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## ON THE BETTI NUMBERS OF A HYPERBOLIC MANIFOLD

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**§1.** In this paper we will give lower bounds of the  $i$ -th Betti numbers of a family of compact hyperbolic  $n$ -dimensional ( $n \geq 3$ ) manifolds, in terms of their volumes. In fact, we show that for any compact hyperbolic manifold whose fundamental group is an arithmetic lattice arising from a quadratic form, most of its congruence covering has non-trivial  $i$ -th Betti number and the  $i$ -th Betti number is bounded from below by a power of its volume with an exponent depending only on  $i$  and  $n$ . The main result of this paper is

**Main Theorem.** *Let  $\Gamma$  be an arithmetic lattice in  $SO(n, 1)$  which arises from a quadratic form. For any torsion-free congruence subgroup  $\Gamma(p)$  and any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a constant  $c_\epsilon > 0$ , such that for all but finitely many ideals  $q$  of  $p$ ,*

$$\beta_i(\Gamma(q) \backslash \mathbf{H}^n) \geq c_\epsilon \text{Vol}(\Gamma(q) \backslash \mathbf{H}^n)^{\delta_i - \epsilon}$$

where  $\delta_i = \frac{(n-1)(n-i)}{(n+1)n} \frac{2i}{n-1}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, [\frac{n+1}{2}]$ .

The non-vanishing-properties of the Betti numbers have been developed by various authors. Among them, Millson and Raghunathan were the first ones who have shown the non-vanishing of  $\beta_i$  [MR]. On this line, [M], [K] and [Li] are also referred to. The result in this paper is the first and strongest quantitative bound known. Theta-lifting [Li] could also provide quantitative lower bounds; essentially the multiplicities of certain discrete series representations of certain groups, such as  $SL(2, \mathbf{R})$  for the first Betti number. However, for large  $n$ , this multiplicity is much smaller than the above bound. But for certain limited  $n$  and  $i$  (for instance,  $n = 3$  and  $i = 1$ ), lifting gives a better bound.

Besides the obvious geometric interest, the result here has its significance in representation theory. It is well known that the  $i$ -th Betti number

of a compact hyperbolic  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$  is equal to the multiplicity of a certain representation (so-called Hotta-Wallach representation  $\pi_{ni}$ ) which occurs in  $L^2(\Gamma \backslash SO(n, 1))$  where  $\Gamma$  is the fundamental group of  $M$  [HW]. In [DW], it is shown that

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $\Gamma$  be a torsion-free, cocompact lattice in a semi-simple real rank one Lie group  $G$  and  $\{\Gamma_i\}$  be a family of normal subgroups with  $\cap_i \Gamma_i = \{1\}$ . Let  $\pi$  be a unitary representation of  $G$  and  $m(\Gamma_i, \pi)$  be its multiplicity. Then*

$$\lim \frac{m(\Gamma_i, \pi)}{\text{Vol}(\Gamma_i \backslash G)} = \begin{cases} d(\pi) > 0 & \text{if } \pi \text{ is a discrete series representation} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $d(\pi)$  is the formal degree of  $\pi$ .

This raised the question whether or not the representations other than discrete series representations, especially the non-tempered representations, have similar asymptotic behavior.

Let  $G$  be a semi-simple Lie group of non-compact type and  $\hat{G}$  be its unitary dual. For each  $\pi \in \hat{G}$ , let  $p(\pi)$  be the infimum over  $p \geq 2$  such that  $K$ -finite matrix coefficients of  $\pi$  are in  $L^p(G)$  (where  $K$  is a maximum compact subgroup of  $G$ ).

