

Lambdas, bubbles, and spheres

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Geometric optimization of Laplace eigenvalues on surfaces under the area constraint is closely linked to the study of minimal surfaces in spheres and harmonic maps. I will discuss some recent developments in the subject, including a solution of the maximization problem for higher eigenvalues on the 2-sphere. The talk is based on joint works with M. Karpukhin, N. Nadirashvili and A. Penskoï.