

# Existence Problem of Compact Locally Symmetric Spaces

Colloquium, Harvard University

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Toshiyuki Kobayashi

(Harvard University & University of Tokyo)

<http://www.math.harvard.edu/~toshi/>

# Naive question

Discontinuous groups for  
homogeneous spaces

(e.g. symmetric spaces)

Riemannian  $\implies$  non-Riemannian ?

# Representation theory

Reps of Lie groups/algebras  
Non-commutative harmonic analysis

Great trends of developments through 20th cent.

compact	$\implies$	non-compact
Riemannian	$\implies$	non-Riemannian
finite dim'l rep	$\implies$	$\infty$ dim'l rep

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A fruitful theory?

# Riemannian $\rightarrow$ pseudo-Riemannian

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isometry  
 $\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X$   
 $n \quad (x, y)$   
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 $(2^n x, 2^{-n} y)$

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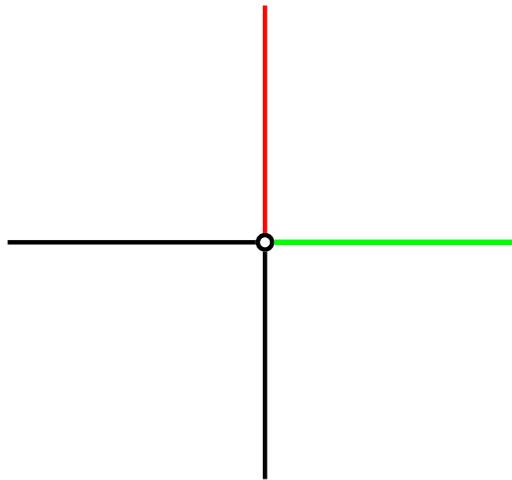
$\mathbb{Z}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{isometry}}$   $X$

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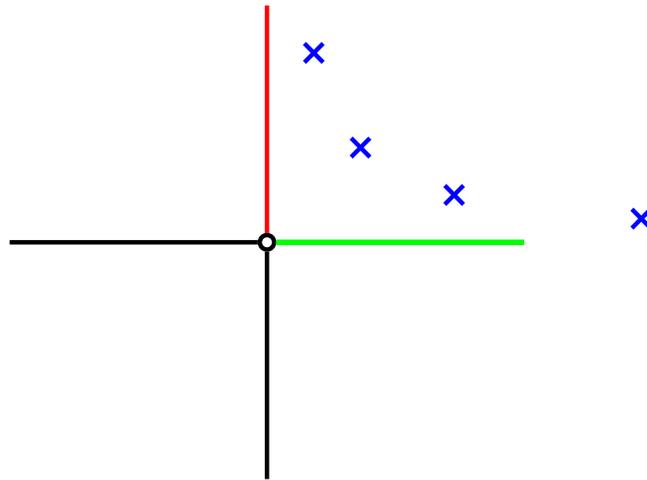
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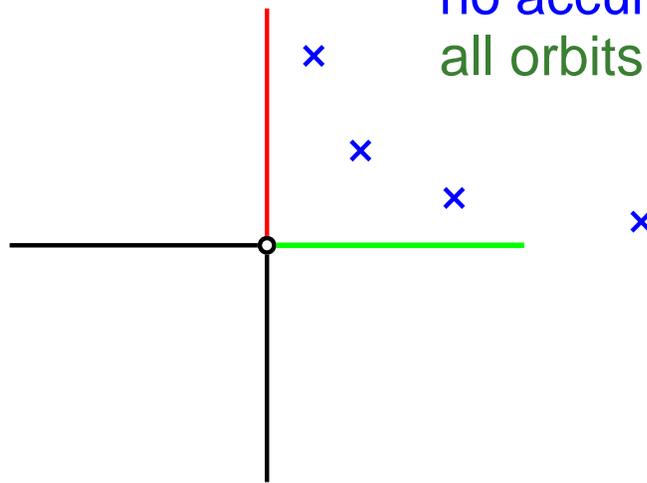
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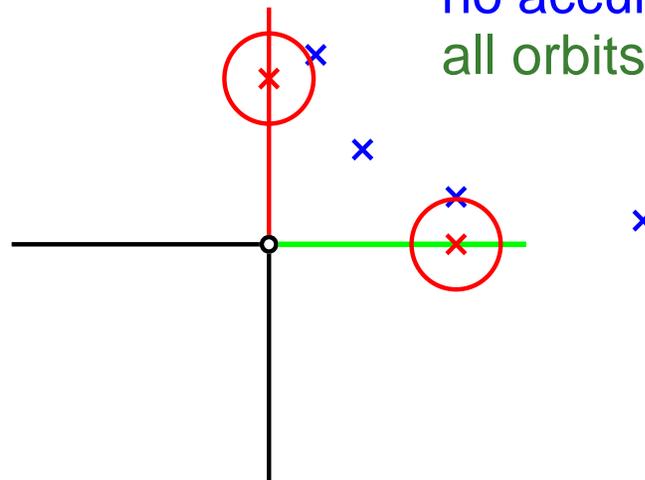
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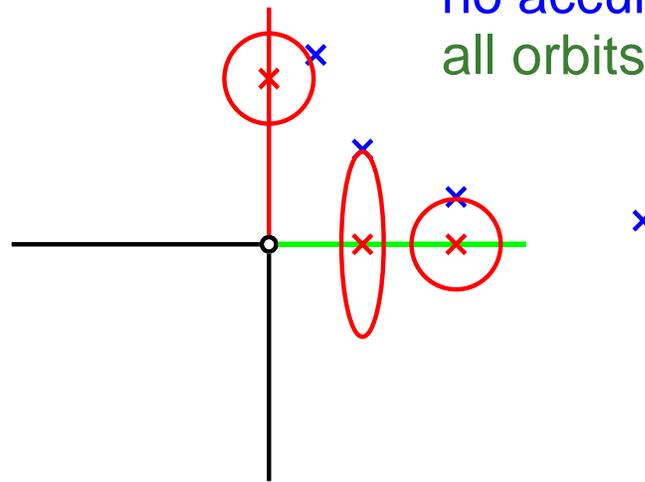
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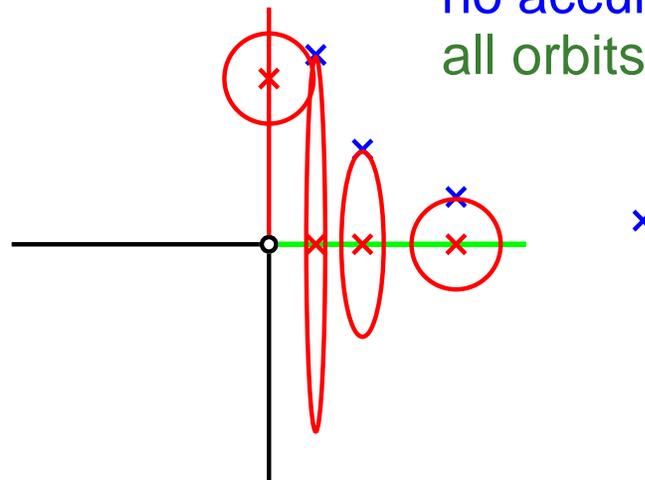
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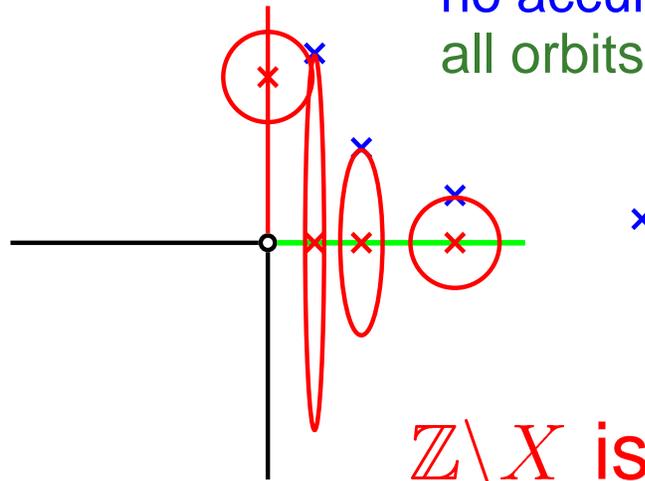
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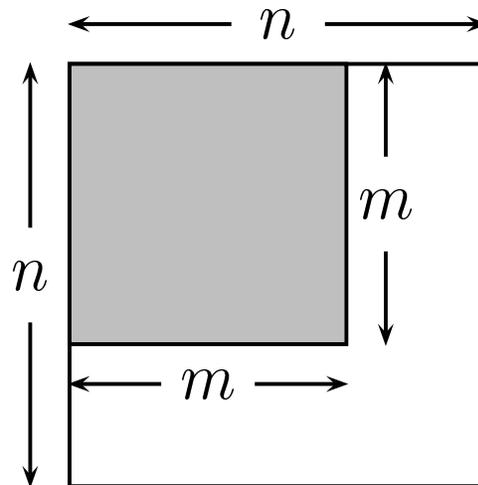
$\mathbb{Z} \setminus X$  is not Hausdorff

# Compact quotients for $SL(n)/SL(m)$

Problem: Does there exist compact Hausdorff quotients of

$$SL(n, \mathbb{F})/SL(m, \mathbb{F}) \quad (n > m, \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H})$$

by discrete subgps of  $SL(n, \mathbb{F})$ ?



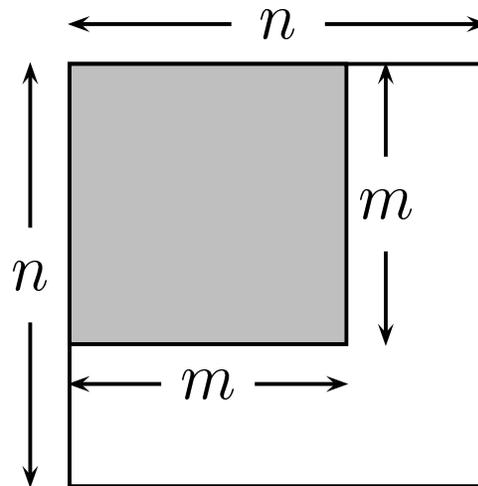
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**Conjecture: No for any  $n > m$ .**



