

UNIQUE EXTREMALITY, LOCAL EXTREMALITY AND
EXTREMAL NON-DECREASABLE DILATATIONS

GUOWU YAO

Given a quasi-symmetric self-homeomorphism h of the unit circle S^1 , let $Q(h)$ be the set of all quasiconformal mappings with the boundary correspondence h . In this paper, it is shown that there exists certain quasi-symmetric homeomorphism h , such that $Q(h)$ satisfies either of the conditions,

- (1) $Q(h)$ admits a quasiconformal mapping that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable instead of being uniquely extremal;
- (2) $Q(h)$ contains infinitely many quasiconformal mappings each of which has an extremal non-decreasable dilatation.

An infinitesimal version of this result is also obtained.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let Δ be the unit disk $\{z : |z| < 1\}$ in the complex plane \mathbb{C} . Given a quasymmetric homeomorphism h of the unit disk S^1 onto itself, we denote by $Q(h)$ the class of all quasiconformal mappings from Δ onto itself with the boundary correspondence h . A quasiconformal mapping $f_0 \in Q(h)$ is said to be an extremal mapping for the boundary correspondence h if it minimises the maximal dilatations of $Q(h)$, that is,

$$K[f_0] = K[h] := \inf\{K[f] : f \in Q(h)\},$$

where $K[f]$ is the maximal dilatation of f . f is uniquely extremal if it is extremal and if there are no other extremal mappings for its boundary values; the alternative is that f is non-uniquely extremal.

The notion of non-decreasable was first introduced by Reich in [7] to investigate the unique extremality of quasiconformal mappings between the unit disks with given

Received 18th October, 2006

The author would like to thank Professor Edgar Reich for sending him his inspiring paper [7]. The research was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 10401036) and a Foundation for the Author of National Excellent Doctoral Dissertation (Grant No. 200518) of P.R. China.

Copyright Clearance Centre, Inc. Serial-fee code: 0004-9727/07 \$A2.00+0.00.

boundary values. An element f in $Q(h)$ has a *non-decreasable dilatation* (or f is called *non-decreasable*), if the hypothesis that g is also in $Q(h)$ together with the condition,

$$(1.1) \quad |\nu(z)| \leq |\mu(z)| \quad \text{almost everywhere in } \Delta,$$

imply that $f = g$, where μ and ν are the Beltrami coefficients of f and g , respectively. Obviously, if f is uniquely extremal, then it has non-decreasable dilatation. But the converse is not true. So the conception of quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations is a generalisation of uniquely extremal quasiconformal mappings.

In [8], Shen and Chen proved that, if $Q(h)$ does not contain a conformal mapping, then it must contain infinitely many elements with non-decreasable dilatations. So it is more interesting to investigate extremal quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations; accordingly, such non-decreasable dilatations are called extremal ones. It is still an open problem whether an extremal quasiconformal mapping with non-decreasable dilatation always exists in $Q(h)$.

Following [9], a quasiconformal mapping f of Δ is said to be *locally extremal* if for any domain $G \subset \Delta$ the mapping f is extremal in G with respect to its boundary values. The complex dilatation μ of f is then called *locally extremal dilatation*. Generally speaking, both the uniqueness and the existence of locally extremal quasiconformal mappings in $Q(h)$ are not clear. An example due to Reich ([5], or see [11]) shows that local extremality does not imply unique extremality.

Obviously, if f is uniquely extremal, then f is the quasiconformal mapping in $Q(h)$ that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable. Conversely, one might ask

PROBLEM 1. If f in $Q(h)$ is the quasiconformal mapping that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable, is it then uniquely extremal?

REMARK 1. If f has an extremal-non-decreasable dilatation $\mu(z)$ with the property that $|\mu(z)| = \text{constant}$ almost everywhere in Δ , then it is obviously uniquely extremal; the converse is not true, as is a well-known result in [2]. There are a lot of examples (see [8, Corollary 3.1]) to show that uniqueness of extremal non-decreasable dilatations does not imply unique extremality.

On the other hand, it is natural to pose the following problem.

PROBLEM 2. Does there exist h such that $Q(h)$ contains infinitely many extremal quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations?

Our main result Theorem 1 gives a negative answer to Problem 1 and a positive one to Problem 2, respectively. Meanwhile, an infinitesimal version is obtained for the tangent space of the universal Teichmüller space.

