

History, Structure, Results and Problems on Hyperspaces and Symmetric Products

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TOPOSYM 2016



Introduction

- In general topology, given a space X there are several ways to construct a new space $K(X)$ from X .

**A continuum is a compact
connected metric space**

$$2^X = \{ A \subset X : A \text{ is closed and } A \neq \emptyset \},$$

$$C(X) = \{ A \in 2^X : A \text{ is connected} \},$$

$$C_n(X) = \{ A \in 2^X : A \text{ has at most } n \\ \text{components} \}$$

$$F_n(X) = \{ A \in 2^X : A \text{ has at most } n \\ \text{points} \},$$

$$F_1(X) = \{ \{p\} : p \in X \}.$$

$C(X)$, $C_n(X)$ and $F_1(X)$

- Note that $C(X)=C_1(X)$ and $F_1(X)$ is homeomorphic to X .
- The hyperspaces $C(X)$, $C_n(X)$ and $F_n(X)$ are considered with the **Vietoris Topology** (Hausdorff Metric)

Hyperspaces and Symmetric Products

- $C(X) = \text{hyperspace of subcontinua}$
- $C_n(X) = n\text{-fold hyperspace}$
- $F_n(X) = n^{\text{th}}\text{-symmetric product}$

Hyperspaces and Symmetric Products

- Given a hyperspace

$$K(X) \in \{2^X, C_n(X), F_n(X)\}$$

there are several natural problems in the structure of Hyperspaces.

- We discuss three in this talk:

$$K(X) \in \{2^X, C_n(X), F_n(X)\}$$

- (I) For which continua X is the hyperspace $K(X)$ a cone.
- (II) When does X have unique hyperspace $K(X)$?
- (III) Determine the homogeneity degree of a hyperspace $K(X)$.

PROBLEM I

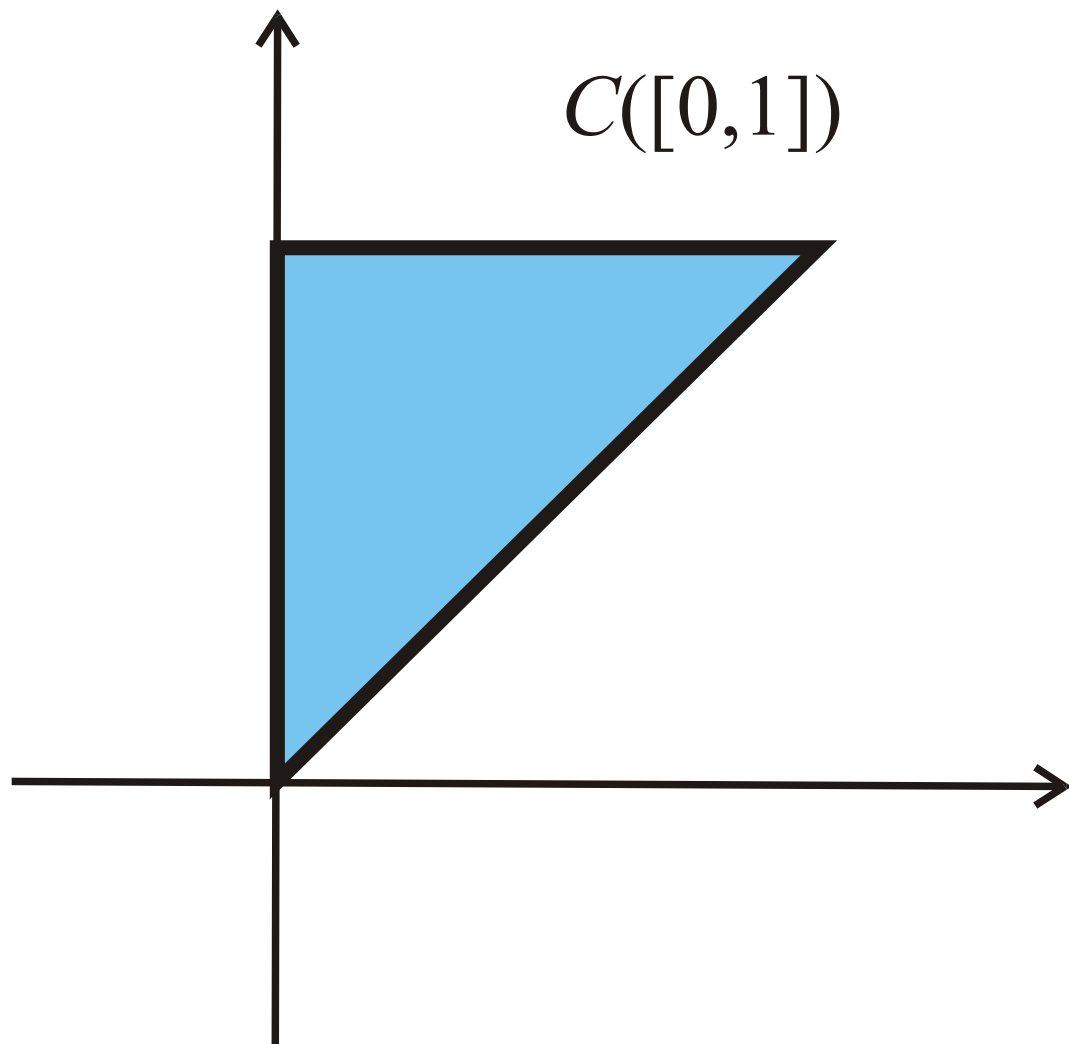
HYPERSPACES AND CONES

Hyperspaces and Cones

- A continuum X is a **cone** provided that there exists a space Z such that X is homeomorphic to the cone of Z .

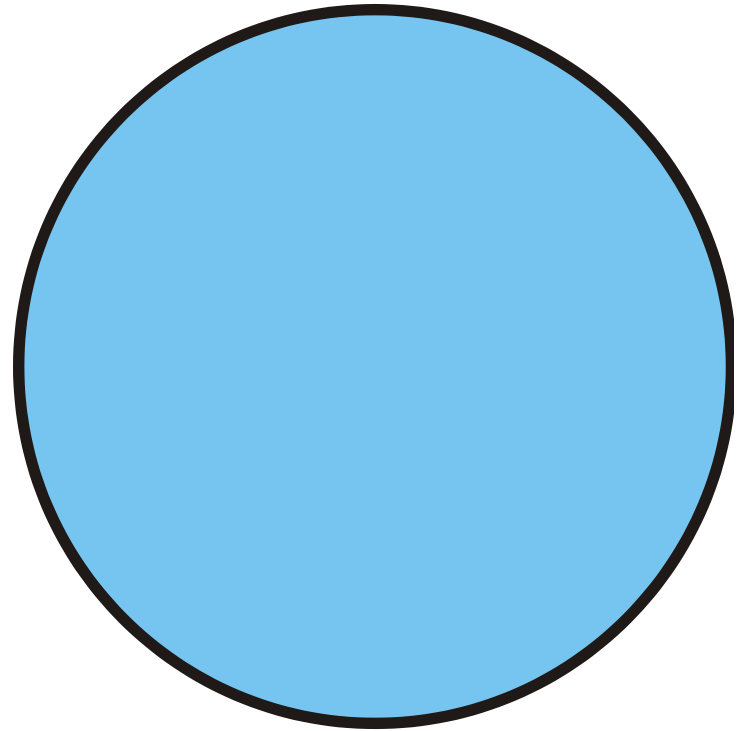
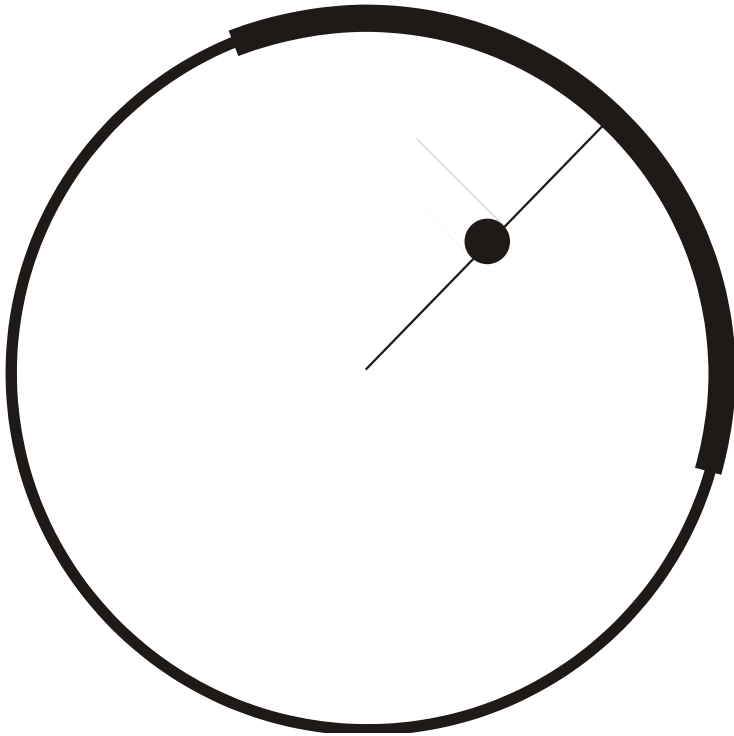
$$C([0,1]) = \{ [a,b] : 0 \leq a \leq b \leq 1 \}$$
$$\sim \{ (a,b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 \leq a \leq b \leq 1 \}.$$

