GENERALIZED DIMENSION DISTORTION UNDER MAPPINGS OF SUB-EXPONENTIALLY INTEGRABLE DISTORTION

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Abstract. We prove a dimension distortion estimate for mappings of sub-exponentially integrable distortion in Euclidean spaces, which is essentially sharp in the plane.

1. Introduction

The roots of our studies lie in [7], where the following was proved: given a planar \( K \)-quasiconformal mapping \( f \) and a set \( E \) with \( \dim_H E < 2 \), we have \( \dim_H f(E) \leq \beta < 2 \), where \( \beta \) depends only on \( K \) and the Hausdorff dimension \( \dim_H E \) of the set \( E \). Later, it was shown that the same is true in higher dimensions with \( \beta \) depending on the dimension of the underlying space as well as on \( K \) and on \( \dim_H E \) (see [6]). These results rely on the higher integrability of the Jacobian of a quasiconformal mapping [4, 6].

Recent extensions take a wider class of mappings into consideration. A continuous mapping \( f \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,1}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \) (\( \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) is a domain) is called a mapping of finite distortion, if its Jacobian is locally integrable and there exists a measurable function \( K : \Omega \to [1, \infty[ \) such that

\[
|Df(x)|^n \leq K(x)J_f(x)
\]

for almost every \( x \in \Omega \). An assumption on \( K \) that still guarantees a lot of the properties of quasiconformal mappings is the so-called exponential integrability. This condition requires that \( \exp(\lambda K) \) is locally integrable for some \( \lambda \). In this case, \( f \) is called a mapping of \( \lambda \)-exponentially integrable distortion.

Such mappings satisfy Lusin’s condition N, i.e. they map sets of measure zero to sets of measure zero, [15]. However, in [12, Proposition 5.1], a mapping \( f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n \) of finite exponentially integrable distortion that maps sets of Hausdorff dimension less than \( n \) to sets of Hausdorff dimension \( n \) was constructed.

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Still it was possible to obtain reasonable dimension distortion results in terms of generalized Hausdorff measure (see the next section for the definition). In [12], it was shown that there exists a constant $k_n$, depending only on $n$, such that if $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a homeomorphism with $\lambda$-exponentially integrable distortion for some $\lambda$, then $\mathcal{H}^h(f(S^{n-1})) < \infty$ for all $p < k_n \lambda$, where $\mathcal{H}^h$ is the generalized Hausdorff measure with gauge function $h(t) = t^n \log^p(1/t)$.

A sharp result of this kind in the planar case was obtained in [17], where the circle $S^1$ was replaced by a general set $E$ of Hausdorff dimension less than two: we have $\mathcal{H}^h(f(E)) = 0$ for all $p < \lambda$, where $h(t) = t^2 \log^p(1/t)$, if $f$ is a mapping of $\lambda$-exponentially integrable distortion. The proof is based on the higher regularity for the weak derivatives of the mapping $f$ [1] and dimension distortion estimates for Orlicz-Sobolev mappings. See [16, 19] for related results in the plane and [20] for the generalization to higher dimensions.

The assumption of exponential integrability for the distortion is further relaxed by replacing it with a more general Orlicz condition. That is, one may assume that

\[ e^{A(K)} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}, \quad \text{where} \quad \int_1^\infty \frac{A(t)}{t^2} dt = \infty, \]

for a distortion function $K$ of a mapping of finite distortion $f$ (see [2, Section 20.5]). In particular, when $A(t) = p \frac{1}{1+\log t} - p$, for some $p > 0$, such mapping $f$ is called a mapping of sub-exponentially integrable distortion. Dimension distortion in this particular case is examined in this paper.

Let us agree that from now on, $\Omega$ is always an open set in $\mathbb{R}^n, n \geq 2$. Denote $h_{n,\beta}(t) = t^n (\log \log(1/t))^\beta$. We have the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** There exists a constant $c > 0$, which depends only on the dimension $n$ of the underlying space, such that for every homeomorphism of finite distortion $f \in W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n), \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, with

\[ e^{\frac{K}{1+\log K_f}} \in L^p_{\text{loc}}(\Omega), \]

we have $\mathcal{H}^{h_{n,\beta}}(f(E)) = 0$ for all $\beta < cp$, whenever $E \subset \Omega$ is such that $\dim_H E < n$.

When $n = 2$, the assumption on $f$ to be a homeomorphism is not necessary due to Stoilow factorization. The constant $c$ equals one in this case:

**Theorem 2.** Let $f \in W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2), \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, be a mapping of finite distortion with

\[ e^{\frac{K}{1+\log K_f}} \in L^p_{\text{loc}}(\Omega). \]
Then $\mathcal{H}^{h_2}(f(E)) = 0$ for all $\beta < p$, whenever $E \subset \Omega$ is such that $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E < 2$.

