



The topology of systems of hyperspaces determined by dimension functions[☆]

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ABSTRACT

Given a non-degenerate Peano continuum X , a dimension function $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ defined on the family 2^X_* of compact subsets of X , and a subset $\Gamma \subset [0, \infty)$, we recognize the topological structure of the system $\langle 2^X, D_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$, where 2^X is the hyperspace of non-empty compact subsets of X and $D_{\leq \gamma}(X)$ is the subspace of 2^X , consisting of non-empty compact subsets $K \subset X$ with $D(K) \leq \gamma$.

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1. Introduction

The problem of topological characterization (identification) of topological objects is a central problem in topology. A classical result of this sort is the Curtis–Schori Theorem [1] asserting that for each non-degenerate Peano continuum X the hyperspace 2^X of non-empty compact subsets of X endowed with the Vietoris topology is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube $Q = [-1, 1]^\omega$. A bit later, Curtis [2] characterized the topological spaces X whose hyperspace 2^X is homeomorphic to the pseudointerior $s = (-1, 1)^\omega$ of the Hilbert cube as locally connected Polish nowhere locally compact spaces.

In [3] Dobrowolski and Rubin recognized the topology of the subspace $\text{dim}_{\leq n}(Q) \subset 2^Q$ consisting of compact subsets of Q having covering dimension $\leq n$. They constructed a homeomorphism $h : 2^Q \rightarrow Q^\omega$ such that $h(\text{dim}_{\leq n}(Q)) = Q^n \times s^{\omega \setminus n}$ for all $n = \{0, \dots, n-1\} \in \omega$. In this case it is said that the system $\langle 2^Q, \text{dim}_{\leq n}(Q) \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ is homeomorphic to the system $\langle Q^\omega, Q^n \times s^{\omega \setminus n} \rangle_{n \in \omega}$.

This result was later generalized by Gladdines [4] to products of Peano continua. Finally, Cauty [5] has characterized the spaces X for which the system $\langle 2^X, \text{dim}_{\leq n}(X) \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ is homeomorphic to $\langle Q^\omega, Q^n \times s^{\omega \setminus n} \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ as Peano continua whose any non-empty open subset contains compact subsets of arbitrary high finite dimension.

In [6] given a metric space X the second author initiated the study of the subspace $HD_{\leq \gamma}(X) \subset 2^X$ of compact subsets of X whose Hausdorff dimension is $\leq \gamma$. Unlike the (integer-valued) topological dimension, the Hausdorff dimension of a metric compactum can take on any non-negative real value γ . So, the system $\langle 2^X, HD_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, \infty)}$ that naturally appears in this situation is uncountable. In [7] it was proved that for a finite-dimensional cube $X = [0, 1]^n$ the system $\langle 2^X, HD_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, n]}$

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is homeomorphic to the system $\langle Q^Q, Q^{Q \leq \gamma} \times s^{Q > \gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, n]}$ (by Q we denote the space of rational numbers). Here for a subset $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ and a real number γ we put

$$A_{\leq \gamma} = \{a \in A : a \leq \gamma\}, \quad A_{\geq \gamma} = \{a \in A : a \geq \gamma\}$$

$$A_{< \gamma} = \{a \in A : a < \gamma\}, \quad A_{> \gamma} = \{a \in A : a > \gamma\}.$$

Both the (topological) covering dimension and the (metric) Hausdorff dimension are particular cases of dimension functions defined as follows.

Definition 1. A function $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ defined on the family 2^X_* of compact subsets of a topological space X is called a *dimension function* if:

1. $D(\emptyset) = 0$;
2. D is *monotone* in the sense that $D(A) \leq D(B)$ for any compact subsets $A \subset B$ of X ;
3. D is *finitely additive* in the sense that $D(F \cup A \cup B) \leq \max\{D(A), D(B)\}$ for any finite subset $F \subset X$ and disjoint compact subsets $A, B \subset X$;
4. D is ω -*additive* in the sense that each non-empty open subset $U \subset X$ contains non-empty open sets $U_n \subset U, n \in \omega$, such that each compact subset $K \subset \text{cl}_X(\bigcup_{n \in \omega} U_n)$ has dimension $D(K) \leq \sup_{n \in \omega} D(K \cap \bar{U}_n)$.

Given a dimension function $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ on X and a subset $\Gamma \subset [0, \infty)$, for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ consider the subspace

$$D_{\leq \gamma}(X) = \{F \in 2^X : D(F) \leq \gamma\}$$

in the hyperspace 2^X . Our aim is to recognize the topological structure of the system $\langle 2^X, D_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$.

In the sequel, by a Γ -system $\langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ we shall understand a pair consisting of a set X and a family $\langle X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ of subsets of X , indexed by the elements of an index set Γ . Two Γ -systems $\langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ and $\langle Y, Y_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ are *homeomorphic* if there is a homeomorphism $h : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $h(X_\gamma) = Y_\gamma$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

The following theorem describes the topological structure of the Γ -system $\langle 2^X, D_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ for a dimension function $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ taking values in the half-line with attached infinity (that is assumed to be larger than any real number). In that theorem we shall refer to the subsets $\langle \gamma \rangle_\Gamma$ defined for $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma$ as follows:

$$\langle \gamma \rangle_\Gamma = \begin{cases} (\gamma, \inf(\Gamma_{> \gamma})] & \text{if } \gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{> \gamma}); \\ (\sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}), \gamma] & \text{if } \Gamma \ni \sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) < \gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{> \gamma}); \\ [\sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}), \gamma] & \text{in all other cases.} \end{cases}$$

In this definition we assume that $\sup(\emptyset) = -\infty$ and $\inf(\emptyset) = +\infty$.

Theorem 1. Let X be a topological space and $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ be a dimension function. For every subset $\Gamma \subset [0, \infty)$ the Γ -system $\langle 2^X, D_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is homeomorphic to the Γ -system $\langle Q^Q, Q^{Q \leq \gamma} \times s^{Q > \gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ if and only if

1. X is a non-degenerate Peano continuum,
2. each subspace $D_{\leq \gamma}(X), \gamma \in \Gamma$, is of type G_δ in 2^X , and
3. each non-empty open set $U \subset X$ for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ contains a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) \in \langle \gamma \rangle_\Gamma$.

First, we apply this theorem to integer-valued dimension functions. We identify each natural number n with the set $\{0, \dots, n - 1\}$. Also we put $\bar{\omega} = \omega \cup \{\omega\}$.

Corollary 1. Let X be a topological space and $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow \bar{\omega}$ be a dimension function. For every $n \in \bar{\omega}$ the n -system $\langle 2^X, D_{\leq k}(X) \rangle_{k \in n}$ is homeomorphic to the n -system $\langle Q^\omega, Q^k \times s^{\omega \setminus k} \rangle_{k \in n}$ if and only if

1. X is a non-degenerate Peano continuum,
2. each subspace $D_{\leq k}(X), k \in n$, is of type G_δ in 2^X , and
3. each non-empty open set $U \subset X$ for every $k \in n$ contains a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) = k$.

The covering dimension dim and the cohomological dimension dim_G for an arbitrary Abelian group G are examples of integer-valued dimension functions. Therefore Corollary 1 implies the following theorem of Cauty [5] that was mentioned above.

