# SETS HOMOTHETIC TO THEIR INTERSECTION WITH A TRANSLATE 

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1. Introduction. Inspired by a question of J. B. Miller, L. Fejes Tóth asked for a catalogue of those subsets of Euclidean $n$-space which are homothetic (similar and similarly situated) to their intersection with a suitably translated copy of themselves. For example, a triangle is homothetic to its intersection with an arbitrarily translated replica provided only that the intersection has non-void interior. In 3 -space a cube is homothetic to its intersection with a replica translated part way along any body diagonal. With these two preliminary examples for motivation, let us make a definition.

Definition. Let $S$ be a subset of Euclidean $n$-space. Let $T$ be translation through $\vec{t}$ and $K$ dilatation with centre $O_{1}$ and scale factor $k$. Then $S \in(T, K)$ if and only if $S \cap S^{T}=S^{K}$.

There are two natural problems.
Problem 1. Given $T$ and $K$ find all subsets $S$ such that $S \in(T, K)$.
Problem 2. Given $S$ find all $T$ and $K$ such that $S \in(T, K)$.
If $E$ denotes the identity transformation on Euclidean $n$-space then any subset $S$ belongs to $(E, E)$. For the rest of the paper, let us insist that $T$ is a proper translation $[\vec{t} \neq \overrightarrow{0}]$ and $K$ is a proper dilatation $[k \neq 1]$. In the spirit of the original question we will concentrate on Problem 1 although certain aspects of Problem 2 will arise naturally.
2. More examples. Let Euclidean $n$-space be given Cartesian coordinates so that it may be identified with $\mathbb{R}^{n}$. Then $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ and the empty set $\varnothing$ belong to ( $T, K$ ) for any $T$ and any $K$.

Let $\mathbb{Q}$ denote the rational numbers so that $\mathbb{Q}^{n}$ is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^{n}$. Then if $\vec{t}$ and the coordinate vector of $O_{1}$ belong to $\mathbb{Q}^{n}$ and if $k \in \mathbb{Q}$, it follows that $\mathbb{Q}^{n} \in(T, K)$.

In 1 dimension, let $S_{1}$ be the set of all $x$ such that $0 \leq x \leq 1.111$. . and such that the decimal expansion of $x$ uses only the digits 0 and 1 . Then if $T$ is translation through -1 and $K$ is contraction by $\frac{1}{10}$ from the origin we have $S_{1} \in(T, K)$.

In 2 dimensions we may take $S_{2}$ to be the union of the countably many lines $x=0$ and $x= \pm 2^{m}[m=0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots]$. Then if $T_{0}$ is translation through $(0,-1)$ and $K_{0}$ is contraction by $\frac{1}{2}$ from the origin we have $S_{2} \in\left(T_{0}, K_{0}\right)$.


Figure 1.
An intriguing modification of $S_{2}$ is the "candelabra" $S_{3}$ drawn in Fig. 1. It consists of the part of $S_{2}$ lying in the interior of the triangle with vertices $(-1,0)$, $(0,2)$ and $(1,0)$. Notice that, while the candelabra belongs to ( $T_{0}, K_{0}$ ), its closure does not! To obtain a closed candelabra we should take the part of $S_{2}$ lying in the closure of the above triangle. This adds to $S_{3}$ not only the endpoints of its candlesticks but also the two isolated points $( \pm 1,0)$.


Figure 2.

A second interesting modification of $S_{2}$ is the "feathered wing" $S_{4}$ drawn in Fig. 2. To obtain this example add the halfplane $y \geq 0$ to $S_{2}$ to make it connected. Then take the portion of this example which lies in the closed triangle with vertices $(0,0),(0,2)$ and $\left(\frac{3}{2},-1\right)$. The feathered wing belongs to $\left(T_{0}, K_{0}\right)$ and is closed, bounded and connected, but not convex.
3. A generalized problem. Let us temporarily replace Euclidean $n$-space by an arbitrary space $X$ and the group of homotheties [translations and dilatations] by an arbitrary group $G$ acting on $X$. Suppose $S$ is a subset of $X$ and $f, g$ and $h$ are elements of $G$. Then let us write $S \in(f \cap g=h)$ if $S^{f} \cap S^{g}=S^{h}$ and $S \in(f \cup g=h)$ if $S^{f} \cup S^{g}=S^{h}$. In each case we may pose a problem by considering either the subset $S$ or the group elements $f, g$ and $h$ to be unknown.

