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Seong-Hun Paeng

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A simple generalization of a Willmore-type inequality

Une généralisation simple d'une inégalité de type Willmore

Seong-Hun Paeng^a

^a Department of Mathematics, Konkuk University, 120 Neungdong-ro, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul 05029, Korea
E-mail: shpaeng@konkuk.ac.kr

Abstract. We give a simple generalization of the Willmore-type inequality in [1] without assuming that Ricci curvature is nonnegative everywhere.

Résumé. Nous donnons une généralisation simple de l'inégalité de type Willmore dans [1] sans supposer que la courbure de Ricci est partout non négative.

Keywords. Willmore-type inequality, Ricci curvature.

Mots-clés. Inégalité de type Willmore, courbure de Ricci.

2020 Mathematics Subject Classification. 53C20, 53C42.

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1. Introduction

The classical Willmore inequality for a bounded domain Ω of \mathbb{R}^3 with smooth boundary says that

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} H^2 \, d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} \geq 16\pi,$$

where H is the mean curvature of $\partial\Omega$ and $d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega}$ is the volume form of $\partial\Omega$. In [1], Agostiniani, Fogagnolo, and Mazzieri obtained the following Willmore-type inequality for an n -dimensional complete noncompact Riemannian manifold (M, g) with the nonnegative Ricci curvature and Euclidean volume growth:

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} \left| \frac{H}{n-1} \right|^{n-1} \, d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} \geq \text{AVR}(g) |S^{n-1}|, \quad (1)$$

where $|S^{n-1}|$ is the volume of the standard sphere and $\text{AVR}(g)$ is the asymptotic volume ratio, i.e.

$$\text{AVR}(g) = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n \, \text{vol}(B(p, r))}{r^n |S^{n-1}|},$$

where $B(p, r)$ is the r -ball centered at $p \in M$. They used the monotonicity-rigidity properties of the function $U_\beta(t)$ which is defined as follows:

$$U_\beta(t) = t^{-\beta(\frac{n-1}{n-2})} \int_{\{u=t\}} |\nabla u|^{\beta+1},$$

where u is the harmonic function which vanishes at infinity and $u = 1$ on $\partial\Omega$.

In this paper, we will generalize the inequality without assuming $\text{Ric} \geq 0$ everywhere. The condition $\text{Ric} \geq 0$ is essential in [1] to apply results on harmonic functions.

Let $\rho(q) = \max\{(-\text{Ric}(v, v))_+ \mid |v| = 1, v \in T_q M\}$, where $f_+ = \max\{0, f\}$. We define integral norms \mathcal{R}_{n-1} as follows:

$$\mathcal{R}_{n-1} = \int_M \rho^{n-1} dV,$$

where dV is the volume form of M .

Theorem 1. *Let (M, g) be an n -dimensional complete noncompact Riemannian manifold with Euclidean volume growth and $\text{Ric} \geq 0$ outside $B(p, R_0)$. If $\Omega \subset M$ is a bounded and open subset with smooth boundary, then*

$$\left(\int_{\partial\Omega} \left| \frac{H}{n-1} \right|^{n-1} d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \geq (\text{AVR}(g) |S^{n-1}|)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} - \frac{(2R_0)^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}} (\mathcal{R}_{n-1})^{\frac{1}{n-1}}}{n-1}. \tag{2}$$

If $\text{Ric} \geq 0$, then $\mathcal{R}_{n-1} = 0$, so we obtain (1).

2. Proof of Theorem 1

We will use the following notations. Let

$$\Omega_t = \{x \in M \mid d(x, \Omega) \leq t\}$$

$$\partial\Omega_t = \{x \in M \mid d(x, \Omega) = t\}.$$

Let γ_q be the outward normal geodesic such that $\gamma_q(0) = q$ and $\gamma'_q(0)$ is perpendicular to $\partial\Omega$ for $q \in \partial\Omega$. Let

$$t_q = \max\{t \mid d(\gamma_q(t), \partial\Omega) = t\}.$$

Then we have

$$M \setminus \Omega = \bigcup_{q \in \partial\Omega} \{\gamma_q(t) \mid t \leq t_q\}.$$

