

Geometry of self-affine fractals

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Notation for sequences

Let $I_k = \{(i_1, \dots, i_k) : 1 \leq i_j \leq m\}$ be the set of sequences of length k , where $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Let $I = \cup_{k=0}^{\infty} I_k$ be the set of all finite sequences.

Let $I_{\infty} = \{(i_1 i_2 \dots) : 1 \leq i_j \leq m\}$ be the corresponding set of infinite sequences.

We denote the number of terms in $\mathbf{i} \in I$ by $|\mathbf{i}|$.

We write \mathbf{ij} for the sequence obtained by juxtaposition of the terms of \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} .

Let $\mathbf{i} \wedge \mathbf{j} \in I$ denote the maximal common initial subsequence of both \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} , for $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in I_{\infty}$.

The *cylinders* $C_{\mathbf{i}} = \{\mathbf{j} \in I_{\infty} : \mathbf{i} \preceq \mathbf{j}\}$ for $\mathbf{i} \in I$ form a base of open and closed neighbourhoods for I_{∞} .

Almost self-affine sets

For each $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_k) \in I_k$ let $\omega_{\mathbf{i}} = \omega_{i_1, \dots, i_k} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ be a translation vector, and let $\omega = \{\omega_{\mathbf{i}} : \mathbf{i} \in I\}$ denote the family of such translations.

Let T_1, \dots, T_m be a set of linear contractions on \mathbb{R}^N . We assume throughout that there is some non-empty compact set $B \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ such that

$$T_{i_1}(B) + \omega_{i_1, \dots, i_k} \subseteq B$$

for all $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_k) \in I_k$ and for all ω under consideration. This ensures that each $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, i_2, \dots) \in I_{\infty}$ determines a nested set of affine copies of B with intersection the single point

$$x^{\omega}(\mathbf{i}) = \omega_{i_1} + T_{i_1} \omega_{i_1, i_2} + T_{i_1} T_{i_2} \omega_{i_1, i_2, i_3} + \dots \quad (2.1)$$

We term the compact set E^{ω} given by the aggregate of these points,

$$E^{\omega} = \bigcup_{\mathbf{i} \in I_{\infty}} x^{\omega}(\mathbf{i}) \subset \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (2.2)$$

an *almost self-affine set*.

Self-affine sets

In the special case where

$$\omega_{i_1, \dots, i_k} = \omega_{i_k} \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_k) \in I_k,$$

the set E^ω is the unique non-empty compact subset of \mathbb{R}^N satisfying

$$E^\omega = \bigcup_{i=1}^m S_i(E^\omega) \tag{2.3}$$

where $S_i(x) = T_i(x) + \omega_i$ ($i = 1, \dots, m$) are contracting affine transformations, so E^ω is the attractor of the iterated function system $\{S_1, \dots, S_m\}$ and E^ω is a self-affine set.

Almost Self-affine measures and Self-affine measures

Given 'probabilities' p_1, \dots, p_m (so that $p_i > 0$ for each i and $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$), we define a Bernoulli measure μ on I_∞ by setting

$$\mu(C_{\mathbf{i}}) = p_{\mathbf{i}} \equiv p_{i_1} p_{i_2} \dots p_{i_k} \quad (\mathbf{i} = i_1 \dots i_k) \quad (2.4)$$

for each cylinder $C_{\mathbf{i}}$.

Let E^ω be an almost self affine set, the projected measure μ^ω on E^ω , defined by

$$\mu^\omega(A) = \mu\{\mathbf{i} : x^\omega(\mathbf{i}) \in A\} \quad \text{for } A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N \quad (2.5)$$

is termed an *almost self-affine measure*.

If E^ω is a self-affine set, the measure μ^ω is termed a *self-affine measure*, in which case

$$\mu^\omega(A) = \sum_{i=1}^m p_i \mu^\omega(S_i^{-1}(A)), \quad \text{for } A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N \quad (2.6)$$

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Dimensions of measures.

We denote the closed ball of radius r with center x by $B(x, r)$. Let ν be a Borel regular probability measure on \mathbb{R}^n . The *Hausdorff dimension* of ν is defined by

$$\dim_{\text{H}} \nu = \sup \left\{ s : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \nu(B(x, r))}{\log r} \geq s, \quad \text{for } \nu\text{-almost all } x \right\},$$

The *packing dimension* of ν is defined by

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Generalized q -dimensions of measures.

