

RIEMANNIAN MANIFOLDS ISOSPECTRAL ON FUNCTIONS BUT NOT ON 1-FORMS

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Introduction

For (M, g) a compact Riemannian manifold, let $\text{spec}^p(M, g)$ denote the collection of eigenvalues, with multiplicities, of the associated Laplace-Beltrami operator acting on the space of smooth p -forms on M , $p = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \dim(M)$. Two manifolds (M, g) and (M', g') will be said to be p -isospectral if $\text{spec}^p(M, g) = \text{spec}^p(M', g')$. Note that 0-isospectral manifolds are generally called “isospectral” in the literature. It is well known that $\text{spec}^0(M, g)$ (i.e. the spectrum on functions) contains considerable information about the geometry of (M, g) . Other information is known to be contained in the p -spectra for higher values of p . For example, Patodi [9] showed that $\text{spec}^p(M, g)$, $p = 0, 1, 2$, together determine whether (M, g) has constant scalar curvature, whether it is Einstein, and whether it has constant sectional curvature. It would be of interest to determine whether for each k , the collection of all $\text{spec}^p(M, g)$, $p = 0, \dots, k$, contains more information than does $\text{spec}^p(M, g)$, $p = 0, \dots, k - 1$. The purpose of this article is to give an affirmative answer when $k = 1$, i.e., we give examples of manifolds which are 0-isospectral but not 1-isospectral.

The manifolds in our examples are Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds, i.e., compact quotients $\Gamma \backslash H^n$ of the $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional Heisenberg group, with metrics g induced by left-invariant metrics on H_n . In [5], we gave sufficient conditions for two Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds to be 0-isospectral and constructed many examples. We will see that some of these examples are p -isospectral for all p while others are not 1-isospectral. We give evidence suggesting that these are the only two possibilities, i.e. that once the manifolds in these examples are 1-isospectral, they are also p -isospectral for all p . We

also attempt to distinguish geometrically those examples which are only 0-isospectral from those which are also 1-isospectral.

The paper is organized as follows: In §1, we discuss one method (needed later) for proving that two manifolds are p -isospectral for all p . We also make a few side remarks concerning Vignéras' examples [11] of 0-isospectral manifolds which are not isometric. §2 reviews the necessary facts about Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds, establishes the notation used throughout the paper, and gives a few preliminary results. In §§3–5, we compare the spectra of Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g)$ under the hypothesis that Γ and Γ' have the same intersection with the center of H_n . In Theorem 3.2, we give a necessary and sufficient condition (P0) for such a pair to be 0-isospectral. (The sufficiency of a slightly stronger condition was proven in [5].) In §§4 and 5 we assume (P0) to be satisfied and give additional sufficient conditions (P1) for the manifolds to be 1-isospectral (Theorem 4.3) and (P2) for them to be p -isospectral for all p (Theorem 5.2). In Theorem 4.4, we see that under an additional hypothesis—and we conjecture always—(P1) is also necessary for the manifolds to be 1-isospectral. Proposition 5.4 compares conditions (P1) and (P2) and, together with Theorem 4.4, motivates our conjecture that 0- and 1-isospectral Heisenberg manifolds must be p -isospectral for all p . Finally in §6, we restrict our attention to groups Γ and Γ' for which the conditions (P0), (P1), and (P2) have a particularly simple form, enabling us to construct specific examples of 0-isospectral Heisenberg manifolds. We consider four such examples and compare their spectra on forms and also compare their fundamental groups. These examples illustrate that for 0-isospectral Heisenberg manifolds, the questions of whether the manifolds are 1-isospectral and whether their fundamental groups are isomorphic are independent.

1. A method for proving manifolds are isospectral

Let G be a simply-connected Lie group, g a left-invariant Riemannian metric on G , and Γ a uniform discrete subgroup of G . (“Uniform” means that $\Gamma \setminus G$ is compact.) The metric g induces a Riemannian metric, again denoted g , on $\Gamma \setminus G$ so that (G, g) is a Riemannian covering of $(\Gamma \setminus G, g)$. The space $L^2(\Gamma \setminus G)$ is identified with

$$L^2(\Gamma \setminus G) = \{ f \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(G) : f(\gamma x) = f(x) \text{ for all } \gamma \in \Gamma, x \in G \}.$$

The Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G may be identified both with the tangent space $T_x(G)$ (so g defines an inner product on \mathfrak{g}) and with the space of left-invariant vector fields on G . Such vector fields may also be viewed as vector fields on $\Gamma \setminus G$.

We view elements of $\Lambda^p(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ both as left-invariant p -forms on G and also as forms on $\Gamma \backslash G$. The space of square-integrable p -forms is given by

$$L^2(\Gamma \backslash G) \otimes \Lambda^p(\mathfrak{g}^*).$$

The Laplacian of $(\Gamma \backslash G, g)$ acting on smooth functions is given by $\Delta = -\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2$, where $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ is an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{g} relative to the inner product defined by g . Let ρ denote the right action of G on $L^2(\Gamma \backslash G)$, i.e.

$$\rho(x)f(y) = f(yx).$$

Since $X_i f = df(x \exp tX_i)/dt|_{t=0}$, the extension of Δ to $L^2(\Gamma \backslash G)$ is given by

$$\Delta = -\sum_{i=1}^n (\rho_*(X_i))^2.$$

Note that if $\Phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ and $\Phi_*g = g$, then $\{\Phi_*X_1, \dots, \Phi_*X_n\}$ is another orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{g} and hence we also have

$$\Delta = -\sum_{i=1}^n ((\rho \circ \Phi)_*X_i)^2.$$

Now let Γ' be a second uniform discrete subgroup of G . Denote by Δ' and ρ' the Laplacian of $(\Gamma' \backslash G, g)$ and the right action of G on $L^2(\Gamma' \backslash G)$, respectively.

