

# GENERALIZED DIMENSION DISTORTION UNDER MAPPINGS OF SUB-EXPONENTIALLY INTEGRABLE DISTORTION

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**Abstract.** We prove a dimension distortion estimate for mappings of sub-exponentially integrable distortion in Euclidean spaces, which is sharp modulo a constant.

## 1. Introduction

The roots of our studies lie in [7], where the following was proved: given a planar  $K$ -quasiconformal mapping  $f$  and a set  $E$  with  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E < 2$ , we have  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} f(E) \leq \beta < 2$ , where  $\beta$  depends only on  $K$  and the Hausdorff dimension  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E$  of the set  $E$ . Later, it was shown that the same is true in higher dimensions with  $\beta$  depending on the dimension of the underlying space as well as on  $K$  and on  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E$  (see [6]). These results rely on the higher integrability of the Jacobian of a quasiconformal mapping [4, 6].

Recent extensions take a wider class of mappings into consideration. A continuous mapping  $f \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$  ( $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  is a domain) is called a *mapping of finite distortion*, if its Jacobian  $J_f$  is locally integrable and there exists a measurable function  $K: \Omega \rightarrow [1, \infty[$  such that

$$|Df(x)|^n \leq K(x)J_f(x)$$

for almost every  $x \in \Omega$ . We denote the optimal distortion function of  $f$  by  $K_f$ :

$$K_f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{|Df(x)|^n}{J_f(x)}, & J_f(x) \neq 0, \\ 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

An assumption on  $K_f$  that still guarantees some of the properties of quasiconformal mappings is the so-called exponential integrability. This condition requires that  $\exp(\lambda K_f)$  is locally integrable for some  $\lambda > 0$ . In this case,  $f$  is called a *mapping of  $\lambda$ -exponentially integrable distortion*.

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Such mappings satisfy Lusin’s condition N, i.e. they map sets of measure zero to sets of measure zero, [14]. However, in [12, Proposition 5.1], a mapping  $f: \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$  of finite exponentially integrable distortion that maps sets of Hausdorff dimension less than  $n$  to sets of Hausdorff dimension  $n$  was constructed.

Still it was possible to obtain reasonable dimension distortion results in terms of generalized Hausdorff measure (see the next section for the definition). In [12], it was shown that there exists a constant  $k_n$ , depending only on  $n$ , such that if  $f: \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$  is a homeomorphism with  $\lambda$ -exponentially integrable distortion for some  $\lambda$ , then  $\mathcal{H}^h(f(S^{n-1})) < \infty$  for all  $p < k_n \lambda$ , where  $\mathcal{H}^h$  is the generalized Hausdorff measure with gauge function  $h(t) = t^n \log^p(1/t)$ .

This result was improved for the planar case in [19], where the circle  $S^1$  was replaced by a general set  $E$  of Hausdorff dimension less than two: we have  $\mathcal{H}^h(f(E)) = 0$  for all  $p < \lambda$ , where  $h(t) = t^2 \log^p(1/t)$ , if  $f$  is a mapping of  $\lambda$ -exponentially integrable distortion. The proof is based on the higher regularity for the weak derivatives of the mapping  $f$  [1] and dimension distortion estimates for Orlicz–Sobolev mappings. See [18, 21] for related results in the plane and [22] for the generalization to higher dimensions.

The assumption of exponential integrability for the distortion is further relaxed by replacing it with a more general Orlicz condition. That is, given a mapping of finite distortion  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ , one may assume  $e^{\mathcal{A}(K_f)} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$ , where  $\mathcal{A}: [1, \infty[ \rightarrow [0, \infty[$  is a smooth increasing function such that (see [2, Section 20.5])

$$(1) \quad \int_1^\infty \frac{\mathcal{A}(t)}{t^2} dt = \infty.$$

In particular, when  $\mathcal{A}(t) = p \frac{t}{1+\log t} - p$ , for some  $p > 0$ , the mapping  $f$  is called a *mapping of sub-exponentially integrable distortion*. Dimension distortion in this particular case is examined in this paper.

Let us agree that from now on,  $\Omega$  is always an open set in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . Denote  $h_{n,\beta}(t) = t^n (\log \log(1/t))^\beta$ . We have the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** *There exists a constant  $c > 0$ , which depends only on the dimension  $n$  of the underlying space, such that for every homeomorphism of finite distortion  $f \in W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$ ,  $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ , with*

$$e^{\frac{K_f}{1+\log K_f}} \in L^p_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$$

for some  $p > 0$ , we have  $\mathcal{H}^{h_{n,\beta}}(f(E)) = 0$  for all  $\beta < cp$ , whenever  $E \subset \Omega$  is such that  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E < n$ .

When  $n = 2$ , the assumption on  $f$  to be a homeomorphism is not necessary due to Stoilow factorization (see Section 5 for the details). The constant  $c$  equals one in this case:

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $f \in W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^2)$ ,  $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^2$ , be a mapping of finite distortion with*

$$e^{\frac{K_f}{1+\log K_f}} \in L^p_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$$

for some  $p > 0$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}^{h_{2,\beta}}(f(E)) = 0$  for all  $\beta < p$ , whenever  $E \subset \Omega$  is such that  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E < 2$ .

The following example shows that Theorems 1 and 2 are sharp modulo a constant.