Let \mathcal{M}_r be the family of r -mesh cubes in \mathbb{R}^N , and ν be a Borel probability measure on \mathbb{R}^N .

For $q \neq 1$, the *lower* and *upper generalized q -dimensions* or *L^q -dimensions* of ν are defined by

$$\underline{D}^q(\nu) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \sum_{\mathcal{M}_r} \nu(C)^q}{(q-1) \log r}, \quad \overline{D}^q(\nu) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \sum_{\mathcal{M}_r} \nu(C)^q}{(q-1) \log r}.$$

For $q = 1$, $\underline{D}^1(\nu)$ and $\overline{D}^1(\nu)$ are defined by

$$\underline{D}^1(\nu) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sum_{\mathcal{M}_r} \nu(C) \log \nu(C)}{\log r}, \quad \overline{D}^1(\nu) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sum_{\mathcal{M}_r} \nu(C) \log \nu(C)}{\log r}.$$

If $\underline{D}^q(\nu) = \overline{D}^q(\nu)$, the common value denoted by $D^q(\nu)$ is called the *generalized q -dimension*.

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Integral forms of generalized dimensions

For $q > 0, q \neq 1$

$$\underline{D}^q(\nu) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \int \nu(B(x, r))^{q-1} d\nu(x)}{(q-1) \log r},$$

$$\overline{D}^q(\nu) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \int \nu(B(x, r))^{q-1} d\nu(x)}{(q-1) \log r},$$

For $q = 1$

$$\underline{D}^1(\nu) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int \log \nu(B(x, r)) d\nu(x)}{\log r},$$

$$\overline{D}^1(\nu) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int \log \nu(B(x, r)) d\nu(x)}{\log r}.$$

Moreover, $\underline{D}^q(\nu)$ and $\overline{D}^q(\nu)$ are monotonic decreasing in q .

Proposition:

Let ν be a Borel probability measure on \mathbb{R}^N . Then for ν almost-all x

$$\lim_{q \searrow 1} \underline{D}^q(\nu) \leq \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \nu(B(x, r))}{\log r} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \nu(B(x, r))}{\log r} \leq \lim_{q \nearrow 1} \overline{D}^q(\nu). \quad (2.7)$$

We use it to show that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu^{\omega}(B(x, r))}{\log r}$$

has a sharp upper bound ($\min\{d_1, N\}$)

Singular value function

Definition:

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a non-singular linear contraction. The singular values $\alpha_i \equiv \alpha_i(T)$ of T ($i = 1, \dots, n$) are the positive square roots of the eigenvalues of T^*T , where T^* is the transpose or adjoint of T . Equivalently, they are the lengths of the principal semi-axes of the image $T(B)$ of the unit ball B . We adopt the convention that $1 > \alpha_1 \geq \alpha_2 \geq \dots \geq \alpha_n > 0$.

Definition:

The singular value function $\phi^s(T)$ is defined for $0 \leq s \leq n$ as

$$\phi^s(T) = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \cdots \alpha_{m-1} \alpha_m^{s-m+1},$$

where m is the integer such that $m-1 < s \leq m$, with the convention that $\phi^s(T) = (\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \cdots \alpha_n)^{s/n}$ if $s \geq n$.

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Pressure function

For $s \geq 0$ and $q \geq 0, q \neq 1$ define:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(s, q) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \frac{\log \sum_{|i|=k} \phi^s(T_i)^{1-q} \mu(C_i)^q}{q-1} \\
 &\equiv \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \frac{\log \int (\phi^s(T_{i|k})^{-1} \mu(C_{i|k}))^{q-1} d\mu(\mathbf{i})}{q-1},
 \end{aligned}$$

For $s \geq 0$ and $q = 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(s, 1) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{|i|=k} \mu(C_i) \log (\phi^s(T_i)^{-1} \mu(C_i)) \\
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Critical value

For each $q \geq 0$, there is a unique number $d_q > 0$ such that $P(d_q, q) = 0$; specifically the d_q satisfy

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(d_q, q) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \frac{\log \sum_{|\mathbf{i}|=k} \phi^{d_q}(T_{\mathbf{i}})^{1-q} \mu(C_{\mathbf{i}})^q}{q-1} = 0 \quad (q \neq 1) \\
 P(d_1, 1) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \sum_{|\mathbf{i}|=k} \mu(C_{\mathbf{i}}) \log(\phi^{d_1}(T_{\mathbf{i}})^{-1} \mu(\mathbf{i})) = 0. \quad (3.8)
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For $q \geq 0$, d_q is strictly monotonic decreasing in q .

d_q is continuous at all $q \neq 1$ and is upper semicontinuous at $q = 1$.

