

Convergence of homogeneous manifolds

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ABSTRACT

We study in this paper three natural notions of convergence of homogeneous manifolds, namely infinitesimal, local and pointed, and their relationship with a fourth one, which takes into account only the underlying algebraic structure of the homogeneous manifold and is indeed much more tractable. Along the way, we introduce a subset of the variety of Lie algebras which parameterizes the space of all n -dimensional simply connected homogeneous spaces with q -dimensional isotropy, providing a framework which is very advantageous to approach variational problems for curvature functionals as well as geometric evolution equations on homogeneous manifolds.

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1. Introduction

It is often complicated to write rigorous proofs in convergence theory of Riemannian manifolds. In the homogeneous case, however, it is natural to expect that an ‘algebraic’ notion of convergence may help. With this aim in mind, we study in this paper three natural notions of convergence of homogeneous manifolds, namely infinitesimal, local and pointed, and their relationship with a fourth one, which takes into account only the underlying algebraic structure of the homogeneous manifold and is indeed much more tractable. Along the way, we introduce a set $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ of $(q+n)$ -dimensional Lie algebras which parameterizes the space of all n -dimensional simply connected homogeneous spaces with q -dimensional isotropy, providing a framework which is very advantageous to approach variational problems for curvature functionals as well as geometric evolution equations on homogeneous manifolds.

1.1. Convergence

In order to define convergence of a sequence (M_k, g_k) of homogeneous manifolds to a homogeneous manifold (M, g) , it is customary to start by requiring the existence of a sequence $\Omega_k \subset M$ of open neighbourhoods of a basepoint $p \in M$ together with embeddings $\phi_k : \Omega_k \rightarrow M_k$ such that $\phi_k^* g_k \rightarrow g$ smoothly as $k \rightarrow \infty$ (in particular, all manifolds are of a given dimension n). The size of the neighbourhoods will make the difference, and according

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to some possible behaviours, one obtains the following notions of convergence in an increasing degree of strength.

(i) *Infinitesimal*: no condition on Ω_k , it may even happen that $\bigcap \Omega_k = \{p\}$ (that is, only the germs of the metrics at p are involved). Nevertheless, the sequence (M_k, g_k) has necessarily bounded geometry by homogeneity.

(ii) *Local*: there is a nonempty open subset $\Omega \subset \Omega_k$ for all sufficiently large k . A positive lower bound for the injectivity radii therefore holds.

(iii) *Pointed or Cheeger–Gromov*: Ω_k eventually contains any compact subset of M . Here topology issues come in.

On the other hand, we know that homogeneous manifolds have a prominent ‘algebraic’ side, and the point is to what extent this is related to the above notions of convergence. Let us consider for each (M_k, g_k) a presentation G_k/K_k as a homogeneous space endowed with a G_k -invariant metric g_k . By just requiring $\dim G_k$ to be constant on k , we can assume that a fixed vector space decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$ gives the reductive decomposition for all G_k/K_k and a fixed inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathfrak{p} is the value of g_k at the origin eK_k for all k . In this way, the only algebraic data which vary are the sequence of Lie brackets μ_k on the vector space \mathfrak{g} such that (\mathfrak{g}, μ_k) is the Lie algebra of G_k . Thus, a fourth notion of convergence for homogeneous manifolds comes into play: the standard convergence of brackets $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ as vectors in $\Lambda^2 \mathfrak{g}^* \otimes \mathfrak{g}$, where λ is the corresponding Lie bracket for the limit $(M, g) = G/K$.

Our main results can be described as follows. We show that the convergence of brackets $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ is essentially equivalent to the infinitesimal convergence of homogeneous manifolds $(G_k/K_k, g_k) \rightarrow (G/K, g)$ (cf. Theorem 6.12), and secondly, that in order to obtain the stronger local convergence, it is sufficient to have a positive lower bound for the Lie injectivity radii of the sequence (cf. Theorem 6.14). The *Lie injectivity radius* of a homogeneous space $(G/K, g)$ is the largest $r > 0$ such that its canonical coordinates $\pi \circ \exp$ are defined on the euclidean ball of radius r in $(\mathfrak{p}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ (cf. Definition 6.7). Notice that local convergence implies pointed subconvergence of (M_k, g_k) to a homogeneous manifold locally isometric to (M, g) , by the compactness theorem (cf. Theorem 6.3), but we show that such limits may topologically vary for different subsequences.

It is important to note that for left-invariant metrics on Lie groups (that is, $K_k = \{e\}$ for all k), the positive lower bound for the Lie injectivity radii follows at once from the convergence $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ (cf. Lemma 6.19), giving rise to stronger results in this case (cf. Corollary 6.20).

1.2. The space of homogeneous manifolds

Recall that the data $(\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ of a homogeneous space can be canonically fixed at the level of inner product vector spaces. This motivates us to consider the set $\mathcal{H}_{q,n} \subset \Lambda^2 \mathfrak{g}^* \otimes \mathfrak{g}$, where $q := \dim \mathfrak{k}$, $n := \dim \mathfrak{p}$, of those Lie brackets satisfying the technical conditions (cf. (h1)–(h4) in Section 3) which allow us to define a simply connected homogeneous space $(G_\mu/K_\mu, g_\mu)$ attached to each $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ with $\text{Lie}(G_\mu) = (\mathfrak{g}, \mu)$, $\text{Lie}(K_\mu) = (\mathfrak{k}, \mu|_{\mathfrak{k} \times \mathfrak{k}})$ and $g_\mu(eK_\mu) = \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. The set $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ therefore parameterizes the space of all n -dimensional simply connected homogeneous spaces with q -dimensional isotropy.

The above approach, that varies Lie brackets rather than metrics has been used for decades, though only in the case of left-invariant metrics on Lie groups (that is, $q = 0$). We mention, among many others, just a few instances. It was used in [8, 14, 27] to study curvature properties of Lie groups; in the structure results for Einstein solvmanifolds obtained in [13, 23]; in viewing nilsolitons as critical points and their classification (cf. [16, 20, 26, 29, 38]); in the study of the Ricci flow for 3-dimensional homogeneous geometries (cf. [9]) and for nilmanifolds (cf. [11, 24, 30]). The approach can also be applied to complex and symplectic homogeneous

geometry (cf. Remark 3.7). In many of these articles, an intriguing relationship with the geometric invariant theory of the variety of Lie algebras, including closed orbits, categorical quotients, moment maps and Kirwan stratification, has been exploited in one way or the other.

1.3. Examples

The paper includes plenty of situations which illustrate our approach and provide examples and counterexamples to some of the speculations one might make on convergence issues.

(i) Subsets of $\mathcal{H}_{0,3}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{1,3}$ reaching all 3-dimensional geometries (cf. Examples 3.2 and 3.3).

(ii) A family in $\mathcal{H}_{1,5}$ parameterizing all homogeneous metrics on $S^3 \times S^2$ (cf. 3.4).

(iii) A 6-parameter family in $\mathcal{H}_{1,7}$ attaining any $SU(3)$ -invariant metric on all (generic) Aloff–Wallach spaces (cf. Example 3.6).

(iv) A sequence of Aloff–Wallach spaces which infinitesimally converges to another Aloff–Wallach space, but such that it does not admit any pointed or local convergent subsequence (cf. 6.6).

(v) A sequence of alternating left-invariant metrics on S^3 (Berger spheres) and $\widetilde{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ which locally converges to a flat metric on the solvable Lie group $E(2)$, but the corresponding subsequences pointed converges to $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ and \mathbb{R}^3 , respectively (cf. Example 6.17).

(vi) A divergent sequence $\mu_k \in \mathcal{H}_{0,3}$ of left-invariant metrics on $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ which nevertheless pointed converges to $\mathbb{R} \times H^2$, where H^2 denotes the 2-dimensional hyperbolic space. μ_k is actually isometric to a convergent sequence in $\mathcal{H}_{1,3}$ (cf. Example 6.18).

(vii) A sequence $\mu_k \in \mathcal{H}_{1,5}$ of homogeneous metrics on $S^3 \times S^2$ converging to a Lie bracket λ which is not in $\mathcal{H}_{1,5}$. However, λ can be viewed as an element of $\mathcal{H}_{2,4}$, giving rise to a collapsing of the μ_k with bounded curvature to a metric on $S^2 \times S^2$ (cf. Example 6.22).

1.4. Ricci flow

Our true motivation to study the ‘algebraic’ convergence of homogeneous manifolds is that the Ricci flow $g(t)$ starting at a homogeneous manifold (M, g_0) is proved in [25] to be equivalent to an evolution equation for Lie brackets in the following precise sense: if $(M, g_0) = (G_{\mu_0}/K_{\mu_0}, g_{\mu_0})$, $\mu_0 \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, then the solution $\mu = \mu(t)$ to the so-called *bracket flow* given by the ODE

$$\frac{d}{dt}\mu = \mu \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{Ric}_\mu \end{bmatrix} \cdot, \cdot \right) + \mu \left(\cdot, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{Ric}_\mu \end{bmatrix} \cdot \right) - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{Ric}_\mu \end{bmatrix} \mu(\cdot, \cdot), \quad \mu(0) = \mu_0,$$

where $\text{Ric}_\mu : \mathfrak{p} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{p}$ denotes the Ricci operator of g_μ at the origin, stays in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ for all t and

$$g(t) = \varphi(t)^* g_{\mu(t)}$$

for some family $\varphi(t) : M = G_{\mu_0}/K_{\mu_0} \longrightarrow G_{\mu(t)}/K_{\mu(t)}$ of time-dependent equivariant diffeomorphisms. The fixed points of any normalized bracket flow $c(t)\mu(\tau(t))$ are Ricci solitons, and the solutions $g(t)$ and $\mu(t)$ have identical maximal interval of existence time and curvature behaviour. Moreover, as there always exists a convergent subsequence $\mu_k := 1/\|\mu(t_k)\| \cdot \mu(t_k) \rightarrow \lambda$, one can apply the convergence results obtained in this paper to get pointed subconvergence of the Ricci flow $g(t)$ (up to scaling) to a Ricci soliton g_λ (usually nonflat), provided $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ and there is a lower bound for the Lie injectivity radii r_{μ_k} .

2. Classical setting

A Riemannian manifold (M, g) is said to be *homogeneous* if its isometry group $I(M, g)$ acts transitively on M . The group $I(M, g)$ is known to be naturally a Lie group such that its

action on M is smooth and the isotropy subgroup $I_p(M, g)$ at every point $p \in M$ is compact. A *homogeneous Riemannian space* is instead a differentiable manifold G/K , where G is a Lie group and $K \subset G$ a closed Lie subgroup, endowed with a G -invariant Riemannian metric. Both concepts are of course intimately related, though not in a one-to-one way. When studying a geometric problem on homogeneous manifolds, it is often very useful and healthy to capture the relevant algebraic information and present the hypotheses and the problem in ‘algebraic’ terms. We refer to the books [4 Chapter 7; 17 Chapter X] for a more detailed treatment of what follows.

Let (M, g) be a connected homogeneous manifold. Then each closed Lie subgroup $G \subset I(M, g)$ acting transitively on M (which can be assumed to be connected) gives rise to a presentation of (M, g) as a homogeneous space $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$, where $K = G \cap I_p(M, g)$ for some $p \in M$. Since K turns out to be compact, there always exists an $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant direct sum decomposition

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p},$$

where \mathfrak{g} and \mathfrak{k} are, respectively, the Lie algebras of G and K . Such a decomposition is called *reductive* and is not necessarily unique. Thus \mathfrak{p} can be naturally identified with the tangent space

$$\mathfrak{p} \equiv T_p M = T_{eK} G/K,$$

by taking the value at p of the Killing vector fields corresponding to elements of \mathfrak{p} . We denote by $g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle}$ the G -invariant metric on G/K determined by

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle := g(p),$$

the $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant inner product on \mathfrak{p} defined by g .

Any kind of curvature of $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$, and hence of (M, g) , can therefore be computed in terms of the inner product vector space $(\mathfrak{p}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ and the Lie bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$ of \mathfrak{g} (see, for instance [4, Chapter 7]).

REMARK 2.1. A homogeneous space $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ will always be assumed to carry a fixed $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$.

In order to get a presentation $(M, g) = (G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ of a connected homogeneous manifold as a homogeneous space, there is no need for $G \subset I(M, g)$ to hold, that is, an *effective* action. It is actually enough to have a transitive action of G on $M = G/K$, where K is the isotropy subgroup at some point, which is *almost-effective* (that is, K contains no non-discrete normal subgroup of G , or equivalently, the normal subgroup $\{g \in G : ghK = hK, \forall h \in G\}$ is discrete), along with a decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$ and an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathfrak{p} , both of them $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant. In particular, G can always be chosen to be *simply connected* (that is, connected and with trivial fundamental group) and almost-effective. If in addition M is simply connected, then K must be connected (although not necessarily compact); and conversely, if G is simply connected and K connected, then M is simply connected (use the homotopy sequence of the fibration $G \longrightarrow G/K$).

