

# $(\lambda, \lambda)$ -Eigenfunctions on Compact Manifolds

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# Outline

- 1 Eigenfunctions and Eigenfamilies
  - The Operators  $\tau$  and  $\kappa$
  - Definitions and Examples
  - Applications and Properties

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## 2 ( $\lambda, \lambda$ )-Eigenfunctions

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- 2 ( $\lambda, \lambda$ )-Eigenfunctions
- 3 Generalised Eigenfamilies

Let  $(M^m, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold,  $T^{\mathbb{C}}M$  be the complexification of its tangent bundle  $TM$  and extend  $g$  to a complex-bilinear form on  $T^{\mathbb{C}}M$ .

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Then the **gradient** of a **complex-valued** function  $\phi = u + iv : (M, g) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is the section of  $T^{\mathbb{C}}M$  satisfying  $\nabla\phi = \nabla u + i\nabla v$ .

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The complex-linear **Laplace-Beltrami operator**  $\tau$  on  $(M, g)$  acts locally on  $\phi$  as

$$\tau(\phi) = \operatorname{div}(\nabla\phi) = \sum_{X \in \text{ONF}} X^2(\phi) - (\nabla_X X)(\phi).$$

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For two functions  $\phi, \psi : (M, g) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  we have

$$\tau(\phi \cdot \psi) = \tau(\phi) \cdot \psi + 2 \cdot \kappa(\phi, \psi) + \phi \cdot \tau(\psi),$$

where the **conformality operator**  $\kappa$  satisfies

$$\kappa(\phi, \psi) = g(\nabla\phi, \nabla\psi).$$



## Definition 1.1 (Gudmundsson &amp; Sakovich (2008) [2])

Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold,  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then a complex-valued function  $\phi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is said to be a  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -**eigenfunction** if it is eigen with respect to both the Laplace-Beltrami operator  $\tau$  and the conformality operator  $\kappa$  with respective eigenvalues  $\lambda, \mu$ , i.e.

$$\tau(\phi) = \lambda \cdot \phi \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa(\phi, \phi) = \mu \cdot \phi^2.$$

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A set  $\mathcal{E}$  of complex-valued functions on  $M$  is said to be a  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -**eigenfamily** on  $M$  if for all  $\phi, \psi \in \mathcal{E}$  we have

$$\tau(\phi) = \lambda \cdot \phi \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa(\phi, \psi) = \mu \cdot \phi \psi.$$

Theorem 1.2 ( Fuglede (1978) + Ishihara (1979), ( $\lambda = 0$  and  $\mu = 0$ ) )

A complex-valued function  $\phi : (M, g) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  on a Riemannian manifold is a **harmonic morphism** if and only if it is an **eigenfunction** with  $\lambda = 0$  and  $\mu = 0$ .

## Example 1.3 (Coordinate projections)

Consider the functions  $\phi_i : \mathbb{C}^n \simeq \mathbb{R}^{2n} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by the projections

$$\phi_i : z \mapsto z_i.$$

Then

$$\tau(\phi_i) = 0, \quad \kappa(\phi_i, \phi_j) = 0$$

so  $\mathcal{F} = \{\phi_i \mid i = 1, \dots, n\}$  is a  $(0, 0)$ -eigenfamily.

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## Example 1.4 (Restriction to odd-dimensional spheres)

Consider  $S^{2n-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n} \simeq \mathbb{C}^n$ . Then we can define  $\tilde{\phi}_i = \phi_i|_{S^{2n-1}} : S^{2n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

We have that

$$\tau(\tilde{\phi}_i) = (-2n + 1) \cdot \phi_i, \quad \kappa(\tilde{\phi}_i, \tilde{\phi}_j) = -1 \cdot \phi_i \phi_j$$

so  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}} = \{\tilde{\phi}_i \mid i = 1, \dots, n\}$  is a  $(-2n + 1, -1)$ -eigenfamily

Eigenfamilies can be used to produce complex-valued harmonic morphisms:

Theorem 1.5 ( Gudmundsson & Sakovich (2008) [2])

Let  $(M, g)$  be a semi-Riemannian manifold and

$$\mathcal{F} = \{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\}$$

be a finite eigenfamily of complex valued functions on  $M$ . If  $P, Q: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  are linearly independent homogeneous polynomials of the same positive degree.

