

Notes on Lebesgue Measure on \mathbb{R}^n and S^{n-1} for Math 501

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1 Construction of Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, define \mathcal{E}_n to be the set of half open rectangles in \mathbb{R}^n ; i.e., the sets of the form

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle \mathbf{e}_j, x \rangle \in (a_j, b_j] \quad j = 1, \dots, n \} \quad (1.1)$$

where \mathbf{e}_j is the j th standard basis vector in \mathbb{R}^n , and where $\langle x, y \rangle$ denotes the standard inner product in \mathbb{R}^n . Since \mathcal{E}_n is an elementary family, \mathcal{A}_n , the set of all finite disjoint unions of sets in \mathcal{E}_n is an algebra.

Now let $A \in \mathcal{A}_n$. By definition, A is the disjoint of finitely many half-open rectangles E_1, \dots, E_N . We then define

$$\rho_n(A) = \sum_{j=1}^N \rho_n(E_j) ,$$

and note that there is no ambiguity stemming from the fact that A can be written in more than one way as a finite disjoint union of half-open rectangles: Considering any common refinement of two such partitions of A into half-open rectangles, we see that they yield the same value for $\rho(A)$.

1.1 THEOREM. *For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, ρ_n is a semi-finite premeasure on \mathcal{A}_n that is continuous at the empty set.*

Proof. The fact the ρ_n is semifinite is clear. We prove that it is continuous at the empty set by induction on n , noting that we have already proved this for $n = 1$.

For any $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, and any $t \in \mathbb{R}$, define

$$E_t = \{ x \in E : \langle \mathbf{e}_1, x \rangle = t \} .$$

Notice that if $E \in \mathcal{E}_n$, then for each t , we may identify E_t with a rectangle in \mathcal{E}_{n-1} (by deleting the first coordinate), and then we have, for E given by (1.1),

$$\rho_{n-1}(E_t) = \begin{cases} \prod_{j=2}^n (b_j - a_j) & t \in (a_1, b_1] \\ 0 & t \notin (a_1, b_1] . \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

so that

$$\rho(n)(E) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_{n-1}(E_t) dm(t) .$$

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where m denotes Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R} .

Now suppose that $A \in \mathcal{A}_n$ is the disjoint union of E_1, \dots, E_N , where each $E_j \in \mathcal{E}_n$. Then for each t , A_t is the disjoint union of $(E_1)_t, \dots, (E_N)_t$, and

$$\rho_{n-1}(A_t) = \sum_{j=1}^N \rho_{n-1}((E_j)_t) .$$

By (1.2), $\rho_{n-1}(A_t)$ is a measurable function of t , and then

$$\rho_n(A) = \sum_{j=1}^N \rho_n(E_j) = \sum_{j=1}^N \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_{n-1}((E_j)_t) dm(t) \right] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_{n-1}(A_t) dm(t) .$$

Now let $\{A_j\}$ be any decreasing sequence of sets in \mathcal{A}_n such that $\rho_n(A_1) < \infty$ and $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j = \emptyset$. Then for each t , $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} (A_j)_t = \emptyset$. By the inductive hypothesis $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{n-1}((A_j)_t) = 0$. Then since $(A_j)_t \subset (A_1)_t$ for all t ,

$$\rho_{n-1}((A_j)_t) \leq \rho_{n-1}((A_1)_t) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_{n-1}((A_1)_t) dm(t) = \rho_n(A_1) < \infty ,$$

we may apply the Lebesgue Dominated Convergence Theorem with $\rho_n(A_1) < \infty$ being the dominating function to show that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \rho_n(A_j) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_{n-1}((A_j)_t) dm(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left[\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{n-1}((A_j)_t) \right] dm(t) = 0 .$$

This proves continuity at the empty set. □

1.2 DEFINITION (Lebesgue outer measure and measure). The outer measure μ_n^* on \mathbb{R}^n defined by

$$\mu_n^*(E) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \rho_n(A_j) : \{A_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathcal{A}_n \quad \text{and} \quad E \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j \right\} \quad (1.3)$$

is the *Lebesgue outer measure on \mathbb{R}^n* . Its Caratheodory σ -algebra is the σ -algebra \mathcal{L}_n of *Lebesgue measurable subsets of \mathbb{R}^n* , and the restriction m_n of μ_n^* restriction to \mathcal{L}_n is Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n .

1.3 Remark. By decomposing each A_j into a finite union of half open rectangles, we see that we do not raise the infimum if we further require that each A_j in (1.3) is a half open rectangle. Next, slightly enlarging each of these, we see that we do not change the infimum if we further require that E is contained in the union of the interiors of the A_j . Extending the definition of ρ_n to open rectangles in the obvious way, we then have the alternate formula

$$\mu_n^*(E) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \rho_n(A_j) : \text{each } A_j \text{ an open rectangle and } E \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j \right\} \quad (1.4)$$

Because ρ_n is semifinite and continuous at the empty set, the restriction of μ_n^* to \mathcal{A}_n agrees with ρ_n . We also know that $\sigma(\mathcal{A}_n) \subset \mathcal{L}_n$.

