

## ON STABILIZERS OF SOME TEICHMÜLLER DISKS IN POINTED MAPPING CLASS GROUPS

C. ZHANG

*Department of Mathematical Sciences, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA 30314, USA*  
*e-mail: czhang@morehouse.edu*

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**Abstract.** We prove that for each Riemann surface  $\tilde{S}$  of finite analytic type  $(p, n)$  with  $p \geq 2$ , there exist uncountably many Teichmüller disks  $\Delta$  in the Teichmüller space  $T(S)$ , where  $S = \tilde{S} - \{a \text{ point } a\}$ , with these properties: (1) the natural projection  $j : T(S) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S})$  defined by forgetting  $a$  induces an isometric embedding of each  $\Delta$  into  $T(\tilde{S})$ ; and (2) the stabilizer of each Teichmüller disk  $\Delta$  in the  $a$ -pointed mapping class group of  $S$  is trivial.

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**1. Introduction.** Let  $\tilde{S}$  be a Riemann surface of type  $(p, n)$ , where  $p$  is the genus and  $n$  is the number of punctures. Assume that  $3p - 3 + n > 0$ . Let  $\text{Homeo}(\tilde{S})$  be the group of orientation preserving self-homeomorphisms of  $\tilde{S}$  and let  $\text{Homeo}_0(\tilde{S})$  be the subgroup consisting of those maps isotopic to the identity. The Teichmüller space  $T(\tilde{S})$  is the space of all conformal structures on  $\tilde{S}$  quotient by  $\text{Homeo}_0(\tilde{S})$ . The mapping class group  $\text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}$  defined by the quotient  $\text{Homeo}(\tilde{S})/\text{Homeo}_0(\tilde{S})$  acts on  $T(\tilde{S})$  as a group of holomorphic automorphisms; and also as a group of isometries if  $T(\tilde{S})$  is endowed with the standard Teichmüller distance  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ . See Abikoff [1] for more details.

There is a smooth fibre bundle  $V(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S})$  whose fibre  $V_x$  over a point  $x \in T(\tilde{S})$  is a Riemann surface representing  $x$ . The Bers fibre space  $\pi : F(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S})$  is defined as the composition

$$F(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow V(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S}), \tag{1.1}$$

where  $F(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow V(\tilde{S})$  is the universal covering map. The central fibre of  $F(\tilde{S})$  is the hyperbolic plane  $\mathbf{H} = \{z \in \mathbf{C} : \text{Im } z > 0\}$ . Let  $G$  be the covering group of the universal covering map  $\varrho : \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \tilde{S}$ . Then  $G$  is a Fuchsian group such that  $\mathbf{H}/G = \tilde{S}$ . Note that every point  $x \in T(\tilde{S})$  is represented by a conformal structure  $\sigma$  on  $\tilde{S}$  that is lifted to a measurable function  $\sigma(z)$  on  $\mathbf{H}$  with these properties: (i)  $\text{ess. sup } \{|\sigma(z)|; z \in \mathbf{H}\} < 1$  and (ii)  $\sigma(g(z))\overline{g'(z)}/g'(z) = \sigma(z)$  for all  $g \in G$  and  $z \in \mathbf{H}$ . The fibre  $\mathcal{F}_x \subset F(\tilde{S})$  over a point  $x \in T(\tilde{S})$  is the quasi-disk  $w^\sigma(\mathbf{H})$ , where  $w^\sigma : \hat{\mathbf{C}} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{C}}$  is, according to Ahlfors and Bers [2], a quasi-conformal map fixing  $0, 1, \infty$  and satisfying

$$\frac{\partial_{\bar{z}} w^\sigma(z)}{\partial_z w^\sigma(z)} = \begin{cases} \sigma(z) & \text{if } z \in \mathbf{H}, \\ 0 & \text{if } z \in \mathbf{C} - \bar{\mathbf{H}}. \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

Let  $\tilde{\theta} \in \text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}$  be a hyperbolic element; that is, there is a point  $x \in T(\tilde{S})$  such that  $d(x, \tilde{\theta}(x)) > 0$  and

$$\inf d(x', \tilde{\theta}(x')) = d(x, \tilde{\theta}(x)),$$

where the infimum is taken over all  $x' \in T(\tilde{S})$ . This implies that  $\tilde{\theta}$  is represented by an absolutely extremal Teichmüller self-map  $\tilde{\omega}$  on a surface (also called  $\tilde{S}$ ) that determines a holomorphic quadratic differential  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$  on  $\tilde{S}$ , which may have simple poles at punctures of  $\tilde{S}$  and satisfies

$$\iint_{\tilde{S}} |\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}(z)| dx dy = 1. \tag{1.3}$$

Note that all zeros of  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$  may be punctures of  $\tilde{S}$ . Denote by  $\mu = \bar{\phi}_{\tilde{\omega}}/|\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}|$ . Then  $\mu$  is a  $(1, 1)$ -form on  $\tilde{S}$ . Let  $[v]$  denote the equivalence class of a conformal structure  $v$  on  $\tilde{S}$ . Let  $\mathbf{D} = \{t : |t| < 1\}$  be the unit disk. We define a Teichmüller disk

$$\tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}} = \{[t\mu] : t \in \mathbf{D}\} \subset T(\tilde{S}).$$

By Theorem 5 of Bers [6],  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$  is the unique invariant disk under the action of  $\tilde{\theta}$ . Associated to each point  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$  there is a disk

$$\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) = \{([t\mu], w^{t\mu}(\hat{z})) : t \in \mathbf{D}\} \subset F(\tilde{S}). \tag{1.4}$$

Let  $a \in \tilde{S}$  be a point and let  $S = \tilde{S} - \{a\}$ . The Bers isomorphism theorem [5] states that there is an isomorphism  $\varphi : F(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow T(S)$  that is determined up to a modular transformation of  $T(S)$  so that

$$j = \pi \circ \varphi^{-1} : T(S) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S}) \tag{1.5}$$

is the natural forgetful map. Due to the Bers isomorphism theorem, one proves (Kra [11]) that the embedding

$$\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) = \varphi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) \subset T(S) \tag{1.6}$$

is a Teichmüller disk so that  $j(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$ . Let  $\text{Mod}_S^a$  denote the  $a$ -pointed mapping class group  $\text{Mod}_S^a$ . That is,  $\text{Mod}_S^a$  consists of mapping classes fixing the puncture  $a$ . Let  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  denote the stabilizer of  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  in  $\text{Mod}_S^a$ . Then  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is a subgroup of the Veech group of  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  of finite index. In particular, if  $\tilde{S}$  is compact, then  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is the Veech group of  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . See Veech [17] and Hubert–Lanneau [8] for discussions on Veech groups of general Teichmüller disks in a Teichmüller space. It is well known (Earle and Gardiner [7]) that there exist Teichmüller disks in  $T(S)$  whose Veech groups are trivial.

