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**ON FINITE-DIMENSIONAL UNIFORM SPACES. II**

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## ON FINITE-DIMENSIONAL UNIFORM SPACES, II

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**Introduction.** The main subject of this paper is the [inductive<sup>\*</sup> dimension  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X$  of uniform spaces  $\mu X$ . This is defined similarly to topological dimension  $\text{Ind}$ , but instead of separation one uses the notion of a set  $H$ , arbitrarily small uniform neighborhoods of which uniformly separate given sets  $A, B$ . For finite dimensional metric spaces  $M$  (i.e. the large dimension  $\angle d M$  is finite)  $\delta \text{Ind}$  coincides with the covering dimensions  $\angle d$  and  $\delta d$ . For general spaces  $\mu X$  we have  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \geq \delta d$   $\mu X$ . For all known examples (including the examples for  $\angle d \neq \delta d$  and, in compact spaces,  $\text{Ind} \neq \text{dim}$ )  $\delta \text{Ind}$  coincides with  $\delta d$ .

The last section of the paper concerns the dimension theory of uniformisable spaces; it organizes alternative definitions and formulates problems, giving limited results on some of the problems. Covering dimension  $\text{dim}$  has been successfully generalized by Smirnov [17]; here we add to Smirnov's theory a generalization of Aleksandrov's theorem characterizing  $\text{dim}$  by separating  $n$ -tuples of pairs  $(A_i, B_i)$  of disjoint closed sets by closed sets  $C_i$  with empty intersection. The notion of  $\text{min dim}$ , mentioned in Part I [7], is formally defined:  $\text{min dim } X$  is the minimum of  $\angle d \mu X$  over all compatible uniformities  $\mu$ . Equivalently, it is the minimum of  $\text{dim } Y$  over spaces  $Y$  containing  $X$ . The question when  $\text{min dim } X = \text{dim } X$ , i.e. when  $X$  cannot be embedded in a space of lower dimension, is stressed. The Lindelöf property implies this, but the question is open for metrizable spaces and more generally for spaces admitting a complete uniformity.

It is shown that every completely metrizable space can be homeomorphically embedded as a closed set in a countable product of finite-dimensional polyhedra. Combined with results of [9] this means that every completely metrizable space is an inverse limit of polyhedra of the same or lower dimension. The question is still open whether a 1-dimensional completely metrizable space can be an inverse limit of discrete spaces.

An announcement of the results on  $\delta \text{Ind}$  appeared in [8].

**1. Inductive dimension.** In a uniform space  $\mu X$ , a set  $U$  is said to  $\delta$ -separate two sets  $A, B$ , if  $X - U$  is the union of two sets  $A', B'$ , respectively containing  $A$  and  $B$ , such that  $A'$  is far from  $B'$ . (That is,  $X - A'$  is a uniform neighborhood of  $B'$ . Proximity notions are convenient here, and the prefix  $\delta$  is meant to draw attention to the fact

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that the concept is a proximity invariant.) A set  $W$  is said to *free*  $A$  and  $B$  if  $W$  is far from  $A \cup B$  and every uniform neighborhood of  $W$  which is disjoint from  $A \cup B$   $\delta$ -separates  $A$  and  $B$ .

1.1. *A set  $W$  frees  $A$  and  $B$  if and only if the closure of  $W$  frees the closures of  $A$  and  $B$ .*

Since the far sets and the uniform neighborhoods are the same for the given sets as for their closures, this is obvious.

*Inductive dimension*  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X$  of a uniform space  $\mu X$  is defined as follows.  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X = -1$  means that  $X$  is empty. Recursively,  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \leq n$  if every two far sets in  $\mu X$  are freed by some subspace  $\mu W$  such that  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu W \leq n - 1$ . Then  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X = n$  means that  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \leq n$  but not  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \leq n - 1$ ; and  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X = \infty$  means that for no  $n$  is  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \leq n$ .

The definition is framed to parallel the definition of topological dimension  $\text{Ind}$  as closely as seems reasonable, taking into account  $Yu$ . Smirnov's observation [17] that the reals cannot be  $\delta$ -separated by a zero-dimensional set. It is interesting, but as far as I know not useful, to note the following equivalence.

A *chain* of sets from  $A$  to  $B$  is a sequence  $C_1, \dots, C_n$ , such that  $A \cap C_1 \neq \emptyset$ ,  $B \cap C_n \neq \emptyset$ , and  $C_i \cap C_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ .

1.2. *Suppose that  $H$  is far from  $A \cup B$ . Then  $H$  frees  $A$  and  $B$  if and only if there are arbitrarily fine uniform coverings  $\mathcal{U}$  such that every chain of elements of  $\mathcal{U}$  from  $A$  to  $B$  includes an element which meets  $H$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $H$  frees  $A$  and  $B$ , and let  $\mathcal{V}$  be any uniform covering fine enough so that the  $\mathcal{V}$ -neighborhood  $U$  of  $H$  is disjoint from  $A \cup B$ . Then  $U$   $\delta$ -separates  $A$  and  $B$  into far sets  $A', B'$ . These have uniform neighborhoods  $A'', B''$ , which are still far from each other and disjoint from  $H$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}$  consist of the collection of all elements of  $\mathcal{V}$  which meet  $H$ , a uniform covering of  $A''$  finer than  $\mathcal{V}$ , and a uniform covering of  $B''$  finer than  $\mathcal{V}$ .

