GLOBAL EXISTENCE AND CONVERGENCE OF SOLUTIONS OF THE CALABI FLOW ON EINSTEIN 4-MANIFOLDS

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Abstract. In this paper, firstly, we show the Bondi-mass type estimate of solutions of Calabi flow on closed 4-manifolds. Secondly, in our applications, we obtain the long time existence on closed 4-manifolds. In particular, we are able to show the asymptotic convergence of a subsequence of solutions of the Calabi flow on closed Einstein 4-manifolds.

§1. Introduction

Let $(M, [g_0])$ be a closed smooth n-manifold with a given conformal class $[g_0]$. We consider the scalar curvature functional on $[g_0]$:

$$\mathcal{E}(g) = \frac{\int_M R^2 \, d\mu}{\left(\int_M d\mu \right)^{1-4/n}}, \quad g \in [g_0].$$

Then the Euler-Lagrange equation of $\mathcal{E}$ is given by

$$\Delta R - \beta R^2 + \beta r = 0,$$

where $d\mu = d\mu_g$, $\Delta = \Delta_g$, R is the scalar curvature with respect to the metric g, $r = \left(\int_M R^2 \, d\mu \right) / \left(\int_M d\mu \right)$ and $\beta = (n-4)/4(n-1)$.

Now consider the negative gradient flow of $\mathcal{E}$ on a closed smooth n-manifold M with a fixed conformal class $[g_0]$:

$$(1.1) \qquad \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = 2(\Delta R - \beta R^2 + \beta r)g.$$

For $g \in [g_0]$, we may write $g = e^{2\lambda}g_0$, for a smooth function

$$\lambda : M \times [0, \infty) \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}.$$

Then equations (1.1) reduce to the following initial value problem of fourth order parabolic equation on $(M, [g_0])$:

(1.2)
$$\begin{cases} \dfrac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t} = (\Delta R - \beta R^2 + \beta r), \\ g = e^{2\lambda} g_0; \ \lambda(p, 0) = \lambda_0(p), \\ \displaystyle\int_{M^n} e^{n\lambda_0} \, d\mu_0 = \int_{M^n} d\mu_0, \end{cases}$$

where $d\mu_0$ is the volume element of g_0.

In particular, $\beta = 0$ for $n = 4$, we will consider the following equation on closed 4-manifolds $(M^4, [g_0])$:

(1.3)
$$\begin{cases} \dfrac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t} = \Delta R, \\ g = e^{2\lambda} g_0; \ \lambda(p, 0) = \lambda_0(p), \\ \displaystyle\int_{M^4} e^{4\lambda_0} \, d\mu_0 = \int_{M^4} d\mu_0. \end{cases}$$

The parabolic equation (1.3) is so-called Calabi flow in case of Kaehler surfaces with the fixed Kaehler class due to E. Calabi ([Ca], [Ch2], [Ch3]).

For $n = 2$ and 3, based on the Bondi-mass type estimate of solutions of (1.2) and [Chru], the present author proved the long time existence and asymptotic convergence of solutions of (1.2). We refer to [CW] and [Ch5] for details.

In this paper, firstly, we show the Bondi-mass type estimate of solutions of the Calabi flow (1.3) as in Corollary 2.3. Secondly, based on Corollary 2.3 and elliptic Moser iteration plus blowing-up argument as in [Ch1], we have the C^0-bound and $W_{k,2}$-norms bounds as in Theorem 3.6 and Theorem 3.7. Then the long time existence of solutions of (1.3) was claimed. Finally, we show the asymptotic convergence of solutions of (1.3) if the background metric g_0 is Einstein.

Let Q be the Yamabe constant on $(M^4, [g_0])$ which is conformal invariant

$$Q(M, g_0) = \inf_{\varphi \neq 0} \frac{E_{g_0}(\varphi)}{\left(\int |\varphi|^4 \, d\mu_0 \right)^{1/2}},$$

where $E_{g_0}(\varphi) = \int |\overset{0}{\nabla} \varphi|^2 \, d\mu_0 + \frac{1}{6} \int R_0 \varphi^2 \, d\mu_0$.

THEOREM 1.1.   *Let (M, g_0) be a closed 4-manifold and λ satisfy (1.3) on $[0, T)$. Then the solution of (1.3) exists on $M \times [0, \infty)$. Moreover, if g_0 is an Einstein metric, there exists a subsequence of solutions $\{e^{2\lambda(t)}g_0\}$ of (1.3) on $M \times [0, \infty)$ which converges smoothly to one of the constant scalar curvature metric g_∞.*

Remark 1.1. In case of Kaehler surfaces with the fixed Kaehler class, we have the similar results as in Theorem 1.1 with the stability condition on the tangent bundle ([Ch2]).

One may think the problem here to be more difficult compare the second order parabolic equations, due to a lack of the maximum principle for fourth order parabolic equations. Then in order to estimate the C^0-bound, we will apply the elliptic Moser iteration method plus the blow-up argument ([Ch1]).

In Section 2, we will derive the so-called Bondi-mass type estimate of equation (1.3) from the Bochner formula. In Section 3, based on [Ch1], [CY], we obtain the C^0-bound via elliptic Moser iteration and the blow-up argument. Then the higher order $W_{k,2}$-norms estimates of the solutions for (1.3) will follow easily from [CW] and [Chru]. Finally, we have the long-time existence of solutions of (1.3).

In Section 4, we are able to show the asymptotic convergence of a subsequence of solutions of (1.3) if the background metric g_0 is Einstein.

§2. Bondi-mass type estimates of solutions of the Calabi flow

In this section, we will derive the key estimate of equation (1.3) from the Bochner formula as in Lemma 2.2. This is so-called the Bondi-mass type estimate as in [Ch5] and [CW].

