

Epsilon-Regularity for Non-Collapsed Limit Flows

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Outline

- 1 Overview of the Ricci Flow
- 2 Metric Flows and ϵ -Convergence
- 3 Statement of Results

Overview of the Ricci Flow

Definition (Ricci flow)

Let M^n be a closed manifold and $g(t)$ be a smooth 1-parameter family of Riemannian metrics. We say that $g(t)$ evolves by the **Ricci flow** if

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} g_{ij} = -2Rc_{ij}.$$

- 1 **Harmonic coordinates:** $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} g_{ij} = \Delta(g_{ij}) + \text{lower order terms}$
- 2 **Idea:** “Improve” the metric using Ricci flow. Better geometry, easier to understand topology.
- 3 **Notable Results:** $n = 2$ (Hamilton, Chow, Chen, Lu), $n = 3$ (Hamilton, Perelman), general n (Perelman, Wilking).

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Overview of the Ricci Flow

- 1 (Evolution of curvature): $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} Rm = \Delta Rm + Rm * Rm$
- 2 Expect the formation of singularities ($\lim_{t \nearrow T} \sup_M |Rm| = \infty$)

Singularity analysis

Take $\lambda_i \rightarrow \infty$, and (x_i, t_i) with $t_i \rightarrow T$ and $|Rm(x_i, t_i)| \nearrow \infty$.
blowup sequence:

$$(M^n, \lambda_i^2 g(t_i + \lambda_i^{-2} s)_{s \in [-t_i \lambda_i^2, 0]}, x_i).$$

Goal: analyze possible limits and continue the flow past singularities using surgery constructions.

- 1 $n = 2, 3$ are well understood (*Hamilton, Chow, Perelman*)
- 2 $n = 4$ largely open.

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Definition (Gradient Shrinking Ricci Soliton)

Let (M, g) be a Riemannian manifold and $f \in C^\infty(M)$. (M, g, f) is a **gradient shrinking Ricci soliton** (GSRS) if

$$Rc + \nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{2}g.$$

- 1 Any GSRS gives rise to a self-similar solution to the Ricci flow: $g(t) = (1 - t)\varphi^*(t)g$ where $\varphi^*(t)$ is the flow generated by $-\nabla f$.
- 2 GSRS model “most” singularities of the Ricci flow.
- 3 Examples:
 - 4 Ricci flat cones over S^n ($f = \frac{1}{2}r^2$),
 - 5 Gaussian shrinker: $(\mathbb{R}^n, g_{\mathbb{R}^n}, \frac{1}{2}|x|^2)$,
 - 6 Einstein manifolds ($f \equiv c$), e.g. S^n ,
 - 7 Products e.g. cylinders $S^n \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$.

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Overview of the Ricci Flow

The Picture in Dimension 4 (Tamayer 2021)

- 1 **First bubble:** Every type-(1) $(\lambda_i \approx (T - t_i)^{-1})$ blow-up of a 4-dimensional Ricci flow converges to a gradient shrinking soliton with finitely many orbifold singularities.
- 2 **Deeper bubbles:** singularities are “mostly modelled” by
 - 1 generalized cylinders $S^k \times \mathbb{R}^{4-k}$,
 - 2 cones over some smooth link S^3/Γ ,

Corollary of Epsilon-Regularity (F.-Hallgren 2024)

If $(M^4, g(t))$ is a solution to the Kähler Ricci flow, then each orbifold point contributes a definite amount of L^2 -curvature.

Hence if $(M^4, g(t))$ satisfies a finite energy assumption, the total curvature is finite.

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The Case of Ricci Bounded from Below

Epsilon-Regularity for Ricci Limit Spaces (Cheeger, Colding, 2002)

- 1 If (M_i^4, g_i) satisfies $|Rc_i| \leq 3$, $\text{Vol}(B_1(p_i)) \geq \nu$. Then $(M_i, g_i, p_i) \xrightarrow{GH} (X, d, p^*)$.
- 2 (X, d, p^*) has singularities that are modeled on Ricci $(C(\mathbb{S}^3/\Gamma), x^*)$.
- 3 If $d_{GH}(B_1(p), B_1(x^*)) < \epsilon_i$, then there exists $r_i^2 : B_1$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta r_i^2 = 8, \\ |r_i^2 - \pi_r| < \epsilon'_i, \\ \int_{B_1(p)} (|\nabla r_i^2| - 2r_i)^2 + |\nabla^2 r_i^2 - 2g|^2 + |Rc(\nabla r_i^2, \nabla r_i^2)| \\ \sup |\nabla r_i^2| \leq c(n). \end{cases}$$

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Conjugate Heat Kernel Measures

Setup: $(M, g(t)_{t \in (-T, 0]})$ a closed RF, $(x_0, t_0) \in M \times (T, \infty)$

Definition (Conjugate Heat Kernels)

The **conjugate heat operator** is defined as

$$\square^* = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \Delta + R.$$

If $K(x_0, t_0, y, s)$ is a **conjugate heat kernel**, that is:

$$\begin{aligned} \square_{y,s}^* K(x_0, t_0, y, s) &= 0, \\ \lim_{s \nearrow t_0} K(x_0, t_0, y, s) &= \delta_{x_0}. \end{aligned}$$

Then the family $d\nu_{x_0, t_0; s} = K(x_0, t_0, \cdot, s) dg_s$ are probability measures known as the **conjugate heat kernel measures** based at (x_0, t_0) .

