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Andrew M Sanders* (sanderandy@gmail.com), University of Maryland, College Park, Mathematics Dept., College Park, MD 20742. *Domains of discontinuity of almost-Fuchsian groups.*

An almost-Fuchsian group $\Gamma < \text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^3)$ is a quasi-Fuchsian group which preserves an embedded minimal disk in hyperbolic 3-space such that the quotient of this disk is a closed surface all of whose principal curvatures lie in the interval $(-1, 1)$. The hyperbolic gauss map from the minimal disk defines a diffeomorphism onto each component of the domain of discontinuity of Γ . We will explain how a study of the gauss map imposes constraints on the structure of the domain of discontinuity. In particular, we will explain how this structure can be used to show that no geometric limit of almost-Fuchsian groups can be doubly degenerate. (Received September 11, 2012)