

## UNIQUE EXTREMALITY, LOCAL EXTREMALITY AND EXTREMAL NON-DECREASABLE DILATATIONS

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Given a quasi-symmetric self-homeomorphism  $h$  of the unit circle  $S^1$ , let  $Q(h)$  be the set of all quasiconformal mappings with the boundary correspondence  $h$ . In this paper, it is shown that there exists certain quasi-symmetric homeomorphism  $h$ , such that  $Q(h)$  satisfies either of the conditions,

- (1)  $Q(h)$  admits a quasiconformal mapping that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable instead of being uniquely extremal;
- (2)  $Q(h)$  contains infinitely many quasiconformal mappings each of which has an extremal non-decreasable dilatation.

An infinitesimal version of this result is also obtained.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\Delta$  be the unit disk  $\{z : |z| < 1\}$  in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ . Given a quasymmetric homeomorphism  $h$  of the unit disk  $S^1$  onto itself, we denote by  $Q(h)$  the class of all quasiconformal mappings from  $\Delta$  onto itself with the boundary correspondence  $h$ . A quasiconformal mapping  $f_0 \in Q(h)$  is said to be an extremal mapping for the boundary correspondence  $h$  if it minimises the maximal dilatations of  $Q(h)$ , that is,

$$K[f_0] = K[h] := \inf\{K[f] : f \in Q(h)\},$$

where  $K[f]$  is the maximal dilatation of  $f$ .  $f$  is uniquely extremal if it is extremal and if there are no other extremal mappings for its boundary values; the alternative is that  $f$  is non-uniquely extremal.

The notion of non-decreasable was first introduced by Reich in [7] to investigate the unique extremality of quasiconformal mappings between the unit disks with given

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boundary values. An element  $f$  in  $Q(h)$  has a *non-decreasable dilatation* (or  $f$  is called *non-decreasable*), if the hypothesis that  $g$  is also in  $Q(h)$  together with the condition,

$$(1.1) \quad |\nu(z)| \leq |\mu(z)| \quad \text{almost everywhere in } \Delta,$$

imply that  $f = g$ , where  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are the Beltrami coefficients of  $f$  and  $g$ , respectively. Obviously, if  $f$  is uniquely extremal, then it has non-decreasable dilatation. But the converse is not true. So the conception of quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations is a generalisation of uniquely extremal quasiconformal mappings.

In [8], Shen and Chen proved that, if  $Q(h)$  does not contain a conformal mapping, then it must contain infinitely many elements with non-decreasable dilatations. So it is more interesting to investigate extremal quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations; accordingly, such non-decreasable dilatations are called extremal ones. It is still an open problem whether an extremal quasiconformal mapping with non-decreasable dilatation always exists in  $Q(h)$ .

Following [9], a quasiconformal mapping  $f$  of  $\Delta$  is said to be *locally extremal* if for any domain  $G \subset \Delta$  the mapping  $f$  is extremal in  $G$  with respect to its boundary values. The complex dilatation  $\mu$  of  $f$  is then called *locally extremal dilatation*. Generally speaking, both the uniqueness and the existence of locally extremal quasiconformal mappings in  $Q(h)$  are not clear. An example due to Reich ([5], or see [11]) shows that local extremality does not imply unique extremality.

Obviously, if  $f$  is uniquely extremal, then  $f$  is the quasiconformal mapping in  $Q(h)$  that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable. Conversely, one might ask

**PROBLEM 1.** If  $f$  in  $Q(h)$  is the quasiconformal mapping that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable, is it then uniquely extremal?

**REMARK 1.** If  $f$  has an extremal-non-decreasable dilatation  $\mu(z)$  with the property that  $|\mu(z)| = \text{constant}$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta$ , then it is obviously uniquely extremal; the converse is not true, as is a well-known result in [2]. There are a lot of examples (see [8, Corollary 3.1]) to show that uniqueness of extremal non-decreasable dilatations does not imply unique extremality.

On the other hand, it is natural to pose the following problem.

**PROBLEM 2.** Does there exist  $h$  such that  $Q(h)$  contains infinitely many extremal quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations?

Our main result Theorem 1 gives a negative answer to Problem 1 and a positive one to Problem 2, respectively. Meanwhile, an infinitesimal version is obtained for the tangent space of the universal Teichmüller space.