(1.1) Definition. Let $(\Gamma \backslash G, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \backslash G, g)$ be as above, let \mathcal{H} be a ρ -invariant subspace of $L^2(\Gamma \backslash G)$, and \mathcal{H}' a ρ' -invariant subspace of $L^2(\Gamma' \backslash G)$. We say \mathcal{H} is g -equivalent to \mathcal{H}' if there exists $\Phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ such that $g = \Phi_*g$ and such that ρ acting on \mathcal{H} is equivalent to $\rho' \circ \Phi$ acting on \mathcal{H}' .

(1.2) Theorem. Let $(\Gamma \backslash G, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \backslash G, g)$ be as above. Suppose \mathcal{H} is a ρ -invariant subspace of $L^2(\Gamma \backslash G)$, \mathcal{H}' is a ρ' -invariant subspace of $L^2(\Gamma' \backslash G)$, and \mathcal{H} is g -equivalent to \mathcal{H}' . Then the spaces $\mathcal{H} \otimes \Lambda^p(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ and $\mathcal{H}' \otimes \Lambda^p(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ of p -forms are invariant under the action of the Laplacians Δ and Δ' , respectively, and the Laplacians restricted to these subspaces are isospectral.

(1.3) Corollary. Suppose there exist decompositions $L^2(\Gamma \backslash G) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in A} \mathcal{H}_\alpha$ and $L^2(\Gamma' \backslash G) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in A} \mathcal{H}'_\alpha$ into ρ -invariant (respectively ρ' -invariant) subspaces such that for each α , \mathcal{H}_α is g -equivalent to \mathcal{H}'_α . Then $(\Gamma \backslash G, g)$ is p -isospectral to $(\Gamma' \backslash G, g)$ for all p .

Proof. A special case of the theorem and corollary (with the automorphisms “almost inner”) is proved in [4]; the additional hypotheses are not needed in the proof.

The method of Corollary 1.3 was used in [1] and [4]. Most methods which have been used to construct 0-isospectral manifolds similarly involve representation theoretic or algebraic techniques which force the manifolds to be p -isospectral for all p as well as 0-isospectral. (See Sunada's examples [10] and also Gilkey's proof [2] that Ikeda's examples [8] of 0-isospectral manifolds are actually p -isospectral for all p .)

We will see that in the case of various isospectral Heisenberg manifolds $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g)$, the spaces $L^2(\Gamma \setminus H_n)$ and $L^2(\Gamma' \setminus H_n)$ admit decompositions of the form

$$L^2(\Gamma \setminus H_n) = \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,1} \oplus \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,2}$$

such that $H_{\Gamma,2}$ is g -equivalent to $\mathcal{H}'_{\Gamma,2}$. However, $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,1}$ need not be g -equivalent to $\mathcal{H}'_{\Gamma,1}$ even though the Laplacians are isospectral on these spaces. When these spaces are not g -equivalent, the manifolds will in general not be 1-isospectral.

(1.4) Remark. Vignéras [11] used similar methods to construct isospectral compact hyperbolic manifolds. Let G be a direct product $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbf{R})' \times \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbf{C})^s$. She constructs pairs of uniform discrete subgroups Γ and Γ' such that the right actions of G on $L^2(\Gamma \setminus G)$ and $L^2(\Gamma' \setminus G)$ are equivalent. As she points out, the manifolds $\Gamma \setminus G/K$ and $\Gamma' \setminus G/K$ are then 0-isospectral, where K is a maximal compact subgroup of G and G/K is given the symmetric space metric. By Corollary 1.3, we see that for any left-invariant Riemannian metric g on G , the manifolds $(\Gamma \setminus G, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \setminus G, g)$ are p -isospectral for all p .

2. Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds

By a Riemannian Heisenberg manifold, we shall mean a manifold of the form $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$, where H_n is the $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional Heisenberg group (see (2.1) below), Γ is a uniform discrete subgroup, and g is a Riemannian metric whose lift to H_n , again denoted g , is left-invariant. The isometry classes of Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds were classified in [5] by specifying a collection \mathcal{S} of Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds, including at least one from each isometry class, and specifying a necessary and sufficient condition for two members of \mathcal{S} to be isometric. The particular collection \mathcal{S} of representative manifolds was convenient for the computations carried out in [5]; however the main results of the present paper can be stated more simply if we use a different collection \mathcal{T} . We will define \mathcal{T} below and indicate how to find for each manifold in \mathcal{T} (or \mathcal{S}) an isometric manifold in \mathcal{S} (or in \mathcal{T} , respectively). This will allow us to translate the results of [5] to the new setting whenever necessary. We also describe the Ricci tensors of the elements of \mathcal{T} .

(2.1) The Heisenberg group and Lie algebra. The $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional Heisenberg group is the subgroup $H_n = \{h(x, y, t): x, y \in \mathbf{R}^n, t \in \mathbf{R}\}$ of $GL(n + 2, \mathbf{R})$, where

$$h(x, y, t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 & \cdots & x_n & t \\ & 1 & & & y_1 \\ & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & 0 & & 1 & y_n \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix};$$

H_n is diffeomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^{2n} \times \mathbf{R}$. The factor $\mathbf{R} = \{h(0, 0, t): t \in \mathbf{R}\}$ is the center of H_n . Multiplication is given by

$$(2.2) \quad h(x, y, t)h(x', y', t') = h(x + x', y + y', t + t' + x \cdot y'),$$

where $x \cdot y'$ is the standard dot product in \mathbf{R}^n .

The Lie algebra \mathfrak{h}_n of H_n has basis

$$(2.3) \quad \mathcal{B} = \{X_1, \dots, X_n, Y_1, \dots, Y_n, Z\}$$

satisfying $[X_i, Y_i] = Z$ with all other brackets of basis elements equal to zero.

Thus $\mathbf{R}Z$ is the center of \mathfrak{h}_n . If we write

$$X(x, y, t) = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i X_i + y_i Y_i) + tZ,$$

then \mathfrak{h}_n may be viewed as a matrix algebra with

$$X(x, y, t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x_1 & \cdots & x_n & t \\ & & & & y_1 \\ & & & & \vdots \\ & 0 & & & y_n \\ & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

As a vector space $\mathfrak{h}_n \cong \mathbf{R}^{2n} \dot{+} \mathbf{R}Z$. We thus view \mathbf{R}^{2n} as a subspace of \mathfrak{h}_n .

