjoint” members of \mathcal{M} , in the sense that $\mu(A_i \cap A_j) = 0$ whenever $i \neq j$. Then

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n).$$

Proof. First note that countable subadditivity of μ implies

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n),$$

so it suffices to show the reverse inequality. Before doing so, we first prove by induction on $N \geq 1$, that

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^N A_n\right) = \sum_{n=1}^N \mu(A_n). \tag{1}$$

The base case $N = 1$ holds trivially. Assume that we have shown (1) holds for some $N > 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{N+1} A_n \right) &= \mu \left(\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^N A_n \right) \cup A_{N+1} \right) \\
 &= \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^N A_n \right) + \mu(A_{N+1}) - \mu \left(\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^N A_n \right) \cap A_{N+1} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{n=1}^N \mu(A_n) + \mu(A_{N+1}) - \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^N (A_n \cap A_{N+1}) \right) \\
 &\geq \sum_{n=1}^{N+1} \mu(A_n) - \sum_{n=1}^N \mu(A_n \cap A_{N+1}) \\
 &= \sum_{n=1}^{N+1} \mu(A_n) - \sum_{n=1}^N 0 \\
 &= \sum_{n=1}^{N+1} \mu(A_n),
 \end{aligned}$$

where we used the induction hypothesis to get from the second line to the third line, and where we used finite subadditivity of μ to get from the third line to the fourth line. We already have

$$\mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{N+1} A_n \right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{N+1} \mu(A_n)$$

by finite subadditivity of μ , and so it follows that

$$\mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{N+1} A_n \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{N+1} \mu(A_n).$$

Therefore (1) holds for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$ induction.

Now we prove the reverse inequality: for each $N \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n=1}^N \mu(A_n) &= \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^N A_n \right) \\
 &\subseteq \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

by monotonicity of μ . By taking $N \rightarrow \infty$, we see that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n) \leq \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right).$$

□

Problem 5

Proposition 0.6. Let \mathcal{A} be the collection of all finite unions of sets of the form $(a, b] \cap \mathbb{Q}$ where $-\infty \leq a \leq b \leq \infty$. Then

1. \mathcal{A} is an algebra of subsets of \mathbb{Q} ;
2. $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})$ where $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})$ is the collection of all subsets of \mathbb{Q} ;
3. the function $\mu: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ defined by $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$ and $\mu(A) = \infty$ for all nonempty $A \in \mathcal{A}$ is a measure on \mathcal{A} ;
4. there is more than one measure on $\sigma(\mathcal{A})$ whose restriction to \mathcal{A} is μ ;

Proof.

1. In Homework 1, it was shown that $(\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}, \mathcal{T})$ was a semialgebra, where \mathcal{T} consisted of all subintervals of $\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ of the form $(a, b]$ where $-\infty \leq a \leq b \leq \infty$. If we let $\iota: \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ denote the inclusion map, then we see that $\iota^{-1}(\mathcal{T}) = \mathcal{S}$, where \mathcal{S} denotes the collection of all subintervals of \mathbb{Q} of the form $(a, b] \cap \mathbb{Q}$. It follows easily from Proposition (0.2) that \mathcal{S} is a semialgebra of subsets of \mathbb{Q} .²

Therefore the set of all finite disjoint unions of members of \mathcal{S} forms an algebra, and as any finite union of members of \mathcal{S} can be expressed as a finite disjoint union of members of \mathcal{S} (since \mathcal{S} is a semialgebra), we see that \mathcal{A} is an algebra.

2. Clearly $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q}) \supseteq \sigma(\mathcal{A})$. Let us prove the reverse inclusion. We first observe that $\{r\} \in \sigma(\mathcal{A})$ for all $r \in \mathbb{Q}$. Indeed, if $r \in \mathbb{Q}$, then we have

$$\{r\} = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (r - 1/n, r] \cap \mathbb{Q} \in \sigma(\mathcal{A})$$

Now let $S \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})$. Then since S is countable, we have

$$S = \bigcup_{s \in S} \{s\} \in \sigma(\mathcal{A}).$$

3. We have $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$ by definition. Let (A_n) be a sequence of pairwise disjoint members of \mathcal{A} whose union also belongs to \mathcal{A} . If $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \neq \emptyset$, then $A_n \neq \emptyset$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right) &= \infty \\ &= \mu(A_n) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, if $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \emptyset$, then $A_n = \emptyset$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right) &= 0 \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 0 \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n). \end{aligned}$$

In both cases, we have

$$\mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n)$$

4. We define $\mu_1: \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ and $\mu_2: \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ by

$$\mu_1(A) = \begin{cases} |A| & \text{if } A \text{ is finite} \\ \infty & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_2(A) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } A = \emptyset \\ \infty & \text{if } A \neq \emptyset \end{cases}$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})$. Both μ_1 and μ_2 restrict to μ as functions since every member of \mathcal{A} is infinite. They are also both distinct as functions since, for example, $\mu_1(\{x\}) = 1$ and $\mu_2(\{x\}) = \infty$ for any $x \in \mathbb{Q}$. Thus it suffices to show that they are measures. That μ_2 is a measure follows from a similar argument as in the case of μ , so we

