

ON DENSITY PROPERTIES OF THE RIESZ CAPACITIES AND THE ANALYTIC CAPACITY γ_+

PERTTI MATTILA AND PETR V. PARAMONOV[†]

ABSTRACT. In this paper we prove rather precise results on density properties of the Riesz capacities in \mathbf{R}^N and the analytic capacity γ_+ in \mathbf{R}^2 .

§1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

Let M_h be the Hausdorff content, generated by a non-decreasing continuous function $h: [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$, $h(t) > 0$ for $t > 0$, $h(0) = 0$. That is, for a set E in \mathbf{R}^N ($N \in \mathbf{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$)

$$M_h(E) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} h(d(E_j)) \mid E \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{+\infty} E_j \right\},$$

where $d(E)$ denotes the diameter of E .

The next result follows readily from [F, 2.10.17(3)].

Theorem A. *For each set $E \subset \mathbf{R}^N$ with $M_h(E) > 0$*

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{M_h(E \cap B(a, \delta))}{h(\delta)} \geq 1$$

for M_h -almost all $a \in E$.

Here $B(a, \delta)$ is an open ball in \mathbf{R}^N , centered at $a \in \mathbf{R}^N$ and having radius $\delta > 0$ ($\overline{B}(a, \delta)$ is the corresponding closed ball).

For a reasonable h , $h(\delta)$ is comparable to $M_h(B(a, \delta))$.

To our knowledge the failure of analogous density properties for Riesz capacities C_s in \mathbf{R}^N and (positive) analytic capacity γ_+ in \mathbf{R}^2 , which follows from our results below, was not noticed and discussed before (in [M1] such a failure was proved for the integralgeometric measure I_1^1 in \mathbf{R}^N). Shortly speaking, we are interested in the following more precise natural question: given a capacity C , as mentioned above, for which “density functions” h there is a compact set E such that $C(E \cap B(a, \delta))$ is comparable to $h(\delta)$, as δ tends to zero, for all $a \in E_0$ with $C(E_0) > 0$? Theorems 1 and 2 give rather precise answers to this question.

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Let $M_+(E)$, $E \subset \mathbf{R}^N$, be the set of all finite positive Borel measures μ with compact support, $\text{supp}(\mu)$, contained in E . For $\mu \in M_+(\mathbf{R}^2)$ the Cauchy transform $\widehat{\mu}$ is defined as

$$\widehat{\mu}(z) = \int \frac{d\mu(\zeta)}{z - \zeta}, \quad z \in \mathbf{C}.$$

For $\mu \in M_+(\mathbf{R}^N)$ and $s \in (0, N)$ the s -Riesz transform of μ is

$$U_\mu^s(x) = \int \frac{d\mu(y)}{|x - y|^s}, \quad x \in \mathbf{R}^N.$$

It is easily seen (by Fubini theorem) that $\widehat{\mu}(z)$ (respectively $U_\mu^s(x)$) exists (the corresponding integrals converge absolutely) almost everywhere with respect to the Lebesgue measure $\mathcal{L}_{(2)}$ in \mathbf{R}^2 (respectively, to the Lebesgue measure $\mathcal{L}_{(N)}$ in \mathbf{R}^N), and, moreover, $\widehat{\mu} \in L_{1,\text{loc}}(\mathcal{L}_{(2)})$ (respectively, $U_\mu^s \in L_{1,\text{loc}}(\mathcal{L}_{(N)})$). We denote by $\|\cdot\|$ the $L_\infty(\mathcal{L}_{(N)})$ -norm (on all of \mathbf{R}^N).

For bounded sets E in \mathbf{R}^2 and F in \mathbf{R}^N define

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_+(E) &= \sup\{\mu(E) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{A}_+(E)\}, \\ C_s(F) &= \sup\{\mu(F) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{A}_s(F)\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{A}_+(E)$ (respectively, $\mathcal{A}_s(F)$) consists of all measures $\mu \in M_+(E)$ (respectively, $\mu \in M_+(F)$) such that $\|\widehat{\mu}\| \leq 1$ (respectively, $\|U_\mu^s\| \leq 1$).

It is easily seen that $\gamma_+(B(a, \delta)) = \delta$ and that $C_s(B(a, \delta)) = C_s(B(0, 1)) \cdot \delta^s$.

Theorem 1. *Let $N \in \mathbf{N}$ and $s \in (0, N)$.*

(a) *Let X be a compact set in \mathbf{R}^N with $C_s(X) > 0$. If h satisfies the property*

$$(1) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{h(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} < +\infty,$$

then for C_s -almost all $a \in X$ one has

$$(2) \quad \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = +\infty.$$

(b) *Let h be such that*

$$(3) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{h(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} = +\infty.$$

Suppose that for some $c > 0$ one has $ch(t) \leq t^s$, $t \geq 0$, and the function $g(r) = h(r) \exp\left(-\int_r^1 \frac{ch(t) dt}{t^{s+1}}\right)$, $r \geq 0$, satisfies

$$(4) \quad \frac{g^{-1}(2^{-(j+1)N})}{g^{-1}(2^{-jN})} \in [\varepsilon, 1/2)$$

for some $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$ and all j big enough, then there is a Cantor set X_1 with conditions

$$(5) \quad A_1 h(\delta) \leq C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X_1) \leq A_2 h(\delta)$$

for all $a \in X_1$, $\delta \in (0, 1)$ and some $0 < A_1 < A_2 < +\infty$, depending only on N, s, h, c .