For $g = e^{2\lambda}g_0$, $R_0 = R_{g_0}$, we have the following formulae for (1.3):

$$(2.1) \qquad R = R_g = e^{-2\lambda}\big(R_0 - 6\Delta_0\lambda - 6|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2\big).$$

$$(2.2) \quad \Delta R = e^{-2\lambda}\big(\Delta_0 R + 2\langle\overset{0}{\nabla}R, \overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda\rangle\big), \quad \text{where } \Delta_0 = \Delta_{g_0}, \ \Delta = \Delta_g.$$

$$(2.3) \qquad d\mu = e^{4\lambda}\,d\mu_0, \quad \text{where } d\mu_0 = d\mu_{g_0}, \ d\mu = d\mu_g.$$

(2.4) $\dfrac{\partial}{\partial t} d\mu = 4\Delta R d\mu \, ; \quad \dfrac{\partial R}{\partial t} = -2R\Delta R - 6\Delta^2 R.$

(2.5) $\displaystyle \int_{M^4} d\mu = \int_M e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 = \int_M e^{4\lambda_0} \, d\mu_0 = \int_M d\mu_0.$

LEMMA 2.1.   *Under the flow* (1.3), *we have*

$$\int_M R^2 \, d\mu \le C(R_0, \lambda_0),$$

for $0 \le T \le \infty$.

Proof.   From (2.4),

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}\int_M R^2 \, d\mu = -2\int_M R^2 \Delta R \, d\mu + 2\int (R^2 \Delta R + 3R\Delta^2 R) \, d\mu$$

$$= 6\int_M (\Delta R)^2 \, d\mu.$$

Thus

$$\frac{d}{dt}\int_M R^2 \, d\mu \le 0.$$

$\square$

Compare with [CW, Theorem 2.4] and [Ch5], one can show

LEMMA 2.2.   (i) ([Ch4]) *For* g_0 *is Einstein, under the flow* (1.3), *we have*

$$\frac{d}{dt}\int_M e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \le 0.$$

(ii) *For any background metric* g_0, *under the flow* (1.3), *we have*

$$\frac{d}{dt}\int_M e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \le C(g_0, \lambda_0).$$

Remark 2.1.   (i) We will need (ii) for long time existence part and (i) for convergence part of the Calabi flow.

(ii) The volume $\int_M d\mu = \int_M e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0$ will be preserved under the flow.

Proof. In the following, the constant C may vary from line to line which is independent of t. From (2.1) and (2.2), we have

$$\frac{d}{dt}\int_M e^{\alpha\lambda}\,d\mu_0 = \alpha\int e^{\alpha\lambda}\left(\frac{\partial\lambda}{\partial t}\right)d\mu_0 = \alpha\int e^{\alpha\lambda}(\Delta R)\,d\mu_0$$

$$= \alpha\int e^{\alpha\lambda}\cdot e^{-2\lambda}\left(\Delta_0 R + 2\langle\overset{0}{\nabla}R,\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda\rangle\right)d\mu_0$$

$$= \alpha\int e^{(\alpha-2)\lambda}R\big[(\alpha-4)\Delta_0\lambda + (\alpha-2)(\alpha-4)|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2\big]\,d\mu_0$$

$$= \alpha\int e^{(\alpha-4)\lambda}\big[(\alpha-4)R_0\Delta_0\lambda + (\alpha-2)(\alpha-4)R_0|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2$$

$$- 6(\alpha-4)(\Delta_0\lambda)^2 - 3(\alpha-4)(2\alpha-2)\Delta_0\lambda|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2$$

$$- 6(\alpha-2)(\alpha-4)|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^4\big]\,d\mu_0.$$

Now let $f = e^{(4-\alpha)\lambda}$. Then

$$|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 = (\alpha-4)^{-2}f^{-2}|\overset{0}{\nabla}f|^2,$$

$$\Delta_0\lambda = (\alpha-4)^{-1}f^{-2}|\overset{0}{\nabla}f|^2 - (\alpha-4)^{-1}f^{-1}\Delta_0 f.$$

Hence

$$\frac{d}{dt}\int e^{\alpha\lambda}\,d\mu_0 = 2\alpha(\alpha-4)\int e^{(\alpha-4)\lambda}R_0|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2\,d\mu_0$$

$$- \alpha(\alpha-4)\int e^{(\alpha-4)\lambda}\langle\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda,\overset{0}{\nabla}R_0\rangle\,d\mu_0$$

$$- 6\alpha(\alpha-4)^{-1}\int f^{-3}(\Delta_0 f)^2\,d\mu_0$$

$$- 3\alpha(\alpha-4)^{-3}(4\alpha^2-24\alpha+36)\int f^{-5}|\overset{0}{\nabla}f|^4\,d\mu_0$$

$$+ 3\alpha(\alpha-4)^{-2}(6\alpha-18)\int f^{-4}\Delta_0 f|\overset{0}{\nabla}f|^2\,d\mu_0.$$

Again let $F = f^r$, for some r to be chosen later. Then

$$|\overset{0}{\nabla}f|^2 = r^{-2}F^{(2-2r)/r}|\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2,$$

$$\Delta_0 f = r^{-1}F^{(1-r)/r}\Delta_0 F - (r-1)r^{-2}F^{(1-2r)/r}|\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2.$$

