

Cantor set

0. Construction

Let $C_0 := [0, 1]$: closed unit interval

Let I_1 be the middle third of C_0 . $I_1 = [\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}]$

Define $C_1 := C_0 \setminus I_1 = [0, \frac{1}{3}] \cup [\frac{2}{3}, 1]$

Let I_2 be the union of the middle thirds of each intervals of C_1

Define $C_2 := C_1 \setminus I_2 = [0, \frac{1}{9}] \cup [\frac{2}{9}, \frac{1}{3}] \cup [\frac{2}{3}, \frac{7}{9}] \cup [\frac{8}{9}, 1]$

We repeat this process for defining $C_k = C_{k-1} \setminus I_k$

We define the cantor set $C := \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} C_k$



1. Topological properties

① C is compact.

C_k : closed set.

$C = \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} C_k$: an arbitrary intersection of closed sets.

Thus, C is closed.

$C \subset [0, 1]$ bounded.

By Heine - Borel theorem, C is compact.

② C is totally disconnected

$\forall x, y \in C, \exists$ open set, U, V s.t $x \in U, y \in V, U \cap V = \emptyset$

③ C is perfect.

Def. ACT is perfect

$\Leftrightarrow A$ is closed and has no isolated point.

Def. $x \in A$ is an isolated point

$\Leftrightarrow \exists \epsilon > 0$ s.t. $B_\epsilon(x) \cap A = \{x\}$

We know that the boundary of C_k belongs to C .

Let $x \in C$, $\epsilon > 0$. Then $x \in C_k \forall k$

We know that the length of C_k goes to zero as $k \rightarrow \infty$

Consider $B_\epsilon(x)$.

$\exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. the interval of C_k containing x is included in $B_\epsilon(x)$ for $k \geq N$

In other word, there is an interval of C_k containing x and contained in $B_\epsilon(x)$ for $k \geq N$

The boundary of this interval belongs to C .

So, x is accumulation point of C . ($\because B_\epsilon(x) \cap C_k = \{x, x_{k+1}\}$)

Every point in C is an accumulation point of C .

There is no isolated point.

C is closed and has no isolated point.

Thus C is perfect. $\cdot \text{int}(C) = \emptyset$.

2. Cardinality and Measure

Ø C is uncountable.

Moreover, there is 1-1 correspondence between C and $[0, 1]$

Write the number in $[0, 1]$ with ternary number system (3 -adic number system).

For $a \in [0, 1]$

$a \in I_k \Rightarrow a = 0. \dots$ the first 1 appears at k -th digit.

Thus, $c \in C \Rightarrow c$ can be expressed by 0 and 2.

Consider the binary number system for $[0, 1]$

$b \in [0, 1] \Rightarrow b$ can be expressed by 0 and 1

Construct a 1-1 correspondence so that
 binary number expression of $[0, 1]$
 ternary number expression for $c \in C$

$$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \uparrow \\ 0 \\ \downarrow \\ 2 \end{array}$$

$$0.0- + 0.1- + 0.2- \quad 0.1 \Rightarrow 0.02222\cdots$$

$$0.01- + 0.21- \quad 0.01 \Rightarrow 0.00222\cdots$$

* $c \in C$ can be expressed by 0, 2.

$\therefore C$ has the cardinality of the continuum
 $= 2^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_1$: uncountable.

② C has zero measure.

(C has length zero)

The length of $\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} I_k$ = the sum of the length of $I_k = 1$
 length of $C_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

l_k = the length of I_k .

$$l_1 = \frac{1}{3}, \quad l_2 = \frac{2}{9}, \quad l_3 = \frac{4}{27}, \quad \dots$$

$$l_k = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{k-1}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} l_k = \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} = 1$$

The length of $C_k = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$

measure zero

$\Leftrightarrow \forall \epsilon > 0, \exists$ countable S_i s.t. $A_C \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} S_i, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} V(S_i) < \epsilon$

We can take N so large that $\sum_{k=1}^N \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{k-1} > 1 - \epsilon$

then, $C \subset C_N < \epsilon$.

countable

C_N is a disjoint union of 2^N intervals of length 3^{-N}

\therefore for $\forall \epsilon > 0$, statement satisfied

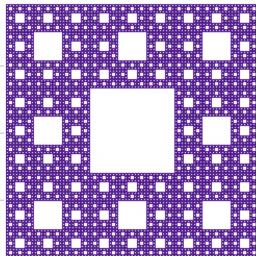
$\therefore C$ is measure zero.

3. Self-similarity

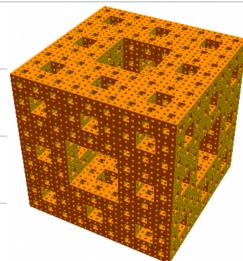
Fractal is a self-similar subset of Euclidean space whose fractal dimension strictly exceeds its topological dimension.

Cantor set is a fractal with self-similarity. If we reduce the C to set of size of $\frac{1}{3}$, it is same as the left part of C.

Sierpinski carpet is 2-dimensional generalization of C while Menger sponge is 3-dimensional generalization of C. They are also fractal with self-similarity.



Sierpinski carpet



Menger sponge

4. Fat Cantor set

Ø construction.

$$C_0 = [0, 1], \quad I_1$$

$$C_1 = C_0 \setminus \text{middle } \frac{1}{4} = [0, \frac{3}{8}] \cup [\frac{5}{8}, 1]$$

$I_2 = \text{union of middle } (\frac{1}{4})^2 \text{ of each subintervals.}$

$$C_2 = C_1 \setminus I_2 = [0, \frac{5}{32}] \cup [\frac{1}{32}, \frac{3}{8}] \cup [\frac{5}{8}, \frac{25}{32}] \cup [\frac{21}{32}, 1]$$

and so on. $C_k = C_{k-1} \setminus I_k. \quad C = \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} C_k$



② length.

$$l_k = \text{length of } I_k = 2^{k-1} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^k = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{k+1}$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} l_k = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{length of } C = 1 - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} l_k = \frac{1}{2}.$$

$$\therefore \text{measure of } C = \frac{1}{2}.$$

③ $\text{int}(C) = \emptyset$.

WANT $\forall x \in C, \exists \epsilon > 0$ s.t. $B_\epsilon(x) \subset C$

We know that length of subinterval of C_k goes zero for $\forall x \in C, \forall \epsilon > 0, B_\epsilon(x), \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $C_k \subset B_\epsilon(x)$ for $k \geq N$.

\therefore There is no interior point.

If $x, y \in C, \exists U, V$ s.t. $x \in U, y \in V, U \cap V = \emptyset$.

$\therefore x, y$ must be boundary of C_k for large k .

If x, y are in same subinterval of C_k , x, y are disconnected in C_{k+1} .

Thus C is totally disconnected.

Hence fat Cantor set is a nowhere dense set of measure $\frac{1}{2}$