

Mathematics. — “On a Function which Assumes any Value on a Non-Enumerable Set of Points in any Interval”. By Prof. J. WOLFF. (Communicated by Prof. R. WEITZENBÖCK).

(Communicated at the meeting of November 28, 1925).

LEBESGUE has given an example of a function which assumes any value in any interval. This example is constructed by means of decimal developments. The points x where the function assumes a given value y , form an *enumerable* set for any value of y different from zero.

By the aid of a perfect set of points P of which each pair of points has an irrational distance, (cf. These Proceedings 27 p. 95 and a communication of Prof. L. E. J. BROUWER in these Proceedings 27 p. 487) we shall construct a function which in any interval assumes any value on a *non-enumerable* set of points.

1. Any perfect set of points P may be split into sets of points having the cardinal number c which are the elements of a set of the cardinal number c . For the points of P may be brought into (1,1) correspondence with the points of a plane π . To any straight line of a parallel pencil in π there corresponds a sub-set of P which has the cardinal number c . No pair of these sub-sets has any point in common.

2. Let P be a linear perfect set of points of which any pair of points has an irrational distance. We call the rational numbers from minus infinite to plus infinite r_1, r_2, \dots . Further we call P_k the set which may be derived from P by adding r_k to every number of P . For $i \neq k$ P_i and P_k have no point in common. According to § 1 we split P into sets of points $D(y)$ of which each has the cardinal number c and which correspond one by one to the real numbers y . The set which is derived from $D(y)$ by adding r_k to every number of $D(y)$, we call $D_k(y)$.

3. Now we define a function $f(x)$ in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 0, \text{ if } x \text{ does not lie in any } P_k, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ f(x) &= y, \text{ if } x \text{ lies in } D_k(y), k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

Let y be an arbitrary real number and let I be an arbitrary interval. $D(y)$ contains a point of condensation $\xi(y)$, i.e.: in any interval containing $\xi(y)$, $D(y)$ is non-enumerable. I contains a point $\xi_k(y)$ which is derived from $\xi(y)$ through addition of a rational number r_k , hence $D_k(y)$ is non-enumerable in I . And as $f(x) = y$ in $D_k(y)$, $f(x)$ assumes the value y in a non-enumerable sub-set of I .

Hence in any interval our function assumes any value on a non-enumerable set of points.

4. We must remark that $f(x)$ has any rational number as period; and also that $f(x)$ only differs from zero on a set of the measure zero, to wit on the set which we find by combining P_1, P_2, \dots , after excluding from each of these perfect sets of the measure zero the points where

$f(x) = 0$, hence $D_k(0)$. Accordingly $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 0$ in the sense of LEBESGUE:

$f(x)$ is equivalent to the function which is identically zero. All P_k are nowhere dense, hence the set of the points x where $f(x) \neq 0$ belongs to the first category of BAIRE.

Let us finally remark that all this almost literally holds good if for the x -set and for the y -set we substitute spaces of any number of dimensions. Accordingly it is for instance possible to define three functions u, v and w of x so that in the corresponding representation of the straight line $-\infty < x < \infty$ on the space (u, v, w) the image of each x -interval covers the whole space a non-enumerable number of times.

Utrecht, September 1925.
