



Differential Geometry

Asymptotic expansion of the Faber–Krahn profile of a compact Riemannian manifold

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Abstract

The aim of this Note is to give a proof of a well-known fact: an asymptotic expansion of the isoperimetric profile of a Riemannian manifold for small volumes gives an asymptotic expansion of the Faber–Krahn profile for this same Riemannian manifold. *To cite this article:* O. Druet, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008).

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Résumé

Développement asymptotique du profil de Faber–Krahn d’une variété riemannienne compacte. Nous donnons dans cette Note la preuve d’un résultat bien connu : un développement limité du profil isopérimétrique d’une variété riemannienne donne un développement limité du profil de Faber–Krahn de cette même variété. *Pour citer cet article :* O. Druet, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008).

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Version française abrégée

Nous montrons dans cette Note qu’un développement asymptotique du profil isopérimétrique d’une variété riemannienne compacte tel que celui obtenu dans [4] entraîne un développement asymptotique du profil de Faber–Krahn de cette variété. C’est une illustration du résultat classique suivant : une inégalité isopérimétrique entraîne une inégalité de Faber–Krahn.

Soit (M, g) une variété riemannienne complète de dimension $n \geq 2$. On définit le profil de Faber–Krahn de cette variété par

$$FK_g(V) = \inf_{\Omega \subset M, \text{Vol}_g(\Omega)=V} \lambda_1(\Omega) \tag{1}$$

pour $0 < V < \text{Vol}_g(M)$ où $\lambda_1(\Omega)$ est la première valeur propre de l’opérateur de Laplace–Beltrami $\Delta_g = -\text{div}_g(\nabla)$ avec condition de Dirichlet au bord sur Ω et où l’infimum est pris sur l’ensemble des domaines Ω réguliers de M .

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L'inégalité de Faber–Krahn stipule que, sur l'espace euclidien (\mathbb{R}^n, ξ) ,

$$FK_{\xi}(V) = \mu_1 \left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} V \right)^{-\frac{2}{n}}$$

où μ_1 est la première valeur propre du laplacien euclidien sur la boule unité avec condition de Dirichlet au bord. On peut le démontrer en utilisant un processus de symétrisation couplé avec l'inégalité isopérimétrique. De manière plus générale, si (M_K, g_K) dénote l'espace-modèle de courbure sectionnelle constante K , i.e. une variété riemannienne complète simplement connexe de courbure sectionnelle constante K , on démontre de la même façon que

$$FK_{g_K}(V) = \lambda_1(B_{g_K}(x, r)) \quad (2)$$

où $x \in M$ et $r > 0$ est tel que la boule de centre x et de rayon r ait pour volume V .

Le profil de Faber–Krahn d'une variété riemannienne entretient des liens étroits avec le profil isopérimétrique de cette même variété défini par

$$I_g(V) = \inf_{\Omega \subset M, \text{Vol}_g(\Omega) = V} \text{Vol}_g(\partial\Omega) \quad (3)$$

pour $0 < V < \text{Vol}_g(M)$ où l'infimum est pris sur l'ensemble des domaines Ω réguliers de M . En particulier, une estimée inférieure sur le profil isopérimétrique donne une estimée inférieure sur le profil de Faber–Krahn (cf. [1,2]).

Soit maintenant (M, g) une variété riemannienne compacte de dimension $n \geq 2$. On note

$$\max_M S_g = n(n-1)K \quad (4)$$

où S_g est la courbure scalaire de la variété. Dans [4], nous avons démontré que, pour tout $\eta > 0$, il existe $V_{\eta} > 0$ tel que

$$\text{Vol}_g(\Omega) > \text{Vol}_{g_{K+\eta}}(B_V)$$

pour tout domaine régulier de M de volume $0 < V < V_{\eta}$ où B_V est une boule de volume V dans l'espace-modèle $M_{K+\eta}$. Comme corollaire immédiat de ce résultat, on obtient le développement limité du profil isopérimétrique d'une variété riemannienne compacte suivant :

$$I_g(V) = I_{\xi}(V) - \frac{n}{2(n+2)} n^{-\frac{n-1}{n}} \omega_{n-1}^{-\frac{1}{n}} \left(\max_M S_g \right) V^{\frac{n+1}{n}} + o(V^{\frac{n+1}{n}}). \quad (5)$$

Dans cette formule, ω_{n-1} est le volume de la sphère unité dans \mathbb{R}^n . A titre de remarque, le profil isopérimétrique de l'espace euclidien est $I_{\xi}(V) = n^{-\frac{n-1}{n}} \omega_{n-1}^{\frac{1}{n}} V^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$. Pour obtenir le développement limité ci-dessus, il suffit de remarquer que la minoration du profil isopérimétrique par le terme de droite est donnée par la comparaison isopérimétrique avec les espaces-modèles ci-dessus tandis que la majoration peut être obtenue en remarquant que le terme de droite n'est rien d'autre que le développement limité à l'ordre 2 du volume du bord des petites boules centrées en un point de maximum de la courbure scalaire et de volume V .

