

MULTIFRACTAL SPECTRA FOR RANDOM SELF-SIMILAR MEASURES VIA BRANCHING PROCESSES

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Abstract

Start with a compact set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. This has a random number of daughter sets, each of which is a (rotated and scaled) copy of K and all of which are inside K . The random mechanism for producing daughter sets is used independently on each of the daughter sets to produce the second generation of sets, and so on, repeatedly. The random fractal set F is the limit, as n goes to ∞ , of the union of the n th generation sets. In addition, K has a (suitable, random) mass which is divided randomly between the daughter sets, and this random division of mass is also repeated independently, indefinitely. This division of mass will correspond to a random self-similar measure on F . The multifractal spectrum of this measure is studied here. Our main contributions are dealing with the geometry of realisations in \mathbb{R}^d and drawing systematically on known results for general branching processes. In this way we generalise considerably the results of Arbeiter and Patzschke (1996) and Patzschke (1997).

Keywords: Self-similar measure; Hausdorff dimension; general branching process; multifractal spectrum; local dimension

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1. Introduction

We give first a fairly informal description of the problem. Start with a compact set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. This has a random number of daughter sets, $\{K_i\}$, each of which is a (rotated and scaled) copy of K and all of which are inside K , so that $\bigcup_i K_i \subset K$. The random mechanism for producing daughter sets is used independently on each of the K_i to produce the second generation of sets, and so on, repeatedly. The union of the sets forming the $(n+1)$ th generation is, by arrangement, contained in the union of the n th generation sets. Hence, it makes sense to take the limit (the intersection) of these as n goes to ∞ . Then the limit set F can be ‘partitioned’, using the first generation sets, as $\{K_i \cap F\}$, with each part being a random (scaled) copy of F —note that this need not be a true partition because daughter sets may overlap. Now, as an additional feature, K has a (suitable, random) mass which is divided randomly between the K_i , and this random division of mass is also repeated independently, indefinitely. This mass will derive from a random measure, μ , on F , which will be randomly self-similar: μ can be decomposed into a sum of ‘copies’ of μ , one defined on each of the sets $K_i \cap F$. The law giving the $\{K_i\}$ and the

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division of the mass is called a scaling law. A measure has a local dimension at a point when the logarithm of the measure of a small ball around the point has (in the limit as the ball gets small) a fixed ratio to the logarithm of the volume of the ball. The objective is to study the size, in the sense of the Hausdorff dimension, of the subset of F with a specified local dimension for the self-similar measure associated with a given scaling law. Doing this as the local dimension varies is studying the multifractal spectrum.

We make no attempt to review fully the extensive relevant literature. Initial results on the construction of random self-similar measures on \mathbb{R}^d were obtained in [34], and put into the same context as fractal sets in [32]. General results for the existence of a random self-similar measure are due to [15] and [19] or, with the addition of a Markov structure in the construction, [21]. There is a multifractal formalism, developed in the physics literature, which characterises the multifractal spectrum of a set using the Legendre–Fenchel transform of the empirical moment measures. A mathematically precise version can be found in [30]. The application of these ideas to random self-similar measures was the subject of [2], [13], [29], and [31], and is mentioned at the end of [3]. In this paper we establish the usual multifractal spectrum of a random self-similar measure under assumptions that are significantly weaker than those used in [2] by exploiting branching process ideas. In that literature there are already good results (see [3], [4], and [23]) on the multifractal spectrum of random self-similar measures defined on the boundary of trees. There is considerable extra complication in dealing with the geometry of realisations in \mathbb{R}^d , as we do here.

Despite the description just given, we treat the collection of maps that produce the K_i from K as the fundamental object, rather than the sets themselves. The map $S: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is a contractive similitude when $Sy = rOy + x$, where $r < 1$ is a contraction factor, O is an orthogonal matrix, and x is a shift. Let \mathcal{S} be the set of contractive similitudes. Now let A be the set of locally finite discrete measures with integer masses on $(0, \infty) \times \mathcal{S}$. A scaling law is a probability measure P on A . For $a \in A$, each unit of mass is interpreted as a point, so that a mass of two gives two points at that place. The points of the process are a set of weights $\{p_i: i = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and a corresponding set of similitudes $\{S_i = (r_i, O_i, x_i): i = 1, 2, \dots\}$. Let N be the number of points, so $N \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. We usually write \sum_i , or sometimes just \sum , for $\sum_{i=1}^N$. We assume throughout that $E \sum p_i = 1$, $EN > 1$, and $P(N = 0) = 0$.

A scaling law is called compact when there is a compact set K such that $P(\bigcup_i S_i(K) \subset K) = 1$, so all its contractive similitudes map K into K . We consider only compact scaling laws. If there is a (nonrandom) finite c such that $P(\sup\{|x_i|/(1 - r_i): i\} \leq c) = 1$ then the scaling law is compact, for K can be taken to be $\{x: |x| \leq c\}$.

For a given scaling law, a random self-similar measure is one which satisfies

$$\mu(\cdot) = \sum_i p_i \mu_i(S_i^{-1}(\cdot)) \quad \text{almost surely (a.s.),} \tag{1.1}$$

where the μ_i are copies of μ , independent of each other and the scaling law $\{(p_i, S_i): i = 1, 2, \dots\}$, and the supports, \tilde{F}, \tilde{F}_i , of the measures, μ, μ_i , are random self-similar sets satisfying

$$\tilde{F} = \bigcup_i S_i(\tilde{F}_i) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

We will mainly be interested in the cases where at most one term on the right-hand side of (1.1) contributes at any point. To make this precise, the self-similar measure satisfying (1.1) will be said to partition if there are disjoint sets V_i such that $\mu_i(S_i^{-1}V_i) = \mu_i(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Then $\mu(V_i \cap B) = p_i \mu_i(S_i^{-1}(V_i \cap B))$. The existence of a self-similar μ for a scaling law will be

discussed in the next section, where it will be called μ_π . It will also emerge later that the measure constructed will partition under suitable conditions. An illustration of the first two steps in the construction of \tilde{F} is given in Figure 1 in Section 4. In this example we can take $V_i = \text{int}K_i$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, to obtain a partition.

Let $B(x; r)$ be the open ball of radius r centred at x . We set

$$\tilde{F}_\alpha = \left\{ x \in \tilde{F} : \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu(B(x; r))}{\log r} = \alpha \right\},$$

which are the points of \mathbb{R}^d where the measure of a small ball is, very roughly, its volume to the power α/d . The main aim is to estimate the Hausdorff dimension of \tilde{F}_α . To indicate the results, let

$$m(q, \phi) = E \left[\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\phi \right] \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(q) = \inf \{ \phi : m(q, \phi) \leq 1 \}.$$

The Legendre–Fenchel transform of β is then

$$\beta^*(\alpha) = \inf_q \{ \alpha q + \beta(q) \};$$

this function arises also in the study of the related problem of the growth and spread of a (continuous-time) general branching random walk [7], and that process will play a role here. Let P , which is the scaling law on A , also denote the law of self-similar measures induced by that scaling. We will show that, under certain conditions, P -a.s.,

$$\tilde{F}_\alpha = \emptyset \quad \text{if } \beta^*(\alpha) < 0, \quad \dim_H(\tilde{F}_\alpha) \leq \beta^*(\alpha) \quad \text{if } \beta^*(\alpha) \geq 0,$$

and that, under other conditions, $\dim_H(\tilde{F}_\alpha) \geq \beta^*(\alpha) > 0$, P -a.s. Obviously, combining results of this kind gives $\dim_H(\tilde{F}_\alpha) = \beta^*(\alpha) > 0$ for suitable α . Such results are obtained in [2] and [31]. Both of those treatments assume that N is fixed and there are p_{\min} and r_{\min} with $0 < p_{\min} < p_i < 1$ and $0 < r_{\min} < r_i < 1$. Also, both impose the open set condition (see Definition 2.2): with a suitable K , the sets $\{K_i\}$ have nonoverlapping interiors. The strong open set condition adds that there is a positive probability that F is not confined to the boundary of K —this is imposed in [2] and relaxed to the open set condition in [31]. Here, generalising these results, N is random, and the uniform bounds on the $\{p_i\}$ and the uniform lower bound on the $\{r_i\}$ are replaced by natural moment conditions. Most results are obtained under the open set condition, though a few do not need it. The strong open set condition is not needed, but part of the treatment is more straightforward when it holds.

An outline of the paper is as follows. In Section 2 we construct our random self-similar measure and give the result concerning its partitioning. In Section 3 the main result is given once enough notation has been established to state it. In Section 4 various preliminary results on branching processes are discussed. In Sections 5 and 8 we derive the main results, giving upper and lower bounds on the multifractal spectrum, that is, on $\dim_H(\tilde{F}_\alpha)$. In Section 6 there is a brief discussion about using a single null set for every α in the upper bound. In Section 7, as part of the lead in to the discussion of lower bounds in Section 8, the theorem concerning partitioning is proved. We discuss the verification and simplification of some of the conditions in Sections 9 and 10. The final section gives a naturally occurring example drawn from [14] which is easily handled by the results developed here but not by those previously available.

2. Random self-similar measures

We need some standard branching process theory, which we deal with briskly. Let $I_n = \bigcup_{k=0}^n \mathbb{N}^k$, $I = \bigcup_k I_k$ and $\bar{I} = I \cup \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$. Here I_0 consists solely of the empty sequence \emptyset . A sequence in \bar{I} , other than one in I_1 , will be denoted using bold type. Write $\mathbf{i}\mathbf{j}$ for the concatenation of $\mathbf{i} \in I$ and $\mathbf{j} \in \bar{I}$. For $\mathbf{i} \in \bar{I} \setminus I_n$, denote the sequence truncated to length n by $\mathbf{i}|n$ and the n th element of \mathbf{i} by $\mathbf{i}[n]$. We write $\mathbf{j} \leq \mathbf{i}$ if $\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j}\mathbf{k}$ for some \mathbf{k} , and denote the length of the sequence \mathbf{i} by $|\mathbf{i}|$. Finally, write $\mathbf{i}-$ for the sequence obtained by removing the final entry in $\mathbf{i} \in I$, so that $\mathbf{i}- = \mathbf{i}|n$ when $|\mathbf{i}| = n + 1$.

A tree T is a subset of I such that (i) $\emptyset \in T$ is the root of the tree; (ii) $\mathbf{i} \in T$ implies that $\mathbf{i}|k \in T$ for all $k < |\mathbf{i}|$; and (iii) for each $\mathbf{i}\mathbf{j} \in T$, $\mathbf{i}\mathbf{k} \in T$ for $k < j$. Part (iii) does not rule out the possibility that a node produces a countably infinite number of branches. Level n of the tree T will be denoted by $T_n = T \cap \mathbb{N}^n$. Denote by $\partial T \subset \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ the topological boundary of the tree. We define the cylinder sets of ∂T as follows: for $\mathbf{i} \in T_n$, $C_{\mathbf{i}}$ is the set of all boundary points stemming from the node \mathbf{i} , so $C_{\mathbf{i}} = \{\mathbf{j} \in \partial T : \mathbf{j}|n = \mathbf{i}\}$.

A marked tree has a mark at each of its nodes. Let Ω be the space of trees with each node marked with an element of A . Let \mathcal{B}_n be the σ -algebra generated by the marks at all nodes up to level $n - 1$, so that

$$\mathcal{B}_n = \sigma(a(\mathbf{i}) : T \text{ a tree, } a \text{ a function from } T \text{ to } A, \mathbf{i} \in T_k, k = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1)$$

and $\mathcal{B} = \sigma(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{B}_n)$. Construct a probability measure, also called P , on Ω (using the Ionescu Tulcea extension theorem) sequentially in the level of the tree: given the marked tree to level n and $\mathbf{i} \in T_n$, the mark

$$a(\mathbf{i}) = ((p_i(\mathbf{i}), S_i(\mathbf{i})) : i = 1, \dots) = ((p_i(\mathbf{i}), r_i(\mathbf{i}), O_i(\mathbf{i}), x_i(\mathbf{i})) : i = 1, \dots)$$

is used to provide $N(\mathbf{i})$, the number of children of \mathbf{i} , and each of these has an independent mark, drawn from A using law P , attached to it. Note that the marks on the nodes in generation $n - 1$ contain the information on the families in generation n .

Now it is easy, and common (see [3], [4], [23], and [25]), to define a random self-similar measure on ∂T that relates naturally to the weights in the scaling law. Relevant results are supplied by the theory of the branching random walk (or multiplicative cascades). The connection with that literature is outlined next.

For $\mathbf{i} \in T_n$, let $p_{\mathbf{i}}$ be the product of the values of p associated with \mathbf{i} and its antecedents in the tree and let $-z_{\mathbf{i}}$ be its logarithm so that, formally,

$$p_{\mathbf{i}} = \prod_{k=0}^{|\mathbf{i}|-1} p_{\mathbf{i}[k+1]}(\mathbf{i}|k) \quad \text{and} \quad z_{\mathbf{i}} = -\log p_{\mathbf{i}}.$$

Let Z_n be the point process on \mathbb{R} with unit mass at the points $\{z_{\mathbf{i}} : \mathbf{i} \in T_n\}$ (so any $z \in \mathbb{R}$ has an integer mass giving the number $\mathbf{i} \in T_n$ with $z_{\mathbf{i}} = z$). Think of individual \mathbf{i} having location $z_{\mathbf{i}}$. Then $Z = \{Z_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is a branching random walk (BRW) in the sense of [5], with Z_0 a unit mass at the origin and offspring displacement given by the point process Z_1 .

Definition 2.1. For a BRW Z , let

$$\tilde{m}(\theta) = E \left(\int e^{-\theta t} dZ_1(t) \right) = E \sum_i p_i^\theta$$

and

$$W^{(n,\theta)} = \tilde{m}(\theta)^{-n} \sum_{i \in T_n} \exp(-\theta z_i) = \tilde{m}(\theta)^{-n} \sum_{i \in T_n} p_i^\theta.$$

Then $W^{(n,\theta)}$ is a positive martingale and, thus, has a P-a.s. limit $W^{(\theta)}$, and, by Fatou’s lemma, $EW^{(\theta)} \leq 1$.

By considering the BRW starting from individual $i \in T_n$ we get a martingale limit $W_i^{(\theta)}$, with the same distribution as $W^{(\theta)} = W_\emptyset^{(\theta)}$ and independent of $W_j^{(\theta)}$ for all $j \in T_n$ with $j \neq i$. From the branching structure of the BRW we get

$$W^{(\theta)} = \tilde{m}(\theta)^{-n} \sum_{i \in T_n} \exp(-\theta z_i) W_i^{(\theta)} = \tilde{m}(\theta)^{-n} \sum_{i \in T_n} p_i^\theta W_i^{(\theta)} \quad \text{a.s.} \tag{2.1}$$

Note that $\tilde{m}(1) = E \sum p_i = 1$ and $\tilde{m}(\theta) = m(\theta, 0)$.

When we have positive finite random variables satisfying (2.1), we can use $W^{(\theta)}$ to define a random measure $\mu^{(\theta)}$ on ∂T by setting

$$\mu^{(\theta)}(C_i) = \tilde{m}(\theta)^{-n} p_i^\theta W_i^{(\theta)} \quad \text{for } i \in T_n. \tag{2.2}$$

The existence of such random variables is immediate when $EW^{(\theta)} = 1$ and sharp results for this are known (see [1], [5], [10], and [26]) both for this model and extensions of it. The main cases are described in the next result and translated to the case where $\theta = 1$ in the corollary.

Theorem 2.1. (Theorem 7.1 of [10].) *Let Z be a BRW, and let \tilde{m} and $W^{(\theta)}$ be given as in Definition 2.1. Then, for all $\theta > 0$ such that $\tilde{m}(\theta) \in (0, \infty)$ and $\tilde{m}'(\theta)$, which is defined to be $-\mathbb{E}(\int t e^{-\theta t} dZ_1(t))$, exists, we have $EW^{(\theta)} = 1$ if $\log \tilde{m}(\theta) > \theta \tilde{m}'(\theta)/\tilde{m}(\theta)$ and $EW^{(1,\theta)} \log W^{(1,\theta)} < \infty$.*

Corollary 2.1. *Suppose that*

$$E \sum_i p_i = 1, \quad E \left[- \sum_i p_i \log p_i \right] > 0, \quad \text{and} \quad E \left[\left(\sum_i p_i \right) \log \left(\sum_i p_i \right) \right] < \infty. \tag{2.3}$$

For $i \in I$, let

$$W_i = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{p_i} \sum_{\{k: ik \in T_n\}} p_{ik}$$

(which is a martingale limit, except on a null set), and $W = W_\emptyset$. Then $EW_i = 1$. Excluding a suitable P-null set, for $n > |i|$,

$$p_i W_i = \sum_{\{j: ij \in T_n\}} p_{ij} W_{ij}, \tag{2.4}$$

and the measure $\mu (= \mu^{(1)})$ in (2.2) is defined on ∂T through $\mu(C_i) = p_i W_i$. Furthermore, $\mu = \sum p_i \mu_i$, P-a.s., where $p_i \mu_i(C_{ii}) = p_{ii} W_{ii}$, μ_i is concentrated on C_i , and, given \mathcal{B}_1 , the μ_i are independent copies of μ .