Theorem 2. (a) Let X be a compact set in \mathbf{R}^2 with $\gamma_+(X) > 0$. If h satisfies

$$(6) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{h^2(t) dt}{t^3} < +\infty,$$

then for γ_+ -almost all $a \in X$ one has

$$(7) \quad \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = +\infty.$$

(b) Let

$$(8) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{h^2(t) dt}{t^3} = +\infty.$$

Suppose that for some $c > 0$ one has $ch^2(t) \leq t^2$, $t \geq 0$, and the function

$$g(r) = h(r) \exp \left(- \int_r^1 \frac{ch^2(t) dt}{2t^3} \right), \quad r \geq 0,$$

satisfies the properties

$$(9) \quad \frac{g^{-1}(4^{-j-1})}{g^{-1}(4^{-j})} \in [\varepsilon, 1/2)$$

for some $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$ and all j big enough. Then there exists a Cantor set X_1 in \mathbf{R}^2 with

$$(10) \quad A_1 h(\delta) \leq \gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X_1) \leq A_2 h(\delta)$$

for all $a \in X_1$, $\delta \in (0, 1)$ and some $0 < A_1 < A_2 < +\infty$, depending only on h, c .

The conditions $ch(t) \leq t^s$ and $ch^2(t) \leq t^2$ in the parts (b) of Theorems 1 and 2 in context of (5) and (10) are quite natural. It will be clear from the proofs that conditions (4) and (9) on the function g are in some sense precise. These conditions are satisfied by all “reasonable” g (or h , cf. §3).

In §3 we give concrete examples of the functions h and discuss some other properties of densities. We also obtain several “partial” results on the densities of γ_+ and α_+ in \mathbf{R}^N , $N \geq 2$.

The proof of Theorem 1 can be generalized to give similar results for capacities related to general kernels K with mild regularity conditions. The integral in (1) is then replaced by $\int_0^1 h(t) K'(t) dt$. For example, $K(t)$ could be $-\log t$.

§2. PROOFS

Proof of Theorem 1.

(a) Let X, s, h satisfy the conditions (a) in Theorem 1. It is enough to find at least one point $a \in X$ with condition (2). In fact, if (2) does not hold C_s -almost

everywhere in X , we can find a compact subset Y of X such that $C_s(Y) > 0$, but (2) with X replaced by Y fails for all $a \in Y$.

Take a measure $\mu \in \mathcal{A}_s(X)$ with $\|\mu\| := \int d\mu > 0$. If there exists $a \in X$ with

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(a, \delta))}{h(\delta)} = +\infty$$

then for this a we also have (2), because for each $\delta > 0$ there is $\eta \in (0, \delta)$ with $\mu(\overline{B}(a, \eta)) \geq \mu(B(a, \delta))/2$ and so, since $\mu|_{\overline{B}(a, \eta)} \in \mathcal{A}_s(X \cap \overline{B}(a, \eta))$, we get

$$C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X) \geq \mu(B(a, \delta))/2.$$

Suppose now that for each $a \in \text{supp}(\mu)$

$$(11) \quad \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(a, \delta))}{h(\delta)} < +\infty.$$

We claim that $M_h(X) > 0$. In fact, suppose, by contradiction, that $M_h(X) = 0$. Then one can find balls B_1, \dots, B_J such that $X \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^J B_j$ and

$$\sum_{j=1}^J \mu(B_j) \geq \|\mu\| > \sum_{j=1}^J h(2\delta_j),$$

where $2\delta_j = d(B_j)$, so that for some j (say $j = 1$) we have $\mu(B_1) > h(2\delta_1)$. Take now $X_1 = X \cap \overline{B}_1$ and $r_1 = \delta_1$, then for each $a_1 \in X_1$ we can write

$$\mu(X \cap B(a_1, 2r_1)) \geq \mu(X_1 \cap B(a_1, 2r_1)) \geq \mu(B_1) > h(2r_1).$$

Put $\mu_1 = \mu|_{X_1}$ and, by induction (since $M_h(X_1) = 0$), find compact sets $\{X_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ ($X_n \subset X_{n-1}$, $n \geq 2$) and $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ ($0 < r_n < r_{n-1}$, $n \geq 2$) such that for each $a_n \in X_n$ one has $\mu(X_n \cap B(a_n, 2r_n)) > nh(2r_n)$. For any point $a \in \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty X_n \neq \emptyset$, clearly,

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(X \cap B(a, \delta))}{h(\delta)} = +\infty,$$

which contradicts (11) and proves the claim.

Now, since $M_h(X) > 0$, by Theorem A we can find $a \in X$ and a sequence $\{\delta_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, $\delta_n \searrow 0$ as $n \nearrow +\infty$ such that for each n

$$M_h(B(a, \delta_n) \cap X) \geq h(\delta_n)/2.$$

By Frostman's lemma [C, p. 7], for each n there exists a measure $\sigma_n \in M_+(X \cap \overline{B}(a, \delta_n))$ such that for any ball $B(x, r)$ one has $\sigma_n(B(x, r)) \leq h(r)$ and

$$\sigma_n(X \cap \overline{B}(a, \delta_n)) \geq A_1 M_h(X \cap \overline{B}(a, \delta_n)) \geq \frac{A_1}{2} h(\delta_n),$$

where $A_1 > 0$ depends only on N .

We shall prove the following known fact for completeness.

Lemma 1. *Let K be a compact set in \mathbf{R}^N , $\sigma \in M_+(K)$ and $\sigma(B(x, \delta)) \leq h(\delta)$ for any $x \in \mathbf{R}^N$ and $\delta > 0$. Then*

$$\|U_\sigma^s\| \leq A \int_0^{2d} \frac{h(t) dt}{t^{s+1}},$$

where $d = d(K)$, $A = A(s) \in (0, +\infty)$.