The set of all G -invariant metrics on G/K is in one-to-one correspondence with the set of all $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant inner products on \mathfrak{p} . Such a set can be naturally identified with a symmetric subspace (possibly flat) of the symmetric space $\text{GL}_n^+(\mathbb{R})/\text{SO}(n)$ and so it is diffeomorphic to an euclidean space. It could however be far from covering all homogeneous metrics on the manifold G/K .

3. Varying Lie brackets viewpoint

A simply connected homogeneous space $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ with G simply connected is completely characterized (as K must be connected) by the following ‘algebraic’ data:

- the vector space decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$;
- the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathfrak{p} ;
- the Lie bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$ of \mathfrak{g} .

As the pair $(\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ can be canonically fixed, this suggests varying Lie brackets to cover a large number of homogeneous manifolds at the same space. In this light, we shall define in this section a set $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ whose elements are simply connected homogeneous spaces and such that any simply connected homogeneous space $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ of dimension n and $\dim K = q$ is isometric to at least one point in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$.

Let us fix a decomposition

$$\mathbb{R}^{q+n} = \mathbb{R}^q \oplus \mathbb{R}^n,$$

together with the canonical inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathbb{R}^n . We consider the space of all skew-symmetric algebras (or brackets) of dimension $q+n$, which is parameterized by the vector space

$$V_{q+n} := \{\mu : \mathbb{R}^{q+n} \times \mathbb{R}^{q+n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{q+n} : \mu \text{ bilinear and skew-symmetric}\}.$$

For any $x \in \mathbb{R}^{q+n}$, we denote left multiplication (or adjoint action) as usual by $\text{ad}_\mu x(y) = \mu(x, y)$ for all $y \in \mathbb{R}^{q+n}$.

A homogeneous space can be associated to an element $\mu \in V_{q+n}$ provided the following conditions hold for μ .

- (h1) μ satisfies the Jacobi condition, $\mu(\mathbb{R}^q, \mathbb{R}^q) \subset \mathbb{R}^q$ and $\mu(\mathbb{R}^q, \mathbb{R}^n) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.
- (h2) If G_μ denotes the simply connected Lie group with Lie algebra (\mathbb{R}^{q+n}, μ) and K_μ is the connected Lie subgroup of G_μ with Lie algebra \mathbb{R}^q , then K_μ is closed in G_μ .
- (h3) $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is $\text{ad}_\mu \mathbb{R}^q$ -invariant (that is, $(\text{ad}_\mu z|_{\mathbb{R}^n})^t = -\text{ad}_\mu z|_{\mathbb{R}^n}$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^q$).
- (h4) $\{z \in \mathbb{R}^q : \mu(z, \mathbb{R}^n) = 0\} = 0$.

Indeed, by (h2), the simply connected topological space G_μ/K_μ admits a unique differentiable manifold structure such that the quotient map $\pi_\mu : G_\mu \longrightarrow G_\mu/K_\mu$ is smooth and admits local smooth sections, or equivalently, the G_μ -action on G_μ/K_μ is smooth (see [37, 3.58, 3.63]). Such an action is almost-effective by (h4), and it follows from (h3) that $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is $\text{Ad}(K_\mu)$ -invariant as K_μ is connected. All this is already enough to obtain a homogeneous space,

$$\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n} \rightsquigarrow (G_\mu/K_\mu, g_\mu), \quad (1)$$

with $\text{Ad}(K_\mu)$ -invariant decomposition $\mathbb{R}^{q+n} = \mathbb{R}^q \oplus \mathbb{R}^n$ and $g_\mu(eK_\mu) = \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ (see [17, p. 200] or [4, 7.24, 7.12]), where

$$\mathcal{H}_{q,n} := \{\mu \in V_{q+n} : \text{conditions (h1)–(h4) hold for } \mu\}. \quad (2)$$

If for $u \in G_\mu$, we denote by $\tau_\mu(u) : G_\mu/K_\mu \longrightarrow G_\mu/K_\mu$ the diffeomorphism

$$\tau_\mu(u)(vK_\mu) := uvK_\mu, \quad v \in G_\mu,$$

then the metric g_μ is given by

$$g_\mu(uK_\mu)(d\tau_\mu(u)|_{eK_\mu}x, d\tau_\mu(u)|_{eK_\mu}y) = \langle x, y \rangle \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad u \in G_\mu. \quad (3)$$

We note that any n -dimensional homogeneous Riemannian space $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ with G simply connected and $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$ which is almost effective can be identified with some $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, where $q = \dim K$. Indeed, one just has to fix a basis of \mathfrak{k} and an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{p} in order to get identifications $\mathfrak{k} = \mathbb{R}^q$, $\mathfrak{p} = \mathbb{R}^n$, and so μ is precisely

the Lie bracket of \mathfrak{g} . In particular, in the set

$$\mathcal{H}_n := \bigcup_{q=0}^{n(n-1)/2} \mathcal{H}_{q,n},$$

all simply connected homogeneous Riemannian manifolds of dimension n (up to isometry) are represented, though often by several different points which may even represent inequivalent homogeneous spaces (see Section 4).

If $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ is nonempty, which is not always the case (for example, $\mathcal{H}_{2,3} = \emptyset$), then there must be a flat element in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$. Indeed, for any $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, one can define $\lambda \in V_{q+n}$ by $\lambda|_{\mathbb{R}^q \times \mathbb{R}^{q+n}} := \mu$, $\lambda|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} := 0$, for which conditions (h1)–(h4) can be easily verified, getting the flat manifold $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda) = ((K \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n)/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ for some compact subgroup $K \subset O(n)$.

Concerning the question of what kind of subset of V_{q+n} the space $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ is, we note that conditions (h1) and (h3) are closed, they are even defined by polynomial equations on μ . On the contrary, (h4) is open and (h2) may impose a very subtle condition on μ , as Examples 3.4 and 3.6 show. Note that $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ is a cone, that is, invariant by any nonzero scaling.

EXAMPLE 3.1. If $q = 0$, then conditions (h2)–(h4) trivially hold and (h1) is just the Jacobi condition for μ . Thus $\mathcal{H}_{0,n} = \mathcal{L}_n$, the variety of n -dimensional Lie algebras, and the set $\{(G_\mu, g_\mu) : \mu \in \mathcal{L}_n\}$ parameterizes the set of all left-invariant metrics on simply connected Lie groups of dimension n (cf. Section 6.4 for a more detailed study of this case).

The next two examples reach all 3-dimensional geometries.

EXAMPLE 3.2. Let $\mu = \mu_{a,b,c}$ be the Lie bracket in $\mathcal{H}_{0,3} = \mathcal{L}_3$ defined by

$$\mu(e_2, e_3) = ae_1, \quad \mu(e_3, e_1) = be_2, \quad \mu(e_1, e_2) = ce_3.$$

Their isomorphism classes are invariant by permutation of (a, b, c) and scaling, so we can assume $a \geq b \geq c$ and that at most one of them is negative. The Lie algebras (and geometries) attained by this family are

$$\mu \simeq \begin{cases} \mathfrak{su}(2), & a, b, c > 0, \\ \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), & a, b > 0, c < 0, \\ \mathfrak{e}(2), & a, b > 0, c = 0, \\ \mathfrak{e}(1, 1), & a > 0, b = 0, c < 0, \\ \mathfrak{h}_3, & a > 0, b = c = 0, \\ \mathbb{R}^3, & a = b = c = 0, \end{cases} \quad G_\mu = \begin{cases} S^3, \\ \widetilde{\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})}, \\ E(2), \\ \mathrm{Sol}, \\ \mathrm{Nil}, \\ \mathbb{R}^3, \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where $\mathfrak{e}(2)$ and $\mathfrak{e}(1, 1)$ are unimodular solvable Lie algebras and \mathfrak{h}_3 is the 3-dimensional Heisenberg Lie algebra. These are all 3-dimensional unimodular real Lie algebras, and any left-invariant metric on any of the corresponding simply connected Lie groups is isometric to some $\mu_{a,b,c}$ (see [27, Section 4]). We have added on the right of (4) the 3-dimensional geometries from the Geometrization Conjecture which are covered by the family $\mu_{a,b,c}$ by using the standard notation. With the only exception of S^3 , they are all diffeomorphic to the euclidean space \mathbb{R}^3 . In [9], this presentation as a space of Lie brackets is used to study the Ricci flow of these metrics.

EXAMPLE 3.3. Consider the decomposition $\mathbb{R}^4 = \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}^3$ and the bracket $\mu = \mu_{a,b,c,d} \in V_{1+3}$ given by

$$\begin{cases} \mu(e_3, e_0) = de_2, & \mu(e_2, e_3) = ae_1 + be_0, & \mu(e_3, e_1) = ce_2, \\ \mu(e_0, e_2) = de_3, & & \mu(e_1, e_2) = ce_3. \end{cases}$$

It is straightforward to see that conditions (h1) and (h3) hold and that (h4) does if and only if $d \neq 0$. By computing the Killing form, it is easy to conclude that the Lie algebras (and geometries) attained by this family are

$$\mu \simeq \begin{cases} \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2), & ac + bd > 0, \\ \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), & ac + bd < 0, \\ \mathbb{R} \ltimes \mathfrak{e}(2), \mathbb{R} \ltimes \mathfrak{h}_3, & ac + bd = 0, \end{cases} \quad G_\mu/K_\mu = \begin{cases} S^3, \mathbb{R} \times S^2, \\ \widetilde{\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})}, \mathbb{R} \times H^2, \\ E(2), \mathrm{Nil}, \mathbb{R}^3. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

In the case when $ac + bd > 0$, one can use the isomorphism $G_\mu \simeq \mathbb{R} \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ to see that K_μ is a spiral inside a cylinder $\mathbb{R} \times S^1$ and thus K_μ is closed in G_μ . Note that otherwise, any Lie subgroup of G_μ is closed, so that condition (h2) is always satisfied. We conclude that $\mu_{a,b,c,d} \in \mathcal{H}_{1,3}$ if and only if $d \neq 0$. For $a = 0$ and $b \neq 0$, we obtain the geometries $\mathbb{R} \times S^2$ and $\mathbb{R} \times H^2$, where H^2 denotes the 2-dimensional hyperbolic space. All the remaining homogeneous metrics $g_{\mu_{a,b,c,d}}$ can be alternatively viewed as left-invariant metrics on 3-dimensional unimodular Lie groups with an extra symmetry, and hence they have all already appeared in Example 3.2.

All homogeneous metrics on $S^3 \times S^2$ can be attained as follows.

EXAMPLE 3.4. Consider the decomposition $\mathbb{R}^6 = \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}^5$ and the bracket $\mu = \mu_{p,q,a,b,c,d,e,f} \in V_{1+5}$ given by

$$\begin{cases} \mu(e_0, e_2) = pe_3, & \mu(e_1, e_2) = ee_3, & \mu(e_2, e_3) = ae_0 + be_1, \\ \mu(e_0, e_3) = -pe_2, & \mu(e_1, e_3) = -ee_2, & \mu(e_4, e_5) = ce_0 + de_1. \\ \mu(e_0, e_4) = qe_5, & \mu(e_1, e_4) = fe_5, \\ \mu(e_0, e_5) = -qe_4, & \mu(e_1, e_5) = -fe_4. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to see that the conditions to obtain $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{1,5}$ can be written as follows:

- (h1) $aq + bf = 0, cp + de = 0$;
- (h2) $p/q \in \mathbb{Q}$;
- (h3) always holds;
- (h4) $(p, q) \neq (0, 0)$.

If we assume that $pf - qe \neq 0$, then some of the Lie algebras involved are

$$\mu \simeq \begin{cases} \mathfrak{su}(2) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2), & ap + be > 0, \quad cq + df > 0, \\ \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), & ap + be < 0, \quad cq + df < 0, \\ \mathfrak{su}(2) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), & (ap + be)(cq + df) < 0, \end{cases}$$

which can be viewed as Lie algebras of matrices in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} e_0 &= \frac{1}{2}(pX_1, qX_1), & e_2 &= \frac{1}{2}(rX_2, 0), & e_4 &= \frac{1}{2}(0, sX_2), \\ e_1 &= \frac{1}{2}(eX_1, fX_1), & e_3 &= \frac{1}{2}(rX_3, 0), & e_5 &= \frac{1}{2}(0, sX_3), \end{aligned}$$

where $r = |ap + be|^{1/2}$, $s = |cq + df|^{1/2}$ and $\{X_1, X_2, X_3\} \subset \mathfrak{gl}_2(\mathbb{C})$ is a basis of either $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ or $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R})$ such that

$$[X_1, X_2] = 2X_3, \quad [X_1, X_3] = -2X_2, \quad [X_2, X_3] = \pm 2X_1.$$

The equivalence between condition (h2) and $p/q \in \mathbb{Q}$ is now more transparent, as $K_\mu = e^{\mathbb{R}e_0} = \{(e^{tpX_1}, e^{tqX_1}) : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and one may take $X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{bmatrix}$ for $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ and $X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ for $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R})$. A

particularly interesting case is when $\mu \simeq \mathfrak{su}(2) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2)$, since the homogeneous spaces $G_\mu/K_\mu = (\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{SU}(2))/S^1$ are all diffeomorphic to $S^3 \times S^2$, and actually any homogeneous metric on $S^3 \times S^2$ is represented in $\mathcal{H}_{1,5}$ by a tuple (p, \dots, f) (cf. for example, [5, Example 6.8]). For different values of p, \dots, f one obtains many other homogeneous spaces, including left-invariant metrics on solvmanifolds as $E(2) \times \mathbb{R}^2$ and on nilmanifolds as $\mathrm{Nil} \times \mathbb{R}^2$ or the 5-dimensional Heisenberg Lie group H_5 .

