

**15-826: Multimedia Databases  
and Data Mining**

Lecture #12: Fractals - case studies Part III  
(regions, quadrees, knn queries)  
*C. Faloutsos*

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**Must-read Material**

- Alberto Belussi and Christos Faloutsos,  
[Estimating the Selectivity of Spatial Queries  
Using the 'Correlation' Fractal Dimension](#)  
Proc. of VLDB, p. 299-310, 1995

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**Optional Material**

Optional, but very useful: Manfred Schroeder  
*Fractals, Chaos, Power Laws: Minutes  
from an Infinite Paradise* W.H. Freeman  
and Company, 1991

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## Outline

Goal: 'Find **similar** / **interesting** things'

- Intro to DB
- ➔ • Indexing - similarity search
- Data Mining

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## Indexing - Detailed outline

- primary key indexing
- secondary key / multi-key indexing
- spatial access methods
  - z-ordering
  - R-trees
  - misc
- ➔ • fractals
  - intro
  - applications
- text

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## Indexing - Detailed outline

- fractals
  - intro
  - applications
    - disk accesses for R-trees (range queries)
    - dimensionality reduction
    - selectivity in M-trees
    - dim. curse revisited
- ➔ • "fat fractals"
- quad-tree analysis [Gaede+]
- nn queries [Belussi+]

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**'Fat' fractals & R-tree  
performance on region data**

- Problem [Proietti+, '99]
- Given
  - N (# of data regions )
- estimate how many of them will qualify for the average range query ( $q_1 \times q_2 \times \dots \times q_E$ )

Of course, we need more info  
Q: what?

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**R-tree performance on region  
data**

A: the distributions of their sizes

Q: do we also need some info about the locations?

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**R-tree performance on region  
data**

A: the distributions of their sizes

Q: do we also need some info about the locations?

A: no (not for range queries)

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## R-tree performance on region data

A: the distributions of their sizes

Q: what exactly would we need?

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## R-tree performance on region data

A: the distributions of their sizes

Q: what exactly would we need?

A: for self-similar regions ( $\sim$  'fat' fractals), we just need the slope of the Korcak law! (and the total area) [Proietti+]

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## More power laws: areas – Korcak's law



Scandinavian lakes  
Any pattern?

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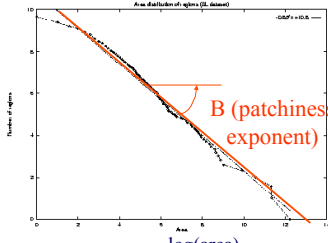
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### More power laws: areas – Korcak’s law

log(count(  $\geq$  area))



Scandinavian lakes  
area vs  
complementary  
cumulative count  
(log-log axes)

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### R-tree performance on regions

- Once we know ‘B’ (and the total area)
- we can second-guess the individual sizes
- and then apply the [Pagel+93] formula
- Bottom line:

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### R-tree performance on regions

| Dataset | N   | A       | B    |
|---------|-----|---------|------|
| LAKES   | 816 | 75,910  | 0.85 |
| ISLANDS | 470 | 136,893 | 0.60 |
| REGIONS | 757 | 190,526 | 0.70 |

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### R-tree performance on regions

sel. error

query side

LAKES Dataset

ISLANDS Dataset

REGIONS Dataset

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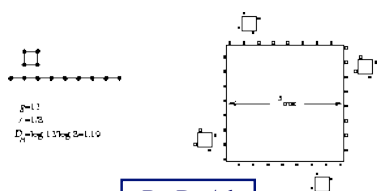
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### 'Fat' fractals - observation



$B = D_H / d$

B: patchiness exp; d: embedding dim

$D_H$ : Hausdorff of periphery

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### 'Fat' fractals - observation

| Dataset            | $D_H$ | $B$  | $D_H - 2B$ |
|--------------------|-------|------|------------|
| LAKES              | 1.78  | 0.85 | 0.08       |
| ISLANDS            | 1.23  | 0.60 | 0.03       |
| REGIONS            | 1.48  | 0.70 | 0.08       |
| Aegean Island      | 1.08  | 0.52 | 0.04       |
| Japan archipelago  | 1.19  | 0.59 | 0.01       |
| Italy plains       | 1.32  | 0.63 | 0.06       |
| Whole Earth        | 1.2   | 0.6  | 0          |
| Cyprens vegetation | 0.62  | 1.23 | 0.01       |

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### 'Fat' fractals

- intuition behind  $B = D_H / d$  ?

