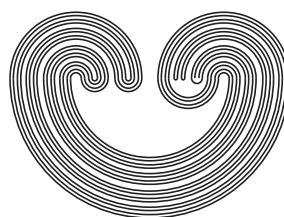


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HEREDITARILY INDECOMPOSABLE SUBCONTINUA OF THE PRODUCT OF TWO HAUSDORFF ARCS ARE METRIC

by

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**HEREDITARILY INDECOMPOSABLE SUBCONTINUA
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TWO HAUSDORFF ARCS ARE METRIC**

MICHEL SMITH

ABSTRACT. We show that if each of A and B is a Hausdorff arc, then every hereditarily indecomposable subcontinuum of $A \times B$ is a planar metric continuum.

1. INTRODUCTION

The author is interested in a generalization of Bing's result to non-metric spaces concerning the existence of hereditarily indecomposable continua in higher dimensional continua [1]. He showed that there exist non-metric continua arbitrary products of which do not contain non-degenerate hereditarily indecomposable continua. On the other hand in the case of a disc $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ there are lots of hereditarily indecomposable continua contained therein. In [8] and [9] the author showed that for a Hausdorff arc X that any hereditarily indecomposable subcontinua of $X \times X$ must be metric in the case where X is a long line type of arc and the case where X is a Souslin line respectively. Furthermore this results for the lexicographic arc follows from the stronger result of Greiwe, Smith and Stone [4]. Thus it appears that in certain non-metric spaces adding the condition of hereditary indecomposability on subcontinua of the space yields metric continua. In general one would think that the condition of hereditary indecomposability would have nothing to do with metrizable, but indeed it does as these results show.

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