

# Smooth convergence away from singular sets

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We consider sequences of metrics,  $g_j$ , on a compact Riemannian manifold,  $M$ , which converge smoothly on compact sets away from a singular set  $S \subset M$ , to a metric,  $g_\infty$ , on  $M \setminus S$ . We prove theorems which describe when  $M_j = (M, g_j)$  converge in the Gromov–Hausdorff (GH) sense to the metric completion,  $(M_\infty, d_\infty)$ , of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ . To obtain these theorems, we study the intrinsic flat limits of the sequences. A new method, we call hemispherical embedding, is applied to obtain explicit estimates on the GH and Intrinsic Flat distances between Riemannian manifolds with diffeomorphic subdomains.

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide general results concerning the limits of Riemannian manifolds which converge smoothly away from a singular set as follows:

**Definition 1.1.** We will say that a sequence of Riemannian metrics,  $g_j$ , on a compact manifold,  $M$ , converges smoothly away from  $S \subset M$  to a Riemannian metric  $g_\infty$  on  $M \setminus S$  if for every compact set  $K \subset M \setminus S$ ,  $g_j$  converge  $C^{k,\alpha}$  smoothly to  $g_\infty$  as tensors.

The techniques developed in this paper will also be applied to other notions of smooth convergence away from singular sets in upcoming work of the first author, particular notions in which the sequence of manifolds need not be diffeomorphic. With any notion of smooth convergence away from a singular set, one must keep in mind that even when the singular set is an isolated point, smooth convergence away from that point does not even imply that  $(M_\infty, g_\infty)$  is compact [Example 3.12]. Increasingly large distances may exist outside the compact sets used to define the smooth convergence.

Given two compact Riemannian manifolds,  $M_i$ , the Gromov–Hausdorff (GH) distance,  $d_{\text{GH}}(M_1, M_2)$ , is an isometry invariant. Introduced by Gromov in [10], it is a distance on compact metric spaces in the sense that  $d_{\text{GH}}(M_1, M_2) = 0$  iff  $M_1$  is isometric to  $M_2$ . When studying precompact

domains within manifolds, one always takes the metric completion before examining the region using the GH distance. Section 2 (see Definition 2.5).

Smooth limits away from singular sets, depend on the charts and tensors  $g_j$  used to define the smooth limit (cf. Example 3.7). Thus, it is important to understand when the metric completion,  $\bar{Y}$ , of a smooth limit,  $Y = (M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ , is in fact actually the GH limit,  $(M_0, d_0)$ , of the original sequence of manifolds,  $(M_j, d_j)$ , where  $d_j$  is the Riemannian distance defined by the Riemannian metric  $g_j$ . Observe that these spaces need not be isometric (cf. Example 3.1) and that the original sequence of manifolds might not even have a GH limit (cf. Example 3.11). If  $M \setminus S$  is not connected there is not even a notion of the metric completion as a single metric space (cf. Example 3.4).

Theorems relating GH limits and smooth limits away from singular sets appear in work of Anderson [2], Bando *et al.* [4], Eyssidieux *et al.* [6], Huang [11], Ruan and Zhong [16], Sesum [17], Tian and Tosatti [20, 21] particularly in the setting of Kahler–Einstein manifolds. However, even in this setting, the relationship is not completely clear and the limits need not agree [3].

In this paper, our primary goal is to examine when the metric completion,  $(M_\infty, d_\infty)$ , of the smooth limit,  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ , is isometric to the GH limit,  $(M_0, d_0)$ , of the original sequence of Riemannian manifolds  $(M, g_j)$ . We prove a number of theorems and present a number of examples considering manifolds with and without Ricci curvature bounds. Perhaps the most important result is the following:

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of oriented compact Riemannian manifolds with uniform lower Ricci curvature bounds,*

$$(1.1) \quad \text{Ricci}_{g_i}(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}) \geq (n-1)H g_i(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}), \quad \forall \mathbf{V} \in \text{TM}_i,$$

*which converges smoothly away from a singular closed submanifold,  $S$ , of codimension two. If there is a connected precompact exhaustion,  $W_j$ , of  $M \setminus S$ ,*

$$(1.2) \quad \bar{W}_j \subset W_{j+1} \text{ with } \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} W_j = M \setminus S$$

*satisfying*

$$(1.3) \quad \text{diam}(M_i) \leq D_0,$$

$$(1.4) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq A_0,$$

and

$$(1.5) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq V_j, \quad \text{where } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0,$$

then

$$(1.6) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\text{GH}}(M_j, N) = 0,$$

where  $N$  is the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

Note that, unlike prior existing results concerning the GH limits of manifolds, here we require only area and volume controls on the connected precompact exhaustion. Theorem 1.2 is a consequence of Theorem 6.10, stated within, which assumes only that the connected precompact exhaustion is uniformly well embedded in the sense of Definition 5.1. The necessity of the various hypothesis of these theorems is described in Remark 6.13. In particular, the diameter hypothesis is unnecessary when the Ricci curvature is nonnegative.

The Ricci curvature condition in these theorems may be replaced by a requirement that the sequence of manifolds have a uniform linear contractibility function. See Definition 6.1, Theorem 6.7 and Theorem 6.6, stated within. The necessity of the various hypothesis of these theorems is described in Remark 6.8.

Observe our main theorems concern sequences of manifolds converging smoothly away from a singular set satisfying (1.4) and (1.5). In order to control the limits of such manifolds using only conditions on volumes, we apply techniques developed by the second author with Stefan and Wenger in [18] and [19]. In attempt to keep this article self contained, we review convergence of Riemannian manifolds in Section 2. We provide extensive examples in Section 3. All examples are proven in detail with short statements for easy reference.

Our theorems are proven by studying the *intrinsic flat* limit of the manifolds [Definition 2.20]. This intrinsic flat distance,  $d_{\mathcal{F}}(M_1, M_2)$  was originally defined in work of the second author with Wenger [19]. It is estimated by explicitly constructing a filling manifold,  $B^{m+1}$ , between the two given manifolds, finding the excess boundary manifold  $A^m$  satisfying (2.11) and summing their volumes as in (2.12). See Remark 2.8 for a straight forward construction. Since  $d_{\mathcal{F}}$  depends only on the Riemannian manifolds,  $M_i$ , as oriented metric spaces with a notion of integration over  $m$  forms, we take settled completions rather than metric completions of open domains when

analyzing the intrinsic flat distance (see Definition 2.9). If two completely settled oriented Riemannian manifolds,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have  $d_{\mathcal{F}}(M_1, M_2) = 0$  then there is an orientation preserving isometry between them [19]. See Section 2 for a review of the intrinsic flat distance and related concepts.

In Section 4, we prove new explicit estimates on the GH, intrinsic flat and scalable intrinsic flat distances between pairs of manifolds, which are diffeomorphic on subdomains [Theorem 4.6]. The subdomains need not be connected. These estimates are found by isometrically embedding the regions into a common metric space defined using a hemispherical construction [Proposition 4.2] and then measuring the Hausdorff, flat and scalable flat distances between their images respectively [Lemma 4.5]. Note that the Hausdorff distance measures distances between the images using tubular neighborhoods while the flat distance measures a filling volume between the images. These estimates have been applied in work of the second author with Dan Lee on questions concerning the Riemannian Penrose Inequality [15] and in the first author's doctoral dissertation [13].

In Section 5, we prove theorems concerning the intrinsic flat limits of manifolds which converge smoothly away from singular sets. In particular, we prove:

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of compact oriented Riemannian manifolds such that there is a closed submanifold,  $S$ , of codimension two and connected precompact exhaustion,  $W_j$ , of  $M \setminus S$  satisfying (1.2) with  $g_i$  converge smoothly to  $g_\infty$  on each  $W_j$ ,*

$$(1.7) \quad \text{diam}_{M_i}(W_j) \leq D_0 \quad \forall i \geq j,$$

$$(1.8) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq A_0,$$

and

$$(1.9) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq V_j \text{ where } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0.$$

Then

$$(1.10) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{F}}(M'_j, N') = 0.$$

where  $N'$  is the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

This theorem is a consequence of Theorem 5.2 which assumes only that the connected precompact exhaustion is uniformly well embedded in the

sense of Definition 5.1. We discuss the necessities of the conditions for these theorems in Remark 5.3. A key step in the proof is a technical proposition concerning the convergence of exhaustions of manifolds [Proposition 5.4].

In Section 6, we apply the theorems regarding intrinsic flat limits to prove the theorems concerning GH limits mentioned earlier. Note that the second author and Stefan Wenger have proven that the intrinsic flat and GH limits of sequences of manifolds agree when the sequence has nonnegative Ricci curvature and the volume is bounded below uniformly [18]. These results are reviewed in Section 6. Theorem 1.3 then immediately implies Theorem 6.6 and Theorem 1.2 when  $H = 0$ . To obtain Theorem 1.2 for arbitrary values of  $H$ , we prove Proposition 6.12.

Applications of these results appear in joint work of the second author and Dan Lee concerning asymptotically flat rotationally symmetric Riemannian manifolds with positive scalar curvature that satisfy an almost equality in the Penrose inequality [15]. We believe these results may also be applicable to open questions stated in [14]. The first author is examining further applications in his doctoral dissertation.

## 2. Background

All notions of distances between Riemannian manifolds studied in this paper are built upon Gromov's idea that one may view Riemannian manifolds as metric spaces and isometrically embed them into a common metric space. In this paper, a key part of our work relies on constructing such isometric embeddings. We review Gromov's key ideas in Section 2.1.

To estimate the GH distance between a pair of Riemannian manifolds, one needs only find a pair of isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : M_i^m \rightarrow Z$  into a common complete metric space  $Z$  and then measure the Hausdorff distances between the images. We review the definition of the Hausdorff and GH in Section 2.2.

To estimate the intrinsic flat distance one must measure the flat distance between these images. So one may construct a Riemannian manifold of one dimension higher filling in the space between the two images, possible with some excess boundary. Note that one can only measure the intrinsic flat distance between oriented manifolds with finite volume of the same dimension. See Section 2.3.

The scalable intrinsic flat distance is also defined using filling manifolds and excess boundaries. It is reviewed in Section 2.4.

Remarks 2.3, 2.6, 2.8 and 2.11 capture the key properties of these three notions of distance needed to estimate them for the purposes of this paper.

## 2.1. Metric spaces and isometric embeddings

**Definition 2.1.** Recall that one may view a Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  as a metric space  $(M, d)$  by defining the distances between points as follows:

$$(2.1) \quad d(x_1, x_2) = \inf \{L_g(\gamma) : \gamma(0) = x_1, \gamma(1) = x_2\},$$

where

$$(2.2) \quad L_g(\gamma) = \int_0^1 g(\gamma'(t), \gamma'(t))^{1/2} dt.$$

Given a connected subdomain,  $W \subset M$ , and  $x, y \in W$ , the “restricted metric”,  $d_M(x, y)$ , will denote the distance between  $x$  and  $y$  measured as in (2.1) where the infimum taken over all curves  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ , while the “induced length metric”,  $d_W(x, y) \geq d_M(x, y)$ , has the infimum taken only over curves  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow W$ . We denote the restricted and intrinsic length diameters of  $U \subset W \subset M$  as follows

$$(2.3) \quad \text{diam}_M(U) = \sup\{d_M(x, y) : x, y \in U\},$$

$$(2.4) \quad \text{diam}_W(U) = \sup\{d_W(x, y) : x, y \in U\}.$$

More generally a length metric space is a metric space whose distances are defined as an infimum of lengths of rectifiable curves. Compact length metric spaces always have minimizing geodesics between points achieving the distance.

In this paper, we will often define metric spaces,  $Z$ , by gluing together Riemannian manifolds with corners along their boundaries. In this way, we may still apply (2.1) to define the distances between points. Again, for connected subdomains,  $W \subset Z$ , one has both an induced length metric,  $d_W$ , and a restricted distance  $d_Z \leq d_W$  just as in Definition 2.1.

**Definition 2.2.** An isometric embedding  $\varphi : X \rightarrow Z$  is a distance preserving map

$$(2.5) \quad d_Z(\varphi(x_1), \varphi(x_2)) = d_X(x_1, x_2) \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in X.$$

One should be aware that a Riemannian isometric embedding defined by the fact that  $d\varphi$  is an isometry on the tangent spaces at each point, is not necessarily an isometric embedding. For example, the natural embedding of the sphere into Euclidean space is not an isometric embedding with the standard metric on the sphere. See figure 1.

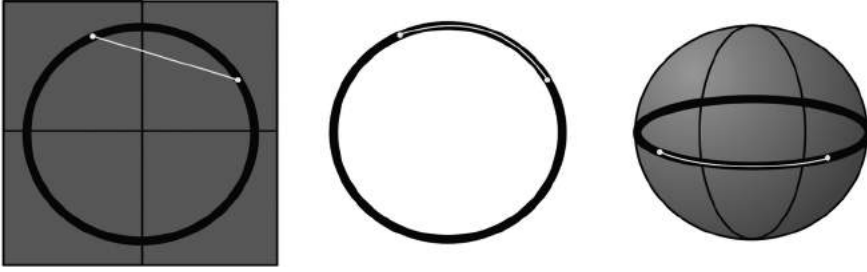


Figure 1:  $S^1$  in the center isometrically embeds into  $S^2$  on the right, but does not isometrically embed into  $\mathbb{E}^2$  on the left.

**Remark 2.3.** Suppose two manifolds,  $M_i$  have diffeomorphic subdomains,  $U_i$ , then a filling manifold can be constructed of the form  $U \times [h_1, h_2]$  with a well-chosen metric  $g'$  so that  $M_i$  isometrically embed into

$$(2.6) \quad Z = M_1 \sqcup (U \times [h_1, h_2]) \sqcup M_2.$$

Here  $Z$  is glued together so that  $U_i$  is identified point to point with  $U \times \{h_i\}$ . A precise way of choosing such a  $g'$  will be given in Theorem 4.6. See figure 2.

## 2.2. The GH distance

The GH distance between a pair of Riemannian manifolds is estimated by taking isometric embeddings into a common metric space  $Z$  and measuring the Hausdorff distance between them. This distance was introduced by Gromov in [10]. It is defined on pairs of metric spaces.

**Definition 2.4 (Hausdorff).** Given two subsets  $Y_1, Y_2 \subset Z$ , the Hausdorff distance is defined

$$(2.7) \quad d_H^Z(Y_1, Y_2) = \inf \{r : Y_1 \subset T_r(Y_2) \text{ and } Y_2 \subset T_r(Y_1)\},$$

where  $T_r(Y) = \{z \in Z : \exists y \in Y \text{ s.t. } d(y, z) < r\}$ .

One may immediately observe that the topology and dimension of subsets, which are close in the Hausdorff sense can be quite different.

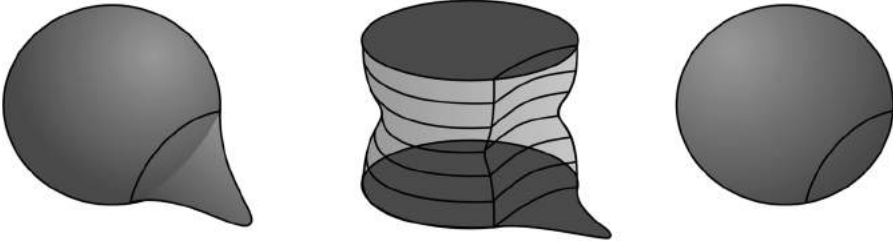


Figure 2:  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  depicted on the left and the right isometrically embed into  $Z$  in the center. See Remarks 2.3 and 2.6.

**Definition 2.5 (Gromov).** Given a pair of metric spaces  $(X_1, d_1)$  and  $(X_2, d_2)$ , the GH distance between them is

$$(2.8) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(X_1, X_2) = \inf \{ d_H^Z(\varphi_1(X_1), \varphi_2(X_2)) : \varphi_i : X_i \rightarrow Z \},$$

where the infimum is taken over all common metric spaces,  $Z$ , and all isometric embeddings,  $\varphi_i : X_i \rightarrow Z$ .

**Remark 2.6.** In figure 2 depicting Remark 2.3, we see that

$$(2.9) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(M_1, M_2) \leq d_H^Z(\varphi_1(M_1), \varphi_2(M_2)),$$

which is roughly the length of a curve from the tip of the bump in  $M_1$  running back within  $\varphi(M_1) \subset Z$  to the warped region  $U \times [h_1, h_2]$  and then straight up to  $M_2$ . Later in this paper Theorem 4.6 we will find a precise description of the metric on the metric space  $Z$  of figure 2.

Gromov proved in [10] that this a distance between compact metric spaces, in the sense that  $d_{\text{GH}}(X_1, X_2) = 0$  iff  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are isometric. In general, one takes the metric completion,  $\bar{X}$ , of a precompact space,  $X$ , before discussing it's GH distance and we will do the same here. Recall that the metric completion is defined as follows:

**Definition 2.7.** Given a precompact metric space,  $X$ , the metric completion,  $\bar{X}$  of  $X$  is the space of Cauchy sequences,  $\{x_j\}$ , in  $X$  with the metric

$$(2.10) \quad d(\{x_j\}, \{y_j\}) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_X(x_j, y_j)$$

and where two Cauchy sequences are identified if the distance between them is 0. There is an isometric embedding,  $\varphi : X \rightarrow \bar{X}$ , defined by  $\varphi(x) = \{x\}$



where  $\{x\}$  is a constant sequence. Lipschitz functions,  $F : X \rightarrow Y$ , extend to  $F : \bar{X} \rightarrow Y$  via  $F(\{x_j\}) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} F(x_j)$  as long as  $Y$  is complete.

Gromov's compactness theorem states that a sequence of Riemannian manifolds  $M_j^m$  with a uniform lower bound on Ricci curvature have a subsequence, which converges in the GH sense. More generally, one may replace the Ricci curvature bound with a bound on the number,  $N(r)$ , of disjoint balls of radius,  $r$ , that can be placed in a metric space,  $X$ . That is, a sequence of metric spaces  $X_j$  with a uniform bound on  $N(r)$  for all  $r$  sufficiently small, has a subsequence which converges in the GH sense to a compact limit space  $X$ . Conversely, if  $d_{\text{GH}}(X_j, X) \rightarrow 0$ , then there is a uniform bound on  $N(r)$ . [10].