Conversely, if the required coverings exist, then for each uniform neighborhood  $U$  of  $H$  there is a uniform covering  $\mathcal{U}$  such that the  $\mathcal{U}$ -neighborhood  $V$  of  $H$  is contained in  $U$  and  $\delta$ -separates the set  $A'$  of all points of  $X - V$  which can be joined to  $A$  by chains of elements of  $\mathcal{U}$  avoiding  $H$  from the remainder  $B' = X - V - A'$ , which contains  $B$ . If  $U$  is disjoint from  $A \cup B$ , this implies that  $U$   $\delta$ -separates  $A$  and  $B$ .

1.3. *If  $\mu X$  is a dense subspace of  $\mu Y$ , then  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \geq \delta \text{Ind } \mu Y$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \leq n$ , and let  $A, B$ , be two far sets in  $\mu Y$ . Let  $C$  and  $D$  be uniform neighborhoods of  $A, B$ , which are still far from each other. Let  $E = C \cap X, F = D \cap X$ . Let  $W$  be a subset of  $\mu X$  freeing  $E$  and  $F$ , with  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu W \leq n - 1$ . Then  $W$  frees  $A$  and  $B$  in  $\mu Y$ . To check this it suffices to consider any closed uniform neighborhood  $V$  of  $W$  which is disjoint from  $C \cup D$ . Since  $V \cap X$  is a uniform neighborhood of  $S$  in the space  $\mu X$ ,  $\mu X - V$  is a sum of far sets  $H, K$ , containing  $E$  and  $F$  respectively. Since  $\mu Y - V$  is open, its intersection with  $X$  is dense in it; therefore the relative closures of  $H$  and  $K$  have union  $Y - V$ , and they are far sets containing the relative closures of  $E$  and  $F$ , which in turn contain  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively.

From 1.1 and 1.3 we see that the function  $\delta \text{Ind}$  would not be changed if we changed the definition to refer only to closed sets.

Note also that  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \geq \delta \text{Ind } \nu Y$  whenever  $\mu X$  can be mapped upon a dense subspace of  $\nu Y$  by a  $\delta$ -isomorphism; in particular, for the Samuel compactification  $\beta \mu X$ ,  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \geq \delta \text{Ind } \beta \mu X$ .

1.4. THEOREM. *For every uniform space  $\mu X$ ,  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \geq \delta d \mu X$ .*

*Proof.* It suffices to prove this for compact spaces, in view of the last remark and the theorem  $\delta d \beta \mu X = \delta d \mu X$  [6]. Here  $\delta d$  becomes  $\text{dim}$  (though  $\delta \text{Ind}$  does not become  $\text{Ind}$ ). Thus we wish to show that for a compact space  $Y$ , if  $\delta \text{Ind } Y \leq n$  then  $\text{dim } Y \leq n$ ; and we may suppose this has already been done for  $n - 1$ .

Let  $\{U_i\}$  be any finite open covering of  $Y$ , and let  $\{V_i\}$  be a strict shrinking of it (i.e. for each  $i$ ,  $V_i^- \subset U_i$ ). For each  $i$ , let  $W_i$  be an  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional closed set freeing  $V_i$  from  $Y - U_i$ ; that is,  $\delta \text{Ind } W_i \leq n - 1$ , so by the inductive hypothesis  $\text{dim } W_i \leq n - 1$  also. Then the union  $W$  of the  $W_i$  has dimension  $\text{dim } W \leq n - 1$ . Let  $\{P_j\}$  be an  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional open covering of a neighborhood  $N$  of  $W$  which is finer than  $\{U_i\}$ . Let  $M$  be a neighborhood of  $W$  whose closure is interior to  $N$ . Now since  $M$  is a uniform neighborhood of every  $W_i$ ,  $Y - M$  is a union of open-closed subsets  $H_i$  containing  $V_i - M$  and contained in  $U_i$ . Let  $Q_1 = H_1$ , and define  $Q_i$  recursively as  $H_i - \bigcup_{j < i} H_j$ . Then  $Y - M$  is the union of the discrete collection  $\{Q_i\}$ , which with  $\{P_j\}$  forms an open covering of dimension at most  $n$  refining  $\{U_i\}$ , as required.

Next we prove an analogue of the theorem of P. S. Aleksandrov (see [16]) characterizing the dimension  $\text{dim}$  of normal spaces in terms of sets separating several pairs  $(A_i, B_i)$  of disjoint closed sets. Note that it will not be a generalization of the topological theorem, since freeing is weaker than separating even for closed sets in compact metric spaces. Nevertheless the proof will be almost the same.

Given a finite family of pairs  $(A_i, B_i)$  of sets, with each  $A_i$  far from  $B_i$ , we wish to find sets  $C_i$  freeing  $A_i$  and  $B_i$ , such that not only is

$\cap C_i$  empty, but even the complements of the sets  $C_i$  form a uniform covering.

