

THE HAUSDORFF DIMENSION OF ELLIPTIC AND ELLIPTIC-CALORIC MEASURE IN \mathbf{R}^n , $n \geq 3$

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ABSTRACT. The existence of an L -caloric measure with parabolic Hausdorff dimension $4 - \varepsilon$ in $\mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}^1$ is demonstrated. The method is to use a specially constructed quasi-disk Q whose boundary has Hausdorff $\dim = 2 - \varepsilon$. There is an elliptic measure supported on the entire boundary of Q . Then the L -caloric measure on $\partial_p Q \times [0, T]$ is compared with the corresponding elliptic measure. The same method gives the existence of an elliptic measure in \mathbf{R}^n whose support has Hausdorff $\dim n - \varepsilon$ for $n \geq 3$, and an L -caloric measure in $\mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^1$ supported on a set of parabolic Hausdorff dimension $n + 2 - \varepsilon$.

The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the existence of a domain in $\mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}^1$ and a strictly elliptic operator L so that the L -caloric measure associated with $\partial/\partial t - L$ has support of parabolic Hausdorff dimension $4 - \varepsilon$. Our example is the product domain $[0, T] \times Q$ where Q is the quasi-disk constructed in [8] and the operator $\partial/\partial t - L$, where L is the operator in [8]. Our proof is based on Lemmas 1 and 2. In Lemma 2 we show that the product measure, $dm = dt \times dw_l$, where w_l is the elliptic measure of L on ∂Q , is absolutely continuous with L -caloric measure. It follows easily from Lemma 1 that dm has support of parabolic Hausdorff dimension $4 - \varepsilon$.

Using basically the same argument one can show there are sets in \mathbf{R}^n , $n > 2$, such that a particular elliptic measure has support of Hausdorff dimension $n - \varepsilon$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$. The domain in \mathbf{R}^3 would be $[-R, R] \times Q$ and the operator $\partial^2/\partial z^2 + L$ where L and Q are as in [8]. The analogues of Lemmas 1 and 2 for NTA domains and elliptic operators are well known (see [4]). So, as above, one can deduce the existence of L -caloric measure in \mathbf{R}^{n+1} whose support has parabolic Hausdorff dimension $n + 2 - \varepsilon$, for $n > 2$.

We note that caloric measure $(\partial/\partial t - \Delta)$ has support of $p - H - \dim \leq 3$ in \mathbf{R}^3 on any cylinder set $D \times [0, T]$ where D is an NTA domain in \mathbf{R}^2 , as follows from Lemmas 1, 2 and the fact that harmonic measure has support of $H - \dim \leq 1$ in \mathbf{R}^2 (Jones and Wolff [5]).

Let $D_T = Q \times [0, T]$ where Q is the quasi-disk in \mathbf{R}^2 constructed in [8],

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so that ∂Q has $H - \dim(2 - \varepsilon)$ and there is a strictly elliptic L -operator in divergence form whose associated elliptic measure w_l has support on $H - \dim(2 - \varepsilon)$.

Theorem 1. *If L and D_T are as above and w_L is the L -caloric measure of $\partial/\partial t - L$ on D_T , then the parabolic Hausdorff dimension of $\text{supp } w_L$ in $\partial_p D_T$ is $4 - \varepsilon$.*

The proof of Theorem 1 depends on the following two lemmas. Fix $x_0 \in Q$ such that $d(x_0, \partial Q) \geq r_0$ and let $dm_{x_0} = dt \times dw_l^{x_0}$ be a product measure on $\partial_p D_T$. Then dm_{x_0} is a Borel measure on $\partial_p D_T \cap \{t > 0\}$, since $dt =$ Lebesgue measure on \mathbf{R}^1 , $dw_l^{x_0} =$ elliptic measure (of L) on ∂Q are both Borel measures and $\partial_p D_T \cap \{t > 0\} = \partial Q \times (0, T]$. dm_{x_0} is supported on $\text{supp } w_l^{x_0} \times [0, T]$. By Lemma 1 the support of dm_{x_0} will have parabolic Hausdorff dimension $4 - \varepsilon$ since $H - \dim(\text{supp } dw_l) = 2 - \varepsilon$ [8].