### 2.3. The intrinsic flat distance

To estimate the intrinsic flat distance between a pair of oriented Riemannian manifolds one again needs only find a pair of isometric embeddings,  $\varphi_i : M_i^m \rightarrow Z$ , into a common complete metric space,  $Z$ . When one finds a filling submanifold,  $B^{m+1} \subset Z$ , and an excess boundary submanifold,  $A^m \subset Z$ , such that

$$(2.11) \quad \int_{\varphi_1(M_1)} \omega - \int_{\varphi_2(M_2)} \omega = \int_B d\omega + \int_A \omega,$$

then the intrinsic flat distance is bounded by

$$(2.12) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}(M_1^m, M_2^m) \leq \text{Vol}_m(A^m) + \text{Vol}_{m+1}(B^{m+1}).$$

Generally, the filling manifold and excess boundary can have corners and more than one connected component. See figure 7.

**Remark 2.8.** In figure 2 depicting Remark 2.3, we have  $M_i$  isometrically embedded into a well-chosen metric space

$$(2.13) \quad Z = M_1 \sqcup (U \times [h_1, h_2]) \sqcup M_2.$$

Applying (2.11) to

$$(2.14) \quad B = U \times [h_1, h_2]$$

we see that the excess boundary

$$(2.15) \quad A = (M_1 \setminus U_1) \cup (\partial U \times [h_1, h_2]) \cup (M_2 \setminus U_2).$$

Then

$$d_{\mathcal{F}}(M_1, M_2) \leq \text{Vol}_m(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(M_2 \setminus U_2) + \text{Vol}_m(\partial U \times [h_1, h_2]) \\ + \text{Vol}_{m+1}(U \times [h_1, h_2], g').$$

An explicit construction of the metric  $g'$  on  $U \times [h_1, h_2]$  in Theorem 4.6, allows one to precisely estimate the volume of  $U \times [h_1, h_2]$  and  $\partial U \times [h_1, h_2]$ .

To understand limits of sequences of Riemannian manifolds, the intrinsic flat distance was defined on a larger class of metric spaces called integral current spaces in [19]. An integral current space,  $(X, d, T)$ , is a metric space,  $X$ , with a metric,  $d$ , and an integral current structure,  $T$ , such that  $\text{set}(T) = X$ . An oriented Riemannian manifold,  $(M, g)$ , of finite volume, has a metric,  $d_M$ , defined as in Definition 2.1 and an integral current structure,  $T$ , acting on  $m$ -dimensional differential forms,  $\omega$  as

$$(2.16) \quad T(\omega) = \int_M \omega.$$

More generally, the integral current structure,  $T$ , of an integral current space,  $(X, d, T)$ , is an  $m$ -dimensional integral current  $T \in \mathbf{I}_m(\bar{X})$  defined as in Ambrosio–Kirchheim’s work [1]. The integral current structure  $T$  provides both an orientation and a measure called the mass measure denoted  $\|T\|$  and  $\text{set}(T)$  is the set of positive lower density for this measure. On a oriented Riemannian manifold, the mass measure is just the Lebesgue measure. More generally, the mass measure can have integer valued weights.

If  $(M^m, g)$  is a Riemannian manifold with singularities on a subset  $S$  such that the Hausdorff measure,  $\mathcal{H}_m(S) = 0$ , then one obtains a corresponding integral current space by taking the settled completion of  $M \setminus S$  defined as follows:

**Definition 2.9 [19].** The settled completion,  $X'$ , of a metric space  $X$  with a measure  $\mu$  is the collection of points  $p$  in the metric completion  $\bar{X}$ , which have positive lower density:

$$(2.17) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \mu(B_p(r))/r^m > 0.$$

The resulting space is then “completely settled”.

If a manifold has only point singularities, one includes all conical tips and does not include cusp tips in a manifold with point singularities. See



Figure 3: The completion,  $\bar{X}$  includes the boundary and fills in the three “holes” and the settled completion,  $X^s$ , removes the cusped singularity but keeps the boundary, cone tip and smoothly filled hole.

figure 3. This is natural because the essential property of an integral current space is its integration and points of 0 lower density do not contribute to that integration. In fact, integral current spaces are completely settled with respect to the mass measure,  $\|\mathbf{T}\|$ , as a consequence of the requirement that  $\text{set}(\mathbf{T}) = X$ .

The mass of an integral current space,  $\mathbf{M}(T)$ , is a weighted volume of sorts, which takes into account the integer valued Borel weight defining the current structure on the space. When the integral current space is an oriented Riemannian manifold then its mass is just its volume,  $\mathbf{M}(M) = \text{Vol}(M)$ .

The boundary of an integral current space is defined

$$(2.18) \quad \partial(X, d, T) = (\text{set}(\partial T), d, \partial T),$$

where  $\partial T$  is the boundary of the integral current defined as in [1] so that it satisfies Stoke’s Theorem. When  $M$  is a Riemannian manifold, its boundary is just the usual boundary,  $\partial M$ .

The flat distance between two integral currents is defined as in [7]

$$(2.19) \quad d_F(T_1, T_2) = \inf \{ \mathbf{M}(B^{m+1}) + \mathbf{M}(A^m) : T_1 - T_2 = A + \partial B \}.$$

That is  $T_1(\omega) - T_2(\omega) = A(\omega) + \partial B(\omega) = A(\omega) + B(d\omega)$ .

**Definition 2.10 (Sormani–Wenger).** The intrinsic flat distance between integral current spaces is defined in [19] as

$$(2.20) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}((X_1, d_1, T_1), (X_2, d_2, T_2)) = \inf \{ d_F^Z(\varphi_{1\#}T_1, \varphi_{2\#}T_2); \varphi_i : X_i \rightarrow Z \},$$

where the infimum is taken over all common complete metric spaces,  $Z$ , and all isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : X_i \rightarrow Z$  and where  $\varphi_{\#}$  is the push forward map on integral currents.

If one constructs a specific  $Z$  and isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : M_i \rightarrow Z$ , then one needs only estimate the flat distance between the images to obtain an upper bound for the infimum in (2.20). An explicit filling manifold  $B$  satisfying (2.11), then provides an upper bound on the infimum in (2.19). This is how one obtains the estimate in (2.12). See also Remark 2.8.

In [19] it is proven that this is a distance between precompact integral current spaces in the sense that  $d_{\mathcal{F}}((X_1, d_1, T_1), (X_2, d_2, T_2)) = 0$  iff there is a current preserving isometry from  $X_1$  to  $X_2$ . When the integral current spaces are oriented manifolds, then there is an orientation preserving isometry.

Note that all integral current spaces are metric spaces but they need not be length spaces. As will be seen in Example 3.4 a sequence of connected Riemannian manifolds may converge in the intrinsic flat sense to an integral current space, which has broken apart due to the development of a cusp singularity. So the limit is not a length metric space.

In [19] it is proven that if  $(M, g_j)$  converge smoothly to  $(M, g_\infty)$  then they converge in the intrinsic flat sense. In fact, precise estimates on the intrinsic flat distance are given in terms of the Lipschitz distance, the diameters and the volumes of the spaces. The bounds are found using geometric measure theory. Here we provide a new estimate relating the intrinsic flat and Lipschitz distances by explicitly constructing a filling manifold between them [Lemma 4.5].

If a sequence of oriented Riemannian manifolds with a uniform upper bound on their volumes and volumes of their boundaries converges in the GH sense to a compact metric space  $(Y, d)$ , then a subsequence converges in the intrinsic flat sense to  $(X, d, T)$  where  $X \subset Y$  and the metric  $d$  is restricted from  $Y$  [19] [Thm 3.20]. In Example 3.4, we see that this may be a proper subset. In fact, the Intrinsic flat limit may be the  $(0, 0, 0)$  integral current space if  $(Y, d)$  has a lower dimension than the manifolds in the sequence [19].

In [18] two theorems were proven indicating when the intrinsic flat limit and the GH limits agree. These theorems will be reviewed later in the paper as they are applied. We will also apply the techniques in their proofs to prove Theorem 1.2.

## 2.4. The scalable intrinsic flat distance

The scalable intrinsic flat distance was suggested as a notion in work of the second author with Dan Lee [14] following a recommendation of Lars Andersson. It is defined to scale with distance when the Riemannian manifolds are

rescaled. In particular,

$$(2.21) \quad d_{s\mathcal{F}}(M_1^m, M_2^m) \leq (\text{Vol}_m(A^m))^{1/m} + (\text{Vol}_{m+1}(B^{m+1}))^{1/(m+1)}$$

whenever there exist isometric embeddings,  $\varphi_i : M_i^m \rightarrow Z$ , into a common complete metric space,  $Z$ , and one finds a filling submanifold,  $B^{m+1} \subset Z$ , and an excess boundary submanifold,  $A^m \subset Z$ , satisfying (2.11).

**Remark 2.11.** In the setting of Remark 2.8 depicted in figure 2, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} d_{s\mathcal{F}}(M_1, M_2) &\leq \text{Vol}_{m+1}(U \times [0, h], g')^{1/(m+1)} \\ &\quad + (\text{Vol}_m(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(M_2 \setminus U_2) \\ &\quad + \text{Vol}_m(\partial U \times [h_1, h_2], g'))^{1/m}. \end{aligned}$$

More precisely,

**Definition 2.12.** The scalable intrinsic flat distance between integral current spaces is defined as

$$(2.22) \quad d_{s\mathcal{F}}((X_1, d_1, T_1), (X_2, d_2, T_2)) = \inf \{ d_{sF}^Z(\varphi_{1\#}T_1, \varphi_{2\#}T_2); \varphi_i : X_i \rightarrow Z \}$$

where the infimum is taken over all common complete metric spaces,  $Z$ , and all isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : X_i \rightarrow Z$  and where  $\varphi_{\#}$  is the push forward map on integral currents and where the scalable flat distance between  $m$  dimensional integral currents is defined by

$$(2.23) \quad d_{sF}(T_1, T_2) = \inf \left\{ \mathbf{M}(B)^{1/(m+1)} + \mathbf{M}(A)^{1/m} : T_1 - T_2 = A + \partial B \right\}$$

### 3. Examples

The following examples are presented to indicate how little control one may have on limits of manifolds, which converge smoothly away from singular sets and to prove the necessity of the conditions in our theorems. The proofs of these examples will sometimes rely on our theorems proven below but we include them up front so that they can be kept in mind when reading the remainder of the paper.

### 3.1. Losing a region

**Example 3.1.** There are metrics,  $g_j$ , on the sphere,  $M^3$ , such that  $(M^3, g_j)$  converge smoothly away from  $S = \bar{B}_{p_0}(\pi/16)$ , such that the metric completion of the smooth limit away from  $S$  is  $S^3 \setminus B_{p_0}(\pi/16)$ , the standard round sphere  $(S^3, g_0)$  with a ball removed. The smooth limit of  $M^3$  without the singular set removed is the entire round sphere and this agrees with the intrinsic flat and GH limits (cf. Lemma 4.5).

*Proof.* Taking the metrics,  $g_j = g_0$ , we have a constant sequence of standard spheres. So the intrinsic flat and GH limits are clearly the standard sphere. Furthermore  $(g_j, M \setminus S)$  clearly converges to  $(g_0, M \setminus \bar{B}_{p_0}(\pi/16))$  whose metric completion is  $(g_0, M \setminus B_{p_0}(\pi/16))$ .  $\square$

### 3.2. Cones and cusps

**Example 3.2.** There are metrics  $g_j$  on the sphere  $M^3$  such that  $(M^3, g_j)$  converge smoothly away from a point singularity  $S = \{p_0\}$  and the metrics  $g_j$  form a conical singularity at  $p_0$ . The GH and intrinsic flat limits agree with the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ , which is the sphere including the conical tip.

*Proof.* More precisely, the metrics  $g_j$  are defined by

$$(3.1) \quad g_j = dr^2 + f_j^2(r)g_{S^2} \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi],$$

where  $f_j(r) = (1/j)\sin(r) + (1 - 1/j)f(r)$  in which,  $f(r)$  is a smooth function such that:

$$(3.2) \quad f(r) = \sin(r) \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi/2],$$

and,

$$(3.3) \quad f(r) = -\frac{2}{\pi}(r - \pi) \text{ for } r \in [3\pi/4, \pi].$$

For any  $\delta > 0$ ,  $f_j$  converge to  $f$  smoothly on  $[0, \pi - \delta]$ . Thus  $g_j$  converge smoothly on compact subsets of  $M \setminus S$  to

$$(3.4) \quad g_\infty = dr^2 + f^2(r)g_{S^2}.$$

The metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  then adds in a single point  $p_0$  at  $r = \pi$ . Since

$$(3.5) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \mu(B_{p_0}(r))/r^3 = \frac{4}{3\pi^2} \text{vol}(S^2) = \frac{16}{3\pi} > 0,$$

the point,  $p_0$ , is also included in the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ . To complete the proof of the claim we could apply Theorem 1.3.  $\square$

**Example 3.3.** There are metrics  $g_j$  on the sphere  $M^3$  such that  $(M^3, g_j)$  converge smoothly away from a point singularity  $S = \{p_0\}$  and the metrics  $g_j$  form a cusp singularity at  $p_0$ . The GH agree with the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  which is the sphere including the cusped tip. However, the intrinsic flat limit of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  does not include the cusped tip because it has 0 density. So the intrinsic flat limit is the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  which in this case is  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$

*Proof.* More precisely, the metrics  $g_j$  are defined by

$$(3.6) \quad g_j = dr^2 + f_j^2(r)g_{S^2} \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi],$$

where  $f_j(r) = (1/j)\sin(r) + (1 - 1/j)f(r)$  in which,  $f(r)$  is a smooth function such that:

$$(3.7) \quad f(r) = \sin(r) \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi/2],$$

and

$$(3.8) \quad f(r) = \frac{4}{\pi^2}(r - \pi)^2 \text{ for } r \in [3\pi/4, \pi].$$

For any  $\delta > 0$ ,  $f_j$  converge to  $f$  smoothly on  $[0, \pi - \delta]$ . Thus,  $g_j$  converge smoothly on compact subsets of  $M \setminus S$  to

$$(3.9) \quad g_\infty = dr^2 + f^2(r)g_{S^2}.$$

The metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  then adds in a single point  $p_0$  at  $r = \pi$ . Since

$$(3.10) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \mu(B_{p_0}(r))/r^3 = \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{4}{5\pi^2} r^2 \text{vol}(S^2) = 0,$$

the point,  $p_0$ , is not included in the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

This GH and intrinsic flat limits in this example were proven to be as claimed in the Appendix of [19]. One may also apply Theorem 4.6 to prove this.  $\square$

### 3.3. Not connected

**Example 3.4.** There are smooth metrics  $g_i$  on the sphere,  $M^3$ , converging smoothly away from the equator,  $S$ , such that the equator pinches to 0. Then  $(M^3 \setminus S, g_i)$  has two components, each converging to a standard sphere with a point removed. The metric completion of each of the two disjoint metric spaces is a standard sphere. However the GH limit is a pair of spheres joined at a point singularity. So we see why connectedness of  $M^3 \setminus S$  is a necessary condition in Theorem 5.2. Here, the singular set is of codimension 1.

**Remark 3.5.** In upcoming work of the first author [13], appropriate gluings of disjoint metric spaces are taken to recover the GH limit when  $M \setminus S$  is not connected.

*Proof.* Let  $\phi(x)$  be a smooth bump function on  $\mathbb{R}$  with the following properties:

$$(3.11) \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(x) dx = 1,$$

$$(3.12) \quad \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \phi_{\epsilon}(x) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon^{-1} \phi(x/\epsilon) = \delta_0(x),$$

where  $\delta_0(x)$  is the Dirac delta function at 0. Let

$$(3.13) \quad \Phi_{1/i}(|\sin(2x)|)(r) = \phi_{1/i}(x) * |\sin(2x)|(r) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_{1/i}(r-x) |\sin(2x)| dx.$$

It is standard that the sequence is smooth and converges to  $|\sin(2r)|$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ . Now, take a partition of unity  $\{\psi, 1 - \psi\}$  on  $[0, \pi]$  such that  $\text{supp}(\psi) \subset [\pi/8, 7\pi/8]$  and  $\psi = 1$  on  $[\pi/4, 3\pi/4]$ . We take the sequence of metrics

$$(3.14) \quad g_i = dr^2 + f_i^2(r)g_{S^2},$$

where

$$(3.15) \quad f_i(r) = \frac{1}{i} \sin(r) + \frac{i-1}{2i} \left( (1 - \psi(r)) (|\sin(2r)|) + \psi(r) \Phi_{1/i}(|\sin(2x)|)(r) \right).$$



These are smooth metrics for  $r \in [0, \pi]$  because  $f_i(r) > 0$  for  $r \in (0, \pi)$ ,

$$(3.16) \quad f'_i(0) = \frac{1}{i} + \frac{2(i-1)}{2i} = 1,$$

$$(3.17) \quad f'_i(\pi) = -\frac{1}{i} - \frac{2(i-1)}{2i} = -1$$

and  $f''_i(0) = f''_i(\pi) = 0$ . As  $i \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $g_i$  converge smoothly away from  $r^{-1}(\pi/2)$  to

$$(3.18) \quad g_\infty = dr^2 + \frac{\sin^2(2r)}{4} g_{S^2},$$

which is a metric on a pair of spheres, each with a point removed. The metric completion keeps the pair of spheres disjoint, endowing each with its own point of completion.