We denote by g_t the induced metric of $\partial\Omega_t$ from the metric g of M . Let $d\text{vol}_t$ be the volume form of $\partial\Omega_t$ induced from g_t . Then the volume form $d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega}$ of $\partial\Omega$ is $d\text{vol}_0$ and the volume form of M satisfies $dV = dt \wedge d\text{vol}_t$. By identifying $\gamma_q(t) \in \partial\Omega_t$ with $q \in \partial\Omega$ for $t \leq t_q$, we define $\omega(t, q)$ and $h(t, q)$ as follows:

$$d\text{vol}_t = \omega(t, \cdot) d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \omega(t, q) = h(t, q) \omega(t, q), \tag{4}$$

where $h(t, \cdot)$ is the mean curvature of $\partial\Omega_t$. So $H = h(0, \cdot)$. We abbreviate $\omega(t, q)$ and $h(t, q)$ to $\omega(t)$ and $h(t)$, respectively. For $t < t_q$, h satisfies

$$h' + \frac{h^2}{n-1} \leq -\text{Ric} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right), \tag{5}$$

where $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \gamma'_q(t)$ and $|\frac{\partial}{\partial t}| = 1$. For $t > t_q$, we let $\omega(t) = 0$. Then $\omega(t)$ is defined for all $t > 0$ and $\text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega) = \int_0^t \int_{\partial\Omega} \omega(s, q) d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} ds$. Furthermore, $\omega'(t) = h(t)\omega(t)$ for $t < t_q$ and $\omega'(t) = 0$ for $t > t_q$. We denote left and right limits $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^-} f(t + \delta)$ and $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} f(t + \delta)$ by $f(t-)$ and $f(t+)$, respectively.

Let

$$\psi(t) = \begin{cases} h_+(t) & \text{if } t < t_q \\ h_+(t-) & \text{if } t = t_q \\ 0 & \text{if } t > t_q, \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

where $h_+(t) = \max\{h(t), 0\}$. Then we have

$$\omega'(t) \leq \psi(t)\omega(t) \tag{7}$$

for $t < t_q$. Also $\psi' = h'$ on $\{h(t) > 0\}$ and $\psi' = 0$ for $t > t_q$.

Although both ω and ψ are continuous along $\gamma_q(t)$ for $t \neq t_q$, they are left continuous for all $t > 0$, i.e. $\omega(t-) = \omega(t)$ and $\psi(t-) = \psi(t)$ for all $t > 0$. Even if ω is not continuous at $t = t_q$, the left derivative $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0-} \frac{\omega(t+\delta) - \omega(t)}{\delta}$ is well defined for any $t > 0$. On the other hand, the right derivative $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\omega(t+\delta) - \omega(t)}{\delta}$ is not well defined, i.e. it can be $-\infty$. For a while, we will abbreviate the left derivative $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0-} \frac{f(t+\delta) - f(t)}{\delta}$ to $f'(t)$ for simplicity.

The left derivative $\omega'(t)$ is bounded on $[0, T] \times \partial\Omega$ for $T > 0$ by the Jacobi equation $J'' = R(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}, J)\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$, where R is the curvature tensor and J is the Jacobi field. Also $(\psi^{n-1})'(t)$ is bounded on $[0, T] \times \partial\Omega$ since $h'(t) \neq -\infty$ (i.e. $\gamma_q(t)$ is not a focal point) at t when $h(t) \geq 0$.

Since $\rho = \max\{(-\text{Ric}(v, v))_+ \mid |v| = 1, v \in T_qM\}$, (5) becomes

$$\psi' + \frac{\psi^2}{n-1} \leq \rho, \tag{8}$$

where we also let $\rho(\gamma_q(t)) = 0$ if $t > t_q$. We let

$$\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t) = \int_{\partial\Omega_t} \psi^{n-1} \, d\text{vol}_t = \int_{\partial\Omega} \psi^{n-1} \omega.$$

Since $(\psi^{n-1}\omega)(t-) = (\psi^{n-1}\omega)(t)$ for every t , $\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)$ is left continuous, i.e.

$$\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t-) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0-} \int_{\partial\Omega} (\psi^{n-1}\omega)(t+\delta) = \int_{\partial\Omega} (\psi^{n-1}\omega)(t) = \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t) \tag{9}$$

by the dominated convergence theorem.

Since $\frac{(\psi^{n-1}\omega)(t+\delta) - (\psi^{n-1}\omega)(t)}{\delta} \leq 0$ for $t > t_q$ and $\delta < 0$, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\psi^{n-1}(t+\delta)\omega(t+\delta) - \psi^{n-1}(t)\omega(t)}{\delta} \\ & \leq \int_{\{q \in \partial\Omega \mid t \leq t_q\}} \frac{(\psi^{n-1}(t+\delta) - \psi^{n-1}(t))\omega(t+\delta) + \psi^{n-1}(t)(\omega(t+\delta) - \omega(t))}{\delta} \\ & \quad \rightarrow \int_{\{q \in \partial\Omega \mid t \leq t_q\}} (\psi^{n-1})' \omega + \psi^{n-1} \omega' = \int_{\partial\Omega} (\psi^{n-1})' \omega + \psi^{n-1} \omega' \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

as $\delta \rightarrow 0-$ by the dominated convergence theorem for $t \leq t_q$ and $\omega(t) = \psi(t) = 0$ for $t > t_q$.