A Hausdorff measure which is suitable for solutions of the heat equation in cylinder sets in \mathbf{R}^{n+1} can be defined as in Taylor and Watson [9]:

$$\Lambda_p^\alpha(E) = \liminf_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^\infty r_i^\alpha : E \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty P_{r_i}, P_{r_i}(Q, s) = \{(x, t) \mid |x_j - Q_j| < r_i, \right. \\ \left. j = 1, 2, \dots, n; |t - s| < r_i^2\} \right. \\ \left. \text{and } \text{diam } P_{r_i} \sim r_i < \delta \right\}.$$

The parabolic Hausdorff dimension of a set E is the $\inf\{\beta : \Lambda_p^\beta(E) = 0\}$. So parabolic Hausdorff dimension β and classical Hausdorff dimension α are related by $\beta - 1 \leq \alpha \leq (\beta + n)/2$ since every cube of side length r contains $1/r$ parabolic boxes of dimensions $r \times r^2$, and each parabolic box of dimensions $r \times r^2$ contains $1/r^n$ cubes of side length r^2 , and Hausdorff measure using cubes compares with ordinary Hausdorff measure. Both extremes are possible, as simple examples show.

Lemma 1 [6]. *If $D_T = E \times [0, T]$, E is a set in \mathbf{R}^n , then*

$$\Lambda_p^{\alpha+2}(D_T) \geq k \Lambda^\alpha(E) \Lambda^1([0, T])$$

for some k independent of E . $\Lambda_p^{\alpha+2}(D_T)$ is the parabolic Hausdorff measure on D_T ; $\Lambda^\alpha(E)$ is the usual Hausdorff measure of the set E .

Then Lemma 2 can be used to prove Theorem 1.

Lemma 2. *For $D_T = D \times [0, T]$ where D is an NTA domain in \mathbf{R}^n , with NTA constant M ,*

$$\Delta_r(Q, s) = \partial_p D_T \cap P_r(Q, s), \quad r < \delta(M)r_0, T_0 - r_0^2 > s > \frac{1}{2}r_0^2,$$

and $T \geq T_0$, there are constants c_4 and c_5 depending only on $M, X_0, T_0, r_0, \lambda, n$ so that for (X_0, T_0) fixed and $d(X_0, \partial D) > r_0$,

$$c_4 \leq \frac{w_L^{(X_0, T_0)}(\Delta_r(Q, s))}{m_{X_0}(\Delta_r(Q, s))} \leq c_5.$$

Here r_0 is a fixed constant, λ is the ellipticity constant of L and w_L is L -caloric measure on D_T .

By Lemma 2, $dw_L^{(X_0, T_0)}$ and dm_{X_0} are mutually absolutely continuous and $p - H - \dim(\text{supp } m_{X_0}) = 4 - \varepsilon$. So Lemmas 1 and 2 prove Theorem 1.

To prove Lemma 2, one needs some standard results for comparing caloric measure with the Green's function and a local comparison theorem for solutions vanishing at the boundary for $D_T = \text{NTA} \times [0, T]$. (See Theorems 2 and 3 in §2.) These theorems are proved in Fabes, Garofalo, and Salsa for $D \times [0, T]$, D is a Lipschitz domain (Theorems 1.4 and 1.6 in [3]). To prove these results, it is necessary to prove versions of Hölder continuity at the boundary and the Carleson box condition for L -caloric functions vanishing on a Δ_{4r} disk in $\partial_p D_T \cap \{t > 0\}$, on an $\text{NTA} \times$ time domain. The proofs of these results will be outlined in §3.

M will denote the NTA constant of D , and d is parabolic distance

$$d(x, t; y, s) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|^2 + \sqrt{|t - s|}}.$$

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The proof of Lemma 1 depends on the following version of Lemma 4 from Marstrand's paper:

Lemma 3 [6]. *Suppose a linear set X is contained in a finite set $\bigcup_{j=1}^N I_j$ of dyadic intervals, each of length $< \delta$. Suppose also there is a positive number p such that for every $x \in X$, $\sum_{j, x \in I_j} f(j) > p$ where f is a function from I_j to the positive real numbers. Then*

$$\sum_{j=1}^N f(j) |I_j|^s > p L_{\delta, d}^s(X)$$

where

$$L_{\delta, d}^s(X) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} r_j^s : X \subseteq \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} Q(x_j, r_j); \right. \\ \left. Q(x_j, r_j) \text{ are dyadic intervals of length } r_j, r_j < \delta \right\}.$$

Proof of Lemma 1. Let $\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} P_j$ be a cover of $E \times [0, T]$ by dyadic parabolic boxes of dimension r_j such that $r_j < \delta$ and

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} r_j^{\alpha+2} \leq (1 + \varepsilon) L_{P, \delta, d}^{\alpha+2}(E \times [0, T]).$$

$L_{P, \delta, d}^{\alpha+2}$ is the dyadic parabolic Hausdorff measure. For each t ,

$$\sum_{(x, t) \in \{E \times [0, T]\} \cap P_j} r_{j, t}^{\alpha} \geq L_{\delta, d}^{\alpha}(E),$$

where $r_{j,t}$ is the side length of $P_{j,t}$; and $P_{j,t}$ is the projection of P_j onto \mathbf{R}^2 if $(x, t) \in P_j$. The $\bigcup_j P_{j,t}$ forms a dyadic cover of E in \mathbf{R}^2 .

