

**ON THE LEAST POSITIVE EIGENVALUE OF THE LAPLACIAN
 FOR THE COMPACT QUOTIENT OF A CERTAIN
 RIEMANNIAN SYMMETRIC SPACE**

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§1. Introduction and statement of results

Let (\tilde{M}, g) be the standard Euclidean space or a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type of rank one. Let G be the identity component of the Lie group of all isometries of (\tilde{M}, g) . Let Γ be a discrete subgroup of G acting fixed point freely on \tilde{M} whose quotient manifold M_Γ is compact. Let $-\Delta_\Gamma$ be the Laplace-Beltrami operator (cf. [4]) acting on smooth functions on M_Γ for the Riemannian metric g_Γ on M_Γ induced by g . The compactness of M_Γ implies that the spectrum of Δ_Γ forms a discrete subset of the set of non-negative real numbers. Let $\lambda_1(\Gamma)$ be the least positive eigenvalue of Δ_Γ . Let $\text{vol}(M_\Gamma)$ be the volume of (M_Γ, g_Γ) . Then we have

THEOREM A. *Let (\tilde{M}, g) be the n -dimensional standard Euclidean space, so that (M_Γ, g_Γ) is a compact flat manifold. Then we have*

$$(1) \quad \lambda_1(\Gamma) \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{2/n} \leq n^{-1}(2+n)^{1+2/n} \left[\frac{2\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(n/2)} \right]^{2/n} [j_{n/2-1}]^{2-4/n},$$

where the number $j_{n/2-1}$ is the least positive zero point of the $(n/2 - 1)$ -th Bessel function $J_{n/2-1}$.

Remark. Since $j_{n/2-1} \sim n/2$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (cf. [7] p. 153), the right hand side of (1) is $(\pi e/2)n = (4.2699 \dots)n$ asymptotically as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Let $\mu_n = \max_\Gamma \lambda_1(\Gamma) \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{2/n}$ where the maximum is taken over all lattices Γ of \mathbf{R}^n . For a lattice Γ of \mathbf{R}^n , the spectrum of the corresponding flat torus (M_Γ, g_Γ) is given by $\{4\pi^2 |x|^2; x \in \Gamma^*\}$, where Γ^* is a dual lattice of Γ , $|x|^2 = (x, x)$, $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ and $(,)$ is the inner product of \mathbf{R}^n which gives the standard Riemannian metric on \mathbf{R}^n (cf. [1]). So we have $\lambda_1(\Gamma)$

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$= 4\pi^2 \min_{x \in \Gamma^* - (0)} |x|^2$. On the other hand, $\text{vol}(M_\Gamma) = \det(\Gamma^*)^{-1/2}$ (cf. [6]). Here $\det(\Gamma^*)$ is the determinant of the matrix $((b_i, b_j))_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$, where $\{b_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is a basis of \mathbb{R}^n generating the lattice Γ^* . Then the above μ_n coincides $4\pi^2$ times the largest possible value for the ratio

$$\mu(\Gamma^*) = \left(\min_{x \in \Gamma^* - (0)} |x|^2 \right) (\det(\Gamma^*))^{-n}$$

where Γ^* varies over all lattices in \mathbb{R}^n . A problem to compute the value μ_n for every n is related to the following classical problem (cf. [6] p. 34): *What is the maximum possible density for a union of non-overlapping balls of fixed radius in \mathbb{R}^n ?* But until now the value μ_n is unknown for $n \geq 9$. In 1905, H. Minkowski has given (cf. [6]) a lower estimate for μ_n by

$$\mu_n > 4\pi^2 \omega_n^{-2/n}$$

where ω_n is the volume of the unit disk in \mathbb{R}^n and $4\pi^2 \omega_n^{-2/n} \sim (2\pi/e)n = (2.3115 \dots)n$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. On the other hand, in 1958, C. A. Rogers has given (cf. [6]) an upper estimate for μ_n by

$$\mu_n \leq Q_n$$

where the constant Q_n is $(4\pi/e)n = (4.6229 \dots)n$ asymptotically as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The above remark implies that Theorem A improves the result of Rogers in the asymptotic sense.

THEOREM B. *Let (\tilde{M}, g) be a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type of rank one. Let G be the connected component of the Lie group of all isometries of (\tilde{M}, g) . We normalize g in such a way that it is induced by the Killing form of the Lie algebra of G . Consider all discrete subgroups Γ of G acting fixed point freely on \tilde{M} whose quotient manifold M_Γ is compact. Then we have*

$$(2) \quad \limsup_{\text{vol}(M_\Gamma) \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1(\Gamma) \leq |\delta|^2,$$

for a positive constant $|\delta|^2$ depending only on (\tilde{M}, g) (cf. § 2).

Notice that every real valued zonal spherical function φ_λ on \tilde{M} corresponding to the principal series of G (cf. [10]) satisfies (cf. [3])

$$\Delta \varphi_\lambda = (|\lambda|^2 + |\delta|^2) \varphi_\lambda, \quad |\lambda|^2 \geq 0.$$

Here $-\Delta$ is the Laplace-Beltrami operator of (\tilde{M}, g) and it satisfies (cf. § 4) $\Delta(f \circ \pi) = (\Delta_\Gamma f) \circ \pi$ for every smooth function f on M_Γ , where π is the natural

projection of \tilde{M} onto M_r . If (\tilde{M}, g) is the unit disc with the Poincaré metric, then Theorem B has been obtained by H. Huber [5].

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§ 2. Preliminaries

In this section, following [2] and [3], we prepare some properties of the zonal spherical functions on the Euclidean space or a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type of rank one.