The main purpose of this article is to prove the following result.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Let  $\tilde{S}$  be a Riemann surface of finite analytic type  $(p, n)$  with the genus  $p \geq 2$ . Then,*

- (1) *For each hyperbolic mapping class  $\tilde{\theta}$  of  $\text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}$ , there exists an uncountable subset  $\Omega_0 \subset \mathbf{H}$  with a full measure such that for each point  $\hat{z}_0 \in \Omega_0$ , the Teichmüller disk  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \subset T(S)$  defined as (1.6) satisfies  $j(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$  and the stabilizer  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  of  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  in  $\text{Mod}_S^a$  is trivial.*

- (2) *There exist hyperbolic mapping classes  $\tilde{\theta}$  in  $\text{Mod}_{\mathfrak{S}}$  such that for every point  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$ , the group  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  either is trivial or contains a purely hyperbolic subgroup of finite index.*

This article is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review the Teichmüller existence and uniqueness theorem. In Section 3, we investigate the mapping class group  $\text{Mod}_{\mathfrak{S}}$  as well as its extension to act on the corresponding Bers fibre space  $F(\tilde{\mathfrak{S}})$ . Properties of invariant disks by some mapping classes are also discussed in the section. Section 4 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.1. Section 5 includes some remarks.

**2. Fixed point sets of special quasi-conformal self-maps of Riemann surfaces.** Let  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  be defined as before, and let  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0$  be a Riemann surface of the same type  $(p, n)$ . Then  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  and  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0$  are diffeomorphic. Let  $f : \tilde{\mathfrak{S}} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0$  be a quasi-conformal map. The Teichmüller existence and uniqueness theorem states that in the homotopy class of  $f$  there is either a unique conformal map or a unique quasi-conformal map  $f_0$ , called an extremal quasi-conformal map, such that the Beltrami coefficient

$$\frac{\partial_{\bar{z}}f_0}{\partial_z f_0} = k \frac{\bar{\phi}}{|\phi|} \text{ for some real number } k \text{ with } 0 < k < 1,$$

where  $\phi$  is a quadratic differential on  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  that satisfies (1.3) and may have simple poles at some punctures of  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$ . Associated to  $f_0$  there is another quadratic differential  $\psi$  on  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0$ . The quadratic differentials  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  have the same number of zeros and some zeros of  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  may be punctures of  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  and  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0$ , respectively. If  $z$  is a zero of  $\phi$ , then  $f_0(z)$  is a zero of  $\psi$  of the same order. The quadratic differential  $\phi$  (resp.  $\psi$ ) determines a pair  $(\Phi_h, \Phi_v)$  (resp.  $(\Psi_h, \Psi_v)$ ) of transverse trajectories on  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  (resp.  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0$ ). The map  $f_0$  sends  $\Phi_h$  to  $\Psi_h$  and  $\Phi_v$  to  $\Psi_v$  via a stretching map and a compressing map. More precisely, if  $P \in \tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  is not a zero of  $\phi$  and  $z$  is a  $\phi$ -coordinate about  $P$ , then there is a  $\psi$ -coordinate  $\zeta$  at  $f_0(z) \in \tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0$  such that

$$\zeta \circ f_0 = \frac{z + k\bar{z}}{\sqrt{1 - k^2}}. \tag{2.1}$$

From (2.1) the map  $f_0$  can be realized as

$$\text{Re } \zeta = \left(\frac{1+k}{1-k}\right)^{1/2} \text{Re } z \text{ and } \text{Im } \zeta = \left(\frac{1+k}{1-k}\right)^{-1/2} \text{Im } z. \tag{2.2}$$

In literature (see e.g. Strebel [13]),  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are called the initial and terminal quadratic differentials of  $f_0$ , respectively.

Consider the case  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}_0 = \tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$ . Then  $f_0$  defines a mapping class of  $\text{Mod}_{\mathfrak{S}}$  and  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are differentials on  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$ . As an example, for any simple closed geodesic  $\tilde{c}$  on  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$ , the Dehn twist  $t_{\tilde{c}}$  determines a parabolic mapping class of  $\text{Mod}_{\mathfrak{S}}$  (for the definition of parabolic mapping classes, see Bers [6]). According to the Teichmüller theorem, in the homotopy class of  $t_{\tilde{c}}$ , there is a unique extremal Teichmüller self-map whose corresponding initial and terminal quadratic differentials  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are simple Jenkins–Strebel differentials. See Strebel [15] for an exposition.

As another example, for every irreducible self-map  $f$  of  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  (in the sense that it does not keep any curve simplex invariant), we can modify the conformal structure of  $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$  so that  $f$  is isotopic to an  $f_0$  that is an absolutely extremal Teichmüller map on a new

surface  $\tilde{S}_0$ . The choice of  $\tilde{S}_0$  is not unique and all the surfaces  $\tilde{S}_0$  so obtained determine a set of points in  $T(\tilde{S})$  that constitutes a real Teichmüller geodesic. In this case, we have  $\phi = \psi$  and thus  $\Phi_h = \Psi_h$  and  $\Phi_v = \Psi_v$ . See Bers [6] and Thurston [16] for more details.

For any quasi-conformal self-map  $f$  of  $\tilde{S}$ , we denote by

$$\mathcal{S}(f) = \{z \in \tilde{S} : f(z) = z\}. \tag{2.3}$$

Let  $\tilde{\chi}$  be a non-trivial non-elliptic hyperbolic mapping class of  $\tilde{S}$ , and let  $f_0$  be the Teichmüller self-map representing  $\tilde{\chi}$ . We claim that the set  $\mathcal{S}(f_0)$  is finite. In fact more careful examination reveals that  $\mathcal{S}(f_0)$  consists of zeros of the corresponding quadratic differential  $\phi$ . See Lemma 3.1.