The group exponential satisfies

$$\exp(X(x, y, t)) = h(x, y, t + \frac{1}{2}x \cdot y)$$

with inverse $\log h(x, y, t) = X(x, y, t - \frac{1}{2}x \cdot y)$.

(2.4) Automorphisms of H_n . We will identify each automorphism Φ of H_n with the matrix of its differential Φ_* relative to the standard basis \mathcal{B} of \mathfrak{h}_n . Let

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ -I_n & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\widetilde{Sp}(n, \mathbf{R}) = \{\beta \in GL(2n, \mathbf{R}): \beta J \beta = \varepsilon J \quad \text{with } \varepsilon = \pm 1\}.$$

(2.10) Uniform discrete subgroups. For \mathcal{L} a lattice of maximal rank in \mathbf{R}^{2n} and for $c \in \mathbf{Z}^+$, let

$$\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c) = \{h(x, y, t) \in H_n : (x, y) \in \mathcal{L}, t \in c\mathbf{Z}\}.$$

By (2.2), $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ is a subgroup of H_n if and only if

$$(2.11) \quad x \cdot y' \in c\mathbf{Z}, \quad \text{whenever } (x, y), (x', y') \in \mathcal{L}.$$

Since H_n is diffeomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^{2n} \times \mathbf{R}$, we have that $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ is a uniform discrete subgroup of H_n whenever (2.11) holds. A uniform discrete subgroup Γ of H_n will be called a \mathcal{F} -group if Γ is of the form $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$. We distinguish a subcollection of \mathcal{F} -groups, called \mathcal{S} -groups, as follows: For $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in (\mathbf{Z}^+)^n$ such that r_i divides r_{i+1} , $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$, let $\mathcal{L}_r = r_1\mathbf{Z} \times \dots \times r_n\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}^n$ and let $\Gamma_r = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}_r, 1)$. Then a group Γ is called an \mathcal{S} -group if $\Gamma = \Gamma_r$ for some such r .

(2.12) Example. In §6 we will consider \mathcal{F} -groups for which

$$\mathcal{L} = r_1\mathbf{Z} \times \dots \times r_n\mathbf{Z} \times s_1\mathbf{Z} \times \dots \times s_n\mathbf{Z}$$

for some $r_i, s_i \in \mathbf{R}^+$. For such \mathcal{L} , condition (2.11) states that $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ is a \mathcal{F} -group if and only if $r_i s_i \in d\mathbf{Z}$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. We will call $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ a *rectilinear \mathcal{F} -group*. One can check that $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ is conjugate under $\text{Aut}(H_n)$ to the \mathcal{S} -group $\Gamma_{\tilde{r}}$, where

$$\tilde{r} = (r_{(1)}s_{(1)}/c, \dots, r_{(n)}s_{(n)}/c)$$

(the parentheses around the subscripts indicate that the $r_i s_i$ have been re-ordered so that $r_{(i)}s_{(i)} \leq r_{(i+1)}s_{(i+1)}$, $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$). By Lemma 2.13 below, it follows that two rectilinear \mathcal{F} -groups $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c')$ are isomorphic as abstract groups if and only if

$$r'_i s'_i / c' = r_{\sigma(i)} s_{\sigma(i)} / c, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

for some permutation σ on $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

(2.13) Lemma [5, Theorem 2.4]. *Every uniform discrete subgroup of H_n is conjugate under an automorphism of H_n to a unique \mathcal{S} -group. Two \mathcal{S} -groups Γ_r and $\Gamma_{r'}$ are isomorphic as abstract groups if and only if $r = r'$.*

Definition. We let \mathcal{S} (respectively \mathcal{F}) be the set of all Riemannian Heisenberg manifolds $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ such that g is an \mathcal{S} -metric (respectively, a \mathcal{F} -metric) and Γ is an \mathcal{S} -group (respectively, a \mathcal{F} -group).

(2.14) Proposition. *Let $M = (\Gamma_r \setminus H_n, g) \in \mathcal{S}$ with g given by (2.6). Then there exists $\Phi \in \text{Aut}(H_n)$ of the form*

$$(2.15) \quad \Phi = \begin{pmatrix} & 0 \\ d^{1/2}\alpha & \vdots \\ & 0 \\ 0 \cdots 0 & \varepsilon(\alpha)d \end{pmatrix}$$

for some $\alpha \in \widetilde{\text{Sp}}(n, \mathbf{R})$ (see (2.4)) such that $(\Phi(\Gamma_r) \setminus H_n, (\Phi^{-1})^*g)$ is an element of \mathcal{T} isometric to M . (Here $\Phi(\Gamma_r) = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, d)$ for some \mathcal{L} .) Conversely, if $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g) \in \mathcal{T}$ with $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$, then $(\Phi^{-1}(\Gamma) \setminus H_n, \Phi^*g)$ is an isometric element of \mathcal{S} for some Φ of the form (2.15) with $d = c$.

Proof. For the first statement, Lemma 2.8 guarantees the existence of a \mathcal{T} -metric g' and an automorphism Φ such that $g = \Phi^*g'$. In view of (2.4) and the expressions (2.6) and (2.7) for g and g' , we see that Φ is necessarily of the form (2.15). Trivially $\Phi(\Gamma_r)$ is a \mathcal{T} -group and the first statement follows. The second statement is proved similarly using Lemma 2.13.

(2.16) Proposition. *Every Riemannian Heisenberg manifold is isometric to an element of \mathcal{T} . Two elements $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g')$ of \mathcal{T} are isometric if and only if $g = g'$ and there exists $\Phi \in \text{Aut}(H_n)$ such that $g = \Phi^*g$ and $\Gamma' = \Phi(\Gamma)$. Necessarily Φ is of the form (2.15) with $d = 1$.*

Proof. Proposition 2.16 with \mathcal{T} replaced by \mathcal{S} is proved in [5, Theorem 2.7]. Thus the first statement of Proposition 2.16 follows from Proposition 2.14. The proof of the second statement is the same as the proof of the analogous statement for \mathcal{S} in [5] and is based on Lemma 2.8.

