

# A REMARK ON GEODESIC GEOMETRY OF TEICHMÜLLER SPACES

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ABSTRACT. Let  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  be the Teichmüller space of a hyperbolic Riemann surface  $S$ . In this paper, it is shown that, if  $\mu$  is an extremal Beltrami differential on  $S$  of landslide-type, then there exist infinitely many geodesic rays, all of which tangent to each other at the basepoint of  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  but intersect at  $[\mu]$ .

## §1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  be the Teichmüller space of a hyperbolic Riemann surface  $S$  and let  $\text{Belt}(S)$  be the Banach space of bounded measurable Beltrami differentials  $\mu = \mu \bar{d}z/dz$  on  $S$  with  $L_\infty$ -norms. Suppose  $\mathcal{M}(S)$  is the open unit ball of  $\text{Belt}(S)$ .

For any  $\mu$  in  $\mathcal{M}(S)$ ,  $f^\mu$  stands for a quasiconformal mapping of  $S$  onto  $f^\mu(S)$ , whose complex dilatation is  $\mu$ . Two elements  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  in  $\mathcal{M}(S)$  are said to be Teichmüller equivalent, denoted by  $\mu \sim \nu$ , if and only if, there exists a conformal mapping  $\psi$  of  $f^\mu(S)$  onto  $f^\nu(S)$  such that  $(f^\nu)^{-1} \circ \psi \circ f^\mu$  is homotopic to the identity mapping (Mod  $\partial S$ ). The Teichmüller space  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  is defined as  $\mathcal{M}(S)/\sim$ , i.e.,

$$\mathcal{T}(S) := \{[\mu] : \mu \in \mathcal{M}(S)\},$$

where  $[\mu]$  is the Teichmüller equivalence class of  $\mu$ .

A Beltrami differential  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(S)$  is said to be extremal, if and only if,

$$\|\mu\|_\infty \leq \|\mu'\|_\infty, \quad \forall \mu' \in [\mu].$$

As is well-known,  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  is a complex manifold. When  $S$  is compact with genus  $g > 1$ , or more generally speaking, when  $S$  is of  $(g, n)$ -type with  $3g - 3 + n > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  is finite-dimensional. Otherwise, it is infinite-dimensional.

$\mathcal{T}(S)$  has a natural metric  $d_{\mathcal{T}}(\cdot, \cdot)$ , which coincides with the Kobayashi metric and can be induced from a Finsler form.

The geometry of the Teichmüller metric has been studied by many authors, for example, [7],[1],[16],[2],[3],[9],[10] and many others, including some preprints [19],[14] and [17].

This paper is a further study on angles between two geodesic rays in Teichmüller spaces, which is firstly defined in [19].

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To state our question and results, we need some notation and terminologies. Suppose  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(S) \setminus \{0\}$  is extremal. Then the mapping <sup>1</sup>

$$\gamma_\mu : [0, 1) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(S); \quad r \mapsto [r\mu/\|\mu\|_\infty]$$

is an isometry embedding with respect to the Poincaré metric and the Teichmüller metric, respectively. We called  $\gamma_\mu$  a *geodesic ray*. The restriction  $\gamma_\mu|_{[0, \|\mu\|_\infty]}$  of  $\gamma_\mu$  is called a *geodesic segment* between  $[0]$  and  $[\mu]$ .

Suppose both  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are extremal with

$$\|\mu\|_\infty = \|\nu\|_\infty = k \neq 0. \quad (1.1)$$

Following [19] (or see [12]), if the limit

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu])}{r} \quad (1.2)$$

exists, the angel  $\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu \rangle$  at  $[0]$  between two geodesic rays  $\gamma_\mu$  and  $\gamma_\nu$  is defined as follows :

$$\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu \rangle := 2 \arcsin \left( \frac{1}{2} \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu])}{rk} \right). \quad (1.3)$$

For the reason why we definite the angle  $\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu \rangle$  like this, refer to [12].

If  $\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu \rangle = 0$ , we say  $\gamma_\mu$  is tangent to  $\gamma_\nu$  at  $[0]$ , or say  $\gamma_\mu$  and  $\gamma_\nu$  are tangent to each other at  $[0]$ . Naturally, in this case, we also say geodesic segment  $\gamma_\mu|_{[0, k]}$  is tangent to the geodesic segment  $\gamma_\nu|_{[0, k]}$  at  $[0]$ , or say they are tangent to each other at  $[0]$ .

It is natural to ask the following question that was firstly proposed in [14]:

*Are there two distinct geodesic rays  $\gamma_\mu$  and  $\gamma_\nu$  that tangent at  $[0]$  but intersect at another point?*

If  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  is finite-dimensional, the answer to this question is no. However, for the infinite-dimensional case, it is yes. The following theorem provides an affirmative answer to this question: There exist infinitely many geodesic rays that start at  $[0]$  and intersect at another point  $[\mu]$  in  $\mathcal{T}(S)$ .

**Theorem 1.1** *Suppose  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(S) \setminus \{0\}$  is extremal with the following property:*

$$\mu(z) \equiv 0, \quad \forall z \in U \quad (1.4)$$

*where  $U$  is an open subset of  $S$ . Then there exists a family  $\mathcal{F} = \{\nu_\alpha : 0 < \alpha < \delta\}$  of extremal Beltrami differentials  $\nu_\alpha$  in  $[\mu]$  such that each geodesic rays  $\gamma_{\nu_\alpha}$  is tangent to  $\gamma_\mu$ , namely*

$$\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_{\nu_\alpha} \rangle = 0, \quad \forall \alpha \in (0, \delta).$$

*Moreover, if  $\alpha \neq \alpha'$  and both of them are in  $(\delta_0, \delta)$ , then geodesic ray  $\gamma_\alpha$  is distinct from  $\gamma_{\alpha'}$ .*

*Remark 1.1:* It is known that condition (1.4) implies the existence of infinitely many geodesic segments connecting  $[0]$  and  $[\mu]$  ( see [18] or [11]). Now Theorem 1.1 tells us that condition (1.4) implies much more: such segments can be required to be tangent to each other.

