

The Intrinsic Flat Convergence of Riemannian Manifolds

C. Sormani and S. Wenger

Abstract:

We define a new distance between oriented Riemannian manifolds that we call the *intrinsic flat distance* based upon Ambrosio-Kirchheim's extension of Federer-Fleming's theory of integral currents on metric spaces. Limits of sequences of manifolds, M_j^k , with $\text{vol}(M_j) \leq V_0$, $\text{vol}(\partial M_j) \leq V_1$ and $\text{diam}(M_j) \leq D$ are countably H^k rectifiable metric spaces with an orientation and multiplicity that we call *integral current spaces*.

In general the Gromov-Hausdorff and intrinsic flat limits do not agree. However, we show that they do agree when the sequence of manifolds has nonnegative Ricci curvature and a uniform lower bound on volume and also when the sequence of manifolds has a uniform linear local geometric contractibility function. These results can be proven using work of Greene-Petersen, Gromov, Cheeger-Colding and Perelman.

This is joint work with S. Wenger. See
<http://comet.lehman.cuny.edu/sormani/intrinsicflat.html>

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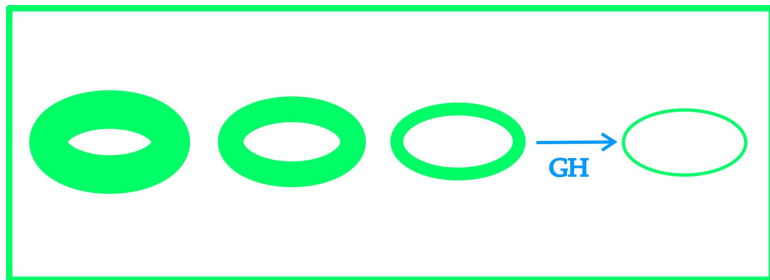
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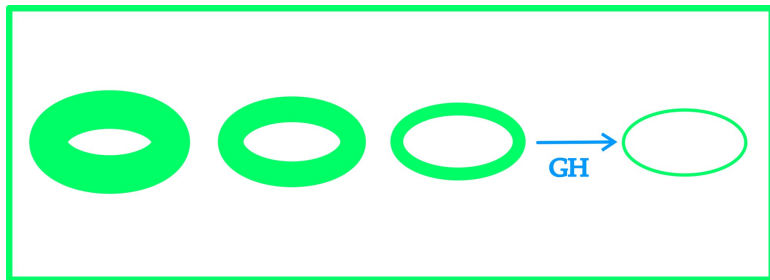
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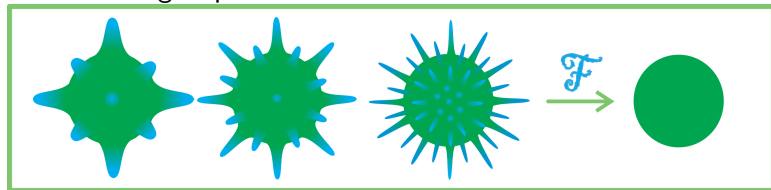
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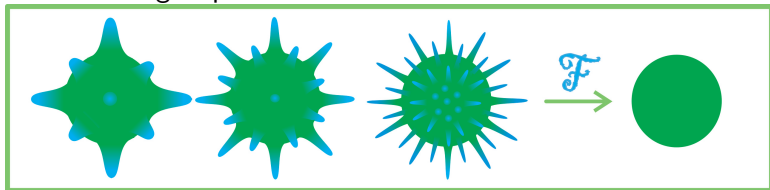


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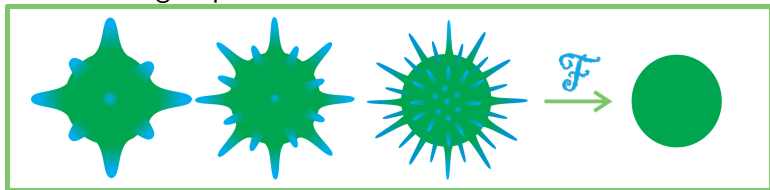
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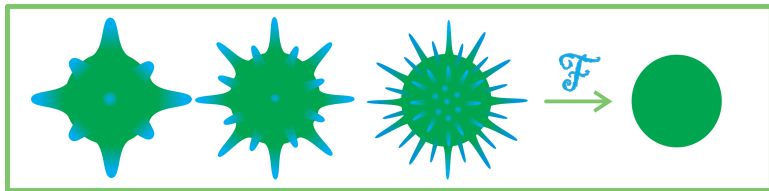
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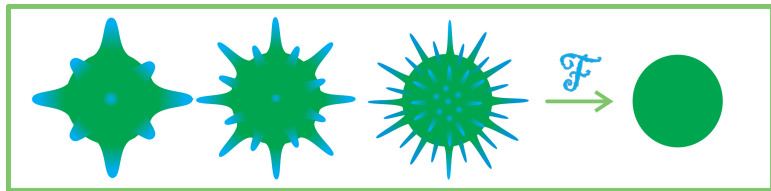
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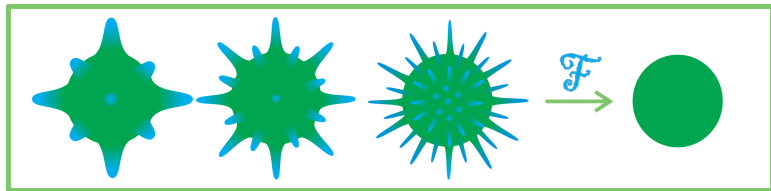


