



Original article

# On the cardinal number of the family of all invariant extensions of a nonzero $\sigma$ -finite invariant measure

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Available online 24 May 2016

## Abstract

It is shown that, for any nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant) measure  $\mu$  on the real line  $\mathbf{R}$ , the cardinality of the family of all translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant) measures on  $\mathbf{R}$  extending  $\mu$  is greater than or equal to  $2^{\omega_1}$ , where  $\omega_1$  denotes the first uncountable cardinal number. Some related results are also considered.

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*Keywords:* Invariant measure; Quasi-invariant measure; Metrical transitivity; Nonseparable extension of measure; Ulam's transfinite matrix

Let  $E$  be a base (ground) set and let  $G$  be a group of transformations of  $E$ . The pair  $(E, G)$  is usually called a space equipped with a transformation group.

A measure  $\mu$  defined on some  $G$ -invariant  $\sigma$ -algebra of subsets of  $E$  is called quasi-invariant with respect to  $G$  (briefly,  $G$ -quasi-invariant) if, for any  $\mu$ -measurable set  $X$  and for any transformation  $g$  from  $G$ , the relation

$$\mu(X) = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mu(g(X)) = 0$$

holds true. Moreover, if the equality  $\mu(g(X)) = \mu(X)$  is valid for any  $\mu$ -measurable  $X$  and for any  $g$  from  $G$ , then  $\mu$  is called an invariant measure with respect to  $G$  (briefly,  $G$ -invariant measure).

According to these definitions, the triplet of the form  $(E, G, \mu)$  determines the structure of an invariant (quasi-invariant) measure on  $E$ .

Suppose that  $\mu$  is a nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite  $G$ -invariant ( $G$ -quasi-invariant) measure on  $E$ . It is known that if a group  $G$  is uncountable and acts freely in  $E$ , then there always exist subsets of  $E$  nonmeasurable with respect to  $\mu$  (see [1]; cf. also [2]). So the domain of  $\mu$  differs from the family of all subsets of  $E$ , i.e.,  $\text{dom}(\mu) \neq \mathcal{P}(E)$ . In this connection, the natural question arises whether there exists a  $G$ -invariant ( $G$ -quasi-invariant) measure  $\mu'$  on  $E$  strongly extending  $\mu$ . This question was studied for various types of spaces  $(E, G, \mu)$ . Undoubtedly, the most interesting case for classical Real Analysis is when  $E$  coincides with the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , a group  $G$  is a subgroup of the group of all isometric transformations of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , and  $\mu$  is a  $G$ -invariant extension of the standard  $n$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure  $\lambda_n$  on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  (see, for instance, [3–8]).

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Peer review under responsibility of Journal Transactions of A. Razmadze Mathematical Institute.

Another important case is when  $E = \Gamma$ , where  $\Gamma$  is an uncountable  $\sigma$ -compact locally compact topological group,  $\Gamma$  coincides with the group of all left (right) translations of  $\Gamma$ , and  $\mu$  is a  $G$ -invariant extension of the left (right) Haar measure on  $\Gamma$  (cf. [9,5,10,11]).

A more general form of the above question is as follows. For a given space  $(E, G, \mu)$ , denote by  $\mathcal{M}_G(\mu)$  the family of all measures on  $E$  extending  $\mu$  and invariant (quasi-invariant) with respect to  $G$ . It is natural to try to evaluate the cardinality of  $\mathcal{M}_G(\mu)$  in terms of  $\text{card}(E)$  and  $\text{card}(G)$ . In the present paper, we will be dealing with this problem for the case when  $E$  coincides with the real line  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $G$  is the group of all translations of  $\mathbf{R}$ . Notice that the method applied in our further considerations is primarily taken from [6].

Below, we will use the following standard notation:

- $X \Delta Y$  = the symmetric difference of two sets  $X$  and  $Y$ ;
- $\omega$  = the least infinite cardinal (ordinal) number;
- $\omega_1$  = the least uncountable cardinal (ordinal) number;
- $\mathbf{c}$  = the cardinality of the continuum.

