

# VARIATIONAL PRINCIPLE FOR THE ENTROPY

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## 1. METRIC ENTROPY

Let  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  a measure space and  $I$  a countable family of indices.

**Definition 1.** We say that  $\xi = \{C_i : i \in I\} \subset \mathcal{B}$  is a measurable partition if:

- $\mu\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} C_i\right) = \mu(X)$  and  $\mu(C_i) > 0$  for every  $i \in I$ ;
- $\mu(C_i \cap C_j) = 0$  for every  $i, j \in I$  with  $i \neq j$ .

We define also  $\xi \vee \eta$  by:

$$\xi \vee \eta = \{C \cap D : C \in \xi, D \in \eta, \mu(C \cap D) > 0\}.$$

**Definition 2.** The entropy of a measurable partition is given by

$$H_\mu(\xi) = - \sum_{C \in \xi} \mu(C) \log \mu(C)$$

Let  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be measurable,  $\mu$ - $T$  invariant and  $\xi$  a measurable partition.

**Definition 3.** The entropy of  $T$  with respect to  $\mu$  and the partition  $\xi$  is given by:

$$h_\mu(T, \xi) = \inf_n \frac{1}{n} H_\mu\left(\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi\right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} H_\mu\left(\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi\right) \quad (1)$$

and the entropy of  $T$  with respect to  $\mu$  by:

$$h_\mu(T) = \sup\{h_\mu(T, \xi) : \xi \text{ a measurable partition with } H_\mu(\xi) < \infty\}$$

From (1) we observe that

$$h_\mu(T, \xi) \leq H_\mu(\xi).$$

We can see that in order to calculate the entropy of  $T$  with respect to  $\mu$  we have to consider  $h_\mu(T, \xi)$  for every measurable partition  $\xi$  with  $H_\mu(\xi) < \infty$ . Sometimes it is possible to compute the entropy of  $T$  with respect to  $\mu$  using only one special partition described below.

**Definition 4.** If  $T$  is invertible (mod 0) let  $\bigvee_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} T^{-k}\xi$  be the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra which contains  $\bigvee_{k=-n}^n T^{-k}\xi$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then we say that  $\xi$  is a (two-sided) generator if

$$\bigvee_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} T^{-k}\xi = \mathcal{B} \quad (\text{mod } 0).$$

In the same way,

**Definition 5.** If  $T$  is non-invertible (mod 0) let  $\bigvee_{k=0}^{\infty} T^{-k}\xi$  be the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra which contains  $\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then we say that  $\xi$  is a (one-sided) generator if

$$\bigvee_{k=0}^{\infty} T^{-k}\xi = \mathcal{B} \pmod{0}.$$

Now we have

**Proposition 6.** If  $\xi$  is a generator with  $H_{\mu}(\xi) < \infty$  then

$$h_{\mu}(T) = h_{\mu}(T, \xi)$$

**Proposition 7.** The following proprieties hold:

1.  $h_{\mu}(id) = 0$ ;
2.  $h_{\mu}(T^k) = kh_{\mu}(T)$  for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;
3. If an invertible measure preserving transformation possesses a one-sided generator then  $h_{\mu}(T) = 0$ .

## 2. EXAMPLES OF CALCULATION OF METRIC ENTROPY

**2.1. Markov measures.** We will study the entropy of the two-sided shift,  $\sigma : \{1, \dots, k\}^{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ , with respect to a Markov measure i.e. a stochastic pair  $(P, p)$  where  $P$  is a stochastic matrix,  $p$  is a probability vector,  $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i = 1$ , associated to  $P$  and:

1.  $\sum_{j=1}^k p_{ij} = 1$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ;
2.  $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i p_{ij} = p_j$  for each  $j = 1, \dots, k$ .

