

GEOMETRIC ISOMORPHISMS BETWEEN INFINITE DIMENSIONAL TEICHMÜLLER SPACES

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ABSTRACT. Let X and Y be the interiors of bordered Riemann surfaces with finitely generated fundamental groups and nonempty borders. We prove that every holomorphic isomorphism of the Teichmüller space of X onto the Teichmüller space of Y is induced by a quasiconformal homeomorphism of X onto Y . These Teichmüller spaces are not finite dimensional and their groups of holomorphic automorphisms do not act properly discontinuously, so the proof presents difficulties not present in the classical case. To overcome them we study weak continuity properties of isometries of the tangent spaces to Teichmüller space and special properties of Teichmüller disks.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let $Teich(X)$ and $Teich(Y)$ be the Teichmüller spaces of the Riemann surfaces X and Y . In this paper we shall study the set of holomorphic isomorphisms of $Teich(X)$ onto itself or onto $Teich(Y)$.

The problem of determining the holomorphic automorphisms of $Teich(X)$ when the Riemann surface X is compact was solved in Royden's fundamental paper [Ro]. Shortly thereafter, in [EK1], Royden's methods were used to find the holomorphic automorphisms of $Teich(X)$ when X is equivalent to the complement of a finite subset of a compact Riemann surface (see also Chapter 9 of [G2]). New methods are needed to find the holomorphic automorphisms of $Teich(X)$ for other Riemann surfaces X because their Teichmüller spaces are infinite dimensional. Until now none of their automorphism groups had been determined.

Our Theorems 1, 2, and 3 determine the holomorphic automorphisms of the Teichmüller spaces of a wide new class of Riemann surfaces. Theorem 4 shows that our class includes all Riemann surfaces with finitely generated fundamental groups and nonempty borders (including all finitely connected bounded plane regions). Theorem 5 classifies the Teichmüller spaces of these surfaces, and Theorem 6 describes all holomorphic isomorphisms between them.

In a forthcoming paper [La], Nikola Lakic extends Theorem 4 to the set of all Riemann surfaces of finite genus with either nonempty border or infinitely generated fundamental group. (That set includes for example the complement of a Cantor set in the plane.) It follows that these surfaces belong to our class, and that Theorems 5 and 6 can be extended to them (see the remark after the statement of Theorem 4).

Received by the editors March 15, 1995.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 32G15; Secondary 30C62, 30C75.

Research of the first author was partly supported by NSF Grant DMS 9206924 and by a grant from MSRI; of the second, by NSF Grant DMS 9204069.

The simplest way to explain our results is to outline the contents of Royden's paper [Ro], calling attention to the new difficulties that arise when $Teich(X)$ is infinite dimensional. The undefined terms in the following discussion will be explained more fully in §§3 and 4 of this paper.

A quasiconformal map between two Riemann surfaces induces a holomorphic isomorphism between their Teichmüller spaces; we shall call such isomorphisms *geometric*. In [Ro] Royden proved that all holomorphic automorphisms of the Teichmüller space of a compact Riemann surface of genus at least two are geometric. Consider a holomorphic automorphism F . Royden's proof that F is geometric has three principal steps. Step one is to show that F is an isometry with respect to the Teichmüller metric. To prove this Royden shows that the Teichmüller metric on any of these spaces equals its Kobayashi metric. That statement is of independent interest. It was generalized by Gardiner in [G1], where he showed that the Teichmüller and Kobayashi metrics coincide on the Teichmüller space of any Riemann surface. A new proof based on the theory of holomorphic motions has recently been given in [EKK].

By step one, the automorphism F induces complex linear isometries between the cotangent spaces at corresponding points τ and $F(\tau)$. For the Teichmüller spaces under consideration these cotangent spaces can be identified isometrically with the spaces of integrable holomorphic quadratic differentials on the corresponding compact Riemann surfaces. Step two is to study the isometries between these spaces. Royden shows that the existence of such an isometry implies that the corresponding Riemann surfaces are isomorphic. In fact he proves that every compact Riemann surface of genus at least two has the following property, which we shall formalize with a definition.

Definition. Let $Q(X)$ be the complex Banach space of integrable holomorphic quadratic differentials on an arbitrary Riemann surface X . We say that X has the *isometry property* if for any Riemann surfaces Y and W that are quasiconformally equivalent to X every \mathbb{C} -linear isometry of $Q(Y)$ onto $Q(W)$ has the form $\varphi \mapsto \alpha f^*(\varphi)$, where $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$, f is a holomorphic isomorphism of W onto Y , and f^* is the pull-back mapping induced by f .

The final step in Royden's argument uses the isometry property to conclude that the automorphism F is geometric. The main theorem of this paper draws the same conclusion in the general case.

Theorem 1 (the automorphism theorem). *Let $Teich(X)$ be the Teichmüller space of an arbitrary Riemann surface X . If X has the isometry property, then every holomorphic automorphism of $Teich(X)$ is geometric.*

Remark. If X fails to have the isometry property and $Teich(X)$ is finite dimensional, then $Teich(X)$ has non-geometric holomorphic automorphisms. This occurs when X is the sphere with four punctures or a torus with at most two punctures. We do not know whether the converse of Theorem 1 holds when $Teich(X)$ is infinite dimensional. Nor do we know of any Riemann surface that has an infinite dimensional Teichmüller space and fails to have the isometry property.

The automorphism theorem has the following simple proof when $Teich(X)$ is finite dimensional. Any automorphism F preserves Teichmüller distances, and the isometry property implies that the Riemann surfaces corresponding to τ and $F(\tau)$

are isomorphic for each τ in $Teich(X)$. It follows that for each τ there is a geometric automorphism g_τ with $F(\tau) = g_\tau(\tau)$. Since the group of geometric automorphisms of $Teich(X)$ acts properly discontinuously, g_τ is independent of τ and F is geometric.

There are two obstacles to using that simple argument in the infinite dimensional case. First, if X is the Riemann surface corresponding to a point τ in Teichmüller space, the tangent space at τ is isometric to the *dual space* $Q^*(X)$ of $Q(X)$. When $Q(X)$ is infinite dimensional it is not reflexive (see §6), so it is necessary to prove that an isometry between $Q^*(X)$ and $Q^*(Y)$ induces an isometry between $Q(Y)$ and $Q(X)$. That is the content of our second theorem.

Theorem 2 (the adjointness theorem). *Let X and Y be arbitrary Riemann surfaces. Given any invertible \mathbb{C} -linear isometry $T: Q^*(X) \rightarrow Q^*(Y)$, there is an invertible \mathbb{C} -linear isometry $S: Q(Y) \rightarrow Q(X)$ such that $S^* = T$.*

Note that the adjointness theorem does not require X or Y to have the isometry property. It holds for all Riemann surfaces. Our proof uses properties of an interesting subspace of $Q^*(X)$, which is a predual of $Q(X)$ (see §6).

The second obstacle presented by the infinite dimensional case is that the group of geometric automorphisms of $Teich(X)$ does not in general act discontinuously. For example, the Teichmüller space of the unit disk has a transitive group of geometric automorphisms (see §2). However, the adjointness theorem and the isometry property reduce the proof of Theorem 1 to a problem about automorphisms of $Teich(X)$ that fix a point. That problem is solved by our third theorem.

Theorem 3 (the uniqueness theorem). *Suppose the Riemann surface X has the isometry property. Let F be a holomorphic automorphism of $Teich(X)$. If F fixes a point τ of $Teich(X)$ and $F'(\tau)$ is a scalar multiple of the identity, then F is the identity map.*

Because of the Cartan uniqueness theorem (see Section 8 of [H]) the essential step in the proof of Theorem 3 is showing that $F'(\tau)$ is the identity. For this purpose we study the effect of F on Teichmüller disks and prove the existence of Teichmüller disks that are not invariant under too many geometric automorphisms (see §§10–15). We also make essential use of the assumption that X has the isometry property. Some restriction on X is certainly needed since the uniqueness theorem fails when $Teich(X)$ is one-dimensional (and therefore isomorphic to the open unit disk).

We shall derive the automorphism theorem from the adjointness and uniqueness theorems in §5. These theorems will be proved in §§6–15.

Our principal remaining theorems apply the automorphism and adjointness theorems to an important special case. We say the Riemann surface X has finite topological type if its fundamental group is finitely generated. Equivalently, there exist a compact Riemann surface W and a closed subset E of W such that X is isomorphic to $W \setminus E$ and E has finitely many components, each of which is a point or a closed analytic disk. The boundaries of these disks are the ideal boundary curves of X , and the union of these ideal boundary curves is the border of X . We shall prove the following theorem in §§16–18.

Theorem 4 (the isometry theorem). *Let X and Y be Riemann surfaces of finite topological type. Suppose the border of X is not empty. If $S: Q(Y) \rightarrow Q(X)$ is*

a surjective \mathbb{C} -linear isometry, there are a complex number α and a holomorphic isomorphism $h: X \rightarrow Y$ such that $|\alpha| = 1$ and $S(\varphi) = \alpha h^*(\varphi)$ for all φ in $Q(Y)$.

Remark. The following two theorems are simple consequences of the automorphism, adjointness, and isometry theorems (see §§19 and 20). Lakic's extension of Theorem 4 to the set of all Riemann surfaces of finite genus with either nonempty border or infinitely generated fundamental group therefore extends Theorems 5 and 6 to this important class of surfaces (see [La] for details).

Theorem 5 (the classification theorem). *Let X and Y be Riemann surfaces that satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 4. If there is a complex linear isometry from a single fiber of the tangent bundle to $\text{Teich}(X)$ onto some fiber of the tangent bundle to $\text{Teich}(Y)$, then there is a quasiconformal mapping from X onto Y . In particular there is a geometric isomorphism of $\text{Teich}(X)$ onto $\text{Teich}(Y)$.*

Theorem 6 (the isomorphism theorem). *If the Riemann surfaces X and Y satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 4, then every holomorphic isomorphism of $\text{Teich}(X)$ onto $\text{Teich}(Y)$ is geometric. In particular, every holomorphic automorphism of $\text{Teich}(X)$ is geometric.*

We emphasize that the Riemann surfaces in Theorems 4, 5, and 6 are not assumed to be homeomorphic. Let X and Y have finite topological type and nonempty borders, and suppose there is no quasiconformal homeomorphism of X onto Y . Then the isomorphism theorem implies that $\text{Teich}(X)$ and $\text{Teich}(Y)$ are not isomorphic complex manifolds. The classification theorem implies even more: no nonempty open subset of $\text{Teich}(X)$ can be mapped into $\text{Teich}(Y)$ by a holomorphic map that preserves Teichmüller distances. Analogous results about finite dimensional Teichmüller spaces are well known (see [EK2]), but these are the first such results about the infinite dimensional case.

Some related results about surfaces of infinite genus have recently been obtained by T. Ohsawa. Using different methods he has defined a collection of Riemann surfaces of infinite genus whose Teichmüller spaces are not isomorphic complex manifolds (see [O]).

We owe thanks to a number of people and places. J. Milne Anderson provided some stimulating and enlightening conversations and pointed out to us Ng's paper [Ng]. Dragan Vukotić called Kolaski's paper [Ko] to our attention. In addition to support from the NSF, the first author received support and hospitality from MSRI and the Mathematics Institute of the University of Warwick and hospitality from the University of California at Davis. The second author received support while visiting IHES at Bures-sur-Yvette.

2. THE UNIVERSAL TEICHMÜLLER SPACE

The most important Riemann surface with finite topological type and nonempty border is the open unit disk Δ . Its Teichmüller space $\text{Teich}(\Delta)$ is often called the universal Teichmüller space. We shall begin with a brief discussion of that space, since it provides the most concrete example to which our theorems apply.

