

# Weakly commensurable arithmetic groups and locally symmetric spaces

Andrei S. Rapinchuk

University of Virginia

Durham July 2011

- 1 Weak commensurability
  - Definition and motivations
  - Basic results
  - Arithmetic Groups
  - Remarks on nonarithmetic case
- 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces
  - Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
  - Main results
  - Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces
- 3 Proofs
  - “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

- [1] G. Prasad, A.S. Rapinchuk, *Weakly commensurable arithmetic groups and isospectral locally symmetric spaces*, Publ. math. IHES **109**(2009), 113-184.
- [2] — , —, *Local-global principles for embedding of fields with involution into simple algebras with involution*, Comment. Math. Helv. **85**(2010), 583-645.
- [3] — , —, *On the fields generated by the length of closed geodesics in locally symmetric spaces*, preprint.

SURVEY:

- [4] — , —, *Number-theoretic techniques in the theory of Lie groups and differential geometry*, 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians, AMS/IP Stud. Adv. Math. **48**, AMS 2010, pp. 231-250.

# Outline

## 1 Weak commensurability

- Definition and motivations
- Basic results
- Arithmetic Groups
- Remarks on nonarithmetic case

## 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces

- Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
- Main results
- Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces

## 3 Proofs

- “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

# Definition

Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two semi-simple groups defined over a field  $F$  (of characteristic zero).

- Semi-simple  $g_i \in G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are **weakly commensurable** if there exist maximal  $F$ -tori  $T_i \subset G_i$  such that  $g_i \in T_i(F)$  and for some  $\chi_i \in X(T_i)$  (defined over  $\bar{F}$ ) we have

$$\chi_1(g_1) = \chi_2(g_2) \neq 1.$$

- (Zariski-dense) subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  are **weakly commensurable** if every semi-simple  $\gamma_1 \in \Gamma_1$  of infinite order is weakly commensurable to some semi-simple  $\gamma_2 \in \Gamma_2$  of infinite order, and vice versa.

# Definition

Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two semi-simple groups defined over a field  $F$  (of characteristic zero).

- Semi-simple  $g_i \in G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are **weakly commensurable** if there exist maximal  $F$ -tori  $T_i \subset G_i$  such that  $g_i \in T_i(F)$  and for some  $\chi_i \in X(T_i)$  (defined over  $\bar{F}$ ) we have

$$\chi_1(g_1) = \chi_2(g_2) \neq 1.$$

- (Zariski-dense) subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  are **weakly commensurable** if every semi-simple  $\gamma_1 \in \Gamma_1$  of infinite order is weakly commensurable to some semi-simple  $\gamma_2 \in \Gamma_2$  of infinite order, and vice versa.

# Definition

Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two semi-simple groups defined over a field  $F$  (of characteristic zero).

- Semi-simple  $g_i \in G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are **weakly commensurable** if there exist maximal  $F$ -tori  $T_i \subset G_i$  such that  $g_i \in T_i(F)$  and for some  $\chi_i \in X(T_i)$  (defined over  $\bar{F}$ ) we have

$$\chi_1(g_1) = \chi_2(g_2) \neq 1.$$

- (Zariski-dense) subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  are **weakly commensurable** if every semi-simple  $\gamma_1 \in \Gamma_1$  of infinite order is weakly commensurable to some semi-simple  $\gamma_2 \in \Gamma_2$  of infinite order, and vice versa.

If  $T \subset \mathrm{GL}_n$  is an  $F$ -torus, then given  $g \in T(F)$  and  $\chi \in X(T)$  we have

$$\chi(g) = \lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_n^{a_n}$$

where  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are *eigenvalues* of  $g$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- Semi-simple  $g_1 \in G_1(F)$  and  $g_2 \in G_2(F)$  with eigenvalues

$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{n_1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_1, \dots, \mu_{n_2}$$

are *weakly commensurable* if

$$\lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_{n_1}^{a_{n_1}} = \mu_1^{b_1} \cdots \mu_{n_2}^{b_{n_2}} \neq 1$$

for some  $a_1, \dots, a_{n_1}$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_{n_2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .



If  $T \subset \mathrm{GL}_n$  is an  $F$ -torus, then given  $g \in T(F)$  and  $\chi \in X(T)$  we have

$$\chi(g) = \lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_n^{a_n}$$

where  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are *eigenvalues* of  $g$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Pick matrix realizations  $G_i \subset \mathrm{GL}_{n_i}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

- Semi-simple  $g_1 \in G_1(F)$  and  $g_2 \in G_2(F)$  with eigenvalues

$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{n_1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_1, \dots, \mu_{n_2}$$

are *weakly commensurable* if

$$\lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_{n_1}^{a_{n_1}} = \mu_1^{b_1} \cdots \mu_{n_2}^{b_{n_2}} \neq 1$$

for some  $a_1, \dots, a_{n_1}$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_{n_2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

If  $T \subset \mathrm{GL}_n$  is an  $F$ -torus, then given  $g \in T(F)$  and  $\chi \in X(T)$  we have

$$\chi(g) = \lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_n^{a_n}$$

where  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are *eigenvalues* of  $g$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Pick matrix realizations  $G_i \subset \mathrm{GL}_{n_i}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

- Semi-simple  $g_1 \in G_1(F)$  and  $g_2 \in G_2(F)$  with eigenvalues

$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{n_1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_1, \dots, \mu_{n_2}$$

are **weakly commensurable** if

$$\lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_{n_1}^{a_{n_1}} = \mu_1^{b_1} \cdots \mu_{n_2}^{b_{n_2}} \neq 1$$

for some  $a_1, \dots, a_{n_1}$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_{n_2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

# Commensurability vs. Weak Commensurability

MAIN QUESTION: *What can one say about Zariski-dense subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) given that they are weakly commensurable?*

# Commensurability vs. Weak Commensurability

MAIN QUESTION: *What can one say about Zariski-dense subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) given that they are weakly commensurable?*

More specifically, *under what conditions are  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  necessarily commensurable?*

# Commensurability vs. Weak Commensurability

MAIN QUESTION: *What can one say about Zariski-dense subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) given that they are weakly commensurable?*

More specifically, *under what conditions are  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  necessarily commensurable?*

RECALL: subgroups  $\mathcal{H}_1$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2$  of a group  $\mathcal{G}$  are *commensurable* if

$$[\mathcal{H}_i : \mathcal{H}_1 \cap \mathcal{H}_2] < \infty \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2.$$

# Commensurability vs. Weak Commensurability

MAIN QUESTION: *What can one say about Zariski-dense subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) given that they are weakly commensurable?*

More specifically, *under what conditions are  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  necessarily commensurable?*

RECALL: subgroups  $\mathcal{H}_1$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2$  of a group  $\mathcal{G}$  are *commensurable* if

$$[\mathcal{H}_i : \mathcal{H}_1 \cap \mathcal{H}_2] < \infty \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2.$$

$\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are *commensurable up to an  $F$ -isomorphism* between  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  if there exists an  $F$ -isomorphism

$$\sigma: G_1 \rightarrow G_2$$

such that  $\sigma(\Gamma_1)$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are *commensurable in usual sense*.

# Algebraic Perspective

GENERAL FRAMEWORK: *Characterization of linear groups in terms of spectra of its elements.*

# Algebraic Perspective

GENERAL FRAMEWORK: *Characterization of linear groups in terms of spectra of its elements.*

COMPLEX REPRESENTATIONS OF FINITE GROUPS:

Let  $\Gamma$  be a finite group,

$$\rho_i: \Gamma \rightarrow GL_{n_i}(\mathbb{C}) \quad (i = 1, 2)$$

be representations. Then

$$\rho_1 \simeq \rho_2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \chi_{\rho_1}(g) = \chi_{\rho_2}(g) \quad \forall g \in \Gamma,$$

where  $\chi_{\rho_i}(g) = \text{tr } \rho_i(g) = \sum \lambda_j$  ( $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{n_i}$  eigenvalues of  $\rho_i(g)$ )



# Algebraic perspective

- Data afforded by **weak commensurability** is much more *convoluted* than data afforded by **character of a group representation**:

when computing

$$\chi(g) = \lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_n^{a_n}$$

one can use *arbitrary* integer weights  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ . So weak commensurability appears to be difficult to analyze.

- EXAMPLE. Let  $\Gamma \subset SL_n(\mathbb{C})$  be a *neat* Zariski-dense subgroup. For  $d > 0$ , let

$$\Gamma^{(d)} = \langle \gamma^d \mid \gamma \in \Gamma \rangle.$$

Then any  $\Gamma^{(d)} \subset \Delta \subset \Gamma$  is weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma$ .

So, one needs to limit attention to some *special* subgroups in order to generate meaningful results.

# Algebraic perspective

- Data afforded by **weak commensurability** is much more *convoluted* than data afforded by **character of a group representation**:

when computing

$$\chi(g) = \lambda_1^{a_1} \cdots \lambda_n^{a_n}$$

one can use *arbitrary* integer weights  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ . So weak commensurability appears to be difficult to analyze.

- EXAMPLE. Let  $\Gamma \subset SL_n(\mathbb{C})$  be a *neat* Zariski-dense subgroup. For  $d > 0$ , let

$$\Gamma^{(d)} = \langle \gamma^d \mid \gamma \in \Gamma \rangle.$$

Then any  $\Gamma^{(d)} \subset \Delta \subset \Gamma$  is weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma$ .

So, one needs to limit attention to some *special* subgroups in order to generate meaningful results.

# Geometric perspective

Let  $M$  be a Riemannian manifold.

$L(M)$  - (weak) **length spectrum** (collection of lengths of closed geodesics w/o multiplicities)

- Weak commensurability (of fundamental groups) **adequately** reflects length-commensurability of locally symmetric space.

# Geometric perspective

Let  $M$  be a Riemannian manifold.

$L(M)$  - (weak) **length spectrum** (collection of lengths of closed geodesics w/o multiplicities)

**Definition.**  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **length-commensurable** if

$$\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2).$$

- Weak commensurability (of fundamental groups) **adequately** reflects length-commensurability of locally symmetric space.

# Geometric perspective

Let  $M$  be a Riemannian manifold.

$L(M)$  - (weak) **length spectrum** (collection of lengths of closed geodesics w/o multiplicities)

**Definition.**  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **length-commensurable** if

$$\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2).$$

- Weak commensurability (of fundamental groups) **adequately** reflects length-commensurability of locally symmetric space.

# Geometric perspective

Let  $M$  be a Riemannian manifold.

$L(M)$  - (weak) **length spectrum** (collection of lengths of closed geodesics w/o multiplicities)

**Definition.**  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **length-commensurable** if

$$\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2).$$

- Weak commensurability (of fundamental groups) **adequately** reflects length-commensurability of locally symmetric space.

We will demonstrate this for **Riemann surfaces** - for now.

# Geometric perspective

- Let  $G = SL_2$ . Corresponding symmetric space:

$$SO_2(\mathbb{R}) \backslash SL_2(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{H} \quad (\text{upper half-plane})$$

- Any Riemann (compact) surface of genus  $> 1$  is of the form

$$M = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma$$

where  $\Gamma \subset SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  is a discrete subgroup (with torsion-free image in  $PSL_2(\mathbb{R})$ ).