Par un processus de symétrisation et en utilisant l'inégalité isopérimétrique ci-dessus pour les domaines de petit volume, on obtient de manière classique que, pour tout $\eta > 0$, il existe $V_{\eta} > 0$ tel que

$$FK_g(V) \geq FK_{g_{K+\eta}}(V)$$

pour tout $0 < V < V_{\eta}$. On montre ensuite que

$$\lambda_1(B_g(x, \epsilon)) = \mu_1 \epsilon^{-2} - \frac{1}{6} S_g(x) + o(1)$$

quand $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ pour tout point x d'une variété riemannienne complète (M, g) . Ces deux résultats permettent, en utilisant (2), de trouver un développement limité à l'ordre 2 du profil de Faber–Krahn d'une variété riemannienne compacte. On peut résumer ceci dans la proposition suivante :

Proposition. Soit (M, g) une variété riemannienne compacte de dimension $n \geq 2$. Alors

$$FK_g(V) = \mu_1 \left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} V \right)^{-\frac{2}{n}} - \left(\frac{1}{6} + \frac{\mu_1}{3n(n+2)} \right) \left(\max_M S_g \right) + o(1)$$

pour V petit où S_g est la courbure scalaire de (M, g) et μ_1 est la première valeur propre du laplacien euclidien sur la boule unité avec condition de Dirichlet au bord.

Ce résultat nous dit donc que $FK_g(V) = FK_{g_K}(V) + o(1)$ où $n(n - 1)K = \max_M S_g$. En d’autres termes, le profil de Faber–Krahn d’une variété riemannienne compacte admet un développement limité qui est celui de l’espace-modèle de courbure sectionnelle $K = \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \max_M S_g$ jusqu’à l’ordre 2.

1. Introduction

We prove in this Note that the asymptotic expansion of the isoperimetric profile of a compact Riemannian manifold obtained in [4] gives an asymptotic expansion of the Faber–Krahn profile of this manifold. This illustrates a classical result which says that an isoperimetric inequality implies a Faber–Krahn inequality.

Let (M, g) be a smooth complete Riemannian manifold of dimension $n \geq 2$. We define the Faber–Krahn profile (for $0 < V < \text{Vol}_g(M)$) of this manifold by

$$FK_g(V) = \inf_{\Omega \subset M, \text{Vol}_g(\Omega)=V} \lambda_1(\Omega) \tag{6}$$

where $\lambda_1(\Omega)$ is the first eigenvalue of the Laplace–Beltrami operator $\Delta_g = -\text{div}_g(\nabla)$ on Ω with Dirichlet boundary condition and where the infimum is taken over the smooth domains Ω in M .

The Faber–Krahn inequality states that, in the Euclidean space (\mathbb{R}^n, ξ) ,

$$FK_\xi(V) = \mu_1 \left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} V \right)^{-\frac{2}{n}}$$

where μ_1 is the first eigenvalue of the Laplacian on the unit ball with Dirichlet boundary condition. One can prove this inequality by a symmetrization argument coupled with the isoperimetric inequality. More generally, if we let (M_K, g_K) be the simply-connected complete manifold of constant sectional curvature K , one can prove in the same way that

$$FK_{g_K}(V) = \lambda_1(B_{g_K}(x, r)) \tag{7}$$

where $x \in M$ and $r > 0$ is such that the ball of center x and radius r has volume V .

In this note, we will derive an asymptotic expansion of the Faber–Krahn profile of a compact Riemannian manifold for small V .

Proposition. *Let (M, g) be a smooth compact Riemannian manifold of dimension $n \geq 2$. Then we have that*

$$FK_g(V) = \mu_1 \left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} V \right)^{-\frac{2}{n}} - \left(\frac{1}{6} + \frac{\mu_1}{3n(n+2)} \right) \left(\max_M S_g \right) + o(1) = FK_{g_K}(V) + o(1)$$

for V small where μ_1 is the first eigenvalue of the Euclidean Laplacian on the unit ball with Dirichlet boundary condition, S_g denotes the scalar curvature of (M, g) and $\max_M S_g = n(n - 1)K$.

