

HYPERSURFACES WITH  
ALMOST CONSTANT MEAN CURVATURE  
& CAPILLARITY THEORY

FRANCESCO MAGGI

UT AUSTIN

## CAPILLARITY FUNCTIONAL

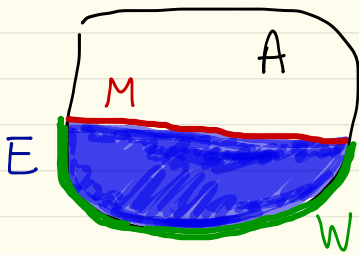
A CONTAINER

M LIQUID/AIR INTERFACE

W WETTED SURFACE

E DROPLET

$\sigma: \partial A \rightarrow (-1, 1)$  RELATIVE ADHESION COEFFICIENT



$$\mathcal{F}(E) = \underbrace{\text{Area}(M)}_{\text{SURFACE TENSION}} + \underbrace{\int_W \sigma}_{\text{POTENTIAL ENERGY}} + \int_E g(x) dx$$

VOLUME CONSTRAINT  $|E| = m$

## CAPILLARITY FUNCTIONAL

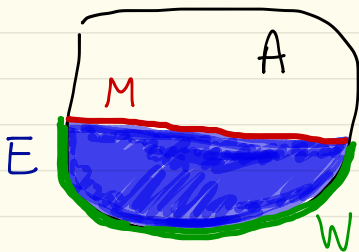
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VOLUME CONSTRAINT  $|E| = m$

CAPILLARITY:

$$\underbrace{\text{SURFACE TENSION}}_{O(m^{n-1/n})} \gg \underbrace{\text{POTENTIAL ENERGY}}_{O(m)}$$

GOAL: UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL/LOCAL MINIMIZERS

& CRITICAL POINTS IN THE SMALL VOLUME REGIME

## GLOBAL MINIMIZERS IN $\mathbb{R}^n$ (NO CONTAINER)

$$P(E) + \int_E g \leq P(F) + \int_F g$$

FOR EVERY  $|F| = |E| = m$

$\Rightarrow$

$$P(E) + \int_E g \leq P(B) + \int_B g$$

FOR EVERY BALL  $|B| = m$

$$P(E) - P(B) \leq \int_B g - \int_E g \leq C |E \Delta B|$$
$$= O(m)$$

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FOR EVERY BALL  $|B| = m$

$$c P(B) \left( \frac{|E \Delta (x+B)|}{|E|} \right)^2 \leq P(E) - P(B) \leq \int_B g - \int_E g \leq C |E \Delta B|$$

$= O(m)$

SHARP QUANTITATIVE

ISOPERIMETRIC INQ

FUSCO M. PRATELLI (08)

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SHARP QUANTITATIVE

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FUSCO M. PRATELLI (08)

AS  $|E \Delta B| \leq 2m$   $P(B) = m^{(n-1)/n}$

WE HAVE

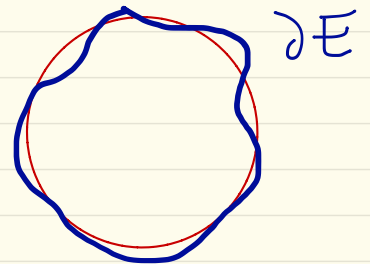
$$\frac{|E \Delta (x+B)|}{|E|} \leq C m^{1/2n}$$

### THM (FIGALLI M. 11)

IF  $E$  GLOBAL MINIMIZER OF  $P(E) + \int_E g$  WITH  $g \in C_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$   
&  $g$  COERCIVE THEN  $|E| = m < m_0(n, g)$  IMPLIES

$$\frac{R^{out}(E)}{R^{in}(E)} \leq 1 + C m^{1/n^2}$$

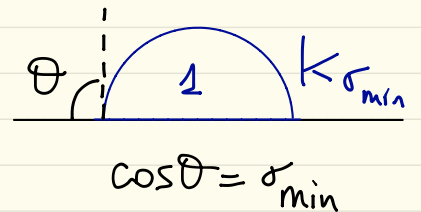
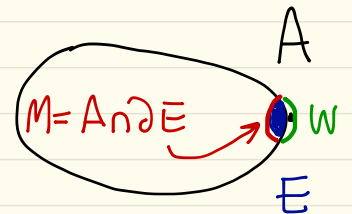
$$\| m^{1/n} \kappa_i^{\partial E} - c(n) \|_{C^0(\partial E)} \leq C m^{\frac{2}{n+2}}$$



