

Rectifiable and Purely Unrectifiable Measures in the Absence of Absolute Continuity

Matthew Badger
Joint work with Raanan Schul

Department of Mathematics
University of Connecticut

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General Definition

Let μ be a Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^n and let $m \geq 0$ be an integer. We say that μ is **m -rectifiable** if there exist countably many

- ▶ Lipschitz maps $f_i : [0, 1]^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ $[0, 1]^0 = \{0\}$

such that

$$\mu \left(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \bigcup_i f_i([0, 1]^m) \right) = 0.$$

(Federer's terminology: \mathbb{R}^n is countably (μ, m) -rectifiable.)

We say that μ is **purely m -unrectifiable** provided $\mu(f([0, 1]^m)) = 0$ for every Lipschitz map $f : [0, 1]^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

- ▶ Every measure μ on \mathbb{R}^n is m -rectifiable for all $m \geq n$
- ▶ A measure μ is 0-rectifiable iff $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i \delta_{x_i}$
- ▶ A measure μ is purely 0-unrectifiable iff μ is atomless.

Examples of Rectifiable Measures

- ▶ **Subsets of Lipschitz Images:** Let $f : [0, 1]^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be Lipschitz. Then $\mathcal{H}^m \llcorner E$ is m -rectifiable for all $E \subseteq f([0, 1]^m)$.
- ▶ **Weighted Sums:** Suppose that $\mathcal{H}^m \llcorner E_i$ is m -rectifiable and $m_i \geq 0$ for all $i \geq 1$. Then $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} m_i \mathcal{H}^m \llcorner E_i$ is m -rectifiable.
- ▶ **A Locally Infinite Rectifiable Measure:** Let $\ell_i \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be the line through the origin meeting the x -axis at angle $\theta_i \in [0, \pi)$. Assume that $\#\{\theta_i : i \geq 1\} = \infty$. Then $\phi = \mathcal{H}^1 \llcorner \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \ell_i$ is 1-rectifiable and σ -finite, but $\phi(B(0, r)) = \infty$ for all $r > 0$.
- ▶ **A Radon Example with Locally Infinite Support:**
 $\psi = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} 2^{-i} \mathcal{H}^1 \llcorner \ell_i$ is a 1-rectifiable Radon measure, but $\mathcal{H}^1 \llcorner \text{spt } \psi = \phi$ is locally infinite on neighborhoods of 0.

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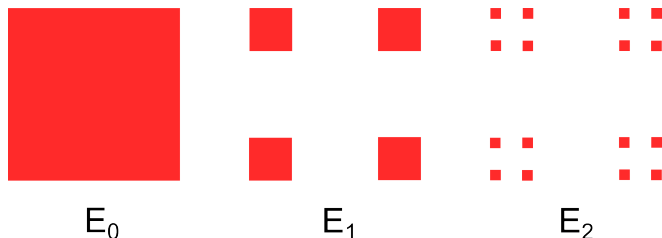
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Examples of Purely Unrectifiable Measures

Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ be the “4 corners” Cantor set, $E = \bigcap_{i=0}^{\infty} E_i$



- ▶ Every rectifiable curve $\Gamma = f([0, 1]) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ intersects E in a set of zero \mathcal{H}^1 measure.
- ▶ $\mathcal{H}^1 \llcorner E$ is a purely 1-unrectifiable measure on \mathbb{R}^2
 $\mathcal{H}^2 \llcorner (E \times \mathbb{R})$ is a purely 2-unrectifiable measure on \mathbb{R}^3
and so on...

Decomposition Theorem

Proposition Let μ be a Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^n . For each $m \geq 0$, we can write

$$\mu = \mu_{\text{rect}}^m + \mu_{\text{pu}}^m,$$

where μ_{rect}^m is m -rectifiable and μ_{pu}^m is purely m -unrectifiable.

