

Fractal dimensions vs. small sets of reals

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The framework

Basic objects:

- Separable metric spaces
- Sets of real numbers

Two incarnations of reals:

- \mathbb{R} ... the Euclidean line with Lebesgue measure
- 2^ω ... the Cantor cube
 - $d(x, y) = 2^{-n(x, y)}$, $n(x, y) = \min\{n : x_n \neq y_n\}$
 - measure: the product measure

“Set of reals”: $X \subseteq 2^\omega$ or $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}$

σ -ideals – both incarnations

- \mathcal{M} ... meager sets
- \mathcal{N} ... negligible sets
- \mathcal{E} ... σ -compact negligible sets

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Very small dimension

- **Small Hausdorff dimension:**

$$\dim_{\mathcal{H}} X = 0$$

- **Very small Hausdorff dimension:**

$$\dim_{\mathcal{H}} f(X) = 0 \text{ for each uniformly continuous } f : X \rightarrow Y$$

- **Even smaller Hausdorff dimension:**

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\mathcal{H} -null sets

Definition

X is \mathcal{H} -null if: $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} f(X) = 0$ for each uniformly continuous $f : X \rightarrow Y$

Proposition

The following are equivalent:

- X is \mathcal{H} -null
- $\mathcal{H}^g(X) = 0$ for each Hausdorff function g

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Strong measure zero

Definition (Borel 1902)

X is strongly null if: For any $\varepsilon_n > 0$, X has a cover $\{U_n\}$ such that $\text{diam}(U_n) < \varepsilon_n$.

AKA as: Strong measure zero, Borel property, property C .

Borel conjecture: Each strongly null set is countable.

Laver 1976: Borel conjecture is independent of ZFC.

Theorem (Besicovitch 1933)

X is strongly null if and only if X is \mathcal{H} -null.

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Products

Proposition

If X is strongly null, then $\mathcal{H}^g(K) = 0 \implies \mathcal{H}^g(K \times X) = 0$ for each K compact, g Hausdorff.

Proof:

Use equivalent definition of strongly null: For any $\varepsilon_n > 0$, X has a **large** cover $\{U_n\}$ such that $\text{diam}(U_n) < \varepsilon_n$.

Large cover: Each $x \in X$ is covered by infinitely many U_n 's.

Corollary

If X is strongly null, then $\dim_{\mathbb{H}} X \times K = \dim_{\mathbb{H}} K$ for each K compact.

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If X is not strongly null, then there is $E \in \mathcal{E}$ such that $\mathcal{H}^1(E \times X) = \infty$.

Proof:

- There is g such that $\mathcal{H}^g(X) = \infty$
- There is h such that $h(r) \cdot g(r) \approx r$
- There is $E \in \mathcal{E}$ such that $\mathcal{H}^h(E) = \infty$
- Marstrand–Howroyd: $\mathcal{H}^1(E \times X) \geq \mathcal{H}^h(E) \cdot \mathcal{H}^g(X) = \infty$

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The following are equivalent.

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Adding sets of reals

$$X + Y = \{x + y : x \in X, y \in Y\}$$

Corollary

Let X be a set of reals. If X is strongly null, then $X + E \in \mathcal{N}$ for all $E \in \mathcal{E}$.

Proof: $(x, y) \mapsto x + y$ is Lipschitz.

Theorem (Pawlikowski 1995)

The following are equivalent for $X \subseteq 2^\omega$:

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What about $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}$?

- $\mathcal{H}^1(X \times E) = 0 \implies \mathcal{H}^1(X + E) = 0 \checkmark$
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Upper Hausdorff dimension

- $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_0^g(X) = \sup_{\delta > 0} \inf \{ \sum_{i=1}^n g(dE_n) : d(E_i) \leq \delta, X \subseteq E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n \}$
- $\overline{\mathcal{H}}^g(X) = \inf \{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \overline{\mathcal{H}}_0^g(X_i) : X \subseteq X_1 \cup X_2 \cup \dots \}$

