

THE POINTWISE DENSITIES OF NON-SYMMETRIC CANTOR SETS

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We consider a class of non-symmetric Cantor sets C determined by $C = a_0C \cup (a_1C + 1 - a_1)$, $a_0, a_1 \in (0, 1)$. Under certain conditions on a_0 and a_1 , the upper and lower densities are obtained explicitly for each $x \in C$. It extends the results for symmetric Cantor sets obtained by Feng, Hua and Wen (The pointwise densities of the Cantor measure, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* **250** (2000) 692–705).

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1. Introduction

Let $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be the unique nonempty compact set invariant under h_0, h_1 :

$$C = h_0(C) \cup h_1(C), \quad (1)$$

where $h_j(x) = a_jx + b_j$, $j = 0, 1$, with $0 < a_j < 1$. The set C is also termed as *Cantor set*, or the self-similar set determined by h_0 and h_1 . C is called a *symmetric Cantor set* if $a_0 = a_1$, otherwise, a *non-symmetric Cantor set*. Without loss of generality, we shall assume that $b_0 = 0, a_1 + b_1 = 1$, equivalently, $h_0(0) = 0$ and $h_1(1) = 1$. Furthermore, we assume that the images $h_j([0, 1]), j = 0, 1$ are pairwise disjoint, i.e. the h_j 's satisfy the strongly separated condition. Thus, the above assumptions indicate that

$$h_0(x) = a_0x, \quad h_1(x) = a_1x + 1 - a_1 \quad \text{with } a_0 + a_1 < 1.$$

It is well known that (cf. [1, 7]) $\dim_H C = \dim_P C = \dim_B C = \xi$ and $\mathcal{H}^\xi(C) = 1$ (cf. [1]), where ξ is given by

$$a_0^\xi + a_1^\xi = 1. \quad (2)$$

The set C has a natural symbolic representation defined as follows. Let

$$\Sigma^* = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{0, 1\}^n \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}} = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}},$$

i.e. Σ^* is the family of all finite strings $j_1 \dots j_n$ with entries j_i from $\{0, 1\}$ and $\Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$ denotes the family of all infinite strings $j_1 j_2 \dots$ with entries j_i from $\{0, 1\}$. For $\omega = j_1 j_2 \dots \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$ and a positive integer n , let $\omega|_n = j_1 \dots j_n$ denote the truncation of ω to the n th place. Finally, we define $\pi : \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow C$ by

$$\{\pi(\omega)\} = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} h_{j_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{j_n}([0, 1])$$

for $\omega = j_1 j_2 \dots \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$. It is easy to check that π is a bijection and for $\omega = j_1 j_2 \dots \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$,

$$\pi(\omega) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h_{\omega|_n}(0) = b_{j_1} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_{j_1} \dots a_{j_{n-1}} b_{j_n}, \tag{3}$$

where $b_0 = 0$ and $b_1 = 1 - a_1$. It is well known that C can be symbolically represented as $C = \pi(\Sigma^{\mathbb{N}})$. Thus, each point of C can be encoded by a unique element from $\Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$. Throughout this paper, by $\tilde{t} = t_1 t_2 \dots$, we denote the code of $t \in C$, i.e. $\tilde{t} = t_1 t_2 \dots \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$ with $\pi(\tilde{t}) = t$. Alternatively, we have

$$C = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{\omega \in \{0,1\}^n} h_{\omega}([0, 1]),$$

where $h_{\omega} := h_{j_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{j_n}$ for $\omega = j_1 \dots j_n \in \{0, 1\}^n$. The endpoints of $h_{\omega}([0, 1])$ for all $\omega \in \Sigma^*$ will be called the *endpoints of C* .

Let μ be the restriction of the Hausdorff measure \mathcal{H}^{ξ} over the set C , i.e.

$$\mu(A) := \mathcal{H}^{\xi}|_C(A) = \mathcal{H}^{\xi}(C \cap A) \quad \text{for any Borel set } A \subseteq \mathbb{R}.$$

Note that $\mathcal{H}^{\xi}(C) = 1$ (cf. [1, Corollary 4.5]). Thus, an alternative definition of μ is that μ is the unique probability measure satisfying

$$\mu(A) = a_0^{\xi} \mu(h_0^{-1}(A)) + a_1^{\xi} \mu(h_1^{-1}(A)) \quad \text{for any Borel set } A \subseteq \mathbb{R}, \tag{4}$$

where ξ is given by (2). Obviously, μ is atomless and called the *Cantor measure*. Two well-known properties of μ are (cf. [5, Chap. 6] and [6])

- (i) *there exist finite positive numbers a and b such that $ar^{\xi} \leq \mu([x - r, x + r]) \leq br^{\xi}$ for any $x \in C$ and $0 < r \leq 1$;*
- (ii) *there exist $0 < d_* < d^* < \infty$ such that for μ -a.e. $x \in C$*

