THE SPECTRAL GEOMETRY OF THE CANONICAL
RIEMANNIAN SUBMERSION OF A COMPACT LIE GROUP

C. DUNN, P. GILKEY, AND J.H. PARK

Abstract. Let $G$ be a compact connected Lie group which is equipped with a bi-invariant Riemannian metric. Let $m(x, y) = xy$ be the multiplication operator. We show the associated fibration $m : G \times G \to G$ is a Riemannian submersion with totally geodesic fibers and we study the spectral geometry of this submersion. We show the pull back of eigenforms on the base have finite Fourier series on the total space and we give examples where arbitrarily many Fourier coefficients can be non-zero. We give necessary and sufficient conditions that the pull back of a form on the base is harmonic on the total space.

1. Introduction

The spectral geometry of Riemannian manifolds has been studied extensively; compact Lie groups play a central role in this investigation. For example, work of Schueth [10] shows there are non-trivial isospectral families of left invariant metrics on compact Lie groups, although any such family which includes a bi-invariant metric is necessarily trivial; this work has been extended by Proctor [8]. Riemannian submersions of Lie groups with totally geodesic fibers have been studied by Ranjan [9]. We refer to [2] for a further discussion of the spectral geometry of Riemannian submersions.

In this paper, we shall study the spectral geometry of the multiplication map $m : G \times G \to G$ where $G$ is a compact Lie group. Adopt the following notational conventions. Let $\Delta^p_M := (d\delta + \delta d)$ be the Laplace-Beltrami operator acting on the space of smooth $p$ forms $C^\infty(\Lambda^p(M))$ on a compact smooth closed Riemannian manifold $M$ of dimension $m$. We summarize briefly the following well known facts which we shall need, see, for example [1] for further details. Denote the distinct eigenvalues and associated eigenspaces by:

$$\text{Spec}(\Delta^p_M) = \{0 = \lambda_0 < \lambda_1 < ... < \lambda_n < ...\},$$

$$E_\lambda(\Delta^p_M) = \{\phi \in C^\infty(\Lambda^p(M)) : \Delta^p_M \phi = \lambda \phi\}.$$

The spectral multiplicities $\text{dim}(E_\lambda(\Delta^p_M))$ are all finite. Furthermore there is a complete orthonormal decomposition

$$L^2(\Lambda^p(M)) = \oplus_{\lambda \in \text{Spec}(\Delta^p_M)} E_\lambda(\Delta^p_M).$$

Let $G$ be a compact connected Lie group which is equipped with a bi-invariant Riemannian metric $ds^2_G$. Normalize the product metric on $G \times G$ by taking

$$ds^2_{G \times G} = 2(ds^2_G \oplus ds^2_G).$$

The situation on 0-forms is particularly simple; we shall show in Section 2 that the pull-back of an eigenfunction is again an eigenfunction with the same eigenvalue.

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1 Corresponding author.
Theorem 1.1. Let $ds_G^2$ be a bi-invariant metric on a compact Lie group $G$. Let $ds_{G \times G}^2 = 2(ds_G^2 \oplus ds_G^2)$. Then the multiplication map $m : G \times G \to G$ is a Riemannian submersion with totally geodesic fibers and $m^\ast \{E_\lambda(\Delta_G^p)\} \subset E_\lambda(\Delta_{G \times G}^0)$.

Let $\pi_\lambda$ be orthogonal projection on $E_\lambda(\Delta_G^p)$. If $\phi \in C^\infty(\Lambda^p(M))$, let $\mu(\phi)$ be the number of eigenvalues $\lambda$ so that $\pi_\lambda \phi \neq 0$; this is the number of distinct eigenvalues which are involved in the Fourier series decomposition of $\phi$. We shall use the Peter-Weyl theorem in Section 4 to show that:

Theorem 1.2. Let $ds_G^2$ be a bi-invariant metric on a compact Lie group $G$. Let $ds_{G \times G}^2 = 2(ds_G^2 \oplus ds_G^2)$. If $\phi \in E_\lambda(\Delta_G^p)$, then $\mu(m^\ast \phi) \leq \left(2^{\dim G}\right)^2 \dim \{E_\lambda(\Delta_G^p)\}$.

The geometry of left invariant 1-forms plays a central role in our discussions. The following result will be established in Section 7 by generalizing Theorem 1.2 to this setting:

Theorem 1.3. Let $ds_G^2$ be a bi-invariant metric on a compact Lie group $G$. Let $ds_{G \times G}^2 = 2(ds_G^2 \oplus ds_G^2)$. Let $\phi \in E_\lambda(\Delta_G^1)$ be left invariant. Then one may decompose $m^\ast \phi = \Phi_1 + \Phi_2$ where $0 \neq \Phi_1 \in E_{2\lambda}(\Delta_{G \times G}^1)$ and $0 \neq \Phi_2 \in E_{2\lambda}(\Delta_{G \times G}^1)$.

Theorem 1.4. Let $p \geq 1$ and let $\mu_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ be given. There exists a bi-invariant metric on a compact Lie group $G$, there exists $\lambda$, and there exists $0 \neq \phi \in E_\lambda(\Delta_G^0)$ so that $\mu(m^\ast \phi) = \mu_0$.

The Hodge-DeRham theorem identifies the $n^{\text{th}}$ cohomology group $H^n(M; \mathbb{C})$ of $M$ with the space of harmonic $n$-forms $E_0(\Delta_M^n)$ if $M$ is a compact Riemannian manifold. Thus the eigenvalue 0 has a particular significance. Let $\Lambda(E_0(\Delta_G^1))$ be the subring generated over $\mathbb{C}$ by the harmonic 1-forms; one has that $\phi \in \Lambda^n(E_0(\Delta_G^1))$ if and only if one can express:

$$\phi = \sum_{|I|=n} a_I \phi^i \wedge ... \wedge \phi^n \text{ where } a_I \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } \phi^i \in E_0(\Delta_G^1).$$

Theorem 1.5. Let $ds_G^2$ be a bi-invariant metric on a compact Lie group $G$. Let $ds_{G \times G}^2 = 2(ds_G^2 \oplus ds_G^2)$. Assume $G$ connected.

