

# TOWARD THE THEORY OF RING $Q$ -HOMEOMORPHISMS

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ABSTRACT

We investigate classes of the so-called ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms including, in particular,  $Q$ -homeomorphisms, various classes of homeomorphisms with finite length distortion, Sobolev's classes etc. In terms of the majorant  $Q(x)$ , we give a series of criteria for normality based on estimates of the distortion of the spherical distance under ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms. In particular, it is shown that the class  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}$  of all ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms  $f$  of a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  into  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , with  $h(\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus f(D)) \geq \Delta > 0$ , forms a normal family, if  $Q(x)$  has finite mean oscillation in  $D$ . We also prove normality of  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}$ , for instance, if  $Q(x)$  has singularities of logarithmic type whose degrees are not greater than  $n - 1$  at every point  $x \in D$ . The results are applicable, in particular, to mappings with finite length distortion and Sobolev's classes.

## 1. Introduction

The study of ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms began in the plane, see [38]–[35], cf. also [32] and [40]. Ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms induce  $Q$ -homeomorphisms arisen earlier in [24]–[26] and [13]–[14]. The theory of ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms is applicable to various classes of mappings with finite distortion, intensively investigated in many recent works, see, e.g., [3], [8], [12], [15], [16], [19], [20], [21], [25], [28] and [29]. In particular, the normality theorems can be applied

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to the theory of the local and boundary behavior of mappings, see, e.g., [9] and [10]–[11].

Given a family of paths  $\Gamma$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , a Borel function  $\rho : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is called **admissible** for  $\Gamma$ ,  $\rho \in \text{adm } \Gamma$ , if

$$(1.1) \quad \int_{\gamma} \rho(x) |dx| \geq 1$$

for each  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . The **modulus** of  $\Gamma$  is the quantity

$$(1.2) \quad M(\Gamma) = \inf_{\rho \in \text{adm } \Gamma} \int_D \rho^n(x) \, dm(x).$$

Recall the following concept, see [24]–[26]. Let  $D$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , and let  $Q : D \rightarrow [1, \infty]$  be a measurable function. A homeomorphism  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n} = \mathbb{R}^n \cup \{\infty\}$  is said to be a **Q-homeomorphism** if

$$(1.3) \quad M(f\Gamma) \leq \int_D Q(x) \cdot \rho^n(x) \, dm(x)$$

for every family of paths  $\Gamma$  in  $D$  and every admissible function  $\rho$  for  $\Gamma$ .

Given a domain  $D$  and two sets  $E$  and  $F$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\Gamma(E, F, D)$  denotes the family of all paths  $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  which join  $E$  and  $F$  in  $D$ , i.e.,  $\gamma(a) \in E$ ,  $\gamma(b) \in F$  and  $\gamma(t) \in D$  for  $a < t < b$ . We set  $\Gamma(E, F) = \Gamma(E, F, \overline{\mathbb{R}^n})$  if  $D = \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ . A **ring domain**, or shortly a **ring** in  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ , is a domain  $R$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  whose complement has two connected components. Let  $R$  be a ring in  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ . If  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are the connected components of  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus R$ , we write  $R = R(C_1, C_2)$ . The **capacity** of  $R$  can be defined by the equality

$$(1.4) \quad \text{cap } R(C_1, C_2) = M(\Gamma(C_1, C_2, R)),$$

see, e.g., [5]. Note that

$$(1.5) \quad M(\Gamma(C_1, C_2, R)) = M(\Gamma(C_1, C_2)),$$

see, e.g., [41, Theorem 11.3].

The following notion is motivated by the ring definition of quasiconformality in [6]. It extends the above notion of a  $Q$ -homeomorphism, cf. [38]. Let  $D$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $Q : D \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  be a (Lebesgue) measurable function. Set

$$(1.6) \quad A(r_1, r_2, x_0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : r_1 < |x - x_0| < r_2\},$$

$$(1.7) \quad S(x_0, r_i) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - x_0| = r_i\}, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

We say that a homeomorphism  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  is a **ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism** at a point  $x_0 \in D$  if

$$(1.8) \quad M(\Gamma(fS_1, fS_2)) \leq \int_A Q(x) \cdot \eta^n(|x - x_0|) \, dm(x)$$

for every ring  $A = A(r_1, r_2, x_0)$ ,  $0 < r_1 < r_2 < r_0 = \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$ , and for every measurable function  $\eta : (r_1, r_2) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  such that

$$(1.9) \quad \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \eta(r) \, dr = 1.$$

Note that every  $Q$ -homeomorphism  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  is a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism at every point  $x_0 \in D$ , but the inverse conclusion, generally speaking, is not true. Examples of ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms at  $x_0$  with  $Q(x) \in (0, 1)$  on a set for which  $x_0$  is a density point can be found in [38]–[35].

