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As a consequence of his his revisiting the proof of Ahlfors' Finiteness Theorem, Bers proved two inequalities for the hyperbolic area of the conformal boundary of hyperbolic 3-orbifolds with finitely generated fundamental groups. He showed that they are sharp. Using more modern techniques, we are able to give an explicit description of all the extremal groups.

The first area theorem gives geometric bounds on the complexity of the conformal boundary where the measure of the complexity of the orbifold or Kleinian group is the number of generators of the group. Extremal groups are Schottky or almost Schottky.

The second area theorem shows that at least half of the area of the conformal boundary of a function group is carried by that component of the conformal boundary which carries the fundamental group. The corresponding Kleinian groups are either quasi-Fuchsian or regular b-groups. (Received January 18, 2008)