

So it follows from the previous section that $\int f^+ d\mu$, $\int f^- d\mu$ and $\int |f|$ are all defined. It is tempting to define $\int f d\mu := \int f^+ d\mu - \int f^- d\mu$, but the problem is if both the integrals on the right are infinite.

Now it follows from 3.14 that

$$\int |f| d\mu = \int f^+ d\mu + \int f^- d\mu.$$

Hence $\int |f| d\mu < \infty \iff \int f^+ d\mu < \infty$ and $\int f^- d\mu < \infty$.

Definition

If $\int |f| d\mu < \infty$ then we say that f is integrable (Lebesgue integrable) and we define

$$\int f d\mu = \int f^+ d\mu - \int f^- d\mu.$$

(If f is not integrable then we define $\int f d\mu$ to be $+\infty$ if $\int f^- d\mu$ is finite and to be $-\infty$ if $\int f^+ d\mu$ is finite. But $\int f d\mu$ is left undefined if both $\int f^+ d\mu$ and $\int f^- d\mu$ are infinite.)

Definition

$L^1([0,1], \mu) :=$ the set of all integrable functions $f: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$.

Lemma 3.19

Let $f: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$ be measurable. Then f is integrable if and only if $|f|$ is integrable, and if f is integrable then

(i) $|\int f d\mu| \leq \int |f| d\mu;$

(ii) f is finite valued μ -a.e. on $[0,1]$, i.e. $\{x \in [0,1] : f(x) = \infty \text{ or } f(x) = -\infty\}$ is a null set.

Proof.

The first statement follows immediately from the

definition of integrability.

Proof of (i) : exercise.

(ii) Say $E_1 := \{x \in [0, 1] : f(x) = \infty\}$ is not null.

Then $\mu(E_1) > 0$.

Now for all $n \geq 1$, $f^+ \geq n\chi_{E_1}$ (since if $\chi_{E_1}(x) = 1$, then

$f^+(x) = \infty \geq n \cdot \chi_{E_1}(x)$, and if $\chi_{E_1}(x) = 0$ then $f^+(x) \geq 0 = n \cdot 0$).

Thus by Lemma 3.17(iii),

$$\int f^+ d\mu \geq \int n\chi_{E_1} d\mu = n \int \chi_{E_1} d\mu = n \cdot \mu(E_1) \quad (\text{by}$$

defn. of the integral of simple functions).

But this is true for all n , so $\int f^+ d\mu = \infty$ which contradicts

(using (i)) the fact that f^+ is integrable. So E_1 is null.

Similarly, $E_2 := \{x \in [0, 1] : f(x) = -\infty\}$ is null.

So $E_1 \cup E_2$ is null, as required. □

Proposition 3.20

If f, g are integrable and $c \in \mathbb{R}$, then cf and $f+g$ (if defined) are integrable, and then

$$\int (f+g) d\mu = \int f d\mu + \int g d\mu \quad \text{and}$$

$$\int cf d\mu = c \int f d\mu.$$

Proof.

Exercise □

Proposition 3.21

Suppose that $f, g : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$ are measurable.

(i) If $f = g$ μ -a.e. and f is integrable, then g is integrable and $\int f d\mu = \int g d\mu$.

(ii) If f is integrable and $|g| \leq |f|$ μ -a.e., then g is integrable

(iii) If f is integrable and $f \geq 0$ μ -a.e., then $\int f d\mu = 0$ implies that $f = 0$ μ -a.e. (So if $f > 0$ μ -a.e., then $\int f d\mu > 0$.)

(iv) If f, g are integrable and $f \geq g$ μ -a.e., then $\int f d\mu \geq \int g d\mu$.

Proof: (Non-examinable)

(i) If $f = g$ μ -a.e. then $f^+ = g^+$ μ -a.e. and $f^- = g^-$ μ -a.e.