Note that an interesting question, still open to the knowledge of the author, is to know whether or not the infimum in (6) is attained by some (smooth) domain. If this is the case, there are strong presumptions that these extremal domains concentrate at a point of maximal scalar curvature and look like balls as $V \rightarrow 0$. Note also that extremal (not necessarily minimizing) domains, i.e. domains for which the first eigenvalue is critical w.r.t. small perturbations of the domain, with small volumes were recently constructed by Pacard and Sicbaldi [5]. These domains are perturbations of small balls concentrating at a non-degenerate critical point of the scalar curvature.

Note also that the Faber–Krahn profile of a Riemannian manifold possesses some strong relationship with the isoperimetric profile of it. An asymptotic expansion of the isoperimetric profile of a compact Riemannian manifold was obtained in [4]. The above result is the analog (and in fact a consequence) of the result obtained in [4].

2. Proof of the result

The proof of the proposition splits into two steps. We first provide an asymptotic expansion of the first eigenvalue of small balls on any Riemannian manifold.

Step 1 – Let (M, g) be a smooth Riemannian manifold and let x be a point in the interior of M . Then

$$\lambda_1(B_g(x, \epsilon)) = \frac{\mu_1}{\epsilon^2} - \frac{1}{6}S_g(x) + o(1)$$

where μ_1 is the first eigenvalue of the Euclidean Laplacian on the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^n with Dirichlet boundary condition.

Proof of Step 1. Since the result is purely local, one may work in geodesic normal coordinates and thus assume that the metric g is defined in a neighbourhood of 0 in \mathbb{R}^n and that all the geodesics issuing from 0 are straight lines. Then we have that

$$g_{ij}(x) = \delta_{ij}, \quad \partial_k g_{ij}(0) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_{kl} g_{ij}(0) = \frac{1}{3}(\mathcal{R}_{iklj}(0) + \mathcal{R}_{ilkj}(0)) \tag{8}$$

where \mathcal{R} is the Riemann tensor of the metric g . We denote by λ_ϵ the first eigenvalue of the Laplacian in the ball $B(0, \epsilon)$ with Dirichlet boundary condition and we let u_ϵ be the positive normalized eigenfunction associated to it. In other words, we have that

$$\Delta_g u_\epsilon = \lambda_\epsilon u_\epsilon \quad \text{in } B(0, \epsilon), \quad u_\epsilon = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial B(0, \epsilon), \quad u_\epsilon > 0 \quad \text{in } B(0, \epsilon) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{B(0, \epsilon)} u_\epsilon^2 dv_g = 1. \tag{9}$$

Moreover, we have that

$$\int_{B(0, \epsilon)} |\nabla u|^2_g dv_g \geq \lambda_\epsilon \int_{B(0, \epsilon)} u^2 dv_g \tag{10}$$

for all function $u \in H_0^1(B(0, \epsilon))$. We set now

$$\varphi_\epsilon(x) = \epsilon^{\frac{n}{2}} u_\epsilon(\epsilon x) \quad \text{and} \quad g_\epsilon(x) = g(\epsilon x) \tag{11}$$

for $x \in B$, the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^n . Then we have thanks to (9) that

$$\Delta_{g_\epsilon} \varphi_\epsilon = \lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 \varphi_\epsilon \quad \text{in } B \quad \text{and} \quad \int_B \varphi_\epsilon^2 dv_{g_\epsilon} = 1. \tag{12}$$

Moreover, φ_ϵ is positive in B and zero on the boundary of B . Thanks to (10), we also know that

$$\int_B |\nabla u|^2_{g_\epsilon} dv_{g_\epsilon} \geq \lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 \int_B u^2 dv_{g_\epsilon} \tag{13}$$

for all function $u \in H_0^1(B)$. Since $g_\epsilon \rightarrow \xi$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, this clearly leads to $\limsup_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 \leq \mu_1$. Using Eq. (12) and thanks to Sobolev’s embedding, we know that (φ_ϵ) is uniformly bounded in $C^1(B)$. In particular, we can write thanks to (12) that $\int_B \varphi_\epsilon^2 dx = 1 + o(1)$ and that $\int_B |\nabla \varphi_\epsilon|_\xi^2 dx = \lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 + o(1)$. This clearly implies that $\liminf_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 \geq \mu_1$. Thus we have proved that $\lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 \rightarrow \mu_1$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. Since (φ_ϵ) is uniformly bounded in $C^1(B)$ and since any converging subsequence has to converge to a solution of the limit equation $\Delta_\xi \varphi = \mu_1 \varphi$ in B with $\int_B \varphi^2 dx = 1$ and $\varphi \geq 0$ which is unique (it is the only positive normalized eigenfunction associated to μ_1), we deduce that $\varphi_\epsilon \rightarrow \varphi$ in $C_{loc}^2(B) \cap C^0(\bar{B})$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ where φ is the positive normalized eigenfunction associated to μ_1 . Note that this eigenfunction φ is radially symmetrical. Let us multiply Eq. (12) by φ . We get after integration by parts that

$$\int_B \varphi_\epsilon \Delta_{g_\epsilon} \varphi dv_{g_\epsilon} = \lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 \int_B \varphi_\epsilon \varphi dv_{g_\epsilon}.$$