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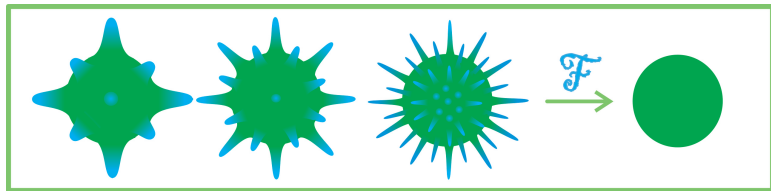
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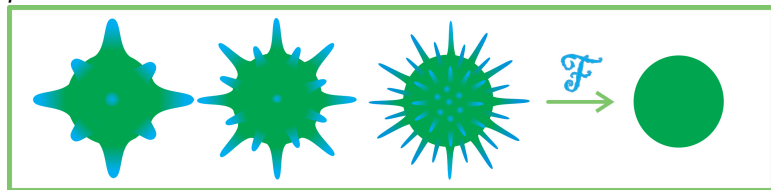
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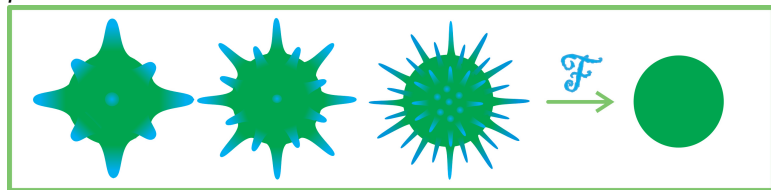


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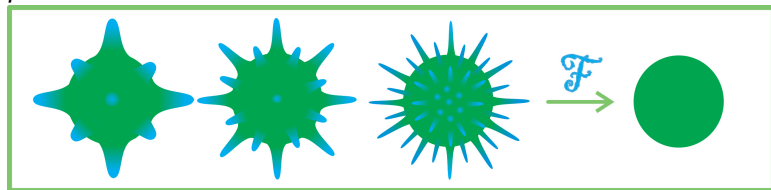
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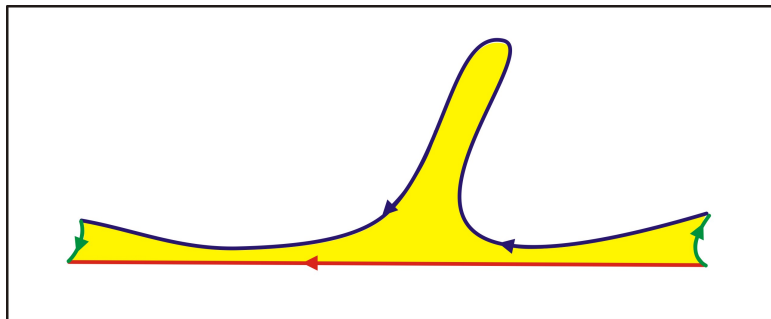
Ambrosio-Kirchheim extended the notion of an integral current to an arbitrary complete metric space. **Wenger** extended the notion of the flat distance to this setting.

The flat distance between integral currents

The flat distance between two integral currents, $T, S \in \mathbf{I}_k(Z)$ is

$$d_F^Z(T, S) = \inf \{ \mathbf{M}(A) + \mathbf{M}(B) : A + \partial B = S - T \},$$

where the infimum is taken over all $A \in \mathbf{I}_k(Z)$, $B \in \mathbf{I}_{k+1}(Z)$.



