

The bifurcation locus for numbers of bounded type

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Summary

1. Continued fractions
2. Numbers of generalized bounded type
3. Topological bifurcations
4. Hausdorff dimension
5. Tuning operators

Joint with C. Carminati

Continued fractions

Consider

$$x = \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \ddots + \frac{1}{a_n + \ddots}}}$$

the (regular) continued fraction expansion of x

A number x is of bounded type if

$$\mathcal{B} := \{x \in [0, 1] : \sup a_i < +\infty\}$$

Given $N \geq 1$, one defines the set

$$\mathcal{B}_N := \{x \in [0, 1] : a_i \leq N \quad \forall i \geq 1\}$$

of N -bounded type numbers.

Bounded continued fractions

Given $N \geq 1$, one defines the set

$$\mathcal{B}_N := \{x \in [0, 1] : a_i \leq N \quad \forall i \geq 1\}$$

- ▶ $\mathcal{B}_1 := \{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}\}$
- ▶ \mathcal{B}_N uncountable Cantor set for $N \geq 2$
- ▶ H.dim $\mathcal{B}_N > 0$ for $N \geq 2$
- ▶ (Jarník, 1928)

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}_N = 1$$

- ▶ (Hensley, '92)

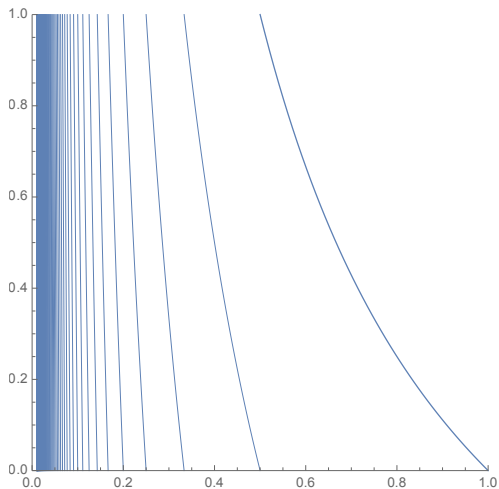
$$\text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}_N = 1 - \frac{6}{\pi^2 N} - \frac{72 \log N}{\pi^4 N^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right) \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty$$

Also: Hensley, Jenkinson-Pollicott, Das-Fishman-Simmons-Urbański...

Dynamical interpretation

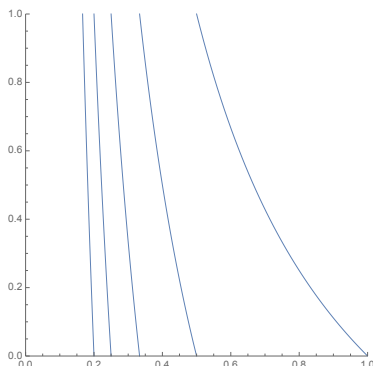
Recall the Gauss map

$$G(x) := \left\{ \frac{1}{x} \right\}$$



Dynamical interpretation

$$G(x) := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \\ \frac{1}{x} \end{array} \right\}$$



Remove all points whose orbit intersects $[0, \frac{1}{N+1}]$

$$\mathcal{B}_N = \left\{ x \in [0, 1] : G^n(x) \geq \frac{1}{N+1} \quad \forall n \geq 0 \right\}$$

Numbers of generalized bounded type

Fix $t \in [0, 1]$. Then define

$$\mathcal{B}(t) := \{x \in [0, 1] : G^n(x) \geq t \quad \forall n \geq 0\}$$

Properties.

- ▶ $\mathcal{B}(0) = [0, 1]$
- ▶ $\mathcal{B}(1) = \emptyset$
- ▶ If $t < t'$, then

$$\mathcal{B}(t') \subseteq \mathcal{B}(t).$$

- ▶ If $t = \frac{1}{N+1}$, then

$$\mathcal{B}\left(\frac{1}{N+1}\right) = \mathcal{B}_N.$$

Numbers of generalized bounded type

Fix $t \in [0, 1]$. Then define

$$\mathcal{B}(t) := \{x \in [0, 1] : G^n(x) \geq t \quad \forall n \geq 0\}$$

Examples.

- ▶ $t = g = [0; \bar{1}] = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$. Then

$$\mathcal{B}(g) = \{g\}$$

In fact, $\mathcal{B}(t) = \{g\}$ for all $t \in ([0; \bar{2}], [0, \bar{1}])$.

