

Łojasiewicz Inequalities for Mean Convex Self-Shrinkers

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We prove Łojasiewicz inequalities for round cylinders and cylinders over Abresch–Langer curves, using perturbative analysis of a quantity introduced by Colding–Minicozzi. A feature is that this auxiliary quantity allows us to work essentially at 1st order. This new method interpolates between the higher-order perturbative analysis used by the author for certain shrinking cylinders and the differential geometric method used by Colding–Minicozzi for the round case.

1 Introduction

Self-shrinkers are submanifolds $\Sigma^n \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ satisfying the elliptic partial differential equation (PDE) $\phi := -H + \frac{x^\perp}{2} = 0$; they serve as singularity models for the mean curvature flow. Łojasiewicz inequalities have been successful in proving the uniqueness of tangent flows for a variety of model shrinkers [2, 3, 5, 8], and “explicit” forms can also be used to establish rigidity in the class of shrinkers [6, 9]. Explicit Łojasiewicz inequalities for a class of shrinking cylinders were proven by the author in [10] and previously by Colding and Minicozzi for the case of round cylinders [3, 5]. The purpose of this note is to provide a bridge between these two approaches.

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Specifically, in [10] we used Taylor expansion of the shrinker quantity ϕ while in [3, 5] a pointwise differential geometric method is used, relying on an auxiliary quantity $\tau = \frac{A}{|H|}$. In this note we show that Taylor expansion of τ , combined with the techniques in [10], yields another Łojasiewicz inequality for round cylinders and Abresch–Langer cylinders. Denoting by $\mathcal{C}_n(\mathring{\Gamma})$ the set of all rotations of $\mathring{\Gamma}^k \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ about the origin, we prove the following:

Theorem 1.1 (Łojasiewicz inequality of the 1st kind). Let $\mathring{\Gamma}$ be a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. There exists $\epsilon_2 > 0$ so that for any $\epsilon_1, \lambda_0, C_j$ there exist R_0, l_0 such that if $l \geq l_0$, $\Sigma^n \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ has $\lambda(\Sigma) \leq \lambda_0$ and

- (1) for some $R > R_0$, we have that $B_R \cap \Sigma$ is the graph of a normal field U over some cylinder in $\mathcal{C}_n(\mathring{\Gamma})$ with $\|U\|_{C^3(B_R)} \leq \epsilon_2$ and $\|U\|_{L^2(B_R)}^2 \leq e^{-R^2/8}$;
- (2) $|\nabla^j A| \leq C_j$ on $B_R \cap \Sigma$ for all $j \leq l$;

then there is a cylinder $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}_n(\mathring{\Gamma})$ and a compactly supported normal vector field V over Γ with $\|V\|_{C^{2,\alpha}} \leq \epsilon_1$, such that $\Sigma \cap B_{R-6}$ is contained in the graph of V , and

$$\|V\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C \left(\|\phi\|_{L^1(B_R)}^{a_l} + \|\phi\|_{L^2(B_R)}^{2a_l} + (R-5)^{a_l n} e^{-a_l(R-5)^2/4} \right),$$

where $C = C(n, l, C_l, \lambda_0, \epsilon_1)$ and $a_l \nearrow 1$ as $l \rightarrow \infty$.

Theorem 1.2 (Łojasiewicz inequality of the 2nd kind). Let $\mathring{\Gamma}$ be a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. There exists $\epsilon_2 > 0$ so that for any λ_0, C_j there exist R_0, l_0 such that if $l \geq l_0$, $\Sigma^n \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ has $\lambda(\Sigma) \leq \lambda_0$ and

- (1) for some $R > R_0$, we have that $B_R \cap \Sigma$ is the graph of a normal field U over some cylinder in $\mathcal{C}_n(\mathring{\Gamma})$ with $\|U\|_{C^3(B_R)} \leq \epsilon_2$ and $\|U\|_{L^2(B_R)}^2 \leq e^{-R^2/8}$;
- (2) $|\nabla^j A| \leq C_j$ on $B_R \cap \Sigma$ for all $j \leq l$;

then for $C = C(n, \beta, l, C_l, \lambda_0)$ we have

$$|F(\Sigma) - F(\mathring{\Gamma})| \leq C \left(\|\phi\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3a_l}{2}} + (R-6)^n e^{-\frac{(R-6)^2}{4}} \right).$$

Note that by the work of Colding–Minicozzi [4], the only codimension one, mean convex self-shrinkers are precisely the cylinders over round spheres $\mathbb{S}_{\sqrt{2k}}^k$ and Abresch–Langer [1] curves $\Gamma_{a,b}$. The inequalities above differ slightly from those in [10] by the exponents on the right, but morally they are equivalent since a_l may be taken arbitrarily close to 1. Indeed, the above estimates suffice to give alternative proofs

of the uniqueness of tangent flows and rigidity for these mean convex shrinkers (see Remark 5.2; cf. [10, Theorems 1.1 and 1.2]).

The advantage of the τ quantity is that it allows us to perform the variational analysis only at 1st order, whereas in [10] we needed the 2nd-order expansion of ϕ . This is a significant reduction as the complexity of the method increases quickly with the order of expansion. Applying the perturbative method to τ also explains and quantifies the success of the method used by Colding–Minicozzi [3, 5] for round spheres.

Note that the C^3 assumption in the above statements is not serious and can be relaxed to lower derivatives by the L^2 assumption and interpolation. We have chosen to state the hypotheses in this way to reflect the natural progression of our estimates and the use of the 3rd-order quantity $\nabla\tau$.

The key new geometric data, derived in Section 3, are the (1st) variation formulae for τ and a further auxiliary quantity P . We then prove estimates for entire graphs over the cylinders in Section 4, using Taylor expansion of τ in place of the 2nd-order analysis in [10, Section 5.2]. Note that the 1st-order analysis of ϕ is still required. Some preliminaries are included in Section 2 and the Łojasiewicz inequalities of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 are proven in Section 5.

2 Preliminaries

We consider smooth, properly immersed submanifolds $\Sigma^n \subset \mathbb{R}^N$.

For a vector V we denote by V^T the projection to the tangent bundle and $V^\perp = \Pi(V)$ the projection to the normal bundle $N\Sigma$. Given a vector field U on Σ with $\|U\|_{C^1}$ small enough, the graph Σ_U is the submanifold given by the immersion $X_U(p) = X(p) + U(p)$. We say Σ_U is a normal graph if $U^T = 0$.

