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Mon. 11/10 finish fractal lecture

Tues. 11/11 fractal problem set work day

Wed. 11/12 **fractal problem set due**; fractal essay work day

Fri. 11/14 **fractal essay due**

If you haven't already, start reading articles in my Google Drive folder, search the Alabama Virtual Library, and peruse textbooks in S201 and the ASMS Library!

**The Cantor Middle-Third Set:**

$C_0$  segment of length  $1 = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^0$   
 total removed:  $\frac{1}{3}$   
 $C_1$  2 segments of length  $\frac{1}{3} = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^1$   
 total removed:  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9}$   
 $C_2$  4 segments of length  $\frac{1}{9} = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2$   
 rem:  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{4}{27}$   
 $C_3$  8 segments of length  $\frac{1}{27} = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3$   
 $C_n$  consists of  $2^n$  segments, each of length  $\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n$   
 $2^n \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n$

To obtain  $C_{n+1}$  from  $C_n$ , we remove the middle third of each interval in  $C_n$ . The Cantor set  $C$  is the intersection of all  $C_n$ .  $C$  is a fractal.

$C_n$  consists of  $2^n$  closed intervals of length  $\frac{1}{3^n}$ . The total length of  $C_n$  is  $\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n$ , which approaches 0 as  $n$  approaches  $\infty$ . Hence the "length" of  $C$  is 0.

Another way to state this is that the length of  $C_{n+1} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \text{length of } C_n$ . Given this recursive definition, again we have that the length of  $C_n$  is  $\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n$ , which approaches 0 as  $n$  approaches  $\infty$ .

The total length removed from the interval  $[0, 1]$  in the construction of the Cantor set is

geometric series w/ common ratio  $\frac{2}{3}$

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{4}{27} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{3^{n+1}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n = \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} = \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{3}} = 1$$

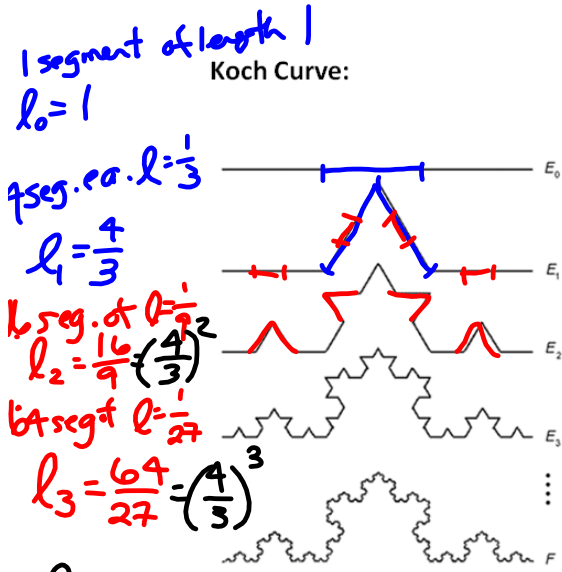
$3^{n+1} = 3 \cdot 3^n$

Hence we have a set from which its entire length has been removed. Yet there are still infinitely many points left in the set. Which points are they?

the endpoints of all the intervals!

Note: the sum of an infinite geometric series with common ratio less than 1 in absolute value is equal to  $S_{\infty} = \frac{a_1}{1-r}$ , where  $a_1$  is the first term and  $r$  is the common ratio.

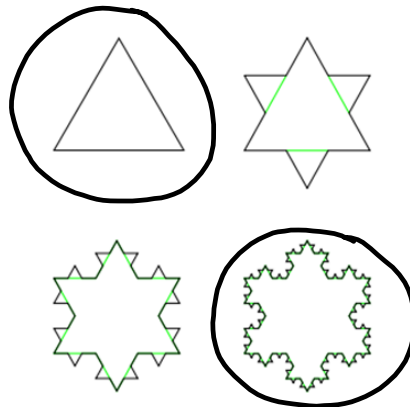
Fractals, cont.



$$l_n = \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^n$$

$$l_k = \infty$$

Koch Snowflake:

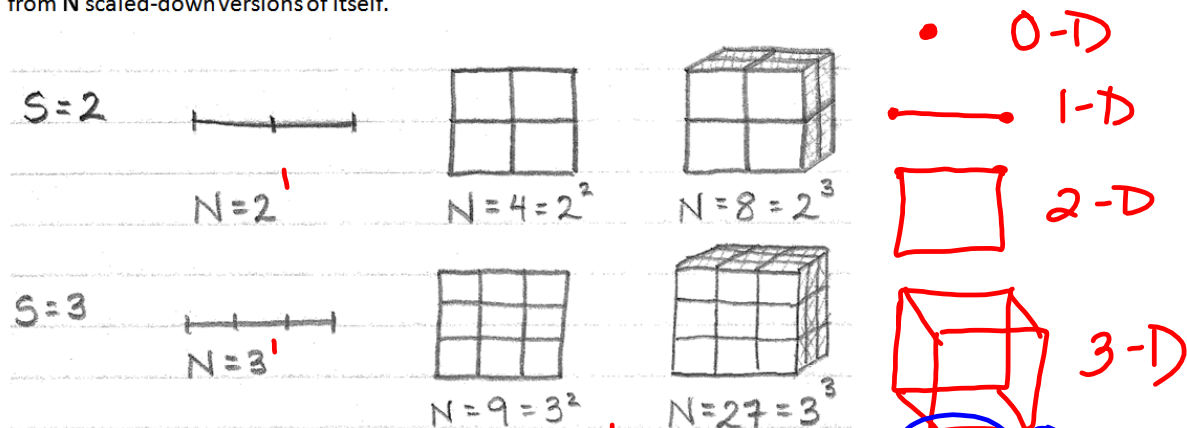


curve of infinite perimeter enclosing a finite area

Fractal Dimension:

Recall that points in space are 0-dimensional; lines are 1-dimensional; a square is 2-dimensional; and a cube is 3-dimensional. Fractals don't behave exactly like objects in these integer dimensions.

Suppose that an object has the following property: if we scale it down by a factor of  $S$ , then the object can be built from  $N$  scaled-down versions of itself.



$N = S^d$ , where  $d$  = dimension

$d = \frac{\log N}{\log S} = \text{fractal dimension}$

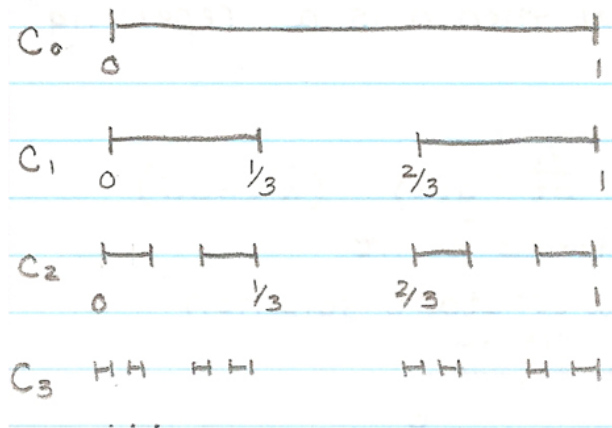
$N = S^d$

$\ln(N) = \ln(S^d)$

$\ln N = d \cdot \ln S$

$d = \frac{\ln N}{\ln S}$

The Cantor Middle-Third Set:



scaling factor  
 $s=3$

$N=2$   
 It takes 2 shrunk-down versions of  $C_{n-1}$  to make up  $C_n$

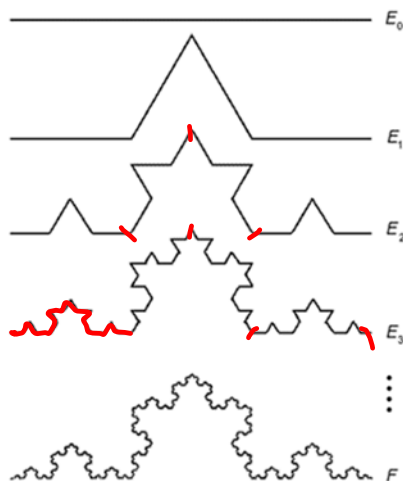
Suppose that an object has the following property: if we scale it down by a factor of  $S$ , then the object can be built from  $N$  scaled-down versions of itself.