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) := \limsup_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^{\xi}} = \limsup_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{H}^{\xi}(C \cap [x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^{\xi}} = d^*$$

and

$$\Theta_*^{\xi}(\mu, x) := \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^{\xi}} = \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{H}^{\xi}(C \cap [x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^{\xi}} = d_*.$$

The quantities $\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x)$ and $\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x)$ defined above are called the *upper and lower ξ -densities* of C at x , respectively. Unfortunately, few results have been obtained for the exact values of d^* and d_* , or more general, for the exact values of $\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x)$ and $\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x)$ for each $x \in C$. When $a_0 = a_1 = \frac{1}{3}$ (so C is the classical middle-third Cantor set), the exact values of $\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x)$ and $\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x)$ were obtained for each $x \in C$ by Feng, Hua and Wen in [2]. As the authors pointed out, their approaches are effective for the case that $a_0 = a_1 \in (0, 1/3)$, i.e. C is a symmetric Cantor set. To our knowledge, for the case of non-symmetric Cantor set, the exact values of $\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x)$ and $\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x)$ are still unknown.

In the present paper, we try to determine the exact values of $\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x)$ and $\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x)$ for certain non-symmetric Cantor sets. We will focus on those Cantor sets which have “big gaps” in their geometrical structure. In other words, we assume

$$1 - a_0 - a_1 \geq \max\{a_0, a_1\}. \tag{5}$$

Thus, in each step of the process to geometrically generate the Cantor set C , one removes an open interval of length not less than that of each of the remaining two closed intervals. It is easy to see that

$$1 - a_0 - a_1 \geq \max\{a_0, a_1\} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad a_0 + 2a_1 \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad 2a_0 + a_1 \leq 1.$$

Let $T : [0, a_0] \cup [1 - a_1, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be defined by

$$T(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a_0}x & x \in [0, a_0], \\ \frac{x - (1 - a_1)}{a_1} & x \in [1 - a_1, 1]. \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

Then, T is a two-to-one mapping satisfying $T(C) = T^{-1}(C) = C$. Its inverse consists of two branches: h_0 and h_1 . Therefore,

$$T \circ h_0(x) = T \circ h_1(x) = x \quad \text{for each } x \in [0, 1],$$

and

$$h_0 \circ T(x) = x \quad \text{for each } x \in [0, a_0], \quad h_1 \circ T(x) = x \quad \text{for each } x \in [1 - a_1, 1].$$

Based on [2], we develop some techniques and obtain the following theorem in the present paper.

Theorem 1.1. *Let C , ξ , μ and T be defined as in (1), (2), (4) and (6). Suppose that a_0 and a_1 satisfy (5). Then,*

- (i) *for a non-endpoint x of C ,*

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) = \frac{1}{2^\xi(\min\{1 - a_0 \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x), a_1 \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) + 1 - a_1\})^\xi};$$

(ii) for an endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) = 2^{-\xi};$$

(iii) for μ -a.e. $x \in C$,

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) = \frac{1}{2^\xi(\min\{1 - a_0, 1 - a_1\})^\xi}.$$

Furthermore, if $(1 + \frac{a_1}{1 - a_0 - a_1})^\xi \leq 1 + (\frac{a_1}{1 - a_1})^\xi$ and $(1 + \frac{a_0}{1 - a_0 - a_1})^\xi \leq 1 + (\frac{a_0}{1 - a_0})^\xi$, then,

(i') for a non-endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \min \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x))^\xi}, \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) - a_0)^\xi} \right\};$$

(ii') for a right endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_0)^\xi};$$

for a left endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1)^\xi};$$

(iii') for μ -a.e. $x \in C$,

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \min \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1)^\xi}, \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_0)^\xi} \right\}.$$

Remark 1.2. (i) As we can see in Theorem 1.1, to determine the upper density $\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x)$, we require that a_0 and a_1 satisfy condition (5). However, in order to determine the lower density $\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x)$, we need, besides (5), additional conditions that

$$\begin{cases} \left(1 + \frac{a_1}{1 - a_0 - a_1}\right)^\xi \leq 1 + \left(\frac{a_1}{1 - a_1}\right)^\xi \\ \left(1 + \frac{a_0}{1 - a_0 - a_1}\right)^\xi \leq 1 + \left(\frac{a_0}{1 - a_0}\right)^\xi. \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

Here on, we like to point out that (5) plus $\xi \leq \frac{1}{2}$ (recall $\xi = \dim_H C$) implies (7). In fact, it is easy to verify that

$$(a + b)^p \geq a^p + b^p + pa^{p-1}b \quad \text{if } a, b > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad p \geq 2.$$

