

MATH580 Final Project
The Harnack Inequality on Complete Riemannian
Manifolds of Non-Negative Ricci Curvature

Sisi Xi Shen
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
McGill University

December 16, 2012

Abstract

This report will deal with content of Yau's article, *Harmonic Functions on Complete Riemannian Manifolds*.

1 Introduction

We may classify open Riemann surfaces by properties of curvature by whether or not there exists a non-constant, bounded harmonic function on the surface. We will deal with higher-dimensional manifolds of non-negative Ricci curvature. Yau shows in his paper that for a complete Riemannian manifold M , with Ricci curvature bounded from below, we can find an upper bound on the absolute value of the gradient of f . In the case of harmonic functions, the constant involved in the bound is simply given by $\sqrt{(dimM - 1)K}$, where $-K$ is the lower bound for the Ricci curvature of M . The inequality that Yau proves in his article can be thought of as an infinitesimal form of the Harnack inequality. We approach this result by first showing a generalized maximal principle and then using gradient estimates to achieve an upper bound, as desired.

The Harnack inequality that we have seen in class deals with functions on R^n and states that for harmonic, non-negative function $u \in C^2(\Omega)$ such that $cl(B_R(y)) \subset \Omega$ with $R > 0$, and $x \in B_R(y)$:

$$u(x) \leq \left(\frac{R}{R - |x - y|}\right)^n u(y) \quad (1)$$

What the inequality does is relate the value of u on some point in the ball centered at y with the value of $u(y)$. Now, we wish to establish an analogue of the Harnack inequality on a manifold M with Ricci curvature bounded from below. The main result will be in showing that for all harmonic functions f bounded from below, we have

$$|\nabla f(x)| \leq C(f(x) - inf_M f) \quad (2)$$

Using this, we can see that for $x, y \in V \subset M$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) - f(y) &\leq \int_0^\ell \langle \sigma'(t), \nabla f(t) \rangle dt \\ &\leq \int_0^\ell |\sigma'(t)| |\nabla f(t)| dt \\ &\leq \ell sup_V |\nabla f| \\ &\leq C diam(V) (sup_V f - inf_M f) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Suppose f is non-negative on M , then the previous inequality gives us

$$sup_V f - inf_V f \leq C diam(V) (sup_V f) \quad (4)$$

and hence, $sup_V f \leq \frac{inf_V f}{1 - C diam(V)}$ whenever $diam(V) < 1/C$ which is clearly a form of Harnack's inequality.

Before we proceed, note that the Laplacian on a manifold with Riemannian metric $g_{i,j}$, is defined as

$$\Delta f = g^{i,j} D_i D_j f \quad (5)$$

where $g^{i,j}$ is the inverse of $g_{i,j}$ and D_i is the covariant derivative in the direction of the x_i coordinate.

2 A Generalized Maximal Principle

Lemma 1. *Let M be an n -dimensional Riemannian manifold. Let $x \in M$ be a point which can be joined to p by a minimal geodesic. Then if x is not on the cut locus of p , we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \gamma(x) &\leq K(x) \\ &= \min_{0 \leq k \leq \ell} \frac{n-1}{\ell-k} - \frac{1}{(\ell-k)^2} \int_0^\ell (t-k)^2 Ric(N) dt \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Proof. Let $\sigma : [0, \ell] \rightarrow M$ be the minimal geodesic of length $l = \gamma(x)$ from p to x , and J_i the unique Jacobi fields vanishing at $\sigma(0)$ such that $J_i(l) = E_i(l)$, where $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_{n-1}, N = \sigma'$ form a parallel field along σ . Firstly, we need to show that,