Let S^1 be the unit circle in the complex plane \mathbb{C} . By definition, an orientation-preserving homeomorphism of S^1 onto itself is *quasisymmetric* if it extends to a quasiconformal homeomorphism of the Riemann sphere that maps Δ onto itself.

These quasisymmetric homeomorphisms form a group QS . The group G of holomorphic automorphisms of Δ consists of Möbius transformations, and we regard G as a subgroup of QS by identifying each g in G with its restriction to S^1 . The set $G \backslash QS$ of right cosets of G in QS is, by definition, the universal Teichmüller space $Teich(\Delta)$.

For each f in QS , right translation by f^{-1} induces a bijective map ρ_f of $Teich(\Delta)$ onto itself: $\rho_f(Gh) = Ghf^{-1}$. By definition, the geometric automorphisms of $Teich(\Delta)$ are the maps ρ_f , f in QS . Observe that the group of geometric automorphisms acts transitively on $Teich(\Delta)$.

It is well known that the geometric automorphisms are holomorphic with respect to the natural complex manifold structure on $Teich(\Delta)$ (see [G2] or [Na]). The original goal of our research was to prove the converse statement, that all holomorphic automorphisms of $Teich(\Delta)$ are geometric. That result is a special case of the automorphism theorem, because Δ has the isometry property. In fact, every Riemann surface that is quasiconformally equivalent to Δ is isomorphic to Δ , so the isometry property for Δ states only that every \mathbb{C} -linear isometry of $Q(\Delta)$ onto itself has the form $\varphi \mapsto \alpha h^*(\varphi)$ for some α in \mathbb{C} and some automorphism h of Δ . That statement is a special case of a theorem of Kolaski [Ko], since $Q(\Delta)$ is isometrically isomorphic to the space of integrable holomorphic functions on Δ , with its usual L^1 norm.

3. TEICHMÜLLER SPACE AND ITS TANGENT BUNDLE

In §§3 and 4 we shall review some well known facts about Teichmüller spaces, starting with some definitions. The border ∂X of a Riemann surface X is the union of its ideal boundary curves (see [G2]). Any quasiconformal homeomorphism f of X onto a Riemann surface Y extends uniquely to a homeomorphism of $X \cup \partial X$ onto $Y \cup \partial Y$. For two such qc homeomorphisms f_1 and f_2 from X onto the Riemann surfaces Y_1 and Y_2 , respectively, we say that f_1 and f_2 are equivalent if there is a holomorphic isomorphism g of Y_1 onto Y_2 such that the homeomorphism $f_2^{-1} \circ g \circ f_1$ of $X \cup \partial X$ onto itself is homotopic to the identity by a homotopy that maps X into itself and fixes ∂X pointwise. By definition, the Teichmüller space $Teich(X)$ of X is the set of all qc homeomorphisms with domain X factored by this equivalence relation. We denote the equivalence class of the qc homeomorphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ by $[f]$.

For any qc homeomorphism g of X onto Y , right translation by g^{-1} induces a bijective map ρ_g from $Teich(X)$ to $Teich(Y)$: $\rho_g([f]) = [f \circ g^{-1}]$. We call the bijection ρ_g a geometric isomorphism.

The basepoint of $Teich(X)$ is the equivalence class of the identity map $id: X \rightarrow X$. If g is a qc homeomorphism of X onto Y , then ρ_g maps the point $[g]$ of $Teich(X)$ to the basepoint of $Teich(Y)$.

A fundamental theorem about Teichmüller spaces states that they have complex manifold structures such that all geometric isomorphisms are holomorphic (see [G2] or [Na]). To describe that complex structure we first introduce two Banach spaces of tensors on the Riemann surface X . By definition, a quadratic differential φ on X is a tensor whose restriction to the domain U of any local coordinate z has the form $f dz^2$, where f is a measurable function on U . We say that φ is holomorphic (or meromorphic) if all these functions f are holomorphic (or meromorphic).

If φ is a quadratic differential on X , we define $|\varphi|$ to be the differential 2-form

on X whose restriction to U equals $|f|dx dy$ if φ equals $f dz^2$ in U . We say φ is integrable if its norm

$$(3.1) \quad \|\varphi\| = \iint_X |\varphi|$$

is finite. The space $Q(X)$ of all integrable holomorphic quadratic differentials on X is a complex Banach space with the norm (3.1).

A Beltrami form on X is a tensor μ whose restriction to the domain U of any local coordinate z has the form $f d\bar{z}/dz$, where f is a bounded measurable function on U . The norm $\|\mu\|_\infty$ is defined as the least upper bound of the L^∞ norms of all these functions f . We denote by $Belt(X)$ the complex Banach space of Beltrami forms of finite norm.

If $\mu \in Belt(X)$ and $\varphi \in Q(X)$, we define $\mu\varphi$ to be the differential 2-form on X that equals $f g dx dy$ in U if μ equals $f d\bar{z}/dz$ and φ equals $g dz^2$ in U . If φ is not identically zero, there is a unique μ in $Belt(X)$ such that $\mu\varphi = |\varphi|$. We denote it by $|\varphi|/\varphi$.

The natural pairing

$$(\mu, \varphi)_X = \iint_X \mu\varphi, \quad \mu \in Belt(X), \varphi \in Q(X),$$

between $Belt(X)$ and $Q(X)$ induces a linear map P of $Belt(X)$ onto $Q^*(X)$, the dual space of $Q(X)$, defined by

$$(3.2) \quad P\mu(\varphi) = (\mu, \varphi)_X \quad \text{if } \mu \in Belt(X) \text{ and } \varphi \in Q(X).$$

The kernel of P is $Q(X)^\perp = \{\mu \in Belt(X); (\mu, \varphi)_X = 0 \text{ for all } \varphi \in Q(X)\}$.

Let $M(X)$ be the open unit ball of $Belt(X)$. By definition, the Beltrami coefficient of the quasiconformal homeomorphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is the Beltrami form μ_f in $M(X)$ that equals $\bar{\partial}(z \circ f)/\partial(z \circ f)$ in $f^{-1}(U)$ whenever z is a local coordinate defined on an open set $U \subset Y$. Every μ in $M(X)$ is the Beltrami coefficient of a qc homeomorphism. In fact let X^μ be the Riemann surface whose underlying topological space is the underlying topological space of X and whose local coordinates are the homeomorphisms w from open subsets of X onto open subsets of \mathbb{C} such that $\mu = \bar{\partial}w/\partial w$ in the domain of w . The identity map from X to X^μ is a qc homeomorphism whose Beltrami coefficient is μ .

Define the map $\Phi: M(X) \rightarrow Teich(X)$ by $\Phi(\mu) = [id: X \rightarrow X^\mu]$. That map is surjective. Since it depends on the Riemann surface X , we shall occasionally denote it by Φ_X to avoid ambiguity. Note that $X^0 = X$, so $\Phi(0)$ is the basepoint of $Teich(X)$.

The complex manifold structure of $Teich(X)$ is determined by the property that Φ is a holomorphic map whose Fréchet derivative at any point of $M(X)$ has a continuous right inverse (see [G2] or [Na]). Therefore the tangent space to $Teich(X)$ at $\Phi(0)$ is isomorphic to the quotient space $Belt(X)/\text{Ker}(\Phi'(0))$. Since the kernel of $\Phi'(0)$ is precisely $Q(X)^\perp$ (see [G2] or [Na]), the map

$$(3.3) \quad \Phi'(0)\mu \mapsto P\mu$$

identifies that quotient space with the space $Q^*(X)$. That gives us a natural identification between $Q^*(X)$ and the tangent space to $Teich(X)$ at its basepoint. To understand the tangent space at $[g]$ we can use the geometric isomorphism ρ_g to identify the tangent space to $Teich(X)$ at $[g]$ with the tangent space to $Teich(g(X))$ at its basepoint.

4. ISOMETRIES OF THE TANGENT SPACE

It is well known that the Teichmüller metric d on $Teich(X)$ is induced by a Finsler structure on its tangent bundle (see Chapter 7 of [G2]). That Finsler structure defines a norm, called the Teichmüller norm, on the tangent space at each point of $Teich(X)$. The Teichmüller norm on the tangent space at the basepoint is given by

$$\|\Phi'(0)\mu\| = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d(\Phi(0), \Phi(t\mu))}{t} = \sup\{ |(\mu, \varphi)_x|; \varphi \in A(X) \text{ and } \|\varphi\| = 1 \}$$

(see [G2]). The supremum on the right hand side is precisely the norm of $P\mu$ in $Q^*(X)$. Thus, under the identification (3.3), the Teichmüller norm coincides with the standard dual norm on $Q^*(X)$. This leads immediately to

Lemma 4.1. *Let X and Y be Riemann surfaces. If $F: Teich(X) \rightarrow Teich(Y)$ is a holomorphic isomorphism that preserves basepoints, then $F'([id]): Q^*(X) \rightarrow Q^*(Y)$ is an invertible \mathbb{C} -linear isometry.*

Proof. We are using (3.3) to identify the tangent spaces of $Teich(X)$ and $Teich(Y)$ at their basepoints with $Q^*(X)$ and $Q^*(Y)$ respectively. Since F and F^{-1} are holomorphic, $F'([id])$ is an invertible \mathbb{C} -linear map. It preserves Teichmüller norms because the Teichmüller metrics on $Teich(X)$ and $Teich(Y)$ coincide with their respective Kobayashi metrics (see [G1]), and any holomorphic isomorphism preserves Kobayashi distances. \square

The geometric isomorphism $\rho_f: Teich(X) \rightarrow Teich(Y)$ induced by a holomorphic isomorphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies the hypotheses of Lemma 4.1, and we shall need to understand the isometry $\rho_f'([id])$. For that purpose we introduce the pull-backs of quadratic differentials and Beltrami forms induced by a holomorphic map $f: X \rightarrow Y$. If f is such a map and φ is a quadratic differential on Y , then $f^*(\varphi)$ is the quadratic differential on X that equals $(g \circ f)(d(z \circ f))^2$ in $f^{-1}(U)$ whenever φ equals gdz^2 in $U \subset Y$ and z is a local coordinate defined on U . If f is not constant and μ is a Beltrami form on Y , then $f^*(\mu)$ is the Beltrami form on X that equals $(g \circ f)d(\bar{z} \circ f)/d(z \circ f)$ in $f^{-1}(U)$ whenever μ equals $gd\bar{z}/dz$ in U and z is a local coordinate defined on U .

When $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a holomorphic isomorphism, the maps $S_f(\varphi) = f^*(\varphi)$ and $T_f(\mu) = f^*(\mu)$ are invertible \mathbb{C} -linear isometries of $Q(Y)$ onto $Q(X)$ and $Belt(Y)$ onto $Belt(X)$ respectively. It is obvious that

$$(4.1) \quad (T_f(\mu), S_f(\varphi))_X = (\mu, \varphi)_Y \quad \text{for all } \mu \in Belt(Y) \text{ and } \varphi \in Q(Y).$$

Lemma 4.2. *Let X and Y be Riemann surfaces, f a holomorphic isomorphism of X onto Y , and $\rho_f: Teich(X) \rightarrow Teich(Y)$ the induced geometric isomorphism of Teichmüller spaces. Then $\rho_f'([id]): Q^*(X) \rightarrow Q^*(Y)$ is the adjoint of S_f .*

Proof. The definition of T_f makes $f: X^{T_f(\mu)} \rightarrow Y^\mu$ a holomorphic isomorphism for every μ in $M(Y)$. Therefore

$$(4.2) \quad \rho_f(\Phi_X(T_f(\mu))) = [f^{-1}: Y \rightarrow X^{T_f(\mu)}] = [id: Y \rightarrow Y^\mu] = \Phi_Y(\mu) \quad \text{for all } \mu \in M(Y).$$

Differentiation at $\mu = 0$ gives $\rho_f'([id]) \circ \Phi_X'(0) \circ T_f = \Phi_Y'(0)$. Thus $\rho_f'([id])$ corresponds via (3.3) to the linear map T that sends $P_X(T_f(\mu))$ to $P_Y\mu$ for each μ in $Belt(Y)$. It follows immediately from (4.1) that T is the adjoint of S_f . \square

Remark. The fact that the isometries $\rho_f'([id])$ in Lemma 4.2 are adjoints of isometries of $Q(Y)$ onto $Q(X)$ was predicted by the adjointness theorem.

