# Intergral Equivalence of Hyperbolic Manifolds

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• An ideal inverse theorem in geometry takes the form: Suppose  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are Riemannian manifolds such that  $F(M_1) = F(M_2)$  for some geometric invariant (or collection of such) F, then  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are isometric.

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- The natural **obstruction** to such theorems is a **construction** of nonisometric Riemannian manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  which have identical invariant(s):  $F(M_1) = F(M_2)$ .
- The focus of this talk will be on a procedure for constructing arbitrarily large families of pairwise non-isometric covers of a hyperbolic n manifold which are isospectral, and further have compatibly isomorphic integral cohomology.
- The mechanism for producing these families is a refinement of a nearly 100 year old technique which uses configurations of finite groups as combinatorial "seeds" for stitching together manifolds.

• We begin with three characterizations of a configuration of a finite group G and two subgroups  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  which serve as the input to Sunada's method for constructing isospectral manifolds.

# Gassmann equivalence: Almost Conjugate Subgroups

#### Definition

Given a finite group G and a pair of subgroups  $G_1, G_2 \leq G$ , we say that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are **almost conjugate in** G if for each  $g \in G$ ,

$$|\mathit{G}_1\cap \mathit{g}^{\mathit{G}}|=|\mathit{G}_2\cap \mathit{g}^{\mathit{G}}|$$

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- If  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are conjugate in G, then  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are clearly almost conjugate.
- Our interest will be in non-conjugate, almost conjugate subgroups.

## Gassmann equivalence: Fixed Point Equivalence

#### Definition

Given a finite group G and a pair of subgroups  $G_1, G_2 \leq G$ , we say that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are **fixed point equivalent** if, for any irreducible unitary representation  $\rho: G \to GL(V)$ , one has

$$\dim \operatorname{Fix}_{G_1}(V) = \dim \operatorname{Fix}_{G_2}(V)$$

# Gassmann equivalence: Q equivalence

#### **Definition**

Given a finite group G and a pair of subgroups  $G_1, G_2 \leq G$ , we say that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are  $\mathbb{Q}$  equivalent if there is an isomorphism

$$\mathbb{Q}[G/G_1] \approx \mathbb{Q}[G/G_2]$$

as  $\mathbb{Q}[G]$  modules.

#### Lemma

If G is a finite group, and  $G_1, G_2 \leq G$ , then the following are equivalent:

- $\bullet$   $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are almost conjugate
- $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are fixed point equivalent.
- $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are  $\mathbb{Q}$ -equivalent.

If these conditions are satisfied, we call  $(G, G_1, G_2)$  a Gassmann triple.

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- The equivalence of these three concepts follows from the representation theory of finite groups.
- Almost conjugacy gives a relationship between the internal structure of conjugacy classes of G, relative to  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ .
- Fixed point equivalence gives a relationship between the fixed point sets  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  in representations of G, a notion seemingly external to G.

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For a commutative ring R with 1, say that  $(G, G_1, G_2)$  are R-equivalent if  $R[G/G_1]$  and  $R[G/G_2]$  are isomorphic as R[G] modules. When  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ , we refer to  $\mathbb{Z}$ -equivalence as **integral equivalence**.

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• Integral equivalence is the key mechanism in our construction.

• Given a closed Riemannian manifold M, the Laplace-Beltrami operator  $\Delta_M$  acts on smooth functions, as well as on smooth differential k-forms.

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- For each  $0 \le k \le \dim(M)$  let  $\mathcal{E}_M^k$  denote the **eigenvalue spectrum** of  $\Delta_M$  acting on k forms. Here, we think of  $\mathcal{E}_M^k$  as a discrete measure on  $[0,\infty)$  which assigns to each  $\lambda \in [0,\infty)$  the (finite) multiplicity of  $\lambda$  as an eigenvalue for  $\Delta_M$  acting on k-forms.

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- When M is negatively curved, let  $\mathcal{L}_{M}^{p}$  denote the **primitive length spectrum** of M, viewed as a discrete measure on  $(0,\infty)$  which assigns to each  $\ell$  the number of primitive geodesics on M of length  $\ell$ .