2.1. Let (\tilde{M}, g) be the standard Euclidean space (\mathbf{R}^n, g) . Let (x_1, \dots, x_n) be the orthonormal coordinate of \mathbf{R}^n . Let $-\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^n \partial^2/\partial x_i^2$ be the Laplace-Beltrami operator on \mathbf{R}^n . The zonal spherical functions on \mathbf{R}^n (cf. [9]) are eigen-functions of Δ depending only on $r = |x|$, $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$, whose values at 0 are 1. For example (cf. [7]), for $p \in \mathbf{R}$ ($p > 0$), consider the functions

$$\Phi_p(x) = \begin{cases} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)\left(\frac{pr}{2}\right)^{1-n/2} J_{n/2-1}(pr) & (x \neq 0), \\ 1 & (x = 0). \end{cases}$$

Then Φ_p is real analytic on \mathbf{R}^n and written as $\Phi_p(x) = \Psi_p(r)$ where $\Psi_p(s) = \psi(ps)$ and ψ is an even function on \mathbf{R} defined by

$$\psi(s) = \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m (m!)^{-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2} + m\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{s}{2}\right)^{2m}.$$

Then Ψ_p satisfies the equation

$$(2.1) \quad -\frac{d^2}{dr^2} \Psi_p - \frac{n-1}{r} \frac{d}{dr} \Psi_p = p^2 \Phi_p.$$

Recalling the general equality:

$$\Delta F = -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} F - \frac{n-1}{r} \frac{\partial F}{\partial r}$$

for a rotationary invariant function $F \in C^2(\mathbf{R}^n - (0))$, we get $\Delta \Phi_p = p^2 \Phi_p$ (cf. [9]). Let $j_{n/2-1}$ be the least positive zero point of $J_{n/2-1}$. Let f be the even function on \mathbf{R} by

$$f(s) = \begin{cases} \Psi_p(s)^{1+\varepsilon}, & |s| \leq \frac{j_{n/2-1}}{p}, \\ 0, & |s| \geq \frac{j_{n/2-1}}{p}, \end{cases}$$

where $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. Then f satisfies

LEMMA 2.1. (1) f belongs to $C^1(\mathbf{R})$ and the support of f is contained in the set $\{|s| \leq j_{n/2-1}/p\}$, (2) f'' is continuous except the point $|s| = j_{n/2-1}/p$, (3) $f''(s) = O(|s| - j_{n/2-1}/p)^{\varepsilon-1}$, so $f'' \in L^1(\mathbf{R})$, and (4) $L_1(f) + (1 + \varepsilon)p^2f \geq 0$ ($|s| \neq 0, j_{n/2-1}/p$), for the differential operator L_1 on $\mathbf{R} - \{0\}$ defined by

$$L_1 = \frac{d^2}{ds^2} + \frac{n-1}{s} \frac{d}{ds}.$$

Proof. (1) and (2) are clear. (3) is due to the fact that the number $j_{n/2-1}$ is the zero point of $J_{n/2-1}$ of first order (cf. [7] p. 151). By (2.1), we have

$$L_1(f) + (1 + \varepsilon)p^2f = (1 + \varepsilon)\varepsilon \left(\frac{d\Psi_p}{ds} \right)^2 \Psi_p^{\varepsilon-1} \geq 0,$$

for $0 < |s| < j_{n/2-1}/p$, so (4) holds.

Q.E.D.

Let F be the function on \mathbf{R}^n defined by $F(x) = f(|x|)$, $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$. Then we have

LEMMA 2.2. F belongs to $C^1(\mathbf{R}^n)$ and $C^2(\mathbf{R}^n - \gamma_1)$ where $\gamma_1 = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n; |x| = 0 \text{ or } j_{n/2-1}/p\}$, and the support of F is contained in the set $\{x \in \mathbf{R}^n; |x| \leq j_{n/2-1}/p\}$. Moreover

$$(2.2) \quad (\Delta F)(x) = -(L_1 f)(|x|) \quad (x \neq 0) \text{ and } \Delta F \in L^1(\mathbf{R}^n),$$

$$(2.3) \quad \Delta F \leq (1 + \varepsilon)p^2F \quad \text{on } \mathbf{R}^n - \gamma_1.$$

Proofs are immediate from Lemma 2.1.

Due to Lemma 2.1, there exists a sequence $\{f_m\}_{m=1}^\infty$ of smooth even functions on \mathbf{R} such that (5) $f_m(s) = f(s)$ ($|s| \leq j_{n/2-1}/2p$) and $f_m(s) = 0$ ($|s| \geq 2j_{n/2-1}/p$), (6) f_m (resp. f'_m) converges to f (resp. f') uniformly on \mathbf{R} as $m \rightarrow \infty$ and (7) $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-\infty}^\infty |f''_m(s) - f''(s)| ds = 0$.

Define $F_m \in C^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n)$ by $F_m(x) = f_m(|x|)$, $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$. Then by (5), (6) and (7), the support of F_m is included in the set $\{x \in \mathbf{R}^n; |x| \leq 2j_{n/2-1}/p\}$, F_m converges to F uniformly on \mathbf{R}^n and

$$(2.4) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\Delta F_m - \Delta F| dx = 0,$$

where dx is the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n .

