

The isoperimetric inequality outside a convex set: the case of equality

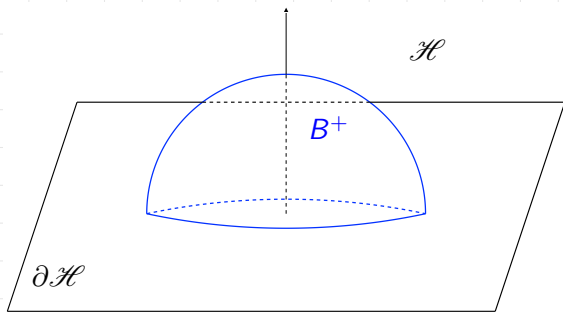
Nicola Fusco

Shape Optimisation and Geometric Spectral Theory

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A well-known isoperimetric inequality

Among all sets of finite perimeter $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ of **volume** m contained in a **half space** \mathcal{H} the unique minimizer of $P(\Omega; \mathcal{H})$ (the perimeter of Ω in \mathcal{H}) is the **half ball** B^+ , $|B^+| = m$ sitting on $\partial\mathcal{H}$



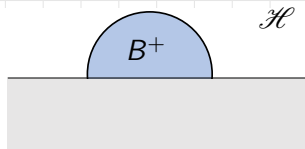
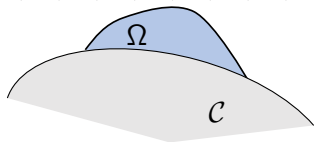
The isoperimetric inequality outside a convex set

Theorem (Choe-Ghomi-Ritoré, 2007)

Let $C \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a closed convex set with nonempty interior. For any set of finite perimeter $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus C$ we have

$$(*) \quad P(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N \setminus C) \geq P(B^+; \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{H})$$

(the surface measure of the half ball B^+ with the same volume of Ω)



Moreover, if C is smooth and Ω is a smooth bounded set for which the equality in $(*)$ holds, then Ω is a half ball sitting on a facet of C .

The isoperimetric profile

$$(*) \quad P(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}) \geq N \left(\frac{\omega_N}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}} |\Omega|^{\frac{N-1}{N}}$$

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Introducing the **isoperimetric profile** of \mathcal{C}

$$I_{\mathcal{C}}(m) = \inf \{ P(E; \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}) : E \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}, |E| = m \}$$

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and the isoperimetric profile of the half space

$$\mathcal{H} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : x_N > 0\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\mathcal{H}}(m) &= \min \{ P(E; \mathcal{H}) : E \subset \mathcal{H}, |E| = m \} \\ &= N \left(\frac{\omega_N}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}} m^{\frac{N-1}{N}} \end{aligned}$$

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(*) can be rewritten as

$$I_{\mathcal{C}}(m) \geq I_{\mathcal{H}}(m)$$

Our result

Theorem (The equality case, F.-Morini (2021))

Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be *any* closed convex set with nonempty interior and let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}$ be *any* set of finite perimeter such that

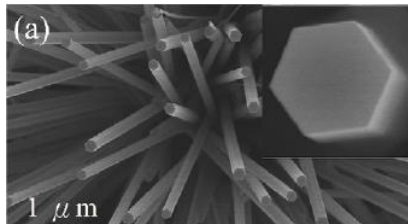
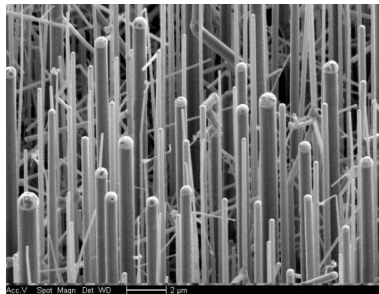
$$P(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}) = N \left(\frac{\omega_N}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}} |\Omega|^{\frac{N-1}{N}}$$

Then Ω is a *half ball* supported on a facet of \mathcal{C} .