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- When M is negatively curved, let  $\mathcal{L}_{M}^{\rho}$  denote the **primitive length spectrum** of M, viewed as a discrete measure on  $(0,\infty)$  which assigns to each  $\ell$  the number of primitive geodesics on M of length  $\ell$ .
- For a negatively curved manifold, eigenvalue spectrum and the primitive length spectrum are related by the wave trace formula.

• For the purposes of this talk, say  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **Laplace isospectral** if  $\mathcal{E}_{M_1}^k = \mathcal{E}_{M_2}^k$  as measures, for all k.

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- Say  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **length isospectral** if  $\mathcal{L}^p_{M_1} = \mathcal{L}^p_{M_2}$  as measures.

#### Theorem (Sunada 1985)

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If M is a closed Riemannian manifold, and  $\rho: \Gamma = \pi_1(M) \to G$  is a surjective homomorphism to a finite group such that  $G_1, G_2 \leq G$  are subgroups with  $(G, G_1, G_2)$  forming a Gassmann triple, then the covers  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  corresponding to  $\rho^{-1}(G_1)$  and  $\rho^{-1}(G_2)$  are Laplace isospectral and length isospectral.

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- This is a manifestation of length sets being covariant.
- Provided M has a sufficiently rich covering space theory,  $\pi_1(M)$  will surject any finite group. The natural requirement is **largeness**.

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- Provided M satisfies various structural hypotheses (for example, being negatively curved), this can only occur when  $\rho^{-1}(G_1)$  and  $\rho^{-1}(G_2)$  are conjugate via an element of the commensurator of  $\pi_1(M)$  inside the isometry group of the universal cover of M.

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- In order to prohibit such accidental isometries, one must add conditions on M to make sure this commensurator is small.
- When *M* is hyperbolic, a theorem of Margulis makes **non-arithmeticity** the natural requirement.

# How similar are manifolds arising from Sunada's construction?

• Granting that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are isospectral but non-isometric, a natural question is "what geometric invariants can be used to distinguish  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ?"

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- Applying Hodge's theorem to the 0 eigenspace, Laplace isospectrality (from Sunada or otherwise) implies equality of deRham cohomology:  $H_{dR}^k(M_1) \approx H_{dR}^k(M_2)$  as real vector spaces.

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- What can be said of the torsion part of integral homology/cohomology?

• In general: nothing (Sunada or otherwise).

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- In one direction, Bartel–Page (2016) proved: for any finite set S of primes, there exist (Sunada) isospectral hyperbolic 3-manifolds which have have non-isomorphic cohomology rings with coefficients in  $F_p$  for  $p \in S$ , and isomorphic cohomology rings with coefficients in  $F_p$  for p outside S.

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Let M be a closed hyperbolic n manifold that is **large** and **non-arithmetic**. Then for each integer j > 0, there exist pairwise nonisometric Riemannian covers  $M_1,...,M_j$  of M such that the following hold:

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- ullet (Length isospectrality) For each  $i,i',~\mathcal{L}^p_{M_i}=\mathcal{L}^p_{M_{i'}}.$
- (Compatible isomorphism of integral cohomology) For each k, i, i' there exist isomorphisms  $\psi_k : H^k(M_i, \mathbb{Z}) \to H^k(M_{i'}, \mathbb{Z})$  which commute with restriction and corestriction relative to the covering maps  $M_i \to M$  and  $M_{i'} \to M$ .

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- In 1993 Scott proved that there exists a nonconjugate pair of subgroups  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , both isomorphic to  $A_5$ , of  $G = \mathsf{PSL}(2, F_{29})$  such that the  $(G, G_1, G_2)$  forms a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -equivalent triple.

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- The novelty of our result lies in the production of arbitrarily large nontrivial such families using this single example.

• Starting with a single nontrivial integrally equivalent triple  $(G, G_1, G_2)$ : subgroups of  $G^m$  consisting of products  $\prod_{n=1}^m G_{\nu_n}$  where  $\nu_n \in \{1,2\}$  give rise  $2^m$  pairwise nonconjugate  $\mathbb Z$  equivalent subgroups of  $G^m$ .

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- Standard estimates for asymptotics of hom spaces of nonabelian free groups to finite groups, along with the assumption of non-arithmeticity on  $\pi_1(M)$  shows that there are so many  $\mathbb{Z}$ -equivalent collections arising from this construction that they cannot all be accounted for by conjugacy. QED

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