

# Towards Analysis on Fractals: Piecewise $C^1$ -Fractal Curves, Lapidus-Sarhad Spectral Triples, and the Gromov-Hausdorff Propinquity

Dr. Therese Basa Landry

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Towards Analysis  
on Fractals:  
Piecewise  
 $C^1$ -Fractal  
Curves,  
Lapidus-Sarhad  
Spectral Triples,  
and the Gromov-  
Hausdorff  
Propinquity

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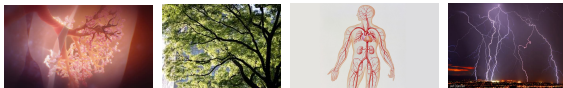
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 $C^1$ -fractal  
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Metric  
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Triples on  
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## Finite Approximations of Fractals

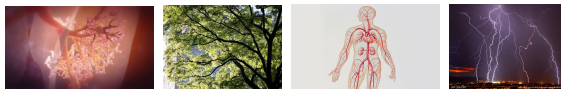
- ▶ better understand how fractal structures arise and evolve in nature



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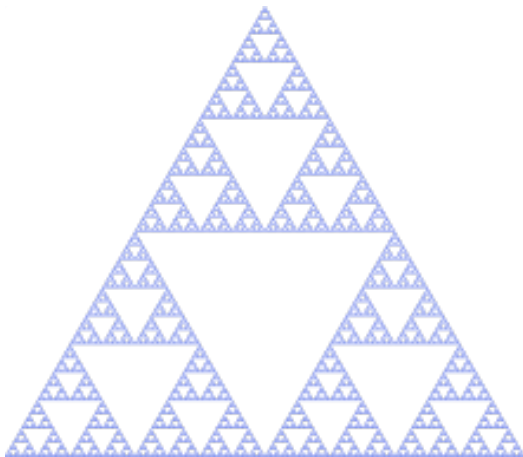


- ▶ extend methods from mathematical physics classically formulated on smooth manifolds to fractal spaces

## Tools from Noncommutative Geometry

- ▶ spectral triples
  - generalize differentiable structure
- ▶ Gromov-Hausdorff propinquity
  - extends Hausdorff distance to function spaces

# Motivating Example: The Sierpinski Gasket



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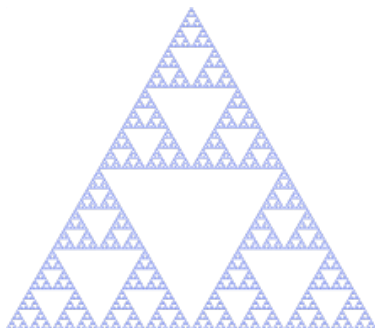
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# Motivating Example: The Sierpinski Gasket



Let  $p_i$  denote the vertices of a regular 3-simplex, and for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , let

$$F_i x = \frac{1}{2}(x - p_i) + p_i.$$

The *Sierpinski gasket*  $SG$  is the unique nonempty compact subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $SG = \cup_{i=1}^3 F_i(SG)$ .

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# Piecewise $C^1$ -fractal Curve (Lapidus, Sarhad)

A *piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve* is a compact length space  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  that satisfies the axioms below. Let  $L(\gamma)$  denote the length of the continuous curve  $\gamma$  parametrized by its arclength.

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- ▶ Axiom 1.  $X = \overline{R}$  where  $R = \bigcup_{j \geq 1} R_j$  and  $R_j, j \in \mathbb{N}$ , is a rectifiable  $C^1$  curve with  $L(R_j) \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ .

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- ▶ Axiom 2. There exists a dense subset  $\mathcal{B} \subset X$  such that for each  $p \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $q \in X$ , one of the minimizing geodesics from  $p$  to  $q$  can be given as a countable (or finite) concatenation of the  $R_j$ 's.

