

ON A PROBLEM OF DYNKIN

YUAN-CHUNG SHEU

(Communicated by Stanley Sawyer)

ABSTRACT. Consider an (L, α) -superdiffusion X on \mathbb{R}^d , where L is a uniformly elliptic differential operator in \mathbb{R}^d , and $1 < \alpha \leq 2$. The \mathbb{G} -polar sets for X are subsets of $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ which have no intersection with the graph \mathbb{G} of X , and they are related to the removable singularities for a corresponding nonlinear parabolic partial differential equation. Dynkin characterized the \mathbb{G} -polarity of a general analytic set $A \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ in terms of the Bessel capacity of A , and Sheu in terms of the restricted Hausdorff dimension. In this paper we study in particular the \mathbb{G} -polarity of sets of the form $E \times F$, where E and F are two Borel subsets of \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{R}^d respectively. We establish a relationship between the restricted Hausdorff dimension of $E \times F$ and the usual Hausdorff dimensions of E and F . As an application, we obtain a criterion for \mathbb{G} -polarity of $E \times F$ in terms of the Hausdorff dimensions of E and F , which also gives an answer to a problem proposed by Dynkin in the 1991 Wald Memorial Lectures.

1. INTRODUCTION

Suppose that L is a uniformly elliptic differential operator in $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ of the form

$$Lu(t, x) = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij}(t, x) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \sum_i b_i(t, x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i}.$$

Here we assume that a_{ij} and b_i are bounded and smooth functions in $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$. An (L, α) -superdiffusion, $1 < \alpha \leq 2$, is a branching measure-valued Markov process $X = (X_t, P_\mu)$ such that for every bounded positive Borel function f on \mathbb{R}^d , the function

$$v(r, x) = -\log P_{\delta_{r,x}} e^{-\langle f, X_t \rangle}$$

is a mild solution of the following problem:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + Lv = v^\alpha & \text{in } (-\infty, t) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \\ v(r, x) \rightarrow f(x) & \text{as } r \uparrow t \text{ and } x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

(Here we write PY for the expected value of Y with respect to the probability measure P , and $\langle f, \mu \rangle$ for the integral of f with respect to the measure μ .) The graph of X is the minimal closed subset \mathbb{G} of $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ such that, for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$,

Received by the editors December 1, 1997 and, in revised form, February 23, 1998.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 60J60, 35K55; Secondary 60J80, 31C45.

Key words and phrases. Superdiffusion, graph of superdiffusion, semilinear partial differential equation, \mathbb{G} -polarity, \mathbb{H} -polarity, Hausdorff dimension, box dimension, restricted Hausdorff dimension.

the measure X_t is concentrated on the t -section of \mathbb{G} . An analytic set A of $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ is called \mathbb{G} -polar if for every $r < t$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we have

$$P_{\delta_{r,x}}(\mathbb{G} \cap A_t = \emptyset) = 1,$$

where $A_t = A \cap ([t, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$. In [2], Dynkin proved that the class of \mathbb{G} -polar sets for the (L, α) -superdiffusion X is identical to the class of sets of Bessel capacity zero. Moreover he proved that a set A is \mathbb{G} -polar if and only if it is a removable singularity for the partial differential equation

$$(1) \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + Lv = v^\alpha.$$

(We say that $A \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ is a removable singularity for the equation (1) if 0 is the only nonnegative solution of the equation (1) in $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d) \setminus A$.) In [7], Sheu demonstrated that the critical restricted Hausdorff dimension (to be introduced later) for the \mathbb{G} -polarity is $d - \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$.

We say that an analytic set F in \mathbb{R}^d is \mathbb{H} -polar if $\{t\} \times F$ is \mathbb{G} -polar for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$. The notion of \mathbb{H} -polarity is also related to solutions of the heat equation with initial measure value. (See Baras and Pierre [1].) Note that the critical Hausdorff dimension for the \mathbb{H} -polarity is $d - \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$.

Our objective is to study the following problem proposed by Dynkin in the 1991 Wald Memorial Lectures.

Problem ([3], p. 1245). Suppose F is \mathbb{H} -polar and $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ is a set of Lebesgue measure 0. Is $E \times F$ \mathbb{G} -polar?