The measurable partition  $\xi = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$  is in fact a two-sided generator because:

$$\bigvee_{k=-n}^n \sigma^{-k}\xi = \{C_{i_{-n} \dots i_n} : i_{-n}, \dots, i_n \in \{1, \dots, k\}\}$$

and the cylinders generate the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra. Then

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\mu}\left(\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} \sigma^{-k}\xi\right) &= - \sum_{i_0 \dots i_{n-1}} \mu(C_{i_0 \dots i_{n-1}}) \log \mu(C_{i_0 \dots i_{n-1}}) \\ &= - \sum_{i_0 \dots i_{n-1}} p_{i_0} p_{i_0 i_1} \dots p_{i_{n-2} i_{n-1}} \log(p_{i_0} p_{i_0 i_1} \dots p_{i_{n-2} i_{n-1}}) \\ &= - \sum_{i_0 \dots i_{n-1}} p_{i_0} p_{i_0 i_1} \dots p_{i_{n-2} i_{n-1}} \log p_{i_0} \\ &\quad - \sum_{i_0 \dots i_{n-1}} p_{i_0} p_{i_0 i_1} \dots p_{i_{n-2} i_{n-1}} \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \log p_{i_j i_{j+1}} \\ &= - \sum_{i=1}^k p_i \log p_i - (n-1) \sum_{i,j=1}^k p_i p_{ij} \log p_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$h_{\mu}(\sigma) = h_{\mu}(\sigma, \xi) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} H_{\mu}\left(\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} \sigma^{-k}\xi\right) = - \sum_{i,j=1}^k p_i p_{ij} \log p_{ij}$$

**2.2. Rotations.** We will see that any rotation  $R_w : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ , where  $w = e^{2\pi i\tau}$  and  $R_w(z) = wz$ , has zero entropy with respect to the Lebesgue measure. There are two cases:

- $\tau \in \mathbb{Q}$  or  $\{w^n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is not dense in  $\mathbb{T}$  i.e.  $w$  is not a root of unity. Then exists  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $R_w^m(z) = z$  for every  $z \in \mathbb{T}$  so  $h_\lambda(R_w) = 0$ ;
- $\tau \notin \mathbb{Q}$  or  $\{w^n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{T}$ . let  $\xi = \{A_1, A_2\}$  the partition of the circle into the upper semi-circle and the lower semi-circle. For every  $n > 0$ ,  $R_w^{-n}\xi$  consists of semi-circles beginning at  $w^{-n}$  and  $-w^{-n}$ . Since  $\{w^{-n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is dense, any semi-circle belong to  $\bigvee_{n=0}^{\infty} R_w^{-n}\xi$ . Hence any arc belong to  $\bigvee_{n=0}^{\infty} R_w^{-n}\xi$  and so  $h_\lambda(R_w) = 0$ .

### 3. THE ENTROPY MAP

Let  $(X, d)$  be a compact metric space  $T : X \rightarrow X$  continuous. Let  $M(X, T)$  be the space of all probability measures on  $(X, \mathcal{B}(X))$  that are  $T$ -invariant. We know that  $M(X, T)$  is a non-empty convex set which is compact in the weak\*-topology, by the Krylov-Bogolubov theorem.

**Definition 8.** The *entropy map* is  $\mu \mapsto h_\mu(T)$  from  $M(X, T)$  to  $[0, \infty]$ .

**Proposition 9.** The entropy map is affine, i.e. if  $\mu, m \in M(X, T)$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$  then

$$h_{t\mu+(1-t)m}(T) = th_\mu(T) + (1-t)h_m(T).$$

The entropy map is not in general continuous.

