ON KLEIN-MASKIT COMBINATION THEOREM IN SPACE I

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we generalise the first Klein-Maskit combination theorem to discrete groups of Möbius transformations in higher dimensions. As a simple application of the main theorem, some examples will be constructed.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the theory of classical Kleinian groups, there are theorems called the combination theorems which give methods to generate new Kleinian groups as amalgamated free products or HNN extensions of Kleinian groups. The prototype of such theorems is Klein’s combination theorem which can be rephrased as follows in the modern terms:

Theorem 1.1. (Klein [15]) Let $G_1$ and $G_2 \subset PSL_2 \mathbb{C}$ be two finitely generated Kleinian groups with non-empty regions of discontinuity, and let $D_1$ and $D_2$ be fundamental domains for $G_1$ and $G_2$ of their regions of discontinuity respectively. Suppose that the interior of $D_2$ contains the frontier and the exterior of $D_1$ and that the interior of $D_1$ contains the frontier and the exterior of $D_2$. Then the group $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle$ generated by $G_1$ and $G_2$ in $PSL_2 \mathbb{C}$ is a Kleinian group isomorphic to $G_1 \ast G_2$ with non-empty region of discontinuity and $D = D_1 \cap D_2$ is a fundamental domain for the region of discontinuity of $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle$.

Fenchel-Nielsen, in [13], gave a generalisation of Klein’s theorem to amalgamated free products and HNN extensions for Fuchsian groups. In a series of papers, Maskit considered to generalise Klein’s theorem for amalgamated free products and HNN extensions for Kleinian groups ([17]-[22]). Thurston gave an interpretation of the combination theorem using three-dimensional hyperbolic geometry and harmonic maps. For applications of the combination theorems, we refer the reader to [1, 4, 8, 13, 16, 23, 33].

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Among these, the first Maskit combination theorem says that under some conditions two Kleinian groups $G_1,G_2$ whose intersection $J$ is geometrically finite generate a Kleinian group isomorphic to the free product of $G_1$ and $G_2$ amalgamated over $J$ and also under the same conditions the resulting group is geometrically finite if and only if both $G_1$ and $G_2$ are geometrically finite.

The purpose of the present paper is to generalise this first Maskit combination theorem to discrete groups of Möbius transformations of dimension greater than 2. A first pioneering attempt to generalise Maskit’s combination theorems to higher dimensions was made by Apanasov [6, 7]. In particular he showed that under the same assumptions as Maskit combined with some extra conditions, one can get a discrete group which is an amalgamated free product of two discrete groups of $n$-dimensional Möbius transformations. In this paper, we shall show that a generalisation of Maskit’s theorem holds in higher dimensions without any such additional assumptions, imposing only natural ones. Our theorem also includes the equivalence of geometric finiteness of the given two groups and that of the group obtained by the combination. It should be noted that in this paper, we say that a Kleinian group is geometrically finite when the $\varepsilon$-neighbourhood of its convex core has finite volume for some $\varepsilon > 0$, and that we do not assume that it has a finite-sided fundamental polyhedron. For more details about these Kleinian groups of higher dimensions, we refer the reader to [12, 25, 26, 27, 28] and the references therein.

Our main result (Theorem 4.2) and its proof will appear in §4. This is the first of a series in which we shall discuss generalisations and applications of Klein-Maskit combination theorem in higher dimensions. A generalisation of the second Klein-Maskit combination theorem, which corresponds to HNN extensions, to the case of discrete groups of Möbius transformations in higher dimensions and applications of these two combination theorems will be given in forthcoming papers.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Basics on Möbius transformations. For $n \geq 2$, we denote by $\mathbb{R}^n\bar{\mathbb{R}}$ the one-point compactification of $\mathbb{R}^n$ obtained by adding $\infty$. The group of orientation-preserving Möbius transformations of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is denoted by $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$, with which we endow the compact-open topology. We regard $\mathbb{R}^n\bar{\mathbb{R}}$ as the boundary at infinity of the hyperbolic $(n + 1)$-space $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ which is identified with the open unit ball bounded by $\mathbb{R}^n$. We denote the union of $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ and $\mathbb{R}^n$ endowed with the natural topology by $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$. Any Möbius transformation of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is extended to a Möbius transformation of $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$, which induces an isometry of $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$. When it is more convenient, we regard $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ as the upper half-space of the $(n + 1)$-dimensional Euclidean space and $\mathbb{R}^n$ as $\{ (x_1, \ldots, x_n, 0) \}$ in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. A non-trivial element $g \in M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is called

(1) loxodromic if it has two fixed points in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and none in $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$;
(2) parabolic if it has only one fixed point in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and none in $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$.
(3) elliptic if it has a fixed point in $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$.

For a discrete group $G$ of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and a point $z \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ or $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the sets $G(z) = \{g(z) | g \in G\} \subset \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ and $G(x) = \{g(x) | g \in G\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ are called $G$-orbits of $z$ and $x$ respectively. If $z'$ lies in the $G$-orbit of $z$, then we say that $z'$ and $z$ are $G$-equivalent.

2.2. Limit sets, regions of discontinuity and fundamental sets. The limit set $\Lambda(G)$ of a discrete group $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is defined as follows:

$$\Lambda(G) = \overline{G(z)} \cap \mathbb{R}^n$$

for some $z \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$, where the overline denotes the closure in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} = \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \cup \mathbb{R}^n$ and $G(z)$ the $G$-orbit of $z$. We call points of $\Lambda(G)$ limit points. The complement $\Omega(G) = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Lambda(G)$ is called the region of discontinuity of $G$. The following is a well-known fact.

**Lemma 2.1.** Let $G$ be a discrete subgroup of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. If $B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a closed and $G$-invariant subset containing at least two points, then $\Lambda(G)$ is contained in $B$.

A discrete group $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is said to act discontinuously at a point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ if there is a neighbourhood $U$ of $x$ such that $\{g \in G | g(U) \cap U \neq \emptyset\}$ is a finite set. The group $G$ acts discontinuously at every point of $\Omega(G)$, and at no point of $\Lambda(G)$.

The complement of the fixed points of elliptic elements in $\Omega(G)$ is called the free regular set, and is denoted by $^o\Omega(G)$. When $^o\Omega(G) \neq \emptyset$, a fundamental set of $G$ is a set which contains one representative of each orbit $G(y)$ of $y \in ^o\Omega(G)$. It is obvious that $^o\Omega(G) \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $\Omega(G) \neq \emptyset$.

We have the following lemmata for the limit points. These lemmata in the classical case when $n = 2$ can be found in Theorems II.D.2 and II.D.5 in Maskit [21]. Although the argument is quite parallel, we give our proofs for completeness.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let $x$ be a limit point of a discrete subgroup $G$ in $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then there are a limit point $y$ of $G$ and a sequence $\{g_m\}$ of distinct elements of $G$ such that $g_m$ converges to the constant map to $x$ uniformly on any compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{y\}$.

**Proof.** Since $x$ is a limit point, there are a point $z \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ and a sequence $\{g_m\}$ of distinct elements of $G$ such that $g_m(z) \to x$. Regard $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ as the upper half-space. Let $(z_1, \cdots, z_n, z_{n+1})$ be the coordinate of $z$, with $z_{n+1} > 0$. Consider the point $z' = (z_1, \cdots, z_n, -z_{n+1})$ in the lower half-space. The actions of Möbius transformations can be extended to the lower half-space conformally. Then obviously, we have $g_m(z') \to x$.

By conjugation, we can assume that $G$ acts on $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ with $\text{Int} \mathbb{H}^{n+1} = \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$, that $z = 0$, and that $\text{Stab}_G(0) = \text{Stab}_G(\infty) = \{id\}$. Then $z' = \infty$; hence we have $g_m(\infty) \to x$. By taking a subsequence we can make $g_m^{-1}(\infty)$ converge
to some limit point $y$. Since $g_m$ maps the outside of its isometric sphere onto the interior of that of $g_m^{-1}$, the radii of the isometric spheres of $g_m$ and $g_m^{-1}$, which are equal, converge to 0 as $m \to \infty$, and the centre $g_m(\infty)$ of the isometric sphere of $g_m^{-1}$ converges to $x$. On the other hand, the centre of the isometric sphere of $g_m$, which is $g_m^{-1}(\infty)$ converges to $y$. This completes the proof. □

**Lemma 2.3.** Let $\{g_m\}$ be a sequence of distinct elements of a discrete group $G \subset \text{M}(\bar{\mathbb{R}}^n)$. Then there are a subsequence of $\{g_m\}$ and limit points $x, y$ of $G$, which may coincide, such that $g_m$ converges to the constant map $x$ uniformly on any compact subset of $\bar{\mathbb{R}}^{n+1} \setminus \{y\}$.

**Proof.** We may assume that $G$ acts on $B^{n+1}$ with $\text{Int} B^{n+1}$ identified with $H^{n+1}$, and that $\text{Stab}_G(\infty) = \{\text{id}\}$. By taking a subsequence if necessary, we have two limit points $x$ and $y$ such that $g_m(\infty) \to x$ and $g_m^{-1}(\infty) \to y$. The conclusion now follows from the proof of Lemma 2.2. □

We shall use the following term frequently.

**Definition 2.1.** Let $H$ be a subgroup of a discrete subgroup $G$ of $\text{M}(\bar{\mathbb{R}}^n)$. An subset $V$ of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be **precisely invariant** under $H$ in $G$ if $h(V) = V$ for all $h \in H$ and $g(V) \cap V = \emptyset$ for all $g \in G - H$.

For $\Omega(G)$, we have the following proposition: refer to Proposition II.E.4 in Maskit [21] or Theorem 5.3.12 in Beardon [8].

**Proposition 2.4.** Suppose that $\Omega(G)$ is not empty. Then a point $x \in \bar{\mathbb{R}}^n$ is contained in $\Omega(G)$ if and only if

1. the stabiliser $\text{Stab}_G(x) = \{g \in G | g(x) = x\}$ of $x$ in $G$ is finite, and
2. there is a neighbourhood $U$ of $x$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ which is precisely invariant under $\text{Stab}_G(x)$ in $G$.

**Definition 2.2.** A fundamental domain for a discrete group $G$ of $\text{M}(\bar{\mathbb{R}}^n)$ with non-empty region of discontinuity is an open subset $D$ of $\Omega(G)$ satisfying the following.

1. $D$ is precisely invariant under the trivial subgroup in $G$.
2. For every $z \in \Omega(G)$, there is an element $g \in G$ such that $g(z)$ is contained in $D$, where $D$ denotes the closure of $D$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$.
3. $\text{Fr}D$, the frontier of $D$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$, consists of limit points of $G$, and a finite or countable collection of codimension-1 compact smooth submanifolds with boundary, whose boundary is contained in $\Omega(G)$ except for a subset with $(n-1)$-dimensional Lebesgue measure 0. The intersection of each submanifold with $\Omega(G)$ is called a side of $D$.
4. For any side $\sigma$ of $D$, there are another side $\sigma'$ of $D$, which may coincide with $\sigma$, and a nontrivial element $g \in G$ such that $g(S) = S'$. Such an element $g$ is called the side-pairing transformation from $\sigma$ to $\sigma'$. 
(5) If \(\{\sigma_m\}\) is a sequence of distinct sides of \(D\), then the diameter of \(\sigma_m\) with respect to the ordinary spherical metric on \(\mathbb{R}^n\) goes to 0.

(6) For any compact subset \(K\) of \(\Omega(G)\), there are only finitely many translates of \(D\) that intersect \(K\).

A fundamental set \(F\) for a discrete subgroup \(G\) of \(M(\mathbb{R}^n)\) whose interior is a fundamental domain is called a constrained fundamental set.

2.3. Normal forms. Let \(G_1\) and \(G_2\) be two subgroups of \(M(\mathbb{R}^n)\), and \(J\) a subgroup of \(G_1 \cap G_2\).

A normal form is a word consisting of alternate products of elements of \(G_1 - J\) and those of \(G_2 - J\). Two normal forms \(g_n \cdots g_k g_{k-1} \cdots g_1\) and \(g_n \cdots (g_k j) (j^{-1} g_{k-1}) \cdots g_1\) are said to be equivalent for any \(j \in J\). The word length of the normal form is simply called the length. The length is invariant under the equivalence relation.

A normal form is called a 1-form if the last letter is contained in \(G_1 - J\), and a 2-form otherwise. More specifically a normal form \(g_n \cdots \cdot g_1\) representing an element of \(G_1 * J G_2\), and \(g_n \cdots (g_k j) (j^{-1} g_{k-1}) \cdots g_1\) are said to be equivalent for any \(j \in J\). The word length of the normal form is simply called the length. The length is invariant under the equivalence relation.

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The multiplication of two normal forms is defined to be the concatenation of two words which is contracted to the minimum length by the equivalence defined above. The product of two normal forms is equivalent to either a normal form or to an element of \(J\).

It is obvious that any element of the free product of \(G_1\) and \(G_2\) amalgamated over \(J\), which is denoted by \(G_1 * J G_2\), either is an element of \(J\) or can be expressed in a normal form, and that there is a one-to-one correspondence between \(G_1 * J G_2\) and the union of \(J\) and the set of the equivalence classes of normal forms. Also it is easy to see that this correspondence is an isomorphism with respect to the multiplication defined above.

Let \(\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle\) denote the subgroup of \(M(\mathbb{R}^n)\) generated by \(G_1\) and \(G_2\).

There is a natural homomorphism \(\Phi : G_1 * J G_2 \to \langle G_1, G_2 \rangle\) which is defined by \(\Phi(g_n \cdots g_1) = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1\) for a normal form \(g_n \cdots g_1\) representing an element of \(G_1 * J G_2\), and \(\Phi(j) = j\) for \(j \in J\). It is easy to see that this is well defined and independent of a choice of a representative of the equivalence class. The map is obviously an epimorphism.

If \(\Phi\) is an isomorphism, then we write \(\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle = G_1 * J G_2\) identifying elements of \(G_1 * J G_2\) and their images by \(\Phi\).

Since \(J\) is embedded in \(\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle\), each nontrivial element in the kernel of \(\Phi\) can be written in a normal form.

**Lemma 2.5.** \(\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle = G_1 * J G_2\) if and only if \(\Phi\) maps no non-trivial normal forms to the identity.

2.4. Interactive pairs. Following Maskit, we shall define interactive pairs as follows.
Let $G_1$ and $G_2$ be two discrete subgroups of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $J$ a subgroup of $G_1 \cap G_2$ as in the previous subsection. Let $X_1, X_2$ be disjoint non-empty subsets of $\mathbb{R}^n$. The pair $(X_1, X_2)$ is said to be an interactive pair (for $G_1, G_2, J$) when

1. each of $X_1, X_2$ is invariant under $J$,
2. every element of $G_1 - J$ sends $X_1$ into $X_2$,
3. and every element of $G_2 - J$ sends $X_2$ into $X_1$.

An interactive pair is said to be proper if there is a point in $X_1$ which is not contained in a $G_2$-orbit of any point of $X_2$, or there is a point in $X_2$ which is not contained in a $G_1$-orbit of any point of $X_1$.

**Lemma 2.6.** (Lemma VII.A.9 in [21]) Suppose that $(X_1, X_2)$ is an interactive pair for $G_1, G_2, J$. Let $g = g_n \cdots g_1$ be an $(m, k)$-form. Then we have $\Phi(g)(x_k) \subset X_{3-m}$. Furthermore if $(X_1, X_2)$ is proper and $g$ has length greater than 1, then the inclusion is proper.

The existence of a proper interactive pair forces $\Phi$ to be isomorphic. (Theorem VII.A.10 in Maskit [21] in the case when $n = 2$.)

**Theorem 2.7.** Let $G_1, G_2, J$ be as above and suppose that there is a proper interactive pair for $G_1, G_2, J$. Then $(G_1, G_2) = G_1 \ast_J G_2$.

This easily follows from Lemmata [2.5 and 2.6]

The following is a straightforward generalisation of Theorem VII.A.12 in Maskit [21].

**Lemma 2.8.** Suppose that $(X_1, X_2)$ is an interactive pair for $G_1, G_2, J$. Suppose moreover that there is a fundamental set $D_m$ for $G_m$ for $m = 1, 2$ such that $G_m(D_m \cap X_{3-m}) \subset X_{3-m}$. Then $D = (D_1 \cap X_2) \cup (D_2 \cap X_1)$ is precisely invariant under $\{id\}$ in $G = \langle G_1, G_2 \rangle$. Furthermore, if $D$ is non-empty, then $\Phi$ is isomorphic.

**Proof.** What we shall show is that for any $x \in D$ and any non-trivial element $g \in G_1 \ast_J G_2$, we have $\Phi(g)(x) \notin D$. Since this holds trivially for the case when $D$ is empty, we assume that $D$ is non-empty. We assume that $x$ is contained in $D_1 \cap X_2$. The case when $x$ lies in $D_2 \cap X_1$ can be dealt with in the same way.

If $g$ is a non-trivial element in $J$, then $g(x)$ lies in $X_2$ since $X_2$ is $J$-invariant. On the other hand, since $D_1$ is a fundamental set, we have $g(x) \notin D_1$. These imply that $g(x) \notin D$.

Now we shall consider the case when $g$ is represented in a normal form.

**Claim 1.** If $g = g_ng_{n-1} \cdots g_1$ is an $m$-form ($m = 1$ or $2$), then $\Phi(g)(x) \in X_{3-m} \setminus D_m$.