2. PRELIMINARIES

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a domain in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$  with at least two boundary points and let  $M(\mathcal{D})$  be the open unit ball of  $L^\infty(\mathcal{D})$ . Every element  $\mu \in M(\mathcal{D})$  can be regarded as an element in  $L^\infty(\mathbb{C})$  by putting  $\mu$  equal to zero in the outside of  $\mathcal{D}$ . Every  $\mu \in M(\mathcal{D})$  induces a global quasiconformal self-mapping  $f$  of the plane which solves the Beltrami equation [1],

$$(2.1) \quad f_{\bar{z}}(z) = \mu(z)f_z(z),$$

and  $f$  is defined uniquely up to postcomposition by a complex affine map of the plane. Conversely, any quasiconformal mapping  $f$  defined on  $\mathcal{D}$  has a Beltrami coefficient  $\mu(z) = f_{\bar{z}}(z)/f_z(z)$  in  $M(\mathcal{D})$ .

Two Beltrami coefficients  $\mu, \nu \in M(\mathcal{D})$  are equivalent if they induce quasiconformal mappings  $f$  and  $g$  by (2.1) such that there is a conformal map  $c$  from  $f(\mathcal{D})$  to  $g(\mathcal{D})$  and an isotopy through quasiconformal mappings  $h_t, 0 \leq t \leq 1$ , from  $\mathcal{D}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$  which extend continuously to the boundary of  $\mathcal{D}$  such that

1.  $h_0(z)$  is identically equal to  $z$  on  $\mathcal{D}$ ,
2.  $h_1$  is identically to  $g^{-1} \circ c \circ f$ , and
3.  $h_t(p) = g^{-1} \circ c \circ f(p)$  for any  $p \in \partial\mathcal{D}$ .

The equivalence relation partitions  $M(\mathcal{D})$  into equivalence classes and the space of equivalence classes is by definition the Teichmüller space  $T(\mathcal{D})$  of  $\mathcal{D}$ .

Given  $\mu \in M(\mathcal{D})$ , we denote by  $[\mu]$  the set of all elements  $\nu \in M(\mathcal{D})$  equivalent to  $\mu$ , and set

$$k_0([\mu]) = \inf\{\|\nu\|_\infty : \nu \in [\mu]\}.$$

We say that  $\mu$  is extremal (in  $[\mu]$ ) if  $\|\mu\|_\infty = k_0([\mu])$ ,  $\mu$  is uniquely extremal if  $\|\nu\|_\infty > k_0([\mu])$  for any other  $\nu \in [\mu]$ ; the alternative is that  $\mu$  is non-uniquely extremal. We say that  $\mu$  is non-decreasable if for any other  $\nu \in [\mu]$ , the set on which  $|\nu(z)| > |\mu(z)|$  has positive measure. Obviously,  $\mu$  is non-decreasable if it is uniquely extremal.

For any  $\mu$ , define  $h^*(\mu)$  to be the infimum over all compact subsets  $F$  contained in  $\mathcal{D}$  of the essential supremum norm of the Beltrami coefficient  $\mu(z)$  as  $z$  varies over  $\mathcal{D} \setminus F$ . Define  $h([\mu])$  to be the infimum of  $h^*(\mu)$  taken over all representatives  $\mu$  of the class  $[\mu]$ . It is obvious that  $h([\mu]) \leq k_0([\mu])$ . Following [3], we call a point  $[\mu]$  in  $T(\mathcal{D})$  a Strebel point if  $h([\mu]) < k_0([\mu])$ .

Let  $A(\mathcal{D})$  be the space of integrable holomorphic quadratic differentials  $\varphi$  on  $\mathcal{D}$  and let  $A_1(\mathcal{D})$  be the unit sphere of  $A(\mathcal{D})$ . By Strebel's frame mapping theorem, every Strebel point  $[\mu]$  is represented by the unique Beltrami differential of the form  $k|\varphi|/\varphi$ , where  $k = k_0([\mu]) \in (0, 1)$  and  $\varphi$  is a unit vector in  $A_1(\mathcal{D})$ .

Two elements  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  in  $L^\infty(\mathcal{D})$  are infinitesimally equivalent, which is denoted by  $\mu \approx \nu$ , if  $\iint_{\mathcal{D}} \mu\phi dx dy = \iint_{\Delta} \nu\phi dx dy$  for all  $\phi \in A(\Delta)$ . Denote by  $N(\mathcal{D})$  the set

of all the elements in  $L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})$  which are infinitesimally equivalent to zero. Then  $B(\mathfrak{D}) = L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})/N(\mathfrak{D})$  is the tangent space of the space  $T(\mathfrak{D})$  at the basepoint.

