Pacific Journal of Mathematics

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Vol. 14, No. 3 July 1964

ANOTHER CHARACTERIZATION OF THE n-SPHERE AND RELATED RESULTS

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In [5] we defined an irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membrane and an excluded middle membrane property EM, and used these to characterize the n-sphere. There the class $B(J)$ was of $(n-1)$-spheres contained in a compact metric space S. Since part of the proof does not depend upon the fact that elements of $B(J)$ are $(n-1)$-spheres, we consider the possibility of other entries in the class $B(J)$. Recent developments in this direction have been made by Bing in [2] and by Andrews and Curtis in [1]. In [3] and [4] Bing constructed a space B not homeomorphic with E^3, which has been called the dogbone space. By Theorem 6 of [2], the sum of two cones over the one point compactification $\bar{B}$ of B is homeomorphic with S^4. This sum of two cones over a common base X is called the suspension of X.

In [1] Andrews and Curtis showed that if α is a wild arc in S^n that the decomposition space S^n/α is not homeomorphic with S^n. They proved, however, that the suspension of S^n/α is always homeomorphic with S^{n+1} for any arc $\alpha \subset S^n$. The reader will easily see that a class $\bar{B}$ or of S^n/α as described will satisfy the conditions for a class $B(J)$ for which an n-sphere will have property EM.

The results below were obtained in considering such spaces, and Theorem 1 below is a weaker characterization of the n-sphere than is Theorem 2 of [5]. We find it difficult to determine the properties $J \in B(J)$ must have for S to have Property EM, as is shown by our Theorem 4 below.

I. Definition and basic properties. Let S always be a compact metric space and let $B(J)$ be a class of mutually homeomorphic subcontinua of S. We put conditions on this general class $B(J)$ in our theorems below.

We define a $B(J)$-cartesian membrane as we did in [5] and [6]. Let F be a compact subset of S containing $J \in B(J)$. Let M be a subcontinuum of F, $b \in M$ and C be homeomorphic to J. Denote by $(C \times M, b)$ the decomposition space [10: pp 273–274] of the upper semi-continuous decomposition of the cartesian product $C \times M$, where the only nondegenerate element is taken to be $C \times b$ (intuitively the decomposition space is a sort of generalized cone with vertex at the point $C \times b$). With this notation we give:

Received September 18, 1963. This work was done under National Science Foundation Grant G 19672.

DEFINITION 1. We say that F is a $B(J)$-*cartesian membrane* from b to J (or for brevity with base J) if and only if there is a homeomorphism h from $(C \times M, b)$ onto F for some M such that:

(i) for some $a \in M - b$, $J = h(C \times a)$,

(ii) for all $q \in M - b$, $h(C \times q) \in B(J)$, and

(iii) $h(C \times b) = b$.

If M is irreducible from a to b, then we prefix the above definition by *irreducible*. Whenever F is a $B(J)$-cartesian membrane and $F = h(C \times m, b)$, h is assumed to be a homeomorphism from $(C \times M, b)$ onto F with properties (i), (ii) and (iii). We say b is the *vertex* of F and J is the *base* of F.

The definition of $B(J)$-cartesian membrane is rather general; for example, a point or any continuum can be taken as a $B(J)$-cartesian membrane. We shall place restrictions on the space S to limit possibilities such as these when the need arises. The excluded middle membrane property of Theorem 2 in [5] is the following:

Property EM. We say that the space S has *Property EM* with respect to the class $B(J)$ if the following hold:

(1) The class $B(J)$ is not empty;

(2) For each $J \in B(J)$, $S = F_1 + F_2$ where F_1 and F_2 are irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membranes with base J, such that $F_1 \not\subset F_2$ and $F_2 \not\subset F_1$ and whenever S is such a union and F_3 is any other $B(J)$-cartesian membrane containing J, then F_3 contains F_1 or F_2 but not both; and

(3) If $J \in B(J)$ and $p \in S - J$, then there exists a $B(J)$-cartesian membrane from p to J.