We will give a counterexample in the case of the two-sided shift on  $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ . Let us consider the measures  $\mu_p$ , for  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , concentrated on the  $p$  periodic points, giving to each such a point measure  $1/2^p$ . We have that  $\mu_p \in M(X, \sigma)$  and  $h_{\mu_p}(\sigma) = 0$ , for every  $p$ , because the measure is concentrated on a finite set of points. And let  $\mu$  be the  $(1/2, 1/2)$ -Bernoulli measure, which we know, has  $h_\mu(\sigma) = \log 2$ . Now the collection of functions that depends only on a finite number of coordinates form a dense subset  $F(X)$  of  $C(X)$  by the Stone-Weierstrass theorem. If  $f \in F(X)$  then exists  $N$  such that  $\int_X f d\mu_p = \int_X f d\mu$  if  $p \geq N$ . Therefore  $\mu_p \rightarrow \mu$  and so the entropy map is not continuous.

Sometimes is not even upper semi-continuous, but for a special class of maps we will prove that the entropy map is upper semi-continuous.

**Definition 10.**  $T : X \rightarrow X$  is called an *expansive homeomorphism* if  $\exists \delta$  with the property that if  $x \neq y$  then  $\exists n \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $d(T^n x, T^n y) > \delta$ .

**Theorem 11.** If  $T$  is an expansive homeomorphism then the entropy map is upper semi-continuous, i.e., if  $\mu \in M(X, T)$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  then exists a neighborhood  $U$  of  $\mu$  in  $M(X, T)$  such that  $m \in U$  implies that

$$h_m(T) < h_\mu(T) + \varepsilon.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\delta$  be an expansive constant for  $T, \mu \in M(X, T)$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

Let now  $\xi = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$  be a finite partition with  $\text{diam}(C_j) < \delta$ . Then  $h_\mu(T) = h_\mu(T, \xi)$ . Let  $N$  so that

$$\frac{1}{N} H_\mu \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} \xi \right) < h_\mu(T) + \varepsilon$$

Fix  $\varepsilon_1 > 0$  to be chosen later. As  $\mu$  is regular we choose compact sets:

$$K_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} \subset \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} C_{i_k}$$

with  $\mu \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} C_{i_k} \setminus K_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} \right) < \varepsilon_1$ .

Then

$$\bigcup_{k=0}^{N-1} \bigcup_{i_k=j} T^k K_{i_0, \dots, i_{N-1}} \subset C_j$$

The sets  $L_j := \bigcup_{k=0}^{N-1} \bigcup_{i_k=j} T^k K_{i_0, \dots, i_{N-1}}$  are compact and disjoint so there is a partition  $\eta = \{D_1, \dots, D_k\}$  with  $\text{diam}(D_j) < \delta$  and  $L_j \subset \text{int}(D_j)$ . We have

$$K_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} \subset \text{int} \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} D_{i_k} \right)$$

By Uryson's lemma we can choose  $f_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} \in C(X)$  such that:

- $0 \leq f_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} \leq 1$
- equals 1 on  $K_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}}$
- vanishes on  $X \setminus \text{int} \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} D_{i_k} \right)$

Let now

$$U_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} := \left\{ m \in M(X, T) : \left| \int f_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} dm - \int f_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} d\mu \right| < \varepsilon_1 \right\}$$

The set  $U_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}}$  is open in  $M(X, T)$  and if  $m \in U_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}}$  then

$$m \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} D_{i_k} \right) \geq \int f_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} dm > \int f_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} d\mu - \varepsilon_1 \geq \mu(K_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}}) - \varepsilon_1$$

and

$$\mu \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} C_{i_k} \right) - m \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} D_{i_k} \right) < 2\varepsilon_1$$

Now if  $U := \bigcap_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}} U_{i_0 \dots i_{N-1}}$  and  $m \in U$  then:

$$\left| \mu \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} C_{i_k} \right) - m \left( \bigcap_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} D_{i_k} \right) \right| < 2\varepsilon_1 k^N$$

because if  $\sum_{i=1}^m a_i = 1 = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i$  and also exists  $c > 0$  with  $a_i - b_i < c$  for every  $i$  then  $|a_i - b_i| < cm \quad \forall i$ , as  $b_i - a_i = \sum_{j \neq i} (a_j - b_j) < cm$ .