The GH and intrinsic flat limits however are a connected pair of spheres joined at point which creates a conical singularity. This can be seen because the distances  $d_i$  defined on  $M_i$  using  $g_i$  are in fact converging in the Lipschitz sense to  $d_\infty$  defined by using the infimum of lengths,  $L_\infty$ , of curves between points where

$$(3.19) \quad L_\infty(C) = \int_0^1 g_\infty(C'(s), C'(s))^{1/2} ds.$$

Taking  $W_j = r^{-1}[0, \pi/2 - 1/j] \cup r^{-1}[\pi/2 + 1/j, \pi]$ , then we have smooth convergence on  $W_j$ . The uniform embeddedness constants converge to 0. Both  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(V \setminus W_j) < V_j$  with  $V_j \rightarrow 0$  and  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq A_j$  with  $A_j \rightarrow 0$ . So we only fail the connectedness hypothesis of this theorem.  $\square$

### 3.4. Bubbling

**Example 3.6.** There are smooth metric  $g_i$  on the sphere,  $M^3$  converging smoothly away from the singular set  $S = \{p_0\}$  to a sphere. Yet  $(M^3, g_i)$  converge in the GH and intrinsic flat sense to a pair of spheres meeting at  $p_0$ . See figure 4.

*Proof.* Let

$$(3.20) \quad g_i = h_i^2(r) dr^2 + f_i^2(r) g_{S^2},$$

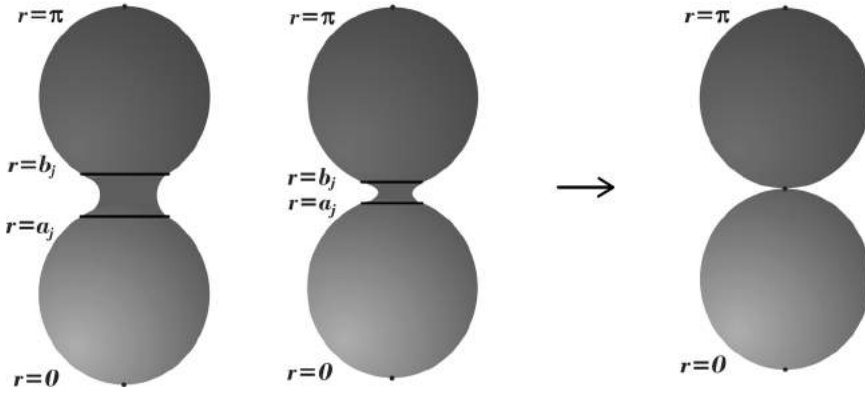


Figure 4: Example 3.6.

where

$$(3.21) \quad h_i(r) = 1 \text{ on } r \in [0, a_i],$$

$$(3.22) \quad f_i(r) = \sin(r) \text{ on } r \in [0, a_i],$$

where  $a_i = \pi - \pi/(10i)$  so that  $g_i$  converges smoothly away from  $S$  to the round metric  $g_\infty$  on the sphere. The metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is the round sphere.

Now we set

$$(3.23) \quad h_i(r) = 10i \text{ on } r \in [b_i, \pi],$$

$$(3.24) \quad f_i(r) = \sin((\pi - r)/(10i)) \text{ on } r \in [b_i, \pi],$$

where  $b_i = \pi - (\pi - \pi/(10i))/(10i)$  so there is symmetry and we extend them smoothly for  $r \in [a_i, b_i]$  so that

$$(3.25) \quad h_i(a_i) = 1 \leq h_i(r) \leq 10i = h_i(b_i)$$

and

$$(3.26) \quad 0 < f_i(r) < \max\{f_i(a_i), f_i(b_i)\}.$$

These thin regions are converging to a single point. So the GH limit of  $(M, g_i)$  is a pair of standard spheres joined at a point and the intrinsic flat limit is the same. The smooth limit away from  $S$  missed the second sphere!  $\square$

### 3.5. Losing volume in the limit

**Example 3.7.** There are  $(M^3, g_i)$  all isometric to the standard sphere, which converge smoothly away from a singular set  $S = \{p_0\}$  to  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  which is isometric to an open hemisphere. The metric completion agrees with the settled completion,  $(M_\infty, d_\infty)$ , which is isometric to a closed hemisphere. The singular set is codimension 2 in  $M$ . This example satisfied all the conditions of all of our Theorems concerning smooth convergence away from singular sets except  $\text{Vol}(M \setminus W_j) < V_j$  where  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0$ .

*Proof.* Again we view  $M^3 = S^3$  as a warped product with a warping function  $r \in [0, \pi]$ , such that  $r(p_0) = \pi$ . Let

$$(3.27) \quad g_i = (h'_i(r))^2 dr^2 + \sin^2(h_i(r)) g_{S^2},$$

where  $h_i(r)$  is a smooth increasing function such that

$$(3.28) \quad h_i(r) = r(\pi/2)/(\pi - \pi/(2i)) \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi - 1/i],$$

$$(3.29) \quad h_i(r) = \pi - (r - \pi)(1/(2i))(\pi - 1/(2i)) \text{ for } r \in [\pi - 1/(2i), \pi].$$

Then the diffeomorphism that maps  $r \mapsto s = h_i(r)$  is an isometry from  $(M^3, g_i)$  to  $(S^3, g_{S^3})$ .

On any compact set  $K \subset M \setminus S$ , there exists a  $j$  sufficiently large that  $K \subset r^{-1}[0, \pi - 1/j]$ . Taking  $i \rightarrow \infty$  we see that on  $K$ ,  $h_i(r) \rightarrow r/2$  and  $g_i$  converge smoothly to

$$(3.30) \quad g_\infty = (1/2)^2 dr^2 + \sin^2(r/2) g_{S^2}.$$

Thus  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is isometric to an open hemisphere via the isometry, which maps  $r \mapsto s = r/2$ . The metric completion is then the closed hemisphere and the settled completion agrees with the metric completion because every point in the closed hemisphere has positive lower density.

Setting  $W_j = r^{-1}[0, \pi - 1/j]$ , we see that

$$(3.31) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq 4\pi.$$

Clearly the diameter, volume, Ricci curvature and contractibility conditions all hold because the sequence of  $(M, g_j)$  are all isometric to spheres. However,

$$(3.32) \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \geq \text{Vol}(S^3)/2.$$

□

### 3.6. Unbounded volumes and diameters

Recall that below Theorem 1.2, we stated that the diameter condition is not necessary when the manifold has nonnegative Ricci curvature. Here, we see that the volume bound is still necessary:

**Example 3.8.** There are metrics  $g_i$  on the sphere  $M^3$  with nonnegative Ricci curvature such that  $(M^3, g_i)$  converge smoothly away from a point singularity  $S = \{p_0\}$  to a complete noncompact manifold. In particular, converging to a hemisphere attached to a cylinder of length  $k$  on the  $r^{-1}[0, \pi - 1/k)$  region.

*Proof.* For any  $L \in \mathbb{R}$  large enough, define the warped metric  $g_L$  on  $[0, L] \times S^2$  as follows:

$$(3.33) \quad g_L(t) = dt^2 + (f_L(t))^2 g_{S^2},$$

where

$$(3.34) \quad f_L(t) = \sin(t) \text{ for } t \in [0, \pi/2],$$

$$(3.35) \quad f_L(t) = 1 \text{ for } t \in [\pi/2 + 1/100, L - \pi/2 - 1/100],$$

$$(3.36) \quad f_L(t) = \sin(\pi + t - L) \text{ for } t \in [L - \pi/2, L]$$

and  $f_L(t)$  smooth with  $f_L''(t) < 0$  elsewhere. We will be calling  $g_L$ , the double torpedo metric (it is comprised two torpedo metrics glued together from their cylindrical ends.) For any  $L$ ,  $g_L$  has nonnegative Ricci curvature.

Let  $\phi : [0, \pi] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a smooth increasing function such that

$$(3.37) \quad \phi(r) = r \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi/2]$$

with

$$(3.38) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \pi} \phi(r) = \infty.$$

For  $j > 2$ , let  $\phi_j(r) : [0, \pi] \rightarrow [0, L_j = j + \pi/2 + 1]$  be a smooth increasing function such that

$$(3.39) \quad \phi_j(r) = \phi(r) \text{ for } r \in [0, \phi^{-1}(j + \pi/2)]$$

and

$$(3.40) \quad \phi_j(r) = j + r - \pi/2 + 1 \text{ for } r \text{ near } \pi.$$

Again, we view  $M^3 = S^3$  as a warped product with a warping function  $r \in [0, \pi]$ , such that  $r(p_0) = \pi$ . Let

$$(3.41) \quad g_j(r) = \phi_j^*(g_{L_j}) = (\phi_j'(r))^2 dr^2 + (f_{L_j})^2(\phi_j(r))g_{S^2}.$$

Then the diffeomorphism  $\phi_j$  is an isometry from  $(M^3, g_j)$  to  $(S^3, g_{L_j})$ . On any compact set  $K \subset M \setminus S$ , there exists a  $k$  sufficiently large that  $K \subset r^{-1}[0, \pi - 1/k]$ . Taking  $j \rightarrow \infty$  we see that on  $K$ ,  $g_j$  converge to

$$(3.42) \quad g_\infty = (\phi'(r))^2 dr^2 + f^2(\phi(r))g_{S^2},$$

where

$$(3.43) \quad \begin{aligned} f(r) &= \sin(r) \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi/2 - 1/100] \quad \text{and} \\ f(r) &= 1 \text{ for } r \in [\pi/2 + 1/100, \infty), \end{aligned}$$

which is a hemisphere smoothly attached to a cylinder of length  $k$ .

If we take  $W_j = r^{-1}([0, \pi - 1/j])$  then, we see that,  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(W_j)$  and  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j)$  are unbounded. Since  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is complete, it coincides with the metric completion. Since  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is noncompact,  $(M^3, g_j)$  does not have GH limit. Also since the volume is not finite, there is no intrinsic flat limit either.

Nevertheless, this example has  $\text{Vol}(\partial W_j) \leq 4\pi$  and  $W_j$  are uniformly embedded, the sequence has nonnegative Ricci curvature and a uniform contractibility function,  $\rho(r) = r$  for  $r \in (0, \pi/2]$ .  $\square$

**Example 3.9.** There are metrics  $g_i$  on the sphere  $M^3$  with  $\text{Ricci} \geq (n - 1)Hg$  such that  $(M^3, g_i)$  converge smoothly away from a point singularity  $S = \{p_0\}$  to a complete noncompact manifold; In particular, converging to a hemisphere attached to an infinitely long cusp.

*Proof.* Let  $h : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be defined so that  $h(t) = \sin(t)$  for  $t \in [0, \pi/2]$  and  $h(t) = e^{-t}$  for  $t \in [\pi, \infty)$  and smooth in between so that

$$(3.44) \quad g = dt^2 + h^2(t)g_{S^2}$$

is a complete noncompact metric with finite volume over  $[0, \infty) \times S^2$ . Observe that the sectional curvature is uniformly bounded below by some negative constant,  $H$ .

For any  $L \in \mathbb{R}$  large enough, we can find  $\epsilon_L > 0$  sufficiently small so that we may define a smooth warped metric  $g_L$  on  $[0, L] \times S^2$  as follows:

$$(3.45) \quad g_L(t) = dt^2 + (f_L(t))^2 g_{S^2},$$

where

$$(3.46) \quad f_L(t) = h(t) \text{ for } t \in [0, L - 2\epsilon_L]$$

and

$$(3.47) \quad f_L(t) = \sin(\pi + t - L) \text{ for } t \in [L - \epsilon_L, L]$$

and  $f_L(t)$  smooth with  $-f_L''(t)/f_L(t) > H$  elsewhere. For any  $L$ ,  $g_L$  has sectional curvatures  $\geq H$ .

Let  $\phi : [0, \pi] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a smooth increasing function as in the prior example. In particular satisfying (3.37)–(3.40).

Again, we view  $M^3 = S^3$  as a warped product with a warping function  $r \in [0, \pi]$ , such that  $r(p_0) = \pi$ . Let

$$(3.48) \quad g_j(r) = \phi_j^*(g_{L_j}) = (\phi_j'(r))^2 dr^2 + (f_{L_j})^2 (\phi_j(r)) g_{S^2}.$$

Then the diffeomorphism  $\phi_j$  is an isometry from  $(M^3, g_j)$  to  $(S^3, g_{L_j})$ . On any compact set  $K \subset M \setminus S$ , there exists a  $k$  sufficiently large that  $K \subset r^{-1}[0, \pi - 1/k]$ . Taking  $j \rightarrow \infty$  we see that on  $K$ ,  $g_j$  converge to

$$(3.49) \quad g_\infty = (\phi'(r))^2 dr^2 + h^2(\phi(r)) g_{S^2}.$$

Since  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is complete, it coincides with the metric completion. Since  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is noncompact,  $(M^3, g_j)$  does not have GH limit.

If we take  $W_j = r^{-1}([0, \pi - 1/j])$  then, we see that,  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(W_j)$  and  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j)$  are bounded,  $\text{Vol}(\partial W_j) \leq 4\pi$  and  $W_j$  are uniformly embedded. So this proves the necessity of the diameter condition in Theorem 1.2.  $\square$

### 3.7. Spheres with splines

The following examples are based on examples in [19].

**Example 3.10.** There are metrics  $g_i$  on the sphere  $M^3$  such that  $(M^3, g_i)$  converge smoothly away from a point singularity  $S = \{p_0\}$  yet we have a

single spline of finite length,  $L$ , becoming thinner and thinner so that the GH limit is not the sphere while the intrinsic flat limit is just the sphere. The metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is also the sphere in this example.

A version of this example with positive scalar curvature will be given in [12].

*Proof.* More precisely, the metrics  $g_i$  are defined by

$$(3.50) \quad g_i = h_i(r)^2 dr^2 + f_i^2(r) g_{S^2} \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi],$$

where  $f_i(r) = \sin(r)$  and

$$(3.51) \quad h_i(r) = 1 + i \exp\left(\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2i}\right)^2}{\left(r - \pi + \frac{2}{i}\right)\left(r - \pi + \frac{1}{i}\right)}\right) \chi_{\left[\pi - \frac{2}{i}, \pi - \frac{1}{i}\right]}.$$

Observe that on  $r^{-1}[0, \pi - 1/j]$  we have  $h_i(r) = 1$  for  $i \geq 2j$ . So  $g_i$  converge smoothly away from  $p_0$  to the standard metric on a sphere,  $g_\infty$ . The metric and settled completions of  $(M \setminus \{p_0\}, g_\infty)$  are both the standard sphere.

We will refer to  $N_i = r^{-1}(\pi - 2/i, \pi]$  with the metric  $g_i$  as a *spline*. Observe that

$$(3.52) \quad \text{diam}_{g_i}(M_j) \geq \int_0^\pi h_i(r) dr = \pi - 2/i + L + 1/i,$$

where  $L$  is the length of the spline:

$$(3.53) \quad L = \int_{\pi - 2/i}^{\pi - 1/i} h_i(r) dr,$$

$$(3.54) \quad = \int_0^1 1 + e^{1/(4u(u-1))} du.$$

Since the diameter of the GH limit, when it exists, is the limit of the diameters of the sequence, we see that the GH limit is not metric completion in this case. We will not provide an explicit proof that the GH limit is in fact the sphere with a line segment of length  $D$  attached at  $p_0$ .

Now taking  $W_j = r^{-1}([0, \pi - 1/(2j)])$ , we see that

$$(3.55) \quad \text{diam}_{M_i}(W_j) \leq \pi \text{ for } i \geq j,$$

$$(3.56) \quad \text{Vol}(M_i) \leq \text{Vol}(S^3, g_0) + \sin(1/(2i))L \leq V_0,$$

$$(3.57) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq 4\pi,$$

$$(3.58) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq \pi(1/(2j)^2) + \pi \sin(2/j)^2 L \leq V_j,$$

where  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0$ . By Theorem 1.3 we have the intrinsic flat limit is settled metric completion which is the sphere. This example has no uniform lower bound on Ricci curvature nor a uniform contractibility function so it demonstrates the necessities of these conditions in all of our theorems, which require them to prove the GH limit exists and is the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .  $\square$

**Example 3.11.** There are metrics  $g_i$  on the sphere  $M^3$  with uniformly bounded diameter and volume such that  $(M^3, g_i)$  converge smoothly away from a point singularity  $S = \{p_0\}$  and we have increasingly many splines of length  $L$  whose total volume goes to 0 based in smaller and smaller neighborhoods of  $S$ . The metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is the round sphere. This is also the intrinsic flat limit. The GH limit, however, does not exist since the number of balls of radius  $L/2$  diverges to infinity.

A version of this example with positive scalar curvature will be given in [12].

*Proof.* Let  $(M, g_i)$  be created by taking the standard sphere of radius 1 and removing  $i$  pairwise disjoint balls of radius  $2/i^2$  from the ball of radius  $2/i$  about  $p_0$ . Replace each of those balls with a spline,  $N_{i^2}$  from the previous example. Each spline has length  $L$  as in the previous example, so there are  $i$  balls of radius  $L/2$  centered at the tips of the splines. By Gromov's Compactness Theorem's Converse, there is no subsequence converging in the GH sense.

However,  $\text{diam}(M, g_i) \leq \pi + 2L$ .

Each  $(M, g_i)$  is diffeomorphic to  $S^3$ , via the identity map outside of the splines and via the diffeomorphism from each spline to the ball it has replaced. Taking any precompact set  $W \subset S^3$ , such that  $p_0 \notin \bar{W}$ , we can take  $i$  sufficiently large that  $W \cap B_{p_0}(2/i) = \emptyset$ , so that  $g_i$  is then the standard metric on  $W_i$ . So we see that  $(M, g_i)$  converges smoothly to a standard sphere with  $p_0$  removed. The metric and settled completions are one again the standard sphere.