Then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int e^{\alpha\lambda} \, d\mu_0 = 2\alpha(\alpha - 4) \int e^{(\alpha-4)\lambda} R_0 |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$- \alpha(\alpha - 4) \int e^{(\alpha-4)\lambda} \langle \overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda, \overset{0}{\nabla}R_0 \rangle \, d\mu_0$$

$$- 6\alpha(\alpha - n)(\alpha - 4)^{-1} r^{-2} \int F^{(-1-2r)/r} (\Delta_0 F)^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$- 6\alpha(\alpha - 4)^{-3} r^{-4} \big[(r(r+1)\alpha^2 - (8r^2 + 5r - 1)\alpha$$

$$+ 16r^2 + 4r - 2 \big] \int F^{(-1-4r)/r} |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^4 \, d\mu_0$$

$$+ 6\alpha(\alpha - 4)^{-2} r^{-3} \big[(2r+1)\alpha - 8r - 1 \big] \int F^{(-1-3r)/r} \Delta_0 F |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 \, d\mu_0.$$

Compute

$$(2.6) \quad 0 = \int_M \delta\big(F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} \overset{0}{\nabla}F \, \Delta_0 F \big) \, d\mu_0$$

$$= \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} (\Delta_0 F)^2 \, d\mu_0 + \int \langle \overset{0}{\nabla}(F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} \Delta_0 F), \overset{0}{\nabla}F \rangle \, d\mu_0$$

$$= \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} (\Delta_0 F)^2 \, d\mu_0 - \Big(\frac{1}{r} + 2 \Big) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-3} \Delta_0 F |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$+ \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} \langle \overset{0}{\nabla}\Delta_0 F, \overset{0}{\nabla}F \rangle \, d\mu_0,$$

and

$$0 = \int_M \delta\big(F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} \overset{0}{\nabla}|\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 \big) \, d\mu_0$$

$$= \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} \Delta_0 |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 \, d\mu_0 - \Big(\frac{1}{r} + 2 \Big) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-3} \langle \overset{0}{\nabla}F, \overset{0}{\nabla}|\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 \, d\mu_0 \rangle \, d\mu_0$$

$$= \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} \Delta_0 |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 \, d\mu_0 + \Big(\frac{1}{r} + 2 \Big) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-3} \Delta_0 F |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$- \Big(\frac{1}{r} + 2 \Big)\Big(\frac{1}{r} + 3 \Big) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-4} |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^4 \, d\mu_0.$$

By the Bochner-Lichnerowicz formula

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta_0 |\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^2 = |\overset{0}{\nabla}^2 F|^2 + \langle \overset{0}{\nabla}F, \overset{0}{\nabla}\Delta_0 F \rangle + Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla}F, \overset{0}{\nabla}F),$$

we have

$$(2.7) \qquad \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} \langle \overset{0}{\nabla} F, \overset{0}{\nabla} \Delta_0 F \rangle \, d\mu_0$$

$$= -\int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} |\overset{0}{\nabla}^2 F|^2 \, d\mu_0 - \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla} F, \overset{0}{\nabla} F) \, d\mu_0$$

$$- \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{r}+2\right) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-3} \Delta_0 F |\overset{0}{\nabla} F|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{r}+2\right)\left(\frac{1}{r}+3\right) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-4} |\overset{0}{\nabla} F|^4 \, d\mu_0.$$

Combine (2.6) and (2.7), one obtains

$$\frac{3}{2}\left(\frac{1}{r}+2\right) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-3} \Delta_0 F |\overset{0}{\nabla} F|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$= \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} (\Delta_0 F)^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{r}+2\right)\left(\frac{1}{r}+3\right) \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-4} |\overset{0}{\nabla} F|^4 \, d\mu_0$$

$$- \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} |\overset{0}{\nabla}^2 F|^2 \, d\mu_0 - \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla} F, \overset{0}{\nabla} F) \, d\mu_0.$$

Hence

$$\int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-3} \Delta_0 F |\overset{0}{\nabla} F|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$= \frac{2}{3}\frac{r}{1+2r} \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} (\Delta_0 F)^2 \, d\mu_0 - \frac{2}{3}\frac{r}{1+2r} \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} |\overset{0}{\nabla}^2 F|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$- \frac{2}{3}\frac{r}{1+2r} \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla} F, \overset{0}{\nabla} F) \, d\mu_0$$

$$+ \frac{1}{3}\frac{1+3r}{r} \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-4} |\overset{0}{\nabla} F|^4 \, d\mu_0.$$

Then

$$(2.8)$$
$$\frac{d}{dt} \int e^{\alpha\lambda} \, d\mu_0 = 2\alpha(\alpha-4) \int e^{(\alpha-4)\lambda} R_0 |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$- \alpha(\alpha-4) \int e^{(\alpha-4)\lambda} \langle \overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda, \overset{0}{\nabla} R_0 \rangle \, d\mu_0$$

$$- 2\alpha(\alpha-4)^{-2} r^{-2} \left[(\alpha-4) - 6(2r+1)^{-1}\right] \int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2} (\Delta_0 F)^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$+ 2\alpha(\alpha-4)^{-3}r^{-4}\big[(3r^2+2r+1)(\alpha-4)^2-6\big]\int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-4}|\overset{0}{\nabla}F|^4\,d\mu_0$$

$$- 4\alpha(\alpha-4)^{-2}r^{-2}\big[\alpha-(8r+1)(1+2r)^{-1}\big]\int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2}|\overset{0}{\nabla}{}^2F|^2\,d\mu_0$$

$$- 4\alpha(\alpha-4)^{-2}r^{-2}\big[\alpha-(8r+1)(1+2r)^{-1}\big]\int F^{-\frac{1}{r}-2}Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla}F,\overset{0}{\nabla}F)\,d\mu_0.$$

