

# The algebraic structure of spaces of integrable functions

Marco Abbadini

School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham, UK

107<sup>th</sup> Workshop on General Algebra – AAA 107  
Bern, Switzerland  
21 June 2025

Based on:



Marco Abbadini.

Operations that preserve integrability, and truncated Riesz spaces.

*Forum Mathematicum*, 2020.

## Algebraic approach to measure theory.



T. Kroupa, V. Marra. The two-sorted algebraic theory of states, and the universal states of MV-algebras. *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra*, 2021.

Measure space:

$$\left( \underbrace{\Omega}_{\text{set}}, \underbrace{\mathcal{F}}_{\sigma\text{-algebra}}, \underbrace{\mu: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, \infty]}_{\text{measure}} \right)$$

E.g.:

$$(\mathbb{R}, \{\text{Lebesgue measurable sets}\}, \text{Lebesgue measure})$$

Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$  be a measure space. A function  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called *integrable* if it is  $\mathcal{F}$ -measurable and  $\int_{\Omega} |f| d\mu < \infty$ .

$$\mathcal{L}^1(\mu) := \{f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ is integrable}\}.$$



T. Kroupa, V. Marra. The two-sorted algebraic theory of states, and the universal states of MV-algebras. *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra*, 2021.

Idea: to see an integral

$$\int : \mathcal{L}^1(\mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

as a two-sorted algebra, with

- ▶  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$  the content of one sort (and an algebra of its own),
- ▶  $\mathbb{R}$  the content of the other sort (and an algebra of its own),
- ▶  $\int$  the interpretation of a unary function symbol between the two sorts.

**What algebraic structure does  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$  have?**

E.g.: it has at least a vector space structure, obtained via pointwise application of the vector space structure of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**What is the algebraic structure common to all  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ 's?**

## Example

Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$  be a measure space.  $f, g: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  integrable functions. Then

- ▶  $f + g$  is integrable,
- ▶  $f \cdot g$  may be non-integrable. (E.g.:  $\Omega = (0, 1)$ ,  $f(x) = g(x) = \frac{1}{x^{0.9}}$ .)

The addition  $+: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , applied pointwise, *preserves integrability*. Not the multiplication  $\cdot: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Preserving integrability := returning integrable functions when applied to integrable functions.

## Definition

A function  $\tau: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (with  $\kappa$  a cardinal) *preserves integrability* if for every measure space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$  and all  $(f_i \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mu))_{i \in \kappa}$  we have  $\tau((f_i)_{i \in \kappa}) \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ .

## Question 1

Clone on  $\mathbb{R}$  of functions  $\mathbb{R}^{\kappa} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that preserve integrability?

## Question 2

Simple set of generators?

## Question 3

Axiomatization of the variety generated by  $\mathbb{R}$ ?

For every measure space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$  belongs to this variety.

Question 1:  
which functions  $\mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  preserve integrability?



## Theorem (A., 2020)

*For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , a function  $\tau: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  preserves integrability if and only if it is Borel measurable and sublinear.*

*Borel measurable* := the preimage of a Borel measurable set is Borel measurable.

*Sublinear* := there are positive real numbers  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  such that, for every  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$|\tau(\mathbf{x})| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i |x_i|.$$

i.e.,  $\tau \dots$

- ▶ is at most linear in a neighbourhood of  $\infty$ ;
- ▶ is at most linear in a neighbourhood of 0;
- ▶ is bounded on bounded sets.

## Example

All linear operations are Borel measurable and sublinear, and hence preserve integrability:

- ▶ The addition  $+: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ;
- ▶ For every  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , the scalar multiplication  $\lambda \cdot -: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $\lambda$ ;
- ▶ The constant  $0: \mathbb{R}^0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

I.e.: every  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$  is a vector space: all linear operations are well-defined (via pointwise application).

## Example

The square function  $(-)^2: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is Borel measurable but not sublinear (at infinity it grows more than linearly).



The square function does not preserve integrability, i.e.,

$$f \text{ integrable} \not\Rightarrow f^2 \text{ integrable.}$$

Counterexample: take a big  $f$  on a small measure space.