# $SL(n)/SL(m)$ case

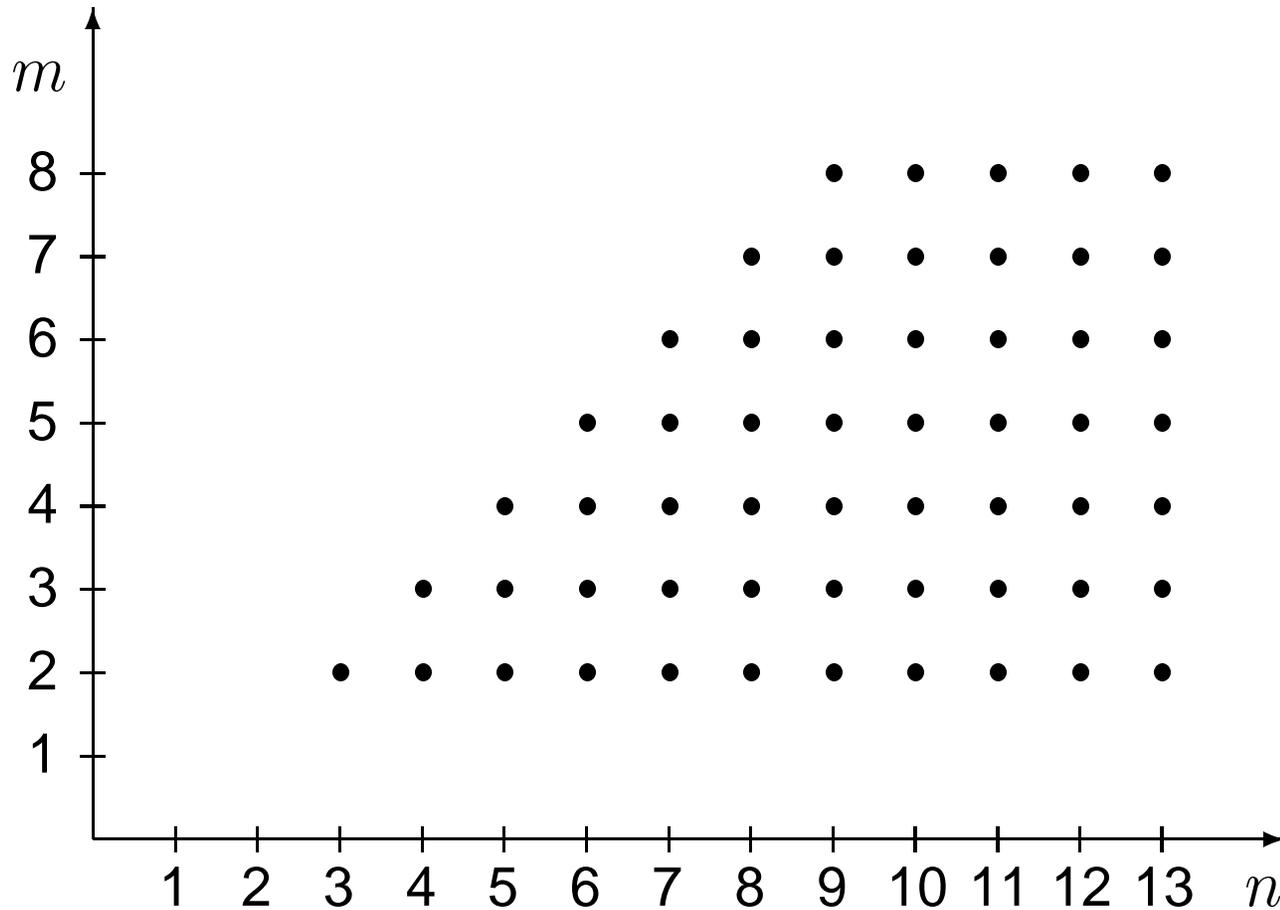
Cf. Space Form Conjecture (mentioned later)

Conjecture 1  $SL(n)/SL(m)$  ( $n > m > 1$ )  
has no uniform lattice.

K-	critterion of proper actions	$\frac{n}{3} > [\frac{m+1}{2}]$
Zimmer	orbit closure thm (Ratner)	$n > 2m$
Labourier–Mozes–Zimmer	ergodic action	$n \geq 2m$
Benoist	critterion of proper actions	$n = m + 1, m$ even
Margulis	unitary rep	$(n \geq 5, m = 2)$
Shalom	unitary rep	$n \geq 4, m = 2$