More generally, if  $f_0 : \tilde{S} \rightarrow \tilde{S}$  is a quasi-conformal map whose Beltrami coefficient is  $t\mu$  for  $t \in \mathbf{D} - \{0\}$  and  $\mu = \bar{\phi}/|\phi|$ , where  $\phi$  is a holomorphic quadratic differential on  $\tilde{S}$ . We claim that  $\mathcal{S}(f_0)$  has measure zero. Suppose that  $\mathcal{S}(f_0)$  has measure  $> 0$ . We denote by  $z = z(P)$  a local coordinate chart at a point  $P \in \tilde{S}$ . For each  $P \in \mathcal{S}(f_0)$ , the function  $F(z) = f_0(z) - z = 0$ . This implies that  $\partial_z F(z) = 0$  and  $\partial_{\bar{z}} F(z) = 0$  for almost all points  $z = z(P) \in \mathcal{S}(f_0)$ , where the derivatives are taken in the sense of distribution. Since  $\partial_z F(z) = \partial_z f_0(z) - 1$ , we conclude that  $\partial_z f_0(z) \neq 0$  for almost all points  $z = z(P) \in \mathcal{S}(f_0)$ . On the other hand,  $\partial_{\bar{z}} F(z) = \partial_{\bar{z}} f_0(z)$ . It follows that  $\partial_{\bar{z}} f_0(z) = 0$  for almost all points  $z = z(P) \in \mathcal{S}(f_0)$ . Therefore, the Beltrami coefficient of  $f_0$  vanishes at almost all points in  $\mathcal{S}(f_0)$ . But we know that  $\mathcal{S}(f_0)$  has measure  $> 0$  and the Beltrami coefficient of  $f_0$  is  $t\bar{\phi}/|\phi|$  which can not be zero on a set with positive measure (since  $\phi$  has isolated zeros). This is a contradiction. We summarize the result in the following lemma.

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $\tilde{\chi}$  be a non-trivial non-elliptic mapping class of  $\tilde{S}$ , and let  $f_0$  be a quasi-conformal self-map of  $\tilde{S}$  representing  $\tilde{\chi}$ . Assume that  $f_0$  has a Beltrami coefficient with form  $t\bar{\phi}/|\phi|$  for a complex number  $t \in \mathbf{D} - \{0\}$  and a holomorphic quadratic differential  $\phi$  on  $\tilde{S}$ . Then the set  $\mathcal{S}(f_0)$  defined as in (2.3) has measure zero.*

**3. Mapping class groups acting on Bers fibre spaces.** The mapping class group  $\text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}$  extends to the group  $\text{mod}(\tilde{S})$  that acts on  $F(\tilde{S})$  and preserves the fibre structure of  $F(\tilde{S})$ . Every element  $\theta \in \text{mod}(\tilde{S})$  can be represented by a self-map  $w$  of  $\mathbf{H}$ . Two such self-maps  $\hat{w}_1, \hat{w}_2$  of  $\mathbf{H}$  represent the same element of  $\text{mod}(\tilde{S})$  if  $\hat{w}_1 = \hat{w}_2$  on  $\partial\mathbf{H}$  and they both project to maps  $w_1, w_2 : \tilde{S} \rightarrow \tilde{S}$  isotopic to each other; or equivalently,  $\hat{w}_1 h(\hat{w}_1)^{-1} = \hat{w}_2 h(\hat{w}_2)^{-1}$  for all elements  $h \in G$ , write  $\theta = [\hat{w}_1] = [\hat{w}_2]$ . Then  $\theta \in \text{mod}(\tilde{S})$ .

With the aid of the Bers isomorphism  $\varphi : F(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow T(S)$ , the group  $\text{mod}(\tilde{S})$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Mod}_S^a$  by a conjugation  $\varphi^*$ :

$$\text{mod}(\tilde{S}) \ni [\hat{w}] \xrightarrow{\varphi^*} \varphi \circ [\hat{w}] \circ \varphi^{-1} \in \text{Mod}_S^a.$$

It follows that the forgetful map  $j : T(S) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S})$  defined as (1.5) also induces a natural projection

$$i : \text{Mod}_S^a \rightarrow \text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}} \tag{3.1}$$

obtained by forgetting the puncture  $a$ . For simplicity, we denote throughout the article  $[\hat{w}]^* = \varphi^*([\hat{w}])$ . In particular, the group  $G$  can be regarded as a normal subgroup of

mod( $\tilde{S}$ ) and thus it keeps each fibre of  $F(\tilde{S})$  invariant. The group  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $\text{Mod}_S^a$  that consists of all elements  $\theta = h^*$  with  $h \in G$  so that  $i(h^*) = \text{identity}$ , i.e.,  $G \cong i^{-1}(\text{id})$ . In [11], Kra proved that  $h \in G$  is simple hyperbolic if and only if  $h^*$  is represented by a spin map (that is of the form  $t_\alpha \circ t_\beta^{-1}$ , where  $t_\alpha$  and  $t_\beta$  are the positive Dehn twists along curves  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  that are components of an  $a$ -punctured cylinder on  $S$ ); and is parabolic if and only if  $h^*$  is represented by a Dehn twist along a curve that bounds a twice punctured disk enclosing  $a$ .

Now let  $\tilde{\theta}$ ,  $\tilde{\omega}$  and  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$  be as introduced in the previous section.

LEMMA 3.1. *If  $\tilde{\omega}(z_0) = z_0$  for some  $z_0 \in \tilde{S}$ , then  $z_0$  is a zero of  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$ . Further,  $\tilde{\omega}$  leaves invariant the set of non-puncture zeros of  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$ .*

*Proof.* The lemma follows directly from the definition of absolutely extremal Teichmüller self-map. See also (2.1) or (2.2). □

Assume that there exists a hyperbolic  $\theta \in \text{Mod}_S^a$  such that  $i(\theta) = \tilde{\theta}$ . By Bers [6], there exists a unique Teichmüller disk in  $T(S)$ , denoted by  $\Delta_\theta$ , that is invariant under  $\theta$ .