The following example shows that Theorem 2 is essentially sharp:

**Example 1.** For any $\beta > 0$ and $\varepsilon \in ]0, \beta[,$ there exist sets $C, C' \subset [0,1]^2$, such that $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} C < 2$ and $\mathcal{H}^{h_2}(C') > 0$, and a mapping $f \in W^{1,1}([0,1]^2; \mathbb{R}^2)$, such that

$$e^{\varepsilon \log K_f} \in L^{\beta - \varepsilon}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$$

and $f(C) = C'$.

This example can be extended to higher dimensions. In this case, the gauge function for the image set $C'$ is $h_{n,\beta}$ and the distortion of $f$ satisfies the same sub-exponential integrability condition. Thus, one may expect that the sharp value of the constant $c$ in Theorem 1 is one as well.

The main auxiliary result, used in the proof of the theorems, is higher integrability for the Jacobian of a mapping of sub-exponentially integrable distortion, proved in [5] for general dimensions and refined in [8], where a sharp estimate for the higher integrability of the Jacobian of a planar mapping was obtained. Those estimates are combined with the methods used in [16, 19] for the case of exponentially integrable distortion.

One could extend the results presented here to a case of a more general function $A$, in particular, when $A$ is given by

$$A_{p,k}(t) = \frac{p^l}{1 + \log(t) \log(\log(e - 1 + t)) \cdots \log(\log(\log(\cdots(\log(e - 1 + t)) \cdots))}$$

where $k$ means that the last logarithmic expression is a $k$-th iterated logarithm (a case, studied in [8, Theorem 4]). However, we leave the results in the presented form, because the construction demonstrating sharpness is quite complicated even in the case of a single logarithm.

2. Definitions

Let us agree on some notation. For a set $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and a number $\delta > 0$, $V + \delta$ denotes the set $\{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \text{dist}(y, V) < \delta\}$.

Always when we introduce a constant using the notation $C = C(\cdot),$ we mean that the constant $C$ depends only on the parameters listed in the parentheses.

We write $\mathcal{H}^h(A)$ for the generalized Hausdorff measure of a set $A$, given by

$$\mathcal{H}^h(A) = \lim_{\delta \to 0} \mathcal{H}_{\delta}^h(A),$$
where
\[ H^h_\alpha(A) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} h(\text{diam } U_i) : A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} U_i, \text{diam } U_i \leq \delta \right\} \]
and \( h \) is a dimension gauge (non-decreasing, \( \lim_{t \to 0^+} h(t) = h(0) = 0 \)). If \( h(t) = t^\alpha \) for some \( \alpha \geq 0 \), we simply put \( H^\alpha \) for \( H^{t^\alpha} \) and call it the \textit{Hausdorff} \( \alpha \)-dimensional measure and the \textit{Hausdorff dimension} \( \dim_H A \) of the set \( A \) is the smallest \( \alpha_0 \geq 0 \) such that \( H^\alpha(A) = 0 \) for any \( \alpha > \alpha_0 \).

Let us recall the definition of Orlicz classes. An \textit{Orlicz function} is a continuous increasing function \( P: [0, \infty) \to [0, \infty] \) such that \( P(0) = 0 \) and \( \lim_{t \to \infty} P(t) = \infty \). Given an Orlicz function \( P \), we denote by \( L^P(\Omega) \) the \textit{Orlicz class} of integrable functions \( h : \Omega \to \mathbb{R} \) such that \( \int_{\Omega} P(|h|) < \infty \) for some \( \nu = \nu(f) > 0 \). An \textit{Orlicz-Sobolev class} \( W^{1,P}(\Omega) \) is a class of mappings \( g \in W^{1,1}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \) such that all the partial derivatives of \( g \) are in the class \( L^P(\Omega) \).

Finally, given a mapping \( f \in W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \), we write the equality \( \text{Det } Df = J_f \), if the distributional determinant \( \text{Det } Df \) coincides with the pointwise Jacobian \( J_f \), that is, if
\[ \int_{\Omega} f_1(x)J_f(x)dx = -\int_{\Omega} \varphi(x)J_f(x)dx \]
holds for each \( \varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega) \) (here \( f = (f_1, \ldots, f_n) \) and \( \tilde{f} = (\varphi, f_2, \ldots, f_n) \)). See [13, 9, 11, 18] for some conditions on the regularity of the weak derivatives of \( f \) sufficient to guarantee this equality.