Let  $W_j = S^3 \setminus B_{p_0}(2/j)$  where the ball is measured using the standard metric on  $S^3$  so that for  $j \leq i$  there are no splines within  $(W_j, g_i)$ .

$$(3.59) \quad \text{diam}_{M_i}(W_j) \leq \pi \text{ for } i \geq j,$$

$$(3.60) \quad \text{Vol}(M_i) \leq \text{Vol}(S^3, g_0) + i \sin(1/(2i^2))L \leq V_0,$$

$$(3.61) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq 4\pi \sin(1/2i^2)i \leq A_0,$$

$$(3.62) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq \pi i(1/(2i^2)^2) + \pi i \sin(2/i^2)^2 L \leq V_j,$$



where  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0$ . By Theorem 1.3 we have the intrinsic flat limit is settled metric completion, which is the sphere. This example has no uniform lower bound on Ricci curvature nor a uniform contractibility function so it demonstrates the necessities of these conditions in all of our theorems, which require them to prove the GH limit exists and is the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .  $\square$

**Example 3.12.** There are metrics  $g_i$  on the sphere  $M^3$  with uniformly bounded volume such that  $(M^3, g_i)$  converge smoothly away from a point singularity  $S = \{p_0\}$  and we have a single spline of increasing length whose volume goes to 0 and width goes to 0 contained in smaller and smaller neighborhoods of  $S$ . The metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is the round sphere. This is also the intrinsic flat limit. The GH limit, however, does not exist since the diameter diverges to infinity.

*Proof.* More precisely, the metrics  $g_i$  are defined by

$$(3.63) \quad g_i = h_i(r)^2 dr^2 + f_i^2(r) g_{S^2} \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi],$$

where  $f_i(r) = \sin(r)$  and

$$(3.64) \quad h_i(r) = 1 + i^2 \exp\left(\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2i}\right)^2}{\left(r - \pi + \frac{2}{i}\right)\left(r - \pi + \frac{1}{i}\right)}\right) \chi_{\left[\pi - \frac{2}{i}, \pi - \frac{1}{i}\right]}.$$

Observe that on  $r^{-1}[0, \pi - 1/j)$  we have  $h_i(r) = 1$  for  $i \geq 2j$ . So  $g_i$  converge smoothly away from  $p_0$  to the standard metric on a sphere,  $g_\infty$ . The metric and settled completions of  $(M \setminus \{p_0\}, g_\infty)$  are both the standard sphere.

Observe that

$$(3.65) \quad \text{diam}_{g_i}(M_j) \geq \int_0^\pi h_i(r) dr = \pi - 2/i + L_i + 1/i,$$

where  $L_i$  is the length of the spline:

$$(3.66) \quad L_i = \int_{\pi - 2/i}^{\pi - 1/i} h_i(r) dr,$$

$$(3.67) \quad = i \int_0^1 e^{1/(4u(u-1))} du = iL.$$

Now taking  $U_j = r^{-1}([0, \pi - 1/(2j)])$ , we see that

$$(3.68) \quad \text{diam}_{M_i}(U_j) \leq \pi \text{ for } i \geq j,$$

$$(3.69) \quad \text{Vol}(M_i) \leq \text{Vol}(S^3, g_0) + \sin(1/(2i))L_i \leq V_0,$$

$$(3.70) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq 4\pi 1,$$

$$(3.71) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq \pi(1/(2j)^2) + \pi \sin(2/j)^2 L_j \leq V_j,$$

where  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0 + \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sin(2/j)jL = 0$ . By Theorem 1.3 we have the intrinsic flat limit is settled metric completion which is the sphere. This example has no uniform lower bound on Ricci curvature nor a uniform contractibility function so it demonstrates the necessities of these conditions in all of our theorems which require them to prove the GH limit exists and is the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .  $\square$

### 3.8. Unbounded boundary volumes

Here, we have examples demonstrating the necessity of the  $\text{Vol}(\partial W)$  conditions in our theorems.

**Example 3.13.** There are  $(M^3, g_j)$  all diffeomorphic to the standard sphere, which converge smoothly away from a singular set  $S = \{p_0\}$  to  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  with the metric

$$(3.72) \quad dr^2 + f^2(r)g_{S^2} \text{ where } r \in [0, \pi),$$

such that  $f(r) = \sin(r)$  on  $[0, \pi/2]$  and  $\text{Vol}_{g_\infty}(M \setminus S)$  is finite but

$$(3.73) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \pi} f(r) = \infty.$$

The metric completion agrees with the settled completion of  $(M_\infty, d_\infty)$ , which is not an integral current space because the area of the boundary is infinite. The diameter of this example is clearly  $\leq 2\pi$ . This example demonstrates that (1.4) of Theorem 1.3 is a necessary condition.

*Proof.* Let  $g_\infty = dr^2 + f^2(r)g_{S^2}$  where  $f(r)$  is a smooth increasing function such that:

$$(3.74) \quad f(r) = \sin(r) \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi/2]$$

and

$$(3.75) \quad f(r) = (\pi - r)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \text{ for } r \in [\pi/2 + 1/2, \pi).$$

Then we have

$$(3.76) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \pi} f(r) = \infty$$

and

$$(3.77) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_\infty}(M \setminus S) = \int_0^\pi \omega_2 f^2(r) \, dr < \infty.$$

Now let  $g_i = dr^2 + f_i^2(r)g_{S^2}$  where,  $f_i(r) \leq f(r)$  is a smooth function given by:

$$(3.78) \quad f_i(r) = f(r) \text{ for } r \in [0, \pi - 1/i]$$

and

$$(3.79) \quad f_i(r) = \sin(r) \text{ for } r \in [\pi - 1/(2i), \pi].$$

It is easy to see that  $g_i$  converges to  $g_\infty$  away from the singular point.

Taking  $W_j = r^{-1}([0, \pi - 1/j])$ , we see that all conditions of Theorem 1.3 are satisfied except that  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j)$  is not bounded.  $\square$

**Remark 3.14.** The sequence in Example 3.13 also appears to satisfy uniform local contractibility estimates as there is no cusp effect. The GH limit appears to be the one point completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ . The metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  includes infinitely many new points. So this example may well also prove necessity of boundary volume estimates in Theorem 6.6.

**Remark 3.15.** It is an open question whether the area hypothesis, (1.4), is a necessary hypothesis in Theorem 1.2. It is possibly that one might always find a new exhaustion satisfying this condition as long as one has an exhaustion satisfying all the other hypothesis of the theorem.

### 3.9. Torus to square

**Example 3.16.** There are  $(M^2, g_j)$  all isometric to the flat torus,  $S^1 \times S^1$ , which converge smoothly away from a singular set

$$(3.80) \quad S = (S^1 \times \{0\}) \cup (\{0\} \times S^1) \subset S^1 \times S^1$$

to

$$(3.81) \quad (M \setminus S, g_\infty) = ((0, 2\pi) \times (0, 2\pi), dt^2 + ds^2).$$

So the metric completion and the settled completions are both

$$(3.82) \quad M_\infty = [0, 2\pi] \times [0, 2\pi]$$

with the standard flat metric, while the intrinsic flat and GH limits are the flat torus  $S^1 \times S^1$ . Thus, the codimension condition and the uniform embeddedness conditions are necessary in all our theorems.

*Proof.* Let  $W_k = (1/k, 2\pi - 1/k) \times (1/k, 2\pi - 1/k)$ . Then, for  $j$  large enough:

$$(3.83) \quad \lambda_{i,j,k} = \sup_{x,y \in W_j} |d_{W_k}(x,y) - d_M(x,y)| = 2\pi - 4/j.$$

Therefore

$$(3.84) \quad \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} = 2\pi$$

and

$$(3.85) \quad \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} = 2\pi.$$

So we fail uniform embeddedness as well as the codimension 2 condition.

Observe that the sequence satisfies Ricci curvature, contractibility, diameter and volume conditions on  $M_i$  because all the  $M_i$  are the standard flat torus. Furthermore,  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq 4/j$  and  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq 4$ .  $\square$

#### 4. Explicit estimates with isometric embeddings

In this section, we construct isometric embeddings of Riemannian manifolds into metric spaces to provide explicit bounds on the GH and intrinsic flat distances between them.

Recall the definition of isometric embedding given in Section 2.1. In fact, we construct more general mappings.

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $D > 0$  and  $M, M'$  are geodesic metric spaces. We say that  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M'$  is a  $D$ -geodesic embedding if for any smooth minimal geodesic,  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ , of length  $\leq D$  we have

$$(4.1) \quad d_{M'}(\varphi(\gamma(0)), \varphi(\gamma(1))) = L(\gamma).$$

When  $D = \text{diam}(M)$ , then  $D$ -geodesic embeddings are isometric embeddings. The advantage of this more general notion is that it can be applied when  $M$  is not complete. This will be essential to proving Theorem 4.6.

#### 4.1. Hemispherical embeddings

In this subsection we prove the following key proposition:

**Proposition 4.2.** *Given a manifold  $M$  with Riemannian metrics  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  and  $D_1, D_2, t_1, t_2 > 0$ . Let  $M' = M \times [t_1, t_2]$  and let  $\varphi_i : M_i \rightarrow M'$  be defined by  $\varphi_i(p) = (p, t_i)$ . If a metric  $g'$  on  $M'$  satisfies*

$$(4.2) \quad g' \geq dt^2 + \cos^2((t - t_i)\pi/D_i)g_i \text{ for } |t - t_i| < D_i/2$$

and

$$(4.3) \quad g' = dt^2 + g_i \text{ on } M \times \{t_i\} \subset M'$$

then any geodesic,  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M_i$ , of length  $\leq D_i$  satisfies (4.1). If the diameter is bounded,  $\text{diam}_{g_i}(M) \leq D_i$ , then  $\varphi_i$  is an isometric embedding.

Furthermore, for  $q_1, q_2 \in M$ , we have

$$(4.4) \quad d_{M'}(\varphi_1(q_1), \varphi_2(q_2)) \geq d_{M_i}(q_1, q_2).$$

**Example 4.3.** Let  $M = S^1 \times [0, 1]$  and let  $g_i = a_i^2 d\theta^2 + b_i^2 dl^2$ , where  $a_1 > a_2 > 0$  and  $b_2 > b_1 > 0$ . Take

$$(4.5) \quad D_i = \text{diam}_{g_i}(M_i) = \sqrt{(\pi a_i)^2 + b_i^2}.$$

By Proposition 4.2, we know that if we can find  $t_i \in \mathbb{R}$  and functions  $a, b : [t_1, t_2] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$(4.6) \quad a(t) \geq \max_{i=1,2} a_i h_i(t),$$

$$(4.7) \quad b(t) \geq \max_{i=1,2} b_i h_i(t),$$

where  $h_i(t) = \max\{\cos((t - t_i)\pi/D_i), 0\}$  and

$$(4.8) \quad a(t_1) = a_1, \quad a(t_2) = a_2, \quad b(t_1) = b_1 \quad \text{and} \quad b(t_2) = b_2,$$

then we have isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : (M, g_i) \rightarrow (M', g')$  where

$$(4.9) \quad g' = dt^2 + a^2(t)d\theta^2 + b^2(t)dl^2.$$

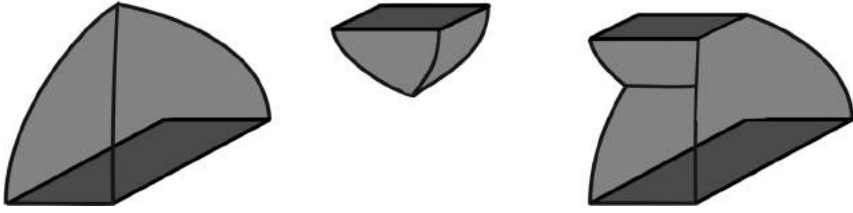


Figure 5: First we see a pair of flat tori,  $M_i = (M, g_i)$ , isometrically embedded in their own hemispherical suspensions. Then they both isometrically embed into a common  $M'$ .

To obtain (4.8), we must choose  $t_2 - t_1$  sufficiently large that

$$(4.10) \quad a_1 h_1(t_2 - t_1) \leq a_2 \quad \text{and} \quad b_2 h_2(t_2 - t_1) \leq b_1.$$

Since  $a_2/a_1, b_2/b_1 < 1$  this is achieved by taking

$$(4.11) \quad |t_2 - t_1| \geq \max \left\{ \frac{D_1}{\pi} \arccos \left( \frac{a_2}{a_1} \right), \frac{D_2}{\pi} \arccos \left( \frac{b_1}{b_2} \right) \right\}.$$

See figure 5.

Before we prove the proposition we prove the following lemma. Recall that equators in spheres isometrically embed into the hemispheres. Here, we create standard isometric embeddings of Riemannian manifolds into hemispherically warped product spaces. The idea comes from Gromov's notions in filling Riemannian manifolds [9].

**Lemma 4.4.** *Given a compact Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  and  $D > 0$ . Let  $M' = M \times [0, D/2]$  and let  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M'$  be defined by  $\varphi(p) = (p, 0)$ . If a metric  $g'$  on  $M'$  satisfies*

$$(4.12) \quad g' \geq dt^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D)g \text{ on } M'$$

and

$$(4.13) \quad g' = dt^2 + g \text{ on } M \times \{0\} \subset M'$$

then any geodesic,  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ , of length  $\leq D$  satisfies (4.1). If  $\text{diam}(M) \leq D$  then  $\varphi$  is an isometric embedding.

Here the hemispherical suspension,  $M'$ , is a well-defined metric space but not necessarily a smooth manifold as can be seen, for example, on the

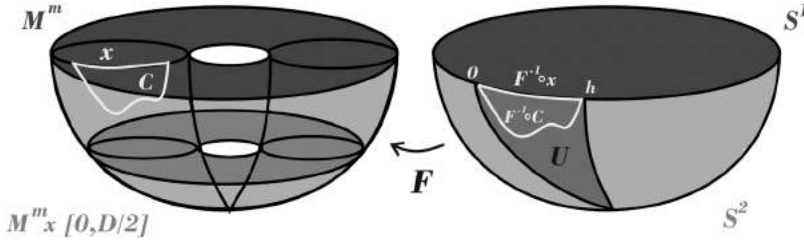


Figure 6: On the left we have a smooth torus,  $M^m$ , which is warped with a cosine function to create the curved manifold,  $M^m \times [0, D/2]$ , in which  $C$  lies. On the right we see the the set  $U$  viewed as a subset of a hemisphere created using the same warping function.

left side of figure 6. The inspiration for using a hemispherical suspension comes from Gromov's work on filling Riemannian manifolds [9].

*Proof.* Assume not. There exists a geodesic  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$  of length  $\leq D$ , and a curve  $\sigma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M'$  running from  $\gamma(0)$  to  $\gamma(1)$  of length  $L_{g'}(\sigma) < L_g(\gamma)$ . If we replace the metric  $g'$  by  $g'' = dt^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D)g$ , then  $L_{g''}(\sigma) < L_g(\gamma)$ .

So there exists a curve  $C(s) = (x(s), t(s)) \in M \times [0, D/2]$ , which is minimizing with respect to  $g''$  between its endpoints  $C(0) = (x(0), 0) = \gamma(0)$  and  $C(1) = (x(1), 0) = \gamma(1)$  such that

$$(4.14) \quad L_{g''}(C) \leq L_{g''}(\sigma) \leq L_{g'}(\sigma) < L_g(\gamma) = d_M(x(0), x(1)) \leq D.$$

Since  $C : [0, 1] \rightarrow M'$  is a minimizing geodesic in the warped product,  $x : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ , is a minimizing geodesic in  $M$ . We choose the parameter  $s$  so that  $x$  is parametrised proportional to arclength and let  $h$  be the length of the geodesic  $x$ , so we have  $h = d_M(x(0), x(1)) \leq D$ . See figure 6.

Observe that  $F : [0, h] \times [0, D/2] \rightarrow M'$  defined by  $F(s, t) = (x(s/h), t)$  is an isometric embedding of a region,  $U$ , in the standard round sphere,  $S^2$ , of diameter  $D$  into  $M'$ . That is the metric on  $U$  is

$$(4.15) \quad dt^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D)ds^2$$

and for any curve  $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow U$  where  $\gamma(u) = (\gamma_s(u), \gamma_t(u))$  we have, by (4.12),

$$\begin{aligned}
g''((F \circ \gamma)'(u), (F \circ \gamma)'(u)) &= (dt^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D)g)((F \circ \gamma)'(u), (F \circ \gamma)'(u)) \\
&= \gamma_t'(u)^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D) \\
&\quad \times g((x \circ \gamma_s)'(u/h), (x \circ \gamma_s)'(u/h))/h^2 \\
&= \gamma_t'(u)^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D)|\gamma_s'(u)|^2 \\
&\quad \times g(x'(u/h), x'(u/h))/h^2 \\
&= \gamma_t'(u)^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D)|\gamma_s'(u)|^2 \\
&\quad \text{because } g(x', x') = h^2 \\
&= (dt^2 + \cos^2(t\pi/D)ds^2)(\gamma'(u), \gamma'(u)).
\end{aligned}$$

In particular,  $L(F \circ x) = L(x)$  by (4.13).

Furthermore  $C(s) \subset F(U)$ . So  $F^{-1} \circ C$  is a curve in  $S^2$  running between  $F^{-1}(C(0))$  and  $F^{-1}(C(1))$ . Thus

$$(4.16) \quad L_{g''}(C) \geq d_{S^2}(F^{-1}(C(0)), F^{-1}(C(1))) = L(F^{-1} \circ x) = d_M(x(0), x(1))$$

because  $F^{-1} \circ x$  runs along a great circle in  $S^2$  and has length  $< D$ . This contradicts (4.14).  $\square$

We may now apply Lemma 4.4 to prove Proposition 4.2:

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.4, (4.2) and (4.3), we see that any geodesic,  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M_i$ , of length  $\leq D_i$  satisfies (4.1).

