

Actions on  
 $S$ -median  
spaces

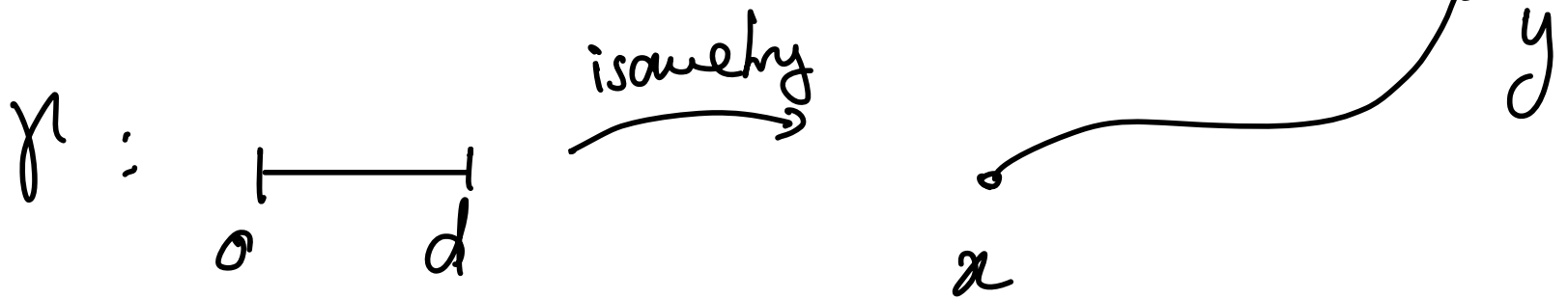
Indira CHATTERJI

Plan for the talk:

- $\delta$ -median spaces : definitions & examples
- a conjecture & evidences
- some known cases

## S-median spaces

$(X, d)$  geodesic metric space :

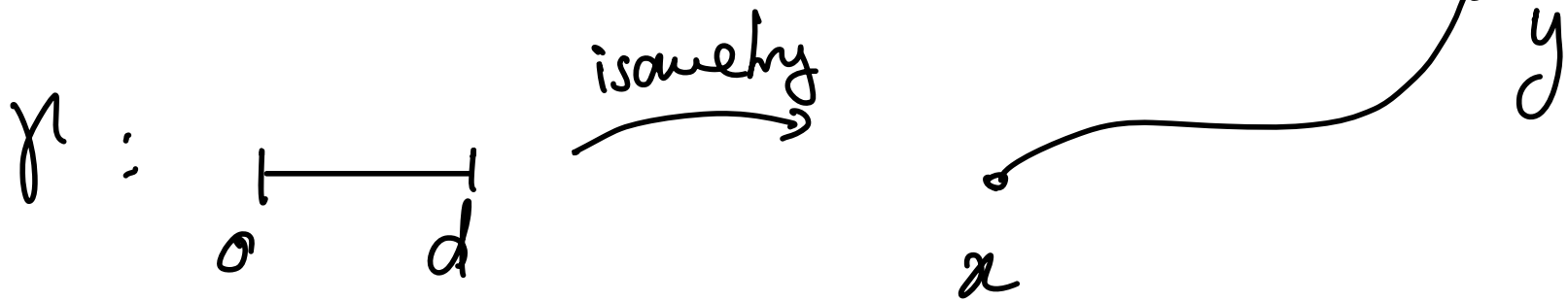


$$I(x, y) = \{t \in X \mid d(x, t) + d(t, y) = d(x, y)\}$$

the interval between  $x$  and  $y$

# $\delta$ -median spaces

$(X, d)$  geodesic metric space :



$$\delta \geq 0$$

$$I_{\delta}(x, y) = \{t \in X \mid d(x, t) + d(t, y) \leq d(x, y) + \delta\}$$

the  $\delta$ -interval between  $x$  and  $y$

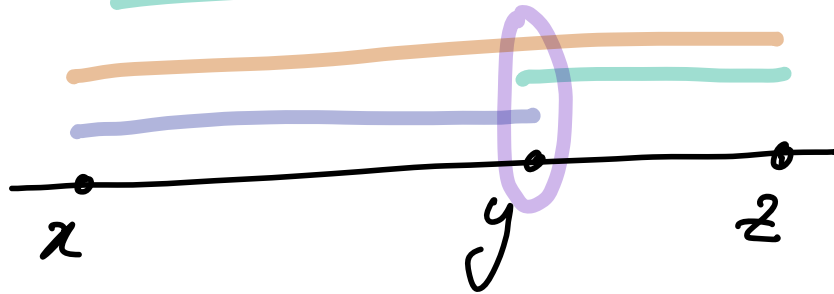
S-median spaces:  $(X, d)$  geodesic metric space  
is called median if for any  $x, y, z \in X$

$$I(x, y) \cap I(y, z) \cap I(z, x) = \{p\}$$

S-median spaces:  $(X, d)$  geodesic metric space  
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$$\underline{I(x, y)} \cap \underline{I(y, z)} \cap \underline{I(z, x)} = \underline{\{pt\}}$$