5. PROOF OF THE AUTOMORPHISM THEOREM

In this section we deduce the automorphism theorem from the adjointness and uniqueness theorems. First we prove the following lemma, which is a consequence of Lemmas 4.1 and 4.2 and the adjointness theorem.

Lemma 5.1. *Let X be a Riemann surface with the isometry property, and let F be a holomorphic automorphism of $Teich(X)$. For each τ in $Teich(X)$ there is a geometric automorphism g_τ of $Teich(X)$ such that $F(\tau) = g_\tau(\tau)$ and $F'(\tau) = \alpha_\tau g_\tau'(\tau)$ for some complex number α_τ .*

Proof. Choose quasiconformal homeomorphisms $g: X \rightarrow W$ and $h: X \rightarrow Y$ so that $\tau = [g]$ and $F(\tau) = [h]$. Put $\tilde{F} = \rho_h \circ F \circ \rho_g^{-1}: Teich(W) \rightarrow Teich(Y)$. Since \tilde{F} is a holomorphic isomorphism that preserves basepoints, Lemma 4.1 implies that $\tilde{F}'([id])$ is a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry of $Q^*(W)$ onto $Q^*(Y)$. By the adjointness theorem there is a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry S of $Q(Y)$ onto $Q(W)$ such that $\tilde{F}'([id]) = S^*$. By the hypothesis that X has the isometry property, there exist a complex number α and a holomorphic isomorphism f of W onto Y such that $S(\varphi) = \alpha f^*(\varphi)$ for all φ in $Q(Y)$. The geometric isomorphism $\rho_f: Teich(W) \rightarrow Teich(Y)$ preserves basepoints and, by Lemma 4.2, $\tilde{F}'[id] = \alpha \rho_f'[id]$. We claim that the geometric isomorphism $g_\tau = (\rho_h)^{-1} \circ \rho_f \circ \rho_g (= \rho_{h^{-1} \circ f \circ g})$ has the required properties. In fact it is clear that $g_\tau(\tau) = F(\tau)$, and the chain rule gives

$$F'(\tau) = ((\rho_h)^{-1} \circ \tilde{F} \circ \rho_g)'(\tau) = \alpha((\rho_h)^{-1} \circ \rho_f \circ \rho_g)'(\tau) = \alpha g_\tau'(\tau). \quad \square$$

The automorphism theorem follows trivially from Lemma 5.1 and the uniqueness theorem. Suppose the Riemann surface X has the isometry property. Let \tilde{F} be a holomorphic automorphism of $Teich(X)$ and let τ be any point of $Teich(X)$. Lemma 5.1 gives us a geometric automorphism g_τ of $Teich(X)$ such that $F = \tilde{F}^{-1} \circ g_\tau$ satisfies the hypotheses of the uniqueness theorem. Therefore F is the identity map and \tilde{F} is the geometric isomorphism g_τ . \square

6. A DUALITY THEOREM

We shall prove the adjointness theorem in Section 9, after studying some geometric properties of the space $Q^*(X)$. It is already known (see [E2] and [E3]) that $Q^*(X)$ has a closed subspace $Q^*(X)_0$ whose dual space is isometrically isomorphic to $Q(X)$. In this section we shall reprove that result by a simpler method that provides a useful new characterization of $Q^*(X)_0$. The Riemann surface X will be fixed throughout Sections 6, 7, and 8, so we shall simplify our notation, setting $A = Q(X)$, $B = Q^*(X)$, and $B_0 = Q^*(X)_0$.

Our first objective is to define the subspace B_0 . For that purpose we introduce on A the compact-open topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of X . The

standard argument, using the mean value property of holomorphic functions and Montel's theorem, shows that the closed unit ball of A is compact in the compact-open topology and that this topology is determined by the family of continuous seminorms

$$p_K(\varphi) = \iint_K |\varphi|, \quad \varphi \in A,$$

where K is a compact subset of X . It is metrizable since X is a countable union of compact sets.

Definitions. A sequence (φ_n) in A is called a *degenerating sequence* if $\|\varphi_n\| \leq 1$ for all n and $\varphi_n \rightarrow 0$ in the compact-open topology as $n \rightarrow \infty$. (In other words $p_K(\varphi_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, for every compact set $K \subset X$.) For each linear functional v in B set

$$\beta(v) = \inf\{r \in \mathbb{R}; \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |v(\varphi_n)| \leq r \text{ for every degenerating sequence } (\varphi_n) \text{ in } A\}.$$

Lemma 6.1. *The function β is a continuous seminorm on B .*

Proof. It is clear that $\beta(v+w) \leq \beta(v) + \beta(w)$ and $\beta(cv) = |c|\beta(v)$ for all v and w in B and c in \mathbb{C} , so β is a seminorm. The obvious inequality $\beta(v) \leq \|v\|$ implies that β is continuous, since $|\beta(v) - \beta(w)| \leq \beta(v-w)$ for all v and w in B (see Theorem 1.34 in [Ru2]). \square

Corollary and Definition. *The set $\{v \in B; \beta(v) = 0\}$ is a closed subspace of B , which we shall denote by B_0 .*

First we prove an elementary property of B_0 that will be needed in §9.

Lemma 6.2. *For each v in B there is a sequence (v_n) in B_0 such that $\|v_n\| \leq \|v\|$ for every n and $v_n \rightarrow v$ in the weak* topology as $n \rightarrow \infty$.*

Proof. Let μ in $\text{Belt}(X)$ satisfy $P\mu = v$ and $\|\mu\|_\infty = \|v\|$. Choose an increasing sequence (K_n) of compact subsets of X whose union is X and set

$$v_n(\varphi) = \iint_{K_n} \mu\varphi \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in A.$$

The sequence (v_n) has all the required properties. \square

Next we prove that B_0 is a predual of A .

Lemma 6.3. *The map L from A to the dual space B_0^* of B_0 defined by*

$$L\varphi(v) = v(\varphi) \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in A \text{ and } v \in B_0$$

is a surjective \mathbb{C} -linear isometry.

Proof. Let Σ be the closed unit ball of A . We know that Σ is compact in the compact-open topology. In addition, by its definition, B_0 is precisely the set of linear functionals v in B whose restriction to Σ is continuous with respect to the compact-open topology. These two observations imply that the map L is surjective and isometric. (See the proof of Theorem 1 in [Ng].) \square

Corollary. *If A is infinite dimensional, it is not reflexive.*

Proof. Let A be infinite dimensional. We shall prove that its predual B_0 is not reflexive. We use a construction we learned from H. Tanigawa, who attributes it to Curt McMullen (see Proposition 2.1 in [T]).

Since A is infinite dimensional, its unit sphere is not compact (in the norm topology), so there is a sequence of unit vectors (φ_n) with no norm-convergent subsequence. Passing to a subsequence we may assume that (φ_n) converges to φ in the compact-open topology. Replacing φ_n by $(\varphi_n - \varphi)/\|\varphi_n - \varphi\|$ we may assume that $\varphi = 0$, so (φ_n) is a degenerating sequence of unit vectors.

Now choose a sequence of disjoint compact sets K_j and an increasing sequence of integers n_j so that $\iint_{K_j} |\varphi_{n_j}| > 1 - 2^{-j}$ for all $j \geq 1$. The linear functional

$$v(\varphi) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \iint_{K_j} \frac{|\varphi_{n_j}|}{\varphi_{n_j}} \varphi$$

belongs to $B \setminus B_0$ since $\|v\| = \beta(v) = 1$. □

Remarks. When $X = \Delta$ we can identify A isometrically with the closed subspace $A(\Delta)$ of $L^1(\Delta)$ spanned by the polynomials, and the dual space B is isomorphic to the space $B(\Delta)$ of holomorphic functions g on Δ with norm

$$\|g\|_* = \sup\{|g(z)|(1 - |z|^2)^2; z \in \Delta\} < \infty$$

(see [B] or [SW]). The isomorphism between B and $B(\Delta)$ is induced, as in [SW], by the pairing

$$(f, g) = \iint_{\Delta} f(z)g(\bar{z})(1 - |z|^2)^2 dx dy, \quad f \in A(\Delta), g \in B(\Delta).$$

Under that isomorphism the predual B_0 corresponds to the closure $B_0(\Delta)$ of the polynomials in $B(\Delta)$. Shields and Williams proved in [SW] that $B_0(\Delta)$ is a predual of $A(\Delta)$.

The identification of B with $B(\Delta)$ is not isometric. In fact, if $Q(X)$ has dimension greater than one, $Belt(X)$ has no closed subspace that is mapped isometrically onto $Q^*(X)$ by the projection P defined by (3.2) (see §4 of [E1]).

7. EXTREMAL DIFFERENTIALS AND SEQUENCES IN $Q(X)$

The lemmas in this section are elementary and well known. We provide their proofs for the reader's convenience. We use the notation introduced at the beginning of Section 6.

Definition. An *extremal differential* for v in B is a quadratic differential φ in A such that $\|\varphi\| = 1$ and $v(\varphi) = \|v\|$.

Lemma 7.1. *A nonzero v in B has at most one extremal differential, and if it has one, then v is an extreme point of the closed ball in B with center 0 and radius $\|v\|$.*

Proof. We may assume that $\|v\| = 1$ and that φ is an extremal differential for v . Choose μ in $Belt(X)$ so that $\|\mu\|_{\infty} = 1$ and $P\mu = v$. Then $0 = \|\varphi\| - v(\varphi) = \iint_X (|\varphi| - \mu\varphi)$, so $\mu = |\varphi|/\varphi$ and

$$(7.1) \quad v(\psi) = \iint_X \left(\frac{|\varphi|}{\varphi} \right) \psi \quad \text{for all } \psi \in A.$$

If ψ is also an extremal differential for v , the same reasoning shows that $\mu = |\psi|/\psi$. Therefore the meromorphic function $\psi/\varphi = |\psi/\varphi|$ is a non-negative constant. Since ψ and φ both have norm one, $\psi = \varphi$.

Next suppose $2v = v_1 + v_2$, where $\|v_1\| \leq 1$ and $\|v_2\| \leq 1$. Then

$$2 = 2\operatorname{Re}(v(\varphi)) = \operatorname{Re}(v_1(\varphi)) + \operatorname{Re}(v_2(\varphi)) \leq 1 + \operatorname{Re}(v_2(\varphi)) \leq 2,$$

so equality holds throughout, and the extremal differential φ for v is also extremal for v_1 and v_2 . Therefore $v_1(\psi)$ and $v_2(\psi)$ are both equal to the integral in (7.1) for every ψ in A , so $v_1 = v_2 = v$ and v is an extreme point of the closed unit ball. \square

We need the following result from functional analysis.

Lemma 7.2. *Let (φ_n) be a sequence of unit vectors in A . If $\varphi_n \rightarrow \varphi$ in the compact-open topology as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\varphi_n - \varphi\| = 1 - \|\varphi\|.$$

Proof. We thank Nikola Lakic for showing us the following simple proof.

Since $0 \leq |\varphi_n - \varphi| + |\varphi| - |\varphi_n| \leq 2|\varphi|$ and $\|\varphi\| \leq 1$, we can apply Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem to obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\|\varphi_n - \varphi\| + \|\varphi\| - \|\varphi_n\|) = \iint_X \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (|\varphi_n - \varphi| + |\varphi| - |\varphi_n|) = 0.$$

\square

Definition. An *extremal sequence* for the linear functional v in B is a sequence (φ_n) in A such that $\|\varphi_n\| = 1$ for each n and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} v(\varphi_n) = \|v\|$. Every v in B has at least one extremal sequence.