If such a family  $\{C_i\}$  exists, we shall call the system  $\{(A_i, B_i)\}$  *solvable*.

**1.5. THEOREM.** *For a uniform space  $\mu\bar{X}$  to have dimension  $\delta d \mu X \leq n$ , it is necessary and sufficient that every family of  $n + 1$  pairs of far sets in  $\mu X$  should be solvable.*

*Proof.* Suppose the pairs  $(A_i, B_i)$  for  $i = 0, \dots, n$ , form an unsolvable family. Take uniformly continuous functions  $f_i$  on  $\mu X$  to  $[0, 1]$  with  $f_i = 0$  on  $A_i$ ,  $f_i = 1$  on  $B_i$ . These are the coordinates of a mapping  $F$  of  $\mu X$  into the  $(n + 1)$ -dimensional cube  $Q^{n+1}$ , which we shall show to be an essential mapping. Indeed, for the contrary we must have a mapping  $G$  of  $\mu X$  into the boundary  $S^n$  of  $Q^{n+1}$  such that  $G(x) = F(x)$  whenever  $F(x) \in S^n$ . Then let  $C_i$  be  $\{x: 1/3 \leq G(x)_i \leq 2/3\}$ ; these sets free (and even  $\delta$ -separate)  $(A_i, B_i)$ , and their complements form a uniform covering, contradicting the assumption that  $\{(A_i, B_i)\}$  is unsolvable.

Conversely, if  $\delta d(\mu X) > n$  then there is an essential mapping  $F: \mu X \rightarrow Q^{n+1}$ . Define  $A_i$  as  $\{x: F(x)_i = 0\}$ , and  $B_i = \{x: F(x)_i = 1\}$ . Now observe that if  $\{(A_i, B_i)\}$  were solvable, we could take small uniform neighborhoods of freeing sets  $C_i$  which would  $\delta$ -separate  $(A_i, B_i)$  and leave us a uniform covering  $\{P_0, \dots, P_n, Q_0, \dots, Q_n\}$ , with each  $A_i \subset P_i$ ,  $B_i \subset Q_i$ , and  $P_i$  far from  $Q_i$ . The nerve of this covering is dual, and naturally homeomorphic, to the polyhedron  $S^n$  consisting of the proper faces of  $Q^{n+1}$ . Thus a canonical map into this nerve yields a map  $G': \mu X \rightarrow S^n$  which takes each point  $x$  in  $F^{-1}(S^n)$  to a point of  $S^n$  which is not diametrically opposite to  $F(x)$ . Hence on  $F^{-1}(S^n)$ ,  $G'$  and  $F$  are homotopic; and  $G'$  is homotopic to a mapping  $G: \mu X \rightarrow S^n$  coinciding with  $F$  on  $F^{-1}(S^n)$ . The contradiction completes the proof.

**REMARKS.** One can similarly prove the analogue of Sklyarenko's theorem [16]: if  $\delta d \mu X \geq n$  then  $\mu X$  contains an infinite family of far pairs any  $n$  of which form an unsolvable subfamily (since  $Q^n$  contains such a family).

Also,  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X = 0$  if and only if  $\delta d \mu X = 0$ . This is clear from 1.5. (There is also an easier proof which was indicated by Smirnov [17; Theorem 6].)

**1.6. LEMMA.** *Suppose  $\mu E$  is a subspace of  $\mu X$ ,  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu E = 0$ , and  $A$  and  $B$  are far sets in  $\mu X$ . Then  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\delta$ -separated by some set far from  $E$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $C$  and  $D$  be far uniform neighborhoods of  $A$  and  $B$

respectively. Decompose  $E$  into far sets  $F \supset C \cap E$ ,  $G \supset D \cap E$ . Now  $F$  is disjoint from  $D$ , hence far from  $B$ ; similarly  $G$  is far from  $A$ . Then  $A \cup F$  is far from  $B \cup G$ . Let  $U$  and  $V$  be far uniform neighborhoods of these sets; then  $X - U - V$  is the set required for the lemma.

1.7. THEOREM.  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X = 0$  if and only if  $\delta d \mu X = 0$ .  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu X \leq 1$  if and only if any two far sets  $A_1, B_1$  can be freed by a set  $C_1$  such that any two far sets  $A_2, B_2$  can be freed by a set  $C_2$  far from  $C_1$ .

The proof is trivial after the preceding remark and lemma. The theorem suggests a characterization of  $\delta \text{Ind}$  paralleling 1.5. I do not know if that characterization is valid. I have an example showing that 1.6 does not generalize for  $\delta \text{Ind } \mu E = 1$  (one cannot free  $A$  and  $B$  by a closed set  $H$  whose intersection with  $E$  is zero-dimensional), but it does not seem worth including here.

Finally, it should be noted that I do not know any example of strict inequality for either 1.3 or 1.4.

