


Measure Theory
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Module No # 07
Lecture No # 33
Abstract measure and Caratheodory Measurability – Part I

So in the last lecture we have seen the definition of Boolean algebra and sigma algebra and we have seen examples of both kinds of algebras. And in this is lecture we will look at abstract outer measures and the notion of measurability on abstract spaces. So this I have turned as Caratheodory measurability and generalize the notion of the Lebesgue measurability that we know for \mathbb{R}^d .

(Refer Slide Time: 00:46)

Measure Theory - Lecture 20 

Abstract Outer Measures and Caratheodory Measurability:


Defn. (Abstract outer measure): Let X be a set. An outer measure μ^* is a function

$$\mu^* : \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$$

which satisfies the following:

- i) [Empty set] $\mu^*(\emptyset) = 0$.
- ii) [Monotonicity] if $E \subseteq F$ then $\mu^*(E) \leq \mu^*(F)$.
- iii) [Countable sub-additivity] If $\{E_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is a collection of subsets of X then

$$\mu^*\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n\right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu^*(E_n).$$



So let me define then notion of abstract outer measure and abstract measure for an arbitrary subset X . So let X be a set then an outer measure which I will denote by μ^* it is a function μ^* is a function from the power set of X to the extended positive real lines 0 to $+\infty$ which satisfy the following axioms. So first is that the empty set axiom so these are the same outer measure axioms that we have stated for the Lebesgue outer measure.

So the first one is that the outer measure of the empty set should be 0 the second is the monotonicity property. Which states that if E is the subset of F then $\mu^* E$ is less than or equal to $\mu^* F$ and third one is countable sub-additivity property. Which states that if E_n $n=1$

to infinity is a collection of subsets of X . Then the outer measure of the union of the E_n 's is bounded above by the sum $n=1$ to infinity μ^* of E_n .

So these 3 properties axioms will constitute what is called as abstract outer measure on the set X .

So now let me define the notion of an abstract measurable space.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:27)

Defn: [Measurable Space] Let X be a set and \mathcal{B} be a σ -algebra on X .
Then the pair (X, \mathcal{B}) is called an abstract measurable space.

Defn: [Measure Space] Let (X, \mathcal{B}) be a measurable space and μ^* be an outer measure on X . Then, if μ^* satisfies the following condition:
[Countable additivity] If $\{E_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is a collection of ^{disjoint} elements in \mathcal{B} ,
then $\mu^*\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu^*(E_n)$
Then μ^* restricted to \mathcal{B} is called a measure on (X, \mathcal{B}) and μ^* is denoted by μ on \mathcal{B} , and (X, \mathcal{B}, μ) is called a measure space.

So this let X be a set and \mathcal{B} be a sigma algebra on X so we have seen a definition of sigma algebra in the last lecture. So we are telling an X we are taking a set X and sigma algebra on X then the pair X, \mathcal{B} is called a measurable space is called an abstract measurable space. So here we are using the term measurable and once we have defined the notion of an measure on a measurable space.

Then we will call it a measure space so let me define now what is a measured space? So let X be a measurable space and μ^* be an outer measure on X . Then if μ^* satisfy the following condition which is that so μ^* is already an outer measure. And it should now satisfy the condition of countable additivity property which is that if E_n 's $n = 1$ to infinity is the collection of elements in this sigma algebra \mathcal{B} then collection of disjoint elements in \mathcal{B} .

Then the outer measure for the union of all these E_n 's should be the sum exactly the sum of the outer measures of E_n 's. So if an outer measure on a measurable space satisfies in addition is countable additivity property. Then μ^* restricted to \mathcal{B} is called a measure on X, \mathcal{B} and the

triple X . So now first let me write that μ^* is denoted by simply μ on B and the triple X, B, μ is called a measure space.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:20)

Ex: i) $(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^d), m)$ is a measure space.



ii) $(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d), m|_{\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d)})$ is a measure space.

iii) X be a set, $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{P}(X)$ and μ^* be the outer measure defined by the cardinality for:

$$\mu^* : \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$$

$$\mu^*(E) := |E|.$$

Ex: To check that μ^* is an outer measure, μ^* on \mathcal{B} is in fact a measure. $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu = \mu^*|_{\mathcal{B}})$ is a measure space and μ is called the counting measure on X .

