

In the following, H is a complex Hilbert space with a Hermitian inner-product (\cdot, \cdot) . All operators are operators on H .

1. Suppose P and Q are orthogonal projections.
 - (i) Show that if $PQ = QP$ then PQ is an orthogonal projection.

- (ii) Show that, conversely, if PQ is an orthogonal projection then $PQ = QP$.

2. Let P and Q be orthogonal projections.
- (i) Show that if $PQ = P$ then $PQ = QP$ and $\text{Im}(P) \subset \text{Im}(Q)$. Show that the same conclusions hold if $QP = P$.

- (ii) Show that if $\text{Im}(P) \subset \text{Im}(Q)$ then $QP = P$.

3. Suppose A, B, C are mutually orthogonal closed subspaces of H , and let P_A, P_B, P_C be the orthogonal projections onto A, B, C , respectively. Let $X = A + B$ and $Y = C + B$, and let P_X and P_Y be the orthogonal projections onto X and Y , respectively.
- (i) Show that $P_X P_Y = P_Y P_X$.

(ii) Express P_X and P_Y in terms of P_A, P_B and P_C .

(iii) Express P_A, P_B and P_C in terms of P_X and P_Y .

4. Suppose P and Q are orthogonal projections which commute, i.e. $PQ = QP$. The goal is to show that then the geometric situation of the preceding problem holds, i.e. there are mutually orthogonal closed subspaces A, B, C such that P is the orthogonal projection onto $A + B$ and Q is the orthogonal projection onto $C + B$. Let

$$R = PQ, \quad S = P(I - Q), \quad T = Q(I - P)$$

Observe that

$$P = S + R \quad \text{and} \quad Q = T + R$$

- (i) Show that $R, S,$ and T are orthogonal projections. [Note that if A is an orthogonal projection then so is $I - A$, and B commutes with A then it also commutes with $I - A$.]

- (ii) Show that $RS = SR = 0, RT = TR = 0,$ and $ST = TS = 0$.

- (iii) Show that $\text{Im}(R), \text{Im}(S),$ and $\text{Im}(T)$ are mutually orthogonal. Thus R, S, T are orthogonal projections onto mutually orthogonal closed subspaces.

5. Let x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots be a sequence of mutually orthogonal vectors in the Hilbert space H . Let $S_n = x_1 + \dots + x_n$. Let $S'_n = |x_1|^2 + \dots + |x_n|^2$.
- (i) Show that for any integers $m \geq n$,

$$|S_m - S_n|^2 = S'_m - S'_n$$

- (ii) Show that the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n$ to converge in H if and only if the series $\sum_n |x_n|^2$ converges.

Spectral Measures

In the following, Ω is a non-empty set, \mathcal{B} is a σ -algebra of subsets of Ω . A *spectral measure* is a mapping E from \mathcal{B} to the set of all orthogonal projections on H satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) $E(\emptyset) = 0$
- (ii) $E(\Omega) = I$
- (iii) if $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{B}$ are mutually disjoint and their union is the set A then

$$(E(A)x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (E(A_n)x, y) \quad (1)$$

for every $x, y \in H$

- (iv) if $A, B \in \mathcal{B}$ then

$$E(A)E(B) = E(B)E(A) = E(A \cap B)$$

For $x, y \in H$ define $E_{x,y} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ by

$$E_{x,y}(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (E(A)x, y)$$

Conditions (i) and (iii) say that $E_{x,y}$ is a complex measure. If $x = y$ we have

$$E_{x,x}(A) = (E(A)x, x) = |E(A)x|^2 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

where we used the fact if P is any orthogonal projection then any $x \in H$ decomposes as $Px + x - Px$ with Px being perpendicular to $x - Px$ and so

$$(Px, x) = (Px, Px + x - Px) = (Px, Px) + 0 = |Px|^2 \quad (3)$$

The non-negativity in (2) shows that

$E_{x,x}$ is an (ordinary) measure on (Ω, \mathcal{B})

Recall that on the complex Hilbert space H any bounded linear operator A is determined uniquely by the “diagonal values” (Ax, x) . It follows that if E and E' are spectral measures for which $E_{x,x} = E'_{x,x}$ for all $x \in H$ then $E = E'$.

