

Semisimple symmetric spaces without compact manifolds locally modelled thereon

By Yosuke MORITA

Graduate School of Mathematical Science, The University of Tokyo,
3-8-1 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-8914, Japan

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Abstract: Let G be a real reductive Lie group and H a closed subgroup of G which is reductive in G . In our earlier work it was shown that, if the homomorphism $i : H^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}, \mathfrak{h}_\mathbb{C}; \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow H^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}, (\mathfrak{k}_H)_\mathbb{C}; \mathbb{C})$ is not injective, there does not exist a compact manifold locally modelled on G/H . In this paper, we give a classification of the semisimple symmetric spaces G/H for which i is not injective. We also study the case when G cannot be realised as a linear group.

Key words: Local model; (G, X) -structure; Clifford–Klein form; symmetric space; relative Lie algebra cohomology; invariant polynomial.

1. Introduction and preliminary results. Let G be a real reductive Lie group and H a closed subgroup of G which is reductive in G . We say that G/H is a homogeneous space of reductive type. A manifold M is said to be locally modelled on G/H , or said to admit a $(G, G/H)$ -structure, if it is covered by open sets that are diffeomorphic to open sets of G/H and the transition functions are locally given by translations by elements of G . We always assume that the transition functions verify the cocycle condition. This assumption is harmless: if G/H is connected and G acts transitively on G/H , it is automatically satisfied.

A typical example of a manifold locally modelled on G/H is the following: if Γ is a discrete subgroup of G acting properly discontinuously and freely on G/H , the projection $\pi : G/H \rightarrow \Gamma \backslash G/H$ is a covering map and $\Gamma \backslash G/H$ is locally modelled on G/H . $\Gamma \backslash G/H$ is called a Clifford–Klein form of G/H and Γ is called a discontinuous group for G/H . Since Kobayashi [9] initiated a systematic study of Clifford–Klein forms of homogeneous spaces of reductive type in general setting, the determination of all G/H admitting compact Clifford–Klein forms has been one of the central problems in the theory of discontinuous group. There are various obstructions for the existence of compact Clifford–Klein forms (e.g. [2], [11], [18], [21]), and also for the

existence of compact manifolds locally modelled on G/H ([3], [14], [17]). See [7], [12], [13], [15], [16] for surveys on this topic.

Remark 1.1. To the best knowledge of the author, it is not known if there is a homogeneous space of reductive type admitting a compact manifold locally modelled thereon, but not admitting a compact Clifford–Klein form. In the following two cases, any compact manifold locally modelled on G/H is automatically a Clifford–Klein form.

- G is an adjoint group and H is a maximal compact subgroup K_G of G (by the Hopf–Rinow theorem).
- $G/H = O(n+1, 1)/O(n, 1), O(n, 2)/O(n, 1)$ [8].

Extending the idea of Kobayashi–Ono [14], we obtained the following obstruction:

Theorem 1.2 ([19, Theorem 1.3]). *Let G be a real reductive Lie group, H a closed subgroup of G which is reductive in G , and K_H a maximal compact subgroup of H . We write \mathfrak{g} for the Lie algebra of G and $\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}$ for its complexification. If the following condition **(A)** is satisfied, there does not exist a compact manifold locally modelled on G/H :*

(A) *The homomorphism of relative Lie algebra cohomology*

$$i : H^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}, \mathfrak{h}_\mathbb{C}; \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow H^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}, (\mathfrak{k}_H)_\mathbb{C}; \mathbb{C}) \text{ is not injective.}$$

Remark 1.3. (1) **(A)** is rewritten as follows: **(A')** The homomorphism of relative Lie algebra cohomology $i : H^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k}_H; \mathbb{R})$ is not injective.

(2) Following [3] and [12, Notes 3.13] we gen-

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eralised [19, Theorem 1.3] to an arbitrary manifold locally modelled on a homogeneous space. But we do not know if this is an essential generalisation (see Remark 1.1).

