

Correction to

The geometry and structure of isotropy irreducible homogeneous spaces

by

JOSEPH A. WOLF

*University of California
Berkeley, CA, U.S.A.*

(Acta Math. 120 (1968), 59–148)

Professors McKenzie Wang and Wolfgang Ziller pointed out to me that Theorem 4.1 omits the spaces $\mathbf{Sp}(n)/\mathbf{Sp}(1) \times \mathbf{SO}(n)$ and $\mathbf{SO}(4n)/\mathbf{Sp}(1) \times \mathbf{Sp}(n)$, which are isotropy irreducible for $n > 1$. The gap in the proof is in the argument of Case 2 on page 69, where it is assumed that the representation η_1 is nontrivial, which is the case only for $p_1 > 1$. Since $\mathbf{Sp}(2)/\mathbf{Sp}(1) \times \mathbf{SO}(2) = \mathbf{Sp}(2)/\mathbf{U}(2)$, which is hermitian symmetric, the correct statement is:

4.1. THEOREM. *The only simply connected nonsymmetric coset spaces G/K of compact connected Lie groups, where (a) G acts effectively, (b) G is a classical group, (c) $\text{rank}(G) > \text{rank}(K)$, (d) K is not simple, and (e) K acts \mathbf{R} -irreducibly on the tangent space, are the following:*

(1) $\mathbf{SU}(pq)/\mathbf{SU}(p) \times \mathbf{SU}(q)$, $p > 1$, $q > 1$, $pq > 4$. Here $G = \mathbf{SU}(pq)/\mathbf{Z}_m$ where $m = \text{lcm}(p, q)$, $K = \{\mathbf{SU}(p)/\mathbf{Z}_p\} \times \{\mathbf{SU}(q)/\mathbf{Z}_q\}$, and the isotropy representation is the tensor product of the adjoint representations of $\mathbf{SU}(p)$ and $\mathbf{SU}(q)$.

(2) $\mathbf{Sp}(n)/\mathbf{Sp}(1) \times \mathbf{SO}(n)$, $n > 2$. Here $G = \mathbf{Sp}(n)/\mathbf{Z}_2$. If n is even then $K = \{\mathbf{Sp}(1)/\mathbf{Z}_2\} \times \{\mathbf{SO}(n)/\mathbf{Z}_2\}$ and the isotropy representation is given by

$$\overset{2}{\circ} \otimes (\overset{2}{\circ} \otimes \overset{2}{\circ}) \quad \text{if } n = 4,$$

by

$$\overset{2}{\circ} \otimes \overset{2}{\circ} - \circ - \dots - \circ \begin{matrix} \nearrow \circ \\ \searrow \circ \end{matrix} \quad \text{if } n > 4.$$