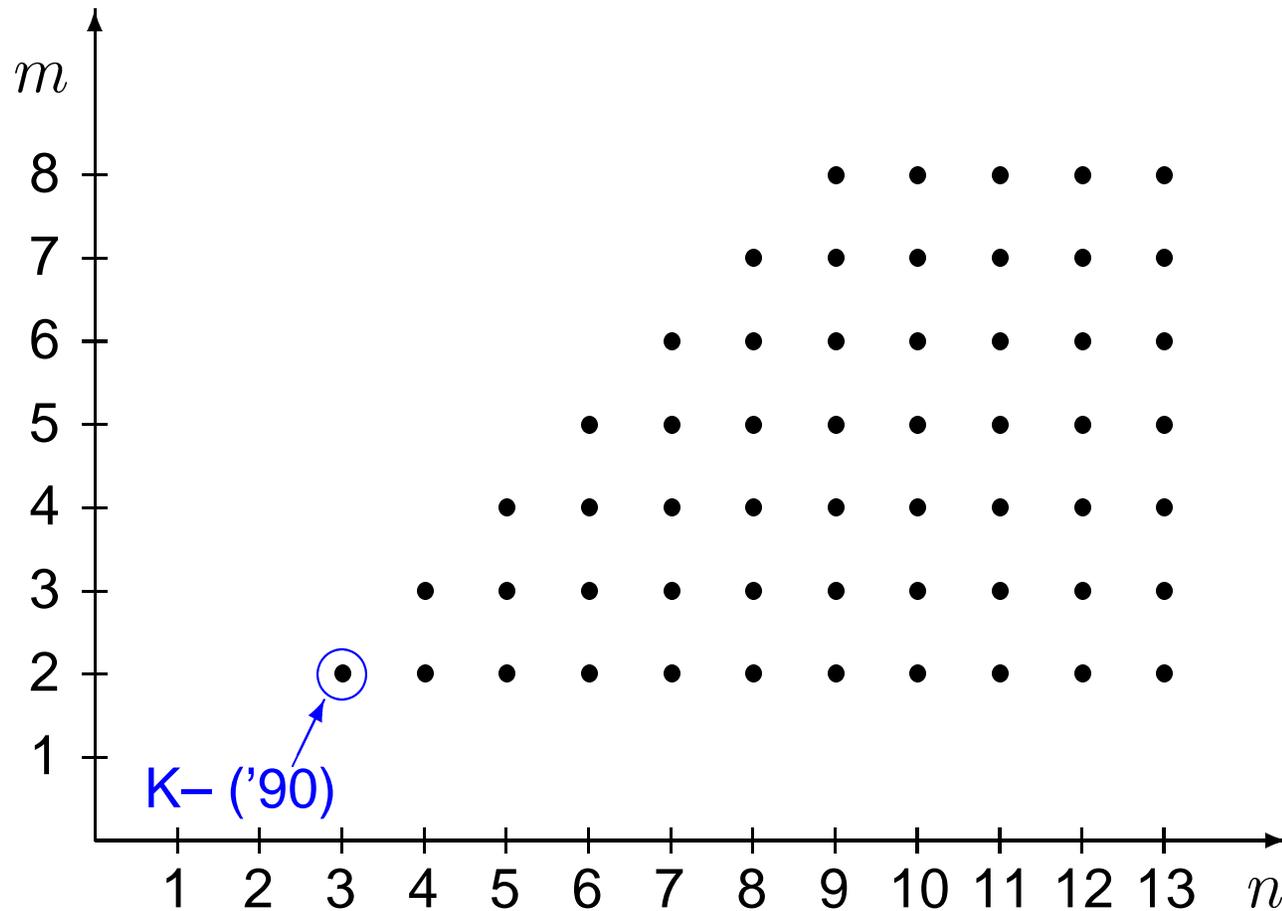
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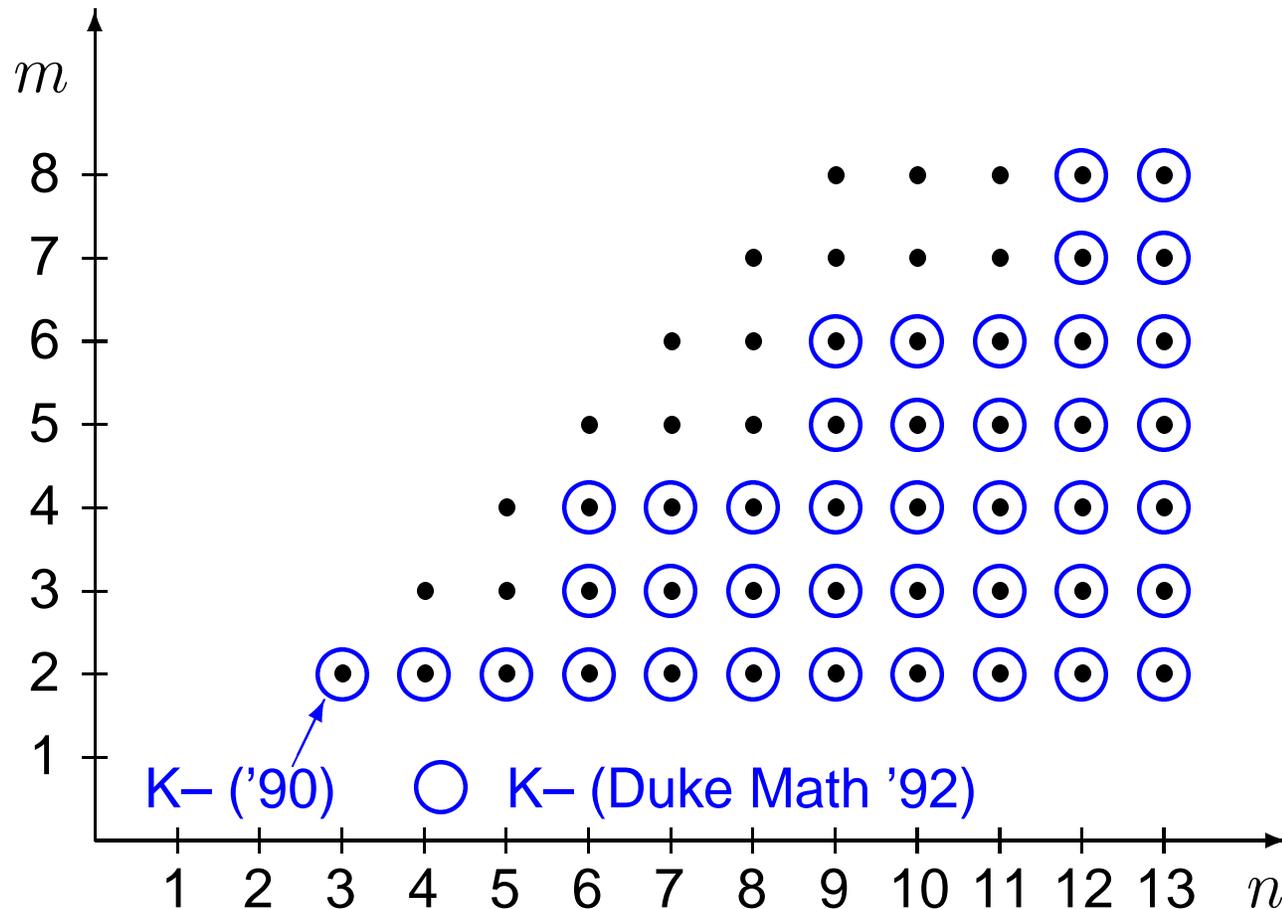
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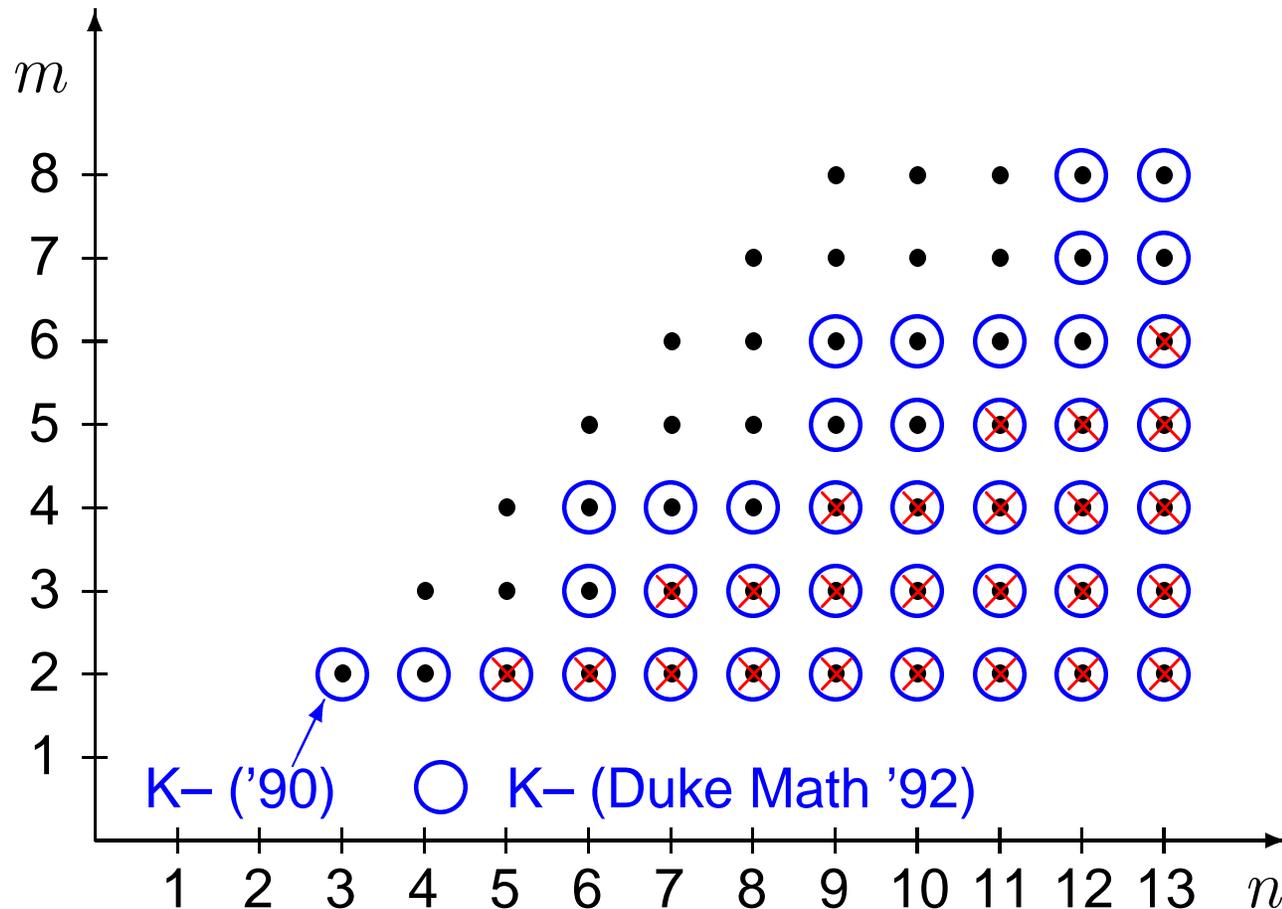
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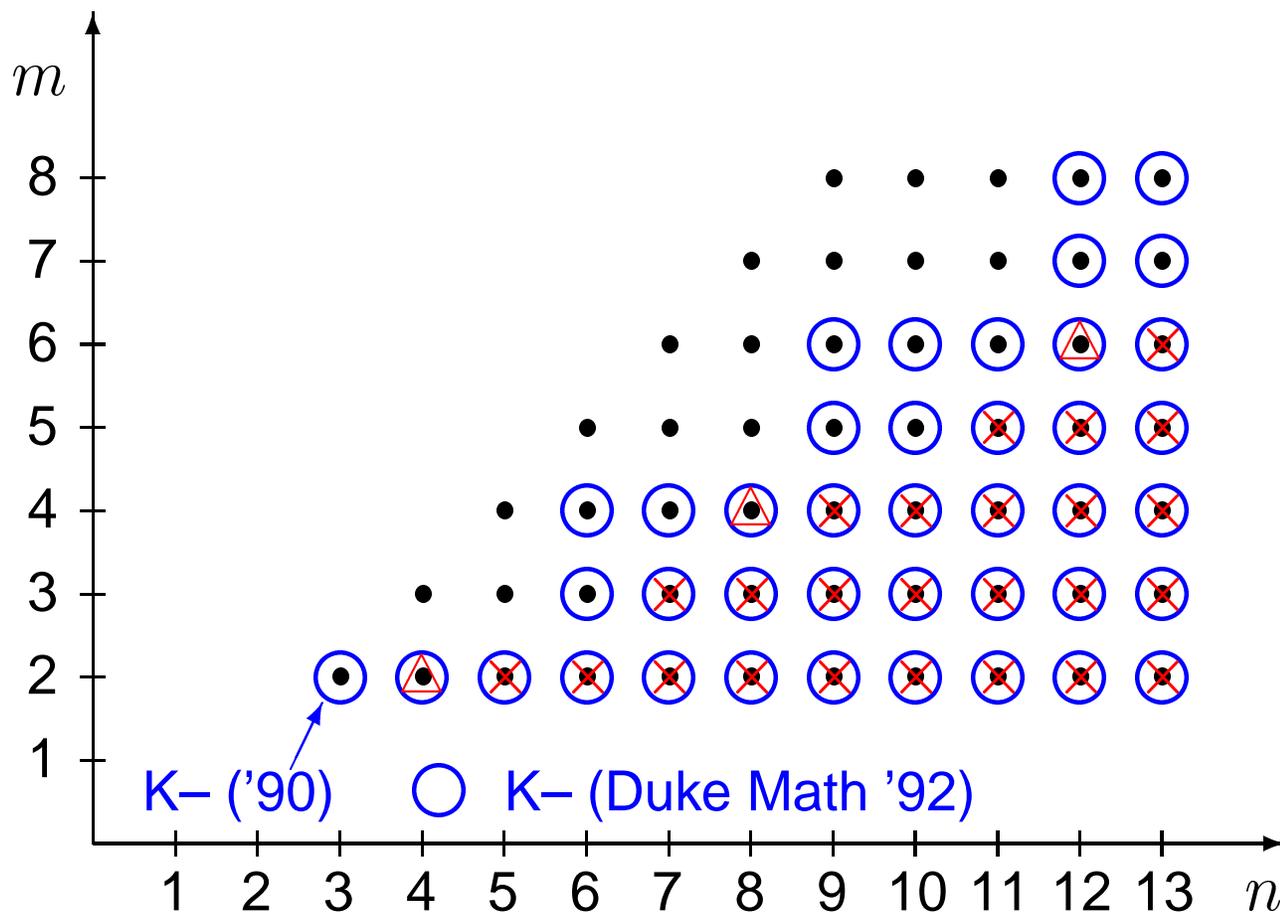
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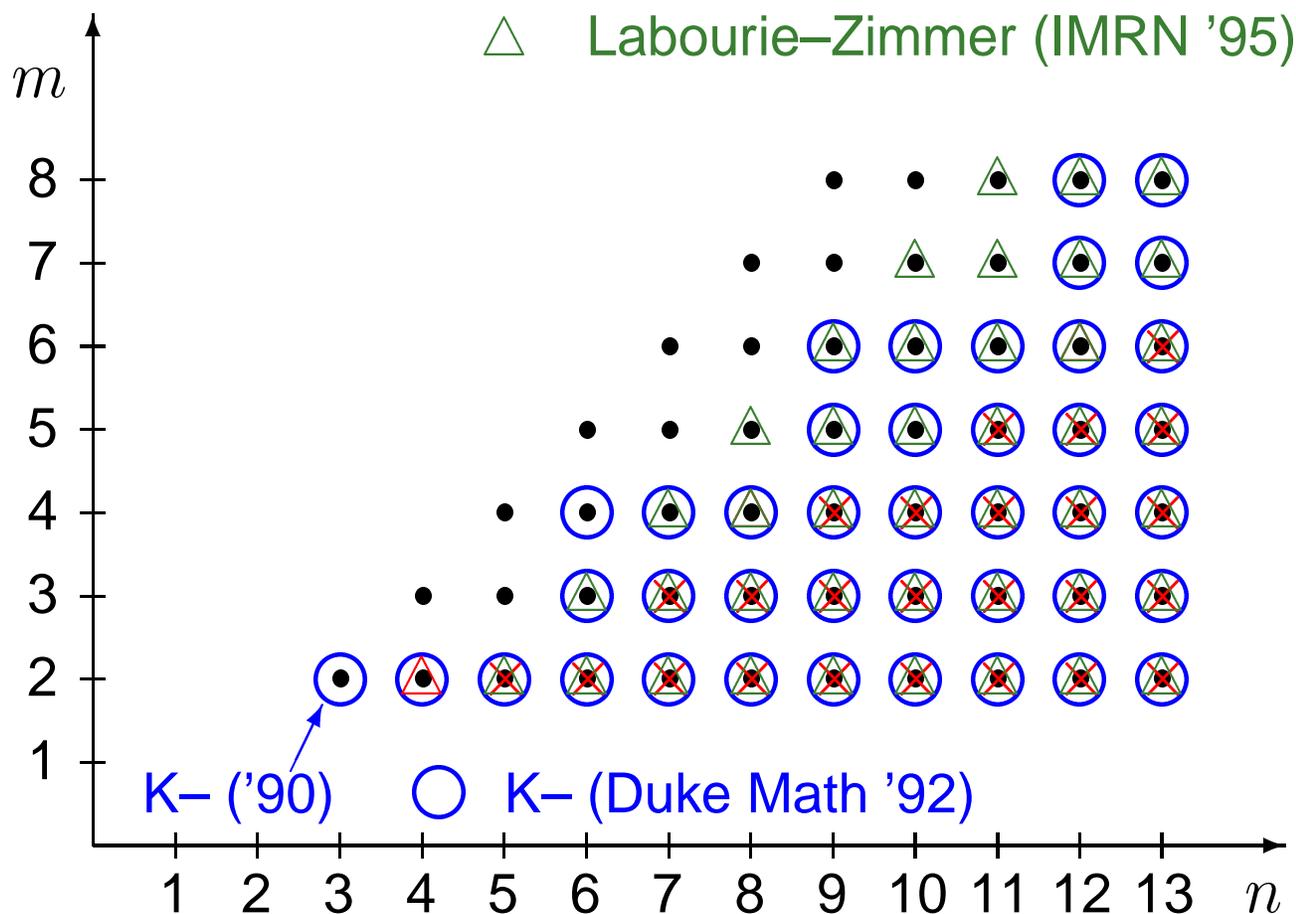
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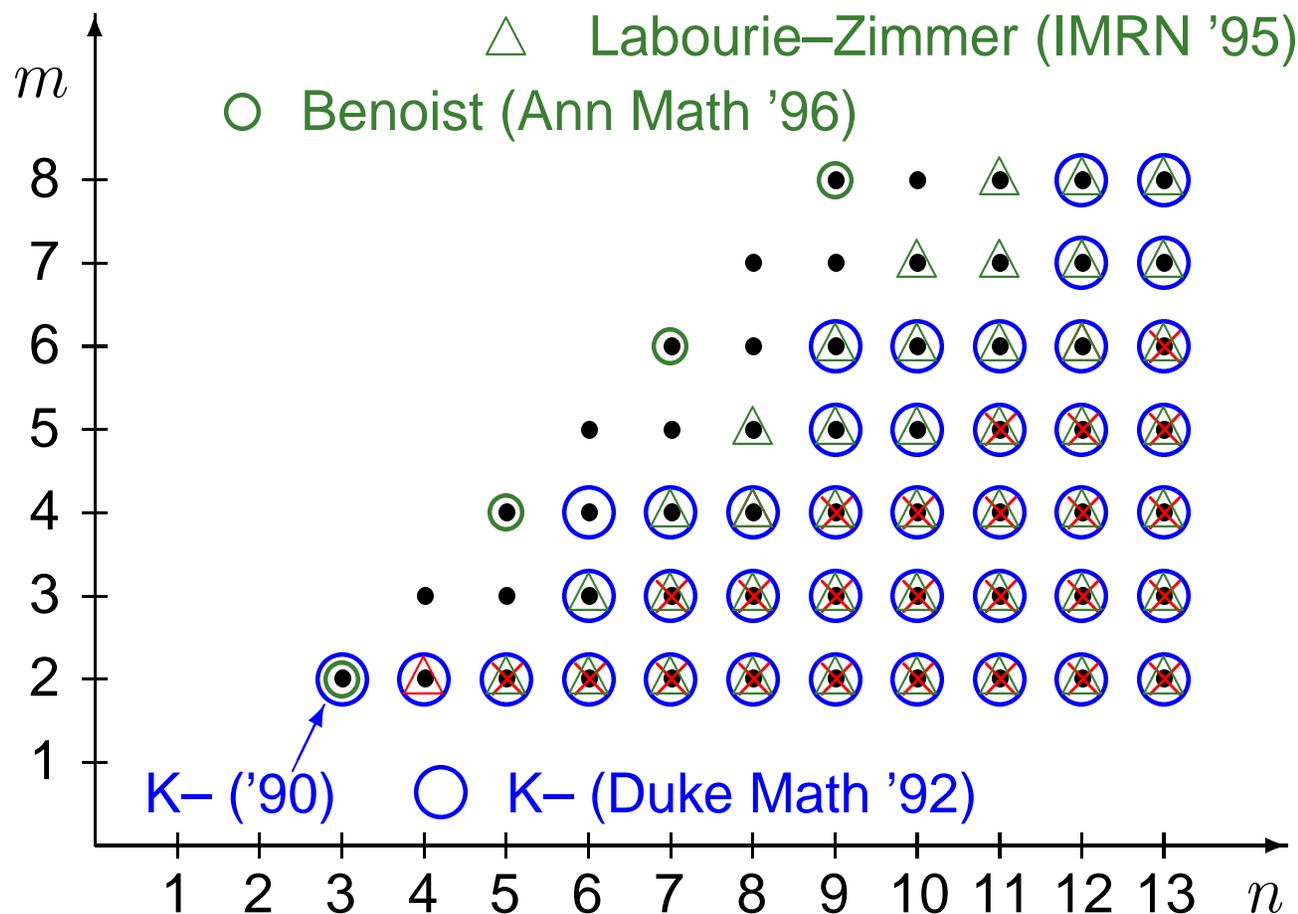