**Proof.** We shall prove this claim by induction.

We first consider the case when $n = 1$. Suppose first that $g$ is an element in $G_1 - J$. Then $\Phi(g)(x) \in X_2$ by assumption, whereas $\Phi(g)(x) \notin D_1$ since $D_1$ is a fundamental set of $G_1$. Therefore $\Phi(g)(x)$ is not contained in $D$ in
this case. Suppose next that \( g \) is in \( G_2 - J \). Then \( \Phi(g)(x) \) lies in \( X_1 \) since the assumption that \((X_1, X_2)\) is an interactive pair implies \( \Phi(g)(X_2) \subset X_1 \). We shall show that \( \Phi(g)(x) \) does not lie in \( D_2 \). Suppose, seeking a contradiction, that \( \Phi(g)(x) \) lies in \( D_2 \). Then since \( \Phi(g^{-1}) \) is contained in \( G_2 - J \) and \( \Phi(g)(x) \in X_1 \cap D_2 \), by assumption, we have \( x = \Phi(g^{-1})\Phi(g)(x) \) lies in \( X_1 \). This contradicts the assumption that \( x \) lies in \( X_2 \).

Now, we assume that our claim holds in the case when \( g \) has length \( n - 1 \), and suppose that \( g \) has length \( n \). We consider the case when \( g \) is a \((3 - m)\)-form. The case when \( g \) is an \( m \)-form can also be dealt with in the same way. Since \( \Phi(g_{n-1} \cdots g_1)(x) \in X_{3-m} \setminus D_m \) by the assumption of induction, we have \( \Phi(g)(x) \in g_n(X_{3-m} \setminus D_m) \subset X_m \).

Suppose that \( \Phi(g)(x) \) lies in \( D_{3-m} \). Then we have \( \Phi(g)(x) \in X_m \cap D_{3-m} \). This implies that \( \Phi(g_{n-1} \cdots g_1)(x) \in g_n^{-1}(X_m \cap D_{3-m}) \subset X_m \). This is a contradiction. Thus we have shown that \( \Phi(g)(x) \) is contained in \( X_m \setminus D_{3-m} \).

By what we have proved above, if \( D \neq \emptyset \), then for any \( g \in G_1 \ast_f G_2 - \{ id \} \), we have \( \Phi(g)(D) \cap D = \emptyset \). This in particular shows that \( \Phi(g) \neq id \). Then Lemma 2.3 shows that \( G = G_1 \ast_f G_2 \).

Remark 2.1. Maskit called a fundamental set \( D_m \) for \( G_m \) maximal with respect to \( X_m \) (which is precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_m \) if \( D_m \cap X_m \) is a fundamental set for the action of \( J \) on \( X_m \), and in Theorem VII.A.12 in [21], the fundamental sets \( D_1, D_2 \) were assumed to be maximal. Also the proof of the theorem above shows that the assumption of maximality is in fact redundant.

In Maskit [21], the following sufficient condition for two open balls to be an interactive pair is given.

Proposition 2.9 (Proposition VII.A.6 in [21]). Let \( G_m \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n) \) \((m = 1, 2)\) be two discrete groups with a common subgroup \( J \) and \( S \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) be an \((n - 1)\)-sphere bounding two open balls \( X_1 \) and \( X_2 \). If each \( X_m \) is precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_m \), then \((X_1, X_2)\) is an interactive pair.

2.5. Convex cores and geometric finiteness.

Definition 2.3. Let \( G \) be a discrete subgroup of \( M(\mathbb{R}^n) \) and \( \Lambda(G) \) its limit set. We denote by \( \text{Hull}(\Lambda(G)) \), the minimal convex set of \( \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \) containing all geodesics whose endpoints lie on \( \Lambda(G) \). This set is evidently \( G \)-invariant, and its quotient \( \text{Hull}(G)/G \) is called the convex core of \( G \), and is denoted by \( \text{Core}(G) \). The group \( G \) is said to be geometrically finite if there exists \( \varepsilon > 0 \) such that the \( \varepsilon \)-neighbourhood of \( \text{Core}(G) \) in \( \mathbb{H}^{n+1}/G \) has finite volume.

As we shall see below, Bowditch proved in [10] that this condition is equivalent to other reasonable definitions of geometric finiteness, except for the one that \( \mathbb{H}^{n+1}/G \) has a finite-sided fundamental polyhedron, whose equivalence to the above condition has not been known until now.
2.6. Euclidean isometries. The classification of discrete groups of Euclidean isometries is known as Bieberbach’s theorem (see [32] or [24], for example).

Theorem 2.10. (Bieberbach) Let $G$ be a discrete group of Euclidean isometries of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then the following hold.

1. If $\mathbb{R}^n/G$ is compact, then there is a normal subgroup $G^* \subset G$ of finite index consisting only of Euclidean translations, which is isomorphic to a free abelian group of rank $n$.
2. If $\mathbb{R}^n/G$ is not compact, then there exists a normal subgroup $G^* \subset G$ of finite index in $G$ which is a free abelian group of rank $k$ with $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$.

By taking conjugates of $G$ and $G^*$ with respect to an isometry of $\mathbb{R}^n$, the groups can be made to have the following properties.

Decompose $\mathbb{R}^n$ into $\mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where $\mathbb{R}^k$ is identified with $\mathbb{R}^k \times \{0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ with $\{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Let $g(x) = U(x) + a$ be an arbitrary element of $G$, where $U$ is a rotation and $a$ is an element of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then the rotation $U$ leaves $\mathbb{R}^k$ and $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ invariant and the vector $a$ lies in the subspace $\mathbb{R}^k$. Furthermore, if $g$ lies in $G^*$, then $U$ acts on $\mathbb{R}^k$ trivially.

In the following we always identify the factors of the decomposition $\mathbb{R}^n = \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ with $\mathbb{R}^k \times \{0\}$ and $\{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$.

Definition 2.4. For a discrete subgroup $G$ of Euclidean isometries, we define $G^*$ to be a free abelian normal subgroup of $G$ which is maximal among those having the property in Theorem 2.10.

2.7. Extended horoballs, peak domains and standard parabolic regions. A point $x$ of $\Lambda(G)$ of a discrete group $G$ of Möbius transformations is called a parabolic fixed point if $\text{Stab}_G(x)$ contains parabolic elements. An easy argument shows that $\text{Stab}_G(x)$ cannot contain a loxodromic element then. For a parabolic fixed point $z$, a horoball in $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ touching $\overline{\mathbb{R}}^n$ at $z$ is invariant under $\text{Stab}_G(z)$. In the case when $\text{Stab}_G(z)$ has rank less than $n$, it is useful to consider a domain larger than a horoball as follows.

Definition 2.5. Let $G$ be a discrete subgroup of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $z$ be a point of $\mathbb{R}^n$ which is not a loxodromic fixed point. Let $\text{Stab}^*_G(z)$ be the maximal free abelian subgroup as in Definition 2.4 of the stabilizer $\text{Stab}_G(z)$ of $z$ in $G$. Suppose that the rank of $\text{Stab}^*_G(z)$ is $k$ with $k \leq n - 1$. Then there is a closed subset $B_z \subset \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ invariant under $\text{Stab}_G(z)$ which is in the form

$$B_z = h^{-1}\{x \in \mathbb{B}^{n+1} \mid \sum_{i=k+1}^{n+1} x_i^2 \geq t\},$$

where $t > 0$ is a constant and $h \in M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is a Möbius transformation such that $h(z) = \infty$. We call $B_z$ an extended horoball of $G$ around $z$. 
Definition 2.6. Let $T_1, \ldots, T_m$ be subsets of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $J_1, \ldots, J_m$ subgroups of the group $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We say that $(T_1, \ldots, T_m)$ is precisely invariant under $(J_1, \ldots, J_m)$ in $G$, if each $T_k$ is precisely invariant under $J_k$ in $G$, and if for $i \neq j$ and all $g \in G$, we have $g(T_i) \cap T_j = \emptyset$.

Definition 2.7. A peak domain of a discrete group $G$ of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with non-empty region of discontinuity at the parabolic fixed point $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is an open subset $U_z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

1. $U_z$ is precisely invariant under $\text{Stab}_G(z)$ in $G$.
2. There exist a $t > 0$, and a transformation $h \in M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $h(z) = \infty$ such that

$$\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \sum_{i=k+1}^{n} x_i^2 > t \} = h(U_z),$$

where $k = \text{rank } \text{Stab}_G^*(z), 1 \leq k \leq n - 1$.

Definition 2.8. If $G$ has an extended horoball $B$ around $z$, then the interior of its intersection with $\mathbb{R}^n$ is a peak domain. Following Bowditch [10], we use the term standard parabolic region at $z$ to mean an extended horoball when the rank of $\text{Stab}_G(z)$ is less than $n$, and a horoball when the rank of $\text{Stab}_G(z)$ is $n$.

Definition 2.9. A point $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ fixed by a parabolic element of a discrete group $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is said to be a parabolic vertex of $G$ if one of the following conditions is satisfied.

1. The subgroup $\text{Stab}_G^*(z)$ has rank $n$.
2. There exists a peak domain $U_z$ at the point $z$.

Remark 2.2. It is easy to see that the two conditions in Definition 2.9 are mutually exclusive: a peak domain exists only if rank $\text{Stab}_G^*(z) < n$. Also we can easily see that, in the case when $n = 2$, the definition coincides with that of cusped parabolic fixed points as in Beardon-Maskit [9].

Definition 2.10. A parabolic fixed point $z$ for the group $G$ is called bounded if $(\Lambda(G) \setminus \{z\})/\text{Stab}_G(z)$ is compact (see Bowditch [10, 11]).

There is a relationship between a bounded parabolic fixed point and a parabolic vertex, which was proved by Bowditch [10].

Lemma 2.11. $z$ is a bounded parabolic fixed point for a discrete group $G$ if and only if $z$ is a parabolic vertex.

Definition 2.11. Let $G$ be a discrete subgroup of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. A point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be a conical limit point (or a point of approximation in some literature) if there are $z \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ and a geodesic $l$ in $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ tending to $x$ in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ whose $r$-neighbourhood with some $r \in \mathbb{R}$ contains infinitely many translates of $z$.

Conical limit points can be characterised as follows. See Theorem 12.2.5 in Ratcliffe [24].
Proposition 2.12. Let $G$ be a discrete group of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ regarded as acting on $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ by hyperbolic isometries. Then a point $z \in \partial \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ is a conical limit point of $G$ if and only if there exist $\delta > 0$, distinct elements $g_m$ of $G$, and $x \in \partial \mathbb{B}^{n+1} \setminus \{z\}$ such that $g_m^{-1}(0)$ converges to $z$ while $|g_m(x) - g_m(z)| > \delta$ for all $m$. Furthermore, if this condition holds, then for every $x \in \partial \mathbb{B}^{n+1} \setminus \{z\}$, there is $\delta > 0$ such that $|g_m(x) - g_m(z)| > \delta$ for all $m$.

The following result due to Bowditch [10] or [11] will be essentially used in the proof of our main theorem.

Proposition 2.13. Let $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($n \geq 2$) be a discrete group. Then $G$ is geometrically finite if and only if every point of $\Lambda(G)$ is either a parabolic vertex or a conical limit point.

2.8. Dirichlet domains and standard parabolic regions. Dirichlet domains are fundamental polyhedra of hyperbolic manifolds, which will turn out to be very useful for us.

Definition 2.12. Let $G$ be a discrete subgroup of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and $x$ a point in $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$, which is not fixed by any nontrivial element of $G$. The set $\{y \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} : d_h(y, x) \leq d_h(y, g(x)) \forall g \in G\}$ is called the Dirichlet domain for $G$ centred at $x$, where $d_h$ denotes the hyperbolic distance.

It is easy to see that any Dirichlet domain is convex and the interior of the intersection of the closure of a Dirichlet domain with $\mathbb{R}^n$ is a fundamental domain as defined before.

The following follows immediately from the definition of conical limit points.

Lemma 2.14. Let $D$ be a Dirichlet domain of a discrete group $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then $\overline{D} \cap \mathbb{R}^n$ contains no conical limit points, where $\overline{D}$ denotes the closure of $D$ in $\mathbb{B}^{n+1} = \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \cup \mathbb{R}^n$.

Now, we consider how a Dirichlet domain of a geometrically finite group intersects standard parabolic regions. We shall make use of the following result of Bowditch [10]. For a $G$-invariant set $S$ on $\mathbb{R}^n$, we say a collection of subsets $\{A_s\}_{s \in S}$ is strongly invariant if $gA_s = A_{gs}$ for any $s \in S$ and $g \in G$, and $A_s \cap A_t = \emptyset$ for any $s \neq t \in S$. We should note that each $A_s$ is in particular precisely invariant under $\text{Stab}_G(s)$ in $G$ in the sense as defined before.

Lemma 2.15. Let $\Pi$ be the set of all bounded parabolic fixed points contained in the limit set $\Lambda(G)$ of a discrete group $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then we can choose a standard parabolic region $B_p$ at $p$ for each $p \in \Pi$ in such a way that $\{B_p\}_{p \in \Pi}$ is strongly invariant.

Using this lemma, we can show the following, which is essentially contained in the argument of §4 in Bowditch [10].

Proposition 2.16. Let $D$ be a Dirichlet domain of a geometrically finite group $G \subset M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $\{B_p\}$ be the collection of standard parabolic regions
obtained as in the preceding lemma. Then there is a finite number of points 
$p_1, \ldots, p_k \in \bar{D} \cap \Pi$ such that $
\bar{D} \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{k} (\text{Int} B_{p_i} \cup \{p_i\})$ is compact and contains 
no limit point of $G$.

Proof. Choose a family of standard parabolic regions $\{B_p\}$ as in Lemma 2.15. Since $G$ is geometrically finite, every limit point of $G$ is either a 
conical limit point or a parabolic vertex. By Lemma 2.14, no limit point on 
$\bar{D}$ is a conical limit point. Therefore $\{B_p\}$ covers all limit points contained 
in $\bar{D}$.

Suppose that there are infinitely many distinct $B_{p_i}$ among $\{B_p\}$ with 
$p_i \in D$. By taking a subsequence, we can assume that $\{p_i\}$ converges to 
a point $q \in \bar{D}$, which is also contained in $\Lambda(G)$, hence in $\Pi$. By taking 
a subsequence again, we can further assume that all the $p_i$ belong to either 
the same $\text{Stab}_G(q)$-orbit or distinct $\text{Stab}_G(q)$-orbits. We first consider the 
former case. Let $\alpha_i$ be the geodesic line connecting $p_i$ to $q$, which must be 
contained in $D$. Since all $p_i$ belong to the same orbit, there are $h_i \in \text{Stab}_G(q)$ 
such that $h_i(p_i) = p_1$. By taking a subsequence again, we can assume that all 
$h_i$ are distinct. Then, the geodesic $\alpha_1$ is shared by infinitely many translates 
of $h_iD$. This contradicts the local finiteness of the translates of the Dirichlet 
domain $D$.

Since $q$ is a parabolic vertex, by Lemma 2.11, we see that 
$(\Lambda(G) \setminus \{q\})/\text{Stab}_G(q)$ is compact. Therefore, by taking a subsequence again, 
we can assume that there are $g_i \in \text{Stab}_G(q)$ such that $\{g_i p_i\}$ converges to 
a point $r \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{q\}$. We can assume that all the $g_i$ are distinct by taking 
a subsequence. Let $\alpha_i$ be the geodesic line connecting $p_i$ and $q$ as before. 
Then $g_i \alpha_i$ converges to the geodesic line connecting $r$ to $q$. Since $g_i \alpha_i$ is 
contained in $g_iD$, this again contradicts the local finiteness of the translates 
of $D$.\qed

Another easy consequence of Lemma 2.15 is the following.

**Corollary 2.17.** Let $G$ be a discrete subgroup of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$. In the upper 
half-space model of $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$, suppose that $\infty$ is a parabolic vertex of $G$. Then 
the Euclidean radii of the isometric spheres $I(g)$ of $g \in G − \text{Stab}_G(\infty)$ are 
bounded from above.

Proof. Consider the set of standard parabolic regions $\{B_p\}_{p \in \Pi}$ obtained by 
Lemma 2.15. Since $\infty$ is a bounded parabolic fixed point, a standard parabolic 
region $B_\infty$ and its translates $gB_\infty$ by elements $g \in G − \text{Stab}_G(\infty)$ 
are among $\{B_p\}$. Let $B'_\infty$ be the maximal horoball contained in $B_\infty$. Then 
there is a number $h$ such that $B'_\infty = \{(z_1, \ldots, z_{n+1}) | z_{n+1} \geq h\} \cup \{\infty\}$, which 
is equal to the height of $\text{Fr} B'_\infty$.

Fix an element $g \in G − \text{Stab}_G(\infty)$. By enlarging $B'_\infty$, we get a horoball $B''$ 
which touches $g^{-1}B''$ at one point. Let $h' < h$ be the height of $\text{Fr}B''$. Then 
the point $B'' \cap g^{-1}B''$ has height $h'$. The isometric sphere $I(g)$ of $g$ must 
contain the point $B'' \cap g^{-1}B''$ since the reflection in $I(g)$ sends $g^{-1}B''$ to
Therefore the Euclidean radius of $I(g)$ is equal to $h'$, which is bounded above by the constant $h$ independent of $g$. □

This implies the following fact in the conformal ball model, which is Corollary 2.18 in Maskit [17].

