

Extended Graph 4-Manifolds, and Einstein Metrics

Luca F. Di Cerbo



**Geometry and Topology Seminar,
Yau Mathematical Sciences Center, Tsinghua University,
November 4, 2021**



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- Ideally, inspire you to find this **Stuff Interesting**;
- Finally, I want to discuss some related open problems for **Higher Graph 4-Manifolds** and possible generalizations to **Higher Dimensions**.

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Given a smooth path in a Riemannian manifold (M, g)

$$\alpha : [a, b] \rightarrow M,$$

we define its **length** by setting

$$L(\alpha) = \int_a^b g(\alpha'(t), \alpha'(t))^{1/2} dt, \quad \alpha'(t) \in T_{\alpha(t)} M.$$

We then define the **distance** between $p_1, p_2 \in M$, denoted by $d(p_1, p_2)$, to be the infimum for L over all smooth paths joining p_1 and p_2 .

Volumes, Ricci Curvature, and Einstein Metrics

The **expansion** of the **Volume Element** in Geodesic Normal Coordinates and is given by:

$$d\mu_g = \left(1 - \frac{1}{6} Ric_{ij} x^i x^j + O(|x|^3)\right) dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n$$

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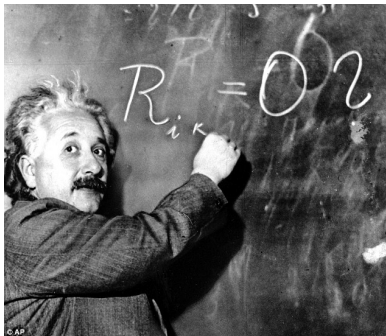
A Riemannian metric is said to be **Einstein** if its Ricci Tensor satisfies

$$Ric_g = \lambda g,$$

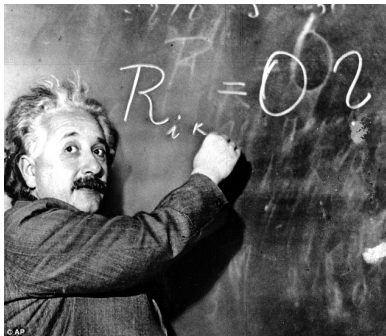
where the constant $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is known as the cosmological or Einstein constant.

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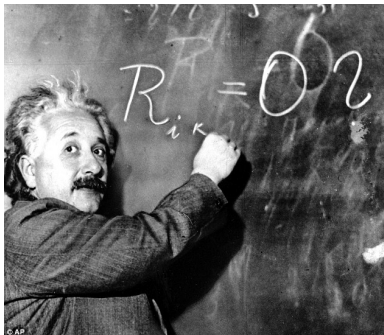


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And of course, he was exploring the **Lorentzian** case...

Classical Examples of Einstein Metrics

Einstein metrics always exist in dimension $n = 2$. Indeed, we have

$$\text{Ric}_g = K g$$

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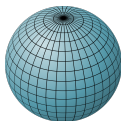
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With that said, these examples of Einstein manifolds are all locally symmetric and as such a bit boring from a local geometry point of view! Indeed, around each point they look exactly the same...

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S.-T. Yau (1949 –), **Fields Medal** in 1982.

Theorem (Yau)

- A compact Kähler manifold M admits a **Kähler-Einstein metric** with $\lambda = 0$ (Ricci-flat) if and only if $c_1(M) = 0$ ($c_1(M) \in H_{dR}^2(M)$);
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Examples in Dimension $n=4$

- **K3 Surfaces.** Examples of such surfaces can be concretely constructed by looking at degree four hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3$. For example

$$M := \{z_0^4 + z_1^4 + z_2^4 + z_3^4 = 0, [z] \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3\} \Rightarrow c_1(M) = 0.$$

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- **Hopefully** many more to come in my life time!

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[J. Fine](#), [B. Premoselli](#), *Examples of compact Einstein four-manifolds with negative curvature*, **J. Amer. Math. Soc.** **33** (2020), no. 4, 991-1038.

Obstructions to the Existence of Einstein Metrics

Theorem (Hitchin, 1974)

Let (M, g) be a closed orientable Einstein 4-manifold with signature σ and Euler characteristic χ . Then

$$\chi(M) \geq \frac{3}{2}|\sigma(M)|$$

Furthermore, if equality occurs $\pm M$ is either flat or its universal covering is a $K3$ surface.

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Combining these identities we obtain the desired inequality! \square

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- **Non-Abelian 4-(Infra)Nilmanifolds** N^4 . Again, it is easy to realize that

$$\chi(N^4) = \sigma(N^4) = 0,$$

but $\pi_1(N^4)$ grows polynomially of degree $d \geq 5$ (cannot be flat!).