Proof. Fix any $x \in \mathbf{R}^N$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} U_\sigma^s(x) &\leq \int_{B(a,d)} \frac{d\sigma(y)}{|x-y|^s} + \frac{\|\sigma\|}{d^s} \leq \int_0^{+\infty} \sigma \left\{ y \mid \frac{1}{|x-y|^s} > t, |x-y| < d \right\} dt + \frac{h(d)}{d^s} \\ &= \int_{t_0}^{+\infty} \sigma \left(B \left(x, \left(\frac{1}{t} \right)^s \right) \right) dt + \int_0^{t_0} \sigma(B(x, d)) dt + \frac{h(d)}{d^s}, \end{aligned}$$

where $t_0 = d^{-s}$. Put $\tau = (1/t)^{1/s}$, then

$$U_\sigma^s(x) \leq s \int_0^d \frac{h(\tau) d\tau}{\tau^{1+s}} + \frac{2h(d)}{d^s} \leq A \int_0^{2d} \frac{h(t) dt}{t^{1+s}}. \quad \square$$

By Lemma 1 and (1),

$$\|U_{\sigma_n}^s\| \leq A \int_0^{2\delta_n} \frac{h(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} =: \varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

The measure σ_n/ε_n is in $\mathcal{A}_s(X \cap \overline{B}(a, \delta_n))$, which gives

$$C_s(\overline{B}(a, \delta_n) \cap X) \geq \frac{A_1 h(\delta_n)}{2\varepsilon_n}$$

and, consequently, (2). In fact, from continuity of h one can find $\eta_n > 0$ such that $h(\delta_n + \eta_n) \leq 2h(\delta_n)$ and therefore

$$C_s(B(a, \delta_n + \eta_n) \cap X) \geq \frac{A_1 h(\delta_n + \eta_n)}{4\varepsilon_n}.$$

Actually, it is proved that

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)/\varepsilon(\delta)} > 0,$$

where $\varepsilon(\delta) = \int_0^{2\delta} \frac{h(t) dt}{t^{s+1}}$.

(b) We shall construct the set X_1 with conditions (5) using estimates of C_s for Cantor sets (see [E, §1]).

Let h , c and g satisfy conditions in (b) of Theorem 1. We claim that the function g is continuous, (strictly) increasing and, moreover, $\int_0^1 \frac{g(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} < +\infty$.

Only the last property needs additional explanations. Since $(g(t)/h(t))' = cg(t)/t^{s+1}$ for all $t > 0$, we have

$$\int_r^1 \frac{g(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} = \frac{g(t)}{ch(t)} \Big|_r^1.$$

But by (3), $g(t)/h(t) = \exp\left(-\int_r^1 \frac{ch(t)dt}{t^{s+1}}\right) \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow 0$, which gives $\int_0^1 \frac{g(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} = \frac{g(1)}{ch(1)} = 1/c < +\infty$ as claimed. Moreover,

$$(12) \quad \int_0^r \frac{g(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} = \frac{g(r)}{ch(r)}, \quad r > 0.$$

The property (4) means precisely that we can construct an N -dimensional Cantor set X_1 with parameters $\{l_j = g^{-1}(2^{-Nj})\}_{j=j_1}^\infty$ satisfying $l_{j+1}/l_j \in [\varepsilon, 1/2)$, $j \geq j_1 \in \mathbf{N}$.

We are not going to repeat the construction of Cantor sets (see [E, §1]), we just say that on the n -th step ($n \geq j_1$) of the construction we get 2^{Nn} congruent closed cubes $\{Q_n^m\}_{m=1}^{2^{Nn}}$ with side length l_n , so that

$$X_1 = \bigcap_{n=j_1}^\infty \left(\bigcup_{m=1}^{2^{Nn}} Q_n^m \right).$$

In particular, for each $n \geq j_1$, one has

$$X_1 = \bigcup_{m=1}^{2^{Nn}} X_n^m,$$

where X_n^m are congruent Cantor sets with parameters $\{l_j\}_{j=n}^\infty$ ($X_n^m \subset Q_n^m$).

One also notes that g satisfies the so-called doubling property

$$(13) \quad g(2r) \leq A_0 g(r)$$

for all $r \in (0, l_{j_1+1})$ with constant $A_0 = 2^{2N}$, which follows from (4). Also h satisfies doubling condition, since, from the inequality $h(t) \leq t^s$ (required in (b)) one obtains

$$\frac{h(2r)}{h(r)} = \frac{g(2r)}{g(r)} \exp\left(\int_r^{2r} \frac{ch(t) dt}{t^{s+1}}\right) \leq 2^{2N} \exp\left(\int_r^{2r} \frac{dt}{t}\right) \leq 2^{2N+1}, \quad r \in (0, l_{j_1+1}).$$

In what follows the expression $f_1 \asymp f_2$ means that there exists a constant $A \in (1, +\infty)$, depending only on N, s, h, c (in context of γ_+ the constant A can depend only on h and c), such that $A^{-1} f_1 \leq f_2 \leq A f_1$ for all values of parameters in f_1 and f_2 . Finally, by [E, Corollary 1.1] we get (recall that $g(l_j) = 2^{-Nj}$):

$$\begin{aligned} C_s(X_n^m) &\asymp \left(\sum_{j=0}^\infty 2^{-Nj} (l_{j+n})^{-s} \right)^{-1} = \left(\sum_{j=n}^\infty 2^{-Nj} 2^{Nn} (l_j)^{-s} \right)^{-1} \\ &= g(l_n) \left(\sum_{j=n}^\infty \frac{g(l_j)}{l_j^s} \right)^{-1} \asymp g(l_n) \left(\int_0^{l_n} \frac{g(t) dt}{t^{s+1}} \right)^{-1} \asymp h(l_n), \end{aligned}$$

where we used (12) and the doubling property (13). To obtain (5) it suffices to invoke the doubling property of h and the inequalities $l_{n+1} \geq \varepsilon l_n$, $n \geq j_1$. \square

Proof of Theorem 2.

