

IV. LEBESGUE MEASURE IN $\mathbb{R}^n$

We will define the Lebesgue outer measure on $\mathbb{R}^n$ by means of Carath. Ext. Theorem.

Fix $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

Def. A box (or an n-box) in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is any set of the form $B = I^1 \times \dots \times I^n$, where $I^1, \dots, I^n \subset \mathbb{R}$ are intervals. A 2-box is also called a rectangle.

Consider $\mathcal{A} := \{ \text{finite disjoint unions of boxes in } \mathbb{R}^n \} =$
 $= \{ \bigcup_{j \in J} B_j \mid J \text{ is finite, } B_j = I_j^1 \times \dots \times I_j^n \text{ for all } j \in J, B_k \cap B_l = \emptyset \text{ for } k \neq l \}.$

Lemma. $\mathcal{A}$ forms an algebra of subsets of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Pf. Since an n -box $I^1 \times \dots \times I^{n-1} \times I^n$ is $(I^1 \times \dots \times I^{n-1}) \times I^n$, it suffices to consider the case $n=2$.

(i) We have $\emptyset = \bigcup_{j \in \emptyset} B_j$, so $\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$.

Next, observe that the intersection of two (and hence any finite number) of n -boxes is either $\emptyset$ or an n -box.

(ii) Let then $A \in \mathcal{A}$ be arbitrary. If $A = \emptyset$, then $A^c = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \emptyset = (-\infty, \infty) \times (-\infty, \infty) \in \mathcal{A}$.

Suppose then that $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^k I_i^1 \times I_i^2$ for some intervals $I_1^1, I_1^2, \dots, I_k^1, I_k^2 \subset \mathbb{R}$.

Then, $A^c = \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k I_i^1 \times I_i^2 \right)^c = \bigcap_{i=1}^k (I_i^1 \times I_i^2)^c = \bigcap_{i=1}^k \left((I_i^1)^c \times \mathbb{R} \cup I_i^1 \times (I_i^2)^c \right)$, and the latter is a disjoint union of rectangles by the above observation. So $A^c \in \mathcal{A}$.

(iii) Now, to prove that it is closed under finite unions, it suffices to show that $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow A_1 \cup A_2 \in \mathcal{A}$. But this again reduces to the same argument as in (ii). $\square$

Def. Given $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ as above, define a function $m: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ by setting $m(\emptyset) = 0$, $m(I^1 \times \dots \times I^n) = \text{length}(I^1) \times \dots \times \text{length}(I^n)$, and $m\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k B_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^k m(B_i)$.

Convention: $0 \cdot \infty = 0$.

Prop. The function m is a premeasure on $\mathcal{A}$.

Pf. We have $m(\emptyset) = 0$, by definition. Suppose then that $\{B_i\}_{i=1}^\infty \subset \mathcal{A}$ is such that $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$, $\forall i \neq j$, and $B := \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty B_i \in \mathcal{A}$. We need to show that $m(B) = \sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_i)$.

First, note that, for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, $B \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^k B_i$ is a finite disjoint union of n -boxes, and hence $B = \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k B_i \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{\ell} A_j \right)$ for some $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathcal{A}$. Consequently, by def'n of m , $m(B) = \sum_{i=1}^k m(B_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} m(A_j)$, hence $\sum_{i=1}^k m(B_i) \leq m(B)$. Since k was arbitrary, we get $\sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_i) \leq m(B)$.

For the opposite inequality, we may assume that $m(B_k) < \infty$, $\forall k$, for else there is nothing to prove. Suppose first that B is compact.

