## **Regularity Properties and Definability**

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Yurii Khomskii (ILLC)

**Regularity Properties and Definability** 

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1. Regularity Properties: purely mathematical issues (geometry, topology...)

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- 1. Regularity Properties: purely mathematical issues (geometry, topology...)
- 2. Definability: what does logic have to do with it?

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- 1. Regularity Properties: purely mathematical issues (geometry, topology...)
- 2. Definability: what does logic have to do with it?
- 3. Gödel, Solovay, Shelah: ... getting technical...

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# 1. Regularity Properties

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- Subsets of the continuum  $\approx$  "objects in space".

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 $A = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a \le x \le b, 0 \le y \le f(x)\}$ 

Notice that from a set-theoretic point of view, all of the above "objects" are subsets of the continuuum (in this case,  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ ).

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For example:

• function 
$$f(x) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$$

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- etc.

Regularity properties: isolated specifically to avoid such counter-intuitive constructions.

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Motivating example: Lebesgue measure.

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Is it possible to define a function  $\mu : \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^n) \to [0, \infty)$  measuring the "size" or "volume" of a set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ ?

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Lebesgue measure (2)

Henri Lebesgue, in his PhD thesis from 1902, defined a precise way of measuring the "size" or "volume" of subsets  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  (needed for the definition of the *Lebesgue integral*).

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Theorem (Vitali, 1905)

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#### Theorem (Vitali, 1905)

(AC) There is a non-Lebesgue measurable set.

#### Easy modern proof.

Let U be an ultrafiler on  $\omega$ . Identify  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$  with  $2^{\omega}$ , then U is non-Lebesgue-measurable as a subset of  $2^{\omega}$  (easy to translate to  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ).

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Impossible?

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Impossible? Mathematically possible, but the pieces are *not Lebesgue-measurable* (so our spatial intuition does not apply).

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What to do . . .

Possible approaches to the "paradox":

 Throw out the Axiom of Choice (approach of some early 20th century mathematicians).

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- Accept the existence of "weird" sets (modern approach). Do they really bother?
- Can one find an explicit example of a non-measurable set?

And what does that even mean?

Other examples of regularity properties:

• Property of Baire: A is "almost" equal to an open set (topology).

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- $K_{\sigma}$ -regularity (set theory, analysis),
- Marczewski-measurability,
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In each case, something similar happens: one can produce counterexamples using the Axiom of Choice.

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But can one find an explicit example of a non-regular set?

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### Defining sets

Let A be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  (or  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ). Can A be defined by a formula, in the sense that

$$A = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \phi(x)\}?$$

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Focus on second-order number theory ( $\mathbb{N}^2$ ):

- Variables range over natural numbers or real numbers.
- Natural number quantifiers:  $\exists^0 \forall^0$ .
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Complexity of  $\mathbb{N}^2$ -formulas:  $\Sigma_n^0, \Pi_n^0, \ldots, \Sigma_n^1, \Pi_n^1, \ldots$  (number of alternating quantifiers).

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# Defining sets (2)

The complexity of a subset of the continuum can be measured by the complexity of its defining  $\mathbb{N}^2\text{-}\text{formula}.$ 

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### Definition

If a set A can be written as  $A = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \mathbb{N}^2 \models \phi(x, a)\}$ , then we say that A has complexity  $\Sigma_n^i (\Pi_n^i)$  iff  $\phi$  has complexity  $\Sigma_n^i (\Pi_n^i)$ .

Note that we allow a fixed real parameter  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  in the definition of A.

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### Definition

A set A is *projective* if it is  $\Sigma_n^1$  or  $\Pi_n^1$  for some n.

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### **Projective hierarchy**



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### **Projective hierarchy**



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### Projective hierarchy



Connection with topology:

- $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1^0 = \mathsf{open}$ ,
- $\Pi^0_1 = \mathsf{closed}$ ,
- $\mathbf{\Delta}_1^1 = \mathsf{Borel},$
- $\Sigma_1^1$  = analytic (continuous image of Borel),
- $\Pi_1^1$  = co-analytic (complement of analytic).

### Analytic sets

Many naturally occurring sets are analytic ( $\Sigma_1^1$ ).

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Theorem (Suslin, 1917)

All analytic sets are Lebesgue-measurable, satisfy the Property of Baire and the Perfect Set Property.

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Theorem (Suslin, 1917)

All analytic sets are Lebesgue-measurable, satisfy the Property of Baire and the Perfect Set Property.

The same holds for **all other** (reasonable) regularity properties! (proofs scattered throughout 20th century).

### Back to the hierarchy ...



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### Back to the hierarchy ...



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### Back to the hierarchy ...



No "weird things" or "paradoxes" can occur if we restrict attention to analytic sets.

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### Philosophical Intermezzo

# Why?

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Why is there a connection between purely mathematical properties of objects (such as having a well-defined notion of size/volume), and their logical description (which seems to be a human invention)?

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The world is inherently 'logical' in nature. Logically simpler objects are somehow 'nicer' in reality.

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Why is there a connection between purely mathematical properties of objects (such as having a well-defined notion of size/volume), and their logical description (which seems to be a human invention)?

- The world is inherently 'logical' in nature. Logically simpler objects are somehow 'nicer' in reality.
- The concepts which humans devised to describe/model the world, are (subconsciously) based on some kind of language, and therefore are of limited logical complexity and/or are somehow related to logic.

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### What next?



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### What next?



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### What next?



Are all projective sets regular?

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#### Definability

### What next?



Are all projective sets regular?

Many mathematicians worked on this problem in the early 20th century but were unable to solve it.

