A global structure theorem for quasi-isometric ergodic dynamical systems

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Ergodic theory and topological dynamics are two separate but related branches of the theory of dynamical systems whose interactions with other fields such as Ramsey theory and number theory continue to be very fruitful. In my talk, I give a brief introduction to these areas and, motivated by a number-theoretic problem, explain two classical structure theorems for dynamical systems. I then discuss how the apparent similarities between these two results may be turned into a global structure theorem.