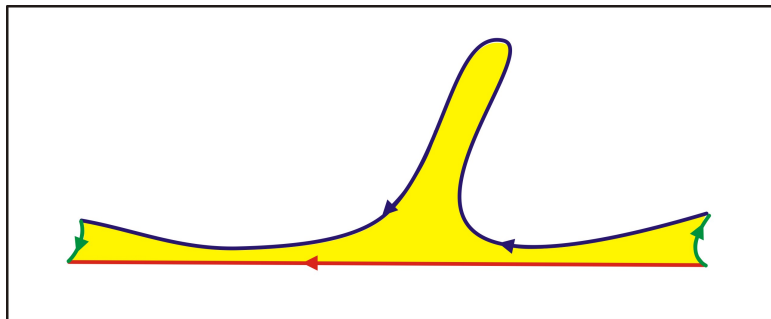
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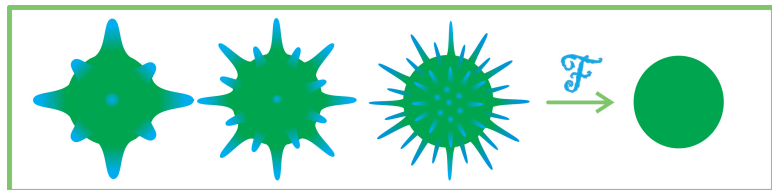
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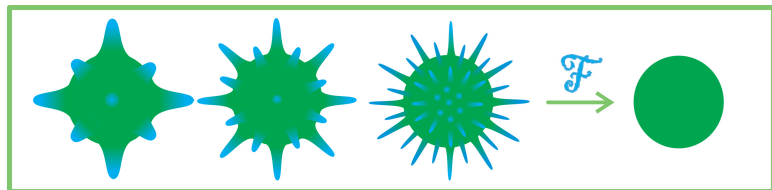
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To make an intrinsic notion, we cannot allow any dependence on the embedding of the manifolds. So we imitate Gromov's intrinsic Hausdorff distance and take an infimum over all possible isometric embeddings into all possible complete metric spaces Z ...

The Definition of the Intrinsic Flat Distance

Given oriented Riemannian manifolds with boundary, M, N
the intrinsic flat distance is the infimum of the flat distances:

$$d_{\mathcal{F}}(M, N) := \inf d_{\mathcal{F}}^Z(\varphi_{\#}[M], \psi_{\#}[N]),$$

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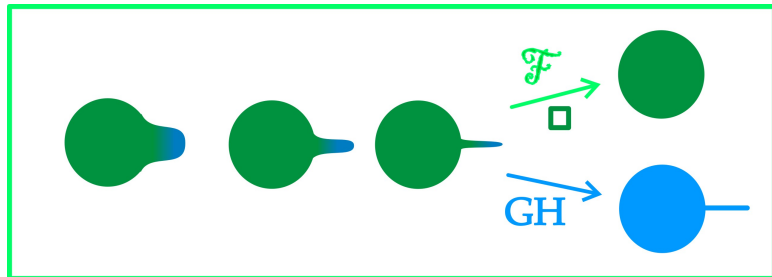
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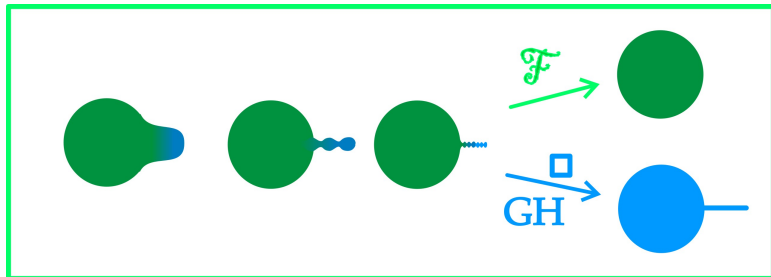
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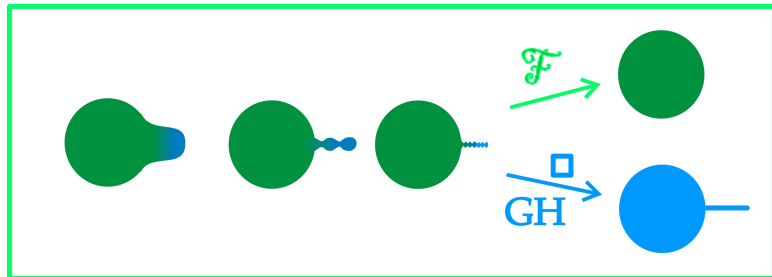
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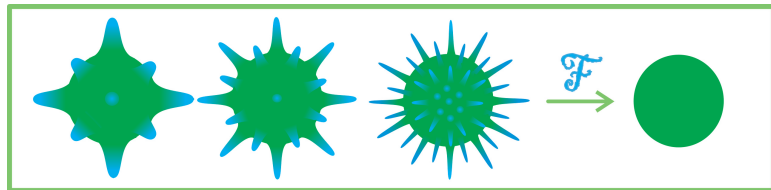
$$d_{\mathcal{F}}(M, N) := \inf d_{\mathcal{F}}^Z(\varphi_{\#}[M], \psi_{\#}[N])$$

where $d_{\mathcal{F}}^Z(T, S) = \inf \{\mathbf{M}(A) + \mathbf{M}(B) : A + \partial B = T - S\}$.

