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Eigenvalue Inequalities for a Family of Spherically Symmetric Riemannian Manifolds. Preliminary report.

We will consider two isoperimetric inequalities for the eigenvalues of the Laplacian on a family of spherically symmetric Riemannian manifolds. The Payne-Pólya-Weinberger Conjecture (PPW) states that for a bounded domain Ω in Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n , the ratio $\lambda_1(\Omega)/\lambda_0(\Omega)$ of the first two eigenvalues of the Dirichlet Laplacian is bounded by the corresponding eigenvalue ratio for the Dirichlet Laplacian on the ball B_Ω of equal volume. The Szegő-Weinberger inequality states that for a bounded domain Ω in Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n , the first nonzero eigenvalue of the Neumann Laplacian $\mu_1(\Omega)$ is maximized on the ball B_Ω of the same volume. In this talk, we will look at a family a spherically symmetric manifolds given by \mathbb{R}^n with a spherically symmetric metric determined by a radially symmetric function f . We will then give a PPW-type upper bound for the eigenvalue gap, $\lambda_1(\Omega) - \lambda_0(\Omega)$, and also the Szegő-Weinberger inequality for this family of manifolds on a restricted class of domains in this space. This is joint work with Peter Hislop. (Received January 23, 2010)