Below F, F', F_1 and F_2 are always irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membranes.

We proved in [5] that when $B(J)$ is a class of $(n-1)$-spheres and $n > 1$ that:

(A) A necessary and sufficient condition that S be an n-sphere is that S have Property EM.

We observed in our proof of (A) that if S had Property EM with respect to a class of mutually homeomorphic continua, we were able to prove:

(B) That whenever $S = F_1 + F_2$ where F_1 and F_2 have base J, $F_1 \cdot F_2 = J$;

(C) If $F = h(C \times M, b)$ was an irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membrane, then M was always a simple continuous arc with b as endpoint; and

(D) If $S = F_1 + F_2$ where F_1 and F_2 have base J and F_3 is any other irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membrane with base J, then $F_1 = F_3$ or $F_2 = F_3$.

In the first paragraph of the proof of Theorem 2 of [5], (D) appeared easily as result (R_1); then by a long proof we showed that $F_1 \cap F_2 = J$, which is (B) above, and we note this long proof only depends upon J being a continuum, not on J being an $(n-1)$-sphere. Finally, the following argument show that (C) holds. Let $S = F_1 + F_2$, where F_1 and F_2 are irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membranes with base J. By (B) $F_1 \cdot F_2 = J$, and so every element of $B(J)$ separates S. Then if $F_1 = h(C \times M, b)$ where M is irreducible from a to b, and if $z \in M - a - b$, $h(C \times z) \in B(J)$ by (ii) of Definition 1 above. Hence $h(C \times z)$ separates S, and therefore separates F_1. This implies z separates M, and so M is a simple continuous arc, as desired in (C).

II. Characterization of the n-sphere, for $n > 1$. We give now several lemmas that will enable us to characterize the n-sphere.

NOTATION. For a subset K of S, we will use $cl(K)$ to denote the closure of K in S, and for an open subset U of S, we will use $Fr(U)$ to denote the set $cl(U) - U$.

LEMMA 1. *If S has Property EM, then S is homogeneous.*

Proof. Let $x, y \in S$, $x \neq y$, and let J be an element of $B(J)$ such that $J \subset S - x - y$. By (3) of Property EM there exists an irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membrane $F = h(C \times M, x)$ from x to J and by (D) and (2) of Property EM, $S = F + F'$, where F' has base J. Now by (B) each $J' \in B(J)$ separates S, hence by (ii) of Definition 1, some $J_0 = h(C \times q)$ separates x from y. Then by (2) of Property EM, $S = F_1 + F_2$ where F_1 and F_2 have base J_0. From (D) and (3) of Property EM there exists h_1 and h_2 such that $F_1 = h_1(C \times M_1, x)$ and $F_2 = h_2(C \times M_2, y)$. From (C) M_1 and M_2 are simple continuous arcs and x y are endpoints of M_1 and M_2 respectively. Hence from (B) there exists a homeomorphism from S onto S that carries x onto y; therefore S is homogeneous [10: p 378].

A topological space X is *invertible* [7] if for each nonempty open set U in X there is a homeomorphism h of X onto itself such that $h(X - U)$ lies in U.

LEMMA 2. *If S has Property EM then S is invertible.*

Proof. For any open set U in S and any point $x \in U$, some $J \in B(J)$ separates x from $Fr(U)$; then if $S = F_1 + F_2$ where F_1 and F_2 have base J, we can find a homeomorphism as in Lemma 1, that maps S onto S such that F_1 maps onto F_2 and F_2 maps onto F_1, hence $(S - U)$ into U.