## 2. Metric spaces.

2.1. LEMMA. Let  $M$  be a metric space with subspaces  $G$  and  $H$ . Then  $G$  contains a set  $J$  such that

- (1) every subset of  $J$  which is far from  $H$  is uniformly discrete, and
- (2) every subset of  $G$  which is far from  $J$  is far from  $H$ .

*Proof.* To construct  $J$ , let  $U_n$  denote the intersection of  $G$  with the  $1/n$  neighborhood of  $H$ ; let  $J_n$  be a maximal set of points of  $U_n$  distant at least  $1/n$  from each other; let  $J = \cup J_n$ .

2.2. THEOREM.<sup>1</sup> Let  $M$  be a metric space,  $H$  a nonempty subset of  $M$ , and  $J$  a subset of  $M$  such that every subset of  $J$  which is far from  $H$  is zero-dimensional. Then  $\delta \text{Ind } J \leq \delta \text{Ind } H$ .

*Proof.* Consider the case  $\delta \text{Ind } H = 0$ . Let  $A$  and  $B$  be far subsets of  $J$ . Let  $C$  and  $D$  be uniform neighborhoods (in  $M$ ) of  $A$  and  $B$  respectively, far from each other. Then  $C \cap H$  and  $D \cap H$  are freed by the empty set; so  $H$  is a union of far sets  $E \supset C \cap H$ ,  $F \supset D \cap H$ . Now  $A \cup E$  and  $B \cup F$  are far from each other; let  $K$  and  $L$  be far uniform neighborhoods of them, and let  $P$  and  $Q$  be uniform neighborhoods of  $K$  and  $L$  respectively, which are still far from each other. Now  $J - K - L$  is far from  $H$ ; by the hypothesis, it must be a union of far

<sup>1</sup> This is stronger than the corresponding theorem announced in [8]. However, Lemma 3 of [8] asserts a similar result for arbitrary uniform spaces; I cannot prove it except for dimension zero.

sets  $R \supset (J \cap P) - K$  and  $S \supset (J \cap Q) - L$ . Then the desired separation is achieved by  $(J \cap P) \cup (R - Q)$  and  $(J \cap Q) \cup (S - P)$ . It is clear from the construction that the first of these sets contains  $A$  (since  $J$  and  $P$  contain  $A$ ), the second contains  $B$ , and the union contains  $J$ . Also  $P$  is far from  $Q$  and  $R$  is far from  $S$ . To see that  $J \cap P$  is far from  $S - P$ , observe that  $(J \cap P) - K \subset R$ , while  $K$  is far from  $S - P$  since it is far from  $M - P$ . Similarly  $J \cap Q$  is far from  $R - Q$ , and we have this case. Incidentally, we do not need the metric for this case.

Suppose the theorem established for  $\delta \text{Ind } H \leq n - 1$ , and consider next the case  $\delta \text{Ind } H = n$ . For any far subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of  $J$ , again let  $C$  and  $D$  be far uniform neighborhoods of them, and let  $E$  and  $F$  be far uniform neighborhoods of  $C$  and  $D$  respectively. Then  $E \cap H$  and  $F \cap H$  are freed in  $H$  by some subset  $V$  with  $\delta \text{Ind } V \leq n - 1$ . Applying 2.1 to  $J$  and  $V$ , we obtain a subset  $K$  of  $J$  satisfying (1) and (2). Then  $W = K - C - D$  also satisfies (1) and (2) (the first a fortiori; the second because a set far from  $K - C - D$  is the union of a set far from  $K$  and a set contained in any preassigned uniform neighborhood of  $C \cup D$ ). By construction  $W$  is far from  $A$  and  $B$ ; by the inductive hypothesis  $\delta \text{Ind } W \leq n - 1$ . It remains to show that for any uniform neighborhood  $U$  of  $W$  disjoint from  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $J - U$  decomposes into two far sets respectively containing  $A$  and  $B$ . Here  $J - U$  is far from  $V$ ; i.e.  $V$  has a uniform neighborhood  $T$  disjoint from  $J - U$ .  $T$ , of course,  $\delta$ -separates  $E \cap H$  and  $F \cap H$  in  $H$ , so that  $H - T = P \cup Q$  with  $P$  far from  $Q$ ,  $E \cap H \subset P$ ,  $F \cap H \subset Q$ . Let  $R$  and  $S$  be far uniform neighborhoods of  $P \cup A$  and  $Q \cup B$ . Then  $R \cup S \cup T$  is a uniform neighborhood of  $H$ . Let  $I$  be a uniform neighborhood of  $H$  far from  $J - R - S - T$ , and split  $J - I$  into far sets  $Y, Z$ , containing  $(J \cap R) - I$  and  $(J \cap S) - I$  respectively. One finds that  $J - U$  decomposes into its intersections with  $R \cup (Y - S)$  and  $S \cup (Z - R)$ , which are far sets containing  $A$  and  $B$  respectively. Indeed, just as before,  $R$  and  $S$  already contain  $A$  and  $B$ . Those points of  $J - U$  which are not in  $R \cup S$  are in  $J - I$  (since they could not be in  $T$  either) and hence in  $Y$  or  $Z$ ; so  $R \cup S \cup (Y - S) \cup (Z - R) \supset J - U$ .  $R$  is far from  $S$ ,  $Y$  is far from  $Z$ .  $(J - U) \cap R$  is far from  $J \cap (Z - R)$ ; for  $(J - U) \cap R \cap I \subset I - S - T$  (far from  $J - R$ ) and  $(J \cap R) - I \subset Y$  (far from  $Z$ ). Likewise  $(J - U) \cap S$  is far from  $J \cap (Y - S)$ . This completes the proof.

