

On the geometry of semiclassical limits on Dirichlet spaces

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A geometry day in Como

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Compact manifolds and \mathbb{R}^m

For the moment, let (X, g) be either the Euclidean \mathbb{R}^m or a compact Riemannian m -manifold

Theorem (Helffer/Robert; early 1980's)

For every "very bounded" smooth potential $w : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, one has $Z_{QM}(g; w; \hbar) / Z_{cl}(g; w; \hbar) \rightarrow 1$ as $\hbar \rightarrow 0+$, where

$$Z_{QM}(g; w; \hbar) := \text{tr}(e^{-(\hbar^2 \Delta_g + w)}), \quad ,$$

$$Z_{cl}(g; w; \hbar) := (2\pi\hbar)^{-m} \int_{T^*X} e^{-(|p|_{g^*}^2 + w(q))} dp \wedge dq.$$

Note that $Z_{cl}(g; w; \hbar)$ is the integral of a globally defined $2m$ -form on T^*X , as $m! dp \wedge dq$ is the local representation of the m -th power of the symplectic form on T^*X .

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- We are interested in generalizations of this results to arbitrary Riemannian manifolds with minimal assumptions on w (no asymptotic expansions at hand), and even more general noncompact “spaces” than Riemannian manifolds
- essential observation for a possible abstract result: integrate out the momentum in HR-formula: HR is equivalent to

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (2\pi t)^{m/2} \operatorname{tr}(e^{-t(\Delta_g + w/t)}) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} e^{-w} d\mu_g$$

- nice: no tangent space left! Idea: Consider $\Delta_g \geq 0$ as generator of a semigroup on an L^2 -space. But how should we replace $(2\pi t)^{m/2}$? Probably this comes from the heat kernel $p_g(t, x, x)$
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After some thinking (and taking my previous result for infinite weighted graphs into account), I finally had the essential insight: Rewrite the RHS of

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (2\pi t)^{m/2} \operatorname{tr}(e^{-t(\Delta_g + w/t)}) = \int_X e^{-w} d\mu_g$$

according to

$$\int_X e^{-w} d\mu_g = \int_X \underbrace{\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (2\pi t)^{m/2} p_g(t, x, x)}_{=1} e^{-w(x)} d\mu_g(x)$$

with $p_g(t, x, y)$ the minimal heat kernel. Everything that follows is based on this trivial observation....

μ -heat kernels I

- X : separable metrizable locally cpt. space; μ : Radon measure on X with full support
- a Borel function $(t, x, y) \mapsto p(t, x, y)$ from $(0, \infty) \times X \times X$ to $(0, \infty)$ is called a *sppc μ -heat kernel*, if it is symmetric in (x, y) with

$$\int p(t, x, y) d\mu(y) \leq 1, \quad p(t+s, x, y) = \int p(t, x, z) p(s, z, y) d\mu(z)$$

and if $P_t f := \int p(t, \cdot, y) f(y) d\mu(y)$ is well-defined and strongly continuous at $t = 0+$ in $L^2(X, \mu)$

- let $H_p \geq 0$ be the self-adjoint generator in $L^2(X, \mu)$ of $(P_t)_{t>0}$, and let Q_p be the quadratic form of H_p ,
- \rightsquigarrow we fix such a triple (X, μ, p) in the sequel

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μ -heat kernels II

- p is called *regular*, if $C_{\text{cpt}}(X) \cap \text{Dom}(Q_p)$ is dense in $C_{\text{cpt}}(X)$ and dense in $\text{Dom}(Q_p)$ (resp. natural norms) \rightsquigarrow then Q_p automatically is a regular Dirichlet form
- Fukushima (1970's): regular Dirichlet forms are in 1:1 correspondence with Hunt processes having càdlàg paths
- thus every regular p induces a Wiener measure \mathbb{P}_t^x with starting point $x \in X$ and terminal time $t > 0$ on the space $\Omega(X, t)$ of càdlàg paths $\gamma : [0, t] \rightarrow X$
- Using a construction by Fitzsimmons/Pitman/Yor, we can construct the pinned Wiener measure $\mathbb{P}_t^{x,y}$ with terminal point y ; a *very subtle point*: unlike \mathbb{P}_t^x , the measure $\mathbb{P}_t^{x,y}$ lives on the smaller σ -algebra $\mathcal{F}^-(X, t) \subsetneq \mathcal{F}(X, t)$annoying or interesting

