

Cones, rectifiability, and SIOs

Damian Dąbrowski

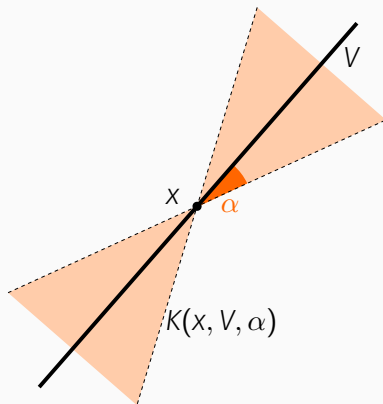
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Cones

Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $V \in G(d, m)$, $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, set

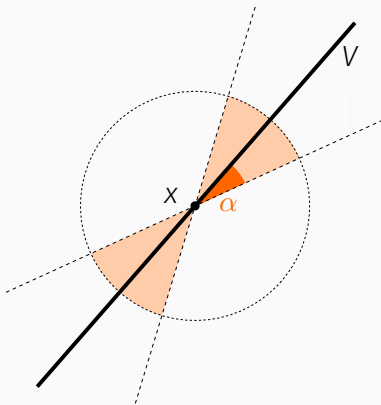
$$K(x, V, \alpha) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^d : \text{dist}(y, x + V) < \alpha|y - x|\}.$$



Cones

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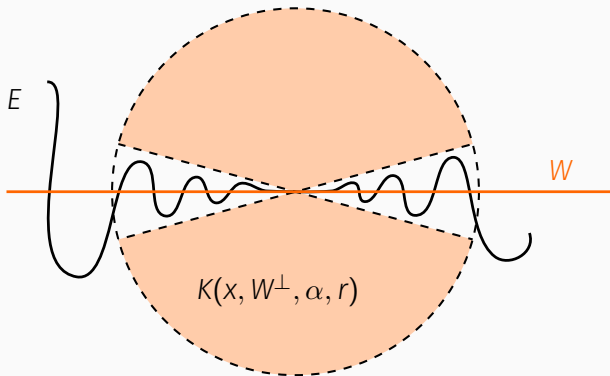
$$K(x, V, \alpha, r) = K(x, V, \alpha) \cap B(x, r).$$



Tangent planes

A plane $W \in G(d, n)$ is a **tangent plane** to E at x if for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ there exists $r > 0$ such that

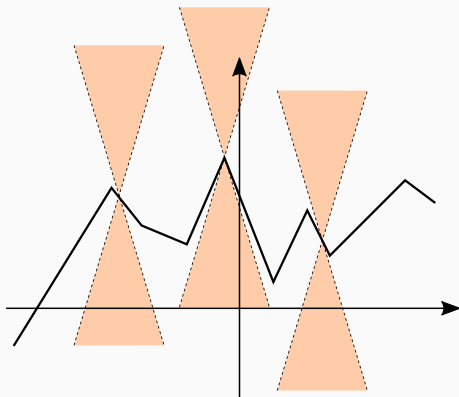
$$E \cap K(x, W^\perp, \alpha, r) = \emptyset.$$



Cones and Lipschitz graphs

Easy to show: $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is a subset of an n -dimensional Lipschitz graph iff there exists $V \in G(d, d - n)$, $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, such that

$$x \in E \Rightarrow E \cap K(x, V, \alpha) = \emptyset.$$



Rectifiability

A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is **n -rectifiable** if there exists a countable number of n -dimensional Lipschitz graphs Γ_i such that

$$\mathcal{H}^n \left(E \setminus \bigcup_i \Gamma_i \right) = 0.$$

Rectifiable sets and measures

A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is **n -rectifiable** if there exists a countable number of n -dimensional Lipschitz graphs Γ_i such that

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A measure μ on \mathbb{R}^d is **n -rectifiable** if it is of the form

$$\mu = f \mathcal{H}^n|_E$$

for some n -rectifiable $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $f \in L^1_{loc}(E)$.