Motivation

In models of vapor-liquid-solid grown nanowires

\mathcal{C} = semi-infinite 'cylinder' with sharp edges and (nonsmooth) cross section



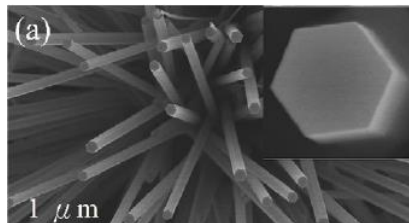
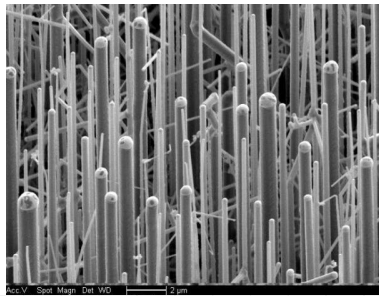
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The crystal growth is driven by the capillarity energy functional

$$P(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}) - \lambda \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(\partial\Omega \cap \partial\mathcal{C}) \quad -1 < \lambda < 1$$



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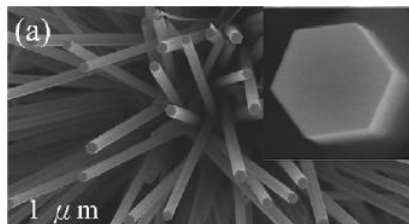
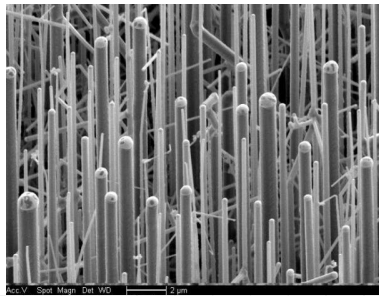
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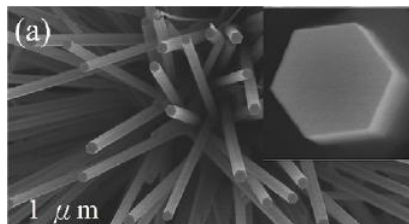
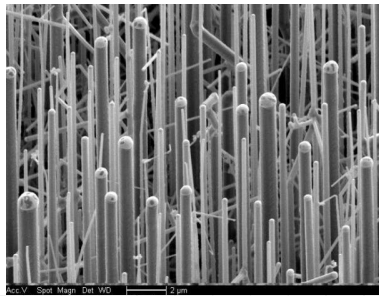
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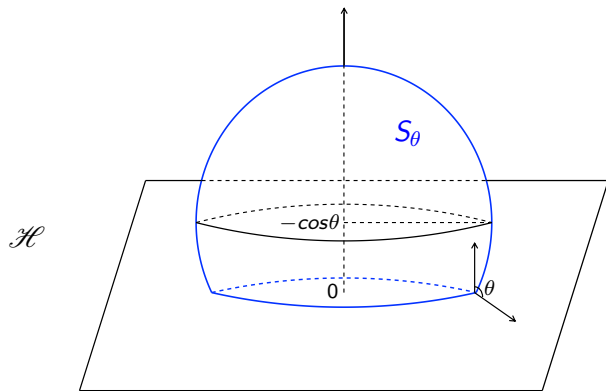
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Qualitative properties of local minimizers studied in a recent paper by Fonseca-F.-Leoni-Morini (2021)



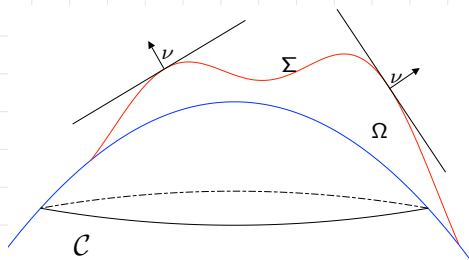
Basic notation

Let $\theta \in (0, \pi)$



$S_\theta =$ the unit spherical cap forming an angle θ with $\partial\mathcal{H}$

Basic notation - The total curvature



$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}$ an open set

$$\Sigma = \overline{\partial\Omega} \setminus \mathcal{C}$$

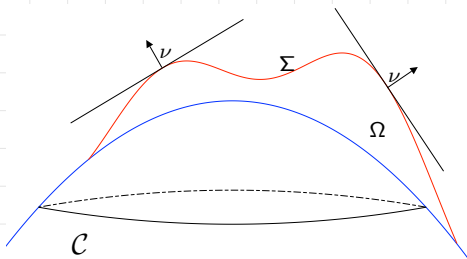
If $x \in \Sigma$ the normal cone at x to Σ is defined as

$$N_x \Sigma = \{\nu \in \mathbb{S}^{N-1} : (y - x) \cdot \nu \leq 0 \quad \forall y \in \Sigma\}$$