REMARK 3.5. Any of the brackets considered in the above example can also be viewed as an element in $\mathcal{H}_{2,4}$ by putting

$$\mathbb{R}^6 = \mathbb{R}^2 \oplus \mathbb{R}^4 = \langle e_0, e_1 \rangle \oplus \langle e_2, \dots, e_5 \rangle,$$

which is easily seen to cover all homogeneous metrics on $S^2 \times S^2$, $S^2 \times H^2$ and $H^2 \times H^2$.

In the following example, we cover all $\mathrm{SU}(3)$ -invariant metrics on each (generic) Aloff–Wallach space $\mathrm{SU}(3)/S^1_{p,q}$.

EXAMPLE 3.6 (*Aloff–Wallach spaces*). Consider the decomposition $\mathbb{R}^8 = \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}^7$ and the bracket $\mu = \mu_{p,q,a,b,c,d} \in V_{1+7}$, $a, b, c, d > 0$, given by

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mu(e_0, e_2) = -d(p+2q)e_3, & \mu(e_1, e_2) = -pe_3, \\ \mu(e_0, e_3) = d(p+2q)e_2, & \mu(e_1, e_3) = pe_2, \\ \mu(e_0, e_4) = -d(2p+q)e_5, & \mu(e_1, e_4) = qe_5, \\ \mu(e_0, e_5) = d(2p+q)e_4, & \mu(e_1, e_5) = -qe_4, \\ \mu(e_0, e_6) = -d(p-q)e_7, & \mu(e_1, e_6) = (p+q)e_7, \\ \mu(e_0, e_7) = d(p-q)e_6, & \mu(e_1, e_7) = -(p+q)e_6, \\ \\ \mu(e_4, e_6) = \mu(e_5, e_7) = -\left(\frac{3bcd}{a}\right)^{1/2} e_2, & \mu(e_5, e_6) = -\mu(e_4, e_7) = -\left(\frac{3bcd}{a}\right)^{1/2} e_3, \\ \mu(e_6, e_2) = -\mu(e_7, e_3) = -\left(\frac{3acd}{b}\right)^{1/2} e_4, & \mu(e_7, e_2) = \mu(e_6, e_3) = -\left(\frac{3acd}{b}\right)^{1/2} e_5, \\ \mu(e_2, e_4) = \mu(e_3, e_5) = -\left(\frac{3abd}{c}\right)^{1/2} e_6, & \mu(e_3, e_4) = -\mu(e_2, e_5) = \left(\frac{3abd}{c}\right)^{1/2} e_7, \\ \mu(e_2, e_3) = -a(p+2q)e_0 - 3adpe_1, & \mu(e_4, e_5) = -b(2p+q)e_0 + 3bdqe_1, \\ \mu(e_6, e_7) = -c(p-q)e_0 + 3cd(p+q)e_1. \end{array} \right.$$

We have that (\mathbb{R}^8, μ) is always isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(3)$, as these are precisely the Lie bracket relations for the basis $\{e_0, \dots, e_8\}$ of $\mathfrak{su}(3)$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} e_0 &= \begin{bmatrix} ipd & & \\ & iqd & \\ & & -i(p+q)d \end{bmatrix}, & e_1 &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -i(p+2q) & & \\ & i(2p+q) & \\ & & i(q-p) \end{bmatrix}, \\ e_2 &= (3ad)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & \\ & 0 & -1 \\ & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & e_3 &= (3ad)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & \\ & 0 & i \\ & i & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & e_4 &= (3bd)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & -1 \\ & 0 & \\ 1 & & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ e_5 &= (3bd)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & i \\ & 0 & \\ i & & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & e_6 &= (3cd)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & \\ 1 & 0 & \\ & & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & e_7 &= (3cd)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & i & \\ i & 0 & \\ & & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Conditions (h1), (h3) and (h4) are all satisfied by any of these μ 's, and concerning (h2), we note that

$$S^1_{p,q} := K_\mu = e^{\mathbb{R}e_0},$$

is closed in $SU(3)$ (and hence $S_{p,q}^1 \simeq S^1$) if and only if $p/q \in \mathbb{Q}$ (think of $S_{p,q}^1$ as a subgroup of the maximal torus $S^1 \times S^1$ of $SU(3)$). As a differentiable manifold, G_μ/K_μ only depends on p and q , and so we define

$$W_{p,q} := G_\mu/K_\mu = SU(3)/S_{p,q}^1 \quad \forall \mu = \mu_{p,q,a,b,c,d}.$$

These homogeneous manifolds are called in the literature *Aloff–Wallach* spaces and have been extensively studied (cf. for example, [2, 18, 19, 33]). By fixing p and q and varying a, b, c and d we get all $SU(3)$ -invariant metrics on $W_{p,q}$ if $p \neq \pm q$ (cf. [33, Corollary 4.3]). We note for future use that $W_{rp,rq} = W_{p,q}$ as differentiable manifolds for any $r \in \mathbb{R}$.

REMARK 3.7. If instead of $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, we fix a complex structure J on \mathbb{R}^n (that is, an endomorphism such that $J^2 = -I$) and change condition (h3) by $[\text{ad}_\mu \mathbb{R}^q|_{\mathbb{R}^n}, J] = 0$, then what each $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ will represent is a homogeneous space endowed with a left-invariant almost-complex structure. By adding the integrability of $(G_\mu/K_\mu, J)$ as condition (h5) in the definition of $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, which happens to only depend on μ and in a polynomial way, we obtain a parametrization of all n -dimensional simply connected complex homogeneous spaces with q -dimensional isotropy. One may furthermore fix again an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathbb{R}^n compatible with J (that is, $\langle J \cdot, J \cdot \rangle = \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$) and require condition (h3) on $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, in order to parameterize hermitian (or almost-hermitian if the integrability of J is removed) homogeneous spaces $(G_\mu/K_\mu, J, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$. Notice that the subset of those which are Kähler is just defined by extra polynomial conditions on μ . An analogous setting can be developed for symplectic, hypercomplex, and many other classes of geometric structures. This approach has only been explored in the case of nilmanifolds (that is, $q = 0$ and μ nilpotent) in [21]. How do the convergence results obtained in Section 6 fit into deformation theory of complex or symplectic manifolds?

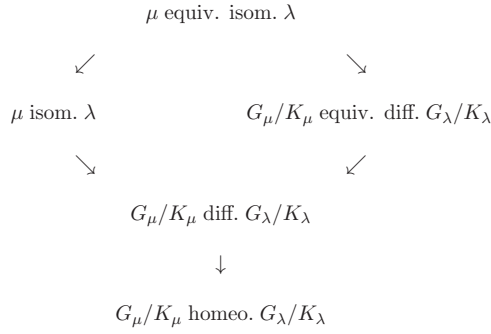
4. Different notions of equivalence

The question of whether two given homogeneous spaces are isometric or not is usually a difficult task to handle, as it is the question on determining their diffeomorphism or even homeomorphism types. There is a fourth natural equivalence relation between homogeneous spaces which involves their algebraic structure: G/K and G'/K' are said to be *equivariantly diffeomorphic* if there exists an isomorphism of Lie groups $\tilde{\varphi} : G \longrightarrow G'$ such that $\tilde{\varphi}(K) = K'$. In that case, if $\varphi : G/K \longrightarrow G'/K'$ is the corresponding *equivariant diffeomorphism* (that is, $\varphi \circ \pi = \pi' \circ \tilde{\varphi}$), then

$$\tau'(\tilde{\varphi}(u)) = \varphi \tau(u) \varphi^{-1} \quad \forall u \in G,$$

that is, the actions of G, G' on $G/K, G'/K'$, respectively, are equivalent or equivariant. Two homogeneous spaces $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ and $(G'/K', g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle'})$ are called *equivariantly isometric* if $g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} = \varphi^* g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle'}$ for some equivariant diffeomorphism $\varphi : G/K \longrightarrow G'/K'$ (that is, $d\varphi|_{eK}$ is in addition an inner product space isometry between $(\mathfrak{p}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ and $(\mathfrak{p}', \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle')$).

In Figure 1, we have listed the equivalence relations between homogeneous spaces we have just mentioned according to their levels of generality. All the converse assertions are false. Aloff–Wallach spaces (see Example 4.1) provide examples of homeomorphic but nondiffeomorphic homogeneous spaces, as well as diffeomorphic homogeneous spaces which are not equivariantly diffeomorphic (see also Example 4.6). On the other hand, certain nonabelian solvable Lie groups admit flat left-invariant metrics, providing examples of isometric homogeneous spaces which are not equivariantly isometric.

FIGURE 1. *Notions of equivalence by degree of generality.*

EXAMPLE 4.1. Let $W_{p,q} = \mathrm{SU}(3)/S_{p,q}^1$ be the Aloff–Wallach space described in Example 3.6, and assume that $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$ and are coprime. It is well known that $W_{p,q}$ has fourth cohomology ring $H^4(W_{p,q}, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_r$, the cyclic group of order $r := p^2 + pq + q^2$ (see [2, Lemma 3.3]), showing that there are infinitely many homeomorphism classes among these spaces. More precisely, if $s := pq(p+q)$ then the following conditions must be added to $r = \tilde{r}$ in order to get the respective equivalence type between $W_{p,q}$ and $W_{\tilde{p},\tilde{q}}$:

- (i) homotopy equivalent: $s \equiv \pm \tilde{s} \pmod{r}$ (see [19]);
- (ii) homeomorphic: $s \equiv \pm \tilde{s} \pmod{2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot r}$ (see [18]);
- (iii) diffeomorphic: $s \equiv \pm \tilde{s} \pmod{2^5 \cdot 3 \cdot r}$ if r is a multiple of 7, and $\pmod{2^5 \cdot 3 \cdot 7 \cdot r}$ otherwise (see [19]);
- (iv) equivariantly diffeomorphic: $\{\tilde{p}, \tilde{q}, -(\tilde{p} + \tilde{q})\} = \{p, q, -(p+q)\}$ (that is, at the most six possibilities of having $S_{p,q}^1$ and $S_{\tilde{p},\tilde{q}}^1$ conjugate in $\mathrm{SU}(3)$).

It was not a trivial task to find explicit pairs (p, q) and (\tilde{p}, \tilde{q}) showing that none of the above equivalence types coincide for Aloff–Wallach spaces (see [18, 19]).

In what follows, we are interested in describing as simple as possible, for a given notion, the equivalence class of a homogeneous space $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ (see identification (1)) as a subset of $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$. There is a natural linear action of $\mathrm{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R})$ on V_{q+n} given by

$$h \cdot \mu(x, y) = h\mu(h^{-1}x, h^{-1}y), \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{q+n}, \quad h \in \mathrm{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R}), \quad \mu \in V_{q+n}. \quad (6)$$

The variety of Lie algebras \mathcal{L}_{q+n} is $\mathrm{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R})$ -invariant, the Lie algebra isomorphism classes are precisely the $\mathrm{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R})$ -orbits and the isotropy subgroup $\mathrm{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R})_\mu$ equals $\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{R}^{q+n}, \mu)$ for any $\mu \in \mathcal{L}_{q+n}$.

PROPOSITION 4.2. *If $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, then $h \cdot \mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ for any $h \in \mathrm{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R})$ of the form*

$$h := \begin{bmatrix} h_q & A \\ 0 & h_n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R}), \quad h_q \in \mathrm{GL}_q(\mathbb{R}), \quad h_n \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}), \quad A : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^q, \quad (7)$$

such that

$$[h_n^t h_n, \mathrm{ad}_\mu \mathbb{R}^q|_{\mathbb{R}^n}] = 0, \quad (8)$$

and

$$A \mathrm{ad}_\mu z|_{\mathbb{R}^n} = h_q \mathrm{ad}_\mu z|_{\mathbb{R}^q} h_q^{-1} A \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}^q. \quad (9)$$

In that case, $G_{h.\mu}/K_{h.\mu}$ and G_μ/K_μ are equivariantly diffeomorphic and $(G_{h.\mu}/K_{h.\mu}, g_{h.\mu})$ is equivariantly isometric to $(G_\mu/K_\mu, g_{\langle h_n.\cdot, h_n.\cdot \rangle})$.

