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CONVERGENCE OF RIEMANNIAN MANIFOLDS AND ALBANESE TORI

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0. Introduction

The purpose of this note is to prove the convergence of the Albanese tori of compact Riemannian manifolds which collapse to a lower dimensional space while keeping their curvatures and diameters bounded.

Given a compact Riemannian manifold M , we denote by $H^1(M)$ the space of harmonic one-forms on M equipped with an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ defined by

$$\langle \omega, \eta \rangle = \int_M (\omega, \eta) d\mu_M,$$

where μ_M stands for the normalized Riemannian measure of M with unit mass, $\mu_M = d\text{vol}_M / \text{Vol}(M)$. Let $H^1(M)_Z$ be a lattice of $H^1(M)$ which consists of harmonic one-forms of integral periods. Dividing the dual space $H^1(M)^*$ by the dual lattice $H^1(M)_Z^*$, we obtain a flat torus, called the Albanese torus of M ,

$$\mathcal{A}(M) = H^1(M)^* / H^1(M)_Z^*.$$

We may view $\mathcal{A}(M)$ as a map of the set of isometry classes of compact Riemannian manifolds M onto that of flat tori.

Given a positive integer m , a nonnegative number χ and a positive one D , we write $\mathcal{S}(m, \chi, D)$ for the set of isometry classes of compact Riemannian m -manifolds M such that the Ricci curvature of M is bounded from below by $-(m-1)\chi^2$ and the diameter of M is bounded from above by D . Then according to Gromov [7], for a Riemannian manifold M in $\mathcal{S}(m, \chi, D)$, the dimension of the Albanese torus $\mathcal{A}(M)$, namely, the first Betti number $b_1(M)$, has an upper bound depending only on the dimension m of M and χD . Using this, we shall show the following

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Theorem 1. *Given $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $\kappa \geq 0$ and $D > 0$, there is a constant C depending only on m and κD such that*

$$\text{diam}(\mathcal{A}(M)) \leq C \text{diam}(M)$$

for any M in $\mathcal{S}(m, \kappa, D)$.

We would like to ask if the convergence of compact Riemannian manifolds in $\mathcal{S}(m, \kappa, D)$ with respect to the spectral distance would imply the convergence of their Albanese tori. Here we recall the definition of a *spectral distance* between two compact Riemannian manifolds which was introduced in [9]. Given two compact Riemannian manifolds M and N , a mapping $f : M \rightarrow N$ is called an ε -spectral approximation if

$$e^{-(1/t+\varepsilon)} |p_M(t, x, y) - p_N(t, f(x), f(y))| < \varepsilon$$

for all $t > 0$, and for all points x, y of M , where $p_M(t, x, y)$ and $p_N(t, u, v)$ denote respectively the heat kernel of M in $L^2(M, \mu_M)$ and that of N in $L^2(N, \mu_N)$. The spectral distance, $SD(M, N)$, between M and N is by definition the lower bound of the positive numbers ε such that there exist ε -spectral approximations $f : M \rightarrow N$ and $h : N \rightarrow M$. According to [9], we know that (i) the metric space $(\mathcal{S}(m, \kappa, D), SD)$ is precompact; (ii) the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of compact Riemannian manifolds in $\mathcal{S}(m, \kappa, D)$ are continuous with respect to the spectral distance in a certain sense; (iii) the topology on $\mathcal{S}(m, \kappa, D)$ induced by the spectral distance is finer than that of measured Hausdorff convergence introduced by Fukaya [3] and hence that of the Gromov-Hausdorff distance. Moreover if we denote by $\mathcal{K}(m, \kappa, D)$ the set of isometry classes of compact Riemannian m -manifolds such that the sectional curvatures are bounded by κ^2 in the absolute values and the diameters are not greater than D , then the topologies of the spectral distance and the measured Hausdorff convergence coincide on this set $\mathcal{K}(m, \kappa, D)$. See [3], [8] and [9] for details. We note also that the spectral distance and the Gromov-Hausdorff distance induce the same topology on the set of flat tori.

The following theorem shows that the above question is affirmative if we restrict ourselves to the class $\mathcal{K}(m, \kappa, D)$ for given numbers m, κ , and D .