we further assume that each B_i is actually an n -box itself, since m is additive on its box comp.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be arbitrary. For each $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ with $m(B_i) > 0$, choose $\tilde{B}_i$ an open n -box s.t. $B_i \subset \tilde{B}_i$ and $m(\tilde{B}_i) \leq m(B_i) + \varepsilon/2^i$. Then, $\{\tilde{B}_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ is an open covering of B , so $\exists i_1, \dots, i_s$ s.t. $B \subset \tilde{B}_{i_1} \cup \dots \cup \tilde{B}_{i_s}$. As an element of algebra $\mathcal{A}$, the $\tilde{B}_{i_1} \cup \dots \cup \tilde{B}_{i_s}$ can be represented as $\bigsqcup_{j=1}^l A_j$ for some n -boxes $A_1, \dots, A_l$, with $A_j \subset \tilde{B}_{i_j}$ for some $j \in \{1, \dots, i_s\}$. Also, $(\tilde{B}_{i_1} \cup \dots \cup \tilde{B}_{i_s}) \setminus B$ is a union of finitely many n -boxes, and so by defn of m , $m(B) \leq m(\tilde{B}_{i_1} \cup \dots \cup \tilde{B}_{i_s}) = m(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^l A_j) = \sum_{j=1}^l m(A_j) \leq \left\{ \text{since } \forall A_j \subset \tilde{B}_{i_j} \right\} \leq m(\tilde{B}_{i_1}) + \dots + m(\tilde{B}_{i_s}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_i) + \varepsilon$.

Since $\varepsilon > 0$ was arbitrary, we get $m(B) \leq \sum_i m(B_i)$.

Finally, let B be arbitrary. Since $B = \bigsqcup_{j=1}^p C_j$, and let $C_1, \dots, C_q$ ($q \leq p$) be n -boxes w/ $m(C_j) > 0$.

finite disjoint unions of compact n -boxes

Then, we may choose a nested sequence of $\{A_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ such that $A_k \uparrow \bigsqcup_{j=1}^q C_j$. For each $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, we have $m(A_k) \leq \sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_i)$, by above, and hence $m(B) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} m(A_k) \leq \sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_i)$. $\square$

Def. Let $A \subset \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and m be as above. The outer measure m^* on $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ defined as $m^*(Y) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_i) : \{B_i\}_{i=1}^\infty \subset \mathcal{A}, Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty B_i \right\}$, for $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, is called the Lebesgue outer measure on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

The σ -algebra of m^* -measurable sets is called the σ -alg. of Lebesgue measurable sets, and will be denoted by $\mathcal{L}^n$. The restriction $m^*|_{\mathcal{L}^n}$ is called the Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R}^n$, and will be denoted by m (or m^n , if $n = \dim \mathbb{R}^n$ is ambiguous).

Thm. Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, and let $m^*, \mathcal{L}^n$, and m be as above. Then:

- (1) m is a complete measure on $\mathcal{L}^n$.
- (2) m^* is a metric, regular outer measure on $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- (3) $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset \mathcal{L}^n$.
- (4) For every n -box B in $\mathbb{R}^n$, $m(B) = \text{vol}(B)$.
- (5) For every bounded set $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $m^*(Y) < \infty$.
- (6) m is σ -finite.
- (7) $\forall Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n \exists G \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. G is G_δ , $Y \subset G$, and $m^*(Y) = m^*(G)$.
- (8) $\forall Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n : m^*(Y+v) = m^*(Y)$. (where $Y+v = \{y+v : y \in Y\}$)
- (9) $\forall Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n \forall s \in [0, \infty] : m^*(s \cdot Y) = s^n \cdot m^*(Y)$. (where $s \cdot Y = \{s \cdot y : y \in Y\}$)

Pr. (1) follows from the theorem preceding Carathéodory's Extension Theorem. ✓

(2) That m^* is a regular outer measure follows from — 1.1 —

As for "metric", pick $Y, Z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ st. $\text{dist}(Y, Z) = \varepsilon > 0$. Let $\{B_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ be any countable collection of n -boxes st. $Y \cup Z \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty B_i$. Note that, $\forall i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, $B_i = \bigsqcup_{j=1}^\infty B_{ij}$ for some countable collection of n -boxes $\{B_{ij}\}$ satisfying $\text{diam}(B_{ij}) < \varepsilon/3$.

Now, $\{B_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^\infty = \underbrace{\{B_{ij} : B_{ij} \cap Z = \emptyset\}}_{\mathcal{B}_Y} \sqcup \underbrace{\{B_{ij} : B_{ij} \cap Y = \emptyset\}}_{\mathcal{B}_Z}$, as $\text{dist}(Y, Z) > \frac{2\varepsilon}{3}$.