REMARK 4.3. It follows from the last assertion in the above proposition that the subspace

$$\{h.\mu : h_q = I, A = 0, h_n \text{ satisfies (8)}\} \subset \mathcal{H}_{q,n},$$

parameterizes the set of all G_μ -invariant metrics on G_μ/K_μ . Also notice that μ and $h.\mu$ have the same volume if $\det h_n = 1$.

Proof. For such an h , we must check that $\lambda := h.\mu$ satisfies conditions (h1)–(h4) defining $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ (see (2)). We first note that

$$h^{-1} := \begin{bmatrix} h_q^{-1} & -h_q^{-1}Ah_n^{-1} \\ 0 & h_n^{-1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Condition (h1) always holds since $h : (\mathbb{R}^{q+n}, \mu) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{q+n}, \lambda)$ is an isomorphism of Lie algebras leaving \mathbb{R}^q invariant and it follows from (9) that for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^q$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(z, x) &= h_q\mu(h_q^{-1}z, -h_q^{-1}Ah_n^{-1}x) + A\mu(h_q^{-1}z, h_n^{-1}x) + h_n\mu(h_q^{-1}z, h_n^{-1}x) \\ &= -h_q \operatorname{ad}_\mu(h_q^{-1}z)h_q^{-1}Ah_n^{-1}x + A \operatorname{ad}_\mu(h_q^{-1}z)h_n^{-1}x + h_n\mu(h_q^{-1}z, h_n^{-1}x) \\ &= h_n\mu(h_q^{-1}z, h_n^{-1}x) \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

We therefore obtain that $\operatorname{ad}_\lambda z|_{\mathbb{R}^n} = h_n \operatorname{ad}_\mu h_q^{-1}z|_{\mathbb{R}^n} h_n^{-1}$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^q$, which implies that (h4) holds for λ , and also that λ satisfies (h3) if and only if (8) holds.

There exists a unique isomorphism of Lie groups

$$\tilde{\varphi} : G_\mu \longrightarrow G_\lambda \quad \text{such that } d\tilde{\varphi}|_e = h.$$

Since $\tilde{\varphi}(K_\mu)$ is a connected Lie subgroup of G_λ with Lie algebra $h(\mathbb{R}^q) = \mathbb{R}^q$, we have that $K_\lambda = \tilde{\varphi}(K_\mu)$ and thus (h2) follows.

Concerning the last assertion, we have that the diffeomorphism

$$\varphi : G_\mu/K_\mu \longrightarrow G_\lambda/K_\lambda, \quad \varphi(uK_\mu) := \tilde{\varphi}(u)K_\lambda \quad \forall u \in G_\mu, \quad (11)$$

is well defined and is an isometry between the homogeneous spaces $(G_\mu/K_\mu, g_{\langle h_n.\cdot, h_n.\cdot \rangle})$ and $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$, as $d\varphi|_{eK_\mu}$ coincides with the inner product space isometry

$$h_n : (\mathbb{R}^n, \langle h_n.\cdot, h_n.\cdot \rangle) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle),$$

under the natural identifications. □

COROLLARY 4.4. *The group $\operatorname{GL}_q(\mathbb{R}) \times \operatorname{O}(n)$ leaves the set $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ invariant and $h.\mu$ and μ are equivariantly isometric homogeneous spaces for any $h \in \operatorname{GL}_q(\mathbb{R}) \times \operatorname{O}(n)$, $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$.*

Let us now analyse condition (8) more in detail. The isotropy representation $\operatorname{ad}_\mu : \mathbb{R}^q \longrightarrow \operatorname{End}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of a homogeneous space $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, which is faithful by (h4) and unitary by (h3), can be decomposed into isotypical components as

$$\mathbb{R}^n = V_1^{n_1} \oplus \dots \oplus V_r^{n_r},$$

where V_i and V_j are non-equivalent irreducible representations of the Lie algebra (\mathbb{R}^q, μ) for all $i \neq j$, and $V_i^{n_i} \simeq V_i \oplus \dots \oplus V_i$ (n_i times). The space of intertwining operators is therefore given by

$$\operatorname{End}_{\operatorname{ad}_\mu}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \mathfrak{gl}_{n_1}(\mathbb{F}_1) \oplus \dots \oplus \mathfrak{gl}_{n_r}(\mathbb{F}_r), \quad (12)$$

where $\mathbb{F}_i = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ or \mathbb{H} depending on the type of V_i . Recall that the possible types of a real representation are *real*, *complex* or *quaternionic*, that is, $\text{End}_{\text{ad}_\mu}(V_i) = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ or \mathbb{H} , respectively (see [6]). It follows from Proposition 4.2 that for each $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, if U_μ is the subset of $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$ defined by

$$U_\mu := \{h_n \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}) : h_n^t h_n \in \text{End}_{\text{ad}_\mu}(\mathbb{R}^n)\},$$

then $h \cdot \mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ for any $h \in \tilde{U}_\mu$, where \tilde{U}_μ is the subset of $\text{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R})$ given by

$$\tilde{U}_\mu := \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} h_q & A \\ 0 & h_n \end{bmatrix} \in \text{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R}) : h_q \in \text{GL}_q(\mathbb{R}), h_n \in U_\mu, A \text{ satisfies (9)} \right\}.$$

If we define

$$\text{sym}_{\mathbb{F}}(m) := \{A \in \mathfrak{gl}_m(\mathbb{F}) : \bar{A}^t = A\},$$

then by using (12) and the polar decomposition one easily obtains that

$$U_\mu = \text{O}(n)(U_1 \times \dots \times U_r), \quad U_i := e^{\text{sym}_{\mathbb{F}_i}(n_i)}.$$

Notice that $\tilde{U}_\mu \cdot \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ is not necessarily contained in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, it only satisfies $\tilde{U}_\mu \cdot \mu \subset \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, but we may consider for each faithful and unitary representation $\theta : (\mathbb{R}^q, \mu) \longrightarrow \text{End}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ the subset of homogeneous spaces having θ as its isotropy representation, that is,

$$\mathcal{H}_{q,n}(\theta) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n} : \text{ad}_\mu \mathbb{R}^q|_{\mathbb{R}^n} = \theta\}.$$

Thus $U_\mu = U_\lambda$ for any $\mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}(\theta)$, and so if we denote these subsets by U_θ , then

$$(\text{GL}_q(\mathbb{R}) \times U_\theta) \cdot \mathcal{H}_{q,n}(\theta) \subset \mathcal{H}_{q,n}(\theta).$$

PROPOSITION 4.5. *G_μ/K_μ and G_λ/K_λ , $\mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, are equivariantly diffeomorphic if and only if $\lambda \in \tilde{U}_\mu \cdot \mu$.*

Proof. If $\varphi : G_\mu/K_\mu \longrightarrow G_\lambda/K_\lambda$ is an equivariant diffeomorphism determined by an isomorphism $\tilde{\varphi} : G_\mu \longrightarrow G_\lambda$ and $h := d\tilde{\varphi}|_e$, then $\lambda = h \cdot \mu$ and $h\mathbb{R}^q \subset \mathbb{R}^q$ follows from the fact that $\tilde{\varphi}(K_\mu) = K_\lambda$. We now use that $\lambda(\mathbb{R}^q, \mathbb{R}^n) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ to obtain from (10) that $A : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$, the \mathbb{R}^q -component of $h|_{\mathbb{R}^n}$, must satisfy condition (9). Finally, it follows from the fact that $\text{ad}_\lambda z|_{\mathbb{R}^n} = h_n \text{ad}_\mu h_q^{-1} z|_{\mathbb{R}^n} h_n^{-1}$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^q$ and condition (h3) that h_n satisfies (8), which implies that $h \in \tilde{U}_\mu$.

The converse assertion is the content of Proposition 4.2. □

Summarizing, we have the following.

(i) The group $\text{GL}_q(\mathbb{R}) \times \text{O}(n)$ acts on $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ in such a way that all the elements in the same orbit are pairwise equivariantly isometric.

(ii) For any $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, the subset $U_\mu \cdot \mu \subset \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ parameterizes the set of all G_μ -invariant metrics on G_μ/K_μ , where we embed $U_\mu \hookrightarrow \text{GL}_{q+n}(\mathbb{R})$ in the usual way (see Remark 4.3).

(iii) For any $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, the subset $\tilde{U}_\mu \cdot \mu \subset \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ consists of those elements in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ which are equivariantly diffeomorphic to G_μ/K_μ .

(iv) The subsets $(\text{GL}_q(\mathbb{R}) \times U_\theta) \cdot \mu$, $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}(\theta)$, are precisely the equivariant diffeomorphism classes inside $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}(\theta)$.

EXAMPLE 4.6. For $\mu = \mu_{p,q,a,b,c,d,e,f} \in \mathcal{H}_{1,5}$ given in Example 3.4 we have that

$$\mathrm{ad}_\mu e_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & & & \\ & 0 & -p & & \\ & p & 0 & & \\ & & & 0 & -q \\ & & & q & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

and hence

$$U_\mu = \begin{cases} \mathrm{O}(5) \begin{bmatrix} r & & & & \\ & \mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C}) & & & \\ & & \mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C}) & & \\ & & & 0 & -q \\ & & & q & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathrm{O}(5) \begin{bmatrix} r_1 & & & & \\ & r_2 I_{2 \times 2} & & & \\ & & r_3 I_{2 \times 2} & & \\ & & & 0 & -q \\ & & & q & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & 0 < p < q, \\ \mathrm{O}(5) \begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{R}) & & & & \\ & \mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C}) & & & \\ & & 0 & -q & \\ & & q & 0 & \\ & & & 0 & -q \end{bmatrix} = \mathrm{O}(5) \begin{bmatrix} e^{\mathrm{sym}(3)} & & & & \\ & r I_{2 \times 2} & & & \\ & & 0 & -q & \\ & & q & 0 & \\ & & & 0 & -q \end{bmatrix}, & 0 = p < q, \\ \mathrm{O}(5) \begin{bmatrix} r & & & & \\ & \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{C}) & & & \\ & & 0 & -q & \\ & & q & 0 & \\ & & & 0 & -q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r & & & & \\ & e^{i\mathbf{u}(2)} & & & \\ & & 0 & -q & \\ & & q & 0 & \\ & & & 0 & -q \end{bmatrix}, & 0 < p = q. \end{cases}$$

If $G_\mu \simeq \mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$, then the homogeneous spaces G_μ/K_μ are all diffeomorphic to $S^3 \times S^2$, but if $0 \leq p \leq q$, then two different values of $p/q \in [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$ give rise to non-equivalent G_μ -actions on $S^3 \times S^2$ (see [5, Example 6.8]), that is, to non-equivariantly diffeomorphic homogeneous spaces.

5. Curvature invariants

In this section, we describe a quite intriguing necessary and sufficient condition for two homogeneous spaces $\mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ being isometric. The condition is in the spirit of invariant theory and was proved by Singer in [34] (see [28, 32] for further information). These results are being used in some work in progress on homogeneous Ricci solitons.

Let ∇_μ denote the Levi-Civita connection and Rm_μ the corresponding Riemannian curvature tensor of $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$. Recall that any $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ is identified with the homogeneous space $(G_\mu/K_\mu, g_\mu)$ according to (1). By identifying \mathbb{R}^n with the corresponding Killing vector fields of G_μ/K_μ , it follows that Rm_μ is determined by its value at eK_μ , the 4-linear map given by

$$\mathrm{Rm}_\mu := \mathrm{Rm}(g_\mu)(eK_\mu) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

In the same way, the covariant derivative $\nabla_\mu^k \mathrm{Rm}_\mu$ can be viewed as a vector in $\otimes^{4+k}(\mathbb{R}^n)^*$ for any $k \geq 0$ ($\nabla_\mu^0 \mathrm{Rm}_\mu := \mathrm{Rm}_\mu$), and we consider for each $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ the vector

$$w_\mu := (\mathrm{Rm}_\mu, \nabla_\mu \mathrm{Rm}_\mu, \dots, \nabla_\mu^m \mathrm{Rm}_\mu) \in W := \bigoplus_{k=0}^m (\otimes^{4+k}(\mathbb{R}^n)^*), \quad m := \frac{n(n-1)}{2} - 1.$$

If $\mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ are isometric, then the isometry $\varphi : G_\mu/K_\mu \longrightarrow G_\lambda/K_\lambda$ can be assumed to satisfy $\varphi(eK_\mu) = eK_\lambda$. Thus $h := d\varphi|_{eK_\mu} \in \mathrm{O}(n)$ and we have that $h \cdot \nabla_\mu^k \mathrm{Rm}_\mu = \nabla_\lambda^k \mathrm{Rm}_\lambda$ for all k , where the actions of $\mathrm{O}(n) \subset \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$ on the different tensorial vector spaces are the standard ones. This implies that

$$w_\lambda \in \mathrm{O}(n) \cdot w_\mu \quad \forall \mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n} \text{ being isometric.} \quad (13)$$

Let us now take $f \in \mathbb{R}[W]^{\mathrm{O}(n)}$, that is, a polynomial function $f : W \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which is $\mathrm{O}(n)$ -invariant (that is, $f(h \cdot w) = f(w)$ for all $h \in \mathrm{O}(n)$, $w \in W$). We also denote by f the function

$$f : \mathcal{H}_{q,n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f(\mu) := f(w_\mu), \quad (14)$$

which is also polynomial on μ . We call such an f a *curvature invariant*, as it follows from (13) that $f(\mu) = f(\lambda)$ for any pair $\mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ of isometric homogeneous spaces. The converse

assertion is a very nice and important result in homogeneous geometry proved in [34] (see also [28, Theorem 2.5] for an alternative proof and [32, Theorem 2.3]).