Given  $q_1, q_2 \in M$ , let  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M'$  be a length minimizing geodesic from  $\varphi_1(q_1)$  to  $\varphi_2(q_2)$ . So

$$(4.17) \quad \gamma(s) = (c(s), t(s)) \in M \times [t_1, t_2].$$



For  $f_i(t) = \cos((t - t_i)\pi/D_i)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_{g'}(\gamma) &= \int_0^1 g'(\gamma'(s), \gamma'(s)) ds \\
 &\geq \int_0^1 \sqrt{t'(s)^2 + \max_{i=1,2} f_i^2(t(s))g_i(c'(s), c'(s))} ds \\
 &\geq \int_0^1 \sqrt{t'(s)^2 + f_1^2(t(s))g_1(c'(s), c'(s))} ds \\
 &\geq \int_0^1 \sqrt{t'(s)^2 + f_1^2(t(s))g_1(\bar{c}'(s), \bar{c}'(s))} ds,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{c}$  is a length minimizing geodesic in  $(M, g_1)$  from  $c(0)$  to  $c(1)$  parametrised proportional to arclength of length  $h = d_{g_1}(c(0), c(1))$ . Thus

$$(4.18) \quad L_{g'}(\gamma) \geq \int_0^1 \sqrt{t'(s)^2 + f_1^2(t(s))h^2} ds.$$

This integral is the length of a curve in a hemisphere of diameter  $D_1$  running from a point  $(0, h)$  on the equator to a point  $(|t_1 - t_2|, 0)$ . So it is greater than or equal to the length of the third side of a triangle opposite a right angle with legs of length  $d_{M_1}(q_1, q_2)$  and  $|t_1 - t_2|$ . Applying the Spherical Law of Cosines rescaled we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.19) \quad d_{M'}(\varphi_1(q_1), \varphi_2(q_2)) &\geq \frac{D_1}{\pi} \arccos \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi d_{M_1}(q_1, q_2)}{D_1} \right) \cos \left( \frac{\pi |t_1 - t_2|}{D_1} \right) \right) \\
 (4.20) \quad &\geq d_{M_1}(q_1, q_2).
 \end{aligned}$$

□

## 4.2. Estimating distances between manifolds

The GH distance between a pair of metric spaces was estimated in terms of the Lipschitz distance between them in [10]. In [19], the intrinsic flat distance between a pair of integral current spaces was estimated in terms of the Lipschitz distance between them. Here we give a simple proof estimating these distances between Riemannian manifolds using explicit isometric embeddings into a common Riemannian manifold. Recall Definitions 2.7 and 2.9.

**Lemma 4.5.** *Suppose  $M_1 = (M, g_1)$  and  $M_2 = (M, g_2)$  are diffeomorphic oriented precompact Riemannian manifolds and suppose there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  such that*

$$(4.21) \quad g_1(V, V) < (1 + \epsilon)^2 g_2(V, V) \text{ and } g_2(V, V) < (1 + \epsilon)^2 g_1(V, V) \quad \forall V \in TM.$$

*Then for any*

$$(4.22) \quad a_1 > \frac{\arccos(1 + \epsilon)^{-1}}{\pi} \text{diam}(M_2)$$

*and*

$$(4.23) \quad a_2 > \frac{\arccos(1 + \epsilon)^{-1}}{\pi} \text{diam}(M_1),$$

*there is a pair of isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : M_i \rightarrow M' = \bar{M} \times [t_1, t_2]$  with a metric as in Proposition 4.2 where  $t_2 - t_1 \geq \max\{a_1, a_2\}$ .*

*Thus the GH distance between the metric completions is bounded,*

$$(4.24) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(\bar{M}_1, \bar{M}_2) \leq a := \max\{a_1, a_2\},$$

*and the intrinsic flat and scalable intrinsic flat distances between the settled completions are bounded,*

$$(4.25) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) \leq a(V_1 + V_2 + A_1 + A_2),$$

$$(4.26) \quad d_{s\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) \leq (a(V_1 + V_2))^{1/(m+1)} + (a(A_1 + A_2))^{1/(m)},$$

*where  $V_i = \text{Vol}_m(M_i)$  and  $A_i = \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial M_i)$ .*

*Proof.* By our choice of  $a_i$  we have

$$(4.27) \quad g_1(V, V) > \cos^2(a_1\pi/\text{diam}(M_2))g_2(V, V) \quad \forall V \in TM$$

*and*

$$(4.28) \quad g_2(V, V) > \cos^2(a_2\pi/\text{diam}(M_1))g_1(V, V) \quad \forall V \in TM.$$

Applying Proposition 4.2 and setting  $t_1 = 0$  and  $t_2 = a$ , we have isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : (M, g_i) \rightarrow (M', g')$  for any  $g'$  satisfying (4.2) and (4.3). In

fact, the metric  $g'$  on  $M'$  can be chosen so that

$$(4.29) \quad g'(V, V) \leq dt^2(V, V) + g_1(V, V) + g_2(V, V) \quad \forall V \in TM'.$$

By Definition 2.5 we have,

$$(4.30) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(\bar{M}_1, \bar{M}_2) \leq d_H^{M'}(\varphi_1(M_1), \varphi_2(M_2)).$$

For all  $r > a$ ,  $\varphi_1(M_1) \subset T_r(\varphi_2(M_2))$  and  $\varphi_2(M_2) \subset T_r(\varphi_1(M_1))$ , because for all  $p \in M$  we have

$$(4.31) \quad d_{M'}(\varphi_1(p), \varphi_2(p)) = |t_2 - t_1| = a.$$

By Definition 2.4 we have (4.24).

Recall that to estimate the Intrinsic flat Distance and scalable intrinsic flat distance we must estimate volumes of a filling manifold and an excess boundary as in (2.12) and (2.21). Taking  $\nu$  to be the unit inward normal to  $\partial M' \setminus (M_1 \cup M_2)$  and applying the estimate on  $g'$  given in (4.29) we have

$$\begin{aligned} d_{\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) &\leq \text{Vol}(M') + \text{Vol}(\partial M' \setminus (M_1 \cup M_2)) \\ &= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_M \mu_{g'} dt + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_{\partial M} \nu \lrcorner \mu_{g'} dt \\ &\leq |t_2 - t_1|(\text{Vol}(M_1) + \text{Vol}(M_2)) \\ &\quad + |t_2 - t_1|(\text{Vol}(\partial M_1) + \text{Vol}(\partial M_2)) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} d_{s\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) &\leq (\text{Vol}(M'))^{1/(m+1)} + (\text{Vol}(\partial M' \setminus (M_1 \cup M_2)))^{1/m} \\ &= \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_M \mu_{g'} dt \right)^{1/(m+1)} + \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_{\partial M} \nu \lrcorner \mu_{g'} dt \right)^{1/m} \\ &\leq (|t_2 - t_1|(\text{Vol}(M_1) + \text{Vol}(M_2)))^{1/(m+1)} \\ &\quad + (|t_2 - t_1|(\text{Vol}(\partial M_1) + \text{Vol}(\partial M_2)))^{1/m}. \end{aligned}$$

□

### 4.3. Appending regions without smooth approximations

Now we examine pairs of precompact oriented manifolds  $(M_1, g_1)$  and  $(M_2, g_2)$ , which are not diffeomorphic but have diffeomorphic regions  $U_i \subset$

$M_i$ . That is, there is a common smooth manifold with boundary  $U$  and diffeomorphisms  $\psi_i : U \rightarrow U_i \subset M_i$ . Then we may apply Proposition 4.2 and Lemma 4.5 to the regions  $U_i$  to estimate the distances between the metric and settled completions of the  $M_i$ . Recall also Definitions 2.7 and 2.9. Recall also the distinction between the intrinsic length metric,  $d_U$ , and the restricted metric  $d_M$ , on a region  $U \subset M$  and the corresponding diameters,  $\text{diam}_M(U) \leq \text{diam}_U(U)$ , in Definition 2.1.

**Theorem 4.6.** *Suppose  $M_1 = (M, g_1)$  and  $M_2 = (M, g_2)$  are oriented pre-compact Riemannian manifolds with diffeomorphic subregions  $U_i \subset M_i$  and diffeomorphisms  $\psi_i : U \rightarrow U_i$  such that*

$$(4.32) \quad \psi_1^* g_1(V, V) < (1 + \epsilon)^2 \psi_2^* g_2(V, V) \quad \forall V \in TU$$

and

$$(4.33) \quad \psi_2^* g_2(V, V) < (1 + \epsilon)^2 \psi_1^* g_1(V, V) \quad \forall V \in TU.$$

Taking the extrinsic diameters,

$$(4.34) \quad D_{U_i} = \sup\{\text{diam}_{M_i}(W) : W \text{ is a connected component of } U_i\} \leq \text{diam}(M_i),$$

we define a hemispherical width,

$$(4.35) \quad a > \frac{\arccos(1 + \epsilon)^{-1}}{\pi} \max\{D_{U_1}, D_{U_2}\}.$$

Taking the difference in distances with respect to the outside manifolds,

$$(4.36) \quad \lambda = \sup_{x, y \in U} |d_{M_1}(\psi_1(x), \psi_1(y)) - d_{M_2}(\psi_2(x), \psi_2(y))|,$$

we define heights,

$$(4.37) \quad h = \sqrt{\lambda(\max\{D_{U_1}, D_{U_2}\} + \lambda/4)}$$

and

$$(4.38) \quad \bar{h} = \max\{h, \sqrt{\epsilon^2 + 2\epsilon} D_{U_1}, \sqrt{\epsilon^2 + 2\epsilon} D_{U_2}\}.$$

Then the GH distance between the metric completions is bounded,

$$(4.39) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(\bar{M}_1, \bar{M}_2) \leq a + 2\bar{h} + \max\left\{d_H^{M_1}(U_1, M_1), d_H^{M_2}(U_2, M_2)\right\}$$

and the intrinsic flat distance between the settled completions is bounded,

$$\begin{aligned} d_{\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) &\leq (2\bar{h} + a) \left( \text{Vol}_m(U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(U_2) + \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_1) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_2) \right) \\ &\quad + \text{Vol}_m(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(M_2 \setminus U_2). \end{aligned}$$

and the scalable intrinsic flat distance is bounded,

$$\begin{aligned} d_{s\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) &\leq \left( (\text{Vol}_m(U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(U_2)) (\bar{h} + a) \right)^{1/(m+1)} \\ &\quad + \left( (2\bar{h} + a) (\text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_1) + \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_2)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{Vol}_m(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(M_2 \setminus U_2) \right)^{1/m}. \end{aligned}$$

Figure 2 may be viewed as an application of this theorem. It should be noted that this theorem is an improvement on the Bridge Method Lemma A.2 of [19] in two respects. First, we allow  $U_1$  and  $U_2$  not isometric, and secondly we loosen the diameter bounds of that method asking only for control on the  $\lambda$  defined here.

Recall in Definition 2.1, that two different metrics are defined on a connected subdomain,  $U \subset M$ . When  $U$  is also totally convex, these two metrics agree. Theorem 4.6 does not require the subdomains to be connected or convex, and so the proof becomes quite difficult. Before we prove this theorem we state and prove a special case with stronger estimates.

**Theorem 4.7.** *Suppose  $M_1 = (M, g_1)$  and  $M_2 = (M, g_2)$  are oriented Riemannian manifolds with diffeomorphic totally convex subregions  $U_i \subset M_i$  and diffeomorphisms  $\psi_i : U \rightarrow U_i$  such that*

$$(4.40) \quad \psi_1^* g_1(V, V) < (1 + \epsilon)^2 \psi_2^* g_2(V, V), \quad \forall V \in TU$$

and

$$(4.41) \quad \psi_2^* g_2(V, V) < (1 + \epsilon)^2 \psi_1^* g_1(V, V), \quad \forall V \in TU.$$

Then for any

$$(4.42) \quad a_1 > \frac{\arccos(1 + \epsilon)^{-1}}{\pi} \text{diam}_{U_2}(U_2)$$

and

$$(4.43) \quad a_2 > \frac{\arccos(1 + \epsilon)^{-1}}{\pi} \operatorname{diam}_{U_1}(U_1),$$

there is a pair of isometric embeddings  $\varphi_i : U_i \rightarrow M'$  where  $M' = U \times [t_1, t_2]$  where  $t_2 - t_1 = \max\{a_1, a_2\}$  such that  $\varphi_i(x) = (x, t_i)$ . Furthermore, these isometric embeddings extend to isometric embeddings  $\varphi : M_i \rightarrow Z'$ , where  $Z'$  is a length metric space defined by gluing  $M_i$  to  $M'$  along  $U_i$ .

In particular the GH distance between the metric completions is bounded,

$$(4.44) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(\bar{M}_1, \bar{M}_2) \leq \max\{a_1, a_2\} + \max\{d_H^{M_1}(U_1, M_1), d_H^{M_2}(U_2, M_2)\}$$

and the intrinsic flat distance between the settled completions is bounded,

$$d_{\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) \leq \max\{a_1, a_2\} \left( \operatorname{Vol}(U_1) + \operatorname{Vol}(U_2) + \operatorname{Vol}(\partial U_1) + \operatorname{Vol}(\partial U_2) \right) + \operatorname{Vol}(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \operatorname{Vol}(M_2 \setminus U_2),$$

and the scalable intrinsic flat distance is bounded,

$$d_{s\mathcal{F}}(M'_1, M'_2) \leq \left( \max\{a_1, a_2\}(\operatorname{Vol}(U_1) + \operatorname{Vol}(U_2)) \right)^{1/(m+1)} + \left( \max\{a_1, a_2\}(\operatorname{Vol}(\partial U_1) + \operatorname{Vol}(\partial U_2)) + \operatorname{Vol}(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \operatorname{Vol}(M_2 \setminus U_2) \right)^{1/(m)}.$$

*Proof.* The metric  $g'$  on  $M'$  is defined by applying Proposition 4.2 and Lemma 4.5 to the diffeomorphic regions,  $U_1$  and  $U_2$ ; taking  $D_i = \operatorname{diam}_{U_i}(U_i)$  as defined above,  $\varphi_i : U_i \rightarrow M'$  are isometric embeddings. We can choose  $g'$  satisfying (4.29).

We must verify that the  $M_i$  isometrically embed into  $Z'$  constructed as in the statement of the theorem. To see this we take any  $x, y \in M_1$  and a shortest curve  $C \subset Z'$  running between  $\varphi_1(x)$  and  $\varphi_1(y)$ . If the curve never enters  $\varphi_2(M_2 \setminus U_2)$  then  $d_{M_1}(x, y) = d_{Z'}(\varphi_1(x), \varphi_1(y))$  by Lemma 4.5 and Lemma A.1 in the Appendix of [19] applied to  $\varphi_1(M_1) \cup M' \subset Z'$ . If the curve does enter  $\varphi_2(M_2 \setminus U_2)$  then we have a length minimizing curve which leaves  $\bar{U}_2$  contradicting the fact that it is convex. The same argument may be repeated to prove  $\varphi_2 : M_2 \rightarrow Z'$  is an isometric embedding.

So now we may estimate the GH distance as in Remark 2.6. Let  $r_i = d_H^{M_i}(M_i, U_i)$ . We claim

$$(4.45) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(M_1, M_2) \leq d_H^{Z'}(\varphi_1(M_1), \varphi_2(M_2)) \leq |t_1 - t_2| + \max\{r_i\}.$$

Fix any  $\delta > 0$ . Then any point  $p \in M_1$  has a point  $q \in U_1$  such that  $d(p, q) \leq r_1 + \delta$ . Furthermore,  $\varphi_1(q) = (q, t_1) \in M' \subset Z'$  so

$$(4.46) \quad d_{Z'}(\varphi_1(q), (q, t_2)) = |t_2 - t_1|$$

and  $(q, t_2) \subset \varphi_2(U_2) \subset \varphi_2(M_2)$ . Thus

$$(4.47) \quad \varphi_1(M_1) \subset T_{r_1 + \delta + |t_2 - t_1|}(\varphi_2(M_2))$$

and similarly

$$(4.48) \quad \varphi_2(M_2) \subset T_{r_2 + \delta + |t_2 - t_1|}(\varphi_1(M_1)).$$

The claim follows by taking  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ .

We bound the intrinsic flat distance as in Remark 2.8 taking  $M'$  to be the filling manifold with the metric  $g'$  defined in Lemma 4.5 satisfying (4.29). We apply the same estimates as in Lemma 4.5 to bound the volumes of these regions, only now we add in the additional volume terms coming from the additional components of the excess boundary  $M_i \setminus U_i$ .

We bound the scalable intrinsic flat distance as in Remark 2.11. Again we include the additional components of the excess boundary but insert them into the summand with an exponent of  $1/m$  since these are  $m$ -dimensional boundary regions and the scalable flat distance is one-dimensional.  $\square$

We now prove Theorem 4.6. To prove this theorem we adapt the proof of the convex case and the proof of Lemma A.2 in [19]. It is essential to possibly push the two manifolds further apart than required simply to isometrically embed the  $U_i$  into  $M'$  as a short cut for a path between points in  $\varphi_1(M_1)$  might be found within  $\varphi_2(M_2 \setminus U_2)$ .

*Proof.* For each corresponding pair of connected components  $U_{\alpha,i}$  of  $U_i$ , we create a hemispherically defined filling bridge  $M'_\alpha$  diffeomorphic to  $U_{\alpha,i} \times [0, a]$  with metric  $g'_\alpha$  satisfying (4.1) by applying Proposition 4.2 and Lemma 4.5 using the  $a_i = a_i(\alpha)$  defined there for that particular connected component,  $U_\alpha$  and  $D_i = D_{U_i}$ . Observe that all  $a_i \leq a$ , so we may take  $|t_1 - t_2| = a$  for all the connected components. Any minimal geodesic  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow U_{\alpha,i}$  of length  $\leq D_{U_i} \leq \text{diam}_{M_i}(U_i)$  satisfies (4.1).

We take the disjoint unions of these bridges to be  $M'$ . So it has a metric  $g'$  satisfying (4.29). Observe that the boundary of  $M'$  is  $(U, g_1) \cup (U, g_2) \cup (\partial U \times [0, a], g')$ . So that

$$(4.49) \quad \text{Vol}_m(M') = \sum_{\alpha} \text{Vol}_m(M'_{\alpha})$$

$$(4.50) \quad \leq \sum_{\alpha} a(\text{Vol}_m(U_{\alpha,1}) + \text{Vol}_m(U_{\alpha,2}))$$

$$(4.51) \quad \leq a(\text{Vol}_m(U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(U_2))$$

and

$$(4.52) \quad \text{Vol}_m(\partial M' \setminus (\varphi_1(U_1) \cup \varphi_2(U_2))) \leq a(\text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_1) + \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_2))$$

as in Lemma 4.5.

