

# QUASICONFORMAL REFLECTIONS

BY

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Let  $L$  be a Jordan curve on the Riemann sphere, and denote its complementary components by  $\Omega, \Omega^*$ . Suppose that there exists a sense-reversing quasiconformal mapping  $\lambda$  of the sphere onto itself which maps  $\Omega$  on  $\Omega^*$  and keeps every point on  $L$  fixed. Such mappings are called quasiconformal reflections. Our purpose is to study curves  $L$  which permit quasiconformal reflections.

Let  $U$  denote the upper and  $U^*$  the lower halfplane. Consider a conformal mapping  $f$  of  $U$  on  $\Omega$  and a conformal mapping  $f^*$  of  $U^*$  on  $\Omega^*$ . Evidently,  $f^{*-1}\lambda f$  defines a quasiconformal mapping of  $U$  on  $U^*$  which induces a monotone mapping  $h = f^{*-1}f$  of the real axis on itself. It is not quite unique, for we may replace  $f$  by  $fS$  and  $f^*$  by  $f^*S^*$  where  $S$  and  $S^*$  are linear transformations with real coefficients and positive determinant. This replaces  $h$  by  $S^{*-1}hS$  which we shall say is equivalent to  $h$ . Observe that  $h$ , or rather its equivalence class, does not depend on  $\lambda$ . It is also unchanged if we replace the triple  $(\Omega, L, \Omega^*)$  by a conformally equivalent triple  $(T\Omega, TL, T\Omega^*)$  where  $T$  is a linear transformation.

The mapping  $f$  of  $U$  has a quasiconformal extension to the whole plane, namely by the mapping with values  $\lambda f(\bar{z})$  for  $z \in U^*$ . It is known that quasiconformal mappings carry nullsets into nullsets. Therefore  $L$  has necessarily zero area.

From this we may deduce that  $h$  determines  $\Omega$  uniquely up to conformal equivalence. In fact, let  $f_1, f_1^*$  be another pair of conformal mappings on complementary regions, and suppose that  $f_1^{*-1}f_1 = f^{*-1}f$  on the real axis. For a moment, let us write  $F$  for the mapping given by  $f(z)$  in  $U$  and by  $\lambda f(\bar{z})$  in  $U^*$ , and let  $F_1$  have the corresponding meaning. The mapping  $H = F_1^{-1}f_1^*f^{*-1}F$  is defined in  $U^*$  and reduces to the identity on the real axis. We extend it to the whole plane by setting  $H(z) = z$

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in  $U$ . Then  $F_1 H F^{-1}$  is a quasiconformal mapping. It reduces to  $f_1 f^{-1}$  in  $\Omega$  and to  $f_1^* f^{*-1}$  in  $\Omega^*$ . It is thus conformal, except perhaps on  $L$ . But a quasiconformal mapping which is conformal almost everywhere is conformal. Hence  $f_1 = T f$  where  $T$  is a linear transformation.

What are the properties of  $h$ ? A necessary condition is that  $h$  can be extended to a quasiconformal mapping of  $U$  on  $U^*$ , namely to  $f^{*-1} \lambda f$ . This condition is also sufficient. To prove it, let  $g$  be a quasiconformal mapping of  $U$  on  $U^*$  with boundary values  $h$ . The function  $g^*(z) = g(\bar{z})$ , defined in  $U^*$ , has weak derivatives which satisfy an equation

$$g_z^* = \mu g_z^*$$

with  $|\mu| \leq k < 1$  ( $k$  constant). Set  $\mu = 0$  in  $U$ . Consider the equation

$$F_z = \mu F_z$$

for the extended  $\mu$ . An important theorem (see [1]), sometimes referred to as the generalized Riemann mapping theorem, asserts the existence of a solution  $F$  which is a homeomorphic mapping of the sphere. Because  $z$  is a solution in  $U$  and  $g^*$  a solution in  $U^*$  it is possible to write  $F = f$  in  $U$ ,  $F = f^* g^*$  in  $U^*$ , where  $f$  and  $f^*$  are conformal mappings. Clearly,  $\Omega = f(U)$  and  $\Omega^* = f^*(U^*)$  are quasiconformal reflections of each other.