In Section 2 we recall definitions of Hausdorff dimension, box dimension and the restricted Hausdorff dimension, and establish new relations between the restricted Hausdorff dimension of $E \times F$ and the Hausdorff dimensions of E and F . Namely, we prove that

$$\begin{aligned} 2H\text{-dim}(E) + H\text{-dim}(F) &\leq \mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \\ &\leq 2H\text{-dim}(E) + B\text{-dim}_-(F). \end{aligned}$$

where $H\text{-dim}$ means the Hausdorff dimension, $B\text{-dim}_-$ the lower Hausdorff box dimension, and $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}$ the restricted Hausdorff dimension. (Our proofs are analogous (with some suitable modifications) to that of Falconer [4] and from there we also quote some interesting examples.) Under the assumption $H\text{-dim}(F) = B\text{-dim}_-(F)$, we obtain that if $2H\text{-dim}(E) + H\text{-dim}(F) < d - \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$, then $E \times F$ is \mathbb{G} -polar, whereas, if $2H\text{-dim}(E) + H\text{-dim}(F) > d - \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$, then $E \times F$ is not \mathbb{G} -polar. As an application, we give examples in Section 3 which show that the answer to Dynkin's problem is negative (see Theorem 6 for more details).

2. HAUSDORFF DIMENSION, BOX DIMENSION AND THE RESTRICTED HAUSDORFF DIMENSION

Suppose that F is a subset of \mathbb{R}^d . First we recall a definition of the Hausdorff dimension of F . For every $s > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$, set

$$\wedge^s\text{-}m_\epsilon(F) = \inf \sum_i (\text{diam}(B_i))^s$$

where the infimum is taken over all countable coverings of F by open ball B_i with radius $r_i < \epsilon$. The Hausdorff measure with index s is defined by the formula

$$(2) \quad \wedge^s -m(F) = \lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} \wedge^s -m_\epsilon(F),$$

and the Hausdorff dimension $H\text{-dim}(F)$ is the supremum s such that $\wedge^s -m(F) > 0$.

Let A be a subset of $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$. In order to determine if A is polar relative to the heat equation

$$\sum_i \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i^2} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t},$$

Taylor and Watson [8] introduced the notion of the restricted Hausdorff dimension of A . For any $s > 0$, the definition of the restricted Hausdorff measure with index s , denoted as $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^s -m(A)$, is the same as that for Hausdorff measure except that the balls for covering are replaced by sets of the form

$$(3) \quad P(t, x; r) = [t, t + r^2] \times [x_1, x_1 + r] \times [x_2, x_2 + r] \times \cdots \times [x_d, x_d + r]$$

where $t \in \mathbb{R}, r \geq 0$ and $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d)$. The restricted Hausdorff dimension of A , denoted as $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(A)$, is defined in terms of the restricted Hausdorff measure in the same way as the Hausdorff dimension is defined in terms of the Hausdorff measure.

We quote a result from Taylor and Watson [8].

Lemma 1. *Let A be a Borel subset of $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and $s > 0$, c be two constants. If μ is a finite positive measure on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfying*

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(A \cap P(t, x; r))}{r^s} \leq c < \infty,$$

for all $(t, x) \in A$, then

$$\mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^s -m(A) \geq \frac{1}{c^{2s}} \mu(A).$$

Proposition 2. *Let E and F be two Borel subsets of \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{R}^d respectively. If $0 < \wedge^k -m(E) < \infty$ and $0 < \wedge^l -m(F) < \infty$ for some $k, l \geq 0$, then $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^{2k+l} -m(E \times F) > 0$.*

Proof. This is trivial in the case $k = l = 0$. We assume that $k + l > 0$. Since $0 < \wedge^k -m(E) < \infty$ and $0 < \wedge^l -m(F) < \infty$, it follows from Lemma 5.4 of Hayman and Kennedy [5] that there exist two measures μ_1 and μ_2 on \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{R}^d respectively satisfying the following two conditions:

- (1) $0 < \mu_1(E) < \infty$ and $0 < \mu_2(F) < \infty$, and
- (2) There exists a constant c such that for all $t \in E, x \in F$ and $0 < r \leq 1$, we have

$$\mu_1(B(t; r)) \leq cr^k$$

and

$$\mu_2(B(x; r)) \leq cr^l,$$

where $B(x; r)$ is the ball centered at x and radius r .