Let $W = \{v \in B; \beta(v) < \|v\|\}$. Lemma 6.1 and the definition of B_0 imply that W is an open neighborhood of $B_0 \setminus \{0\}$.

Lemma 7.3. *If $v \in W$, then every extremal sequence for v converges (in norm) to an extremal differential for v .*

Proof. Since v has at most one extremal differential, it is sufficient to prove that every extremal sequence has a subsequence with the required property. We may therefore assume that the given sequence (φ_n) converges in the compact-open topology to a quadratic differential φ in A with $\|\varphi\| \leq 1$.

By Lemma 7.2 we know that $\|\varphi_n - \varphi\| \rightarrow 1 - \|\varphi\|$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Suppose $1 - \|\varphi\|$ is positive. Put $\psi_n = (\varphi_n - \varphi)/\|\varphi_n - \varphi\|$. Since (ψ_n) is a degenerating sequence,

$$\beta(v) \geq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |v(\psi_n)| = \frac{\| \|v\| - v(\varphi) \|}{1 - \|\varphi\|} \geq \frac{\|v\| - |v(\varphi)|}{1 - \|\varphi\|} \geq \|v\|,$$

which contradicts our assumption that $v \in W$. We conclude that $\|\varphi_n - \varphi\| \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Therefore $\|\varphi\| = 1$, $v(\varphi) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} v(\varphi_n) = \|v\|$, and φ is extremal for v . \square

Remark. The use of Lemma 7.2 to analyse the degenerating sequence (ψ_n) is a standard method in the theory of extremal quasiconformal mappings. We first encountered it (with $X = \Delta$) in the work of Strebel (see [S1] and [S2]). It was formalized by Harrington and Ortel in Propositions 1.1 and 1.2 of [HO], again with $X = \Delta$.

8. NON-UNIFORM CONVEXITY OF $Q^*(X)_0$

We shall continue to use the notation introduced in Section 6. Lemmas 7.1 and 7.3 imply that $B_0 (= Q^*(X)_0)$ is strictly convex. Unless its dimension is finite B_0 is not reflexive, so it cannot be uniformly convex. (See p. 410 of [Ru2].) The following lemma, which indicates that uniform convexity fails rather dramatically, is the key to our proof of the adjointness theorem.

Lemma 8.1. *Suppose $v \in B_0$. Let (w_n) be any sequence in B that converges to zero in the weak* topology. If $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|w_n\| \leq \|v\|$, then*

$$(8.1) \quad \|v \pm w_n\| \rightarrow \|v\| \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Proof. We may assume that $\|v\| > 0$, since otherwise (8.1) is an immediate consequence of the hypotheses. The sequences $(\pm w_n)$ satisfy the hypotheses of the lemma together, so it suffices to prove that $\|v + w_n\| \rightarrow \|v\|$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Since $v + w_n \rightarrow v$ in the weak* topology, we know that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v + w_n\| \geq \|v\|$. We need to prove that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v + w_n\| \leq \|v\|$.

If the required inequality fails, we can pass to a subsequence so that

$$(8.2) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v + w_n\| = L > \|v\|.$$

Passing again to a subsequence we may assume that $\|w_n\| < (\|v\| + L)/2 < \|v + w_n\|$ for all n . Then $\beta(v + w_n) \leq \beta(w_n) \leq \|w_n\| < \|v + w_n\|$, so $v + w_n \in W$ for every n . Therefore, by Lemma 7.3, each $v + w_n$ has an extremal differential φ_n . Passing if necessary to a further subsequence we may assume that φ_n converges in the compact-open topology to a quadratic differential φ in A as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Suppose that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\varphi_n - \varphi\|$ (which equals $1 - \|\varphi\|$, by Lemma 7.2) is positive. Let (ψ_n) be the degenerating sequence defined in the proof of Lemma 7.3. Then

$$(8.3) \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |(v + w_n)(\psi_n)| \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |w_n(\psi_n)| \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|w_n\| \leq \|v\|.$$

But we also have

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |(v + w_n)(\psi_n)| = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|(v + w_n)\| - (v + w_n)(\varphi)}{\|\varphi_n - \varphi\|} = \frac{|L - v(\varphi)|}{1 - \|\varphi\|} > \|v\|.$$

This contradicts (8.3). Therefore $\varphi_n \rightarrow \varphi$ in the norm topology of A , and

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v + w_n\| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |(v + w_n)(\varphi_n)| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |(v + w_n)(\varphi)| = |v(\varphi)| \leq \|v\| < L.$$

This contradiction shows that (8.2) is impossible. \square

We shall need the following rather elementary converse of Lemma 8.1 in the next section.

Lemma 8.2. *Let v in B be an extreme point of the closed ball with center 0 and radius $\|v\|$. If (w_n) is a sequence in B such that (8.1) holds, then $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|w_n\| \leq \|v\|$ and $w_n \rightarrow 0$ in the weak* topology.*

Proof. Obviously $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2\|w_n\| \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\|w_n + v\| + \|w_n - v\|) = 2\|v\|$ by (8.1).

This proves the first conclusion of the lemma and implies the existence of a number C such that $\|w_n\| \leq C$ for all n . Since the Banach space A is separable, the closed ball in B with center 0 and radius C is sequentially compact in the weak* topology (see Theorems 3.15 and 3.16 in [Ru2]). We may therefore assume with no loss of generality that $w_n \rightarrow u$ (weak*) as $n \rightarrow \infty$. We must prove that $u = 0$.

Since $v \pm w_n \rightarrow v \pm u$ (weak*) as $n \rightarrow \infty$, formula (8.1) implies that

$$\|v \pm u\| \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v \pm w_n\| = \|v\|.$$

Therefore the line segment $[v - u, v + u]$ lies in the closed ball with center 0 and radius $\|v\|$. Since v is an extreme point of that ball, $u = 0$. \square

Remark. Lemma 8.1 also has a more subtle converse. If the linear functional v in B has the property that (8.1) holds for every sequence (w_n) that converges to zero in the weak* topology of B and satisfies $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|w_n\| \leq \|v\|$, then $v \in B_0$. Thus Lemma 8.1 characterizes the subspace B_0 . We shall prove this in a forthcoming paper.

9. WEAK* CONTINUITY OF ISOMETRIES AND PROOF OF THE ADJOINTNESS THEOREM

We begin with

Lemma 9.1. *Let X and Y be Riemann surfaces. If T is an invertible \mathbb{C} -linear isometry of $Q^*(X)$ onto $Q^*(Y)$, then T is sequentially continuous with respect to the weak* topologies.*

Proof. Let (w_n) be a sequence in $Q^*(X)$ that converges to 0 in the weak* topology. We must show that the sequence (Tw_n) converges (weak*) to 0 in $Q^*(Y)$. By the uniform boundedness principle there is a positive number C so that $\|w_n\| \leq C$ for all n . Choose v in $Q^*(X)_0$ so that $\|v\| > C$. Since v and (w_n) satisfy the hypotheses of Lemma 8.1, formula (8.1) holds. In addition, since $v \in W$, Lemmas 7.1 and 7.3 imply that v is an extreme point of the closed ball in $Q^*(X)$ with center 0 and radius $\|v\|$. Since T is an isometry, Tv is an extreme point of the closed ball in $Q^*(Y)$ with center 0 and radius $\|Tv\|$, and

$$\|Tv \pm Tw_n\| \rightarrow \|Tv\| (= \|v\|) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Lemma 8.2 therefore implies that (Tw_n) converges (weak*) to 0. \square

Proof of the adjointness theorem. Let an invertible \mathbb{C} -linear isometry $T: Q^*(X) \rightarrow Q^*(Y)$ be given. We must find a \mathbb{C} -linear map $S: Q(Y) \rightarrow Q(X)$ such that $T = S^*$. The adjoint $(T|_{Q^*(X)_0})^*$ of the restriction of T to $Q^*(X)_0$ is a \mathbb{C} -linear map of $Q^*(Y)^* = Q(Y)^{**}$ into $(Q^*(X)_0)^* (= Q(X)$, by Lemma 6.3). The restriction of that adjoint to $Q(Y) \subset Q(Y)^{**}$ is a \mathbb{C} -linear map $S: Q(Y) \rightarrow Q(X)$ satisfying

$$(9.1) \quad v(S\varphi) = (Tv)(\varphi)$$

for $\varphi \in Q(Y)$ and $v \in Q^*(X)_0$. We claim that $T = S^*$. To verify the claim we must show that (9.1) holds for every $\varphi \in Q(Y)$ and $v \in Q^*(X)$. Let φ and v be given. By Lemma 6.2 there is a sequence (v_n) in $Q^*(X)_0$ such that $v_n \rightarrow v$ (weak*). Lemma 9.1 implies that $Tv_n \rightarrow Tv$ (weak*). Therefore

$$v(S\varphi) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} v_n(S\varphi) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (Tv_n)(\varphi) = (Tv)(\varphi). \quad \square$$

10. TEICHMÜLLER DISKS

Our proof of the uniqueness theorem depends on some facts about Teichmüller disks. Let X be any Riemann surface. A Beltrami form μ in $M(X)$ is called a Teichmüller differential if it equals $t|\varphi|/\varphi$, where φ in $Q(X)$ is not identically equal to zero and the complex number t belongs to the open unit disk Δ . (Unlike many authors we allow $t = 0$.) A Teichmüller differential is uniquely extremal. In other words, if μ and ν in $M(X)$ determine the same point in $Teich(X)$, and if μ is a Teichmüller differential, then $\|\nu\|_\infty > \|\mu\|_\infty$ unless $\nu = \mu$ (see Theorem 3 of Chapter 6 in [G2]). A quasiconformal homeomorphism f of X onto a Riemann surface Y is called a Teichmüller map if its Beltrami coefficient μ_f is a Teichmüller differential.

Definitions. Let X and Y be Riemann surfaces. If φ in $Q(X)$ is not identically zero, the Teichmüller disk D_φ is the set of points in $Teich(X)$ determined by the Teichmüller differentials $t|\varphi|/\varphi$ with t in Δ . A Teichmüller disk in $Teich(Y)$ is a set D of the form $\rho_f(D_\varphi)$ for some geometric isomorphism $\rho_f: Teich(X) \rightarrow Teich(Y)$, where f is a quasiconformal map of X onto Y .

We shall use the notion of the pull-back of a quadratic differential φ in $Q(X)$ by a quasiconformal homeomorphism $f: Y \rightarrow X$. By definition $f^*(\varphi)$ is the integrable (but not necessarily holomorphic) quadratic differential on Y such that

$$f^*(\varphi) = (g \circ f)(\partial(h \circ f))^2 \quad \text{in } f^{-1}(U)$$

whenever U is an open subset of X , g and h are holomorphic functions on U , and $\varphi = g(dh)^2$ in U . This equals the usual pull-back if f is holomorphic.

Lemma 10.1 lists some familiar properties of Teichmüller disks. We include their proofs because we could not find a convenient reference.

Lemma 10.1. *Let $g: Teich(X) \rightarrow Teich(Y)$ be a geometric isomorphism, and let D_φ be a Teichmüller disk in $Teich(X)$. If $g(D_\varphi)$ contains the basepoint of $Teich(Y)$, then there are a Teichmüller map $f: Y \rightarrow X$ and an s in Δ with the following properties:*

$$(10.1) \quad g^{-1} = \rho_f,$$

$$(10.2) \quad \psi = f^*(\varphi) \text{ belongs to } Q(Y),$$

$$(10.3) \quad \mu_f = -s|\psi|/\psi,$$

$$(10.4) \quad g(\Phi_X(t|\varphi|/\varphi)) = \Phi_Y\left(\left(\frac{t-s}{1-\bar{s}t}\right)|\psi|/\psi\right) \quad \text{for all } t \in \Delta.$$

In particular, $g(D_\varphi) = D_\psi$.

