# Densities and uniformly distributed measures in the Heisenberg group

Vasilis Chousionis University of Connecticut



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#### Densities of measures

Let  $\mu$  be a Radon measure on a metric space (X, d). The upper and lower s-densities of  $\mu$  at  $x \in X$  are

$$\Theta^{*s}(\mu,x) = \limsup_{r \to 0} \frac{\mu(B(x,r))}{r^s} \text{ and } \Theta^s_*(\mu,x) = \liminf_{r \to 0} \frac{\mu(B(x,r))}{r^s}.$$

If the limit exists, call it the *s*-density of  $\mu$  at x and denote it by  $\Theta^s(\mu, x)$ .

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**Lebesgue density theorem** :  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{L}^n$ -measurable  $\Longrightarrow$ 

$$\Theta^{n}(\mathcal{L}^{n} \sqcup A, \cdot) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}^{n}(B(0, 1)), & \mathcal{L}^{n} - \text{a.e. in } A \\ 0 & \mathcal{L}^{n} - \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^{n} \setminus A \end{cases}$$



Let  $A \subset (X, d)$  be any set. Let  $s \ge 0$  be any nonnegative real number

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- 3 Optimize over all such covers

$$\mathcal{H}^{s}_{\delta}(A) := \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\operatorname{diam} E_{i})^{s} : A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_{i}; \operatorname{diam} E_{i} \leq \delta \right\}$$

4 Use only finer and finer covers

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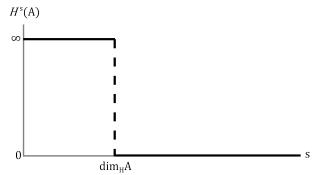
 $\mathcal{H}^s$  is called s-dimensional Hausdorff measure



#### Hausdorff dimension

For any set  $A \subset (X, d)$ , there is a unique number  $s \ge 0$  such that

- $\mathcal{H}^s(A) = 0 \text{ for all } s > d$



The number  $s = \dim_H(A)$  where the transition happens is called the Hausdorff dimension of A.

#### Hausdorff dimension of Cantor sets

For all  $\lambda \in (0, 1/2)$ , the Cantor set  $C(\lambda)$  has Hausdorff dimension

$$\dim_H C(\lambda) = \frac{\log(2)}{\log(1/\lambda)} \in (0,1)$$

$$\dim_H C(1/4) = \log(2)/\log(4) = 0.5000000...$$

$$\dim_H C(1/3) = \log(2)/\log(3) = 0.6309292...$$

$$dim_H C(9/20) = \log(2)/\log(20/9) = 0.8680532...$$

■ dim
$$_H C(\lambda) \downarrow 0$$
 as  $\lambda \downarrow 0$ 

$$\blacksquare$$
 dim<sub>H</sub>  $C(\lambda) \uparrow 1$  as  $\lambda \uparrow 1/2$ 

#### Densities for Hausdorff measures

■ If  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{H}^s$ -measurable and  $\mathcal{H}^s(A) < \infty$ ,

$$1 \le \Theta^{*s}(\mathcal{H}^s \sqcup A, \cdot) \le 2^s$$
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and

$$\Theta^s(\mathcal{H}^s \, \sqsubseteq A, \cdot) = 0, \mathcal{H}^s$$
-a.e. in  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus A$ .



## Marstrand density theorem

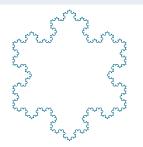
#### Theorem (Marstrand 1954 and 1964)

Suppose for some s > 0, that there exists a Radon measure  $\mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.  $\Theta^s(\mu, \cdot)$  exists and is positive and finite in a set of positive  $\mu$ -measure. Then  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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Sets with noninteger Hausdorff dimension are irregular at 'generic' points.