So of course our prototypical example for a measure space is \mathbb{R}^d with the Lebesgue sigma algebra and so this is our first example and the Lebesgue measure this is a measure space. Similarly if you take \mathbb{R}^d with the Borel sigma algebra and m restricted to the Borel sigma algebra then also it will satisfy the countable additivity property and so this is also a measure space. Now for an abstract example let us take X be a set and B be the power set of X and μ^* be the outer measure defined by the cardinality function.

So μ^* is a map from the power set to the positive non-negative extended real line which takes any subset E of X and it is by definition that cardinality of E . So of course if E is a countably infinite or uncountable then this will take the value plus infinity here. But if it is finite then it will give you a finite value now B is sigma algebra and μ^* thus satisfy the countable additivity.

So I leave it to you as an exercise to check that first that μ^* is an outer measure by using the definition of cardinality of sets that we have seen before. And secondly that μ^* on this whole sigma algebra the discrete algebra B is in fact a measure. So in this way X, B, μ here is again the restriction of μ^* on B is the measure space. And here μ is called the counting measure on X .

So this is an example of an abstract measure space which is just by looking at the cardinality function on any subset of x . So now that we have a notion of an outer measure and a measure we would like to know when we have an outer measure whether we can upgrade it to a measure.



(Refer Slide Time: 11:20)

Question: If X is a set and μ^* is an outer measure on X , then is it possible to define a σ -algebra \mathcal{B} on X s.t. μ^* is countably additive when restricted to \mathcal{B} , i.e. $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu^*|_{\mathcal{B}})$ is a measure.

Def: (Carathéodory Measurability): If μ^* is an outer measure on a set X , then we call a set $A \subseteq X$ Carathéodory measurable if and only if for any other set $S \subseteq X$, we have

$$\mu^*(S) = \mu^*(S \cap A) + \mu^*(S \cap A^c). \quad [\text{Carathéodory condition}]$$

We denote the collection of Carathéodory measurable subsets of X by $\mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$.

So question is that if x is a set and μ^* is an outer measure on x then is it possible to define a sigma algebra \mathcal{B} on x such that μ^* is countably additive when restricted to \mathcal{B} which in other words means that x, \mathcal{B} and the restricted of μ^* to \mathcal{B} is the measured space. So once you have outer measure on a set x we would like to know when we can upgrade it to a measure and this is answered by the notion of Carathéodory measurability condition.

So this is the definition and we recall that we had the Lebesgue outer measure in \mathbb{R}^d and then we define the sigma algebra of Lebesgue measurable sets by using the notion of almost open or outer approximation by an open set or an inner approximation by a closed set. But here we do not have the notion of an open or a closed set because x may not even be a topological it is an abstract set.

So we need to find an equivalent condition which would work for \mathbb{R}^d it should give us for the Lebesgue outer measure again the Lebesgue measurable sigma algebra of Lebesgue measurable sets. But this definition should also work for any set x so this is what is known as Carathéodory

measurability and this is the if μ^* is an outer measure on X on a set X then we call a set A of X Carathéodory measurable.

If and only if for any other set S of X we have that $\mu^*(S) = \mu^*(S \cap A) + \mu^*(S \cap A^c)$. So this is called the Carathéodory condition and if it this condition needs to be satisfied for any arbitrary subset S of X then A is called Carathéodory measurable. And we denote the collection of Carathéodory measurable subsets of X / \mathcal{C}_{μ^*} of X .

So of course we have to now show that our notion of measurability satisfies the expected properties which are that it the collection of measurable subset Carathéodory measurable subsets should give you sigma algebra. And μ^* restricted to that sigma algebra should be countably additive.

(Refer Slide Time: 16:12)

Thm. [Carathéodory Extension Thm]: If μ^* is an outer measure on X , then $\mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$ is a σ -algebra and μ^* restricted to $\mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$ is a measure on X . $\Leftrightarrow (X, \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X), \mu^*|_{\mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)})$ is a measure space.

- Pf:
- i) $\emptyset \in \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$. [Easy].
 - ii) if $E \in \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$ then $E^c \in \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$. [Easy]
 - iii) [Boolean algebra] if $E, F \in \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$ then $E \cup F \in \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$.

To show: Given any $A \in \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$,

$$\mu^*(A) = \mu^*(A \cap E) + \mu^*(A \cap (E \cup F)^c).$$



So this is the famous Carathéodory extension theorem and this says that if μ^* is an outer measure on X . Then $\mathcal{C}_{\mu^*}(X)$ the collection of Carathéodory measurable subsets of X is the sigma algebra and μ^* restricted to this sigma algebra is a measure on X . Meaning that it satisfies countable additivity property as well so this says that this answers our question is that once you have an outer measure by the Carathéodory measurability condition you automatically get a sigma algebra and a measure on that sigma algebra.

