

Christina Sormani

CUNY GC and Lehman College

Lecture II: Open Problems on Scalar Curvature

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Lecture 1: Geometric Notions of Convergence DONE!

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Consider M_i^3 with Scalar $\geq H$ and their Limit Spaces M_{∞}

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Which Geometric Properties of M_i^3 with $Scal \ge H$

Consider M_j^3 with $Scalar \ge H$ and their Limit Spaces M_{∞} Since M_j^3 may not have Lip limits or GH limits, we consider SWIF limits and \mathcal{VF} limits.



Which Geometric Properties of M_j^3 with $Scal \ge H$ persist on their SWIF and \mathcal{VF} Limit Spaces M_∞ ?

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$M_j \xrightarrow{C^k} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{C^0} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\mathrm{VADB}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M$

 $M_{j} \xrightarrow{C^{k}} M \implies M_{j} \xrightarrow{C^{0}} M \implies M_{j} \xrightarrow{\text{VADB}} M \implies M_{j} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M$ Defn: $M_{j} \xrightarrow{C^{k}} M_{\infty}$ if $\exists C^{k+1} \psi_{j} : M_{\infty} \to M_{j} \text{ s.t. } \psi_{j}^{*} g_{j} \xrightarrow{C^{k}} g_{\infty} :$

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A compact manifold (M,g) with a C^0 metric tensor g has $d(p,q) = \inf\{L_g(C)\}$ where $L(C) = \int_0^1 g(C'(t), C'(t))^{1/2} dt$.

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Areas and Volumes can be defined using Hausdorff measure:

$$\operatorname{Vol}(U) = \mathcal{H}^{n}(U) = \liminf_{\delta \to 0} \left\{ c_{n} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\operatorname{Diam}(U_{j}))^{n} : U \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} U_{j}, \operatorname{Diam}(U_{j}) \leq \delta \right\}.$$

Hausdorff Measure

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Volume Limit Definition of Scalar Curvature

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where $V^n(r)$ is the volume of a Euclidean ball of radius r. A flat three torus (whose small balls are Euclidean) has Scal = 0and the standard three sphere ($\mathbb{S}^3, g_{\mathbb{S}^3}$) has Scal = 6 everywhere. Gromov: If M_i^3 have $Scal \ge 0$, does M_∞ have $Scal \ge 0$?

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If we cut a ball out of a sphere and attach a Schwarzschild neck, and then a capped cylinder, and smooth it we get M^3 with a well that has Scal > 0. Adding many wells gives Ilmanen's Example.

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Gromov-Lawson/Schoen-Yau tunnels can be glued between spheres \mathbb{S}^3 to create connected sums of spheres with Scal > 0.

$$\operatorname{Scal}(p) = \lim_{r \to 0} 6(n+2) \left(\frac{V^n(r) - \operatorname{Vol}(B(p,r))}{r^2 V^n(r)} \right)$$

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where $V^n(r)$ is the volume of a Euclidean ball of radius r. Basilio-Dodziuk-Sormani: Sewing tunnels along a curve $\eta \subset S^3$:



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We construct M_j with $\text{Scal}_j \ge 0$ and $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{GH}} M_{GH}$ where M_{GH} is \mathbb{S}^3 with η pulled to a single point p.

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We construct M_j with $\operatorname{Scal}_j \ge 0$ and $M_j \xrightarrow{\operatorname{GH}} M_{GH}$ where M_{GH} is \mathbb{S}^3 with η pulled to a single point p. $Vol(B(p, r) \subset M_{GH}) = Vol(T_r(\eta) \subset \mathbb{S}^3)$

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We construct M_j with $\operatorname{Scal}_j \ge 0$ and $M_j \xrightarrow{\operatorname{GH}} M_{GH}$ where M_{GH} is \mathbb{S}^3 with η pulled to a single point p. $\operatorname{Vol}(B(p,r) \subset M_{GH}) = \operatorname{Vol}(T_r(\eta) \subset \mathbb{S}^3) \implies \operatorname{Scal}(p) = -\infty.$

$$\mathsf{Scal}(p) = \lim_{r \to 0} 6(n+2) \left(\frac{V^n(r) - \mathsf{Vol}(B(p,r))}{r^2 V^n(r)} \right)$$

where $V^n(r)$ is the volume of a Euclidean ball of radius r. Basilio-Dodziuk-Sormani: Sewing tunnels along a curve $\eta \subset S^3$:



We construct M_j with $\operatorname{Scal}_j \ge 0$ and $M_j \xrightarrow{\operatorname{GH}} M_{GH}$ where M_{GH} is \mathbb{S}^3 with η pulled to a single point p. $\operatorname{Vol}(B(p, r) \subset M_{GH}) = \operatorname{Vol}(T_r(\eta) \subset \mathbb{S}^3) \implies \operatorname{Scal}(p) = -\infty$. Maybe other properties of Scalar curvature persist under limits? $\mathsf{Scal}_j \ge 0$, $\mathsf{Vol}(M_j^3) \to \mathsf{Vol}(\mathbb{S}^3)$ but $M_j^3 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} 0^3$

Basilio-Sormani:



 $\mathsf{Scal}_j \ge 0$, $\mathsf{Vol}(M_j^3) \to \mathsf{Vol}(\mathbb{S}^3)$ but $M_j^3 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} 0^3$

We take an increasingly dense collection of balls in \mathbb{S}^3



 $\operatorname{Scal}_j \geq 0$, $\operatorname{Vol}(M_i^3) \to \operatorname{Vol}(\mathbb{S}^3)$ but $M_i^3 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} 0^3$

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Between every pair of balls B(p, r) and B(q, r)run a tiny short tunnel

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Between every pair of balls B(p, r) and B(q, r)run a tiny short tunnel

Ensure that the total volume of the tunnels \rightarrow 0.

$$\operatorname{Scal}_j \geq 0$$
, $\operatorname{Vol}(M_j^3) \to \operatorname{Vol}(\mathbb{S}^3)$ but $M_j^3 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} 0^3$

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Between every pair of balls B(p, r) and B(q, r)run a tiny short tunnel Ensure that the total volume of the tunnels $\rightarrow 0$. $M_{GH} = \{p\}$ and so $M_{SWIF} = 0^3$.

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Ensure that the total volume of the tunnels $\rightarrow 0$. $M_{GH} = \{p\}$ and so $M_{SWIF} = 0^3$. We could also limit ourselves to balls in a domain U

$$\mathsf{Scal}_j \ge 0$$
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$\text{Scal}_j \geq 0, \ M_j^3 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_\infty^3$, but M_∞^3 has no geods!

Basilio-Kazaras-Sormani:



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Stable Minimal Surfaces in M^3 with Scal ≥ 0

A surface $\Sigma^2 \subset M^3$ is a stable closed minimal surface if it minimizes area of any continuous deformation, Σ_t : $Area(\Sigma^2) \leq Area(\Sigma_t) \quad \forall \Sigma_t \ s.t. \ \Sigma_0 = \Sigma \ \text{and} \ \partial \Sigma_t = \partial \Sigma_0.$



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Does Torus Rigidity hold on M_{∞} if $Scal(M_j) \ge -1/j$? Basilio-Sormani (to appear): sewing to M_{GH} is \mathbb{T}^3 with $\underline{\eta}$ to a p.

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Widths and Unstable Minimal Surfaces

 $\begin{aligned} \text{Width}(M^3) &= \inf_{\Sigma_t \in \Lambda} \sup_{t \in [0,1]} \operatorname{Area}(\Sigma_t) \\ \text{where the infimum is over all sweepouts } \Sigma_t \text{ of } M^3: \\ (\Sigma_t &= F_t \left(h^{-1}(t) \right) \text{ for a family of diffeoms } F_t : M^3 \to M^3) \\ \text{The width is achieved by a min surface which may be unstable.} \end{aligned}$



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Basilio-Dodziuk-Sormani: some sewing nonexamples for GH limits. Now lets consider:

 $M_j \xrightarrow{C^k} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{C^0} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\mathrm{VADB}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M$



Do they hold if $M_j \xrightarrow{C^k} M_\infty$?



Do they hold if $M_j \xrightarrow{C^k} M_\infty$? They all hold if $M_j \xrightarrow{C^k} M_\infty$ for k = 2 because scalar curvature can be evaluated by taking 2^{nd} derivatives of g_j .

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VADB Projects for Doctoral Students and Postdocs

Contact me if you are interested!

