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**Mohamed Noah Abdel Wahab**

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**Supervisor:**

Prof. Dr. Marco Cicalese

**Advisor:**

Dr. Fumihiko Onoue

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I hereby declare that this thesis is entirely the result of my own work except where otherwise indicated. I have only used the resources given in the list of references.



# Abstract

## TODO (GENERAL STUFF).

1. Clean up Bibliography
2. Reduce number of tagged equations
3. Remove space between  $\partial A$ ?
4. Complete List of symbols
5. Edit colors to fit TUMColors
6. Edit figures to smaller and increase font
- 7.

## Abstract

Nonlocal minimal surfaces confined within a cylinder exhibit unique behaviors dependent on external data. This thesis delves into these surfaces, which incorporate long-range spatial interactions compared to classical minimal surfaces. We consider two variations of the model discussed in [4], a minimal surfaces confined within a cylinder.

We investigate two scenarios: varying the height and width of data outside a separating slab. The results show that when the slab is wide, the minimal surface becomes disconnected from the data, while a narrow slab allows connection. This allows us to predict the behavior of similar models with symmetrically placed data. Additionally, the research reveals that for sufficiently narrow slabs, the surface “sticks” to the cylinder.

Finally, we present an example where the minimizer is completely disconnected from the external data, a phenomenon unique to nonlocal minimal surfaces. This work provides valuable insights into the behavior of these emerging mathematical objects and their interaction with external data.

## Zusammenfassung

In Zylindern eingeschlossene nichtlokale Minimalflächen zeigen ein einzigartiges Verhalten, das von externen Daten abhängt. Diese Arbeit befasst sich mit diesen Flächen, die im Vergleich zu klassischen Minimalflächen weitreichende räumliche Wechselwirkungen berücksichtigen. Wir betrachten zwei Varianten des in [4] diskutierten Modells, einer in einem Zylinder eingeschlossenen Minimalfläche.

Dabei untersuchen wir zwei Szenarien: die Variation der Höhe und der Breite von Daten außerhalb einer trennenden Platte. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass die Minimalfläche bei breiter Platte von den Daten getrennt wird, während eine schmale Platte eine Verbindung ermöglicht. Dies erlaubt uns, das Verhalten ähnlicher Modelle mit symmetrisch angeordneten Daten vorherzusagen. Darüber hinaus zeigt die Forschung, dass die Fläche bei ausreichend schmalen Platten am Zylinder “haftet”.

Schließlich präsentieren wir ein Beispiel, bei dem der Minimierer vollständig von den externen Daten getrennt ist, ein Phänomen, das für nichtlokale Minimalflächen einzigartig ist. Diese Arbeit liefert wertvolle Erkenntnisse über das Verhalten dieser neuen mathematischen Objekte und ihre Wechselwirkung mit externen Daten.

## List of symbols

$\mathbb{R}^n$	Euclidean space of dimension $n$
$\text{dist}(A, B)$	Distance between sets $A$ and $B$

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# 1 Introduction

Idea: Start with short historical background

18th century: Lagrange, Euler

20th Century: DeGiorgi Perimeter and localized entity

2009 Caffarelli, Roquejoffre, Savin: Nonlocal minimal surfaces

Perimeter and nonlocal perimeter as the (semi)norm of an indicator function

Define the usual problem considered

Better regularity than classical minimal surfaces

Chapter 02

Both models and further discussion

Chapter 03

Fully disconnected minimizer

Use the introduction in [8] as inspiration.

**TODO.** Add sources

What does “locally” mean here? And what do we minimize? The surface or the area the encompassed?

*Minimal surfaces*, characterized by locally minimizing their surface area, have captivated mathematicians for centuries. Dating back to the 18th century, mathematicians like *Euler* and *Lagrange* laid the foundation for the field. In an effort to describe these surfaces mathematically, they formulated the *Euler-Lagrange equations* in the late 18th century. These equations provide a powerful framework for identifying and characterizing minimal surfaces. Since the 19th century, many mathematicians contributed to the study of minimal surfaces, uncovering profound insights. Since then minimal surfaces found many applications in various fields beyond pure mathematics. From understanding physical phenomena like soap films and black holes to informing the design of optimal structures in engineering and architecture, the versatility of minimal surfaces continues to inspire exploration.

In this thesis, we want to explore a rather new concept of minimal surfaces, namely *nonlocal minimal surfaces*, which were first introduced by *Caffarelli, Roquejoffre, and Savin* in 2009. For that purpose, we will first give a short introduction to the theory of minimal surfaces in the context of this work.

## 1.1 Classical Minimal Surfaces

**CHECK.** Is this introduction enough and complete/correct?

The study of minimal surfaces concerns itself with finding the set with least surface area under certain constraints. But before we can formulate the usual problem, we have to define some tools.

**TODO.** Add definition for smooth boundary, give an example (circle)

Extend to general sets, give an example (cube)

**CHECK.** Do I need to cite this definition from [3]? Give a justification?

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  with smooth boundary, then the surface area or *perimeter* of  $A$  is given by

$$\text{Per}(A) := \sup \left\{ \int_{\partial A} \varphi \cdot \nu_A \mid \varphi \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n), |\varphi| \leq 1 \right\}, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\nu_A$  is the outer normal to  $A$ .

**CHECK.** Do I need an example? Seems trivial

**Example 1.2.** Consider  $A = B_1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ , then

$$\left| \int_{\partial A} \varphi \cdot \nu_A \, dx \right| \leq \int_{\partial A} |\varphi| |\nu_A| \, dx = \int_{\partial A} 1 \, dx = 2\pi. \quad (1.2)$$

Now take  $\varphi = \eta_3 \nu_A$  with  $\eta_3$  a cutoff function such that  $\eta_3|_{B_2} \equiv 1$ ,  $\eta_3|_{B_3^c} \equiv 0$  and  $\eta_3 \nu_A \in C_c^1$  since  $\partial A$  smooth, then

$$\int_{\partial A} \varphi \cdot \nu_A \, dx = \int_{\partial A} \eta_3 \nu_A \cdot \nu_A \, dx = \int_{\partial A} 1 \, dx = 2\pi. \quad (1.3)$$

Thus we have  $\text{Area}(\partial A) = 2\pi$ , as well known.

To extend this definition to general measurable sets, we can use the divergence theorem and rewrite the integration over the boundary as an integration over the set itself. This removes the need for a smooth boundary and allows us to define the surface area for general sets.

