

Last time:

- Box $B = I_1 \times \dots \times I_d \rightarrow m(B) = |I_1| \times \dots \times |I_d|$
- Elementary sets $E = B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_n$
 - Can pick B_i 's such that they are ~~disjoint~~ non-overlapping $\rightarrow m(E) = m(B_1) + \dots + m(B_n)$
- Jordan inner/order measure $J_*(A) = \sup_{E \supset ECA} m(E)$, $J^*(A) = \inf_{E \supset F \supset A} m(F)$.
 - A bounded set $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is Jordan measurable
 - $\Leftrightarrow J_*(A) = J^*(A)$
 - $\Leftrightarrow \forall \epsilon > 0, \exists E \in \mathcal{E}$ s.t. ECA and $J^*(A \setminus E) < \epsilon$
 - $\Leftrightarrow \dots$
 - $(\Leftrightarrow \text{Riemann integral})$
- Both the elementary measure $m: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ and the Jordan measure $J: \mathcal{J} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ satisfies
 - (1) normalization: $m([0, 1]^d) = 1$
 - (2) finite additivity: $m(A \cup B) = m(A) + m(B)$ if $A \cap B = \emptyset$.
 - (3) translation-invariance: $m(A + \{x\}) = m(A)$.

Non-negativity + finite additivity $\Rightarrow$ monotonicity, subadditivity.

Today: Lebesgue outer measure

1. Lebesgue outer measure

- Some shortcomings of Jordan measure.
 - NOT defined for any unbounded set.

We could allow to define the measure of $\mathbb{R}$ (or "reasonable" unbounded subsets) to be $+\infty$. However, it is NOT reasonable to define the measure of $\mathbb{Z}$ to be $+\infty$.
 - Sets like $\mathbb{Q}$, $\mathbb{Z}$ etc are NOT Jordan measurable
 - There exists open sets and compact sets which are NOT Jordan measurable.

For example, let's write $\mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1] = \{q_1, q_2, q_3, \dots\}$

Take a small $\epsilon > 0$. Let

$$A_\epsilon = (q_1 - \epsilon, q_1 + \epsilon) \cup (q_2 - \frac{\epsilon}{2}, q_2 + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \cup (q_3 - \frac{\epsilon}{4}, q_3 + \frac{\epsilon}{4}) \cup \dots$$

Then A_ϵ is open, ~~not~~ bounded, but not Jordan measurable.

Similarly $[-1, 2] \setminus A$ is compact, but not Jordan measurable.

why? check:
 $J_*(A) \leq 4\epsilon$
 $J^*(A) = 1$
- The "limit" of Jordan measurable sets could be Jordan non-measurable.

e.g. $\mathbb{Q}_N = \{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$.

• Let's recall the Jordan outer measure for a bounded set

$$J^*(A) = \inf_{E \supset F \supset A} m(F) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k |B_i| \mid B_1, \dots, B_k \text{ are boxes s.t. } A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^k B_i \right\}$$

Lebesgue's idea:

- allow the measure of large sets like $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{R}^d - \mathbb{Z}^d$ etc. to be $+\infty$
- instead of covering A by finitely many boxes, allow countable covering

Def. The Lebesgue outer measure of ANY subset $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is

$$m^*(A) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |B_i| \mid B_1, B_2, \dots \text{ are boxes s.t. } A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i \right\}$$

Example: $m^*(\mathbb{Q}) = 0$ since $\mathbb{Q} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \{q_i\}$, and each $\{q_i\}$ is an interval of length 0.

[If you don't like "length zero intervals," you can use the intervals in the open set $A_\varepsilon = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (q_i - 2^{-i}\varepsilon, q_i + 2^{-i}\varepsilon)$ that we mentioned above, to conclude that

$$m^*(\mathbb{Q}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} 2^{-i}\varepsilon = 4\varepsilon, \quad \forall \varepsilon$$

Taking limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, again we get $m^*(\mathbb{Q}) = 0$.]

Example: By the same proof, we see:

For any countable subset $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, we have $m^*(A) = 0$.

A simple observation:

$$m^*(A) \leq J^*(A)$$

[Given any finite covering $\{B_i : i=1, \dots, n\}$ of A by boxes, one can always convert it into a countable covering by adding empty sets.]

• Denote $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) =$ the set of all subsets of $\mathbb{R}^d$.

Then the Lebesgue outer measure, $m^*: \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$, satisfies the following properties, which are known as the outer measure axiom and will be used to define abstract outer measure for abstract sets.

Prop. The Lebesgue outer measure $m^*: \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ satisfies

(1) (Empty set) $m^*(\emptyset) = 0$.

(2) (Monotonicity) If $A_1 \subset A_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, then $m^*(A_1) \leq m^*(A_2)$

(3) (Countable sub-additivity) For any countable family $A_1, A_2, \dots$ of sets in $\mathbb{R}^d$, one has $m^*\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m^*(A_n)$

Proof: (1) $m^*(\emptyset) \leq J^*(\emptyset) = 0 \Rightarrow m^*(\emptyset) = 0$.