## 2. On normal families of maps in metric spaces

First, we give some general facts about normal families of functions in metric spaces. Let  $(X, d)$  and  $(X', d')$  be metric spaces with distances  $d$  and  $d'$ , respectively. A family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of continuous mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  is said to be **normal** if every sequence of mappings  $f_m \in \mathfrak{F}$  has a subsequence  $f_{m_k}$  converging uniformly on each compact set  $C \subset X$  to a continuous mapping. Normality is closely related to the following. A family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  is said to be **equicontinuous at a point**  $x_0 \in X$  if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $d'(f(x), f(x_0)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$  and  $x \in X$  with  $d(x, x_0) < \delta$ . The family  $\mathfrak{F}$  is **equicontinuous** if  $\mathfrak{F}$  is equicontinuous at every point  $x_0 \in X$ .

2.1 PROPOSITION: *Let  $(X, d)$  and  $(X', d')$  be arbitrary metric spaces and let  $\mathfrak{F}$  be a normal family of mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$ . Then  $\mathfrak{F}$  is equicontinuous.*

*Proof.* Indeed, let us assume that there exist  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  and sequences of mappings  $f_m \in \mathfrak{F}$  and points  $x_m \in X$  such that  $x_m \rightarrow x_0$  and

$$d'(f_m(x_m), f_m(x_0)) \geq \varepsilon_0.$$

Without loss of generality, we may consider that  $f_m \rightarrow f$  uniformly on each compact set  $C \subset X$  where  $f$  is a continuous mapping. However,  $\bigcup\{x_m\}$  is a compact set. Hence  $d'(f_m(x_0), f(x_0)) < \varepsilon_0/3$  and  $d'(f_m(x_m), f(x_m)) < \varepsilon_0/3$  for all  $m$  large enough. Moreover,  $d'(f(x_m), f(x_0)) < \varepsilon_0/3$  by the continuity

of the mapping  $f$  and, consequently,  $d'(f_m(x_m), f_m(x_0)) < \varepsilon_0$  by the triangle inequality. The latter estimate contradicts the assumption. ■

A family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  is said to be **uniformly equicontinuous on a set**  $E \subset X$  if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is  $\delta > 0$  such that  $d'(f(x), f(x')) < \varepsilon$  for all  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$  and for all  $x$  and  $x' \in E$  with  $d(x, x') < \delta$ . The following results are also well-known, cf., e.g., [23].

2.2 LEMMA: *Let  $(X, d)$  and  $(X', d')$  be metric spaces and let  $\mathfrak{F}$  be a family of equicontinuous mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$ . Then  $\mathfrak{F}$  is uniformly equicontinuous on every compact set  $C \subset X$ .*

2.3 COROLLARY: *Normal families of mappings between metric spaces are uniformly equicontinuous on compacts.*

*Proof of Lemma 2.2.* Let us assume that there exist a compact set  $C \subseteq X$ , a number  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  and sequences of mappings  $f_m \in \mathfrak{F}$  and points  $x_m, x'_m \in C$  such that  $d(x_m, x'_m) \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$  and  $d'(f_m(x_m), f_m(x'_m)) \geq \varepsilon_0$ . Without loss of generality, we may consider that  $x_m \rightarrow x_0$  and  $x'_m \rightarrow x_0 \in C$  since  $C$  is compact. Then  $d'(f_m(x_m), f_m(x_0)) < \varepsilon_0/2$  and  $d'(f_m(x_0), f_m(x'_m)) < \varepsilon_0/2$  for  $m$  large enough and hence  $d'(f_m(x_m), f_m(x'_m)) < \varepsilon_0$  that contradicts the assumption. ■

The function

$$(2.4) \quad \omega_E(t) = \omega_{\mathfrak{F}}^E(t) = \sup d'(f(x), f(z)),$$

where the supremum is taken over all  $x, z \in E$  such that  $d(x, z) \leq t$  and all  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$  is called the **modulus of continuity of the family  $\mathfrak{F}$  on the set  $E$** .

Similarly, the function

$$(2.5) \quad \omega_{x_0}(t) = \omega_{\mathfrak{F}}^{x_0}(t) = \sup d'(f(x_0), f(x)),$$

where the supremum is taken over all  $x \in X$  such that  $d(x, x_0) \leq t$  and all  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$  is called the **modulus of continuity of  $\mathfrak{F}$  at the point  $x_0 \in X$** .

Note that by definition  $\omega_E$  and  $\omega_{x_0}$  are nonnegative, nondecreasing and continuous from the right. Note also that  $\omega_{x_0}(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$  for every  $x_0 \in X$  if the family  $\mathfrak{F}$  is equicontinuous. Moreover, the following statement follows from Lemma 2.2.

2.6 COROLLARY: *If a family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  is equicontinuous, then  $\omega_C(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$  for every compact set  $C \subset X$ .*

The next statement is also obvious.