2.2. Let (\tilde{M}, g) be a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type of rank one. Let G be the identity component of the Lie group of all isometries of (\tilde{M}, g) . Let K be the isotropy subgroup of G at some point o of \tilde{M} . The subgroup K is a maximal compact subgroup of G . Let \mathfrak{g} , (resp. \mathfrak{k}) be the Lie algebra of G (resp. K). Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} + \mathfrak{p}$ be the Cartan decomposition of \mathfrak{g} corresponding to \mathfrak{k} . Then \mathfrak{p} is identified with the tangent space of \tilde{M} at o . Let α be a maximal abelian subspace of \mathfrak{p} , α^* its dual and α_c^* the complexification of α^* . Then $\text{rank}(\tilde{M}, g) = 1$ means $\dim \alpha = 1$. Let B be the Killing form of \mathfrak{g} . We assume the Riemannian metric g on $\tilde{M} = G/K$ is induced by $g_o(X_o, Y_o) = B(X, Y)$, $X, Y \in \mathfrak{p}$, where X_o, Y_o are the tangent vectors of \tilde{M} at $o = \{K\}$ corresponding to X, Y , respectively. For $\lambda \in \alpha^*$, let $H_\lambda \in \alpha$ be determined by $\lambda(H) = B(H_\lambda, H)$ for all $H \in \alpha$. Put $(\lambda, \mu) = B(H_\lambda, H_\mu)$ for $\lambda, \mu \in \alpha^*$. We fix an order on α^* once and for all. Let Σ be the set of all non-zero restricted roots of (\mathfrak{g}, α) and Σ^+ the set of positive elements in Σ . For, $\alpha \in \Sigma$, let $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha = \{X \in \mathfrak{g}; [H, X] = \alpha(H)X \text{ for all } H \in \alpha\}$. Let denote $m_\alpha = \dim \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ for $\alpha \in \Sigma$, which is called the multiplicity of α . Let $\delta = 2^{-1} \sum_{\alpha \in \Sigma^+} m_\alpha \alpha$. Let $\mathfrak{n} = \sum_{\alpha \in \Sigma^+} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ and N the connected subgroup of G corresponding to \mathfrak{n} . Each $g \in G$ can be uniquely written as $g = \kappa(g) \exp(H(g))n(g)$ where $\kappa(g) \in K$, $H(g) \in \alpha$ and $n(g) \in N$. In case of rank one, the zonal spherical functions on \tilde{M} mean the (complex valued) K -invariant eigen-functions of the Laplace-Beltrami operator $-\Delta$ of (\tilde{M}, g) whose values at $o = \{K\}$ are 1. These functions are exhausted by $\varphi_\lambda(g) = \int_K e^{(\sqrt{-1}\lambda - \delta)H(gk)} dk$, $\lambda \in \alpha_c^*$, $g \in G$, where dk is the Haar measure on K such that the total measure is 1. Here φ_λ satisfies $\varphi_\lambda(gk) = \varphi_\lambda(g)$ ($g \in G, k \in K$) and hence it is regarded as a function on \tilde{M} . Notice that $\Sigma^+ = \{\alpha, (2\alpha)\}$ and $\delta = 2^{-1}(m_\alpha + 2m_{2\alpha})\alpha$ since \tilde{M} is of rank one. Let $H_o \in \alpha$ be the element such that $\alpha(H_o) = 1$ and hence $B(H_o, H_o) = 2(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})$. For $t \in \mathbb{R}$, put $h_t = \exp(tH_o) \in A = \exp(\alpha)$. Then t can be regarded as the coordinate on the one dimensional Lie group A . Put $x = -(\sinh(t))^2$. Since $\varphi_\lambda(h_t)$ is an even function of t , it is written as $\varphi_\lambda(h_t) = g_\lambda(x)$. Then g_λ satisfies

$$(2.5) \quad x(x - 1) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} g_\lambda + ((a + b + 1)x - c) \frac{dg_\lambda}{dx} = -abg_\lambda,$$

where $a = 4^{-1}(m_\alpha + 2m_{2\alpha} + 2\sqrt{-1}\lambda(H_0))$, $b = 4^{-1}(m_\alpha + 2m_{2\alpha} - 2\sqrt{-1}\lambda(H_0))$ and $c = 2^{-1}(m_\alpha + m_{2\alpha} + 1)$ (cf. [3] p. 301). Notice that $a + b, ab$ and $c > 0$. Thus $g_\lambda(x)$ is the hypergeometric function $F(a, b, c; x)$. Moreover, each K -invariant function $F \in C^2(M - (o))$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} & -2^{-1}(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})(\Delta F)(kh_t \cdot o) \\ & = x(x - 1)\frac{d^2G}{dx^2}(x) + ((a + b + 1)x - c)\frac{dG}{dx}(x) \end{aligned}$$

($t \neq 0, k \in K$), where G is the function defined by $F(t) = G(x)$ (cf. [3] p. 302). Thus we have

$$2^{-1}(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})\Delta\varphi_\lambda = ab\varphi_\lambda.$$

If $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}^*$, φ_λ is real valued and has the following asymptotic behavior:

$$(2.6) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |e^{t\delta(H_0)}\varphi_\lambda(h_t) - (c(\lambda)e^{t\sqrt{-1}\lambda(H_0)} + c(-\lambda)e^{-t\sqrt{-1}\lambda(H_0)})| = 0,$$

where $c(\lambda) = \Gamma(c)\Gamma(\sqrt{-1}\lambda(H_0))\Gamma(a)^{-1}\Gamma(m_\alpha + 2 + 2\sqrt{-1}\lambda(H_0))^{-1}$ (cf. [3] p. 303).

