

Abstract: In this mini-series of two talks I hope to explain some algebraic and analytic aspects of the following problem: given a sequence Γ_n of discrete subgroups of a semisimple Lie group G what is limiting behavior of the discrete spectrum of $L^2(\Gamma_n \backslash G)$? The first talk will be devoted to the algebraic aspects which are of independent interest. A special role is played by a group \leftarrow Lie algebra correspondence à la Lazard, Ilani, Klopsch in the context of p -adic groups.