## Preiss density theorem

#### Theorem (Preiss 1987)

Let  $\mu$  be a Radon measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that the density  $\Theta^m(\mu, \cdot)$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , exists and is positive and finite  $\mu$  a.e. Then  $\operatorname{supp}(\mu)$  is m-rectifiable and  $\mu \ll \mathcal{H}^m \sqcup \operatorname{supp}(\mu)$ .

 $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is *m-rectifiable* if there exist countably many *m*-dimensional Lipschitz graphs  $M_i$  such that

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Eariler work by Besicovitch, Morse-Randolph, Moore.



#### Theorem (C, Prat, Tolsa)

Let  $\mu$  be a Radon measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $s \notin \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$\int \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B(x,r))}{r^s} - \frac{\mu(B(x,2r))}{(2r)^s} \right)^2 \frac{dr}{r} d\mu(x) \approx \int \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B(x,r))}{r^s} \right)^2 \frac{dr}{r} d\mu(x).$$

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- The theorem fails for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- Wolff potentials,  $\int_0^\infty \frac{\mu(B(x,r))^2}{r^{2s}} \frac{dr}{r}$  used to characterize Sobolev spaces.
- (C, Garnett, Le, Tolsa) introduced  $\Delta_{\mu}^{s}(x,r) = \frac{\mu(B(x,r))}{r^{s}} \frac{\mu(B(x,2r))}{(2r)^{s}}$  to give a characterization of **uniform rectifiability** using densities.

#### Lemma (C, Prat, Tolsa)

Let  $\mu$  be a nontrivial Radon measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $s \notin \mathbb{Z}$ . Then there exist  $x_0 \in \text{supp}(\mu)$  and  $r_0 > 0$  such that  $\Delta^s_{\mu}(x_0, r_0) \neq 0$ , that is

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- The proof depends on the Euclidean metric.
- (C, Rajala) True for s < 1 even when (X, d) is a complete metric space.
- Unknown for other metrics in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .



## Results for other metric spaces

Several papers by A. Lorent about metrics in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  defined by centrally symmetric convex polytopes. For example, he proves

- Marstrand's theorem for  $d_{\infty}$  and  $s \leq 2$ .
- locally 2-uniform measures in  $(\mathbb{R}^3, d_\infty)$  are rectifiable.

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## The Heisenberg group

- $\blacksquare \mathbb{H}^n = \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} \ni p = (z,t) = (x,y,t) = (x_1,\ldots,x_n,y_1,\ldots,y_n,t)$
- $(z,t)*(z',t') = (z+z',t+t'+2\omega(z,z')),$ where  $\omega(z,z') = x \cdot y' - x' \cdot y$
- Horizontal distribution:

$$H_{p}\mathbb{H}^{n} = \operatorname{span}\{X_{1}(p), Y_{1}(p), \dots, X_{n}(p), Y_{n}(p)\}$$

$$X_{1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{1}} + 2y_{1}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \dots, X_{n} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{n}} + 2y_{n}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

$$Y_{1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{1}} - 2x_{1}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \dots, Y_{n} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{n}} - 2x_{n}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

■ Gauge (Korányi) metric:

$$d_{\mathbb{H}}(p,q) = \|p^{-1} * q\|_{\mathbb{H}}, \quad \|(z,t)\|_{\mathbb{H}} = (|z|^4 + t^2)^{1/4}$$

■ Dilations:  $\delta_r : \mathbb{H}^n \to \mathbb{H}^n, r > 0$ ,

$$\delta_r(z,t) = (rz, r^2t)$$



## The geometry of H: Sub-Riemannian structure

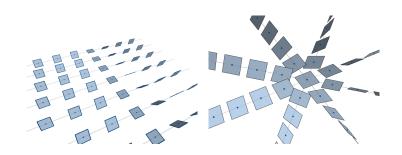
Let  $X_1, X_2$  be the left invariant vector fields

$$X_1 = \partial_{x_1} + 2x_2\partial_{x_3}$$
 and  $X_2 = \partial_{x_2} - 2x_1\partial_{x_3}$ .