(2) Since $A_1 \subset A_2$, any covering of A_2 is automatically a covering of A_1 .

So by definition, $m^*(A_1) \leq m^*(A_2)$.

(3) [Idea: "give yourself an epsilon of room" trick]

Take any $\varepsilon > 0$.

Cover A_n by a countable family of boxes, $B_{n,1}, B_{n,2}, \dots, B_{n,k}, \dots$, such that

$$m^*(A_n) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} m(B_{n,k}) + 2^{-n} \varepsilon, \quad \forall n.$$

and such that $A_n \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} B_{n,k}$.

Then the boxes $\{B_{n,k} : n=1, 2, \dots, k=1, 2, \dots\}$ is a countable covering of $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$.

So by definition,

$$m^*\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) \leq \sum_{n,k=1}^{\infty} m(B_{n,k}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} m(B_{n,k}) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m^*(A_n) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{-n} \varepsilon = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m^*(A_n) + \varepsilon.$$

Letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we get

$$m^*\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m^*(A_n). \quad \square$$

Remark: Countable subadditivity axiom + empty set axiom $\Rightarrow$ finite subadditivity axiom

$$m^*\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^N A_n\right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^N m^*(A_n).$$

However, finite subadditivity does NOT imply countable subadditivity

For example, the Jordan outer measure satisfies the finite subadditivity, but does not satisfy the countable subadditivity since $J^*(\mathbb{Q}) > \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} J^*(\{q_n\})$

[In particular, the Jordan outer measure will NOT be an outer measure in the abstract sense.]

Remark: We have seen that the Jordan outer measure does NOT satisfy finite additivity.

Similarly the Lebesgue outer measure does NOT satisfy finite additivity

[Think about the Banach-Tarski paradox that we mentioned in lecture 1.]

However, we do have finite additivity or even countable additivity for Lebesgue

outer measure, if we assume the sets encountered are nice and/or does not "entangle".

Another simple observation is the translation-invariance of Lebesgue outer measure.

Prop: $m^*(A + \{x\}) = m^*(A)$.

Proof: A countable family $\{B_n\}$ is a covering of A if and only the family $\{B_n + \{x\}\}$

is a covering of $A + \{x\}$. $\square$

• Next we compute the Lebesgue outer measure for elementary sets.

Prop. || Let E be an elementary set. Then $m^*(E) = m(E)$

(elementary measure: $\sum_{i=1}^n |B_i|$ for non-overlapping covering of boxes)

Proof. • Since any elementary set is Jordan measurable, we have

$$m^*(E) \leq J^*(E) = m(E).$$

• To prove the converse, we need to apply the ε -trick twice.

[Idea: Since $m^*(\mathbb{Q}) \neq J^*(\mathbb{Q})$, we need to use some property that $\mathbb{Q}$ does not have.

Here, we will use the Heine-Borel property of $\mathbb{R}$, i.e. any open covering of any compact set admits a finite subcovering.

We will apply one ε -trick to "shrink" ~~the~~ "construction-boxes" of E to compact ones, and apply another ε -trick to "enlarge" covering boxes of E to open ones.]

Trick: To prove $A=B$ (numbers)

it is enough to prove $A \geq B$ and $A \leq B$.

To prove $A=B$ (sets)

it is enough to prove $A \subset B$ and $A \supset B$.

- Suppose $E = \bigcup_{i=1}^N B_i$, where B_i 's are ~~disjoint~~ non-overlapping boxes.

Shrink each B_i to a smaller compact box $\tilde{B}_i$, such that $|\tilde{B}_i| \geq |B_i| - \frac{\varepsilon}{N}$.

Then the set $\tilde{E} = \bigcup_{i=1}^N \tilde{B}_i$ is compact, $\tilde{E} \subset E$ and $m(\tilde{E}) \geq m(E) - \varepsilon$.

[If some B_i already satisfies $|B_i| < \frac{\varepsilon}{N}$, e.g. $|B_i| = 0$, then take $\tilde{B}_i = \emptyset$]

- Now let $C_1, C_2, \dots$ be any countable family of boxes s.t. $E \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} C_i$, and $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |C_i| \leq m^*(E) + \varepsilon$.

Enlarge each C_i to a larger ~~open~~ box $\tilde{C}_i$, such that $|\tilde{C}_i| \leq |C_i| + 2^{-i} \varepsilon$.

Then we ~~have~~ have 

$$\tilde{E} \subset E \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} C_i \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \tilde{C}_i.$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\tilde{C}_i| \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |C_i| + 2\varepsilon$$

So the sets $\tilde{C}_1, \tilde{C}_2, \dots$ is an open covering of the compact set $\tilde{E}$.

By compactness, $\exists k(1), \dots, k(N)$ s.t. $\tilde{E} \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^N \tilde{C}_{k(i)}$.

It follows

finite additivity of elementary measure

$$m(E) \leq m(\tilde{E}) + \varepsilon \leq \sum_{i=1}^N |\tilde{C}_{k(i)}| + \varepsilon \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\tilde{C}_i| + \varepsilon$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |C_i| + 3\varepsilon \leq m^*(E) + 4\varepsilon.$$

Letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we get $m(E) \leq m^*(E)$.