$[0,1]$



$C(S^1)$

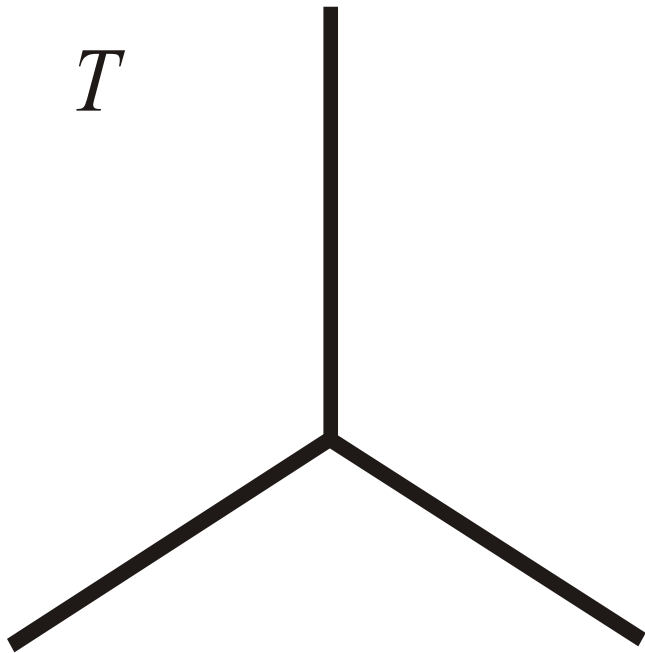
$$q(A) = (1 - l(A)/2\pi)m(A)$$



$C(T)$

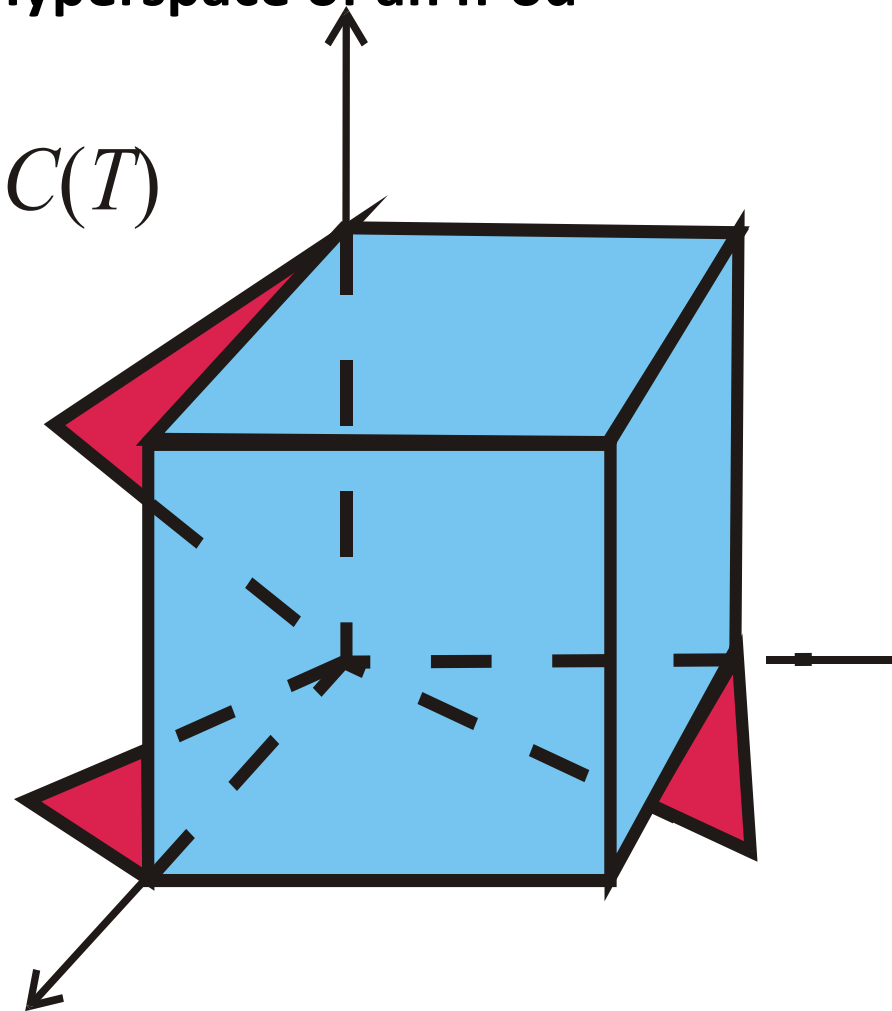
n-od

T



Hyperspace of an n-od

$C(T)$



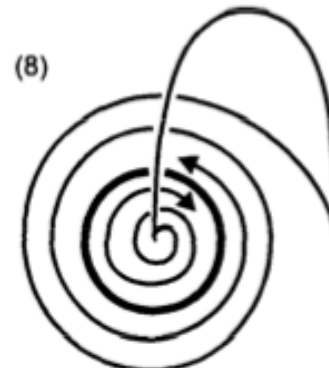
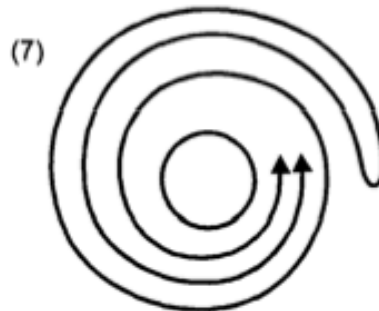
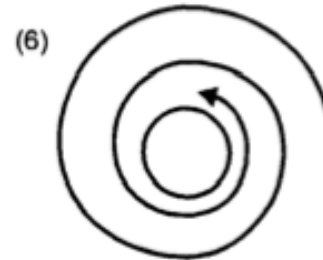
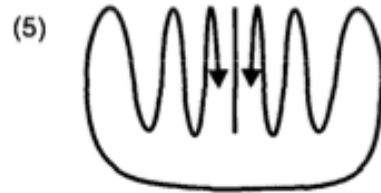
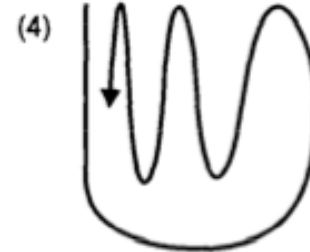
Hyperspaces and Cones

- Problem (I) has been widely study for the hyperspaces $C(X)$ and not so much for $C_n(X)$.

Hyperspaces and Cones

- **Theorem**(Rogers-Nadler 70's)
There are exactly 8 continua that are hereditarily decomposable finite dimensional and satisfy that $C(X)=\text{Cone}(X)$.

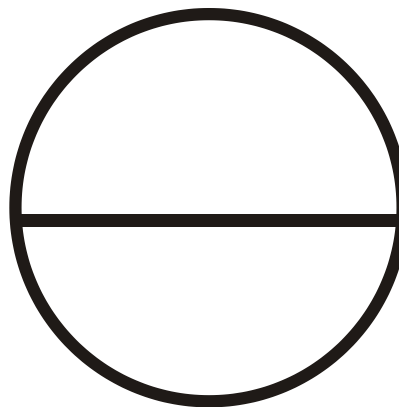
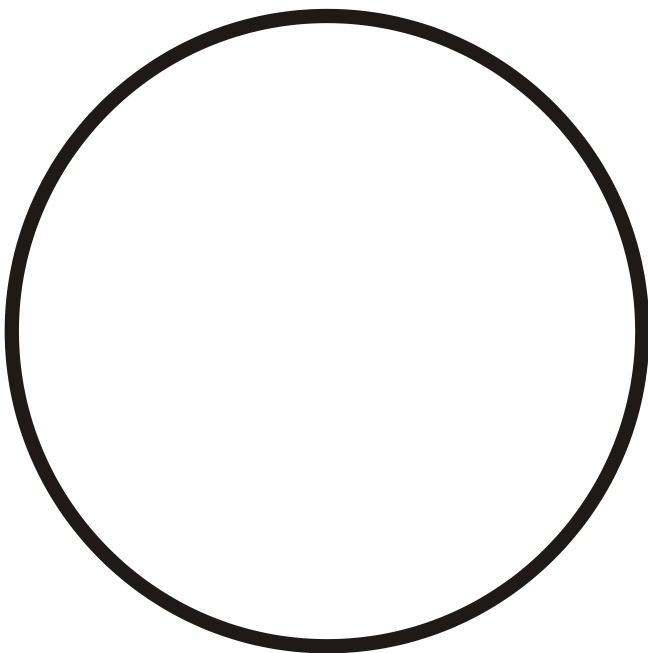
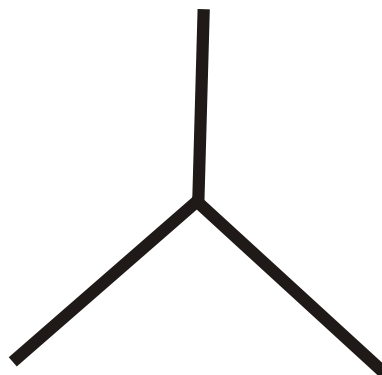
Cone(X)=C(X) (Rogers-Nadler)

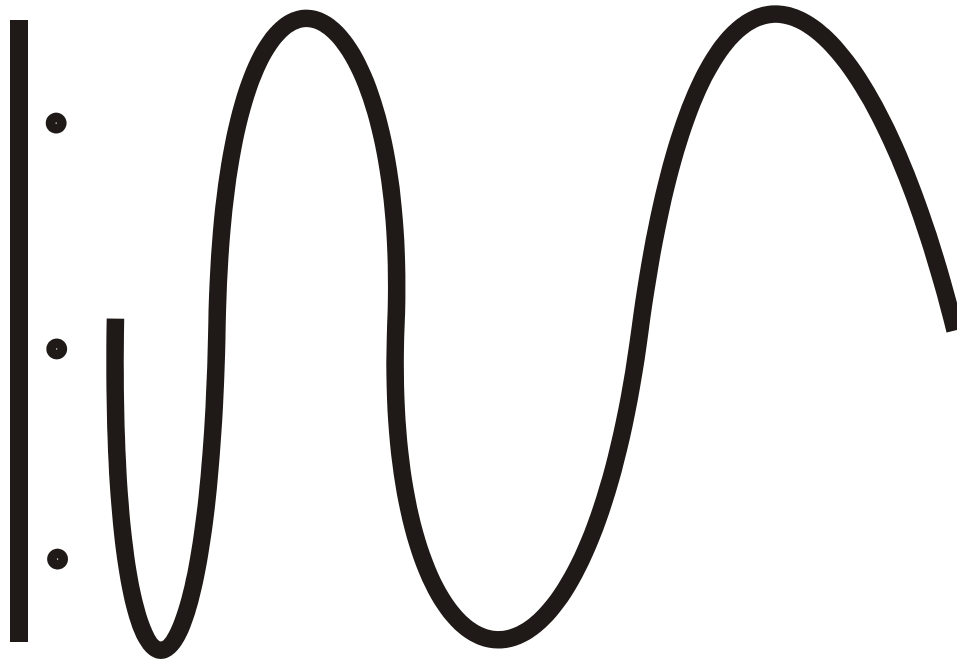


DECOMPOSABLE CONTINUA

- A continuum X is ***DECOMPOSABLE*** if there exist two proper nondegenerate subcontinua A, B of X , such that $X = A \cup B$