- ▶ $\mu_{\text{rect}}^m \perp \mu_{\text{pu}}^m$ and the decomposition is unique for each $m \geq 0$
- ▶ $\mu_{\text{rect}}^m = \mu$ and $\mu_{\text{pu}}^m = 0$ when $m \geq n$
- ▶ μ_{rect}^0 measures atoms of μ and μ_{pu}^0 is the atomless part of μ
- ▶ The proof of this fact does not give a method to identify μ_{rect}^m and μ_{pu}^m when $1 \leq m \leq n - 1$.

Problem Let $1 \leq m \leq n - 1$. Give geometric, measure-theoretic characterizations of the m -rectifiable part μ_{rect}^m and the purely m -unrectifiable part μ_{pu}^m of Radon measures μ on \mathbb{R}^n .

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$\{ m\text{-rectifiable measures } \mu \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^n \}$

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“Absolutely continuous” rectifiable measures and
rectifiable sets are very well understood

In the absence of an absolute continuity assumption,
rectifiable measures are poorly understood

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Absolutely Continuous Rectifiable Measures

$(1 \leq m \leq n - 1)$

The lower and upper (Hausdorff) m -density of a measure μ at x :

$$\underline{D}^m(\mu, x) = \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{c_m r^m} \quad \overline{D}^m(\mu, x) = \limsup_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{c_m r^m}.$$

Write $D^m(\mu, x)$, the m -density of μ at x , if $\underline{D}^m(\mu, x) = \overline{D}^m(\mu, x)$.

Theorem (Besicovitch 1928, Marstrand 1961, Mattila 1975)

Suppose that $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is Borel and $\mu = \mathcal{H}^m \llcorner E$ is locally finite. Then μ is m -rectifiable if and only if $D^m(\mu, x) = 1$ μ -a.e.

Theorem (Morse & Randolph 1944, Moore 1950, Preiss 1987)

Suppose μ is a locally finite Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^n and $\mu \ll \mathcal{H}^m$. Then μ is m -rectifiable if and only if $0 < D^m(\mu, x) < \infty$ μ -a.e.

There are many other characterizations, see e.g. Federer (1947), Preiss (1987), Tolsa-Toro (2014), Tolsa & Azzam-Tolsa (2015)

Singular Rectifiable Measures

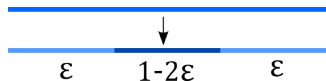
Theorem (Garnett-Killip-Schul 2010)

There exist a doubling measure μ on \mathbb{R}^n ($n \geq 2$) with support \mathbb{R}^n such that $\mu \perp \mathcal{H}^1$, but μ is 1-rectifiable.