There are also results on nontrivial solutions to (2.1) under other conditions. When $\log \tilde{m}(\theta) > \theta \tilde{m}'(\theta)/\tilde{m}(\theta) > -\infty$ but $EW^{(1,\theta)} \log W^{(1,\theta)} = \infty$, such results are given in [9]. When $\log \tilde{m}(\theta) = \theta \tilde{m}'(\theta)/\tilde{m}(\theta)$ and stronger moment conditions are imposed on $W^{(1,\theta)}$, relevant

results are given in [22] and [23], and, in some cases, the corresponding self-similar measure on ∂T comes within the study in [3]. We do not consider these other cases and assume that (2.3) always holds from now on. The null set on which (2.4) and $\mu = \sum p_i \mu_i$ fail is excluded in all that follows.

Fix the compact set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ that the scaling law maps into itself. Write $|U|$ for the diameter of U and arrange that $|K| = 1$ by the initial choice of units. For $\mathbf{i} \in T_n$, define S_i to be the composition $S_{i[1]}(\emptyset) \circ \dots \circ S_{i[n]}(\mathbf{i}|n - 1)$ and K_i , which is geometrically similar to K , to be $S_i(K)$. Just as for p_i , let

$$r_i = \prod_{k=0}^{|\mathbf{i}|-1} r_{i[k+1]}(\mathbf{i}|k) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_i = -\log r_i.$$

Then $|K_i| = r_i$. Also, σ_i can be thought of as the birth time of \mathbf{i} , and we are in the framework of the general (or Crump–Mode–Jagers) branching process [17, Chapter 6], [28], which for our purposes is just a BRW on $(0, \infty)$.

Lemma 2.1. (Theorem 3 of [8].) *If*

$$\text{there exists a } \varphi > 0 \text{ such that } m(0, \varphi) = \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_i r_i^\varphi \right] \leq 1 \tag{2.5}$$

then

$$\inf\{\sigma_i : \mathbf{i} \in T_n\} \rightarrow \infty \quad (\text{and } \sup\{r_i : \mathbf{i} \in T_n\} \rightarrow 0)$$

P-a.s.

We assume that (2.5) holds. Thus, there is a *P*-null set, which is excluded in all that follows, such that we have $\sigma_{i|n} \rightarrow \infty$ and $r_{i|n} \rightarrow 0$ for all $\mathbf{i} \in \partial T$, except possibly on this set. A random set F is now defined by

$$F = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{\mathbf{i} \in T_n} K_i.$$

Assumption (2.5) ensures that the individual sets here always become small as n gets large.

Following [2], straightforward calculations, using Lemma 2.1 and the fact that the scaling is compact, show that the limit of $S_{i|n}(y)$ as n increases exists and is independent of $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$ (and is in K) for each $\mathbf{i} \in \partial T$. Thus, $\pi : \partial T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ can be defined by

$$\pi(\mathbf{i}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{i|n}(y).$$

Furthermore, π is continuous. Note that (by taking $y \in K$) $\pi(\mathbf{i}) = \bigcap_n K_{i|n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} K_{i|n}$ and so π actually maps ∂T onto $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. Later it will be natural to use K_i as an alternative notation for $\pi(\mathbf{i})$. The measure μ defined in Corollary 2.1 projects into \mathbb{R}^d using π to give μ_π . Let B^c be the complement of the set B . Then, by definition, $\mu_\pi(F^c) = 0$. Recall that \tilde{F} is the support of μ_π .

Lemma 2.2. *We have $F \subset \tilde{F}$. If $P(N < \infty) = 1$ then F is closed and $\tilde{F} = F$.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.1, for any $\mathbf{i} \in \partial T$ and $\epsilon > 0$, there is some n such that $K_{i|n} \subset B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \epsilon)$ and then $\mu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \epsilon)) \geq \mu(C_{i|n}) = p_{i|n} W_{i|n} > 0$. Hence, $F \subset \tilde{F}$. Since $\mu_\pi(F^c) = 0$, the support of μ must be contained in the closure of F . When $P(N < \infty) = 1$, the collection T_n is finite. Then F is closed and so $\tilde{F} \subset F$.

The measure μ_π will be the main object studied here. (The analysis could just as well be applied to $\mu_\pi^{(\theta)}$, derived from projecting $\mu^{(\theta)}$ in (2.2), whenever $EW^{(\theta)} = 1$.) From this construction, it is clear that properties of the measure μ and the set F may be studied via the boundary of the tree ∂T .

The first result, which is little more than decoding definitions, is that μ_π is indeed self-similar, the second is that there is a simple upper bound on the measure of any set. We write $I(A)$ for the indicator function of A .

Lemma 2.3. *It holds that μ_π is self-similar for the scaling law in that, for any $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$,*

$$\mu_\pi(D) = \sum_i p_i \mu_{\pi,i}(S_i^{-1}D), \tag{2.6}$$

where, given \mathcal{B}_1 , the $\mu_{\pi,i}$ are independent copies of μ_π .

Proof. By Corollary 2.1, μ is self-similar on ∂T with $\mu = \sum p_i \mu_i$. Now let π_i be π defined using the tree emanating from i . Then, for $i\mathbf{i} \in C_i \subset \partial T$, $\pi(i\mathbf{i}) = S_i \pi_i(i)$ and, for any $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\mu_\pi(D) = \mu(\pi^{-1}D) = \sum_i p_i \mu_i((\pi^{-1}D) \cap C_i) = \sum_i p_i \mu_i(\pi_i^{-1}S_i^{-1}D).$$

Now let $\mu_{\pi,i}(\cdot) = \mu_i(\pi_i^{-1}\cdot)$, which are, given \mathcal{B}_1 , independent copies of μ_π , and note that (2.6) then holds.

Lemma 2.4. *For $B \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$,*

$$\mu_\pi(B) \leq \sum_{j \in T_n} p_j W_j I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset). \tag{2.7}$$

Proof. Note that $\mu(C_j) = p_j W_j$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_\pi(B) &= \mu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \pi(\mathbf{i}) \in B\}) \\ &= \sum_{j \in T_n} \mu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \pi(\mathbf{i}) \in B\} \cap C_j), \\ &\leq \sum_{j \in T_n} p_j W_j I(\{j : \mathbf{i} \in C_j, \pi(\mathbf{i}) \in B\}). \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\{j \in T_n : \mathbf{i} \in C_j, \pi(\mathbf{i}) \in B\} \subset \{j \in T_n : B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset\},$$

giving (2.7).

At the moment the set F and the measure μ could be rather simple since, for example, we have not ruled out that all the contractive similarities in the scaling law are the same, in which case F would be a single point. The next condition is a common one for removing this possibility.

Definition 2.2. A scaling law satisfies the open set condition if there is a nonempty bounded open set O with $S_i(O) \subset O$ for all i and $S_i(O) \cap S_j(O) = \emptyset$ when $i \neq j$.

This condition will be needed for most of the results derived. In particular, it will be one of the conditions imposed in showing that the self-similar measure partitions. The next lemma, which is simple to prove, illustrates that it subsumes some of the conditions already mentioned. We write $\text{int}(G)$ or, when there is no ambiguity, $\text{int}G$ for the interior of the set $G \subset \mathbb{R}^d$.

Lemma 2.5. *When the open set condition holds, the scaling law is compact and we can (and will) assume that K is the closure of its interior and that the open set condition holds with $O = \text{int}K$. Furthermore, $\sum_i r_i^d \leq 1$, and so (2.5) holds with $\phi = d$.*

The next lemma uses the open set condition to provide a simple basic estimate of $\mu_\pi(\text{int}(K_i))$. It is worth pointing out that this is only a bound—it is certainly an overestimate when F , and hence, μ_π is concentrated on the boundary of K . We finish this section by stating the theorem concerning when the measures partition, which will be proved in Section 7.

Lemma 2.6. *Under the open set condition, $\mu_\pi(\text{int}(K_i)) \leq p_i W_i$.*

Proof. When $|i| = n$ and $|j| = n$, the open set condition implies that $\text{int}(K_i) \cap K_j \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $j = i$. Then, using this observation and (2.7),

$$\mu_\pi(\text{int}(K_i)) \leq \sum_{j \in T_n} p_j W_j I(\text{int}(K_i) \cap K_j \neq \emptyset) = p_i W_i.$$

Theorem 2.2. *If the open set condition holds then μ_π partitions in the sense that, P-a.s., there are disjoint sets V_i such that $\mu_{\pi,j}(S_j^{-1}V_j^c) = 0$ and, for $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$,*

$$\mu_\pi(D) = \sum_i p_i \mu_{\pi,i}(S_i^{-1}(D \cap V_i)).$$

3. The main result

The properties of m , β , and β^* have been discussed by several authors (see [2, Section 3], [7, Section 3], and [13, Section 3]), usually under stronger conditions than in force here, and are established with a mixture of calculus and convex analysis drawing on [33]. Convexity of $\log m$ is well known, and follows from Hölder’s inequality, as is the concavity of β^* . Two lemmas on convexity are now given: their proofs are deferred to the end of the section. Recall that, by assumption, $m(1, 0) = 1$; hence, $\beta(1) \leq 0$ and so is finite.

Lemma 3.1. *The function β is a convex function that is finite somewhere and lower semicontinuous. (It is a proper, closed, convex function in the sense of [33, Section 7].)*

These results concerning β are given in [7, p. 1011], but with only an indication of the proof. The fact that β is lower semicontinuous is important in drawing on general convexity theory—for example, it ensures that the infimum over a bounded convex set is attained [33, Theorem 27.3].

Since β is convex and β^* is concave, we may define (q_L, q_U) and (D_L, D_U) to be the interior of their respective domains of finiteness. When it makes sense, let

$$P(q, \phi) = \mathbb{E} \left[- \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\phi \log p_i \right] \tag{3.1}$$

and let

$$R(q, \phi) = \mathbb{E} \left[- \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\phi \log r_i \right]. \tag{3.2}$$

In the next result, part (vi) is the key to the main proof. It identifies arguments of m —a (q, β) —corresponding to a given α . The results on $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$ are produced via this (q, β) .

Lemma 3.2. Assume that $m(1, 0) = 1$, $m(0, \varphi)$ is finite for some φ , and that $P(1, 0)$, which is $E[-\sum p_i \log p_i]$, exists and is strictly positive. Then the following statements hold.

- (i) If $m(q, \beta) = 1$ then $\beta(q) = \beta$. In particular, $\beta(1) = 0$.
- (ii) $\beta(q) < \infty$ for $0 \leq q \leq 1$, so $(0, 1) \subset (q_L, q_U) = \text{int}(\{q : \beta(q) < \infty\})$.
- (iii) $\beta(q) > 0$ for $q < 1$.
- (iv) When $\beta(q) < \infty$, $m(q, \beta(q)) \leq 1$.
- (v) (D_L, D_U) is empty only when there is a constant γ such that $p_i r_i^{-\gamma} = 1$ for all i —then, $\beta(q) = \gamma(1 - q)$ and $\beta^*(a) = -\infty$ unless $a = \gamma$ when $\beta^*(\gamma) = \gamma$.
- (vi) If $\alpha \in (D_L, D_U)$ then there is a finite $\tilde{q}(\alpha)$ such that $\beta^*(\alpha) = \alpha\tilde{q}(\alpha) + \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha))$ and $\tilde{q}(\alpha)$ decreases as α increases.
- (vii) $\sup\{\beta^*(\alpha) : \alpha\} = \beta(0) > 0$. Let α° be the limit of $q^{-1}(\beta(0) - \beta(q))$ as $q \downarrow 0$ when this exists and is finite, and let $\alpha^\circ = \infty$ otherwise. Then this supremum occurs at α° .
- (viii) If $m(q, \phi) = 1$ and $\alpha = P(q, \phi)/R(q, \phi)$ makes sense and is finite, then $\beta^*(\alpha) = \alpha q + \phi$. In particular, when $m(0, \beta(0)) = 1$, $\alpha^\circ = P(0, \beta(0))/R(0, \beta(0))$ when this makes sense and is finite.

We now collect together several conditions already mentioned into Assumption A, given next. In addition to it, we will also need conditions to hold for a particular (q, β) and these are contained in the second assumption.

Assumption A. (i) We have a scaling law mapping the compact set K into itself.

- (ii) $E \sum p_i = 1$, $E[-\sum p_i \log p_i] > 0$, and $E[\sum p_i \log(\sum p_i)] < \infty$.
- (iii) There is a $\varphi > 0$ with $E \sum_i r_i^\varphi \leq 1$.
- (iv) K has diameter 1, and so is contained in a closed ball of radius one-half.

Assumption B. (i) (q, β) is such that $m(q, \beta) = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta = 1$.

- (ii) With $y_i = p_i^q r_i^\beta$, $E[-\sum y_i \log y_i] > 0$ and $E[\sum y_i \log(\sum y_i)] < \infty$.
- (iii) $P(q, \beta) = -E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta \log p_i$ exists and is finite.
- (iv) $E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta (\log r_i)^2 < \infty$, which implies that $R(q, \beta) < \infty$.

Lemma 3.2(viii) implies that, when Assumption B holds, $\beta(q) = \beta$ and $\beta^*(\alpha) = q\alpha + \beta$ with $\alpha = P(q, \beta)/R(q, \beta)$. When Assumption B(i) and B(ii) hold, Corollary 2.1 applies with ‘y’ replacing ‘p’. This shows that if we let

$$Y_i = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{ik \in T_n} y_{ik}}{y_i} \left(= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{ik \in T_n} p_{ik}^q r_{ik}^\beta}{p_i^q r_i^\beta} \right)$$

and $Y = Y_\emptyset$, then $EY_i = 1$ and, for $|i| < n$,

$$y_i Y_i = \sum_{\{j : ij \in T_n\}} y_{ij} Y_{ij} = \sum_{\{j : ij \in T_n\}} p_{ij}^q r_{ij}^\beta Y_{ij}. \tag{3.3}$$

Define the measure ν on ∂T through $\nu(C_i) = y_i Y_i$, and let ν_π be the projection of ν onto \mathbb{R}^d , which like μ_π has its mass confined to $\pi(\partial T) = F$. This measure will play an important role in the proof, and its associated random variable, Y , figures in the conditions. Of course, μ is an example of a measure of this kind, with $q = 1$ and $\beta = 0$, and so results obtained for ν and ν_π will apply to μ and μ_π as particular cases.

For the upper bound on the dimension, we need to have an estimate of the size of the boundary of K in some cases. The estimate used is contained in the next definition.

Definition 3.1. For a compact set K with diameter 1 and $a \leq 1$, let $\hat{h}(a)$ be the maximum number of disjoint open balls with diameter no smaller than a that can intersect the boundary of K . Then the set K will be said to have a γ -boundary when there is a finite C' such that $\hat{h}(x) \leq C'x^{-\gamma}$ for $x \leq 1$.

If K has a γ -boundary, it also has a γ' -boundary for all $\gamma' > \gamma$, and it is easy to see that when K has a γ -boundary its boundary has a Hausdorff dimension of no more than γ . Since K is contained in a closed ball of radius one-half, a crude volume argument shows that $\hat{h}(a)$ cannot be more than C'/a^d for some constant C' , but in cases where K has a ‘nice’ boundary \hat{h} will grow no faster than C'/a^{d-1} .