(2.17) Notation. Given an element $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ of either \mathcal{S} or \mathcal{T} (note that in either case Γ is of the form $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and g of the form (2.6)), we associate to $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ the torus

$$T(\mathcal{L}, g_0) = (\mathcal{L} \setminus \mathbf{R}^{2n}, g_0),$$

where the positive-definite matrix g_0 is viewed as a flat metric on \mathbf{R}^{2n} .

(2.18) Proposition. *If the element $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ of \mathcal{T} is isometric to $(\Gamma_r \setminus H_n, g') \in \mathcal{S}$, then the associated tori are isometric.*

Proof. By Propositions 2.14 and 2.16, we have $g' = \Phi^*g$ and $\Gamma = \Phi(\Gamma_r)$ for some Φ of the form (2.15). Denoting the submatrix $d^{1/2}\alpha$ of Φ by β , we see that $\mathcal{L} = \beta(\mathcal{L}_r)$ and $g'_0 = \beta g_0 \beta$. Hence $T(\mathcal{L}, g_0)$ is isometric to $T(\mathcal{L}_r, g'_0)$.

We conclude this section with a description of the Ricci tensors of \mathcal{T} -metrics.

(2.19) Notation. (i) Given an \mathcal{L} - (or, in particular a \mathcal{T} -) metric g , we denote by $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ both the inner product on \mathfrak{h}_n defined by g and the restriction of this inner product to the subspace \mathbf{R}^{2n} of \mathfrak{h}_n . (The latter is just the inner product defined by g_0 .) The associated norms will be denoted by $\|\cdot\|$. Define a linear transformation η of \mathbf{R}^{2n} by

$$(2.20) \quad [X, Y] = \langle X, \eta Y \rangle Z$$

(Z is given by (2.3).) As shown in [5], η is skew-symmetric relative to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ with matrix $g_0^{-1}J$ relative to the standard basis $\{X_1, \dots, X_n, Y_1, \dots, Y_n\}$ of \mathbf{R}^{2n} .

on \mathfrak{h}_n which vanish on the center of \mathfrak{h}_n . We denote the dual lattices of \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{L}' by \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{A}' , respectively.

(ii) Denote by $|\mathcal{L}|$ the volume of a fundamental domain of \mathcal{L} relative to the standard metric on \mathbf{R}^{2n} .

(iii) Given the metric g , we define as usual a map $\sharp: \mathfrak{h}_n^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}_n$ by $\tau(X) = \langle \sharp\tau, X \rangle$ and we let $\flat = \sharp^{-1}$. We again denote by $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the inner product on \mathfrak{h}_n^* defined by $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle = \langle \sharp\sigma, \sharp\tau \rangle$ and let $\|\cdot\|$ denote the associated norm.

In [5], sufficient conditions were given for two elements of \mathcal{S} to be 0-isospectral. The “if” statement of the following theorem is the analogue for \mathcal{T} .

(3.2) Theorem. *The groups $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ are 0-isospectral relative to g if and only if the following condition holds:*

(P0) *There exists a bijection $\theta: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}'$ such that*

$$\|\theta\tau\| = \|\tau\| \text{ for all } \tau \in \mathcal{A}$$

(equivalently, the associated tori are 0-isospectral).

(3.3) Remarks. (i) The spectrum of the torus $(\mathcal{L} \setminus \mathbf{R}^{2n}, g_0)$ is given by $\{4\pi^2\|\tau\|^2: \tau \in \mathcal{A}\}$ with the obvious multiplicities. Thus the parenthetical statement in the theorem is immediate.

(ii) If θ is \mathbf{Z} -linear, then the associated tori are not only 0-isospectral but also isometric. I do not know whether any examples exist, of 0-isospectral groups $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ for which no choice of θ in (P0) is \mathbf{Z} -linear. One cannot automatically construct such examples using the known examples of isospectral, nonisometric tori (e.g. Milnor’s example), since the lattices \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{L}' are required to satisfy (2.11).

(iii) Theorem 3.2 does not give necessary and sufficient conditions for any two elements $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g')$ of \mathcal{T} to be 0-isospectral since the theorem assumes that $c = c'$ and $g = g'$. However [5] gives evidence suggesting, but not proving, that these conditions (translated into the \mathcal{S} setting) may be necessary for 0-isospectrality.

Proof of Theorem 3.2. We first show that the “if” statement follows from Theorem 4.1 of [5]. Write $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma' = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$. Let $\tilde{M} \equiv (\Gamma_r \setminus H_n, \tilde{g})$ and $\tilde{M}' \equiv (\Gamma'_r \setminus H_n, \tilde{g}')$ be elements of \mathcal{S} isometric, respectively, to $M \equiv ((\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ and $M' \equiv (\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g)$ (see Proposition 2.14). We caution that \tilde{g} need not equal \tilde{g}' although, viewed as metrics on the simply-connected manifold H_n , \tilde{g} and \tilde{g}' are isometric. Theorem 4.1 of [5] states that the following four conditions are sufficient for \tilde{M} and \tilde{M}' to be 0-isospectral.

- (a) the $(2n + 1, 2n + 1)$ entries of the matrices \tilde{g} and \tilde{g}' coincide;
- (b) $r_1 \cdots r_n = r'_1 \cdots r'_n$;
- (c) \tilde{g} and \tilde{g}' are isometric metrics on H_n ;
- (d) the associated tori are isometric.

(We have rephrased (c) and (d).) From Proposition 2.14, we see that the $(2n + 1, 2n + 1)$ entry of \tilde{g} is c^2 . Thus (a) is equivalent to our condition $c = c'$. By Lemma 2.8, (c) is equivalent to our condition that the \mathcal{F} -metrics be identical, i.e. $g = g'$. Condition (d) is stronger than (P0), but only the weaker condition that the associated tori be 0-isospectral was used in the proof given in [5]. This weaker condition is equivalent, by Proposition 2.18, to (P0). Finally, (b) states that $|\mathcal{L}_r| = |\mathcal{L}'_r|$. This condition is actually a consequence of (a), (b), and (d), since the volume of the torus associated to \tilde{M} is $|\mathcal{L}_r| |\det(g_0)|^{1/2}$. (Recall that 0-isospectral manifolds have the same volume, so weakening (d) does not affect (b).) This completes the proof of sufficiency of (P0).

