

Nikodym type sets avoiding  
lines in many directions

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Fractal Geometry and Stochastics 7  
Chemnitz, Germany

26 September 2024



# ON THE DIMENSION OF $s$ -NIKODÝM SETS

DAMIAN DĄBROWSKI, MAX GOERING, AND TUOMAS ORPONEN

ABSTRACT. Let  $s \in [0, 1]$ . We show that a Borel set  $N \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  whose every point is linearly accessible by an  $s$ -dimensional family of lines has Hausdorff dimension at most  $2 - s$ .

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Otto Nikodym & Stefan Banach

Theorem (Nikodym 1927)

For every  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$  one can find a line  $\ell_x$  going through  $x$  such that

$$\bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} \ell_x \setminus \{x\}$$

has Lebesgue measure zero.



Theorem (Nikodym 1927)

There is a set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^2$   
of full Lebesgue measure  
such that  
for every  $x \in E$   
there is a line  $\ell_x$   
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but no other point of  $E$ .

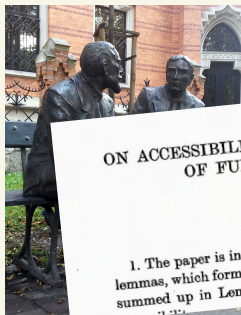
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Can we have more lines  
through every point?



ON ACCESSIBILITY OF PLANE SETS AND DIFFERENTIATION  
OF FUNCTIONS OF TWO REAL VARIABLES

By R. O. DAVIES

Received 14 June 1951

1. The paper is in three parts, of which the first is devoted to the proof of certain lemmas, which form the basis for the results proved in Parts II and III, and which are summed up in Lemma 6, §3. In Part II we consider questions relating to linear

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We can have continuum  
many lines in a dense  
set of directions.

Gr

(Davies 1951)

Can we have lines in  
directions of positive Hausdorff dimension?

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No.

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How big the set  $E$  can be to have  
lines in a  $t$ -dimensional set of  
directions? (Dabrowski, Goerz, Orponen 2024)

That is...



## Definition

Let  $s \in [0, 1]$ .

$E \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is an  $s$ -Nikodym set

if  $E$  is Borel

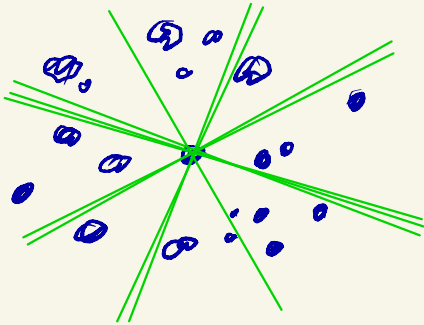
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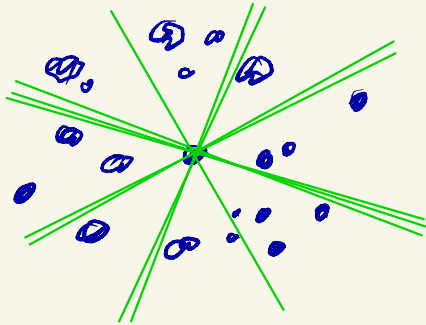
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Jun 2024

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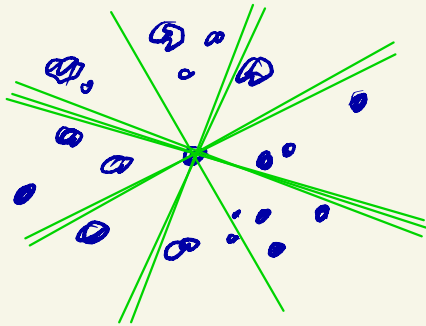
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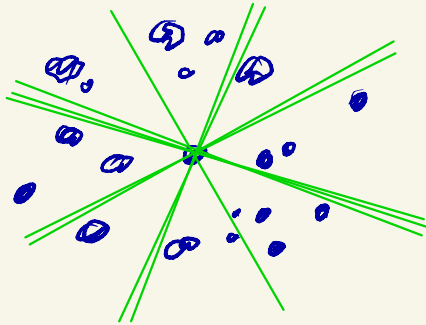
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Answer (A.M. 2024+)

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In the construction...

Should the lines through each  $x \in E$   
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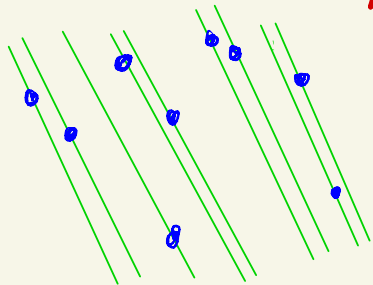
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In the construction...

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Not necessarily,

but if they do,



this is a question  
about projections.



Theorem (A.M. 2024+)  $\forall s \in [0, 1]$

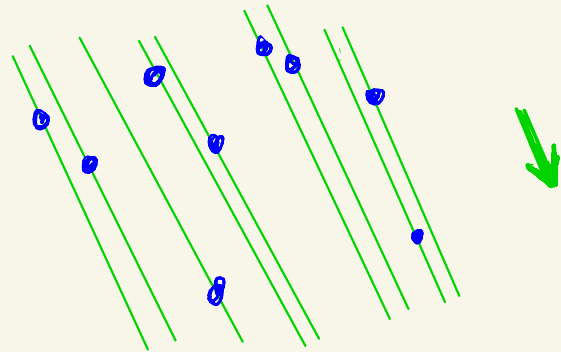
There is a compact set  
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dimension  $2-s$   
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such that each  
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is injective.

$$\forall s \in [0, 1]$$

$$\exists E \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \quad \dim_H E = 2-s$$

$\exists \mathcal{D}$  set of directions  
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$\text{proj}_\alpha|_E$  is injective  
 $\forall \alpha \in \mathcal{D}$ .