2.7 PROPOSITION: *Let  $(X, d)$  and  $(X', d')$  be metric spaces and let  $\overline{\mathfrak{F}}$  be a closure of a family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  with respect to the pointwise convergence in  $X$ . Then the moduli of continuity (2.4) and (2.5) of  $\overline{\mathfrak{F}}$  and  $\mathfrak{F}$  coincide.*

2.8 COROLLARY: *If a sequence of mappings  $f_m : X \rightarrow X'$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ , is equicontinuous and  $f_m(x) \rightarrow f(x)$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$  for every  $x \in X$ , then the limit function  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  is continuous.*

A sequence of mappings  $f_m : X \rightarrow X'$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ , is called **continuously convergent** to  $f : X \rightarrow X'$ , if  $f_m(x_m) \rightarrow f(x_0)$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$  for every convergent sequence of points  $x_m \rightarrow x_0$  in  $X$ .

2.9 Remark: The uniform convergence of continuous mappings on compact sets always implies the continuous convergence, because  $\bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \{x_m\}$  is a compact set as  $x_m \rightarrow x_0$  and because, by the triangle inequality,

$$(2.10) \quad d'(f_m(x_m), f(x_0)) \leq d'(f_m(x_m), f(x_m)) + d'(f(x_m), f(x_0)).$$

If the second space  $X'$  has a countable basis at each point, for example, if  $X'$  is separable, then the convergences are equivalent, see, e.g., [4, p. 268]. It is also obvious that the continuous convergence implies pointwise convergence. The converse conclusion is, generally speaking, not true as it is shown by the example  $f_m(x) = x^m$ ,  $x \in [0, 1] : f_m(x) \rightarrow 0$  for  $x < 1$  and  $f_k(1) \rightarrow 1$ , but  $f_m(x_m) \equiv 1/2$  for  $x_m = 2^{-1/m} \rightarrow 1$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

The following theorem shows that all three convergences are equivalent for equicontinuous families of mappings in arbitrary metric spaces.

2.11 THEOREM: *Let  $(X, d)$  and  $(X', d')$  be metric spaces and let  $\mathfrak{F}$  be an equicontinuous family of mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$ . Then the following statements are equivalent for all sequences  $f_m \in \mathfrak{F}$ :*

- 1)  $f_m$  converges uniformly on every compact set;
- 2)  $f_m$  converges continuously;
- 3)  $f_m$  converges at every point  $x \in X$ .

2.12 COROLLARY: *The closures  $\overline{\mathfrak{F}}$  of equicontinuous families  $\mathfrak{F}$  with respect to the pointwise convergence and the uniform convergence on compact sets coincide in arbitrary metric spaces.*

*Proof of Theorem 2.11.* The implications 1)  $\Rightarrow$  2)  $\Rightarrow$  3) are obvious, see Remark 2.9. Thus, it remains to prove the implication 3)  $\Rightarrow$  1). Indeed, let us assume there is a sequence  $f_m \in \mathfrak{F}$  such that  $f_m(x) \rightarrow f(x)$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$  for every  $x \in X$  and, simultaneously, for a compact set  $C \subset X$ , there is a number  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that  $d'(f_m(x_m), f(x_m)) \geq \varepsilon_0$  for some sequence of points  $x_m \in C$ . Without loss of generality, we may consider that  $x_m \rightarrow x_0 \in C$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . However, by the triangle inequality  $d'(f_m(x_m), f(x_m)) \leq d'(f_m(x_m), f_m(x_0)) + d'(f_m(x_0), f(x_0)) + d'(f(x_0), f(x_m))$  and by Corollaries 2.6 and 2.8 we come to a contradiction. ■

2.13 LEMMA: *Let  $(X, d)$  be a metric space and a set  $E \subset X$  be dense everywhere in  $X$  and  $(X', d')$  be a complete metric space. If an equicontinuous sequence of mappings  $f_m : X \rightarrow X'$  is pointwise convergent on the set  $E$ , then  $f_m$  converges uniformly on every compact set  $C \subset X$ .*

*Proof.* In view of Theorem 2.11 it is sufficient to prove that the pointwise convergence of  $f_m$  on  $E$  implies the pointwise convergence of  $f_m$  on  $X$ . Indeed, for every  $x_0 \in X \setminus E$ , there exists a sequence  $x_k \in E$  such that  $x_k \rightarrow x_0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . By the equicontinuity of  $f_m$ , for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $K = K(\varepsilon)$  such that  $d'(f_m(x_k), f_m(x_0)) < \varepsilon/3$  for all  $k \geq K$  and all  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ . Let us fix  $k_0 \geq K$ . Then by the Cauchy Criterion we have that  $d'(f_n(x_{k_0}), f_m(x_{k_0})) < \varepsilon/3$  for all  $n$  and  $m \geq N = N(\varepsilon, k_0)$ . Finally, by the triangle inequality  $d'(f_n(x_0), f_m(x_0)) \leq d'(f_n(x_0), f_n(x_{k_0})) + d'(f_n(x_{k_0}), f_m(x_{k_0})) + d'(f_m(x_{k_0}), f_m(x_0)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n$  and  $m \geq N$ , i.e., the sequence  $f_m(x_0)$  is fundamental and hence it is convergent by the completeness of the space  $X'$ . ■

As is well-known, every compact metric space is complete, see, e.g., Theorem 3 in Section 33, II, [22]. Thus, applying the diagonal process, we obtain the following consequence of Proposition 2.1 and Lemma 2.13, cf. Section 20.4 in [41].