Thus, when $\xi \leq \frac{1}{2}$,

$$\left(1 + \left(\frac{a_1}{1 - a_1}\right)^\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{\xi}} \geq 1 + \frac{a_1}{1 - a_1} + \frac{1}{\xi} \left(\frac{a_1}{1 - a_1}\right)^\xi.$$

So, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(1 + \left(\frac{a_1}{1 - a_1}\right)^\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{\xi}} - \left(1 + \frac{a_1}{1 - a_0 - a_1}\right) \\ & \geq \frac{1}{\xi} \left(\frac{a_1}{1 - a_1}\right)^\xi - \frac{a_0 a_1}{(1 - a_1)(1 - a_0 - a_1)} \\ & = \frac{a_0 a_1}{\xi(1 - a_1)(1 - a_0 - a_1)} \left(\left(\frac{1 - a_1}{a_1}\right)^{1 - \xi} \frac{(1 - a_0 - a_1)}{a_0} - \xi \right) \\ & \geq \frac{a_0 a_1}{\xi(1 - a_1)(1 - a_0 - a_1)} \left(\left(\frac{1 - a_1}{a_1}\right)^{1 - \xi} - \xi \right) \\ & \geq \frac{a_0 a_1}{\xi(1 - a_1)(1 - a_0 - a_1)} (1 - \xi) \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

by (5). This gives the first inequality in (7) and the second inequality can be proved in the same way. As an application, we know the conditions (5) and (7) hold when $a_0 = \frac{1}{9}, a_1 = \frac{4}{9}$.

- (ii) One can check that the conditions (5) and (7) hold when $a_0 = a_1 \in (0, 1/3]$. Thus, Theorem 1.1 extends those given in [2].

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is given in the next section, Theorem 2.5 for the results of upper density and Theorem 2.7 for the results of lower density.

2. Proof of Theorem

As stated in Sec. 1, for $t \in C$, we use $\tilde{t} = t_1 t_2 \dots \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$ to denote its (unique) code (so $\pi(\tilde{t}) = t$ by (3)). In addition, we denote by $y(t, n)$ the position of the n th occurrence of digit 1 in \tilde{t} and by $z(t, n)$ the position of the n th occurrence of digit 0 in \tilde{t} , e.g. for $\tilde{t} = 00101101110 \dots$ we have $y(t, 1) = 3, y(t, 5) = 9$ and $z(t, 3) = 4$. We adopt the convention that

$$y(t, n) = +\infty \quad \text{if } \#\{k \in \mathbb{N} : t_k = 1\} < n$$

and

$$z(t, n) = +\infty \quad \text{if } \#\{k \in \mathbb{N} : t_k = 0\} < n.$$

Therefore, for a $t \in C$, we have

$$t = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_1^{k-1} a_0^{y(t, k) - k} (1 - a_1) \quad \text{and} \quad \mu([0, t]) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_0^{\xi(y(t, k) - (k-1))} a_1^{\xi(k-1)}, \quad (8)$$

where we adopt the convention $a_0^{+\infty} = a_1^{+\infty} = 0$. The first identity follows directly from (3). To verify the second identity, let $x_n = \pi(t_1 t_2 \dots t_{y(t,n)} 00\dots)$. If $t = x_n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$\mu([0, t]) = \mu([0, x_n]) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_0^{\xi(y(t, k) - (k-1))} a_1^{\xi(k-1)},$$

by (4). Otherwise, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu([0, t]) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu([0, x_n]) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n a_0^{\xi(y(t, k) - (k-1))} a_1^{\xi(k-1)} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_0^{\xi(y(t, k) - (k-1))} a_1^{\xi(k-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

The following lemma was obtained in a more general setting in [3]. For readers' convenience, we give a distinct proof here.

Lemma 2.1. *Let μ be defined as in (4). Then, for any $t \in [0, 1]$, we have*

$$\frac{a_0^\xi}{(1 - a_1)^\xi} t^\xi \leq \mu([0, t]) \leq t^\xi \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{a_1^\xi}{(1 - a_0)^\xi} (1 - t)^\xi \leq \mu([t, 1]) \leq (1 - t)^\xi.$$

Proof. First, the inequalities $\mu([0, t]) \leq t^\xi$ and $\mu([t, 1]) \leq (1 - t)^\xi$ simply come from a well-known result that $\mathcal{H}^\xi(C \cap U) \leq |U|^\xi$ for any $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ (cf. [4]). We now prove the left part of the first inequality. When $t \in C$,

$$\frac{\mu([0, t])}{t^\xi} = \frac{a_0^\xi a_1^{-\xi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (a_0^{y(t, k) - k} a_1^k)^\xi}{(1 - a_1)^\xi a_1^{-\xi} (\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_0^{y(t, k) - k} a_1^k)^\xi} \geq \frac{a_0^\xi}{(1 - a_1)^\xi},$$

by (8), where we have used an elementary inequality that $(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k)^s \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k^s$ if $0 < s < 1$ and all $c_k \geq 0$. When $t \in [0, 1] \setminus C$, let $t_* = \inf\{x \in C : x > t\}$. Then, t_* is a left endpoint of C and

$$\mu([0, t]) = \mu([0, t_*]) \geq \frac{a_0^\xi}{(1 - a_1)^\xi} t_*^\xi > \frac{a_0^\xi}{(1 - a_1)^\xi} t^\xi.$$