**2.3. COROLLARY.** *For any subspace  $J$  of a metric space  $M$ ,  $\delta \text{Ind } J \leq \delta \text{Ind } M$ . If  $J$  is dense in  $M$  then  $\delta \text{Ind } J = \delta \text{Ind } M$ .*

*Proof.* Put  $H = M$  in 2.2.

Next we prove

2.4. THEOREM. For any metric space  $M$ ,  $\delta \text{Ind } M \leq \Delta d M$ .

Here we may suppose  $M$  is complete; for completion does not change  $\delta \text{Ind}$  (by 2.3) nor  $\Delta d$  [6]. Recall that a complete metric space  $M$  is *supercomplete* [11]; this means that the space of closed subsets (metrized by Hausdorff distance) is complete, and may be restated as follows. A filter  $\mathcal{F}$  is *stable* provided for every uniform covering  $\mathcal{U}$  there is  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  such that for every  $B \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $St(B, \mathcal{U}) \supset A$ . Now if  $\mathcal{F}$  is stable in  $M$ , it converges to the set  $H$  of all cluster points of  $\mathcal{F}$ , in the sense that every uniform neighborhood of  $H$  contains a member of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Recall also, from [7], that  $\Delta d M \leq n$  implies that every uniform covering of  $M$  is refined by some uniform covering  $\mathcal{U}$  which is a union of  $n + 1$  uniformly discrete collections  $\mathcal{U}_0, \dots, \mathcal{U}_n$ .

*Proof of 2.4.* We may assume that  $M$  is complete, that  $\Delta d M = n$ , and that the theorem is established for spaces of smaller dimension  $\Delta d$ . Then it will suffice to show that any two far sets  $A, B$ , can be freed by a set  $H$  such that  $\Delta d H \leq n - 1$ . We shall construct  $H$  as the limit of a stable filter with basis  $\{S_0, S_1, \dots\}$ . Let  $C$  and  $D$  be far uniform neighborhoods of  $A$  and  $B$ , and let  $S_0 = M - C - D$ . Recursively, suppose  $S_{j-1}$  is a subset of  $S_0$  which  $\delta$ -separates  $A$  and  $B$ , its complement being a union of far sets  $C_{j-1}, D_{j-1}$  containing  $A$  and  $B$  respectively. Let  $\mathcal{U}^j$  be a uniform covering so fine that each of its elements is either far from  $C_{j-1}$  or far from  $D_{j-1}$ , and which is the union of uniformly discrete collections  $\mathcal{U}_i^j$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n$ . Also, with respect to some fixed metric, each  $\mathcal{U}^j$  must have mesh at most  $2^{-j}$ . Let  $\mathcal{V}^j$  be a uniform strict shrinking of  $\mathcal{U}^j$ ; that is, its elements  $V_\alpha$  are in a one-to-one correspondence with the elements  $U_\alpha$  of  $\mathcal{U}^j$  so that for some  $t > 0$ , each  $U_\alpha$  is a  $t$ -neighborhood of  $V_\alpha$ . Thus  $\mathcal{V}^j$  is naturally expressed as a union of uniformly discrete collections  $\mathcal{V}_i^j$  corresponding to the  $\mathcal{U}_i^j$ . Let  $E_j$  be the union of all these elements  $V_\alpha$  of  $\mathcal{V}_0^j$  such that  $U_\alpha$  contains a point of  $S_{j-1}$  which belongs to no element of  $\mathcal{V}_0^j$ ; let  $S_j = S_{j-1} - E_j$ .

Since  $S_j$  contains all of  $S_{j-1}$  except for a uniformly discrete collection of sets none of which reaches from near  $C_{j-1}$  to near  $D_{j-1}$ ,  $S_j$   $\delta$ -separates  $A$  and  $B$ . Moreover,  $S_j$  has an  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional uniform covering of mesh at most  $2^{-j}$ . For this, note that  $S_j$  is a union of two far sets; those members of  $\mathcal{V}_0^j$  which meet  $S_j$  are distant by at least  $t$  from the rest of  $S_j$ . Now on one part of  $S_j$  the trace of  $\mathcal{U}_0^j$  is a 0-dimensional uniform covering; on the rest of  $S_j$  the trace of the rest of  $\mathcal{U}^j$  is an  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional uniform covering. Finally, by construction,  $St(S_j, \mathcal{U}^j) \supset S_{j-1}$ . Therefore the sequence  $\{S_j\}$  is indeed a basis of a stable filter. Since  $M$  is supercomplete, the limit  $H$  frees  $A$  and  $B$ ; and  $\Delta d H \leq n - 1$ , as was to be shown.