Let  $\mu$  be a measure defined on some  $\sigma$ -algebra of subsets of  $E$  (here  $\mu$  is not assumed to be invariant or quasi-invariant under a nontrivial group of transformations of  $E$ ). The Hilbert space of all square  $\mu$ -integrable real-valued functions on  $E$  is usually denoted by the symbol  $L_2(\mu)$ . If  $L_2(\mu)$  is a separable Hilbert space, then  $\mu$  is called a separable measure. Otherwise,  $\mu$  is called a nonseparable measure.

Treating the real line  $\mathbf{R}$  as a vector space over the field  $\mathbf{Q}$  of all rational numbers and keeping in mind the existence of a Hamel basis in  $\mathbf{R}$ , it is not difficult to show that the additive group  $(\mathbf{R}, +)$  admits a representation in the form

$$\mathbf{R} = G + H \quad (G \cap H = \{0\}),$$

where  $G$  and  $H$  are some two subgroups of  $(\mathbf{R}, +)$  and

$$\text{card}(G) = \omega_1, \quad \text{card}(H) \leq \mathbf{c}.$$

We denote by  $\mathcal{I}$  the  $\sigma$ -ideal generated by all those subsets  $X$  of  $\mathbf{R}$  which are representable in the form  $X = Y + H$ , where  $Y \subset G$  and  $\text{card}(Y) \leq \omega$ .

It can readily be seen that  $\mathcal{I}$  is a translation invariant  $\sigma$ -ideal of sets in  $\mathbf{R}$ .

We begin with the following auxiliary statement.

**Lemma 1.** *There exists a partition  $\{X_\xi : \xi < \omega_1\}$  of  $\mathbf{R}$  satisfying these two relations:*

- (1) *for any ordinal  $\xi < \omega_1$ , the set  $X_\xi$  belongs to the  $\sigma$ -ideal  $\mathcal{I}$ ;*
- (2) *for each subset  $\Xi$  of  $\omega_1$  and for any  $r \in \mathbf{R}$ , the relation*

$$(\cup\{X_\xi : \xi \in \Xi\}) \Delta (r + \cup\{X_\xi : \xi \in \Xi\}) \in \mathcal{I}$$

*holds true, i.e., the set  $\cup\{X_\xi : \xi \in \Xi\}$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -almost translation invariant in  $\mathbf{R}$ .*

The proof of this lemma is given in [6].

By combining Lemma 1 with the well-known  $(\omega \times \omega_1)$ -matrix of Ulam (see, e.g., [12]), the next auxiliary statement can be deduced.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\{X_\xi : \xi < \omega_1\}$  be a partition of  $\mathbf{R}$  described in Lemma 1 and let  $\mu$  be a nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant) measure on  $\mathbf{R}$ .*

*There exists a disjoint family  $\{\Xi_j : j \in J\}$  of subsets of  $\omega_1$  such that:*

- (1)  $\text{card}(J) = \omega_1$ ;
- (2) *for each index  $j \in J$ , the set  $Z_j = \cup\{X_\xi : \xi \in \Xi_j\}$  is nonmeasurable with respect to  $\mu$  (where  $\{X_\xi : \xi < \omega_1\}$  is a partition of  $\mathbf{R}$  described in Lemma 1);*
- (3)  $\mu_*(\cup\{Z_j : j \in J\}) = 0$  (where the symbol  $\mu_*$  denotes the inner measure associated with  $\mu$ ).

Notice that the proof of Lemma 2 is similar to the argument presented in [6] (cf. also [7]).

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\mu$  be a  $\sigma$ -finite translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant) measure on  $\mathbf{R}$ . There exists a measure  $\mu'$  on  $\mathbf{R}$  such that:*

- (1)  $\mu'$  is translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant);
- (2)  $\mu'$  extends  $\mu$ ;
- (3)  $\mathcal{I} \subset \text{dom}(\mu')$ .