THEOREM 5.1. *The following assertions are equivalent:*

- (i) $\mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ are isometric;
- (ii) $f(\mu) = f(\lambda)$ for any $f \in \mathbb{R}[W]^{\mathrm{O}(n)}$;
- (iii) $w_\lambda \in \mathrm{O}(n).w_\mu$.

The equivalence between (ii) and (iii) actually follows from a strong result in invariant theory: $\mathbb{R}[W]^{\mathrm{O}(n)}$ separates orbits as $\mathrm{O}(n)$ is compact. Since $\mathrm{O}(n)$ is a reductive group, another classical theorem from invariant theory states that $\mathbb{R}[W]^{\mathrm{O}(n)}$ is finitely generated as an algebra, say

$$\mathbb{R}[W]^{\mathrm{O}(n)} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_r \rangle.$$

By considering $F := (f_1, \dots, f_r) : \mathcal{H}_{q,n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^r$, we conclude from Theorem 5.1 that

$$\mu, \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n} \text{ are isometric if and only if } F(\mu) = F(\lambda).$$

In other words, the isometry classes in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ are precisely the level sets of a polynomial function $F : \mathcal{H}_{q,n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^r$.

EXAMPLE 5.2. A family of curvature invariants whose computation is usually doable is $f_k(\mu) := \mathrm{tr} \mathrm{Ric}_\mu^k$, where Ric_μ is the Ricci operator of $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$. Recall that the values of f_1, \dots, f_n at μ actually determine the set of Ricci eigenvalues (counting multiplicities). As a homogeneous manifold is flat if and only if it is Ricci flat (see [1]), the flat elements in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ can be characterized by a single polynomial equation: $f_2(\mu) = 0$.

The setting described in this section motivates the definition of a distance on $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ given by

$$d(\mu, \lambda) := d_W(\mathrm{O}(n).w_\mu, \mathrm{O}(n).w_\lambda) = \min\{d_W(h.w_\mu, h'.w_\lambda) : h, h' \in \mathrm{O}(n)\},$$

where d_W is the euclidean distance in W . We may also consider the Hausdorff distance between compact subsets of W , but this will be equivalent since the subsets involved are orbits by a group of isometries of W . It follows from Theorem 5.1 that $d(\mu, \lambda) = 0$ if and only if μ and λ are isometric as homogeneous manifolds. If $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ in V_{q+n} , as $k \rightarrow \infty$, then $d(\mu_k, \lambda) \rightarrow 0$, and hence the topology of the metric space $(\mathcal{H}_{q,n}, d)$ is weaker than that induced on $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ by the usual vector space topology of V_{q+n} . We note that these topologies are not equivalent, it may, for instance, happen that $\mathrm{O}(n).w_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \{0\} = \mathrm{O}(n).w_0$, and nevertheless $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda \neq 0$ (for example, take the sequence $\mu_k := \mu_{1+1/k, 1-1/k, 0}$ in Example 3.2 of nonflat metrics on $E(2)$ converging to the flat manifold $\lambda := \mu_{1,1,0}$).

6. Convergence

In this section, all manifolds are assumed to be connected and all Riemannian metrics to be smooth (that is, C^∞) and complete.

6.1. General case

Let M be a differentiable manifold. A sequence g_k of Riemannian metrics on M is said to *converge* (smoothly) to a Riemannian metric g as $k \rightarrow \infty$ (denoted by $g_k \rightarrow g$) if for all compact subsets $K \subset M$, the tensor $g_k - g$ and its covariant derivatives of all orders (with respect to any fixed background connection) each converge uniformly to zero on K .

REMARK 6.1. By using charts with relatively compact domains which cover M , convergence $g_k \rightarrow g$ can be rephrased as follows: the partial derivative $\partial^\alpha (g_k)_{ij}$ of the coordinates $(g_k)_{ij}$ of the metrics converges to $\partial^\alpha g_{ij}$ uniformly, as $k \rightarrow \infty$, for every chart and every multiindex α .

A *pointed Riemannian manifold* (M, g, p) is simply a Riemannian manifold (M, g) with a point $p \in M$, which plays the role of a basepoint or a point of reference. Two (M, g, p) , (M', g', p') are called *isometric* if there is an isometry $\varphi : (M, g) \rightarrow (M', g')$ such that $\varphi(p) = p'$.

DEFINITION 6.2 (Smooth pointed or Cheeger–Gromov topology). A sequence (M_k, g_k, p_k) of pointed Riemannian manifolds is said to *converge in the pointed sense* to a pointed Riemannian manifold (M, g, p) as $k \rightarrow \infty$ if there exist

- (i) a sequence of open subsets $\Omega_k \subset M$ containing p , so that any compact subset of M eventually lies in all Ω_k for sufficiently large k and
- (ii) a sequence of smooth maps $\phi_k : \Omega_k \rightarrow M_k$ which are diffeomorphisms onto open subsets $\Lambda_k \subset M_k$ (that is, *embeddings*) and satisfy $\phi_k(p) = p_k$ for all k ;

such that $\phi_k^* g_k \rightarrow g$ smoothly as $k \rightarrow \infty$ on M (or more precisely, on every compact subset of M).

Some remarks on this topology may be in order (see, for example, [3, Chapter 9; 7 Chapter 4; 10 Chapter 8⁺; 31 Chapter 10; 35 Section 7.1] for further information). Assume that (M_k, g_k, p_k) converges in the pointed sense to (M, g, p) as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

(i) If M is compact, then $\phi_k : M \rightarrow M_k$ is a diffeomorphism for all k (as $\phi_k(M)$ is open and closed in M). Thus the basepoints play no role in the pointed convergence, which in this case just means that (M_k, g_k) converges smoothly to (M, g) up to pullback by diffeomorphisms.

(ii) On the contrary, the example of the Rosenau metrics (that is, longer and longer cigars converging to a cylinder, cf. [3, 9.2.2]) shows that M can be noncompact and nonsimply connected, even when all the manifolds M_k are compact and simply connected.

(iii) Also, the location of the basepoints can be crucially involved in the convergence when M is noncompact: if g_1 is a metric on \mathbb{R}^n which coincides with the flat metric g_0 outside a compact set, then $(\mathbb{R}^n, g_1, p_k) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, g_0, 0)$ if $p_k \rightarrow \infty$, but $(\mathbb{R}^n, g_1, p_k) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, g_1, p)$ if $p_k = p$ for all k (see also the first example in [3 Figure 9.3; 35 Section 7.1]).

(iv) It is easy to check that the distances satisfy

$$d_{g_k}(\phi_k(q), \phi_k(q')) \rightarrow d_g(q, q'), \quad \forall q, q' \in M,$$

from which it follows that for any $r > 0$ the metric balls satisfy $B_g(p, r) \subset \Omega_k$ and $B_{g_k}(p_k, r) \subset \Lambda_k$ for sufficiently large k (recall that metric balls are compact due to completeness).

(v) The limit (M, g, p) is unique up to isometry.

(vi) The following two conditions must hold:

- (a) *bounded geometry*: for all $r > 0$ and $j \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$,

$$\sup_k \sup_{B_{g_k}(p_k, r)} \|\nabla_{g_k}^j \text{Rm}(g_k)\|_{g_k} < \infty, \quad (15)$$

where ∇_{g_k} is the Levi-Civita connection and $\|\cdot\|_{g_k}$ denotes the corresponding norm in the spaces of sections of the different tensor bundles over M_k ;

- (b) *non-collapsing*:

$$\inf_k \text{inj}(M_k, g_k, p_k) > 0, \quad (16)$$

where $\text{inj}(M_k, g_k, p_k)$ is the injectivity radius of (M_k, g_k) at p_k .

Recall that the *injectivity radius* of (M, g) at p is the largest ϵ for which the exponential map $\exp_p : B(0, \epsilon) \rightarrow B_g(p, \epsilon)$ is a diffeomorphism, where $B(0, \epsilon) = \{x \in T_p M : g_p(x, x) < \epsilon^2\}$. The following result is considered the fundamental theorem of convergence theory of Riemannian manifolds.

THEOREM 6.3 (Compactness). *Let (M_k, g_k, p_k) be a sequence of complete pointed Riemannian manifolds of dimension n satisfying (15) and (16). Then there exists a subsequence of (M_k, g_k, p_k) which converges to a complete pointed Riemannian manifold (M, g, p) of dimension n in the pointed topology.*

A proof of this theorem can be found in [7, Chapter 4; 12, 2.3; 31, 10.3–10.4], and its origins can be traced back to ideas of Gromov [10] and Cheeger. We note that the finiteness of the number of diffeomorphism classes follows on any subset of compact Riemannian manifolds where a compactness (or precompactness) theorem can be applied (recall that a sequence of pairwise nondiffeomorphic manifolds can never subconverge to a compact limit).

6.2. Homogeneous case

If g_k is a sequence of homogeneous metrics on a differentiable manifold M such that g_k smoothly converges to a metric g , then g is also homogeneous. Indeed, given $p, q \in M$ there exists for each k a g_k -isometry φ_k such that $\varphi_k(p) = q$, and it follows from $g_k \rightarrow g$ that the set $\{\varphi_k\}$ is locally uniformly bounded and equicontinuous. Hence, by the Arzela–Ascoli theorem, a subsequence converges locally uniformly to a continuous map $\varphi : M \rightarrow M$ which is automatically an isometry of (M, g) as φ preserves its Riemannian distance. Although the set of all isometry classes of metrics on a given noncompact M endowed with the quotient smooth topology is not Hausdorff, it is proved in [13, Sections 6.1, 6.2] that, on the contrary, the subset of those classes which are homogeneous is so, by applying an Arzela–Ascoli argument as above.

We are interested here in pointed convergence of homogeneous manifolds. Special features for this case are hard to find in the literature. For a strong use of the pointed topology of compact homogeneous manifolds, we refer to the proofs of [5, Theorems 1.1 and 2.1].

A few comments are in order at this point. Let us assume that all (M, g_k) are homogeneous and that (M_k, g_k, p_k) converges in the pointed sense to (M, g, p) as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

(i) Two pointed homogeneous manifolds are isometric if and only if they are isometric in the usual sense.

(ii) The limit (M, g) is homogeneous. Indeed, given $q \in M$, we can assume that $p, q \in \Omega_k$ for all k and define $f_k := \phi_k^{-1} \circ h_k \circ \phi_k$, where $h_k \in \mathbf{I}(M_k, g_k)$ satisfies $h_k(p_k) = \phi_k(q)$. Thus $f_k(p) = q$ for all k and by an Arzela–Ascoli argument together with a diagonal procedure one gets a limit $f : M \rightarrow M$ with $f(p) = q$, which automatically satisfies $f \in \mathbf{I}(M, g)$ by using that $d_{g_k}(\phi_k(a), \phi_k(b)) \rightarrow d_g(a, b)$ for all $a, b \in \Omega_k$.

(iii) The location of the basepoints p_k and p play no role in the pointed convergence, in the sense that we can change all of them by any other sequence $q_k \in M_k$ and $q \in M$ and use homogeneity. However, unlike the compact case, M being nonhomeomorphic to M_k for all k is a possible behaviour (for example, a sequence of expanding spheres converges to the plane in the pointed topology).

(iv) It may also happen in the homogeneous case that all M_k are simply connected but M is not. Take for instance the sequence g_k of left-invariant metrics on S^3 obtained by scaling times k the round metric on the orthogonal complement of any fixed direction $X \in \mathfrak{su}(2)$. It is not very hard to check that conditions (15) and (16) hold for (S^3, g_k) , and thus there must be a subsequence converging to a homogeneous manifold (M, g) in the pointed sense by the compactness theorem, which is easily seen to be flat. Since $\gamma(t) = e^{tX}$ is a closed geodesic of

(S^3, g_k) having the same length for all k , it follows that (M, g) must have a closed geodesic as well and so M cannot be simply connected (see Example 6.17 for a more detailed treatment of this example, where it is proved that the pointed limit is indeed $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$). The manifolds (S^3, g_k) are called *Berger spheres* in the literature, and the sequence $(S^3, (1/k)g_k)$ is a famous example of collapsing (toward S^2) with bounded curvature.

There are two other notions of convergence (infinitesimal and local) which naturally arise in studying the space of homogeneous manifolds and where the topology of the manifolds is much less involved.

