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A generalization of the Vitali covering theorem

by

D. N. Sarkhel (Kalyani)

Abstract. Let μ be an outer measure defined on the power-set of a set X endowed with a pseudo-metric ϱ such that $\mu(E)<+\infty$ for bounded E. For $E\subset X$ and $r\geqslant 0$ let

$$S[E; r] = \{x \in X | \varrho(x, y) \le r \text{ for some } y \in E\}.$$

DEFINITION. A sequence $\{V_n\}$ of subsets of X is a μ -regular sequence converging to a point $x \in X$ if the diameter $d(V_n) \to 0$, $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} V_n$ and there exists p > 0 such that

$$\mu(V_n) > p\mu(S[V_n; (1+p)d(V_n)])$$
 for all n ;

also then p is a parameter of regularity of the sequence $\{V_n\}$. A family $\mathfrak V$ of subsets of X is a *Vitalit* μ -covering of a set $E \subset X$ if, for every $x \in E$, there exists a μ -regular sequence of sets from $\mathfrak V$ converging to x.

The following theorem is proven: Let μ be a metric outer measure and let a family $\mathbb V$ of closed subsets of X be a Vitali μ -covering of a set $E \subset X$. Then there exists a countable family $\mathcal F$ of pairwise disjoint sets in $\mathbb V$ such that $\mu(E \setminus \bigcup \mathcal F) = 0$.

Let (X,ϱ) be a pseudo-metric space endowed with the pseudo-metric topology induced by ϱ , and let μ be an outer measure defined on the power-set of X with $\mu(E) < +\infty$ for every bounded subset $E \subset X$ (this condition implies that μ is σ -finite). We denote the closure and the diameter of a subset $E \subset X$ by \overline{E} and d(E), respectively. Given a subset $E \subset X$ and a real number $r \geqslant 0$, we write

$$S[E; r] = \{x: x \in X, \varrho(x, y) \le r \text{ for some } y \in E\}.$$

We now introduce the following definition.

DEFINITION. A sequence $\{V_n\}$ of subsets of X is a μ -regular sequence converging to a point $x \in X$ if $d(V_n) \to 0$, $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} V_n$ and there exists a real number p > 0 such that

$$\mu(V_n) > p \mu(S[V_n; (1+p)d(V_n)])$$
 for all n :

also then p is a parameter of regularity of the sequence $\{V_n\}$. A family $\mathscr V$ of subsets of X is a Vitali μ -covering of a set $E \subset X$ if, for every $x \in E$, there exists a μ -regular sequence of sets from $\mathscr V$ converging to x.

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In the particular case when X is some Euclidean space, ϱ is the usual metric for X and μ is the outer Lebesgue measure in X, it can be easily verified that our definition of Vitali μ -covering is equivalent to the classical one ([2], p. 109).

The purpose of this note is to prove the following generalization of the classical Vitali covering theorem. In our proof we shall use a modification of the well-known idea of Banach (cf. [2], p. 109–111).

THEOREM. Let μ be a metric outer measure and let a family $\mathscr V$ of closed subsets of X be a Vitali μ -covering of a set $E \subset X$. Then there exists a countable family $\mathscr F$ of pairwise disjoint sets from $\mathscr V$ such that $\mu(E \setminus \bigcup \mathscr F) = 0$.

Proof. Note that the Borel subsets of X are measurable (cf. [2], p. 52, (7.4)) for the metric outer measure μ . Now, first consider two particular cases.

Case I. In this case we additionally assume that (i) d(V)>0 for every $V \in \mathscr{V}$, (ii) E is bounded, say $E \subset G$, where G is open and bounded, and (iii) for every $x \in E$ there is a μ -regular sequence of sets from \mathscr{V} converging to x with a parameter of regularity exceeding a fixed p>0.

