

Local and global minimality results for a nonlocal isoperimetric problem on \mathbb{R}^N

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joint work with Marco Bonacini - University of Heidelberg

Trends in Non-Linear Analysis
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The starting point

The starting point:

F. Cagnetti, M.G. Mora, M. Morini,
A second order minimality condition for the Mumford-Shah functional.
Calc. Var. Partial Differential Equations **33** (2008), 37-74

and the development of the technique:

N. Fusco, M. Morini,
Equilibrium configurations of epitaxially strained elastic films: second order minimality conditions and qualitative properties of the solutions.
Arch. Rat. Mech. Anal. **203** (2012), 247-327.

The problem

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The problem

Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, where $N \geq 2$, and let $\alpha \in (0, N)$.

We are interested in the behaviour of the following volume constraint minimization problem

$$\min \left\{ \mathcal{F}(E) := \mathcal{P}(E) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{\chi_E(x)\chi_E(y)}{|x-y|^\alpha} dx dy : |E| = m \right\},$$

with respect to the variation of the parameters α and $m > 0$.

Heuristic

Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ with $|E| = m$.

Define

$$\tilde{E} := \left(\frac{|B_1|}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}} E.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{F}(E) = \mathcal{P}(E) + \mathcal{NL}_\alpha(E) = \left(\frac{m}{|B_1|} \right)^{\frac{N-1}{N}} \left[\mathcal{P}(\tilde{E}) + \left(\frac{m}{|B_1|} \right)^{\frac{N+1-\alpha}{N}} \mathcal{NL}_\alpha(\tilde{E}) \right].$$

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Hence consider the volume constraint minimization problem:

$$\min \{ \mathcal{F}_{\alpha,\gamma}(E) := \mathcal{P}(E) + \gamma \mathcal{N}\mathcal{L}_\alpha(E) : |E| = |B_1| \}.$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\alpha,\gamma}(E) = \mathcal{P}(E) + \gamma \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{\chi_E(x)\chi_E(y)}{|x-y|^\alpha} dx dy.$$

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Notice that (with volume constraint)

- \mathcal{P} is **minimized** by the ball (by the classical Isoperimetric Problem)
- \mathcal{NL}_α is **maximized** by the ball (by Riesz rearrangement)

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Previous results:

- for $N = 2$:

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On an isoperimetric problem with a competing non-local term. I. The planar case.

Comm. Pure Appl. Math. **66** (2013), 1129–1162.

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 - ▶ existence of minimizers for γ small
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 - ▶ the ball is the unique global minimizer for γ small
- for $N \geq 3$ existence of minimizers for γ small
- for $N \geq 3$ and $\alpha \in (0, 2)$ non existence of minimizers for γ big
- for $3 \leq N \leq 7$ and $\alpha \in (0, N - 1)$ the ball is the unique global minimizer for γ small
- for all $N \geq 2$ and with $\alpha = N - 2$ the ball is the unique global minimizer for γ small

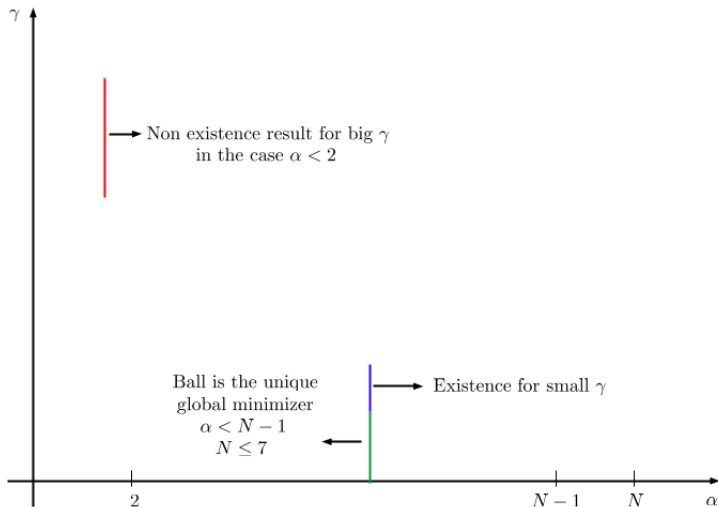
Reference:

V. Julin,

Isoperimetric problem with a Coulombic repulsive term.

Indiana Univ. Math. J. (to appear).

The previous landscape (before BC)



Questions

- what happens for α small?
- can the ball be a global minimizer for big values of γ ?
- non existence result for all $\alpha \in (0, N - 1)$
- is the set of existence an interval?
- examples of global minimizers that are not balls
- how to deal with the case $\alpha \in [N - 1, N)$?

