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Paneitz type equation

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- In this work, we show the attainability of the corresponding eigenvalues by generalized metrics.

- In 1983, Paneitz introduced a fourth-order conformally invariant operator on n -dimensional Riemannian manifolds $n \geq 4$. Branson extended the notion of the Q -curvature.

- More precisely, Let (M, g) be a smooth compact Riemannian manifold of dimension $n \geq 5$, and denote by Ric_g and S_g , the Ricci tensor and scalar curvature of g . For $u \in C^\infty(M)$, the Paneitz operator is given by

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$$P_g u = \Delta_g^2 u - \operatorname{div}_g(a_n S_g g + b_n Ric_g)^\# du + \frac{n-4}{2} Q_g u.$$

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- where $\Delta_g = -\operatorname{div}_g(\nabla)$ is the Laplace-Beltrami operator,

$$a_n = \frac{(n-2)^2 + 4}{2(n-1)(n-2)} \quad \text{and} \quad b_n = \frac{-4}{n-2}.$$

- The symbol $\#$ stands for the musical isomorphism (index are raised with the metric), and

$$Q_g = \frac{1}{n-2} \Delta_g S_g + \frac{n^3 - 4n^2 + 16n - 16}{8(n-1)^2(n-2)^2} S_g^2 - \frac{2}{(n-2)^2} |Ric_g|^2.$$

- In this section, we give some properties of the Paneitz operator.

- In this section, we give some properties of the Paneitz operator.
- (1) The operator P_g is elliptic, self-adjoint with respect to the inner product in $L^2(M)$ and has a discrete spectrum :

$$\lambda_1(g) < \lambda_2(g) \leq \lambda_3(g) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_k(g) \rightarrow +\infty$$

- (2) For any conformal metric, $\bar{g} = \varphi^{\frac{N-2}{2}} g$, $\varphi \in C^\infty(M)$, $\varphi > 0$ and $N = \frac{2n}{n-4}$ where the number N is the critical exponent of the Sobolev embedding $H_2^2(M) \subset L^N(M)$,

- (2) For any conformal metric, $\bar{g} = \varphi^{\frac{N-2}{2}} g$, $\varphi \in C^\infty(M)$, $\varphi > 0$ and $N = \frac{2n}{n-4}$ where the number N is the critical exponent of the Sobolev embedding $H_2^2(M) \subset L^N(M)$,
- the operator P_g is conformally invariant in the following sense:

for all $u \in C^\infty(M)$, we have

$$P_g(u\varphi) = \varphi^{N-1} P_{\bar{g}}(u),$$

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- (3) The quantity Q_g can be seen as the analogue of the scalar curvature for the conformal Laplacian and is called the Q-curvature.

- (4) A Riemannian manifold (M, g) is Einstein if and only if there exists a real number λ such that the Ricci tensor writes

$$Ric_g = \lambda g.$$

Here $\lambda = \frac{S_g}{n}$, where S_g is the scalar curvature and is constant in this case.

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$$P_g = \prod_{l=1}^2 (\Delta + c_l S_g) = \Delta^2 + (c_1 + c_2) S_g \Delta + c_1 c_2 S_g^2$$

where

$$c_l = \frac{(n + 2l - 2)(n - 2l)}{4n(n - 1)}.$$

Moreover, if the scalar curvature S_g is positive :

Moreover, if the scalar curvature S_g is positive :

- (5) In the case of Einstein manifolds, the operator P_g is coercive.

- (6) For all $u \in C^\infty(M)$ such that $P_g u > 0$, either $u > 0$ or $u \equiv 0$ and this statement is a direct consequence of comparison principle.
- (7) It is not difficult to see that the quantity :

$$\int_M u P_g u dv_g = \int_M ([\Delta(u)]^2 + \sum_{l=0}^1 a_l |\nabla^l u|^2) dv_g = \|u\|_{H_2^2}^2,$$

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- where $a_l > 0$ is some constant, is a norm on $H_2^2(M)$ which is equivalent to the standard one :

$$\|u\|_{H_2^2}^2 = \sum_{l=0}^2 \int_M |\nabla^l u|^2 dv_g$$

Here $H_2^2(M)$ denotes the Sobolev space of functions u such that: $u, |\nabla u|$ and $|\nabla^2 u| \in L^2(M)$. It is well known that by the Sobolev embedding theorem [Heb97] that $H_2^2(M) \subset L^q(M)$ where $1 < q \leq N = \frac{2n}{n-4}$ and this embedding is compact when $q < N$.