Theorem 2 (Cauty). For any non-degenerate Peano continuum X the ω -systems $\langle 2^X, \text{dim}_{\leq n}(X) \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ is homeomorphic to $\langle Q^\omega, Q^n \times s^{\omega \setminus n} \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ if and only if each non-empty open set $U \subset X$ contains an compact subset of arbitrary finite dimension.

In [5] Cauty notices, that this theorem holds also for the cohomological dimension dim_G or any other dimension function in the sense of [3]. It does not demand any modifications of arguments in the proof.

Applying Theorem 1 to the half-interval $\Gamma = [0, b) \subset [0, \infty)$, we obtain:

Corollary 2. Let X be a topological space and $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ be a dimension function. For every $b \in [0, \infty]$ the $[0, b)$ -system $\langle 2^X, D_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, b)}$ is homeomorphic to the $[0, b)$ -system $\langle Q^Q, Q^{Q \leq \gamma} \times s^{Q > \gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, b)}$ if and only if

1. X is a non-degenerate Peano continuum,

2. each subspace $D_{\leq \gamma}(X)$, $\gamma \in [0, b)$, is of type G_δ in 2^X , and
3. each non-empty open set $U \subset X$ for every $\gamma \in [0, b)$ contains a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) = \gamma$.

Applying Corollary 2 to the Hausdorff dimension \dim_H we obtain the following theorem whose partial case for $X = \mathbb{I}^n$ was proved in [7].

Theorem 3. For a number $b \in (0, \infty]$ and a non-degenerate metric Peano continuum X the system $\langle 2^X, HD_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, b)}$ is homeomorphic to the system $\langle Q^{\mathbb{Q}}, Q^{\mathbb{Q}_{\leq \gamma}} \times s^{\mathbb{Q}_{> \gamma}} \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, b)}$ if and only if each non-empty open subset $U \subset X$ has Hausdorff dimension $\dim_H(U) \geq b$.

To derive this theorem from Corollary 2, we need to check the conditions (2) and (3) for the Hausdorff dimension. The condition (2) was established in [6] while (3) follows from the subsequent Mean Value Theorem for Hausdorff dimension, which will be proved in Section 6.

Theorem 4. Let X be a separable complete metric space X . For every non-negative real number $d < \dim_H(X)$ the space X contains a compact subset $K \subset X$ of Hausdorff dimension $\dim_H(K) = d$.

A similar Mean Value Theorem holds for topological dimension: each regular space X with finite inductive dimension $\text{ind}(X)$ contains a closed subspaces of any dimension $k \leq \text{ind}(X)$, see [8, 1.5.1]. However, (in contrast to the Hausdorff dimension) this theorem does not hold for infinite-dimensional spaces: there is an infinite-dimensional compact metrizable space X containing no subspace of positive finite dimension [8, 5.2.23].

2. Absorbing systems in the Hilbert cube

Theorem 1 is proved by the technique of absorbing systems created and developed in [9,4]. So, in this section we start by recalling some basic information related to absorbing systems.

From now on all topological spaces are metrizable and separable, all maps are continuous. By \mathbb{I} we denote the unit interval $[0, 1]$, by \mathbb{Q} the space of rational numbers, by $Q = [-1, 1]^\omega$ the Hilbert cube, by $s = (-1, 1)^\omega$ its pseudointerior and by $B(Q)$ its pseudoboundary. By a Hilbert cube we understand any topological space homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube Q . In particular, for each at most countable set A the power Q^A is a Hilbert cube; $B(Q^A) = Q^A \setminus s^A$ will stand for its pseudoboundary.

Given two maps $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ and a cover \mathcal{U} of Y we write $(f, g) < \mathcal{U}$ and say that f, g are \mathcal{U} -near if for every point $x \in X$ there is a set $U \in \mathcal{U}$ such that $\{f(x), g(x)\} \subset U$.

A closed subset A of an ANR-space X is called a Z -set if for each map $f : Q \rightarrow X$ and an open cover \mathcal{U} of X there is a map $g : Q \rightarrow X \setminus A$ such that $(f, g) < \mathcal{U}$. A subset $A \subset X$ is called a σZ -set if A can be written as the countable union of Z -sets. It is known [10] that a closed σZ -set in a Polish ANR-space is a Z -set. An embedding $f : K \rightarrow X$ is called a Z -embedding if the image $f(K)$ is a Z -set in X .

It is well known that each map $f : K \rightarrow Q$ defined on a compact space can be approximated by Z -embeddings, see [11, 10].

Let Γ be a set. By a Γ -system $\mathcal{X} = \langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ we shall understand a pair consisting of a space X and an indexed collection $\langle X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ of subsets of X . Given a map $f : Z \rightarrow X$ and a set $K \subset X$ let $f^{-1}(\mathcal{X}) = \langle f^{-1}(X), f^{-1}(X_\gamma) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ and $K \cap \mathcal{X} = \langle K \cap X, K \cap X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$.

From now on, \mathcal{C}_Γ is a fixed class of Γ -systems.

Generalizing the standard concept of a strongly universal pair [12, Section 1.7] to Γ -systems we get an important notion of a strongly \mathcal{C}_Γ -universal Γ -system.

Definition 2. A Γ -system $\mathcal{X} = \langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is defined to strongly \mathcal{C}_Γ -universal if for any open cover \mathcal{U} on X , any Γ -system $\mathcal{C} = \langle C, C_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \in \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$, and a map $f : C \rightarrow X$ whose restriction $f|_B : B \rightarrow X$ to a closed subset $B \subset C$ is a Z -embedding with $(f|_B)^{-1}(\mathcal{X}) = B \cap \mathcal{C}$ there exists a Z -embedding $\tilde{f} : C \rightarrow X$ such that $(\tilde{f}, f) < \mathcal{U}$, $\tilde{f}|_B = f|_B$, and $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\mathcal{X}) = \mathcal{C}$.

The strong universality is the principal ingredient in the notion of a \mathcal{C}_Γ -absorbing system, generalizing the notion of an absorbing pair, see [12, Section 1.6].

Definition 3. A Γ -system $\mathcal{X} = \langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is defined to \mathcal{C}_Γ -absorbing if

- (i) \mathcal{X} is strongly \mathcal{C}_Γ -universal;
- (ii) there is a sequence $\langle Z_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of Z -sets in X such that $\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} X_\gamma \subset \bigcup_{n \in \omega} Z_n$ and $Z_n \cap \mathcal{X} \in \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ for all $n \in \omega$.

A remarkable feature of \mathcal{C}_Γ -absorbing system in the Hilbert cube is their topological equivalence. We define two Γ -systems $\langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ and $\langle Y, Y_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ to be homeomorphic if there is a homeomorphism $h : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $h(X_\gamma) = Y_\gamma$ for $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

The following Uniqueness Theorem can be proved by analogy with Theorem 1.7.6 from [12].

Theorem 5. Two \mathcal{C}_Γ -absorbing Γ -systems $\langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ and $\langle Y, Y_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ are homeomorphic provided X and Y are homeomorphic to a manifold modeled on Q or s .

By a manifold modeled on a space E we understand a metrizable separable space M whose any point has an open neighborhood homeomorphic to an open subset of the model space E .