(i) For g_0 is Einstein, i.e., $Rc(g_0) = (R_0/4)g_0$:
Choose $r = 1$, $\alpha = 5$, then

$$(2.9)\quad \frac{d}{dt}\int e^{5\lambda}\,d\mu_0 = 10R_0\int e^{\lambda}|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2\,d\mu_0 - 40\int e^{3\lambda}Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla}F,\overset{0}{\nabla}F)\,d\mu_0$$

$$+ 10\int e^{3\lambda}(\Delta_0 F)^2\,d\mu_0 - 40\int e^{3\lambda}|\overset{0}{\nabla}{}^2F|^2\,d\mu_0$$

$$= 10\int e^{3\lambda}(\Delta_0 F)^2\,d\mu_0 - 40\int e^{3\lambda}|\overset{0}{\nabla}{}^2F|^2\,d\mu_0.$$

But for $n = 4$,

$$(\Delta_0 F)^2 \le 4|\overset{0}{\nabla}{}^2F|^2.$$

This implies (i) of the Lemma.

(ii) For any arbitrary g_0:
First we observe, for $0 \le \beta \le 4$; $\Omega^+ = \{p \in M \mid \lambda \ge 0\}$, $\Omega^- = \{p \in M \mid \lambda < 0\}$

$$(2.10)\quad \int_M e^{\beta\lambda}\,d\mu_0 = \int_{\Omega^+} e^{\beta\lambda}\,d\mu_0 + \int_{\Omega^-} e^{\beta\lambda}\,d\mu_0 \le \int_M e^{4\lambda}\,d\mu_0 + \int_M d\mu_0$$

$$\le \int_M d\mu + \int_M d\mu_0 \le C.$$

Choose $r = 1$, $\alpha = 5$ again, then, from (2.8) and (2.9),

$$\frac{d}{dt}\int e^{5\lambda}\,d\mu_0 \le 10\int e^{\lambda}|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 R_0\,d\mu_0 - 40\int e^{\lambda}Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda,\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda)\,d\mu_0$$

$$- 5\int e^{\lambda}\langle\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda,\overset{0}{\nabla}R_0\rangle\,d\mu_0.$$

Compute, for $e^{2\lambda}R = R_0 - 6\Delta_0\lambda - 6|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2$, from (2.5), (2.10)

$$-5\int e^{\lambda}\langle\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda,\overset{0}{\nabla}R_0\rangle\,d\mu_0 = 5\int e^{\lambda}|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 R_0\,d\mu_0 + 5\int e^{\lambda}(\Delta_0\lambda)R_0\,d\mu_0$$

$$= \frac{5}{6} \int e^\lambda (-e^{2\lambda} R + R_0) R_0 \, d\mu_0$$

$$= \frac{5}{6} \int e^\lambda R_0^2 \, d\mu_0 - \frac{5}{6} \int e^{3\lambda} R R_0 \, d\mu_0$$

$$\leq C \int e^\lambda \, d\mu_0 + C \int e^{2\lambda} \, d\mu_0 + C \int e^{4\lambda} R^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$\leq C.$$

and

$$(2.11) \qquad 10 \int_M e^\lambda |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 R_0 \, d\mu_0 - 40 \int_M e^\lambda Rc(\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda, \overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda) \, d\mu_0$$

$$\leq C \int_M e^\lambda |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$\leq C \int_{\Omega^+} e^{2\lambda} |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0 + C \int_{\Omega^-} e^{\lambda/2} |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0$$

$$\leq C \int_M e^{2\lambda} |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0 + C \int_M e^{\lambda/2} |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0.$$

Now

$$3\Delta_0 e^{2\lambda} = e^{2\lambda} \big(6\Delta_0 \lambda + 12|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \big) = e^{2\lambda} \big(-e^{2\lambda} R + R_0 + 6|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \big)$$

and

$$12\Delta_0 e^{\lambda/2} = e^{\lambda/2} \big(6\Delta_0 \lambda + 3|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \big) = e^{\lambda/2} \big(-e^{2\lambda} R + R_0 - 3|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \big).$$

It follows

$$(2.12) \qquad 6 \int e^{2\lambda} |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0 = - \int e^{2\lambda} R_0 \, d\mu_0 + \int e^{4\lambda} R \, d\mu_0$$

$$= - \int e^{2\lambda} R_0 \, d\mu_0 + \int R \, d\mu \leq C$$

and

$$(2.13) \qquad 3 \int e^{\lambda/2} |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \, d\mu_0 = \int e^{\lambda/2} R_0 \, d\mu_0 - \int e^{5\lambda/2} R \, d\mu_0$$

$$\leq C - \int e^{-3\lambda/2} R \, d\mu$$

$$\leq C + \int e^{-3\lambda} \, d\mu + \int R^2 \, d\mu$$

$$\leq C + \int e^\lambda \, d\mu_0 + \int R^2 \, d\mu \leq C.$$

Then (2.11), (2.12) and (2.13) imply (ii) of the Lemma. $\qquad \square$

COROLLARY 2.3.   (i) *For g_0 is Einstein, under the flow (1.3), one obtains*

$$\int_M e^{5\lambda}\, d\mu_0 \le C_1(g_0, \lambda_0),$$

for all $0 \le t \le T \le \infty$.

(ii) *For any background metric g_0, then*

$$\int_M e^{5\lambda}\, d\mu_0 \le C_2(g_0, \lambda_0) + C_3(g_0, \lambda_0)t,$$

for all $0 \le t < T$.

