

# FUNCTION-THEORETIC CHARACTERIZATION OF EINSTEIN SPACES AND HARMONIC SPACES<sup>(1)</sup>

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**Introduction.** Consider the following general problem: Let  $P$  be a function-theoretic property which holds at the points of a (local or global) Euclidean space  $E_n$  and which can be stated, formally, for points of a Riemannian space  $R_n$ . Find a statement  $Q$  which is an intrinsic (geometric) property of  $R_n$  such that  $P$  implies  $Q$  and  $Q$  implies  $P$ . Conversely, given  $Q$ , one may look for  $P$ .

In this paper we solve particular problems of the above type. We take for  $Q$  the statements that  $R_n$  (which is always assumed to have a positive definite metric) is an Einstein space, an harmonic space (to be defined in §3) with a particular fundamental solution, and a space with constant curvature.  $P$  then stands for various statements about the mean value of solutions of certain equations. Denoting by  $M(u, x^0, R)$  the mean value of  $u$  on the geodesic sphere with center  $x^0$  and radius  $R$  we obtain the following results:

An Einstein space is characterized (in §1) by

$$(0.1) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial R} M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)O(R^2)$$

for every  $u \neq 0$ ,  $\Delta u = 0$  in a neighborhood of any of its points  $x^0$ , where  $\Delta$  is the Laplace-Beltrami operator. Its scalar curvature  $\rho$  is determined (in §2) by (2.28) which holds for any  $u \neq 0$ ,  $\Delta u \neq 0$ ,  $\Delta^2 u = 0$  in a neighborhood of any of its points  $x^0$ .

The characterization of an harmonic space by

$$(0.2) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)$$

for every solution  $u$  of  $\Delta u = 0$  in a neighborhood of any of its points  $x^0$  was already proved by Willmore [13]. The fundamental solution  $\phi(r)$  of an harmonic space is determined (in §3) by a function  $A(r)$  via the equation (3.4), whereas  $A(R)$  is characterized by the mean value formula

$$(0.3) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0) + A(R)\Delta u(x^0)$$

which holds for every solution  $u$  of  $\Delta^2 u = 0$  in a neighborhood of any point  $x^0$ .

A space of constant curvature  $K$  is characterized (in §4) by (0.3) with  $A(R)$  defined by

$$(0.4) \quad A'(R) = \int_0^R \left[ \frac{\sin(RK^{1/2})}{\sin(rK^{1/2})} \right]^{n-1} dr, \quad A(0) = 0.$$

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In §5 we discuss the characterization of Einstein metrics by means of mean value theorems with regard to solutions of  $\Delta u + \lambda u = 0$  ( $\lambda$  constant) and also with regard to the set of eigenfunctions of  $\Delta$ . Analogous results are derived in §6 for harmonic metrics.

*General assumptions and notations.* All the spaces are assumed to have a positive definite metric. The metric tensors are assumed to be sufficiently smooth. The dimension  $n$  is taken to be  $\geq 3$ ; all the results however can easily be extended to the case  $n = 2$ . We denote by  $R_n$  a Riemannian space, by  $A_n$  an Einstein space, by  $H_n$  an harmonic space and by  $K_n$  a space of constant curvature. All the considerations of this paper are local.

1. **Characterization of Einstein spaces.** Let  $(g_{ij})$  be the metric tensor of  $R_n$ . The Laplace-Beltrami operator is defined by

$$\Delta u = \frac{1}{g^{1/2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \left( g^{1/2} g^{ij} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x^j} \right) = g^{ij} u_{,ij} \quad (g = \det(g_{ij}))$$

where "comma" denotes covariant differentiation. Let  $x^0$  be a fixed point in  $R_n$  and let  $r$  denote the geodesic distance from  $x^0$  to a variable point  $x$  in  $R_n$ . Since our considerations are local, we shall assume, for simplicity, throughout this paper, that  $r$  exists for all  $x^0, x$  in  $R_n$ . We say that  $R_n$  is *Einsteinian* at  $x^0$  if

$$R_{ij} = k g_{ij} \quad \text{at } x = x^0,$$

where  $R_{ij}$  is the Ricci tensor and  $k$  is a constant.

LEMMA 1.  $R_n$  is Einsteinian at  $x^0$  if and only if

$$(1.1) \quad \Delta r = \frac{n-1}{r} + \beta r + F$$

where  $\beta$  is a constant and  $F = O(r^2)$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ .

REMARK. The lemma and the proof are valid also when the metric of  $R_n$  is indefinite.

**Proof**(<sup>2</sup>). Let  $\Theta^i$  be the unit vector at  $x^0$  tangent to the geodesic which connects  $x^0$  to  $x$ . Then

$$(1.2) \quad x^i = \Theta^i r$$

are normal coordinates of  $x$  about  $x^0$  as the origin. Let  $(\bar{g}_{ij})$  be the metric tensor in the  $x^i$  coordinates. Denoting by  $(g_{ij})_0$  the value of  $(g_{ij})$  at  $x^0$  ( $(g_{ij})_0 = (\bar{g}_{ij})_0$ ) we have [11, p. 96]

$$(1.3) \quad r^2 = (g_{ij})_0 x^i x^j = \bar{g}_{ij} x^i x^j$$

and

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(<sup>2</sup>) The author thanks the referee for suggesting the present proof which is somewhat simpler than the author's original proof.

$$(1.4) \quad rr_{,i} = (g_{ij})_0 x^j = \bar{g}_{ij} x^j \quad \left( r_{,i} = \frac{\partial r}{\partial x^i} \right).$$

Hence,

$$(1.5) \quad rr^i = x^i \quad (r^i = \bar{g}^{ij} r_{,j}).$$

Differentiating (1.5) covariantly we get

$$(rr^i)_{,j} = \delta_j^i + \Gamma_{kj}^i x^k$$

where  $\Gamma_{kj}^i$  are Christoffel's symbols with respect to  $(\bar{g}_{ij})$ .