²Technically we showed that the inverse image of a σ -algebra is a σ -algebra. However the same reasoning used in that proof shows that the inverse image of a semialgebra is a semialgebra: namely f^{-1} commutes with complements and unions.

just show that μ_1 is a measure. We have $\mu_1(\emptyset) = 0$ since $|\emptyset| = 0$. Next we show it is finitely additive. Let A and B be members of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})$ such that $A \cap B = \emptyset$. If $A = \emptyset$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1(A \cup B) &= \mu_1(\emptyset \cup B) \\ &= \mu_1(B) \\ &= 0 + \mu_1(B) \\ &= \mu_1(\emptyset) + \mu_1(B) \\ &= \mu_1(A) + \mu_1(B).\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, if $B = \emptyset$, then $\mu_1(A \cup B) = \mu_1(A) + \mu_1(B)$. So assume neither A nor B is the empty set. Write them as

$$A = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}.$$

Then

$$A \cup B = \{x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n\},$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1(A \cup B) &= m + n \\ &= \mu_1(A) + \mu_1(B).\end{aligned}$$

It follows that μ_1 is finitely additive.

Now, let (A_n) be a sequence of pairwise disjoint members of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})$. Suppose that $A_n \neq \emptyset$ for only finitely many n , say n_1, \dots, n_k . Then it follows from finite additivity of μ_1 and the fact that $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$ that

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) &= \mu_1\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_{n_i}\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \mu_1(A_{n_i}) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu_1(A_n).\end{aligned}$$

Now suppose that $A_n \neq \emptyset$ for infinitely many n . By taking a subsequence of (A_n) if necessary, we may assume that $A_n \neq \emptyset$ for all n . Then $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ is infinite, and so

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) &= \infty \\ &\geq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu_1(A_n) \\ &\geq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 \\ &= \infty.\end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\mu_1\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) = \infty = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu_1(A_n).$$

Therefore μ_1 and μ_2 are distinct measures which restrict to μ . □

Remark. Note that the extension theorem does not apply here as μ is not a finite measure.

Problem 6

Proposition 0.7. *Let $A, B \in \mathcal{P}(X)$. Then the following properties hold*

1. $A \Delta A = \emptyset$;
2. $(A \Delta B) \Delta C = A \Delta (B \Delta C)$;
3. $(A \Delta B) \Delta (B \Delta C) = A \Delta C$;
4. $(A \Delta B) \Delta (C \Delta D) = (A \Delta C) \Delta (B \Delta D)$;
5. $|1_A - 1_B| = 1_{A \Delta B}$.

Proof.

1. We have

$$\begin{aligned} A \Delta A &= (A \setminus A) \cup (A \setminus A) \\ &= \emptyset \cup \emptyset \\ &= \emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

2. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (A \Delta B) \Delta C &= ((A \Delta B) \cup C) \cap ((A \Delta B) \cap C)^c \\ &= ((A \Delta B) \cup C) \cap ((A \Delta B)^c \cup C^c) \\ &= (((A \cup B) \cap (A \cap B)^c) \cup C) \cap ((A \cap B^c) \cup (A^c \cap B))^c \cup C^c \\ &= (((A \cup B) \cap (A^c \cup B^c)) \cup C) \cap (((A \cap B^c)^c \cap (A^c \cap B)^c) \cup C^c) \\ &= (A \cup B \cup C) \cap (A^c \cup B^c \cup C) \cap ((A^c \cup B) \cap (A \cup B^c)) \cup C^c \\ &= (A \cup B \cup C) \cap (A^c \cup B^c \cup C) \cap (A^c \cup B \cup C^c) \cap (A \cup B^c \cup C^c) \\ &= (B \cup C \cup A) \cap (B^c \cup C^c \cup A) \cap (B^c \cup C \cup A^c) \cap (B \cup C^c \cup A^c) \\ &= ((B \cup C \cup A) \cap (B^c \cup C^c \cup A)) \cap ((B^c \cup C) \cap (B \cup C^c)) \cup A^c \\ &= ((B \cup C \cup A) \cap (B^c \cup C^c \cup A)) \cap (((B \cap C^c)^c \cap (B^c \cap C)^c) \cup A^c) \\ &= (((B \cup C) \cap (B \cap C)^c) \cup A) \cap ((B \cap C^c) \cup (B^c \cap C))^c \cup A^c \\ &= ((B \Delta C) \cup A) \cap ((B \Delta C)^c \cup A^c) \\ &= ((B \Delta C) \cup A) \cap ((B \Delta C) \cap A)^c \\ &= (B \Delta C) \Delta A \\ &= A \Delta (B \Delta C) \end{aligned}$$

3. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (A \Delta B) \Delta (B \Delta C) &= A \Delta B \Delta B \Delta C \\ &= A \Delta \emptyset \Delta C \\ &= A \Delta C. \end{aligned}$$

4. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (A \Delta B) \Delta (C \Delta D) &= A \Delta B \Delta C \Delta D \\ &= A \Delta C \Delta B \Delta D \\ &= (A \Delta C) \Delta (B \Delta D) \end{aligned}$$

5. Let $x \in X$. If $x \notin A \cup B$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |1_A(x) - 1_B(x)| &= |0 - 0| \\ &= 0 \\ &= 0 - 0 \\ &= 1_{A \cup B}(x) - 1_{A \cap B}(x) \\ &= 1_{A \Delta B}(x). \end{aligned}$$

If $x \in A \setminus B$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |1_A(x) - 1_B(x)| &= |1 - 0| \\ &= 1 \\ &= 1 - 0 \\ &= 1_{A \cup B}(x) - 1_{A \cap B}(x) \\ &= 1_{A \Delta B}(x). \end{aligned}$$

If $x \in B \setminus A$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |1_A(x) - 1_B(x)| &= |0 - 1| \\ &= 1 \\ &= 1 - 0 \\ &= 1_{A \cup B}(x) - 1_{A \cap B}(x) \\ &= 1_{A \Delta B}(x). \end{aligned}$$

If $x \in A \cap B$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |1_A(x) - 1_B(x)| &= |1 - 1| \\ &= 0 \\ &= 1 - 1 \\ &= 1_{A \cup B}(x) - 1_{A \cap B}(x) \\ &= 1_{A \Delta B}(x). \end{aligned}$$

Thus $|1_A(x) - 1_B(x)| = 1_{A \Delta B}(x)$ for all $x \in X$ and hence $|1_A - 1_B| = 1_{A \Delta B}$. □

Problem 7

Proposition 0.8. Let (A_n) and (B_n) be two sequences of sets. Then

$$\left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \right) \Delta \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \right) \subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \Delta B_n) \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\bigcap_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \right) \Delta \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \right) \subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \Delta B_n).$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \right) \Delta \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \right) &= \left(\left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \right) \right) \setminus \left(\left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \right) \right) \\ &= \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cup B_n) \right) \setminus \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} (A_m \cap B_n) \right) \\ &\subseteq \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cup B_n) \right) \setminus \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cap B_n) \right) \\ &\subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cup B_n) \setminus (A_n \cap B_n) \\ &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \Delta B_n). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(\bigcap_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \right) \Delta \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \right) &= \left(\bigcap_{m=1}^{\infty} (A_m^c)^c \right) \Delta \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} (B_n^c)^c \right) \\
 &= \left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m^c \right)^c \Delta \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n^c \right)^c \\
 &= \left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m^c \right) \Delta \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n^c \right) \\
 &\subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n^c \Delta B_n^c) \\
 &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \Delta B_n).
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Appendix

Disjointification

Proposition 0.9. *Let \mathcal{A} be an algebra of subsets of X and let (A_n) be a sequence of sets in \mathcal{A} . Then there exists a sequence (D_n) of sets in \mathcal{A} such that*

1. $D_n \subseteq A_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
2. $D_m \cap D_n = \emptyset$ for all $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $m \neq n$.
3. $\bigcup_{m=1}^n D_m = \bigcup_{m=1}^n A_m$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

We say the sequence (D_n) is the **disjointification** of the sequence (A_n) or that we **disjointify** the sequence (A_n) to the sequence (D_n) .

Proof. Set $D_1 := A_1$ and

$$D_n := A_n \setminus \left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{n-1} A_m \right)$$

for all $n > 1$. It is clear that $D_n \in \mathcal{A}$ and that $D_n \subseteq A_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let us show that $D_m \cap D_n = \emptyset$ whenever $m \neq n$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $m < n$. Then since $D_m \subseteq A_m$ and $D_n \cap A_m = \emptyset$, we have $D_m \cap D_n = \emptyset$. It remains to show

$$\bigcup_{m=1}^n D_m = \bigcup_{m=1}^n A_m$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $D_m \subseteq A_m$ for all $m \leq n$, we have

$$\bigcup_{m=1}^n D_m \subseteq \bigcup_{m=1}^n A_m.$$

To show the reverse inclusion, let $x \in \bigcup_{m=1}^n A_m$. Then $x \in A_m$ for some $m = 1, \dots, n$. Choose m to be the smallest natural number such that $x \in A_m$. Then x belongs to A_m but does not belong to A_1, \dots, A_{m-1} . In other words,

$$x \in D_m \subseteq \bigcup_{k=1}^n D_k.$$

This implies the reverse inclusion

$$\bigcup_{m=1}^n D_m \supseteq \bigcup_{m=1}^n A_m.$$

□