

# Boundary Conformal Volume And The First Steklov Eigenvalue

Mohammed Nour<sup>1</sup>, A.Rabih<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Dept of Mathematic

<sup>1</sup>College of science and Arts in UglatAsugour, Qassim university,  
Buraydah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

<sup>2</sup>Bakht El-ruda University, Eddwaim, Sudan

**Abstract-** In this paper we give an overview results about the boundary conformal volume of  $k$ - dimensional Riemannian manifold with nonempty boundary  $\partial\Sigma$ . we give an estimates for the first eigenvalue of the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map. we prove that the boundary  $n$ - conformal volume  $\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) \leq 2\pi$  and  $\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) \leq L^2/2A$  were  $\varphi$  is a conformal map from the surfaces  $\Sigma$  to the unit ball  $B^n$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  we also showing that for  $\epsilon > 0 \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n) \geq \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n + \epsilon)$ .

## I. INTRODUCTION

In this paper develop a theory which we call boundary and relative conformal volume because it issimilar to the conformal volumetheory of Li and Yau [4] exceptingthat the boundarybe an essential role in this theory. Using the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem with boundary weshow (Theorem 2.2) that when  $k = 2$ , a free boundary solution has boundary length whichis a maximum over the boundary lengths of its conformal images in the ball. We use this toshow (Theorem 2.3) that any free boundary solution has area at least  $\pi$ . We understandthat thisinequality is equivalent to the sharp isoperimetric inequality for free boundary surfaces. Wedefine the boundary conformal volume to be the Li-Yau conformal volume of the boundarysubmanifold.

We then proceed to define a relative conformal volume for manifolds  $\Sigma$  whichacceptproper conformal immersions into the unit ball. We take the maximum volume of the conformal images of a given immersion, and then minimize over conformal immersions. We show that the relative conformal volume gives a general upper bound on the first nonzero Steklov eigenvalue over all conformal metrics on  $\Sigma$ . Specifically we show for any  $k$  the general upper bound on  $\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma)(\text{Vol}(\Sigma))^{(2-k)/2}$  in terms of the relative conformal volume. For  $k = 2$  this reduces to the bound  $\sigma_1 \cdot L(\partial\Sigma) \leq 2\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)$ .

## II. BOUNDARY CONFORMAL VOLUME

Let  $(\Sigma^k, g)$  be a  $k$ -dimensional compact Riemaniann manifold with boundary  $\partial\Sigma \neq \emptyset$ , and let  $B^n$  be the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . supposethat  $\Sigma$  admits a conformal map  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$ . Let  $G$  be the group of conformal diffeomorphisms of  $B^n$ . We define the boundary conformal volume to be the Li-Yau [4] conformal volume of the boundary submanifold  $\partial\Sigma$ .

**Definition 2.1.** Given a map  $\varphi \in C^1(\partial\Sigma, \partial B^n)$  that admits a conformal extension  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$ , define the boundary  $n$ -conformal volume of  $\varphi$  by.

$$\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) = \sup_{f \in G} \text{Vol}(f(\varphi(\partial\Sigma))).$$

The boundary  $n$ -conformal volume of  $\Sigma$ is then defined to be.

$$\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n) = \inf_{\varphi} \text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi).$$

where the infimum is over all  $\varphi \in C^1(\partial\Sigma, \partial B^n)$  that admit conformal extensions  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$ .It can be shown that  $\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n) \geq \text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n + 1)$ . The boundary conformal volume of  $\Sigma$  is defined to be.

$$\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n).$$

Note that:For any  $k$ -dimensional manifold  $\Sigma$  with boundary, the boundary  $n$ -conformalvolume of  $\Sigma$  is bounded below by the volume of the  $(k - 1)$ -dimensional sphere:

$$\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n) \geq \text{Vol}(\mathbb{S}^{k-1}).$$

The proof is as in [4]; given a point  $\theta$  on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , let  $f_\theta(t)$  be the one parameter subgroup of the group of conformal diffeomorphisms of the sphere generated by the gradient of the linear functions of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  in the direction  $\theta$ . For all  $t, f_\theta(t)$  fixes the points  $\theta$  and  $-\theta$ , and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f_\theta(t)(x) = \theta$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1} \setminus \{-\theta\}$ . If  $\varphi: \partial\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  is a map whose differential has rank  $k - 1$  at  $x$ , then,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}(f_{-\varphi(x)}(t)(\varphi(\partial\Sigma))) = m \text{Vol}(\mathbb{S}^{k-1})$$

for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  (here the integer  $m$  is the multiplicity of the immersed submanifold  $\partial\Sigma$  at the point  $-\theta$ ).