Contracting  $i, j$ :

$$(1.6) \quad r\Delta r + r_{,i} r^i = n + \Gamma_{ki}^i x^k.$$

Using  $r_{,i} r^i = 1$  (which follows from (1.4), (1.3)), we get

$$(1.7) \quad r\Delta r = n - 1 + \Gamma_{ki}^i x^k.$$

But

$$\Gamma_{ki}^i = (\Gamma_{ki}^i)_0 + \left( \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ki}^i}{\partial x^j} \right)_0 x^j + O(r^2)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial \Gamma_{ki}^i}{\partial x^j} = \frac{1}{3} R_{kj} \text{ at } x^0$$

(which follows using the identity  $\partial \Gamma_{hm}^i / \partial x^k + \partial \Gamma_{mk}^i / \partial x^h + \partial \Gamma_{kh}^i / \partial x^m = 0$  at  $x^0$ ; see [4, p. 52]). Hence we obtain from (1.7)

$$(1.8) \quad \Delta r = \frac{n-1}{r} + \frac{1}{3} (R_{ij})_0 \Theta^i \Theta^j r + F, \quad F = O(r^2).$$

Using (1.8), the proof of the lemma follows easily.

Indeed, if  $R_n$  is Einsteinian at  $x^0$  then

$$(1.9) \quad (R_{ij})_0 = k(g_{ij})_0 \quad (k = \text{const}).$$

Since, by (1.2), (1.3),

$$(1.10) \quad (g_{ij})_0 \Theta^i \Theta^j = 1,$$

(1.1) follows with  $\beta = k/3$ .

Conversely, if (1.1) holds, then by (1.8)

$$\frac{1}{3} (R_{ij})_0 \Theta^i \Theta^j = \beta$$

for all  $\Theta^k$  satisfying (1.10). Hence (1.9) follows with  $k=3\beta$ . This completes the proof of the lemma.

Let  $u^a$  ( $a=1, \dots, n-1$ ) be local coordinates on the unit sphere. Then  $r, u^a$  form polar geodesic coordinates about  $x^0$ , and we have

$$(1.11) \quad ds^2 = dr^2 + \gamma_{ab}(r, u^c) du^a du^b,$$

$$(1.12) \quad \Delta U = \frac{1}{\gamma^{1/2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \gamma^{1/2} \frac{\partial U}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{\gamma^{1/2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial u^a} \left( \gamma^{1/2} \gamma^{ab} \frac{\partial U}{\partial u^b} \right),$$

where  $\gamma = \det(\gamma_{ab})$ . Hence,

$$(1.13) \quad \Delta r = \frac{1}{\gamma^{1/2}} \frac{\partial \gamma^{1/2}}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (\log \gamma^{1/2}).$$

The last two formulas will be needed later on.

Let  $S_R$  be the geodesic sphere  $r=R$  and denote its interior by  $D_R$ . The mean value of a function  $u$  is defined by

$$(1.14) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = \int_{S_R} u d\sigma / \int_{S_R} d\sigma$$

where  $d\sigma = \gamma^{1/2} du^1 \dots du^{n-1}$  is the surface element of area. For brevity we also set

$$(1.15) \quad M(R) = M(u, x^0, R), \quad S(R) = \int_{S_R} d\sigma.$$

**THEOREM 1.** *A necessary and sufficient condition that  $R_n$  be Einsteinian at a point  $x^0$  is that for every solution  $u$  of  $\Delta u = 0$  in some neighborhood  $D_{R_u}$  of  $x^0$  such that  $u \neq 0$  in  $D_{R_u}$ ,*

$$(1.16) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial R} M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)O(R^2)$$

for  $R \leq R_u$ , where  $O(R^k)$  ( $k=2, 3$ ) is defined for  $R \leq R_u$  and  $|O(R^k)|/R^k \leq A$  where  $A$  is a constant independent of  $u, R, R_u$ .

**Proof.** Differentiating  $M(R) \int_{S_R} d\sigma = \int_{S_R} u d\sigma$  and using (1.13) and  $\int_{D_R} \Delta u dV = \int_{S_R} (\partial u / \partial \nu) d\sigma$ , where  $\nu$  is the outwardly directed normal to  $S_R$ , we obtain

$$(1.17) \quad S(R)M'(R) + M(R) \int_{S_R} \Delta R d\sigma = \int_{S_R} u \Delta R d\sigma + \int_{D_R} \Delta u dV.$$

This identity holds for each point  $x^0 \in R_n$  and for any function  $u$  (it was used by Willmore [13]).

Suppose now that  $R_n$  is Einsteinian at  $x^0$ . Then, we can substitute  $\Delta r$  from (1.1) into (1.17). Using also the fact that  $\Delta u = 0$ , (1.17) becomes

$$(1.18) \quad S(R)M'(R) + M(R) \int_{S_R} F d\sigma = \int_{S_R} u F d\sigma.$$

Let  $u \neq 0$  in a neighborhood  $D_{R_u}$  of  $x^0$ . It is enough to consider the case  $u > 0$ , since in the case  $u < 0$  we first obtain the mean value formula for  $-u$  and then change the sign of both sides. Using  $u > 0$  and  $F = O(R^2)$  on  $S_R$ , we derive from (1.18),

$$\frac{M'(R)}{M(R)} = O(R^2), \quad \text{or} \quad \log \frac{M(R)}{M(0)} = O(R^3).$$

Since  $M(0) = u(x^0)$  and  $\exp\{O(R^3)\} = 1 + O(R^3)$ , we get

$$M(R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)).$$

Substituting this into (1.18) we find (using:  $u > 0$ ) that  $M'(R) = u(x^0)O(R^2)$ , and the proof of (1.16) is completed.

Suppose conversely that (1.16) is satisfied. Then, (1.17) yields, if  $\Delta u = 0$ ,

$$(1.19) \quad u(x^0)S(R)O(R^2) + \frac{\delta(R)}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} u d\sigma = \int_{S_R} u \Delta R d\sigma$$

where

$$(1.20) \quad \delta(R) = \int_{S_R} \Delta R d\sigma.$$

Expressing  $u(x^0)$  (by (1.16)) in terms of  $M(R)$ , we get

$$(1.21) \quad \int_{S_R} u \left[ \Delta R - \frac{\delta(R)}{S(R)} + H(R, u^a) \right] d\sigma = 0$$

and  $|H(R, u^a)|/R^2 \leq A_0$ , where  $A_0$  is a constant independent of  $u, R$ .