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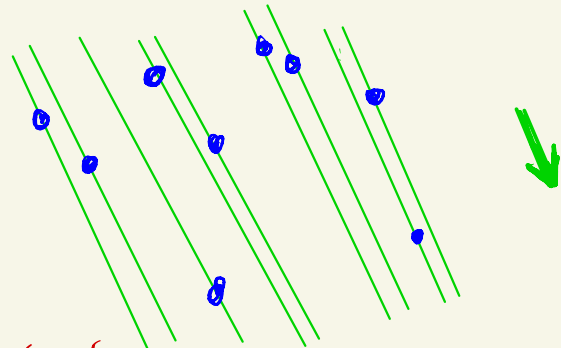
$\leadsto$  Exceptional set of projections.

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# Theorems about exceptional projections

## Theorem (Kaufman)

$$E \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \quad \text{Borel}$$

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Except for a set of directions of dim s,

$$\dim_H \text{proj}_\alpha E = s.$$

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# Theorems about exceptional projections

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## Theorem (Kaufman, Mattila)

And these results are sharp.

(Fractal construction based on discrete constructions by Erdős and Fekete.)

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Except for a set of directions of dim s,

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has positive Lebesgue measure.

sharpness means:

Theorem (Kaufman, Mattila)

$$\forall s \in [0, 1]$$

there is a compact

set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^2$

$$\dim_H E = 2 - s - \varepsilon$$

such that

$$\dim_H \text{proj}_\alpha E < 1 - \varepsilon'$$

for  $s$ -dimensional many  $\alpha$ .

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Could we make these  
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Yes we can.

Injectivity is not a  
quantitative property.

**Theorem (Kaufman, Mattila)**

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**Theorem (A.M. 2024+)**

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such that

$$\dim_H \text{proj}_\alpha E < 1 - \varepsilon'$$

for  $s$ -dimensional many  $\alpha$ ,

and these projections

are injective.