The 2nd fundamental form is the 2-tensor with values in the normal bundle defined by $A(Y, Z) = \nabla_Y^\perp Z$, and the mean curvature (vector) is $\mathbf{H} = -A_{ii}$. Here, and henceforth, we take the convention that repeated lower indices are summed with the metric, for instance $A_{ii} = g^{ij}A_{ij}$. We denote the shrinker mean curvature by $\phi = \frac{1}{2}x^\perp - \mathbf{H}$ and the principal normal by $\mathbf{N} = \frac{\mathbf{H}}{|\mathbf{H}|}$. A submanifold is a shrinker if $\phi \equiv 0$ on Σ .

Given a vector V we denote $A^V = \langle A, V \rangle$. The Hessian on the normal bundle is given by $(\nabla^\perp \nabla^\perp V)(Y, Z) = \nabla_Z^\perp \nabla_Y^\perp V - \nabla_{\nabla_Z^T Y}^\perp V$.

For graphs Γ_U over a fixed submanifold Γ , we use subscripts to denote the values of geometric quantities on Γ_U . We also consider these quantities as functionals on (normal) vector fields U . For instance, there is a smooth function φ such that

$\phi_U = \varphi(p, U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U)$. For variations of such quantities, we use the shorthand notation $\mathcal{D}\varphi(U)$ to mean the variation $\mathcal{D}\varphi|_0([U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U])$ evaluated at 0, and so forth.

The Gaussian weight is $\rho = \rho_n = (4\pi)^{-n/2} e^{-|x|^2/4}$. Here n is the dimension of the submanifold and will be omitted when clear from context. By $L^p, W^{k,p}$ we denote the weighted Sobolev spaces with respect to ρ . The Gaussian area functional is $F(\Sigma) = \int_{\Sigma} \rho$. The entropy is $\lambda(\Sigma) = \sup_{y, s > 0} F(s(\Sigma - y))$, and for a shrinker, $\lambda(\Sigma) = F(\Sigma)$. Note that finite entropy $\lambda(\Sigma) \leq \lambda_0$ implies Euclidean volume growth $|\Sigma \cap B_R| \leq C(\lambda_0)R^n$.

We will use the following elliptic operators: the drift Laplacian $\mathcal{L} = \Delta - \frac{1}{2}\nabla_x^T$ and the Jacobi operator $L = \mathcal{L} + \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{k,l} \langle \cdot, A_{kl} \rangle A_{kl}$. The drift Laplacian is defined on functions and tensors, while L is defined on sections of the normal bundle (via ∇^{\perp}). For such operators, unless otherwise indicated, \ker will refer to the $W^{2,2}$ kernel, for instance $\mathcal{K} = \ker L$.

We set $\langle x \rangle = (1 + |x|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$. On a curve $\Gamma^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, we denote the geodesic curvature by κ and use dots $\dot{\kappa} = \partial_{\sigma}\kappa$ to denote differentiation with respect to the arclength parameter σ .

We use C to denote a constant that may change from line to line but retains the stated dependencies.

2.1 Mean convex self-shrinkers

In this article, we say that a submanifold $\Gamma^n \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ has “codimension one” if the minimal affine subspace containing Γ has dimension $n + 1$. Note that for shrinkers, the minimal subspace necessarily contains the origin since $\mathcal{L}x = -\frac{1}{2}x$. Consider a codimension one shrinker Γ . Up to ambient rotation we have $\Gamma^n \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}^{N-n-1}$. Moreover, the normal bundle is trivial and is spanned by \mathbf{N} and $\partial_{z_{\alpha}}$, where z_{α} are standard coordinates on \mathbb{R}^{N-n-1} .

An orientable codimension one submanifold is mean convex (up to change of orientation) if $|\mathbf{H}| > 0$. By the work of Colding–Minicozzi [4] (see also [7]), the only mean convex self-shrinkers with finite entropy are cylinders $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma}^k \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is either a round shrinking sphere $\mathbb{S}_{\sqrt{2k}}^k$ or an Abresch–Langer curve $\mathring{\Gamma}_{a,b}^1$ (see [1]). We further decompose $\mathbb{R}^N = \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \times \mathbb{R}^{N-m-n}$ so that $\mathring{\Gamma} \subset \mathbb{R}^{k+1}$, and let \mathring{x}, y, z be the projection of x to each respective factor.

Given $\mathring{\Gamma}^k$, we denote by $\mathcal{C}_n(\mathring{\Gamma})$ the set of all rotations of $\mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ about the origin.

2.2 The auxiliary quantities τ and P

For submanifolds Γ on which \mathbf{H} never vanishes, Colding–Minicozzi [5] considered the 2-tensor $\tau = \frac{A}{|\mathbf{H}|}$ and showed that $|\nabla^\perp \tau|^2$ satisfies a certain elliptic PDE with inhomogenous term given by

$$\begin{aligned} P = & |A|^2 |A^N|^2 - 2|A^2|^2 + \sum_{ijlm} \left(2\langle A_{jl}, A_{im} \rangle \langle A_{lm}, A_{ij} \rangle - \langle A_{ij}, A_{ml} \rangle^2 \right) \\ & + \frac{|A|^2}{4|\mathbf{H}|^2} \left(|A^N(x^T, \cdot)|^2 - |A(x^T, \cdot)|^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

Here A^2 is the real-valued 2-tensor $(A^2)_{ij} = \langle A_{im}, A_{mj} \rangle$.

If $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma}^k \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ is either a round cylinder or an Abresch–Langer cylinder, one has $\tau = -\frac{1}{k}N\dot{g}_{ij}$ and in particular $\nabla^\perp \tau = 0$.

As before, for graphs Γ_U there is a smooth function \mathcal{P} so that for sufficiently small $\delta > 0$ and $\|U\|_{C^2} < \delta$ we have $P_U = \mathcal{P}(p, U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U)$. Similarly, there is a smooth function \mathcal{T} such that for $\|U\|_{C^3} < \delta$ we have $|\nabla^\perp \tau|_U^2 = \mathcal{T}(p, U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U, \nabla^3 U)$.

The quantity P vanishes on submanifolds of codimension one [5, Lemma 2.4].

2.3 Jacobi fields

The space of Jacobi fields on a shrinker Γ is the $(W^{2,2})$ kernel $\mathcal{K} = \ker L$. It contains the subspace \mathcal{K}_0 of Jacobi fields generated by ambient rotations, and we denote its L^2 -orthocomplement in \mathcal{K} by \mathcal{K}_1 .

The following summarises the Jacobi fields on $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve (see [10, Sections 2.6 and 4.1]).

