

The volume comparison of symmetric spaces of non-compact type of rank 1

Yufei Shan

Joint work with Jiaqi Chen, Yinghui Ying

School of Mathematics, SJTU

Geometric Analysis Conference, XJTLU, 2025

May 17, 2025

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Normalized Ricci flows
 - Definitions
 - Short time existences
 - Long time existences and convergences
- 3 The non-increasing of the relative volume along the NRDF
 - The evolution equation of the relative volume
 - Goals
- 4 Symmetric spaces of noncompact type
 - Basic concepts
 - Lie algebra structures
 - The computation of τ_0
 - The computation of γ
 - Rank 1 cases
 - Strictly stable

Introduction

Introduction

Introduction

Bishop-Gromov:

Let (M^n, g) be a complete Riemannian manifold with

$$\text{Ric} \geq (n-1)k \cdot g.$$

Then,

$$\text{vol}(B_r) \leq \text{vol}(B_r^k)$$

. where

- ▶ B_r : geodesic ball in (M, g)
- ▶ B_r^k : geodesic ball in the space form M^k

Introduction

Conjecture (R.Schoen):

Let (M^n, g) be a closed hyperbolic manifold. If

$$R(g_0) \geq R(g)$$

Then,

$$\text{vol}(g_0) \geq \text{vol}(g).$$

Progressions:

- ▶ **R.Hamilton and G.Perelman:** $n = 3$ (A corollary of geometrization);
- ▶ **L.Agol, P.A.Storm and W.P.Thurston, 2007:** hyperbolic 3-manifold with minimal surface boundary:

Relative Volume

If (M, g) is a non-compact Riemannian manifold, we need to consider the relative volume.

Definition (Relative volume(X.Hu, Y.Shi and D.Ji, 2014))

$$V_g(g_0) := \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} (vol(\Omega_i, g_0) - vol(\Omega_i, g))$$

where Ω_i is a compact exhaustion of M by compact sets.

On conformally compact Einstein manifold

Theorem (X.Hu, Y.Shi, D.Ji, 2014)

Let (M^n, g) be a $C^{2,\alpha}$ strictly stable conformally compact Einstein. For another metric g_0 on M , if

$$\|\rho^\tau(g_0 - g)\|_{C^0} \leq \varepsilon$$

for some small enough $\varepsilon > 0$, $\tau > n - 1$ and

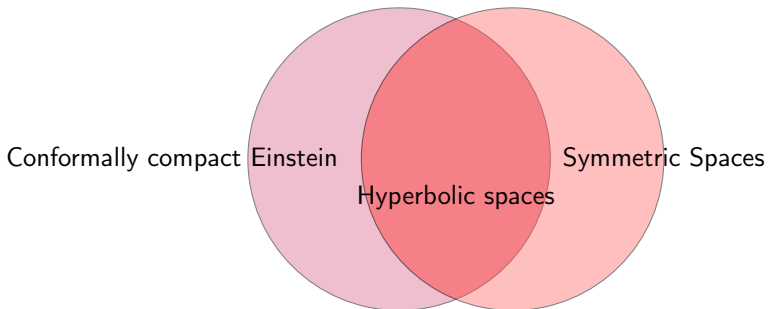
$$R_0 \geq -n(n-1)$$

where ρ is the defining function of (M, g) and R_0 is the scalar curvature of (M, g_0) , then

$$\text{Vol}_g(g_0) \geq 0$$

Problem

Question: How about other kinds of non-compact manifolds?



Key Observation

Key Observation: The relative volume is non-increasing along the normalized Ricci DeTurck flow.

Normalized Ricci flows

Normalized Ricci flows



Definitions

The normalized Ricci flow (NRF):

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \tilde{g}(t) = -2 \left(\text{Ric}(\tilde{g}(t)) - \frac{R_M}{n} \tilde{g}(t) \right) \\ \tilde{g}(0) = g_0 \end{cases}$$

The normalized Ricci DeTurck flow (NRDF):

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{g}_{ij} = -2 \left(\text{Ric}(\hat{g})_{ij} + \frac{R_M}{n} \hat{g}_{ij} \right) + \nabla_i W_j + \nabla_j W_i \\ \hat{g}(\cdot, 0) = g_0 \end{cases}$$

where $W_j = \hat{g}_{jk} \hat{g}^{pq} \left(\hat{\Gamma}_{pq}^k - \Gamma_{pq}^k \right)$ and $\hat{\Gamma}$ are the Christoffel symbols of the metric \hat{g} . R_M is the scalar curvature of the background Einstein metric g