Rectangular grid

o o o o o o o o o o o o o

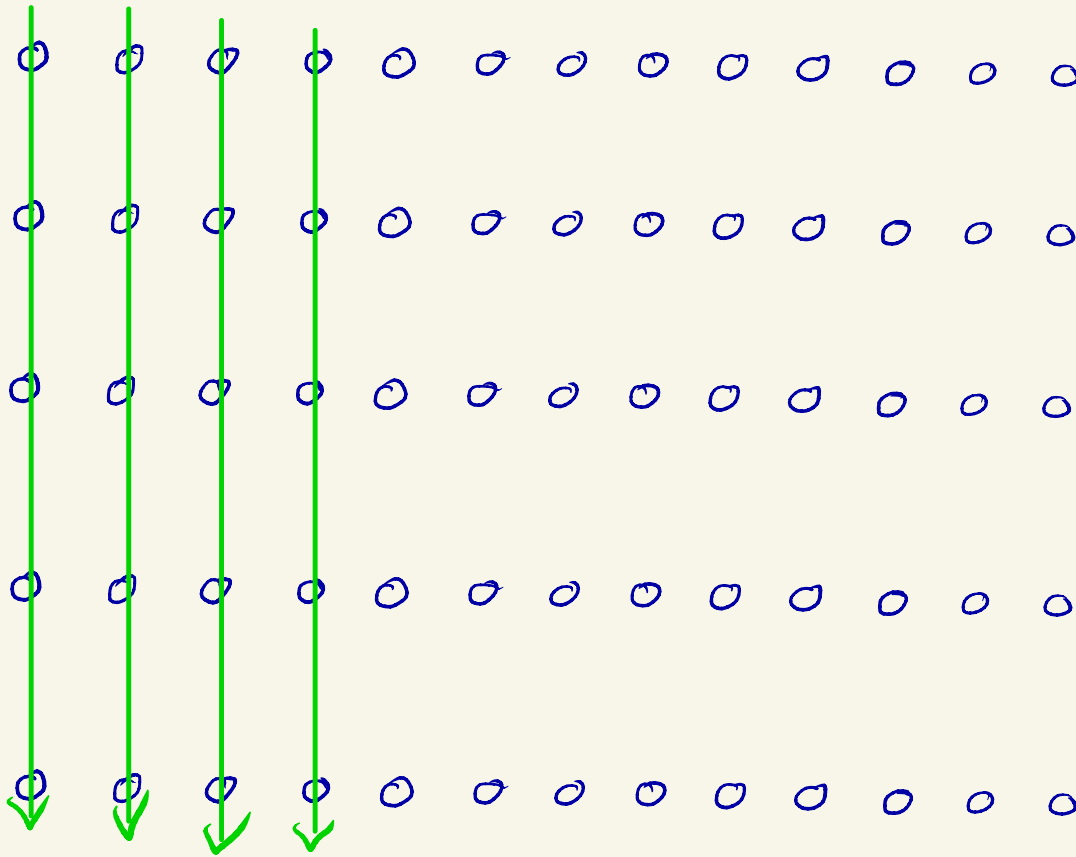
o o o o o o o o o o o o o

o o o o o o o o o o o o o

o o o o o o o o o o o o o

o o o o o o o o o o o o o

Rectangular grid

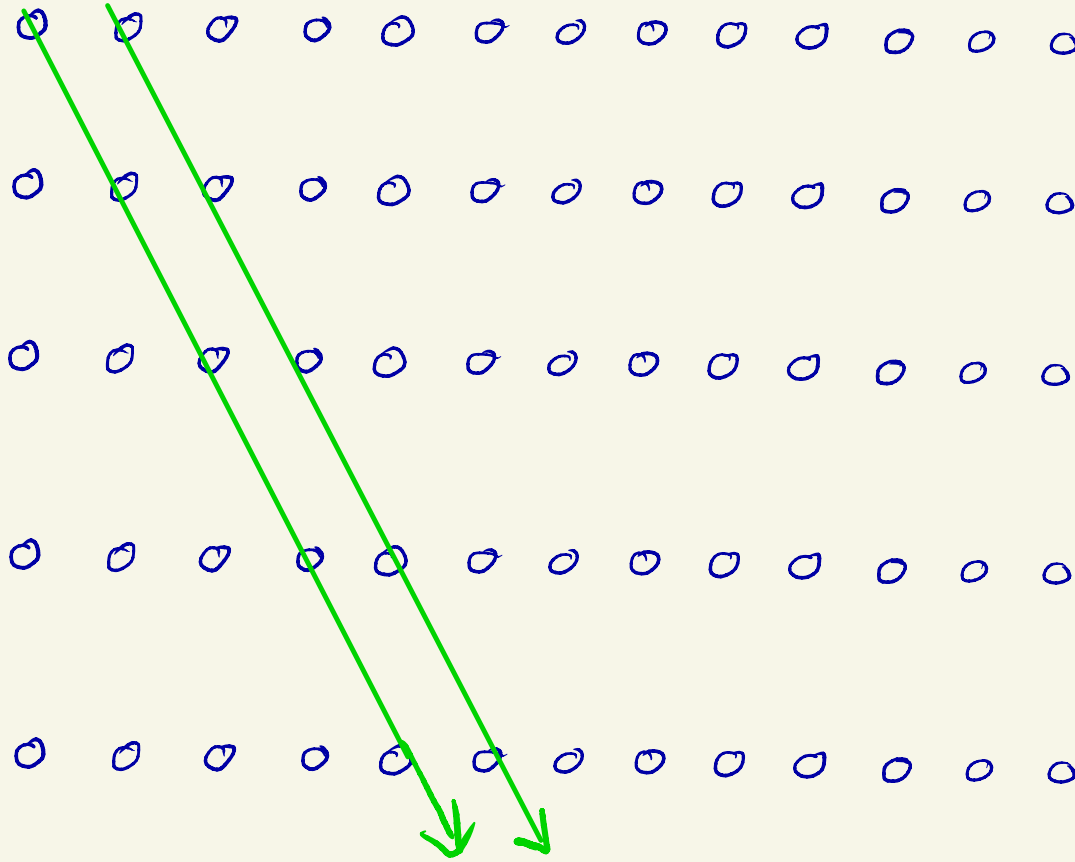


0 0 0 0 ...