**Corollary 2.18.** We regard $G$ as above as acting on the ball $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ or $L = \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$, and let $p \in \partial \mathbb{B}^{n+1} = \partial L$ be a parabolic vertex of $G$. Suppose that $g_n \in G$ are distinct elements. Then the radius with respect to the ordinary Euclidean metric on $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ or $L$ of the isometric sphere $I(g_k)$ goes to $0$ as $k \to \infty$.

### 3. Blocks

Throughout this section, we assume that $G$ is a discrete subgroup of $\text{Mat}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $J$ is a subgroup of $G$.

**Definition 3.1.** A closed $J$-invariant set $B$, containing at least two points, is called a block, or more specifically $(J,G)$-block if it satisfies the following conditions.

1. $B \cap \Omega(G) = B \cap \Omega(J)$, and $B \cap \Omega(G)$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G$.
2. If $U$ is a peak domain for a parabolic fixed point $z$ of $J$ with the rank of $\text{Stab}_J(z)$ being $k < n$, then there is a smaller peak domain $U' \subset U$ such that $U' \cap \text{Fr}B = \emptyset$.

Let $S$ be a $(J,G)$-block, and let $S$ be a topological $(n-1)$-dimensional sphere in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then $S$ separates $\mathbb{R}^n$ into two open sets. We say that $S$ is **precisely embedded** in $G$ if $g(S)$ is disjoint from one of the two open sets for any $g \in G$.

A $(J,G)$-block is said to be **strong** if every parabolic fixed point of $J$ is a parabolic vertex of $G$.

Then we have the following.

**Theorem 3.1.** Suppose that $G$ is a discrete subgroup of $\text{Mat}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $J$ be a geometrically finite subgroup of $G$ and $B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ a $(J,G)$-block such that for every parabolic fixed point $z$ of $J$ with the rank of $\text{Stab}_J(z)$ being less than $n$, there is a peak domain $U_z$ for $J$ with $U_z \cap B = \emptyset$. Let $G = \cup g_k J$ be a coset decomposition. Then we have $\text{diam}(g_k(B)) \to 0$, where $\text{diam}(M)$ denotes the diameter of the set $M$ with respect to the ordinary spherical metric on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

**Proof.** By conjugating $G$ by an element of $\text{Mat}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we can assume that $\text{Stab}_G(0) = \text{Stab}_G(\infty) = \{id\}$ when we regard $G$ as acting on $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ by considering the Poincaré extension. Let $L$ denote the exterior of $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ with the point $\infty$, which we regard also as a model of hyperbolic $(n + 1)$-space. Then $J$ is also geometrically finite as a discrete group acting on $L$. Let $P$ be a Dirichlet domain for $J$ in $L$. 
Let $g$ be some element of $G - J$. For a fixed $g$, the set \( \{(g \circ j)^{-1}(\infty) = j^{-1} \circ g^{-1}(\infty) \mid j \in J \} \) is $J$-invariant. Then for each coset $g_kJ$, we can choose a representative $g_k$ in such a way that $a_k = g_k^{-1}(\infty)$, which is the centre of the isometric sphere of $g_k$. lies in $P$.

Now, by Proposition 2.16 there are finitely many standard parabolic regions $B_{p_1}, \ldots, B_{p_r}$ in $L$ around parabolic vertices $p_1, \ldots, p_r$ on $\bar{P}$ such that $\bar{P} \setminus \bigcup_i (\Int B_{p_i} \cup \{p_i\})$ is compact and contains no limit point of $J$. We number them in such a way that $\Stab_J(p_1), \ldots, \Stab_J(p_r)$ have rank $n$ whereas $\Stab_J(p_{r+1}), \ldots, \Stab_J(p_s)$ have rank less than $n$. We can assume that for $j \geq r + 1$, we have $B_{p_j} \cap \mathbb{R}^n \cap B = \{p_j\}$ because of the following: By our assumption in the theorem, we can make $B_{p_j}$ smaller so that it satisfies this condition. Also it is clear that for the old $B_{p_j}$, there is no limit point of $J$ in $\mathbb{R}^n \cap B_{p_j}$ other than $p_j$, which is also contained in the new $B_{p_j}$. On the other hand no point in $\bar{P}$ can converge to $p_j$ from outside this smaller $B_{p_j}$ since $p_j$ is not a conical limit point, which implies that the compactness is preserved.

For horoballs $B_{p_1}, \ldots, B_{p_r}$, we have the following.

**Claim 2.** We can choose the horoballs $B_{p_1}, \ldots, B_{p_r}$ sufficiently small so that $B_{p_i} \cap G(\infty) = \emptyset$ for each $i \ (1 \leq i \leq r)$.

**Proof.** We identify $G$ with the standard upper half-space model of hyperbolic $(n + 1)$-space, which we denote by $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$. By conjugation, we can assume that $e = (0, \ldots, 0, 1)$ corresponds to $\infty \in L$ under the identification of $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ with $L$. Regarding $G$ as acting on this $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ and $B_{p_1}, \ldots, B_{p_r}$, lying in $\mathbb{R}^n$, what we have to show is that $B_{p_i} \cap G(e) = \emptyset$ for each $i$.

We shall show that how we can make $B_{p_1}$ satisfy this condition. Conjugating $G$ by an isometry of $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$, we may assume that $p_1 = \infty$. Then Corollary 2.17 implies that the radii of the isometric spheres $I(g)$ of $g \in G - \Stab_G(\infty)$ are bounded from above by some constant $r_0$. We set $B_{p_1} = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \mid x_{n+1} \geq 2 \max\{1, r_0^2\} \} \cup \{\infty\}$.

Any $h \in \Stab_G(\infty)$ can be represented as a transformation of $\mathbb{R}^n$ in the form $h(x) = Ax + b$ for $A \in O(n)$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Let $\hat{h}$ denote $h$ regarded as an isometry of $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$. Then we have $\hat{h}(e) = (b, 1)$, hence $\hat{h}(e) \notin B_{p_1}$.

For any $g \in G - \Stab_G(\infty)$, let $r_g$ denote the radius of the isometric sphere $I(g)$. Then $g(x)$ is represented as a transformation of $\mathbb{R}^n$ in the form $a + \frac{r_g^2 A(x-b)}{|x-b|^2}$ for some $A \in O(n)$ and $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (see [2] or [8]). As before we denote by $\tilde{g}$ the transformation $g$ regarded as an isometry of $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$. Then we have

$$
\tilde{g}(e) = (a - \frac{r_g^2 A b}{|b|^2 + 1}, \frac{r_g^2}{|b|^2 + 1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{r_g^2}{|b|^2 + 1} \leq r_0^2,
$$

which implies that $\tilde{g}(e) \notin B_{p_1}$. We make each $B_{p_i}$ smaller in the same way. It is clear that even after changing the horoballs, $\bar{P} \setminus \bigcup_i (\Int B_{p_i} \cup \{p_i\})$ is compact and contains no limit point of $J$ since $B_{p_j}$ intersects $\bar{P} \cap \mathbb{R}^n$ only at $p_j \ (1 \leq j \leq r)$ and $p_i$ is not a conical limit point. \qed
Recall that \( a_k = g_k^{-1}(\infty) \) is in \( P \). By taking a subsequence, we have only to consider the cases when every \( a_k \) lies outside all the standard parabolic regions \( B_{p_j} \) and when all the \( a_k \) lie in some \( B_{p_j} \).

First consider the case when every \( a_k \) lies outside the \( B_{p_j} \). Since \( a_k \in \hat{P} \) and \( \hat{P} \setminus \bigcup \text{Int}(B_{p_j}) \cup \{p_j\} \) is compact, the sequence \( \{a_k\} \) converges to a point \( x \in \hat{P} \setminus \bigcup \text{Int}(B_{p_j}) \cup \{p_j\} \). Suppose that \( x \) is contained in \( B \). Then \( x \) must lie in \( B \cap \Lambda(G) = B \cap \Lambda(J) \), which contradicts the fact that \( \hat{P} \setminus \bigcup \text{Int}(B_{p_j}) \cup \{p_j\} \) contains no limit point of \( J \). Therefore, it follows that the \( a_k \) are uniformly bounded away from \( B \). Since the \( g_k \) are distinct elements, the radius with respect to the Euclidean metric of the conformal ball model of the isometric sphere \( I(g_k) \) converges to 0 by Corollary 2.15. Therefore, we see that \( B \) lies outside the isometric sphere \( I(g_k) \) for sufficiently large \( k \). This means \( g_k(B) \) lies inside the isometric sphere \( I(g_k^{-1}) \). This implies that \( \text{diam}(g_k(B)) \to 0 \).

Next we consider the case when the \( a_k \) lie in some standard parabolic region \( B_{p_j} \). By Claim 2 we see that \( B_{p_j} \) is not a horoball; hence \( B_{p_j} \) is an extended horoball, i.e., \( j \geq r + 1 \). Furthermore, if \( \{a_k\} \) does not converge to \( p_j \), then we can take \( B_{p_j} \) smaller. Therefore, we can assume that \( \{a_k\} \) converges to \( p_j \).

By composing a rotation of the sphere \( \mathbb{R}^n \), we may assume that \( p_j \) is at the north pole \((0, \ldots, 0, 1)\). Let \( S \) be the \( n \)-sphere of radius 1 centred at \( p_j \), and let \( \phi \) be the reflection in \( S \). Let \( B' \subset B_{p_j} \) be the largest horoball contained in \( B_{p_j} \) touching \( \mathbb{R}^n \) at \( p_j \).

We denote points in \( \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \) as \((z, t)\) with \( z \in \mathbb{R}^n \) and \( t \in \mathbb{R} \). Then we have \( p_j = (0, 1) \). Take \( B_{p_j} \) to be small enough so that \( B' = \{(z, t)||z|^2 + (t - s' - 1)^2 \leq s'^2\} \) for some \( s' \) satisfying \( 0 < s' < \frac{1}{2} \), and

\[
\phi(z, t) = \begin{pmatrix} z \\ \frac{|z|^2 + t^2 - t}{|z|^2 + (t - 1)^2} \\ \frac{|z|^2 + t^2 - t}{|z|^2 + (t - 1)^2} \end{pmatrix}.
\]

We deduce that

\[
\phi(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}) = \{(z, t)|t \leq \frac{1}{2}\} \cup \{\infty\} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(B') = \{(z, t)|t \geq 1 + \frac{1}{2s'}\} \cup \{\infty\}.
\]

For any \( j \in \text{Stab}(p_j) \), we have \( \phi j \phi(\infty) = \infty \) since \( \phi(\infty) = p_j \). Consider the decomposition \( \mathbb{R}^{n+1} = \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{n-m} \times \mathbb{R} \), where \( m(\leq n) \) is the rank of \( \text{Stab}_J(p_j) \). Let \( \phi j \phi(z) = U(z) + a \) be an arbitrary element of \( \phi \text{Stab}_J(p_j) \phi \), where \( U \) denotes a rotation. By Theorem 2.10 we may assume that the rotation \( U \) leaves \( \mathbb{R}^m \) and \( \mathbb{R}^{n-m} \) invariant and the vector \( a \) lies in the subspace \( \mathbb{R}^m \). Also, if \( \phi j \phi \in \phi \text{Stab}_J(p_j) \phi \), then its restriction to the subspace \( \mathbb{R}^m \) is a translation. Hence, we have

\[
\phi(B_{p_j}) = \{(z, t) | \sum_{i=m+1}^n z_i^2 + t^2 \geq (1 + \frac{1}{2s'})^2, t \geq \frac{1}{2}\} \cup \{\infty\}.
\]

where \( z_i \) denotes the \( i \)-th component of \( z \).
Since $B_{p_j} \cap B = \{p_j\}$, we have

\[(3.1) \quad \phi(B) \subset \{(z, t) : \sum_{i=m+1}^{n} z_i^2 + \frac{1}{4} < (1 + \frac{1}{2s})^2, t = \frac{1}{2}\} \cup \{\infty\}.
\]

We should recall that $\phi(\text{Stab}_{p_j}^+(p_j))\phi$ acts on $\mathbb{R}^m$ cocompactly. Therefore, we can take representatives $g_k$ so that the projections of $\phi(a_k) = \phi(g_k^{-1}(\infty))$ to $\mathbb{R}^m$ stay within a compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^m$ by multiplying elements of $\text{Stab}_{p_j}^+(p_j)$ to the original $g_k$. Note that by changing representatives, we do not have the condition that $a_k \in P$ any more, but still the $a_k$ are contained in $B_{p_j}$. This means that there is a constant $L$ such that $\phi(a_k) \in \{(z, t)| \sum_{i=1}^{m} z_i^2 < L, t > \frac{1}{2}\} \cap \phi(B_{p_j})$.

**Claim 3.** There is a constant $K > 0$ such that for every $a_k \in B_{p_j}$ and every $y \in B$, we have $|a_k - y| \geq K|a_k - p_j|$.

**Proof.** Suppose, seeking a contradiction, that such a $K$ does not exist. Then there exist a sequence $\{y_s\} \subset B$ and a subsequence $\{a_{k_s}\}$ of $\{a_k\}$ such that

\[(3.2) \quad \frac{|a_{k_s} - y_s|}{|a_{k_s} - p_j|} \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad s \to \infty.
\]

We shall denote $a_{k_s}$ by $a_s$ for simplicity.

We can assume that $y_s \neq p_j$ for all $s$. Then, since

$$|\phi(a_s) - \phi(y_s)| = \frac{|a_s - y_s|}{|y_s - p_j||a_s - p_j|} \quad \text{and} \quad |\phi(y_s) - p_j||y_s - p_j| = 1,$$

we have

\[(3.3) \quad \frac{|a_s - y_s|^2}{|a_s - p_j|^2} = \frac{|\phi(a_s) - \phi(y_s)|^2}{|\phi(y_s) - p_j|^2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m}(\phi(a_s) - \phi(y_s))^2 + \sum_{i=m+1}^{n+1}(\phi(a_s) - \phi(y_s))^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{m}(\phi(y_s))^2 + \sum_{i=m+1}^{n+1}(\phi(y_s) - p_j)^2}.
\]

We shall show that there exists $M > 0$ such that

1. $\sum_{i=1}^{m}(\phi(a_s))^2_i \leq M$ for all $s$;
2. $\sum_{i=m+1}^{n+1}(\phi(y_s) - p_j)^2 \leq M$ for all $s$; and
3. $\sum_{i=m+1}^{n+1}(\phi(a_s) - \phi(y_s))_i \to \infty$ as $s \to \infty$.

The inequality (1) follows from the fact that we choose $a_k$ so that the projections of $\phi(a_k)$ to $\mathbb{R}^m$ stay in a compact subset. The second one is a consequence of (3.1). We now turn to the third inequality. Since $\{a_s\}$ was assumed to converge to $p_j$, we see that $\phi(a_s)$ tends to $\infty$, which means that $\sum_{i=1}^{n+1}(\phi(a_s))^2_i \to \infty$. On the other hand, we know that $\sum_{i=1}^{m}(\phi(a_s))^2_i \leq M$ by (1), and that $\sum_{i=m+1}^{n+1}(\phi(y_s))^2_i$ is bounded above independently of $s$ by (2). These imply (3).
Then (3.2), (3.3), (2) and (3) imply that
\[ \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\phi(y_i))^2 \to \infty \text{ as } s \to \infty. \]

It follows from (1) that for all sufficiently large \( s \),
\[ |a_s - y_s| \geq \frac{1}{2}. \]

This is a contradiction and we have completed the proof of Claim 3. \( \square \)

Let \( \rho_k \) be the Euclidean radius of the isometric sphere of \( g_k \) in \( L \). Then we have the following.

Claim 4. If all \( a_k \) lie inside the extended horoball \( B_{p_j} \), then we have
\[ \frac{\rho_k^2}{|a_k - p_j|} \to 0. \]

Proof. Suppose that there is \( \delta > 0 \) such that \( \frac{\rho_k^2}{|a_k - p_j|} \geq \delta. \) Then \( |g_k(p_j) - g_k(\infty)| = \frac{\rho_k^2}{|a_k - p_j|} \geq \delta. \)

We can apply Proposition 2.12 by identifying \( L \) with \( \mathbb{B}^{n+1} \) by the reflection in \( \partial \mathbb{B}^{n+1} \) and taking into account the fact that the Euclidean metric does not distort much by the reflection near \( \partial \mathbb{B}^{n+1} \) and see that \( p_j \) is a conical limit point of \( G \). This contradicts Lemma 2.14 since \( p_j \) lies in \( \bar{P} \). \( \square \)

We shall conclude the proof of Theorem 3.1. Let \( \delta_k \) be the distance from \( a_k \) to \( B \). Since \( \delta_k \) is the infimum of \( |a_k - y| \) for \( y \in B \), by Claim 3, we have \( \delta_k \geq K|a_k - p_j| \). Since Proposition I.C.7 in [21] holds for \( g \in M(\mathbb{R}^n) \), we have
\[ \text{diam}(g_k(B)) \leq \frac{2\rho_k^2}{\delta_k} \leq \frac{2K^{-1}\rho_k^2}{|a_k - p_j|}. \]

This implies that \( \text{diam}(g_k(B)) \to 0 \) by Claim 4. \( \square \)

4. The Combination Theorem

In this section, we shall state and prove our main theorem, which is a combination theorem for discrete groups in \( M(\mathbb{R}^n) \). Before that we shall prove the following lemma which constitutes the key step for the proof of our main theorem.