2.14 COROLLARY: *If  $(X, d)$  is a separable metric space and  $(X', d')$  is compact metric space, then a family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of mappings  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  is normal if and only if  $\mathfrak{F}$  is equicontinuous.*

In what follows, we use in  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} = \mathbb{R}^n \cup \{\infty\}$  the **spherical (chordal) metric**  $h(x, y) = |\pi(x) - \pi(y)|$  where  $\pi$  is the stereographic projection of  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  onto the sphere  $S^n(\frac{1}{2}e_{n+1}, \frac{1}{2})$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ :

$$(2.15) \quad \begin{aligned} h(x, y) &= \frac{|x - y|}{\sqrt{1 + |x|^2} \sqrt{1 + |y|^2}}, \quad x, y \neq \infty \\ h(x, \infty) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + |x|^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by definition  $h(x, y) \leq 1$  for all  $x$  and  $y \in \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ . The **spherical (chordal) diameter** of a set  $E \subset \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  is

$$(2.16) \quad h(E) = \sup_{x, y \in E} h(x, y).$$

Note that

$$(2.17) \quad h(x, y) \leq |x - y|$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and

$$(2.18) \quad h(x, y) \geq \frac{1}{2}|x - y|$$

for all  $x$  and  $y$  in the unit ball  $\mathbb{B}^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  with the equality in (2.18) on  $\partial\mathbb{B}^n$ .

### 3. Characterization of ring $Q$ -homeomorphisms.

Below we use the standard conventions  $a/\infty = 0$  for  $a \neq \infty$  and  $a/0 = \infty$  if  $a > 0$  and  $0 \cdot \infty = 0$ , see, e.g., [39, p. 6].

3.1 LEMMA: *Let  $D$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ ,  $Q : D \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  a measurable function and  $q_{x_0}(r)$  the average of  $Q(x)$  over the sphere  $|x - x_0| = r$ . Set*

$$(3.2) \quad I = I(r_1, r_2) = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{dr}{r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)}$$

and  $S_j = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - x_0| = r_j\}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$  where  $x_0 \in D$  and  $0 < r_1 < r_2 < r_0 = \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$ . Then

$$(3.3) \quad M(\Gamma(fS_1, fS_2)) \leq \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{I^{n-1}}$$

whenever  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  is a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism where  $\omega_{n-1}$  is the area of the unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

*Proof.* With no loss of generality, we may assume that  $I \neq 0$  because otherwise (3.3) is trivial and that  $I \neq \infty$  because otherwise we can replace  $Q(z)$  by  $Q(z)+\delta$  with arbitrarily small  $\delta > 0$  and then take the limit as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  in (3.3). The condition  $I \neq \infty$  implies, in particular, that  $q(r) \neq 0$  almost everywhere in  $(r_1, r_2)$ . Set

$$(3.4) \quad \psi(t) = \begin{cases} 1/[tq_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(t)], & t \in (r_1, r_2), \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then

$$(3.5) \quad \int_A Q(x) \cdot \psi^n(|x - x_0|) \, dm(x) = \omega_{n-1} I$$

where

$$(3.6) \quad A = A(r_1, r_2, x_0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : r_1 < |x - x_0| < r_2\}.$$

Let  $\Gamma$  be a family of all paths joining the circles  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  in  $A$ . The function

$$\eta(t) = \psi(t)/I$$

is measurable and satisfies to condition (1.9). Since  $f$  is a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism, we get by (3.5) that

$$M(f\Gamma) \leq \int_A Q(x) \cdot \eta^n(|x - x_0|) \, dm(x) = \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{I^{n-1}}. \quad \blacksquare$$

The following lemma shows that the estimate (3.3) cannot be improved for ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms.

**3.7 LEMMA:** Fix  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, 0 < r_1 < r_2 < r_0, A = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : r_1 < |x - x_0| < r_2\}, B = B(x_0, r_0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - x_0| < r_0\}$ , and suppose that  $Q : D \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is a measurable function. Set

$$(3.8) \quad \eta_0(r) = \frac{1}{I r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)}$$

where  $q(r)$  is the average of  $Q(x)$  over the sphere  $|x - x_0| = r$  and  $I$  as in Lemma 3.1. Then

$$(3.9) \quad \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{I^{n-1}} = \int_A Q(x) \cdot \eta_0^n(|x - x_0|) \, dm(x) \leq \int_A Q(x) \cdot \eta^n(|x - x_0|) \, dm(x)$$

whenever  $\eta : (r_1, r_2) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is such that

$$(3.10) \quad \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \eta(r) \, dr = 1.$$

*Proof.* If  $I = \infty$ , then the left side in (3.9) is equal to zero and the inequality is obvious. If  $I = 0$ , then  $q_{x_0}(r) = \infty$  for almost every  $r \in (r_1, r_2)$  and the both sides in (3.9) are equal to  $\infty$ . Hence we may assume below that  $0 < I < \infty$ .