- Any closed geodesic  $c$  in  $M$  corresponds to a semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , i.e.  $c = c_\gamma$ , and has *length*

$$\ell(c_\gamma) = (1/n_\gamma) \cdot \log t_\gamma$$

where  $t_\gamma$  is the eigenvalue of  $\pm\gamma$  which is  $> 1$ ,  
 $n_\gamma$  is an integer  $\geq 1$ .

NOTE that  $\pm\gamma$  is conjugate to  $\begin{pmatrix} t_\gamma & 0 \\ 0 & t_\gamma^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ .

# Geometric perspective

- Let  $G = SL_2$ . Corresponding symmetric space:

$$SO_2(\mathbb{R}) \backslash SL_2(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{H} \quad (\text{upper half-plane})$$

- Any Riemann (compact) surface of genus  $> 1$  is of the form

$$M = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma$$

where  $\Gamma \subset SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  is a discrete subgroup (with torsion-free image in  $PSL_2(\mathbb{R})$ ).

- Any closed geodesic  $c$  in  $M$  corresponds to a semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , i.e.  $c = c_\gamma$ , and has length

$$\ell(c_\gamma) = (1/n_\gamma) \cdot \log t_\gamma$$

where  $t_\gamma$  is the eigenvalue of  $\pm\gamma$  which is  $> 1$ ,  
 $n_\gamma$  is an integer  $\geq 1$ .

NOTE that  $\pm\gamma$  is conjugate to  $\begin{pmatrix} t_\gamma & 0 \\ 0 & t_\gamma^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ .



# Geometric perspective

- Let  $G = SL_2$ . Corresponding symmetric space:

$$SO_2(\mathbb{R}) \backslash SL_2(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{H} \quad (\text{upper half-plane})$$

- Any Riemann (compact) surface of genus  $> 1$  is of the form

$$M = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma$$

where  $\Gamma \subset SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  is a discrete subgroup (with torsion-free image in  $PSL_2(\mathbb{R})$ ).

- Any closed geodesic  $c$  in  $M$  corresponds to a semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , i.e.  $c = c_\gamma$ , and has *length*

$$\ell(c_\gamma) = (1/n_\gamma) \cdot \log t_\gamma$$

where  $t_\gamma$  is the eigenvalue of  $\pm\gamma$  which is  $> 1$ ,  
 $n_\gamma$  is an integer  $\geq 1$ .

NOTE that  $\pm\gamma$  is conjugate to  $\begin{pmatrix} t_\gamma & 0 \\ 0 & t_\gamma^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ .

# Geometric perspective

If  $M_i = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are **length-commensurable** then:

- for *any* **nontrivial semi-simple**  $\gamma_1 \in \Gamma_1$  *there exists* a **nontrivial semi-simple**  $\gamma_2 \in \Gamma_2$  such that

$$n_1 \cdot \log t_{\gamma_1} = n_2 \cdot \log t_{\gamma_2}$$

for some integers  $n_1, n_2 \geq 1$ , and vice versa.

So,  $\chi_1(\gamma_1) = \chi_2(\gamma_2) \neq 1$

where  $\chi_i$  is the character of the maximal  $\mathbb{R}$ -torus  $T_i \subset \mathrm{SL}_2$  corresponding to  $\begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & t^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto t^{n_i}$ .

THUS,  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are **weakly commensurable**.

# Outline

## 1 Weak commensurability

- Definition and motivations
- **Basic results**
- Arithmetic Groups
- Remarks on nonarithmetic case

## 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces

- Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
- Main results
- Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces

## 3 Proofs

- “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

# Type

In this section, we will discuss **two results** dealing with weak commensurability of *arbitrary* **finitely generated** Zariski-dense subgroups.

# Type

In this section, we will discuss **two results** dealing with weak commensurability of *arbitrary* **finitely generated** Zariski-dense subgroups.

The first result shows that **weak commensurability** “almost” **retains** information about the **type** of the ambient algebraic group.

# Type

In this section, we will discuss **two results** dealing with weak commensurability of *arbitrary* **finitely generated** Zariski-dense subgroups.

The first result shows that **weak commensurability** “almost” **retains** information about the **type** of the ambient algebraic group.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero. If there exist finitely generated Zariski-dense subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) that are weakly commensurable then either  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have the **same** Killing-Cartan type, or **one** of them is of **type**  $B_n$  and the **other** is of **type**  $C_n$  for some  $n \geq 3$ .*

# Type

In this section, we will discuss **two results** dealing with weak commensurability of *arbitrary* **finitely generated** Zariski-dense subgroups.

The first result shows that **weak commensurability** “almost” **retains** information about the **type** of the ambient algebraic group.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero. If there exist finitely generated Zariski-dense subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) that are weakly commensurable then either  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have the **same** Killing-Cartan type, or **one** of them is of **type**  $B_n$  and the **other** is of **type**  $C_n$  for some  $n \geq 3$ .*

NOTE that groups of types  $B_n$  and  $C_n$  can indeed contain Zariski-dense weakly commensurable subgroups - more later.

# Field of definition

Let

- $G$  be a connected almost simple algebraic group defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero,
- $\Gamma \subset G(F)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup.



# Field of definition

Let

- $G$  be a connected almost simple algebraic group defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero,
- $\Gamma \subset G(F)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup.

Let  $K_\Gamma$  denote the subfield of  $F$  generated by  $\text{Tr Ad } \gamma$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

# Field of definition

Let

- $G$  be a connected almost simple algebraic group defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero,
- $\Gamma \subset G(F)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup.

Let  $K_\Gamma$  denote the subfield of  $F$  generated by  $\text{Tr Ad } \gamma$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Then  $K_\Gamma$  is the **(minimal) field of definition** of  $\text{Ad } \Gamma$  (E.B. Vinberg).

# Field of definition

Let

- $G$  be a connected almost simple algebraic group defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero,
- $\Gamma \subset G(F)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup.

Let  $K_\Gamma$  denote the subfield of  $F$  generated by  $\text{Tr Ad } \gamma$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Then  $K_\Gamma$  is the **(minimal) field of definition** of  $\text{Ad } \Gamma$  (E.B. Vinberg).

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be finitely generated Zariski-dense subgroups. If  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable then  $K_{\Gamma_1} = K_{\Gamma_2}$ .*

# Outline

## 1 Weak commensurability

- Definition and motivations
- Basic results
- **Arithmetic Groups**
- Remarks on nonarithmetic case

## 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces

- Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
- Main results
- Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces

## 3 Proofs

- “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

# Notion of arithmeticity

For a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -defined algebraic group  $G \subset GL_n$ , we set

$$G(\mathbb{Z}) = G \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Z}).$$

The subgroups of  $G(F)$  (where  $F/\mathbb{Q}$ ) *commensurable* with  $G(\mathbb{Z})$ , are called **arithmetic**.

# Notion of arithmeticity

For a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -defined algebraic group  $G \subset GL_n$ , we set

$$G(\mathbb{Z}) = G \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Z}).$$

The subgroups of  $G(F)$  (where  $F/\mathbb{Q}$ ) *commensurable* with  $G(\mathbb{Z})$ , are called **arithmetic**.

Replace  $\mathbb{Z}$  with  $\mathbb{Z}[1/2]$  (= ring of  $S$ -integers  $\mathbb{Z}_S \subset \mathbb{Q}$  for  $S = \{v_\infty, v_2\}$ ).  
The subgroups of  $G(F)$  *commensurable* with

$$G(\mathbb{Z}_S) = G \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Z}_S)$$

are called  **$S$ -arithmetic**.

# Notion of arithmeticity

For a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -defined algebraic group  $G \subset GL_n$ , we set

$$G(\mathbb{Z}) = G \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Z}).$$

The subgroups of  $G(F)$  (where  $F/\mathbb{Q}$ ) *commensurable* with  $G(\mathbb{Z})$ , are called **arithmetic**.

Replace  $\mathbb{Z}$  with  $\mathbb{Z}[1/2]$  (= ring of  $S$ -integers  $\mathbb{Z}_S \subset \mathbb{Q}$  for  $S = \{v_\infty, v_2\}$ ). The subgroups of  $G(F)$  *commensurable* with

$$G(\mathbb{Z}_S) = G \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Z}_S)$$

are called  **$S$ -arithmetic**.

More generally, given a number field  $K$  and a (finite)  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_\infty^K$  (archimedean places), one defined the ring of  **$S$ -integers**

$$\mathcal{O}_K(S) = \{a \in K^\times \mid v(a) \geq 0 \text{ for all } v \in V^K \setminus S\} \cup \{0\}.$$

# Notion of arithmeticity

Given a  $K$ -defined algebraic group  $G \subset GL_n$ , we set

$$G(\mathcal{O}_K(S)) = G \cap GL_n(\mathcal{O}_K(S)).$$

The subgroups of  $G(F)$  (where  $F/K$ ) *commensurable* with  $G(\mathcal{O}_K(S))$  are called  **$S$ -arithmetic** or  **$(K, S)$ -arithmetic**.



# Notion of arithmeticity

Given a  $K$ -defined algebraic group  $G \subset GL_n$ , we set

$$G(\mathcal{O}_K(S)) = G \cap GL_n(\mathcal{O}_K(S)).$$

The subgroups of  $G(F)$  (where  $F/K$ ) *commensurable* with  $G(\mathcal{O}_K(S))$  are called  **$S$ -arithmetic** or  **$(K, S)$ -arithmetic**.

What is an arithmetic subgroup of an algebraic group which is NOT defined over a number field?

# Notion of arithmeticity

Given a  $K$ -defined algebraic group  $G \subset GL_n$ , we set

$$G(\mathcal{O}_K(S)) = G \cap GL_n(\mathcal{O}_K(S)).$$

The subgroups of  $G(F)$  (where  $F/K$ ) *commensurable* with  $G(\mathcal{O}_K(S))$  are called  **$S$ -arithmetic** or  **$(K, S)$ -arithmetic**.

What is an arithmetic subgroup of an algebraic group which is NOT defined over a number field?

E.g.: What is an arithmetic subgroup of  $G(\mathbb{R})$  where

$$G = SO_3(f) \quad \text{and} \quad f = x^2 + e \cdot y^2 - \pi \cdot z^2?$$

# Notion of arithmeticity

We define arithmetic subgroups of  $G(F)$  in terms of *all possible forms* of  $G$  over subfields of  $F$  that are *number fields*.

# Notion of arithmeticity

We define arithmetic subgroups of  $G(F)$  in terms of *all possible forms* of  $G$  over subfields of  $F$  that are *number fields*.

In our example, we can consider **rational** quadratic forms that are  $\mathbb{R}$ -equivalent to  $f$ , e.g.:

$$f_1 = x^2 + y^2 - 3z^2 \quad \text{or} \quad f_2 = x^2 + 2y^2 - 7z^2.$$

# Notion of arithmeticity

We define arithmetic subgroups of  $G(F)$  in terms of *all possible forms* of  $G$  over subfields of  $F$  that are *number fields*.