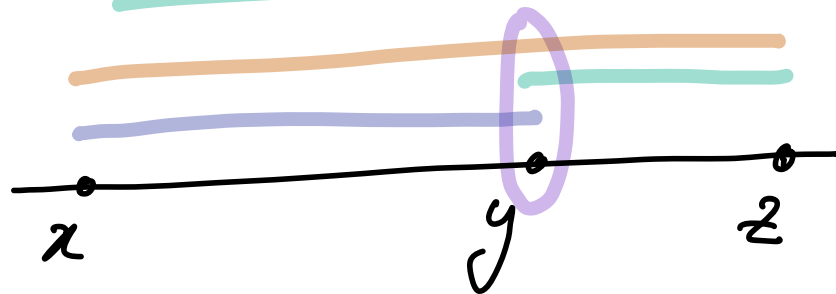
Ex:  $\mathbb{R}$



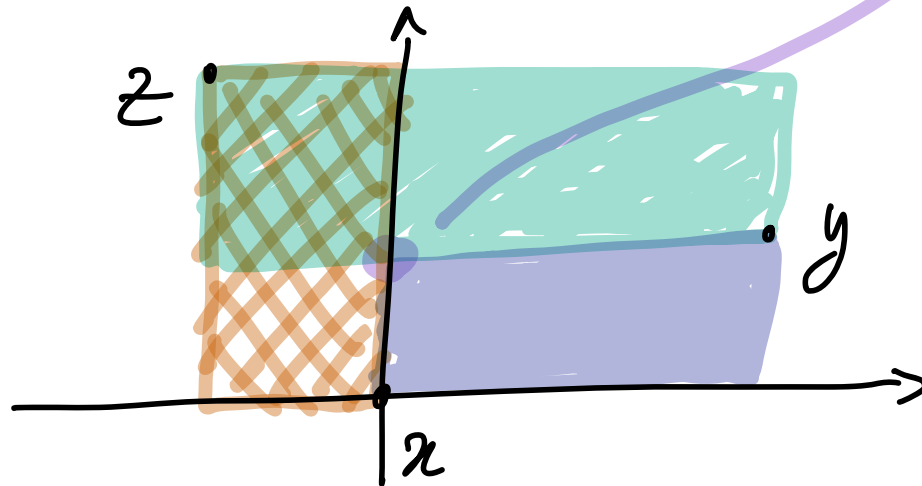
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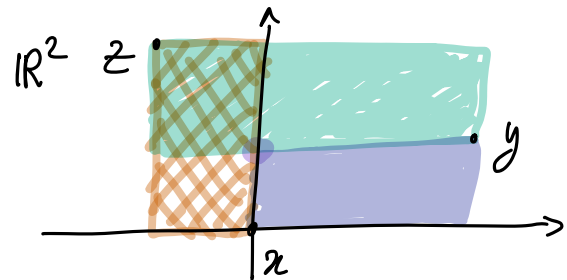
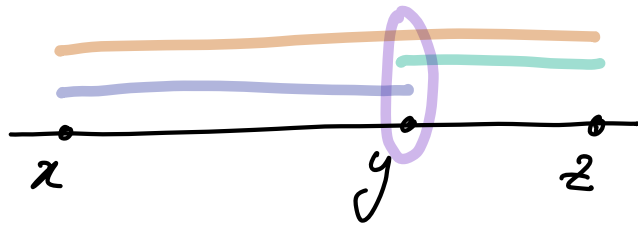
$\mathbb{R}^2$