LEMMA 3.2. *With the above conditions,  $j(\Delta_\theta) \subset T(\tilde{S})$  is an invariant disk (which may not be a Teichmüller disk) under the action of  $\tilde{\theta}$ .*

*Proof.* For any point  $x \in T(S)$ , we have

$$j(\theta(x)) = \tilde{\theta}(j(x)). \tag{3.2}$$

Now let  $y \in j(\Delta_\theta)$ , and let  $x \in \Delta_\theta$  be such that  $j(x) = y$ . Since  $\theta$  is hyperbolic and  $x \in \Delta_\theta$ ,  $\theta(x) \in \Delta_\theta$ . Thus  $j(\theta(x)) \in j(\Delta_\theta)$ . It follows from (3.2) that  $\tilde{\theta}(y) = \tilde{\theta}(j(x)) = j(\theta(x)) \in j(\Delta_\theta)$ . Since  $y \in j(\Delta_\theta)$  is arbitrary,  $\tilde{\theta}$  keeps  $j(\Delta_\theta)$  invariant. □

The following lemma was proved in Kra [11].

LEMMA 3.3. *Assume that  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$  has a non-puncture zero  $z_0$  so that  $\tilde{\omega}(z_0) = z_0$ . Then there are infinitely many (countable) hyperbolic elements  $\theta \in \text{Mod}_S^a$  such that  $i(\theta) = \tilde{\theta}$  and the invariant disk  $\Delta_\theta$  of  $\theta$  is of form  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}(\hat{z})}$  for some  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$ .*

From Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 3.3, we obtain the following lemma.

LEMMA 3.4. *Assume that  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$  has a non-puncture zero  $z_0$  with  $\tilde{\omega}(z_0) = z_0$ . There exist infinitely many (countable) hyperbolic elements  $\theta \in \text{Mod}_S^a$  such that  $i(\theta) = \tilde{\theta}$  and the projection (1.5) realizes an isometric embedding of  $\Delta_\theta$  into  $T(\tilde{S})$  with the property that  $j(\Delta_\theta)$  is the invariant Teichmüller disk of  $\tilde{\theta}$ .*

REMARK 3.1. It is not clear if there is a hyperbolic element  $\theta \in \text{Mod}_S^a$  with  $i(\theta) = \tilde{\theta}$  being hyperbolic such that  $\Delta_\theta$  is not of the form  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}(\hat{z})}$ , but  $j : T(S) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S})$  still induces an isometric embedding of  $\Delta_\theta$  into  $T(\tilde{S})$ .

LEMMA 3.5. *Let  $\hat{z}_1, \hat{z}_2 \in \mathbf{H}$  be two points with  $\hat{z}_1 \neq \hat{z}_2$ . Let  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_1), \mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_2)$  be defined as in (1.4). Then  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_1)$  is disjoint from  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_2)$ . Further, every such  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  intersects  $\mathbf{H}$  exactly one point.*

*Proof.* To see that  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_1)$  is disjoint from  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_2)$ , we notice that

$$\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_i) = \{([t\mu], w^{t\mu}(\hat{z}_i)) : t \in \mathbf{D}\}.$$

Suppose that

$$([t_1\mu], w^{t_1\mu}(\hat{z}_1)) = ([t_2\mu], w^{t_2\mu}(\hat{z}_2)), \text{ for some } t_1, t_2 \in \mathbf{D}. \tag{3.3}$$

From Lemma 3.4, we see that

$$\pi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_1)) = \pi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_2))$$

is the Teichmüller disk  $\Delta_{\tilde{\theta}}$ , which means that there is an isometric embedding  $\iota : \mathbf{D} \rightarrow \Delta_{\tilde{\theta}}$  that sends  $t \in \mathbf{D}$  to  $[t\mu]$ , from which it follows that  $t_1 = t_2 = t$ . Now from (3.3) we obtain that  $w^{t\mu}(\hat{z}_1) = w^{t\mu}(\hat{z}_2)$ . Since  $\hat{z}_1 \neq \hat{z}_2$  and  $w^{t\mu} : \hat{\mathbf{C}} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{C}}$  is a quasi-conformal map,  $w^{t\mu}(\hat{z}_1) \neq w^{t\mu}(\hat{z}_2)$ . This contradicts (3.3). Thus there are no points of  $F(\tilde{S})$  lying in both  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_1)$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_2)$ , which says that  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_1)$  is disjoint from  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_2)$ .

Suppose that  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  intersects  $\mathbf{H}$  at least twice for some  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$ , which implies that the projection  $\pi : F(\tilde{S}) \rightarrow T(\tilde{S})$  does not define an embedding of  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  into  $T(\tilde{S})$ . Thus  $\pi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$  is not the Teichmüller disk invariant under  $\tilde{\theta}$ . This contradicts Lemma 3.4. □

Let  $\chi \in \text{Mod}_S^c$  be a non-trivial mapping class such that

$$\chi(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \tag{3.4}$$

for a point  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$ . Assume that  $\tilde{\chi} = i(\chi) \in \text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}$  is non-trivial and non-elliptic. Let  $[\hat{f}] \in \text{mod}(\tilde{S})$  be the element corresponding to  $\chi$ . Then we have

$$[\hat{f}](\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}). \tag{3.5}$$

By definition (1.4) and Lemma 3.5.  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \cap \mathbf{H} = \hat{z}$ .

*Caution.* We may choose a representative (also denoted by  $\hat{f}$ ) of  $[\hat{f}]$  so that  $\hat{f}(\hat{z}) \neq \hat{z}$ . That is to say, there are quasi-conformal maps  $\hat{f}$  such that  $\hat{f}(\hat{z}) \neq \hat{z}$  and (3.5) still holds. On the other hand, for quasi-conformal maps  $\hat{f}$  with  $\hat{f}(\hat{z}) = \hat{z}$ , there is no guarantee that (3.5) is satisfied.