Purely unrectifiable sets

We say that $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is **purely n -unrectifiable** if for every Γ - Lipschitz image of \mathbb{R}^n

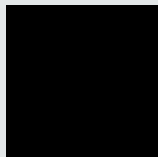
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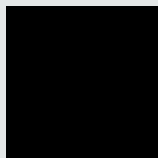


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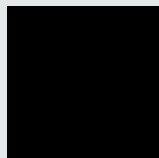


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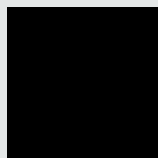
F is purely 1-unrectifiable and satisfies $1 \leq \mathcal{H}^1(F) \leq \sqrt{2}$.

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Example



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Any set of finite \mathcal{H}^n measure can be decomposed into a rectifiable and purely unrectifiable part.

Why do we care?

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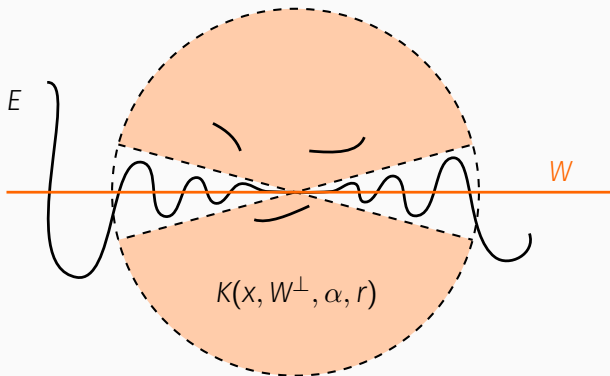
Applications in:

- boundedness of singular integral operators,
- study of removable sets for bounded analytic functions,
- optimal regularity of domains that ensure L^p solvability of the Dirichlet problem,
- study of singular sets of harmonic maps, free boundaries...

Approximate tangent planes

A plane $W \in G(d, n)$ is an **approximate** tangent plane to E at x if for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{H}^n(E \cap K(x, W^\perp, \alpha, r))}{r^n} = 0.$$



Approximate tangents characterize rectifiability

Theorem (Federer '47)

Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, $\mathcal{H}^n(E) < \infty$. Then E is n -rectifiable iff for \mathcal{H}^n -a.e. $x \in E$ there is a unique approximate tangent plane to E at x , i.e. for all α

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Analogous result holds for μ satisfying $0 < \Theta^{n,*}(\mu, x) < \infty$,

$$\Theta^{n,*}(\mu, x) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{r^n}, \quad \Theta_*^n(\mu, x) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{r^n}.$$

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Fact

μ is rectifiable $\Rightarrow 0 < \Theta^{n,*}(\mu, x) = \Theta_*^n(\mu, x) < \infty$ a.e.

Let $V \in G(d, d - n)$, $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, $1 \leq p < \infty$. The (V, α, p) conical energy of E at $x \in E$ up to scale $R > 0$ is

$$\mathcal{E}_{E,p}(x, V, \alpha, R) = \int_0^R \left(\frac{\mathcal{H}^n(E \cap K(x, V, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r}.$$

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More generally: for a Radon measure μ on \mathbb{R}^d define

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu,p}(x, V, \alpha, R) = \int_0^R \left(\frac{\mu(K(x, V, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r}.$$

Theorem (D. '20)

Let $1 \leq p < \infty$. Suppose μ is n -rectifiable. Then, for μ -a.e. x there is $V_x \in G(d, d - n)$ such that for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu,p}(x, V_x, \alpha, 1) = \int_0^1 \left(\frac{\mu(K(x, V_x, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r} < \infty.$$

Finite energy implies rectifiability

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Then, μ is n -rectifiable.

Question

$0 < \Theta^{n,*}(\mu, x)$, $\Theta_*^n(\mu, x) < \infty$,
approximate tangents exist a.e. $\xRightarrow{?}$ μ is rectifiable

Remarks on the proofs

$$\mu \text{ is rectifiable} \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\mu,p} < \infty \text{ a.e.}$$

Follows easily from a result of Tolsa:

Theorem (Tolsa '15)

$$\mu \text{ is rectifiable} \Rightarrow \int_0^1 \beta_{\mu,2}(x, r)^2 \frac{dr}{r} < \infty \text{ a.e.}$$

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Not difficult:

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu,1}(x, V, \alpha, 1) = \int_0^1 \frac{\mu(K(x, V, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \frac{dr}{r} \lesssim \int_0^1 \beta_{\mu,2}(x, r)^2 \frac{dr}{r} < \infty,$$

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and

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu,p}(x, V, \alpha, 1) \leq \Theta^{n,*}(\mu, x)^{p-1} \mathcal{E}_{\mu,1}(x, V, \alpha, 1).$$



Remarks on the proofs

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < \Theta^{n,*}(\mu, \chi), \Theta_*^n(\mu, \chi) < \infty, \\ \mathcal{E}_{\mu,p} < \infty \text{ a.e.} \end{aligned} \quad \implies \quad \mu \text{ is rectifiable}$$

- a corona decomposition result,
- prove the theorem assuming additionally $\Theta^{n,*}(\mu, \chi) < \infty$,
- show that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < \Theta^{n,*}(\mu, \chi), \Theta_*^n(\mu, \chi) < \infty, \\ \mathcal{E}_{\mu,p} < \infty \text{ a.e.} \end{aligned} \quad \implies \quad \Theta^{n,*}(\mu, \chi) < \infty.$$



Big pieces of Lipschitz graphs

Big pieces of Lipschitz graphs

We say that $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ has **big pieces of Lipschitz graphs** (BPLG) if there exists $C, L, \kappa > 0$ such that

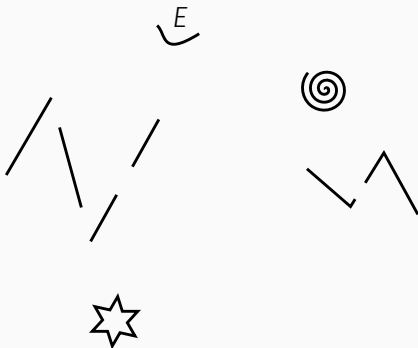
- it is AD-regular, i.e. for $x \in E$, $0 < r < \text{diam}(E)$

$$C^{-1}r^n \leq \mathcal{H}^n(E \cap B(x, r)) \leq Cr^n,$$

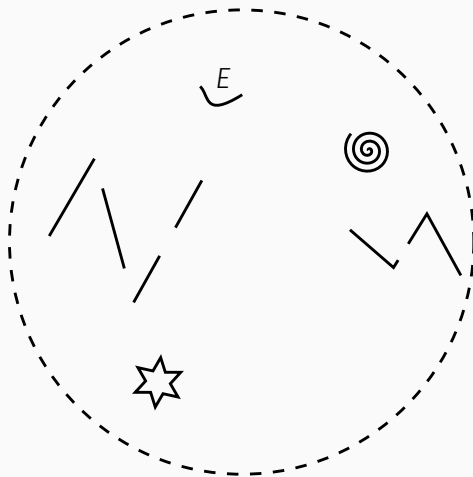
- for all balls B centered at E , $0 < r(B) < \text{diam}(E)$, there exists a Lipschitz graph Γ , $\text{Lip}(\Gamma) \leq L$, such that

$$\mathcal{H}^n(E \cap B \cap \Gamma) \geq \kappa r(B)^n.$$

Big pieces of Lipschitz graphs



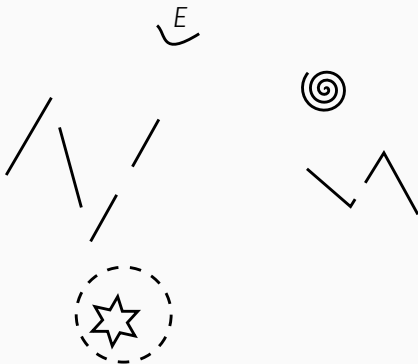
Big pieces of Lipschitz graphs



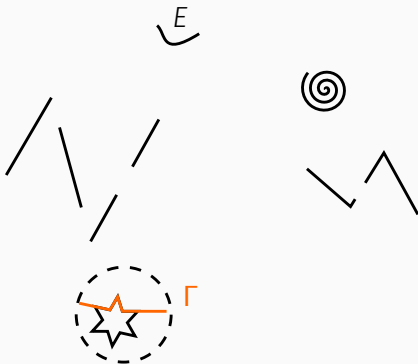
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Big pieces of Lipschitz graphs



Theorem (D. '20)

Suppose $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is AD-regular, $1 \leq p < \infty$. Then E has BPLG iff there exist $\alpha, \kappa, M > 0$, such that the following holds.