1. $\Lambda^n(E_0(\Delta_G^1)) \subset E_0(\Delta_G^n)$.
2. $\phi \in \Lambda^n(E_0(\Delta_G^1))$ if and only if $m^\ast \phi \in E_0(\Delta_{G \times G}^n)$.
3. Let $G$ be simply connected. If $\phi \in E_0(\Delta_G^n)$ for $n > 0$, $m^\ast \phi \notin E_0(\Delta_{G \times G}^n)$.

One can consider more generally the situation where $G$ and $G \times G$ are endowed with arbitrary left invariant metrics $ds_G^2$ and $ds_{G \times G}^2$ where there is no a priori relation assumed between these metrics. The question of when this is a Riemannian submersion is an interesting one and will be studied in more detail in a subsequent paper. For the moment, however, we content ourselves in Section 7 by generalizing Theorem 1.2 to this setting:

Theorem 1.6. Let $G$ and $G \times G$ be equipped with left invariant metrics $ds_G^2$ and $ds_{G \times G}^2$. If $\phi \in E_\lambda(\Delta_G^p)$, then

$$\mu(m^\ast \phi) \leq \left(2^{\dim G}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\dim G}{p}\right)^2 \dim \{E_\lambda(\Delta_G^p)\}^4.$$

We remark that this bound is much worse than the bound given in Theorem 1.5 when $p$ is small.
2. THE GEOMETRY OF THE MULTIPLICATION MAP m

Let \( \pi : X \to Y \) be a surjective smooth map where \( X \) and \( Y \) are compact Riemannian manifolds. We suppose that \( \pi \) is a submersion, i.e. that the map \( \pi_* : T_xX \to T_{\pi x}Y \) is surjective for every \( x \in X \), and let \( \mathcal{V} \) (resp. \( \mathcal{H} \)) be the associated vertical (resp. horizontal) distribution:

\[ \mathcal{V} := \{ \xi \in TX : \pi_* \xi = 0 \} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{H} := \mathcal{V}^\perp. \]

We say that \( \pi \) is a Riemannian submersion if \( \pi_* : \mathcal{H}_x \to T\pi_x \) is an isometry \( \forall x \).

The following example is instructive. Let \( m(u,v) = u + v \) define a linear map from \( \mathbb{R}^{2n} \to \mathbb{R}^n \). Take the standard Euclidean metric on \( \mathbb{R}^n \). We may identify

\[ T_x\mathbb{R}^{2n} = \mathbb{R}^{2n} \quad \text{and} \quad T_y\mathbb{R}^n = \mathbb{R}^n. \]

Under this identification,

\[ \mathcal{V} = \text{Span}_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n}\{(\frac{1}{2}\xi,-\frac{1}{2}\xi)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{H} = \text{Span}_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n}\{(\frac{1}{2}\xi,\frac{1}{2}\xi)\}. \]

We have \( m_*(\frac{1}{2}\xi,\frac{1}{2}\xi) = \xi \). Thus if \( \xi \) is a unit vector in \( T_y\mathbb{R}^n \), we need that \((\frac{1}{2}\xi,\frac{1}{2}\xi)\) is a unit vector in \( T_y\mathbb{R}^{2n} \). This motivates the factor of 2 which appears in Equation 1.

More generally, let \( G \) be a Lie group which is equipped with a bi-invariant Riemannian metric \( ds_G^2 \). Let \( m(x,y) = xy \) be the multiplication operator from \( G \times G \to G \). Let \( \{e_i^L\} \) (resp. \( \{e_i^R\} \)) be an orthonormal frame of left (resp. right) invariant vector fields on \( G \). We assume \( e_i^L(1) = e_i^R(1) = e_i \) where \( 1 \in G \) is the unit of the group and where \( \{e_i\} \) is an orthonormal basis for \( T_1(G) \). Let \( \exp \) be the exponential map in the group. Then the flows \( \Xi_i^L \) and \( \Xi_i^R \) of these vector fields are:

\[ \Xi_i^L : (g,t) \to g \exp(te_i) \quad \text{and} \quad \Xi_i^R : (g,t) \to \exp(te_i)g. \]

The multiplication map \( m \) defines a smooth surjective map \( m : G \times G \to G \). Consider the following curves in \( G \times G \) with initial position \((g_1,g_2)\):

\[ \gamma_i^{g_1,g_2} : t \to (g_1 \exp(t e_i), \exp(-t e_i)g_2), \]

\[ \delta_i^{g_1,g_2} : t \to (g_1 \exp(\frac{t}{2} e_i), \exp(\frac{t}{2} e_i)g_2), \]

\[ \epsilon_i^{g_1,g_2} : t \to (\exp(te_i)g_1, g_2). \]

We may identify \( T(G \times G) = TG \oplus TG \). Because \( m_* \gamma_i^{g_1,g_2} : t \to \exp(te_i)g_1g_2 \),

\[ m_* \{ \gamma_i^{g_1,g_2}(0) \} = e_i^R(m(g_1,g_2)). \]

Consequently \( m_* \) is surjective so \( m \) is a submersion. As \( m_* \gamma_i^{g_1,g_2} : t \to g_1g_2 \) is independent of \( t \), one has \( \gamma_i = \frac{1}{2}(e_i^L, -e_i^R) \in \ker \{ m_* \} \). It now follows that

\[ \mathcal{V} := \ker \{ m_* \} = \text{Span}\{V_i := \frac{1}{2}(e_i^L, -e_i^R)\}, \]

\[ \mathcal{H} := \ker \{ m_* \}^\perp = \text{Span}\{H_i := \frac{1}{2}(e_i^L, e_i^R)\}. \]

Let \( L_g \) and \( R_g \) denote left and right multiplication in the group. As \( \dot{g}_1 = H_i \),

\[ m_*\{g_1,g_2\}\{H_i(g_1,g_2)\} = (L_{g_1})_* (R_{g_2})_* e_i. \]