In our example, we can consider **rational** quadratic forms that are  $\mathbb{R}$ -equivalent to  $f$ , e.g.:

$$f_1 = x^2 + y^2 - 3z^2 \quad \text{or} \quad f_2 = x^2 + 2y^2 - 7z^2.$$

Then  $\mathrm{SO}_3(f_i) \simeq \mathrm{SO}_3(f)$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ , and

$$\Gamma_i := \mathrm{SO}_3(f_i) \cap \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z})$$

are arithmetic subgroups of  $G(\mathbb{R})$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

# Notion of arithmeticity

We define arithmetic subgroups of  $G(F)$  in terms of *all possible forms* of  $G$  over subfields of  $F$  that are *number fields*.

In our example, we can consider **rational** quadratic forms that are  $\mathbb{R}$ -equivalent to  $f$ , e.g.:

$$f_1 = x^2 + y^2 - 3z^2 \quad \text{or} \quad f_2 = x^2 + 2y^2 - 7z^2.$$

Then  $\mathrm{SO}_3(f_i) \simeq \mathrm{SO}_3(f)$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ , and

$$\Gamma_i := \mathrm{SO}_3(f_i) \cap \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z})$$

are arithmetic subgroups of  $G(\mathbb{R})$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

One can also consider  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) \subset \mathbb{R}$  and  $f_3 = x^2 + y^2 - \sqrt{2}z^2$ . Then

$$\Gamma_3 = \mathrm{SO}_3(f_3) \cap \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}])$$

is an arithmetic subgroup of  $G(\mathbb{R})$  over  $K$ .

# Notion of arithmeticity

We define arithmetic subgroups of  $G(F)$  in terms of *all possible forms* of  $G$  over subfields of  $F$  that are *number fields*.

In our example, we can consider **rational** quadratic forms that are  $\mathbb{R}$ -equivalent to  $f$ , e.g.:

$$f_1 = x^2 + y^2 - 3z^2 \quad \text{or} \quad f_2 = x^2 + 2y^2 - 7z^2.$$

Then  $\mathrm{SO}_3(f_i) \simeq \mathrm{SO}_3(f)$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ , and

$$\Gamma_i := \mathrm{SO}_3(f_i) \cap \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z})$$

are arithmetic subgroups of  $G(\mathbb{R})$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

One can also consider  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) \subset \mathbb{R}$  and  $f_3 = x^2 + y^2 - \sqrt{2}z^2$ . Then

$$\Gamma_3 = \mathrm{SO}_3(f_3) \cap \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}])$$

is an arithmetic subgroup of  $G(\mathbb{R})$  over  $K$ .

One can further replace integers by  $S$ -integers, etc.

# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

- 1 a number field  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- 2 a finite set  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_\infty^K$ ;
- 3 an  $F/K$ -form  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .



# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

Suppose we are given:

- 1 a number field  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- 2 a finite set  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_\infty^K$ ;
- 3 an  $F/K$ -form  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .

# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

Suppose we are given:

- 1 a number field  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- 2 a finite set  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_{\infty}^K$ ;
- 3 an  $F/K$ -form  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .

# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

Suppose we are given:

- 1 a **number field**  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- 2 a **finite set**  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_{\infty}^K$ ;
- 3 an  $F/K$ -form  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .

# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

Suppose we are given:

- 1 a **number field**  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- 2 a **finite set**  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_\infty^K$ ;
- 3 an  **$F/K$ -form**  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .

# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

Suppose we are given:

- 1 a **number field**  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- 2 a **finite set**  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_{\infty}^K$ ;
- 3 an  **$F/K$ -form**  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .

Then subgroups  $\Gamma \subset G(F)$  such that  $\pi(\Gamma)$  is commensurable with  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{O}_K(S))$  are called  **$(\mathcal{G}, K, S)$ -arithmetic**.

# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

Suppose we are given:

- ① a **number field**  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- ② a **finite set**  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_{\infty}^K$ ;
- ③ an  **$F/K$ -form**  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .

Then subgroups  $\Gamma \subset G(F)$  such that  $\pi(\Gamma)$  is commensurable with  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{O}_K(S))$  are called  **$(\mathcal{G}, K, S)$ -arithmetic**.

*Convention:*  $S$  does not contain nonarchimedean  $v$  such that  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $K_v$ -anisotropic.

# Definition of arithmeticity

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $\pi: G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be isogeny onto adjoint group.

Suppose we are given:

- ① a **number field**  $K$  with a *fixed* embedding  $K \hookrightarrow F$ ;
- ② a **finite set**  $S \subset V^K$  containing  $V_{\infty}^K$ ;
- ③ an  **$F/K$ -form**  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\overline{G}$ , i.e.  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq \overline{G}$  over  $F$ .

Then subgroups  $\Gamma \subset G(F)$  such that  $\pi(\Gamma)$  is commensurable with  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{O}_K(S))$  are called  **$(\mathcal{G}, K, S)$ -arithmetic**.

*Convention:*  $S$  does not contain nonarchimedean  $v$  such that  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $K_v$ -anisotropic.

We do NOT fix an  $F$ -isomorphism  ${}_F\mathcal{G} \simeq G$  in n° 3, and by varying it we obtain a class of groups invariant under  $F$ -automorphisms.

**Proposition.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K_i, S_i)$ -arithmetic group ( $i = 1, 2$ ).*

*Then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an  $F$ -isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$  if and only if*

- $K_1 = K_2 =: K$ ;
- $S_1 = S_2$ ;
- $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  are  $K$ -isomorphic.



**Proposition.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K_i, S_i)$ -arithmetic group ( $i = 1, 2$ ).*

*Then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an  $F$ -isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$  if and only if*

- $K_1 = K_2 =: K$ ;
- $S_1 = S_2$ ;
- $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  are  $K$ -isomorphic.

In the above example,  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$  and  $\Gamma_3$  are pairwise **noncommensurable**.

**Proposition.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K_i, S_i)$ -arithmetic group ( $i = 1, 2$ ).*

*Then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an  $F$ -isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$  if and only if*

- $K_1 = K_2 =: K$ ;
- $S_1 = S_2$ ;
- $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  are  $K$ -isomorphic.

In the above example,  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$  and  $\Gamma_3$  are pairwise **noncommensurable**.

- $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are NOT commensurable b/c the corresponding  $\mathbb{Q}$ -forms  $\mathcal{G}_1 = \text{SO}_3(f_1)$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2 = \text{SO}_3(f_2)$  are NOT isomorphic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Proposition.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K_i, S_i)$ -arithmetic group ( $i = 1, 2$ ).

Then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an  $F$ -isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$  if and only if

- $K_1 = K_2 =: K$ ;
- $S_1 = S_2$ ;
- $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  are  $K$ -isomorphic.

In the above example,  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$  and  $\Gamma_3$  are pairwise **noncommensurable**.

- $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are NOT commensurable b/c the corresponding  $\mathbb{Q}$ -forms  $\mathcal{G}_1 = \text{SO}_3(f_1)$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2 = \text{SO}_3(f_2)$  are NOT isomorphic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
- $\Gamma_3$  is NOT commensurable with either  $\Gamma_1$  or  $\Gamma_2$  b/c they have different fields of definition:  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  for  $\Gamma_3$ , and  $\mathbb{Q}$  for  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero.*

*If Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K_i, S_i)$ -arithmetic  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  are weakly commensurable for  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $K_1 = K_2$  and  $S_1 = S_2$ .*

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero.*

*If Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K_i, S_i)$ -arithmetic  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  are weakly commensurable for  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $K_1 = K_2$  and  $S_1 = S_2$ .*

The forms  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  **may NOT be**  $K$ -isomorphic in general, but we have the following.

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, of the **same type** different from  $A_n$ ,  $D_{2n+1}$  with  $n > 1$ , and  $E_6$ , and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup.*

*If  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable then  $\mathcal{G}_1 \simeq \mathcal{G}_2$  over  $K$ , and hence  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an  $F$ -isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$ .*

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero.*

*If Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K_i, S_i)$ -arithmetic  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  are weakly commensurable for  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $K_1 = K_2$  and  $S_1 = S_2$ .*

The forms  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  **may NOT be**  $K$ -isomorphic in general, but we have the following.

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, of the **same type** different from  $A_n$ ,  $D_{2n+1}$  with  $n > 1$ , and  $E_6$ , and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup.*

*If  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable then  $\mathcal{G}_1 \simeq \mathcal{G}_2$  over  $K$ , and hence  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an  $F$ -isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$ .*

[1] - groups of type  $\neq D_{2n}$ ; [2] - groups of type  $D_{2n}$  other than  $D_4$ ;

Skip Garibaldi - type  $D_4$  and alternative proof for all  $D_{2n}$ .

**Theorem 5.** (Garibaldi-R.) *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be connected absolutely almost simple groups of types  $B_n$  and  $C_n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) respectively, defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup.*

*Then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable if and only if*

- $\text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_1 = \text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_2 = 0$  or  $n$  for all  $v \in V_\infty^K$ ;
- $\text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_1 = \text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_2 = n$  for all  $v \in V^K \setminus V_\infty^K$ .

**Theorem 5.** (Garibaldi-R.) *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be connected absolutely almost simple groups of types  $B_n$  and  $C_n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) respectively, defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup.*

*Then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable if and only if*

- $\text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_1 = \text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_2 = 0$  or  $n$  for all  $v \in V_\infty^K$ ;
- $\text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_1 = \text{rk}_{K_v} \mathcal{G}_2 = n$  for all  $v \in V^K \setminus V_\infty^K$ .

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup.*

*Then the set of Zariski-dense  $(K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroups  $\Gamma_2 \subset G_2(F)$  which are weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ , is a union of **finitely many commensurability classes**.*



**Theorem 7.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup for  $i = 1, 2$ .*

*If  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable then  $\mathrm{rk}_K \mathcal{G}_1 = \mathrm{rk}_K \mathcal{G}_2$ ; in particular, if  $\mathcal{G}_1$  is  $K$ -isotropic then so is  $\mathcal{G}_2$ .*

**Theorem 7.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense  $(\mathcal{G}_i, K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup for  $i = 1, 2$ .

If  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable then  $\text{rk}_K \mathcal{G}_1 = \text{rk}_K \mathcal{G}_2$ ; in particular, if  $\mathcal{G}_1$  is  $K$ -isotropic then so is  $\mathcal{G}_2$ .

**Theorem 8.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two connected absolutely almost simple algebraic groups defined over a nondiscrete locally compact field  $F$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma_i \subset G_i(F)$  be a Zariski-dense *lattice* for  $i = 1, 2$ . Assume that  $\Gamma_1$  is a  $(K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup of  $G_1(F)$ .

If  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable, then  $\Gamma_2$  is a  $(K, S)$ -arithmetic subgroup of  $G_2(F)$ .

# Outline

- 1 Weak commensurability
  - Definition and motivations
  - Basic results
  - Arithmetic Groups
  - **Remarks on nonarithmetic case**
- 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces
  - Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
  - Main results
  - Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces
- 3 Proofs
  - “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

## Two aspects:

- ① Given a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  with  $K_{\Gamma_1} =: K$ , **determine possible  $K$ -groups**  $\mathcal{G}_2$  for which there exists a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which is weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ ;
- ② For a given  $K$ -group  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , **determine possible**  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which are weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ .

Two aspects:

- ① Given a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  with  $K_{\Gamma_1} =: K$ , determine possible  $K$ -groups  $\mathcal{G}_2$  for which there exists a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which is weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ ;
- ② For a given  $K$ -group  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , determine possible  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which are weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ .

Two aspects:

- 1 Given a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  with  $K_{\Gamma_1} =: K$ , **determine possible  $K$ -groups**  $\mathcal{G}_2$  for which there exists a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which is weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ ;
- 2 For a given  $K$ -group  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , **determine possible**  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which are weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ .

Two aspects:

- ① Given a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  with  $K_{\Gamma_1} =: K$ , **determine possible  $K$ -groups**  $\mathcal{G}_2$  for which there exists a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which is weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ ;
- ② For a given  $K$ -group  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , **determine possible**  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which are weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ .

Item 1° is closely related to the following classical question:

*To what extent is an absolutely almost simple algebraic  $K$ -group  $G$  is determined by the set of isomorphism classes of its maximal  $K$ -tori?*

Two aspects:

- ① Given a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  with  $K_{\Gamma_1} =: K$ , **determine possible  $K$ -groups**  $\mathcal{G}_2$  for which there exists a Zariski-dense subgroup  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which is weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ ;
- ② For a given  $K$ -group  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , **determine possible**  $\Gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{G}_2(K)$  which are weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$ .

Item 1° is closely related to the following classical question:

*To what extent is an absolutely almost simple algebraic  $K$ -group  $G$  is determined by the set of isomorphism classes of its maximal  $K$ -tori?*

(Our results solve this problem for a number field  $K$ .)



(\*) Let  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  be quaternion division algebras over a field  $K$  ( $\text{char } K \neq 2$ ). Assume that  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  have same maximal subfields.

Are  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  necessarily isomorphic?

(\*) Let  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  be quaternion division algebras over a field  $K$  ( $\text{char } K \neq 2$ ). Assume that  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  have *same maximal subfields*.

Are  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  necessarily isomorphic?

GEOMETRIC CONNECTION:

Let

$$M = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma$$

be a (compact) *Riemann surface*,  $\Gamma \subset SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  a discrete subgroup.

(\*) Let  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  be quaternion division algebras over a field  $K$  ( $\text{char } K \neq 2$ ). Assume that  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  have same maximal subfields.

Are  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  necessarily isomorphic?

GEOMETRIC CONNECTION:

Let

$$M = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma$$

be a (compact) Riemann surface,  $\Gamma \subset SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  a discrete subgroup.

Associated  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subalgebra

$$D = \mathbb{Q}[\Gamma] \subset M_2(\mathbb{R})$$

is a quaternion algebra with center

$$K = \mathbb{Q}(\text{tr } \gamma \mid \gamma \in \Gamma) \quad (\text{trace field}).$$

(\*) Let  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  be quaternion division algebras over a field  $K$  ( $\text{char } K \neq 2$ ). Assume that  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  have same maximal subfields.

Are  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  necessarily isomorphic?

GEOMETRIC CONNECTION:

Let

$$M = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma$$

be a (compact) Riemann surface,  $\Gamma \subset SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  a discrete subgroup.

Associated  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subalgebra

$$D = \mathbb{Q}[\Gamma] \subset M_2(\mathbb{R})$$

is a quaternion algebra with center

$$K = \mathbb{Q}(\text{tr } \gamma \mid \gamma \in \Gamma) \quad (\text{trace field}).$$

(.. well, one usually considers  $\mathbb{Q}[\Gamma^{(2)}]$  where  $\Gamma^{(2)} \subset \Gamma$  is generated by squares ...)

Let  $M_i = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be Riemann surfaces, and let  $D_i$  be the quaternion algebra associated with  $\Gamma_i$ .

Let  $M_i = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be Riemann surfaces, and let  $D_i$  be the quaternion algebra associated with  $\Gamma_i$ .

Suppose that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are length-commensurable.

Let  $M_i = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be Riemann surfaces, and let  $D_i$  be the quaternion algebra associated with  $\Gamma_i$ .

**Suppose** that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **length-commensurable**.

Then

$$Z(D_1) = Z(D_2) =: K,$$

and for **any semi-simple**  $\gamma_1 \in \Gamma_1$  there exists a **semi-simple**  $\gamma_2 \in \Gamma_2$  s. t.

$\gamma_1^m$  and  $\gamma_2^n$  are **conjugate** in  $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  for some  $m, n \geq 1$ .

$\Rightarrow K[\gamma_1^m] \subset D_1$  and  $K[\gamma_2^n] \subset D_2$  are **isomorphic**.

Let  $M_i = \mathbb{H}/\Gamma_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be Riemann surfaces, and let  $D_i$  be the quaternion algebra associated with  $\Gamma_i$ .

Suppose that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are length-commensurable.

Then

$$Z(D_1) = Z(D_2) =: K,$$

and for any semi-simple  $\gamma_1 \in \Gamma_1$  there exists a semi-simple  $\gamma_2 \in \Gamma_2$  s. t.

$\gamma_1^m$  and  $\gamma_2^n$  are conjugate in  $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  for some  $m, n \geq 1$ .

$\Rightarrow K[\gamma_1^m] \subset D_1$  and  $K[\gamma_2^n] \subset D_2$  are isomorphic.

Thus, length-commensurability of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  implies that  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  have the same isomorphism classes of étale subalgebras that intersect  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ , respectively.



On the other hand,

$$\Gamma_1 \text{ \& } \Gamma_2 \text{ commensurable} \Rightarrow D_1 \simeq D_2.$$

On the other hand,

$$\Gamma_1 \text{ \& } \Gamma_2 \text{ commensurable} \Rightarrow D_1 \simeq D_2.$$

So, analysis of length-commensurability for Riemann surfaces leads to questions like (\*) for quaternion algebras.

On the other hand,

$$\Gamma_1 \text{ \& } \Gamma_2 \text{ commensurable} \Rightarrow D_1 \simeq D_2.$$

So, analysis of length-commensurability for Riemann surfaces leads to questions like (\*) for quaternion algebras.

(\*) has affirmative answer over **number fields**  $\Rightarrow$

$L(M_1) = L(M_2)$  for arithmetically defined Riemann surfaces  $M_1$  &  $M_2$   
implies that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **commensurable** (A. Reid).

On the other hand,

$$\Gamma_1 \text{ \& } \Gamma_2 \text{ commensurable} \Rightarrow D_1 \simeq D_2.$$

So, analysis of length-commensurability for Riemann surfaces leads to questions like (\*) for quaternion algebras.

(\*) has affirmative answer over **number fields**  $\Rightarrow$

$L(M_1) = L(M_2)$  for arithmetically defined Riemann surfaces  $M_1$  &  $M_2$   
implies that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are **commensurable** (A. Reid).

(\*) can have negative answer over “large” fields (Rost, Wadsworth, Schacher ...), **but** remains **widely open** over finitely generated fields.

In [1], we asked (\*) for  $K = \mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

In [1], we asked (\*) for  $K = \mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

D. SALTMAN gave affirmative answer.

In [1], we asked (\*) for  $K = \mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

D. SALTMAN gave affirmative answer.

GARIBALDI- SALTMAN proved (\*) for  $K = k(x)$  where  $k$  is  
**any** number field (and also in some other cases).

In [1], we asked (\*) for  $K = \mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

D. SALTMAN gave affirmative answer.

GARIBALDI- SALTMAN proved (\*) for  $K = k(x)$  where  $k$  is  
any number field (and also in some other cases).

**Theorem 9.** (A.R., I.R.) *If (\*) holds over  $K$  then it also holds over the field of rational functions  $K(x)$ .*



In [1], we asked (\*) for  $K = \mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

D. SALTMAN gave affirmative answer.

GARIBALDI- SALTMAN proved (\*) for  $K = k(x)$  where  $k$  is  
any number field (and also in some other cases).

**Theorem 9.** (A.R., I.R.) *If (\*) holds over  $K$  then it also holds over the field of rational functions  $K(x)$ .*

**Definition.** Let  $D$  be a finite-dimensional central division algebra /  $K$ .  
The **genus** of  $D$  is

$$\mathbf{gen}(D) = \{ [D'] \in \text{Br}(K) \mid D' \text{ division algebra with} \\ \text{same maximal subfields as } D \}.$$

**Question A:** *When does  $\mathbf{gen}(D)$  consist of a single class?  
Is this the case for quaternions?*

**Question A:** *When does  $\mathbf{gen}(D)$  consist of a single class?  
Is this the case for quaternions?*

**Question B:** *When is  $\mathbf{gen}(D)$  finite?*

**Question A:** *When does  $\mathbf{gen}(D)$  consist of a single class?  
Is this the case for quaternions?*

**Question B:** *When is  $\mathbf{gen}(D)$  finite?*

Question A is meaningful **only** for algebras  $D$  of exponent 2.  
Indeed,  $D^{\text{op}}$  has the **same** maximal subfields as  $D$ . But if  $D \simeq D^{\text{op}}$   
then  $[D] \in \text{Br}(K)$  **has exponent 2**.

**Question A:** *When does  $\mathbf{gen}(D)$  consist of a single class?  
Is this the case for quaternions?*

**Question B:** *When is  $\mathbf{gen}(D)$  finite?*

Question A is meaningful **only** for algebras  $D$  of exponent 2.  
Indeed,  $D^{\text{op}}$  has the **same** maximal subfields as  $D$ . But if  $D \simeq D^{\text{op}}$   
then  $[D] \in \text{Br}(K)$  **has exponent 2**.

Question B makes sense for division algebras of **any** degree.

**Question A:** *When does  $\text{gen}(D)$  consist of a single class?  
Is this the case for quaternions?*

**Question B:** *When is  $\text{gen}(D)$  finite?*

Question A is meaningful **only** for algebras  $D$  of exponent 2.  
Indeed,  $D^{\text{op}}$  has the **same** maximal subfields as  $D$ . But if  $D \simeq D^{\text{op}}$   
then  $[D] \in \text{Br}(K)$  **has exponent 2**.

Question B makes sense for division algebras of **any** degree.

**Both** questions have the **affirmative** answer over number fields.

**Theorem 10.** (Chernousov +  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ) *Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic  $\neq 2$ . If  $K$  satisfies the following property*

- (•) *Any two finite-dimensional central division  $K$ -algebras  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  of exponent two that have the same maximal subfields are necessarily isomorphic,*

*then the field of rational functions  $K(x)$  also has (•).*

**Theorem 10.** (Chernousov +  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ) *Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic  $\neq 2$ . If  $K$  satisfies the following property*

- (•) *Any two finite-dimensional central division  $K$ -algebras  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  of exponent two that have the same maximal subfields are necessarily isomorphic,*

*then the field of rational functions  $K(x)$  also has (•).*

**Theorem 11.** ( $\mathbb{C} + \mathbb{R}^2$ ) *Let  $K$  be a finitely generated field, and let  $D$  be a central division algebra /  $K$  of degree  $n$  which is prime to  $\text{char } K$ . Then  $\text{gen}(D)$  is finite.*



**Conjecture.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be absolutely simple algebraic groups over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , let  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  be a *finitely generated* Zariski-dense subgroup.

Set  $K = K_{\Gamma_1}$ .

Then there exist a *finite collection*  $\mathcal{G}_2^{(1)}, \dots, \mathcal{G}_2^{(r)}$  of  $F/K$ -forms of  $G_2$  such that if  $\Gamma_2 \subset G_2(F)$  is a Zariski-dense subgroup weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$  then  $\Gamma_2$  is contained (up to an  $F$ -automorphism of  $G_2$ ) in one of the  $\mathcal{G}_2^{(i)}(K)$ 's.