(3) [19, Theorem 1.3] was stated in terms of cohomology of the associated compact homogeneous space $H^\bullet(G_U/H_U; \mathbf{C})$. We replaced it by relative Lie algebra cohomology since it is well-defined even if G cannot be realised as a linear group (see Section 4).

We note that, given G/H , it is not so easy to verify directly whether (A) holds or not. Instead, we use the following proposition to find examples of G/H that satisfies (A).

Proposition 1.4 ([19, Proposition 3.2]). *We keep the notation of Theorem 1.2. Denote by $\text{Pol}(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}})^{\text{bc}}$ the algebra of $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}}$ -invariant polynomials on $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}}$ and define $J_{(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}})}$ to be the ideal of $\text{Pol}(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}})^{\text{bc}}$ generated by*

$$\{P|_{\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}}} : P \in \text{Pol}(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}})^{\text{bc}}, \\ \text{the constant term of } P \text{ is zero}\}.$$

Consider the following condition:

(B) *There exists an element Q of $\text{Pol}(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}})^{\text{bc}}$ such that $Q \notin J_{(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}})}$ and $Q|_{(\mathfrak{k}_H)_{\mathbf{C}}} = 0$.*

Then we have the implication (B) \Rightarrow (A).

The proof of Proposition 1.4 is based on H. Cartan's algebraisation of Chern–Weil theory and its application to relative Lie algebra cohomology [6, §10].

In [19] we gave some examples of a homogeneous space that satisfies (A). In this paper we give a classification of all semisimple symmetric spaces satisfying (A) (see Theorem 2.1). The details of the proof will appear elsewhere.

2. Main result. By a semisimple symmetric space we mean a homogeneous space G/H such that G is a real semisimple Lie group and H is an open subgroup of a fixed point set G^σ of some involution σ on G . In this section we assume G to be linear. If \mathfrak{g} is simple or $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ is isomorphic to $(\mathfrak{l} \oplus \mathfrak{l}, \Delta \mathfrak{l})$ (\mathfrak{l} : simple Lie algebra), a semisimple symmetric space G/H is called irreducible. At the Lie algebra level $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$, any semisimple symmetric space is uniquely decomposed into irreducible ones. The complete classification of irreducible symmetric spaces up to possibly outer automorphisms of \mathfrak{g} is given by Berger [4].

The main result of this paper is the following:

Theorem 2.1. *Let G/H be a semisimple symmetric space. Then the above conditions (A) and (B), and the following condition (C) are all equivalent:*

(C) *$(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ has an irreducible factor $(\mathfrak{g}', \mathfrak{h}')$ satisfying $\text{rank } \mathfrak{h}' > \text{rank } \mathfrak{k}_{H'}$ and isomorphic to none of the following:*

- $(\mathfrak{l} \oplus \mathfrak{l}, \Delta \mathfrak{l})$ (\mathfrak{l} : simple Lie algebra)
- $(\mathfrak{l}_{\mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{l})$ (\mathfrak{l} : simple Lie algebra)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n+1, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(2n+1, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}(2n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(2n-1, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 3$)
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{6, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{f}_{4, \mathbf{C}})$

Remark 2.2. Theorem 2.1 says, in particular, that (A) and (B) are equivalent for the semisimple symmetric spaces. We do not know whether it is true for any homogeneous space of reductive type. In particular, we do not have a direct proof of the equivalence for the semisimple symmetric spaces. Note that the implication (B) \Rightarrow (A) holds for any homogeneous space of reductive type (Proposition 1.4).

