

## AUTOMORPHIC MAPPINGS IN $R^n$

BY O. MARTIO AND U. SREBRO

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1. By an automorphic mapping in  $R^n$  we mean a continuous, open, discrete, and sense-preserving mapping  $f$  from a domain  $D$  in  $R^n$  into  $\bar{R}^n = R^n \cup \{\infty\}$  which satisfies  $f \circ g = f$  for all  $g \in G$  for some discrete group  $G$  of  $n$ -dimensional Möbius transformations,  $n \geq 2$ . The results presented here indicate differences (see §5) as well as similarities (see §4) between automorphic functions in  $C$  and automorphic mappings of bounded dilatation in  $R^n$ ,  $n > 2$ . By mappings of bounded dilatation we mean *quasimeromorphic* (qm) mappings (cf. [MRV 1–2]).

2. Let  $G$  be a discrete Möbius group acting on the unit ball  $B^n$ . For  $x_0 \in B^n$  which is not fixed by any element of  $G \setminus \{id\}$  the set  $P = \{x \in B^n : d(x, x_0) < d(x, g(x_0)), \forall g \in G \setminus \{id\}\}$  is a *normal fundamental polyhedron*;  $d$  denotes the hyperbolic distance. If the hyperbolic measure  $V(B^n/G)$  of  $B^n/G$  is finite, then every normal fundamental polyhedron  $P$  has a finite number of  $(n-1)$ -faces and a finite number of *boundary vertices*  $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\} = \bar{P} \cap \partial B^n$  [S]. The last set is void when  $B^n/G$  is compact.  $P$  is said to be *simple* if for every boundary vertex  $p \in \bar{P} \cap \partial B^n$  all the  $(n-1)$ -faces of  $P$  which meet at  $p$  are pairwise  $G$ -equivalent. By a recent result of Leon Greenberg (unpublished) it can be shown [MS] that if  $V(B^n/G) < \infty$ , then every point  $b \in \partial B^n$  which is fixed by a parabolic element  $g \in G$  is a boundary vertex of some simple fundamental polyhedron. A Möbius transformation is called *parabolic* if it has a unique fixed point in  $\bar{R}^n$ .

Complete proofs of the following theorems and related results will appear in [MS].

3. The existence of automorphic meromorphic functions for Möbius groups in  $C$  is usually proved by methods which cannot be used in  $R^n$ ,  $n > 2$ . However, with a suitable modification of a construction by J. W. Alexander [A] we obtain

**THEOREM 1.** *Every discrete Möbius group acting on  $B^n$  with  $V(B^n/G) < \infty$  has qm automorphic mappings.*

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