**Conjecture.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be absolutely simple algebraic groups over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , let  $\Gamma_1 \subset G_1(F)$  be a *finitely generated* Zariski-dense subgroup.

Set  $K = K_{\Gamma_1}$ .

Then there exist a *finite collection*  $\mathcal{G}_2^{(1)}, \dots, \mathcal{G}_2^{(r)}$  of  $F/K$ -forms of  $G_2$  such that if  $\Gamma_2 \subset G_2(F)$  is a Zariski-dense subgroup weakly commensurable to  $\Gamma_1$  then  $\Gamma_2$  is contained (up to an  $F$ -automorphism of  $G_2$ ) in one of the  $\mathcal{G}_2^{(i)}(K)$ 's.

**Question:** When can one take  $r = 1$ ?

# Outline

- 1 Weak commensurability
  - Definition and motivations
  - Basic results
  - Arithmetic Groups
  - Remarks on nonarithmetic case
- 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces
  - Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
  - Main results
  - Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces
- 3 Proofs
  - “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

# Notations

- $G$  a connected absolutely (almost) simple algebraic group  $/\mathbb{R}$ ;  
 $\mathcal{G} = G(\mathbb{R})$
- $\mathcal{K}$  a maximal compact subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ;  
 $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{K} \backslash \mathcal{G}$  associated symmetric space,  $\text{rk } \mathfrak{X} = \text{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G$
- $\Gamma$  a discrete torsion-free subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma} = \mathfrak{X} / \Gamma$
- $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma}$  is **arithmetically defined** if  $\Gamma$  is arithmetic (for  $S = V_{\infty}^K$ ) as defined earlier

# Notations

- $G$  a connected absolutely (almost) simple algebraic group  $/\mathbb{R}$ ;  
 $\mathcal{G} = G(\mathbb{R})$
- $\mathcal{K}$  a maximal compact subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ;  
 $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{K} \backslash \mathcal{G}$  associated symmetric space,  $\text{rk } \mathfrak{X} = \text{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G$
- $\Gamma$  a discrete torsion-free subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma} = \mathfrak{X}/\Gamma$
- $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma}$  is **arithmetically defined** if  $\Gamma$  is arithmetic (for  $S = V_{\infty}^K$ ) as defined earlier

# Notations

- $G$  a connected absolutely (almost) simple algebraic group  $/\mathbb{R}$ ;  
 $\mathcal{G} = G(\mathbb{R})$
- $\mathcal{K}$  a maximal compact subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ;  
 $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{K} \backslash \mathcal{G}$  associated symmetric space,  $\text{rk } \mathfrak{X} = \text{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G$
- $\Gamma$  a discrete torsion-free subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma} = \mathfrak{X}/\Gamma$
- $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma}$  is **arithmetically defined** if  $\Gamma$  is arithmetic (for  $S = V_{\infty}^K$ ) as defined earlier

# Notations

- $G$  a connected absolutely (almost) simple algebraic group  $/\mathbb{R}$ ;  
 $\mathcal{G} = G(\mathbb{R})$
- $\mathcal{K}$  a maximal compact subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ;  
 $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{K} \backslash \mathcal{G}$  associated symmetric space,  $\text{rk } \mathfrak{X} = \text{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G$
- $\Gamma$  a discrete torsion-free subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma} = \mathfrak{X}/\Gamma$
- $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma}$  is **arithmetically defined** if  $\Gamma$  is arithmetic (for  $S = V_{\infty}^K$ ) as defined earlier

# Notations

- $G$  a connected absolutely (almost) simple algebraic group /  $\mathbb{R}$ ;  
 $\mathcal{G} = G(\mathbb{R})$
- $\mathcal{K}$  a maximal compact subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ;  
 $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{K} \backslash \mathcal{G}$  associated symmetric space,  $\text{rk } \mathfrak{X} = \text{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G$
- $\Gamma$  a discrete torsion-free subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma} = \mathfrak{X} / \Gamma$
- $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma}$  is **arithmetically defined** if  $\Gamma$  is arithmetic (for  $S = V_{\infty}^K$ ) as defined earlier

Given  $G_1, G_2$ ,  $\Gamma_i \subset \mathcal{G}_i := G_i(\mathbb{R})$  etc. as above, we will denote the corresponding *locally symmetric spaces* by  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_i}$ .



Two Riemannian manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are:

- **commensurable** if they have a common finite-sheeted cover;
- **length-commensurable** if  $\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2)$ , where  $L(M_i)$  is the set of lengths of all closed geodesics in  $M_i$ .

Two Riemannian manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are:

- **commensurable** if they have a common finite-sheeted cover;
- **length-commensurable** if  $\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2)$ , where  $L(M_i)$  is the set of lengths of all closed geodesics in  $M_i$ .

Two Riemannian manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are:

- **commensurable** if they have a common finite-sheeted cover;
- **length-commensurable** if  $\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2)$ , where  $L(M_i)$  is the set of lengths of all closed geodesics in  $M_i$ .

Two Riemannian manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are:

- **commensurable** if they have a common finite-sheeted cover;
- **length-commensurable** if  $\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2)$ , where  $L(M_i)$  is the set of lengths of all closed geodesics in  $M_i$ .

**Question:** *When does length-commensurability imply commensurability?*

Two Riemannian manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are:

- **commensurable** if they have a common finite-sheeted cover;
- **length-commensurable** if  $\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2)$ , where  $L(M_i)$  is the set of lengths of all closed geodesics in  $M_i$ .

**Question:** *When does length-commensurability imply commensurability?*

$\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are commensurable  $\Leftrightarrow \Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$ .

Two Riemannian manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are:

- **commensurable** if they have a common finite-sheeted cover;
- **length-commensurable** if  $\mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_1) = \mathbb{Q} \cdot L(M_2)$ , where  $L(M_i)$  is the set of lengths of all closed geodesics in  $M_i$ .

**Question:** *When does length-commensurability imply commensurability?*

$\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are commensurable  $\Leftrightarrow \Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are commensurable up to an isomorphism between  $\overline{G}_1$  and  $\overline{G}_2$ .

**Fact.** *Assume that  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are of finite volume.*

*If  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are length-commensurable then (under minor technical assumptions)  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable.*

## The proof relies:

- in rank one case - on the result of Gel'fond and Schneider (1934):  
*if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are algebraic numbers  $\neq 0, 1$  then  $\frac{\log \alpha}{\log \beta}$  is either rational or transcendental.*
- in higher rank case - on the following

**Conjecture** (Shanuel) *If  $z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then the transcendence degree of the field generated by*

$$z_1, \dots, z_n; e^{z_1}, \dots, e^{z_n}$$

*is  $\geq n$ .*

The proof relies:

- in rank one case - on the result of Gel'fond and Schneider (1934):  
*if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are algebraic numbers  $\neq 0, 1$  then  $\frac{\log \alpha}{\log \beta}$  is either rational or transcendental.*
- in higher rank case - on the following

**Conjecture** (Shanuel) *If  $z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then the transcendence degree of the field generated by*

$$z_1, \dots, z_n; e^{z_1}, \dots, e^{z_n}$$

*is  $\geq n$ .*



The proof relies:

- in rank one case - on the result of Gel'fond and Schneider (1934):  
*if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are algebraic numbers  $\neq 0, 1$  then  $\frac{\log \alpha}{\log \beta}$  is either rational or transcendental.*
- in higher rank case - on the following

**Conjecture** (Shanuel) *If  $z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then the transcendence degree of the field generated by*

$$z_1, \dots, z_n; e^{z_1}, \dots, e^{z_n}$$

*is  $\geq n$ .*

The proof relies:

- in rank one case - on the result of Gel'fond and Schneider (1934):  
*if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are algebraic numbers  $\neq 0, 1$  then  $\frac{\log \alpha}{\log \beta}$  is either rational or transcendental.*
- in higher rank case - on the following

**Conjecture** (Shanuel) *If  $z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then the transcendence degree of the field generated by*

$$z_1, \dots, z_n; e^{z_1}, \dots, e^{z_n}$$

*is  $\geq n$ .*

(We mostly need that for nonzero algebraic numbers  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , the logarithms

$$\log z_1, \dots, \log z_n$$

are algebraically independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  once they are linearly independent.)

The proof relies:

- in rank one case - on the result of Gel'fond and Schneider (1934):  
if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are algebraic numbers  $\neq 0, 1$  then  $\frac{\log \alpha}{\log \beta}$  is either rational or transcendental.
- in higher rank case - on the following

**Conjecture** (Shanuel) *If  $z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then the transcendence degree of the field generated by*

$$z_1, \dots, z_n; e^{z_1}, \dots, e^{z_n}$$

*is  $\geq n$ .*

(We mostly need that for nonzero algebraic numbers  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , the logarithms

$$\log z_1, \dots, \log z_n$$

are algebraically independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  once they are linearly independent.)

So, our results for higher rank spaces are *conditional*.

# Outline

- 1 Weak commensurability
  - Definition and motivations
  - Basic results
  - Arithmetic Groups
  - Remarks on nonarithmetic case
- 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces
  - Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
  - **Main results**
  - Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces
- 3 Proofs
  - “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

**Theorem 12.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  be locally symmetric spaces of finite volume. If they are length-commensurable then*

- *either  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are of the same Killing-Cartan type, or one of them is of type  $B_n$  and the other is of type  $C_n$ ;*
- $K_{\Gamma_1} = K_{\Gamma_2}$ .

**Theorem 12.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  be locally symmetric spaces of finite volume. If they are length-commensurable then*

- *either  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are of the same Killing-Cartan type, or one of them is of type  $B_n$  and the other is of type  $C_n$ ;*
- $K_{\Gamma_1} = K_{\Gamma_2}$ .

**Theorem 13.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  be an arithmetically defined locally symmetric space. The set of arithmetically defined locally symmetric spaces  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  which are length-commensurable to  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$ , is a union of **finitely many** commensurability classes. It consists of a **single** commensurability class if  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have the same type different from  $A_n$ ,  $D_{2n+1}$  with  $n > 1$  and  $E_6$ .*

## Corollary.

- 1 Let  $d$  be even or  $\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , and let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be *arithmetic quotients* of the  $d$ -dimensional *real hyperbolic space*.

If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are *not commensurable*, then (after a possible interchange of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ) there exists  $\lambda_1 \in L(M_1)$  such that for any  $\lambda_2 \in L(M_2)$ , the ratio  $\lambda_1 / \lambda_2$  is *transcendental* over  $\mathbb{Q}$  (in particular,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are *not length-commensurable*.)

- 2 For any  $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  there exist *length-commensurable, but not commensurable, arithmetic quotients of the real hyperbolic  $d$ -space*.

## Corollary.

- 1 Let  $d$  be even or  $\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , and let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be *arithmetic quotients* of the  $d$ -dimensional *real hyperbolic space*.

If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are *not commensurable*, then (after a possible interchange of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ) there exists  $\lambda_1 \in L(M_1)$  such that for any  $\lambda_2 \in L(M_2)$ , the ratio  $\lambda_1 / \lambda_2$  is *transcendental* over  $\mathbb{Q}$  (in particular,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are *not length-commensurable*.)