FINITE GRAPHS



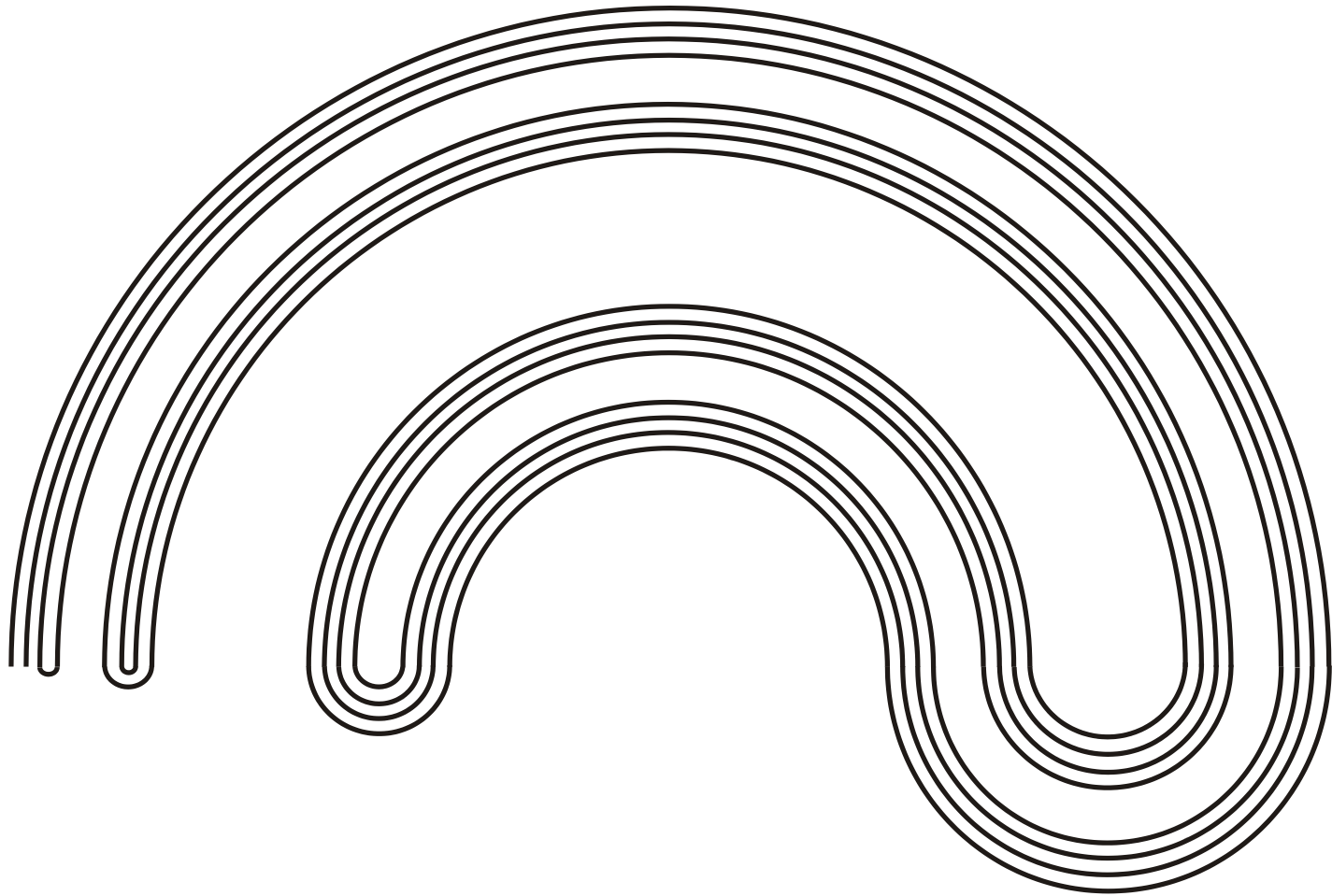


$\text{Sen}(1/x)$ -continuum

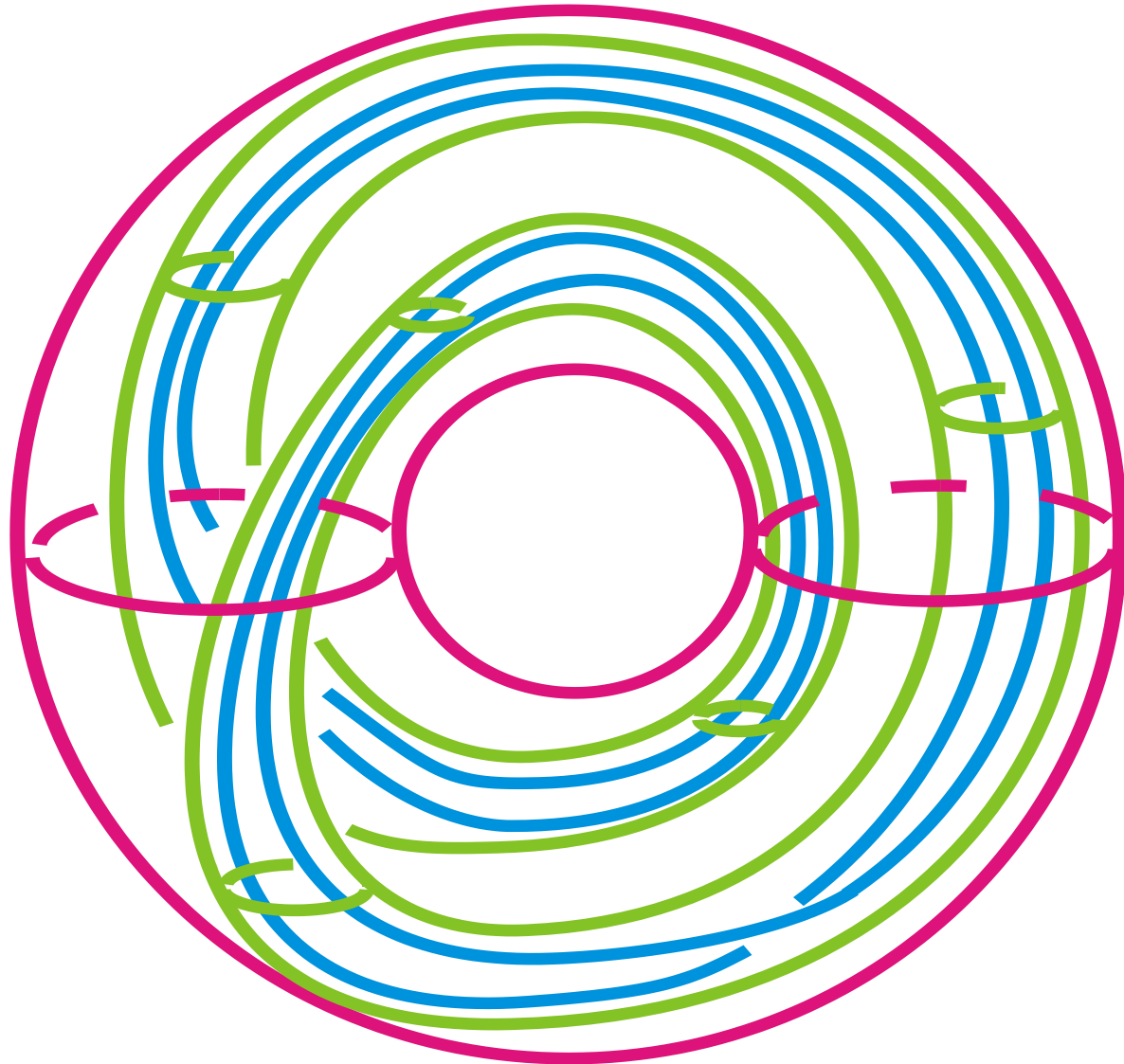
INDECOMPOSABLE CONTINUA

- A continuum X is ***INDECOMPOSABLE***, if it is not decomposable

Knaster Continuum



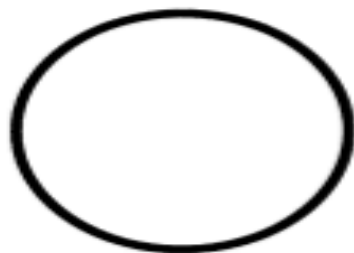
Solenoid



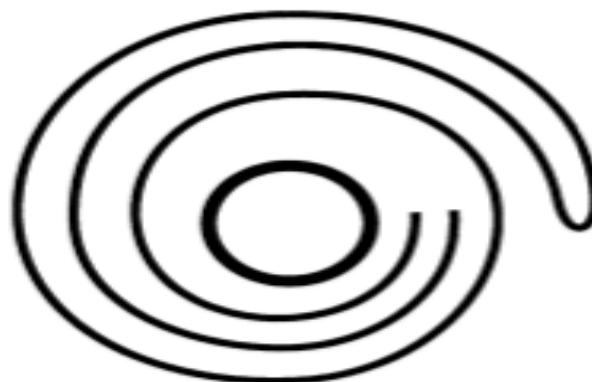
The Hyperspace $C(X)$ and Cones

- **Theorem. (Illanes, López 2002)**
Let X be a finite dimensional hereditarily decomposable continuum. Then $C(X)$ is a cone if and only if X is in one of the classes of continua described in (M1) to (M10)

The Hyperspace $C(X)$ and Cones



M1



M2



M3



M4



M5

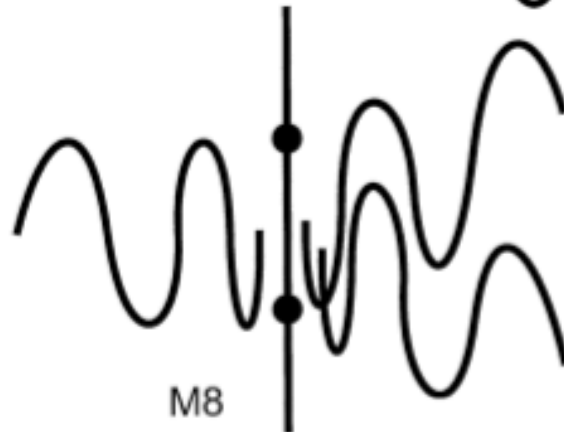
The Hyperspace $C(X)$ and Cones



M6

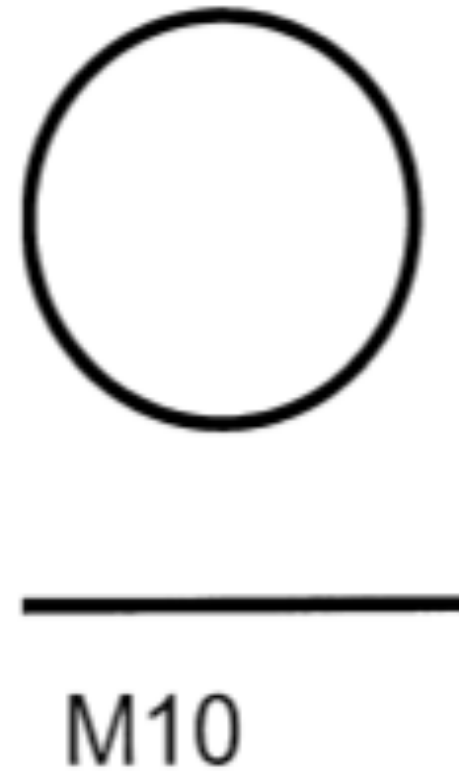
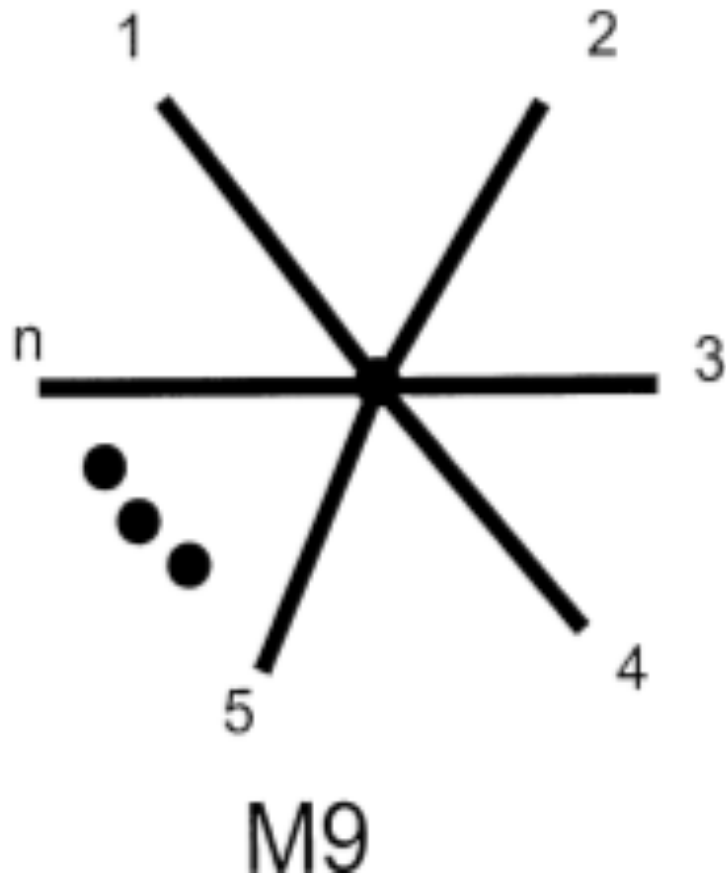