So equivalently \mathcal{X} with the sigma algebra $\mathcal{C} \mu^*$ and the restriction of μ^* to $\mathcal{C} \mu^*$ this is a measure space. So once you have an outer measure you automatically get a measure. So let us see the proof which is a bit long but we will go step by step so the first one is that Φ belongs to $\mathcal{C} \mu^*$. So we need it that the empty set should belong to the sigma algebra and this is obvious this is easy so I will leave it as an exercise to check for you.

The second one is that if E belongs to $\mathcal{C} \mu^*$ then E^c also belongs to $\mathcal{C} \mu^*$ this is almost immediate from the definition of the Caratheodory measurability. Because it is symmetric with respect to taking compliments so this is also easy and I will leave it for you to check. So the third one is to check whether it is a Boolean algebra so if E and F are in $\mathcal{C} \mu^*$ then $E \cup F$ should be in $\mathcal{C} \mu^*$.

So we have to show this so to show given any A any subset of X we have to show that an outer measure of A is equal to the outer measure of $A \cap (E \cup F)$ plus the outer measure of $A \cap (E \cup F)^c$. So this is nothing but $A \cap (E \cup F) \cup A \cap (E \cup F)^c$ so we have to show this for any subset A of X so this will prove that if E and F are Caratheodory measurable then their union is also Caratheodory measurable.

And by induction any finite union of Caratheodory measurable sets will be Caratheodory measurable and therefore it will be a Boolean algebra. So let us try to show that this whole.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:30)

$$B_1 = A \setminus (E \cup F)$$

$$B_2 = (A \cap E) \setminus F$$

$$B_3 = (A \cap F) \setminus E$$

$$B_4 = A \cap E \cap F$$

To show: $\mu^*(\bigcup_{i=1}^4 B_i) = \mu^*(B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4) + \mu^*(B_1)$

Now, since $E, F \in \mathcal{C} \mu^*(X) \Rightarrow \mu^*(A) = \mu^*(A \cap E) + \mu^*(A \setminus E)$

$$= \mu^*(B_2 \cup B_3) + \mu^*(B_1 \cup B_4)$$

$$\mu^*(A \cap (E \cup F)) = \mu^*(B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4) = \mu^*(\text{orange}) + \mu^*(\text{green}) = \mu^*(B_2) + \mu^*(B_3 \cup B_4)$$



So here we have a Venn diagram of this situation we have E and F and then A which is an arbitrary subset. And we have the outer measures of 2 parts one is $A \cap (E \cup F)$ in the orange shade and $A - (E \cup F)$ in the green shade and I have divide this relevant parts into 4 subparts B1, B2, B3, B4. B1 is nothing but this green part so this is the green part B2, B3 and B4 are the 3 parts of the orange shaded region.

So for example B2 is $A - E \cap F$ which means that this region here this Magenta region this is B2. Similarly B3 here this is B3 and the intersection of A, E and F the middle part this is B4. So we see that we have to show that $\mu^* A$ which is the union of this disjoint sets B_i $i = 1$ to $4 = \mu^* \text{ of the orange shaded region which is precisely } B2 \cup B3 \cup B4 + \mu^* \text{ of } B1$.

So I have so we stated our goal in terms of subsets this B1, B2, B3 and B4 now we use the fact that E belongs to Caratheodory measurable E is a Caratheodory measurable set. So this implies that $\mu^* A = \mu^* (A \cap E) + \mu^* (A - E)$. But $\mu^* (A \cap E)$ is nothing but the union of B3 and B4 here. So this is $B3 \cup B4 + \mu^* (A - E)$ which is this is $B1 \cup B2$.

But if we apply on the other hand if we apply this is the same condition this is the Caratheodory measurability of E for the set which is given by the orange shaded region which is again the union of B2, B3 and B4. This is by the way this is same as $\mu^* (A \cap (E \cup F))$ and so this is nothing but the μ^* of the shaded region $(A \cap (E \cup F))$ or in shaded $(A \cap (E \cup F)) + \mu^*$ of orange shaded region intersection with E.