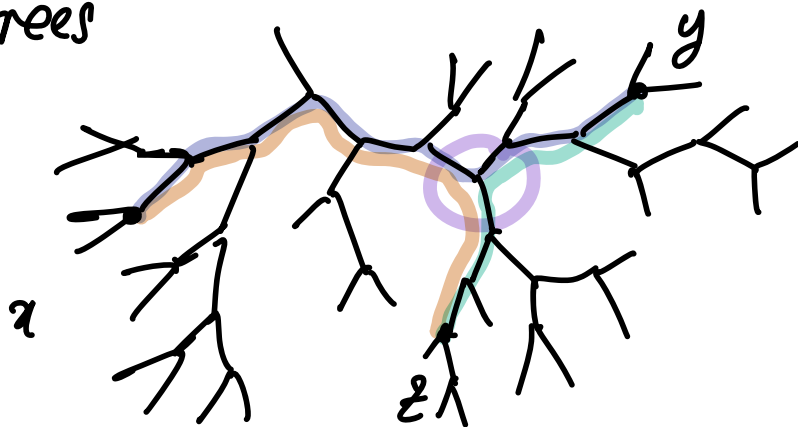
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Ex:  $\mathbb{R}$



trees

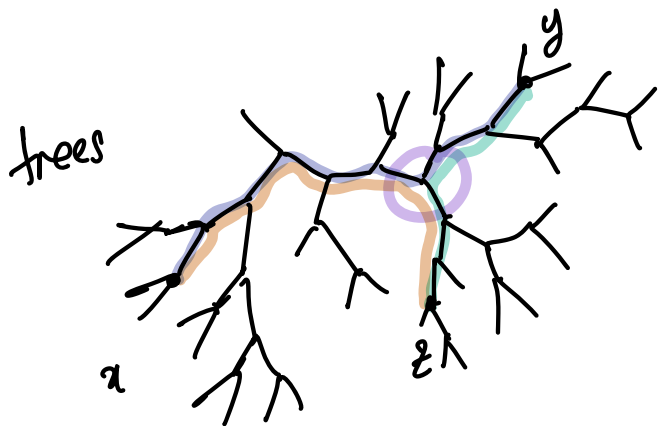
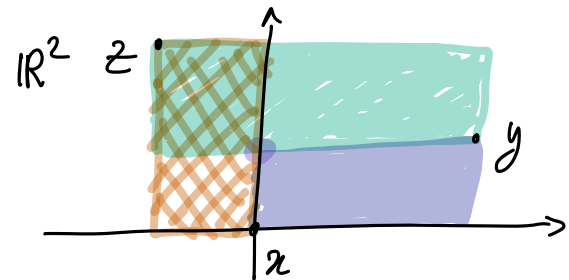
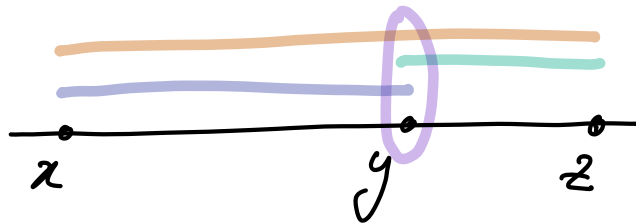




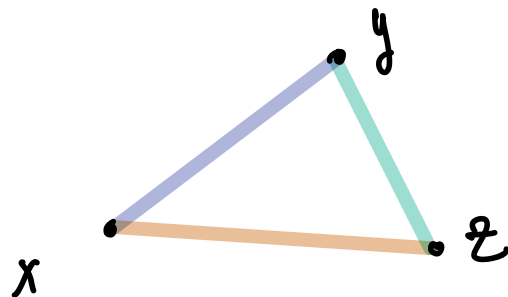
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Ex:  $\mathbb{R}$



NOT  $(\mathbb{R}^2, \text{euclidean})$



S-median spaces:  $(X, d)$  geodesic metric space  
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$\delta$ -median spaces:  $(X, d)$  geodesic metric space  
 $\delta \geq 0$  is called  $\delta$ -median if for any  $x, y, z \in X$

$$d_H \left( I_\delta(x, y) \cap I_\delta(y, z) \cap I_\delta(z, x), \{pt\} \right) \leq C = C(\delta)$$

$$I_\delta(x, y) = \{t \in X \mid d(x, t) + d(t, y) \leq d(x, y) + \delta\}$$

the  $\delta$ -interval between  $x$  and  $y$

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Examples: • median spaces are 0-median  
• symmetric spaces associated to rank one Lie groups