THEOREM 1. *Let $n > 1$ and let each element of $B(J)$ contain a point at which it is locally euclidean of dimension $(n-1)$. Then S is an n-sphere if and only if S has Property EM.*

Proof of the sufficiency. Let $J \in B(J)$ and let x be an element of J at which J is locally euclidean of dimension $(n-1)$. Let U be an open $(n-1)$-cell neighborhood of x in J. Let $F = h(C \times M, b)$ have base J. By (C), M is an arc, and if V is an open subinterval of M containing a point y, $h(U \times V)$ is an open n-cell neighborhood of $h(x, y)$ in F. Since $h(U \times V)$ misses J, $h(U \times V)$ is open in $F - J$, and hence in S. By Lemma 1, S is homogeneous; hence every element of S has an open n-cell neighborhood, and so S is n-manifold. Doyle and Hocking in Theorem 1 of [7], have shown that if S is an invertible, n-manifold, then S is an n-sphere; hence by Lemma 2, S is an n-sphere.

The proof of the necessity is identical to that of Theorem 2 in [5].

Because 0-spheres are not connected the above proof does not hold for $n = 1$. We refer the reader to Theorem 1 of [5] for a characterization of the 1-sphere by an excluded middle membrane principle.

III. Related results.

LEMMA 3. *If S has Property EM then S is locally connected.*

Proof. We note that if F is an irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membrane with base J, then $F - J$ is an open connected set in S, and proceed as in the proof of Lemma 2.

LEMMA 4. *If S has Property EM and $J \in B(J)$ then J is locally connected.*

Proof. Let $S = F_1 + F$ where F_1 and F have base J and $F = h(C \times M, b)$, where M is an arc from a to b; and $h(C \times a) = J$ as in (1) of Definition 1. Since S is locally connected, the open set $F - J - b$ is locally connected. We define $f(h(c, m)) = h(c, a)$, where $h(c, m)$ is a point in $F - J - b$; then f is a projection onto J and can easily be proved to be continuous and open. Since $F - J - b$ is locally connected and local connectedness is preserved under open, continuous mappings, J is locally connected.

THEOREM 2. *If S has Property EM and $J \in B(J)$, then J contains a 1-sphere.*

Proof. Let $J \in B(J)$, and $F = h(C \times M, b)$ have vertex $b = h(C \times b)$ and base J. Since J is locally connected, C must contain an arc I;

and by (C), M is an arc. Then the set $E' = h(I \times M, b)$ is a closed 2-cell contained in F. Let E be any subset of E' that is homeomorphic to euclidean 2-space E^2.

Let b_i $(i = 1, 2, \cdots)$ be a sequence converging to b in M. Then the half open intervals $M_i = bb_i - b_i$ form a basis of open sets in M at b, and the sets $U_i(b) = h(C \times M_i, b)$ form a basis of open sets in F at b. These open sets have the property that $Fr(U_i(b))$ is homeomorphic to J.

Choose $x \in E$, then $x \notin J$. By the homogeneity of S there exists a basis of open sets $U_i(x)$ which have the property that their boundaries are homeomorphic to J. Now fix i such that $U = U_i(x) \cdot E$ has a compact closure in E. Let V be the component of U that contains x. Since E is locally connected, V is open in E. Also $Fr(V) \subset Fr(U_i(x))$; therefore without loss of generality we can think of $Fr(V)$ as being a subset of J. Let V' be a component of $E - cl(V)$. Then V' is an open connected subset of E and $Fr(V') \subset Fr(V)$. Since $Fr(V')$ is closed and $Fr(V)$ compact, $Fr(V')$ is compact. By Theorem 25 of [10: p 176], $Fr(V')$ is a continuum. Then by Theorem 28 of [10: p 178], $Fr(V')$ is not disconnected by the omission of any point.

Let $r, s \in Fr(V')$, and let Y be an arc from r to s in J. Let $q \in Y - r - s$; now q does not separate r from s in $Fr(V')$; hence q does not separate r from s in J; then there exists an arc Y' from r to s in J that does not contain q, and $Y + Y'$ must contain a 1-sphere.

REMARK. Since J is locally connected, J is arcwise connected and as such cannot be an indecomposable continuum; by Theorem 2, J cannot be hereditarily unicoherent. A simple proof using the Brouwer Invariance of Domain Theorem [9: p. 95] will show that J cannot be a closed n-cell.