$d = \frac{\log N}{\log S} = \text{fractal dimension}$

$d = \frac{\ln N}{\ln S} = \frac{\ln 2}{\ln 3} = 0.63$

Ex Cantor Set  $S = 3$  ,  $N = 2$  ,  $d = \frac{\log 2}{\log 3} \approx 0.63$

Koch Curve:



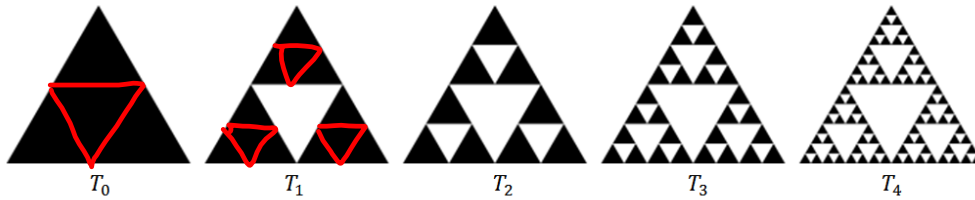
$S=3$

$N=4$

$d = \frac{\ln N}{\ln S} = \frac{\ln 4}{\ln 3} \approx 1.62$

$S = 3$  ,  $N = 4$  ,  $d = \frac{\log 4}{\log 3} \approx 1.62$

Sierpinski Triangle:



Let  $T_n$  be the  $n$ th iteration of the Sierpinski triangle;  
 let  $A_n$  be the area of the  $n$ th iteration of the Sierpinski triangle; let  $A_0 = 1$ ;  
 let  $P_n$  be the perimeter of the  $n$ th iteration of the Sierpinski triangle.

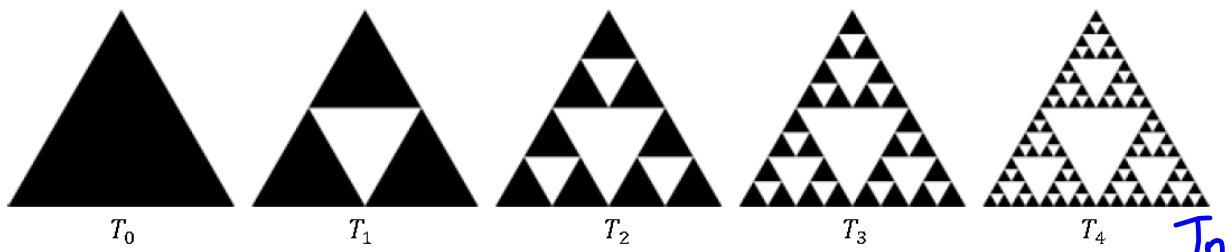
$T_n$  consists of  $3^n$  triangles of area  $(\frac{1}{4})^n$ ;  
 How much was removed?  
 We remove  $3^n$  triangles of area  $(\frac{1}{4})^{n+1}$  to get  $T_{n+1}$  from  $T_n$ .  
 Hence the total area removed is:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{1 - \frac{3}{4}} = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{\frac{1}{4}} = 1$$

$P_{n+1} = \frac{3}{2}P_n$ , which implies that  $P_n = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n$ ,  
 which approaches  $\infty$  as  $n$  approaches  $\infty$ .  
 The Sierpinski triangle has zero area but an infinite perimeter!

Fractal Dimension:  $S = 2$ ,  $N = 3$ ,  $d = \frac{\log 3}{\log 2} \approx 1.58$

	$T_0$	$T_1$
Perimeter of this iteration	$P_0 = \frac{6}{\sqrt{3}}$	$P_1 = \frac{9}{\sqrt{3}}$
Perimeter of this iteration divided by perimeter of previous iteration	N/A	$\frac{P_1}{P_0} = \frac{3}{2}$
Area removed from previous iteration to obtain this iteration	N/A	$\frac{1}{4}$
Total area removed up to this point	0	$\frac{1}{4}$
Number of triangles in this iteration	1	3
Area of a triangle in this iteration	1	$\frac{1}{4}$
Total area of this iteration	$A_0 = 1$	$A_1 = \frac{3}{4}$