2. PRELIMINARIES

Let \mathcal{D} be a domain in the complex plane \mathbb{C} with at least two boundary points and let $M(\mathcal{D})$ be the open unit ball of $L^\infty(\mathcal{D})$. Every element $\mu \in M(\mathcal{D})$ can be regarded as an element in $L^\infty(\mathbb{C})$ by putting μ equal to zero in the outside of \mathcal{D} . Every $\mu \in M(\mathcal{D})$ induces a global quasiconformal self-mapping f of the plane which solves the Beltrami equation [1],

$$(2.1) \quad f_{\bar{z}}(z) = \mu(z)f_z(z),$$

and f is defined uniquely up to postcomposition by a complex affine map of the plane. Conversely, any quasiconformal mapping f defined on \mathcal{D} has a Beltrami coefficient $\mu(z) = f_{\bar{z}}(z)/f_z(z)$ in $M(\mathcal{D})$.

Two Beltrami coefficients $\mu, \nu \in M(\mathcal{D})$ are equivalent if they induce quasiconformal mappings f and g by (2.1) such that there is a conformal map c from $f(\mathcal{D})$ to $g(\mathcal{D})$ and an isotopy through quasiconformal mappings $h_t, 0 \leq t \leq 1$, from \mathcal{D} to \mathcal{D} which extend continuously to the boundary of \mathcal{D} such that

1. $h_0(z)$ is identically equal to z on \mathcal{D} ,
2. h_1 is identically to $g^{-1} \circ c \circ f$, and
3. $h_t(p) = g^{-1} \circ c \circ f(p)$ for any $p \in \partial\mathcal{D}$.

The equivalence relation partitions $M(\mathcal{D})$ into equivalence classes and the space of equivalence classes is by definition the Teichmüller space $T(\mathcal{D})$ of \mathcal{D} .

Given $\mu \in M(\mathcal{D})$, we denote by $[\mu]$ the set of all elements $\nu \in M(\mathcal{D})$ equivalent to μ , and set

$$k_0([\mu]) = \inf\{\|\nu\|_\infty : \nu \in [\mu]\}.$$

We say that μ is extremal (in $[\mu]$) if $\|\mu\|_\infty = k_0([\mu])$, μ is uniquely extremal if $\|\nu\|_\infty > k_0([\mu])$ for any other $\nu \in [\mu]$; the alternative is that μ is non-uniquely extremal. We say that μ is non-decreasable if for any other $\nu \in [\mu]$, the set on which $|\nu(z)| > |\mu(z)|$ has positive measure. Obviously, μ is non-decreasable if it is uniquely extremal.

For any μ , define $h^*(\mu)$ to be the infimum over all compact subsets F contained in \mathcal{D} of the essential supremum norm of the Beltrami coefficient $\mu(z)$ as z varies over $\mathcal{D} \setminus F$. Define $h([\mu])$ to be the infimum of $h^*(\mu)$ taken over all representatives μ of the class $[\mu]$. It is obvious that $h([\mu]) \leq k_0([\mu])$. Following [3], we call a point $[\mu]$ in $T(\mathcal{D})$ a Strebel point if $h([\mu]) < k_0([\mu])$.

Let $A(\mathcal{D})$ be the space of integrable holomorphic quadratic differentials φ on \mathcal{D} and let $A_1(\mathcal{D})$ be the unit sphere of $A(\mathcal{D})$. By Strebel's frame mapping theorem, every Strebel point $[\mu]$ is represented by the unique Beltrami differential of the form $k|\varphi|/\varphi$, where $k = k_0([\mu]) \in (0, 1)$ and φ is a unit vector in $A_1(\mathcal{D})$.

Two elements μ and ν in $L^\infty(\mathcal{D})$ are infinitesimally equivalent, which is denoted by $\mu \approx \nu$, if $\iint_{\mathcal{D}} \mu\phi dx dy = \iint_{\Delta} \nu\phi dx dy$ for all $\phi \in A(\Delta)$. Denote by $N(\mathcal{D})$ the set

of all the elements in $L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})$ which are infinitesimally equivalent to zero. Then $B(\mathfrak{D}) = L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})/N(\mathfrak{D})$ is the tangent space of the space $T(\mathfrak{D})$ at the basepoint.