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Metric Flows and γ -Convergence

Definition (Metric Flow)

metric flow \mathcal{X} is a 1-parameter family of complete separable metric spaces (\mathcal{X}_t, d_t) together with probability measures $d\nu_{x;s}$, $x \in \mathcal{X}_t$, $s \geq t$, that satisfy the following:

- 1 For every $x \in \mathcal{X}_t$, $\lim_{s \nearrow t} d\nu_{x;s} = \delta_x$,
- 2 Lipschitz estimates improve for “heat flows” $u_t(y) = \int \delta_y d\nu_{x;t}$,
- 3 The measures are compatible: $d\nu_{x;t_1} = \int_{\mathcal{X}_{t_2}} d\nu_{y;t_1} d\nu_{x;t_2}$.

- 1 Properties (1) – (3) characterize conjugate heat kernels in the Ricci flow background.
- 2 Ricci flows $(M, g(t))_{t \in (-T, 0]}$, together with the conjugate heat kernels $d\nu_{x_0, t_0; s}$, are metric flows.

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Metric Flows and \mathcal{F} -Convergence

Theorem (Colding 2020)

The space \mathcal{M}_I of metric flow pairs over I can be equipped with a function d such that (\mathcal{M}_I, d) is a complete metric space.

If $(M^i, g_i(t)_{t \in (-T, 0]}, d\nu_{(x^i, 0); s})$ is a sequence of closed Riemannian metric flow pairs $(\mathcal{X}^\infty, d\nu_{\mathcal{X}^\infty; s})$ such that

$$(M^i, g_i(t)_{t \in (-T, 0]}, d\nu_{(x^i, 0); s}) \xrightarrow{d} (\mathcal{X}^\infty, d\nu_{\mathcal{X}^\infty; s})$$

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Limits that are Ricci Flat Cones

Definition (Integral Almost Properties)

Let $(M, g(t))_{t \in (-T, 0]}$ be a RF, $(x_0, t_0) \in M \times (-T, 0]$. Let $r > 0$ be such that $[t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2] \subset (-T, 0]$. Let $d\nu_{x_0, t_0; s} = (4\pi\tau)^{-n/2} e^{-f} dg_s$ and $W = \mathcal{N}_{x_0, t_0}(r^2)$. We say (\cdot, r) -selfsimilar if:

$$\begin{cases} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \int_M \tau |\nabla^2 f + Rc - \frac{1}{2\tau} g|^2 d\nu_t dt < \infty, \\ \sup_{[t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} \int_M |\tau(2\Delta f - |\nabla f|^2 + R) + f - n| d\nu_t < \infty, \\ \inf_{M \times [t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} R \geq -r^{-2}, \end{cases}$$

and (\cdot, r) -static if:

$$\begin{cases} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \int_M r^2 |Rc|^2 d\nu_t dt < \infty, \\ \sup_{[t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} \int_M R < \infty, \\ \inf_{M \times [t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} R \geq -r^{-2}. \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{cases} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \int_M \tau |\nabla^2 f + Rc - \frac{1}{2\tau} g|^2 d\nu_t dt < \infty, \\ \sup_{[t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} \int_M |\tau(2\Delta f - |\nabla f|^2 + R) + f - n| d\nu_t dt < \infty, \\ \inf_{M \times [t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} R \geq -r^{-2}, \end{cases}$$

and (\cdot, r) -static if:

$$\begin{cases} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \int_M r^2 |Rc|^2 d\nu_t dt < \infty, \\ \sup_{[t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} \int_M R d\nu_t dt < \infty, \\ \inf_{M \times [t_0 - r^2, t_0 - r^2]} R \geq -r^{-2}. \end{cases}$$

Limits that are Ricci Flat Cones

Proposition (Bamler 2021)

Let $(M_i^n, g_i(t), d\nu_{x^i, 0; s})$ be a sequence of closed RFs, (x^i, r) -selfsimilar and (x^i, r) -static for $r \rightarrow 0$, $W_i = \mathcal{N}_{x^i, 0; s}$

$$(M_i, g_i(t), d\nu_{x^i, 0; s}) \xrightarrow{d} (C(\mathbb{S}^n / \mathbb{Z}_2), d\nu_{x^*, 0; s})$$

where $C(\mathbb{S}^n / \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is a Ricci flat cone with link $\mathbb{S}^n / \mathbb{Z}_2$ and vertex x^* .

Moreover, if $d\nu_{x^i, 0; s} = (4\pi\tau)^{-n/2} e^{-f_i} dg_t$, then there is a sequence of embeddings $\varphi_i : V_i \subset C(\mathbb{S}^n / \mathbb{Z}_2) \setminus \{x^*\} \rightarrow M_i$ such that

$$4\tau(f_i \circ \varphi_i|_{W_i}) \rightarrow d^2(x^*, \cdot)$$

locally smoothly on $C(\mathbb{S}^n / \mathbb{Z}_2) \setminus \{x^*\}$.

