

Flatness results for stable solutions to some nonlocal problems

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(joint with X. Cabré, J. Serra, and E. Valdinoci)

A conjecture of De Giorgi (1978)

Let $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow (-1, 1)$ be a solution of

$$-\Delta u = u - u^3 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n$$

such that $\partial_{x_n} u > 0$.

Then, at least if $n \leq 8$, u is 1D, that is all the level sets $\{u = t\}$ of u are hyperplanes.

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Connection with area minimizing surfaces

The energy functional is

$$E_{\Omega}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + W(u),$$

where $W(u) = \frac{1}{4}(1 - u^2)^2$.

Theorem (Modica-Mortola)

$$"E_{\varepsilon}(u) = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon \int |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} W(u) \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \text{Per}"$$

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Classification for classical area minimizing surfaces

- Every **minimal cone** in \mathbb{R}^n is an hyperplane, whenever $n \leq 7$
- In \mathbb{R}^8 the **Simons cone** defined as

$$\mathcal{C} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^8 \mid x_1^2 + \cdots + x_4^2 = x_5^2 + \cdots + x_8^2\}$$

is a minimizer for the perimeter;

- If E is a **minimizer** of the perimeter functional in all \mathbb{R}^n , then E is a halfspace, whenever $n \leq 7$.
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Qs. What about **stable** sets for the Perimeter (i.e. $\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \Big|_{\{t=0\}} \text{Per}(\Phi_t(E)) \geq 0$)?

- Embedded stable minimal surfaces in \mathbb{R}^n are flat in dimension $n = 3$ [Fisher-Colbrie and Schoen, Do Carmo and Peng], and $n = 4$ [Chodosh-Li].
- **Conjecture** Embedded stable minimal surfaces in \mathbb{R}^n are flat for $5 \leq n \leq 7$
OPEN.

Remark

The conjecture holds true for **stable cones**.

. One of the main obstruction is an **energy estimate** for **stable** sets:

$$\text{Per}(E, B_R) \leq CR^{n-1}.$$

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Back to De Giorgi conjecture

For **Monotone solutions**

- $n = 2, 3$
- $4 \leq n \leq 8$ if, in addition, $u \rightarrow \pm 1$ for $x_n \rightarrow \pm\infty$
- counterexample for $n \geq 9$.

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For **stable solutions**

- for $n = 2$ TRUE;
- counterexample for $n \geq 8$;
- for $3 \leq n \leq 7$ OPEN.

The fractional Allen-Cahn equation

We consider now the same question for the nonlocal problem

$$(-\Delta)^s u = u - u^3 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n, \quad s \in (0, 1).$$

The fractional Laplacian is defined as

$$(-\Delta)^s u(x) = C_{n,s} \text{P.V.} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{u(x) - u(y)}{|x - y|^{n+2s}} dy.$$

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After a suitable rescaling we have that

Theorem (Savin and Valdinoci)

$$E_{s,\Omega}^\varepsilon(u) \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \begin{cases} \text{Per}_s & 0 < s < 1/2 \\ \text{Per} & 1/2 \leq s < 1. \end{cases}$$

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The case $0 < s < 1/2$

We recall that for $0 < s < 1/2$

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What is the **fractional perimeter**?

$$\text{Per}_s(E) = \frac{1}{2} [\chi_E]_{W^{2s,1}} = \int_E \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus E} \frac{dx dy}{|x - y|^{n+2s}}.$$

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- Any nonlocal minimal **graph** in \mathbb{R}^3 is an halfplane (Figalli-Valdinoci).
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- $4 \leq n \leq 7$ for minimizers (Savin);
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- $n = 2$ for minimizers (Cabr , Sire, Valdinoci) ;
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The low-dimensional case

Principal ingredients in the proof of the De Giorgi conjecture in low dimensions:

- Stability of solutions;
- Energy estimate:

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Remark

The following implication holds for all $s \in (0, 1]$:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Stable sol'ns in } \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \text{ are 1D} \\ \text{and} \\ \text{Minimizers in } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ are 1D} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{Monotone sol'ns in } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ are 1D.}$$

What about stable objects?

Theorem (C.,Serra, Valdinoci (2019))

Let E be a stable set for the s -perimeter in B_{4R} .