Theorem 2. *Let $\{M_i\}$ be a sequence in $\mathcal{K}(m, \kappa, D)$ which converges with respect to the spectral distance. Then the Albanese torus $\mathcal{A}(M_i)$ converges to a flat torus \mathcal{A}_∞ of dimension n with $0 \leq n \leq \liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} b_1(M_i)$.*

Here in our convention, \mathcal{A}_∞ stands for a point when $n=0$. We remark also that under the assumption of this theorem, we are able to show the convergence of the Albanese maps in a certain sense. See Section 3 for details.

The proofs of Theorems 1 and 2 are respectively given in Sections 2 and 3. For the latter, we shall basically make use of some results in [8]. In this sense, the

present paper is a continuation of [8].

1. Albanese Tori

In this section, we shall consider a compact Riemannian manifold M endowed with a certain measure μ and define the Albanese torus and the Albanese map of such a pair (M, μ) (cf. [10], [11]).

Let $M=(M, g_M)$ be a compact Riemannian manifold of dimension m and μ a measure on M with smooth density function $\chi > 0$. A one-form ω on M is said to be μ -harmonic if ω is closed and co-closed with respect to μ , namely, $d\omega=0$ and

$$\delta_\mu\omega := -\text{trace}(\nabla\omega) - \omega(\nabla\log \chi)=0.$$

In other words, μ -harmonic one-form ω can be expressed locally as the differential of an L_μ -harmonic function f , $\omega=df$. Here a smooth function f defined on an open set in M is called an L_μ -harmonic function if

$$L_\mu f := \frac{1}{\chi}\text{div}(\chi\nabla f) = \Delta f + \nabla\log \chi \cdot f = 0.$$

We denote by $H^1(M, \mu)$ the space of μ -harmonic one-forms on M and by $H^1(M, \mu)_Z$ the lattice of $H^1(M, \mu)$ which consists of one-forms with integral periods. The vector space $H^1(M, \mu)$ is endowed with an L^2 inner product \langle , \rangle defined by

$$\langle \omega, \eta \rangle_\mu = \int_M (\omega, \eta) d\mu.$$

The norm of $\omega \in H^1(M, \mu)$ is denoted by $\|\omega\|_\mu$.

Similarly, given a compact Riemannian manifold N , we say a smooth mapping ψ of M into N is μ -harmonic if it satisfies

$$\tau(\psi) + d\psi(\nabla\log \chi) = 0,$$

where $\tau(\psi)$ stands for the tension field of the mapping ψ . A μ -harmonic mapping ψ is a stationary point of the energy functional

$$E_\mu(\psi) = \int_M e(\psi) d\mu.$$

When N is a circle of length 1, $N=R/Z$, we write $\mathcal{H}(M, \mu; R/Z)$ for the set of μ -harmonic mappings of M into R/Z , which forms an additive group in an obvious manner. Since the derivative $d\psi$ of a smooth mapping ψ of M into R/Z may be considered as an integral one-form on L , we have a natural surjective homomorphism d of $\mathcal{H}(M, \mu; R/Z)$ onto $H^1(M, \mu)_Z$ whose kernel is the set of constant mappings $\theta \in R/Z$. We note that the homomorphism d preserves the norms in the sense that

$$E_\mu(\psi) = \langle d\psi, d\psi \rangle_\mu$$

for $\phi \in \mathcal{H}(M, \mu; R/Z)$.

The Albanese torus $\mathcal{A}(M, \mu)$ of a pair (M, μ) is by definition a flat torus derived from dividing the dual space $H^1(M, \mu)^*$ by the dual lattice $H^1(M, \mu)_Z^*$,

$$\mathcal{A}(M, \mu) = H^1(M, \mu)^* / H^1(M, \mu)_Z^*.$$

Let \tilde{M} be the universal covering of M and π the projection of \tilde{M} onto M . If we fix a point p of M and take a point \tilde{p} of \tilde{M} with $\pi(\tilde{p}) = p$, then we have a map $\tilde{J}_{M,\mu}$ of \tilde{M} into the dual space $H^1(M, \mu)^*$ defined by

$$\tilde{J}_{M,\mu}(\tilde{x})(\omega) = \int_{\tilde{p}}^{\tilde{x}} \pi^* \omega.$$

This map induces a μ -harmonic map $J_{M,\mu}$ of M into $\mathcal{A}(M, \mu)$ (with $J_{M,\mu}(p) = 0$). We call $J_{M,\mu}$ the Albanese map of a pair (M, μ) .

