An introduction to spectral geometry

Emilio Lauret Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina

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An introduction to inverse spectral geometry

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An introduction to inverse spectral geometry

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$$\begin{array}{lll} \Delta(f) &=& -\operatorname{div}(\operatorname{grad}(f)) = d^*d \\ &=& \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}}\sum_{ij}\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}\left(\sqrt{g}g^{ij}\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\right). \end{array}$$

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• It is positive definite (i.e. $\langle \Delta f, f \rangle \geq 0$).

$$\Delta(f) = \lambda f.$$

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The spectrum of Δ , denoted by Spec(M, g), is the multiset of eigenvalues λ repeated according its multiplicity $(= \dim\{f \in C^{\infty}(M) : \Delta f = \lambda f\}).$

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It is discrete, and each eigenvalue λ has finite multiplicity.

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Spectral information?Geometric information
$$Spec(M,g)$$
dimension, volume, curvature,
is Kähler?, is Einstein?, ...

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Known spectral invariants:

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Known spectral invariants: dimension, volume,

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Known spectral invariants: dimension, volume, heat invariants

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Known spectral invariants: dimension, volume, heat invariants (Prof. Gilkey is an expert on this matter).

Can one hear the shape of a drum?

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The eigenvalues are the fundamental tones.

Can one hear the shape of a drum?

Bounded plane domain \equiv a drum.

The frequencies of the domain are encoded by the spectrum of the Laplace operator.

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 $\operatorname{Spec}(M_1) = \operatorname{Spec}(M_2) \stackrel{?}{\Longrightarrow} M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are isometric.}$
A funnier title to this course:

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Definition: M_1 and M_2 are called *isospectral* if $Spec(M_1) = Spec(M_2)$.

One cannot hear the shape of a drum!

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One cannot hear the shape of a drum!

Carolyn Gordon, David Webb and Scott Wolpert (in 1992) found the first example of non-congruent isospectral plane domains:

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There are methods to construct isospectral manifolds, without knowing the spectrum explicitly.

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There are methods to construct isospectral manifolds, without knowing the spectrum explicitly. (Sunada method generalized by DeTurk-Gordon, torus method, among others).

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 $\S1$ Introduction (which is finishing now!).

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- $\S1$ Introduction (which is finishing now!).
- §2 Flat tori.
- $\S3$ Lens spaces.

§2 Flat tori
In
$$\mathbb{R}^n$$
, $\Delta = -\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} + \dots + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_n^2}\right)$.

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§2 Flat tori

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But \mathbb{R}^n is not compact!

Let Λ be a lattice in \mathbb{R}^n

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 $M_{\Lambda} := \mathbb{R}^n / \Lambda.$

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 $v + \Lambda = w + \Lambda \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad v - w \in \Lambda.$



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It is homeomorphic to

, but it is flat.

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Hence $f_{\nu} \in C^{\infty}(M_{\Lambda})$

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For $v, w \in \Lambda^*$,

$$\langle f_{v}, f_{w} \rangle = \frac{1}{\operatorname{vol}(M_{\Lambda})} \int_{M_{\Lambda}} e^{2\pi i \langle x, v - w \rangle} dx$$
Given a lattice Λ of \mathbb{R}^n , we associate the dual lattice

$$\Lambda^* := \{ w \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle v, w \rangle \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for all } v \in \Lambda \}.$$

$$v \in \Lambda^* \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad f_v : M_\Lambda \to \mathbb{C} \text{ since, for } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } w \in \Lambda,$$

 $f_v(x+w) = e^{2\pi i \langle x+w,v \rangle} = e^{2\pi i \langle x,v \rangle} e^{2\pi i \langle w,v \rangle} = f_v(x).$

Hence $f_{\nu} \in C^{\infty}(M_{\Lambda}) \subseteq L^{2}(M_{\Lambda})$, a Hilbert space with

$$\langle f,g\rangle = \frac{1}{\operatorname{vol}(M_{\Lambda})}\int_{M_{\Lambda}}f(x)\overline{g(x)}dx.$$

For $v, w \in \Lambda^*$,

$$\langle f_{v}, f_{w} \rangle = \frac{1}{\operatorname{vol}(M_{\Lambda})} \int_{M_{\Lambda}} e^{2\pi i \langle x, v-w \rangle} dx = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v = w, \\ 0 & \text{if } v \neq w. \end{cases}$$

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For $v \in \Lambda$ and $f \in C^{\infty}(M_{\Lambda})$, the Fourier transform:

$$\widehat{f}(v) = \int_{M_{\Lambda}} f(x) e^{-2\pi i \langle x, v \rangle} dx = \langle f, f_v \rangle.$$

The Fourier series satisfies

$$\sum_{v\in\Lambda}\widehat{f}(v)\,e^{2\pi i\langle x,v\rangle}=f(x).$$

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Hence, $\{f_v\}_{v \in \Lambda^*}$ is an orthonormal basis of $L^2(M_{\Lambda})$ (since $C^{\infty}(M_{\Lambda})$ is dense in $L^2(M_{\Lambda})$).

Furthermore, $\{f_v\}_{v \in \Lambda^*}$ are eigenfunctions of Δ ,

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In other words, if $\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, then

$$mult(4\pi^{2}\mu) = \#\{v \in \Lambda^{*} : \|v\|^{2} = \mu\}.$$

Example: $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}^n$

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$$\begin{array}{lll} r_4(\mu) &=& 8\sum_{d\mid\mu\atop 4\mid d} d \qquad (\text{Jacobi}), \\ r_2(\mu) &=& 4\Big(d_1(\mu)-d_3(\mu)\Big), \end{array}$$

where $d_j(\mu) = #\{d : d \mid \mu, \ d \equiv j \pmod{4}\}.$

Theorem (Milnor, 1962)

The flat tori \mathbb{R}^n/Λ_1 and \mathbb{R}^n/Λ_2 are isospectral if and only if the quadratic forms $(\Lambda_1^*, \|\cdot\|^2)$ and $(\Lambda_2^*, \|\cdot\|^2)$ represent the same numbers (with multiplicities)

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If f is a harmonic ($\Delta f = 0$) homogeneous polynomial of degree k, then

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Let *f* be a harmonic homogeneous polynomial of degree *k*. Let r = |x|, thus $r^2 = \sum_i x_i^2$. If $x \in S^n$, then r = 1.

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$$+2k^{2}f(x)$$

Let f be a harmonic homogeneous polynomial of degree k. Let r = |x|, thus $r^2 = \sum_i x_i^2$.

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$$\begin{split} \mathsf{mult}(\lambda_k) &= \dim H_k = \dim \mathcal{P}_k - \dim \mathcal{P}_{k-2} \\ \mathsf{since} \ \mathcal{P}_k &= H_k \oplus r^2 \mathcal{P}_{k-2} \simeq H_k \oplus \mathcal{P}_{k-2}. \end{split}$$

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Hence

$$\operatorname{mult}(\lambda_k) = \binom{k+n}{n} - \binom{k-2+n}{n}.$$