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a Borel set, then the perimeter of  $A$  is given by

$$\text{Per}(A) := \sup \left\{ \int_A \text{div } \varphi \mid \varphi \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n), |\varphi| \leq 1 \right\}. \quad (1.4)$$

**CHECK.** Do I need an example?

**Example 1.4.** Cube example

In the minimization problem, we want to find some set  $E$  which minimizes the surface of some external data  $E_0$ . Since the surface area may be infinite, if  $E_0$  is bounded, we can “localize”<sup>1</sup> the problem by just considering the area of  $\partial E$  relative to some bounded set  $\Omega$ .

**Definition 1.5.** Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a Borel set and  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  bounded, then the perimeter of  $A$  relative to  $\Omega$  is given by

$$\text{Per}(A, \Omega) := \sup \left\{ \int_A \text{div } \varphi \mid \varphi \in C_c^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n), |\varphi| \leq 1 \right\}. \quad (1.5)$$

Now we can formulate the usual problem.

**Definition 1.6 (Minimal Surface Problem).** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  bounded and  $E_0 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , then we want to find  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $E$  minimizes the perimeter of  $E_0$  relative to  $\Omega$ , i.e.

$$\text{Per}(E, \Omega) = \min \{ \text{Per}(A, \Omega) \mid A \setminus \Omega = E_0 \setminus \Omega \}. \quad (1.6)$$

<sup>1</sup>Here “local” refers to the area in which we minimize

**TODO.** Complete note

Case that  $E_0 \cap \Omega \neq \emptyset$ .

Give sources, that minimizer exists, thus minimal surfaces exist

Note that in classical theory often one just has a contour over which one minimizes

**Note.** Usually  $E_0$  is chosen such that  $E_0 \cap \Omega = \emptyset$ , then we minimize over the set  $E$  such that  $E \setminus \Omega = E_0$ . If  $E_0 \cap \Omega \neq \emptyset$ , then we can minimize over..

## 1.2 Nonlocal Minimal Surfaces

**TODO.** Rewrite the text

Is the example fitting?

Emphasize that we are no longer just minimizing boundary but the set as well

Let us for now consider some set  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  with smooth boundary, then to get its perimeter we have to take the supremum of

$$\int_{\partial A} \varphi \cdot \nu_A. \quad (1.7)$$

This is a local quantity, i.e. it only depends on the boundary of  $A$ . Thus if we want to minimize the perimeter of some set  $E$  with external data  $E_0$ , we are only interested in the behavior of the boundary of  $E_0$  close to  $\Omega$  and not interested in the contribution or the size of the external data. In many cases, this is enough to describe the behavior of the minimizer, but in some cases, this is not enough anymore. Take a soap bubble as an example, a standard example for a classical minimal surfaces. In our normal scaling, we can see the soap bubble as a 2-dimensional object. But if we go to the molecular level, we see that the soap bubble is a 3-dimensional object. Thus we need to incorporate long-range correlation into our definition of perimeter and minimal surfaces. *Cafarelli, Roquejoffre, and Savin* did exactly that in 2009, when they introduced the concept of *nonlocal minimal surfaces* and *fractional perimeter* in [1].

**TODO.** What is the effect of  $s$ ?

Which definition is standard? Add note about other definitions

**Definition 1.7** (Fractional Perimeter). Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a Borel set,  $s \in (0, 1)$ , then the  $s$ -perimeter of  $A$  to is given by

$$\text{Per}_s(A) := \int_A \int_{A^c} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx. \quad (1.8)$$

Just as in the classical case, we can define a relative fractional perimeter by removing the integration over the constant part..

$$\int_A \int_{A^c} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx \quad (1.9)$$

$$= \int_{A \cap \Omega} \int_{A^c} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx + \int_{A \setminus \Omega} \int_{A^c} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx \quad (1.10)$$

$$= \int_{A \cap \Omega} \int_{A^c} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx + \int_{A \setminus \Omega} \int_{\Omega \setminus A} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx + \int_{A \setminus \Omega} \int_{A^c \setminus \Omega} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx \quad (1.11)$$

While minimizing  $A$  relative to  $\Omega$  we can ignore the last term as it is constant and thus does not affect the minimization.

**Definition 1.8.** Let  $A, B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be Borel sets,  $s \in (0, 1)$ , then the interaction of  $A$  and  $B$  is given by

$$\mathcal{L}(A, B) := \int_A \int_{B^c} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+s}} dy dx. \quad (1.12)$$

**Definition 1.9** (Relative Fractional Perimeter). Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a Borel set,  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  bounded and  $s \in (0, 1)$ , then the  $s$ -perimeter of  $A$  relative to  $\Omega$  is given by

$$\text{Per}_s(A, \Omega) := \mathcal{L}(A \cap \Omega, A^c) + \mathcal{L}(A \setminus \Omega, \Omega \setminus A). \quad (1.13)$$

With these tools we can now define the nonlocal minimal surface problem.

**Definition 1.10** (Nonlocal Minimal Surface Problem). Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  bounded and  $E_0 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , then we want to find  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $E$  minimizes the  $s$ -perimeter of  $E_0$  relative to  $\Omega$ , i.e.

$$\text{Per}_s(E, \Omega) = \min \{ \text{Per}_s(A, \Omega) \mid A \setminus \Omega = E_0 \setminus \Omega \}. \quad (1.14)$$

**TODO.** give an example where classical theory doesn't suffice (cube rotated by 45 degree)

**TODO.** Add note about advantages/properties (e.g. Euler-Lagrange Viscos) of nonlocal minimal surfaces like better regularity properties and..  
Add some sentences about stickiness property and that we are looking at a model precisely about that property.

**TODO.** Quick summary of Chapter 2

**TODO.** Quick summary of Chapter 3

## 2 Models

**TODO.** Rewrite the text

Add discussion about variation of models and why we are considering that

In this chapter we will consider two different models, which are variations of the model considered by Dipierro et al. in [4], where they considered the external data  $E_0$  as the complement of a slab in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of width  $2M$  and the prescribed data  $\Omega$  as the cylinder of radius 1 and height  $2M$ . They showed that for  $M$  big enough the minimizer is disconnected which is consistent with the classical theory of minimal surfaces. When  $M$  is small enough, the minimizer is connected and even sticks to the boundary. The latter being a unique property of nonlocal minimal surfaces.

Here we will first consider a variation of the model, where we vary the width of the external data  $E_0$ . We observe similar behavior of the minimizer as in the original model. This is interesting in the sense of the stickiness property, since even for width of 1 we get stickiness to the boundary.