small projection

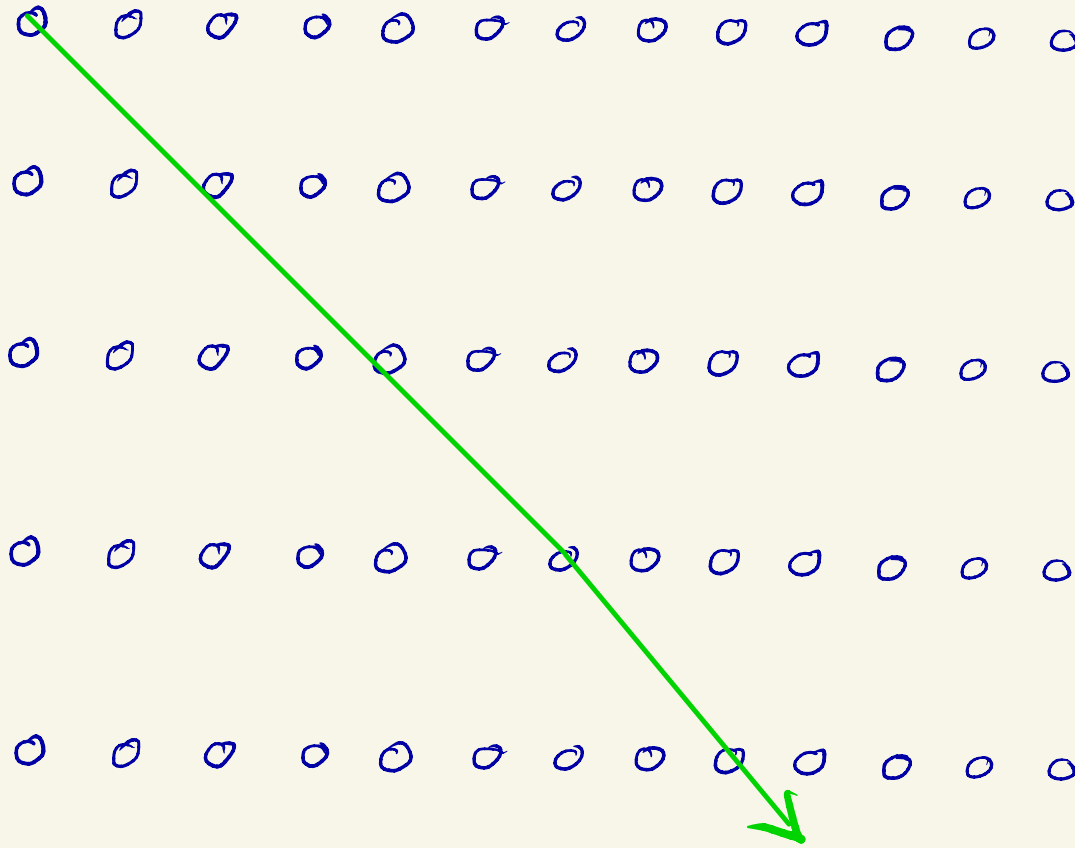


Rectangular grid



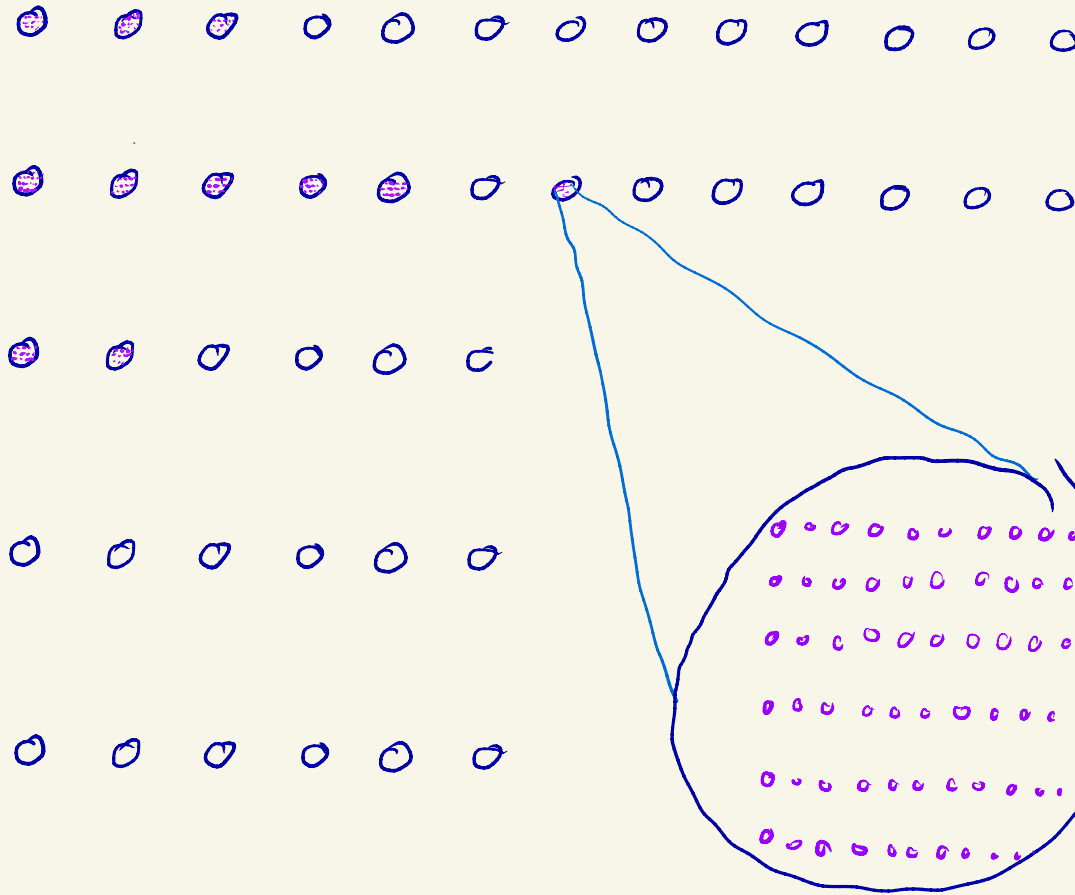
small projection

Rectangular grid



small projection

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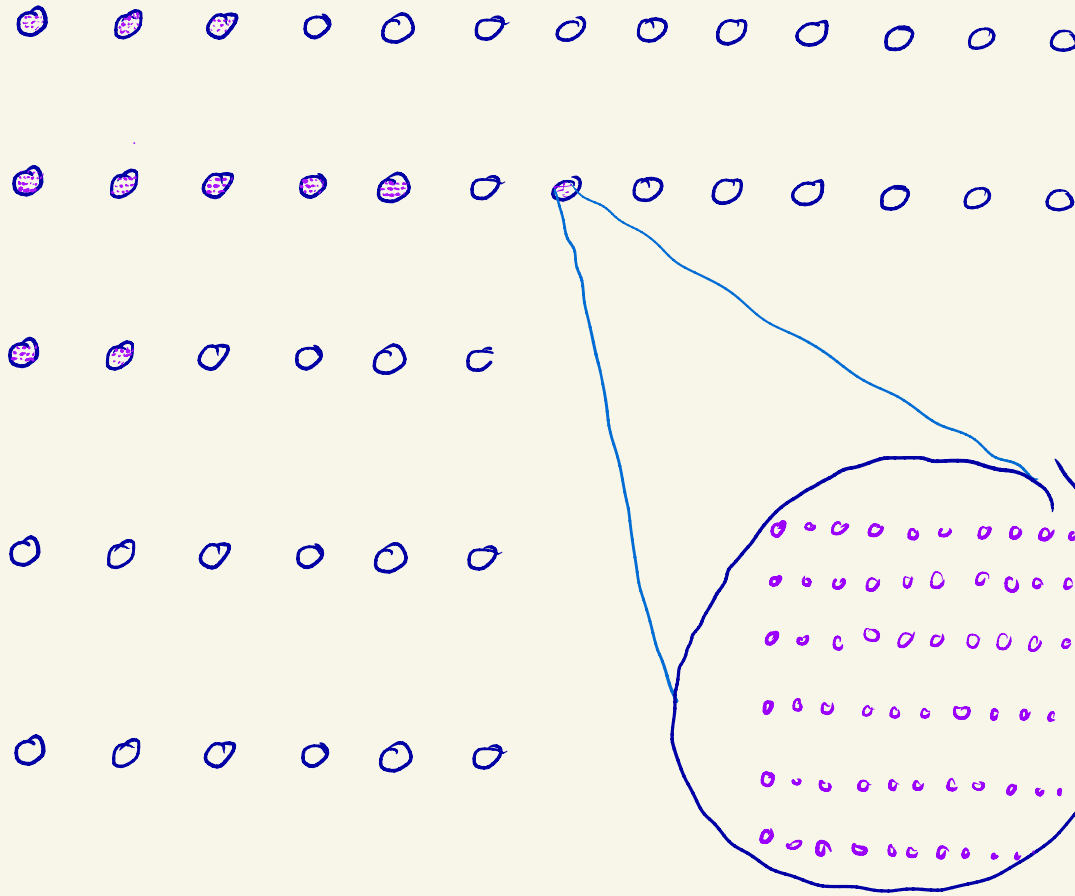


Next level:

intersect it  
with a  
much much  
finer  
similar\*  
rectangular  
grid

\*affine

Rectangular grid



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This how an Elekes-Kaufman-Mattila constr. work