Suppose, to get a contradiction, that for every countable family $\mathscr F$ of pairwise disjoint sets from $\mathscr V$ we have

$$\mu(E \setminus \bigcup \mathscr{F}) > 0.$$

Let us write

$$\mathcal{V}_0 = \{V: \ V \in \mathcal{V}, \ V \subset G, \ \mu(V) > p \ \mu(S[V; (1+p)d(V)])\}.$$

Then \mathscr{V}_0 is still a Vitali μ -covering of E. We note, in particular, that $\mu(V)>0$ for every $V \in \mathscr{V}_0$. Let

$$l_0 = \sup\{d(V): V \in \mathscr{V}_0\}$$
.

Then $0 < l_0 \le d(G) < +\infty$, and so we can choose a $V_0 \in \mathcal{V}_0$ with

$$d(V_0) > (1+p)^{-1}l_0$$
.

Now let β be an ordinal number such that $0 < \beta < \Omega$ ([1], p. 119). Suppose that we have already determined, corresponding to each ordinal $\alpha < \beta$, a set $V_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{V}_0$ subject to the conditions (2)-(4):

(2)
$$\mu(E \cap \overline{H}_{\alpha} \backslash H_{\alpha}) = 0 , \quad \text{where} \quad H_{\alpha} = \bigcup_{0 \leq \lambda < \alpha} V_{\lambda} ,$$

$$(3) V_{\alpha} \cap H_{\alpha} = \emptyset,$$

(4)
$$d(V_{\alpha}) > (1+p)^{-1}l_{\alpha},$$

where

$$l_{\alpha} = \sup \{ d(V) \colon V \in \mathscr{V}_0, V \cap H_{\alpha} = \emptyset \}.$$

Now we shall show that (2) holds with $\alpha = \beta$, that is

$$\mu(E \cap \overline{H}_{R} \backslash H_{R}) = 0.$$

If β has an immediate predecessor, γ say, then (6) follows easily by taking $\alpha = \gamma$ in (2) and by noting that V_{γ} is closed. So let β be a limit number, and suppose that

(6')
$$\mu(E \cap \overline{H}_{\mathfrak{g}} \backslash H_{\mathfrak{g}}) > 0.$$

Let $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be an enumeration of the ordinals less than β , and let us write, for brevity,

$$S_n = S[V_{\alpha_n}; (1+p)d(V_{\alpha_n})] \quad (n = 1, 2, ...).$$

Then, by the definition of \mathcal{V}_0 and (3), we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(S_n) < p^{-1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(V_{\alpha_n}) = p^{-1} \mu(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} V_{\alpha_n}) \leq p^{-1} \mu(G) < +\infty.$$

Hence, by (6'), there exists a positive integer N such that

(7)
$$\sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} \mu(S_n) < \mu(E \cap \overline{H}_{\beta} \backslash H_{\beta}).$$

Since β is a limit number, there is an ordinal η such that

$$\alpha_n < \eta < \beta$$
 $(n = 1, 2, ..., N)$.

Then we have

(8)
$$\bigcup_{\eta \leqslant \alpha_n < \beta} S_n \subset \bigcup_{n=N+1}^{\infty} S_n.$$

Taking $\alpha = \eta$ in (2) and using (7) and (8), we get

$$\mu(\{[E \cap \overline{H}_{\beta} \backslash H_{\beta}] \backslash [E \cap \overline{H}_{\eta} \backslash H_{\eta}]\} \backslash \bigcup_{\eta \leq \alpha_{n} < \beta} S_{n}) > 0.$$

Therefore, there is at least one point y such that

$$(9) y \in E \cap \overline{H}_{\beta} \backslash H_{\beta}$$

and

$$y \notin \overline{H}_{\eta} \cup (\bigcup_{n \leq \alpha_n \leq R} S_n).$$

Since, by (10), $y \notin \overline{H}_{\eta}$, there is a $V \in \mathscr{V}_0$ such that

(11)
$$V \cap H_{\eta} = \emptyset, \quad y \in V.$$

Since d(V)>0 and $y \notin \overline{H}_{\eta}$, we can choose an open sphere B with centre y such that

(12) (a)
$$d(B) < d(V)$$
 and (b) $B \cap H_{\eta} = \emptyset$.

