

Tutorial 8 : Integration

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except we do not allow empty intervals.

updated 5/10



The following is taken from T. Tao's "Analysis" Vol. 1 Ch. 11. A subset $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is an interval if there exist $a \leq b$ with I equal to one of the following sets:

$$[a, b], (a, b], [a, b), (a, b).$$

In all cases we define the length of I to be $|I| := b - a$ (possibly zero).

A partition of an interval I will mean a finite set \mathcal{P} whose elements are pairwise disjoint intervals contained in I , whose union is all of I .

Example $\mathcal{P}_1 = \{[0, 1/3), [1/3, 1]\}$, $\mathcal{P}_2 = \{[0, 1/2), [1/2, 1]\}$ are partitions of $[0, 1]$.

Given partitions $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2$ of I we write $\mathcal{P}_1 \leq \mathcal{P}_2$ (not \subseteq) if for every $x \in \mathcal{P}_1$ there exists $y \in \mathcal{P}_2$ with $x \subseteq y$. This is a partial order on the set of partitions of I , and moreover given partitions $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2$

$$\mathcal{P}_1 \wedge \mathcal{P}_2 := \{J \cap K \mid J \in \mathcal{P}_1, K \in \mathcal{P}_2 \text{ and } J \cap K \neq \emptyset\}$$

is another partition of I with the property that $\mathcal{P}_1 \wedge \mathcal{P}_2 \leq \mathcal{P}_i$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$ and if \mathcal{Q} is another partition with $\mathcal{Q} \leq \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{Q} \leq \mathcal{P}_2$ then $\mathcal{Q} \leq \mathcal{P}_1 \wedge \mathcal{P}_2$

Q1 Prove \leq is a partial order on the set of partitions of I .

Q2 Given a partition \mathcal{P} of I prove that $|I| = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{P}} |x|$. (Hint: argue the statement for all pairs (I, \mathcal{P}) by induction on the size of \mathcal{P}).

Defⁿ Given an interval I with partition \mathcal{P} , a function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is piecewise constant with respect to \mathcal{P} if for all $J \in \mathcal{P}$, the function $f|_J: J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a constant function. A function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is piecewise constant if it is piecewise constant with respect to some partition \mathcal{P} of I .

Q3 Prove if $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is piecewise constant with respect to partitions $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2$ then

$$\sum_{J \in \mathcal{P}_1} a_J |J| = \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}_2} b_K |K| \quad (*)$$

where for $J \in \mathcal{P}_1$, we have $f|_J \equiv a_J$ and for $K \in \mathcal{P}_2$, $f|_K \equiv b_K$ for constants $a_J, b_K \in \mathbb{R}$. This common value (*) which is independent of the partition we denote by $\text{p.c.} \int_I f$. (Hint: use $\mathcal{P}_1 \wedge \mathcal{P}_2$ to reduce to the case $\mathcal{P}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{P}_2$).

Defⁿ Let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a bounded function on an interval I . The upper Riemann integral is the real number

$$\overline{\int}_I f := \inf \left\{ \text{p.c.} \int_I g \mid g \text{ is piecewise constant on } I \text{ and for all } x \in I, \text{ we have } g(x) \geq f(x) \right\}$$

while the lower Riemann integral is the real number

$$\underline{\int}_I f := \sup \left\{ \text{p.c.} \int_I g \mid g \text{ is piecewise constant on } I \text{ and for all } x \in I, \text{ we have } g(x) \leq f(x) \right\}.$$

If $\overline{\int}_I f = \underline{\int}_I f$ we say f is Riemann integrable and define

$$\int_I f := \overline{\int}_I f = \underline{\int}_I f.$$

Theorem Any continuous function $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Riemann integrable.

[Q4] Prove the theorem

↑ Long hint: aim to show that for any $\varepsilon > 0$ (with $I = [a, b]$)

$$\bar{\int}_I f - \underline{\int}_I f \leq \varepsilon(b-a).$$

To do this, produce a partition J_1, \dots, J_n of $[a, b]$ (whose elements and length both depend on ε) and constants $p_1, \dots, p_n, q_1, \dots, q_n$ such that

$$\bar{\int}_I f \leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i |J_i|, \quad \underline{\int}_I f \geq \sum_{i=1}^n q_i |J_i|$$

so that
$$\bar{\int}_I f - \underline{\int}_I f \leq \sum_{i=1}^n (p_i - q_i) |J_i|.$$

Then use that a continuous function f on $[a, b]$ is uniformly continuous, i.e. $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 \forall x, y \in [a, b] (|x - y| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(y)| < \varepsilon)$. This is an easy consequence of compactness.]

[Q5] Prove that if $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and $a < c < b$ then

$$\int_{[a, b]} f = \int_{[a, c]} f + \int_{[c, b]} f.$$

Defⁿ A continuous function $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is compactly supported if there is $K \subseteq X$ compact such that if $x \notin K$ then $f(x) = 0$.

[Q6] Prove that if $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is compactly supported, and $[a, b]$ is such that f is zero outside $[a, b]$, then $\int_{[a, b]} f$ is independent of a, b , and we call this invariant quantity the Riemann integral of f .