Given $\mu \in L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})$, we denote by $[\mu]_B$ the set of all elements $\nu \in L^\infty(\mathfrak{D})$ infinitesimally equivalent to μ , and set

$$\|\mu\| = \inf\{\|\nu\|_\infty : \nu \in [\mu]_B\}.$$

We say that μ is infinitesimally extremal (in $[\mu]_B$) if $\|\mu\|_\infty = \|\mu\|$, uniquely infinitesimally extremal if $\|\nu\|_\infty > \|\mu\|$ for any other $\nu \in [\mu]_B$. We say that μ is infinitesimally non-decreasable if for any other $\nu \in [\mu]_B$, the set on which $|\nu(z)| > |\mu(z)|$ has positive measure. Then μ is non-decreasable if it is uniquely extremal.

In a parallel manner we can define the boundary dilatation for the infinitesimal Teichmüller class $[\mu]_B$. The boundary dilatation $b([\mu]_B)$ is the infimum over all elements in the equivalence class $[\mu]_B$ of the quantity $b^*(\nu)$. Here $b^*(\nu)$ is the infimum over all compact subsets F contained in \mathfrak{D} of the essential supremum of the Beltrami coefficient ν as z varies over $\mathfrak{D} - F$.

An infinitesimally equivalent class $[\mu]_B$ is called an infinitesimal Strebel point if $\|\mu\| > b([\mu]_B)$. It follows from the infinitesimal frame mapping theorem (see [4, Theorem 2.4]) that if $[\mu]_B$ is an infinitesimal Strebel point, then there exists a unique vector φ in $A_1(\mathfrak{D})$ such that μ and $\|\mu\|\varphi/\varphi$ are infinitesimally equivalent.

3. SOME PREPARATIONS

For $\mu \in L^\infty(\Delta)$, $\phi \in A(\Delta)$, let

$$\lambda_\mu[\phi] = \operatorname{Re} \iint_\Delta \mu(z)\phi(z)dx dy.$$

As is well known, a Beltrami coefficient μ is extremal if and only if it has a so-called Hamilton sequence, namely, a sequence $\{\phi_n \in A(\Delta) : \|\phi_n\| = 1, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$, such that

$$(3.1) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_\mu[\phi_n] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{Re} \iint_\Delta \mu\phi_n(z)dx dy = \|\mu\|_\infty.$$

Given $\mu \in M(\Delta)$, let $f = f^\mu$ be the uniquely determined quasiconformal mapping of Δ onto itself with Beltrami coefficients μ and normalised to fix 1, -1 and i .

Suppose that μ and ν are two equivalent Beltrami coefficients in $T(\Delta)$. Let $\tilde{\mu}$ and $\tilde{\nu}$ be the Beltrami coefficients of the quasiconformal mappings f^{-1} and g^{-1} , respectively, where $f = f^\mu$ and $g = f^\nu$. Let $\mathfrak{J} \subset \Delta$ be a Jordan domain with $\bar{\mathfrak{J}} \subset \Delta$.

LEMMA 1. *Let μ and ν be two equivalent Beltrami coefficients in $T(\Delta)$. In addition, suppose $\mu(z) = \nu(z)$ for almost every $z \in \Delta \setminus \bar{\mathfrak{J}}$. Then, $f^\mu(z) = f^\nu(z)$ for all z in $\Delta \setminus \mathfrak{J}$ and hence $\tilde{\mu}(w) = \tilde{\nu}(w)$ for almost all w in $f(\Delta \setminus \mathfrak{J})$.*

PROOF: For the sake of convenience, let $f = f^\mu$ and $g = f^\nu$. Let $\mu_{g \circ f^{-1}}(w)$ denote the Beltrami coefficient of $g \circ f^{-1}$. By a simple computation, we have

$$\mu_{g \circ f^{-1}} \circ f(z) = \frac{1}{\tau} \frac{\mu(z) - \nu(z)}{1 - \overline{\mu(z)}\nu(z)},$$

where $\tau = \overline{f_z}/f_z$.

Thus, $\mu_{g \circ f^{-1}}(w) = 0$ for almost all $w \in f(\Delta \setminus \overline{J})$ and hence $\Psi = g \circ f^{-1}$ is conformal on $\Delta \setminus \overline{J}$. Since $\Psi|_{S^1} = g \circ f^{-1}|_{S^1} = id$, we conclude that $\Psi = id$ in $f(\Delta \setminus J)$. Thus, $g|_{\Delta \setminus \overline{J}} = f|_{\Delta \setminus \overline{J}}$. By the continuity of quasiconformal mappings, it follows that $g|_{\Delta \setminus J} = f|_{\Delta \setminus J}$. In addition, it is evident that $\tilde{\mu}(w) = \tilde{\nu}(w)$ for almost all w in $f(\Delta \setminus J)$. □

The following Reich's Construction Theorem is very useful. It was used by the author [10] to show that there exists h such that all extremal quasiconformal mappings in $Q(h)$ are not of Teichmüller type.