We are now ready to state the main theorem. It has no content when (D_L, D_U) is empty, which Lemma 3.2(v) shows to be a very special case, but the lemmas leading up to the proof of this theorem do provide information on that case too. By analogy with \tilde{F}_α , let

$$F_\alpha = \left\{ x \in F : \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu_\pi(B(x; r))}{\log r} = \alpha \text{ a.s.} \right\} = F \cap \tilde{F}_\alpha.$$

Thus, $F_\alpha \subset \tilde{F}_\alpha$ and so a lower bound on $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$ serves also for $\dim_H(\tilde{F}_\alpha)$. However, extra argument (supplied, for example, by Lemma 2.2) is needed to move from an upper bound on $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$ to an upper bound on $\dim_H(\tilde{F}_\alpha)$.

Theorem 3.1. *Suppose that the open set condition and Assumption A hold, and that K has a γ -boundary. Let $\alpha \in (D_L, D_U)$, with $\tilde{q}(\alpha)$ and $\beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha))$ as in Lemma 3.2(vi). Assume that*

$$EW^{\tilde{q}(\alpha)} < \infty. \tag{3.4}$$

If $0 < \tilde{q}(\alpha) \leq 1$, assume that

$$m(\tilde{q}(\alpha), 0) = E \sum_i p_i^{\tilde{q}(\alpha)} < \infty. \tag{3.5}$$

If $\tilde{q}(\alpha) > 1$, assume that

$$E \left[\left(\min_i r_i \right)^{\beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha))-\gamma} \left(\sum_i p_i \right)^{\tilde{q}(\alpha)} \right] < \infty. \tag{3.6}$$

Then, if $\beta^*(\alpha) \geq 0$,

$$\dim_H(F_\alpha) \leq \beta^*(\alpha) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Furthermore, if $\beta^*(\alpha) < 0$ then (a.s.) $F_\beta = \emptyset$ for all $\beta \leq \alpha$ when $\alpha < \alpha^\circ$ and $F_\beta = \emptyset$ for all $\beta \geq \alpha$ when $\alpha > \alpha^\circ$ (with α° as in Lemma 3.2(vii)).

Suppose, in addition, that Assumption B holds for $(\tilde{q}(\alpha), \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)))$, that

$$EY \log_+ Y < \infty, \tag{3.7}$$

and that

$$EY|\log W| < \infty. \tag{3.8}$$

Then

$$\dim_H(F_\alpha) = \beta^*(\alpha) \text{ a.s.}$$

The sets F_α can be replaced by \tilde{F}_α everywhere in this result when $\tilde{F} = F$.

The conditions here are complex, but mostly natural. Results are noted in Section 9 that allow the moment conditions on W and Y to be traced back to conditions on the scaling law. Various results obtained in Section 10 produce stronger, but easier to check, conditions. One outcome of these will be the following result. It improves on [2, Theorem 4.10(II)] and [31, Theorem 5(II)] in allowing N , $\max_i r_i^{-1}$, and $\max_i p_i^{-1}$ to be unbounded, though it cuts down considerably on the generality of Theorem 3.1.

Corollary 3.1. *Suppose that the open set condition and Assumption A both hold, and that $p_i \in (0, 1)$ for all i . Suppose that, for some $\epsilon > 0$, $EN^{1+\epsilon} < \infty$ and $P(N \geq 2) = 1$. Suppose also that $E(\min_i r_i)^{-\varrho}$, $E(\min_i p_i)^{-\varrho}$, and $E(\sum p_i)^\varrho$ are finite for all $\varrho > 0$. Take $\alpha \in (D_L, D_U)$. Then $F_\alpha = \emptyset$ a.s. if $\beta^*(\alpha) < 0$ and $\dim_H(F_\alpha) = \beta^*(\alpha)$ a.s. if $\beta^*(\alpha) \geq 0$.*

We mention also the following result, which is included in [27, Theorem 1.1], but is a side issue for the multifractal spectrum.

Theorem 3.2. *When the open set condition holds, $\dim_H(F) = \beta(0) = \sup\{\beta^*(\alpha) : \alpha\}$.*

Proof of Lemma 3.1. Note first that, since $r_i \leq 1$ and $EN > 1$, $m(q, \phi)$ is strictly decreasing in ϕ when finite and then tends to 0 as $\phi \rightarrow \infty$. If $m(q_1, \phi_1) \leq 1$ and $m(q_2, \phi_2) \leq 1$, then, using convexity of $\log m$,

$$m(\lambda q_1 + (1 - \lambda)q_2, \lambda \phi_1 + (1 - \lambda)\phi_2) \leq m(q_1, \phi_1)^\lambda m(q_2, \phi_2)^{(1-\lambda)} \leq 1,$$

which implies that $\beta(\lambda q_1 + (1 - \lambda)q_2) \leq \lambda \phi_1 + (1 - \lambda)\phi_2$. Since $\phi_1 \geq \beta(q_1)$ and $\phi_2 \geq \beta(q_2)$, but are otherwise arbitrary, this gives convexity of β . Now let Q be the interior of the domain of finiteness of β , so that β is continuous there, and let \tilde{q} be on the boundary of Q . Let $\tilde{\beta} = \liminf\{\beta(q) : q \in Q, q \rightarrow \tilde{q}\}$. By convexity, $\beta(\tilde{q}) \geq \tilde{\beta}$ and, for the asserted continuity, it remains to show that $\beta(\tilde{q}) \leq \tilde{\beta}$. Take $q_n \in Q$ with $q_n \rightarrow \tilde{q}$ and $\beta(q_n) \rightarrow \tilde{\beta}$. For given $\epsilon > 0$, let $\Gamma(\epsilon) = \sup\{\beta(q_n) : |q_n - \tilde{q}| < \epsilon\}$. Then, $\Gamma(\epsilon) \rightarrow \tilde{\beta}$ as $\epsilon \downarrow 0$. For $\phi > \Gamma(\epsilon)$, $m(q_n, \phi) < 1$. Then $1 \geq m(q_n, \phi) \rightarrow m(\tilde{q}, \phi)$ as $q_n \rightarrow \tilde{q}$ using monotone and dominated convergence. Hence, $\beta(\tilde{q}) \leq \phi$. Since $\phi > \Gamma(\epsilon)$ is arbitrary, as is $\epsilon > 0$, this implies that $\beta(\tilde{q}) \leq \tilde{\beta}$.

Proof of Lemma 3.2. Since $m(q, \phi)$ is strictly decreasing in ϕ when finite, $m(q, \beta) = 1$ implies that $\beta(q) = \beta$.

Since $\log m$ is convex, $\log m(\lambda, (1 - \lambda)\varphi)$ is finite for all $\lambda \in [0, 1]$; hence, $\beta(\lambda) < \infty$ there.

Note that $\log m(q, 0)$ is a convex function of q , with value 0 and negative slope ($E \sum_i p_i \times \log p_i$) at $q = 1$. Hence, $\log m(q, 0) > 0$ for $q < 1$ and so $\beta(q) > 0$ (but it might be $+\infty$).

For the fourth part, use monotone convergence on $1 \geq m(q, \beta(q) + \epsilon) = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^{\beta(q)+\epsilon}$ as $\epsilon \downarrow 0$.

If γ is such that $p_i r_i^{-\gamma} = 1$ for all i then

$$\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta = \sum_i p_i^q p_i^{\beta/\gamma} = \sum_i p_i^{q+\beta/\gamma}$$

and so $\beta(q) = \gamma(1 - q)$, which gives β^* . Now assume that β^* is finite at only one point (and $-\infty$ elsewhere). Then β is linear. Truncate so that there are no more than c births, and only i with $|\log p_i| \leq c$ and $|\log r_i| \leq c$ are included. Denote truncated entities by a prefixed subscript c . Then ${}_c m(q, \phi) \uparrow m(q, \phi)$ and so ${}_c \beta(q) \uparrow \beta(q)$ and ${}_c \beta^*(\alpha) \uparrow \beta^*(\alpha)$. Hence, ${}_c \beta^*$ is also finite at only one point. By arrangement, ${}_c m(q, \phi)$ is finite for all q and ϕ , and so ${}_c m(q, {}_c \beta(q)) = 1$. We now work with the truncated process. Since β is linear,

$$1 = m(q, \beta(q)) = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^{\beta(q)} = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^{\gamma q - c} = E \sum_i (p_i r_i^\gamma)^q r_i^{-c},$$

which is possible only if $(p_i r_i^\gamma)$ is always 1. This is true of any truncated process and, hence, also of the untruncated version.

Since β is a closed convex function, this is a consequence of [33, Theorems 12.2, 23.4, and 23.5]. Alternatively, take $\epsilon > 0$ with $(\alpha - \epsilon, \alpha + \epsilon) \subset (D_L, D_U)$. For all q ,

$$\beta^*(\alpha - \epsilon) \leq (\alpha - \epsilon)q + \beta(q) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta^*(\alpha + \epsilon) \leq (\alpha + \epsilon)q + \beta(q).$$

Hence,

$$\min\{\beta^*(\alpha - \epsilon), \beta^*(\alpha + \epsilon)\} + \epsilon|q| \leq \alpha q + \beta(q).$$

The left-hand side tends to ∞ as $q \rightarrow \pm\infty$. Hence, the infimum of the right-hand side is at a finite q , and since $\beta(q)$ is closed and convex, the infimum must be attained (see [33, Theorems 8.1 and 27.3]). This gives $\tilde{q}(\alpha)$. For all q ,

$$\alpha q + \beta(q) \geq \alpha \tilde{q}(\alpha) + \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)),$$

and so, for $\epsilon > 0$,

$$(\alpha + \epsilon)q + \beta(q) - ((\alpha + \epsilon)\tilde{q}(\alpha) + \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha))) \geq \epsilon(q - \tilde{q}(\alpha)),$$

which is greater than 0 when $q - \tilde{q}(\alpha) > 0$. Hence,

$$\inf_q \{(\alpha + \epsilon)q + \beta(q)\} = \inf_{q \leq \tilde{q}(\alpha)} \{(\alpha + \epsilon)q + \beta(q)\},$$

and so $\tilde{q}(\alpha + \epsilon) \leq \tilde{q}(\alpha)$.

Note that $-\alpha^\circ$ is the one-sided derivative of β at 0, which exists by convexity. That the supremum is $\beta(0)$ and attained at α° when finite is in [33, Theorems 12.2 and 27.1]. Otherwise, $\beta(q) = \infty$ for $q < 0$, which means that $\beta^*(\alpha) = \inf\{q\alpha + \beta(q) : q \geq 0\}$, which is increasing in α and strictly less than $\beta(0)$.

Consider $f(\theta) = m(\theta, q\alpha - \theta\alpha + \phi)$. This is a Laplace transform, and so convex and differentiable when finite, and its first derivative is easily checked to be 0 at $\theta = q$ using the definition of α . Hence, $m(\theta, q\alpha - \theta\alpha + \phi) \geq m(q, \phi) = 1$, and $\beta(q) = \phi$. Therefore, $\beta(\theta) \geq q\alpha - \theta\alpha + \beta(q)$ for all θ , which implies that $\beta^*(\alpha) = q\alpha + \beta(q)$.

4. Results for general branching processes

Recall that $-\log p_i = z_i$ and $-\log r_i = \sigma_i$. We generalise the BRW Z by allowing the birth time σ_i of individual i to depend on the birth time of its parent. Specifically, if $|i| = n$ and $i[n] = j$, then $\sigma_i = \sigma_{j-} - \log r_j(i-)$. An illustration of this process and its encoding of the random self-similar measure is given in Figure 1.

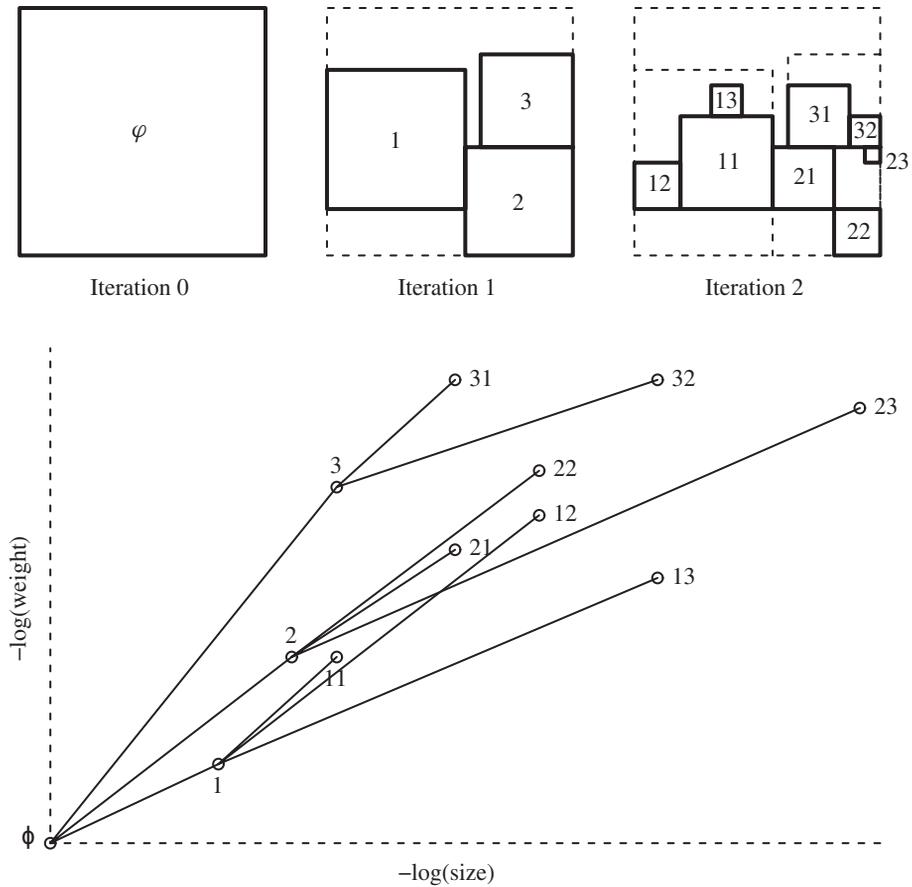


FIGURE 1: At the top we have three iterations in the realisation of a random fractal construction, with components indexed using our tree notation. Here the set ϕ corresponds to K , the set 1 to $K_1 = S_1(K)$, and so on. At the bottom we have the corresponding general branching random walk, where sets in iteration k correspond to individuals in generation k . The birth time of an individual (along the x -axis) is $-\log$ of the diameter of the set, and the birth position is $-\log$ of the weight of the set. An infinite line of descent in the BRW corresponds to a point in the limiting fractal set, and (formally) the asymptotic slope of the trajectory gives the local dimension at that point. It is possible for a point in the fractal to have more than one corresponding line of descent (such points lie on the boundary of two or more sets, for example, K_{11} and K_{21} above). These points are the principle difficulty faced in computing a lower bound for the multifractal spectrum; however, in Section 7 we show that in fact they do not contribute at all.

In the course of the main proofs, estimates will be needed of several quantities with the general form $E \sum_{i \in \mathcal{Q}} e^{-qz_i - \gamma \sigma_i} W_i^q$ for various sets of individuals \mathcal{Q} . In this section we develop these estimates, by drawing on branching process theory. It is worth pointing out that the full strength of that theory, as exhibited in the convergence results in [28], is not employed. The calculations are eased by introducing an auxiliary probability measure, \tilde{P} , which is done next. Its importance arises from the simple and well-known lemma following the definition. A first application of this lemma is then given.

Definition 4.1. When q and β are such that

$$m(q, \beta) = \mathbb{E} \sum_{i \in T_1} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} \leq 1, \tag{4.1}$$

define the probability measure $\eta = \eta_{q,\beta}$ by

$$\eta(A) = \mathbb{E} \sum_{i \in T_1} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} I((z_i, \sigma_i) \in A)$$

for any Borel set $A \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\eta(\infty, \infty) = 1 - \eta(\mathbb{R}^2)$. Hence, η is a probability measure on \mathbb{R}^2 when $m(q, \beta) = 1$. Let (R_n, S_n) denote the random walk with independent identical increments chosen according to η with initial state $(R_0, S_0) = (0, 0)$. We use $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ for the expectation and probability of this random walk. Note that $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}(S_1 > 0) = 1$, because $\sigma_i = -\log r_i > 0$ for any $i \in T_1$.

Lemma 4.1. For (q, β) satisfying (4.1) and any positive function g , with $g(\infty) = 0$ in the case when $m(q, \beta) < 1$,

$$\mathbb{E} \sum_{i \in T_n} p_i^q r_i^\beta g(-\log r_i) = \mathbb{E} \sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} g(\sigma_i) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}g(S_n).$$

Proof. The proof can be found in, for example, [9, Lemma 4.1]: the case where $m(q, \beta) < 1$ is just a minor reformulation.