Since \( L_{g_1} \) and \( R_{g_2} \) are isometries, it follows that \( \{m_*H_i(g_1,g_2)\} \) is an orthonormal basis for \( T_{g_1g_2}G \). We have defined \( ds_G^2 \otimes ds_G^2 = 2(ds_G^2 \oplus ds_G^2) \). We show that \( m \) is a Riemannian submersion by computing:

\[ (H_i,H_j)_{G\times G} = 2\frac{1}{4}(e_i^L,e_j^L)_G + (e_i^R,e_j^R)_G = \delta_{ij}, \]

\[ (H_i,V_j)_{G\times G} = 2\frac{1}{4}(e_i^L,e_j^L)_G - (e_i^R,e_j^R)_G = 0, \]

\[ (V_i,V_j)_{G\times G} = 2\frac{1}{4}(e_i^L,e_j^L)_G + (e_i^R,e_j^R)_G = \delta_{ij}. \]

Fix \( h \in G \). The map \( T_h : (g_1,g_2) \to (hg_2^{-1},g_1^{-1}h) \) is an isometry \( G \times G \). Clearly \( T_h(g_1,g_2) = (g_1,g_2) \) if and only if \( g_1 = hg_2^{-1} \) and \( g_2 = g_1^{-1}h \) or equivalently if \( g_1g_2 = h \). Thus the fixed point set of \( T \) is \( m^{-1}(h) \). Since the fixed point set of an isometry consists of the disjoint union of totally geodesic submanifolds, the fibers
of $m$, which are connected submanifolds diffeomorphic to $G$, are totally geodesic. It now follows that the mean curvature covector vanishes. Theorem 4.3.1 of [2] shows $m^* \Delta G = \Delta m^* G$. This completes the proof of Theorem 4.1.

3. The Peter-Weyl Theorem

We recall the classical Peter-Weyl theorem; for further details see, for example, [4, 5]. Let $G$ be a compact Lie group which is equipped with a bi-invariant metric; assume the metric is normalized so $G$ has unit volume. If $\rho$ is a smooth left representation of $G$ on a finite dimensional complex vector space $V$, then by averaging an arbitrary innerproduct on $V$ over the group we can always choose an innerproduct on $V$ which is preserved by $\rho$. Thus any such representation is unitarizable. Let $\operatorname{Irr}(G)$ be the set of isomorphism classes of finite dimensional irreducible unitary left representations of $G$. We can decompose any finite dimensional left representation space $V$ as a direct sum of irreducibles:

$$V = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)} n_\rho V_\rho;$$

the multiplicities $n_\rho$ are independent of the particular decomposition chosen and are non-zero for only finitely many $\rho$.

Let $\{e_i\}$ be an orthonormal basis for $V_\rho$ where $\rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)$. We may expand $\rho(g) e_i = \sum_j \rho_{ij}(g) e_j$; the functions $\rho_{ij} \in C^\infty(G)$ are said to be the matrix coefficients of $\rho$. We let $H_\rho := \operatorname{Span}_{1 \leq i,j \leq \dim(\rho)} \{ \rho_{ij} \} \subset L^2(G)$.

It is easily verified that $H_\rho$ is invariant under both the left and right group action and that $H_\rho$ is independent of the particular orthonormal basis chosen for $V_\rho$; isomorphic representations determine the same space. Furthermore, as a left representation space for $G$, $H_\rho$ is isomorphic to $\dim(\rho)$ copies of the original representation $\rho$.

If $V$ is any finite dimensional subspace of $L^2(G)$ which is left-invariant under $G$ and which is abstractly isomorphic to $V_\rho$ as a representation space, then one has $V \subset H_\rho$; to put it another way, $H_\rho$ contains all the left submodules of $L^2(G)$ which are isomorphic to $V_\rho$. Furthermore, we have a complete orthogonal direct sum decomposition

$$L^2(G) = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)} H_\rho = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)} \dim(\rho) \cdot V_\rho;$$

This means that $\{ \rho_{ij} \}_{1 \leq i,j \leq \dim(\rho), \rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)}$ is a complete orthonormal basis for $L^2(G)$. More generally, let $\{ \phi_L^i \}$ be an orthonormal basis for the space of left invariant 1-forms. If one has that $I = \{ 1 \leq i_1 < \ldots < i_p \leq \dim(G) \}$ is a multi-index, let $\Phi_L^I := \phi_L^{i_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \phi_L^{i_p}$; the $\Phi_L^I$ are an orthonormal basis for the space of left invariant $p$-forms and as a left representation space for $G$ one has:

$$(3.a) \quad L^2(\Lambda^p(G)) = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G), |I| = p} H_\rho \otimes \Phi_L^I = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)} \left( \dim(\rho)^p \right) \dim(V_\rho) V_\rho.$$

The subspace $H_\rho^p := \bigoplus_{|I| = p} H_\rho \cdot \Phi_L^I$ is a bi-invariant $G$ submodule of $L^2(\Lambda^p(G))$ which contain every left subrepresentation of $G$ on $L^2(\Lambda^p(G))$ isomorphic to $V_\rho$.

Let $\pi_\lambda$ be orthogonal projection from $L^2(\Lambda^p(G))$ to $E_\lambda(\Delta_G^\infty)$ and let $\mu(\phi)$ be the number of eigenvalues $\lambda$ so $\pi_\lambda(\phi) \neq 0$. We prepare for the proof of Theorem 4.2 by establishing:

**Lemma 3.1.** Let $H \subset L^2(\Lambda^p(G))$ be invariant under the action of $L_g$ for all $g \in G$. If $\phi \in H$, then $\mu(\phi) \leq \left( \dim(\rho)^p \right) \dim(H)$. 