*Remark 1.2:* For any infinite-dimensional Teichmüller space, one can easily show the existence of such a  $\mu$  in Theorem 1.1. So such a geometric phenomenon appears in any infinite-dimensional Teichmüller space.

<sup>1</sup>Here we regard the interval  $[0, 1)$  as a non-Euclidean ray in the Poincaré disk  $\mathbb{D}$ .

*Remark 1.3:* By a result [20] of Z. Zhou, if there is an open set  $V$  of  $S$  such that

$$\sup\{|\mu|(z) : z \in V\} < \|\mu\|_\infty \quad (1.5)$$

then (1.4) holds for some open subset  $U$  of  $S$ . So condition (1.4) can be replaced by (1.5).

An extremal Beltrami differential  $\mu$  with condition (1.5) is said to be of landslide type. So Theorem 1.1 holds for any extremal Beltrami differential of landslide type.

*Remark 1.4:* Recently we got a preprint of paper [17] by Y-L. Shen and Y. Hu. In their interesting paper, it is shown that the limit (1.2) always exists for any Beltrami differentials  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  and

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu])}{r} = \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S)} \left| \int_S [\mu - \nu] \phi \right|,$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_1(S) := \{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}(S) : \|\phi\| = 1\}$ . Moreover, they answered a question on triangles posted in [12], by showing the following fact: In an infinite-dimensional Teichmüller space, there is an equiangular triangle whose inner angle  $\theta$  may take any given values in  $[0, \pi]$ . Now our paper investigates two-sided polygons whose sides are geodesic segments.

## §2. PRELIMINARY AND NOTATION

Without loss of generality, throughout this paper we assume that  $S$  is a Riemann surface whose universal covering surface is the open unit disc  $\mathbb{D} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ . The corresponding covering map of  $S$  is denoted by  $\pi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow S$  and the covering transformation group of  $\pi$  is denoted by  $\Gamma$ .

For convenient sake, we identify  $S$  with  $\mathbb{D}/\Gamma$  and all discussions on  $S$  are transformed to  $\mathbb{D}$  with the action of  $\Gamma$ . For example, the Banach space  $\text{Belt}(S)$  is regarded as the Banach space of functions  $\mu(z) \in L_\infty(\mathbb{D})$  that satisfy the following condition:

$$\mu(\gamma(z)) \frac{\overline{\gamma'(z)}}{\gamma'(z)} = \mu(z), \text{ for a.e. } z \in \mathbb{D} \text{ and } \forall \gamma \in \Gamma. \quad (2.1)$$

The ideal boundary  $\partial S$  of  $S$  is regarded as  $\partial\mathbb{D}/\Gamma$ .

With this agreement, for each element  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(S)$ , there is a uniquely determined quasiconformal mapping of  $\mathbb{D}$  onto itself that keeps  $1$ ,  $i$  and  $-1$  fixed, whose complex dilatation is  $\mu$ . Such a quasiconformal mapping is denoted by  $f^\mu$ . Actually,  $f^\mu$  represents a quasiconformal mapping of  $S$  onto  $S^\mu := \mathbb{D}/\Gamma^\mu$  with the complex dilatation  $\mu$ , where

$$\Gamma^\mu := \{f^\mu \circ \gamma \circ (f^\mu)^{-1} : \forall \gamma \in \Gamma\}.$$

Sometimes we need to deal with some other Riemann surface expect for  $S$ . In this case, a quasiconformal mapping of this Riemann surface onto another one is also expressed as a quasiconformal mapping of  $\mathbb{D}$  onto itself that is compatible with a group.

It is known that a quasiconformal mapping  $f^\mu : S \rightarrow S^\mu$  can be extended to  $\overline{S} = S \cup \partial S$  as a homeomorphism of  $\overline{S}$  onto  $\overline{S}^\mu$ . Such an extension of  $f^\mu$  is denoted by  $\hat{f}^\mu$ .

With this notation, the Teichmüller equivalence can be simply expressed as follows:  $\mu \sim \nu$ , if and only if,

$$\hat{f}^\mu|_{\partial\mathbb{D}} = \hat{f}^\nu|_{\partial\mathbb{D}}.$$

Let  $\mu$  be any element of  $\mathcal{M}(S)$ . As usually,  $K(f^\mu)$  denotes the maximal dilatation of  $f^\mu$ , namely

$$K(f^\mu) := \frac{1 + \|\mu\|_\infty}{1 - \|\mu\|_\infty}.$$

In this paper, we define

$$K([\mu]) := \inf\{K(f^{\mu'}) : \mu' \sim \mu\},$$

and call it the extremal maximal dilatation of  $[\mu]$ . We also need the notation of the boundary dilatation. Let  $h([\mu])$  be defined as

$$h([\mu]) := \inf\{h(\mu') : \mu' \sim \mu\},$$

where  $h(\mu')$  is the boundary norm of  $\mu'$ , that is

$$h(\nu) := \inf_E \{\|\nu|_{S \setminus E}\|_\infty\},$$

where  $E$  ranges over all compact subsets of  $S$ .

By  $\mathcal{Q}(S)$  we denote the Banach space of integrable holomorphic quadratic differentials  $\phi = \phi(z)dz^2$  on  $S$  with  $L_1$ -norms  $\|\phi\|$ . According to our agreement that  $S$  is identified with  $\mathbb{D}/\Gamma$ , a holomorphic quadratic differential  $\phi$  on  $S$  is regarded as a holomorphic function  $\phi(z)$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  that satisfies the following condition:

$$\phi(\gamma(z))[\gamma'(z)]^2 = \phi(z), \quad \forall \gamma \in \Gamma.$$

The norm  $\|\phi\|$  will be written in both ways:

$$\|\phi\| = \int_S |\phi|, \quad \text{or} \quad \|\phi\| = \iint_\Omega |\phi(z)| dx dy \quad (z = x + iy),$$

where  $\Omega$  is a fundamental domain of  $\Gamma$ .