The relations between NRF and NRDF

Let $\Phi_t : M \rightarrow M$ be a family of smooth diffeomorphisms satisfying the following equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Phi_t(x) = -W(\Phi_t(x), t) \\ \Phi_0(x) = \text{id}(x) \end{cases}$$

where $W^i := \hat{g}^{ij} W_j$. It is straightforward to verify that

$$\tilde{g}(t) = \Phi_t^* \hat{g}(t)$$

Basic definitions

Einstein operator:

$$Lu_{ij} = \Delta_g u_{ij} + 2R_{ipjq}u^{pq} \quad \text{for } u \in \text{sym}^2 T^*M$$

In particular, for g is Einstein, the NRDF is equivalent to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} u = Lu + Q(u) \quad \text{for } u \in \text{sym}^2 T^*M$$

where

- ▶ $u = \hat{g} - g$
- ▶ $Q(u) = \hat{g}^{-1} * \hat{g}^{-1} * \nabla u * \nabla u + (\hat{g}^{-1} - g^{-1}) * \nabla^2 u$

Basic definitions

Strictly stable:

A complete Riemannian manifold (M^n, g) is called strictly stable if

$$\lambda = \inf_u \frac{\int_M \langle Lu, u \rangle d\mu_g}{\int_M |u|^2 d\mu_g} > 0$$

where the infimum is taken among all nonzero symmetric 2-tensor u such that

$$\int_M (|u|^2 + |\nabla u|^2) d\mu_g < +\infty$$

Short time existences

- ▶ **R.Hamilton, 1982:** Closed manifolds
- ▶ **W.Shi, 1989:** Completed manifolds with $|Rm(g_0)| < k_0$
- ▶ **M.Simon, 2002:** C^0 metrics: $|g_0 - g| < \varepsilon$ and (M, g) is completed with $|Rm(g)| < k_0$
- ▶ **J.Qing, Y.Shi, J.Wu, 2011:** Conformally compact manifolds (The flow preserves the conformal infinity)

Long time existences and convergences

Compact manifolds

- **R.Ye, 1993:** Closed strictly stable manifolds with $|Ric(g_0) - \frac{R(g_0)}{n}g_0|$ small enough.

Long time existences and convergences

Non-compact manifolds

- ▶ **O.Schnürer, F.Schulze, M.Simon, 2011:** g_0 is a L^2 perturbation of a hyperbolic space
- ▶ **H.Li, H.Yin, 2011:** g_0 is a C^0 perturbation of a hyperbolic space
- ▶ **J.Qing, Y.Shi, J.Wu, 2011** g_0 is a C^0 or L^2 perturbation of a strictly stable conformally compact Einstein manifold
- ▶ **R.Bamler, 2015:** g_0 is a C^0 or L^p perturbation of symmetric spaces of non-compact type

Theorem

Theorem

Let (M^n, g) be a strictly stable Einstein manifold satisfying $|Rm| < k_0$, $\text{vol}(B(x, 1)) > v_0 > 0$ and

$$\int_M e^{-\alpha d(x, x_0)} d\text{vol}_g < +\infty$$

for some positive number k_0, v_0, α . Then, if

$$\|g_0 - g\|_{C^0} \leq \varepsilon_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_M |g_0 - g|^2 d\text{vol}_g \leq \varepsilon_0,$$

then, $\hat{g}(t)$ exists for all the time and satisfies that

$$\|\hat{g}(t) - g\|_{C^i} \leq C(i, k_0, v_0, t_0) \varepsilon_0 e^{-\lambda_{\varepsilon_1} t} \quad \text{for any } t \in [t_0, +\infty)$$

where $t_0 > 0$ is an arbitrary given number.

The non-increasing of the relative volume along the NRDF



The evolution equation of the relative volume

Taking a compact exhaustion of M , $\Omega_i \subset M$. Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega_i} \sqrt{\det(\hat{g}(t))} - \sqrt{\det(g)} d\text{vol}_g \\ &= - \int_{\Omega_i} (R(\hat{g}) - R_M) d\text{vol}_g + \int_{\partial\Omega_i} \langle W, \nu \rangle d\sigma_g \end{aligned}$$

where

- ▶ $W_i = \hat{g}_{ik} \hat{g}^{ab} (\Gamma_{ab}^k(\hat{g}(t)) - \Gamma_{ab}^k)$
- ▶ ν : the inward norm vector of $\partial\Omega_i$
- ▶ $d\sigma_g$: the induced volume form of g on $\partial\Omega_i$