In the following, we prove the left part of the second inequality. Put

$$f_0(x) = a_1 x \quad \text{and} \quad f_1(x) = a_0 x + 1 - a_0.$$

It is easy to check that $1 - C := \{1 - x : x \in C\}$ is the (compact) attractor of IFS $\{f_0, f_1\}$, i.e.

$$1 - C = f_0(1 - C) \cup f_1(1 - C).$$

Thus, each element of $1 - C$ can be encoded uniquely by an element from $\Sigma^{\mathbb{N}} = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ in the same way as the elements of C do via (3). Note that for each $t \in C$ with

code $\tilde{t} = t_1 t_2 \dots \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}, 1 - t \in 1 - C$ is encoded by $(1 - t_1)(1 - t_2) \dots := \omega \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$. So

$$1 - t = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_{\omega|n}(0) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_0^{k-1} a_1^{y(1-t, k)-k} (1 - a_0) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_0^{k-1} a_1^{z(t, k)-k} (1 - a_0),$$

where, if no confusion, $y(1 - t, k)$ is the position of the k th digit 1 in the code $(1 - t_1)(1 - t_2) \dots$ of $1 - t \in 1 - C$, whereas $z(t, k)$ is the position of the k th digit 0 in the code $t_1 t_2 \dots$ of $t \in C$. Let μ^* be the restriction of the Hausdorff measure \mathcal{H}^ξ over the set $1 - C$, i.e. $\mu^*(\cdot) = \mathcal{H}^\xi((1 - C) \cap \cdot)$ which satisfies

$$\mu^*(A) = a_1^\xi \mu^*(f_0^{-1}(A)) + a_0^\xi \mu^*(f_1^{-1}(A)) \quad \text{for any Borel set } A \subseteq \mathbb{R}.$$

Then

$$\mu([t, 1]) = \mu^*[0, 1 - t] = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_1^{\xi(y(1-t, k)-(k-1))} a_0^{\xi(k-1)} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_1^{\xi(z(t, k)-(k-1))} a_0^{\xi(k-1)}.$$

The desired result can be proved in the same way as above. □

Lemma 2.2. *Let μ be defined as in (4). Let a_0, a_1 satisfy (5). Then, for any Borel set $A \subseteq (-1, 2)$ and any $i_1 i_2 \dots i_k \in \{0, 1\}^k$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we have*

$$\mu(h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_k}(A)) = a_{i_1}^\xi \dots a_{i_k}^\xi \mu(A).$$

Proof. Note that (5) implies that

$$h_0(A) \cap h_1(C) = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad h_1(A) \cap h_0(C) = \emptyset.$$

Therefore, the desired result can be verified by (4). □

Using the same method as that in [2, Proposition 2.10], we get the following proposition.

Proposition 2.3. *Let μ be defined as in (4). Then $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(t) = 0$ and $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(t) = 1$ for μ -a.e. $t \in C$.*

Proof. We only prove that $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(t) = 0$ for μ -a.e. $t \in C$. The other one can be proved in the same way. For any $\mathbf{i} = i_1 \dots i_\ell \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$, denote $h_{\mathbf{i}} = h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_\ell}$. Then

$$C = \bigcup_{\mathbf{i} \in \{0, 1\}^\ell} h_{\mathbf{i}}(C).$$

Let $\mathbf{0} \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$ be the element consisting only digit 0. Let B_ℓ be the attractor of IFS $\{h_{\mathbf{i}} : \mathbf{i} \in \{0, 1\}^\ell, \mathbf{i} \neq \mathbf{0}\}$. Then B_ℓ is a proper subset of C and

$$B_\ell = \{t \in C : t_{m\ell+1} \dots t_{(m+1)\ell} \neq \mathbf{0} \text{ for all } m \geq 0\},$$

where, as before, $t_1 t_2 \dots \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is the code of t . In addition, $\mu(B_\ell) = \mathcal{H}^\xi(B_\ell \cap C) = 0$ since $\dim_H B_\ell < \xi$. Consequently, $\mu(\cup_{\ell \geq 1} B_\ell) = 0$ and so $\mu(C \setminus \cup_{\ell \geq 1} B_\ell) = 1$.