$\times$  Zimmer (Jour. AMS '94)

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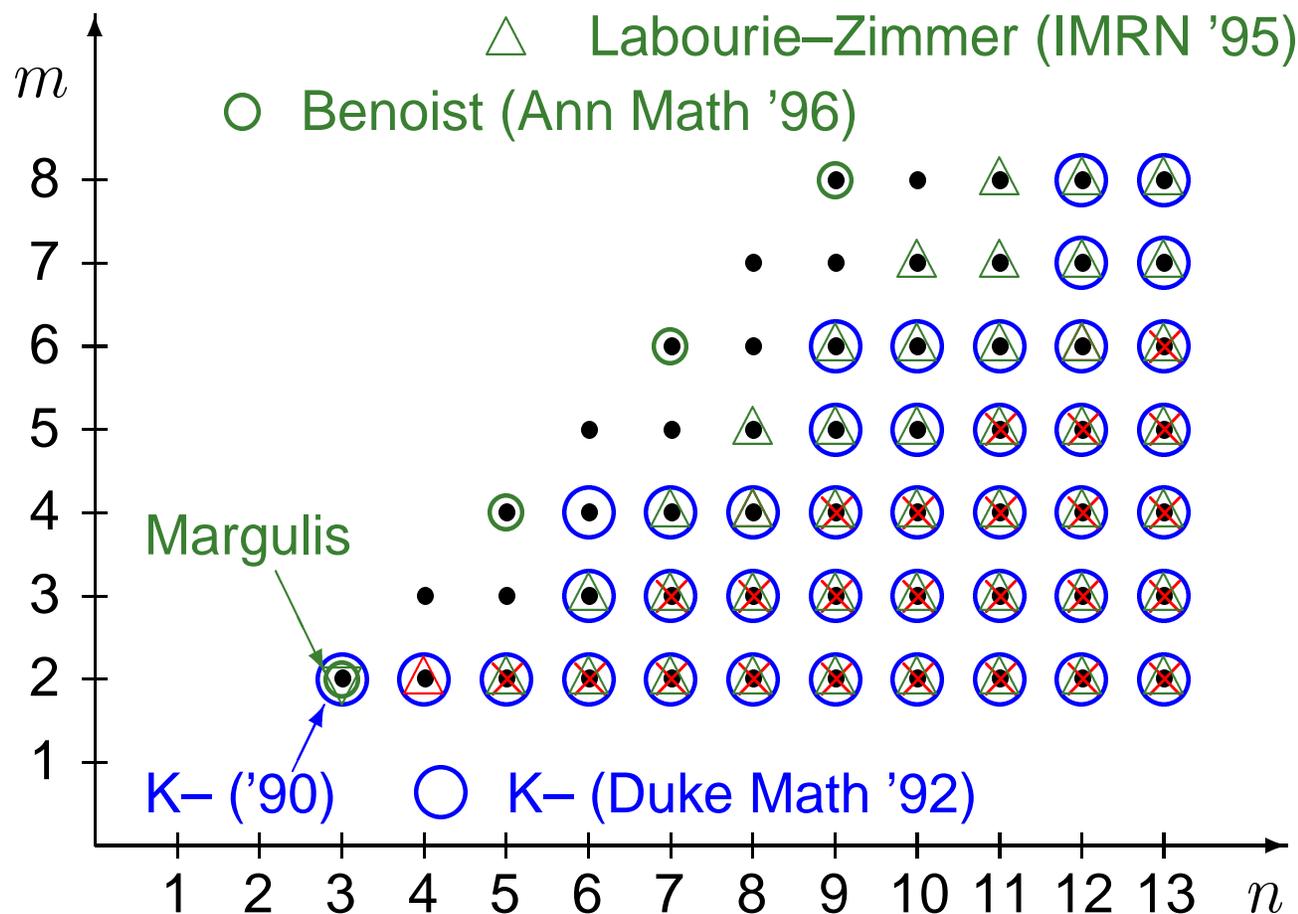
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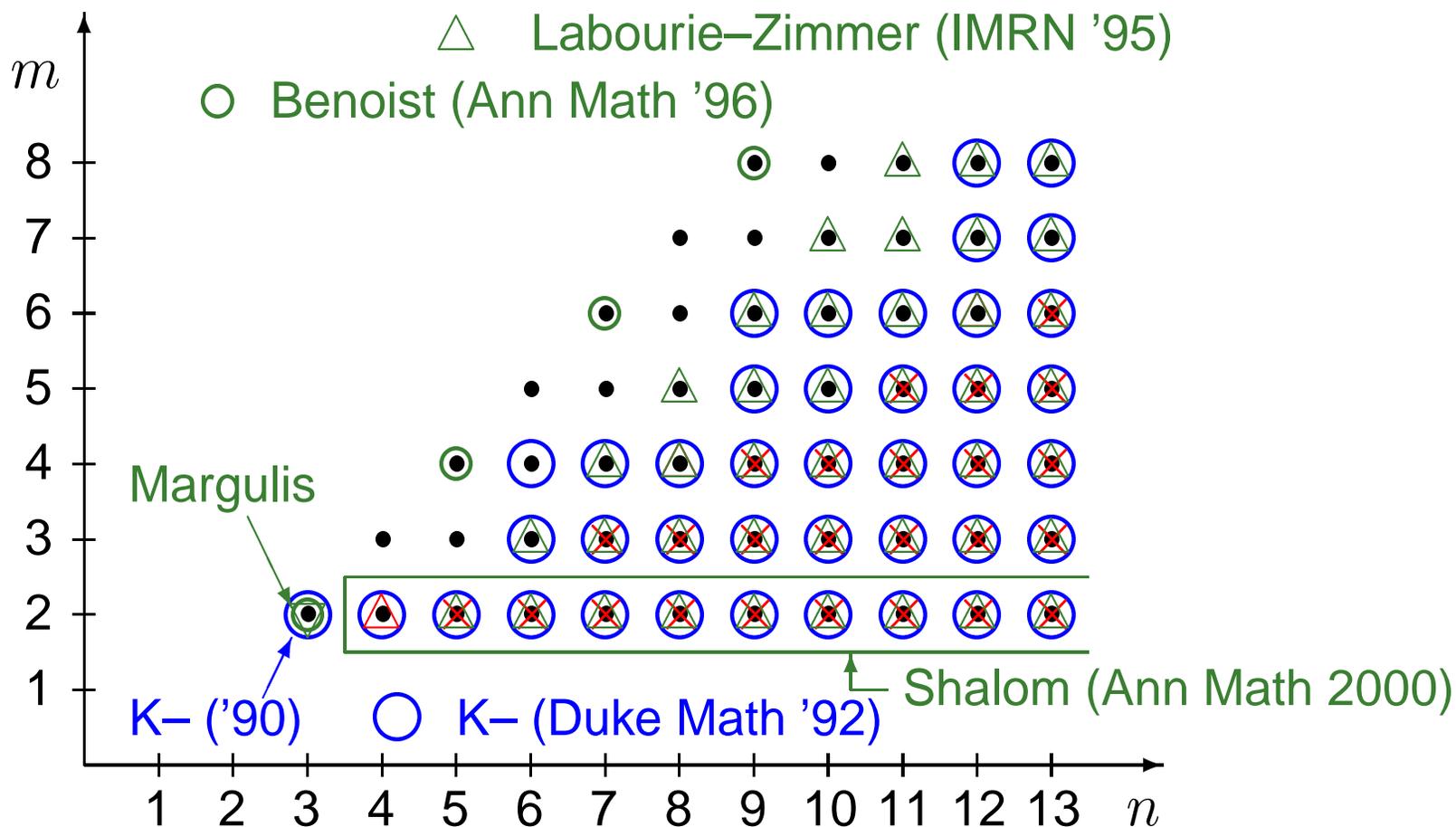
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Discrete subgp  $\not\Rightarrow$  Discontinuous gp  
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How does a local geometric structure affect the global nature of manifolds?

New phenomena & methods?

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## Fundamental problems

- Are there many discontin. gps?  
(cf. Calabi–Markus phenomenon)

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- Are there many discontin. gps?  
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- Existence problem of compact quotients  
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- Rigidity and deformation  
(rigidity may fail even for high dim.)