For cocompact arithmetic lattices and their congruence subgroups, it is conjectured in a recent paper [SX] that

CONJECTURE. *Given  $\Gamma$ , for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a constant  $c_\epsilon$  such that*

$$m(\pi, \Gamma(q)) \leq c_\epsilon \text{Vol}(\Gamma(q) \backslash G)^{\frac{2}{p(\pi)} + \epsilon}.$$

When  $G = SO(n, 1)$  and  $\pi_{ni}$  are those Hotta-Wallach representations,  $p(\pi_{ni}) = \frac{n-1}{i}$ . The conjecture asserts

$$\beta_i(\Gamma \backslash \mathbf{H}^n) \leq c_\epsilon \text{Vol}(\Gamma \backslash \mathbf{H}^n)^{\frac{2i}{n-1} + \epsilon}. \quad (1)$$

Such behavior of the Betti numbers was suggested by Gromov in the context of  $L^p$  ( $p \neq 2$ ) cohomology.

For large  $n$  and small  $i$ , the exponent  $\delta_i$  in the Main Theorem is remarkably close to the one predicted in (1). This suggests that the conjectured bound is, very likely, optimal.

In Section 2 we construct a pair of totally geodesic submanifolds and show that they give non-trivial homology classes. In Section 3 we prove the Main Theorem. By the time this work was completed, Millson and Raghunathan's paper [MR] was not available to the author. It turns out that the second section of this paper is essentially a repetition of [MR]. Except here the approach is more elementary and simple.

We would like to acknowledge helpful conversations with J. Li, and thank P. Sarnak for encouragement. Most of all we would like to thank G. Mostow for his time and encouragement.

**§2.** In this section, for each  $i \leq [\frac{n+1}{2}]$ , we will construct a pair of closed, oriented submanifolds in certain compact hyperbolic  $n$ -manifolds. One of these is  $i$ -dimensional and the other is  $i$ -codimensional. Then we show that the intersection number of these two is non-zero. As a consequence, we have a non-zero  $i$ -th Betti number. When  $i = 1$ , the process here is just a refinement of [M].

Let  $k$  be a totally real algebraic number field of degree  $m$  ( $m > 1$ ) with places  $\sigma_1 = 1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_m$ . Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be its ring of integers. Let  $f(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a quadratic form on  $\mathbf{R}^{n+1}$  defined over  $k$  with signature  $(n, 1)$  and  $\sigma_i f$  are positive definite for  $i = 2, \dots, m$ . An arithmetic lattice  $\Gamma$  of  $SO(n, 1)$  arising from  $f$  is, by definition, a subgroup of  $SO(n, 1)$  which is commensurable with  $\Phi = U(f) \cap GL(n, \mathcal{O})$  the group of units of  $f$ . Where  $SO(n, 1)$  is the special group of the group of matrices which leave invariant the quadratic form  $f$ . It is well known that  $f$  can be diagonalized by an element  $g$  in  $GL(n, k)$  and the groups of the units of  $f$  and  $f^g$  are commensurable [B]. Without losing generality, we can assume that  $f$  is diagonal and

$$f(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) = b_1 x_1^2 + \dots + b_i x_i^2 - b_0 x_0^2 + b_{i+1} x_{i+1}^2 + \dots + b_n x_n^2$$

where  $b_i \in k$  and  $b_i > 0$ .

Since  $m > 1$ ,  $\Phi$  has no unipotent elements and therefore it is a cocompact lattice. For each ideal  $p$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ , let  $\Phi(p) = \{\gamma \in \Phi \mid \gamma \equiv 1 \pmod{p}\}$ . We obtain congruence subgroups  $\Gamma(p)$  of  $\Gamma$  by setting  $\Gamma(p) = \Gamma \cap \Phi(p)$ . For all but limited  $p$ 's [X],  $\Gamma(p)$  is a torsion-free normal subgroup of finite

index.  $\Gamma(q) \triangleleft \Gamma(p)$  if and only if  $q \subset p$ . Because  $\beta_i(\Gamma(p)) \geq \beta_i(\Phi(p))$ , it is sufficient to prove the Main Theorem for  $\Phi(p)$ . So we assume that  $\Gamma = \Phi$ . We also make the following convention. Let  $N(p)$  be the norm of a ideal  $p$ . From now on congruence subgroups  $\Gamma(p)$  only refer to those torsion-free and  $N(p) \neq 2$  congruence subgroups. Sometimes we may use the notation  $\Gamma(1)$  to refer  $\Gamma$ .