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- Many more...

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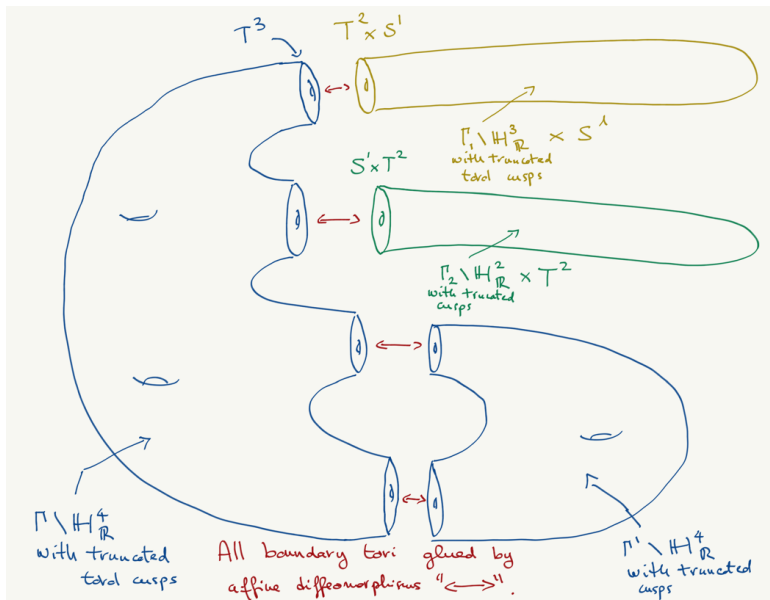
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Extended Graph 4-Manifolds

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Notice we always have **more than** one piece!

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- Notice that Closed Extended graph 3-manifolds do **NOT** support Einstein metrics
- Indeed, $Ric_g = \lambda g$ implies constant sectional curvature in dimension $n = 3$!
- This theorem then shows that graph-like manifolds carry over their aversion to Einstein metrics from dimension three to four.

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Remarks and Comments

- The study of *Einstein metrics* on manifolds of dimension $n \geq 5$ remains rather obscured when compared to dimension $n = 4$.
- In fact, **no uniqueness or non-existence results** are currently known in higher dimensions!
- Maybe someone in the audience, *perhaps a student*, will take on the challenge!

Sketch of the Proof

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Lemma (Improved Hitchin-Thorpe Inequality due to LeBrun, 1999)

Let (M, g) be a closed orientable Einstein 4-manifold with signature σ , Euler characteristic χ , and $\lambda < 0$. Then

$$2\chi(M) - 3|\sigma(M)| \geq \frac{3}{2\pi^2} \text{Vol}_{\text{Ric}}(M)$$

where the *minimal Ricci volume* $\text{Vol}_{\text{Ric}}(M)$ is defined as

$$\text{Vol}_{\text{Ric}}(M) := \inf_g \{ \text{Vol}_g(M) \mid \text{Ric}_g \geq -3g \}.$$

Moreover, equality occurs if and only if g is **half-conformally flat** and it realizes the *minimal Ricci volume* (up to scaling). Finally, if $\sigma(M) = 0$ and the equality is achieved, then M is *real-hyperbolic*.

Lemma

Let M be an extended graph 4 -manifold **without** pure pieces. We have $\chi(M) = \sigma(M) = 0$. If M has $k \geq 1$ pure *real-hyperbolic* pieces say $(V_i := \Gamma_i \backslash \mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{R}}^4, g_{-1})_{i=1}^k$, we then have

$$\chi(M) = \sum_{i=1}^k \chi(V_i) > 0, \quad \sigma(M) = 0.$$

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Lemma (Connell-Suaréz-Serrato, 2019)

Let M be an extended graph 4-manifold **with** $k \geq 1$ pure *real-hyperbolic* pieces say $(V_i, g_{-1})_{i=1}^k$, we then have

$$\text{Vol}_{\text{Ric}}(M) = \sum_{i=1}^k \text{Vol}_{g_{-1}}(V_i) = \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \sum_{i=1}^k \chi(V_i) = \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \chi(M).$$

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C. Connell, P. Suárez-Serrato, *On higher graph manifolds*, **Int. Math. Res. Not.** (2019), no. 5, 1281-1311.

G. Besson, G. Couteiro, S. Gallor, *Entropies and rigidités des espaces localement symétriques de courbure strictement négative*, **Geom. Func. Anal.** 5 (1995), 731-799.

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I hope to meet you all one day **in person!**