Now, by (3.2) and (3.10)  $q_{x_0}(r) \neq 0$  and  $\eta(r) \neq \infty$  almost everywhere in  $(r_1, r_2)$ . Set  $\alpha(r) = r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r) \eta(r)$  and  $w(r) = 1/r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)$ . Then by the standard conventions  $\eta(r) = \alpha(r)w(r)$  almost everywhere in  $(r_1, r_2)$  and

$$(3.11) \quad C := \int_A Q(x) \cdot \eta^n(|x - x_0|) \, dm(x) = \omega_{n-1} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \alpha^n(r) \cdot w(r) \, dr.$$

By Jensen's inequality with weights, see, e.g., [30, Theorem 2.6.2], applied to the convex function  $\varphi(t) = t^n$  in the interval  $\Omega = (r_1, r_2)$  with the probability measure

$$(3.12) \quad \nu(E) = \frac{1}{I} \int_E w(r) \, dr$$

we obtain that

$$(3.13) \quad \left( \int \alpha^n(r)w(r) \, dr \right)^{1/n} \geq \int \alpha(r)w(r) \, dr = \frac{1}{I}$$

where we also used the fact that  $\eta(r) = \alpha(r)w(r)$  satisfies (3.10). Thus,

$$(3.14) \quad C \geq \omega_{n-1}/I^{n-1}$$

and the proof is complete. ■

**3.15 THEOREM:** *Let  $D$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , and  $Q : D \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  a measurable function. A homeomorphism  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  is a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism at a point  $x_0$  if and only if for every  $0 < r_1 < r_2 < r_0 = \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$ ,*

$$(3.16) \quad M(\Gamma(fS_1, fS_2)) \leq \omega_{n-1}/I^{n-1}$$

where  $\omega_{n-1}$  is the area of the unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $q_{x_0}(r)$  is the average of  $Q(x)$  over the sphere  $|x - x_0| = r$ ,  $S_j = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - x_0| = r_j\}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , and

$$I = I(r_1, r_2) = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{dr}{r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)}.$$

Moreover, the infimum from the right hand side in (1.8) holds for the function

$$(3.17) \quad \eta_0(r) = \frac{1}{I r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)}.$$

**4. Estimates of distortion**

4.1 LEMMA: Let  $D$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  be a homeomorphism with  $h(\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus f(D)) \geq \Delta > 0$  and let  $x_0$  be a point in  $D$ ,  $y \in B(x_0, r_0)$ ,  $r_0 < \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$ ,

$$S_0 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - x_0| = r_0\} \quad \text{and} \quad S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - x_0| = |y - x_0|\}.$$

Then

$$(4.2) \quad h(f(y), f(x_0)) \leq \frac{\alpha_n}{\Delta} \cdot \exp\left(-\left\{\frac{\omega_{n-1}}{M(\Gamma(fS, fS_0))}\right\}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}\right)$$

where  $\omega_{n-1}$  is the area of the unit sphere  $S^{n-1}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\alpha_n = 2\lambda_n^2$ ,  $\lambda_n \in [4, e^n)$ ,  $\lambda_2 = 4$  and  $\lambda_n^{\frac{1}{n}} \rightarrow e$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

*Proof.* Let  $E$  denote the component of  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus fA$  containing  $f(x_0)$  and  $F$  the component containing  $\infty$  where  $A = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |y - x_0| < |x - x_0| < r_0\}$ . By the known Gehring lemma

$$(4.3) \quad \text{cap } R(E, F) \geq \text{cap } R_T\left(\frac{1}{h(E)h(F)}\right)$$

where  $h(E)$  and  $h(F)$  denote the spherical diameters of the continua  $E$  and  $F$ , correspondingly, and  $R_T(t)$  is the Teichmüller ring

$$(4.4) \quad R_T(t) = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus ([-1, 0] \cup [t, \infty]), \quad \text{for } t > 1,$$

see, e.g., [42, Section 7.37] or [7]. It is also known that

$$(4.5) \quad \text{cap } R_T(t) = \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{\{\log \Phi(t)\}^{n-1}}$$

where the function  $\Phi$  admits the good estimates:

$$(4.6) \quad t + 1 \leq \Phi(t) \leq \lambda_n^2 \cdot (t + 1) < 2\lambda_n^2 \cdot t, \quad \text{for } t > 1,$$

see, e.g., [7, pp. 225–226] and [42, (7.19) and (7.22)]. Hence the inequality (4.3) implies that

$$(4.7) \quad \text{cap } R(E, F) \geq \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{\left[\log \frac{2\lambda_n^2}{h(E)h(F)}\right]^{n-1}}.$$

Thus,

$$(4.8) \quad h(E) \leq \frac{2\lambda_n^2}{h(F)} \exp\left(-\left\{\frac{\omega_{n-1}}{\text{cap } R(E, F)}\right\}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}\right)$$

that implies the desired statement. ■

Now, combining Lemmas 3.1, 3.7 and 4.1, we have the following lemma.