$$I_\delta(x, y) = \{t \in X \mid d(x, t) + d(t, y) \leq d(x, y) + \delta\}$$

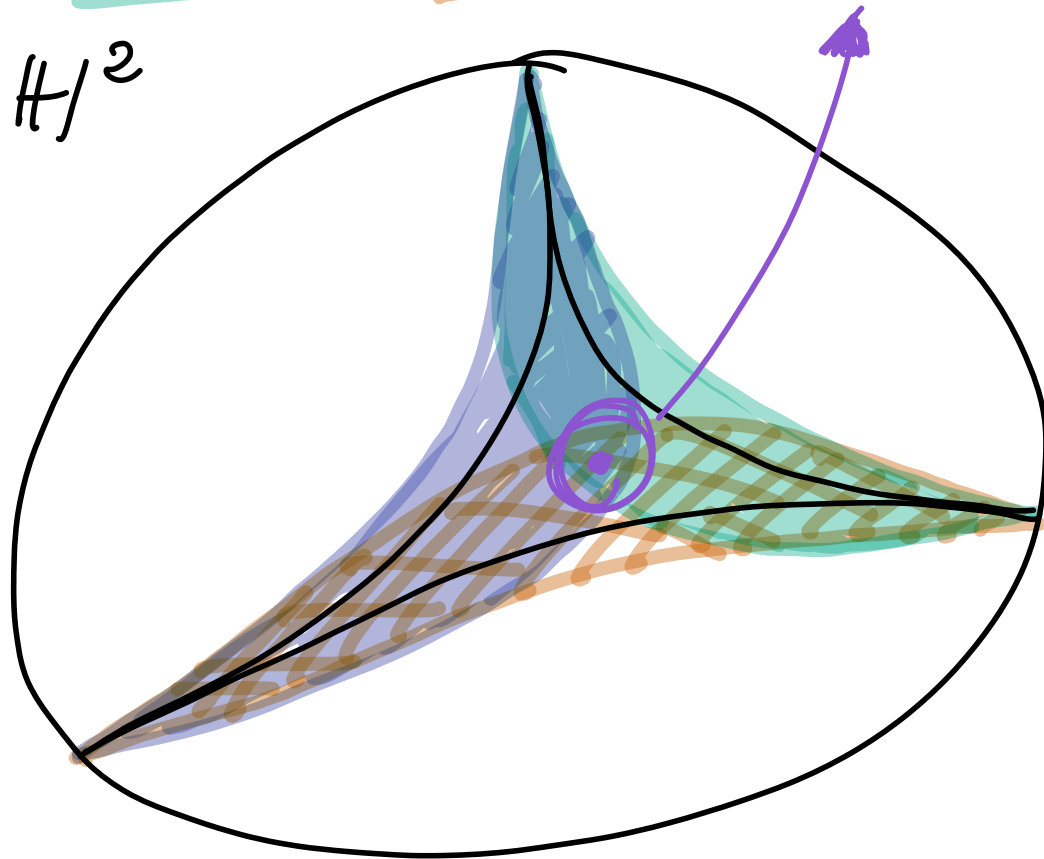
the  $\delta$ -interval between  $x$  and  $y$

$\delta$ -median spaces :  $(X, d)$  geodesic metric space

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$$d_H \left( \underbrace{I_\delta(x, y)}_{\text{blue}} \cap \underbrace{I_\delta(y, z)}_{\text{green}} \cap \underbrace{I_\delta(z, x)}_{\text{orange}}, \{pt\} \right) \leq C = C(\delta)$$

Examples :  $\mathbb{H}^2$



(or any Gromov  
hyperbolic  
space)

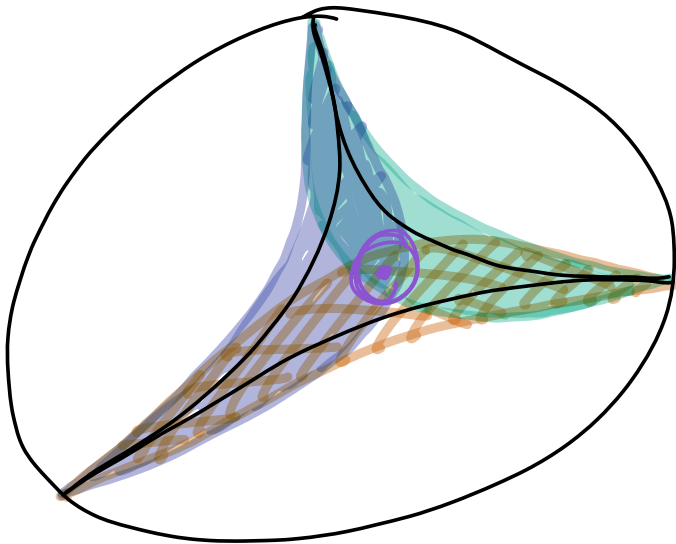
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$$d_H \left( I_\delta(x, y) \cap I_\delta(y, z) \cap I_\delta(z, x), \{pt\} \right) \leq C = C(\delta)$$

Examples :  $\mathbb{H}^2$  ,  $(\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{H}^2, d = d_{\mathbb{H}^2} + d_{\mathbb{H}^2})$

products of  $\mathbb{H}^n$ ,  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$ ,  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{H}}^n$



NOT : symmetric spaces  
associated to higher  
rank Lie groups.