Proposition 2.1. Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. Then the space \mathcal{K}_0 is spanned by normal vector fields of the following forms:

- (1) $\dot{x}_i \partial_{\dot{x}_j}^\perp - \dot{x}_j \partial_{\dot{x}_i}^\perp$;
- (2) $Y_j \partial_{\dot{x}_i}^\perp$;
- (3) $\dot{x}_i \partial_{z_\alpha}$; and $y_j \partial_{z_\alpha}$.

Moreover, the space \mathcal{K}_1 is spanned by the normal fields $\{(y_i y_j - 2\delta_{ij})\mathbf{H}\}$.

Corollary 2.2. Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. Let $r_0 = \text{diam}(\mathring{\Gamma}) + 1$. There exists C so that for any $J \in \mathcal{K}$ we have $|J| + |\nabla J| + |\nabla^2 J| + |\nabla^3 J| \leq C\langle x \rangle^2 \|J\|_{L^2(B_{r_0})}$ and $|\nabla^2 J(\cdot, y)| \leq C\langle x \rangle \|J\|_{L^2(B_{r_0})}$.

3 Auxiliary Variation Analysis

In this section we compute the variation of the auxiliary quantities, insofar as to establish Propositions 3.2 and 3.3 for $\nabla^\perp \tau$ and Lemma 3.4 and Proposition 3.6 for P . The benefit of using these quantities is that their 1st variation will be sufficient to establish the formal 2nd-order obstruction of ϕ .

We consider a submanifold Γ with a fixed immersion $X_0 : \Gamma^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$, and a one-parameter family of immersions $X : I \times \Gamma^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ with $X(0, p) = X_0(p)$. We use s for the coordinate on $I = (-\epsilon, \epsilon)$ and subscripts to denote differentiation with respect to s . For instance, $X_s = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} X$. If p_i are local coordinates on Σ , we have the tangent frame $X_i = X_*\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial p^i}\right)$.

All geometric quantities such as Π, g, A should be considered as functions of s, p , given by the value of each quantity at $X(s, p)$ on the submanifold defined by $X(s, \cdot)$. For instance, the metric $g_{ij}(s, p)$ is given by $g_{ij} = \langle X_i, X_j \rangle$. Recall Π is the projection to the normal bundle. Also recall that repeated lower indices are contracted via the (inverse) metric g^{ij} .

The following 1st variations were calculated in [5]:

Proposition 3.1 ([5]). Suppose $X_s = V = V^\perp$; then at $s = 0$:

$$\Pi_s(W) = -\Pi(\nabla_{W^T} V) - X_j g^{ij} \langle \Pi(\nabla_{X_i} V), W \rangle, \quad (3.1)$$

$$(g_{ij})_s = -2A_{ij}^V, \quad (g^{ij})_s = 2g^{il}A_{lm}^V g^{mj}, \quad (3.2)$$

$$(A_{ij})_s = -X_l \langle \nabla_{X_l}^\perp V, A_{ij} \rangle + (\nabla^\perp \nabla^\perp V)(X_i, X_j) - A_{il}^V A_{jl}, \quad (3.3)$$

$$|\mathbf{H}|_s = -\langle \mathbf{N}, \Delta^\perp V + A_{ij}^V A_{ij} \rangle. \quad (3.4)$$

3.1 Variation of $\nabla^\perp \tau$

We begin with a general submanifold Γ . Assume that on Γ , we have $|\mathbf{H}| \neq 0$ on Γ (so τ is well defined) and $\nabla^\perp \tau = 0$. Then at $s = 0$,

$$(|\nabla^\perp \tau|^2)_s = 0, \quad (|\nabla^\perp \tau|^2)_{ss} = 2(|\nabla^\perp \tau|_s)^2. \quad (3.5)$$

The 1st variation of $\nabla^\perp \tau$ is given by

$$(\nabla^\perp \tau)_s = \Pi_s(\nabla \tau) + \Pi(\nabla(\tau_s)). \quad (3.6)$$

Since $\nabla^\perp \tau = 0$, we have $\nabla_l \tau_{ij} = -\langle \tau_{ij}, A_{lm} \rangle e_m$. Using (3.1), this gives the following formula for the 1st term on the right in (3.6),

$$\Pi_s(\nabla_l \tau_{ij}) = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{H}|} \langle A_{ij}, A_{lm} \rangle \nabla_m^\perp V. \quad (3.7)$$

For the last term in (3.6), we calculate

$$\Pi(\nabla(\tau_s)) = -\frac{\nabla|\mathbf{H}|}{|\mathbf{H}|^2} \Pi(A_s - |\mathbf{H}|_s \tau) + \frac{\nabla^\perp A_s}{|\mathbf{H}|} - \frac{\nabla|\mathbf{H}|_s}{|\mathbf{H}|} \tau. \quad (3.8)$$

The 1st two terms in (3.8) are already known from Proposition 3.1, and we proceed to calculate the last two: differentiating $|\mathbf{H}|_s = -\langle \mathbf{N}, \Delta^\perp V + A_{ij}^V A_{ij} \rangle$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla|\mathbf{H}|_s &= -\langle \nabla^\perp \mathbf{N}, \Delta^\perp V + A_{ij}^V A_{ij} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{N}, \nabla^\perp \Delta^\perp V \rangle \\ &\quad - A_{ij}^N (\langle \nabla^\perp A_{ij}, V \rangle + \langle A_{ij}, \nabla^\perp V \rangle) - A_{ij}^V \langle \mathbf{N}, \nabla^\perp A_{ij} \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

Now differentiating $(A_{ij})_s = -X_l \langle \nabla_l^\perp V, A_{ij} \rangle - A_{il}^V A_{jl} + (\nabla^\perp \nabla^\perp V)(X_i, X_j)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_l^\perp (A_{ij})_s &= -A_{ml} \langle \nabla_m^\perp V, A_{ij} \rangle - \langle \nabla_l^\perp A_{im}, V \rangle A_{jm} - \langle A_{im}, \nabla_l^\perp V \rangle A_{jm} \\ &\quad - A_{im}^V \nabla_l^\perp A_{jm} + (\nabla^\perp \nabla^\perp \nabla^\perp V)(X_i, X_j, X_l). \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

In the remainder of this subsection we consider the cases where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is either a shrinking sphere $\mathbb{S}_{\sqrt{2k}}^k$, or an Abresch–Langer curve $\mathring{\Gamma}_{a,b}$. In both cases, $\mathring{\Gamma}$ has codimension one and indeed satisfies $\nabla^\perp \tau = 0$ and $A = A^N \mathbf{N}$. Furthermore, $\nabla^\perp \mathbf{N} = 0$, and it follows that any normal variation on $\mathring{\Gamma}$ may be written $U = u\mathbf{N} + u^\alpha \partial_{z_\alpha}$, with $\nabla_i^\perp U = (\nabla_i u)\mathbf{N} + (\nabla_i u^\alpha) \partial_{z_\alpha}$, and so forth.