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# Contents

## 0. Introduction

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## 1. Space form problem

## 2. Locally homogeneous spaces

## 3. **Method:** Criterion for proper discontinuity

## 4. Existence problem of compact quotients

## 5. Rigidity, stability, and deformation

# 1. Space form of signature $(p, q)$

$(M, g)$  : pseudo-Riemannian mfd,  
geodesically complete

Def.  $(M, g)$  is a space form  
 $\iff$  sectional curvature  $\kappa$  is constant

# Space forms (examples)

Space form ...  $\begin{cases} \text{Signature } (p, q) \text{ of pseudo-Riemannian metric } g \\ \text{Curvature } \kappa \in \{+, 0, -\} \end{cases}$

E.g.  $q = 0$  (Riemannian mfd)

sphere  $S^n$

$$\kappa > 0$$

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hyperbolic sp

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E.g.  $q = 1$  (Lorentz mfd)

de Sitter sp

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Minkowski sp

$$\kappa = 0$$

anti-de Sitter sp

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# Space form problem

Space form problem for pseudo-Riemannian mfd's

Local Assumption

signature  $(p, q)$ , curvature  $\kappa \in \{+, 0, -\}$



Global Results

- Do compact quotients exist?
- What groups can arise as their fundamental groups?

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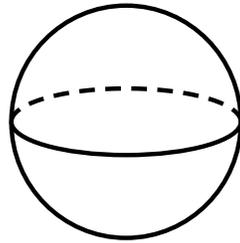
- Do compact quotients exist?

Is the universe closed?

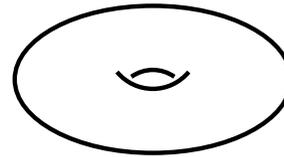
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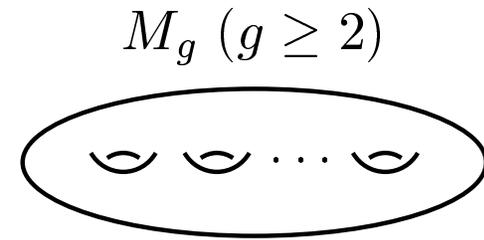
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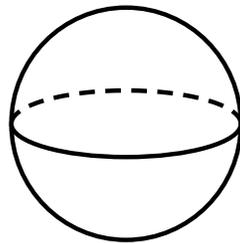


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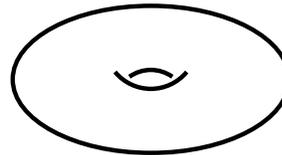
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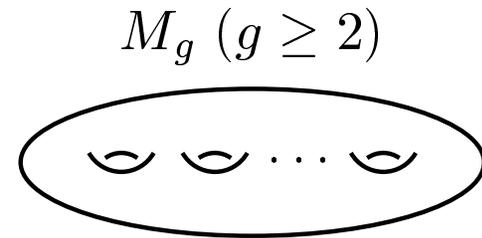


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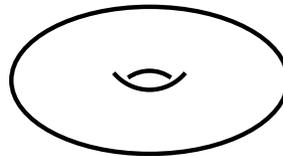


$$\kappa = 0$$



$$\kappa < 0$$

Lorentz case ( $\iff$  signature  $(1, 1)$ )



**no compact form** for  $\kappa > 0$  or  $\kappa < 0$

# Compact space forms

$(p, q)$ : signature of metric, curvature  $\kappa \in \{+, 0, -\}$

Assume  $p \geq q$  (without loss of generality).

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- $\kappa < 0$ : **Space form conjecture**

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(Geometry) Compact space forms exist  
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$\iff$  (Group theoretic formulation)

Cocompact **discontinuous** gps exist  
for symmetric space  $O(p, q + 1)/O(p, q)$

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Exist by  $\underbrace{\text{Siegel, Borel}}_{\text{arithmetic}}, \underbrace{\text{Vinberg, Gromov–Piatetski-Shapiro}}_{\text{non-arithmetic}} \dots$

# Space form conjecture $\kappa < 0$

- Pseudo-Riemannian mfd of signature  $(p, q)$

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⇐ ①  $q$  any,  $p = 0$

( $\leftrightarrow \kappa > 0$ )

②  $q = 0$ ,  $p$  any

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⇐ True (Proved (1950–2005))

①② (Riemmanian)

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  - ③  $q = 1$ ,  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$

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(①② (Riemannian) ; ③④⑤ (pseudo-Riemannian) Kulkarni, K– )

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Thm 2 Conjecture 3 Compact space forms of  $\kappa < 0$  exist

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$\Rightarrow$  Partial answers:

$q = 1$ ,  $p \leq q$ , or  $pq$  is odd

# Methods

Understanding of proper actions  
as “coarse geometry”  $(\mathfrak{h}, \sim)$

$\Rightarrow$  criterion for proper actions (§3)



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## Construction of lattice

- Solve “continuous analog”.
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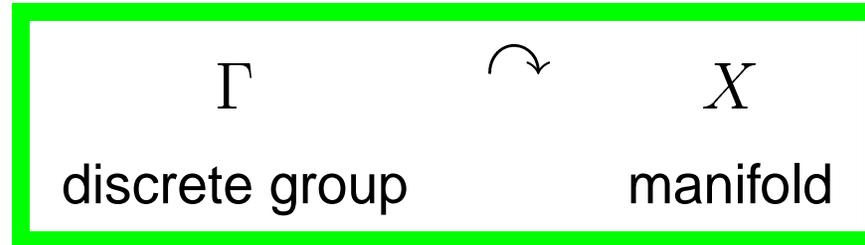
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- Use a lattice in a smaller group (and deform).

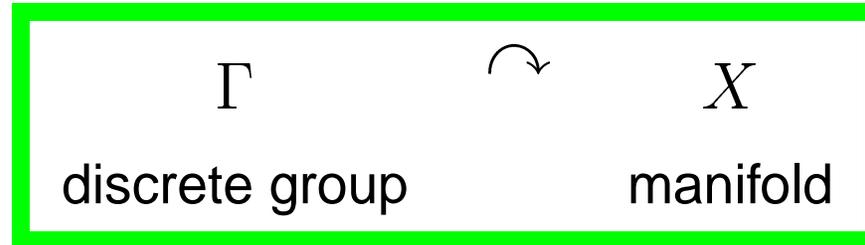
## Obstruction of lattice

- Topological obstructions
- Comparison theorem:  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X \iff \Gamma \curvearrowright Y$

## 2. Locally homogeneous spaces

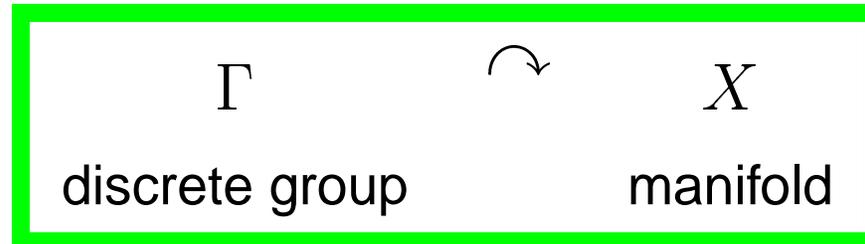


## 2. Locally homogeneous spaces

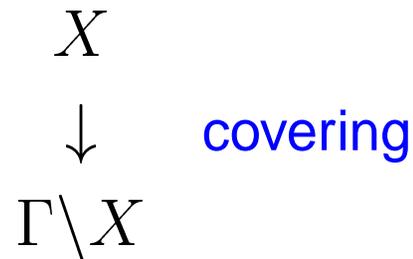


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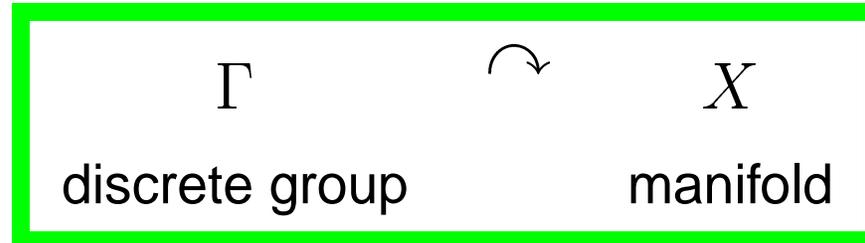
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & & \\ \downarrow & \text{covering} & \\ \Gamma \backslash X & \text{manifold (Hausdorff)} & \end{array}$$

# Clifford–Klein forms

discrete subgp

$\Gamma$

Lie gp

$G$

closed subgp

$H$

$\subset$

$\supset$

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discrete subgp		Lie gp		closed subgp
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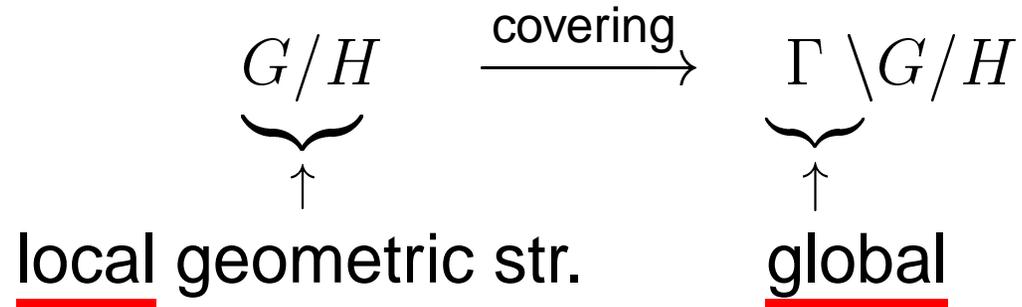
Clifford–Klein form

(Local) geometric structures on  $\Gamma \backslash G/H$  inherit from  $G/H$ .

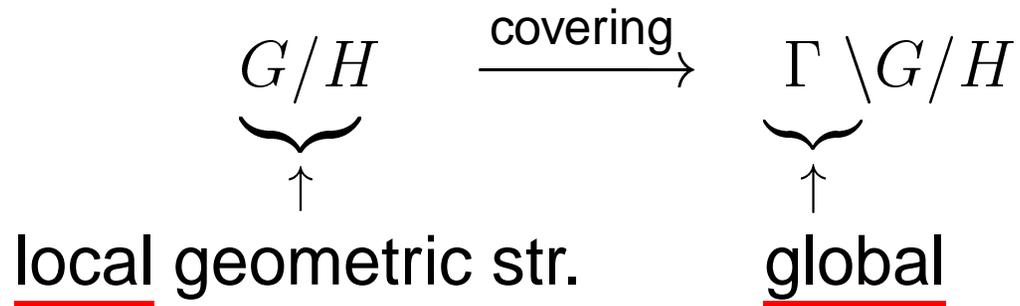
# Locally symmetric sp.

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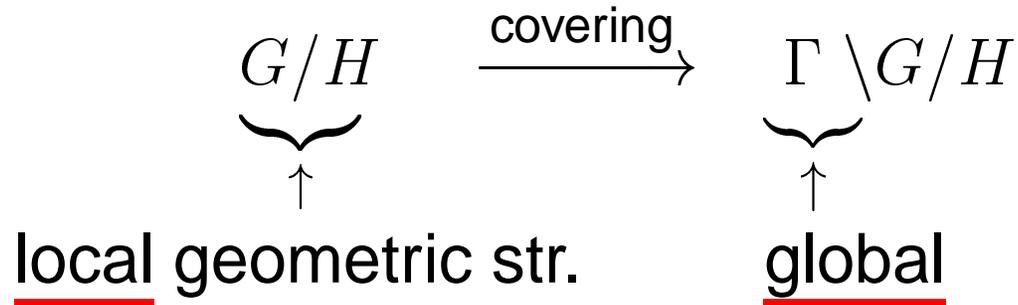


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Ex.  $M$ : complete, locally symmetric sp.