**Proof.** Clearly $\pi_\lambda H$ is non-trivial if and only if there exists $\rho \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)$ so that the multiplicities satisfy:

$$n_H(\rho) > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad n_{E_\lambda(\Delta_G^\infty)}(\rho) > 0.$$
Note that only a finite number of representations appear in $H$ and only a finite number of eigenspaces involve any given representation. By Equation 4.a,
\[
\mu(\phi) \leq \sum_{\rho \in \text{Irr}(G): n_{\rho}(H) \neq 0} \left\{ \sum_{\lambda \in \text{Irr}(G) \setminus \{\rho\}} \frac{1}{\dim\{\lambda\}} \right\} \dim\{V_{\rho}\} \leq \left( \frac{\dim\{G\}}{p} \right) \dim\{H\}. \tag{3}
\]

We can now establish Theorem 1.2. It is convenient to introduce $\tilde{m}(g,h) = gh^{-1}$. Let $H = E_\lambda(\Delta^p_G)$. Since $H$ is invariant under both the left and right actions of $G$, $\tilde{H}$ is invariant under the left action of $G \times G$. We replace the group in question by $G \times G$ and apply Lemma 3.1 to estimate $\mu(\tilde{m}^*\phi)$. Since the metric on $G \times G$ is bi-invariant, $\psi(x,y) := (x,y^{-1})$ is an isometry of $G \times G$. We have
\[a_1a_2 = m(a_1,a_2) = a_1(a_2^{-1})^{-1} = \tilde{m}(\psi(a_1,a_2))\]
and thus $m^* = \psi^*\tilde{m}^*$. Consequently $\mu(m^*\phi) = \mu(\psi^*\tilde{m}^*\phi) = \mu(\tilde{m}^*\phi)$.

\[\square\]

4. Left invariant 1-forms

Let $\Lambda^1_p(G)$ be the finite dimensional vector space of left invariant $p$-forms on $G$.

Define the left and right actions of $G$ on $G \times G$ by:
\[
\begin{align*}
L_{1,g} : (x,y) &\rightarrow (gx,y), & L_{2,g} : (x,y) &\rightarrow (x,gy), \\
R_{1,g} : (x,y) &\rightarrow (xg,y), & R_{2,g} : (x,y) &\rightarrow (x,gy)
\end{align*}
\]

Consider the following subspaces:
\[
\tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G) = \{ \theta \in C^\infty(\Lambda^p(G \times G)) : L_{1,g}^*\theta = \theta, R_{1,g}^* \theta = \theta \forall g \in G \}.
\]

Lemma 4.1. Adopt the notation established above. Then:
\begin{enumerate}
\item $d_G \times G(\tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G)) \subset \tilde{\Lambda}^{p+1}(G \times G)$, \quad \delta_{G \times G}(\tilde{\Lambda}^{p+1}(G \times G)) \subset \tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G)$,
\item $\Delta_{G \times G}^{\infty}(\tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G)) \subset \tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G)$, and $\tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G) \setminus \tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G) \subset \tilde{\Lambda}^{p+1}(G \times G)$.
\item $m^*\{\Lambda^1_p(G)\} \subset \tilde{\Lambda}^p(G \times G)$.
\end{enumerate}

Proof. Assertion (1) follows since the maps of Equation 4.a are isometries and thus the pullbacks defined by these maps commute with $d$, $\delta$, $\Delta$, and $\wedge$. To prove Assertion (2), define an action $A$ of $G \times G$ on $G \times G$ by setting:
\[
A_{g,h} : (a,b) \rightarrow (gah^{-1},hb)
\]
this is a fixed point free transitive isometric group action since
\[
A_{g_1h_1}A_{g_2h_2} = A_{g_1g_2h_1h_2}.
\]
This exhibits $G \times G$ as a homogeneous space. We have furthermore that:
\[
\begin{align*}
m(ga,b) &= gm(a,b), & m \circ L_{1,g} = L_{g} \circ m, & m^* L_{1,g} = L_{1,g}^* m^*, \\
m(bg^{-1},gb) &= m(a,b), & m \circ L_{2,g} R_{1,g}^{-1} = m, & R_{1,g}^* = L_{1,g}^* R_{2,g}^* m = m^*.
\end{align*}
\]
Suppose that $\phi \in \Lambda^1_p(G)$. Then $L_{1,g}^* \phi = \phi$ for all $g$. Consequently
\[
L_{1,g}^* m^* \phi = m^* L_{g}^* \phi = m^* \phi \quad \text{and} \quad R_{1,g}^* L_{2,g}^* m^* \phi = m^* \phi.
\]
Assertion (3) follows. \[\square\]
Fix an orthonormal frame \( \{ \phi_L^i \} \) for \( \Lambda^1_L(G) \) so that
\[ \Delta_G^1 \{ \phi_L^i \} = \lambda_i \phi_L^i. \]
Since right and left multiplication commute, right multiplication preserves \( \Lambda^1_L(G) \). Thus we may decompose
\[ R_g^* \phi_L^i = \sum_j \xi_{ij}(g) \phi_L^j. \]
Since \( R_g R_h = R_{hg} \) and since \( R_1 = \text{id} \), we have
\[ \xi_{ij}(g) \xi_{jk}(h) = \xi_{ik}(hg) \quad \text{and} \quad \xi_{ij}(1) = \delta_{ij}. \]
We may decompose \( \Lambda^1(G \times G) = \Lambda^1(G) \oplus \Lambda^1(G) \). Define
\[ \Phi^1_i(u, v) = \sum_j \xi_{ij}(v) \phi^j_L(u) \oplus 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi^2_i(u, v) = 0 \oplus \phi^i_L(v). \]

**Lemma 4.2.** Adopt the notation established above.

1. \( \{ \Phi^1_i, \Phi^2_i \} \) is a basis for \( \check{\Lambda}^1(G \times G) \).
2. \( m^* \phi^i_L = \Phi^1_i + \Phi^2_i \).
3. \( \Delta^1_{G \times G} \Phi^1_i = \frac{1}{2} \lambda_i \Phi^1_i \) and \( \Delta^1_{G \times G} \Phi^2_i = \frac{1}{2} \lambda_i \Phi^2_i \).