LEMMA 5. *Let S be an n-sphere having Property EM with respect to some $B(J)$.* (1) *If G is an $(n-2)$-sphere in $J \in B(J)$, then $J - G$ is not connected*; (2) *if E is a closed $(n-2)$-cell in J, then $J - E$ is connected.*

Proof. (1) Suppose $J - G$ is connected. Let $S = F_1 + F_2$ where F_1 and F_2 have base J; by (B) and (C) we can find h_1 and h_2 such that $F_1 = h_1(J \times M_1, b_1)$, $F_2 = h_2(J \times M_2, b_2)$ and $h_1 \mid (J \times a) = h_2 \mid (J \times a)$ where M_1 and M_2 are arcs from a to b_1 and a to b_2 respectively. Then $K = h_1((J - G) \times (M_1 - b_1)) + h_2((J - G) \times (M_2 - b_2))$ is connected. But $S - K = h_1(G \times M_1, b_1) + h_2(G \times M_2, b_2)$ is an $(n-1)$-sphere is S and must disconnect S by the Jordan Separation Theorem [9: p. 101].

The proof of (2) is similar to that of (1).

THEOREM 3. *A necessary and sufficient condition that S be a 3-sphere is that S have Property EM if and only if $B(J)$ is a collection of 2-spheres.*

Proof. The sufficiency follows from Theorem 2 of [5].

By Theorem 2, every $J \in B(J)$ contains a 1-sphere, and by (1) of Lemma 5 every 1-sphere in J separates J. By (2) of Lemma 5 no proper subcontinuum of a 1-sphere in J separates J; and by Lemma 4, J is locally connected; therefore by Zippin's Characterization in [11: p. 88] J is a 2-sphere. The rest follows from Theorem 2 of [5].

We need Hypothesis:

(H 1) If F_c, F_b and F'' are irreducible $B(J_0)$-cartesian membranes with base J_0 then $F_c + F_b + F''$ is contained in some E^3;

(H 2) If $S_x = F_x + F''$ is a 2-sphere in E^3, x is vertex of $B(J_0)$-cartesian membrane F_x and $t'_\alpha = h_c(c_\alpha \times M'', x)$ $(c_\alpha \in C)$ is a projecting arc from x to J through a point $y \in \operatorname{int}(S_x, E^3)$, (the interior of S_x in E^3), then $t'_\alpha - x \subset \operatorname{int}(S_x, E^3)$; if $q \in \operatorname{int}(S_x, E^3) \cdot J = J'$, then $q \notin \operatorname{cl}(J - J')$.

THEOREM 4. *Let S have Property EM, let* (H 1) *and* (H 2) *hold and let there exist a region R in S such that $J \cdot R$ contains a 1-sphere J_0 and $R \cdot J$ is embedded in the euclidean E^2; let there exist $q \in J - R$. Then J contains a closed 2-cell with J_0 as boundary.*

Proof. By (2) of Property EM there exist irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membranes such that $S = h(C \times M, b) + h'(C \times M', b')$ where $h \mid (C \times a) = h' \mid (C \times a)$ and M, M' are arcs from a to b and a to b' respectively; since $J \supset J_0$, there exists $C_0 \subset C$ homeomorphic to J_0; let $h(C_0 \times M, b) = F_b$ and $h'(C_0 \times M', b') = F''$, where then F_b and F'' are irreducible $B(J_0)$-cartesian membranes from J_0 to b and b' respectively. Let $S_b = F_b + F''$; by Theorem 2 of [5], S_b is a 2-sphere.

By hypothesis there exists $q \in J - R$; thus $q \notin S_b$, and so by (H 2) the projecting arc from b to q does not contain a point of $\operatorname{int}(S_b, E^3)$; let c be an element of this projecting arc. By (3) of Property EM, there exists an irreducible $B(J_0)$-cartesian membrane $F_c = h_c(C_0 \times M_c, c)$ with base J_0, a subset of an irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membrane $h_c(C \times M_c, c)$ from c to J; by the choice of c, $h_c(C \times M_c, c) = h(C \times M, b)$ and thus $S_c = F_c + F''$ is a 2-sphere.