For  $k = 2$  and for a minimal surface  $\Sigma$  that is a solution to the free boundary problem in the unit ball  $B^n$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the boundary  $n$ -conformal volume of  $\Sigma$  is the length of the boundary of  $\Sigma$ ; that is, its boundary length is maximal in its conformal orbit.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $\Sigma$  a minimal surface in  $B^n$ , with nonempty boundary  $\partial\Sigma \subset \partial B^n$ , and meeting  $\partial B^n$  orthogonally along  $\partial\Sigma$ , given by the isometric immersion  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$ . Then,  $\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) = L(\partial\Sigma)$ ,

The length of the boundary of  $\Sigma$ .

**Proof.** The trace-free second fundamental form  $\left\| A - \frac{1}{2}(Tr_g A)g \right\|^2 dV_g$  is conformally invariant for surfaces. Using the Gauss equation we have  $2 \left\| A - \frac{1}{2}(Tr_g A)g \right\|^2 = H^2 - 4K$ . Therefore, given any  $f \in G$ ,

$$\int_{\Sigma} (H^2 - 4K) da = \int_{f(\Sigma)} (\tilde{H}^2 - 4\tilde{K}) d\tilde{a},$$

Where  $d\tilde{a}$  denotes the induced area element on  $f(\Sigma)$ , and  $\tilde{K}$  and  $\tilde{H}$  denote the Gauss and mean curvatures of  $f(\Sigma)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Since  $\Sigma$  is minimal,  $H = 0$ , and so we have.

$$-4 \int_{\Sigma} K da = \int_{f(\Sigma)} \tilde{H}^2 d\tilde{a} - 4 \int_{f(\Sigma)} \tilde{K} d\tilde{a}. \tag{1}$$

By the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Sigma} K da &= 2\pi\chi(\Sigma) - \int_{\partial\Sigma} k ds \\ \int_{f(\Sigma)} \tilde{K} da &= 2\pi\chi(f(\Sigma)) - \int_{\partial f(\Sigma)} \tilde{k} ds, \end{aligned}$$

and using this in (1), since  $\chi(\Sigma) = \chi(f(\Sigma))$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 4 \int_{\partial\Sigma} k ds &= \int_{f(\Sigma)} \tilde{H}^2 d\tilde{a} + 4 \int_{\partial f(\Sigma)} \tilde{k} d\tilde{s} \\ &\geq 4 \int_{\partial f(\Sigma)} \tilde{k} d\tilde{s} \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

If  $T$  is the oriented unit tangent vector of  $\partial\Sigma$  and  $v$  is the inward unit conormal vector along  $\partial\Sigma$ , then.

$$k = \left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, v \right\rangle = - \left\langle T, \frac{dv}{ds} \right\rangle = \left\langle T, \frac{d\varphi}{ds} \right\rangle = \langle T, T \rangle = 1,$$

where in the third to last equality we have used the fact that  $v = -\varphi$  since  $\Sigma$  meets  $\partial B^n$  orthogonally along  $\partial\Sigma$ . Since  $f$  is conformal,  $f(\Sigma)$  also meets  $\partial B^n$  orthogonally along  $\partial f(\Sigma)$ , and so we also have that  $\tilde{k} = 1$ . Using this in (2) we obtain.

$$L(\partial\Sigma) \geq L(\partial f(\Sigma)).$$

This shows that

$$L(\partial\Sigma) \geq \text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi)$$

as claimed.

