

Last time.

f_n = a sequence of a.e. finite functions, measurable $\leadsto f(x)$.

$$A_k(\epsilon) = \{x : |f_k(x) - f(x)| > \epsilon\}.$$

Different modes of convergence.

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} A_k = \bigcap_{N=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=N}^{\infty} A_k$$

(1) (pointwise) convergence: $f_n \rightarrow f \Leftrightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x), \forall x$

$$\Leftrightarrow \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} A_k(\epsilon) = \emptyset, \forall \epsilon > 0$$

(2) a.e. convergence: $f_n \rightarrow f$ a.e. $\Leftrightarrow m(\{x : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) \neq f(x)\}) = 0$.

$$\Leftrightarrow m(\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} A_k(\epsilon)) = 0, \forall \epsilon > 0.$$

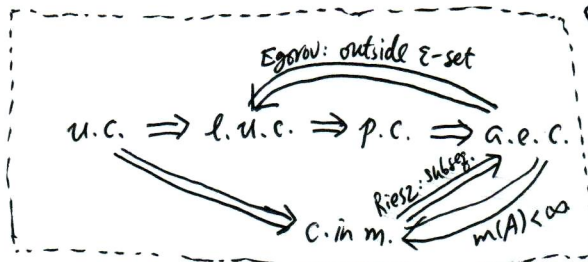
(3) convergence in measure: $f_n \rightarrow f$ in measure $\Leftrightarrow \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} m(A_k(\epsilon)) = 0, \forall \epsilon > 0$.

(4) uniform convergence: $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly $\Leftrightarrow \forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N$ s.t. $|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \epsilon$ for $\forall n \geq N$ and $\forall x$.

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N$$
 s.t. $\forall n \geq N, A_k(\epsilon) = \emptyset$.

(5) locally uniform convergence: $f_n \rightarrow f$ locally uniformly $\Leftrightarrow \forall$ bounded set $E, f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on E .

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall \text{ bound set } E, \forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N, A_k(\epsilon) \cap E = \emptyset.$$



Note: In all these cases, the limit f is measurable.

"almost uniform convergence"
"uniform convergence outside a set of measure ϵ ."

~~Simple function: $f = c_1 \chi_{A_1} + c_2 \chi_{A_2} + \dots + c_n \chi_{A_n}$
 f is measurable $\Leftrightarrow \exists$ simple functions f_n s.t. $f_n \rightarrow f$ (pointwise)
 If $f \geq 0$, then can take $0 \leq f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f$
 If f is bounded, then $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly.~~

Today. Approximations of measurable functions

1. Approximation by simple functions

Def: A simple function is a function of the form

$$f(x) = c_1 \chi_{A_1}(x) + c_2 \chi_{A_2}(x) + \dots + c_n \chi_{A_n}(x),$$

where $c_1, \dots, c_n$ are numbers, and $A_1, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{L}$ are distinct measurable sets.

Example: $\chi_{\mathbb{Q}}$.

Step function = simple function on $\mathbb{R}$, with A_i = intervals.

(or in general, A_i = boxes)

• Thm 1 If $f \geq 0$ is a non-negative measurable function defined on $A \in \mathcal{L}$.

Then there exists an increasing sequence of non-negative ~~increasing~~ simple functions

$$0 \leq f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n \leq \dots \leq f$$

such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x), \forall x \in A$.

Moreover, if f is bounded, then the convergence is uniform.

Proof: Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Define

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{k-1}{2^n}, & \text{if } \frac{k-1}{2^n} \leq f(x) < \frac{k}{2^n} \quad (k=1, 2, \dots, n \cdot 2^n) \\ n, & \text{if } f(x) \geq n. \end{cases}$$

Since f is measurable, each set $\{x: \frac{k-1}{2^n} \leq f(x) < \frac{k}{2^n}\}$ and $\{x: f(x) \geq n\}$ are measurable.

So each f_n is a simple function. By definition it is clear that

$$0 \leq f_n(x) \leq f(x), \quad \forall x.$$

Moreover, we have ~~$f_n(x) \leq f_{n+1}(x)$~~

(1) If $f(x) < n$, then $\exists k \leq n \cdot 2^n$ s.t. $\frac{2k-2}{2^{n+1}} = \frac{k-1}{2^n} \leq f(x) < \frac{k}{2^n} = \frac{2k}{2^{n+1}}$

$$\Rightarrow f_n(x) = \frac{k-1}{2^n}, \quad f_{n+1}(x) = \frac{2k-2}{2^{n+1}} = \frac{k-1}{2^n} \quad \text{or} \quad f_{n+1}(x) = \frac{2k}{2^{n+1}}$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \leq f_{n+1}(x) - f_n(x) \leq \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}$$

(2) If $f(x) \geq n$, then $f_n(x) = n$, while $n = \frac{n \cdot 2^{n+1}}{2^{n+1}} \leq f(x)$ implies

$$f_{n+1}(x) = n \text{ or } n + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \text{ or } n + \frac{2}{2^{n+1}} \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } n + 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \leq f_{n+1}(x) - f_n(x) \leq 1.$$

So we get

$$0 \leq f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n \leq \dots \leq f$$

and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x), \forall x \in A$.

to see this
discuss 2 cases: $\begin{cases} f(x) < \infty \\ f(x) = \infty \end{cases}$

Moreover, if $|f(x)| < M, \forall x$, then only case (1) can happen for $n > M$.