Hence, by defn of m^* , $m^*(Y) \leq \sum_{B_{ij} \in \mathcal{B}_Y} m(B_{ij})$ and $m^*(Z) \leq \sum_{B_{ij} \in \mathcal{B}_Z} m(B_{ij})$, so

$$m^*(Y) + m^*(Z) \leq \sum_{i,j=1}^\infty m(B_{ij}) = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \left(\sum_{j=1}^\infty m(B_{ij}) \right) = \sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_i), \text{ l/c the } B_{ij} \text{ are pairwise disjoint.}$$

for a given i , and m is a premeasure.

Since the collection $\{B_i\}$ was arbitrary covering $Y \cup Z$,

passing to infimum we get $m^*(Y) + m^*(Z) \leq m^*(Y \cup Z)$.

The converse inequality follows from monotonicity of m^* . ✓

(3) follows from (2) and equivalence of metricity and containing Borel sets. ✓

(4) follows via Carathéodory's Ext. Thm. from the fact that m is a premeasure and $m^*|_A \equiv m|_A$. ✓

(5) follows from monotonicity and the fact that

Y bounded $\Rightarrow \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ : Y \subset [-k, k]^n$, and so $m^*(Y) \leq (2k)^n$. ✓

(6) follows from $\mathbb{R}^n = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+} [-k, k]^n$. ✓

(7) Pick $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ st. $m^*(Y) < \infty$. (If $m^*(Y) = \infty$, then take $G := \mathbb{R}^n$ - given, hence G_σ .)

For every $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, choose a collection $\{B_{ki}\}_{i=1}^\infty$ of n -boxes st. $Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty B_{ki}$ and $\sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_{ki}) \leq m^*(Y) + \frac{1}{2k}$.

Then, for each B_{ki} choose an open n -box $\tilde{B}_{ki}$ st. $B_{ki} \subset \tilde{B}_{ki}$ and $m(\tilde{B}_{ki}) \leq m(B_{ki}) + \frac{1}{2k \cdot 2^i}$,

and set $\tilde{B}_k := \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty \tilde{B}_{ki}$. By construction, $\tilde{B}_k$ is open, $Y \subset \tilde{B}_k$, and

$$m^*(\tilde{B}_k) = m(\tilde{B}_k) \leq \sum_{i=1}^\infty m(\tilde{B}_{ki}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^\infty \left(m(B_{ki}) + \frac{1}{2k \cdot 2^i} \right) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^\infty m(B_{ki}) \right) + \frac{1}{2k} \leq m^*(Y) + \frac{1}{k}.$$

Set $G := \bigcap_{k=1}^\infty \tilde{B}_k$. Then, $Y \subset G$, G is G_σ , and $m^*(G) \stackrel{\text{by (5)}}{=} m(G) = \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} m\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^K \tilde{B}_k\right) \leq$

$$\leq \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} m(\tilde{B}_K) \leq m^*(Y). \quad \checkmark$$

(8) follows from the fact that, $\forall n$ -box $B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\text{vol}(B + \sigma) = \text{vol}(B)$. ✓

(9) follows from: $\forall n$ -box $B \subset \mathbb{R}^n \forall s \in [0, \infty]$: $\text{vol}(s \cdot B) = s^n \cdot \text{vol}(B)$. $\square$

(8)

Thm. (Characterization of $\mathcal{L}^n$) Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ and let $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then FCAE:

- (1) $A \in \mathcal{L}^n$.
- (2) $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \text{ open } U \text{ st. } A \subset U \wedge m^*(U \setminus A) < \varepsilon$.
- (3) $\exists \text{ a } G_\delta\text{-set } B \ni C \text{ with } m^*(C) = 0 \text{ st. } A = B \setminus C$.
- (4) $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \text{ closed } F \text{ st. } F \subset A \wedge m^*(A \setminus F) < \varepsilon$.
- (5) $\exists \text{ an } F_\sigma\text{-set } D \ni C \text{ with } m^*(C) = 0 \text{ st. } A = D \cup C$.
- (6) $\exists \delta\text{-compact } K \ni C \text{ with } m^*(C) = 0 \text{ st. } A = K \cup C$.

Prf: (2) $\Rightarrow$ (3)



(1) $\Rightarrow$ (2): Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. Taking intersections with $[-k, k]^n$, we can write

A as $\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k$ with $m^*(A_k) < \infty$. Now, for every $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, as in the proof of the preceding theorem, we can choose an open U_k satisfying $A_k \subset U_k$ and $m(U_k) \leq m^*(A_k) + \varepsilon/2^{k+1}$. Set $U := \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} U_k$.