Let $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_r\}$ be a basis of $H^1(M, \mu)_Z$ and $\Omega^* = \{\omega_1^*, \dots, \omega_r^*\}$ the dual basis. Then a diffeomorphism T_Ω of $\mathcal{A}(M, \mu)$ onto R^r/Z^r is derived from a linear isomorphism of $H^1(M, \mu)^*$ onto R^r :

$$\theta_1 \omega_1^* + \dots + \theta_r \omega_r^* \rightarrow (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_r).$$

If we set a metric g_Ω on R^r/Z^r by

$$g_\Omega = \sum_{\alpha, \beta=1, \dots, r} \langle \omega_\alpha^*, \omega_\beta^* \rangle_\mu d\theta_\alpha d\theta_\beta,$$

then T_Ω induces an isometry between $\mathcal{A}(M, \mu)$ and $(R^r/Z^r, g_\Omega)$. Moreover if we take a μ -harmonic map $\psi_\alpha: M \rightarrow R/Z$ in such a way that

$$\psi_\alpha(p) = 0, \quad \omega_\alpha = d\psi_\alpha,$$

we see that

$$T_\Omega \circ J_{M,\mu}(x) = (\psi_1(x), \dots, \psi_r(x))$$

for $x \in M$. Here we remark that

$$E_\mu(J_{M,\mu}) = b_1(M).$$

Given a pair (M, μ) , we define a symmetric tensor $Ric_{M,\mu}$ by

$$Ric_{M,\mu} = Ric_M - \frac{1}{\chi} \nabla^2 \chi (= Ric_M - d \log \chi \otimes d \log \chi - \nabla^2 \log \chi),$$

where Ric_M (resp., χ) stands for the Ricci tensor of M (resp., the density function of $\mu, \mu = \chi d \text{vol}_M$). Given m, χ and D as before, we denote by $\mathcal{S}_w^*(m, \chi, D)$ the set of equivalence classes of pairs (M, μ) such that $\dim M = m$, the diameter $\text{diam}(M)$ of $M \leq D$, μ has unit mass, and $Ric_{M,\mu} \geq -(m-1)\chi^2 g_M$. Here we say two pairs (M, μ) and (N, ν) are equivalent when there is an isometry $f: M \rightarrow N$ which preserves the measures, $f_* \mu = \nu$. We remark that the spectral distance SD can be defined on the set of equivalence classes of pairs (M, μ) . See [9] for some properties

of the metric space $(\mathcal{S}_w^*(m, \chi, D), SD)$ as mentioned in Introduction.

In what follows, when μ is the canonical Riemannian measure μ_M with unit mass, $\mu_M = d\text{vol}/\text{Vol}(M)$, we omit to indicate the dependency of the measure μ_M in some of the above notations (for example, $\mathcal{A}(M)$ stands for $\mathcal{A}(M, \mu_M)$).

2. Proof of Theorem 1

We recall first that there is a positive constant C' depending only on m and χD such that

$$(2.1) \quad e(\psi) \leq C' E_{\mu_M}(\psi)$$

for all $\psi \in \mathcal{H}(M; R/Z)$, because the energy density $e(\psi)$ satisfies

$$\Delta e(\psi) \geq -2(m-1)\chi^2 e(\psi)$$

(cf. e.g., [8-a, §4]). In addition, we note that if ψ is not constant, the energy density $e(\psi)$ must be greater than or equal to $1/4 \text{diam}(M)^2$ somewhere on M (otherwise, the distance between $\psi(p)$ and $\psi(q)$ in R/Z for any pair of points p, q of M would be less than $1/2$, and hence the harmonic map ψ should be constant). Therefore we have

$$E_{\mu_M}(\psi) \geq \frac{1}{4C' \text{diam}(M)^2}$$

for all nonconstant $\psi \in \mathcal{H}(M; R/Z)$; in other words,

$$\langle \omega, \omega \rangle_{\mu_M} \geq \frac{1}{4C' \text{diam}(M)^2}$$

for all nonzero $\omega \in H^1(M)_Z$. This implies that the first eigenvalue $\lambda_1(\mathcal{A}(M))$ is bounded from below by $\pi^2/C' \text{diam}(M)^2$. On the other hand, we know that