Lemma 4.2. If $m(q, \beta) \leq 1$ then, for $\epsilon > 0$, $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}e^{-\epsilon S_1} < 1$ and

$$\mathbb{E} \sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} e^{-\epsilon\sigma_i} W_i^q = (\tilde{\mathbb{E}}e^{-\epsilon S_1})^n \mathbb{E}W^q.$$

Proof. Note first that $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}e^{-\epsilon S_1} < 1$, since $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}(S_1 > 0) = 1$. Also, using Lemma 4.1 for the second equality,

$$\mathbb{E}\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} e^{-\epsilon\sigma_i} W_i^q \middle| \mathcal{B}_n \right] = (\mathbb{E}W^q)\mathbb{E} \sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} e^{-\epsilon\sigma_i} = (\mathbb{E}W^q)\tilde{\mathbb{E}}e^{-\epsilon S_n},$$

which gives the result.

Suppose that $\psi : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, so ψ is a function from \mathbb{R} to $[0, \infty)$ that is random, in the sense that it is defined on a random marked tree. Let Ψ be its expectation. Such a function is usually called a random characteristic in the branching process literature. Let ψ_i be the corresponding function defined on the subtree rooted at i . Recall that \mathcal{B}_1 is the σ -algebra containing all information on the life story of the initial ancestor and that \mathcal{B}_n is the information on the life histories of the first $n - 1$ generations. The remaining estimates use the idea of a random characteristic and rely on renewal theory applied to (S_n) . The key result is given next. The defective case, which is easier, could be discussed separately—to encompass it here, define $\Psi(-\infty) = 0$.

Lemma 4.3. Assume that $m(q, \beta) \leq 1$ and that

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \sup\{\Psi(t) : n \leq t < n + 1\} < \infty. \tag{4.2}$$

Then there is a finite C such that, for all $t > 0$,

$$E \sum_n \sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} \psi_i(t - \sigma_i) \leq C.$$

Proof. Note first, again using Lemma 4.1 for the second equality, that

$$E \sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} \psi_i(t - \sigma_i) = E \sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} \Psi(t - \sigma_i) = \tilde{E} \Psi(t - S_n).$$

Thus, with U the renewal measure associated with (S_n) ,

$$E \sum_n \sum_{i \in T_n} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} \psi_i(t - \sigma_i) = \int \Psi(t - \sigma) U(d\sigma),$$

which is bounded when (4.2) holds by the renewal theorem.

We will need to consider certain special sets of nodes which we now introduce. Recall that $i-$ is the parent of i , and let

$$\mathcal{C}(t) = \{i \in I : \sigma_{i-} \leq t < \sigma_i\}.$$

The collection $\mathcal{C}(t)$ is critical in the study of general branching process [18], [28], and is often called the coming generation at time t in that literature.

Lemma 4.4. *If $m(q, \beta) \leq 1$, $\beta > 0$, and*

$$E \sum_{i \in T_1} e^{-qz_i} < \infty,$$

then there is a finite C such that, for all $t > 0$,

$$E e^{-\beta t} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}(t)} e^{-qz_i} W_i^q \leq CEW^q.$$

Proof. Assume that $EW^q < \infty$. Let

$$\psi(t) = e^{-\beta t} \sum_j e^{-qz_j} W_j^q I(0 \leq t < \sigma_j).$$

Then it is straightforward to check that

$$\sum_{i \in T} e^{-qz_i - \beta\sigma_i} \psi_i(t - \sigma_i) = e^{-\beta t} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}(t)} e^{-qz_i} W_i^q.$$

Furthermore, because $\beta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_n \sup_{n \leq t < n+1} \Psi(t) &\leq E \sum_j e^{-qz_j} W_j^q \sum_n \sup_{n \leq t < n+1} e^{-\beta t} I(0 \leq t < \sigma_j) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\beta}} E \sum_j e^{-qz_j} EW^q, \end{aligned}$$

which is finite by assumption. Now, Lemma 4.3 gives the result.

We need another collection of individuals: let $\mathcal{J}(t)$ be the first in their line of descent with a child in $\mathcal{C}(t)$. This is the ‘lower boundary’ of the set of parents of those in $\mathcal{C}(t)$. More formally, let $L_i = \max\{\sigma_{ij} - \sigma_i : j\}$, which is the age of i at the birth of her last child. Now let

$$\mathcal{J}(t) = \{i : \sigma_i + L_i > t \text{ and } \sigma_j + L_j \leq t \text{ for all } j < i\}, \tag{4.3}$$

so that, in particular, $\mathcal{J}(t)$ is just the initial ancestor for $0 \leq t < L_\emptyset$. Before giving the main lemma, we need a preparatory lemma that simplifies moment conditions.

Lemma 4.5. *For $q \geq 1$ and a positive function g , $\text{Eg}(L)W^q$ is finite when $\text{E}W^q < \infty$ and*

$$\text{E} \left[g(L) \left(\sum_j e^{-z_j} \right)^q \right] < \infty. \tag{4.4}$$

Proof. Rewriting, using (2.1),

$$g(L)W^q = g(L) \left(\sum_j e^{-z_j} W_j \right)^q,$$

where, given \mathcal{B}_1 , the W_j are independent and distributed as W . Now, by a variation on Rosenthal’s inequality [20, Corollary 3], and then the fact that $\text{E}W = 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E} \left[\left(\sum_j e^{-z_j} W_j \right)^q \mid \mathcal{B}_1 \right] &\leq C \max \left\{ \left(\sum_j e^{-z_j} \text{E}W \right)^q, \left(\sum_j e^{-qz_j} \right) \text{E}W^q \right\} \\ &\leq C \left(\sum_j e^{-z_j} \right)^q \text{E}W^q. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\text{Eg}(L)W^q \leq C \text{E} \left[g(L) \left(\sum_j e^{-z_j} \right)^q \right] \text{E}W^q,$$

which is finite under the assumptions.

Lemma 4.6. *Assume that $m(q, \beta) \leq 1$ and $q > 1$. Then, if $\gamma - \beta > 0$ and (4.4) holds with $g(x) = e^{(\gamma-\beta)x}$, there is a finite C such that, for all $t > 0$,*

$$\text{E}e^{(\gamma-\beta)t} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}(t)} e^{-qz_j - \gamma\sigma_j} W_j^q \leq C \text{E}W^q.$$

Proof. Note that

$$\mathcal{J}(t) \subset \mathcal{P}(t) = \{i : \sigma_i \leq t < \sigma_i + L_i\},$$

where $\mathcal{P}(t)$ is just the set of parents of $\mathcal{C}(t)$. Hence, it is sufficient, and less complicated, to bound

$$\text{E}e^{(\gamma-\beta)t} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{P}(t)} e^{-qz_j - \gamma\sigma_j} W_j^q.$$

We can assume that $\text{E}W^q < \infty$, for the result is obviously true otherwise. Let

$$\psi(t) = e^{(\gamma-\beta)t} W^q I(0 \leq t < L).$$

A straightforward calculation shows that

$$\sum_{j \in T} e^{-qz_j - \beta \sigma_j} \psi_j(t - \sigma_j) = e^{(\gamma - \beta)t} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{P}(t)} e^{-qz_j - \gamma \sigma_j} W_j^q.$$

Using $\Psi(t) = 0$ for all $t \leq 0$ and $\gamma - \beta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \sup_{n \leq t < n+1} \Psi(t) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sup_{n \leq t < n+1} \Psi(t) \\ &\leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E} \left[W^q \sup_{n \leq t < n+1} \{e^{(\gamma - \beta)t} I(0 \leq t < L)\} \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E} [W^q e^{(\gamma - \beta)(n+1)} I(n < L)] \\ &\leq \frac{e^{2(\gamma - \beta)}}{e^{\gamma - \beta} - 1} \mathbb{E} W^q e^{(\gamma - \beta)L}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 4.5, this is finite. Hence, (4.2) holds and so Lemma 4.3 applies to give the result.

Note that, when $g(x) = e^{(\gamma - \beta)x}$ with $\gamma - \beta > 0$, (4.4) can hold only if $L = L_\infty$ is always finite, which implies that $P(N < \infty) = 1$.

5. Upper bound on $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$

Lemma 2.4 bounds $\mu_\pi(B)$ using T_n . The next lemma provides a couple of variants of this bound, using $\mathcal{C}(t)$ and $\mathcal{J}(t)$.

Lemma 5.1. *We have*

$$\mu_\pi(B) \leq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}(t)} p_j W_j I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset), \quad \mu_\pi(B) \leq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}(t)} p_j W_j I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset).$$

Proof. Much as the proof of Lemma 2.4,

$$\mu_\pi(B) \leq \sum_{|j| \leq l, j \in \mathcal{C}(t)} \mu(C_j) I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset) + \sum_{j \in T_l, \sigma_j \leq t} \mu(C_j) I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset),$$

but, by Lemma 2.1, $\inf\{\sigma_j : j \in T_l\}$ goes to ∞ with l (P-a.s.) and so the second sum here is eventually empty. Similarly,

$$\mu_\pi(B) \leq \sum_{|j| \leq l, j \in \mathcal{J}(t)} \mu(C_j) I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset) + \sum_{j \in T_l, j < \mathcal{J}(t)} \mu(C_j) I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset)$$

and

$$\{j < \mathcal{J}(t) : j \in T_l\} \subset \{(\sigma_j + L_j) \leq t : j \in T_l\} \subset \{\sigma_j \leq t : j \in T_l\},$$

and, by Lemma 2.1 again, the final set is eventually empty for large l .

We now state four upper-bound lemmas (that between them cover all cases) and the upper bound that results from combining them before giving the proofs of these lemmas. The open set

condition and that K has a γ -boundary are needed only in the fourth of the lemmas, Lemma 5.5, where $q > 1$. The basic idea is to fix on a (q, β) such that $m(q, \beta) \leq 1$ and use this to bound the Hausdorff dimension of F_α for any α . Then we can vary (q, β) to produce the best bound for $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$ these results entail. It will be useful to work with some sets that contain F_α but have some monotonicity in α . Let

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{F}_\alpha &= \left\{ x \in F : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu_\pi(B(x; r))}{\log r} \geq \alpha \right\}, \\ \overline{F}_\alpha &= \left\{ x \in F : \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu_\pi(B(x; r))}{\log r} \leq \alpha \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 5.2. *Suppose that Assumption A holds. Let $q \leq 0$. Suppose that*

$$(q, \beta) \text{ are such that } m(q, \beta) = \mathbb{E} \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta \leq 1 \tag{5.1}$$

and

$$\mathbb{E} W^q < \infty. \tag{5.2}$$

Then $\dim_H(\underline{F}_\alpha) \leq q\alpha + \beta$ a.s. when $q\alpha + \beta \geq 0$, and $\underline{F}_\alpha = \emptyset$ a.s. when $q\alpha + \beta < 0$.

Lemma 5.3. (cf. Theorem 1.3 of [27].) *When Assumption A(iii) holds, $\dim_H(F) \leq \beta(0)$.*

Lemma 5.4. *Suppose that Assumption A holds. Let $0 < q \leq 1$. Suppose that (5.1) holds and*

$$m(q, 0) = \mathbb{E} \sum_i p_i^q < \infty. \tag{5.3}$$

Then $\dim_H(\overline{F}_\alpha) \leq q\alpha + \beta$ a.s. when $q\alpha + \beta \geq 0$, and $\overline{F}_\alpha = \emptyset$ a.s. when $q\alpha + \beta < 0$.

Lemma 5.5. *Suppose that Assumption A holds. Let $q > 1$. Suppose that (5.1) and (5.2) hold. Suppose also that the open set condition holds, that K has a γ -boundary, and*

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\min_i r_i \right)^{\beta-\gamma} \left(\sum_i p_i \right)^q \right] < \infty. \tag{5.4}$$

Then $\dim_H(\overline{F}_\alpha) \leq q\alpha + \beta$ a.s. when $q\alpha + \beta \geq 0$, and $\overline{F}_\alpha = \emptyset$ a.s. when $q\alpha + \beta < 0$.

Later, in Section 9, conditions for (5.2) are discussed. It is worth noting that (5.4) is a strengthening of part of the condition (9.1) needed to give (5.2) when $q > 1$.

These four lemmas combine to give the next two propositions, which are just the upper bound in Theorem 3.1, with a couple of the conditions moved to where they bite. It focuses on a single α and, effectively, takes the (q, β) to make $q\alpha + \beta$ as small as it can to be consistent with $m(q, \beta) \leq 1$. In the excluded case, where (D_L, D_U) is empty, by Lemma 3.2(v), there is a γ such that $\beta^*(a) = -\infty$ unless $a = \gamma$ when $\beta^*(\gamma) = \gamma$ and then F_α is empty unless $a = \gamma$ and $\dim_H(F_\gamma) \leq \dim_H(F) \leq \gamma$.

Proposition 5.1. *Suppose that Assumption A holds. Let $\alpha \in (D_L, D_U)$, with $q = \tilde{q}(\alpha)$ and $\beta = \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha))$ as in Lemma 3.2(vi). Assume that (5.2) holds. If $0 < \tilde{q}(\alpha) \leq 1$, assume that (5.3) holds. If $\tilde{q}(\alpha) > 1$, assume that the open set condition holds, that K has a γ -boundary, and that (5.4) holds. Then, if $\beta^*(\alpha) \geq 0$, $\dim_H(F_\alpha) \leq \beta^*(\alpha)$, P-a.s.*

Proof. By Lemma 3.2(vi), $\beta^*(\alpha) = \alpha\tilde{q}(\alpha) + \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)) = \alpha q + \beta$ and, by Lemma 3.2(iv), $m(\tilde{q}(\alpha), \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha))) \leq 1$. The rest of the conditions ensure that the appropriate one of the four lemmas applies.

Proposition 5.2. *Under the same conditions as Proposition 5.1, if $\beta^*(\alpha) < 0$ then (a.s.), when $\alpha < \alpha^\circ$, $F_\beta = \emptyset$ for all $\beta \leq \alpha$, and when $\alpha^\circ < \infty$ and $\alpha > \alpha^\circ$, $F_\beta = \emptyset$ for all $\beta \geq \alpha$.*

Proof. For $\beta < \alpha$, $F_\beta \subset \overline{F_\beta} \subset \overline{F_\alpha}$. For $\alpha < \alpha^\circ$, $\tilde{q}(\alpha) > 0$ and then Lemmas 5.4 and 5.5 imply that $\overline{F_\alpha} = \emptyset$. Similarly, for $\alpha > \alpha^\circ$, $\tilde{q}(\alpha) < 0$, Lemma 5.2 implies that $\underline{F_\alpha} = \emptyset$ and, for $\beta > \alpha$, $F_\beta \subset \underline{F_\beta} \subset \underline{F_\alpha}$.

Our approach to all four proofs has similarities to that employed in [2, Lemma 4.2]. Let $\mathcal{H}^d(A)$ be the Hausdorff d -dimensional measure of the set A , and let

$$\mathcal{H}_\delta^\kappa(A) = \inf \left\{ \sum_i |B_i|^\kappa : A \subset \bigcup_i B_i, |B_i| \leq \delta \right\},$$

where the B_i are balls. Then

$$\mathcal{H}^\kappa(A) = \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \mathcal{H}_\delta^\kappa(A) \quad \text{and} \quad \dim_H(A) = \inf \{ \kappa : \mathcal{H}^\kappa(A) = 0 \}.$$

Proof of Lemma 5.2. Let

$$r(k) = \sup \{ r_{i|n} : n \geq k, \mathbf{i} \in \partial T \},$$

which goes to 0 as k goes to ∞ by Lemma 2.1. For each $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$, $c > 1$, and $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the collection

$$\mathcal{V}_{\epsilon,c,k} = \{ B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n}) : \mathbf{i} \in \partial T, n \geq k, \mu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n})) \leq (2cr_{i|n})^{(\alpha-\epsilon)} \}$$

is a Vitali class for $\underline{F_\alpha}$ (that is, a collection from which, for any $\delta > 0$, a covering can be selected with every member having diameter less than δ). By a Vitali covering lemma, a collection of disjoint members of $\mathcal{V}_{\epsilon,c,k}$ can be selected such that, when their radii are multiplied by 5, they cover $\underline{F_\alpha}$. Let (B_i) be such a disjoint collection, which we call a Vitali collection. Then

$$\mathcal{H}_{5cr(k)}^\kappa(\underline{F_\alpha}) \leq 5^\kappa \sum_i |B_i|^\kappa. \tag{5.5}$$

The idea is to show that, for suitable κ , the right-hand side here is bounded a.s. by a variable going to 0 as $k \uparrow \infty$. Then $\dim_H(\underline{F_\alpha}) \leq \kappa$.