The proof of Theorem 2.2 means that any minimal surface that is a solution to the free boundary problem in the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has area greater than or equal to that of a flat equatorial disk solution.

**Theorem 2.3** Let  $\Sigma$  be a minimal surface in  $B^n$ , with (nonempty) boundary  $\partial\Sigma \subset \partial B^n$ , and meeting  $\partial B^n$  orthogonally along  $\partial\Sigma$ . Then.

$$2A(\Sigma) = L(\partial\Sigma) \geq 2\pi.$$

**Proof.** Given  $f \in G$ , as in the proof Theorem 2.2, we have.

$$L(\partial\Sigma) \geq L(\partial f(\Sigma)). \tag{3}$$

Since  $\Sigma$  is minimal, the coordinate functions are harmonic  $\Delta_\Sigma x^i = 0$ , and  $\Delta_\Sigma |x|^2 = 4$ . Therefore,

$$4A(\Sigma) = \int_\Sigma \Delta_\Sigma |x|^2 da = \int_{\partial\Sigma} \frac{\partial |x|^2}{\partial \nu} ds = \int_{\partial\Sigma} 2 ds = 2L(\partial\Sigma).$$

Using this in (3) gives.

$$2A(\Sigma) \geq L(\partial f(\Sigma)).$$

If  $p \in \partial\Sigma$ , then as in Remark 5.2. of [1],

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} L(f_p(t)(\partial\Sigma)) = mL(\mathbb{S}^1) = 2\pi m$$

For some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , and so, we have the desired conclusion.

$$2A(\Sigma) = L(\partial\Sigma) \geq 2\pi.$$

**Corollary 2.4.** The sharp isoperimetric inequality holds for free boundary minimal surfaces in the ball:

$$A \leq \frac{L^2}{4\pi}.$$

**Proof.** For free boundary minimal surfaces in the ball we have  $2A(\Sigma) = L(\partial\Sigma)$ , as shown in the proof of Theorem 2.3. It follows that the inequality  $A(\Sigma) \geq \pi$  is equivalent to the sharp isoperimetric inequality  $A \leq L^2/4\pi$ .

**Corollary 2.5.** Show that

- (i)  $\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) \leq 2\pi$
- (ii)  $\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) \leq L^2/2A$

**Proof .**(i) Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 2.3 shows that

$$\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) \leq 2\pi$$

(ii) Since  $A \leq \frac{L^2}{4\pi}$  then

$$\text{Vol}_{bc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) \leq 2\pi \leq \frac{L^2}{4\pi}$$

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $\Sigma$  be a  $k$ -dimensional compact Riemannian manifold with boundary that admits a conformal map  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$ . Define the relative  $n$ -conformal volume of  $\varphi$  by.

$$\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi) = \sup_{f \in G} \text{Vol}((f(\varphi(\Sigma))))$$

The relative  $n$ -conformal volume of  $\Sigma$  is then defined to be

$$\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n) = \inf_{\varphi} \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi)$$

Where the infimum is over all non-degenerate conformal maps

$$\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n \text{ with } \varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n.$$

**Lemma 2.7.** If  $m \geq n$ , then  $\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n) \geq \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, m)$ .

**Proof.** To see this, suppose  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n \subset B^m$  is conformal, with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n \subset \partial B^m$ . Let  $A = \varphi(\Sigma) \subset B^n$  and suppose that  $f$  is a conformal transformation of  $B^m$ . Then  $f(A)$  lies in the spherical cap  $f(B^n)$  in  $B^m$  whose boundary lies in  $\partial B^m$ . Let  $T \in O(m)$  be an orthogonal transformation that rotates this spherical cap so that its boundary lies in an  $n$ -plane parallel to the  $n$ -plane containing the boundary of the original equatorial  $B^n$ . Let  $P$  be the conformal projection of  $T(f(B^n))$  onto  $B^n$ , and let  $A' = P(T(f(A)))$ . Clearly  $P$  is volume increasing, and so.

$$\text{Vol}(A') \geq \text{Vol}(f(A))$$

But  $A'$  is the image of  $A$  under some conformal transformation of  $B^n$ , therefore.

$$\sup_{F \in G} \text{Vol}(F(A)) \geq \sup_{f \in G'} \text{Vol}(f(A))$$

Where  $G$  denotes the group of conformal transformations of  $B^n$ , and  $G'$  denotes the group of conformal transformations of  $B^m$ .

