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A metric space is quasiconvex provided it is bilipschitz equivalent to a length space: each pair of points can be joined by a rectifiable path whose length is comparable to the distance between its endpoints.

We consider a closed set in Euclidean  $n$ -space and ask when is its complement quasiconvex. In dimension  $n=2$ , a complete description is available, at least for closed sets with finitely many components. In general, there are sufficient conditions that such a complement be quasiconvex; one such condition is that the set have zero  $(n-1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure.

We exhibit, for each dimension  $d$  in  $[n-1, n]$ , a compact totally disconnected set with positive finite  $d$ -measure whose complement is quasiconvex. On the other hand, we also construct a compact totally disconnected set with non-zero  $(n-1)$ -measure whose complement fails to be quasiconvex. (Received January 17, 2007)