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Chris Connell* (connell@indiana.edu), **Thang Nguyen** and **Ralf Spatzier**. *Lower hyperbolic rank rigidity for C^1 splittings*. Preliminary report.

We show that a closed Riemannian manifold M with sectional curvatures $-1 \leq K < 0$ and positive hyperbolic rank is a rank one locally symmetric space provided TSM has a C^1 splitting into stable and strong unstable bundles. This includes the case of perturbations of rank one locally symmetric spaces. (Received July 08, 2019)