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μ -heat kernels III

- If p is regular, we say it satisfies *the principle of not feeling the boundary*, if for all compact subsets $K \subset X$ with $\mathring{K} \neq \emptyset$ and all $x \in \mathring{K}$, one has

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \mathbb{P}_t^{x,x} \{ \gamma : \gamma(s) \in K \text{ for all } s \in [0, t] \} = 1.$$

- We call a pair (ϱ_1, ϱ_2) of Borel functions $\varrho_1 : (0, 1) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$, $\varrho_2 : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ an *asymptotic control pair* for p , if:
 - the limit $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} p(t, x, x) \varrho_1(t)$ exists for all $x \in X$
 - there exists a Borel function $\phi : (0, 1) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ such that

$$p(t, x, x) \lesssim \varrho_2(x) \phi(t), \quad \sup_{0 < t < 1} \phi(t) \varrho_1(t) < \infty.$$

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Example I: Complete Riemannian manifolds

- (X, g) a geodesically complete connected Riemannian m -manifold, μ_g the volume measure, $\Delta_g \geq 0$ the Laplace-Beltrami operator, $p_g(t, x, y) > 0$ the minimal nonnegative heat kernel
- the principle of not feeling the boundary is equivalent to

$$p_g^U(t, x, x) / p_g(t, x, x) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow 0+,$$

a classical fact (Kac, Varadhan, Hsu)!

- asymptotic expansion of heat kernel implies

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0+} p_g(t, x, x) \varrho^{(m)}(t) = 1,$$

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- Given $x \in X$, and $b > 1$, let $r_{g,b}(x)$ be the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that $B_g(x, r)$ admits a centered chart with $(1/b)(\delta_{ij}) \leq (g_{ij}) \leq b(\delta_{ij})$; then for all $b > 1$ the function

$$\varrho_g(x) := 1/\min(r_{g,b}(x), 1)^m$$

turns $(\varrho^{(m)}, \varrho_g)$ into an asymptotic control function for p_g (Grigor'yan or G. in Potential Analysis 2016);

- if $\text{Ric}_g \geq -C^2$, then $\varrho'_g(x) := 1/\mu_g(B_g(x, 1))$ turns $(\varrho^{(m)}, \varrho'_g)$ into an asymptotic control function for p_g
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Example II: Infinite weighted graphs

- (X, b, μ) : a weighted connected graph, that is $b(x, y) \geq 0$ is edge weight with $\sum_y b(x, y) < \infty$ and $\mu(x) > 0$ is vertex weight; X carries discrete topology; for $\psi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ (say bounded) set

$$\Delta_{b, \mu} \psi(x) = -\frac{1}{\mu(x)} \sum_{\{y: y \sim_b x\}} b(x, y) (\psi(x) - \psi(y)).$$

\rightsquigarrow minimal heat kernel $(t, x, y) \mapsto p_{b, \mu}(t, x, y) > 0$ exists and is a regular sppc μ -heat kernel (Keller/Lenz);

- from discreteness we immediately get

$$p_{b, \mu}(t, x, y) \leq 1/\mu(x) \quad \text{for all } (t, x, y) \in (0, \infty) \times X \times X,$$

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- $p_{b,\mu}$ satisfies principle of not feeling the boundary: $\mathbb{P}_t^{x,x}$ is concentrated on pure jump paths, and

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}_t^{x,x} \{ \gamma : \gamma(s) \in \{x, x_1, \dots, x_l\} \text{ for all } s \in [0, t] \} \\ & \geq \mathbb{P}_t^{x,x} \{ \gamma : \gamma \text{ has not jumped before } t \} \\ & \geq \exp \left(- \frac{t}{\mu(x)} \sum_y b(x, y) \right) (p_{b,\mu}(t, x, x) \mu(x))^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Cf. Norris' book or G./Keller/Schmidt in Probability Theory and Related Fields 2016.

- the operator $H_{b,\mu} := H_{p_{b,\mu}}$ in $L^2(X, b)$ is a restriction of $\Delta_{b,\mu}$; set $Q_{b,\mu} := Q_{p_{b,\mu}}$

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The main result

Theorem (B.G.)

Assume that X admits a metric which induces the original topology, such that for every $x \in X$ there is an $r > 0$ with $B(x, r)$ relatively compact. Let p satisfy the principle of not feeling the boundary. Then for every asymptotic control pair (ϱ_1, ϱ_2) for p , and every continuous potential $w : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with w^- being infinitesimally Q_p -bounded and $\int e^{-w} \varrho_2 d\mu < \infty$, one has

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \varrho_1(t) \operatorname{tr}(e^{-t(H_p + w/t)}) = \int e^{-w(x)} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} p(t, x, x) \varrho_1(t) d\mu(x).$$

For example w^- could be bounded or more generally Kato (in practice an $L^q + L^\infty$ condition).