Proof. If the geometric isomorphism g preserves basepoints, there is a holomorphic isomorphism f of Y onto X such that $g^{-1} = \rho_f$. Formula (4.2) in Section 4 (with the roles of X and Y reversed) shows that $\Phi_Y(f^*(\mu)) = g(\Phi_X(\mu))$ for all μ in $M(X)$. Therefore (10.3) and (10.4) hold with $s = 0$ and $\psi = f^*(\varphi)$.

If g does not preserve basepoints, we choose $s \neq 0$ in Δ so that g maps $\Phi_X(s|\varphi|/\varphi)$ to the basepoint of $\text{Teich}(Y)$. Then $g = \rho_h$, where $h: X \rightarrow Y$ is a Teichmüller map whose Beltrami coefficient is $s|\varphi|/\varphi$.

Set $f = h^{-1}$, so that $g^{-1} = \rho_f$. The local representation of the Teichmüller map h (see for instance Theorem 8.1 in [Le]) shows that the quadratic differential $\psi = f^*(\varphi)$ is holomorphic and that f is a Teichmüller map whose Beltrami coefficient is $-s|\psi|/\psi$. This proves (10.1), (10.2), and (10.3).

Now $g(\Phi_X(t|\varphi|/\varphi))$ is the equivalence class of $f_t \circ f$, where the Beltrami coefficient of f_t is $t|\varphi|/\varphi$. A chain rule calculation using (10.2) and (10.3) shows that the Beltrami coefficient of $f_t \circ f$ is

$$\mu_t = \left(\frac{t-s}{1-\bar{s}t}\right)(|\psi|/\psi).$$

This proves (10.4). □

Corollary 1. *If the Teichmüller disk D in $\text{Teich}(Y)$ contains the basepoint, then $D = D_\psi$ for some ψ in $Q(Y)$.*

Corollary 2. *Let D_φ be a Teichmüller disk in $\text{Teich}(X)$ and let $QC(\varphi)$ be the set of Teichmüller maps f of X onto itself such that $f^*(\varphi)$ is a scalar multiple of φ and μ_f is a scalar multiple of $|\varphi|/\varphi$. Then*

- (a) $QC(\varphi)$ is a group under composition,
- (b) the geometric automorphisms of $\text{Teich}(X)$ that map D_φ onto itself are precisely the automorphisms ρ_f , f in $QC(\varphi)$, and
- (c) if $f \in QC(\varphi)$, $f^*(\varphi) = a^2\varphi$, and $\mu_f = \frac{b|\varphi|}{a\varphi}$, then

$$(10.5) \quad \rho_f(\Phi(t|\varphi|/\varphi)) = \Phi\left(\left(\frac{at-b}{-bt+a}\right)|\varphi|/\varphi\right) \quad \text{for all } t \in \Delta.$$

Proof. Chain rule calculations similar to the verification of (10.4) above show that $QC(\varphi)$ is a group and that ρ_f maps D_φ onto itself if $f \in QC(\varphi)$.

Conversely, suppose the geometric automorphism g maps D_φ onto itself. Lemma 10.1 gives us a Teichmüller map f of X onto itself and a point s in Δ such that $g = \rho_f$, $\psi = f^*(\varphi)$ belongs to $Q(X)$, $\mu_f = -s|\psi|/\psi$, and $g(D_\varphi) = D_\psi$. The Teichmüller disks D_ψ and D_φ therefore coincide. Since Teichmüller differentials are uniquely extremal, there is a complex number α such that $|\alpha| = 1$ and $|\psi|/\psi = \alpha|\varphi|/\varphi$. Therefore ψ is a scalar multiple of φ , and $f \in QC(\varphi)$.

Finally, under the assumptions in (c) formula (10.5) reduces to (10.4). □

Lemma 10.2 and its corollaries describe the behavior of Teichmüller disks under the action of an automorphism F that satisfies the hypotheses of the uniqueness theorem.

Lemma 10.2. *Let F be a basepoint-preserving holomorphic automorphism of $\text{Teich}(X)$ such that $F'([id]) = \alpha I$ for some α in \mathbb{C} . If $D = D_\varphi$ is a Teichmüller disk in $\text{Teich}(X)$ containing the basepoint, then $F(D) = D$ and*

$$(10.6) \quad F(\Phi(t|\varphi|/\varphi)) = \Phi(\alpha t|\varphi|/\varphi) \text{ for all } t \in \Delta.$$

Proof. The holomorphic map $f: \Delta \rightarrow \text{Teich}(X)$ defined by $f(t) = F(\Phi(t|\varphi|/\varphi))$, t in Δ , satisfies $f(0) = [id]$ and

$$f'(0) = F'([id])(\Phi'(0)(|\varphi|/\varphi)) = \alpha(\Phi'(0)(|\varphi|/\varphi)).$$

By Theorem 2 of [EKK], there is a holomorphic map $\tilde{f}: \Delta \rightarrow M(X)$ such that $\tilde{f}(0) = 0$ and $f = \Phi \circ \tilde{f}$. Therefore

$$\Phi'(0)(\tilde{f}'(0)) = f'(0) = \Phi'(0)(\alpha|\varphi|/\varphi),$$

and $(\tilde{f}'(0), \psi)_x = (\alpha|\varphi|/\varphi, \psi)_x$ for all ψ in $Q(X)$. Taking $\psi = \bar{\alpha}\varphi$, and noting that $|\alpha| = 1$, we obtain

$$(10.7) \quad \iint_X (|\varphi| - \bar{\alpha}\tilde{f}'(0)\varphi) = 0.$$

Since $\|\tilde{f}'(0)\|_\infty \leq 1$ by Schwarz's lemma, (10.7) implies that $\tilde{f}'(0) = \alpha|\varphi|/\varphi$. Since $\alpha|\varphi|/\varphi$ is an extreme point of the closed unit ball in $\text{Belt}(X)$, the strong form of Schwarz's lemma (see [D, page 95]) implies that $\tilde{f}(t) = \alpha t|\varphi|/\varphi$ for all t in Δ . That proves formula (10.6), which in turn implies that $F(D) = D$. \square

Corollary 1. *Let F be a holomorphic isomorphism of $\text{Teich}(X)$ onto $\text{Teich}(Y)$. Let τ be a point in $\text{Teich}(X)$. Suppose $g: \text{Teich}(X) \rightarrow \text{Teich}(Y)$ is a geometric isomorphism such that $F(\tau) = g(\tau)$ and $F'(\tau) = \alpha g'(\tau)$ for some α in \mathbb{C} . If D is a Teichmüller disk in $\text{Teich}(X)$ and $\tau \in D$, then $F(D)$ is the Teichmüller disk $g(D)$.*

Proof. By composing F with an appropriate geometric isomorphism we may assume that τ is the basepoint of $\text{Teich}(X)$. The map $h = g^{-1} \circ F$ is a holomorphic automorphism of $\text{Teich}(X)$ such that $h(\tau) = \tau$ and $h'(\tau) = \alpha I$. Let D be a Teichmüller disk in $\text{Teich}(X)$ that contains τ . Since τ is the basepoint, Corollary 1 to Lemma 10.1 says that $D = D_\varphi$ for some nonzero φ in $Q(X)$. Therefore $h(D) = D$, by Lemma 10.2. \square

Corollary 2. *Let X be a Riemann surface with the isometry property. Suppose F is a basepoint-preserving holomorphic automorphism of $\text{Teich}(X)$ such that $F'([id]) = \alpha I$ for some α in \mathbb{C} . Let $D = D_\varphi$ be a Teichmüller disk in $\text{Teich}(X)$ containing the basepoint. Then for each fixed t in Δ there is a geometric automorphism g_t of $\text{Teich}(X)$ such that*

$$g_t(D_\varphi) = D_\varphi \text{ and } g_t(\Phi(t|\varphi|/\varphi)) = \Phi(\alpha t|\varphi|/\varphi).$$

Proof. Lemma 10.2 tells us that F maps D onto itself and satisfies (10.6). Fix any t in Δ . Applying Lemma 5.1 to F with $\tau = \Phi(t|\varphi|/\varphi)$, we obtain a geometric automorphism g_t of $\text{Teich}(X)$ such that $F(\tau) = g_t(\tau)$ and $F'(\tau) = \alpha_t g_t'(\tau)$ for some α_t in \mathbb{C} . By Corollary 1, $g_t(D) = F(D) = D$. \square

11. SPECIAL TEICHMÜLLER DISKS AND
THE PROOF OF THE UNIQUENESS THEOREM

Corollary 2 of Lemma 10.2 states a property of Teichmüller disks that we shall formalize in the following

Definition. Let α be a complex number of absolute value one. We say that the Teichmüller disk D_φ in $Teich(X)$ has the αt -property if for each t in Δ there is a geometric automorphism g_t of $Teich(X)$ such that $g_t(D_\varphi) = D_\varphi$ and $g_t(\Phi(t|\varphi|/\varphi)) = \Phi(\alpha t|\varphi|/\varphi)$. Notice that g_t is allowed to vary with t .

Recall that a Riemann surface X is said to have finite analytic type if it is isomorphic to $W \setminus E$, where W is a compact Riemann surface and E is a finite subset of W . If the genus of W is g and the number of points in E is n , we say that X has type (g, n) . Our final main result is

Theorem 7 (the disk theorem). *Let X be any Riemann surface of infinite analytic type. There is a Teichmüller disk D through the basepoint of $Teich(X)$ that has the αt -property only for $\alpha = 1$.*

We shall prove the disk theorem in Sections 12 through 15. In this section we shall use it to prove the uniqueness theorem. Let X be a Riemann surface with the isometry property, and let F be a basepoint-preserving automorphism of $Teich(X)$ such that $F'([id]) = \alpha I$ for some α in \mathbb{C} . We must show that F is the identity.

This result is well known if X has finite analytic type (g, n) . Here is a sketch of the proof. Since X has the isometry property, types $(0, 4)$, $(1, 1)$, and $(1, 2)$ are excluded, and for type $(0, 3)$ there is nothing to prove. For all other types (g, n) we know by Royden's theorem (see Chapter 9 of [G2]) that $F = \rho_f$ for some holomorphic automorphism f of X , and Lemma 4.2 implies that $f^*(\varphi) = \alpha\varphi$ for all φ in $Q(X)$. For each x in X there is φ_x in $Q(X)$ with a zero at x of order at least $3g + n - 4$. If $2g + n > 4$, the equation $f^*(\varphi_x) = \alpha\varphi_x$ implies that f fixes x , so f is the identity and so is F . The only remaining type is $(2, 0)$. In that case X has a hyperelliptic involution h . If x is not a fixed point of h , then φ_x has double zeros at x and $h(x)$ and no other zeros, so f is either the identity or h . In either case F is the identity, as required.

Now suppose X has infinite analytic type. Choose a Teichmüller disk $D = D_\varphi$ through $[id]$ satisfying the conclusion of the disk theorem. Corollary 2 of Lemma 10.2 tells us that D has the αt -property. (We know $|\alpha| = 1$ because $F'([id])$ is an isometry.) Our choice of D implies that $\alpha = 1$ and $F'([id])$ is the identity.

The Bers embedding (see [G2] or [Na]) shows that $Teich(X)$ is holomorphically equivalent to a bounded region in a complex Banach space. Therefore, by the Cartan uniqueness theorem ([H, section 8]), any holomorphic automorphism of $Teich(X)$ is uniquely determined by its one-jet at a single point. We conclude that F is the identity map. This proves the uniqueness theorem, given the disk theorem.