3. Characterizing model absorbing systems

In this section, given a subset $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}$ we characterize the topology of the model Γ -system $\langle Q^{\mathbb{Q}}, Q^{\mathbb{Q} \leq \gamma} \times s^{\mathbb{Q} > \gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$. In fact, it will be more convenient to work with the complementary Γ -system

$$\Sigma_{\Gamma} = \langle Q^{\mathbb{Q}}, Q^{\mathbb{Q} \leq \gamma} \times B(Q^{\mathbb{Q} > \gamma}) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma},$$

where $B(Q^{\mathbb{Q} > \gamma}) = Q^{\mathbb{Q} > \gamma} \setminus s^{\mathbb{Q} > \gamma}$. We shall prove that the latter system is $\sigma\mathcal{C}_{\Gamma}$ -absorbing for a suitable class $\sigma\mathcal{C}_{\Gamma}$ of Γ -systems.

Let $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}$. Let us define a Γ -system $\langle A, A_{\gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ to be

- σ -compact if the space A is compact while all subspaces A_{γ} , $\gamma \in \Gamma$, are σ -compact;
- inf-continuous if $A_{\gamma} = \bigcup_{\beta \in B} A_{\beta}$ for any subset $B \subset \Gamma$ with $\inf B = \gamma \in \Gamma$.

By $\sigma\mathcal{C}_{\Gamma}$ we shall denote the class of σ -compact inf-continuous Γ -systems. Let us observe that each Γ -system $\langle A, A_{\gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_{\Gamma}$ is decreasing. Indeed, for any real numbers $\alpha < \beta$ in Γ the equality $\alpha = \inf\{\alpha, \beta\}$ implies $A_{\alpha} = A_{\alpha} \cup A_{\beta} \supset A_{\beta}$.

Each Γ -system $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, A_{\gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_{\Gamma}$ can be extended to the \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \langle A, \tilde{A}_{\gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}$ consisting of the sets

$$\tilde{A}_{\gamma} = \begin{cases} \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\alpha} & \text{if } \sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) \notin \Gamma \text{ or } \gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \gamma}); \\ A_{\alpha} & \text{if } \alpha = \sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) \in \Gamma \text{ and } \gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \gamma}), \end{cases}$$

indexed by real numbers γ .

Lemma 1. *The \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \langle A, \tilde{A}_{\gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}}$ is σ -compact, inf-continuous and extends the Γ -system $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, A_{\gamma} \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ in the sense that $\tilde{A}_{\gamma} = A_{\gamma}$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$.*

Proof. To see that the \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ is σ -compact, fix any real number γ . The set \tilde{A}_{γ} is clearly σ -compact if $\tilde{A}_{\gamma} = A_{\alpha}$ for some $\alpha \in \Gamma$. So, we assume that $\tilde{A}_{\gamma} \neq A_{\alpha}$ for all $\alpha \in \Gamma$. In this case $\tilde{A}_{\gamma} = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\alpha}$ and $\inf \Gamma_{\geq \gamma} \notin \Gamma$. Choose any countable dense subset $D \subset \Gamma$ and observe that $\inf D_{\geq \gamma} = \inf \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}$ and hence

$$\tilde{A}_{\gamma} = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\alpha} = \bigcup_{\alpha \in D_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\alpha}$$

is σ -compact, being the countable union of σ -compact spaces A_{α} , $\alpha \in D_{\geq \gamma}$.

Observe that for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ we get $\gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \gamma})$ and hence $A_{\gamma} \subset \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\alpha} = \tilde{A}_{\gamma}$. The reverse inclusion $\tilde{A}_{\gamma} = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\alpha} \subset A_{\gamma}$ follows from the decreasing property of the γ -system \mathcal{A} . Thus $A_{\gamma} = \tilde{A}_{\gamma}$, which means that the \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ extends the Γ -system \mathcal{A} .

Next, we prove that the \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ is decreasing. Given two real numbers $\beta < \gamma$, we need to show that $\tilde{A}_{\beta} \supset \tilde{A}_{\gamma}$. We consider four cases:

(1) Both β and γ satisfy the first case of the definition of \tilde{A}_{β} and \tilde{A}_{γ} :

$$(\sup(\Gamma_{< \beta}) \notin \Gamma \text{ or } \beta = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \beta})) \quad \text{and} \quad (\sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) \notin \Gamma \text{ or } \gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \gamma})).$$

In this case $\beta < \gamma$ implies $\Gamma_{\geq \beta} \supset \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}$ and thus

$$\tilde{A}_{\beta} = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \beta}} A_{\alpha} \supset \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\alpha} = \tilde{A}_{\gamma}.$$

(2) The element β satisfies the first case of the definition of \tilde{A}_{β} while γ satisfies the second case:

$$(\sup(\Gamma_{< \beta}) \notin \Gamma \text{ or } \beta = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \beta})) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = \sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) \in \Gamma \text{ and } \gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \gamma}).$$

In this case $\beta \leq \alpha$. Indeed, assuming conversely that $\alpha < \beta$, we get $\Gamma_{< \beta} = \Gamma_{< \gamma}$ and thus $\alpha = \sup(\Gamma_{< \beta}) \in \Gamma$, which implies that $\beta = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \beta})$. In this case, $\alpha = \sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) \geq \beta$, which is a contradiction. So, $\beta \leq \alpha$ and then $\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq \beta}$ and $\tilde{A}_{\beta} \supset A_{\alpha} = \tilde{A}_{\gamma}$.

(3) The element β satisfies the second case of the definition of \tilde{A}_{β} while γ satisfies the first one:

$$\alpha = \sup(\Gamma_{< \beta}) \in \Gamma \quad \text{and} \quad \beta < \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \beta}) \quad \text{and} \quad (\sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) \notin \Gamma \text{ or } \gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \gamma})).$$

In this case

$$\tilde{A}_{\beta} = A_{\alpha} \supset \bigcup_{\delta \in \Gamma_{\geq \gamma}} A_{\delta} = \tilde{A}_{\gamma}.$$

(4) Both β and γ satisfy the second case of the definition of \tilde{A}_{β} and \tilde{A}_{γ} :

$$\alpha_{\beta} = \sup(\Gamma_{< \beta}) \in \Gamma, \quad \beta < \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \beta}), \quad \alpha_{\gamma} = \sup(\Gamma_{< \gamma}) \in \Gamma, \quad \gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{\geq \gamma}).$$

In this case $\alpha_{\beta} \leq \alpha_{\gamma}$ and $\tilde{A}_{\beta} = A_{\alpha_{\beta}} \supset A_{\alpha_{\gamma}} = \tilde{A}_{\gamma}$. This completes the proof of the decreasing property of the \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$.

Finally, we show that the \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ is inf-continuous. Fix any real number γ and a subset $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ with $\gamma = \inf B$. We need to check that $\tilde{A}_\gamma = \bigcup_{\beta \in B} \tilde{A}_\beta$. The decreasing property of \tilde{A} guarantees that $\tilde{A}_\gamma \supset \bigcup_{\beta \in B} \tilde{A}_\beta$. It remains to prove the reverse inclusion, which is trivial if $\gamma \in B$. So, we assume that $\gamma \notin B$. Two cases are possible:

1. $\sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}) \notin \Gamma$ or $\gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{\geq\gamma})$. In this case $\tilde{A}_\gamma = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq\gamma}} A_\alpha$. We consider three subcases:

(1a) If $\gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$, then

$$\tilde{A}_\gamma = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq\gamma}} A_\alpha = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{>\gamma}} A_\alpha$$

because of the inf-continuity of the system \mathcal{A} . Given any point $a \in \tilde{A}_\gamma$, find $\alpha \in \Gamma_{>\gamma}$ such that $a \in A_\alpha$. Since $B \not\ni \gamma = \inf B$, there is a point $\beta \in B \cap (\gamma, \alpha)$. Now the definition of \tilde{A}_β implies that $a \in A_\alpha \subset \tilde{A}_\beta \subset \bigcup_{\delta \in B} \tilde{A}_\delta$.