It is known [7] that for any uniform space  $\mu X$ , if  $\Delta d \mu X$  is finite



then  $\delta d \mu X = \Delta d \mu X$ . Combining this with 1.4 and 2.4, we have

**2.5. COROLLARY.** *If  $M$  is a metric space and  $\Delta d M < \infty$ , then  $\Delta d M = \delta d M = \delta \text{Ind } M$ .*

Examples are known [7] of uniform spaces for which  $\Delta d$  is infinite but  $\delta \text{Ind}$  is finite and equal to  $\delta d$ . No metric example is known, and it seems possible that the three dimension functions coincide for all metric spaces. We do have the following.

**2.6.** *For a metric space  $M$ , if  $\delta d M = 0$  then  $\Delta d M = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Fix a metric. From  $\delta d M = 0$  it follows that for every positive  $\varepsilon$  there is a positive  $\delta$  such that any two points distant by  $\varepsilon$  are separated by some decomposition of  $M$  into two sets at distance  $\delta$ . Assuming the contrary, we should have a sequence of pairs  $(x_n, y_n)$  distant by  $\varepsilon$  such that no infinite subsequence could be simultaneously separated by such a decomposition. If some infinite set of  $x$ 's or  $y$ 's has diameter  $< \varepsilon/2$ , we have a contradiction; otherwise there is an infinite set of indices  $n$  for which the  $x_n$  and  $y_n$  form a uniformly discrete set, and we have another contradiction. But then a routine argument shows that every covering Lebesgue number  $\varepsilon$  is refined by a 0-dimensional covering having Lebesgue number  $\delta$ .

**3. Dimension of uniformisable spaces.** I believe that the only serious investigation of the dimension theory of nonnormal spaces so far has been the concluding section of Smirnov's paper [17]. There the dimension function  $\text{dim}$  is defined, as the covering dimension with respect to the family of all finite normal coverings, and the decidedly imperfect analogy with  $\delta d$  is worked out. Of course  $\text{dim } X = \delta d aX$ , where  $a$  is the fine uniformity on  $X$ . Dowker has given a proof [2] that  $\delta d aX = \Delta d aX$  if  $X$  is normal (not using this notation); and I pointed out [7] that the same proof<sup>2</sup> shows that  $\delta d \mu X = \Delta d \mu X$  whenever  $\mu$  is fine or even locally fine.

The dimension function  $\text{ind}$  is of course familiar for more general spaces; and it is customary to call a uniformisable space  $X$  *zero-dimensional* if  $\text{ind } X = 0$ . It is known [3, 6] that  $\text{ind } X = 0$  does not imply  $\text{dim } X = 0$  (even for normal  $X$ ); but if  $\text{ind } X = 0$  then  $X$  has a zero-dimensional compactification and with it a zero-dimensional uniformity. Defining  $\min \text{dim } X$  as the minimum value of  $\Delta d \mu X$  over all compatible uniformities  $\mu$ , we may summarize as follows:

<sup>2</sup> In presenting this proof in a course of lectures I found it necessary to rearrange it to fill in what seems to be a gap in the reasoning (page 212, line 19 of [2]); but the rearrangement, if it is necessary, is not necessitated by the generalization.

3.1. For any uniformisable space  $X$ ,  $\min \dim X \leq \dim X$ . Examples of strict inequality are known among normal spaces, but not among completely uniformisable spaces. If  $\text{ind } X = 0$  then  $\min \dim X = 0$ , and conversely; however,  $\text{ind } X$  may exceed  $\dim X$ , even for compact  $X$  [13].

Let us introduce two more dimension functions:

$a \text{ Ind } X = \delta \text{ Ind } aX$ , and  $\text{Ind } X$ , defined as follows. As usual,  $\text{Ind } X = -1 \leftrightarrow X$  is empty.  $\text{Ind } X \leq n$  if every two completely separated subsets of  $X$  are topologically separated by some subset  $H$  such that  $\text{Ind } H \leq n - 1$ ; and finally,  $\text{Ind } X = n$  means  $\text{Ind } X \leq n$  but not  $\text{Ind } X \leq n - 1$ . With these we have

3.2. For any uniformisable space  $X$ ,  $\text{Ind } X \geq a \text{ Ind } X \geq \dim X \geq \min \dim X$ . Inequality may occur anywhere in this chain except perhaps between  $a \text{ Ind}$  and  $\dim$ .

For the proof,  $a \text{ Ind} \geq \dim$  follows from 1.4. To see that  $\text{Ind} \geq a \text{ Ind}$  it suffices to observe that in a fine space a set which separates two closed sets also frees them. For the examples of Lokucievski [12], Lunc [13], and Mardsić [14] having  $\text{Ind } X > \dim X$ ,  $a \text{ Ind } X$  coincides with the smaller number  $\dim X$ .