- 2 For any  $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  there exist *length-commensurable*, but *not commensurable*, arithmetic quotients of the real hyperbolic  $d$ -space.



**Theorem 14.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  be locally symmetric spaces of finite volume which are length-commensurable. Assume that **one** of the spaces is **arithmetically defined**. Then*

- ① *the other space is also **arithmetically defined**;*
- ② ***compactness** of one of the spaces implies compactness of the **other**.*

**Theorem 14.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  be locally symmetric spaces of finite volume which are length-commensurable. Assume that **one** of the spaces is **arithmetically defined**. Then*

- ① *the other space is also **arithmetically defined**;*
  - ② *compactness of one of the spaces implies compactness of the **other**.*
- It would be interesting to find a *geometric* explanation of item 2°.

**Theorem 14.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  be locally symmetric spaces of finite volume which are length-commensurable. Assume that **one** of the spaces is **arithmetically defined**. Then*

- ① *the other space is also **arithmetically defined**;*
  - ② *compactness of one of the spaces implies compactness of the **other**.*
- It would be interesting to find a *geometric* explanation of item 2°.
  - Is 2° remains valid *without* any assumptions on **arithmeticity**?

**Theorem 14.** Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  be locally symmetric spaces of finite volume which are length-commensurable. Assume that *one* of the spaces is *arithmetically defined*. Then

- ① the other space is also *arithmetically defined*;
  - ② *compactness* of one of the spaces implies compactness of the *other*.
- It would be interesting to find a *geometric* explanation of item 2°.
  - Is 2° remains valid *without* any assumptions on *arithmeticity*?

RECALL that for any *lattice*  $\Gamma$ , compactness of  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma}$  is equivalent to the existence of nontrivial unipotents in  $\Gamma$ . So, one can ask: *Suppose two lattices are weakly commensurable. Does the existence of nontrivial unipotents in one of them implies their existence in the other?* This question makes sense for arbitrary Zariski-dense subgroups.

# Outline

- 1 Weak commensurability
  - Definition and motivations
  - Basic results
  - Arithmetic Groups
  - Remarks on nonarithmetic case
- 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces
  - Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
  - Main results
  - Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces
- 3 Proofs
  - “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

Two compact Riemannian manifolds are **isospectral** if they have the **same spectra** of the Laplace-Beltrami operator (same *eigenvalues* and same *multiplicities*).

Two compact Riemannian manifolds are **isospectral** if they have the **same spectra** of the Laplace-Beltrami operator (same *eigenvalues* and *same multiplicities*).

**Fact.** *Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be two compact locally symmetric spaces.*

*If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are isospectral then  $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$ .*

Two compact Riemannian manifolds are **isospectral** if they have the **same spectra** of the Laplace-Beltrami operator (same *eigenvalues* and *same multiplicities*).

**Fact.** *Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be two compact locally symmetric spaces.*

*If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are isospectral then  $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$ .*

$\Rightarrow$  if  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are **compact** and **isospectral** then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable.



Two compact Riemannian manifolds are **isospectral** if they have the **same spectra** of the Laplace-Beltrami operator (same *eigenvalues* and *same multiplicities*).

**Fact.** *Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be two compact locally symmetric spaces.*

*If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are isospectral then  $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$ .*

$\Rightarrow$  if  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are **compact** and **isospectral** then  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are weakly commensurable.

**Theorem 15.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  be isospectral compact locally symmetric spaces. If  $\Gamma_1$  is **arithmetic** then  $\Gamma_2$  is also **arithmetic**.*

**Theorem 16.** *Assume that  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are isospectral compact locally symmetric spaces, and at least one of the subgroups  $\Gamma_1$  or  $\Gamma_2$  is *arithmetic*. Then  $G_1 = G_2 =: G$ . Moreover, unless  $G$  is type  $A_n$ ,  $D_{2n+1}$  ( $n > 1$ ) or  $E_6$ , the spaces  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are commensurable.*

**Theorem 16.** *Assume that  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are isospectral compact locally symmetric spaces, and at least one of the subgroups  $\Gamma_1$  or  $\Gamma_2$  is *arithmetic*. Then  $G_1 = G_2 =: G$ . Moreover, unless  $G$  is type  $A_n$ ,  $D_{2n+1}$  ( $n > 1$ ) or  $E_6$ , the spaces  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_1}$  and  $\mathfrak{X}_{\Gamma_2}$  are commensurable.*

It would be interesting to determine if Theorem 16 remains valid without any assumptions of arithmeticity.

# Outline

- 1 Weak commensurability
  - Definition and motivations
  - Basic results
  - Arithmetic Groups
  - Remarks on nonarithmetic case
- 2 Length-commensurable locally symmetric spaces
  - Links between length-commensurability and weak commensurability
  - Main results
  - Applications to isospectral locally symmetric spaces
- 3 Proofs
  - “Special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups

Proofs rely on the existence of “special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups.

Proofs rely on the existence of “special” elements in Zariski-dense subgroups.

**Question 1:** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a compact Lie group, and let  $\Gamma \subset \mathcal{G}$  be a *dense* subgroup.

Does there exist  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle}$  is a *maximal torus* of  $\mathcal{G}$ ?

Proofs rely on the existence of "special" elements in Zariski-dense subgroups.

**Question 1:** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a compact Lie group, and let  $\Gamma \subset \mathcal{G}$  be a *dense* subgroup.

Does there exist  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle}$  is a *maximal torus* of  $\mathcal{G}$ ?

**Question 2:** Let  $G$  be a reductive algebraic group over a field  $K$  (of characteristic zero), and let  $\Gamma \subset G(K)$  be a *Zariski-dense* subgroup.

Does there exist a *semi-simple*  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that the Zariski closure  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle}$  is a *maximal torus* of  $G$ ?

Proofs rely on the existence of "special" elements in Zariski-dense subgroups.

**Question 1:** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a compact Lie group, and let  $\Gamma \subset \mathcal{G}$  be a *dense* subgroup.

Does there exist  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle}$  is a *maximal torus* of  $\mathcal{G}$ ?

**Question 2:** Let  $G$  be a reductive algebraic group over a field  $K$  (of characteristic zero), and let  $\Gamma \subset G(K)$  be a *Zariski-dense* subgroup.

Does there exist a *semi-simple*  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that the Zariski closure  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle}$  is a *maximal torus* of  $G$ ?

Elements of this kind will be called **generic** (this notion will be specialized further later on)



The answer is **No** to both questions if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is a **torus**.

The answer is **NO** to both questions if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is a **torus**.

**Example 1:** Let  $\mathcal{G} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ , and let

$$\Gamma = (\sqrt{2}\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z})/\mathbb{Z} \times (\sqrt{2}\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z})/\mathbb{Z}.$$

Then  $\Gamma$  is dense in  $\mathcal{G}$ , but for any

$$\gamma = \left( \sqrt{2}m(\bmod \mathbb{Z}), \sqrt{2}n(\bmod \mathbb{Z}) \right) \in \Gamma$$

we have  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle} \subset \{ (a(\bmod \mathbb{Z}), b(\bmod \mathbb{Z})) \mid na - mb \equiv 0(\bmod \mathbb{Z}) \}$ ,  
so  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle} \neq \mathcal{G}$ .

The answer is **NO** to both questions if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is a **torus**.

**Example 1:** Let  $\mathcal{G} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ , and let

$$\Gamma = (\sqrt{2}\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z})/\mathbb{Z} \times (\sqrt{2}\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z})/\mathbb{Z}.$$

Then  $\Gamma$  is dense in  $\mathcal{G}$ , but for any

$$\gamma = \left( \sqrt{2}m(\bmod \mathbb{Z}), \sqrt{2}n(\bmod \mathbb{Z}) \right) \in \Gamma$$

we have  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle} \subset \{(a(\bmod \mathbb{Z}), b(\bmod \mathbb{Z})) \mid na - mb \equiv 0(\bmod \mathbb{Z})\}$ ,  
so  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle} \neq \mathcal{G}$ .

**Example 2:** Let  $G = \mathbb{C}^\times \times \mathbb{C}^\times$ , and let  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{C}^\times$  be NOT a root of unity.

Then  $\Gamma = \langle \varepsilon \rangle \times \langle \varepsilon \rangle$  is Zariski-dense in  $G$ , but for any  $\gamma = (\varepsilon^m, \varepsilon^n) \in \Gamma$ ,

we have  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle} \subset \{(x, y) \in G \mid x^n = y^m\} \neq G$ .

The answer to both questions is **YES** if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is **semi-simple**.

The answer to both questions is **YES** if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is **semi-simple**.

Proofs use  **$p$ -adic** techniques.

The answer to both questions is **YES** if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is **semi-simple**.

Proofs use  **$p$ -adic** techniques.

Question 1 **reduces** to Question 2 (b/c in compact groups, Zariski-dense subgroups are also dense in the usual topology), so we will **focus on Question 2**.

The answer to both questions is **YES** if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is **semi-simple**.

Proofs use  **$p$ -adic** techniques.

Question 1 **reduces** to Question 2 (b/c in compact groups, Zariski-dense subgroups are also dense in the usual topology), so we will **focus on Question 2**.

**Example 3:** Let  $G$  be a simple  $\mathbb{Q}$ -group with  $\mathrm{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G = 1$ .

Then  $\Gamma = G(\mathbb{Z})$  is Zariski-dense. Let  $T \subset G$  be a maximal  $\mathbb{Q}$ -torus.

The answer to both questions is **YES** if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is **semi-simple**.

Proofs use  **$p$ -adic** techniques.

Question 1 **reduces** to Question 2 (b/c in compact groups, Zariski-dense subgroups are also dense in the usual topology), so we will **focus on Question 2**.

**Example 3:** Let  $G$  be a simple  $\mathbb{Q}$ -group with  $\mathrm{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G = 1$ .

Then  $\Gamma = G(\mathbb{Z})$  is Zariski-dense. Let  $T \subset G$  be a maximal  $\mathbb{Q}$ -torus.

If  $T$  has a **proper**  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtorus  $T'$ , then

$$T = T' \cdot T''$$

(almost direct product), so  $T(\mathbb{Z})$  is commensurable with  $T'(\mathbb{Z}) \cdot T''(\mathbb{Z})$ .



The answer to both questions is **YES** if  $\mathcal{G}$  (resp.,  $G$ ) is **semi-simple**.

Proofs use  **$p$ -adic** techniques.

Question 1 **reduces** to Question 2 (b/c in compact groups, Zariski-dense subgroups are also dense in the usual topology), so we will **focus on Question 2**.

**Example 3:** Let  $G$  be a simple  $\mathbb{Q}$ -group with  $\mathrm{rk}_{\mathbb{R}} G = 1$ .

Then  $\Gamma = G(\mathbb{Z})$  is Zariski-dense. Let  $T \subset G$  be a maximal  $\mathbb{Q}$ -torus.

If  $T$  has a **proper**  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtorus  $T'$ , then

$$T = T' \cdot T''$$

(almost direct product), so  $T(\mathbb{Z})$  is commensurable with  $T'(\mathbb{Z}) \cdot T''(\mathbb{Z})$ .

