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## Remarks on characterization of dimension of separable metrizable spaces \*

by

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**Abstract.** We establish some characterizations of dimension of separable metrizable spaces. For instance, it is shown that a separable metrizable space  $X$  is of dimension  $\leq n$  if and only if  $X$  is homeomorphic to a subset  $S$  of the  $(2n+1)$ -dimensional cube  $I^{2n+1}$  such that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, \|\cdot\|) \varepsilon^p = 0 \quad \text{for } p > n$$

where

$$k(\varepsilon, \|\cdot\|) = \inf\{n: \text{there exists an } \varepsilon\text{-net}\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \text{ for } S\}.$$

Dimension is a topological concept, but in many cases it can be characterized by metrics or pseudometrics, [8], [10], [5]. In [12] Szpilrajn established some connections between the concept of dimension and the classical concept of Hausdorff measure. Borsuk [3] has constructed, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , an  $n$ -dimensional pseudomeasure  $V_n^B$  of compacta lying in the Hilbert space  $l_2$ . This concept is a topological invariant, i.e. if  $V_n^B(X) > 0$  then  $V_n^B(Y) > 0$  for every compactum  $Y$  homeomorphic to  $X$ , [4]. Several connections between dimension and Borsuk pseudomeasure are given in [3], [4]. Since the Borsuk pseudomeasure is defined only on compacta isometrically embeddable into  $l_2$ , we construct in § 1 of this note a pseudomeasure for the class of all compacta similar to the Borsuk pseudomeasure. This pseudomeasure is shown to have many of the properties possessed by the Borsuk pseudomeasure. In § 2 we establish certain characterizations of dimension of separable metrizable spaces which are related to old results of Szpilrajn [12] and Pontrjagin and Schinirelman [11].

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**§ 1. Pseudomeasure and dimension of separable metric spaces.** Given a separable metrizable space  $X$ . Let  $M_{\text{tb}}(X)$  (resp.  $P_{\text{tb}}(X)$ ) denote the set of all totally

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bounded compatible metrics (resp. totally bounded continuous pseudometrics) on  $X$ . For every  $d, \varrho \in P_{tb}(X)$  and  $p \geq 0$ , put

$$\|d - \varrho\| = \sup\{|d(x, y) - \varrho(x, y)| : x, y \in X\},$$

$$m_p(X, d) = \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n d(A_i)^p : X = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i; d(A_i) \leq \varepsilon \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n \right\},$$

$$V_p(X, d) = \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \{m_p(X, \varrho) : \|d - \varrho\| \leq \varepsilon \text{ and } \varrho \text{ is uniformly}$$

continuous with respect to  $d\}$ .

We call  $V_p(X, d)$  the  $p$ -dimensional pseudomeasure of  $(X, d)$ .

1-1. Remark. Obviously if  $(X, d)$  is a compact metric space then  $m_p(X, d)$  is identical with the  $p$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure  $m_p^H(X, d)$  of  $(X, d)$  as defined e.g. in [9]. In general we have

$$m_p(X, d) \geq m_p^H(X, d) \quad \text{for each separable metric space } (X, d).$$

Let  $l^\infty$  denote the Banach space of all bounded sequences of real numbers equipped with the supremum norm. Let  $\{a_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a dense sequence in  $X$ . For every  $d \in P_{tb}(X)$ , put

$$(1) \quad T_d(x) = \{d(x, a_i)\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \quad \text{for every } x \in X.$$

Obviously  $T_d$  is an isometry of  $X$  into  $l^\infty$ .

Now let  $X$  be a subset of  $l^\infty$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . A map  $f: X \rightarrow l^\infty$  is called an  $\varepsilon$ -push iff  $f$  is a uniformly continuous map satisfying the condition  $\|x - f(x)\| \leq \varepsilon$  for each  $x \in X$ .

Let us prove the following

1-2. PROPOSITION. For every  $d \in P_{tb}(X)$  we have

$$(2) \quad V_p(X, d) = \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \{m_p(fT(X), \|\cdot\|) : f \text{ is an } \varepsilon\text{-push}\}$$

where  $T$  is an arbitrary isometric embedding of  $(X, d)$  into  $l^\infty$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  is the norm of  $l^\infty$ .