In order to prove the necessity of (P0), we need to look at the right action of H_n on $\Gamma \backslash H_n$.

(3.4) Notation. Let ρ_Γ (or just ρ) denote the right action of H_n on $L^2(\Gamma \backslash H_n)$. For τ in the dual lattice \mathcal{A} of \mathcal{L} define the character $f_\tau: H_n \rightarrow H_n$ by

$$(3.5) \quad f_\tau(h) = \exp(2\pi\sqrt{-1}(\log h)).$$

As discussed in [5], $f_\tau \in L^2(\Gamma \backslash H_n)$ and

$$(3.6) \quad \rho(h)f_\tau = f_\tau(h)f_\tau$$

for all $h \in H_n$. Thus $\mathbf{R}f_\tau$ is ρ -invariant.

Let

$$\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,1} = \bigoplus_{\tau \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbf{R}f_\tau.$$

Then

$$(3.7) \quad L^2(\Gamma \backslash H_n) = \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,1} \oplus \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,2},$$

where $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,2}$ consists of all irreducible invariant subspaces of infinite dimension.

(3.8) Lemma. Let $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma' = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$.

(i) If $|\mathcal{L}| = |\mathcal{L}'|$, then $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,2}$ is g -equivalent to $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma',2}$.

(ii) The spectrum of the Laplacian of $(\Gamma \backslash H_n, g)$ acting on $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,1}$ is the 0-spectrum of the associated torus $(\mathcal{L} \backslash \mathbf{R}^{2n}, g_0)$.

Proof. Part (i) of the lemma follows from [5, Lemma 3.7(b)] and the proof of Theorem 3.3 in [5]. (The proofs there use conditions (a), (b), and (c) discussed above.) The elementary result (ii) is also contained in the proof of Theorem 3.3 of [5].

We can now prove the necessity of (P0). Assume $(\Gamma \backslash H_n, g)$ is 0-isospectral to $(\Gamma' \backslash H_n, g)$. Then the two manifolds have the same volume. But one easily computes the volume of $(\Gamma \backslash H_n, g)$ to be $|\mathcal{L}|c|\det g|^{1/2}$. Consequently $|\mathcal{L}| = |\mathcal{L}'|$ and by Lemma 3.8(i), we have that $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,2}$ is g -equivalent to $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma',2}$. Hence,

the Laplacians restricted to these subspaces are isospectral. By (3.7), the Laplacians acting on $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,1}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma',1}$ must also be isospectral, so Lemma 3.8(ii) shows that (P0) holds.

We remark that Lemma 3.8 and Theorem 1.2 give another proof of the sufficiency of (P0).

4. Comparison of the 1-spectra

Let Γ be a \mathcal{F} -group. By (3.7) and the discussion in §1, the space of square-integrable 1-forms is given by

$$(\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,1} \otimes \mathfrak{h}_n^*) \oplus (\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,2} \otimes \mathfrak{h}_n^*).$$

We denote by $\Sigma_1^i(\Gamma, g)$ the spectrum of the Laplacian of $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ acting on $\mathcal{H}_{\Gamma,i} \otimes \mathfrak{h}_n^*$, $i = 1, 2$.

(4.1) Lemma. *Suppose $\Gamma \equiv \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma' \equiv \Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ satisfy (P0). Then Γ is 1-isospectral to Γ' relative to g if and only if $\Sigma_1^1(\Gamma, g) = \Sigma_1^1(\Gamma', g)$.*

Proof. Condition (P0) implies that $|\mathcal{L}| = |\mathcal{L}'|$ since isospectral tori have the same volume. Hence the lemma follows from Lemma 3.8(i) and Theorem 1.2.

(4.2) Lemma [5]. *Let $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$. For τ in the dual lattice \mathcal{A} of \mathcal{L} , let*

$$\alpha(\tau) = 4\pi^2 \|\tau\|^2,$$

$$\beta_{\pm}(\tau) = \alpha(\tau) + A + [A^2 - 8\pi^2 \text{Ric}(\#\tau)]^{1/2},$$

where $A = 2 \text{Ric}(Z)$. Then $\Sigma_1^1(\Gamma, g)$ is the collection of numbers λ of the form $\lambda = \alpha(\tau)$ or $\lambda = \beta_{\pm}(\tau)$ for some $\tau \in \mathcal{A}$. λ occurs in $\Sigma_1^1(r, g)$ $2n - 1$ times for each $\tau \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $\lambda = \alpha(\tau)$ and once for each $\tau \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $\lambda = \beta_{+}(\tau)$ or $\lambda = \beta_{-}(\tau)$.

This lemma is the translation of Proposition A.4 of [5] to the \mathcal{F} -setting. We have used Proposition A.4 of [5] to the \mathcal{F} -setting. We have used Proposition 2.22 to convert expressions involving η to expressions involving the Ricci curvature.

Lemmas 4.1 and 4.2 yield:

(4.3) Theorem. *Suppose $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ are 0-isospectral relative to g . If the bijection θ in (P0) can be chosen so that*

$$(P1) \quad \text{Ric}(\#\theta\tau) = \text{Ric}(\#\tau) \quad \text{for all } \tau \in \mathcal{A},$$

then $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ are 1-isospectral relative to g .

It seems likely that (P1) is a necessary as well as sufficient condition for the manifolds to be 1-isospectral. We at least have:

(4.4) Theorem. *In addition to the hypotheses of Theorem 4.3, assume that the entries a_1, \dots, a_n of g are algebraic and that all elements of \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{L}' are linear combinations with algebraic coefficients of the standard basis vectors of \mathbf{R}^{2n} . Then $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ is 1-isospectral to $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ if and only if some choice of θ satisfying (P0) also satisfies (P1).*

Proof. We use the notation of Lemma 4.2. For any choice of θ in (P0), we have $\alpha(\tau) = \alpha(\theta\tau)$. We will show that if $\beta_\varepsilon(\tau) = \beta_{\varepsilon'}(\tau')$ for some $\tau \in \mathcal{A}$, $\tau' \in \mathcal{A}'$, and $\varepsilon, \varepsilon' \in \{+, -\}$, then $\|\tau\| = \|\tau'\|$ and $\text{Ric}(\#\tau) = \text{Ric}(\#\tau')$. The theorem will follow.