Thus, for any  $\gamma \in T \cap \Gamma$ , we have  $\gamma^n \in T'$  or  $T''$ , and therefore  $T \neq \overline{\langle \gamma \rangle}$ .

In this example,  $T$  can **only** be generated by a single element  $\gamma \in T \cap \Gamma$  if it contains **NO** proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori.

In this example,  $T$  can **only** be generated by a single element  $\gamma \in T \cap \Gamma$  if it contains **NO** proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori.

**Conversely**, if  $T$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -torus without proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori then **any**  $\gamma \in T(\mathbb{Q})$  of infinite order generates a **Zariski-dense subgroup** of  $T$ .

In this example,  $T$  can **only** be generated by a single element  $\gamma \in T \cap \Gamma$  if it contains **NO** proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori.

**Conversely**, if  $T$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -torus without proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori then **any**  $\gamma \in T(\mathbb{Q})$  of infinite order generates a **Zariski-dense subgroup** of  $T$ .

**Definition.** Let  $T$  be an algebraic torus defined over a field  $K$ . Then  $T$  is  $(K)$ -**irreducible** if it does not contain any proper  $K$ -defined subtori.

In this example,  $T$  can **only** be generated by a single element  $\gamma \in T \cap \Gamma$  if it contains **NO** proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori.

**Conversely**, if  $T$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -torus without proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori then **any**  $\gamma \in T(\mathbb{Q})$  of infinite order generates a **Zariski-dense subgroup** of  $T$ .

**Definition.** Let  $T$  be an algebraic torus defined over a field  $K$ . Then  $T$  is  $(K)$ -**irreducible** if it does not contain any proper  $K$ -defined subtori.

**Lemma 1.** If  $T$  is irreducible over  $K$  then for any  $\gamma \in T(K)$  of infinite order,  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle} = T$ .

In this example,  $T$  can **only** be generated by a single element  $\gamma \in T \cap \Gamma$  if it contains **NO** proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori.

**Conversely**, if  $T$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -torus without proper  $\mathbb{Q}$ -subtori then **any**  $\gamma \in T(\mathbb{Q})$  of infinite order generates a **Zariski-dense subgroup** of  $T$ .

**Definition.** Let  $T$  be an algebraic torus defined over a field  $K$ . Then  $T$  is  $(K)$ -**irreducible** if it does not contain any proper  $K$ -defined subtori.

**Lemma 1.** If  $T$  is irreducible over  $K$  then for any  $\gamma \in T(K)$  of infinite order,  $\overline{\langle \gamma \rangle} = T$ .

Thus, a regular semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma \subset G(K)$  is "generic" if  $T = C_G(\gamma)^\circ$  is  $K$ -irreducible.

Let  $T$  be a  $K$ -torus.

- $X(T)$  - group of characters of  $T$
- $K_T$  - minimal splitting field of  $T$
- $\mathcal{G}_T = \text{Gal}(K_T/K)$
- $\theta_T: \mathcal{G}_T \rightarrow \text{GL}(X(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q})$

Let  $T$  be a  $K$ -torus.

- $X(T)$  - group of characters of  $T$
- $K_T$  - minimal splitting field of  $T$
- $\mathcal{G}_T = \text{Gal}(K_T/K)$
- $\theta_T: \mathcal{G}_T \rightarrow \text{GL}(X(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q})$

**Lemma 2.**  $T$  is  $K$ -irreducible  $\Leftrightarrow \theta_T$  is irreducible.



Let  $T$  be a  $K$ -torus.

- $X(T)$  - group of characters of  $T$
- $K_T$  - minimal splitting field of  $T$
- $\mathcal{G}_T = \text{Gal}(K_T/K)$
- $\theta_T: \mathcal{G}_T \rightarrow \text{GL}(X(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q})$

**Lemma 2.**  $T$  is  $K$ -irreducible  $\Leftrightarrow \theta_T$  is irreducible.

Let  $T$  be a maximal  $K$ -torus of an absolutely almost simple  $K$ -group  $G$ .

If  $\Phi = \Phi(G, T)$  is the root system then  $\theta(\mathcal{G}_T) \subset \text{Aut}(\Phi)$ .

Let  $T$  be a  $K$ -torus.

- $X(T)$  - group of characters of  $T$
- $K_T$  - minimal splitting field of  $T$
- $\mathcal{G}_T = \text{Gal}(K_T/K)$
- $\theta_T: \mathcal{G}_T \rightarrow \text{GL}(X(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q})$

**Lemma 2.**  $T$  is  $K$ -irreducible  $\Leftrightarrow \theta_T$  is irreducible.

Let  $T$  be a maximal  $K$ -torus of an absolutely almost simple  $K$ -group  $G$ .

If  $\Phi = \Phi(G, T)$  is the root system then  $\theta(\mathcal{G}_T) \subset \text{Aut}(\Phi)$ .

If  $\theta_T(\mathcal{G}_T) \supset W(\Phi) = W(G, T)$  then  $T$  is irreducible

(such tori are called **generic**).

Let  $T$  be a  $K$ -torus.

- $X(T)$  - group of characters of  $T$
- $K_T$  - minimal splitting field of  $T$
- $\mathcal{G}_T = \text{Gal}(K_T/K)$
- $\theta_T: \mathcal{G}_T \rightarrow \text{GL}(X(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q})$

**Lemma 2.**  $T$  is  $K$ -irreducible  $\Leftrightarrow \theta_T$  is irreducible.

Let  $T$  be a maximal  $K$ -torus of an absolutely almost simple  $K$ -group  $G$ .

If  $\Phi = \Phi(G, T)$  is the root system then  $\theta(\mathcal{G}_T) \subset \text{Aut}(\Phi)$ .

If  $\theta_T(\mathcal{G}_T) \supset W(\Phi) = W(G, T)$  then  $T$  is irreducible

(such tori are called **generic**).

Thus, an element of infinite order  $\gamma \in T(K)$ , where  $T$  is generic over  $K$ , is generic (as previously defined).

*How to construct generic maximal tori?*

*How to construct generic maximal tori?*

Let  $G = \mathrm{SL}_n/K$ . Any maximal  $K$ -torus  $T \subset G$  is of the form

$$T = R_{E/K}(\mathrm{GL}_1),$$

where  $E$  is an  $n$ -dimensional étale  $K$ -algebra.

*How to construct generic maximal tori?*

Let  $G = \mathrm{SL}_n/K$ . Any maximal  $K$ -torus  $T \subset G$  is of the form

$$T = R_{E/K}(\mathrm{GL}_1),$$

where  $E$  is an  $n$ -dimensional étale  $K$ -algebra.

Such  $T$  is generic  $\Leftrightarrow E/K$  is a field extension &  $\mathrm{Gal}(E/K) \simeq S_n$

*How to construct generic maximal tori?*

Let  $G = \mathrm{SL}_n/K$ . Any maximal  $K$ -torus  $T \subset G$  is of the form

$$T = R_{E/K}(\mathrm{GL}_1),$$

where  $E$  is an  $n$ -dimensional étale  $K$ -algebra.

Such  $T$  is generic  $\Leftrightarrow E/K$  is a field extension &  $\mathrm{Gal}(E/K) \simeq S_n$

Construction of extensions with Galois group  $S_n$  is well-known when  $K$  is a number field

$\Rightarrow G$  has **plenty of generic tori** in this case.

*How to construct generic maximal tori?*

Let  $G = \mathrm{SL}_n/K$ . Any maximal  $K$ -torus  $T \subset G$  is of the form

$$T = R_{E/K}(\mathrm{GL}_1),$$

where  $E$  is an  $n$ -dimensional étale  $K$ -algebra.

Such  $T$  is generic  $\Leftrightarrow E/K$  is a field extension &  $\mathrm{Gal}(E/K) \simeq S_n$

Construction of extensions with Galois group  $S_n$  is well-known when  $K$  is a number field

$\Rightarrow G$  has **plenty of generic tori** in this case.

**Explicit construction** can be implemented for **other classical types**.

*Additional problem:* embed resulting generic tori into a given group.



## GENERAL CASE:

**Fact** (Voskresenskii) *There exists a **purely transcendental extension**  $\mathcal{K} = K(x_1, \dots, x_r)$  and a  $\mathcal{K}$ -defined maximal torus  $\mathcal{T} \subset G$  such that*

$$\theta_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathrm{Gal}(\mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{T}}/\mathcal{K})) \supset W(G, \mathcal{T}).$$

## GENERAL CASE:

**Fact** (Voskresenskii) *There exists a purely transcendental extension  $\mathcal{K} = K(x_1, \dots, x_r)$  and a  $\mathcal{K}$ -defined maximal torus  $\mathcal{T} \subset G$  such that*

$$\theta_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathrm{Gal}(\mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{T}}/\mathcal{K})) \supset W(G, \mathcal{T}).$$

If  $K$  is a number field (or, more generally, a finitely generated field) then one can use Hilbert's Irreducibility Theorem to specialize parameters and get "many" maximal  $K$ -tori  $T \subset G$  such that

$$\theta_T(\mathrm{Gal}(K_T/K)) \supset W(G, T).$$

GENERAL CASE:

**Fact** (Voskresenskii) *There exists a purely transcendental extension  $\mathcal{K} = K(x_1, \dots, x_r)$  and a  $\mathcal{K}$ -defined maximal torus  $\mathcal{T} \subset G$  such that*

$$\theta_{\mathcal{T}}(\text{Gal}(\mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{T}}/\mathcal{K})) \supset W(G, \mathcal{T}).$$

If  $K$  is a number field (or, more generally, a finitely generated field) then one can use Hilbert's Irreducibility Theorem to specialize parameters and get "many" maximal  $K$ -tori  $T \subset G$  such that

$$\theta_T(\text{Gal}(K_T/K)) \supset W(G, T).$$

For  $K$  a number field, one can construct such generic tori with prescribed local behavior at finitely many places.

Then, if  $\Gamma$  is  $S$ -arithmetic, one can find generic tori containing  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  of infinite order.

Generic tori [constructed by this method](#) may not contain elements  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  of infinite order if  $\Gamma$  is not  $S$ -arithmetic.

(Our work was motivated by a question asked by Abels-Margulis-Soifer in connection with the Auslander conjecture, in the context of *nonarithmetic* groups.)

Generic tori [constructed by this method](#) may not contain elements  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  of infinite order if  $\Gamma$  is not  $S$ -arithmetic.

(Our work was motivated by a question asked by Abels-Margulis-Soifer in connection with the Auslander conjecture, in the context of *nonarithmetic* groups.)

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be a semi-simple real algebraic group.

An element  $\gamma \in G(\mathbb{R})$  is  **$\mathbb{R}$ -regular** if the number of eigenvalues of  $\text{Ad } \gamma$ , counted with multiplicities, of modulus 1, is minimal possible.

Generic tori [constructed by this method](#) may not contain elements  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  of infinite order if  $\Gamma$  is not  $S$ -arithmetic.

(Our work was motivated by a question asked by Abels-Margulis-Soifer in connection with the Auslander conjecture, in the context of *nonarithmetic* groups.)

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be a semi-simple real algebraic group.

An element  $\gamma \in G(\mathbb{R})$  is  **$\mathbb{R}$ -regular** if the number of eigenvalues of  $\text{Ad } \gamma$ , counted with multiplicities, of modulus 1, is minimal possible.