IN PARTICULAR  $E$  IS CONVEX

THM (MIRMAN, M. 15)

IF  $E$  GLOBAL MINIMIZER OF  $\pi^{n-1}(M) + \int_W \sigma + \int_E g$  WITH  
 $\partial A \in C^{1,1}$   $\sigma \in \text{Lip}(A)$   $g \in \text{Lip}(A)$





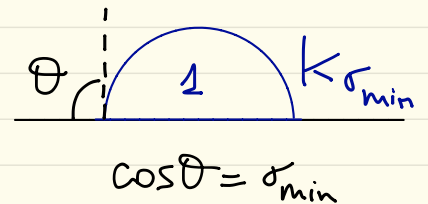
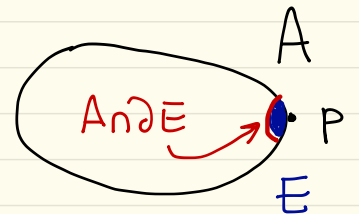
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 $\exists p \in \partial A$  &  $L$  ISOMETRY S.T.

$$E \subseteq B_{Cm^{1/n}}(p)$$

$$\sigma(p) - \sigma_{\min} \leq Cm^{1/n}$$

$$\text{hd} \left( L \left( \frac{A \cap \partial E - p}{m^{1/n}}, k_\sigma \right), k_\sigma \right) \leq Cm^{1/2n^2}$$



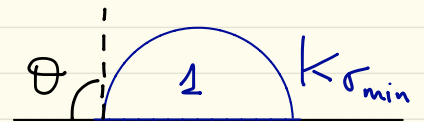
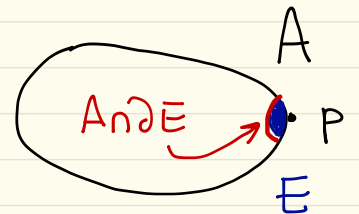
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$$\text{hd} \left( L \left( \frac{A \cap \partial E - p}{m^{1/n}} \right), K_\sigma \right) \leq Cm^{1/2n^2}$$



$$\cos \theta = \sigma_{\min}$$

MOREOVER  $A \cap \partial E$  IS  $C^{1,\alpha}$  DIFFEO TO  $K_\sigma$

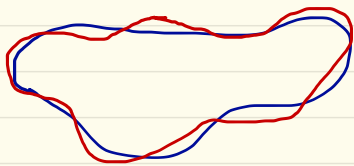
WITH  $f \approx p + m^{1/n} L$  & ENERGY(E) =  $m^{\frac{n-1}{n}} C(\sigma_{\min}) (1 + O(m^{1/n}))$

PHYSICAL MOTIVATION  $\Rightarrow$  LOCAL MINIMIZERS / STATIONARY SETS

$\Rightarrow$  NO COMPARISON WITH BALLS !!!

LOCAL MINIMIZERS

$$P(E) + \int_E g \leq P(F) + \int_F g$$



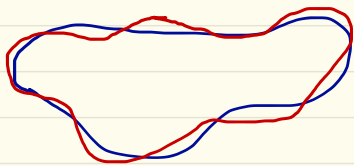
whenever  $F \Delta E \subset \underbrace{I_\varepsilon(\partial E)}_{\varepsilon\text{-NEIGHBORHOOD}}$ ,  $|F| = |E|$

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whenever  $F \Delta E \subset \underbrace{I_\varepsilon(\partial E)}_{\varepsilon\text{-NEIGHBORHOOD}}$ ,  $|F| = |E|$

