

# Dimension Theory, Thermodynamics, & Multifractals

- \* many important dynamical invariants can be interpreted as dimensional quantities
- \* goal:
  - ① formulate cohesive framework for dimensional characteristics, relate various characteristics to one another using thermodynamic formalism (Bowen's formula)
  - ② outline multifractal analysis
  - ③ relate multifractals to thermodynamics

## I Dimension Theory

### A dimensions of sets

Motivation

length, area  
don't work for everything  
 $\# S(Z, \epsilon) \rightarrow$  measure

IFS

repeller

1. Box dimension. Defn Given  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  (or any sep. met. sp.) and  $\epsilon > 0$ , let  $S(Z, \epsilon) \subset Z$  be a minimal  $\epsilon$ -spanning set - that is,  $Z \subset \bigcup_{x \in S(Z, \epsilon)} B(x, \epsilon)$ , and no proper subset of  $S(Z, \epsilon)$  has this property. The box dimension of  $Z$  is

$$\dim_B Z = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \# S(Z, \epsilon)}{-\log \epsilon}.$$

(1)

Eg]  $Z = [0, 1]^d \Rightarrow \# S(Z, \epsilon) \approx (\frac{1}{\epsilon})^d \Rightarrow \dim_B Z = d$ .

Defn If the limit in (1) does not exist, the lower & upper limits are the lower and upper box dimensions.

Fact  $\dim_B \overline{Z} = \dim_B Z$ , so box dimension is a topologically insensitive clod. Eg] Level set of Birk ar.

2. Hausdorff dimension. Allow balls of varying radii.

Defn Given  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ , consider

$$D(Z, \epsilon) = \left\{ \{x_i, r_i\}_{i \in I} \subset Z \times (0, \epsilon) \mid Z \subset \bigcup_{i \in I} B(x_i, r_i), I \text{ dblb} \right\}$$

For  $\alpha > 0$ , set  $m_H(Z, \alpha, \epsilon) = \inf_{D(Z, \epsilon)} \sum_{i \in I} r_i^\alpha$  (3) and  $m_H(Z, \alpha) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} m_H(Z, \alpha, \epsilon)$ .

Then  $\dim_H Z = \inf \{\alpha \mid m_H(Z, \alpha) = 0\} = \sup \{\alpha \mid m_H(Z, \alpha) = \infty\}$  (4)

Fact  $\dim_H Z \leq \dim_B Z \leq \overline{\dim}_B Z \quad \forall Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Eg]  $Z = \text{middle-third Cantor set} \Rightarrow \dim_H Z = \frac{\log 2}{\log 3}$  (self-similarity)

-[2]-

3. Topological entropy. Defn] Given  $X$  cpt met sp and  $f: X \rightarrow$  cts, the Bowen ball centred at  $x \in X$  of order  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  and radius  $\delta > 0$  is

$$B(x, N, \delta) = \{y \in X \mid d(f^k x, f^k y) < \delta \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq n\}$$

Given a cpt inv. set  $Z \subset X$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\delta > 0$ , let

$E(Z, N, \delta) \subset Z$  be a minimal  $(N, \delta)$ -spanning set - that is,  $Z \subset \bigcup_{x \in E(Z, N, \delta)} B(x, N, \delta)$ . The topological entropy of  $f$  on  $Z$  is

$$h_{\text{top}}(Z, f) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \# E(Z, N, \delta)}{N}$$

(1')

Eg]  $X = S^1 \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $f(z) = z^2 \Rightarrow B(z, N, \delta) = B(z, \delta 2^{-N})$

$$\Rightarrow \# E(X, N, \delta) \approx \left(\frac{2\pi}{\delta}\right) 2^{-N} \Rightarrow h_{\text{top}}(X, f) = \log 2$$

do this  $\curvearrowright$  similarly for interval maps. (cf. middle-third Cantor set)

Remark] \* Can also use  $(N, \delta)$ -separated sets (also true for  $\dim_B$ )  
\* Limit always exists if  $Z$  is  $f$ -inv.

What if  $Z$  is not cpt or  $f$ -inv? Then mimic (2)-(4) just as (1') mimics (1), replacing  $B(x, \varepsilon) \mapsto B(x, n, \delta)$ ,  $\varepsilon \mapsto e^{-n}$ .