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$$\frac{P(\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n)}{Q(\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n)}$$

is a non-constant harmonic morphism on the open and dense subset

$$\{p \in M \mid Q(\phi_1(p), \dots, \phi_n(p)) \neq 0\}.$$

Eigenfunctions can be used to produce minimal submanifolds:

Theorem 1.6 ( Baird & Eells (1981), ( $\lambda = 0$  and  $\mu = 0$ ) )

Let  $\phi: (M, g) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a **horizontally conformal** [ $\kappa(\phi, \phi) = 0$ ] function from a Riemannian manifold. Then  $\phi$  is **harmonic** [ $\tau(\phi) = 0$ ] if and only if its fibres are **minimal** at regular points of  $\phi$  [ $\nabla\phi \neq 0$ ].



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Theorem 1.7 ( Gudmundsson & TM (2024) )

Let  $\phi: (M, g) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a complex-valued **eigenfunction** on a Riemannian manifold, such that  $0 \in \phi(M)$  is a regular value for  $\phi$ . Then the **fibre over zero**  $\mathcal{F}_0 = \phi^{-1}(\{0\})$  is a **minimal submanifold** of  $M$ .

Eigenfunctions can be used to produce  $p$ -harmonic functions:

**Theorem 1.8 ( Gudmundsson & Sobak (2020) )**

Let  $\phi : (M, g) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -eigenfunction from a Riemannian manifold. Then for any positive integer  $p$  the non-vanishing function

$$\Phi_p : W = \{x \in M \mid \phi(x) \notin (-\infty, 0]\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

with

$$\Phi_p(x) = \begin{cases} c_1 \cdot \log(\phi(x))^{p-1} & \text{if } \mu = 0, \lambda \neq 0 \\ c_1 \cdot \log(\phi(x))^{2p-1} + c_1 \cdot \log(\phi(x))^{2p-2} & \text{if } \mu \neq 0, \lambda = 0 \\ c_1 \cdot \phi(x)^{1-\frac{\lambda}{\mu}} \log(\phi(x))^{p-1} + c_2 \cdot \log(\phi(x))^{p-1} & \text{if } \mu \neq 0, \lambda \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

is proper  $p$ -harmonic on the domain  $W$ .

When (locally) describing an eigenfunction in polar form, some additional relations are obtained.

### Lemma 1.9 ( Riedler & Siffert (2024) [7])

*Let  $(U, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold, not necessarily compact or complete, and let  $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -eigenfunction with  $\lambda, \mu$  both real and  $\phi(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in U$ . Suppose  $\phi(x) = e^{ih(x)}|\phi(x)|$  for some smooth function  $h : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then:*

- ❶  $\tau(h) = 0$ ;
- ❷  $\tau(\ln |\phi|) = \lambda - \mu$ ;
- ❸  $\kappa(h, |\phi|) = 0$ ;
- ❹  $\kappa(\ln |\phi|, \ln |\phi|) = \kappa(h, h) + \mu$ .

In the context of  $(\lambda, \lambda)$ -eigenfunctions we have the additional result.

Proposition 2.1 ( Riedler & Siffert (2024) [7])

*Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact connected Riemannian manifold and  $\phi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  a non-constant  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -eigenfunction.*

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- 1  $\lambda = \mu$ .

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In particular, item (4) on the previous slide simplifies to

$$\kappa(h, h) = -\lambda.$$



## Main Results

### Theorem 2.2 (TM & Riedler)

*Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact and connected Riemannian manifold,  $\phi: M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  a non-constant smooth map,  $\lambda < 0$ .*

## Main Results

## Theorem 2.2 (TM &amp; Riedler)

Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact and connected Riemannian manifold,  $\phi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  a non-constant smooth map,  $\lambda < 0$ . The following are equivalent:

- 1  $\phi$  is a  $(\lambda, \lambda)$ -eigenfunction.
- 2 For all  $x_0 \in M$  the map  $\pi : (M, g) \rightarrow (S^1, \frac{1}{|\lambda|} dt^2)$ ,  $x \mapsto \frac{\phi(x)}{|\phi(x_0)|}$  is a well-defined and harmonic Riemannian submersion.