The relative conformal volume of  $\Sigma$  is defined to be.

$$\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)$$

Note that : For any  $k$ -dimensional manifold  $\Sigma$  with boundary, the relative  $n$ -conformal volume of  $\Sigma$  is bounded below by the volume of the  $k$ -dimensional ball:

$$\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n) \geq \text{Vol}(B^k).$$

To see this, suppose  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  is a conformal map with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$ , whose differential has rank  $k$  at  $x \in \partial\Sigma$ .

The conformal diffeomorphisms  $f_{-\varphi(x)}(t)$  of the sphere (see Remark5.2 of [1]), extend to conformal diffeomorphisms of  $B^n$ , and,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}(f_{-\varphi(x)}(t)(\varphi(\Sigma))) = m\text{Vol}(B^k)$$

For some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , the multiplicity of  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma)$  at  $\varphi(x)$ .

### III. FIRST EIGENVALUE

Now we prove estimates for the first eigenvalue of the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map which are analogs of the estimates of [4] and [3] for the first Neumann eigenvalue of the Laplacian, we also give Relationship between it and conformal volume (see [2]).

**Corollary 3.1** We Show that  $\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n) \geq \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n+\epsilon)$ .

**Proof.** For  $\epsilon > 0$  suppose  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B_j^n \subset B_j^{n+\epsilon}$  is conformal, with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset B_j^n \subset \partial B_j^{n+\epsilon}$ . Let

$A = \varphi(\Sigma) \subset B_j^n$  and suppose that  $f$  is a conformal transformation of  $B_j^{n+\epsilon}$ . Then  $\sum_{j=1}^r f(A_j)$  lies in the spherical cap  $\sum_{j=1}^r f(B_j^n)$  in  $B_j^{n+\epsilon}$ , whose boundary lies in  $\partial B_j^{n+\epsilon}$ . Let  $T \in O(m)$  be an orthogonal transformation that rotates this spherical cap so that its boundary lies in an  $n$ -plane parallel to the  $n$ -plane containing the boundary of the original equatorial  $B_j^n$ . Let  $P$  be the conformal projection of  $T(\sum_{j=1}^r f(B_j^n))$  onto  $B_j^n$ , and let  $\sum_{j=1}^r A'_j = P(T(\sum_{j=1}^r f(A_j)))$ . Clearly  $P$  is volume increasing, and so.

$$\text{Vol}\left(\sum_{j=1}^r A'_j\right) \geq \text{Vol}\left(\sum_{j=1}^r f(A_j)\right)$$

But  $A'_j$  is the image of  $A_j$  under some conformal transformation of  $B_j^n$ , Hence.

$$\sup_{F \in G} \text{Vol}\left(\sum_{j=1}^r f(A_j)\right) \geq \sup_{f \in G'} \text{Vol}\left(\sum_{j=1}^r f(A_j)\right)$$

Where  $G$  is the group of conformal transformations of  $B_j^n$ , and  $G'$  denotes the group of conformal transformations of  $B_j^{n+\epsilon}$ .

The relative conformal volume of  $\Sigma$  is defined to be.

$$\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)$$

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact Riemannian manifold, and let  $\varphi$  be an immersion of  $M$  into  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ . There exists  $f \in G$  such that  $\psi = f \circ \varphi = (\psi^1, \dots, \psi^n)$  satisfies.

$$\int_M \psi^i dv_g = 0$$

For  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .  
Proof . See [5], [3]

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $(\Sigma, g)$  be a compact  $k$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold with nonempty boundary. Let  $\sigma_1 > 0$  be the first non-zero eigenvalue of the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map on  $(\Sigma, g)$ . Then,

$$\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma) \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{2-k}{k}} \leq k \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)^{\frac{2}{k}}$$

For all  $n$  for which  $\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)$  is defined (i.e. such that there exists a conformal mapping  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$ ). Equality implies that there exists a conformal harmonic map  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  which (after rescaling the metric  $g$ ) is an isometry on  $\partial\Sigma$ , with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$  and such that  $\varphi(\Sigma)$  meets  $\partial B^n$  orthogonally along  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma)$ . For  $k > 2$  this map is an isometric minimal immersion of  $\Sigma$  to its image. Moreover, the immersion is given by a subspace of the first eigenspace.

