

LEVEL SETS OF PREVALENT HÖLDER FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. We study the level sets of prevalent Hölder functions. For a prevalent α -Hölder function on the unit interval, we show that the upper Minkowski dimension of every level set is bounded from above by $1 - \alpha$ and Lebesgue positively many level sets have Hausdorff dimension equal to $1 - \alpha$.

1. INTRODUCTION

Intuitively, regularity of functions is related to size and complexity of their graphs—the more regular a function is, the smaller one expects the dimension of its graph to be. Perhaps the most popular notion of uniform regularity for real functions is Hölder regularity. A function $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is α -Hölder if there is a constant $C > 0$ such that for all $x, y \in [0, 1]$, we have

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq C|x - y|^\alpha.$$

Indeed, α -Hölder regularity gives an upper bound of $2 - \alpha$ for the upper Minkowski dimension of the graph; see [9]. For many classically studied Hölder functions in fractal geometry, such as the Weierstrass and Takagi functions, the Hölder condition is in some sense sharp and for these functions, the Minkowski dimension exists and is equal to $2 - \alpha$; see e.g. [9, §11]. While the Minkowski dimension of the graph is relatively easy to calculate with fairly elementary methods, calculating the Hausdorff dimension of the graph usually requires more sophisticated tools. The long standing open problem of determining the Hausdorff dimension of the graph was recently solved by Bárány, Hochman, and Rapaport [6] for the Takagi function and by Shen [18] for the Weierstrass function; see also Shen and Ren [17] who proved a nice dichotomy result for more general Weierstrass-type functions. The proofs of these results depend heavily on the dynamics underlying the graphs of these functions and are based on careful transversality estimates in [18] and powerful entropy methods introduced by Hochman [13] in [6, 17].

A common theme in many areas of mathematics is that while it is often difficult to obtain information on specific objects, allowing slight perturbations in their structure considerably simplifies the situation. This will be the case in this paper as well: we will study the Hausdorff dimension of the graphs and level sets of typical Hölder functions. In functional analysis, there are two common definitions for typicality: a topological notion of Baire typicality and a measure theoretic notion of prevalence.

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Definition 1.1. A subset A of a Banach space X is *meagre* if it is a countable union of nowhere dense sets. A set $A \subset X$ is *comeagre* or *Baire typical* if its complement is meagre.

Definition 1.2. A subset A of a Banach space X is *prevalent* if there exists a finite-dimensional subspace $S \subset X$, called the *probe space*, such that for any $x \in X$, we have $x + s \in A$ for \mathcal{L} -almost all $s \in S$, where \mathcal{L} is the Lebesgue measure on S .

Curiously, the geometric properties of typical continuous functions depend heavily on which notion of typicality is used. Going forward, for any real function f we let $\text{Gr}(f)$ denote the graph of f and we denote the Banach space of continuous real functions on the unit interval by $\mathcal{C}([0, 1])$. The first statement in the following theorem was proved by Mauldin and Williams [16] and the second one by Fraser and Hyde [11].

Theorem 1.3 (Mauldin-Williams, Fraser-Hyde).

(1) A Baire typical function $f \in \mathcal{C}([0, 1])$ satisfies

$$\dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr}(f)) = 1.$$

(2) A prevalent function $f \in \mathcal{C}([0, 1])$ satisfies

$$\dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr}(f)) = 2.$$

These results highlight a striking difference in the behaviour of typical functions when typicality is interpreted in the topological sense or in the measure theoretic sense. Topologically, typical continuous functions seem to be fairly regular since their graphs have the smallest possible Hausdorff dimension while in the measure theoretic sense, typical functions are highly irregular as their graphs have maximal Hausdorff dimension. Since one intuitively expects typical functions to behave in quite a chaotic fashion, prevalence is perhaps the better notion of typicality when studying the dimensions of the graphs of functions.

For Hölder functions, the following result, which is analogous to Theorem 1.3(2), is originally by Clausel and Nicolay [7], but we provide a short proof in Proposition 3.3; see also [4] for a generalisation. We denote the Banach space of α -Hölder continuous functions on the unit interval by $C^\alpha([0, 1])$.