Two major simplifications in these problems are possible because $f, g$ and $h$ are bijections. First, De Morgan's laws imply that $S \in(f \cap g=h)$ if and only if its complement satisfies $S^{\prime} \in(f \cup g=h)$. Second, $S \in(f \cap g=h)$ if and only if $S \in\left(e \cap g f^{-1}=h f^{-1}\right)$ where $e$ denotes the identity in $G$. Setting $g f^{-1}=T$ and $h f^{-1}=K$ we see that this last relation may be written $S \in(T, K)$ in the notation of the introduction. Thus the general problems suggested in the preceding paragraph reduce to the analogues of the introductory Problems 1 and 2.

A number of properties of the relation $S \in(T, K)$ can be developed in the general context in which $S$ is a subset of a space $X$ acted on by a group $G$ containing $T$ and $K$. Property $A$ is somewhat specialized but it is included here to contrast with the behavior exhibited by the closure of the candelabra.
[A]: If $X$ is a topological space, $T$ and $K$ are homeomorphisms and $S \in(T, K)$ then the interior of $S$ satisfies $S^{i} \in(T, K)$.

Proof. $S^{i K}=S^{K i}=\left(S \cap S^{T}\right)^{i}=S^{i} \cap S^{T i}=S^{i} \cap S^{i T}$.
[B]: If $S_{i}[i \in I]$ is a family of sets belonging to $(T, K)$ then $\bigcap S_{i} \in(T, K)$.
Proof. $\left(\cap S_{i}\right)^{K}=\bigcap S_{i}^{K}=\bigcap\left(S_{i} \cap S_{i}^{T}\right)=\left(\cap S_{i}\right) \cap\left(\cap S_{i}^{T}\right)=\left(\cap S_{i}\right) \cap\left(\cap S_{i}\right)^{T}$.
[C]: If $S_{i}[i \in I]$ is a family of sets belonging to $(T, K)$ and satisfying $U\left(S_{i} \cap S_{j}^{T}\right) \subset$ $U\left(S_{i} \cap S_{i}^{T}\right)$ then $\cup S_{i} \in(T, K)$.

Proof. $\left(\cup S_{i}\right) \cap\left(\bigcup S_{i}\right)^{T}=\left(U S_{i}\right) \cap\left(\bigcup S_{j}^{T}\right)=\mathrm{U}\left(S_{i} \cap S_{j}^{T}\right)=\mathrm{U}\left(S_{i} \cap S_{i}^{T}\right)=\bigcup S_{i}^{K}=$ $\left(\cup S_{i}\right)^{K}$. The third equality depends on the special hypothesis.
[D]: If $S \in(T, K)$ then $S \in\left(T^{-1}, K T^{-1}\right)$.
Proof. $S^{K T^{-1}}=\left(S \cap S^{T}\right)^{T^{-1}}=S \cap S^{T-1}$.
[E]: If $L \in G$ and $S \in(T, K)$ then $S^{L} \in\left(T^{L}, K^{L}\right)$.

Proof. $S^{L} \cap S^{L\left(L^{-1} T L\right)}=S^{L} \cap S^{T L}=\left(S \cap S^{T}\right)^{L}=S^{K L}=S^{L\left(L^{-1} K L\right)}$.
4. The ( $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{K}$ )-hull. If $R$ is any subset of $X$, let us define the (T, K)-hull of $R$ to be $\langle R\rangle=\bigcap\{S: R \subset S \subset X$ and $S \in(T, K)\}$. Since $X \in(T, K)$ this set contains $R$ and because of Property B it belongs to ( $T, K$ ). It is therefore the smallest subset of $X$ containing $R$ and belonging to ( $T, K$ ).

