Pacific Journal of Mathematics

E^3 MODULO A 3-CELL

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Vol. 13, No. 1 March 1963

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If A is a compact continuum in E^n, then E^n/A is the decomposition of E^n whose only nondegenerate element is A. If C is an n-cell in E^n, let $N(C)$ be the set of points on BdC at which BdC is not locally polyhedral.

In [1], Andrews and Curtis proved that if A is an arc in E^n, then $E^n/A \times E^1$ is homeomorphic to E^{n+1}. In Theorem 2 of this paper it is proved that if C is a 3-cell in E^3 such that there exists an arc A on BdC containing $N(C)$, then E^3/A is homeomorphic to E^3/C. It follows that $E^3/C \times E^1$ is homeomorphic to E^4.

J denotes the set of all positive integers and d is the usual metric for E^3. An *n-manifold* is a separable metric space K such that each point of K has a neighborhood which is homeomorphic to E^n. An *n-manifold-with-boundary* is a separable metric space M such that each point of M lies in an open set V such that the closure of V is an n-cell (the homeomorphic image of $\{(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n): x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2 \leqq 1\}$). If M is an n-manifold-with-boundary, then the *boundary of* M is the set of points of M which do not have neighborhoods homeomorphic to E^n. The boundary of M is denoted by BdM.

The term "interior" is used in two different ways. The *interior* of an n-manifold-with-boundary M is $M - BdM$. If T is a compact connected 2-manifold in E^3 such that $E^3 - T$ is the union of two disjoint open sets each having T as its boundary, then the *interior* of T is the bounded component of $E^3 - T$. In either case the interior of a set L is denoted by (int L). The *exterior of* T is the unbounded component of $E^3 - T$ and is denoted by (ext T). If X is a set in E^3 and e is a positive number, let $Cl(X)$ be the closure of X and $V(X, e)$ be $\{y: y \in E^3$ and $d(X, y) < e\}$.

THEOREM 1. *Let C and A be compact sets in E^3 such that there exist sequences U and V of open sets in E^3 and a sequence h of homeomorphisms of E^3 onto itself such that*

(1) $Cl(U_{i+1}) \subset U_i$, $\cap \{U_j: j \in J\} = C$, U_1 *is bounded,*

(2) $Cl(V_{i+1}) \subset V_i$, $\cap \{V_j: j \in J\} = A$, V_1 *is bounded, and*

(3) $h_i[U_i - Cl(U_{i+1})] = V_i - Cl(V_{i+1})$, *and* $h_i = h_{i-1}$ *on* $E^3 - U_i$.

Then E^3/C is homeomorphic to E^3/A.

Received September 26, 1962, and in revised form December 5, 1962. This paper consits of part of the author's doctoral dissertation at the State University of Iowa, prepared under the supervision of Professor S. Armentrout. The author wishes to express his appreciation to Professor Armentrout for his assistance and encouragement.

Proof. If $x \in (E^3 - C)$, let $g(\{x\})$ be $\{\lim h_i(x)\}$, and let $g(C)$ be A. Then g is a homeomorphism of E^3/C onto E^3/A.

THEOREM 2. *Let C be a 3-cell in E^3 such that there exists an arc A on BdC such that $N(C) \subset A$. Then E^3/C is homeomorphic to E^3/A.*

Proof. Let C and A satisfy the hypothesis of Theorem 2.

LEMMA 1. *If e is a positive number, there exist a 3-manifold-with-boundary S and a homeomorphism h_e of E^3 onto itself such that* (1) $C \subset (\text{int } S)$, (2) *if* $x \in [E^3 - V(C, e)] \cup A, h_e(x) = x$, *and* (3) $h_e[Cl(\text{int } S)] \subset V(A, e)$.

Proof of Lemma 1. Let P be the solid parallelepiped with the set of vertices

$$\{((-1)^n, (-1)^m, 0): m, n \in J\} \cup \{((-1)^n, (-1)^m, -1): m, n \in J\} .$$

There exists a homeomorphism g of C onto P such that $g[A] = \{(x, 0, 0): -1 \leqq x \leqq 1\}$. There exists a number b, $0 < b < 1$, such that $\{(x, y, z): y^2 + z^2 \leqq b^2 \text{ and } (x, y, z) \in P\} \subset g[V(A, e)]$. Let E be $\{(x, y, z): y^2 + z^2 = b^2 \text{ and } (x, y, z) \in P\}$.

