

## Semi-ergodic Transformations

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### Abstract

We propose a new concept of generalizing ergodic property, which we call the semi-ergodic transformation. This generalization is motivated by the ergodicity in infinite measure spaces. The relation between ergodic and semi-ergodic is studied that is completed by some simple examples. Finally, the main theorem that guarantees any transformation to be semi-ergodic is provided.

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

Let  $(X, \Omega, \mu)$  be a measure space and the transformation  $T: X \mapsto X$  is nonsingular. If there is a set  $A$  with  $\mu(A) > 0$ ,  $A \neq X$ , and  $T^{-1}(A) = A$  then the transformation  $T$  can be studied on the set  $A$  and  $X \setminus A$  separately. Otherwise, if there is no  $A$  with that properties then the transformation  $T$  is called **ergodic**; see e.g. Walter (1981) and Lasota and Mackey (1994).

**Definition 1.1.** (A. Lasota and M.C. Mackey, 1994) Let  $(X, \Omega, \mu)$  be a measure space and the nonsingular transformation  $T: X \mapsto X$  is given. The transformation  $T$  is called ergodic if the property

$$A \in \Omega \Rightarrow \mu(A) > 0 \text{ or } \mu(X \setminus A) = 0 \quad (1)$$

holds. In other words, transformation  $T$  is ergodic if all invariant sets are trivial subset of  $X$ .

A simple example of ergodic transformation is  $T: \mathbb{Z} \mapsto \mathbb{Z}$  where  $\mathbb{Z}$  is the set of all integers defined by

$$T(x) = x + 1$$

for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  with the counting measure  $\mu$ . Put an arbitrary invariant set  $A$  with  $\mu(A) > 0$ . Then  $A \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists  $a \in A$ . Since  $a \in A$  and  $T^{-1}(A) = A$  then  $\{a - 1\} = T^{-1}(\{a\}) \subset A$ , so  $a - 1 \in A$ . On the other hand, we have  $T(A) = A$ , so  $a + 1 = T(a) \in A$ . Inductively, we have  $\dots, a - 2, a - 1, a, a + 1, a + 2, \dots \in A$ . It follows that  $A = \mathbb{Z}$ .

Definition (1.1) is extended for infinite measure spaces by Arzumanian, Eigen and Hajian (2015). Their definition needs a condition called  $\sigma$ -finite measure, i.e., there exist  $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  such that  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = X$  and  $\mu(A_n) < \infty$  for every  $n$ ; see e.g. Wheeden (1977). In the present paper, we will not restrict the (infinite) measure to be  $\sigma$ -finite. It means that we will be working in any measure spaces.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 gives the definition of semi-ergodic transformation completed by some simple examples. After exploring the relation between ergodic and semi-ergodic transformations, the main theorem that guarantees semi-ergodic property is provided at the end of Section 2. Finally, some conclusions are drawn in Section 3.

## 2 MAIN RESULTS

Generalizing the definition of ergodic transformation, we will introduce the definition of semi-ergodic transformation as follows.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $(X, \Omega, \mu)$  be a measure space and the nonsingular transformation  $T: X \mapsto X$  is given. Transformation  $T$  is called semi-ergodic

$$A \in \Omega \Rightarrow \mu(A) = 0 \text{ or } \mu(A) = X. \quad (2)$$

If  $\mu(X) < \infty$  then  $T$  is called finite semi-ergodic and if  $\mu(X) = \infty$  then  $T$  is called infinite semi-ergodic.

Of course every ergodic transformation is also semi-ergodic since the definition of semi-ergodic is a generalization from the definition of ergodic. Precisely, it is stated in the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** Every ergodic transformation  $T: X \mapsto X$  is semi-ergodic.