In the second model we will consider a variation of the height of the external data  $E_0$ . Again we observe similar behavior of the minimizer as in the original model, but for smaller heights, we cannot say a priori whether the minimizer is connected for small  $M$  as in the nonlocal case we could have a connected component of the minimizer which is fully disconnected from the rest of the minimizer. We will discuss this situation in Chapter 3.

### 2.1 Model 01

For  $n \geq 2$  consider the model as follows:

$$E_0 := \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } |x'| \leq R, |x_n| \geq M\} \quad (2.1)$$

$$\Omega := \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } |x'| \leq 1, |x_n| \leq M\} \quad (2.2)$$

for  $R \geq 1$  and  $M > 0$ . The Figure 2.1 illustrates the setting.

We state the following two results, which we will prove afterwards.

**Theorem 2.1.** For  $\Omega$  and  $E_0$  as given above and for all  $R \geq 1$ , then there exists  $M_0 \in (0, 1)$  depending only on the dimension and  $s$ , such that for any  $M \in (0, M_0)$ , the minimizer is  $E_M = E_0 \cup \Omega$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** For  $\Omega$  and  $E_0$  as given above and for all  $R \geq 1$ , then there exists  $M_0 > 1$  depending only on the dimension and  $s$ , such that for any  $M \geq M_0$ , the minimizer  $E_M$  is disconnected.

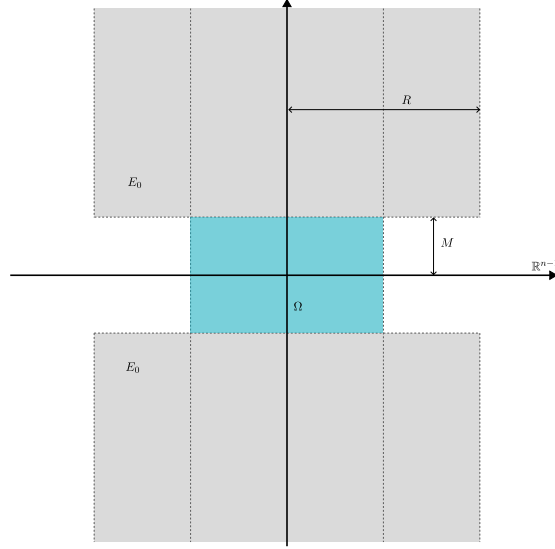
**TODO.** Elaborate and add source

Connect to classical minimal surfaces by observing disconnectedness of the minimizer, but when connected, the minimizer may “stick” to the boundary. Whereas classical minimal surfaces cannot stick to the boundary.

**TODO.** Rewrite

For the first proof, we will follow a similar construction as in [4].

In [1] the authors have shown that nonlocal minimizer satisfy the Euler-Lagrange equation in the viscosity



**Figure 2.1**

sense, i.e. if  $E$  is a minimizer, there exists some such that  $q \in \partial E$  and  $B_r(q + r\nu) \subset E$  for some  $r > 0$  and unit vector  $\nu \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\chi_{E^c}(y) - \chi_E(y)}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \geq 0. \quad (2.3)$$

In the proof we will assume that there exist a minimizer which is not  $E_0 \cup \Omega$ . To bring this assumption to a contradiction, we want to show that the left hand side of eq. (2.3) is negative for  $M$  small enough. Thus, we have to construct some suitable ball such that we can apply the Euler-Lagrange equation. Constructing the ball by sliding it down from  $te_n$ . If the minimizer is not  $E_0 \cup \Omega$ , then at some point the ball will touch the minimizer for any  $0 < r < 1$  and a point  $q$ , then exists. Then we will split the domain into four parts and estimate each part to get the contradiction.

**TODO.** Improve the proof

*Proof of theorem 2.1.* Proof by contradiction. Assume  $E_M$  is not  $E_0 \cup \Omega$ , then we can slide a ball of radius  $r$  down and at some point it will touch  $E_M$ . We consider the ball  $B_r(te_n)$ . Since  $E_M$  not cylindrical, there exists  $r_0 \in (0, 1)$  and  $t_0 > 0$  s.t.  $\partial B_{r_0}(t_0 e_n) \cap \partial E_M \neq \emptyset$  and  $B_{r_0}(te_n) \subset E_M$  for all  $t > t_0$ . See figure fig. 2.2.

Since  $E_M$  is a minimizer it is also a variational solution and the inequality holds

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\chi_{E_M^c}(y) - \chi_{E_M}(y)}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \geq 0$$

whereas  $q \in \partial B_{r_0}(t_0 e_n) \cap \partial E_M$ .

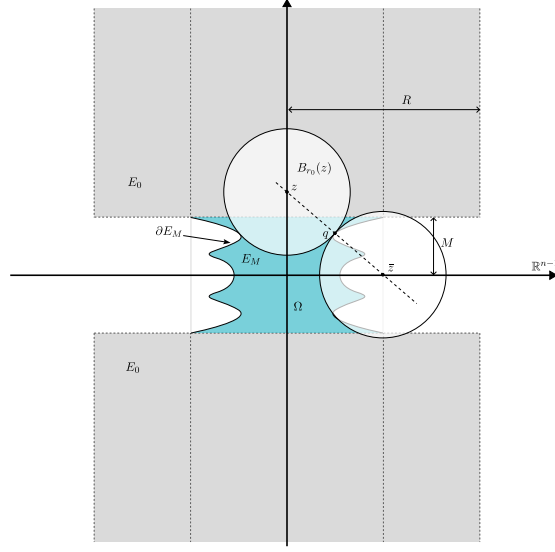
We show that the left hand side is negative. Split the domain into four parts, as seen in the Figure fig. 2.3. We define

$$A := \{(x', x_n) \text{ s.t. } |x' - q'| \geq R + 1\} \text{ Green Area}$$

$$B := \{(x', x_n) \text{ s.t. } |x'| < R, |x_n - q_n| > 2M\}$$

$$C := \{(x', x_n) \text{ s.t. } |x'| \geq R, |x' - q'| \leq R + 1, |x_n - q_n| > \Lambda M\}$$

$$\text{Everything else} \subset S := \{(x', x_n) \text{ s.t. } |x' - q'| \leq R + 1, |x_n - q_n| \leq \Lambda M\}$$



**Figure 2.2**

Integration over the first part:

$$\int_A \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \stackrel{A \subseteq E^c}{=} \int_{|y'| > R+1} \frac{1}{|y|^{n+s}} dy \leq c(n) \int_{R+1}^{\infty} r^{-s-2} dy \leq c(n, s) R^{-(1+s)}$$

