

Oberseminar Geometrie Department of Mathematics University of Fribourg Physics 2.52 Wednesday November 18, 2020, 10:20

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## Margulis' Lemma

The subject of the talk is a well known result on discrete subgroups  $\Gamma$  of Lie groups G - the Margulis lemma, which in its basic form states that the "small elements" of  $\Gamma$  generate a nilpotent subgroup  $\Gamma_{\delta}$ . We discuss the role (and proof) of this lemma, as well as its extension to discrete groups of isometries of general Riemannian manifolds M, without an ambient Lie group G. In this case,  $\Gamma_{\delta}$  is generated by isometries that nearly fix a given point  $p \in M$ , and one obtains a description of the action near p in terms of standard actions on infra-nilmanifolds.