	$T_0$	$T_1$	$T_2$	$T_3$	$T_4$
Perimeter of this iteration	$P_0 = \frac{6}{\sqrt{3}}$	$P_1 = \frac{9}{\sqrt{3}}$	$P_2 =$	$P_3 =$	$P_4 =$
Perimeter of this iteration divided by perimeter of previous iteration	N/A	$\frac{P_1}{P_0} = \frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{P_2}{P_1} =$	$\frac{P_3}{P_2} =$	$\frac{P_4}{P_3} =$
Area removed from previous iteration to obtain this iteration	N/A	$\frac{1}{4} = \frac{3^0}{4^1}$	$\frac{3}{16} = \frac{3^1}{4^2}$	$\frac{9}{64} = \frac{3^2}{4^3}$	$\frac{27}{256} = \frac{3^3}{4^4}$
Total area removed up to this point	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3^0}{4^1} + \frac{3^1}{4^2}$	$\frac{3^0}{4^1} + \frac{3^1}{4^2} + \frac{3^2}{4^3}$	$\sum_{i=0}^3 \frac{3^i}{4^{i+1}} = \frac{3}{4}$
Number of triangles in this iteration	1	3	$9 = 3^2$	$27 = 3^3$	$81 = 3^4$
Area of a triangle in this iteration	1	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{16} = \frac{1}{4^2}$	$(\frac{1}{4})^3$	$(\frac{1}{4})^4$
Total area of this iteration	$A_0 = 1$	$A_1 = \frac{3}{4}$	$A_2 = \frac{9}{16} = (\frac{3}{4})^2$	$A_3 = (\frac{3}{4})^3$	$A_4 = (\frac{3}{4})^4$
Area of this iteration divided by area of previous iteration	N/A	$\frac{A_1}{A_0} = \frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{A_2}{A_1} = \frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{A_3}{A_2} = \frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{A_4}{A_3} = \frac{3}{4}$

The initial triangle  $T_0$  had area  $A_0 = 1$ .

Total area removed up to the  $n^{\text{th}}$  iteration is  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{3^i}{4^{i+1}}$

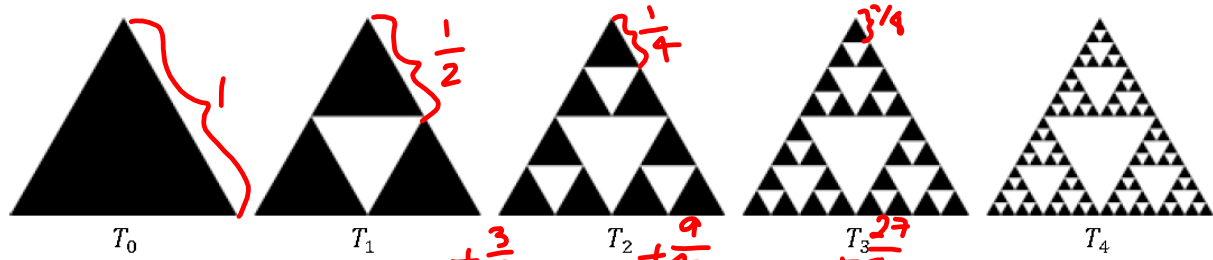
$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{3^{i-1}}{4^i}$$

$$\frac{3^{1-1}}{4^1} = \frac{3^0}{4} = \frac{1}{4} \quad \frac{3^{n-1}}{4^n}$$

$$\frac{3^0}{4^{0+1}} = \frac{1}{4} \quad \frac{3^{n-1}}{4^{n-1+1}} = \frac{3^{n-1}}{4^n}$$

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{a_1}{1-r} = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{1 - \frac{3}{4}} = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{\frac{1}{4}} = 1$$