In this section, we quote some facts which will be used in the sequel of this paper: Grassmannians and the min-max principle.
Let $L_+^N(M) = \{u \in L^N(M), u \geq 0 \text{ and } u \neq 0\}$

Definition

For all $u \in L_+^N(M)$, we define $Gr_p^u(H_k^2(M))$ as the set of all p -dimensional subspaces ($p \geq 1$) of $H_2^2(M)$ that satisfy

$$\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in Gr_p^u(H_2^2(M))$$

if and only if v_1, \dots, v_p are linearly independent on $M \setminus u^{-1}(0)$.

Definition

A generalized metric conformal to g is a metric of the form $\bar{g} = u^{\frac{N-2}{k}} g$ with $u \in L_+^N$.

Definition

For any generalized metric $\bar{g} = u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} g$, the p^{th} eigenvalue $\lambda_p(\bar{g})$ of $P_{\bar{g}}$ is characterized by (see [1]):

$$\lambda_p(\bar{g}) = \inf_{v \in Gr_p^u(H_2^2(M))} \sup_{v \in V \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\int_M v P_{\bar{g}} v dv_{\bar{g}}}{\int_M u^{N-2} v^2 dv_{\bar{g}}}, \quad p \in \mathbb{N}^*.$$

Lemma

Let $u \in L^N_+(M)$ and let v_m be a sequence in $H^2_2(M)$ which converges weakly to u , then

$$\int_M u^{N-2} (|v_m^2 - v^2|) dv_g \rightarrow 0.$$

Let A be any large real number and set $u_A = \inf(u, A)$. Then $(u_A)_A$ is a monotone sequence, which converges point-wise almost everywhere to u , so by the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem, we have

$$\int_M (u^{N-2} - u_A^{N-2})^{\frac{N}{N-2}} dv_g \rightarrow 0 \text{ when } A \text{ tend to } +\infty.$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M u^{N-2} |v_m^2 - v^2| dv_g \\ & \leq \int_M u_A^{N-2} |v_m^2 - v^2| dv_g \\ & + \left(\int_M (u^{N-2} - u_A^{N-2}) (|v_m| + |v|)^2 dv_g \right) \end{aligned}$$

By using Holder inequality, we can write :

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M u^{N-2} |v_m^2 - v^2| dv_g \\ & \leq A^{N-2} \int_M |v_m^2 - v^2| dv_g \\ & + \left(\int_M (u^{N-2} - u_A^{N-2})^{\frac{N}{N-2}} dv_g \right)^{\frac{N-2}{N}} \left(\int_M (|v_m| + |v|)^N dv_g \right)^{\frac{2}{N}} \end{aligned}$$

Since the sequence v_m is bounded in $H_2^2(M)$ then from Sobolev embedding, the boundedness in $L^N(M)$ is assumed, and hence there exists $C > 0$ such that $\int_M (|v_m| + |v|)^N dv_g \leq C$. By strong convergence of v_m in $L^2(M)$, we get the result.

Theorem

For any generalized metric $\bar{g} = u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} g$, there exists a non trivial function v in $H_2^2(M)$ such that in the weak sense, v satisfies :

$$P_g(v) = \lambda_{1,\bar{g}} u^{N-2} v \quad (1)$$

$$\text{and } \int_M u^{N-2} v^2 dv_g = 1$$

where $\lambda_{1,\bar{g}}$ is the first eigenvalue of P_g for the metric \bar{g} . In other words, the first eigenvalue of P_g is attained by v .

Let (v_m) be a minimizing sequence for $\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$, i.e a sequence $v_m \in H_2^2(M)$ such that $u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} v_m \neq 0$ and

$$\lim_m \frac{\int_M v_m P_g(v_m) dv_g}{\left(\int_M |u|^{N-2} v_m^2 dv_g\right)} = \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}.$$

Without loss of generality, we can always normalize v_m by $\int_M u^{N-2} v_m^2 dv_g = 1$. Now for a large enough m , we have

$$\|u\|_{H_2^2}^2 = \int_M v_m P_g(v_m) dv_g \leq \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} + 1,$$

then the sequence (v_m) is bounded in $H_2^2(M)$, and after restriction to a subsequence we may assume that there exists v in $H_2^2(M)$ such that $v_m \rightarrow v$ weakly in $H_2^2(M)$, strongly in $H_1^2(M)$ and in $L^2(M)$ and almost everywhere in M , so that

$$\int_M v P_g(v) dv_g \leq \liminf \int_M v_m P_g(v_m) dv_g = \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$$

and since $\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$ is the infimum, it follows that

$$\int_M v P_g(v) dv_g = \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}},$$

from lemma (4), we get

$$\int_M u^{N-2} (v^2 - v_m^2) dv_g \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \int_M u^{N-2} v^2 dv_g = 1.$$

Consequently v is a non-trivial weak minimizer of the functional associated to $\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$. Writing the Euler-Lagrange equation, we find that v satisfies the equation

$$P_g(v) = \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} u^{N-2} v.$$

Moreover, we can also obtain the sign of the first eigenvalue in this case i.e :

$$\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} = \|v\|_{H_2^2}^2 > 0.$$

Proposition

If $u \in C_+^\infty(M)$, then the solution of equation (1) $v \in C^{2k}(M)$.