Remark 2.2.   From (ii) of Corollary 2.3, under the flow (1.3), we have

$$\int_M e^{5\lambda}\, d\mu_0 \le C_2 + C_3 t.$$

This will be enough for the long time existence of the solution of (1.3) which will imply the first part of assertion for Theorem 1.1. But for convergence part, we will need the uniformly bound on $\int_M e^{5\lambda}\, d\mu_0$ under the flow (1.3) which is held when g_0 is Einstein as in (i) of Corollary 2.3.

§3.   A priori estimates and long time existence

In this section, following Corollary 2.3, [Ch1] and [CY], we will have the C^0-bound via elliptic Moser iteration and the blow-up argument as in Theorem 3.6. Then, based on [CW] and [Chru], one can get the bounds on all $W_{k,2}$ norms as in Theorem 3.7. All these together will imply the long-time existence of solutions of (1.3).

Define

$$E_\eta = \{p : e^{\lambda(p)} \ge \eta\}, \quad |E_\eta| = \int_{E_\eta} d\mu_0.$$

In the following, the constant C may vary from line to line.

LEMMA 3.1.   *Under the flow (1.3), there exists $\eta_0 > 0$, $l_0 > 0$ such that*

$$|E_{\eta_0}| \ge l_0 > 0,$$

for all $0 \le t < T$.

Proof. First, from the Corollary 2.3 (we refer to Remark 3.1 as below), we may choose $0 < \epsilon \leq 1$ such that

(3.1)
$$\int_M e^{(4+\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \leq C.$$

Now

$$\left(\int_M e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \right)^2 \leq \left(\int_M e^{(4-\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \right) \left(\int_M e^{(4+\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \right)$$

$$\leq C \int_M e^{(4-\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0.$$

Since $\int_M e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0$ is fixed under the flow (1.3), say $\int_M e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 = V$. Thus

$$\frac{V^2}{C} \leq \int_M e^{(4-\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0.$$

But, for all $\eta > 0$,

$$\int_M e^{(4-\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0 = \int_{E_\eta} e^{(4-\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0 + \int_{E_\eta^c} e^{(4-\epsilon)\lambda} \, d\mu_0$$

$$\leq \left(\int_{E_\eta} e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \right)^{(4-\epsilon)/4} (E_\eta)^{\epsilon/4} + \eta^{(4-\epsilon)} |E_\eta^c|.$$

Now for sufficiently small η_0, say

$$\eta_0^{4-\epsilon} V < \frac{1}{2} \frac{V^2}{C}.$$

Then

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{V^2}{C} \leq (V)^{(4-\epsilon)/4} (E_{\eta_0})^{\epsilon/4}.$$

This implies, for $l_0 = V(V/2C)^{4/\epsilon}$

$$|E_{\eta_0}| \geq l_0.$$

$\square$

Remark 3.1. The delicate part of the proof in [CY] is the estimate (3.1) which is held for $\epsilon = 1$ under the flow (1.3) due to Lemma 2.2. If g_0 is Einstein, then l_0 is independent of the maximum time $T \leq \infty$. If g_0 is not Einstein, then the estimate is still held as long as the maximum time T is finite.

LEMMA 3.2.   *Under the flow (1.3), there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that*

$$\int_M \lambda^2 \, d\mu_0 \leq C,$$

for $0 \leq t < T$.

Proof.   Choose η_0, l_0 as in Lemma 3.1, for $D = E^c_{\eta_0}$, consider the Raleigh-Ritz characterization for $\lambda_1(D)$, one has

$$\int_D \left| \ln \frac{e^\lambda}{\eta_0} \right|^2 d\mu_0 \leq \frac{1}{\lambda_1(D)} \int_D \left| \overset{\scriptscriptstyle 0}{\nabla} \ln \frac{e^\lambda}{\eta_0} \right|^2 d\mu_0.$$

From Lemma 3.1, we have

$$|D| = V - |E_{\eta_0}| \leq V - l_0.$$

Then, from Faber-Krahn inequality ([Chav])

$$\lambda_1(D) \geq C(l_0) > 0.$$

Now

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{e^\lambda \leq \eta_0} \left| \ln \frac{e^\lambda}{\eta_0} \right|^2 d\mu_0 &\leq \frac{1}{C(l_0)} \int_M \left| \overset{\scriptscriptstyle 0}{\nabla} \ln \frac{e^\lambda}{\eta_0} \right|^2 d\mu_0 \\
&= \frac{1}{C(l_0)} \int_M \frac{\Delta_0 e^\lambda}{e^\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \\
&= \frac{1}{C(l_0)} \int_M \left(\Delta_0 \lambda + |\overset{\scriptscriptstyle 0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 \right) d\mu_0 \\
&= \frac{1}{C(l_0)} \int_M (R_0 - e^{2\lambda} R) \, d\mu_0 \\
&\leq \frac{1}{C(l_0)} \left(\int_M R_0 \, d\mu_0 + \frac{1}{2} \int_M R^2 \, d\mu + \frac{1}{2} \int_M d\mu \right) \\
&\leq C.
\end{aligned}
$$

On the other hand

$$\int_{e^\lambda \geq \eta_0} \left| \ln \frac{e^\lambda}{\eta_0} \right|^2 d\mu_0 \leq \int_{e^\lambda \geq \eta_0} \left| \frac{e^\lambda}{\eta_0} \right|^2 d\mu_0 \leq \frac{1}{\eta_0^2} \int_M e^{2\lambda} d\mu_0 \leq C.$$

All these imply the Lemma.   ☐

Now, by using the result of Lemma 3.2, we have the local Sobolev constant bound C_s with respect to g.