Despite the complexity mentioned above, when  $\hat{f}$  is a quasi-conformal self-map of  $\mathbf{H}$  whose Beltrami coefficient is  $t\mu$  for  $t \in \mathbf{D} - \{0\}$  and  $\mu = \overline{\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}}/|\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}|$ , (3.5) is equivalent to the condition  $\hat{f}(\hat{z}) = \hat{z}$ . More precisely, we establish the following result.

**LEMMA 3.6.** *With the above notation, assume that (3.4) or (3.5) holds. The mapping classes  $\chi$  and  $\tilde{\chi}$  are represented by quasi-conformal maps  $\hat{f}_0$  and  $f_0$ , respectively, so that  $\hat{f}_0(\hat{z}) = \hat{z}, f_0(z) = z$  for  $z = \varrho(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \cap \mathbf{H})$  and both have the Beltrami coefficient  $t\mu$  for a  $t \in \mathbf{D} - \{0\}$  and  $\mu = \overline{\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}}/|\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}|$ . Conversely, if  $\chi$  is represented by  $\hat{f}_0$  that has the Beltrami coefficient  $t\mu$  and satisfies  $\hat{f}_0(\hat{z}) = \hat{z}$ , then (3.4) or (3.5) holds. In particular, if  $\tilde{\chi} = \tilde{\theta}$ , then  $z = z_0$  is a non-puncture zero of  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$  so that  $\tilde{\omega}(z_0) = z_0$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\chi$  leaves  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  invariant, Lemma 3.2 says that  $\tilde{\chi} = i(\chi)$  leaves  $j(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$  invariant. From Lemma 3.4,  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}} = j(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$  is the Teichmüller disk determined by the quadratic differential  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$ . So  $\tilde{\chi}$  leaves the Teichmüller disk  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$  invariant.

Since  $\tilde{\chi}([0]) \in \tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$ , we can write  $\tilde{\chi}([0]) = [t_1\mu]$  for a complex number  $t_1 \in \mathbf{D} - \{0\}$ , where  $\mu = \overline{\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}}/|\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}|$ . There is a quasi-conformal self-map  $f_0$  of  $\tilde{S}$  such that  $f_0$  represents  $\tilde{\chi}$  and has Beltrami coefficient  $t_1\mu$ . An easy computation shows that  $f_0^{-1}$  has Beltrami coefficient  $t_2\mu$ , where  $t_2$  is a complex number with  $|t_2| < 1$  and  $|t_1/t_2| = 1$ .

Let  $\hat{f}_0 : \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$  denote the lift of  $f_0$  satisfying  $[\hat{f}_0]^* = \chi$ . Then we know that

$$\tilde{\chi}([0]) = [\text{Beltrami coefficient of } \hat{f}_0^{-1}] \in \tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}. \tag{3.6}$$

Now (3.4) tells us that  $\chi \circ \varphi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \varphi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$ . Thus

$$[\hat{f}_0](\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}). \tag{3.7}$$

From direct computations similar to the proof of Theorem 1 of [11], we know that the Beltrami coefficient of  $w^{t\mu} \circ \hat{f}_0^{-1}$  for any complex number  $t \in \mathbf{D}$  is  $\xi(t)\mu$ , where  $\xi(t)$  is a complex number defined as

$$\xi(t) = -\frac{t_2}{t_1} \frac{t - t_1}{1 - \bar{t}t_1}.$$

Hence  $\xi : \mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$  is a conformal automorphism.

Notice that  $\hat{z} = \mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \cap \mathbf{H}$ . It then follows from the argument of Proposition 3 of [11] that the action of  $[\hat{f}_0]$  can be written as

$$[\hat{f}_0]([t\mu], w^{t\mu}(\hat{z})) = ([\xi(t)\mu], w^{\xi(t)\mu} \circ \hat{f}_0(\hat{z})). \tag{3.8}$$

As  $t$  runs over  $\mathbf{D}$ ,  $\xi(t)$  runs over  $\mathbf{D}$  as well. This says that

$$[\hat{f}_0](\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$$

is a disk of the form (1.4) and passes through the point  $\hat{f}_0(\hat{z}) \in \mathbf{H}$ .

Denote by  $\mathcal{D}_0 = [\hat{f}_0](\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$ . Assume that  $\hat{f}_0(\hat{z}) \neq \hat{z}$ . By Lemma 3.5,  $\mathcal{D}_0 \neq \mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . Hence  $\varphi(\mathcal{D}_0) \neq \varphi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . But

$$\varphi(\mathcal{D}_0) = \varphi \circ [\hat{f}_0](\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = [\hat{f}_0]^* \circ \varphi(\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = [\hat{f}_0]^*(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})).$$

From (3.7), we have  $[\hat{f}_0]^*(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . This leads to a contradiction, proving that  $\hat{f}_0(\hat{z}) = \hat{z}$ . Set  $z = \varrho(\hat{z})$ . From  $\varrho \circ \hat{f}_0 = f_0 \circ \varrho$  we see that  $f_0(z) = z$ .

The converse part of the result is included in the argument of Theorem 1 of [11]. Finally, if  $f_0 = \tilde{\omega}$ , then  $\tilde{\omega}(z) = z$ . In particular,  $z$  cannot be a puncture of  $\tilde{S}$ . Since  $\tilde{\omega}$  is an absolutely extremal Teichmüller map on  $\tilde{S}$ , by Lemma 3.1,  $z = z_0$  is a non-puncture zero of the quadratic differential  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$ . □

From Lemma 3.3, we know that if there is a point  $z_0 \in \tilde{S}$  that is a non-puncture zero of  $\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}$  with  $\tilde{\omega}(z_0) = z_0$ , then for any point  $\hat{z}_0 \in \mathbf{H}$  with  $\varrho(\hat{z}_0) = z_0$ , the stabilizer  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_0)$  of  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_0)$  in the pointed mapping class group  $\text{Mod}_S^a$  contains a hyperbolic mapping class  $\theta$  with  $i(\theta) = \tilde{\theta}$ . This particularly implies that  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_0)$  is not empty and contains at least an infinite cyclic subgroup generated by  $\theta$ .