Complete Riemannian manifolds I

Recall that $\varrho^{(m)}(t) := (2\pi t)^{m/2}$.

Corollary

Assume that (X, g) is a smooth geodesically complete connected Riemannian m -manifold. Then for every Borel function $\varrho : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ which makes $(\varrho^{(m)}, \varrho)$ an asymptotic control pair for p , and for every continuous potential $w : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with w^- infinitesimally Q_g -bounded and $\int e^{-w(x)} \varrho(x) d\mu_g(x) < \infty$, one has

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (2\pi t)^{m/2} \operatorname{tr}(e^{-t(H_g + w/t)}) = \int e^{-w} d\mu_g.$$

Complete Riemannian manifolds II

Corollary

Let (X, g) be a smooth geodesically complete connected Riemannian m -manifold with $\text{Ric}_g \geq -A$ for some constant $A \geq 0$, and let $w : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous with $\inf_X w > -\infty$ and

$$\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\inf_{x \in X, k-1 < d_g(x, x_0) < k} w(x)\right) k^m e^{2k\sqrt{(m-1)A}} < \infty$$

for some $x_0 \in X$. Then one has

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (2\pi t)^{m/2} \text{tr}(e^{-t(H_g + w/t)}) = \int e^{-w} d\mu_g.$$

Proof: Use volume doubling machinery to prove $\int e^{-w} d\mu_g < \infty$.

Infinite weighted graphs

We recover the following result (G., Journal of Mathematical Physics 2014 or so)

Corollary

Let (X, b, μ) be a weighted graph which is connected in the graph theoretic sense. Then for every potential $w : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with w^- infinitesimally $Q_{b,\mu}$ -bounded and $\sum_{x \in X} e^{-w(x)} < \infty$, one has

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \operatorname{tr}(e^{-t(H_{b,\mu} + w/t)}) = \sum_{x \in X} e^{-w(x)}.$$

Integration on RHS is not w.r.t. to underlying Hilbert space measure!

Upper bound

- From functional analysis and Chapman-Kolmogorov (and some approximation arguments...) we get the Golden-Thompson inequality:

$$\mathrm{tr} \left(e^{-t(H_p + w)} \right) \leq \int p(t, x, x) e^{-w(x)} d\mu(x) \quad \text{for all } t > 0, \quad (1)$$

so that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \varrho_1(t) \mathrm{tr} \left(e^{-tH_p(w/t)} \right) \leq \limsup_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \int \varrho_1(t) p(t, x, x) e^{-w(x)} d\mu(x).$$

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Lower bound

Let K_n be a rel. cpt. exhaustion of X . For each n pick $\delta_n \in (0, \infty]$ such that for all $0 < \delta < \delta_n$ and all $x \in K_n$ the ball $B(x, \delta)$ is rel. cpt. (always possible)

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho_1(t) \operatorname{tr} \left(e^{-tH_p(w/t)} \right) &= \int \varrho_1(t) p(t, x, x) \int e^{-\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t w(\gamma(s)) ds} d\mathbb{P}_t^{x,x}(\gamma) d\mu(x) \\ &\geq \int_{K_n} \varrho_1(t) p(t, x, x) \int_{\{\gamma: \gamma(s) \in \overline{B(x, \delta)} \forall s \in [0, t]\}} e^{-\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t w(\gamma(s)) ds} d\mathbb{P}_t^{x,x}(\gamma) d\mu(x) \\ &\geq \int_{K_n} \varrho_1(t) p(t, x, x) \mathbb{P}_t^{x,x} \{ \gamma : \gamma(s) \in \overline{B(x, \delta)} \forall s \in [0, t] \} e^{-w_\delta(x)} d\mu(x), \end{aligned}$$

where $w_\delta(x) := \max_{\overline{B(x, \delta)}} w$; by principle of not feeling the boundary and Fatou's Lemma:

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \varrho_1(t) \operatorname{tr} \left(e^{-tH_p(w/t)} \right) \geq \int_{K_n} e^{-w_\delta(x)} \liminf_{t \rightarrow 0^+} p(t, x, x) \varrho_1(t) d\mu(x).$$

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A conjecture

Conjecture: The principle of not feeling the boundary holds automatically (at least if Q_p is strongly local).

Thank you for listening!