Assume $\beta_\varepsilon(\tau) = \beta_{\varepsilon'}(\tau')$. Set $B = 4\|\tau\|^2$, $B' = 4\|\tau'\|^2$, $C = -8 \text{Ric}(\#\tau)$, and $C' = -8 \text{Ric}(\#\tau')$. The hypotheses of the theorem together with Proposition 2.22 imply that A , B , B' , C , and C' are algebraic. Eliminating radicals in the equation

$$B\pi^2 + \varepsilon[A^2 + C\pi^2]^{1/2} = B'\pi^2 + \varepsilon'[A^2 + C'\pi^2]^{1/2},$$

we obtain $P(\pi) = 0$, where P is a nontrivial polynomial with algebraic coefficients and leading coefficient $(B - B')^4$. Consequently $B = B'$ and hence $C = C'$, proving the theorem.

5. Comparison of the p -spectra

(5.1) Notation. For g a \mathcal{F} -metric as in (2.7), let $0 < b_1 < \dots < b_k$ denote the distinct a_j 's and let

$$V_i = \text{span}_{\mathbf{R}}\{X_j, Y_j : a_j = b_i\}.$$

Thus $\mathbf{R}^{2n} \cong V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_k$. For $\tau \in (\mathbf{R}^{2n})^*$, we write $\tau = \tau_1 + \dots + \tau_k$ with $\#\tau_i \in V_i$.

(5.2) Theorem. *Suppose $\Gamma \equiv \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma' \equiv \Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ are 0-isospectral with respect to g . If the bijection θ in (P0) can be chosen so that*

$$(P2) \quad \|(\theta\tau)_i\| = \|\tau_i\| \quad \text{for all } \tau \in \mathcal{A} \text{ and } i = 1, \dots, k,$$

then Γ is ρ -isospectral to Γ' relative to g for $p = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 2n + 1$.

The proof is based on the following lemma. We use Notation 3.4.

(5.3) Lemma. *Let τ and σ be linear functionals on \mathfrak{h}_n vanishing on \mathbf{RZ} . Then $\mathbf{R}f_\tau$ is g -equivalent to $\mathbf{R}f_\sigma$ if and only if $\|\tau_i\| = \|\sigma_i\|$, $1 \leq i \leq k$.*

Proof. On $\mathbf{R}f_\tau$, the right action $\rho(h)$ of $h \in H_n$ is just multiplication by $\exp[2\pi\sqrt{-1}\tau(\log(h))]$ (see (3.5)). For $\Phi \in \text{Aut}(H_n)$, the action $\rho \circ \Phi(h)$ of $\mathbf{R}f_\sigma$ is multiplication by $\exp[2\pi\sqrt{-1}\sigma \circ \Phi_*(\log(h))]$. Thus $\mathbf{R}f_\tau$ is g -equivalent to $\mathbf{R}f_\sigma$ if and only if $\tau = \Phi^*\sigma$ for some $\Phi \in \text{Aut}(H_n)$ satisfying $\Phi^*g = g$. The condition $\Phi^*g = g$ implies $\Phi_*V_i = V_i$, $1 \leq i \leq k$, and hence the ‘‘only if’’

statement of the lemma follows. Conversely, if $\|\tau_i\| = \|\sigma_i\|$, $1 \leq i \leq k$, set $A_i = \# \tau_i$ and $A'_i = \# \sigma_i$. Note that $\|A_i\| = \|A'_i\|$. After multiplying by a scalar, we may assume $\|A_i\| = \|A'_i\| = 1$. Since V_i is the b_i^{-2} eigenspace of η (see Notation 2.19), we may complete A_i and A'_i to ordered orthonormal bases \mathcal{B}_i and \mathcal{B}'_i , respectively, of V_i such that $\eta|_{V_i}$ has matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -b_i^{-1} & & & \\ b_i^{-1} & 0 & & & 0 \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & 0 & -b_i^{-1} \\ & & & b_i^{-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

relative to both \mathcal{B}_i and \mathcal{B}'_i . It follows from (2.20) that the linear map $\varphi: \mathfrak{h}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}_n$ which maps Z to Z and elements of \mathcal{B}_i to the corresponding elements of \mathcal{B}'_i , $1 \leq i \leq k$, is the differential of an automorphism Φ satisfying $\Phi^*g = g$ and $\tau = \Phi^*\sigma$. The lemma is proved.

Theorem 5.2 follows from Lemma 5.3, Lemma 3.8(i) (recall that (P0) implies $|\mathcal{L}| = |\mathcal{L}'|$), and Theorem 1.2.

We conclude this section by comparing conditions (P1) and (P2).

(5.4) Proposition. *Suppose θ satisfies (P0). Then*

- (i) (P2) implies (P1).
- (ii) If θ is \mathbf{Z} -linear, then (P2) is equivalent to (P1).

Proof. For $\tau \in (\mathbf{R}^{2n})^*$,

$$\text{Ric}(\#\tau) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k b_i^{-2} \|\tau_i\|^2$$

by Proposition 2.22 and Notation 5.1. This proves (i), and (ii) is easily verified.

(5.5) Remark. It seems likely that if $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ are both 0- and 1-isospectral relative to g , then they are also p -isospectral for all p . To prove this conjecture, one would have to first prove that (P1) is a necessary condition for the groups to be 1-isospectral even without the additional hypotheses of Theorem 4.4, and that (P2) and (P1) are equivalent even when θ is not \mathbf{Z} -linear.

