1127-53-403 Benjamin Schmidt (schmidt@math.msu.edu), Michigan State University, Department of Mathematics, East Lansing, MI 48824, and Craig Sutton* (craig.j.sutton@dartmouth.edu), Dartmouth College, Department of Mathematics, Hanover, NH 03755. Detecting the Moments of Inertia of a Molecule via its Rotational Spectrum. Preliminary report.

Spectral geometry has connections with the field of spectroscopy where one is interested in recovering the structure and composition of a molecule or compound from various spectral data. We demonstrate that the moments of inertia of a molecule can be recovered from its rotational spectrum. Geometrically speaking this means that the isometry classes of left-invariant metrics on SO(3) can be mutually distinguished via their spectra. In fact, they can be distinguished by their first four heat invariants. More generally, we demonstrate that among compact homogeneous three-manifolds a non-trivial isospectral pair must consist of spherical three-manifolds possessing non-isomorphic cyclic fundamental groups and each is equipped with a so-called Type I metric: at present, no such isospectral pairs exist in the literature. (Received February 07, 2017)