**Proof.** If  $X$  is any set belonging to  $\mathcal{I}$ , then the equality  $\mu_*(X) = 0$  is satisfied, because in  $\mathbf{R}$  there are uncountably many pairwise disjoint translates of  $X$ . So we may apply Marczewski's standard method to  $\mu$  and  $\mathcal{I}$  for extending  $\mu$ . Namely, introduce the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{S}'$  of all those subsets  $Z$  of  $\mathbf{R}$  which admit a representation

$$Z = (Y \cup X') \setminus X'' \quad (Y \in \text{dom}(\mu), X' \in \mathcal{I}, X'' \in \mathcal{I})$$

and define on  $\mathcal{S}'$  the functional  $\mu'$  by the formula

$$\mu'(Z) = \mu(Y) \quad (Z \in \mathcal{S}').$$

It is not hard to verify that the definition of  $\mu'$  is correct (i.e., the value  $\mu'(Z)$  does not depend on a representation of  $Z$  in the above-mentioned form), and  $\mu'$  satisfies the relations. (1), (2), and (3) of Lemma 3.  $\square$

The preceding lemmas enable us to establish the following statement.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\mu$  be a nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant) measure on  $\mathbf{R}$ . Then the inequality  $\text{card}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mu)) \geq 2^{\omega_1}$  holds true. In particular, there are measures on  $\mathbf{R}$  strictly extending  $\mu$  and invariant (quasi-invariant) under the group of all translations of  $\mathbf{R}$ .*

**Proof.** Taking into account Lemma 3, we may assume without loss of generality that the measure  $\mu$  is complete and  $\mathcal{I} \subset \text{dom}(\mu)$ .

Let  $\{Z_j : j \in J\}$  be the disjoint family of subsets of  $\mathbf{R}$  described in Lemma 2. This family has the following properties:

- (a)  $\text{card}(J) = \omega_1$  and the sets  $Z_j$  ( $j \in J$ ) are pairwise disjoint;
- (b) every set  $Z_j$  ( $j \in J$ ) is nonmeasurable with respect to  $\mu$ ;
- (c) for each set  $J_0 \subset J$  and for every  $r \in \mathbf{R}$ , the equality

$$\mu((\cup\{Z_j : j \in J_0\})\Delta(r + \cup\{Z_j : j \in J_0\})) = 0$$

is valid;

- (d)  $\mu_*(\cup\{Z_j : j \in J\}) = 0$ .

Further, take a subset  $J_1$  of  $J$  and associate to this  $J_1$  the set

$$Z(J_1) = \cup\{Z_j : j \in J_1\}.$$

By virtue of (c) and (d), we get the relations:

- (e) for every  $r \in \mathbf{R}$ , the set  $Z(J_1)$  is  $\mu$ -almost translation invariant, i.e.,

$$\mu(Z(J_1)\Delta(r + Z(J_1))) = 0;$$

- (f)  $\mu_*(Z(J_1)) = 0$ .

Consequently, applying Marczewski's method of extending invariant and quasi-invariant measures (cf. the proof of Lemma 3), we obtain the measure  $\mu_{J_1}$  on  $\mathbf{R}$  which extends  $\mu$ , is invariant (quasi-invariant) under the group of all translations of  $\mathbf{R}$ , and satisfies the equality  $\mu_{J_1}(Z(J_1)) = 0$ .