From now on, we redefine $f'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} f(t)$ as follows:

$$f'(t) := \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0-} \frac{f(t+\delta) - f(t)}{\delta}.$$

We call $f'(t)$ the left derivative of f for simplicity. Then the left derivative $\mathcal{H}'_{n-1}(t)$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\partial\Omega_t} \psi^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\partial\Omega} \psi^{n-1} \omega \\ &= \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0^-} \left(\int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\psi^{n-1}(t+\delta)\omega(t+\delta) - \psi^{n-1}(t)\omega(t)}{\delta} \right) \\ &\leq \int_{\partial\Omega} (\psi^{n-1})' \omega + \psi^{n-1} \omega' \\ &\leq \int_{\partial\Omega} \psi^{n-2} ((n-1)\psi' + \psi^2) \omega \\ &\leq (n-1) \int_{\partial\Omega_t} \psi^{n-2} \rho d\text{vol}_t \\ &\leq (n-1) \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \psi^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n-1}} \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \rho^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

by (8), (10).

Proposition 2. *For sufficiently large t , we have*

$$\left(\int_{\partial\Omega} |H|^{n-1} d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \geq \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} - (2R_0)^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}} (\mathcal{R}_{n-1})^{\frac{1}{n-1}}. \tag{12}$$

Proof. Since $\int_{\partial\Omega} |H|^{n-1} \geq \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(0)$, we only need to show that

$$\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} - \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(0)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \leq (2R_0)^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}} (\mathcal{R}_{n-1})^{\frac{1}{n-1}}.$$

By (11),

$$\frac{\mathcal{H}'_{n-1}(t)}{(n-1)\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{n-2}{n-1}}} \leq \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \rho^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \tag{13}$$

if $\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t) \neq 0$.

If $g(x) = x^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$ and f is left continuous, then the left derivative $g(f)'$ satisfies that

$$\begin{aligned} g(f)'(a) &= \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0^-} \left(\frac{g(f(a+\delta)) - g(f(a))}{f(a+\delta) - f(a)} \right) \left(\frac{f(a+\delta) - f(a)}{\delta} \right) \\ &= g'(f(a))f'(a) \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

if $f(a) \neq 0$. By (13) and (14), the left derivative $\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$ satisfies that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \right) \leq \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \rho^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \tag{15}$$

if $\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t) \neq 0$. If $\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t) = 0$, then the left derivative $(\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t))^{\frac{1}{n-1}}' \leq 0$ since $\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(s)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \geq 0$ for any s . Thus (15) holds for any t .

Lemma 3. *Let f and $g \geq 0$ be left continuous on $[a, b]$ and $f(t) \geq f(t+)$ for all $t \in [a, b]$. If the left derivative f' satisfies that $f'(t) \leq g(t)$ for any t and g is bounded, then*

$$f(b) - f(a) \leq \int_a^b g.$$

Proof. For $\eta > 0$, let $I = \{x \in [a, b] \mid f(b) - f(x) \leq \int_x^b (g(t) + \eta) dt\}$ and $A = \inf I$. Then it is clear that $b \in I$. First, we show that $A \in I$. If not, there is a sequence $a_n \in I$ such that $a_n \rightarrow A$. Since $f(A) \geq f(A+)$, we have

$$f(b) - f(A) \leq f(b) - f(A+) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{a_n}^b (g(t) + \eta) dt = \int_A^b (g(t) + \eta) dt.$$

Hence we obtain that $A \in I$.

Now we show that $A = a$. If not, for s satisfying $a \leq s < A$,

$$f(b) - f(s) > \int_s^b (g(t) + \eta) dt.$$

Since $f(b) - f(A) \leq \int_A^b (g(t) + \eta) dt$, we have

$$f(A) - f(s) > \int_s^A (g(t) + \eta) dt.$$

Then

$$f'(A) = \limsup_{s \rightarrow A^-} \frac{f(A) - f(s)}{A - s} \geq \limsup_{s \rightarrow A^-} \frac{1}{A - s} \int_s^A (g(t) + \eta) dt = g(A) + \eta$$

since g is left continuous. But this is a contradiction to our assumption. So we obtain that $A = a$, i.e. $f(b) - f(a) \leq \int_a^b (g(t) + \eta) dt$. Since η is arbitrarily chosen, letting $\eta \rightarrow 0$, we obtain Lemma 3. □

By the same reason that \mathcal{H}_{n-1} is left continuous, $(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \rho^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$ is left continuous. Hence, by (15) and Lemma 3 with $f = \mathcal{H}_{n-1}$ and $g = (\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \rho^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$,

$$\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} - \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(0)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \leq \int_0^t \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_s} \rho^{n-1} d\text{vol}_s \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} ds. \tag{16}$$

Since the diameter of $B(p, R_0)$ is not larger than $2R_0$, $B(p, R_0) \setminus \Omega \subset \Omega_{t_0+2R_0} \setminus \Omega_{t_0}$ for some $t_0 \geq 0$. For $t > t_0 + 2R_0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} - \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(0)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} &\leq \int_{t_0}^{t_0+2R_0} \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_s} \rho^{n-1} d\text{vol}_s \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} ds \\ &\leq \left(\int_M \rho^{n-1} dV \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} (2R_0)^{\frac{n-2}{n-1}}, \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

so we have Proposition 2. □

Now we calculate $\mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)$ with $\text{vol}(\partial\Omega_t)$. Let $A(t) = \text{vol}_t(\partial\Omega_t) = \int_{\partial\Omega} \omega(t, \cdot)$. Then $A(t)$ is left continuous similarly as in (9). Similarly as in (11),

$$\begin{aligned} A'(t) &\leq \int_{\partial\Omega} \omega' \\ &\leq \int_{\partial\Omega_t} \psi d\text{vol}_t \\ &\leq \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \psi^{n-1} d\text{vol}_t \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} d\text{vol}_t \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n-1}} \\ &\leq \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} A(t)^{\frac{n-2}{n-1}}. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

by (7). By (14), (18), and the left continuity of $A(t)$,

$$(n-1)(A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t))' \leq \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(t)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}. \tag{19}$$

From Proposition 2, we obtain that

$$\left(\int_{\partial\Omega} |H|^{n-1} d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \geq (n-1)(A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t))' - (2R_0)^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}} (\mathcal{H}_{n-1})^{\frac{1}{n-1}}. \tag{20}$$

Now we calculate the left derivative $(A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t))'$ with AVR(g).

Lemma 4. *Let $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ have left derivative and satisfy $f(t+) \leq f(t)$ for all t . If $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(t)}{t} = a > 0$, then the left derivative $f'(t)$ satisfies*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} f'(t) \geq a. \tag{21}$$

Proof. Assume $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} f'(t) < a - 2\epsilon < a$. Then there exists $r_0 > 0$ such that $f'(t) < a - \epsilon$ for $t \geq r_0$. Take a large $R > r_0$. By Lemma 3,

$$f(R) - f(r_0) \leq \int_{r_0}^R (a - \epsilon) = (a - \epsilon)(R - r_0), \tag{22}$$

which implies that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(t)}{t} \leq a - \epsilon.$$

It is a contradiction to our condition. Hence,

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} f'(t) \geq a, \tag{23}$$

which completes the proof of Lemma 4. □

We let $f(t) = \text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega)^{\frac{1}{n}}$, where $\text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega) = \int_0^t \int_{\partial\Omega} \omega(s, q) \, d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} \, ds$. Although $\text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega)$ may not be differentiable since $\omega(t)$ is not continuous at t_q , f is continuous. We can obtain the left derivative as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega) = \int_{\partial\Omega} \omega(t, q) \, d\text{vol}_{\partial\Omega} = A(t). \tag{24}$$

Since $\text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega)$ is continuous, the left derivative satisfies

$$f'(t) = \frac{1}{n} \frac{A(t)}{\text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}}$$

by (14).

Since $\frac{\text{vol}(\Omega_R \setminus \Omega)}{\text{vol}(B(p, R))} \rightarrow 1$ as $R \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(t)}{t} = \left(\frac{\text{AVR}(g) |S^{n-1}|}{n} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}}. \tag{25}$$

From $f'(t) = \frac{1}{n} \frac{A(t)}{\text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}}$ and Lemma 4, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\text{AVR}(g) |S^{n-1}|}{n} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} &\leq \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} f'(t) = \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{A(t)}{\text{vol}(\Omega_t \setminus \Omega)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}} \\ &= \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{A(t)}{\text{vol}(B(p, t))^{\frac{n-1}{n}}}. \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

Although $A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t)$ may not be continuous, we have $A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t+) \leq A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t)$ since $\omega(t) \geq \omega(t+)$. By Lemma 4 and (25), (26),

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} (A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t))' &\geq \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t)}{t} \\ &\geq n^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\text{AVR}(g) |S^{n-1}|}{n} \right)^{\frac{1}{n(n-1)}} \frac{\text{vol}(B(p, t))^{\frac{1}{n}}}{t} \\ &= \left(\text{AVR}(g) |S^{n-1}| \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, from (20),

$$\left(\int_{\partial\Omega} \left(\frac{|H|}{n-1} \right)^{n-1} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \geq \left(\text{AVR}(g) |S^{n-1}| \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} - \frac{1}{n-1} (2R_0)^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}} (\mathcal{R}_{n-1})^{\frac{1}{n-1}},$$

which completes the proof of Theorem 1.

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