(1b) If $\Gamma \ni \gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$, then we can find $\beta \in B \cap (\gamma, \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma}))$ and conclude that $\tilde{A}_\gamma = A_\gamma = \tilde{A}_\beta \subset \bigcup_{\delta \in B} \tilde{A}_\delta$.

(1c) If $\Gamma \not\ni \gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$, then $\sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}) \notin \Gamma$. Choose any point $\beta \in B \cap (\gamma, \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma}))$ and observe that $\Gamma_{\geq\beta} = \Gamma_{\geq\gamma}$, $\sup(\Gamma_{<\beta}) = \sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}) \notin \Gamma$ and thus

$$\tilde{A}_\gamma = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq\gamma}} A_\alpha = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_{\geq\beta}} A_\alpha = \tilde{A}_\beta \subset \bigcup_{\delta \in B} \tilde{A}_\delta.$$

2. $\alpha = \sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}) \in \Gamma$ and $\gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{\geq\gamma})$, in which case $\tilde{A}_\gamma = A_\alpha$. Since $\inf B = \gamma \notin \Gamma$, there is a point $\beta \in B \cap (\gamma, \inf(\Gamma_{\geq\gamma}))$.

(2a) If $\gamma \in \Gamma$, then $\sup(\Gamma_{<\beta}) = \gamma \in \Gamma$ and thus $\tilde{A}_\gamma = A_\gamma = \tilde{A}_\beta \subset \bigcup_{\delta \in B} A_\delta$.

(2b) If $\gamma \notin \Gamma$, then $\Gamma_{<\beta} = \Gamma_{<\gamma}$ and thus $\tilde{A}_\gamma = A_\alpha = \tilde{A}_\beta \subset \bigcup_{\delta \in B} A_\delta$. \square

In the following theorem for every subset $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}$ we introduce a model $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing system Σ_Γ in the Hilbert cube $Q^\mathbb{Q}$.

Theorem 6. For every $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}$ the Γ -system

$$\Sigma_\Gamma = \langle Q^\mathbb{Q}, Q^{Q \leq \gamma} \times B(Q^{Q > \gamma}) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$$

is $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing and hence is homeomorphic to any other $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing Γ -system $\langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ in a Hilbert cube X .

Proof. First we check that the system Σ_Γ is strongly $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universal.

We start defining a suitable metric on the Hilbert cube $Q^\mathbb{Q}$. Let $\nu : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow (0, 1)$ be any vanishing function, which means that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ the set $\{q \in \mathbb{Q} : \nu(q) \geq \varepsilon\}$ is finite. Take any metric d generating the topology of the Hilbert cube Q and consider the metric

$$\rho((x_q), (y_q)) = \max_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} \nu(q) \cdot d(x_q, y_q)$$

on the Hilbert cube $Q^\mathbb{Q}$.

In order to prove the strong $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universality of the system Σ_Γ , fix a Γ -system $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, A_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ and a map $f : A \rightarrow Q^\mathbb{Q}$ that restricts to a Z-embedding of some closed subset $K \subset A$ such that $(f|K)^{-1}(\Sigma_\Gamma) = K \cap \mathcal{A}$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, we need to construct a Z-embedding $\tilde{f} : A \rightarrow Q^\mathbb{Q}$ such that $\rho(\tilde{f}, f) < \varepsilon$, $\tilde{f}|K = f|K$ and $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\Sigma_\gamma) = A_\gamma$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

By Lemma 1, the Γ -system \mathcal{A} extends to an \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \langle A, A_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_\mathbb{R}$. We shall construct a Z-embedding $\tilde{f} : A \rightarrow Q^\mathbb{Q}$ such that $\rho(\tilde{f}, f) < \varepsilon$, $\tilde{f}|K = f|K$ and $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\Sigma_\gamma) \setminus K = A_\gamma \setminus K$ for all $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$.

For every $q \in \mathbb{Q}$ let $\text{pr}_q : Q^\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow Q$ denote the coordinate projection. Since $f(K)$ is a Z-set in $Q^\mathbb{Q}$, we can approximate the map f by a map $f' : A \rightarrow Q^\mathbb{Q}$ such that $\rho(f', f) < \varepsilon/2$, $f'|K = f|K$ and $f'(A \setminus K) \cap f'(K) = \emptyset$. Using the strong $\sigma\mathcal{C}_{\{0\}}$ -universality of the pair $(Q, B(Q))$, for each $q \in \mathbb{Q}$ we can approximate the map $\text{pr}_q \circ f' : A \rightarrow Q$ by a map $\tilde{f}_q : A \rightarrow Q$ such that

- (a) $d(\tilde{f}_q(x), \text{pr}_q \circ f'(x)) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \rho(f'(x), f(K))$ for all $x \in A$;
- (b) $\tilde{f}_q|A \setminus K$ is injective;
- (c) $\tilde{f}_q(A \setminus K)$ is a σZ -set in Q ;
- (d) $\tilde{f}_q^{-1}(B(Q)) \setminus K = A_q \setminus K$.

Now consider the diagonal product $\tilde{f} = (\tilde{f}_q)_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} : A \rightarrow Q^\mathbb{Q}$ of the maps $\tilde{f}_q, q \in \mathbb{Q}$. It follows from (a) that $\tilde{f}|K = f'|K = f|K$, $\rho(\tilde{f}, f) \leq \rho(\tilde{f}, f') + \rho(f', f) < \varepsilon$ and $\tilde{f}(A \setminus K) \cap f(K) = \emptyset$. Combining this fact with (b) we conclude that the map $\tilde{f} : A \rightarrow Q^\mathbb{Q}$ is injective and hence an embedding. It follows from (c) that $\tilde{f}(A)$ is a σZ -set in $Q^\mathbb{Q}$ and hence a Z-set, see [10, 6.2.2]. Therefore, \tilde{f} is a Z-embedding approximating the map f .

It remains to check that $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\Sigma_\gamma) = A_\gamma$ for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$. Since

$$\tilde{f}^{-1}(\Sigma_\gamma) \cap K = (f|K)^{-1}(\Sigma_\gamma) = K \cap A_\gamma,$$

it suffices to check that $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\Sigma_\gamma) \setminus K = A_\gamma \setminus K$.

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}^{-1}(\Sigma_\gamma) \setminus K &= \tilde{f}^{-1}(Q^{\mathbb{Q}_{\leq \gamma}} \times B(Q^{\mathbb{Q}_{> \gamma}})) \setminus K \\ &= \bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Q}_{> \gamma}} \tilde{f}_q^{-1}(B(Q)) \setminus K = \bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Q}_{> \gamma}} A_q \setminus K = A_\gamma \setminus K. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality follows from the inf-continuity of the \mathbb{R} -system $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \langle A, A_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}}$ because $\gamma = \inf \mathbb{Q}_{> \gamma}$. This completes the proof of the strong $\sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universality of the system Σ_Γ .

