

# COMPARISON GEOMETRY FOR SUBSTATIC MANIFOLDS

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Recent advances in comparison geometry

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Riemannian manifolds  $(M, g)$  with a nonnegative smooth function  $f$  (**substatic potential**) such that

(i)  $f \operatorname{Ric} - \nabla \nabla f + \Delta f g \geq 0$

(ii) The boundary  $\partial M = \{f = 0\}$  (**horizon**) is a *minimal* closed hypersurface and a regular level set for  $f$ .

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(Other interesting cases: Einstein–Maxwell, perfect fluids, scalar fields, ...)
- If we assume **Null Energy Condition** ( $T(X, X) \geq 0 \forall X$  such that  $\gamma(X, X) = 0$ ), we get (Wang–Wang–Zhang '17)

$$f \text{Ric} - \nabla \nabla f + \Delta f g \geq 0$$

# Examples

We will consider *noncompact* substatic manifolds. Main model solution:

$$M = [r_0, +\infty) \times \Sigma, \quad g = \frac{dr \otimes dr}{f(r)^2} + r^2 g_\Sigma, \quad r_0 > 0$$

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  - ▶ If  $\Sigma = \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  and  $m = 0$  this is the hyperbolic space.



## Natural connection with $CD(0, 1)$ condition

$(M, \tilde{g})$  satisfies the  $CD(0, N)$  condition if there exists  $\psi \in \mathcal{C}^2(M)$  such that the  $N$ -Bakry–Émery Ricci tensor is nonnegative

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Let  $(M, g, f)$  be substatic. Consider (Brendle, Chrusciél, Woolgar, Reiris, ...)

$$\tilde{g} = \frac{g}{f^2}, \quad \psi = -(n-1) \log f.$$

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Fundamental elements of comparison geometry in this setting have been recently studied (Wylie, Wylie–Yeroshkin, Ohta, Lu–Minguzzi–Ohta, Kuwae–Sakurai, Kuwae–Li, Sakurai, ...)!

# Laplacian comparison

$\rho$  distance from  $x \in M$  with respect to  $\tilde{g} = g/f^2$ . We define the **reparametrized distance**  $\eta_x$  via

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \eta_x = f^2 & \text{in } M, \\ \eta_x(x) = 0 \end{cases}$$

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This is a first order PDE  $\Rightarrow$  it gives a smooth  $\eta_x$  *outside the cut locus*.  
( $\eta_x$  is the length of the radial  $\tilde{g}$ -geodesics with respect to  $f^4 \tilde{g} = f^2 g$ .)

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Riccati equation for the  $g$ -mean curvature  $H$  of the level sets of  $\rho$ :

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### Proposition (Wylie '16)

$$0 < \frac{H}{f} = \Delta \rho + \frac{1}{f} \langle \nabla f | \nabla \rho \rangle \leq \frac{n-1}{\eta_x}$$

*within the cut locus of  $x$ .*



# Horizon and ends

Let  $(M, g)$  be substatic.

With respect to  $\tilde{g} = g/f^2$ , the horizon  $\partial M$  becomes an end ( $\rho \rightarrow +\infty$ ). On the other hand, the reparametrized distance  $\eta$  has finite limit.

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(i) An end is  **$f$ -complete** if any ray  $\gamma$  has infinite  $\tilde{g}$ -length ( $\rho \rightarrow +\infty$ ) and

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- (ii) An end is **conformally compact** if any ray has finite  $\tilde{g}$ -length. The end becomes a boundary. We also require the metric to extend smoothly to the conformal boundary.

Main example: Anti de Sitter–Schwarzschild (in particular hyperbolic space).

# Substatic Splitting Theorems

## Theorem (Wylie '16, B.–Fogagnolo)

Let  $(M, g)$  be substatic.

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$$M = \mathbb{R} \times L, \quad g = f^2 ds \otimes ds + g_L.$$

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*Consequence: if  $\partial M \neq \emptyset$  then  $\partial M = \mathbb{R} \times \partial L$  noncompact, contradiction  
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(ii) generalizes a result of Chruściel–Simon for vacuum static metrics.