$$\lambda_1(\mathcal{A}(M)) \leq \frac{C''}{\text{diam}(\mathcal{A}(M))^2}$$

for some constant C'' depending only on the dimension of $\mathcal{A}(M)$, and hence on m and χD , since

$$(2.2) \quad b_1(M) \leq \frac{v_m(\chi^2, 5\text{diam}(M))}{v_m(\chi^2, \text{diam}(M))},$$

where $v_m(\chi^2, r)$ stands for the volume of a metric ball in the simply connected space form of dimension m with constant curvature χ^2 (cf. [7]). Thus the assertion of Theorem 1 is clear. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

Let (M, μ) be a pair in $\mathcal{S}_w^*(m, \chi, D)$. Then it is not hard to see that the above submean value inequality (2.1) holds for any μ -harmonic map $\psi \in \mathcal{H}(M, \mu; R/Z)$ (cf. e.g., [8-a, §4]). Moreover it follows from the same reason as in deriving (2.2)

that

$$b_1(M) \leq \frac{v_{m+1}(\chi^2, 5\text{diam}(M))}{v_{m+1}(\chi^2, \text{diam}(M))},$$

because we have a Bishop-Gromov type inequality for the pair (M, μ) (cf. [9, §2]). Thus Theorem 1 holds for (M, μ) . Namely we have

Theorem 1'. *Given m, χ and D as before, there is a constant C' depending only on m and χD such that*

$$\text{diam}(\mathcal{A}(M, \mu)) \leq C' \text{diam}(M).$$

for all $(M, \mu) \in \mathcal{S}_w^*(m, \chi, D)$.

REMARKS. (1) When $\chi=0$ in Theorem 1, the classical Bochner theorem says that any harmonic one-form is parallel, so that J_M is a Riemannian submersion with totally geodesic fibers and in particular the diameter of $\mathcal{A}(M)$ is less than or equal to the diameter of M ($C=1$ in Theorem 1). This is also true for Theorem 1' (cf. [12]). (2) A slightly different proof of Theorem 1 is presented in [6].

3. Proof of Theorem 2

The proof of the theorem is divided into 4 steps and the same notations as in the preceding sections will be used.

Step 1. We shall start with recalling the notions of convergence of Gromov-Hausdorff distance and measured Hausdorff topology introduced by Gromov [7] and Fukaya [3] respectively. Given a sequence of compact Riemannian manifolds, $\{M_i\}$, we say that M_i converges to a compact metric space X with respect to the Gromov-Hausdorff distance, if there are a sequence of positive numbers $\{\varepsilon_i\}$ with $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_i = 0$ and mappings $f_i: M_i \rightarrow X$ such that the ε -neighborhood of $f_i(M_i)$ covers X and $|d_{M_i}(x, y) - d_X(f_i(x), f_i(y))| < \varepsilon$ for all x, y of M_i . Moreover we say that $M_i = (M_i, \mu_{M_i})$ converges to a pair (X, μ) of X and a Borel measure μ on X with respect to the measured Hausdorff topology, if f_i are Borel measurable and the push-forward $f_{i*}\mu_{M_i}$ of the normalized Riemannian measure μ_{M_i} via f_i converges to μ in the weak* topology.

Let M_i be a sequence in $\mathcal{H}(m, \chi, D)$ which converges to a compact metric space M_∞ with respect to the Gromov-Hausdorff distance. Then there is a smooth manifold F_∞ with metric of class $C^{1,\alpha}$ (for any $\alpha \in (0, 1)$), on which the orthogonal group $O(m)$ acts by isometries in such a way that the quotient space $F_\infty/O(m)$ is isometric to M_∞ . In fact, F_∞ is a limit of the set of the frame bundles FM_i of M_i equipped with a canonical metric so that the action of $O(m)$ is isometric, the projection of FM_i onto M_i is a Riemannian submersion with totally geodesic fibers, and the sectional curvature of FM_i remains bounded uniformly in i . When M_∞ is smooth, there is a fibration $\Phi_i: M_i \rightarrow M_\infty$ (for large i) and a sequence of

positive numbers $\{\varepsilon_i\}$ with $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_i = 0$ satisfying

- (1) for all $z \in M_\infty$, the diameter of $\Phi_i^{-1}(z) \leq \varepsilon_i$;
- (2) Φ_i is an ε_i -almost Riemannian submersion, that is, for all $z \in M_\infty$, $x \in \Phi_i^{-1}(z)$ and $X \in T_x M_i$ normal to the fiber $\Phi_i^{-1}(z)$,

$$(1 - \varepsilon_i)|d\Phi_i(X)| \leq |X| \leq (1 + \varepsilon_i)|d\phi_i(X)|;$$

- (3) the second fundamental form of the submersion Φ_i is bounded uniformly in i .