CONSTRUCTION THEOREM. ([6]) *Let A be a compact subset of Δ containing at least two points and such that $\Delta \setminus A$ is doubly connected. There exists a function $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Delta)$ and a sequence $\varphi_n \in A(\Delta)$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$) satisfying the following conditions (3.2)-(3.5):*

$$(3.2) \quad |\alpha(z)| = \begin{cases} 0, & z \in A, \\ 1, & \text{for almost all } z \in \Delta \setminus A, \end{cases}$$

$$(3.3) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|\varphi_n\| - \lambda_\alpha[\varphi_n] \} = 0,$$

$$(3.4) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi_n(z)| = \infty \text{ almost everywhere in } \Delta \setminus A.$$

and as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$(3.5) \quad \varphi_n(z) \rightarrow 0 \text{ uniformly on } A.$$

REMARK 2. Equation (3.5) is implied in the proof of Reich's Construction Theorem [6].

From Reich's Construction Theorem, we can get

LEMMA 2. *Let $J \subset \Delta$ be a Jordan domain with $A = \overline{J} \subset \Delta$. Let $\alpha(z)$ and the sequence $\varphi_n \in A(\Delta)$ be constructed by Reich's Construction Theorem and let $\mu(z) = k\alpha(z)$ where $k < 1$ is a positive constant. Set*

$$\nu(z) = \begin{cases} \mu(z), & z \in \Delta \setminus A, \\ \beta(z), & z \in A, \end{cases}$$

where $\beta(z)$ is in $M(J)$ with $\|\beta\|_\infty \leq k$. Then

- (1) $\nu(z)$ is extremal in $[\nu]$ and for any $\chi(z)$ extremal in $[\nu]$, $\chi(z) = \nu(z)$ for almost all z in $\Delta \setminus A$;
- (2) $\nu(z)$ is extremal in $[\nu]_B$ and for any $\chi(z)$ extremal in $[\nu]_B$, $\chi(z) = \nu(z)$ for almost all z in $\Delta \setminus A$.

PROOF: The proof of the first part of this lemma is the same as that of [10, Lemma 4] and the proof of the second part is included in that of [10, Theorem 3]. □

Recall that a Beltrami coefficient μ in \mathfrak{D} is said to be locally extremal if for any domain $G \subset \mathfrak{D}$ it is extremal in its class in $T(G)$; in other words,

$$\|\mu\|_G := \operatorname{esssup}_{z \in G} |\mu| = \sup \left\{ \frac{\operatorname{Re} \iint_G \mu \phi(z) dx dy}{\iint_G |\phi(z)| dx dy} : \phi \in A(G) \right\}.$$

Obviously, extremality in the whole domain is a prerequisite for a Beltrami coefficient to be locally extremal.

LEMMA 3. *Using the notations of Lemma 2, then ν is locally extremal in Δ if and only if β is locally extremal in J .*

PROOF: The necessary part is a fortiori. Now let β is locally extremal in J . For given domain $G \subset \Delta$ with $G \setminus J \neq \emptyset$, by

$$k \iint_{G \setminus J} |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_{G \setminus J} \mu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \leq \|\varphi_n\| - \lambda_\alpha[\varphi_n],$$

and Reich' Construction Theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(k \iint_G |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_G \nu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \right) \\ & \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(k \iint_{G \setminus J} |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_{G \setminus J} \mu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \right) \\ & \quad + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(k \iint_J |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy - \operatorname{Re} \iint_J \beta(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy \right) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, by equation (3.4) and Fatou's lemma,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \iint_G |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{G \setminus J} |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy = \infty,$$

where the fact that $(G \setminus J)^c \neq \emptyset$ is needed. Thus,

$$k - \frac{\operatorname{Re} \iint_G \nu(z) \varphi_n(z) dx dy}{\iint_G |\varphi_n(z)| dx dy} \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty,$$

which indicates that $\nu(z)$ is extremal in its class in $T(G)$. Thus, ν is locally extremal in Δ . □

4. MAIN THEOREM

By definition, the following lemma is evident.

LEMMA 4. μ is an extremal-non-decreasable Beltrami coefficient in $[\mu]$ if and only if for any other η extremal in $[\mu]$, the set on which $|\eta(z)| > |\mu(z)|$ has positive measure.