By Lemma 1, all we have to prove is that (1.1) holds (where  $\beta$  is a constant). If (1.1) does not hold then, using (1.8) and  $\delta(r)/S(r) = (n-1)/r + k_0 r + O(r^2)$ ,  $k_0 = \text{const.}$  (which follows (1.8), (1.20)), we conclude that there exists a cone  $K$  with positive opening and vertex  $x^0$  such that

$$(1.22) \quad \Delta r - \frac{\delta(r)}{S(r)} > \epsilon_0 r \quad (\text{or } \leq -\epsilon_0 r) \text{ in } K,$$

where  $\epsilon_0 > 0$ . It will be enough to consider the case  $> \epsilon_0 r$ .

Set  $K_R = K \cap S_R$ ,  $K(R) = \text{area of } K_R$  and let  $g_R$  be a non-negative smooth function defined on  $S_R$  such that  $g_R = 1$  on  $K_R$  and  $g_R = 0$  outside a sufficiently small neighborhood of  $K_R$  (on  $S_R$ ) in which the first inequality of (1.22) still holds. Let  $u_R$  be the solution of  $\Delta u_R = 0$  in  $D_R$  which assumes the values of  $g_R$  on  $S_R$ . Then  $u_R$  is positive in  $D_R$ , and an application of (1.21) gives

$$(1.23) \quad K(R)\epsilon_0 R - S(R)A_0 R^2 < 0$$

which is a contradiction if  $R$  is sufficiently small.

Using  $\Delta r = (n-1)/r + O(r)$  in the proof of the first part of Theorem 1, we get:

**THEOREM 2.** *At any point  $x^0$  of  $R_n$ ,*

$$(1.24) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^2)), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial R} M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)O(R)$$

for any solution  $u$  of  $\Delta u = 0$  in  $D_{R_u}$  ( $u \neq 0$  in  $D_{R_u}$ ).  $O(R^k)$  is defined for  $R \leq R_u$  and  $|O(R^k)|/R^k \leq A$  ( $k = 1, 2$ ) where  $A$  is independent of  $u, R, R_u$ .

**REMARK 1.** From the proof of the first part of Theorem 1 it follows that for every  $R_n$ , if  $u \geq 0, \Delta u = 0$ , then

$$(1.25) \quad M'(R) + M(R)O(R) = 0.$$

Suppose now that  $u(x^0) = 0$ . Then  $M(0) = 0$  and we can write (1.25) as a Volterra type integral equation

$$M'(R) + O(R) \int_0^R M'(t) dt = 0.$$

We conclude that  $M'(R) \equiv 0$  and, hence,  $M(R) \equiv 0$ . Since  $u \geq 0$ , it follows that  $u \equiv 0$ . We have thus proved: *In every  $R_n$ , if  $u(x^0) = 0, u \geq 0, \Delta u = 0$ , then  $u \equiv 0$ .* This is the well known maximum principle for solutions of the Laplace-Beltrami equation.

**REMARK 2.** From the proof of Theorem 1 it follows (see (1.23)) that for the "sufficiency" part of the theorem it is enough to assume that (1.16) holds with  $O(R^2)$  and  $O(R^3)$  replaced by  $o(R)$  and  $o(R^2)$ , respectively.

**REMARK 3.** The conditions (1.16) are consequences of the single condition

$$(1.26) \quad LM(R) \equiv M''(R) + \frac{n-1}{R} M'(R) = M(R)O(R).$$

Indeed, integrating (1.26) we get  $M'(R) = (\int_0^R M(t) dt)O(R)$ . Hence,  $M(R) = u(x^0) + (\int_0^R M(t) dt)O(R^2)$ . This leads to  $M(R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3))$ . Finally,  $M'(R) = (\int_0^R M(t) dt)O(R) = u(x^0)O(R^2)$ .

Note that  $L$  is the radial part of the Laplace operator in  $n$  variables.

2. **Determination of the scalar curvature.** In this section we assume that  $R_n$  is Einsteinian at a point  $x^0$  and determine the scalar curvature at this point. We shall need a well known integral formula (see [3, p. 112]) which holds in any  $R_n$ : Let

$$\gamma(x, x^0) = \gamma_n r^{2-n} + O(r^{2-n}), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \gamma(x, x^0) = (2 - n)\gamma_n r^{-n} x^i + O(r^{2-n})$$

as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , where  $O(r^0)$  is always understood to mean  $O(\log(1/r))$ , and where

$$\gamma_n = \frac{1}{(n - 2)\omega_n}, \quad \omega_n = \frac{2\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(n/2)}$$

and let  $\Delta\gamma(x, x^0)$  be integrable.  $\gamma$  is assumed to be smooth for  $x \neq x^0$ ,  $x^0$  being a fixed point in a domain  $D$  with smooth boundary  $B$ . Then, for any smooth function  $u$  in  $D + B$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} u(x^0) &= \int_D [u(x)\Delta\gamma(x, x^0) - \gamma(x, x^0)\Delta u(x)] dV_x \\ (2.1) \quad &+ \int_B \left[ \gamma(y, x^0) \frac{\partial u(y)}{\partial \nu} - u(y) \frac{\partial \gamma(y, x^0)}{\partial \nu} \right] d\sigma_y \end{aligned}$$

where  $\partial/\partial\nu$  is the derivative in the direction of the outward normal to  $B$  at  $y$ .