The following is an immediate consequence of the theorem.

**Corollary 3.4.** Let  $\Sigma$  be a compact surface with nonempty boundary and metric  $g$ . Let  $\sigma_1 > 0$  be the first non-zero eigenvalue of the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map on  $(\Sigma, g)$ . Then  $\sigma_1 L(\partial\Sigma) \leq 2 \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)$

for all  $n$  for which  $\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)$  is defined. Equality implies that there exists a conformal minimal immersion  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  by first eigenfunctions which (after rescaling the metric) is an isometry on  $\partial\Sigma$ , with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$  and such that  $\varphi(\Sigma)$  meets  $\partial B^n$  orthogonally along  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  be a conformal map with  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$ . By Lemma 3.2 we can assume that  $\varphi = (\varphi^1, \dots, \varphi^n)$  satisfies

$$\int_{\partial\Sigma} \varphi^i ds = 0$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Let  $\hat{\varphi}^i$  be a harmonic extension of  $\varphi^i|_{\partial\Sigma}$ . Then,

$$\sigma_1 \leq \frac{\int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \hat{\varphi}^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma}}{\int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma}} \leq \frac{\int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma}}{\int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma}}. \tag{4}$$

By Holder's inequality, and since  $\varphi$  is conformal

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} &\leq \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}} \left[ \int_{\Sigma} (|\nabla \varphi^i|^2)^{\frac{k}{2}} dv_{\Sigma} \right]^{\frac{2}{k}} = \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}} \left[ k^2 \text{Vol}(\varphi(\Sigma)) \right]^{\frac{2}{k}} \\ &\leq k \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}} \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi)^{\frac{2}{k}}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, since  $\varphi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} = \int_{\partial\Sigma} dv_{\partial\Sigma} = \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma).$$

Then by (4) we have.

$$\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma) \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{2-k}{k}} \leq k \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi)^{\frac{2}{k}}.$$

Since  $\text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n) = \inf_{\varphi} \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi)$  we get.

$$\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma) \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{2-k}{k}} \leq k \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)^{\frac{2}{k}}.$$

Now assume that we have equality,  $\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma) = k \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)^{2/k} \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{(k-2)/k}$ . Choose a sequence of conformal maps  $\varphi_j: \Sigma \rightarrow B^n$  with  $\varphi_j(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^n$ , such that.

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n, \varphi_j) = \text{Vol}_{rc}(\Sigma, n)$$

and by composing with a conformal transformation of the ball we may assume

$$\int_{\partial\Sigma} \varphi_j^i ds = 0$$

for all  $i, j$ . By changing the order of coordinates, we may assume that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Sigma} (\varphi_j^i)^2 da \begin{cases} > 0 & i = 1, \dots, N \\ = 0 & i = N + 1, \dots, n \end{cases}$$

We have

$$\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma) = \sigma_1 \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi_j^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} \leq \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}} \left[ \int_{\Sigma} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 \right)^{\frac{k}{2}} dv_{\Sigma} \right]^{\frac{2}{k}} \leq k \text{Vol}_{r_c}(\Sigma, n, \varphi_j)^{\frac{2}{k}} \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}}$$

Letting  $j \rightarrow \infty$  and using  $\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma) = k \text{Vol}_{r_c}(\Sigma, n)^{2/k} \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{(k-2)/k}$  we get

$$\sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma) = \sigma_1 \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi_j^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} = \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}} \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \int_{\Sigma} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 \right)^{\frac{k}{2}} dv_{\Sigma} \right]^{\frac{2}{k}} = \sigma_1 \text{Vol}(\partial\Sigma)(5)$$