Since φ is radially symmetrical and since we work in geodesic normal coordinates, we have that

$$\Delta_{g_\epsilon} \varphi = \Delta_\xi \varphi - \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g_\epsilon|}} \partial_i \sqrt{|g_\epsilon|} \partial^i \varphi = \mu_1 \varphi - \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g_\epsilon|}} \partial_i \sqrt{|g_\epsilon|} \partial^i \varphi.$$

We deduce that

$$(\lambda_\epsilon \epsilon^2 - \mu_1) \int_B \varphi_\epsilon \varphi \, dv_{g_\epsilon} = - \int_B \varphi_\epsilon \partial_i \sqrt{|g_\epsilon|} \partial^i \varphi \, dx.$$

Thanks to the convergence of φ_ϵ to φ , we obtain that $\int_B \varphi_\epsilon \varphi \, dv_{g_\epsilon} \rightarrow 1$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ while we can write thanks to (8) that

$$\int_B \varphi_\epsilon \partial_i \sqrt{|g_\epsilon|} \partial^i \varphi \, dx = -\frac{1}{3} \epsilon^2 R_{ij}(0) \int_B x^j \varphi \partial^i \varphi \, dx + o(\epsilon^2) = \frac{1}{6} S_g(0) \epsilon^2 + o(\epsilon^2).$$

The asymptotic expansion of this step follows. \square

Using the asymptotic expansion of the volume of a small ball centered at x (and choosing x to be a point of maximum of the scalar curvature), Step 1 leads to

$$FK_g(V) \leq FK_\xi(V) - \left(\frac{1}{6} + \frac{\mu_1}{3n(n+2)} \right) \left(\max_M S_g \right) + o(1) = FK_{g_K}(V) + o(1) \tag{14}$$

on any smooth compact Riemannian manifold of dimension n where $\max_M S_g = n(n-1)K$. To get the last equality, we used (7).

Step 2 – Let (M, g) be a smooth compact Riemannian manifold of dimension n such that $\max_M S_g = n(n-1)K$. Then, for any $\eta > 0$, there exists $V_\eta > 0$ such that

$$FK_g(V) > FK_{g_{K+\eta}}(V)$$

for all $0 < V < V_\eta$.

Proof of Step 2. It is in fact a consequence of the isoperimetric inequality obtained in [4]. It was proved in this work that, under the assumption of Step 2, the isoperimetric profile of (M, g) satisfies that, for any $\eta > 0$, there exists $V_\eta > 0$ such that

$$I_g(V) \geq I_{g_{K+\eta}}(V)$$

for $0 < V < V_\eta$. The estimate on the Faber–Krahn profile follows then classically from a symmetrization process. We outline the proof below, even if it can be found in [3] for instance. We let Ω be a smooth bounded domain of M with volume less than V_η . We let φ be the first eigenfunction (positive and normalized) of the Laplacian with Dirichlet boundary condition on this domain. And we define φ^* a radially symmetrical non-increasing function on the model space $(M_{K+\eta}, g_{K+\eta})$ by :

$$\text{Vol}_{g_{K+\eta}}(\{\varphi^*(x) \geq t\}) = \text{Vol}_g(\{\varphi(x) \geq t\})$$

for all $0 \leq t \leq \max_M \varphi$. All the L^p -norms are invariant by this symmetrization process so that

$$\int_M \varphi^2 \, dv_g = \int_{M_{K+\eta}} (\varphi^*)^2 \, dv_{g_{K+\eta}} = 1$$

while the L^2 -norm of the gradient decreases thanks to the isoperimetric inequality above. This is a simple consequence of the co-area formula and we refer to [3] for the details. In particular, we have that

$$\lambda_1(\Omega) = \int_\Omega |\nabla \varphi|_g^2 \, dv_g \geq \int_{B_V} |\nabla \varphi^*|_{g_{K+\eta}}^2 \, dv_{g_{K+\eta}} \geq FK_{g_{K+\eta}}(V)$$

where B_V is a ball of volume V in the model space and where we used (7) for the last inequality. This clearly ends the proof of this step. \square

Combining Steps 1 (or more precisely the remarks following Step 1) and 2 directly give the proposition.

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