**Example 1.** There exists a constant  $C \geq 1$  depending only on  $n$ , such that for any  $\beta > 0$  and  $\varepsilon \in ]0, \beta[$ , we may construct sets  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}' \subset [0, 1]^n$ , satisfying  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} \mathcal{C} < n$  and  $\mathcal{H}^{h_{n,\beta}}(\mathcal{C}') > 0$ , and a mapping of finite distortion  $f \in W^{1,1}([0, 1]^n; \mathbf{R}^n)$ , such that

$$e^{\frac{K_f}{1+\log K_f}} \in L^{\frac{1}{C}\beta-\varepsilon}([0, 1]^n)$$

and  $f(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C}'$ .

The main auxiliary result, used in the proof of the theorems, is higher integrability for the Jacobian of a mapping of sub-exponentially integrable distortion, proved in [5] for general dimensions and refined in [8], where a sharp estimate for the higher integrability of the Jacobian of a planar mapping was obtained. Those estimates are combined with the methods used in [18, 21] for the case of exponentially integrable distortion.

One could extend the results presented here to a case of a more general function  $\mathcal{A}$ , in particular, when  $\mathcal{A}$  is given by

$$\mathcal{A}_{p,k}(t) = \frac{pt}{1 + \log(t) \log(\log(e - 1 + t)) \cdots \log(\dots (\log(e^{e^{\dots^e}} - 1 + t)) \dots)} - p,$$

where  $k$  means that the last logarithmic expression is a  $k$ -th iterated logarithm (a case studied in [8, Theorem 4]). However, we leave the results in the presented form, because the construction demonstrating sharpness is quite complicated even in the case of a single logarithm.

Let us remark that the integrability assumption in (1) is essential if one wishes to obtain dimension distortion estimates for mappings of finite distortion. Indeed, Section 5 of [14] provides a construction of a homeomorphism  $f$  of finite distortion  $K$  with  $e^{\mathcal{A}(K)} \in L^1_{loc}$  for some function  $\mathcal{A} : [1, \infty[ \rightarrow [0, \infty[$  such that

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{\mathcal{A}(t)}{t^2} dt < \infty,$$

and  $f$  maps a set of Hausdorff dimension strictly less than the dimension  $n$  of the underlying space to a set of positive Lebesgue measure. More precisely,  $\mathcal{A}$  is taken as  $\mathcal{A}(t) = p \frac{t}{\log^2(e+t)} - p$  for some particular  $p > 0$ . See [16] for refined constructions.

## 2. Definitions

Let us agree on some notation. For a set  $V \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  and a number  $\delta > 0$ ,  $V + \delta$  denotes the set  $\{y \in \mathbf{R}^n : \text{dist}(y, V) < \delta\}$ .

Always when we introduce a constant using the notation  $C = C(\cdot)$ , we mean that the constant  $C$  depends only on the parameters listed in the parentheses.

We write  $\mathcal{H}^h(A)$  for the *generalized Hausdorff measure* of a set  $A$ , given by

$$\mathcal{H}^h(A) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{H}^h_\delta(A),$$

where

$$\mathcal{H}^h_\delta(A) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^\infty h(\text{diam } U_i) : A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty U_i, \text{diam } U_i \leq \delta \right\}$$

and  $h$  is a dimension gauge (a non-decreasing function with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} h(t) = h(0) = 0$ ). If  $h(t) = t^\alpha$  for some  $\alpha \geq 0$ , we simply put  $\mathcal{H}^\alpha$  for  $\mathcal{H}^{t^\alpha}$  and call it the *Hausdorff  $\alpha$ -dimensional measure*, and the *Hausdorff dimension*  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} A$  of the set  $A$  is the smallest  $\alpha_0 \geq 0$  such that  $\mathcal{H}^\alpha(A) = 0$  for any  $\alpha > \alpha_0$ .

Let us recall the definition of Orlicz classes. An *Orlicz function* is a continuous increasing function  $P: [0, \infty[ \rightarrow [0, \infty[$  such that  $P(0) = 0$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) = \infty$ . Given an Orlicz function  $P$ , we denote by  $L^P(\Omega)$  the *Orlicz class* of integrable functions  $h: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} P(\nu|h|) < \infty$$

for some  $\nu = \nu(h) > 0$ . An *Orlicz–Sobolev class*  $W^{1,P}(\Omega)$  is a class of mappings  $g \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^2)$  such that all the distributional partial derivatives of  $g$  are in the class  $L^P(\Omega)$ .

Finally, given a mapping  $f \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,1}(\Omega, \mathbf{R}^n)$ , we write the equality  $\text{Det } Df = J_f$ , if the distributional determinant  $\text{Det } Df$  [3] coincides with the pointwise Jacobian  $J_f$ , that is, if

$$\int_{\Omega} f_1(x) J_{\tilde{f}}(x) dx = - \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x) J_f(x) dx$$

holds for each  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  (here  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_n)$  and  $\tilde{f} = (\varphi, f_2, \dots, f_n)$ ). See [13, 9, 10, 20] for some conditions on the regularity of the weak derivatives of  $f$  sufficient to guarantee this equality.

