

**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  $\pi$ . To any straight line of a parallel pencil in  $\pi$  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:

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

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.*

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