Our second variation approach is based on the work:

E. Acerbi, N. Fusco, M. Morini,
Minimality via second variation for a nonlocal isoperimetric problem.
Comm. Math. Phys. **322** (2013), 515-557,

where they deal with the periodic case with a different nonlocal energy.

Let $X \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^N; \mathbb{R}^N)$ and let $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^N \times (-1, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ be its flow, *i.e.*

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} = X(\Phi), \quad \Phi(x, 0) := x.$$

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Thus consider

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{F}(E_t)|_{t=0} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \mathcal{F}(E_t)|_{t=0}$$

First variation

Second variation

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The first variation is given by

$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}(E_t)}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = \int_{\partial E} (H_{\partial E} + 2v_E) \langle X, \nu_E \rangle d\mathcal{H}^{N-1},$$

$H_{\partial E} :=$ sum of the principal curvatures of ∂E , and $v_E(x) := \int_E \frac{1}{|x-y|^\alpha} dy$.

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$H_{\partial E}$:= sum of the principal curvatures of ∂E , and $\nu_E(x) := \int_E \frac{1}{|x-y|^\alpha} dy$.

Definition

We say that a regular set E is **critical** if

$$H_{\partial E} + 2\nu_E = \lambda, \quad \text{on } \partial E,$$

where λ is the Lagrange multiplier given by the volume constraint.

Second variation

The second variation is of the form

$$\frac{d^2 \mathcal{F}(E_t)}{dt^2} \Big|_{t=0} = \partial^2 \mathcal{F}(E)[\langle X, \nu_E \rangle] + R,$$

where R vanishes for critical sets.

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We say that a regular critical set E is **stable** if

$$\partial^2 \mathcal{F}(E)[\varphi] > 0, \quad \text{for each } \varphi \in \tilde{H}^1(\partial E) \setminus \{0\}.$$

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Note

Since

$$\partial^2 \mathcal{F}(E)[\varphi] = \int_{\partial E} \int_{\partial E} \frac{\varphi(x)\varphi(y)}{|x-y|^\alpha} d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(x) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(y) + \dots,$$

we need $\alpha \in (0, N-1)$ to have all well defined!

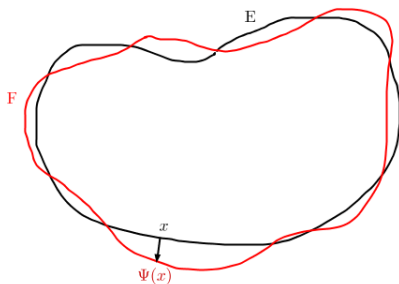
Necessary and sufficient (?) conditions

E is a local minimizer \implies E is critical
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E is critical and stable $\implies E$ is a local minimizer



We consider sets F whose boundary is given by

$$\partial F = \{x + \psi(x)\nu_E(x) : x \in \partial E\},$$

where $\psi \in W^{2,p}(\partial E)$ and $p > \max\{2, N - 1\}$.

$W^{2,p}$ -local minimality

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Define

$$g(t) := \mathcal{F}(E_t).$$

Recalling that, by criticality of E , $g'(0) = 0$, we have

$$\mathcal{F}(F) - \mathcal{F}(E) = g(1) - g(0) = \int_0^1 (1-t)g''(t) dt,$$

where

$$g''(t) = \frac{d^2 \mathcal{F}(E_s)}{ds^2} \Big|_{s=t} = \partial^2 \mathcal{F}(E_t)[\langle X, \nu_{E_t} \rangle] + R_t$$

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$\implies E$ is a $W^{2,p}$ -isolated local minimizer

N. Fusco, M. Morini,

Equilibrium configurations of epitaxially strained elastic films: second order minimality conditions and qualitative properties of the solutions.

Arch. Rat. Mech. Anal. **203** (2012), 247-327.

M. Cicalese, G.P. Leonardi,

A selection principle for the sharp quantitative isoperimetric inequality.

Arch. Rat. Mech. Anal. **206** (2012), 617-643.

E. Acerbi, N. Fusco, M. Morini,

Minimality via second variation for a nonlocal isoperimetric problem.

Comm. Math. Phys. **322** (2013), 515-557.

Regularity results for Λ -minimizers

Definition of Λ -minimizer

We say that a set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ is a Λ -*minimizer* of the area functional, for $\Lambda \geq 0$, if

$$\mathcal{P}(E) \leq \mathcal{P}(F) + \Lambda|E \Delta F|,$$

for each set $F \subset \mathbb{R}^N$.