Let dg_x be the volume element of (\tilde{M}, g) . Then it is known (cf. [4] p. 381) that

$$(2.7) \quad \int_{\tilde{M}} f(g \cdot o)dg_x = C \int_{-\infty}^0 D(x)g(x)dx$$

for every integrable K -invariant function f on \tilde{M} and $g(x) = f(h_t \cdot o)$, $x = -(\sinh(t))^2$. Here C is a positive constant which does not depend on f and $D(x) = (-x)^{2^{-1}(m_\alpha + m_{2\alpha} - 1)}(1 - x)^{2^{-1}(m_{2\alpha} - 1)}$.

2.3. First, we notice that if $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}^*$, $\lambda \neq 0$, then the function φ_λ has zero points. For, since $|c(\lambda)| = |c(-\lambda)|$, $\overline{c(\lambda)} = c(-\lambda)$, we have by (2.6)

$$\varphi_\lambda(h_t) \sim 2e^{-t\delta(H_0)} |c(\lambda)| \cos(t\lambda(H_0) + \arg(c(\lambda))), \quad \delta(H_0) > 0,$$

as $t \rightarrow \infty$. So let $-A_\lambda(0 < A_\lambda < \infty)$ be the first zero point of $g_\lambda(x)$, $x \leq 0$. We consider also the function f_λ defined by

$$f_\lambda(x) = \begin{cases} g_\lambda(x)^{1+\varepsilon}, & -A_\lambda \leq x \leq 0, \\ 0, & -\infty < x < -A_\lambda, \end{cases}$$

where $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. The continuous function f_λ on $(-\infty, 0]$ has the following properties.

LEMMA 2.3. (1') f_λ belongs to $C^1(-\infty, 0]$ and the support of f_λ is contained in the set $\{-A_\lambda \leq x \leq 0\}$, (2') f_λ'' is continuous on $-\infty < x < 0$ except

$-A_\lambda$, (3') $f'_\lambda(x) = O(|x + A_\lambda|^{t-1})$, so $f''_\lambda \in L^1(-\infty, 0]$, and (4') $L_2(f_\lambda)(x) + (1 + \varepsilon)abf_\lambda(x) \geq 0$, except $x = 0$, $-A_\lambda$ for the differential operator L_2 on $(-\infty, 0]$ defined by

$$L_2 = x(x - 1)\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + ((a + b + 1)x - c)\frac{d}{dx}.$$

Proof. (1') and (2') are clear. For (3'), we may show that $-A_\lambda$ is the zero point of g_λ of first order. By the properties of the hypergeometric function $g_\lambda(x) = F(a, b, c; x)$,

$$((-x)^c(1 - x)^{a+b-c+1}g'_\lambda)' = -ab(-x)^{c-1}(1 - x)^{a+b-c}g_\lambda.$$

Then $G(x) = (-x)^c(1 - x)^{a+b-c+1}g'_\lambda$ satisfies $G'(x) < 0$ ($-A_\lambda < x < 0$) and $G'(x) = 0$ ($x = 0, -A_\lambda$). Hence $G(x) > G(0) = 0$ ($-A_\lambda \leq x < 0$), that is $g'_\lambda(x) > 0$ ($-A_\lambda \leq x < 0$). By (2.5),

$$L_2(f_\lambda)(x) + (1 + \varepsilon)abf_\lambda(x) = (1 + \varepsilon)\varepsilon x(x - 1)(g'_\lambda)^2 g_\lambda^{t-1} \geq 0$$

($-A_\lambda < x < 0$), so (4') holds.

Q.E.D.

Define a function F_λ on A by $F_\lambda(h_t) = f_\lambda(x)$, $x = -(\sinh(t))^2$. Then it belongs to $C^1(A)$ and is an even function, that is $F_\lambda(h_t) = F_\lambda(h_{-t})$. Hence it can be extended to \tilde{M} uniquely as a K -invariant function, denoted by the same letter F_λ . It satisfies the following properties.

LEMMA 2.4. F_λ belongs to $C^1(\tilde{M})$ and $C^2(\tilde{M} - \gamma_2)$ where $\gamma_2 = \{kh_t \cdot o; k \in K, -(\sinh(t))^2 = 0, -A_\lambda\}$, and the support of F_λ is contained in the set $\{kh_t \cdot o; k \in K, -A_\lambda \leq -(\sinh(t))^2\}$. Moreover

$$(2.8) \quad 2^{-1}(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})(\Delta F_\lambda)(kh_t \cdot o) = -(L_2 f_\lambda)(x)$$

($t \neq 0, k \in K$) and $\Delta F_\lambda \in L^1(\tilde{M})$,

$$(2.9) \quad 2^{-1}(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})\Delta F_\lambda \leq (1 + \varepsilon)abF_\lambda \quad \text{on } \tilde{M} - \gamma_2,$$

where $L^1(\tilde{M})$ is the space of integrable functions on \tilde{M} with respect to the volume element dg_K in (2.7).

Proof. (2.8) follows from (2.7), (2.5) and Lemma 2.3. The remainds are immediate from Lemma 2.3. Q.E.D.