Set $\mu = \mu_1 \times \mu_2$. For every $(t, x) \in E \times F$ and $0 < r \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$, we have, by the condition (2), that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu((E \times F) \cap P(t, x; r)) &\leq \mu_1(E \cap [t, t + r^2])\mu_2(F \cap B(x; r\sqrt{d})) \\ &\leq c^2 \left(\frac{r^2}{2}\right)^k (r\sqrt{d})^l = \frac{c^2 d^{\frac{l}{2}}}{2^k} r^{2k+l}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu((E \times F) \cap P(t, x; r))}{r^{2k+l}} \leq \frac{c^2 d^{\frac{l}{2}}}{2^k} < \infty$$

for all $(t, x) \in E \times F$. It follows from Lemma 1 and condition (1) that

$$\mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^{2k+l}\text{-}m(E \times F) \geq \frac{1}{c^2 d^{\frac{l}{2}} 2^{k+l}} \mu(E \times F) = \frac{1}{c^2 d^{\frac{l}{2}} 2^{k+l}} \mu_1(E)\mu_2(F) > 0. \quad \square$$

Corollary 3. For every Borel sets $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, we have

$$(4) \quad \mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq 2 H\text{-dim}(E) + H\text{-dim}(F).$$

Proof. Let $k = H\text{-dim}(E)$ and $l = H\text{-dim}(F)$. If $k' < k$ and $l' < l$, then $\wedge^{k'}\text{-}(E) = \infty$ and $\wedge^{l'}\text{-}(F) = \infty$. There exist two Borel subsets $E' \subset E, F' \subset F$ satisfying $0 < \wedge^{k'}\text{-}m(E') < \infty$ and $0 < \wedge^{l'}\text{-}m(F') < \infty$. By Proposition 2, we have

$$\mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^{2k'+l'}\text{-}m(E \times F) \geq \mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^{2k'+l'}\text{-}m(E' \times F') > 0.$$

By the definition of the restricted Hausdorff dimension, we get

$$\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq 2k' + l'.$$

Since this holds for every $k' < k$ and $l' < l$, we obtain that $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq 2 H\text{-dim}(E) + H\text{-dim}(F)$. \square

Note that $P(t, x; r) \subset B((t, x); r\sqrt{d+r^2})$ for all $(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $r \geq 0$. It follows from the definitions that $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^s\text{-}m(A) \geq \wedge^s\text{-}m(A)$ for all $s \geq 0$ and all subsets $A \subset \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$. Hence

$$(5) \quad \mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(A) \geq H\text{-dim}(A) \text{ for all } A \subset \mathbb{R}^{d+1}.$$

The following example is a modification of Example 7.8 in Falconer [4], and it shows that the equality in (4) does not hold for general Borel sets E and F .

Example 1. Let $0 = a_0 < a_1 < a_2 < \dots$ be an increasing sequence of integers. Put

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \{r \in [0, 1] \mid r = 0.r_1 r_2 \cdots r_i \cdots, \\ &\quad \text{where } r_i = 0 \text{ whenever } a_{2k} + 1 \leq i \leq a_{2k+1} \text{ for some integer } k\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= \{r \in [0, 1] \mid r = 0.r_1 r_2 \cdots r_i \cdots, \\ &\quad \text{where } r_i = 0 \text{ whenever } a_{2k+1} + 1 \leq i \leq a_{2k+2} \text{ for some integer } k\}. \end{aligned}$$

It was shown in Falconer [2] that if the a_i increase sufficiently rapidly, then $H\text{-dim}(E \times F_1) \geq 1$ and $H\text{-dim}(E) = H\text{-dim}(F_1) = 0$. Set

$$F = \{(x_1, 0, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid x_1 \in F_1\}.$$

The formula for Hausdorff dimension of product sets implies that $H\text{-dim}(F) = H\text{-dim}(F_1) = 0$, and $H\text{-dim}(E \times F) = H\text{-dim}(E \times F_1) \geq 1$. It follows from (5) that

$$\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq 1 > 0 = 2 H\text{-dim}(E) + H\text{-dim}(F).$$