It remains to check that the Γ -system Σ_Γ satisfies the second condition of Definition 3 of a $\sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing system. It is clear the Γ -system Σ_Γ is σ -compact and decreasing. To show that it is inf-continuous, take any subset $B \subset \Gamma$ with $\gamma = \inf B \in \Gamma$. If $\gamma \in B$, then $\Sigma_\gamma \supset \bigcup_{\beta \in B} \Sigma_\beta \supset \Sigma_\gamma$. So, we assume that $\gamma \notin B$. Since the Γ -system $\langle Q^\mathbb{Q}, \Sigma_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is decreasing, we get $\Sigma_\gamma \supset \bigcup_{\beta \in B} \Sigma_\beta$. To prove the reverse inclusion, take any point $(x_q)_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} \in \Sigma_\gamma = Q^{\mathbb{Q}_{\leq \gamma}} \times B(Q^{\mathbb{Q}_{> \gamma}})$ and observe that $x_q \in B(Q)$ for some $q \in \mathbb{Q}_{> \gamma}$. Since $\gamma = \inf B$ the half-interval $[\gamma, q)$ contains a point $\beta \in B$.

Then $(x_q)_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} \in Q^{\mathbb{Q}_{\leq \beta}} \times B(Q^{\mathbb{Q}_{> \beta}})$ and thus $(x_q)_{q \in \mathbb{Q}} \in \Sigma_\beta \subset \bigcup_{\alpha \in B} \Sigma_\alpha$. Therefore, $\Sigma_\Gamma \in \sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$.

Since each space $\Sigma_\gamma, \gamma \in \mathbb{Q}$, is a σZ -set in $Q^\mathbb{Q}$, so is the countable union

$$\bigcup_{\gamma \in \mathbb{Q}} \Sigma_\gamma = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}} \Sigma_\gamma.$$

So, we can find a sequence $\langle Z_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of Z -sets in $Q^\mathbb{Q}$ such that

$$\bigcup_{n \in \omega} Z_n = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \mathbb{Q}} \Sigma_\gamma.$$

It follows from $\Sigma_\Gamma \in \sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ that $Z_n \cap \Sigma_\Gamma \in \sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$, which completes the proof of the $\sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing property of the system Σ_Γ .

By the Uniqueness Theorem 5, each $\sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing system $\langle X, X_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ in a Hilbert cube X is homeomorphic to the $\sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing Γ -system Σ_Γ . \square

4. Strongly universal systems of hyperspaces

In this section we establish an important Theorem 7 detecting strongly \mathcal{C}_Γ -universal Γ -systems in hyperspaces. In this section, Γ is any set and \mathcal{C}_Γ is a class of Γ -systems.

By the hyperspace of a topological space X we understand the space 2^X of non-empty compact subsets of X endowed with the Vietoris topology. This topology is generated by the sub-base consisting of the sets

$$(V) = \{K \in 2^X : K \subset V\} \quad \text{and} \quad (X, V) = \{K \in 2^X : K \cap V \neq \emptyset\}$$

where V is an open subset of X . If the topology of X is generated by a metric d , then the Vietoris topology on 2^X is generated by the Hausdorff metric $d_H(A, B) = \max\{\max_{a \in A} d(a, B), \max_{b \in B} d(b, A)\}$.

In the sequel by $2^X_{< \omega}$ we shall denote the subspace of 2^X consisting of finite non-empty subsets of X . By [4], [10, 8.4.3] for a non-degenerate Peano continuum X the subset $2^X_{< \omega}$ is homotopy dense in 2^X .

We recall that a subset A of a topological space X is homotopy dense if there is a homotopy $h : X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ such that $h(x, 0) = x$ and $h(x, t) \in A$ for all $x \in X$ and $t \in (0, 1]$.

We define a subspace $\mathcal{H} \subset 2^X$ to be finitely additive if

- $A \cup F \in \mathcal{H}$ for any $A \in \mathcal{H}$ and any finite subset $F \subset X$;
- $A \sqcup B \in \mathcal{H}$ for any disjoint sets $A, B \in \mathcal{H}$.

The first condition implies that each finite subset of X belongs to the family

$$\text{add}(\mathcal{H}) = \{A \in 2^X : \forall B \in \mathcal{H} \ A \cup B \in \mathcal{H}\}.$$

For a Γ -system $\mathcal{H} = \langle 2^X, \mathcal{H}_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ the intersection

$$\text{add}(\mathcal{H}) = \bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \text{add}(\mathcal{H}_\gamma) \cap \text{add}(2^X \setminus \mathcal{H}_\gamma)$$

will be called the additive kernel of \mathcal{H} .

For example, the additive kernel of the ω -system $\langle 2^X, \dim_{\leq n}(X) \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ is equal to the subspace $\dim_{\leq 0}(X)$ of all zero-dimensional compact subsets of X . The additive kernel of the $[0, \infty)$ -system $\langle 2^X, HD_{\leq \gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in [0, \infty)}$ is equal to the subspace $HD_{\leq 0}(X) \subset 2^X$ consisting of subsets of X with Hausdorff dimension zero.

The following technical theorem was implicitly proved by Cauty in [5].

Theorem 7. Let X be a non-degenerate Peano continuum. A Γ -system $\mathcal{H} = \langle 2^X, \mathcal{H}_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is strongly \mathcal{C}_Γ -universal if:

- (1) for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ the subspaces \mathcal{H}_γ and $2^X \setminus \mathcal{H}_\gamma$ are finitely additive;

- (2) for every non-empty open set $U \subset X$ there is a map $\xi : Q \rightarrow 2^U \cap \text{add}(\mathcal{H})$ such that for any distinct points $x, x' \in Q$ the symmetric difference $\xi(x) \Delta \xi(x')$ is infinite;
- (3) for any non-empty open set $U \subset X$ and any Γ -system $\mathcal{C} = \langle C_\gamma, C_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \in \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ there is a map $\varphi : C \rightarrow 2^U$ such that $\varphi^{-1}(\mathcal{H}) = \mathcal{C}$.

5. The strong $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universality of Γ -systems of hyperspaces

In this section, we detect strongly $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universal systems of the form $\langle 2^X, D_{>\gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ where $\Gamma \subset [0, \infty)$ and $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ is a dimension function defined on the hyperspace of a non-degenerated Peano continuum X . First we establish one property of dimension functions which is formally stronger than the ω -additivity.

Lemma 2. *Let X be a metrizable compact space without isolated points and $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ be a dimension function. For every non-empty open set $U \subset X$ there is a disjoint sequence $\langle U_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of non-empty open sets of U such that*

- 1. $\langle U_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ converges to some point $x_\infty \in U$, which means that each neighborhood $O(x_\infty)$ contains all but finitely many sets U_n ;
- 2. for any compact subsets $K_n \subset U_n, n \in \omega$, the set $K_\infty = \{x_\infty\} \cup \bigcup_{n \in \omega} K_n$ is compact and has dimension $D(K_\infty) \leq \sup_{n \in \omega} D(K_n)$.

