

29. The Spectrum of the Laplacian and Smooth Deformation of the Riemannian Metric

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§ 1. Introduction. Let M be an n -dimensional compact connected C^∞ manifold (with or without boundary ∂M). Every Riemannian metric g of M determines the Laplace-Beltrami operator Δ_g . We consider the eigenvalue problem for $-\Delta_g$ (under Dirichlet condition);

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta_g - \lambda)u(x) = 0 \\ u(x) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{if } \partial M \neq \emptyset).$$

Let $0 \leq \lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \cdots$ be the eigenvalues of the problem (1.1). These are determined by the metric g . The totality of Riemannian metrics of class C^∞ which differ from a fixed metric g_0 only on an open set $U \subset M$ forms a separable Fréchet manifold B .

Theorem A. *If $\dim M = n \geq 2$, then there exists a residual subset $\Gamma \subset B$ such that all eigenspaces of $-\Delta_g$ are one dimensional for any $g \in \Gamma$.*

We call a subset Γ residual if it is a countable intersection of open dense subsets. Since a residual set is dense and a second category by virtue of Baire's theorem, Theorem A implies that for almost all $g \in B$ the eigenvalues of problem (1.1) are all simple.

In our proof we follow the idea of Uhlenbeck [6], who has already obtained the similar result in the case that those metrics are of class C^k ($n+3 \leq k < +\infty$). But the first transversality theorem of her can not be applied to our case, since B is not a Banach manifold. We need the following Fréchet manifold version of the transversality theorem.

Theorem B. *Let E, F and G be strong ILH manifolds of class C^r . Assume that E and F are separable. Let the mapping $f: E \times F \rightarrow G$ be a C^r -strong ILH mapping satisfying the following conditions;*

(a) *For every $u \in E \times F$, every $k \in N(d)$,*

$$(1.2) \quad \|(Df^k)_u \delta u\|_k \geq C_u \|\delta u\|_k - D_u^k \|\delta u\|_{k-1},$$

where $\delta u \in T_u(E \times F)$, C_u and D_u^k are positive constants and C_u is independent of k .

(b) *There exists $p \in G$ such that p is a regular value of f . (That is for any $u \in f^{-1}(p)$ the Fréchet derivative $(Df)_u$ is onto.)*

(c) *For every $b \in F$, $f_b = f(\cdot, b): E \rightarrow G$ is a strong ILH Fredholm mapping with index $< r$.*

Then the set $\{b \in F; p \text{ is a regular value of } f_b\}$ is residual in F .