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*Quasisymmetric rigidity properties of relative Schottky sets.*

Let  $\Omega$  be a domain in the standard  $n$ -sphere. A relative Schottky set in  $\Omega$  is a subset of  $\Omega$  whose complement is a union of disjoint open balls with closures in  $\Omega$ . Examples of relative Schottky sets in the standard  $n$ -sphere include the boundaries at infinity of the universal covers of compact hyperbolic manifolds with totally geodesic boundaries.

Quasisymmetric maps, that are global analogues of quasiconformal maps in the setting of arbitrary metric spaces, form a natural class of maps between relative Schottky sets. In the talk I will examine rigidity properties of this class. (Received February 10, 2008)