Among Berger's classification of the irreducible symmetric spaces [4], we list all irreducible symmetric pairs $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ satisfying (C):

type A

- $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(2n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(p+q, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{sl}(p, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(q, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathbf{C})$ ($p, q \geq 1$)
- ★★ $(\mathfrak{sl}(p+q, \mathbf{R}), \mathfrak{so}(p, q))$ (p, q : odd)
- $(\mathfrak{su}(p, q), \mathfrak{so}(p, q))$ (p, q : odd)
- $(\mathfrak{su}(n, n), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathbf{R})$ ($n \geq 2$)
- ★★ $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n, \mathbf{R}), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{u}(1))$ ($n \geq 2$)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{H}), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{u}(1))$ ($n \geq 2$)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(p+q, \mathbf{R}), \mathfrak{sl}(p, \mathbf{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(q, \mathbf{R}) \oplus \mathbf{R})$ ($p, q \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(p+q, \mathbf{H}), \mathfrak{sl}(p, \mathbf{H}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(q, \mathbf{H}) \oplus \mathbf{R})$ ($p, q \geq 1$)

type B and type D

- $(\mathfrak{so}(p+q, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(p, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(q, \mathbf{C}))$
($p, q \geq 2$ or p : even, $q = 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}(2n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathbf{C})$ ($n \geq 2$)
- ★★ $(\mathfrak{so}(n, n), \mathfrak{so}(n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 2$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}^*(2n), \mathfrak{so}(n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 2$)
- ★★ $(\mathfrak{so}(p+r, q+s), \mathfrak{so}(p, q) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(r, s))$
(p, q : odd and $r \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}(n, n), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{R}) \oplus \mathbf{R})$ ($n \geq 2$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}^*(4n), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{H}) \oplus \mathbf{R})$ ($n \geq 1$)

type C

- $(\mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathbf{C})$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{sp}(p+q, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{sp}(p, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(q, \mathbf{C}))$ ($p, q \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbf{R}), \mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{sp}(n, n), \mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$)

- $(\mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbf{R}), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{R}) \oplus \mathbf{R})$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{sp}(n, n), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{H}) \oplus \mathbf{R})$ ($n \geq 1$)

type E_6

- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{6, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbf{C}))$
- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{6, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{sl}(6, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{C}))$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{6, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{so}(10, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathbf{C})$
- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{6(6)}, \mathfrak{sl}(6, \mathbf{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{R}))$
- ★★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{6(6)}, \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbf{H}) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2))$
- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{6(-26)}, \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbf{H}) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2))$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{6(6)}, \mathfrak{so}(5, 5) \oplus \mathbf{R})$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{6(-26)}, \mathfrak{so}(9, 1) \oplus \mathbf{R})$

type E_7

- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{7, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{sl}(8, \mathbf{C}))$
- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{7, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{so}(12, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{C}))$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{7, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{e}_{6, \mathbf{C}} \oplus \mathbf{C})$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{7(7)}, \mathfrak{sl}(8, \mathbf{R}))$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{7(7)}, \mathfrak{sl}(4, \mathbf{H}))$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{7(-25)}, \mathfrak{sl}(4, \mathbf{H}))$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{7(7)}, \mathfrak{e}_{6(6)} \oplus \mathbf{R})$
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{7(-25)}, \mathfrak{e}_{6(-26)} \oplus \mathbf{R})$

type E_8

- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{8, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{so}(16, \mathbf{C}))$
- ★ $(\mathfrak{e}_{8, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{e}_{7, \mathbf{C}} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{C}))$

type F_4

- ★ $(\mathfrak{f}_{4, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{sp}(3, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{C}))$
- ★ $(\mathfrak{f}_{4, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{so}(9, \mathbf{C}))$

type G_2

- ★ $(\mathfrak{g}_{2, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{C}))$.

Here, the signs ★, ★ and ◦ signify

- ★★: The nonexistence of compact Clifford–Klein forms of G/H seems to be new.
- ★: The nonexistence of compact Clifford–Klein forms of G/H was known earlier by [19], but not for locally modelled case (see Remark 1.1).
- : The nonexistence of compact manifolds locally modelled on G/H was known earlier by [19].

Note that we saw the nonexistence of compact Clifford–Klein forms of ★★ in [19, Corollary 1.4] except $(\mathfrak{e}_{6(6)}, \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbf{H}) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2))$.