Theorem 1.4 (Clausel-Nicolay). A prevalent function $f \in C^\alpha([0, 1])$ satisfies

$$\dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr}(f)) = 2 - \alpha.$$

A related approach for studying the complexity of a function f is looking at the structure of its level sets $f^{-1}(\{y\})$. It is expected that, if there is no obvious obstruction, the dimension of the level set $f^{-1}(\{y\})$ should be at most $\dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr}(f)) - 1$. Indeed, it follows from the classical Marstrand's slicing theorem, see i.e. [5, Theorem 1.6.1], that

$$\dim_{\text{H}}(f^{-1}(\{y\})) \leq \dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr}(f)) - 1 \tag{1.1}$$

for Lebesgue almost every $y \in f([0, 1])$. For the Takagi function, the authors proved in [1], that if one replaces the Hausdorff dimension by the Assouad dimension (see [10] for the definition) on the right hand side of (1.1), then the upper bound holds for *all* slices of the graph and is sharp.

For prevalent continuous functions, the following result on the size of the level sets was proved by Balka, Darji, and Elekes [3]. The Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^d is denoted by \mathcal{L}^d .

Theorem 1.5 (Balka-Darji-Elekes). *For a prevalent $f \in \mathcal{C}([0, 1])$, there is an open set $U_f \subset f([0, 1])$ with $\mathcal{L}^1(f^{-1}(U_f)) = 1$ such that for all $y \in U_f$ we have*

$$\dim_{\mathbb{H}}(f^{-1}(\{y\})) = 1.$$

The question was raised in [3, Problem 9.2], whether a similar result holds for prevalent Hölder functions. In the main result of this paper, we answer the question by showing that for a prevalent α -Hölder function, the Hausdorff dimension of Lebesgue positively many level sets is $1 - \alpha$. Moreover, we strengthen (1.1) by showing that for prevalent Hölder functions the upper Minkowski dimension of *every* level set is at most $1 - \alpha$.

Theorem 1.6 (Main Theorem). *If $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$, then a prevalent function $f \in C^\alpha([0, 1])$ satisfies*

- (1) $\overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{M}}(f^{-1}(\{y\})) \leq 1 - \alpha$ for all $y \in \mathbb{R}$,
- (2) $\mathcal{L}^1(\{y \in f([0, 1]) : \dim_{\mathbb{H}}(f^{-1}(\{y\})) = 1 - \alpha\}) > 0$.

Remark 1.7. The second claim holds for every $0 < \alpha < 1$.

The proof of Theorem 1.6, to which §3 is devoted, relies on a combination of techniques from potential theory and Fourier analysis of measures.

1.1. Weierstrass-type functions. The original motivation for this paper was to study prevalent functions from the family of Weierstrass-type functions defined as follows. For $b \in \mathbb{N}$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, and a \mathbb{Z} -periodic Lipschitz function g , define the *Weierstrass-type function* $W_g^{\alpha, b}: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$W_g^{\alpha, b}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b^{-\alpha k} g(b^k x).$$

Given $b \in \mathbb{N}$ and $0 < \alpha < 1$ the family of corresponding Weierstrass-type functions is denoted by $\mathcal{W}^{\alpha, b}$. It is easy to see that $\mathcal{W}^{\alpha, b}$ is a subspace of $\mathcal{C}^\alpha([0, 1])$. The family $\mathcal{W}^{\alpha, b}$ includes many well studied functions such as the original Weierstrass function where $g(x) = \cos(2\pi x)$ or the Takagi function where $g(x) = \text{dist}(x, \mathbb{Z})$ which were mentioned earlier in the introduction. We make the following conjecture:

Conjecture 1.8. *For any $b \in \mathbb{N}$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$, a prevalent function $W \in \mathcal{W}^{\alpha, b}$ satisfies*

- (1) $\overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{M}}(W^{-1}(\{y\})) \leq 1 - \alpha$ for all $y \in \mathbb{R}$,
- (2) $\dim_{\mathbb{H}}(W^{-1}(\{y\})) = 1 - \alpha$ for \mathcal{L}^1 -almost all $y \in \mathbb{R}$.

The methods of this paper provide an outline for the proof but unfortunately our efforts in proving a key technical result fall short. We discuss how to adapt the methods of this paper for the setting of Weierstrass-type functions and where the argument fails in §4. We also formulate an explicit open question, Question 4.1, a positive answer to which implies Conjecture 1.8.

