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# On Some Open Problems in the Theory of Quasiconformal Mappings II (Area Distortion under Quasiconformal Mappings)

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岡部 勝幸：疑等角写像の理論におけるいくつかの未解決の問題についてII  
(疑等角写像による測度の歪みについて)

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## Abstract

Let  $f$  be a plane  $K$ -quasiconformal mapping of the unit disc  $U$  onto itself, normalized by  $f(0)=0$ , and  $m$  be the 2-dimensional Lebesgue measure. Gehring and Reich [12] showed that there exist a constant  $a$  and a function  $b(K)$ , where  $1 \leq a \leq 40$ ,  $b(K) > 0$  and  $b(K) = 1 + o(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ , such that

$$\frac{m(f(E))}{\pi} \leq b(K) \left( \frac{m(E)}{\pi} \right)^{K-a}$$

for each measurable set  $E \subseteq U$ . They also conjectured that the above theorem holds with  $a=1$ . However, unfortunately they could not prove it in [12]. After that, this problem was posed by Gehring at the Romanian-Finnish Seminar on Teichmüller spaces and quasiconformal mappings. (See [13].) As far as the author knows, this problem is still open. In this paper, we shall give an answer to this problem.

## 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, by  $K$ -quasiconformality we mean  $K$ -quasiconformality according to Gehring's analytic definition.

The relations among the definitions of  $K$ -quasiconformality are given in Caraman's paper [5] and book [6], and the notations and terminology which are used in this paper are given in [6], [18], [20] and [27]. It is well known that q. c. mappings preserve sets of measure zero. "In connection with deeper studies of the degree of regularity of q. c. mappings, it is of interest to investigate to what extent one can say that  $m(f(E))$  is small whenever  $m(E)$  is small".

— Gehring and Reich [12]. We shall enumerate some previous works on this problem. Using a theorem on  $L^p$ -integrability of the derivatives of q. c. mappings, Bojarski established the following theorem on absolute continuity with respect to the area measure. There exist a pair of functions of  $K$ ,  $a(K) > 0$  and  $b(K)$ , such that if  $f$  is a  $K$ -q. c. mapping of the unit disc  $U$  onto itself with  $f(0) = 0$ , then

$$\frac{m(f(E))}{\pi} \leq b(K) \left( \frac{m(E)}{\pi} \right)^{a(K)}$$

for each measurable set  $E \subseteq U$ . (See Ahlfors [2] and Lehto-Virtanen [20].) Successively Lehto [19] studied the integrability question for q. c. mappings. His results imply that  $a(K) = K^{-a}$  and  $a$  is a constant,  $a > 1$ . For general  $n$ , a similar result has been given by Gehring [11]. Furthermore, Gehring and Reich [12] showed that  $1 \leq a \leq 40$ ,  $b(K) > 0$  and  $b(K) = 1 + o(K - 1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ . Their proof consists of using the parametric representation for a q. c. mapping and the two dimensional Hilbert transformations. Using a similar method as in [12], Reich [24] proved that  $1 \leq a \leq 20$ . (It was reported that  $1 \leq a \leq 17$ , because of a computational error. See Introduction of [16].) On the other hand, similar results for a hyperbolic area have been given by Gehring [10] and Kelingos [16]. If we restrict ourselves to the case when  $n = 2$ , then  $a(K) = 1/K$  is an immediate consequence of Theorem 2 [22, p. 68] and the results due to Lohto [19]. However, for higher dimensions the corresponding results to Lehto's have been unknown and moreover, this method does not give much information about the function  $b(K)$ . Thus the above method can not be used. In the present paper we shall give an answer to this problem, and its proof is based mainly on the Hölder continuity of q. c. mappings.