Let  $\mathbf{H}^n$  be the  $n$ -dimensional real hyperbolic space with homogeneous coordinates  $(x_1, \dots, x_i, x_0, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$ .  $SO(n, 1)$  acts transitively on  $\mathbf{H}^n$  and the isotropy group of  $e_i = (0, \dots, \overbrace{0}^i, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$  is  $SO(n)$ . We may identify  $SO(n, 1)/SO(n)$  with  $\mathbf{H}^n$ .  $\Gamma(p)$  acts freely on  $\mathbf{H}^n$  and has a compact quotient  $\Gamma(p) \backslash \mathbf{H}^n$  which is denoted as  $X(p)$ . Since  $N(p) \neq 2$ ,  $X(p)$  is oriented.

Now analogous to the construction in [M], we construct a pair of closed and oriented submanifolds in  $X(p)$ . Let

$$V_i = \{(x_1, \dots, x_0, \dots, x_n) \mid x_{i+1} = \dots = x_n = 0\}$$

$$V^i = \{(x_1, \dots, x_0, \dots, x_n) \mid x_1 = \dots = x_i = 0\}$$

then  $V_i \cong \mathbf{H}^i$  (resp.  $V^i \cong \mathbf{H}^{n-i}$ ). Let  $\Gamma_i(p)$  (resp.  $\Gamma^i(p)$ ) be the stabilizer of  $V_i$  (resp.  $V^i$ ) in  $\Gamma(p)$ , then the elements in  $\Gamma_i$  (resp.  $\Gamma^i$ ) have the following form,

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & E \end{pmatrix} \quad \left( \text{resp.} \begin{pmatrix} E' & 0 \\ 0 & A' \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

where  $A$  (resp.  $A'$ ) is an  $(i+1) \times (i+1)$  (resp.  $(n-i+1) \times (n-i+1)$ ) matrix and  $E$  (resp.  $E'$ ) is a  $(n-i+1) \times (n-i+1)$  (resp.  $(i+1) \times (i+1)$ ) diagonal matrix with entries  $\pm 1$ . In fact, when  $p \neq 1$ ,  $\gamma \in \Gamma(p)$  implies that  $E = I$  (resp.  $E' = I$ ).

$\Gamma_i(p)$  (resp.  $\Gamma^i(p)$ ) (when  $p \neq 1$ ) acts freely on  $V_i$  (resp.  $V^i$ ) and has compact quotient  $\Gamma_i(p) \backslash V_i$  (resp.  $\Gamma^i(p) \backslash V^i$ ). Let  $\tau(p)$  be the projection  $\mathbf{H}^n \rightarrow X(p)$  and  $S_i(p) = \tau(p)(V_i)$  (resp.  $S^i(p) = \tau(p)(V^i)$ ). One has [M].

LEMMA 1. When  $p \neq 1$ ,  $S_i(p)$  (resp.  $S^i(p)$ ) is a closed, oriented  $i$  (resp.  $n-i$ )-dimensional submanifold of  $X(p)$ . Moreover,  $S_i(p) \cong \Gamma_i \backslash V_i$  (resp.  $S^i(p) \cong \Gamma^i \backslash V^i$ ).

Such a closed, oriented submanifold  $S_i(p)$  (resp.  $S^i(p)$ ) gives a homology class  $[S_i(p)]$  (resp.  $[S^i(p)]$ ) in  $H_i(X(p))$  (resp.  $H_{n-i}(X(p))$ ). Now the

question is to show that it represents a non-zero homology class. When  $i = 1$ , it is just the result of [M].