It is quite similar to that of Theorem 1, except that we need also a characterization of γ_+ in terms of the so-called curvature of a measure [T1]. Till the end of §2 A, A_1, \dots are some positive constants depending only on h .

(a) Again, it is enough to check that (7) holds for at least one point $a \in X$. Take a measure $\mu \in \mathcal{A}_+(X)$, $\|\mu\| > 0$. Suppose that there is a point $a \in \text{supp}(\mu) \subset X$ with

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = +\infty.$$

We claim that also

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = +\infty.$$

For h , satisfying doubling condition (see (13)), it would be enough to check that

$$\gamma_+(B(a, 2\delta) \cap X) \geq A\mu(B(a, \delta) \cap X).$$

Take $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(B(a, 2\delta))$, $0 \leq \varphi \leq 1$, $\varphi = 1$ in $B(a, \delta)$ and $\|\bar{\partial}\varphi\| \leq \frac{A_1}{\delta}$. Put $\mu_1 = \varphi\mu$. By [V, Ch. II, §3],

$$\|\widehat{\mu}_1\| \leq A_2 \delta \|\bar{\partial}\varphi\| \|\widehat{\mu}\| \leq A_1 A_2 = A_3^{-1}.$$

Hence, $A_3 \mu_1 \in \mathcal{A}_+(B(a, 2\delta) \cap X)$, which gives

$$\gamma_+(B(a, 2\delta) \cap X) \geq A_3 \|\mu_1\| \geq A_3 \mu(B(a, \delta) \cap X),$$

as desired.

For a general h we apply [MPV, Lemma 3.3] (the case $N = 2$), which gives for each $B(a, \delta)$:

$$\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X) \geq A_3 \mu(B(a, \delta) \cap X)$$

with some absolute constant $A_3 \in (0, 1)$.

It now remains to consider the case when for any $a \in X$ one has

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} < +\infty.$$

As it was already shown in the proof of Theorem 1, we then get $M_h(X) > 0$. By Theorem A there exists $a \in X$ with

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{M_h(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} \geq 1,$$

and then we can choose $\{\delta_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset (0, 1)$, $\delta_n \searrow 0$ as $n \nearrow +\infty$, such that

$$M_h(B(a, \delta_n) \cap X) \geq h(\delta_n)/2, \quad n \geq 1.$$

Fix $n \geq 1$ and put $h_n(t) = h(t)$ for $t \in [0, \delta_n]$ and $h_n(t) = h(\delta_n)$ for $t \geq \delta_n$. By Frostman's lemma we can find $\sigma_n \in M_+(X_n)$, $X_n = \overline{B}(a, \delta_n) \cap X$, such that

$\sigma_n(B(z, \delta)) \leq h_n(\delta)$ (hence also $\sigma_n(\overline{B}(z, \delta)) \leq h_n(\delta)$) for all $z \in \mathbf{R}^2$, $\delta > 0$, and, moreover,

$$\|\sigma_n\| = \sigma_n(X_n) \geq A M_{h_n}(X_n) \geq \frac{A}{2} h(\delta_n).$$

Recall, that the curvature $c^2(\sigma)$ of a measure $\sigma \in M_+(\mathbf{R}^2)$ is defined by

$$c^2(\sigma) = \iiint (R(x, y, z))^{-2} d\sigma(x) d\sigma(y) d\sigma(z),$$

where $R(x, y, z)$ is the radius of the circle passing through x , y and z .

Tolsa [T1, Theorem 5.1 and (59)] showed that

$$(14) \quad \gamma_+(K) \asymp \sup \{ \|\sigma\| \mid \sigma \in M_+(K), \sigma(B(z, r)) \leq r \text{ for all } z \in \mathbf{C} \text{ and } r > 0, \text{ and } c^2(\sigma) \leq \|\sigma\| \}.$$

Though our definition of γ_+ is slightly different from that of [T1], we can use this result for K having zero Lebesgue measure (for which it is the same). We shall apply this result in order to obtain the corresponding lower estimate of γ_+ , using the properties of measures σ_n . By Theorem 2.2 of [M2] we have:

$$(15) \quad \begin{aligned} c^2(\sigma_n) &\leq 12 \|\sigma_n\| \int_0^{+\infty} t^{-3} h_n^2(t) dt \\ &\leq 12 \|\sigma_n\| \left(\int_0^{\delta_n} t^{-3} h_n^2(t) dt + h_n^2(\delta_n) \int_{\delta_n}^{+\infty} t^{-3} dt \right) \\ &\leq 12 \|\sigma_n\| \left(\int_0^{\delta_n} t^{-3} h_n^2(t) dt + h_n^2(\delta_n)/2\delta_n^2 \right) \\ &\leq A_1 \|\sigma_n\| \int_0^{2\delta_n} t^{-3} h^2(t) dt =: \varepsilon_n \|\sigma_n\|, \end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ by (6).

Since, evidently, $c^2(\lambda\sigma) = \lambda^3 c^2(\sigma)$ for any $\lambda > 0$ and $\sigma \in M_+(\mathbf{R}^2)$, we have for the measure $\mu_n = \lambda_n \sigma_n$ with $\lambda_n = 1/\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}$ that $c^2(\mu_n) \leq \|\mu_n\|$. We now have to show that

$$(16) \quad \mu_n(B(z, \delta)) \leq A_2 \cdot \delta$$

for all $z \in \mathbf{R}^2$ and $\delta > 0$. To prove this consider 2 cases. The first is $\delta \geq \delta_n$. Then, since $\text{supp}(\mu_n) \subset \overline{B}(a, \delta_n)$, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_n(B(z, \delta)) &\leq \mu_n(\overline{B}(a, \delta_n)) \leq \sigma_n(\overline{B}(a, \delta_n))/\sqrt{\varepsilon_n} \\ &\leq h(\delta_n) \left(A_1 \int_{\delta_n}^{2\delta_n} t^{-3} h^2(t) dt \right)^{-1/2} \\ &\leq A_2 h(\delta_n) (h^2(\delta_n)/\delta_n^2)^{-1/2} = A_2 \delta_n \leq A_2 \delta. \end{aligned}$$