Let $\Delta_r = \{z : |z| < r\}$ for $r \in (0, 1)$. Choose $s = \frac{1}{4}$, $t = \frac{1}{2}$ and $A = \overline{\Delta_t}$.

LEMMA 5. Let $\chi(z)$ be defined as follows,

$$\chi(z) = \begin{cases} 0, & z \in A - \Delta_s, \\ \tilde{k} & z \in \Delta_s, \end{cases}$$

where $\tilde{k} < 1$ is a positive constant. Then $[\chi]$ as a point of the Teichmüller space $T(\Delta_t)$ of Δ_t contains infinitely many non-decreasable Beltrami coefficients η with $\|\eta\|_\infty < \tilde{k}$.

PROOF: Let $s < r < t$. Note that $\chi(z) = 0$ in $A \setminus \Delta_s$. When restricted to Δ_r , $[\chi]$ as a point of $T(\Delta_r)$ has the property $h([\chi]) = 0$ and hence is a Strebel point in $T(\Delta_r)$. Thus, by Strebel's frame mapping theorem, there exist $k_r \in (0, 1)$ and a unit vector $\varphi_r \in A_1(\Delta_r)$ such that $k_r|\varphi_r|/\varphi_r$ and χ are equivalent in $T(\Delta_r)$. In addition, it is clear that $k_r < \tilde{k}$. Put

$$\chi_r(z) = \begin{cases} 0, & z \in A - \Delta_r, \\ k_r \frac{|\varphi_r(z)|}{\varphi_r(z)} & z \in \Delta_r. \end{cases}$$

Then χ_r and χ are equivalent in $T(\Delta_t)$. Applying Lemma 1, it is easy to see that χ_{r_1} and χ_{r_2} restricted to Δ_{r_2} are equivalent in $T(\Delta_{r_2})$ whenever $s < r_1 < r_2 < t$. Thus, k_r is a strictly decreasing function as $r \in (s, t)$. Furthermore, we claim that χ_r is non-decreasable in $[\chi]$. Suppose to the contrary. Then there would exist η in $[\chi]$ such that $|\eta(z)| \leq |\chi_r(z)|$ for almost all $z \in \Delta_t$. Obviously, $\eta(z) = \chi_r(z) = 0$ on $A - \Delta_r$. Applying Lemma 1 again, we see that η and χ_r restricted to Δ_r are equivalent in $T(\Delta_r)$. This happens if and only if $\eta = \chi_r$, which implies our claim. Thus, this lemma follows. \square

THEOREM 1. Let $A = \overline{\Delta_t}$ and let $\alpha(z)$ be constructed by Reich's Construction Theorem. Put $\mu(z) = k\alpha(z)$, where $k \in (0, 1)$ is a constant. Set

$$\nu(z) = \begin{cases} \mu(z), & z \in \Delta \setminus A, \\ 0, & z \in A - \Delta_s, \\ \tilde{k} & z \in \Delta_s, \end{cases}$$

where $\tilde{k} \in [0, k]$ is a constant. Then,

- (1) when $\tilde{k} > 0$, $[\nu]$ contains infinitely many extremal non-decreasable Beltrami coefficients;

- (2) if $\tilde{k} = 0$, then ν is the Beltrami coefficient in $[\nu]$ that is both uniquely locally-extremal (obviously, non-uniquely extremal) and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable.

And hence, if we set $h = f^\nu$, then either $Q(h)$ contains infinitely many extremal quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations (when $\tilde{k} > 0$) or admits an extremal quasiconformal mapping (but not uniquely extremal) that is both uniquely locally-extremal and uniquely extremal-non-decreasable (when $\tilde{k} = 0$).

PROOF: First, let $0 < \tilde{k} \leq k$. By Lemma 2, for any η extremal in $[\nu]$, $\eta(z) = \nu(z)$ almost everywhere on $\Delta \setminus A$. Then by Lemma 1, $\eta(z)$ and $\nu(z)$ restricted to Δ_t are equivalent in $T(\Delta_t)$. Therefore, by Lemma 4, if η restricted to Δ_t is non-decreasable in its equivalence class $[\chi]$ (defined in Lemma 5), then it is non-decreasable in $[\nu]$ in $T(\Delta)$.

For $s < r < t$, put

$$\nu_r(z) = \begin{cases} \mu(z), & z \in \Delta \setminus A, \\ 0, & z \in A - \Delta_r, \\ k_r \frac{|\varphi_r(z)|}{\varphi_r(z)} & z \in \Delta_r. \end{cases}$$

where k_r and φ_r are from Lemma 5. Then ν_r is an extremal non-decreasable dilatation in $[\nu]$ by Lemma 5. Thus, (1) of Theorem 1 is proved.