Goals

Goal1:

- ▶ $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega_i} \sqrt{\det(\hat{g}(t))} - \sqrt{\det(g)} dvol_g = \frac{d}{dt} \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega_i} \sqrt{\det(\hat{g}(t))} - \sqrt{\det(g)} dvol_g$
- ▶ $\lim_{i \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial \Omega_i} \langle W, \nu \rangle d\sigma_g = 0$

which would imply that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_M \sqrt{\det(\hat{g}(t))} - \sqrt{\det(g)} dvol_g = - \int_M (R(\hat{g}) - R_M) dvol_g$$

Goal2:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \int_M \sqrt{\det(\hat{g}(t))} - \sqrt{\det(g)} dvol_g = 0$$

Goal3:

$$R(\hat{g}(t)) \geq R_M$$

The strategy for Goal 1 & Goal 2

The background metric:

(M^n, g) : a strictly stable Cartan-Hadamard Einstein manifold satisfying that

$$(1) |Rm| < k_0, \text{vol}_g(B(x, 1)) > v_0 \text{ for some } k_0, v_0 > 0$$

$$(2) \tau_0 := \lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_g d \text{ exists, where } d(x) = \text{dist}(x, p_0);$$

$$(3) R_{ijkl} h^{ik} h^{jl} < \gamma |h|^2 \text{ for any } h \in \text{sym}^2 T^*M \text{ and some } \gamma > 0$$

Remark:

In particular, all the irreducible symmetric spaces of non-compact type satisfy the above conditions.

Lemma

For any

$$\delta \in (0, \frac{\tau_0}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{\tau_0^2}{4} - 2\frac{R_M}{n}}) \cap (\tau_0, \tau_0 + 2\sqrt{\frac{\tau_0^2}{4} - 2\gamma}),$$

there exists $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ and $\lambda_R > 0$, such that for any other Riemannian metric g_0 , if

$$\|e^{\delta d}(g_0 - g)\|_{C^1} < \varepsilon_0,$$

there exists a solution to NRDF $\hat{g}(t)$ with initial $\hat{g}(0) = g_0$ for $t \in [0, \infty)$, satisfying that for $t \in [0, +\infty)$,

$$|\hat{R} - R_M| \leq C(n, \delta, \tau_0, k_0, v_0, t_0, \varepsilon_0) \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}\right) e^{-\lambda_R t} e^{-\delta d(x)} \quad (1)$$

$$|W(t, x)| \leq C(n, \delta, \tau_0, k_0, v_0, t_0, \varepsilon_0) e^{-\lambda_R t} e^{-\delta d(x)} \quad (2)$$

where \hat{R} is the scalar curvature of $\hat{g}(t)$.

The strategy for Goal3

The evolution equation of $R(\tilde{g}) - R_M$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\tilde{R} - R_M) &= \Delta_{\tilde{g}}(\tilde{R} - R_M) + 2|\tilde{Ric} - \frac{R_M}{n}\tilde{g}|_{\tilde{g}}^2 \\ &\quad + 2\frac{R_M}{n}(\tilde{R} - R_M) \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\tilde{R} - R_M) \geq \Delta_{\tilde{g}}(\tilde{R} - R_M) + 2\frac{R_M}{n}(\tilde{R} - R_M)$$

The Goal2 follows from the maximal principle.

The key issue

Question:

Whether

$$(0, \frac{\tau_0}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{\tau_0^2}{4} - 2\frac{R_M}{n}}) \cap (\tau_0, \tau_0 + 2\sqrt{\frac{\tau_0^2}{4} - 2\gamma})$$

is not empty?

Remark: the hyperbolic space $(M, g) = \mathbb{H}^n$: $\tau_0 = n - 1$, $R_M = -n(n - 1)$, $\gamma = 1$. The above intersection is nonempty.

Symmetric spaces of noncompact type

Basic concepts

Definition (Symmetric space)

A Riemannian manifold (M, g) is called **symmetric space** if for arbitrary point $p \in M$ there exist a reflection Φ_p at p .

Definition (Symmetric space of noncompact type)

A symmetric space is of noncompact type, if its sectional curvature is strictly negative.

Theorem (Parallel curvature)

A Riemannian manifold is a symmetric space if and only if it is simply connected and $\nabla R \equiv 0$.



Basic properties

Definition (Irreducible symmetric space)

A symmetric space is called irreducible if it can not be decomposed into a product of two symmetric space.