To get a sufficient condition for the equality in (4) to hold, we recall a definition of box dimension for subset F of \mathbb{R}^d . For every $\epsilon > 0$, let $N_\epsilon(F)$ be the number of ϵ -mesh cubes that intersect F . Here an ϵ -mesh cube is one of the form

$$[m_1\epsilon, (m_1 + 1)\epsilon] \times \cdots \times [m_d\epsilon, (m_d + 1)\epsilon]$$

where m_1, \dots, m_d are integers. The lower and upper box dimensions of F are defined as

$$B\text{-dim}_-(F) = \liminf_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N_\epsilon(F)}{-\log \epsilon}$$

and

$$B\text{-dim}_+(F) = \limsup_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N_\epsilon(F)}{-\log \epsilon}.$$

The box dimension of F is given by

$$B\text{-dim}(F) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N_\epsilon(F)}{-\log \epsilon}$$

(if this limit exists). Note that for every $\epsilon > 0$, the $N_\epsilon(F)$ number of ϵ -mesh cubes that intersect with F forms a covering for F . Hence for every $s > 0$, we have

$$\wedge^{s-m_{\epsilon\sqrt{d}}}(F) \leq (\epsilon\sqrt{d})^s N_\epsilon(F).$$

Taking the logarithm and then dividing by $-\log \epsilon$ (we assume that $\epsilon < 1$) on both sides gives

$$s + \frac{s \log d}{2 \log \epsilon} + \frac{\log(\wedge^{s-m_{\epsilon\sqrt{d}}}(F))}{-\log \epsilon} \leq \frac{\log N_\epsilon(F)}{-\log \epsilon}.$$

As $\epsilon \downarrow 0$, we get

$$s + \liminf_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log(\wedge^{s-m_{\epsilon\sqrt{d}}}(F))}{-\log \epsilon} \leq B\text{-dim}_-(F).$$

If $s < H\text{-dim}(F)$, then $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \wedge^{s-m_{\epsilon\sqrt{d}}}(F) = \infty$ and hence $s \leq B\text{-dim}_-(F)$. Since this holds for all $s < H\text{-dim}(F)$, we observe that

$$(6) \quad B\text{-dim}_-(F) \geq H\text{-dim}(F).$$

Although there are many examples in which the above inequality is strict, many reasonably regular sets have the same Hausdorff and box dimension (see Falconer [4] for more details).

Example 2. Let m be a positive integer and $0 < \lambda < \frac{1}{m}$. Put $C_0 = [0, 1]$. For $k \geq 0$, assume C_k consists of m^k closed intervals of lengths λ^k . Then each closed interval I in C_k is replaced by m equally spaced subintervals of length λ^{k+1} , the ends of the I coinciding with the ends of the extreme subintervals. The union of all these subintervals forms the set C_{k+1} . Put

$$C(m, \lambda) = \bigcap_k C_k.$$

Note that $C(2, \frac{1}{3})$ is the middle third Cantor set. Clearly, for every m and $\lambda > 0$, $C(m, \lambda)$ is a set of Lebesgue measure zero. Moreover we have

$$H\text{-dim}(C(m, \lambda)) = B\text{-dim}(C(m, \lambda)) = \frac{\log m}{-\log \lambda}$$

(for a proof, see Falconer [4] Example 4.5)).

Proposition 4. *For any sets $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, we have*

$$(7) \quad \mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \leq 2 H\text{-dim}(E) + B\text{-dim}_-(F).$$

Proof. Let $k = H\text{-dim}(E)$ and $l = B\text{-dim}_-(F)$. Choose $k' > k$ and $l' > l$. By the definition of box dimension, there exists $\epsilon_0 > 0$ such that

$$(8) \quad N_\epsilon(F) \leq \epsilon^{-l'} \quad \text{for all } \epsilon < \epsilon_0.$$