Lemma 4.1. Let \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \) be discrete subgroups of \( M(\mathbb{R}^n) \). Suppose that \( J \) is a subgroup of \( G_1 \cap G_2 \), which coincides with neither \( G_1 \) nor \( G_2 \). Suppose that there is a topological \( (n-1) \)-sphere \( S \) dividing \( \mathbb{R}^n \) into two closed balls \( B_1 \) and \( B_2 \) such that each \( B_m \) is a \( (J, G_m) \)-block. Let \( D_1, D_2 \) be fundamental sets for \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \), respectively such that \( J(D_m \cap B_m) = B_m \cap \Omega(J) \) for \( m = 1, 2 \), and \( D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S \). Set \( D = (D_1 \cap B_2) \cup (D_2 \cap B_1) \) and \( G = \langle G_1, G_2 \rangle \). Then the following hold.
(1) $S$ is also a $(J, G_m)$-block for $m = 1, 2$.

(2) $S \cap \Lambda(G_1) = S \cap \Lambda(G_2) = S \cap \Lambda(J) = \Lambda(J)$.

(3) Both $G_1$ and $G_2$ have non-empty regions of discontinuity, and $B^\circ_m$ is contained in $\Omega(G_m)$ for $m = 1, 2$, where $B^\circ_m$ is the interior of $B_m$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

(4) $B^\circ_m$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G_m$.

(5) For any $g \in G_m - J$ ($m = 1, 2$), $g(B_m) \cap B_m = g(S) \cap S \subset \Lambda(G_m)$.

(6) For any $g \in G_m$, we have $g(D_m \cap B_{3-m}) \subset B_{3-m}$ and $g(D_m \cap B^\circ_{3-m}) \subset B^\circ_{3-m}$.

(7) Let $G_m = \bigcup g_{km} J$ be a coset decomposition for $m = 1, 2$. If $J$ is geometrically finite, then $\text{diam}(g_{km}(B_m)) \to 0$ as $k \to \infty$ where $\text{diam}$ denotes the diameter with respect to the ordinary spherical metric on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

(8) $(B^1_0, B^2_0)$ is an interactive pair.

(9) If $\Lambda(J) \neq \Lambda(G_1)$ or $\Lambda(J) \neq \Lambda(G_2)$, then $(B^1_0, B^2_0)$ is a proper interactive pair.

(10) If $D \neq \emptyset$ and $J$ is geometrically finite, then $(B^1_0, B^2_0)$ is a proper interactive pair.

Proof. (1). This is obvious since $S$ is contained in $B_m$.

(2). By Lemma 2.1, we see that $\Lambda(J)$ is contained in $S$; hence $S \cap \Lambda(J) = \Lambda(J)$. Since $S$ is a $(J, G_m)$-block for $m = 1, 2$ by (1), we have $S \cap \Lambda(G_m) = S \cap \Lambda(J)$. This implies (2).

(3). Since $\Lambda(J)$ is contained in $S$, we see that $B^\circ_m \cap \Omega(J) = B^\circ_m$. On the other hand, since $B_m$ is a $(J, G_m)$-block, we have $B^\circ_m \cap \Omega(G_m) = B^\circ_m \cap \Omega(J) = B^\circ_m \neq \emptyset$. Thus both $G_1$ and $G_2$ have non-empty regions of discontinuity and $\Omega(G_m)$ contains $B^\circ_m$.

(4). Since $B^\circ_m \subset \Omega(G_m)$, by the definition of blocks, $B_m \cap \Omega(G_m)$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G_m$, and $J(S) = S$, we see that $B^\circ_m$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G_m$.

(5). Since $B_m \cap \Omega(G_m)$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G_m$, for every $g \in G_m - J$, $(g(B_m) \cap \Omega(G_m)) \cap (B_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) = \emptyset$. It follows $(g(B_m) \cap B_m) \cap \Omega(G_m) = \emptyset$. Then we see that (4) implies (5).

(6). For any $j \in J \subset G_m$, $j(D_m \cap B_{3-m}) \subset j(B_{3-m}) = B_{3-m}$ and $j(D_m \cap B^\circ_{3-m}) \subset j(B^\circ_{3-m}) = B^\circ_{3-m}$. Hence we have only to consider the case when $g$ lies in $G_m - J$. Suppose that there exists an element $g \in G_m - J$ such that $g(D_m \cap B_{3-m}) \cap B_m \neq \emptyset$. Take points $x \in g(D_m \cap B_{3-m}) \cap B_m$ and $y \in D_m \cap B_{3-m}$ such that $x = g(y)$. Since $x$ lies in $B_m \cap g(D_m \cap B_{3-m}) \subset B_m \cap \Omega(G_m) \subset B_m \cap \Omega(J) = J(D_m \cap B_m)$, there is an element $j \in J$ and a point $z \in D_m \cap B_m$ such that $j(z) = x$. Then $j(z) = g(y)$. Since $z$ and $y$ are $G_m$-equivalent points of $D_m$, we have $z = y$ and $j = g$, which is a contradiction. Therefore, for any $g \in G_m - J$, we have $g(D_m \cap B_{3-m}) \cap B_m = \emptyset$ and $g(D_m \cap B^\circ_{3-m}) \subset B^\circ_{3-m}$. Thus we have proved (6).

(7). By (1), we know that $S$ is a $(J, G_m)$-block. Also we should note that since $\text{Fr} S = S$, by the definition of blocks, for any parabolic vertex
Theorem 3.1, \( \text{diam}(g_{km}(S)) \to 0 \) as \( k \to \infty \). On the other hand since \( B_m \) is a \((J, G_m)\)-block, \( \text{diam}(g_{km}(S)) \to 0 \) implies \( \text{diam}(g_{km}(B_m)) \to 0 \), and we have completed the proof of (7).

(8). This follows from (4) and Proposition 2.9.

(9). If \( (B_1^0, B_2^0) \) is not proper, then \( B_1^0 \cup B_2^0 = G_1(B_1^0) \subset \Omega(G_1) \) and \( B_1^0 \cap B_2^0 = G_2(B_2^0) \subset \Omega(G_2) \). It follows that for each \( m \), we have \( \Lambda(G_m) \subset S \).

On the other hand, by (2), we have \( \Lambda(G_m) = S \cap \Lambda(G_m) = S \cap \Lambda(J) = \Lambda(J) \).

Therefore if one of \( \Lambda(G_1), \Lambda(G_2) \) is not equal to \( \Lambda(J) \), then \( (B_1^0, B_2^0) \) is a proper interactive pair.

(10). Suppose that \( (G_m - J)(B_m) \) is non-empty and \( J \) is geometrically finite. Then we can assume that \( D_1 \cap B_2 \neq \emptyset \), for the case \( D_2 \cap B_1 \) can be proved just by interchanging the indices. We divide the argument into two cases: the case when \( D_1 \cap S \neq \emptyset \) and the one when \( D_1 \cap B_2^0 \neq \emptyset \).

Suppose first that there is a point \( x \in D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S \). Recall that \( D_1 \) is contained in \( \Omega(G_1) \), and that for \( g \in G_1 - J \), we have \( g(B_1) \cap B_1 \subset \Lambda(G_1) \) by (5). These imply that no \((G_1 - J)\)-translates of \( B_1 \) pass through \( x \in D_1 \cap S \subset D_1 \cap B_1 \). By the same argument, we see that no \((G_2 - J)\)-translates of \( B_2 \) pass through \( x \).

Next we shall show that \((G_m - J)(B_m)\) cannot accumulate at \( x \). First we should note that the translate of \( B_m \) by an element of \( G_m \) depends only on the cosets of \( G_m \) over \( J \) since \( J \) stabilises \( B_m \). Suppose that \((G_m - J)(B_m)\) accumulates at \( x \). Then there are elements \( g_k \) in \( G_m - J \), which we can assume to belong to distinct cosets, and points \( y_k \in B_m \) such that \( \{g_k(y_k)\} \) converges to \( x \). Since we assumed that \( J \) is geometrically finite, by (7) we see that \( \text{diam}(g_k(B_m)) \to 0 \). Therefore if we choose one point \( y \in B_m \), then \( \{g_k(y)\} \) also converges to \( x \). This means that \( x \) is a limit point of \( G_m \), which contradicts the assumption that \( x \) lies in \( D_m \).

By these two facts which we have just proved, we see that there is a neighborhood of \( x \) which is disjoint from \((G_m - J)(B_m)\) for each \( m \). This implies in particular that there is a point in \( B_{3-m} \) which is not contained in the \( G_m \)-translates of \( B_m \). Hence, in this case, \((B_1^0, B_2^0)\) is proper.

Now we assume that there is a point \( x \in D_1 \cap B_2^0 \). If \( x \in (G_1 - J)(B_1^0) \), then there are an element \( g \in G_1 - J \) and a point \( y \in B_1^0 \) with \( x = g(y) \).

Since \( y \) lies in \( B_1^0 \cap \Omega(G_1) \subset \Omega(B_1^0) \cap \Omega(J) = J(D_1 \cap B_1^0) \), there are an element \( j \in J \) and a point \( z \in D_1 \cap B_1^0 \) with \( y = j(z) \), which implies \( x = gj(z) \). Since \( D_1 \) is a fundamental set of \( G_1 \), it follows that \( x = z \) and \( g = j^{-1} \), which is a contradiction. Therefore \( x \) is not contained in \((G_1 - J)(B_1^0)\) and \((B_1^0, B_2^0)\) is proper. Thus we have proved (10).

\[\square\]

**Definition 4.1.** Let \( \{S_j\} \) be a collection of topological \((n - 1)\)-spheres. We say that the sequence \( \{S_j\} \) *nests about* the point \( x \) if the following are satisfied.
Furthermore, if each \( B \) and \( G \) are geometrically finite then the following hold.

Let \( \text{Theorem 4.2.} \)

Now we can state and prove our main theorem.

\textbf{Theorem 4.2.} Let \( J \) be a geometrically finite proper subgroup of two discrete groups \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \) in \( M(\mathbb{R}^n) \). Assume that there is a topological \((n-1)\)-sphere \( S \) dividing \( \mathbb{R}^n \) into two closed balls \( B_1 \) and \( B_2 \) such that each \( B_m \) is a \((J,G_m)\)-block and \((B_1^c, B_2^c)\) is a proper interactive pair. Let \( D_m \) be a fundamental set for \( G_m \) for \( m = 1, 2 \) such that \( J(D_m \cap B_m) = B_m \cap \overline{\Omega}(J) \), \( D_m \cap B_{3-m} \) is either empty or has nonempty interior, and \( D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S \). Set \( D = (D_1 \cap B_2) \cup (D_2 \cap B_1) \) and \( G = \langle G_1, G_2 \rangle \). Then the following hold.

1. \( G = G_1 \ast_J G_2 \).
2. \( G \) is discrete.
3. If an element \( g \) of \( G \) is not loxodromic, then one of the following must hold.
   a. \( g \) is conjugate to an element of either \( G_1 \) or \( G_2 \).
   b. \( g \) is parabolic and is conjugate to an element fixing a parabolic fixed point of \( J \).
4. \( S \) is a precisely embedded \((J,G)\)-block.
5. If \( \{S_k\} \) is a sequence of distinct \( G \)-translates of \( S \), then \( \text{diam}(S_k) \to 0 \), where \( \text{diam} \) denotes the diameter with respect to the ordinary spherical metric on \( \mathbb{R}^n \).
6. There is a sequence of distinct \( G \)-translates of \( S \) nesting about the point \( x \) if and only if \( x \) is a limit point of \( G \) which is not \( G \)-equivalent to a limit point of either \( G_1 \) or \( G_2 \).
7. \( D \) is a fundamental set for \( G \). If both \( D_1 \) and \( D_2 \) are constrained, and \( S \cap \text{Fr} D \) consists of finitely many connected components the sum of whose \((n-1)\)-dimensional measures on \( S \) vanishes, then \( D \) is also constrained.
8. Let \( Q_m \) be the union of the \( G_m \)-translates of \( B_m^c \), and let \( R_m \) be the complement of \( Q_m \) in \( \mathbb{R}^n \). Then \( \Omega(G)/G = (R_1 \cap \Omega(G_1))/G_1 \cup (R_2 \cap \Omega(G_2))/G_2 \), where the latter two possibly disconnected orbifolds are identified along their common possibly disconnected or empty boundary \( (S \cap \Omega(J))/J \).

Furthermore, if each \( B_m \) is precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_m \) for \( m = 1, 2 \), then the following hold.

9. \( S \) is a strong \((J,G)\)-block if and only if each \( B_m \) is a strong \((J,G_m)\)-block.
10. If both \( B_1 \) and \( B_2 \) are strong, then, except for \( G \)-translates of limit points of \( G_1 \) or \( G_2 \), every limit point of \( G \) is a conical limit point.
11. \( G \) is geometrically finite if and only if both \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \) are geometrically finite.
Lemma 2.6, either pact subsets. Express of distinct elements of \( B \). Assume that each \( g \) may assume that each \( g \). Suppose that \( g \). Proof of (2). Proof of (1).

\[ \text{Proof.} \]

Take a point \( x \) with length \( n \). In the former case, if we express \( \text{Lemma 4.3.} \)

\[ G = J \cup (\cup_{n,k}a_{nk}J) \cup (\cup_{n,k}b_{nk}J), \]

where \( |a_{nk}| = |b_{nk}| = n \), \( a_{nk} > 0 \), and \( b_{nk} < 0 \). Following Apanasov, we set \( T_n = (\cup_{k}a_{nk}(B_1)) \cup (\cup_{k}b_{nk}(B_2)) \), \( C_n = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus T_n \), \( C = \cup C_n \), and \( T = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus C = \cap T_n \).

Then we have the following.

Lemma 4.3. \( \{T_n\} \) is a decreasing sequence with respect to the inclusion, that is, \( T_1 \supset T_2 \supset \ldots \).

Proof. Take a point \( x \in T_n \) (\( n > 1 \)). Then either there are an element \( a_{nk} > 0 \) with length \( n \) and a point \( y \in B_1 \) satisfying that \( x = a_{nk}(y) \), or there are an element \( b_{nk} < 0 \) with length \( n \) and a point \( y \in B_2 \) satisfying that \( x = b_{nk}(y) \).

In the former case, if we express \( a_{nk} \) in a normal form as \( g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1 \), then \( g_1 \in G_1 - J \). Since \( g_1(y) \) lies in \( g_1(B_1) \subset B_2 \), there is a point \( z \in B_2 \) with \( g_1(y) = z \). Therefore, \( x = a_{nk}(y) = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1(z) = b_{nk}(z) \). In the latter case, by the same argument we have \( x \in T_{n-1} \).

Lemma 4.4. The sphere \( S \) is precisely embedded in \( G \). If \( S \) is precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \), respectively, then \( S \) is precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G \)
Proof. We shall first show that $S$ is precisely embedded. For any $g \in G$ with $|g| = 0$, we have $g(S) = S$ and is disjoint from both $B_1^g$ and $B_2^g$. If $|g| = 1$, then $g \in G_m - J$ ($m = 1, 2$), and $g(S) = g(\text{Fr}B_m) \subset g(B_m) \subset B_3 - m$. This means that $g(S)$ is disjoint from $B_2^m$.

Now let $g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1$ be an $(m, k)$-form with $|g| > 1$. Then $g(S) = g(\text{Fr}B_k) \subset g(B_k) \subset B_3 - m$ since $g(B_k^g) \subset B_3 - m$ by Lemma 2.6. This means that $g(S)$ is disjoint from $B_2^m$ again, and we have thus shown that $S$ is precisely embedded in $G$.

Now suppose that $S$ is precisely invariant under $J$ both in $G_1$ and $G_2$. Since, as was shown above, for $g \in J$, we have $g(S) = S$, we have only to show that $g(S) \cap S = \emptyset$ for $g \in G - J$. Note that $g(S) = g(\text{Fr}B_m) \subset g(B_m) \subset B_3 - m$ for any $g \in G_m - J$. Therefore, it remains to consider the case when $|g| > 1$. If $g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1$ is an $(m, k)$-form with $|g| > 1$, then $h = g_n^{-1} \circ g$ is a $(3 - m, k)$-form. It follows from Lemma 2.6 that $g(S) = g_n \circ h(S) = g_n \circ h(\text{Fr}B_k) \subset g_n(B_k) \subset B_3 - m$. Thus, we have shown that for any $g \in G - J$, $g(S) \cap S = \emptyset$. \hfill \Box

**Lemma 4.5.** $D \subset C_1$.

**Proof.** We assume that $D \not= \emptyset$. By interchanging $B_1$ and $B_2$ if necessary, we can assume that $D_1 \cap B_2 \not= \emptyset$. If there is a point $x \in D_1 \cap B_1$, then no $(G_m - J)$-translates of $B_m$ pass through $x$ as was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.4 (10). This implies that $x \in C_1$.