6. Examples

Let g be a fixed \mathcal{F} -metric with diagonal entries a_1, \dots, a_n and let $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, c)$ and $\Gamma' = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}', c)$ be rectilinear \mathcal{F} -groups as in Example 2.12. Thus $\mathcal{L} = r\mathbf{Z}^n \times s\mathbf{Z}^n$ and $\mathcal{L}' = r'\mathbf{Z}^n \times s'\mathbf{Z}^n$ for some $r, s, r', s' \in (\mathbf{R}^+)^n$, where we write $r\mathbf{Z}^n$ for $r_1\mathbf{Z} \times \dots \times r_n\mathbf{Z}$.

(6.1) Theorem. *Let g , Γ , and Γ' be as above. Then Γ' is 0-isospectral to Γ if and only if the $2n$ -tuple*

$$(a_1(r'_1)^2, \dots, a_n(r'_n)^2, a_1(s'_1)^2, \dots, a_n(s'_n)^2)$$

is a permutation of $(a_1r^2, \dots, a_nr^2, a_1s^2, \dots, a_ns^2)$.

(6.2) Theorem. *In the above notation, assume that a_i, r_i, s_i, r'_i , and s'_i are algebraic, $1 \leq i \leq n$, and assume Γ' is 0-isospectral to Γ . Let $b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_k$ be the distinct a_i 's and set*

$$\mathcal{J}_i = \{j \in \{1, \dots, n\} : a_j = b_i\}.$$

Then the following are equivalent:

- (a) Γ' is 1-isospectral to Γ .
- (b) Γ' is p -isospectral to Γ for all p .
- (c) *The permutation in Theorem 6.1 can be chosen so that entries $a_j(r'_j)^2$ and $a_j(s'_j)^2$ with $j \in \mathcal{J}_i$ are carried to entries with indices also in \mathcal{J}_i , $1 \leq i \leq k$.*

We will prove both theorems simultaneously. Let $\mathcal{B}_0^* \equiv \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n\}$ denote the basis of $(\mathbf{R}^{2n})^*$ dual to $\mathcal{B}_0 \equiv \{X_1, \dots, X_n, Y_1, \dots, Y_n\}$. Then the dual lattice \mathcal{A} of \mathcal{L} has basis

$$\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^* = \{\alpha_i/r_i, \beta_i/s_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}.$$

For $\tau \in (\mathbf{R}^{2n})^*$ expressed in terms of the basis \mathcal{B}_0^* , we have $\|\tau\|^2 = {}^t\tau g_0^{-1}\tau$, where as usual g_0 is the upper left $2n \times 2n$ submatrix of g , so

$$\|\alpha_i/r_i\|^2 = (a_i r_i^2)^{-1}, \quad \|\beta_i/s_i\|^2 = (a_i s_i^2)^{-1}.$$

Hence, as in Notation 5.1,

$$\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^* \cap V_i = \{\alpha_j/r_j, \beta_j/s_j : j \in \mathcal{J}_i\}.$$

Note that the existence of a permutation as in Theorem 6.1 is equivalent to the existence of a \mathbf{Z} -linear map $\theta: \mathcal{A}' \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ which satisfies (P0) and which maps $\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$ to $\mathcal{B}_{r',s'}^*$. The map θ also satisfies condition (P2) if and only if the permutation satisfies the condition stated in Theorem 6.2(c). Thus in view of Theorems 3.2, 4.4, and 5.2, and Proposition 5.4, Theorems 6.1 and 6.2 will follow from the following:

Claim. *If there exists a map $\tilde{\theta}$ satisfying (P0), then there exists a \mathbf{Z} -linear map θ which satisfies (P0) and which maps $\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$ to $\mathcal{B}_{r',s'}^*$. Moreover if $\tilde{\theta}$ satisfies (P1), then θ can be chosen so that it also satisfies (P1).*

To prove the claim, let

$$d_1 = \min\{\|\tau\| : \tau \in \mathcal{A}\} = \min\{\|\tau\|' : \tau \in \mathcal{A}'\}.$$

(The second equality follows from the existence of $\tilde{\theta}$.) Since $\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$ and $\mathcal{B}_{r',s'}^*$ are orthogonal lattice bases of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{A}' , all the elements $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_l$ of norm d_1 in \mathcal{A} and $\sigma'_1, \dots, \sigma'_l$ of norm d_1 in \mathcal{A}' belong to $\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$ and to $\mathcal{B}_{r',s'}^*$,

respectively. Let $A_1 = \text{span}_{\mathbf{Z}}\{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_l\}$. Define θ to be linear on A_1 and to agree with $\tilde{\theta}$ on $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_l$. Since the standard basis \mathcal{B} of \mathfrak{h}_n diagonalizes the Ricci tensor and since the elements of $\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$ and $\mathcal{B}_{r',s'}$ are multiples of the elements of $\mathcal{B}_0^* \subset \mathcal{B}^*$, the map θ on A_1 satisfies condition (P1) if $\tilde{\theta}$ satisfies (P1).

Next let

$$d_2 = \min\{\|\tau\| : \tau \in \mathcal{A} - A_1\}.$$

By making finitely many changes in $\tilde{\theta}$ (without affecting whether $\tilde{\theta}$ satisfies (P1)), we may assume that $\tilde{\theta}(\tau) = \theta(\tau)$ whenever $\tau \in A_1$ and $\|\tau\| \leq d_2$. Thus if $\tau \in \mathcal{A} - A_1$ and $\|\tau\| = d_2$, then $\tilde{\theta}(\tau) \in \mathcal{A}' - \theta(A_1)$. Note moreover that if $\tau \in \mathcal{A} - A_1$ and $\|\tau\| = d_2$, then $\tau \in \mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$ since A_1 is spanned by elements of the orthogonal basis $\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$. For the same reason, $\tilde{\theta}(\tau) \in \mathcal{B}_{r',s'}^*$. Thus we may extend θ to a \mathbf{Z} -linear map on the sublattice A_2 of \mathcal{A} spanned by A_1 and all elements of $\mathcal{B}_{r,s}^*$ of norm d_2 . If $\tilde{\theta}$ satisfies (P1), then θ satisfies (P1) on A_2 .

Continuing this construction for at most $2n$ steps, we obtain the desired map θ .

This proves the claim and, as noted above, Theorems 6.1 and 6.2 follow.