One must now inspect the proof of the representation of non-negative measurable functions as limits of simple functions to see that this result holds for non-negative measurable functions. So $\int f^+ d\mu = \int g^+ d\mu$ and $\int f^- d\mu = \int g^- d\mu$

and the result follows for f, g .

(If you've looked at the proof of 3.15, observe that the sets $\Omega_{n,k}$ have the same measure for f as they do for g , and hence $\int f_n d\mu = \int g_n d\mu$ for all n . So the approximating integrals of simple functions have the same limit.)

(ii) Let $E = \{x \in [0,1] : |g(x)| > |f(x)|\}$. Then $\mu(E) = 0$ (so also $E \in \mathcal{M}([0,1])$). Define $h : [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$ by

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} g(x) & \text{if } x \notin E \\ f(x) & \text{if } x \in E \end{cases}$$

Then $g = h$ μ -a.e. so h is measurable (by 3.12(ii)) and by (i) above it is sufficient to show h is integrable.

However, $|h(x)| \leq |f(x)|$ for all $x \in [0,1]$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \int |h| d\mu &\leq \int |f| d\mu \quad (\text{by 3.17(iii)}) \\ &< \infty \quad (\text{since } f \text{ is integrable}). \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore h$ is integrable as required.

(iii) By (i) we can change $f(x)$ to 0 if $f(x)$ was negative and this doesn't change the problem. So we may assume that $f \geq 0$ everywhere.

So assume that $\int f d\mu = 0$.

Now $\{x \in [0,1] : f(x) > 0\} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$,

where $A_n := \{x \in [0,1] : f(x) > \frac{1}{n}\}$.

Assume, for a contradiction, that for some n , $\mu(A_n) > 0$.

Then $f \geq \frac{1}{n} \chi_{A_n}$ (everywhere), so that

$$\int f d\mu \geq \int \frac{1}{n} \chi_{A_n} d\mu \quad (\text{by 3.17 (iii)})$$
$$= \frac{1}{n} \cdot \mu(A_n) > 0, \text{ contradiction.}$$

Hence $\mu(A_n) = 0$ for all n , so $\mu(\{x \in [0,1] : f(x) > 0\}) = 0$

(by Example sheet 3, exc. 3 (b) - or, rather, its solution).

So (as $f \geq 0$), $f = 0$ μ -a.e.

(iv) By (i) we may adjust g on a set of measure 0 so

that $f \geq g$ everywhere.

Then $\int (f-g) d\mu = \int f d\mu - \int g d\mu$ (by 3.20),

and $\int (f-g) d\mu \geq 0$ (by 3.17 (iii)), so $\int f d\mu \geq \int g d\mu$

as required. □

Limit Theorems

First, an example:

define $f_n: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $f_n(x) = \begin{cases} n^2 & \text{if } 0 < x \leq \frac{1}{n} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Clearly for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = 0$. However,

$$\int f_n d\mu = \int n^2 \chi_{(0, \frac{1}{n}]} d\mu = n^2 \cdot \mu((0, \frac{1}{n}]) = n^2 \cdot \frac{1}{n} = n.$$

Hence, it is not true in general that for integrable f_n, f that if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n = f$ then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n d\mu = \int f d\mu$. However:

Theorem 3.22 (Monotone Convergence Theorem)

Suppose that $(f_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is an increasing sequence of non-negative, measurable functions. Write $f = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n$ (which is well-defined, but may take infinite values). Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n d\mu = \int f d\mu.$$

Proof.

For each $n \geq 1$, choose an increasing sequence $f_{n,k}$ of non-negative simple functions converging to f_n as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

Set $g_k := \max_{n \leq k} f_{n,k}$. Then $(g_k)_{k \geq 1}$ is an increasing sequence of non-negative simple functions. Set $g := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} g_k$.

For $1 \leq n \leq k$,

$$f_{n,k} \leq g_k \leq f_k \leq f, \quad \dots (*)$$

so letting $k \rightarrow \infty$ gives, for all $n \geq 1$,

$$f_n \leq g \leq f$$

and letting $n \rightarrow \infty$, gives $f = g$.