3.1.1 Round cylinders

Proposition 3.2. Let $\mathring{\Gamma} = \mathbb{S}_{\sqrt{2k}}^k$ and $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}_n(\mathring{\Gamma})$. If $U \in \mathcal{K}_1$, then $\|\mathcal{D}^2 \mathcal{T}(U, U)\|_{L^1} = \frac{2}{k^3} \|U\|_{L^2}^2$.

Proof. A shrinking sphere $\mathring{\Gamma} = \mathbb{S}_{\sqrt{2k}}^k$ satisfies $\mathring{A}_{ij} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2k}} \mathbf{N} \mathring{g}_{ij}$. Consider a variation by $U = u\mathbf{N}$. As in [5], it follows that at $s = 0$ we have

$$(A_{ij})_s = \frac{\mathring{g}_{ij}}{\sqrt{2k}} \nabla u - \frac{\mathring{g}_{ij}}{2k} u \mathbf{N} + (\nabla^2 u)_{ij} \mathbf{N},$$

$$|\mathbf{H}|_s = -\Delta u - \frac{u}{2}.$$

Using the variation formulae above, we may also compute that

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_s(\nabla_l \tau_{ij}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k^3}} \dot{g}_{ij} \dot{g}_{ml} (\nabla_m u) \mathbf{N}, \\ \nabla_l^\perp (A_{ij})_s &= -\frac{1}{2k} \dot{g}_{ij} \dot{g}_{ml} (\nabla_m u) \mathbf{N} - \frac{1}{2k} \dot{g}_{ij} (\nabla_l u) \mathbf{N} + (\nabla^3 u)_{ijl} \mathbf{N}, \\ \nabla_l |\mathbf{H}|_s &= -\nabla_l \Delta u - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_l u.\end{aligned}$$

We now specialise to $U \in \mathcal{K}_1$, so that $u = u(y) = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} (y_i y_j - 2\delta_{ij})$. In particular, $(\mathcal{L} + 1)u = 0$ and $\nabla^3 u = 0$.

Combining the above according to (3.6), (3.7), and (3.8) then gives

$$(\nabla^\perp \tau)_{ijl,s} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{k^3}} \dot{g}_{ij} (\nabla_l u - \dot{g}_{lm} \nabla_m u) \mathbf{N} \quad (3.11)$$

and therefore

$$\frac{1}{2} (|\nabla^\perp \tau|^2)_{ss} = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{D}^2 \mathcal{T}(U, U) = \frac{2}{k^3} |\nabla u|^2. \quad (3.12)$$

Using the identity $\int_\Gamma |\nabla u|^2 \rho = -\int_\Gamma u (\mathcal{L} u) \rho = \int_\Gamma u^2 \rho$ then completes the proof. \blacksquare

3.1.2 Abresch–Langer curves

Proposition 3.3. Let $\dot{\Gamma} = \dot{\Gamma}_{a,b}$ be an Abresch–Langer curve and $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}_n(\dot{\Gamma})$.

If $U \in \mathcal{K}_1$, then $\|\mathcal{D}^2 \mathcal{T}(U, U)\|_{L^1} \geq 4B_2(\dot{\Gamma}) \|U\|_{L^2}^2$, where $B_2(\dot{\Gamma}) = \frac{\int_{\dot{\Gamma}} \kappa^4 \rho_2}{\int_{\dot{\Gamma}} \kappa^2 \rho_2} > 0$.

Proof. The curve $\dot{\Gamma} = \dot{\Gamma}_{a,b}$ satisfies $\dot{A}_{ij} = -\kappa \mathbf{N} \dot{g}_{ij}$, where κ is the geodesic curvature. Consider a variation by $U = u \mathbf{N}$. It follows that at $s = 0$, we have the following:

$$\Pi_s(\nabla_l \tau_{ij}) = \kappa \dot{g}_{ij} \dot{g}_{ml} (\nabla_m u) \mathbf{N},$$

$$(A_{ij})_s = \kappa \dot{g}_{ij} \nabla u - \kappa^2 u \dot{g}_{ij} \mathbf{N} + (\nabla^2 u)_{ij} \mathbf{N},$$

$$\nabla_l^\perp (A_{ij})_s = -\kappa^2 \dot{g}_{ij} \dot{g}_{ml} (\nabla_m u) \mathbf{N} - 2\kappa \dot{g}_{ij} u (\nabla_l \kappa) \mathbf{N} - \kappa^2 \dot{g}_{ij} (\nabla_l u) \mathbf{N} + (\nabla^3 u)_{ijl} \mathbf{N},$$

$$|\mathbf{H}|_s = -\Delta u - \kappa^2 u, \quad \nabla_l |\mathbf{H}|_s = -\nabla_l \Delta u - 2\kappa u \nabla_l \kappa - \kappa^2 \nabla_l u.$$

We now specialise to $U \in \mathcal{K}_1$, so that $u = f(y)\kappa$ and $f(y) = \sum_{ij} c_{ij}(y_i Y_j - 2\delta_{ij})$; in particular, note that $(\mathcal{L} + 1)f = 0$.

Take coordinates on Γ so that the $i = 0$ index corresponds to the arclength parameter on $\mathring{\Gamma}$ and the remaining indices $i > 0$ correspond to the standard coordinates on \mathbb{R}^{n-1} . Then the metric on $\mathring{\Gamma}$ satisfies $\dot{g}_{ij} = \delta_{ij}$.

Combining the above according to (3.6), (3.7), and (3.8) then gives, for $i = j = 0$ and $l > 0$, that

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla^\perp \tau)_{00l,s} &= (-2\kappa \nabla_l u - \kappa^{-1} \nabla_l \Delta u + \kappa^{-1} (\nabla^3 u)_{00l}) \mathbf{N} \\ &= (-2\kappa^2 \nabla_l f - \kappa^{-1} \nabla_l (\dot{\kappa} f + 2\kappa) + \kappa^{-1} \dot{\kappa} \nabla_l f) \mathbf{N} \\ &= -2\kappa^2 (\nabla_l f) \mathbf{N}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{1}{2} (|\nabla^\perp \tau|^2)_{ss} = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{D}^2 \mathcal{T}(U, U) = |(\nabla^\perp \tau)_s|^2 \geq 4\kappa^4 |\nabla f|^2. \quad (3.13)$$

Again using the identity $\int_{\Gamma} |\nabla f|^2 \rho = -\int_{\Gamma} f (\mathcal{L} f) \rho = \int_{\Gamma} f^2 \rho$ completes the proof. \blacksquare

3.2 Variation of P

The 1st and 2nd variations of P were studied in [5] for the case of round cylinders. Here we consider the case where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is an Abresch–Langer curve. Again we write normal variations as $U = u \mathbf{N} + u^\alpha \partial_{z_\alpha}$.