For these assertions, see [2], [4] and [5].

Now as in Theorem 2, we suppose that M_i converges to (M_∞, μ_∞) with respect to the spectral distance and hence the measured Hausdorff topology. Then we may assume that the push-forward $\Phi_{i*} \mu_{M_i}$ of the canonical Riemannian measure μ_{M_i} of M_i converges to μ_∞ in the weak* topology. In case M_∞ is smooth, the density function χ_∞ of μ_∞ is a positive function of class $C^{1,\alpha}$. Moreover we may assume that the above submersion Φ_i has the following property: for all smooth function h on M_∞ ,

$$(4) \quad |\Delta_{M_i} \Phi_i^*(h) - \Phi_i^*(L_{\mu_\infty} h)| \leq \varepsilon_i \Phi_i^*(|Ddh| + |dh|).$$

See [8-a] for this and further properties of Φ_i .

In the following Steps 2 and 3, we consider the case that the limit metric space M_∞ is a smooth manifold, and assume that the metric of M_∞ and the density χ_∞ are smooth, to avoid some technical argument of approximation. Moreover $\{\varepsilon_i\}$ stands for a sequence of positive constants which tends to zero as i goes to infinity.

Step 2. Given a μ_∞ -harmonic one-form $\omega \in H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$, the pull-back $\Phi_i^* \omega$ can be uniquely expressed as

$$\Phi_i^* \omega = \Gamma_i(\omega) + d\Lambda_i(\omega)$$

according to the orthogonal decomposition of d -closed one-forms $Z(M_i)$ of M_i ,

$$Z^1(M_i) = H^1(M_i, \mu_{M_i}) \oplus dC^\infty(M_i).$$

Here the function $\Lambda_i(\omega)$ is chosen in such a way that

$$\int_{M_i} \Lambda_i(\omega) d\mu_i = 0.$$

Now we claim that

$$(3.1) \quad |\Phi_i^* \omega - \Gamma_i(\omega)|_{C^0(M_i)} = |d\Lambda_i(\omega)|_{C^0(M_i)} \leq \varepsilon_i$$

for any $\omega \in H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ with unit norm, $\|\omega\|_{\mu_\infty} = 1$. Indeed, we fix a sufficiently small a and consider the metric ball $B_\infty(p, 3a)$ of M_∞ around a point p of radius $3a$. Let f be an L_∞ -harmonic function on $B_\infty(p, 3a)$ such that $\omega = df$ and

$$\int_{B_\infty(p, 3a)} f d\mu_\infty = 0.$$

Then applying the Poincaré inequality, we have first

$$\int_{B_\infty(p, 3a)} |f|^2 d\mu_\infty \leq C_1 \int_{B_\infty(p, 3a)} |df|^2 d\mu_\infty \leq C_1$$

for some constant C_1 . Since f is L_∞ -harmonic, it follows from the standard elliptic regularity estimates that

$$|f|_{C^{2,\alpha}(B_\infty(p, 2a))} \leq C_2$$

for some constant C_2 , where $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. Hence in view of the property (4) of Φ_i , we see that

$$|\Delta_{M_i} \Phi_i^* f| \leq \varepsilon_i$$

on $\Phi_i^{-1}(B_\infty(p, a))$. This shows that

$$|\Delta_{M_i} \Lambda_i(\omega)| \leq \varepsilon_i,$$

since $d\Phi_i^* f = \Gamma_i(\omega) + d\Lambda_i(\omega)$ and $\Gamma_i(\omega)$ is harmonic. Finally it follows from the regularity estimates again that

$$|\Lambda_i(\omega)|_{W^{2,p}(M_i, \mu_{M_i})} \leq \varepsilon_i,$$

where $p \in (1, \infty)$ (cf. [8-a, Lemma 1.3]), and hence

$$|\Lambda_i(\omega)|_{C^{1,\alpha}(M_i)} \leq \varepsilon_i.$$

This proves (3.1).

