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Montreal, QC , Canada. *Contractible normal affine surfaces.*

I will discuss two results at opposite ends of the spectrum for surfaces S as in the title.

I. Suppose S has negative Kodaira dimension and only quotient singularities. Then the smooth locus of S has negative Kodaira dimension.

II. Suppose S is not smooth and the smooth locus has Kodaira dimension two. Then S has a unique singular point, and it is a cyclic quotient singular point.

In both cases there is a consequence relevant to the topic of this session.

I.1 A two-dimensional quotient of C^n by a reductive group is isomorphic to C^2 modulo a finite group.

II.1 The automorphism group of a smooth contractible surface of general type is finite cyclic.

This is joint work with R. Gurjar, M. Koras and M. Miyanishi. (Received September 09, 2010)