2. PRELIMINARIES

In this paper, a measure refers to a finite Borel measure with compact support on \mathbb{R}^d , unless stated otherwise. For a measure μ we define the (lower) Hausdorff dimension of μ by $\dim_{\mathbb{H}}(\mu) = \inf\{\dim_{\mathbb{H}}(A) : A \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ is a Borel set such that } \mu(A) > 0\}$. The pushforward of μ is denoted by $f_*\mu$ whenever f is measurable.

For a bounded set A , we denote the Hausdorff dimension of A by $\dim_{\text{H}}(A)$ and the upper Minkowski dimension of A by $\overline{\dim}_{\text{M}}(A)$. For the upper Minkowski dimension, we use the definition via packings, that is,

$$\overline{\dim}_{\text{M}}(A) = \limsup_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\log N_r(A)}{-\log r},$$

where $N_r(A)$ is the maximal number of disjoint r -balls with centres in A . For a measure μ , we recall that the *lower pointwise dimension of μ at x* is

$$\underline{\dim}_{\text{loc}}(\mu, x) = \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}.$$

We assume that the reader is familiar with these concepts, and refer to [8] for a basic introduction.

We say that $\Phi: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is an α -bi-Hölder map if there are constants $c_1, c_2 > 0$ such that

$$c_1 \leq \frac{\|\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)\|}{|x - y|^\alpha} \leq c_2$$

for all $x, y \in [0, 1]$. The choice of the norm in the equation above does not play a role, so for convenience we use the maximum norm. The following lemma is a direct consequence of the Assouad embedding theorem [2], which is a celebrated result in the embedding theory of metric spaces—see the book of Heinonen [12] for a proof.

Lemma 2.1. *For any $0 < \alpha < 1$, there exist $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and an α -bi-Hölder map $\Phi: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$.*

We are interested in the size of level sets of α -Hölder functions. These appear as horizontal slices of the graph of the function or equivalently as fibers of the projection of the graph onto the y -axis. We will also consider slices and projections in other directions so for $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ we let $\text{proj}_\theta: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the orthogonal projection defined by

$$\text{proj}_\theta(x, y) = x \cos(\theta) + y \sin(\theta)$$

for all $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

2.1. Potential theory and Fourier analysis. In the proof of Theorem 1.6, we will employ two powerful toolsets in geometric measure theory: Fourier analysis and potential theory. Let us briefly recall the required definitions.

Given a measure μ on \mathbb{R}^d and $t > 0$, we define the t -energy of μ by

$$I_t(\mu) = \iint \|x - y\|^{-t} d\mu(x) d\mu(y).$$

The following is a basic lemma connecting the energies of measures to Hausdorff dimensions of their supports. For the proof, see i.e. [9, Theorem 4.13].

Lemma 2.2. *Let $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. If there is a measure μ supported on F satisfying $I_s(\mu) < \infty$, then $\dim_{\text{H}}(F) \geq s$.*

The Fourier transform of a finite Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R} is defined by

$$\hat{\mu}(\xi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{i\xi x} d\mu(x)$$

for all $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$ and the Fourier transform of an integrable function $\psi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\hat{\psi}(\zeta) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(\mathbf{t}) e^{i\langle \mathbf{t}, \zeta \rangle} d\mathbf{t}$$

for all $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^d$, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the standard inner product on \mathbb{R}^d . We recall the following lemma, which easily follows from the Riemann-Lebesgue lemma and integration by parts. Here and hereafter $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denotes the space of smooth functions with compact support on \mathbb{R}^d .

Lemma 2.3. *For any $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$, there is a constant $C = C(\psi, N) > 0$, such that*

$$|\hat{\psi}(\zeta)| \leq C(1 + \|\zeta\|)^{-N}$$

for all $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

There are intimate connections between the regularity of a measure and the decay rate of its Fourier transform. The book by Mattila [15] provides a thorough introduction to the use of Fourier analytic methods in geometric measure theory and fractal geometry. The following lemma connecting the average decay rate of the Fourier transform to the regularity of the measure will be integral in the proof of Theorem 1.6(1). The proof of the lemma can be found for example in [15, Theorem 5.4].

Lemma 2.4. *Let μ be a finite Borel measure with compact support on \mathbb{R} . If*

$$\int |\xi|^\beta |\hat{\mu}(\xi)|^2 d\xi < \infty$$

for some $\beta > 1$, then μ is absolutely continuous with bounded continuous density.