**THEOREM 2.** *Fix a  $\Gamma(p)$ . Then for all but finitely many subgroups  $\Gamma(q)$  of  $\Gamma(p)$ , the intersection number of  $[S_i(q)]$  and  $[S^i(q)]$*

$$[S_i(q)][S^i(q)] \neq 0.$$

*Consequently,  $[S_i(q)] \neq 0$ ,  $[S^i(q)] \neq 0$  and  $\beta_i(X(q)) = \beta_{n-i}(X(q)) > 0$ .*

*Proof:* For each  $q \subset p$ , one has

$$\Gamma(q) \triangleleft \Gamma(p), \quad \Gamma_i(q) \triangleleft \Gamma_i(p) \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma^i(q) \triangleleft \Gamma^i(p).$$

Let  $\pi$ ,  $\pi_i$  and  $\pi^i$  be the covering maps

$$\begin{aligned} \pi : X(q) &\longrightarrow X(p); \\ \pi_i : \Gamma_i(q) \setminus V_i &\longrightarrow \Gamma_i(p) \setminus V_i; \\ \pi^i : \Gamma^i(q) \setminus V^i &\longrightarrow \Gamma^i(p) \setminus V^i. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1,  $\pi_i$  (resp.  $\pi^i$ ) induces a covering map  $S_i(q) \rightarrow S_i(p)$  (resp.  $S^i(q) \rightarrow S^i(p)$ ) which is also denoted by  $\pi_i$  (resp.  $\pi^i$ ).

It is easy to check that  $\pi|_{S_i(q)} = \pi_i$  and  $\pi|_{S^i(q)} = \pi^i$ . This means that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} S_i(q) & \longrightarrow & X(q) & \longleftarrow & S^i(q) \\ \pi_i \downarrow & & \pi \downarrow & & \pi^i \downarrow \\ S_i(p) & \longrightarrow & X(p) & \longleftarrow & S^i(p) \end{array} \quad (2)$$

Let  $A(q) = S_i(q) \cap S^i(q)$ , then  $\pi(A(q)) \subset A(p)$ .  $A(q)$  is a finite set containing  $\tau(q)e_i$  which is denoted as  $e(q)$ . For each  $a(q) \in A(q)$ , there is a pair  $(a_i(q), a^i(q)) \in V_i \times V^i$  and a  $\gamma(q) \in \Gamma(q)$  such that

$$\gamma(q)a_i(q) = a^i(q). \quad (3)$$

Now we classify the elements in  $A(p)$  into two kinds, one is good and the other is bad. An element in  $A(p)$  is called good if its inverse images under  $\pi$  do not belong to  $A(q)$  for almost all  $q$ 's and bad otherwise.  $e(q)$  is always bad. Being a good element,  $a(p)$  has no inverse image under  $\pi$  in  $S_i(q) \cap S^i(q)$  for almost all  $q$ 's. Because of the finiteness of  $A(q)$ , we can conclude that all the good elements have no inverse images in  $S_i(q) \cap S^i(q)$  for almost all  $q$ 's. It is equivalent to say that almost all  $S_i(q) \cap S^i(q)$ 's contain only the inverse images of bad elements in  $A(p)$ . For such  $S_i(q)$  and  $S^i(q)$ , we will prove that the local intersection numbers at every intersection point are the same.

LEMMA 2. *If there exists  $a(q) \in A(q)$  satisfying  $\pi(a(q)) = a(p)$ , then there exists a pair  $(\alpha, \beta) \in \Gamma_i(p) \times \Gamma^i(p)$  such that*

$$\gamma(p) \equiv \beta\alpha \quad \text{mod}(\Gamma(q)).$$

LEMMA 3. *If there are infinitely many  $q$ 's ( $\subset p$ ) and  $a(q)$ 's satisfying  $\pi(a(q)) = a(p)$  (this is equivalent to saying that if  $a(p)$  is bad), then there are two elements  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  in  $SO(n, 1)$  such that*

1.  $\gamma(p) = \beta\alpha.$
- 2.

