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Chris Connell* (connell@indiana.edu), Department of Mathematics, 115 Rawles Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. *Asymptotic conditions for smooth rigidity.*

We examine the question of when a continuous map between two nonpositively curved closed manifolds can be homotopic to a diffeomorphism. We provide some sufficient global conditions involving the induced map on the ideal boundaries of their universal covers. (Received January 23, 2007)