## 2. The Grötzsh and the Teichmüller rings

2. 1 By a ring  $A$  is meant a domain in euclidean  $n$ -space  $R^n$  whose complement consists of two components  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ , where  $C_0$  is bounded. For each  $0 < r < 1$ , the Grötzsh ring  $A_G(r)$  is the ring whose complementary components are  $C_0 = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : 0 \leq x_1 \leq r, x_j = 0, 2 \leq j \leq n\}$  and  $C_1 = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : \sum_{j=1}^n x_j^2 \leq 1\}$ . Similarly for each  $r > 0$ , the Teichmüller ring  $A_T(r)$  is the ring whose complementary components are  $C_0 = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : -1 \leq x_1 \leq 0, x_j = 0, 2 \leq j \leq n\}$  and  $C_1 = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_1 \geq r, x_j = 0, 2 \leq j \leq n\}$ . It is known that the modules of these rings have the following properties. If, following Teichmüller, we set  $\text{mod } A_G(r) = \log \Phi(r)$  and  $\text{mod } A_T(r) = \log \Psi(r)$ , then

$$(2. 1) \quad \Psi(r) = \Phi[1/(1+r)^{1/2}]^2$$

Moreover  $r\Phi(r)$  is non-increasing in  $(0, 1)$  and there exist constants  $\lambda_n$  such that

$$(2. 2) \quad 1 < r\Phi(r) < \lambda_n \text{ for } 0 < r < 1$$

and

$$(2. 3) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} r\Phi(r) = \lambda_n.$$

Unfortunately the values of the constants  $\lambda_n$  are unknown except when  $n = 2$ , in which case  $\lambda_2 = 4$ . In a recent paper [3], Anderson showed that  $4 \leq \lambda_n \leq e^n$  (cf. [5], [8] and [10]) and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_n^{1/n} = e$ .

2. 2 Following Hersh and Pfluger, we set  $\mu(r) = \log \Phi(r)$  and  $\varphi_K(r) = \mu^{-1}(\mu(r)/K)$  for  $K > 1$ . It is then easy to see that the functions  $\mu(r)$  and  $\varphi_K(r)$  have the same properties as in the case when  $n=2$ . Here we obtain, by (2. 1), (2. 2) and (2. 3),

$$(2. 4) \quad \varphi_K(r) < \lambda_n^{1-1/K} r^{1/K}$$

and

$$(2. 5) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \varphi_K(r)/r^{1/K} = \lambda_n^{1-1/K}.$$

Now suppose that  $f$  is a  $K$ -q. c. mapping of the unit ball  $B(0, 1)$  into itself, normalized by  $f(0)=0$ . Then (2. 4) and (2. 5) imply that

$$(2. 6) \quad |f(x)| \leq \varphi_K(|x|)$$

and

$$(2. 7) \quad \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(x)|}{|x|^{1/K}} \leq \lambda_n^{1-1/K}.$$

2. 3 Next suppose that  $A$  is a ring whose complementary components  $C_0 = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : |x| \leq x_1 \leq 1/|x|, x_j = 0, 2 \leq j \leq n, 0 < |x| < 1\}$  and  $C_1 = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_1 \leq 0, x_j = 0, 2 \leq j \leq n\}$ , and that  $f$  is a  $K$ -q. c. mapping of the unit ball onto itself, normalized by  $f(0)=0$ . Since  $f$  can be extended to a  $K$ -q. c. mapping of the whole space onto itself by means of the reflection principle (Theorem 2 [6, p. 381]), we have  $(\text{mod } A)/K \leq \text{mod } f(A)$ . By using a suitable Möbius transformation, we obtain  $\text{mod } A = \text{mod } A_T(|x|^2/(1-|x|^2)) = \mu((1-|x|^2)^{1/2})$ . Furthermore, by means of the spherical symmetrization of  $f(A)$  (cf. [7]), we have  $\text{mod } f(A) \leq \mu((1-|f(x)|^2)^{1/2})$ . we thus conclude that

$$(2. 8) \quad \frac{1-|f(x)|^2}{(1-|x|^2)^{1/K}} \leq \lambda_n^{2(1-1/K)}.$$

- Remarks.** (1) A similar result to (2. 6) has been given by Väisälä [26, Theorem 8. 3].  
 (2) If  $K=1$  and  $n=2$ , then the formula (2. 7) reduces to Schwarz's lemma. Other formulas of the Schwarz type have been given by Ikoma [14] and Kiernan [17].  
 (3) (2. 8) is an  $n$ -dimensional version of a result in [18, p. 116].