$\varepsilon$ -NEIGHBORHOOD

$\exists \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

STATIONARY SETS

$$\underbrace{H_{\partial E}(x)} + g(x) = \lambda \quad \text{for every } x \in \partial E$$

$$= \text{MEAN CURVATURE OF } \partial E = \sum_{i=1}^n \kappa_i^{\partial E}$$

STATIONARY SETS

$$H_{\partial E}(x) + g(x) = \lambda \quad \text{FOR EVERY } x \in \partial E$$

$$g \equiv 0 \Rightarrow H_{\partial E} \text{ CONSTANT ON } \partial E$$

ALEXANDROV'S THM

$\Sigma$  EMBEDDED BOUNDED CMC  
HYPERSURFACE

$\Rightarrow \Sigma$  IS A SPHERE

SMALL MASS REGIME



ALMOST CMC HYPERSURFACES

$$H_{\partial E} + g = \lambda \text{ ON } \partial E \implies \lambda = H_{\partial E}^0 + \frac{1}{|E|} \int_E \operatorname{div}(g(x)x) dx$$

$$H_{\partial E}^0 = \frac{n P(E)}{(n+1)|E|} \approx m^{-1/n}$$

SMALL MASS REGIME  $\implies$  ALMOST CMC HYPERSURFACES

$$H_{\partial E} + g = \lambda \text{ ON } \partial E \implies \lambda = H_{\partial E}^{\circ} + \frac{1}{|E|} \int_E \operatorname{div}(g(x)x) dx$$

$$H_{\partial E}^{\circ} = \frac{n P(E)}{(n+1)|E|} \approx m^{-1/n}$$

THUS  $E$  CRITICAL FOR  $P(E) + \int_E g(x) dx$  IMPLIES

$$\frac{\|H_{\partial E} - H_{\partial E}^{\circ}\|_{C^0(\partial E)}}{H_{\partial E}^{\circ}} \leq C(n, g) m^{1/n}$$

ALEXANDROV'S DEFICIT:

SCALE INVARIANT,  $\geq 0$  QUANTITY  
 $= 0 \iff E = B + x$  FOR  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$$\delta(E) = \frac{\|H_{\partial E} - H_{\partial E}^{\circ}\|_{C^0(\partial E)}}{H_{\partial E}^{\circ}}$$

$$H_{\partial E}^{\circ} = \frac{n P(E)}{(n+1) |E|}$$

**QUESTION** DOES  $\delta(E)$  SMALL IMPLY  $\partial E$  CLOSE TO SPHERE?



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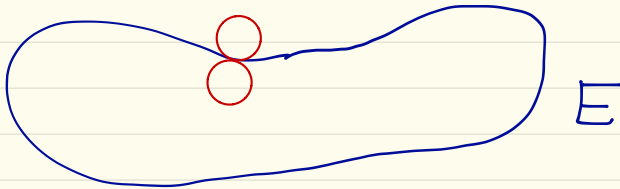
**QUESTION** DOES  $\delta(E)$  SMALL IMPLY  $\partial E$  CLOSE TO SPHERE?

THM (CIRAULO VEZZON) 2015)

$E$  BOUNDED OPEN SET  $\partial E \in C^2$  THEN  $\delta(E) \leq \delta_0(n, P(E)/\rho^{n-1})$

WITH EXT/INT BALL COND.  $\rho > 0$

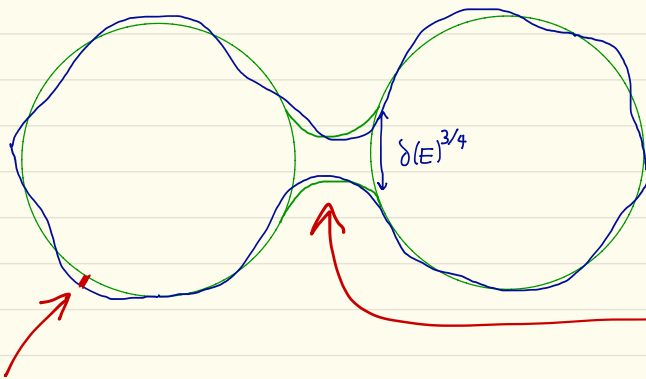
GIVES  $\frac{R^{\text{out}}(E)}{R^{\text{in}}(E)} - 1 \leq C \delta(E)$