3. PROOF OF THE MAIN RESULT

In this section we prove our main result, Theorem 1.6. To simplify the exposition, we fix some notation for the remainder of this section. Let us fix $0 < \alpha < 1$ and an α -bi-Hölder map $\Phi: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ given by Lemma 2.1. For a given $f \in C^\alpha([0, 1])$ and $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ we define the function $f_{\mathbf{t}}: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$f_{\mathbf{t}}(x) = f(x) + \langle \mathbf{t}, \Phi(x) \rangle.$$

It is evident by the triangle inequality that $f_{\mathbf{t}} \in C^\alpha([0, 1])$. Moreover, the space

$$\mathcal{S} = \{x \mapsto \langle \mathbf{t}, \Phi(x) \rangle : \mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$$

is a finite dimensional subspace of $C^\alpha([0, 1])$. The space \mathcal{S} will play the role of the probe space in our results: to show that a property holds for prevalent functions, we show that for any $f \in C^\alpha([0, 1])$, the property holds for the function $f_{\mathbf{t}}$ for \mathcal{L}^d -almost every $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

The proofs in this section rely on the potential theoretic and Fourier analytic methods which we recalled in §2.1. We will apply these tools to the natural measures $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}$ supported on the graphs of the functions $f_{\mathbf{t}}$, which we define by

$$\mu_{\mathbf{t}} = (\text{Id}, f_{\mathbf{t}})_* \mathcal{L}^1.$$

In other words, $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}$ is the lift of the Lebesgue measure from the unit interval onto the graph of $f_{\mathbf{t}}$. Note that the measure μ_0 is just the lift of the Lebesgue measure onto the graph of f , and for convenience, we let $\mu = \mu_0$. The measures $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}$ of course depend on f

and Φ in addition to \mathbf{t} , but in our applications f and Φ are fixed and should be clear from the context whereas \mathbf{t} varies, which justifies our notation. Finally, for $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ and a measure ν on \mathbb{R}^2 , we let

$$\nu^\theta = (\text{proj}_\theta)_* \nu.$$

Note that the projection of μ to the y -axis is $\mu^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = (\text{proj}_{\frac{\pi}{2}})_* \mu = f_* \mathcal{L}^1$.

3.1. Proof of Theorem 1.6(1). We will start the proof of the first claim of Theorem 1.6 by observing a connection between the Minkowski dimension of the level sets of f and the pointwise dimensions of the projected measure $\mu^{\frac{\pi}{2}}$.

Lemma 3.1. *Suppose that $0 < \alpha < 1$ and $f \in C^\alpha([0, 1])$. Then we have*

$$\overline{\dim}_M(f^{-1}(\{y\})) \leq 1 - \alpha \underline{\dim}_{\text{loc}}(\mu^{\frac{\pi}{2}}, y)$$

for all $y \in f([0, 1])$.

Proof. Let $B(x, r)$ be the open ball centered at x with radius r . Let $\{B(x_i, r)\}_{i=1}^{N_r}$ be a maximal r -packing of $f^{-1}(\{y\})$. Note that $y = f(x_i)$ and $B(x_i, r) \cap B(x_j, r) = \emptyset$ whenever $i \neq j$. Since $|f(x_i) - f(z)| \leq c|x_i - z|^\alpha \leq cr^\alpha$ for all $z \in B(x_i, r)$, we have $\mu(B(y, cr^\alpha)) = \mathcal{L}^1(f^{-1}(B(y, cr^\alpha))) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{N_r} \mathcal{L}^1(B(x_i, r)) = 2N_r r$ and therefore

$$\frac{\log \mu(B(y, cr^\alpha))}{\log r} \leq \frac{\log 2N_r}{\log r} + 1.$$

Taking the limit infimum yields $\alpha \underline{\dim}_{\text{loc}}(\mu^{\frac{\pi}{2}}, y) \leq -\overline{\dim}_M(f^{-1}(\{y\})) + 1$ as claimed. \square

By the definition of prevalence, the following proposition immediately implies Theorem 1.6(1).