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### 'Fat' fractals

- intuition behind  $B = D_H / d$  ?
- A: consider 'flooding':



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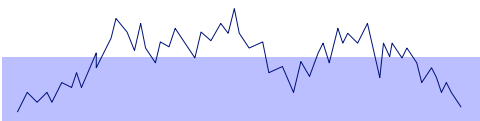
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### 'Fat' fractals

- intuition behind  $B = D_H / d$  ?
- A: consider 'flooding':



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## Conclusions

- ‘Fat’ fractals model regions well
- patchiness exp.:  $B = D_H / d$
- can help us estimate selectivities

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- fractals
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    - selectivity in M-trees
    - dim. curse revisited
    - “fat fractals”
- ➔ quad-tree analysis [Gaede+]
- nn queries [Belussi+]

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## Fractals and Quadtrees

- Problem: how many quadtree nodes will we need, to store a region in some level of approximation? [Gaede+96]

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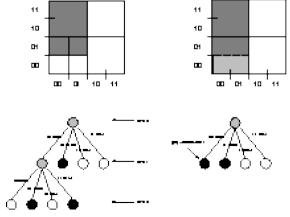
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## Fractals and Quadrees

- I.e.:



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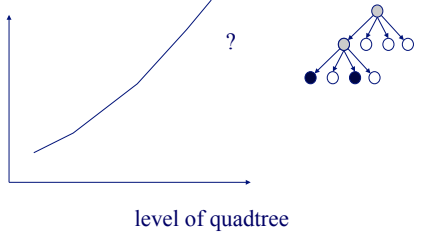
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## Fractals and Quadrees

- I.e.:

# of quadtree 'blocks' (= # gray nodes)



level of quadtree

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## Fractals and Quadrees

- Datasets:



Franconia Brain Atlas

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## Fractals and Quadtrees

- Hint:
  - assume that the boundary is self-similar, with a given fd
  - how will the quad-tree (oct-tree) look like?



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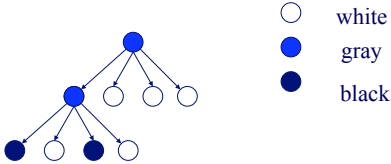
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## Fractals and Quadtrees



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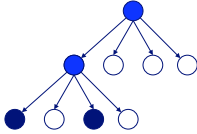
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## Fractals and Quadtrees

Let  $p_g(i)$  the prob. to find a gray node at level  $i$ .  
If self-similar, what can we say for  $p_g(i)$  ?



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**Fractals and Quadrees**

Let  $p_g(i)$  the prob. to find a gray node at level  $i$ .  
 If self-similar, what can we say for  $p_g(i)$  ?

A:  $p_g(i) = p_g = \text{constant}$

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**Fractals and Quadrees**

Assume only 'gray' and 'white' nodes (ie., no volume')  
 Assume that  $p_g$  is given - how many gray nodes at level  $i$ ?

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**Fractals and Quadrees**

Assume only 'gray' and 'white' nodes (ie., no volume')  
 Assume that  $p_g$  is given - how many gray nodes at level  $i$ ?

A: 1 at level 0;

$4 * p_g$

$(4 * p_g) * (4 * p_g)$

...

$(4 * p_g)^i$

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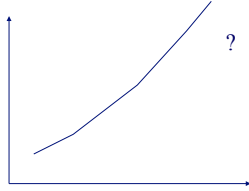
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### Fractals and Quadrees

- I.e.:

# of quadtree  
'blocks'



level of quadtree ('i')

?  $(4 \cdot p_g)^i$

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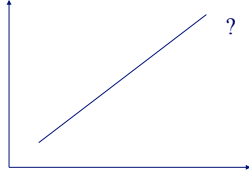
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### Fractals and Quadrees

- I.e.:

$\log(\# \text{ of quadtree  
'blocks'})$



level of quadtree

?  $\log[(4 \cdot p_g)^i]$

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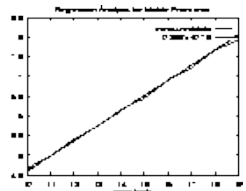
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### Fractals and Quadrees