1.4 PROPOSITION. $\sigma(\mathcal{A}_n) = \mathcal{B}_n$, the Borel σ -algebra on \mathbb{R}^n .

Proof. Since every open rectangle in \mathbb{R}^n is a countable union of half-open rectangles in \mathbb{R}^n , $\sigma(\mathcal{A}_n)$ contains all open rectangles in \mathbb{R}^n . Since every open set in \mathbb{R}^n is a countable union of open rectangles, $\sigma(\mathcal{A}_n)$ contains all open sets, and hence contains \mathcal{B}_n . Conversely, since each half open rectangle is a Borel set, $\sigma(\mathcal{A}_n) \subset \mathcal{B}_n$. \square

Now let $E \in \mathcal{L}_n$, and $\epsilon > 0$. Then there is a sequence of open rectangles $\{A_j\}$ such that with $U := \cup_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$, so that U is open,

$$E \subset U \quad \text{and} \quad m_n(U) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_n(A_j) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \rho_n(A_j) \leq m_n(E) + \epsilon .$$

This shows that m_n is *outer regular* on \mathcal{L} .

We next show that m_n is *inner regular*: Let $C_N = \{ x : \langle \mathbf{e}_j, x \rangle \in [-N, N] , j = 1, \dots, n \}$ be the centered closed cube of side length $2N$.

For any $E \in \mathcal{L}_n$, and any $\epsilon > 0$, let U be an open set containing $C_N \cap E^c$ such that $m_n(U) \leq m_n(C_N \cap E^c) + \epsilon$. Define $K_N := C_N \cap U^c$. Then K_N is compact and contained in $E \cap C_N$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} m_n(C_N) &= m_n(K_N) + m_n(C_N \cap U) \\ &\leq m_n(K_N) + m_n(C_N \cap E^c) + \epsilon . \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$m_n(K_N) \geq m_n(C_N) - m_n(C_N \cap E^c) - \epsilon = m_n(C_N \cap E) - \epsilon .$$

Now suppose $m_n(E) < \infty$. Then by continuity from below, there exists N so that $m_n(C_N \cap E) \geq m_n(E) - \epsilon$. Then with K_N as above, $m_n(K_N) \geq m_n(E) - 2\epsilon$. On the other hand, if $m_n(E) = \infty$, then for each k , there is an N so that $m_n(C_N \cap E) \geq k + 1$, and then, taking $\epsilon = 1$, $m_n(K_N) \geq k$. Either way, we have that

$$m_n(E) = \sup \{ m_n(K) : K \text{ compact}, K \subset E \} .$$

This shows that m is *inner regular* on \mathcal{L} . We summarize and extend:

1.5 THEOREM. *Lebesgue measure m_n is inner and outer regular on the Lebesgue measurable subsets of \mathbb{R}^n . Moreover, for every E in \mathcal{L}_n , there are Borel sets F and G such that*

$$F \subset E \subset G \quad \text{and} \quad m_n(G \cap F^c) = 0 .$$

In fact, we can take F to be a countable union of closed sets, and G to be a countable intersection of open sets.

Proof. Write \mathbb{R}^n as the disjoint union of a family of bounded half open rectangles $\{C_j\}$, which we may as well take to be cubes of unit side length. Given $k \in \mathbb{N}$, for each j there exists an open set $U_{j,k}$ such that $E \cap C_j \subset U_{j,k}$ and

$$m_n(U_{j,k}) \leq m_n(E \cap C_j) + \frac{1}{k2^j} .$$

Let $U_k = \cup_{j=1}^{\infty} U_{j,k}$ which is open. Then $E \subset U_k$ and

$$\mu(U_k \cap E^c) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_n(U_{j,k} \cap E^c) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_n(U_{j,k} \cap (E \cap C_j)^c) \leq \frac{1}{k} .$$

Define $G = \cap_{k=1}^{\infty} U_k$. Then G is a G_δ set, hence Borel, $E \subset G$, and $m_n(G \cap E^c) = 0$.

Likewise, choose $F_{j,k}$ to be a compact set contained in $E \cap C_j$ so that

$$m_n(F_{j,k}) \geq m_n(E \cap C_j) - \frac{1}{k2^j} .$$

Let $F = \cup_{j,k=1}^{\infty} F_{j,k}$. Then $F \subset E$ and F is an F_σ set. Finally,

$$m_n(E \cap F^c) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_n((E \cap C_j) \cap F^c) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_n((E \cap C_j) \cap F_{j,k}^c) \leq \frac{1}{k} .$$

Since this is true for all k , $m_n(E \cap F^c) = 0$. □

1.6 THEOREM (Approximation of measurable sets by finite unions of rectangles). *Let $E \in \mathcal{L}_n$ be such that $m_n(E) < \infty$. Then for all $\epsilon > 0$, there is a set $A \in \mathcal{A}_n$ such that*

$$m_n(A \Delta E) \leq \epsilon . \tag{1.5}$$

Proof. We have already seen, using the Monotone Class Theorem, that for any σ -finite measure μ on the σ algebra $\sigma(\mathcal{A})$ generated by some algebra \mathcal{A} , the following is true: For any measurable set E with $\mu(E) < \infty$, and any $\epsilon > 0$, there is an $A \in \mathcal{A}$ so that $\mu(A \Delta E) \leq \epsilon$. Since the Borel σ -algebra of \mathbb{R}^n is generated by \mathcal{A}_n and since m_n is σ -finite, it follows that (1.5) is true whenever E is a Borel set of finite Lebesgue measure. But since we have shown above that every Lebesgue measurable set differs from a Borel set by a set of measure zero, the theorem is true in general. □

1.7 THEOREM. $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{L}_n, m_n)$ is separable and $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in it.

