

Lecture 14

260R, Advanced Measure Theory
© Katy Craig, 2026

Reminder:

No Class on Tuesday, May 26th

Final Presentations on Thursday, May 28th

Def: Given a linear functional

$$L: C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

define its total variation by

- For $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ open,
 $|L|(A) = \sup \{ \langle L, \varphi \rangle : \varphi \in C_c(A; \mathbb{R}^m), |\varphi| \leq \mathbb{1} \}$
- For $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$
 $|L|(E) = \inf \{ |L|(A) : E \subseteq A, A \text{ open} \}$

Thm (Riesz Representation):

Given a bounded linear functional $L: C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^m)$,

(i) $|L|$ is a locally finite ^{positive} Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^d

(ii) there exists $g: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ measurable with $|g| = 1$ $|L|$ -a.e. and

$$\langle L, \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi \cdot g \, d|L|$$

for all $\varphi \in C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^m)$.

Last time, we showed $\exists g \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^m)$
s.t. $\forall \varphi \in C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^m)$,

$$\langle L, \varphi \rangle = \int \varphi \cdot g d\mu.$$

It remains to show
 $|g| = 1$ μ -a.e.

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} |L|(A) &= \sup \left\{ \underbrace{\langle L, \varphi \rangle}_{\int \varphi \cdot g d\mu} : \varphi \in C_c(A; \mathbb{R}^m), |\varphi| \leq 1 \right\} \\ &\leq \int_A |g| d\mu \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $E := \{x : |g(x)| < c\}$, so $|L|(E) = 0$
hence $|g| > 0$ μ -a.e.

For any A open and bounded,
 $|L|$ locally finite ensures

$$\frac{g}{|g|} \in L^1(A, |L|; \mathbb{R}^m)$$

By density, $\exists \varphi_n \in C_c(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$
 s.t. $\varphi_n \rightarrow \frac{g}{|g|}$ in $L^1(A, |L|; \mathbb{R}^m)$

Define

$$\tilde{\varphi}_n(x) := \begin{cases} \pi |g|^{m-1}(\varphi_n(x)) & \text{if } |\varphi_n(x)| \geq 1 \\ \varphi_n(x) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then $\tilde{\varphi}_n \in C_c(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$ and

$$\int_A |\tilde{\varphi}_n - \frac{g}{|g|}| d|L| \leq \int_A |\varphi_n - \frac{g}{|g|}| d|L| \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

Finally, $\int_A |(\tilde{\varphi}_n - \frac{g}{|g|}) \cdot g|$

$$\int_A |\tilde{\varphi}_n \cdot g - |g|| d|L| \leq \|g\|_\infty \int_A |\tilde{\varphi}_n - \frac{g}{|g|}| \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

Thus,

$$|L|(A) \geq \int_A \tilde{\varphi}_n \circ g \, d|L|$$

$$|L|(A) \geq \int_A |g| \, d|L| \geq |L|(A)$$

$$\Rightarrow |g| \, d|L| = |L| \Rightarrow |g| = 1 \, |L| \text{ a.e.}$$

μ_i signed \square

=====

aka weak-*

Vague-convergence

\mathbb{R}^m valued Borel measures

Def: Given locally finite v.v. measures $\{\mu_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}, \mu$, we say $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$ vaguely if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int \varphi \, d\mu_n = \int \varphi \, d\mu \quad \forall \varphi \in C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^m)$$

Ex:

- If $x_n \rightarrow x$ in \mathbb{R}^d , $\delta_{x_n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_x$ vaguely
- $\mu_n \neq n^d \prod_{i=1}^d [0, \frac{1}{n}]$ and $\mathbb{Z}^d \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_0$

Thm (Portmanteau) Given locally finite positive Borel measures $\{\mu_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}, \mu$

TFAE

- (i) $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$ vaguely
- (ii) $\forall K$ cpt and A open in \mathbb{R}^d

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(A) \geq \mu(A)$$

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(K) \leq \mu(K)$$

- (iii) $\forall E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ bounded with $\mu(\partial E) = 0$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(E) = \mu(E)$.