- ▶ $\alpha = [0; \overline{2, 1}]$, then

$$\mathcal{B}(\alpha) = \mathcal{B}_2 = \mathcal{B}(1/3)$$

is the set of numbers whose c.f. contains only 1 and 2.

- ▶ For $t = g^2 = [0; 2, \bar{1}]$,

$$\mathcal{B}(g^2) = \{\text{in between any two 2s there is an even number of 1s}\}$$

Topological bifurcations

Question. How does the (set-valued) function

$$t \mapsto \mathcal{B}(t)$$

behave with t ?

Definition

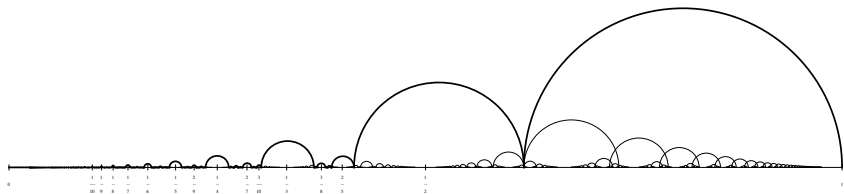
We call t_0 a **bifurcation parameter** if the function $t \mapsto \mathcal{B}(t)$ is not locally constant in a neighborhood of t_0 . The set of bifurcation parameters is the **bifurcation locus**.

Theorem

The bifurcation locus for the set-valued function $t \mapsto \mathcal{B}(t)$ is the set

$$\mathcal{E} := \{x \in [0, 1] : G^n(x) \geq x \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0\}$$

The bifurcation locus \mathcal{E}



$$\mathcal{E} := \{x \in [0, 1] : G^n(x) \geq x \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0\}$$

1. \mathcal{E} is closed, with $\text{Leb}(\mathcal{E}) = 0$.
2. \mathcal{E} contains countably many isolated points, which are quadratic irrationals.
3. $\text{H.dim } \mathcal{E} = 1$

Theorem

The points of discontinuity of the set-valued function $t \mapsto \mathcal{B}(t)$ are precisely the isolated points of \mathcal{E} .

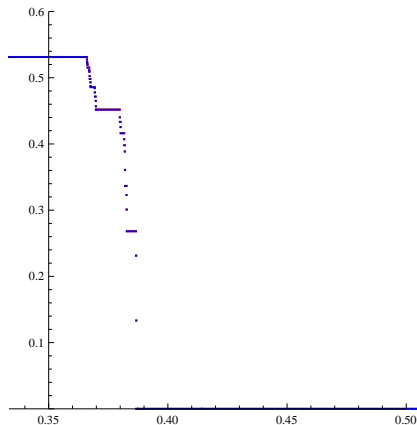
Main results: Hausdorff dimension

Let $\eta(t) := \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t)$ the Hausdorff dimension function.

Question. How does

$$\eta(t) = \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t)$$

vary with t ?



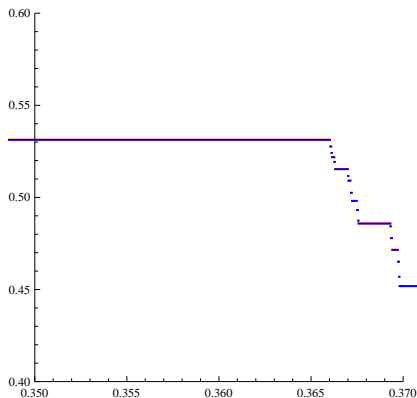
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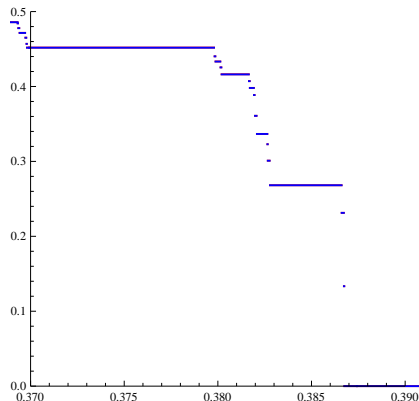
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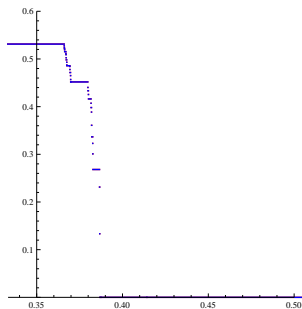
Main results: Hausdorff dimension