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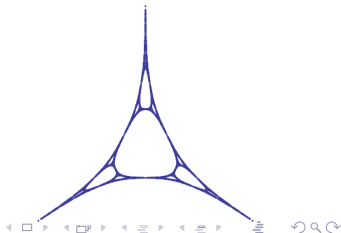
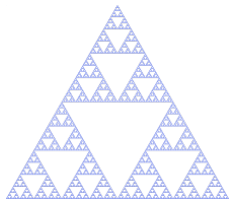
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# Approximating Piecewise $C^1$ -fractal Curves

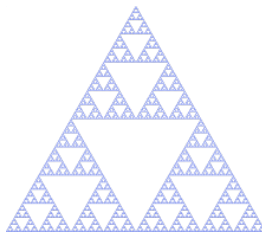
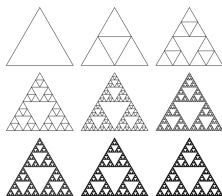
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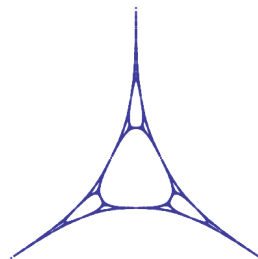
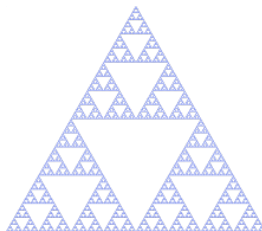
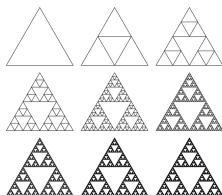
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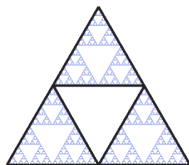
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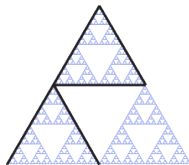
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$$\text{Haus}_d(SG, SG_1) = \inf\{\epsilon > 0 : SG \subseteq B_\epsilon(SG_1),$$

$$SG_1 \subseteq B_\epsilon(SG)\} = \frac{1}{8}$$



$$\text{Haus}_d(SG, A) = \inf\{\epsilon > 0 : SG \subseteq B_\epsilon(A),$$

$$A \subseteq B_\epsilon(SG)\} = \frac{1}{2}$$

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# Approximation Sequence for a Piecewise $C^1$ -fractal Curve Compatible with a Given Parameterization (L., Lapidus, Latrémolière)

Let  $X$  be a piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve with parameterization  $(R_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ . An *approximation sequence of  $X$  compatible with  $(R_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$*  is a strictly increasing function  $B : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that, for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that if  $n \geq N$ , and letting

- ▶  $X_n = \bigcup_{j=1}^{B(n)} R_j$ ,
- ▶  $V_n$  denote the set of the endpoints of the curves  $R_1, \dots, R_{B(n)}$ ,
- ▶  $d_n$  be the geodesic distance on  $X_n$ ,

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the following properties hold:

- (1)  $\text{Haus}_{d_n}(V_n, X_n) < \epsilon$ ,
- (2) the restriction of  $d_\infty$  to  $V_n \times V_n$  is  $d_n$ .

# Approximation Sequence for the Sierpinski Gasket

Let  $R_j$ , denote, for each  $j \geq 1$ , a continuous, injective functions to edges in  $SG_n$  such that

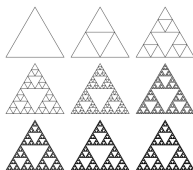
$R_j : [0, 1] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_0$  for  $j = 1, 2, 3$ ,

$R_j : [0, 2^{-1}] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_1$  for  $j = 4, 5, \dots, 12$

$R_j : [0, 2^{-2}] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_2$  for  $j = 13, 14, \dots, 39$

$\vdots$

$R_j : [0, 2^{-n}] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_n$  for  $j = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^n 3^i$ ,  
 $2 + \sum_{i=1}^n 3^i, \dots, 3^{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n 3^i$