Now, let us establish that if  $J_1$  and  $J_2$  are any two distinct subsets of  $J$ , then the associated measures  $\mu_{J_1}$  and  $\mu_{J_2}$  differ from each other. Indeed, if  $J_1 \neq J_2$ , then either  $J_1 \setminus J_2 \neq \emptyset$  or  $J_2 \setminus J_1 \neq \emptyset$ . We may suppose that  $J_1 \setminus J_2 \neq \emptyset$ , so there is an index  $j \in J_1 \setminus J_2$ . According to the definition of  $\mu_{J_1}$ , the set  $Z_j$  turns out to be of  $\mu_{J_1}$ -measure zero. On the other hand, the same set  $Z_j$  cannot be of  $\mu_{J_2}$ -measure zero. To see this circumstance, suppose to the contrary that  $\mu_{J_2}(Z_j) = 0$ . Then, keeping in mind the construction of  $\mu_{J_2}$ , we must have

$$Z_j = (T \cup T') \setminus T'',$$

where

$$\mu(T) = 0, \quad T' \subset Z(J_2), \quad T'' \subset Z(J_2).$$

However, it can easily be verified that the above relations imply the inclusion  $Z_j \subset T$  and the equality  $\mu(Z_j) = 0$ . In particular, we obtain that  $Z_j$  is a  $\mu$ -measurable set, which contradicts (b).

Thus, we have an injective mapping from the power set  $\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)$  into the family of all those measures on  $\mathbf{R}$  which extend  $\mu$  and are translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant). The existence of such a mapping trivially yields the desired inequality  $\text{card}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mu)) \geq 2^{\omega_1}$ , and the proof of [Theorem 1](#) is finished.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** Consider the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , where  $n \geq 1$ . Since there exists an isomorphism between the additive groups  $(\mathbf{R}, +)$  and  $(\mathbf{R}^n, +)$ , the direct analogue of [Theorem 1](#) is valid for the space  $\mathbf{R}^n$  (and, more generally, for any uncountable vector space over the field  $\mathbf{Q}$  of all rational numbers).

**Remark 2.** As an immediate consequence of [Theorem 1](#), we get the relation

$$\text{card}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mu)) \geq 2^{\omega_1} \geq 2^{\omega} = \mathfrak{c}.$$

This relation is a statement of **ZFC** set theory. Assuming the Continuum Hypothesis (**CH**), we directly come to the much stronger inequality

$$\text{card}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mu)) \geq 2^{\mathfrak{c}}.$$

We do not know whether the latter inequality can be proved within the framework of **ZFC** theory.

Let the symbol  $\lambda$  ( $= \lambda_1$ ) denote the standard Lebesgue measure on the real line  $\mathbf{R}$ . Kakutani and Oxtoby demonstrated in 1950 that there exist nonseparable measures on  $\mathbf{R}$  belonging to the class  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\lambda)$  (see [\[13\]](#)). Obviously, all those measures are strict extensions of  $\lambda$ . A radically different approach to the problem of the existence of nonseparable measures belonging to  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\lambda)$  was given in the work by Kodaira and Kakutani (see again [\[13\]](#)).

The method of Kakutani and Oxtoby allows one to conclude that there exist at least  $2^{2^{\mathfrak{c}}}$  nonseparable measures on  $\mathbf{R}$ , all of which extend  $\lambda$  and are translation invariant. Thus, for the concrete measure  $\lambda$  on  $\mathbf{R}$ , the inequality of [Theorem 1](#) can be essentially strengthened and, in fact, we have the following equality:

$$\text{card}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\lambda)) = 2^{2^{\mathfrak{c}}}.$$

In this context, the natural question arises whether the analogous equality

$$\text{card}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mu)) = 2^{2^{\mathfrak{c}}}$$

is valid for any nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite translation invariant (translation quasi-invariant) measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbf{R}$ . We do not know the answer to this question. Nevertheless, assuming the Continuum Hypothesis (**CH**), for a sufficiently wide class of measures  $\mu$  on  $\mathbf{R}$  it can be proved that the last equality holds true, too.

Let  $(E, G, \mu)$  be a space equipped with a  $\sigma$ -finite  $G$ -invariant ( $G$ -quasi-invariant) measure  $\mu$ . Recall that  $\mu$  is metrically transitive (or ergodic) if, for any  $\mu$ -measurable set  $X$  with  $\mu(X) > 0$ , there exists a countable family  $\{g_k : k < \omega\}$  of transformations from  $G$  such that

$$\mu(E \setminus \cup\{g_k(X) : k < \omega\}) = 0.$$

It is well known that metrically transitive (ergodic) measures play an important role in many topics of mathematical analysis and probability theory.