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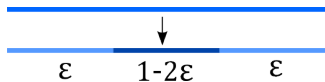
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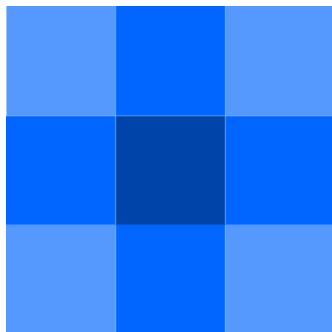
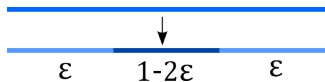
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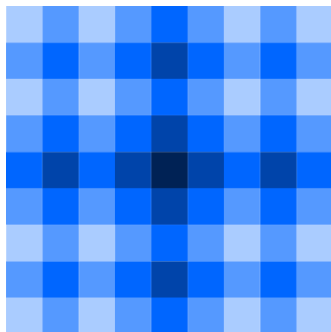
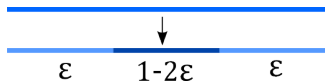
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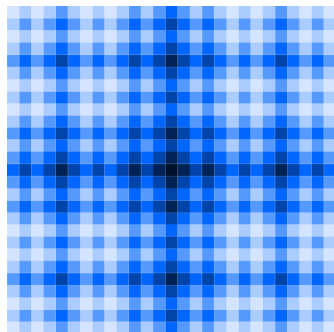
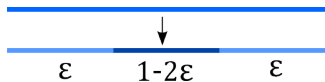
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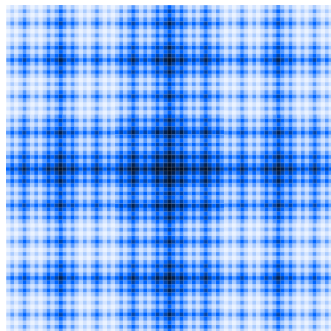
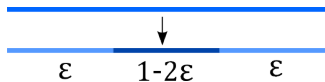
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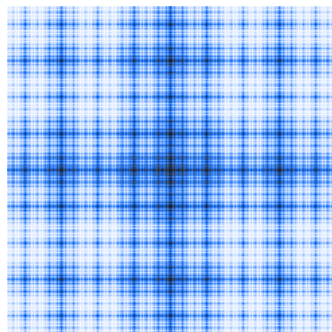
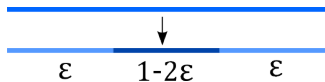
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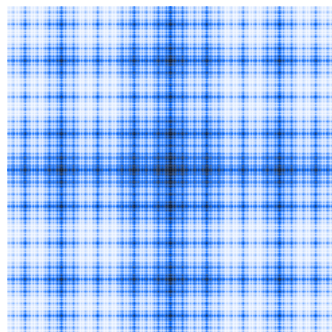
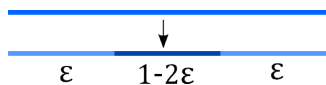
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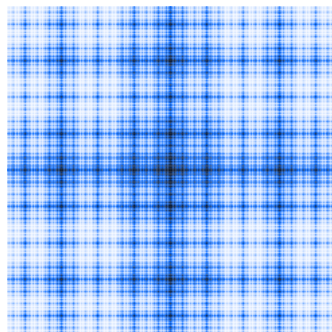
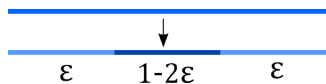
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- ▶ $\int_0^1 \left(\frac{\mu(B(x,r))}{2r} \right)^{-1} \frac{dr}{r} < \infty$ μ -a.e.
(see B-Schul 2015)
- ▶ $\mu(\Gamma) = 0$ whenever $\Gamma = f([0, 1])$ and $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is bi-Lipschitz
- ▶ Nevertheless there exist Lipschitz maps $f_i : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

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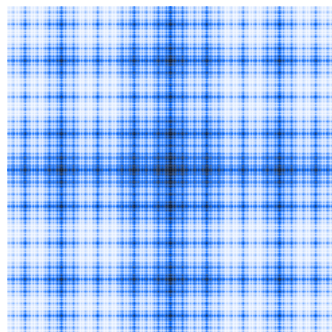
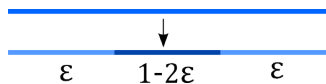
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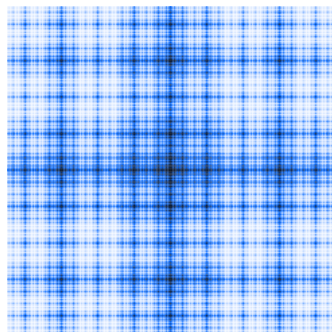
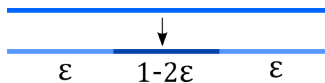
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General Rectifiable Measures

Partial Results: Necessary/Sufficient Conditions for $\mu = \mu_{rect}^m$

- ▶ Do not assume that $\mu \ll \mathcal{H}^m$

For 1-rectifiable measures

- ▶ Lerman (2003) Sufficient conditions
- ▶ B and Schul (2015) Necessary conditions

For “badly linearly approximable” 1-rectifiable measures

- ▶ B and Schul (arXiv 2014) Characterization

For doubling 1-rectifiable measures with connected support

- ▶ Azzam and Mourgoglou (arXiv 2015) Characterization

For doubling m -rectifiable measures

- ▶ Azzam, David, Toro (arXiv 2014) Sufficient conditions
(a posteriori implies $\mu \ll \mathcal{H}^m$)

New Result: Characterization of μ_{rect}^1 and μ_{pu}^1

Theorem (B and Schul)