There is a construction for the ( $T, K$ )-hull of $R$. Let $K_{1}=K$ and $K_{2}=K T^{-1}$. Then let $R_{0}=R$ and consider the increasing sequence of sets defined by

$$
R_{n+1}=R_{n} \cup R_{n}^{K_{1}} \cup R_{n}^{K_{2}} \cup\left(R_{n}^{K_{1}^{-1}} \cap R_{n}^{K_{2}^{-1}}\right)
$$

Theorem 1. $\langle R\rangle=\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R_{n}$.
Proof. The condition $S \cap S^{T}=S^{K}$ implies that $S \cap S^{T} \supset S^{K}$ and therefore that $S^{K} \subset S$ and $S^{K T^{-1}} \subset S$. It also implies that $S \cap S^{T} \subset S^{K}$ and therefore that $S^{K^{-1}} \cap S^{T K^{-1}} \subset S$. These remarks show that no superfluous points have been included in $\widetilde{R}=\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R_{n}$ and hence $\langle R\rangle \supset \widetilde{R}$. To prove that $\langle R\rangle=\widetilde{R}$ it remains to show that $\widetilde{R} \in(T, K)$.

For $i=1,2, \tilde{R}^{K_{i}}=\left(\bigcup R_{n}\right)^{K_{i}}=\bigcup R_{n}^{K_{i}} \subset \bigcup R_{n+1}$. Thus $\tilde{R}^{K} \subset \tilde{R}$ and $\tilde{R}^{K T^{-1}} \subset \tilde{R}$ or $\widetilde{R}^{K} \subset \widetilde{R}^{T}$. It follows that $\widetilde{R}^{K} \subset \widetilde{R} \cap \widetilde{R}^{T}$. On the other hand,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{R}^{K_{1}^{-1}} \cap \tilde{R}^{K_{2}^{-1}} & =\left(\bigcup R_{n}\right)^{K_{1}^{-1}} \cap\left(\bigcup R_{n}\right)^{K_{2}^{-1}}=\left(\cup R_{n}^{K}{ }_{1}^{1}\right) \cap\left(\bigcup R_{n}^{K_{2}^{-1}}\right) \\
& =\bigcup\left(R_{n}^{K_{1}^{-1}} \cap R_{m}^{K_{2}^{-1}}\right)=\bigcup\left(R_{n}^{K_{1}^{-1}} \cap R_{n}^{K_{2}^{-1}}\right) \subset \bigcup R_{n+1} \subset \tilde{R}
\end{aligned}
$$

and therefore $\tilde{R}^{K^{-1}} \cap \tilde{R}^{T K^{-1}} \subset \tilde{R}$ or $\tilde{R} \cap \tilde{R}^{T} \subset \tilde{R}^{K}$.
The candelabra provides two interesting illustrations of this theorem. If $n$ candlesticks $x=2^{-m}[m=1,2, \ldots, n]$ are removed from the right side of $S_{3}$ to leave a set $R$ then $R \notin\left(T_{0}, K_{0}\right)$. However the construction of Theorem 1 replaces these missing candlesticks one by one from the left and we obtain $\langle R\rangle=S_{3}=$ $R_{m}[m \geq n]$. As a second illustration let $R$ be the closure of $S_{3}$. Then $R \notin\left(T_{0}, K_{0}\right)$ but the construction of Theorem 1 finds the points $( \pm 1,0)$ in the first step and we obtain $\langle R\rangle=R_{m}[m \geq 1]$.
5. Fundamental solutions. A subset $\Sigma$ of $X$ is called a fundamental solution of the ( $T, K$ )-problem if $\Sigma^{T}=\Sigma$ and $\Sigma^{K}=\Sigma$. This obviously guarantees that $\Sigma \in$ ( $T, K$ ).

A partition of $X$ is called a $(T, K)$-fundamental partition if the sets involved are fundamental solutions of the ( $T, K$ )-problem. For such a partition we have $X=$ $\bigcup \Sigma_{i}$ where $\Sigma_{i} \cap \Sigma_{j}=\varnothing$ and $\Sigma_{i}=\Sigma_{i}^{T}=\Sigma_{i}^{K}$.

Let $\Gamma=\langle T, K\rangle$ be the subgroup of $G$ generated by $T$ and $K$. Let $X=\bigcup X_{i}$ be the orbit decomposition of $X$ relative to $\Gamma$. This is the finest fundamental partition of $X$ and any other fundamental partition is obtained by letting each $\Sigma_{i}=\bigcup X_{j}$ be a collection of orbits.