### What next?

"Les efforts que j'ai faits pour résoudre cette question m'ont conduit à ce résultat tout inattendu: il existe une famille ... d'ensembles effectifs telle qu'on ne sait pas et l'on ne saura jamais si un ensemble quelconque de cette famille (supposé non dénombrable) a la puissance du continu, s'il est ou non de troisième catégorie, ni même s'il est mesurable ... c'est la famille des ensebles projectifs de M. H. Lebesuge. Il ne reste donc qu'à reconnaître la nature de ce fait nouveau."

"The efforts that I exerted on the resolution of this question led me to the following totally unexpected discovery: there exists a family ... consisting of effective [definable] sets, such that one does not know *and one will never know* whether every set from this family, if uncountable, has the cardinality of the continuum, nor whether it is of the third category, nor whether it is measurable. ... This is the family of the *projective sets* of Mr. H. Lebesgue. It remains but to recognize the nature of this new development."

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# 3. Gödel, Solovay, Shelah

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### Constructible universe

Gödel's constructible universe:

- $L_0 := \varnothing$
- $L_{\alpha+1} := \operatorname{Def}(L_{\alpha})$
- $L_{\lambda} := \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} L_{\alpha}$  (for limit ordinals  $\lambda$ ).
- $\mathbb{L} := \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathbf{Ord}} L_{\alpha}$

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 $\mathbb{L}:=\bigcup_{\alpha\in \operatorname{Ord}} \mathit{L}_{\alpha}$ 

 $\mathbb{L}$  is a so-called *inner model* of set theory: it satisfies all axioms of ZFC, plus additional axioms (e.g., GCH). The "real universe"  $\mathbb{V}$  could be  $\mathbb{L}$ , or it could be larger than  $\mathbb{L}$ . The statement " $\mathbb{V} = \mathbb{L}$ " is the *axiom of constructibiliy*.

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#### Theorem (Gödel, 1938)

One cannot prove in ZFC that all  $\Sigma_2^1$  sets are Lebesgue measurable or have the Property of Baire. One cannot prove in ZFC that all  $\Pi_1^1$  sets satisfy the Perfect Set Property.

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- In a specific way, from  $\mathbb{P}$  one derives a so-called *generic object* G, which lies outside the model M.
- M[G]: least model of ZFC extending M and containing G.
- Using technical properties of  $\mathbb{P}$ , we have some control over the additional axioms that hold in M[G].

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### Solovay's result

### Theorem (Solovay, 1970)

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Corollary: the measurability (and PoB) of all  $\Sigma_2^1$  sets is independent of ZFC.

### Other results of Solovay

#### Theorem (Solovay, 1970)

If M is a model of ZFC+ "there exists an inaccessible cardinal", then there is a forcing extension M[G] of M in which all **projective** sets are Lebesgue measurable, satisfy the Property of Baire and the Perfect Set Property.

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### Other results of Solovay

#### Theorem (Solovay, 1970)

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Corollary: the measurability (and PoB and PSP) of all projective sets is independent of ZFC (plus inaccessible).

Gödel, Solovay, Shelah

Even more results of Solovay

#### Theorem (Solovay, 1970)

Let M and M[G] be as before. In M[G], there is an inner model which satisfies ZF but not AC, and in which **all** sets are measurable, satisfy the Property of Baire and the Perfect Set Property.

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#### Theorem (Solovay, 1970)

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Corollary: the existence of non-measurable (non-PoB, non-PSP) sets cannot be proved without the Axiom of Choice!

Recall:

- $\mathbb{L}$  is the smallest inner model.  $\mathbb{V} = \mathbb{L}$  is a statement about the **minimality** of the universe.
- Using forcing, we can add generic object G to L, producing a larger universe V = L[G].
- One particular forcing: random forcing (due to [Solovay, 1970]).

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Theorem (Judah-Shelah, 1989)

The following are equivalent:

- all  $\Delta_2^1$  sets are Lebesgue-measurable,
- **2** for all  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  there is a random-generic real over  $\mathbb{L}[r]$ .

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In both cases, point 2 asserts "transcendence over  $\mathbb{L}$ " (i.e., in which way the actual universe is larger than the minimal one).

### Other properties

 Given a regularity property, one hopes to find an equivalence theorem like the one above, but for different notions of "transcendence over 

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### Other properties

- Given a regularity property, one hopes to find an equivalence theorem like the one above, but for different notions of "transcendence over  $\mathbb{L}$ ".
- Various results proved by Judah, Shelah, Brendle, Löwe, Halbeisen, Ikegami.
- Transcendence can have different "strength", e.g.:
  - "all  $\Sigma_2^1$  sets are Marczewski-measurable" is equivalent to " $\forall r \in \mathbb{R} \ (\mathbb{R} \cap \mathbb{L}[r] \neq \mathbb{R})$ ",
  - "all  $\Pi_1^1$  sets satisfy the Perfect Set Property" is equivalen to " $\forall r \in \mathbb{R} (|\mathbb{R} \cap \mathbb{L}[r]| = \aleph_0)$ ".

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Brendle & Löwe, Eventually different functions and inaccessible cardinals.

Yurii Khomskii (ILLC)

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### My work

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  - "there are no  $\Pi_1^1$  Hausdorff gaps" is equivalent to " $\forall r \in \mathbb{R} (|\mathbb{R} \cap \mathbb{L}[r]| = \aleph_0)$ " (strongest possible transcendence statement).
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  - without assuming AC, one cannot construct Hausdorff gaps.
- Maximal almost disjoint (m.a.d.) families.

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# Thank you!

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