The Banach dual space of  $\mathcal{Q}(S)$  is the tangent space to  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  at  $[0]$ , which is usually called *the infinitesimal Teichmüller space* of  $S$  and denoted by  $\mathfrak{B}(S)$ . More precisely, two elements  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  of  $\text{Belt}(S)$  are called *infinitesimal Teichmüller equivalent*, denoted by  $\mu \approx \nu$ , if and only if,

$$\int_S (\mu - \nu)\phi = 0, \quad \forall \phi \in \mathcal{Q}(S).$$

The infinitesimal Teichmüller equivalence class of  $\mu$  is denoted by  $[\mu]_{\mathfrak{B}}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{B}(S)$  is defined as the quotient space  $\text{Belt}(S)/\approx$ , namely  $\mathfrak{B}(S) = \{[\mu]_{\mathfrak{B}} : \mu \in \text{Belt}(S)\}$ .  $[\mu]_{\mathfrak{B}}$  has a standard sup norm:

$$\|[\mu]_{\mathfrak{B}}\| := \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S)} \left| \int_S \mu\phi \right|,$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_1(S) = \{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}(S) : \|\phi\| = 1\}$ .

## §3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

To show Theorem 1.1, we need some lemmas. The first lemma is a generalization of the Polygon Inequality of Reich-Strebel. For its proof, refer to [9].

**Lemma 3.1** *Let  $\tilde{S}$  be a hyperbolic Riemann surface and  $\mathcal{T}(\tilde{S})$  the Teichmüller space of  $\tilde{S}$ . Suppose  $\tilde{\sigma}$  is a Beltrami differential on  $\tilde{S}$  with  $\|\tilde{\sigma}\| < 1$  and  $[\tilde{\sigma}]$  is the Teichmüller equivalence class of  $\tilde{\sigma}$  (Mod  $\partial\tilde{S}$ ). Then we have*

$$K([\tilde{\sigma}]) \leq \sup_{\tilde{\phi} \in \mathcal{Q}_1(\tilde{S})} \int_{\tilde{S}} \frac{|1 + \tilde{\sigma} \frac{\tilde{\phi}}{|\tilde{\phi}|}|^2}{1 - |\tilde{\sigma}|^2} |\tilde{\phi}|,$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_1(\tilde{S}) := \{\tilde{\phi} \in \mathcal{Q}(\tilde{S}) : \|\tilde{\phi}\| = 1\}$ .

In what follows, we will use the notation “O” in the following sense: Suppose  $f(r)$  and  $g(r)$  are two complex valued functions of  $r \in (0, 1)$ . We say  $f(r) = O(|g(r)|)$  (as  $r \rightarrow 0+$ ), if there are two constants  $C(> 0)$  and  $r_0$  with  $0 < r_0 < 1$  such that

$$|f(r)| \leq C|g(r)|, \quad \text{provided } 0 < r < r_0.$$

The constants  $C$  and  $r_0$  are called *the constants contained in the “O”*.

The second lemma is a special case of the “good approximations”. For its proof, refer to [15].

**Lemma 3.2** *Suppose  $\{\sigma_r : r \in (0, 1)\}$  is a family of elements in  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  with the following condition*

$$\|\sigma_r\|_\infty \leq 3r \quad (0 < r < 1). \quad (3.1)$$

Then we have

$$|f^{\sigma_r}(z) - z| = O(r) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+), \quad \forall z \in \bar{\mathbb{D}} \quad (3.2)$$

and

$$\|\partial_z f^{\sigma_r} - 1\|_{L_2(\mathbb{D})} = O(r) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+). \quad (3.3)$$

The constants contained in the “O”s in (3.2) and (3.3) are universal.

*Remark 3.1:* In the general case, (3.1) should be  $|\sigma_r| \leq Mr$ , where  $M > 0$  is a constant. However, for our discussion below,  $M = 3$  is good enough and in this case, the constants contained in “O” are universal.

As a consequence of (3.3) we have the following:

**Corollary 3.1** *For any sequence  $\{r_n\}$  in  $(0, 1)$  with  $r_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , there is a subsequence  $\{r_{n_k}\}$  of  $\{r_n\}$  such that*

$$\partial_z f^{r_{n_k}}(z) \rightarrow 1, \quad \text{for a. e. } z \in \Omega. \quad (3.4)$$

The third lemma is new version of the main inequality of Reich-Strebel (see [13]):

**Lemma 3.3** *Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be arbitrarily given two elements of  $\mathcal{M}(X)$ . Suppose  $\kappa$  is a Beltrami differential on  $f^\mu(X)$ , such that  $f^\kappa \sim f^\nu \circ (f^\mu)^{-1}$  (Mod  $\partial f^\mu(X)$ ).*

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<sup>2</sup>Here  $f^{\sigma_r}$  actually is a quasiconformal mapping of  $\mathbb{D}$  onto  $\mathbb{D}$  that is compactible with the group  $\Gamma$  (see §2).

Let  $\tau$  be the Beltrami coefficient of  $f^\kappa \circ f^\mu$ . Then for any  $\phi \in \mathcal{Q}(X)$  with  $\|\phi\| = 1$ , we have

$$1 \leq \int_X \frac{\left|1 - \mu \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2 \left|1 - \kappa \circ f^\mu \Omega_\mu(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2 \left|1 - \nu_1 \circ f^\tau \Omega_\tau(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - |\mu|^2 \quad 1 - |\kappa \circ f^\mu|^2 \quad 1 - |\nu_1 \circ f^\tau|^2} |\phi|,$$

where  $\nu_1$  is the Beltrami coefficient of  $(f^\nu)^{-1}$ ,

$$\Omega_\mu(\phi) := \frac{\overline{\partial_z f^\mu} \frac{1 - \overline{\mu\phi}/|\phi|}{\partial_z f^\mu \frac{1 - \mu\phi/|\phi|}} \quad \text{and} \quad \Omega_\tau(\phi) := \frac{\overline{\partial_z f^\tau} \frac{1 - \overline{\tau\phi}/|\phi|}{\partial_z f^\tau \frac{1 - \tau\phi/|\phi|}}.$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* We divide our proof into four parts.

*Part A :* Contraction of the family  $\mathcal{F} := \{\nu_\alpha : 0 < \alpha < \delta\}$ .

Suppose  $\mu$  is the given Beltrami differential on  $S$  in Theorem 1.1; namely,  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(S) \setminus \{0\}$  is extremal and

$$\mu(z) \equiv 0, \quad \forall z \in U,$$

where  $U$  is an open subset of  $S$ .

