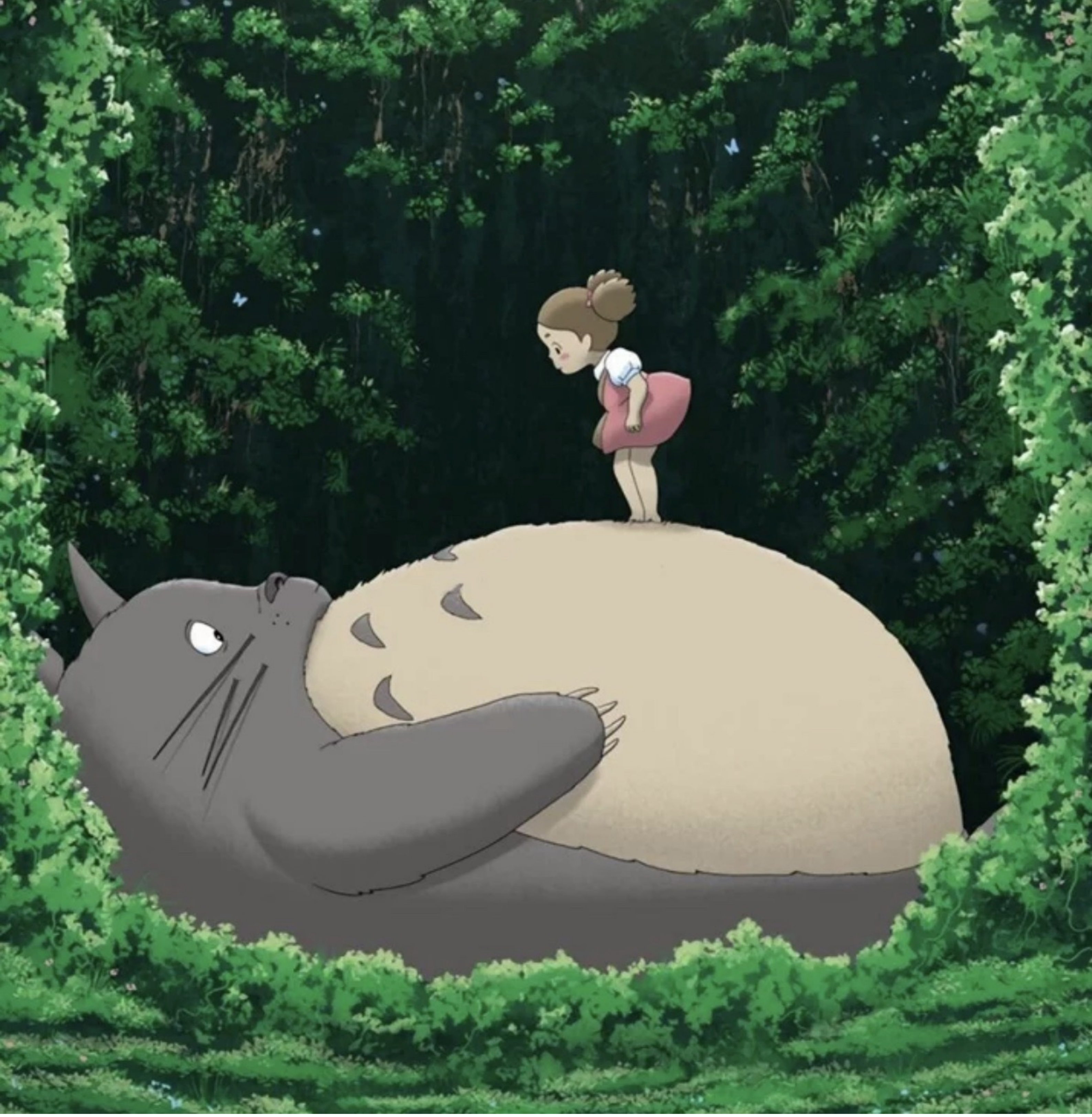

Geometric measure theory

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Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction

We will first introduce three questions in incidence geometry: the projection problem, the distance set problem, and the discrete Kakeya problem in $\mathbb{R}^2$. Let P be a discrete subset of $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Problem 1.1 (Projection) Let $e \in S^1$, and π_e be the projection onto the line l_e. We ask the upper bound on the number of e such that $\pi_e(P) \leq \frac{n}{8}$, given that P is a discrete set with $|P| = n$.