Proof. Given  $d \in P_{tb}(X)$  and an isometry  $T: (X, d) \rightarrow l^\infty$ . Denote

$$V = \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \{m_p(fT(X), \|\cdot\|) : f \text{ is an } \varepsilon\text{-push}\}.$$

If  $\alpha > V$  then for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an  $\varepsilon$ -push  $f: T(X) \rightarrow l^\infty$  such that  $m_p(fT(X), \|\cdot\|) \leq \alpha$ . Define a pseudometric  $\varrho$  on  $X$  by the formula

$$\varrho(x, y) = \|fT(x) - fT(y)\| \quad \text{for } x, y \in X.$$

It is easy to see that  $\|d - \varrho\| \leq 2\varepsilon$  and  $m_p(X, \varrho) = m_p(fT(X), \|\cdot\|)$ . Thus  $V_p(X, d) \leq \alpha$  and hence we get

$$(3) \quad V_p(X, d) \leq V.$$

Conversely let  $\alpha > V_p(X, d)$ . Then for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\varrho \in P_{tb}(X)$  uniformly

continuous with respect to  $d$  such that

$$\|d - \varrho\| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad m_p(X, \varrho) \leq \alpha.$$

Let  $H: T(X) \rightarrow T_d(X)$  be an isometry defined by the formula

$$HT(x) = T_d(x) \quad \text{for each } x \in X.$$

By [1], [2] there are 1-Lipschitz maps  $H', H'': l^\infty \rightarrow l^\infty$  such that  $H'T(X) = H$  and  $H''T_d(X) = H^{-1}$ . We define  $f: T(X) \rightarrow l^\infty$  by the formula

$$fT(x) = H''T_d(x) \quad \text{for each } x \in X.$$

Since  $H''$  is a 1-Lipschitz map we have

$$m_p(fT(X), \|\cdot\|) = m_p(H''T_d(X), \|\cdot\|) \leq m_p(X, \varrho) \leq \alpha.$$

On the other hand for each  $x \in X$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(fT(x), T(x)) &= d(H''T_d(x), H''H'T(x)) \leq d(T_d(x), H'T(x)) \\ &= d(T_d(x), HT(x)) = d(T_d(x), T_d(x)) \leq 2\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $f$  is an  $2\varepsilon$ -push. Thus we get

$$(4) \quad V \leq V_p(X, d).$$

From (3) and (4) we get the assertion.

Let  $V_n^B(X)$  denote the  $n$ -dimensional Borsuk pseudomeasure of a compactum  $X$  lying in the Hilbert space  $l_2$  defined by the formula (see [3])

$$V_n^B(X) = \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \{m_n(Q, \|\cdot\|) : f: X \rightarrow Q \text{ is an } \varepsilon\text{-push of } X \text{ into a polyhedron } Q \subset l_2\}.$$

From Proposition 1-2 we get

1-3. COROLLARY. For every compactum  $X$  lying in  $l_2$  we have

$$V_n(X, \|\cdot\|) \leq V_n^B(X) \quad \text{for every } n = 1, 2, \dots$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the norm of  $l_2$ .

1-4. Remark. The author does not know whether  $V_n$  and  $V_n^B$  actually coincide on compacta in  $l_2$ . It can however be shown that they coincide on polyhedra in  $l_2$  (where they coincide also with  $m_n$  (cf. [3])).

Let us note that  $V_p(X, d)$  has many of the properties possessed by  $V_n^B(X)$ . For instance (compare [3]),

(1-5) If  $\dim X < p$  then  $V_p(X, d) = 0$  and if  $\dim X > p$  then  $V_p(X, d) = \infty$  for every  $d \in M_{tb}(X)$ .

(1-6) If  $X$  is a continuum and  $d \in M_{tb}(X)$  then  $V_1(X, d) \geq \text{diam}(X, d)$ .

(1-7) If  $X$  is an arc and  $d \in M_{tb}(X)$  then

$$V_1(X, d) = \text{length}(X, d) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k d(s(t_i), s(t_{i+1})) : \right. \\ \left. 0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{k+1} = 1 \right\}$$

for any homeomorphism  $s: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ .

From Proposition 1-2 we get

(1-8) If  $X \subset I^\infty$  and  $V_p(X, \|\cdot\|) > 0$  then for every  $\alpha < V_p(X, \|\cdot\|)$  there is an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $V_p(f(X), \|\cdot\|) > \alpha$  for each  $\varepsilon$ -push  $f: X \rightarrow I^\infty$ .

(1-9) If  $f: (X, d) \rightarrow (Y, \varrho)$  is a homeomorphism of  $X$  onto  $Y$  satisfying the condition  $\varrho(f(x), f(y)) \leq Kd(x, y)$  for  $x, y \in X$  then  $V_p(Y, \varrho) \leq K^p V_p(X, d)$ .

1-10. Remark. In (1-9) the assumption on  $f$  to be a homeomorphism rather than any surjective  $K$ -Lipschitz map, is essential (take  $Y = [0, 1]$  and  $X =$  the graph of a surjection of a Cantor set on  $[0, 1]$  and  $f =$  projection of  $X$  onto  $Y$  then  $V_0(X) = 0$  and  $V_0(Y) = \infty$ ).

1-11. Remark. In [4] it is shown that there exist compacta  $X, Y$  lying in the interval  $[0, 1]$  such that

$$V_1^p(X \cup Y) > V_1^p(X) + V_1^p(Y).$$

This example also yields that

$$V_1(X \cup Y, |\cdot|) > V_1(X, |\cdot|) + V_1(Y, |\cdot|).$$

Thus  $V$  is not a measure.

Let us prove the following theorem analogue of the basic result of [4].

1-12. THEOREM. Let  $(X, d)$  be a compact metric space. Then  $\dim X \leq n$  if and only if  $V_p(X, d) = 0$  for  $p > n$ .

Proof. Identifying  $(X, d)$  with  $T_d(X)$  we may assume that  $X \subset L^\infty$ . If  $\dim X \leq n$  then for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an  $\varepsilon$ -push  $f: X \rightarrow I^\infty$  such that  $f(X)$  is contained in a polyhedron of dimension  $\leq n$ . Since  $m_p$  vanishes on such a polyhedron for  $p > n$  we infer that  $V_p(X, d) = 0$  if  $\dim X \leq n$  and  $p > n$ .

The proof of the converse involves the following fact proved in [4].

1-13. LEMMA. Given an  $m$ -dimensional Banach space  $E^m$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then there exists an  $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon, m)$  such that for every compactum  $Y \subset E^m$  with  $m_{n+1}(X, \|\cdot\|) < \delta$  there exists an  $\varepsilon$ -push  $g: Y \rightarrow E^m$  such that  $\text{dim} g(Y) \leq n$ .

Proof. Since  $E^m$  is isomorphic to  $R^m$ , it suffices to consider the case  $E^m = R^m$ , and this is done in [4].

Using Lemma 1-13 we are able to complete the proof of Theorem 1-12.

Assume that  $V_{n+1}(X, d) = 0$ . We have to show that  $\dim X \leq n$ .

For each  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , put

$$I_m^\infty = \{x = (x_i) \in I^\infty : x_i = 0 \text{ for } i > m\}$$

and let  $P_m: I^\infty \rightarrow I_m^\infty$  denote the natural projection. Since  $T_d(X)$  is a compact in  $I^\infty$ ,

for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\|x - P_m(x)\| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for every } x \in T_d(X).$$

Take  $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon, m)$  with  $E^m = I_m^\infty$  from Lemma 1-13. Since  $V_{n+1}(X, d) = 0$  there exists  $\varepsilon$ -push  $f: T_d(X) \rightarrow I^\infty$  such that  $m_{n+1}(fT_d(X), \|\cdot\|) < \delta$ . Whence  $P_m f$  is an  $2\varepsilon$ -push. Since

$$m_{n+1}(P_m f T_d(X), \|\cdot\|) \leq m_{n+1}(f T_d(X), \|\cdot\|) < \delta$$

by Lemma 1-13 there exists an  $\varepsilon$ -push  $g: P_m f T_d(X) \rightarrow I_m^\infty$  such that  $\text{dim} g P_m f T_d(X) \leq n$ . Since  $T_d$  is an isometry and  $g P_m f$  is an  $3\varepsilon$ -push it follows that  $\dim X \leq n$ .