LEMMA 3.3.   *Under the flow (1.3), there exists a constant $\kappa_1 > 0$ such that, if*

$$\int_{B_\rho} R^2 \, d\mu \leq \kappa_1,$$

then, for some constant C_s

$$\left(\int_{B_\rho} f^4 \, d\mu \right)^{1/2} \leq C_s \left[\int_{B_\rho} |\nabla f|^2 \, d\mu + \int_{B_\rho} f^2 \, d\mu \right]$$

for $f \in C_0^\infty(B_\rho)$.

Proof.   For $g = e^{2\lambda} g_0$ and $n = 4$ in our case. Now with respect to g_0, we have the local Sobolev constant A_0, i.e., for $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(B_\rho)$

$$\left(\int_{B_\rho} |\varphi|^4 \, d\mu_0 \right)^{1/2} \leq A_0 \left(\int_{B_\rho} |\overset{0}{\nabla}\varphi|^2 \, d\mu_0 \right).$$

Take $\varphi = e^\lambda f$, since $E_g(f) = E_{g_0}(\varphi)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
(3.2) \quad \left(\int |f|^4 \, d\mu \right)^{1/2} &= \left(\int |\varphi|^4 e^{-4\lambda} \, d\mu \right)^{1/2} = \left(\int |\varphi|^4 \, d\mu_0 \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq A_0 \left(\int |\overset{0}{\nabla}\varphi|^2 \, d\mu_0 \right) \\
&\leq A_0 \left[E_{g_0}(\varphi) - \frac{1}{6} \int R_0 \varphi^2 \, d\mu_0 \right] \\
&\leq A_0 \left[E_g(f) - \frac{1}{6} \int R_0 \varphi^2 \, d\mu_0 \right] \\
&\leq A_0 \left[\int |\nabla f|^2 \, d\mu + \frac{1}{6} \int (R - R_0 e^{-2\lambda}) f^2 \, d\mu \right].
\end{aligned}
$$

Let $\Omega = \{ p \in B_\rho : R - R_0 e^{-2\lambda} > -K \}$, $K > 0$, estimate

$$
\begin{aligned}
(3.3) \quad \int_{B_\rho} & (R - R_0 e^{-2\lambda}) f^2 \, d\mu \\
&= \int_\Omega (R - R_0 e^{-2\lambda}) f^2 \, d\mu + \int_{B_\rho - \Omega} (R - R_0 e^{-2\lambda}) f^2 \, d\mu \\
&\leq \int_\Omega (R - R_0 e^{-2\lambda}) f^2 \, d\mu.
\end{aligned}
$$

Now consider $\Omega' = \Omega \cap \{\lambda < 0\}$, then over Ω'

$$-6\Delta_0(-\lambda) = R_0 - e^{2\lambda}R - 6|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2$$
$$\leq R_0 - e^{2\lambda}R \leq Ke^{2\lambda} \leq C + K(-\lambda).$$

That is, for $h = -\lambda > 0$, we have

$$-\Delta_0 h \leq \frac{1}{6}Kh + C,$$

over Ω'. But from Lemma 3.2, one has

$$\int_{\Omega'} h^2 \, d\mu_0 \leq C \,;$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega'} K^p \, d\mu_0 \leq C, \quad p > 2 = \frac{n}{2}, \; n = 4.$$

Then Moser iteration as in [Ch1, Theorem 3.3] implies

$$-\lambda \leq C,$$

over Ω' and then

$$\lambda \geq -C$$

on Ω.

Therefore, from (3.3),

$$\int_{B_\rho} (R - R_0 e^{-2\lambda})f^2 \, d\mu \leq \int_\Omega Rf^2 \, d\mu + C \int_{B_\rho} f^2 \, d\mu.$$

This and (3.2) imply

$$\left(\int_{B_\rho} |f|^4 \, d\mu\right)^{1/2} \leq A_0\Big[\int_{B_\rho} |\nabla f|^2 \, d\mu + \int_\Omega Rf^2 \, d\mu + C \int_{B_\rho} f^2 \, d\mu\Big]$$
$$\leq A_0\Big[\int_{B_\rho} |\nabla f|^2 \, d\mu + \Big(\int_{B_\rho} R^2 \, d\mu\Big)^{1/2}\Big(\int_{B_\rho} f^4 \, d\mu\Big)^{1/2} + C \int_{B_\rho} f^2 \, d\mu\Big].$$

If $\int_{B_\rho} R^2 \, d\mu$ is sufficiently small such that $A_0\big(\int_{B_\rho} R^2 \, d\mu\big)^{1/2} \leq 1/2$, then

$$\left(\int_{B_\rho} f^4 \, d\mu\right)^{1/2} \leq C_s\Big[\int_{B_\rho} |\nabla f|^2 \, d\mu + \int_{B_\rho} f^2 \, d\mu\Big],$$

for some constant $C_s = C(A_0)$.   □

Now we are ready to have the C^0-bound of solution of (1.3).

(I) The upper bound estimate:

Since

$$\Delta\lambda = e^{-2\lambda}\big(\Delta_0\lambda + 2|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2\big),$$

then

$$R = e^{-2\lambda}R_0 - 6e^{-2\lambda}\big(\Delta_0\lambda + |\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2\big)$$

$$= e^{-2\lambda}R_0 - 6\big(\Delta\lambda - e^{-2\lambda}|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2\big).$$

This implies

$$-\Delta e^{\lambda/2} = -e^{\lambda/2}\Big[\frac{1}{2}\Delta\lambda + \frac{1}{4}|\nabla\lambda|^2\Big]$$

$$= -e^{\lambda/2}\Big[\frac{1}{2}\Big(\frac{1}{6}e^{-2\lambda}R_0 - \frac{1}{6}R\Big) + e^{-2\lambda}|\overset{0}{\nabla}\lambda|^2 + \frac{1}{4}|\nabla\lambda|^2\Big]$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{12}\big[R - e^{-2\lambda}R_0\big]e^{\lambda/2}.$$