4.9 LEMMA: Let  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , be a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism with  $h(\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus f(D)) \geq \Delta > 0$ . If

$$(4.10) \quad \int_{\varepsilon < |x-x_0| < \varepsilon_0} Q(x) \cdot \psi_\varepsilon^n(|x-x_0|) \, dm(x) \leq c \cdot I^p(\varepsilon), \quad \varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0),$$

for  $x_0 \in D$  and  $0 < \varepsilon_0 \leq \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$  where  $p \leq n$  and  $\psi_\varepsilon(t)$  is a nonnegative function on  $(0, \infty)$  such that

$$(4.11) \quad 0 < I(\varepsilon) = \int_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon_0} \psi_\varepsilon(t) \, dt < \infty, \quad \varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0),$$

then

$$(4.12) \quad h(f(x), f(x_0)) \leq \frac{\alpha_n}{\Delta} \exp\{-\beta_n I^{\gamma_{n,p}}(|x-x_0|)\}$$

for all  $x \in B(x_0, \varepsilon_0)$  where

$$(4.13) \quad \alpha_n = 2\lambda_n^2, \quad \beta_n = \left(\frac{\omega_{n-1}}{c}\right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}, \quad \gamma_{n,p} = 1 - \frac{p-1}{n-1},$$

$\lambda_n \in [4, e^n]$ ,  $\lambda_2 = 4$  and  $\lambda_n^{1/n} \rightarrow e$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

4.14 COROLLARY: Under the conditions of Lemma 4.9 and  $p=1$

$$(4.15) \quad h(f(x), f(x_0)) \leq \frac{\alpha_n}{\Delta} \exp\{-\beta_n I(|x-x_0|)\}.$$

From Lemmas 3.1 and 4.1 we also obtain the following estimate.

4.16 THEOREM: Let  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , be a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism with  $h(\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus f(D)) \geq \Delta > 0$ . Then, for every  $x_0 \in D$  and  $x \in B(x_0, \varepsilon(x_0))$ ,  $\varepsilon(x_0) < d(x_0) = \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$ ,

$$(4.17) \quad h(f(x), f(x_0)) \leq \frac{\alpha_n}{\Delta} \exp\left\{-\int_{|x-x_0|}^{\varepsilon(x_0)} \frac{dr}{r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)}\right\},$$

where  $\alpha_n$  is given by (4.13) and  $q_{x_0}(r)$  is the average of  $Q(x)$  over the sphere  $|x-x_0|=r$ .

4.18 Remark: Of course, the average  $q_{x_0}(r)$  of  $Q(x)$  over some spheres  $|x-x_0|=r$  can be infinite. However,  $q_{x_0}(r)$  is measurable in the parameter  $r$  because  $Q(x)$  is measurable in  $x$ . Moreover, at every point  $x \neq x_0$

$$(4.19) \quad \int_{|x-x_0|}^{\varepsilon(x_0)} \frac{dr}{r q_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)} < \infty$$

for any ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism because in the contrary case we would have from (4.17) that  $f(x) = f(x_0)$ . The integral in (4.19) can be equal to 0 if  $q_{x_0}(r) = \infty$  almost everywhere but then the inequality (4.17) is obvious, because  $\alpha_n \geq 32$  and  $\delta$  as well as  $h(f(x), f(x_0))$  is less or equal to 1.

4.20 COROLLARY: *If*

$$(4.21) \quad q_{x_0}(r) \leq \left[ \log \frac{1}{r} \right]^{n-1}$$

for  $r < \varepsilon(x_0) < \min \{1, r(x_0)\}$ , then

$$(4.22) \quad h(f(x), f(x_0)) \leq \frac{\alpha_n}{\Delta} \frac{\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon(x_0)}}{\log \frac{1}{|x-x_0|}}$$

for all  $x \in B(x_0, \varepsilon(x_0))$ .

4.23 COROLLARY: *If*

$$(4.24) \quad Q(x) \leq \left[ \log \frac{1}{|x-x_0|} \right]^{n-1}, \quad x \in B(x_0, \varepsilon(x_0)),$$

then (4.22) holds in the ball  $B(x_0, \varepsilon(x_0))$ .

