



### Definition

Suppose  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  is a measurable space. A measure  $\mu : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{R}}$  is said to have a density with respect to a measure  $\nu : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{R}}$  if there exists a measurable function  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}_+$

$$\mu(A) = \int_A f d\nu \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{F}$$

In this case  $f$  is called a *density* of  $\mu$  with respect to  $\nu$ .

### Examples

*Probability on finite sets.* Suppose  $P$  is a probability measure for a finite set  $\Omega$ . Define  $p : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$p(\omega) = P(\{\omega\}) \quad \text{for all } \omega \in \Omega$$

Then  $p$  is a probability distribution. Moreover,  $p$  is a density for  $P$  with respect to the counting measure  $\# : \mathcal{P}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ . Witness, for every  $A \subset \Omega$ ,

$$\int_A p d\# = \sum_{a \in A} p(a)$$

We recognize the right hand side as  $P(A)$  by using the additivity of  $P$ .