### 3. Example

Fix  $\beta > 0$ . Let us construct the mapping in Example 1. We start by defining the pre-image and image Cantor sets  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{C}'$ , respectively. Fix  $\sigma \in ]0, 1/2[$ . The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is obtained as a Cartesian product  $\mathcal{C}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_1$  ( $n$  times), where  $\mathcal{C}_1$  is a Cantor set on the real line. In order to construct  $\mathcal{C}_1$ , take a unit segment  $I = [0, 1]$  and divide it into eight equal parts. Consider eight closed intervals  $I_j^3$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, 8$ , of length  $\sigma^3$ , each taken in the middle of one of the obtained segments. At the further steps, the intervals considered are always divided into two parts. Given  $2^k$ ,  $k \geq 3$ , intervals  $I_j^k$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, 2^k$ , of length  $\sigma^k$ , we divide each of them into two parts and take  $2^{k+1}$  closed intervals  $I_j^{k+1}$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, 2^{k+1}$ , of length  $\sigma^{k+1}$ , each in the middle of one of the obtained parts. Finally,  $\mathcal{C}_1$  is taken as  $\bigcap_{k \geq 3} \bigcup_{j=1}^{2^k} I_j^k$ . The Hausdorff measure  $\mathcal{H}^\alpha(\mathcal{C}_1)$  of the set  $\mathcal{C}_1$  for  $\alpha \in ]\frac{\log 2}{\log(1/\sigma)}, 1[$  may be estimated as

$$\mathcal{H}^\alpha(\mathcal{C}_1) \leq \inf_{k \geq 3} \{2^k \sigma^{\alpha k}\} = 0,$$

so,  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} \mathcal{C}_1 < 1$ , and thus,  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} \underbrace{(\mathcal{C}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_1)}_{n \text{ times}} < n$ .

The image set  $\mathcal{C}'$  is constructed similarly, but at the  $k$ -th step,  $k \geq 3$ , the length of the intervals chosen is  $l_k = 2^{-k} \log^{-\beta/n} k$  instead of  $\sigma^k$ . For any  $k \geq 3$ , the set  $\mathcal{C}'$  can be covered by  $2^{nk}$  cubes of side length  $l_k$ . Let us see that  $\mathcal{H}^{h_{n,\beta}}(\mathcal{C}') > 0$ . We prove it using the mass distribution principle. We have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 2^{nk} h_{n,\beta}(l_k) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 2^{nk} l_k^n (\log \log(1/l_k))^\beta = 1.$$

Put  $m := \inf_{k \geq 3} \{2^{nk} h_{n,\beta}(l_k)\} > 0$  and let  $\mu$  be the uniformly distributed probability measure supported by  $\mathcal{C}'$ . Suppose also that  $\delta > 0$  is so small that  $h_{n,\beta}(t)$  is increasing in  $t$  on the interval  $]0, \delta[$ . Then for any  $U \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  such that  $l_{k+1} \leq \text{diam } U < \min\{\delta, l_k\}$  for some  $k \geq 3$ , we have

$$\mu(U) \leq 2^n \cdot 2^{-nk} \leq \frac{2^{2n} h_{n,\beta}(l_{k+1})}{m} \leq \frac{2^{2n} h_{n,\beta}(\text{diam } U)}{m}.$$

Thus, for any covering  $\bigcup_i U_i$  of the set  $\mathcal{C}'$ , such that  $\text{diam } U_i < \min\{\delta, l_3\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , we observe

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} h_{n,\beta}(\text{diam } U_i) \geq \frac{m}{2^{2n}} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(U_i) \geq \frac{m}{2^{2n}} \mu\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} U_i\right) = \frac{m}{2^{2n}} > 0.$$

Hence  $\mathcal{H}_{\delta_1}^{h_{n,\beta}}(\mathcal{C}') \geq m/2^{2n} > 0$  for all  $\delta_1 \leq \min\{\delta, l_3\}$ , therefore  $\mathcal{H}^{h_{n,\beta}}(\mathcal{C}') > 0$ .

Let us denote by  $Q_{k,j}$  with  $k = 3, 4, \dots$  and  $j = 1, \dots, 2^{nk}$  the cubes of the side length  $\sigma^k$ , appearing on the pre-image side at the  $k$ -th step of the construction. Write  $q_{k,j}$  for the centres of these cubes. Next, let  $A_{k,j}$  for  $k = 3, 4, \dots$  and  $j = 1, \dots, 2^{nk}$  denote the frames

$$\{x \in \mathbf{R}^n : r_k < |x - q_{k,j}|_{\infty} < R_k\},$$

where  $r_k = \sigma^k/2$  for  $k \geq 3$ ,  $R_k = \sigma^{k-1}/4$  for  $k \geq 4$ ,  $R_3 = 1/16$  and  $|\cdot|_{\infty}$  is the maximum norm:

$$|x|_{\infty} = \max\{|x_i|\}_{i=1}^n.$$

The inner boundary  $\{x \in \mathbf{R}^n : |x - q_{k,j}|_{\infty} = r_k\}$  of the frame  $A_{k,j}$  is exactly the boundary of the cube  $Q_{k,j}$ . Let us introduce similar notation for the image side. Write  $Q'_{k,j}$  with  $k = 3, 4, \dots$  and  $j = 1, \dots, 2^{nk}$  for the cubes with the side length  $l_k = 2^{-k} \log^{-\beta/n} k$  and  $q'_{k,j}$  for the centres of these cubes. Finally,  $A'_{k,j}$  for  $k = 3, 4, \dots$  and  $j = 1, \dots, 2^{nk}$  denote the frames

$$\{x \in \mathbf{R}^n : r'_k < |x - q'_{k,j}|_{\infty} < R'_k\},$$

where  $r'_k = 2^{-k-1} \log^{-\beta/n} k$  for  $k \geq 3$ ,  $R'_k = 2^{-k-1} \log^{-\beta/n}(k-1)$  for  $k \geq 4$  and  $R'_3 = 1/16$ .