Due to Lemma 2.3, there exists a sequence $\{F_{\lambda,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$ of smooth even functions on A such that (5') $F_{\lambda,m}(h_t) = F_\lambda(h_t)$ ($|t| \leq t_0/2$) and $F_{\lambda,m}(h_t) = 0$ ($|t| \geq 2t_0$), where $t_0 > 0$ is given by $-(\sinh(t_0))^2 = -A_\lambda$, (6') $F_{\lambda,m}$ (resp. $F'_{\lambda,m}$)

converges to F_λ (resp. F'_λ) uniformly on A as $m \rightarrow \infty$, and (7')

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |F''_{\lambda,m}(h_t) - F''_\lambda(h_t)| dt = 0,$$

where F'_λ etc. means the differential of F_λ with respect to t . The functions $F_{\lambda,m}$ can be extended as K -invariant C^∞ functions on \tilde{M} , denoted by the same letter $F_{\lambda,m}$. Then the support of $F_{\lambda,m}$ is contained in the set $\{kh_t \cdot o; k \in K, |t| \leq 2t_0\}$, $F_{\lambda,m}$ converges to F_λ uniformly on \tilde{M} and

$$(2.10) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tilde{M}} |\Delta F_{\lambda,m} - \Delta F_\lambda| dg_K = 0$$

by (5'), (6'), (7'), (2.5) and (2.7).

§3. Proof of Theorem A

3.1. In this section, we preserve the notations in 2.1 and introduction. Let π denote the projection of \mathbf{R}^n onto M_Γ . For $\gamma \in \Gamma$, let τ_γ be the action of γ on \mathbf{R}^n . The Laplace-Beltrami operator $-\Delta_\Gamma$ on M_Γ satisfies $\Delta(f \circ \pi) = (\Delta_\Gamma f) \circ \pi$ for twice differentiable functions f on M_Γ . The volume element on M_Γ induced by dx is denoted by $d\omega$. Let \mathcal{F} be the fundamental domain in \mathbf{R}^n for Γ , that is $\mathcal{F} = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n; |x| \leq |x - \tau_\gamma \cdot 0| \text{ for all } \gamma \in \Gamma\}$. It is known (cf. [7]) that

$$(3.1) \quad \mathbf{R}^n = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \tau_\gamma \cdot \mathcal{F} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_\gamma \cdot \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{F}$$

has measure 0 for every $\gamma \in \Gamma, \gamma \neq 1$.

Now since the functions F and F_m have the compact supports, we can define the Γ -invariant functions θ and θ_m on \mathbf{R}^n by

$$\theta = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} F \circ \tau_\gamma, \quad \theta_m = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} F_m \circ \tau_\gamma.$$

Then there exist functions φ and φ_m on M_Γ such that $\varphi \circ \pi = \theta, \varphi_m \circ \pi = \theta_m$. These functions have the following properties:

LEMMA 3.1. (1) *The function φ belongs to $C^1(M_\Gamma)$ and $C^2(M_\Gamma - \pi(\gamma_1))$, and $\Delta_\Gamma \varphi$ belongs to $L^1(M_\Gamma)$, (2) $\Delta_\Gamma \varphi \leq (1 + \epsilon)p^2 \varphi$ on $M_\Gamma - \pi(\gamma_1)$, and (3) $\varphi_m \in C^\infty(M_\Gamma)$ converges to φ uniformly on M_Γ as $m \rightarrow \infty$, and*

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{M_\Gamma} |\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_m - \Delta_\Gamma \varphi| d\omega = 0.$$

Moreover (4)

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_m(\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_m) d\omega = \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi(\Delta_\Gamma \varphi) d\omega .$$

Proof. (1), (2) and (3) follow from Lemma 2.2 and (2.4). The inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_m(\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_m) d\omega - \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi(\Delta_\Gamma \varphi) d\omega \right| \\ & \leq \left\| \Delta_\Gamma \varphi_m - \Delta_\Gamma \varphi \right\|_{L^1(M_\Gamma)} \cdot \sup_{M_\Gamma} |\varphi_m| + \|\Delta_\Gamma \varphi\|_{L^1(M_\Gamma)} \cdot \sup_{M_\Gamma} |\varphi_m - \varphi| , \end{aligned}$$

together with (3), implies (4). Q.E.D.

Notice that

$$(3.2) \quad \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi d\omega = V_{n-1} P^{-n} \int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} \psi(r)^{1+\epsilon} r^{n-1} dr ,$$

$$(3.3) \quad \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi^2 d\omega \geq V_{n-1} P^{-n} \int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} \psi(r)^{2(1+\epsilon)} r^{n-1} dr ,$$

where $V_{n-1} = 2\pi^{n/2} \Gamma(n/2)^{-1}$ is the total measure of the unit sphere S^{n-1} with respect to the measure induced by the volume element dx on \mathbb{R}^n . In fact, by (3.1) and the definitions of φ , θ and F , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi d\omega &= \int_{\mathcal{F}} \theta dx \\ &= \sum_{\tau \in \Gamma} \int_{\mathcal{F}} (F \circ \tau_\tau) dx \\ &= \int_{\cup_{\tau \in \Gamma} \tau_\tau \cdot \mathcal{F}} F dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F dx \\ &= V_{n-1} P^{-n} \int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} \psi(r)^{1+\epsilon} r^{n-1} dr . \end{aligned}$$

(3.2) follows from the inequality for the integrand:

$$\theta^2 = \sum_{\tau, \tau' \in \Gamma} (F \circ \tau_\tau)(F \circ \tau_{\tau'}) \geq \sum_{\tau \in \Gamma} (F \circ \tau_\tau)^2 ,$$

which follows from $F \geq 0$.