Now for $f(j) = r_j^\alpha$ take $\bigcup_{i=1}^m P_j$ so that

$$\sum_{j=1}^m r_j^\alpha \geq (1 - \varepsilon)L_{\delta,d}^\alpha(E)$$

so $m = m(\varepsilon)$, $X = [0, T]$, and $I_j = \text{Proj } P_j$ into $[0, T]$, so $[0, T] \subseteq \bigcup_{j=1}^N I_j$ some $N > m > 0$ since $[0, T]$ is compact. For $p = (1 - \varepsilon)L_{\delta,d}^\alpha(E)$, one can apply Lemma 3 to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + \varepsilon)L_{\delta,d}^{\alpha+2}(D_T) &\geq \sum_{j=1}^\infty r_j^{\alpha+2} > pL_{\delta,d}^1([0, T]) \\ &> (1 - \varepsilon)L_{\delta,d}^\alpha(E)T \quad \text{since } |I_j| = r_j^2. \end{aligned}$$

Dyadic Hausdorff measure compares with usual Hausdorff measure in both the parabolic and nonparabolic case and $\varepsilon > 0$ is arbitrary so

$$\Lambda_p^{\alpha+2}(D_T) \geq k\Lambda^\alpha(E)\Lambda^1([0, T]).$$

Lemma 1 shows that the parabolic Hausdorff dim of $\partial_p D_T \geq H - \dim(\partial D) + 2$ where $D_T = D \times [0, T]$ so $\partial_p D_T \cap \{t > 0\} = \partial D \times (0, T]$. It is easy to show the reverse inequality. \square

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Let

$$\begin{aligned} P_r(Q, s) &= \{(x, t) \mid |X - Q| < r \text{ and } |t - s| < r^2\}, \\ \Delta_r(Q, s) &= P_r(Q, s) \cap \partial_p D_T \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{A}_r(Q, s) = (A_r(Q), s + 2r^2), \\ \underline{A}_r(Q, s) &= (A_r(Q), s - 2r^2), \end{aligned}$$

where $A_r(Q)$ is the nontangential point in condition (1) of [4] for $D = \text{NTA}$ domain.

Theorem 2 [3]. For $(Q, s) \in \partial_p D_T$, $s > 0$, if $(\chi, t) \in D_T$, $s + 4r^2 < t$, $r \leq \min(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{s}, \frac{1}{2}r_0, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{T-s})$, then there are constants c_1 and c_2 so that

$$c_1 r^n G(\chi, t; \bar{A}_r(Q, s)) \leq w_L^{(\chi, t)}(\Delta_r(Q, s)) \leq c_2 r^n G(\chi, t; \underline{A}_r(Q, s)),$$

where c_1, c_2 depend only on λ, M, r_0, n, T .

Theorem 3 [3]. If u and v are solutions of $(\partial/\partial t - L)u = 0$ in D_T such that u and v vanish continuously on $\Delta_{4r}(Q, s)$ where $(Q, s) \in \partial_p D_T$ and $r < \min(\frac{1}{2}r_0, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{s}, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{T-s})$, then there are constants $\delta(M), c_3$, and c_4 so that for $(\chi, t) \in P_{\delta(M)r}(Q, s) \cap D_T$

$$c_4 \frac{u(\underline{A}_r(Q, s))}{v(\underline{A}_r(Q, s))} \leq \frac{u(\chi, t)}{v(\chi, t)} \leq c_3 \frac{u(\bar{A}_r(Q, s))}{v(\bar{A}_r(Q, s))}$$

where c_3 and c_4 depend only on λ, n, M, T, r_0 .