So this is nothing but the first one is simply the μ^* of B2 which is this part here in magenta this is B2 and the second part is $B3 \cup B4$ which is these 2 parts here. So we have that μ^* of the orange shaded region is $\mu^* B2 + \mu^* B3 + \mu^* B4$.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:32)

$$F \in \mathcal{C}_{\mu^*} \text{ for the set } B_1 \cup B_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu^*(B_1 \cup B_2) = \mu^*(F \cap (B_1 \cup B_2)) + \mu^*((B_1 \cup B_2) \setminus F)$$

$$= \mu^*(B_2) + \mu^*(B_1)$$

We have:

$$\mu^*(A) = \mu^*(B_3 \cup B_4) + \mu^*(B_1 \cup B_2) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\mu^*(B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4) = \mu^*(B_2) + \mu^*(B_3 \cup B_4) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\mu^*(B_1 \cup B_2) = \mu^*(B_1) + \mu^*(B_2) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

To show:

$$\mu^*(A) = \mu^*(B_1) + \mu^*(B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4)$$

From (1): LHS = $\mu^*(B_3 \cup B_4) + \mu^*(B_1 \cup B_2) \stackrel{(2)}{=} \mu^*(B_3 \cup B_4) + \mu^*(B_1) + \mu^*(B_2)$

Now I am going to use the fact that F also belongs to the Caratheodory measurable sets. So I am going to apply it for the set $B_1 \cup B_2$. So this implies that μ^* of $B_1 \cup B_2 = \mu^*$ of $F \cap (B_1 \cup B_2) + \mu^*$ of $(B_1 \cup B_2) - F$. So let us see what these sets are the first one is $B_1 \cup B_2 \cap F$. So this is B_1 here in the green shaded region B_2 is the magenta shaded region so $B_1 \cup B_2 \cap F$ is simply B_1 .

So we get μ^* of B_2 and the second one is $B_1 \cup B_2 - F$ but B_2 is a subset of F so you will simply get B_1 . So you will get μ^* of $B_2 = \mu^*$ of B_1 so now we have 3 equalities we have first is that μ^* of $A = \mu^*$ of $B_3 \cup B_4 + \mu^*$ of $B_1 \cup B_2$ so this is the first one this is what we proved. Let us collect the equalities that we have got. The first one is μ^* of $A = \mu^*$ of $B_3 \cup B_4 + \mu^*$ of $B_1 \cup B_2$ so this is this one the second one we got is μ^* of $B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4 = \mu^*$ of $B_2 + \mu^*$ of $B_3 \cup B_4$.

And the third one that we got is μ^* of $B_1 \cup B_2 = \mu^*$ of $B_1 + \mu^*$ of B_2 . And we had to show remember that μ^* of $A = \mu^*$ of $B_1 + \mu^*$ of $B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4$. So on the left hand side they get so let me number these equalities 1, 2 and 3. So for the left side we get from 1 we get that the left side is equal to μ^* of $B_3 \cup B_4 + \mu^*$ of $B_1 \cup B_2$ which is equal to μ^* of $B_3 \cup B_4 + \mu^*$ of $B_1 + \mu^*$ of B_2 this is from the third equality here.

(Refer Slide Time: 29:34)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RHS: } & \mu^*(B_1) + \mu^*(B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4) \\ & = \mu^*(B_1) + \mu^*(B_2) + \mu^*(B_3 \cup B_4) \text{ from } \textcircled{2}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } \mu^*(A) = \mu^*(A \setminus (E \cup F)) + \mu^*(A \cap (E \cup F)).$$

(This holds for the case $\mu^*(A) < \infty$ or $\mu^*(A) = +\infty$).

$\Rightarrow \Sigma_{\mu^*}(X)$ is a Boolean algebra.

On the other hand for the RHS we get $\mu^*(B_1) + \mu^*(B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4)$ this is equal to $\mu^*(B_1) + \mu^*(B_2) + \mu^*(B_3 \cup B_4)$ from the second equality. So we see that the LHS and the RHS are the same and therefore we get the result. So $\mu^*(A) = \mu^*(A \setminus (E \cup F)) + \mu^*(A \cap (E \cup F))$. Note that we did not use the fact that any of these outer measures are finite or infinite and we did not use any cancellation so this holds for the case $\mu^*(A)$ is infinite or $\mu^*(A)$.

So this proves that finite unions are inside the Caratheodory measurable collection which means that $\Sigma_{\mu^*}(X)$ is a Boolean algebra.