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West Lafayette, IN 47907-2067. Curvature-Dimension Inequalities and Ricci Lower Bounds for
Contact Manifolds. Preliminary report.

Let M be a contact Riemannian manifold. The sub-Laplacian L on M is a symmet- ric diffusion operator which is subelliptic but nowhere elliptic. We study Bochner's type formulas for L and, as a consequence, prove that under suitable geometric bounds spectral gap estimates can be obtained as well as gradient estimates for the heat semi- group. (Received September 05, 2012)