Then U is open, $A \subset U$, and $U \setminus A = \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} U_k\right) \setminus \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k\right) \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} (U_k \setminus A_k)$, hence

$$m^*(U \setminus A) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} m^*(U_k \setminus A_k) \stackrel{\substack{\text{disjoint} \\ \text{measurable}}}{=} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (m(U_k) - m(A_k)) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \varepsilon/2^{k+1} < \varepsilon. \quad \checkmark$$

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (3): For every $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, choose U_k open and st. $A \subset U_k$, $m^*(U_k \setminus A) < \frac{1}{k}$.

Set $B := \bigcap_k U_k$. Then $A \subset B$, B is G_δ , and $C := B \setminus A$ satisfies

$C \subset U_k \setminus A, \forall k$, hence $m^*(C) \leq \frac{1}{k}, \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. Thus, $m^*(C) = 0$. $\checkmark$

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (1): Since $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset \mathcal{L}^n$ and $m = m^*|_{\mathcal{L}^n}$ is complete, it follows that $B \setminus C \in \mathcal{L}^n$.

(1) $\Rightarrow$ (4): $\forall \varepsilon > 0$. By equivalence of (1) and (2), for the Lebesgue measurable set A^c ,

$\exists U$ open st. $A^c \subset U$ and $m^*(U \setminus A^c) < \varepsilon$. Then $F := U^c$ is closed, $F \subset A$,

and $A \setminus F = A \cap F^c = A \cap U = U \cap (A^c)^c = U \setminus A^c$, so $m^*(A \setminus F) = m^*(U \setminus A^c) < \varepsilon$. $\checkmark$

(4) $\Rightarrow$ (5): For every $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, choose F_k closed and st. $F_k \subset A$ and $m^*(A \setminus F_k) < \frac{1}{k}$.

Set $D := \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} F_k$. Then, $D \subset A$, D is F_σ , and $C := A \setminus D$ satisfies

$C \subset A \setminus F_k, \forall k \geq 1$, so $m^*(C) \leq m^*(A \setminus F_k) < \frac{1}{k}, \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. Thus, $m^*(C) = 0$. $\checkmark$

(5) $\Rightarrow$ (6): Follows from the fact that in $\mathbb{R}^n$ closed sets are δ -compact. $\checkmark$

(6) $\Rightarrow$ (1): Follows from the fact that in $\mathbb{R}^n$ δ -compact sets are Borel measurable and $m = m^*|_{\mathcal{L}^n}$ is complete. $\square$

Example (Vitali): $\mathbb{L}^n \not\subseteq \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

In $\mathbb{R}$, consider the following equivalence relation: $x \sim y \Leftrightarrow x - y \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Choose $V \subset [0, 1]$ any set satisfying: $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, [x]_{\sim} \cap V \neq \emptyset$ and $|[x]_{\sim} \cap V| = 1$.
(Axiom of Choice)

Claim: $V \notin \mathcal{L}^1$.

Suppose otherwise. Then, by translation invariance of m , we have $m(V+r) = m(V)$, for every $r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [-1, 1]$. Since $\mathbb{Q} \cap [-1, 1]$ is countable, the union $\bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [-1, 1]} (V+r)$ is in $\mathcal{L}^1$.

Note that, $\forall r, r' \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [-1, 1], r \neq r': (V+r) \cap (V+r') = \emptyset$.

Hence, $m(\bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [-1, 1]} (V+r)) = \sum_r m(V+r) = \sum_r m(V)$. Thus, $m(\bigcup_r (V+r))$ is either 0

or ∞ . But, we have $[0, 1] \subset \bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [-1, 1]} (V+r) \subset [-1, 2]$, so $1 \leq m(\bigcup_r (V+r)) \leq 3$. $\downarrow$

$\forall x \in [0, 1] \exists y \in V \subset [0, 1]$ s.t. $x - y =: r \in \mathbb{Q}$,
but then $r \in [-1, 1]$ $\forall x \in [0, 1]$

Uniqueness of Lebesgue Measure

Prop. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$, let m^* be the Lebesgue outer measure on $\mathbb{R}^n$, and let $\mathcal{L}^n$ be the σ -alg of Lebesgue measurable sets. Suppose that $\mathcal{A}$ is a σ -algebra in $\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $\mathcal{A}$ contains (compact) n -boxes and $m^*|_{\mathcal{A}}$ is a measure. Then, $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{L}^n$.