(2')

$$\text{Defn}] P(Z, N, \delta) = \{((x_i, n_i))_{i \in I} \subset Z \times [N, N+1, \dots] \mid Z \subset \bigcup_{i \in I} B(x_i, n_i, \delta)\}$$

$$m_h(Z, \alpha, N, \delta) = \inf_{P(Z, N, \delta)} \sum_{i \in I} (e^{-n_i})^\alpha$$

(3')

$$m_h(Z, \alpha, \delta) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} m_h(Z, \alpha, N, \delta)$$

$$h_{\text{top}}(Z, \delta) = \inf \{\alpha \mid m_h(Z, \alpha, \delta) = 0\} = \sup \{\alpha \mid m_h(Z, \alpha, \delta) = \infty\}$$

$$h_{\text{top}} Z = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} h_{\text{top}}(Z, \delta)$$

(4')

Fact] Both definitions agree if  $Z$  is cpt & inv.

Remark] This illustrates general procedure of constructing Carathéodory dimension characteristics. (See Pesin,

"Dimension Theory in Dynamical Systems" for details.)

Eg] Level sets of Birkhoff averages are not compact ( $\sigma: \Sigma_2^+ \rightarrow$ )

- [3] -

4. Topological pressure. Defn Given  $f: Z \rightarrow Z$  and  $\varphi: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ cts, the topological pressure of  $\varphi$  on  $Z$  wrt.  $f$  is

$$P_Z(\varphi) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \left( \sum_{x \in E(Z, N, \delta)} e^{S_N \varphi(x)} \right) \quad (1'')$$

where  $S_N \varphi(x) = \varphi(x) + \varphi(f(x)) + \dots + \varphi(f^{N-1}(x))$ .

\* Note similarity to (1') - special case when  $\varphi \equiv 0$ .

When  $Z$  is not cpt & inv., mimic (3') & (4'):

$$m_p(Z, \varphi, \alpha, N, \delta) = \inf_{P(Z, N, \delta)} \sum_{i \in I} e^{-n_i \alpha} + S_{n_i} \varphi(x_i)$$

$$m_p(Z, \varphi, \alpha, \delta) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} m_p(Z, \varphi, \alpha, N, \delta) \quad (3'')$$

$$P_Z(\varphi, \delta) = \inf \{ \alpha \mid m_p(Z, \varphi, \alpha, \delta) = 0 \} = \dots \quad (4'')$$

$$P_Z(\varphi) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} P_Z(\varphi, \delta)$$

5. Lyapunov exponents. Defn  $f: X \rightarrow X$  is conformal if the limit  $a(x) = \lim_{y \rightarrow x} \frac{d(f(x), f(y))}{d(x, y)}$  exists  $\forall x \in X$ . ( $a \leftrightarrow f'$ )

Eg] Any  $C^1$  interval map, any rational map of  $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ .

Defn Given  $f$  conformal and  $x \in X$ , the Lyapunov exponent of  $f$  at  $x$  is  $\lambda(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} S_n(\log a)(x)$ , if the limit exists.

Remark] We expect  $\lambda(x)$  to relate static & dynamic quantities:

$$(*) \quad B(x, n, \delta) \approx B(x, \delta e^{-n \lambda(x)}) \rightarrow B(x, \delta e^{-n \lambda(x)})$$

Eg]  $f$  tripling map on  $[0, \frac{1}{3}] \cup [\frac{2}{3}, 1]$ ,

$\Lambda$  = repeller (Cantor set).  $\log a = \log 3$

$\Rightarrow \lambda(x) = \log 3$  everywhere, and relates

$h_{top} \Lambda = \log 2$ ,  $\dim_H \Lambda = \log 2 / \log 3$ :  $\dim = \text{ent}/\text{lyap}$  (\*\*)



6. Bowen's equation We may rewrite the relation in the last example as  $h_{top} \Lambda - \lambda \cdot \dim_H \Lambda = 0$ .

Fact] Variational principle: For  $Z$  cpt & inv.,  $\varphi: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  to,

$$P_Z(\varphi) = \sup \{ h(\mu) - \int \varphi d\mu \mid \mu \text{ an invariant prob. meas.} \}$$

where  $h(\mu)$  is K-S entropy. (More on this later.)

In example, take  $\varphi = \log a \equiv \lambda$ , so  $\int \varphi d\mu = \lambda \forall \mu$ .