12. PROOF OF THE DISK THEOREM: CASE ONE

In this section X is the unit disk or the punctured unit disk $\Delta \setminus \{0\}$.

Let h be a conformal isomorphism of Δ onto the bounded region

$$U = \Delta \cap \{z \in \mathbb{C}; \operatorname{Re}(z) < 1/2\}.$$

Obviously $\varphi = (dh)^2$ belongs to $QC(X)$. We claim that the Teichmüller disk D_φ does not have the αt -property unless $\alpha = 1$. Our proof will use the group $QC(\varphi)$ defined in Corollary 2 to Lemma 10.1. We also need the group $Aff^+(\mathbb{C})$ of orientation-preserving affine transformations

$$z \mapsto az + b\bar{z} + c, \quad a, b, c \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } |a| > |b|,$$

of \mathbb{C} onto itself.

Lemma 12.1. *For each f in $QC(\varphi)$ the homeomorphism $A_f = h \circ f \circ h^{-1}$ maps U onto itself and belongs to $Aff^+(\mathbb{C})$.*

Proof. Clearly A_f is an orientation-preserving homeomorphism of $h(X)$ onto itself. We must prove that it is the restriction to $h(X)$ of an affine transformation.

Let f belong to $QC(\varphi)$. Then $\mu_f = s\bar{d}h/dh$ for some s in Δ . In addition, since $f^*(\varphi)$ is a scalar multiple of φ , there is a nonzero complex number a such that

$$(12.1) \quad \partial(h \circ f) = a dh.$$

Put $H = ah + sa\bar{h}$. Then $\bar{\partial}H/\partial H = s\bar{d}h/dh = \mu_f$, so $H = h^\sharp \circ f$, for some holomorphic function h^\sharp on Δ .

Now $\partial(h^\sharp \circ f) = \partial H = a dh = \partial(h \circ f)$, by (12.1), so $dh^\sharp = dh$ (since $\partial f \neq 0$ a.e.). Therefore $h = h^\sharp + c$ for some c in \mathbb{C} , and

$$A_f \circ h = h \circ f = H + c = ah + sa\bar{h} + c. \quad \square$$

Lemma 12.2. *If A in $Aff^+(\mathbb{C})$ maps U onto itself, then A is the identity map.*

Proof. Let $\sigma = \exp(\pi i/3)$. Since A is smooth and maps the boundary of U onto itself, it fixes the two-point set $\{\sigma, \bar{\sigma}\}$. Orientation considerations show that it fixes the vertical line through σ and $\bar{\sigma}$ pointwise. The tangent line to S^1 at the point $A(-1)$ is vertical, so $A(-1) = -1$ and A fixes the real axis pointwise. Therefore A is the identity. \square

Now suppose f belongs to $QC(\varphi)$. Lemmas 12.1 and 12.2 imply that $h \circ f \circ h^{-1}$ is the identity map. Therefore f is the identity map, and so is ρ_f . By Corollary 2 to Lemma 10.1, every geometric automorphism of $Teich(X)$ that maps D_φ onto itself equals ρ_f for some f in $QC(\varphi)$. Therefore D_φ does not have the αt -property unless $\alpha = 1$.

This proves the disk theorem for $X = \Delta$ or $\Delta \setminus \{0\}$. The same proof works if $X = \Delta \setminus K$ and K is any compact subset of Δ , but for the purpose of generalization we prefer a proof that does not require the existence of a function like h .

13. PROOF OF THE DISK THEOREM: CASE TWO

In this section X will be the annulus

$$A_R = \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}; 1 < |\zeta| < R\}, \quad 1 < R < \infty.$$

As we shall see in Section 15, the proof given here is also useful in the general case.

Lemma 13.1. *Consider the quadratic differential $\varphi = -(d\zeta/\zeta)^2$ on the annulus A_R . Let $\tau_1 = \Phi(t_1|\varphi|/\varphi)$ and $\tau_2 = \Phi(t_2|\varphi|/\varphi)$ be points in the Teichmüller disk D_φ . If g is a geometric automorphism of $\text{Teich}(A_R)$ such that $g(D_\varphi) = D_\varphi$ and $g(\tau_1) = \tau_2$, then*

$$(13.1) \quad t_2 = \left(\frac{1-\bar{t}}{1-t} \right) \left(\frac{t_1+t}{\bar{t}t_1+1} \right)$$

for some t in Δ such that $|1-t|^2 = 1-|t|^2$.

Proof. We may assume $g = \rho_f$ for some f in $QC(\varphi)$. For each t in Δ let $f_t: A_R \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the quasiconformal homeomorphism

$$(13.2) \quad f_t(\zeta) = |\zeta|^{2t/(1-t)} \zeta = \zeta \exp(2t(1-t)^{-1} \log |\zeta|), \quad \zeta \in A_R.$$

Then $\mu_{f_t} = -t|\varphi|/\varphi$ and $f_t(A_R)$ is the annulus $A_{R(t)}$, where

$$(13.3) \quad R(t) = R^{(1-|t|^2)/|1-t|^2}.$$

Any f in $QC(\varphi)$ has the form $f = h \circ f_t$, where $h: A_{R(t)} \rightarrow A_R$ is an isomorphism. We must therefore have $R(t) = R$, so $|1-t|^2 = 1-|t|^2$ and h is an automorphism of A_R . Therefore $f^*(\varphi) = f_t^*(h^*(\varphi)) = f_t^*(\varphi) = (1-t)^{-2}\varphi$. Since $\mu_f = -t|\varphi|/\varphi$, (13.1) follows from formula (10.5). \square

Corollary. *Let A_R and φ be as above. The Teichmüller disk D_φ does not have the αt -property unless $\alpha = 1$.*

Proof. For any t in Δ the Möbius transformation

$$T_t(z) = \left(\frac{1-\bar{t}}{1-t} \right) \left(\frac{z+t}{\bar{t}z+1} \right)$$

maps Δ onto itself and fixes the point -1 . If $|1-t|^2 = 1-|t|^2$, then $T_t'(-1) = 1$, so T_t is parabolic and maps every horocycle through -1 onto itself. Therefore the points t_1 and t_2 in (13.1) lie on the same horocycle through -1 . If t_1 is on the negative real axis, then $|t_2| > |t_1|$ unless $t = 0$ and $t_2 = t_1$. Therefore D_φ does not have the αt -property unless $\alpha = 1$. \square

This proves the disk theorem for the annulus A_R .

14. JENKINS-STREBEL DIFFERENTIALS

The proof of the disk theorem in the general case is modelled on the proof for the annulus. Our tool for reducing the general case to the annulus is the theory of Jenkins-Strebel differentials. We shall need to consider only Jenkins-Strebel differentials whose regular closed trajectories sweep out one cylinder. We normalize them so that every regular closed trajectory has length 2π .

Definition. Let ℓ be a simple closed curve on the Riemann surface X . We call φ in $Q(X)$ a Jenkins-Strebel differential for ℓ if there exist an annulus A_R and an injective holomorphic map $h: A_R \rightarrow X$ such that $h^*(\varphi) = -(d\zeta/\zeta)^2$, the set $X \setminus h(A_R)$ has measure zero, and the loop $h(\{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}; |\zeta|^2 = R\})$, properly oriented, is freely homotopic to ℓ .

Note that we require Jenkins-Strebel differentials to have finite norm. The general theory in §21 of [S3] implies the existence of a Jenkins-Strebel differential for any simple closed Poincaré geodesic on X . Unless it is isomorphic to Δ or $\Delta \setminus \{0\}$, a Riemann surface of infinite analytic type has such a geodesic. To complete the proof of the disk theorem, it therefore suffices to prove the following lemma.

Lemma 14.1. *Let φ be a Jenkins-Strebel differential for the simple closed curve ℓ on the Riemann surface X . If X has infinite analytic type, then the Teichmüller disk D_φ has the αt -property only for $\alpha = 1$.*

As a first step toward proving Lemma 14.1 we shall prove

Lemma 14.2. *Let φ be a Jenkins-Strebel differential for the simple closed curve ℓ on the Riemann surface X . Let a be a complex number with nonzero imaginary part. If $a^2\varphi$ is a Jenkins-Strebel differential for some simple closed curve on X , then X has finite analytic type.*

Proof. Let $h: A_R \rightarrow X$ be a holomorphic injection such that $h^*(\varphi) = -(d\zeta/\zeta)^2$ and the set $X \setminus h(A_R)$ has measure zero. Choose a horizontal strip S in \mathbb{C} so that $z \mapsto \zeta = \exp(2\pi iz)$ maps S onto A_R . Then $g(z) = h(\exp(2\pi iz))$ maps S onto $h(A_R)$, satisfies $g^*(\varphi) = 4\pi^2(dz)^2$, and has the property that $g(z) = g(z')$ if and only if $z - z'$ is an integer.

If $a^2\varphi$ is also a Jenkins-Strebel differential for some simple loop on X , there exist a horizontal strip S_a and a holomorphic map $g_a: S_a \rightarrow X$ with similar properties: the set $X \setminus g_a(S_a)$ has measure zero, $g_a(w) = g_a(w')$ if and only if $w - w'$ is an integer, and $g_a^*(a^2\varphi) = 4\pi^2(dw)^2$.

If ε and b are constants such that $\varepsilon = \pm 1$, we define $f_{\varepsilon,b}: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $f_{\varepsilon,b}(z) = \varepsilon az + b$. Almost every point in S has a connected neighborhood U on which there is a holomorphic map $f: U \rightarrow S_a$ with $g = g_a \circ f$ in U . Since $f^*((dw)^2) = a^2(dz)^2$, we must have $f = f_{\varepsilon,b}$ in U for some $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ and b . Therefore

$$(14.1) \quad g = g_a \circ f_{\varepsilon,b}$$

in U , and U is a subset of

$$V = V(\varepsilon, b) = \{z \in S; f_{\varepsilon,b}(z) \in S_a\}.$$

Since a is not real, V is (the interior of) a parallelogram with an edge on each boundary line of S . These horizontal edges, except for their endpoints, are mapped into S_a by $f_{\varepsilon,b}$ and correspond to points of X . The other two edges of V lie on level lines of $z \mapsto \text{Im}(az)$. By analytic continuation, (14.1) holds everywhere in $V(\varepsilon, b)$.

If $z + 1$ belongs to $V(\varepsilon, b)$, then

$$g(z) = g(z + 1) = g_a(f_{\varepsilon,b}(z + 1)) = g_a(f_{\varepsilon,\varepsilon a + b}(z)),$$

and that equation holds throughout $V(\varepsilon, \varepsilon a + b)$, which is the image of $V(\varepsilon, b)$ under translation to the left by one.

We have seen that the collection of parallelograms $V(\varepsilon, b)$ in which (14.1) holds is invariant under translation by one and covers almost all of S . It is easy to verify that all these parallelograms are congruent. We claim that no two of them overlap. Suppose that $W = V(\varepsilon, b) \cap V(\varepsilon', b')$ is not empty and that $g = g_a \circ f_{\varepsilon,b} = g_a \circ f_{\varepsilon',b'}$ in W . Then the function $f_{\varepsilon,b} - f_{\varepsilon',b'}$ is integer valued on W , so $\varepsilon = \varepsilon'$, $b - b'$ is an integer, and $V(\varepsilon, b) = V(\varepsilon', b')$, as we claimed. Therefore the parallelograms $V(\varepsilon, b)$ in which (14.1) holds pave S . Similarly, their images $f_{\varepsilon,b}(V(\varepsilon, b))$, together with the translates of these images by the integers, pave S_a .