So the convergence is uniform. $\square$

Thm 2: For any measurable function f defined on $A \in \mathcal{L}$,

there exists a sequence of simple functions with

$$0 \leq |f_1| \leq |f_2| \leq \dots \leq |f_n| \leq \dots \leq |f|$$

such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x), \forall x \in A$.

Moreover, if f is bounded, then the convergence is uniform.

Proof: Let $f^+ = \max\{f, 0\}$, $f^- = \max\{-f, 0\}$.

Then both f^+ and f^- are measurable, non-negative, and $f = f^+ - f^-$.

By Thm 1, there exists simple functions

$$0 \leq g_1(x) \leq g_2(x) \leq \dots \leq f^+(x) \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq h_1(x) \leq h_2(x) \leq \dots \leq f^-(x)$$

such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n(x) = f^+(x), \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h_n(x) = f^-(x).$

Let $f_n(x) = g_n(x) - h_n(x)$. Then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f^+(x) - f^-(x) = f(x)$.

Note: if $f(x) > 0$, then $f^-(x) = 0 \Rightarrow h_n(x) = 0 \Rightarrow f_n(x) = g_n(x) \leq g_{n+1}(x) = f_{n+1}(x) \leq f^+(x) = |f(x)|$

if $f(x) < 0$, then $f^+(x) = 0 \Rightarrow g_n(x) = 0 \Rightarrow |f_n(x)| = h_n(x) \leq h_{n+1}(x) = |f_{n+1}(x)| \leq f^-(x) = |f(x)|$

So we always has

$$0 \leq |f_1| \leq |f_2| \leq \dots \leq |f_n| \leq \dots \leq |f|$$

Moreover, if f is bounded, then ~~g_n~~ both f^+ and f^- are bounded.

So $g_n \rightarrow f^+$ uniformly, $h_n \rightarrow f^-$ uniformly.

It follows that $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly. $\square$

Cor. f is measurable $\Leftrightarrow f$ is the limit of a sequence of simple functions.

Cor. If f is measurable, then $\exists$ a sequence of step functions $f_1, f_2, \dots$ s.t. $f_n \rightarrow f$ a.e.

Proof: Exercise. (Hint: use Pset 2, Part 2, Problem 2 "nearly open".) $\square$

2. Approximation by continuous functions

* In Pset 4, Part 1, Problem 4: one can "approximate" simple functions on $\mathbb{R}$ via continuous function as a consequence, one can "approximate" any measurable function ~~via~~ continuous function.

The exact statement (in any dimension) is

Thm. (Lusin) Let f be any a.e. finite and measurable function defined on $A \in \mathcal{L}$.
Then $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, $\exists$ closed set $F \subset A$ with $m(A \setminus F) < \varepsilon$, such that
 f is continuous on F

Remark: This explains Littlewood's 2nd principle.

"Every measurable function is nearly continuous".

1st Proof: Take a sequence of step functions $f_n \rightarrow f$ a.e.

For each step function f_n , we ~~may~~ find a set A_n with $m(A_n) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2^n} \cdot \frac{1}{3}$ such that f_n is continuous on $A \setminus A_n$.

By Egorov, there is a set A_ε with $m(A_\varepsilon) < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$ s.t. $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $A \setminus A_\varepsilon$.

Let $\tilde{A} = A \setminus (\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cup A_\varepsilon)$. Then ~~each f_n is continuous on $\tilde{A}$, and~~

Then $\tilde{A} \in \mathcal{L}$ and $m(A \setminus \tilde{A}) < \frac{2}{3} \varepsilon$.

So $\exists$ closed set $F \subset A \setminus \tilde{A}$ with $m((A \setminus \tilde{A}) \setminus F) < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$.

Then F is closed, $m(A \setminus F) < \varepsilon$. Moreover, each f_n is continuous on F ,

and $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $F \Rightarrow f$ is continuous on F . $\square$

2nd Proof. (Without using Egorov)

- First assume f is a simple function, i.e.

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \chi_{A_i}(x), \quad \text{where } A_i \in \mathcal{L} \text{ disjoint, and } A = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i.$$

For each A_i , choose a closed set $F_i \subset A_i$ s.t. $m(A_i \setminus F_i) < \frac{\varepsilon}{n}$.

Then the set $F := \bigcup_{i=1}^n F_i$ is closed and $m(A \setminus F) = \sum_{i=1}^n m(A_i \setminus F_i) < \varepsilon$.

Moreover, f is continuous on each F_i (as a constant function) $\Rightarrow f$ is continuous on F .

- Next suppose f is bounded.