3. Example

Fix \( \beta > 0 \). Let us construct the mapping in Example 1. We start by defining the pre-image and image Cantor sets \( C \) and \( C' \), respectively. Fix \( \sigma \in ]0, 1/2[ \). The set \( C \) is obtained as a Cartesian product \( C_1 \times C_1 \), where \( C_1 \) is a Cantor set on the real line. In order to construct \( C_1 \), take a unit segment \( I = [0, 1] \) and divide it into eight equal parts. Consider eight intervals \( I_j^k, j = 1, \ldots, 8, \) of length \( \sigma^3 \), each taken in the middle of one of the obtained segments. At the further steps, the intervals considered are always divided into two parts. Given \( 2^k, k \geq 3, \) intervals \( I_j^k, j = 1, \ldots, 2^k, \) of length \( \sigma^k \), we divide each of them into two parts and take \( 2^{k+1} \) intervals \( I_j^{k+1}, j = 1, \ldots, 2^{k+1}, \) of length \( \sigma^{k+1} \), each in the middle of one of the obtained parts. Finally, \( C_1 \) is taken as \( \bigcap_{k \geq 3} \bigcup_{j=1}^{2^k} I_j^k \).

The Hausdorff measure \( H^\alpha(C_1) \) of the set \( C_1 \) for \( \alpha \in ]\frac{\log 2}{\log (1/\sigma)}, 1[ \) may be
estimated as
\[ \mathcal{H}^\alpha(C_1) \leq \inf_{k \geq 3} \{2^k \sigma^{\alpha_k}\} = 0, \]
so, \( \dim_{\mathcal{H}} C_1 < 1 \), and thus, \( \dim_{\mathcal{H}}(C_1 \times C_1) < 2 \).

The image set \( C' \) is constructed similarly, but at the \( k \)-th step, \( k \geq 3 \), the length of the intervals chosen is \( l_k = 2^{-k} \log^{-\beta/2} k \) instead of \( \sigma^k \).

For any \( k \geq 3 \), the set \( C' \) can be covered by \( 2^{2k} \) squares of side length \( l_k \). We have
\[ \lim_{k \to \infty} 2^{2k} h_{2,\beta}(l_k) = \lim_{k \to \infty} 2^{2k} l_k^2 (\log \log(1/l_k))^{\beta} = 1, \]
so the mass distribution principle gives us \( \mathcal{H}^{h_{2,\beta}}(C') > 0 \); indeed, put \( m := \inf_{k \geq 3} \{2^{2k} h_{2,\beta}(l_k)\} > 0 \) and let \( \mu \) be the uniformly distributed probability measure supported by \( C' \). Suppose also that \( \delta > 0 \) is so small that \( h_{2,\beta}(t) \) is increasing in \( t \) on the interval \( [0, \delta] \). Then for any \( U \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \) such that \( l_{k+1} \leq \text{diam} U < \min\{\delta, l_k\} \) for some \( k \geq 3 \), we have
\[ \mu(U) \leq 2^{-2k} < \frac{4h_{2,\beta}(l_{k+1})}{m} \leq \frac{4h_{2,\beta}(\text{diam} U)}{m}. \]
Thus, for any covering \( \bigcup U_i \) of the set \( C' \), such that \( \text{diam} U_i < \min\{\delta, l_i\} \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots \), we observe
\[ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} h_{2,\beta}(\text{diam} U_i) \geq \frac{m}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(U_i) \geq \frac{m}{4} \mu\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} U_i\right) = \frac{m}{4} > 0. \]

Let us denote by \( Q_{k,j} \) with \( k = 3, 4, \ldots \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, 2^{2k} \) the squares of the side length \( \sigma^k \), appearing on the pre-image side at the \( k \)-th step of the construction. Write \( q_{k,j} \) for the centres of these squares. Next, let \( A_{k,j} \) for \( k = 3, 4, \ldots \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, 2^{2k} \) denote the frames
\[ \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2: r_k < |x - q_{k,j}|_\infty < R_k\}, \]
where \( r_k = \sigma^k/2 \) for \( k \geq 3 \), \( R_k = \sigma^{k-1}/4 \) for \( k \geq 4 \), \( R_3 = 1/16 \) and \(| \cdot |_\infty\) is the maximum norm:
\[ |x|_\infty = \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|\}. \]
The inner boundary \( \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2: |x - q_{k,j}|_\infty = r_k\} \) of the frame \( A_{k,j} \) is exactly the boundary of the square \( Q_{k,j} \). Let us introduce similar notation for the image side. Write \( Q'_{k,j} \) with \( k = 3, 4, \ldots \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, 2^{2k} \) for the squares with the side length \( l_k = 2^{-k} \log^{-\beta/2} k \) and \( q'_{k,j} \) for the centres of these squares. Finally, \( A'_{k,j} \) for \( k = 3, 4, \ldots \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, 2^{2k} \) denote the frames
\[ \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2: r'_k < |x - q'_{k,j}|_\infty < R'_k\}, \]
where \( r'_k = 2^{-k+1} \log^{-\beta/2} k \) for \( k \geq 3 \), \( R'_k = 2^{-k+1} \log^{-\beta/2}(k - 1) \) for \( k \geq 4 \) and \( R'_3 = 1/16 \).
We are ready to construct a mapping \( f: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \) such that \( f(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C}' \). The construction is similar to the one in [12, Proposition 5.1]. First, let
\[
 a_k = \frac{R'_k - r'_k}{R_k - r_k} \quad \text{and} \quad b_k = \frac{R_k r'_k - R'_k r_k}{R_k - r_k},
\]
for \( k \geq 3 \). Then, define \( f_3 \) as
\[
f_3(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{a_3|x - q_{3,j}|_{\infty} + b_3}{x - q_{3,j}} + q'_3, & x \in \overline{A}_{3,j}, j = 1, \ldots, 64, \\ \frac{r'_3}{r_3}(x - q_{3,j}) + q'_3, & x \in Q_{3,j}, j = 1, \ldots, 64. \end{cases}
\]
We proceed by putting
\[
f_k(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{a_k|x - q_{k,j}|_{\infty} + b_k}{x - q_{k,j}} + q'_k, & x \in A_{k,j}, j = 1, \ldots, 2^{2k}, \\ \frac{r'_k}{r_k}(x - q_{k,j}) + q'_k, & x \in Q_{k,j}, j = 1, \ldots, 2^{2k}, \\ f_{k-1}(x), & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases}
\]
for \( k > 3 \). The mapping \( f \) is obtained as a pointwise limit \( f = \lim_{k \to \infty} f_k \).