- Conclusion: Self-similarity leads to easy and accurate estimation

$\log_2(\# \text{ blocks})$



level



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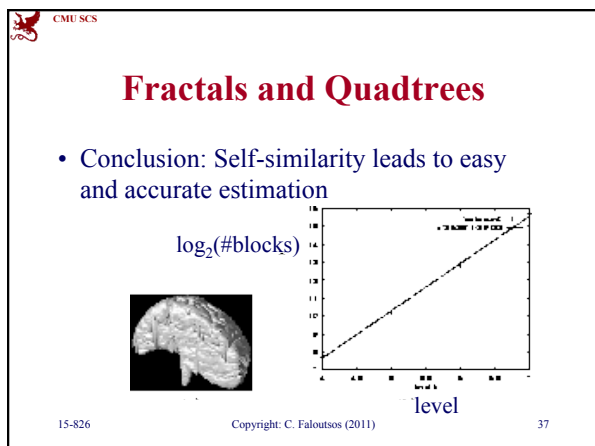
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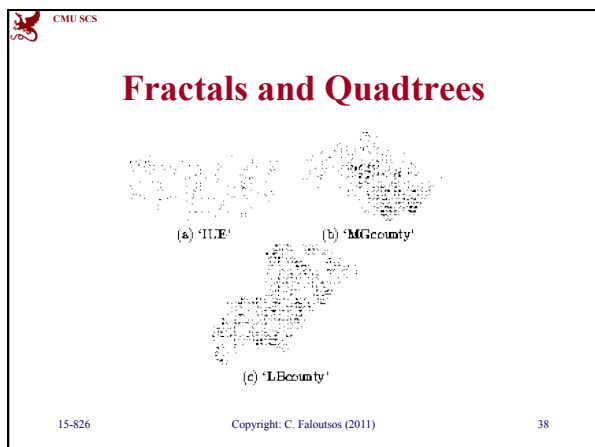
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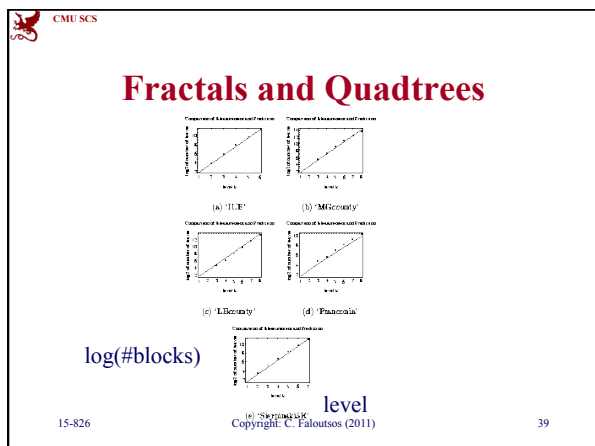
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## Fractals and Quadrees

- Final observation: relationship between  $p_g$  and fractal dimension?

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## Fractals and Quadrees

- Final observation: relationship between  $p_g$  and fractal dimension?
- A: very close:  
 $(4 \cdot p_g)^i = \#$  of gray nodes at level  $i =$   
 $\#$  of Hausdorff grid-cells of side  $(1/2)^i = r$   
Eventually:  $D_H = 2 + \log_2(p_g)$   
and, for E-d spaces:  $D_H = E + \log_2(p_g)$

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## Fractals and Quadrees

for E-d spaces:  $D_H = E + \log_2(p_g)$

Sanity check:

- point in 2-d:  $D_H = 0$        $p_g = ??$
- line in 2-d:  $D_H = 1$        $p_g = ??$
- plane in 2-d:  $D_H = 2$        $p_g = ??$
- point in 3-d:  $D_H = 0$        $p_g = ??$

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**Fractals and Quadtrees**

for E-d spaces:  $D_H = E + \log_2(p_g)$

Sanity check:

- point in 2-d:  $D_H = 0$        $p_g = 1/4$
- line in 2-d:  $D_H = 1$        $p_g = 1/2$
- plane in 2-d:  $D_H = 2$        $p_g = 1$
- point in 3-d:  $D_H = 0$        $p_g = 1/8$

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**Fractals and Quadtrees**

Final conclusions:

- self-similarity leads to estimates for # of z-values = # of quadtree/oct-tree blocks
- close dependence on the Hausdorff fractal dimension of the boundary

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    - “fat fractals”
    - quad-tree analysis [Gaed+]
    - ➡ nn queries [Belussi+]

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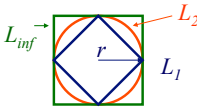
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## NN queries

- Q: in NN queries, what is the effect of the shape of the query region? [Belussi+95]



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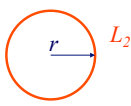
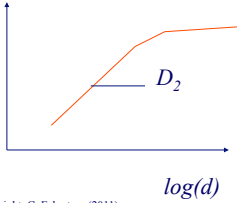
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## NN queries

- Q: in NN queries, what is the effect of the shape of the query region?
- that is, for  $L_2$ , and self-similar data:

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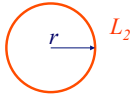
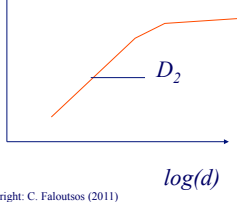
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## NN queries

- Q: What about  $L_1$ ,  $L_{inf}$ ?