Given  $\mu \in L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})$ , we denote by  $[\mu]_B$  the set of all elements  $\nu \in L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})$  infinitesimally equivalent to  $\mu$ , and set

$$\|\mu\| = \inf\{\|\nu\|_\infty : \nu \in [\mu]_B\}.$$

We say that  $\mu$  is infinitesimally extremal (in  $[\mu]_B$ ) if  $\|\mu\|_\infty = \|\mu\|$ , uniquely infinitesimally extremal if  $\|\nu\|_\infty > \|\mu\|$  for any other  $\nu \in [\mu]_B$ . We say that  $\mu$  is infinitesimally non-decreasable if for any other  $\nu \in [\mu]_B$ , the set on which  $|\nu(z)| > |\mu(z)|$  has positive measure. Then  $\mu$  is non-decreasable if it is uniquely extremal.

In a parallel manner we can define the boundary dilatation for the infinitesimal Teichmüller class  $[\mu]_B$ . The boundary dilatation  $b([\mu]_B)$  is the infimum over all elements in the equivalence class  $[\mu]_B$  of the quantity  $b^*(\nu)$ . Here  $b^*(\nu)$  is the infimum over all compact subsets  $F$  contained in  $\mathfrak{D}$  of the essential supremum of the Beltrami coefficient  $\nu$  as  $z$  varies over  $\mathfrak{D} - F$ .

An infinitesimally equivalent class  $[\mu]_B$  is called an infinitesimal Strebel point if  $\|\mu\| > b([\mu]_B)$ . It follows from the infinitesimal frame mapping theorem (see [4, Theorem 2.4]) that if  $[\mu]_B$  is an infinitesimal Strebel point, then there exists a unique vector  $\varphi$  in  $A_1(\mathfrak{D})$  such that  $\mu$  and  $\|\mu\|\varphi/\varphi$  are infinitesimally equivalent.

### 3. SOME PREPARATIONS

For  $\mu \in L^\infty(\Delta)$ ,  $\phi \in A(\Delta)$ , let

$$\lambda_\mu[\phi] = \operatorname{Re} \iint_\Delta \mu(z)\phi(z)dx dy.$$

As is well known, a Beltrami coefficient  $\mu$  is extremal if and only if it has a so-called Hamilton sequence, namely, a sequence  $\{\phi_n \in A(\Delta) : \|\phi_n\| = 1, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , such that

$$(3.1) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_\mu[\phi_n] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{Re} \iint_\Delta \mu\phi_n(z)dx dy = \|\mu\|_\infty.$$

Given  $\mu \in M(\Delta)$ , let  $f = f^\mu$  be the uniquely determined quasiconformal mapping of  $\Delta$  onto itself with Beltrami coefficients  $\mu$  and normalised to fix 1,  $-1$  and  $i$ .

Suppose that  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are two equivalent Beltrami coefficients in  $T(\Delta)$ . Let  $\tilde{\mu}$  and  $\tilde{\nu}$  be the Beltrami coefficients of the quasiconformal mappings  $f^{-1}$  and  $g^{-1}$ , respectively, where  $f = f^\mu$  and  $g = f^\nu$ . Let  $\mathfrak{J} \subset \Delta$  be a Jordan domain with  $\bar{\mathfrak{J}} \subset \Delta$ .

**LEMMA 1.** *Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be two equivalent Beltrami coefficients in  $T(\Delta)$ . In addition, suppose  $\mu(z) = \nu(z)$  for almost every  $z \in \Delta \setminus \bar{\mathfrak{J}}$ . Then,  $f^\mu(z) = f^\nu(z)$  for all  $z$  in  $\Delta \setminus \mathfrak{J}$  and hence  $\tilde{\mu}(w) = \tilde{\nu}(w)$  for almost all  $w$  in  $f(\Delta \setminus \mathfrak{J})$ .*

PROOF: For the sake of convenience, let  $f = f^\mu$  and  $g = f^\nu$ . Let  $\mu_{g \circ f^{-1}}(w)$  denote the Beltrami coefficient of  $g \circ f^{-1}$ . By a simple computation, we have

$$\mu_{g \circ f^{-1}} \circ f(z) = \frac{1}{\tau} \frac{\mu(z) - \nu(z)}{1 - \overline{\mu(z)}\nu(z)},$$

where  $\tau = \overline{f_z}/f_z$ .