The second case is $\delta \in (0, \delta_n)$. Here we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_n(B(z, \delta)) &\leq \frac{\sigma_n(B(z, \delta))}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}} \leq h(\delta) \left(A_1 \int_{\delta}^{2\delta} \frac{h^2(t)}{t^3} dt \right)^{-1/2} \\ &\leq A_2 h(\delta) \left(\frac{h^2(\delta)}{\delta^2} \right)^{-1/2} = A_2 \delta. \end{aligned}$$

Finally (assuming that $A_2 \geq 1$), the measure $\nu_n = \mu_n/A_2$ satisfies $c^2(\nu_n) \leq \|\nu_n\|$ and $\nu_n(B(z, \delta)) \leq \delta$ for all $B(z, \delta)$. Therefore, by (14), $\gamma_+(X_n) \geq A_3 \|\nu_n\| \geq A_4 h(\delta_n)/\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}$, which gives (7) since h is continuous. Again, it was really proved that

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)/\sqrt{\varepsilon(\delta)}} > 0,$$

where $\varepsilon(\delta) = \int_0^{2\delta} t^{-3} h^2(t) dt$. Recall, that here we could use (14) only whenever $\mathcal{L}_{(2)}(X) = 0$. If $\mathcal{L}_{(2)}(X) > 0$ then, since clearly $h(r)/r \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow 0$, the property (7) can be easily obtained from the following analog (in fact a corollary) of Vitushkin result on instability of analytic capacity [V, Ch. VI, §1]. Put $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{(2)}$.

Proposition 1. *Let E be any \mathcal{L} -measurable set in \mathbf{R}^2 , $\mathcal{L}(E) > 0$. Then for each \mathcal{L} -density point a of E (and therefore \mathcal{L} -a.e. on E) one has*

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap E)}{\delta} = 1.$$

Proof. The corresponding proof in [V, pp. 188–192] is given for capacity α and for some more precise result (Theorem 1, p. 190). It also works for γ_+ , but for the reader's convenience we choose to present here its considerably simplified version.

Let a be any \mathcal{L} -density point of E . Fix any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$. There is $\delta_\varepsilon > 0$ such that for each $\delta \in (0, \delta_\varepsilon)$ one can find a compact set K_δ in $E \cap B(a, \delta)$ with $\mathcal{L}(K_\delta) \geq (1 - \varepsilon^2) \pi \delta^2$. Put $\Omega_\delta = B(a, \delta) \setminus K_\delta$, $\mu = \mathcal{L}|_{B(a, \delta)}$, $\nu = \mathcal{L}|_{\Omega_\delta}$, $\sigma = \mathcal{L}|_{K_\delta}$. It can be easily checked that $\hat{\mu}(z) = \pi(\bar{z} - \bar{a})$ in $B(a, \delta)$ and $\hat{\mu}(z) = \pi \delta^2 / (z - a)$ in $\mathbf{R}^2 \setminus B(a, \delta)$, so that $\|\hat{\mu}\| = \pi \delta$. On the other hand, $\|\hat{\nu}\| \leq 2\pi \varepsilon \delta$. In fact, fix any $z \in \mathbf{R}^2$ and let $\varrho \in (0, \varepsilon \delta]$ be such that $\mathcal{L}(\Omega_\delta) = \pi \varrho^2 = \mathcal{L}(B(z, \varrho))$. Then

$$|\hat{\nu}(z)| \leq \int_{\Omega_\delta} \frac{d\mathcal{L}(\zeta)}{|\zeta - z|} \leq \int_{B(a, \varrho)} \frac{d\mathcal{L}(\zeta)}{|\zeta - z|} = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\varrho \frac{r dz d\varphi}{r} = 2\pi \varrho,$$

as desired. Therefore,

$$\|\hat{\sigma}\| \leq \|\hat{\mu}\| + \|\hat{\nu}\| \leq \pi \delta (1 + 2\varepsilon).$$

Since $\sigma(\pi \delta (1 + 2\varepsilon))^{-1} \in \mathcal{A}_+(K_\delta)$, we get

$$\gamma_+(E \cap B(a, \delta)) \geq \gamma_+(K_\delta) \geq \pi \delta^2 (1 - \varepsilon^2) (\pi \delta (1 + 2\varepsilon))^{-1} = \delta (1 + O(\varepsilon)).$$

It remains to recall now that $\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap E) \leq \gamma_+(B(a, \delta)) = \delta$.

(b) Let h, c and g satisfy conditions in (b) of Theorem 2. The function $g(r) = h(r) \exp\left(-\int_r^1 \frac{ch^2(t)}{2t^3} dt\right)$ satisfies $g(r) = o(h(r))$ as $r \rightarrow 0$ (see (8)) and g is strictly increasing. Moreover,

$$\left(\left(\frac{g(r)}{h(r)}\right)^2\right)' = \exp\left(-\int_r^1 \frac{ch^2(t)}{t^3}\right) \frac{ch^2(r)}{r^3} = \frac{cg^2(r)}{r^3}.$$

