

Last week we defined

$$\mathcal{M} = \left\{ E \subseteq \mathbb{R} : \lambda^*(W) = \lambda^*(W \cap E) + \lambda^*(W \cap E^c) \text{ for all } W \subseteq \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

and proved \mathcal{M} is an algebra of sets.

We want to show

- (i) \mathcal{M} is a σ -algebra
- (ii) $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$
- (iii) λ^* is additive under countable disjoint unions of sets in \mathcal{M} .

Let's start with a lemma that is related to (iii).

Lemma 1. Let $A_i \in \mathcal{M}$ for $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ be a disjoint collection of sets and $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$\lambda^*\left(W \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^*(W \cap A_i).$$

Proof: We shall show this in the case $n=2$, since the general case follows easily from this using induction.

Note that since \mathcal{M} is an algebra then $A_1 \cup A_2 \in \mathcal{M}$.

Now since $A_1 \in \mathcal{M}$ then

$$\lambda^*(W) = \lambda^*(W \cap A_1) + \lambda^*(W \cap A_1^c)$$

for any $W \in \mathcal{R}$.

In particular, replacing W by $W \cap (A_1 \cup A_2)$ we obtain

$$\lambda^*(W \cap (A_1 \cup A_2)) = \lambda^*(W \cap (A_1 \cup A_2) \cap A_1) + \lambda^*(W \cap (A_1 \cup A_2) \cap A_1^c)$$

Since $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$ then $A_2 \subseteq A_1^c$. It follows that

$$W \cap (A_1 \cup A_2) \cap A_1^c = W \cap A_2.$$

Also

$$W \cap (A_1 \cup A_2) \cap A_1 = W \cap A_1.$$

Therefore

$$\lambda^*(W \cap (A_1 \cup A_2)) = \lambda^*(W \cap A_1) + \lambda^*(W \cap A_2)$$

which finishes the proof for $n=2$. As mentioned earlier the general result now follows from induction.

Taking $W = \mathbb{R}$ in the previous lemma leads immediately to

Corollary: Let $A_i \in \mathcal{M}$ for $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ be a disjoint collection of sets. Then

$$\lambda^* \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^*(A_i).$$

Therefore we have shown that λ^* restricted to sets of \mathcal{M} is additive for finite disjoint unions of sets in \mathcal{M} .

We are left with showing that countably infinite unions behave just as well.

Lemma 2: Let $A_i \in \mathcal{M}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$ be a pairwise disjoint collection of sets and $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$\lambda^* \left(W \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(W \cap A_i).$$

Proof: Since $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \supseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ we have by proposition 3.1 in the text that

$$\lambda^*(\omega \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) \geq \lambda^*(\omega \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i) \text{ for every } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Therefore by the previous lemma

$$\lambda^*(\omega \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^*(\omega \cap A_i) \text{ for every } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Taking limits we obtain that

$$\lambda^*(\omega \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(\omega \cap A_i).$$

Since proposition 3.1 subadditivity implies

$$\lambda^*(\omega \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \lambda^*(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (\omega \cap A_i)) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(\omega \cap A_i)$$

we conclude that

$$\lambda^*(\omega \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(\omega \cap A_i).$$

thus proving the lemma.

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Corollary: Let $A_i \in \mathcal{M}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$ be a pairwise disjoint collection of sets. Then

$$\lambda^*\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(A_i).$$

This corollary is simply the result of taking $\mathcal{N} = \mathbb{R}$ in the previous lemma.

We are now ready to show \mathcal{M} is a σ -algebra.

Since \mathcal{M} is already known to be an algebra, it is enough to show \mathcal{M} is a monotone class.

Let $E_i \in \mathcal{M}$ such that $E_1 \subseteq E_2 \subseteq \dots$

Define $A_1 = E_1$ and $A_{i+1} = E_{i+1} \setminus E_i$.