3.2. It is known (cf. [1] p. 186) that the least positive eigenvalue $\lambda_1(\Gamma)$ of Δ_Γ satisfies the inequality

$$(3.4) \quad \int_{M_\Gamma} \eta(\Delta_\Gamma \eta) d\omega \geq \lambda_1(\Gamma) \int_{M_\Gamma} \eta^2 d\omega$$

for all $\eta \in C^\infty(M_\Gamma)$ such that

$$\int_{M_\Gamma} \eta d\omega = 0 .$$

We apply (3.4) for $\eta = \varphi_m - \alpha_m$, where

$$\alpha_m = \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1} \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_m d\omega .$$

Then we have

$$\int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_m (\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_m) d\omega \geq \lambda_1(\Gamma) \left[\int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_m^2 d\omega - \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1} \left(\int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_m d\omega \right)^2 \right] .$$

As $m \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$(3.5) \quad \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi (\Delta_\Gamma \varphi) d\omega \geq \lambda_1(\Gamma) \left[\int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi^2 d\omega - \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1} \left(\int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi d\omega \right)^2 \right]$$

by (3) and (4) in Lemma 3.1. Since $\pi(\gamma_1)$ has measure 0, we have

$$(3.6) \quad \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi (\Delta_\Gamma \varphi) d\omega \leq (1 + \varepsilon) p^2 \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi^2 d\omega$$

by (2) in Lemma 3.1. Then, by (3.5) and (3.6),

$$\lambda_1(\Gamma) \left[1 - \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1} \left(\int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi d\omega \right)^2 \left(\int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi^2 d\omega \right)^{-1} \right] \leq (1 + \varepsilon) p^2 .$$

Hence, together with (3.2) and (3.3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1(\Gamma) \left[1 - p^{-n} V_{n-1} \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1} \left(\int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} \psi(r)^{1+\varepsilon} r^{n-1} dr \right)^2 \right. \\ \left. \times \left(\int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} \psi(r)^{2(1+\varepsilon)} r^{n-1} dr \right)^{-1} \right] \leq (1 + \varepsilon) p^2 . \end{aligned}$$

Letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we obtain

PROPOSITION 3.1. *Under the above situation, we have*

$$(3.7) \quad \lambda_1(\Gamma) \leq \inf_{p>0} \{ p^2 [1 - V_{n-1} K_n \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1} p^{-n}]^{-1}; \\ 1 - V_{n-1} K_n \text{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1} p^{-n} > 0 \}$$

where

$$K_n = \left(\int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} \psi(r) r^{n-1} dr \right)^2 \left(\int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} \psi(r)^2 r^{n-1} dr \right)^{-1}$$

and

$$V_{n-1} = 2\pi^{n/2} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{-1}.$$

3.3. We calculate the right hand side of (3.7). Since

$$\psi(r) = \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)^{1-n/2} J_{n/2-1}(r),$$

we have

$$K_n = \left(\int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} J_{n/2-1}(r)r^{n/2} dr\right)^2 \left(\int_0^{j_{n/2-1}} J_{n/2-1}(r)r dr\right)^{-1}.$$

Since the derivative of $J_{n/2}(r)r^{n/2}$ (resp. $(r^2/2)(J_{n/2-1}(r)^2 - J_{n/2-2}(r)J_{n/2}(r))$) is $J_{n/2-1}(r)r^{n/2}$ (resp. $J_{n/2-1}(r)^2 r$) (cf. [7] p. 189), we have

$$\begin{aligned} K_n &= (J_{n/2}(j_{n/2-1})(j_{n/2-1})^{n/2})^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}(j_{n/2-1})^2(-1)J_{n/2-2}(j_{n/2-1})J_{n/2}(j_{n/2-1})\right)^{-1}, \\ &= (J_{n/2}(j_{n/2-1})(j_{n/2-1})^{n/2})^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}(j_{n/2-1})^2 J_{n/2}(j_{n/2-1})^2\right)^{-1} \\ &\quad \text{(by } J_{n/2}(j_{n/2-1}) + J_{n/2-2}(j_{n/2-1}) = 0 \text{ (cf. [7] p. 158))}, \\ &= 2(j_{n/2-1})^{n-2}. \end{aligned}$$

Put

$$G(p) = p^2(1 - V_{n-1}K_n \text{ vol}(M_r)^{-1}p^{-n})^{-1}$$

and

$$p_0 = (2^{-1}(2 + n)V_{n-1}K_n \text{ vol}(M_r)^{-1})^{1/n}.$$

If $1 - V_{n-1}K_n \text{ vol}(M_r)^{-1}p^{-n} > 0$, then

$$G'(p) < 0 \text{ (} p < p_0 \text{)}, \quad G'(p) > 0 \text{ (} p > p_0 \text{)} \text{ and } G'(p_0) = 0.$$

So we have

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{p>0} \{G(p); 1 - V_{n-1}K_n \text{ vol}(M_r)^{-1}p^{-n} > 0\} &= G(p_0) \\ &= 2^{-2/n} n^{-1} (2 + n)^{2/n+1} (V_{n-1}K_n \text{ vol}(M_r)^{-1})^{2/n} \\ &= n^{-1} (2 + n)^{2/n+1} \left(\frac{2\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(n/2)}\right)^{2/n} (j_{n/2-1})^{2-4/n} \text{ vol}(M_r)^{-2/n}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus Theorem A is proved.

§ 4. Proof of Theorem B

4.1. In this section, we preserve the notations in 2.2, 2.3 and introduction. Theorem B will be proved by the same way as Theorem A. Let

π denote the projection of \tilde{M} onto M_Γ . For $\gamma \in \Gamma$, let τ_γ be the action of γ on \tilde{M} . The Laplace-Beltrami operator $-\Delta_\Gamma$ on M satisfies $\Delta(f \circ \pi) = (\Delta_\Gamma f) \circ \pi$ for all twice differentiable functions f on M_Γ . The volume element on M_Γ induced by dg_K is denoted by $d\omega$. Let \mathcal{F} be the fundamental domain in \tilde{M} for Γ , that is $\mathcal{F} = \{g \cdot o \in \tilde{M}; r(g \cdot o, o) \leq r(g \cdot o, \tau_\gamma \cdot o) \text{ for all } \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ where $r(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the distance function on (\tilde{M}, g) . It is known (for example, cf. [2]) that

$$(4.1) \quad \tilde{M} = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \tau_\gamma \mathcal{F} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_\gamma \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{F}$$

has measure 0 for all $\gamma \in \Gamma, \gamma \neq 1$.