Integration over the second part:

$$\int_B \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \stackrel{B \subseteq E}{=} - \int_B \frac{1}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq -c(n, s) M^{-s} \quad \text{Idea: Consider ball with factor } 2^{-n}$$

Integration over the third part:

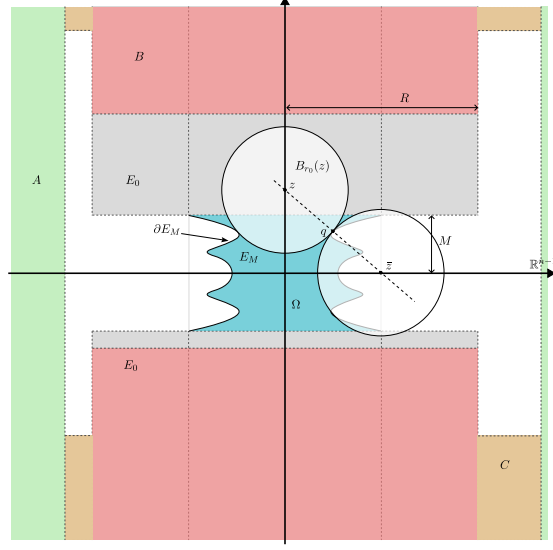
$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy &\stackrel{C \subseteq E^c}{=} \int_C \frac{1}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq c(n) \int_{R-1}^{R+1} \int_{\Lambda M}^{\infty} \frac{r^{n-2}}{(r^2 + y_n^2)^{\frac{n+s}{2}}} dy_n dr \\ &\stackrel{r^2 \leq r^2 + y_n^2}{\leq} c(n) \int_{R-1}^{R+1} \int_{2\Lambda M}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(r^2 + y_n^2)^{\frac{s+2}{2}}} dy_n dr \stackrel{\text{convexity}}{\leq} \int_{R-1}^{R+1} \int_{\Lambda M}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(r + y_n)^{s+2}} dy_n dr \\ &\leq c(n, s) \int_{R-1}^{R+1} \frac{1}{(r + \Lambda M)^{s+1}} \leq c(n, s) (R - 1 + \Lambda M)^{-s} \leq c(n, s) (\Lambda M)^{-s} \end{aligned}$$

Integration over the fourth part:

Justification that we can estimate with  $S$ : Only negative part of the integration is fully in the set we want to estimate and the rest in  $S$  is positive.

We split  $S$  into four parts:

- i)  $S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(z)$
- ii)  $S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(\bar{z})$
- iii)  $S \cap (B_{\Lambda M}(q) \setminus (B_{r_0}(z) \cup B_{r_0}(\bar{z})))$
- iv)  $S \setminus B_{\Lambda M}(q)$



**Figure 2.3**

where  $\bar{z} := z + 2(q - z)$  and  $\Lambda > 4$  chosen big enough and  $M$  chosen small enough s.t.  $\Lambda M \leq 1$ . We estimate the first and second part:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(z) \cup S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(\bar{z})} \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \\ & \leq \int_{S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(z)} \frac{1}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy - \int_{S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(\bar{z})} \frac{1}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

These two integrals cancel because of symmetry.

We estimate the third part:

$$\int_{S \cap (B_{\Lambda M}(q) \setminus (B_{r_0}(z) \cup B_{r_0}(\bar{z})))} \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq \int_{P_{1, \Lambda M}} \frac{1}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq C \Lambda^{1-s} M^{1-s}$$

where we used lemma 3.1 in [5] with  $R = r_0 = 1$  and  $\lambda = \Lambda M$  (we can choose  $r_0 = 1$ , since if we can show the bound for  $r_0 = 1$  then it holds for all smaller balls as well).

We estimate the fourth part:

$$\int_{S \setminus B_{\Lambda M}(q)} \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq \int_{B_{R+2} \setminus B_{\Lambda M}} \frac{1}{|y|^{n+s}} dy = c(n, s)((\Lambda M)^{-s} - (R+2)^{-s})$$

since  $S \subset B_{R+2}$  for  $R \geq 1$  since  $((\Lambda M)^2 + (R+1)^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq (R^2 + 4R + 4)^{\frac{1}{2}} = R+2$ .

Thus in total we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy & \leq -c_1 M^{-s} + c_0 (R^{-(1+s)} + (\Lambda M)^{-s} + (\Lambda M)^{-s} - (R+2)^{-s} + \Lambda^{1-s} M^{1-s}) \\ & \leq -c_1 M^{-s} (1 + \frac{c_0}{c_1} (R^{-(1+s)} M^s + 2\Lambda^{-s} - (R+2)^{-s} M^s + \Lambda^{1-s} M)) \end{aligned}$$

Choose  $\Lambda$  large and  $M$  small enogh

$$\leq -c_2 M^{-s} < 0$$



Interesting to see, that the contribution of the cylinder of radius 1 is enough to get connectedness of the minimizer and even stickiness to the boundary. Also see, that the model seems (maybe prove that) to converge to the problem, considered in [4].

*Proof of theorem 2.2.* In theorems 1.2 in [4] the authors have shown that that  $\exists M_0 > 1$ , such that..

$$E_M \subset F_M \quad E_M^c \subset F_M^c \quad (2.4)$$

## 2.2 Model 02

For  $n \geq 2$  consider the model as follows:

$$E_0 := \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } |x_n| \geq R + M\} \quad (2.5)$$

$$\Omega := \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } |x'| \leq 1, |x_n| \leq M\} \quad (2.6)$$

for  $R > 0$  and  $M > 0$ . The Figure 2.4 illustrates the setting.

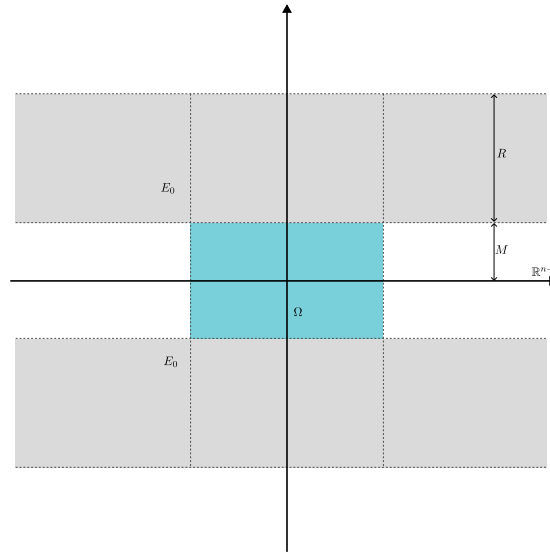


Figure 2.4

We state the following two results, which we will prove afterwards.