Regularity results

Regularity results for Λ -minimizers are due to E. Gonzalez, U. Massari and I. Tamanini and are based on the ideas of De Giorgi for perimeter minimizers.

White Theorem

Theorem (White, 1994)

Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be of class C^1 and let $E_n \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ with $\sup_n \mathcal{P}(E_n) < +\infty$ s.t.

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$E_n \rightarrow E$ in $L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$

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$$E_n \rightarrow E \text{ in } L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

Then for n large enough

$$E_n \text{ is of class } C^{1, \frac{1}{2}}$$

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E_n are Λ -minimizers

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Then for n large enough

E_n is of class $C^{1, \frac{1}{2}}$

$$E_n \rightarrow E \text{ in } C^{1, \beta}(\partial E) \text{ for all } \beta \in \left(0, \frac{1}{2}\right),$$

i.e. $\partial E_n = \{x + \psi_n(x)\nu_E(x) : x \in \partial E\}$, with $\psi_n \rightarrow 0$ in $C^{1, \beta}(\partial E)$.

$W^{2,p}$ -local minimality implies L^1 -local minimality

Let E be a regular critical and stable set.

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Suppose that there exists $(E_h)_h$ s.t.

$$\mathcal{F}(E_h) \leq \mathcal{F}(E), \quad F_h \xrightarrow{L^1} E.$$

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where

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Then

$$F_h \xrightarrow{L^1} E \xrightarrow{\text{White Thm}} F_h \xrightarrow{C^{1,\beta}} E$$

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$$F_h \xrightarrow{L^1} E \xrightarrow{\text{White Thm}} F_h \xrightarrow{C^{1,\beta}} E \xrightarrow{\text{Eq. EL}} F_h \xrightarrow{W^{2,p}} E$$

The main result

Main result - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)

Assume that E is a regular critical and stable set for \mathcal{F} .

Then there exist $\delta > 0$ and $C > 0$ s.t.

$$\mathcal{F}(F) \geq \mathcal{F}(E) + C(\alpha(E, F))^2$$

for every $F \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ such that $|F| = |E|$ and $\alpha(E, F) < \delta$, where

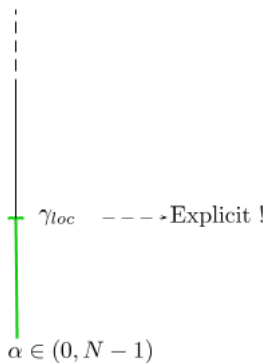
$$\alpha(E, F) := \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^N} |E \Delta (F + x)|.$$

Local minimality of the ball - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)

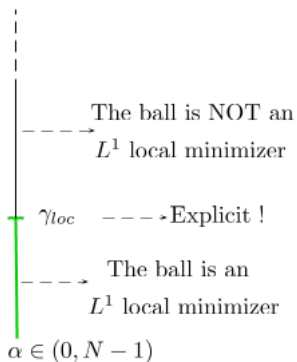


$\alpha \in (0, N - 1)$

Local minimality of the ball - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)

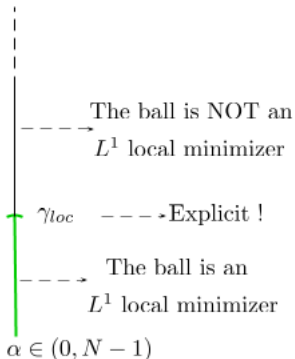


Local minimality of the ball - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)



Local minimality of the ball - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)

$$\gamma_{loc} = \gamma_{loc}(N, \alpha) \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{as } \alpha \rightarrow 0^+$$



Global minimality of the ball for γ small

Global minimality of the ball - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)

Given $N \geq 2$, $\alpha \in (0, N - 1)$, let

$$\gamma_{\text{glob}}(N, \alpha) := \sup\{\gamma \geq 0 : B_1 \text{ is a global minimizer for } \mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma}\}.$$

Then:

- $\gamma_{\text{glob}}(N, \alpha)$ is positive and finite
- the ball is a global minimizer of $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma}$ if $\gamma \leq \gamma_{\text{glob}}(N, \alpha)$
- it is the unique global minimizer of $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma}$ if $\gamma < \gamma_{\text{glob}}(N, \alpha)$

Global minimality of the ball for γ small

Suppose there exist $\gamma_n \rightarrow 0$ and $(E_n)_n$ with $|E_n| = |B_1|$ s.t.