Now let  $\phi(r)$  be a solution of the equation

$$(2.2) \quad \phi'' + \left( \frac{n-1}{r} + \beta r \right) \phi' = 0$$

where  $\beta$  appears in §1.  $\phi$  is determined up to an additive constant if we require that  $\phi(r)r^{n-2} \rightarrow$  prescribed number, as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . For the sake of definiteness we always take this number to be 1. Then

$$(2.3) \quad \phi'(r) = (2 - n)r^{1-n} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \beta r^2 \right\}$$

and

$$(2.4) \quad \phi(r) = r^{2-n} + O(r^{4-n}), \quad \phi'(r) = (2 - n)r^{1-n} + O(r^{2-n}).$$

By (1.12), (1.13),  $\Delta\psi(r) = \psi''(r) + \psi'(r)\Delta r$  for any function  $\psi(r)$ . Using (2.2), (1.1) we find that

$$(2.5) \quad \Delta\phi = \phi'' + \phi'\Delta r = \phi'F = O(r^{3-n}).$$

Applying (2.1) with

$$(2.6) \quad \gamma(x, x^0) = \Phi(r) - \Phi(R) \quad \text{where} \quad \Phi(r) = \gamma_n \phi(r)$$

and with  $D$  being  $D_R$ , we obtain

$$(2.7) \quad u(x^0) = \int_{DR} \Phi' F u dV - \int_{DR} [\Phi(r) - \Phi(R)] \Delta u dV - \int_{SR} \left[ u \frac{d\Phi}{dr} \right]_{r=R} d\sigma,$$

since  $\partial\Phi/\partial\nu = d\Phi/dr$  on  $r=R$ . Taking  $u \equiv 1$  in (2.7) we get

$$(2.8) \quad 1 + O(R^3) = - \left[ \frac{d\Phi}{dr} \right]_{r=R} \int_{SR} d\sigma.$$

Substituting  $d\Phi/dr$  from (2.8) into (2.7) we obtain

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} M(u, x^0, R)(1 + O(R^3)) \\ = u(x^0) - \int_{DR} \Phi' F u dV + \int_{DR} [\Phi(r) - \Phi(R)] \Delta u dV. \end{aligned}$$

In order to evaluate the third term on the right side of (2.9), we introduce a function  $v$  which satisfies:

$$(2.10) \quad v'' + \left( \frac{n-1}{r} + \beta r \right) v' = \Phi(r) - \Phi(R),$$

$$(2.11) \quad v(R) = 0, \quad v'(R) = 0.$$

We can write (2.10) in the form (see (2.2))

$$(2.12) \quad v''(r) - \frac{\phi''(r)}{\phi'(r)} v'(r) = \gamma_n [\phi(r) - \phi(R)],$$

or

$$(2.13) \quad \left( \frac{v'(r)}{\phi'(r)} \right)' = \gamma_n \frac{\phi(r)}{\phi'(r)} - \gamma_n \frac{\phi(R)}{\phi'(r)}.$$

Integrating and making use of (2.11) we get

$$(2.14) \quad -v'(r) = \gamma_n \phi'(r) \int_r^R \frac{\phi(\lambda)}{\phi'(\lambda)} d\lambda - \gamma_n \phi(R) \phi'(r) \int_r^R \frac{d\lambda}{\phi'(\lambda)},$$

$$(2.15) \quad \begin{aligned} v(r) &= \gamma_n \int_i^R \phi'(r) \left( \int_r^R \frac{\phi(\lambda)}{\phi'(\lambda)} d\lambda \right) dr \\ &\quad - \gamma_n \int_i^R \phi(R) \phi'(r) \left( \int_r^R \frac{d\lambda}{\phi'(\lambda)} \right) dr. \end{aligned}$$

Using *only* the fact that  $\phi$  satisfies (2.4), one easily derives from (2.14) and (2.15):

$$(2.16) \quad v(r) = \gamma_n A(R) r^{2-n} + O(r^{3-n}), \quad v'(r) = (2-n)\gamma_n A(R) r^{1-n} + O(r^{2-n})$$

where

$$(2.17) \quad A(R) = - \int_0^R \frac{\phi(\lambda)}{\phi'(\lambda)} d\lambda + \phi(R) \int_0^R \frac{d\lambda}{\phi'(\lambda)},$$

or, equivalently,

$$(2.18) \quad A'(R) = \phi'(R) \int_0^R \frac{d\lambda}{\phi'(\lambda)}, \quad A(0) = 0.$$

Later we shall use the estimate

$$(2.16') \quad v'(r) = A(R)O(r^{1-n})$$

which follows from (2.16), noting that (by (2.18), (2.4))  $A(R) = \text{const. } R^2 + O(R^3)$ .

Substituting  $\phi$  from (2.3) into (2.18), we obtain

$$(2.19) \quad A(R) = \frac{R^2}{2n} - \frac{\beta B^4}{4n(n+2)} + O(R^3).$$

We now use (2.1) with  $u$  replaced by  $\Delta u$ ,  $\gamma$  being  $v$  and  $D = D_R$ . Using (2.11), (2.16) and

$$(2.20) \quad \Delta v(r) = v''(r) + v'(r)\Delta r = [\Phi(r) - \Phi(R)] + v'(r)F,$$

we obtain

$$(2.21) \quad A(R)\Delta u(x^0) = \int_{D_R} [\Phi(r) - \Phi(R)]\Delta u dV + \int_{D_R} v'F\Delta u dV - \int_{D_R} v\Delta^2 u dV.$$

If  $\Delta^2 u = 0$  then, by comparing (2.21) with (2.9), we get

$$(2.22) \quad \begin{aligned} M(u, x^0, R)(1 + O(R^3)) \\ = u(x^0) - \int_{D_R} \phi' F u dV + A(R)\Delta u(x^0) + \int_{D_R} v' F \Delta u dV. \end{aligned}$$

We now assume that  $u \neq 0$ ,  $\Delta u \neq 0$  in some  $D_{R_u}$  and take  $R \leq R_u$ . We then have:

$$(2.23) \quad \begin{aligned} - \int_{D_R} \phi' F u dV &= \int_0^R O(r^{3-n}) \left( \int_{S_r} u d\sigma \right) dr = \int_0^R O(r^{3-n}) S(r) M(r) dr \\ &= O(R^2) \int_0^R M(r) dr, \\ \int_{D_R} v' F \Delta u dV &= \int_{D_R} A(r) O(r^{1-n}) O(r^2) \Delta u dV \\ &= A(R) \int_0^R O(r^{3-n}) \left( \int_{S_r} \Delta u d\sigma \right) dr \end{aligned}$$

(using (2.16')), and since  $\Delta(\Delta u) = 0$ ,  $\Delta u \neq 0$ , we can apply Theorem 1 and get

$$(2.24) \quad \int_{D_R} v' F \Delta u dV = A(R) O(R^3) \Delta u(x^0).$$

Substituting (2.23), (2.24) into (2.22), (2.22) simplifies to

$$(2.25) \quad M(R) + O(R^2) \int_0^R M(r) dr = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)) + A(R) \Delta u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)).$$

Integrating (2.25) over  $R$  we find that

$$\int_0^R M(r) dr = u(x^0) O(R) + A(R) \Delta u(x^0) O(R).$$

Hence, (2.25) reduces to

$$(2.26) \quad M(R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)) + A(R) \Delta u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)),$$

and substituting  $A(R)$  from (2.19), we get

$$(2.27) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)) + u(x^0) \left\{ \frac{R^2}{2n} - \frac{\beta R^4}{4n(n+2)} + O(R^5) \right\}.$$

Note that the proof of (2.27) remains true also in case  $u(x^0) = 0$ , provided either  $u \geq 0$  or  $u \leq 0$ .