Let  $\pi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow S$  be the covering mapping of  $S$  and  $\Gamma$  the covering transformation group of  $\pi$ . Suppose  $\Omega$  is a fundamental domain of  $\Gamma$ . Without loss of generality, one may assume that  $\pi^{-1}(U) \cap \Omega$  contains a disk

$$D := \{z \in \mathbb{D} : |z - z_0| < \rho\}$$

with  $\overline{D} \subset \Omega$ . So we have

$$\mu(z) \equiv 0, \quad \forall z \in D. \tag{3.5}$$

We look at the following function:

$$\eta_\alpha(z) := z + \alpha(z - z_0)(|z - z_0|^2 - \rho^2)|z - z_0|^2, \quad z \in D,$$

where  $\alpha$  is a real parameter. A simple computation shows

$$\partial_{\bar{z}} \eta_\alpha = \alpha(z - z_0)^2 (2|z - z_0|^2 - \rho^2)$$

and

$$\partial_z \eta_\alpha = 1 + \alpha(3|z - z_0|^2 - 2\rho^2)|z - z_0|^2.$$

Let  $\tau_\alpha := \partial_{\bar{z}} \eta_\alpha / \partial_z \eta_\alpha$ . Then we have

$$\tau_\alpha(z) = (z - z_0)^2 h_\alpha(|z - z_0|), \quad \forall z \in D_\alpha, \tag{3.6}$$

where  $h_\alpha$  is a function of  $r \in [0, \rho)$ :

$$h_\alpha(r) := \frac{\alpha(2r^2 - \rho^2)}{1 + \alpha(3r^2 - 2\rho^2)}.$$

Now we assume that  $0 < \alpha < \delta$  and  $\delta$  is sufficiently small, such that

$$|\partial_z \eta_\alpha|(z) > \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad |\partial_{\bar{z}} \eta_\alpha|(z) < \frac{\|\mu\|_\infty}{2}, \quad \forall z \in D.$$

This leads to

$$|\tau(z)| < \|\mu\|_\infty < 1 \quad \forall z \in D. \tag{3.7}$$

Clearly,  $\eta_\alpha$  satisfies the following Beltrami equation

$$\partial_{\bar{z}} \eta_\alpha(z) = \tau_\alpha(z) \partial_z \eta_\alpha(z), \quad \forall z \in D.$$

On the other hand, by the definition of  $\eta_\alpha$ , the restriction of  $\eta_\alpha$  to  $\partial D$  is an identity mapping of  $\partial D$ . Therefore  $\eta_\alpha$  is a quasiconformal mapping of  $D$  onto itself.

Now for each fixed  $\alpha$ , we define a quasiconformal mapping  $g_\alpha$  of  $\Omega$  onto itself:

$$z \mapsto g_\alpha(z) := \begin{cases} \eta_\alpha(z), & \text{as } z \in D; \\ z, & \text{as } z \in \Omega \setminus D. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\Gamma(D) := \cup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma(D)$  and  $\mathfrak{D} := \Gamma(D)/\Gamma$ . It is clear that  $g_\alpha$  induces a quasiconformal mapping  $\tilde{g}_\alpha$  of  $S$  onto itself, which is an identity mapping of  $S \setminus \mathfrak{D}$ . The complex dilatation of  $\tilde{g}_\alpha$  is denoted by  $\tilde{\tau}_\alpha$ . Obviously, we have

$$\tilde{\tau}_\alpha(z) \equiv 0, \quad \forall z \in S \setminus \mathfrak{D}. \quad (3.8)$$

Now  $\nu_\alpha$  is defined to be the complex dilatation of  $f^\mu \circ \tilde{g}_\alpha$ . In the other words,

$$f^{\nu_\alpha} = f^\mu \circ \tilde{g}_\alpha. \quad (3.9)$$

From (3.7) we see that  $\|\nu_\alpha|_{\mathfrak{D}}\|_\infty \leq \|\mu\|_\infty$ . On the other hand,  $\nu_\alpha(z) = \mu(z)$  as  $z \in S \setminus \mathfrak{D}$ . So  $\nu_\alpha$  is extremal.

Then  $F = \{\nu_\alpha : 0 < \alpha < \delta\}$  is the family of extremal Beltrami differentials. In the following parts of the proof, we will show each element  $\nu_\alpha$  in  $\mathfrak{F}$  satisfies the requirements of Theorem 1.1.

*Part B : Proof of  $\|[\mu - \nu_\alpha]_{\mathfrak{B}}\| = 0$ .*

In this part, we want to show

$$\|[\mu - \nu_\alpha]_{\mathfrak{B}}\| \equiv \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S)} \left| \int_S (\mu - \nu_\alpha) \phi \right| = 0, \quad (3.10)$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_1(S) := \{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}(S) : \|\phi\| = 1\}$ .

By the chain rule of complex dilatations, from (3.9) we have

$$\nu_\alpha = \frac{\tilde{\tau}_\alpha + \mu \circ \tilde{g}_\alpha \omega_{\tilde{g}_\alpha}}{1 + \tilde{\tau}_\alpha \mu \circ \tilde{g}_\alpha \omega_{\tilde{g}_\alpha}}, \quad (3.11)$$

where  $\omega_{\tilde{g}_\alpha} = \overline{\partial_z \tilde{g}_\alpha} / \partial_z \tilde{g}_\alpha$ .