Remark 2.3. There are many examples of an irreducible symmetric space that does not admit compact Clifford–Klein forms but does not satisfy (A)–(C) (see [2], [9], [11], [20]). For example, $SU(p, q)/SO(p, q)$ ($p, q \geq 1$) does not admit a Clifford–Klein form by [9, Corollary 4.4].

3. Outline of proof. $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ satisfies (A), (B) or (C) if and only if $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ has an irreducible factor satisfying (A), (B) or (C), respectively. Hence we may assume that a symmetric space G/H is irreducible. By Proposition 1.4, it is enough to

prove (A) \Rightarrow (C) and (C) \Rightarrow (B).

(A) \Rightarrow (C): If $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}) = (\mathfrak{l} \oplus \mathfrak{l}, \Delta \mathfrak{l})$, (A) is not satisfied since a group manifold $(L \times L)/\Delta L$ admits a compact Clifford–Klein form [9, Example 4.8]. If $\text{rank } H = \text{rank } K_H$ or $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}) = (\mathfrak{l}_{\mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{l})$, (A) is not satisfied by [19, Proposition 6.2]. Thus suppose $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ is

- $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n+1, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(2n+1, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$),
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$),
- $(\mathfrak{so}(2n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(2n-1, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 3$), or
- $(\mathfrak{e}_{6, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{f}_{4, \mathbf{C}})$.

In these cases, (A) is not satisfied by the following proposition:

Proposition 3.1. *Let G/H be a semisimple symmetric space. If the restriction map $(S(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}})^*)^{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathbf{C}}} \rightarrow (S(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}})^*)^{\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbf{C}}}$ is surjective (or equivalently, $(S(\mathfrak{g})^*)^{\mathfrak{g}} \rightarrow (S(\mathfrak{h})^*)^{\mathfrak{h}}$ is surjective), then G/H does not satisfy (A).*

Proposition 3.1 follows from [6, §10] as Proposition 1.4.

(C) \Rightarrow (B): We give some sufficient condition for (B) that do not depend on the embedding of H into G , but on G and H themselves only:

Proposition 3.2. *Let G be a real semisimple Lie group and H a closed subgroup which is reductive in G . If the identity component of the centre of H is noncompact, G/H satisfies (B).*

Proposition 3.3. *Let G be a complex reductive Lie group and H a closed complex subgroup which is reductive in G . Decompose \mathfrak{g} and \mathfrak{h} into direct sums of their ideals:*

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{g}_k \oplus \mathbf{C}^p, \quad \mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{h}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{h}_l \oplus \mathbf{C}^q,$$

where $\mathfrak{g}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{g}_k, \mathfrak{h}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{h}_l$ are complex simple Lie algebras. If one of the following conditions holds, G/H satisfies (B):

- (1) $p < q$.
- (2) $k < l$.
- (3) $\min_{1 \leq i \leq k} d_2(\mathfrak{g}_i) > \min_{1 \leq j \leq l} d_2(\mathfrak{h}_j)$.

Here, $d_2(\mathfrak{g}_i)$ is the second smallest number in the degrees of generators of $(S(\mathfrak{g}_i)^*)^{\mathfrak{g}_i}$:

$$d_2(\mathfrak{g}_i) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } \mathfrak{g}_i \simeq \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \ (n \geq 3), \\ 4 & \text{if } \mathfrak{g}_i \simeq \mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbf{C}) \ (n \geq 2) \text{ or} \\ & \mathfrak{so}(n, \mathbf{C}) \ (n \geq 7), \\ 5 & \text{if } \mathfrak{g}_i \simeq \mathfrak{e}_{6, \mathbf{C}}, \\ 6 & \text{if } \mathfrak{g}_i \simeq \mathfrak{e}_{7, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{f}_{4, \mathbf{C}}, \mathfrak{g}_{2, \mathbf{C}}, \\ 8 & \text{if } \mathfrak{g}_i \simeq \mathfrak{e}_{8, \mathbf{C}}, \\ \infty & \text{if } \mathfrak{g}_i \simeq \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{C}). \end{cases}$$