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & A' \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $A$  is a  $(n+1) \times (n+1)$  matrix and  $A'$  is a  $(n-i+1) \times (n-i+1)$  matrix.

*Remark:*  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  in Lemma 3 may not belong to  $\Gamma$ .

We postpone the proofs of these lemmas and continue to prove Theorem 2. When  $a(p)$  is a bad element in  $A(p)$ , by Lemma 3, the  $\gamma(p)$  in (3) is a product of two elements  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$  in  $SO(n, 1)$  which have the forms described in Lemma 3. If  $a(q) \in A(q)$  satisfies  $\pi(a(q)) = a(p)$ , the proof of Lemma 2 shows that there is  $w_i \in \Gamma_i(p)$  (resp.  $w^i \in \Gamma^i(p)$ ) such that  $w_i a_i(q) = a_i(p)$  (resp.  $(w^i)^{-1} a^i(q) = a^i(p)$ ). Therefore  $\gamma(q) = w^i \gamma(p) w_i = (w^i \beta)(\alpha w_i)$ . As  $\alpha w_i$  (resp.  $w^i \beta$ ) preserves the orientations of  $\mathbf{H}^n$  and  $V_i$  (resp.  $V^i$ ) simultaneously, the local intersection number at  $a(q)$

$$[S_i(q)][S^i(q)]|_{a(q)} = [S_i(q)][S^i(q)]|_{e(q)}.$$

Then for almost all  $q$ 's ( $\subset p$ ),

$$\begin{aligned} [S_i(q)][S^i(q)] &= \sum_{a(q) \in A(q)} [S_i(q)][S^i(q)]|_{a(q)} \\ &= |A(q)| \cdot [S_i(q)][S^i(q)]|_{e(q)}. \end{aligned}$$

Obviously this is non-zero and the proof is completed.

*Proof of Lemma 2:* Since  $\pi_i(a(q)) = \pi(a(q)) = a(p)$ , there is  $\alpha \in \Gamma_i(p)$  such that  $\alpha^{-1}a_i(q) = a_i(p)$ . Similarly, there is  $\beta \in \Gamma^i(p)$  such that  $\beta a^i(q) = a^i(p)$ . Combining with (3), we get

$$\begin{cases} \gamma(p)a_i(p) = a^i(p) \\ \beta\gamma(q)\alpha a_i(p) = a^i(p) \end{cases}$$

As  $\Gamma(p)$  has no torsion elements,  $\gamma(p) = \beta\gamma(q)\alpha$ . That is

$$\gamma(p) \equiv \beta\alpha \pmod{\Gamma(q)}.$$

*Proof of Lemma 3:* Write  $\gamma(p) \in \Gamma(p)$ ,  $\alpha \in \Gamma_i(p)$  and  $\beta \in \Gamma^i(p)$  as follows

$$\gamma(p) = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & A_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} A & u & 0 \\ v & d & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d' & v' \\ 0 & u' & A' \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $A_{11}$ ,  $A$  are  $i \times i$  matrices and  $A_{33}$ ,  $A'$  are  $(n-i) \times (n-i)$  matrices. Then

$$\beta\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} A & u & 0 \\ d'v & dd' & v' \\ u'v & dv' & A' \end{pmatrix}.$$

So,  $\gamma(p) \equiv \beta\alpha \pmod{\Gamma(q)}$  implies that

$$\begin{cases} a_{13} \equiv 0 \\ a_{22}a_{31} \equiv a_{32}a_{21} \end{cases} \pmod{q}. \quad (4)$$

If (4) holds for infinitely many  $q$ 's ( $\subset p$ ), then  $A_{33} = 0$ ,  $a_{22}a_{31} = a_{32}a_{21}$  and

$$\gamma(p) = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & a_{12} & 0 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{22}^{-1}a_{32}a_{21} & a_{31} & A_{33} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $d = (1 + b_0^{-1}(b_1a_1^2 + \cdots + b_ia_i^2))^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $d' = a_{22}d^{-1}$  where  $a_{12} = (a_1, \dots, a_i)^\top$ . Let

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & a_{12} & 0 \\ a_{21}d'^{-1} & d & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d' & a_{23} \\ 0 & a_{31}d^{-1} & A_{33} \end{pmatrix}.$$



then  $\gamma(p) = \beta\alpha$ .