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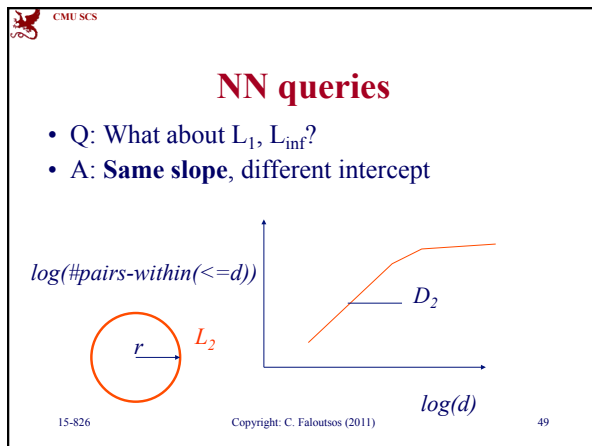
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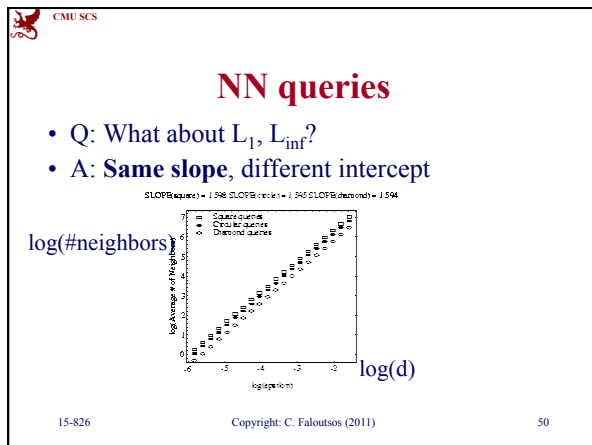
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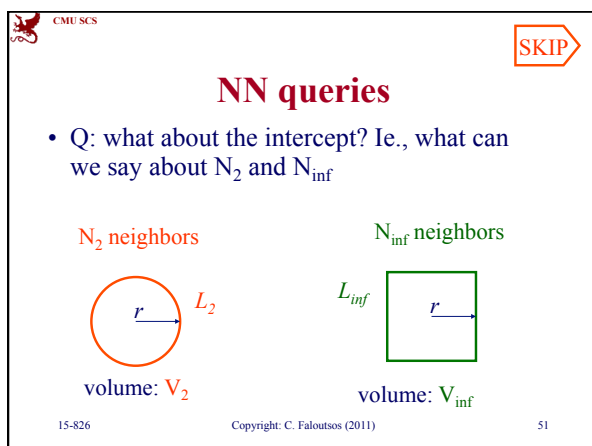
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SKIP

## NN queries

- Consider sphere with volume  $V_{inf}$  and  $r'$  radius

$N_2$  neighbors

volume:  $V_2$

$N_{inf}$  neighbors

volume:  $V_{inf}$

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## NN queries

- Consider sphere with volume  $V_{inf}$  and  $r'$  radius
- $(r/r')^E = V_2 / V_{inf}$
- $(r/r')^{D_2} = N_2 / N_2'$
- $N_2' = N_{inf}$  (since shape does not matter)
- and finally:

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## NN queries

$$(N_2 / N_{inf})^{1/D_2} = (V_2 / V_{inf})^{1/E}$$

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## NN queries

Conclusions: for self-similar datasets

- Avg # neighbors: grows like  $(distance)^{D_2}$ , regardless of query shape (circle, diamond, square, e.t.c. )

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- fractals
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    - dim. curse revisited
    - "fat fractals"
    - quad-tree analysis [Gaede+]
    - nn queries [Belussi+]
- Conclusions

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## Fractals - overall conclusions

- self-similar datasets: appear often
- powerful tools: correlation integral, NCDF, rank-frequency plot
- intrinsic/fractal dimension helps in
  - estimations (selectivities, quadtrees, etc)
  - dim. reduction / dim. curse
- (later: can help in image compression...)

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## References

1. Belussi, A. and C. Faloutsos (Sept. 1995). Estimating the Selectivity of Spatial Queries Using the 'Correlation' Fractal Dimension. Proc. of VLDB, Zurich, Switzerland.
2. Faloutsos, C. and V. Gaede (Sept. 1996). Analysis of the z-ordering Method Using the Hausdorff Fractal Dimension. VLDB, Bombay, India.
3. Proietti, G. and C. Faloutsos (March 23-26, 1999). I/O complexity for range queries on region data stored using an R-tree. International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE), Sydney, Australia.

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