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Continuity of eigenvalues under degenerations

We will discuss the question of the degenerations of Riemannian manifolds under which the first k Steklov eigenvalues are continuous. This question is important when one attempts to construct metrics which optimize an eigenvalue. As an application we describe several results concerning the optimization of higher Steklov eigenvalues. This talk includes joint work with R. Schoen and joint work with P. Sargent.