To sum up, we have established a correspondence between equivalence classes of boundary correspondences  $h$ , conformal mappings  $f$ , and curves  $L$  which permit a quasiconformal reflection. It is a natural program to try to characterize the possible  $h$ ,  $f$  and  $L$  in a more direct way. For boundary correspondences  $h$  this problem has been solved; we shall have occasion to recall the solution.

In Part I we solve the corresponding problem for  $L$ . It turns out that the curves which permit a quasiconformal reflection can be characterized by a surprisingly simple geometric property. (Partial results in this direction have been obtained by M. Tienari whose paper [7] came to my attention only when this article was already written.)

We have been less successful with the mappings  $f$ , but in Part II we show, at any rate, that the mappings  $f$  form an open set. To understand the meaning of this, we observe that the mappings equivalent to  $f$  are of the form  $TfS$ . To account for  $T$  we replace  $f$  by its Schwarzian derivative  $\varphi = \{f, z\}$ . The Schwarzian of  $fS$  is  $\varphi(S)S'^2$ , and to eliminate  $S$  it is indicated to consider  $\varphi dz^2$  in its role of quadratic differential.

If  $f$  is schlicht in  $U$ , Nehari [6] has shown that  $|\varphi| y^2 \leq \frac{3}{2}$ . We take the least upper bound of  $|\varphi| y^2$  to be a norm of  $\varphi$ . In the linear space of quadratic differentials with finite norm, let  $\Delta$  be the set of all  $\varphi$  whose corresponding  $f$  is schlicht and has

a quasiconformal extension. We are going to show that  $\Delta$  is an open set. For the significance of this result in the theory of Teichmüller spaces we refer to the companion article of L. Bers [4] in the next issue of this journal.

### Part I

1. In 1956 A. Beurling and the author derived a necessary and sufficient condition for a boundary  $h$  to be the restriction of a quasiconformal mapping of  $U$  on itself (or on its reflection  $U^*$ ). This work is an essential preliminary for what follows.

We recall the main result. Without loss of generality it may be assumed that  $h(\infty) = \infty$ . Then  $h$  admits a quasiconformal extension if and only if it satisfies a  $\rho$ -condition, namely an inequality

$$\rho^{-1} \leq \frac{h(x+t) - h(x)}{h(x) - h(x-t)} \leq \rho, \tag{1}$$

which is to be fulfilled for all real  $x, t$  and with a constant  $\rho \neq 0, \infty$ . More precisely, if  $h$  has a  $K$ -quasiconformal extension, then (1) holds with a  $\rho(K)$  that depends only on  $K$ , and if (1) holds, then  $h$  has a  $K(\rho)$ -quasiconformal extension.

The necessity follows from the simple observation that the quadruple  $(x-t, x, x+t, \infty)$  with cross-ratio 1 must be mapped on a quadruple with bounded cross-ratio. The sufficiency requires an explicit construction. We set  $w(z) = u + iv$  with

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u(z) &= \int_0^1 [h(x+ty) + h(x-ty)] dt, \\ v(z) &= \int_0^1 [h(x+ty) - h(x-ty)] dt. \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{2}$$

It is proved in [2] that  $w(z)$  is  $K(\rho)$ -quasiconformal.

I am indebted to Beurling for the very important observation that the mapping (2) is also quasi-isometric, in the sense that corresponding noneuclidean elements of length have a bounded ratio. This condition can be expressed by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} |w_z| &\leq C(\rho) \frac{v}{y}, \\ |w_{\bar{z}}| &\geq C(\rho)^{-1} \frac{v}{y}, \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{3}$$

where  $C(\varrho)$  depends only on  $\varrho$ . The proof is an immediate verification based on the estimate given in Lemma 6.5 of the cited paper.

2. Let  $L$  be a Jordan curve through  $\infty$  which admits a quasiconformal reflection. The complementary regions determined by  $L$  are denoted by  $\Omega, \Omega^*$ , and the reflection is written as  $z \rightarrow z^*$ . We assume that the reflection is  $K$ -quasiconformal.