Characterizing BPLG using conical energy

Theorem (D. '20)

Suppose $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is AD-regular, $1 \leq p < \infty$. Then E has BPLG iff there exist $\alpha, \kappa, M > 0$, such that the following holds.

For all balls B centered at E , $0 < r(B) < \text{diam}(E)$, there exists a set $G_B \subset E \cap B$ with $\mathcal{H}^n(G_B) \geq \kappa r(B)^n$, and a direction $V \in G(d, d - n)$, such that for all $x \in G_B$

$$\mathcal{E}_{E,p}(x, V, \alpha, r(B)) = \int_0^{r(B)} \left(\frac{\mathcal{H}^n(E \cap K(x, V, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r} \leq M.$$

We will call the condition above **big pieces with bounded energy** (BPBE).

Proof of “ E has BPBE $\Rightarrow E$ has BPLG”

$$E \text{ has BPBE} \Rightarrow E \text{ has BPLG}$$

Can be reduced to

Theorem (Martikainen-Orponen '18)

Suppose $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is AD-regular. Then E has BPLG iff there exist $\kappa, M > 0$, such that the following holds.

For all balls B centered at E , $0 < r(B) < \text{diam}(E)$, there exists a set $G_B \subset E \cap B$ with $\mathcal{H}^n(G_B) \geq \kappa r(B)^n$, and a direction $V_B \in G(d, n)$, such that for a.e. $W \in \mathbf{B}(V_B, \kappa)$ we have $(\pi_W)_*(\mathcal{H}^n|_{G_B}) \in L^2(W)$, and

$$\int_{\mathbf{B}(V_B, \kappa)} \|(\pi_W)_*(\mathcal{H}^n|_{G_B})\|_{L^2(W)}^2 d\gamma_{d,n}(W) \leq M r(B)^n.$$

Bounded mean energy condition

Definition

We will say that an AD-regular set E satisfies the **bounded mean energy** condition if there exist $\alpha > 0$, $M > 1$, and for a.e. $x \in E$ there exists $V_x \in G(d, d - n)$, such that:

for all balls B centered at E , $0 < r(B) < \text{diam}(E)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{E \cap B} \mathcal{E}_{E,p}(x, V_x, \alpha, r(B)) \, d\mathcal{H}^n(x) \\ = \int_{E \cap B} \int_0^{r(B)} \left(\frac{\mathcal{H}^n(E \cap K(x, V_x, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r} d\mathcal{H}^n(x) \leq M r(B)^n. \end{aligned}$$

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Easy: BME \Rightarrow BPBE. In particular, BME \Rightarrow BPLG.

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Easy: BME \Rightarrow BPBE. In particular, BME \Rightarrow BPLG. But the converse is not true!

Question

How to modify BME to get a characterization of BPLG or UR?
Replace V_x by $V_{x,r}$?

Singular integral operators

Boundedness of singular integral operators

Given a Radon measure μ , $f \in L^2(\mu)$, and a kernel $K(x, y)$ set

$$T_\mu f(x) = \int K(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y).$$

Boundedness of singular integral operators

Given a Radon measure μ , $f \in L^2(\mu)$, a kernel $K(x, y)$, and $\varepsilon > 0$ set

$$T_{\mu, \varepsilon} f(x) = \int_{|x-y| > \varepsilon} K(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y).$$

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We say that T_μ is bounded on $L^2(\mu)$ if $\|T_{\mu, \varepsilon}\|_{L^2(\mu) \rightarrow L^2(\mu)}$ are bounded uniformly in ε .

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Examples

- Cauchy transform $\mathcal{C}_\mu f(z) = \int_{\mathbb{C}} \frac{f(w)}{z-w} d\mu(w),$
- n -dimensional Riesz transform
$$\mathcal{R}_\mu f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{x-y}{|x-y|^{n+1}} f(y) d\mu(y).$$

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Given a “nice” kernel K , what are the measures μ such that T_μ is bounded on $L^2(\mu)$?

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Denote by $\mathcal{K}^n(\mathbb{R}^d)$ the class of kernels of the form $K(x, y) = k(x - y)$, where $k : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are smooth, odd, and satisfy

$$|\nabla^j k(x)| \leq C_j |x|^{-n-j}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

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Theorem (David-Semmes '91)

Suppose μ is n -AD-regular measure on \mathbb{R}^d . Then,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{for all } K \in \mathcal{K}^n(\mathbb{R}^d) \\ T_\mu \text{ is bounded on } L^2(\mu) \end{array} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mu \text{ is \textbf{uniformly} \\ \textbf{rectifiable}.}$$

David-Semmes conjecture

Suppose μ is n -AD-regular measure on \mathbb{R}^d . Then,
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True for $n = 1$ (Mattila-Melnikov-Verdera 1996) and $n = d - 1$ (Nazarov-Tolsa-Volberg 2012).

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Question

If we only assume that $\mu(B(x, r)) \leq Cr^n$, what are the necessary/sufficient conditions for boundedness of \mathcal{R}_μ ?

Theorem (Chang-Tolsa '17)

Let μ be a Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^d satisfying $\mu(B(x, r)) \leq Cr^n$. Suppose that μ satisfies the BPBE conditions with $p = 1$, i.e. there exist constants $\alpha, \kappa, M > 0$, such that:
for all balls B there exists a set $G_B \subset B$ with $\mu(G_B) \geq \kappa \mu(B)$,
and a direction $V_B \in G(d, d - n)$, such that for all $x \in G_B$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu,1}(x, V_B, \alpha, r(B)) \leq M.$$

Then, for all $K \in \mathcal{K}^n(\mathbb{R}^d)$ we have T_μ bounded on $L^2(\mu)$.

Theorem (D. '20)

Let μ be a Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^d satisfying $\mu(B(x, r)) \leq Cr^n$. Suppose that μ satisfies the BPBE conditions with $p = 2$, i.e. there exist constants $\alpha, \kappa, M > 0$, such that:
for all balls B there exists a set $G_B \subset B$ with $\mu(G_B) \geq \kappa \mu(B)$,
and a direction $V_B \in G(d, d - n)$, such that for all $x \in G_B$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu,2}(x, V_B, \alpha, r(B)) \leq M.$$

Then, for all $K \in \mathcal{K}^n(\mathbb{R}^d)$ we have T_μ bounded on $L^2(\mu)$.

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This is strictly stronger than the result of Chang and Tolsa:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^R \left(\frac{\mu(K(x, V, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \right)^2 \frac{dr}{r} &\leq \int_0^R \frac{\mu(K(x, V, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{r^n} \frac{dr}{r} \\ &\leq C \int_0^R \frac{\mu(K(x, V, \alpha, r))}{r^n} \frac{dr}{r}. \end{aligned}$$

Corona decomposition

Main lemma

Let μ be a compactly supported Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^d satisfying $\mu(B(x, r)) \leq Cr^n$. Assume further that for some $V \in G(d, d - n)$, $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, we have

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu,p}(\mathbb{R}^d) = \int \mathcal{E}_{\mu,p}(x, V, \alpha, \infty) d\mu(x) < \infty.$$

Then, there exists a decomposition $\mathcal{D}_\mu = \bigcup_{R \in \text{Top}} \text{Tree}(R)$, and a corresponding family of Lipschitz graphs $\{\Gamma_R\}_{R \in \text{Top}}$, satisfying:

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- (i) Lipschitz constants of Γ_R are uniformly bounded,
- (ii) μ -almost all of $R \setminus \bigcup_{Q \in \text{Stop}(R)} Q$ is contained in Γ_R ,
- (iii) for all $Q \in \text{Tree}(R)$ we have $\Theta_\mu(2B_Q) \lesssim \Theta_\mu(2B_R)$
- (iv) we have the packing condition

$$\sum_{R \in \text{Top}} \Theta_\mu(2B_R)^p \mu(R) \lesssim \mu(\mathbb{R}^d) + \mathcal{E}_{\mu,p}(\mathbb{R}^d).$$