Now, by (9), $y \in \overline{H}_{\beta}$. So, for some α_m , we shall have

$$(13) B \cap V_{\alpha_m} \neq \emptyset.$$

Then, by (12) (b), $\alpha_m \ge \eta$, and hence, by (10),

(14)
$$y \notin S_m = S[V_{\alpha_m}; (1+p)d(V_{\alpha_m})].$$

From (12) (a), (13), (14) and (4) we deduce that

$$d(V) > d(B) > (1+p)d(V_{\alpha_{m}}) > l_{\alpha_{m}}$$

Consequently, by (5), $V \cap H_{\alpha_m} \neq \emptyset$. Hence, for some $\alpha < \alpha_m$, V intersects V_{α} . There exists, therefore, a smallest one, ξ say, among the ordinals α for which we have $V \cap V_{\alpha} \neq \emptyset$. Now, by (11), $\xi \geqslant \eta$, and hence, by (10),

$$y \notin S[V_{\xi}; (1+p)d(V_{\xi})].$$

But V intersects V_{ξ} and contains the point y. Hence it follows, using (4), that $d(V) > (1+p)d(V_{\xi}) > l_{\xi}$. On the other hand, by the definition of ξ , $V \cap H_{\xi} = \emptyset$, and hence, by (5), $d(V) \le l_{\xi}$. Thus we arrive at a contradiction, proving the truth of (6).

Now, the family $\{V_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha<\beta}$ being countable, (1) gives $\mu(E\backslash H_{\beta})>0$, whence it follows, by (6), that

$$\mu([E \backslash H_{\beta}] \backslash [E \cap \overline{H}_{\beta} \backslash H_{\beta}]) > 0$$
.

Since, moreover, $[E \setminus H_{\beta}] \setminus [E \cap \overline{H}_{\beta} \setminus H_{\beta}] = E \setminus \overline{H}_{\beta}$, there are sets $V \in \mathscr{V}_{0}$ such that $V \cap H_{\beta} = \varnothing$. So, if l_{β} is obtained by taking $\alpha = \beta$ in (5), then $0 < l_{\beta} \le d(G) < + \varnothing$, and hence we can choose a $V_{\beta} \in \mathscr{V}_{0}$ satisfying conditions (3) and (4). Hence, by transfinite induction, an uncountable family $\{V_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha < \Omega}$ ([1], p. 120, Corollary) of sets in \mathscr{V}_{0} is thus generated. This, however, contradicts the σ -finiteness of μ , and hence the theorem is proved in this case.

Case II (cf. [2], p. 110, b)). In this case we retain only the additional hypothesis (i) of Case I. First choose a point $x_0 \in E$, and denote, for any positive integer n, by G_n the open sphere of radius n and centre x_0 . Then denote by E_n the set of the points $x \in E \cap G_n$ for which there exists a μ -regular sequence of sets from $\mathscr V$ converging to x with a parameter of regularity exceeding n^{-1} . Since $E_1 \subset G_1$, there exists, by Case I, a countable family $\{V_i\}$ of pairwise disjoint sets in $\mathscr V$ such that

$$\mu(E_1 \setminus \bigcup_i V_i) = 0$$
 and $\bigcup_i V_i \subset G_1$.



$$\sum_{i} \mu(V_i) = \mu(\bigcup_{i} V_i) \leqslant \mu(G_1) < +\infty.$$

Therefore, given $\varepsilon > 0$, there is a positive integer N such that

$$\mu(E_1 \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^N V_i) < \varepsilon.$$

Then $E_2 \ \bigcup_{i=1}^N V_i$ is contained in the bounded open set $G_2 \ \bigcup_{i=1}^N V_i$. Now it is clear that by simple induction we can define a sequence $\{\mathscr{E}_n\}$ subject to the following conditions:

- $(c_1)\bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathscr{E}_i$ consists of a finite number of pairwise disjoint sets in \mathscr{V} (n=1,2,...);
- (c_2) if T_i denotes the union of the sets in \mathcal{E}_i , then

$$\mu(E_n \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^n T_i) < n^{-1}$$
 $(n = 1, 2, ...)$.