DEFINITION 6.4 (Infinitesimal). A sequence (M_k, g_k) of homogeneous manifolds is said to *infinitesimally converge* to a homogeneous manifold (M, g) as $k \rightarrow \infty$ if there exist

- (i) a sequence of open subsets $\Omega_k \subset M$ containing a point $p \in M$ and
- (ii) a sequence of embeddings $\phi_k : \Omega_k \rightarrow M_k$;

such that $\phi_k^* g_k \rightarrow g$ smoothly as $k \rightarrow \infty$ at p , in the sense that for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $k_0 = k_0(\epsilon)$ such that for $k \geq k_0$,

$$\sup_{\Omega_k} \|\nabla_g^j (\phi_k^* g_k - g)\|_g < \epsilon \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}.$$

As in the homogeneous case one only needs to control covariant derivatives up to a finite order (see Section 5), it is enough for the infinitesimal convergence the existence of a $k_0(\epsilon, j)$ satisfying the required property for each fixed order j . We also note that the point p can be changed by any other point in M due to homogeneity. The infinitesimal convergence of homogeneous manifolds is somewhat weak, notice that it does not require any condition on the size of the neighbourhoods and so actually only the germs of the metrics at p are involved. The injectivity radius may therefore go to zero and it is even possible that all manifolds M_k and M be pairwise nonhomeomorphic, as Example 6.6 shows.

DEFINITION 6.5 (local). A sequence (M_k, g_k) of homogeneous manifolds is said to *locally converge* to a homogeneous manifold (M, g) as $k \rightarrow \infty$ if there exist

- (i) a nonempty open subset $\Omega \subset M$;
- (ii) a sequence of embeddings $\phi_k : \Omega \rightarrow M_k$;

such that $\phi_k^* g_k \rightarrow g$ smoothly as $k \rightarrow \infty$ on Ω .

Notice that the open subset Ω can be assumed to contain any point $p \in M$ by using homogeneity. It follows at once from the definitions that the three notions of convergence of homogeneous manifolds are related by

$$\text{pointed} \implies \text{local} \implies \text{infinitesimal}.$$

Actually, the only difference between these three definitions of convergence lies in the size of the open subsets in the sequence $\Omega_k \subset M$:

- (i) *Infinitesimal*: no condition, Ω_k can be arbitrarily small (for example, $\bigcap \Omega_k = \{p\}$).
- (ii) *Local*: Ω_k stabilizes, that is, $\Omega_k \supset \Omega \neq \emptyset$, for sufficiently large k .
- (iii) *Pointed*: Ω_k exhausts M , that is, it eventually contains any given compact subset of M .

Both converse assertions are false: nonlocal infinitesimal convergence and nonpointed local convergence can be shown to occur (see Examples 6.6 and 6.17).

6.3. Algebraic convergence

Our aim in what follows is to study until what extent the algebraic side of a homogeneous manifold is involved in convergence issues. In Section 3, we have defined a subset $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ of the variety of Lie algebras which parameterizes the set of all n -dimensional simply connected homogeneous spaces with q -dimensional isotropy. The space $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ inherits the usual vector space topology from V_{q+n} , and a first natural question therefore arises: What kind of convergence of Riemannian manifolds this topology corresponds to?

Before starting with a rather technical matter, let us point out some useful facts.

(i) As for the other notions of convergence, a quick inspection of the examples in Section 3 shows that both the topology and the Lie structure may also drastically change in the limit for the usual convergence of brackets (for example, in Example 3.2, $\mu_{1,1/k,1/k}$ is a sequence of metrics on the simple Lie group $SU(2) = S^3$ that converges to $\mu_{1,0,0}$, a metric on the Heisenberg Lie group, which is nilpotent and diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^3).

(ii) For any $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, we can define a sequence $\mu_k \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ by $\mu_k|_{\mathbb{R}^q \times \mathbb{R}^{q+n}} := \mu$, $\mu_k|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} := (1/k)\mu$, which converges to a flat element $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ (recall that λ is of the form $(K \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n)/K$ for some compact subgroup $K \subset O(n)$).

(iii) Since in the homogeneous case it is enough to control the curvature tensors and their covariant derivatives at a single point, and since they all depend continuously on μ (see Section 5), it follows that the usual convergence $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ implies that the sequence $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ has bounded geometry (see (15)).

(iv) On the other hand, if μ_k locally converges to λ (see Definition 6.5), then the sequence satisfies the non-collapsing condition (see (16)). But under local convergence, bounded geometry also follows easily. We therefore conclude from the compactness theorem that any locally convergent sequence μ_k must have a subsequence converging to a homogeneous manifold in the pointed topology.

(v) Pointed or local subconvergence may however not follow from just the usual convergence of Lie brackets $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$, as Example 6.6 shows.

EXAMPLE 6.6. Let $\mu_{p,q}$ denote the Lie bracket $\mu_{p,q,1,1,1,1}$ from Example 3.6. We consider the sequence of Aloff–Wallach spaces $\mu_k := \mu_{1,1+1/k}$, which converges to $\mu_{1,1}$ in $\mathcal{H}_{1,7}$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$. However, the sequence $(W_{1,1+1/k}, g_{\mu_k}) = (G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ is certainly not converging in the pointed topology to $(W_{1,1}, g_{\mu_{1,1}})$ since the manifolds $W_{1,1+1/k} = W_{k,k+1}$ are pairwise nonhomeomorphic (see Example 4.1) and $W_{1,1}$ is compact. Since pointed convergence is not possible for any subsequence, we conclude again from the compactness theorem that $\inf_k \text{inj}(W_{1,1+1/k}, g_{\mu_k}) = 0$ (recall that condition (15) holds by the fact that $\mu_k \rightarrow \mu_{1,1}$), and so μ_k does not locally converge to $\mu_{1,1}$ either.

Let $(G_\mu/K_\mu, g_\mu)$ be the homogeneous space associated to $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, as in (1).

DEFINITION 6.7. The *Lie injectivity radius* of $(G_\mu/K_\mu, g_\mu)$ is the largest $r_\mu > 0$ such that

$$\psi_\mu := \pi_\mu \circ \exp_\mu : B(0, r_\mu) \longrightarrow G_\mu/K_\mu,$$

is a diffeomorphism onto its image, where $\exp_\mu : \mathbb{R}^{q+n} \longrightarrow G_\mu$ is the Lie exponential map, $\pi_\mu : G_\mu \longrightarrow G_\mu/K_\mu$ is the usual quotient map and $B(0, r_\mu)$ denotes the euclidean ball of radius r_μ in \mathbb{R}^n .

In other words, $B(0, r_\mu)$ is the largest ball where the canonical coordinates ψ_μ are defined.

REMARK 6.8. The Lie injectivity radius can of course be defined for a homogeneous space $(G/K, g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ in its classical presentation, say with $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$ (see Section 2): just use balls in $(\mathfrak{p}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$. Notice that the Lie injectivity radius depends on both the Lie theoretical data of G/K and the Riemannian metric $g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle}$.

Every $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ uniquely determines a metric on a neighbourhood of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as follows. By setting $U_\mu := \psi_\mu(B(0, r_\mu))$, we can associate to μ a metric \tilde{g}_μ on $B(0, r_\mu)$ given by

$$\tilde{g}_\mu := \psi_\mu^*(g_\mu|_{U_\mu}). \quad (17)$$

The metric \tilde{g}_μ on $B(0, r_\mu)$ does not depend on G_μ , we can actually take any Lie group G_μ with Lie algebra (\mathbb{R}^{q+n}, μ) , not necessarily simply connected, as long as the connected Lie subgroup K_μ with Lie algebra \mathbb{R}^q be closed in G_μ . Moreover, what \tilde{g}_μ really represents is a locally homogeneous structure, which happens to depend only on $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$. This will become quite clear in Proposition 6.9.

It will be useful to have an expression for the metric \tilde{g}_μ in terms of the canonical global chart (x_1, \dots, x_n) of $B(0, r_\mu) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. For a multi-index $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$, we denote by x^α the monomial $x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n}$, where $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $|\alpha| := \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n$. By ‘polynomial on μ ’ we will always mean polynomial on the coordinates of μ defined by

$$\mu(e_i, e_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{q+n} \mu_{ij}^k e_k,$$

where $\{e_i\}$ is the canonical basis of \mathbb{R}^{q+n} .

PROPOSITION 6.9. *For each $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, the coordinate $(\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}$ of the metric \tilde{g}_μ is a real analytic function on x ,*

$$(\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}(x) = \sum_{\alpha} a_{\alpha}^{ij}(\mu) x^{\alpha}, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq n,$$

which converges absolutely for $x \in B(0, r_\mu) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, where r_μ is the Lie injectivity radius of μ . Each coefficient a_{α}^{ij} is a universal polynomial expression on μ homogeneous of degree $|\alpha|$, depending only on i, j, α, q and n . The lower terms are given by

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}(x) &= \delta_{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n (\mu_{q+k, q+j}^{q+i} + \mu_{q+k, q+i}^{q+j}) x_k \\ &\quad + \sum_{k, l=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{4} \sum_{s=1}^n \mu_{q+k, q+i}^{q+s} \mu_{q+l, q+j}^{q+s} + \frac{1}{6} \sum_{r=1}^{q+n} \mu_{q+k, r}^{q+i} \mu_{q+l, q+j}^r + \mu_{q+k, r}^{q+j} \mu_{q+l, q+i}^r \right) x_k x_l \\ &\quad + \text{monomials of degree } \geq 3. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We start by recalling the formula for the derivative of the exponential map $\exp_\mu : \mathbb{R}^{q+n} \rightarrow G_\mu$ (see, for instance [36, 2.14.3]), given by

$$d\exp_\mu|_x = dL_{\exp_\mu(x)}|_e \circ \frac{I - e^{-\text{ad}_\mu x}}{\text{ad}_\mu x} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{q+n}, \quad (18)$$

where \mathbb{R}^{q+n} is identified with the tangent space at x , L_u denotes left multiplication by u on G_μ and

$$\frac{I - e^{-\text{ad}_\mu x}}{\text{ad}_\mu x} := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(k+1)!} (\text{ad}_\mu x)^k = I - \frac{1}{2} \text{ad}_\mu x + \frac{1}{6} (\text{ad}_\mu x)^2 - \frac{1}{24} (\text{ad}_\mu x)^3 + \dots$$

Since the ij -entry of the matrix of $\text{ad}_\mu x$ with respect to the basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_{q+n}\}$ is given by $(\text{ad}_\mu x)_{ij} = \sum_k \mu_{kj}^i x_k$, we have that

$$\left(\frac{I - e^{-\text{ad}_\mu x}}{\text{ad}_\mu x} \right)_{ij} = \sum_\alpha b_\alpha^{ij}(\mu) x^\alpha, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq q+n, \quad (19)$$

where b_α^{ij} is polynomial on μ of degree $|\alpha|$. If we set $u := \exp_\mu(x)$ and $A := (I - e^{-\text{ad}_\mu x})/\text{ad}_\mu x$ for short, then it follows from (18), equality $\pi_\mu \circ L_u = \tau(u) \circ \pi_\mu$ and (3) that

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}(x) &= g_\mu(\psi_\mu(x))(d\psi_\mu|_x e_{q+i}, d\psi_\mu|_x e_{q+j}) \\ &= g_\mu(uK_\mu)(d\pi_\mu|_u d\exp_\mu|_x e_{q+i}, d\pi_\mu|_u d\exp_\mu|_x e_{q+j}) \\ &= g_\mu(uK_\mu)(d\pi_\mu|_u dL_u|_e A e_{q+i}, d\pi_\mu|_u dL_u|_e A e_{q+j}) \\ &= g_\mu(uK_\mu)(d\tau_\mu(u)|_{eK_\mu} d\pi_\mu|_e A e_{q+i}, d\tau_\mu(u)|_{eK_\mu} d\pi_\mu|_e A e_{q+j}) \\ &= \langle d\pi_\mu|_e A e_{q+i}, d\pi_\mu|_e A e_{q+j} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Now we use that $d\pi_\mu|_e : \mathbb{R}^{q+n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is the projection relative to $\mathbb{R}^{q+n} = \mathbb{R}^q \oplus \mathbb{R}^n$, the fact that $x = (0, \dots, 0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and (19) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}(x) &= \left\langle \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_\alpha b_\alpha^{q+k, q+i}(\mu) x^\alpha \right) e_{q+k}, \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_\alpha b_\alpha^{q+k, q+j}(\mu) x^\alpha \right) e_{q+k} \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_{\alpha, \beta} b_\alpha^{q+k, q+i}(\mu) b_\beta^{q+k, q+j}(\mu) x^{\alpha+\beta} \right). \end{aligned}$$