## Proof

(1  $\Rightarrow$  2). From Proposition 2.1 the map  $\pi : M \rightarrow S^1, x \mapsto \frac{\phi(x)}{|\phi(x_0)|}$  is well defined. For any point  $x_1 \in M$  there is a neighbourhood  $U$  of  $x_1$  and a function  $h : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\phi(x) = |\phi(x_0)|e^{ih(x)}.$$

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Then Lemma 1.9 tells us that

$$\kappa(h, h) = \|dh\|^2 = -\lambda = |\lambda| \text{ and } \tau(h) = 0.$$

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Since the map

$$(\mathbb{R}, \cdot) \rightarrow (S^1, dt^2), \quad t \mapsto e^{it}$$

is a local isometry, the first equation implies that  $\pi : (M, g) \rightarrow (S^1, \frac{1}{|\lambda|} dt^2)$  is a Riemannian submersion and the second implies that it is harmonic.

## Proof (continued)

(2  $\Rightarrow$  1). Let  $\iota : (S^1, \frac{1}{|\lambda|} dt^2) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  denote the standard inclusion of the unit circle. We then have that

$$\phi(x) = (\iota \circ \pi)(x)$$

for all  $x$ .

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$$\phi(x) = (\iota \circ \pi)(x)$$

for all  $x$ . Since  $\pi$  is a harmonic Riemannian submersion, a calculation shows that

$$\begin{aligned}\kappa(\iota \circ \pi, \iota \circ \pi) &= \kappa(\iota, \iota) \circ \pi, \\ \tau(\iota \circ \pi) &= \tau(\iota) \circ \pi.\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\kappa(\iota, \iota) = \lambda \cdot \iota^2$  and  $\tau(\iota) = \lambda \cdot \iota$ , we immediately verify that  $\phi$  is a  $(\lambda, \lambda)$ -eigenfunction.

### Theorem 2.3 (TM & Riedler)

Let  $(M, g)$  be compact and connected,  $\lambda < 0$ , and  $\pi : (M, g) \rightarrow (S^1, h = \frac{1}{|\lambda|} dt^2)$  a smooth map. The following are equivalent:

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Let  $(M, g)$  be compact and connected,  $\lambda < 0$ , and  $\pi : (M, g) \rightarrow (S^1, h = \frac{1}{|\lambda|} dt^2)$  a smooth map. The following are equivalent:

- 1 The map  $\pi$  is a harmonic Riemannian submersion.
- 2  $M$  is a mapping torus

$$M_0 \times_{\eta} [0, 2\pi] = \frac{M_0 \times [0, 2\pi]}{(x, 0) \sim (\eta(x), 2\pi)}$$

with metric

$$g = g(t) + \frac{1}{|\lambda|} dt^2$$

and monodromy map  $\eta : M_0 \rightarrow M_0$  with  $\eta^* g(2\pi) = g(0)$ ,  $M_0$  is compact, the volume density of  $g(t)$  is constant in  $t$ , and  $\pi([x, t]) = e^{it}$ .

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$$d\hat{\pi}(X) = g(X, X) = \frac{d\hat{\pi}(X)^2}{|\lambda|},$$

so  $d\hat{\pi}(X) = \|X\|^2 = -\lambda$ .

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- Now, let  $\eta_t$  denote the flow of  $X$  it follows that

$$\partial_t(\hat{\pi}\eta_t(x)) = d\hat{\pi}(X) = -\lambda,$$

and so  $\hat{\pi}(\eta_t(x)) = -\lambda \cdot t + \hat{\pi}(x)$ , i.e.  $\pi(\eta_t(x)) = e^{it}\pi(x)$ .

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- It follows that  $M$  is a mapping torus

$$M \cong \frac{M_0 \times [0, 2\pi]}{(x, 0) \sim (\eta(x), 2\pi)}$$

with monodromy map  $\eta = \eta_{2\pi}$ , and  $\pi([x, t]) = e^{it}$ .