Now let $X=\bigcup \Sigma_{i}$ be a fixed ( $T, K$ )-fundamental partition and let $S$ be a subset
of $X$. We may write $S=\bigcup S_{i}=\bigcup\left(S \cap \Sigma_{i}\right)$ and speak of the $S_{i}$ as the parts of $S$ relative to the partition.

Theorem 2. A set $S$ belongs to $(T, K)$ if and only if each of its parts $S_{i}$ belongs to $(T, K)$.
Proof. If $S \in(T, K)$ then since each $\Sigma_{i} \in(T, K)$ it follows from Property B that $S_{i}=S \cap \Sigma_{i}$ belongs to ( $T, K$ ).

On the other hand if each $S_{i} \in(T, K)$ then since $S_{i} \cap S_{j}^{T} \subset \Sigma_{i} \cap \Sigma_{j}^{T}=$ $\Sigma_{i} \cap \Sigma_{j}=\varnothing$ it follows from Property C that $S=\bigcup S_{i}$ beongs to $(T, K)$.

When Theorem 2 is used with the orbit decomposition $X=\bigcup X_{i}$ we see that the problem really belongs to the theory of permutation groups. We have a twogenerator group $\Gamma=\langle T, K\rangle$ acting transitivity on a countable set $X_{i}$ and we are looking for subsets $S_{i} \subset X_{i}$ which satisfy $S_{i} \cap S_{i}^{T}=S_{i}^{K}$.

In the original problem with $X=R^{n}$ there are a continuum of orbits and for each we have at least the two choices $S_{i}=\varnothing$ or $S_{i}=X_{i}$. The cardinality of the set of all solutions $S=\bigcup S_{i}$ is therefore equal to the cardinality of the set of all subsets of $R^{n}$.

In general the solutions described in the last paragraph do not have pleasant geometrical properties. They are far more pathological than the examples of $\S \S 1$ and 2 and this runs contrary to the intent of the original question. In the remaining sections we shall concentrate on geometrically appealing solutions to the original problem.
6. The original problem. Now we return to the case when $X=R^{n}, T$ is a proper translation and $K$ is a proper dilatation. According to Property D, if $S \in(T, K)$ then $S \in\left(T^{-1}, K T^{-1}\right)$ as well. If $T$ is translation through $\vec{t}$ then $T^{-1}$ is translation through $-\vec{t}$. If $K=K_{1}$ is a dilatation with scale factor $k$ and centre $O_{1}$ then $K T^{-1}=K_{2}$ is a dilatation with the same scale factor $k$ but a different centre ${ }_{2} O \neq O_{1}$.

Lemma 1. The vector from $O_{1}$ to $O_{2}$ is ${\overrightarrow{O_{1} O}}_{2}=(k-1)^{-1} \vec{t}$.
Proof. If we choose coordinates with $O_{1}$ as origin then $K T^{-1}$ is given by $\vec{x} \rightarrow k \vec{x}-\vec{t}$. Its unique fixed point is $O_{2}$.

Lemma 2. Let $S \in(T, K)$. If $k>1$ then either $S$ in not bounded or $S=\varnothing$. If $k<1$ and $S \neq \varnothing$ then $O_{1}$ and $O_{2}$ belong to $\bar{S}$, the closure of $S$.

Proof. If $S$ is bounded it has a diameter $d$ and $S^{K}$ has a diameter $k d$. Since $S^{K} \subset S$ we must have $k d \leq d$. If $k>1$ this implies $d=0$ and, as singleton solutions are impossible, $S=\varnothing$.

If $L=K_{1}$ or $K_{2}, \bar{S}^{L}=\overline{S^{L}} \subset \bar{S} . \bar{S}$ is a complete metric space. If $k<1, L$ is a contraction mapping of $\bar{S}$ and its fixed point must belong to $\bar{S}$.