**Proof.** It is immediate from the definition that \( L_{1,g}^1 \Phi^1_i = \Phi^1_i \), \( L_{1,g}^2 \Phi^2_i = \Phi^2_i \), and \( R^*_{1,g^{-1}}, L^*_{2,g} \Phi^2_i = \Phi^2_i \). We use Equation (4.4) to see:
\[
\{ R^*_{1,g^{-1}}, L^*_{2,g} \Phi^1_i \}(u, v) = \sum_{j,k} \xi_{ij}(g) \xi_{jk}(g^{-1}) \phi^k_L(u) \oplus 0
\]
\[
= \sum_{j,k} \xi_{ij}(v) \xi_{jk}(g^{-1}) \phi^j_L(u) \oplus 0
\]
\[
= \sum_k \xi_{ik}(v) \phi^k_L(u) \oplus 0 = \Phi^1_i(u, v).
\]
Thus \( \Phi^1_i \in \check{\Lambda}^1(G \times G) \) and \( \Phi^2_i \in \check{\Lambda}^1(G \times G) \). Because \( \Phi^1_i(1, 1) = \phi^i_L(1) \oplus 0 \) and because \( \Phi^2_i(1, 1) = 0 \oplus \phi^i_L(1) \), Assertion (1) now follows from Assertion (2) of Lemma 4.1. We dualize Equations (4.2a) and (4.2b) to see that
\[
\{ m^* \phi^1_L \}(1, 1) = \phi^1_L(1) \oplus \phi^2_L(1) = \{ \Phi^1_i \} \oplus \{ \Phi^2_i \}(1, 1).
\]
The identity of Assertion (2) of Lemma 4.2 now follows from Assertion (1) of Lemma 4.1 and from Assertion (3) of Lemma 4.1.

Suppose \( \phi \in \Lambda^1_0(G) \). Then \( \delta_G \phi \in \Lambda^0_0(G) \) is left-invariant and hence \( \delta_G \phi = c \) is constant. Since \( dc = 0 \),
\[ c^2 \text{vol}(G) = (\delta_G \phi, \delta_G \phi)_{L^2(G)} = (\phi, d_G \delta_G \phi)_{L^2(\Lambda^1_G)} = 0. \]
Similarly if \( \Phi \in \check{\Lambda}^1(G \times G) \), then \( \delta_{G \times A} \Phi \in \check{\Lambda}^0(G \times G) \) is invariant under the transitive group action \( A \) defined above. Consequently \( \delta_{G \times G} \Phi = C \) constant and again
\[ C^2 \text{vol}(G \times G) = (\delta_{G \times G} \Phi, \delta_{G \times G} \Phi)_{L^2(G \times G)} = (\Phi, d_{G \times G} \delta_{G \times G} \Phi)_{L^2(\Lambda^1(G \times G))} = 0. \]
Consequently one may express:
\[ \Delta^1_G \{ \phi^i_L \} = \delta_G d_G \{ \phi^i_L \} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta^1_{G \times G} \{ \Phi^i_a \} = \delta_{G \times G} d_{G \times G} \{ \Phi^i_a \} \quad \text{for} \ a = 1, 2. \]
Decompose
\[ d_G \{ \phi^i_L \} = \sum_{j < k} C_{ijk} \phi^j_L \wedge \phi^k_L \quad \text{and} \quad \delta_G \{ \phi^i_L \wedge \phi^k_L \} = \sum_i D_{ijk} \phi^i_L. \]
We compute:
\[ D_{ijk} \text{vol}(G) = (\delta_G \{ \phi^i_L \wedge \phi^k_L \}, \phi^j_L)_{L^2(\Lambda^1_G)} = (\phi^j_L, d_{\phi^i_L})_{L^2(\Lambda^2_G)} = C_{ijk} \text{vol}(G). \]
Consequently \( D_{ijk} = C_{ijk} \). Equations (4.1) and (4.4) yield:
\[
\sum_{j<k,l} C_{ijk} C_{ijk} \phi_L^j = \delta_G \left( \sum_{j<k} C_{ijk} \phi_L^j \wedge \phi_L^k \right) = \delta_G d_G \{ \phi_L^j \} = \delta_G \{ \phi_L^j \} = \lambda_i \phi_L^i
\]
and consequently
\[
(4.e) \quad \sum_{j<k} C_{ijk} C_{ijk} = \lambda_i \delta^i_l.
\]

Let \( \sigma_2(g_1, g_2) = g_2 \) denote projection on the second factor. Since \( \Phi_2 = \sigma_2 \phi_L^j \) and since \( \Phi_1 + \Phi_2 = m_4 \phi_L^j \),
\[
\begin{align*}
\delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2 \wedge \Phi_2 \} &= \sum_{j<k} C_{ijk} \delta_{G \times G} \{ \phi_L^j \wedge \phi_L^k \}, \\
\delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_1 + \Phi_2 \} &= \sum_{j<k} C_{ijk} (\Phi_1 + \Phi_2) \wedge (\Phi_1 + \Phi_2), \\
\delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_1 \} &= \delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_1 + \Phi_2 \} - \delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2 \} \\
&= \sum_{j<k} C_{ijk} \left( \Phi_1 \wedge \Phi_1 + \Phi_1 \wedge \Phi_2 + \Phi_2 \wedge \Phi_1 \right).
\end{align*}
\]

We expand \( \delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2 \wedge \Phi_2 \} = \sum_i \{ D_{1,ijk} \Phi_1^i + D_{2,ijk} \Phi_1^j \}. \) Then, taking into account the normalizing factor of 2 in Equation (4.a) which dually yields a factor of \( 1 \) on the inner product for \( \Lambda^1(G \times G) \) and a factor of \( 1 \) on the inner product for \( \Lambda^2(G \times G) \), one has:
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{1}{2} D_{1,ijk} \text{vol}(G \times G) &= (\delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2^i \wedge \Phi_2^j \}, \Phi_1^i)_{L^2(\Lambda^1(G \times G))} \\
&= (\Phi_2^i \wedge \Phi_2^j, d_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_1^i \})_{L^2(\Lambda^1(G \times G))} = 0, \\
\frac{1}{2} D_{2,ijk} \text{vol}(G \times G) &= (\delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2^i \wedge \Phi_2^j \}, \Phi_2^j)_{L^2(\Lambda^1(G \times G))} \\
&= (\Phi_2^i \wedge \Phi_2^j, d_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2^j \})_{L^2(\Lambda^2(G \times G))} = \frac{1}{2} C_{ijk} \text{vol}(G \times G).
\end{align*}
\]

This shows that
\[
(4.g) \quad D_{1,ijk} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad D_{2,ijk} = \frac{1}{2} C_{ijk}.
\]

Equations (4.4), (4.6), (4.8), and (4.8) yield:
\[
\Delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2^i \} = \delta_{G \times G} d_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2^i \} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j<k} C_{ijk} C_{ijk} \Phi_2^j = \frac{1}{2} \lambda_i \Phi_2^i.
\]

Similarly
\[
\delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_1^i \wedge \Phi_1^j \} = \delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_2^i \wedge \Phi_2^j \} = \delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_1^j \wedge \Phi_2^j \} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j<k} C_{ijk} \Phi_2^j
\]
and thus \( \Delta_{G \times G} \{ \Phi_1^i \} = \frac{1}{2} \lambda_i \Phi_1^i \).