Pf. Note that $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset \mathcal{A}$, since $\mathcal{A}$ contains all open n -boxes.

Pick $Y \in \mathcal{A}$. To show that Y is m^* -measurable, pick any test set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.

By the Basic Properties of Leb. Measure Theorem, can choose a G_δ -set $G \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t.

$m^*(E) = m^*(G)$ and $E \subset G$. Hence,

$$m^*(E \cap Y) + m^*(E \cap Y^c) \leq m^*(G \cap Y) + m^*(G \cap Y^c) \stackrel{G, Y \in \mathcal{A} \text{ and } m^*|_{\mathcal{A}} \text{ is additive}}{=} m^*(G) = m^*(E); \text{ i.e., } Y \in \mathcal{L}^n. \quad \square$$

Prop. Suppose that μ is a measure on the σ -alg $\mathcal{L}^n$ s.t. $\mu(B) = \text{vol}(B)$ for every (compact) n -box B . Then, $\mu = m$.

Pf. By assumption, μ is an extension of the premeasure m on the algebra $\mathcal{A}$ of finite disjoint unions of n -boxes in $\mathbb{R}^n$ (since every n -box is a denumerable union of compact n -boxes).

Let $A \in \mathcal{L}^n$ be arbitrary. For any collection of n -boxes $\{B_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ with $A \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^\infty B_k$, we have

① $\mu(A) \leq \mu(\bigcup_k B_k) \leq \sum_k \mu(B_k) = \sum_k \text{vol}(B_k) = \sum_k m(B_k)$. Passing to inf over all such collections, we get $\mu(A) \leq m(A)$.

Conversely, to show $\mu(A) \geq m(A)$, suppose first that A is bounded; i.e., $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ st. $A \subset [-k, k]$.

Then, by above, $(2k)^n - \mu(A) = \mu([-k, k]^n \setminus A) \leq m([-k, k]^n \setminus A) = (2k)^n - m(A)$, so $\mu(A) \geq m(A)$.

Finally, an arbitrary A may be realized as $A = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k$ with A_k bounded, and hence

$$\mu(A) = \sum_k \mu(A_k) \geq \sum_k m(A_k) = m(A). \quad \square$$

Lebesgue-Stieltjes Measures

In $\mathbb{R}$, consider as before $\mathcal{A} = \{\text{finite disjoint unions of intervals}\} \subset \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$.

Let $\alpha: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be an increasing right-continuous function; i.e., $\alpha(x) \leq \alpha(y) \quad \forall x \leq y$,

and $\alpha(x) = \lim_{y \rightarrow x^+} \alpha(y) \quad \forall x$. For an interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ with endpoints $a < b$, define

$l(I) := \alpha(b) - \alpha(a)$. If $a = -\infty$, set $l(I) := \alpha(b) - \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \alpha(x)$; if $b = \infty$, $l(I) := \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \alpha(x) - \alpha(a)$.

Example: $\alpha = \text{id}$.

Prop. The function m defined on $\mathcal{A}$ as $m(\bigcup_{k=1}^K I_k) := \sum_{k=1}^K l(I_k)$ is a premeasure.

Pf. Exercise!

Hint: Adapt the proof for Lebesgue premeasure. Note that, if I is a closed interval with endpoints a, b , then $I \subset \{a\} \cup (a, b + \delta)$, where $\forall \epsilon > 0$ δ can be chosen so that $l((a, b + \delta)) \leq l(I) + \epsilon$.

Def. The outer measure resulting from Caratheodory's extension of m to $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ is called a Lebesgue-Stieltjes outer measure (rel. to α). The restriction of this m^* to m^* -measurable sets is called a Lebesgue-Stieltjes measure (rel. to α).

V. HAUSDORFF MEASURE.

Let (X, d) be a metric space, $p \in [0, \infty)$.

Def. For a set $Y \subset X$, define $h^p(Y) := \int_0^\infty 2T_\alpha(p) \cdot (\text{diam } Y)^p$, $Y \neq \emptyset$

where $\alpha(p) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})^p}{\Gamma(\frac{p}{2} + 1)}$ and $\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt$. (NB. $\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}) = \sqrt{\pi}$ / (Euler's Γ function))

Def. Given (X, d) , $p \in [0, \infty)$, and $h^p: \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ as above, the p -dimensional Hausdorff outer measure is defined as follows

$$h^{p*}(Y) := \sup_{\mathcal{G}} \inf \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} h^p(Y_k) \mid \{Y_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \subset \mathcal{P}(X), Y \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} Y_k, \text{diam } Y_k < \delta \right\} \quad \left(= \liminf_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} \right)$$

Convention:

$0^0 = \infty^0 = 1$, and $0^p = 0$, $\infty^p = \infty$ for $p > 0$.

Def. Given $p \in [0, \infty)$, the σ -alg. of h^{p*} -measurable sets is called the Hausdorff p -measurable sets, and will be denoted by $\mathcal{H}^p$. We'll denote $h^{p*}|_{\mathcal{H}^p}$ by h^p again.

Remarks: One can show that

1) In $X = \mathbb{R}^3$, h^0 = counting measure (in fact, in any metric space (X, d))

h^1 measures lengths of curves

h^2 — — — — — areas

$h^3 = m^3$

2) In $\mathbb{R}^n$ (with Euclidean metric), $h^{n*} = m^{n*}$.

3) In any metric space (X, d) , $\forall p \in [0, \infty)$, we have:

(a) h^{p*} is a metric regular outer measure

(b) h^p is a complete measure

(c) $\forall Y \subset X \exists \mathcal{G}$ -set G s.t. $Y \subset G$ & $h^{p*}(Y) = h^p(G)$.

FCAE: (a) $A \subset X$ is h^{p*} -measurable

(b) $\exists \mathcal{G}$ -set $B \exists C$ with $h^{p*}(C) = 0$ s.t. $A = B \setminus C$

(c) $\exists \mathcal{F}_\sigma$ -set $D \exists C$ with $h^{p*}(C) = 0$ s.t. $A = D \cup C$.

} provided $h^{p*}(A) < \infty$

Hausdorff dimension of a metric space

Key Lemma. Let (X, d) be a metric space, and let $s \in (0, \infty)$.

Suppose $h^s(X) < \infty$. Then, $h^p(X) = 0$ for all $p > s$.

Pf. For a proof by contradiction, suppose $p > s$ is s.t. $h^p(X) > 0$; say $h^p(X) \geq \frac{2\alpha}{2(p)}$, with $\alpha > 0$.

Then, by def'n, $\exists \delta_0 > 0$ s.t. $\forall \delta \in (0, \delta_0] \exists \{Y_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ s.t. $X = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} Y_k$ and $\text{diam } Y_k < \delta, \forall k$, we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\text{diam } Y_k)^p \geq \frac{2\alpha}{2} \quad (*)$$

(*) } Note that, $\forall Y \subset X$, if $Y = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} Z_i$, then $\text{diam } Y \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \text{diam } Z_i$ and hence
 $(\text{diam } Y)^p \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\text{diam } Z_i)^p$, since this is the case for any finite union.

We want to show that $h^s(X) = \infty$.

(*) } Equivalently, we want: $\forall M > 0 \exists \delta_M > 0$ s.t. $\forall \{Y_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ with $X = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} Y_k$ and $\text{diam } Y_k < \delta_M, \forall k$, we have
 $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\text{diam } Y_k)^s \geq M$.

Now, by (*), it suffices to show that (*) holds for all families $\{Y_k\}$ with $\frac{\delta_H}{2} \leq \text{diam } Y_k < \delta_H$, $\forall k$.

Let then $M > 0$ be arbitrary. Choose $\delta_H \in (0, \delta_0]$ such that $\frac{\alpha}{2^s \cdot \delta_H^{p-s}} \geq M$.
(Such δ_H exists, b/c $p-s > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{2^s \cdot \delta_H^{p-s}} \xrightarrow{\delta_H \rightarrow 0^+} \infty$.)