Theorem

1. *The function $\eta(t)$ is continuous;*
2. *If $\mathcal{E}(t) := \mathcal{E} \cap [t, 1]$. Then for any t*

$$\text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t) = \text{H.dim } \mathcal{E}(t).$$

3. *The function $\eta(t)$ is constant on any tuning window W_r with $r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, c_F)$ extremal.*



Main results: Hausdorff dimension

Theorem

Let $\eta(t) := \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t)$. Then:

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3. *The function $\eta(t)$ is constant on any tuning window W_r with $r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, c_F)$ extremal.*

The structure of \mathcal{E}

FACT: Every rational r admits exactly **two** C.F. expansions.

$$\frac{3}{10} = \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{1}}}$$

$$\frac{3}{10} = [0; \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{3}] = [0; \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1}].$$

So any $r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1)$ will have two C.F. expansions of the type

$$r = [0; S_1] = [0; S_0]$$

where S_0 has even length and S_1 odd length.

The structure of \mathcal{E}

Every rational $r \in [0, 1]$ has two continued fraction expansions.

$$r = [0; S_0] = [0; S_1]$$

Let S_0 be the one of even length, S_1 the one of odd length.

Given r , we define the **quadratic interval**

$$I_r := ([0; \overline{S_1}], [0; \overline{S_0}])$$

E.g.:

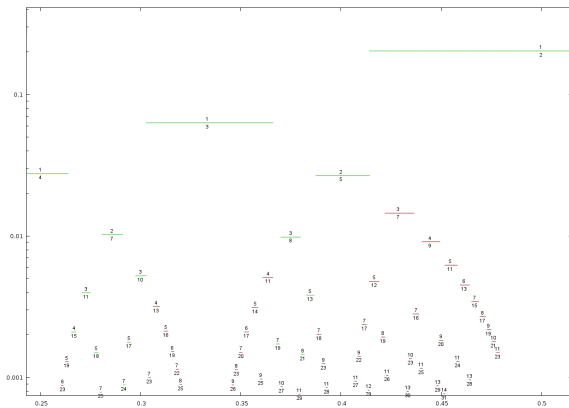
$$\begin{aligned} I_{3/10} &:= ([0; \overline{3, 2, 1}], [0; \overline{3, 3}]) \\ &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{37} - 4}{7}, \frac{\sqrt{13} - 3}{2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Thickening \mathbb{Q}

Proposition

The exceptional set \mathcal{E} equals

$$\mathcal{E} = [0, 1] \setminus \bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1)} I_r$$



The structure of \mathcal{E}

Definition

A rational r is **extremal** if, is $r = [0; S_1]$ is its c.f. expansion of odd length, then for any splitting

$$S_1 = XY$$

we have

$$XY < YX$$

where $<$ is the alternate lexicographic order.

Example.

$$21 < 11, \quad 21 < 22$$

$[0; 3, 2, 1]$ is extremal, $[0; 1, 2, 3]$ is not extremal

Lemma

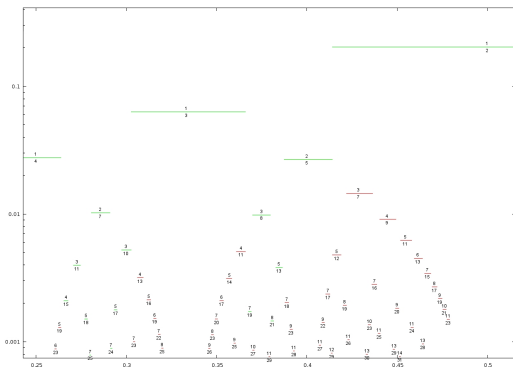
An interval I_r is maximal (i.e. not contained in another $I_{r'}$) if and only if r is extremal.

The structure of \mathcal{E}

Proposition

The connected components of the complement of \mathcal{E} are precisely I_r for r extremal:

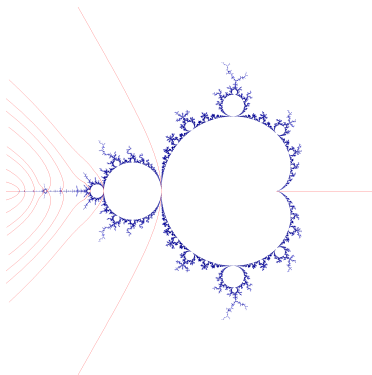
$$\mathcal{E} = [0, 1] \setminus \bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{Q}_E} I_r$$



The real slice of the Mandelbrot set

$$\mathcal{R} := \{\theta \in \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} : 2^n \theta \notin (\theta, 1 - \theta) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

The set \mathcal{R} equals the set of angles of external rays which 'land' on the real slice of the Mandelbrot set.