So if  $m \in U$  and  $\varepsilon_1$  small enough the continuity of  $x \log x$  gives:

$$\frac{1}{N} H_m \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} \eta \right) < \frac{1}{N} H_\mu \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} \xi \right) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

Hence,  $m \in U$  and  $\varepsilon_1$  small enough then:

$$\begin{aligned} h_m(T) = h_m(T, \eta) &\leq \frac{1}{N} H_m \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} \eta \right) \\ &< \frac{1}{N} H_\mu \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{N-1} T^{-k} \xi \right) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < h_\mu(T) + \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

□

#### 4. TOPOLOGICAL ENTROPY

We can define topological entropy in the same way we defined the metric entropy, with open covers,  $\alpha$ , taking the place of the measurable partitions and  $H(\alpha) = \log N(\alpha)$ , where  $N(\alpha)$  is the minimal cardinality of a subcover of  $\alpha$ . But in order to prove the variational principle we will use also Bowen's definition. Let  $(X, d)$  be a compact metric space,  $T : X \rightarrow X$  a continuous map:

$$h_{top}(T) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log N_d(T, \varepsilon, n)$$

Where  $N_d(T, \varepsilon, n)$  is the maximum number of point in  $X$  with pairwise  $d_n^T$ -distances at least  $\varepsilon$ , with

$$d_n^T := \max_{0 \leq i \leq n-1} d(T^i x, T^i y).$$

We will call such a set of points  $(n, \varepsilon)$ -**separated**.

#### 5. VARIATIONAL PRINCIPLE

In this section we prove the relationship between topological entropy and the metric entropy for a continuous map  $T$  of a compact metric space i.e. :

$$h_{top}(T) = \sup\{h_\mu(T) : \mu \in M(X, T)\}.$$

- In 1968 L.W.Goodwyn proved the inequality:

$$\sup\{h_\mu(T) : \mu \in M(X, T)\} \leq h_{top}(T).$$

- In 1970 E.I.Dinaburg proved equality when  $X$  has finite covering dimension.
- In 1970 T.N.T.Goodman proved equality in the general case.

The elegant proof we will give is due to M.Misiurewicz .

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $X$  be a compact metric space,  $\mu$  a Borel probability measure on  $X$ .*

1. *For  $x \in X$ ,  $\delta > 0$  there exists  $\delta' \in (0, \delta)$  such that  $\mu(\partial B(x, \delta')) = 0$ .*
2. *For  $\delta > 0$  there exists a finite measurable partition  $\xi = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$  with  $\text{diam}(C_i) < \delta$  for all  $i$  and  $\mu(\partial \xi) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* 1.  $\bigcup_{\delta' \in (0, \delta)} \partial B(x, \delta')$  is an uncountable disjoint union with finite measure.

2. By 1) (and  $X$  compact) there is a finite open cover  $\{B_1, \dots, B_k\}$  by balls of radius less than  $\delta/2$  with  $\mu(\partial B_j) = 0$  for all  $j$ . Let  $C_1 = \overline{B_1}$ ,  $C_i = \overline{B_i} \setminus \bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} \overline{B_j}$  for  $i > 1$  and  $\xi = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$ . Then  $\xi$  is as desired as  $\partial\xi \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^k \partial B_i$ .  $\square$

Note that if  $\mu(\partial\xi) = 0$  then  $\mu\left(\partial \bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi\right) = 0$ .

Now we will describe a method of constructing measures of large entropy.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a compact metric space,  $T : X \rightarrow X$  a homeomorphism,  $E_n \subset X$  an  $(n, \varepsilon)$ -separated set,  $\nu_n := (1/\text{card}(E_n)) \sum_{x \in E_n} \delta_x$  the uniform  $\delta$ -measure on  $E_n$ , and  $\mu_n := (1/n) \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} T_*^i \nu_n$ . Then there is an accumulation point  $\mu$  of  $\{\mu_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  (in the weak\* topology) that is  $T$ -invariant and satisfies*

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \text{card}(E_n) \leq h_\mu(T).$$

*Proof.* Since  $M(X)$  is compact we can choose a subsequence  $\{n_k\}$  such that:

- $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n_k} \log \text{card}(E_{n_k}) = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \text{card}(E_n)$
- $\mu_{n_k}$  converges in  $M(X)$  to some  $\mu \in M(X)$

In fact  $\mu \in M(X, T)$  because  $T_* \mu_n - \mu_n = (T_*^n \nu_n - \nu_n)/n$  ( $T_*$  cont. as in the proof of K-B theorem) and  $\nu_n$  are probability measures.

We choose now a partition  $\xi$  with diameter less than  $\varepsilon$  and  $\mu(\partial\xi) = 0$  as in Lemma 1. Then

$$H_{\nu_n} \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi \right) = \log \text{card}(E_n)$$

Since each  $C \in \bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi$  contains at most one  $x \in E_n$  so there are  $\text{card}(E_n)$  elements of  $\nu_n$ -measure  $1/\text{card}(E_n)$  in  $\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi$ .

Now suppose  $0 < q < n$  and for every  $0 \leq k < q$  define  $a(k) := [(n-k)/q]$ .

- If we fix  $0 \leq k < q$  then

$$\{0, 1, \dots, n-1\} = \{k + rq + i : 0 \leq r \leq a(k), 0 < i \leq q\} \cup S$$

where  $S = \{0, 1, \dots, k, k + a(k)q + 1, \dots, n-1\}$  and

$$\text{card}(S) \leq 2q$$

since  $k + a(k)q \geq k + [\frac{n-k}{q} - 1]q \geq n - q$ .

Then we have

$$\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}\xi = \left( \bigvee_{r=0}^{a(k)-1} T^{-(rq+k)} \left( \bigvee_{i=0}^{q-1} T^{-i}\xi \right) \right) \vee \left( \bigvee_{j \in S} T^{-j}\xi \right)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \log \text{card}(E_n) &= H_{\nu_n} \left( \bigvee_{h=0}^{n-1} T^{-h} \xi \right) \\
 &\leq \sum_{r=0}^{a(k)-1} H_{\nu_n} \left( T^{-(rq+k)} \bigvee_{i=0}^{q-1} T^{-i} \xi \right) + \sum_{j \in S} H_{\nu_n} (T^{-j} \xi) \\
 &\leq \sum_{r=0}^{a(k)-1} H_{T_*^{rq+k} \nu_n} \left( \bigvee_{i=0}^{q-1} T^{-i} \xi \right) + 2q \log \text{card}(\xi).
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 q \log \text{card}(E_n) &= \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} H_{\nu_n} \left( \bigvee_{h=0}^{n-1} T^{-h} \xi \right) \\
 &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} \left( \sum_{r=0}^{a(k)-1} H_{T_*^{rq+k} \nu_n} \left( \bigvee_{i=0}^{q-1} T^{-i} \xi \right) + 2q \log \text{card}(\xi) \right) \\
 &\leq n H_{\mu_n} \left( \bigvee_{i=0}^{q-1} T^{-i} \xi \right) + 2q^2 \log \text{card}(\xi)
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \text{card}(E_n) \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_{\mu_{n_k}} \left( \bigvee_{i=0}^{q-1} T^{-i} \xi \right)}{q} =: \frac{H_{\mu} \left( \bigvee_{i=0}^{q-1} T^{-i} \xi \right)}{q}$$

and that implies

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \text{card}(E_n) \leq h_{\mu}(T, \xi) \leq h_{\mu}(T).$$

□

**Theorem 12.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a compact metric space,  $T : X \rightarrow X$  a homeomorphism, then*

$$h_{top}(T) = \sup \{ h_{\mu}(T) : \mu \in M(X, T) \}.$$

*Proof.* (1) Let  $\mu \in M(X, T)$  we will show that  $h_{\mu}(T) \leq h_{top}(T)$ .