We first show that the 1st variation of P is identically zero on Γ .

Lemma 3.4. $\mathcal{D}\mathcal{P} = 0$ on $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma}_{a,b} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$.

Proof. The variation of the 1st four terms of P proceeds similarly to the round cylinder case in [5, Section 5.3], so we only list the results of some key calculations. The basic ingredients are (evaluated at $s = 0$):

$$\langle A_{ij}, A_{ml} \rangle = \kappa^2 \dot{g}_{ij} \dot{g}_{ml}, \quad \langle (A_{ij})_s, A_{ml} \rangle = -\kappa (u_{ij} - \kappa^2 \dot{g}_{ij} u) \dot{g}_{ml}, \quad (3.14)$$

$$(g^{ij})_s = 2A_{ij}^V - 2\kappa u \dot{g}^{ij}, \quad (3.15)$$

$$-\mathbf{H}_s = \kappa \nabla u + (\Delta u + \kappa^2 u) \mathbf{N} + (\Delta u^\alpha) \partial_{z_\alpha}, \quad \mathbf{N}_s = -\nabla u - \frac{1}{\kappa} (\Delta u^\alpha) \partial_{z_\alpha}. \quad (3.16)$$

Combining these as in [5] gives

$$(|A|^2)_s = -2\kappa(\ddot{u} + \kappa^2 u),$$

$$\langle A_{ij}, \mathbf{N} \rangle_s = u_{ij} - \kappa^2 \dot{g}_{ij} u, \quad (|A^N|^2)_s = -2\kappa(\ddot{u} + \kappa^2 u),$$

$$(A_{ij}^2)_s = -\kappa(u_{im} \dot{g}_{mj} + u_{mj} \dot{g}_{im}), \quad (|A^2|^2)_s = -4\kappa^3(\ddot{u} + \kappa^2 u),$$

$$(\langle A_{ij}, A_{ml} \rangle^2)_s = -4\kappa^3(\ddot{u} + \kappa^2 u),$$

$$(\langle A_{jl}, A_{im} \rangle \langle A_{lm}, A_{ij} \rangle)_s = -4\kappa^3(\ddot{u} + \kappa^2 u).$$

Since $|A|^2 = |A^N|^2 = \kappa^2$, from the above one can see that the 1st variation of the 1st four terms of P cancels to zero. It remains to check the variation of the last term

$$\frac{|A|^2}{4|\mathbf{H}|^2} (|A^N(x^T, \cdot)|^2) - |A(x^T, \cdot)|^2.$$

Since $A = A^N \mathbf{N}$, the factor in brackets vanishes at $s = 0$, so it is enough to show that its variation is zero too.

Indeed, we find that $(A^N(x^T, \cdot))_s = \langle (A(x^T, \cdot))_s, \mathbf{N} \rangle + \langle A(x^T, \cdot), \mathbf{N}_s \rangle = \langle (A(x^T, \cdot))_s, \mathbf{N} \rangle$ since $\langle \mathbf{N}_s, \mathbf{N} \rangle = 0$. Therefore, we have

$$(|A^N(x^T, \cdot)|^2)_s = 2\langle (A^N(x^T, \cdot))_s, A^N(x^T, \cdot) \rangle = 2\langle (A(x^T, \cdot))_s, A(x^T, \cdot) \rangle = (|A(x^T, \cdot)|^2)_s.$$

This completes the proof. ■

Remark 3.5. We also give a somewhat more intuitive explanation of why $\mathcal{DP} = 0$ as follows:

- In the directions $u\mathbf{N}$, recall that P vanishes in codimension one. In particular, as the graph of $u\mathbf{N}$ remains codimension one for any u , the 1st variation of P vanishes in this direction.
- In the directions $u^\alpha \partial_{z_\alpha}$, note that the 1st variation A_s takes values only in $\text{span}\{\partial_{z_\alpha}\}$. Since A itself only takes values in $\text{span} \mathbf{N}$, any contraction of A_s with A will vanish. The only terms in P_s not of this form are when the derivative hits x^T , but these obviously cancel each other out as $A = A^N \mathbf{N}$ on Γ .

Using Lemma 3.4, the same proof as [5, Corollary 5.36] (using that $\mathring{\Gamma}$ and its variations by \mathcal{K}_1 have codimension one) now gives

Proposition 3.6. Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma}_{a,b} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$. If $V \in N\Gamma$ with $LV = 0$ and $\|V\|_{W^{2,2}} < \infty$ then $(\mathcal{D}^2\mathcal{P})(V, V) = 0$.

Remark 3.7. One may also check directly that $\mathcal{D}^2\mathcal{P}(V, V) = 0$ for $V \in \mathcal{K}$ using the 2nd variation formulae in [10, Section 3].

4 Estimates for Entire Graphs

We now proceed to prove estimates for entire graphs using the auxiliary quantities. In particular, we consider normal variation fields U with compact support over a cylinder $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ with $\|U\|_{C^3} < \delta$. Also define $|V|_m = \sum_{j \leq m} |\nabla^j V|$, so that $\|V\|_{W^{m,q}}^q = \int_{\Gamma} |V|_m^q \rho$.

First, we note the following crude bounds to be used for Taylor expansion. Recall the quantities $\mathcal{P}(p, U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U) = P_U$ and $\mathcal{T}(p, U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U, \nabla^3 U) = |\nabla^{\perp} \tau|_U^2$.

Lemma 4.1. Let $\mathring{\Gamma}$ be a compact shrinker with $|\mathring{\mathbf{H}}| > 0$. If $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, then there exists C, δ such that for any vector field U on Γ with $\|U\|_{C^3} < \delta$, we have $\|\mathcal{T}\|_{C^3} \leq C$ and $\|\mathcal{P}\|_{C^3} \leq C\langle x \rangle^2$.