Problem 1.2 (Distance set) What is the lower bound the distance set $\Delta(P)$

$$\Delta(P) = \{|p - p'| : p, p' \in P\}$$

Problem 1.3 (Discrete Kakeya/Joints problem) Given a set of m lines $\mathcal{L}$, such that each line $l \in \mathcal{L}$ is m-rich, i.e.

$$|P \cap l| \geq m \text{ for each } l$$

Can we put a lower bound on the size of P.

We remind ourselves of a sharp bound regarding how the lines and points intersect. Let $I(P, \mathcal{L}) = \{(p, l) \in P \times \mathcal{L} : p \in l\}$

Theorem 1.1 (Szemeredi-Trotter theorem)

For any $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, and a finite set of lines, then we have

$$|I(P, \mathcal{L})| \lesssim (|P||\mathcal{L}|)^{\frac{2}{3}} + |\mathcal{L}| + |P|$$

We will prove a weaker result for some intuition, and gain some insight into the projection problem and the discrete Kakeya problem.

Proposition 1.1 (Weaker S-T)

In $\mathbb{R}^2$, we have that

$$|I(P, \mathcal{L})| \lesssim 4 \min\{|P|^{\frac{1}{2}}|\mathcal{L}| + |P|, |\mathcal{L}|^{\frac{1}{2}}|P| + |\mathcal{L}|\} \tag{1.1}$$

Using Proposition 1.1, we get the following lower bound on the discrete Kakeya problem in $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Corollary 1.1

we get that for a set of m lines such that each line intersects the point set P at least m times, we get that

$$|P| \gtrsim m^2$$

Note *The distance set problem can be realized as intersections between points and circles, instead of points and lines.*

We make a similar conjecture in $\mathbb{R}^n$, for m^{n-1} lines such that each line intersects the point set P at least m times, then we should have

$$|P| \gtrsim m^n$$

This statement fails for $\mathbb{R}^3$. Yet we could enforce some assumption to push to a nicer result.

Theorem 1.2 (G-N, Joints Problem)

For a set of m^2 lines such that no more than m lines lie in the same plane, and each line intersects the point set P at at least m points, then we have

$$|P| \gtrsim m^3$$

(This is in fact a conjecture by Bourgain and a corollary to the Joints problem in $\mathbb{R}^3$).

We now prove Proposition 1.1. unfinished here

We now give some general bounds on the size of $\Delta(P)$ given that $|P| = n$.

Exercise 1.1 For a given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a set P such that $|\Delta(P)| \lesssim n$, for example, the set of n points arranged on a straight line.

Exercise 1.2 We now get some general lower bound on $\Delta(P)$. We can show $|\Delta(P)| \gtrsim n^{\frac{1}{2}}$. Consider two distinct points p_1, p_2, if we show that either

$$|\{|p_1 - p| : q \in P\}| \gtrsim n^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ or } |\{|p_2 - q| : q \in P\}| \gtrsim n^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

WLOG, assume p_1 has that

$$|\{|p_1 - q| : q \in P\}| \lesssim n^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{1.2}$$

Then we would like to show that

$$|\{|p_2 - q| : q \in P\}| \gtrsim n^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

If the equation 1.2 is true, then there exists a distance r such that

$$|Q| = |\{q \in P : |p_1 - q| = r|\}| \gtrsim n^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

And for $p_1 \neq p_2$, we have

$$|\{|p_2 - q| : q \in Q\}| \gtrsim n^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Chapter 2 Dimensions

We now discuss some ways of measuring size of fractal sets.