Since F_λ and $F_{\lambda,m}$ have the compact supports, we define the Γ -invariant functions θ_λ and $\theta_{\lambda,m}$ on \tilde{M} by

$$\theta_\lambda = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} F_\lambda \circ \tau_\gamma, \quad \theta_{\lambda,m} = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} F_{\lambda,m} \circ \tau_\gamma.$$

Then there exist functions φ_λ and $\varphi_{\lambda,m}$ on M_Γ such that $\varphi_\lambda \circ \pi = \theta_\lambda$ and $\varphi_{\lambda,m} \circ \pi = \theta_{\lambda,m}$. These functions have the following properties.

LEMMA 4.1. (1) *The function φ_λ belongs to $C^1(M_\Gamma)$ and $C^2(M_\Gamma - \pi(\gamma_2))$, and $\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_\lambda$ belongs to $L^1(M_\Gamma)$, (2) $2^{-1}(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_\lambda \leq (1 + \epsilon)ab\varphi_\lambda$ on $M_\Gamma - \pi(\gamma_2)$, and (3) $\varphi_{\lambda,m} \in C^\infty(M_\Gamma)$ converges to φ_λ uniformly on M_Γ as $m \rightarrow \infty$ and*

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{M_\Gamma} |\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_{\lambda,m} - \Delta_\Gamma \varphi_\lambda| d\omega = 0.$$

Moreover (4)

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_{\lambda,m} (\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_{\lambda,m}) d\omega = \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_\lambda (\Delta_\Gamma \varphi_\lambda) d\omega.$$

Proofs are similar to Lemma 3.1.

Notice that

$$(4.2) \quad \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_\lambda d\omega = \int_{\tilde{M}} F_\lambda dg_K = C \int_{-A_\lambda}^0 D(x)g_\lambda(x)^{1+\epsilon} dx,$$

$$(4.3) \quad \int_{M_\Gamma} \varphi_\lambda^2 d\omega \geq C \int_{-A_\lambda}^0 D(x)g_\lambda(x)^{2(1+\epsilon)} dx.$$

Then, due to (4.2), (4.3) and Lemma 4.1, we have the following proposition by the similar manner to Proposition 3.1.

PROPOSITION 4.1. *Under the above assumption, we obtain*

$$(4.4) \quad \lambda_1(\Gamma)[1 - C \operatorname{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1}K_\lambda] \leq 2(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^{-1}ab,$$

where

$$K_\lambda = \left(\int_{-A_\lambda}^0 D(x)g_\lambda(x)dx \right)^2 \left(\int_{-A_\lambda}^0 D(x)g_\lambda(x)^2 dx \right)^{-1},$$

the constant C and the function $D(x)$ are the ones in (2.7).

4.2. We prove Theorem B due to Proposition 4.1. We fix any $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}^*$, $\lambda \neq 0$. For a discrete subgroup Γ of G with sufficiently large $\operatorname{vol}(M_\Gamma)$ such that $\operatorname{vol}(M_\Gamma) > CK_\lambda$, we have, by Proposition 4.1,

$$\lambda_1(\Gamma) \leq 2(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^{-1}ab[1 - C \operatorname{vol}(M_\Gamma)^{-1}K_\lambda]^{-1}.$$

Hence, by the definition of a and b , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{\operatorname{vol}(M_\Gamma) \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1(\Gamma) &\leq 2(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^{-1}ab \\ &= \frac{1}{8}(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^{-1}((m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^2 + 4\lambda(H_0)^2) \end{aligned}$$

for every $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}^*$, $\lambda \neq 0$. So we have

$$\limsup_{\operatorname{vol}(M_\Gamma) \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1(\Gamma) \leq \frac{1}{8}(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^{-1}(m_\alpha + 2m_{2\alpha})^2.$$

Here $B(H_0, H_0) = 2(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})$ implies that the right hand side of the above inequality coincides with $|\delta|^2 = (\delta, \delta)$. Thus Theorem B is proved.

§5. Supremum of L^2 spectrum

For a complete orientable Riemannian manifold (M, g) (not necessarily compact), consider

$$\sigma(M, g) = \inf_{\varphi \in C_0^\infty(M)} \frac{\int_M (\Delta_g \varphi) \varphi dv_g}{\int_M \varphi^2 dv_g},$$

where $C_0^\infty(M)$ is the space of all real valued C^∞ functions on M with compact support, $-\Delta_g$ is the Laplace-Beltrami operator of (M, g) acting on smooth functions on M , and dv_g is the volume element of (M, g) (cf. [11]). Then $\sigma(M, g) \geq 0$ and it is called the supremum of the L^2 spectrum of (M, g) (cf. [11]). Since the operator Δ_g is a real symmetric operator, we notice that

$$\sigma(M, g) = \inf_{\varphi \in C_0^\infty(M)\mathbb{C}} \frac{\int_M (\Delta_g \varphi) \bar{\varphi} dv_g}{\int_M \varphi \bar{\varphi} dv_g},$$

where $C_0^\infty(M)^c$ is the space of all complex valued C^∞ functions on M with compact support, and $\bar{\varphi}(x)$, $x \in M$, is the complex conjugate of $\varphi(x)$.