6. Let E be a spectral measure on (Ω, \mathcal{B}) with values being orthogonal projections in the complex Hilbert space H . By a “measurable subset of Ω ” we mean, of course, a subset of Ω which belongs to the σ -algebra \mathcal{B} .

(i) Show that if A and B are disjoint measurable subsets of Ω then $E(A)$ and $E(B)$ are projections onto orthogonal subspaces, i.e. $\text{Im}(E(A))$ and $\text{Im}(E(B))$ are orthogonal to each other.

(ii) Let A_1, A_2, \dots be a sequence of disjoint measurable subsets of Ω (i.e. each A_j is in \mathcal{B}). Let $A = \cup_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$. Show that for every $x \in H$ the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E(A_n)x$$

is convergent in H .

(iii) With notation and hypotheses as before, show that

$$E(A)x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E(A_n)x$$

for every $x \in H$. [Hint: Take inner-product with any $y \in H$]

(iv) Suppose A_1, A_2, \dots are as above but assume now also that infinitely many of the projections $E(A_n)$ are non-zero. Prove that the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E(A_n)$ does not converge in operator norm. [Hint: Let $s_n = E(A_1) + \dots + E(A_n)$, and suppose $s = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$ exists. Then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (s_n - s_{n-1}) = s - s = 0$. What is $s_n - s_{n-1}$ and what is the norm of a non-zero projection?]

Measure Theory and Integration

We recall a few facts from measure theory and integration. In the following, Ω is a non-empty set, \mathcal{B} is a σ -algebra of subsets of Ω , and μ a measure on \mathcal{B} .

- (a) A function $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is said to be *measurable* if $f^{-1}(U)$ is in \mathcal{B} for every open set $U \subset \mathbf{C}$. Write $f = u + iv$, where u and v are real-valued. Then f is measurable if and only if u and v are measurable. Write u as $u^+ - u^-$, where $u^+ = \max\{u, 0\}$ and $u^- = -\min\{u, 0\}$. Then u is measurable if and only if u^+ and u^- are measurable.
- (b) A function $s : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is a *simple function* if it has only finitely many values, i.e. $s(\Omega)$ is a finite subset of \mathbf{C} . If c_1, \dots, c_n are all the distinct values of s and $A_i = s^{-1}(c_i)$ the set on which s has value c_i , then

$$s = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j 1_{A_j}$$

Here 1_B denotes the *indicator function* of B , equal to 1 on B and 0 outside B . The simple function s is measurable if and only if each of the sets A_i is measurable.

- (c) Let $F : \Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ be a non-negative function. For each positive integer n , divide $[0, \infty]$ into intervals of length $1/2^n$, i.e. into the intervals $[(k-1)2^{-n}, k2^{-n})$. Define a function s_n which is equal to the lower value $(k-1)2^{-n}$ on the set $A_{nk} = F^{-1}[(k-1)2^{-n}, k2^{-n})$, for $k = 1, \dots, n2^n$, but cut off the value of s_n at the maximum value n at all points in the set A'_n where $F > n$. The construction ensures that $0 \leq s_n \leq F$, $s_n \leq n$, and that $|F - s_n| \leq 2^{-n}$ at all points where $F \leq n$. Thus if the function F is *bounded* then $|F - s_n| < 2^{-n}$ holds for all n large enough and so, in particular, $s_n(x) \rightarrow F(x)$ *uniformly* in $x \in \Omega$. If F is measurable so is each of the sets A_{nk} and A'_n and so the function s_n is then also measurable. Now consider a function $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$. Writing $f = u + iv$, with u and v real-valued, and then splitting $u = u^+ - u^-$ and $v = v^+ - v^-$, it follows that we can construct a sequence of simple functions s_n such that $|s_n(x)| \leq |f(x)|$ for all $x \in \Omega$, $s_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$ *uniformly* if f is *bounded*, and each s_n is measurable if f is measurable.
- (d) If s is a measurable simple function and c_1, \dots, c_n are all the distinct values of s then

$$\int s d\mu \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \mu([s = c_j])$$

where $[s = c_j]$ is the set $s^{-1}(c_j)$ of all points where s has value c_j .