Statement of Results

Theorem (F.- Hallgren 2024)

Let $Y, \sigma > 0$. Then there exists $\bar{\epsilon} = \bar{\epsilon}(\sigma, Y)$ such that the statement holds for all $\epsilon \leq \bar{\epsilon}$. Let $(M^4, g(t))_{t \in (-\tau, 0]}$ be a Kähler-Ricci soliton and (x_0, t_0) be a point that is both (ϵ, r) -selfsimilar and (ϵ, r) -selfsimilar at some scale $r > 0$. Suppose that $\mathcal{N}_{x_0, t_0}(r^2) \geq Y$, and that

$$\int_{2r^2}^{r^2} \int_{(P^*)_t(x_0, t_0; \epsilon^{-1}r)} r^{2-n} |Rm|^2 dg_t dt < \sigma$$

Then one of the following holds:

- 1 The curvature scale satisfies $r_{Rm} \geq \epsilon r$.
- 2 We have $d((M, g(t), d\nu_{x_0, t_0; s}), C(L_{p,q})) < r\sigma$ where $q^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ is an exceptional Lens space.

Remark: (2) does not occur in the Kähler setting.

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Idea of Proof

Slicing argument (*Cheeger, Colding, Tian 2002*)

1. Argue by contradiction: $\exists \sigma, Y > 0$, $(M^i, g_i, d\nu_{x_i,0})$ conditions of the proposition for $\epsilon_i \rightarrow 0$ s.t. conclusion
2. Pass to a limit: Static cone $(C(\mathbb{S}^3/\Gamma), d\nu_{x^*;s})$, sufficient $\mathbb{S}^3/\Gamma \cong L(p, q)$,
3. Slice: Consider level sets of approximate distance function

$$\tilde{q}_i := 4\tau(f_i \circ \varphi_i + W_i) \xrightarrow{C_{loc}^\infty(\mathcal{R})} d^2(x^*, \cdot)$$
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4. Idea: Small L^2 -curvature will contradict some property of Chern-Simons invariant associated to the first Pontryagin

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Idea of Proof

Definition (Secondary Invariant associated to π_1)

Let $\pi : E \rightarrow M^3$ be a vector bundle with connection 1-form ω and curvature 2-form Ω . Define:

$$\hat{p}_1(E) := \int_M \text{Tr} \left(d\omega \wedge \omega + \frac{2}{3} \Omega \wedge \omega \wedge \omega \right) \pmod{2\pi^2}$$

1. **Boundary formula:** If $M^3 = \partial N^4$ then:

$$\hat{p}_1(TN|_M) = \int_N p_1(N) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_N \text{Tr}(\Omega \wedge \Omega)$$

2. $\hat{p}_1(T(\mathbb{S}^3/\Gamma)) = 0 \iff \mathbb{S}^3/\Gamma \cong L(p, q), q^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$

3. If M^4 is Kähler, we instead use a similar invariant associated to π_2 .

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Assumption: $\varphi_i^*(\tilde{\Sigma}_{i,r}) = \partial S_{i,r}$ for some $S_{i,r} \subset P^*(x_0, t_0; \epsilon_i^{-1}r)$.
Since

$$\int_{\partial S_{i,r}} r^2 \int_{(P^*)_t(x_0, t_0; \epsilon_i^{-1}r)} r^{2-n} |Rm|^2 dg_t dt < \epsilon_i^{-1}r,$$

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 - 1 The approximate distance functions r_i^2 are constructed by solving elliptic equations on a ball.
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Lemma (F.- Hallgren 2024)

Let $\epsilon, Y > 0$. There exists $\delta(Y), \Lambda(Y), \delta(Y, \epsilon) > 0$ such that the following holds: If $(M^4, g(t)_{t \in (-\tau, 0]})$ is a closed RF, (x_0, t_0) is a point in M , and (δ, r) -selfsimilar, $\mathcal{N}_{x_0, t_0}(\delta r^2) \geq Y$. Then there is a connected component Σ of $q^{-1}(\delta)$ such that:

- 1 Σ is ϵ -close in the C_{loc}^∞ -topology to \mathbb{S}^3/Γ .
- 2 Σ separates M into two connected components M' and M'' .
- 3 $\partial M' = \Sigma$ and $M' \subset P^*(x_0, t_0; \Lambda r)$.

Justifying the assumption

Lemma (Gaussian Isoperimetric Inequality)

Set $\Phi(x) := \int_{-\infty}^x (4\pi)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-x^2/2} dx$ and $\eta = \Phi' \circ \Phi^{-1}$. Then for any set A with smooth boundary, we have

$$\eta(\nu_{x,0;t}(A)) \leq \sqrt{t} \int_{\partial A} K(x, 0; \cdot, t) d\mathcal{H}^n$$

Applying to the annulus $\mathcal{A} := \varphi(B(x^*, \epsilon^{-1}) \setminus \overline{B(x^*, \epsilon)})$

$$\nu_{x,0;t}(\mathcal{A}) \approx \frac{1}{0}$$

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Thank You for listening