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Examples

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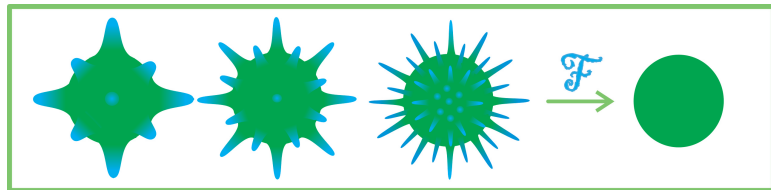
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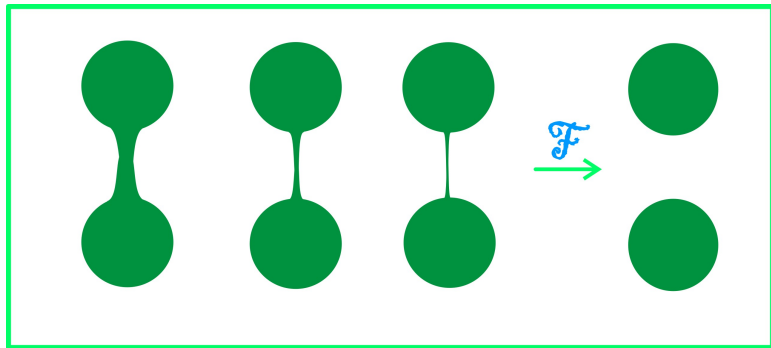
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Example of a Cauchy sequence:

This example is Cauchy with respect to the intrinsic flat distance:

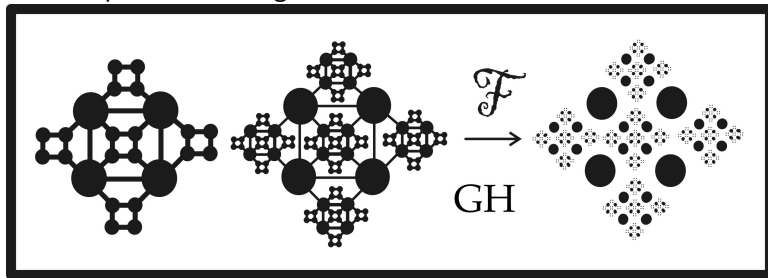


The Gromov-Hausdorff limit in this setting is the pair of spheres joined by a line segment. Intuitively it seems the intrinsic flat limit should be the disjoint pair of spheres without the line segment.

Another Cauchy sequence:

In this example we join spheres by tubes, so that we get an intrinsic flat Cauchy sequence with a uniform upper bound on volume.

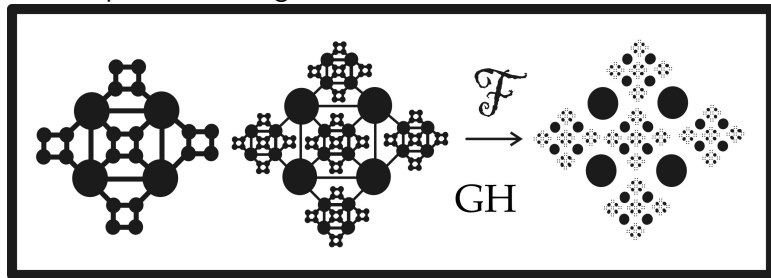
The Gromov-Hausdorff limit is the metric space on the right connected by line segments while the intrinsic flat limit should just be the space on the right.



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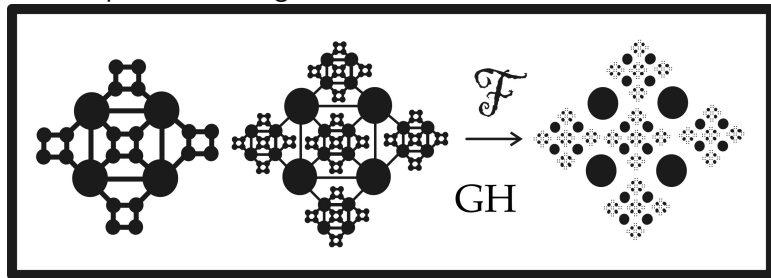


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We next define intrinsic flat limits: integral current spaces.

Integral Current Spaces

A countably \mathcal{H}^k rectifiable metric space is a metric space, X with countably many Lipschitz maps ϕ_i from Borel measurable sets $A_i \subset \mathbf{E}^k$ to X such that the Hausdorff measure

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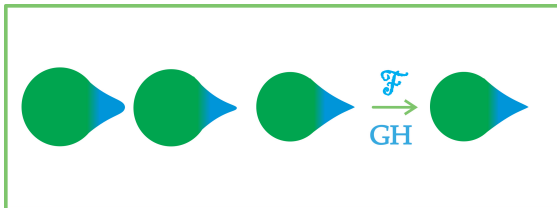
The set of positive lower density, $\text{set}(T)$, is the set of $y \in \bar{X}$ with