Theorem (De Rham decomposition)

Let M be symmetric space. Then M is a product

$$M = M_1 \times \dots \times M_r$$

where the factors M_i are irreducible.

Theorem

Irreducible symmetric spaces are Einstein manifolds.

Examples

- **Real hyperbolic case** the half plane model

$$\mathbb{R}H^{n+1} = \{(\mathbf{x}, y) | \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \text{ and } y > 0\}$$

with metric

$$\bar{g} = \frac{1}{y^2}(|dx|^2 + |dy|^2)$$

- **Complex hyperbolic case** the siegel half plane model

$$\mathbb{C}H^{n+1} = \{(\mathbf{z}, \rho, v) | \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{C}^n, \rho > 0, v \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

with metric

$$\bar{g} = \frac{4|dz|^2}{\rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho^4}(4\rho^2(d\rho)^2 + 4(dv + \text{Im}(\mathbf{z}d\mathbf{z}))^2)$$

Lie algebra structures

The symmetric space (M, g) can be identified as homogeneous space $M \cong G/K$, where

- ▶ G : isometric group of M . (G is semisimple and transitive)
- ▶ $K \triangleq \{g \in G | g(p_0) = p_0\}$: isotropic group of $p_0 \in M$.

Lie algebra structures

Let \mathfrak{g} and \mathfrak{l} be the Lie algebra of G and K respectively.

- ▶ **The involution on \mathfrak{g}** There is the induced involution $\sigma^2 = Id$ from the reflection at p_0 .
- ▶ **The Cartan decomposition \mathfrak{g}** The Lie algebra of \mathfrak{g} can have the following decomposition

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{p} \oplus \mathfrak{l}$$

where

- ▶ \mathfrak{p} : the eigenspace of -1 of σ ($\mathfrak{p} \cong T_{p_0}M$)
- ▶ \mathfrak{l} : the eigenspace of 1 of σ
- ▶ **The inner product**

$$(\cdot, \cdot) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} - \langle \cdot, \sigma(\cdot) \rangle$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the Killing form on \mathfrak{g} . In particular,

$(\cdot, \cdot)|_{\mathfrak{p}} = c \cdot g(\cdot, \cdot)|_{T_{p_0}M}$ for irreducible symmetric spaces, where $c > 0$ is a constant.

Lie algebra structures

- **The rank of symmetric space**

$$\dim(\mathfrak{a})$$

where $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{p}$ is the maximal Abelian subalgebra

- **Root system** $\alpha \in \Delta \subset \mathfrak{a}^*$ such that

$$[v, X] = \alpha(v)X$$

for any $v \in \mathfrak{a}$ and eigenvector X .

- **Positive root**

$$\Delta_+ = \{\alpha \in \Delta : \alpha(v_0) > 0\}$$

- **Root system properties** $[\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_\beta] \subset \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha+\beta}$ and $\sigma(\Delta_+) = -\Delta_+ \subset \Delta$.
- **Root decomposition** $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{a} \oplus_{\alpha \in \Delta_+} (\mathfrak{g}_\alpha \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}) \oplus \mathfrak{l}_0$

Lie algebra structures

► Frame

$$\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-r} \in \Delta_+$$

$$x_1, \dots, x_{n-r} \in \mathfrak{g}$$

Let $y_i = \sigma(x_i)$. Then,

$$p_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(x_i - y_i), \quad k_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(x_i + y_i)$$

forms an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{a}^\perp \oplus \mathfrak{l}_0^\perp$

- **Curvature** For $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{p} \cong T_{p_0}M$, the Riemannian curvature of the symmetric space, M , is

$$R(X, Y)Z|_{p_0} = [Z, [X, Y]]|_{p_0}$$

The computation of τ_0

Lemma

Let (M^n, g) be an irreducible Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact with rank r . Then,

$$\text{Ric} = - \sum_{i=1}^{n-r} (\alpha_i^2(v_0)) g$$

and

$$\Delta_g d|_{\exp(v_0 t)(p_0)} = - \sum_{i=1}^{n-r} \frac{ch(-\alpha_i(v_0)d)}{sh(-\alpha_i(v_0)d)} \alpha_i(v_0)$$

The computation of γ

For the operator

$$Rm : \text{sym}^2 T^*M \rightarrow \text{sym}^2 T^*M$$

$$h \mapsto R_{ijkl} h^{jl}$$

And the above operator can be extended into $T^*M \otimes T^*M$ as following

$$Rm : T^*M \otimes T^*M \rightarrow T^*M \otimes T^*M$$

$$u \otimes v \mapsto R_{ijkl} u^j v^l$$

In particular, if (M, g) is a symmetric spaces, then

$$Rm : \mathfrak{p} \otimes \mathfrak{p} \rightarrow \mathfrak{p} \otimes \mathfrak{p}$$

$$u \otimes v \mapsto \sum_{(k_i) \text{ basis of } \mathfrak{l}} [k_i, u] \otimes [k_i, v]$$

