

Lecture 15

260R, Advanced Measure Theory

© Katy Craig, 2026

Reminder: Course Evaluations

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

Def: $E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ has locally finite perimeter if

\exists locally finite $\nu\nu$ measure μ_E so that

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

$\underbrace{\int_E \nabla \cdot T}_{\int_E \nabla \cdot T} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} T \cdot d\mu_E$

equiv to $\int_E \nabla \varphi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi d\mu_E$
 $\forall \varphi \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$

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

We call μ_E the Gauss-Green measure of E .

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

The relative perimeter of E in F is
 $P(E; F) = |\mu_E|(F)$. $\in \mathbb{B}\mathbb{R}^d$

Rmk: If $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ has C^1 boundary,
 $\mu_E = \underbrace{\nabla_E}_{\text{outer unit normal}} d\mathcal{H}^{d-1} \Big|_{\partial E}$

Thus, $P(E) = \mathcal{H}^{d-1}(\partial E)$
 $P(E; F) = \mathcal{H}^{d-1}(\partial E \cap F)$

Rmk: By defn, $\forall T \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \nabla \cdot T \mathbb{1}_E = \int T d\mu_E$$

\Rightarrow often interpret $\mu_E = -\nabla \mathbb{1}_E$
(as distributional gradient)

Prop: $E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ has locally finite perimeter iff, $\forall K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ compact,

$$\sup_E \left\{ \int \nabla \cdot T : T \in C_c^\infty(K; \mathbb{R}^d), |T| \leq 1 \right\} < +\infty$$

Fact: $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$ is dense in $C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$ w.r.t. the inductive limit topology.

Pl: If E has locally finite perimeter

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_E \left\{ \int \nabla \cdot T : T \in C_c^\infty(K; \mathbb{R}^d), |T| \leq 1 \right\} \\ &= \sup \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} T \cdot d\mu_E : T \in C_c^\infty(K; \mathbb{R}^d), |T| \leq 1 \right\} \\ &\leq \mu_E(K) < +\infty \end{aligned}$$

Now, suppose that, $\forall K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$
compact

$$\sup \left\{ \int_E \nabla \cdot T : T \in C_c^\infty(K; \mathbb{R}^d), |T| \leq 1 \right\} < +\infty$$

Define $L: C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\langle L, T \rangle = \int_E \nabla \cdot T$$

By hypothesis, $\forall K$ cpt, $\exists C_K > 0$
s.t.

$$\langle L, T \rangle \leq \|T\|_\infty C_K$$

Thus if $\{T_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}, \{\tilde{T}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$ have same
limit, $\langle L, T_n - T_m \rangle \rightarrow 0$.

In this way, \mathcal{L} can be extended by density to a bounded linear functional on $C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

By Riesz-Representation, E has to have finite perimeter. \square

Lower Semicontinuity

Def: Given $\{E_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$, $E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$, we say E_n locally converges to E if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{L}^d(K \cap (E_n \Delta E)) = 0 \quad \forall K \text{ cpt}$$

$$|K \cap (E_n \Delta E)|$$

Remark: Note that $\{E_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$
 and $E \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^+(\mathbb{R}^d)$ it is
 possible that $E_n \xrightarrow{\text{loc}} E$ and
 $E \notin \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$. However, there
 always exists $F \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ so that
 $\chi_E \Delta \chi_F = 0$, so $E_n \xrightarrow{\text{loc}} F$.

Prop: Given $\{E_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$
 with locally finite perimeter
 s.t. $\exists E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$
 $E_n \xrightarrow{\text{loc}} E$, $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(E_n; K) < \infty \forall K \text{ cpt}$,

then

- (i) E has locally finite perimeter
- (ii) $\mu_{E_n} \rightarrow \mu_E$ vaguely
- (iii) $\forall A$ open, $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(E_n; A) \geq P(E; A)$

Rmk: If A open and F has locally finite perimeter,
 Riesz Representation

$$P(F; A) = |\mu_F|(A)$$

$$= \sup \left\{ \langle L_{\mu_F}, T \rangle : T \in C_c(A; \mathbb{R}^d), |T| \leq 1 \right\}$$

$$= \sup \left\{ \int_F \nabla \cdot T : T \in C_c^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^d), |T| \leq 1 \right\}$$