Vague compactness

Thm: Given locally finite positive Borel measures $\{\mu_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ on \mathbb{R}^d s.t. $\forall K \text{ cpt}$

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mu_n(K) < +\infty,$$

then $\exists \mu$ locally finite Borel measure and n_k s.t.

$$\mu_{n_k} \rightarrow \mu \text{ vaguely.}$$

Fact: $C_c(\mathbb{R}^d)$ endowed with inductive limit topology is separable.

Pl: Let $\mathcal{F} \subseteq C(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a countable dense subset. For any $\varphi \in C(\mathbb{R}^d)$

$$\sup_n \left| \int \varphi d\mu_n \right| \leq \|\varphi\|_\infty \sup_n \mu_n(\text{supp } \varphi) < +\infty$$

Thus, $\forall \varphi \in \mathcal{F}, \exists L_\varphi$ s.t. $\int \varphi d\mu_{n_k} \rightarrow L_\varphi$. By a diagonal argument, we may assume the same subsequence n_k works for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}$.

Note that $\varphi \mapsto L_\varphi$ is linear on \mathcal{F} and $\varphi \geq 0 \Rightarrow L_\varphi \geq 0$.

Suppose $\{\varphi_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}, \{\psi_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ satisfy $\varphi_n \rightarrow \varphi$ & $\psi_m \rightarrow \varphi_p$

Then

$$\lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} |L\varphi_n - L\varphi_m|$$

$$= \lim_{n,m,k \rightarrow \infty} |S \varphi_n \mu_{n_k} - S \varphi_m \mu_{n_k}|$$

$$\leq \lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} \|\varphi_n - \varphi_m\|_{\infty} \sup_k \mu_{n_k}(K)$$

thus, we can define
 $L: C_c(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\langle L, \varphi \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} L\varphi_n$$

where $\{\varphi_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in \tilde{\mathcal{F}}$,
 $\varphi_n \rightarrow \varphi$

L is a monotone, linear functional on $C(\mathbb{R}^d)$, so it's bounded. By Riesz Representation,
 \exists locally finite positive

Borel measure μ s.t.
 $\forall \varphi \in C(\mathbb{R}^d)$

$$\langle L, \varphi \rangle = \int \varphi d\mu.$$

For $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}$,
 $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int \varphi d\mu_{n_k} = L\varphi = \langle L, \varphi \rangle = \int \varphi d\mu.$

Thus, $\forall \psi \in C(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int \psi d\mu_{n_k} - \int \psi d\mu \right| \quad \varphi, \psi \in K \\ & \stackrel{\textcircled{I}}{\leq} \underbrace{\|\varphi - \psi\|_{\infty} \sup \mu_{n_k}(K)}_{\textcircled{II}} \\ & \leq \underbrace{\left| \int \varphi d\mu_{n_k} - \int \varphi d\mu_{n_k} \right|}_{\textcircled{III}} + \left| \int \varphi d\mu - \int \psi d\mu \right| \\ & \quad + \left| \int \varphi d\mu_{n_k} - \int \varphi d\mu \right| \end{aligned}$$

Since \mathcal{F} is dense in $C(\mathbb{R}^d)$,
 $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \varphi \in \mathcal{F}$ s.t. $\textcircled{I} + \textcircled{II} < \varepsilon \quad \forall k.$

Sending $k \rightarrow +\infty$ gives the result. \square

Sets of Finite Perimeter

In the last round of presentations, we will hear about the

Gauss-Green Theorem, that, for all open sets E with C^1 boundary,

$$\int_E \nabla \cdot T(x) dx = \int_{\partial E} T \cdot \nu_E d\mathcal{H}^{n-1},$$

let $dx = d\mathcal{L}^d(x)$

$\forall T \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$

outer unit normal

The perimeter of E is given by

$$\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\partial E) = |\mu_E|(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

If we define $\mu_E := \nu_E d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} \Big|_{\partial E}$

Goal: generalize the notion of perimeter beyond sets with C^1 boundary.

Why more general E ?

Sets with C^1 boundary can converge to sets without C^1 boundary.