**TODO.** Specify  $R$

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $\Omega$  and  $E_0$  as given above and for all  $R > \dots$ , then there exists  $M_0 \in (0, 1)$  depending only on the dimension and  $s$ , such that for any  $M \in (0, M_0)$ , the minimizer is  $E_M = E_0 \cup \Omega$ . For  $R \leq \dots$ , the cylinder  $A := \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } |x'| \leq \dots, |x_n| \leq M\}$  is in the minimizer, i.e.  $E_M \supset E_0 \cup A$ .

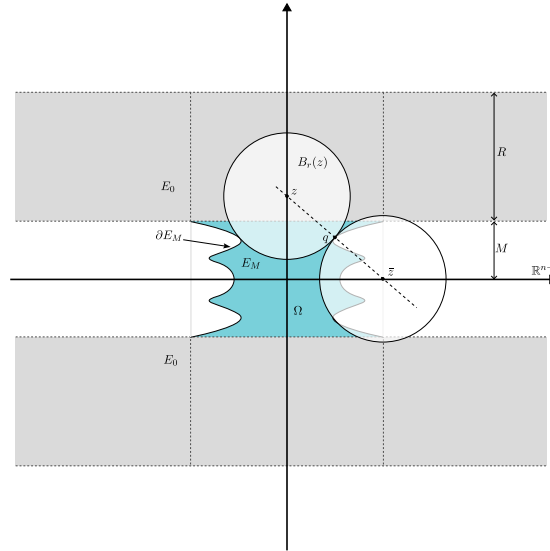
**Note.** Bound on  $R$  depends on the construction of the proof.

**TODO.** Elaborate

**Theorem 2.4.** For  $\Omega$  and  $E_0$  as given above and for all  $R > 0$ , then there exists  $M_0 > ..$  depending only on the dimension and  $s$ , such that for any  $M \geq M_0$ , the minimizer  $E_M$  is disconnected.

Again, similar proofs as in section 2.1.  
Add some more discussion.

*Proof of theorem 2.3.* We show that for every  $R > 0$  at least the tube  $\{|x_n| < r_0\}$  is in the minimizer for some  $r_0 > 0$ .



**Figure 2.5**

**TODO.** Edit proof to show cylinder is in minimizer and not assume that it's disconnected

We do that analogously to theorem 2.1 by contradiction. We assume that  $E_M$  is disconnected, thus we can slide a ball of radius  $r$  down and for all  $r_0 \in (0, 1)$  there exists a  $t_0 > 0$  s.t.  $\partial B_{r_0}(t_0 e_n) \cap \partial E_M \neq \emptyset$ . If we can show that there exists a  $r_0$  s.t. this contradicts then the tube is in the minimizer. It is enough to show that for one  $r_0$  since if we can contradict this for one  $r_0$  then for all smaller there is no touching as well. For that we split into four parts as seen in the figure:

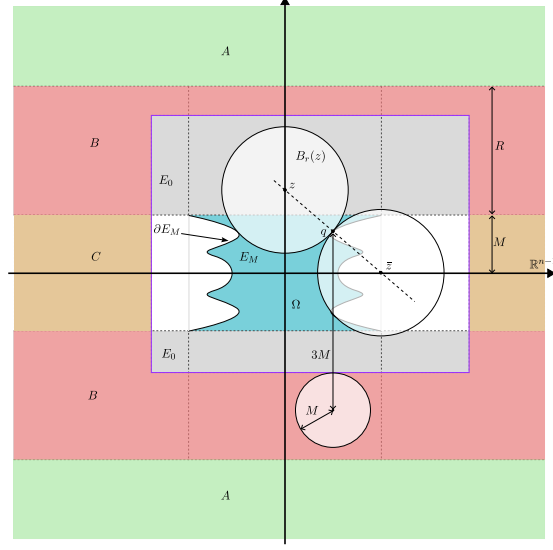
We define

$$A := \{(x', x_n) \text{ s.t. } |x_n| \geq M + R\}$$

$$B := \{(x', x_n) \text{ s.t. } |x_n| \leq M, |x' - q'| > 2\}$$

$$C := E_0 \setminus S$$

$$S := \{(x', x_n) \text{ s.t. } |x_n - q_n| \leq M + R, |x' - q'| \leq 2\}$$



**Figure 2.6**

Integration over the first part:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_A \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy &\stackrel{A \subset E^c}{\leq} \int_{|y_n| \geq R} \frac{1}{|y|^{n+s}} dy \leq c(n) \int_0^\infty \int_R^\infty \frac{r^{n-2}}{(r^2 + y_n^2)^{\frac{n+s}{2}}} dy_n dr \\
 &\leq c(n) \int_0^\infty \int_R^\infty \frac{1}{(r^2 + y_n^2)^{\frac{s+2}{2}}} dy_n dr \leq c(n) \int_0^\infty \int_R^\infty \frac{1}{(r + y_n)^{s+2}} dy_n dr \\
 &= c(n, s) \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{(r + R)^{s+1}} dr = c(n, s) R^{-s}
 \end{aligned}$$

Integration over the second part:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_B \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy &\stackrel{B \subset E^c}{\leq} c(n) \int_0^M \int_2^\infty \frac{r^{n-2}}{(r^2 + y_n^2)^{\frac{n+s}{2}}} dr dy_n \\
 &\leq c(n) \int_0^M \int_2^\infty \frac{1}{(r + y_n)^{s+2}} dr dy_n = c(n, s) \int_0^M \frac{1}{(2 + y_n)^{s+1}} dy_n \\
 &= c(n, s) (2^{-s} - (2 + M)^{-s}) \leq c(n, s) 2^{-s}
 \end{aligned}$$

Integration over the third part (here we need  $R > M$ ):

$$\int_C \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy = - \int_C \frac{1}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq -c(n) \int_{B_M(\dots)} \frac{1}{|y|^{n+s}} dy \leq -c(n, s) M^{-s}$$

Idea: Move part of the stripe outside, restrict to ball with radius  $M$  and multiply with  $\frac{1}{2}$  since not whole ball may be in the set.

Integration over the fourth part:

We split  $S$  into four parts:

- i)  $S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(z)$
- ii)  $S \cap B_{\Lambda M}(q) \cap B_{r_0}(\bar{z})$

$$\text{iii) } S \cap (B_{\Lambda M}(q) \setminus (B_{r_0}(z) \cup B_{r_0}(\bar{z})))$$

$$\text{iv) } S \setminus B_{\Lambda M}(q)$$

where  $\bar{z} := z + 2(q - z)$  and  $\Lambda > 4$  chosen big enough and  $M$  chosen small enough s.t.  $\Lambda M \leq 1$ . Again the first and second part are in sum smaller than zero.