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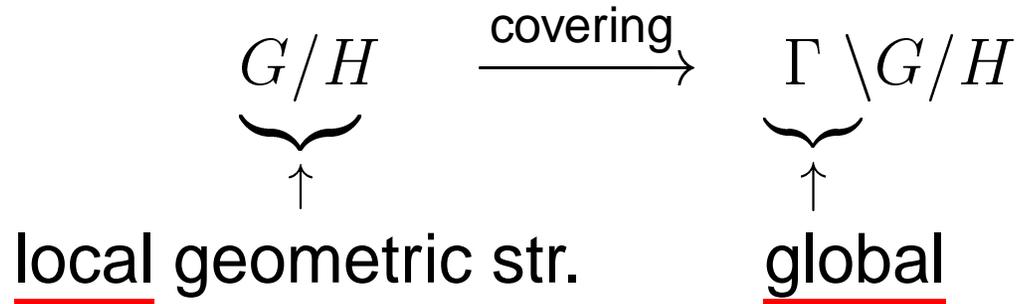
Ex.  $M$ : complete, locally symmetric sp.

i.e.  $M$ :  $C^\infty$  manifold with affine connection

s.t. •  $M$  is geodesically complete

• geodesic symmetry at every point is affine

# Locally symmetric sp.



Ex.  $M$ : complete, locally symmetric sp.

$\implies M \simeq \Gamma \backslash G/H$  for some triple  $\Gamma, G, H$  s.t.

$\Gamma \simeq \pi_1(M)$

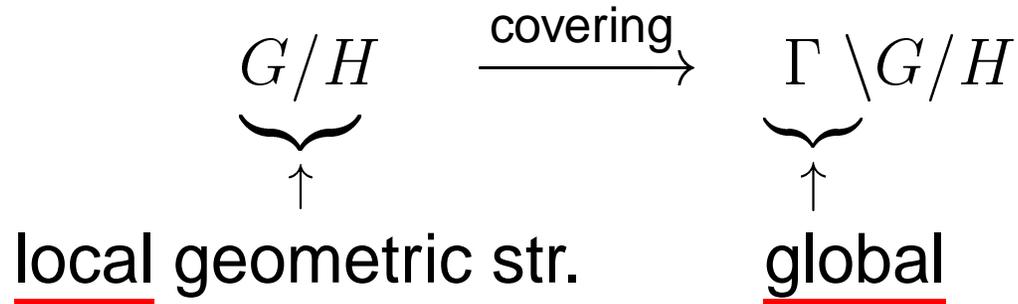
$\cap$

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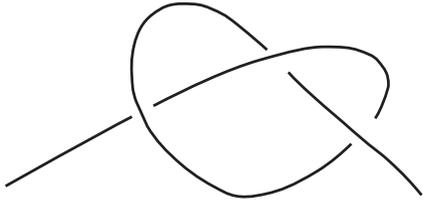
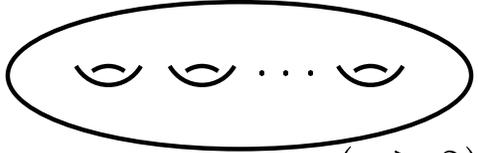
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# Examples of Clifford–Klein forms

$(G, \Gamma, H)$	$\Gamma \backslash G/H$
$(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{Z}^n, \{0\})$	$\mathbb{T}^n$ ( $n$ -torus)
$(SL(2, \mathbb{R}), SL(2, \mathbb{Z}), \{e\})$	 <p>(non-compact, finite volume)</p>
$(PSL(2, \mathbb{R}), PSO(2), \pi_1(M_g))$	$M_g \simeq$  <p>(<math>g \geq 2</math>)</p>
$(O(p, q + 1), O(p, q), \Gamma)$	Space form (signature $(p, q)$ , $\kappa < 0$ )
$(GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n, GL(n, \mathbb{R}), \Gamma)$	affinely flat

# Discrete $\Rightarrow$ Continuous

$\Gamma$   $\xrightarrow{\text{action}}$   $X$   
top. gp  $\qquad$  top. sp (locally compact)

$X$   $\Gamma$   
subset  $U \rightsquigarrow U$   
 $S \qquad \Gamma_S := \{\gamma \in \Gamma : \gamma S \cap S \neq \emptyset\}$

$S = \{p\} \implies \Gamma_S = \text{stabilizer of } p$

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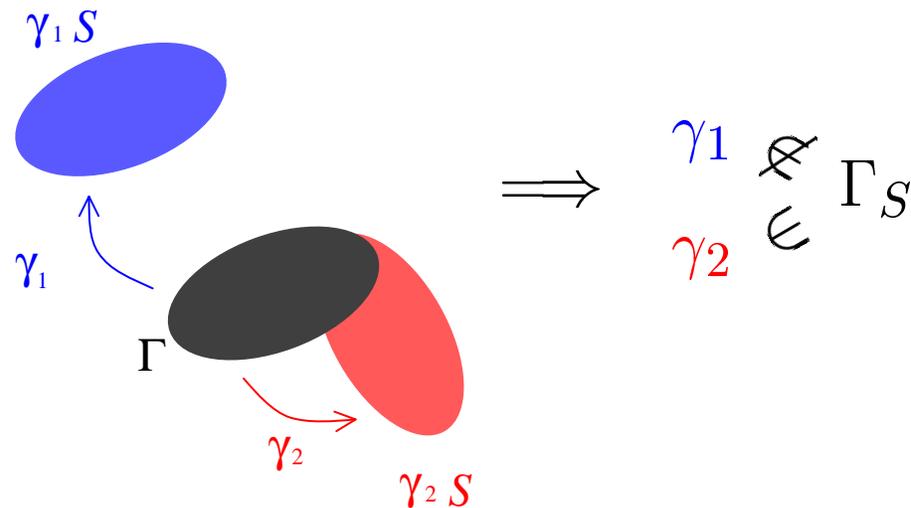
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**proper + discrete = properly discontin.**

properly discontin. action

||

proper action

+

group is discrete

# proper + discrete = properly discontinuous.

action

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# 3. Criterion for proper discontinuity

## Setting

$\Gamma$   $\subset G \supset H$   
discrete subgp closed subgp

Problem A Find effective methods to  
determine whether  
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Idea: Forget that  $\Gamma$  and  $H$  are group

# $\pitchfork$ and $\sim$ (definition)

$$L \subset G \supset H$$

Forget even that  $L$  and  $H$  are group

Def. (K- )

- 1)  $L \pitchfork H \iff \overline{L \cap SHS}$  is compact  
for  $\forall$  compact  $S \subset G$
- 2)  $L \sim H \iff \exists$  compact  $S \subset G$   
s.t.  $L \subset SHS$  and  $H \subset SLS$ .

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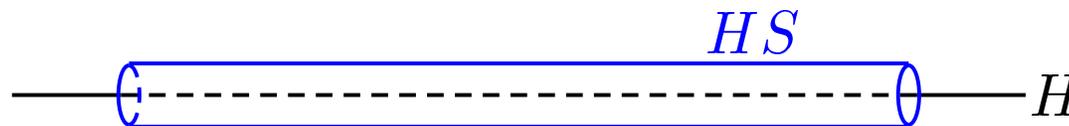
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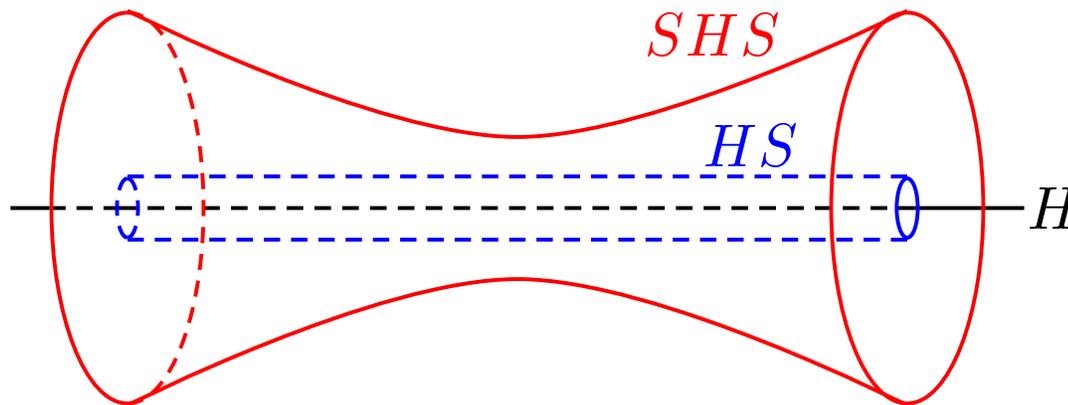
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E.g.  $G = \mathbb{R}^n$ ;  $L, H$  subspaces

$$L \pitchfork H \iff L \cap H = \{0\}.$$

$$L \sim H \iff L = H.$$

# $\curvearrowright$ and $\sim$

$$L \subset G \supset H$$

Forget even that  $L$  and  $H$  are group

- 1)  $L \curvearrowright H \iff$  generalization of proper actions
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$\curvearrowright$  means in special case that

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$$L \curvearrowright H \iff L \curvearrowright G/H \text{ properly discontin.}$$

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cf.  $G \implies \widehat{G}$  (unitary dual)

Fact 5 (Pontrjagin–Tannaka–Tatsuuma duality theorem)

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$G$ : real reductive Lie group

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E.g.  $\nu: GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

$$g \mapsto \frac{1}{2}(\log \lambda_1, \dots, \log \lambda_n)$$

Here,  $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n (> 0)$  are the eigenvalues of  ${}^t g g$ .

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Special cases include

(1)'s  $\Rightarrow$  : Uniform bounds on errors in eigenvalues when a matrix is perturbed.

(2)'s  $\Leftrightarrow$  : Criterion for properly discont. actions.

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Application (space form of signature  $(p, q)$ ,  $\kappa < 0$ )

Exists a space form  $M$  s.t.  $|\pi_1(M)| = \infty$

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$p > q + 1$

$\implies \exists M$  with free non-commutative  $\pi_1(M)$

# Criterion of $\pitchfork$ and $\sim$ (general case)

E.g.  $G$ : reductive Lie group  $\implies$  Solved

$G$ : general Lie gp  $\implies$  Unsolved

Not known an effective criterion for  $\pitchfork$  even in the case

$$(G, H) = (GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n, GL(n, \mathbb{R}))$$

cf. Auslander conjecture (unsolved)

Goldman–Kamishima, Tomanov, Milnor, Margulis,  
Abels, Soifer,  $\dots$

# Criterion of $\uparrow$ and $\sim$ (nilpotent case)

$G$  : nilpotent Lie group

Criterion for  $\uparrow$  for connected  $H, L$  (Lipsman conjecture)

Does criterion analogous to reductive case hold for nilpotent case?

# Criterion of $\mathfrak{h}$ and $\sim$ (nilpotent case)

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Criterion for  $\mathfrak{h}$  for connected  $H, L$  (Lipsman conjecture)

Does criterion analogous to reductive case hold for nilpotent case?