Rectangular grid

o o o o o o o o o o o o o

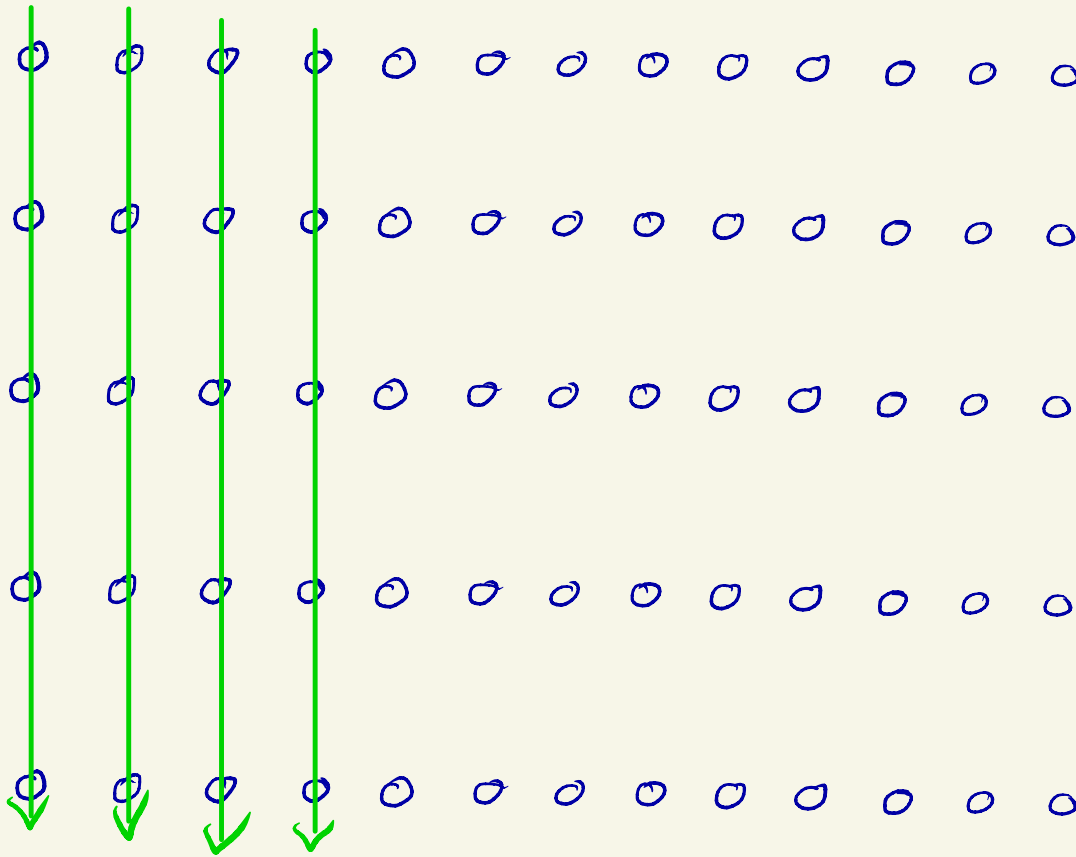
o o o o o o o o o o o o o

o o o o o o o o o o o o o

o o o o o o o o o o o o o

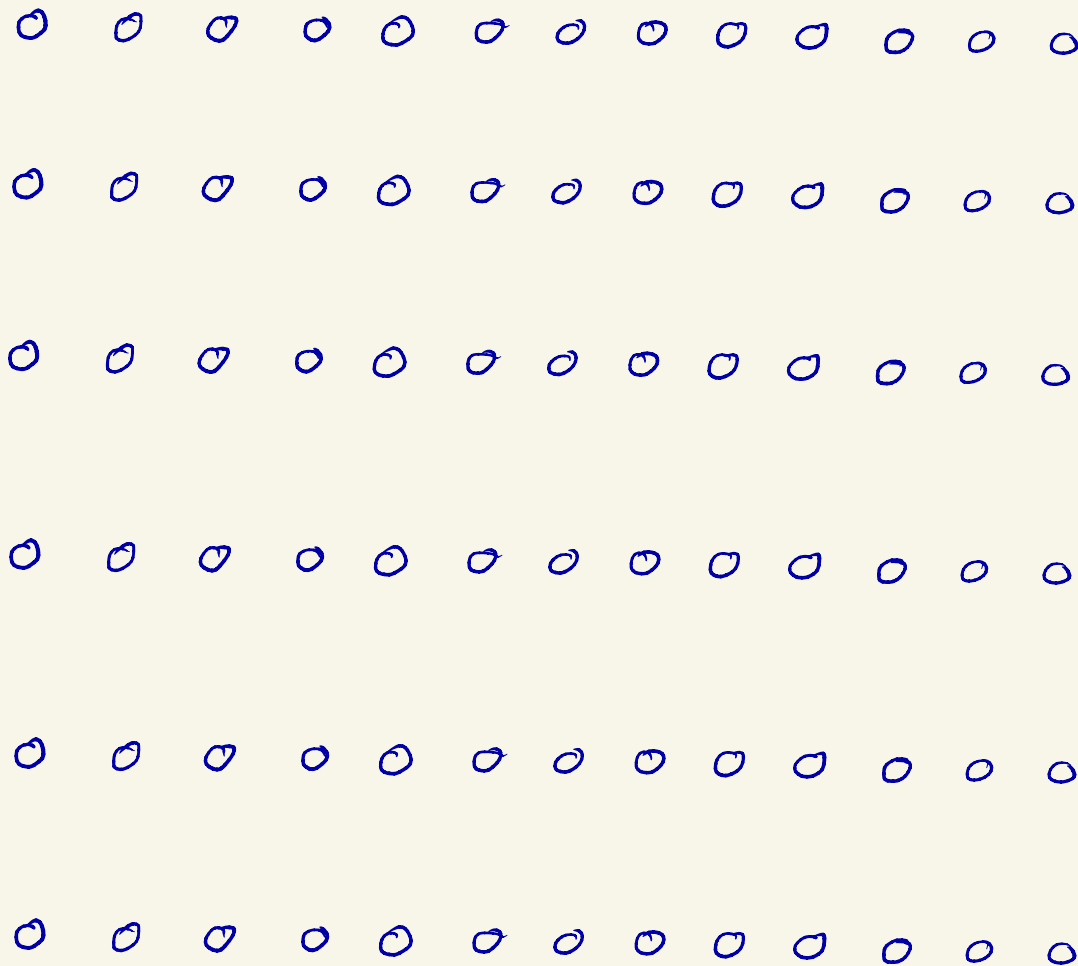