Identity of bifurcation sets

Theorem (Bonanno-Carminati-Isola-T, '10)

The sets $\mathcal{R} \cap [0, 1/2]$ and \mathcal{E} are homeomorphic. The map $\varphi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1/2]$ given by

$$x = \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_3 + \frac{1}{\ddots}}}} \mapsto \varphi(x) = 0.0 \underbrace{11\dots 1}_{a_1} \underbrace{00\dots 0}_{a_2} \underbrace{11\dots 1}_{a_3} \dots$$

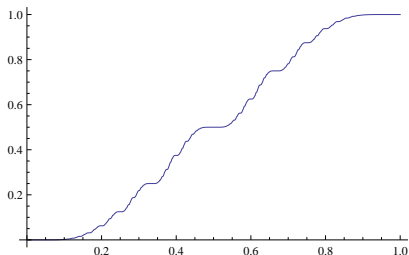
is a homeomorphism which maps \mathcal{E} onto $\mathcal{R} \cap [0, 1/2]$.

Question. Is there a renormalization scheme for sets of numbers of bounded type?

Minkowski's question mark function

Let $\alpha := [0; a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots]$, define

$$?(\alpha) := 0.\underbrace{00\dots 0}_{a_1-1}\underbrace{11\dots 1}_{a_2}\underbrace{00\dots 0}_{a_3}\dots$$



The dictionary

Continued fractions \Leftrightarrow **Binary expansions**

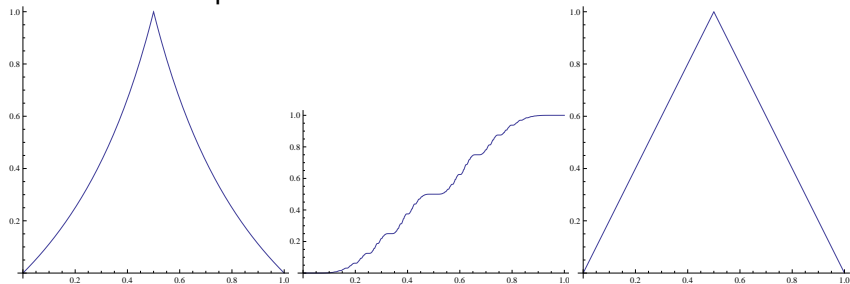
\mathcal{E}

$\leftarrow ? \rightarrow$

\wedge

From Farey to the tent map, via ?

Minkowski's question-mark function conjugates the Farey map with the tent map



Period doubling cascades

Let Z be a finite string of natural numbers. Let Z' be the conjugate of Z , i.e. so that

$$[0; Z] = [0; Z']$$

Example.

$$(3)' = (2, 1) \quad (2, 1)' = 3.$$

Define, for $r \in \mathbb{Q} = [0; S_0] = [0; S_1]$,

$$\begin{cases} Z_0(r) := S_0 \\ Z_1(r) := S_1 \\ Z_{n+1}(r) := Z_n Z'_n \end{cases}$$

Proposition

Every isolated point of $\mathcal{E} \setminus \{g\}$ is of the form $[0; \overline{Z_n(r)}]$ with $n \geq 1$ and r extremal.

Discontinuity points

Define, for $r \in \mathbb{Q} = [0; S_0] = [0; S_1]$,

$$\begin{cases} Z_0(r) := S_0 \\ Z_1(r) := S_1 \\ Z_{n+1}(r) := Z_n Z'_n \end{cases}$$

Proposition

Every isolated point of \mathcal{E} is of the form $[0; \overline{Z_n(r)}]$ with $n \geq 1$ and r extremal.

Proposition

*The points of discontinuity of the set-valued function $t \mapsto \mathcal{B}(t)$ are precisely the **isolated points** of \mathcal{E} .*

The Feigenbaum point

Let us start with $Z_0 = (1, 1)$, $Z_1 = (2)$.

