## TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

School of Mathematics

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# MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Sugata Mondal from Indiana University, Bloomington, will speak on

## 'Small Eigenvalues of Riemannian surfaces'

at 04.00 p.m. on Thursday, 03 August, 2017 in the Lecture Room (AG-69) of the Institute.

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#### Abstract

Any eigenvalue of the Laplace operator, acting on the function space of a hyperbolic surface S, below 1/4 is called a *small or exceptional* eigenvalue of S. Historically, Selbergs 1/4-conjecture was a motivation for the study of these eigenvalues. Existence of hyperbolic surfaces having small eigenvalues was first obtained by B. Randol (1974, [Ra]). Later P. Buser found a simpler construction of such surfaces (1977, [Bu]). He also found initial bounds on the number of small eigenvalues of a given surface depending on the topology of the surface (1977, [Bu]).

Later P. Schumtz (1991, [Sch]) sharpened the methods developed by Buser and from his bounds he (and later Buser also) conjectured that the number of these eigenvalues of a closed hyperbolic surface is at most the Euler characteristic of the surface. An extended version of this conjecture was proved by Otal and Rosas (2009, [OR]). In their paper Otal-Rosas asked if their result can be extended to all smooth surfaces. In a series of three papers [BMM1], [BMM2] and [BMM3], joint with Werner Ballmann and Henrik Matthiesen, we have answered an extended version of this last question in the affirmative. In this talk I shall present a short survey of these developments and results.

### References

- [BMM1] W. Ballmann, H. Matthiesen, S. Mondal, Small eigenvalues of closed surfaces. J. Differential Geom. 103 (2016), no. 1, 113, MR3488128, Zbl 1341.53066.
- [BMM2] W. Ballmann, H. Matthiesen, S. Mondal, Small eigenvalues of surfaces of finite type. *Compositio Math.* 153 (2017), 17471768, MR, Zbl.
- [BMM3] W. Ballmann, H. Matthiesen, S. Mondal, On the analytic systole of Riemannian surfaces of finite type. (submitted).
- [Bu] P. Buser, Geometry and spectra of compact Riemann surfaces. Reprint of the 1992 edition. Modern Birkhuser Classics. Birkhuser, 2010. xvi+454 pp., MR2742784, Zbl 1239.32001.
- [OR] J.-P. Otal, E. Rosas, Pour toute surface hyperbolique de genre g,  $\lambda_{2g-2} > 1/4$ . Duke Math. J. 150 (2009), no. 1, 101115, MR2560109, Zbl 1179.30041.
- [Ra] B. Randol Small eigenvalues of the Laplace operator on compact Riemann surfaces. Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. 80 (1974), 9961000.
- [Sch] P. Schmutz, Small eigenvalues on Riemann surfaces of genus 2. *Invent. Math.* 106 (1991), no. 1, 121138, MR1123377, Zbl 0764.53035.

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