Plan for the talk:

- $\delta$ -median spaces : definitions & examples
- a conjecture & evidences
- some known cases

Conjecture: Let  $G$  be a finitely generated group

$G$  acts properly by isometries on a uniformly locally finite  $\delta$ -median space.

$\Leftrightarrow$

$G$  acts properly by affine isometries on some  $\ell^p$  space.



probably equivalent  
Conjecture: Let  $G$  be a finitely generated group  
has bounded orbits for actions  
 ~~$G$  acts properly~~ by isometries on a uniformly  
locally finite  $\delta$ -median space.

$\Leftrightarrow$

any action of  $G$   
 ~~$G$  acts properly~~ by affine isometries on some  
 $\ell^p$  space has a fixed point. (strong property (T))

Conjecture: Let  $G$  be a finitely generated group

$G$  acts properly by isometries on a uniformly locally finite  $\delta$ -median space.

$\Leftrightarrow$  balls intersected with uniform nets have uniformly bounded cardinality  $\Leftrightarrow$

$G$  acts properly by affine isometries on some  $\ell^p$  space.

Conjecture: Let  $G$  be a finitely generated group

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$\hookrightarrow$  not that:

$\Leftrightarrow$



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Status of that conjecture, evidences:

Yu, Alvarez-Laforgue, Panou, Baurdau (98 - ... - 2016)

If  $G$  acts properly by isometries on a uniformly locally finite  $\delta$ -hyperbolic space, then  $G$  acts on  $\ell^p(G \times G)$  for  $p$  large enough.

Status of that conjecture, evidences:

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Chatterji - Druhtu - Haglund (2007)

$G$  acts properly on a median space  $(\Rightarrow)$

$G$  acts properly on a Hilbert space

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 $G$  acts properly on a median space  $\Leftrightarrow$   
 $G$  acts properly on a Hilbert space

Chatterji - Druhu - Haglund (2007)

Any action of  $G$  by isometries on a median space  
has a bounded orbit

$\Leftrightarrow G$  has Kazhdan property (T).

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Haettel: Lattices in higher rank simple Lie groups  
cannot act on a  $\delta$ -median space without  
a bounded orbit.

Bader - Furman - Gelander - Mouod: Same lattices  
cannot act on an  $\ell^p$  space without fix point.