# Substatic Bishop–Gromov monotonicity

Classical Bishop–Gromov Theorem for nonnegative Ricci: for every  $x \in M$ ,  $r = \text{dist}(x, \cdot)$ , the functions

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$$V_x(t) = \frac{1}{t^n|\mathbb{B}^n|} \int_{\{\rho \leq t\}} \frac{1}{f} \left( \frac{\rho}{\eta_x} \right)^{n-1} d\sigma$$

## Proof (monotonicity of $A(t)$ ).

The Laplacian comparison can be rephrased as

$$\operatorname{div}(X) \leq 0,$$

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$$|\nabla \rho| = 1/f \Rightarrow A(t) \geq A(T)$$





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Coarea formula:

$$\begin{aligned} V(t) &= \frac{1}{t^n |\mathbb{B}^n|} \int_{\{\rho \leq t\}} \frac{1}{f} \left( \frac{\rho}{\eta} \right)^{n-1} d\mu = \frac{n}{t^n |\mathbb{S}^{n-1}|} \int_0^t \int_{\{\rho=\tau\}} \left( \frac{\rho}{\eta} \right)^{n-1} d\sigma d\tau \\ &= \frac{n}{t^n} \int_0^t \tau^{n-1} A(\tau) d\tau \end{aligned}$$

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On the one hand, exploiting area monotonicity:

$$V(t) = \frac{n}{t^n} \int_0^t \tau^{n-1} A(\tau) d\tau \geq \frac{n}{t^n} A(t) \int_0^t \tau^{n-1} d\tau = A(t)$$

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On the other hand, differentiating:

$$V'(t) = \frac{n}{t^n} t^{n-1} A(t) - \frac{n^2}{t^{n+1}} \int_0^t \tau^{n-1} A(\tau) d\tau = \frac{n}{t} [A(t) - V(t)] \leq 0.$$



# Distance from a hypersurface

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$$\rightsquigarrow A_\Sigma(t) = \frac{1}{|\mathbb{S}^{n-1}|} \int_{\{\rho=t\}} \frac{1}{\eta_\Sigma^{n-1}} d\sigma \quad \text{monotonically nonincreasing.}$$

## Towards a Willmore-type inequality

$$\int_{\Sigma} \left[ \frac{H}{(n-1)f} \right]^{n-1} d\sigma = |\mathbb{S}^{n-1}| A_{\Sigma}(0) \geq |\mathbb{S}^{n-1}| \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} A_{\Sigma}(t)$$



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If, for any  $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2$ ,

$$\left| \frac{\eta_{\Sigma_1}(x)}{\eta_{\Sigma_2}} - 1 \right| \rightarrow 0 \quad (1)$$

uniformly as  $\rho(x) \rightarrow +\infty$ , then

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Asymptotically flat ends are uniform  $f$ -complete and  $\text{AVR}_f(g) = 1$ .

# Substatic Willmore inequality

## Theorem (B.–Fogagnolo)

Let  $(M, g)$  be substatic with a uniform  $f$ -complete end. Let  $\Omega$  be a compact domain with  $\partial\Omega = \partial M \sqcup \Sigma$ , where  $\Sigma$  has strictly positive mean-curvature. Then

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In **non-negative Ricci curvature**: proved by Agostiniani–Fogagnolo–Mazzieri.  
Proof in terms of distances and Riccati due to X. Wang.

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Equality holds if and only if  $g$  is a warped product

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In particular

$$l'_f(V) = \frac{H}{f} \geq (n-1) \left( \frac{|\mathbb{S}^{n-1}| \text{AVR}_f(g)}{l_f(V)} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$$

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Integrating in  $V$ , and using

$$\lim_{V \rightarrow 0^+} I_f(V) = |\partial M|,$$

one gets

$$|\Sigma_V|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} - |\partial M|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \geq n (\text{AVR}_f(g) |\mathbb{S}^{n-1}|)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} V. \quad \square$$

## Comments on the proof: existence of isoperimetrics

$\Sigma_V$  may not exist (the space is noncompact)  $\rightsquigarrow$  consider the isoperimetric problem constrained in an outward minimising set  $B$  (idea due to Kleiner).

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- If  $H/f$  is negative, the outward minimizing hull is minimal (Fogagnolo–Mazzieri)  $\Rightarrow$  impossible.

# Further directions

- Improve the isoperimetric inequality:
  - ▶ remove the assumption on the existence of an exhaustion of outward minimizing hypersurfaces (IMCF?).
  - ▶ remove the dimensional threshold  $n \leq 7$  (Brendle's strategy? RCD framework?).

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Equality given by  $V$ -static solutions (related to Besse conjecture).

- Can we replace  $\eta$  with the  $f^2g$ -distance? If so, we would get rid of the uniform assumption.

