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& \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} F=\inf \{s>0: \quad \text { there exists } C>0 \text { such that, } \\
& \qquad \begin{array}{ll}
\left.\sup _{0<r<R} \sup _{x \in F} N_{r}(B(x, R) \cap F) \leq C\left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^{s}\right\}
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Here $N_{r}(E)$ is the minimum number of balls of radius $r$ required to cover a set $E$.

## Dimension theory



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\operatorname{dim}_{H} F \leq \operatorname{dim}_{P} F \leq \overline{\operatorname{dim}}_{B} F \leq \operatorname{dim}_{A} F
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## Assouad dimension

## ASSOUAD DIMENSION

 AND FRACTAL GEOMETRYJONATHAN M. FRASER

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

## The distance set problem

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This is open, but there has been a lot of progress recently due to Orponen, Shmerkin, Shmerkin-Keleti, Guth-losevich-Ou-Wang and others. For example, we know (GIOW 2019)

$$
\operatorname{dim}_{H} F>5 / 4 \Rightarrow \operatorname{dim}_{H} D(F)=1 .
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One may pose this problem for different notions of dimension and also search for optimal estimates in the sub-critical case when $\operatorname{dim} F<1$. The problem is open for box dimension, packing dimension etc.

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## Theorem (F 2020)

For an arbitrary set $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{2}$

$$
\operatorname{dim}_{A} D(F) \geq \min \left\{\operatorname{dim}_{A} F, 1\right\}
$$

and this is sharp.

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\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} F>1 \Rightarrow \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} D(F)=1
$$

The case $\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} F \leq 1$ is not (so far) susceptible to such reductions.

## The distance set problem

Sketch proof: For $V \in G(2,1)$ write $\Pi_{V}$ for orthogonal projection onto $V$. For $z \in \mathbb{R}^{2}$, write $\pi_{z}$ for the associated radial projection and $D_{z}$ for the pinned distance map.

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Suppose $F$ is closed and let $E \in \operatorname{Micro}(F)$ with $\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{H}} E=\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} F$. Let $E^{\prime} \in \operatorname{Micro}(E)$ with $\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{H}} E^{\prime}=\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} E=\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} F$ with 'focal point' $z \in E$.

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Let $\mathcal{E} \subseteq G(2,1)$ be the set of exceptions to Orponen's projection theorem for Assouad dimension applied to the set $E^{\prime}$. That is $\mathcal{E} \subseteq G(2,1)$ are those $V$ for which $\operatorname{dim}_{A} \pi_{V} E^{\prime}<\min \left\{\operatorname{dim}_{A} E^{\prime}, 1\right\}$. Orponen's theorem (2021) states that $\operatorname{dim}_{H} \mathcal{E}=0$.

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\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} D(F) \geq \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} D(E) \geq \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} D_{z}(E) & \geq \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} \Pi_{\text {span }(z-x)}\left(E^{\prime}\right) \\
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and therefore

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\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} D(F) \geq \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} D(E) \geq \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} D_{\mathrm{z}}(E) \geq \operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{H}} E=\operatorname{dim}_{\mathrm{A}} F .
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