Fix $t \in C \setminus \cup_{\ell \geq 1} B_\ell$. Then, for any $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists an $m \geq 0$ such that $\tilde{y}|_\ell = t_{m\ell+1} \cdots t_{(m+1)\ell} = \mathbf{0}$ where $y = T^{m\ell}(t)$. This implies $T^{m\ell}(t) \leq a_0^\ell$, leading to $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(t) = 0$. □

Lemma 2.4. *Let ξ and μ be defined as in (2) and (4). Suppose that a_0 and a_1 satisfy (5). Then,*

(i) *for any $x \in [0, a_0]$ and any $\max\{x, a_0 - x\} \leq r \leq 1 - x$,*

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi (\max\{x, a_0 - x\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi (1 - x)^\xi} \right\},$$

with the equality holding either at $r = \max\{x, a_0 - x\}$ or at $r = 1 - x$;

(ii) *for any $x \in [1 - a_1, 1]$ and any $\max\{1 - x, x - (1 - a_1)\} \leq r \leq x$,*

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi (\max\{1 - x, x - (1 - a_1)\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi x^\xi} \right\},$$

with the equality holding either at $r = \max\{1 - x, x - (1 - a_1)\}$ or at $r = x$.

Proof. (i) If $\max\{x, a_0 - x\} \leq r \leq 1 - a_1 - x$, then

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_0^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} \leq \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi (\max\{x, a_0 - x\})^\xi}$$

with equality holding at $r = \max\{x, a_0 - x\}$. If $1 - a_1 - x \leq r \leq 1 - x$, then by Lemma 2.1 and (4),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} &= \frac{a_0^\xi + \mu[1 - a_1, x + r]}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_0^\xi + a_1^\xi \mu\left[0, \frac{x+r-(1-a_1)}{a_1}\right]}{(2r)^\xi} \\ &\leq \frac{a_0^\xi + (x + r - 1 + a_1)^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{1}{2^\xi} \frac{u^\xi + \left(\frac{a_0}{a_1}\right)^\xi}{\left(u + \frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right)^\xi}, \end{aligned}$$

where $u = \frac{x+r-1+a_1}{a_1} \in [0, 1]$. Consider a function in u :

$$m_x(u) = \frac{u^\xi + \left(\frac{a_0}{a_1}\right)^\xi}{\left(u + \frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right)^\xi}, \quad u \in [0, 1].$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} m'_x(u) &= \frac{\xi \left[\frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1} u^{\xi-1} - \left(\frac{a_0}{a_1}\right)^\xi \right]}{\left(u + \frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right)^{\xi+1}} \\ &\geq \frac{\xi \left[\frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1} - \left(\frac{a_0}{a_1}\right)^\xi \right]}{\left(u + \frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right)^{\xi+1}} \geq 0, \quad u \in (0, 1], \end{aligned}$$

since we have $\frac{1-a_0-a_1}{a_1} \geq (\frac{a_0}{a_1})^\xi$ by (5). So

$$\frac{\mu([x-r, x+r])}{(2r)^\xi} \leq \frac{1}{2^\xi} m_x(1) \leq \frac{a_1^\xi + a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1-x)^\xi},$$

with equality holding at $r = 1 - x$.

(ii) If $\max\{1-x, x-(1-a_1)\} \leq r \leq x-a_0$, then

$$\frac{\mu([x-r, x+r])}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_1^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} \leq \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(\max\{1-x, x-(1-a_1)\})^\xi}$$

with the equality holding at $r = \max\{1-x, x-(1-a_1)\}$. If $x-a_0 \leq r \leq x$, then by Lemma 2.1 and (4),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu([x-r, x+r])}{(2r)^\xi} &= \frac{a_1^\xi + \mu[x-r, a_0]}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_1^\xi + a_0^\xi \mu[\frac{x-r}{a_0}, 1]}{(2r)^\xi} \leq \frac{a_1^\xi + (a_0-x+r)^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^\xi} \frac{(\frac{a_0+r-x}{a_0})^\xi + (\frac{a_1}{a_0})^\xi}{(\frac{a_0+r-x}{a_0} + \frac{x-a_0}{a_0})^\xi} \leq \frac{1}{2^\xi} \frac{1^\xi + (\frac{a_1}{a_0})^\xi}{(1 + \frac{x-a_0}{a_0})^\xi} = \frac{1}{2^\xi x^\xi}, \end{aligned}$$

with equality holding at $r = x$. □

Theorem 2.5. Let C , ξ , μ and T be defined as in (1), (2), (4) and (6). Suppose that a_0 and a_1 satisfy (5). Then,

(i) for a non-endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) = \frac{1}{2^\xi(\min\{1-a_0 \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x), a_1 \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) + 1 - a_1\})^\xi};$$

(ii) for an endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) = 2^{-\xi};$$

(iii) for μ -a.e. $x \in C$,

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) = \frac{1}{2^\xi(\min\{1-a_0, 1-a_1\})^\xi}.$$

