

# On special metrics characterizing $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional spaces

Masahiro Matsumoto

## 1 Introduction

In this note, we characterize the class of  $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional metrizable spaces by a special metric. A characterization of locally finite-dimensional metrizable spaces is also obtained.

If every finite open cover of a metrizable space  $X$  has a finite open refinement of order  $\leq n + 1$ , then  $X$  has *covering dimension*  $\leq n$ ,  $\dim X \leq n$ . For  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we let  $S_\varepsilon(x)$  denote the  $\varepsilon$ -ball  $\{y \in X \mid \rho(x, y) < \varepsilon\}$  about  $x$ .

In [5], [6] and [7], J. Nagata gave a characterization of metrizable spaces of  $\dim \leq n$  by a special metric.

**Theorem 1.1** (J. Nagata [5], [6], [7]) *The following conditions are equivalent for a metrizable space  $X$ :*

- (1)  $\dim X \leq n$ .
- (2) *There is an admissible metric  $\rho$  satisfying the following condition: for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , every point  $x$  of  $X$  and every  $n + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n+2}$  of  $X$  with  $\rho(S_{\varepsilon/2}(x), y_i) < \varepsilon$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n + 2$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) < \varepsilon$ .*
- (3) *There is an admissible metric  $\rho$  satisfying the following condition: for every point  $x$  of  $X$  and every  $n + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n+2}$  of  $X$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x, y_j)$ .*

For the case of the separable metrizable spaces, J. de Groot [2] gave the following characterization.

**Theorem 1.2** (J. de Groot [2]) *A separable metrizable space  $X$  has  $\dim X \leq n$  if and only if  $X$  can introduce an admissible totally bounded metric satisfying the following condition:*

*For every point  $x$  of  $X$  and every  $n + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n+2}$  of  $X$ , there are natural numbers  $i, j$  and  $k$  such that  $i \neq j$  and  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x, y_k)$ .*

Let  $\mathbb{N}$  denote the set of all natural numbers. A metrizable space  $X$  is the countable sum of finite-dimensional closed sets, we call  $X$  a *strongly countable-dimensional*.

In [8], J. Nagata extended Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 to strongly countable-dimensional metrizable spaces.

**Theorem 1.3** (J. Nagata [8]) *The following conditions are equivalent for a metrizable space  $X$ :*

- (1)  *$X$  is strongly countable-dimensional.*
- (2) *There is an admissible metric  $\rho$  satisfying the following condition: for every point  $x$  of  $X$ , there is an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x, y_j)$ .*
- (3) *There is an admissible metric  $\rho$  satisfying the following condition: for every point  $x$  of  $X$ , there is an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are natural numbers  $i, j$  and  $k$  such that  $i \neq j$  and  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x, y_k)$ .*

In [3], Y. Hattori characterized the class of strongly countable-dimensional spaces by extending the condition (2) of Theorem 1.1.

**Theorem 1.4** (Y. Hattori [3]) *A metrizable space  $X$  is strongly countable-dimensional if and only if  $X$  can introduce an admissible metric  $\rho$  satisfying the following condition:*

*For every point  $x$  of  $X$ , there is an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and every  $n + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$  with  $\rho(S_{\varepsilon/2}(x), y_i) < \varepsilon$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n(x) + 2$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) < \varepsilon$ .*

## 2 A characterization of $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional spaces

In this section, we characterize the class of  $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional metrizable spaces by a special metric. A characterization of locally finite-dimensional metrizable spaces is also obtained. Theorem 2.4 and Theorem 2.5 are main theorems.

**Definition 2.1** A metrizable space  $X$  is *locally finite-dimensional* if for every point  $x \in X$  there exists an open subspace  $U$  of  $X$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $\dim U < \infty$ .

The first infinite ordinal number is denoted by  $\omega$  and  $\omega_1$  is the first uncountable ordinal number.

**Definition 2.2** A metrizable space  $X$  is called an  $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional space if  $X = \bigcup \{P_\xi \mid 0 \leq \xi < \xi_0\}$ ,  $\xi_0 < \omega_1$ , where  $P_\xi$  is an open subset of  $X - \bigcup \{P_\eta \mid 0 \leq \eta < \xi\}$  and  $\dim P_\xi < \infty$ .

For a metrizable space  $X$  and a non-negative integer  $n$ , we put

$$P_n(X) = \bigcup \{U \mid U \text{ is an open subspace of } X \text{ and } \dim U \leq n\}.$$

We notice that for each ordinal number  $\alpha$ , we can put  $\alpha = \lambda(\alpha) + n(\alpha)$ , where  $\lambda(\alpha)$  is a limit ordinal number or 0 and  $n(\alpha)$  is a non-negative integer.