Constants which depend only on  $K$  will be denoted by  $C(K)$ , with or without subscripts. In different connections  $C(K)$  may have different values. We emphasize that  $C(K)$  is not allowed to depend on  $L$ .

The shortest distance from a point  $z$  to  $L$  will be denoted by  $\delta(z)$ .

LEMMA 1. *The following estimates hold for all  $z$  in the plane and all  $z_0$  on  $L$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad & C(K)^{-1} \leq \left| \frac{z^* - z_0}{z - z_0} \right| \leq C(K) \\ \text{(b)} \quad & \frac{|z - z^*|}{\delta(z)} \leq C(K) \\ \text{(c)} \quad & C(K)^{-1} \leq \frac{\delta(z^*)}{\delta(z)} \leq C(K). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* If the cross-ratio of a quadruple has absolute value  $\leq 1$ , then the cross-ratio of the image points under a  $K$ -quasiconformal mapping has an absolute value  $\leq C(K)$ . This assertion is contained in [1], Lemma 16. It is a rather elementary result.

If  $|z^* - z_0| \leq |z - z_0|$  we can apply the above remark to  $(z^*, z, z_0, \infty)$  and conclude that  $|z - z_0| \leq C(K)|z^* - z_0|$ . Symmetrically,  $|z - z_0| \leq |z^* - z_0|$  implies  $|z^* - z_0| \leq C(K)|z - z_0|$ . In all circumstances (a) follows.

From (a) we obtain

$$|z - z^*| \leq (C(K) + 1)|z - z_0| = C_1(K)|z - z_0|$$

and (b) follows when  $|z - z_0| = \delta(z)$ . Since  $\delta(z^*) \leq |z - z^*|$  the second inequality (c) follows from (b), and the first is true by symmetry.

2. We introduce now the noneuclidean metrics  $ds = \varrho(z)|dz|$  in  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega^*$ . Explicitly, if  $z = z(\zeta)$  is a conformal map of  $|\zeta| < 1$  on  $\Omega$  we set

$$\varrho(z)|dz| = (1 - |\zeta|^2)^{-1}|d\zeta|.$$

The classical estimates

$$\delta(z) \leq \varrho(z)^{-1} \leq 4\delta(z) \tag{4}$$

follow by use of Schwarz' lemma and Koebe's one-quarter theorem.

LEMMA 2. *If  $L$  passes through  $\infty$  and permits a  $K$ -quasiconformal reflection, then it also permits a  $C(K)$ -quasiconformal reflection with the additional property that corresponding euclidean line elements satisfy*

$$C_1(K)^{-1}|dz| \leq |dz^*| \leq C_1(K)|dz|. \tag{5}$$

*Proof.* As shown in the introduction, the given  $K$ -quasiconformal reflection induces a  $K$ -quasiconformal mapping of  $U$  on  $U^*$  with a boundary correspondence  $h$ . This  $h$  must satisfy a  $\rho(K)$ -condition of type (1). The Beurling-Ahlfors construction permits us to replace the mapping of  $U$  on  $U^*$  with a  $C(K)$ -quasiconformal mapping with the same boundary values, in such a way that it satisfies condition (3). It follows that the corresponding reflection about  $L$  is  $C(K)$ -quasiconformal and satisfies

$$C_1(K)^{-1}\rho(z)|dz| \leq \rho(z^*)|dz^*| \leq C_1(K)\rho(z)|dz|.$$

Use of (4) and (c) leads to the desired inequality (5).

3. We are now ready to characterize the curves  $L$  in purely geometric form:

THEOREM 1. *A Jordan curve  $L$  through  $\infty$  permits a quasiconformal reflection if and only if there exists a constant  $C$  such that*

$$\overline{P_1P_2} \leq C \cdot \overline{P_1P_3} \tag{6}$$

for any three points  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  on  $L$  which follow each other in this order.