We are ready to construct a mapping  $f : [0, 1]^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$  such that  $f(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C}'$ . The construction is similar to the one in [12, Proposition 5.1]. First, let

$$a_k = \frac{R'_k - r'_k}{R_k - r_k} \quad \text{and} \quad b_k = \frac{R_k r'_k - R'_k r_k}{R_k - r_k},$$

for  $k \geq 3$ . Then, define  $f_3$  as

$$f_3(x) = \begin{cases} (a_3 |x - q_{3,j}|_{\infty} + b_3) \frac{x - q_{3,j}}{|x - q_{3,j}|_{\infty}} + q'_{3,j}, & x \in \bar{A}_{3,j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, 8^n, \\ \frac{r'_3}{r_3} (x - q_{3,j}) + q'_{3,j}, & x \in Q_{3,j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, 8^n. \end{cases}$$

We proceed by putting

$$f_k(x) = \begin{cases} (a_k |x - q_{k,j}|_{\infty} + b_k) \frac{x - q_{k,j}}{|x - q_{k,j}|_{\infty}} + q'_{k,j}, & x \in A_{k,j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, 2^{nk}, \\ \frac{r'_k}{r_k} (x - q_{k,j}) + q'_{k,j}, & x \in \bar{Q}_{k,j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, 2^{nk}, \\ f_{k-1}(x), & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

for  $k > 3$ . The mapping  $f$  is obtained as the pointwise limit  $f = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_k$ .

It is a Sobolev mapping. Indeed, let us first see that it is ACL (absolutely continuous on lines). Take a line on the pre-image side parallel to the  $x_1$ -axis that

does not hit the initial Cantor set  $\mathcal{C}$ . On this line, the mapping  $f$  coincides with one of the mappings  $f_{k_0}$  in our sequence, which is Lipschitz and, therefore, absolutely continuous along the considered line. Since  $\mathcal{C}_1$  has vanishing Lebesgue measure  $\mathcal{L}^1$ , it follows that  $f$  is ACL. Next, let us check the integrability of the differential of  $f$ . Its behaviour is essentially defined by the behaviour of  $f$  on the cubical collars  $A_{k,j}$ , where it is given by

$$(a_k|x|_\infty + b_k) \frac{x}{|x|_\infty}, \quad r_k < |x|_\infty < R_k$$

up to a translation. By Lemma 4.1 in [15], there exists a constant  $C_0 = C_0(n) \geq 1$  such that

$$|Df(x)| = |Df_k(x)| \leq C_0 \max \left\{ a_k, a_k + \frac{b_k}{|x - q_{k,j}|_\infty} \right\} \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in A_{k,j}.$$

It is possible to find  $k_0 \in \mathbf{N}$  such that  $b_k > 0$  for all  $k \geq k_0$ . Then we have

$$|Df(x)| \leq C_0 \left( a_k + \frac{b_k}{|x - q_{k,j}|_\infty} \right) \leq C_0 \frac{r'_k}{r_k}$$

for almost every  $x \in A_{k,j}$ , when  $k \geq k_0$ . So, the integrability of the differential of  $f$  may be estimated with help of the following series:

$$\int_{[0,1]^n} |Df| \leq C_1 + C_0 \sum_{k=k_0}^\infty (2\sigma)^{n(k-1)} \frac{2^{-k} \log^{-\beta/n} k}{\sigma^k} = C_1 + C_2 \sum_{k=k_0}^\infty (2\sigma)^{(n-1)k} \log^{-\beta/n} k,$$

where  $C_1 = C_1(n, \sigma, \beta)$  and  $C_2 = C_2(n, \sigma)$  are positive constants. This series converges by the Ratio Test, since

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{-\beta/n}(k+1)}{\log^{-\beta/n} k} = 1 < \frac{1}{(2\sigma)^{n-1}}.$$

So, we have  $|Df| \in L^1([0, 1]^n)$  and therefore  $f \in W^{1,1}([0, 1]^n; \mathbf{R}^n)$ .

The Jacobian of  $f$  is locally integrable as a Jacobian of a Sobolev homeomorphism [17, Lemma 5.3 and Proposition 4.1].

Finally, let us examine the sub-exponential integrability of the distortion function of  $f$ . The Jacobian of  $f$  is given by

$$J_{f_k}(x) = a_k \left( a_k + \frac{b_k}{|x - q_{k,j}|_\infty} \right)^{n-1}$$

at almost every  $x \in A_{k,j}$ . Thus,  $K_f$  is bounded by

$$(2) \quad K_{f_k}(x) \leq C_0^n \left( 1 + \frac{b_k}{a_k|x - q_{k,j}|_\infty} \right) \leq C_0^n \frac{1 - 2\sigma}{2\sigma} \frac{1}{\left( \frac{\log k}{\log(k-1)} \right)^{\beta/n} - 1} =: C_0^n K_k$$

for almost every  $x \in A_{k,j}$ , when  $k \geq k_0$ . This gives the estimate for  $p > 0$