Thence, $\int_r^1 t^{-3} g^2(t) dt = g^2(t)/ch^2(t)|_r^1$, which gives

$$\int_0^1 t^{-3} g^2(t) dt = \frac{g^2(1)}{ch^2(1)} = \frac{1}{c} < +\infty$$

and

$$(17) \quad \int_0^r \frac{g^2(t) dt}{t^3} = \frac{g^2(r)}{ch^2(r)}.$$

The conditions (9) allow us to construct a 2-dimensional Cantor set X_1 with parameters $\{l_j = g^{-1}(4^{-j})\}_{j=j_1}^\infty$, where $\varepsilon l_j \leq l_{j+1} < l_j/2$ ($j \geq j_1 \in \mathbf{N}$). We use again the notation X_n^m from the proof of Theorem 1 and the same way we prove that g and h satisfy doubling properties (13) with constants $A_0 = 16$ and 32 respectively (we apply the condition $h(t) \leq t$ and consider (13) only for $r \in (0, l_{j_1+1})$). In order to apply (14) again, we need to verify that $\mathcal{L}_{(2)}(X_1) \equiv \mathcal{L}(X_1) = 0$. In fact, if, by contradiction, $\mathcal{L}(X_1) > 0$ then, clearly, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} l_{n+1}/l_n = 1/2$. From this we have (as $ch^2(t) \leq t^2$):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{h(l_{j+1})}{h(l_j)} &= \frac{g(l_{j+1})}{g(l_j)} \exp\left(\int_{l_{j+1}}^{l_j} \frac{ch^2(t) dt}{2t^3}\right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4} \left(\exp\left(\int_{l_{j+1}}^{2l_{j+1}} \frac{dt}{2t} + o_{j \rightarrow \infty}(1)\right) \right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} (1 + o_{j \rightarrow \infty}(1)), \end{aligned}$$

which leads to a contradiction with (8).

Set $\mu = \mathcal{H}_g|_{X_1}$, where \mathcal{H}_g is the g -Hausdorff measure. The main property of μ is that (see[G])

$$(18) \quad A_1 g(r) \leq \mu(B(z, r)) \leq A_2 g(r)$$

for each $z \in X_1$ and $r \in (0, l_{j_1})$ (all appearing A_j are positive and depend only on g).

It remains to prove that for all $n \geq j_1$ and $m = 1, \dots, 4^n$

$$(19) \quad A_3 h(l_n) \leq \gamma_+(X_n^m) \leq A_4 h(l_n).$$

The left inequality in (19) can be proved following part (a) of the present proof. Concretely, fix n and m , and let $\sigma_n = \mu|_{X_n^m}$. As in (15) and (16), using doubling conditions of g , we get

$$c^2(\sigma_n) \leq A_5 \|\sigma_n\| \int_0^{l_n} t^{-3} g^2(t) dt =: \varepsilon_n \|\sigma_n\|,$$

so that for $\mu_n = \sigma_n/\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}$ one has

$$c^2(\mu_n) \leq \|\mu_n\| \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_n(B(z, \delta)) \leq A_6 \delta$$

($A_6 > 1$) for all z and $\delta > 0$. From (14) and (18),

$$\gamma_+(X_n^m) \geq \|\mu_n\|/A_6 \asymp \frac{g(l_n)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}} \asymp h(l_n)$$

(see (17)). And that is it.

To prove the right inequality in (19) we need one more result of Tolsa. In [T2] it is proved (Theorem 1), that for each $\sigma \in M_+(\mathbf{R}^2)$ one has

$$(20) \quad \gamma_+(\{z \mid c_\sigma(z) \geq t\}) \leq A_7 \frac{\|\sigma\|}{t}, \quad t > 0,$$

where

$$c_\sigma(z) = \left(\iint \frac{d\sigma(x) d\sigma(y)}{R^2(z, x, y)} \right)^{1/2},$$

and $A_7 > 0$ is an absolute constant.

For σ_n as just above, the same way as in [M2, Theorem 2.3], we get for all $z \in K_n^m$:

$$(c_{\sigma_n}(z))^2 \geq A_8 \int_0^{l_n} t^{-3} g^2(t) dt =: A_9 \varepsilon_n.$$

Applying (20) to $\sigma = \sigma_n$ and $t = \sqrt{A_9 \varepsilon_n}$ completes the proof of Theorem 2. \square

§3. EXAMPLES. PARTIAL RESULTS FOR γ_+ AND α_+ IN \mathbf{R}^N

For $p > 0, q \geq 0$ define

$$\begin{aligned} h_{p,q}(t) &= t^p / |\log t|^q, \quad t \in (0, e^{-1}), \quad h_{pq}(0) = 0, \\ h_{p,q}(t) &= e^{-p}, \quad t \geq e^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

It can be easily checked that all $h(t) = h_{p,q}(t)$ with $p > s, q \geq 0$ and all $h(t) = h_{s,q}(t)$ with $q > 1$ satisfy the part (a) of Theorem 1. All functions $h(t) = h_{s,q}$ with $q \in [0, 1]$ satisfy part (b) of Theorem 1 (take $c < \min\{1, N - s\}$).

The functions $h_{p,q}$ with $p > 1, q \geq 0$ and $h_{1,q}, q > 1/2$ satisfy part (a) of Theorem 2, and the functions $h_{1,q}, q \in [0, 1/2]$ satisfy part (b) of this theorem (take $c < 1$).

Theorems 1 and 2 can be applied even for a wider class of functions h , namely for the functions

$$h(t) = t^p |\log t|^{-q_1} |\log |\log t||^{-q_2} \dots, \quad p > 0, q_j \geq 0$$

(finite product). From this we have

Corollary 1. *Let $N \in \mathbf{N}$, $s \in (0, N)$.*

(a) *If X is a compact set in \mathbf{R}^N with $C_s(X) > 0$, and $q > 1$, then for C_s -almost all $a \in X$ one has*

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{\delta^s / |\log \delta|^q} = +\infty.$$

(b) *For each $q \in [0, 1]$ there exists a Cantor set X_1 in \mathbf{R}^N and $A_1 > 0$, $A_2 > A_1$ depending only on N , s , q , such that for each $a \in X_1$ and $\delta \in (0, e^{-1})$ one has*

$$A_1 \delta^s / |\log \delta|^q \leq C_s(X_1 \cap B(a, \delta)) \leq A_2 \delta^s / |\log \delta|^q.$$

Corollary 2. (a) *For each compact set X in \mathbf{R}^2 with $\gamma_+(X) > 0$ and each $q > 1/2$ one has*

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(X \cap B(a, \delta))}{\delta / |\log \delta|^q} = +\infty$$

for γ_+ -almost all $a \in X$.