Thus  $P_\lambda(\log a) = [\sup_\mu h(\mu)] + \lambda = h_{top} \Lambda + \lambda$ , and we have  $h_{top} \Lambda - t\lambda = P_\lambda(-t \log a)$ , so  $\dim_H \Lambda$  is the root of Bowen's equation  $P_\lambda(-t \log a) = 0$ .

History 1979 (Bowen). "Hausdorff dimension of quasicircles" —

certain cpt inv. sets for fractional linear transformations of Riemann sphere

1982 (Ruelle).  $Z$  maximal cpt inv.,  $f: C^{1+\alpha}$  conformal, topologically mixing, uniformly expanding

1997 (Gatzouras, Peres).  $f$  can be  $C'$ .

2000 (Barreira, Schmelting).  $Z$  arbitrary,  $f: C'$  conformal, uniformly expanding

2009 (C.). Positive Lyap exp suffices, provided no critical points. Key tool is precise version of (\*). Can be extended to maps w/ critical pts under certain conditions.

Remark If Birkhoff averages on  $Z$  lie in  $[\alpha, \beta]$ , then graph of  $t \mapsto P(t \varphi)$  lies in cones between lines with slopes  $\alpha, \beta$ .

## [B] dimensions of measures

1. local quantities. Defn Let  $\mu$  be a prob. meas. on a metric space  $X$ . The pointwise dimension of  $\mu$  at  $x$  is  $d_\mu(x) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, \epsilon))}{\log \epsilon}$  (so  $\mu(B(x, \epsilon)) \approx \epsilon^{d_\mu(x)}$ )

(or  $\underline{d}_\mu(x)$  &  $\bar{d}_\mu(x)$  if the limit does not exist).

Let  $\mu$  be inv. for  $f: X \rightarrow X$ . The local entropy of  $\mu$  is

$$h_\mu(x) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \log \mu(B(x, n, \delta))$$

2. relationship to dimensions of sets. Fact 1 If  $\mu(Z) > 0$

and  $d_\mu(x) \geq \alpha \quad \forall x \in Z$ , then  $\dim_H(Z) \geq \alpha$ .

Fact 2 If  $\mu(Z) > 0$  and  $d_\mu(x) \leq \alpha \quad \forall x \in Z$ , then  $\dim_H(Z) \leq \alpha$ .

(requires Besicovitch Covering Lemma)

Eg) Lebesgue  
Eg) Bernoulli

Similar results hold for  $h_\mu$ , so local quantities can be used to find the Hausdorff dimension and topological entropy of sets. Provided, that is, that we can find the right measure - which is the job of thermodynamic formalism.

3. global quantities. Defn]  $\mu$  is exact-dimensional if  $d_\mu(x)$  exists and is constant  $\mu$ -a.e. In this case we write the common value as  $\dim_H \mu$ , and observe that  $\dim_H \mu = \inf \{ \dim_H Z \mid \mu(Z) = 1 \}$  (which is the usual definition).

Fact] Hyperbolic measures are exact-dim (Barreira, Pesin, Schmelting, 1999)

Fact] Ergodic measures have essentially constant local entropies (Brin, Katok, 1983), and  $h_\mu(x) = h(\mu)$   $\mu$ -a.e.

$$\text{Thus as above, } h(\mu) = \inf \{ h_{\text{top}} Z \mid \mu(Z) = 1 \}$$

This gives a dimensional interpretation of the KS entropy (for ergodic measures)

Defn] Lyap exp of measure is  $\lambda(\mu) = \int \log a d\mu$  (cf. BET)

4. relationships. Using (\*), we have the heuristic relation

$$d_\mu(x) = h_\mu(x) / \lambda(x) \Rightarrow \dim_H \mu = \frac{h(\mu)}{\lambda(\mu)} \quad (\text{cf. } (**))$$

These give bounds on dimension of sets:

$$\dim_H Z \geq h(\mu) / \lambda(\mu) \quad \forall \text{ erg. inv. } \mu$$

Equality  $\Rightarrow$  measure of maximal dimension

But how to find this measure?