Now all the functions in $(*)$ are non-negative and measurable, so by 3.17 (iii) we have, for $1 \leq n \leq k$, that

$$\int f_{n,k} d\mu \leq \int g_k d\mu \leq \int f_k d\mu. \quad (**)$$

But by definition $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int f_{n,k} d\mu = \int f_n d\mu$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int g_k d\mu = \int g d\mu$.

So $\int f_n d\mu \leq \int g d\mu \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int f_k d\mu$ for $n \geq 1$ (by

taking $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty}$ in $(**)$).

Now let $n \rightarrow \infty$ to obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n d\mu \leq \int g d\mu \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int f_k d\mu.$$

Since $f = g$, this is the required result. \square

The next result considers a sequence of (not necessarily non-negative) measurable functions and is the main Convergence Theorem for the sequence of integrals.

Theorem 3.26 (Dominated (or Lebesgue) Convergence Theorem)

Let $(f_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of measurable functions and assume that $f_n(x)$ converges to $f(x)$ for μ -a.e. x . Suppose there exists an integrable function $g \geq 0$ such that for all $n \geq 1$, $|f_n(x)| \leq g(x)$ for μ -a.e. x .

Then f_n, f are integrable and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n d\mu = \int f d\mu.$$

For the proof, we first required the following

Theorem 3.23 (Fatou's Lemma)

Let $(f_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of measurable functions which is bounded below by an integrable function g . (I.e. $\forall x \in [0, 1]$, $\forall n \geq 1$, $f_n(x) \geq g(x)$.) Then $\int \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n d\mu$ and $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n d\mu$ are both well-defined and

$$\int \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n d\mu \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n d\mu.$$

Proof.

First note that if $h: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is any measurable function and $h \geq F$ for some integrable function $F: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$, then $\int h d\mu$ is well-defined (possibly ∞). This is because $0 \leq h^- \leq |F|$, so $\int h^- d\mu$ is finite (by 3.21(ii)). In particular, each $\int f_n d\mu$ is well-defined and since also $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n \geq g$ we have that $\int \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n d\mu$ is well-defined.

Now, let $h_n = f_n - g$. Then h_n is non-negative and measurable. Set $g_n := \inf_{k \geq n} h_k$. Then g_n is an increasing sequence of non-negative, measurable functions (see 3.13(i)) so, by the Monotone Convergence Theorem,

$$\int \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n d\mu = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int g_n d\mu \quad \dots (*)$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \int \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf f_n d\mu &= \int (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf (h_n + g)) d\mu && \text{(def. of } h_n) \\ &= \int (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n + g) d\mu && \text{(see below)}^{(+)} \\ &= \int \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n d\mu + \int g d\mu && \text{(by 3.20)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int g_n d\mu + \int g d\mu && \text{(by } (*) \text{)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\int \inf_{k \geq n} h_k d\mu \right) + \int g d\mu && \text{(def. of } g_n) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\int \inf_{k \geq n} (h_k + g) d\mu \right) && \text{(by 3.20).} \end{aligned}$$

Now, for $k \geq n$, $\inf_{k \geq n} (h_k + g) \leq (h_k + g)$ and so

$$\int \inf_{k \geq n} (h_k + g) d\mu \leq \int (h_k + g) d\mu, \text{ and hence}$$

$$\int \inf_{k \geq n} (h_k + g) d\mu \leq \inf_{k \geq n} \int (h_k + g) d\mu.$$

Combining this with the above, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf f_n d\mu &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\inf_{k \geq n} \int (h_k + g) d\mu \right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf \left(\int (h_n + g) d\mu \right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf \int f_n d\mu \quad \text{(def. of } h_n). \end{aligned}$$

as required. \square

(+) Here we use the following exercise:

For any sequence $(a_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of real numbers and any $a \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf (a_n + a) = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf a_n \right) + a.$$