We have $\lambda_{1,\bar{g}} u^{N-2} v \in H_2^2(M)$, $P_g(v) \in H_2^2(M)$ and by regularity theorems $v \in H_{3k}^2(M)$, it follows by successive iterations that $v \in H_l^2(M)$ where l is large enough and finally if $\frac{1}{2} < \frac{l-m}{n}$,

$$H_l^2(M) \subset C^m(M)$$

so we can take $m = 4$ i.e

$$v \in C^4(M).$$

Now, we are going to show that the equation (1) has a positive solution.

Theorem

Let v be the solution of equation (1), there exists a non trivial positive function f in C^4 , such that

$$P_g(f) = \lambda_{1,\bar{g}} u^{N-2} f \quad \text{and} \quad \int_M u^{N-2} f^2 dv_g = 1.$$

In other word, we can say that the first eigenvalue $\lambda_{1,\bar{g}}$ is attained by a $C^4(M)$ positive function.

Let v be a solution of (1) and let f be the solution of the equation

$$P_g(f) = |P_g(v)|,$$

we can show the existence of the function f by using the factorization of P_g as :

$$P_g = \prod_{l=1}^2 (\Delta + c_l S_g)$$

where c_l are positive, so all operators $\Delta + c_l S_g$ are invertible and applying strong maximum principle for elliptic equations of second order for 2 times (see [12] Proposition 4), we show that $f > |v| > 0$ and by regularity $f \in C^4(M)$.

Let A be a real number such that $0 < A \leq 1$ and $\int_M (Af)^2 u^{N-2} dv_g = 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_M (Af) P_g(Af) dv_g - \lambda_{1, \tilde{g}} \\
 &= A^2 \int_M (f) |P_g(v)| dv_g - \lambda_{1, \tilde{g}} \\
 &= A^2 |\lambda_{1, \tilde{g}}| \int_M (f) u^{N-2} |v| dv_g - \lambda_{1, \tilde{g}} \\
 &= A |\lambda_{1, \tilde{g}}| \int_M (Af) u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} |v| dv_g - \lambda_{1, \tilde{g}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq A |\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}| \left[\int_M (Af)^2 u^{N-2} dv_g \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[\int_M (v)^2 u^{N-2} dv_g \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} - \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$$

$$\leq (A - 1)\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} \quad \text{as } \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} > 0.$$

Thus,

$$\int_M (Af) P_g(Af) dv_g \leq \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$$

and as $\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$ is the infimum, we get equality i.e Af is a positive solution of $P_g(v) = \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} u^{N-2} v$.

Proposition

Let v be the solution of equation (1). Then the set :

$E = \{w \in H_2^2(M) \text{ such that}$

$$u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} w \neq 0, \int_M u^{N-2} w^2 dv_g = 1 \text{ and } \int_M u^{N-2} w v dv_g = 0\},$$

is not empty.

Let $v, s \in H_2^2(M)$ non-collinear functions, by multiplying if necessary v and s by certain constants, we assume that :

$$\int_M u^{N-2} v^2 dv_g = \int_M u^{N-2} s^2 dv_g = 1, \text{ and thus } u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} v \neq 0 \text{ and } u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} s \neq 0. \text{ We set}$$

$$w = \alpha v + \beta s$$

where α, β are real numbers.

Now we are going to find α, β such that $w \in E$. We begin by multiplying w by $u^{N-2} v$ and we integrate :

$$\int_M u^{N-2} w v d v_g = \alpha + \beta \int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g = 0$$

i.e

$$\beta = -\frac{\alpha}{\int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g}.$$

If $\int u^{N-2} s v d v_g = 0$, then $s \in E$ and E is not empty and if

$\int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g \neq 0$, hence β is well defined.

By the equality $\int_M u^{N-2} w^2 d v_g = 1$, we obtain:

$$\int_M u^{N-2} (\alpha v + \beta s)^2 d v_g = 1 \quad \text{i.e}$$

$$\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + 2\alpha\beta \int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g = 1,$$

therefore

$$\alpha = \pm \frac{\int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g}{\left(1 - \left[\int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g\right]^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

then the number α is also well defined because $\int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g < 1$ is always true. In fact, if $\int_M u^{N-2} s v d v_g \geq 1$, Holder inequality implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
1 &\leq \int_M u^{N-2} s v dV_g = \int_M u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} s u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} v dV_g \\
&\leq \left[\int_M u^{N-2} v^2 dV_g \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[\int_M u^{N-2} s^2 dV_g \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq 1,
\end{aligned}$$

then there is equality in Holder inequality, and this is possible if and only if there is a real constant c such that $v = cs$, hence v and s are colinear and we get a contradiction.