The computation of γ

$$Rm = \frac{1}{2}(\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{l}, \text{sym}^2 \mathfrak{p}) - \mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{p}))$$

where

- ▶ $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{l}, \text{sym}^2 \mathfrak{p})$: The Casimir operator of \mathfrak{l} on $\text{sym}^2 \mathfrak{p}$
- ▶ $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{p})$: The Casimir operator of \mathfrak{l} on \mathfrak{p}
- ▶ The γ is the largest eigenvalue of the operator Rm .

Rank 1 cases

- ▶ $\mathbb{H}^n = SO(1, n)/SO(n)$
- ▶ $\mathbb{CH}^n = SU(1, n)/U(n)$
- ▶ $\mathbb{HH}^n = Sp(1, n)/Sp(1)Sp(n)$
- ▶ $\mathbb{OH}^2 = F_4^{-20}/Spin_9$

The dimensions are n , $2n$, $4n$, 16 , respectively.

- ▶ **Real hyperbolic cases:** $\lim_{d \rightarrow +\infty} \Delta_g d = n - 1$
- ▶ **Complex hyperbolic cases:** $\lim_{d \rightarrow +\infty} \Delta_g d = 2n$
- ▶ **Quaternionic hyperbolic cases:** $\lim_{d \rightarrow +\infty} \Delta_g d = 4n + 2$
- ▶ **Octonionic hyperbolic cases:** $\lim_{d \rightarrow +\infty} \Delta_g d = 22$

Except the real hyperbolic case, $\gamma = 4$ for all the other cases. (See W.Fulton and J.Harris, Representation theory)

Strictly stable

A Bochner formula

$$(Lu)_{ij} = (\operatorname{div}^* \operatorname{div} + d^* d)u_{ij} - \operatorname{Rm}(u)_{ij} - \frac{1}{2}(R_{ik}u_j^k + R_{jk}u_i^k)$$

where

- ▶ $\operatorname{div} : C^\infty(M, \operatorname{sym}^2 T^*) \rightarrow C^\infty(M, T^*), u_{ij} \mapsto \nabla^i u_{ij}$
- ▶ $\operatorname{div}^* : C^\infty(M, T^*) \rightarrow C^\infty(M, \operatorname{sym}^2 T^*), \gamma_i \mapsto \frac{1}{2}(\nabla_i \gamma_j + \nabla_j \gamma_i)$
- ▶ $d : C^\infty(M, \operatorname{sym}^2 T^*) \rightarrow C^\infty(M, \Lambda^2 T^* \otimes T^*), u_{ij} \mapsto \nabla_i u_{jk} - \nabla_j u_{ik}$
- ▶ $d^* : C^\infty(M, \Lambda^2 T^* \otimes T^*) \rightarrow C^\infty(M, \operatorname{sym}^2 T^*),$
 $\gamma_{ijk} \mapsto -\frac{1}{2}(\nabla^k \gamma_{kij} + \nabla^k \gamma_{kji})$

Strictly stable

$$A : \operatorname{sym}^2 T^* \rightarrow \operatorname{sym}^2 T^*$$

$$u_{ij} \mapsto -Rm(u)_{ij} - \frac{1}{2}(R_{ik}u_j^k + R_{jk}u_i^k)$$

is self-adjoint and nonnegative definite for symmetric spaces of noncompact type.

Main theorem

Theorem

Suppose that (M^n, g) is an irreducible Riemannian symmetric space of noncompact type of rank 1 with $n \geq N$, where $N = 3, 10, 8, 4$ for real, complex, quaternionic and octonionic hyperbolic spaces respectively. And g_0 is another complete noncompact Riemannian metric on M . Then for $\tau > |\lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_g d(x)|$, there exists some $\varepsilon > 0$ such that if

$$\|e^{\tau d}(g_0 - g)\|_{C^1} \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad R \geq R_M$$

where R_M is the scalar curvature of (M, g) , then

$$V_g(g_0) \geq 0.$$

In particular, $V_g(g_0) = 0$, there exists a C^∞ diffeomorphism $\Phi : M \rightarrow M$, such that $g_0 = \Phi^* g$.

Thanks for your time!