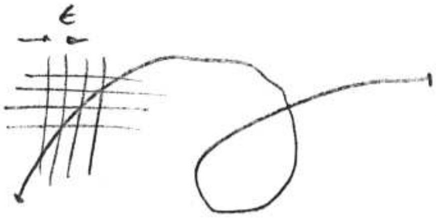
MATH 53 WORKSHEET : Box-counting dimension

Barnett 11/2/07.

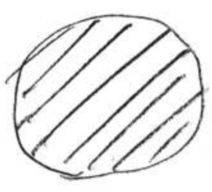
$$\text{boxdim}(S) := \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{\ln N(\epsilon)}{\ln(1/\epsilon)}$$

Find (and prove if you can) the boxdim for the following sets:

A) 

curve of length L

[Hint: is there a rigorous upper bound on the number of boxes the curve can touch? Consider breaking curve into pieces each length ϵ]

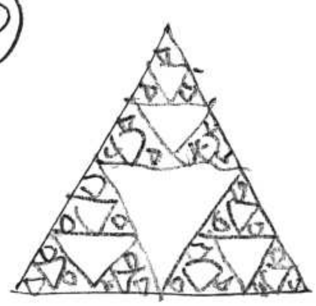
B) 

a disc.

[Hint: is there a shape within which all boxes must lie?].

C) 

K_∞ middle-thirds Cantor set.

D) 

Sierpinski gasket

MATH 53 WORKSHEET : Box-counting dimension

Barnett 11/2/02.

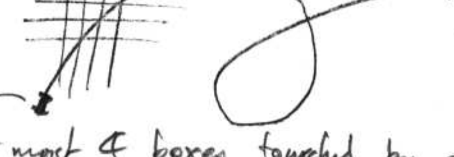
~ SOLUTIONS ~

$$\text{boxdim}(S) := \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{\ln N(\epsilon)}{\ln(1/\epsilon)}$$

Find (and prove if you can) the boxdim for the following sets:

A)

ϵ



curve of length L

[Hint: is there a rigorous upper bound on the number of boxes the curve can touch? Consider breaking curve into pieces each length ϵ]

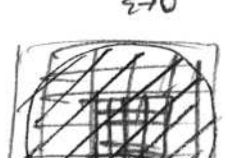
$\boxed{*}$ at most 4 boxes touched by each ε length.

$$\Rightarrow \quad \frac{L}{\varepsilon} \le N(\varepsilon) \le 4\frac{L}{\varepsilon}$$

$$d = \lim_{\varepsilon\to 0} \frac{\ln N(\varepsilon)}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} \text{ is between } \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{\ln \frac{4L}{\varepsilon}}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} = \frac{\cancel{\ln 4L}}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} + \frac{\ln(1/\varepsilon)}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} = 1 \text{ and } \frac{\ln\frac{L}{\varepsilon}}{\ln 1/\varepsilon} \to 1$$

so $d = 1$.

B)



a disc.

[Hint: is there a shape within which all boxes must lie?].

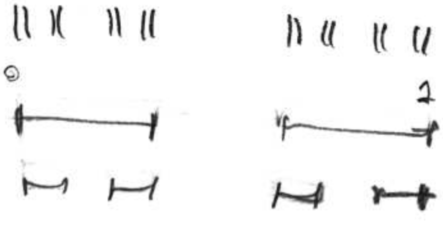
← there are squares of size L_1, L_2 such that

$$\frac{L_1^2}{\varepsilon^2} \le N(\varepsilon) \le \frac{L_2^2}{\varepsilon^2}$$

Each bound has $d = \lim_{\varepsilon\to 0} \frac{\ln(L^2/\varepsilon^2)}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{\cancel{\ln L^2}}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} + \frac{\ln(1/\varepsilon^2)}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} = 2$ so $d = 2$

(again, by squeezing)

C)



K_∞ middle-thirds Cantor set.

$b_1 = 1/3$ ← $N(b_1) = 2$

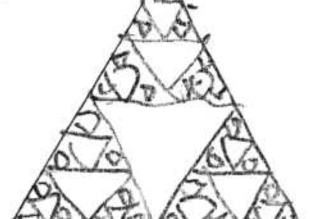
$b_2 = 1/3^2$ ← $N(b_2) = 2^2$

$\vdots$

$b_n = 1/3^n$ $N(b_n) = 2^n$

$$d = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{\ln N(b_n)}{\ln(1/b_n)} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{n \ln 2}{n \ln 3} = \frac{\ln 2}{\ln 3} \approx 0.69\ldots$$

D)



Sierpinski gasket

choose triangular boxes

$b_1 = 1/2$ $\quad$ $b_2 = \frac{1}{2^2}$ ...

$N(b_1) = 3$ $\quad$ $N(b_2) = 3^2$

$$d = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{\ln(3^n)}{\ln(2^n)} = \frac{\ln 3}{\ln 2} \approx 1.58\ldots$$