

Positive curvature and fundamental group

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Iowa State University

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Theorem (Rong, 1999):

$S^1 \subseteq \text{Isom}(M^n, g) \implies \pi_1(M)$ has a cyclic subgroup of index $\leq w(n)$.

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Theorem (K.): If $T^2 \subseteq \text{Isom}(M, g)$ and $H^*(\tilde{M}; \mathbb{Q}) \cong H^*(B_{(q_1, \dots, q_5)}^{13}; \mathbb{Q})$, then $\pi_1(M)$ has a cyclic subgroup of index dividing 18. Moreover, if $H^*(\tilde{M}; \mathbb{Z}_3) \cong H^*(B_{(q_1, \dots, q_5)}^{13}; \mathbb{Z}_3)$, then the index is at most 9.

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Corollary (K.): If $T^3 \subseteq \text{Isom}(M, g)$ and $H^*(\tilde{M}; \mathbb{Q}) \cong H^*(B_{(q_1, \dots, q_5)}^{13}; \mathbb{Q})$, then $\pi_1(M)$ has a cyclic subgroup of index at most 3.

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Main lemma (K.): Suppose that G has odd order and acts freely on a positively curved manifold P . If P admits a circle action which commutes with the action of G , then for any cyclic normal $N \leq G$, either $|G/N|$ divides $\chi(P/S^1, P^{S^1})$ or $N \subsetneq \langle \alpha \rangle \subseteq G$.

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8. Main lemma $\implies \Gamma''$ has a cyclic subgroup of index at most **three**.

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(**Idea of proof:** consider the Serre spectral sequence associated to the Borel fibration $M \rightarrow M_G \rightarrow BG$, where $G = \mathbb{Z}_p^3$ and M is a \mathbb{Z}_p -cohomology $\mathbb{S}^m \times \mathbb{S}^n$. If G acts freely, then $M_G \simeq M/G$. This, together with computing some basic bounds on the dimensions, leads to a contradiction.)

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Lemma (K.): \mathbb{Z}_p^2 cannot act freely on a \mathbb{Z}_p -cohomology $S^2 \times S^3$.

Proof: Refine Heller's argument by computing the differentials.