Investigate one of the following rigidity theorems to see if it holds on smooth M_{∞} where $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{VADB}} M_{\infty}$:

Scalar Torus Rigidity Theorem of Schoen-Yau Prism Rigidity Theorem of Gromov-Li Scalar Sphere Rigidity Theorem of Marques-Neves Minimal Torus Scalar Rigidity Theorem of Cai-Galloway Hemispherical Scalar Rigidity Theorem of Eichmair Cover Splitting Rigidity Theorem of Bray-Brendle-Neves ℝP³ Scalar Rigidity Theorem by Bray-Brendle-Eichmair-Neves Zero Mass Rigidity of Schoen-Yau Zero Local Mass Rigidity of Shi-Tam

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Note that if the Rigidity Theorem requires $Scal(M) \ge H$ then study smooth M_{∞} where $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{VADB}} M_{\infty}$ with $Scal(M_j) \ge H - 1/j$. See [Conjectures on Conv and Scalar (2021) arXiv: 2103.10093]

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Do Scalar Rigidity Theorems hold on Limit Spaces M_{∞} if we assume $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ with $MinA(M_j) \ge A > 0$?

Basilio-Dodziuk-Sormani Sewing Nonexamples have both $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{GH}} M_{\infty}$ and $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$.



Their topology is increasing so M_j do not conv in VADB sense.

Notice each tunnel contains a stable minimal surface, Σ^2 . As we add more tiny tunnels, $MinA(M_j) \rightarrow 0$, where $MinA(M) = \min\{Area(\Sigma^2) : \Sigma^2 \subset M^3 \text{ a min surf}\}$.

Do Scalar Rigidity Theorems hold on Limit Spaces M_{∞} if we assume $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ with $MinA(M_j) \ge A > 0$?

These hypotheses eliminate all known nonexamples! OPEN

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A \mathcal{VF} Geometric Stability Conjecture states that a manifold which almost satisfies the hypotheses of a rigidity theorem must be \mathcal{VF} close to the rigid manifold that exactly satisfies those hypotheses.

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Geometric Stability of Scalar Torus Rigidity [Gromov-Sormani]

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Geometric Stability of Scalar Torus Rigidity [Gromov-Sormani] Geometric Stability of Scalar Prism Rigidity [Gromov-Li]

VF-Geometric Stability Conjectures

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One method to prove these:

(1) Directly estimate the volume of the manifold.

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One method to prove these:

- (1) Directly estimate the volume of the manifold.
- (2) Directly estimate the SWIF distance.
\mathcal{VF} -Geometric Stability Conjectures

A \mathcal{VF} Geometric Stability Conjecture states that a manifold which almost satisfies the hypotheses of a rigidity theorem must be \mathcal{VF} close to the rigid manifold that exactly satisfies those hypotheses.

Geometric Stability of Scalar Torus Rigidity [Gromov-Sormani] Geometric Stability of Scalar Prism Rigidity [Gromov-Li] Geometric Stability of Scalar Sphere Rigidity [Marques-Neves]

One method to prove these:

- (1) Directly estimate the volume of the manifold.
- (2) Directly estimate the SWIF distance.Done in Special Cases!

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One method to prove these:

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A second method to prove these:

(1) prove the IAS Scalar Compactness Conj [Gromov-Sormani]

to show that at least a subsequence $M_{j_k} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$. (2) prove each rigidity theorem holds on limits M_{∞} where $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ with $MinA(M_j) \ge A > 0$

Due to the Nonexamples of Basilio-Dodziuk-Sormani we require the MinA(M) hypotheses in these four conjectures. IAS Compactness Conjecture [Gromov-S] **Suppose** M_j^3 have $Vol(M_j^3) \le V$ and $Diam(M_j^3) \le D$

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Suppose M_j^3 have $Vol(M_j^3) \le V$ and $Diam(M_j^3) \le D$ by [Wenger]: subseq $M_j \xrightarrow{SWIF} M_\infty$ possibly 0.

Suppose M_j^3 have $Vol(M_j^3) \leq V$ and $Diam(M_j^3) \leq D$ by [Wenger]: subseq $M_j \xrightarrow{SWIF} M_\infty$ possibly 0. and by [SW]: $\liminf_{j\to\infty} Vol(M_j) \geq \mathbf{M}(M_\infty)$.

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Suppose M_j^3 have $\operatorname{Vol}(M_j^3) \leq V$ and $\operatorname{Diam}(M_j^3) \leq D$ by [Wenger]: subseq $M_j \xrightarrow{\operatorname{SWIF}} M_\infty$ possibly 0. and by [SW]: $\liminf_{j\to\infty} \operatorname{Vol}(M_j) \geq \mathbf{M}(M_\infty)$. and by [SW]: If $M_\infty \neq 0$ then it is m-rectifiable.