Again, there is a more precise statement to the effect that  $C$  depends only on the  $K$  of the reflection, and vice versa. If  $L$  does not pass through  $\infty$  condition (6) must be replaced by

$$\overline{P_1P_2} : \overline{P_1P_3} \leq C (\overline{P_4P_2} : \overline{P_4P_3}),$$

where  $(P_1, P_3)$  separates  $(P_2, P_4)$ .

4. *Proof of the necessity.* We follow the segment  $P_1P_3$  from  $P_1$  to its last intersection with the subarc  $P_2P_1\infty$  of  $L$ , and from there to the first intersection  $P'_3$  with the arc  $P_2P_3\infty$ . If  $\overline{P_1P_2} > \overline{P_1P_3}$  it is geometrically evident that

$$\overline{P_1P_2} : \overline{P_1P_3} \leq \overline{P'_1P_2} : \overline{P'_1P'_3}.$$

Therefore we may assume from the beginning that  $\overline{P_1P_3}$  has only its endpoints on  $L$ . For definiteness, we suppose that the inner points lie in  $\Omega$ .

By Lemma 2 there exists a quasiconformal reflection which multiplies lengths at most by a factor  $C(K)$ . Hence  $P_1$  and  $P_3$  can be joined in  $\Omega^*$  by an arc  $\gamma^*$  of

length  $\leq C(K) \cdot \overline{P_1 P_3}$ . The Jordan curve formed by  $\overline{P_1 P_3}$  and  $\gamma^*$  separates  $P_2$  from  $\infty$ . Hence  $\gamma^*$  intersects the extension of  $\overline{P_1 P_2}$  over  $P_2$  and we conclude that  $\overline{P_1 P_2} \leq$  length of  $\gamma^* \leq C(K) \cdot \overline{P_1 P_3}$ .

5. *Proof of the sufficiency.* We shall use the notations

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \text{arc } P_2 P_3, & \alpha' &= \text{arc } P_1 P_2, \\ \beta &= \text{arc } P_1 \infty, & \beta' &= \text{arc } P_3 \infty.\end{aligned}$$

Denote by  $d(\alpha, \beta)$  and  $d^*(\alpha, \beta)$  the extremal distances of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  with respect to  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega^*$  respectively. With similar notations for  $\alpha', \beta'$  one has the relations

$$d(\alpha, \beta) d(\alpha', \beta') = d^*(\alpha, \beta) d^*(\alpha', \beta') = 1.$$

In a conformal mapping of  $\Omega$  on the halfplane  $U$  with  $\infty$  corresponding to  $\infty$ , let  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  be mapped on  $x_1, x_2, x_3$ . It is evident that  $d(\alpha, \beta) = 1$  if and only if  $x_3 - x_2 = x_2 - x_1$ . Furthermore, the ratio  $|x_3 - x_2| : |x_2 - x_1|$  is bounded away from 0 and  $\infty$  if and only if this is true of  $d(\alpha, \beta)$ . Consequently, in order to prove that the boundary correspondence induced by  $L$  satisfies (1) it is sufficient to show that  $d(\alpha, \beta) = 1$  implies  $K(C)^{-1} \leq d^*(\alpha, \beta) \leq K(C)$ .

Two elementary estimates are needed. We show first that  $d(\alpha, \beta) = 1$  implies

$$\overline{P_1 P_2} : \overline{P_2 P_3} \leq C^2 e^{2\pi}. \quad (7)$$

Indeed, it follows from (6) that the points of  $\beta$  are at distance  $\geq C^{-1} \cdot \overline{P_1 P_2}$  from  $P_2$  while the points of  $\alpha$  have distance  $\leq C \cdot \overline{P_2 P_3}$  from  $P_2$ . If (7) were not true,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  would be separated by a circular annulus whose radii have the ratio  $e^{2\pi}$ . In such an annulus the extremal distance between the circles is 1, and the comparison principle for extremal lengths would yield  $d(\alpha, \beta) > 1$ , contrary to hypothesis. Hence (7) must hold. If  $P_1$  and  $P_3$  are interchanged we have in the same way

$$\overline{P_2 P_3} : \overline{P_1 P_2} \leq C^2 e^{2\pi}. \quad (8)$$

Consider points  $Q_1 \in \alpha, Q_2 \in \beta$ . By repeated application of (6)

$$\overline{Q_1 Q_2} \geq C^{-1} \overline{Q_1 P_1} \geq C^{-2} \overline{P_1 P_2}$$

and with the help of (8) we conclude that the shortest distance between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is  $\geq C^{-4} e^{-2\pi} \overline{P_2 P_3}$ . To simplify notations, write  $d = \overline{P_2 P_3}$ ,  $M_1 = Cd$ ,  $M_2 = C^{-4} e^{-2\pi} d$ . Because of (6), all points on  $\alpha$  are within distance  $M_1$  from  $P_2$ .