Since $c > 1$, $K_{i|n} \subset B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n})$, and then

$$\mu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n})) \geq \mu_\pi(K_{i|n}) \geq \mu(C_{i|n}) = p_{i|n} W_{i|n}.$$

Hence, for $B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n}) \in \mathcal{V}_{\epsilon,c,k}$ and $q \leq 0$,

$$|B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n})|^{(\alpha-\epsilon)q} = (2cr_{i|n})^{(\alpha-\epsilon)q} \leq \mu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n}))^q \leq (p_{i|n} W_{i|n})^q,$$

and so

$$|B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); cr_{i|n})|^{(\alpha-\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon} \leq (p_{i|n} W_{i|n})^q (2cr_{i|n})^{\beta+\epsilon}.$$

Then, using disjointness of the (B_i) to deduce that each term on the right-hand side occurs at most once,

$$\sum_i |B_i|^{(\alpha-\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon} \leq \sum_{n=k}^\infty \sum_{j \in T_n} (p_j W_j)^q (2cr_j)^{\beta+\epsilon}.$$

Let the expression on the right-hand side here be U_k ; it follows from Lemma 4.2 that this goes to 0 a.s. as $k \uparrow \infty$. Hence, using this and (5.5), $\mathcal{H}^{(\alpha-\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon}(\underline{F}_\alpha) = 0$, giving $\dim_H(\underline{F}_\alpha) \leq \alpha q + \beta$.

Now suppose that $q\alpha + \beta < 0$, so that, for suitably small $\epsilon > 0$, $\alpha q + \beta + \epsilon|q| + \epsilon < 0$. Taking a Vitalli collection from $\mathcal{V}_{\epsilon,c,k}$,

$$\sum_i |B_i|^{\alpha q + \beta + \epsilon|q| + \epsilon} \leq U_k \rightarrow 0$$

as $k \uparrow \infty$. Every term on the left-hand side exceeds $(2c)^{\alpha q + \beta + \epsilon|q| + \epsilon}$, and so, for large enough k , the sum must be empty. Thus, $\mathcal{V}_{\epsilon,c,k}$ must be empty, which implies that \underline{F}_α is empty.

Proof of Lemma 5.3. The collection

$$\mathcal{V}_k = \{B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); r_{i|n}) : \mathbf{i} \in \partial T, n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq k\}$$

is a Vitali class for F . Let (B_i) be a Vitali covering from \mathcal{V}_k . Take $\beta = \beta(0)$. Much as in the previous proof,

$$\sum_i |B_i|^{\beta+\epsilon} \leq \sum_{n=k}^\infty \sum_{j \in T_n} (2r_j)^{\beta+\epsilon},$$

and Lemma 4.2 applies to this with $q = 0$. The proof that $\dim_H(F) \leq \beta(0)$ now mimics that of $\dim_H(\underline{F}_\alpha) \leq \alpha q + \beta$ in Lemma 5.2.

Proof of Lemma 5.4. For each $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$, $\rho \in (0, 1)$, and $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the collection

$$\mathcal{V}'_{\epsilon,\rho,k} = \left\{ B\left(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \frac{\rho^n}{2}\right) : \mathbf{i} \in \partial T, n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq k, \rho^{n(\alpha+\epsilon)} \leq \mu_\pi\left(B\left(\pi(\mathbf{i})\frac{\rho^n}{2}\right)\right) \right\}$$

is a Vitali class for \overline{F}_α . Let $(B_{i,n})$ be a Vitali collection from $\mathcal{V}'_{\epsilon,\rho,k}$ in which $B_{i,n}$ has diameter ρ^n . Then

$$\mathcal{H}^K_{5\rho^k}(\overline{F}_\alpha) \leq 5^K \sum_{n=k}^\infty \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^K. \tag{5.6}$$

It will be convenient to let $\mathcal{C}_n = \mathcal{C}(-n \log \rho)$. Take $B \in \mathcal{V}'_{\epsilon,\rho,k}$. Since $0 < q \leq 1$, using Lemma 5.1,

$$\mu_\pi(B)^q \leq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}_n} (p_j W_j)^q I(B \cap K_j \neq \emptyset),$$

and so

$$|B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} = (\rho^{n(\alpha+\epsilon)})^q \leq \mu_\pi(B_{i,n})^q \leq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}_n} (p_j W_j)^q I(B_{i,n} \cap K_j \neq \emptyset).$$

Let n be the maximum number of disjoint balls of diameter greater than 1 that can overlap with K ; n is finite because K is bounded. Hence, for $j \in \mathcal{C}_n$, there are at most n disjoint balls of diameter ρ^n (in $\mathcal{V}'_{\epsilon,\rho,k}$) that overlap with K_j . Therefore,

$$\sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon} = \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} \rho^{n(\beta+\epsilon)} \leq \rho^{n\epsilon} n \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}_n} (p_j W_j)^q \rho^{n\beta},$$

and so

$$\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon} \leq n \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \rho^{n\epsilon} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}_n} (p_j W_j)^q \rho^{n\beta}. \tag{5.7}$$

Let U_k be defined such that the right-hand side of (5.7) is nU_k . Taking expectations, using Lemma 4.4, gives

$$EU_k = E \left[\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \rho^{n\epsilon} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}_n} (p_j W_j)^q \rho^{n\beta} \right] \leq CE[W^q] \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \rho^{n\epsilon} = \frac{CE[W^q] \rho^{k\epsilon}}{1 - \rho^\epsilon},$$

and so

$$U_k \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{a.s. as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

Hence, using this, (5.6), and (5.7), $\mathcal{H}^{(\alpha-\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon}(\overline{F_\alpha}) = 0$, giving $\dim_H(\overline{F_\alpha}) \leq \alpha q + \beta$. The argument is completed as in Lemma 5.2.

Proof of Lemma 5.5. Under the open set condition, a volume argument shows that there is a finite maximum number, \tilde{n} , of nonoverlapping sets of shape $\text{int}K$ and diameter greater than 1 that can intersect with the ball of diameter 1. This time the idea is to approximate the measure of balls with diameter ρ^n using sets K_j with diameter larger than ρ^n , but as little larger as possible. There can be no more than \tilde{n} such sets with disjoint interiors covering such a ball. This finite bound on the number of terms will allow the p th powers of sums to be bounded by the sum of p th powers.

Use the Vitali class $\mathcal{V}'_{\epsilon, \rho, k}$ for $\overline{F_\alpha}$ and select a Vitali collection $(B_{i,n})$ from it as in the proof of Lemma 5.4. Let $\mathcal{J}_n = \mathcal{J}(-n \log \rho)$, where \mathcal{J} was introduced in (4.3). In general, using Lemma 5.1,

$$|B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} \leq \mu_\pi(B_{i,n})^q \leq \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}_n} (p_j W_j) I(B_{i,n} \cap K_j \neq \emptyset) \right)^q.$$

There can be no more than \tilde{n} terms in the sum here and so

$$|B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} \leq \tilde{n}^{q-1} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}_n} p_j^q W_j^q I(B_{i,n} \cap K_j \neq \emptyset).$$

Let $\xi_{i,n,i}$ be the indicator that $B_{i,n} \subset \text{int}(K_i)$, and let

$$\xi'_{i,n} = 1 - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} \xi_{i,n,i},$$

which is the indicator that $B_{i,n}$ intersects with the boundary of K_i for some $i \in \mathcal{J}_n$. Then, for any κ ,

$$\sum_i |B_{i,n}|^\kappa = \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^\kappa \xi'_{i,n} + \sum_i \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} |B_{i,n}|^\kappa \xi_{i,n,i}.$$

The two parts here will be bounded separately.

Since K_j has diameter r_j , its boundary can overlap with at most $\hat{h}(r_j/\rho^n)$ disjoint balls of diameter ρ^n , where \hat{h} was introduced in Definition 3.1. Hence,

$$\sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} \xi'_{i,n} \leq \tilde{n}^{q-1} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}_n} p_j^q W_j^q \hat{h} \left(\frac{r_j}{\rho^n} \right).$$

Balls with $\xi_{i,n,i} = 1$ are all in $\text{int}(K_i)$ and are disjoint. Using this and Lemma 2.6, for a fixed i ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} \xi_{i,n,i} &\leq \sum_i \mu_\pi(B_{i,n})^q \xi_{i,n,i} \\ &\leq \left(\sum_i \mu_\pi(B_{i,n}) \xi_{i,n,i} \right)^q \\ &\leq (\mu_\pi(\text{int}(K_i)))^q \\ &\leq (p_i W_i)^q. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, since both \tilde{n}^{q-1} and $\hat{h}(x)$ always exceed 1,

$$\sum_i \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} \xi_{i,n,i} \leq \tilde{n}^{q-1} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} (p_i W_i)^q \hat{h}\left(\frac{r_j}{\rho^n}\right).$$

Therefore, combining these two estimates and using the bound on \hat{h} arising from K having a γ -boundary,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon} &= \rho^{n(\beta+\epsilon)} \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q} \\ &\leq 2\tilde{n}^{q-1} \rho^{n(\beta+\epsilon)} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}_n} p_j^q W_j^q \hat{h}\left(\frac{r_j}{\rho^n}\right) \\ &\leq C'' \rho^{n\epsilon} e^{(\gamma-\beta)(-n \log \rho)} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}_n} e^{-qz_j - \gamma\sigma_j} W_j^q, \end{aligned}$$

where C'' is independent of n . Now, using Lemma 4.6,

$$\sum_{n=k}^\infty \rho^{n\epsilon} \mathbb{E} e^{(\gamma-\beta)(-n \log \rho)} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}_n} e^{-qz_j - \gamma\sigma_j} W_j^q \leq \frac{CE[\overline{W}^q] \rho^{k\epsilon}}{1 - \rho^\epsilon},$$

and so if we let

$$U'_k = C'' \sum_{n=k}^\infty \rho^{n\epsilon} e^{(\gamma-\beta)(-n \log \rho)} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}_n} e^{-qz_j - \gamma\sigma_j} W_j^q$$

then $U'_k \rightarrow 0$ a.s. as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Finally, since the collection is from $\mathcal{V}'_{\epsilon, \rho, k}$,

$$\sum_n \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon} = \sum_{n=k}^\infty \sum_i |B_{i,n}|^{(\alpha+\epsilon)q+\beta+\epsilon} \leq U'_k,$$

and the proof is finished in the same way as in Lemmas 5.2 and 5.4.

6. Upper-bound theorem with a single null set

It is natural to want the null set to be independent of α . The next result gives some conditions for this. To state it, let (Γ_L, Γ_U) be the interior of the set where β^* is greater than 0. The proof is only sketched. It would be easy to give other formulations by considering a subset of the collection of values for α covered here. Before giving the result some further facts about β^* need to be recorded.

Lemma 6.1. *Make the same assumptions as in Lemma 3.2.*

- (i) (Γ_L, Γ_U) is nonempty when (D_L, D_U) is nonempty.
- (ii) $D_L = \text{ess inf}(\inf_i((\log p_i)/(\log r_i)))$, $D_U = \text{ess sup}(\sup_i((\log p_i)/(\log r_i)))$.
- (iii) If, for some $\epsilon > 0$, $(\Gamma_L - \epsilon, \Gamma_U + \epsilon) \subset (D_L, D_U)$ then $\beta^*(\Gamma_U) = \beta^*(\Gamma_L) = 0$, $\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U) \leq 0$, and $\tilde{q}(\Gamma_L) \geq 1$.
- (iv) Suppose that there is no constant γ such that $p_i r_i^{-\gamma} = 1$ for all i . Suppose too that, for every $q \in (q_1, q_2)$, m is finite in a neighbourhood of $(q, \beta(q))$. Then, on (q_1, q_2) , $m(q, \beta(q)) = 1$, β is strictly convex, $\beta'(q)$ is strictly increasing,

$$-\beta'(q) = \frac{P(q, \beta(q))}{R(q, \beta(q))} \in (-\infty, \infty),$$

and $\beta^*(-\beta'(q)) = -q\beta'(q) + \beta(q)$.

Proof. Lemma 3.2(vii) ensures that there is one point where β^* is greater than 0. Now the concavity of β^* gives this part.

Let $D = \text{ess inf} \inf_i((\log p_i)/(\log r_i))$. The result holds for the truncated process introduced in the proof of Lemma 3.2(v) (see [13, Proposition 3.3 II(b)]—the restriction there that $p_i \leq 1$ is not needed in the proof). Letting $c \rightarrow \infty$ gives $D_L \leq D$. For $\epsilon > 0$, $r_i^{(D-\epsilon)} > p_i$. Then, for $q > 0$,

$$m(q, -qD) = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^{-qD} < E \sum_i r_i^{-qD+q(D-\epsilon)} = E \sum_i r_i^{-q\epsilon} \rightarrow 0$$

as $q \rightarrow \infty$, so $\beta(q) \leq -qD$ for large positive q . Hence,

$$\beta^*(D - \epsilon) = \inf_q \{(D - \epsilon)q + \beta(q)\} \leq -\epsilon q$$

for large q , and this tends to $-\infty$. Consequently, $D_L \geq D$. The argument for D_U is similar.

Once $(\Gamma_L - \epsilon, \Gamma_U + \epsilon) \subset (D_L, D_U)$, (D_L, D_U) is nonempty, and β^* is continuous there, which forces $\beta^*(\Gamma_U) = \beta^*(\Gamma_L) = 0$. By parts (vi) and (vii) of Lemma 3.2, $\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U) \leq 0$. By parts (vi) and (viii) of Lemma 3.2, $\tilde{q}(\Gamma_L) \geq 1$.

If β is linear somewhere then, when it is, $1 = m(q, \beta(q)) = m(q, \gamma q + b) = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^{\gamma q + b}$, but this is possible only if $p_i r_i^\gamma = 1$ for all i , which has been ruled out. The rest is calculus.

Theorem 6.1. *Suppose that the open set condition and Assumption A hold, K has a γ -boundary, and (D_L, D_U) is not empty. Suppose that, for some $\delta > 0$, m is finite in a neighbourhood of $(q, \beta(q))$ for every $q \in (\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U) - \delta, \tilde{q}(\Gamma_L) + \delta)$. Assume that, for some $\epsilon > 0$,*

$$E[W^{\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U)-\epsilon} + W^{\tilde{q}(\Gamma_L)+\epsilon}] < \infty, \tag{6.1}$$

$$E\left[\sum_i p_i^{\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U)-\epsilon}\right] < \infty, \tag{6.2}$$

and

$$E\left[\left(\min_i r_i\right)^{-\tilde{q}(\Gamma_L)\Gamma_L-\gamma-\epsilon} \left(\sum_i p_i\right)^{\tilde{q}(\Gamma_L)+\epsilon}\right] < \infty. \tag{6.3}$$

Then, P-a.s., $\dim_H(F_\alpha) \leq \beta^*(\alpha)$ if $\beta^*(\alpha) \geq 0$ and $F_\alpha = \emptyset$ if $\beta^*(\alpha) < 0$.

Proof. Using Lemma 6.1(iv), for suitably small ε and ε' , $\alpha \in (\Gamma_L + \varepsilon, \Gamma_U - \varepsilon)$ has $\tilde{q}(\alpha) \in (\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U) - \varepsilon', \tilde{q}(\Gamma_L) + \varepsilon')$. Then (6.1) suffices to ensure that (5.2) holds for every $\tilde{q}(\alpha) \in (\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U) - \varepsilon', \tilde{q}(\Gamma_L) + \varepsilon')$. Similarly, (6.2) suffices for (5.3) for every $\tilde{q}(\alpha) \in (\tilde{q}(\Gamma_U) - \varepsilon', 1]$ and (6.3) suffices for (5.4) for every $\tilde{q}(\alpha) \in (1, \tilde{q}(\Gamma_L) + \varepsilon')$.