Proof. Take any non-empty open subset $V \subset X$ with $\text{cl}(V) \subset U$. The ω -additivity of the dimension function D yields a sequence $\langle V_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of open subsets of V such that for any compact subset $K \subset \text{cl}(\bigcup_{n \in \omega} V_n)$ has dimension

$$D(K) \leq \sup_{n \in \omega} D(K \cap \bar{V}_n).$$

Replacing the sets V_n by their suitable subsets, we can assume that $\text{diam}(V_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. In each set V_n pick a point x_n . Since the space X has no isolated point, we can choose the points $x_n, n \in \omega$, to be pairwise distinct. Next, replacing the sets V_n by small neighborhoods of the points x_n , we can make the sets $V_n, n \in \omega$, pairwise disjoint. By the compactness of X , the sequence $\langle x_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ contains a subsequence $\langle x_{n_k} \rangle_{k \in \omega}$ that converges to some point $x_\infty \in \text{cl}(V) \subset U$. Since $\text{diam}(V_{n_k}) \rightarrow 0$, the sequence $\langle V_{n_k} \rangle_{k \in \omega}$ also converges to x_∞ .

It is clear that the sets $U_k = V_{n_k}, k \in \omega$, have the desired properties. \square

Now we are able to prove the principal ingredient in the proof of [Theorem 1](#). Below $\Gamma \subset [0, \infty)$ and $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ stands for the class of inf-continuous σ -compact Γ -systems.

Theorem 8. *Let X be a non-degenerate Peano continuum, $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ be a dimension function, and $\Gamma \subset [0, \infty)$. The Γ -system $\langle 2^X, D_{>\gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is strongly $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universal if and only if each non-empty open set $U \subset X$ for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ contains a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) \in (\gamma]_\Gamma$.*

Proof. To prove the “only if” part, assume that the system $\mathcal{D} = \langle 2^X, D_{>\gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is strongly $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universal.

Fix any non-empty open set $U \subset X$ and an element $\gamma \in \Gamma$. We need to find a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) \in (\gamma]_\Gamma$.

Let $A = \{a\}$ be any singleton and put $A_\alpha = A$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$ and $A_\alpha = \emptyset$ for all $\alpha > \gamma$. Put also $A_\gamma = \emptyset$ if $\gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$ and $A_\gamma = A$ otherwise.

Observe that the so-defined Γ -system $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, A_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ belongs to the class $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$. Now using the strong $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universality of the Γ -system \mathcal{D} , find a map $f : A \rightarrow 2^U$ such that $f^{-1}(\mathcal{D}) = \mathcal{A}$.

We claim that the compact subset $K = f(a) \subset U$ has dimension $D(K) \in (\gamma]_\Gamma$. To prove this inclusion, consider the three cases from the definition of the set $(\gamma]_\Gamma$.

(i) If $\gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$, then $a \in A_\gamma$ and hence $K = f(a) \in D_{>\gamma}(X)$ and $\gamma < D(K)$. On the other hand, for every $\alpha \in \Gamma_{>\gamma}$ we get $a \notin A_\alpha = \emptyset$ and thus $K = f(a) \in 2^X \setminus D_{>\alpha}(X) = D_{\leq\alpha}(X)$ and $D(K) \leq \alpha$, which implies $D(K) \leq \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$. Consequently, $D(K) \in (\gamma, \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})] = (\gamma]_\Gamma$.

(ii) $\Gamma \ni \sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}) < \gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$. In this case $a \notin A_\gamma = \emptyset$ and thus $K = f(a) \in D_{\leq\gamma}(X)$. On the other hand, $a \in A_\alpha$ where $\alpha = \sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}) < \gamma$ and hence $K = f(a) \in D_{>\alpha}(X)$. Consequently, $D(K) \in (\sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}), \gamma] = (\gamma]_\Gamma$.

(iii) If $\gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{>\gamma})$ and $\sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma})$ is equal γ or does not belong to Γ , then for every $\alpha \in \Gamma_{<\gamma}$, we get $a \in A_\alpha$ and thus $K = f(a) \in D_{>\alpha}(X)$ and $D(K) > \alpha$. Consequently, $D(K) \geq \sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma})$. On the other hand, $a \notin A_\gamma = \emptyset$ implies $K = f(a) \in D_{\leq\gamma}(X)$ and thus $D(K) \in [\sup(\Gamma_{<\gamma}), \gamma] = (\gamma]_\Gamma$.

To prove the “only if” part, assume that for every non-empty open set $U \subset X$ and every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ there is a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) \in (\gamma]_\Gamma$.

The strong $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universality of the system \mathcal{D} will follow as soon as we check the conditions (1)–(3) of [Theorem 7](#) for the class $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$.

1. The monotonicity of the dimension function D implies that the subspace $D_{>\gamma}(X)$ of 2^X is finitely additive. The finite additivity of the complement $D_{\leq\gamma}(X) = 2^X \setminus D_{>\gamma}(X)$ follows from the finite additivity of the dimension function D .

2. To establish the condition (2) of [Theorem 7](#), fix any non-empty open set $U \subset X$. [Lemma 2](#) yields a sequence $\langle U_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of non-empty open subsets of U that converge to some point $x_\infty \in U$ and has the property that for any compact subsets $K_n \subset U_n$ the set $K = \{x_\infty\} \cup \bigcup_{n \in \omega} K_n$ is compact and has dimension $D(K) \leq \sup_{n \in \omega} D(K_n)$. Each set U_n contains a topological copy of the interval $[0, 1]$, so we can find a topological embedding $\xi_n : [-1, 1] \rightarrow U_n$.

Let $\nu : \omega \rightarrow \omega$ be any function such that the preimage $\nu^{-1}(n)$ of every $n \in \omega$ is infinite. Define a map $\xi : Q \rightarrow 2^U$ assigning to each $\vec{t} = \langle t_n \rangle_{n \in \omega} \in Q$ the compact subset

$$\xi(\vec{t}) = \{x_\infty\} \cup \{\alpha_n(t_{\nu(n)}) : n \in \omega\}$$

of U having a unique non-isolated point x_∞ . The equality $D(\emptyset) = 0$ and the finite additivity of the dimension function D implies that $D(F) = 0$ for each finite subset $F \subset X$. The choice of the sequence $\langle U_n \rangle$ guarantees that $D(\xi(\vec{t})) = 0$ and thus

$$\xi(Q) \subset D_{\leq 0}(X) \subset \text{add}(\mathcal{D}).$$

The choice of the function ν guarantees that $\xi(\vec{t}) \Delta \xi(\vec{u})$ is infinite for any distinct vectors $\vec{t}, \vec{u} \in Q$.

3. To check the condition (3) of [Theorem 7](#), fix any non-empty open set $U \subset X$ and a Γ -system $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, A_\gamma \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \in \sigma \mathcal{C}_\Gamma$. Each set $A_\gamma, \gamma \in \Gamma$, being σ -compact, can be written as the countable union $A_\gamma = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} A_{\gamma,n}$ of an increasing sequence $\langle A_{\gamma,n} \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of compact subsets of A . Let D be a countable subset of Γ meeting each half-interval $[\gamma, \gamma + \varepsilon)$ where $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and $\varepsilon > 0$.