We recall that the definition of extremal length implies

$$d^*(\alpha, \beta) \geq \frac{(\inf \int_{\gamma} \varrho |dz|)^2}{\iint_{\Omega^*} \varrho^2 dx dy},$$

where the infimum is with respect to all arcs  $\gamma$  that join  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  within  $\Omega^*$ , and  $\varrho$  is any positive function for which the right-hand side has a meaning. We choose  $\varrho = 1$  in a circular disk with center  $P_2$  and radius  $M_1 + M_2$ ,  $\varrho = 0$  outside of that disk. Then  $\int_{\gamma} \varrho |dz| \geq M_2$  for all curves  $\gamma$ . Indeed, this is so whether  $\gamma$  stays within the disk or contains a point on its circumference. We conclude that

$$d^*(\alpha, \beta) \geq \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{M_2}{M_1 + M_2} \right)^2 = \pi^{-1} (1 + C^5 e^{2\pi})^{-2}.$$

The same inequality, applied to  $\alpha', \beta'$ , yields an upper bound for  $d^*(\alpha, \beta)$ , and our proof of Theorem 1 is complete.

### Part II

1. In the introduction we saw that the boundary correspondences  $h$  give rise to conformal mappings  $f$ , and with these we associated their Schwarzian derivatives  $\varphi = \{f, z\}$ . The set of all such  $\varphi$  was denoted by  $\Delta$ . We formulate a precise definition:

The set  $\Delta$  consists of all functions  $\varphi$ , holomorphic in  $U$ , such that the equation  $\{f, z\} = \varphi$  has a solution  $f$  which can be extended to a schlicht quasiconformal mapping of the whole plane.

Our purpose is to prove:

**THEOREM 2.**  $\Delta$  is an open subset of the Banach space of holomorphic functions with norm  $\|\varphi\| = \sup |\varphi(z)| y^2$ .

We know already that all  $\varphi \in \Delta$  have norm  $\leq \frac{3}{2}$ . It will follow that the norms are in fact strictly less than  $\frac{3}{2}$ .

2. It is a known result that  $\Delta$  contains a neighborhood of the origin ([3], [5]). As an illustration of the method we shall follow it is nevertheless useful to include a proof.

**LEMMA 3.**  $\Delta$  contains all functions  $\varphi$  with  $\|\varphi\| < \frac{1}{2}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\eta_1$  and  $\eta_2$  be linearly independent solutions of the differential equation

$$\eta'' = -\frac{1}{2}\varphi\eta. \tag{9}$$

normalized by  $\eta_1'\eta_2 - \eta_2'\eta_1 = 1$ . It is well known that  $f = \eta_1/\eta_2$  satisfies  $\{f, z\} = \varphi$ . Observe that  $f$  may be meromorphic with simple poles, and that  $f' \neq 0$  at all other points!

It is to be shown that  $f$  is schlicht and has a quasiconformal extension. To construct the extension we form

$$F(z) = \frac{\eta_1(z) + (\bar{z} - z)\eta_1'(z)}{\eta_2(z) + (\bar{z} - z)\eta_2'(z)} \quad (z \in U). \quad (10)$$

Because  $\eta_1'\eta_2 - \eta_2'\eta_1 = 1$  the numerator and denominator cannot vanish simultaneously. If the denominator vanishes we set  $F = \infty$ , and local assertions about  $F$  will apply to  $1/F$ .