Let E_j be any ϵ -cover of E by intervals with $\sum_j |E_j|^{k'} < 1$. For each j , let F_{jn} be the $\sqrt{|E_j|}$ -mesh cubes that intersect with F . Then $E_j \times F_{jn}$ are sets of the form (3) and

$$\bigcup_j \bigcup_n E_j \times F_{jn}$$

is a covering of $E \times F$ with $\text{diam}(E_j \times F_{jn}) \leq \sqrt{\epsilon(d + \epsilon)}$. Set $\epsilon' = \sqrt{\epsilon + d}$. For $\sqrt{\epsilon} < \epsilon_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}\text{-}\wedge^{2k'+l'}\text{-}m_{\sqrt{\epsilon(d+\epsilon)}}(E \times F) &\leq \sum_j \sum_n [\sqrt{|E_j|(d + |E_j|)}]^{2k'+l'} \\ &\leq (\epsilon')^{2k'+l'} \sum_j |E_j|^{k'+\frac{l'}{2}} |E_j|^{-\frac{l'}{2}} \\ &\leq (\epsilon')^{2k'+l'} \sum_j |E_j|^{k'} < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq 2k' + l'$. Since this holds for all $k' > k$ and $l' > l$, we obtain that $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq 2H\text{-dim}(E) + B\text{-dim}_-(F)$. \square

Combining Corollary 3 and Proposition 4 we get the following main theorem.

Theorem 5. *Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be two Borel sets. If $H\text{-dim}(F) = B\text{-dim}(F)$, then we have*

$$(9) \quad \mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) = 2 H\text{-dim}(E) + H\text{-dim}(F).$$

Remark. Consider the logarithmic Hausdorff dimension instead (for a definition see, e.g., Dynkin [3]) and define the box dimension of F as

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N_\epsilon(F)}{\log(-\log \epsilon)}.$$

Using the same approach as before, we prove that the restricted logarithmic Hausdorff dimension of $E \times F$ is the sum of the logarithmic Hausdorff dimensions of E and of F .

3. APPLICATIONS

Consider an (L, α) -superdiffusion X and assume that $d > \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$. (Note that there is no \mathbb{G} -polar set in the case $d < \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$.) Set $\gamma_0 = d - \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$. Sheu [7] showed that the critical restricted Hausdorff dimension for \mathbb{G} -polarity is γ_0 . (This means that if $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(A) < \gamma_0$, then A is \mathbb{G} -polar; whereas, if $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(A) > \gamma_0$, then it is not \mathbb{G} -polar). In fact γ_0 is also the critical Hausdorff dimension for \mathbb{H} -polarity in \mathbb{R}^d (see, e.g., Dynkin [3] and Sheu [7]). Using these facts and Theorem 5, we obtain the following theorem (which give an answer to Dynkin's problem).

Theorem 6. *Assume that F is a Borel subset of \mathbb{R}^d and satisfies the condition*

$$\gamma = H\text{-dim}(F) = B\text{-dim}(F) < \gamma_0.$$

Let E be a Borel subset of \mathbb{R} . Then

- (1) *If $H\text{-dim}(E) < \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_0 - \gamma)$, then $E \times F$ is a \mathbb{G} -polar set.*
- (2) *If $H\text{-dim}(E) > \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_0 - \gamma)$, then $E \times F$ is not \mathbb{G} -polar.*

Remark. (1) In [8], Taylor and Watson also considered polarity of sets of the form $T \times \{0\}$, $0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $T \subset \mathbb{R}$, for the heat equation. They showed that $T \times \{0\}$ is polar if, and only if $C_{\frac{d}{2}}(T) = 0$, where C_{β} is the Riesz capacity of order β . (See also Kaufman and Wu [6].)

(2) Example 1 shows that there exist Borel sets $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfying $\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) \geq 1$ and $H\text{-dim}(E) = H\text{-dim}(F) = 0$. Clearly $E \times F$ is not \mathbb{G} -polar if $d - \frac{2}{\alpha-1} < 1$. Therefore the condition that $H\text{-dim}(F) = B\text{-dim}(F)$ is crucial.