**Proof.** Put an arbitrary invariant set  $A$  with  $\mu(X) > 0$ . Since  $T$  is ergodic then

$\mu(X \setminus A) = 0$ . We have  $X = A \cup (X \setminus A)$  and  $A \cap (X \setminus A) = \emptyset$ . This implies

$$\mu(X) = \mu(A \cup (X \setminus A)) = \mu(A) + \mu(X \setminus A) = \mu(A).$$

This leads to the conclusion that  $T$  is semi-ergodic.  $\square$

It would not be interesting if every semi-ergodic transformation was also ergodic. An example of semi-ergodic transformation that is not ergodic is provided in the following example.

**Example 2.1.** Consider the Borel Space  $(\mathbb{R}, \Omega, \mu)$  where  $\mu$  is the Lebesgue Measure and the transformation  $T: \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$T(x) = \begin{cases} 2x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ \frac{x}{2} & \text{if } x < 0. \end{cases}$$

Transformation  $T$  is not ergodic because there are 3 invariant sets with positive measure, i.e.,  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , and  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{R}^+$  where  $\mathbb{R}^+ = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x > 0\}$ . However, it is easy to see that  $T$  is semi-ergodic because

$$\mu(\mathbb{R}) = \mu(\mathbb{R}^+) = \mu(\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{R}^+) = \infty.$$

The following theorem proves the equivalence between ergodic and semi-ergodic in finite measure spaces.

**Theorem 2.2.** Every finite semi-ergodic transformation  $T: X \mapsto X$  is ergodic.

**Proof.** Put an arbitrary invariant set  $A$  such that  $\mu(A) > 0$ . Since  $T$  is semi-ergodic then  $\mu(A) = \mu(X)$ . We have  $X = A \cup (X \setminus A)$  and  $A \cap (X \setminus A) = \emptyset$ , so  $\mu(X) = \mu(A \cup (X \setminus A)) = \mu(A) + \mu(X \setminus A)$ . Since  $\mu(A) = \mu(X)$  then  $\mu(X \setminus A) = 0$ .  $\square$

Theorem 2.2 suggests us to only consider infinite semi-ergodic transformations. The following theorem can be used to characterize the infinite semi-ergodic property of transformation.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $(X, \Omega, \mu)$  be an infinite measure space and the nonsingular transformation  $T: X \mapsto X$  is given. If for every measurable function  $f: X \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  the relation

$$f(T(x)) = f(x) \text{ for almost all } x \in X \tag{3}$$

implies  $f$  to be constant almost everywhere, then  $T$  is semi-ergodic.

**Proof.** Assume  $T$  is not semi-ergodic, so  $T$  is not ergodic. Then there is a nontrivial invariant set  $A$ . Put  $f = 1_A$ . Since  $A$  is nontrivial,  $f$  is not constant. Thus,  $T^{-1}(A) = A$  implies

$$f(T(x)) = 1_A(x) = 1_{T^{-1}(A)}(x) = 1_A(x) = f(x) \text{ a.e.,}$$

that contradicts with (3).  $\square$

Unfortunately, the converse of Theorem 2.3 is not always true that can be seen from the following example that will close this section.

**Example 2.2.** Consider the Borel Space  $(\mathbb{R}, \Omega, \mu)$  where  $\mu$  is the Lebesgue Measure and transformation  $T: \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is defined by

$$T(x) = \begin{cases} x + 2\pi & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x - 2\pi & \text{if } x < 0. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to see that  $T$  is semi-ergodic. Now, put  $f(x) = \cos x$ . Condition in Theorem 2.3 is not satisfied since

$$f(T(x)) = \begin{cases} f(x + 2\pi) = \cos(x + 2\pi) = \cos x = f(x) & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ f(-x - 2\pi) = \cos(-x - 2\pi) = \cos(-x) = \cos x = f(x) & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

holds but  $f$  is obviously not constant.

### 3 CONCLUSION

We have defined a new concept called *semi-ergodic transformations*. It has been shown that ergodic and semi-ergodic transformation are equivalent in the finite measure spaces but it is not necessarily to be true in infinite measure spaces. Finally, we have provided a characterization when a transformation is semi-ergodic.

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