Now this estimate (3.1) together with the property (3) of Φ_i implies that

$$(3.2) \quad (1 - \varepsilon_i) \|\omega\|_{\mu_\infty} \leq \|\Gamma_i(\omega)\|_{\mu_i} \leq (1 + \varepsilon_i) \|\omega\|_{\mu_\infty}$$

For all $\omega \in H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$. In particular, Γ_i is injective (for large i). We observe further that Γ_i maps the lattice $H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z$ into the lattice $H^1(M_i)_Z$,

$$\Gamma_i(H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z) \subset H^1(M_i)_Z.$$

Step 3. Given any number K , Theorem 4.3 in [8-a] says that for large i , a harmonic one-form ξ on M_i with integral periods must belong to the image $\Gamma_i(H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z)$, whenever the L^2 norm $\|\xi\|_{\mu_i}$ is less than K . In other words, there is a positive constant K_i with $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} K_i = \infty$ such that

$$\|\xi\|_{\mu_i} \geq K_i$$

for any $\xi \in H^1(M_i)_Z \setminus \Gamma_i(H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z)$ (if it exists).

Let us now take a basis $\mathcal{Q} = \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_r\}$ of $H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z$ ($r = b_1(M_\infty)$) in such a way that an element ω of $H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z$ is a linear combination of $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_{s-1}$ whenever $\|\omega\|_{\mu_\infty}$ is less than $\|\omega_s\|_{\mu_\infty}$ (cf. [1, Chap. VIII]). Then we choose a basis $\mathcal{Q}_i = \{\omega_{i,1}, \dots, \omega_{i,\tau_i}\}$ of $H^1(M_i)_Z$ ($r_i = b_1(M_i)$) in such a way that

$$\omega_{i,s} = \Gamma_i(\omega_s) \quad (s=1, \dots, r)$$

and any element ω is linearly dependent of $\omega_{i,1}, \dots, \omega_{i,s-1}$ whenever $\|\omega\|_{\mu_i}$ is less than $\|\omega_{i,s}\|_{\mu_i}$ for $s > r$. We note that

$$(3.3) \quad \|\omega_{i,s}\| \geq K_i$$

for $s > r$ (if $r_i > r$).

Let $\Omega_i^* = \{\omega_{i,s}^*\}$ ($s=1, \dots, r_i$) be the dual basis of Ω_i and $\Gamma_i^* : H^1(M_i)^* \rightarrow H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)^*$ the dual mapping of Γ_i . Then Γ_i^* is surjective and its kernel is spanned by $\omega_{i,s}$ ($s=r+1, \dots, r_i$). Hence Γ_i^* induces a surjective homomorphism, denoted by $[\Gamma_i^*]$, from the Albanese torus $\mathcal{A}(M_i)$ of M_i onto $\mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$. Then in view of (3.2) and (3.3), $\mathcal{A}(M_i)$ converges via $[\Gamma_i^*]$ to $\mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ with respect to the Gromov-Hausdorff distance. We observe that $[\Gamma_i^*]$ is affine, namely the second fundamental form vanishes identically. Moreover if we take a point p_∞ of M_∞ and choose p_i as a fixed point of M_i in such a way that $\Phi_i(p_i) = p_\infty$, then the mappings J_{M_∞, μ_∞} and $[\Gamma_i^*] \circ J_{M_i}$ are close for large i in the sense that

$$\max_{x \in M_i} \text{dis}(J_{\mu_\infty} \circ \Phi_i(x), [\Gamma_i^*] \circ J_i(x)) \leq \varepsilon_i.$$