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Conjecture: If in addition we have $Scalar_j \ge 0$ and $MinA_j \ge A$

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Conjecture: If in addition we have $Scalar_j \ge 0$ and $MinA_j \ge A$ where $MinA_j = min\{Area(\Sigma) : \text{ closed min surfaces } \Sigma \subset M_i^3\}$

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by [Wenger]: subseq $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{SWIF}} M_\infty$ possibly 0. and by [SW]: $\liminf_{j\to\infty} \text{Vol}(M_j) \ge \mathbf{M}(M_\infty)$. and by [SW]: If $M_\infty \neq 0$ then it is m-rectifiable.

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What properties of scalar curvature are conserved when $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_\infty$ with $MinA(M_j) \ge A > 0$? Ultimate Challenge.

Suppose M_i^3 have $Vol(M_i^3) \leq V$ and $Diam(M_i^3) \leq D$

by [Wenger]: subseq $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{SWIF}} M_\infty$ possibly 0. and by [SW]: $\liminf_{j\to\infty} \text{Vol}(M_j) \ge \mathbf{M}(M_\infty)$. and by [SW]: If $M_\infty \neq 0$ then it is m-rectifiable.

Conjecture: If in addition we have $Scalar_j \ge 0$ and $MinA_j \ge A$ where $MinA_j = min\{Area(\Sigma) : \text{ closed min surfaces } \Sigma \subset M_j^3\}$ **Then** $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ where M_{∞} has generalized "Scalar ≥ 0 "

What properties of scalar curvature are conserved when $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_\infty$ with $MinA(M_j) \ge A > 0$? Ultimate Challenge.

What properties of scalar curvature are conserved when $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{VADB}} M_\infty$? These are the Student and Postdoc Problems.

Suppose M_i^3 have $Vol(M_i^3) \leq V$ and $Diam(M_i^3) \leq D$

by [Wenger]: subseq $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{SWIF}} M_\infty$ possibly 0. and by [SW]: $\liminf_{j\to\infty} \text{Vol}(M_j) \ge \mathbf{M}(M_\infty)$. and by [SW]: If $M_\infty \neq 0$ then it is m-rectifiable.

Conjecture: If in addition we have $Scalar_j \ge 0$ and $MinA_j \ge A$ where $MinA_j = min\{Area(\Sigma) : \text{ closed min surfaces } \Sigma \subset M_j^3\}$ **Then** $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ where M_{∞} has generalized "Scalar ≥ 0 "

What properties of scalar curvature are conserved when $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_\infty$ with $MinA(M_j) \ge A > 0$? Ultimate Challenge.

What properties of scalar curvature are conserved when $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{VADB}} M_\infty$? These are the Student and Postdoc Problems.

Review: What properties of scalar curvature are conserved when $M_j \xrightarrow{C^0} M_\infty$? Many already proven by Gromov, Bamler, Li, Burkhardt-Guim, and others.

IAS Compactness Conjecture [Gromov-S] Suppose M_j^3 have $Vol(M_j^3) \le V$ and $Diam(M_j^3) \le D$ by [Wenger]: subseq $M_j \xrightarrow{SWIF} M_{\infty}$ possibly 0. Conjecture: If in addition we have $Scalar_j \ge 0$ and $MinA_j \ge A$ where $MinA_j = min\{Area(\Sigma) : \text{ closed min surfaces } \Sigma \subset M_j^3\}$ Then $M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ where M_{∞} has generalized "Scalar ≥ 0 " Can we prove a subseq \mathcal{VF} converges in special cases?

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IAS Compactness Conjecture [Gromov-S] **Suppose** M_i^3 have $Vol(M_i^3) \leq V$ and $Diam(M_i^3) \leq D$ by [Wenger]: subseq $M_i \xrightarrow{\text{SWIF}} M_{\infty}$ possibly 0. **Conjecture:** If in addition we have $Scalar_i \ge 0$ and $MinA_i \ge A$ where $MinA_j = min\{Area(\Sigma) : \text{ closed min surfaces } \Sigma \subset M_i^3\}$ **Then** $M_i \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ where M_{∞} has generalized "Scalar ≥ 0 " Can we prove a subseq VF converges in special cases? **Park-Tian-Wang:** Proved a subsequence \mathcal{VF} converges for warped product M_i diffeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^3 : with $g_i = dr^2 + f_i^2(r)g_0$ where $f_i(0) = f_i(L) = 0$. **Pf:** Scal_i = $-4f_i''(r)/f_i(r) + 2(1 - f_i'(r)^2)/f_i'(r)^2$. $\exists a, b \in [0, D]$ s.t. subseq $f_i \rightarrow f_{\infty} > 0$ in C_0 and H^1_{loc} on (a,b) and $f_i \rightarrow 0$ uniformly on [0, a] and [b, D] (thin wells). Apply Lakzian-S: $M_i \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_{\infty}$ with $g_{\infty} = dr^2 + f_{\infty}^2(r)g_0$.