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■ Motion is only allowed along the horizontal planes:

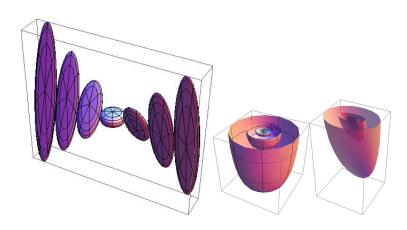
$$H_p\mathbb{H}^1 = \operatorname{span}\{X_1(p), X_2(p)\}.$$



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# Balls in $(\mathbb{H}, d_H)$



 $\dim_H(\mathbb{H})=4$ 



Recall, 
$$d_{\mathbb{H}}(p,q) = ||p^{-1} * q||_{\mathbb{H}}, \quad ||(z,t)||_{\mathbb{H}} = (|z|^4 + t^2)^{1/4}$$

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## Theorem (C, Tyson)

Let  $\mu$  be a Radon measure in  $(\mathbb{H}^n, d_{\mathbb{H}})$ . If the density  $\Theta^s_{\mathbb{H}}(\mu, \cdot)$  exists and is positive and finite in a set of positive  $\mu$ -measure, then  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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■ Marstrand's proof is very Euclidean.

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#### Remarks

- Marstrand's proof is very Euclidean.
- Another proof, due to Kirchheim and Preiss, uses *uniformly distributed measures*.



## Uniformly distributed and uniform measures

#### Definition

A Radon measure on a metric space (X, d) is called uniformly distributed if

$$\mu(B(x,r)) = \mu(B(y,r))$$

for all  $x, y \in \text{supp}(\mu)$  and all r > 0.

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Let s > 0. A Radon measure on a metric space (X, d) is called s-uniform if there exists some constant c > 0 such that

$$\mu(B(x,r)) = cr^s$$

for all  $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$  and all r > 0.



#### Kirchheim-Preiss Theorem

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Let  $\mu$  be a uniformly distributed measure in  $(\mathbb{H}^n, d_{\mathbb{H}})$ . Then  $supp(\mu)$  is a real analytic variety in  $\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ .

Let  $\mathbb{G}$  be  $\mathbb{R}^n$  or  $\mathbb{H}^n$ . Let  $\mu$  be a Radon measure on  $\mathbb{G}$ . For  $a \in \mathbb{G}, r > 0$ , denote the blow-ups of  $\mu$  from B(a,r) to B(0,1) by

$$\mu_{a,r}(A) = \mu(a * (\delta_r(A)), A \subset \mathbb{G}.$$

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 $\nu$  is a **tangent measure** of  $\mu$  at  $a \in \mathbb{G}$  if  $\nu$  is a Radon measure on  $\mathbb{G}$  with  $\nu(\mathbb{G}) > 0$  and there are  $c_i > 0$  and  $r_i > 0$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $r_i \to 0$  and

$$c_i\mu_{a,r_i} \to \nu$$
 weakly as  $i \to \infty$ .

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We denote by  $Tan(\mu, a)$  the set of all tangent measures of  $\mu$  at a.

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We denote by  $Tan(\mu, a)$  the set of all tangent measures of  $\mu$  at a.

#### Proposition

Let s > 0. Let  $\mu$  be a Radon measure such that  $0 < \Theta^s(\mu, \cdot) < \infty$  exists  $\mu$ -a.e. in  $A \subset \mathbb{G}$ . Then for  $\mu$  a.e.  $a \in A$ ,  $Tan(\mu, a)$ , consists of s-uniform measures.

$$0 < \Theta^s(\mu, \cdot) < \infty \text{ exists } \mu - \text{ a.e. in } A \subset \mathbb{H}^n$$