Proof. As in [5, Lemma 5.30], each quantity in the definition of P is a smooth function of $(p, U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U)$ and the position vector $x(p)$ enters quadratically. Similarly, each quantity in $\nabla^{\perp} \tau$ is a smooth function of $(p, U, \nabla U, \nabla^2 U, \nabla^3 U)$, but the position vector does not enter explicitly. ■

In the remainder of this section, $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is either a round sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve.

4.1 First-order decomposition

Given a compactly supported normal field U on Γ , we have the orthogonal decomposition $U = J + h$, where $J \in \mathcal{K}$ and $h \in \mathcal{K}^{\perp}$. We may further decompose $J = U_0 + J'$, where $U_0 \in \mathcal{K}_0$ and $J' \in \mathcal{K}_1$.

The 1st-order expansion of ϕ implies the following estimates (cf. [10, Proposition 5.4]):

Proposition 4.2. Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$. There exists ϵ_0 and C so that if U is a compactly supported normal field on Γ with $\|U\|_{C^3} < \epsilon_0$, then

$$\|h\|_{W^{3,2}}^2 \leq C(\|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|U\|_{L^2}^4), \quad (4.1)$$

$$\|U\|_{W^{3,3}}^3 \leq C(\|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|U\|_{L^2}^3), \quad (4.2)$$

$$\|h\|_{W^{2,2}}^2 \leq C(\|\phi_U\|_{L^2}^2 + \|U\|_{L^2}^4), \quad (4.3)$$

and for any $\kappa \in (0, 1]$,

$$\int_{\Gamma} \langle x \rangle^6 |U|_2^3 \rho \leq C(\kappa)(\|\phi_U\|_{L^2}^{\frac{6}{3+\kappa}} + \|U\|_{L^2}^3). \quad (4.4)$$

Proof. The last two statements were already proven in [10, Proposition 5.4]. The 1st two are analogous, but involve an extra derivative. The method is essentially the same, so we sketch it here for completeness.

Taking an extra derivative in [10, Proof of Lemma 5.3] (see also [3, Lemma 4.10]), one can prove the pointwise estimate

$$|\phi_U - Lh|_1 \leq C(\langle x \rangle |U|_1 |U|_2 + |U|_2^2 + |U|_1 |U|_3). \quad (4.5)$$

Squaring and integrating implies

$$\begin{aligned} \|\phi_U - Lh\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 &\leq C(\|\langle x \rangle |U|_1 |U|_2\|_{L^2}^2 + \|U\|_{W^{2,4}}^4 + \||U|_1 |U|_3\|_{L^2}^2) \\ &\leq C'(\|U\|_{W^{2,4}}^4 + \||U|_1 |U|_3\|_{L^2}^2) \leq 2C' \|U\|_{W^{3,4}}^4, \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

where we have used the Gaussian Poincaré inequality [10, Lemma 2.2] in moving to the 2nd line. Now by the triangle inequality and the absorbing inequality, we have

$$|U|_3^4 \leq 2|U|_3^2 |h|_3^2 + 2|U|_3^2 |J|_3^2 \leq 4\epsilon_0^2 |h|_3^2 + 4|J|_3^4. \quad (4.7)$$

By Corollary 2.2 we have $|J|_3 \leq C\langle x \rangle^2 \|J\|_{L^2} \leq C\langle x \rangle^2 \|U\|_{L^2}$. So integrating (4.7) gives

$$\|U\|_{W^{3,4}}^4 \leq 4\epsilon_0^2 \|h\|_{W^{3,2}}^2 + C\|U\|_{L^2}^4. \quad (4.8)$$

Now combining (4.6, 4.8) with elliptic regularity, we have

$$\|h\|_{W^{3,2}}^2 \leq C\|Lh\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 \leq C'(\|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|U\|_{W^{3,4}}^4) \leq C''(\|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|U\|_{L^2}^4), \quad (4.9)$$

where we have absorbed the ϵ_0^2 term to achieve the last inequality. This establishes the 1st statement. Finally, arguing as for (4.7), we have $|U|_3^3 \leq 4\epsilon_0|h|_3^2 + C|J|_3^3$. Integrating this and absorbing higher powers implies the 2nd statement and completes the proof. \blacksquare

4.2 Estimates by $\nabla^\perp\tau$ and ϕ

We proceed with $U = J + h = U_0 + J' + h$ decomposed as in Section 4.1.

Lemma 4.3. There exists C so that for any U as above, we have the pointwise estimate

$$||\nabla^\perp\tau|_U^2 - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{D}^2\mathcal{T}(J', J')| \leq C(|U|_3^3 + 2|J|_3|h|_3 + |h|_3^2 + 2|J'|_3|U_0|_3 + |U_0|_3^2). \quad (4.10)$$

Proof. Let $T(s) = \mathcal{T}(p, sU, s\nabla U, s\nabla^2 U, s\nabla^3 U)$. Since $\|\mathcal{T}\|_{C^3} \leq C$ by Lemma 4.1, Taylor expansion about $s = 0$ gives

$$|T(1) - T(0) - T'(0) - \frac{1}{2}T''(0)| \leq C|U|_3^3.$$

Note that $T(1) = |\nabla^\perp\tau|_U^2$, $T(0) = 0$, $T'(0) = \mathcal{D}\mathcal{T}(U) = 0$ and $T''(0) = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{D}^2\mathcal{T}(U, U)$. Expanding the bilinear form $\mathcal{D}^2\mathcal{T}(U, U)$ according to the decomposition of U , and using $\|\mathcal{T}\|_{C^3} \leq C$ to estimate the remaining terms except $\mathcal{D}^2\mathcal{T}(J', J')$ finishes the proof. \blacksquare

We may now estimate the variation field U in terms of ϕ_U and $|\nabla^\perp\tau|_U$.

Proposition 4.4. Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. There exists $\epsilon_0 > 0$ such that if U is a compactly supported normal vector field on Γ with $\|U\|_{C^3} \leq \epsilon_0$, then

$$\|U\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C(\|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 + ||\nabla^\perp\tau|_U^2\|_{L^1} + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2), \quad (4.11)$$

where $U_0 = \pi_{\mathcal{K}_0}(U)$.