Proof of Lemma 2. Let $g_l(x, y)$ be the Green's function of L in D . Then $g_l(x, y)$ is a solution to $(\partial/\partial t + L)u = 0$ in $D_T \setminus \{B_\varepsilon(x) \times [0, T]\}$.

$$(1) \quad \frac{w_L^{(X_0, T_0)}(\Delta_r(Q, s))}{m_{X_0}(\Delta_r(Q, s))} = \frac{w_L^{(X_0, T_0)}(\Delta_r(Q, s))}{r^2 w_l^{X_0}(\Delta_r(Q))}$$

$$(2) \quad \leq c' \frac{r^n G_L(X_0, T_0; \underline{A}_r(Q, s))}{r^2 r^{n-2} g_l(X_0; A_r(Q))} \leq c'' \frac{G_L(X_0, T_0; \overline{A}_{r_0/2}(Q, s))}{g_l(X_0; A_{r_0/2}(Q))} \leq c,$$

$$c = \sup_{\substack{(Q, s) \in \partial_p D_T \\ T_0 - r_0^2 > s > 0}} c'' \frac{G_L(X_0, T_0; \overline{A}_{r_0/2}(Q, s))}{g_l(X_0; A_{r_0/2}(Q))}.$$

Equality (1) is by Theorem 2 and the corresponding result for elliptic measure in [2] and [4], and (2) is by Theorem 3 in the adjoint variable for $u(y, w) = G_L(X_0, T_0; y, w)$ and $v(y, w) = g_l(X_0; y)$ for all $w \in [0, T]$.

Reversing the roles of m_{X_0} and $w_L^{(X_0, T_0)}$ gives the lower bound $1/c'_4$ in Lemma 2,

$$c'_4 = \sup_{\substack{(Q, s) \in \partial_p D_T \\ T_0 > s > r_0^2}} c'' \frac{g_l(X_0; A_{r_0/2}(Q))}{G_L(X_0, T_0; \underline{A}_{r_0/2}(Q, s))}. \quad \square$$

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If $D_T = D \times [0, T]$, D is an NTA domain in \mathbf{R}^n , the following three conditions hold.

(1) For any $(Q, s) \in \partial_p D_T^+$ and any $r < \min(r_0, s)$, there is a point $A_r(Q, s) \in D_T$ such that $r/M < d(A_r(Q, s), (Q, s)) < r$ and $d(A_r(Q, s), \partial_p D_T^+) > r/M$. There is a parabolic cylinder

$$B\left(A_r(Q), \frac{1}{2M}r\right) \times \left[s - \frac{1}{4M^2}r^2, s + \frac{1}{4M^2}r^2\right]$$

around $A_r(Q, s)$ whose diameter compares with its distance from $\partial_p^+ D_T$. $\partial_p^+ D_T = \partial_p D_T \cap \{t > 0\}$.

(2) D_T^c satisfies condition (1).

(3) Harnack Chain Condition: If (y_1, s_1) and $(y_2, s_2) \in D_T$ such that

$$\min d((y_i, s_i), \partial_p D_T) > \varepsilon, \quad d((y_1, s_1), (y_2, s_2)) < c_1 \varepsilon,$$

and $s_2 - s_1 \geq C_2 \varepsilon^2$, then there is a Harnack chain of parabolic cylinders p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m , where $(y_1, s_1) \in p_1$, $(y_2, s_2) \in p_m$, $p_{k-1} \cap p_k \neq \emptyset$, $p_k = B_k \times [t_k - \delta r_k^2, t_k + \delta r_k^2]$, and the t_k are times: $t_0 = s_1 < t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_m = s_2$. δ and m depend on c_1, c_2 , and M but not on ε . (A Harnack chain is a sequence of parabolic cylinders p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m such that $(y_1, s_1) \in p_1$, $(y_2, s_2) \in p_m$, $\text{int } p_k \cap p_{k+1} \neq \emptyset$, and $d(p_k, \partial_p^+ D_T) \sim \text{diam of } p_k$.)

Conditions (1)–(3) follow from the corresponding conditions for the NTA domain D in \mathbf{R}^n (Jerison and Kenig [4]).

If $(y_1, s_1), (y_2, s_2)$ are as in condition (3) and $u \geq 0$, $(\partial/\partial t - L)u = 0$ in D_T , then there is a constant $C = C(M, T, n, \lambda, c_1, c_2)$ such that $u(y_1, s_1) \leq Cu(y_2, s_2)$.

One can prove the following versions of the continuity lemma and the Carleson box lemma for D_T when $s > 0$ and $r < \min(r_0, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{s}, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{T-s})$.