**Theorem 17.** Let  $G$  be a connected semi-simple real algebraic group. Then any Zariski-dense subsemigroup  $\Gamma \subset G(\mathbb{R})$  contain a regular  $\mathbb{R}$ -regular  $\gamma$  such that  $\langle \gamma \rangle$  is Zariski-dense in  $T = C_G(\gamma)^\circ$ .

**Theorem 18.** *Let  $G$  be a semi-simple algebraic group over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma \subset G(K)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup. Then there exists a regular semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $\langle \gamma \rangle$  is Zariski-dense in  $T = C_G(\gamma)^\circ$ .*

**Theorem 18.** *Let  $G$  be a semi-simple algebraic group over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma \subset G(K)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup. Then there exists a regular semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $\langle \gamma \rangle$  is Zariski-dense in  $T = C_G(\gamma)^\circ$ .*

SKETCH OF PROOF for  $G$  almost absolutely simple simply connected.



**Theorem 18.** *Let  $G$  be a semi-simple algebraic group over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma \subset G(K)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup. Then there exists a regular semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $\langle \gamma \rangle$  is Zariski-dense in  $T = C_G(\gamma)^\circ$ .*

SKETCH OF PROOF for  $G$  almost absolutely simple simply connected.

Can assume

- 1  $\Gamma$  is finitely generated;
- 2  $\Gamma \subset G(R)$  where  $R$  is a finitely generated subring of  $K$ ;
- 3  $K$  is finitely generated.

**Theorem 18.** *Let  $G$  be a semi-simple algebraic group over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero, and let  $\Gamma \subset G(K)$  be a Zariski-dense subgroup. Then there exists a regular semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $\langle \gamma \rangle$  is Zariski-dense in  $T = C_G(\gamma)^\circ$ .*

SKETCH OF PROOF for  $G$  almost absolutely simple simply connected.

Can assume

- 1  $\Gamma$  is finitely generated;
- 2  $\Gamma \subset G(R)$  where  $R$  is a finitely generated subring of  $K$ ;
- 3  $K$  is finitely generated.

We want to construct a regular semi-simple  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  of infinite order such that  $T = C_G(\gamma)^\circ$  is **generic** over  $K$ .

**Proposition.** Let  $K$  be a *finitely generated field*, and  $R \subset K$  be a *finitely generated ring*. There exists an *infinite set of primes*  $\Pi$  such that for each  $p \in \Pi$  there exists an embedding  $\varepsilon: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

- Pick a maximal  $K$ -torus  $T_0 \subset G$  and fix a conjugacy class  $C$  in  $W(G, T_0)$ .
- Pick an embedding  $\varepsilon_p: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ , and  $T_0$  is split over  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ .

**Proposition.** Let  $K$  be a *finitely generated field*, and  $R \subset K$  be a *finitely generated ring*. There exists an *infinite set of primes*  $\Pi$  such that for each  $p \in \Pi$  there exists an embedding  $\varepsilon: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

Observe that given maximal tori  $T_1, T_2$  of  $G$ , the Weyl groups  $W(G, T_1)$  and  $W(G, T_2)$  are identified *canonically*, up to an inner automorphism; in particular, the conjugacy classes are identified *canonically*.

- Pick a maximal  $K$ -torus  $T_0 \subset G$  and fix a conjugacy class  $C$  in  $W(G, T_0)$ .
- Pick an embedding  $\varepsilon_p: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ , and  $T_0$  is split over  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ .

**Proposition.** Let  $K$  be a *finitely generated field*, and  $R \subset K$  be a *finitely generated ring*. There exists an *infinite set of primes*  $\Pi$  such that for each  $p \in \Pi$  there exists an embedding  $\varepsilon: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

Observe that given maximal tori  $T_1, T_2$  of  $G$ , the Weyl groups  $W(G, T_1)$  and  $W(G, T_2)$  are identified *canonically*, up to an inner automorphism; in particular, the conjugacy classes are identified *canonically*.

- Pick a maximal  $K$ -torus  $T_0 \subset G$  and fix a conjugacy class  $C$  in  $W(G, T_0)$ .
- Pick an embedding  $\varepsilon_p: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ , and  $T_0$  is split over  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ .

**Proposition.** Let  $K$  be a *finitely generated field*, and  $R \subset K$  be a *finitely generated ring*. There exists an *infinite set of primes*  $\Pi$  such that for each  $p \in \Pi$  there exists an embedding  $\varepsilon: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

Observe that given maximal tori  $T_1, T_2$  of  $G$ , the Weyl groups  $W(G, T_1)$  and  $W(G, T_2)$  are identified *canonically*, up to an inner automorphism; in particular, the conjugacy classes are identified *canonically*.

- Pick a maximal  $K$ -torus  $T_0 \subset G$  and fix a conjugacy class  $C$  in  $W(G, T_0)$ .
- Pick an embedding  $\varepsilon_p: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$  such that  $\varepsilon_p(R) \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ , and  $T_0$  is split over  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ .

Using Galois cohomology, we find an **open**  $\Omega_p(C) \subset G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$  satisfying

- $\Omega_p(C)$  consists of regular semi-simple elements and intersects every open subgroup of  $G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ ;
- for  $\omega \in \Omega_p(C)$  and  $T_\omega = C_G(\omega)^\circ$ , we have

$$\theta_{T_\omega}(\text{Gal}(K_{T_\omega}/\mathbb{Q}_p)) \cap C \neq \emptyset$$

(in terms of the canonical identification  $W(G, T_\omega) \simeq W(G, T_0)$ )

Using Galois cohomology, we find an open  $\Omega_p(C) \subset G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$  satisfying

- $\Omega_p(C)$  consists of regular semi-simple elements and intersects every open subgroup of  $G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ ;
- for  $\omega \in \Omega_p(C)$  and  $T_\omega = C_G(\omega)^\circ$ , we have

$$\theta_{T_\omega}(\text{Gal}(K_{T_\omega}/\mathbb{Q}_p)) \cap C \neq \emptyset$$

(in terms of the canonical identification  $W(G, T_\omega) \simeq W(G, T_0)$ )

Let  $C_1, \dots, C_r$  be all conjugacy classes of  $W(G, T_0)$ .



Using Galois cohomology, we find an **open**  $\Omega_p(C) \subset G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$  satisfying

- $\Omega_p(C)$  consists of regular semi-simple elements and intersects every open subgroup of  $G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ ;
- for  $\omega \in \Omega_p(C)$  and  $T_\omega = C_G(\omega)^\circ$ , we have

$$\theta_{T_\omega}(\text{Gal}(K_{T_\omega}/\mathbb{Q}_p)) \cap C \neq \emptyset$$

(in terms of the canonical identification  $W(G, T_\omega) \simeq W(G, T_0)$ )

Let  $C_1, \dots, C_r$  be all conjugacy classes of  $W(G, T_0)$ .

Pick  $r$  primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r \in \Pi$ , and consider  $\Omega_{p_i}(C_i) \subset G(\mathbb{Q}_{p_i})$ .

One shows that

$$\Omega := \bigcap_{i=1}^r (\Gamma \cap \Omega_{p_i}(C_i)) \neq \emptyset,$$

and any  $\gamma \in \Omega$  is generic. □

## Some other applications of $p$ -adic embeddings:

- (Platonov) Let  $\pi: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$  be a *nontrivial isogeny* of semi-simple groups over a *finitely generated field*  $K$ . Then  $\pi(\tilde{G}(K)) \neq G(K)$ .
- (R.) Let  $\Gamma$  be a group with **bounded generation**, i.e.

$$\Gamma = \langle \gamma_1 \rangle \cdots \langle \gamma_d \rangle \quad \text{for some } \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_d \in \Gamma.$$

Assume that *any subgroup of finite index*  $\Gamma_1 \subset \Gamma$  has *finite abelianization*  $\Gamma_1^{ab} = \Gamma_1 / [\Gamma_1, \Gamma_1]$ . Then there are only *finitely many inequivalent irreducible representations*  $\rho: \Gamma \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

- (Prasad-R.) Let  $G$  be an *absolutely almost simple algebraic group* over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero.

If  $N \subset G(K)$  is a *noncentral subnormal subgroup* then  $N$  is *not finitely generated*.

## Some other applications of $p$ -adic embeddings:

- (Platonov) Let  $\pi: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$  be a *nontrivial isogeny* of semi-simple groups over a *finitely generated field*  $K$ . Then  $\pi(\tilde{G}(K)) \neq G(K)$ .
- (R.) Let  $\Gamma$  be a group with *bounded generation*, i.e.

$$\Gamma = \langle \gamma_1 \rangle \cdots \langle \gamma_d \rangle \quad \text{for some } \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_d \in \Gamma.$$

Assume that *any subgroup of finite index*  $\Gamma_1 \subset \Gamma$  has *finite abelianization*  $\Gamma_1^{ab} = \Gamma_1 / [\Gamma_1, \Gamma_1]$ . Then there are only *finitely many inequivalent irreducible representations*  $\rho: \Gamma \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

- (Prasad-R.) Let  $G$  be an *absolutely almost simple algebraic group* over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero.

If  $N \subset G(K)$  is a *noncentral subnormal subgroup* then  $N$  is *not finitely generated*.

Some other applications of  $p$ -adic embeddings:

- (Platonov) Let  $\pi: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$  be a *nontrivial isogeny* of semi-simple groups over a *finitely generated field*  $K$ . Then  $\pi(\tilde{G}(K)) \neq G(K)$ .
- (R.) Let  $\Gamma$  be a group with **bounded generation**, i.e.

$$\Gamma = \langle \gamma_1 \rangle \cdots \langle \gamma_d \rangle \quad \text{for some } \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_d \in \Gamma.$$

Assume that *any subgroup of finite index*  $\Gamma_1 \subset \Gamma$  has *finite abelianization*  $\Gamma_1^{ab} = \Gamma_1 / [\Gamma_1, \Gamma_1]$ . Then there are only *finitely many inequivalent irreducible representations*  $\rho: \Gamma \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

- (Prasad-R.) Let  $G$  be an *absolutely almost simple algebraic group* over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero.

If  $N \subset G(K)$  is a *noncentral subnormal subgroup* then  $N$  is *not finitely generated*.

Some other applications of  $p$ -adic embeddings:

- (Platonov) Let  $\pi: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$  be a *nontrivial isogeny* of semi-simple groups over a *finitely generated field*  $K$ . Then  $\pi(\tilde{G}(K)) \neq G(K)$ .
- (R.) Let  $\Gamma$  be a group with **bounded generation**, i.e.

$$\Gamma = \langle \gamma_1 \rangle \cdots \langle \gamma_d \rangle \quad \text{for some } \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_d \in \Gamma.$$

Assume that any subgroup of finite index  $\Gamma_1 \subset \Gamma$  has *finite abelianization*  $\Gamma_1^{ab} = \Gamma_1 / [\Gamma_1, \Gamma_1]$ . Then there are only *finitely many inequivalent irreducible representations*  $\rho: \Gamma \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

- (Prasad-R.) Let  $G$  be an absolutely almost simple algebraic group over a field  $K$  of characteristic zero.

If  $N \subset G(K)$  is a *noncentral subnormal subgroup* then  $N$  is *not finitely generated*.