Let  $\xi = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$  be a finite measurable partition and  $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{1}{k \log k}$ .

Since  $\mu$  is regular there exist compact sets  $B_i \subset C_i$  with  $\mu(C_i \setminus B_i) < \varepsilon$ .

Let  $\eta = \{B_0, B_1, \dots, B_k\}$  the partition with  $B_0 = X \setminus \cup_{i=1}^k B_i$ .

We have  $\mu(B_0) < k\varepsilon$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{\mu}(\xi|\eta) &< - \sum_{i=0}^k \sum_{j=1}^k \mu(B_i) \phi \left( \frac{\mu(B_i \cap A_j)}{\mu(B_i)} \right) \\
 &= -\mu(B_0) \sum_{j=1}^k \phi \left( \frac{\mu(B_0 \cap A_j)}{\mu(B_0)} \right) \\
 &\leq \mu(B_0) \log k < k\varepsilon \log k < 1
 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$h_{\mu}(T, \xi) \leq h_{\mu}(T, \eta) + H_{\mu}(\xi|\eta) \leq h_{\mu}(T, \eta) + 1$$

The reason we can bring in the topological entropy is that  $\alpha := \{B_0 \cup B_1, \dots, B_0 \cup B_k\}$  is an open cover of  $X$ . We have

$$H_\mu \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k} \eta \right) \leq \log \text{card} \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k} \eta \right) \leq \log \left( 2^n \text{card} \left( \bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k} \alpha \right) \right)$$

If  $\delta_0$  is the Lebesgue number of  $\alpha$  i.e., the supremum of  $\delta > 0$  such that every  $\delta$ -ball is contained in an element of  $\alpha$ , then  $\delta_0$  is the Lebesgue number of  $\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k} \alpha$  with respect to the  $d_n^T$ .

Since  $\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k} \alpha$  is a minimal cover every  $C \in \bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k} \alpha$  contain a point  $x_C$  not in any other element of  $\bigvee_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k} \alpha$ .

The  $x_C$  set form a  $(\delta_0, n)$ -separated set.

Then

$$h_\mu(T, \eta) \leq h_{top}(T) + \log 2$$

and

$$h_\mu(T, \xi) \leq h_\mu(T, \eta) + 1 \leq h_{top}(T) + 1 + \log 2,$$

as this is also true for any iterate of  $T$  we have

$$h_\mu(T) \leq \frac{h_\mu(T^n)}{n} \leq \frac{h_{top}(T^n) + 1 + \log 2}{n} = h_{top}(T) + \frac{1 + \log 2}{n}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and hence

$$h_\mu(T) \leq h_{top}(T)$$

(2) On the other hand applying Lemma 2 to maximal  $(n, \varepsilon)$ -separated sets in  $X$  we have

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log N_d(T, \varepsilon, n) \leq h_\mu(T) \quad (2)$$

for a corresponding accumulation point  $\mu \in M(X, T)$ . Thus

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log N_d(T, \varepsilon, n) \leq \sup_{\mu} h_\mu(T).$$

and letting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  we get

$$h_{top}(T) \leq \sup\{h_\mu(T) : \mu \in M(X, T)\}.$$

□

A measure  $\mu \in M(X, T)$  is called a **measure of maximal entropy** for  $T$  if  $h_\mu(T) = h_{top}(T)$ .

We observe that for expansive homeomorphisms the existence of such a measure is assured by the upper semi-continuity of the entropy map and the compactness of  $M(X, T)$ . But the same is true because in (2) the left hand side is equal to the topological entropy if  $\varepsilon$  is less then half its expansive constant, and so by Lemma 2 we can construct a measure of maximal entropy for such an  $\varepsilon$ .

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