Proof. (i) Fix a non-endpoint x of C . Let $i_1 i_2 \dots \in \Sigma^\mathbb{N}$ be the code of x . Then $h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_k}([0, 1]) \downarrow \{x\}$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. For a given $0 < r < \min\{a_0, a_1\}$, there exists a $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $[x-r, x+r]$ contains the interval $h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_k}([0, 1])$, but does not contain the interval $h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}([0, 1])$. Hence,

$$h_{i_k}[0, 1] \subseteq (h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}})^{-1}([x-r, x+r]) \subseteq (-1, 2).$$

With $y = (h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}})^{-1}(x)$ (then $y = T^{k-1}(x)$) and $r' = r(a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_{k-1}})^{-1}$, we have

$$\frac{\mu[x-r, x+r]}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{(a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_{k-1}})^\xi \mu[y-r', y+r']}{(a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_{k-1}})^\xi (2r')^\xi} = \frac{\mu[y-r', y+r']}{(2r')^\xi}, \tag{9}$$

by Lemma 2.2.

If $k = z(x, n)$ (i.e. $i_k = 0$) for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $y \in [0, a_0]$ and $[y - r', y + r']$ contains $[0, a_0]$, but does not contain $[0, 1]$. So, $\max\{y, a_0 - y\} \leq r' \leq 1 - y$ and by Lemma 2.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\mu([y - r', y + r'])}{(2r')^\xi} \\ & \leq \max \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi (\max\{T^{z(x, n)-1}(x), a_0 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x)\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi (1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi} \right\} \\ & = \max \left\{ \frac{1}{2^\xi (\max\{T^{z(x, n)}(x), 1 - T^{z(x, n)}(x)\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi (1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi} \right\}, \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

where we have used the fact that $T^{z(x, n)-1}(x) = a_0 T^{z(x, n)}(x)$ by (6) since $T^{z(x, n)-1}(x) \in [0, a_0]$.

If $k = y(x, n)$ (i.e. $i_k = 1$) for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $y \in [1 - a_1, 1]$ and $[y - r', y + r']$ contains $[1 - a_1, 1]$ but does not contain $[0, 1]$. So, $\max\{1 - y, y - (1 - a_1)\} \leq r' \leq y$ and by Lemma 2.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\mu([y - r', y + r'])}{(2r')^\xi} \\ & \leq \max \left\{ \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi (\max\{1 - T^{y(x, n)-1}(x), T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) - (1 - a_1)\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi (T^{y(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi} \right\} \\ & = \max \left\{ \frac{1}{2^\xi (\max\{1 - T^{y(x, n)}(x), T^{y(x, n)}(x)\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi (T^{y(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi} \right\}, \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

where $T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) - (1 - a_1) = a_1 T^{y(x, n)}(x)$ by (6) since $T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) \in [1 - a_1, 1]$. Note that

$$1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x) = \max\{T^{z(x, n)-1}(x), 1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x)\}$$

and

$$T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) = \max\{T^{y(x, n)-1}(x), 1 - T^{y(x, n)-1}(x)\}.$$

Hence, by (9)–(11),

$$\limsup_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} \leq \frac{1}{2^\xi (\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \max\{T^k(x), 1 - T^k(x)\})^\xi}.$$

In fact, we have

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) = \limsup_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{1}{2^\xi (\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \max\{T^k(x), 1 - T^k(x)\})^\xi}.$$

This is because the upper bounds in (10) and (11) can be reached at certain r 's as $r \downarrow 0$ by Lemma 2.4. More exactly, the upper bounds in (10) and (11) are reached when

$$r \in \bigcup_{k=z(x,n), n \in \mathbb{N}} \{ \max\{x - h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}(0), h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}(a_0) - x\}, \\ h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}(1) - x\} \\ \cup \bigcup_{k=y(x,n), n \in \mathbb{N}} \{ \max\{x - h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}(1 - a_1), h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}(1) - x\}, \\ x - h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}(0)\}.$$

Finally, the left we need to show is

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \max\{T^k(x), 1 - T^k(x)\} \\ = \min\left\{1 - a_0 \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x), a_1 \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) + 1 - a_1\right\}.$$

Let $\Omega_1 = \{k \in \mathbb{N} : T^k(x) \in [0, a_0]\}$ and $\Omega_2 = \{k \in \mathbb{N} : T^k(x) \in [1 - a_1, 1]\}$. Then

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \max\{T^k(x), 1 - T^k(x)\} \\ = \min\left\{\liminf_{k \in \Omega_1, k \rightarrow \infty} (1 - T^k(x)), \liminf_{k \in \Omega_2, k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x)\right\}.$$