Then the cascade is

$$\alpha_0 = [0; \overline{1, 1}], \quad \alpha_1 = [0; \overline{2}], \quad \alpha_2 = [0; \overline{2, 1, 1}], \quad \alpha_3 = [0; \overline{2, 1, 1, 2, 2}]$$

Then

$$c_F := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = [0; \overline{2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, \dots}]$$

Its continued fraction expansion is the fixed point of the substitution

$$\begin{cases} 1 \mapsto 2 \\ 2 \mapsto 211. \end{cases}$$

(Compare Thue-Morse sequence)

Question. For which t_0 is such that

$$\text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t) = 0?$$

The Feigenbaum point

Let us start with $Z_0 = (1, 1)$.

Then the cascade is

$$\alpha_0 = [0; \overline{1, 1}], \quad \alpha_1 = [0; \overline{2}], \quad \alpha_2 = [0; \overline{2, 1, 1}], \quad \alpha_3 = [0; \overline{2, 1, 1, 2, 2}]$$

Then

$$c_F := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = [0; \overline{2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, \dots}]$$

Its continued fraction expansion is the fixed point of the substitution

$$\begin{cases} 1 \mapsto 2 \\ 2 \mapsto 211. \end{cases}$$

Theorem

We have

$$\text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t) = 0$$

if and only if $t \geq c_F$.

Main results: Hausdorff dimension

Theorem

Let $\eta(t) := \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t)$. Then:

1. *The function $\eta(t)$ is continuous;*
2. *If $\mathcal{E}(t) := \mathcal{E} \cap [t, 1]$. Then for any t*

$$\text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t) = \text{H.dim } \mathcal{E}(t).$$

3. *The function $\eta(t)$ is constant on any tuning window W_r with $r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, c_F)$ extremal.*

Tuning operators and windows

Starting with a rational number

$$r = [0; S_0] = [0; S_1]$$

the two continued fraction expansions of r .

Given $r \in \mathbb{Q}$, let us define $\tau_r : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, r]$

$$[0; a_1, a_2, \dots] \mapsto [0; S_1 S_0^{a_1-1} S_1 S_0^{a_2-1} \dots]$$

Then:

1. $\tau_r(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}$
2. $\mathcal{E}(\tau_r(x)) = \mathcal{E}(\alpha) \cup \tau_r(\mathcal{E}(x))$

Definition

Define the **tuning window**

$$W_r := [\omega, \alpha)$$

with

$$\alpha := [0; \overline{S_0}] \quad \omega := [0; S_1, \overline{S_0}]$$

Tuning operators and cascades

Given $r \in \mathbb{Q}$, let us define $\tau_r : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, r]$

$$[0; a_1, a_2, \dots] \mapsto [0; S_1 S_0^{a_1-1} S_1 S_0^{a_2-1} \dots]$$

Proposition

For any extremal rational number r , the cascade generated by r is just the sequence

$$\{\tau_r \tau_{1/2}^n(g), \quad n \geq 0\}$$

Theorem

The function $\eta(t) = \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t)$ is constant on each tuning window W_r .

Corollary

The bifurcation locus for the dimension function $\eta(t)$ is strictly smaller than the bifurcation locus for the set-valued function.

Scaling at the Feigenbaum point

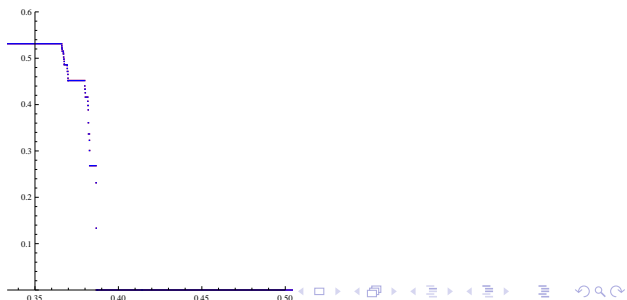
Theorem

There exist $c_1, c_2 > 0$ such that for any $t < c_F$,

$$\frac{c_1}{-\log|t - c_F|} \leq \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t) \leq \frac{c_2}{-\log|t - c_F|}.$$

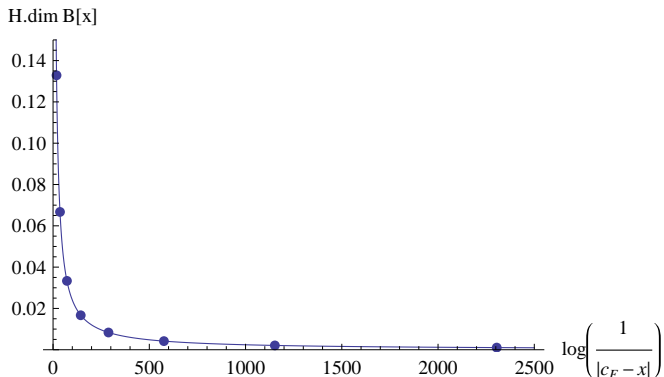
Moreover,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(\alpha_n) \log \left(\frac{1}{|c_F - \alpha_n|} \right) = 5 \log \frac{\sqrt{5} + 1}{2}.$$