We estimate the third part:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{S \cap (B_{\Lambda M}(q) \setminus (B_{r_0}(z) \cup B_{r_0}(\bar{z})))} \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \\ & \leq \int_{P_{r_0,1}} \frac{1}{|y|^{n+s}} dy + \int_{B_{\Lambda M} \setminus B_{r_0}} \frac{1}{|y|^{n+s}} dy \leq c(n, s)(r_0^{-s} - (\Lambda M)^{-s}) \end{aligned}$$

We estimate the fourth part:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{S \setminus B_{\Lambda M}(q)} \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \\ & \leq c(n) \int_{\Lambda M}^{R+3} \frac{1}{r^{s+1}} dr \leq c(n, s)((\Lambda M)^{-s} - (R+3)^{-s}) \end{aligned}$$

Thus we estimate the domain  $S$  with

$$\int_S \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy \leq c(n, s)(r_0^{-s} - (R+3)^{-s}) \leq c(n, s)r_0^{-s}$$

Thus in total we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\chi_{E^c} - \chi_E}{|y - q|^{n+s}} dy & \leq -c_0 M^{-s} + c_1(R^{-s} + 2^{-s} + r_0^{-s}) \\ & \leq -c_0 M^{-s} \left(1 - \frac{c_1}{c_0}(R^{-s} M^s + 2^{-s} M^s + r_0^{-s} M^s)\right) \end{aligned}$$

Now choose  $r_0 = \frac{R}{2}$  and at most 2

$$\leq -c_0 M^{-s} \left(1 - \frac{c_1}{c_0}(R^{-s} M^s + 2^{-s} M^s + \left(\frac{2M}{R}\right)^s)\right)$$

Choose  $\Lambda$  large and  $M$  small enoguh

$$\leq -c_2 M^{-s} < 0$$

■

**TODO.** Elaborate

Discussion about connectedness in case of small  $R$  and refer to next chapter. Behavior unique to nonlocal minimal surfaces.

Talk about the contribution of the complement.

*Proof of theorem 2.4.* In theorems 1.2 in [4] the authors have shown that that  $\exists M_0 > 1$ , such that..

$$E_M \subset F_M \quad E_M^c \subset F_M^c \tag{2.7}$$

■

**TODO.** Elaborate

Discussion about extending the model to arbitrary models with symmetric external data. Enough to consider discs of radius.. and heighth.. to have connectedness and even stickiness at some point.

New idea: If there is a minimizer  $E_M$ , can it ever be non sticky to the boundary?

Maybe able to give own interpretation of nonlocal minimal surfaces. Idea about Volume or Gravity?

### 3 Disconnected Minimizers

**TODO.** Maybe focus more on the model in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and balls

0. Show that for  $E_0 = B_2^c$  and  $E_1 = B_1$  the minimizer is not  $E_0$  itself for small  $s$
1. Extend to  $r$  and  $R$  (Should work as well)
2. Take  $E_0$  bounded (strange behavior, as  $s \rightarrow 0^+$ )
3. Extend to arbitrary  $E_0 \subset B_R^c$  and  $E_1 \subset B_r$
4. What about disconnected  $\Omega$

Example of a minimizer that has a non-empty set in  $\Omega$ , while  $d(E_0, \Omega) =: d > 0$ .

Compare to classical case, where this cannot happen. Refer to.. and.. where discussion about the behavior of the perimeter for  $s \rightarrow 1^-$  and  $s \rightarrow 0^+$  was done.

Connect to the discussion in section 2.2..

Add discussion why  $n = 1$  doesn't make sense or has a special standing.

Idea: If  $d(E_0, \Omega) = 0$ , does there exist a connected component  $F \subset E$  s.t.  $d(E_0, F) > 0$ ?

In Section 2.2 we discussed the behavior of the perimeter for external data with varying height  $R$ . We found that the minimizer of  $E_M$  contains the cylinder  $B_{\frac{R}{2}}' \times [-M, M]$  for  $R < 2$ . A natural question to follow is whether the minimizer, which connects the external data, is in fact connected. A priori we don't know if there exists a part of the minimizer that is disconnected from the cylinder.

Intuitively, we would expect that the minimizer is connected, since

**TODO.** Add an intuitive argument about volume increase and surface increase.

In an effort to prove that, we first looked at a model with  $\text{dist}(E_0, \Omega) > 0$  for some  $E_0, \Omega \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . From the classical case we know that in this case the minimizer is the external data  $E_0$  itself already. If this holds in the nonlocal setting as well, then we could conclude that the minimizer in Theorem 2.3 has to be connected.

Let  $Z_R := \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \mid |x'| < \frac{R}{2}, |x_n| < M\}$  be the cylinder, then  $Z_2$  is the cylinder from Section 2.2. We define the set  $\Omega_1 := Z_2 \setminus Z_R$  and  $E_1 := \Omega_1 \cap E_M$  to be the set of the minimizer  $E_M$  in Theorem 2.3 that is outside of the cylinder  $Z_R$  for  $R < 2$ . We then rewrite the nonlocal Perimeter of  $E_M$  relative to  $\Omega$  as

$$\text{Per}_s(E_M, \Omega) = \mathcal{L}(E_M \cap \Omega, E_M^c) + \mathcal{L}(E_M \setminus \Omega, \Omega \setminus E_M) \quad (3.1)$$

$$= \mathcal{L}(Z_R \cup E_1, E_M^c) + \mathcal{L}(E_0, \Omega \setminus E_1) \quad (3.2)$$

$$= \mathcal{L}(E_1, E_M^c) + \mathcal{L}(E_0, \Omega \setminus E_1) + \mathcal{L}(Z_R, E_M^c) \quad (3.3)$$

$$= \text{Per}_s(E_M, \Omega_1) + \mathcal{L}(Z_R, (E_0 \cup \Omega)^c). \quad (3.4)$$