Proof. Let $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{L}_n, m_n)$, and let $\epsilon > 0$ be given. We know from the general theory of Lebesgue integration that there is a simple function ϕ such that $\|f - \phi\|_1 \leq \epsilon$. Without loss of generality, we may assume each w_j is rational. Let $\phi = \sum_{j=1}^M z_j 1_{E_j}$. Approximating each E_j by a disjoint union of half-open rectangles, that we may assume to have rational boundaries, we find a function ψ of the form $\psi = \sum_{k=1}^N w_k 1_{R_k}$ where each w_k is rational, and each R_k is a half-open rectangle with rational boundary, and $\|\phi - \psi\|_1 \leq \epsilon$. By Minkowski's inequality, $\|f - \psi\|_1 \leq \|f - \phi\|_1 + \|\phi - \psi\|_1 \leq 2\epsilon$. since there are only countably many functions of the form of ψ , $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{L}_n, m_n)$, is separable.

To see that $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense, consider the function

$$\varphi(t) = \begin{cases} \exp(-(1-t^2)^{-1}) & -1 < t < 1 \\ 0 & |t| \geq 1 . \end{cases}$$

Note that $\varphi^{1/n}(t)$ increases monotonically with n to $1_{(-1,1)}(t)$. It follows that for any $a < b$ in \mathbb{R} , $\varphi^{1/k}((2t - (a + b))/(b - a))$ increases monotonically to $1_{(a,b)}(t)$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, and hence that

$$\prod_{j=1}^n \varphi^{1/k}((2\langle \mathbf{e}_j, x \rangle - (a_j + b_j))/(b_j - a_j)) \quad \uparrow \quad \prod_{j=1}^n 1_{(a_j, b_j)}(\langle \mathbf{e}_j, x \rangle) .$$

Hence, by the Lebesgue Monotone Convergence Theorem, the characteristic function of any open rectangle, and hence any half-open rectangle, can be arbitrarily closely approximated in $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{L}_n, m_n)$ by $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ functions. Combining this with our approximation of f by a finite linear combination of characteristic functions of open rectangles, we obtain the result. \square

2 Transformation of measures

Let (X, \mathcal{M}, μ) be a measure space, and let (Y, \mathcal{N}) be a measurable space. Let $T : X \rightarrow Y$ be measurable. Define a function $T\#\mu$ on \mathcal{N} with values in $[0, \infty]$ by

$$T\#\mu(F) = \mu(T^{-1}(F)) .$$

Notice that if $\{F_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ is disjoint in Y , then $\{T^{-1}(F_j)\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ is disjoint in X and $T^{-1}(\cup_{j=1}^\infty F_j) = \cup_{j=1}^\infty T^{-1}(F_j)$,

$$\begin{aligned} T\#(\cup_{j=1}^\infty F_j) &= \mu(T^{-1}(\cup_{j=1}^\infty F_j)) = \mu(\cup_{j=1}^\infty T^{-1}(F_j)) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^\infty \mu(T^{-1}(F_j)) = \sum_{j=1}^\infty T\#\mu(F_j) . \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $T\#\mu$ is a countably additive measure on \mathcal{N} . It is called the *push-forward* of μ by T . The following identity is the root of a number of *change of variables* formulae.

2.1 THEOREM. *Let $f \in L^+(Y, \mathcal{N})$, and let $T : X \rightarrow Y$ be measurable with respect to \mathcal{N} on Y and \mathcal{M} on X . Let μ be any measure on X . Then $f \circ T \in L^+(X, \mathcal{M})$, and*

$$\int_X f \circ T d\mu = \int_Y f T\#\mu .$$

Proof. Clearly $f \circ T$ is non-negative and is measurable, so $f \circ T \in L^+(X, \mathcal{M})$, and both integrals are defined. Next suppose that f is a simple function, say $f = \sum_{j=1}^M z_j 1_{F_j}$ where each F_j belongs to \mathcal{N} . Notice that

$$\mu(T^{-1}(F_j)) = \int_X 1_{F_j} \circ T(x) d\mu .$$

for all $x \in X$, Therefore.

$$\int_Y f T\#\mu = \sum_{j=1}^M z_j \mu(T^{-1}(F_j)) = \int_X \sum_{j=1}^M z_j 1_{F_j}(T(x)) d\mu = \int_X f \circ T d\mu .$$

This proves the result for simple functions, and now the general result follows from approximation by simple functions. \square

This theorem becomes useful if it can be combined with a concrete description of $T\#\mu$. That is, we would like to identify $T\#\mu$ with some explicit measure μ on (Y, \mathcal{N}) . In case \mathcal{N} is generated by an algebra \mathcal{A} and is strongly σ -finite under either $T\#\mu$ or ν , the following theorem is useful in this regard:

2.2 THEOREM (Uniqueness of measures). *Let (Y, \mathcal{N}) be a measure space, and suppose that $\mathcal{N} = \sigma(\mathcal{A})$ where \mathcal{A} is an algebra of set in Y . Let ν_1 and ν_2 be two strongly σ -finite measures on (Y, \mathcal{N}) such that*

$$\nu_1(A) = \nu_2(A)$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{A}$. Then $\nu_1 = \nu_2$ everywhere on \mathcal{N} .