Because of the translation invariance there is a positive integer n such that each $V(\varepsilon, b)$ has width $1/n$. Choosing n adjacent parallelograms and identifying pairwise the edges corresponding to the same points in X we obtain a compact Riemann surface \widehat{X} . Either $X = \widehat{X}$ or else we obtain X by puncturing \widehat{X} at some vertices of the parallelograms. In either case, X has finite analytic type. \square

Corollary. *Suppose X has infinite analytic type. If both φ and $a^2\varphi$ are Jenkins-Strebel differentials for simple loops on X , then $a^2 = 1$.*

Proof. Lemma 14.2 tells us that a is real. Define $g: S \rightarrow X$, $g_a: S_a \rightarrow X$, $f_{\varepsilon, b}$, and $V(\varepsilon, b)$ as in the proof of Lemma 14.2. Again (14.1) holds in some $V(\varepsilon, b)$. This time, since a is real, $V(\varepsilon, b)$ is a horizontal strip. If z belongs to $V(\varepsilon, b)$, (14.1) gives

$$g_a(\varepsilon az + b) = g(z) = g(z + \varepsilon) = g_a(\varepsilon a(z + \varepsilon) + b) = g_a(\varepsilon az + b + a).$$

Therefore a is an integer. Similarly, $1/a$ is an integer, since

$$g(z + (1/a)) = g_a(\varepsilon az + \varepsilon + b) = g_a(\varepsilon az + b) = g(z). \quad \square$$

15. PROOF OF LEMMA 14.1

Let φ be the Jenkins-Strebel differential for some simple loop ℓ on X . We learned the following description of the Teichmüller disk D_φ from Marden and Masur, who used it for surfaces of finite analytic type (see [MM]). Choose an annulus A_R and an injective holomorphic map $h: A_R \rightarrow X$ such that $h^*(\varphi) = -(d\zeta/\zeta)^2$ and the set $X \setminus h(A_R)$ has measure zero. The Riemann surface X and the Jenkins-Strebel differential φ can be reconstructed from A_R by adjoining to A_R the boundary arcs that correspond to horizontal trajectories of φ and identifying with each other the points of these arcs that correspond to the same point on X . In fact the identification space \widehat{X} carries a unique Riemann surface structure such that the inclusion of A_R in \widehat{X} is a holomorphic map and the quadratic differential $-(d\zeta/\zeta)^2$ on A_R extends to a Jenkins-Strebel differential for the simple loop $\{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}; |\zeta|^2 = R\}$ on \widehat{X} . We may assume that $X = \widehat{X}$ and that the restriction of φ to A_R is $-(d\zeta/\zeta)^2$.

For each t in Δ let $f_t: A_R \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the quasiconformal homeomorphism defined by (13.2) and let $R(t)$ be defined by (13.3). We know that f_t maps A_R onto $A_{R(t)}$. In addition, f_t maps the boundary circles of A_R homeomorphically onto the boundary circles of $A_{R(t)}$, preserving the angular measures of the arcs on the boundary. We can therefore construct an identification space \widehat{X}_t with a Riemann surface structure, a Jenkins-Strebel differential φ_t on \widehat{X}_t , and a Teichmüller map \hat{f}_t of X onto \widehat{X}_t such that the restriction of φ_t to $A_{R(t)}$ is $-(d\zeta/\zeta)^2$ and the restriction of \hat{f}_t to A_R is f_t . Computation in A_R shows that $\mu_{\hat{f}_t} = -t|\varphi|/\varphi$ and $\hat{f}_t^*(\varphi_t) = (1-t)^{-2}\varphi$.

As usual, to understand the geometric automorphisms of $Teich(X)$ that map D_φ onto itself we must study the group $QC(\varphi)$. Let f belong to that group. Then $f(X) = X$ and $\mu_f = -t|\varphi|/\varphi$ for some t in Δ . Therefore $f = g \circ \hat{f}_t$, where g is an isomorphism of \widehat{X}_t onto X . In addition, there is a constant c such that

$$(15.1) \quad c\varphi = f^*(\varphi) = \hat{f}_t^*(g^*(\varphi)).$$

Since $\hat{f}_t^*(c(1-t)^2\varphi_t)$ also equals $c\varphi$, we must have $g^*(\varphi) = c(1-t)^2\varphi_t$.

Now φ_t and $g^*(\varphi)$ are Jenkins-Strebel differentials on \widehat{X}_t , for the respective simple loops $\{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}; |\zeta|^2 = R(t)\}$ and $g^{-1}(\{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}; |\zeta|^2 = R\})$. Since \widehat{X}_t is quasiconformally equivalent to X , it has infinite analytic type. Therefore, by the corollary

of Lemma 14.2, $g^*(\varphi) = \varphi_t$ and $c = (1-t)^{-2}$. This formula for c reduces (15.1) to $f^*(\varphi) = (1-t)^{-2}\varphi$. In addition, since g^* is an isometry,

$$\iint_{A_R} |\zeta|^{-2} d\xi d\eta = \|\varphi\| = \|\varphi_t\| = \iint_{A_{R(t)}} |\zeta|^{-2} d\xi d\eta,$$

so $R(t) = R$ and $|1-t|^2 = 1-|t|^2$. We have proved that for any f in $QC(\varphi)$ there is t in Δ satisfying

$$(15.2) \quad \mu_f = -t|\varphi|/\varphi, \quad f^*(\varphi) = (1-t)^{-2}\varphi, \quad \text{and} \quad |1-t|^2 = 1-|t|^2.$$

Now let $\tau_1 = \Phi(t_1|\varphi|/\varphi)$ and $\tau_2 = \Phi(t_2|\varphi|/\varphi)$ be points in the Teichmüller disk D_φ . Suppose f in $QC(\varphi)$ satisfies $\rho_f(\tau_1) = \tau_2$. Choose t in Δ so that (15.2) holds. As in the proof of Lemma 13.1, formula (10.5) implies that t_1 and t_2 satisfy (13.1). Since $|1-t|^2 = 1-|t|^2$, the proof of the corollary of Lemma 13.1 shows that D_φ does not have the αt -property unless $\alpha = 1$. \square

As we observed in §14, the proof of Lemma 14.1 completes the proof of the disk theorem. The uniqueness and automorphism theorems follow.

16. RIEMANN SURFACES OF FINITE TOPOLOGICAL TYPE

It remains to prove the isometry, classification, and isomorphism theorems. The crucial step is to prove the isometry theorem. Our proof, like the proof of Theorem 2.1 in [Ko], follows the strategy of Section 7.5 in Rudin's book [Ru1]. In order to adapt that strategy to our situation we need some technical facts about Riemann surfaces of finite topological type, which we shall state and prove in this section.

First we recall (see [FK] or [G2]) that if X has finite topological type there is a compact bordered Riemann surface $\overline{X^*}$ with interior X^* and (possibly empty) border B such that X is conformally equivalent to $X^* \setminus E$ for some finite subset E of X^* . We shall identify X with $X^* \setminus E$. Then X^* and X have the same border $B = \overline{X^*} \setminus X^*$. The analytic type of X is finite if and only if B is empty. A Riemann surface has finite analytic type if and only if its space of integrable quadratic differentials has finite dimension. (See [Kr, pages 324-335] for a careful proof of this fact.) The hypotheses of the isometry theorem guarantee that the dimension of $Q(X)$ is infinite and equals the dimension of $Q(Y)$. Therefore Y , like X , has nonempty border.

Lemma 16.1. *Let U be a nonempty open set in the compact Riemann surface W , and let D be any divisor on W whose support lies in $W \setminus U$. There is a meromorphic function f on W such that D minus the divisor of f is supported in U .*

Proof. This well known fact follows trivially from Exercise 21.1 at the end of §21 in [F]. \square

Lemma 16.2. *Let Y be a Riemann surface with finite topological type and with nonempty border B . Let \hat{Y} be the double of Y . There is a subregion W of \hat{Y} such that $Y \cup B \subset W$ and the restriction map carries $Q(W)$ onto a dense subspace of $Q(Y)$.*

Proof. Let $\pi: \Delta \rightarrow Y$ be a holomorphic covering map. The group of covering transformations is a finitely generated Fuchsian group Γ of the second kind. The

limit set $L(\Gamma)$ is a closed nowhere dense subset of S^1 , and π extends to a holomorphic covering map $\widehat{\pi}: \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus L(\Gamma) \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$. The border B of Y is the boundary of Y in \widehat{Y} and consists of $n \geq 1$ disjoint analytic simple closed curves. The inverse image of B under $\widehat{\pi}$ is $S^1 \setminus L(\Gamma)$.

Choose a subregion W of \widehat{Y} with the following four properties: (i) $Y \cup B \subset W$, (ii) the boundary ∂W consists of n disjoint analytic simple closed curves in \widehat{Y} , (iii) the set $(W \cup \partial W) \setminus Y$ consists of n disjoint closed annuli, each of which is bounded by one component of B and one component of ∂W , and (iv) $\Omega = \widehat{\pi}^{-1}(W)$ is a bounded simply connected region in \mathbb{C} . (It is possible to do this so that Ω is a Jordan region whose boundary is the union of $L(\Gamma)$ and a collection of circular arcs whose endpoints belong to $L(\Gamma)$. See [EM] and [Kn].)

The map $\widehat{\pi}: \Omega \rightarrow W$ induces an injective pull-back map $\widehat{\pi}^*$, which carries holomorphic quadratic differentials on W to holomorphic quadratic differentials on Ω . We denote the image $\widehat{\pi}^*(Q(W))$ by $Q(\Omega, \Gamma)$, and we norm $Q(\Omega, \Gamma)$ so that $\widehat{\pi}^*: Q(W) \rightarrow Q(\Omega, \Gamma)$ is an invertible isometry. Similarly we put $Q(\Delta, \Gamma)$ equal to $\pi^*(Q(Y))$, normed so that π^* maps $Q(Y)$ isometrically onto $Q(\Delta, \Gamma)$. We want to prove that the restriction map carries $Q(\Omega, \Gamma)$ onto a dense subspace of $Q(\Delta, \Gamma)$.

According to Theorem 2 of [B], the Poincaré series operator

$$\Theta(\varphi) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma^*(\varphi)$$

defines bounded linear maps of $Q(\Omega)$ and $Q(\Delta)$ onto $Q(\Omega, \Gamma)$ and $Q(\Delta, \Gamma)$ respectively. The quadratic differentials $P(z)dz^2$, $P(z)$ a polynomial, are dense in $Q(\Delta)$ (see for example [SW]) and belong to $Q(\Omega)$ because Ω is bounded. Therefore the quadratic differentials $\Theta(P(z)dz^2)$, $P(z)$ a polynomial, belong to $Q(\Omega, \Gamma)$ and restrict to a dense subspace of $Q(\Delta, \Gamma)$. \square

Definition. Let W be any Riemann surface. We denote by $H^\infty(W)$ the complex Banach algebra of bounded holomorphic functions on W , with the sup norm.

Lemma 16.3. *Let Y be as in Lemma 16.2. There is a quadratic differential φ_0 in $Q(Y)$ such that the set $\{f\varphi_0; f \in H^\infty(Y)\}$ is dense in $Q(Y)$.*

Proof. Let $\overline{Y^*}$ be a compact bordered Riemann surface with interior Y^* such that Y is the complement of a finite subset of Y^* . The double of Y is therefore the complement of a finite subset of the double $\widehat{Y^*}$ of Y^* .