### 3. Distortion of euclidean distance under quasiconformal mappings of a ball

We consider  $n$ -dimensional  $K$ -q. c. mappings of the unit ball  $B$  onto itself, normalized by  $f(0)=0$ . If we set

$$(3. 1) \quad C(K) = \sup \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|^{1/K}},$$

where the supremum is taken over all pairs of points  $x, y, x \neq y$  with  $|x| \leq 1, |y| \leq 1$  and all  $K$ -q. c. mappings, then it is well known that there exists a constant  $C$  such that  $1 \leq C(K) \leq C$ . We can take  $C=16$  for  $n=2$  and  $C=4\lambda_n^2$  for general  $n$ . These facts can be found, for instance, in the

papers of Ahlfors [1], Callender [4], Gehring [8], Mori [21] and rešentyark [25]. Now we wish to show that  $C(K)=1+0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ . Later we will use it to make an estimation of  $b(K)$ . For this purpose we need the following theorem.

**Theorem 3. 1.** Let  $f$  be a  $K$ -quasiconformal mapping of the unit ball onto itself, normalized by  $f(0)=0$ . Then

$$(3. 2) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{L(x, f, r)}{r^{1/K}} \leq \lambda_h^{1-1/K} \frac{(1-|f(x)|^2)}{(1-|x|^2)^{1/K}}$$

where  $L(x, f, r) = \max_{|x-y|=r} |f(x) - f(y)|$ .

**Proof.** In order to estimate the distance between the images of two given points  $x_1, x_2$ , we first carry  $x_1$  and  $f(x_1)$  onto the origin by the Möbius transformations  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ ,

$$g_1(x) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{|x_1|}\right) \frac{x - \frac{x_1}{|x_1|^2}}{\left|x - \frac{x_1}{|x_1|^2}\right|^2} - \frac{x_1}{|x_1|^2}$$

and

$$g_2(x) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{|f(x_1)|^2}\right) \frac{x - \frac{f(x_1)}{|f(x_1)|^2}}{\left|x - \frac{f(x_1)}{|f(x_1)|^2}\right|^2} - \frac{f(x_1)}{|f(x_1)|^2}$$

The composition  $h = g_2 \circ f \circ g_1^{-1}$  then maps the unit ball  $B$  onto with the origin left in variant (2. 6) and (2. 7) this yield the following result. For every pair of point  $x_1, x_2$ , we have

$$\frac{|f(x_1) - f(x_2)|}{|x_1 - x_2|^{1/K}} \leq \lambda_h^{1-1/K} \frac{|f(x_1)| \left| f(x_2) - \frac{f(x_1)}{|f(x_1)|^2} \right|}{\left\{ |x_1| \left| x_2 - \frac{x_1}{|x_1|^2} \right| \right\}^{1/K}}$$

Next we set  $x_1 = x, x_2 = y$ , and we obtain (3. 2) by letting  $y \rightarrow x$ . Thus the proof is complete.

Now we shall prove that  $C(K)=1+0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ . Though this seems clear at a glance, it is not very evident to the author. As far as the author knows, this has not been stated certainly.

**Lemma 3. 2.**  $C(K)=1+0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ .

**Proof.** For every pair of points  $x, y, x \neq y$  with  $|x| \leq 1, |y| \leq 1$ , we set

$$C(K, x, y) = \sup \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|^{1/K}}$$

where the supremum is taken over all  $K$ -q. c. mappings. It is easy to see that  $C(K, x, y) > 1$ . By the theory of the normal family, there exists a  $K$ -q. c. mapping  $f_0$  such that

$C(K, x, y) = \frac{|f_0(x) - f_0(y)|}{|x - y|^{1/K}}$  for each pair of given points  $x, y, x \neq y$ . On the other hand,

Theorem 1 [6, p. 358] implies that there a function  $\sigma(K), \sigma(K) \rightarrow 0$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$  so that for each

$f_0$ , we may find a conformal mapping (a rotation by Reade's theorem [6, p. 323])  $M(x)$  so that  $|f_0(x) - M(x)| < \sigma(K)$  for all  $x$  with  $|x| \leq 1$ . Here  $C(K, x, y) \rightarrow 1$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$  for each given point  $x, y, x \neq y$ . However this depends on  $x$  and  $y$ . Theorem 3.1 and (2.8) imply that

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{L(x, f_0, r)}{r^{1/K}} \leq \lambda_n^{3(1-1/K)} \text{ for each } f_0.$$

From this inequality, it follows that  $\sup_{x \neq y} C(K, x, y) = 1 + 0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ . Since  $C(K) = \sup_{x \neq y} C(K, x, y)$ , we thus conclude that  $C(K) = 1 + 0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ .

**Remarks.** (1) It is conjectured that  $C(K) = 16^{1-1/K}$  for  $n=2$  by Lehto and Virtanen [20, p. 68].  
 (2) If  $K=1$  and  $n=2$ , then Theorem 3.1 reduces to the classical Schwarz-Pick lemma.

On the other hand, some generalizations for  $K$ -q.c. mappings of the Koebe distortion formula and Koebe's onequarter theorem have been given by Gehring [8], Juve [15] and Pfluger [23].

(3) For the details of the normal family, we refer to Gehring [9], Lehto-Virtanen [20] and Väisälä [26], [27].

#### 4. Area distortion under quasiconformal mappings

We shall show a slightly more precise form of the result due to Gehring-Reich [12, Theorem 1]. We denote by  $B = B(x, r)$  and by  $m = m_x$  the open  $n$ -ball of radius  $r$  about  $x$  and the  $n$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure in  $R^n$ .

4.1 First we begin by proving the following almost clear lemma on the property of  $\alpha$ -Riesz potential.

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $E$  be an arbitrary measurable set contained in  $B(0, 1)$ . Then, for each  $0 < \alpha < n$ ,

$$\int_E \frac{dm_y}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}} \leq \frac{n}{\alpha} \Omega_n^{1-\alpha/n} m(E)^{\alpha/n} \text{ for all } x \in R^n,$$

where  $\Omega_n = m(B(0, 1))$ .

**Proof.** We may choose a positive number  $r$  so that  $m(E) = m(B(x, r))$  for every  $x \in R^n$ . Since

$$\int_{B(x, r)-E} \frac{dm_y}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}} \geq \int_{E-B(x, r)} \frac{dm_y}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}},$$

we obtain easily that

$$\int_E \frac{dm_y}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}} \leq \int_{B(x, r)} \frac{dm_y}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}} \leq \frac{n}{\alpha} \Omega_n^{1-\alpha/n} m(E)^{\alpha/n},$$

which completes the proof.

**Theorem 4.2.** There exists a function  $b(K)$  where  $b(K) > 0$ , and  $b(K) = 1 + 0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ , such that if  $f$  is an  $n$ -dimensional  $K$ -quasiconformal mapping,  $n \geq 2$ , of the unit ball onto itself with  $f(0) = 0$ , then

$$(4.1) \quad \frac{m(f(E))}{\Omega_n} \leq b(K) \left( \frac{m(E)}{\Omega_n} \right)^{1/K}$$

for each measurable set  $E \subseteq B(0, 1)$ . The exponent  $1/K$  is sharp.

**Proof.** Let  $E$  be an arbitrary measurable subset of  $B(0, 1)$ . By Hölder continuity of  $f$ , we can then define  $G(y)$  by

$$(4.2) \quad G(y) = \left[ \int_E \left( \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|} \right)^n dm_x \right]^{1/n}$$

for each  $y \in E$ . Lemma 4.1 and (3.1) imply that

$$(4.3) \quad G(y)^n \leq KC(K)^n \Omega^{1-1/K} m(E)^{1/K} \text{ for all } y \in E.$$

Next we consider the function  $F_h$ .

$$F_h(x) = \frac{1}{m(B(x, h))} \int_{B(x, h)} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|} dm_y$$

for each point  $x \in E$  and for each positive number  $h$ . The function  $F_h$  is meaningful, because  $f$  can be extended to a  $K$ -q. c. mapping of the whole space  $R^n$  onto itself by means of the reflection principle for q. c. mappings. For convenience we write  $B = B(x, h)$ . From Minkowski's inequality (for instance, [6, p. 109]), it follows that

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_E F_h(x)^n dm_x &= \int_E \left[ \frac{1}{m(B)} \int_B \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|} dm_y \right]^n dm_x \\ &\leq \left\{ \frac{1}{m(B)} \int_B \left[ \int_E \left( \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|} \right)^n dm_x \right]^{1/n} dm_y \right\}^n \\ &\leq \left[ \frac{1}{m(B)} \int_B G(y) dm_y \right]^n. \end{aligned}$$