Scaling at the Feigenbaum point

$$\text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t) \approx \frac{1}{-\log |t - c_F|}$$



Note. However,

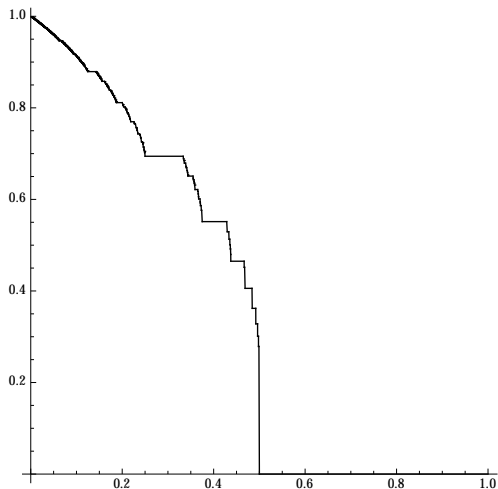
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow c_F^+} \text{H.dim } \mathcal{B}(t) \log\left(\frac{1}{|t - c_F|}\right)$$

does **not** exist.

Comparison with the linear (doubling) case

$$K(t) := \{x \in [0, 1] : 2^n x \notin [0, t] \quad \forall n \geq 0\}$$

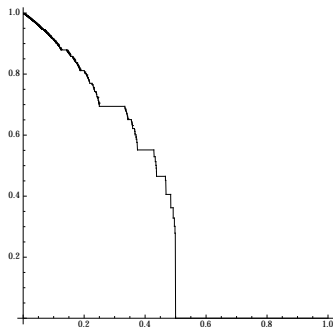
$$\eta'(t) := \text{H.dim } K(t) \quad (\text{Urbański, '86})$$



Comparison with the linear (doubling) case

$$K(t) := \{x \in [0, 1] : 2^n x \notin [0, t) \quad \forall n \geq 0\}$$

$$\eta'(t) := \text{H.dim } K(t) \quad (\text{Urbański, '86})$$

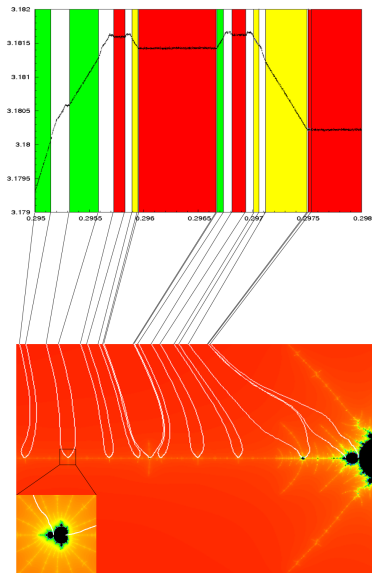


- ▶ Bifurcation locus is a Cantor set
- ▶ The modulus of continuity at $t = 1/2$ is $\omega(x) \approx \frac{\log \log(1/x)}{\log(1/x)}$

Further connections

1. \mathcal{E} is the bifurcation locus for α -continued fractions (Carminati-T., Kraaikamp-Schmidt-Steiner...)
2. The recurrence spectrum for Sturmian sequences (Cassaigne)
3. Markov and Lagrange spectra (Moreira), but different
4. Bifurcation locus for unimodal maps (Milnor-Thurston, Isola-Politi, Bonanno-Carminati-Isola-T.)
5. The set \mathcal{U} of univoque numbers (Erdos-Horvath-Joo, Komornik-Loreti, Allaart-Kong)
6. Open dynamical systems: doubling map with “holes” (Urbański, Carminati-T.)

Correspondence between α -continued fractions and the Mandelbrot set



A unified approach

The dictionary yields a unified proof of the following results:

1. The set of matching intervals for α -continued fractions has zero measure and full Hausdorff dimension (Nakada-Natsui conjecture, CT 2010)
2. The real part of the boundary of the Mandelbrot set has Hausdorff dimension 1

$$H.\dim(\partial\mathcal{M} \cap \mathbb{R}) = 1$$

(Zakeri, 2000)