Then we set

$$\Sigma^+ = \{x \in \Sigma \setminus \mathcal{C} : \exists \text{ a support hyperplane } \Pi_x, \text{ s.t. } \Pi_x \cap \Sigma = \{x\}\}$$

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$$\tau^+(\Sigma) = \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \left(\bigcup_{x \in \Sigma^+} N_x \Sigma \right) = \text{the total curvature of } \Sigma$$

An inequality involving the total curvature

Theorem (Choe-Ghomi-Ritoré, 2006)

Let \mathcal{C} be a *smooth* convex set and let $\Sigma = \overline{\partial\Omega \setminus \mathcal{C}}$, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}$, be a C^2 hypersurface with boundary. Assume that $\partial\Sigma$ intersects $\partial\mathcal{C}$ *orthogonally*. Then

$$\tau^+(\Sigma) \geq \frac{N\omega_N}{2}$$

Moreover if the *equality holds* then $\partial\Sigma$ lies on a support hyperplane to \mathcal{C}

In other words:

The measure of the image of Σ^+ through the Gauss map is bigger than the one of a half sphere

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The regularity of \mathcal{C} is *crucial* to ensure that the minimizer Ω_m of

$$\min\{P(E; \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}) : E \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}, |E| = m\}$$

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satisfies the *orthogonality condition* at $\partial\mathcal{C}$ (this is the Young's law when $\lambda = 0$, i.e. $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$)

Theorem (F.-Morini, 2021)

Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a closed convex set of class C^1 , $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{C}$ a bounded open set and $\Sigma := \overline{\partial\Omega} \setminus \mathcal{C}$. Let $\theta \in (0, \pi)$ such that

$$(1) \quad \nu \cdot \nu_{\mathcal{C}}(x) \leq \cos \theta \quad \text{whenever } x \in \Sigma \cap \partial\mathcal{C}, \nu \in N_x \Sigma$$

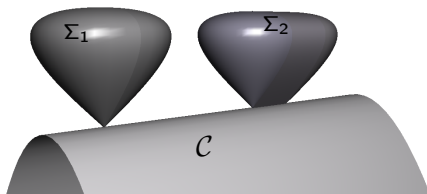
$$(2) \quad \text{then } \tau^+(\Sigma) \geq \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(S_\theta)$$

Let $\Sigma \cap \partial\mathcal{C} \subset B_r$. For any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists δ , depending on ε, θ and r , but not on \mathcal{C} or Σ , such that if

$$\begin{aligned} \nu \cdot \nu_{\mathcal{C}}(x) &\leq \cos \theta + \delta \quad \text{whenever } x \in \Sigma \cap \partial\mathcal{C}, \nu \in N_x \Sigma \\ \text{and } \tau^+(\Sigma) &\leq \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(S_\theta) + \delta \end{aligned}$$

then $\Sigma \cap \partial\mathcal{C}$ is not empty and lies between two parallel ε -distant hyperplanes orthogonal to $\nu_{\mathcal{C}}(x)$ for some $x \in \Sigma \cap \partial\mathcal{C}$.

In particular, if (1) is satisfied and the equality in (2) holds, then $\Sigma \cap \partial\mathcal{C}$ lies on a support hyperplane to \mathcal{C} .