$$0 = \partial_{J_i} \langle N, J_i \rangle = \langle D_{J_i} N, J_i \rangle - \langle D_{J_i} J_i, N \rangle \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_N \langle N, J_i \rangle &= \partial_t \langle N, J_i \rangle \\ &= \langle D_N N, J_i \rangle + \langle N, D_N J_i \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Now, $\langle D_N N, J_i \rangle = 0$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \langle D_N N, J_i \rangle + \langle N, D_N J_i \rangle &= \langle N, D_N J_i \rangle \\ \partial_t \langle N, D_N J_i \rangle &= \langle D_N N, D_N J_i \rangle + \langle N, D_N D_N J_i \rangle \\ &= \langle N, D_N D_N J_i \rangle \\ &= \langle R(J_i, N) N, N \rangle \\ &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Since $\langle J_i(0), N \rangle = 0$ and $\langle J_i(l), N \rangle = 0$ since $J_i(l) = E_i$ which is orthogonal to N . Thus, $\langle N, J_i \rangle$ does not change with respect to N and its second derivative is 0. This means that $\langle N, J_i \rangle$ is identically 0 on $[0, \ell]$. A straightforward

computation then yields:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_N J_i, D_N J_i \rangle - \langle R(N, J_i) J_i, N \rangle dt \\
&= \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_N J_i, D_N J_i \rangle + \langle R(N, J_i) N, J_i \rangle dt \\
&= \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_N J_i, D_N J_i \rangle + \langle D_N D_N J_i, J_i \rangle dt \\
&= \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \partial_N \langle D_N J_i, J_i \rangle dt \\
&= \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \partial_t \langle D_{J_i} N, J_i \rangle dt \\
&= - \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \partial_t \langle D_{J_i} J_i, N \rangle dt \\
&= - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_{E_i} E_i, N \rangle \\
&= - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \partial_{D_{E_i} E_i} \gamma \\
&= \Delta \gamma
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

and hence, we have

$$\Delta \gamma(x) = \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_N J_i, D_N J_i \rangle - \langle R(N, J_i) J_i, N \rangle dt \tag{11}$$

Now let $f(t)$ be any piecewise smooth function defined on $[0, \ell]$ such that $f(0) = 0$ and $f(\ell) = 1$. Using the fundamental inequality of the index form we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_N J_i, D_N J_i \rangle - \langle R(N, J_i) J_i, N \rangle dt \\
& \leq \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_N f(t) E_i, D_N f(t) E_i \rangle - \langle R(N, f(t) E_i) f(t) E_i, N \rangle dt
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

For $0 \leq k \leq \ell$, we define f to be zero for $0 \leq t \leq k$ and $(t - \ell)/(\ell - k)$ for $t \geq k$.

Then, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta\gamma &\leq \int_0^\ell \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle D_N f(t)E_i, D_N f(t)E_i \rangle - \langle R(N, f(t)E_i)f(t)E_i, N \rangle dt \\
&\leq \int_0^\ell (\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (f'(t))^2) - (f(t))^2 Ric(N) dt \\
&= \int_0^\ell (n-1)(f'(t))^2 - (f(t))^2 Ric(N) dt \\
&= (1/(\ell-k)^2)(\ell-k)(n-1) - (1/(\ell-k)^2) \int_0^\ell (t-k)^2 Ric(N) dt \\
&= (n-1)/(\ell-k) - (1/(\ell-k)^2) \int_0^\ell (t-k)^2 Ric(N) dt
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

And since this inequality holds for all $k \in [0, \ell]$, it must also hold for the minimum. Thus,

$$\Delta\gamma \leq \min_{0 \leq k \leq \ell} (n-1)/(\ell-k) - (1/(\ell-k)^2) \int_0^\ell (t-k)^2 Ric(N) dt$$

and we have shown the result for Lemma 1. \square

Corollary 1. *Let M be a complete Riemannian manifold with Ricci curvature bounded from below. Then, $\Delta\gamma$ is bounded uniformly from above when $\gamma \geq 1$*

Proof. Suppose the Ricci curvature is bounded below by a constant R and $\gamma(x) \geq 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
K(x) &\leq \min_{0 \leq k \leq \ell-1} (n-1)/(\ell-k) - (1/(\ell-k)^2) \int_0^\ell (t-k)^2 R dt \\
&= \min_{0 \leq k \leq \ell-1} (n-1)/(\ell-k) - (\ell-k)R/3 \\
&= (n-1) - R/3
\end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Thus, by Lemma 1, $\Delta\gamma(x) \leq (n-1) - R/3, \forall x$ such that $\gamma(x) \geq 1$. \square

Let us consider C^2 function f defined on M and the graph $\Gamma = \{(f(x), x) : x \in M\}$. Γ is a closed submanifold of the product space $\mathbb{R} \times M$ with \mathbb{R} being the real line and M the manifold. The metric defined on Γ is the product metric.