It remains to consider the case when $x \in D_1 \cap B_2$. If $x \in (G_1 - J)(B_1)$, then there are an element $g \in G_1 - J$ and a point $y \in B_1$ with $x = g(y)$. Since $y \in ^0\Omega(G_1) \cap B_1 \subset ^0\Omega(J) \cap B_1$, there are an element $j \in J$ and a point $z \in D_1 \cap B_1$ with $y = j(z)$ by the assumption that $J(D_1 \cap B_1) = ^0\Omega(J) \cap B_1$ in Theorem 4.2. Therefore we have $x = gj(z)$, which implies that $x = z$ and $gj = id$. This contradicts the assumption that $g$ lies in $G_1 - J$. Thus we have shown that $x \in C_1$. \hfill \Box

**Lemma 4.6.** $D$ is contained in $^0\Omega(G)$, and precisely invariant under $\{id\}$ in $G$.

**Proof.** We shall first prove that $D$ is contained in $\Omega(G)$. Suppose, on the contrary, that there is a point $z$ in $D \cap \Lambda(G)$. Since $D = (D_1 \cap B_2) \cup (D_2 \cap B_1)$, we can assume that $z \in D_1 \cap B_2$ by interchanging the indices if necessary.

**Claim 5.** In this situation, we have $z \in D_1 \cap S$.

**Proof of Claim 5.** Suppose not. Then $z$ must be contained in $D_1 \cap B_2$. Since $z \in \Lambda(G)$, it follows from Lemma 2.4 that there is a sequence $\{g_k\}$ of distinct elements in $G$ such that $g_k(y) \to z$ for all $y$ with at most one exception. Since $z \in B_2^g \subset \Omega(G_2)$ (by Lemma 4.4 (3)) and $z \in D_1 \subset \Omega(G_1)$, we have $|g_k| > 1$, and we can assume that each $g_k$ is a 1-form. Since $g_k(B) \subset T_1$ for $B$ which is equal to $B_1$ or $B_2$, Lemma 4.5 implies that $z \in \text{Fr}T_1$. Since $z \in D_1 \subset \Omega(G_1)$ and every point of $B_2^g \cap \text{Fr}T_1$ is either a $(G_1 - J)$-translate of a point of $S$ or a limit point of $G_1$, we deduce that $z$ is a $(G_1 - J)$-translate of a point
of $S$. On the other hand, since $z$ is contained in $C_1 = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus T_1$, we see that $z$ is not a $(G_1 - J)$-translate of a point of $S$. This is a contradiction. \hfill $\square$

Since $z \in D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S$, as was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.1-(10), no $(G_m - J)$-translates of $B_m$ pass through $z$ nor accumulate at $z$. Therefore, we have $z \in C_1^o$. Since $\{T_n\}$ is decreasing, the $(G - J)$-translates of $S$ do not accumulate at $z$, for $(G - J)$-translates of $S$ accumulate at points in $\overline{T_1}$, which is disjoint from $C_1^o$. This means that $z$ cannot be a limit point of $G$; hence $z \in \Omega(G)$. Thus we have shown that $D$ is contained in $\Omega(G)$.

By Lemma 4.1-(6) and Lemma 2.3, we see that $(D_1 \cap B_3^o) \cup (D_2 \cap B_3^o)$ is precisely invariant under $\{id\}$ in $G$. Setting $A = (D_1 \cap B_3^o) \cup (D_2 \cap B_3^o)$, we have $D = A \cup (D_1 \cap S)$ and $A \subset C_1^o$. Then for any $g \in G \setminus \{id\}$, we have $g(D) \cap D = (g(A) \cap (D_1 \cap S)) \cup (g(D_1 \cap S) \cap A) \cup (g(D_1 \cap S) \cap (D_1 \cap S))$.

If $g \in J \setminus \{id\}$, then $g(D_1 \cap S) \subset S \setminus D_1$ and $g(\{A\}) \cap A \subset B_3^o \cup B_3^o$. Therefore, $g(D_1 \cap S) \cap (D_1 \cap S) = \emptyset$, $g(D_1 \cap S) \cap A = \emptyset$ and $g(A) \cap (D_1 \cap S) = \emptyset$. It follows that $g(D) \cap D = \emptyset$ in this case.

If $g \in G_m \setminus J$, then $g(D_1 \cap S) = g(D_m \cap S) \subset T_1$ and Lemma 4.1-(4) and (6) imply that $g(A) \subset B_3^o$. Since $A \cup (D_1 \cap S) = D$ is contained in $C_1$ by Lemma 4.5, and $g(D_1 \cap S)$ is contained in $T_1$, we have $g(D_1 \cap S) \cap A = \emptyset$. We also have $g(D_1 \cap S) \cap (D_1 \cap S) = \emptyset$ since $D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S$ and $D_1, D_2$ are fundamental sets of $G_1, G_2$ respectively, and $g(A) \cap (D_1 \cap S) = \emptyset$ since $g(A)$ is contained in $B_3^o$ as was seen above. Therefore also in this case, we have $g(D) \cap D = \emptyset$.

Now, we consider $g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1 \in G \setminus (G_1 \cup G_2)$, where $g_i \in G_m \setminus J$. Then $g(D_1 \cap S) = g(D_m \cap S) \subset g(B_m) \subset T_n \subset T_1$ and $g(A) = g(D_m \cap B_3^o) \cup g(D_3^- \cap B_3^o) \subset g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_2(B_3^o) \cup B_3^o)$ (Lemma 4.1-(6)) $\subset T_n \cup T_n \subset T_1 \subset B_3^1 \cup B_3^2$. These facts imply that $g(D_1 \cap S) \cap (D_1 \cap S) = \emptyset$ by Lemma 4.5, $g(D_1 \cap S) \cap A = \emptyset$ by the fact that $A \subset C_1^o$, and $g(A) \cap (D_1 \cap S) = \emptyset$. Thus we have shown that $D$ is precisely invariant under $\{id\}$ in $G$. Since we have already shown that $D \subset \Omega(G)$, this means that $D \subset \Omega(G)$. \hfill $\square$

**Lemma 4.7.** $S \cap \Omega(J) = S \cap \Omega(G)$, and $S \cap \Omega(J)$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G$.

**Proof.** Let $z$ be a point in $S \cap \Omega(J)$. Since $S \cap \Omega(G_m) = S \cap \Omega(J)$ for each $m$ by Lemma 4.1-(2), we have $z \in \Omega(G_m)$. As was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.1-(10), no $(G_m - J)$-translates of $B_m$ pass through $z$ nor accumulate at $z$. Therefore $z$ is contained in $C_1^o$.

Suppose, seeking a contradiction, that $z$ lies in $\Lambda(G)$. Then there is a sequence $\{g_k\}$ of distinct elements of $G$ such that $g_k(y) \to z$ for all $y$ at most one exception. Since $z$ is contained in $\Omega(G_1) \cap \Omega(G_2)$, we can assume $|g_k| > 1$ for all $k$ by taking a subsequence. We deduce from the fact that $g_k(B) \subset T_1$ for $B = B_1$ or $B_2$ that $z$ must be contained in $\overline{T_1}$, which is a contradiction. Thus we have shown that $S \cap \Omega(J)$ is contained in $S \cap \Omega(G)$. The opposite inclusion is trivial.

Now we turn to prove the latter half of our lemma. It is clear that $J$ keeps $S \cap \Omega(J)$ invariant. Suppose that there are points $y$ and $z$ in $S \cap \Omega(G) =$
Proof of (5). By (4) shown above, we know that $g(y) = z$. Express $g$ in a normal form $g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1$. Then $n > 1$ since $S$ is a $(J, G_m)$-block ($m = 1, 2$). Clearly $z$ lies on $g(S) \cap S$. Moreover since $g(S) = g_n(g_{n-1} \circ \cdots \circ g_1(S))$ and $S$ is contained in both $B_1$ and $B_2$, by Lemma 2.6, $g(S)$ is contained in either $g_n(B_m)$, where $g_n$ is assumed to lie in $G_m$. If $z \in g(S)$ is contained in $g_n(B_m^o)$, then it must lie in $B_3^{2-m}$, which contradicts our assumption. Therefore $z$ must lie in $g_n(S)$. We may assume that $g_n \in G_1 = J$ by interchanging the indices if necessary. Since $B_1$ is a $(J, G_1)$-block, $B_1 \cap \Omega(G_1)$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G_1$, which means that $g_n(\Omega(G_1) \cap B_1)$ is contained in $B_2^n$. Because we have shown that $z$ lies in $S \cap g_n(S)$, this implies that $z \in \Lambda(G_1) \subset \Lambda(G)$. Since $z = g(y) \in \Omega(G)$, this is a contradiction. Thus we have shown that $g(S \cap \Omega(G)) \cap (S \cap \Omega(G)) = \emptyset$ for any $g \in G - J$. □

Proof of (3). Let $g$ be an element of $G$ which is not conjugate to any element of either $G_1$ or $G_2$, such that $|g|$ is minimal among all conjugates of $g$ in $G$. Clearly, we have $|g| > 1$. Express $g$ in a normal form $g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1$. If the length of $g$ is odd, say, $g_n, g_1 \in G_m - J$, then $g_n^{-1} \circ g_1 \circ g_n = g_{n-1} \circ \cdots \circ (g_1 \circ g_n)$. The corresponding normal form of $g_n^{-1} \circ g \circ g_n$ has length less than $n$, which contradicts the minimality of $|g|$. Therefore the length of $g$ must be even and $g$ must be a $(3-m, m)$-form. This implies that $g(B_m) \subset g_n \circ g_{n-1}(B_m) \subset B_m$. Since $(B_1^*, B_2^*)$ is a proper interactive pair by assumption, the last inclusion is proper by Lemma 2.6. Hence $g$ has the infinite order and has a fixed point in $g(B_m) \subset B_m$. Similarly, $g^{-1}(B_{3-m}) \subset g_1^{-1} \circ g_2^{-1}(B_{3-m}) \subset B_{3-m}$, where the last inclusion is proper. Therefore $g$ also has a fixed point in $g^{-1}(B_{3-m}) \subset B_{3-m}$, which may coincide with the above-mentioned fixed point.

Since $G$ is discrete and $g$ has infinite order, $g$ is not elliptic. If $g$ is parabolic, then its fixed point is unique, which we denote by $x$. Hence the two fixed points mentioned above are equal and $x$ lies on $S \cap g(S)$. By Lemma 4.7, $x$ is a limit point of $J$. Since $J$ is geometrically finite, $x$ is either a parabolic fixed point of $J$ or a conical limit point for $J$ by Proposition 2.13. Since a conical limit point for $J$ is also that for $G$ and a conical limit point cannot be a parabolic fixed point, we see that $x$ is a parabolic fixed point of $J$. □

Proof of (4). Since $B_1$ and $B_2$ are both blocks, for every parabolic fixed point $z$ of $J$ with the rank of $\text{Stab}_J(z)$ being less than $n$, the peak domain centered at $z$ for $J$ has trivial intersection with $S = \text{Fr}B_1 = \text{Fr}B_2$. This shows the second condition in the definition of blocks holds for $S$. Lemma 4.7 implies that the first condition in the definition holds for $S$, hence that $S$ is a $(J, G)$-block. By Lemma 4.4, $S$ is precisely embedded in $G$. □

Proof of (5). By (4) shown above, we know that $S$ is a $(J, G)$-block. Then (5) follows from Theorem 3.1. □

Lemma 4.8. $C_1 \cap B_m^o$ is precisely invariant under $G_{3-m}$ in $G$. □
Proof. It is obvious that \( C_1 \cap B_m^o = \mathbb{R}^n - G_{3-m}(B_{3-m}) \). Since \( G_{3-m}(B_{3-m}) \) is invariant under \( G_{3-m} \), its complement \( C_1 \cap B_m^o \) is also invariant under \( G_{3-m} \).

If \( g \in G_m - J \), then \( g(C_1 \cap B_m^o) \subset g(B_m^o) \subset B_m^o \), and we are done. Now we consider a general \( g \) which is expressed in a normal form \( g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1 \) with \(|g| > 1\). If \( g \) is an \((m, m)\)-form, then \( g(C_1 \cap B_m^o) \subset g(B_m^o) \subset B_m^o \) by Lemma 2.6. If \( g \) is an \((m, 3 - m)\)-form, then \( g(C_1 \cap B_m^o) = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1(C_1 \cap B_m^o) \) as was shown in the last paragraph, and this last term is contained in \( B_m^o \) since \( g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_2 \) is an \((m, m)\)-form. If \( g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1 \) is a \((3 - m, k)\)-form, where either \( k = 1 \) or \( k = 2 \), then, by the discussion above, we see \( g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1(C_1 \cap B_m^o) \subset B_m^o \); hence \( g(C_1 \cap B_m^o) \subset g_n(B_m^o) \subset T_1^o \). Thus in every case, if \( g \notin G_{3-m} \), then \( g(C_1 \cap B_m^o) \cap (C_1 \cap B_m^o) = \emptyset \). \( \square \)

**Lemma 4.9.** The set \( C \) is contained in the union of \( \Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G) \) and the \( G \)-translates of \( D \cup \Lambda(G_1) \cup \Lambda(G_2) \).

*Proof.* Every point \( x \in C \) is contained either in \( C_1 \) or in \( C_n \setminus C_{n-1} \) for some index \( n \) (\( n > 1 \)) since \( \{C_n\} \) is increasing. If \( x \in C_n \setminus C_{n-1} \), then \( x \in T_{n-1} \setminus T_n \). Hence there are a point \( y \in B_k \) and an element expressed in an \((m, k)\)-form \( g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1 \in G \) such that \( x = g(y) \). If \( y \) lies in \( T_1 \), then \( y \in (G_k - J)(B_k) \) since \( y \notin G_{3-m} \). In the former case, \( y \) is contained in \( \Lambda(G_k) \cap S = \Lambda(J) \cap S \) by Lemma 4.1(5). In the latter case, we have \( x \in T_n \), which is a contradiction. Therefore, every point \( x \in C \) is either contained in \( G(\Lambda(J)) \) or \( G(C_1) \). In the former case, we are done. Therefore, we have only to consider the latter case. Moreover, since the sets of our statement are \( G \)-invariant, we can assume that \( x \) lies in \( C_1 \).

It suffices to prove our lemma under the assumption that \( x \in C_1 \cap B_2 \); the proof for the case \( x \in C_1 \cap B_1 \) is the same. If \( x \) lies in \( C_1 \cap B_2 \), then either \( x \in \Lambda(G_1) \) or \( x \in \Omega(G_1) \). We only need to discuss the latter two cases.

**Case 1:** \( x \in \Omega(G_1) \).

In this case, there are an element \( g \in G_1 \) and a point \( z \in D_1 \) with \( g(z) = x \). We claim that \( z \notin B_1^o \). Suppose, on the contrary, that \( z \) is contained in \( B_1^o \). If \( z \) lies in \( G_1 - J \), then \( g(z) \) is contained in \( T_1 \) by the definition of \( T_1 \). Since we assumed that \( x \) lies in \( C_1 \), this is not possible. Therefore, we have \( g \notin J \). On the other hand, \( J(B_1^o) = B_1^o \), which contradicts the assumption that \( x \) lies in \( B_2 \). This shows that \( z \in D_1 \cap B_2 \subset D_1 \), and we are done in this case.

**Case 2:** \( x \in \Omega(G_1) \).

Since \( S \cap \Omega(J) = S \cap \Omega(G_1) = S \cap \Omega(G_2) = S \cap \Omega(G) \) by Lemma 4.7, if \( x \in S \), then \( x \) lies in \( \Omega(G) \). Furthermore, since \( \Omega(G) \) is contained in \( \Omega(G_1) \), this implies that \( x \in \Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G) \), and we are done in this case. If \( x \notin S \), then \( x \in C_1 \cap B_2^o \). Since \( x \in \Omega(G_1) \), no \( (G_1 - J) \)-translates of \( B_1 \) accumulate at \( x \) as was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.1(10). Therefore, we have \( x \in C_1^o \). Then, by Proposition 2.4, there is a neighbourhood \( U \) of \( x \) contained in \( C_1^o \) such that \( U \) is precisely invariant under \( \text{Stab}_{G_1}(x) \) in
Lemma 4.10. \( T \subset \Lambda(G) \). Furthermore, every point of \( T \) is either a \( G \)-translate of a point in \( \Lambda(J) \) or the limit of nested translates of \( S \).

**Proof.** Consider a point \( z \in T \). We assume that \( z \in (G_1 - J)(B_1) \), for the case when \( z \in (G_2 - J)(B_2) \) can be dealt with in the same way. Then there is an element \( h_1 = g_1 \in G_1 - J \) such that \( z \in g_1(B_1) \). Since \( T_1 \supset T_2 \), we have \( z \in T_2 \), and there is an element \( g_2 \in G_2 - J \) such that \( z \in g_1 \circ g_2(B_2) = h_2(B_2) \subset h_1(B_1) \). Similarly, since \( z \in T_3 \), there is an element \( g_3 \in G_1 - J \) such that \( z \in g_1 \circ g_2 \circ g_3(B_1) = h_3(B_1) \subset h_2(B_2) \subset h_1(B_1) \).

Thus the element \( h_k \) has length increasing as \( k \to \infty \) and \( (B_1, B_2) \) is a proper interactive pair, the sets \( h_k(S) \) can be assumed to be all distinct by taking a subsequence if necessary. Thus we have shown that if \( z \in T \), then there is a sequence \( \{h_k\} \) of elements of \( G \), with \( |h_k| \to \infty \), and \( z \in \cdots \in h_k(B_k) \subset \cdots \subset h_2(B_2) \subset h_1(B_1) \), where \( B_j \) is either \( B_1 \) or \( B_2 \). Passing to a subsequence if necessary, we may assume that \( B_j = B_1 \).