**Definition 2.3** Let  $X$  be a metrizable space and  $\alpha$  either an ordinal number  $\geq 0$  or the integer  $-1$ . Then *strong small transfinite dimension*  $\text{ssind}$  of  $X$  is defined as follows:

(1)  $\text{ssind } X = -1$  if and only if  $X = \emptyset$ .

(2)  $\text{ssind } X \leq \alpha$  if  $X$  is expressed in the form  $X = \bigcup \{P_\xi \mid \xi < \alpha\}$ , where  $P_\xi = P_{n(\xi)}(X - \bigcup \{P_\eta \mid \eta < \lambda(\xi)\})$ .

Furthermore, if  $\text{ssind } X$  is defined, we say that  $X$  has *strong small transfinite dimension*.

Clearly, a metrizable space  $X$  is locally finite-dimensional if and only if  $\text{ssind } X \leq \omega$  (R. Engelking [1]). And  $X$  is  $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional if and only if there is a  $\xi_0 < \omega_1$  such that  $\text{ssind } X \leq \xi_0$ .

Theorem 2.4 is one of main theorems. Thus we characterize the class of  $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional metrizable spaces by a special metric.

**Theorem 2.4** *The following conditions are equivalent for a metrizable space  $X$ :*

(a)  $X$  is an  $\omega_1$ -strongly countable-dimensional space.

(b) There are an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$ , an ordinal number  $\alpha < \omega_1$  and a family  $\{X_\beta \mid 0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$  of closed sets of  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: (b-1)  $X_0 = X$ ,  $X_\beta \supset X_{\beta'}$  for  $\beta \leq \beta' \leq \alpha$  and  $X_\beta = \bigcap \{X_{\beta'} \mid \beta' < \beta\}$  if  $\beta$  is a limit. (b-2) For every point  $x$  of  $X$  there are an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X_{\beta(x)}$ , where  $\beta(x) = \max\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta\}$ , and an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$  with  $\rho(S_{\varepsilon/2}(x'), y_i) < \varepsilon$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n(x) + 2$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) < \varepsilon$ .

(c) There are an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$ , an ordinal number  $\alpha < \omega_1$  and a family  $\{X_\beta \mid 0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$  of closed sets of  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: (c-1)  $X_0 = X$ ,  $X_\beta \supset X_{\beta'}$  for  $\beta \leq \beta' \leq \alpha$  and  $X_\beta = \bigcap \{X_{\beta'} \mid \beta' < \beta\}$  if  $\beta$  is a limit. (c-2) For every point  $x$  of  $X$  there are an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X_{\beta(x)}$ , where  $\beta(x) = \max\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta\}$ , and an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x', y_j)$ .

(d) There are an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$ , an ordinal number  $\alpha < \omega_1$  and a family  $\{X_\beta \mid 0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$  of closed sets of  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: (d-1)  $X_0 = X$ ,  $X_\beta \supset X_{\beta'}$  for  $\beta \leq \beta' \leq \alpha$  and  $X_\beta = \bigcap \{X_{\beta'} \mid \beta' < \beta\}$  if  $\beta$  is a limit. (d-2)

For every point  $x$  of  $X$  there are an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X_{\beta(x)}$ , where  $\beta(x) = \max\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta\}$ , and an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are natural numbers  $i, j$  and  $k$  such that  $i \neq j$  and  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x', y_k)$ .

Also Theorem 2.5 is one of main theorems. We characterize the class of locally finite-dimensional metrizable spaces by a special metric.

**Theorem 2.5** *The following conditions are equivalent for a metrizable space  $X$ :*

- (a)  $X$  is a locally finite-dimensional space.
- (b) There is an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: For every point  $x$  of  $X$ , there are an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  and an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X$  such that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$  with  $\rho(S_{\varepsilon/2}(x'), y_i) < \varepsilon$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n(x) + 2$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) < \varepsilon$ .
- (c) There is an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: For every point  $x$  of  $X$ , there are an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  and an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X$  such that for every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x', y_j)$ .
- (d) There is an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: For every point  $x$  of  $X$ , there are an  $n(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  and an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X$  such that for every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are natural numbers  $i, j$  and  $k$  such that  $i \neq j$  and  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x', y_k)$ .