$$\int_{[0,1]^n} \exp\left( \frac{pK_f}{1 + \log K_f} \right) \leq C + \sum_{k=k_0}^\infty (2\sigma)^{n(k-1)} \exp\left( \frac{p C_0^n K_k}{1 + \log K_k} \right)$$

with a constant  $C = C(n, \sigma, \beta) > 0$ . By Lemma 1 below,

$$(3) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\exp\left( \frac{p C_0^n K_{k+1}}{1 + \log K_{k+1}} \right)}{\exp\left( \frac{p C_0^n K_k}{1 + \log K_k} \right)} = \exp\left( p C_0^n \frac{1 - 2\sigma}{2\sigma} \frac{n}{\beta} \right),$$

and thus, by the Ratio Test, the series above converges provided

$$\exp\left(p C_0^n \frac{1 - 2\sigma n}{2\sigma \beta}\right) < (2\sigma)^{-n}.$$

So, we have

$$e^{\frac{K_f}{1+\log K_f}} \in L_{\text{loc}}^p(\Omega)$$

for all  $p < p_0 = \frac{\beta}{C_0^n} \frac{2\sigma}{1-2\sigma} \log \frac{1}{2\sigma}$ . Choosing  $\sigma$  close enough to  $1/2$ , we can make  $p_0$  as close to  $\beta/C_0^n$  as we wish.

The following lemma verifies (3).

**Lemma 1.** *We have*

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\exp\left(\frac{p C_0^n K_{k+1}}{1+\log K_{k+1}}\right)}{\exp\left(\frac{p C_0^n K_k}{1+\log K_k}\right)} = \exp\left(p C_0^n \frac{1 - 2\sigma n}{2\sigma \beta}\right),$$

where  $K_k$  is as defined in (2).

*Proof.* Straightforward calculations give us

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{p C_0^n K_{k+1}}{1 + \log K_{k+1}} - \frac{p C_0^n K_k}{1 + \log K_k} \\ &= p C_0^n \alpha \frac{\left(\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k}\right) \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} + \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k}}{1 + \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} + \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} + \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha = (1 - 2\sigma)/(2\sigma)$  and  $T_t = (\log t / \log(t - 1))^{\beta/n} - 1$  for  $t \in [3, \infty[$ . Notice that  $T_t \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus, in order to prove this lemma, it is enough to show that the numerator of the fraction above goes to  $n/\beta$  as  $k$  tends to infinity. We demonstrate it by the following two observations:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k}\right) \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} = 0$$

and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k}\right) = \frac{n}{\beta}.$$

The main tool here is the mean-value theorem. Let us first examine the difference  $\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k}$ . There exists a sequence  $\{\zeta_k\}_{k=3}^\infty$  of numbers between 0 and 1 such that

$$\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} = u(k + 1) - u(k) = u'(k + \zeta_k),$$

where

$$u(t) = \frac{\log^{\beta/n}(t - 1)}{\log^{\beta/n} t - \log^{\beta/n}(t - 1)}.$$

We have

$$u'(t) = \frac{\beta \left(\frac{1}{t-1} \log^{-1}(t - 1) - \frac{1}{t} \log^{-1} t\right) \log^{\beta/n}(t - 1) \log^{\beta/n} t}{n (\log^{\beta/n} t - \log^{\beta/n}(t - 1))^2}.$$

We apply the mean-value theorem again in order to replace the differences both in the numerator and in the denominator with multiplicative terms. We obtain for  $t > 3$

$$\begin{aligned} u'(t) &= \frac{n(t - \theta_t)^2 (\log(t - \eta_t) + 1) \log^{\beta/n}(t - 1) \log^{\beta/n} t}{\beta(t - \eta_t)^2 \log^{2\beta/n-2}(t - \theta_t) \log^2(t - \eta_t)} \\ &< \frac{n t^2 (\log t + 1) \log^{2\beta/n+2} t}{\beta(t - 1)^2 \log^{2\beta/n+2}(t - 1)} < \frac{9n \cdot 2^{2\beta/n}}{\beta} (\log t + 1), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta_t, \theta_t \in ]0, 1[$ .

Next, let us observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (4) \quad \frac{1}{T_t} &= \frac{\log^{\beta/n}(t - 1)}{\log^{\beta/n} t - \log^{\beta/n}(t - 1)} = \frac{n(t - \delta_t) \log^{\beta/n}(t - 1)}{\beta \log^{\beta/n-1}(t - \delta_t)} \\ &= \frac{n}{\beta} (t - \delta_t) M_t \log(t - \delta_t), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\delta_t \in ]0, 1[$  and  $M_t = (\log(t - 1) / \log(t - \delta_t))^{\beta/n} \rightarrow 1$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Finally, we obtain for large  $k$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &< \left( \frac{1}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \right) \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} \\ &< \frac{9n \cdot 2^{2\beta/n}}{\beta} \frac{\log(k + 1) + 1}{(\log(k - 1) + \log(\frac{n\alpha}{\beta} M_k \log(k - 1))) (\log k + \log(\frac{n\alpha}{\beta} M_{k+1} \log k))} \\ &< \frac{9n \cdot 2^{2\beta/n}}{\beta} \frac{\log(k + 1) + 1}{\log^2(k - 1)} \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