Then A_i are pairwise disjoint and

$$E_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$$

for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Since $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \supseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = E_n$ then

$$\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right)^c \subseteq E_n^c$$

Moreover since $E_n \in \mathcal{M}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^*(W) &= \lambda^*(W \cap E_n) + \lambda^*(W \cap E_n^c) \\ &\geq \lambda^*(W \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i) + \lambda^*(W \cap \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right)^c) \end{aligned}$$

Since the A_i are disjoint lemma 1 implies

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^*(W \cap A_i) + \lambda^*(W \cap \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right)^c)$$

As this holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, taking limits and applying lemma 2 yields

$$\lambda^*(W) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(W \cap A_i) + \lambda^*(W \cap \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right)^c)$$

$$= \lambda^*(W \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) + \lambda^*(W \cap \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right)^c)$$

Now subadditivity in proposition 3.1 gives

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^*(W) &= \lambda^*((W \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) \cup (W \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^c)) \\ &\leq \lambda^*(W \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) + \lambda^*(W \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^c)\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\lambda^*(W) = \lambda^*(W \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) + \lambda^*(W \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^c),$$

which shows $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i \in \mathcal{M}$.

Therefore \mathcal{M} is closed under monotone increasing unions of subsets,

Let $E_i \in \mathcal{M}$ and $E_1 \supseteq E_2 \supseteq \dots$. Then

$E_1^c \supseteq E_2^c \supseteq \dots$ and so $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i^c \in \mathcal{M}$.

Since \mathcal{M} is closed under complements, then DeMorgan's law implies

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i = \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i^c \right)^c \in \mathcal{M}.$$

This shows that \mathcal{M} is a monotone class. It follows that \mathcal{M} is a σ -algebra.

We now have that

(i) \mathcal{M} is a σ -algebra

(ii) λ^* is additive on \mathcal{M} .

It remains to show $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{M}$.

Note that since \mathcal{B} is the smallest σ -algebra that contains

$$\mathcal{C} = \{O \subseteq \mathbb{R} : O \text{ is open}\}$$

this implies that \mathcal{M} contains enough sets that allow us to do the analysis needed to form a theory of integration.

Question: Is λ^* restricted to the σ -algebra $\mathcal{E} = \{\emptyset, \mathbb{R}\}$ additive? YES

After we show $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{M}$ we will have

$$\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$$

$\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ is too big a σ -algebra because λ^* is not additive for disjoint subsets of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$,

\mathcal{E} is too small, since no interesting theory of integration could be based on λ^* restricted to this σ -algebra.

\mathcal{M} is defined in a natural way that allows us to prove λ^* is additive on \mathcal{M} and turn out to contain \mathcal{B} so it is large enough to develop an interesting theory of integration.

Of course we still need to show $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$. This proof is given on pages 114 to 115 in the text. Please read pages 112 to 113 in preparation for the proof that $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$.

At the beginning of the course we skipped the section on the Cantor set.

Now we will cover that section.

First, a few observations:

Proposition: If $\lambda^*(A) = 0$ then $A \in \mathcal{M}$.

Proof: $W \cap A \subseteq A$ so $\lambda^*(W \cap A) = 0$. Therefore

$$\lambda^*(W \cap A) + \lambda^*(W \cap A^c) = \lambda^*(W \cap A^c) \leq \lambda^*(W).$$

Since the reverse inequality is obvious from subadditivity we obtain that

$$\lambda^*(W \cap A) + \lambda^*(W \cap A^c) = \lambda^*(W)$$

and therefore $A \in \mathcal{M}$.

An obvious consequence of this is that

$\mathbb{Q} = \{q_1, q_2, q_3, \dots\} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{q_n\} \in \mathcal{M}$ since it's the countable union of the sets $\{q_n\} \in \mathcal{M}$ where $\lambda^*(\{q_n\}) = 0$.

Moreover

$$\lambda^*(\mathbb{Q}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(\{q_n\}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 0$$

and therefore \mathbb{Q} has Lebesgue outer measure equal to zero.

Similarly any countable set A has $\lambda^*(A) = 0$.
Is the converse true?

In particular, is the claim that $\lambda^*(A) = 0$ if and only if A is countable true or false?

Let I be an interval $I = (a, b)$.

Then

$$\lambda^*(I) = \lambda^*((b-a)) = b-a.$$

Let $f: (a, b) \rightarrow (\frac{a}{2}, \frac{b}{2})$ be given by $f(x) = \frac{x}{2}$.

Then f is a bijection and so $I \sim f(I)$.

Also

$$\lambda^*(f(I)) = \lambda^*\left(\left(\frac{a}{2}, \frac{b}{2}\right)\right) = \frac{b-a}{2}$$

Thus (a, b) and $(\frac{a}{2}, \frac{b}{2})$ are two sets that are equivalent in the sense of set equivalence, which means they contain the same number of points, and the Lebesgue measure of one of them is $\frac{1}{2}$ the Lebesgue measure of the other.

