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Improved generic regularity of minimizing hypersurfaces

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(joint work with Otis Chodosh, Felix Schulze)

Let Γ be a smooth, closed, oriented, $(n - 1)$ -dimensional submanifold of $\mathbf{R}^{n+1}$. Among all smooth, compact, oriented hypersurfaces $M \subset \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ with $\partial M = \Gamma$, does there exist one with *least area*?

Foundational results in geometric measure theory can be used to produce an integral n -current T with least mass (“minimizing”) among all those with boundary equal to the multiplicity-one current represented by Γ . When $n + 1 \leq 7$, it is known that T is supported on a smooth, compact, oriented hypersurface that solves the original differential geometric problem (see [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]). When $n + 1 \geq 8$, smooth minimizers can fail to exist (see [6]) but it is nevertheless known that away from a compact set $\text{sing } T \subset \mathbf{R}^{n+1} \setminus \Gamma$ of Hausdorff dimension $\leq n - 7$, the support of T will be a smooth precompact hypersurface with boundary Γ (see [7, 5]).

A fundamental result of Hardt–Simon [8] shows that the singularities of 7-dimensional minimizing currents in $\mathbf{R}^8$, which are necessarily isolated points, can be eliminated by a perturbation of the prescribed boundary Γ , thus yielding solutions to the original geometric problem in $\mathbf{R}^8$ for the perturbed boundary.

In recent work motivated from our past results on mean curvature flow (see, e.g., [9, 10]) we obtained a generic regularity result for minimizers in higher ambient dimensions:

Theorem ([11], [12]). *Let $\Gamma^{n-1} \subset \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ be a smooth, closed, oriented, submanifold. There exist arbitrarily small perturbations Γ' of Γ such that every minimizing integral n -current with boundary $[\Gamma']$ is of the form $[M']$ for a smooth, precompact, oriented hypersurface M' with $\partial M' = \Gamma'$ and $\text{sing } M' = \bar{M}' \setminus M'$ satisfies*

$$\text{sing } M' = \emptyset \text{ if } n+1 \leq 10, \text{ otherwise } \dim_H \text{sing } M' \leq n-9-\varepsilon_n$$

where $\varepsilon_n \in (0, 1]$ is an explicit dimensional constant.

Let us discuss what goes into the proof of this theorem. Let us denote

$$\mathcal{M}(\Gamma) = \{\text{minimizing integral } n\text{-currents in } \mathbf{R}^{n+1} \text{ with boundary } [\Gamma]\}.$$

We agree to the following simplifying assumptions (see [12] for the general case):

- Γ is connected.
- $\mathcal{M}(\Gamma)$ is a singleton.

The above and the standard regularity theory guarantee that $\mathcal{M}(\Gamma) = \{[M]\}$ for a smooth, precompact, oriented hypersurface $M \subset \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ with $\partial M = \Gamma$, $\text{sing } M = \bar{M} \setminus M \subset \subset \mathbf{R}^{n+1} \setminus \Gamma$, and $\dim_H \text{sing } M \leq n-7$.

Now set $\Gamma_0 := \Gamma$ and perturb Γ smoothly to $(\Gamma_s)_{s \in (-\delta, \delta)}$ by s times the unit normal to M along Γ (recall that $\text{sing } M \cap \Gamma = \emptyset$) for some small $\delta > 0$. Accordingly, for each $s \in (-\delta, \delta)$, let $\mathcal{M}(\Gamma_s)$ be the set of all minimizers with boundary data Γ_s ; each such is still of the form $[M_s]$, with M_s enjoying similar a priori regularity as M . A cut-and-paste argument implies that

$$(\ddagger) \quad [M_s] \in \mathcal{M}(\Gamma_s), [M_{s'}] \in \mathcal{M}(\Gamma_{s'}), s \neq s' \implies \bar{M}_s \cap \bar{M}_{s'} = \emptyset.$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \bigcup_{s \in (-\delta, \delta)} \bigcup_{[M_s] \in \mathcal{M}(\Gamma_s)} \bar{M}_s, \\ \mathcal{S} &= \bigcup_{s \in (-\delta, \delta)} \bigcup_{[M_s] \in \mathcal{M}(\Gamma_s)} \text{sing } M_s. \end{aligned}$$

In view of $(\ddagger)$, the following “timestamp” function is well-defined:

$$\mathbf{t} : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow (-\delta, \delta),$$

$$\mathbf{t}(x) = s \text{ for all } x \in \bar{M}_s, [M_s] \in \mathcal{M}(\Gamma_s), s \in (-\delta, \delta).$$

We are now ready to state the two main tools required for our main theorem.

Tool A ([12]). *It holds that $\dim_H \mathcal{S} \leq n-7$.*

Tool B ([12]). *The timestamp function $\mathbf{t} : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow (-\delta, \delta)$ above is α -Hölder on $\mathcal{S}$ for every $\alpha \in (0, 2 + \varepsilon_n)$, where $\varepsilon_n \in (0, 1]$ is an explicit dimensional constant.*

To obtain the **Theorem** from **Tools A, B** one can invoke a Sard-type covering argument of Figalli–Ros–Oton–Serra, who successfully proved a generic regularity result for free boundary singularities in the obstacle problem using tools similar to **A, B**.

Proposition ([13, Proposition 7.7]). *Let $S \subset \mathbf{R}^n$, $0 < d \leq n$, and $0 < \beta < \alpha$. Assume that $\mathcal{H}^d(S) < \infty$ and that $f : S \rightarrow (-1, 1)$ is α -Hölder continuous.*

(1) *If $d \leq \beta$, then $\mathcal{H}^{d/\beta}(f(S)) = 0$.*

(2) *If $d > \beta$, then for a.e. $t \in (-1, 1)$ we have $\mathcal{H}^{d-\beta}(f^{-1}(t)) = 0$.*

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Diameter estimates in Kähler geometry

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(joint work with Duong H. Phong, Jian Song, and Jacob Sturm)

The diameter is an important geometric invariant associated to a Riemannian metric. Bounds for the diameter are essential for the study of geometric convergence of a family of Riemannian manifolds. Previously known results require the conditions on the curvature. For example, the Myers' theorem states that the diameter is bounded if the Ricci curvature is bounded below by a *positive* constant. Recently, in [1] we develop a general theory of diameter estimates for Kähler metrics, which in particular does not require any assumptions on the Ricci curvature. The non-linear analysis of complex Monge-Ampère equations allows us to derive uniform estimates of the Green's functions [2], from which the diameter estimates follow.

Let (X, ω_X) be an n -dimensional compact Kähler manifold equipped with a Kähler metric ω_X . Let γ be a non-negative continuous function and $A, B, K > 0$, $p > n$ be given parameters. We define a subset of $\mathcal{W} := \mathcal{W}(X, \omega_X, n, A, p, K, \gamma)$ of the space of Kähler metrics on X by

$$\mathcal{W} = \left\{ \omega : (V_\omega)^{-1} \frac{\omega^n}{\omega_X^n} \geq \gamma, [\omega] \cdot [\omega_X]^{n-1} \leq A, \mathcal{N}_{X, \omega_X, p}(\omega) \leq K \right\},$$