Recalling the fact that  $\tilde{g}_\alpha|_{S \setminus \mathfrak{D}}$  is an identity mapping, we see  $\omega_{\tilde{g}_\alpha}|_{S \setminus \mathfrak{D}} = 1$ . On the other hand,  $\mu|_{\mathfrak{D}} \equiv 0$ . So it follows from (3.11) that

$$\nu_\alpha(z) = \begin{cases} \tilde{\tau}_\alpha(z), & \text{as } z \in \mathfrak{D}; \\ \mu(z), & \text{as } z \in S \setminus \mathfrak{D}. \end{cases} \quad (3.12)$$

Because  $\mu|_{\mathfrak{D}} \equiv 0$  and  $\tilde{\tau}_\alpha(z) = 0$  when  $z \in S \setminus \mathfrak{D}$ , (3.12) leads to

$$\nu_\alpha(z) - \mu(z) = \tilde{\tau}_\alpha(z), \quad \forall z \in S. \quad (3.13)$$

In particular, we have

$$\nu_\alpha(z) - \mu(z) = \tau_\alpha(z), \quad \forall z \in \Omega. \quad (3.14)$$

Then it follows from (3.13) and (3.14) that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S)} \left| \int_S (\tilde{\nu}_\alpha - \mu) \phi \right| \\
&= \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega)} \left| \iint_\Omega (\nu_\alpha(z) - \mu(z)) \phi(z) dx dy, \right. \\
&= \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega)} \left| \iint_{D_\alpha} \tau_\alpha(z) \phi(z) dx dy, \right.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.15}$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega)$  is the set of all local expressions in terms of parameters in  $\Omega$  of elements in  $\mathcal{Q}_1(S)$ .

Let  $\phi$  be any elementary in  $\mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega)$  and let its restriction to  $D$  be

$$\phi|_D(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (z - z_0)^n.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \iint_D \tau_\alpha(z) \phi|_D(z) dx dy \\
&= \iint_D h_\alpha(|z - z_0|) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (z - z_0)^{n+2} dx dy \\
&= \int_0^\rho h_\alpha(r) r dr \int_0^{2\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n r^n e^{i(n+2)\theta} d\theta = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

Then (3.10) follows from (3.15) and (3.16).

*Part C: Proof of  $\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_{\nu_\alpha} \rangle = 0$ .*

Now we are going to show  $\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_{\nu_\alpha} \rangle = 0$  by using (3.10).

*Remark 3.2:* If one uses the result of [17], the conclusion  $\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_{\nu_\alpha} \rangle = 0$  can be gotten directly from (3.10). However, so far [17] has not published yet. For the completeness of this paper, here we give a proof that is different from [17].

Suppose  $S_r$  is the Riemann surface  $f^{r\mu}(S)$  and  $\sigma_{\alpha,r}$  is the complex dilatation of  $f^{r\nu_\alpha} \circ (f^{r\mu})^{-1}$ . Then  $\sigma_{\alpha,r}$  is a Beltrami differential on  $S_r$  and

$$f^{\sigma_{\alpha,r}} = f^{r\nu_\alpha} \circ (f^{r\mu})^{-1}. \tag{3.17}$$

Let  $K([\sigma_{\alpha,r}])$  be the extremal maximal dilatation of  $[\sigma_{\alpha,r}]$ . Then the Teichmüller distance between  $[r\mu]$  and  $[r\nu_\alpha]$  is

$$d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha]) = \frac{1}{2} \log K([\sigma_{\alpha,r}]).$$

Now we apply Lemma 3.1 with the following notation changes:  $\tilde{S}$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}$  in Lemma 3.1 are replaced by  $S_r$  and  $\sigma_{\alpha,r}$ , respectively. Then we get

$$K([\sigma_{\alpha,r}]) \leq \sup_{\phi_r \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S_r)} \int_{S_r} \frac{|1 + \sigma_{\alpha,r} \frac{\phi_r}{|\phi_r|}|^2}{1 - |\sigma_{\alpha,r}|^2} |\phi_r|, \tag{3.18}$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_1(S_r) := \{\phi_r \in \mathcal{Q}(S_r) : \|\phi_r\| = 1\}$ .



By the chain rule of complex dilatations and (3.17), we have

$$\sigma_{\alpha,r} \circ f^{r\mu} = \frac{r\nu_\alpha - r\mu}{1 - r^2\bar{\mu}\nu_\alpha} \overline{\omega_{f^{r\mu}}},$$

where  $\omega_{f^{r\mu}} = \overline{\partial_z f^{r\mu}} / \partial_z f^{r\mu}$ . Then we get

$$\|\sigma_{\alpha,r}\|_\infty \leq \frac{2r}{1-r^2} \quad (0 < r < 1),$$

and hence, from (3.18),

$$\begin{aligned} K([\sigma_{\alpha,r}]) &\leq \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S_r)} \int_{S_r} \left| 1 + \sigma_{\alpha,r} \frac{\phi_r}{|\phi_r|} \right|^2 |\phi_r| + O(r^2) \\ &= 1 + 2 \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S_r)} \operatorname{Re} \int_{S_r} \sigma_{\alpha,r} \phi_r + O(r^2) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+), \end{aligned}$$

where the constants contained in the “ $O$ ”s here are universal. Then a simple computation shows

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha]) &\leq \frac{1}{2} \log[1 + (K([\sigma_{\alpha,r}]) - 1)] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} (K([\sigma_{\alpha,r}]) - 1) \\ &\leq \sup_{\phi_r \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S_r)} \operatorname{Re} \int_{S_r} \sigma_{\alpha,r} \phi_r + O(r^2) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+). \end{aligned} \tag{3.19}$$

Let  $\Omega$  be the fundamental domain of  $\Gamma$  which is the same as in Part  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\Omega_r := f^{r\mu}(\Omega)$ . It is a fundamental domain of the group

$$\Gamma_r := \{f^{r\mu} \circ \gamma \circ (f^{r\mu})^{-1} : \forall \gamma \in \Gamma\}.$$

Then (3.19) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha]) &\leq \sup_{\phi_r \in \mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega_r)} \operatorname{Re} \iint_{\Omega_r} \sigma_{\alpha,r}(\zeta) \phi_r(\zeta) d\xi d\eta + O(r^2) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+), \end{aligned} \tag{3.20}$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega_r)$  is the set of local expressions in  $\Omega_r$  of all  $\phi_r \in \mathcal{Q}_1(S_r)$ . The constants contained in the “ $O$ ” here are universal.