That is, for $g = e^{\lambda/2}$, $b = \frac{1}{12}|R - e^{-2\lambda}R_0|$, we have

(3.4) $$-\Delta g \leq bg,$$

and from Corollary 2.3

(3.5) $$\int g^2\, d\mu \leq C; \quad \int b^2\, d\mu \leq C.$$

Now combining Lemma 3.3, (3.4), (3.5) and Moser iteration as in [Ch1, Theorem 3.3], it follows

PROPOSITION 3.4. *There exists a constant* $\kappa = \kappa(\kappa_1; \int g^2\, d\mu; \int b^2\, d\mu)$ *such that if*

(3.6) $$\int_{B_\rho(x_0)} R^2\, d\mu \leq \kappa,$$

then, for any $0 < \eta < 1$, *there is a constant* $C = C(\rho, \kappa, \eta)$ *such that*

$$\sup_{B_{(1-\eta)\rho}} e^{\lambda/2} \leq C.$$

Moreover, if we does not meet the condition as in (3.6). Thus, by using the blowing up argument at the point as in [Ch1, Lemma 5.2], we are able to estimate the supernorm of the solution of (1.3). More precisely, since $\int_M R^2 \, d\mu \leq C$, for a fixed t, we have only finite point $\{v_1, \ldots, v_m\}$ such that the L^2-norm of scalar curvature over $B_\rho(v_i)$ are larger than κ. Fix $v = v_i$, take a neighborhood N of v such that $N \cap \{v_1, \ldots, v_m\} = \{v\}$. Let $r(p) = d(p, v)$ and assume that $B_{2\rho_0} \subset N$ for some ρ_0. Now for each small ρ, define $\tilde{g}_{ij} = \frac{1}{\rho^2} g_{ij} = e^{2\tilde{\lambda}} \overset{0}{g}_{ij}$. Fix $p_0 \in N$, such that $r(p_0) = \rho < \rho_0$. For $n = 4$, we have

$$\int_M R^2 \, d\mu = \int_M \widetilde{R}^2 \, d\tilde{\mu}.$$

Then

$$-\widetilde{\Delta}\tilde{g} \leq \tilde{b}\tilde{g}\,; \quad \int_M \tilde{b}^2 \, d\tilde{\mu} \leq C,$$

and

$$\int_{\widetilde{B}_{1/2}(p_0)} \tilde{g}^2 \, d\tilde{\mu} = \int_{B_{\rho/2}(p_0)} e^{5\tilde{\lambda}} \, d\mu_0 \leq \rho^{-5} \int_{B_{\rho/2}(p_0)} e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0,$$

where $\tilde{g} = e^{\tilde{\lambda}/2}$ and $\frac{1}{\rho^2} e^{2\lambda} = e^{2\tilde{\lambda}}$.

Since

$$\int_{B_{\rho/2}(p_0)} R^2 \, d\mu = \int_{\widetilde{B}_{1/2}(p_0)} \widetilde{R}^2 \, d\tilde{\mu},$$

take ρ sufficiently small, we have

$$\int_{B_{\rho/2}(p_0)} R^2 \, d\mu \leq \kappa.$$

On the other hand, since we have the local Sobolev constant bound for g_{ij} as in Lemma 3.3, it still holds for $\tilde{g}_{ij}$ ([Ch1, (5.2)]). Then again follows the Moser iteration

$$(3.7) \quad \sup \tilde{g} = \sup e^{\tilde{\lambda}/2} \leq C\|e^{\tilde{\lambda}/2}\|_{L_2} \leq C\rho^{-5/2}\Big(\int_{B_{\rho/2}(p_0)} e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0\Big)^{1/2}$$

on $\widetilde{B}_{1/2}(p_0)$.

LEMMA 3.5.   *Under the flow (1.3), there exists a constant C such that*

$$(3.8) \qquad\qquad \int_{B_\rho(x)} e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \leq C\rho^4.$$

We will proof the Lemma in the end of (I).

Now from (3.7) and (3.8), for $x \in \widetilde{B}_{1/2}(p_0)$, $\widetilde{B}_\rho(x) \subset \widetilde{B}_{1/2}(p_0)$,

$$\int_{\widetilde{B}_\rho(x)} \tilde{g}^2 \, d\tilde{\mu} \leq C\rho^{-5} \Big(\int_{B_{\rho/2}(p_0)} e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \Big) \int_{\widetilde{B}_\rho(x)} d\tilde{\mu}$$

$$\leq C\rho^{-5} \int_{B_{\rho^2}(x)} e^{4\tilde{\lambda}} \, d\mu_0 \leq C\rho^{-9} \int_{B_{\rho^2}(x)} e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \leq C\rho^{-1}.$$

Then

$$\sup e^{\tilde{\lambda}/2} \leq C \|e^{\tilde{\lambda}/2}\|_{L_2} \leq C\rho^{-1/2}.$$

But

$$e^{2\tilde{\lambda}} = \rho^{-2} e^{2\lambda}.$$

It follows

$$e^{2\lambda} \leq C$$

on $B_{\rho/2}(p_0)$ and as $r(p) \to 0$, we get $\lambda \leq C$ on $B_{r_0}(v)$ for small r_0.

All these imply

$$\lambda \leq C$$

on M.

Proof of (3.8). As before, we have

$$-\Delta_0 e^\lambda = \frac{1}{6} \big[e^{2\lambda} R - R_0 \big] e^\lambda.$$

In case of $R < 0$, it follows

$$-\Delta_0 e^\lambda \leq \frac{1}{6} R_0 e^\lambda.$$

Again from Moser iteration with respect to g_0, one has

$$\lambda \leq C$$

for $R < 0$.