## Example

The square root function  $\sqrt{|\cdot|}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is Borel measurable but not sublinear, because no linear function bounds it close to zero.



The square root function does not preserve integrability, i.e.,

$$f \text{ integrable} \not\Rightarrow \sqrt{|f|} \text{ integrable.}$$

Counterexample: Take a small  $f$  on a big measure space.

## Example

$\max, \min: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are Borel measurable and sublinear:

$$|\max\{x, y\}| \leq |x| + |y|.$$



$\max$  and  $\min$  preserve integrability, i.e.,

$$f, g \text{ integrable} \Rightarrow \sup\{f, g\}, \inf\{f, g\} \text{ integrable.}$$

Essentially: every  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$  has a lattice structure induced by  $\mathbb{R}$ .

## Example

The constant  $1: \mathbb{R}^0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is Borel measurable but not sublinear (at  $\mathbf{0}$  it is not 0.)



1 does not preserve integrability. E.g.: the constant function 1 on  $\mathbb{R}$  is not integrable.

For arbitrary arity:

## Theorem (A., 2020)

*For every cardinal  $\kappa$ , a function  $\tau: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  preserves integrability if and only if  $\tau$  is cylinder measurable and sublinear.*

*Cylinder (or product)  $\sigma$ -algebra on  $\mathbb{R}^\kappa$  := the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra that makes all projections measurable = the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by the sets*

$$\prod_{i \in \kappa} \begin{cases} A & \text{if } i = i_0; \\ \mathbb{R} & \text{if } i \neq i_0; \end{cases}$$

for  $i_0 \in \kappa$  and  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  Borel.

For  $\kappa$  finite or countable, cylinder  $\sigma$ -algebra on  $\mathbb{R}^\kappa$  = Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra on  $\mathbb{R}^\kappa$ .

*Sublinear* := there are distinct  $i_1, \dots, i_k \in \kappa$  s.t., for every  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^\kappa$ ,

$$|\tau(\mathbf{x})| \leq \sum_{j=1}^k \lambda_i |x_{i_j}|.$$

## Example

While the countable supremum is not well-defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ , the truncated countable supremum

$$(y, x_1, x_2, \dots) \mapsto \sup_{i=1}^{\infty} \min\{y, x_i\}$$

is well-defined. It is cylinder (= Borel) measurable and sublinear:

$$|\sup_{i=1}^{\infty} \min\{y, x_i\}| \leq |y| + |x_1|.$$

↓

It preserves integrability, i.e.:

$$g, f_1, f_2, \dots \text{ integrable} \Rightarrow \sup_{i=1}^{\infty} \inf\{g, f_i\} \text{ integrable.}$$



## Definition

A function  $\tau: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (with  $\kappa$  a cardinal) *preserves integrability over finite measure spaces* if for every measure space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$  with  $\mu(\Omega) < \infty$  and all  $(f_i \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mu))_{i \in \kappa}$  we have  $\tau((f_i)_{i \in \kappa}) \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ .

## Theorem (A., 2020)

For every cardinal  $\kappa$ , a function  $\tau: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  preserves integrability over *finite* measure spaces if and only if it is cylinder measurable and *subaffine*.

*Subaffine*  $\coloneqq$  there are positive real numbers  $k, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  such that, for every  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$|\tau(\mathbf{x})| \leq k + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i |x_i|.$$

i.e.,  $\tau \dots$

- ▶ is at most linear in a neighbourhood of  $\infty$ ;
- ▶ ~~is at most linear in a neighbourhood of 0;~~
- ▶ is bounded on bounded sets.

The function  $\sqrt{|\cdot|}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is measurable, (not sublinear, but) subaffine. Hence, it preserves integrability over finite measure spaces.

The constant function  $1: \mathbb{R}^0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  preserves integrability over finite measure spaces.

Question 2:  
set of generators?