Proposition 3.2. *Suppose that $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$ and $f \in C^\alpha([0, 1])$. Then for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ the function $f_{\mathbf{t}}: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies*

$$\overline{\dim}_M(f_{\mathbf{t}}^{-1}(\{y\})) \leq 1 - \alpha$$

for all $y \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. By Lemma 3.1, it is enough to show that

$$\underline{\dim}_{\text{loc}}(\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}}, y) \geq 1 \tag{3.1}$$

for all $y \in f_{\mathbf{t}}([0, 1])$. Since $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$, we can choose $\beta > 1$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $2 < \beta + 1 < N$ and $\alpha N < 1$. Let $\varrho > 0$ and let $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a smooth function satisfying $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$ and $\psi(x) = 1$ for all $x \in B(0, \varrho)$. By using Fubini's theorem and

Lemma 2.3, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \int_{B(0,\varrho)} \int |\xi|^\beta |\hat{\mu}_{\mathbf{t}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}}(\xi)|^2 d\xi d\mathbf{t} \right| \\
& \leq \left| \iiint \psi(\mathbf{t}) |\xi|^\beta e^{i\xi(f(x)-f(y)+\langle \mathbf{t}, \Phi(x)-\Phi(y) \rangle)} dx dy d\xi d\mathbf{t} \right| \\
& = \left| \iiint |\xi|^\beta e^{i\xi(f(x)-f(y))} \int \psi(\mathbf{t}) e^{i\langle \mathbf{t}, \xi(\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)) \rangle} d\mathbf{t} dx dy d\xi \right| \\
& = \left| \iiint |\xi|^\beta e^{i\xi(f(x)-f(y))} \hat{\psi}(\xi(\Phi(x)-\Phi(y))) dx dy d\xi \right| \\
& \leq \iiint |\xi|^\beta |\hat{\psi}(\xi(\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)))| dx dy d\xi \\
& \leq \iiint \frac{C_1 |\xi|^\beta}{(1+|\xi| \|\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)\|)^N} dx dy d\xi.
\end{aligned}$$

Since Φ is continuous, there is a constant $C_2 \geq 1$ such that $\|\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)\| \leq C_2$ for all $x, y \in [0, 1]$ and by using this and the fact that Φ is α -bi-Hölder we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\iiint \frac{C_1 |\xi|^\beta}{(1+|\xi| \|\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)\|)^N} dx dy d\xi & \leq \iiint \frac{C_1 |\xi|^\beta}{\sum_{k=0}^N \binom{N}{k} |\xi|^k \|\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)\|^k} dx dy d\xi \\
& \leq \iiint \frac{C_1 C_2^N |\xi|^\beta}{\sum_{k=0}^N \binom{N}{k} |\xi|^k \|\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)\|^N} dx dy d\xi \\
& \leq \int \frac{C_1 C_2^N |\xi|^\beta}{(1+|\xi|)^N} d\xi \iint \frac{1}{|x-y|^{\alpha N}} dx dy < \infty
\end{aligned}$$

by the choice of β and N . It follows from Lemma 2.4 that for \mathcal{L}^d -almost every \mathbf{t} , the measure $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}}$ is absolutely continuous with bounded continuous density and therefore (3.1) holds for all $y \in f_{\mathbf{t}}([0, 1])$. \square

3.2. Proof of Theorem 1.6(2). We shall now proceed to the proof of the second claim. Our strategy is to concentrate measures onto the slices of the graph using Rohlin's disintegration theorem and to use potential theory to bound the dimension of the slice measures from below. The purpose of the following proposition is to establish absolute continuity for the measures $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta$, for almost all parameters, which will be crucial in the proof of Theorem 1.6(2). The proposition also provides a short proof of Theorem 1.4.

Proposition 3.3. *For each $\mathbf{t}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\varrho > 0$ the function $f_{\mathbf{t}}: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies*

$$\int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} I_{2-\beta}(\mu_{\mathbf{t}}) d\mathbf{t} < \infty$$

for all $0 < \beta < \alpha$. In particular, $\dim_{\mathbb{H}}(\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}})) = 2 - \alpha$ for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and

$$\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta \ll \mathcal{L}^1$$

for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and \mathcal{L}^1 -almost all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$.