We cannot directly glue  $M_i$  to  $M'$  and obtain an isometric embedding because our regions are not convex. On either end of the filling bridges, we glue isometric products  $U_{\alpha} \times [0, \bar{h}]$  with metric  $dt^2 + g_i$ , so that all the bridges are extended by an equal length on either side. This creates a Lipschitz manifold,

$$(4.53) \quad M'' = (U_1 \times [0, \bar{h}]) \sqcup_{U_1} M' \sqcup_{U_2} (U_2 \times [0, \bar{h}]).$$

We then define  $\varphi_i : U_i \rightarrow M''$  such that

$$(4.54) \quad \varphi_1(x) = (x, 0) \in U_1 \times [0, \bar{h}],$$

$$(4.55) \quad \varphi_2(x) = (x, \bar{h}) \in U_2 \times [0, \bar{h}],$$

as in figure 7. Then by (4.49) and (4.52), we have

$$(4.56) \quad \text{Vol}_{m+1}(M'') = \text{Vol}_{m+1}(M') + \bar{h}(\text{Vol}_m(U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(U_2))$$

$$(4.57) \quad \leq (a + \bar{h})(\text{Vol}_m(U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(U_2))$$

and  $\text{Vol}_m(\partial M'' \setminus (\varphi_1(U_1) \cup \varphi_2(U_2))) =$

$$(4.58) \quad = \text{Vol}_m(\partial M' \setminus (\varphi_1(U_1) \cup \varphi_2(U_2))) + \bar{h}(\text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_1) + \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_2))$$

$$(4.59) \quad \leq (a + \bar{h})(\text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_1) + \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_2)).$$



Finally, we glue  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  to the far ends of  $M''$  along  $\varphi_i(U_i)$  to create a connected length space

$$(4.60) \quad Z = \bar{M}_1 \sqcup_{U_1} M'' \sqcup_{U_2} \bar{M}_2,$$

where distances in  $Z$  are defined by taking the infimum of lengths of curves as usual. See figure 7. We will refer to each connected component,  $M''_\alpha$  of  $M''$  as the filling bridge corresponding to  $U_\alpha$ .

We must prove that  $\varphi_1 : M_1 \rightarrow Z$  mapping  $M_1$  into its copy in  $Z$  is an isometric embedding. To see this we take any  $x, y \in M_1$  and a shortest curve  $C \subset Z$  running between  $\varphi_1(x)$  and  $\varphi_1(y)$ . As in the convex proof, our only concern is the possibility that  $C$  passes into  $\varphi_2(M_2 \setminus U_2)$ .

If the minimizing curve never crosses a filling bridge, then we claim it has the same length as a curve in  $\varphi_1(M_1)$ . To see this, we take any  $s_2 > s_1 \in [0, 1]$  such that  $C(s_1), C(s_2) \in \varphi_1(M_1)$  and  $C((s_1, s_2)) \subset Z \setminus \varphi_1(M_1)$ . Since  $C$  is assumed not to cross a bridge (not to enter  $\varphi_2(M_2)$ ), then  $C(s_1) = \varphi(x_1)$  and  $C(s_2) = \varphi(x_2)$  where  $x_1, x_2$  lie in the same connected component,  $U_{\alpha,1}$ , of  $U_1$ . Since  $C([s_1, s_2])$  is a minimizing curve it has length

$$(4.61) \quad \leq d_{M''}(C(s_1), C(s_2)) \leq d_{M_1}(x_1, x_2) \leq \text{diam}_{M_1}(U_{\alpha,1}) \leq D_{U_1}.$$

By (4.1), a minimal geodesic from  $x_1$  to  $x_2$  lying in  $U_{\alpha,1}$  has the same length as  $C([s_1, s_2])$ . So we may replace this segment of  $C$  with the image of this minimal geodesic.

On the other hand, if the minimizing curve crosses a filling bridge all the way to  $\varphi_2(M_2)$ , then we may carefully apply the choice of  $\bar{h}$  to reach a contradiction as in the left hand side of figure 8. We define the following points  $0 \leq t_1 < t_2 \leq t_3 < t_4 \leq 1$  such that

$$(4.62) \quad t_1 = \inf\{t : C(t) \in Cl(Z \setminus \varphi_1(M_1))\},$$

$$(4.63) \quad t_2 = \min\{t : C(t) \in \varphi_2(M_2)\},$$

$$(4.64) \quad t_4 = \min\{t > t_2 : C(t) \in \varphi_1(M_1)\},$$

$$(4.65) \quad t_3 = \max\{t \in [t_2, t_4] : C(t) \in \varphi_2(M_2)\}$$

so that  $C([t_1, t_2])$  and  $C([t_3, t_4])$  are geodesic segments lying within filling bridges:

$$(4.66) \quad C([t_1, t_2]) \subset M''_{\alpha_{1,2}} \quad C([t_3, t_4]) \subset M''_{\alpha_{3,4}}.$$

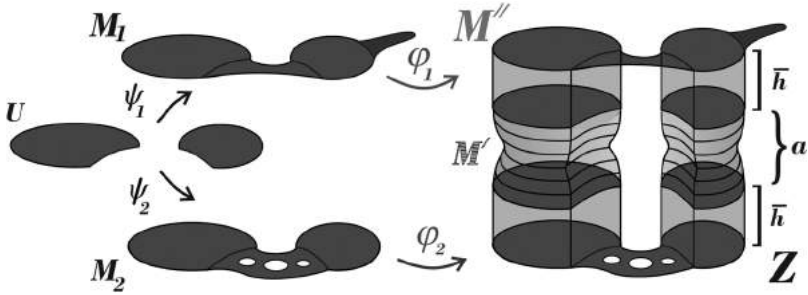
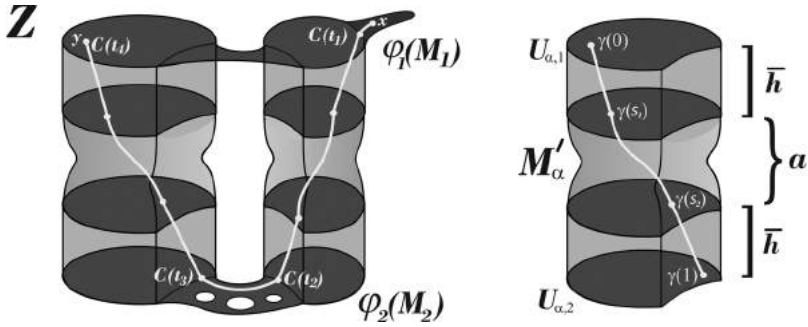
Figure 7: Creating  $Z$  for Theorem 4.6.

Figure 8: Why length minimizing curves cannot cross bridges in the proof of Theorem 4.6.

Observe that there are points  $p_1, p_4 \in U$  and  $p_2, p_3 \in \partial(U)$  such that

$$(4.67) \quad \varphi_1(\psi_1(p_1)) = C(t_1)\varphi_1(\psi_1(p_4)) = C(t_4),$$

$$(4.68) \quad \varphi_2(\psi_2(p_2)) = C(t_2)\varphi_2(\psi_2(p_3)) = C(t_3).$$

Observe that since  $C([t_2, t_3]) \subset \varphi_2(M_2)$  we know the length of this segment is

$$(4.69) \quad d_Z(C(t_2), C(t_3)) = d_{M_2}(\psi_2(p_2), \psi_2(p_3)) \geq d_{M_1}(\psi_1(p_2), \psi_1(p_3)) - \lambda$$

by the definition of  $\lambda$  in (4.36).

We claim that the lengths of the other segments are

$$(4.70) \quad d_{M''}(C(t_1), C(t_2)) > \sqrt{d_{M_1}(p_1, p_2)^2 + h^2}$$

and

$$(4.71) \quad d_{M''}(C(t_3), C(t_4)) > \sqrt{d_{M_1}(p_3, p_4)^2 + h^2}.$$

Once we prove this claim, we see that by the definition of  $h$  we have

$$(4.72) \quad d_{M''}(C(t_1), C(t_2)) > d_{M_1}(p_1, p_2) + \lambda/2,$$

$$(4.73) \quad d_{M''}(C(t_3), C(t_4)) > d_{M_1}(p_3, p_4) + \lambda/2.$$

This combined with (4.69) implies that

$$\begin{aligned} L(C([t_1, t_4])) &= d_{M''}(C(t_1), C(t_2)) + d_Z(C(t_2), C(t_3)) + d_{M''}(C(t_3), C(t_4)) \\ &> d_{M_1}(p_1, p_2) + \lambda/2 + d_{M_1}(p_2, p_3) - \lambda + d_{M_1}(p_3, p_4) + \lambda/2 \\ &\geq d_{M_1}(p_1, p_2) + d_{M_1}(p_2, p_3) + d_{M_1}(p_3, p_4) \\ &\geq d_{M_1}(p_1, p_4) = d_{\varphi_1(M_1)}(C(t_1), C(t_4)) \\ &\geq d_Z(C(t_1), C(t_4)), \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction to the fact that  $C$  was minimizing.

So we need only prove our claim in (4.70) and (4.71) to see that  $\varphi_1 : M_1 \rightarrow Z$  is an isometric embedding. This claim concerns a minimizing geodesic lying in a single connected component of the filling bridges,

$$(4.74) \quad \gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow (U_{\alpha,1} \times [0, \bar{h}]) \sqcup_{U_{\alpha,1}} M'_\alpha \sqcup_{U_{\alpha,2}} (U_{\alpha,2} \times [0, \bar{h}])$$

such that

$$(4.75) \quad \gamma(0) = (q_0, 0) \in U_{\alpha,1} \times \{0\} \subset \varphi_1(M_1)$$

and

$$(4.76) \quad \gamma(1) = (q_3, \bar{h}) \in U_{\alpha,2} \times \{\bar{h}\} \subset \varphi_2(M_2).$$

Consult the right-hand side of figure 8. Let  $0 < s_1 < s_2 < 1$  be chosen so that

$$(4.77) \quad \gamma(s_1) = (q_1, \bar{h}) \in U_{\alpha,1} \times \{\bar{h}\} \subset \partial M'_\alpha$$

and

$$(4.78) \quad \gamma(s_2) = (q_2, 0) \in U_{\alpha,2} \times \{0\} \subset \partial M'_\alpha.$$

Then by (4.4), we have

$$(4.79) \quad L_{g'}(\gamma([s_1, s_2])) = d_{g'}(\gamma(s_1), \gamma(s_2)) \geq d_{g_1}(q_1, q_2),$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}
L(\gamma) &= d_Z(\gamma(0), \gamma(s_1)) + d_Z(\gamma(s_1), \gamma(s_2)) + d_Z(\gamma(s_2), \gamma(1)) \\
&= \sqrt{d_{U_1}(q_0, q_1)^2 + \bar{h}^2} + d_{U_1}(q_1, q_2) + \sqrt{d_{U_2}(q_2, q_3)^2 + \bar{h}^2} \\
&\geq \sqrt{d_{U_1}(q_0, q_1)^2 + h^2} + d_{U_1}(q_1, q_2) \\
&\quad + \sqrt{d_{U_1}(q_2, q_3)^2 / (1 + \epsilon)^2 + (\epsilon^2 + 2\epsilon) D_{U_1}^2} \\
&\geq \sqrt{d_{M_1}(q_0, q_1)^2 + h^2} + d_{M_1}(q_1, q_2) \\
&\quad + \sqrt{d_{M_1}(q_2, q_3)^2 / (1 + \epsilon)^2 + (\epsilon^2 + 2\epsilon) d_{M_1}(q_3, q_4)^2} \\
&\geq \sqrt{d_{M_1}(q_0, q_1)^2 + h^2} + d_{M_1}(q_1, q_2) + \sqrt{d_{M_1}(q_2, q_3)^2} \\
&> \sqrt{(d_{M_1}(q_0, q_1) + d_{M_1}(q_1, q_2) + d_{M_1}(q_2, q_3))^2 + h^2} \\
&\geq \sqrt{d_{M_1}(q_0, q_3)^2 + h^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

This gives us (4.70) and (4.71). Thus, we have proven  $\varphi_1 : M_1 \rightarrow Z$  is an isometric embedding and the same follows for  $\varphi_2 : M_2 \rightarrow Z$ .

So now we may estimate the GH distance: Let  $r_i = d_H^{M_i}(M_i, U_i)$ . We claim

$$(4.80) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(M_1, M_2) \leq d_H^Z(\varphi_1(M_1), \varphi_2(M_2)) \leq \bar{h} + \bar{h} + a + \max\{r_i\}.$$

Fix any  $\delta > 0$ . Then any point  $p \in M_1$  has a point  $q \in U_1$  such that  $d(p, q) \leq r_1 + \delta$ . Furthermore,

$$(4.81) \quad d_Z(\varphi_1(q), \varphi_2(q)) \leq a + \bar{h} + \bar{h}$$

and  $\varphi_2(q) \subset \varphi_2(U_2) \subset \varphi_2(M_2)$ . Thus

$$(4.82) \quad \varphi_1(M_1) \subset T_{r_1 + \delta + a + \bar{h} + \bar{h}}(\varphi_2(M_2))$$

and similarly

$$(4.83) \quad \varphi_2(M_2) \subset T_{r_2 + \delta + a + \bar{h} + \bar{h}}(\varphi_1(M_1)).$$

The claim follows by taking  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ .

To bound the intrinsic flat distance and scalable intrinsic flat distance, we take  $B^{m+1} = M''$  to be the filling manifold and then the excess boundary is

$$(4.84) \quad A^m = \varphi_1(M_1 \setminus U_1) \cup \varphi_2(M_2 \setminus U_2) \cup \partial M'' \setminus (\varphi_1(U_1) \cup \varphi_2(U_2))$$

so that with appropriate orientations we have

$$(4.85) \quad \int_{\varphi_1(M_1)} \omega - \int_{\varphi_2(M_2)} \omega = \int_{B^{m+1}} d\omega + \int_{A^m} \omega.$$

The volumes of these manifolds have been computed in (4.58) and (4.56). So as in Remark 2.8 we have

$$\begin{aligned} d_{\mathcal{F}}(M_1, M_2) &\leq \text{Vol}_m(U_1) (\bar{h} + a) + \text{Vol}_m(U_2) (\bar{h} + a) \\ &\quad + (\bar{h} + a) \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_1) + (\bar{h} + a) \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_2) \\ &\quad + \text{Vol}_m(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(M_2 \setminus U_2). \end{aligned}$$

The scalable intrinsic flat distance is bounded as in Remark 2.11 so that we have

$$\begin{aligned} d_{s\mathcal{F}}(M_1, M_2) &\leq \left( \text{Vol}_m(U_1) (\bar{h} + a) + \text{Vol}_m(U_2) (\bar{h} + a) \right)^{1/(m+1)} \\ &\quad + \left( (\bar{h} + a) \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_1) + (\bar{h} + a) \text{Vol}_{m-1}(\partial U_2) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{Vol}_m(M_1 \setminus U_1) + \text{Vol}_m(M_2 \setminus U_2) \right)^{1/m}. \end{aligned}$$

□

## 5. Intrinsic flat limits

In this section, we examine sequences of Riemannian manifolds that converge smoothly away from singular sets and their intrinsic flat limits proving Theorem 1.3. This theorem will be shown to be consequences of the following more powerful theorem, which requires a condition on the embeddings of the exhaustion in the manifold:

**Definition 5.1.** Given a sequence of Riemannian manifolds  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  and an open subset,  $U \subset M$ , a connected precompact exhaustion,  $W_j$ , of  $U$  satisfying (1.2) is uniformly well embedded if

$$(5.1) \quad \lambda_{i,j,k} = \sup_{x,y \in W_j} |d_{(W_k, g_i)}(x, y) - d_{(M, g_i)}(x, y)|$$

has

$$(5.2) \quad \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} \leq \lambda_0$$

and

$$(5.3) \quad \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} = \lambda_{i,j} \text{ where } \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j} = \lambda_j \text{ and } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_j = 0.$$

**Theorem 5.2.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of compact oriented Riemannian manifolds such that there is a closed subset,  $S$ , and a uniformly well embedded connected precompact exhaustion,  $W_j$ , of  $M \setminus S$  satisfying (1.2) such that  $g_i$  converge smoothly to  $g_\infty$  on each  $W_j$  with*

$$(5.4) \quad \text{diam}_{M_i}(W_j) \leq D_0 \quad \forall i \geq j,$$

$$(5.5) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq A_0$$

and

$$(5.6) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq V_j \text{ where } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0.$$

Then

$$(5.7) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{F}}(M'_j, N') = 0,$$

where  $N'$  is the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

In the first subsection, we prove a technical proposition demonstrating that the intrinsic flat limit of a connected precompact exhaustion of an open set in a fixed Riemannian manifold is the metric completion of that open set [Proposition 5.4]. This theorem is shown to be false for GH limits [Example 5.5].

The second subsection, we complete the proof of Theorem 5.2 applying Proposition 5.4 and Theorem 4.6.

The third subsection contains a proof of Lemma 5.7 concerning manifolds with singular sets of codimension two. This final lemma combined with Theorem 5.2 proves Theorem 1.3.

**Remark 5.3.** In Example 3.4, we see that it is necessary to assume that the exhaustion is connected in Theorem 5.2. The excess volume bound in (1.5) is shown to be necessary in Example 3.7 and Example 3.8, which has no intrinsic flat limit. The uniform bound on the boundary volumes, (1.4), is seen to be necessary in Example 3.13. All these examples have

codimension 2 singular sets and show the necessity of these hypothesis for Theorem 1.3 as well. The uniform embeddedness hypothesis of Theorem 5.2 and the codimension two condition of Theorem 1.3 are seen to be necessary for their respective theorems in Example 3.16.

### 5.1. Creating spaces from exhaustions

In this section, we examine the construction of the limit space from a sequence of precompact open sets. One may view this section as a technical subsection. Recall that a connected precompact exhaustion of a domain satisfies (1.2).