Both Σ_1 and Σ_2 satisfy

$$\nu \cdot \nu_C(x) \leq \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}\right) \quad \text{whenever } x \in \Sigma_i \cap \partial C, \nu \in N_x \Sigma_i$$

and

$$\tau^+(\Sigma_i) = \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(S_{\frac{3\pi}{4}})$$

and thus

$\Sigma_1 \cap \partial C, \Sigma_2 \cap \partial C$ lie on a support plane to C

Theorem (A Willmore type inequality)

Let $C \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a closed convex set with nonempty interior, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus C$ a bounded open set, $\Sigma := \overline{\partial\Omega} \setminus \overline{C}$ and let $\theta \in (0, \pi)$. Assume that $\Sigma \setminus C$ is of class $C^{1,1}$. Assume also

$$\nu \cdot \nu' \leq \cos \theta \quad \text{whenever } x \in \Sigma \cap \partial C, \nu \in N_x \Sigma \text{ and } \nu' \in N_x C$$

$$\text{Then } \int_{\Sigma \setminus C} |H_\Sigma|^{N-1} d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \geq (N-1)^{N-1} \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(S_\theta) \quad (*)$$

Moreover, if equality holds in (*) and $H_\Sigma \neq 0$ a.e., then $\Sigma \setminus C$ coincides, up to a rigid motion, with an omothetic of S_θ sitting on a facet of C .

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When $N = 3$ (*) becomes

$$\int_{\Sigma \setminus C} H_\Sigma^2 d\mathcal{H}^2 \geq 4\mathcal{H}^2(S_\theta)$$

Asymptotic behaviour of the isoperimetric profile

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$$I_{\mathcal{H}}(m) = \min\{P(E; \mathcal{H}) : E \subset \mathcal{H}, |E| = m\} = N \left(\frac{\omega_N}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{N}} m^{\frac{N-1}{N}}$$

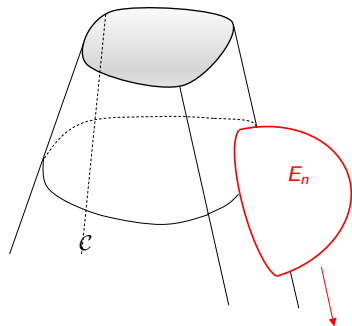
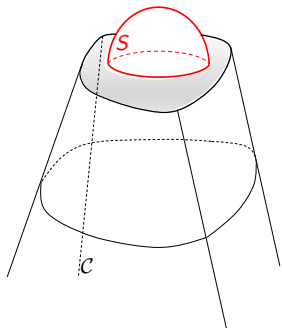
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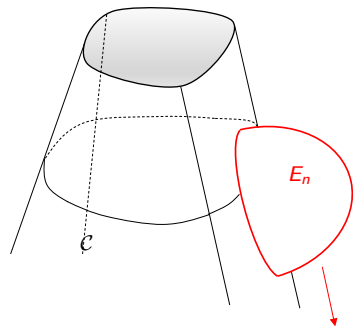
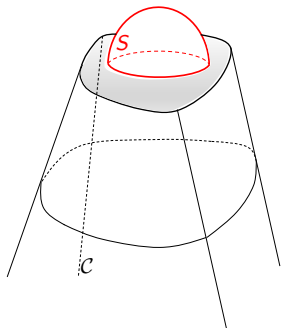


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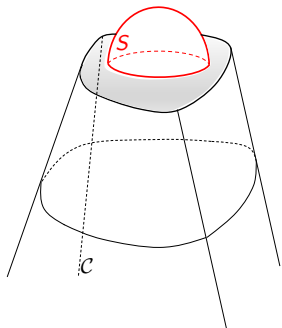
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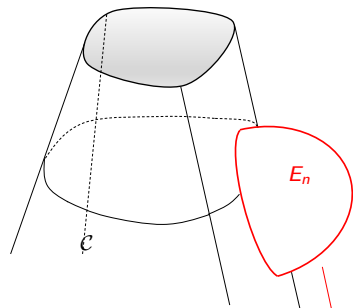
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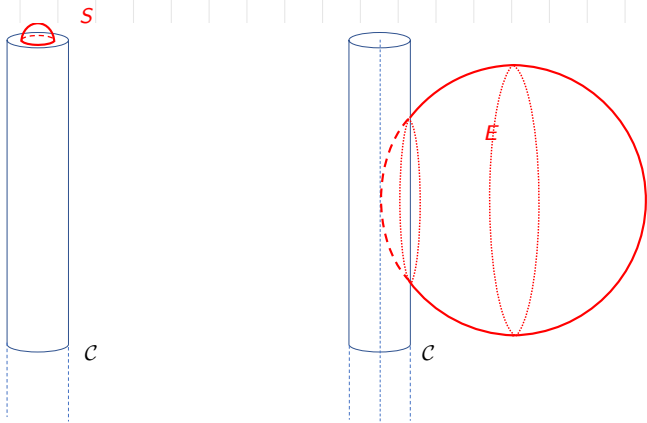