It is a Sobolev mapping. Indeed, let us first see that it is ACL (absolutely continuous on lines). Take a line on the pre-image side parallel to the \( x_1 \)-axis that does not hit the initial Cantor set \( C \). On this line, the mapping \( f \) coincides with one of the mappings \( f_{k_0} \) in our sequence, which is Lipschitz and, therefore, absolutely continuous along the considered line. Since \( C_1 \) has vanishing Lebesgue measure \( \mathcal{L}^1 \), it follows that \( f \) is ACL. Next, let us check the integrability of the differential of \( f \). Its behaviour is essentially defined by the behaviour of \( f \) on cubical collars \( A_{k,j} \), where it is given by
\[
 (a_k|x|_{\infty} + b_k) \frac{x}{|x|_{\infty}}, \quad r_k < |x|_{\infty} < R_k
\]
up to a translation. Further calculations show that
\[
|Df(x)| = |Df_k(x)| = \max \left\{ a_k, a_k + \frac{b_k}{|x - q_{k,j}|_{\infty}} \right\} \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in A_{k,j}.
\]
Since \( b_k > 0 \) for large \( k \), we have \( |Df(x)| = a_k + \frac{b_k}{|x - q_{k,j}|_{\infty}} \leq r'_k/r_k \) for almost every \( x \in A_{k,j} \), when \( k \) is large enough. So, the integrability of the differential of \( f \) can be estimated with help of the following series:
\[
\int_{[0,1]^2} |Df| \leq C_1 \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} (2\sigma)^{2(k-1)} 2^{-k+2} \frac{\log^{-\beta/2} k}{\sigma^k} = C_2 \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} (2\sigma)^k \log^{-\beta/2} k,
\]
where \( C_1 = C_1(\sigma, \beta) \) and \( C_2 = C_2(\sigma, \beta) \) are positive constants. This series converges by the Ratio Test, since
\[
\lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{\log^{-\beta/2}(k+1)}{\log^{-\beta/2} k} = 1 < \frac{1}{2\sigma}.
\]
So, we have \( Df \in L^1 \) and therefore \( f \in W^{1,1} \).
The Jacobian of $f$ is integrable as a Jacobian of a Sobolev homeomorphism (see, for example, [2, Corollary 3.3.6]).

Finally, let us examine the sub-exponential integrability of the distortion function of $f$. The Jacobian of $f$ is given by

$$J_f(x) = a_k \left( a_k + \frac{b_k}{|x - q_{k,j}|_\infty} \right)$$

at almost every $x \in A_{k,j}$. Thus, $K_f$ is defined by

$$K_f(x) = 1 + \frac{b_k}{a_k |x - q_{k,j}|_\infty} \leq \frac{1 - 2\sigma}{2\sigma} \frac{1}{\left( \log k / \log (k-1) \right)^{\beta/2} - 1} =: K_k$$

for almost every $x \in A_{k,j}$, when $k$ is large enough. This gives the estimate

$$\int_{[0,1]^2} \exp\left( \frac{pK_f}{1 + \log K_f} \right) \leq C \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} (2\sigma)^{2(k-1)} \exp\left( \frac{pK_k}{1 + \log K_k} \right)$$

with a constant $C = C(\sigma, \beta) > 0$. By Lemma 1 below,

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{\exp\left( \frac{pK_{k+1}}{1 + \log K_{k+1}} \right)}{\exp\left( \frac{pK_k}{1 + \log K_k} \right)} = \exp\left( p \frac{1 - 2\sigma}{2\sigma} \frac{2}{\beta} \right),$$

and thus, by the Ratio Test, the series above converges provided

$$\exp\left( p \frac{1 - 2\sigma}{2\sigma} \frac{2}{\beta} \right) < (2\sigma)^{-2}.$$

So, we have

$$e^{\frac{K_f}{1 + \log K_f}} \in L^p_{loc}(\Omega)$$

for all $p < p_0 = \beta \frac{2(1-2\sigma)}{2\sigma} \log \frac{1}{2\sigma}$. Choosing $\sigma$ close enough to $1/2$, we can make $p_0$ as close to $\beta$ as we wish.