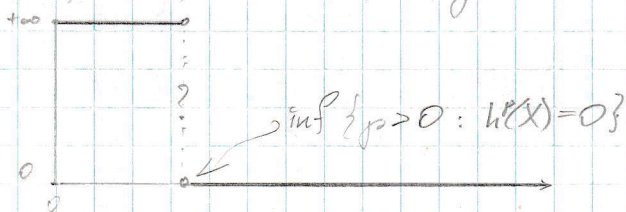
Let now $\{Y_k\}_{k=1}^\infty \subset \mathcal{B}(X)$ be any such that $X = \bigcup_{k=1}^\infty Y_k$ and $\frac{\delta_H}{2} \leq \text{diam } Y_k < \delta_H$, $\forall k$.

By (6), we can choose a $K \in \mathbb{N}_+$ st. $\sum_{k=1}^K (\text{diam } Y_k)^p \geq \alpha$.

Then, $K \cdot \delta_H^p \geq \sum_{k=1}^K (\text{diam } Y_k)^p \geq \alpha$, so $K \geq \frac{\alpha}{\delta_H^p}$, and hence

$$\sum_{k=1}^\infty (\text{diam } Y_k)^s \geq \sum_{k=1}^K (\text{diam } Y_k)^s \geq K \cdot \left(\frac{\delta_H}{2}\right)^s \geq \frac{\alpha}{2^s \cdot \delta_H^{p-s}} \geq M, \text{ as required. } \square$$

Corollary. The graph of the function $[0, \infty) \ni p \mapsto h^p(X) \in [0, \infty]$ looks as follows:



Def. Given a ^{non-empty} metric space (X, d) , the number $\dim_H(X) := \inf\{p > 0 : h^p(X) = 0\} \in [0, \infty]$ is called the Hausdorff dimension of X .

Corollary. Let (X, d) be a metric space.

- (1) If $s < \dim_H(X)$, then $h^s(X) = \infty$.
- (2) If $p > \dim_H(X)$, then $h^p(X) = 0$.
- (3) If $h^p(X) \in (0, \infty)$, then $\dim_H(X) = p$.

Example. Find the Hausdorff dimension of the Cantor set in $[0, 1]$.

Sol'n:

Note that, $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}_+$, C can be covered by the disjoint union of 2^k closed intervals of length $\frac{1}{3^k}$ each. Hence, $\forall k$, $\inf\{\sum_{i=1}^\infty (\text{diam } Y_i)^p \mid \{Y_i\}_{i=1}^\infty \subset \mathcal{B}([0, 1]) \text{ st. } C \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty Y_i, \text{diam } Y_i \leq \frac{1}{3^k}\}$ is less than or equal to $2^k \cdot \frac{1}{3^{kp}}$.

Thus, for any $p > 0$, we have $h^p(C) \leq \frac{2^k}{2^p} \cdot \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^k}{3^{kp}}$.

Now, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{2}{3^p}\right)^k = \begin{cases} 0, & 2 < 3^p \\ 1, & 2 = 3^p \\ \infty, & 2 > 3^p \end{cases}$. Hence, $\dim_H(C) \geq \log_3 2$.

On the other hand, if $p > \log_3 2$, then, $k \geq 1$, $\frac{1}{(3^k)^p} > \frac{2}{(3^{k+1})^p}$.

It follows that for every $k \geq 1$, the k 'th iteration C_k of the Cantor set C satisfies

$$\inf \left\{ \sum_i (\text{diam } \gamma_i)^p \mid \{\gamma_i\}_{i=1}^\infty \text{ st. } C_k \subset \bigcup_i \gamma_i, \text{diam } \gamma_i \leq \frac{1}{3^k} \right\} \leq \frac{2^k}{3^{kp}}$$

$$\text{Hence, } h^p(C_k) \leq \frac{\alpha(p)}{2^p} \cdot \frac{2^k}{3^{kp}}$$

Now, $C \in \mathcal{B}([0,1])$ and h^p is a metric outer measure, so C (and all the C_k) are measurable,

$$\text{and hence } h^p(C) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} h^p(C_k) \leq \frac{\alpha(p)}{2^p} \cdot \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^k}{3^{kp}} = 0. \quad \text{Thus } \dim_p(C) \leq \log_3 2. \quad \square$$