To obtain those theorems, we need the following lemmas and theorems. Essentially, the following lemma is the same as [3; Lemma 1.5]. By a minor modification in the proof of [3; Lemma 1.5], we obtain the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.6** ([3; Lemma 2.5], [8; Lemma 1]) *Let  $n$  be a non-negative integer and let  $\{F_m \mid m = 0, 1, \dots\}$  be a closed cover of a metrizable space  $X$  such that  $\dim F_m \leq (n-1) + m$ ,  $F_m \subset F_{m+1}$  for  $m = 0, 1, \dots$ . Then for every open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$ , there are a sequence  $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \dots$  of discrete families of open sets of  $X$  and an open cover  $\mathcal{W}$  of  $X$  which satisfy the following conditions:*

- (1)  $\bigcup\{\mathcal{V}_k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a cover of  $X$ .
- (2)  $\bigcup\{\mathcal{V}_k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  refines  $\mathcal{U}$ .
- (3) If  $W \in \mathcal{W}$  satisfies  $W \cap F_m \neq \emptyset$ , then  $W$  meets at most one member of  $\mathcal{V}_k$  for  $k \leq (n+0) + (n+1) + \dots + (n+m)$  and meets no member of  $\mathcal{V}_k$  for  $k > (n+0) + (n+1) + \dots + (n+m)$ .

Let  $Q^*$  denote the set of all rational numbers of the form  $2^{-m_1} + \dots + 2^{-m_t}$ , where  $m_1, \dots, m_t$  are natural numbers satisfying  $1 \leq m_1 < \dots < m_t$ .

Essentially, the following lemma is the same as [3; Lemma 1.6]. By a minor modification in the proof of [3; Lemma 1.6], we obtain the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.7** ([3; Lemma 2.6], [8; Lemma 3]) *Let  $n$  be a non-negative integer and let  $\{F_m \mid m = 0, 1, \dots\}$  be a closed cover of a metrizable space  $X$  such that  $\dim F_m \leq (n-1) + m$ ,  $F_m \subset F_{m+1}$  for  $m = 0, 1, \dots$ . Then for every  $q \in Q^*$ , there is an open cover  $\mathcal{S}(q)$  which satisfies the following conditions:*

- (1)  $\mathcal{S}(q) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{S}^i(q)$ , where each  $\mathcal{S}^i(q)$  is discrete in  $X$ .
- (2)  $\{St(x, \mathcal{S}(q)) \mid q \in Q^*\}$  is a neighborhood base at  $x \in X$ .
- (3) Let  $p, q \in Q^*$  and  $p < q$ . Then  $\mathcal{S}(p)$  refines  $\mathcal{S}(q)$ .
- (4) Let  $p, q \in Q^*$  and  $p < q$ . If  $S_1 \in \mathcal{S}^i(p)$  and  $S_2 \in \mathcal{S}^i(q)$ , then  $S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset$  or  $S_1 \subset S_2$ .
- (5) Let  $p, q \in Q^*$  and  $p + q < 1$ . Let  $S_1 \in \mathcal{S}(p)$ ,  $S_2 \in \mathcal{S}(q)$  and  $S_1 \cap S_2 \neq \emptyset$ . Then there is an  $S_3 \in \mathcal{S}(p+q)$  such that  $S_1 \cup S_2 \subset S_3$ .
- (6) For every  $q \in Q^*$  and every  $S \in \bigcup \{\mathcal{S}^i(q) \mid i > (n+0) + (n+1) + \dots + (n+m)\}$ ,  $S \cap F_m = \emptyset$ .

By Lemma 2.6 and Lemma 2.7, we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.8** *Let  $\alpha$  be an ordinal number with  $\alpha < \omega_1$  and let  $n$  be a non-negative integer. The following conditions are equivalent for a metrizable space  $X$ :*

- (a)  $\text{sind } X \leq \omega\alpha + n$ .
- (b) There are an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$  and a family  $\{X_\beta \mid 0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$  of closed sets of  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: (b-1)  $X_0 = X$ ,  $X_\beta \supset X_{\beta'}$  for  $\beta \leq \beta' \leq \alpha$ ,  $X_\beta = \bigcap \{X_{\beta'} \mid \beta' < \beta\}$  if  $\beta$  is a limit, and  $X_\alpha = \emptyset$  if  $n = 0$ . (b-2) For every point  $x$  of  $X$  there are an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X_{\beta(x)}$ , where  $\beta(x) = \max\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta\}$ , and an  $n(x) \in N_{\beta(x)}$  such that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$  with  $\rho(S_{\varepsilon/2}(x'), y_i) < \varepsilon$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n(x) + 2$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) < \varepsilon$ , where

$$N_{\beta(x)} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{N}, & \text{if } \beta(x) < \alpha, \\ \{n-1\}, & \text{if } \beta(x) = \alpha. \end{cases}$$

- (c) There are an admissible metric  $\rho$  for  $X$  and a family  $\{X_\beta \mid 0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$  of closed sets of  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: (c-1)  $X_0 = X$ ,  $X_\beta \supset X_{\beta'}$  for  $\beta \leq \beta' \leq \alpha$ ,  $X_\beta = \bigcap \{X_{\beta'} \mid \beta' < \beta\}$  if  $\beta$  is a limit, and  $X_\alpha = \emptyset$  if  $n = 0$ . (c-2) For every point  $x$  of  $X$  there are an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X_{\beta(x)}$ , where  $\beta(x) = \max\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta\}$ , and an  $n(x) \in N_{\beta(x)}$  such that for every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x) + 2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are distinct natural numbers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x', y_j)$ , where

$$N_{\beta(x)} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{N}, & \text{if } \beta(x) < \alpha, \\ \{n-1\}, & \text{if } \beta(x) = \alpha. \end{cases}$$