To be precise, let $T_{\Omega_i} : \mathcal{A}(M_i) \rightarrow (R^{r_i}/Z^{r_i}, g_{\Omega_i})$ and $T_\Omega : \mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty) \rightarrow (R^r/Z^r, g_\Omega)$ respectively be isometries described in Section 1, and let $\pi_i : R^{r_i}/Z^{r_i} \rightarrow R^r/Z^r$ be a canonical projection such that $\pi_i(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_{r_i}) = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_r)$. Then $T_{\Omega_i} \circ J_{M_i}$ and $T_\Omega \circ J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty}$ respectively can be expressed as

$$T_{\Omega_i} \circ J_{M_i} = (\psi_{i,1}, \dots, \psi_{i,r_i})$$

and

$$T_\Omega \circ J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty} = (\psi_1, \dots, \psi_r),$$

where $\psi_{i,s}$ is the harmonic mapping of M_i to R/Z corresponding to $\omega_{i,s}$ and also ψ_s is the μ_∞ -harmonic mapping of M_∞ to R/Z corresponding to ω_s . We note that for each s , $1 \leq s \leq r$, $\psi_{i,s}$ is homotopic to $\psi_i \circ \Phi_i$ and further that

$$|\psi_{i,s} - \psi_s \circ \Phi_i|_{C^{2,\alpha}(M_i)} \leq \varepsilon_i$$

(cf. [8-a, §4]). Thus the mappings $J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty} \circ \Phi_i$ and $[\Gamma_i^*] \circ J_{M_i}$ (for large i) are close with respect to the $C^{2,\alpha}$ topology.

Step 4. It remains to prove Theorem 2 in case M_∞ is not smooth. In this case, we consider the frame bundle FM_i of each M_i equipped with a canonical metric \bar{g}_i in such a way that the sectional curvature and the diameter are bounded uniformly in i . We denote by ρ_i the canonical projection of FM_i onto M_i . Observe that the pull-back $\rho_i^* \omega$ of a harmonic one-form ω on M_i is harmonic on FM_i and further that this correspondence preserves the inner products,

$$\langle \rho_i^* \omega, \rho_i^* \omega' \rangle_{\bar{g}_i} = \langle \omega, \omega' \rangle_{\mu_i}.$$

For this reason, the space of harmonic one-forms $H^1(M_i)$ on M_i endowed with the L^2 inner product can be considered as a subspace of $H^1(FM_i)$. In the same way, we identify the lattice $H^1(M_i)_Z$ and the group $\mathcal{H}(M_i; R/Z)$ respectively with a sublattice of $H^1(FM_i)_Z$ and a subgroup of $\mathcal{H}(FM_i; R/Z)$. Under this identification, an element $\bar{\psi}$ of $\mathcal{H}(FM_i; R/Z)$ belongs to the subgroup $\mathcal{H}(M_i; R/Z)$ if and only if $\bar{\psi}$ is $O(m)$ -invariant.

In what follows, we suppose that this sequence $\{FM_i\}$ converges in the topology of measured Hausdorff convergence. Let \bar{M}_∞ and $\bar{\mu}_\infty$ be the limit space and measure respectively. Then according to Fukaya [4, 5], \bar{M}_∞ is a smooth manifold with Riemannian metric \bar{g}_∞ of class $C^{1,\alpha}$, on which the orthogonal group $O(m)$ acts as isometries in such a way that the quotient space $\bar{M}_\infty/O(m)$ is isometric to M_∞ . Moreover there are $O(m)$ -equivariant almost Riemannian submersions $\tilde{\Phi}_i: FM_i \rightarrow \bar{M}_\infty$ such that $\tilde{\Phi}_{i*} \bar{\mu}_{FM_i}$ converges to $\bar{\mu}_\infty$ in the weak* topology, where $\bar{\mu}_{FM_i}$ stands as before for the normalized Riemannian measure of FM_i . We note that the limit measure μ_∞ on M_∞ coincides with the push-forward $\rho_{\infty*} \bar{\mu}_\infty$ of $\bar{\mu}_\infty$ via the projection $\rho_\infty: \bar{M}_\infty \rightarrow M_\infty$ and the density $\bar{\chi}_\infty$ of $\bar{\mu}_\infty$ with respect to the Riemannian measure of \bar{g}_∞ is $O(m)$ -invariant.

