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A NOTE ON THE HAUSDORFF MOMENT PROBLEM

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In [1, pp. 630–635], J. H. Wells presented a solution of the Hausdorff moment problem for the case of a quasicontinuous mass function. The purpose of this note is to extend that result to include Riemann-integrable mass functions.

If $\{d_n\}$ is a number sequence, let $A_{np} = \binom{n}{p} \Delta^{n-p} d_p$, $n \geq p$, $p = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. We observe that [1, p. 634, Theorem 2.4(ii)(b)] may be stated as follows:

If $\epsilon > 0$, there is a finite collection C of nonoverlapping subsegments (u, v) of the segment $(0, 1)$ such that $\sum_C (v - u) = 1$ and if $u < y < z < v$, then there is a positive integer N such that if $n > N$, $|\sum_{ny < p \leq nz} A_{np} + \sum_{ny \leq p < nz} A_{np}| < \epsilon$.

The arguments used to establish [1, p. 634, Theorem 2.4] and the associated theorems and lemmas [1, pp. 630–633] are readily modified to supply a proof of the following theorem.

THEOREM. *If $\{d_n\}$ is a number sequence, the following two statements are equivalent:*

(i) *There is a function g Riemann-integrable on $[0, 1]$ such that $d_n = \int_{[0,1]} I^n dg$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$;*

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(ii) (a) *there is a number M such that $|\sum_{p=0}^k A_{np}| < M$, $0 \leq k \leq n$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, and*

(b) *if $\epsilon > 0$ and $0 < \delta < 1$, there is a finite collection C of nonoverlapping subsegments (u, v) of the segment $(0, 1)$ such that $\sum_C (v-u) > 1 - \delta$ and if $u < y < z < v$, then there is a positive integer N such that if $n > N$,*

$$\left| \sum_{ny < p \leq ns} A_{np} + \sum_{ny \leq p < ns} A_{np} \right| < \epsilon.$$

The crux of the matter lies in the observation that [1, p. 633, Lemma 2.3] holds if the mass function is Riemann-integrable on $[0, 1]$, and¹ in noticing the following Ascoli-type result (compare with [1, p. 630, Theorem 2.1]):

LEMMA. *Suppose $\{f_n\}$ is a uniformly bounded infinite sequence of real functions from $[0, 1]$ and if $\epsilon > 0$ and $0 < \delta < 1$, there is a finite collection C of nonoverlapping subsegments (u, v) of the segment $(0, 1)$ such that $\sum_C (v-u) > 1 - \delta$ and if $u < y < z < v$, then there is a positive integer N such that if $n > N$,*

$$|f_n(y) - f_n(z)| < \epsilon,$$

and $\{g_n\}$ is an infinite subsequence of $\{f_n\}$ which converges at each point of a countable set which is dense in $[0, 1]$. If, for each x in $[0, 1]$, $h(x)$ is a cluster point of $\{g_n(x)\}$, then on $[0, 1]$ h is Riemann-integrable and $\{g_n\}$ converges almost everywhere to h .

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¹ The author is indebted to the referee for suggesting that the lemma be stated in the paper.