4.25 Remark: If instead of (4.21) and (4.24) we have the conditions

$$(4.26) \quad q_{x_0}(r) \leq c \cdot \left[ \log \frac{1}{r} \right]^{n-1}$$

and, correspondingly,

$$(4.27) \quad Q(x) \leq c \cdot \left[ \log \frac{1}{|x-x_0|} \right]^{n-1},$$

then

$$(4.28) \quad h(f(x), f(x_0)) \leq \frac{\alpha_n}{\Delta} \left[ \frac{\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0}}{\log \frac{1}{|x-x_0|}} \right]^{1/c^{1/(n-1)}}.$$

Choosing in Lemma 4.9  $\psi(t) = 1/t$  and  $p = 1$ , we also have the following conclusion.

4.29 COROLLARY: *Let  $f : \mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{B}^n$  be a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism such that  $f(0) = 0$  and*

$$(4.30) \quad \int_{\varepsilon < |x| < 1} Q(x) \frac{dm(x)}{|x|^n} \leq c \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \quad \varepsilon \in (0, 1).$$

Then

$$(4.31) \quad |f(x)| \leq 2\alpha_n \cdot |x|^{\beta_n},$$

where the constants  $\alpha_n$  and  $\beta_n$  are defined by (4.13).

4.32 Remark: Note that, if  $Q(x) \geq 1$  or at least  $q_{x_0}(r) \geq 1$  almost everywhere, then one may use any degree  $\beta \geq 1/(n - 1)$  and, in particular,  $\beta = 1$  instead of  $1/(n - 1)$  in inequalities (4.17) and (4.19). Indeed, for the function

$$(4.33) \quad \psi(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{tq_{x_0}^\beta(t)}, & t \in (0, \varepsilon_0), \\ 0, & t \in [\varepsilon_0, \infty), \end{cases}$$

we have that

$$(4.34) \quad \int_{\varepsilon < |x-x_0| < \varepsilon_0} Q(x) \cdot \psi^n(|x - x_0|) dm(x) = \omega_{n-1} \int_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon_0} \frac{dr}{rq_{x_0}^{\beta n-1}(r)} \leq \omega_{n-1} \int_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon_0} \frac{dr}{rq_{x_0}^\beta(r)}$$

and, thus, the statement follows immediately from Corollary 4.14.

### 5. Finite mean oscillation

Recall that a real valued function  $\varphi \in L^1_{loc}(D)$  is said to be of **bounded mean oscillation** in a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , denoted  $\varphi \in \text{BMO}(D)$  or simply  $\varphi \in \text{BMO}$ , if

$$(5.1) \quad \|\varphi\|_* = \sup_{B \subset D} \int_B |\varphi(x) - \varphi_B| dm(x) < \infty,$$

where the supremum is taken over all balls  $B$  in  $D$  and

$$(5.2) \quad \varphi_B = \int_B \varphi(x) dm(x) = \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B \varphi(x) dm(x)$$

is the average of the function  $\varphi$  over  $B$ . It is well-known that  $L^\infty(D) \subset \text{BMO}(D) \subset L^p_{loc}(D)$  for all  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , see, e.g., [17] and [31]. For connections of BMO functions and quasiconformal and quasiregular mappings, see, e.g., [1], [2], [6], [18], [27] and [31].

Following [13]–[14], we say that a function  $\varphi : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has **finite mean oscillation** at a point  $x_0 \in D$  if

$$(5.3) \quad \overline{\lim}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} |\varphi(x) - \overline{\varphi}_\varepsilon| dm(x) < \infty,$$

where

$$(5.4) \quad \overline{\varphi_\varepsilon} = \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} \varphi(x) \, dm(x)$$

is the average of the function  $\varphi(x)$  over  $B(x_0, \varepsilon)$ . Note that under (5.3) it is possible that  $\overline{\varphi_\varepsilon} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . We also say that a function  $\varphi : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is of finite mean oscillation in the domain  $D$ , and write  $\varphi \in \text{FMO}(D)$  or simply  $\varphi \in \mathbf{FMO}$ , if  $\varphi$  has finite mean oscillation at every point  $x \in D$ . Note that  $\text{FMO}$  is not  $\text{BMO}_{loc}$ , see examples in [34]–[37].

Recall some facts on finite mean oscillation from [13].

5.5 COROLLARY: *If, for some numbers  $\varphi_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}, \varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0]$ ,*

$$(5.6) \quad \overline{\lim}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} |\varphi(x) - \varphi_\varepsilon| \, dm(x) < \infty,$$

*then  $\varphi$  has finite mean oscillation at  $x_0$ .*

5.7 COROLLARY: *If, for a point  $x_0 \in D$ ,*

$$(5.8) \quad \overline{\lim}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} |\varphi(x)| \, dm(x) < \infty,$$

*then  $\varphi$  has finite mean oscillation at  $x_0$ .*

5.9 LEMMA: *Let  $\varphi : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, n \geq 2$ , be a nonnegative function with a finite mean oscillation at  $0 \in D$ . Then*

$$(5.10) \quad \int_{\varepsilon < |x| < \varepsilon_0} \frac{\varphi(x) \, dm(x)}{(|x| \log \frac{1}{|x|})^n} = O\left(\log \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

*as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , for some  $\varepsilon_0 \leq \text{dist}(0, \partial D)$ .*

Thus, from Lemma 4.9 we obtain the following.