Note that $1 - T^k(x) = 1 - a_0 T^{k+1}(x)$ for $k \in \Omega_1$, $T^k(x) = 1 - a_1 + a_1 T^{k+1}(x)$ for $k \in \Omega_2$. Thus

$$\liminf_{k \in \Omega_1, k \rightarrow \infty} (1 - T^k(x)) = 1 - a_0 \limsup_{k \in \Omega_1, k \rightarrow \infty} T^{k+1}(x) = 1 - a_0 \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x),$$

and

$$\liminf_{k \in \Omega_2, k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) = 1 - a_1 + a_1 \liminf_{k \in \Omega_2, k \rightarrow \infty} T^{k+1}(x) = a_1 \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) + 1 - a_1.$$

(ii) From the proof of (i), it follows that if x is a left endpoint of C , then

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) \\ = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \max\left\{\frac{1}{2^\xi(\max\{T^z(x, n)(x), 1 - T^z(x, n)(x)\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi(1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi}\right\} \\ = 2^{-\xi};$$

if x is a right endpoint of C , then

$$\Theta^{*\xi}(\mu, x) \\ = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \max\left\{\frac{1}{2^\xi(\max\{1 - T^y(x, n)(x), T^y(x, n)(x)\})^\xi}, \frac{1}{2^\xi(T^y(x, n)-1(x))^\xi}\right\} \\ = 2^{-\xi}.$$

(iii) It follows directly from (i) and Proposition 2.3. □

For the results of lower density we need the following lemma.

Lemma 2.6. *Let ξ and μ be defined as in (2) and (4). Suppose that a_0 and a_1 satisfy (5) and (7). Then,*

(i) *for any $x \in [0, a_0]$ and any $\max\{x, a_0 - x\} \leq r \leq 1 - x$*

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} \geq \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - x)^\xi}$$

with the equality holding at $r = 1 - a_1 - x$;

(ii) *for any $x \in [1 - a_1, 1]$ and for $\max\{1 - x, x - (1 - a_1)\} \leq r \leq x$*

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} \geq \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(x - a_0)^\xi},$$

with the equality holding at $r = x - a_0$.

Proof. (i) Fix an $x \in [0, a_0]$. If $\max\{x, a_0 - x\} \leq r \leq 1 - a_1 - x$, then

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_0^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} \geq \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - x)^\xi},$$

with the equality holding at $r = 1 - a_1 - x$. If $1 - a_1 - x \leq r \leq 1 - x$, then by (4) and Lemma 2.1,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} &= \frac{a_0^\xi + \mu[1 - a_1, x + r]}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_0^\xi + a_1^\xi \mu\left[0, \frac{x+r-(1-a_1)}{a_1}\right]}{(2r)^\xi} \\ &\geq \frac{a_0^\xi + a_1^\xi \left(\frac{a_0}{1-a_1}\right)^\xi \left(\frac{x+r-1+a_1}{a_1}\right)^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} = \left(\frac{a_0}{2(1-a_1)}\right)^\xi \frac{u^\xi + \left(\frac{1-a_1}{a_1}\right)^\xi}{\left(u + \frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right)^\xi}, \end{aligned}$$

where $u = \frac{x+r-(1-a_1)}{a_1} \in [0, 1]$. Let

$$g(u) = \frac{u^\xi + \left(\frac{1-a_1}{a_1}\right)^\xi}{\left(u + \frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right)^\xi}, \quad u \in [0, 1].$$

Then

$$g'(u) = \frac{\xi \left[u^{\xi-1} \left(\frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right) - \left(\frac{1-a_1}{a_1}\right)^\xi \right]}{\left(u + \frac{1-a_1-x}{a_1}\right)^{\xi+1}}, \quad u \in (0, 1].$$

So, $g(u)$ is either increasing in $[0, 1]$ or first increasing and then decreasing in $[0, 1]$ (i.e. $g(u)$ is unimodal in $[0, 1]$). Note that the first inequality in (7) is equivalent to

$$(1 - a_1)^\xi \left(\frac{1 - a_0}{1 - a_0 - a_1}\right)^\xi \leq a_1^\xi + (1 - a_1)^\xi.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(1) &= \frac{a_1^\xi + (1 - a_1)^\xi}{(1 - x)^\xi} \geq \frac{(1 - a_1)^\xi}{(1 - x)^\xi} \left(\frac{1 - a_0}{1 - a_0 - a_1} \right)^\xi \\
 &\geq \frac{(1 - a_1)^\xi}{(1 - x)^\xi} \left(\frac{1 - x}{1 - a_1 - x} \right)^\xi = g(0),
 \end{aligned}$$

leading to

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} \geq \left(\frac{a_0}{2(1 - a_1)} \right)^\xi g(0) = \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - x)^\xi},$$

with the equality holding at $r = 1 - a_1 - x$.