In conjunction with (4.3), (4.4) yields

$$(4.5) \quad \int_E F_h(x)^n dm_x \leq KC(K)^n \Omega^{1-1/K} m(E)^{1/K}$$

for each  $h > 0$ . On the other hand, since  $J_f(x) \leq K^{n-1} l_f^n(x)$  a. e., where  $J_f, l_f$  denotes the jacobian of  $f$ , the minimal stretching of  $f$  respectively, by the same argument as in [22, p. 67], we have

$$(4.6) \quad \begin{aligned} m(f(E)) &= \int_E J_f(x) dm_x \\ &\leq K^{n-1} \int_E l_f(x)^n dm_x \leq K^{n-1} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \int_E F_h(x)^n dm_x. \end{aligned}$$

By (4.5) and (4.6), we conclude that

$$\frac{m(f(E))}{\Omega_n} \leq K^n C(K)^n \left( \frac{m(E)}{\Omega_n} \right)^{1/K}.$$

(4. 1) thus holds with  $b(K)=K^n C(K)^n$ . Moreover, Lemma 3. 2 implies that  $b(K)$  is of the form  $1+0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ . Finally the mapping  $g(x)=|x|^{a-1}x$ ,  $a=1/K$  shows that the exponent  $1/K$  is sharp. This completes the proof.

4. 2 We conclude this paper with three easy applications of Theorem 4. 2. We omit their proofs and details, because these results are immediately followed from combining Theorem 4. 2 and the results established by Gehring-Reich [12, Theorem 3] and Kelingos [16, Section 8]. The first of these sharpens Theorem 2 [12] and Theorem 3 [24].

**Theorem 4. 3.** (Gehring-Reich [12], Reich [24]). Let  $\tilde{x}_E$  denote the Hilbert transform of  $x_E$  which is the characteristic function of  $E$  and let  $U$  denote the unit disc. Then there exists a universal constant  $b$  such that

$$\int_U |\tilde{x}_E| dm \leq m(E) \log \frac{1}{m(E)} + bm(E)$$

for the measurable set  $E \supseteq U$ .

The second and third applications are concerned with a hyperbolic area under q. c. mappings. We denote by  $R_h(E)$  the hyperbolic radius of  $E$  defined to be the hyperbolic radius of the smallest hyperbolic disc containing  $E$ . Then we can state slightly more precise forms of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 [16].

**Theorem 4. 4.** (Kelingos [16]). For each  $R$ ,  $0 < R < \infty$ , there exists an increasing continuous function  $\phi_{K,R}(t)$ ,  $0 < t < \infty$ , such that if  $f$  is a plane  $K$ -quasiconformal mapping of a domain  $D$ , then

$$\frac{m_h(f(E))}{\pi} \leq \phi_{K,R} \left( \frac{m_h(E)}{\pi} \right)$$

for each measurable set  $E \subset D$  with  $R_h(E) \leq R$ . Furthermore  $\phi_{K,R}(t) = b_1(K, R)t^{1/K}$  for  $0 < t < t_0 < 1$  and  $\phi_{K,R}(t) = b_2(K, R)Kt$  for  $t > 1$ , where each  $b_i(K, R)$  is strictly greater than 0 and is equal to  $1+0(K-1)$  as  $K \rightarrow 1$ .

**Theorem 5. 5** (Kelingos [16]). For each  $r$ ,  $0 < r < 1$ , there exists a constant  $c(r) > 1$  such that for each measurable set  $E$  contained in the disc  $|z| \leq r$ ,

$$\int_U |h_E(z)| d\sigma \leq \begin{cases} m_h(E) \log \frac{\pi}{m_h(E)} + cm_h(E) & \text{if } m_h(E) \leq \pi \\ cm_h(E) & \text{if } m_h(E) > \pi \end{cases}$$

where  $h_E(z)$  is the Hilbert transform of the hyperbolic characteristic function of a subset  $E$  of the unit disc  $U$  defined by  $h_E(z) = x_E(z)/(1-z\bar{z})^2$ .

**Remarks.** (1) In [16, p. 134]), the functions  $\phi_{K,R}(t)$ ,  $b_i(K, R)$  are materialized. Theorem 4. 4 holds the functions given by replacing  $a=20$  by  $a=1$ .

(2) A distortion theorem concerning the hyperbolic area of discs under q. c. mappings has been given by Gehring [10, Theorem 3].



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