M7



M8

The Hyperspace $C(X)$ and Cones



The Hyperspace $C(X)$ and Cones

- **Theorem (Lopez 2002)** *Let X be a finite dimensional **non hereditarily decomposable** continuum. Suppose that $C(X)$ is a cone. Then there exists a **unique indecomposable subcontinuum Y of X such that:***
 - (a) $C(Y)$ is a cone (cone=hyperspace property)
 - (b) $X - Y$ is locally connected,

- (c) $X - Y$ has a finite number of components,
- (d) each component of $X - Y$ is homeomorphic either to $[0, \infty)$ or to the real line,
- (e) Y is an arc continuum (all its proper subcontinua are arcs or points)

Cone=Hyperspace

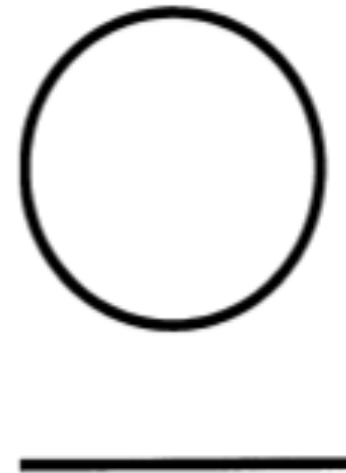
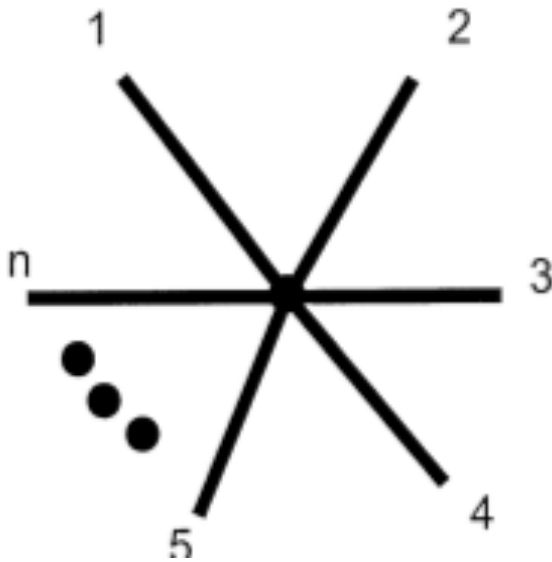
- A continuum has the ***cone=hyperspace property*** provided that there exists a homeomorphism $h:C(X)\rightarrow\text{Cone}(X)$ such that $h(F_1(X))=\text{Base}(\text{Cone}(X))$ and $h(X)=\text{vertex}(\text{Cone}(X))$.

Questions remaining for $C(X)$

- **Question 1.** Characterize all finite dimensional indecomposable continua with the cone=hyperspace property.

n-fold hyperspaces and cones

- **Theorem** (VMV 2004) *Let X be a **finite graph** If $C_n(X)$ is a cone then X is an arc a circle or an n -od*



Questions remaining for $C_n(X)$

- **Question 2.** Is $C_3(S^1)$ a cone?
- **Question 3.** Is $C_n(S^1)$ a cone for $n \geq 3$?
- **Question 4.** Is $C_2(\text{Sin}(1/x))$ a cone?
- **Question 5.** Is $C_2(\text{Knaster})$ a cone?
- **Question 6.** Is $C_2(\text{Solenoid})$ a cone?

Questions remaining for $C_n(X)$

- **Question 7.** Let X be a fan. Suppose that there exists $n \geq 2$ such that $C_n(X)$ is a cone, does this imply that X is a cone?
- **Question 8.** Characterize finite dimensional continua X for which $C_n(X)$ is a cone.

Symmetric Products and Cones

The structure of the hyperspaces $C(X)$, $C_n(X)$ is richer than the structure of $F_n(X)$. An important difference is that $C(X)$, $C_n(X)$ are always arcwise connected and they are always locally connected at X .

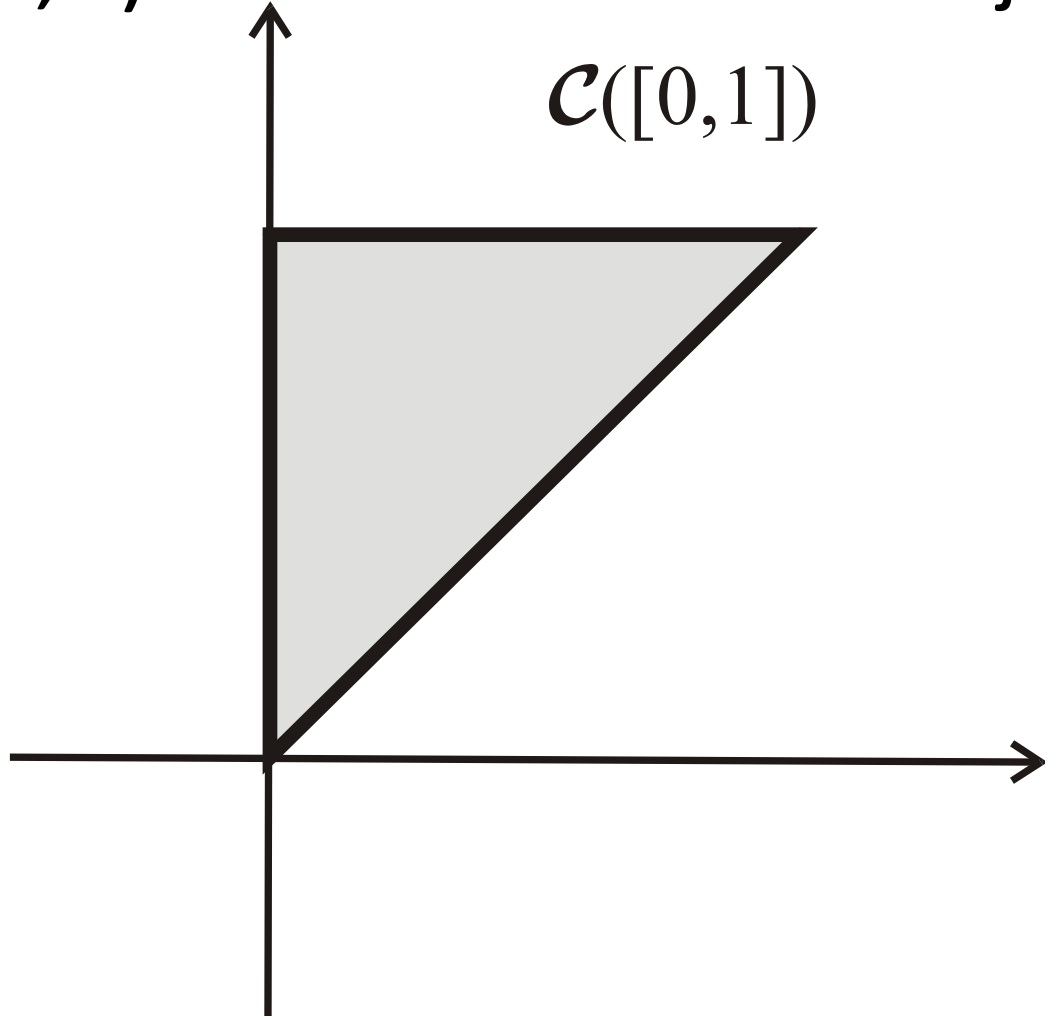
Symmetric Products and Cones

- On the other hand $\text{Fn}(X)$ is arcwise connected if and only if X is arcwise connected and $\text{Fn}(X)$ has not necessarily points of local connectedness.

$$F_2([0,1]) = \{ (a,b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 \leq a \leq b \leq 1 \}$$