Continuity Lemma [4]. *If u is a positive function on D_T so that $(\partial/\partial t - L)u = 0$ on D_T , u vanishes continuously on $P_r(Q, s) \cap \partial_p D_T = \Delta_r(Q, s)$, then there is a constant k such that $1/M \leq k \leq 1$, and for all $(\chi, t) \in P_{kr}(Q, s) \cap \{t > s\} \cap D_T$, there is $\beta = \beta(M)$ so that*

$$u(\chi, t) \leq C(M) \sup_{(y, v) \in D_T \cap \partial_p P_r} u(y, v) \cdot \left[\frac{d((\chi, t), (Q, s))}{r} \right]^\beta.$$

Proof. The argument of Salsa in the proof of Lemma 4.2 [7] can be adapted to prove this result.

The Continuity Lemma gives the boundary estimate

$$w^{\bar{A}_r(Q, s)}(\Delta_r(Q, s)) \geq c, \quad \text{where } \bar{A}_r(Q, s) = (A_r(Q), s + 2r^2).$$

Carleson Box Lemma. *If $u \geq 0$ on D , $(\partial/\partial t - L)u = 0$ in D and u vanishes continuously on $\Delta_{3r}(Q, s)$, $s > 9r^2$, then there is a constant $C = C(M)$ such that*

$$u(\chi, t) \leq Cu(\bar{A}_r(Q, s))$$

for all $(\chi, t) \in P_r(Q, s)$ where $\bar{A}_r(Q, s) = (A_r(Q), s + 2r^2)$,

$$P_r(Q, s) = \{(\chi, t) \mid |\chi - Q| < r, |t - s| < r^2\},$$

$\Delta_r(Q, s) = P_r(Q, s) \cap \partial_p D_T$ and $\Delta_{3r}(Q, s) = P_{3r}(Q, s) \cap \partial_p D_T$, where

$$P_{3r}(Q, s) = \{(y, t) \mid |Q - y| < 3r, |t - s| < 9r^2\}.$$

Proof [4]. By the Continuity Lemma one can find M_1 depending only on M such that

$$\sup\{u(x, t) \mid (x, t) \in P_{r/M_1}(Q, s) \cap D_T\} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sup\{u(x, t) \mid (x, t) \in P_r(Q, s)\};$$

without loss of generality $u(\bar{A}_r(Q, s)) = 1$. By the Harnack chain condition there is M_2 depending on M such that if $u(y, t) \geq M_2^h$ then $d((y, t), \partial_p D_T) < [1/M_1^h]r$ for $(y, t) \in P_r(Q, s)$. (h is a fixed constant.)

Now by a standard argument one can obtain a sequence of points in D_T , $(y_k, t_k) \rightarrow \partial_p D_T \cap \Delta_{3r}(Q, s)$ and $u(y_k, t_k) \rightarrow \infty$, which contradicts u vanishing continuously on $\Delta_{3r}(Q, s)$.

Theorem 2 [3]. *Let $(Q, s) \in \partial_p D_T$. For $r < \min(\frac{1}{2}r_0, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{s}, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{T-s})$ and $(\chi, t) \in D_T$ so that $s + 4r^2 \leq t \leq T$, there are constants c_1, c_2 depending only on λ, r_0, M, T, n such that*

$$c_1 r^n G(\chi, t; \bar{A}_r(Q, s)) \leq w^{(\chi, t)}(\Delta_r(Q, s)) \leq c_2 r^n G(\chi, t; \underline{A}_r(Q, s)).$$

Proof [3, 4]. The theorem is proved by using Aronson's estimates on the Green's function and the method of proof of the analogous result in Theorem 1.4 in Fabes, Garofalo, and Salsa [3].

Theorem 3 (Local Comparison) [3]. *Let $(Q, s) \in \partial_p D_T$, $s > 0$, and u, v be solutions in D_T of $(\partial/\partial t - L)w = 0$ such that*

$$u|_{\Delta_{Mr}(Q, s)} = 0 = v|_{\Delta_{Mr}(Q, s)}.$$

Then there is a constant $c = c(\lambda, r_0, M, n, T)$ such that for $r \leq \min(\frac{1}{2}r_0, \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{s}, \frac{1}{2}r_0\sqrt{T-s})$ and $(\chi, t) \in P_{r/M^3}(Q, s) \cap D_T$, then

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{u(\underline{A}_r(Q, s))}{v(\underline{A}_r(Q, s))} \leq \frac{u(\chi, t)}{v(\chi, t)} \leq c \frac{u(\overline{A}_r(Q, s))}{v(\overline{A}_r(Q, s))}$$

where

$$\overline{A}_r(Q, s) = (A_r(Q), s + 2r^2), \underline{A}_r(Q, s) = (A_r(Q), s - 2r^2).$$

Proof [3, 4]. The theorem can be proved by adapting the argument in Jerison and Kenig [4] for local comparison on NTA domains to the caloric setting.

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