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Robin D Tucker-Drob* (rtuckerd@math.tamu.edu), College Station, TX 77843. *Weak containment rigidity for distal actions.*

We prove that if a measure distal action α of a countable group Γ is weakly contained in a strongly ergodic probability measure preserving action β of Γ , then α is a factor of β . In particular, this applies when α is a compact action. As a consequence, we show that the weak equivalence class of any strongly ergodic action completely remembers the weak isomorphism class of the maximal distal factor arising in the Furstenberg-Zimmer Structure Theorem. This is joint work with Adrian Ioana. (Received February 15, 2016)