Definition

$$\overline{\dim}_H X = \inf \{ s > 0 : \overline{\mathcal{H}}^s(X) = 0 \} = \sup \{ s > 0 : \overline{\mathcal{H}}^s(X) = \infty \}$$

Proposition

- If Y is complete and $X \subseteq Y$, then

$$\overline{\dim}_H X = \inf \{ \dim_H K : X \subseteq K, K \text{ } \sigma\text{-compact} \}$$

- If X is σ -compact, then $\overline{\dim}_H X = \dim_H X$

$\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null sets

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X is $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null if: $\overline{\dim}_{\mathcal{H}} f(X) = 0$ for each uniformly continuous $f : X \rightarrow Y$

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Additivity

Let \mathcal{J} be an ideal in reals and X a set of reals.

- X is \mathcal{J} -additive if: $X + J \in \mathcal{J}$ for all $J \in \mathcal{J}$

Theorem

Let X be a set of reals. If X is $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null, then

- X is \mathcal{E} -additive
- X is \mathcal{M} -additive

Based on Nowik–Scheepers–Weiss 1998, which is based on Miller 1984

Conjecture

An \mathcal{E} -additive $X \subseteq 2^\omega$ is $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null.

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If $X \subseteq 2^\omega$ is \mathcal{M} -additive and $f : 2^\omega \rightarrow 2^\omega$ is continuous, then $f(X)$ is \mathcal{M} -additive.

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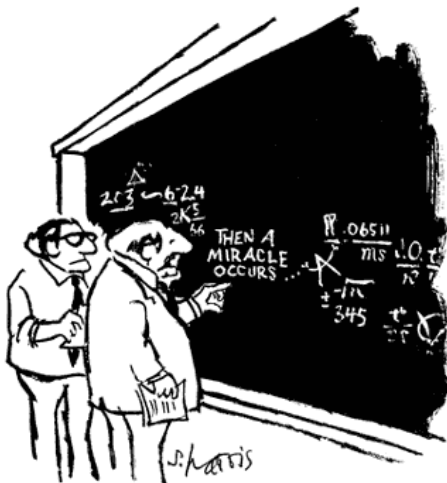
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A miracle



“I think you should be more explicit here in step two.”

A courtesy of Mr. Harris ©ScienceCartoonsPlus.com

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$$g(n) \leq f(k) < g(n+1) \ \& \ x \upharpoonright [f(k), f(k+1)) = y \upharpoonright [f(k), f(k+1))$$

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If X, Y are strongly null, then $X \times Y$ need not be strongly null.

X has the **Hurewicz property** if each compatible metric on X is σ -totally bounded.

Theorem (Scheepers 1999)

If X, Y are strongly null and X has the Hurewicz property, then $X \times Y$ is strongly null.

Theorem

- *If X, Y are $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null, then $X \times Y$ is $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null.*
- *If X is $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null and Y is \mathcal{H} -null, then $X \times Y$ is \mathcal{H} -null.*

Conjecture

If $X \times Y$ is \mathcal{H} -null for all Y \mathcal{H} -null, then X is $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null.

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Universally null and universally meager

- X is universally null if there is no diffused Borel probability measure on X
- X is universally meager if: For each perfect Polish Z , $A \subseteq Z$ and a continuous bijection $f : A \rightarrow X$, A is meager in Z .

Theorem

- [Szpilrajn 1934] *An \mathcal{H} -null set is universally null.*
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\mathcal{P} -null sets

Definition

X is \mathcal{P} -null if: $\dim_{\mathcal{P}} f(X) = 0$ for each uniformly continuous $f : X \rightarrow Y$

Theorem

The following are equivalent:

- X is \mathcal{P} -null
- $\mathcal{P}^g(X) = 0$ for each g Hausdorff
- $\mathcal{P}^g(Y \times X) = 0$ whenever $\mathcal{P}^g(Y) = 0$
- $\mathcal{P}^1(E \times X) = 0$ for each $E \in \mathcal{E}$

Theorem

If X is a set of reals, then the following are equivalent:

- X is \mathcal{P} -null
- $\mathcal{H}^g(Y \times X) = 0$ whenever $\mathcal{H}^g(Y) = 0$
- $\mathcal{H}^1(N \times X) = 0$ for each $N \in \mathcal{N}$

\mathcal{P} -null sets

Corollary

Let X be a set of reals. If X is \mathcal{P} -null, then X is \mathcal{N} -additive.