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 If  $G$  acts properly by isometries on a uniformly  
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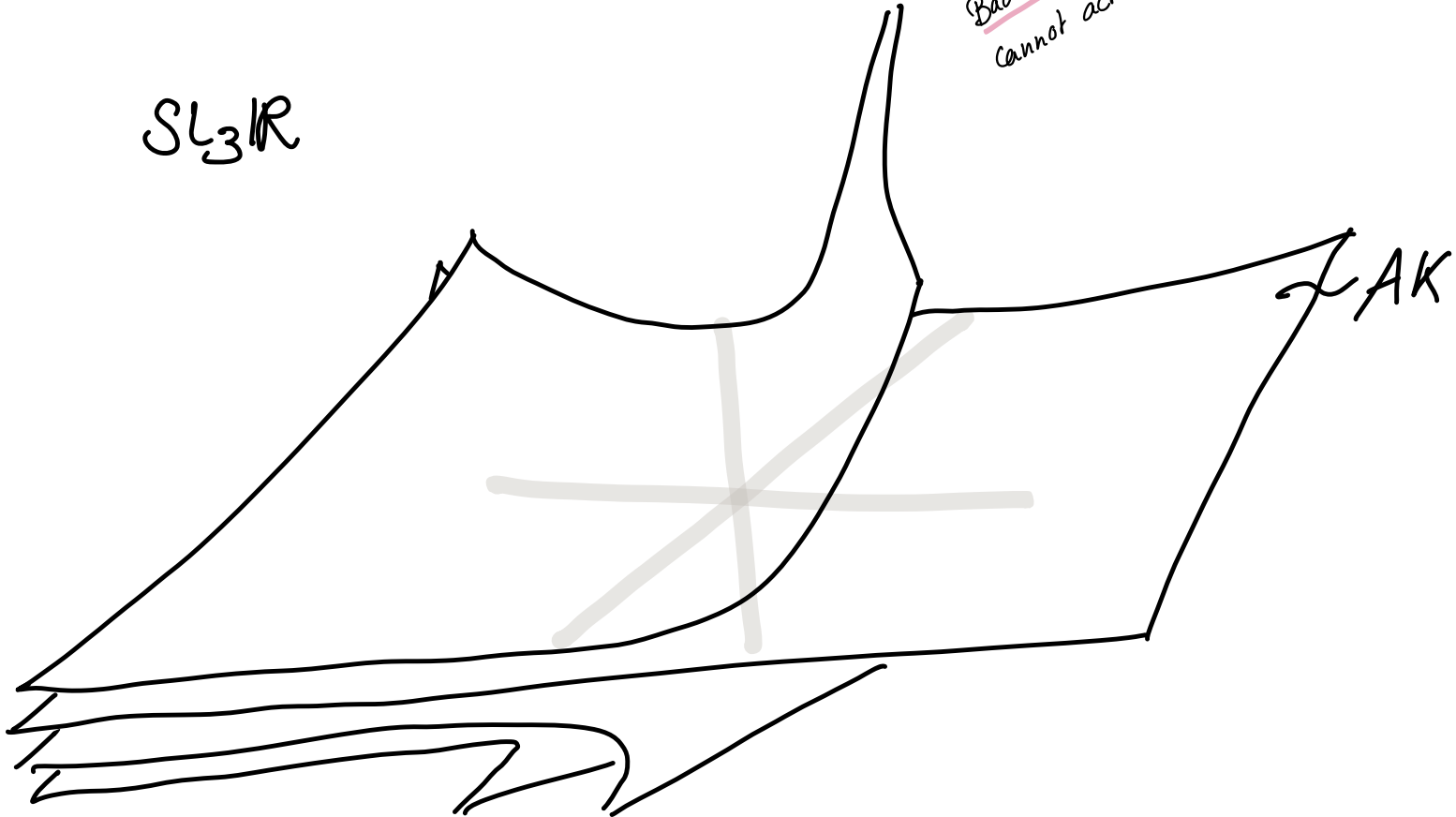
Chatterji - Drutu - Haglund (2007)  
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$SL_3\mathbb{R}$



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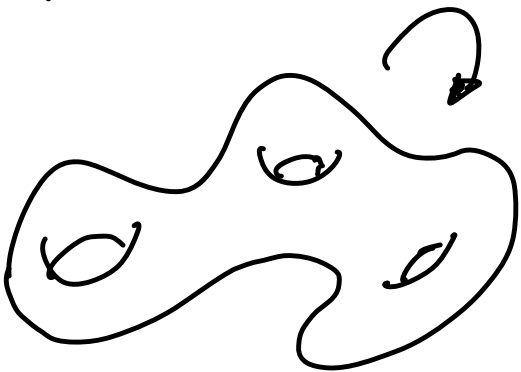
Chatterji - Drutu - Haglund (2007)  
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Open: Do mapping class groups have property (T)?  
Act properly on a Hilbert space? On some  
 $\ell^p$ -space?



# Status of that conjecture, evidences:

Yes, Alvarez-Lafont, Paves, Barden (1987-2016)  
 If  $G$  acts properly by isometries on a uniformly  
 locally finite  $\delta$ -hyperbolic space, then  $G$  acts  
 on  $l^p(G, \mathbb{C})$  for  $p$  large enough.  
 Chaberi, Dicks, Haglund (2007)  
 $G$  acts properly on a median space  $(S)$   
 $\Leftrightarrow G$  acts properly on a Hilbert space.  
 Any action of  $G$  by isometries on a median space  $(S)$   
 has a bounded orbit.  
 $\Leftrightarrow G$  has Kazhdan property (T).  
 Heikkinen: Lattices in higher rank simple Lie groups  
 cannot act on a  $\delta$ -median space without  
 a bounded orbit.  
 Bader-Furman-Gjunter-Monod: Some lattices  
 cannot act on an  $l^p$  space without fix point.

Open: Do mapping class groups have property (T)?  
 Act properly on a Hilbert space? On some  
 $l^p$ -space?

Known (Bestvina-Branberg-Fujiwara, Petyt):

Mapping class groups act properly by isometries  
 on a uniformly locally finite  $\delta$ -median  
 space.