Proof. By Proposition 3.2 or 3.3 respectively we have $\delta_0\|J'\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \|\mathcal{D}^2\mathcal{T}(J', J')\|_{L^1}$ for some $\delta_0 > 0$. Now to estimate the right-hand side, we integrate estimate (4.10), using

Corollary 2.2 to estimate the Jacobi terms. This gives

$$\begin{aligned}
C^{-1} \|\mathcal{D}^2 \mathcal{T}(J', J')\|_{L^1} &\leq \|\nabla^\perp \tau\|_{L^1}^2 + \|U\|_{W^{3,3}}^3 + \|h\|_{W^{3,2}}^2 + \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 \\
&\quad + \|U\|_{L^2} \int_\Gamma \langle x \rangle^2 |h|_3 \rho + \|U\|_{L^2} \|U_0\|_{L^2} \\
&\leq \|\nabla^\perp \tau\|_{L^1}^2 + \|U\|_{W^{3,3}}^3 + (1 + C' \epsilon^{-1}) \|h\|_{W^{3,2}}^2 + \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 \\
&\quad + 2\epsilon \|U\|_{L^2}^2 + \epsilon^{-1} \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

Here for the 2nd line we have used Cauchy–Schwarz, so that $\int_\Gamma \langle x \rangle^2 |h|_3 \rho \leq C' \|h\|_{W^{3,2}}$, as well as the elementary inequality $2ab \leq \epsilon a^2 + \epsilon^{-1} b^2$.

Now for small enough ϵ_0 , we certainly have $\|U\|_{L^2} < 1$ and $\|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}} < 1$, so lower powers dominate. Using Proposition 4.2 then gives

$$C^{-1} \delta_0 \|J'\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \|\nabla^\perp \tau\|_{L^1}^2 + \epsilon \|U\|_{L^2}^2 + C(\epsilon) \left(\|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 \right). \tag{4.13}$$

Since

$$\|U\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|h\|_{L^2}^2 + \|J'\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 + C \left(\|\phi_U\|_{L^2}^2 + \|U\|_{L^2}^4 \right) + \|J'\|_{L^2}^2, \tag{4.14}$$

if we choose $\epsilon < \frac{C}{\delta_0}$ then the $\|U\|_{L^2}^2$ term may be absorbed into the left-hand side; thus,

$$\|U\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C \left(\|\nabla^\perp \tau\|_{L^1}^2 + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 \right). \tag{4.15}$$

■

Remark 4.5. Proposition 4.4 is analogous to [5, Proposition 4.47] and to [3, Proposition 2.1]. Indeed, following the cutoff and rotation method we use in the proof of Theorem 5.1 below, or in [10, Theorem 7.1], yields a corresponding estimate by $|\nabla^\perp \tau|$ and ϕ for graphs over a (sufficiently large) subdomain.

4.3 Estimates by ϕ

We now observe as in [5] that the shrinker quantity ϕ controls the auxiliary quantity $\nabla^\perp \tau$, to a degree consistent with a 2nd-order obstruction.

First, we need a PDE estimate proven by Colding–Minicozzi [5]:

Proposition 4.6 ([5]). Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. There exist $\delta > 0$ and $C = C(\|U\|_{C^3})$ so that whenever $\|U\|_{C^2} < \delta$,

we have

$$\|\nabla^\perp \tau\|_{L^1}^2 \leq C \left(\|P_U\|_{L^1} + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{2,1}} + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 \right). \quad (4.16)$$

Proof. Since U is compactly supported, we may apply [5, Theorem 2.2] to Γ_U (with $\psi = 1$). The desired estimate follows immediately after using the identity $\nabla_i^\perp H = -\frac{1}{2}A(x^T, X_i) - \nabla_i^\perp \phi$ (cf. [5, Proof of Theorem 7.4]) and that A , $|H|^{-1}$ and $|\nabla H|$ are uniformly bounded. \blacksquare

Second, we have the following Taylor expansion estimate for P :

Proposition 4.7. Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. There exist C, C_κ so that for any $\kappa \in (0, 1]$, we have

$$\|P_U\|_{L^1} \leq C_\kappa \left(\|U\|_{L^2}^3 + \|\phi_U\|_{L^2}^{\frac{6}{3+\kappa}} \right) + C\|U\|_{L^2}\|\phi_U\|_{L^2} + C\|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2.$$

Proof. The case of round cylinders was proven in [5, Proposition 6.1], and the proof for Abresch–Langer cylinders proceeds exactly the same way. For the readers' convenience, we emphasise the corresponding ingredients:

Set $P(s) = \mathcal{P}(p, sU, s\nabla U, s\nabla^2 U)$; then $P(0) = 0$ and Lemma 3.4 and Proposition 3.6 imply that $P'(0) = 0$ and

$$|P''(0)| \leq C\langle x \rangle^2 |h|_2 (|J|_2 + |h|_2),$$

respectively. Lemma 4.1 then gives the Taylor expansion estimate

$$|P_U| \leq C\langle x \rangle^2 |h|_2 (|J|_2 + |h|_2) + C\langle x \rangle^6 |U|_2^3.$$

The proof now follows as in [5, Proposition 6.1], using Corollary 2.2 to estimate the J terms and Proposition 4.2 for the h, U terms. \blacksquare

We may now prove the main estimate for entire graphs:

Theorem 4.8. Let $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where $\mathring{\Gamma}$ is a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve. There exists $\epsilon_0 > 0$ such that if $\kappa \in (0, 1]$ and U is a compactly supported

normal vector field on Γ with $\|U\|_{C^3} \leq \epsilon_0$, then

$$\|U\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C(\kappa) \left(\|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{2,1}} + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|\phi_U\|_{L^2}^{\frac{6}{3+\kappa}} \right), \quad (4.17)$$

where $U_0 = \pi_{\mathcal{K}_0}(U)$.

Proof. Combining Propositions 4.4, 4.6, and 4.7 and noting that lower powers dominate, we find that

$$\|U\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C(\kappa) \left(\|U\|_{L^2}^3 + \|U\|_{L^2} \|\phi_U\|_{L^2} + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|\phi_U\|_{W^{2,1}} + \|\phi_U\|_{L^2}^{\frac{6}{3+\kappa}} + \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 \right). \quad (4.18)$$

Using the elementary inequality $2ab \leq \epsilon a^2 + \epsilon^{-1}b^2$ on the 2nd term on the right and absorbing the resulting $\|U\|_{L^2}$ terms into the left-hand side gives the result. \blacksquare

5 Łojasiewicz Inequalities via τ

In this section, we conclude the Łojasiewicz inequalities from the main estimate Theorem 4.8, using the rotation and cutoff procedure in [10, Section 7]. For convenience set $\delta_R := R^n e^{-R^2/4}$.

Theorem 5.1. Let $\overset{\circ}{\Gamma}$ be a round shrinking sphere or an Abresch–Langer curve.