**SHARP DECAY RATE**

AN EXAMPLE BY BUTSCHER-MAZZEO

$\delta(E)$  SMALL  $\mathbb{Z}^E$  ARRAY TANGENT  
BALLS



CATENOIDAL NECK OF LENGTH

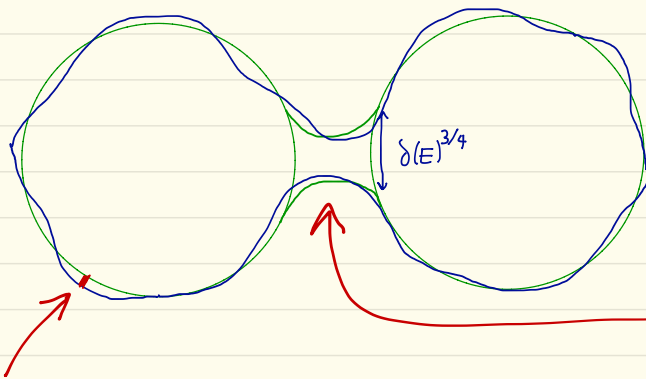
$\delta(E) |\log \delta(E)|$

NORMAL DEFORMATION

$C^k$ -NORM OF ORDER  $\delta(E)$

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$\delta(E)$  SMALL  $\delta E$  ARRAY TANGENT  
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$$\delta(E) |\log \delta(E)|$$

NORMAL DEFORMATION

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OTHER OPTION CHOPPING AN  
UNDULOID

THM (CIRAOLLO-M. 2015)

$E$  OPEN BOUNDED  $C^2$  IN  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$$H_{\delta}^0 = \frac{nP(E)}{(n+1)|E|} = n \quad (\text{SCALING})$$

$$P(E) \leq (L+1-\alpha)P(B) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SOME } L \in \mathbb{N} \\ \text{FIXED } 0 < \alpha < 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\delta(E) \leq \delta_0(n, L, \alpha)$$

THM (CIRIACO-M. 2015)

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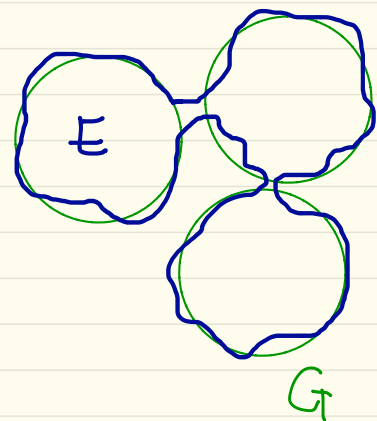
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$$\delta(E) \leq \delta_0(n, L, \alpha)$$

THEN  $\exists \{B(z_j)\}_{j \in J}$  DISJOINT BALLS RADIUS 1 WITH  $\#J \leq L$  SUCH THAT

FOR  $G = \bigcup_{j \in J} B(z_j)$  ONE HAS



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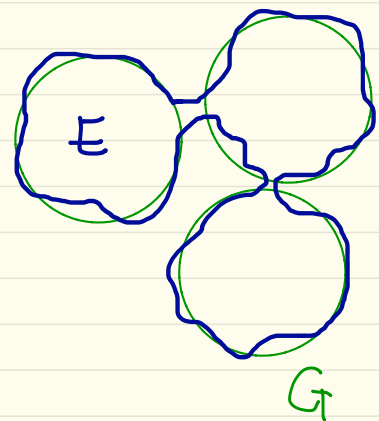
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$$\frac{|E \Delta G|}{|E|} + \frac{|P(E) - \#J P(B)|}{P(E)} \leq C \delta(E)^{\frac{1}{2(n+2)}}$$

$$\frac{hd(\partial E, \partial G)}{\text{diam}(E)} \leq C \delta(E)^\alpha \quad \alpha = O(n^{-4})$$