Proposition 3.4. *Let G be a real reductive Lie group and H a closed subgroup of G which is reductive in G . Assume the following two conditions:*

- \mathfrak{h} has a factor of $\mathfrak{sl}(l, \mathbf{R})$ ($l \geq 3$), $\mathfrak{sl}(l, \mathbf{C})$ ($l \geq 3$), or $\mathfrak{sl}(l, \mathbf{H})$ ($l \geq 2$).
- $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}}$ does not have a factor of $\mathfrak{sl}(k, \mathbf{C})$ for any $k \geq 3$.

Then G/H satisfies **(B)**.

Proposition 3.5 ([19, Corollary 6.1]). *Let G be a real reductive Lie group and H a closed subgroup of G which is reductive in G . Denote by K_G, K_H the maximal compact groups of G, H , respectively. If $\text{rank } G = \text{rank } H$ and $\text{rank } K_G > \text{rank } K_H$, then G/H satisfies **(B)**.*

Remark 3.6. Proposition 3.2 is a generalisation of [10, Corollary 4] and similar to [3, Corollaire 1, Corollaire 3]. Proposition 3.5 is a slight generalisation of [14, Corollary 5] and [9, Proposition 4.10].

By using Propositions 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5, we can prove **(C)** \Rightarrow **(B)** for most cases, including all exceptional ones. It remains to check that **(B)** is satisfied when $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ is one of the following

- $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(2n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 3$)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(p+q, \mathbf{R}), \mathfrak{so}(p, q))$ (p, q : odd)
- $(\mathfrak{su}(p, q), \mathfrak{so}(p, q))$ (p, q : odd)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(2n, \mathbf{R}), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{u}(1))$ ($n \geq 2$)
- $(\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{H}), \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbf{C}) \oplus \mathfrak{u}(1))$ ($n \geq 2$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}(2n+1, \mathbf{C}), \mathfrak{so}(2n, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 3$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}(2n+1, 2n+1), \mathfrak{so}(2n+1, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}^*(4n+2), \mathfrak{so}(2n+1, \mathbf{C}))$ ($n \geq 1$)
- $(\mathfrak{so}(p+r, q+s), \mathfrak{so}(p, q) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(r, s))$
(p, q : odd, $r+s$: even and $r \geq 1$).

A direct calculation shows that these indeed satisfy **(B)**.

4. Nonlinear case. By A. Borel's theorem [5], for any linear real semisimple Lie group G , a Riemannian symmetric space G/K_G of noncompact type admits a compact Clifford–Klein form. Let $\pi: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ be a covering map and put $\tilde{K}_G = \pi^{-1}(K_G)$. If \tilde{G} is not linear, the proof of [5] does not work for \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}_G because of the following two reasons:

- We cannot use Selberg's lemma to control the freeness of the action.
- If π is an infinite covering map, \tilde{K}_G is noncompact. Hence a discrete subgroup of \tilde{G} may not act properly discontinuously on \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}_G .

The following result shows that the compactness of K_G is crucial:

Corollary 4.1. *Let G/K_G be a Hermitian symmetric space of noncompact type and $\pi: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ be a universal covering map. Put $\tilde{K}_G = \pi^{-1}(K_G)$. Then there does not exist a compact manifold locally modelled on \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}_G .*

In particular, there does not exist a discrete subgroup of \tilde{G} acting properly discontinuously, freely, and cocompactly on \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}_G .

Corollary 4.1 follows from Proposition 3.2.

Remark 4.2. [1] applied A. Borel's theorem to construct the discrete series representations of a semisimple Lie group with finite centre. In its erratum nonlinear case is discussed. Unfortunately, our method gives no information for finite centre case.

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