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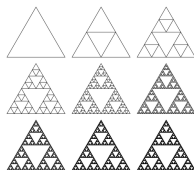
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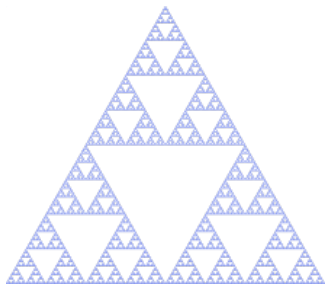
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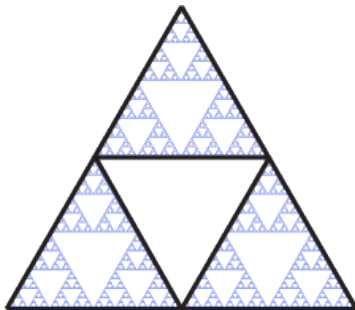
Let  $B : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be given by  $B(n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} 3^i$ . Then  $B(n)$  defines an approximation sequence of  $SG$  compatible with the parameterization  $(R_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ .



# Intrinsic Metrics on $SG$ and $SG_n$



$(SG, d_\infty)$



$(SG_n, d_n)$

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# Extending Hausdorff Distance to Function Spaces

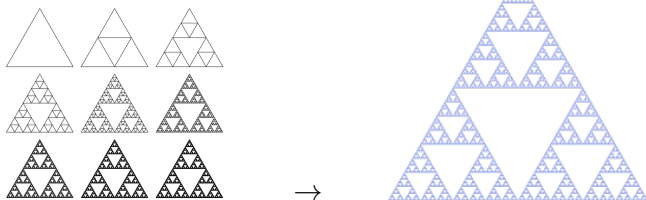
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$$SG_n \xrightarrow{\text{Haus}_d} SG$$

$$(SG_n, d_n) \xrightarrow{GH} (SG, d_\infty)$$

$$(C(SG_n), L_{d_n}) \xrightarrow{?} (C(SG), L_{d_\infty})$$

# Spectral Triple (Connes)

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a unital  $C^*$ -algebra. An *unbounded Fredholm module*  $(\mathcal{H}, D)$  over  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  together with a unital representation  $\pi$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  into  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  and an unbounded, self-adjoint operator  $D$  on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that

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► the set

$\{a \in \mathcal{A} \text{ for which } [D, \pi(a)] \text{ is densely defined}$

and extends to a bounded operator on  $\mathcal{H}\}$

is dense in  $\mathcal{A}$

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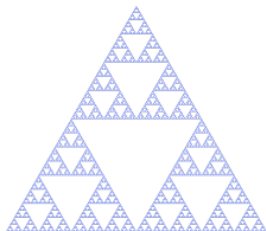
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If the underlying representation  $\pi$  is faithful, then  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$  is called a *spectral triple*, and  $D$  a *Dirac operator*.

# Noncommutative Riemannian Geometry: Recovery of Geodesic Distance (Connes)



$d_{geo}(p, q) = \inf \{ L(\gamma) : \gamma \text{ is a path from } p \text{ to } q \}$  where

$$L(\gamma) = \int_p^q (g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

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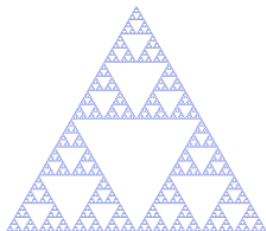
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$$L(\gamma) = \int_p^q (g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

is *dual* to

$d_{spec}(p, q)$

$$= \sup\{|f(p) - f(q)| : f \in C(X), \|[D, \pi(f)]\|_{B(\mathcal{H})} \leq 1\}$$

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# Building Lapidus-Sarhad Spectral Triples

A Lapidus-Sarhad spectral triple for a piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve is a direct sum of spectral triples for each curve in a given parameterization. Each of these spectral triples is built from spectral triples for circles.

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# Building Lapidus-Sarhad Spectral Triples

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A Lapidus-Sarhad spectral triple for a piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve is a direct sum of spectral triples for each curve in a given parameterization. Each of these spectral triples is built from spectral triples for circles.

To define a spectral triple for a circle in the complex plane centered at 0 and with radius  $r > 0$ , let

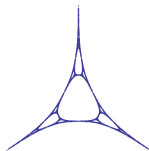
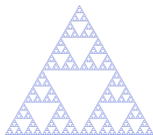
- $\mathcal{A}C_r$  denote the algebra of complex continuous  $2\pi r$ -periodic functions on the real line,
- $\mathcal{H}_r := L^2([-\pi r, \pi r], (2\pi r)^{-1} \mathfrak{m})$ , where  $(2r)^{-1} \mathfrak{m}$  is the normalized Lebesgue measure on  $[-\pi r, \pi r]$ ,
- $D_{C_r} = -i \frac{d}{dx} |_{\text{span}(\phi_k^r)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}}$  with  $\phi_k^r = \exp(\frac{ikx}{r})$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,
- $\pi_{C_r}$  the representation that sends elements of  $\mathcal{A}C_r$  to multiplication operators on  $\mathcal{H}_r$

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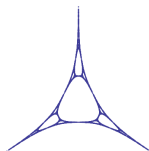
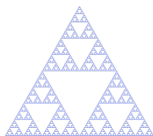
# Theorem (Lapidus, Sarhad 2014)



Let  $X$  be a piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve. Then  $X = \overline{\bigcup_{j \geq 1} R_j}$ , where  $R_j$  is a rectifiable  $C^1$  curve of length  $l_j$  for each  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . Set

- $\mathcal{H}_\infty := \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{H}_{l_j}$ ,
- $D_\infty := \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{N}} D_{l_j}$ , where  $D_{l_j} = D_{C_{l_j/\pi}} + \frac{1}{2l_j} I$ ,
- $\pi_\infty := \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \pi_{l_j}$ , where  $\pi_{l_j}(f)h(x) := f(R_j(|t|))h(x)$ .

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Then  $ST(X) := (C(X), \mathcal{H}_\infty, D_\infty)$  with representation  $\pi_\infty$  is a spectral triple for  $X$ . Furthermore,

$$d_\infty(x, y) = \sup\{|f(x) - f(y)| : f \in C(SG),$$

$$\|[D_\infty, \pi_\infty(f)]\|_{B(\mathcal{H}_\infty)} \leq 1\}.$$

# Theorem (Antonescu, Christensen, Lapidus 2008)

Let  $R_j$ , denote, for each  $j \geq 1$ , a continuous, injective functions to edges in  $SG_n$  such that

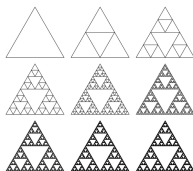
$R_j : [0, 1] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_0$  for  $j = 1, 2, 3$ ,

$R_j : [0, 2^{-1}] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_1$  for  $j = 4, 5, \dots, 12$

$R_j : [0, 2^{-2}] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_2$  for  $j = 13, 14, \dots, 39$

$\vdots$

$R_j : [0, 2^{-n}] \rightarrow$  the edges in  $SG_n$  for  $j = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^n 3^i$ ,  
 $2 + \sum_{i=1}^n 3^i, \dots, 3^{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n 3^i$



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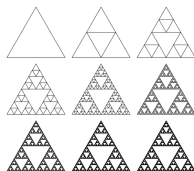
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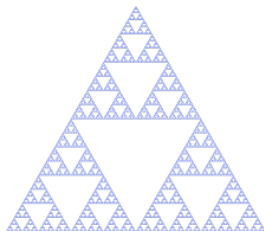
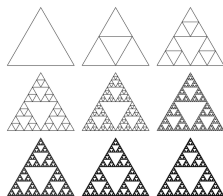


Then  $ST(SG)$  with representation  $\pi_\infty$  is a spectral triple for  $SG$  that recovers the Hausdorff dimension, the geodesic metric, and the Hausdorff measure.