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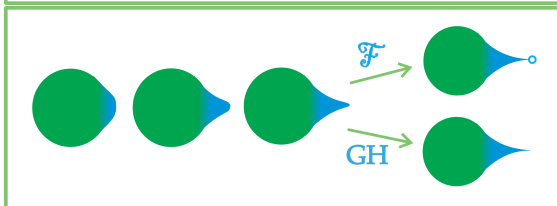
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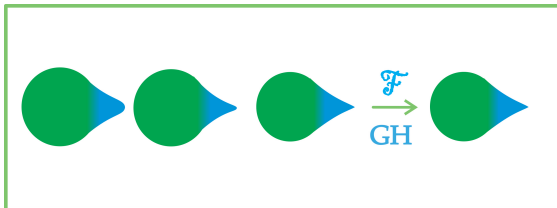
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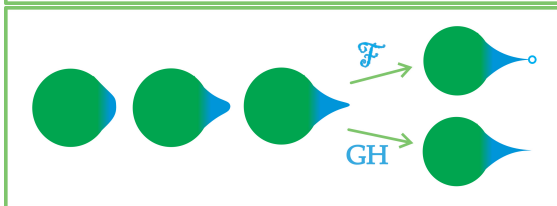
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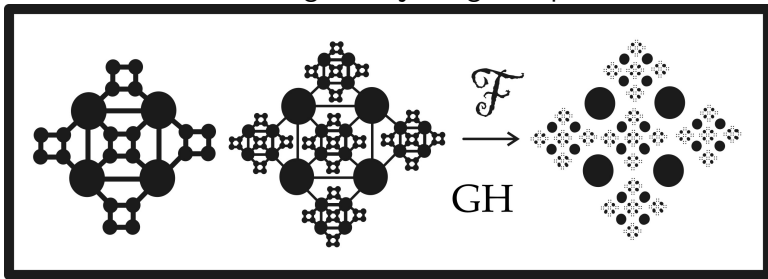
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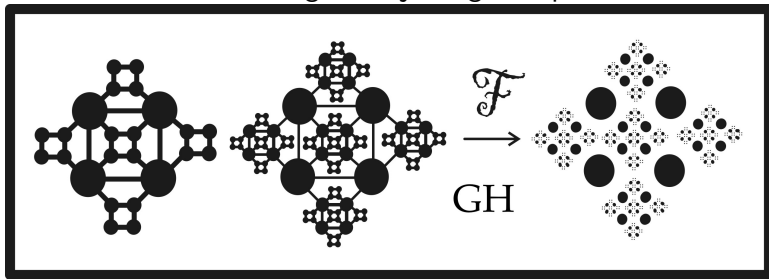
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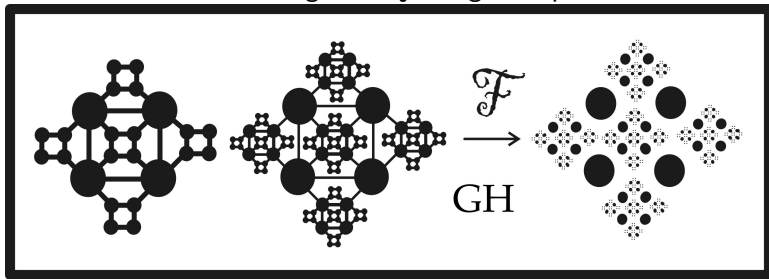


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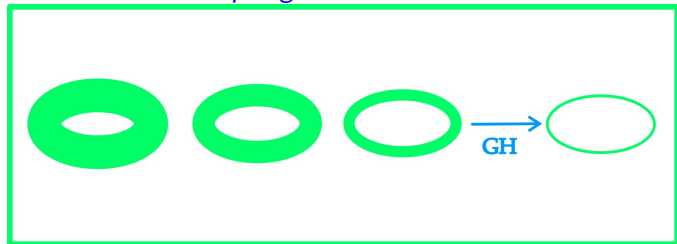
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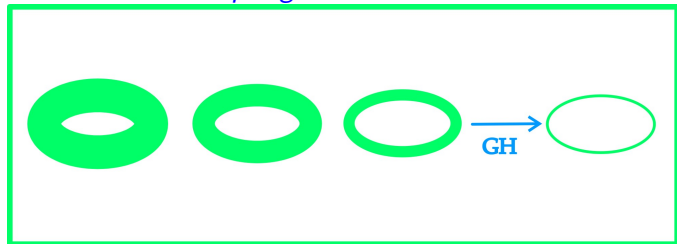
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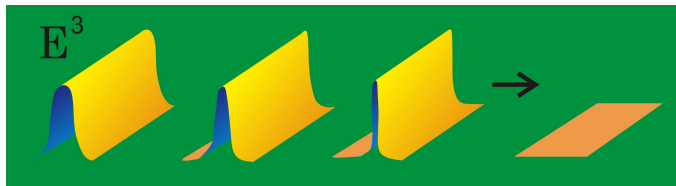
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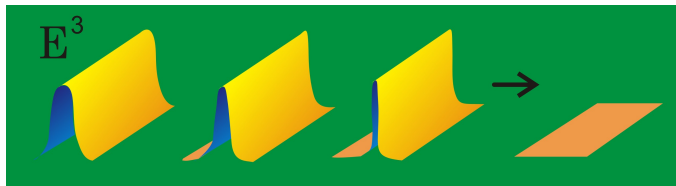
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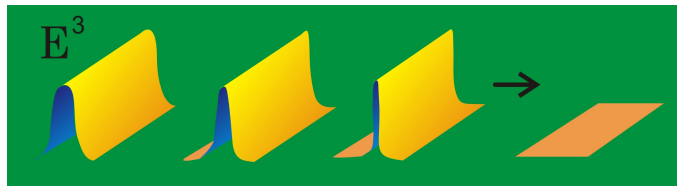
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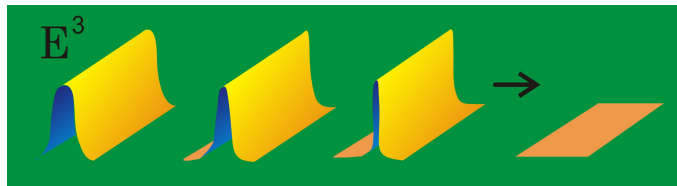
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Examples with positive scalar curvature