## II Thermodynamics & multifractals

### A] The pressure function.

1. Thermodynamic formalism studies the properties of

the pressure function  $\varphi \mapsto P_Z(\varphi)$ ,  $C(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

In particular, 1-param families of potentials:  $t \mapsto P_Z(\varphi + t\varphi)$

2. Variational principle.  $X$  cpt,  $f: X \rightarrow Z$ ,  $\varphi \in C(X)$ ,

$$M_f(Z) = \{\mu \mid \mu \text{ is an } f\text{-inv. prob. meas. on } Z\}$$

$$M_f^E(Z) = \{\mu \in M_f(Z) \mid \mu \text{ ergodic}\}$$

Fact |  $P_X(\varphi) = \sup \{ h(\mu) + \int \varphi d\mu \mid \mu \in M_f(X) \}$   
 (or over  $M_f^E(X)$ )

**WARNING** May not be true if we replace  $X$  by  $Z \subset X$  not cpt & inv.

Defn | a measure achieving the supremum is an equilibrium state for  $\varphi$ .

3. Heuristic correspondence:  $\varphi \mapsto P_Z(\varphi)$  is convex  
 hence graph of  $t \mapsto P_Z(\varphi + t\varphi)$  looks like

For convex functions, subdifferentials are important  
 linear functionals  $\rightarrow$  in this case, measures

observe:  $P_Z(t\varphi) \geq h(\mu) + t \int \varphi d\mu \quad \forall \mu \in M_f(X)$

The RHS is linear in  $t$  for each fixed  $\mu$  (see picture)

If equality, then we have an equilibrium state.

So <sup>(sub)</sup>differentials of  $P$   $\leftrightarrow$  equilibrium states  
 differentiability  $\leftrightarrow$  uniqueness

4. Generic points: Given  $\mu \in M_f^E(X)$ , the set of generic points

$$\text{for } \mu \text{ is } G_\mu = \left\{ x \in X \mid \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \delta_{f^k(x)} \xrightarrow{w^*} \mu \right\}$$

Birkhoff:  $\mu(G_\mu) = 1$ . Bowen:  $h(\mu) = h_{top}(G_\mu)$

Pesin:  $P_{G_\mu}(\varphi) = h(\mu) + \int \varphi d\mu \Rightarrow P_{G_\mu}(t\varphi) = h(\mu) + t \int \varphi d\mu$

Fact | If  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_n \varphi(x) \rightarrow \alpha \quad \forall x \in Z$ , then  $P_Z(\varphi + t\varphi) = P_Z(\varphi) + t\alpha$

In particular,  $P_Z(t\varphi) = h_{top}(Z) + t\alpha$ , so the graph is just a line!

## 5. Countable stability & an incorrect argument

$$\dim_H \left( \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} Z_n \right) = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \dim_H Z_n$$

\* holds for any dimensional characteristic

\* The thing which let us find  $\dim_H$  from  $h_{top}$  &  $\lambda$  was that  $\lambda$  was constant everywhere. Now  $\lambda$  varies, so decompose:

$$X_\alpha = \{x \in X \mid \lambda(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} S_n(\log a)(x) = \alpha\}$$

By the above fact,  $P_{X_\alpha}(-t \log a) = h_{top} X_\alpha - t \alpha$

This = 0 when  $t = \frac{h_{top}}{\alpha} = \text{entropy/Lyap}$

In fact, this is  $\dim_H X_\alpha$  (more on this momentarily)

Multifractal decomposition      exceptional set



$$X = \left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}} X_\alpha \right) \cup X'$$

Ideal:

$$\dim_H X = \sup_{\alpha} \dim_H X_\alpha$$

$$= \sup_{\alpha} \{t \mid P_{X_\alpha}(-t \log a) = 0\}$$

$$= t \text{ s.t. } \left( \sup_{\alpha} P_{X_\alpha}(-t \log a) = 0 \right)$$

$$= t \text{ s.t. } P_X(-t \log a) = 0$$

Argument is invalid (uncountable partition + exceptional set)  
but result is true ... Bowen's equation

(give history here)

Eg] Compute Hausdorff dimension of repeller

of



- in principle, this gives a method.

6. Moran's formula. Prehistory -  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  ratio coefficients, construct Cantor set in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

$$\dim_H C = t \text{ st. } p_1^t + \dots + p_k^t = 1$$

(Use scaling:  $C = \bigcup_{i=1}^k C_i$ ,  $C_i = p_i C$ )  
assuming  $f_i: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  are contracting similarity trans.)