o o o o o o o o o o o o o

Rectangular grid

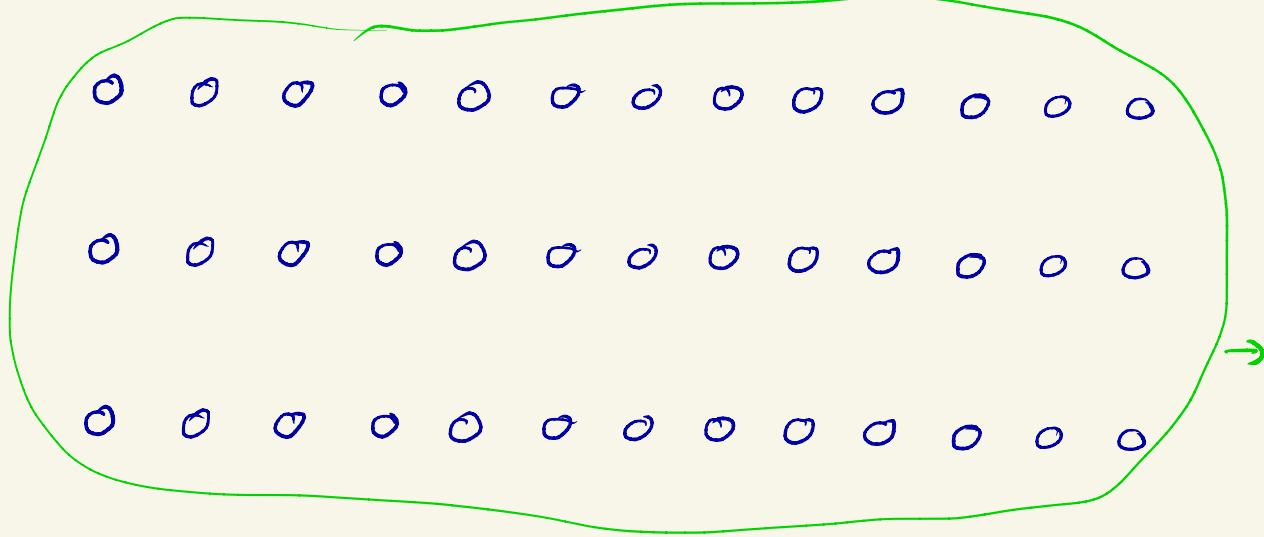


0 0 0 0 ...

small projection



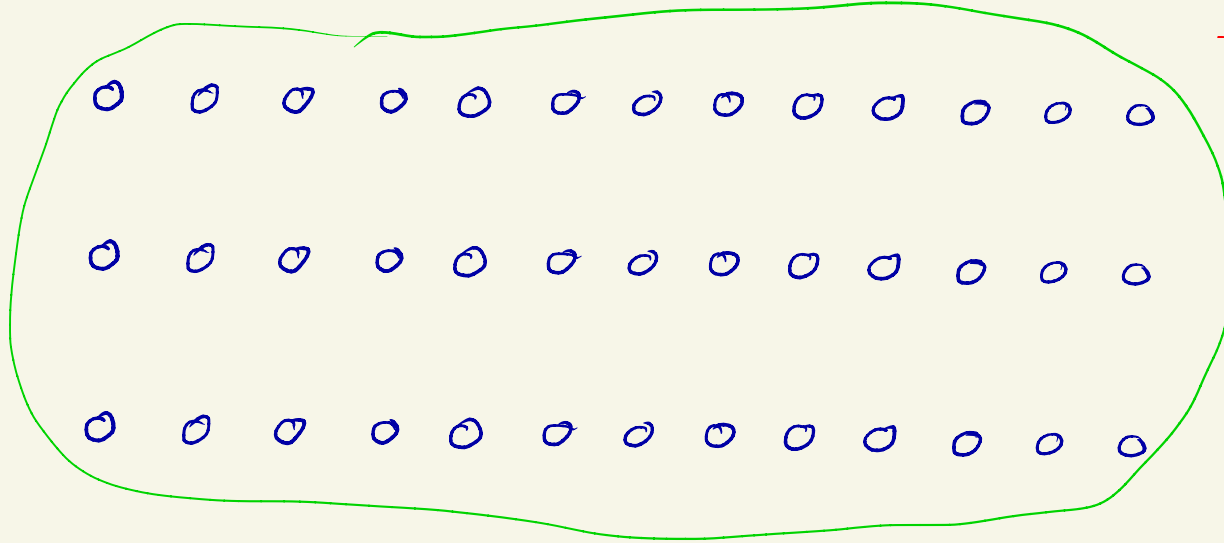
To make these  
projections  
injective...