**4. Proof of Theorem 1.1.** By Hurwitz’s theorem (see e.g. Theorem V.1.3 of Farkas and Kra [9]), the group of conformal automorphisms of  $\tilde{S}$  is finite, and the order of the group is  $< 84(p - 1)$ . For each conformal automorphism  $\zeta$  of  $\tilde{S}$ , the quotient  $\tilde{S}/\langle \zeta \rangle$  is an orbifold of finite type. So by a theorem of Kravetz [12], the number of fixed points of  $\zeta$  on  $\tilde{S}$  is finite. Let  $A$  be the set of points  $z$  of  $\tilde{S}$  such that there is a non-trivial conformal automorphism  $\zeta$  with  $\zeta(z) = z$ . We conclude that  $A$  is finite.

It is well known (see Abikoff [1]) that the mapping class group  $\text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}$  is discrete when viewed as a group of holomorphic automorphisms of  $T(\tilde{S})$ . By Lemma 2.1, for each non-conformal quasi-conformal self-map  $f$  of  $\tilde{S}$ , whose Beltrami coefficient is  $t\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}/|\phi_{\tilde{\omega}}|$ , the set

$$B_f = \{P \in \tilde{S} : f(P) = P\}$$

has measure zero. We conclude that the union

$$B = \bigcup B_f$$

for all such maps  $f$  has measure zero. By combining  $A$  and  $B$ , we see that  $A \cup B$  has measure zero. Hence the set

$$\Sigma = \{\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H} : \varrho(\hat{z}) \in A \cup B\} \tag{4.1}$$

has measure zero. Denote by

$$\Omega = \mathbf{H} - \Sigma,$$

where  $\Sigma$  is defined as (4.1). Then  $\Omega$  is uncountable with a full measure. We prove the following lemma.

LEMMA 4.1. *For any  $\hat{z} \in \Omega$ , the group  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is either trivial or finitely cyclic.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  contains an element  $\chi \in \text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}^a$  with infinite order. That is,

$$\chi(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \text{ and } \chi^n \neq \text{id for any integer } n.$$

Since  $\chi$  is not elliptic, from the Bers classification for mapping classes [6],  $\chi$  is either parabolic, hyperbolic, or pseudo-hyperbolic.

From Theorem 1 of Kra [11], any pseudo-hyperbolic mapping class  $\chi$  cannot keep  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  invariant. To see this fact, we note that for a Teichmüller disk  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ , there is an isometry

$$\iota : \mathbf{D} \rightarrow \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \tag{4.2}$$

with respect to the hyperbolic metric on  $\mathbf{D}$  and the Teichmüller metric on  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . If there exists a pseudo-hyperbolic mapping class  $\chi$  keeping  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  invariant, then  $\iota^{-1} \circ \chi \circ \iota \in \text{Aut}(\mathbf{D})$  is a non-trivial Möbius transformation that is neither elliptic, nor parabolic, nor hyperbolic. This is absurd.

Via the isometry (4.2),  $\chi$  determines a Möbius transformation  $A_\chi$  on  $\mathbf{D}$ . So  $A_\chi$  is either trivial or non-trivial. If  $A_\chi$  is trivial, then  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is contained in a fixed-point locus of  $\chi$ . In this case, if we write  $[\hat{f}]^* = \chi$ , then  $[\hat{f}] \in \text{mod}(\tilde{S})$  determines a conformal automorphism  $\zeta$  of  $\tilde{S}$ . Since  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \cap \mathbf{H} = \hat{z}$ ,  $\zeta$  fixes the point  $z = \varrho(\hat{z}) \in \tilde{S}$ . It follows by definition that  $z \in A$ . Hence  $\hat{z} \in \Sigma$ . But this contradicts that  $\hat{z} \in \Omega$ . If  $A_\chi$  is non-trivial, there are three cases to consider:  $A_\chi$  is either hyperbolic, parabolic, or elliptic.

*Case 1.*  $A_\chi$  is hyperbolic. Then  $A_\chi$  has an invariant geodesic  $l \subset \mathbf{D}$ . Hence  $\chi$  has an invariant Teichmüller geodesic  $\iota(l)$ . From Theorem 6 of Bers [6],  $\chi$  is hyperbolic.

If  $\tilde{\chi} = i(\chi) \in \text{Mod}_{\tilde{S}}$  is non-trivial and non-elliptic, then we notice that  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}) \cap \mathbf{H} = \hat{z}$ . From Lemma 3.6, we assert that  $\tilde{\chi}$  is represented by a quasi-conformal map



$f_0$  that has a Beltrami coefficient  $t\mu$  for some  $t \in \mathbf{D} - \{0\}$  and satisfies  $f_0(z) = z$ . This means  $z \in B$ . Thus  $\hat{z} \in \Sigma$  and  $\hat{z} \notin \Omega$ . This is a contradiction.

If  $\tilde{\chi}$  is trivial, then there is an element  $g \in G$  such that  $g^* = \chi$  (in fact, by Theorem 2 of [11],  $g$  is an essential hyperbolic element). Now  $g$  acts on  $\mathbf{H}$  without any fixed points, so from Lemma 3.5,  $g(\mathcal{D}_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$  is disjoint from  $\mathcal{D}_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ , which in turn implies that  $g^*(\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$  is disjoint from  $\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . But  $g^* = \chi$ . It turns out that  $\chi(\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$  is disjoint from  $\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ , contradicting that  $\chi(\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ .

If  $\tilde{\chi}$  is elliptic, then there is an integer  $k \geq 2$  such that  $\tilde{\chi}^k(\tilde{x}) = \tilde{x}$  for a point  $\tilde{x} \in T(\tilde{S})$ . Let  $x \in \mathcal{D}_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  be such that  $\pi(x) = \tilde{x}$ . Since  $\chi$  leaves invariant  $\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ , and since  $i(\chi) = \tilde{\chi}$ , we obtain

$$\pi \circ \chi^k(x) = \tilde{\chi}^k(\tilde{x}) = \tilde{x} = \pi(x). \tag{4.3}$$

But we know that the restriction of  $\pi$  to  $\mathcal{D}_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is an embedding. It follows from (4.3) that  $\chi^k(x) = x$ . This implies that  $A_\chi$  is a non-trivial elliptic Möbius transformation. So Case 1 can not occur, and we conclude that  $\chi$  is not hyperbolic.