**TODO.** Check the computations

Notice that the second term in Equation (3.4) is independent of  $E_1$ , thus to minimize  $\text{Per}_s(E_M, \Omega)$ , we can minimize  $\text{Per}_s(E_M, \Omega_1)$  instead. Now assume that  $E_1$  is disconnected from  $E_0 \cup Z_R$ , then for any  $\delta > 0$ , define  $\Omega_{1,\delta} := \{x \in \Omega \mid d(x, \Omega^c) > \delta\}$ . Then we notice that

$$\Omega_{1,\delta} \nearrow \Omega_1 \text{ in } \dots \quad (3.5)$$

$$\text{Per}_s(E_M, \Omega_{1,\delta}) \nearrow \text{Per}_s(E_M, \Omega_1) \quad (3.6)$$

$$\text{dist}(E_0, \Omega_{1,\delta}) > 0 \text{ for all } \delta > 0 \quad (3.7)$$

$$(3.8)$$

**TODO.** Justify those limits

Thus we are in the setting of the classical case, we could conclude that the minimizer should be connected. However in the nonlocal setting, we can observe a new behavior. As mentioned before, in the classical case, if the external data and the prescribed set are disconnected,

**TODO.** Disconnected in what sense?

Elaborate, why is that Interesting

then the minimizer is the external data itself. In the following we will give an example of a model, whose minimizer is not the external data itself, but contains a non-empty set in the prescribed set. This however depends on  $s$ , since for  $s \rightarrow 1^-$  the nonlocal perimeter converges to the classical perimeter in some sense.

**TODO.** Convergence in what sense?

Sources

First, we will see that in  $n = 1$  the nonlocal minimizer behaves like the classical minimizer, which shows another example, that  $n = 1$  doesn't make sense.. or has a special standing.

Then we will give an example of a model, whose minimizer is not the external data itself.

### 3.1 Unbounded external data

**TODO.** Rewrite with choice of  $\Omega$  and  $E_1$  in mind

Consider the following model in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ :

Let  $E_0 := B_2^c$  and  $\Omega := B_1$ . Then we show that there exists  $s_0 \in (0, 1)$  such that for all  $s \in (0, s_0)$  the minimizer  $E$  is not the external data  $E_0$  itself. We do that by showing that for those  $s$  the fractional perimeter of  $E_0$  relative to  $\Omega$  is strictly smaller than the fractional perimeter of  $E_0 \cap E_1$  relative to  $\Omega$  with  $E_1 = B_1$ .

**TODO.** Improve proof and figure

*Proof.* We compare  $\text{Per}_s(E_0 \cup E_1, \Omega)$  with  $\text{Per}_s(E_0, \Omega)$ .

$$\text{Per}_s(E_0 \cup E_1, \Omega) - \text{Per}_s(E_0, \Omega) = \mathcal{L}(E_1, (E_0 \cup E_1)^c) + \mathcal{L}(E_0, \Omega \setminus E_1) - \mathcal{L}(E_0, \Omega) \quad (3.9)$$

$$= \mathcal{L}(E_1, E_1^c) - 2\mathcal{L}(E_0, E_1) \quad (3.10)$$

$$= \text{Per}_s(E_1) - 2\mathcal{L}(E_0, E_1). \quad (3.11)$$

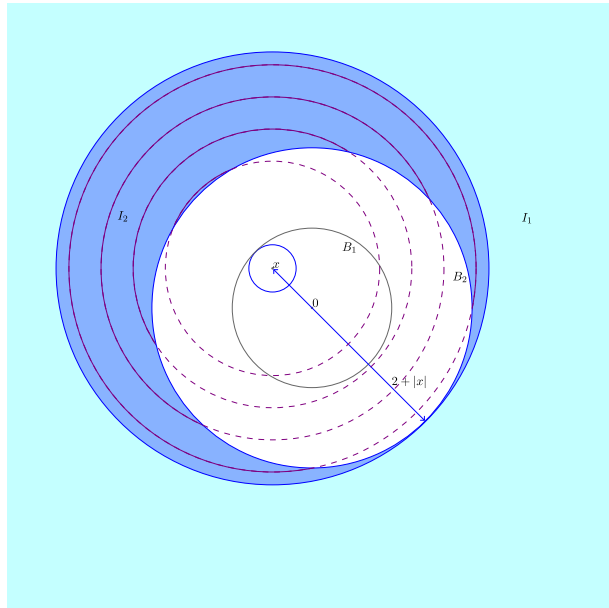
We can give an explicit value for the first term in Equation (3.11) by using the result of [13, Eq. (11)]. We then have

$$\text{Per}_s(E_1) = \frac{2^{2-s} \pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})}{s(2-s) \Gamma(\frac{2-s}{2})}, \quad (3.12)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the gamma function. The second term in Equation (3.11) is not so easy to compute, thus we will estimate it from above and below. Since these are rather delicate computations, we have to refine the integral first. To do that we split the domain of integration over the second variable into two parts depended on the first, namely  $B_{2+|x|}^c(x)$  and  $B_{2+|x|}(x) \setminus B_2$  for  $x \in B_1 = E_1$ . We then can write the second term as

$$\mathcal{L}(E_0, E_1) = \underbrace{\int_{B_1} \int_{B_{2+|x|}^c(x)} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{2+s}} dy dx}_{=: I_1} + \underbrace{\int_{B_1} \int_{B_{2+|x|}(x) \setminus B_2} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{2+s}} dy dx}_{=: I_2}. \quad (3.13)$$

See Figure 3.1 for splitup  
We start with  $I_1$ :



**Figure 3.1** SplitUp of Domain



$$I_1 = \int_{B_1} \int_{B_{2+|x|}^c(x)} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{2+s}} dy dx \quad (3.14)$$

$$= \int_{B_1} \int_{B_{2+|x|}^c} \frac{1}{|y|^{2+s}} dy dx \quad (3.15)$$

$$= 4\pi^2 \int_0^1 \int_{2+r_1}^\infty \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} dr_2 dr_1 \quad (3.16)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s} \int_0^1 \left[ -\frac{r_1}{r_2^s} \right]_{2+r_1}^\infty dr_1 \quad (3.17)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s} \int_0^1 \frac{r_1}{(2+r_1)^s} dr_1 \quad (3.18)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s} \int_2^3 \frac{r_1-2}{r_1^s} dr_1 \quad (3.19)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s} \left[ \frac{r_1^{2-s}}{2-s} - 2 \frac{r_1^{1-s}}{1-s} \right]_2^3 \quad (3.20)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} (2^{2-s} - (s+1)3^{1-s}). \quad (3.21)$$

Thus for  $I_1$  we have

$$I_1 = \frac{4\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} (2^{2-s} - (s+1)3^{1-s}). \quad (3.22)$$

Now to  $I_2$ . Here the idea is to use radial coordinates again. Since the ntegral is radial symmetric with respect to  $x$ , we can fix  $x$  such that  $x = (r, 0)$  for  $r = |x|$ . Now for fixed  $x$  the domain of  $y$  is not radial symmetric anymore, thus we first have to compute the domain of  $\vartheta := \vartheta(r_1, r_2)$ .