A simple computation which makes use of (9) gives

$$F_z/F_{\bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2}(z - \bar{z})^2 \varphi(z).$$

Under the assumption  $\|\varphi\| < \frac{1}{2}$  we conclude that  $F$  is quasiconformal and sense-reversing. The mapping  $z \rightarrow F(\bar{z})$  is quasiconformal and sense-preserving in  $U^*$ .

Our intention is to show that

$$\hat{f}(z) = \begin{cases} f(z) & \text{in } U \\ F(\bar{z}) & \text{in } U^* \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

gives the desired extension. To see this it is sufficient to know that  $\hat{f}$  can be extended to the real axis by continuity, that the extended function is locally schlicht at points of the real axis, and that it tends to a limit for  $z \rightarrow \infty$ . Indeed,  $\hat{f}$  will then be locally schlicht everywhere, and by a familiar reasoning it must be globally schlicht.

The missing information is easy to supply under strong additional conditions. We suppose that  $\varphi$  is analytic on the real axis, including  $\infty$ , where  $\varphi$  shall have a zero of order  $\geq 4$  (this means that the quadratic differential  $\varphi dz^2$  is regular at  $\infty$ ). It is immediate that  $f$  and  $F$  agree on the real axis, and that they are real-analytic in the closed half-planes. It follows easily that  $\hat{f}$  is locally schlicht. At  $\infty$  the assumption implies that equation (9) has solutions whose power series expansions begin with 1 and  $z$  respectively. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_1 &= a_1 z + b_1 + O(|z|^{-1}), \\ \eta_2 &= a_2 z + b_2 + O(|z|^{-1}) \end{aligned}$$

with  $a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1 = 1$ . Substitution in (10) shows that

$$F(z) = \frac{a_1 \bar{z} + b_1 + O(|z|^{-1})}{a_2 \bar{z} + b_2 + O(|z|^{-1})}$$

and therefore  $f$  and  $F$  have the same limit  $a_1/a_2$  as  $z \rightarrow \infty$ .



To prove the lemma without additional assumptions we use an approximation method. We can find a sequence of linear transformations  $S_n$  such that the closure of  $S_n U$  is contained in  $U$  and  $S_n z \rightarrow z$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Take  $\varphi_n(z) = \varphi(S_n z) S_n'(z)^2$ . It follows by Schwarz' lemma that  $\|\varphi_n\| < \|\varphi\|$ . Moreover,  $\varphi_n$  is analytic on the real axis and has at least a fourth order zero at  $\infty$ . Consequently, there exist quasiconformal mappings  $f_n$ , holomorphic with  $\{f_n, z\} = \varphi_n$  in  $U$ , with uniformly bounded dilatation. A subsequence of the  $f_n$  converges to a limit function  $f$  which is itself schlicht and quasiconformal, and which satisfies  $\{f, z\} = \varphi$  in  $U$ . This completes the proof.

With suitable normalizations it is possible to arrange that  $f_n \rightarrow f$ , the mapping defined by (11).

3. The method of the preceding proof can be carried over to the general case, although with some significant modifications.

Suppose that  $\varphi_0 \in \Delta$  and  $\{f_0, z\} = \varphi_0$ . We may assume that  $f_0$  maps  $U$  on a region  $\Omega$  whose boundary  $L$  passes through  $\infty$ , and we know that  $L$  admits a quasiconformal reflection  $w \rightarrow w^* = \lambda(w)$ . We choose  $\lambda$  in accordance with Lemma 2.

If  $\|\varphi - \varphi_0\| < \varepsilon$  and  $\{f, z\} = \varphi$  the identity

$$\{f, z\} = \{f, f_0\} f_0'^2 + \{f_0, z\}$$

yields

$$|\{f, f_0\}| |f_0'|^2 y^2 < \varepsilon.$$

The non-euclidean metric in  $\Omega$  is given by

$$\rho(w) |dw| = \frac{|dz|}{2y},$$

and if we write  $\tilde{f} = ff_0^{-1}$  we obtain

$$|\{\tilde{f}, w\}| < 4\varepsilon \rho(w)^2. \tag{12}$$

If  $\varepsilon$  is sufficiently small it is to be proved that  $\tilde{f}$  is schlicht and has a quasiconformal extension.