Then,

$$\text{Per}_{s,B_R}(E) \leq C(n,s)R^{n-2s};$$

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Theorem (Cabré, C., Serra (2020))

There exists $s_* \in (0, 1/2)$ such that for every $s \in (s_*, 1/2)$ the following statement holds. Let $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be a cone with nonempty boundary and C^2 away from 0.

Assume that Σ is *stable*.

Then, Σ is a half space.

Idea of the proof. The proof combines the following three main ingredients:

- uniform perimeter estimates for stable sets of [C., Serra, Valdinoci];
- the second variation formula for the s -perimeter;
- the fractional Hardy inequality with optimal constant (with the precise dependence as $s \uparrow 1/2$).

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There exists $s_* \in (0, 1/2)$ such that for every $s \in (s_*, 1/2)$ the following statement holds. Let $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be a cone with nonempty boundary and C^2 away from 0.

Assume that Σ is *stable*.

Then, Σ is a half space.

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Fractional Allen-Cahn for $0 < s < 1/2$

Theorem 1 (Cabr e, C., Serra (2021))

Let $0 < s < 1/2$. Let u be a bounded *stable* solution of $(-\Delta)^s u = u - u^3$ in \mathbb{R}^n .

Then,

$$\int_{B_R} |\nabla u| \, dx \leq C_{n,s} R^{n-1} \quad \text{for all } R \geq 1, \quad (1)$$

and

$$E_{s,B_R}(u) \leq C_{n,s} R^{n-2s} \quad \text{for all } R \geq 1. \quad (2)$$

Sketch of the Proof of Theorem 1.

- To prove the *BV-estimate* we use the ideas developed in [C., Serra, Valdinoci] for analogue estimate for stable s -minimal sets;
- After interpolation, the *BV-estimate* \Rightarrow estimate for the *Dirichlet* energy.
- We prove that for stable solutions

$$E_s^{Pot}(u) \leq CE_s^{Dir}(u).$$

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Theorem 2 (Cabré, C., Serra)

Let u be a bounded *stable* solution of $(-\Delta)^s u = u - u^3$ in \mathbb{R}^n .

Then, for any given blow-down sequence $u_{R_j}(x) = u(Rx)$ with $R_j \uparrow \infty$, there is a subsequence R_{j_m}

$$u_{R_{j_m}} \rightarrow \chi_\Sigma - \chi_{\Sigma^c} \quad \text{in } L^1(B_1),$$

for some *cone* Σ that is a *stable set* for the fractional perimeter Per_s under smooth, compactly supported deformations.

Moreover, for all given $t \in (-1, 1)$, we have

$$d_{\text{Hausdorff}}(\{u_R \leq t\} \cap B_1, \Sigma \cap B_1) \rightarrow 0.$$

Sketch of the proof. The proof combines Theorem 1, a monotonicity formula and density estimates for stable solutions.

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Abstract classification result

Theorem 3 (Cabré, C., Serra)

Assume that for some pair (n, s) with $s \in (0, 1/2)$ half spaces are the only stable cones for the s -perimeter.

Then, every stable solution of $(-\Delta)^s u = u - u^3$ in \mathbb{R}^n is 1D.

Ingredients of the proof. The proof combines Theorem 2 and the *improvement of flatness* result by Dipierro, Serra, Valdinoci.

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Corollary

Let $0 < s < 1/2$. Let u be a bounded solution of

$$(-\Delta)^s u = u - u^3 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Then, u is 1D in the following cases:

- $n = 3$, s close to $1/2$, u is *stable*;
- $n = 4$, s close to $1/2$, u is *monotone*.

Theorem (Figalli, Serra)

Let u be a bounded *stable* solution of $(-\Delta)^{1/2} u = u - u^3$ in \mathbb{R}^n .

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Stable minimal surfaces

	Per_s	Per
perimeter estimates	$\forall n$	$n = 2, 3, 4$
flatness of stable cones	$n = 2, n = 3$ and $s \sim 1/2$	$2 \leq n \leq 7$

Stable solutions to the fractional Allen-Cahn

	Case $0 < s < 1/2$	Case $1/2 \leq s \leq 1$
energy estimates	$\forall n$	$n = 2, n = 3$ and $s = 1/2$
1D symmetry	$n = 2, n = 3$ and $s \sim 1/2$	$n = 2, n = 3$ and $s = 1/2$

Muchas gracias!!