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$$P(E_n; \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus C) \rightarrow I_C(m) = I_{\mathcal{H}}(m)!$$

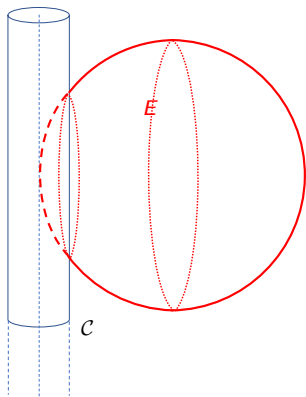
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$$P(S; \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus C) = l_C(m) = l_{\mathcal{H}}(m)$$



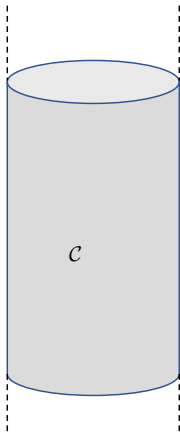
$$P(E; \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus C) m^{-\frac{N-1}{N}} \approx P(B) |B|^{-\frac{N-1}{N}}$$

If $C \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ is a convex body, recall

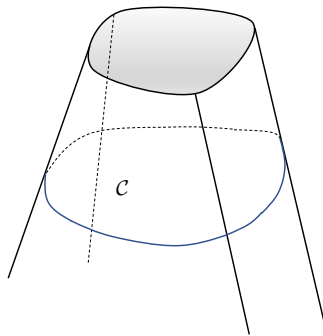
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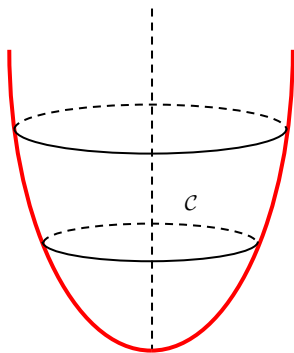


$$\dim(C_\infty)=1$$



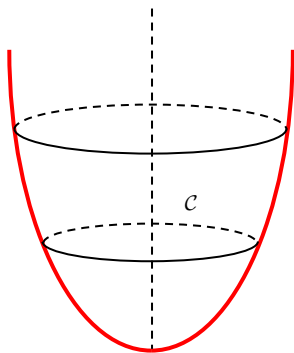
$$\dim(C_\infty)=3$$

However,



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$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{l_C(m)}{m^{\frac{2}{3}}} = \frac{P(B)}{|B|^{\frac{2}{3}}}$$

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Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a convex body

$$d^*(\mathcal{C}) := \max \left\{ \dim K : \exists \{x_n\} \subset \mathcal{C}, \lambda_n \rightarrow 0, \text{ s.t.} \right.$$

$$\left. \lambda_n(\mathcal{C} - x_n) \rightarrow K \text{ in the Kuratowski sense} \right\}$$

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$$d^*(\mathcal{C}) = \text{asymptotic dimension of } \mathcal{C}$$

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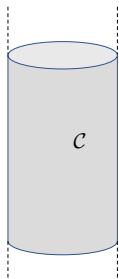
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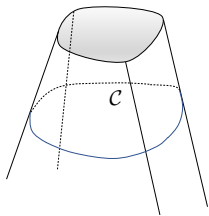
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Note:

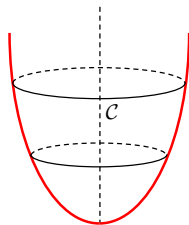
$$d^*(\mathcal{C}) \geq \dim \mathcal{C}_\infty$$



$$d^*(C)=1$$



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$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{l_C(m)}{m^{\frac{N-1}{N}}} = \frac{P(B)}{|B|^{\frac{N-1}{N}}}$$

Moreover in this case, for m large

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In the special case $d^*(C) = 1$ we may improve (*):

$$l_C(m) \geq P(B) \left(\frac{m}{|B|} \right)^{\frac{N-1}{N}} - C_0 m^{\frac{1}{2N}}$$