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- Under the above diffeomorphism  $X \equiv \partial_t$ .  $X$  is horizontal, so the metric on  $M$  has the form

$$g = g(t) + \frac{1}{|\lambda|} dt^2$$

where  $\eta^* g(2\pi) = g(0)$  and  $g(t)$  is a family of metrics on the fibre  $M_0$ .

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- Since  $X$  is divergence free, its flow preserves the volume form, so the volume density induced by  $g(t)$  is constant with respect to  $t$ .



## Outline of Proof (continued)

(2  $\Rightarrow$  1). Note that the map

$$\widehat{\pi} : (\mathbb{R} \times M_0, dt^2 + g(t)) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, \cdot), \quad (t, x) \mapsto t$$

is clearly a Riemannian submersion. It follows from the fact that the volume density is constant over time that  $\widehat{\pi}$  is harmonic.

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Now the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (M_0 \times \mathbb{R}, dt^2 + g(t)) & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\pi}} & (\mathbb{R}, \cdot) \\ \downarrow /Z & & \downarrow /Z \\ (M_0 \times_{\eta} I, dt^2 + g(t)) & \xrightarrow{\pi} & (S^1, dt^2) \end{array}$$

commutes by construction, here the vertical arrows are the natural covering maps. Since the vertical maps are also local isometries it follows that  $\pi$  is a harmonic Riemannian submersion □

## Proposition 2.4

*Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact and connected Riemannian manifold,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  a  $(\lambda, \lambda)$ -eigenfamily on  $M$ . Then  $\dim(\text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathcal{F})) \in \{0, 1\}$ .*

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## Proof.

Suppose that  $\phi, \psi$  are non-constant and in the same  $(\lambda, \lambda)$ -eigenfamily  $\mathcal{F}$ . Then it follows from Theorem 1.5 that the quotient

$$\frac{\phi}{\psi} : M \setminus \psi^{-1}(\{0\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

is a harmonic morphism, in particular a harmonic map.

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is a harmonic morphism, in particular a harmonic map. Since  $\psi(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in M$ , the domain of  $\frac{\phi}{\psi}$  is all of  $M$ . By compactness of  $M$   $\frac{\phi}{\psi}$  must then be constant, i.e.  $\psi$  and  $\phi$  are linearly dependent.  $\square$

## Definition 3.1

Let  $\mathcal{F} = \{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k\}$  be a finite family of functions  $M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$  a vector in  $\mathbb{C}^k$  and  $A_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq k$  a symmetric complex  $k \times k$  matrix.

- ① We call  $\mathcal{F}$  is an  $(\lambda_i, A_{ij})$ -**eigenfamily** if for all  $\phi_i, \phi_j \in \mathcal{F}$ :

$$\kappa(\phi_i, \phi_j) = A_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j, \quad \tau(\phi_i) = \lambda_i \phi_i.$$

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- ① We call  $\mathcal{F}$  is an  $(\lambda_i, A_{ij})$ -**eigenfamily** if for all  $\phi_i, \phi_j \in \mathcal{F}$ :

$$\kappa(\phi_i, \phi_j) = A_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j, \quad \tau(\phi_i) = \lambda_i \phi_i.$$

- ② We say the family is  $\lambda$ -**diagonal** if additionally  $\lambda_i = A_{ii}$  for all  $i$ .

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- ③  $\mathcal{F}$  is said to be **reduced** if  $A_{ij}$  is a non-degenerate matrix.



### Definition 3.2

For  $A$  a positive definite  $k \times k$  matrix, let  $(T^k, A^{-1})$  denote the flat torus  $T^k = (S^1)^k$  equipped with metric  $A^{-1}$ .

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## Theorem 3.3 (TM &amp; Riedler)

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- 1  $\mathcal{F}$  is a reduced  $(-A_{ii}, -A_{ij})$ -eigenfamily.
- 2  $A$  is positive definite and for all  $x_0 \in M$  the map  $\pi : (M, g) \rightarrow (T^k, A^{-1}), x \mapsto \left( \frac{\phi_1(x)}{|\phi_1(x_0)|}, \dots, \frac{\phi_k(x)}{|\phi_k(x_0)|} \right)$  is a well-defined and harmonic Riemannian submersion.

Thank you for watching!

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