If we set

$$a_\alpha^{ij}(\mu) := \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{\alpha' + \beta' = \alpha} b_{\alpha'}^{q+k, q+i}(\mu) b_{\beta'}^{q+k, q+j}(\mu),$$

then $(\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}(x) = \sum_\alpha a_\alpha^{ij}(\mu) x^\alpha$, with $\deg(a_\alpha^{ij}) = \deg(b_{\alpha'}^{q+k, q+i} b_{\beta'}^{q+k, q+j}) = |\alpha'| + |\beta'| = |\alpha|$. The last assertion on the lower terms easily follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{I - e^{-\text{ad}_\mu x}}{\text{ad}_\mu x} \right)_{q+i, q+j} &= \delta_{i,j} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \mu_{q+k, q+j}^{q+i} x_k + \frac{1}{6} \sum_{k, l=1}^n \left(\sum_{r=1}^{q+n} \mu_{q+k, r}^{q+i} \mu_{q+l, q+j}^r \right) x_k x_l \\ &\quad + \text{monomials of degree } \geq 3, \end{aligned}$$

concluding the proof of the proposition. \square

COROLLARY 6.10. *Let μ_k be a sequence in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ such that $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ and all ψ_{μ_k} and ψ_λ are embeddings from an open neighbourhood Ω of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ smoothly on Ω .*

Proof. The coordinates $(\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}$ of the metric \tilde{g}_μ have been described in Proposition 6.9 for any $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$. We therefore have that

$$\partial^\beta (\tilde{g}_{\mu_k})_{ij} = \sum_\alpha a_\alpha^{ij}(\mu_k) \partial^\beta x^\alpha,$$

and since the coefficient $a_\alpha^{ij}(\mu)$ depends polynomially on μ_k , it follows that $a_\alpha^{ij}(\mu_k) \rightarrow a_\alpha^{ij}(\lambda)$ uniformly, as $k \rightarrow \infty$. This implies that $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ smoothly on Ω (see Remark 6.1), as was to be shown. \square

REMARK 6.11. If instead of canonical coordinates $\psi_\mu = \pi_\mu \circ \exp_\mu : B(0, r_\mu) \subset \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow G_\mu/K_\mu$, we use any coordinate system of the form

$$\begin{aligned} B(0, r_\mu^1) \times \dots \times B(0, r_\mu^m) &\subset W_1 \oplus \dots \oplus W_m = \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow G_\mu/K_\mu, \\ (x_1, \dots, x_m) &\longmapsto \pi_\mu(\exp_\mu(x_1) \dots \exp_\mu(x_m)), \end{aligned}$$

(cf. for example, [15, Lemma 2.4]) we can define the corresponding \tilde{g}_μ and r_μ^1, \dots, r_μ^m will play the role of the Lie injectivity radius for any $\mu \in \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ relative to our fixed decomposition $\mathbb{R}^n = W_1 \oplus \dots \oplus W_m$. A universal formula for the coordinate $(\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}$ analogous to Proposition 6.9 follows in much the same way, and therefore smooth convergence $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ for any convergent sequence $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ holds as in Corollary 6.10.

It follows from the proof of Proposition 6.9 that for any x close to 0 in \mathbb{R}^n we have

$$(\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}(x) = \langle (I - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{ad}_\mu x + \frac{1}{6} (\operatorname{ad}_\mu x)^2 - \dots) e_{q+i}, (I - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{ad}_\mu x + \frac{1}{6} (\operatorname{ad}_\mu x)^2 - \dots) e_{q+j} \rangle,$$

where one has to project onto \mathbb{R}^n before taking the inner product. It is therefore evident that \tilde{g}_μ does not depend for instance on $\mu|_{\mathbb{R}^q \times \mathbb{R}^q}$, and thus the convergence of a sequence of metrics $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ might not affect the brackets completely, in the sense that it might not imply convergence of some part of the brackets μ_k to the corresponding part of λ .

We are however in a position to prove that the usual topology on $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ essentially corresponds to infinitesimal convergence (see Definition 6.4).

THEOREM 6.12. *Let μ_k be a sequence and λ an element in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$.*

(i) *If $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ (usual vector space topology), then $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ infinitesimally converges to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$.*

(ii) *If $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ infinitesimally converges to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$, then*

$$\operatorname{pr}_{\mathbb{R}^n} \circ \mu_k|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} \longrightarrow \operatorname{pr}_{\mathbb{R}^n} \circ \lambda|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n},$$

where $\operatorname{pr}_{\mathbb{R}^n} : \mathbb{R}^{q+n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is the projection with respect to the decomposition $\mathbb{R}^{q+n} = \mathbb{R}^q \oplus \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proof. Let us first prove part (i). By arguing as in the proof of Corollary 6.10, we get that $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ at $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, in the sense used in Definition 6.4. In other words, $(B(0, r_{\mu_k}), \tilde{g}_{\mu_k})$ infinitesimally converges to $(B(0, r_\lambda), \tilde{g}_\lambda)$, and thus (i) follows. Indeed, if $\Omega_k := \psi_\lambda(B(0, \tilde{r}))$, where $\tilde{r} := \min\{r_{\mu_k}, r_\lambda\}$, and $\phi_k := \psi_{\mu_k} \circ \psi_\lambda^{-1}$, then as $k \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\phi_k^* g_{\mu_k} = (\psi_\lambda^{-1})^* \psi_{\mu_k}^* g_{\mu_k} = (\psi_\lambda^{-1})^* \tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \longrightarrow (\psi_\lambda^{-1})^* \tilde{g}_\lambda = g_\lambda, \quad \text{at } eK_\lambda.$$

For part (ii), we first note that if ∇^μ denotes the Levi-Civita connection of \tilde{g}_μ , then

$$\tilde{g}_\mu(0)((\nabla_{e_r}^\mu e_j)_0, e_i) = \frac{1}{2}(\mu_{rj}^i + \mu_{ri}^j + \mu_{ji}^r), \quad q+1 \leq i, j, r \leq q+n,$$

(see, for instance [4, 7.27]), and if α is the multi-index with 1 at entry r and 0 elsewhere, then it is easy to see by using Proposition 6.9 that

$$\partial^\alpha (\tilde{g}_\mu)_{ij}(0) = -\frac{1}{2}(\mu_{rj}^i + \mu_{ri}^j), \quad q+1 \leq i, j, r \leq q+n.$$

Therefore, the convergence $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ at $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (recall that this is equivalent to $g_{\mu_k} \rightarrow g_\lambda$ at eK_λ) implies that

$$(\mu_k)_{rj}^i + (\mu_k)_{ri}^j + (\mu_k)_{ji}^r \longrightarrow \lambda_{rj}^i + \lambda_{ri}^j + \lambda_{ji}^r, \quad (\mu_k)_{rj}^i + (\mu_k)_{ri}^j \longrightarrow \lambda_{rj}^i + \lambda_{ri}^j,$$

which gives uniform convergence $(\mu_k)_{ji}^r \rightarrow \lambda_{ji}^r$ for all $q+1 \leq i, j, r \leq q+n$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$. This implies that $\operatorname{pr}_{\mathbb{R}^n} \circ \mu_k|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} \rightarrow \operatorname{pr}_{\mathbb{R}^n} \circ \lambda|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n}$, concluding the proof of the theorem. \square

REMARK 6.13. Concerning to what parts of the brackets other than that given in Theorem 6.12, (ii) will converge under infinitesimal convergence, we can observe the following.

(i) It follows from the almost-effectiveness condition (h4) (see Section 3) that $\mu_k|_{\mathbb{R}^q \times \mathbb{R}^n}$ is determined by $\mu_k|_{\mathbb{R}^q \times \mathbb{R}^n}$.

(ii) If $\mu_k(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ for all k , then it is easy to prove that infinitesimal convergence is equivalent to only $\mu_k|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} \rightarrow \lambda|_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n}$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$. In other words, the isotropy Lie subalgebra and its isotropy representation are not affected at all by the convergence $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ at $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ if (\mathbb{R}^n, μ_k) is a Lie subalgebra (and consequently G_{μ_k} is a semidirect product).

(iii) On the other hand, under the assumption $\text{pr}_{\mathbb{R}^q} \circ \mu_k(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n) = \mathbb{R}^q$ for all k , it is reasonable to expect from Theorem 6.12, (ii), the formula for the coefficients of monomials of degree 2 in the coordinates of $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k}(x)$ (see Proposition 6.9) and the first observation above that infinitesimal convergence will imply the full convergence $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$.

Recall from Example 6.6 that a positive lower bound on the Lie injectivity radii is necessary to obtain local convergence from brackets convergence. We now prove that this suffices.

THEOREM 6.14. *Let μ_k be a sequence such that $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$, and assume that $\inf_k r_{\mu_k} > 0$. Then*

- (i) $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ smoothly on some ball $B(0, \tilde{r}) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\tilde{r} > 0$;
- (ii) $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ locally converges to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$;
- (iii) there exists a subsequence of $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ which converges in the pointed sense to a homogeneous manifold locally isometric to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$ and
- (iv) $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ converges in the pointed sense to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$ if G_λ/K_λ is compact.

REMARK 6.15. Two different subsequences of $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ may converge to different limits in the pointed topology if G_λ/K_λ is not compact (see Example 6.17).

REMARK 6.16. The metrics \tilde{g}_{μ_k} and \tilde{g}_λ , in part (i) can be replaced by the ones obtained by considering the other possible coordinates described in Remark 6.11. This is often useful as the radii r_μ^1, \dots, r_μ^m may be larger than the Lie injectivity radius r_μ , providing smooth convergence on a larger open subset of \mathbb{R}^n . We have, for example, that $\exp: \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \widetilde{\text{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R})$ is not a diffeomorphism, and $\varphi(xe_1 + ye_2 + ze_3) := \exp(xe_1) \cdot \exp(ye_2 + ze_3)$ is so if $\{e_i\}$ is a basis of $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R})$ such that $[e_2, e_3] = -e_1$, $[e_3, e_1] = e_2$, $[e_1, e_2] = e_3$ (this will be used in Examples 6.17 and 6.18 to prove certain pointed convergence).

Proof. The first two items follow by arguing as in the proof of Theorem 6.12 and using that, in this case, we can fix a neighbourhood of the form $\Omega = \psi_\lambda(B(0, \tilde{r}))$ of eK_λ .

From part (ii) and the compactness theorem, we obtain a subsequence converging to a complete Riemannian manifold (M, g) which is automatically homogeneous. But such a subsequence also locally converges to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$, and so (M, g) must be locally isometric to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$. This proves (iii). If in addition, G_λ/K_λ is compact, then M is necessarily diffeomorphic to G_λ/K_λ as it must be diffeomorphic to G_{μ_k}/K_{μ_k} for all k and hence M is simply connected. As (M, g) is also complete, we get that it is isometric to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$ and part (iv) follows. \square

We now apply Theorem 6.14 to the following examples.

EXAMPLE 6.17. For any $\mu = \mu_{a,b,c}$ as in Example 3.2 we define

$$\psi_\mu : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow G_\mu, \quad \psi_\mu(\theta, x, y) := \exp_\mu(\theta e_1) \cdot \exp_\mu(xe_2 + ye_3).$$

There exist $r, s > 0$ depending on μ such that $\psi_\mu : (-s, s) \times B(0, r) \longrightarrow G_\mu$ is an embedding. We know that any convergent sequence $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ of these Lie brackets produces a smooth convergence $\psi_{\mu_k}^* g_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \psi_\lambda^* g_\lambda$ on any neighbourhood of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ where all $\psi_{\mu_k}, \psi_\lambda$ are embeddings (see Corollary 6.10 and Remark 6.11).

(i) As a first example, we take $\mu_k := \mu_{-1/k, 1, 1} \rightarrow \mu_{0, 1, 1} =: \lambda$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$, and use that in this case all ψ_{μ_k} and ψ_λ are diffeomorphisms from the whole \mathbb{R}^3 to the corresponding Lie group (recall that $G_{\mu_k} \simeq \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ for all k and $G_\lambda \simeq E(2)$), to conclude that (G_{μ_k}, g_{μ_k}) converges in the pointed sense to (G_λ, g_λ) , a flat manifold diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^3 .

(ii) Secondly, we consider $\mu_k := \mu_{1/k, 1, 1} \rightarrow \mu_{0, 1, 1} = \lambda$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$, a case that is topologically more involved as $G_{\mu_k} \simeq S^3$ for all k and G_λ is noncompact. By using that

$$h_k : (\mathbb{R}^3, \mu_1) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3, \mu_k = h_k \cdot \mu_1), \quad h_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \sqrt{k} & \\ & & \sqrt{k} \end{bmatrix},$$

is an isomorphism of Lie algebras, one easily obtains that

$$\psi_k := \psi_{\mu_k} : (-s, s) \times B(0, \sqrt{k}r) \longrightarrow G_{\mu_k}$$

is an embedding for all k , where $r, s > 0$ are the existing numbers with this property for ψ_1 . If

$$\mathbb{R} \times B(0, \sqrt{k}r) \xrightarrow{p_k} S^1 \times B(0, \sqrt{k}r) \xrightarrow{\phi_k} G_{\mu_k},$$

are, respectively, defined by $p_k(\theta, x, y) := (e^{i\theta/2}, x, y)$ and

$$\phi_k(e^{i\theta}, x, y) := \exp_{\mu_k}(2\theta e_1) \cdot \exp_{\mu_k}(xe_2 + ye_3),$$

then $\psi_k = \phi_k \circ p_k$ and since ψ_k is an immersion we get that ϕ_k is an embedding for all k . As $p_k^* \phi_k^* g_{\mu_k} = \psi_k^* g_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \psi_\lambda^* g_\lambda$ smoothly on each open subset of the form $(-s + t, s + t) \times B(0, \sqrt{k}r)$, $t > 0$, and p_k is a local isometry, one obtains that $\phi_k^* g_{\mu_k} \rightarrow g_\infty$ smoothly on compact subsets of $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$, where g_∞ is the metric on $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ defined by $p_\infty^* g_\infty := \psi_\lambda^* \tilde{g}_\lambda$. In other words, we conclude that (G_{μ_k}, g_{μ_k}) converges to the flat manifold $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ in the pointed topology.