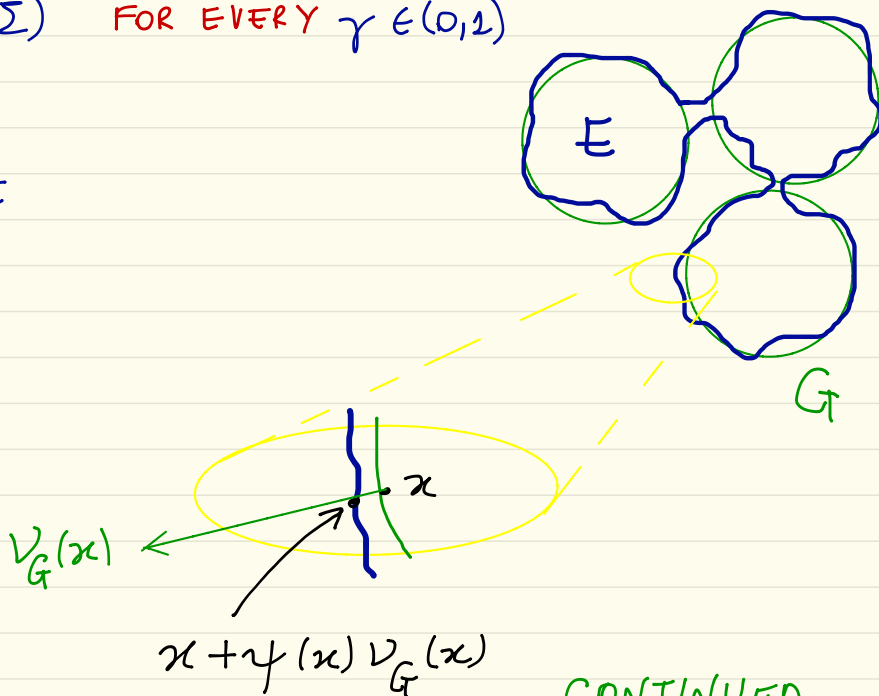
CONTINUED...

MOREOVER:  $\exists \Sigma = \partial G \setminus \{ \text{AT MOST } C(n, L) \text{ MANY SPHERICAL CAPS} \}$   
 OF DIAMETER  $\leq C \delta(E)^\alpha \quad \alpha = O(n^{-2}) \}$

$\exists \psi \in C^{1,\gamma}(\Sigma)$  FOR EVERY  $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$

SUCH THAT

$$(\text{Id} + \psi \nu_G)(\Sigma) \subseteq \partial E$$



CONTINUED...

MOREOVER :

$\exists \Sigma = \partial G \setminus \{ \text{AT MOST } C(n, L) \text{ MANY SPHERICAL CAPS OF DIAMETER } \leq C \delta(E)^\alpha \text{ } \alpha = O(n^{-2}) \}$