Example 3. Let $F = \{0\}$ be the origin point of \mathbb{R}^d and $E = C(m, \lambda)$, where m is an integer, $0 < \lambda < \frac{1}{m}$ and $C(m, \lambda)$ is defined as in Example 2. Clearly $H\text{-dim}(F) = B\text{-dim}(F) = 0$. By Theorem 5 and (6), we have

$$\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(C(m, \lambda) \times \{0\}) = 2 H\text{-dim}(C(m, \lambda)) = \frac{2 \log m}{-\log \lambda}.$$

Theorem 6 says that if $m < \lambda^{-\frac{2d}{\alpha-1}}$, then $C(m, \lambda) \times \{0\}$ is \mathbb{G} -polar; whereas, if $m > \lambda^{-\frac{2d}{\alpha-1}}$, then it is not \mathbb{G} -polar.

Example 4. Take $E = C(m_1, \lambda_1)$ and F the d copies of $C(m_2, \lambda_2)$. Here m_1, m_2 are two integers and $0 < \lambda_i < \frac{1}{m_i}$, $i = 1, 2$. By induction and (1.5), (7.8)-(7.9) of Falconer [4], we have

$$H\text{-dim}(F) = B\text{-dim}(F) = \frac{d \log m_2}{-\log \lambda_2}.$$

Theorem 5 implies that

$$(9) \quad \mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) = \frac{2 \log m_1}{-\log \lambda_1} + \frac{d \log m_2}{-\log \lambda_2}.$$

As in Taylor and Watson [8], we assume that

$$\lambda_1 = m_1^{-\frac{1}{a_1}} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_2 = m_2^{-\frac{1}{a_2}}$$

for some $0 < a_1, a_2 < 1$. Then (9) becomes

$$\mathcal{R}\text{-}H\text{-dim}(E \times F) = 2 a_1 + d a_2.$$

(A similar result was also obtained by Taylor and Watson for the case $m_1 = m_2 = 2$.) Under the assumption that $0 < a_2 < 1 - \frac{2}{d(\alpha-1)}$, we restate Theorem 6 as follows: If $0 < a_1 < \frac{1}{2}[d(1-a_2) - \frac{2}{\alpha-1}]$, then $E \times F$ is \mathbb{G} -polar, and if $a_1 > \frac{1}{2}[d(1-a_2) - \frac{2}{\alpha-1}]$, then it is not \mathbb{G} -polar.

Remark. Assume that $d = \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$. Then the critical logarithmic Hausdorff dimension for \mathbb{H} -polarity is $\frac{1}{\alpha-1}$, and it is equal to the critical restricted logarithmic Hausdorff dimension of \mathbb{G} -polarity (see, e.g., Dynkin [3], Sheu [7]). Using these facts and the remark to Theorem 5, we have results similar to Theorem 6.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank the referee and the editor for their useful comments. This research was partially supported by NSC grant 86-2115-M-009-011, Taiwan.

REFERENCES

1. Baras, P. and Pierre, M., *Problems paraboliques semi-linéaires avec données mesures*, *Applicable Analysis* **18** (1984), 111–149. MR **87k**:35116
2. Dynkin, E. B., *Superdiffusions and parabolic nonlinear differential equations*, *Ann. of Probab.* **20** (1990), 942–962. MR **93d**:60124
3. Dynkin, E. B., *Superprocesses and partial differential equations*, *Ann. of Probab.* **21** (1993), 1185–1262. MR **94j**:60156
4. Falconer, K., *Fractal Geometry : Mathematical Foundations and Applications*, John Wiley & Sons Ltd., 1990. MR **92j**:28008
5. Hayman, W. K. and Kennedy, P. B., *Subharmonic Functions*, vol. 1, Academic Press, 1976. MR **57**:665
6. Kaufman, R. and Wu, J. M., *Parabolic potential theory*, *J. Differential Equations* **43** (1982), 204–234. MR **83d**:31006
7. Sheu, Y. C., *A Hausdorff measure classification of G-polar sets for superdiffusions*, *Probab. Theory Relat. Fields* **95** (1993), 521–533. MR **94g**:60072
8. Taylor, S. J. and Watson, N. A., *A Hausdorff measure classification of polar sets for the heat equation*, *Math. Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc.* **97** (1985), 325–344. MR **86m**:35077

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS, NATIONAL CHIAO-TUNG UNIVERSITY, HSINCHU, TAIWAN

Current address: Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, 1000 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, California 94720-5070

E-mail address: ycsheu@nctu.math.edu.tw