Is it possible to stretch and squeeze the unit interval in such a way that the Lebesgue measure of that interval is not only smaller but exactly zero?

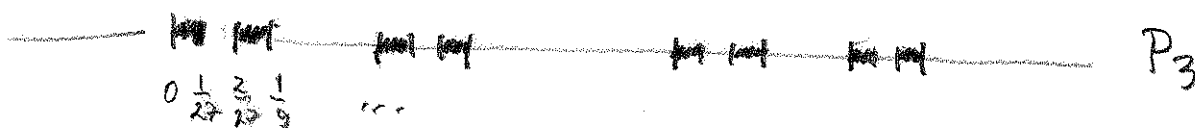
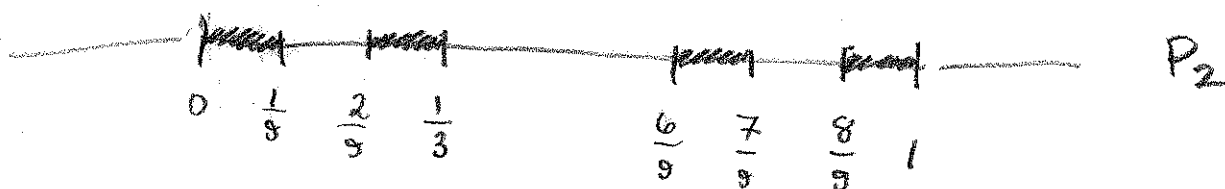
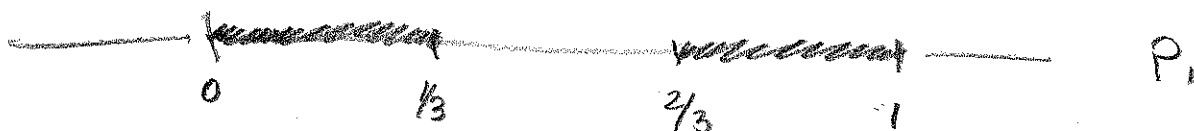
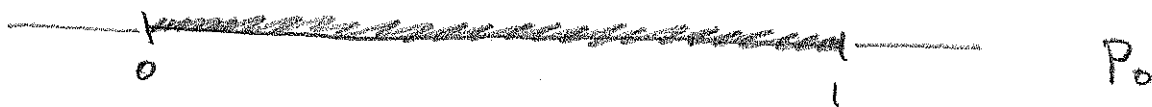
YES.

This gives us an example of a set $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ that is uncountable but for which

$$\lambda^*(P) = 0.$$

Thus, the claim on the previous page is false.

The set P is called the Cantor set and it is defined as $P = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} P_n$ where P_n are the closed sets given as



Consider the complement of P_n

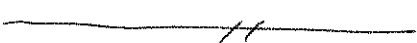
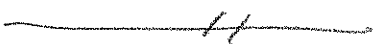
$$F_0 = [0, 1] \setminus P_0$$

$$F_1 = [0, 1] \setminus P_1 = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$$

$$F_2 = [0, 1] \setminus P_2 = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right) \cup \left(\frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}\right) \cup \left(\frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9}\right)$$

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Define $A_1 = G_1$ and $A_{n+1} = G_{n+1} \setminus G_n$. Then the A_i 's are disjoint and

A_1 is 1 interval of length $\frac{1}{3}$
 A_2 is 2  $\frac{1}{9}$
 A_3 is 4  $\frac{1}{27}$
 \vdots

Since each A_i is open then $A_i \in \mathcal{B}$. Assuming we have already shown that $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$, it then follows that $A_i \in \mathcal{M}$ and

$$\lambda^*(\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{R}^c) = \lambda^*\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda^*(A_i)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} 2^{i-1} \frac{1}{3^i} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^i$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\frac{2}{3}}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} \right) = 1.$$

Therefore $P \in \mathcal{M}$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^*([0,1]) &= \lambda^*([0,1] \cap P) + \lambda^*([0,1] \cap P^c) \\ &= \lambda^*(P) + 1\end{aligned}$$

implies

$$\lambda^*(P) = \lambda^*([0,1]) - 1 = 0,$$

We will show that $P \sim [0,1]$ next time.