Now, let us fix a point $p \in M$. Let us define $p_k = (k, p)$, where $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and let g_k be a segment of a geodesic from p_k to the graph Γ and so the length of g_k represents the shortest distance curve joining p_k and the graph Γ . Let $(f(q_k), q_k)$ be another end point of g_k and let $\pi(q_k)$ be the projection of g_k on M with end points p and q_k . Since g_k was a minimal geodesic, its projection $\pi(g_k)$ is also a minimal geodesic, since we have chosen the metric to be the product metric.

Claim 1. *The point q_k is not a conjugate point of p along $\pi(g_k)$.*

Proof. If q_k were a conjugate point of p along the projected geodesic $\pi(g_k)$, then the point $(f(q_k), q_k)$ would also be a conjugate point of p along g_k . Representing the arclength of g_k by l_k , for any $\epsilon > 0$ chosen sufficiently small, there exists a sphere centered at $g_k(l_k + \epsilon)$ with radius ϵ which touches the graph Γ at a single point, $g_k(l_k)$. If we assumed that $(f(q_k), q_k)$ were a conjugate point of p_k along g_k , then in a neighbourhood of g_k there would exist another geodesic, say g'_k from p_k to $g_k(l_k + \epsilon)$ of length $< l_k + \epsilon$. However, now if you let q'_k be the point of intersection of Γ and g'_k , then the distance from p_k to q'_k is $< l_k$, contradicting the fact that g_k was a minimal geodesic segment. \square

Call the neighbourhood of the geodesic $\pi(g_k)$ N_k such that $\pi(g_k)$ is the unique minimal geodesic in N_k which joins p and g_k . Let γ_k represent the distance function on N_k that is smooth at x , since p and q_k are not conjugate points. Let us, for now, shift f such that $f(p) = 0$ and define:

$$F_k(x) = k - \sqrt{l_k^2 - \gamma_k^2} \quad (15)$$

The squared distance from $(f(p), p)$ to (k, p) is given by k^2 since $f(p) = 0$. Then, we have that

$$(k - f(q_k))^2 + \gamma_k(q_k)^2 \leq k^2 \quad (16)$$

Furthermore, again since $(q_k, f(q_k))$ is the closest point from p_k to Γ , for any $x \in M$.

$$l_k^2 \leq (k - f(x))^2 + \gamma_k(x)^2 \quad (17)$$

By the latter inequality and rearranging its terms, we see that $f(x) \leq F_k(x)$ and at $x = q_k$, we have that $f(q_k) = F_k(q_k)$ since

$$\begin{aligned} F_k(q_k) &= k - \sqrt{l_k^2 - \gamma_k(q_k)^2} \\ &\leq k - \sqrt{(k - f(q_k))^2} \\ &= f(q_k) \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Thus, q_k is a local minimum for the function $F_k(x) - f(x)$ since $0 \leq F_k(x) - f(x) \forall x$ and equality holds at $x = q_k$. Thus, the Laplacian at $F_k(x) - f(x)$ at $x = q_k$ should be greater than or equal to 0 since it is a local minimum.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(F_k(x) - f(x)) &\geq 0 \\ \Delta f(q_k) &\leq \Delta F_k(q_k) \\ &= \Delta(k - \sqrt{l_k^2 - \gamma_k^2}) \\ &= \frac{\Delta \gamma_k^2(q_k)}{2(k - f(q_k))} + \frac{\nabla \gamma^2 \nabla \gamma^2(q_k)}{4(k - f(q_k))^3} \\ &\leq \frac{\gamma_k(q_k) \Delta \gamma_k(q_k)}{k - f(q_k)} + \frac{1}{k - f(q_k)} + \frac{(\gamma_k(q_k))^2}{(k - f(q_k))^3} \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