For $\alpha > \alpha^\circ$, $\tilde{q}(\alpha) < 0$ and, for $\alpha < \alpha^\circ$, $\tilde{q}(\alpha) > 0$. Now as in the proof of Proposition 5.2, for $\alpha > \gamma > \alpha^\circ$, $F_\alpha \subset \underline{F}_\alpha \subset \underline{F}_\gamma$. Similarly, for $\alpha < \gamma < \alpha^\circ$, $F_\alpha \subset \overline{F}_\alpha \subset \overline{F}_\gamma$. We can use a single null set in obtaining $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$ for rational values of α , and similarly for $\dim_H(\overline{F}_\alpha)$. Furthermore, β^* is continuous and so the remaining values are forced by these.

7. Partitioned self-similar measures

The results in this section will be important for establishing the lower bound on $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$. They also yield a proof of Theorem 2.2, which relates to the basic ‘fractal’ property of μ_π . Recall from Lemma 2.3 that $\mu_{\pi,i}(\cdot) = \mu_i((\pi_i^{-1}\cdot) \cap C_i)$, that these are, given \mathcal{B}_1 , independent copies of μ_π , and that (2.6) holds for any $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. We assume throughout this section that parts (i) and (ii) of Assumption B hold, so the corresponding measures ν and ν_π can be constructed, and that the open set condition holds.

7.1. Replacing $\text{int}K$ by U

Later, we will need to bound the measure of small balls around a point $\pi(i) \in F$ and so we need such small balls to be sandwiched by sets whose measure we can easily estimate. Roughly, when $\pi(i) \in \text{int}K$, we can use $\text{int}(K_{i|n})$ for suitable n , but when F is confined to the boundary of K , some additional manoeuvres are needed, drawing on, but modifying, ideas in [31]. These involve introducing new sets, U_i , with properties similar to the $\text{int}(K_i)$, but constructed so that $F \subset U$. When the strong open set condition holds, so that there is a positive probability that $F \cap \text{int}K$ is nonempty, we will see that there is no need to introduce these sets.

For $\delta > 0$, let the open set $K^{(\delta)}$ be given by $K^{(\delta)} = \bigcup_{x \in K} B(x; \delta)$. Fix $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$. For $i \in T$, let $G_i = S_i(K^{(2\epsilon)})$ and let

$$\mathcal{H}(i) = \{j : \sigma_j \leq \sigma_i, G_i \cap K_j \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Note that $\mathcal{H}(i)$ contains i and all its ancestors and that if $k \notin \mathcal{H}(i)$ then none of the descendants of k is in $\mathcal{H}(i)$ either. Now let

$$\mathcal{I}(i) = \{j : j \in \mathcal{H}(i) \text{ but } jk \notin \mathcal{H}(i) \text{ for all } jk \in T\},$$

so that $\mathcal{I}(i)$ contains those who are in $\mathcal{H}(i)$ but with no children in $\mathcal{H}(i)$ —they are last in their line of descent to be in $\mathcal{H}(i)$. Note that $i \in \mathcal{I}(i)$. Let M_i be the cardinality of $\mathcal{I}(i)$. Under the open set condition, a consideration of volumes shows that there is a finite maximum number, \hat{n} , of nonoverlapping sets of shape $\text{int}K$ and diameter greater than 1 that can intersect with $K^{(2\epsilon)}$. By arrangement, none of the members of $\mathcal{I}(i)$ is a descendant of any other and so the interiors of the sets indexed by $\mathcal{I}(i)$ do not overlap. Hence, rescaling by $(r_i)^{-1}$ shows that $M_i \leq \hat{n}$ for all $i \in T$. (A different definition for $\mathcal{I}(i)$ is used in [31], with its members drawn from $j \in \mathcal{C}(\sigma_i)$ —this works there because the r_i were assumed bounded away from 0 and so there is then a lower bound on the sizes of the sets indexed by $\mathcal{C}(\sigma_i)$ relative to that of G_i , allowing a volume argument to bound M_i .) Let M be the largest integer such that $q = P(M_i = M \text{ for no } i \in T)$ is strictly less than 1, so M is the essential supremum of the random variable $\sup_i M_i$.

These definitions carry over to the tree emanating from m . Let

$$\mathcal{H}_m(mi) = \{mj : \sigma_{mj} \leq \sigma_{mi}, G_{mi} \cap K_{mj} \neq \emptyset\},$$

which is the same as

$$\{mj : \sigma_{mj} - \sigma_m \leq \sigma_{mi} - \sigma_m, S_m^{-1}S_{mi}(K^{(2\epsilon)}) \cap S_m^{-1}S_{mj}(K) \neq \emptyset\},$$

and so is indeed \mathcal{H} on the tree with root m . Then $\mathcal{H}_m(mi) \subset \mathcal{H}(mi)$ and if $mj \in \mathcal{H}(mi)$ then $mj \in \mathcal{H}_m(mi)$. Now let

$$\mathcal{I}_m(mi) = \{j : j \in \mathcal{H}_m(mi) \text{ but } jk \notin \mathcal{H}_m(mi) \text{ for all } jk \in T\}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_m(mi) &= \{j : j \in \mathcal{H}_m(mi) \text{ but } jk \notin \mathcal{H}_m(mi) \text{ for all } jk \in T\} \\ &= \{j : j \in \mathcal{H}_m(mi) \text{ but } jk \notin \mathcal{H}(mi) \text{ for all } jk \in T\} \\ &\subset \{j : j \in \mathcal{H}(mi) \text{ but } jk \notin \mathcal{H}(mi) \text{ for all } jk \in T\} \\ &= \mathcal{I}(mi), \end{aligned}$$

and there must be equality here when $|\mathcal{I}_m(mi)| = M$. Therefore, when any subtree from a first generation person contains a ‘maximal’ node, so does the original tree. Hence, with q as defined earlier in this section, $q \leq Eq^N$, which forces $q = 0$. Also, when $M_i = M$, the tree emanating from i is independent of this information. Hence, the tree will contain nodes with $M_i = M$ in arbitrarily large generations. Order labels on a tree by generation and then lexicographically, so that the first node in the tree with a property can be sensibly identified.

Definition 7.1. Consider only the tree emanating from $i \in T$. Let $ik(i)$ be the first in this tree such that $|\mathcal{I}_i(ik(i))| = M$. Also, let $k^* = k(\emptyset)$.

Thus, $k(i)$ is such that there are M sets (with labels in $\mathcal{I}_i(ik(i))$) overlapping with $G_{ik(i)}$ in the tree emanating from i . Since $\mathcal{I}_i(ik(i)) \subset \mathcal{I}(ik(i))$ and the former has maximal cardinality, it must equal the latter. Therefore, all the K_j overlapping $G_{ik(i)}$ with labels in $\mathcal{I}(ik(i))$ must actually be in the tree emanating from i . The next lemma uses these $k(i)$ to construct the open set U that will ‘replace’ $\text{int}K$. This has similar properties to $\text{int}K$, except that the self-similar measure puts some weight on U , whereas it could be concentrated on the boundary of K , and U is random but $\text{int}K$ is not.

Lemma 7.1. Let

$$U_i = \bigcup_j S_{ijk(ij)}(K^{(\epsilon)}) \quad \text{and} \quad U = U_\emptyset.$$

Then U_i is open, $U_i \subset U_{i^-}$, $S_i^{-1}(U_i)$ has the same distribution as U , and $U_i \cap U_{i'} \neq \emptyset$ only when $i \leq i'$ or $i' \leq i$. Furthermore,

$$K_{ik(i)} \subset S_{ik(i)}(K^{(\epsilon)}) \subset U_i$$

and $P(F \cap U \neq \emptyset) = 1$.

Proof. The first three assertions are immediate. Suppose that $y \in U_i \cap U_{i'}$, so there are ij and $i'j'$ such that

$$y \in S_{ijk(ij)}(K^{(\epsilon)}) \cap S_{i'j'k(i'j')}(K^{(\epsilon)}).$$

Let $l = ijk(ij)$ and $l' = i'j'k(i'j')$. Say $\sigma_l \leq \sigma_{l'}$, or, equivalently, $r_l \geq r_{l'}$. The idea is to show that $ij \leq l' = i'j'k(i'j')$, which implies that either $i \leq i'$ or $i' \leq i$.

There is $y_1 \in S_l(K)$ with $|y_1 - y| < r_l\epsilon$ and $y_2 \in S_{l'}(K) = K_{l'}$ with $|y_2 - y| < r_{l'}\epsilon$. Hence, $|y_1 - y_2| < 2r_l\epsilon$. Therefore,

$$y_2 \in (S_l(K))^{(2r_l\epsilon)} \cap K_{l'} = S_l(K^{(2\epsilon)}) \cap K_{l'} = G_l \cap K_{l'},$$

and so $G_l \cap K_{l'}$ is nonempty. Then, since $\sigma_l \leq \sigma_{l'}$, some ancestor of l' is in $\mathcal{I}(l)$ and, therefore (from the definition of $k(\cdot)$), must be in $\mathcal{I}_{ij}(l)$ and, hence, in the tree emanating from ij . Thus, $ij \leq l' = i'j'k(i'j')$, giving the result.

The final assertions follow directly from the definitions and noting that $F \cap K_{k(\emptyset)} \neq \emptyset$.

7.2. Estimates of the measure

When we come to estimate the measures of open balls, we need an upper bound on the measure of the open set that contains them, which may be U or $\text{int}K$ depending on the formulation. The next two lemmas provide these. Recall that μ_π is a particular case of ν_π , so the second part in the first lemma is just for emphasis and Lemma 2.6 is a special case of the second one.

Lemma 7.2. *We have $\nu_\pi(U_i) \leq y_i Y_i$. In particular, $\mu_\pi(U_i) \leq p_i W_i$.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{K}(i; s) = \{j : \sigma_{ijk(ij)} \leq s\}$. Now truncate U_i by letting

$$U_i(s) = \bigcup_{j \in \mathcal{K}(i; s)} S_{ijk(ij)}(K^{(\epsilon)}).$$

Then, for any n , as in (2.7),

$$\nu_\pi(U_i(s)) \leq \sum_{j \in T_n} y_j Y_j I(U_i(s) \cap K_j \neq \emptyset).$$

By Lemma 2.1, there is an $n' \geq |i|$ such that $\inf\{\sigma_k : k \in T_n\} > s$ for all $n \geq n'$. Take $n \geq n'$. Suppose that $y \in U_i(s) \cap K_j$. Then there is $l' = i'j'k(i'j')$, necessarily with $\sigma_{l'} \leq s < \sigma_j$, and with

$$y \in S_{l'}(K^{(\epsilon)}) \cap K_j.$$

Since $S_{l'}(K^{(\epsilon)}) \subset G_{l'}$, this implies that $G_{l'} \cap K_j \neq \emptyset$. Since $\sigma_{l'} \leq \sigma_j$, some ancestor of j is in $\mathcal{I}(l')$, and, therefore (from the definition of $k(\cdot)$), must be in the tree emanating from $i'j'$, and, hence, from i . Hence, for all $n \geq n'$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j \in T_n} y_j Y_j I(U_i(s) \cap K_j \neq \emptyset) &= \sum_{\{j : ij \in T_n\}} y_{ij} Y_{ij} I(U_i(s) \cap K_{ij} \neq \emptyset) \\ &\leq \sum_{\{j : ij \in T_n\}} y_{ij} Y_{ij} \\ &= y_i Y_i, \end{aligned}$$

using (3.3). This shows that $\nu_\pi(U_i(s)) \leq y_i Y_i$ for any s , and upon letting $s \uparrow \infty$, monotone convergence gives $\nu_\pi(U_i) \leq y_i Y_i$.

Lemma 7.3. *We have $\nu_\pi(\text{int}(K_i)) \leq y_i Y_i$.*

Proof. The proof is the same as Lemma 2.6, but with $y_j Y_j$ in place of $p_j W_j$.

7.3. Self-similar measures partition

Let $\mathcal{D}(\cdot, \cdot)$ give the shortest distance between its two arguments. Take $V = U$. If $P(F \cap \text{int}K = \emptyset) < 1$, we can instead take $V = \text{int}K$. Most arguments are unchanged; those that are not are indicated.

Recall, from Section 2, that, for $i \in \partial T$, K_i is another notation for $\pi(i)$ and that V^c is the complement of V . For $i \in T \cup \partial T$, let

$$\Delta_i = -\log(\mathcal{D}(K_i, V^c)), \tag{7.1}$$

and, for $i \in T$ and $j \in T \cup \partial T$, let

$$\Delta_{ij}^i = -\log\left(\frac{\mathcal{D}(K_{ij}, V_i^c)}{r_i}\right) = -\log \mathcal{D}(K_{ij}, V_i^c) - \sigma_i, \tag{7.2}$$

which, given the information up to generation $|i|$, has the same distribution as Δ_j . The basic idea is to show that $\Delta: \partial T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is usually not large, where ‘usually’ is with respect to the measure ν , or μ , on ∂T . It is worth noting that the random variable Δ_i depends, through U , on a random portion of the tree, and not just on the tree up to generation $|i|$. This difficulty is absent when $V = \text{int}K$.

Lemma 7.4. *For any $i \in T$, $j \in T \cup \partial T$, and c ,*

$$I(\Delta_{ij} > \sigma_{ij} + c) \leq I(\Delta_i > \sigma_i + c)I(\Delta_{ij}^i > \sigma_{ij} - \sigma_i + c).$$

Proof. Since $K_{ij} \subset K_i$, $\Delta_{ij} \leq \Delta_i$ and, since $V_i \subset V$,

$$\Delta_{ij} = -\log(\mathcal{D}(S_{ij}K, V^c)) \leq -\log(\mathcal{D}(S_{ij}K, V_i^c)) = \Delta_{ij}^i + \sigma_i.$$

Hence,

$$I(\Delta_{ij} > \sigma_{ij} + c) \leq I(\Delta_i > \sigma_{ij} + c)I(\Delta_{ij}^i > \sigma_{ij} - \sigma_i + c)$$

and $\sigma_{ij} \geq \sigma_i$.

Now certain indicator variables are introduced. These are defined differently depending on whether V is U or $\text{int}K$, but have the same relevant properties. Both depend on an integer r and a suitable $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$.

When $V = U$, the definition of U (or, more precisely, G_i) supplies the ϵ . Let

$$\kappa(\mathbf{k}) = \sup\{|\mathbf{i}| : \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{C}(\sigma_{\mathbf{k}})\} = \sup\{|\mathbf{i}| : \sigma_{i-} \leq \sigma_{\mathbf{k}} < \sigma_i\},$$

which is finite, by Lemma 2.1, and at least $|\mathbf{k}| + 1$. Recall that $\mathbf{k}^* = \mathbf{k}(\emptyset)$ was introduced in Definition 7.1. Let r be sufficiently large that, with positive probability, $\kappa(\mathbf{k}^*) \leq r$, and, for $i \in T_r$, let

$$\xi_i = 1 - I(\kappa(\mathbf{k}^*) \leq r, \mathbf{k}^* \leq i),$$

so there is a positive probability that at least one of these is 0. For \mathbf{k} with $|\mathbf{k}| \leq r - 1$, $I(\kappa(\mathbf{k}) \leq r)$ is known given \mathcal{B}_r . Then $I(M_{\mathbf{k}} = M)$ is also known, since all those born before $\sigma_{\mathbf{k}}$ are in generations up to $r - 1$. Hence, ξ_i is not random given \mathcal{B}_r . (Note that this need not be so if ‘ $\kappa(\mathbf{k}^*) \leq r$ ’ is omitted.)

When $P(F \cap \text{int}K \neq \emptyset) > 0$ (and $V = \text{int}K$), choose r large enough that

$$P(K_i \subset \text{int}K \neq \emptyset \text{ for some } i \in T_r) > 0.$$

Now choose $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ and small enough that there is a positive probability that at least one of the variables defined for $i \in T_r$ by $\xi_i = I(\mathcal{D}(K_i, (\text{int}K)^c) < r_i\epsilon)$ is 0. Note that $\xi_i = I(\Delta_i > \sigma_i - \log \epsilon)$.

In both cases we may now define $c^* = -\log \epsilon \in (0, \infty)$ and γ by

$$E\left[\sum_{i \in T_r} y_i \xi_i\right] = \gamma^r.$$

Then $\gamma < 1$ because $E[\sum_{i \in T_r} y_i] = 1$.