Theorem

Let $X \subseteq 2^\omega$. Then X is \mathcal{P} -null if and only if X is \mathcal{N} -additive.

Conjecture

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then X is \mathcal{P} -null if and only if X is \mathcal{N} -additive.

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Hausdorff dimension of algebraic sums

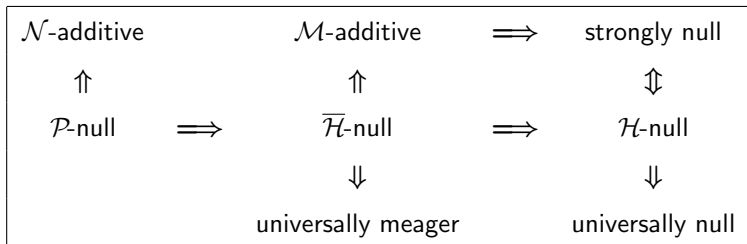
Corollary

Let $X \subseteq 2^\omega$.

- If X is \mathcal{M} -additive, then $\overline{\dim}_H(X + Y) = \overline{\dim}_H Y$ for each Y .
- If X is \mathcal{N} -additive, then $\dim_H(X + Y) = \dim_H Y$ for each Y .

Diagram

Set of reals

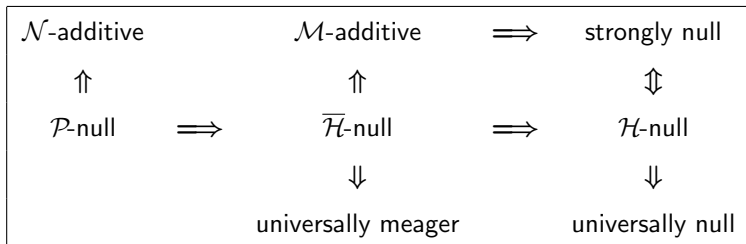


$$X \subseteq 2^\omega$$

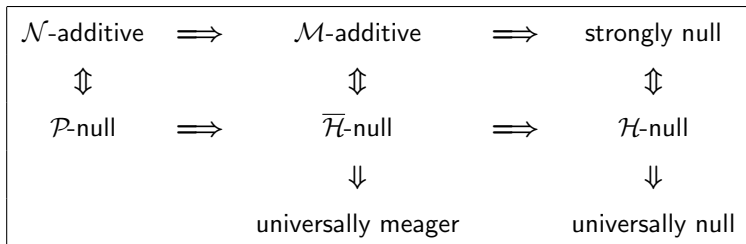


Diagram

Set of reals



$\mathbf{X} \subseteq 2^\omega$



Even smaller dimension

Definition

X is topologically \mathcal{H} -null if: $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} f(X) = 0$ for each $f : X \rightarrow Y$ continuous.

Proposition (Fremlin and Miller 1988)

X is topologically \mathcal{H} -null if and only if it has the Rothberger property.

Proposition

- *X is topologically $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null if and only if it is $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null and has the Hurewicz property*
- *X is topologically \mathcal{P} -null if and only if it is \mathcal{P} -null and has the Hurewicz property*

Even smaller dimension

Theorem

- Every γ -set is topologically $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ -null.
- Every strong γ -set is topologically \mathcal{P} -null.

Proposition

Consistently, there is a topologically \mathcal{P} -null set that is not strong γ .

Theorem

- $\min\{|X| : X \text{ is topologically } \mathcal{H}\text{-null}\} = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$ [Fremlin–Miller '88]
- $\min\{|X| : X \text{ is topologically } \overline{\mathcal{H}}\text{-null}\} = \text{add } \mathcal{M}$
- $\min\{|X| : X \text{ is topologically } \mathcal{P}\text{-null}\} = \text{add } \mathcal{N}$