**Proposition 5.4.** *Let  $W_j$  be a connected precompact exhaustion of a Riemannian manifold,  $N$ , with fixed Riemannian metric,  $g_N$ . If we assume that  $\text{diam}(N) \leq D_0$ ,  $\text{Vol}(W_j) \leq \text{Vol}(N) \leq V_0$  and  $\text{Vol}(\partial W_j) \leq A_0$  then the settled completion  $N' \subset \bar{N}$  satisfies*

$$(5.8) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{F}}((W'_j, d_{W'_j}), (N', d_{N'})) = 0,$$

where  $d_{W_j}$  is the induced length metric on  $W_j$  defined by the Riemannian metric  $g_N$  and  $W'_j$  is the settled completion of  $W_j$  with respect to  $d_{W_j}$ .

The connectedness is essential to this theorem as can be seen in Example 3.4. Interestingly, one does not obtain GH convergence under these conditions. There need not even exist a GH limit of  $(\bar{W}_j, d_{W_j})$ . See Example 5.5 below.

*Proof.* We first verify that we can apply Theorem 4.6 with  $M_1 = W_k$  and  $M_2 = N$  and  $U_1 = W_i \subset W_k$  for  $i < k$  and  $U_2 = W_i \subset N$ . Note that  $\epsilon = 0$  and the hemispherical width  $a$  can be taken to be 0 because  $U_i$  have the same Riemannian metric,  $g_N$ .

We claim

$$(5.9) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}(N \setminus W_j) = 0.$$

Since  $N$  is an open manifold of finite volume

$$(5.10) \quad \text{Vol}(N) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \text{Vol}(W_k \setminus W_{k-1}),$$

so

$$(5.11) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} \text{Vol}(W_k \setminus W_{k-1}) = 0.$$

However,

$$(5.12) \quad \text{Vol}(N \setminus W_j) = \sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} \text{Vol}(W_k \setminus W_{k-1})$$

so we have our claim.

Let  $k > i$  and let

$$(5.13) \quad \lambda_{i,k} = \sup_{x,y \in W_i} |d_{W_k}(x,y) - d_N(x,y)|.$$

Then

$$(5.14) \quad D_{U_1} = \text{diam}_{W_k}(W_i) \leq \text{diam}_N W_i + \lambda_{i,k} \leq D_0 + \lambda_{i,k}$$

and

$$(5.15) \quad D_{U_2} = \text{diam}_N W_i \leq D_0.$$

We claim that for fixed  $i$

$$(5.16) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,k} = 0.$$

First note that  $\lambda_{i,k}$  is decreasing in  $k$  because

$$(5.17) \quad d_{W_k}(x,y) \geq d_{W_{k+1}}(x,y) \geq d_N(x,y).$$

If the limit is not zero in (5.16) then let

$$(5.18) \quad \epsilon' = \inf_k \lambda_{i,k} > 0.$$

Since  $\bar{W}_i$  is compact, there exists  $x_{i,k}, y_{i,k} \subset \bar{W}_i$  achieving the supremum in (5.13). Taking  $k$  to infinity, a subsequence converges to  $x_i, y_i \subset \bar{W}_i$  with



respect to  $d_{\bar{W}_i}$ . Let  $\gamma_i \subset N$  be a curve from  $x_i$  to  $y_i$  such that

$$(5.19) \quad L(\gamma_i) \leq d_N(x_i, y_i) + \epsilon'/5.$$

Since  $W_k$  exhaust  $N$ , there exists  $N_{\epsilon'}$  sufficiently large that

$$(5.20) \quad \gamma_i \subset W_k \quad \forall k \geq N_{\epsilon'}.$$

Thus

$$(5.21) \quad d_{W_k}(x_i, y_i) \leq d_N(x_i, y_i) + \epsilon'/5 \quad \forall k \geq N_{\epsilon'}.$$

Now take  $k$  from the subsequence sufficiently large that we have

$$(5.22) \quad d_{\bar{W}_k}(x_{i,k}, x_i) \leq d_{\bar{W}_i}(x_{i,k}, x_i) < \epsilon'/5,$$

$$(5.23) \quad d_{\bar{W}_k}(y_{i,k}, y_i) \leq d_{\bar{W}_i}(y_{i,k}, y_i) < \epsilon'/5.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} d_{W_k}(x_{i,k}, y_{i,k}) &\leq d_{W_k}(x_{i,k}, x_i) + d_{W_k}(x_i, y_i) + d_{W_k}(y_i, y_{i,k}) \\ &< d_N(x_i, y_i) + 3\epsilon'/5 \\ &\leq d_N(x_{i,k}, x_i) + d_N(x_i, y_i) + d_N(y_i, y_{i,k}) + 3\epsilon'/5 \\ &\leq d_{W_k}(x_{i,k}, x_i) + d_N(x_i, y_i) + d_{W_k}(y_i, y_{i,k}) + 3\epsilon'/5 \\ &\leq d_{W_k}(x_{i,k}, x_i) + d_N(x_i, y_i) + d_{W_k}(y_i, y_{i,k}) + 3\epsilon'/5 \\ &< 5\epsilon'/5 = \epsilon'. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $d_N(x_{i,k}, y_{i,k}) \leq d_{W_k}(x_{i,k}, y_{i,k})$ , we have

$$(5.24) \quad \lambda_{i,k} < d_{W_k}(x_{i,k}, y_{i,k}) - d_N(x_{i,k}, y_{i,k})\epsilon',$$

which contradicts (5.18).

By (5.14), (5.15) and (5.16), we know that for fixed  $i$ ,

$$(5.25) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \bar{h}_{i,k} = 0,$$

where  $\bar{h}_{i,k}$  is defined as in (4.37)–(4.38) with  $\lambda = \lambda_{i,j}$  and  $\epsilon = 0$ .

By Theorem 4.6, the intrinsic flat distance is bounded

$$\begin{aligned} d_{\mathcal{F}}(N', W_j) &\leq (\bar{h}_{i,j}) (2 \operatorname{Vol}(W_i) + 2 \operatorname{Vol}(\partial W_i)) \\ &\quad + \operatorname{Vol}(N \setminus W_i) + \operatorname{Vol}(W_j \setminus W_i) \\ &\leq (\bar{h}_{i,j}) (2V_0 + 2A_0) + \operatorname{Vol}(N \setminus W_i) + \operatorname{Vol}(N \setminus W_i). \end{aligned}$$

By (5.9), for any  $\epsilon'' > 0$  there exists  $i$  sufficiently large that

$$(5.26) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}(N', W_j) \leq (\bar{h}_{i,j}) (2V_0 + 2A_0) + \epsilon''.$$

Fixing that value for  $i$ , we now take  $j \rightarrow \infty$

$$(5.27) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{F}}(N', W_j) < \epsilon''.$$

We have the theorem as stated.  $\square$

**Example 5.5.** In figure 9 we see that a connected precompact exhaustion  $W_j$  of a standard flat two-dimensional torus satisfying  $\operatorname{Vol}(W_j) \leq \operatorname{Vol}(N) \leq V_0$  and

$$(5.28) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{Vol}(N \setminus W_j) = 0.$$

Observe that  $(\bar{W}_j, d_{W_j})$  need not have a GH limit because balls of radius  $1/2$  about the tips of the arms measured with respect to the intrinsic length metric  $d_{W_j}$  are disjoint and so the number of disjoint balls of radius  $1/2$  is unbounded. According to the converse of Gromov Compactness Theorem, the number of disjoint balls in a sequence of compact metric spaces converging to a compact metric space is uniformly bounded above, so this sequence cannot converge [10].

To find an example which also satisfies  $\operatorname{Vol}(\partial W_j) \leq A_0$ , we may construct a connected precompact exhaustion of a standard flat three-dimensional torus where the arms are thin tubular neighborhoods of curves so that their lengths are still long enough to have disjoint balls but the areas of the boundaries of the arms are arbitrarily small.

## 5.2. Proof of Theorem 5.2

In this subsection, we prove Theorem 5.2. Keep in mind Remark 5.3. First, we prove a short lemma that will be applied here and elsewhere:

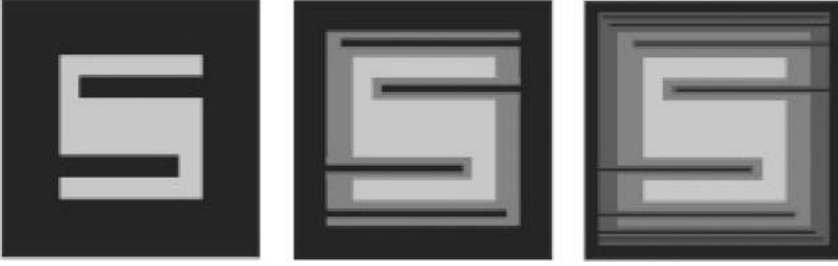


Figure 9:  $W_1$  with two arms is depicted in white on a black  $T^2$ .  $W_2$  with four arms is depicted in light gray containing  $W_1$ .  $W_3$  with eight arms is depicted in darker gray containing  $W_2$  and  $W_1$ .

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of compact Riemannian manifolds such that there is a closed subset,  $S$ , and a connected precompact exhaustion,  $W_j$ , of  $M \setminus S$  satisfying (1.2) such that  $g_i$  converge smoothly to  $g_\infty$  on each  $W_j$ . If*

$$(5.29) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq V_j \text{ where } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0$$

then there exists a uniform  $V_0 > 0$  such that

$$(5.30) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M) < V_0.$$

*Proof.* Fix any  $W_j$ . Since  $g_i$  converges smoothly on  $W_j$ ,  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(W_j)$  must converge smoothly as well. So there exists  $V_1 > 0$  such that  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(W_j) \leq V_1$ . Thus, we have

$$(5.31) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M) = \text{Vol}_{g_i}(W_j) + \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq V_1 + V_j$$

and  $\sup V_j < \infty$  because  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j$  exists. □

We now prove Proposition 5.4:

*Proof.* By hypothesis (5.6) and Lemma 5.6 we have:

$$(5.32) \quad \text{Vol}(M_i) \leq V_0,$$

Next we prove that  $(W_j, g_\infty)$  satisfy the hypothesis of Theorem 5.4. Observe that hypothesis (5.4) implies

$$(5.33) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_\infty}(W_j) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_{g_i}(W_j) \leq V_0,$$

while (5.5) implies

$$(5.34) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_\infty}(\partial W_j) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq A_0.$$

Finally,

$$(5.35) \quad \text{diam}_N(N) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \text{diam}_N(W_j)$$

$$(5.36) \quad \leq \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(W_j)$$

$$(5.37) \quad \leq \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_i)}(W_j)$$

$$(5.38) \quad \leq \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{diam}_{(M, g_i)}(W_j) + \lambda_{i,j,k}$$

$$(5.39) \quad \leq \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} D_0 + \lambda_{i,j,k}$$

$$(5.40) \quad \leq D_0 + \lambda_0.$$

Thus by Theorem 5.2, we have

$$(5.41) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}((W_j, g_\infty), (N', d_\infty)) = F_j \text{ where } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} F_j = 0.$$

Next, we will apply Theorem 4.6 to show  $M_1 = (W_k, g_\infty)$  and  $M_2 = (M, g_i)$  are close in the intrinsic flat sense by setting  $U_1 = W_j \subset W_k$  and  $U_2 = W_j \subset M$  for some well chosen  $j < k$ . Then the values in the hypothesis of the theorem are

$$(5.42) \quad \epsilon = \epsilon_{i,j} \text{ where } \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \epsilon_{i,j} = 0,$$

$$(5.43) \quad D_{U_2} \leq \text{diam}_{(M, g_i)}(W_j) \leq D_0,$$

$$(5.44) \quad D_{U_1} \leq \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_i)}(W_k) \leq D_0 + \lambda_0,$$

$$(5.45) \quad a = a_{i,j,k} \leq a_{i,j} = 2(D_0 + \lambda_0) \arccos(1 + \epsilon_{i,j})^{-1}/\pi,$$

$$(5.46) \quad \lambda = \lambda_{i,j,k},$$

$$(5.47) \quad h = h_{i,j,k} \leq \sqrt{\lambda_{i,j,k}(D_0 + \lambda_0 + \lambda_{i,j,k}/4)},$$

$$(5.48) \quad \bar{h} = \bar{h}_{i,j,k} \leq \max\{h_{i,j,k}, \sqrt{\epsilon_{i,j}^2 + 2\epsilon_{i,j}(D_0 + \lambda_0)}\}.$$

Thus,

$$(5.49) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}((W_k, g_\infty), (M, g_i)) \leq (\bar{h}_{i,j,k} + a_{i,j,k}) \left( 2V_0 + 2A_0 \right) + 2V_j.$$

Combining this with (5.41), we have for any  $j < k$ ,

$$(5.50) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}((N, g_{\infty}), (M, g_i)) \leq (\bar{h}_{i,j,k} + a_{i,j,k}) (2V_0 + 2A_0) + 2V_j + F_k.$$

Taking the limsup as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$(5.51) \quad d_{\mathcal{F}}((N, g_{\infty}), (M, g_i)) \leq \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} (\bar{h}_{i,j,k} + a_{i,j,k}) (2V_0 + 2A_0) + 2V_j$$

$$(5.52) \quad \leq (\bar{h}_{i,j} + a_{i,j}) (2V_0 + 2A_0) + 2V_j,$$

where

$$(5.53) \quad \bar{h}_{i,j} = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \bar{h}_{i,j,k},$$

$$(5.54) \quad \leq \max\{h_{i,j}, \sqrt{\epsilon_{i,j}^2 + 2\epsilon_{i,j}(D_0 + \lambda_0)}\}$$

and

$$(5.55) \quad h_{i,j} = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} h_{i,j,k} \leq \sqrt{\lambda_{i,j}(D_0 + \lambda_0 + \lambda_{i,j}/4)}.$$

Recall that for any fixed  $j$ ,  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \epsilon_{i,j} = 0$ , thus  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} a_{i,j} = 0$  as well. By the hypothesis  $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j} = \lambda_j$  so

$$(5.56) \quad \bar{h}_j = \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{h}_{i,j} \leq \sqrt{\lambda_j(D_0 + \lambda_0 + \lambda_j/4)}.$$

Thus

$$(5.57) \quad \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{F}}((N, g_{\infty}), (M, g_i)) \leq \bar{h}_j(2V_0 + 2A_0) + 2V_j, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}.$$

By the hypothesis, taking  $j \rightarrow \infty$  we have,

$$(5.58) \quad \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{F}}((N, g_{\infty}), (M, g_i)) = 0.$$

□

### 5.3. Codimension 2 singular sets

The following lemma combined with Theorem 5.2 completes the proof of Theorem 1.3.

**Lemma 5.7.** *Let  $M$  be compact,  $S$  a closed submanifold of codimension 2 and  $\text{diam}_{g_\infty}(M \setminus S) < \infty$  then, any connected precompact exhaustion,  $W_j$ , of  $M \setminus S$  is uniformly well embedded.*

*Proof.* We claim for fixed  $i, j$ ,

$$(5.59) \quad \lambda_{i,j} = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} = 0.$$

Suppose not.

Let  $x_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j,k} \subset \bar{W}_j$  achieve to supremum in the definition of  $\lambda_{i,j}$ .

Since  $\bar{W}_j$  is compact, a subsequence as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  converges to  $x_{i,j}, y_{i,j} \subset \bar{W}_j$ . Let  $\gamma_{i,j}$  be a minimizing geodesic between these points in  $M$  with respect to  $g_i$ . Since  $S$  is a submanifold of codimension 2, we can find a curve  $C_{i,j} : [0, 1] \rightarrow M \setminus S$  between these points such that

$$(5.60) \quad L_{g_i}(C_{i,j}) \leq d_{M,g_i}(x_{i,j}, y_{i,j}) + \lambda_{i,j}/5$$

by sliding  $\gamma_{i,j}$  over slightly to avoid  $S$ .

Let  $k$  be chosen from the subsequence sufficiently large that

$$(5.61) \quad C_{i,j}([0, 1]) \subset W_k,$$

$$(5.62) \quad d_{(\bar{W}_j, g_i)}(x_{i,j,k}, x_{i,j}) < \lambda_{i,j}/10,$$

$$(5.63) \quad d_{(\bar{W}_j, g_i)}(y_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j}) < \lambda_{i,j}/10.$$

Thus  $d_{(\bar{W}_k, g_i)}(x_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j,k}) \leq$

$$(5.64) \quad \leq d_{(\bar{W}_k, g_i)}(x_{i,j,k}, x_{i,j}) + d_{(\bar{W}_k, g_i)}(x_{i,j}, y_{i,j}) + d_{(\bar{W}_k, g_i)}(y_{i,j}, y_{i,j,k})$$

$$(5.65) \quad \leq d_{(\bar{W}_j, g_i)}(x_{i,j,k}, x_{i,j}) + L(C_{i,j}) + d_{(\bar{W}_j, g_i)}(y_{i,j}, y_{i,j,k})$$

$$(5.66) \quad \leq \lambda_{i,j}/10 + d_{M,g_i}(x_{i,j}, y_{i,j}) + \lambda_{i,j}/5 + \lambda_{i,j}/10$$

$$(5.67) \quad \leq 2\lambda_{i,j}/5 + d_{M,g_i}(x_{i,j}, x_{i,j,k}) + d_{M,g_i}(x_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j,k}) + d_{M,g_i}(y_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j})$$

$$(5.68) \quad \leq 2\lambda_{i,j}/5 + d_{W_j, g_i}(x_{i,j}, x_{i,j,k}) + d_{M,g_i}(x_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j,k}) + d_{W_j, g_i}(y_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j})$$

$$(5.69) \quad \leq 3\lambda_{i,j}/5 + d_{M,g_i}(x_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j,k})$$

$$(5.70) \quad \leq 3\lambda_{i,j}/5 + d_{W_k,g_i}(x_{i,j,k}, y_{i,j,k}) - \lambda_{i,j,k},$$

by the choice of  $x_{i,j,k}$  and  $y_{i,j,k}$ . This is a contradiction.