Proof. By the definition of $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}$ and Fubini's theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} I_{2-\beta}(\mu_{\mathbf{t}}) \, d\mathbf{t} &= \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \iint \frac{1}{\|(x, f_{\mathbf{t}}(x)) - (y, f_{\mathbf{t}}(y))\|^{2-\beta}} \, dx \, dy \, d\mathbf{t} \\ &= \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \iint \frac{dx \, dy \, d\mathbf{t}}{(|x - y|^2 + (f(x) - f(y) + \langle \mathbf{t}, \Phi(x) - \Phi(y) \rangle))^2}^{1-\frac{\beta}{2}} \\ &= \iint \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \frac{d\mathbf{t} \, dx \, dy}{|x - y|^{2-\beta} \left(1 + \left(\frac{f(x)-f(y)+\langle \mathbf{t}, \Phi(x)-\Phi(y) \rangle}{|x-y|}\right)^2\right)^{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}}. \end{aligned}$$

For a given pair x, y we let $t_0(x, y)$ be the i th coordinate of \mathbf{t}_0 , where i is the index satisfying $|\Phi_i(x) - \Phi_i(y)| = \|\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)\|$. By symmetry, we may assume that $|\Phi_i(x) - \Phi_i(y)| = \Phi_i(x) - \Phi_i(y)$ and therefore it follows that there is a constant $C_1 > 0$ such that

$$\int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} I_{2-\beta}(\mu_{\mathbf{t}}) \, d\mathbf{t} \leq \iint \int_{t_0(x,y)-\varrho}^{t_0(x,y)+\varrho} \frac{C_1 \, dt \, dx \, dy}{|x - y|^{2-\beta} \left(1 + \left(\frac{f(x)-f(y)}{|x-y|} + \frac{t\|\Phi(x)-\Phi(y)\|}{|x-y|}\right)^2\right)^{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}}.$$

By the change of variable

$$w = \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{|x - y|} + \frac{t\|\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)\|}{|x - y|}$$

and recalling that Φ is α -bi-Hölder, we find constants $C_2, C_3 > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} I_{2-\beta}(\mu_{\mathbf{t}}) \, d\mathbf{t} &\leq \iiint \frac{C_2 \, dw}{|x - y|^{2-\beta} (1 + w^2)^{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}} \cdot \frac{|x - y|}{\|\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)\|} \, dx \, dy \\ &\leq \int \frac{C_3 \, dw}{(1 + w^2)^{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}} \iint \frac{1}{|x - y|^{1-(\beta-\alpha)}} \, dx \, dy < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

where the last integral is finite, since $0 < \beta < \alpha$.

The upper bound on the dimension of $\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}})$ is standard, see e.g. [9, Corollary 11.2]. For the lower bound, by Lemma 2.2, the first part of the proof implies that for any $\beta < \alpha$, we have $\dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr } f_{\mathbf{t}}) \geq 2 - \beta$ for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all \mathbf{t} . By taking $\beta \rightarrow \alpha$ along a countable sequence, we obtain the lower bound. Finally, the first part combined with the version of Marstrand's projection theorem for measures, see for example [15, Theorem 9.7], shows that $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^{\theta} \ll \mathcal{L}^1$ for \mathcal{L}^1 -almost all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$. \square

Recall that our aim is to show that $\dim_{\text{H}}(f^{-1}(\{y\})) = 1 - \alpha$, for positively many y . The following proposition contains the main technical part of the argument.

Proposition 3.4. *The function $f_{\mathbf{t}}: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies*

$$\dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}) \cap \text{proj}_{\theta}^{-1}(\{y\})) = 1 - \alpha$$

for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and \mathcal{L}^1 -almost all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, and $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^{\theta}$ -almost all $y \in \text{proj}_{\theta}(\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}))$.

Proof. By Marstrand's slicing theorem [5, Theorem 3.3.1], it suffices to show that

$$\dim_{\text{H}}(\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}) \cap \text{proj}_{\theta}^{-1}(\{y\})) \geq 1 - \alpha \tag{3.2}$$

for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, \mathcal{L}^1 -almost all $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta$ -almost all $y \in \text{proj}_\theta(\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}))$. By Proposition 3.3,

$$\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta \ll \mathcal{L}^1$$

for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and \mathcal{L}^1 -almost all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, and therefore the Radon-Nikodym theorem [15, Theorem 2.12(2)] shows that there exists an integrable function $h_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta = d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta$, satisfying $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta(A) = \int_A h_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta d\mathcal{L}^1$. We apply Rohlin's disintegration theorem [19, Theorem 2.1] to the projection $\text{proj}_\theta: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and the measure $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}$, and let $\{(\mu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}\}$ denote the obtained family of conditional measures, where each $(\mu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}$ is supported on $\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}) \cap \text{proj}_\theta^{-1}(\{y\})$. By [19], we have

$$d\mu_{\mathbf{t}} = d(\mu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y} d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta.$$