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$$\downarrow \downarrow$$

 $\exists s - \text{uniform measure } \nu$ 

$$0<\Theta^s(\mu,\cdot)<\infty$$
 exists  $\mu-$  a.e. in  $A\subset\mathbb{H}^n$  
$$\downarrow \hspace{1cm} \exists \quad s- \text{uniform measure } \nu$$
 
$$\downarrow \hspace{1cm} \downarrow \hspace{1cm} \text{(Kirhchheim-Preiss Theorem)}$$
  $\sup p(\nu)$  is a real analytic variety

 $\operatorname{supp}(\nu)$  is a countable union of real analytic submanifolds

#### Hausdorff dimension of submanifolds of $\mathbb{H}^n$

#### Theorem (Gromov)

Let  $\Sigma$  be an m-dimensional  $C^{1,1}$  submanifold in  $\mathbb{H}^n$ , then

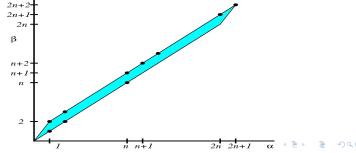
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# Wolff potentials in $(\mathbb{H}^n, d_{\mathbb{H}})$

#### Lemma (C, Tyson)

Let  $\mu$  be a nontrivial Radon measure in  $(\mathbb{H}^n, d_{\mathbb{H}})$  and let  $s \notin \mathbb{Z}$ . Then there exist  $x_0 \in \text{supp}(\mu)$  and  $r_0 > 0$  such that

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- (Kirchheim-Preiss) Uniformly distributed counting measures with **finite** support in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  are supported on either the vertices of a regular polygon, or two regular m-gons lying on a common circle

- (Kirchheim-Preiss) Bounded supports of Euclidean uniformly distributed measures are contained in spheres
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- Unknown if there exist equilateral 5 point subsets of  $(\mathbb{H}^1, d_{\mathbb{H}})!$

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- Classification open for  $3 \le m < n 1$ .

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Ongoing project with V. Magnani and J. Tyson.

Marstrand's theorem in  $\mathbb{H}^n \implies$  there are no s-uniform measures for  $s \notin \mathbb{N}$ .

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Marstrand's theorem in  $\mathbb{H}^n \Longrightarrow$  there are no *s*-uniform measures for  $s \notin \mathbb{N}$ .

#### Conjecture

Let  $\mu$  be a  $\overline{m}$ -uniform measure on  $\mathbb{H}$ . Then

- if  $\overline{m} = 1$ , then  $\mu = c_{\mu} \mathcal{H}^1 \sqcup L$  for some horizontal line L,
- if  $\overline{m} = 2$ , then  $\mu = c_{\mu} \mathcal{H}^2 \sqcup V$  for some vertical line V,
- if  $\overline{m} = 3$ , then  $\mu = c_{\mu} \mathcal{H}^3 \sqcup W$  for some vertical plane W.

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Denote

$$\Sigma = \Sigma_{(0)} \cup \cdots \cup \Sigma_{(m)},$$

the stratification of the support  $\Sigma = \text{supp}(\mu)$  of a uniform measure  $\mu$  into analytic submanifolds of dimensions between 0 and m.

#### **Theorem**

Let  $\mu$  be a 2-uniform measure on  $\mathbb{H}$ . Then

- (i)  $\Sigma_{(1)}$  is a fully nonhorizontal curve.
- (ii) the following geometric PDE is satisfied at all points of  $\Sigma_{(1)}$ :

$$k_{\gamma}\circ\pi=rac{3}{2}k_{\Sigma}^{0},$$

*for* 
$$\gamma = \pi \circ \Sigma$$

 $k_{\gamma}$  = the usual curvature of a plane curve

 $k^0_\Sigma=$  the intrinsic curvature of the (nonhorizontal) curve  $\Sigma\subset\mathbb{H}^1$ 

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$$\frac{2}{3}\tau(\dot{\Sigma})(\dot{x}\ddot{y}-\dot{y}\ddot{x})=|\dot{\gamma}|^4$$

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.