Since $c \notin \operatorname{int}(S_b, E^3)$, there exists a region R' about c such that $cl(R') \cdot S_b = \phi$; then by Lemma 3 of [6] there exists an irreducible $B(J)$-cartesian membrane $F_{0c} = h_c(C \times M'_c, c)$, for $M'_c \subset M_c$, such that $F_c \cdot R' \supset F_{0c}$.

Let $\{t_{\alpha c}\}$ be the class of all projecting subarcs from c to J which are contained in $(S_c - (F_{0c} - J_c')) + \operatorname{int}(S_c, E^3) - (F_{0c} - J_c')$, where J_c' is the base of F_{0c}; that is $t_{\alpha c}$ is an arc from J to F_{0c} in and on S_c.

Let $Z' = \bigcup t_{\alpha c}$ and let $Z = Z' \cdot J$. Suppose $Z' = Z_1' + Z_2'$ separate [11: p. 8]. Since each $t_{\alpha c}$ is connected, each is contained wholly in Z_1' or in Z_2'; this is also true of J_0 and so of $F_c - F_{0c}$; so let $Z_1' \supset F_c - F_{0c} \supset J_0$.

By Theorem 5.37 of [11: p. 66] S_c is arcwise accessible from the embedding E^3; hence there exists an arc cb' such that $cb' - c - b' \subset \operatorname{int}(S_c, E^3)$. But cb' contains a point of $\operatorname{int}(S_b, E^3)$ and a point c of $S - \operatorname{int}(S_b, E^3) - S_b$; hence cb' contains some $v \in S_b$, because by the Jordan-Brouwer Separation Theorem [11: Theorem 5.23, p. 63] S_b separates E^3 into two domains. Hence by (2) of Property EM there exists a projecting arc from c to J through v, and so some $t_{\alpha c} \supset v$ and $Z' \supset t_{\alpha c}$. Let $Z_i = Z_i' \cdot Z (i = 1, 2)$, where by agreement $Z_1 \supset J_0$. By hypothesis $J \cdot R$ is contained in some euclidean E^2, and so let E be the 2-cell bounded by J_0 in this E^2. Thus $J_0 + E \supset Z$, and because of v above $E \cdot Z \neq \phi$. If $j \in J \cdot E$, by (H 2) the projecting arc cj is such that $cj - c \subset \operatorname{int}(S_c, E^3)$. Thus $j \in Z$, and so $Z = J_0 + J \cdot E = Z_1 + Z_2$ separate. Hence $J = (Z_1 + (J - E)) + Z_2$ separate, which is a contradiction, since J is a continuum. Therefore Z and Z' are connected. By Lemma 4 J is locally connected, and so by (H2) Z is also.

Since Z is closed, Z contains all of its boundary points in the space J. By the Torhorst Theorem [10: p. 191, Theorem 42], the boundary of any complementary domain of Z in E must be a 1-sphere J_0'. Using J_0' in place of J_0, one obtains a 2-sphere S_c' with poles c and b' and with J_0' as a base in S_c'. Thus an arc bc' above exists such that $cb' - c - b' \subset \operatorname{int}(S_c', E^3)$ and there exists a point $v \in S_b \cdot cb'$; also there exists $t_{\alpha c}$ as above, now contained in the $\operatorname{int}(S_c', E^3)$; hence an endpoint of $t_{\alpha c}$ is an element of $\operatorname{int}(J_0', E^2)$; thus a point of Z is in the complementary domain above of Z in E, which is a contradiction. Therefore $Z = E$, and so J contains a closed 2-cell.

If (H 1) and (H 2) hold, J cannot be a plane universal curve.

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Subscriptions, orders for back numbers, and changes of address should be sent to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, 103 Highland Boulevard, Berkeley 8, California.

Printed at Kokusai Bunken Insatsusha (International Academic Printing Co., Ltd.), No. 6, 2-chome, Fujimi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

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Pacific Journal of Mathematics

Vol. 14, No. 3 July, 1964