# Extending Hausdorff Distance to Spectral Triples

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$$SG_n \xrightarrow{\text{Haus}_d} SG$$

$$(SG_n, d_n) \xrightarrow{GH} (SG, d_\infty)$$

$$(C(SG_n), L_{d_n}) \xrightarrow{?} (C(SG), L_{d_\infty})$$

$$(C(SG_n), D_n, \mathcal{H}_n) \xrightarrow{?} (C(SG), D_\infty, \mathcal{H}_\infty)$$

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# Approximating Lapidus-Sarhad Spectral Triples

Building on the earlier work of Marc Rieffel, Frédéric Latremoliere introduced a generalization of the Gromov-Hausdorff distance that was recently extended to spectral triples in a form called the *spectral propinquity*.

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Main Result (Informally): If  $X$  is a piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve  $X$  with parameterization  $(R_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $B(n)$  is an approximation sequence of  $X$  compatible with  $\{R_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ ,

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# Definition (Rieffel)

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a unital  $C^*$ -algebra. The *state space*  $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  is the set of positive linear functionals on  $\mathcal{A}$  of norm 1. If  $L$  is a seminorm defined on a dense subspace of the self-adjoint elements of  $\mathcal{A}$  satisfying some form of Leibniz inequality and such that

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and the associated *Monge-Kantorovich distance*, that is, the metric defined for all  $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})$  by

$$\text{mk}_L(\varphi, \psi) = \sup\{|\varphi(a) - \psi(a)| : a \in \text{dom}(L), L(a) \leq 1\},$$

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metrizes the weak\* topology of  $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})$ , then  $(\mathcal{A}, L)$  is a *quantum compact metric space*  $(\mathcal{A}, L)$ .

compact metric space  $(X, d_X)$

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$$f \in C(X), L_{d_X}(f) := \sup \left\{ \frac{|f(p) - f(q)|}{d_X(p, q)} : p, q \in X, p \neq q \right\}$$

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$\hat{x} : x \in (X, d_X) \mapsto \delta_x \in (\mathcal{S}(C(X)), mk_{L_{d_X}})$  is an isometry  
onto its image!

# Metric Spectral Triples (Latrémolière )

Let  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$  be a spectral triple. Given  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ , set  $L_D(a) = \|[D, \pi(a)]\|_{\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})}$ . If  $(\mathcal{A}, L_D)$  is a quantum compact metric space, then  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$  is a *metric spectral triple*.

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The *spectral propinquity* is a metric on the class of metric spectral triples.

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# Theorem (Latrémolière 2018)

If  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$  and  $(\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{H}', D')$  are metric spectral triples with spectral propinquity  $\Lambda^{\text{spec}}((\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D), (\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{H}', D')) = 0$ , then there exists a unitary  $U : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}'$  and a  $*$ -isomorphism  $\theta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}'$  such that

$$UDU^* = D',$$

and for every  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\omega \in \mathcal{H}'$ ,

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Note that  $\theta$  is also a full quantum isometry- that is,  $L_{D'} \circ \theta = L_D$ .

# Spectral Propinquity Metric Convergence of Spectral Triples on $SG$ (L., Lapidus, Latrémolière)

Let  $\{R_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a parameterization of  $SG$  as a piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve and  $B(n)$  an approximation sequence of  $SG$  compatible with  $\{R_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

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When equipped with  $L_{D_\infty}(a) := \|[D_\infty, \pi_\infty(a)]\|_{\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_\infty)}$ ,  $(C(SG), L_{D_\infty})$  is a quantum compact metric space. Similarly,  $(C(SG_{B(n)}), L_{D_{B(n)}})$  is also a quantum compact metric space.