1-step (abelian) OK

2-step OK (Nasrin)  
2001

3-step OK (Baklouti–Khlif, Yoshino, A. Püttemann)  
2005 2007 2008

4-step No (Yoshino)  
2005

more non-commutative

# 4. Existence problem of compact quotients

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e.g.

$$G/H = SL(n, \mathbb{R})/SO(n), SL(n, \mathbb{C})/SU(n), \dots$$

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Fact 8 (Borel 1963)

$G/H$  is a Riemannian symmetric sp.  $\implies$  Yes

i.e. Compact forms exist for  $\forall$  Riemannian symmetric sp.

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●  $H$  is non-compact

$\implies$  ?

**Ex.**  $G/H = SL(n, \mathbb{R})/SL(m, \mathbb{R}), SL(n, \mathbb{R})/SO(p, n - p)$

# Existence problem of compact quotients

Problem B Does there exist a uniform lattice for  $G/H$ ?

- $M = G/H$  is para-Hermitian symmetric sp

$TM = TM_+ + TM_-$  (Whitney direct sum)

$TM_{\pm}$ : completely integrable, equi-dimensional

$T_x M_{\pm}$ : maximally totally isotropic subspaces

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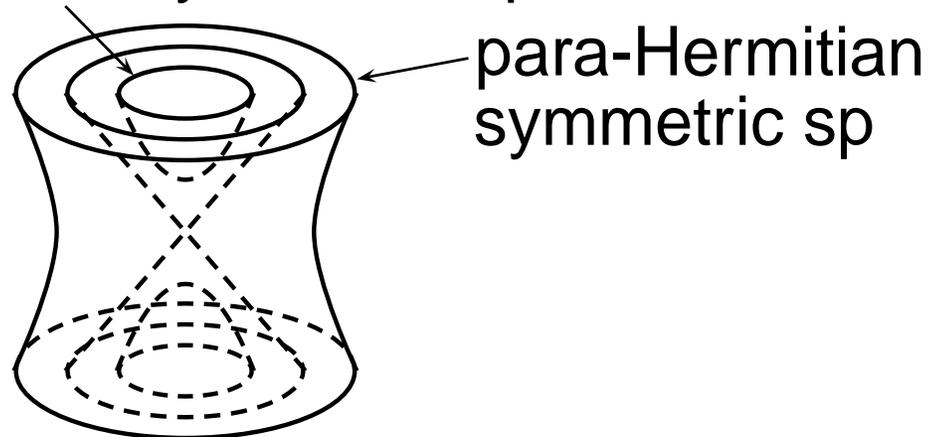
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Hermitian symmetric sp



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Thm 9  $G/H$  is a para-Hermitian symmetric sp.  $\implies$  No

**Ex.**  $M = GL(p + q, \mathbb{R})/GL(p, \mathbb{R}) \times GL(q, \mathbb{R}),$   
 $GL(n, \mathbb{C})/GL(n, \mathbb{R}), Sp(n, \mathbb{R})/GL(n, \mathbb{R}), \dots$

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$TM = TM_+ + TM_-$  (Whitney direct sum)

$TM_{\pm}$ : completely integrable, equi-dimensional

$T_x M_{\pm}$ : maximally totally isotropic subspaces

Thm 9  $G/H$  is a para-Hermitian symmetric sp.  $\implies$  No

Ex.  $M = GL(p + q, \mathbb{R})/GL(p, \mathbb{R}) \times GL(q, \mathbb{R}),$

$GL(n, \mathbb{C})/GL(n, \mathbb{R}), Sp(n, \mathbb{R})/GL(n, \mathbb{R}), \dots$

Proof: use Cor 7 (criterion for Calabi–Markus phenomenon)

# Existence problem of compact quotients

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$$G/H := SO(n+1, \mathbb{C})/SO(n, \mathbb{C})$$

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Thm 10 (2005)

$$G/H = SO(n+1, \mathbb{C})/SO(n, \mathbb{C})$$

$$n = 1, 3, 7 \implies \text{Yes}$$

There exist closed complex manifolds that are locally isomorphic to complex spheres if its dimension = 1, 3 or 7.

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Evidence:

$n$ : odd

$\Leftarrow$  Yes (K-)

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Infinitesimal version:  $n = 1, 3, 7 \Leftrightarrow$  Yes

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$M \approx S_{\mathbb{C}}^{11}, S_{\mathbb{C}}^{15}, \dots$  not known

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Methods: criterion of  $\rho$ ,  $F_2$  action, comparison thm

# Real form of complex spheres $S_{\mathbb{C}}^n$

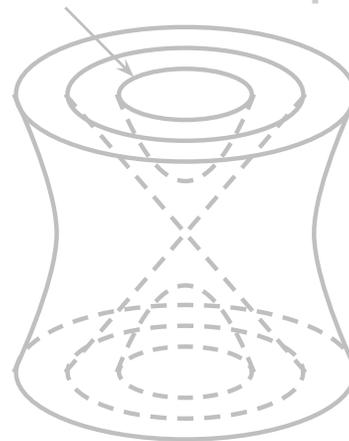
$$n = p + q$$

$O(p, q + 1)/O(p, q)$  two viewpoints

... “real form” of  $O(n + 1, \mathbb{C})/O(n, \mathbb{C}) \simeq S_{\mathbb{C}}^n$

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Hermitian symmetric sp  $(p, q) = (2, 0)$



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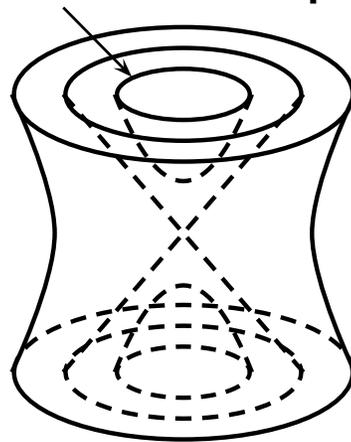
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Thm 13 Exists a uniform lattice for the following  $G/H$ :

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space form

pseudo-Kähler

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space form      pseudo-Kähler      complex symmetric

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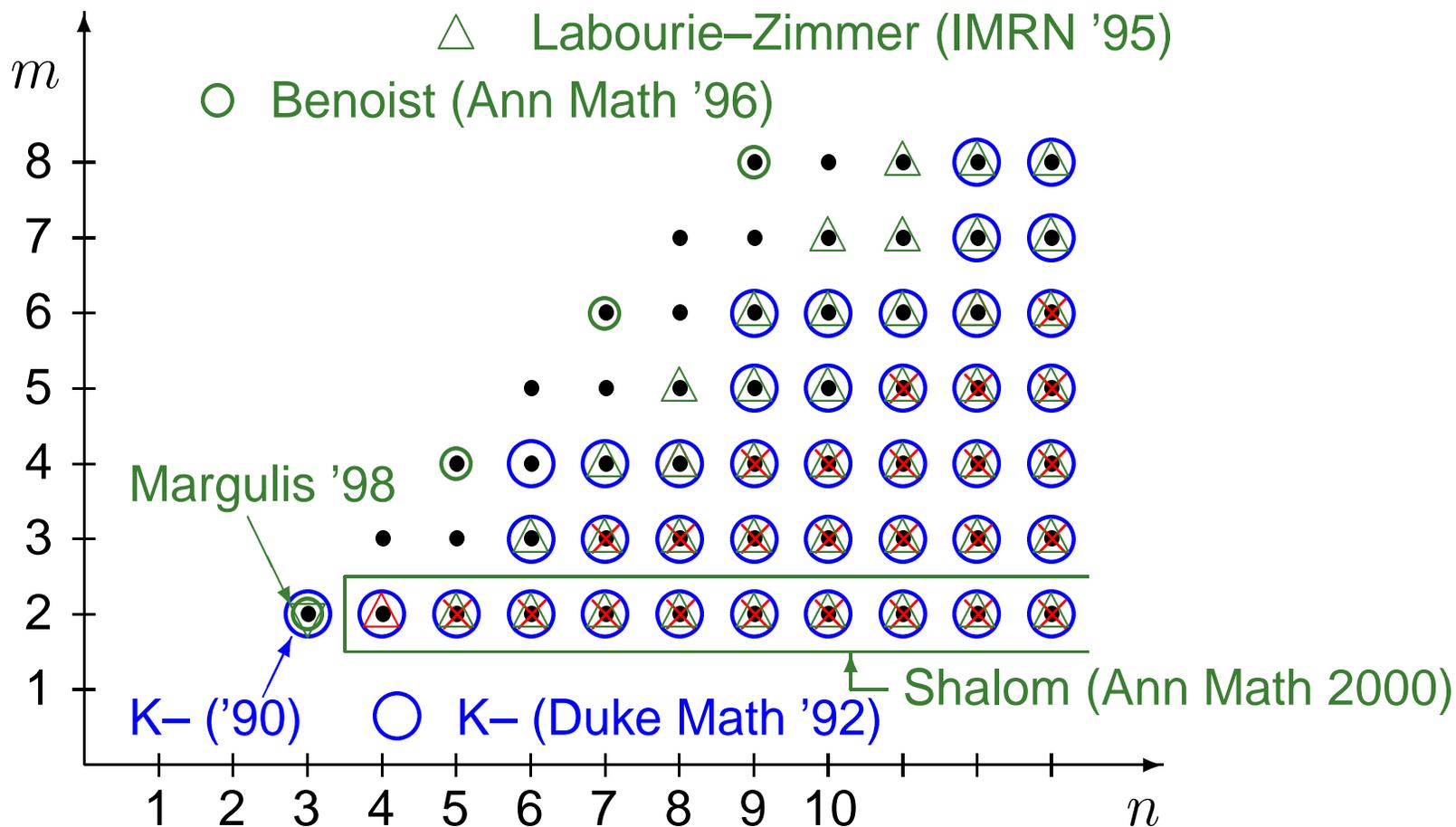
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	$G/H$		$L$
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2		$SU(2, 2n)/U(1, 2n)$	$Sp(1, n)$
3		$SO(2, 2n)/U(1, n)$	$SO(1, 2n)$
4		$SO(2, 2n)/SO(1, 2n)$	$U(1, n)$
5		$SO(4, 4n)/SO(3, 4n)$	$Sp(1, n)$
6		$SO(4, 4)/SO(4, 1) \times SO(3)$	$Spin(4, 3)$
7		$SO(4, 3)/SO(4, 1) \times SO(2)$	$G_2(2)$
8		$SO(8, 8)/SO(7, 8)$	$Spin(1, 8)$
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# Compact quotients for $SL(n)/SL(m)$

There is no compact quotients if  $n > m$  satisfies:



# Rigidity/deformation

- Positivity of 'metric' is crucial?