Thus,  $\mu_{g \circ f^{-1}}(w) = 0$  for almost all  $w \in f(\Delta \setminus \overline{J})$  and hence  $\Psi = g \circ f^{-1}$  is conformal on  $\Delta \setminus \overline{J}$ . Since  $\Psi|_{S^1} = g \circ f^{-1}|_{S^1} = id$ , we conclude that  $\Psi = id$  in  $f(\Delta \setminus J)$ . Thus,  $g|_{\Delta \setminus \overline{J}} = f|_{\Delta \setminus \overline{J}}$ . By the continuity of quasiconformal mappings, it follows that  $g|_{\Delta \setminus J} = f|_{\Delta \setminus J}$ . In addition, it is evident that  $\tilde{\mu}(w) = \tilde{\nu}(w)$  for almost all  $w$  in  $f(\Delta \setminus J)$ . □

The following Reich's Construction Theorem is very useful. It was used by the author [10] to show that there exists  $h$  such that all extremal quasiconformal mappings in  $Q(h)$  are not of Teichmüller type.

**CONSTRUCTION THEOREM.** ([6]) *Let  $A$  be a compact subset of  $\Delta$  containing at least two points and such that  $\Delta \setminus A$  is doubly connected. There exists a function  $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Delta)$  and a sequence  $\varphi_n \in A(\Delta)$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) satisfying the following conditions (3.2)-(3.5):*

$$(3.2) \quad |\alpha(z)| = \begin{cases} 0, & z \in A, \\ 1, & \text{for almost all } z \in \Delta \setminus A, \end{cases}$$

$$(3.3) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|\varphi_n\| - \lambda_\alpha[\varphi_n] \} = 0,$$

$$(3.4) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi_n(z)| = \infty \text{ almost everywhere in } \Delta \setminus A.$$

and as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$(3.5) \quad \varphi_n(z) \rightarrow 0 \text{ uniformly on } A.$$

REMARK 2. Equation (3.5) is implied in the proof of Reich's Construction Theorem [6].

From Reich's Construction Theorem, we can get

**LEMMA 2.** *Let  $J \subset \Delta$  be a Jordan domain with  $A = \overline{J} \subset \Delta$ . Let  $\alpha(z)$  and the sequence  $\varphi_n \in A(\Delta)$  be constructed by Reich's Construction Theorem and let  $\mu(z) = k\alpha(z)$  where  $k < 1$  is a positive constant. Set*

$$\nu(z) = \begin{cases} \mu(z), & z \in \Delta \setminus A, \\ \beta(z), & z \in A, \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta(z)$  is in  $M(J)$  with  $\|\beta\|_\infty \leq k$ . Then

- (1)  $\nu(z)$  is extremal in  $[\nu]$  and for any  $\chi(z)$  extremal in  $[\nu]$ ,  $\chi(z) = \nu(z)$  for almost all  $z$  in  $\Delta \setminus A$ ;
- (2)  $\nu(z)$  is extremal in  $[\nu]_B$  and for any  $\chi(z)$  extremal in  $[\nu]_B$ ,  $\chi(z) = \nu(z)$  for almost all  $z$  in  $\Delta \setminus A$ .

PROOF: The proof of the first part of this lemma is the same as that of [10, Lemma 4] and the proof of the second part is included in that of [10, Theorem 3]. □

Recall that a Beltrami coefficient  $\mu$  in  $\mathfrak{D}$  is said to be locally extremal if for any domain  $G \subset \mathfrak{D}$  it is extremal in its class in  $T(G)$ ; in other words,

$$\|\mu\|_G := \operatorname{esssup}_{z \in G} |\mu| = \sup \left\{ \frac{\operatorname{Re} \iint_G \mu \phi(z) dx dy}{\iint_G |\phi(z)| dx dy} : \phi \in A(G) \right\}.$$

Obviously, extremality in the whole domain is a prerequisite for a Beltrami coefficient to be locally extremal.