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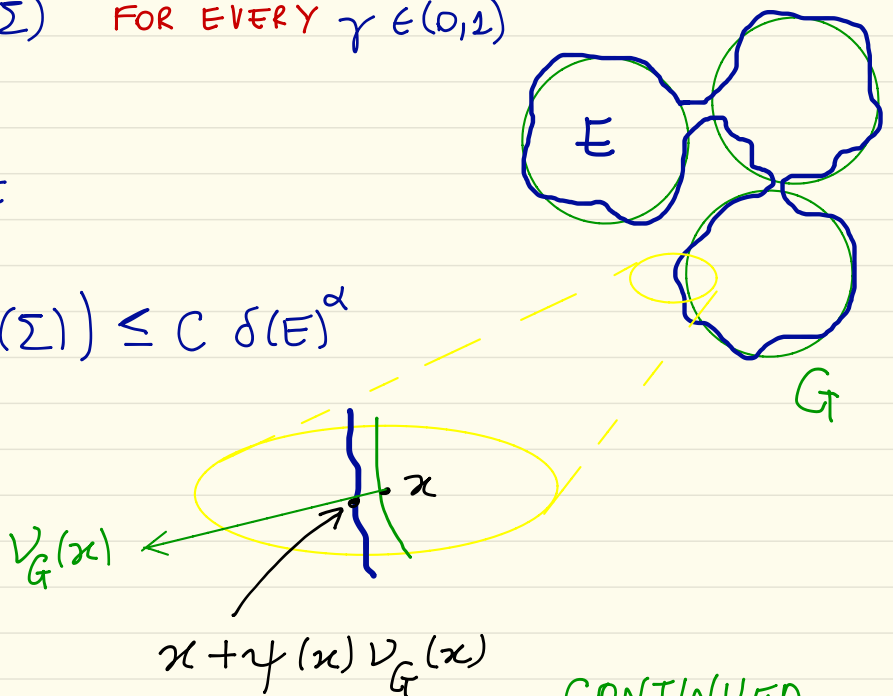
SUCH THAT

$$(\text{Id} + \psi \nu_G)(\Sigma) \subseteq \partial E$$

$$\mathcal{H}^n(\partial E \setminus (\text{Id} + \psi \nu_G)(\Sigma)) \leq C \delta(E)^\alpha$$

$$\|\psi\|_{C^1(\Sigma)} \leq C \delta(E)^\alpha$$

$$\alpha = O(n^{-3})$$



CONTINUED...



FINALLY :

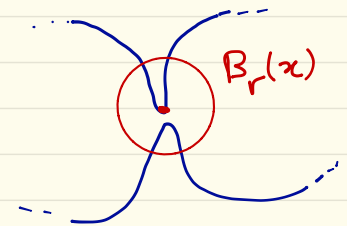
① IF  $\#J \geq 2$  THEN  $\forall z_j \exists z_h$  SUCH THAT

$$||z_j - z_h| - 2| \leq C \delta(E)^\alpha \quad \alpha = O(n^{-2})$$

FINALLY: ① IF  $\#J \geq 2$  THEN  $\forall z_j \exists z_h$  SUCH THAT

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② IF  $\exists k > 0$  S.T.  $|B_r(x) \setminus E| \geq k |B_r(x)|$  FOR EVERY  $x \in \partial E$   $r < k$   
THEN  $\#J = 1$

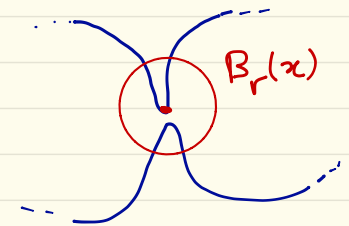


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COROLLARY LOCAL MINIMIZERS WITH  $m$  SMALL  
ARE CLOSE TO SINGLE SPHERES!



PROOF: PREVIOUS THM + DENSITY ESTIMATES

## NONLOCAL CAPILLARITY

M. VALDINOCI (INCOMING!)

NO CONTAINER

## FRACTIONAL PERIMETER

$$P_S(E) = \int_E \int_{E^c} \frac{dx dy}{|x-y|^{n+s}} \quad 0 < s < 1$$

BOURGAIN BREZIS MIRONESCU

CAFFARELLI SOUGANIDIS

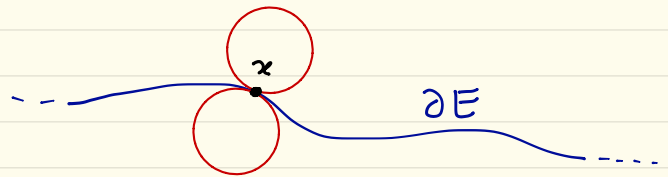
CAFFARELLI ROQUEJOFFRE SAVIN

$$w_E(x) = \int_{E^c} \frac{dy}{|x-y|^{n+s}} \approx \frac{1}{\text{DIST}(x, \partial E)^s}$$

