

39. On the Measure on the Set of Positive Integers

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R. C. Buck [1] constructed as follows a measure μ on the set $\mathbf{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ of positive integers. For an arithmetic progression $A = \{an + b \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\} = a\mathbf{N} + b$, $a, b \in \mathbf{N}$, $a \neq 0$, put $\mu(A) = a^{-1}$. Let \mathbf{A} be the class of all arithmetic progressions and \mathbf{B} the class of subsets of \mathbf{N} which are finite disjoint unions of elements of \mathbf{A} ; thus if $B \in \mathbf{B}$, then $B = \sum_{i=1}^k A_i$ (disjoint union) $A_i \in \mathbf{A}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$. For such B , put $\mu(B) = \sum_{i=1}^k \mu(A_i)$. For any subset C of \mathbf{N} , $\mu(C)$ is defined to be $\inf \mu(B)$, $B \in \mathbf{B}$ and $C \subset B \cup F$, where F is a finite subset of \mathbf{N} .

On the other hand, we have another measure ν on \mathbf{N} , used by J.-L. Maucilaire [2] to obtain various results. Let P denote the set of all prime numbers. For $p \in P$, the additive group \mathbf{Z}_p of p -adic integers with p -adic topology is a compact abelian group, which has therefore the Haar measure ν_p with $\nu_p(\mathbf{Z}_p) = 1$. The product group $G = \prod_{p \in P} \mathbf{Z}_p$ with the product topology is again a compact abelian group with product measure $\nu = \prod_{p \in P} \nu_p$. \mathbf{Z} is considered as a dense subgroup in G , and \mathbf{N} as an open and closed subset of \mathbf{Z} which is also dense in G .

J.-L. Maucilaire [3] discussed the relationship between μ and ν using Riemann-Stieltjes integration. In this note, we shall show that this relationship can be directly clarified using only topological considerations.

Remark. The above introduced notations \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , μ , ν , ν_p will be used throughout this note in the same meanings. Let us recall that $U_p(x, e) = x + p^e \mathbf{Z}_p$, $x \in \mathbf{Z}_p$, $e \in \mathbf{N}$, constitute an open basis of \mathbf{Z}_p and $V_S(U_p(x_p, e_p)) = \prod_{p \in S} U_p(x_p, e_p) \times \prod_{q \in P-S} \mathbf{Z}_q$ where S runs over the finite subset of P , $x_p \in \mathbf{Z}_p$, $e_p \in \mathbf{N}$, an open basis of G . For a subset M of G , \overline{M} will denote the closure of M in G . Recall, furthermore, that $\nu_p(U_p(x, e)) = \nu_p(x + p^e \mathbf{Z}_p)$ does not depend on x and is equal to p^{-e} , so that $\nu(V_S(U_p(x_p, e_p))) = \prod_{p \in S} p^{-e_p}$.

Our main result will follow from the following two propositions.

Proposition 1. For any open and closed non-empty subset O in G , $O \cap \mathbf{N}$ belongs to \mathbf{B} .

Proof. O is a union of sets of form $V_S(U_p(x_p, e_p))$, because O is open. As G is compact, O is also compact. So O is a finite union of $V_S(U_p(x_p, e_p))$. Now $V_S(U_p(x_p, e_p)) \cap \mathbf{N} = a\mathbf{N} + b \in \mathbf{A}$ where $a = \prod_{p \in P} p^{e_p}$ and $b \equiv x_p \pmod{p^{e_p}}$, so that $O \cap \mathbf{N}$ is an element of \mathbf{B} .

Proposition 2. For $B \in \mathbf{B}$, \overline{B} is an open and closed subset of G , and $\mu(B) = \nu(\overline{B})$.

Proof. For $A = a\mathbf{N} + b \in \mathbf{A}$, we set $a = \prod_{p \in P} p^{e_p}$ where S is a finite