- (e) If s and t are measurable simple functions then considering the number of ways $s+t$ can take a particular value, it follows that $\int (s+t) d\mu = \int s d\mu + \int t d\mu$. Also, $\int \alpha s d\mu = \alpha \int s d\mu$ for every $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$. The additivity property has the following consequence: if $s = a_1 1_{A_1} + \dots + a_m 1_{A_m}$, where A_1, \dots, A_m are measurable but *may overlap* then $\int s d\mu = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j \mu(A_j)$ still holds.

7. Let E be a spectral measure on (Ω, \mathcal{B}) with values being orthogonal projections in the complex Hilbert space H . Let \mathcal{N} be the set of all sets $A \in \mathcal{B}$ for which $E(A) = 0$. Thus \mathcal{N} consists of sets of E -measure 0.

(i) Show that if A and B are measurable sets and $A \subset B$ and $E(B) = 0$ then $E(A) = 0$.

(ii) Show that \mathcal{N} is closed under countable unions.

(ii) Let $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ be a measurable function. Show that there is a largest open subset U of \mathbf{C} such that $f^{-1}(U)$ is in \mathcal{N} .

- (iii) The *essential range* σ_f of f is the closed set given by the complement of the open set U of (ii). The *essential supremum* of f , denoted $|f|_\infty$, is the radius of the smallest closed ball (center 0) containing σ_f . Thus

$$|f|_\infty = \inf\{r \geq 0 : E[|f| > r] = 0\}$$

Suppose f and g are measurable functions which are *essentially bounded*, i.e. $|f|_\infty$ and $|g|_\infty$ are finite. Then show

$$|f + g|_\infty \leq |f|_\infty + |g|_\infty$$

and for every complex number α :

$$|\alpha f|_\infty = |\alpha| |f|_\infty$$

8. Let E be a spectral measure on (Ω, \mathcal{B}) with values being orthogonal projections in the complex Hilbert space H .

(i) Let $A_1, \dots, A_n, B_1, \dots, B_m \in \mathcal{B}$ and $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m \in \mathbf{C}$, and suppose

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j 1_{A_j} = \sum_{j=m}^n b_j 1_{B_j}$$

Show that

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j E(A_j) = \sum_{j=m}^n b_j E(B_j) \quad (4)$$

[Hint: Let $s = \sum_{j=1}^n a_j 1_{A_j} = \sum_{j=m}^n b_j 1_{B_j}$, and consider the operators $T = \sum_{j=1}^n a_j E(A_j)$ and $R = \sum_{j=m}^n b_j E(B_j)$. Take any $x \in H$ and show that both (Tx, x) and (Rx, x) equal $\int s dE_{x,x}$.] The common value in (4) will be denote

$$\int s dE$$

(ii) Check that for any measurable simple function s on Ω :

$$\left(\left(\int s dE \right) x, x \right) = \int s dE_{x,x}$$

holds for every $x \in H$.

(iii) Let s, t be measurable simple functions on Ω and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{C}$. Show that

$$\int (\alpha s + \beta t) dE = \alpha \int s dE + \beta \int t dE$$

(iv) Let s, t be measurable simple functions on Ω . Show that

$$\left(\int s dE \right) \left(\int t dE \right) = \int st dE$$

[Hint: Write out s and t in the usual forms $\sum_j a_j 1_{A_j}$ and $\sum_k b_k 1_{B_k}$ and then work out st and write out both sides of the above equation.]

(v) Let s be a measurable simple function on Ω . Show that

$$\left(\int s dE \right)^* = \int \bar{s} dE$$

(vi) Let s be a measurable simple function on Ω . Show that

$$\left| \int s dE \right| \leq |s|_\infty$$

[Hint: Let T be the operator $\int s dE$. Then $|T| = \sup_{|x| \leq 1} |Tx|$. Now $|Tx|^2 = (Tx, Tx) = (T^*Tx, x)$. Show that (T^*Tx, x) equals $\int |s|^2 dE_{x,x}$. Next use $|s| \leq |s|_\infty$ almost-everywhere for the measure E_x .]

(vii) Let $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ be a bounded measurable function. We know that there exists a sequence of measurable simple functions s_n on Ω such that $s_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, *uniformly* for $x \in \Omega$ and $|s_n(x)| \leq |f(x)|$ for all $x \in \Omega$. Part (vi) above shows then that the sequence of operators $\int s_n dE$ is Cauchy in operator norm and therefore *converges in operator norm* to a limit which we denote by $\int f dE$:

$$\int f dE \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int s_n dE$$

where the limit is in operator norm. Now suppose s'_n is another sequence of measurable functions on Ω which converge to f in the sense that $|s'_n - f|_\infty \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Show that $\int s'_n dE$ also converges to $\int f dE$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. [Hint: Use (vi) for $s_n - s'_n$.] Thus the definition of $\int f dE$ does not depend on the choice of the sequence s_n converging to f .

(viii) Show that

$$\left(\left(\int f dE \right) x, x \right) = \int f dE_{x,x}$$

for every bounded measurable function f and every $x \in H$.

(ix) Prove the analogs of (iii)-(vi) for bounded measurable functions.

9. Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$ be a measure space. For any measurable functions f and g on Ω let $M_f g$ denote the function fg . If f is bounded and $g \in L^2(\mu)$ then clearly $M_f g$ is also in $L^2(\mu)$ and indeed $M_f : L^2(\mu) \rightarrow L^2(\mu)$ is a bounded linear operator with norm $|M_f| \leq |f|_\infty$ (in all practical cases $|M_f|$ is actually equal to $|f|_\infty$). It is clear that $f \mapsto M_f$ is linear and, moreover, $M_{fh} = M_f M_h$.

(i) Show that $M_f^* = M_{\bar{f}}$. (Hint: Let $g, h \in L^2(\mu)$ and work out $(M_f g, h)_{L^2}$.)

(ii) Show that for any measurable set A , the operator M_{1_A} is an orthogonal projection operator.

(iii) Show that $E : A \mapsto M_{1_A}$ is a spectral measure. [Hint: The only non-trivial thing to check is that for any $g \in L^2(\mu)$ and disjoint measurable sets A_n whose union is A we have $\sum_n E(A_n)g = E(A)g$ with the sum \sum_n being L^2 -convergent. To this end, let $G_n = \sum_{j=1}^n E(A_j)g$ and look at what happens to $\int |G_n - 1_A g|^2 d\mu$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.]

(iv) For any measurable simple function s show that $\int s dE = M_s$, where E is as in (iii).

(v) For any bounded measurable function f show that $\int f dE = M_f$, where E is as in (iii). [Hint: Choose measurable simple s_n converging uniformly to f , and with $|s_n(x)| \leq |f(x)|$ for all $x \in \Omega$. Consider the norms of $\int f dE - \int s_n dE$ and $M_f - M_{s_n}$.]

10. Let E be a spectral measure for a measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{B}) with values being orthogonal projection operators in a complex Hilbert space H . Let $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ be a measurable function not necessarily bounded). Let

$$D_f = \{x \in H : \int |f|^2 dE_{x,x} < \infty\}$$

- (i) For any $x, y \in H$ and any measurable set A , show that

$$E_{x+y, x+y}(A) \leq 2E_{x,x}(A) + 2E_{y,y}(A)$$

[Hint: First recall that $E_{v,v}(B) = |E(B)v|^2$. Next, for any vectors $a, b \in H$ we have the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality $|(a, b)| \leq |a||b|$ which leads to the inequality $|a + b|^2 \leq |a|^2 + |b|^2 + 2|a||b|$. This, together with $(|a| - |b|)^2 \geq 0$ implies that $|a + b|^2 \leq 2|a|^2 + 2|b|^2$.]

- (ii) Show that D_f is a *linear* subspace of H , i.e. if $x, y \in D_f$ then $x + y \in D_f$ and $ax \in D_f$ for every $a \in \mathbf{C}$.

- (iii) Let $A_n = \{p \in \Omega : |f(p)| \leq n\}$. Consider any vector x in the range of the projection $E(A_n)$. Show that

$$E_{x,x}(A) = E_{x,x}(A \cap A_n)$$

for every $A \in \mathcal{B}$. [Hint: What is $E(A_n)x$?]

(iv) With notation as above, show that

$$\int s dE_{x,x} = \int_{A_n} s dE_{x,x}$$

for every measurable simple function s on Ω .

(v) With notation as above, show that

$$\int |f|^2 dE_{x,x} = \int_{A_n} |f|^2 dE_{x,x}$$

Note that the right side is $\leq n^2 E_{x,x}(\Omega) = n^2 |x|^2 < \infty$, and so $x \in D_f$.