From (1.9) and  $k = 3\beta$  it follows that  $\rho = 3\beta n$  is the scalar curvature at  $x^0$ . We have thus proved:

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $R_n$  be Einsteinian at a point  $x^0$ . Then for any function  $u$  defined in some neighborhood  $R_{R_u}$  of  $x^0$  and satisfying  $u \geq 0$  or  $u \leq 0$ ,  $\Delta u \neq 0$ ,  $\Delta^2 u = 0$  in  $D_{R_u}$ , we have:*

$$(2.28) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0)(1 + O(R^3)) + \Delta u(x^0) \left( \frac{R^2}{2n} + \frac{\rho R^4}{12n^2(n+2)} + O(R^5) \right)$$

where  $O(R^k)$  ( $k = 3, 5$ ) is defined for  $R \leq R_u$  and satisfies  $|O(R^k)|/R^k \leq B$ , where  $B$  is a constant independent of  $u, R, R_u$ . The coefficient  $\rho$  is the scalar curvature of  $R_n$  at  $x^0$ .

**REMARK 1.** In order to calculate  $\rho$  from (2.28) one should use it with a function  $u$  which vanishes at  $x^0$ .

**REMARK 2.** Set

$$(2.29) \quad \begin{aligned} f(\Theta) &= \frac{1}{3} (R_{ij})_0 \Theta^i \Theta^j, & f_0 &= \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} M(f, x^0, R), \\ f_1 &= \text{g.l.b. } f(\Theta), & f_2 &= \text{l.u.b. } f(\Theta). \end{aligned}$$

Then, using (2.1) with  $\gamma = r^{2-n} - R^{2-n}$  we easily obtain, if  $\Delta u = 0$  and  $u > 0$ ,

$$(2.30) \quad 1 + \frac{R^2}{2\gamma_n} (f_1 - f_0) + O(R^3) \leq \frac{M(u, x^0, R)}{u(x^0)} \leq 1 + \frac{R^2}{2\gamma_n} (f_2 - f_0) + O(R^3)$$

which sharpens Theorem 2. Note that  $\rho = 3nf_0$ .

**3. Characterization of harmonic spaces.** A Riemannian space  $R_n$  is said to be *harmonic* at a point  $x^0$  if the equation  $\Delta u = 0$  has a solution  $u = \phi(r)$  in some neighborhood of  $x^0$ . The space is *trivially harmonic* (or *simply harmonic*) at  $x^0$  if  $\phi(r) = r^{2-n}$ . If  $R_n$  is (trivially)harmonic at each of its points, then we say that  $R_n$  is (trivially)harmonic. It is easily seen that  $\phi(r)$  is a fundamental solution of  $\Delta u = 0$ . The theory of harmonic spaces was developed by Ruse, Walker, Lichnerowicz, and others. For a general survey see [7] and for related references, see [14]. We mention that  $H_n$  is necessarily an  $A_n$ , whereas every space with constant curvature  $K_n$  is necessarily an  $H_n$ . For  $n = 2, 3$ ,  $A_n = H_n = K_n$ . The last statement is also true in the case of indefinite metric tensors.

Willmore [13] proved that a necessary and sufficient condition for  $R_n$  to be harmonic at a point  $x^0$  is that for every solution  $u$  of  $\Delta u = 0$ , in some neighborhood of  $x^0$ ,

$$(3.1) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0).$$

We now want to find a characterization for the fundamental solution  $\phi(r)$ .

**THEOREM 4.** *If  $R_n$  is harmonic at a point  $x^0$ , then for any solution  $u$  of  $\Delta^2 u = 0$ , in some neighborhood  $D_{R_u}$  of  $x^0$ ,*

$$(3.2) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0) + A(R)\Delta u(x^0) \quad (R \leq R_u)$$

where  $A(R)$  is related to  $\phi(R)$  by

$$(3.3) \quad A(R) = - \int_0^R \frac{\phi(\lambda)}{\phi'(\lambda)} d\lambda + \phi(R) \int_0^R \frac{d\lambda}{\phi'(\lambda)}$$

or, equivalently, by

$$(3.4) \quad A'(R) = \phi'(R) \int_0^R \frac{d\lambda}{\phi'(\lambda)}, \quad A(0) = 0.$$

If  $R_n$  is an  $H_n$  then [7]  $\phi(r)$  is independent of the initial point  $x^0$ . Therefore, the same is true of  $A(R)$ .

**REMARK.** Since we assume that  $\phi(r)$  is normalized by  $\phi(r) = r^{2-n} + O(r^{3-n})$ , it is determined by (3.4) up to an additive constant. Indeed, this follows from the equation

$$(3.5) \quad \frac{\phi''}{\phi'} = \frac{A'' - 1}{A'}$$

which is derived from (3.4).

**Proof of Theorem 4.** The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 3 and we therefore only indicate the modifications which one has to make. (2.5) is replaced by  $\Delta\phi=0$  and hence in (2.7), (2.9)  $F\equiv 0$ . Also  $O(R^3)\equiv 0$  in (2.8), (2.9). As for  $v$ , the only difference is that instead of  $(n-1)/r+\beta r$  (in (2.10)) we now write  $\Delta r$  or  $-\phi''/\phi'$ . Consequently, in (2.20) we have  $F\equiv 0$ .

REMARK 1. Helgason [6] has recently extended Ásgeirson's mean value theorem [1] to solutions of  $\Delta_x u = \Delta_y u$ , where  $\Delta_x, \Delta_y$  are the Laplace-Beltrami operators in the  $x$ -space and the  $y$ -space of  $n$ -dimensions. He assumed that the spaces are two-point homogeneous spaces (and, hence, harmonic). It is immediately seen (using [13]) that for Ásgeirson's theorem to be valid it is necessary that the two spaces be harmonic.