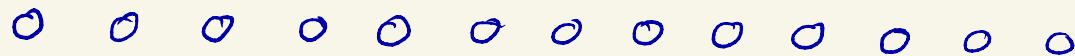
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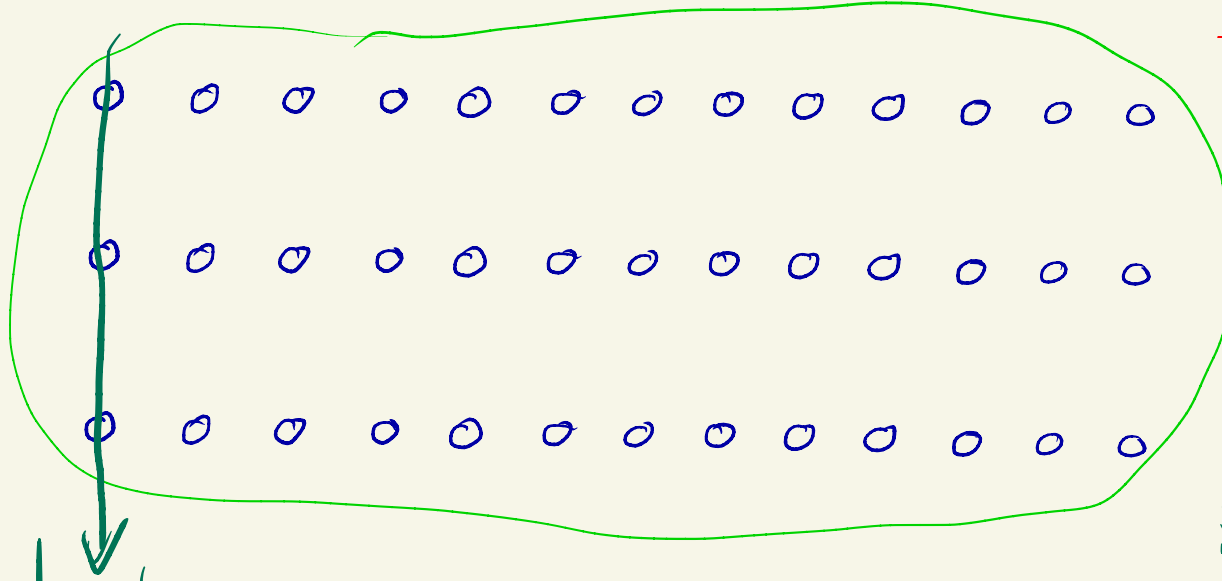






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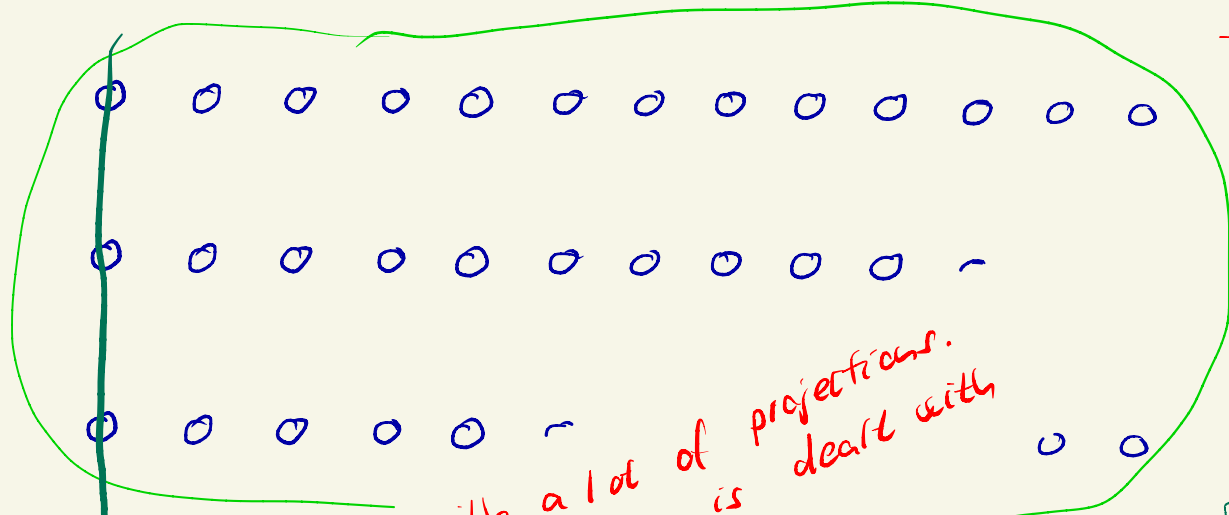




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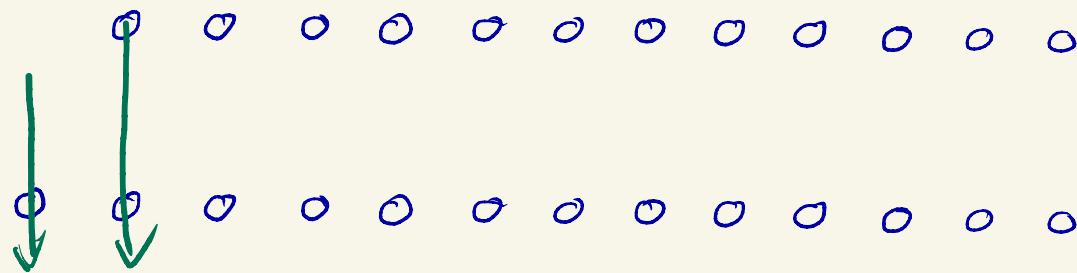
Projection  
is only "twice"  
bigger.

Far away  
points do not  
project to same  
point.



To make these  
projections  
injective...

This step deals with a lot of projections.  
"Injectivity" for closer points is dealt with  
on a smaller scale.



Projection  
is only "twice"  
bigger.

Far away  
points do not  
project to same  
point.

"Small projections  
can be made injective"

"Small projections  
can be made injective"

This turns out to be useful  
for a very different problem as well.

## On the center of distances

Wojciech Bielas<sup>1,2</sup> · Szymon Plewik<sup>1</sup> ·  
Marta Walczyńska<sup>1,2</sup>

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**Abstract** We introduce the notion of a center of distances of a metric space and use



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DOI: 10.12775/TMNA.2023.023

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Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

## ON THE OPERATOR OF CENTER OF DISTANCES BETWEEN THE SPACES OF CLOSED SUBSETS OF THE REAL LINE

ARTUR BARTOSZEWICZ — MAŁGORZATA FILIPCZAK  
GRAŻYNA HORBACZEWSKA — SEBASTIAN LINDNER  
FRANCISZEK PRUS-WIŚNIEWSKI

## Remarks on center of distances

Małgorzata Filipczak

46TH SUMMER SYMPOSIUM IN REAL ANALYSIS  
THE PROMISED LAND SYMPOSIUM  
JUNE 17–21, 2024

## Definition

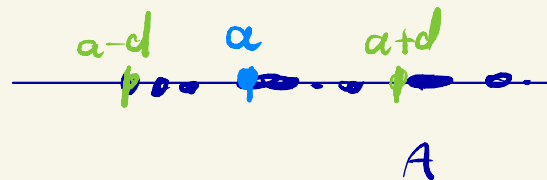
For a set  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  let

$$S(A) = \{d \geq 0 : \forall a \in A$$

$a+d$  or  $a-d$   
is in  $A\}$

"center of distances" of  $A$ .

