

Def. The large inductive dimension of a separable metric space X , $\text{Ind}(X)$, is defined as follows:

- $\text{Ind}(X) = -1$ if and only if $X = \emptyset$
- $\text{Ind}(X) \leq n$, for $n \geq 0$, if for every closed set $A \subset X$ and for each open set $V \subset X$ containing A , there exists an open set $U \subset X$ such that $A \subset U \subset V$ with $\text{Ind}(\text{Fr}(U)) \leq n - 1$
- $\text{Ind}(X) = n$ if $\text{Ind}(X) \leq n$ and $\text{Ind}(X) > n - 1$
- $\text{Ind}(X) = \infty$ if $\text{Ind}(X) > n$ for all n .

Note: Equivalently, $\text{Ind}(X) \leq n$ if and only if for each pair of closed disjoint sets A and B in X , there is a partition L between A and B with $\text{Ind}(L) \leq n - 1$

Theorem: For each X , $\text{ind}(X) \leq \text{Ind}X$.

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Definition: The *order* of a collection \mathcal{A} of subsets of X is the largest integer n such that the family contains $n + 1$ subsets with nonempty intersection. The order is ∞ if no such integer exists.

Definition: The covering dimension of X , $\dim(X)$, is defined as follows:

- $\dim(X) \leq n$, for $n \geq -1$, if every finite open cover of the space X has a finite open refinement of order $\leq n$
- $\dim(X) = n$ if $\dim(X) \leq n$ and $\dim(X) > n - 1$
- $\dim(X) = \infty$ if $\dim(X) > n$ for all n .

Note: Recall definitions of refinement and shrinking of covers.

Theorem: The following are equivalent:

- $\dim(X) \leq n$,
- Every finite open cover of X has an open refinement of order $\leq n$, and
- Every finite open cover of X has an open shrinking of order $\leq n$

Theorem: $\dim(\mathbf{X}) \leq n$ if and only if every $n + 2$ element open cover has an open shrinking of order $\leq n$

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Corollary: $\dim(\mathbf{X}) = 0$ if and only if $\text{Ind}(\mathbf{X}) = 0$

Theorem: For a compact metric (X, d) , the following are equivalent:

- $\dim(X) \leq n$
- For every metric ρ on X and $\epsilon > 0$ there is a finite open cover of X of order $\leq n$ and of mesh $< \epsilon$
- There is a metric ρ on X such that for all $\epsilon > 0$ there is a finite open cover of X of order $\leq n$ and of mesh $< \epsilon$