This completes the proof of Theorem 1-12.

1-14. COROLLARY. A separable metrizable space  $X$  is of dimension  $\leq n$  if and only if for every  $d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$  and  $p > n$  we have  $V_p(X, d) = 0$ .

Proof. Let  $\dim X \leq n$  and  $d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$ . We may consider  $(X, d)$  as a totally bounded subset of  $I^\infty$ . Then for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an  $\varepsilon$ -push  $f: X \rightarrow I^\infty$  such that  $f(X)$  is contained in a polyhedron of dimension  $\leq n$ . Thus  $V_p(X, d) = 0$  for  $p > n$ .

Conversely assume that  $V_{n+1}(X, d) = 0$  for every  $d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$ . By [7] there exists a  $\tilde{d} \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$  such that  $\dim \tilde{X} = \dim X$ , where  $\tilde{X}$  denotes the completion of  $X$  with respect to the metric  $\tilde{d}$ . Since  $V_{n+1}(X, \tilde{d}) = 0$  we infer that  $V_{n+1}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{d}) = 0$ . Thus by Theorem 1-12 we have  $\dim X = \dim \tilde{X} \leq n$ .

1-15. COROLLARY (cf. Szpilrajn [12]). If  $X$  is an  $n$ -dimensional separable metrizable space then for each  $d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$  we have  $m_n(X, d) > 0$ .

Proof. Let  $(\tilde{X}, d)$  denote the completion of  $X$  with respect to the metric  $d$ . Since

$$m_n(X, d) = m_n(\tilde{X}, d) \geq V_n(\tilde{X}, d) \quad \text{for every } d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$$

the assertion follows from Theorem 1-12.

**§ 2. A metric characterization of dimension of separable metrizable spaces.** Let  $X$  be a separable metrizable space. For every  $d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , put

$$k(\varepsilon, d) = \inf \{n : \text{there exists an } \varepsilon\text{-net } \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \text{ for } (X, d)\}.$$

In this section we prove the following

2-1. THEOREM. Let  $X$  be a separable metrizable space. Then

(i) If  $\dim X \geq n$  then for every  $d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$  we have

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^n > 0.$$

(ii) If  $\dim X \leq n$  then there exists a  $d \in M_{\text{ib}}(X)$  such that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^n = 0 \quad \text{for } p > n.$$

Proof. (i) Assume that  $\dim X \geq n$ . By Corollary 1-15 for every  $d \in M_{\text{tr}}(X)$  we have  $\gamma(d) = m_n(X, d) > 0$ . Thus for each  $\alpha \in (0, \gamma(d))$  there is an  $\delta > 0$  such that for every  $\varepsilon \in (0, \delta)$  we have

$$\inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m d(A_i)^n : X = \bigcup_{i=1}^m A_i, d(A_i) \leq \varepsilon \right\} > \alpha.$$

Hence

$$k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^n \geq \alpha \quad \text{for every } \varepsilon \in (0, \frac{1}{2}\delta).$$

This proves (i).

(ii) Let  $M_n^{2n+1} \subset I^{2n+1}$ , where  $I = [0, 1]$ , denote the  $n$ -dimensional Menger universal space constructed as follows (see Engelking [7], p. 121):

For every  $i = 0, 1, \dots$  divide the interval  $[0, 1]$  into  $3^{i(i+1)/2}$  equal intervals. One gets a subdivision of the cube  $I^{2n+1}$  into  $3^{(2n+1)i(i+1)/2}$  small cubes with the length of the edges  $3^{-i(i+1)/2}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{K}_i$  denote the family of all such cubes. For every family  $\mathcal{K}$  of cubes, put

$$|\mathcal{K}| = \bigcup \{Q : Q \in \mathcal{K}\}, \quad \mathcal{S}_n(\mathcal{K}) = \bigcup \{\mathcal{S}_n(Q) : Q \in \mathcal{K}\},$$