It remains to examine the difference

$$\frac{1}{T_{k+1}} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{T_k} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_k} = v(k + 1) - v(k),$$

where  $v(t) = \frac{1}{T_t} \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}$ . Obviously, it is enough to prove that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} v'(t) = n/\beta$ . Let us calculate

$$\begin{aligned} v'(t) &= \frac{\beta}{n} \frac{\log^{\beta/n-1} t}{\log^{\beta/n+1}(t - 1)} \frac{t \log t - (t - 1) \log(t - 1)}{t(t - 1)} \frac{1 - \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}{T_t^2 \log \frac{\alpha}{T_t}} \\ &= \frac{\beta}{n} \frac{\log^{\beta/n-1} t}{\log^{\beta/n+1}(t - 1)} \frac{(\log(t - \kappa_t) + 1)}{t(t - 1)} \frac{1 - \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}{T_t^2 \log \frac{\alpha}{T_t}} \\ &= \frac{\beta}{n} N_t \frac{1 - \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}{t(t - 1) T_t^2 \log(t - 1) \log \frac{\alpha}{T_t}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\kappa_t \in ]0, 1[$  and  $N_t \rightarrow 1$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . We use the representation (4) again to obtain

$$v'(t) = \frac{n(t - \delta_t)^2}{\beta t(t - 1)} \frac{N_t M_t^2 (1 - \log^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{T_t}) \log^2(t - \delta_t)}{(\log(t - \delta_t) + \log(\frac{n\alpha}{\beta} M_t \log(t - \delta_t))) \log(t - 1)} \rightarrow \frac{n}{\beta}$$

as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . □



4. Proof of Theorem 1

Without loss of generality, we may assume for the rest of the paper that  $\Omega$  is connected. Moreover, using the  $\sigma$ -additivity of the generalized Hausdorff measure, we may assume in what follows, that  $\Omega$  is bounded and  $e^{\frac{pK_f}{1+\log K_f}}$  is globally integrable in  $\Omega$ . We will use a higher integrability result for the Jacobian from [5] to establish the desired dimension distortion estimate.

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Corollary 3.3 from [5] gives us a constant  $c = c(n) > 0$  such that  $|Df| \in L^{P_\beta}_{loc}(\Omega)$  and  $J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f) \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$  for all  $\beta < cp$ , where

$$P_\beta(t) = \frac{t^n}{\log(e + t) \log^{1-\beta}(\log(e^e + t))}.$$

Fix some  $q \in ]n - 1, n[$ . The integrability of the differential of  $f$  guarantees that  $f \in W^{1,q}_{loc}(\Omega)$ . In order to conclude  $f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{loc}(f(\Omega))$  by [11, Theorem 4.2], we also need  $K_f^{\frac{(q-1)q}{2q-n}}$  to be integrable in  $\Omega$ , which is clearly true as  $K_f$  is sub-exponentially integrable. Finally, the regularity of the weak derivatives of  $f$  is enough to guarantee  $\text{Det } Df = J_f$ , since the function  $P_\beta$  satisfies the assumptions (i) and (ii) of Theorem 1.2 in [20]. The desired equality  $\text{Det } Df = J_f$  follows also from the remark in [10, p. 594]. All this makes the application of Lemma 2 possible, concluding the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $f \in W^{1,q}_{loc}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$ ,  $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  ( $n \geq 2$  and  $q > n - 1$ ), be a homeomorphism, such that  $\text{Det } Df = J_f$ ,  $J_f(x) \geq 0$  for almost every  $x \in \Omega$  and  $J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f) \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$  for some  $\beta$ . If  $n > 2$ , assume in addition that  $f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{loc}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}^{h_n, \beta}(f(E)) = 0$ , whenever  $E \subset \Omega$  is such that  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E < n$ .*

The assumptions  $f \in W^{1,q}_{loc}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$  and  $\text{Det } Df = J_f$  are due to our intention to use Lemma 3.2 from [14]. Before proving Lemma 2, let us state the following auxillary result. This lemma is Lemma 9 from [22], its proof is a standard extension to higher dimensions of the planar case [18, Lemma 3.1].

**Lemma 3.**

- (i) *Let  $f: \Omega \rightarrow f(\Omega) \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $n > 2$ , be a homeomorphism such that  $f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{loc}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$  for some  $q \in ]n - 1, n[$ . Then there exists a set  $F \subset f(\Omega)$  such that  $\mathcal{H}^{n-\frac{q}{2}}(F) = 0$  and for all  $y \in f(\Omega) \setminus F$  there exist constants  $C_y > 0$  and  $r_y > 0$  such that*

$$(5) \quad \text{diam}(f^{-1}(B(y, r))) \leq C_y r^{1/2},$$

*for all  $0 < r < r_y$ .*

- (ii) *If  $n = 2$ , (i) is true with the assumption  $f^{-1} \in W^{1,q}_{loc}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$  replaced by the condition  $f \in W^{1,1}_{loc}(\Omega)$  and with  $q = 1$ , that is, with  $\mathcal{H}^{3/2}(F) = 0$  for the exceptional set  $F$ .*

*Proof of Lemma 2.* The proof repeats the strategy of the proof of Theorem 1.1 from [21]. As in Lemma 3.2 from [18], using Lemma 3, we may represent the image

set  $\Omega' = f(\Omega)$  in the following form

$$\Omega' = F \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \{y \in \Omega' : \text{diam}(f^{-1}(B(y, r))) \leq kr^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ for all } r \in ]0, 1/j[ \},$$

obtaining a decomposition  $\Omega' = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} F_i$  and a collection of constants  $\{C_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}, \{R_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ , such that  $\mathcal{H}^{h_n, \beta}(F_0) = 0$  and for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , we have  $1 \leq C_i < \infty, R_i > 0$  and

$$(6) \quad f^{-1} \left( (f(A) \cap F_i) + \left( \frac{r}{C_i} \right)^2 \right) \subset A + r$$

for every  $A \subset \Omega$  and for every  $r \in ]0, R_i[$ .