(ii) Fix an $x \in [1 - a_1, 1]$. If $\max\{1 - x, x - (1 - a_1)\} \leq r \leq x - a_0$, then

$$\frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_1^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} \geq \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(x - a_0)^\xi},$$

with the equality holding at $r = x - a_0$. If $x - a_0 \leq r \leq x$, then by (4) and Lemma 2.1,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} &= \frac{a_1^\xi + \mu[x - r, a_0]}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{a_1^\xi + a_0^\xi \mu\left[\frac{x-r}{a_0}, 1\right]}{(2r)^\xi} \\
 &\geq \frac{a_1^\xi + \left(\frac{a_1}{1 - a_0}\right)^\xi (a_0 - x + r)^\xi}{(2r)^\xi} \\
 &= \left(\frac{a_1}{2(1 - a_0)} \right)^\xi \frac{\left(\frac{a_0 - x + r}{a_0}\right)^\xi + \left(\frac{1 - a_0}{a_0}\right)^\xi}{\left(\frac{a_0 - x + r}{a_0} + \frac{x - a_0}{a_0}\right)^\xi} \\
 &\geq \left(\frac{a_1}{2(1 - a_0)} \right)^\xi \frac{0^\xi + \left(\frac{1 - a_0}{a_0}\right)^\xi}{\left(0 + \frac{x - a_0}{a_0}\right)^\xi} \\
 &= \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(x - a_0)^\xi},
 \end{aligned}$$

with the equality holding at $r = x - a_0$, where the last inequality is obtained in the same way as above by means of the second inequality in (7). □

Theorem 2.7. *Let C , ξ , μ and T be defined as in (1), (2), (4) and (6). Suppose that a_0 and a_1 satisfy (5) and (7). Then*

(i') *for a non-endpoint x of C ,*

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \min \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x))^\xi}, \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) - a_0)^\xi} \right\};$$

(ii') for a right endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_0)^\xi};$$

for a left endpoint x of C ,

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1)^\xi};$$

(iii') for μ -a.e. $x \in C$,

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \min \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1)^\xi}, \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_0)^\xi} \right\}.$$

Proof. (i') Fix a non-endpoint x of C . Let $i_1 i_2 \dots \in \Sigma^\mathbb{N}$ be the code of x . Then $h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_k}([0, 1]) \downarrow \{x\}$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. For a given $0 < r < \min\{a_0, a_1\}$, there exists a $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $[x - r, x + r]$ contains the interval $h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_k}([0, 1])$ but does not contain the interval $h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}}([0, 1])$. Hence,

$$h_{i_k}[0, 1] \subseteq (h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}})^{-1}([x - r, x + r]) \subseteq (-1, 2).$$

With $y = (h_{i_1} \circ \dots \circ h_{i_{k-1}})^{-1}(x)$ (then $y = T^{k-1}(x)$) and $r' = r(a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_{k-1}})^{-1}$, we have

$$\frac{\mu[x - r, x + r]}{(2r)^\xi} = \frac{(a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_{k-1}})^\xi \mu[y - r', y + r']}{(a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_{k-1}})^\xi (2r')^\xi} = \frac{\mu[y - r', y + r']}{(2r')^\xi},$$

by Lemma 2.2.

If $k = z(x, n)$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $y \in [0, a_0]$ and $[y - r', y + r']$ contains $[0, a_0]$, but does not contain $[0, 1]$. So, $\max\{y, a_0 - y\} \leq r' \leq 1 - y$ and by Lemma 2.6,

$$\frac{\mu([y - r', y + r'])}{(2r')^\xi} \geq \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi}.$$

If $k = y(x, n)$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $y \in [1 - a_1, 1]$ and $[y - r', y + r']$ contains $[1 - a_1, 1]$, but does not contain $[0, 1]$. So, $\max\{1 - y, y - (1 - a_1)\} \leq r' \leq y$ and by Lemma 2.6,

$$\frac{\mu([y - r', y + r'])}{(2r')^\xi} \geq \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) - a_0)^\xi}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) &= \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\mu([x - r, x + r])}{(2r)^\xi} \\ &\geq \min \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi}, \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) - a_0)^\xi} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \min \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} T^{z(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi}, \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) - a_0)^\xi} \right\} \\
 &= \min \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x))^\xi}, \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) - a_0)^\xi} \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By the same argument as that used in the proof of Theorem 2.5, the lower bound can be reached, i.e.

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \min \left\{ \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x))^\xi}, \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} T^k(x) - a_0)^\xi} \right\}.$$

(ii') From the proof of (i'), it follows that if x is a right endpoint of C , then

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(T^{y(x, n)-1}(x) - a_0)^\xi} = \frac{a_1^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_0)^\xi};$$

if x is a left endpoint of C , then

$$\Theta_*^\xi(\mu, x) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1 - T^{z(x, n)-1}(x))^\xi} = \frac{a_0^\xi}{2^\xi(1 - a_1)^\xi}.$$

(iii') This follows directly from (i') and Proposition 2.3. □

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