By the result of Lemma 1, we can replace $\Delta\gamma_k(q_k)$ by $K(q_k)$ with an inequality to get:

$$\Delta f(q_k) \leq \frac{\gamma_k(q_k)K(q_k)}{k-f(q_k)} + \frac{1}{k-f(q_k)} + \frac{(\gamma_k(q_k))^2}{(k-f(q_k))^3} \quad (20)$$

We also have that since $f(p) = 0$, $f(q_k) \geq 0 = f(p)$. A straightforward computation then gives that

$$\Delta f(q_k) \leq (K(q_n) + \frac{1}{\gamma(q_k)}) \left(\frac{2f(q_k)}{\gamma(q_k)(1-f(q_k)/k)} \right) + \frac{1}{\gamma(q_k)} \left(\frac{2f(q_k)}{\gamma(q_k)(1-f(q_k)/k)} \right)^3 \quad (21)$$

Suppose function f satisfies,

$$\limsup_{\gamma(x) \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x) - f(p)}{\gamma(x)} < \infty \quad (22)$$

Then, we may find an appropriate scale factor a such that

$$\sup_{\gamma(x) \geq \delta} \frac{a(f(x) - f(p))}{\gamma(x)} < \epsilon \quad (23)$$

where $\delta = \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \gamma(q_k)$ which exists unless $\gamma(q_k) = 0 \forall k$. Letting $d_k = f(q_k)/\gamma(q_k)$, choosing a small enough and taking $\epsilon \leq 1/6$, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta a f(q_k) &\leq (K(q_n) + \frac{1}{\gamma(q_k)}) \left(\frac{2af(q_k)}{\gamma(q_k)(1-af(q_k)/k)} \right) + \frac{1}{\gamma(q_k)} \left(\frac{2af(q_k)}{\gamma(q_k)(1-af(q_k)/k)} \right)^3 \\ \Delta f(q_k) &= (K(q_n) + \frac{1}{\gamma(q_k)}) \left(\frac{2f(q_k)}{\gamma(q_k)(1-af(q_k)/k)} \right) + \frac{1}{\gamma(q_k)} \left(\frac{2f(q_k)}{\gamma(q_k)(1-af(q_k)/k)} \right)^3 \\ &\leq (K + 1/\gamma) \left(\frac{2}{1-af} \right) d_k + \frac{a^2}{\gamma} d_k \frac{f^2}{\gamma^2} \left(\frac{2}{1-af} \right)^3 \\ &\leq (K + 1/\gamma + \frac{4}{\gamma} \epsilon^2 (1-\epsilon)^{-2}) (2d_k (1-\epsilon)^{-1}) \\ &\leq (K + \frac{1+\epsilon}{\gamma}) \left(\frac{2d_k}{1-\epsilon} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Observe that since q_k is a local minimum of the function $F_k(x) - f(x)$, $\nabla f(q_k) = \nabla F_k(q_k)$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla f(q_k)| &= |\nabla F_k(q_k)| = \frac{\gamma(q_k)}{a(k-af(q_k))} \\ &\leq 2d_k \frac{1}{a(1-af(q_k)/k)} \\ &\leq \frac{2d_k}{a(1-\epsilon)} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Claim 2. For all $x \in M$, for all $\delta > 0$, there exists a point q_k in our sequence such that $f(q_k) \geq f(x) - \delta$.