(b) *For each $q \in [0, 1/2]$ there exists a Cantor set X_1 in \mathbf{R}^2 such that for each $a \in X_1$ and $\delta \in (0, e^{-1})$ one has*

$$A_1 \delta / |\log \delta|^q \leq \gamma_+(X \cap B(a, \delta)) \leq A_2 \delta / |\log \delta|^q$$

with $A_1 > 0$, $A_2 > A_1$ depending only on q .

Remark 1. From Corollaries 1 and 2 (parts (b)) it follows (at least for functions h from the class $\{h_{p,q}\}_{p>0, q \geq 0}$) that for h , satisfying the requirements of the parts (b) of Theorems 1 and 2 respectively, one can find compact sets X_0 and X_∞ in \mathbf{R}^N (respectively in \mathbf{R}^2) such that $C_s(X_0) > 0$, $C_s(X_\infty) > 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X_0)}{h(\delta)} &= 0, \quad x \in X_0, \\ \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X_\infty)}{h(\delta)} &= +\infty, \quad x \in X_\infty \end{aligned}$$

(respectively, $\gamma_+(X_0) > 0$, $\gamma_+(X_\infty) > 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X_0)}{h(\delta)} &= 0, \quad x \in X_0, \\ \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X_\infty)}{h(\delta)} &= +\infty, \quad x \in X_\infty \end{aligned}.$$

In the cases, when the corresponding limits are $+\infty$ we, clearly, need to require in addition that $h(t) = o(t^s)$ ($h(t) = o(t)$ respectively) as $t \rightarrow 0$.

We propose also the following precisions to the parts (a) of Theorems 1 and 2.

Corollary 3. (i) Suppose that h satisfies property (1) of Theorem 1 and that for some α , $0 < \alpha < N$,

$$(21) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(t)}{t^\alpha} = +\infty.$$

Then there exists a Cantor-type set X in \mathbf{R}^N with $C_s(X) > 0$ (and so (2) holds), but

$$\liminf_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{C_s(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = 0$$

for all $a \in X$.

(ii) Let h satisfy property (6) of Theorem 2 and for some α , $0 < \alpha < 2$,

$$(22) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(t)}{t^\alpha} = +\infty.$$

Then there is a Cantor-type set X in \mathbf{R}^2 with $\gamma_+(X) > 0$ (so (7) holds), but for all $a \in X$,

$$\liminf_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_+(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = 0.$$

Proof. (i) We perform the following Cantor construction. Let Q_0 be a closed cube in \mathbf{R}^n with side-length $1 = d_0$. Let $n_1 \in \mathbf{N}$ with $n_1 > 1$ and partition Q_0 into subcubes $P_{1,1}, \dots, P_{1,n_1}$ of side-length $1/n_1$. Let $0 < d_1 < 1/n_1$ and let $Q_{1,i}$ be the closed subcube of $P_{1,i}$ with the same center as $P_{1,i}$ and side-length d_1 . We perform the same operation inside each $Q_{1,i}$ with parameters $n_2 \in \mathbf{N}$, $n_2 > 1$, and $0 < d_2 < d_1/n_2$. Thus we obtain altogether $(n_1 n_2)^N$ closed cubes with side-length d_2 . We continue this process and set

$$X = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{i=1}^{(n_1 \dots n_k)^N} Q_{k,i},$$

where $Q_{k,i}$ has side-length d_k with $0 < d_k < d_{k-1}/n_k$.

Let $s < \tau < N$ such that $\alpha < sN/\tau$ and choose n_k and d_k so that

$$(23) \quad n_k^N d_k^\tau = d_{k-1}^\tau.$$

Then $0 < \mathcal{H}_\varphi(X) < \infty$, $\varphi(t) = t^\tau$, and so $C_s(X) > 0$. We also choose n_k such that $n_k \rightarrow \infty$ from which one easily checks that for sufficiently large k ,

$$(B(x, d_{k-1}/2n_k) \setminus B(x, Nd_k)) \cap X = \emptyset$$

for all $x \in X$. Thus

$$C_s(B(x, d_{k-1}/2n_k) \cap X) = C_s(B(x, Nd_k) \cap X) \leq A_1 d_k^s.$$

Hence it is enough to check that we can choose d_k so that $d_k^s/h(d_{k-1}/2n_k) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. But by (23),

$$(24) \quad \frac{d_k^s}{h(d_{k-1}/2n_k)} = d_{k-1}^{s-\alpha} 2^\alpha n_k^{\alpha-sN/\tau} \frac{(d_{k-1}/2n_k)^\alpha}{h(d_{k-1}/2n_k)}.$$

After fixing d_{k-1} we are free to choose n_k as large as we want. Since $\alpha - sN/\tau < 0$, we can make right hand side of (24) to tend to zero by (21).

The proof of (ii) is similar. \square

Finally, we discuss the corresponding density properties of capacities γ_+ and α_+ in \mathbf{R}^N , $N \geq 2$.

For a bounded set E in \mathbf{R}^N , $N \geq 2$, define

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{+,N}(E) &= \sup \{ \mu(E) \mid \mu \in M_+(E), \|\nabla \Phi_N * \mu\| \leq 1 \}, \\ \alpha_{+,N}(E) &= \sup \{ \mu(E) \mid \mu \in M_+(E), \|\nabla \Phi_N * \mu\| \leq 1, \Phi_N * \mu \in C^1(\mathbf{R}^N) \}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Phi_N(x)$ is the standard fundamental solution for the Laplace equation in \mathbf{R}^N (see [MP] and [MPV]). It can be easily checked that $\gamma_{+,2} = 2\pi\gamma_+$.