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $(E, G)$  be a space equipped with a transformation group satisfying these two conditions:*

- (1)  $\text{card}(E) = \omega_1$ ;
- (2) *the group  $G$  acts freely and transitively in  $E$ .*

*If  $\mu$  is a nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite ergodic  $G$ -invariant ( $G$ -quasi-invariant) measure on  $E$ , then there exists a partition  $\{X_{\xi} : \xi < \omega_1\}$  of  $E$  such that:*

- (i) *every set  $X_{\xi}$  ( $\xi < \omega_1$ ) is  $\mu$ -thick in  $E$ , i.e.,  $\mu_*(E \setminus X_{\xi}) = 0$ ;*
- (ii) *for any set  $\Xi \subset \omega_1$  and for each transformation  $g \in G$ , the inequality*

$$\text{card}((\cup\{X_{\xi} : \xi \in \Xi\}) \Delta (g(\cup\{X_{\xi} : \xi \in \Xi\}))) \leq \omega$$

*is valid.*

The proof of [Lemma 4](#) is presented in [10].

Starting with the previous lemma and applying some modified version of the method of Kakutani and Oxtoby, we get the following statement.

**Theorem 2.** Assume **CH** and let  $(E, G)$  be a space equipped with a transformation group, satisfying the conditions (1) and (2) of [Lemma 4](#).

Then, for every nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite ergodic  $G$ -invariant ( $G$ -quasi-invariant) measure  $\mu$  on  $E$ , the class  $\mathcal{M}_G(\mu)$  contains at least  $2^{2^c}$  nonseparable measures.

As has already been mentioned, the proof of [Theorem 2](#) is based on [Lemma 4](#) and on the argument of Kakutani and Oxtoby [13] (cf. also [10]).

**Remark 3.** Marczewski's method of extending  $\sigma$ -finite invariant (quasi-invariant) measures does not substantially change the structure of an initial measure. On the other hand, the method of Kakutani and Oxtoby allows one to obtain nonseparable translation invariant extensions of  $\lambda$  on  $\mathbf{R}$ , starting with the separable measure  $\lambda$  (however, those extensions are not ergodic). Further modifications of this method were applied to the Haar measure on an uncountable  $\sigma$ -compact locally compact Polish topological group (see, for instance, [9]). Notice that various properties of invariant and quasi-invariant measures given on algebraic-topological structures are thoroughly discussed in [14].

**Theorem 3.** Assume **CH** and let  $(E, G)$  be again a space equipped with a transformation group, satisfying the conditions (1) and (2) of [Lemma 4](#).

Then, for every nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite ergodic  $G$ -invariant ( $G$ -quasi-invariant) measure  $\mu$  on  $E$ , the class  $\mathcal{M}_G(\mu)$  contains  $2^{2^c}$  ergodic measures.

The proof of [Theorem 3](#) follows the method presented in [7] for a concrete space  $(E, G, \mu)$ . Namely, in [7] the role of  $(E, G, \mu)$  is played by the triplet  $(\mathbf{R}^n, D_n, \lambda_n)$ , where  $n \geq 1$  and  $D_n$  denotes the group of all isometric transformations of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Under **CH**, the argument given in [7] for  $(\mathbf{R}^n, D_n, \lambda_n)$  works also for a space  $(E, G, \mu)$  of [Theorem 3](#).

**Remark 4.** Both [Theorems 2](#) and [3](#) show that, supposing **CH**, the cardinality of the class  $\mathcal{M}_G(\mu)$  is equal to the cardinality of the class of all measures on  $E$  (where a space  $(E, G)$  satisfies (1) and (2) of [Lemma 4](#) and  $\mu$  is a nonzero  $\sigma$ -finite ergodic  $G$ -invariant or  $G$ -quasi-invariant measure on  $E$ ).

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