

Let F be a smooth compact manifold,

$$\mathcal{L} \in C^0(F \times F, \mathbb{R}_0^+)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_1 = \{ \mu \text{ regular Borel measure, } \mu(F) = 1 \}$$

minimize $S = \int_F d\mu(x) \int_F d\mu(y) \mathcal{L}(x, y)$
under variations in \mathcal{D}_1 .

Thm: $\exists \mu \in \mathcal{D}_1$ with

$$S(\mu) = \inf_{\mu' \in \mathcal{D}_1} S(\mu') =: \rho.$$

general strategy: direct method

let $(\mu_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a minimizing sequence, i.e. $\mu_n \in \mathcal{D}_1$

and $S(\mu_n) \rightarrow \rho.$

goal: a subsequence $(\mu_{n_k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges,

$$\mu_{n_k} \rightarrow \mu$$

and $S(\mu_{n_k}) \rightarrow S(\mu)$

$$E = C^0(F, \mathbb{R}) \quad \left. \vphantom{E} \right\} \text{Banach space } (E, \|\cdot\|)$$
$$\|f\| = \sup_{x \in F} |f(x)|$$

$$E^* = \{ \phi : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ linear and bounded} \}$$

bounded means: $\exists C$ s.t. $|\phi(u)| \leq C \|u\| \forall u \in E$

E^* is again a Banach space with norm

$$\|\phi\| := \sup_{u \in E, \|u\|=1} |\phi(u)|$$

$$E \xrightarrow{E^*} E^{**}$$

$$\phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } E^* \text{ if } \|\phi_n - \phi\| \rightarrow 0$$

$$\phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } E^* \text{ if } \psi(\phi_n - \phi) \rightarrow 0 \quad \forall \psi \in E^{**}$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_n \xrightarrow{*} \phi \text{ in } E^* \text{ if } (\phi_n - \phi)(\mu) \rightarrow 0 \quad \forall \mu \in E$$

\cong
E

Weak-* convergence

Thm (Banach-Alaoglu)

The closed unit ball in E^* is weak-* compact, i.e.

$\forall \phi_n \in E^*$ \exists subsequence ϕ_{n_k} and $\phi \in E^*$ with

$$\phi_{n_k} \xrightarrow{*} \phi.$$

In our setting, E is separable, in which case the Banach-Alaoglu thm can be proved with a diagonal sequence argument.

Let $\mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{D}_1$, define $\phi \in E^*$ by

$$\phi(f) = \int_{\mathcal{F}} f(x) d\mu(x)$$

$$|\phi(f)| \leq \int_{\mathcal{F}} |f(x)| d\mu(x) \leq \|f\| \mu(\mathcal{F}) = 1$$

then $\|\phi\| \leq 1$.

Moreover, ϕ is positive in the sense that

$$\phi(f) \geq 0 \quad \text{if } f \text{ is non-negative}$$

Thm (Riesz representation theorem)

For every $\phi \in E^*$ positive, there is a regular Borel measure μ with

$$\phi(f) = \int_{\mathbb{F}} f(x) d\mu(x) \quad \forall f \in E = C^0(\mathbb{F}, \mathbb{R})$$

Let μ_n be the minimizing sequence

Let $\phi_n \in E^*$ be the corresponding linear functionals,

$$\phi_n(f) := \int_{\mathbb{F}} f(x) d\mu_n(x).$$

Then $\|\phi_n\| \leq 1$.

By the Banach-Alaoglu theorem, \exists subsequence

$$\phi_{n_e} \text{ s.t. } \phi_{n_e} \xrightarrow{*} \phi \in E^*.$$

$$\text{i.e. } \phi_{n_e}(f) \rightarrow \phi(f) \quad \forall f \in E$$

ϕ is positive because for any $f \geq 0$,

$$\phi(f) = \lim_{e \rightarrow \infty} \underbrace{\phi_{n_e}(f)}_{\geq 0} \geq 0$$

The Riesz representation theorem gives a Borel measure μ s.t.

$$\phi(f) = \int_{\mathbb{F}} f(x) d\mu(x) \quad \forall f \in E.$$

We conclude that $\forall f \in E$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{F}} f(x) d\mu_{n_e}(x) \longrightarrow \int_{\mathbb{F}} f(x) d\mu(x)$$

Choosing $f \equiv 1$ as a constant function,

$$1 = \int_{\mathbb{F}} \rho_{h_\varepsilon} \rightarrow \rho(\mathbb{F})$$

$\Rightarrow \rho$ is normalized, $\rho \in \mathcal{D}_1$.

The action converges because

$$\int_{\mathbb{F}} \mathcal{L}(x, y) d\rho_{h_\varepsilon}(y) \rightarrow \int_{\mathbb{F}} \mathcal{L}(x, y) d\rho(y),$$

by continuity in y .

The resulting function is continuous in x . Thus

$$S(\rho_{h_\varepsilon}) \rightarrow S(\rho).$$

This concludes the proof.

Remark: Replacing \mathbb{F} by compact topological space and \mathcal{L} by a lower semi-continuous function on $\mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F}$,

the above existence result again holds, using a version of Fatou's lemma for measures on $\mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F}$.