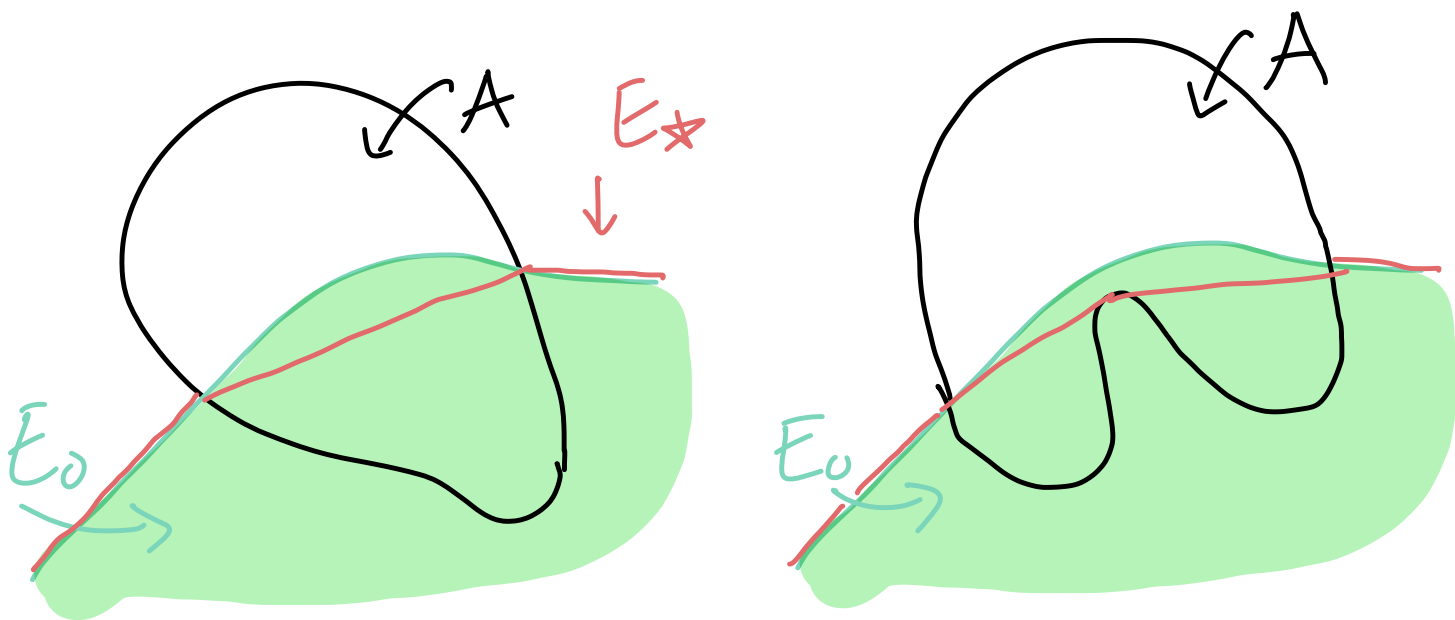
To study *geometric optimization problems* need to take limits of "nice" E to find an optimizer.

Examples of Geometric Variational Problems:

Plateau Problem

Given $A, E_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ where E_0 has finite perimeter

$$\inf_{E \in \mathcal{O}} \{ P(E) : E \setminus A = E_0 \setminus A \}$$



$E_0 \cap \partial A$ is "boundary condition" for E .

The Plateau problem is a prototype "minimal surface" problem.

Potential Energies

$$\inf_{E \subseteq \mathbb{A}} \left\{ P(E) + \int_E g(x) d\mathcal{L}(x) \right\}$$



Applications: soap films, membranes, equilibrium shape of liquid in container, materials science, general relativity, ...

Def: $E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ has locally finite perimeter if locally
 \exists locally finite ν measure μ_E
 so that

$$\int_E \nabla \cdot T(x) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} T \cdot d\mu_E,$$

$$\forall T \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$$

The perimeter of E is
 $P(E) := |\mu_E|(\mathbb{R}^d).$

The relative perimeter of E in F ,
 $P(E; F) = |\mu_E|(F).$

$\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$
 \downarrow