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On the Kluvánek Construction of the Lebesgue Integral*

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Abstract

I. Kluvánek suggested to built the Lebesgue integral on a compact interval in the real line by the help of the length of intervals only. In the paper a modification of the Kluvánek construction is presented applicable to abstract spaces, too.

Key words: Lebesgue integral, rings of sets, measures on compact interval

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1 Introduction

Let \mathcal{A} be the family of all subintervals of a given interval $[a, b]$. If $A \in \mathcal{A}$, then $\mu(A)$ is the length of A , i.e. $\mu([c, d]) = \mu((c, d)) = \mu([c, d)) = \mu((c, d]) = d - c$. In the following definition the Kluvánek construction is presented.

Definition 1 $f \in \mathcal{K} \iff$

$$\begin{aligned} \exists \alpha_i \in R, \exists A_i \in \mathcal{A}, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\alpha_i| \mu(A_i) < \infty \\ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\alpha_i| \chi_{A_i}(x) < \infty \implies f(x) = \sum \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}(x). \end{aligned}$$

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The only problem is in the proof of the independence of the integral of a function f

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \mu(A_i)$$

on the presentation of f in the form

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}(x).$$

Mainly, Kluvánek's proof depends on some properties of the real line.

Therefore we suggest a modification of the construction considering first non-negative functions only. In the first part of our paper the equality of two definitions is shown. In the second part it is shown the independence of the sum

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \mu(A_i)$$

($\alpha_i \geq 0$) on the representation of f in the form

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}(x).$$

2 Integrable functions

Definition 2 $f \in \mathcal{P}^+ \iff$

$$\exists \alpha_i \geq 0, \exists A_i \in \mathcal{A}, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \mu(A_i) < \infty$$

and

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}(x).$$

Definition 3

$$f \in \mathcal{P} \iff \exists g, h \in \mathcal{P}^+, g(x) < \infty, h(x) < \infty \Rightarrow f(x) = g(x) - h(x).$$

Theorem 1 $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{P}$.

Proof 1. $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathcal{P}$. Let $f \in \mathcal{K}$, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} & \exists \alpha_i \exists A_i \in \mathcal{A}, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\alpha_i| \mu(A_i) < \infty \\ & \sum |\alpha_i| \chi_{A_i}(x) < \infty \Rightarrow f(x) = \sum \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}(x) \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i^+ \mu(A_i) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\alpha_i| \mu(A_i) < \infty, \\ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i^- \mu(A_i) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\alpha_i| \mu(A_i) < \infty. \\ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i^+ \chi_{A_i}(x) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\alpha_i| \chi_{A_i}(x) < \infty, \\ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i^- \chi_{A_i}(x) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\alpha_i| \chi_{A_i}(x) < \infty.\end{aligned}$$

Put

$$g(x) = \sum \alpha_i^+ \chi_{A_i}(x), \quad h(x) = \sum \alpha_i^- \chi_{A_i}(x)$$

Then $g, h \in \mathcal{P}^+$, $g(x) < \infty$, $h(x) < \infty$, and

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i^+ \chi_{A_i}(x) - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i^- \chi_{A_i}(x) = g(x) - h(x).$$

Therefore $f \in \mathcal{P}$.

2. $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathcal{K}$. Let $f \in \mathcal{P}$. Then there exist $g, h \in \mathcal{P}^+$ such that

$$f(x) < \infty, h(x) < \infty \Rightarrow f(x) = g(x) - h(x).$$

Evidently $g, h \in \mathcal{K}$. Also $-h \in \mathcal{K}$ by [1, 26.12.2]. Since $|g(x)| + |-h(x)| < \infty$, then by [1, 26.12.4] $f(x) = g(x) + (-h(x))$ is a member from \mathcal{K} . \square

3 Integral

We want to define the integral of a function $f \in \mathcal{P}^+$

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0, \quad A_i \in \mathcal{A}$$

by the equality

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \mu(A_i).$$

Of course, it is first necessary to prove the independence of the sum on the representation of f in the form

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0, \quad A_i \in \mathcal{A}.$$

It is realized in Theorem 4 what is the main result of the paper.

Definition 4 Let $[a, b]$ be an interval, \mathcal{A} be the family of all subintervals of $[a, b]$, $\mu: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a measure. A function $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ belongs to \mathcal{P}_0 , if there exist $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \geq 0$, $A_1, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}.$$

Theorem 2 To any $f \in \mathcal{P}_0$,

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}$$

there exist $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m \geq 0$, $B_1, \dots, B_m \in \mathcal{A}$, $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$ ($i \neq j$) such that

$$f = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \chi_{B_j}, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mu(A_i) = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mu(B_j).$$

Proof By induction. The idea:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 \chi_{A_1} + \alpha_2 \chi_{A_2} &= \alpha_1 \chi_{A_1 \setminus A_2} + (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) \chi_{A_1 \cap A_2} + \alpha_2 \chi_{A_2 \setminus A_1}, \\ \alpha_1 \mu(A_1) + \alpha_2 \mu(A_2) &= \alpha_1 \mu(A_1 \setminus A_2) + (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) \mu(A_1 \cap A_2) + \alpha_2 \mu(A_2 \setminus A_1), \end{aligned}$$