REMARK 2. In 1909 Pizetti proved (see [2, p. 261]) that for any smooth function  $u$  and a non-negative integer  $m$ ,

$$\frac{1}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} u d\sigma = \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \sum_{k=0}^m \left(\frac{R}{2}\right)^{2k} \frac{\Delta^k u(x^0)}{k! \Gamma(k + n/2)} - \int_{DR} v_m \Delta^{m+1} u dV$$

where

$$v_0 = \gamma_n (r^{2-n} - R^{2-n}),$$

$$v_k(r) = \gamma_n \int_r^R \rho v_{k-1}(\rho) [\rho^{n-2} - r^{n-2}] d\rho,$$

if  $n \neq 2$ . For  $n = 2$  the definition of  $v_k$  is slightly different. The proof can easily be extended to  $R_n$  harmonic at  $x^0$ , provided

$$(3.6) \quad 0 < A_1 \leq r^{n-1} \phi'(r) \leq A_2,$$

$$(3.7) \quad 0 < A_3 \leq \frac{r^{n-2} R}{R-r} [\phi(r) - \phi(R)] \leq A_4.$$

The formula obtained is

$$(3.8) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = \sum_{k=0}^m A_k(R) \Delta^k u(x^0) - \int_{DR} v_m \Delta^{m+1} u dV$$

and

$$(3.9) \quad 0 < B_0 B_1^k \leq \frac{A_k(R)}{R^{2k} (k!)^2} \leq B_2 B_3^k,$$

$$(3.10) \quad 0 < v_m(r) \leq B_4 B_5^m \frac{(R-r)^{2m+1}}{R(m!)^2} r^{2-n}$$

where the  $B_i$  are constants depending only on the  $A_i$ .

Formula (3.8) with the estimates (3.9) can be used to derive a Liouville type theorem, namely: *if  $\Delta^p u = 0$  ( $p$  a positive integer) in the whole Euclidean space, where  $\Delta$  is the Laplace-Beltrami operator, and if  $u$  is bounded, then  $u \equiv \text{const}$ . (We assume that (3.6), (3.7) hold for all  $0 < r < R < \infty$  and that  $\Delta$  is uniformly elliptic.) The proof is obtained by first deducing that  $\Delta^{p-1}u = 0$ ,  $\Delta^{p-2}u = 0, \dots, \Delta u = 0$  and then applying Nash's estimates [9] which immediately give  $u \equiv \text{const}$ .*

**4. Characterization of spaces of constant curvature.** We need the following lemma:

LEMMA 2. *If in a space  $H_n$*

$$(4.1) \quad \phi'(r) = (2-n) \left[ \frac{K^{1/2}}{\sin(rK^{1/2})} \right]^{n-1}, \quad K \neq 0 \text{ (} K \text{ constant)}$$

*then  $H_n$  is a space of constant curvature  $K$ .*

The converse of this lemma is well known [7] and is proved by direct calculation. Lemma 2 for  $K=0$  ((4.1) is then understood to mean:  $\phi'(r) = (2-n)r^{1-n}$ ) is due to Thomas and Titt [10].

**Proof.** Set

$$\chi(r) = -\frac{\phi''(r)}{\phi'(r)}, \quad f(\Omega) = r\chi(r) + 1 \quad \text{where} \quad \Omega = \frac{1}{2} r^2.$$

Lichnerowicz [7] (and later also Willmore [12]) proved that for any  $H_n$

$$(4.2) \quad \frac{5}{2} f''(0) + \frac{(f'(0))^2}{n-1} \leq 0$$

and equality holds if and only if  $H_n$  is a  $K_n$ ; its curvature  $K$  is then found to be

$$(4.3) \quad K = -\frac{3f'(0)}{2(n-1)}.$$

A simple calculation shows that for  $\phi'$  as given by (4.1) we have

$$f'(0) = -\frac{2(n-1)}{3} K, \quad f''(0) = -\frac{8(n-1)}{45} K^2.$$

Hence equality holds in (4.2) and the proof of Lemma 2 is completed.

Combining Theorem 4 and Lemma 2, we get:

**THEOREM 5.** *A necessary and sufficient condition for an  $R_n$  to be a  $K_n$  with curvature  $K$  is that (3.2) holds at each point  $x^0$  of  $R_n$  and for every solution  $u$  of  $\Delta^2 u = 0$  in a neighborhood of  $x^0$ , where  $A(R)$  is given by*

$$(4.4) \quad A'(R) = \int_0^R \left[ \frac{\sin(rK^{1/2})}{\sin(RK^{1/2})} \right]^{n-1} dr, \quad A(0) = 0.$$

**REMARK.** Using (3.5) we have

$$f(\Omega) = r \frac{1 - A''(r)}{A'(r)} + 1, \quad \Omega = \frac{1}{2} r^2.$$

We can use this formula to calculate  $f'(0), f''(0)$  in terms of  $A^{(4)}(0), A^{(6)}(0)$  (note that  $A^{(2m+1)}(0) = 0$  for  $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ). We then can express (4.2) as an inequality involving  $A^{(4)}(0), A^{(6)}(0)$ . In particular, if  $A^{(4)}(0) = A^{(6)}(0) = 0$  then  $H_n$  is flat.

**5. Characterization of Einstein metrics, using solutions of  $\Delta u + \lambda u = 0$ .** The following theorem can be derived by the method of §1:

$R_n$  is Einsteinian at  $x^0$  if and only if for every solution  $u \geq 0$  of  $\Delta u + \lambda u = 0$  ( $\lambda$  fixed) in some  $D_{R_u}$ ,

$$(5.1) \quad M'(R) + \frac{\lambda}{S(R)} \int_0^R S(r)M(r)dr = O(R^2)M(R)$$

for  $R \leq R_u$ , where  $|O(R^2)| \leq AR^2$ ,  $A$  being independent of  $u, R_u, R$ .