Write

$$d(\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y} = h_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta(y) d(\mu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}$$

and notice that

$$d\mu_{\mathbf{t}} = d(\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y} dy. \quad (3.3)$$

Furthermore, by [19, Theorem 2.2], we have

$$\int g(a) d(\mu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}(a) = \lim_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{\int_{B_\theta^\top(y,r)} g(a) d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(a)}{\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta(B(y,r))} = \lim_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{2r} \frac{\int_{B_\theta^\top(y,r)} g(a) d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(a)}{h_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta(y)} \quad (3.4)$$

for all integrable functions g , where

$$B_\theta^\top(y,r) = \text{proj}_\theta^{-1}(B(\text{proj}_\theta(y), r)).$$

Let now $0 < \beta < \alpha$. By using Fatou's lemma, (3.4), (3.3), and Fubini's theorem, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \int_{[0, 2\pi]} \int I_{1-\beta}((\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}) dy d\theta d\mathbf{t} \\ &= \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \int_{[0, 2\pi]} \iiint \frac{1}{\|a-b\|^{1-\beta}} d(\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}(a) d(\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}(b) dy d\theta d\mathbf{t} \\ &= \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \int_{[0, 2\pi]} \iiint \frac{h_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta(y)}{\|a-b\|^{1-\beta}} d(\mu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}(a) d(\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}(b) dy d\theta d\mathbf{t} \\ &\leq \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{2r} \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \int_{[0, 2\pi]} \iint \int_{B_\theta^\top(y,r)} \frac{d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(a)}{\|a-b\|^{1-\beta}} d(\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta,y}(b) dy d\theta d\mathbf{t} \\ &= \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{2r} \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \int_{[0, 2\pi]} \int \int_{B_\theta^\top(\text{proj}_\theta(b), r)} \frac{1}{\|a-b\|^{1-\beta}} d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(a) d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(b) d\theta d\mathbf{t} \\ &= \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{2r} \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \iint \frac{\mathcal{L}^1(\{\theta \in [0, 2\pi] : |\text{proj}_\theta(a) - \text{proj}_\theta(b)| < r\})}{\|a-b\|^{1-\beta}} d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(a) d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(b) d\mathbf{t}. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling that there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that for all $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^2$ we have

$$\mathcal{L}^1(\{\theta \in [0, 2\pi] : |\text{proj}_\theta(a) - \text{proj}_\theta(b)| < r\}) \leq 2Cr \|a-b\|^{-1},$$

see i.e. [15, Lemma 3.11], we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \liminf_{r \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{2r} \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \iint \frac{\mathcal{L}^1(\{\theta \in [0, 2\pi] : |\text{proj}_\theta(a) - \text{proj}_\theta(b)| < r\})}{\|a - b\|^{1-\beta}} d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(a) d\mu_{\mathbf{t}}(b) d\mathbf{t} \\ & \leq \int_{B(\mathbf{t}_0, \varrho)} \iint \frac{C}{\|(x, f_{\mathbf{t}}(x)) - (z, f_{\mathbf{t}}(z))\|^{2-\beta}} dx dz d\mathbf{t} < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

where the last integral is finite by Proposition 3.3. Therefore, $I_{1-\beta}((\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta, y}) < \infty$ for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, \mathcal{L}^1 -almost every $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, and $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta$ -almost all $y \in \text{proj}_\theta(\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}))$. The proof of (3.2) concludes as the proof of Proposition 3.3 by noting that $(\nu_{\mathbf{t}})_{\theta, y}$ is supported on $\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}) \cap \text{proj}_\theta^{-1}(\{y\})$ and taking $\beta \rightarrow \alpha$ along a countable sequence. \square

Note that in the previous proposition there is a priori no reason that the result holds for the slice with $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ corresponding to the level sets. However, by adding a dimension to our probe space, we are able to finish the proof of our main result.