Proof. Suppose first that $\nu_1(Y) < \infty$, and hence that $\nu_2(Y) < \infty$, since $Y \in \mathcal{A}$. Let \mathcal{C} be given by

$$\mathcal{C} = \{ E \in \mathcal{N} : \nu_1(E) = \nu_2(E) \} .$$

Since $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{C}$, it suffices to show that \mathcal{C} is a monotone class. Let $\{A_j\}$ be a descending sequence of sets in \mathcal{C} , and let $A = \bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$. We must show that $\nu_1(A) = \nu_2(A)$. But, by continuity from above, using finiteness of the measures,

$$\nu_1(A) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \nu_1(A_j) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \nu_2(A_j) = \nu_2(A) .$$

A similar argument using continuity from below handles the case of an ascending sequence in \mathcal{C} . Thus, \mathcal{C} is a monotone class.

In general, write Y as a countable disjoint union of sets in \mathcal{A} , and apply the above to each piece to conclude that the restrictions of ν_1 and ν_2 agree on each piece. By countable additivity, they agree everywhere. \square

One simple consequence of this is the invariance of Lebesgue measure under translation.

2.3 THEOREM (Translation invariance of Lebesgue measure). *For all $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$, define $\tau_a : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ by $\tau(x) = x + a$. Then*

$$\tau_a \# m_n = m_n .$$

Proof. Let $A \in \mathcal{A}_n$. Note that τ_a is invertible and $\tau_a^{-1} = \tau_{-a}$. Notice that $\tau_a^{-1}(A) \in \mathcal{A}$. By definition,

$$\tau_a \# m_n(A) = m_n(\tau_a^{-1}(A)) = \rho_n(\tau_a^{-1}(A)) ,$$

since on \mathcal{A}_n , m_n agrees with ρ_n . But ρ_n is invariant under translations as an obvious consequence of the formula that defines it. Hence

$$\rho_n(\tau_a^{-1}(A)) = \rho_n(A) = m_n(A)$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{A}_n$. Thus, $\tau_a \# m_n$ and m_n agree on \mathcal{A}_n , and so by the uniqueness theorem, they agree on all Borel sets. Finally, since every Lebesgue measurable contains and is contained in a Borel set of the same measure, the result is true for all $A \in \mathcal{L}_n$ as well. \square

3 The push-forward of Lebesgue measure under an invertible linear transformation

3.1 THEOREM. *Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be linear and invertible. Then*

$$T \# m_n = |\det(T)|^{-1} m_n . \tag{3.1}$$

Consequently, for $f \in L^+(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{L}_n, m_n)$,

$$|\det T| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f \circ T dm_n = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f dm_n . \quad (3.2)$$

Proof. The second part follows from the first part and Theorem 2.1. Hence it suffices to prove (3.1). The proof of this rests on the following elementary fact from linear algebra: Let E be any parallelepiped in \mathbb{R}^n . That is, E is some translate of the image of the unit cube in \mathbb{R}^n under some invertible linear transformation $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. Then for every $\epsilon > 0$, there are to sets F and G in \mathcal{A}_n such that $F \subset E \subset G$ and

$$\rho_n(G) - \epsilon \leq |\det(T)| \leq \rho_n(F) + \epsilon .$$

Since

$$\rho_n(F) \leq m_n(E) \leq m_n(G) ,$$

it follows that

$$m_n(E) = |\det(T)| .$$

Now let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be linear and invertible. Let S denote the inverse of T . Then S is also linear and has a matrix representation. Let \mathbf{v}_j denote the j th row of this matrix so that

$$S(x) = (\langle \mathbf{v}_1, x \rangle, \dots, \langle \mathbf{v}_n, x \rangle) . \quad (3.3)$$

Since S is invertible, $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ is linearly independent, and hence a basis for \mathbb{R}^n . Conversely, any basis $\beta = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ generates an invertible linear transformation S on \mathbb{R}^n through (3.3).

Now let

$$E := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle \mathbf{e}_j, x \rangle \in (a_j, b_j] \quad j = 1, \dots, n\} \quad (3.4)$$

be a generic element of \mathcal{E}_n . Then

$$T(E) = S^{-1}(E) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle \mathbf{v}_j, x \rangle \in (a_j, b_j] \quad j = 1, \dots, n\} ,$$

is a rectangle in coordinates based on the basis $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$. It is evident that the sets of this form are an elementary family, and so the set of all finite disjoint unions of such sets forms an algebra that we denote \mathcal{A}_T . It is clear that T sets up a one-to-one correspondence between \mathcal{A}_T and \mathcal{A}_n . That is, $E \in \mathcal{A}_n$ if and only if $T(E) \in \mathcal{A}_T$.

We define a premeasure ρ_T on \mathcal{A}_T by

$$\rho_T(A) = \rho_n(T^{-1}(A)) \quad (3.5)$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{A}_T$. This is well defined since $T^{-1}(A) \in \mathcal{A}_n$ for all $A \in \mathcal{A}_T$. Since ρ_n is strongly σ -finite, and hence strongly semifinite, so is ρ_T .

Moreover, if $\{A_j\}$ is a decreasing sequence with $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j = \emptyset$, then $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} T^{-1}(A_j) = \emptyset$. It follows from the fact that ρ_n is continuous at the empty set that ρ_T has this property too.

It is clear that just as with \mathcal{A}_n , $\sigma(\mathcal{A}_T) = \mathcal{B}_n$. Let m_T denote the Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^n obtained by restricting the outer measure generated by ρ_T to \mathcal{B}_n . Since, as noted at the beginning of the proof, the Lebesgue measure of every parallelepiped in \mathbb{R}^n may be computed by evaluating an appropriate determinant, and since m_n extends ρ_n , it follows from (3.5) that

$$\rho_n(T^{-1}(A)) = |\det(T)|^{-1} m_n(A) ,$$

and hence that for all $A \in \mathcal{A}_T$,

$$m_T(A) = \rho_T(A) = |\det(T)|^{-1}m_n(A) , \quad (3.6)$$

Since m_T and $|\det(T)|m_n$ agree on the algebra \mathcal{A}_T , and since this algebra generates \mathcal{B}_n , it follows from Theorem 2.2 that $m_T = |\det(T)|^{-1}m_n$ on all of \mathcal{B}_n .

