

# RIEMANN-STIELTJES INTEGRALS

Let  $[a, b] \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be a segment

Let  $f, g, \alpha, \beta: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be bounded functions

## DEFINITION

Let  $P = (x_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n} \in \mathcal{P}([a, b])$ . For every  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , take  $t_k \in (x_{k-1}, x_k)$  and write  $t = (t_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$ . We call  $(P, t)$  a **tagged partition**,  $t$  contains tagged points of  $P$ .

Define the **Riemann-Stieltjes sum** of  $f$  w.r.f.  $\alpha$  for  $(P, t)$ ,  $S_{P,t}(f, \alpha) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(t_k) \Delta \alpha_k = \sum_{k=1}^n f(t_k) (\alpha(x_k) - \alpha(x_{k-1}))$

Consider the following condition:

(RS):  $\exists L \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists P_\epsilon \in \mathcal{P}([a, b])$  s.t.  $\forall P \supseteq P_\epsilon$ , tagged points  $t$  of  $P$ , we have  $|S_{P,t}(f, \alpha) - L| < \epsilon$

If (RS) is satisfied, we say that  $f$  is **Riemann-Stieltjes integrable** and write this unique  $L$  to be its integral, denoted  $\int_a^b f d\alpha = \int_a^b f(x) d\alpha(x)$ . We write  $R(\alpha; a, b) = R(\alpha)$  for the set of functions  $f$  satisfying (RS).

## REMARK

- $f$  is called **integrand**,  $\alpha$  is called **integrator**
- When  $\alpha(x) = x$ , we recover the notation from Riemann-integrability. We write  $R(x; a, b) = R(x)$  for the set of Riemann-integrable functions
- We may also have  $x_{k-1} \leq x_k$  instead of  $x_{k-1} < x_k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . This allows us to use the same notation when  $a = b$ .
- Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$ , i.e.  $V = \mathbb{C}$  or  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Fix a basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  of  $V$ , we may write  $f = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i e_i$ , where  $f_i: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a real valued function. If  $\int_a^b f_i d\alpha$  is well-defined  $\forall i$ , we may set  $\int_a^b f d\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n (\int_a^b f_i d\alpha) e_i$ .

## EXAMPLES

- If  $\alpha: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a **constant function**, for any bounded function  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $S_{P,t}(f, \alpha) = 0$  for all tagged partitions  $P \in \mathcal{P}([a, b])$ . This means that (RS) holds and  $\int_a^b f d\alpha = 0$
- When  $\alpha(x) = x$ , all **continuous functions** are Riemann-integrable, i.e.  $C([a, b]) \subseteq R(x; a, b)$
- Let  $f, \alpha: [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  to be  $f = \alpha = \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 0}$ . Consider a partition  $P \in \mathcal{P}([-1, 1])$  with  $x_k = 0$  for some  $k$ . For any tagged points  $t$  of  $P$ , we have  $S_{P,t}(f, \alpha) = f(t_k) \Delta \alpha_k = f(t_k) = \begin{cases} 1, & t_k = x_k = 0 \\ 0, & t_k < x_k \end{cases}$ . This implies that (RS) does not hold (**KEY CONSTRUCTION EXAMPLE**)

## LEMMA

Consider the following condition,

(RS'):  $\exists L \in \mathbb{R}$ , s.t.  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ , s.t.  $\forall P \in \mathcal{P}([a, b])$  with  $\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} |x_k - x_{k-1}| = \|P\| < \delta$ , any tagged points  $t$ , we have  $|S_{P,t}(f, \alpha) - L| < \epsilon$ . We have  $(RS') \Rightarrow (RS)$

## REMARK

It is true for  $\alpha = x$  though

In general,  $(RS) \not\Rightarrow (RS')$ . Consider  $f, \alpha: [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f, \alpha = \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 0}$

- (RS) holds
- Let  $\delta \in (0, 1)$  and  $P \in \mathcal{P}([0, 1])$ , s.t.  $\|P\| < \delta$ , there exists  $k$  s.t.  $x_{k-1} = x_k = \frac{\delta}{2}$ . Then,  $S_{P,t}(f, \alpha) = f(t_k) \Delta \alpha_k = f(t_k) = \begin{cases} 1, & t_k \in (0, x_k) \\ 0, & t_k \in (x_{k-1}, 0) \end{cases}$ .  $\therefore$  (RS') does not hold.

## PROPOSITION (linearity in integrand)

Let  $\alpha: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be bounded,  $f, g \in R(\alpha)$ . Then,  $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f + cg \in R(\alpha)$  and  $\int_a^b (f + cg) d\alpha = \int_a^b f d\alpha + c \int_a^b g d\alpha$

As a consequence,  $R(\alpha)$  is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -vector space, the integral operator  $I: R(\alpha) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a **linear form**, i.e.  $I \in \mathcal{L}(R(\alpha), \mathbb{R})$   
 $f \mapsto \int_a^b f d\alpha$

## Proof

Fix  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  and let  $h = f + cg$ . Since  $f \in R(\alpha)$ , we may find  $P_\epsilon' \in \mathcal{P}([a, b])$ , s.t.  $|S_{P_\epsilon', t}(f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f d\alpha| < \epsilon \forall P \supseteq P_\epsilon'$  and tagged points  $t$  of  $P$ .

Similarly, take  $P_{\varepsilon'} \in \mathcal{P}([a, b])$ , s.t.  $|S_{P_{\varepsilon'}, t(g, \alpha)} - \int_a^b g d\alpha| < \varepsilon \quad \forall P \geq P_{\varepsilon'}$ .

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Take  $P_{\varepsilon} = P_{\varepsilon'} \vee P_{\varepsilon''}$ , then for  $P \geq P_{\varepsilon}$  and any tagged points  $t$  of  $P$ , we have  $|S_{P, t(f, \alpha)} - \int_a^b f d\alpha| < \varepsilon$  and  $|S_{P, t(g, \alpha)} - \int_a^b g d\alpha| < \varepsilon$

Moreover,  $S_{P, t(h, \alpha)} = \sum_{k=1}^n h(t_k) \Delta \alpha_k = \sum_{k=1}^n [f(t_k) + cg(t_k)] \Delta \alpha_k = S_{P, t(f, \alpha)} + c S_{P, t(g, \alpha)}$

$\therefore |S_{P, t(h, \alpha)} - \int_a^b h d\alpha - c \int_a^b g d\alpha| \leq |S_{P, t(f, \alpha)} - \int_a^b f d\alpha| + |c| |S_{P, t(g, \alpha)} - \int_a^b g d\alpha| \leq (1 + |c|) \varepsilon$

This means that  $h = f + cg$  satisfies (RS), and we have  $\int_a^b h d\alpha = \int_a^b f d\alpha + c \int_a^b g d\alpha$   $\square$

### PROPOSITION (linearity in integrator)

Let  $\alpha, \beta: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be bounded,  $f \in R(\alpha) \cap R(\beta)$ . Then,  $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $f \in R(\alpha + c\beta)$  and  $\int_a^b f d(\alpha + c\beta) = \int_a^b f d\alpha + c \int_a^b f d\beta$

(Proof is very similar to above)

### DEFINITION

For  $a < b$ , any bounded function  $\alpha: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f \in R(\alpha; a, b)$ , we define  $\int_a^a f d\alpha = -\int_a^b f d\alpha = -\int_a^b f(x) d\alpha(x)$ . We also write  $R(\alpha; a, b) = R(\alpha; b, a)$  when  $a = b$ ,  $\int_a^b f d\alpha = 0$  for any bounded function  $f$  defined on  $a = b$ , so  $R(\alpha; a, a) \cong \mathbb{R}$

### PROPOSITION

Let  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be a segment,  $a, b, c \in I$ . Let  $\alpha: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be bounded,  $f \in R(\alpha; a, b) \cap R(\alpha; b, c)$ . Then, we have  $f \in R(\alpha; a, c)$  and

$\int_a^c f d\alpha = \int_a^b f d\alpha + \int_b^c f d\alpha$  (if  $a = b$  or  $b = c$ , then it's trivially true)

Proof

By symmetry + notation from above, WLOG, assume  $a < b < c$ .

- Since  $f \in R(\alpha; a, b)$ , we may take  $P_{\varepsilon}^{(a, b)} \in \mathcal{P}([a, b])$ , s.t.  $|S_{P_{\varepsilon}^{(a, b)}, t(f, \alpha)} - \int_a^b f d\alpha| < \varepsilon$  for any  $P^{(a, b)} \geq P_{\varepsilon}^{(a, b)}$  and tagged points  $t^{(a, b)}$
- Similarly, take  $P_{\varepsilon}^{(b, c)} \in \mathcal{P}([b, c])$ , s.t.  $|S_{P_{\varepsilon}^{(b, c)}, t(f, \alpha)} - \int_b^c f d\alpha| < \varepsilon$  for any  $P^{(b, c)} \geq P_{\varepsilon}^{(b, c)}$  and tagged points  $t^{(b, c)}$

Then, define  $P_{\varepsilon} = P_{\varepsilon}^{(a, b)} \vee P_{\varepsilon}^{(b, c)}$  and take  $P \geq P_{\varepsilon}$  and tagged points  $t$ , let  $P^{(a, b)} = P \cap [a, b]$ ,  $P^{(b, c)} = P \cap [b, c]$ ,  $t^{(a, b)} = t \cap [a, b]$ ,  $t^{(b, c)} = t \cap [b, c]$

Then,  $S_{P, t(f, \alpha)} = S_{P^{(a, b)}, t^{(a, b)}(f, \alpha)} + S_{P^{(b, c)}, t^{(b, c)}(f, \alpha)}$ , so by triangle inequality,  $|S_{P, t(f, \alpha)} - \int_a^b f d\alpha - \int_b^c f d\alpha| < 2\varepsilon$   $\square$

### PROPOSITION (Integration by Parts)

Let  $f \in R(\alpha; a, b)$ . Then,  $\alpha \in R(f; a, b)$ , and we have  $\int_a^b f d\alpha + \int_a^b \alpha df = f(b)\alpha(b) - f(a)\alpha(a)$

(First prove  $\int \alpha df$  is Riemann-Stieltjes integrable, then check that  $|\int_a^b \alpha df - f(b)\alpha(b) + f(a)\alpha(a) + \int_a^b f d\alpha|$  is small)