Case 2.  $A_\chi$  is parabolic. By taking a suitable power if necessary, we may assume that  $\chi$  is represented by multi twists along a system

$$\{c_1, \dots, c_s\}, \quad s \geq 1 \tag{4.4}$$

of disjoint simple closed geodesics on  $S$ . If  $s \geq 2$ , or  $s = 1$  but  $c_1$  projects a non-trivial geodesic on  $\tilde{S}$ , then  $\tilde{\chi} = i(\chi)$  is non-trivial. We can use Lemma 3.6 to conclude that  $\tilde{\chi}$  can be represented by a quasi-conformal map  $f_0$  that has a Beltrami coefficient  $t\mu$  for some  $t \in \mathbf{D} - \{0\}$  and satisfies  $f_0(z) = z$  for  $z = \varrho(\hat{z})$ . This means  $z \in B$  and so  $\hat{z} \in \Sigma$ ; that is,  $\hat{z} \notin \Omega$ . Once again, this is a contradiction.

If  $s = 1$  and  $c_1$  projects to the trivial mapping class of  $\tilde{S}$ , then in this case,  $c_1$  bounds a twice punctured disk on  $S$  that encloses  $a$  and another puncture of  $\tilde{S}$ . This implies that there is a parabolic element  $g \in G$  with  $g^* = \chi$ . By the same argument as in Case 1, we see that  $\chi(\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z}))$  is disjoint from  $\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ , contradicting the fact that  $\chi(\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . Hence  $\chi$  cannot be parabolic.

Case 3.  $A_\chi$  is elliptic. We can conclude the proof of Lemma 4.1 by proving the following result.

LEMMA 4.2. *The group  $V_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ ,  $\hat{z} \in \Omega$ , only contains elliptic elements with a common fixed point in  $\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ .*

*Proof.* If  $V_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  contains another elliptic element  $\chi'$  with distinct fixed points, then via (4.2), we obtain two elliptic Möbius transformations  $M$  and  $M'$  with distinct fixed points. According to Theorem 7.39.2 of Beardon [4], the commutator  $[M, M']$  is hyperbolic. Hence  $\iota \circ [M, M'] \circ \iota^{-1} \in V_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is hyperbolic and by the above argument, this is impossible. Therefore,  $V_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is at most finitely cyclic. □

This also completes the proof of Lemma 4.1. □

Denote by

$$\mathcal{F} = \pi^{-1}(\tilde{\Delta}_{\hat{\omega}}) = \{x \in F(\tilde{S}) : \pi(x) \in \tilde{\Delta}_{\hat{\omega}}\}.$$

To complete the proof of Theorem 1.1 (1), we need to identify those points  $\hat{z}_n \in \Omega$  for which  $\Delta_{\hat{\omega}}(\hat{z}_n)$  may be invariant under some elliptic mapping classes in  $\text{Mod}_g^2$ . We then remove those  $\hat{z}_n$  from  $\Omega$ . To accomplish this goal, we first prove the following lemma.

LEMMA 4.3. *Let  $\chi \in \text{Mod}_S^u$  be elliptic and keeps  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  invariant. Let  $A_\chi$  be defined under the isometry (4.2). Assume that  $A_\chi$  is a non-trivial elliptic element. Let  $y_0 \in \mathbf{D}$  be the fixed point of  $A_\chi$ . Then  $v_0 = \iota(y_0)$  is the only fixed point of  $\chi$  in  $\varphi(\mathcal{F})$ .*

*Proof.* Obviously,  $\chi(v_0) = v_0$  and  $\chi$  fixes no other points of  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . Let  $x_0 \in \mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  be such that  $\varphi(x_0) = v_0$ . Denote by  $[v] = \pi(x_0) \in T(\tilde{S})$ .

Suppose that  $\chi$  also fixes a point  $v \in \varphi(\mathcal{F})$  with  $v \neq v_0$ . Write  $v = \varphi(x)$  for some  $x \in \mathcal{F} \subset F(\tilde{S})$ . Since the element  $[\hat{f}] \in \text{mod}(\tilde{S})$ , where  $[\hat{f}]^* = \chi$ , is fibre preserving, and since  $[\hat{f}]$  keeps  $\mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  invariant,  $x$  and  $x_0$  lie in the same fibre  $\pi^{-1}([v]) \subset \mathcal{F}$  over  $[v]$ . From the assumption, the restriction of  $[\hat{f}]$  to the fibre  $\pi^{-1}([v])$  is conformal and fixes the two points  $x$  and  $x_0$ . So the restriction of  $[\hat{f}]$  to  $\pi^{-1}([v])$  must be the identity. On the other hand, the action of  $[\hat{f}]$  on the fibre is written as

$$[\hat{f}]([v], \hat{z}) = ([v], w^v \circ \hat{f} \circ (w^v)^{-1}(\hat{z})).$$

We see that  $\hat{z} = w^v \circ \hat{f} \circ (w^v)^{-1}(\hat{z})$ , or  $\hat{f} \circ (w^v)^{-1}(\hat{z}) = (w^v)^{-1}(\hat{z})$ . Since  $(w^v)^{-1}(\hat{z}) \in \mathbf{H}$  is an arbitrary point, we conclude that  $[\hat{f}]$  is trivial. This is again a contradiction.  $\square$

Now from Lemma 4.3, we know that there exist at most countably many elliptic mapping classes  $\chi_n$  each of which, when viewed as an automorphism of  $\varphi(\mathcal{F})$ , has a single distinct fixed point  $v_n$  in  $\varphi(\mathcal{F})$ . Assume that  $\chi_n$  keeps  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_n)$  invariant. We claim that the only fixed point  $v_n$  of  $\chi_n$  must lie in  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_n)$ .

Indeed, by  $\iota_n : \mathbf{D} \rightarrow \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_n)$  we denote the corresponding isometry. Then  $\chi_n$  defines a trivial or elliptic Möbius transformation  $A_{\chi_n}$ . If  $A_{\chi_n}$  is trivial, we use the previous argument to show that this is impossible. If  $A_{\chi_n}$  is non-trivial,  $A_{\chi_n}$  has a unique fixed point  $y_n$  in  $\mathbf{D}$ . Thus  $\iota_n(y_n) = v_n$  is fixed by  $\chi_n$  and  $v_n \in \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_n)$ .