5. **Eigen forms whose pull-back has many non-zero Fourier coefficients**

Let \( S^3 \) be the unit sphere in the quaternions \( \mathbb{H} = \mathbb{R}^4 \); this is a compact connected Lie group and the standard round metric is the only bi-invariant metric on \( S^3 \) modulo rescaling. Fix
\[
0 \neq f \in E_{\lambda_0}(\Delta_{S^3}^0)
\]
with \( \lambda_0 \neq 0 \). Since the first cohomology group of \( S^3 \) is trivial, there are no non-trivial harmonic 1-forms on \( S^3 \). Thus we may choose
\[
0 \neq \phi \in \Lambda_1^1(S^3) \cap E_{\lambda_1}(\Delta_{S^3}^1)
\]
for some \( \lambda_1 > 0 \); we refer to \([3, 7]\) for additional details concerning the spectral geometry of \( S^3 \); \( S^3 \) could be replaced by any non-Abelian compact connected Lie group in this construction.
We first prove Theorem 1.4 in the special case that \( p = 1 \). Suppose that \( \mu_0 = 2k \).
Choose real numbers \( 0 < t_1 < \ldots < t_k < 1 \). Choose \( s_1 > \ldots > s_k > 1 \) so
\[
s_\alpha \lambda_0 + t_\alpha \lambda_1 = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leq \alpha \leq k.
\]
Let \( G_\alpha \) be \( S^3 \) with the rescaled metric \( ds^2_{G_\alpha} := t_\alpha^{-1}ds^2_{G_3} \) and let \( \phi^\alpha = \phi \in \Lambda^1_0(G_\alpha) \).
Let \( \bar{G}_\alpha \) be \( S^3 \) with the rescaled metric \( ds^2_{\bar{G}_\alpha} := s_\alpha^{-1}ds^2_{S^3} \) and let \( f_\alpha = f \in C^\infty(\bar{G}_\alpha) \).
After taking into account the effect of the rescaling, we have
\[
f_\alpha \in E_{s_\alpha \lambda_0}(\Delta^0_{\bar{G}_\alpha}), \quad df_\alpha \in E_{s_\alpha \lambda_0}(\Delta^1_{\bar{G}_\alpha}), \quad \text{and} \quad \phi^\alpha \in E_{s_\alpha \lambda_1}(\Delta^1_{\bar{G}_\alpha}).
\]
Let \( G = G_1 \times \ldots \times G_k \times \bar{G}_1 \times \ldots \times \bar{G}_k \). Decompose \( m^*(\phi^\alpha) = \Phi^\alpha_1 + \Phi^\alpha_2 \). Let \( \psi := \sum_\alpha f_\alpha \phi^\alpha \). As the structures decouple, one has:
\[
\Delta^1_G\{\psi\} = \sum_\alpha \left( (s_\alpha \lambda_0 + t_\alpha \lambda_1) f_\alpha \phi^\alpha \right) = (\lambda_0 + \lambda_1) \psi.
\]
We can apply Theorem 4.3 to see
\[
\Delta^1_{G \times G} m^* \psi = \sum_\alpha \left\{ (s_\alpha \lambda_0 + \frac{3}{2} t_\alpha \lambda_1) m^* f_\alpha \cdot \Phi^\alpha_1 + (s_\alpha \lambda_0 + \frac{1}{2} t_\alpha \lambda_1) m^* f_\alpha \cdot \Phi^\alpha_2 \right\}
= \sum_\alpha \left\{ (\lambda_0 + \lambda_1 + \frac{1}{3} t_\alpha \lambda_1) m^* f_\alpha \cdot \Phi^\alpha_1 + (\lambda_0 + \lambda_1 - \frac{1}{3} t_\alpha \lambda_1) m^* f_\alpha \cdot \Phi^\alpha_2 \right\}
\]
The computations performed above then yield \( \psi \in E_{\lambda_0 + \lambda_1}(\Delta^1_G) \). Furthermore:
\[
m^*(f_\alpha) \Phi^\alpha_1 \in E_{\lambda_0 + \lambda_1 + \frac{2}{3} t_\alpha \lambda_1}(\Delta^1_{G \times G}),
m^*(f_\alpha) \Phi^\alpha_2 \in E_{\lambda_0 + \lambda_1 - \frac{2}{3} t_\alpha \lambda_1}(\Delta^1_{G \times G}).
\]
Since \( 0 < t_1 < \ldots < t_k \), \( m^* \psi \) has a Fourier decomposition which involves \( 2k = \mu_0 \) distinct eigenvalues. This establishes Theorem 1.4 if \( p = 1 \) and if \( \mu_0 \) is even.

If \( \mu_0 = 2k + 1 \) is odd, we choose \( s_0 \) so \( s_0 \lambda_0 = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 \). Then \( f_0 \in E_{\lambda_0 + \lambda_1}(\Delta^0_{G_3}) \).
We apply the construction described above to \( G = G_1 \times \ldots \times G_k \times G_0 \times \ldots \times G_k \) and to \( \psi = df_0 + f_1 \phi^1 + \ldots + f_k \phi^k \); the latter factors are not present if \( \mu_0 = 1 \). Since \( m^* df_0 \in E_{\lambda_0 + \lambda_1}(\Delta^1_{G \times G}) \), there are \( 2k + 1 \) distinct eigenvalues which are involved in the Fourier decomposition of \( \psi \). This completes the proof of Theorem 1.4 if \( p = 1 \). We take the product of \( G \) with circles \( S^1 \) and replace \( \phi \) by \( \phi \wedge d\theta_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge d\theta_p \), where \( \theta_3 \) is the usual periodic parameter on \( S^1 \), to complete the proof if \( p \geq 1 \).