There exists $\epsilon_2 > 0$ so that for any $\epsilon_1, \lambda_0, C_j$ there exist R_0, l_0 such that if $l \geq l_0$, $\Sigma^n \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ has $\lambda(\Sigma) \leq \lambda_0$ and

- (1) for some $R > R_0$, we have that $B_R \cap \Sigma$ is the graph of a normal field U over some cylinder in $\mathcal{C}_n(\overset{\circ}{\Gamma})$ with $\|U\|_{C^3(B_R)} \leq \epsilon_2$ and $\|U\|_{L^2(B_R)} \leq \epsilon_2/R$;
- (2) $|\nabla^j A| \leq C_j$ on $B_R \cap \Sigma$ for all $j \leq l$;

then there is a cylinder $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}_n(\overset{\circ}{\Gamma})$ and a compactly supported normal vector field V over Γ with $\|V\|_{C^{2,\alpha}} \leq \epsilon_1$, such that $\Sigma \cap B_{R-6}$ is contained in the graph of V , and

$$\|V\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C \left(\|U\|_{L^2}^{4a_l} + \|\phi\|_{L^1(B_R)}^{a_l} + \|\phi\|_{L^2(B_R)}^{2a_l} + \delta_{R-5}^{a_l} \right),$$

where $C = C(n, l, C_l, \lambda_0, \epsilon_1)$ and $a_l \nearrow 1$ as $l \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. Let $a_l := a_{l,2,n}$ be the exponent from interpolation (see Appendix A). Following precisely the proof of [10, Theorem 7.1], except using Theorem 4.8 in place of [10, Theorem 5.8] yields a vector field V , supported on $\Gamma \cap B_{R-5}$ and such that $\Sigma \cap B_{R-6}$

is contained in the graph of V , satisfying the estimate

$$\|V\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C \left(\|\pi_{\mathcal{K}_0}(V)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\phi_V\|_{W^{2,1}} + \|\phi_V\|_{W^{1,2}}^2 + \|\phi_V\|_{L^2}^{\frac{6}{3+\kappa}} \right), \quad (5.1)$$

where the rotation part satisfies

$$\|\pi_{\mathcal{K}_0}(V)\|_{L^2} \leq C \left(\|\phi\|_{L^2(B_R)}^{2a_l} + \|U\|_{L^2}^{2a_l} + \delta_{R-2}^{a_l} + \delta_{R-5}^{a_l} \right). \quad (5.2)$$

Moreover, for any $s \in [1, 2]$ we have the cutoff estimate

$$\|\phi_V\|_{L^s}^s \leq \|\phi\|_{L^s(B_R)}^s + C(s)\delta_{R-5}, \quad (5.3)$$

Using interpolation on the ϕ_V terms in (5.1) and then the cutoff estimate, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|V\|_{L^2}^2 &\leq C \left(\|\phi\|_{L^2(B_R)}^{4a_l} + \delta_{R-2}^{2a_l} + \|U\|_{L^2}^{4a_l} + \delta_{R-5}^2 \right) \\ &\quad + C \left(\|\phi\|_{L^1(B_R)}^{a_l} + \delta_{R-5}^{a_l} + \|\phi\|_{L^2(B_R)}^{2a_l} + \delta_{R-5}^{2a_l} + \|\phi\|_{L^2(B_R)}^{\frac{6}{3+\kappa}} + \delta_{R-5}^{\frac{6}{3+\kappa}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

We take κ so that $\frac{3}{3+\kappa} > a_l$. Then since lower powers dominate, we have

$$\|V\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C \left(\|U\|_{L^2}^{4a_l} + \|\phi\|_{L^1(B_R)}^{a_l} + \|\phi\|_{L^2(B_R)}^{2a_l} + \delta_{R-5}^{a_l} \right). \quad (5.5)$$

■

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Apply Theorem 5.1 and note that $\|U\|_{L^2}^{4a_l}$ is dominated by the exponential error term for large enough l . ■

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Let V, Γ be as given by Theorem 1.1. Exactly as in the proof of [10, Theorem 1.4], we have

$$|F(\Gamma_V) - F(\Gamma)| \leq C(\|\phi_V\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2}} + \|V\|_{L^2}^3), \quad (5.6)$$

and $|F(\Sigma) - F(\Gamma_V)| \leq C\delta_{R-6}$. Consider l large enough so that $a_l > \frac{2}{3}$. The conclusion of Theorem 1.1 together with Hölder's inequality imply that

$$\|V\|_{L^2}^3 \leq C \left(\|\phi\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3a_l}{2}} + \delta_{R-5}^{\frac{3a_l}{2}} \right).$$

Using the cutoff estimate (5.3) and collecting dominant terms, we conclude that

$$|F(\Sigma) - F(\Gamma)| \leq C \left(\|\phi\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3a_l}{2}} + \delta_{R-6} \right). \quad (5.7)$$

■

Remark 5.2. If in addition to the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 one also has $\|\phi\|_{L^2} \leq e^{-R^2/4}$, then arguing as in the proof of [10, Theorem 7.2] we obtain

$$\|V\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C \left(e^{-a_l \frac{R^2}{4}} + (R-5)^{a_l n} e^{-a_l \frac{(R-5)^2}{4}} \right). \quad (5.8)$$

Since l may be chosen so that a_l is arbitrarily close to 1, this gives an alternative proof of [10, Theorem 7.2], and hence of [10, Theorems 1.1 and 1.2] for the special cases where Γ is a round cylinder or an Abresch–Langer cylinder.

A Interpolation

Here we recall some interpolation inequalities; see also [10, Appendix A] and [3, Appendix B]. In this appendix, L^p refers to unweighted space, with L_ρ^p the ρ -weighted space.

Lemma A.1. There exists $C = C(m, j, n)$ so that if u is a C^m function on B_r^n , then for $j \leq m$, setting $a_{m,j,n} = \frac{m-j}{m+n}$ we have

$$r^j \|\nabla^j u\|_{L^\infty(B_r)} \leq C \left(r^{-n} \|u\|_{L^1(B_r)} + r^j \|u\|_{L^1(B_r)}^{a_{m,j,n}} \|\nabla^m u\|_{L^\infty(B_r)}^{1-a_{m,j,n}} \right).$$

The lemma above also holds for tensor quantities on a manifold with uniformly bounded geometry. Define $M_j = \|\nabla^j u\|_{L^\infty(B_R)}$. It follows that on a generalised cylinder $\Gamma = \mathring{\Gamma}^k \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, for large enough R

$$\|u\|_{W_\rho^{j,p}(B_{R-1})} \leq C(m, j, n, p, M_0, M_m) \|u\|_{L_\rho^p(B_R)}^{a_{m,j,n}}. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

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