Lemma 7.5. *For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,*

$$E\left[\sum_{j \in T_n} y_j I(\Delta_j > \sigma_j + c^*)\right] \leq \gamma^{n-r}.$$

Proof. Let

$$\chi_i = I(\Delta_i > \sigma_i + c^*) \quad \text{and} \quad \chi_{ij}^i = I(\Delta_{ij}^i > \sigma_{ij} - \sigma_i + c^*).$$

Then, by Lemma 7.4, $\chi_{ij} \leq \chi_i \chi_{ij}^i$ so that

$$\sum_{ij \in T_{n+r}} y_{ij} \chi_{ij} \leq \sum_{i \in T_r} y_i \chi_i \left(\sum_{\{j: ij \in T_{n+r}\}} \frac{y_{ij}}{y_i} \chi_{ij}^i \right).$$

Note that $\{y_i \chi_i : |i| = r\}$ are not necessarily known when given \mathcal{B}_r . However, as we shall see, $\chi_i \leq \xi_i$. Hence,

$$\sum_{ij \in T_{n+r}} y_{ij} \chi_{ij} \leq \sum_{i \in T_r} y_i \xi_i \left(\sum_{\{j: ij \in T_{n+r}\}} \frac{y_{ij}}{y_i} \chi_{ij}^i \right).$$

Now, given \mathcal{B}_r , each term in the brackets on the right-hand side is an independent copy of $\sum_{i \in T_n} y_i \chi_i$ and $\{y_i \xi_i : i \in T_r\}$ are known. Thus, taking expectations conditional on \mathcal{B}_r and then unconditionally,

$$E\left[\sum_{ij \in T_{n+r}} y_{ij} \chi_{ij}\right] \leq E\left[\sum_{i \in T_r} y_i \xi_i\right] E\left[\sum_{i \in T_n} y_i \chi_i\right] = \gamma^r E\left[\sum_{i \in T_n} y_i \chi_i\right].$$

The proof is finished by induction. It remains to show that, when ξ_i is 0, so is χ_i . When $V = \text{int}K$, by definition, ξ_i is the same as χ_i and there is nothing more to do. Turning to the other case, when $V = U$, take i with $\xi_i = 0$ so that, by definition, $k^* \leq i$. Then, by Lemma 7.4, $\chi_i \leq \chi_{k^*}$ for any $i \geq k^*$. Since $K_{k^*} \subset S_{k^*}(K^{(\epsilon)}) \subset V$,

$$\Delta_{k^*} = -\log \mathcal{D}(K_{k^*}, V^c) \leq -\log \mathcal{D}(K_{k^*}, (S_{k^*}(K^{(\epsilon)}))^c) \leq -\log(r_{k^*}\epsilon) = \sigma_{k^*} + c^*,$$

which means that $\chi_{k^*} = 0$. Hence, $\chi_i = 0$ as required.

Proposition 7.1. *We have $E\nu_\pi(V^c) = 0$ and $E\nu_\pi((\bigcup_{i \in T_1} V_i)^c) = 0$. Let*

$$F_* = \bigcap_n \left(\bigcup_{j \in T_n} V_j \right).$$

Then $E\nu_\pi(F_^c) = 0$ and so $E\nu_\pi((F \cap F_*)^c) = 0$. In particular, all these results hold for μ_π .*

Proof. Note that $\pi(j) \in V^c$ implies that $\Delta_{j|n} = \infty$ for every n . Hence,

$$E\nu_\pi(V^c) \leq E \sum_{i \in T_n} y_i Y_i I(\Delta_i = \infty) \leq E \left[\sum_{j \in T_n} y_j I(\Delta_j > \sigma_j + c^*) \right] \leq \gamma^{n-r} \rightarrow 0$$

using Lemma 7.5. Let ν_i be the copy of ν defined on the tree emanating from i . Then

$$\nu(A) = \sum_{i \in T_n} y_i \nu_i(A \cap C_i).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \nu \left(\left\{ i : \pi(i) \in \left(\bigcup_{j \in T_n} V_j \right)^c \right\} \right) &= \sum_{k \in T_n} y_k \nu_k \left(\left\{ i : \pi(i) \in \left(\bigcup_{j \in T_n} V_j \right)^c \right\} \cap C_k \right) \\ &\leq \sum_{k \in T_n} y_k \nu_k(\{i : \pi(i) \in V_k^c\} \cap C_k), \end{aligned}$$

and, given \mathcal{B}_n , each term on the right-hand side has expectation 0. Hence, taking $n = 1$ gives $E\nu_\pi((\cup_{i \in T_1} V_i)^c) = 0$ and, more generally,

$$E\nu_\pi \left(\left\{ \pi(i) \in \bigcup_n \left(\bigcup_{j \in T_n} V_j \right)^c \right\} \right) = 0,$$

which implies that $E\nu_\pi(F_*^c) = 0$. We already know that $\nu_\pi(F^c) = 0$, so $E\nu_\pi((F \cap F_*)^c) = 0$.

Proof of Theorem 2.2. The $\{V_j\}$ introduced above ($\{U_j\}$, or $\{\text{int}K_j\}$ when $P(F \cap \text{int}K \neq \emptyset) > 0$) are disjoint and, by Proposition 7.1, $E\mu_\pi((\cup_{i \in T_1} V_i)^c) = 0$. Also, for $i \neq j$, $S_i^{-1}V_i$ and $S_j^{-1}V_j$ are disjoint and so $S_i^{-1}V_j \subset (S_i^{-1}V_i)^c$. Applying Proposition 7.1 to $\mu_{\pi,i}$, $E\mu_{\pi,i}((S_i^{-1}V_i)^c) = 0$. Then, using decomposition (2.6), excluding a suitable P-null set,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_\pi(D) &= \mu_\pi \left(D \cap \left(\bigcup_{j \in T_1} V_j \right) \right) \\ &= \sum_i p_i \mu_{\pi,i} \left(S_i^{-1} \left(D \cap \left(\bigcup_{j \in T_1} V_j \right) \right) \right) \\ &= \sum_i p_i \mu_{\pi,i} \left(S_i^{-1} D \cap \left(\bigcup_{j \in T_1} S_i^{-1} V_j \right) \right) \\ &= \sum_i p_i \mu_{\pi,i} (S_i^{-1} D \cap S_i^{-1} V_i) \\ &= \sum_i p_i \mu_{\pi,i} (S_i^{-1} (D \cap V_i)), \end{aligned}$$

as required.

8. Lower bound on $\dim_H(F_\alpha)$

8.1. The result

The aim is to give conditions for the upper bound derived in Proposition 5.1 to be also a lower bound. When Assumption B holds, let α be given by $\alpha = P(q, \beta)/R(q, \beta)$, where P and R

are as in (3.1) and (3.2). Then the idea is to show that, under suitable weak moment conditions, $\dim_H(F_\alpha) \geq q\alpha + \beta$. The next lemma shows that this lower bound is indeed positive.

Lemma 8.1. *When Assumption B holds, $\beta^*(\alpha) = q\alpha + \beta > 0$ and in Lemma 3.2(vi) $\tilde{q}(\alpha) = q$ and $\beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)) = \beta$.*

Proof. Note first that

$$0 < E \left[- \sum y_i \log y_i \right] = -E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta (q \log p_i + \beta \log r_i) = qP + \beta R.$$

Hence, $(q\alpha + \beta)R > 0$, and so, since $R \in (0, \infty)$, $q\alpha + \beta > 0$. Lemma 3.2(viii) combines with Assumption B(i) to give $\beta^*(\alpha) = q\alpha + \beta$, $\tilde{q}(\alpha) = q$, and $\beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)) = \beta$.

When Assumption B holds, the measure ν has already been defined on ∂T through $\nu(C_i) = y_i Y_i$ and ν_π is its projection onto \mathbb{R}^d .

Proposition 8.1. *Suppose that Assumptions A and B and the open set condition hold. Suppose also that $EY \log_+ Y < \infty$ and that $EY | \log W| < \infty$. Then $\dim_H(F_\alpha) \geq \beta^*(\alpha)$ a.s.*

This result supplies the second half of Theorem 3.1. We have not obtained a more refined result of the null set here remaining the same as α varies. This is done for measures on ∂T in [3] under additional conditions. We tackle the lower bound using the following lemma, with ν_π as m and the set A given by $\pi(G^*)$, the projection of a suitable $G^* \subset \partial T$ into \mathbb{R}^d . Then we give a number of lemmas to break the main proof down into digestible chunks. The first few of these show that various relevant sets in ∂T have full measure under ν .

Lemma 8.2. (Theorem 4.9 of [12].) *Let m be a Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^d and A an m -measurable set with $m(A) > 0$. If, for all $x \in A$,*

$$\limsup_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{m(B(x; r))}{r^s} < \infty$$

then $\dim_H(A) \geq s$.

Lemma 8.3. *Let*

$$G_1 = \left\{ i \in \partial T : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log Y_{i|n}}{\log r_{i|n}} = 0 \right\}.$$

If $E[Y \log_+ Y] < \infty$ then $\nu(G_1) = \nu(\partial T)$, P-a.s.

Proof. Let

$$E_{\epsilon,k} = \left\{ i \in \partial T : \frac{|\log Y_{i|k}|}{-\log r_{i|k}} > \epsilon \right\}.$$

Then, for any $l \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\left\{ i \in \partial T : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\log Y_{i|n}|}{-\log r_{i|n}} > \epsilon \right\} \subset \bigcup_{k \geq l} E_{\epsilon,k}.$$

Hence, for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\nu \left\{ i \in \partial T : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\log Y_{i|n}|}{-\log r_{i|n}} > \epsilon \right\} \leq \lim_{l \uparrow \infty} \sum_{k \geq l} \nu(E_{\epsilon,k}). \tag{8.1}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} E[v(E_{\epsilon,n})] &= E\left[\sum_{i \in T_n} y_i Y_i I(|\log Y_i| > -\epsilon \log r_i)\right] \\ &= E\left[\sum_{i \in T_n} p_i^q r_i^\beta E[Y_i I(|\log Y_i| > -\epsilon \log r_i) \mid \mathcal{B}_n]\right] \\ &= \tilde{E}[EYI(|\log Y| > \epsilon S_n)], \end{aligned}$$

using Lemma 4.1. Recall that $U(t)$ is the renewal function for S_n , for which there is a constant C such that $U(t) \leq C(t + 1)$. Summing over n ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_n E[v(E_{\epsilon,n})] &= \sum_n \tilde{E}[EYI(|\log Y| > \epsilon S_n)] \\ &= E[YU(\epsilon^{-1}|\log Y|)] \\ &\leq CE[Y(1 + \epsilon^{-1}|\log Y|)], \end{aligned}$$

which is finite when $E[Y \log_+ Y] < \infty$. Hence, the right-hand side of (8.1) is 0 a.s.

Lemma 8.4. *Let*

$$G_2 = \left\{ i \in \partial T : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log W_{i|n}}{\log r_{i|n}} = 0 \right\}.$$

If $EY|\log W| < \infty$ then $\nu(G_2) = \nu(\partial T)$, P-a.s.

Proof. The proof is the same as the previous proof, but with $\log W$ in the place of $\log Y$.

In the same way, the following minor variant can be established. Using it in place of Lemma 8.4, it is possible to give lower bounds for $\dim_H(\overline{F_\alpha})$ when $q < 0$ and for $\dim_H(\overline{F_\alpha})$ when $q > 0$.

Lemma 8.5. *If $EY \log_+ W < \infty$,*

$$E\nu \left\{ i \in \partial T : \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log W_{i|n}}{\log r_{i|n}} < 0 \right\} = 0.$$

If $EY \log_+(1/W) < \infty$,

$$E\nu \left\{ i \in \partial T : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log W_{i|n}}{\log r_{i|n}} > 0 \right\} = 0.$$

Lemma 8.6. *Let*

$$G_3 = \left\{ i \in \partial T : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log r_{i|n}}{n} = E\left[\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta \log r_i\right] \right\}$$

and

$$G_4 = \left\{ i \in \partial T : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log p_{i|n}}{n} = E\left[\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta \log p_i\right] \right\}.$$

Then $\nu(G_3) = \nu(G_4) = \nu(\partial T)$, P-a.s. On $G_3 \cap G_4$, $\log p_{i|n}/\log r_{i|n} \rightarrow \alpha$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. This is a standard, using the strong law of large numbers for what is sometimes called the Peyrière measure: see, for example, the proofs of Lemma 11 of [25], Lemma 4.6 of [2], and Theorem 8 of [4]. It uses Assumption B(iii) and (iv).

The final result needed of this kind, which is stated next, concerns the variables Δ_{ji}^j introduced in (7.2). It seems possible that it can be proved by a suitable application of the ergodic theorem to the Peyrière measure, but we have not tried to do this. Before proving it a couple of additional lemmas are needed that concern Δ_i ($= \Delta_{\emptyset i}^{\emptyset}$) defined in (7.1). In the proofs c^* and γ are as defined just before Lemma 7.5.

Lemma 8.7. *Let*

$$G_5 = \left\{ \mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \frac{\Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k}}{k} \rightarrow 0 \right\}.$$

Then $\nu(G_5) = \nu(\partial T)$, P-a.s.

Lemma 8.8. *For large $C' > 0$,*

$$\sum_k \text{Ev}(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > kC'\}) < \infty.$$

Proof. First, with $C' = C + c^*$

$$\begin{aligned} \{\Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > kC'\} &\subset \{\Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > \sigma_{i|k} + c^*\} \cup \{\sigma_{i|k} + c^* > k(C + c^*)\} \\ &\subset \{\Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > \sigma_{i|k} + c^*\} \cup \{\sigma_{i|k} > kC\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\sum_k \text{Ev}(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \sigma_{i|k} > kC\}) = \sum_k \text{E} \sum_{j \in T_k} y_j Y_j I(\sigma_j > kC) = \sum_k \tilde{\text{P}}(S_k > kC),$$

which is finite when $C > \tilde{\text{E}}S_1$ and $\tilde{\text{E}}S_1^2 < \infty$, using a result of Hsu and Robbins [11, Corollary 2, Section 10.4]. Assumption B(iv) implies that $\tilde{\text{E}}S_1^2 < \infty$. Also, since $\Delta_{\mathbf{i}} \leq \Delta_{i|k}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_k \text{Ev}(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > \sigma_{i|k} + c^*\}) &\leq \sum_k \text{Ev}(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{i|k} > \sigma_{i|k} + c^*\}) \\ &= \sum_k \left[\sum_{j \in T_k} y_j Y_j I(\Delta_j > \sigma_j + c^*) \right] \\ &\leq \sum_k \gamma^{k-r}, \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 7.5. Combining these two bounds gives the result.

Lemma 8.9. *If $\text{E} \sum_k \nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > kC\})$ is finite for some $C > 0$ then it is finite for all $C \in (0, \infty)$.*

Proof. For any $C > 0$,

$$\int_{\partial T} \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} \nu(d\mathbf{i}) \leq C \sum_k \nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > kC\}) \leq \int_{\partial T} (\Delta_{\mathbf{i}} + C) \nu(d\mathbf{i}) = \int_{\partial T} \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} \nu(d\mathbf{i}) + CY.$$

Proof of Lemma 8.7. We have

$$\nu\left(\left\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k}}{k} > \epsilon\right\}\right) \leq \lim_{l \uparrow \infty} \sum_{k \geq l} \nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k} > k\epsilon\}).$$

Now

$$\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k} > k\epsilon\} = \{\mathbf{j} \in T_k, \mathbf{j}\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{j}\mathbf{i}}^j > k\epsilon\},$$

and, for $\mathbf{j} \in T_k$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\nu(\{\mathbf{j}\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{j}\mathbf{i}}^j > k\epsilon\}) \mid \mathcal{B}_k] &= y_{\mathbf{j}} \mathbb{E}[\nu_{\mathbf{j}}(\{\mathbf{j}\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{j}\mathbf{i}}^j > k\epsilon\})] \\ &= y_{\mathbf{j}} \mathbb{E}[\nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > k\epsilon\})]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\mathbb{E}[\nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k} > k\epsilon\}) \mid \mathcal{B}_k] = \sum_{\mathbf{j} \in T_k} y_{\mathbf{j}} \mathbb{E}[\nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > k\epsilon\})],$$

and so

$$\mathbb{E}[\nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k} > k\epsilon\})] = \mathbb{E}[\nu(\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \Delta_{\mathbf{i}} > k\epsilon\})].$$

By Lemmas 8.8 and 8.9, these have a finite sum over k . Hence, for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\mathbb{E}\nu\left(\left\{\mathbf{i} \in \partial T : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k}}{k} > \epsilon\right\}\right) = 0,$$

and so $\mathbb{E}\nu(\partial T \setminus G_5) = 0$.