We remark that Theorem 6.1 is just the statement that any two isospectral flat rectilinear tori are isometric.

(6.3) Examples. The following chart gives four pairs of 0-isospectral Heisenberg manifolds. The manifolds $(\Gamma \backslash H_n, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \backslash H_n, g)$ are specified as follows: In the column labeled g , we give the diagonal entries a_1, \dots, a_n of the \mathcal{F} -metric g . We have $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}, 1)$ and $\Gamma' = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}', 1)$, where $\mathcal{L} = r\mathbf{Z}^n \times s\mathbf{Z}^n$ and $\mathcal{L}' = r'\mathbf{Z}^n \times s'\mathbf{Z}^n$. In the columns labeled \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{L}' , we specify the $2n$ -tuples $(r_1, \dots, r_n; s_1, \dots, s_n)$ and $(r'_1, \dots, r'_n; s'_1, \dots, s'_n)$, respectively. Thus $(\Gamma \backslash H_n, g)$ is completely specified by the entries in the columns g and \mathcal{L} , and $(\Gamma' \backslash H_n, g)$ is specified by the entries in columns g and \mathcal{L}' . In each case, Theorem 6.1 implies that the manifolds are 0-isospectral. We use Theorem 6.2 to test whether they are 1-isospectral (and consequently p -isospectral for all p). Finally the condition given at the end of Example 2.12 can be used to check whether the fundamental groups Γ and Γ' are isomorphic.

n	g	\mathcal{L}	\mathcal{L}'	1-isospectral	fundamental groups isomorphic
2	(1,4)	(4,2; 1, 2)	(4,1/2; 4,2)	no	no
2	(1,1)	(2,1; 2,1)	(2,2; 1,1)	yes	no
2	(1,4)	(4,2; 1,1/2)	(1,2; 1,2)	no	yes
3	(1,1,1)	(2,4,3; 6,5,10)	(3,2,5; 4,10,6)	yes	yes

In the first three examples, the information in the last two columns guarantees that $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ is not isometric to $(\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g)$. In the fourth example, one can check directly that there is no automorphism Φ of H_n such that $\Phi^*g = g$ and $\Phi(\Gamma) = \Gamma'$ and hence that the manifolds are nonisometric (see Proposition 2.16).

Remarks. (i) In [3], the length spectra, i.e., the collection of lengths of closed geodesics, are compared for pairs of manifolds satisfying the condition (P0) of Theorem 3.2. If one ignores multiplicities, the pairs of manifolds are length-isospectral. The same conclusion holds if one defines the multiplicity of an element of the length spectrum to be the total number of closed geodesics of that length. (All multiplicities are then infinite.) However in many cases, including each of the pairs of manifolds in the chart above, the manifolds can be distinguished by the number of free homotopy classes of loops containing a geodesic of specified length. This gives an alternative proof that the manifolds in the fourth example above are not isometric.

(ii) Generalizing the notion of a rectilinear \mathcal{T} -group, one may study \mathcal{T} -groups for which $\mathcal{L} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k \mathcal{L} \cap V_i$ (Notation 5.1). Set $\mathcal{L}_i = \mathcal{L} \cap V_i$. Note that $V_i + \mathbf{RZ}$ is an ideal in \mathfrak{h}_n isomorphic to a Heisenberg algebra of lower dimension. Setting $M_i = \exp(V_i + \mathbf{RZ})$, we have that M_i is a simply-connected normal subgroup of H_n . Moreover, $M_i \cap \Gamma = \Gamma(\mathcal{L}_i, c)$, a \mathcal{T} -group in the Heisenberg group M_i . The \mathcal{T} -metric g induces a \mathcal{T} -metric g_i on M_i given by

$$g_i = \begin{pmatrix} & 0 \\ b_i \text{Id} & \vdots \\ & 0 \\ 0 \cdots 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus the submanifold $((M_i \cap \Gamma) \setminus M_i, g_i)$ is a Riemannian Heisenberg manifold of the type \mathcal{T} . We denote it by $M_i(\mathcal{L}, g)$. Moreover relative to the obvious orthonormal basis of $V_i + \mathbf{RZ}$, the Ricci tensor of $M_i(\mathcal{L}, g)$ is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2}b_i^{-2} \text{Id} & \vdots \\ & 0 \\ 0 \cdots 0 & \frac{1}{2}m_i b_i^{-2} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\dim V_i = 2m_i$. Thus we will call $M_i(\mathcal{L}, g)$ a submanifold of almost constant Ricci curvature.

Now suppose $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g)$ are 0-isospectral manifolds as in Theorem 3.2 and that $\mathcal{L} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k \mathcal{L} \cap V_i$ and $\mathcal{L}' = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k \mathcal{L}' \cap V_i$. In case

$k = 1$ (i.e. $a_1 = \cdots = a_n$), the two manifolds themselves have almost constant Ricci curvature. Condition (P2) is trivially satisfied and hence they are p -isospectral for all p . If $k \geq 1$ and if $M_i(\mathcal{L}, g)$ is 0-isospectral (and hence p -isospectral) to $M_i(\mathcal{L}', g)$ for $i = 1, \dots, k$, then it is an easy consequence of Theorems 3.2 and 5.2 that $(\Gamma \setminus H_n, g)$ and $(\Gamma' \setminus H_n, g)$ are p -isospectral for all p . As a partial converse, if a \mathbf{Z} -linear choice of θ satisfies (P0) and (P1) (and so by Proposition 5.4, Γ is p -isospectral to Γ' for all p), then $M_i(\mathcal{L}, g)$ is isospectral to $M_i(\mathcal{L}', g)$, $1 \leq i \leq k$.

(iii) Theorem 4.3 as well as (ii) above suggest ways of distinguishing geometrically the examples of Heisenberg manifolds which are p -isospectral for all p from examples which are only 0-isospectral. However we caution that for simply-connected Heisenberg manifolds (H_n, g) , the Ricci tensor is a complete isometry invariant. Hence our conditions involving only the Ricci tensor and the lattice vectors should not be expected to generalize immediately to other manifolds.

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