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Conjecture: We believe this cancellation cannot occur if we take sequences of manifolds with positive scalar curvature and no interior minimal surfaces. Regions may disappear as in the hairy sphere due to collapse but not cancellation.

Key observation:

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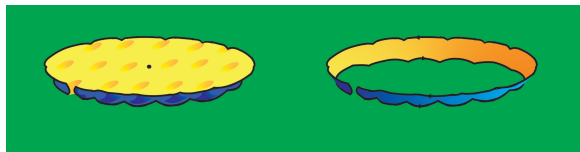


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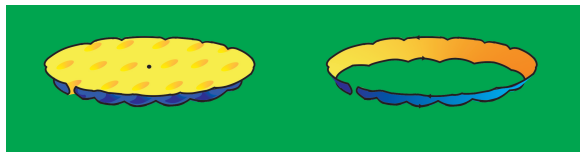


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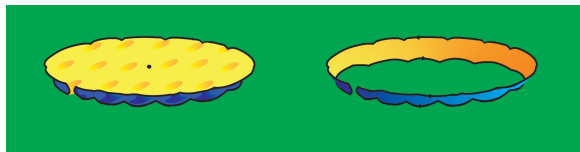
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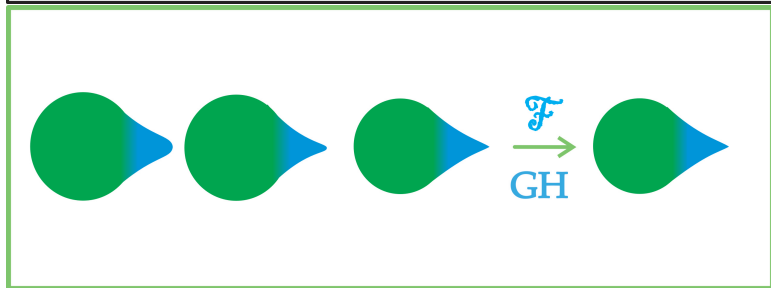
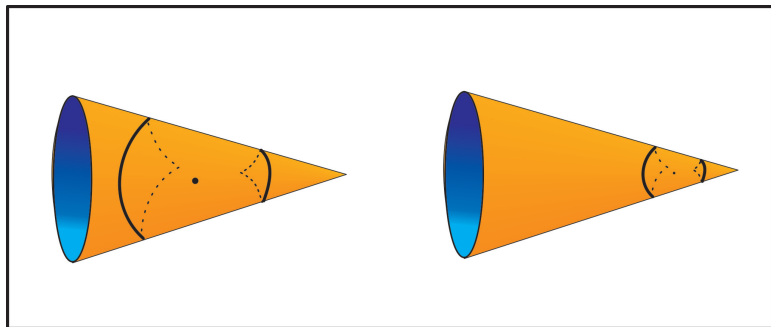
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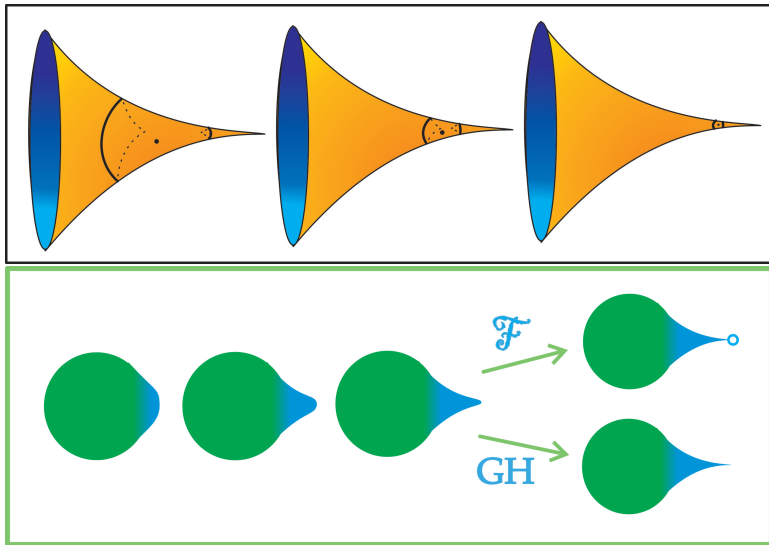
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Before proving this contractibility theorem, a few remarks...