Moreover, from Lemma 4.2 we conclude that  $\hat{z}_n \neq \hat{z}_m$  whenever  $m \neq n$ . Hence by Lemma 3.5,  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_n)$  is disjoint from  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_m)$  whenever  $m \neq n$ . It follows that there exist at most countably many points  $\hat{z}_n \in \Omega$  such that  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z}_n)$  contains  $v_n$  and does not contain any other  $v_m$ . Therefore, if we set

$$\Omega_0 = \Omega - \bigcup_{n \geq 0} \{z_n\},$$

then  $\Omega_0$  is an uncountable subset of  $\mathbf{H}$  with a full measure and for any  $\hat{z} \in \Omega_0$ ,  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  avoids all single fixed points of elliptic mapping classes of  $\text{Mod}_S^u$ . Hence  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ ,  $\hat{z} \in \Omega_0$ , can not be an invariant disk by any elliptic mapping class of  $\text{Mod}_S^u$ . This proves (1) of Theorem 1.1.

(2) For a polynomial

$$P(x) = x^n - x^{n-1} - \dots - x - 1 \tag{4.5}$$

with degree  $n \geq 3$ , there is a real root  $c > 1$  and all other roots are within the unit circle. In literature  $c$  is called the Pisot root. The main result of Arnoux and Yoccoz [3] states that there exists a non-conformal absolutely extremal Teichmüller self-mapping  $\tilde{\omega}$  on a surface whose maximal dilatation  $K(\tilde{\omega})$  satisfies the condition that  $K(\tilde{\omega})^{1/2} = c$ .

Let  $\tilde{\theta}$  be the hyperbolic mapping class represented by  $\tilde{\omega}$ . Let  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$  be the Teichmüller disk in  $T(\tilde{S})$  invariant under the action of  $\tilde{\theta}$ . We see that for any  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$ ,  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  defined as (1.6) is a Teichmüller disk in  $T(S)$ . For any  $\hat{z} \in \Omega_0$ , from (1) of Theorem 1.1,  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is trivial. So it remains to consider those points  $\hat{z}$  in  $\mathbf{H} - \Omega_0$ . We claim that  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  for  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H} - \Omega_0$  does not contain any parabolic mapping classes.

Suppose that there is a parabolic mapping class  $\chi \in \text{Mod}_S^a$  such that  $\chi(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  for  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H} - \Omega_0$ . By taking a suitable power if necessary, we assume that  $\chi$  is reduced by the curve system (4.4). If  $s = 1$  and  $c_1$  bounds a twice punctured disk  $D$ , then  $\chi$  is represented by the Dehn twist  $t_{\partial D}$ . So  $i(\chi)$  is trivial. By Theorem 2 of [11], there is a parabolic element  $g \in G$  with  $g^* = \chi$ . Then we can use the same argument of Lemma 4.1 to conclude that this cannot happen. If  $s > 1$  or  $s = 1$  but  $c_1$  does not bound any twice punctured disk, then  $\tilde{\chi} = i(\chi)$  is a non-trivial parabolic mapping class. From Lemma 3.4, we have  $j(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$ . By Lemma 3.2,  $\tilde{\chi}$  leaves invariant the disk  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$ . It follows that the Veech group of  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\tilde{\omega}}$  contains a parabolic element  $\tilde{\chi}$ . This contradicts Corollary 1.3 of Hubert and Lanneau [8].

We conclude that for any point  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$ , the group  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  is either trivial or only contains hyperbolic and elliptic elements. Now the argument of Corollary 1.5 of [8] can be carried over to our case: any elliptic mapping class is induced by a conformal automorphism  $\zeta$  of some surface. So by Hurwitz's theorem (see Theorem V.1.3 of [9]), the order of  $\zeta$  is bounded above by  $84(p - 1)$ . According to Theorem 7 of Purzitsky [14], We conclude that for any point  $\hat{z} \in \mathbf{H}$ , the group  $V_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ , if non-trivial, must contain a finite index subgroup consists of only hyperbolic elements. This proves (2) of Theorem 1.1.

**5. Some remarks.** (1) We outline the proof of Corollary 1.3 of [8] as follows. Details can be found in [8]. The polynomial (4.5) of degree  $n \geq 3$  has two real roots if  $n$  is even and only one real root if  $n$  is odd. Since  $c$  is the Pisot root, one proves that  $\mathbb{Q}[c]$  is not totally real. A computation shows that  $\mathbb{Q}[c + c^{-1}]$  is not totally real either. On the other hand, if  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}$  is stabilized by the hyperbolic mapping class  $\tilde{\theta}$  that is represented by a product of two parabolic mapping classes, then Theorem 1.1 of [8] asserts that (by using the results of Arnoux and Yoccoz [3] and Kenyon and Smillie [13])  $\mathbb{Q}[c + c^{-1}]$  can be identified with the trace field which must be totally real, which leads to a contradiction.

(2) The argument of Theorem 1.1 (1) yields that there is an uncountable set  $\Omega_0$  of  $\mathbf{H}$  with a full measure such that the Veech group of each disk  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  for  $\hat{z} \in \Omega_0$  is at most finitely cyclic with order  $n + 1$ . Indeed, by Theorem 10 of Bers [5], the group  $\text{Mod}_S^a$  is a subgroup of  $\text{Mod}_S$  with index  $n + 1$ . Suppose that there is a non-trivial  $\chi \in \text{Mod}_S^a$  such that  $\chi(\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})) = \Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$ . If  $\chi$  is hyperbolic or parabolic, then  $\chi^{n+1} \in \text{Mod}_S^a$  is also hyperbolic or parabolic, and the argument remains the same. If  $\chi$  is elliptic with  $\chi^{n+1}$  being non-trivial, our argument is still valid. It follows that for  $\hat{z} \in \Omega_0$ , the Veech group  $V$  of  $\Delta_{\tilde{\omega}}(\hat{z})$  only consists of elliptic elements  $\chi_i$  with  $\chi_i^{n+1} = \text{id}$ . Hence, by the Nielsen realization theorem (see Kerckhoff [10]),  $V$  itself is finitely cyclic of order  $n + 1$ .

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