In this section, we calculate $\sigma(M, g)$ when (M, g) is a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type of rank one. We preserve the notations in § 2.

PROPOSITION 5.1. *Let (\tilde{M}, g) be a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type (not necessarily of rank one). We normalize g in such a way that it is induced by the Killing form of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of the connected component G of the Lie group of all isometries of (\tilde{M}, g) . Then we have*

$$\sigma(\tilde{M}, g) \geq |\delta|^2,$$

where $|\delta|$ is the norm of $\delta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \in \Sigma^+} m_\alpha \alpha$ by the inner product induced from the Killing form as in § 2.

Proof. It holds (cf. [10]) that

$$(5.1) \quad \int_{\tilde{M}} (\Delta_g f) \bar{f} dg_K = C \int_{\alpha^* \times K/Z_K(\alpha)} (\Delta_g f)^\sim(\lambda, \dot{k}) \overline{\tilde{f}(\lambda, \dot{k})} |c(\lambda)|^{-2} d\lambda d\dot{k},$$

for each $f \in C_0^\infty(\tilde{M})$. Here C is a positive constant, not depending on f , $Z_K(\alpha)$ is the centralizer of α in K , $\tilde{f}(\lambda, \dot{k})$ ($\lambda \in \alpha^*$, $\dot{k} \in K/Z_K(\alpha)$) is the Fourier transform of f defined by

$$\tilde{f}(\lambda, \dot{k}) = \int_{\tilde{M}} f(g \cdot o) e^{-\langle \sqrt{-1}\lambda + \delta \rangle H(g^{-1}k)} dg_K,$$

$d\lambda$ is the Euclidean measure on α^* , and $d\dot{k}$ is the measure on $K/Z_K(\alpha)$ induced by the Haar measure dk on K (cf. [10]). Since $(\Delta_g f)^\sim(\lambda, \dot{k}) = (|\lambda|^2 + |\delta|^2) \tilde{f}(\lambda, \dot{k})$ (cf. [12] p. 92, [13] p. 458),

the right hand side of (5.1)

$$\begin{aligned} &\geq |\delta|^2 C \int_{\alpha^* \times K/Z_K(\alpha)} |\tilde{f}(\lambda, \dot{k})|^2 |c(\lambda)|^{-2} d\lambda d\dot{k} \\ &= |\delta|^2 \int_{\tilde{M}} f \bar{f} dg_K. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have $\sigma(\tilde{M}, g) \geq |\delta|^2$.

Q.E.D.

In particular, when (\tilde{M}, g) is of rank one, the following theorem holds.

THEOREM C. *Let (\tilde{M}, g) be a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type of rank one. We normalize g as in Proposition 5.1. Then we have*

$$\sigma(\tilde{M}, g) = |\delta|^2 .$$

Proof. We may prove $\sigma(\tilde{M}, g) \leq |\delta|^2$. We use the notations in 2.3. Since the supports of F_λ and $F_{\lambda,m}$, $m = 1, 2, \dots$ are contained in the set $\{kh_t \cdot o; k \in K, 0 \leq t \leq 2t_o\}$, and $F_{\lambda,m}$ converges to F_λ uniformly on \tilde{M} ,

$$(5.2) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tilde{M}} F_{\lambda,m}^2 dg_K = \int_{\tilde{M}} F_\lambda^2 dg_K .$$

Moreover we have

$$(5.3) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tilde{M}} (\Delta_g F_{\lambda,m}) F_{\lambda,m} dg_K = \int_{\tilde{M}} (\Delta_g F_\lambda) F_\lambda dg_K .$$

In fact, it follows from the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\tilde{M}} (\Delta_g F_{\lambda,m}) F_{\lambda,m} dg_K - \int_{\tilde{M}} (\Delta_g F_\lambda) F_\lambda dg_K \right| \\ & \leq \| \Delta_g F_{\lambda,m} - \Delta_g F_\lambda \|_{L^1(\tilde{M})} \sup_{\tilde{M}} |F_{\lambda,m}| + \| \Delta_g F_\lambda \|_{L^1(\tilde{M})} \sup_{\tilde{M}} |F_{\lambda,m} - F_\lambda| , \end{aligned}$$

(2.10), (2.8) and Lemma 2.4.

Thus we have

$$(5.4) \quad \sigma(\tilde{M}, g) \int_{\tilde{M}} F_\lambda^2 dg_K \leq \int_{\tilde{M}} (\Delta_g F_\lambda) F_\lambda dg_K ,$$

by (5.2), (5.3) and the definition of $\sigma(\tilde{M}, g)$. Moreover we estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{the right hand side of (5.4)} \\ & \leq 2(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^{-1}(1 + \varepsilon)ab \int_{\tilde{M}} F_\lambda^2 dg_K , \end{aligned}$$

due to (2.9). Then

$$\sigma(\tilde{M}, g) \leq 2(m_\alpha + 4m_{2\alpha})^{-1}(1 + \varepsilon)ab ,$$

for every $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ and $0 \neq \lambda \in \mathfrak{a}^*$. Thus we have $\sigma(\tilde{M}, g) \leq |\delta|^2$. Q.E.D.

Remark. Due to 2.1, it is proved by the similar way to Theorem C, that

$$\sigma(\mathbf{R}^n, g) = 0 ,$$

where (\mathbf{R}^n, g) is the standard Euclidean space.

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