Note that  $\min \dim X$  could also be defined as the minimum of  $\dim Y$  over all spaces  $Y$  topologically containing  $X$  (since  $\Delta d \mu X \geq \dim \beta \mu X$ ). Of course  $\min \dim$  is monotonic, for arbitrary subspaces. Smirnov has shown [17] that  $\dim$  is not monotonic for closed subspaces; and as it happens, the same example shows that  $\text{Ind}$  and  $a \text{ Ind}$  are not monotonic for closed subspaces. Both  $\dim$  and  $\text{Ind}$  are monotonic for  $C^*$ -embedded [4] normal subspaces. (For  $\dim$ , [17]; for  $\text{Ind}$ , an easy exercise.) For  $a \text{ Ind}$  this is an open problem.

The problem is open whether  $\dim$  is monotonic for topologically complete subspaces, or in other words whether  $\dim X = \min \dim X$  when  $X$  admits a complete uniformity. We have<sup>3</sup>

3.3. For Lindelöf spaces  $X$ ,  $\dim X = \min \dim X$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $X$  is embedded in  $Y$  and  $\dim Y = n$ . Then  $X$  is embedded in  $\beta Y$  and  $\dim \beta Y = n$ . For any finite open covering  $\{U_i\}$  of  $X$ , there are open sets  $V_i$  of  $\beta X$  such that  $V_i \cap X = U_i$ . Since each point of  $X$  has a neighborhood in  $\beta Y$  whose closure is contained in some  $V_i$ , and  $X$  is Lindelöf, there is a  $\sigma$ -compact set  $Z$  containing  $X$  and covered by the  $V_i$ . Since  $\dim$  is monotonic for closed sets in compact

<sup>3</sup> Aleksandrov in [1; p. 40] credits Morita with (essentially) a stronger result than this: if  $X \subset Y$  and both  $X$  and  $Y$  have the star-finite property then  $\dim X \leq \dim Y$ . One can prove this, without the restriction on  $Y$ , by modifying the proof of 3.3 here.

*Added in proof.* Professor Morita has shown me his proof, which is very direct from his published results.

spaces and satisfies the countable sum theorem for closed sets in normal spaces,  $\dim Z \leq n$ . Then  $\{V_i \cap Z\}$  is refined by an  $n$ -dimensional open covering of  $Z$ ; so  $\{U_i\}$  is refined by an  $n$ -dimensional open covering of  $X$ .

Perhaps one could prove that  $\dim$  is monotonic for closed subspaces of topologically complete spaces. A stronger proposition (in view of [10; 7.2]) would be that  $\dim$  is lower semi-continuous on inverse limits. As noted in the introduction, it is unknown whether an inverse limit  $X$  of discrete spaces can have  $\dim X > 0$ , even if  $X$  is completely metrizable (even if the discrete spaces are countable).

From 1.5, which is not a generalization of the corresponding theorem of Aleksandrov, we easily get a generalization of that theorem; for note that in the proof we constructed sets  $C_i$  which  $\delta$ -separate (hence separate) the pairs  $(A_i, B_i)$ .

*3.4. Aleksandrov's Theorem. A uniformisable space  $X$  has  $\dim X \leq n$  if and only if any  $n + 1$  pairs of completely separated sets  $(A_i, B_i)$  can be separated by sets  $C_i$  whose complements form a normal covering.*

Similar remarks apply to Sklyarenko's refinement of the theorem; but this result is actually stronger when stated in terms of freeing.

For Ind there is a valid analogue of 1.7, and at least for a moderately extensive class of spaces the characterization generalizes to higher dimensions.

*3.5. For any uniformisable space  $X$ ,  $\text{Ind } X = 0$  if and only if  $\dim X = 0$ . For normal spaces  $X$ ,  $\text{Ind } X \leq 1$  if and only if any two disjoint closed sets  $A_1, B_1$  can be separated by a closed set  $C_1$  such that any two disjoint closed sets  $A_2, B_2$  can be separated by a closed set  $C_2$  disjoint from  $C_1$ . For completely normal spaces  $X$ ,  $\text{Ind } X \leq n$  is equivalent to following: if any  $n + 1$  pairs of disjoint closed sets  $(A_i, B_i)$  are successively presented, one can successively determine closed sets  $C_i$  separating  $A_i$  and  $B_i$ , each without knowledge of the later pairs  $(A_j, B_j)$  for  $j > i$ , such that  $\bigcap C_i = \emptyset$ .*

*Proof.* Again the zero-dimensional case follows from Aleksandrov's theorem (here, from 3.4). The 1-dimensional case goes just like 1.6; since  $X$  is normal, the disjoint closed sets  $F, G$  of the construction can be separated. In the  $n$ -dimensional case the subspace  $H_i = \bigcap_{j < i} C_j$  ( $\text{Ind } H_i \leq n - i$ ) splits into relatively open sets  $F_i, G_i$ , separated by  $H_{i+1}$ ; since  $X$  is completely normal,  $A_{i+1} \cup F_i$  and  $B_{i+1} \cup G_i$  can be separated.

I do not know a uniformisable space failing to satisfy all of 3.5.

Let us conclude with the theorem

3.6. THEOREM. *Every complete metric space is homeomorphic with a closed subset of a countable product of finite-dimensional uniform complexes.*

Note that if “countable” is deleted, the remaining result is known; in fact, “metric” can then be deleted [10]. But countability makes it possible to represent the given  $X$  as an inverse limit of complexes  $K_i$  with all the coordinate projections  $\pi_i: X \rightarrow K_i$  irreducible [9], and this means, with  $\dim K_i \leq \dim X$  for all  $X$ .