Let D be $g^{-1}[E]$, D_1 be the component of $BdC - D$ containing A, and D_2 be $BdC - Cl(D_1)$. Notice that each of $D \cup D_1$ and $D \cup D_2$ is a 2-sphere which bounds a 3-cell, and $Cl(\text{int } (D \cup D_1)) \subset V(A, e)$.

Now BdD is a simple closed curve which lies on a tame disk, and therefore BdD is a tame simple closed curve. It follows from Theorem 7 of [2] that, without loss of generality, it can be assumed that D is locally polyhedral at each point of (int D). But then D is tame ([3]). Thus it can be assumed that D is a tame disk.

Since D and $Cl(D_2)$ are tame disks which intersect in the boundary of each, $D \cup D_2$ is a tame 2-sphere ([3]). Thus there exists a homeomorphism f of E^3 onto itself such that $f[Cl(\text{int } (D \cup D_2))] = P, f[D] = \{(x, y, 0): (x, y, 0) \in P\}$, and $f[Cl(\text{int } (D \cup D_1)) - D] \subset \{(x, y, z): z > 0\}$. Let U be $f[V(C, e)]$ and W be $f[V(A, e)]$. Since

$$Cl(\text{int } (D \cup D_1)) \subset V(A, e), f[Cl(\text{int } (D \cup D_1))] \subset W .$$

There exists a positive number c such that $Cl(V(P, c)) \subset U$. Let T_0 be $Cl(V(P, c))$. If $x \in (f[C] - T_0)$, let T_x be a polyhedral 3-cell such that $x \in (\text{int } T_x)$ and $T_x \subset (W \cap \{(x, y, z): z > 0\})$. Then there exists a finite subcollection $\{T_1, T_2, \cdots, T_n\}$ of $\{T_x: x \in (f[C] - T_0)\}$

such that $\{T_0, T_1, T_2, \cdots, T_n\}$ covers $f[C]$. Assuming that BdT_0, $BdT_1, \cdots,$ and BdT_n are in relative general position, let H be $\cup \{T_i : i = 0, 1, 2, \cdots, n\}$. H is a polyhedral 3-manifold-with-boundary and $f[C] \subset (\text{int } H) \subset H \subset U$. Furthermore, since $(H - \{(x, y, z): z < 0\}) \subset W$ and $H \cap \{(x, y, z): z \leqq 0\}$ is $Cl(V(P, c)) \cap \{(x, y, z): z \leqq 0\}$, there exists a homeomorphism k of E^3 onto itself such that if $x \in (E^3 - U) \cup \{(x, y, z): z \geqq 0\}$, $k(x) = x$, and $k[H] \subset W$.

Let h_e be $f^{-1}kf$ and S be $f^{-1}[H]$. Then h_e and S satisfy the conclusion of Lemma 1.

LEMMA 2. *There exist a sequence $S_1, S_2, \cdots$ of 3-manifolds-with-boundary and a sequence h of homeomorphisms of E^3 onto itself such that*

(1) $S_1 \subset V(C, 1)$,

(2) $S_{i+1} \subset (\text{int } S_i)$,

(3) $\cap \{(\text{int } S_j): j \in J\} = C$,

(4) $\cap \{(\text{int } h_j[S_j]): j \in J\} = A$, *and*

(5) *if* $x \in ((\text{int } S_k) - S_{k+1})$, $h_{k+1}(x) = h_k(x)$.

Proof of Lemma 2. Lemma 2 follows immediately by repeated application of Lemma 1.

For each positive integer i, let U_i be $(\text{int } S_i)$ and V_i be $h_i[(\text{int } S_i)]$. Then the sequences U, V, and h satisfy the hypothesis of Theorem 1. Thus E^3/C is homeomorphic to E^3/A.

COROLLARY 1. *If C satisfies the hypothesis of Theorem 2, then $E^3/C \times E^1$ is homeomorphic to E^4.*

COROLLARY 2. *Let C be a 3-cell in E^3 such that $N(C)$ is a O-dimensional set. Then $E^3/C \times E^1$ is homeomorphic to E^4.*

Proof. $N(C)$ is a compact O-dimensional set on BdC. Thus there exists an arc A on BdC such that $N(C) \subset A$. Then the result follows from Corollary 1.

THEOREM 3. *Let C be a 3-cell in E^3 such that there exists a disk D on BdC containing $N(C)$. Then E^3/C is homeomorphic to E^3/D.*

Proof. The proof of Theorem 3 is analogous to the proof of Theorem 2.

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Printed in Japan by International Academic Printing Co., Ltd., Tokyo Japan

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