Proposition

Let u and v two functions as in the theorem (5), then there exists a function w in $H_2^2(M)$ solution in the weak sense of the equation

$$P_g(w) = \lambda'_{2,g} u^{N-2} w,$$

such that $\int_M u^{N-2} w^2 dv_g = 1$ and $\int_M u^{N-2} w v dv_g = 0$ where

$$\lambda'_{2,g} = \inf_E \frac{\int_M v P_g v dv_g}{\int_M u^{N-2} v^2 dv_g}.$$

let (w_m) be a minimizing sequence for $\lambda'_{2,g}$ i.e $w_m \in E$ is such that :

$$\lim_m \frac{\int_M w_m P_g(w_m) dv_g}{\left(\int_M u^{N-2} w_m^2 dv_g\right)} = \lambda'_{2,g},$$

with the same proof of theorem (5), we can find $w \in C^4(M)$ solution of $P_g(w) = \lambda'_{2,g} \int_M u^{N-2} w^2 dv_g$ such that $\int_M u^{N-2} w^2 dv_g = 1$.

Now writing

$$\int_M u^{N-2} w v dv_g = \int_M u^{N-2} w_m v - u^{N-2} w_m v + u^{N-2} w v dv_g$$

$$= \int_M u^{N-2} v (w - w_m) dv_g + \int_M u^{N-2} w_m v dv_g = 0.$$

As the sequence $w_m \in E$, $\int_M u^{N-2} w_m v dv_g = 0$, and using the weak convergence of w_m to w in $L^N(M)$, we get

$$\int_M u^{N-2} v (w - w_m) dv_g \rightarrow 0 \quad (u^{N-2} v \in L^{\frac{N}{N-1}} \text{ dual space of } L^N(M)).$$

Proposition

We have

$$\lambda'_{2,g} = \lambda_{2,\tilde{g}}$$

Since $w \in E$, the functions $u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} v$, $u^{\frac{N-2}{2}} w$ are linearly independent, then the space

$$V_0 = \text{span}(v, w) \in Gr_2^u(H_2^2(M)).$$

Putting $f = \alpha v + \beta w$ with α, β are non-zero real numbers, we evaluate

$$s = \frac{\int_M f P_g(f) dv_g}{\int_M u^{N-2} f^2 dv_g} \quad \text{over } V_0$$

we find

$$s = \frac{\alpha^2 \int_M v L_g(v) dv_g + \beta^2 \int_M w P_g(w) dv_g}{\alpha^2 + \beta^2}$$

$$s = \frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha^2 + \beta^2} \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} + \frac{\beta^2}{\alpha^2 + \beta^2} \lambda'_{2,\tilde{g}}$$

and as $\frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha^2 + \beta^2} + \frac{\beta^2}{\alpha^2 + \beta^2} = 1$, so for $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, we can get :

$$s = \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} \cos^2 \theta + \lambda'_{2,\tilde{g}} \sin^2 \theta.$$

On the other hand

$$\frac{ds}{d\theta} = (\lambda'_{2,\tilde{g}} - \lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}) \sin 2\theta,$$

and taking into account that:





$$\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}} = \inf_{H_2^2} \leq \lambda'_{2,\tilde{g}} = \inf_E \quad \text{because } (E \subset H_2^2(M)).$$




We get that $\lambda_{1,\tilde{g}}$ is a minimum of $s(\theta)$ and $\lambda'_{2,\tilde{g}}(\theta)$ is a maximum of s ,



$$\lambda'_{2,\tilde{g}} = \sup_{f \in V_0} \frac{\int_M f P_g(f) dv_g}{\int_M u^{N-2} f^2 dv_g},$$




and as the infimum of the quantity $\sup_{f \in V_0} \frac{\int_M f P_{\tilde{g}}(f) dv_g}{\int_M u^{N-2} f^2 dv_g}$ on all elements of $Gr_2^u(H_2^2(M))$ is attained over V_0 , it follows

$$\lambda'_{2,\tilde{g}} = \inf_{V \in Gr_2^u(H_2^2(M))} \sup_{v \in V \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\int_M v P_{\tilde{g}} v dv_g}{\int_M u^{N-2} v^2 dv_g} = \lambda_{2,\tilde{g}}.$$

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