Apply [Lemma 2](#) to find a disjoint family $\langle U_d \rangle_{d \in D}$ of non-empty open subsets of U such that

- $\langle U_d \rangle_{d \in D}$ converges to some point $x_\infty \in U$ in the sense that each neighborhood $O(x_\infty)$ contains all but finitely many sets $U_d, d \in D$;
- for any compact sets $K_d \subset U_d$ the set $K = \{x_\infty\} \cup \bigcup_{d \in D} K_d$ is compact and has dimension $D(K) \leq \sup_{d \in D} D(K_d)$.

For every $d \in D$ use [Lemma 2](#) once more and find a disjoint family $\langle U_{d,n} \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of non-empty open subsets of U such that

- $\langle U_{d,n} \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ converges to some point $x_d \in U_d$;
- for any compact sets $K_n \subset U_{d,n}$ the set $K_d = \{x_d\} \cup \bigcup_{n \in \omega} K_n$ is compact and has dimension $D(K_d) = \sup_{n \in \omega} D(K_n)$.

By our assumption, for every $d \in D$ and $n \in \omega$ we can find a compact subset $K_{d,n} \subset U_{d,n}$ with $D(K_{d,n}) \in [d]_\Gamma$. Using the homotopical density of the subspace $2^{< \omega}_X$ of finite subsets in 2^X , construct a map $\kappa_{d,n} : A \rightarrow 2^X$ such that $\kappa_{d,n}(a) = K_{d,n}$ for every $a \in A_{d,n}$ and $\kappa_{d,n}(a)$ is a finite subset of $U_{d,n}$ for every $a \in A \setminus A_{d,n}$.

Now for every $a \in A$ and $d \in D$ consider the compact subset

$$\kappa_d(a) = \{x_d\} \cup \bigcup_{n \in \omega} \kappa_{d,n}(a) \subset U_d$$

having dimension

$$D(\kappa_d(a)) = \sup_{n \in \omega} D(\kappa_{d,n}(a)).$$

The choice of the sequence $\langle U_d \rangle_{d \in D}$ ensures that

$$\kappa(a) = \{x_\infty\} \cup \bigcup_{d \in D} \kappa_d(a)$$

is a compact subset of U with dimension

$$D(\kappa(a)) = \sup_{d \in D} D(\kappa_d(a)) = \sup\{D(\kappa_{d,n}(a)) : d \in D, n \in \omega\}.$$

It is easy to prove that the map

$$\kappa : A \rightarrow 2^U, \kappa : a \mapsto \kappa(a),$$

is continuous. It remains to check that $\kappa^{-1}(D_{> \gamma}(X)) = A_\gamma$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

If $a \in A \setminus A_\gamma$, then for every $d \geq \gamma$ in D the inclusion $a \in A \setminus A_d$ implies $\kappa_{d,n}(a) \in 2^{< \omega}$. In this case

$$D(\kappa_d(a)) \leq \sup_{n \in \omega} \kappa_{d,n}(a) = 0 \leq \gamma.$$

On the other hand, for every $d < \gamma$ the inclusions $D(K_{d,n}) \in [d]_\Gamma \subset [0, \gamma], n \in \omega$, and the choice of the sequence $\langle U_{d,n} \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ imply $D(\kappa_d(a)) \leq \sup_{n \in \omega} D(\kappa_{d,n}(a)) \leq \gamma$.

Now the choice of the sequence $\langle U_d \rangle_{d \in D}$ guarantees that

$$D(\kappa(a)) \leq \sup_{d \in D} D(\kappa_d(a)) \leq \gamma$$

and hence

$$\kappa(a) \in D_{\leq \gamma}(X) = 2^X \setminus D_{> \gamma}(X).$$

Now assume that $a \in A_\gamma$ and hence $a \in A_{\gamma,n}$ for some $n \in \omega$. If $\gamma < \inf(\Gamma_{> \gamma})$, then $\gamma \in D$ and $D(K_{\gamma,n}) \in (\gamma]_\Gamma = (\gamma, \inf(\Gamma_{> \gamma})]$. Since $K_{\gamma,n} \subset \kappa(a)$, we conclude that $D(\kappa(a)) \geq D(K_{\gamma,n}) > \gamma$ and thus $\kappa(a) \in D_{> \gamma}(X)$.

Next, assume that $\gamma = \inf(\Gamma_{> \gamma})$. In this case $\gamma = \inf(D_{> \gamma})$ and hence $A_\gamma = \bigcup_{d \in D_{> \gamma}} A_d$. It follows that $a \in A_{d,n}$ for some $d \in D_{> \gamma}$ and $n \in \omega$. Since $\kappa(a) \supset K_{d,n}$ and $D(K_{d,n}) \in [d]_\Gamma \subset (\gamma, +\infty)$, we conclude that $D(\kappa(a)) \geq D(K_{d,n}) > \gamma$. So, again $\kappa(a) \in D_{> \gamma}(X)$. \square

The following characterization theorem implies [Theorem 1](#) announced in the Introduction.

Theorem 9. Let X be a topological space, $D : 2^X_* \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ be a dimension function, and $\Gamma \subset [0, \infty)$ be a subset. The Γ -system $\langle 2^X, D_{>\gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is homeomorphic to the model $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing Γ -system $\langle Q^Q, Q^{Q^{\leq\gamma}} \times B(Q^{Q_{>\gamma}}) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ if and only if

1. X is a non-degenerate Peano continuum,
2. each space $D_{>\gamma}(X)$, $\gamma \in \Gamma$, is σ -compact, and
3. each non-empty open set $U \subset X$ for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ contains a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) \in (\gamma]_\Gamma$.

Proof. To prove the “only if” part, assume that the Γ -system $\mathcal{D} = \langle 2^X, D_{>\gamma}(X) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is homeomorphic to the model Γ -system $\Sigma_\Gamma = \langle Q^Q, Q^{Q^{\leq\gamma}} \times B(Q^{Q_{>\gamma}}) \rangle_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$. Since 2^X is homeomorphic to Q^Q , we may apply the Curtis–Schori Theorem [1] and conclude that X is a non-degenerate Peano continuum.

Since each space $\Sigma_\gamma = Q^{Q^{\leq\gamma}} \times B(Q^{Q_{>\gamma}})$, $\gamma \in \Gamma$, is σ -compact, so is its topological copy $D_{>\gamma}(X)$.

The Γ -system \mathcal{D} , being homeomorphic to the model $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing Γ -system Σ_Γ , is strongly $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universal. Now [Theorem 8](#) guarantees that for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ each non-empty open subset $U \subset X$ contains a compact subset $K \subset U$ with $D(K) \in (\gamma]_\Gamma$.

Next, we prove the “if” part. Assume that the conditions (1)–(3) are satisfied. We shall prove that the Γ -system \mathcal{D} is $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing. By the Curtis–Schori Theorem [1], the hyperspace 2^X is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube Q . By [Theorem 8](#), the Γ -system \mathcal{D} is strongly $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -universal. It is clear that this Γ -system is inf-continuous. By the condition (2), it is σ -compact. Hence $\mathcal{D} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$.