We set  $\tilde{\varphi} = \{\tilde{f}, w\}$  and  $\tilde{f} = \eta_1/\eta_2$  where  $\eta_1, \eta_2$  are normalized solutions of

$$\eta'' = -\frac{1}{2}\tilde{\varphi}\eta.$$

In close analogy with (10) we form

$$F(w) = \frac{\eta_1(w) + (w^* - w)\eta_1'(w)}{\eta_2(w) + (w^* - w)\eta_2'(w)},$$

where  $w \in \Omega$  and  $w^* = \lambda(w)$ . Computation gives

$$\frac{F_w}{F_{\bar{w}}} = \frac{\lambda_w}{\lambda_{\bar{w}}} + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(w-w^*)^2}{2\lambda_{\bar{w}}}. \quad (13)$$

Here  $|\lambda_w/\lambda_{\bar{w}}| \leq k < 1$  because  $\lambda$  is quasiconformal. To estimate the second term we have first, by (12), Lemma 1(b) and (4),

$$|\tilde{\varphi}| |w-w^*|^2 < 4\varepsilon C^2.$$

On the other hand,  $|\lambda_{\bar{w}}|$  stays away from 0, for Lemma 2 gives

$$C^{-1}|dw| \leq |dw^*| \leq 2|\lambda_{\bar{w}}||dw|.$$

We conclude that  $|F_w/F_{\bar{w}}| \leq k' < 1$  provided that  $\varepsilon$  is sufficiently small.

4. We wish to show that

$$\hat{f} = \begin{cases} \hat{f}(w) & \text{in } \Omega \\ F(w^*) & \text{in } \Omega^* \end{cases}$$

is schlicht and quasiconformal. Again, the proof is easy under strong assumptions. This time we assume that  $L$  is an analytic curve, that  $\tilde{\varphi}$  is analytic on  $L$  and that it has a fourth order zero at  $\infty$ . It is clear that we can prove  $\hat{f}$  to be a quasiconformal homeomorphism exactly as in the proof of Lemma 3.

To complete the proof, let  $\zeta = \omega(w)$  be a conformal mapping of  $\Omega$  on  $|\zeta| < 1$ . Let  $\Omega_n$  be the part of  $\Omega$  that corresponds to  $|\zeta| < r_n$ ,  $L_n$  its boundary. Here  $\{r_n\}$  is a sequence which converges to 1.

A quasiconformal reflection  $\lambda_n$  across  $L_n$  can be constructed as follows: If  $r_n^2 < |\omega(w)| < r_n$  we define  $\lambda_n(w)$  so that  $\omega(w)$  and  $\omega(\lambda_n(w))$  are mirror images with respect to  $|\zeta| = r_n$ . If  $|\omega(w)| \leq r_n^2$  we find  $w_n$  so that  $\omega(w_n) = r_n^{-2}\omega(w)$  and choose  $\lambda_n(w) = \lambda(w_n)$ . The definitions agree when  $|\omega(w)| = r_n^2$ , and  $L_n$  is kept fixed. The dilatation of  $\lambda_n$  is no greater than the maximum dilatation of  $\lambda$ .

After a harmless linear transformation which throws a point on  $L_n$  to  $\infty$  the part of the theorem that has already been proved can be applied to  $\Omega_n$ . It is to be observed that  $\varrho_n \geq \varrho$  where  $\varrho_n|dw|$  is the noneuclidean metric in  $\Omega_n$ . Therefore  $\tilde{\varphi}$  satisfies

$$|\tilde{\varphi}| < 4\varepsilon\varrho_n(w)^2$$

with the same  $\varepsilon$  as before. Hence there exists a quasiconformal mapping  $\hat{f}_n$  of the whole plane which agrees with  $\hat{f}$  on  $\Omega_n$  and whose dilatation lies under a fixed bound. A subsequence of the  $\hat{f}_n$  tends to a limit mapping  $\hat{f}$  which is schlicht, quasiconformal, and equal to  $\hat{f}$  in  $\Omega$ . The theorem is proved.

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