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Moreover,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \Lambda^{\text{spec}}((C(SG_{B(n)}), \mathcal{H}_{B(n)}, D_{B(n)}), (C(SG), \mathcal{H}_\infty, D_\infty)) = 0.$$

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \Lambda^{\text{spec}}((C(SG_{B(n)}), \mathcal{H}_{B(n)}, D_{B(n)}), (C(SG), \mathcal{H}_\infty, D_\infty)) = 0.$$

# Spectral Propinquity Metric Convergence of Spectral Triples on a Piecewise $C^1$ -fractal Curve (L., Lapidus, Latrémolière)

Let  $\{R_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a parameterization of  $X$  as a piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal curve and  $B(n)$  an approximation sequence of  $X$  compatible with  $\{R_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ . Denote the Lapidus and Sarhad spectral triple on  $X$ ,  $(C(X), \bigoplus_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{H}_{l_j}, \bigoplus_{j \geq 1} D_{l_j})$ , by  $(C(SG), \mathcal{H}_\infty, D_\infty)$  and  $(C(X_{B(n)}), \bigoplus_{j=1}^{B(n)} \mathcal{H}_{l_j}, \bigoplus_{j=1}^{B(n)} D_{l_j})$ , by  $(C(X_{B(n)}), \mathcal{H}_{B(n)}, D_{B(n)})$ .

When equipped with  $L_{D_\infty}(a) := \|[D_\infty, \pi_\infty(a)]\|_{\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_\infty)}$ ,  $(C(X), L_{D_\infty})$  is a quantum compact metric space. Similarly,  $(C(X_{B(n)}), L_{D_{B(n)}})$  is also a quantum compact metric space.

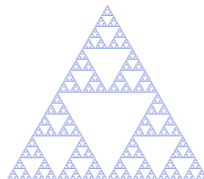
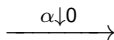
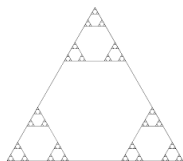
Moreover,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \Lambda^{\text{spec}}((C(X_{B(n)}), \mathcal{H}_{B(n)}, D_{B(n)}), (C(X), \mathcal{H}_\infty, D_\infty)) = 0.$$

# Work in Progress: The Stretched Sierpinski Gasket of Parameter $\alpha$ , $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{3}$

Towards Analysis on Fractals:  
 Piecewise  $C^1$ -Fractal Curves,  
 Lapidus-Sarhad Spectral Triples,  
 and the Gromov-Hausdorff Propinquity

T. Landry



$$SG_\alpha \xrightarrow{\text{Haus}_d} SG$$

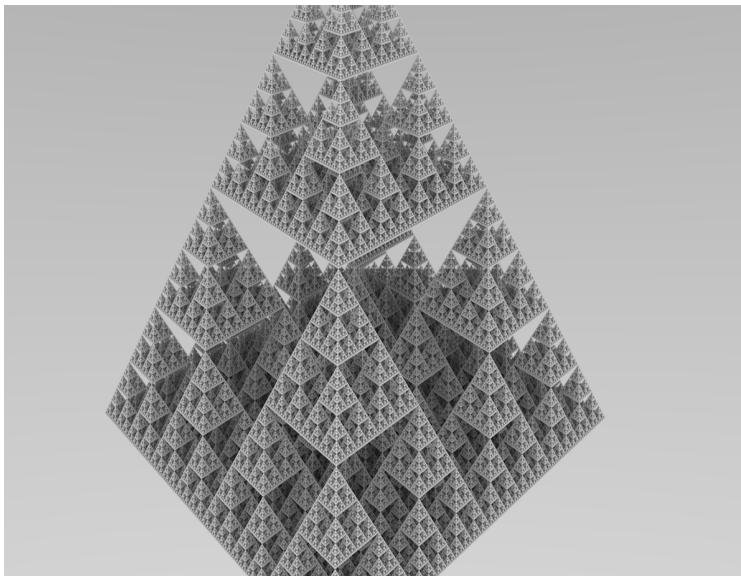
$$(C(SG_\alpha), \mathcal{H}_{SG_\alpha}, D_{SG_\alpha}) \xrightarrow{\text{Spectral Propinquity}} (C(SG), \mathcal{H}_{SG}, D_{SG})$$

Piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal Curves and Approximation Sequences