5.11 THEOREM: *Let  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}, n \geq 2$ , be a ring  $Q$ -homeomorphism with  $h(\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus f(D)) \geq \Delta > 0$ . If  $Q(x)$  has finite mean oscillation at a point  $x_0 \in D$ , then, for some  $\varepsilon_0 < \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$ ,*

$$(5.12) \quad h(f(x), f(x_0)) \leq \frac{\alpha_n}{\Delta} \left\{ \frac{\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0}}{\log \frac{1}{|x-x_0|}} \right\}^{\beta_0}$$

*for  $x \in B(x_0, \varepsilon_0)$ , where  $\alpha_n$  depends only on  $n$  and  $\beta_0 > 0$  depends only on  $n$  and the function  $Q$ .*

**6. On normal families of  $Q$ -homeomorphisms**

Let  $D$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $Q : D \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  be a measurable function. Let  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}(D)$  be the class of all ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , such that  $h(\overline{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus f(D)) \geq \Delta > 0$ . The above results now yield:

6.1 THEOREM: *If  $Q \in FMO$ , then  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}(D)$  is a normal family.*

6.2 COROLLARY: *The class  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}(D)$  is normal if*

$$(6.3) \quad \overline{\lim}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} Q(x) \, dm(x) < \infty \quad \text{for every } x_0 \in D.$$

6.4 COROLLARY: *The class  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}(D)$  is normal if every  $x_0 \in D$  is a Lebesgue point of  $Q(x)$ .*

6.5 THEOREM: *Let  $\Delta > 0$  and  $Q : D \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  be a measurable function such that*

$$(6.6) \quad \int_0^{\varepsilon(x_0)} \frac{dr}{rq_{x_0}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}(r)} = \infty$$

*holds at every point  $x_0 \in D$  where  $\varepsilon(x_0) < \text{dist}(x_0, \partial D)$  and  $q_{x_0}(r)$  denotes the average of  $Q(x)$  over the sphere  $|x - x_0| = r$ . Then  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}$  is a normal family.*

6.7 COROLLARY: *The class  $\mathfrak{R}_{Q,\Delta}(D)$  is normal if  $Q(x)$  has singularities of the logarithmic type of the order which is not more than  $n - 1$  at every point  $x \in D$ .*

6.8 Remark: In view of Remark 4.32, if  $Q(x) \geq 1$  almost everywhere in  $D$ , then one may use any degree  $\beta \geq 1/(n - 1)$  and, in particular,  $\beta = 1$  instead of  $1/(n - 1)$  in condition (6.6). In particular, all the above results hold for homeomorphisms  $f$  of the Sobolev class  $W_{loc}^{1,n}$  with  $f^{-1} \in W_{loc}^{1,n}$  under the condition that almost everywhere

$$(6.9) \quad K_I(x, f) \leq Q(x)$$

where  $K_I(x, f)$  is the so-called inner dilatation of the mapping  $f$  at the point  $x \in D$  because such  $f$  are  $Q$ -homeomorphisms, see, e.g., [25, Theorems 4.6 and 7.10]. Note that, for homeomorphisms  $f \in W_{loc}^{1,n}$  with  $K_I \in L_{loc}^1$ ,  $f^{-1}$  belongs to  $W_{loc}^{1,n}$ , see [21, Corollary 2.3]. Moreover, the results can be applied to the classes of homeomorphisms  $f$  with finite length distortion which are also  $Q$ -homeomorphisms with  $Q(x) = K_I(x, f)$ , see [25, Theorem 6.10].

POSTSCRIPT: As in the classical case of  $Q$ -quasiconformal mappings, cf., e.g., [23, Theorem II.5.1], a family  $\mathfrak{R}$  of ring  $Q$ -homeomorphisms  $f : D \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$  in a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , is normal under every condition given above for  $Q$  if there is a number  $\Delta > 0$  such that one of the following conditions holds:

- 1) Every mapping  $f \in \mathfrak{R}$  omits two values whose spherical distance is greater than  $\Delta$ .
- 2) Every mapping  $f \in \mathfrak{R}$  omits one value  $w_0$  and  $h(w(x_i), w_0) > \Delta$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , at two fixed points  $x_1$  and  $x_2 \in D$ .
- 3) At three fixed points  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3 \in D$ ,  $h(w(x_i), w(x_j)) > \Delta$ ,  $i \neq j$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2, 3$ .

In particular,  $\mathfrak{R}$  is normal if all mappings  $f \in \mathfrak{R}$  omit two fixed values in  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}$ .

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