On the basis of our discussion to this point it is easy to construct a large class of geometrically appealing sets belonging to a given $(T, K)$. If $C_{1}$ is a cone with
vertex at $O_{1}$ then $C_{1}^{K}=C_{1}$. In order to get $C_{1} \in(T, K)$ it remains to insure that $C_{1} \cap C_{1}^{T}=C_{1}$. This is guaranteed if $C_{1}$ meets a sphere about $O_{1}$ in a set which is spherically star-like with respect to the pole in the direction $-\vec{t}$ from $O_{1}$. An analogous construction about $O_{2}$ gives a cone $C_{2}$ which belongs to ( $T^{-1}, K T^{-1}$ ) and hence to ( $T, K$ ). It follows that $S=C_{1} \cap C_{2}$ belongs to ( $T, K$ ). Let us call this general method of building examples the cone construction. The triangle and cube of $\S 1$ may be considered as instances of this construction.

With the cone construction for motivation, the $n$-dimensional problem may be reduced to convenient one and two-dimensional problems. Let $\Lambda$ be the line joining $O_{1}$ and $O_{2}$ and let $\pi$ be any 2-dimensional halfplane bounded by $\Lambda$ butnotincluding $\Lambda$. Then $\Lambda$ and the $\pi$ 's give a ( $T, K$ )-fundamental partition of $R^{n}$ and according to Theorem 2 the most general $(T, K)$ set in $R^{n}$ is a union of its one and two-dimensional parts. This special partition allows us to give a part by part characterization of certain solution sets obtained from the cone construction.

Theorem 3. Let $S \neq \varnothing$ be a solution of the ( $T, K$ )-problem on the line $O_{1} O_{2}$ or in a 2-dimensional halfplane bounded by this line. Then if $S$ is closed and convex it may be obtained from closed convex cones by the cone construction.

$\vec{t}=(0,-1) ; k<1$
Figure 3.

The feathered wing $S_{4}$ of $\S 2$ shows that the hypothesis of Theorem 3 cannot be weakened from convex to connected even when we are dealing with bounded parts.
The proof of the halfplane case is deferred to $\S 7$. The proof of the 1 -dimensional case is almost immediate since the only closed, convex subsets of a line are intervals, rays and the line itself. When $k<1$, Lemma 2 implies that both $O_{1}$ and $O_{2}$ must belong to $S$ and it is easy to check that the interval $\left[O_{1}, O_{2}\right]$, the ray from $O_{1}$ towards $O_{2}$, the ray from $O_{2}$ towards $O_{1}$ and the fullineare the only possiblesolutions. When $k>1$ Lemma 2 eliminates finite intervals and it is easy to check that the only possibilities are the ray from $O_{1}$ away from $O_{2}$, the ray from $O_{2}$ away from $O_{1}$ and the full line.
As a corollary to Lemma 2 and Theorem 3 it is possible to list the compact, convex solutions of the ( $T, K$ )-problem in 2-dimensions. If $k>1$, the only solution is $\varnothing$. If $k<1$, we also have the quadrangles with diagonal $O_{1} O_{2}$. The term quadrangle must be understood to include the line segment [ $O_{1}, O_{2}$ ] and any triangle with one vertex at one centre and the opposite edge containing the other centre.

The "wild tomahawk" of Fig. 3 and the "ship over shoal" of Fig. 4 illustrate the


Figure 4.
general 2-dimensional solution obtained from Theorem 3 when $k<1$ and when $k>1$ respectively. The situation in $n$ dimensions is analogous. It is worth emphasising that the parts of $S$ are quite independent and while each is assumed to be closed and convex there is no reason why these properties must hold for $S$ itself.
7. Proof of Theorem 3. Without loss of generality we may assume that $O_{1}=$ $(0,0), O_{2}=\left(0,|k-1|^{-1}\right)$ and the closed convex set $S$ lies in the halfplane $x>0$. With this assumption, $\vec{t}=(0,-1)$ if $k<1$ and $\vec{t}=(0,1)$ if $k>1$. Let $\vec{t}_{1}=-\vec{t}$ and $\vec{t}_{2}=\vec{t}$ and let $\theta_{i}$ denote the ray from $O_{i}$ into the halfplane $x>0$ that makes the angle $\theta_{i}\left[0<\theta_{i}<\pi\right]$ with $\vec{t}_{i}[i=1,2]$. Let $\theta_{i}^{*}$ denote the supremum of the angles $\theta_{i}$ determined by rays $\theta_{i}$ which meet $S$. Let $C_{i}$ be the cone from $O_{i}$ consisting of all rays $0<\theta_{i} \leq \theta_{i}^{*}$.