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Information dimension

Theorem:

Let μ be a Bernoulli measure on I_∞ given by (2.4) and let μ^ω be the projection of μ onto E^ω . Suppose that there are numbers $s < \min\{d_1, N\}$ that are arbitrarily close to $\min\{d_1, N\}$ for which there exists $c < \infty$ such that

$$E(|x^\omega(\mathbf{i}) - x^\omega(\mathbf{j})|^{-s}) \leq \frac{c}{\phi^s(T_{\mathbf{i} \wedge \mathbf{j}})} \quad (\mathbf{i} \neq \mathbf{j} \in I_\infty).$$

Then, for almost all ω , the measure μ^ω is exact dimensional, with

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu^\omega(B(x, r))}{\log r} = D^1(\mu^\omega) = \min\{d_1, N\}$$

for μ^ω -almost all x .

Dimensions of self-affine measures.

Theorem:

For $S_i(x) = T_i(x) + \omega_i$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, m$) let E^ω be the self-affine subset of \mathbb{R}^N satisfying (2.3). Let μ be the Bernoulli measure on I_∞ given by (2.4) and let μ^ω be the projection of μ onto E^ω , that is the self-affine measure satisfying (2.6). Assume that $\|T_i\| < \frac{1}{2}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$. Then, for Nm -Lebesgue almost all $(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m) \in \mathbb{R}^{Nm}$, the measure μ^ω is exact dimensional, with

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu^\omega(B(x, r))}{\log r} = D^1(\mu^\omega) = \min\{d_1, N\}$$

for μ^ω -almost all x .

Dimensions of almost self-affine measures.

Theorem:

Let E^ω be the almost self-affine subset of \mathbb{R}^N . Let μ be the Bernoulli measure on I_∞ given by (2.4) and let μ^ω be the almost self-affine measure on E^ω given by (2.5). Suppose that $\|T_i\| < 1$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$. Let D be a bounded region in \mathbb{R}^N and let \mathbb{Q} be a probability measure on Ω such that $\{\omega_i : i \in \Omega\}$ are independent identically distributed random vectors in D with a distribution that is absolutely continuous with respect to N -dimensional Lebesgue measure. Then, for \mathbb{Q} -almost all $\omega \in \Omega$, the measure μ^ω is exact dimensional with

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu^\omega(B(x, r))}{\log r} = D^1(\mu^\omega) = \min\{d_1, N\}$$

for μ^ω -almost all x .

Lower bound.

We use

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu^\omega(B(x^\omega(\mathbf{i}), r)) &= \mu(\mathbf{j} : |x^\omega(\mathbf{i}) - x^\omega(\mathbf{j})| \leq r) \\
 &= \mu(\mathbf{j} : r^s |x^\omega(\mathbf{i}) - x^\omega(\mathbf{j})|^{-s} \geq 1) \\
 &\leq \int_{I_\infty} r^s |x^\omega(\mathbf{i}) - x^\omega(\mathbf{j})|^{-s} d\mu(\mathbf{j}).
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(\mu^\omega(B(x^\omega(\mathbf{i}), r))) &\leq E \int_{I_\infty} r^s |x^\omega(\mathbf{i}) - x^\omega(\mathbf{j})|^{-s} d\mu(\mathbf{j}) \\
 &\leq r^s \int_{I_\infty} \frac{c}{\phi^s(T_{\mathbf{i} \wedge \mathbf{j}})} d\mu(\mathbf{j}) \\
 &\leq cr^s \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \phi^s(T_{\mathbf{i}|k})^{-1} \mu(C_{\mathbf{i}|k}).
 \end{aligned}$$