## Theorem (A., 2020)

*The infinitary clone on  $\mathbb{R}$  of functions that preserve integrability (= measurable + sublinear) is generated by*

- ▶ *“linear” operations:*
  - ▶  $0$ ;
  - ▶  $+$ ;
  - ▶ *for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , the scalar multiplication by  $\lambda$ , i.e.  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto \lambda \cdot x$ ;*
- ▶ *the truncation by 1, i.e.  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto x \wedge 1$ ;*
- ▶ *the truncated countable supremum*

$$(y, x_1, x_2, \dots) \mapsto \sup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{\min\{y, x_n\}\}.$$

## Theorem (A., 2020)

*The infinitary clone on  $\mathbb{R}$  of functions that preserve integrability over **finite** measure spaces (= measurable + subaffine) is generated by*

- ▶ “affine” operations:
  - ▶ 0;
  - ▶ +;
  - ▶ for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , the scalar multiplication by  $\lambda$ , i.e.  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x \mapsto \lambda \cdot x$ ;
  - ▶ 1;
- ▶ the truncated countable supremum

$$(y, x_1, x_2, \dots) \mapsto \sup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{\min\{y, x_n\}\}.$$

Question 3:  
axiomatization?

Recall: a function  $\mathbb{R}^{\kappa} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  preserves integrability over *finite* measure spaces if and only if it is measurable and subaffine.

### Theorem (A., 2020)

*The variety generated by the clone of measurable subaffine functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  is the class of Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit.*

*Vector lattice* (a.k.a. *Riesz space*) := vector space + lattice order + compatibility conditions.

*Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete* := every countable subset with an upper bound has a supremum. (Equivalently, for vector lattices: every countable subset with a lower bound has an infimum.)

*Weak unit* := element  $1 \geq 0$  such that  $x \wedge 1 = 0$  implies  $x = 0$ .



The structure of a Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit is the richest algebraic structure shared by all  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$  with  $\mu$  finite (and that uses only pointwise applications of functions  $\mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ).

Recall: a function  $\mathbb{R}^{\kappa} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  preserves integrability if and only if it is measurable and sublinear.

### Theorem (A., 2020)

*The variety generated by the clone of measurable sublinear functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  is the class of Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattices.*

*Truncated* [Ball, 2014]  $:= \dots =$  with a unary endofunction behaving like a meet with a weak unit  $a \mapsto a \wedge 1$ .

The structure of a Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattice is the richest algebraic structure shared by all  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ 's (and that uses only pointwise applications of functions  $\mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ).

## Theorem (A., 2020)

*Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit form a variety of algebras, generated by  $\mathbb{R}$ .*

$$\{\text{Ded. } \sigma\text{-compl. vect. latt. w. weak unit}\} = \text{HSP}(\mathbb{R})$$

## Theorem (A., 2020)

*Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit form a variety of algebras, generated by  $\mathbb{R}$ .*

$$\{\text{Ded. } \sigma\text{-compl. vect. latt. w. weak unit}\} = \text{HSP}(\mathbb{R}) = \text{ISP}_{\sigma\text{-reduced}}(\mathbb{R}).$$

In fact, every Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit is a subalgebra of a power of  $\mathbb{R}$  modulo a  $\sigma$ -ideal.

( $\approx$  Loomis-Sikorski theorem.)

Analogous results hold for Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattices.

## Theorem (A., 2021)

*The free Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit over a set  $I$  (exists, and) is*

$$\{\text{measurable and subaffine } \mathbb{R}^I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}.$$

## Theorem (A., 2021)

*The free Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattice over a set  $I$  (exists, and) is*

$$\{\text{measurable and sublinear } \mathbb{R}^I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}.$$

To sum up

$\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ 's: Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattice.

Finite  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ 's: Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit.

Free Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattice over  $I$ :

$$\{\text{measurable and sublinear } \mathbb{R}^I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Free Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit over  $I$ :

$$\{\text{measurable and subaffine } \mathbb{R}^I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}.$$



$\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ 's: Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattice.

Finite  $\mathcal{L}^1(\mu)$ 's: Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit.

Free Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete truncated vector lattice over  $I$ :

$$\{\text{measurable and sublinear } \mathbb{R}^I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Free Dedekind  $\sigma$ -complete vector lattice with a weak unit over  $I$ :

$$\{\text{measurable and subaffine } \mathbb{R}^I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Thank you!



Marco Abbadini.

Operations that preserve integrability, and truncated Riesz spaces.

*Forum Mathematicum*, 2020.