$\in L^1(E)$  BY COAREA

$$\min \left\{ P_s(E) + \int_E g(x) dx : |E| = m \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow H_{\partial E}^s(x) + g(x) = \lambda \text{ ON } \partial E$$



$$H_{\partial E}^s(x) = \text{P.V.} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1_E^c(y) - 1_E(y)}{|x-y|^{n+s}} dy$$

WHEN  $m$  IS SMALL THEN  $H_{\partial E}^s \approx \text{CONSTANT}$

THM (CIRIACO FIGALLI M. NOVAGA 15)

①  $H_{\partial E}^{\mathbb{R}}$  CONSTANT  $\Rightarrow \partial E$  SPHERE (CABRÉ FALL SOLA-MORALES WETH)

THM (CIRIACO FIGALLI M. NOVAGA 15)

①  $H_{\partial E}^S$  CONSTANT  $\Rightarrow \partial E$  SPHERE (CABRÉ FALL SOLA-MORALES WETH)

$$\textcircled{2} \frac{R^{\text{OUT}}(E) - R^{\text{IN}}(E)}{\text{DIAM}(E)} \leq C \frac{\text{DIAM}(E)^{2n+2s+1}}{|E|^2} \quad \text{Lip}(H_{\partial E}^S) = C \eta_s(E)$$

### THM (CIRIACO FIGALLI M. NOVAGA 15)

①  $H_{\partial E}^S$  CONSTANT  $\Rightarrow \partial E$  SPHERE (CABRÉ FALL SOLA-MORALES WETH)

②  $\frac{R^{out}(E) - R^{in}(E)}{DIAM(E)} \leq C \frac{DIAM(E)^{2n+2s+1}}{|E|^2} \quad Lip(H_{\partial E}^S) = C \eta_s(E)$

③  $\partial E = (Id + \varphi \nu_{B_{\frac{1}{2}}}) (\partial B_{\frac{1}{2}}) \quad \varphi \in C^{2,2} \quad \|\varphi - 1\|_{C^{2,2}(\partial B_{\frac{1}{2}})} \leq C \eta_s(E)$   
 $|E| = |B_{\frac{1}{2}}| \quad E \text{ CONVEX}$



become a perfectly round ball, because in no other way can so small a surface be obtained. If, instead of taking so much water, we were to take a drop about as large as a pin's head, then the weight which tends to squeeze it out or make it fall would be far less, while the skin would be just as strong, and would in reality have a greater moulding power, though why I cannot now explain.

We should therefore expect that by taking a sufficiently small quantity of water the moulding power of the skin would ultimately be able almost entirely to counteract

the weight of the drop, so that very small drops should appear like perfect little balls.

If you have found any difficulty in following this argument, a very simple illustration will make it clear. You many of you probably know how by folding paper to make this little thing which I hold in my hand (Fig.

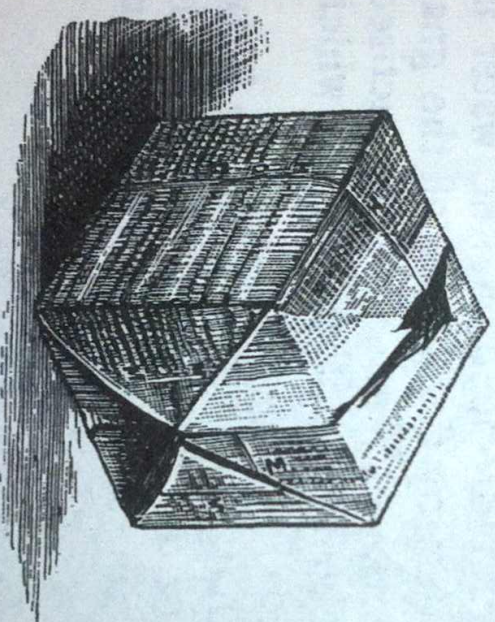


FIG. 16.