Furthermore, since m_T agrees with ρ_T on \mathcal{A}_T and m_n agrees with ρ_n on \mathcal{A}_n , (3.5) tells us that

$$m_T(A) = m_n(T^{-1}A) \quad (3.7)$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{A}_T$. By Theorem 2.2 once more, this holds for all Borel sets A . That is, for all $A \in \mathcal{B}_n$, $m_T(A) = (T^{-1})\#m_n(A)$. Combining this with (3.6) we obtain

$$T\#m_n(A) = |\det(T)|^{-1}m_n(A) , \quad (3.8)$$

□

3.2 THEOREM (Rotation invariance of Lebesgue measure). *Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be any orthogonal transformation. Then*

$$T\#m_n = m_n .$$

Proof. If T is orthogonal, $|\det(T)| = 1$, and the result follows from the previous theorem. □

3.3 THEOREM (Rotation invariance of Lebesgue measure). *Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be any orthogonal transformation. Then*

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Proof. If T is orthogonal, $|\det(T)| = 1$, and the result follows from the previous theorem. □

3.4 THEOREM (Transformation of Lebesgue measure under dilation). *For $t \in \mathbb{R}$ define $\varsigma_t : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ by $\varsigma_t(x) = e^{-t}x$. Then*

$$\varsigma_t\#m_n = e^{nt}m_n .$$

Proof. The transformation ς_t is linear and the corresponding matrix is e^{-t} times the identity, whose determinant is e^{-tn} . Hence this result is a direct consequence of (3.1). □

3.5 Remark. The set of transformations ς_t , $t \in \mathbb{R}$, form an abelian group of transformation acting on \mathbb{R}^n since for all $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ $\varsigma_s \circ \varsigma_t = \varsigma_{s+t}$, and ς_0 is the identity transformation. The group of translation is another abelian group action on \mathbb{R}^n , while the rotation are a non-abelian group of transformation on \mathbb{R}^n .

4 Lebesgue measure on the sphere S^{n-1}

We let S^{n-1} denote the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^n ; i.e., $S^{n-1} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\| = 1\}$. Define the map $\Omega : \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow S^{n-1}$ by

$$\Omega(x) = \frac{x}{\|x\|} .$$

Notice the Ω is continuous, and hence a Borel transformation.

4.1 DEFINITION (Lebesgue measure on S^{n-1}). Let X denote the punctured closed unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n ; i.e, $X = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : 0 < \|x\| \leq 1\}$, and let μ denote the restriction of Lebesgue measure m_n to X . That is, for E a Borel set in \mathbb{R}^n ,

$$\mu(E) = m_n(E \cap X) .$$

We define the *Lebesgue measure on S^{n-1}* to be the Borel measure σ_n on S^{n-1} given by

$$\sigma_n(A) = n\Omega\#\mu(A) = n\mu(\Omega^{-1}(A)) \quad (4.1)$$

for all Borel sets $A \subset S^n$.

4.2 Remark. The factor of n in the definition of σ_n is to make $\sigma_n(S^{n-1})$ equal to n times the Lebesgue measure of the unit ball which will be seen to be the “right” normalization below.

Notice that the map Ω commutes with rotations. That is, if $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is any rotation

$$T\Omega(x) = \Omega T(x)$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ since $\|T(x)\| = \|x\|$ for all x , and T is linear. This has the following consequence:

4.3 THEOREM (Invariance of σ_n under rotations). *Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be any rotation, which then acts on S^{n-1} be restriction.*

$$T\#\sigma_n = \sigma_n . \quad (4.2)$$

Proof. Let A be any Borel set in S^{n-1} , and T any rotation. Then, since T^{-1} is also a rotation, $\Omega^{-1} \circ T^{-1} = T^{-1} \circ \Omega^{-1}$. Therefore,

$$\sigma_n(T^{-1}A) = n\mu(\Omega^{-1}T^{-1}(A)) = n\mu(T^{-1}\Omega^{-1}(A)) = nT\#\mu(\Omega^{-1}(A)) = n\mu(\Omega^{-1}(A)) = \sigma_n(A) .$$

□

We now define a homeomorphism $\Phi : (0, \infty) \times S^n$ onto $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ by

$$\Phi(r, \omega) = r\omega .$$

Since both Φ and Φ^{-1} are continuous, they are both Borel. Notice that

$$\Omega^{-1}(A) \cap X = \Phi((0, 1] \times A) ,$$

and therefore

$$\frac{\sigma_n(A)}{n} = m_n(\Phi((0, 1] \times A)) . \quad (4.3)$$

4.4 LEMMA. *For any $a < b \in (0, \infty)$, and any Borel set $A \subset S^{n-1}$,*

$$m_n(\Phi((a, b] \times A)) = \frac{b^n - a^n}{n} \sigma_n(A) . \quad (4.4)$$

Proof. Notice that (4.3) is the special case of (4.4) corresponding to $a = 0$ and $b = 1$. To get the general case, we use the dilation properties of Lebesgue measure. Let t be such that $e^{-t} = b$. Then

$$\Phi((0, b] \times A) = \varsigma_t(\Phi((0, 1] \times A)) = \varsigma_{-t}^{-1}(\Phi((0, 1] \times A)) ,$$

and therefore,

$$m_n(\Phi((0, b] \times A)) = \varsigma_{-t} \# m_n(\Phi((0, 1] \times A)) = e^{-tn} m_n((0, 1] \times A) ,$$

where in the last equality we have used (4.2). Combining this with (4.3) and recalling that $e^{-t} = b$, we obtain

$$m_n(\Phi((0, b] \times A)) = \frac{b^n}{n} \sigma_n(A) .$$

But then

$$m_n(\Phi((a, b] \times A)) = m_n(\Phi((0, b] \times A)) - m_n(\Phi((0, a] \times A))$$

and we obtain (4.4). □

4.5 Remark. Taking $a = 0$, $b = 1$ and $A = S^{n-1}$, we see that with B_n denoting the unit ball on \mathbb{R}^n ,

$$m_n(B_n) = \frac{1}{n} \sigma_n(S^{n-1}) ,$$

and that with this normalization of σ_n ,

$$\sigma_n(S^{n-1}) = \lim_{r \uparrow 1} \frac{m_n(\Phi((r, 1] \times S^{n-1}))}{1 - r} ,$$

where $\Phi((r, 1] \times S^{n-1})$ is a spherical shell of thickness $1 - r$. Thus, the factor of n in (4.1) is natural.

4.6 DEFINITION. Let $F_n(t) = t^n/n$ for $t \in (0, \infty)$. Since F_n is right continuous, There is a unique Lebesgue-Stiltjes measure ϱ_n on $(0, \infty)$ such that for all $a < b \in (0, \infty)$,

$$\varrho_n((a, b]) = F_n(b) - F_n(a) .$$

We write ϱ_n to denote this measure in what follows.

4.7 Remark. Note that for $a < b \in (0, \infty)$,

$$\varrho_n((a, b]) = \int_a^b r^{n-1} dr .$$

The point of this definition is that we may now rewrite (4.4) as

$$m_n(\Phi((a, b] \times A)) = \varrho_n \otimes \sigma_n((a, b] \times A) ,$$

and thus,

$$\Phi^{-1} \# m_n((a, b] \times A) = \varrho_n \otimes \sigma_n((a, b] \times A) , \tag{4.5}$$

Let \mathcal{S}_n be the algebra consisting of all disjoint unions of sets of the form $(a, b] \times A$, $a < b \in (0, 1]$ and $A \in \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}$. Then $\sigma(\mathcal{S}_n)$ is easily seen to be the product σ -algebra $\mathcal{B}_{(0, \infty)} \otimes \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}$. By Theorem 2.2, we conclude that

$$\Phi^{-1} \# m_n = \varrho_n \otimes \sigma_n \quad \text{and consequently} \quad m_n = \Phi \# (\varrho_n \otimes \sigma_n) .$$

This identification of m_n as the push-forward under Φ of $\varrho_n \otimes \sigma_n$ leads to the following theorem for integration in polar coordinates:

4.8 THEOREM (Integration in polar coordinates). *Let $f \in L^+(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f dm_n = \int_{(0,\infty)} \left[\int_{S^{n-1}} f(r\omega) d\sigma_n(\omega) \right] d\varrho_n(r) = \int_{S^{n-1}} \left[\int_{(0,\infty)} f(r\omega) d\varrho_n(r) \right] d\sigma_n(\omega) . \quad (4.6)$$

Proof. For $r \in (0, \infty)$ and $\omega \in S^{n-1}$, $\Phi(r, \omega) = r\omega$, and hence

$$\int_{(0,\infty) \times S^{n-1}} f(r\omega) d\varrho_n \otimes \sigma_n = \int_{(0,\infty) \times S^{n-1}} f \circ \Phi(r, \omega) d\varrho_n \otimes \sigma_n = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}} f dm_n = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f dm_n .$$

Finally, by Tonelli's Theorem we have (4.8). □

In particular, since

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-t^2/2} dt = \sqrt{2\pi} ,$$

by Tonelli's Theorem once more,

$$\begin{aligned} (2\pi)^{n/2} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\|x\|^2/2} dm_n \\ &= \sigma_n(S^{n-1}) \int_{(0,\infty)} e^{-r^2/2} r^{n-1} dr \\ &= \sigma_n(S^{n-1}) 2^{n/2-1} \int_{(0,\infty)} e^{-u} u^{n/2-1} du \\ &= \sigma_n(S^{n-1}) 2^{n/2-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) . \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\sigma_n(S^{n-1}) = \frac{2\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(n/2)} \quad \text{and} \quad m_n(B_n) = n \frac{2\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(n/2)} .$$

5 Properties of Lebesgue measure on S^{n-1}

There is an important identification of S^{n-1} with the one-point compactification of \mathbb{R}^{n-1} through the *stereographic projection*.

5.1 DEFINITION (Stereographic projection). Let $\omega_0 = -\mathbf{e}_n$ be the ‘‘South Pole’’ in S^{n-1} . For any other $\omega \in S^{n-1}$, define $T(\omega)$ to be the intersection of the line through ω_0 and ω with the hyperplane $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle \mathbf{e}_n, x \rangle = 0\}$, which we may identify with \mathbb{R}^{n-1} in the natural way. Then $T : S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ is the stereographic of $S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0$ onto \mathbb{R}^{n-1} . Let $\mathbb{R}^{n-1} \cup \infty$ be the one point compactification of \mathbb{R}^{n-1} , so that the neighborhoods of ∞ are the complements of compact sets in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} . Then we define $T(\omega_0) = \infty$, which yields the stereographic projection of S^{n-1} onto the one-point compactification of \mathbb{R}^{n-1} .