Let  $\{\lambda_m\}, \{\phi_m\}$  be the sets of eigenvalues and orthonormal eigenfunctions of  $\Delta$  on  $R_n$ , where  $R_n$  is, from now on, taken to be a compact Riemannian manifold. As is well known, the set  $\{\phi_m\}$  is complete in the  $L^2$  sense. Furthermore, from the asymptotic behavior of the  $\lambda_m, \phi_m$  (see, for instance, [8]) it follows that for every function  $g$  on  $R_n, g = \sum a_m \phi_m$  ( $a_m$  are Fourier's coefficients) and the series is uniformly convergent together with any preassigned number of its term-by-term derivatives, provided  $g$  is sufficiently smooth. We wish to characterize Einsteinian metrics by means of properties of the  $\phi_m$ . Since the  $\phi_m$ , however, are not in general non-negative functions, the above cited theorem is not helpful. We shall instead use the following theorem whose proof, which is similar to that of the above cited theorem, is omitted.

**THEOREM 6.** *A necessary and sufficient condition that  $R_n$  be Einsteinian at  $x^0$  is that for every solution of  $\Delta u + \lambda u = 0$  in some  $D_{R_u}$ , ( $R_u < \bar{R}$ , for some  $\bar{R} > 0$ )*

$$(5.2) \quad M'(R) + \frac{\lambda}{S(R)} \int_0^R S(r)M(r)dr = \mu(R)O(R^2), \quad \mu(R) = \text{l.u.b.} \left| \frac{u}{s} \right|$$

for  $R \leq R_u$ , where  $|O(R^2)| \leq AR^2$  and  $A$  is independent of  $u, R_u, R$ .

**REMARK 1.** Theorem 6 remains true if  $\mu(R)$  is replaced by  $\hat{\mu}(R) = \text{l.u.b.}_{D_R} |u|$ . In both cases, the "sufficiency" part remains true if  $O(R^2)$  is replaced by  $o(R)$ .

REMARK 2. From the proof of Theorem 6 it follows that  $A$  and  $\bar{R}$  are independent of  $\lambda$ .

THEOREM 7. A necessary and sufficient condition that  $R_n$  be Einsteinian at  $x^0$  is that  $\{\phi_m\}$ ,  $\{\lambda_m\}$  satisfy for all  $R < \bar{R}$  (for some  $\bar{R} > 0$ )

$$(5.3) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial R} M(\phi_m, x^0, R) + \frac{\lambda_m}{S(R)} \int_0^R S(r) M(\phi_m, x^0, r) dr = \mu_m(R) O(R^2)$$

where  $\mu_m(R) = \text{l.u.b.}_{S_R} |\phi_m|$ ,  $|O(R^2)| \leq AR^2$  and  $A$  is independent of  $m, R$ .

**Proof.** The "necessary" part is a consequence of Theorem 6 and Remark 2. To prove the "sufficiency" part, we need the relation:

$$(5.4) \quad S(R)M'(R) + M(R) \int_{S_R} \Delta R d\sigma = \int_{S_R} u \Delta R d\sigma - \lambda \int_0^R S(r)M(r)dr$$

valid for any solution of  $\Delta u + \lambda u = 0$ . Its derivation is similar to that of (1.17). Taking  $u = \phi_m$ ,  $\lambda = \lambda_m$  in (5.4) and making use of (5.3) we obtain

$$(5.5) \quad M_m(R) \int_{S_R} \Delta R d\sigma = \int_{S_R} \phi_m \Delta R d\sigma + \mu_m(R) O(R^2)$$

where we set  $M_m(R) = M(\phi_m, x^0, R)$ . Inserting  $\Delta R$  from (1.8) into (5.5) and using the notation (2.29), we get

$$(5.6) \quad \left[ \frac{1}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} f(\Theta) d\sigma \right] \left[ \frac{1}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} \phi_m(R, \Theta) d\sigma \right] \\ = \frac{1}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} \phi_m(R, \Theta) f(\Theta) d\sigma + \mu_m O(R)$$

for  $0 < R < R_0$  (for some  $R_0$ ), where  $\mu_m = \text{l.u.b.}_{0 < R < R_0} |\phi_m(R)|$ .

The function  $f(\Theta)$  is smooth in some domain containing  $\bar{D}_{R_0}$ , if  $R_0$  is sufficiently small. Let  $\hat{f}$  be a smooth function on  $R_n$  which coincides with  $f$  on  $D_{R_0}$ . Then

$$\hat{f} = \sum c_m \phi_m,$$

and the series is uniformly convergent. Hence, for any  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists a  $k$  such that

$$(5.7) \quad \left| f - \sum_{m=1}^k c_m \phi_m \right| < \epsilon \text{ in } D_{R_0}.$$

We now multiply both sides of (5.6) by  $c_m$  and sum over  $m = 1, \dots, k$ . We obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.8) \quad & \left[ \frac{1}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} f(\Theta) d\sigma_R \right] \left[ \frac{1}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} (f(\Theta) + h_\epsilon(R, \Theta)) d\sigma_R \right] \\
 & = \frac{1}{S(R)} \int_{S_R} f(\Theta)(f(\Theta) + h_\epsilon(R, \Theta)) d\sigma_R + \left( \sum_{m=1}^k |c_m| \mu_m \right) O(R),
 \end{aligned}$$

where, for clarity, we set  $d\sigma = d\sigma_R$  on  $S_R$ , and where  $|h_\epsilon(R, \Theta)| < \epsilon$ .

Denoting  $d\omega = \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} (d\sigma_R/S(R))$  and letting  $R \rightarrow 0$  in (5.8), we obtain the inequality

$$\left( \int f(\Theta) d\omega \right)^2 + \epsilon \left| \int f(\Theta) d\omega \right| \geq \int (f(\Theta))^2 d\omega - \epsilon \int |f(\Theta)| d\omega.$$

Taking  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we get

$$(5.9) \quad \left( \int f(\Theta) d\omega \right)^2 \geq \int (f(\Theta))^2 d\omega.$$

Noting that  $d\omega > 0$ ,  $\int d\omega = 1$ , we can use Schwarz's inequality and conclude that  $(\int f d\omega)^2 \leq \int f^2 d\omega$  and equality holds if and only if  $f(\Theta) \equiv \text{const}$ . In view of (5.9),  $f(\Theta)$  is indeed a constant. Hence, by Lemma 1,  $R_n$  is Einsteinian at  $x^0$ .