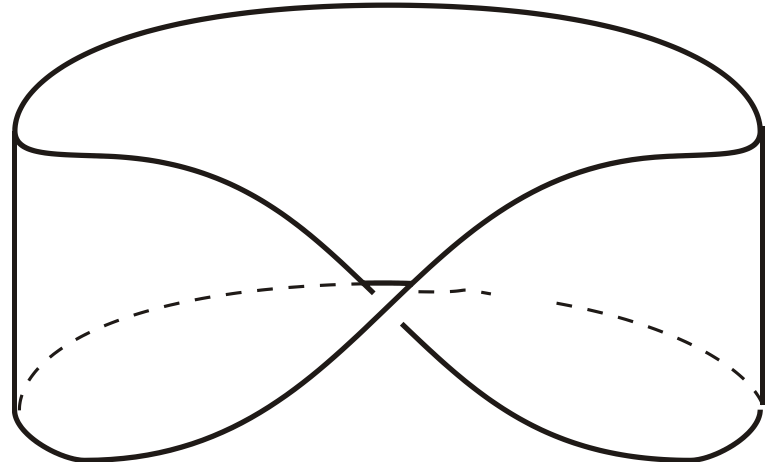
$\mathcal{C}([0,1])$

$[0,1]$

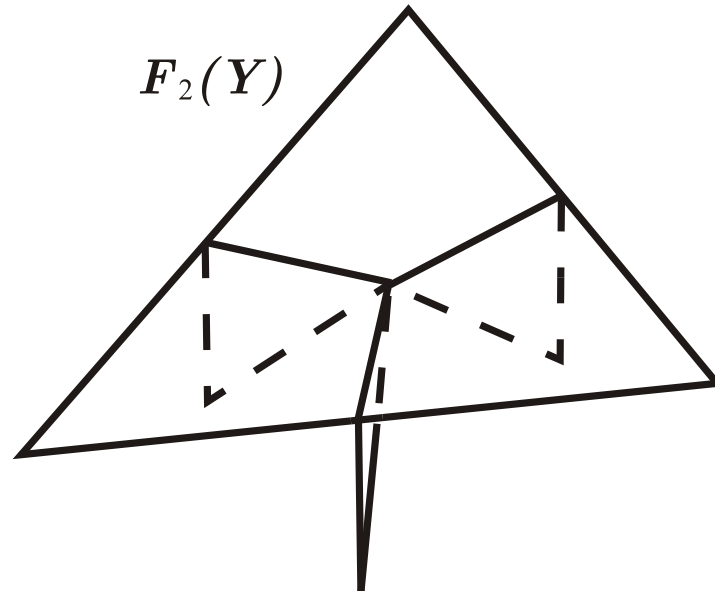
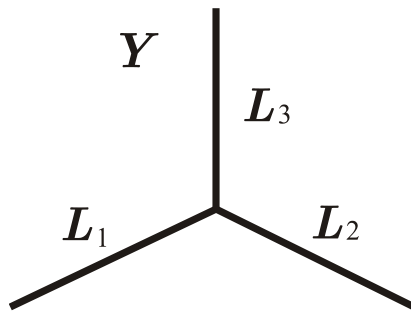
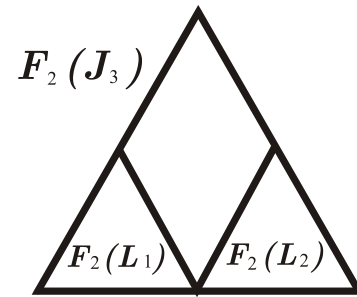
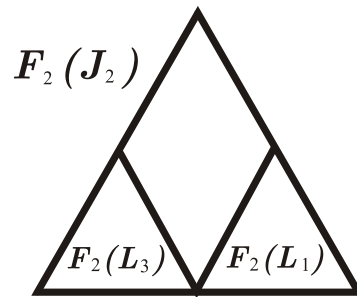
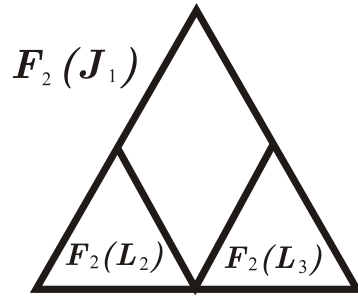


$$F_2(S^1)$$

- $F_2(S^1)$ is a Möbius strip



$F_2(T)$



Symmetric Products and Cones

- **Theorem**(*VMV-Illanes 2015*)
Suppose that the continuum X is a cone. Then each of the hyperspaces 2^X , $C(X)$, $C_n(X)$ and $F_n(X)$ is a cone.

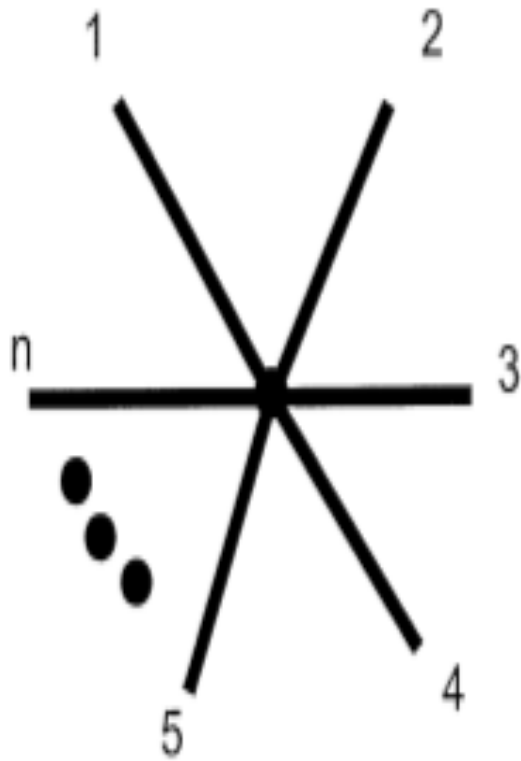
Symmetric Products and Cones

- **Theorem** ([VMV-Illanes 2015](#)) Let X be a *finite graph*. Then the following are equivalent
 - (a) X is a cone
 - (b) $F_n(X)$ is a cone for every $n \geq 2$ and
 - (c) $F_n(X)$ is a cone for some $n \geq 2$

Symmetric Products and Cones

- **Theorem** ([VMV-Illanes 2015](#)) Let X be a **fan**. Then the following are equivalent
 - (a) X is a cone
 - (b) $F_n(X)$ is a cone for every $n \geq 2$ and
 - (c) $F_n(X)$ is a cone for some $n \geq 2$

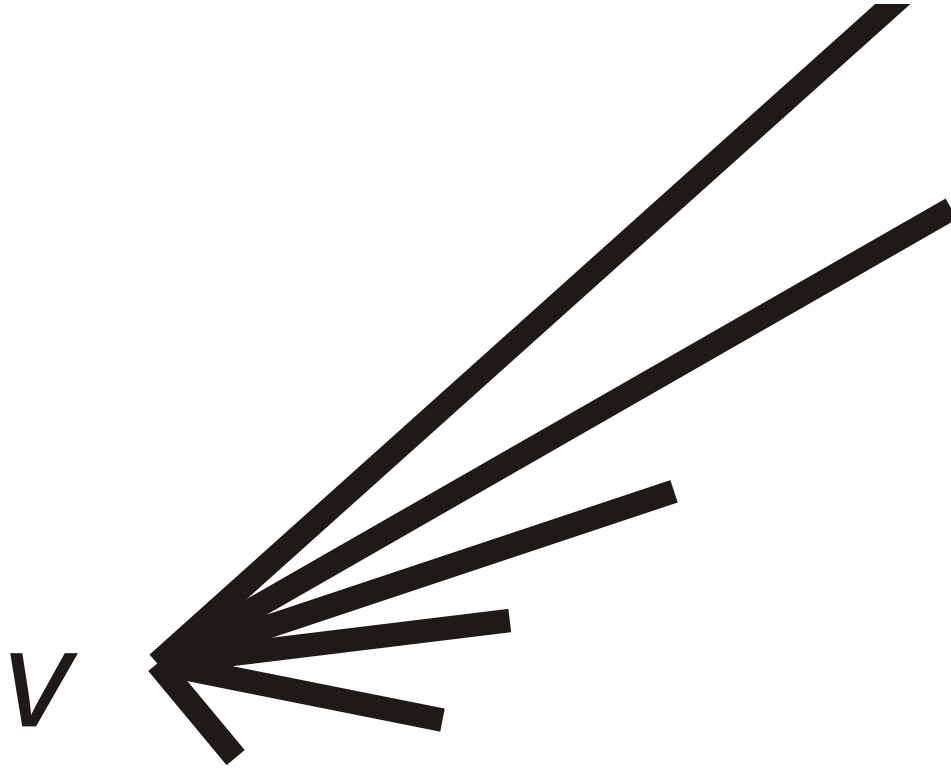
Finite graphs that are fans and Cones



$[0,1]$



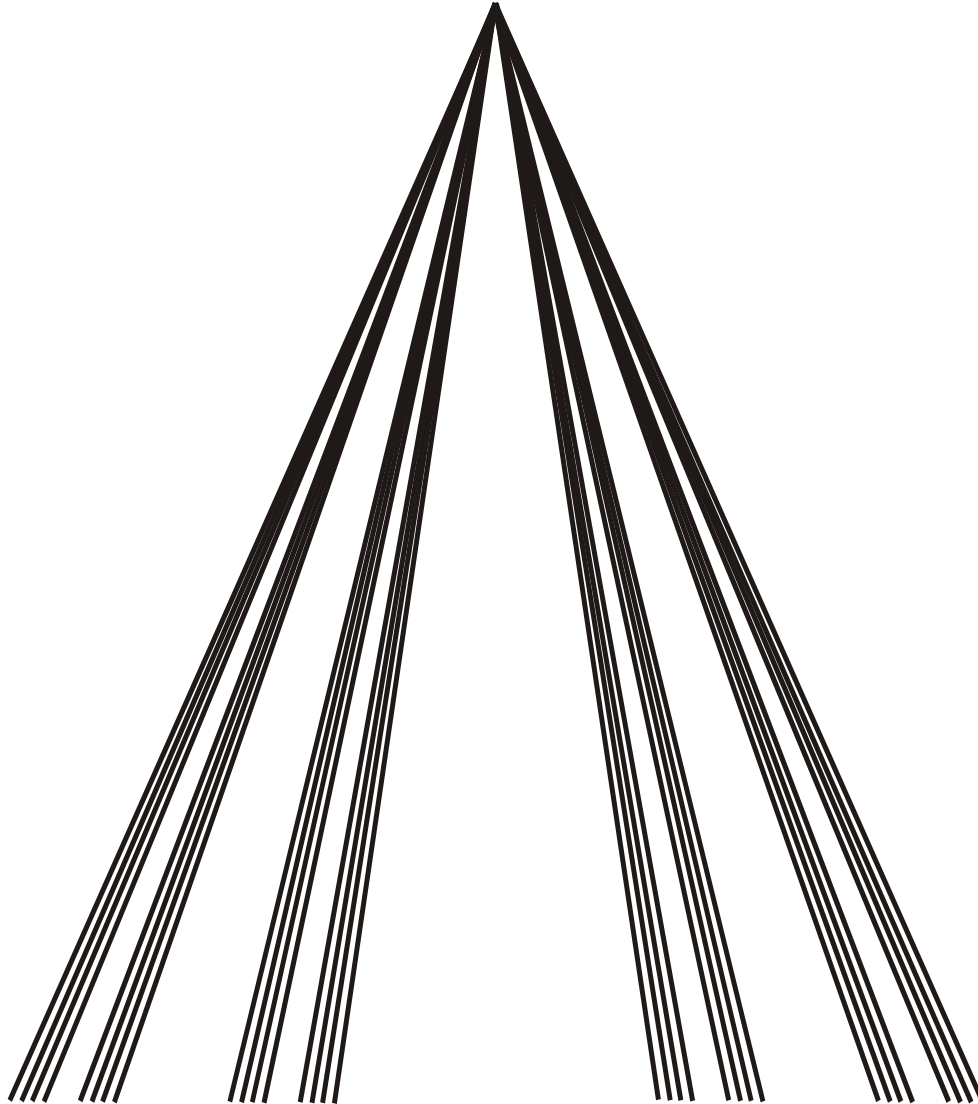
$F\omega$ is a fan, but not a cone



Harmonic Fan



Cantor Fan



Symmetric Products and Cones

- **Question 9.** Suppose that X is a continuum such that for some $n \geq 2$, $F_n(X)$ is a cone, must X itself be a cone?
- **Question 10.** Suppose that X is a dendroid such that for some $n \geq 2$, $F_n(X)$ is a cone, must X itself be a cone?