From Egoroff's theorem it follows, that

$$C_s(F) = \sup \left\{ \mu(F) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{A}_s(F) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{B(x,r)} \frac{d\mu(y)}{|x-y|^s} \rightarrow 0 \right. \\ \left. \text{as } r \rightarrow 0 \text{ uniformly for } x \in \text{supp}(\mu) \right\}$$

(see [C, pp. 15–16]).

From this (taking $s = N - 1$) we have for each $N \geq 2$ that

$$(25) \quad \gamma_{+,N}(F) \geq \alpha_{+,N}(F) \geq A_N C_{N-1}(F),$$

$A_N > 0$ depends only on N .

Theorem 1 (a) and (25) give

Corollary 4. *Let X be a compact set in \mathbf{R}^N with $\gamma_{+,N}(X) > 0$ and suppose that h (as in §1) satisfies $\int_0^1 \frac{h(t) dt}{t^N} < +\infty$. Then for $\gamma_{+,N}$ -almost all $a \in X$ one has:*

$$(26) \quad \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma_{+,N}(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = +\infty.$$

The analogous result holds also for $\alpha_{+,N}$ -capacity.

Proof. As before, it is enough to prove (26) for at least one point $a \in X$. Take $\mu \in M_+(X)$ with $\|\nabla \Phi_N * \mu\| \leq 1$ (for $\alpha_{+,N}$ in addition we require continuity of $\nabla \Phi_n * \mu$). If there is $a \in X$ with

$$(27) \quad \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B(a, \delta) \cap X)}{h(\delta)} = +\infty,$$

then (26) also holds by [MPV, Lemma 3.3], which gives $\gamma_{+,N}(B(a, \delta) \cap X) \geq A\mu(B(a, \delta) \cap X)$ for some $A = A(N) > 0$ (for the case $\alpha_{+,N}$ we apply [MPV, Lemma 5.4]. If (27) fails for all $a \in X$ then we get $M_h(X) > 0$ and therefore (2) with $s = N - 1$ for some $a \in X$. It suffices to invoke (25).

We shall need the following

Theorem 3. *Let r and δ be positive numbers, $E_N \subset B(0, r)$ in \mathbf{R}^N ($N \geq 2$) and $E_{N+1} = E_N \times [0, \delta] \subset \mathbf{R}^{N+1}$. Then*

$$\frac{A^{-1} \delta \gamma_{+,N}(E_N)}{\max\{1, (r/\delta)^2\}} \leq \gamma_{+,N+1}(E_{N+1}) \leq A \max\{\delta, r\} \gamma_{+,N}(E_N),$$

$$\frac{A^{-1} \delta \alpha_{+,N}(E_N)}{\max\{1, (r/\delta)^2\}} \leq \alpha_{+,N+1}(E_{N+1}) \leq A \max\{\delta, r\} \alpha_{+,N}(E_N),$$

with $A > 1$ depending only on N .

The proof of Theorem 3 is analogous to that of [MP, Theorem 3.1].

Corollary 5. *Let h satisfy conditions (b) of Theorem 2. Then for each $N \geq 3$ there exists a compact set X_N in \mathbf{R}^N such that for each $a \in X_N$ one has*

$$A_1 \delta^{N-2} h(\delta) \leq \gamma_{+,N}(B(a, \delta) \cap X_N) \leq A_2 \delta^{N-2} h(\delta)$$

with $A_1 > 0$ and $A_2 > A_1$ depending only on N and h .

Proof. It is enough to take the corresponding X_1 from Theorem 2 (b) and set $X_N = X_1 \times [0, 1]^{N-2}$. Theorem 3 and induction give the result. \square

Therefore, here we have a gap for $\gamma_{+,N}$ and $\alpha_{+,N}$ in the sense that we do not have such complete results as in Theorems 1 and 2. Particularly, in the class of densities $\{t^{N-1}/|\log t|^q\}$, neither positive results nor counterexamples for $q \in (1/2, 1]$ for $\gamma_{+,N}$ and for $q \in (0, 1]$ for $\alpha_{+,N}$ -capacity, $N \geq 3$.

We close this paper with the following

Proposition 2. *Let $h, c > 0$ and $g(r) = h(r) \exp\left(-\int_r^1 \frac{ch^2(t)dt}{2t^3}\right)$ satisfy conditions (9) and $ch^2(t) \leq t^2$, $t \geq 0$. Suppose that there exists some compact set X in \mathbf{R}^2 and $Y \subset X$ with $\gamma_+(Y) > 0$ such that $\gamma_+(B(y, \delta) \cap X) \asymp h(\delta)$ as $\delta \rightarrow 0$ for each $y \in Y$. Then there is a compact set X_1 with properties (10) for each $a \in X_1$ and $\delta \in (0, 1)$.*

Proof. This h cannot satisfy condition (6), so that it satisfies (8) and then (b) of Theorem 2 applies. \square

The analogous result holds for C_s -capacities.

One can construct such a compact set X , for which there exist countably many pairwise uncomparable functions h_j , satisfying Proposition 2 (they can be functions $\{t/|\log t|^{q_j}\}$, $0 \leq q_1 < q_2 < \dots < \dots \leq 1/2$).

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P. MATTILA, UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS,
P.O. BOX 35 (MAD), FIN-40351 JYVÄSKYLÄ, FINLAND
E-mail address: pmattila@math.jyu.fi

P. V. PARAMONOV, MECHANICS AND MATHEMATICS FACULTY, MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY,
119899 MOSCOW, RUSSIA
E-mail address: petr@paramonov.msk.ru