REMARK. Theorem 7 remains true if, in (5.3),  $O(R^2)$  is replaced by  $o(R)$ .

**6. Characterization of harmonic metrics, using solutions of  $\Delta u + \lambda u = 0$ .**

Using (5.4) one can show that  $R_n$  is harmonic at  $x^0$  if and only if

$$(6.1) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = \delta(R)u(x^0) \quad \text{for } R < R_u,$$

for any solution  $u$  of  $\Delta u + \lambda u = 0$  in  $D_{R_u}$ , where  $\delta(R)$  is defined by

$$(6.2) \quad \delta'(R) + \frac{\lambda}{S(R)} \int_0^R S(r)\delta(r)dr = 0, \quad \delta(0) = 1.$$

We shall prove:

**THEOREM 8.** *A necessary and sufficient condition that  $R_n$  be harmonic at  $x^0$  is that  $\{\phi_m\}$ ,  $\{\lambda_m\}$  satisfy, for all  $R < \bar{R}$  (for some  $\bar{R} > 0$ )*

$$(6.3) \quad M(\phi_m, x^0, R) = \delta_m(R)\phi_m(x^0)$$

where  $\delta_m(R)$  is defined by

$$(6.4) \quad \delta'_m(R) + \frac{\lambda_m}{S(R)} \int_0^R S(r)\delta_m(r)dr = 0, \quad \delta_m(0) = 1.$$

**Proof.** We only have to prove the "sufficiency" part of the theorem. By [13] it is enough to prove that

$$(6.5) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = u(x^0) \quad \text{for } R < R_u$$

for any solution  $u$  of  $\Delta u = 0$  in  $D_{R_u}$ . Now every local solution can be extended into a smooth function on  $R_n$ . Hence we have

$$(6.6) \quad u(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m \phi_m(x), \quad \Delta u = - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \lambda_m a_m \phi_m(x) = 0$$

uniformly in  $x$  for  $0 \leq r \leq R'_u$  for any  $R'_u < R_u$  ( $r$  is the geodesic distance from  $x^0$  to  $x$ ).

From (6.6) we obtain

$$(6.7) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m M(\phi_m, x^0, R) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m \delta_m(R) \phi_m(x^0),$$

$$(6.8) \quad M(u, x^0, R) = - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_m a_m \delta_m(R) \phi_m(x^0) = 0,$$

and both series converge uniformly for  $0 < R < R'_u$ . Multiplying (6.8) by  $S(R)/S(\rho)$  and integrating over  $R$ , we obtain

$$(6.9) \quad \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m \phi_m(x^0) \left[ \frac{\lambda_m}{S(\rho)} \int_0^\rho S(R) \delta_m(R) dR \right] = 0$$

and the convergence is uniform in  $\rho$ ,  $0 < \rho \leq R'_u$ .

Using (6.4), (6.9) reduces to

$$(6.10) \quad \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m \delta'_m(\rho) \phi_m(x^0) = 0.$$

Finally, integrating the series (6.10), which is uniformly convergent for  $0 < \rho < R'_u$ , we find that  $\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m \delta_m(R) \phi_m(x^0)$  is a function independent of  $R$ . Hence, recalling (6.7), the proof of (6.5) follows.

REMARK 1. The fundamental solution  $\phi(R)$  can be determined, up to an additive constant, by the function  $\delta(R)$  defined in (6.2). Indeed, using (2.1) with  $\gamma$  defined by (2.6) and  $\phi$  being a solution of  $\Delta \phi + \lambda \phi = 0$ , we get

$$(6.11) \quad u(x^0) = - \lambda \gamma_n \phi(R) \int_0^R S(r) M(r) dr - \lambda \gamma_n \int_{S_R} u \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \nu} d\sigma \\ - \int_{D_R} \gamma (\Delta + \lambda) u dV.$$

Employing (6.1) and  $(\Delta + \lambda)u = 0$ , we obtain

$$- \gamma_n \frac{d\phi(R)}{dR} \int_{S_R} u d\sigma = u(x^0) \left[ 1 + \lambda \gamma_n \phi(R) \int_0^R S(r) \delta(r) dr \right].$$

Comparing this with (6.1) we get an equation which, after using (6.2), simplifies to

$$(6.12) \quad \delta'(R)\phi(R) - \delta(R)\phi'(R) = \frac{1}{\gamma_n S(R)}.$$

If we can express  $S(R)$  in terms of  $\phi(R)$ , then (6.12) can be used to solve  $\phi(R)$  in terms of  $\delta(R)$ . Now setting  $u \equiv 1$  in (6.11) gives

$$(6.13) \quad S(R)\phi'(R) + \lambda \int_0^R S(r)\phi(r)dr + \frac{1}{\gamma_n} = 0$$

which can be used to express  $S(R)$  in terms of  $\phi(R)$ .

REMARK 2. We have proved in §§5, 6 that some properties of  $\{\phi_m\}$ ,  $\{\lambda_m\}$  determine some properties of the metric of the manifold. A direct construction of the metric from the sequences of eigenvalues and eigenfunctions seems to be hard to accomplish. All we can prove is: *If  $\{\phi_m\}$ ,  $\{\lambda_m\}$  are the sequences of eigenfunctions and eigenvalues of a metric tensor  $(g_{ij})$  on a compact Riemannian manifold, then the  $\{\phi_m\}$ ,  $\{\lambda_m\}$  determine the metric tensor  $(g_{ij})$  in a unique manner* (i.e., they cannot be the sequences corresponding to another metric tensor).

The proof is based on the following observations:

- (a) The  $\phi_m$ ,  $\lambda_m$  determine the set of all local solutions (that is: in neighborhoods of a point) by the set of all sequences  $\{a_m\}$  for which  $\sum a_m \phi_m$ ,  $\sum \lambda_m a_m \phi_m$  are uniformly (locally) convergent and the second series vanishes.
- (b) The local solutions of an elliptic equation determine the coefficients up to a common factor (this follows from [5, proof of Theorem 2]). To find this factor one uses the relations  $\Delta \phi_m + \lambda_m \phi_m = 0$ .

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