where  $\mathcal{S}_n(Q)$  denotes the family of all faces of  $Q$  which have dimension  $\leq n$ . Moreover for each  $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathcal{K}_i$ , put

$$\mathcal{K}' = \{Q \in \mathcal{K}_{i+1} : Q \subset |\mathcal{K}|\}.$$

Let

$$\mathcal{F}_0 = \{I^{2n+1}\}, \quad F_0 = |\mathcal{F}_0| = I^{2n+1}$$

and for every  $i = 1, 2, \dots$  define  $\mathcal{F}_i$  and  $F_i$  by induction

$$\mathcal{F}_i = \{Q \in \mathcal{F}_{i-1} : Q \cap \mathcal{S}_n(\mathcal{F}_{i-1}) \neq \emptyset\}; \quad F_i = |\mathcal{F}_i|.$$

Then  $\{\mathcal{F}_i, i = 0, 1, \dots\}$  is a sequence of finite collections of cubes,  $\mathcal{F}_i \subset \mathcal{K}^i$  for every  $i = 0, 1, \dots$  and  $F_0 \supset F_1 \supset \dots$  is a decreasing sequence of closed subsets of  $I^{2n+1}$ . We define  $M_n^{2n+1}$  by the formula

$$M_n^{2n+1} = \bigcap_{i=0}^{\infty} F_i \subset I^{2n+1}.$$

By the universal space theorem [7] there exists an embedding of  $X$  into  $M_n^{2n+1}$ . Thus it suffices to prove the theorem for  $X = M_n^{2n+1}$  and  $d$  is the metric of  $M_n^{2n+1}$  induced by the norm of the  $(2n+1)$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $R^{2n+1}$ .

Let us note that each cube  $Q$  with the length of edges  $3^{-i(i+1)/2}$  contains at most  $A3^{n(i+1)}$  cubes with the length of edges  $3^{-(i+1)(i+2)/2}$  which intersect the  $n$ -dimensional faces of  $Q$ , where  $A$  is the number of the  $n$ -dimensional faces of  $Q$ . There are at most

$$A^i 3^{2n+2n+\dots+(i+1)n} = A^i 3^{n(i+1)(i+2)/2}$$

cubes with the length of edges  $3^{-(i+1)(i+2)/2}$  intersecting  $M_n^{2n+1}$ . Since these cubes

form a cover of  $M_n^{2n+1}$ , for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , say

$$\varepsilon \in [(2n+1)^{1/2} 3^{-(i+1)(i+2)/2}, (2n+1)^{1/2} 3^{-i(i+1)/2}]$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^p &\leq A^i 3^{n(i+1)(i+2)/2} (2n+1)^{p/2} 3^{-i(i+1)p/2} \\ &= A^i (2n+1)^{p/2} 3^{(i+1)(ni+2n-p)/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p > n$  we infer that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^p \leq \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} (2n+1)^{p/2} A^i 3^{(i+1)(ni+2n-p)/2} = 0.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 2-1.

In [12] Szpilrajn has shown that a separable metrizable space  $X$  is of dimension  $\leq n$  if and only if  $X$  is homeomorphic to a subset  $S$  of  $I^{2n+1}$  with  $m_p(S) = 0$  for every  $p > n$ . Let us note that the proof of Theorem 2-1 gives the following

2-2. COROLLARY. A separable metrizable space  $X$  is of dimension  $\leq n$  if and only if  $X$  is homeomorphic to a subset  $S$  of the cube  $I^{2n+1}$  such that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, \|\cdot\|) \varepsilon^p = 0 \quad \text{for every } p > n$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the norm of the Euclidean space  $R^{2n+1}$ .

2-3. Remark. Obviously if  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^p = 0$  then  $m_p(X, d) = 0$ .

The following example shows that the converse does not hold true even for compact metric spaces.