It is easy to check that both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  preserve the quadratic form  $f$ . As  $\det \beta \det \alpha = \det(\gamma(p)) = 1$ , by multiplying  $\begin{pmatrix} I & & \\ & -1 & \\ & & I \end{pmatrix}$  on both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  if it is necessary, we can assume that  $\det \alpha = \det \beta = 1$ . This completes the proof of Lemma 3.

**§3.** In this section we will prove the Main Theorem. The idea is to show that a certain number of oriented closed submanifolds which come from the translations of  $S_i$ , give linear independent homology classes. When  $\Gamma(p)$  is torsion-free, it is not hard to see that  $W = \Gamma(p)/\Gamma(q)$  acts freely on  $X(q)$ . See [M]. Moreover,  $W_i = \Gamma_i(p)/\Gamma_i(q)$  (resp.  $W^i = \Gamma^i(p)/\Gamma^i(q)$ ) is the stabilizer of  $S_i(q)$  (resp.  $S^i(q)$ ) in  $W$ . For each  $\alpha \in W$ ,  $\alpha S_i(q)$  (resp.  $\alpha S^i(q)$ ) is also an oriented closed submanifold. It gives a non-trivial homology class if and only if  $S_i(q)$  (resp.  $S^i(q)$ ) does. In fact

$$[\alpha S_i(q)][\alpha S^i(q)] = [S_i(q)][S^i(q)].$$

Let  $w = |W|$ ,  $w_i = |W_i|$  and  $w^i = |W^i|$ . Then we have  $\frac{w}{w_i}$  different non-trivial homology classes  $[\alpha S_i(q)]$  in  $H_i(X(q))$ .

To study the linear dependency of  $[\alpha S_i(q)]$ , we need to explore some properties of  $\alpha S_i(q)$  and  $\alpha S^i(q)$ .

LEMMA 4. For  $\alpha \in W$  and  $\beta \in W$ ,

1.  $\alpha S_i(q) \cap \beta S_i(q) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $\alpha \not\equiv \beta \pmod{W_i}$ .
2.  $\alpha S^i(q) \cap \beta S^i(q) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $\alpha \not\equiv \beta \pmod{W^i}$ .

*Proof:* This is obvious.

LEMMA 5. Each  $\alpha S^i(q)$  intersects at most  $c w^i$   $\beta S_i(q)$ 's. In particular, for each  $\alpha$ ,

$$|\{\beta S_i(q) \mid [\beta S_i(q)][\alpha S^i(q)] \neq 0\}| \leq c \cdot w^i$$

where  $c = |A(p)|$ .

*Proof:* In fact,

$$|(\alpha S^i(q) \cap (\cup_{\beta} \beta S_i(q)))| = |(S^i(q) \cap (\cup_{\beta} \beta S_i(q)))|$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S^i(q) \cap (\cup_{\beta} \beta S_i(q)) &\subset (\pi^i)^{-1}(\pi(S^i(q) \cap (\cup_{\beta} \beta S_i(q)))) \\ &\subset (\pi^i)^{-1}(S^i(q) \cap S_i(q)) . \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|(\alpha S^i(q) \cap (\cup_{\beta} \beta S_i(q)))| \leq |A(p)| \cdot w^i$ .