The following lemma verifies (2).

**Lemma 1.** We have

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{\exp\left( \frac{pK_{k+1}}{1 + \log K_{k+1}} \right)}{\exp\left( \frac{pK_k}{1 + \log K_k} \right)} = \exp\left( p \frac{1 - 2\sigma}{2\sigma} \frac{2}{\beta} \right),$$

where $K_k$ is as defined in (1).

**Proof.** Straightforward calculations give us

$$\frac{pK_{k+1}}{1 + \log K_{k+1}} - \frac{pK_k}{1 + \log K_k} = p\alpha \left( \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \right)$$

$$= p\alpha \left( \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} + \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} \right) + p\alpha \left( \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} + \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} \right),$$

where $\alpha = (1-2\sigma)/(2\sigma)$ and $T_i = (\log t / \log (t-1))^{\beta/2} - 1$ for $t \in [3, \infty]$. Notice that $T_i \to 0$ as $t \to \infty$. Thus, in order to prove this lemma, it is enough to show that the numerator of the fraction above goes to
2/\beta as \( k \) tends to infinity. We demonstrate it by the following two observations:

\[
\lim_{k \to \infty} \left( \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \right) \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} = 0
\]

and

\[
\lim_{k \to \infty} \left( \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} \right) = \frac{2}{\beta}.
\]

The main tool here is the mean-value theorem. Let us first examine the difference \( \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \). There exists a sequence \( \{\zeta_k\}_{k=3}^\infty \) of numbers between 0 and 1 such that

\[
\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} = u(k + 1) - u(k) = u'(k + \zeta_k),
\]

where

\[
u(t) = \frac{\log^{\beta/2}(t - 1)}{\log^{\beta/2} t - \log^{\beta/2}(t - 1)^2}.
\]

We have

\[
u'(t) = \frac{\beta \log^{\beta/2}(t - 1) \log^{\beta/2} t (\frac{1}{\log t} - \frac{1}{\log(t - 1)})}{(\log^{\beta/2} t - \log^{\beta/2}(t - 1))^2}.
\]

We apply the mean-value theorem again in order to replace the differences both in the numerator and in the denominator with multiplicative terms. We obtain for \( t > 3 \)

\[
u'(t) = \frac{2 (t - \theta_t)^2 \log^{\beta/2}(t - 1) \log^{\beta/2} t (\log(t - \eta_t) + 1)}{\beta (t - \eta_t)^2 \log^{\beta-2}(t - \theta_t) \log^2(t - \eta_t)}
\]

\[
< \frac{2 t^2 \log^{\beta+2} t (\log t + 1)}{\beta (t - 1)^2 \log^{\beta+2}(t - 1)} < \frac{18 \cdot 2^3 \beta}{\beta} (\log t + 1),
\]

where \( \eta_t, \theta_t \in ]0, 1[. \)

Next, let us observe that

\[
(3) \quad \frac{1}{T_t} = \frac{\log^{\beta/2}(t - 1)}{\log^{\beta/2} t - \log^{\beta/2}(t - 1)} = \frac{2 (t - \delta_t) \log^{\beta/2}(t - 1)}{\beta \log^{\beta/2-1}(t - \delta_t)}
\]

\[
= \frac{2}{\beta} (t - \delta_t) M_t \log(k - \delta_t),
\]

where \( \delta_t \in ]0, 1[ \) and \( M_t = (\log(t - 1)/\log(t - \delta_t))^{\beta/2} \to 1 \) as \( t \to \infty \).

Finally, we obtain for large \( k \)

\[
0 < \left( \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \right) \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k}
\]

\[
< \frac{18 \cdot 2^3}{\beta} \frac{\log(k + 1) + 1}{\log^2(k - 1)} \to 0
\]

\[
< \frac{18 \cdot 2^3 \log(k + 1) + 1}{\beta \log^2(k - 1)} \to 0
\]
as \( k \to \infty \).