6. Harmonic Forms

Before beginning the proof of Theorem 1.5 we must establish some technical results. Let \( \mathfrak{g}_L \) be the Lie algebra of left invariant vector fields on \( G \). The following results are well known; we sketch the proofs briefly:

**Lemma 6.1.** Let \( ds^2_G \) be a bi-invariant metric on a compact connected Lie group \( G \).

1. If \( \theta \in E_0(\Delta^0_G) \), then \( \theta \) is bi-invariant.
2. If \( \eta \) is a bi-invariant vector field, then \( \nabla \eta = 0 \).
3. Let \( \theta \in \Lambda^1_1(G) \). If \( d\theta = 0 \), then \( \nabla \theta = 0 \).
4. If \( \Theta \in \Lambda^n(E_0(\Delta^1_G)) \), then \( \nabla \Theta = 0 \) and \( \Theta \in E_0(\Delta^n_G) \).

**Proof.** The Hodge-DeRham theorem provides a natural identification of \( E_0(\Delta^0_G) \) with the cohomology group \( H^n(G; \mathbb{C}) \). In particular, this identification is compatible with the action of \( L^*_g \) and \( R^*_g \). Since \( G \) is connected, \( L^*_g \) and \( R^*_g \) act trivially on \( H^n(G; \mathbb{C}) \) and hence on \( E_0(\Delta^n_G) \). Assertion (1) follows.

To prove Assertion (2), we use well known facts concerning bi-invariant metrics on Lie groups; see, for example, [3]. Let \( \exp(t\xi) \) be the integral curve through the identity for \( \xi \in \mathfrak{g}_L(G) \). Let \( \eta \) be bi-invariant. Assertion (2) follows as:
\[
\nabla_{\xi} \eta = \frac{1}{2} [\xi, \eta] = \frac{1}{2} \partial_t \{(L_{\exp(t\xi)})(R_{\exp(-t\xi)}) \cdot \eta\} \big|_{t=0} = \partial_t \eta|_{t=0} = 0.
\]
Let $\theta \in \Lambda^1_\ast(G)$ with $d\theta = 0$. Since $\delta\theta$ is left invariant, $\delta\theta = c$ is constant. Since $\Delta^0\ast c = 0$, $\delta\theta = 0$. Thus $\theta$ is harmonic and hence bi-invariant. We use the metric to raise and lower indices and identify the tangent and cotangent spaces. Let $\eta$ be the corresponding dual bi-invariant vector field. By Assertion (2), $\eta$ is parallel. Thus, dually, $\theta$ is parallel. This proves Assertion (3).

Let $\Theta \in \Lambda^n(E_0(\Delta^1_G))$. Then there are constants $a_I$ and harmonic 1-forms $\theta^i_L$ so

$$\Theta = \sum_{|I|=n} a_I \theta^i_L \wedge ... \wedge \theta^n_L.$$  

By assertion (3), $\nabla \theta^i_L = 0$. Consequently $\nabla \Theta = 0$. On the other hand, one has

$$d + \delta = \sum_i \{\text{ext}(e^i) - \text{int}(e^i)\} \nabla e_i$$

where $\{e_i\}$ and $\{e^i\}$ are dual orthonormal frames for $TG$ and $T^*G$ and where $\text{ext}(\cdot)$ and $\text{int}(\cdot)$ denote exterior and interior multiplication. Thus parallel forms are necessarily harmonic. Assertion (4) follows. \hfill \square

We distinguish the two factors in the product to decompose

$$\Lambda^n(G \times G) = \oplus_{p+q=n} \Lambda^p(G_1) \otimes \Lambda^q(G_2).$$

We let $\pi_{p,q}$ denote orthogonal projection on the various components. The Künneth formula shows

$$H^n(G \times G; \mathbb{C}) = \oplus_{p+q=n} H^p(G_1; \mathbb{C}) \otimes H^q(G_2; \mathbb{C})$$

and, as we have taken a product metric on $G \times G$, we have a corresponding decomposition in the geometric context:

$$C^\infty(\Lambda^n(G \times G)) = \oplus_{p+q=n} C^\infty(\Lambda^p(G_1) \otimes \Lambda^q(G_2)),$$

$$\Delta^n_{G \times G} = \oplus_{p+q=n} \{\Delta^p_{G_1} \otimes \text{id} + \text{id} \otimes \Delta^q_{G_2}\},$$

$$E_0(\Delta^n_{G \times G}) = \oplus_{p+q=n} \{E_0(\Delta^p_{G_1}) \otimes E_0(\Delta^q_{G_2})\}.$$

Assertion (1) of Theorem 1.5 follows from Lemma 0.1. To prove Assertion (2) of Theorem 1.5 suppose

$$\phi = \sum_{|I|=n} a_I \theta^i_I \wedge ... \wedge \theta^n_I \in \Lambda^n(E_0(\Delta^1_G)) \text{ for } \theta^i_I \in E_0(\Delta^1_G).$$

As $\theta_I^j$ is bi-invariant, $\theta^i_I \oplus \theta^j_I \in \tilde{\Lambda}^1(G \times G)$. Since $m^*\theta(1,J) = \theta^j_I(1) \oplus \theta^j_I(1,1)$, $m^*\theta^j_I = \theta^j_I \oplus \theta^j_I$. As $d\theta^j_I = 0$, $dm^*\theta^j_I = m^*d\theta^j_I = 0$. Thus $m^*\theta^j_I \in E_0(\Delta^1_{G \times G})$ so $m^*\phi \in \Lambda^n(E_0(\Delta^1_{G \times G}))$ is harmonic.