Why? Why not.



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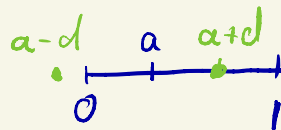
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## Examples

$$A = [0, 1]$$

$$S(A) =$$



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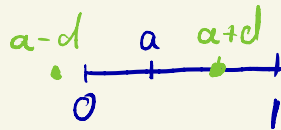
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$$S(A) = [0, \frac{1}{2}]$$



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European Journal of Mathematics (2018) 4:687–698  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40879-017-0199-4>



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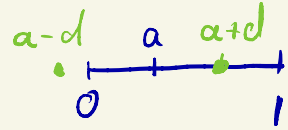
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## Examples

- $A = [0, 1]$

$$S(A) = [0, \frac{1}{2}]$$



- $A = \text{middle-third Cantor set}$

$$\frac{2}{3} \in S(A) ?$$

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CrossMark

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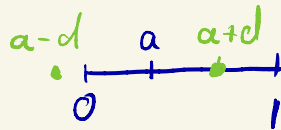
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RESEARCH ARTICLE

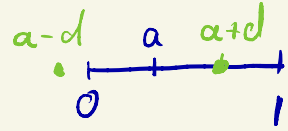
### On the center of distances

Wojciech Bielas<sup>1,2</sup> · Szymon Plewik<sup>1</sup> ·  
Marta Walczyńska<sup>1,2</sup>

## Examples

- $A = [0, 1]$

$$S(A) = [0, \frac{1}{2}]$$



- $A = \text{middle-third Cantor set}$

$$\frac{2}{3} \in S(A) ? \quad \text{Yes.}$$

$$\frac{2}{3^k} \in S(A) ?$$

## Definition

For a set  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  let

$$S(A) = \{d \geq 0 : \forall a \in A$$

$a+d$  or  $a-d$   
is in  $A\}$

"center of distances" of  $A$ .

Why? Why not.

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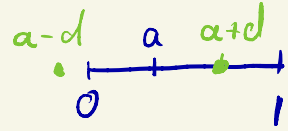
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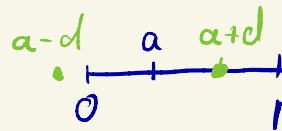
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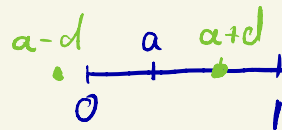
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Yes.

Theorem (M. Filipczak et al)

Let  $\underline{B} \subset [0, \infty)$  be compact,

$0 \in B$ .

Then there is a closed  
set  $A \subset [0, \infty)$  such that

$$S(A) = B.$$

Topological Methods in Nonlinear Analysis  
Volume 63, No. 2, 2024, 413–427  
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ON THE OPERATOR OF CENTER OF DISTANCES  
BETWEEN THE SPACES OF CLOSED SUBSETS  
OF THE REAL LINE

ARTUR BARTOSZEWICZ — MALGORZATA FILIPCZAK  
GRAŻYNA HORBACZEWSKA — SEBASTIAN LINDNER  
FRANCISZEK PRUS-WIŚNIEWSKI



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About the proof:

$A$  is a locally finite  
union of intervals,  
dealing with the  
complementary intervals  
of  $B$  one by one.

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About the proof:

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Question (Filipczak et al)

Is there a compact  $A$   
for every such compact  $B$ ?  
with  $S(A) = B$ .

The expected answer is "No".

## Three questions (Filipczak et al)

### Question 1

Is there a compact  $A$  for every compact  $B \subset [0, \infty)$   
with  $0 \in B$   
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Is there a **set**  $A$  for every **set**  $B \subset [0, \infty)$   
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## Question 3

Is there a Borel set  $A$  for every Borel set  $B \subset [0, \infty)$  with  $0 \in B$  such that  $S(A) = B$ ?

# Three questions (Folopczak et al)

Answers? by A.M 2024+

## Question 1

Is there a compact  $A$  for every compact  $B \subset [0, \infty)$  with  $0 \in B$  such that  $S(A) = B$ ? No, as expected.

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Solution to Q1 is real analysis.

←  $\forall$  compact  $B \exists$  compact  $A$

$$S(A) = B$$

Solution to Q2 is transfinite recursion.

←  $\forall B \exists A S(A) = B$

Solution to Q3 is by replacing the Axiom of Choice in the transfinite recursion with "choice" based on a fractal set...

←  $\forall$  Borel  $B \exists$  Borel  $A S(A) = B$

Solution to Q1 is real analysis.

←  $\forall$  compact  $B \exists$  compact  $A$

$$S(A) = B$$

Solution to Q2 is transfinite recursion.

←  $\forall B \exists A \forall E S(A) = B$

Solution to Q3 is by replacing the Axiom of Choice in the transfinite recursion with "choice" based on a fractal set...

←  $\forall$  Borel  $B \exists$  Borel  $A \ S(A) = B$ .

... with lots of injective projections.

Q3 is solved by the following.

Thm (A.M 2024+)

There exists a closed set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  such that

- $\text{proj}_x E = \mathbb{R}$
- all other rational projections are injective
- moreover, "lots of linear independence over  $\mathbb{Q}$ "  
the linear equations

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i x_i + \beta_i y_i = 0 \quad \text{with } \alpha_i \in \mathbb{Q}, \beta_i \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}$$
  
have NO SOLUTIONS among distinct points  $(x_i, y_i) \in E$ .

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Using  $E$ ,

given  $B \subset [0, \infty)$

let

$$A = \mathbb{R} \setminus \bigcup \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{certain} \\ \text{linear} \\ \text{images} \\ \text{of} \\ E \cap (B^c \times \mathbb{R}) \end{array} \right\}$$