(iii) We now use the two sequences above to show that the limit for the pointed subconvergence stated in Theorem 6.14 may not be unique. Indeed, consider the sequence

$$\mu_k := \begin{cases} \mu_{1/k, 1, 1} & \text{if } k \text{ even,} \\ \mu_{-1/k, 1, 1} & \text{if } k \text{ odd,} \end{cases}$$

which clearly satisfies $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda = \mu_{0, 1, 1}$, though we have proved pointed convergence $\mu_{2k} \rightarrow S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\mu_{2k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$.

(iv) The sequence $\mu_k := \mu_{0, k, k}$ diverges as $k \rightarrow \infty$; however, they are all flat and diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^3 and hence pointed convergence to the euclidean space \mathbb{R}^3 holds.

(v) The Ricci eigenvalues of the divergent sequence $\mu_k^\pm := \mu_{\pm 1/\sqrt{k}, \sqrt{k}, \sqrt{k}}$ satisfy

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{2k}, \pm 1 - \frac{1}{2k}, \pm 1 - \frac{1}{2k} \right\} \longrightarrow \{0, \pm 1, \pm 1\}.$$

This suggests that some kind of convergence $\mu_k^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times S^2$ or $S^1 \times S^2$, and $\mu_k^- \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times H^2$, should hold. The first one cannot be pointed subconvergence as the injectivity radii go to 0, but for the second one, pointed convergence actually holds, and this will be proved in the next example by working on $\mathcal{H}_{1,3}$ instead of $\mathcal{H}_{0,3}$ (recall that $\mathbb{R} \times H^2$ is not reached by the family $\mu_{a,b,c}$).

EXAMPLE 6.18. We consider a sequence of the form $\mu_k := \mu_{a_k, b_k, 1, 1} \in \mathcal{H}_{1,3}$ as in Example 3.3, such that $a_1 = -1$, $a_k \rightarrow 0^-$, $b_1 = 0$, $b_k \rightarrow -1$ and $a_k + b_k \equiv -1$. Thus the sequence μ_k consists of left-invariant metrics on $\widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R})$ (with an extra symmetry) and $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda := \mu_{0, -1, 1, 1}$, the manifold $\mathbb{R} \times H^2$. In much the same way as Example 6.17(i), one can construct diffeomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_k : \mathbb{R}^3 &\longrightarrow G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k} = (\mathbb{R} \times \widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R}))/\mathbb{R}_k, \\ \psi_\lambda : \mathbb{R}^3 &\longrightarrow G_\lambda/K_\lambda = \mathbb{R} \times (\widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R})/\mathbb{R}),\end{aligned}$$

such that $\psi_k^* g_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \psi_\lambda^* g_\lambda$ smoothly on \mathbb{R}^3 . We therefore obtain that $(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k})$ converges in the pointed sense to $\mathbb{R} \times H^2$. By computing the Ricci eigenvalues, we deduce that for all k , $\mu_{-1/\sqrt{k}, -1+1/\sqrt{k}, 1, 1} \in \mathcal{H}_{1,3}$ is isometric to $\mu_k^- \in \mathcal{H}_{0,3}$ from Example 6.17(v), which diverges as a sequence of brackets.

6.4. Lie groups case

Our aim in this section is to go over again the case of left-invariant metrics on Lie groups (that is, $\mathcal{H}_{0,n}$), the one which has been mostly applied in the literature (cf. for example, the survey [22] and the references therein). Recall from Example 3.1 that $\mathcal{H}_{0,n}$ is simply the variety \mathcal{L}_n of n -dimensional Lie algebras, and we identify

$$\mu \in \mathcal{L}_n \longleftrightarrow (G_\mu, g_\mu) = (G_\mu, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle),$$

where $g_\mu = g_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle} \equiv \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the left-invariant metric on the simply connected Lie group G_μ determined by the fixed inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ we have on the Lie algebra (\mathbb{R}^n, μ) of G_μ . Every $h \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$ defines an isometry

$$(G_{h \cdot \mu}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle) \longrightarrow (G_\mu, \langle h \cdot, h \cdot \rangle),$$

from which we deduce that the orbit $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}) \cdot \mu \subset \mathcal{L}_n$ parameterizes the set of all left-invariant metrics on G_μ and the orbit $\mathrm{O}(n) \cdot \mu$ the subset of those which are equivariantly isometric to $(G_\mu, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ (notice that $\tilde{U}_\mu = U_\mu = \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$ for any $\mu \in \mathcal{L}_n$).

The following lower bound for the Lie injectivity radius gives rise to special convergence features for Lie groups which are not valid in the general homogeneous case. Recall that $\mu \in \mathcal{L}_n$ is said to be *completely solvable* if all the eigenvalues of $\mathrm{ad}_\mu x$ are real for any x . In particular, any nilpotent and any Iwasawa-type solvable μ is completely solvable.

LEMMA 6.19. *Let r_μ be the Lie injectivity radius of $\mu \in \mathcal{L}_n = \mathcal{H}_{0,n}$. Then,*

- (i) $r_\mu \geq \pi/\|\mu\|$;
- (ii) $r_\mu = \infty$ for any completely solvable μ (in particular, G_μ is diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n).

Proof. It is well known that, for any $\mu \in \mathcal{L}_n$, the neighbourhood of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ defined by

$$V_\mu := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |\mathrm{Im}(c)| < \pi \text{ for any eigenvalue } c \text{ of } \mathrm{ad}_\mu x\}$$

satisfies that $\exp_\mu : V_\mu \longrightarrow G_\mu$ is a diffeomorphism onto its image (see [36, pp. 112]). On the other hand, for any eigenvalue c of $\mathrm{ad}_\mu x$, one has

$$|\mathrm{Im}(c)| \leq |c| \leq (\mathrm{tr} \mathrm{ad}_\mu x (\mathrm{ad}_\mu x)^t)^{1/2} \leq \|\mu\| \|x\|,$$

where $\|\mu\|^2 := \sum \|\mu(e_i, e_j)\|^2 = \sum \mathrm{tr} \mathrm{ad}_\mu e_i (\mathrm{ad}_\mu e_i)^t$. This implies that $B(0, \pi/\|\mu\|) \subset V_\mu$ and so part (i) follows. Concerning part (ii), it is enough to note that $V_\mu = \mathbb{R}^n$ in the completely solvable case. \square

On the other hand, the parts of the brackets μ_k which might not be affected by an infinitesimal convergence $\tilde{g}_{\mu_k} \rightarrow \tilde{g}_\lambda$ are not present here, as $q = 0$. We can therefore rephrase Theorems 6.12 and 6.14 in the case of Lie groups in a much stronger way as follows.

COROLLARY 6.20. *Let μ_k be a sequence in $\mathcal{L}_n = \mathcal{H}_{0,n}$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ in \mathcal{L}_n (usual vector space topology);
- (ii) $(G_{\mu_k}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ infinitesimally converges to $(G_\lambda, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$;
- (iii) $(G_{\mu_k}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ locally converges to $(G_\lambda, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$;
- (iv) $(G_{\mu_k}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ converges in the pointed sense to $(G_\lambda, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$, provided G_λ is compact or all μ_k are completely solvable;
- (v) $g_{\mu_k} \rightarrow g_\lambda$ smoothly on \mathbb{R}^n , provided all μ_k are completely solvable.

In any case, there is always a subsequence of $(G_{\mu_k}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ that is convergent in the pointed sense to a homogeneous manifold locally isometric to $(G_\lambda, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$.

6.5. Remark on collapsing

The following discussion is in the spirit of [10, Section 3.11]. Actually much of what has been studied in this paper can be found in Gromov's book [10].

Let μ_k be a sequence in $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}$ such that $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda \in V_{q+n}$, and assume that $\lambda \notin \mathcal{H}_{q,n}$. Recall from Section 3 that this is possible if and only if either (h2) or (h4) fail for λ , and only if $q > 0$, that is, never for left-invariant metrics on Lie groups.

If (h4) does not hold for λ , then by considering new decompositions of the form

$$\mathbb{R}^q = \mathbb{R}^{q'} \oplus \{z \in \mathbb{R}^q : \mu(z, \mathbb{R}^n) = 0\}, \quad \mathbb{R}^{q'+n} = \mathbb{R}^{q'} \oplus \mathbb{R}^n,$$

and defining $\lambda' \in V_{q'+n}$ as the restriction of λ to $\mathbb{R}^{q'+n}$ (and projection on if necessary), we obtain that $\lambda' \in \mathcal{H}_{q',n}$ provided (h2) holds for λ' . It is not hard to convince ourselves on the validity of Theorems 6.12 and 6.14 if we replace $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$ by $(G_{\lambda'}/K_{\lambda'}, g_{\lambda'})$ everywhere.

EXAMPLE 6.21. The sequence $\mu_k := \mu_{1,1,1,1/k} \in \mathcal{H}_{1,3}$ from Example 3.3 converges to $\lambda := \mu_{1,1,1,0} \notin \mathcal{H}_{1,3}$. In this case, $\lambda' = \mu_{1,1,1} \in \mathcal{H}_{0,3}$ as in Example 3.2, a round metric on S^3 .

The behaviour to be understood is therefore under the failure of condition (h2) for λ . So that K_λ is not closed in G_λ , and a natural thing to do is to consider its closure \bar{K}_λ , which is again a connected Lie subgroup of G_λ such that $\dim \bar{K}_\lambda = q' > q = \dim K_\lambda$. By putting $q' = q + r$, $r > 0$ and considering decompositions

$$\mathbb{R}^{q+n} = \mathbb{R}^{q+r} \oplus \mathbb{R}^{n-r}, \quad \mathbb{R}^{q+r} = \mathbb{R}^q \oplus \mathbb{R}^r, \quad \mathbb{R}^n = \mathbb{R}^r \oplus \mathbb{R}^{n-r}.$$

one obtains that $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q+r,n-r}$. Indeed, both (h1) and (h3) follow easily from the fact that $\text{Ad}_\lambda(\bar{K}_\lambda) \subset \text{O}(n)$, (h2) holds by construction and if (h4) fails, then we can fix it as above and in any case to get $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{q',n-r}$ for some $q' < q + r$.

As $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$ has dimension $n - r < n$, we can just forget about any type of convergence we had studied in this paper as a candidate for

$$(G_{\mu_k}/K_{\mu_k}, g_{\mu_k}) \longrightarrow (G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda).$$

A natural guess is that Gromov–Hausdorff topology should be involved in some way (cf. for example, [10, Chapter 3; 31, 10.1]). More precisely, we expect pointed Gromov–Hausdorff subconvergence to a homogeneous manifold locally isometric to $(G_\lambda/K_\lambda, g_\lambda)$, and thus we

would be in the presence of what is called *collapsing with bounded curvature* in the literature (actually with bounded geometry).

EXAMPLE 6.22. Consider $\mu_k := \mu_{p_k, 1, 1, -1, 0, 1, 0, 1} \in \mathcal{H}_{1,5}$ as in Example 3.4, where $p_k \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $p_k \rightarrow \sqrt{2}$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Thus μ_k is a sequence of homogeneous metrics on $S^3 \times S^2$ which are pairwise non-equivariantly diffeomorphic and $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda := \mu_{\sqrt{2}, 1, 1, -1, 0, 1, 0, 1} \notin \mathcal{H}_{1,5}$. However, if we consider the decomposition

$$\mathbb{R}^6 = \mathbb{R}^2 \oplus \mathbb{R}^4 = \langle e_0, e_1 \rangle \oplus \langle e_2, \dots, e_5 \rangle,$$

then it is easy to check that $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}_{2,4}$ and is a product of round metrics on $S^2 \times S^2$. The Ricci eigenvalues of μ_k are $\{1, p_k - \frac{1}{2}, p_k - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\}$. In the light of the above speculation, $\mu_k \rightarrow \lambda$ would represent a collapsing with bounded geometry from $S^3 \times S^2$ to $S^2 \times S^2$.

Collapsing of homogeneous manifolds from the algebraic point of view used in this paper will be the object of further study.

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