The cones $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ are closed convex candidates for the cone construction and it is clear that $S \subset C_{1} \cap C_{2}$. To complete the proof of Theorem 3 it remains to show that $S=C_{1} \cap C_{2}$. Since $S$ is closed it suffices to prove that $S \supset\left(C_{1} \cap C_{2}\right)^{i}$.

Lemma 3. A ray $\theta_{i}$ from $O_{i}[i=1,2]$ belongs to one of three mutually exclusive classes: (a) $\theta_{i} \cap S=\varnothing$ (b) $\theta_{i} \cap S=\theta_{i}$ and (c) $\theta_{i} \cap S=\tilde{\theta}_{i}$ where if $k<1 \tilde{\theta}_{i}$ is a closed initial segment of $\theta_{i}$ and if $k>1 \tilde{\theta}_{i}$ is a closed terminal ray of $\theta_{i}$.

Proof. If $\theta_{i}$ does not belong to class (a) or (b) then $\tilde{\theta}_{i}$ is a non-void proper subset of $\theta_{i}$. Since $S$ is closed and convex, $\tilde{\theta}_{i}$ is closed and convex. Since $S^{K_{i}} \subset S$ while $\theta_{i}^{K_{i}}=\theta_{i}, \tilde{\theta}_{i}^{K_{i}} \subset \tilde{\theta}_{i}$. It follows that $\tilde{\theta}_{i}$ must be of the form described in class (c).

Lemma 4. Two rays $\theta_{1}$ and $\theta_{2}$ of class (c) cannot meet in the complement of $S$.
Proof. Suppose to the contrary that $\theta_{1}$ meets $\theta_{2}$ in a point $Q$ of the complement of $S$. Let $P_{i}$ be the boundary point of $\tilde{\theta}_{i}[i=1,2]$ and note that the convex hull of $\tilde{\theta}_{1} \cup \tilde{\theta}_{2}$ including the closed line segment $\left[P_{1}, P_{2}\right]$ lies in $S$. We may therefore find a point $P$ on the open line segment $\left(Q, P_{1}\right)$ such that $P \notin S$ but $P^{K_{1}}=P^{K} \in S$ and $P^{K_{2}}=P^{K T^{-1}} \in S$. Since $P \notin S, P^{K} \notin S^{K}$. But $S^{K}=S \cap S^{T}$ and $P^{K} \in S$. It follows that $P^{K} \notin S^{T}$ and hence that $P^{K T^{-1}} \notin S$. This contradiction proves the lemma.

Lemma 5. A ray $\theta_{i}$ from $O_{i}[i=1,2]$ which passes into the interior of $C_{1} \cap C_{2}$ must be of the class (b) or (c).

Proof. To simplify notation let us argue the case $i=1$. The proof of the case $i=2$ is identical except for an interchange of subscripts.

Since the ray $\theta_{1}$ satisfies $0<\theta_{1}<\theta_{1}^{*}$ we can find a ray $\theta_{1}^{\prime}$ of class (b) or (c) such that $\theta_{1}<\theta_{1}^{\prime}<\theta_{1}^{*}$. Since $\theta_{1}$ enters $C_{1} \cap C_{2}$ so does $\theta_{1}^{\prime}$ and consequently the rays of $C_{2}$ sufficiently close to $\theta_{2}^{*}$ cut them both. Let $\theta_{2}$ be a common transversal chosen to be of class (b) or (c). Then Lemma 4 implies that $\theta_{2} \cap \theta_{1}^{\prime}$ is a point of $S$ and it follows from Lemma 3 that $\theta_{2} \cap \theta_{1}$ must also be a point of $S$. This completes the proof of Lemma 5.

To complete the proof of Theorem 3, let $P$ be a point of $\left(C_{1} \cap C_{2}\right)^{i}$. Lemma 5 ensures that $\theta_{1}=O_{1} P$ and $\theta_{2}=O_{2} P$ are both of class (b) or (c). Lemma 4 then implies that $P=\theta_{1} \cap \theta_{2}$ is a point of $S$.
8. Related literature. When I had completed the work of the preceding sections, L. Fejes Tóth kindly forwarded to me the references [1]-[4] which he had just received from G. Fejes Tóth and A. Florian. To simplify discussion of the relationship between these papers and the present one let us make another definition.