Proof. Let us assume that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$f(x) > \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(q_k) + \delta \quad (26)$$

Then, for any k sufficiently large,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(2k - f(x) - f(q_k)) + \gamma(q_k)^2 - \gamma(x)^2 &> 0 \\ (f(x) - f(q_k))(2k - f(x) - f(q_k)) + \gamma(q_k)^2 - \gamma(x)^2 &> 0 \\ 2f(x)k - f(x)^2 - f(x)f(q_k) - 2f(q_k)k + f(x)f(q_k) + f(q_k)^2 + \gamma(q_k)^2 - \gamma(x)^2 &> 0 \\ (k - f(x))^2 + \gamma(x)^2 &< (k - f(q_k))^2 + \gamma(q_k)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

This, however, contradicts the choice of q_k as having minimized the quantity on the right-hand side which equals to l_k^2 . \square

If there exist infinitely many values of $\gamma(q_k)$ such that $\gamma(q_k) \leq 1$, then on this compact set, f must attain its supremum at one of the limit points of the q_k . Thus, we have proven the following theorem.

Theorem 1. *Let f be a C^2 -function defined on a complete Riemannian manifold. Suppose*

$$\limsup_{\gamma(x) \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x) - f(p)}{\gamma(x)} < \infty \quad (28)$$

Then either f attains its supremum at some point with $\gamma(x) \leq 1$ or, for all $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$, we can find a sequence $\{q_k\}$ in M such that $\gamma(q_k) \geq 1$ and the following hold, where $d_k = (f(q_k) - f(p))/\gamma(q_k)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(q_k) &= \sup f \\ |\Delta f(q_k)| &\leq \frac{2d_k}{a(1 - \epsilon)} \\ \Delta f(q_k) &\leq (K(q_k) + \frac{1 + \epsilon}{\gamma(q_k)}) \frac{2d_k}{1 - \epsilon} \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Corollary 2. *Suppose in Theorem 1*

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{\gamma(x) \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x) - f(p)}{\gamma(x)} &\leq 0 \\ \limsup_{\gamma(x) \rightarrow \infty, f(x) \geq f(p)} \frac{K(x)(f(x) - f(p))}{\gamma(x)} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Then, there are points $\{q_k\} \subset M$ such that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(q_k) = \sup f$, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \nabla f(q_k) = 0$ and $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Delta f(q_k) \leq 0$.

Proof. Suppose $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \gamma(q_k) = \infty$. Then, Corollary 2 follows by taking the limsup of both sides of the inequalities in Theorem 1. Otherwise, $f(x)$ attains its supremum at some point q' . In this case, we may simply choose $p = q'$ and the inequalities hold. \square

Let $X : M \rightarrow R^N$ be a proper isometric immersion of a complete Riemannian manifold into some Euclidean space of dimension N . Let the distance function be given simply by the Euclidean distance function restricted to M that is, $\gamma(x) = \|X(x) - X(p)\|$.

Claim 3. *Let H represent the mean curvature vector of M , then*

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla\gamma| &\leq 1 \\ \gamma\Delta\gamma + |\nabla\gamma|^2 &= n + n \langle H, X(x) - X(p) \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Proof. Using the fact that $Hn = \sum_{i,j} g^{i,j} \Delta_i \Delta_j X$ and that $\langle D_i X(x), D_j X(x) \rangle$ is the first fundamental form and thus given by $g_{i,j}$, where the product of $\sum_{i,j} g^{i,j} g_{i,j} = \text{trace}(I_n)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(\gamma^2) &= 2\gamma\Delta(\gamma) + 2(\nabla\gamma)^2 \\ &= 2\gamma\Delta(\gamma) + 2(\nabla\gamma)^2 \\ &= \Delta(\langle X(x) - X(p), X(x) - X(p) \rangle) \\ &= \sum_{i,j} g^{i,j} D_i D_j \langle X(x) - X(p), X(x) - X(p) \rangle \\ &= 2 \sum_{i,j} g^{i,j} D_i \langle D_j X(x), X(x) - X(p) \rangle \\ &= 2 \sum_{i,j} g^{i,j} (\langle D_i D_j X(x), X(x) - X(p) \rangle + \langle D_j X(x), D_i X(x) \rangle) \\ &= 2 \sum_{i,j} g^{i,j} \langle D_i D_j X(x), X(x) - X(p) \rangle + 2g_{i,j} \\ &= 2 \langle Hn, X(x) - X(p) \rangle + 2n \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

□

Now, let f be any C^2 - function which is bounded from above on M . Let us define, for all $k > 0$,

$$g(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(p) + 1}{[\log(\gamma^2(x) + 2)]^k} \quad (33)$$

It is clear that $g(p) = 1/(\log 2)^k$ and that the limit of $g(x)$ as $\gamma(x) \rightarrow \infty$ is 0. Thus, g must attain its supremum at some point $x_k \in M$. So,

$$\begin{aligned} g(x_k) &= \sup g(x) \\ \nabla g(x_k) &= 0 \\ \Delta g(x_k) &\leq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

A straightforward computation, that can be found in Yau's original article, shows the above.

Theorem 2. *Let M be a complete, properly immersed submanifold of some Euclidean space. Let f be any C^2 -function which is bounded above on M . Then there exists a sequence of points $\{x_k\}$ in M such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(x_k) &= \sup f \\ |\nabla f| &\leq \frac{2(f(x_k) - f(p) + 1)\gamma(x_k)}{k(\gamma^2(x_k) + 2)\log(\gamma^2(x_k) + 2)} \\ \Delta f(x_k) &\leq \frac{2n(f(x_k) - f(p) + 1)}{k(\gamma^2(x_k) + 2)\log(\gamma^2(x_k) + 2)} [1 + \langle H, X(x_k) - X(p) \rangle] \\ &\quad - \frac{4\gamma^2(f(x_k) - f(p) + 1)}{k(\gamma^2(x_k) + 2)\log(\gamma^2(x_k) + 2)} \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

3 Gradient Estimates of Partial Differential Equations on a Riemannian Manifold

In this section, we will state results from Yau's article which were obtained by applying Corollary 2 on the function

$$g(x) = -\frac{f(x) + b - \inf f}{\sqrt{|\nabla f|^2 + a}} \tag{36}$$

where a and b are small positive constants. This allows us to obtain a negative upper bound, $-C$, on the supremum of g which then yields the following theorems.

Theorem 3. *Let M be a complete Riemannian manifold with Ricci curvature bounded from below by a constant $-K$. Let f be a C^2 -function bounded from below on M such that, for positive constants C_i ,*

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta f| &\leq C_i |\Delta f| + C_2(f - \inf f) + C_3 \\ |\nabla(\Delta f)| &\leq C_4 \sqrt{\sum_{i,j} f_{i,j}^2} + C_5 |\nabla f| + C_6(f - \inf f) + C_7 \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

Then, for any constant b such that $b + \inf f > 0$, there exists a constant C that depends only on b , K , $\dim M$, and the C_i such that

$$|\nabla f| \leq C(f - \inf f) \tag{38}$$

From the above theorem, we see that for harmonic functions, the C_i are all zero and we have the following theorem. In particular, this gives us the result we discussed in the introduction.

Theorem 4. *Let M be an n -dimensional complete Riemannian manifold with Ricci curvature bounded from below by $-K$. Let f be a harmonic function bounded from below on M . Then,*

$$|\Delta f| \leq \sqrt{(n-1)K}(f - \inf f) \tag{39}$$

Corollary 3. *Let M be a complete Riemannian manifold with non-negative Ricci curvature. Then every positive harmonic function on M is a constant.*

Corollary 4. *Let B be the open unit ball in an n -dimensional Euclidean space. Let f be a harmonic function which is bounded from below on B . Then there is a constant C , depending only on n , such*

$$|\nabla f|(x) \leq \frac{C(f(x) - \inf f)}{1 - |x|^2} \quad (40)$$

Corollary 5. *Let M be a complete Riemannian manifold with Ricci curvature bounded from below. Let H be a smooth function defined on M such that both $-H$ and $|\nabla H|$ are uniformly bounded. If the equation $\Delta f = Hf$ has a smooth positive solution, then, for any sequence of domains $\{D_i\}$ of M with smooth boundaries $\{\partial D_i\}$ and $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} (\text{Vol}(D_i)/\text{Vol}(\partial D_i)) = \infty$, we have*

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\text{Vol}(D_i)} \int_{D_i} H \geq 0 \quad (41)$$