Let μ be a Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^n and let $1 \leq p \leq 2$. Then:

$$\mu_{rect}^1 = \mu \llcorner \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \underline{D}^1(\mu, x) > 0 \text{ and } J_p^*(\mu, x) < \infty\}$$

$$\mu_{pu}^1 = \mu \llcorner \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \underline{D}^1(\mu, x) = 0 \text{ or } J_p^*(\mu, x) = \infty\}$$

- ▶ $\underline{D}^1(\mu, x) = \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{2r}$ is lower 1-density of μ at x
- ▶ $J_p^*(\mu, x)$ is a geometric square function (or Jones function),

$$J_p^*(\mu, x) = \sum_{\substack{Q \in \Delta(\mathbb{R}^n) \\ \text{side } Q \leq 1}} \beta_p^*(\mu, Q)^2 \frac{\text{diam } Q}{\mu(Q)} \chi_Q(x),$$

where $\beta_p^*(\mu, Q) \in [0, 1]$ is a measurement of L^p approximability of μ by a tangent line in triples of dyadic cubes “nearby” Q .

Here $\Delta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ denotes a fixed grid of half-open dyadic cubes in \mathbb{R}^n .

New Result: Traveling Salesman Theorem for Measures

For lower ADR measures, our methods yield characterization of **rectifiability of a measure with respect to a single curve**

Theorem (B and Schul)

Let $1 \leq p \leq 2$. Let μ be a finite Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^n with bounded support. Assume that $\mu(B(x, r)) \geq cr$ for all $x \in \text{spt } \mu$ and for all $r \leq \text{diam spt } \mu$. Then there exists a rectifiable curve $\Gamma = f([0, 1])$, $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ Lipschitz, such that $\mu(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma) = 0$ if and only if

$$S^2(\mu) = \sum_{Q \in \Delta(\mathbb{R}^n)} \beta_p^*(\mu, Q)^2 \text{diam } Q < \infty.$$

Moreover, the length of the shortest curve is comparable to $\text{diam spt } \mu + S^2(\mu)$ up to constants depending only on n , c , and p .

- ▶ Proof builds on the proof of the Traveling Salesman Theorem for Sets by Jones ($n = 2$) and Okikiolu ($n \geq 3$).

Remarks

Let μ be a Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^n and let $1 \leq p \leq 2$

$$\Delta^*(Q) = \{\text{dyadic cubes } R : 3R \subseteq 2000\sqrt{n}Q, \text{ side } Q \leq \text{side } R \leq 2 \text{ side } Q\}$$

$$\beta_p^*(\mu, Q)^p := \inf_{\text{lines } \ell} \sup_{R \in \Delta^*(Q)} \int_{3R} \left(\frac{\text{dist}(x, \ell)}{\text{diam } 3R} \right)^p \min \left(\frac{\mu(3R)}{\text{diam } 3R}, 1 \right) \frac{d\mu(x)}{\mu(3R)}$$

$$\underline{D}^1(\mu, x) = \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{r}, \quad J_p^*(\mu, x) = \sum_{\substack{Q \in \Delta(\mathbb{R}^n) \\ \text{side } Q \leq 1}} \beta_p^*(\mu, Q)^2 \frac{\text{diam } Q}{\mu(Q)} \chi_Q(x)$$

$$\mu_{\text{rect}}^1 = \mu \llcorner \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \underline{D}^1(\mu, x) > 0 \text{ and } J_p^*(\mu, x) < \infty\}$$

$$\mu_{p\mu}^1 = \mu \llcorner \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \underline{D}^1(\mu, x) = 0 \text{ or } J_p^*(\mu, x) = \infty\}$$

- ▶ “Sufficient condition for 1-rectifiable” uses new criterion and algorithm for drawing a rectifiable curve through the leaves of an infinite tree, which is inspired by P. Jones’ proof of the TST
- ▶ “Necessary condition for 1-rectifiable” extends B-Schul (2015)
- ▶ Simpler formulation available if μ is pointwise doubling (drop lower density condition and replace $\beta_p^*(\mu, Q)$ by $\beta_p(\mu, 3Q)$)
- ▶ Open: Can we replace $\beta_p^*(\mu, Q)$ with $\beta_p(\mu, 3Q)$ for arbitrary μ ?