3.7. COROLLARY. *Every complete metric space  $X$  is homeomorphic with the limit of an inverse mapping system of uniform complexes of dimension at most  $\dim X$ .*

*Proof of 3.6.* We are given the space  $X$  and a complete metric uniformity, hence a normal sequence of coverings  $\mathcal{U}^i$  which do two things:

(a) for any point  $x$  and neighborhood  $U$ , there is  $i$  such that  $St(x, \mathcal{U}^i) \subset U$ , and

(b) for every nonconvergent filter  $\mathcal{F}$  there is  $i$  such that  $\mathcal{F}$  contains no element of  $\mathcal{U}^i$ . We need a normal sequence of finite-dimensional coverings  $\mathcal{W}^i$  which also does these things. It will suffice to find finite-dimensional open coverings  $\mathcal{V}^i$  satisfying (a) and (b); then the  $\mathcal{W}^i$  can be constructed by finite intersection and star-refinement. (Every finite-dimensional normal covering has a finite-dimensional normal star-refinement; see e.g. [5].)

We may assume that each  $\mathcal{U}^i$  is a countable union of topologically discrete collections  $\mathcal{U}_j^i$  [18]. Let  $A_{i,j}$  denote the union of the elements of  $\mathcal{U}_j^i$  and let  $\mathcal{A}^i = \{A_{i,j}: \text{all } j\}$ . Now each countable open covering  $\mathcal{A}^i$  has a countable star-finite open refinement  $\mathcal{B}^i$  [15]; and we may suppose that  $\mathcal{B}^i$  is a star-refinement of  $\mathcal{A}^i$  (e.g. by [5; 1.2]). Decompose each  $\mathcal{B}^i$  into its “components”  $\mathcal{B}_j^i$ ; precisely, let  $\{B_{ij}\}$  be the finest 0-dimensional covering coarser than  $\mathcal{B}^i$ , and  $\mathcal{B}_j^i$  the trace of  $\mathcal{B}^i$  on  $B_{ij}$ . For each  $i$  and  $j$ , select an element  $C_1^{ij}$  of  $\mathcal{B}_j^i$ ; define  $\mathcal{C}_1^{ij}$  as the unit class  $\{C_1^{ij}\}$ . Let  $C_0^{ij}, \mathcal{C}_0^{ij}$  be empty. Recursively define  $\mathcal{C}_{k+1}^{ij}$  as the set of all members of  $\mathcal{B}_j^i$  which meet  $C_k^{ij}$  but do not meet  $C_{k-1}^{ij}$ , and  $C_{k+1}^{ij}$  as the union of  $\mathcal{C}_{k+1}^{ij}$ . Let  $\Gamma^i$  be the 1-dimensional covering consisting of all  $C_k^{ij}$ . Let  $\mathcal{E}^i$  be a strict shrinking of  $\Gamma^i$ , i.e. a similarly indexed covering  $\{C_{ijk}^*\}$  with the closure of each  $C_{ijk}^*$  contained in  $C_k^{ij}$ . For each  $i, j, k$ , let  $\mathcal{D}^{ijk}$  be the finite covering consisting of the elements  $B_{ijkl}$  of  $\mathcal{C}_k^{ij}$  and the set  $X - C_{ijk}^*$ . Next, for each  $i$  and  $j$ , there are neighborhoods  $E_\alpha^{ij}$  of the closures of the members  $U_\alpha^{ij}$  of  $\mathcal{U}_j^i$  which still form a discrete collection; let  $\mathcal{E}^{ij}$  be the 1-dimensional covering consisting of all  $E_\alpha^{ij}$  and the set  $X - A_{ij}$ .

Then the family of all intersections  $\mathcal{C}^i \wedge \mathcal{D}^{ijk} \wedge \mathcal{E}^{il}$  satisfies (a) and (b). For (a), consider any point  $x$  and covering  $\mathcal{U}^i$ .  $x$  lies in some  $C_{ijk}^*$  and in some  $B_{ijkm}$ ; and  $St(B_{ijkm}, \mathcal{B}^i)$  is contained in some  $A_{il}$ . Then we need only  $\mathcal{D}^{ijk} \wedge \mathcal{E}^{il}$ ; any member of this covering containing  $x$  must have the form  $B_{ijkn} \cap E_\alpha^{il}$ . Here  $B_{ijkn}$  meets  $B_{ijkm}$ , so is contained in  $A_{il}$ , and  $B_{ijkn} \cap E_\alpha^{il} \subset A_{il} \cap E_\alpha^{il} = U_\alpha^{il}$ . For (b), if the filter  $\mathcal{F}$  meets every  $\mathcal{C}^i$ ,  $\mathcal{D}^{ijk}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}^{il}$  then it contains some  $C_{ijk}^*$ , some  $B_{ijkm}$ , a fortiori some  $A_{il}$ , and finally some  $U_\alpha^{il}$  for each  $i$ .

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