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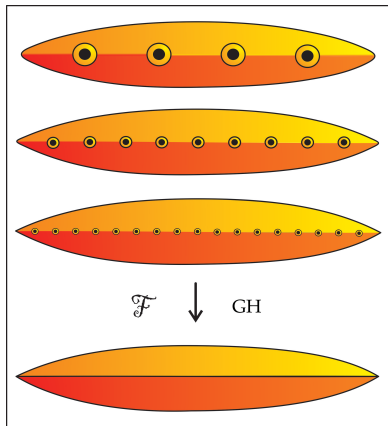


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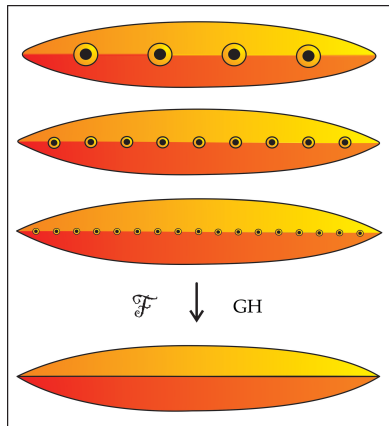
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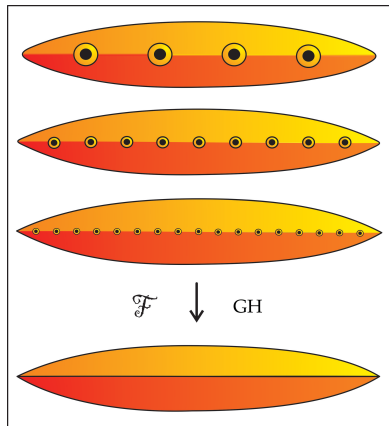
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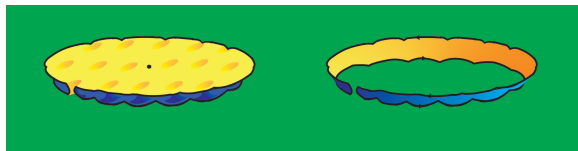


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Thus we have proven:

The Gromov-Hausdorff and Intrinsic Flat limits agree when M_j have uniform linear geometric contractibility functions.

Completing the Ricci curvature Theorem

We know that if $y = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} y_{j_i}$ such that

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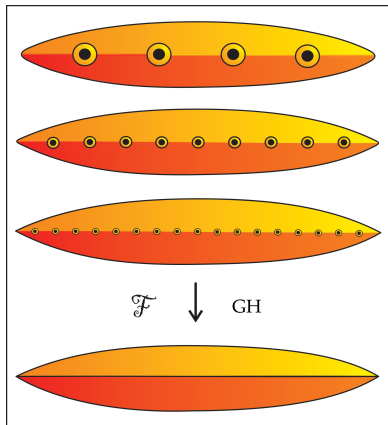
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Not all balls have linear geometric contractibility functions!



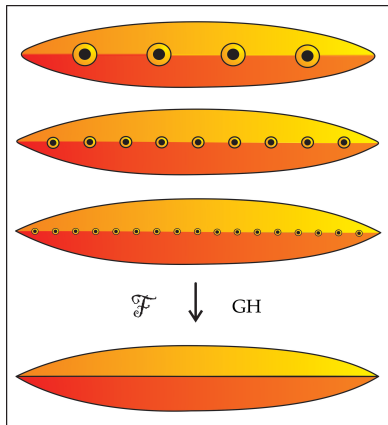
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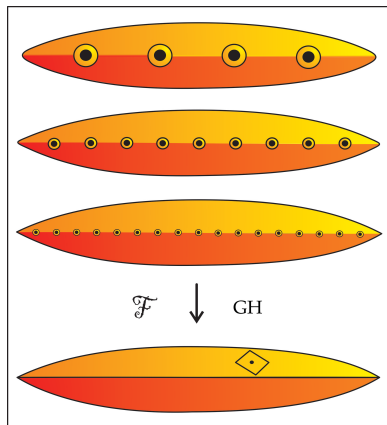
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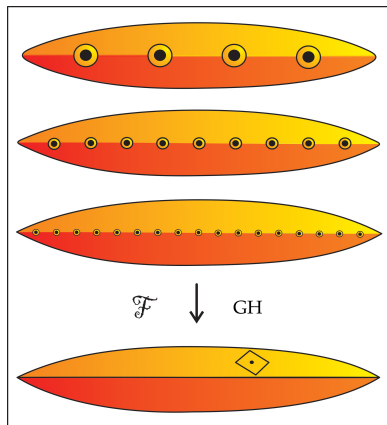
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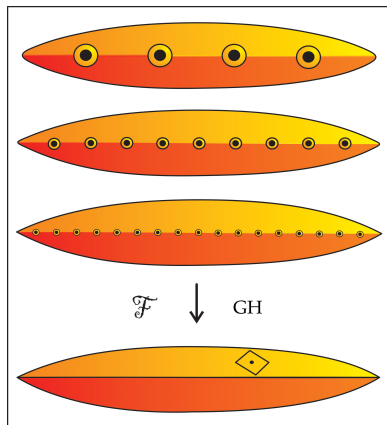
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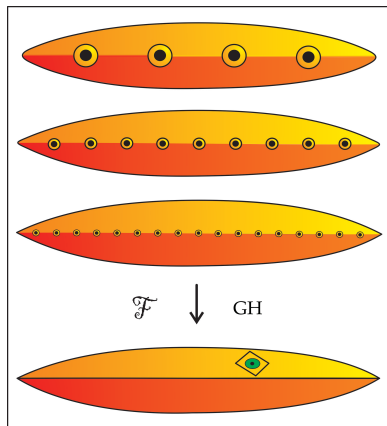
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Given $y \in \mathcal{R}$. For all $\alpha < \omega_k$
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Proving the Ricci Theorem