Spectral Triples

Metric Approximations of Spectral Triples on Piecewise  $C^1$ -fractal Curves via the Spectral Propinquity

# Future Work



Towards Analysis  
on Fractals:  
Piecewise  
 $C^1$ -Fractal  
Curves,  
Lapidus-Sarhad  
Spectral Triples,  
and the Gromov-  
Hausdorff  
Propinquity

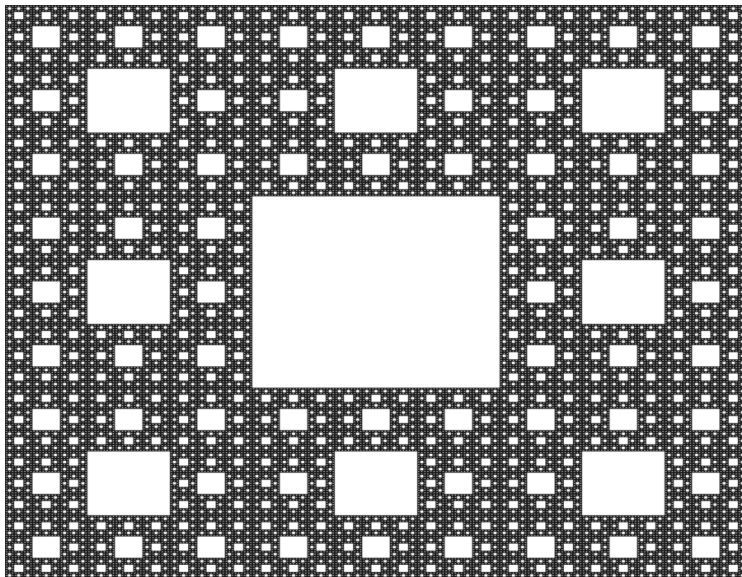
T. Landry

Piecewise  
 $C^1$ -fractal  
Curves and  
Approximation  
Sequences

Spectral Triples

Metric  
Approximations  
of Spectral  
Triples on  
Piecewise  
 $C^1$ -fractal Curves  
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# Future Work



Towards Analysis  
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Curves,  
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Definition and Study of a "Fractal Manifold"

Classification of  $C^*$ -algebras on Fractals

Approximation of Laplacians on Fractals

Noncommutative Fractality

Towards Analysis  
on Fractals:  
Piecewise  
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Towards Analysis  
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# Spectral Propinquity Metric Convergence

Towards Analysis  
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Lapidus-Sarhad  
Spectral Triples,  
and the Gromov-  
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T. Landry

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$$\begin{aligned} & \Lambda^{\text{spec}}((C(SG), H_{SG}, D_{SG}), (C(SG_{B(n)}), H_{SG_{B(n)}}, D_{SG_{B(n)}})) \\ &= \max\{\Lambda^{*\text{met}}(\text{m vb}(C(SG), H_{SG}, D_{SG}), \\ & \quad \text{m vb}(C(SG_{B(n)}), H_{SG_{B(n)}}, D_{SG_{B(n)}})), \\ & \quad \Lambda^{*\text{mod, cov}}(\text{u q vb}(C(SG), H_{SG}, D_{SG}), \\ & \quad \text{u q vb}(C(SG_{B(n)}), H_{SG_{B(n)}}, D_{SG_{B(n)}}))\} \\ &= \max\left\{\Lambda^{*\text{met}}((H_{SG}, DN_{SG}, \mathbb{C}, 0, C(SG), L_{D_{SG}}), \right. \\ & \quad (H_{SG_{B(n)}}, DN_{SG_{B(n)}}, \mathbb{C}, 0, C(SG_{B(n)}), L_{D_{SG_{B(n)}}})), \\ & \quad \Lambda^{*\text{mod, cov}}(\text{u q vb}(C(SG), H_{SG}, D_{SG}), \\ & \quad \left. \text{u q vb}(C(SG_{B(n)}), H_{SG_{B(n)}}, D_{SG_{B(n)}}))\right\} \end{aligned}$$