Now, let $\tilde{k} = 0$. It follows directly from Lemmas 2, 4 that ν is the element in $[\nu]$ that is uniquely extremal-non-decreasable. Since $\beta \equiv 0$ on A , as an immediate consequence of Lemma 3, ν is locally-extremal in $[\nu]$. On the other hand, the uniqueness of local extremal follows clearly from Lemma 2 and the definition of local extremality. □

REMARK 3. The example of local extremal (of course, instead of being uniquely extremal) given by Reich [5] has a constant modulus, whereas our example does not. The modulus of certain extremal Beltrami coefficients was discussed in a recent paper [12] of the author (joint with Yi Qi).

5. INFINITESIMAL VERSION

We have the infinitesimal version of Lemma 4 as follows.

LEMMA 6. μ is an infinitesimally extremal-non-decreasable Beltrami coefficient in $[\mu]_B$ if and only if for any other η extremal in $[\mu]_B$, the set on which $|\eta(z)| > |\mu(z)|$ has positive measure.

LEMMA 7. Let $\chi(z)$ be defined as in Lemma 5. Then $[\chi]_B$ as a point of the space $B(\Delta_t)$ of Δ_t contains infinitely many non-decreasable extremals η with $\|\eta\|_\infty < \tilde{k}$.

The proof of Lemma 7 is a suitable modification from that of Lemma 5 except that the infinitesimal frame mapping criterion is used here.

THEOREM 2. *Let ν be the same as in Theorem 1. Then either $[\nu]_B$ contains infinitely many infinitesimally non-decreasable extremals when $0 < \tilde{k} \leq k$, or ν is the element in $[\nu]_B$ that is both uniquely locally-extremal (obviously, non-uniquely infinitesimally extremal) and uniquely infinitesimally extremal-non-decreasable if $\tilde{k} = 0$.*

PROOF: By Lemmas 2, 6, 7, the proof almost takes word by word from that of Theorem 1 and so is skipped. \square

At last, we end this paper with an open problem.

PROBLEM 3. Does there exist h such that each extremal quasiconformal mapping (of course, non-uniquely extremal) in $Q(h)$ has a non-decreasable dilatation?

If the answer is positive, then each extremal quasiconformal mapping in such $Q(h)$ is also locally extremal.

REFERENCES

- [1] L.V. Ahlfors and L. Bers, 'Riemann's mapping theorem for variable metrics', *Ann. Math.* **72** (1960), 385–404.
- [2] V. Božin, N. Lakic, V. Marković and M. Mateljević, 'Unique extremality', *J. Anal. Math.* **75** (1998), 299–338.
- [3] N. Lakic, 'Strebel points', in *Contemp. Math.* **211** (Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 1997), pp. 417–431.
- [4] E. Reich, 'An extremum problem for analytic functions with area norm', *Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Ser. A. I. Math.* **2** (1976), 429–445.
- [5] E. Reich, 'On the uniqueness question for Hahn-Banach extensions from the space of L^1 analytic functions', *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **88** (1983), 305–310.
- [6] E. Reich, 'The unique extremality counterexample', *J. Anal. Math.* **75** (1998), 339–347.
- [7] E. Reich, 'Extremal extensions from the circle to the disk', in *Quasiconformal Mappings and Analysis, A Collection of Papers Honoring F. W. Gehring* (Springer-Verlag, New York, Berlin, Heidelberg, 1997), pp. 321–335.
- [8] Y. Shen and J. Chen, 'Quasiconformal mappings with non-decreasable dilatations', *Chinese J. Contemp. Math.* **23** (2002), 265–276.
- [9] V.G. Sheretov, 'Locally extremal quasiconformal mappings', *Soviet Math. Dokl.* **21** (1980), 343–345.
- [10] G.W. Yao, 'Is there always an extremal Teichmüller mapping?', *J. Anal. Math.* **94** (2004), 363–375.
- [11] G.W. Yao, 'On extremality of two connected locally extremal Beltrami coefficients', *Bull. Austral. Math. Soc.* **71** (2005), 37–40.
- [12] G.W. Yao and Y. Qi, 'On the modulus of extremal Beltrami coefficients', *J. Math. Kyoto Univ.* **46** (2006), 235–247.

Department of Mathematical Sciences
 Tsinghua University
 Beijing 100084
 People's Republic of China
 e-mail: gwyao@math.tsinghua.edu.cn