We remove area 1

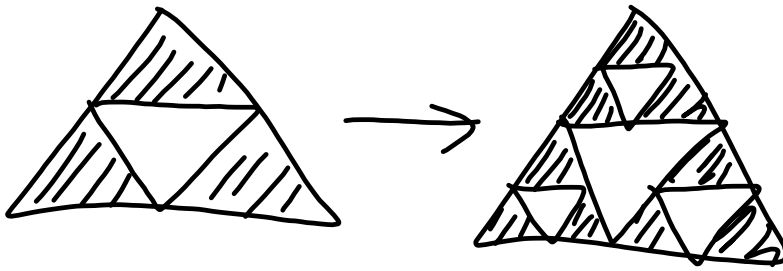


	$T_0$	$T_1$	$T_2$	$T_3$	$T_4$
Perimeter of this iteration	$P_0 = 3$	$P_1 = 9 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{9}{2}$	$P_2 = 27 \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{27}{4}$	$P_3 = 81 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = \frac{81}{8}$	$P_4 = 243 \cdot \frac{1}{16} = \frac{243}{16}$
Perimeter of this iteration divided by perimeter of previous iteration	N/A	$\frac{P_1}{P_0} = \frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{P_2}{P_1} = \frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{P_3}{P_2} = \frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{P_4}{P_3} = \frac{3}{2}$
Area removed from previous iteration to obtain this iteration	N/A				
Total area removed up to this point	0				
Number of triangles in this iteration	1	3	9	27	81
Area of a triangle in this iteration	1	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{64}$	$\frac{1}{256}$
Total area of this iteration	$A_0 = 1$	$A_1 = \frac{3}{4}$	$A_2 = \frac{9}{16}$	$A_3 = \frac{27}{64}$	$A_4 = \frac{81}{256}$
Area of this iteration divided by area of previous iteration	N/A	$\frac{A_1}{A_0} = \frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{A_2}{A_1} = \frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{A_3}{A_2} = \frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{A_4}{A_3} = \frac{3}{4}$

$$P_n = \frac{3^{n+1}}{2^n} \longrightarrow ? \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

$$= \frac{3 \cdot 3^n}{2^n} = 3 \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n \longrightarrow \infty$$

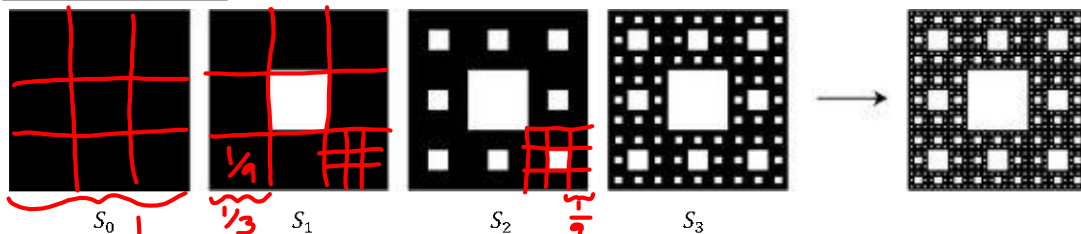
Sierpinski  $\Delta$  has  
no area, but  
infinite perimeter!!



$$S=2 ; n=3$$

$$d = \frac{\ln n}{\ln S} = \frac{\ln 3}{\ln 2} \approx 1.58$$

**Sierpinski Carpet:**



Let  $S_n$  be the  $n$ th step of the construction of the Sierpinski Carpet. Suppose that  $S_n$  has area 1.

	$S_0$	$S_1$	$S_2$	$S_3$
Perimeter of this iteration	$P_0 = 4$	$P_1 = 4 + \frac{4}{3}$	$P_2 = 4 + \frac{4}{3} + \frac{32}{9}$	$P_3 =$
Perimeter added to previous iteration to obtain this one	N/A	$\frac{4}{3}$	$8(4)(\frac{1}{9})$ <i>8 edges length 1/3 = 8 squares</i>	
Area removed from previous iteration to obtain this iteration	N/A	$\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{8}{81}$	
Total area removed up to this point	0	$\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{1}{9} + \frac{8}{81}$	
Number of squares in this iteration	1	8	64	
Area of a square in this iteration	1	$\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{1}{81}$	
Total area of this iteration	$A_0 = 1$	$A_1 = \frac{8}{9}$	$A_2 = \frac{64}{81}$	$A_3 =$
Area of this iteration divided by area of previous iteration	N/A	$\frac{A_1}{A_0} = \frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{A_2}{A_1} = \frac{64}{81} \cdot \frac{9}{8} = \frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{A_3}{A_2} =$