# Substatic Heintze–Karcher inequality

## Theorem (Li–Xia '17, Fogagnolo–Pinamonti '22)

Let  $(M, g)$  be substatic and assume

$$\frac{\nabla\nabla f}{f} \in C^{0,\alpha}(M \cup \partial M)$$

Let  $\Omega$  be a compact domain with  $\partial\Omega = \partial M \sqcup \Sigma$ , where  $\Sigma$  is a connected, smooth strictly mean-convex hypersurface. Then

$$\int_{\Sigma} \frac{f}{H} d\sigma \geq \frac{n}{n-1} \int_{\Omega} f d\mu + \left( \int_{\partial M} |\nabla f| d\sigma \right)^2 \left( \int_{\partial M} |\nabla f|^2 \frac{H}{f} d\sigma \right)^{-1},$$

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where  $\Omega$  is the bounded set enclosed by  $\Sigma$  and  $\partial M$ .

*In case of equality, then  $\Omega$  is isometric to a warped product*

$$g = \frac{dr \otimes dr}{f(r)^2} + r^2 g_0.$$



# Substatic warped products

We now focus on substatic warped products

$$\left( [r_0, \bar{r}] \times N, \frac{dr \otimes dr}{f(r)^2} + r^2 g_N \right),$$

where  $f$  is the substatic potential.

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where  $f$  is the substatic potential.

It always holds

$$\left( \text{Ric} - \frac{\nabla \nabla f}{f} + \frac{\Delta f}{f} g \right) (\nabla r, \nabla r) = 0.$$

$\nabla f$  is constant on the boundary, the level sets have  $H/f = (n-1)/r$ .

$\rightsquigarrow$  the Heintze–Karcher inequality rewrites as:

$$(n-1) \int_{\Sigma} \frac{f}{H} d\sigma \geq n \int_{\Omega} f d\mu + r_0 |\partial M|.$$

# CMC hypersurfaces in substatic warped products

Brendle's contribution:

- Heintze–Karcher inequality for hypersurfaces  $\Sigma$  in a substatic warped product.  
If equality then  $\Sigma$  is umbilic. (weaker, but no hypothesis on  $\nabla\nabla f/f$ )

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## Theorem (Brendle '13)

*In a substatic warped product satisfying (H4), the cross sections are the only CMC hypersurfaces.*

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In case of equality, then  $\Sigma$  is a cross section.

# Heintze–Karcher inequality in substatic warped products

## Theorem (B.–Fogagnolo–Pinamonti)

Let  $(M, g)$  be a substatic warped product. Let  $\Omega$  be a compact domain with  $\partial\Omega = \partial M \sqcup \Sigma$ , where  $\Sigma$  is a connected, smooth strictly mean-convex hypersurface. Then

$$(n-1) \int_{\Sigma} \frac{f}{H} d\sigma \geq n \int_{\Omega} f d\mu + r_0 |\partial M|,$$

where  $\Omega$  is the bounded set enclosed by  $\Sigma$  and  $\partial M$ .  
In case of equality, then  $\Sigma$  is a cross section.

Following Brendle, we then have:

## Corollary

In a substatic warped product, the cross sections are the only CMC hypersurfaces.



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It is enough to show that  $\nabla\nabla f/f \in C^{0,\alpha}(M \cup \partial M)$ .

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$$Q'(t) = -\frac{n}{n-1} \int_{\{\rho=t\}} f d\sigma - \int_{\{\rho=t\}} \left(\frac{f}{\mathring{H}}\right)^2 \left[ |\mathring{h}|^2 + \left( \text{Ric} - \frac{\nabla\nabla f}{f} + \frac{\Delta f}{f} g \right) (\nu, \nu) \right] d\sigma$$

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$$\left( \text{Ric} - \frac{\nabla\nabla f}{f} + \frac{\Delta f}{f} g \right) (\nu, \nu) = 0$$

on  $\Sigma_t \forall t$ .

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- B.–Fogagnolo–Pinamonti: substatic warped products satisfying (1) have the form:

$$g = \frac{dr \otimes dr}{f(r)^2} + r^2 g_N, \quad \text{Ric}_{g_N} \geq (n-2)cg_N, \quad f = \sqrt{c - \lambda r^2 - \frac{2m}{r^{n-2}}}$$

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where  $c, \lambda, m \in \mathbb{R}$ . These warped products satisfy  $\nabla\nabla f/f \in C^{0,\alpha}(M \cup \partial M)$ !  
 $\rightsquigarrow$  our rigidity statement triggers  $\rightsquigarrow$  contradiction. □



Thank you!