Conversely suppose that $m^*\phi \in E_0(\Delta^n_{G \times G})$. We then have $\pi_{0,n} m^*\phi$ is harmonic. Since $\pi_{0,n} m^*\phi = \sigma^n_0 \phi = 0 \oplus \phi$, $\phi$ is harmonic and hence bi-invariant. Decompose $\phi = \sum_{|I|=n} a_I \phi^I_L$ as a sum of left invariant $n$-forms where the coefficients $a_I$ are constant. As $m^*\phi$ is harmonic, $m^*\phi$ is left invariant and decomposes in the form:

$$m^*\phi = \sum_{0<i_1<...<i_n<\dim(G)} a_{i_1...i_n} (\phi^i_L \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus \phi^j_L) \wedge ... \wedge (\phi^i_L \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus \phi^j_L).$$

Choose the indexing convention so $\{\phi^1,...,\phi^k\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $E_0(\Delta^1_G)$ and so $\{\phi^{k+1},...,\phi^{\dim(G)}\}$ completes the set to an orthonormal basis for $\Lambda^1_{\ast}(G)$. We suppose that $\phi \notin \Lambda^n(\phi^1,...,\phi^k)$ and argue for a contradiction. Choose a minimal so $a_{i_1,...,i_n,j_1,...j_b} \neq 0$ where $i_a \leq k$ and $k < j_1 < j_2 < ... < j_b$. By hypothesis $a < n$ so $b \geq 1$. Let

$$\phi_0 := \phi^i_L \wedge ... \wedge \phi^i_L \wedge \phi^j_L \wedge ... \wedge \phi^j_L,$$

$$\phi := \phi \wedge \phi_0 + \text{other terms}$$
where the other terms do not involve the monomial \( \phi_0 \) and where \( 0 \neq \tilde{\phi} \notin E_0(\Delta_0^1) \);
\( \phi = \text{int}(\phi_0) \phi \in \Lambda^1_L(G) \). We may then expand
\[
\pi_{1,n-1}m^* \phi = (\tilde{\phi} \otimes 0) \wedge (0 \oplus \phi_0) + \text{other terms},
\]
\[
d\pi_{1,n-1}m^* \phi = (d\tilde{\phi} \otimes 0) \wedge (0 \oplus \phi_0) + \text{other terms}.
\]
Consequently \( d\tilde{\phi} = 0 \) since this is the only term of bi-degree \( (2,n-1) \) multiplied by \( 0 \oplus \phi_0 \); one then has \( d\tilde{\phi} \otimes 0 = \text{int}(0 \oplus \phi_0)dm^* \phi \). By Lemma 6.1, \( \phi \in E_0(\Delta_0^1) \). The contradiction completes the proof of Assertion (2). Assertion (3) is an immediate consequence of Assertion (2) since \( E_0(\Delta_0^1) = \{ 0 \} \) if \( G \) is simply connected. \( \square \)

7. Finite Fourier series for general left invariant metrics

Let \( ds^2_G \) be a left invariant metric on a compact Lie group \( G \) and let \( ds^2_{G \times G} \) be a left invariant metric on \( G \times G \). We impose no relationship between the two metrics; in particular, we do not assume that the multiplication map \( m \) is a Riemannian submersion any more; it is an interesting question in its own right when this is possible and we shall investigate this question in more detail in a subsequent paper.

We begin the proof of Theorem 1.6 with a technical result:

**Lemma 7.1**. Let \( G \) be a compact Lie group. Let \( H \) be left invariant subspace of \( \Lambda^p(L^2(G)) \). Then there is a bi-invariant subspace \( H_1 \subset \Lambda^p(L^2(G)) \) which contains \( H \) so that \( \dim(H_1) \leq \binom{\dim(G)}{p} \dim(H)^2 \).

**Proof.** The Lemma is immediate if \( \dim(H) = \infty \) so we may suppose \( H \) is finite dimensional. By decomposing \( H = \oplus_i n_i V_{\rho_i} \) into irreducible representations, we may assume without loss of generality that \( H = V_\rho \) where \( V_\rho \) is an irreducible left representation space for \( G \) in the proof of Lemma 7.1. We apply the Peter-Weyl theorem and use Equation (3.1). Let
\[
H_\rho^p = \oplus_{|\mu|=p} H_\rho \cdot \Phi^p_\mu = \binom{\dim(G)}{p} \dim(V_\rho)V_\rho.
\]

Then \( H \subset H_\rho^p \). Since left and right multiplication commute, \( H_\rho^p \cdot R_g \) is isomorphic to \( H_\rho^p \) for any \( g \in G \). Since \( H_\rho^p \) contains all representations isomorphic to \( V_\rho \), \( H_\rho^p \cdot R_g = H_\rho^p \) is right invariant as well. \( \square \)

Let \( \phi \in E_\lambda(\Delta^p_G) \) be an eigen \( p \)-form. Apply Lemma 7.1 to choose a subspace \( H_1 \subset \Lambda^p(L^2(G)) \) which is left and right invariant under the action of \( G \), which contains \( E_\lambda(\Delta^p_G) \), and which satisfies:
\[
\dim(H_1) \leq \binom{\dim(G)}{p} \dim\{E_\lambda(\Delta^p_G)\}^2.
\]

Let \( \tilde{m}(a,b) = ab^{-1} \). Then \( \tilde{m}L_{g_1,g_2} = L_{g_1}R_{g_2^{-1}} \tilde{m} \). Consequently \( \tilde{m}^* H_1 \) is a finite dimensional subspace of \( \Lambda^p(L^2(G \times G)) \) which invariant under left multiplication in the group. Apply Lemma 7.1 to choose a subspace \( H_2 \subset \Lambda^2(L^2(G \times G)) \) which is left and right under the action of \( G \times G \), which contains \( \tilde{m}^* H_1 \), and which satisfies:
\[
\dim(H_2) \leq (2 \dim(G))^{\binom{\dim(G)}{p}} \dim\{E_\lambda(\Delta^p_G)\}^4.
\]

Set \( \psi(x,y) = (x,y^{-1}) \). Then \( \psi^* H_2 \) is still bi-invariant and in particular is left invariant. Since \( m^* \phi \in \psi^* H_2 \), Lemma 6.1 can now be applied to show that
\[
\mu(m^* \phi) \leq (2 \dim(G))^{\binom{\dim(G)}{p}} \dim\{E_\lambda(\Delta^p_G)\}^4.
\]

Theorem 1.6 now follows. \( \square \)
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CD: Mathematics Department, California State University at San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA 92407, USA. Email: cmdunn@csusb.edu.

PG: Mathematics Department, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, USA. Email: gilkey@uoregon.edu.

JP: Department of Mathematics, SungKyunkwan University, Suwon, 440-746, SOUTH KOREA. E-mail: parkj@skku.edu.