Definition 2.1

Given a bounded set E, we define its δ-covering number $|E|_\delta$ as the smallest number of δ-balls needed to cover E. ♣

We note that as $\delta \to 0$, $|E|_\delta \to \infty$, so does $\frac{1}{\delta}$, hence comparing the rate of increase between the two gives us the Minkowski dimension (box counting dimension).

Example 2.1 Let $f : (X, d) \to (Y, d')$ is biLipschitz, if there eixts a constant C such that

$$C^{-1}d'(f(x), f(y)) \leq d(x, y) \leq Cd'(f(x), f(y))$$

Let $f : [0, 1]^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be biLipschitz, where $E = f([0, 1]^n)$, then we have

$$C^{-1}E \leq |[0, 1]^n| \leq CE$$

Hence $[0, 1] \sim E$, and $|E|_\delta \sim \delta^{-n}$.

Definition 2.2 (Upper and Lower Minkowski's dimension)

Let E be a bounded set in $\mathbb{R}^n$, and $|E|_\delta$ be the δ-covering number, then we define the upper and lower Minkowski dimension as follows:

$$\overline{\dim_B}(E) = \limsup_{\delta\to 0} \frac{\log(|E|_\delta)}{\log(1/\delta)}, \underline{\dim_B}(E) = \liminf_{\delta\to 0} \frac{\log(|E|_\delta)}{\log(1/\delta)}$$

♣

Example 2.2 The countable set $E = \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$, has Lebesgue measure 0, and has Minkowski dimension:

$$\dim_B(E) = \lim_{\delta\to 0} \frac{\log(\delta^{-1})}{\log(\delta^{-1})} = 1$$

Example 2.3 The set $E = \{\frac{1}{n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ has Minkowski dimension: for every $\frac{1}{n}$, it could be covered by a $\delta = n^{-2}$-length disjoint interval, hence

$$\dim_B(E) = \lim_{\delta\to 0} \frac{\log(n)}{\log(n^2)} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Example 2.4 The set $E = \{\frac{1}{2^n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is "too sparse" of a fractal so its box counting dimension is the same as the topological dimension.

$$\dim_B(E) = \lim_{\delta\to 0} \frac{\log(n)}{\log(2^n)} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{\log(n)}{n \log(2)} = 0$$

One could generalize this to get any set $E = \{a^{-n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ has Minkowski dimension 0.

Example 2.5 The Cantor set, splits into 2^n intervals of length $\frac{1}{3^n}$.

$$\dim_B(E) = \lim_{\delta\to 0} \frac{\log(2^n)}{\log(3^n)} = \frac{\log(2)}{\log(3)}$$

Note *Minkowski dimension does not always exist if the upper or lower Minkowski dimensions don't agree, and it does not work with unbounded sets E.*

Note *The example 2.2 has Minkowski dimension 1, but it is a countable set, hence we would like to assign it measure 0.*

$$\dim \cup_i E_i = \sup_i \dim E_i$$

To address the above two concerns, we introduce the Hausdorff dimension. We do it in three steps: introduce an up-to-δ-cover $\{U_j\}$, construct Hausdorff δ-measure, and letting $\delta \to 0$.

2.0.1 Hausdorff measure

Definition 2.3 (s**-dim Hausdorff measure)**

Fix $s \geq 0$, and $\delta \in (0, \infty]$, given a set $E \in \mathbb{R}^n$, an "up-to-δ"-cover of E is a ***countable*** *family of sets $\{U_j\}_{j\in\mathbb{N}}$ such that*

$$E \subset \cup_j U_j, diam(U_j) \leq \delta, \text{ for all } j$$

And an s-dimensional Hausdorff δ-meausre of the set E is

$$H^s_\delta(E) = \inf \left\{ \sum_j diam(U_j)^s, \{U_j\}_j \text{ is an up-to-}\delta\text{-cover of } E \right\}$$

Finally, the s-dimensional Hausdorff measure of E is

$$H^s(E) = \lim_{\delta \to 0} H^s_\delta(E)$$

♣

Remark The limit is well justified since as $\delta \to 0$, $H^s_\delta(E)$ is an increasing function.

There are many nice properties regarding the Hausdorff measure, for example, n-dim Hausdorff measure agrees with the n-dim Lebesgue measure, and there is a unique number such that the Hausdorff measure stops being ∞, and equivalently drops to zero. Hence based on this observation, we introduce the Hausdorff dimension of a set E.

Definition 2.4 (Hausdorff dimension)

For a set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, we have

$$\dim_H(E) = \sup\{s : H^s(E) = \infty\} = \inf\{s : H^s(E) = 0\}$$

♣

Before anything, we first check that the s-dimensional Hausdorff measure defined above is indeed a measure.

Proposition 2.1

For $s \geq 0$, the s-dimensional measure is indeed a measure.

♠

Proof We have that $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$, and $\mu(E) \geq 0$ for all E. Finally we check the measure is countably additive. For $\{E_j\}_{j\in\mathbb{N}}$ disjoint sets, we consider $E = \cup_j E_j$, as $\delta \to 0$, (or for δ sufficiently small, given E_j's are disjoint), all the up-to-δ-covers are disjoint, hence

$$H^s_\delta(\cup_j E_j) = \sum_j H^s_\delta(E_j)$$

And letting $\delta \to 0$, we get

$$H^s(\cup_j E_j) = \sum_j H^s(E_j)$$

□

Proposition 2.2

The following are basic facts about the Hausdorff measure:

1. *for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let m be the n-dim Lebesgue measure, there exists a constant C such that*
$$C^{-1} H^n(E) \leq m(E) \leq C H^n(E)$$
2. *$H^s(E)$ is a nonincreasing function of s.*
3. *For $0 \leq s_1 < s_2 < \infty$*
$$\text{either } H^{s_1}(E) = \infty \text{ or } H^{s_2}(E) = 0$$
4. *For $s > n$, and $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, we have that*
$$H^s(E) = 0$$

5. *For $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, and $s \geq 0$, we have that*

$$H^s(E) = 0 \iff H^s_\infty(E) = 0$$

Example 2.6 For a set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, we have that the n-dimensional Hausdorff measure should agree with the standard Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R}^n$. For if E is unbounded, then $m(E) = \infty$, and

Exercise 2.1 We have that for $f : A \to R^m$, $A \subset R^n$, for a fixed $s \geq 0$, and f is Lipschitz with Lipschitz constant L, we have that

$$H^s(f(A)) \lesssim_L H^s(A)$$

This can be shown that

Proposition 2.3

The Hausdorff measure is monotone: for $E_1 \subset E_2$, we have that

$$H^s(E_1) \leq H^s(E_2)$$

Proof For $E_1 \subset E_2$, for each δ, an up-to-δ-cover of E_2 is also an up-to-δ cover of E_1, and hence taking the infimimum, we get that $H^s(E_1) \leq H^s(E_2)$.

□

Proposition 2.4

The Hausdorff dimension satisfies that the dimension is a local property:

$$\dim(\cup_j E_j) = \sup_j \dim(E_j)$$

Proof We would like to show that $H^s(\cup_j E_j) = \infty$ if and only if $\sup_j H^s(E_j) = \infty$, and similarly, $H^s(\cup_j E_j) = 0$ if and only if $\sup_j H^s(E_j) = 0$.

This is a total of 4 directions. By monotonicity, two directions are shown:

$$\sup_j H^s(E_j) = \infty \Rightarrow H^s(\cup_j E_j) = \infty$$

Moreover,

$$H^s(\cup_j E_j) = 0 \Rightarrow \sup_j H^s(E_j) = 0$$

Moreover, by H^s being a measure, if we have $\sup_j H^s(E_j) = 0$, then all $H^s(E_j) = 0$ for all j, thus

$$H^s(\cup_j E_j) \leq \sum_j H^s(E_j) = 0$$

Now it remains to show that

Now we justify the usage of H^s, instead of just working H^s_δ.

Exercise 2.2 For $0 \leq s \leq 1, n \geq 2$, we have

$$H^s_2(B_1(0)) = H^s_2(\overline{B_1(0)}) = H^s_2(\partial(B_1(0)))$$