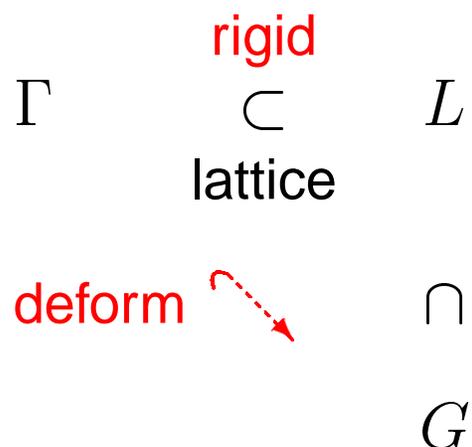
# Rigidity/deformation

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$\Gamma$       rigid  
          $\subset$        $L$   
         lattice

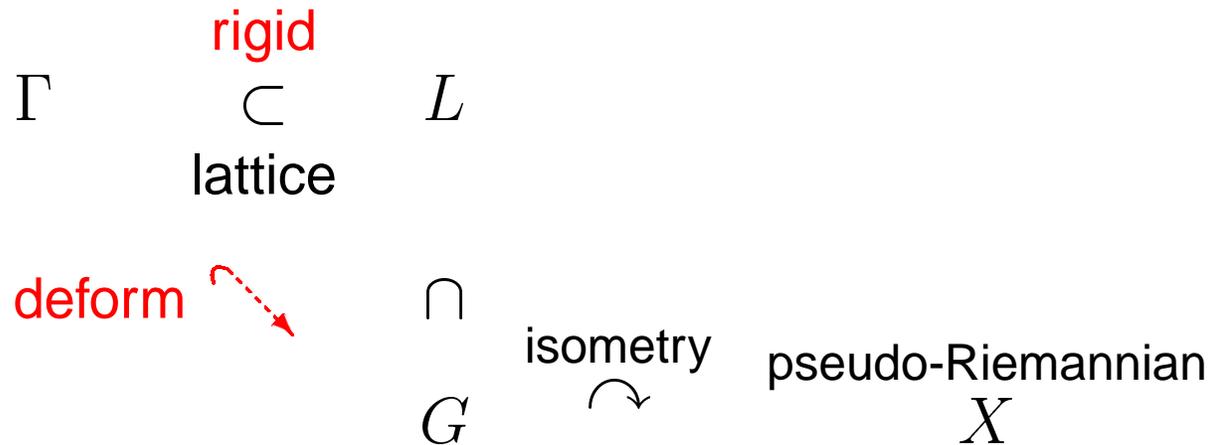
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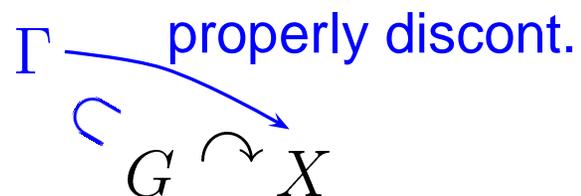




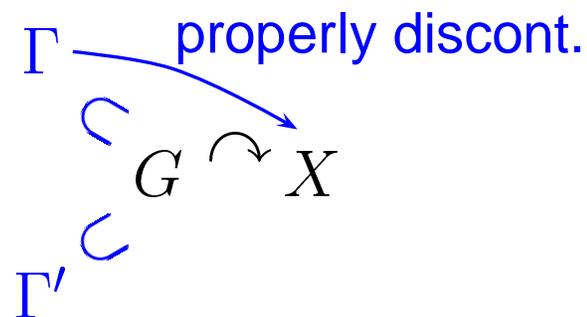
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$$G \curvearrowright X$$

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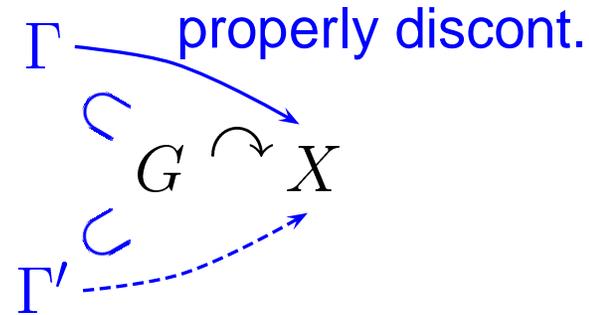


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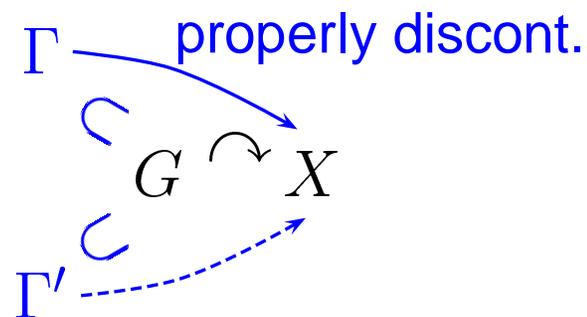
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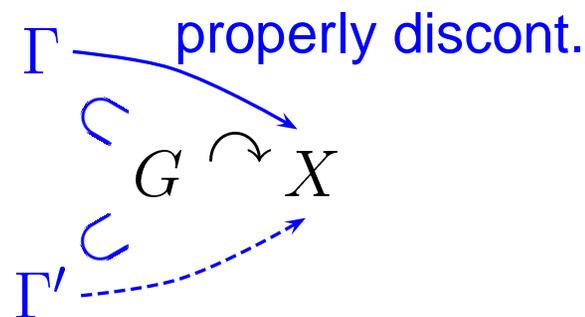
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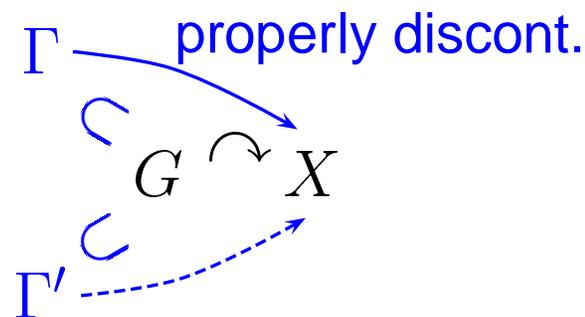


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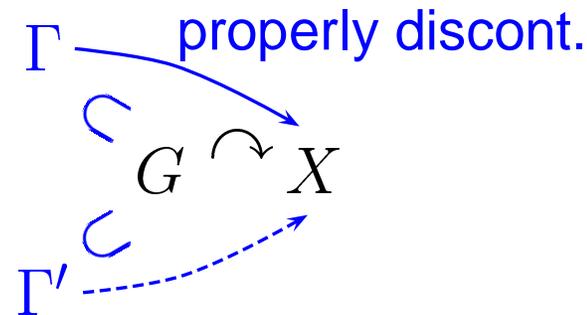


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In general,

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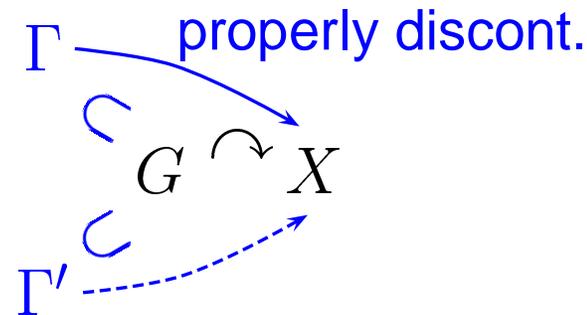
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In general,

- (R)  $\Rightarrow$  (S).
- (S) may fail (so does (R)).

# Local rigidity and deformation

$\Gamma \subset G \curvearrowright X = G/H$  uniform lattice

## Problem C

1. When does local rigidity (R) fail?
2. Does stability (S) still hold?

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1. When does local rigidity (R) fail?
2. Does stability (S) still hold?

Point: for non-compact  $H$

1. There may be large room for deformation of  $\Gamma$  itself.
2. Properly discontinuity may fail under deformation.

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$\Gamma$  : finitely generated,  $G$

$\text{Hom}(\Gamma, G)$

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Def.  $u \in R(\Gamma, G; X)$  is locally rigid as a discontinuous gp for  $X$  if  $\{[u]\}$  is open in  $\text{Hom}(\Gamma, G)/G$ .

# Group manifold case

①

$$G/\{e\}$$

Riemannian  
left action

$\simeq$

$$(G \times G)/\Delta G$$

pseudo-Riemannian  
left-right action

②

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} G/\{e} & \simeq & (G \times G)/\Delta G \\ \text{Riemannian} & & \text{pseudo-Riemannian} \\ \text{left action} & & \text{left-right action} \end{array}$$

②

$\Gamma \subset G$  simple Lie gp

$$\Gamma \curvearrowright G \iff (\Gamma \times 1) \curvearrowright (G \times G)/\Delta G$$

# Rigidity Theorem for pseudo-Riem. case

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Kazhdan’s property (T) fails

$\iff$  trivial representation is not isolated in the unitary dual

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Local rigidity (R) may fail.

for pseudo-Riemannian symmetric space  
even for **high** and **irreducible** case!

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Local rigidity (R) may fail.      Stability (S) still holds.

for pseudo-Riemannian symmetric space  
even for **high** and **irreducible** case!

# Rigidity Theorem for pseudo-Riem. case

$$\textcircled{1} \quad G/\{e\} \simeq (G \times G)/\Delta G \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$\Gamma \subset G$  simple Lie gp

Fact 14 (Selberg–Weil’s local rigidity, 1964)

$\exists$  uniform lattice  $\Gamma$  admitting continuous deformations for  $\textcircled{1}$   
 $\iff G \approx SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  (loc. isom).

Thm 15 (K–)

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Method: use the criterion of  $\natural$

( $\implies$  criterion for properly discontinuous actions)

# Local rigidity and stability

$$\Gamma', \Gamma \subset G \curvearrowright X$$

$\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  properly discontin. &  $\Gamma'$  is 'close to'  $\Gamma$

(R) (local rigidity)  $\Gamma' = g\Gamma g^{-1}$  ( $\exists g \in G$ )

(S) (stability)  $\Gamma' \curvearrowright X$  properly discontin.

In general,

- (R)  $\Rightarrow$  (S).
- (S) may fail (so does (R)).
- Goldman's **theorem** and **conjecture** (1985)  
 $X = 3$ -dim'l Lorentz space form  
**(R) fails. It is likely that (S) holds.**

# Discontinuous gps for $G \simeq (G \times G) / \Delta G$

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Thm 16 (Kulkarni–Raymond )

$G = SL(2, \mathbb{R})$   
 $\implies$  Any discontinuous gp for  $G = (G \times G)/\Delta G$  is virtually of the form  $\Gamma_\rho$  for some  $\Gamma$  and  $\rho$  up to switch of factors.

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# Low dimensional case

$$G = SL(2, \mathbb{R}) (\approx SO(2, 1) \approx SU(1, 1))$$

Deformations for ①

... deformation of complex structure of Riemann surface

Deformations for ②

... negatively curved 3-dim'l Lorentz space forms  
(Goldman, K– , Salein, ...)

$$G = SL(2, \mathbb{C}) (\approx SO(3, 1))$$

Deformation for ②

... 3-dimensional complex mfd  
(Ghys, ...)

# Criterion for proper action

Discrete



Continuous  
analog



Representations

properly  
discontinuous

proper action

discretely  
decomposable  
restriction

Benoist, K–  
(Thm 6)

K–

K– ( Invent Math 94  
Ann Math 98  
Invent Math 98 )

# Discontinuous gps — Unitary reps

$M$  : topological space

$\Gamma$ : discontinuous gp  $\curvearrowright M$

...  $\Gamma$  behaves nicely in  $\text{Homeo}(M)$   
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$\mathcal{H} = L^2(G/H), L^2(G/\Gamma)$  : Hilbert space

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as if it were a compact group

decay of matrix coefficients (Margulis, Oh)  
discretely decomposable restrictions (K—)

# References

## 1) PAMQ vol.1 (2005) Borel Memorial Volume



- 2) math.DG/0603319 (survey paper, translated by M. Reid)
- 3) work in progress (with T. Yoshino)

For more references:

<http://www.math.harvard.edu/~toshi>

# Existence problem of compact quotients

Various approaches including

- criterion for proper actions
- Hirzebruch's proportionality principle
- cohomology of discrete groups
- symplectic geometry
- ergodic actions
- unitary representation theory
- ...