Therefore, for any fixed  $i, \{\varphi_j^i\}$  us a bounded sequence in  $W^{1,k}(\Sigma, \mathbb{R})$ , and since the inclusion  $W^{1,k}(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}) \subset L^2(\Sigma, \mathbb{R})$  is compact, by passing to a subsequence we can assume that  $\{\varphi_j^i\}$  converges weakly in  $W^{1,k}(\Sigma, \mathbb{R})$ , strongly in  $L^2(\Sigma, \mathbb{R})$ , and point wise a.e., to map  $\psi^i: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Clearly  $\sum_{i=1}^n (\psi^i)^2 \leq 1$  a.e. on  $\Sigma, \sum_{i=1}^n (\psi^i)^2 = 1$  a.e. on  $\partial\Sigma$ , and  $\psi^i = 0$  for  $i = N + 1, \dots, n$ . Since for all  $i$ .

$$\sigma_1 \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi_j^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} \leq \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma}.$$

And

$$\sigma_1 \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi_j^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma},$$

We have

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} = \sigma_1 \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\varphi_j^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} = \sigma_1 \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\psi^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} \leq \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \psi^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma}. \tag{6}$$

On the other hand,  $\varphi_j^i \rightarrow \psi^i$  weakly in  $W^{1,k}(\Sigma, \mathbb{R})$ , and so

$$\int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \psi^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} \leq \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma}$$

There fore, we must have equality in (6), and so

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} = \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \psi^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma}$$

which means  $\{\varphi_j^i\}$  converges to  $\psi$  strongly in  $W^{1,2}(\Sigma, \mathbb{R})$ . Moreover,

$$\sigma_1 \int_{\partial\Sigma} (\psi^i)^2 dv_{\partial\Sigma} = \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \psi^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma}$$

and it follows that  $\{\psi_i\}_{i=1}^N$  are first eigenfunctions. In particular,  $\psi^i$  is harmonic for  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . Also, since  $\varphi_j$  is conformal and converges strongly in  $W^{1,2}$  to  $\psi$ , the map

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &: \Sigma \rightarrow B^N \\ x &\mapsto (\psi^1(x), \dots, \psi^N(x)) \end{aligned}$$

defines a conformal map. Therefore,  $\psi: \Sigma \rightarrow B^N$  is conformal and harmonic, with  $\psi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^N$ . Since  $\psi(\partial\Sigma) \subset \partial B^N$  and

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \nu} = \sigma_1 \psi \tag{7}$$

on  $\partial\Sigma$  since  $\psi^i$  are eigenfunctions, it follows that  $\psi(\Sigma)$  meets  $\partial B^N$  orthogonally along  $\psi(\partial\Sigma)$ .

By scaling the metric we can assume that  $\sigma_1 = 1$ .

Then by (7), on  $\partial\Sigma$  we have

$$\left| \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \nu} \right| = |\psi| = 1,$$

and hence  $\psi$  is an isometry on  $\partial\Sigma$ . Finally, for  $k > 2$  we have from (5)

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \psi^i|^2 dv_{\Sigma} = \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}} \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \int_{\Sigma} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |\nabla \varphi_j^i|^2 \right)^{\frac{k}{2}} dv_{\Sigma} \right]^{\frac{2}{k}}$$

By lower semicontinuity of the norm under weak convergence this implies

$$\int_{\Sigma} |\nabla \psi|^2 dv_{\Sigma} = \text{Vol}(\Sigma)^{\frac{k-2}{k}} \left[ \int_{\Sigma} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |\nabla \psi^i|^2 \right)^{\frac{k}{2}} dv_{\Sigma} \right]^{\frac{2}{k}}$$

Now the Holder inequality implies the opposite inequality and thus we have equality in the Holder inequality, which implies  $|\nabla\psi|^2$  is constant on  $\Sigma$ , and this constant must be  $k$  by the boundary normalization. Since  $\psi$  is conformal this implies that  $\psi$  is an isometry as claimed.

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