

Egorov's Theorem, a detailed proof.

Theorem: Let (X, \mathcal{M}, μ) be a measure space with $\mu(X) < \infty$. Let $\{f_n\}$ be a sequence of measurable functions on X and let f be a measurable function on X . Assume that $f_n \rightarrow f$ a.e. pointwise. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a measurable set D of X , such that $\mu(D) < \epsilon$ and $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $X - D$.

Proof.

As $f_n \rightarrow f$ pointwise a.e. on X , without loss of generality, we can just assume that $f_n \rightarrow f$ pointwise on X .

From the ϵ - N definition of $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$, and note that $f_n \rightarrow f$ on X , for any $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$X = \bigcup_{N \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}} \bigcap_{n > N} \{x : |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \epsilon\}.$$

Use $E_{n,\epsilon}$ to denote $\{x : |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \epsilon\}$. Note that $1/k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, we then translate the ϵ - N language of pointwise convergence on X to

$$X = \bigcup_{N \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}} \bigcap_{n > N} E_{n,1/k} \text{ for all } k \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}.$$

Note that

$$\bigcap_{n > 1} E_{n,1/k} \subset \bigcap_{n > 2} E_{n,1/k} \subset \dots$$

By the continuity of measures, we have

$$\mu(X) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mu \left(\bigcap_{n > N} E_{n,1/k} \right).$$

As $\mu(X) < \infty$, it follows that (as no such case as $\infty - \infty$ is involved)

$$\mu \left(\left(\bigcap_{n > N} E_{n,1/k} \right)^c \right) = \mu \left(X - \bigcap_{n > N} E_{n,1/k} \right) = \mu(X) - \mu \left(\bigcap_{n > N} E_{n,1/k} \right) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then for all $k \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$, we can choose $N_k \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$, such that

$$\mu\left(X - \bigcap_{n > N_k} E_{n,1/k}\right) < \epsilon/2^k.$$

Use X_k to denote $\bigcap_{n > N_k} E_{n,1/k}$. As $\mu(X - X_k) < \epsilon/2^k$ for all k , and note that

$$X - \bigcap_{k \geq 1} X_k = \left(\bigcap_{k \geq 1} X_k\right)^c = \bigcup_{k \geq 1} X_k^c = \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (X - X_k),$$

it follows that

$$\mu\left(X - \bigcap_{k \geq 1} X_k\right) \leq \sum_{k \geq 1} \mu(X - X_k) \leq \sum_{k \geq 1} \epsilon/2^k = \epsilon.$$

Let $D = X - \bigcap_{k \geq 1} X_k$. Then D is measurable and $\mu(D) < \epsilon$. It remains to show that $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $X - D = \bigcap_{k \geq 1} X_k$.

In fact, for any integer $m \geq 1$, note that $\bigcap_{k \geq 1} X_k \subset X_m$. Thus for any $x \in \bigcap_{k \geq 1} X_k$, we also have $x \in X_m$. According to the definition of X_m , for any $n > N_m$, we have

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < 1/m,$$

which finishes the proof.

Q.E.D.