Choose a nontrivial meromorphic differential ψ on $\widehat{Y^*}$. Applying Lemma 16.1 with $W = \widehat{Y^*}$ and U the complement of $\overline{Y^*}$, choose a meromorphic function f_0 on $\widehat{Y^*}$ so that the meromorphic quadratic differential $f_0\psi$ has a simple pole at each point of $Y^* \setminus Y$ and no other zeros or poles in $\overline{Y^*}$. Let φ_0 be the restriction of $f_0\psi$ to Y . Clearly $f\varphi_0$ belongs to $Q(Y)$ for every f in $H^\infty(Y)$. We claim that the set $\{f\varphi_0; f \in H^\infty(Y)\}$ is dense in $Q(Y)$. In view of Lemma 16.2, it suffices to prove that $f = \varphi/\varphi_0$ belongs to $H^\infty(Y)$ whenever φ is the restriction to Y of some $\tilde{\varphi}$ in $Q(W)$ and W is a subregion of $\widehat{Y^*}$ that contains $Y \cup B$. That is easy. The integrability of φ implies that f has a removable singularity at each point of $Y^* \setminus Y$, and $\tilde{\varphi}/\varphi_0$ provides a continuous extension of f to the compact set $\overline{Y^*}$. \square

17. A LEMMA ABOUT BOUNDED HOLOMORPHIC FUNCTIONS

If X and Y are Riemann surfaces, every holomorphic map $h: X \rightarrow Y$ induces a multiplicative \mathbb{C} -linear map $h^*: H^\infty(Y) \rightarrow H^\infty(X)$ given by $h^*(f) = f \circ h$ if $f \in H^\infty(Y)$. We need a converse result, which extends Theorem 6.6.5 of [Ru1] to the setting of compact bordered Riemann surfaces. If Y is the interior of a compact bordered Riemann surface \bar{Y} with nonempty border, we denote by $A(Y)$ the closed subalgebra of $H^\infty(Y)$ consisting of the functions with continuous extensions to \bar{Y} .

Lemma 17.1. *Let X and Y be the interiors of the compact bordered Riemann surfaces \bar{X} and \bar{Y} . Let $L: H^\infty(Y) \rightarrow H^\infty(X)$ be a multiplicative complex linear map. Assume that there is at least one f in $A(Y)$ such that the function $L(f)$ is not constant. Then there is a nonconstant holomorphic map $h: X \rightarrow Y$ such that $L(f) = h^*(f)$ for all f in $H^\infty(Y)$.*

Proof. We follow the proof of Theorem 6.6.5 in [Ru1] almost verbatim. Since L is multiplicative and is not the zero map, $L(1) = 1$. Therefore, if $p \in X$, the map $f \mapsto L(f)(p)$ is a homomorphism of $A(Y)$ onto \mathbb{C} . By Theorems 5.3 and 5.4 of [A], there is a unique point $h(p)$ in \bar{Y} such that $L(f)(p) = f(h(p))$ for all f in $A(Y)$.

Choosing f so that $L(f)$ is not constant we see that the map $h: X \rightarrow \bar{Y}$ is not constant. Let \hat{Y} be the double of Y . We claim that h is holomorphic, viewed as a map of X into \hat{Y} . To verify this claim, choose any p in X . Using Lemma 16.1, choose a meromorphic function f on \hat{Y} with a simple zero at $h(p)$ and no other zeros or poles in \bar{Y} . Then $f \in A(Y)$. In addition there exist a positive number ϵ and an open neighborhood V of $h(p)$ in \hat{Y} such that f maps V homeomorphically onto $B(0, \epsilon) = \{z \in \mathbb{C}; |z| < \epsilon\}$ and $|f| \geq \epsilon$ in $\bar{Y} \setminus V$. Now $f \circ h = L(f)$ in X , so h coincides with the holomorphic map $(f|_V)^{-1} \circ L(f)$ in the open neighborhood $L(f)^{-1}(B(0, \epsilon))$ of p . Therefore h is holomorphic at p . That proves our claim. Since h is a nonconstant holomorphic map its image is open in \hat{Y} , so $h(X) \subset Y$.

Now choose any g in $H^\infty(Y)$ and p in X . Let f be the function chosen in the previous paragraph and observe that the function $\hat{g} = [g - g(h(p))]/f$ belongs to $H^\infty(Y)$. Now

$$L(g) - g(h(p)) = L(f\hat{g}) = L(f)L(\hat{g}) = (f \circ h)L(\hat{g}).$$

Evaluation at p shows that $L(g)(p) - g(h(p)) = 0$, so $L(g) = g \circ h = h^*(g)$. \square

18. PROOF OF THE ISOMETRY THEOREM

Our proof will proceed by adapting the reasoning in Section 7.5 of [Ru1] to the Riemann surface setting. Let \bar{X}^* and \bar{Y}^* be compact bordered Riemann surfaces with interiors X^* and Y^* such that X and Y are subsets of X^* and Y^* with finite complements.

Using Lemma 16.3, choose φ_0 in $Q(Y)$ so that the set $\{f\varphi_0; f \in H^\infty(Y)\}$ is dense in $Q(Y)$. Put $\psi_0 = S(\varphi_0)$. Since φ_0 has positive norm, the norm of ψ_0 is also positive. Put

$$L(f) = \frac{S(f\varphi_0)}{\psi_0} \quad \text{for all } f \in H^\infty(Y^*).$$

Clearly $L(f)$ is well-defined as a meromorphic function on X^* , and the map $f \mapsto L(f)$ is complex linear. Moreover, $L(1) = 1$ and, since S is an isometry,

$$\iint_{X^*} |L(f)| |\psi_0| = \iint_{Y^*} |f| |\varphi_0|$$

for all f in $H^\infty(Y^*)$. Applying Theorem 7.5.3 in [Ru1] we conclude that the map L is multiplicative and that $\|L(f)\|_\infty = \|f\|_\infty$ for all f in $H^\infty(Y^*)$. The meromorphic function $L(f)$ therefore has no poles and belongs to $H^\infty(X^*)$.

If $L(f)$ is constant for every f in $A(Y^*)$, then $S(f\varphi_0)$ is a constant multiple of ψ_0 for every f in $A(Y^*)$. That is impossible because S is injective and $A(Y^*)$ contains nonconstant functions (by Lemma 16.1). The map L therefore satisfies the hypotheses of Lemma 17.1, so there is a nonconstant holomorphic map $h: X^* \rightarrow Y^*$ such that $L(f) = h^*(f)$ for all f in $H^\infty(Y^*)$. Therefore

$$(18.1) \quad S(f\varphi_0) = h^*(f)\psi_0 \quad \text{for all } f \in H^\infty(Y^*).$$

Reversing the roles of S and S^{-1} and of φ_0 and ψ_0 , and repeating the reasoning above, we obtain a nonconstant holomorphic map $\tilde{h}: Y^* \rightarrow X^*$ such that

$$(18.2) \quad S^{-1}(\tilde{f}\psi_0) = \tilde{h}^*(\tilde{f})\varphi_0 \quad \text{for all } \tilde{f} \in H^\infty(X^*).$$

Applying S to both sides of (18.2) and using (18.1), we find that

$$\tilde{f}\psi_0 = S(\tilde{h}^*(\tilde{f})\varphi_0) = h^*(\tilde{h}^*(\tilde{f}))\psi_0$$

for all \tilde{f} in $H^\infty(X^*)$. Therefore

$$\tilde{f}(p) = h^*(\tilde{h}^*(\tilde{f}))(p) = \tilde{f}(\tilde{h}(h(p))) \quad \text{for all } \tilde{f} \in H^\infty(X^*) \text{ and } p \in X^*.$$

Fixing p and choosing \tilde{f} to have a zero at p and no other zeros in X^* we conclude that $\tilde{h} \circ h$ is the identity map on X^* . A similar argument, which begins by applying S^{-1} to both sides of (18.1), shows that $h \circ \tilde{h}$ is the identity on Y^* . Therefore h and \tilde{h} are inverse holomorphic isomorphisms.

Put $T(\varphi) = \tilde{h}^*(S(\varphi))$ for all φ in $Q(Y)$. Then T is a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry of $Q(Y)$ onto $Q(Y')$, where $Y' = h(X) \subset Y^*$. If $f \in H^\infty(Y^*)$, (18.1) gives

$$(18.3) \quad T(f\varphi_0) = \tilde{h}^*(S(f\varphi_0)) = \tilde{h}^*(h^*(f)\psi_0) = f\tilde{h}^*(\psi_0) = fT(\varphi_0).$$

Since T is an isometry,

$$\iint_{Y^*} |f| |T(\varphi_0)| = \iint_{Y^*} |f| |\varphi_0|$$

for all f in $H^\infty(Y^*)$. Theorem 7.5.3 in [Ru1] therefore implies that

$$\iint_{Y^*} f\bar{g}|T(\varphi_0)| = \iint_{Y^*} f\bar{g}|\varphi_0|$$

for all f and g in $H^\infty(Y^*)$. The Stone-Weierstrass theorem implies that the linear space spanned by the functions $f\bar{g}$, f and g in $A(Y^*)$, is a dense subalgebra of the space of continuous functions on \bar{Y}^* . Therefore $|T(\varphi_0)| = |\varphi_0|$ in Y^* and the meromorphic function $T(\varphi_0)/\varphi_0$ on Y^* is a constant α of absolute value one.

We conclude from (18.3) that $T(f\varphi_0) = \alpha f\varphi_0$ for all f in $H^\infty(Y^*)$. Since the set of these $f\varphi_0$ is dense in $Q(Y)$, it follows that T equals α times the identity on $Q(Y)$. Therefore

$$(18.4) \quad S(\varphi) = h^*(T(\varphi)) = \alpha h^*(\varphi) \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in Q(Y).$$

It remains only to prove that $h(X) = Y$ or, equivalently, that $h(X^* \setminus X) = Y^* \setminus Y$. This follows immediately from formula (18.4), for $X^* \setminus X$ is the set of points at which some ψ in $Q(X)$ has a pole, and $Y^* \setminus Y$ is the set of points at which some φ in $Q(Y)$ has a pole. \square

19. PROOF OF THE CLASSIFICATION THEOREM

Let the Riemann surfaces X and Y have finite topological type, and suppose the border of X is nonempty. Suppose there is a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry L of the tangent space to $Teich(X)$ at $[f: X \rightarrow V]$ onto the tangent space to $Teich(Y)$ at $[g: Y \rightarrow W]$. Let $\rho_f: Teich(X) \rightarrow Teich(V)$ and $\rho_g: Teich(Y) \rightarrow Teich(W)$ be the geometric isomorphisms induced by f and g . Then $\rho_g' [g] \circ L \circ \rho_f' [f]^{-1}$ is a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry of the tangent space to $Teich(V)$ at $[id]$ onto the tangent space to $Teich(W)$ at $[id]$. Identifying these tangent spaces with $Q^*(V)$ and $Q^*(W)$ as in Sections 3 and 4, we obtain a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry T of $Q^*(V)$ onto $Q^*(W)$. The adjointness theorem gives us a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry S of $Q(W)$ onto $Q(V)$ such that $S^* = T$. Since V and W are quasiconformally equivalent to X and Y , they have finite topological type and V has nonempty border. Since $Q(W)$ and $Q(V)$ are isometric, the border of W is also nonempty and the isometry theorem gives us a holomorphic isomorphism h of V onto W and a complex number α such that $S(\varphi) = \alpha h^*(\varphi)$ for all φ in $Q(W)$. The required quasiconformal homeomorphism of X onto Y is $g^{-1} \circ h \circ f$. \square

20. PROOF OF THE ISOMORPHISM THEOREM

Suppose the Riemann surfaces X and Y have finite topological type and the border of X is nonempty. Let F be a holomorphic isomorphism of $Teich(X)$ onto $Teich(Y)$. Since $F'([id])$ is a \mathbb{C} -linear isometry from the tangent space to $Teich(X)$ at $[id]$ onto the tangent space to $Teich(Y)$ at $F([id])$, the classification theorem gives us a quasiconformal homeomorphism f of X onto Y . The isometry theorem implies that X has the isometry property, so the automorphism theorem guarantees that the automorphism $F^{-1} \circ \rho_f$ of $Teich(X)$ is geometric. Therefore F is geometric. \square

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