It is easy to see the  $f^{r\mu}$  is a good approximation of the identity mapping. By Lemma 3.2, we see

$$|f^{r\mu}(z) - z| = O(r) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+), \forall z \in \mathbb{D},$$

where the constants contained in the “ $O$ ” are universal. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\alpha,r} \circ f^{r\mu}(z) &= \frac{r\nu_\alpha(z) - r\mu(z)}{1 - r^2\bar{\mu}(z)\nu_\alpha(z)} \overline{\omega_{f^{r\mu}}(z)} \\ &= r[\nu_\alpha(z) - \mu(z)] \overline{\omega_{f^{r\mu}}(z)} + O(r^2) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\omega_{f^{r\mu}} = \overline{\partial_z f^{r\mu}} / \partial_z f^{r\mu}$  and the constants contained in the “ $O$ ” are universal.

Noting the facts that  $\nu_\alpha(z) - \mu(z) = 0$  when  $z \in \Omega \setminus D$  and  $\mu(z) = 0$  when  $z \in D$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{\Omega_r} \sigma_r(z) \phi_r(z) dx dy &= \iint_{\Omega} \sigma_r \circ f^{r\mu}(z) \phi_r \circ f^{r\mu}(z) J_r(z) dx dy \\ &= \iint_D r \nu_\alpha(z) \overline{\omega_{f^{r\mu}}}(z) \phi_r \circ f^{r\mu}(z) J_r(z) dx dy \\ &\quad + O(r^2) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+), \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

where  $J_r = |\partial_z f^{r\mu}|^2 - |\partial_{\bar{z}} f^{r\mu}|^2$ . Then it follows from (3.20) and (3.21) that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha])}{r} \\ &\leq \sup_{\phi_r \in \mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega_r)} \operatorname{Re} \iint_D \nu_\alpha(z) \overline{\omega_{f^{r\mu}}}(z) \phi_r \circ f^{r\mu}(z) J_r(z) dx dy \\ &\quad + O(r) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+). \end{aligned} \quad (3.22)$$

The constants contained in the “ $O$ ” here are universal.

Now we choose a sequence  $\{r_n\}$  in  $(0, 1)$  with  $r_n \rightarrow 0+$  (as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ) such that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha])}{r} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_T([r_n\mu], [r_n\nu_\alpha])}{r_n}.$$

Then from (3.22) we get

$$\frac{d_T([r_n\mu], [r_n\nu_\alpha])}{r_n} \leq I_{r_n} + O(r_n \rightarrow 0+) \quad (\text{as } r_n \rightarrow 0+), \quad (3.23)$$

where

$$I_{r_n} := \sup_{\phi_{r_n} \in \mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega_{r_n})} \operatorname{Re} \iint_D \nu_\alpha(z) \overline{\omega_{f^{r_n\mu}}}(z) \phi_{r_n} \circ f^{r_n\mu}(z) J_{r_n}(z) dx dy.$$

Now for each fixed  $r_n$ , we choose a  $\psi_{r_n} \in \mathcal{Q}_1(\Omega_{r_n})$  such that

$$\operatorname{Re} \iint_D \nu_\alpha(z) \overline{\omega_{f^{r_n\mu}}}(z) \psi_{r_n} \circ f^{r_n\mu}(z) J_{r_n} dx dy > I_{r_n} - \frac{1}{n}, \quad (3.24)$$

Noting the fact that the constants contained in “ $O$ ” in (3.23) are universal, from (3.24) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha])}{r} \\ \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{Re} \iint_D \nu_\alpha(z) \overline{\omega_{f^{r_n\mu}}}(z) \psi_{r_n} \circ f^{r_n\mu}(z) J_{r_n}(z) dx dy. \end{aligned} \quad (3.25)$$

Now we look at the family  $\Phi := \{\psi_{r_n}(z) : z \in \Omega\}$ . For any open subset  $V$  of  $\Omega$  with  $\overline{V} \subset \Omega$ , when  $n$  is sufficiently,  $f^{r_n\mu}(V) \subset \Omega$  and

$$\iint_V |\psi_{r_n}(z)| dx dy \leq \int_{S_{r_n}} |\psi_{r_n}| = 1. \quad (3.26)$$

This means that  $\Phi$  is a normal family. We can choose a subsequence of  $\{\psi_{r_n}\}$ , which is uniformly convergent on any compact subset of  $\Omega$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that such a subsequence is  $\{\psi_{r_n}\}$  itself.

We suppose the limit function of  $\{\psi_{r_n}\}$  is  $\phi_0$ . Then  $\phi_0(z)$  is holomorphic on  $\Omega$ . By the Fatou lemma and (3.26), we see

$$\iint_V |\phi_0(z)| dx dy \leq 1.$$

for any open set  $V$  with  $\bar{V} \subset \Omega$ . This implies

$$\iint_{\Omega} |\phi_0(z)| dx dy \leq 1. \quad (3.27)$$

Now we claim that

$$\psi_0(z) = \psi_0(\gamma(z))[\gamma'(z)]^2, \quad \forall \gamma \in \Gamma \ \& \ \forall z \in \Omega. \quad (3.28)$$

In fact, for any fixed  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , let  $\gamma_{r_n} = f^{r_n \mu} \circ \gamma \circ (f^{r_n \mu})^{-1}$ . We have

$$\psi_{r_n}(z) = \psi_{r_n}(\gamma_{r_n}(z))[\gamma'_{r_n}(z)]^2 \quad (\forall z \in \Omega), \quad (3.29)$$

It is easy to check by using Lemma 3.2 that

$$\gamma_{r_n} \rightarrow \gamma \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma'_{r_n} \rightarrow \gamma' \quad (\text{as } n \rightarrow \infty).$$

Then we can get (3.28) by taking the limits of both sides in (3.29).

From (3.28) we see that  $\phi_0(z) dz^2$  represents a quadratic differential on  $S$ .