Now expansion is  $p_i^{-1}$ , so  $\log a = -\log p_i$

$$\Rightarrow p_1^t + \dots + p_k^t = \sum_{i=1}^k e^{-t \log(a)} (= 1)$$

a partition function!  $(n, \varepsilon)$ -sep set contains  
1 rep from each  $n$ -cylinder, so

$$\sum_{(w_1, \dots, w_n)} e^{-t(S_n \log a)(x_{w_1, \dots, w_n})} = \sum_{(w_1, \dots, w_n)} p_{w_1}^t \cdots p_{w_n}^t$$

$$= \left( \sum_i p_i^t \right)^n = 1 \quad \therefore P_C(-t \log a) = 0$$

## [B] Multifractal analysis

1. Multifractal decomposition.  $(\sum_{i=1}^M \alpha_i^q)$  is a key idea.

- \* local quantities in a top. dyn. sys. may vary even when constant a.e.

- \* decompose into level sets on which scaling or some other property is constant

- \* study these sets

Eg | Birkhoff spectrum for  $\sigma: \Sigma^+ \rightarrow \Sigma$ ,  $q = X_{[0]}$

- \* averages may take any value from 0 to 1

- \*  $K_\alpha^{b,q} = \{x \mid \frac{1}{n} S_n q(x) \rightarrow \alpha\}$

- \* entropy spectrum for Birkhoff averages:

$$B_q(\alpha) = h_{top} K_\alpha^{b,q}$$

- \* entropy spectrum for Lyap exp:

$$L_E(\alpha) = h_{top} K_\alpha^{b, \log a} \curvearrowleft (= X_\alpha)$$

\* dimension spectrum for Lyap exp

$$L_D(\alpha) = \dim_H K_\alpha^{b, \log a}$$

Eg |



2 different slopes

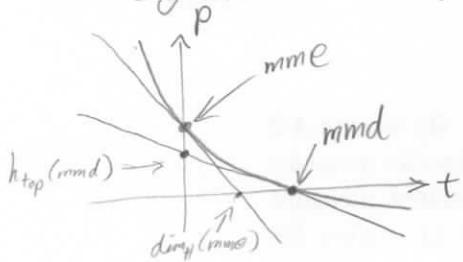
Remark | By Bowen's equation,

$$L_D(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha} L_E(\alpha) \text{ for } \alpha > 0$$

(if no critical points)

But how to find  $L_E(\alpha)$ ? Or  $B_\alpha(\alpha)$ ?

## 2. Legendre transforms



$P : t \mapsto P_X(-t \log a)$   
can also be described in terms of its  
subdifferentials. These were  
 $t \mapsto P_{X_\alpha}(-t \log a) = (h_{top} X_\alpha) - t \alpha$

Now this line is tangent to  $P$  at the value of  $t$  for which the equilibrium state  $\mu_t$  sits on  $X_\alpha$ :  $\mu_t(X_\alpha) = 1$ .  
At the point of tangency, we have (use  $P'(t) = \int -\log a d\mu_t$ )

$$P(t) = P_X(-t \log a) = h(\mu_t) - t \alpha = h_{top} X_\alpha - t \alpha$$

$$\therefore L_E(\alpha) = h_{top} X_\alpha = P(t) + t \alpha$$

Furthermore, for any other value of  $t$ ,  $P(t) \geq L_E(\alpha) - t \alpha$

Thus  $L_E(\alpha) = \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (P(t) + t \alpha)$ , the Legendre transform

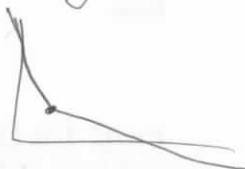
Remarkable fact - this means  $L_E$  is smooth & concave!

\* Observe - global quantity (pressure) gives information about local structure

-[10]-

3. Non-uniform case. If  $f$  is not uniformly expanding,  $P$  may have pts of non-differentiability — phase transitions. Then it may not have ergodic equilibrium states with all slopes.

So spectrum is



General techniques:  $L_E$  always  $\leq$  Ly trans.  
To get equality, find measures by restricting to uniformly hyperbolic subsets.

4. Critical points.  $\log a$  is discontinuous!

So new techniques are needed:  $wk^*$  fails &  $B(x, \delta e^{-n\lambda(x)}) \approx B(x, n, \delta)$  fail (in general). To reestablish, need slow recurrence condition:  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta$  s.t.

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} |\log d_\delta(f^k x, \text{Crib})| < \epsilon$$

$\nexists n$ , where  $d_\delta(x, y) = \begin{cases} d(x, y) & \text{if } d(x, y) < \delta \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

5. Other spectra. Can also consider entropy & dimension spectra for invariant measures. Similar results, but need Gibbs property.