It remains to examine the difference
\[
\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} = v(k+1) - v(k),
\]
where \( v(t) = \frac{1}{T_t} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t} \). Obviously, it is enough to prove that
\[
\lim_{t \to \infty} v'(t) = 2/\beta.
\]
Let us calculate
\[
v'(t) = \frac{\beta}{2} \frac{\log^{\beta/2-1} t \log t - (t-1) \log(t-1) 1 - \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}{T_t^2 \log \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}
\]
\[
= \frac{\beta}{2} \frac{\log^{\beta/2-1} t (\log(t-\kappa_t) + 1) 1 - \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}{t(t-1) \log^{\beta/2+1} (t-1)}
\]
\[
= \frac{\beta}{2} \frac{N_t t^{1 - \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}}{T_t^2 \log(t-1) \log \frac{\alpha}{T_t}},
\]
where \( \kappa_t \in ]0, 1[ \) and \( N_t \to 1 \) as \( t \to \infty \). We use the representation \( (\text{III}) \) again to obtain
\[
v'(t) = 2 \frac{(t - \delta_t)^2}{\beta t(t-1) \log(t-1)(\log(t-\delta_t) + \log(\frac{\alpha}{T_t})} \to \frac{2}{\beta}
\]
as \( t \to \infty \). \( \square \)

4. Proof of Theorem \( \text{IV} \)

Without loss of generality, we may assume for the rest of the paper that \( \Omega \) is connected. Moreover, using the \( \sigma \)-additivity of the generalized Hausdorff measure, we may assume in what follows, that \( \Omega \) is bounded and \( e^{t+\log K_f} \) is globally integrable in \( \Omega \). We will use a higher integrability result for the Jacobian from \([5]\) to establish the desired dimension distortion estimate.

Proof of Theorem \( \text{IV} \). Corollary 3.3 from \([5]\) gives us a constant \( c = c(n) > 0 \) such that \( |Df| \in L_{\text{loc}}^{P_f}(\Omega) \) for all \( \beta < cp \), where
\[
P_f(t) = \frac{t^n}{\log(e + t) \log^{1-\beta}(\log(e + t))}.
\]
Corollary 9.1 from \([14]\) implies in turn that \( J_f \log^{\beta} \log(e^e + J_f) \in L_{\text{loc}}^{1}(\Omega) \) for all \( \beta < cp \). Fix some \( q \in ]n - 1, n[ \). The integrability of the differential of \( f \) guarantees that \( f \in W^{1,q}(\Omega) \). In order to conclude \( f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{\text{loc}}(f(\Omega)) \) by \([11]\), Theorem 4.2, we also need \( K_f^{\frac{(q-1)q}{2q-n}} \) to be integrable in \( \Omega \), which is clearly true as \( K_f \) is sub-exponentially integrable. Finally, the regularity of the weak derivatives of \( f \) is enough to guarantee \( \text{Det} \, Df = J_f \), since the function \( P_f \) satisfies the assumptions (i) and (ii) of Theorem 1.2 in \([18]\). The desired equality \( \text{Det} \, Df = J_f \).
follows also from the remark in [10] p. 594. All this makes the application of Lemma 2 possible, concluding the proof of the theorem.

□

Lemma 2. Let \( f \in W^{1,\vartheta}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n), \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) \((n \geq 2 \text{ and } p > n - 1)\), be a homeomorphism, such that \( \text{Det} \, Df = J_f, J_f(x) \geq 0 \) for almost every \( x \in \Omega \) and \( J_f \log^{\beta} \log(e^x + J_f) \in L^\infty_{\text{loc}} \) for some \( \beta \). If \( n > 2 \), assume in addition that \( f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \) for some \( q \in ]n - 1, n[. \) Then \( \mathcal{H}^{n,\beta}(f(E)) = 0 \), whenever \( E \subset \Omega \) is such that \( \dim_{\mathcal{H}} E < n. \)

The assumptions \( f \in W^{1,q}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n) \) and \( \text{Det} \, Df = J_f \) are due to our intention to use Lemma 3.2 from [15]. Before proving Lemma 2, let us state the following auxiliary result from [20, Lemma 4] (see [16, Lemma 3.1] for the planar case).

Lemma 3.

(i) Let \( f : \Omega \to f(\Omega) \subset \mathbb{R}^n, n > 2 \), be a homeomorphism such that \( f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \) for some \( q \in ]n - 1, n[. \) Then there exists a set \( F \subset f(\Omega) \) such that \( \mathcal{H}^{n-\frac{q}{2}}(F) = 0 \) and for all \( y \in f(\Omega) \setminus F \) there exist constants \( C_y > 0 \) and \( r_y > 0 \) such that

\[
\text{diam}(f^{-1}(B(y, r))) \leq C_y r^{1/2},
\]

for all \( 0 < r < r_y. \)

(ii) If \( n = 2 \), (i) is true with the assumption \( f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \) replaced by the condition \( f \in W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega) \) and with \( q = 1 \), that is, with \( \mathcal{H}^{0}(F) = 0 \) for the exceptional set \( F. \)