Next, we must show

$$(5.71) \quad \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} \leq \lambda_0.$$

Observe that

$$(5.72) \quad \lambda_{i,j,k} \leq \bar{\lambda}_{i,j,k} = \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_i)}(W_j).$$

Since  $g_i \rightarrow g_\infty$  on  $W_k$  we know

$$(5.73) \quad \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} \leq \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(W_j).$$

We claim that

$$(5.74) \quad \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(W_j) \leq \text{diam}_{(M \setminus S, g_\infty)}(W_j).$$

Suppose not. Then  $\exists \delta > 0$  and a subsequence  $k \rightarrow \infty$  such that

$$(5.75) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(W_j) = L > \text{diam}_{(M \setminus S, g_\infty)}(W_j) + 5\delta.$$

So  $\exists x_k, y_k \in W_j$  such that

$$(5.76) \quad \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(W_j) \leq d_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(x_k, y_k) + \delta.$$

By the precompactness of  $W_j$ , a subsequence of  $x_k \rightarrow x_\infty \in \bar{W}_j$  and  $y_k \rightarrow y_\infty \in \bar{W}_j$ . In particular these subsequences are Cauchy with respect to  $d_{W_j}$ . So there exists  $x, y \in W_j$  such that for  $k$  sufficiently large

$$(5.77) \quad d_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(x_k, x) < \delta \text{ and } d_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(y_k, y) < \delta.$$

There exists a curve  $C : [0, 1] \rightarrow M \setminus S$  such that

$$(5.78) \quad L_{g_\infty}(C) < d_{(M \setminus S, g_\infty)}(x, y) + \delta$$

$$(5.79) \quad < \text{diam}_{(M \setminus S, g_\infty)}(W_j) + \delta$$

$$(5.80) \quad < L - 4\delta.$$

There exists  $k$  sufficiently large such that  $C([0, 1]) \subset W_k$ , so

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.81) \quad L_{g_\infty}(C) &> d_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(x, y) \\
 (5.82) \quad &> d_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(x_k, y_k) - 2\delta \\
 (5.83) \quad &\geq \text{diam}_{(W_k, g_\infty)}(W_j) - 3\delta.
 \end{aligned}$$

Taking  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , we have  $L - 4\delta > L_{g_\infty}(C) \geq L - 3\delta$ , which is a contradiction and proves the claim in (5.74).

Combining (5.73) with (5.74) we have

$$(5.84) \quad \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} \leq \text{diam}_{(M \setminus S, g_\infty)}(W_j)$$

and so

$$(5.85) \quad \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{i,j,k} \leq \text{diam}_{g_\infty}(M \setminus S).$$

□

## 6. Intrinsic flat to GH convergence

There are occasions where one has volume controls as in Theorem 5.2 but one would like to obtain a GH limit. That is not always possible. Example 3.11 has no GH limit despite satisfying the conditions of Theorem 5.2. In Example 3.10 the GH limits and intrinsic flat limits do not agree. However, the second author and Stefan Wenger have shown in [19] that the GH and intrinsic flat limits agree when the sequence of manifolds has nonnegative Ricci curvature or a uniform contractibility function:

**Definition 6.1.** A function  $\rho : [0, r_0] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is a contractibility function for a manifold  $M$  with metric  $g$  if every ball  $B_p(r)$  is contractible within  $B_p(\rho(r))$ .

We review these results in the first subsection.

In the second subsection, we apply the results in [19] on sequences of manifolds with a uniform contractibility function, proving Theorems 6.7 and 6.6.

In the third subsection we use additional properties of manifolds with Ricci curvature bounds to prove additional theorems about GH limits inspired by the techniques in [19]. In particular, we prove Theorems 6.10 and 1.2.



### 6.1. Review of convergence theorems

First recall that Gromov proved a sequence of compact Riemannian manifolds has a subsequence converging in the GH sense if there is a uniform bound on the number of disjoint balls of radius  $r$  that fit in the space [10]. This lead to two compactness theorems:

**Theorem 6.2 (Gromov) [10].** *A sequence of compact Riemannian manifolds,  $(M_j, g_j)$ , such that  $\text{diam}(M_j) \leq D$  and  $\text{Ricci}_{M_j} \geq -H$ , has a subsequence converging in the GH sense to a metric space  $(X, d)$ .*

**Theorem 6.3 (Greene–Petersen) [8].** *A sequence of compact Riemannian manifolds,  $(M_j, g_j)$ , such that  $\text{Vol}(M_j) \leq V$  and such that there is a uniform contractibility function,  $\rho : [0, r_0] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , for all the  $M_j$ , has a subsequence converging in the GH sense to a metric space  $(X, d)$ .*

See Definition 6.1.

In [18] the following theorems were proven which can be applied to deduce information about the GH limit of a sequence.

**Theorem 6.4 (Sormani–Wenger).** *If a sequence of oriented compact Riemannian manifolds,  $(M_j, g_j)$ , such that  $\text{diam}(M_j) \leq D$  and  $\text{Ricci}_{M_j} \geq 0$  and  $\text{vol}(M_j) \geq V_0 > 0$  converges in the GH sense to  $(X, d)$ , then it converges in the intrinsic flat sense to  $(X, d, T)$  (cf. Theorem 4.16 of [19]).*

This theorem is conjectured to hold with uniform lower bounds on Ricci curvature [19].

**Theorem 6.5 (Sormani–Wenger).** *If a sequence of oriented compact Riemannian manifolds,  $(M_j, g_j)$ , with a uniform linear contractibility function,  $\rho : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  and a uniform upper bound on volume,  $\text{Vol}(M_j) \leq V$ , converges in the GH sense to  $(X, d)$ , then it converges in the intrinsic flat sense to  $(X, d, T)$  (cf. Theorem 4.14 of [19]).*

Recall that, in general, the intrinsic flat limits and GH limits need not agree [Examples 3.3 and 3.10] because intrinsic flat limits do not include points with 0 density as in (2.17). In fact intrinsic flat limits may exist when GH limits do not [Example 3.11].

## 6.2. Sequences with uniform contractibility functions

Recall Definition 6.1. Here we apply the results in [19] on sequences of manifolds with a uniform contractibility function, stating and proving Theorems 6.7 and 6.6. Recall Definitions 1.1 and 5.1.

**Theorem 6.6.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of oriented compact Riemannian manifolds with a uniform linear contractibility function,  $\rho$ , which converges smoothly away from a closed submanifold,  $S$ , of codimension two. If there is a connected precompact exhaustion of  $M \setminus S$  as in (1.2) satisfying the volume conditions*

$$(6.1) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(\partial W_j) \leq A_0$$

and

$$(6.2) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq V_j \text{ where } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0,$$

then

$$(6.3) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\text{GH}}(M_j, N) = 0,$$

where  $N$  is the settled and metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

**Theorem 6.7.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of compact oriented Riemannian manifolds with a uniform linear contractibility function,  $\rho$ , which converges smoothly away from a singular set,  $S$ . If there is a uniformly well embedded connected precompact exhaustion of  $M \setminus S$  as in (1.2) satisfying the volume conditions (6.1) and (6.2) then*

$$(6.4) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\text{GH}}(M_j, N) = 0,$$

where  $N$  is the settled and metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

**Remark 6.8.** Example 3.10 has no uniform linear contractibility near the singular set and the GH limit does not agree with the intrinsic flat limit. Examples 3.11 and 3.12, also satisfy all the conditions of Theorems 6.6 and 6.7 except the existence of a uniform linear contractibility function. They have no GH limit.

The excess volume bound in (1.5) is shown to be necessary in Examples 3.7 and 3.8. The codimension two condition of Theorem 6.6 and the

uniform embeddedness hypothesis of Theorem 6.7 are seen to be necessary in Example 3.16. We believe we have an example proving the necessity of the uniform bound on the boundary volumes, (1.4), and discuss this in Remark 3.14.

**Remark 6.9.** It would be interesting to see whether the requirement that the contractibility function is linear is a necessary condition. One might consider adapting the Example by Schul and Wenger in the appendix of [18] to prove this.

*Proof.* By Lemma 5.6, we have

$$(6.5) \quad \text{Vol}(M_i) \leq V_0.$$

This combined with the uniform contractibility function allows us to apply the Greene–Petersen Compactness Theorem. In particular, we have a uniform upper bound on diameter:

$$(6.6) \quad \text{diam}(M_i) \leq D_0.$$

We may now apply Theorem 5.2 to obtain

$$(6.7) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{F}}(M_j, N') = 0.$$

We then apply Theorem 6.5 to see that the flat limit and GH limits agree due to the existence of the uniform linear contractibility function and the fact that the volume is bounded below uniformly by the smooth limit. In particular, the metric completion and the settled completion agree.  $\square$

We now easily prove Theorem 6.6:

*Proof.* This theorem follows from Theorem 6.7 combined with Lemma 5.7.  $\square$

### 6.3. Ricci curvature bounded below

In this subsection, we use additional properties of manifolds with Ricci curvature bounds to prove additional theorems about GH limits inspired by the techniques in [19]. In particular, we prove Theorems 6.10 and 1.2. Recall Definitions 1.1, 1.2 and 5.1.

**Theorem 6.10.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of oriented compact Riemannian manifolds with uniform lower Ricci curvature bounds,*

$$(6.8) \quad \text{Ricci}_{g_i}(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}) \geq (n-1)H_{g_i}(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}), \quad \forall \mathbf{V} \in \text{TM}_i,$$

*which converges smoothly away from a singular set,  $S \subset M$ . If there is a uniformly well embedded connected precompact exhaustion of  $M \setminus S$  as in (1.2) satisfying the volume conditions (1.4) and (1.5), and diameter bound (1.3), then*

$$(6.9) \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} d_{\text{GH}}(M_i, N) = 0,$$

*where  $N$  is the settled and metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .*

When  $H = 0$ , this theorem is an immediate consequence of Theorem 5.2. In fact, we need no diameter assumption in that setting:

**Lemma 6.11.** *Suppose we have a sequence of compact manifolds,  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  with nonnegative Ricci curvature and*

$$(6.10) \quad \text{Vol}(M_i) \leq V_0$$

*converging smoothly away from a singular set to  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  then*

$$(6.11) \quad \text{diam}_{M_i}(W_j) \leq \text{diam}(M_i) \leq D_0, \quad \forall i \geq j,$$

*Proof.* Suppose not. Let  $p \in W \subset \bar{W} \subset M \setminus S$  where  $W$  is precompact and let  $q_i \in M_j$  such that  $d_i = d_i(p, q_i) \rightarrow \infty$ . By smooth convergence on  $W$ , there exists  $r_0 > 0$  such that  $B_p(r_0) \subset M_j$  smoothly converge to a ball in a smooth Riemannian manifold. In particular,  $\text{Vol}_{g_i}(B_p(r_0)) \geq V_1$ . Then, by the Bishop–Gromov Volume Comparison Theorem, we have

$$(6.12) \quad V_0 \geq \text{Vol}(B_q(d_i - r_0))$$

$$(6.13) \quad \geq \frac{(d_i - r_0)^m}{(d_i + r_0)^m - (d_i - r_0)^m} \text{Vol}(\text{Ann}_q(d_i - r_0, d_i + r_0))$$

$$(6.14) \quad \geq \frac{(d_i - r_0)^m}{d_i^m - (d_i - r_0)^m} \text{Vol}(B_p(r_0))$$

$$(6.15) \quad \geq \frac{(d_i - r_0)^m}{2md_i^{m-1}r_0} V_1,$$

which gives a contradiction as  $d_i \rightarrow \infty$ . □

The lemma does not hold for a uniform lower bound on Ricci curvature which is negative, as can be seen by taking a sequence of manifolds approaching a complete noncompact hyperbolic manifold with finite volume.

The following proposition handles the more general lower bounds on Ricci curvature not addressed in [18]:

**Proposition 6.12.** *Let  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  be a sequence of oriented compact Riemannian manifolds with a uniform lower bound on Ricci curvature. Suppose there is a connected precompact exhaustion of  $M \setminus S$  as in (1.2) satisfying the volume conditions*

$$(6.16) \quad \text{Vol}_{g_i}(M \setminus W_j) \leq V_j \text{ where } \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} V_j = 0,$$

$$(6.17) \quad \text{Vol}(M_i) \leq V_0$$

and

$$(6.18) \quad \text{diam}(M_i) \leq D_0, \quad \forall i \geq j.$$

If  $M_i$  converge smoothly away from  $S$  to  $N = (M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ . Suppose also that  $(M, g_i)$  converge in the intrinsic flat sense to  $N'$  where  $N'$  is the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ . Then

$$(6.19) \quad d_{\text{GH}}(M_j, \bar{N}) \rightarrow 0$$

and the metric completion satisfies,  $\bar{N} = N'$ .

*Proof.* By Gromov's Compactness theorem, we know that a subsequence of the Riemannian manifolds  $M_i = (M, g_i)$  converge to a compact metric space  $(Y, d)$ . Thus, a subsequence of the manifolds converges in the intrinsic flat sense to an integral current space,  $(X, d, T)$ , where  $X \subset Y$  [19] [Thm 3.20].

By Theorem 5.2 and the fact that intrinsic flat limits are unique, we know that the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  is  $(X, d, T)$ . In particular, one needs no subsequence to obtain the flat limit.

In the case, where the sequence of metrics has nonnegative Ricci curvature, Theorem 6.4 implies that  $X = Y$ . In particular the settled completion is the metric completion and so the GH limit is the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  and no subsequence was needed.

When the sequence of manifolds has a negative uniform lower bound on Ricci curvature, we may imitate the proof of Theorem 6.4, which appears

in [18]. We must show that every  $y \in Y$  lies in the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

First observe that by the smooth convergence of  $g_i$  away from  $S$ , we know the volumes are uniformly bounded below:

$$(6.20) \quad \text{Vol}_i(M_i) \geq V_0.$$

Thus, we can apply the noncollapsing theory of Cheeger–Colding [5] to see that after possibly taking another subsequence of  $(M, g_i)$  we can control the volumes of the limit space's balls: For all  $y \in Y$ , there exists  $y_i \in M$  such that

$$(6.21) \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_i(B_{y_i}(r)) = \mathcal{H}_m(B_y(r)) \geq V_0(r/D_0)^m > 0,$$

where  $B_y(r) \subset Y$  and  $\mathcal{H}_m$  is the  $m$  dimensional volume. In particular, for  $i$  sufficiently large

$$(6.22) \quad \text{Vol}_i(B_{y_i}(r)) \geq (V_0/2)(r/D_0)^m > 0.$$

Now we choose  $j$  sufficiently large (depending on  $r$ ), so that

$$(6.23) \quad V_j < (V_0/4)(r/D)^m.$$

Then

$$(6.24) \quad \text{Vol}_i(W_j \cap B_{y_i}(r)) \geq \text{Vol}_i(B_{y_i}(r)) - \text{Vol}_i(M \setminus W_j)$$

$$(6.25) \quad > (V_0/4)(r/D_0)^m > 0.$$

Thus, there exists

$$(6.26) \quad z_{r,i} \in W_j \cap B_{y_i}(r) \subset M \setminus S.$$

and

$$(6.27) \quad \text{Vol}_i(W_j \cap B_{z_{r,i}}(2r)) \geq \text{Vol}_i(W_j \cap B_{y_i}(r)).$$

Since  $z_{r,i} \subset W_j \subset \bar{W}_j$ , a subsequence of the  $z_{r,i}$  converge to  $z_{r,\infty} \in \bar{W}_j \subset W_{j+1}$ . Since  $g_i$  converge smoothly to  $g_\infty$  on  $W_{j+1}$ ,

$$(6.28) \quad \text{Vol}_i(W_j \cap B_{z_{r,i}}(2r)) \rightarrow \text{Vol}_\infty(W_j \cap B_{z_{r,\infty}}(2r)).$$

Thus

$$(6.29) \quad \text{Vol}_\infty(W_j \cap B_{z_{r,\infty}}(2r)) \geq (V_0/4)(r/D_0)^m > 0.$$

Note that by (6.26), taking the GH limit we see that

$$(6.30) \quad d(z_{r,\infty}, y) < r.$$

So  $y$  is in the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ . Furthermore,

$$(6.31) \quad \text{Vol}(B_y(3r) \cap (M \setminus S)) \geq \text{Vol}(B_y(3r) \cap W_j)$$

$$(6.32) \quad \geq \text{Vol}(B_{z_{r,\infty}}(2r) \cap W_j)$$

$$(6.33) \quad \geq (V_0/4)(r/D_0)^m > 0,$$

so  $y$  is in the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ .

In particular, the settled completion is the metric completion and so the GH limit is the metric completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$  and no subsequence was needed.  $\square$

We may now prove Theorem 6.10:

*Proof.* The hypothesis (1.3)–(1.5), allow us to apply Theorem 5.2. So  $(M_i, g_i)$  has an intrinsic flat limit and that this intrinsic flat limit is the settled completion of  $(M \setminus S, g_\infty)$ . By Lemma 5.6, we have 6.17. Thus, by Proposition 6.12, the GH and Intrinsic Flat limits agree.  $\square$

We now prove Theorem 1.2, which was stated in the introduction:

*Proof.* This theorem follows from Theorem 6.10 combined with Lemma 5.7.  $\square$

**Remark 6.13.** The Ricci curvature condition is necessary in Theorem 1.2 as can be seen in Examples 3.10 and 3.11, which has no GH limit. The excess volume bound in (1.5) is shown to be necessary in Example 3.7. All these examples satisfy the uniform embeddedness hypothesis of Theorem 6.10 and demonstrate the necessity of these conditions in that theorem as well. By Lemma 6.11, the diameter hypothesis is not necessary when the Ricci curvature is nonnegative although the volume condition is still necessary as seen in Example 3.8. Otherwise we see this is a necessary condition in Example 3.9. We were unable to find an example proving the necessity of the uniform bound on the boundary volumes, (1.4), and suggest this as an open question in Remark 3.15. The codimension two condition of Theorem 1.2

and the uniform embeddedness hypothesis of Theorem 6.10 are seen to be necessary for their respective theorems in Example 3.16.

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