There are two possibilities for this sequence: either \( z \) lies in the interiors of infinitely many \( h_k(B_1) \), or from some \( k \) on, \( z \) lies on the boundary of every \( h_k(B_1) \). In either case, since the \( h_k(S) \) are distinct, we have \( \text{diam}(h_k(S)) \to 0 \). Since the ball \( h_k(B_1) \) bounded by \( h_k(S) \) decreases as \( k \to \infty \), this is possible only when \( \text{diam}(h_k(B_1)) \to 0 \). Since \( z \) is a limit of \( \{h_k(x_k)\} \) with \( x_k \in B_1 \) in either case above, it follows that for every \( x \in B_1 \), we have \( h_k(x) \to z \). This means that \( z \) lies in \( \Lambda(G) \). Moreover, in the former case, we have shown that \( \{h_k(S)\} \) nests around \( z \). In the latter case, since \( z \in h_{k_0}(S) \cap h_{k_0+1}(S) \cap \cdots \), we have \( w = h_{k_0}^{-1}(z) \in S \cap h_{k_0}^{-1}h_{k_0+1}(S) \cap \cdots \). Since such \( w \) is contained in \( \Lambda(G) \), by Lemma 4.7 it also lies in \( \Lambda(J) \). This means that \( z \) is contained in the \( G \)-translate of \( \Lambda(J) \).

**Lemma 4.11.** If \( z \in C \cap \Lambda(G) \), then there is no sequence of distinct translates of \( S \) nesting about \( z \).

**Proof.** Lemma 4.9 implies that \( z \) is a \( G \)-translate of a point in either \( D \) or \( \Lambda(G_1) \cup \Lambda(G_2) \). Since \( D \) is contained in \( \Omega(G) \) by Lemma 4.6, the only possibility is \( z \in G(\Lambda(G_1) \cup \Lambda(G_2)) \).

We first consider the special case when \( z \) lies in \( G(\Lambda(J)) \). Under this assumption, suppose, seeking a contradiction, that there is a sequence \( \{h_k(S)\} \) of distinct \( G \)-translates of \( S \) nesting about \( z = g(y) \) for an element \( g \in G \) and a point \( y \in \Lambda(J) \subset S \). Then we have \( z \in h_k(B^0) \) by taking a subsequence for \( B \) which is either \( B_1 \) or \( B_2 \). We can assume that \( B = B_1 \) after taking a subsequence, for we can deal with the other case in the same way. It follows that \( y \in g^{-1} \circ h_k(B_1^0) \). Now since \( \{h_k(S)\} \) nests around \( z \), we have \( \text{diam}(h_k(B_1)) \to 0 \). This is possible only when after taking a subsequence all \( h_k \) are \((m_k, 1)\)-forms with \( m_k = 1, 2 \). (If \( h_k \) were \((m_k, 2)\)-form, then \( h_k(B_1) \)
would contain $S$; hence its diameter would not go to 0.) Therefore $g^{-1}h_k$ is also expressed as an $(m',1)$-form for large $k$ and $g^{-1}h_k(B^o_k)$ is contained in $B^o_{3-m'}$. In particular, we have $y \notin S$. This contradiction shows that if $z \in G(\Lambda(J))$, then there is no sequence of distinct translates of $S$ nesting about $z$.

Now we turn to the general case when $z \in G(\Lambda(G_1) \cup \Lambda(G_2))$. It suffices to consider the case $z \in G(\Lambda(G_1))$ since the proof for the case $z \in G(\Lambda(G_2))$ is entirely the same. Then there are an element $g \in G$ and a point $y \in \Lambda(G_1)$ with $g(y) = z$. Since $B^o_k \subset \Omega(G_1)$, we have $\Lambda(G_1) \subset \mathbb{R}^n \setminus G_1(B^o_k)$. Therefore, $y$ is not contained in $G_1(B^o_k)$; hence unless $y$ lies in $G_1(S)$, it must lie in $C_1 \cap B^o_2$. If $y \in G_1(S)$, then $y \in G_1(S \cap \Lambda(G_1)) = G_1(S \cap \Lambda(J))$. The discussion in the previous paragraph implies that this case cannot occur.

Now we assume that $y \in C_1 \cap B^o_2$. If there is a sequence $\{h_k(S)\}$ of distinct $G$-translates of $S$ nesting about $z = g(y)$, then $z \in h_k(B^o_k)$ for every $k$ where $B$ is $B_1$ or $B_2$, and hence $y \in g^{-1} \circ h_k(B^o_k)$. We may assume that $B = B_1$ by changing the index and taking a subsequence and $h_k$ is an $(m,1)$-form. Then $g^{-1} \circ h_k$ is also an $(m',1)$-form for sufficiently large $k$. Since $\{T_n\}$ is a decreasing sequence, $y \in T^o_1$, which is a contradiction. Thus we have completed the proof. □

Proof of (6). If $x$ lies in $\Lambda(G) \setminus G(\Lambda(G_1) \cup \Lambda(G_2))$, then $x \in T$ by Lemma 4.9. Since every point of $T$ is either a translate of a point of $\Lambda(J)$ or is the limit of a nested sequence of translates of $S$ by Lemma 4.10, we have proved the “if” part.

Now we turn to the “only if” part. Suppose that $x$ lies in $\Lambda(G_m)$ for $m = 1$ or 2. Since $B^o_m \subset \Omega(G_m)$ by Lemma 4.9 (3), we have $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus G_m(B^o_m)$. If $x \in G_m(S)$, then as was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.11 there is no distinct $G$-translates of $S$ nesting about $x$. Therefore $x$ is contained in $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus G_m(B^o_m) = C_1 \cap B^o_{3-m}$, which implies that $x \in C \cap \Lambda(G)$. By Lemma 4.11 there is no distinct translates of $S$ nesting about $x$. □

Proof of (7). By Lemma 4.9, every point of $C \cap \Omega(G)$ is a translate of a point of $D$. Also by Lemma 4.10, $T$ is contained in $\Lambda(G)$. This shows that every point of $\Omega(G)$ is contained in a $G$-translate of $D$. Furthermore, since $D \subset \Omega(G)$ and $D$ is precisely invariant under the identity in $G$ by Lemma 4.6, it follows that $D$ is a fundamental set for $G$.

Now assume that both $D_1$ and $D_2$ are constrained.

Claim 6. $\Omega(G) \subset G(\bar{D})$.

Proof. Since we have already shown that $D$ is a fundamental set for $G$, we have only to prove that if $x \in \Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G)$, then there is an element $g \in G$ with $g(x) \in \bar{D}$. Now let $x$ be a point in $\Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G)$. By Lemma 4.10, $x$ is not contained in $T$. As was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.9, we have $x \in G(C_1) \cap (\Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G))$. This means that there are an element $g \in G$ and a point $y \in C_1 \cap (\Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G))$ such that $x = g(y)$. We may assume that $y \in B_2$, for the proof in the case $y \in B_1$ is entirely the same.
Suppose first that \( y \in S \cap C_1 \cap (\Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G)) \). Then since \( S \cap \Omega(J) = S \cap \Omega(G_1) = S \cap \Omega(G) \) by Lemma 4.7 and \( D_1 \) is a constrained fundamental set for \( G_1 \), there are an element \( h \in G_1 \) and a point \( z \in D_1 \) such that \( y = h(z) \). Since \( G_1(B_1^0) \subset B_1^0 \cup T_1^0 \), we see that \( z \) must be contained in \( B_2 \), hence \( z \in D_1 \cap B_2 \subset D \). Thus we have completed the proof in this case.

Next we assume that \( y \notin S \), which means that \( y \in C_1 \cap B_2 \cap (\Omega(G) \setminus \Omega(G)) \). Since \( y \in \Omega(G) \subset \Omega(G_1) \) and \( D_1 \) is a fundamental set for \( G_1 \), we see that \( y \) is \( G_1 \)-equivalent to a point \( w \in D_1 \). By Lemma 4.3 we have \( w \in D_1 \cap C_1 \cap B_1^0 \).

Since \( D_1 \cap B_2^0 \subset D \), this implies \( w \in D \), and our claim has been proved.

We now return to the proof of (7). We have

\[
(4.1) \quad G_m(\bar{D}_m) = G_m(\bar{D}_m \cap B_m^0) \cup (\bar{D}_m \cap B_{3-m}^0),
\]

\[
(4.2) \quad G_m(\bar{D}_m \cap B_m^0) \subset B_m^0 \cup (T_1^0 \cap B_{3-m}^0)
\]

by the definition of \( T_1 \), and

\[
(4.3) \quad \bar{D}_m \cap B_{3-m}^0 \subset \bar{D}_m \cap B_{3-m} \subset \bar{C}_1 \cap B_{3-m}
\]

by Lemma 4.5.

Since \( \bar{C}_1 \cap B_{3-m} = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus G_m(B_m^0) \), we see that \( \bar{C}_1 \cap B_{3-m} \) is \( G_m \)-invariant. Therefore from (4.3), we obtain

\[
(4.4) \quad G_m(\bar{D}_m \cap B_{3-m}^0) \subset \bar{C}_1 \cap B_{3-m}.
\]

Since \( \text{Fr}D \cap S \) consists of only finitely many connected components the sum of whose \((n-1)\)-dimensional measures on \( S \) vanishes by assumption, it follows from (4.1), (4.2), and (4.4) that the sides of \( D_m \) in \( B_{3-m} \) are paired with those in \( B_{3-m} \) by elements of \( G_m \) for each \( m \). Since the sides of \( D \) in \( B_1 \) are equal to those of \( D_2 \) in \( B_1 \) and the sides of \( D \) in \( B_2 \) those of \( D_1 \) in \( B_2 \), we see the sides are paired to each other. These sides can accumulate only at limit points because of the same property for \( D_1 \) and \( D_2 \). The only thing left to show is that the tessellation of \( \Omega(G) \) by translates of \( \bar{D} \) is locally finite.

Take any \( z \in \bar{D} \cap \Omega(G) \). We see from Lemma 4.5 that either \( z \in C_1^0 \) or \( z \in \text{Fr}C_1 = \text{Fr}T_1 \). We may assume that \( z \in \partial D_1 \cap B_2 \subset \bar{D}_1 \cap B_2 \), for the proof in the case \( z \in D_2 \cap B_1 \) is entirely the same.

**Case 1** \( z \in C_1^0 \).

Since \( z \) is contained in \( \Omega(G_m) \) for each \( m \) and \( D_m \) is a constrained fundamental set for \( G_m \), there is a neighborhood \( U \) of \( z \) with \( U \subset C_1^0 \) such that for each \( m \) there is a finite set \( \{g_{m1}(D_m), \ldots, g_{mk_m}(D_m)\} \) with \( U \subset \cup_i g_{mi}(D_m) \) for \( g_{mi} \in G_m \). We consider \( U \cap B_{3-m} \). Since \( G_m(\bar{D}_m \cap B_{3-m}^0) \subset B_m^0 \cup T_1^0 \) and \( U \subset C_1 \), we have \( U \cap B_{3-m} \subset \cup_i g_{mi}(\bar{D}_m \cap B_{3-m}^0) \). Therefore \( U \subset \cup_{m=1}^2 (\cup_i g_{mi}(\bar{D}_m \cap B_{3-m})) \subset \cup_{m=1}^2 (\cup_i g_{mi}(\bar{D})) \), and we have obtained the local finiteness of \( \bar{D} \) at such a point.

**Case 2** \( z \in \text{Fr}C_1 = \text{Fr}T_1 \).

We claim that \( z \notin S \) in this case. Suppose, on the contrary, that \( z \) is contained in \( S \). Since \( z \in \Omega(G) \subset \Omega(G_m) \), as was shown in the proof
of Lemma 4.11(10), no \((G_m - J)\)-translates of \(B_m\) pass through \(z\) and no \(G_m\)-translates of \(B_m\) accumulate at \(z\). Therefore, we have \(z \in C_1^\circ\), which contradicts our assumption for Case 2.

Hence, we can assume that \(z\) lies in \(B_2^2\). Since a point of \(\text{Fr}T_1\) in \(B_2^2\) is either a point of \((G_1 - J)(S)\), or a point of \(\Lambda(G_1)\) and \(z \in \Omega(G) \subset \Omega(G_1)\), we see that \(z\) must lie in \(B_2^2 \cap (G_1 - J)(S)\). Then there are a point \(s \in S\) and an element \(g \in G_1 - J\) with \(g(s) = z\). By Lemma 4.7, \(s\) lies in \(S \cap \Omega(G) = S \cap \Omega(J) = S \cap \Omega(G_1) = S \cap \Omega(G_2)\). Therefore no \((G_m - J)\)-translates of \(B_m\) pass through \(s\) and no \(G_m\)-translates of \(B_m\) accumulate at \(s\) as was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.11(10). This implies that \(s\) is contained in \(C_1^\circ \cap S\).

By applying the proof of Case 1 to \(s\), we see that there is a neighbourhood \(U\) of \(s\) covered by finitely many \(G\)-translates of \(D\). It follows that \(g(U)\) is a neighbourhood of \(z\) covered by finitely many \(G\)-translates of \(D\). This shows that \(D\) is locally finite at a point as in Case 2.

Thus we have shown the proof of the local finiteness of \(D\), hence completed the proof.

\[
\square
\]

**Proof of (8).** We shall prove this by showing the following three claims.

**Claim 7.** For each \(m\), we have \(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m) \subset \Omega(G)\).

**Proof.** Take a point \(z \in R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)\). Since \(R_m = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus G_m(B_m^0)\), we have either \(z \in G_m(S)\) or \(z \in C_1 \cap B_{3-m}^0\). If \(z \in G_m(S)\), then \(z \in \Omega(G)\) since \(S \cap \Omega(G) = S \cap \Omega(J) = S \cap \Omega(G_1) = S \cap \Omega(G_2)\) by Lemma 4.7. If \(z \in C_1 \cap B_{3-m}^0\), since \(z \in \Omega(G_m)\), no \(G_m\)-translates of \(B_m\) pass through or accumulate at \(z\) as was shown in the proof of Lemma 4.11(10). It follows that \(z \in C_1^\circ\).

By Proposition 2.4, there is a neighbourhood \(U\) of \(z\) lying in \(C_1^\circ \cap B_{3-m}^0\) which is precisely invariant under \(\text{Stab}_{G_m}(z)\) in \(G_m\) such that \(\text{Stab}_{G_m}(z)\) is finite. By Lemma 4.8, we see that \(\text{Stab}_{G_m}(z) = \text{Stab}_G(z)\) and that \(U\) is precisely invariant under \(\text{Stab}_G(z)\) in \(G\). By Proposition 2.4, this implies that \(z \in \Omega(G)\).

\[
\square
\]

**Claim 8.** Every point of \(\Omega(G)\) is \(G\)-equivalent to a point of either \(R_1 \cap \Omega(G_1)\) or \(R_2 \cap \Omega(G_2)\).

**Proof.** Let \(z\) be a point in \(\Omega(G)\). By Lemma 4.10, we see that \(z \notin T\). As was shown in the first half of the proof of Lemma 4.9, we have \(z \in G(C_1)\).

We have only to consider the case when \(z \in C_1\) by translating \(z\) by elements of \(G\). Since \(C_1 \cap B_m \subset R_{3-m}\) by the definitions of \(R_{3-m}\) and \(C_1\) and \(\Omega(G) \subset \Omega(G_1) \cap \Omega(G_2)\), we see that \(z \in (R_1 \cap \Omega(G_1)) \cup (R_2 \cap \Omega(G_2))\).

**Claim 9.** For each \(m = 1, 2\), the set \(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)\) is precisely invariant under \(G_m\) in \(G\).

**Proof.** It is obvious that \(R_m\) is \(G_m\)-invariant, hence so is \(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)\). We shall show that \(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)\) is moved to a set disjoint from it by other elements of \(G\).

For any \(g \in G_{3-m} - J\), we have \(g(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \subset g(B_{3-m} \cap \Omega(G_m)) \subset B_m\).

By Lemma 4.11(5), \(g(B_{3-m}) \cap S \subset \Lambda(G_{3-m}) \cap S\), which is equal to \(S \cap \Lambda(G_m)\)
by Lemma 4.4(2). This implies that no point of \( \Omega(G_m) \cap B_{3-m} \) is mapped into \( S \) by \( g \), hence \( g(B_{3-m} \cap \Omega(G_m)) \subset B_m^o \). Since \( R_m \) is contained in \( B_{3-m} \), it follows that \( g(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \cap R_m \cap \Omega(G_m) = \emptyset \).