Then $\exists$ simple functions $f_1, f_2, \dots$ s.t. $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly.

For each n , choose closed set $F_n \subset A$ s.t. f_n is continuous on F_n , and $m(A \setminus F_n) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2^n}$.

Now let $F := \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$. Then $F \subset A$ is closed, and (by step 1).

$$m(A \setminus F) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m(A \setminus F_n) < \varepsilon.$$

Moreover, $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $F \Rightarrow f$ is continuous on F .

- Finally suppose f is any a.e. finite and measurable function.

$$\text{Let } g(x) = \frac{f(x)}{1+|f(x)|}.$$

Then $g(x)$ is bounded and measurable.

So by Step 2, $\exists$ closed set $F \subset A$ with $m(A \setminus F) < \varepsilon$, s.t. g is continuous on F .

It follows that $f = \frac{g(x)}{1-|g(x)|}$ is continuous on F . $\square$

Cor. || Let f be a a.e. finite and measurable function defined on $A \in \mathcal{L}$.
Then $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, $\exists$ a continuous function g on $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t.
 $m(\{x \in A : f(x) \neq g(x)\}) < \varepsilon$.

~~Proof~~: This follows from Lusin's theorem and

Tietze Extension Theorem. || Suppose $F \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is closed, and f is a continuous function defined on F . Then $\exists$ continuous function g on $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t.
 $g(x) = f(x)$ on F .
Moreover, if $|f(x)| \leq M$ on F , then $|g(x)| \leq M$ on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

~~Proof of Cor.~~

Cor. || Let f be a a.e. finite and ~~measurable~~ measurable function defined on $A \in \mathcal{L}$.
Then $\exists$ continuous functions f_k defined on $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $f_k \rightarrow f$ a.e. on A .

Proof. By previous corollary, we can find a sequence of continuous functions on $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $f_n \rightarrow f$ in measure in A . So by Riesz thm, one can pick a subsequence f_{n_k} from f_n s.t. $f_{n_k} \rightarrow f$ a.e. in A . $\square$

Proof of Tietze Extension Theorem

• First assume $|f(x)| \leq M$. We define

$$F_1 = \{x \in F : \frac{M}{3} \leq f(x) \leq M\}, \quad F_2 = \{x \in F : -M \leq f(x) \leq -\frac{M}{3}\}, \quad F_3 = \{x \in F : -\frac{M}{3} < f(x) < \frac{M}{3}\}$$

Let $g_1(x) = \frac{M}{3} \frac{d(x, F_2) - d(x, F_1)}{d(x, F_2) + d(x, F_1)}$ ← continuous on $\mathbb{R}^n$.
(denominator > 0 since $F_1 \cap F_2 = \emptyset$)
and F_1, F_2 are closed.)

Then $|g_1(x)| \leq \frac{M}{3}$ and $|f(x) - g_1(x)| \leq \frac{2}{3}M$.
($\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$) ($\forall x \in F$) ← (to see this, consider F_1, F_2, F_3 separately.)

Then apply the same construction to $f(x) - g_1(x)$, to construct a continuous function g_2 on $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t.

$$|g_2(x)| \leq \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} M \text{ and } |(f(x) - g_1(x)) - g_2(x)| \leq \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} M.$$

($x \in \mathbb{R}^n$) ($x \in F$)

Continue this process, one get a sequence of continuous functions

$$g_1, g_2, g_3, \dots$$

on $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $|g_k(x)| \leq \frac{1}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{k-1} M$, $|f(x) - \sum_{j=1}^k g_j(x)| \leq \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k M$.
($x \in \mathbb{R}^n$) ($x \in F$)

It follow that $g(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} g_k(x)$ is continuous on $\mathbb{R}^n$ (by uniform convergence), and $g(x) = f(x)$, $\forall x \in F$.

Moreover, $|g(x)| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |g_k(x)| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{k-1} M = \frac{M}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} = M$.

• If f is unbounded, then consider

$$\hat{f}(x) = \frac{f(x)}{1 + |f(x)|} \quad \rightarrow \text{continuous on } F.$$

By part 1, $\exists$ continuous function $\hat{g}(x)$ on $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $\hat{g} = \hat{f}$ on F , and

It follows that $g = \frac{\hat{g}(x)}{1 - |\hat{g}(x)|}$ is continuous on $\mathbb{R}^n$, and $g = f$ on F . $\square$

[One should be a little bit careful.]

- f is continuous on $F \Rightarrow f$ is continuous on $F \cap \overline{B(0, R)}$, $\forall R$
- $\Rightarrow f$ is bounded on $F \cap \overline{B(0, R)}$, $\forall R$
- $\Rightarrow |\hat{f}| \leq C_R < 1$ on $F \cap \overline{B(0, R)}$
- $\Rightarrow |\hat{g}| \leq C_R < 1$ -----
- $\Rightarrow g$ is continuous. -----

[one can use $\tilde{f}(x) = \arctan f(x)$. $\leftarrow$ simpler.]