

WALTER BENZ, University of Hamburg, Department of Mathematics, Bundesstrasse 55, D-20146 Hamburg, Germany  
*Hyperbolic geometry via functional equations*

Let  $X$  be a real inner product space of (finite or infinite) dimension at least 2. With implicit notions

(i) of translations  $t$  (of  $X$  along a fixed axis), and

(ii) of distances  $d$  satisfying essentially the functional equations of translation, invariance and additivity,

exactly two geometries with translations  $t$  and distances  $d$  are characterized up to isomorphism, namely euclidean and Bolyai–Lobachevski geometry over  $X$  of dimension  $\dim X$ .

The methods of the longer proof depend heavily on the theory of functional equations, especially on results of J. Aczél and Z. Daróczy. Our theory in question is part of a book “Geometry of real inner product spaces”, forthcoming.