

ABSTRACT. Let  $\Gamma$  be a subgroup of the group of affine transformations of the affine space  $\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ . Suppose  $\Gamma$  acts properly discontinuously on  $\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ . The paper deals with the question which subgroups of  $\mathrm{GL}(2n+1, \mathbb{R})$  occur as Zariski closure  $\overline{\ell(\Gamma)}$  of the linear part of such a group  $\Gamma$ . The two main results of the paper say that  $\mathrm{SO}(n+1, n)$  does occur as  $\overline{\ell(\Gamma)}$  of such a group  $\Gamma$  if  $n$  is odd, but does not if  $n$  is even.