**Remark 2.9** Let  $\{X_\beta \mid 0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$  be a family of closed sets of  $X$  satisfying the condition (b-1). Then we shall show that for every point  $x$  of  $X$ , there is a maximum element  $\beta(x)$  of  $\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta\}$ . Indeed, if  $x \in X_{\lambda(\alpha)}$ , then  $\beta(x) = \max\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta, \lambda(\alpha) \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$ . Now, we suppose that  $x \in X_{\lambda(\alpha)}$ , there is a minimum element  $\beta_0 > 0$  of  $\{\beta \mid x \notin X_\beta\}$ . Assume that  $\beta_0$  is limit. By the condition (b-1),  $x \in \bigcap\{X_\beta \mid \beta < \beta_0\} = X_{\beta_0}$ . This contradicts the definition of  $\beta_0$ . Therefore  $\beta_0$  is not limit and hence  $\beta(x) = \beta_0 - 1$ .

By Theorems 1.2 and 2.8, we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.10** *Let  $\alpha$  be an ordinal number with  $\alpha < \omega_1$  and let  $n$  be a non-negative integer. The following conditions are equivalent for a compact metrizable space  $X$ :*

(a)  $\text{ind} X \leq \omega\alpha + n$ .

(d) *There are an admissible totally bounded metric  $\rho$  for  $X$  and a family  $\{X_\beta \mid 0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha\}$  of closed sets of  $X$  satisfying the following conditions: (d-1)  $X_0 = X$ ,  $X_\beta \supset X_{\beta'}$  for  $\beta \leq \beta' \leq \alpha$ ,  $X_\beta = \bigcap\{X_{\beta'} \mid \beta' < \beta\}$  if  $\beta$  is a limit, and  $X_\alpha = \emptyset$  if  $n = 0$ . (d-2) For every point  $x$  of  $X$  there are an open neighborhood  $U(x)$  of  $x$  in  $X_{\beta(x)}$ , where  $\beta(x) = \max\{\beta \mid x \in X_\beta\}$ , and an  $n(x) \in N_{\beta(x)}$  such that for every point  $x'$  of  $U(x)$  and every  $n(x)+2$  many points  $y_1, \dots, y_{n(x)+2}$  of  $X$ , there are natural numbers  $i, j$  and  $k$  such that  $i \neq j$  and  $\rho(y_i, y_j) \leq \rho(x', y_k)$ , where*

$$N_{\beta(x)} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{N}, & \text{if } \beta(x) < \alpha, \\ \{n-1\}, & \text{if } \beta(x) = \alpha. \end{cases}$$

By Theorems 2.8 and 2.10, we obtain the Main Theorem 2.4 and Theorem 2.5.

## References

- [1] R. Engelking, *Theory of Dimensions Finite and Infinite*, Heldermann Verlag (1995).
- [2] J. de Groot, *On a metric that characterizes dimension*, Canad. J. Math. 9 (1957), 511-514.
- [3] Y. Hattori, *On special metrics characterizing topological properties*, Fund. Math. 126 (1986), 133-145.
- [4] M. Katětov, *On the relations between the metric and topological dimensions*, Czech. Math. J. 8 (1958) 163-166.
- [5] J. Nagata, *On a relation between dimension and metrization*, Proc. Jap. Ac. 32 (1956), 237-240.

- [6] J. Nagata, *On a special metric characterizing a metric space of  $\dim \leq n$* , Proc. Japan Acad. 39 (1963), 278-282.
- [7] J. Nagata, *On a special metric and dimension*, Fund. Math. 55 (1964), 181-194.
- [8] J. Nagata, *Topics in dimension theory*, General Topology and its Relations to Modern Analysis and Algebra (Proc. Fifth Prague Topology Symposium 1981), Heldermann Verlag, Berlin (1982), 497-507.
- [9] J. Nagata, *Modern Dimension Theory, revised and extended edn.*, Heldermann, Berlin, 1983.
- [10] J. Nagata, *Open problems left in my wake of research*, Topology and its Appl. 146-147 (2005), 5-13.
- [11] Z. Shmueli, *On strongly countable-dimensional sets*, Duke Math. J. 38 (1971), 169-173.

Masahiro Matsumoto  
Institute of Mathematics  
University of Tsukuba  
Ibaraki, 305-8571 Japan  
e-mail: masahiro@math.tsukuba.ac.jp