2-4. EXAMPLE. For every integer  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a compact metric space  $(X, d)$  such that  $m_p(X, d) = 0$  for every  $p > 0$  and

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^p = \infty \quad \text{for } p < n.$$

Proof. In the Euclidean space  $R^n$  consider the set  $X = A^n$ , where

$$A = \left\{ 0, \frac{1}{\ln 2}, \frac{1}{\ln 3}, \dots \right\}.$$

Since  $X$  is a countable compact set we have  $m_p(X, \|\cdot\|) = 0$  for every  $p > 0$ . Now let  $p < n$ . For every  $\varepsilon > 0$  take  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\frac{1}{\ln(k+1)} - \frac{1}{\ln(k+2)} \leq \varepsilon \leq \frac{1}{\ln k} - \frac{1}{\ln(k+1)}.$$

Then we have

$$k(\varepsilon, \|\cdot\|) \varepsilon^p \geq k^n \left( \frac{\ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{k+1} \right)}{\ln(k+1) \ln(k+2)} \right)^p = \frac{k^n}{(k+1)^p} \left( \frac{\ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{k+1} \right)^{k+1}}{\ln(k+1) \ln(k+2)} \right)^p.$$

Since  $p < n$  we infer that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, \|\cdot\|) \varepsilon^p = \infty$$

From Theorem 2-1 we get also

2-5. COROLLARY (Pontrjagin-Schinirelman [11], Bruijning [5]). For every separable metrizable space  $X$  we have

$$\dim X = \inf\{k(d) : d \in M_{\text{tb}}(X)\}$$

where

$$k(d) = \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \{\log_2 k(\varepsilon, d) / \log_2(\varepsilon^{-1})\}.$$

Proof. Assume that  $p > \dim X$ . By Theorem 2-1 there exists a metric  $d \in M_{\text{tb}}(X)$  such that  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^p = 0$ . Thus there exists an  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$k(\varepsilon, d) \varepsilon^p < 1 \quad \text{for every } \varepsilon \in (0, \delta).$$

Hence

$$\log_2 k(\varepsilon, d) < p \log_2(\varepsilon^{-1}) \quad \text{for every } \varepsilon \in (0, \delta).$$

Therefore  $k(d) \leq p$ . Thus  $k(d) \leq \dim X$ .

Conversely assume that  $p > k(d)$  for some metric  $d \in M_{\text{tb}}(X)$ . Take an  $r$  such that  $p > r > k(d)$ . Thus there exists a decreasing sequence of positive numbers  $\{\varepsilon_n\}$  tending to zero such that

$$\log_2 k(\varepsilon_n, d) / \log_2(\varepsilon_n^{-1}) < r \quad \text{for every } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

This implies that

$$k(\varepsilon_n, d) < \varepsilon_n^{-r} \quad \text{for every } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Since  $p > r$  we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} k(\varepsilon_n, d) \varepsilon_n^p = 0.$$

Consequently by Theorem 2-1(i) we get  $\dim X \leq p$ . Thus

$$\dim X \leq k(d) \quad \text{for some metric } d \in M_{\text{tb}}(X).$$

This completes the proof of Corollary 2-5.

2-6. Remark. Corollary 2-5 has been established originally by Pontrjagin and Schinirelman [11] for compact metrizable spaces. Bruijning [5] extended this result for separable metrizable spaces. The proof of Bruijning [5] is based on the Pontrjagin-Schinirelman theorem.

2-7. Remark. Let us put

$$K(d) = \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \{\log_2 k(\varepsilon, d) / \log_2(\varepsilon^{-1})\}.$$

Bruijning [6] has provided an example of a metric space  $(X, d)$  for which  $k(d) = 0$  whereas  $K(d) = \infty$ . He asked whether Corollary 2-5 still holds if  $k(d)$

is replaced by  $K(d)$ ? Is there a metric  $d \in M_{\text{tb}}(X)$  for which  $K(d) = \dim X$ ? (see [6], p. 45). The following corollary answers affirmatively his questions

2-8. COROLLARY. For any separable metrizable space  $X$  we have

$$\dim X = \inf\{K(d) : d \in M_{\text{tb}}(X)\}.$$

Moreover this infimum is attained.

Proof. Let  $d$  denote the metric obtained in Theorem 2-1(ii). Then we have

$$k(d) = K(d) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \log_2 k(\varepsilon, d) / \log_2(\varepsilon^{-1}) \leq \dim X.$$

Therefore the result follows from Corollary 2-5.

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