Fix  $i \geq 1$ . Let us show that  $\mathcal{H}^{h_n, \beta}(f(E) \cap F_i) = 0$ . Take some

$$s \in ] \max\{\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E, n - 1\}, n[$$

and put  $\sigma = \frac{n-s}{2} < \frac{1}{2}$ . Choose  $r_0 \in ]0, e^{-1/\sigma^2}[$  small enough to guarantee  $\log^{\beta}(2 \log \frac{C_i}{r}) \leq r^{-\sigma}$  for all  $r \in ]0, r_0[$ .

Fix now  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Using the absolute continuity of the Lebesgue integral and the given integrability of the Jacobian, we may find a number  $\delta > 0$ , such that

$$\int_A J_f(x) \log^{\beta} \log(e^{\varepsilon} + J_f(x)) dx < \varepsilon$$

for each  $A \subset \Omega$  such that  $\mathcal{L}^n(A) < \delta$ .

Since  $\mathcal{H}^s(E) = 0$ , we may find a countable collection of balls  $\{B(x_j, r_j)\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$  covering  $E$  and having radii less than  $\min\{r_0, R_i, \frac{1}{C_i}\}$ , such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^n \omega_n r_j^s < \min\{\varepsilon, \delta\}.$$

Now, write  $F_{i,j} = F_i \cap f(B(x_j, r_j))$  for each  $j \in \mathbf{N}$ . Notice by (6) that  $f^{-1}(F_{i,j} + R_{i,j}) \subset B(x_j, 2r_j)$ , where  $R_{i,j} = (\frac{r_j}{C_i})^2$ .

Next, we use the  $5r$ -covering theorem to find an at most countable subcollection of pairwise disjoint balls  $\{B(y_k, \rho_k)\}_{k \in K}$  from the collection

$$\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \{B(y, R_{i,j}) : y \in F_{i,j}\}$$

so that

$$F_i \cap f(E) \subset \bigcup_{k \in K} B(y_k, 5\rho_k),$$

where, for each  $k \in K$ , we have  $y_k \in F_{i,j}$  for some  $j = j(k)$  and  $\rho_k = R_{i,j(k)}$ .

Since  $r_j < e^{-1/\sigma^2} < e^{-4}$  for all  $j \in \mathbf{N}$ , we have  $\frac{1}{10R_{i,j(k)}} > \frac{C_i^2 e^8}{10} > e$  for  $k \in K$ . Lemma 3.2 from [14] yields

$$\mathcal{L}^n(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})) \leq \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} J_f(x) dx$$

for all  $k \in K$ . Thus, we may estimate

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H}_{10r_0}^{h_n, \beta}(F_i \cap f(E)) &\leq \sum_{k \in K} 10^n R_{i,j(k)}^n \log^\beta \log\left(\frac{1}{10R_{i,j(k)}}\right) \\
 &\leq \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \mathcal{L}^n(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})) \log^\beta \log\left(\frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}}\right) \\
 &\leq \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} \log^\beta \log\left(\frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}}\right) J_f(x) dx \\
 &= \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \left( \int_{\{x \in f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})) : J_f(x) < r_{j(k)}^{-\sigma}\}} \log^\beta \log\left(\frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}}\right) J_f(x) dx \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_{\{x \in f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)})) : J_f(x) \geq r_{j(k)}^{-\sigma}\}} \log^\beta \log\left(\frac{1}{R_{i,j(k)}}\right) J_f(x) dx \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} r_{j(k)}^{-2\sigma} \mathcal{L}^n(f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))) \\
 &\quad + \frac{10^n}{\omega_n} \sum_{k \in K} \frac{\log^\beta \log(1/R_{i,j(k)})}{\log^\beta \log(e^e + 1/r_{j(k)}^\sigma)} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f),
 \end{aligned}$$

using the fact that  $\log^\beta(2 \log \frac{C_i}{r_j}) \leq r_j^{-\sigma}$  for all  $j \in \mathbf{N}$ . Let us estimate the first term in the last sum. By grouping the balls according to  $j(k)$  and using the relation  $f^{-1}(F_{i,j} + R_{i,j}) \subset B(x_j, 2r_j)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{k \in K} r_{j(k)}^{-2\sigma} \mathcal{L}^n(f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))) &= \sum_{j=1}^\infty r_j^{s-n} \sum_{\substack{k \in K \\ j(k)=j}} \mathcal{L}^n(f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j}))) \\
 &\leq \sum_{j=1}^\infty r_j^{s-n} \mathcal{L}^n(B(x_j, 2r_j)) = \sum_{j=1}^\infty 2^n \omega_n r_j^s < \varepsilon.
 \end{aligned}$$