Let the assertion hold for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i} = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \chi_{A_i} + \alpha_{n+1} \chi_{A_{n+1}} = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \chi_{B_j} + \alpha_{n+1} \chi_{A_{n+1}}$$

Put $B = \bigcup_{i=1}^m B_j$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i} = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \chi_{B_j \setminus A_{n+1}} + \sum_{j=1}^m (\beta_j + \alpha_{n+1}) \chi_{A_{n+1} \cap B_j} + \alpha_{n+1} \chi_{A_{n+1} \setminus B}.$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \alpha_i \mu(A_i) = \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mu(B_j \setminus A_{n+1}) + \sum_{j=1}^m (\beta_j + \alpha_{n+1}) \mu(A_{n+1} \cap B_j) + \alpha_{n+1} \mu(A_{n+1} \setminus B). \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 3 Let $f \in \mathcal{P}_0$, $f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \chi_{A_i} = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \chi_{B_j}$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mu(A_i) = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mu(B_j).$$

Proof By Theorem 2 there exist nonnegative η_k, δ_l and pairwise disjoint C_k , or D_l resp. such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mu(A_i) = \sum_{k=1}^u \eta_k \mu(C_k), \quad \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mu(B_j) = \sum_{l=1}^v \delta_l \mu(D_l).$$

Since

$$\eta_k \chi_{C_k \cap D_l} = \delta_l \chi_{C_k \cap D_l},$$

we have

$$\eta_k \mu(C_k \cap D_l) = \delta_l \mu(C_k \cap D_l).$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mu(A_i) &= \sum_{k=1}^u \eta_k \mu(C_k) = \sum_{k=1}^u \eta_k \sum_{l=1}^v \mu(C_k \cap D_l) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^v \delta_l \sum_{k=1}^u \mu(C_k \cap D_l) = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mu(B_j). \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 4 Let $f \in \mathcal{P}^+$,

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \chi_{A_i} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta_j \chi_{B_j}.$$

Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \mu(A_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta_j \mu(B_j).$$

Proof For $f \in \mathcal{P}_0$, $f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}$ put

$$J_0(f) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mu(A_i).$$

It is possible by Theorem 3.

Assertion 1 If $f_n \in \mathcal{P}_0$, $f_n \searrow 0$, then $J_0(f_n) \searrow 0$.

Put $\alpha = \max f_1$, $Y = \{x \in [a, b]; f_1(x) > 0\}$. Let $\epsilon > 0$ be arbitrary. Put

$$A_n = \{x \in [a, b]; f_n(x) \geq \epsilon\}.$$

Then $A_n \searrow \emptyset$, hence $\mu(A_n) \searrow 0$.

Let $f_n = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \chi_{C_i}$, C_i disjoint. Then

$$J_0(f_n) = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \mu(C_i) = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \mu(C_i \cap A_n) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \mu(C_i \cap A_n').$$

If $x \in C_i \cap A'_n$, then $f_n(x) \leq \alpha_i < \epsilon$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} J_0(f_n) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha \mu(C_i \cap A_n) + \epsilon \sum_{i=1}^k \mu(C_i \cap A'_n) \\ &\leq \alpha \mu(A_n \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^k C_i) + \epsilon \mu\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k C_i\right) \leq \alpha \mu(A_n) + \epsilon \mu([a, b]). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$0 \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} J_0(f_n) \leq \alpha \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(A_n) + \epsilon \mu([a, b]) = \epsilon \mu([a, b]).$$

Since the previous inequality holds for every $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} J_0(f_n) = 0.$$

Assertion 2 If $f_n \nearrow f$, $f_n \in \mathcal{P}_0$, $f \in \mathcal{P}_0$, then $J_0(f_n) \nearrow J_0(f)$.

Put $g_n = f - f_n$. Then $g_n \searrow 0$, hence

$$J_0(f) - J_0(f_n) = J_0(g_n) \searrow 0.$$

Proof of Theorem Let $f \in \mathcal{P}^+$

$$\begin{aligned} f &= \sum_i \alpha_i \chi_{A_i} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \chi_{A_i} = \sum_i \beta_j \chi_{B_j} = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \chi_{B_j} \\ &= \bigvee_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n = \bigvee_{m=1}^{\infty} g_m, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$f_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \chi_{A_i}, \quad g_m = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \chi_{B_j}.$$

Then

$$f_n \wedge g_m \nearrow f \wedge g_m = g_m,$$

hence

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \mu(A_i) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} J_0(f_n) \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} J_0(f_n \wedge g_m) = J_0(g_m) = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mu(B_j)$$

for any $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and therefore

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \mu(A_i) \geq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta_j \mu(B_j).$$

Analogously the opposite inequality can be proved. \square

4 Conclusion

We have presented an elementary way how to construct the Lebesgue integral. We suggest to consider any non-empty set X instead of $[a, b]$, any ring \mathcal{A} instead of the family of subintervals of $[a, b]$, and any non-negative σ -additive mapping $\mu: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ instead of the length $\mu(A)$ of the interval A . It could have many applications mainly in education and consequently in many areas, e.g. in statistics, but also in areas using functional spaces. We have used some ideas concerned in [1–5] and [7]. Recall that another applications of some Kluvánek ideas have been used in [6].

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