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Rigidity using measure homology

Theorem 11.8.4. *Let $M = B^n/\Gamma$ and $N = B^n/H$ be compact orientable space-forms, with $n > 2$, and let $\tilde{\varphi} : B^n \rightarrow B^n$ be a lift of a smooth homotopy equivalence $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$. Then $\tilde{\varphi}_\infty : S^{n-1} \rightarrow S^{n-1}$ is a Möbius transformation.*

Proof: Let Δ be a hyperbolic, regular, ideal n -simplex in B^n with vertices $u_0, \dots, u_n$. By Theorem 11.8.3, we have that $\tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_0), \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_n)$ are the vertices of a regular ideal n -simplex Δ' in B^n . Let f be the unique Möbius transformation of S^{n-1} such that $f u_i = \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_i)$ for each i . Then $f^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_i) = u_i$ for each i .

Let g_i be the reflection of B^n in the side of Δ opposite the vertex u_i . Then the points $u_0, \dots, u_{i-1}, g_i u_i, u_{i+1}, \dots, u_n$ are the vertices of the regular ideal n -simplex $g_i \Delta$ in B^n . Consequently, the points

$$\tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_0), \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_{i-1}), \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(g_i u_i), \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_{i+1}), \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_n)$$

are the vertices of a regular ideal n -simplex $(g_i \Delta)'$ in B^n . Let h_i be the reflection of B^n in the side of Δ' opposite the vertex $\tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_i)$. By Lemma 13, we have that

$$(g_i \Delta)' = h_i \Delta'.$$

Therefore, we have

$$\tilde{\varphi}_\infty(g_i u_i) = h_i \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_i).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_\infty(g_i u_i) &= f^{-1}h_i \tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_i) \\ &= f^{-1}h_i f f^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_\infty(u_i) = g_i u_i. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $f^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_\infty$ fixes $g_i u_i$ for each i .

Let G be the group generated by $g_0, \dots, g_n$. By induction, $f^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_\infty$ fixes each point of $U = \cup_{i=0}^n G u_i$. Moreover, the set U is dense in S^{n-1} by Lemma 14. Therefore $f^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_\infty$ is the identity map of S^{n-1} by continuity. Hence $\tilde{\varphi}_\infty = f$. Thus $\tilde{\varphi}_\infty$ is a Möbius transformation of S^{n-1} . $\square$

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