Let us now estimate the second term in the sum. Since  $r_j < \frac{1}{C_i}$  and  $r_j < e^{-1/\sigma^2} < e^{-4}$  for all  $j \in \mathbf{N}$ , we obtain for each  $k \in K$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\log^\beta \log(1/R_{i,j(k)})}{\log^\beta \log(e^e + 1/r_{j(k)}^\sigma)} &\leq \frac{\log^\beta(2 \log \frac{C_i}{r_{j(k)}})}{\log^\beta(\sigma \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}})} \leq \frac{\log^\beta(4 \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}})}{\log^\beta(\sigma \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}})} \\
 &= \left( \frac{\log 4 + \log \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}}}{\log \sigma + \log \log \frac{1}{r_{j(k)}}} \right)^\beta \leq 2^{2\beta}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Using the pairwise disjointness of  $f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))$ ,  $k \in K$ , and the fact that  $f^{-1}(F_{i,j} + R_{i,j}) \subset B(x_j, 2r_j)$  for all  $j \in \mathbf{N}$ , we conclude

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sum_{k \in K} \frac{\log^\beta \log(1/R_{i,j(k)})}{\log^\beta \log(e^e + 1/r_{j(k)}^\sigma)} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f) \\
 &\leq 2^{2\beta} \sum_{k \in K} \int_{f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq 2^{2\beta} \int_{\bigcup_{k \in K} f^{-1}(B(y_k, R_{i,j(k)}))} J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f) \\ &\leq 2^{2\beta} \int_{\bigcup_{j=1}^\infty B(x_j, 2r_j)} J_f \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_f) \leq 2^{2\beta} \varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\mathcal{L}^n \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty B(x_j, 2r_j) \right) \leq \sum_{j=1}^\infty 2^n \omega_n r_j^n \leq \sum_{j=1}^\infty 2^n \omega_n r_j^s < \delta. \quad \square$$

### 5. Planar case

As it was mentioned in the first section, the assumption on  $f$  to be a homeomorphism can be avoided in the plane due to factorization of the solutions of the Beltrami equation. The *Beltrami equation* is an equation in the complex plane  $\mathbf{C}$  of the form

$$(7) \quad \bar{\partial}f(z) = \mu(z)\partial f(z),$$

where  $\bar{\partial} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x + i\partial_y)$  and  $\partial = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x - i\partial_y)$ . The function  $\mu$  is the *Beltrami coefficient* of the mapping  $f$  (provided  $f$  is a solution of (7) in some sense). Given an abstract Beltrami coefficient  $\mu(z)$ , such that  $|\mu(z)| < 1$  almost everywhere, we can associate to  $\mu$  a real-valued function  $K = \frac{1+|\mu|}{1-|\mu|}$ , called a *distortion function* of the Beltrami equation. The terminology is natural, as the Beltrami equation yields the distortion inequality

$$|Df(z)|^2 \leq K(z)J_f(z)$$

for its  $W_{\text{loc}}^{1,1}$ -solutions. Conversely, a mapping  $f$  with finite optimal distortion function  $K_f(z)$  satisfies almost everywhere the Beltrami equation with the associated Beltrami coefficient  $\mu_f(z) = \bar{\partial}f(z)/\partial f(z)$ , when  $\partial f(z) \neq 0$  ( $\mu_f(z) = 0$  otherwise). In this case, the distortion function of this Beltrami equation equals  $K_f$  and  $|\mu(z)| = \frac{K_f(z)-1}{K_f(z)+1} < 1$  for almost every  $z$ .

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be defined by  $\mathcal{A}(t) = p_{\frac{t}{1+\log t}} - p$ . Thus, our sub-exponential integrability assumption on  $f$  may be rewritten as  $e^{\mathcal{A}(K_f(z))} \in L^1(\Omega)$ . Clearly, the function  $\mathcal{A}$  satisfies conditions 1–3 from [2, pp. 570–571], so, we may apply Theorem 20.5.2 in [2], which gives the unique principal solution  $g$  to the global Beltrami equation that is satisfied by  $f$  almost everywhere in  $\Omega$ . See [2, Definition 20.0.4] for the definition of the principal solution of the Beltrami equation. In particular,  $g$  is homeomorphic. In addition, Theorem 20.5.2 in [2] asserts that  $f$  can be factorized as  $f = \phi \circ g$  (where  $\phi$  is holomorphic in  $g(\Omega)$ ), provided  $f \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,P}(\Omega)$  for

$$P(t) = \begin{cases} t^2, & 0 \leq t \leq 1, \\ \frac{t^2}{\mathcal{A}^{-1}(\log t^2)}, & t \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

which is true by [2, Theorem 20.5.1].

Higher integrability of the Jacobian for  $g$  follows from Theorem 1 in [8], yielding  $J_g \log^\beta \log(e^e + J_g) \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$  and

$$\frac{|Df|^2}{\log(e + |Df|) \log^{1-\beta} \log(e^e + |Df|)} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$$

for all  $\beta < p$ . This allows to use Lemma 2, giving  $\mathcal{H}^{h_2, \beta}(g(E)) = 0$  for all  $\beta < p$  and each set  $E \subset \Omega$  such that  $\dim_{\mathcal{H}} E < 2$ . Finally, as  $\phi$  is locally Lipschitz, we obtain  $\mathcal{H}^{h_2, \beta}(f(E)) = 0$  for such  $\beta$  and  $E$ .  $\square$

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