$$\mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma_n}(E_n) \leq \mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma_n}(B_1).$$

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Then

$$\mathcal{P}(E_n) - \mathcal{P}(B_1) \leq \gamma_n (\mathcal{NL}_\alpha(B_1) - \mathcal{NL}_\alpha(E_n))$$

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Then

$$C |E_n \Delta B_1|^2 \leq \mathcal{P}(E_n) - \mathcal{P}(B_1) \leq \gamma_n (\mathcal{NL}_\alpha(B_1) - \mathcal{NL}_\alpha(E_n))$$

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Since $\gamma_n \rightarrow 0$:

$$E_n \rightarrow B_1 \quad \text{in } L^1.$$

Global minimality of the ball for α small

Global minimizers for α small - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)

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- for $\gamma > \gamma_{\text{glob}}(N, \alpha)$ the minimum problem for $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma}$ does not have a solution.

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Suppose there exist $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$, $\gamma_n > 0$ and $(E_n)_n$ with $|E_n| = |B_1|$ which are not balls s.t.

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It can be proven that given $\bar{\alpha} > 0$ and $\bar{\gamma} > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ s.t.

$$\mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma}(E) > \mathcal{F}_{\alpha, \gamma}(B_1),$$

for every $\alpha \leq \bar{\alpha}$, $\gamma < \bar{\gamma}$ and each $|E| = |B_1|$ with $0 < \alpha(E, B_1) < \delta$.

Characterization of minimizing sequences for α small

Minimizing sequences for α small - (Bonacini-Cristoferi, 2014)

Let $\alpha < \bar{\alpha}$ and let

$$f_k(m) := \min_{\substack{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k \geq 0 \\ \mu_1 + \dots + \mu_k = m}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k \mathcal{F}(B^i) : B^i \text{ ball, } |B^i| = \mu_i \right\}.$$

There exists an increasing sequence $(m_k)_k$, with $m_0 = 0$, $m_1 = \gamma_{\text{glob}}$, such that $\lim_k m_k = \infty$ and

$$\inf_{|E|=m} \mathcal{F}(E) = f_k(m) \quad \text{for every } m \in [m_{k-1}, m_k], \text{ for all } k \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (1)$$

that is, for every $m \in [m_{k-1}, m_k]$ a minimizing sequence for the total energy is obtained by a configuration of at most k disjoint balls with diverging mutual distance.

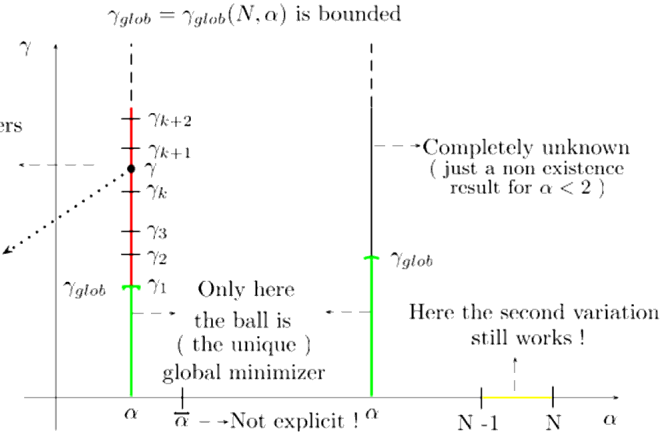
Moreover, the number of non-degenerate balls tends to $+\infty$ as $m \rightarrow +\infty$.

Global minimality results (after BC)

- Non existence of minimizers

- Characterization of the infimum of the energy :

$$\inf_{|E|=\gamma} \mathcal{F}(E)$$
 is obtained by summing the energies of at most $k + 1$ balls



The case $\alpha \in [N - 1, N)$

In the paper

A. Figalli, N. Fusco, F. Maggi, V. Millot, M. Morini,
Isoperimetry and stability properties of balls with respect to nonlocal energies.
Preprint (2014).

they prove that for small masses the ball is the unique global minimizer.

Still open questions

- improve the characterization of minimizing sequences for α small
- non existence result for all $\alpha \in (0, N)$
- is the set of existence an interval?
- examples of global minimizers that are not balls

For all the details of this talk:

M. Bonacini, R.Cristoferi,

Local and global minimality results for a nonlocal isoperimetric problem in \mathbb{R}^N .

SIAM J. Math. Anal., **46-4** (2014), 2310-2349.

Obrigado
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