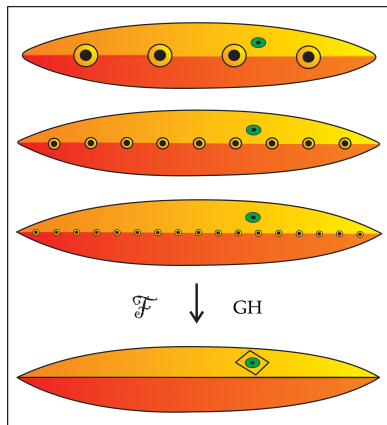
We will prove that $\mathcal{R} \subset X = \text{set}(T)$ by finding $y_{j_i} \rightarrow y$ such that $B(y_{j_i}, r) \subset M_{j_i}$ have a linear geometric contractibility function.

Given $y \in \mathcal{R}$. For all $\alpha < \omega_k$
and r sufficiently small $r < r_{y,\alpha}$
 $\text{vol}(B(y, r)) \geq \alpha r^k$.

Colding Volume Convergence:

$\exists y_{j_i} \in M_{j_i}^k$ such that
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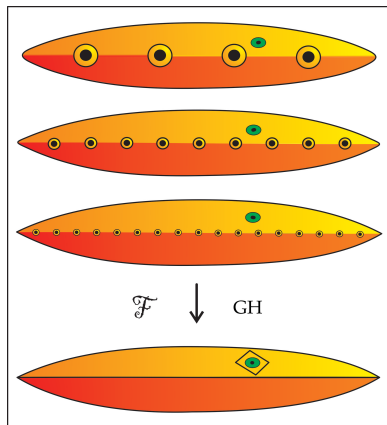
If $\alpha > \alpha_k$ and $\text{Ricci} \geq 0$
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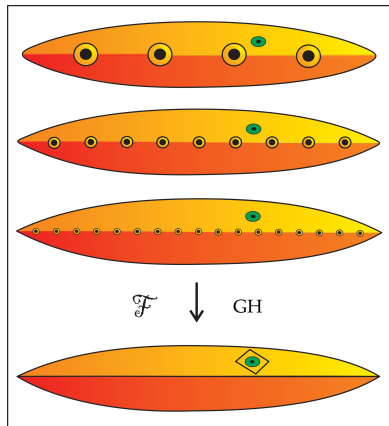
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So choosing $\alpha > \alpha_k$, we obtain
a uniform contractibility
function on $[0, r_{y,\alpha}]$. Thus
 $y \in \text{set}(T) = X$, the flat limit.



Completing the Ricci curvature Theorem

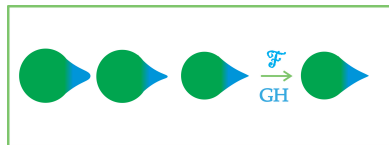
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Completing the Ricci curvature Theorem

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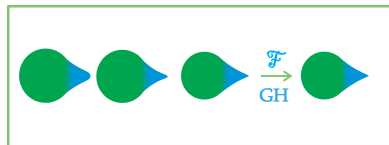


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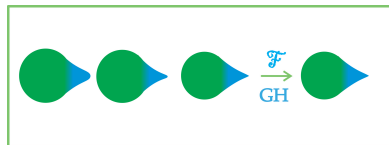
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Thus $y \in \text{set}(T) = X$ as well.

Closing Remarks

Papers related to this project are linked to from
<http://comet.lehman.cuny.edu/sormani/intrinsicflat.html>
or just google "Sormani Wenger Intrinsic Flat"

Open problems in progress:

Applications to manifolds with Positive Scalar Curvature (Tom Ilmanen and Stefan Wenger)

Applications to Isospectral Manifolds

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak.