

Define $\mathcal{P}(\Omega) = \{A : A \subseteq \Omega\}$.

Claim $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ is a σ -algebra.

① If $A \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ then $A^c = \Omega \setminus A \subseteq \Omega$
and so $A^c \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$

② If $A_i \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ then $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \subseteq \Omega$
and so $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$.

Suppose \mathcal{A}_1 and \mathcal{A}_2 are σ -algebras, then $\mathcal{A}_1 \cap \mathcal{A}_2$ is also a σ -algebra.

① Let $A \in \mathcal{A}_1 \cap \mathcal{A}_2$ then $A \in \mathcal{A}_1$ and $A \in \mathcal{A}_2$
Since $A \in \mathcal{A}_1$ and \mathcal{A}_1 is a σ -algebra then $A^c \in \mathcal{A}_1$
~~--- $\mathcal{A}_2 \neq \mathcal{A}_2$ ---~~ \mathcal{A}_2

Therefore $A^c \in \mathcal{A}_1 \cap \mathcal{A}_2$.

② Let $A_i \in \mathcal{A}_1 \cap \mathcal{A}_2$ for all i . Then $A_i \in \mathcal{A}_1$ and
so $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{A}_1$. Further $A_i \in \mathcal{A}_2$ implies $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{A}_2$

It follows that $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{A}_1 \cap \mathcal{A}_2$.

Suppose \mathcal{H} is a collection of σ -algebras.
Then $\bigcap_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{A}$ is a σ -algebra. The proof

is the same. For example if $A \in \bigcap_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{A}$
then $A \in \mathcal{A}$ for every $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}$. It follows
that $A^c \in \mathcal{A}$ for every $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}$ and therefore
 $A^c \in \bigcap_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{A}$.

Given \mathcal{A}_0 a collection of subsets of Ω
define $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{A}_0)$ the σ -algebra generated
by \mathcal{A}_0 to be

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{A}_0) = \bigcap_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{A}$$

where $\mathcal{H} = \left\{ \mathcal{A} : \mathcal{A} \text{ is a } \sigma\text{-algebra of subsets of } \Omega \right\}$
with $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$

Since $\mathcal{P}(\Omega) \in \mathcal{H}$ then \mathcal{H} is non-empty
and $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{A}_0)$ is well defined.

(Note that $\mathcal{A}(A_0)$ is the smallest σ -algebra which contains A_0 . In particular if \mathcal{A} is a σ -algebra that contains A_0 , then $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}$ and so $\mathcal{A} \supseteq \bigcap_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(A_0)$.

The same construction can be done with monotone classes. In particular

$$\mathcal{F} = \bigcap_{\mathcal{D} \in \mathcal{G}} \mathcal{D}$$

where

$$\mathcal{G} = \left\{ \mathcal{D} : \mathcal{D} \text{ is a monotone class and } A_0 \subseteq \mathcal{D} \right\}$$

defines the smallest monotone class that contains A_0 . Since every σ -algebra is a monotone class then $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$ and therefore $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{A}(A_0)$.

The monotone class theorem says that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{A}_0)$ when \mathcal{A}_0 is an algebra. In particular

Monotone class theorem: Let Ω be a set and \mathcal{A}_0 an algebra of subsets of Ω . Let \mathcal{D} be a collection of subsets of Ω such that $\mathcal{D} \supseteq \mathcal{A}_0$ and \mathcal{D} is a monotone class. Then $\mathcal{D} \supseteq \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{A}_0)$.

Proof: Let \mathcal{F} be the smallest monotone class that contains \mathcal{A}_0 .

Claim \mathcal{F} is an algebra.

If we prove this claim, then it would follow from HW#6 that \mathcal{F} is a σ -algebra.

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In this case $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{A}(A_0)$ since $\mathcal{A}(A_0)$ is the smallest σ -algebra containing A_0 . Now, for any monotone class \mathcal{D} such that $\mathcal{D} \supseteq A_0$ we have $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ since \mathcal{F} is the smallest monotone class which contains A_0 . Thus $\mathcal{A}(A_0) \subseteq \mathcal{D}$.

All that remains is to prove that \mathcal{F} is an algebra. To do this we need to show:

① $F, G \in \mathcal{F}$ implies $F \cup G \in \mathcal{F}$

② $F \in \mathcal{F}$ implies $F^c \in \mathcal{F}$.

Before proving ① we prove the half way step

①₂ $A \in A_0, F \in \mathcal{F}$ implies $A \cup F \in \mathcal{F}$.

Let $A \in \mathcal{A}_0$ and define

$$\mathcal{E} = \{ F \in \mathcal{F} : A \cup F \in \mathcal{F} \}$$

It is enough to show that $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{F}$ to prove claim (1/2).

First note that $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}$.

To see that $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ let $F \in \mathcal{A}_0$. Then $A \cup F \in \mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ since \mathcal{A}_0 is an algebra.

It follows that $F \in \mathcal{E}$. Thus $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}$.

Claim that \mathcal{E} is a monotone class.

If we show this then $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{F}$

since \mathcal{F} is the smallest.

To show \mathcal{E} is a monotone class we need to show it is closed under monotone intersections and unions.

Let $F_i \in \mathcal{E}$ where $F_i \subseteq F_{i+1}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$.
Then $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{F}$ since $F_i \in \mathcal{F}$ and \mathcal{F} is a monotone class.

Moreover, $F_i \in \mathcal{E}$ implies $A \cup F_i \in \mathcal{F}$ where
 $A \cup F_i \subseteq A \cup F_{i+1}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus $A \cup F_i$
is a monotone sequence of sets in \mathcal{F}
and therefore $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (A \cup F_i) \in \mathcal{F}$.

$$\text{Since } \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (A \cup F_i) = A \cup \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \right)$$

then $F = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{F}$ and $A \cup F \in \mathcal{F}$.

This means $F \in \mathcal{E}$. Thus $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{E}$.

Similarly if $F_i \in \mathcal{E}$ where $F_i \supseteq F_{i+1}$

for $i \in \mathbb{N}$ then $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{E}$. It
follows that \mathcal{E} is a monotone class.

We have now proved claim $(\frac{1}{2})$. To prove claim (1) let $F \in \mathcal{F}$ and define

$$\mathcal{A} = \left\{ G \in \mathcal{P} : G \cup F \in \mathcal{F} \right\}$$

Claim \mathcal{A} is a monotone class which contains A_0 .

To see that $A_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ let $G \in A_0$. Then $G \cup F \in \mathcal{F}$ by claim $(\frac{1}{2})$. It follows that $G \in \mathcal{A}$. Thus $A_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$.

Let $G_i \in \mathcal{A}$ where $G_i \subseteq G_{i+1}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$.

Then $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i \in \mathcal{F}$ since $G_i \in \mathcal{F}$ and \mathcal{F} is a monotone class.

Moreover, $G_i \in \mathcal{A}$ implies $G_i \cup F \in \mathcal{F}$ where $G_i \cup F \subseteq G_{i+1} \cup F$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus $G_i \cup F$ is a monotone sequence of sets in \mathcal{F} , and therefore $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (G_i \cup F) \in \mathcal{F}$.

Since $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (G_i \cup F) = \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i \right) \cup F \in \mathcal{F}$

Then $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i$ is in \mathcal{F} and $G \cup F \in \mathcal{F}$.

This means $G \in \mathcal{A}$. Thus $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i \in \mathcal{A}$.

Similarly if $G_i \in \mathcal{A}$ where $G_i \supseteq G_{i+1}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$ then $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i \in \mathcal{A}$. It follows that \mathcal{A} is a monotone class containing \mathcal{A}_0 . Since \mathcal{F} is the smallest monotone class containing \mathcal{A}_0 we have that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{A}$.

To prove claim (2) define

$$\mathcal{B} = \{ F \in \mathcal{F} : F^c \in \mathcal{F} \}.$$

Claim \mathcal{H} is a monotone class that contains \mathcal{A}_0 .

Let $F \in \mathcal{A}_0$. Then $F^c \in \mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ implies that $F \in \mathcal{H}$. Thus $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{H}$.

Now let $F_i \in \mathcal{H}$ with $F_i \subseteq F_{i+1}$. Then

Since \mathcal{F} is a monotone class we have $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{F}$.

Now $F_i \in \mathcal{H}$ implies $F_i^c \in \mathcal{F}$. Thus

$F_i^c \supseteq F_{i+1}^c$ is a monotone sequence

in \mathcal{F} and therefore $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i^c \in \mathcal{F}$

Since $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i^c = \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \right)^c$ by

De Morgan's laws we have

That $F = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{F}$ and $F^c \in \mathcal{F}$.

It follows that $F \in \mathcal{H}$, or in other words that $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{H}$.

The argument to show $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{F}$ where $F_i \supseteq F_{i+1}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$ is similar.

This finishes the proof of the monotone class theorem.

Question: If \mathcal{B} is a finite collection of subsets of Ω is it necessarily a monotone class?