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then a subseq $M_{j_k}^3 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M_\infty$ where M_∞ is a flat torus.



 $\mathsf{Scal}_j \ge -1/j \quad \mathit{MinA}_j \ge \alpha > \mathsf{0} \quad \mathsf{Diam}_j \le D \quad \mathsf{Vol}_j \le V$

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Special cases of this conjecture have been proven:

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Geometric Stability of Scalar Sphere Rigidity Conj [Marques-Neves]: If M_i^3 are homeomorphic to spheres with

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Geometric Stability of Scalar Sphere Rigidity

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Special Cases Students and Postdocs might try: Warped Products, Graphs, Conformal Manifolds....

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Special Cases Students and Postdocs might try: Warped Products, Graphs, Conformal Manifolds.... Hints by Marques-Neves are in [Conj on Convergence and Scalar]

In addition to the Geometric Stability of

Scalar Torus Rigidity Theorem of Schoen-Yau Scalar Sphere Rigidity Theorem of Marques-Neves

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In addition to the Geometric Stability of

Scalar Torus Rigidity Theorem of Schoen-Yau Scalar Sphere Rigidity Theorem of Marques-Neves

We also conjecture Geometric Stability taking M_j with $\text{Scal}_j \ge H - 1/j$ $MinA(M_j^3) \ge A > 0$ $\text{Diam}(M_j) \le D$ $\text{Vol}(M_j) \le V$ and additional boundary conditions as needed for the following Rigidity Theorems:

Minimal Torus Scalar Rigidity Theorem of Cai-Galloway Prism Rigidity Theorem of Gromov-Li Hemispherical Scalar Rigidity Theorem of Eichmair Cover Splitting Rigidity Theorem of Bray-Brendle-Neves \mathbb{RP}^3 Scalar Rigidity Theorem by Bray-Brendle-Eichmair-Neves Zero Local Mass Rigidity of Shi-Tam

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(is proven in many cases: Lee, Huang, Perales, Stavrov, Allen...)

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Lecture 1: Geometric Notions of Convergence DONE! $M_j \xrightarrow{C^k} M_{\infty} \implies M_j \xrightarrow{C^0} M_{\infty} \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{Lip}} M_{\infty} \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{GH}} M_{\infty}$ $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{Lip}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{VADB}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{SWIF}} M$

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[Conjectures on Convergence and Scalar arXiv: 2103.10093]

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Lecture 1: Geometric Notions of Convergence DONE! $M_j \xrightarrow{C^k} M_{\infty} \implies M_j \xrightarrow{C^0} M_{\infty} \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{Lip}} M_{\infty} \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{GH}} M_{\infty}$ $M_j \xrightarrow{\text{Lip}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{VADB}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\mathcal{VF}} M \implies M_j \xrightarrow{\text{SWIF}} M$ [Gromov Structures-Metriques] [Burago-Burago-Ivanov Text] [Sormani-Wenger JDG-2011] [Allen-Perales-Sormani VADB] [Conjectures on Convergence and Scalar arXiv: 2103.10093] Lecture 2: Open Problems about Scalar Curvature DONE!

 \mathcal{VF} Scalar Compactness Conjecture

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[Gromov Structures-Metriques] [Burago-Burago-Ivanov Text] [Sormani-Wenger JDG-2011] [Allen-Perales-Sormani VADB] [Conjectures on Convergence and Scalar arXiv: 2103.10093] Lecture 2: Open Problems about Scalar Curvature DONE! VF Scalar Compactness Conjecture VF Almost Rigidity of the Positive Mass Theorem

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Lecture 1: Geometric Notions of Convergence DONE!

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Lecture 2: Open Problems about Scalar Curvature DONE!
VF Scalar Compactness Conjecture
VF Almost Rigidity of the Positive Mass Theorem
VF Geometric Stability of the Scalar Torus Rigidity and
Scalar Sphere Rigidity and Prism Rigidity Theorems

Lecture 1: Geometric Notions of Convergence DONE!

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Lecture 1: Geometric Notions of Convergence DONE!

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[Conjectures on Convergence and Scalar arXiv: 2103.10093] Other papers on SWIF convergence may be found at: https://sites.google.com/site/intrinsicflatconvergence/

This talk may be downloaded at my website: https://sites.google.com/site/professorsormani/

Feel free to email me with questions: sormanic@gmail.com

Thank you for listening - Christina Sormani

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