PROBLEM II

UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

- For a metric continuum X we say that X *has unique hyperspace $K(X)$* provided that, if Y is a continuum and $K(X)$ is homeomorphic to $K(Y)$, then X is homeomorphic to Y .

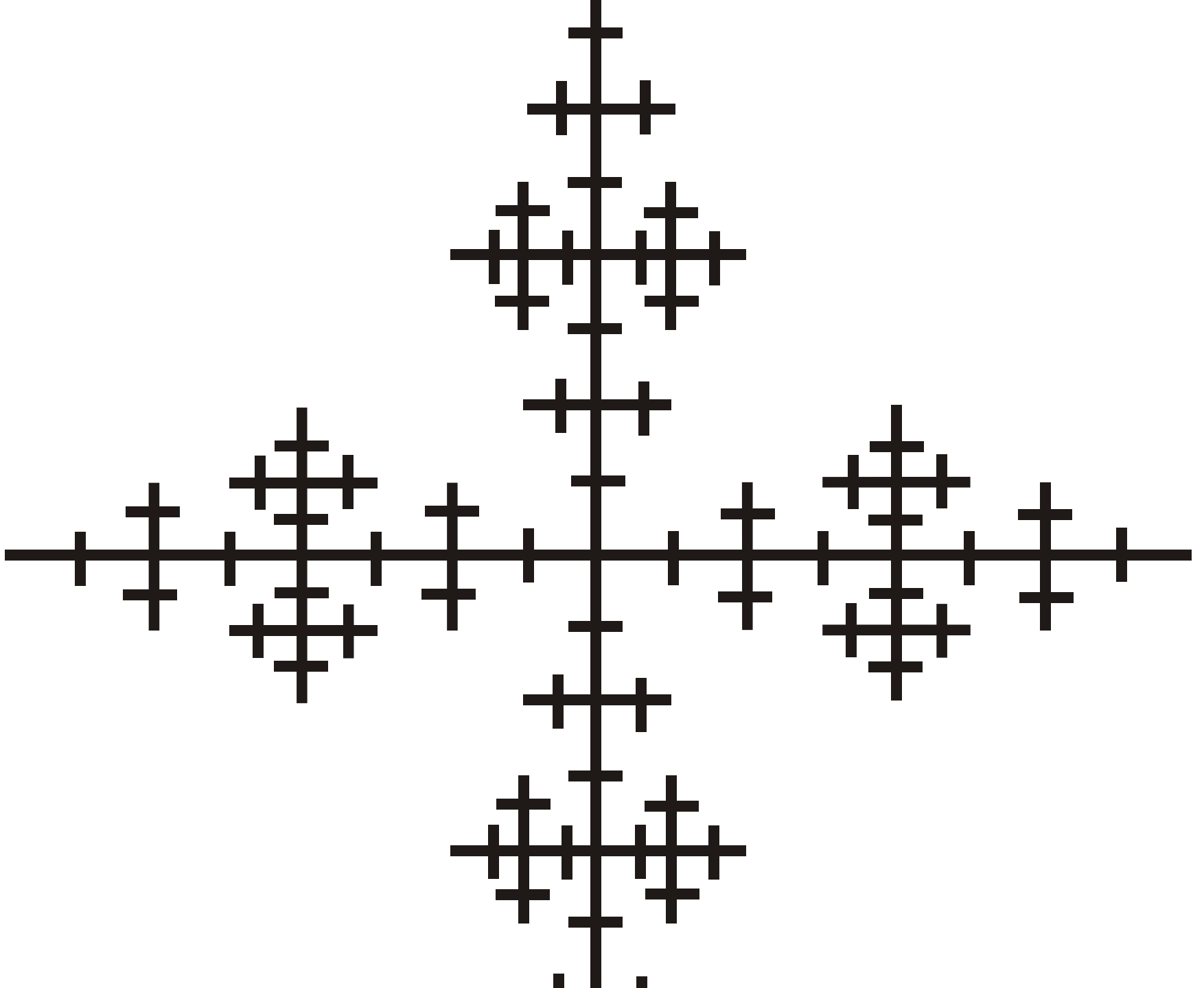
Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

- **Theorem 1** (Curtis-Schori 1978). If X is a *locally connected continuum*, then 2^X is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube.

Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

Theorem 2. (Curtis-Schori 1978) For a continuum X , the following are equivalent.

- (a) X *is locally connected and each arc in X has empty interior,*
- (b) $C(X)$ is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube
- (c) $C_n(X)$ is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube for each n .



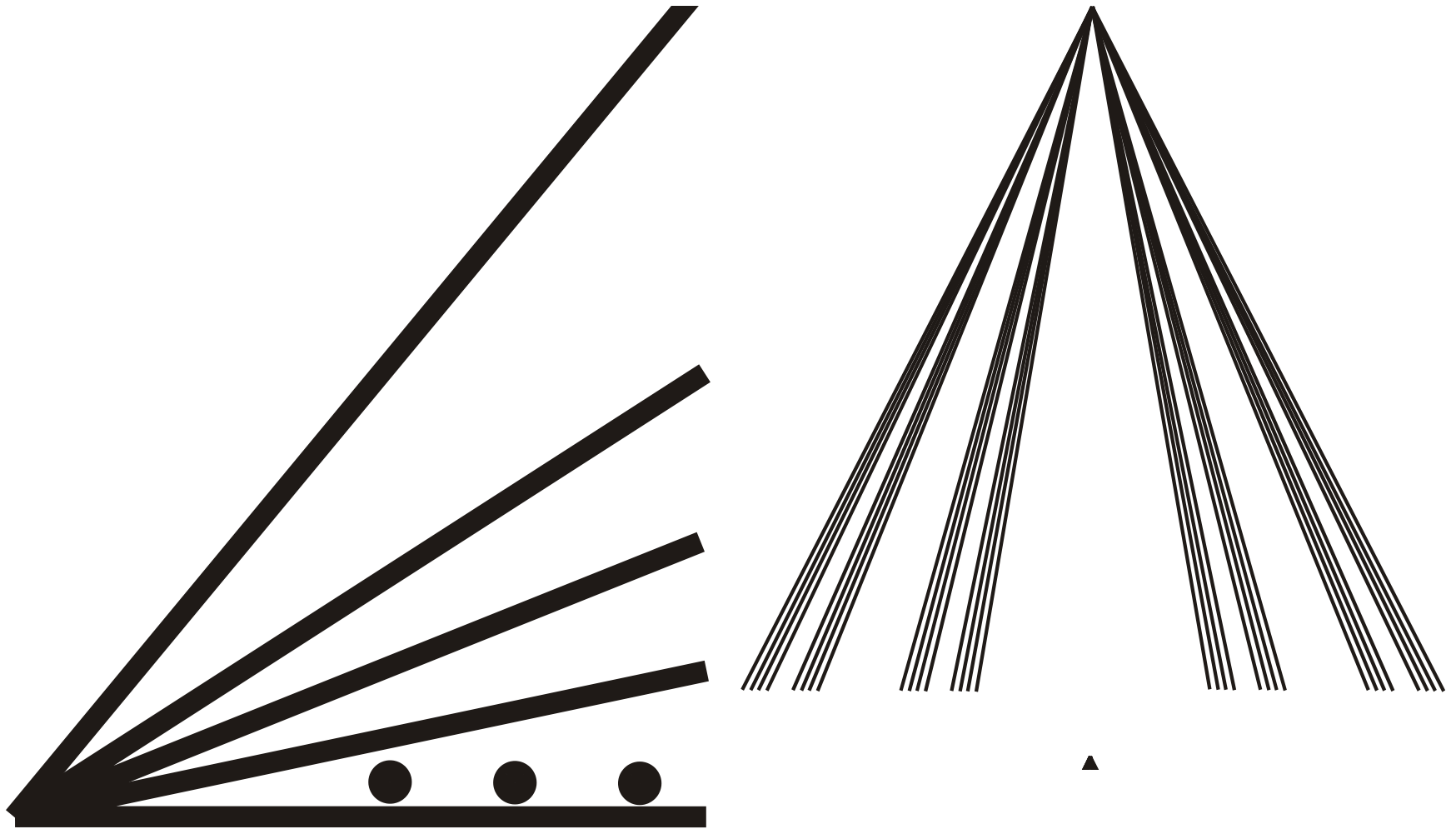
Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

- **Theorem 3.** (Duda 1968-1970). Finite graphs G , different from an arc and a simple closed curve have unique hyperspace $C(G)$.

Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

- **Theorem 4.**(Illanes 2003) Finite graphs G have unique hyperspace $C_n(G)$ for each $n \geq 2$.
- **Theorem 5** (Eberhart-Nadler 1979). If X is a smooth fan with infinitely many end points, then X does not have unique hyperspace $C(X)$.

Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

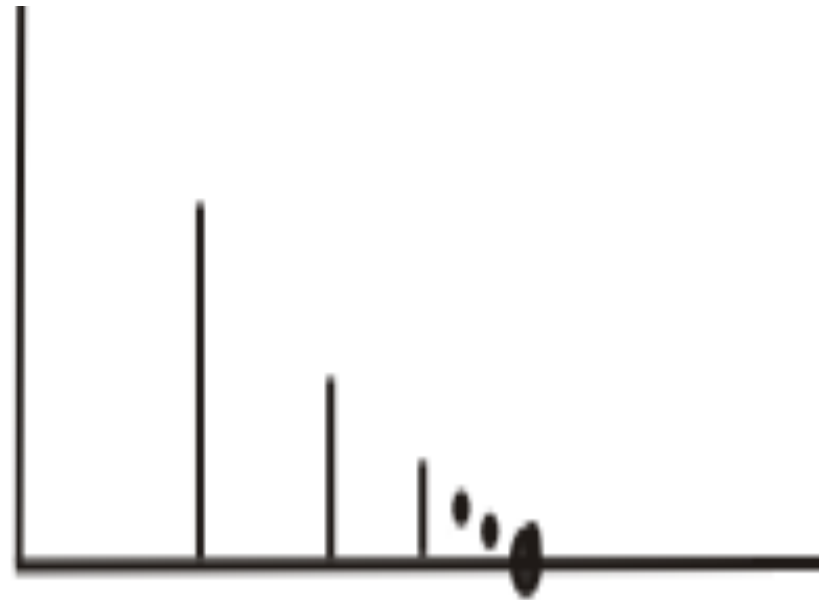
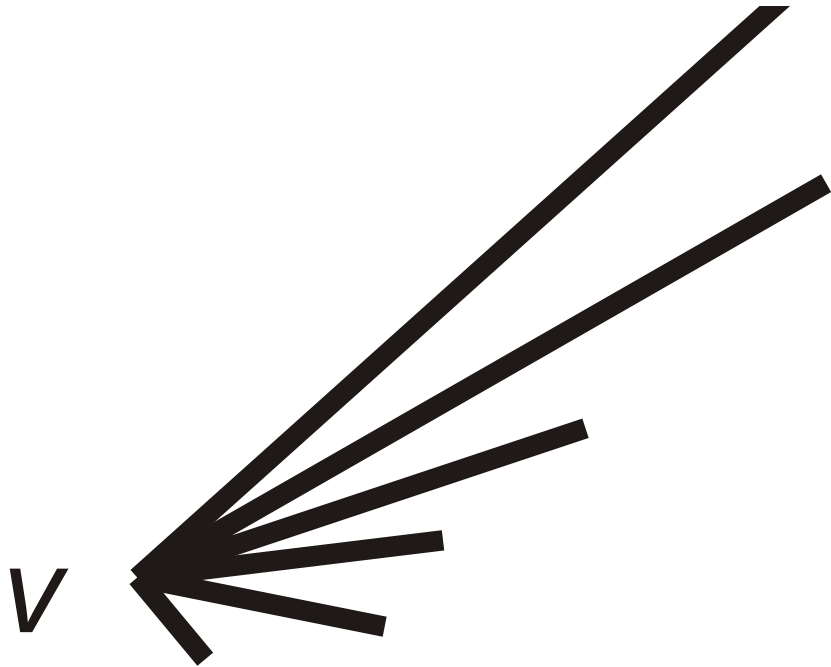


Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

- A **dendrite** is a locally connected continuum without simple closed curves. Define
- $\mathcal{D} = \{X : X \text{ is a dendrite with closed set of end points}\}.$

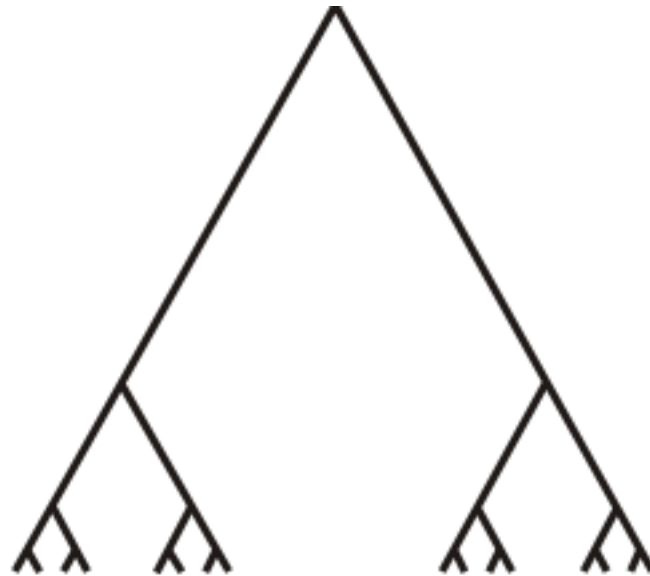
UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- It is known that a dendrite $X \in \mathcal{D}$ if and only if X does not contain neither a copy of F_ω nor a copy of the enlarged null comb.



UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- Gehman dendrite is a dendrite in class \mathcal{D} . For this dendrite, the set of end points is the Cantor set.



Uniqueness of Hyperspaces

- **Theorem 6** (Herrera-Illanes-Maciàs-Romero and López). Let $X \in \mathcal{D}$. Then
- (a) X has unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$ for each $n \geq 2$,
- (b) if X is not an arc, then X has unique hyperspace $C(X)$.

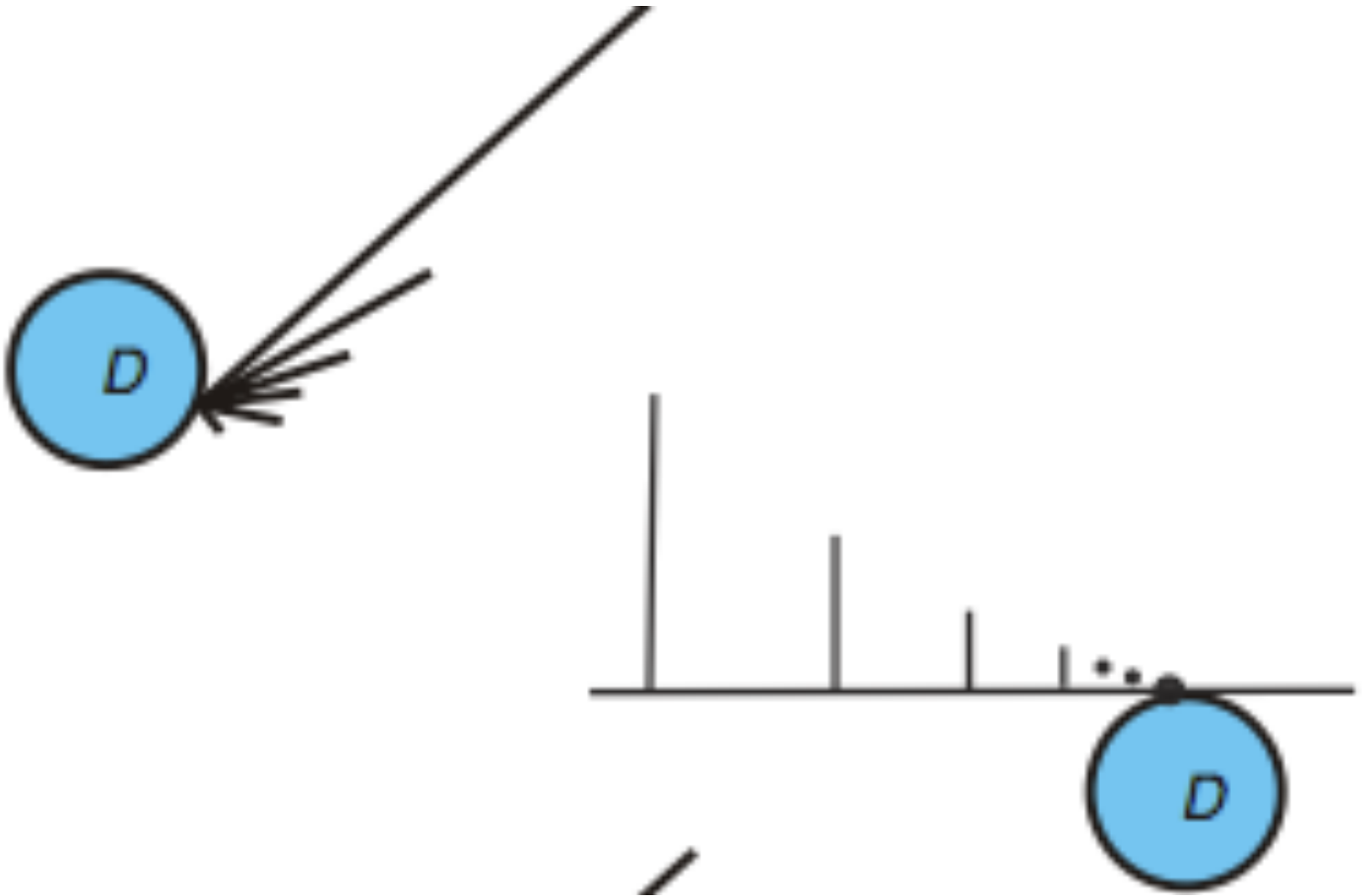
UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- **Theorem 7.** (Herrera-Macias 2011). Continua with a base of neighborhoods belonging to class \mathcal{D} have unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$ for all $n \neq 2$.

UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- **Theorem 8** (Acosta, Herrera 2010). If a dendrite X does not belong to \mathcal{D} , then X does not have unique hyperspace $C(X)$.

UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES



UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- **Example** (Hernandez-G, Illanes, VMV 2013) There exists a dendrite containing the extended null comb and having unique hyperspace $C_2(X)$



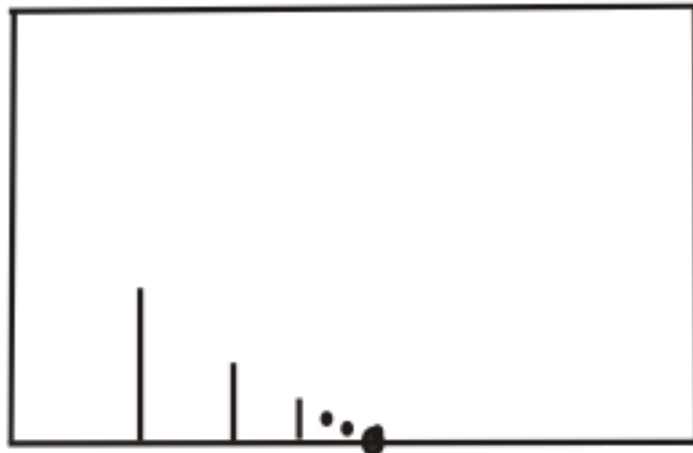
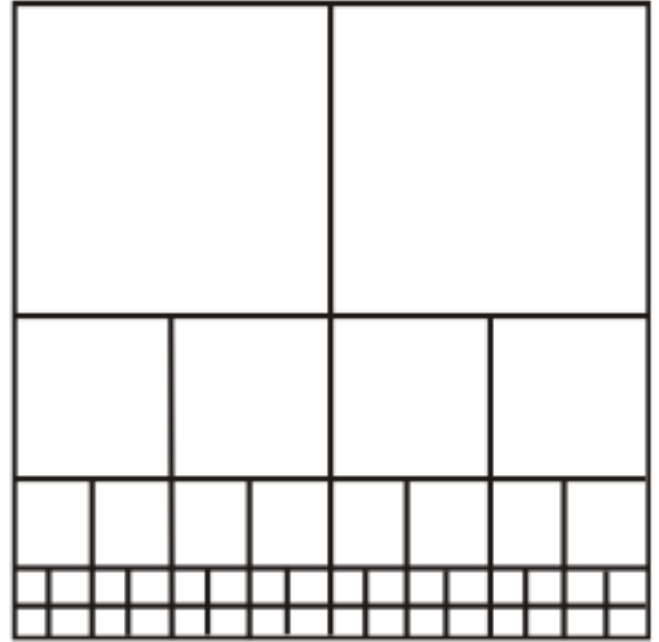
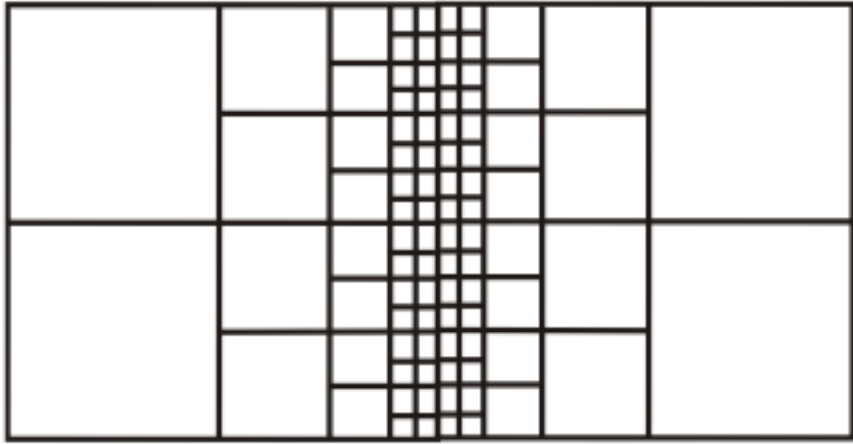
- A locally connected continuum X is ***almost framed*** provided that

$$\bigcup \{J \subset X : J \text{ is a free arc in } X\}$$
 is dense in X .
- $G(X) = \{p \in X : p \text{ has a neighborhood } K \text{ in } X \text{ such that } K \text{ is a finite graph}\}$.
- A locally connected continuum X is almost framed if and only if $G(X)$ is dense in X .

UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- A continuum X is **framed** if:
 - (i) it is not a simple closed curve,
 - (ii) is almost framed and
 - (iii) has a base of neighborhoods \mathcal{B} such that for each $U \in \mathcal{B}$, $U \cap G(X)$ is connected.

- Finite graphs, dendrites in class \mathcal{D} and locally class- \mathcal{D} dendrites are framed continua.



Hernandez-G, Illanes, VMV 2013

- **Theorem 9** Framed continua have unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- **Theorem 10** If X is a locally connected continuum and X is not almost framed, then X does not have unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- **Theorem 11** If X is almost framed and $X-G(X)$ is not connected, then X does not have unique hyperspace $C(X)$.

UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

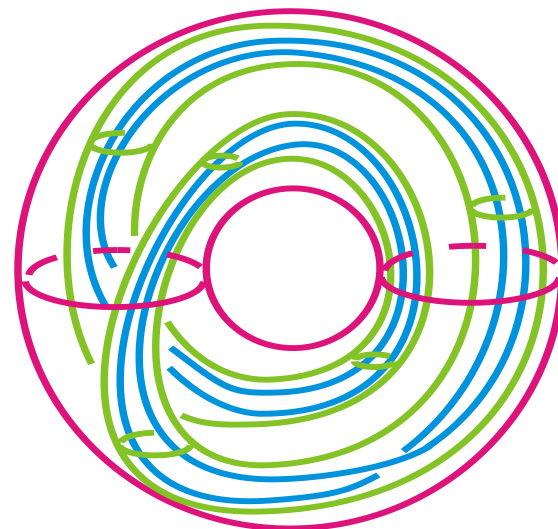
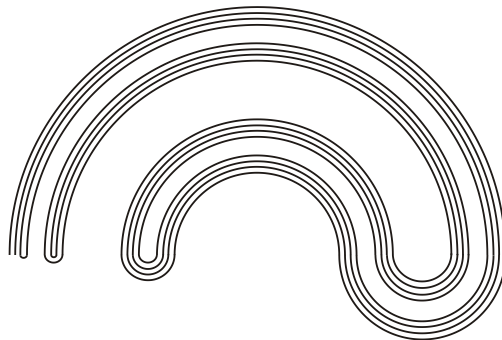
- **Theorem 12** (Acosta 2002). If X is a **compactification of the ray** and X is not an arc, then X has unique hyperspace $C(X)$.
- If X is a **compactification of the real line**, X is not an arc and its **remainder is disconnected**, then X has unique hyperspace $C(X)$.

UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- **Theorem 13** (Macas 2002) If X is a hereditarily indecomposable continuum, then X has unique hyperspaces 2^X and $C_n(X)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- **Theorem 14** (Acosta 2002) Indecomposable arc continua have unique hyperspace $C(X)$.

UNIQUENESS OF HYPERSPACES

- **Theorem 15** (HG-I-MV 2013)
Indecomposable arc continua X have unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$, for each $n \neq 2$, the case $n = 2$ remains unsolved.



Questions on n -fold hyperspaces

- **Question 1.** If X is a smooth fan with infinitely many end points, does X not have unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$ for $n \geq 2$?
- **Question 2.** Characterize locally connected continua X which have unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$.
- **Question 3.** Do compactifications of the ray have unique hyperspace $C_n(X)$ for each $n \geq 2$?

Questions on n-fold hyperspaces

- **Question 4.** Do compactifications of the real line with disconnected remainder have unique hyperspace $C_2(X)$?
- **Question 5.** Let X be a compactification of the real line. Does X have unique hyperspace $C_2(X)$?

- **Question 6.** Find more classes of continua X having unique hyperspace 2^X
- **Question 7.** Have indecomposable arc continua X unique hyperspaces 2^X and $C_2(X)$?
- **Question 8.** Do there exist two non-homeomorphic fans X and Y such that $C_2(X)$ and $C_2(Y)$ are homeomorphic?

- **Question 9.** Let $n \geq 2$ and X and Y be smooth fans such that $C_n(X)$ is homeomorphic to $C_n(Y)$. Does it follow that X is homeomorphic to Y ?
- **Question 10.** Let X and Y be smooth fans such that 2^X is homeomorphic to 2^Y and X has infinitely many end points. Does it follow that X is homeomorphic to Y ?

UNIQUENESS OF SYMMETRIC PRODUCTS

- **Theorem 16** (HG-I-MV).
- (a) (Acosta-Herrera-Lopez) Finite graphs G have unique hyperspace $F_n(G)$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- (b) (HG-I-MV) Dendrites $X \in \mathcal{D}$ have unique hyperspace $F_n(X)$.

UNIQUENESS OF SYMMETRIC PRODUCTS

- **Theorem 17** (Illanes-J. Martinez 2009).
- (a) Compactifications X of the ray $[0, 1)$ have unique hyperspace $F_n(X)$ for each $n \neq 3$.
- (b) Compactifications X of the ray $[0, 1)$ such that the remainder is an ANR have unique hyperspace $F_3(X)$.

UNIQUENESS OF SYMMETRIC PRODUCTS

- **Theorem 18** (Illanes-Castañeda-Anaya 2013). The following type of continua:
 - Indecomposable arc continua,
 - Fans or
 - Arcwise connected continua with exactly only one ramification p have unique hyperspace $F_2(X)$.

Rigidity of Hyperspaces

- A useful technique is to find a topological property that characterizes the elements of $F_1(X)$ in the hyperspace $K(X)$.
- When this is possible the hyperspace $K(X)$ is rigid, so both topics are closely related.

Rigidity of Hyperspaces

- A hyperspace $K(X)$ of X is said to be *rigid* provided that for every homeomorphism

$$h : K(X) \rightarrow K(X)$$

we have that

$$h(F_1(X)) = F_1(X).$$

- A wire in a continuum X is a subset α of X such that α is a component of an open subset of X and is homeomorphic to one of the spaces $(0, 1)$, $[0, 1)$, $[0, 1]$ or S^1
- Given a continuum X , let

$$W(X) = \{\alpha \subset X : \alpha \text{ is a wire in } X\}.$$
- The continuum X is said to be wired provided that $W(X)$ is dense in X .

Rigidity and uniqueness of Symmetric Products

- HG-MV 2013
- **Theorem 19.** *Let $n \geq 4$ and let X be a wired continuum. Then:*
 - (a) *X has unique hyperspace $F_n(X)$*
 - (b) *$F_n(X)$ is rigid.*
- **Corollary 20** Compactifications of the ray, Smooth Fans, indecomposable arc continua are wired continua.

UNIQUENESS AND RIGIDITY OF SYMMETRIC PRODUCTS (HG-MV 2013)

- **Theorem 21.** *If a continuum X contains a tail, then $F_2(X)$ is not rigid.*
- **Theorem 22.** *Let X be an almost meshed. Then $F_2(X)$ is rigid if and only if X does not contain tails.*
- **Corollary 23.** *A finite graph X has rigid hyperspace $F_2(X)$ if and only if X does not have end points.*
- **Theorem 24.** *If a continuum X contains a free arc, then $F_3(X)$ is not rigid.*

Questions on Symmetric Products

- **Question 11.** Have all dendrites X unique hyperspace $F_n(X)$?
- **Question 12.** Have all compactifications X of the ray $[0, 1)$ unique hyperspace $F_3(X)$?
- **Question 13.** Have all chainable (circle-like) continua X unique hyperspace $F_n(X)$?

Questions on Symmetric Products

- **Question 14.** Have all fans X unique hyperspace $F_n(X)$?
- **Question 15.** Have all indecomposable arc continua X unique hyperspace $F_3(X)$?

Questions on Symmetric Products

- **Question 16.** Does there exist a finite dimensional continuum X without unique hyperspace $F_n(X)$?
- **Question 17.** Do hereditarily indecomposable continua X have unique hyperspace $F_2(X)$?
- **Question 18.** Does the Pseudo-arc have unique hyperspace $F_2(X)$?

PROBLEM III

HOMOGENEITY DEGREE OF HYPERSPACES

Homogeneity Degree

The *homogeneity degree*, $hd(X)$, of X is the number of orbits in X for the action of the group of homeomorphisms of X onto itself.

Given a continuum X , let $H(X)$ denote the group of homeomorphisms of X onto itself.

Homogeneity Degree

An **orbit** in X is a class of the equivalence relation in X given by p is equivalent to q if there exists h in $H(X)$ such that $h(p)=q$.

- The **homogeneity degree, $hd(X)$** , of the continuum X is defined as

$$hd(X) = \text{number of orbits in } X$$

Homogeneity Degree

- When $hd(X)=n$ the continuum X is known to *be 1/n-homogeneous*
- and when $hd(X)=1$, X is *homogeneous.*

Previous Results

- In 2008 Pellicer studied continua for which $\text{hd}(F_2(X))=2$.
- **Theorem** (2015 I. Calderón, R. Hernández-Gutiérrez and A. Illanes)
If P is the pseudo-arc, then $\text{hd}(F_2(P))=3$

- **Theorem(HG-MV 2015)** Let X be an m -manifold without boundary and n a natural number. Then
 - (a) If either $m=2$ and $n \neq 2$ or $m=1$ and $n \neq 3$ then $\text{hd}(F_n(X))=n$.
 - (b) If $m=2$ (X is a surface), then $\text{hd}(F_2(X))=1$ and
 - (c) If $m=1$ (X is a simple closed curve) and $n=3$, then $\text{hd}(F_n(X))=1$.

- **Theorem (HG-MV 2015).** Let n be a natural number. Then:
 - (a) If $n \geq 4$, then $\text{hd}(F_n([0,1]))=2n$,
and
 - (b) If $n \in \{2,3\}$, then $\text{hd}(F_n([0,1]))=2$.

THANKYOU