# Assouad dimension of distance sets

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$$\dim_{\mathsf{A}} F = \inf \left\{ s > 0 : \text{ there exists } C > 0 \text{ such that,} \right.$$
 
$$\sup_{0 < r < R} \sup_{x \in F} N_r \big( B(x,R) \cap F \big) \leq C \bigg( \frac{R}{r} \bigg)^s \right\}.$$

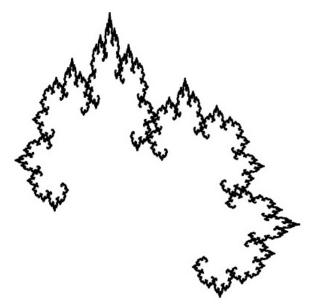
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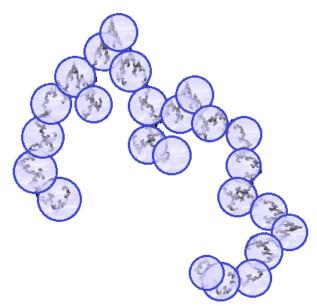
Here  $N_r(E)$  is the minimum number of balls of radius r required to cover a set E.



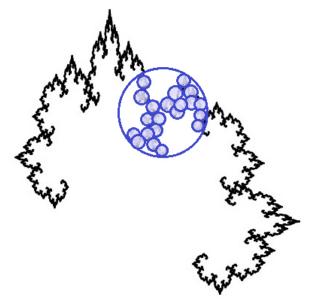
# Dimension theory



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For this talk, it is useful to note that (for closed F)

$$\dim_{\mathsf{A}} F = \max\{\dim_{\mathsf{H}} E : E \in \mathsf{Micro}(F)\}.$$

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$$\dim_{\mathsf{H}} F \leq \dim_{\mathsf{P}} F \leq \overline{\dim}_{\mathsf{B}} F \leq \dim_{\mathsf{A}} F.$$



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#### ASSOUAD DIMENSION AND FRACTAL GEOMETRY

JONATHAN M. FRASER



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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This is open, but there has been a lot of progress recently due to Orponen, Shmerkin, Shmerkin-Keleti, Guth-losevich-Ou-Wang and others. For example, we know (GIOW 2019)

$$\dim_{\mathsf{H}} F > 5/4 \Rightarrow \dim_{\mathsf{H}} D(F) = 1.$$



One may pose this problem for different notions of dimension and also search for optimal estimates in the sub-critical case when dim F < 1. The problem is open for box dimension, packing dimension etc.

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#### Theorem (F 2020)

For an arbitrary set  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ 

$$\dim_A D(F) \geq \min\{\dim_A F, 1\}$$

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The case  $\dim_A F \leq 1$  is not (so far) susceptible to such reductions.



Sketch proof: For  $V \in G(2,1)$  write  $\Pi_V$  for orthogonal projection onto V. For  $z \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , write  $\pi_z$  for the associated radial projection and  $D_z$  for the pinned distance map.

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Suppose F is closed and let  $E \in \mathsf{Micro}(F)$  with  $\dim_{\mathsf{H}} E = \dim_{\mathsf{A}} F$ . Let  $E' \in \mathsf{Micro}(E)$  with  $\dim_{\mathsf{H}} E' = \dim_{\mathsf{A}} E = \dim_{\mathsf{A}} F$  with 'focal point'  $z \in E$ .

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Let  $\mathcal{E}\subseteq G(2,1)$  be the set of exceptions to Orponen's projection theorem for Assouad dimension applied to the set E'. That is  $\mathcal{E}\subseteq G(2,1)$  are those V for which  $\dim_A \pi_V E' < \min\{\dim_A E',1\}$ . Orponen's theorem (2021) states that  $\dim_H \mathcal{E}=0$ .

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$$\dim_{\mathsf{H}} E \leq \dim_{\mathsf{H}} \pi_z(E) + \overline{\dim}_{\mathsf{B}} D_z(E) \leq \dim_{\mathsf{A}} D_z(E)$$

and therefore

$$\dim_A D(F) \ge \dim_A D(E) \ge \dim_A D_z(E) \ge \dim_H E = \dim_A F.$$