Then, for $B_\rho^- = B_\rho \cap \{R < 0\}$

$$\int_{B_\rho^-} e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \leq C \int_{B_\rho} d\mu_0 \leq C\rho^4.$$

On the other hand, for $B_\rho^+ = B_\rho \cap \{R \geq 0\}$, the same argument as in [W, Proposition 5.4], the exterior unit normal vector ν_+ of ∂B_ρ^+ has $D_{\nu_+} R \leq 0$,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{B_\rho^+} e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 = 4 \int_{B_\rho^+} e^{4\lambda} \Delta R \, d\mu_0 = 4 \int_{B_\rho^+} \Delta R \, d\mu$$

$$= 4 \int_{\partial B_\rho^+} D_{\nu_+} R \, d\sigma \leq 0.$$

It follows

$$\int_{B_\rho^+} e^{4\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \leq \int_{B_\rho} e^{4\lambda_0} \, d\mu_0 \leq C\rho^4.$$

This completes the proof of (3.8). $\square$

(II) The lower bound estimate:

The same method as in the previous (I), firstly, for $h = e^{-\lambda}$, $d = \frac{1}{6}|R - e^{-2\lambda} R_0|$, we have

$$-\Delta h \leq dh,$$

and

$$\int h^2 \, d\mu \leq C \,; \quad \int d^2 \, d\mu \leq C.$$

Then, again Moser iteration and the blowing up argument, the lower bound

$$e^{-\lambda} \leq C$$

is followed easily.

Then we have the C^0-bound of solution of (1.3):

THEOREM 3.6.   *Under the flow (1.3), there exists a constant $C = C(\int e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0, \lambda_0, g_0)$, such that*

$$\|\lambda\|_{L^\infty(M)} \leq C,$$

for $t \in [0, T)$. Moreover, we have

$$\|\lambda(t)\|_{W_{1,4}} \leq C.$$

for $t \in [0, T)$.

Proof. Since

$$\int_M |R|^2 \, d\mu \le C,$$

then

$$\int_M e^{-2\lambda} (\Delta_0 e^\lambda)^2 \, d\mu_0 \le C.$$

But $\|\lambda\|_{L_\infty} \le C$, it follows

$$\int_M (\Delta_0 e^\lambda)^2 \, d\mu_0 \le C.$$

This implies

$$\|e^\lambda\|_{W_{2,2}} \le C,$$

and from Sobolev imbedding theorem $W_{2,2} \subset W_{1,4}$ for $n = 4$, we have

$$\|\lambda\|_{W_{1,4}} \le C.$$

$\square$

For higher order estimates, it is straightforward, we refer to [Chru] and [CW] for details.

THEOREM 3.7.   ([Chru, Proposition 4.1], [CW]) *The same assumptions as in the previous lemma. There exists a constant* $C = C(\|\lambda_0\|_{W_{2,2}}, g_0, T)$, $l \ge 2$ *such that*

$$\|\overset{0}{\nabla}{}^l \lambda(p,t)\|_{L_2} \le C,$$

for $t \in [0, T)$.

Then the first part of main Theorem will follow easily from Theorem 3.6 and Theorem 3.7.

§4. Asymptotic convergence of solutions of the Calabi flow on Einstein 4-manifolds

In the previous sections, we show the following bound

$$\int e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \le (C_2 + C_3 t),$$

and the C^0-bound

$$(4.1) \qquad\qquad \sup_{p \in M_t} |\lambda(p,t)| \le C(T), \quad 0 \le t < T.$$

Then we have the long time existence of solution of (1.3). However, at
the previous steps, the $C(T)$ as in (4.1) may blow up as $t \to \infty$, but if the
background metric g_0 is Einstein, then

$$\int e^{5\lambda} \, d\mu_0 \leq C_1.$$

It follows we have the uniformly bound on $C(T)$ and $\|\lambda\|_{W_{k,2}}$.

In this section, we will show that there exists a subsequence of solutions
of (1.3) converges to a constant scalar curvature metric ([CW]).

THEOREM 4.1.   *Under the flow (1.3), if the background metric g_0 is
Einstein. Then there exists a subsequence $\{t_j\}$ such that*

$$R \to R_\infty$$

as $t_j \to \infty$ with

$$\Delta R_\infty = 0$$

and

$$g(t_j) \xrightarrow{C^\infty} g_\infty.$$

Proof. Since

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \int_M R^2 \, d\mu = 12 \int_M (\Delta R)^2 \, d\mu,$$

then

$$\int_0^\infty \int_M (\Delta R)^2 \, d\mu \, dt < \infty,$$

and then there exists a subsequence $\{t_j\}$ such that

$$\int_M (\Delta R)^2 \, d\mu|_{t_j} \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad t_j \to \infty.$$

Now since $\|\lambda\|_{W^{k,2}} \leq C$ for all $0 \leq t_j \leq \infty$, we have

$$\int_M (\Delta R)^2 \, d\mu_0|_{t_j} \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad t_j \to \infty.$$

Then elliptic estimates, interpolation inequalities yield

$$R \xrightarrow{C^\infty} R_\infty$$

as $t_j \to \infty$ such that

$$\Delta R_\infty = 0$$

and

$$g(t_j) \xrightarrow{C^\infty} g_\infty.$$

$\square$

Then the second part of main Theorem follows easily.

Remark 4.1. From the uniqueness results of Einstein metrics in conformal class by M. Obata's results ([O]), g_∞ is isometric to g_0.

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