Proof of Lemma 2. The proof repeats the strategy of the proof of Theorem 1.1 from [19]. As in Lemma 3.2 from [16], using Lemma 3 we may represent the image set \( \Omega' = f(\Omega) \) in the following form

\[
\Omega' = F \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \{ y \in \Omega' \mid \text{diam}(f^{-1}(B(y, r))) \leq k r^{1/2} \text{ for all } r \in [0, 1/j]\},
\]

obtaining a decomposition \( \Omega' = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} F_i \) and a collection of constants \( \{C_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}, \{R_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}, \) such that \( \mathcal{H}^{n,\beta}(F_0) = 0 \) and for each \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, \) we have \( 1 \leq C_i < \infty, R_i > 0 \) and

\[
f^{-1} \left( (f(A) \cap F_i) + \left( \frac{r}{C_i} \right)^2 \right) \subset A + r
\]

for every \( A \subset \Omega \) and for every \( r \in [0, R_i[. \)

Fix \( i \geq 1 \). Let us show that \( \mathcal{H}^{n,\beta}(f(E) \cap F_i) = 0. \) Take some

\[
s \in \max\{\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E, n - 1\}, n[\]

and put \( \sigma = \frac{n-s}{2} < \frac{1}{2}. \) Choose \( r_0 \in ]0, e^{-1/\sigma^2} [ \) small enough to guarantee \( \log^\beta(2 \log \frac{C_i}{r_0}) \leq r_0^{-\sigma}. \)
Fix now $\varepsilon > 0$. Using the absolute continuity of the Lebesgue integral and the given integrability of the Jacobian, we may find a number $\delta > 0$, such that

$$\int_A J_f(x) \log^\beta \log(e^x + J_f(x)) dx < \varepsilon$$

for each $A \subset \Omega$ such that $L^n(A) < \delta$.

Since $\mathcal{H}^s(E) = 0$, we may find a countable collection of balls $\{B(x_j, r_j)\}_{j=1}^\infty$, covering $E$ and having radii less than $\min\{r_0, R_i, \frac{1}{C_i}\}$, such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^\infty 2^n \omega_n r_j^s < \min\{\varepsilon, \delta\}.$$ 

Now, write $F_{i,j} = F_i \cap f(B(x_j, r_j))$ for each $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Notice by (5) that $f^{-1}(F_{i,j} + R_{i,j}) \subset B(x_j, 2r_j)$, where $R_{i,j} = (\frac{r_j}{2})^2$.

Next, we use the 5r-covering theorem to find an at most countable subcollection of pairwise disjoint balls $\{B(y_k, \rho_k)\}_{k \in K}$ from the collection

$$\bigcup_{j=1}^\infty \{B(y, R_{i,j}) : y \in F_{i,j}\}$$

so that

$$F_i \cap f(E) \subset \bigcup_{k \in K} B(y_k, 5\rho_k),$$

where, for each $k \in K$, we have $y_k \in F_{i,j}$ for some $j = j(k)$ and $\rho_k = R_{i,j(k)}$.

Since $r_j < e^{-1/\sigma^2} < e^{-4}$ for all $j \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $\frac{3}{10R_{i,j(k)}} > \frac{C^2e^8}{10} > \varepsilon$ for $k \in K$. Lemma 3.2 from [15] yields

$$\mathcal{L}^n(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})) \leq \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} J_f(x) dx$$
for all $k \in K$. Thus, we may estimate

$$
\mathcal{H}^{h_n,\beta}_{10n}(F_i \cap f(E)) \leq \sum_{k \in K} 10^n R_{i,j(k)}^n \log^\beta \log \left( \frac{1}{10R_{i,j(k)}} \right)
$$

$$
\leq \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \mathcal{L}^n(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})) \log^\beta \log \left( \frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}} \right)
$$

$$
\leq \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} \log^\beta \log \left( \frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}} \right) J_f(x) dx
$$

$$
= \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \left( \int_{\{x \in f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})): J_f(x) < r_j^{-\sigma} \}} \log^\beta \log \left( \frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}} \right) J_f(x) dx \right)
$$

$$
+ \int_{\{x \in f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})): J_f(x) \geq r_j^{-\sigma} \}} \log^\beta \log \left( \frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}} \right) J_f(x) dx
$$

$$
\leq \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} r_{j(k)}^{-2\sigma} \mathcal{L}^n(f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})))
$$

$$
+ \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \frac{\log^\beta \log(1/R_{i,j(k)})}{\log^\beta \log(e^e + 1/r_{j(k)}^\sigma)} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f),
$$

using the fact that $\log^\beta(2 \log \frac{C_i}{r_j}) \leq r_j^{-\sigma}$ for all $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Let us estimate the first term in the last sum. By grouping the balls according to $j(k)$ and using the relation $f^{-1}(F_i + R_{i,j}) \subset B(x_j, 2r_j)$, we get

$$
\sum_{k \in K} r_{j(k)}^{-2\sigma} \mathcal{L}^n(f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{k \in K \ \text{j(k) = j}}} r_j^{-\sigma-n} \mathcal{L}^n(f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})))
$$

$$
\leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} r_j^{-\sigma-n} \mathcal{L}^n(B(x_j, 2r_j)) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^n \omega_n r_j^\sigma < \varepsilon.
$$