**LEMMA 3.** *Using the notations of Lemma 2, then  $\nu$  is locally extremal in  $\Delta$  if and only if  $\beta$  is locally extremal in  $J$ .*

PROOF: The necessary part is a fortiori. Now let  $\beta$  is locally extremal in  $J$ . For given domain  $G \subset \Delta$  with  $G \setminus J \neq \emptyset$ , by

$$k \iint_{G \setminus J} |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_{G \setminus J} \mu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \leq \|\varphi_n\| - \lambda_\alpha[\varphi_n],$$

and Reich' Construction Theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( k \iint_G |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_G \nu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \right) \\ & \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( k \iint_{G \setminus J} |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_{G \setminus J} \mu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \right) \\ & \quad + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( k \iint_J |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_J \beta(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \right) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, by equation (3.4) and Fatou's lemma,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \iint_G |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{G \setminus J} |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy = \infty,$$

where the fact that  $(G \setminus J)^c \neq \emptyset$  is needed. Thus,

$$k - \frac{\operatorname{Re} \iint_G \nu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy}{\iint_G |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy} \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty,$$

which indicates that  $\nu(z)$  is extremal in its class in  $T(G)$ . Thus,  $\nu$  is locally extremal in  $\Delta$ . □

4. MAIN THEOREM

By definition, the following lemma is evident.

**LEMMA 4.**  $\mu$  is an extremal-non-decreasable Beltrami coefficient in  $[\mu]$  if and only if for any other  $\eta$  extremal in  $[\mu]$ , the set on which  $|\eta(z)| > |\mu(z)|$  has positive measure.

Let  $\Delta_r = \{z : |z| < r\}$  for  $r \in (0, 1)$ . Choose  $s = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $t = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $A = \overline{\Delta_t}$ .

**LEMMA 5.** Let  $\chi(z)$  be defined as follows,

$$\chi(z) = \begin{cases} 0, & z \in A - \Delta_s, \\ \tilde{k} & z \in \Delta_s, \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{k} < 1$  is a positive constant. Then  $[\chi]$  as a point of the Teichmüller space  $T(\Delta_t)$  of  $\Delta_t$  contains infinitely many non-decreasable Beltrami coefficients  $\eta$  with  $\|\eta\|_\infty < \tilde{k}$ .

PROOF: Let  $s < r < t$ . Note that  $\chi(z) = 0$  in  $A \setminus \Delta_s$ . When restricted to  $\Delta_r$ ,  $[\chi]$  as a point of  $T(\Delta_r)$  has the property  $h([\chi]) = 0$  and hence is a Strebel point in  $T(\Delta_r)$ . Thus, by Strebel's frame mapping theorem, there exist  $k_r \in (0, 1)$  and a unit vector  $\varphi_r \in A_1(\Delta_r)$  such that  $k_r|\varphi_r|/\varphi_r$  and  $\chi$  are equivalent in  $T(\Delta_r)$ . In addition, it is clear that  $k_r < \tilde{k}$ . Put

$$\chi_r(z) = \begin{cases} 0, & z \in A - \Delta_r, \\ k_r \frac{|\varphi_r(z)|}{\varphi_r(z)} & z \in \Delta_r. \end{cases}$$

Then  $\chi_r$  and  $\chi$  are equivalent in  $T(\Delta_t)$ . Applying Lemma 1, it is easy to see that  $\chi_{r_1}$  and  $\chi_{r_2}$  restricted to  $\Delta_{r_2}$  are equivalent in  $T(\Delta_{r_2})$  whenever  $s < r_1 < r_2 < t$ . Thus,  $k_r$  is a strictly decreasing function as  $r \in (s, t)$ . Furthermore, we claim that  $\chi_r$  is non-decreasable in  $[\chi]$ . Suppose to the contrary. Then there would exist  $\eta$  in  $[\chi]$  such that  $|\eta(z)| \leq |\chi_r(z)|$  for almost all  $z \in \Delta_t$ . Obviously,  $\eta(z) = \chi_r(z) = 0$  on  $A - \Delta_r$ . Applying Lemma 1 again, we see that  $\eta$  and  $\chi_r$  restricted to  $\Delta_r$  are equivalent in  $T(\Delta_r)$ . This happens if and only if  $\eta = \chi_r$ , which implies our claim. Thus, this lemma follows.  $\square$

**THEOREM 1.** Let  $A = \overline{\Delta_t}$  and let  $\alpha(z)$  be constructed by Reich's Construction Theorem. Put  $\mu(z) = k\alpha(z)$ , where  $k \in (0, 1)$  is a constant. Set

$$\nu(z) = \begin{cases} \mu(z), & z \in \Delta \setminus A, \\ 0, & z \in A - \Delta_s, \\ \tilde{k} & z \in \Delta_s, \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{k} \in [0, k]$  is a constant. Then,

- (1) when  $\tilde{k} > 0$ ,  $[\nu]$  contains infinitely many extremal non-decreasable Beltrami coefficients;

- (2) if  $\tilde{k} = 0$ , then  $\nu$  is the Beltrami coefficient in  $[\nu]$  that is both uniquely locally-extremal (obviously, non-uniquely extremal) and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable.