Proof of Proposition 8.1. Combine the sets introduced in Lemmas 8.3, 8.4, 8.6, and 8.7 by letting $G^* = G_1 \cap G_2 \cap G_3 \cap G_4 \cap G_5$. For $\mathbf{i} \in G^*$ and $\varrho < \mathcal{D}(\pi(\mathbf{i}), V^c)$, let $k = k(\varrho)$ be the largest integer such that

$$\varrho < \mathcal{D}(\pi(\mathbf{i}), V_{i|k}^c) (= \exp(-\Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k} - \sigma_{i|k})).$$

Then

$$B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \varrho) \subset V_{i|k},$$

and so, using Lemma 7.2 or 7.3 as appropriate,

$$\nu_{\pi}(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \varrho)) \leq y_{i|k} Y_{i|k}. \tag{8.2}$$

Now, by arrangement (with $k = k(\varrho)$) we have

$$\Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|k} + \sigma_{i|k} < -\log \varrho \leq \Delta_{\mathbf{i}}^{i|(k+1)} + \sigma_{i|(k+1)}.$$

Since $\mathbf{i} \in G^* \subset G_3 \cap G_5$, Lemmas 8.6 and 8.7 give, as $\varrho \rightarrow 0$,

$$\frac{-\log \varrho}{k} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{E}}S_1 = -\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta \log r_i\right], \tag{8.3}$$

and so, using also Lemma 8.3 and $\mathbf{i} \in G^* \subset G_1 \cap G_3 \cap G_4 \cap G_5$,

$$\frac{q \log p_{i|k} + \beta \log r_{i|k} + \log Y_{i|k}}{\log \varrho} \rightarrow q\alpha + \beta \quad \text{as } \varrho \rightarrow 0.$$

Now substituting for $y_{i|k}$ into (8.2) gives

$$\frac{\nu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \varrho))}{\varrho^s} \leq \exp\left(\left(\frac{q \log p_{i|k} + \beta \log r_{i|k} + \log Y_{i|k}}{\log \varrho} - s\right) \log \varrho\right),$$

which is bounded as $\varrho \downarrow 0$ for $s < q\alpha + \beta$. Hence, Lemma 8.2 gives $\dim_H(\pi(G^*)) \geq q\alpha + \beta$ and Lemma 8.1 notes that $\alpha q + \beta = \beta^*(\alpha)$.

It remains to show that $\pi(G^*) \subset F_\alpha$. Let $r = r(\varrho)$ be the smallest integer such that $\varrho > \exp(-\sigma_{i|r})$. Then, with k as already defined,

$$K_{i|r} \subset B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \varrho) \subset V_{i|k},$$

so

$$\mu(C_{i|r}) \leq \mu_\pi(K_{i|r}) \leq \mu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \varrho)) \leq \mu_\pi(V_{i|k}),$$

which combines with Lemma 2.6 or 7.2 to give

$$\log p_{i|r} + \log W_{i|r} \leq \log \mu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \varrho)) \leq \log p_{i|k} + \log W_{i|k}. \tag{8.4}$$

Now, by arrangement we have

$$\sigma_{i|(r-1)} \leq -\log \varrho < \sigma_{i|r},$$

and so, since $\mathbf{i} \in G^* \subset G_3$, as $\varrho \rightarrow 0$,

$$\frac{-\log \varrho}{r} \rightarrow \tilde{E}S_1. \tag{8.5}$$

Dividing (8.4) through by $\log \varrho$ and letting $\varrho \downarrow 0$, using (8.3) and (8.5) and Lemmas 8.4 and 8.6,

$$\frac{\log \mu_\pi(B(\pi(\mathbf{i}); \varrho))}{\log \varrho} \rightarrow \alpha$$

for $\mathbf{i} \in G_2 \cap G_3 \cap G_4 \cap G_5$. Hence, $\pi(G^*) \subset F_\alpha$, as required.

9. Moments of W

The results impose moment conditions on W and Y (which is also a ‘ W ’). For applications, these need to be traced back to conditions on the scaling law. Since $EW = 1$, it is automatic that $EW^q < \infty$ for $0 \leq q \leq 1$. For the other cases, various suitable results are known. Typical results can be found in [3], [16], [23], and [24]. It is worth saying that, by formulating using point process language, several early relevant papers allowed $P(N = \infty) > 0$. We record several such results. Recall that (2.3) is in force throughout to ensure that $EW = 1$, and Assumption B(i) and (ii) play the same role for Y .

Lemma 9.1. (Proposition 4 of [16].) *For $q > 1$, EW^q is finite when*

$$E\left[\left(\sum p_i\right)^q\right] < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad m(q, 0) = E\left[\sum p_i^q\right] < 1. \tag{9.1}$$

Lemma 9.2. (Theorem 2.4 of [24].) *Assume that $P(1 \leq N < \infty) = 1$. For $q < 0$, EW^q is finite when, for some $\epsilon > 0$,*

$$E[(\max p_i)^{q-\epsilon}] < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad E[p_1^{q-\epsilon} I(N = 1)] < 1.$$

Lemma 9.3. (Page 28 of [6].) *It holds that $EW \log W$ is finite when*

$$E \left[\left(\sum p_i \right) \left(\log \left(\sum p_i \right) \right)^2 \right] < \infty.$$

Simplifications of Lemmas 9.1 and 9.2 are worth recording.

Lemma 9.4. *For $q > 1$, EW^q is finite when $p_i \in (0, 1)$ for all i and*

$$E \left[\left(\sum p_i \right)^q \right] < \infty.$$

Lemma 9.5. *For $q < 0$, EW^q is finite when, for some $\epsilon > 0$,*

$$m(q - \epsilon, 0) = E \left[\sum p_i^{q-\epsilon} \right] < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad E[p_1^{q-\epsilon} I(N = 1)] < 1.$$

Lemmas 9.1–9.5 cover the moment conditions needed on branching process limits (Y and W) in Theorem 3.1 except for (3.8). The following lemma brings this condition also into the range of those lemmas.

Lemma 9.6. *It holds that $EY | \log W|$ is finite whenever there is a $\delta > 0$ for which $EY^{1+\delta}$ and $EW^{-\delta}$ are both finite.*

Proof. Take $\delta < 1$. For any $\epsilon > 0$, there is a C such that

$$Y | \log W| \leq CY(W^\epsilon + W^{-\epsilon}),$$

and Hölder’s inequality gives

$$EYW^{-\epsilon} \leq (EY^{1+\delta})^{1/(1+\delta)} (EW^{-\epsilon(1+\delta)/\delta})^{\delta/(1+\delta)} \leq (EY^{1+\delta})^{1/(1+\delta)} (EW^{-\delta})^{\delta/(1+\delta)}$$

for small enough ϵ . Since EW^δ is always finite for $\delta \leq 1$, EYW^ϵ is bounded in the same way.

10. Simplifying conditions

Theorem 3.1 has a complex collection of conditions. Here we indicate some simpler sufficient ones.

Theorem 10.1. *Suppose that the open set condition and Assumption A both hold and that K has a γ -boundary. Suppose also that $m(q, \beta)$ is finite for all (q, β) . Let $\alpha \in (D_L, D_U)$, with $\tilde{q}(\alpha)$ and $\beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha))$ as in Lemma 3.2(vi). Assume that (3.4) holds and, if $\tilde{q}(\alpha) > 1$, assume that (3.6) holds. Then*

$$\dim_H(F_\alpha) \leq \beta^*(\alpha) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Furthermore, if $\beta^(\alpha) < 0$ then $F_\alpha = \emptyset$ a.s. When $\beta^*(\alpha) > 0$, Assumption B holds for $(\tilde{q}(\alpha), \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)))$. Suppose also that (3.7) and (3.8) hold. Then*

$$\dim_H(F_\alpha) = \beta^*(\alpha) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Proof. When $m(q, \beta)$ is finite for all (q, β) , (3.5) always holds, as do Assumption B(iii) and (iv), and N is always finite. Furthermore, $m(q, \beta(q)) = 1$, $\alpha = P(q, \beta(q))/R(q, \beta(q))$ is finite, in (D_L, D_U) , and satisfies $\beta^*(\alpha) = q\alpha + \beta(q)$, and every α in (D_L, D_U) can be obtained in this way. Thus, Assumption B(ii) also holds when $(\tilde{q}(\alpha), \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)))$ give $\beta^*(\alpha) > 0$.

This still leaves the rather complicated moment conditions on W and Y and (3.6). To give a simpler version that covers these, recall that N is the family size and let

$$\sigma_* = \max_i \{-\log r_i\}, \quad z_* = \max_i \{-\log p_i\}, \quad \text{and} \quad z^* = \max_i \{\log p_i\},$$

so that $(-z^*) \leq z_*$.

Lemma 10.1. *For $\varrho \geq 1$, suppose that, for some $\epsilon > 0$, $EN^{\varrho+\epsilon} < \infty$, and that σ_* , z_* , and z^* all have moment generating functions that are finite for all positive arguments. Then*

$$E\left[\left(\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta\right)^\varrho\right] < \infty.$$

In particular, $\varrho = 1$ gives that $m(q, \beta)$ is finite for all (q, β) .

Proof. Note that

$$E\left[\left(\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta\right)^\varrho\right] \leq E[(N e^{-\sigma_* \beta I(\beta < 0)} e^{-z_* q I(q < 0)} e^{z^* q I(q > 0)})^\varrho],$$

and then several applications of Hölder’s inequality gives the result.

Lemma 10.2. *For any $q > 1$, (3.6) holds with $\tilde{q}(\alpha) = q$ and any positive γ if σ_* has a moment generating functions that is finite for all positive arguments and, for some $\epsilon > 0$, $EW^{q+\epsilon} < \infty$.*

Proof. Hölder’s inequality shows that (3.6) holds with $\tilde{q}(\alpha) = q$ provided that $E[(\sum p_i)^{q+\epsilon}]$ is finite for some $\epsilon > 0$. By martingale properties,

$$E\left[\left(\sum_i p_i\right)^{q+\epsilon}\right] \leq E\left[\left(\sum_{i \in T_n} p_i\right)^{q+\epsilon}\right] \leq EW^{q+\epsilon}.$$

Lemma 10.3. *Suppose that $EN^{1+\epsilon} < \infty$ and that $(-z^*)$ has a moment generating function that is finite for all positive arguments. Suppose too that $P(N \geq 2) = 1$. Then $EW^q < \infty$ for $q < 0$.*

Proof. Since $P(N \geq 2) = 1$, $E[p_1^{q-\epsilon} I(N = 1)] = 0$. Now Lemma 9.5 gives the result.

Lemma 10.4. *Suppose that (q, β) are such that $m(q, \beta) = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta = 1$, m is finite in a neighbourhood of (q, β) ,*

$$-E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta (q \log p_i + \beta \log r_i) > 0, \tag{10.1}$$

and

$$E\left[\left(\sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta\right)^{1+\epsilon}\right] < \infty. \tag{10.2}$$

Then $EY^{(1+\epsilon)} < \infty$.

Proof. Note that

$$E\left[\sum_i (p_i^q r_i^\beta)^{1+\epsilon}\right] = m(q(1 + \epsilon), \beta(1 + \epsilon)) < 1$$

for sufficiently small ϵ by calculus, using (10.1). Lemma 9.1 gives the result.

Lemma 10.5. For $\epsilon > 0$, suppose that $EN^{1+2\epsilon} < \infty$, and that σ_* , z_* , and z^* all have moment generating functions that are finite for all positive arguments. Suppose that (q, β) are such that $m(q, \beta) = E \sum_i p_i^q r_i^\beta = 1$ and (10.1) holds. Then $EY^{(1+\epsilon)} < \infty$.

Proof. Lemma 10.1 applies to show that m is finite everywhere and that (10.2) holds. Now Lemma 10.4 gives the result.

Proof of Corollary 3.1. This is an application of Theorem 3.1. It is easy to check that Assumption A holds and, as noted after Definition 3.1, K has a d -boundary. By assumption, each of

$$Ee^{\rho\sigma_*} = E\left(\min_i r_i\right)^{-\rho}, \quad Ee^{\rho z_*} = E\left(\min_i p_i\right)^{-\rho}, \quad Ee^{\rho z^*} = E\left(\max_i p_i\right)^{\rho}$$

is finite for all $\rho > 0$ and $EN^{1+\epsilon} < \infty$. Hence, by Lemma 10.1, m is finite everywhere. Thus, (3.5) and parts (iii) and (iv) of Assumption B hold when needed.

Turning to conditions on W , by Lemma 9.4, $E W^q$ is finite for all $q > 1$, and this implies also that $E W^q$ is finite for $0 \leq q \leq 1$. By Lemma 10.3, $E W^q$ is finite for all $q < 0$. Hence, (3.4) holds. Lemma 10.2 shows that (3.6) also holds. For the conditions on Y , Lemma 10.5 shows that, for small positive η , $EY^{1+\eta} < \infty$, which implies that Assumption B(ii) and (3.7) hold. Furthermore, Lemma 9.6 implies that (3.8) holds.

11. An example

In [14, Section 6.2] the description of an optimal path in a very heavy tailed last passage percolation problem is formulated in terms of a random self-similar measure. This measure was not covered by the results then available in the literature. The example is easy to cast into the current notation. Let V and \tilde{V} be independent uniform random variables. Now let $N = 2$, $(p_1, p_2) = (\tilde{V}, 1 - \tilde{V})$, $K = [0, 1]$, and $(K_1, K_2) = ([0, V], [V, 1])$ so that $(r_1, r_2) = (V, 1 - V)$. As computed in [14],

$$m(q, \beta) = \frac{2}{(1+q)(1+\beta)} \quad \text{for } q > -1, \beta > -1,$$

so $\beta(q) = (1 - q)/(1 + q)$ and

$$\beta^*(\alpha) = \alpha \tilde{q}(\alpha) + \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)) \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{q}(\alpha) = -1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha}}.$$

The example satisfies the open set condition and K has 0-boundary, since its boundary is always covered by at most two disjoint balls. It is easy to see that Assumption A holds.

Since $\sum p_i = 1$, Lemma 9.1 implies that $EW^q < \infty$ for all $q > 1$. Also, $\max p_i$ is uniform on $[0.5, 1]$ and so has finite moments of all orders and $N = 2$. Hence, Lemma 9.2 shows that $EW^q < \infty$ for all $q < 0$. Therefore, (3.4) holds.

Since $\min r_i$ is uniform on $[0, 0.5]$, $E(\min r_i)^\delta$ is finite for $\delta > -1$, and, as already noted, $\sum p_i = 1$. Furthermore, when $\tilde{q}(\alpha) \in (1, \infty)$, $\beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)) \in (-1, 0)$. Hence, (3.6) holds when $\tilde{q}(\alpha) > 1$.

Fix $\alpha \in (0, \infty)$ with $\beta^*(\alpha) = \alpha \tilde{q}(\alpha) + \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)) > 0$. A verification that, for some $\epsilon > 0$, $EY^{1+\epsilon} < \infty$ is in [14] (where Y is $W(\tilde{q}(\alpha))$ there). Alternatively, m is finite in a neighbourhood of $(\tilde{q}(\alpha), \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)))$, and reversing the argument for Lemma 8.1, $\beta^*(\alpha) > 0$ implies that (10.1)

holds for $(\tilde{q}(\alpha), \beta(\tilde{q}(\alpha)))$. Furthermore, for any $q > -1$ and $\beta > -1$, and sufficiently small ϵ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\sum p_i^q r_i^\beta \right)^{1+\epsilon} \right] &\leq \mathbb{E} \left[\left(2(\max p_i^q)(\max r_i^\beta) \right)^{1+\epsilon} \right] \\ &\leq 2^{1+\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\max p_i^{q(1+\epsilon)}] \mathbb{E}[\max r_i^{\beta(1+\epsilon)}] \\ &< \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, (10.2) also holds and then Lemma 10.4 gives $EY^{1+\epsilon} < \infty$ and, hence, (3.7). Earlier in this proof it was established that, for any $\epsilon > 0$, $EW^{-\epsilon} < \infty$ and so now Lemma 9.6 shows that (3.8) holds. Thus, all the conditions in Theorem 3.1 hold. The multifractal spectrum for this example was computed in [14], based on a preliminary version of this study. Unfortunately, Lemma 6.6 there, which is supposed to be here, has turned out to have some conditions missing, as can be seen by comparing it with Theorem 3.1. Happily, the omissions do not invalidate the assertions made about the example.

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