It is easy to work out a formula for T . Let us write vectors in \mathbb{R}^n in the form (v, z) where $v \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}$. Then for any $\omega = (v, z)$ other than ω_0 , the line through ω_0 and ω is parameterized by

$$(1-t)\omega_0 + t\omega = (tv, t(1+z) - 1) .$$

Then $\langle (tv, t(1+z) - 1), \mathbf{e}_n \rangle = 0$ reduces to $t = (1+z)^{-1}$, and hence

$$T((v, z)) = \frac{1}{1+z}v . \tag{5.1}$$

It is also useful to have a formula for the inverse. Let $x := T((v, z))$, so that $(1+z)x = v$. Since $(v, z) \in S^{n-1}$, $\|v\|^2 + z^2 = 1$, and so $(1+z)^2\|x\|^2 = 1 - z^2$ which is readily solved for z in terms of $\|x\|^2$, and then $(1+z)x = v$ gives us v :

$$T^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \|x\|^2}(2x, 1 - \|x\|^2) . \tag{5.2}$$

The map T is evidently a homeomorphism of $S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0$ onto \mathbb{R}^{n-1} . We may use it to transfer the half open rectangle algebra of sets \mathbb{R}^{n-1} to an algebra of sets in $S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0$, since any bijective image of an algebra is an algebra. Call this algebra $\mathcal{A}_{S^{n-1}}$. We know that every open set in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} can be written as a countable union of sets in the half-open rectagle algebra on \mathbb{R}^{n-1} , and then, since T is a homeomorphism, every open set in $S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0$ is a countable union of sets in $\mathcal{A}_{S^{n-1}}$. It follows that

$$\mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}} = \sigma(\mathcal{A}_{S^{n-1}}) .$$

Now let μ be any Borel measure μ on $S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0$ such that $\mu(S^{n-1}) < \infty$. By our general results concerning measures on σ -algebras generated by algebras, it follows that every set $E \in \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0}$ has the property that for every $\epsilon > 0$, there is a set $A \in \mathcal{A}_{S^{n-1}}$ such that

$$\mu(E \Delta A) \leq \epsilon . \tag{5.3}$$

(The condition that $\mu(S^{n-1}) < \infty$ ensures that $\mu(E) < \infty$, a requirement of the general theorem.)

It then follows, in the usual way, that every $f \in L^1(S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \mu)$ may be approximated by a really simple function, and then rounding the corners", by a continuous function.

Finally, if $\mu(\{\omega_0\}) = 0$, there is no difference between $L^1(S^{n-1} \setminus \omega_0, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \mu)$ and $L^1(S^{n-1}, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \mu)$. We have proved:

5.2 THEOREM. *Let μ be any Borel measure on S^{n-1} such that $\mu(S^{n-1}) < \infty$ and such that $\mu(\omega) = 0$ for all single points ω . Then $L^1(S^{n-1}, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \mu)$ is seperable, and the continuous functions $C(S^{n-1})$ are dense in it.*

We next prove a uniqueness theorem for Lebesgue measure on S^{n-1} .

5.3 THEOREM. *Let μ be any Borel measure on S^{n-1} such that $\mu(S^{n-1}) < \infty$, and such that for all rotations R ,*

$$R\#\mu = \mu .$$

Then

$$\frac{\mu(S^{n-1})}{\sigma_n(S^{n-1})}\mu = \sigma_n .$$

The proof of this theorem is based on some lemmas of independent interest that we now present. In what follows, L^2 denote $L^2(S^{n-1}, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \sigma_n)$ and $\|f\|_2^2 = \int_{S^{n-1}} |f|^2 d\sigma_n$.

Given any $f \in L^2$, we define Rf to be the function $f \circ R$. Then $f \rightarrow Rf$ is linear, and since σ_n is rotation invariant,

$$\|f\|_2 = \|Rf\|_2 .$$

Next, for any rotation R define

$$A_R f = \frac{1}{2}(f + Rf) .$$

This operation is also linear, and it is a contraction in the L^2 norm by the Minkowski inequality and the fact that $\|Rf\|_2 = \|f\|_2$. Moreover, if f is continuous, Rf has the same modulus of continuity as f , and the average of f and Rf , namely $A_R f$, therefore has a modulus of continuity no greater than that of f .

5.4 LEMMA. *For any real valued $f \in L^2$, and any rotation R ,*

$$\|A_R f\|_2 \leq \|f\|_2 ,$$

and there is equality if and only if $Rf = f$ in L^2 . More generally, for any finite set $\{R_1, \dots, R_m\}$ of rotations,

$$\|A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1} f\|_2 \leq \|f\|_2 ,$$

and there is equality if and only if $R_j f = f$ for each $j = 1, \dots, m$.

Proof. We compute

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2}(f + Rf) \right\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{4}(\|f\|_2^2 + \|Rf\|_2^2 + 2 \int_{S^{n-1}} f Rf d\sigma_n) .$$

However, by the rotation invariance of σ_n , $\|Rf\|_2 = \|f\|_2$, and by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} f Rf d\sigma_n \leq \|f\|_2 \|Rf\|_2 = \|f\|_2^2 .$$

This proves the inequality. Note that there is equality in the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality if and only if $\|Rf\|_2 f = \|f\|_2 Rf$, which reduces to $f = Rf$.

For the second part, consider first the case $m = 2$, and suppose $\|A_{R_2} A_{R_1} f\|_2 = \|f\|_2$. By the first part,

$$\|A_{R_2} A_{R_1} f\|_2 \leq \|A_{R_1} f\|_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \|A_{R_1} f\|_2 \leq \|f\|_2 .$$

We must have equality in both inequalities. By what we have proved above, equality on the right implies that $R_1 f = f$, and then of course $A_{R_1} f = f$. Then the inequality on the left reduces to $\|A_{R_2} f\|_2 \leq \|f\|_2$, and by what we have proved above, equality here implies that $R_2 f = f$. The general case follows in the same way. \square

5.5 LEMMA. *Let f be any continuous functions on S^{n-1} . Let $\{R_1, \dots, R_m\}$ be any finite set of rotations. Define a sequence $\{f_j\}$ by*

$$f_0 = f \quad \text{and} \quad f_{j+1} = A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1} f_j .$$

Then f_j converges uniformly to a continuous function h such that

$$R_j h = h$$

for $j = 1, \dots, m$. Moreover, there is a choice of $m = n - 1$ rotations $\{R_1, \dots, R_{n-1}\}$ for which the limiting function h is constant.

Proof. By what we have noted above, the sequence $\{f_j\}$ is uniformly equicontinuous and equibounded, by Arzela-Ascoli Theorem, there is a subsequence $\{f_{j_k}\}$ and $h \in C(S^{n-1})$ such that $f_{j_k} \rightarrow h$ uniformly.

Next note that by the lemma, $\|f_j\|_2$ is monotone decreasing. Define

$$c = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \|f_j\|_2 .$$

Since uniform convergence implies L^2 convergence for finite measure spaces,

$$\|h\|_2 = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|f_{j_k}\|_2 = c .$$

Since the linear operator $A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1}$ is continuous (it is even a contraction),

$$[A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1}]f_{j_k} \rightarrow [A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1}]h$$

uniformly. But the left hand side is $f_{j_{k+1}}$, and so

$$\|A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1}h\|_2 = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|f_{j_{k+1}}\|_2 = c .$$

That is,

$$\|A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1}h\|_2 = \|h\|_2 .$$

The lemma now implies that h is invariant under each of R_1, \dots, B_m .

Let $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ denote the supremum norm, which gives the uniform topology. Since for any continuous g ,

$$\|A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1}g - h\|_\infty = \|A_{R_m} \cdots A_{R_1}(g - h)\|_\infty \leq \|g - h\|_\infty ,$$

The fact that $\|f_{j_k} - h\|_\infty \rightarrow 0$ implies that $\|f_j - h\|_\infty \rightarrow 0$ along the whole sequence. The final part is left as an exercise for the reader. \square

Proof of Theorem 5.3. We may suppose $\mu(S^{n-1}) \neq 0$, or else the claim is trivial. Then normalizing, we may suppose without loss of generality that $\mu(S^{n-1}) = \sigma_n(S^{n-1})$.

Next, if $\mu(\{\omega\}) = c > 0$ for some ω , $\mu(\{R\omega\}) = c$ for every rotation R . We can choose an infinite sequence of rotations to obtain an infinite sequences of distinct points in this way. This would force $\mu(S^{n-1}) = \infty$, and so μ does not charge single points. Thus, Theorem 5.2 applies to μ , σ_n and to $\mu + \sigma_n$.

It suffices to show that

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} f d\mu = \int_{S^{n-1}} f d\sigma_n \tag{5.4}$$

for all $f \in C(S^{n-1})$. This is because if E is any Borel set, 1_E may be approximated by continuous functions in $L^1(S^{n-1}, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \mu + \sigma_n)$ by Theorem 5.2. But if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f_n - 1_E\|_{L^1(S^{n-1}, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \mu + \sigma_n)} = 0 ,$$

then $f_n \rightarrow 1_E$ in both $L^1(S^{n-1}, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \mu)$ and $L^1(S^{n-1}, \mathcal{B}_{S^{n-1}}, \sigma_n)$.

Therefore, if (5.4) is true for all continuous functions f ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mu(E) &= \int_{S^{n-1}} 1_E d\mu = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{S^{n-1}} f_n d\mu \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{S^{n-1}} f_n d\sigma_n = \int_{S^{n-1}} 1_E d\sigma_n = \sigma_n(E) .\end{aligned}$$

Next, given any continuous function f , in the lemmas above we have constructed a sequence $\{f_j\}$ of continuous function that converges uniformly to constant functions h . Moreover since each f_j is an average over rotations of f and since both μ and σ_n are rotation invariant,

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} f_j d\sigma_n = \int_{S^{n-1}} f d\sigma_n \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{S^{n-1}} f_j d\mu = \int_{S^{n-1}} f d\mu$$

for all j .

Since uniform convergence implies convergence of integrals on a finite measure space,

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} f_j d\sigma_n \rightarrow \int_{S^{n-1}} h d\sigma_n \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{S^{n-1}} f_j d\mu \rightarrow \int_{S^{n-1}} h d\mu$$

as $j \rightarrow \infty$. But since h is constant and μ and σ_n have the same total mass,

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} h d\sigma_n = \int_{S^{n-1}} h d\mu .$$

Combining the last three identities, we obtain (5.4)

□