Let us now estimate the second term in the sum. Since $r_j < \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$ and $r_j < e^{-1/\sigma^2} < e^{-4}$ for all $j \in \mathbb{N}$, we obtain for each $k \in K$

$$
\frac{\log^\beta \log(1/R_{i,j(k)})}{\log^\beta \log(e^e + 1/r_{j(k)}^\sigma)} \leq \frac{\log^\beta (2 \log \frac{C_i}{r_{j(k)}})}{\log^\beta (\sigma \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}})} \leq \frac{\log^\beta (4 \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}})}{\log^\beta (\sigma \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}})}
$$

$$
= \left( \frac{\log 4 + \log \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}}}{\log \sigma + \log \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}}} \right)^\beta \leq 2^\beta.
$$
Using again the fact that $f^{-1}(F_i,j + R_i,j) \subset B(x_j, 2r_j)$ for all $j \in \mathbb{N}$, we conclude

$$\sum_{k \in K} \frac{\log \beta \log(1/R_{i,j}(k))}{\log \beta \log(e^{e} + J_f)} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j}(k)))} J_f \log \beta \log(e^{e} + J_f)$$

$$\leq 2^{2\beta} \sum_{k \in K} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j}(k)))} J_f \log \beta \log(e^{e} + J_f)$$

$$\leq 2^{2\beta} \int_{\bigcup_{k \in K} f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j}(k)))} J_f \log \beta \log(e^{e} + J_f)$$

$$\leq 2^{2\beta} \int_{\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} B(x_j, 2r_j)} J_f \log \beta \log(e^{e} + J_f) \leq 2^{2\beta} \varepsilon,$$

since

$$\mathcal{L}^n \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} B(x_j, 2r_j) \right) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^n \omega_n r_j^n \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^n \omega_n r_j^s < \delta.$$  

5. Planar case

As it was mentioned in the first section, the assumption on $f$ to be a homeomorphism can be avoided in the plane due to factorization of the solutions of the Beltrami equation. The **Beltrami equation** is an equation in the complex plane $\mathbb{C}$ of the form

$$\overline{\partial} f(z) = \mu(z) \partial f(z),$$

where $\overline{\partial} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x + i \partial_y)$ and $\partial = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x - i \partial_y)$. The function $\mu$ is the **Beltrami coefficient** of the mapping $f$ (provided $f$ is a solution of (6) in some sense). Given an abstract Beltrami coefficient $\mu(z)$, such that $|\mu(z)| < 1$ almost everywhere, we can associate to $\mu$ a real-valued function $K = \frac{1+|\mu|}{1-|\mu|}$, called a **distortion function** of the Beltrami equation. The terminology is natural, as the Beltrami equation yields the distortion inequality

$$|Df(z)|^2 \leq K(z)J_f(z)$$

for its $W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}$ solutions. Conversely, a mapping $f$ with finite distortion function $K_f(z)$ satisfies almost everywhere the Beltrami equation with the associated Beltrami coefficient $\mu_f(z) = \overline{\partial}f(z)/\partial f(z)$. In this case, the distortion function of this Beltrami equation equals $K_f$ and $|\mu(z)| \leq \frac{K(z)-1}{K(z)+1} < 1$ for almost every $z$.

**Proof of Theorem** Let $\mathcal{A}$ be defined by $\mathcal{A}(t) = p_{\frac{1}{1+\log t}} - p$. Thus, our sub-exponential integrability assumption on $f$ may be rewritten as $e^{\mathcal{A}(K_f(z))} \in L^1(\Omega)$. Clearly, the function $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies conditions 1–3 from [2] pp. 570–571, so, we may apply Theorem 20.5.2 in [2], which gives the unique principal solution $g$ to the global Beltrami equation,
satisfied by $f$ almost everywhere in $\Omega$. See [2, Definition 20.0.4] for the definition of the principal solution of the Beltrami equation. In particular, $g$ is homeomorphic. In addition, Theorem 20.5.2 in [2] asserts that $f$ can be factorized as $f = \phi \circ g$ (where $\phi$ is holomorphic in $g(\Omega)$), provided $f \in W^{1,p}_\text{loc}(\Omega)$ for

$$P(t) = \begin{cases} t^2, & 0 \leq t \leq 1, \\ -t^{-1}(\log t^2), & t \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

which is true by [2, Theorem 20.5.1].

Higher integrability of the Jacobian for $g$ follows from Theorem 1 in [8], yielding $J_g \log^\beta(\exp J_g + J_g) \in L^1_\text{loc}$ for all $\beta < p$. This allows to use Lemma 2, giving $\mathcal{H}^{1,2,\beta}(g(E)) = 0$ for all $\beta < p$ and each set $E \subset \Omega$ such that $\dim_H E < 2$. Finally, as $\phi$ is locally Lipschitz, we obtain $\mathcal{H}^{1,2,\beta}(f(E)) = 0$ for such $\beta$ and $E$.

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