**LEMMA 6.** *Let  $V$  be a linear space and  $V^*$  be its dual space. Let  $S$  (resp.  $S^*$ ) be a finite subset of  $V$  (resp.  $V^*$ ). If*

1. *for each  $v \in S$ , there is  $u \in S^*$  such that  $(u, v) \neq 0$ .*
2. *for each  $u \in S^*$ ,  $|\{v \in S \mid (u, v) \neq 0\}| \leq t$ .*

*Then  $\dim V \geq \frac{|S|}{t}$ .*

*Proof:* Use induction w.r. to both  $t$  and  $\lceil \frac{|S|}{t} \rceil$ .

1. This is obviously true when either  $t = 1$  or  $\lceil \frac{|S|}{t} \rceil = 0$ .
2. Assume that this lemma is true for either  $t < n$  or  $\lceil \frac{|S|}{t} \rceil < m$ . Now we prove this lemma when  $t = n$  and  $\lceil \frac{|S|}{t} \rceil = m$ . The rest follows easily. Without losing generality, we can assume that  $t$  is minimal, namely there is a  $u_0 \in S^*$  and a subset  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subset S$  such that  $(v_i, u_0) \neq 0$ . Let  $S' = S \setminus \{v_1, \dots, v_t\}$ , then  $u_0 \perp S'$ . Therefore  $v_1$  is linear independent with  $S'$ . Here  $\lceil \frac{|S'|}{t} \rceil = \lceil \frac{|S|}{t} \rceil - 1 = m - 1$ . By induction assumption we have  $\dim(\text{span } S') \geq \frac{|S'|}{t}$ . Hence  $\dim V \geq \dim(\text{span } S') + \dim(\text{span } v_1) \geq \frac{|S'|}{t} - 1 + 1 = \frac{|S|}{t}$ .

Combining Lemma 4 and Lemma 5, we have

**THEOREM 3.** *For each  $p$ , there is a constant  $c$  such that for almost all  $q$ 's ( $\subset p$ ),*

$$\beta_i(X(q)) \geq c \frac{w}{w^i w_i}$$

*where  $i = 1, \dots, \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$ .*

*Proof:* Let  $c = |A(p)|^{-1}$ , then apply Lemma 4 and Lemma 5.

To restate Theorem 3 in terms of volume of  $X(q)$ , consider the following facts.  $X(q)$  is a  $w$ -covering of  $X(p)$ .  $\text{Vol}(X(q)) = \text{Vol}(X(p))w$ . From the definition of  $\Gamma(p)$ , one has  $\Gamma(p)/\Gamma(q) \subset SO(n+1, p/q)$ . On the other hand, the strong approximation theorem of  $SO(n, 1)$  [Kn] shows that

$$|(\Gamma(p)/\Gamma(q))| \geq 4^{-t} |(SO(n+1, p/q))|$$

where  $t = t_1 + \cdots + t_j$  and  $q = p_1^{t_1} \cdots p_j^{t_j}$  is the prime factorization of  $q$  in  $\mathcal{O}$ . As  $|(SO(n+1, p/q))| \sim |p/q|^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}}$ , one can get for any  $\epsilon > 0$

$$\frac{w}{w^i w_i} \geq c_\epsilon \text{Vol}(X(q))^{\delta_i - \epsilon}$$

where  $c_\epsilon$  depends only on  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta_i = \frac{(n-1)(n-i)}{(n+1)n} \frac{2i}{n-1}$ . Finally we have proved

**THEOREM 4.** *Let  $\Gamma$  be an arithmetic lattice in  $SO(n, 1)$  which arises from a quadratic form. For any torsion-free congruence subgroup  $\Gamma(p)$  and any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a constant  $c_\epsilon > 0$ . Such that for all but finitely many ideals  $q$  of  $p$ ,*

$$\beta_i(\Gamma(q) \setminus \mathbf{H}^n) \geq c_\epsilon \text{vol}(\Gamma(q) \setminus \mathbf{H}^n)^{\delta_i - \epsilon}$$

where  $\delta_i = \frac{(n-1)(n-i)}{(n+1)n} \frac{2i}{n-1}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor$ .

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