## PROOF OF RATNER'S THEOREM FOR SEMISIMPLE GROUPS

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#### 1. Introduction

In 1975, Raghunathan proposed two fundamental conjectures on rigidity of unipotent actions on homogeneous spaces: Raghunathan's topological conjecture and measure conjecture. Ratner managed to prove these two conjectures in full generality around 1990 in several seminal papers [1990, Acta], [1990, Inventiones], [1991, Annals] and [1991, Duke].

According to Ratner's theorem on measure rigidity, for any homogeneous space G= with a one-parameter unipotent subgroup U = fu(t):  $t \ 2 \ \mathbb{R}g$ , any U-invariant and ergodic probability measure on G= is homogeneous, that is, there exists a periodic orbit Fx of some analytic subgroup F G such that is induced by the Haar measure F of F. This implies the following Ratner's theorems on orbit closure and equidistribution: For any F G and the orbit G0 some analytic subgroup G1 and the orbit G2 is equidistributed in G3 with respect G4 in the following sense: For any compactly supported continuous function G3 in the following sense: For any

$$\lim_{T \neq 1} \frac{1}{T} \int_{0}^{T} f(u(t)x) dt = \int_{F_{T}} f d_{F}:$$

Ratner's theorems have many important applications to number theory, and the ideas in the proof inspired several important breakthroughs in dynamical systems, such as the work by Einsiedler-Katok-Lindenstrauss on measure rigidity of higher rank diagonal actions on homogeneous spaces (Lindenstrauss' elds medal work), the work by Benoist-Quint on classi cations of stationary measures of random walks on homogeneous spaces, and the work by Eskin-Mirzakhani on measure classi cation of  $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ -invariant measures on moduli spaces (Mirzakhani's elds medal work).

The goal of this short course is to understand Ratner's proof of measure rigidity for semisimple G [1990, Acta]. This is the most important and discult case. The proof contains most key ideas and techniques.

### 2. Outline of the course

The course is organized as follows:

- (1) In the rst lecture, we will brie y go through the history around Raghunathan's conjecture and Ratner's theorems, and talk about some important applications of Ratner's theorems.
- (2) In the second lecture, we will start the proof of Ratner's measure classication theorem for the case where *G* is semisimple. We will prove several important properties of unipotent actions.
- (3) In the third lecture, we will statement the key lemma and start proving it. This will be the main part of the whole proof.

(4) In the fourth lecture, we will nish the proof of key lemma and brie y describe how to deduce the measure rigidity result from the key lemma.

We will closely follow Ratner's paper [1990, Acta]. The course is self-contained.

# 3. References

- [1] Marina Ratner, On measure rigidity of unipotent subgroups of semisimple groups, Acta Math., 165, 229-309, 1990.
- [2] Marina Ratner, Strict measure rigidity for unipotent subgroups of solvable groups, Invent. Math., 101, 449-482, 1990.
- [3] Marina Ratner, On Raghunathan's Measure Conjecture, Annals Math., 134(3), 545-607, 1991.
- [4] Marina Ratner, Raghunathan's Topological Conjecture and distributions of unipotent ows, Duke Math. J., 63(1), 235-280, 1991.

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