Pf: Note that $\forall T \in C_c^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^d)$,
 $|T| \leq 1$, $E_n \xrightarrow{\text{loc}} E$, $\left| \int_{E_n} \varphi - \int_E \varphi \right| \leq \|\varphi\|_\infty |E_n \Delta E|$

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(E_n, A) \geq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{E_n} \nabla \cdot T = \int_E \nabla \cdot T$$

For any $K \subset \text{cpt}$, $\exists R > 0$ s.t.

$$K \subseteq \overline{B_R} \subseteq \overline{B_R}$$

Thus, $\forall T \in C_c^\infty(K; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $|T| \leq 1$,

$$\int \nabla \cdot T \mathbb{1}_E \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(E_n; \overline{B_R}) < +\infty$$

Hence, by prev prop, E has locally finite perimeter, so (i).

Now, using  and previous remark gives (iii)

Finally, using , $A = \mathbb{R}^d$
 $\forall T \in \mathcal{D}_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int \nabla \cdot T d\mu_{E_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{E_n} \nabla \cdot T = \int_E \nabla \cdot T = \int T d\mu_E$$

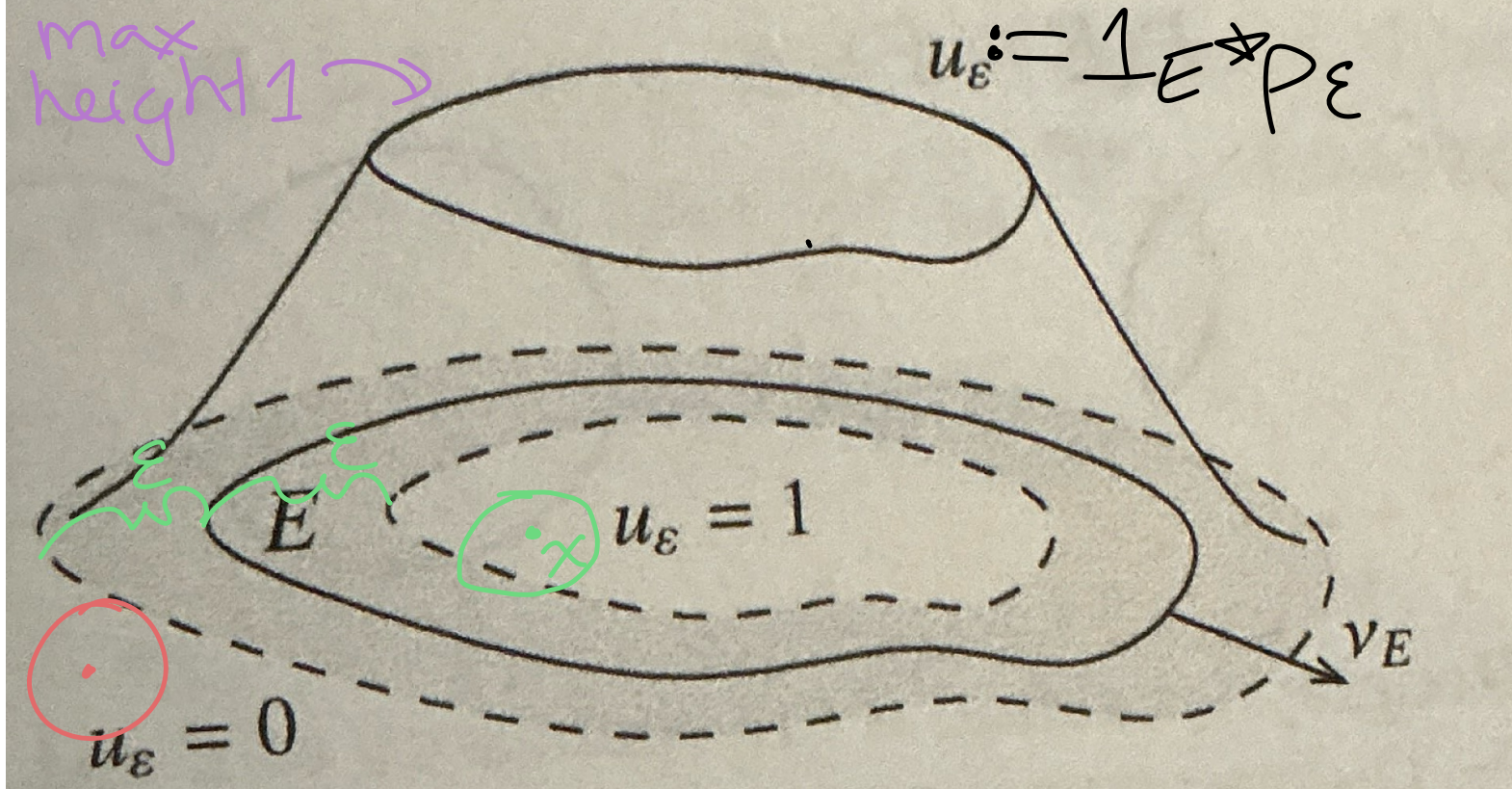
By density of $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$
in $C_c(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $\mu_{E_n} \rightarrow \mu$
vaguely. \square

