

**Measure and Integration**  
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**Lecture No-44**  
**Functions of Bounded Variation**

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FUNCTIONS OF BOUNDED VARIATION.

Let  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a given fn.

$$P = \{a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n = b\}$$

$$t(P, f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})|$$

Defn.  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The total variation of  $f$  is given by

$$T_a^b(f) = \sup_P t(P, f).$$

If  $T_a^b(f) < +\infty$ , then  $f$  is said to be of bounded variation.

So, we will now investigate another class of the functions which will be differentiable almost everywhere. These are very important classes called **functions of bounded variation**. You might have seen these already in your analysis course, anyway.

So, let  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a given function. Consider a partition

$$P = \{a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n = b\}$$

And you define  $t(P, f) = \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})|$ .

**Definition:**  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The total variation of  $f$  is given by

$$T_a^b(f) = \sup_P t(P, f).$$

If  $T_a^b(f) < \infty$ , then  $f$  is said to be of bounded variation. So, functions of bounded variations are functions whose total variation is finite or bonded.

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$\mathcal{D} = \{a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n = b\}$ .

$$t(\mathcal{D}, f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})|$$

Def.  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The total variation of  $f$  is given by

$$T_a^b(f) = \sup_{\mathcal{D}} t(\mathcal{D}, f).$$

If  $T_a^b(f) < +\infty$ , then  $f$  is said to be of bounded variation.

Ex:  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  Lipschitz cont.  $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq L|x - y| \quad \forall x, y \in [a, b]$ .

$$t(\mathcal{D}, f) = \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})| \leq L \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - x_{i-1}| = L(b - a).$$
$$T_a^b(f) \leq L(b - a) < +\infty$$

**Examples:**  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  Lipschitz continuous. It means

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq L|x - y|, \quad \forall x, y \in [a, b].$$

Now, this is sub-bounded variation because if you take any partition  $p$  so,

$$t(p, f) = \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})| \leq L \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - x_{i-1}| = L(b - a).$$

$$\Rightarrow T_a^b(f) \leq L(b - a) < +\infty.$$

So, therefore, you have that Lipschitz continuous function is of course, of bounded variation.

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Ex:  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  monotonic.

$$t(P, f) = \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})| = \left| \sum_{i=1}^n (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})) \right| = |f(b) - f(a)|$$
$$T_a^b(f) = |f(b) - f(a)| < +\infty$$

**Example:**  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  monotonic. It could be increasing or monotonic decreasing. So, if you take any P partition then

$$t(P, f) = \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})| \leq \left| \sum_{i=1}^n (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})) \right| = |f(b) - f(a)|.$$

Therefore,  $T_a^b(f) = |f(b) - f(a)| < +\infty$ .

Therefore, monotonic function is also a function of bounded variation.

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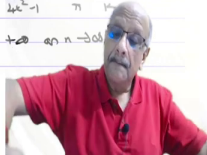
$f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  monotonic.  

$$T(\mathcal{P}, f) = \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})| = \left| \sum_{i=1}^n (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})) \right| = |f(b) - f(a)|$$

$$T_0^h(f) = |f(b) - f(a)| < +\infty$$

Ex:  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} & x \in (0, 1] \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$   
 $f$  is cont. But  $f$  is NOT of bounded var.  
 $\mathcal{P} = \{0, 1\} \cup \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi(2k+1)}} \right\}_{k=0}^n$

$|f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})| = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{1}{2k+1} + \frac{2}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{2k-1} \right) = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{2k}{4k^2-1} > \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{1}{k}$   
 $\therefore \sum_{k=1}^n |f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})| > \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$



**Example:** So, you now take  $f(x)$  equals  $x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}$  if for  $x$  belonging to  $(0, 1]$  and  $0$  for  $x$  equal to  $0$ . So, then  $f$  is a continuous function  $f$  is continuous, but  $f$  is not of bounded variation. So, this is an example of a function which is not of bounded variation. So, to see this let us take a partition  $\mathcal{P}$  which is equal to the 2 points  $0$  and  $1$  union square root of  $2$  by  $\pi$  times  $2k$  plus  $1$   $k$  equal  $0$  to  $n$ .



So, these are all points in  $[0, 1]$ . So, you consider this partition. So, now, if you take mod  $f$  of  $x_k$  minus  $f$  of  $x_{k-1}$  this will be equal to  $2$  by  $\pi$  of  $1$  by  $2k$  plus  $1$  plus  $2$  by  $\pi$   $1$  by  $2k$  minus  $1$ . Because sin of these things of the reciprocal is odd multiples of  $\pi$  by  $2$  so, it is always  $1$ . So, it is only the denominator which contributes.

Now, this is equal to  $2$  by  $\pi$  of  $4k$  by  $4k^2$  minus  $1$  and that is greater than equal to  $2$  by  $\pi$ . Now,  $4k$  by  $4k^2$  minus  $1$   $4k^2$  minus  $1$  is less than  $4k^2$ . So, the fraction is bigger than equal to  $4k$  by  $4k^2$  which is  $1$  over  $k$ . Therefore, the sigma mod  $f$  of  $x_k$  minus  $f$  of  $x_{k-1}$  is greater than  $2$  by  $\pi$  sigma  $1$  by  $k$ . So, this  $k$  equals  $1$  to  $n$ . So, if you increase  $n$  this is a divergent series and therefore, this goes to plus infinity as  $n$  tends to infinity. And therefore, this is not of bounded variation.

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Prop:  $\Sigma, \omega \subset \mathbb{R}$ .  $f$  a real var.  $f: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \Rightarrow |f|$  is of BV

$f, g$  are BV, and  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  then  $\alpha f + \beta g$ .

**Proposition:**  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$  and  $f$  of bounded variation  $f: [a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$  of course implies  $|f|$  is of bounded variation. I will say BV for bounded variation. Then, if  $f$  and  $g$  are BV then and  $\alpha, \beta$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  then  $\alpha f + \beta g$  is BV.

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Prf:  $x \in [a, b] \quad \sigma = \{a \leq x_1 < b\}$

$|f(x) - f(a)| \leq t(\sigma, f) \leq T_a^b(f) < +\infty$

$\Rightarrow |f(x)| \leq |f(a)| + T_a^b(f) \quad \forall x \in [a, b]$


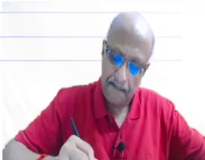
$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq |f(x) - f(y)| \Rightarrow |f|$  is BV.

$|(\alpha f + \beta g)(x) - (\alpha f + \beta g)(y)| \leq |\alpha| |f(x) - f(y)| + |\beta| |g(x) - g(y)|$

$\Rightarrow \alpha f + \beta g \in BV$ .

$|f(x)g(x) - f(y)g(y)| \leq |f(x)| |g(x) - g(y)| + |g(y)| |f(x) - f(y)|$

$\Rightarrow fg \in BV$ .

proof: So, if  $x \in [a, b]$ . So, you simply consider the partition  $P = \{a \leq x_1 < b\}$ . Then

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq t(P, f) \leq T_a^b(f) < +\infty.$$

$$\Rightarrow |f(x)| \leq |f(a)| + T_a^b(f), \quad \forall x \in [a, b].$$

Therefore, you have  $||f(x)| - |f(y)|| \leq |f(x) - f(y)| \Rightarrow |f|$  is BV.

$$|(\alpha f + \beta g)(x) - (\alpha f + \beta g)(y)| \leq |\alpha||f(x) - f(y)| + |\beta||f(x) - f(y)| \\ \Rightarrow \alpha f + \beta g \text{ is BV.}$$

So,  $|f(x)g(x) - f(y)g(y)| \leq |f(x)||g(x) - g(y)| + |g(y)||f(x) - f(y)|$ .

$$\Rightarrow fg \text{ is BV.}$$

Just apply the definition and you will get it immediately. So, this is the thing.

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$$r^+, r^- = \max(r, 0)$$

$$r^- = -\min(r, 0)$$

$$r = r^+ - r^- \quad |r| = r^+ + r^-$$

$$\mathcal{D} \text{ partition} \quad p(\mathcal{P}, f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^n (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1}))^+$$

$$n(\mathcal{P}, f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^n (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1}))^-$$

$$t(\mathcal{P}, f) = p(\mathcal{P}, f) + n(\mathcal{P}, f)$$

$$f(b) - f(a) = p(\mathcal{P}, f) - n(\mathcal{P}, f)$$

Define
 
$$P_a^b(f) = \sup_{\mathcal{P}} p(\mathcal{P}, f) \quad N_a^b(f) = \sup_{\mathcal{P}} n(\mathcal{P}, f)$$

So, now, given a real number  $r$  we write  $r$  plus equals  $\max$  of  $r$  and  $0$  and  $r$  minus equals  $\min$  of  $r$  and  $0$ . So, in other words you have just like you write the positive and negative parts if  $r$  is positive then  $r$  plus is  $r$ , if  $r$  is negative then  $r$  minus  $r$  is equal to  $\min$  of  $r$  and  $0$ . So, in general  $r$  equals  $r$  plus minus  $r$  minus and  $|r|$  equals  $r$  plus plus  $r$  minus.


So, now  $p$  partition and you define then you have  $p$  of  $p, f$  we define as  $\sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})^+$  and then  $n$  of  $p, f$  as  $\sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})^-$ . So, then you have  $t$  of  $p, f$  is equal to  $p$  of  $p, f$  plus  $n$  of  $p, f$ . And then  $f(b) - f(a)$  equals  $p$  of  $p, f$  minus  $n$  of  $p, f$  straightforward calculations. Now define  $P_a^b$  of  $f$  is supremum  $P$  of  $p, f$  taken over all partitions and  $N_a^b$  of  $f$  equals supremum over  $n$  of  $p, f$  taken over all partitions


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$T_a^b(f) = \sup_P \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})|$

Prop.  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a fn. of BV. Then

$T_a^b(f) = P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f)$      $f(b) - f(a) = P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f)$





**Proposition:**  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a function of BV, then

$$T_a^b(f) = P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f), \quad f(b) - f(a) = P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f).$$

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Pr.  $f$  BV  $T_a^b(f), P_a^b(f), N_a^b(f)$  all finite.

$\mathcal{P}$  any partition

$P(\mathcal{P}, f) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1}))^+$

$\leq N_a^b(f) + f(b) - f(a)$


$\Rightarrow P_a^b(f) \leq N_a^b(f) + f(b) - f(a)$

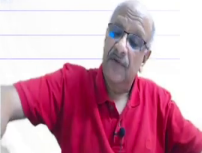
$P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f) \leq f(b) - f(a)$  ✓

$N(\mathcal{P}, f) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1}))^- \leq P_a^b(f) + f(a) - f(b)$

$N_a^b(f) - P_a^b(f) \leq f(a) - f(b)$

$P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f) \geq f(b) - f(a)$  ✓







$$n(P, f) = P(P, f) + f(b) - f(a) \leq P_a^b(f) + f(b) - f(a)$$

$$N_a^b(f) - P_a^b(f) \leq f(b) - f(a)$$

$$P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f) \geq f(b) - f(a) \quad \checkmark$$

$$t(P, f) = P(P, f) + n(P, f) \leq P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_a^b(f) \leq P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f)$$

**proof.** So,  $f$  is BV. So, that means  $T_a^b(f)$ ,  $P_a^b(f)$ ,  $N_a^b(f)$  all finite. So,  $P$  any partition you have

$$P(P, f) = n(P, f) + f(b) - f(a) \leq N_a^b(f) + f(b) - f(a).$$

$$\Rightarrow P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f) \leq f(b) - f(a).$$

Now, you use the same relationship again and now you write

$$N(P, f) \leq P(P, f) + f(a) - f(b) \leq P_a^b(f) + f(a) - f(b).$$

$$\Rightarrow N_a^b(f) - P_a^b(f) \leq f(a) - f(b).$$

$$\Rightarrow P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f) \geq f(b) - f(a).$$

And now that it will be less than equal to captain  $P$  a, b of  $f$  plus  $f_a$  minus  $f_b$  and from that if you take supremum again you have  $N A$  b of  $f$  minus  $P$  a, b of  $f$  is less than equal to  $f_a$  minus  $f_b$  and that will give you  $P$  a, b of  $f$  minus  $N$  a b of  $f$  is greater than equal to  $f_b$  minus  $f_a$  and so, you have the 2 (())(19:14) inequalities and therefore, you have these 2 are equal  $P$  a, b minus  $N$  a, b equals  $f_b$  minus  $f_a$  and that proves the statement here. Now for the you have the  $t$  of  $p$   $f$  for any partition is equal to  $p$  of  $p$ ,  $f$  plus  $n$  of  $p$ ,  $f$  and therefore, you get immediately the  $T$  a, b of  $f$  this

is less equal to  $P a, b$  or  $f$  plus  $N a, b$  of  $f$  just a supremum. So, that is less than equal to  $P a, b$  of  $f$  plus  $N a, b$  of  $f$ .

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$$\Rightarrow T_a^b(f) \leq P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f).$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_a^b(f) &\geq t(a, f) = p(a, f) + n(a, f) \\ &= p(a, f) + p(a, f) - (f(a) - f(a)) \\ &= 2p(a, f) - (f(a) - f(a)) \\ &\geq 2P_a^b(f) - P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f) \\ &= P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f). \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow T_a^b(f) = P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f).$$

$$\Rightarrow P_a^b(f) \leq N_a^b(f) + f(a) - f(a).$$

$$P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f) \leq f(a) - f(a) \quad \checkmark$$

$$\frac{p(a, f) + f(a) - f(a)}{N_a^b(f) - P_a^b(f)} \leq \frac{f(a) - f(a)}{f(a) - f(a)}$$

$$N_a^b(f) - P_a^b(f) \leq f(a) - f(a)$$

$$P_a^b(f) - N_a^b(f) \geq f(a) - f(a) \quad \checkmark$$

$$t(a, f) = p(a, f) + n(a, f) \leq P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_a^b(f) \leq P_a^b(f) + N_a^b(f).$$

Now, we want to prove the reverse inequality. So, for that you take  $T a, b$  of  $f$  is greater equal to  $t$  of  $p, f$ , which is equal to  $p$  of  $p, f$  plus  $n$  of  $p, f$ . Now, this  $n$  of  $p, f$  I will write as equal to  $p$  of  $p, f$ ,  $n$  of  $p, f$  is nothing but  $p$  of  $p, f$  minus  $f b$  minus  $f a$ . We just wrote it recently here instead of  $f a$  minus  $f b$  I am writing this, so, that is equal to  $2$  times  $p$  of  $p, f$  minus or minus  $f b$  plus  $f a$ . Now let me keep it minus  $f b$  minus  $f a$ .

So, now, if I took the supremum this is bigger than equal to 2 times  $P_{a,b}(f)$ , I am just taking the supremum and minus  $f(b) - f(a)$  I have already I am going to use the equation there this 1 and therefore, I am going to write it as  $\text{minus } P_{a,b}(f) + N_{a,b}(f)$  and that will give you a  $P_{a,b}(f) + N_{a,b}(f)$ . And so, you have the reverse inequality also and therefore, you have the conclusion. So, this implies that  $T_{a,b}(f)$  equals  $P_{a,b}(f) + N_{a,b}(f)$ . So, this will helped us to make a very nice characterization of functions of bounded variation. So, we will see that in the next session.