Proof of Theorem 1.6(2). Write $f_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta(x) = f(x) + \langle \mathbf{t}, \Phi(x) \rangle + x \cot(\theta)$ and observe that

$$f_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta(x) = \frac{1}{\sin(\theta)} \text{proj}_\theta \circ (\text{Id}, f_{\mathbf{t}})(x)$$

for all $x \in [0, 1]$. Since

$$(f_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta)^{-1}(\{y\}) = (\text{Id}, f_{\mathbf{t}})^{-1}(\text{Gr}(f_{\mathbf{t}}) \cap \text{proj}_\theta^{-1}(\{y \sin(\theta)\}))$$

for all $y \in \mathbb{R}$, Proposition 3.4 shows that

$$\dim_{\text{H}}((f_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta)^{-1}(\{y\})) = 1 - \alpha$$

for \mathcal{L}^d -almost all $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, \mathcal{L}^1 -almost all $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta$ -almost all $y \in f_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta([0, 1])$. The proof is finished by the definition of prevalence and recalling that $\mu_{\mathbf{t}}^\theta \ll \mathcal{L}^1$. \square

4. DISCUSSION AND AN OPEN PROBLEM

As discussed in the introduction, the original motivation for this paper was to apply the methods for the space of Weierstrass-type functions. To conclude the paper, we discuss the modification of our strategy for Weierstrass-type functions and where our methods fall short in proving Conjecture 1.8. The key thing to note is that if \mathcal{B} is a subspace of $\mathcal{C}^\alpha([0, 1])$ and one can construct an α -bi-Hölder embedding $\Phi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, whose coordinate functions are in \mathcal{B} , then our results hold for prevalent functions in \mathcal{B} . However, finding such a construction seems to be quite difficult and our efforts for doing this for Weierstrass-type functions have been unsuccessful. Therefore, we pose the construction as an open problem.

Recall the definition of the space of Weierstrass-type functions $\mathcal{W}^{\alpha, b}$ from §1. Let $\mathcal{G} = \{g_1, \dots, g_m\}$ be a finite collection of \mathbb{Z} -periodic Lipschitz functions. The *Weierstrass embedding* $\Phi_{\mathcal{G}}^{\alpha, b}: S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ associated to \mathcal{G} , $b \in \mathbb{N}$, and $0 < \alpha < 1$ is defined by

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{G}}^{\alpha, b}(x) = (W_{g_1}^{\alpha, b}(x), W_{g_2}^{\alpha, b}(x), \dots, W_{g_m}^{\alpha, b}(x)).$$

We note that if $\Phi = \Phi_{\mathcal{G}}^{\alpha,b}$ is a Weierstrass embedding, then for any $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $W \in \mathcal{W}^{\alpha,b}$, the function $W_{\Phi,\mathbf{t}}: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$W_{\Phi,\mathbf{t}}(x) = W(x) + \langle \mathbf{t}, \Phi(x) \rangle$$

is in $\mathcal{W}^{\alpha,b}$. By earlier discussion, an affirmative answer to the following question implies Conjecture 1.8.

Question 4.1. Given $b \in \mathbb{N}$ and $0 < \alpha < 1$, does there exist a finite collection $\mathcal{G} = \{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m\}$ of \mathbb{Z} -periodic Lipschitz functions such that the Weierstrass embedding $\Phi_{\mathcal{G}}^{\alpha,b}: S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is α -bi-Hölder?

Let us state some evidence why we believe that the answer is affirmative. First of all in the random setting, if W_i are independent realizations of fractional Brownian motion with Hurst parameter α , the map

$$x \mapsto (W_1(x), W_2(x), \dots, W_m(x)),$$

is almost surely α -bi-Hölder for large enough m . Secondly, it was shown in [14] that many Weierstrass-type functions have many points where the function satisfies a reverse-Hölder condition. To be more precise, for $W = W_g^\alpha \in \mathcal{W}^\alpha$, $\varepsilon > 0$, $x \in [0, 1]$, and any interval $I_x \subset [0, 1]$ containing x , let

$$E(W, \varepsilon, I_x) = \{y \in I_x : |W(x) - W(y)| > \varepsilon|x - y|^\alpha\}.$$

It was shown in [14, Theorem 4.1] that if the function defined by $V(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} b^{-\alpha k} g(b^k x)$ is not identically zero, then there are constants $c > 0$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, such that for any $x \in [0, 1]$ and any small enough interval I_x containing x , we have

$$\mathcal{L}^1(E(W, \varepsilon, I_x)) \geq c\mathcal{L}^1(I_x).$$

These results lead us to believe that if one chooses the functions g_i “independently” enough, there should be a way to construct a bi-Hölder Weierstrass embedding but despite our efforts, we have not been able to find such a construction.

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