Because  $\psi_{r_n}$  is locally uniformly convergent to  $\phi_0$  in  $\Omega$  and  $f^{r_n \mu}$  is a good proximation of the identity mapping,  $\psi_{r_n} \circ f^{r_n \mu}$  uniformly converges to  $\phi_0$  on  $D$ . On the other hand, by Lemma 3.2, one may choose a subsequence of  $\omega_{f^{r_n \mu}}$  and assume such a subsequence is  $\omega_{f^{r_n \mu}}$  itself, such that

$$\omega_{f^{r_n \mu}}(z) \rightarrow 1 \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+) \quad \text{for a.e. } z \in D.$$

Using Lemma 3.2 again, it is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \iint_{\mathbb{D}} |J_{r_n}(z) - 1| dx dy \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{D}} |\partial_z f^{r_n}(z)|^2 - 1 + |r_n \mu(z)|^2 dx dy \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly as above, choosing a subsequence of  $J_{r_n}$  and assuming such subsequence is  $J_{f^{r_n}}$  itself, we may assume

$$J_{r_n}(z) \rightarrow 1 \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+) \quad \text{for a.e. } z \in D.$$

By using the Lebesgue Theorem, we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \iint_D |\nu_{\alpha}(z) [\overline{\omega_{f^{r_n \mu}}}(z) \psi_{r_n} \circ f^{r_n \mu}(z) J_{r_n}(z) - \phi_0(z)]| dx dy = 0,$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{Re} \iint_D \nu_{\alpha}(z) \overline{\omega_{f^{r_n \mu}}}(z) \psi_{r_n} \circ f^{r_n \mu}(z) J_{r_n}(z) dx dy \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{Re} \iint_D \nu_{\alpha}(z) \phi_0(z) dx dy. \end{aligned} \quad (3.30)$$

Then it follows from (3.25) and (3.30) that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_{\alpha}])}{r} \leq \operatorname{Re} \iint_D \nu_{\alpha}(z) \phi_0(z) dx dy. \quad (3.31)$$

In Party  $\mathcal{B}$ , we have shown

$$\iint_D \nu_\alpha(z) \phi_0(z) dx dy = 0.$$

So it follows from (3.31) that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha])}{r} = 0,$$

which clearly implies

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d_T([r\mu], [r\nu_\alpha])}{r} = 0.$$

By the definition of angles, we have  $\langle \gamma_\mu, \gamma_{\nu_\alpha} \rangle = 0$ . This means each  $\gamma_{\nu_\alpha}$  is tangent to  $\gamma_\mu$  at  $[0]$ .

*Part  $\mathcal{D}$  : Proof of the conclusion that  $\gamma_{\nu_\alpha} \neq \gamma_{\nu_{\alpha'}}$  ( $\alpha \neq \alpha'$ ).*

To complete the proof of Theorem 1.1, we need to show that, if  $\alpha \neq \alpha'$ , the geodesic ray  $\gamma_\alpha$  is distinct from  $\gamma_{\alpha'}$ . The proof is based on Lemma 3.3, i.e., the generalized main inequality of Reich-Strebel [13].

Now we apply Lemma 3.3 with the following notation changes:  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are replaced by  $r\nu_\alpha$  and  $r\nu_{\alpha'}$  ( $0 < r < 1$ ), respectively. Let  $\phi$  be any given element in  $\mathcal{Q}(S)$  with  $\|\phi\| = 1$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\leq \iint_\Omega \frac{\left|1 - r\nu_\alpha \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2} \frac{\left|1 - \kappa_r \circ f^{r\nu_\alpha} \Omega_{r\nu_\alpha}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - |\kappa_r \circ f^{r\nu_\alpha}|^2} \\ &\quad \times \frac{\left|1 - \nu_{r,1} \circ f^{\tau_r} \Omega_{\tau_r}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - |\nu_{1,r} \circ f^{\tau_r}|^2} |\phi| dx dy, \end{aligned} \quad (3.32)$$

where  $\kappa_r, \tau_r, \Omega_{r\nu_\alpha}(\phi)$  and  $\Omega_{\tau_r}(\phi)$  are the corresponding terms of  $\kappa, \tau, \Omega_\mu(\phi)$  and  $\Omega_\nu(\phi)$  in Lemma 3.3, respectively, and  $\nu_{1,r}$  is the complex dilatation of  $(f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}})^{-1}$ .

Noting the fact that  $|\Omega_{\kappa_r}(\phi)| = 1$ , we have

$$\frac{\left|1 - \kappa_r \circ f^{r\nu_\alpha} \Omega_{r\nu_\alpha}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - |\kappa_r \circ f^{r\nu_\alpha}|^2} \leq K(f^{\kappa_r}).$$

Then from (3.32) we get

$$\frac{1}{K(f^{\kappa_r})} \leq \iint_\Omega \frac{\left|1 - r\nu_\alpha \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2} \frac{\left|1 - \nu_{r,1} \circ f^{\tau_r} \Omega_{\tau_r}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - |\nu_{1,r} \circ f^{\tau_r}|^2} |\phi| dx dy,$$

which implies

$$\frac{1}{K([\kappa_r])} \leq \iint_\Omega \frac{\left|1 - r\nu_\alpha \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2} \frac{\left|1 - \nu_{r,1} \circ f^{\tau_r} \Omega_{\tau_r}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - |\nu_{1,r} \circ f^{\tau_r}|^2} |\phi| dx dy,$$

where  $K([\kappa_r])$  is the extremal maximal dilatation of  $[\kappa_r]$ .

Let

$$L_r := \iint_\Omega \frac{\left|1 - r\nu_\alpha \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2} \frac{\left|1 - \nu_{r,1} \circ f^{\tau_r} \Omega_{\tau_r}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}\right|^2}{1 - |\nu_{1,r} \circ f^{\tau_r}|^2} |\phi| dx dy.$$

Then we have

$$\frac{1}{K([\kappa_r])} \leq L_r. \quad (3.33)$$

Now we take  $\kappa_r$  to be the complex dilatation of  $f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}} \circ (f^{r\nu_{\alpha}})^{-1}$ , namely

$$f^{\kappa_r} = f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}} \circ (f^{r\nu_{\alpha}})^{-1}. \quad (3.34)$$

According to the assumption in Lemma 3.3,  $\tau_r$  should be the complex dilatation of  $f^{\kappa_r} \circ f^{r\nu_{\alpha}}$ . So from (3.34) we get  $f^{\tau_r} = f^{\kappa_r} \circ f^{r\nu_{\alpha}} = f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}}$ , namely

$$\tau_r = r\nu_{\alpha'}. \quad (3.35)$$

Because  $\nu_{r,1}$  is the dilatation of  $(f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}})^{-1}$ , so we have

$$\nu_{r,1} \circ f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}} = -r\nu_{\alpha'} \overline{\omega_{f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}}}}. \quad (3.36)$$