And hence, if we set  $h = f^\nu$ , then either  $Q(h)$  contains infinitely many extremal quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations (when  $\tilde{k} > 0$ ) or admits an extremal quasiconformal mapping (but not uniquely extremal) that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable (when  $\tilde{k} = 0$ ).

PROOF: First, let  $0 < \tilde{k} \leq k$ . By Lemma 2, for any  $\eta$  extremal in  $[\nu]$ ,  $\eta(z) = \nu(z)$  almost everywhere on  $\Delta \setminus A$ . Then by Lemma 1,  $\eta(z)$  and  $\nu(z)$  restricted to  $\Delta_t$  are equivalent in  $T(\Delta_t)$ . Therefore, by Lemma 4, if  $\eta$  restricted to  $\Delta_t$  is non-decreasable in its equivalence class  $[\chi]$  (defined in Lemma 5), then it is non-decreasable in  $[\nu]$  in  $T(\Delta)$ .

For  $s < r < t$ , put

$$\nu_r(z) = \begin{cases} \mu(z), & z \in \Delta \setminus A, \\ 0, & z \in A - \Delta_r, \\ k_r \frac{|\varphi_r(z)|}{\varphi_r(z)} & z \in \Delta_r. \end{cases}$$

where  $k_r$  and  $\varphi_r$  are from Lemma 5. Then  $\nu_r$  is an extremal non-decreasable dilatation in  $[\nu]$  by Lemma 5. Thus, (1) of Theorem 1 is proved.

Now, let  $\tilde{k} = 0$ . It follows directly from Lemmas 2, 4 that  $\nu$  is the element in  $[\nu]$  that is uniquely extremal-non-decreasable. Since  $\beta \equiv 0$  on  $A$ , as an immediate consequence of Lemma 3,  $\nu$  is locally-extremal in  $[\nu]$ . On the other hand, the uniqueness of local extremal follows clearly from Lemma 2 and the definition of local extremality. □

REMARK 3. The example of local extremal (of course, instead of being uniquely extremal) given by Reich [5] has a constant modulus, whereas our example does not. The modulus of certain extremal Beltrami coefficients was discussed in a recent paper [12] of the author (joint with Yi Qi).

### 5. INFINITESIMAL VERSION

We have the infinitesimal version of Lemma 4 as follows.

LEMMA 6.  $\mu$  is an infinitesimally extremal-non-decreasable Beltrami coefficient in  $[\mu]_B$  if and only if for any other  $\eta$  extremal in  $[\mu]_B$ , the set on which  $|\eta(z)| > |\mu(z)|$  has positive measure.

LEMMA 7. Let  $\chi(z)$  be defined as in Lemma 5. Then  $[\chi]_B$  as a point of the space  $B(\Delta_t)$  of  $\Delta_t$  contains infinitely many non-decreasable extremals  $\eta$  with  $\|\eta\|_\infty < \tilde{k}$ .

The proof of Lemma 7 is a suitable modification from that of Lemma 5 except that the infinitesimal frame mapping criterion is used here.

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $\nu$  be the same as in Theorem 1. Then either  $[\nu]_B$  contains infinitely many infinitesimally non-decreasable extremals when  $0 < \tilde{k} \leq k$ , or  $\nu$  is the element in  $[\nu]_B$  that is both uniquely locally-extremal (obviously, non-uniquely infinitesimally extremal) and uniquely infinitesimally extremal-non-decreasable if  $\tilde{k} = 0$ .*

**PROOF:** By Lemmas 2, 6, 7, the proof almost takes word by word from that of Theorem 1 and so is skipped.  $\square$

At last, we end this paper with an open problem.

**PROBLEM 3.** Does there exist  $h$  such that each extremal quasiconformal mapping (of course, non-uniquely extremal) in  $Q(h)$  has a non-decreasable dilatation?

If the answer is positive, then each extremal quasiconformal mapping in such  $Q(h)$  is also locally extremal.

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