Let $D \subset \Gamma$ be a countable subset that meets each half-interval $[\gamma, \gamma + \varepsilon)$ where $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. It follows that $\bigcup_{\gamma \in D} D_{>\gamma}(X) = \bigcup_{\gamma \in D} D_{>\gamma}(X) \subset D_{>0}(X)$ is a σZ -set in 2^X , being a σ -compact subset of 2^X that has empty intersection with the homotopy dense subset $2^X_{<\omega} \subset D_{\leq 0}(X)$ on 2^X . So, we can find a countable sequence $\langle Z_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ of Z -sets in 2^X such that $\bigcup_{n \in \omega} Z_n \supset \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} D_{>\gamma}(X)$. Since $\mathcal{D} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$, we get $Z_n \cap \mathcal{D} \in \sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ for all $n \in \omega$. This completes the proof of the $\sigma\mathcal{C}_\Gamma$ -absorbing property of the Γ -system \mathcal{D} . Since 2^X is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube, [Theorem 6](#) ensures that \mathcal{D} is homeomorphic to the model Γ -system Σ_Γ . \square

6. Mean Value Theorem for Hausdorff dimension

In this section we shall prove [Theorem 4](#). First, we recall shortly the definitions of the Hausdorff measure and dimension. Given a complete separable metric space E and two non-negative real numbers s, ε , consider the number

$$\mathcal{H}_\varepsilon^s(E) = \inf_{\mathcal{B}} \sum_{B \in \mathcal{B}} (\text{diam} B)^s,$$

where infimum is taken over all ε -covers \mathcal{B} of E , i.e. cover of E by sets of diameter $\leq \varepsilon$. Since X is separable, we can restrict ourselves by countable covers by closed subsets of diameter $\leq \varepsilon$.

The limit $\mathcal{H}^s(E) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{H}_\varepsilon^s(E)$ is called the s -dimensional Hausdorff measure of E . It is known that there is a unique finite or infinite number $\dim_H(E)$ called the Hausdorff dimension of E and denoted by $\dim_H(E)$ such that $\mathcal{H}^s(E) = \infty$ for all $s < \dim_H(E)$ and $\mathcal{H}^s(E) = 0$ for all $s > \dim_H(E)$, see [13, 14].

Let (X, d) be a separable complete metric space. [Theorem 4](#) will be proved as soon as for every positive real number $s < \dim_H(X)$ we shall find a compact subset $K \subset X$ with Hausdorff dimension $\dim_H(K) = s$.

It follows from $s < \dim_H(E)$ that $\mathcal{H}^s(E) = \infty$ and there exists $0 < \delta < 1$ with

$$\mathcal{H}_\delta^s(E) = k_0 > \frac{\delta^s}{2^{s-1}} = \left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)^s + \left(\frac{\delta}{4}\right)^s + \left(\frac{\delta}{8}\right)^s + \dots \tag{0}$$

We define inductively a decreasing sequence $\{E_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ of closed subsets of E . Let $E_1 = E$. Consider $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_1)$. Two cases are possible (taking into account the definition of Hausdorff measure):

- $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_1) = k_0$. In this case we take $E_2 = E_1$.
- $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_1) > k_0$. Therefore we can choose a closed $\delta/2$ -cover $\{U_1, \dots, U_{m_1}, \dots\}$ of the set E_1 , (without loss of generality assume that this cover is ordered so that $\text{diam}(U_{i+1}) \leq \text{diam}(U_i)$ for all i), such that

$$\mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_1) \leq \sum_i (\text{diam}(U_i))^s < \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_1) + (\delta/2)^s. \tag{1}$$

Find a finite number m_1 such that

$$k_0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} (\text{diam}(U_i))^s \leq k_0 + (\delta/2)^s. \tag{2}$$

Then take $E_2 = \bigcup_{i=1}^{m_1} E_1 \cap U_i$.

Now we need to estimate $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_2)$ (obviously the second case is interesting). For this we put $E'_2 = \bigcup_{i>m_1} E_1 \cap U_i$ and note that

$$\mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_1) \leq \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_2) + \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E'_2). \tag{3}$$

On the other hand

$$\sum_i (\text{diam}(U_i))^s = \sum_{i \leq m_1} (\text{diam}(U_i))^s + \sum_{i > m_1} (\text{diam}(U_i))^s. \quad (4)$$

Consider the real numbers

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_1 &= \sum_i (\text{diam}(U_i))^s - \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_1), \\ \varepsilon_2 &= \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} (\text{diam}(U_i))^s - \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_2), \\ \varepsilon'_2 &= \sum_{i > m_1} (\text{diam}(U_i))^s - \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E'_2) \end{aligned}$$

and observe that $0 \leq \varepsilon_1 < (\delta/2)^s$ by (1), and $\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon'_2 \geq 0$. Therefore (3) and (4) yield $\varepsilon_1 \geq \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon'_2$ and hence $0 \leq \varepsilon_2 < (\delta/2)^s$. Taking into account (2), we have:

$$k_0 - (\delta/2)^s \leq \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_2) \leq k_0 + (\delta/2)^s. \quad (5)$$

Now denote $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/2}^s(E_2) = k_1$. From (0) and (5) it follows that $0 < k_1 < \infty$. By the definition of Hausdorff measure we have $0 < \mathcal{H}^s(E_2) \leq \infty$, that in turn implies $\dim_H(E_2) \geq s$. It allows us to make the following inductive step.

Consider now $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_2)$. If $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_2) = k_1$, then take $E_3 = E_2$. If $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_2) > k_1$, then similarly to the described above we find a closed $\delta/4$ -cover $\{U_1, \dots, U_{m_2}, \dots\}$ of E_2 , such that

$$\mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_2) \leq \sum_i (\text{diam}(U_i))^s < \mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_2) + (\delta/4)^s.$$

Find a finite number m_2 such that

$$k_1 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m_2} (\text{diam}(U_i))^s \leq k_1 + (\delta/4)^s.$$

Let $E_3 = \bigcup_{i=1}^{m_2} E_2 \cap U_i$. As above, we can estimate $\mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_3)$. We obtain:

$$k_1 - (\delta/4)^s \leq \mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_3) \leq k_1 + (\delta/4)^s.$$

Or, taking into account (5):

$$k_0 - (\delta/2)^s - (\delta/4)^s \leq \mathcal{H}_{\delta/4}^s(E_3) \leq k_0 + (\delta/2)^s + (\delta/4)^s.$$

Again we can state that $\dim_H(E_3) \geq s$ and continue inductive process by constructing in similar way

$$E_4, E_5, \dots, E_n, \dots,$$

for which we obtain in general case the estimate:

$$k_0 - (\delta/2)^s - \dots - (\delta/2^{n-1})^s \leq \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2^{n-1}}^s(E_n) \leq k_0 + (\delta/2)^s + \dots + (\delta/2^{n-1})^s. \quad (6)$$

It follows that $E_1 \supseteq E_2 \supseteq E_3 \supseteq \dots$ is a decreasing sequence of closed subsets of X with compact intersection $K = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n$. Using the continuity of the measure \mathcal{H}^s we obtain:

$$\mathcal{H}^s(K) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{H}^s(E_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2^{i-1}}^s(E_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{H}_{\delta/2^{n-1}}^s(E_n).$$

Additionally using (6) we obtain the estimate:

$$k_0 - \frac{\delta^s}{2^{s-1}} \leq \mathcal{H}^s(F) \leq k_0 + \frac{\delta^s}{2^{s-1}}.$$

Taking into account (0) we can state that $\dim_H(F) = s$.

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