Approximation of μ_E
via convolution with
mollifiers...

Warmup:

Fix $E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$, $\rho \in C_c^\infty(B_1; [0, +\infty))$,
even, $\int \rho = 1$, $\rho_\varepsilon(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^d} \rho(\frac{x}{\varepsilon})$.

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbb{1}_E * \rho_\varepsilon)(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho_\varepsilon(x-y) \mathbb{1}_E(y) dy \\ &= \int_E \rho_\varepsilon(x-y) dy \end{aligned}$$



From the picture, we guess...

$$\nabla(1_E \star \rho_\varepsilon)(x) \approx \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \nu_E(\pi_{\partial E}(x))$$

We expect...

$$\begin{aligned} \int |\nabla(1_E \star \rho_\varepsilon)| &\approx \frac{|\{y \in \mathbb{R}^d : \text{dist}(y, \partial E) < \varepsilon\}|}{\varepsilon} \\ &\approx \frac{\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^{d-1}(\partial E)}{\varepsilon} = P(E) \end{aligned}$$

Prop: If $E \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ has locally finite perimeter, then

- $\nabla(1_E * \rho_\varepsilon) = \mu_E * \rho_\varepsilon \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$
- $\nabla(1_E * \rho_\varepsilon) \rightharpoonup \mu_E$ vaguely
- $|\nabla 1_E * \rho_\varepsilon| \rightharpoonup |\mu_E|$ vaguely

Pf:

By equiv formulation of Gauss Green measure,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu_E * \rho_\varepsilon(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \overbrace{\rho_\varepsilon(x-y)}^{\phi(y)} d\mu_E(y) \\
 &= - \int_E \nabla \rho_\varepsilon(x-y) dy \\
 &= - \nabla(1_E * \rho_\varepsilon)(x)
 \end{aligned}$$

Remaining bullets follow from Max presentation. \square

Lemma: If $E, F \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ have locally finite perimeter, then so do $E \cup F$ and $E \cap F$, and for all $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ open,

$$P(E \cup F; A) + P(E \cap F; A) \leq P(E; A) + P(F; A)$$

Pf: Define $u_\varepsilon := \mathbb{1}_E \star \rho_\varepsilon$
 $v_\varepsilon := \mathbb{1}_F \star \rho_\varepsilon$

Then, in $L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$u_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon \rightarrow \mathbb{1}_{E \cap F}$$

$$\underbrace{u_\varepsilon + v_\varepsilon - u_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon}_{w_\varepsilon} \rightarrow \mathbb{1}_{E \cup F}$$

Furthermore, $\forall A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ open, bounded

$$\int_A |\nabla(u_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon)| \leq \int_A v_\varepsilon |\nabla u_\varepsilon| + u_\varepsilon |\nabla v_\varepsilon|$$

$$\int_A |\nabla w_\varepsilon| \leq \int_A (1 - v_\varepsilon) |\nabla u_\varepsilon| + (1 - u_\varepsilon) |\nabla v_\varepsilon|$$

↓ adding

$$\int_A |\nabla(u_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon)| + \int_A |\nabla w_\varepsilon| \leq \int_A |\nabla u_\varepsilon| + |\nabla v_\varepsilon|$$

Since A bdd, \bar{A} cpt v_n → v vaguely
 $\forall K$ cpt $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_K v_n \leq \int_K v$

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_A |\nabla u_\varepsilon| + |\nabla v_\varepsilon| \leq \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_A |\nabla u_\varepsilon| + |\nabla v_\varepsilon|$$

$$\leq |\mu_E|(\bar{A}) + |\mu_F|(\bar{A})$$

$$= P(E; \bar{A}) + P(F; \bar{A})$$

finish next time ☺