Then we get

$$\nu_{r,1} \circ f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}} \Omega_{r\nu_{\alpha'}}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|} = -r\nu_{\alpha'} \frac{1 - r\overline{\nu_{\alpha'}}\overline{\phi}/|\phi|}{1 - r\nu_{\alpha'}\phi/|\phi|} \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}.$$

A simple computation shows

$$\frac{1 - r\overline{\nu_{\alpha'}}\overline{\phi}/|\phi|}{1 - r\nu_{\alpha'}\phi/|\phi|} = 1 - r\overline{\nu_{\alpha'}} + r\nu_{\alpha'} + O(r^2) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+),$$

So we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \nu_{r,1} \circ f^{r\nu_{\alpha'}} \Omega_{r\nu_{\alpha'}}(\phi) \frac{\phi}{|\phi|} \\ &= [-r\nu_{\alpha'} + r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2 - r^2(\nu_{\alpha'})^2] \frac{\phi}{|\phi|} + O(r^3), \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+). \end{aligned} \quad (3.37)$$

Then it follows from (3.35) to (3.37) that

$$\begin{aligned} L_r &= \iint_{\Omega} \frac{\left| \frac{1 - r\nu_{\alpha'}\phi/|\phi|}{1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2} \right|^2 \left| \frac{1 + [r\nu_{\alpha'} + r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2 - r^2(\nu_{\alpha'})^2] \frac{\phi}{|\phi|}}{1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2} \right|^2}{1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2} |\phi| dx dy \\ &+ O(r^3) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+). \end{aligned}$$

A further computation shows

$$\begin{aligned} L_r &= \iint_{\Omega} \frac{1 + r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2 + r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}'|^2}{(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}'|^2)} |\phi| dx dy \\ &+ \iint_{\Omega} \frac{2\operatorname{Re} \left( r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2 \frac{\phi}{|\phi|} \right) - 2\operatorname{Re} \left\{ [r(\nu_{\alpha'} - \nu_{\alpha'}) - r^2(\nu_{\alpha'})^2] \frac{\phi}{|\phi|} \right\}}{(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}'|^2)} |\phi| dx dy \\ &+ O(r^3) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+). \end{aligned} \quad (3.38)$$

By the construction of  $\mathfrak{F} = \{\nu_{\alpha} : 0 < \alpha < \delta\}$ , we see that both  $\nu_{\alpha}(z)$  and  $\nu_{\alpha'}(z)$  are zero when  $z$  is in  $\Omega \setminus D$ . So we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \iint_{\Omega} \frac{r(\nu_{\alpha} - \nu_{\alpha'}) - r^2(\nu_{\alpha'})^2}{(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}'|^2)} \phi dx dy \\ &= \iint_D \frac{r(\nu_{\alpha} - \nu_{\alpha'}) - r^2(\nu_{\alpha'})^2}{(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}'|^2)} \phi dx dy. \end{aligned} \quad (3.39)$$

Noting the fact that

$$(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2(z))(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}'|^2(z)) \quad (z \in D)$$

is a function of  $|z - z_0|$  and the facts that

$$\nu_\alpha = h_\alpha(|z - z_0|)(z - z_0)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_{\alpha'} = h_{\alpha'}(|z - z_0|)(z - z_0)^2,$$

similarly as done in Part  $\mathcal{B}$ , we have

$$\iint_D \frac{r(\nu_\alpha - \nu_{\alpha'})}{(1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)} \phi \, dx dy = 0, \quad \forall r \in (0, 1). \quad (3.40)$$

Noting the fact that  $(\nu_{\alpha'})^2 = [h_{\alpha'}(|z - z_0|)]^2(z - z_0)^4$ , the same discussion leads to

$$\iint_D \frac{r^2(\nu_{\alpha'})^2}{(1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)} \phi \, dx dy = 0, \quad \forall r \in (0, 1). \quad (3.41)$$

Then it follows from (3.38), (3.40) and (3.41) that

$$\begin{aligned} L_r &= \iint_\Omega \frac{1 + r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2 + r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2}{(1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)} |\phi| \, dx dy \\ &+ \iint_\Omega \frac{2r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2 \operatorname{Re} \left[ \frac{\phi}{|\phi|} \right]}{(1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)} |\phi| \, dx dy + O(r^3) \quad (\text{as } r \rightarrow 0+). \end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$1 - L_r = \iint_\Omega \frac{2r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2 + 2r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2 \left\{ 1 - \operatorname{Re} \left[ \frac{\phi}{|\phi|} \right] \right\}}{(1 - r^2|\nu_\alpha|^2)(1 - r^2|\nu_{\alpha'}|^2)} |\phi| + O(r^3) \quad (3.42)$$

(as  $r \rightarrow 0+$ ).

Because  $1 - \operatorname{Re}(\phi/|\phi|) \geq 0$ , it is easy from (3.42) to see

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{1 - L_r}{r} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{1 - L_r}{r^2} > 0.$$

This implies

$$1 - L_r > 0, \quad \text{as } r(> 0) \text{ is sufficiently small.} \quad (3.43)$$

However, from (3.33) we have

$$1 - \frac{1}{K([\kappa_r])} \geq 1 - L_r \quad \forall r \in (0, 1). \quad (3.44)$$

Then it follows from (3.43) and (3.44) that

$$1 - 1/K([\kappa_r]) > 0, \quad \text{as } r(> 0) \text{ is sufficiently small.}$$

In the other words, if  $r(> 0)$  is sufficiently small,  $K([\kappa_r]) > 1$ .

However  $K([\kappa_r]) = e^{2d_T([r\nu_\alpha], [r\nu_{\alpha'}])}$ . So what we have shown is

$$d_T([r\nu_\alpha], [r\nu_{\alpha'}]) > 0, \quad \text{as } r(> 0) \text{ is sufficiently small.}$$

Therefore,  $\gamma_{\nu_\alpha}$  and  $\gamma_{\nu_{\alpha'}}$  are distinct.

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is completed. □

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