Definition. A subset $S$ of Euclidean $n$-space has Property H with respect to a translation $T$ if there exists a dilatation $K=K(S, T)$ such that $S \cap S^{T}=S^{K}$ i.e. $S \in(T, K)$.

The theme of these papers is to prove that if $S$ is "sufficiently nice" and if $S$ has Property H with respect to "enough" translations then $S$ is a simplex. For the most part the methods of the other authors depend on Property H holding simultaneously for independent translations. Moreover they deal exclusively with bounded sets $S$ and therefore with dilatations $K$ whose scale factor $k$ satisfies $k<1$.

In [4] C. A. Rogers and G. C. Shephard investigate the volume of the difference body $D S$ of an $n$-dimensional convex body $S$ [convex body=compact convex set with non-void interior]. They find that the difference body attains a maximum volume of $\binom{2 \mathrm{n}}{n} V(S)$ exactly when $S$ has Property $H$ with respect to every translation $T$ such that $S \cap S^{T}$ is $n$-dimensional. They characterize the instances of equality by proving that a convex body is a simplex if it enjoys Property H with respect to every translation such that $S \cap S^{T}$ is $n$-dimensional.

In [2] P. Grüber strengthens this characterization of the simplex in three different ways. First, if $S$ is assumed to be a convex body, then Property H need only hold for all translations in an arbitrarily small ball about the origin. Second, if Property H holds for all translations such that $S \cap S^{T}$ contains more than one point, then one can drop the convexity condition and assume only that $S$ is a compact set with non-void interior. Finally, in dimension $n=1$, the second characterization can be further strengthened by assuming only that $S$ is a bounded measurable set with positive Lebesgue measure. This forces $S$ to be an open interval together with a subset of its endpoints.

In [1] H. G. Eggleston verifies the conjecture of P. Grüber that the preceding 1-dimensional characterization actually holds in $n$ dimensions. Specifically he shows that if $S$ is a bounded measurable set with positive Lebesgue measure which enjoys Property H with respect to every translation $T$ such that $S \cap S^{T}$ contains more than one point then $S$ is the interior of a simplex together with a subcollection of its $r$-dimensional faces $[0 \leq r \leq n-1]$.
In [3] P. Grüber returns to the strong hypothesis that $S$ is an $n$-dimensional convex body. He proves that if $S$ contains a ball of radius $\alpha$ and is contained in a
ball of radius $1 / \alpha$ then there is a set of $N=N(n, \alpha)$ universal testing translations $\tau_{\alpha}=\left\{T_{1}, T_{2}, \ldots, T_{N}\right\}$ such that if $S$ enjoys Property H with respect to every $T \in \tau_{\alpha}$ then $S$ is a simplex. In the special case $n=2, \tau_{\alpha}$ may be taken to consist of the three translations $(\alpha, 0),(0, \alpha)$ and $(\alpha, \alpha)$ and it is only necessary to assume that $S$ is a convex body containing a disk of radius $\alpha$. Hilfssatz 5 of [3] provides an alternative argument for Theorem 3 in the special case with $k<1$ and $S$ bounded.

Addendum. G. C. Shephard has drawn my attention to Theorem 5 in the recent paper [ $1^{\prime}$ ] where four other characterizations of the $n$-simplex are deduced from the assumption that it is a polytope $P$ satisfying our property H with respect to every translation $T$ such that $P \cap P^{T}$ is $n$-dimensional. Related theorems in [1'] give alternative characterizations of the broader classes of polytopes defined by the following conditions. For every translations $T$, the set $P \cap P^{T}$ is
(i) less than $n$-dimensional or affinely equivalent to $P$ (Theorem 4), or
(ii) empty or a summand of $P$ (Theorem 2), or
(iii) empty or homothetic to a summand of $P$ (Theorem 1).

In their concluding remarks the authors of $\left[1^{\prime}\right]$ ask what sets would arise in these cases if the assumption that $P$ is a polytope were dropped. They cite interesting partial answers in their bibliography.

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## References

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