We have two restrictions on  $y$ :

**TODO.** Give justifications of bounds

$$(1) \quad 4 \leq |x-y|^2 \leq (2+2|x|)^2$$

$$(2) \quad 2-|x| \leq |y| \leq 2+|x|$$

From the first restriction with  $|x| = r_1$ ,  $|y| = r_2$  and  $\vartheta$  the angle between  $x$  and  $y$  we get

$$4 \leq |x-y|^2 \leq (2+2r_1)^2 \quad (3.23)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4 \leq r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 2r_1r_2 \cos(\vartheta) \leq 4(1+r_1)^2 \quad (3.24)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4}{2r_1r_2} \geq \cos(\vartheta) \geq \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4(1+r_1)^2}{2r_1r_2}. \quad (3.25)$$

From the second restriction we get that the right-hand-side of Equation (3.25) is always greater or equal to  $-1$ , thus we have

$$\frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4}{2r_1r_2} \geq \cos(\vartheta) \geq -1. \quad (3.26)$$

We will see, that for all  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  the argument is independent of  $\vartheta$ , thus we can integrate over  $\vartheta$  first. We then get

**TODO.** Argument for symmetry and how domain was chosen

$$\int_{-\vartheta}^{\vartheta} d\vartheta = 2\pi - 2 \arccos \left( \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4}{2r_1 r_2} \right). \quad (3.27)$$

For  $I_2$  we get then

**TODO.** Simplify computations?

Add arguments about splitting, change of variables, computation steps etc

$$I_2 = \int_{B_1} \int_{B_{2+|x|}(x) \setminus B_2} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{2+s}} dy dx \quad (3.28)$$

$$= \int_{B_1} \underbrace{\int_{B_{2+|x|} \setminus B_2(-x)} \frac{1}{|y|^{2+s}} dy}_{\text{radial symmetric w.r.t. } x} dx \quad (3.29)$$

$$= 2\pi \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_1} \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} \int_{-\vartheta}^{\vartheta} d\vartheta dr_2 dr_1 \quad (3.30)$$

$$= 2\pi \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_1} \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} \left( 2\pi - 2 \arccos \left( \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4}{2r_1 r_2} \right) \right) dr_2 dr_1 \quad (3.31)$$

$$= 4\pi^2 \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_1} \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} dr_2 dr_1 - 4\pi \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_1} \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} \arccos \left( \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4}{2r_1 r_2} \right) dr_2 dr_1 \quad (3.32)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} ((s+1)3^{1-s} - 3 + s) - \frac{4\pi^2}{s} \int_0^1 \frac{r_1}{(2-r_1)^s} dr_1 + \frac{4\pi}{s} \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_2} \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} \frac{r_2^2 - r_1^2 + 4}{\sqrt{4r_1^2 r_2^2 - (r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4)^2}} dr_2 dr_1 \quad (3.33)$$

$$= \underbrace{\frac{4\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} ((s+1)3^{1-s} - 2^{2-s})}_{-I_1} + \frac{4\pi}{s} \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_2} \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} \frac{r_2^2 - r_1^2 + 4}{\sqrt{4r_1^2 r_2^2 - (r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4)^2}} dr_2 dr_1. \quad (3.34)$$

Thus we get for the second term in Equation (3.11)

$$\mathcal{L}(E_0, E_1) = \frac{4\pi}{s} \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_2} \frac{r_1}{r_2^{1+s}} \frac{r_2^2 - r_1^2 + 4}{\sqrt{4r_1^2 r_2^2 - (r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4)^2}} dr_2 dr_1. \quad (3.35)$$

We can now bound this term without losing too much information. For the upper bound, we will use that  $r_2 \geq 2 - r_1$  and for the lower bound we will use that  $r_2 \leq 2 + r_1$ . We then get

$$\bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(E_0, E_1) \leq \frac{4\pi}{s} \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_2} \frac{r_1}{(2-r_1)^s} \frac{1}{r_2} \frac{r_2^2 - r_1^2 + 4}{\sqrt{4r_1^2 r_2^2 - (r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4)^2}} dr_2 dr_1 \quad (3.36)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{s} \int_0^1 \frac{r_1}{(2-r_1)^s} \left[ \arccos \left( \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4}{2r_1 r_2} \right) \right]_{2-r_1}^{2+r_2} dr_1 \quad (3.37)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s} \int_0^1 \frac{r_1}{(2-r_1)^s} dr_1 \quad (3.38)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} (2^{2-s} - 3 + s) \quad (3.39)$$

and

$$\bullet) \quad \mathcal{L}(E_0, E_1) \geq \frac{4\pi}{s} \int_0^1 \int_{2-r_1}^{2+r_2} \frac{r_1}{(2+r_1)^s} \frac{1}{r_2} \frac{r_2^2 - r_1^2 + 4}{\sqrt{4r_1^2 r_2^2 - (r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 4)^2}} dr_2 dr_1 \quad (3.40)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s} \int_0^1 \frac{r_1}{(2+r_1)^s} dr_1 \quad (3.41)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} (2^{2-s} - (s+1)3^{1-s}). \quad (3.42)$$

Thus we have that

$$\frac{2^{2-s}\pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})}{s(2-s) \Gamma(\frac{2-s}{2})} - \frac{8\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} (2^{2-s} - 3 + s) \leq \text{Per}_s(E_1) - 2\mathcal{L}(E_0, E_1) \leq \frac{2^{2-s}\pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})}{s(2-s) \Gamma(\frac{2-s}{2})} - \frac{8\pi^2}{s(1-s)(2-s)} \quad (3.43)$$

**TODO.** Give justification, that both sides are continuous w.r.t.  $s$  and conclude  
Maybe draw a picture

■

**TODO.** Add conclusion for Section 2.2 Minimizer could still be connected as mentioned in the intuitive approach.

### 3.2 Bounded external data

**TODO.** Show that for  $E_0$  bounded, the minimizer is connected for  $s$  small and large enough (at least in the model above)

**TODO.** Is that interesting?  
Show it doesn't even work for  $n = 1$ , but add discussion whether  $n = 1$  makes even sense to consider

# Conclusion

discussion of the results, comparison to classical case, open problems, future work,...

1. Change of Topology in the models (barrier construction)
2. Cubic construction for arbitrary external data
3. Existence of  $s_0$  for all external data and prescribed sets
4. Minimizer touching the boundary of the prescribed set (Calculations with of 3. with arbitrary parameter shows, no)
5. Can we give an estimate of the amount of connected components?

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