Since $E_n \subset E_{n+1}$ for all n, it follows, by (c_2) , that

(15)
$$\mu(E_n \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} T_i) = 0 \quad (n = 1, 2, ...).$$

But $E = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n$. Hence, by (15), it follows that

$$\mu(E \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} T_i) = 0,$$

which proves the theorem in this case.

For the general case, let E_0 denote the set of the points $x \in E$ for which there is a μ -regular sequence $\{V_n\}$ of sets from $\mathscr V$ converging to x with $d(V_n)>0$ for all n. Then, by Case II, there is a countable family $\mathscr F_0$ of pairwise disjoint sets in $\mathscr V$ such that

$$\mu(E_0 \setminus \bigcup \mathscr{F}_0) = 0.$$

Let

$$E'=(E\diagdown E_0)\diagdown\bigcup\mathcal{F}_0\,,$$

and let \mathscr{F}_1 denote, under the equivalence relation $\varrho(x,y)=0$ defined on X, the family of the equivalence sets which intersect E'. For every $x \in E'$ there is a set $V_x \in \mathscr{V}$ such that $x \in V_x$, $d(V_x)=0$ and $\mu(V_x)>0$. It is easy to see that V_x is in fact the equivalence set containing x. Since closed sets are measurable (μ) , it follows from the σ -finiteness of μ that the family \mathscr{F}_1 is countable. Also, the sets in \mathscr{F}_0 being closed, no member of \mathscr{F}_1 can intersect any member of \mathscr{F}_0 . Therefore, the

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family $\mathscr{F} = \mathscr{F}_0 \cup \mathscr{F}_1$ fulfils all the required conditions. This completes the proof of the theorem.

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On the categorical shape of a functor

b)

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Abstract. The concept of shape, first introduced by Borsuk in his study of the homotopy theory of compacta, is extended to an abstract categorical setting. The shape of an arbitrary functor K is defined, and it is proved that the Kan extension is shape-invariant. One then shows that many of the categorical aspects of shape remain valid in this very general setting; others require some restriction on the functor K, and the notion of a rich functor is introduced, which is more general than the notion of a full functor. In addition, it is proved that if K is rich, the iteration of the shape construction produces the same shape category. Finally, the special case when K has a left adjoint is discussed in some detail, and a relation with the categories of fractions is exhibited.

Introduction. Since Borsuk [1] first introduced the concept of shape in his study of the homotopy theory of compacta many authors (e.g. [5], [6], [7], [11], [12], [14], [15], [16], [17]) have contributed to the development of shape theory. However the theory has remained almost exclusively confined to a topological context, never very far removed from the setting in which it was originally cast by Borsuk; and further, and arising from this restriction in the scope of the theory, the concept has, in the work cited, related to some category of topological spaces T and a full subcategory P of T. However, Holsztyński [10] observed, scon after Borsuk's invention of the concept, that shape could be formulated as an abstract limit, and was thus of more general applicability.

It is the principal purpose of this paper to free shape theory from its restricted scope. Thus we replace the full embedding of a topological category P in a topological category T by an arbitrary functor $K: P \rightarrow T$ from the arbitrary category P to the arbitrary category T. In so doing we are very much inspired by the point of view adopted by LeVan in his thesis [12]. We then find that many of the *categorical* aspects of shape theory (we do not speak of the *topological* aspects) remain valid in this very general setting. Others require some restriction on the functor K, but a restriction far milder than that K should be a full embedding.

In Section 1 we define shape and the dual concept coshape. Indeed, for $K: \mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$,

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