Now let \( g = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_1 \) be a normal form with \( |g| > 1 \). If \( g \) is a \((3 - m, 3 - m)\)-form, then since \( g_1(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \subset B_m^o \), we have \( g(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \subset g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_2(B_m^o) \subset B_m^o \). If \( g \) is a \((3 - m, m)\)-form, then since \( g_1 \) preserves \( R_m \cap \Omega(G_m) \), we have \( g(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) = g_n \circ \cdots \circ g_2(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \), which is contained in \( B_m^o \) by the argument above for \((3 - m, 3 - m)\)-forms. Finally if \( g \) is an \((m, k)\)-form, then \( g_{n - 1} \circ \cdots \circ g_1 \) is a \((3 - m, k)\)-form with \( k = 3 - m \) or \( k = m \). Then, as was discussed above, we have \( g_{n - 1} \circ \cdots \circ g_1(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \subset B_m^o \), and \( g(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \subset g_n(B_m^o) \), which is contained in the complement of \( R_m \) by definition. Thus we have shown that \( g(R_m \cap \Omega(G_m)) \cap R_m \cap \Omega(G_m) = \emptyset \) for any \( g \in G - G_m \). \(\square\)

By these three claims, we have shown that \( \Omega(G)/G = (R_1 \cap \Omega(G_1))/G_1 \cup (R_2 \cap \Omega(G_2))/G_2 \). Now we consider the intersection of the two terms in the right hand side. We should first note that \((R_1 \cap \Omega(G_1)) \cap (R_2 \cap \Omega(G_2))\) is contained in \( B_2 \cap B_1 = S \) since \( R_1 \) is contained in \( B_2 \), and \( R_2 \) is in \( B_1 \). Since \( \Omega(G_m) \cap S = \Omega(J) \cap S \subset R_m \cap \Omega(G_m) \), the intersection is equal to \( \Omega(J) \cap S \). Furthermore since \( S \) is a \((J, G_m)\)-block, \( \Omega(J) \cap S \) projects to \( (\Omega(J) \cap S)/J \) in \((R_m \cap \Omega(G_m))/G_m \). Therefore \((R_1 \cap \Omega(G_1))/G_1\) and \((R_2 \cap \Omega(G_2))/G_2\) are pasted along \((S \cap \Omega(J))/J \). \(\square\)

In the following, we assume further that each \( B_m \) is precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_m \).

**Proof of (9).** Let \( x \) be a parabolic fixed point of \( J \). Such a point \( x \) is contained in \( S \) by Lemma 4.4(2). Since each \( B_m \) is precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_m \) by our assumption, we have \( \text{Stab}_J(x) = \text{Stab}_{G_m}(x) \), which is also equal to \( \text{Stab}_C(x) \) by Lemma 4.4. Let \( H \) denote \( \text{Stab}_J(x) \).

**The “if” part.** Suppose that \( B_m \) is a strong \((J, G_m)\)-block for each \( m = 1, 2 \). There is nothing to prove if the rank of \( H \) is \( n \), for the rank of \( \text{Stab}_C(x) \) is also \( n \) then. Now assume that the rank of \( H \) is \( k < n \). By conjugation, we may assume that \( x = \infty \). By Theorem 2.10 we can assume that each \( g \in H \) is expressed as \( g(x) = Ax + a \) for \( a \in \mathbb{R}^k \) and an orthogonal matrix \( A \) preserving the subspaces \( \mathbb{R}^k \) and \( \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \).

Since both \( B_1 \) and \( B_2 \) are assumed to be strong and \( \text{Stab}_{G_1}(\infty) = \text{Stab}_{G_2}(\infty) \), there is a common peak domain \( U \) at \( \infty \) for \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \). Since \( U \cap (\Lambda(G_1) \cup \Lambda(G_2)) = \emptyset \), by choosing \( U \) small enough, we may assume that \( U \setminus \{ \infty \} \subset \Omega(G_1) \cap \Omega(G_2) \), where \( \bar{\cdot} \) means the closure on \( \mathbb{R}^n \). We can assume that \( U \) has a form \( U = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sum_{i=k+1}^n a_i^2 > t^2 \} \), where \( t \) is a sufficiently large positive number.

**Claim 10.** We can choose \( U \) small enough to satisfy \( U \subset C_1 \).

**Proof of Claim.** We divide our discussions into two cases.

**Case 1** The case when \( k = n - 1 \).
In this case, $U$ is the union of two components $U_1$ and $U_2$, and we may assume that $U_m \subset B_m^0$ by our assumption that $B_m$ is a strong block. We have only to prove that we can choose $U_1$ small enough in such a way that every $G_2$-translate of $B_2$ is disjoint from $U_1$. We may assume that $U_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_n > t\}$. Suppose, seeking a contradiction, that such a $U_1$ does not exist. Then, there is a sequence $\{g_k(B_2)\}$ of distinct $G_2$-translates of $B_2$ intersecting $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_n > s\}$ for any large $s$. This means that the projections of $g_k(B_2)$ to the $n$-th coordinate $\mathbb{R}$ accumulate at $\infty$. We may assume that $g_k \in G_2 - J$ since $J$ fixes $B_2$.

Now Lemma 4.1(7) implies that diam$(g_k(B_2)) \to 0$ with respect to the ordinary spherical metric. It follows that $g_k(y) \to \infty$ for all $y \in B_2$ since $\{g_k(B_2)\}$ accumulates at $\infty$. By Lemma 2.3, by taking a subsequence of $\{g_k\}$, we may assume that $g_k(y) \to \infty$ for all $y$ with at most one exception, which must be a limit point.

Since $\tilde{U}_2 \setminus \{\infty\}$ is contained in $\Omega(G_2)$, for all $y \in \tilde{U}_2 \setminus \{\infty\}$, we have $g_k(y) \to \infty$. Since $g_k(U_2) \cap U = \emptyset$, it follows that the projections of $g_k(U_2)$ to the $n$-th coordinate are bounded. Hence the projections of $g_k(\tilde{U}_2 \setminus \infty)$ to the first $n - 1$ coordinates $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ accumulate at $\infty$. By Theorem 2.10, for each $g_k$, we can choose an element $j_k \in H$ such that $\{j_k g_k(y_0)\}$ lies in a bounded set for a fixed $y_0 \in U_2$. For each $k$, we have $\infty \notin g_k(B_2)$ since $B_2$ was assumed to be precisely invariant under $J$ in $G_2$ and $\infty$ lies on $S$. Therefore, we have $\infty \notin j_k g_k(B_2)$. Since $|(j_k g_k(y))_n| = |(g_k(y))_n|$ and the projections of the $g_k(B_2)$ to the $n$-th coordinate $\mathbb{R}$ accumulate at $\infty$, we see that $\{j_k g_k(B_2)\}$ also accumulates at $\infty$. By Lemma 4.1(7), this implies that $j_k g_k(y) \to \infty$ for all $y \in B_2$. This is a contradiction since $\{j_k g_k(y_0)\}$ stays in a compact set. This proves our claim for the case when $k = n - 1$.

**Case 2** The case when $k < n - 1$.

Since $U$ is connected and is disjoint from $S$, we see that $U$ lies in either $B_1^0$ or $B_2^0$. We may assume that $U \subset B_1^0$. Then, by the same argument as in the proof of Case 1, we see that the projections of $G_2$-translates of $B_2$ in the last $n - k$ coordinates cannot accumulate at $\infty$. Therefore, we have $U \subset C_1 \cap B_1^0$.

The claim has thus been proved. \hfill \Box

Now we return to the proof of the “if” part of (9). Take a small common peak domain $U$ for both $G_1$ and $G_2$ as in Claim [10]. By assumption, $U$ is precisely invariant under $H$ in both $G_1$ and $G_2$. We need to show it is precisely invariant under Stab$_G(x)$ in $G$.

For any $g \in G - (G_1 \cup G_2)$, we have $g(U) = g(U_1) \cup g(U_2) \subset g(C_1 \cap B_1^0) \cup g(C_1 \cap B_2^0)$, where $U_1, U_2$ are the components of $U$ if $k = n - 1$, and we regard one of them as the emptyset when $k < n - 1$. Suppose that $g$ is expressed as a $(1, 1)$-form $g_0 \circ \cdots \circ g_1$. As was shown in Lemma 2.6, $g_0 \circ \cdots \circ g_1(C_1 \cap B_1^0) \subset B_2^0$. Furthermore, we have $g_0 \circ \cdots \circ g_1(C_1 \cap B_1^0) \subset g_0 \circ \cdots \circ g_1(B_1^0) \subset T_0 \subset T^0$. On the other hand, $g_0 \circ \cdots \circ g_1(C_1 \cap B_2^0) \subset g_0 \circ \cdots \circ g_2(C_1 \cap B_2^0)$ by Lemma 4.8. Then applying the same argument for $C_1 \cap B_1^0$, we see that $g_0 \circ \cdots \circ g_2(C_1 \cap
Thus we have shown that \( g(C_1 \cap B_1^k) \cup g(C_1 \cap B_2^k) \subset B_2^1 \cap T_1^1 \) for \( g \) expressed as a \((1,1)\)-form. A similar argument works also for \((1,2)\)-form.

Also, we can see by the same argument that if \( g \) is expressed as a 2-form, then \( g(U) = g(U_1) \cup g(U_2) \subset g(C_1 \cap B_1^1) \cup g(C_1 \cap B_2^1) \subset B_2^1 \cap T_1^1 \).

Since \( U \), which is disjoint from \( S \) from the beginning, is taken to be lie inside \( C_1 \), it follows that \( U \) is precisely invariant under \( H \) in \( G \) in the case when \( k \leq n - 1 \).

This completes the proof of the “if” part.

The “only if” part. Let \( x \) be a parabolic fixed point of \( J \) such that \( \text{Stab}_J(x) \) has rank less than \( n \). This point \( x \) must lie on \( S \) since \( \Lambda(J) \subset S \).

Since we are assuming that \( S \) is a strong \((J,G)\)-block, there is a peak domain \( U \) for \( G \), which is also a peak domain for both \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \). Since we already know that \( B_m \) is a \((J,G_m)\)-block, this shows that \( B_m \) is a strong \((J,G_m)\)-block.

**Proof of (10).** Since we are assuming both \( B_1 \) and \( B_2 \) are strong blocks, by (9), \( S \) is a strong \((J,G)\)-block. Let \( x \) be a limit point of \( G \) which is not a translate of a limit point of either \( G_1 \) or \( G_2 \). By Lemma 4.9 we see that \( x \) is contained in \( T \). Furthermore, by Lemma 4.10 there is a sequence \( \{h_k\} \) of distinct elements of \( G \) such that \( x \in \cdots \subset h_k(B) \subset \cdots \subset h_1(B) \) for \( B \) which is either \( B_1 \) or \( B_2 \). We can assume that \( B = B_1 \) and \( h_1 = \text{id} \) by interchanging the indices and replacing \( g(B_2) \) with \( B_1 \) for \( g \in G_2 \) if necessary. Then \( S \) separates \( h_k^{-1}(S) \) from \( h_k^{-1}(x) \).

Since \( J \) is geometrically finite, by Proposition 2.16 there are a Dirichlet domain \( P \) and standard parabolic regions \( B_{p_1}, \ldots, B_{p_k} \) such that \( \hat{P} \setminus \bigcup_j (\text{Int}B_{p_j} \cup \{p_j\}) \) is compact. Since \( P \) is a Dirichlet domain, the interior of \( D = P \cap \mathbb{R}^n \) is a fundamental domain for \( J \). Since \( h_k^{-1}(x) \in \Omega(J) \) for each \( k \), there is an element \( j_k \in J \) such that \( j_k \circ h_k^{-1}(x) \in D \). We denote \( j_k \circ h_k^{-1} \) by \( l_k \).

We claim that \( \{l_k(x)\} \) stays away from \( S \). Suppose, on the contrary, that \( l_k(x) \to w \in S \). Then, by Lemma 4.7, \( w \) is a parabolic fixed point of \( J \), where the rank of \( \text{Stab}_J(w) \) is less than \( k \) since \( D \) intersects \( \Lambda(J) \) only at the \( p_j \).

This means that all the \( l_k(x) \) lie in some \( B_{p_j} \) if we take a subsequence, where \( p_j = w \). By the proof of (9), we can assume that the interior of \( B_{p_j} \cap \mathbb{R}^n \), which is denoted by \( U_{p_j} \), is also a peak domain for \( G \). Hence we may assume that \( \hat{U}_{p_j} \setminus \{p_j\} \) is contained in \( \Omega(G) \). On the other hand, since \( x \) lies in \( \Lambda(G) \), we have \( l_k(x) \in \Lambda(G) \), which is a contradiction.

Therefore, there is \( \delta > 0 \) such that \( d(l_k(x), z) > \delta \) for all \( z \in S \), where \( d \) denotes the ordinary spherical metric on \( \mathbb{R}^n \). Since \( S \) separates \( h_k^{-1}(x) \) from \( h_k^{-1}(S) \), we see that for all \( z \) on \( S \) we have \( \delta < d(l_k(x), z) \leq d(l_k(x), l_k(z)) \). On the other hand, since \( h_k(S) \) nest around \( x \), we see that for any point \( y \) on \( S \), the points \( l_k^{-1}(y) \) converge to \( x \). We can now apply Proposition 2.12 to conclude that \( x \) is a conical limit point. \( \square \)
Proof of (11). We first assume that $G_1$ and $G_2$ are geometrically finite. Then every parabolic fixed point of $G_m$ is a parabolic vertex by Proposition 2.13. Therefore $B_1$ and $B_2$ are both strong blocks. By (9), this implies that $S$ is a strong $(J,G)$-block.

Let $x$ be a point on $\Lambda(G)$. What we have to show is that $x$ is either a parabolic vertex or a conical limit point, for this proves that $G$ is geometrically finite by Proposition 2.13. Suppose first that $x$ is a parabolic fixed point, where the rank $k$ of $H = \text{Stab}_G(x)$ is less than $n$. We shall show that $x$ is a parabolic vertex then. Since $x$ is a parabolic fixed point, it cannot be a conical limit point. Hence by (10), $x$ is a translate of a limit point of either $G_1$ or $G_2$.

By interchanging the indices and translating $x$ by elements of $G$, we may assume that $x$ lies in $\Lambda(G_1)$. Since $G_1$ is assumed to be geometrically finite, $x$ is a parabolic vertex or a conical limit point for $G_1$ by Proposition 2.13. If $x$ is a conical limit point for $G_1$, then so is it for $G$, which contradicts the assumption that $x$ is a parabolic fixed point. Therefore, $x$ is a parabolic vertex for $G_1$. Suppose first that $x$ lies on $G_1(S)$. Then there is an element $\gamma \in G_1$ such that $\gamma^{-1}(x)$ lies on $S$. Since $x$ is not a conical limit point for $G_1$, neither is $\gamma^{-1}(x)$. This also implies that $\gamma^{-1}(x)$ is not a conical limit point for $J$ either. Since $J$ is geometrically finite, again by Proposition 2.13 we see that $\gamma^{-1}(x)$ is a parabolic vertex for $J$. Since $S$ is a strong $(J,G)$-block, it follows that $\gamma^{-1}(x)$ is a parabolic vertex also for $G$, hence so is $x$. Thus we are done for this case.

Suppose next that $x$ does not lie on any $G_1$-translate of $S$. We shall show that $x$ is a parabolic vertex for $G$ even in this case. Since $G_1(B_1^0) \subset \Omega(G_1)$ by Lemma 4.1 (3) and $x$ is a parabolic vertex of $G_1$, we have $x \in B_1^0 \cap C_1$. Since $B_1^0 \cap C_1$ is precisely invariant under $G_1$ in $G$ by Lemma 4.8, $H = \text{Stab}_G(x)$ must be contained in $G_1$. This implies that $H = \text{Stab}_G(x)$. Since $x$ is a parabolic vertex for $G_1$, there is a peak domain $U$ at $x$ for $G_1$. Since $U \cap \Lambda(G_1) = \emptyset$ and $x \in B_1^0 \cap C_1$, by choosing $U$ to be sufficiently small, we can assume that $\bar{U} \setminus \{x\} \subset \Omega(G_1)$ and $\bar{U} \subset B_2^0$. By conjugating $G$ by an element of $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we may assume that $x = \infty$ and $U$ is in the form $U = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sum_{i=k+1}^n x_i^2 > t\}$, for some $t > 0$. By Theorem 2.10 for any $g \in \text{Stab}_G(\infty)$, we have an expression $g(x) = Ax + a$, for $a \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and an orthogonal matrix $A$ preserving the subspaces $\mathbb{R}^k$ and $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$. Now we shall show the following.

Claim 11. The projections of $G_1$-translates of $B_1$ to the last $n - k$ coordinates $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ are bounded away from $\infty$.

Proof. Since $U$ is contained in $B_2^0$, the last $n - k$ coordinates of its complement $\bar{B}_1$ are bounded away from $\infty$. Moreover since $\sum_{i=k+1}^n |\gamma_j(x)|^2 = \sum_{i=k+1}^n |x_i|^2$ for any $g \in H$, by taking $t$ sufficiently large, we know that $g(B_1) \cap U = \emptyset$. This means that the projections of $H$-translates of $B_1$ to the last $n - k$ coordinates of $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ are bounded away from $\infty$. 

Now we consider general translates by elements of $G_1$. Suppose, seeking a contradiction, that there is a sequence $\{g_k(B_1)\}$ of distinct $G_1$-translates of $B_1$ whose projections to $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ go to $\infty$. Since $J$ stabilises $B_1$, we see that $g_k \in G_1 - (H \cup J)$.

On the other hand, since $U$ is a peak domain for $G_1$, it is precisely invariant under $H$ in $G_1$. Take a point $y_0$ in $U$. Since $g_k(y_0)$ is disjoint from $U$, the last $n-k$ coordinates of $g_k(y_0)$ are bounded as $k \to \infty$. Since $H$ acts on the first $k$-coordinates cocompactly, we can choose $j_k \in H$ such that $j_k g_k(y_0)$ stays in a bounded set.

Since $j_k$ lies in $H$, we have $\sum_{i=k+1}^{n} (j_k(x))^2 = \sum_{i=k+1}^{n} (x)^2$. Therefore the projections of $j_k g_k(B_1)$ to $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ also go to $\infty$. Now Lemma 4.1-(7) implies that $j_k g_k(y) \to \infty$ for all $y \in B_1$. By Lemma 2.9, we see that, by choosing a subsequence if necessary, we may assume that $j_k g_k(y) \to \infty$ for all $y$ except for at most one point which is contained in the limit set of $G_1$. Since $y_0$ is contained in $U \subset \Omega(G_1)$, we have in particular that $j_k g_k(y_0) \to \infty$. This is a contradiction. \hfill \Box

Our claim shows that $U$ can be taken to be disjoint from $T_1$. Therefore, we have $U \subset C_1 \cap B_2$. Since $C_1 \cap B_2$ is precisely invariant under $G_1$ in $G$, for any $g \in G - G_1$, $g(U) \cap U = \emptyset$. Therefore, $U$ is a peak domain at $x$ of $G$, which means that $x$ is a parabolic vertex for $G$. Thus we have proved that all parabolic fixed points of $G$ are parabolic vertices.

Next assume that $x$ is a limit point of $G$ which is not a parabolic fixed point. Suppose that $x$ is a translate of a limit point $y$ of $G_m$. Since $y$ is not a parabolic fixed point and $G_m$ is geometrically finite, by Proposition 2.13, $y$ is a conical limit point of $G_m$, hence also for $G$. If $x$ is not a translate of a limit point of either $G_1$ or $G_2$, then by (10), it is a conical limit point for $G$. Thus we have shown that any non-parabolic limit point of $G$ is a conical limit point, and completed the proof of the “if” part.

We shall now turn to show the “only if” part. Assume that $G$ is geometrically finite. Then $S$ is a strong $(J,G)$-block. This implies that $B_m$ is a strong $(J,G_m)$-block for $m = 1, 2$ by (9).

Let $x$ be a parabolic fixed point of $G_1$. We assume that the rank of $\text{Stab}_{G_1}(x)$ is $k < n$, and shall prove that there is a peak domain at $x$ for $G_1$. Since $B_2^0$ is contained in $\Omega(G_1)$ by Lemma 4.1-(3), $x$ cannot lie in $G_1(B_2^0)$. Therefore, $x$ lies in either $G_1(S)$ or $B_2^0 \cap C_1$. If $x \in G_1(S)$, then, since $B_1$ is a strong $(J,G_1)$-block and $J$ is geometrically finite, there is a peak domain at $x$ for $G_1$, and we are done. If $x \in B_2^0 \cap C_1$, then $\text{Stab}_{G}(x) = \text{Stab}_{G_1}(x)$ since $B_2^0 \cap C_1$ is precisely invariant under $G_1$ in $G$ by Lemma 4.8. Therefore $\text{Stab}_{G}(x)$ has rank $k < n$ in particular. Since $G$ is geometrically finite, there is a peak domain $U$ at $x$ for $G$, which is also a peak domain for $G_1$.

Now let $x$ be a limit point of $G_1$ which is not a parabolic fixed point of $G_1$. We shall show that $x$ is a conical limit point of $G_1$. Again we have only to consider the cases when $x \in G_1(S)$ and when $x \in B_2^0 \cap C_1$. If $x \in G_1(S)$, then there are a point $y$ lying on $S$ and $g \in G_1$ such that $x = g(y)$. Since $y$...
lies on $\Lambda(J)$ by Lemma 4.1 (2), and $J$ is geometrically finite, it is a conical limit point for $J$ by Proposition 2.13. This implies that $x$ is a conical limit point for $G_1$, and we are done in this case.

Suppose now that $x \in B_2^2 \cap C_1$. Since $B_2^2 \cap C_1$ is precisely invariant under $G_1$, we have $\text{Stab}_G(x) = \text{Stab}_{G_1}(x)$. Therefore $x$ is not a parabolic fixed point of $G$ either. Since $G$ was assumed to be geometrically finite, $x$ is a conical limit point for $G$ by Proposition 2.13. It follows from Proposition 2.12 that there is a sequence $\{h_k\}$ of distinct elements of $G$ such that $d(h_k(z), h_k(x))$ is bounded away from zero for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\}$ and $h_k^{-1}(z_0) \to x$ for some $z_0 \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$.

Claim 12. All the $h_k(S)$ are distinct passing to a subsequence if necessary.

Proof. Recall that we assumed that $S$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in both $G_1$ and $G_2$. Therefore, $S$ is precisely invariant under $J$ in $G$ by Lemma 4.4.

Now, suppose, seeking a contradiction, that all the $h_k(S)$ are the same after passing to a subsequence. Then $h_k^{-1} \circ h_k(S) = S$ for every $k$. Therefore for each $k$, there is an element $j_k \in J$ such that $h_k = h_1 \circ j_k$, with $j_1 = \text{id}$. Since $h_k$ are distinct elements of $G$, all $j_k$ are distinct and by Lemma 2.3 and the fact that $d(h_k(z), h_k(x))$ is bounded away from zero for all $x \neq z$, we may assume that there are two distinct points $x', z'$ such that $h(k)(z) = h_1 \circ j_k(z) \to z'$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\}$ and $h_k(x) = h_1 \circ j_k(x) \to x'$. This implies that $j_k(z) \to h_1^{-1}(z')$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\}$ and $j_k(x) \to h_1^{-1}(x')$. Since $z' \neq x'$ and $j_k^{-1}(z_0') \to x$, where $z_0' = h_1^{-1}(z_0) \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$, it follows that $x$ is a conical limit point of $J$ by Proposition 2.12. Since we assumed that $x \in C_1 \cap B_2^2$, we have $x \notin \Lambda(J)$. This is a contradiction and we have completed the proof of Claim 12.

Claim 13. By taking a subsequence we can assume $h_k > 0$ for all $k$.

Proof. Suppose, on the contrary, that $h_k < 0$ for all $k$ after passing to a subsequence. Since all $h_k(S)$ are distinct, the $h_k$ belong to distinct cosets of $J$ in $G$. By (5), we have $\text{diam}(h_k(S)) \to 0$. Since we assumed $h_k < 0$, the set $h_k(B_2)$ cannot contain $S$ inside, hence is contained in the smaller part of $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus h_k(S)$. Therefore, we have $\text{diam}(h_k(B_2)) \to 0$. Recall that we are considering the case when $x \in B_2^2 \cap C_1$. Therefore, we have $d(h_k(z), h_k(x)) \to 0$ for all $z \in B_2$. This contradicts the fact that $d(h_k(z), h_k(x))$ is bounded away from zero for $z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\}$. Thus we have completed the proof of Claim 13.

Now we return to the proof of (11). Note that we have only to consider the case when $h_k$ is not contained in $G_1$, for otherwise $x$ is a conical limit point of $G_1$ by Proposition 2.12. Therefore, we can assume that $|h_k| > 1$. Express $h_k$ in a normal form $h_k = \gamma_{k_1} \circ \cdots \circ \gamma_{k_1}$. Set $g_k = h_k \circ \gamma_{k_1}^{-1}$. Then $g_k$ is negative.

First consider the case when $g_k = g \circ j_k$ for some $g \in G$ with some $j_k \in J$. Then $d(h_k(z), h_k(x)) = d(g \circ j_k \circ \gamma_{k_1}(z), g \circ j_k \circ \gamma_{k_1}(x))$. By Lemma 2.3 we may
assume that there are two distinct points $x', z'$ such that $g \circ j_k \circ \gamma_{k_1}(z) \to z'$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\}$ and $g \circ j_k \circ \gamma_{k_1}(x) \to x'$. It follows that $j_k \circ \gamma_{k_1}(z) \to g^{-1}(z')$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\}$, $j_k \circ \gamma_{k_1}(x) \to g^{-1}(x')$ and $(j_k \circ \gamma_{k_1})^{-1}(g^{-1}(z_0)) \to x$, where $g^{-1}(z_0) \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$. It follows from Proposition 2.12 that $x$ is a conical limit point of $G_1$.

Suppose next that $g_k$ is not expressed as $g \circ j_k$. Then by Claim 12, $g_k(S)$ are all distinct. Applying the proof of Claim 13 to $g_k$, we see that diam$(g_k(B_2)) \to 0$. Now, $Q_1 = G_1(B_1^o)$ is invariant under $G_1$, hence so is its complement $R_1$. It follows that $h_k(R_1) = g_k(R_1)$. Since $R_1$ is contained in $B_2$, we have diam$(h_k(R_1)) =$ diam$(g_k(R_1)) \to 0$. By the same argument as in the proof of Claim 13 and the fact that $S \subset R_1$, this is a contradiction. Thus we have completed the proof of (11). \( \square \)

**Remark 4.1.** The condition that $(B_1^o, B_2^o)$ is a proper interactive pair in Theorem 4.2 is necessary, as the following example shows.

**Example 4.1.** Set

$$J = \langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rangle, \quad g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$G_1 = \langle J, g_1 \rangle, \quad G_2 = \langle J, g_2 \rangle.$$

We use the following symbols:

$$S = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x_2 = 0 \}, \quad B_1 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x_2 \leq 0 \} \quad \text{and} \quad B_2 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x_2 \geq 0 \}.$$

Then the following hold.

1. $J$ is geometrically finite.
2. $S = \Lambda(J) = \Lambda(G_1) = \Lambda(G_2)$.
3. $G_1 = J \cup g_1 J$ and $G_2 = J \cup g_2 J$.
4. Each $B_m$ is a $(J, G_m)$-block for $m = 1, 2$.
5. $(B_1^o, B_2^o)$ is an interactive pair, but $(B_1^s, B_2^s)$ is not proper.
6. $G \neq G_1 \ast_f G_2$.

The assertion (1) is obvious since $J$ is a finitely generated Fuchsian group. To prove (2), set $w = \frac{p}{r}$, where $p$ and $r$ are integers and $r \neq 0$, and $j = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - pr & p^2 \\ -r^2 & 1 + pr \end{pmatrix}$. Then $j \in J$ is a parabolic element having $w$ as its fixed point. Therefore, every rational number is a parabolic fixed point of $J$. Now (2) follows from Lemma 5.3.3 in [8]. The proofs of (3), (4) and (5) are trivial. We can verify (6) by checking that for a $(1, 2)$-form $g_1 g_2 g_1 g_2$, we have $\Phi(g_1 g_2 g_1 g_2) = id.$
5. Applications

Following [30] or [31], we denote by $PSL(2, \Gamma_n)$ the $n$-dimensional Clifford matrix group. Then $PSL(2, \Gamma_n)$ is isomorphic to $M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (cf. [3]).

Example 5.1. Let $n \geq 4$, and set

$$j = \begin{pmatrix} e_1e_2 & 0 \\ 0 & e_2e_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e_{n-1} \\ e_{n-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2e_{n-1} \\ \frac{1}{2}e_{n-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$  

We also set

$$J = \langle j \rangle, \quad G_1 = \langle j, g_1 \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad G_2 = \langle j, g_2 \rangle.$$  

Since $J$ is a finite group, it is geometrically finite. Set $S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| = \sqrt{2}\}$, $B_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \geq \sqrt{2}\}$ and $B_2 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \leq \sqrt{2}\}$. Obviously, $G_m = \{id, j, g_1, jg_1\}$ is geometrically finite for $m = 1, 2$. Set

$$x = x_0 + x_1e_1 + \cdots + x_{n-1}e_{n-1} + x_ne_n \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}.$$  

Then we have $Fix(j) = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \cup \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = x_2 = 0 \} \cup \{\infty\}$, $Fix(g_1) = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \cup \mathbb{R}^n : |x| = 1 \}$ and $x_{n-1} = 0$, $Fix(g_2) = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \cup \mathbb{R}^n : |x| = 2 \}$ and $x_{n-1} = 0$, and $Fix(jg_m) = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} \cup \mathbb{R}^n : |x| = m \}$ and $x_1 = x_2 = x_{n-1} = 0$, where $\tilde{h}$ denotes the Poincaré extension of $h \in M(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ and $Fix(\tilde{h}) = \{x \in \mathbb{B}^{n+1} : \tilde{h}(x) = x\}$. Therefore for each $m$ ($m = 1, 2$), $Fix(\tilde{jg_m}) = Fix(\tilde{j}) \cap Fix(\tilde{g_m})$.

We put $a = e_1 + e_n$. It is obvious that $a$ is not fixed by any nontrivial element in either $G_1$ or $G_2$. For any non-trivial element $h \in M(\mathbb{R}^n)$, if we set $H_h = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} : d_h(x, a) \leq d_h(x, ha)\}$, then $H_j = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} : x_1 \geq 0\}$, $H_{g_1} = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} : |x| \geq 1\}$, $H_{jg_1} = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} : |x + 2e_1| \geq \sqrt{5}\}$, $H_{g_2} = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} : |x| \leq 2\}$, and $H_{jg_2} = \{x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1} : |x - 4e_1| \leq 2\sqrt{5}\}$.

For each $m$ ($m = 1, 2$), set $P_m = H_j \cap H_{g_m} \cap H_{jg_m}$. Then $P_m$ is the closure of the Dirichlet fundamental polyhedron centered at $a$ for $G_m$ in $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ (c.f. [24]) and $P_m = H_j \cap H_{g_m}$. We consider $D_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \geq 0, \quad |x| \geq 1\} \setminus \{(x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = 0, \quad |x| \geq 1\} \setminus \{(x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = 0, \quad |x| \leq 1\}$ and $x_{n-1} \leq 0\}$, $D_2 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \geq 0, \quad |x| \leq 2\} \setminus \{(x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = 0, \quad |x| \leq 2\}$ and $x_{n-1} \leq 0\}$.

It is easy to see that for each $m$ ($m = 1, 2$), $B_m$ is a $(J, G_m)$-block and precisely invariant under $J$ in $G_m$, that $D_m$ is a fundamental set for $G_m$ with $J(D_m \cap B_m) = B_m \cap \Omega(J)$, that $(D_m \cap B_{3-m})^c \neq \emptyset$, and that $D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S$. Since $(B_1^e, B_2^e)$ is a proper interactive pair, $G_1 \ast G_2 \cong G_1 \ast_j G_2$. It is obvious that $G_1$ and $G_2$ are geometrically finite. It follows from Theorem 4.2 that $G$ is also geometrically finite.

In this example, the amalgamated free product $G_1 \ast_j G_2$ is elementary. The following two examples give non-elementary groups.
Example 5.2. Suppose that \( n \geq 3 \) and let \( j, J \) be the same as in Example 5.1. We set
\[
G_1 = \langle j, g_1 \rangle, \quad G_2 = \langle j, g_2 \rangle, \quad \text{and} \quad S = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| = 2 \}, \quad B_1 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \geq 2 \}, \quad B_2 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \leq 2 \}.
\]

We define two domains by \( D_1 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \geq 0, \ |x+\frac{1}{2}| \geq \frac{1}{2}, \ |x-\frac{1}{2}| > \frac{1}{2} \} \setminus \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = 0, x_2 \leq 0 \} \) and \( D_2 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \geq 0, \ -\frac{5}{2} < x_0 \leq \frac{5}{2} \} \setminus \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = 0, x_2 \leq 0 \}. \)

Then the discussion similar to the one in Example 5.1 shows that for each \( m (m = 1, 2) \),
\begin{enumerate}
\item \( B_m \) is a \((J, G_m)\)-block and precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_m \);
\item \( D_m \) is a fundamental set for \( G_m \) satisfying that \( J(D_m \cap B_m) = B_m \cap \Omega(J) \);
\item \( (B_m^1, B_m^2) \) is a proper interactive pair;
\item \( (D_m \cap B_{3-m})^0 \neq \emptyset \); and
\item \( D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S \).
\end{enumerate}

Theorem 4.2 implies that
\begin{enumerate}
\item \( G = \langle G_1, G_2 \rangle = G_1 \ast_J G_2 \);
\item \( G \) is geometrically finite since both \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \) are geometrically finite.
\end{enumerate}

Example 5.3. Suppose that \( n \geq 5 \) and let \( j, J \) be the same as in Example 5.1. We set
\[
G_1 = \langle j, g_1 \rangle, \quad G_2 = \langle j, g_2 \rangle. \quad \text{We define} \quad S, B_1, B_2 \text{by} \quad S = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| = 2 \}, \quad B_1 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \geq 2 \}, \quad \text{and} \quad B_2 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \leq 2 \}.
\]

We define two domains \( D_1, D_2 \) by \( D_1 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \geq 0, \ |x+\frac{e_3}{2}| \geq \frac{1}{2}, \ |x-\frac{e_3}{2}| > \frac{1}{2} \} \setminus \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = 0, x_2 \leq 0 \} \) and \( D_2 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \geq 0, \ -\frac{5}{2} < x_{n-1} \leq \frac{5}{2} \} \setminus \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = 0, x_2 \leq 0 \}. \)

Then we again have the following.
\begin{enumerate}
\item \( B_m \) is a \((J, G_m)\)-block and precisely invariant under \( J \) in \( G_m \);
\item \( D_m \) is a fundamental set for \( G_m \) satisfying that \( J(D_m \cap B_m) = B_m \cap \Omega(J) \);
\item \( (B_m^1, B_m^2) \) is a proper interactive pair;
\item \( (D_m \cap B_{3-m})^0 \neq \emptyset \); and
\item \( D_1 \cap S = D_2 \cap S \).
\end{enumerate}

Therefore, Theorem 4.2 implies that
\begin{enumerate}
\item \( G = \langle G_1, G_2 \rangle = G_1 \ast_J G_2 \); and
\end{enumerate}
(2) $G$ is geometrically finite since both $G_1$ and $G_2$ are geometrically finite.

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