Now perturbing the submersion $\tilde{\Phi}_i$ in the $C^{1,\alpha}$ topology, we can obtain an almost Riemannian submersion $\bar{\Phi}_i$ of FM_i onto \bar{M}_∞ , to which we can apply the same arguments as in the preceding steps. To be precise, we write first $\mathcal{H}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty; R/Z)$ for the subgroup of $\mathcal{H}(\bar{M}_\infty, \bar{\mu}_\infty; R/Z)$ consisting of $O(m)$ -invariant $\bar{\mu}_\infty$ -harmonic maps $\bar{\psi}: \bar{M}_\infty \rightarrow R/Z$. We note that $\mathcal{H}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty; R/Z)$ is determined by the pair (M_∞, μ_∞) itself (cf. [8-a, §4]). Then we denote by $H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z$ and $H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ respectively the sublattice of $H^1(\bar{M}_\infty, \bar{\mu}_\infty)_Z$ corresponding to $\mathcal{H}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty; R/Z)$, $H^1(\bar{M}_\infty, \bar{\mu}_\infty)_Z = d\mathcal{H}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty; R/Z)$, and the vector space spanned by $H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z$. Set

$$\mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty) = H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)^* / H^1(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)_Z^*.$$

Then we obtain an $O(m)$ -invariant $\bar{\mu}_\infty$ -harmonic map $\bar{J}_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty}: \bar{M}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$, from which a Lipschitz map $J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty}: M_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ is derived. This map J_{M_∞, μ_∞} is μ_∞ -harmonic on the set of regular points of M_∞ . Moreover as we have seen in Steps 2 and 3, $\bar{\Phi}_i$ (for large i) induces a surjective homomorphism $[\bar{\Gamma}_i^*]: \mathcal{A}(FM_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(F_\infty, \bar{\mu}_\infty)$ such that $\bar{J}_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty} \circ \bar{\Phi}_i$ and $[\bar{\Gamma}_i^*] \circ J_{FM_i}$ are close in the $C^{2,\alpha}$ topology. Finally we obtain a surjective homomorphism $[\Gamma_i^*]: \mathcal{A}(M_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ from $[\bar{\Gamma}_i^*]$ such that $J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty} \circ \Phi_i$ and $[\Gamma_i^*] \circ J_{M_i}$ are close in the C^0 topology for large i , where $\Phi_i: M_i \rightarrow M_\infty$ is a Lipschitz map derived from the $O(m)$ -equivariant submersion $\tilde{\Phi}_i$. As i goes to infinity, the Albanese torus $\mathcal{A}(M_i)$ converges to the torus $\mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ via the surjective homomorphism $[\Gamma_i^*]$. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.

It is possible to apply the same arguments as above to a sequence of certain pairs (M_i, μ_i) (cf. [8-a, Remark 3.3]). In fact, we can show the following

Theorem 2. *Let $\{(M_i, \mu_i)\}$ be a sequence in $\mathcal{A}_w^*(m, \chi, D)$ which converges to (M_∞, μ_∞) with respect to the measured Hausdorff topology. Suppose that the sectional curvature of M_i is bounded uniformly and also the density function χ_i of μ_i satisfies*

$$|Dd\chi_i| \leq C$$

for some constant C . Then for large i , there is a surjective homomorphism Θ_i of the Albanese torus $\mathcal{A}(M_i, \mu_i)$ onto a flat torus $\mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ of dimension n such that $0 \leq n \leq \liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} b_1(M_i)$ and $\mathcal{A}(M_i, \mu_i)$ converges to $\mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ with respect to the Gromov-Hausdorff distance via Θ_i .

Moreover there are a Lipschitz map Φ_i of M_i onto M_∞ through which (M_i, μ_i) converges to (M_∞, μ_∞) and a $(\mu_\infty$ -harmonic) map $J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty} : M_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(M_\infty, \mu_\infty)$ such that $J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty} \circ \Phi_i$ and $\Phi_i \circ J_{M_i, \mu_i}$ are close in the C^0 topology, namely,

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \max_{x \in M_i} \text{dis}(J_{M_\infty, \mu_\infty} \circ \Phi_i(x), \Theta_i \circ J_{M_i, \mu_i}(x)) = 0.$$

The convergence holds in the $C^{2,\alpha}$ topology when M_∞ is a smooth manifold.

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 2', we have the following

Corollary 3. *Given numbers m, χ and D , and given a flat torus T of dimension n , there is a constant such that the rank of the Albanese map J_M of a manifold M in $\mathcal{K}(m, \chi, D)$ is greater than or equal to n , if the Gromov-Hausdorff distance between M and T is less than r , and in addition, J_M is a submersion if $b_1(M) = n$.*

Finally we refer the reader to [12] for some results and problems related to this corollary.

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