So $m(E) = m^*(E)$. $\square$

2. Lebesgue outer measure via open sets

• Def. We say two boxes B_1 and B_2 are almost disjoint if their interior do not intersect.

e.g. $[0, 1]$ and $[1, 3]$ are almost disjoint.

Similarly we say $\{B_1, B_2, \dots\}$ are almost disjoint if $\overset{\text{interior}}{B_i} \cap B_j = \emptyset, \forall i \neq j$.

Obviously if $B_1, \dots, B_N$ are almost disjoint, then we still have finite additivity

$$m(B_1 \cup \dots \cup B_N) = \sum_{i=1}^N |B_i| \quad \text{boxes.}$$

Thm. Any open set $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ can be expressed as $\mathbb{Q}$ countable union of almost disjoint boxes.

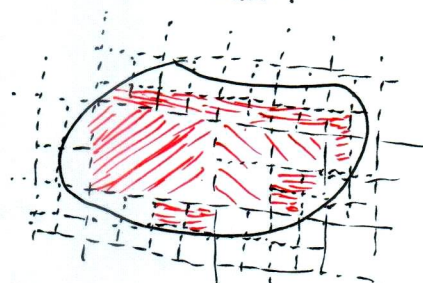
Proof. Consider closed dyadic cube of the form

$$Q = \left[\frac{i_1}{2^n}, \frac{i_1+1}{2^n} \right] \times \dots \times \left[\frac{i_n}{2^n}, \frac{i_n+1}{2^n} \right]$$

where $i_1, \dots, i_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Observation. Given any two different closed dyadic cubes, either they are almost disjoint, or one of them is totally contained in the other.

(which can be taken as closed boxes.)



Let $\mathcal{A} = \{Q \mid Q \text{ is a closed dyadic cube, } Q \subset A\}$.

Then $\mathcal{A}$ is a countable family of closed boxes.

Claim. $A = \bigcup_{Q \in \mathcal{A}} Q$.

Proof of claim. Since each $Q \in \mathcal{A}$ is a subset of A , we have $\bigcup_{Q \in \mathcal{A}} Q \subset A$.

Conversely, for any $x \in A$, since A is open, by definition of openness, $\exists$ a small ball centered at x which is contained in A . Now take n large enough, one can find a closed dyadic box Q that lies in that small ball and contains x .

So $x \in \bigcup_{Q \in \mathcal{A}} Q$ for any $x \in A$, i.e. $A \subset \bigcup_{Q \in \mathcal{A}} Q$.

It is possible that the dyadic boxes in $\mathcal{A}$ might intersect.

However, according to the observation above, one can take

$\mathcal{A}^* = \{Q \in \mathcal{A} \mid Q \text{ is NOT contained in any other dyadic box in } \mathcal{A}\}$

Then $\mathcal{A}^*$ contains countable many almost disjoint closed boxes, and

$$A = \bigcup_{Q \in \mathcal{A}} Q = \bigcup_{Q \in \mathcal{A}^*} Q.$$

□

• Lemma. Let $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i$ be a countable union of almost disjoint boxes $B_1, B_2, \dots$.
 Then $m^*(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |B_i|$

Proof: According to countable subadditivity,

$$m^*(A) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} m^*(B_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |B_i|.$$

Conversely, for each N , one has $B_1 \cup \dots \cup B_N \subset A$. By monotonicity,

$$m^*(A) \geq m^*\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^N B_i\right) = m\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^N B_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^N |B_i|.$$

Letting $N \rightarrow +\infty$, we get

$$m^*(A) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |B_i|.$$

$$\text{So } m^*(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |B_i|.$$

□

In particular, this gives us a way to compute the Lebesgue outer measure of any open set.

• Prop. (Outer regularity) || For any $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, $m^*(A) = \inf \{m^*(U) : A \subset U, U \text{ is open}\}$

Proof: By monotonicity, $A \subset U \Rightarrow m^*(A) \leq m^*(U)$.

$$\text{So } m^*(A) \leq \inf \{m^*(U) : A \subset U, U \text{ is open}\}$$

To prove the converse, w.l.o.g., we assume $m^*(A) < \infty$.

By definition, $\exists$ boxes $B_1, B_2, \dots$ s.t. $A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |B_i| \leq m^*(A) + \varepsilon$.

Enlarge each B_i to an open box $\widehat{B}_i \supset B_i$, s.t. $|\widehat{B}_i| \leq |B_i| + 2^{-i} \varepsilon$.
 Then $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \widehat{B}_i$ is an open set containing A , s.t.

$$m^*\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \widehat{B}_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} m^*(\widehat{B}_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\widehat{B}_i| \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |B_i| + \varepsilon \leq m^*(A) + 2\varepsilon.$$

It follows (countable subadditivity)

$$\inf \{m^*(U) : A \subset U, U \text{ is open}\} \leq m^*(A).$$

This completes the proof.

□