#### **Theorem**

Let  $\mu$  be a 3-uniform measure on  $\mathbb{H}$ . Then

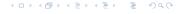
- (i) All points of in the top dimensional stratum  $\Sigma_2$  of  $\Sigma$  are noncharacteristic.
- (ii) The following geometric PDE is satisfied at all points of  $\Sigma_2$ :

$$\mathcal{H}_0^2 - 4\mathcal{K}_0 - \frac{5}{2}\mathcal{P}_0^2 = 0.$$

 $\mathcal{H}_0$  = horizontal mean curvature

 $\mathcal{P}_0 = \text{imaginary curvature}$ 

 $\mathcal{K}_0$  = the horizontal Gauss curvature.



■  $x \in \Sigma$  is noncharacteristic if  $T_x\Sigma \neq H_x\mathbb{H}$ . At such points, there exists a unique curve  $\gamma_x : (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \to \Sigma$ , passing through x, s.t.  $\gamma_x'(0) \in H_x\mathbb{H} \cap T_x\Sigma =: HT_x\Sigma$ .

$$\mathcal{H}_0(x) := \kappa_{\pi \circ \gamma_x}(0),$$

where  $\kappa_c$  denotes the *curvature* of a curve c in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

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- The *horizontal Gauss curvature* of  $\Sigma$  at x, is defined as

$$\mathcal{K}_0 = \langle J\vec{n}_0, \nabla_0(\mathcal{P}_0) \rangle - \mathcal{P}_0^2$$

where 
$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
.



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- Marstrand's theorem for other metrics? e.g. Carnot-Caratheodory metric  $d_{cc}$ , or  $d_{\mathbb{H}}^{\infty}(p,q) = \|q^{-1} \cdot p\|_{\mathbb{H}}^{\infty}$ where  $\|(z,t)\|_{\mathbb{H}}^{\infty} = \max\{|z|_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}}, |t|^{1/2}\}$

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- Classification of uniform measures in  $(\mathbb{H}^1, d_{\mathbb{H}})$ ?

#### Proof of Kirchheim-Preiss theorem in $\mathbb{H}^n$

Let  $x_0 \in \text{supp}(\mu)$  and define

$$F(x,s) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}} (\exp(-s||x^{-1} \cdot z||_{\mathbb{H}}^{4}) - \exp(-s||x_{0}^{-1} \cdot z||_{\mathbb{H}}^{4})) d\mu(z),$$

for  $x \in \mathbb{H}^n$  and s > 0.

- **1** F(x,s) is well defined (does not depend on  $x_0$ )
- $|F(x,s)| < \infty$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{H}^n, s > 0$
- F(x,s) = 0 for all  $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$  and s > 0
- 4 If  $x \notin \text{supp}(\mu)$ , then  $F(x, s) \neq 0$  for some s > 0
- **5** supp $(\mu) = \bigcap_{s>0} \{x : F(x,s) = 0\}$

Fix s > 0. Suffices to show that

$$F_1(x) = \int_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}} \exp(-s \|x^{-1} \cdot z\|_{\mathbb{H}}^4) \, d\mu(z)$$

is real analytic.



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$$F_1(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}} \exp(-s \|x^{-1} \cdot z\|_{\mathbb{H}}^4) \, d\mu(z)$$

Define  $\tilde{F}_1: \mathbb{C}^{2n+1} \to \mathbb{C}$  for  $w = (w_1, \dots, w_{2n+1}) \in \mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$  as

$$\tilde{F}_{1}(w) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}} \exp(-s \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^{2n} (z_{i} - w_{i})^{2} \right)^{2} + \left( z_{2n+1} - w_{2n+1} \right) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} (w_{i} z_{i+n} - w_{i+n} z_{i}) \right] d\mu(z).$$

- $|\tilde{F}_1(w)| < \infty \text{ for all } w \in \mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$
- $\blacksquare \tilde{F_1}|_{\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}} = F_1$
- $\tilde{F}_1$  is holomorphic on  $\mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$ , so  $F_1$  is real analytic in  $\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ .