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A criterion for homeomorphism between closed Haken manifolds

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Abstract In this paper we consider two connected closed Haken manifolds denoted by M^3 and N^3, with the same Gromov simplicial volume. We give a simple homological criterion to decide when a given map $f\colon M^3 \to N^3$ between M^3 and N^3 can be changed by a homotopy to a homeomorphism. We then give a convenient process for constructing maps between M^3 and N^3 satisfying the homological hypothesis of the map f.

AMS Classification 57M50; 51H20

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1 Introduction

1.1 The main result

Let N^3 be an orientable connected, compact three-manifold without boundary. We denote by $\|N^3\|$ the Gromov simplicial volume (or Gromov Invariant) of N^3, see Gromov [7, paragraph 0.2] and Thurston [23, paragraph 6.1] for definitions. Then, our main result is stated as follows.

Theorem 1.1 *Let M^3 and N^3 be two closed Haken manifolds with the same Gromov simplicial volume. Let $f\colon M^3 \to N^3$ be a map such that for any finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N^3 (regular or not) the induced map $\widetilde{f}\colon \widetilde{M} \to \widetilde{N}$ is a homology equivalence (with coefficients $\mathbf{Z}$). Then f is homotopic to a homeomorphism.*

Note that the homological hypothesis on the map f required by the Theorem 1.1 is usually not easy to check. The following result, [17, Proposition 0.2 and Lemma 0.6], gives a convenient process which allows us to construct such a map between M^3 and N^3.

Proposition 1.2 *Let M^3, N^3 be two closed Haken manifolds and assume that there is a cobordism W^4 between M^3 and N^3 such that:*

(i) *the map $\pi_1(N^3) \to \pi_1(W^4)$ is an epimorphism,*

(ii) *W^4 is obtained from N^3 adding handles of index ≤ 2,*

(iii) *the inclusions $M^3 \hookrightarrow W^4$ and $N^3 \hookrightarrow W^4$ are $\mathbf{Z}$-homological equivalences.*

Then there exists a map $f\colon M^3 \to N^3$ satisfying the homological hypothesis of Theorem 1.1 and thus if $\|M\| = \|N\|$ then f is homotopic to a homeomorphism.

1.2 The motivation

The aim of Theorem 1.1 is to extend a main result of B. Perron and P. Shalen which gives a homological criterion for deciding when a given map between two closed, irreducible, graph manifolds, with infinite fundamental group, can be homotoped to a homeomorphism (see [17, Proposition 0.1]). Thus, in this paper we want to find a larger class of three-manifolds for which Proposition 0.1 of B. Perron and P. Shalen holds. Obviously their result does not hold for any closed three-manifold. Consider for example a (closed) $\mathbf{Z}$-homology sphere M^3 such that $\|M\| = 0$ and $M^3 \not\simeq \mathbf{S}^3$. Then it is easy to construct a map $f\colon M^3 \to \mathbf{S}^3$ which satisfies the hypothesis of Theorem 1.1. In order to generalize the result of B. Perron and P. Shalen, a "good" class of closed three-manifolds seems to be the Haken manifolds. This class allows us to avoid the above type of obvious conter-example and strictly contains the class of irreducible graph manifolds with infinite fundamental group considered by B. Perron and P. Shalen. Indeed, it follows from Thurston [23] and [11, paragraph IV.11] that irreducible graph manifolds with infinite fundamental group correspond exactly to Haken manifolds with zero Gromov Invariant. Thus when the given manifolds M^3 and N^3 have their Gromov Invariant equal to zero (i.e. if $\|M^3\| = \|N^3\| = 0$) then Theorem 1.1 is equivalent to [17, Proposition 0.1]. Therefore, the result of [17] allows us, from now on, to assume that the given manifolds satisfy $\|M^3\| = \|N^3\| \neq 0$.

Finally note that the hypothesis on the Gromov Invariant of the given manifolds is necessary in Theorem 1.1. Indeed in [2], M. Boileau and S. Wang construct two closed Haken manifolds M^3 and N^3 satisfying $\|M\| > \|N\|$ and a map $f\colon M \to N$ satisfying the homological hypothesis of Theorem 1.1.

1.3 Preliminaries and notations

We first state the following terminology which will be convenient. Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a 2-manifold whose components are all tori and let m be a positive integer. A covering space $\widetilde{\mathcal{T}}$ of $\mathcal{T}$ will be termed $m \times m-$*characteristic* if each component of $\widetilde{\mathcal{T}}$ is equivalent to the covering space of some component T of $\mathcal{T}$ associated to the characteristic subgroup H_m of index m^2 in $\pi_1(T)$ (if we identify $\pi_1(T)$ with $\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$, we have $H_m = m\mathbf{Z} \times m\mathbf{Z}$).

Recall that for a closed Haken manifold M^3, the torus decomposition of Jaco-Shalen and Johannson ([12] and [13]) together with the uniformization Theorem of Thurston ([22]) say that there is a collection of incompressible tori $W_M \subset M$, unique up to ambiant isotopy, which cuts M into Seifert fibered manifolds and hyperbolic manifolds of finite volume. Denote the regular neighborhood of W_M by $W_M \times [-1,1]$ with $W_M \times \{0\} = W_M$. We write $M \backslash W_M \times (-1,1) = H_M \cup S_M$, where H_M is the union of the finite volume hyperbolic manifold components and S_M is the union of the Seifert fibered manifold components. Note that since we assume that $\|M\| \neq 0$ we always have $H_M \neq \emptyset$.

The hypothesis on the Gromov simplicial volume of the given manifolds allows us to apply the following rigidity Theorem of Soma:

Theorem 1.3 [20, Theorem 1] *Let $f\colon M \to N$ be a proper, continuous map of strictly positive degree between two Haken manifolds with (possibly empty) toral boundary. Then f is properly homotopic to a map g such that $g(H_M) \subset H_N$ and $g|H_M\colon H_M \to H_N$ is a $deg(f)$-fold covering if and and only if $\|M\| = deg(f)\|N\|$.*

In our case this result implies that the map $f\colon M \to N$ is homotopic to a map g which induces a homeomorphism between H_M and H_N. But this result does not say anything about the behavior of f on the Seifert components S_M of M. Even if we knew that $f(S_M) \subset S_N$ we can not have a reduction to the Perron-Shalen case "with boundaries" (which is not anyway treated in their article). This comes from the fact that one does not know how to extend a given finite covering of S_N to the whole manifold N, see [9, Lemma 4.1]. More precisely, in [9], J. Hempel shows that if S is a 3-manifold with non-empty boundary which admits either a Seifert fibration or a complete hyperbolic structure of finite volume then for all but finitely many primes q there is a finite covering $p\colon \widetilde{S} \to S$ such that for each component T of ∂S and for each component $\widetilde{T}$ of $p^{-1}(T)$ the induced map $p|\widetilde{T}\colon \widetilde{T} \to T$ is the $q \times q$-characteristic covering of T. In particular, we can show that Hempel's Lemma is true for any prime q in the case of Seifert fibered spaces without exceptional fiber and with orientable base whose boundary contains at least two boundary components (i.e. $S \simeq F \times \mathbf{S}^1$ where F is an orientable compact surface with at least two boundary components). This fact is crucially used in [17] (see proofs of Propositions 0.3 and 0.4) to construct their finite coverings. But in the hyperbolic manifolds case we must exclude a finite collection of primes, thus we cannot extend the coverings of [17] in our case. So we have to develop some other techniques to avoid these main difficulties.

1.4 Main steps in the proof of Theorem 1.1 and statement of the intermediate results

It follows from Waldhausen, see [24, Corollary 6.5], that to prove Theorem 1.1 it is sufficient to show that the map f induces an isomorphism $f_*\colon \pi_1(M) \to \pi_1(N)$. Note that since f is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence then it is a degree one map so it is sufficient to see that $f_*\colon \pi_1(M) \to \pi_1(N)$ is injective. On the other hand it follows from the hypothesis of Theorem 1.1 that to prove Theorem 1.1 it is sufficient to find a finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N such that the induced map $\widetilde{f}\colon \widetilde{M} \to \widetilde{N}$ is homotopic to a homeomorphism (i.e. is π_1-injective). Hence, we can replace M, N and f by $\widetilde{M}$, $\widetilde{N}$ and $\widetilde{f}$ (for an appropriate choice of the finite sheeted covering of N).

First step: Simplification of N^3 The first step consists in finding some finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N which is more "convenient" than N. More precisely, the first step is to show the following result whose proof will occupy Section 2.

Proposition 1.4 *Let N^3 be a non geometric closed Haken manifold. Then there is a finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N satisfying the following property: $\widetilde{N}^3$ has large first Betti number ($\beta_1(\widetilde{N}) \geq 3$), each component of $\widetilde{N} \setminus W_{\widetilde{N}}$ contains at least two components in its boundary and each Seifert fibered space of $\widetilde{N}$ is homeomorphic to a product of type $F \times S^1$ where F is an orientable surface of genus ≥ 3.*

Remark 1 In view of the above paragraph we assume now that N^3 always satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4.

Second step: The obstruction This step will show that to prove Theorem 1.1 it is sufficient to see that the canonical tori of M do not degenerate (i.e. the map $f|W_M\colon W_M \to N$ is π_1-injective). More precisely we state here the following result which will be proved in Section 3.

Theorem 1.5 *Let $f\colon M^3 \to N^3$ be a map between two closed Haken manifolds with the same Gromov Invariant and such that for any finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N the induced map $\widetilde{f}\colon \widetilde{M} \to \widetilde{N}$ is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence. Then f is homotopic to a homeomorphism if and only if the induced map $f|W_M\colon W_M \to N^3$ is π_1-injective.*

Third step: A factorization theorem It follows from Theorem 1.5 that to show our homeomorphism criterion it is sufficient to see that the canonical tori do not degenerate under the map f. So in the following we will suppose the contrary. The purpose of this step is to understand the behavior (up to homotopy) of the map f in the case of degenerate tori. To do this we recall the definition of *degenerate maps* of Jaco-Shalen.

Definition 1.6 Let S be a Seifert fibered space and let N be a closed Haken manifold. A map $f\colon S \to N$ is said to be degenerate if either:

(1) the group $\mathrm{Im}(f_*\colon \pi_1(S) \to \pi_1(N)) = \{1\}$, or

(2) the group $\mathrm{Im}(f_*\colon \pi_1(S) \to \pi_1(N))$ is cyclic, or

(3) the map $f|\gamma$ is homotopic in N to a constant map for some fiber γ of S.

So we first state the following result which explains how certain submanifolds of M^3 can degenerate.

Theorem 1.7 *Let $f\colon M \to N$ be a map between two closed Haken manifolds satisfying hypothesis of Theorem 1.1 and suppose that N satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4. Let T be a canonical torus in M which degenerates under the map f. Then T separates M in two submanifolds A, B, one and only one (say A) satisfies the followings properties:*

(i) *$H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$ and each Seifert component of $A \setminus W_M$ admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is a surface of genus 0,*

(ii) *each Seifert component of $A \setminus W_M$ degenerates under the map f, A is a graph manifold and the group $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is either trivial or infinite cyclic.*

With this result we may write the following definitions.

Definition 1.8 Let M^3 and N^3 be two closed, connected, Haken manifolds and let $f\colon M^3 \to N^3$ be a map satisfying hypothesis of Theorem 1.1. We say that a codimesion 0 submanifold A of M is a maximal end of M if A satisfies the following three properties:

(i) ∂A is a single incompressible torus, $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$ and $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = \mathbf{Z}$,

(ii) if $p\colon \widetilde{M} \to M$ is any finite covering induced by f from some finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N then each component of $p^{-1}(A)$ satisfies (i),

(iii) if C is a submanifold of M which contains A and satisfying (i) and (ii) then $A = C$.

To describe precisely the behavior of the map f (up to homotopy) we still need the following definition:

Definition 1.9 Let M be a closed, connected, compact 3-manifold and let A be a compact, connected codimension 0 submanifold of M whose boundary is a torus in M. We say that M collapses along A if there exists a homeomorphism $\varphi\colon \partial(D^2 \times S^1) \to \partial A = \partial(\overline{M \setminus A})$ and a map $\pi\colon M \to (\overline{M \setminus A}) \cup_\varphi D^2 \times S^1$ such that $\pi|\overline{M \setminus A} = id$ and $\pi(A) = D^2 \times S^1$.

So using Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 1.7 we obtain the following *factorization* Theorem which will be used to get a good decription of the behavior of the map f.

Theorem 1.10 *Let M^3 and N^3 be two closed, connected, Haken manifolds satisfying hypothesis of Theorem 1.1 and assume that N satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4. Then there exists a finite family $\{A_1, ..., A_{n_M}\}$ (eventually empty) of disjoint maximal ends of M, a Haken manifold M_1 obtained from M by collapsing M along the family $\{A_1, ..., A_{n_M}\}$ and a homeomorphism $f_1\colon M_1 \to N$ such that f is homotopic to the map $f_1 \circ \pi$, where π denotes the collapsing map $\pi\colon M \to M_1$.*

Note that Theorems 1.7 and 1.10 remain true if we simply assume that the given manifolds M^3, N^3 and the map $f\colon M^3 \to N^3$ satisfies hypothesis of Theorem 1.1. But it is more convenient for our purpose to suppose that N^3 satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4.

Fourth step The purpose of this step is to show that the hypothesis which says that certain canonical tori degenerate is finally absurd. To do this, we will show that if A is a maximal end of M then we can construct a finite covering $p\colon \widetilde{M} \to M$ induced by f from some finite covering of N, such that the connected components of $p^{-1}(A)$ are not maximal ends, which contradicts Definition 1.8. But to construct such a covering, it is first necessary to have good informations about the behavior of the induced map $f|A\colon A \to N$ up to homotopy. To do this we state the following result whose proof depends crucially on Theorem 1.10 (see Section 5.2):

Proposition 1.11 *Let $f\colon M \to N$ be a map between two closed Haken manifolds with the same Gromov Invariant satisfying the hypothesis of Theorem 1.1 and assume that N satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4. If A denotes a maximal end of M then there exists a Seifert piece S in A, whose orbit space is a disk such that $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \neq \{1\}$, a Seifert piece $B = F \times \mathbf{S}^1$ in N such that $f(S) \subset f(A) \subset B$ and $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \subset \langle t \rangle$, where t denotes the homotopy class of the fiber in B.*

The aim of this result is to replace the *Mapping Theorem* (see [12, Chapter III]) which says that if a map between a Seifert fibered space and a Haken manifold satisfies certains *good* properties of non-degeneration then it can be changed by a homotopy in such a way that its whole image is contained in a Seifert fibered space. But when such a map degenerates (which is the case for $f|A$) its behavior can be very complicated a priori.

The above result shows that the map $f|A$ is homotopically very simple. We next construct a finite covering $p\colon \widetilde{M} \to M$, induced by f from some finite covering of N such that the component of $p^{-1}(S)$ admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is a surface of genus > 0. Then using [17, Lemma 3.2] we show that the components of $p^{-1}(A)$ are not maximal ends which gives a contradiction. The construction of our finite covering depends crucially on the following result which completes the proof of the fourth step and whose proof is based on the Thurston *Deformation Theory* of complete finite volume hyperbolic structures and will be proved in Section 6.3.

Proposition 1.12 *Let N^3 be a closed Haken manifold with non-trivial Gromov simplicial volume. Then there exists a finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N satisfying the following property: for every integer $n_0 > 0$ there exists an integer $\alpha > 0$ and a finite covering $p\colon \hat{N} \to \widetilde{N}$ such that for each Seifert piece $\widetilde{S}$ of $\widetilde{N} \setminus W_{\widetilde{N}}$ and for each component $\hat{S}$ of $p^{-1}(\widetilde{S})$ the map $p|\hat{S}\colon \hat{S} \to \widetilde{S}$ is fiber preserving and induces the αn_0-index covering on the fibers of $\widetilde{S}$.*

Note that this result plays a Key Role in the proof of Theorem 1.1. Indeed, this Proposition 1.12 allows us to avoid the main difficulty stated in paragraph 1.3.

2 Preliminary results on Haken manifolds

In this section we state some general results on Haken manifolds and their finite coverings which will be useful in the following of this article. On the other hand we will always suppose in the following that the given manifold N has non trivial Gromov simplicial volume which implies in particular that N has no finite cover which is fibered over the circle by tori.

2.1 Outline of proof of Proposition 1.4

In this section we outline the proof of Proposition 1.4 which extends in the Haken manifolds case the result of [15] which concerns graph manifolds. For a complete proof of this result see [4, Proposition 1.2.1].

First note that since N is a non geometric Haken manifold then N is not a Seifert fibered space (in particular N has a non empty torus decomposition) and has no finite cover that fibers as a torus bundle over the circle. By [14, Theorem 2.6] we may assume, after passing possibly to a finite cover, that each component of $N \setminus W_N$ either has hyperbolic interior or is Seifert fibered over an orientable surface whose base 2-orbifold has strictly negative Euler characteristic.

By applying either [14, Theorem 2.4] or [14, Theorem 3.2] to each piece Q of $N \setminus W_N$ (according to whether the piece is Seifert fibered or hyperbolic, resp.) there is a prime q, such that for every Q in $N \setminus W_N$ there is a finite, connected, regular cover $p_Q\colon \widetilde{Q} \to Q$ where, if T is a component of ∂Q, then $(p_Q)^{-1}(T)$ consists of more than one component; furthermore, if $\widetilde{T}$ is a component of $(p_Q)^{-1}(T)$, then $p_Q|\widetilde{Q}\colon \widetilde{Q} \to Q$ is the $q \times q$-characteristic covering. This allows us to glue the covers of the pieces of $N \setminus W_N$ together to get a covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N in which each piece of $\widetilde{N} \setminus W_{\widetilde{N}}$ has at least two boundary components. By repeating this process, we may assume, after passing to a finite cover, that each component of $N \setminus W_N$ has at least three boundary components.

Let S be a Seifert piece of N and let F be the orbit space of S. Let $T_1, ..., T_p$ ($p \geq 3$) be the components of ∂S, $D_1, ..., D_p$ those of ∂F and set $d_i = [D_i] \in \pi_1(F)$ (for a choice of base point). With these notations we have: $\pi_1(T_i) = \langle d_i, h\rangle$ where h denotes the regular fiber in S. Since S has at least three boundary components then using the presentation of $\pi_1(S)$ one can show that for all but finitely many primes q there exists an epimorphism $\varphi\colon \pi_1(S) \to \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ such that:

(i) $\varphi(d_j) \notin \langle\varphi(h)\rangle$ for $j = 1, ..., p$,

(ii) $\ker(\varphi|\pi_1(T_j))$ is the $q \times q$-characteristic subgroup of $\pi_1(T_j)$ for $j = 1, ..., p$.

Let $\pi\colon \widetilde{S} \to S$ be the finite covering of S corresponding to φ and let $\pi_F\colon \widetilde{F} \to F$ be the finite (branched) covering induced by π between the orbit spaces of

S and $\widetilde{S}$. Then using (i) and (ii) combined with the Riemann-Hurwitz formula [18, pp. 133] one can show that $\widetilde{g} > g$ where g (resp. $\widetilde{g}$) denotes the genus of F (resp. of $\widetilde{F}$). Thus, by applying this result combined with [14, Theorem 3.2] to each piece Q of $N \setminus W_N$ (according to whether the piece is Seifert fibered or hyperbolic, resp.) there is a prime q, such that for every Q in $N \setminus W_N$ there is a finite, connected, regular cover $p_Q\colon \widetilde{Q} \to Q$ where, if T is a component of ∂Q and if $\widetilde{T}$ is a component of $(p_Q)^{-1}(T)$, then $p_Q|\widetilde{T}\colon \widetilde{T} \to T$ is the $q \times q$-characteristic covering. This allows us to glue the covers of the pieces of $N\setminus W_N$ together to get a covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N. Furthermore, if Q is a Seifert piece of N whose orbit space is a surface of genus g then $\widetilde{Q}$ is a Seifert piece of $\widetilde{N}$ whose orbit space is a surface of genus $\widetilde{g} > g$.

It remains to see that N is finitely covered by a Haken manifold in which each Seifert piece is a trivial circle bundle. Since the Euler characteristic of the orbit space of the Seifert pieces of N is non-positive then by Selberg Lemma each orbit space is finitely covered by an orientable surface. This covering induces a finite covering (trivial when restricted on the boundary) of the Seifert piece by a circle bundle over an orientable surface, which is trivial because the boundary is not empty. Now we can (trivially) glue these coverings together to get the desired covering of N.

2.2 A technical result for Haken manifolds

Proposition 2.1 *Let N^3 be a closed Haken manifold satisfying the conclusion of Proposition 1.4 and let B be a Seifert piece of N. Let g and h be elements of $\pi_1(B) \subset \pi_1(N)$ such that either $[g,h] \neq 1$ or the group $\langle g,h\rangle$ is the free abelian group of rank two. Then there exists a finite group H and a homomorphism $\varphi\colon \pi_1(N) \to H$ such that $\varphi(g) \notin \langle \varphi(h)\rangle$.*

The proof of this result depends on the following lemma which allows to extend to the whole manifolds N certain "good" coverings of a given Seifert piece in N.

Lemma 2.2 *Let N be a closed Haken manifold such that each Seifert piece is a product and has more than one boundary component and let B_0 be a Seifert piece in N. Then there exists a prime q_0 satisfying the following property: for every finite covering $\widetilde{B}_0$ of B_0 which induces the $q^r \times q^r$-characteristic covering on the bounbary components of B_0 with $q \geq q_0$ prime and $r \in \mathbf{Z}$, there exists a finite covering $\pi\colon \widetilde{N} \to N$ such that*

(i) *the covering* $\widetilde{N}$ *induces the* $q^r \times q^r$*-characteristic covering on each of the canonical tori of* N,

(ii) *each component of the covering of* B_0 *induces by* $\widetilde{N}$ *is equivalent to* $\widetilde{B}_0$.

The proof of this result depends of the following Lemma which is a slight generalization of Hempel's Lemma, [9, Lemma 4.2] and whose proof may be found in [4, Lemma 1.2.3].

Lemma 2.3 *Let* G *be a finitely generated group and let* $\tau\colon G \to SL(2, \mathbf{C})$ *be a discret and faithful representation of* G. *Let* $\lambda_1, ..., \lambda_n$ *be elements of* G *such that* $\lambda_i \neq 1_G$ *and* $tr(\tau(\lambda_i)) = \pm 2$. *Then for all but finitely many primes* q *and for all integers* r *there exists a finite ring* $\mathbf{A}_{q^r}$ *over* $\mathbf{Z}/q^r\mathbf{Z}$ *and a representation* $\tau_q\colon G \to SL(2, \mathbf{A}_{q^r})$ *such that for each element* $g \in G$ *satisfying* $tr(\tau(g)) = \pm 2$ *the element* $\tau_q(g)$ *is of order* q^{r_g}, *with* $r_g \leq r$ *in* $SL(2, \mathbf{A}_{q^r})$ *and the elements* $\tau_q(\lambda_i)$ *are of order* q^r *in* $SL(2, \mathbf{A}_{q^r})$.

Outline of proof of Lemma 2.2 We show that if B denotes a component of $N \setminus W_N$ such that $B \neq B_0$ then for each $r \in \mathbf{Z}$ and for all but finitely many primes q there exists a connected regular finite covering $\widetilde{B}$ of B which induces the $q^r \times q^r$-characteristic covering on each of the boundary component of B. Next we use similar arguments as in [14] using Lemma 2.3 (see [4, Lemma 1.2.2]). □

Proof of Proposition 2.1 Recall that B can be identified to a product $F \times S^1$, where F is an orientable surface of genus ≥ 1 with at least two boundary components. Let $D_1, ..., D_n$ denote the components of ∂F and set $d_i = [D_i]$, for $i = 1, ..., n$ (for a choice of base point).

Case 1 If $[g, h] \neq 1$, then since $\pi_1(N)$ is a residually finite group (see [8, Theorem 1.1]) there is a finite group H and an epimorphism $\varphi\colon \pi_1(N) \to H$ such that $\varphi([g, h]) \neq 1$ and so $\varphi(g) \notin \langle \varphi(h) \rangle$.

Case 2 If $[g, h] = 1$ then we may write $g = (u^\beta, t^\alpha)$ and $h = (u^{\beta'}, t^{\alpha'})$ with $u \in \pi_1(F)$ and where t is a generator of $\pi_1(\mathbf{S^1}) = \mathbf{Z}$. Since $\langle g, h \rangle$ is the free abelian group of rank 2 then $\beta\alpha' - \beta'\alpha = \gamma \neq 0$ and $u \neq 1$. We first show the following assertion:

For all but finitely many primes p *there exists an integer* r_0 *such that for each integer* $r \geq r_0$ *there is a finite group* K *and a homomorphism* $\psi\colon \pi_1(B) \to K$

inducing the $p^r \times p^r$-characteristic homomorphism on $\pi_1(\partial B)$ and such that $\psi(g) \notin \langle\psi(h)\rangle$.

To prove this assertion we consider two cases.

Case 2.1 Assume first that $\alpha' \neq 0$. Choose a prime p such that $(p, \alpha') = 1$ and $(p, \gamma) = 1$. Then using Bezout's Lemma we may find an integer n_0 such that $\beta - n_0\beta' \notin p\mathbf{Z}$. Then using the Key Lemma on surfaces of B. Perron and P. Shalen, [17, Key Lemma 6.2], by taking $g = u$ we get a homomorphism $\rho\colon \pi_1(F) \to H_F$, where H_F is a p-group and satisfying $\rho(u) \neq 1$ and $\rho(d_i)$ has order p^r in H_F. Let $\lambda\colon \mathbf{Z} \to \mathbf{Z}/p^r\mathbf{Z}$ denote the canonical epimorphism and consider the following homomorphism:

$$\psi = \rho \times \lambda\colon\ \pi_1(F) \times \mathbf{Z} \to H_F \times \mathbf{Z}/p^r\mathbf{Z}$$

It follows now easily from the above construction that $\psi(g) \notin \langle\psi(h)\rangle$ and $\ker(\psi|\langle d_i, t\rangle) = \langle d_i^{p^r}, h^{p^r}\rangle$.

Case 2.2 We now suppose that $\alpha' = 0$. Thus we have $g = (u^\beta, t^\alpha)$ and $h = (u^{\beta'}, 1)$ with $\beta'\alpha \neq 0$. Recall that $\pi_1(F) = \langle d_1\rangle * ... * \langle d_{n-1}\rangle * L_q$ with $d_i = [D_i]$, where $D_1, ..., D_n$ denote the components of ∂F and where L_q is a free group. Let $\rho_2\colon\ \pi_1(F) \to \mathbf{Z}$ be an epimorphism such that $\rho_2(d_1) = ...\rho_2(d_{n-1}) = 1$ and $\rho_2(L_q) = 0$. This implies that $\rho_2(d_n) = -(n-1)$. Choose a prime p satisfying $(p, \alpha) = 1$, $(p, n-1) = 1$ and let $\varepsilon\colon\ \mathbf{Z} \to \mathbf{Z}/p^r\mathbf{Z}$ be the canonical epimorphism. So consider the following homomorphism.

$$\psi = (\varepsilon \circ \rho_2) \times \varepsilon\colon\ \pi_1(B) = \pi_1(F) \times \mathbf{Z} \to \mathbf{Z}/p^r\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/p^r\mathbf{Z}$$

We now check easily that $\psi(g) \notin \langle\psi(h)\rangle$ and $\ker(\psi|\langle d_i, t\rangle) = \langle d_i^{p^r}, h^{p^r}\rangle$ which completes the proof of the above assertion.

Let $\hat{\pi}\colon\ \hat{B} \to B$ be the covering corresponding to the above homomorphism ψ. Since this covering induces the $p^r \times p^r$-covering on each component of ∂B then using Lemma 2.2 there is a finite covering $\pi : \hat{N} \to N$ of N such that each component of $\pi^{-1}(B)$ is equivalent to $\hat{\pi}$. We identify $\pi_1(\hat{N})$ as a subgroup of finite index of $\pi_1(N)$. Let Λ be a subgroup of $\pi_1(\hat{N})$ such that Λ is a finite index regular subgroup of $\pi_1(N)$. Then the canonical epimorphism $\varphi : \pi_1(N) \to \pi_1(N)/\Lambda$ satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 2.1. □

3 Proof of Theorem 1.5

In this section we always assume that the manifold N^3 has non-trivial Gromov Invariant and satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4.

3.1 Main ideas of the proof of Theorem 1.5

It follows from the Rigidity Theorem of Soma (see Theorem 1.3) that f is properly homotopic to a map, still denoted by f, such that $f|(H_M, \partial H_M) : (H_M, \partial H_M) \to (H_N, \partial H_N)$ is a homeomorphism. Then we will prove (see Lemma 3.5) that we may arrange f by a homotopy fixing $f|H_M$ such that $f(S_M) \subset S_N$: this is the Mapping Theorem of W. Jaco and P. Shalen with some care. So our main purpose here is to find a finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N such that for each component $\widetilde{B}$ of $S_{\widetilde{N}}$ there exists exactly one Seifert piece $\widetilde{A}$ of $S_{\widetilde{M}}$ such that $f(\widetilde{A}, \partial\widetilde{A}) \subset (\widetilde{B}, \partial\widetilde{B})$. We next prove that the induced map $f|(\widetilde{A}, \partial\widetilde{A})$ is homotopic to a homeomorphism. To do this the key step consists, for technical reasons, in finding a covering $\widetilde{M_0}$ of M, induced by f, such that for each Seifert piece A_i of $S_{\widetilde{M_0}}$ the induced covering $\widetilde{A}_i$ over A_i is a Seifert fibered space whose orbit space is a surface of genus ≥ 3. This step depends on Proposition 2.1. Indeed the construction of $\widetilde{M_0}$ will be splitted in two steps:

First step The first step is to prove that there exists a finite covering $\widetilde{M_0}$ of M induced by f from some finite covering $\widetilde{N}_0$ of N in which each Seifert piece is either based on a surface of genus ≥ 3 (*type I*) or based on an annulus (*type II*) (see Lemma 3.1). More precisely the result of Lemma 3.1 is the "best" that we may obtain using Proposition 2.1.

Second step The main purpose of this step is to prove, using specific arguments, that $\widetilde{M_0}$ contains no Seifert piece of type II. More precisely, if A_i denotes a Seifert piece of type II in $\widetilde{M_0}$ then using [12, Characteristic Pair Theorem] we know that there is a Seifert piece B_j in N such that $f(A_i) \subset \mathrm{int}(B_j)$ (up to homotopy). Then we construct a vertical torus U in B_j such that if T is a component of ∂A_i then f may be changed by a homotopy fixing $\widetilde{M_0} \setminus A_i$ so that $f|T\colon T \to U$ is a homeomorphism. We next use the structure of $\pi_1(B_j)$ to show that this implies that A_i has no exceptional fiber (i.e. $A_i = S^1 \times S^1 \times I$) which contradicts the minimality of the Torus Decomposition of $\widetilde{M_0}$.

Finally we show that the results obtained in the above steps allows us to use arguments similar to those of [17, paragraphs 4.3.15 and 4.3.16] to complete the proof (see paragraph 3.5).

3.2 Proof of the first step

This section is devoted to the outline of proof of the following result (for a complete proof see [4, Lemma 3.2.1]).

Lemma 3.1 *There exists a finite covering $\widetilde{M_0}$ of M induced by f from some finite covering $\widetilde{N}_0$ of N in which each Seifert piece $\widetilde{A}$ is either based on a surface of genus ≥ 3 (Type I) or satisfies the following properties (Type II):*

(i) *the orbit space of $\widetilde{A}$ is an annulus,*

(ii) *the group $f_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{A}))$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$,*

(iii) *for each finite covering $\pi\colon\ \hat{M} \to \widetilde{M_0}$ induced by f from some finite covering of $\widetilde{N}_0$ then each component of $\pi^{-1}(\widetilde{A})$ satisfies points (i) and (ii).*

The proof of this result depends on the following lemma.

Lemma 3.2 *Let S be a Seifert piece in M whose orbit space is a surface of genus 0. Suppose that S contains at least three non-degenerate boundary components. Then there exists a finite covering $\widetilde{S}$ of S satisfying the two followings properties:*

(i) *$\widetilde{S}$ admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is a surface of genus $\geq$ 1,*

(ii) *$\widetilde{S}$ is equivalent to a component of the covering induced from some finite covering of N by f.*

Proof Denote by F the orbit space of the Seifert piece S. Let $T_1, ..., T_j$, $j \geq 3$, be the non-degenerate tori in ∂S and $\pi_1(T_l) = \langle d_l, h\rangle$, $1 \leq l \leq j$, the corresponding fundamental groups. Since $\mathrm{Rk}(\langle f_*(d_l), f_*(h)\rangle) = 2$ for $l \leq j$, it follows from Proposition 1.4, that there exists a finite group H and a homomorphism $\varphi\colon\ \pi_1(N) \to H$ such that $\varphi \circ f_*(d_l) \notin \langle \varphi f_*(h)\rangle$ for $1 \leq l \leq j$.

Let K be the group $\varphi f_*(\pi_1(S))$ and denote by $\pi\colon\ \widetilde{S} \to S$ the finite covering corresponding to $\varphi \circ f_*\colon\ \pi_1(S) \to K$. Then $\widetilde{S}$ inherits a Seifert fibration with some base $\widetilde{F}$. We denote by τ the order of K, by t the order of $\varphi f_*(h)$ in K and by β_i the order of $\varphi f_*(c_i)$ where $c_1, ..., c_r$ denote the exceptional fibers of S with index $\mu_1, ..., \mu_r$. The map π induces a covering $\pi_F\colon\ \widetilde{F} \to F$ on the orbit spaces of S and $\widetilde{S}$ with degree $\sigma = \tau/t$, ramified at the points $\overline{c}_i \in F$ corresponding to the exceptional fiber c_i of S. Let δ_l, $l = 1, ..., p$, denote the boundary components of F corresponding to d_l and let $\widetilde{\delta}_l^1, ..., \widetilde{\delta}_l^{r_l}$ denote the components of $\pi_F^{-1}(\delta_l)$. Then we have $r_l n_l = \sigma$ for each l, where n_l is the index of the subgroup generated by $\varphi f_*(d_l)$ and $\varphi f_*(h)$ in K. Then by the Riemann-Hurwitz formula ([18, pp. 133], see also [17, Section 4.2.12]) we get:

$$2\widetilde{g} = 2 + \sigma\left(2g + p + r - 2 - \sum_{l=1}^{l=p} \frac{1}{n_l} - \sum_{i=1}^{i=r} \frac{1}{(\mu_i, \beta_i)}\right)$$

where $\widetilde{g}$ (resp. g) denotes the genus of $\widetilde{F}$ (resp. of F, here $g=0$), p denotes the number of boundary components of F and (μ_i, β_i) denotes the greatest common divisor of μ_i and β_i. Remark that $n_l \geq 2$ for $l \leq j$. Indeed if $n_l = 1$ then $|K : \langle \varphi f_*(h), \varphi f_*(d_l) \rangle| = r_l = \sigma = \tau/t = |K, \langle \varphi f_*(h) \rangle|$. Hence $\langle \varphi f_*(h), \varphi f_*(d_l) \rangle = \langle \varphi f_*(h) \rangle$ which is impossible since $\varphi f_*(d_l) \notin \langle \varphi f_*(h) \rangle$. In particular we have $\sigma \geq 2$.

Case 1 If $j \geq 4$ then $n_l \geq 2$ for $l = 1, ..., j$ and so $2\widetilde{g} \geq 2 + \sigma(p - p + 4 - 2 - 2) = 2$. Thus $\widetilde{g} \geq 1$.

Case 2 If $j = 3$ we have $2\widetilde{g} \geq 2 + \sigma(1 - \frac{1}{n_1} - \frac{1}{n_2} - \frac{1}{n_3})$ with $n_1, n_2, n_3 \geq 2$.

If $\sigma = 2$ then $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 2$ and thus $\widetilde{g} \geq 1$.

If $\sigma > 2$ then either $n_l > 2$ for $l = 1, ...3$, and thus $\widetilde{g} \geq 1$ or there is an element l in $\{1, ...3\}$ such that $n_l = 2$. Since $\sigma = n_l r_l$ we have $r_l \geq 2$ and thus $\widetilde{S}$ contains at least four boundary components which are non-degenerate and we have a reduction to *Case 1.* This proves the Lemma. □

Outline of proof of Lemma 3.1 Let A be a Seifert piece of M whose orbit space is a surface of genus $g = 2$ (resp. $g = 1$). We prove here that such a Seifert piece is neccessarily of type I. It follows from the hypothesis of Theorem 1.5 that $f|A : A \to N$ is a non-degenerate map thus using [12, Mapping Theorem] we can change f in such a way that $f(A)$ is contained in a (product) Seifert piece B of N. Then combining the fact that $f|\partial A$ is non-degenerate and Proposition 2.1 we may easily construct a finite (regular) covering of M induced by f from a finite covering of N in which each component of the pre-image of A is a Seifert piece whose orbit space is a surface of genus $g \geq 3$ (resp. $g \geq 2$).

Suppose now that the orbit space F of A is a surface of genus 0. It is easily checked that F has at least two boundary components. If A has at least three boundary components then it follows easly from Lemma 3.2 that there is a finite covering of M induces by f from a finite covering of N in which the lifting of A is a Seifert piece of type I. Thus we may assume that A has exactly two boundary components (and then $F \simeq S^1 \times I$).

If $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is non-abelian then we check that A has at least three boundary components and thus we have a reduction to the "Type I" case. So suppose now that $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is abelian. Since f is a non-degenerate map and since $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is a subgroup of a torsion free three-manifold group it is a free abelian group of rank 2 or 3 (see [12, Theorem V.I and paragraph V.III]). If $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$ then A has at least three boundary components and we have a reduction to the type I case. So we may assume that $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$. If there is a finite covering p of M induced by f from some finite covering of N such that some component of $p^{-1}(A)$ does not satisfy (i) or (ii) of Lemma 3.1 then using the above argument we show that A is a component of type I, up to finite covering. If (i) and (ii) of Lemma 3.1 are always checked for any finite covering then A is a component of type II. □

3.3 Preliminaries for the proof of the second step

3.3.1 Introduction

In the following we set $\{A_i,\ i = 1, ..., s(M)\}$ (resp. $\{B_\alpha,\ \alpha = 1, ..., s(N)\}$) the Seifert pieces of a minimal torus decomposition of M (resp. N). On the other hand we will denote by W_M^S (resp. W_N^S) the canonical tori of M (resp. of N) which are adjacent on both sides to Seifert pieces of M (resp. of N). We set $A'_i = A_i \setminus W_M \times [-1, 1]$, for $i = 1, ..., s(M)$. Using hypothesis of Theorem 1.5 and applying the Characteristic Pair Theorem of [12] we may assume that for each i there is an α_i such that $f(A'_i) \subset \mathrm{int}(B_{\alpha_i})$. Thus if Σ_M (resp. Σ_N) denotes the union of the components of S_M (resp. S_N) with the components $T_i \times [-1, 1]$ of $W_M \times [-1, 1]$ (resp. $W_N \times [-1, 1]$) such that $T_i \times \{\pm 1\} \subset \partial H_M$ (resp. $T_i \times \{\pm 1\} \subset \partial H_N$) then $f(\Sigma_M) \subset \mathrm{int}(\Sigma_N)$. Moreover, by identifying a regular neighborhood of W_M^S with $W_M^S \times I$ we may suppose, up to homotopy, that $f^{-1}(W_N^S)$ is a collection of incompressible tori in $W_M^S \times I$. Indeed since for each $i = 1, ..., s(M)$ we have $f(A'_i) \subset \mathrm{int}(B_{\alpha_i})$ then using standard cut and paste arguments we may suppose, after modifying f by a homotopy which is constant on $\cup A'_i \cup H_M$ that $f^{-1}(W_N^S)$ is a collection of incompressible surfaces in $W_M^S \times I$. Since each component T_j of W_M^S is an incompressible torus then $f^{-1}(W_N^S)$ is a collection of tori parallel to the T_j. In the following the main purpose (in the second step) is to prove the following key result.

Lemma 3.3 *Let $\{A_i, i = 1, ..., s(\widetilde{M_0})\}$ (resp. $\{B_\alpha, \alpha = 1, ..., s(\widetilde{N_0})\}$) be the Seifert pieces of $S_{\widetilde{M_0}}$ (resp. of $S_{\widetilde{N_0}}$). Then f is homotopic to a map g such that:*

(i) *$g|(H_{\widetilde{M_0}}, \partial H_{\widetilde{M_0}}) : (H_{\widetilde{M_0}}, \partial H_{\widetilde{M_0}}) \to (H_{\widetilde{N_0}}, \partial H_{\widetilde{N_0}})$ is a homeomorphism,*

(ii) *for each $\alpha \in \{1, ..., s(\widetilde{N_0})\}$ there is a single $i \in \{1, ..., s(\widetilde{M_0})\}$ such that $f(A_i, \partial A_i) \subset (B_\alpha, \partial B_\alpha)$. Moreover the induced maps $f_i = f|A_i\colon A_i \to B_\alpha$ are $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalences and $f|\partial A_i\colon \partial A_i \to \partial B_\alpha$ is a homeomorphism.*

The proof of this result will be given in paragraph 3.4 using Lemma 3.4 below. In the remainder of Section 3 we will always assume that (M, N, f) is equal to $(\widetilde{M_0}, \widetilde{N}_0, \widetilde{f}_0)$ given by Lemma 3.1. The goal of this paragraph 3.3 is to prove the following Lemma which simplifies by a homotopy the given map f.

Lemma 3.4 *There is a subfamily of canonical tori $\{T_j, j \in J\}$ in M which cuts $M \setminus H_M$ into graph manifolds $\{V_i,\ i = 1, ..., t(M) \leq s(M)\}$ such that:*

(i) *for each $\alpha_i \in \{1, ..., s(N)\}$ there is a single $i \in \{1, ..., t(M)\}$ such that f is homotopic to a map g with $g(V_i, \partial V_i) \subset (B_{\alpha_i}, \partial B_{\alpha_i})$. Moreover we have:*

(ii) *$(V_i, \partial V_i)$ contains at least one Seifert piece of type I,*

(iii) *$g|\partial V_i : \partial V_i \to \partial B_{\alpha_i}$ is a homeomorphism,*

(iv) *$g_i = g|(V_i, \partial V_i) : (V_i, \partial V_i) \to (B_{\alpha_i}, \partial B_{\alpha_i})$ is a* **Z***-homology equivalence.*

3.3.2 Some useful lemmas

The proof of Lemma 3.4 depends on the following results. In particular Lemma 3.9 describes precisely the *subfamily of canonical tori* $\{T_j, j \in J\}$. Here hypothesis and notations are the same as in the above paragraph. The following result is a consequence of [20, Main Theorem] and [19, Lemma 2.11].

Lemma 3.5 *There is a homotopy $(f_t)_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$ such that $f_0 = f\colon M \to N$, $f_t|\Sigma_M = f|\Sigma_M$ and such that $f_1|(H_M, \partial H_M)\colon (H_M, \partial H_M) \to (H_N, \partial H_N)$ is a homeomorphism.*

Proof Let T be a component of ∂H_N. We first prove that, up to homotopy fixing $f|\Sigma_M$, we may assume that each component of $f^{-1}(T)$ is a torus which is parallel to a component of W_M. Indeed since $f(\Sigma_M) \subset \mathrm{int}(\Sigma_N)$ then $f^{-1}(T) \cap \Sigma_M = \emptyset$. On the other hand since $\partial \Sigma_M$ is incompressile, then using standard cut and paste arguments (see [24]) we may suppose that, up to homotopy fixing $f|\Sigma_M$, f is transversal to T and that $f^{-1}(T)$ is a collection of incompressible surfaces in $M \setminus \Sigma_M$. The hypothesis of Theorem 1.5 together with Theorem 1.3 imply that $H_M \simeq H_N$. Hence we may use similar arguments as those of [19, Proof of Lemma 2.11] to show that each component of $f^{-1}(T)$ is a torus. Thus $f^{-1}(T)$ is a collection of incompresible tori in $H_M \bigcup \cup_j (T_j \times [-1, 1])$. Since each incompressible torus in H_M is ∂-parallel then we may change f by a homotopy on a regular neighborhood of H_M to push these tori in ∂H_M. Finally $f^{-1}(\partial H_N)$ is made of tori parallel to some components of W_M. Each component E_i of $f^{-1}(H_N)$ is a component of M cutted along $f^{-1}(\partial H_N)$. Since $f(\Sigma_M) \cap H_N = \emptyset$ then $f^{-1}(H_N) \subset M \setminus \Sigma_M = H_M \cup \bigcup T_i \times I$. Then each component E_i is either a component of H_M or a component $T_j \times [-1,1]$. For each component H of H_N we have $\deg\{f^{-1}(H) \xrightarrow{f|} H\} = \deg(f) = 1$. Since a map $T \times [-1,1] \to H$ has degree zero then $f^{-1}(H)$ must contain a component of H_M. Since $H_M \simeq H_N$ then $f^{-1}(H)$ contains exactly one component H' of H_M which is sent by f with degree equal to 1. So it follows from [22, Lemma 1.6] that after modifying f by a homotopy on a regular neighborhood of H' then f sends H' homeomorphically on H. We do this for each component of H_N. This finishs the proof of Lemma 3.5. □

We next prove the following result.

Lemma 3.6 *Let A be a Type II Seifert piece in M given by Lemma 3.1 (recall that we have replaced $\widetilde{M_0}$ by M). Then we have the following properties:*

(i) *A is not adjacent to a hyperbolic piece in M,*

(ii) *let S be a Seifert piece adjacent to A and let B be the Seifert piece in N such that $f(S') \subset int(B)$ then necessarily $f(A) \subset int(B)$.*

The proof of this lemma depends on the following result whose proof is straightfoward.

Lemma 3.7 *Let A be a codimension 0 graph submanifold of M whose boundary is made of a single canonical torus $T \subset M$ and such that $Rk(H_1(A, \mathbf{Z})) = 1$. If each canonical torus in A separates M then A contains a component which admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is the disk D^2.*

Proof of Lemma 3.6 We first prove (i). Let T_1 and T_2 be the boundary components of A. Suppose that there is a hyperbolic piece H in M which is adjacent to A along T_1. Up to homotopy we know that $f(A') \subset \mathrm{int}(B)$ where B is a Seifert piece in N, $f(H, \partial H) \subset (H_i, \partial H_i)$ where H_i is a hyperbolic piece in N and that $f|(H, \partial H)\colon (H, \partial H) \to (H_i, \partial H_i)$ is a homeomorphism. Denote by $W(T_1)$ a regular neighborhood of T_1 in M. Then $f(W(T_1))$ contains necessarily one component of $\partial B \cap \partial H_i$ and so f induces a map $f_1\colon (A, T_1) \to (B, \partial B)$. Since $f|(H, \partial H)\colon (H, \partial H) \to (H_i, \partial H_i)$ is a homeomorphism we have found a canonical torus U in ∂B such that $f|T_1\colon T_1 \to U$ is a homeomorphism. Recall that $\pi_1(A)$ has a presentation:

$$\langle d_1, d_2, q_1, ...q_r, h : [h, q_i] = [h, d_j] = 1, \quad q_i^{\mu_i} = h^{\gamma_i}, \quad d_1 d_2 q_1 ... q_r = h^b \rangle$$

and $\pi_1(B)$:

$$\left\langle a_1, b_1, ...a_g, b_g, \delta_1, ...\delta_p, t : [t,\delta_k] = [t,a_i] = [t,b_j] = 1, \prod_{i=1}^{i=g}[a_i,b_i]\delta_1...\delta_p = 1 \right\rangle$$

with $\pi_1(U) = \langle \delta_1, t\rangle$. So we get $f_*(h) = (\delta_1^\alpha, t^\beta)$, with $(\alpha,\beta) = 1$. Let c_i be the homotopy class of an exceptional fiber in A which exists, otherwise A would be homeomorphic to $S^1 \times S^1 \times I$, which is excluded. So $c_i^{\mu_i} = h$ for some $\mu_i > 1$. Since $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}\times\mathbf{Z}$, we get: $f_*(c_i) = (\delta_1^{\alpha_i}, t^{\beta_i})$. So we have $\mu_i|(\alpha,\beta)$. This is a contradiction which proves (i). □

Before continuing the proof of Lemma 3.6 we state the following result.

Lemma 3.8 *Let M, N be two Haken manifolds and let $f : M \to N$ be a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence. Moreover we assume that M and N satisfy the conclusions of Lemma 3.1. If T is a separating canonical torus which is a boundary of a type II Seifert piece in M then there exists a finite covering p of M induced by f from a finite covering of N such that some component of $p^{-1}(T)$ is non-separating.*

Proof Let T be a separating torus in M and let X_1 and X_2 be the components of $M \setminus T$. We first prove that $H_1(X_1,\mathbf{Z}) \not\simeq \mathbf{Z}$ and $H_1(X_2,\mathbf{Z}) \not\simeq \mathbf{Z}$. Suppose the contrary. Thus we may assume that $H_1(X_1,\mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$. It follows from (i) of Lemma 3.6, from Lemma 3.1 and from [17, Lemma 3.2] that X_1 is made of Seifert pieces of Type II. Since $T = \partial X_1$ is a separating torus in M then each canonical torus in X_1 separates M. Indeed to see this it is sufficient to prove that if A is a Seifert piece of X_1 (of type II) whose a boundary component, say T_1 is separating in M then so is the second component of ∂A, say T_2. This fact follows easily from the homological exact sequence of the pair $(A,\partial A)$. Thus we may apply Lemma 3.7 to X_1 which gives a contradiction with the fact that M contains no Seifert piece whose orbit space is a disk. Hence we get $H_1(X_1,\mathbf{Z}) \not\simeq \mathbf{Z}$. The same argument shows that $H_1(X_2,\mathbf{Z}) \not\simeq \mathbf{Z}$. So to complete the proof it is sufficient to apply arguments of [17] in paragraph 4.1.4. □

End of proof of Lemma 3.6 We now prove (ii) of Lemma 3.6. Let S be a Seifert piece adjacent to A along T_1. Let B_S and B_A be the Seifert pieces in N such that $f(A') \subset \mathrm{int}(B_A)$, $f(S') \subset \mathrm{int}(B_S)$ and let T_1, T_2 be the ∂-components of A. If $B_A \neq B_S$, then by identifying a regular neighborhood $W(T_1)$ of T_1 with $T_1 \times [-1,1]$ in such a way that $f(T_1 \times \{-1\}) \subset \mathrm{int}(B_A)$

and $f(T_1 \times \{+1\}) \subset \mathrm{int}(B_S)$ we see, using paragraph 3.3.1, that $f(W(T_1))$ must contain a component U of ∂B_A. Thus, modifying f by a homotopy supported on a regular neighborhood of T_1, we may assume that f induces a map $f : (A, T_1) \to (B_A, U)$.

Case 1 Suppose first that T_1 is non-separating in M. We may choose a simple closed curve γ in M such that γ cuts T_1 in a single point. Since f is a **Z**-homology equivalence it must preserve intersection number and then we get:

$$[T_1].[\gamma] = \deg(f|T_1 : T_1 \to U) \times [U].[f_*(\gamma)] = 1$$

Hence $\deg(f|T_1 : T_1 \to U) = 1$ and then $f|T_1 : T_1 \to U$ induces an isomorphism $f_*|\pi_1(T_1) : \pi_1(T_1) \to \pi_1(U)$. Thus we get a contradiction as in the proof of (i) using the fact that $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is abelian.

Case 2 Suppose now that T_1 separates M and denote by X_S the component of $M \setminus T_1$ which contains S and by X_A the component of $M \setminus T_1$ which contains A. Let $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$ be the finite covering of M given by Lemma 3.8 with T_1. There is a component $\widetilde{T}$ of $p^{-1}(T_1)$ which is non-separating in $\widetilde{M}$. Let $\widetilde{A}$, $\widetilde{S}$ be the Seifert components of $\widetilde{M}$ adjacent to both sides of $\widetilde{T}$. Recall that $\widetilde{A}$ is necessarily a Seifert piece of type II such that $f_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{A}))$ is abelian (see Lemma 3.1). Let $B_{\widetilde{A}}$ (resp. $B_{\widetilde{S}}$) be the Seifert pieces of $\widetilde{N}$ such that

$$f(\widetilde{A}') \subset \mathrm{int}(B_{\widetilde{A}}) \qquad f(\widetilde{S}') \subset \mathrm{int}(B_{\widetilde{S}}).$$

Since $B_A \neq B_S$ then $B_{\widetilde{A}} \neq B_{\widetilde{S}}$, and thus there is a component $\widetilde{U}$ in $\partial B_{\widetilde{A}}$ such that $\widetilde{f}$ induces a map $\widetilde{f} : (\widetilde{A}, \widetilde{T}) \to (B_{\widetilde{A}}, \widetilde{U})$. Since $\widetilde{T}$ is non-separating we have a reduction to case 1. This proves Lemma 3.6. □

Lemma 3.9 *There is a homotopy $(f_t)_{0 \le t \le 1}$ with $f_0 = f$ and $f_t|(H_M, \partial H_M) = f|(H_M, \partial H_M)$ and a collection of canonical tori $\{T_j, j \in J\} \subset W_M^S$ such that:*

(i) *f_1 is transversal to W_N^S,*

(ii) $f_1^{-1}(W_N^S) = \bigcup_{j \in J} T_j$,

(iii) *the family $\{T_j, j \in J\}$ corresponds exactly to tori of W_M^S which are adjacent on both sides to Seifert pieces of type I.*

Proof The proof of (i) and (ii) are similar to paragraphs 4.3.3 and 4.3.6 of [17]. Thus we only prove (iii). Let T be a component of W_M^S which is adjacent to Seifert pieces of type I denoted by A_i, $A_{i'}$ in M. Using the same arguments as in paragraph 4.3.7 of [17] we prove that $T \times [-1,1]$ contains exactly one component of $f^{-1}(W_N^S)$.

On the other hand if T is the boundary component of a Seifert piece of type II denoted by A_i we denote by A_j the other Seifert piece adjacent to T. It follows from Lemma 3.6 that $B_{\alpha_i} = B_{\alpha_j}$. Thus we get $f(A'_i \cup (T \times [-1,1]) \cup A'_j) \subset \mathrm{int}(B_{\alpha_i})$, and hence $T \times [-1,1]$ contains no component of $f^{-1}(W_N^S)$. This completes the proof of Lemma 3.9. □

3.3.3 End of proof of lemma 3.4

Let $V_1, ..., V_{t(M)}$ be the components of $(M \setminus H_M) \setminus (\cup_{j \in J} T_j)$ where $\{T_j, j \in J\}$ is the family of canonical tori given by Lemma 3.9. It follows from Lemma 3.9 that f induces a map $f_i : (V_i, \partial V_i) \to (B_{\alpha_i}, \partial B_{\alpha_i})$. Since $\deg(f) = 1$, then the correspondance: $\{1, ..., t(M)\} \ni i \mapsto \alpha_i \in \{1, ..., s(N)\}$ is surjective.

(a) The fact that the graph manifolds $V_1, ..., V_{t(M)}$ contain some Seifert piece of type I comes from the construction of the V_i and from Lemma 3.6. Remark that the construction implies that if A is a Seifert piece in V_i such that $\partial V_i \cap \partial A \neq \emptyset$ then A is of Type I (necessarily).

(b) We next show that the correspondence $i \mapsto \alpha_i$ is bijective. Since f is a degree one map then to see this it is sufficient to prove that this map is injective. Suppose the contrary. Hence we may choose two pieces V_1 and V_2 which are sent in the same Seifert piece B_α in N. If V_1 and V_2 are adjacent we denote by T a common boundary component and by $A_1 \subset V_1$ and $A_2 \subset V_2$ the Seifert pieces (necessarily of type I) adajacent to T. Thus by [17, Lemma 4.3.4] we have a contradiction. Thus we may assume that V_1 and V_2 are non-adjacent. Since $\deg(f) = 1$ we may assume, after re-indexing, that $f_1 : (V_1, \partial V_1) \to (B_\alpha, \partial B_\alpha)$ has non-zero degree and that $f_2 : (V_2, \partial V_2) \to (B_\alpha, \partial B_\alpha)$ with V_1 and V_2 non-adjacent. Moreover, if $A_i^\star$ (resp. $V_i^\star$) denotes the space obtained from A_i (resp. V_i) by identifying each component of ∂A_i (resp. ∂V_i) to a point, we have: $\mathrm{Rk}(H_1(A_i^\star, \mathbf{Q})) \leq \mathrm{Rk}(H_1(V_i^\star, \mathbf{Q}))$. Since A_i is of Type I, using [17, Lemma 3.2], we get $\mathrm{Rk}(H_1(A_i^\star, \mathbf{Q})) \geq 4$ and thus $\mathrm{Rk}(H_1(V_i^\star, \mathbf{Q})) \geq 4$. Thus to obtain a contradiction we apply the same arguments as in the proof of Lemma 4.3.9 of [17] to V_1 and V_2. This proves point (i) of Lemma 3.4.

We now show that we can arrange f so that $f_i | \partial V_i : \partial V_i \to \partial B_{\alpha_i}$ is a homeomorphism for all i. The above paragraph implies that f induces maps $f_i : (V_i, \partial V_i) \to (B_{\alpha_i}, \partial B_{\alpha_i})$ such that $\deg(f_i) = \deg(f) = 1$ for all i. Thus we need only to show that f_i induces a one-to-one map from the set of components of ∂V_i to the set of components of ∂B_{α_i}. To see this we apply arguments of paragraph 4.3.12 of [17].

Since f is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence and since f_i is a degree one map and restricts to a homeomorphism on the boundary, by a Mayer-Vietoris argument we see that f_i is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence for every i. This achieves the proof of Lemma 3.4.

3.4 Proof of Lemma 3.3

It follows from Lemma 3.4 that to prove Lemma 3.3 it is sufficient to show that any graph manifold $V = V_i$ of $\{V_1, ..., V_{t(M)}\}$ contains exactly one Seifert piece (necessarily of Type I). In fact it is sufficient to prove that V does not contains type II components. Indeed, in this case, if there were two adjacent pieces of type I, they could not be sent into the same Seifert piece in N, by an argument made in paragraph 3.3.3. So we suppose that V contains pieces of type II. Then we can find a finite chain $(A_1, ..., A_n)$ of Seifert pieces of type II in V such that:

(i) $A_i \subset \text{int}(V)$ for $i \in \{1, ..., n\}$,

(ii) A_1 is adjacent in V to a Seifert piece of type I, denoted by S_1, along a canonical torus T_1 of W_M and A_n is adjacent to a Seifert piece of type I, denoted by S_n in V along a canonical torus T_n,

(iii) for each $i \in \{1, ..., n-1\}$ the space A_i is adjacent to A_{i+1} along a single canonical torus in M.

This means that each Seifert piece of type II in M can be included in a maximal chain of Seifert pieces of type II. In the following we will denote by X the connected space $\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i$ corresponding to a maximal chain of Seifert pieces of type II in V and by $B = F \times S^1$ the Seifert piece of N such that $f(V, \partial V) = (B, \partial B)$.

Remark 2 In the following we can always assume, using Lemma 3.8, up to finite covering, that $M \setminus X$ is connected (i.e. T_1 is non-separating in M).

In the proof of lemma 3.3 it will be convenient to separate the two following (exclusive) situations:

Case 1 We assume that T_1 is a non-separating torus in V (i.e. $V \setminus X$ is connected),

Case 2 We assume that T_1 is a separating torus in V (i.e. $V \setminus X$ is disconnected).

We first prove that Case 1 is impossible (see section 3.4.1). We next show (see section 3.4.2) that in Case 2 there is a finite covering $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$ induced by f from some finite covering of N such that for each component $\widetilde{V}$ of $p^{-1}(V)$ the component $\widetilde{X}$ of $p^{-1}(X)$ which is included in $\widetilde{V}$ is non-separating in $\widetilde{V}$, which gives a reduction to Case 1. This will imply that the family $\mathcal{X}$ of components of type II in V is empty and then the proof of Lemma 3.3 will be complete. Before the beginning of the proof we state the following result (notations and hypothesis are the same as in the above paragraph).

Lemma 3.10 *Let V be a graph piece in M correponding to the decomposition given by Lemma 3.4 and let X be a maximal chain of Seifert pieces of type II in V. Then the homomorphism $(i_X)_* : H_1(\partial X, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(X, \mathbf{Z})$, induced by the inclusion $\partial X \hookrightarrow X$ is surjective.*

Proof Let G be the space $M \setminus X$ (connected by Remark 2). Since G contains at least one Seifert piece of type I, then using [17, Lemma 3.2], we get $\mathrm{Rk}(H_1(G, \mathbf{Z})) \geq 6$. Thus the homomorphism $(i_G)_* : H_1(\partial G, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(G, \mathbf{Z})$ induced by the inclusion $i_G : \partial G \to G$ is not surjective. Thus there exists a non-trivial torsion group L_G and a surjective homomorphism:

$$\rho_G : H_1(G, \mathbf{Z}) \to L_G$$

such that $(\rho_G)_* \circ (i_G)_* = 0$. On the other hand if we assume that $(i_X)_* : H_1(\partial X, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(X, \mathbf{Z})$ is not surjective, then there is a non-trivial torsion group L_X and a surjective homomorhism:

$$\rho_X : H_1(X, \mathbf{Z}) \to L_X$$

such that $(\rho_X)_* \circ (i_X)_* = 0$, where i_X is the inclusion $\partial X \to X$. Thus using the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence of the decomposition $M = X \cup G$, we get: $H_1(M, \mathbf{Z}) = H_1(G, \mathbf{Z}) \oplus H_1(X, \mathbf{Z}) \oplus \mathbf{Z}$ which allows us to construct a surjective homomorphism

$$\rho : H_1(M, \mathbf{Z}) \to L_X \oplus L_G$$

such that $\rho(H_1(G, \mathbf{Z})) \neq 0$, $\rho(H_1(X, \mathbf{Z})) \neq 0$ and $\rho(H_1(\partial X, \mathbf{Z})) = 0$. Let $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$ be the finite covering corresponding to ρ. Then $p^{-1}(\partial X)$ has $|L_X \oplus L_G|$ components and each component of $p^{-1}(G)$ (resp. of $p^{-1}(X)$) contains $2|L_X| > 2$ (resp. $2|L_G| > 2$) boundary components. This implies that for each component of $p^{-1}(X)$ the number of boundary components over T_1 is $|L_G| > 1$, which implies the each component of $p^{-1}(X)$ contains some Seifert piece which are not of type II. Moreover since p is an abelian covering and since f is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence then $\widetilde{M}$ is induced by f from a finite covering of N. Since X is made of Seifert pieces of type II this contradicts Lemma 3.1 and proves Lemma 3.10. □

3.4.1 The "non-separating" case

In this section we prove that if $V \setminus X$ is connected then we get a contradiction. This result depends on the following Lemma:

Lemma 3.11 *Let $W(T_1)$ be a regular neighborhood of T_1. Then there exists an incompressible vertical torus $U = \Gamma \times S^1$ in $B \simeq F \times S^1$ where $\Gamma \subset F$ is a simple closed curve and a homotopy $(f_t)_{0\leq t\leq 1}$ such that:*

(i) *$f_0 = f$, the homotopy $(f_t)_{0\leq t\leq 1}$ is equal to f when restricted to $M \setminus W(T_1)$ and $f_1(T_1) = U$,*

(ii) *$\pi_1(U, x) = \langle u, t_B\rangle$ with $x \in f_1(T_1)$, u is represented by the curve Γ in F and t_B is represented by the fiber of $\pi_1(B, x)$.*

Proof Denote by X_1 the space $f(T_1)$. Since T_1 is a non-separating torus in V we can choose a simple closed curve γ in $\text{int}(V)$ such that:

(i) γ cuts each component of ∂A_i, $i = 1, ..., n$ transversally in a single point and the other canonical tori of $\text{int}(V)$ transversally,

(ii) γ representes a generator of $H_1(M, \mathbf{Z})/T(M)$ where $T(M)$ is the torsion submodule of $H_1(M, \mathbf{Z})$.

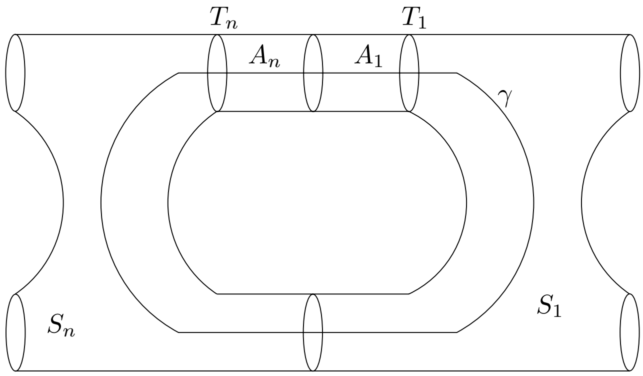


Figure 1

Let $\star$ be a base point in T_1 such that $\gamma \cap T_1 = \{\star\}$ and set $x = f(\star)$. Let h be the homotopy class of the regular fiber of A_1 and let d_1 be an element in $\pi_1(A_1, \star)$ such that $\langle d_1, h\rangle = \pi_1(T_1, \star)$. We now choose a basis of $H_1(M, \mathbf{Z})/T(M)$ of type $\{[\gamma], e_2, ..., e_n\}$. Since f is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence then the family $\{f_*([\gamma]), f_*(e_2), ..., f_*(e_n)\}$ is a basis of $H_1(N, \mathbf{Z})/T(N)$. We want to construct an epimorphism $p_1 : H_1(N, \mathbf{Z}) \to \mathbf{Z}$ such that $p_1(f_*([\gamma]))$ is a generator of $\mathbf{Z}$ and such that $p_1(f_*(\langle [d_1], [h]\rangle)) = 0$.

To do this we choose a basis $\{[\gamma], e_2, ..., e_n\}$ of $H_1(M, \mathbf{Z})/T(M)$ so that $[T_1]\cdot e_i = 0$ for $i = 2, ..., n$. Denote by i the inclusion $T_1 \hookrightarrow M$. Since $[T_1] \cdot i_*(h) = [T_1]\cdot i_*(d_1) = 0$ then $i_*(h)$ and $i_*(d_1)$ are in the subspace K of $H_1(M, \mathbf{Z})/T(M)$ generated by $\{e_2, ..., e_n\}$. So it is sufficient to choose p_1 equal to the projection of $H_1(N, \mathbf{Z})$ on $\mathbf{Z} f_*([\gamma])$ with respect to $f_*(K)$. Denote by ε the following homomorphism:

$$\pi_1(N, x) \xrightarrow{Ab} H_1(N, \mathbf{Z}) \xrightarrow{p_1} \mathbf{Z}$$

Thus we get an epimorphism $\varepsilon : \pi_1(N, x) \to \mathbf{Z}$ such that $\varepsilon([f(\gamma)]) = z^{\pm 1}$ where z is a generator of $\mathbf{Z}$ and $x = f(\star)$. Since $\pi_1(B, x)$ is a subgroup of $\pi_1(N, x)$ and since $[f(\gamma)]$ is represented by $f(\gamma)$ in B then ε induces an epimorphism $\rho_* = \varepsilon|\pi_1(B, x) : \pi_1(B, x) \to \mathbf{Z} = \pi_1(S^1)$ with $\rho_*([f(\gamma)]) = z^{\pm 1}$ and $\rho_*(\pi_1(X_1, x)) = 0$ in $\mathbf{Z}$. Since B and S^1 are both $K(\pi, 1)$, it follows from Obstruction theory (see [8]) that there is a continuous map $\rho : (B, x) \to (S^1, y)$ which induces the above homomorphism and such that $y = \rho(x)$.

The end of proof of Lemma 3.11 depends on the following result. Notations and hypothesis are the same as in the above paragraph.

Lemma 3.12 *There is a homotopy $(\rho_t)_{0\le t\le 1}$ with $\rho_0 = \rho$ such that:*

(i) $\rho_1(X_1) = \rho_1(f(T_1)) = y$,

(ii) $\rho_1^{-1}(y)$ *is a collection of incompressible surfaces in* B.

Proof Since $\rho_*(\pi_1(X_1, x)) = 0$ in $\pi_1(S^1, y)$ then the homomorphism $(\rho|X_1)_* : \pi_1(X_1, x) \to \pi_1(S^1, y)$ factors through $\pi_1(z)$ where z is a 0-simplexe. Then there exist two maps $\alpha_* : \pi_1(X_1, x) \to \pi_1(z)$ and $\beta_* : \pi_1(z) \to \pi_1(S^1, y)$ such that $(\rho|X_1)_* = \beta_* \circ \alpha_*$. Since z and S^1 are both $K(\pi, 1)$ then the homomorphisms on π_1 are induced by maps $\alpha : (X_1, x) \to z$, $\beta : z \to (S^1, y)$ and $\rho|X_1$ is homotopic to $\beta \circ \alpha$. Thus we extend this homotopy to B and we denote by ρ' the resulting map. Then the map $\rho' : (B, x) \to (S^1, y)$ is homotopic to ρ and $\rho'(X_1) = y$. This proves point (i) of the Lemma.

Using [8, Lemma 6.4], we may suppose that each component of ${\rho'}^{-1}(y)$ is a surface in B. To complete the proof of the lemma it is sufficient to show that after changing ρ' by a homotopy fixing $\rho'|X_1$, then each component of ${\rho'}^{-1}(y)$ is incompressible in B. In [8, pp. 60-61], J. Hempel proves this point using chirurgical arguments on the map ρ' to get a simplical map ρ_1 homotopic to ρ' such that ρ_1 is "simpler" than ρ', (this means that $c(\rho_1) < c(\rho')$ where $c(\rho)$ is the complexity of ρ) and inducts on the complexity of ρ'. But these chirurgical arguments can a priori modify the behavior of $\rho'|X_1$. So we will use some other arguments. Let U be the component of ${\rho'}^{-1}(y)$ which contains $f(T_1) = X_1$. Then since $f|T_1 : T_1 \to N$ is non-degenerate the map $f : (T_1, \star) \to (U, x)$ induces an injective homomorphism $(f|T_1)_*\colon \pi_1(T_1, \star) \to \pi_1(U, x)$. Since $\pi_1(U, x)$ is a surface group then $\pi_1(U, x)$ has one of the following forms:

(i) a free abelian group of rank ≤ 2 or,

(ii) a non-abelian free group (when $\partial U \neq \emptyset$) or,

(iii) a free product with amalgamation of two non-abelian free groups.

Since $\pi_1(U, x)$ contains a subgroup isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$ then $\pi_1(U, x) \simeq \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$ and hence U is an incompressible torus in B. Note that we necessarily have $f(T_1) = U$. Indeed if there were a point $\star \in U$ such that $f(T_1) \subset U - \{\star\}$ then the two generators free group $\pi_1(U - \{\star\})$ would contain the group $f_*(\pi_1(T_1)) = \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$, which is impossible. □

End of proof of Lemma 3.11 We show here that U satisfies the conclusion of Lemma 3.11. Since $(\rho')_*(f_*(\gamma)) = z^{\pm 1}$ then the intersection number (counted with sign) of $f(\gamma)$ with U is an odd number and then U is a non-separating incompressible torus in B. Let t_{S_1} be an element of $\pi_1(S_1, \star)$ represented by a regular fiber in S_1 and let $t_B \in \pi_1(B, x)$ be represented by the fiber in B. Since S_1 is a Seifert piece of Type I, we get $f_*(t_{S_1}) = t_B^{\alpha}$. Indeed, the image of t_{S_1} in $\pi_1(S_1, \star)$ is central, hence the centralizer of $f_*(t_{S_1})$ in $\pi_1(B, x)$ contains $(f|S_1)_*(\pi_1(S_1, \star))$ and since S_1 is of type I, by the second assertion of [17, Lemma 4.2.1] the latter group is non abelian, which implies, using [12, addendum to Theorem VI.1.6] that $f_*(t_{S_1}) \in \langle t_B \rangle$. Thus $\pi_1(U, x) \supset \langle t_B^{\alpha} \rangle$ i.e. $\pi_1(U, x)$ contains an infinite subgroup which is central in $\pi_1(B, x)$ and $\pi_1(U, x) \supset \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z} = f_*(\pi_1(T_1, \star))$. Then using [11, Theorem VI.3.4] we know that U is a satured torus in B, then $\pi_1(U, x) = \langle u, t_B \rangle$ where u is represented by a simple closed curve in F. This ends the proof of Lemma 3.11. □

End of proof of case 1 It follows from the above paragraph that $[T_1].[\gamma] = [U].[f_*(\gamma)] = 1$ and thus $f|T_1 : T_1 \to U$ is a degree one map. So f :

$(A_1, T_1, \star) \to (B, U, x)$ induces an isomorphism $f_*\colon \pi_1(T_1, \star) \to \pi_1(U, x)$. Recall that $\pi_1(A_1, \star)$ has a presentation:

$$\langle d_1, d_2, q_1, ...q_r, h : [h, d_i] = [h, q_j] = 1, q_j^{\mu_j} = h^{\gamma_j}, d_1 d_2 = q_1 ... q_r h^b \rangle$$

where d_1 is chosen in such a way that $\pi_1(T_1, \star) = \langle d_1, h \rangle$. Hence there are two integers α and β such that $f_*(h) = (u^\alpha, t_B^\beta)$ and $(\alpha, \beta) = 1$. Since $f_*(\pi_1(A_1, \star))$ is an abelian group we have $f_*(c_i) = (u^{\alpha_i}, t_B^{\beta_i})$ where c_i denotes the homotopy class of an exceptional fiber in A_1. Since $c_i^{\mu_i} = h$ then $\mu_i | (\alpha, \beta)$. This is a contradiction. □

3.4.2 The "separating" case

We suppose here that T_1 is a separating torus in V. We set $X = \bigcup_{1 \le i \le n} A_i$. Moreover it follows from Remark 2, that the space $M \setminus X$ is connected. Let G denote the space $M \setminus X$ and let T_1, T_n be the canonical tori of M such that $T_1 \coprod T_n = \partial X = \partial G$. Consider the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H_1(\partial G, \mathbf{Z}) & \xrightarrow{i_*} & H_1(S_1 \cup S_n, \mathbf{Z}) & \xrightarrow{j_*} & H_1(G, \mathbf{Z}) \\ \| \downarrow & & \| \downarrow & & \| \downarrow \\ H_1(T_1, \mathbf{Z}) \oplus H_1(T_n, \mathbf{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H_1(S_1, \mathbf{Z}) \oplus H_1(S_n, \mathbf{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H_1(G, \mathbf{Z}) \end{array}$$

Since S_1 and S_n are Seifert pieces of type I then $\mathrm{Rk}(H_1(S_1, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(G, \mathbf{Z})) \ge 6$ and $\mathrm{Rk}(H_1(S_n, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(G, \mathbf{Z})) \ge 6$ (see [17, Lemma 3.2]).

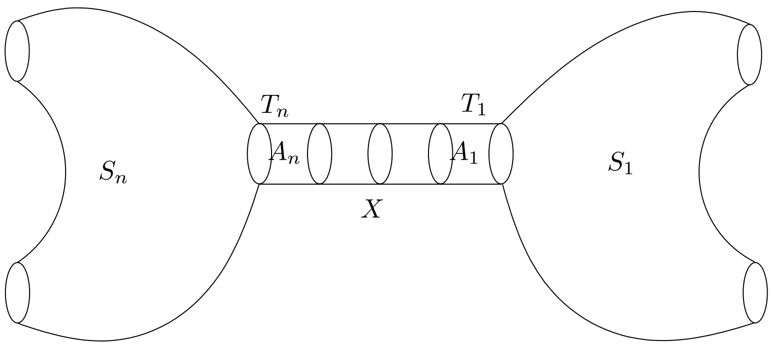


Figure 2

So there exists a non-trivial torsion group L_G and an epimorphism:

$$\rho_G : H_1(G, \mathbf{Z}) \to L_G$$

such that $\rho_G \circ (i_G)_* = 0$, $\mathrm{Rk}(\rho_G(H_1(S_1, \mathbf{Z})) \neq 0$ and $\mathrm{Rk}(\rho_G(H_1(S_1, \mathbf{Z})) \neq 0$, where i_G denotes the inclusion of ∂G in G ($(i_G)_* = (j)_* \circ (i)_*$). It follows from Lemma 3.10 that the homomorphism $(i_X)_* : H_1(\partial X, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(X, \mathbf{Z})$ is surjective. Then by the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence of $M = X \cup G$ we get an epimorphism:

$$\rho : H_1(M, \mathbf{Z}) \to L_G.$$

such that $\rho \circ I_* = 0$ and $\rho \circ (i_X)_* = 0$ where $I : \partial X \hookrightarrow M$ and $i_X : X \hookrightarrow M$ denote the inclusion and $\mathrm{Rk}(\rho_G(H_1(S_1, \mathbf{Z}))) \neq 0$, $\mathrm{Rk}(\rho_G(H_1(S_1, \mathbf{Z}))) \neq 0$.

Let $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$ be the finite covering induced by ρ. Since it is an abelian covering and since f is a homology equivalence this covering is induced from a finite covering $\widetilde{N}$ of N. Moreover it follows from the above contruction that $p^{-1}(X)$ (resp. $p^{-1}(G)$) has $|L_G| > 1$ (resp. 1) components and if $\widetilde{S}_1$ (resp. $\widetilde{S}_n$) denotes a component of $p^{-1}(S_1)$ (resp. of $p^{-1}(S_n)$) then $\partial\widetilde{S}_1$ (resp. $\partial\widetilde{S}_n$) contains at least two components of $p^{-1}(T_1)$ (resp. of $p^{-1}(T_n)$). Let $\widetilde{V}$ be a component of $p^{-1}(V)$ in $\widetilde{M}$ and let $\widetilde{S}_1^1, ..., \widetilde{S}_1^{p_1}$ (resp. $\widetilde{S}_n^1, ..., \widetilde{S}_n^{p_n}$) denote the components of $p^{-1}(S_1)$ (resp. $p^{-1}(S_n)$) which are in $\widetilde{V}$.

It follows from the construction of p that each component of $\widetilde{S}_i^j$ (for $i = 1, n$ and $j \in \{1, ..., p_i\}$) has at least two boundary components and the components $\widetilde{X}_1, ..., \widetilde{X}_r$ of $p^{-1}(X) \cap \widetilde{V}$ are all homeomorphic to X (i.e. the covering is trivial over X because of the surjectivity of $H_1(\partial X, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(X, \mathbf{Z})$). Let $\mathcal{A}$ denote the submanifold $\widetilde{V}$ equal to $(\cup_j \widetilde{S}_1^j) \cup (\cup_i \widetilde{X}_i) \cup (\cup_j \widetilde{S}_n^j)$ where we have glued the boundary components of the $\partial\widetilde{X}_i$ with the boundary components of the correponding spaces $\widetilde{S}_i^j$.

Hence it follows from the construction that there is a submanifold $\widetilde{X}_i$ with a boundary component, say T_i, which is non-separating in $\mathcal{A}$ (and thus in $\widetilde{V}$). Let $\widetilde{B}$ be the Seifert piece of $\widetilde{N}$ such that $\widetilde{f}(\widetilde{V}) \subset \widetilde{B}$. So we can choose a simple closed curve γ in $\mathcal{A}$ such that γ cuts transversally the canonical tori of $\mathcal{A}$ in at most one point, such that $\widetilde{f}(\gamma) \subset \widetilde{B}$. Thus we have a reduction to the non-separating case. This completes the proof of Lemma 3.3.

3.5 Proof of the third step

We complete here the proof of Theorem 1.5. Let B_{α_i} be a Seifert piece of the decomposition of N given by Lemma 3.3 and let A_i be the Seifert piece in M such that $f(A_i, \partial A_i) \subset (B_{\alpha_i}, \partial B_{\alpha_i})$. On the other hand, it follows from Lemma 3.3 that the induced map $f_i = f|(A_i, \partial A_i) : (A_i, \partial A_i) \to (B_{\alpha_i}, \partial B_{\alpha_i})$

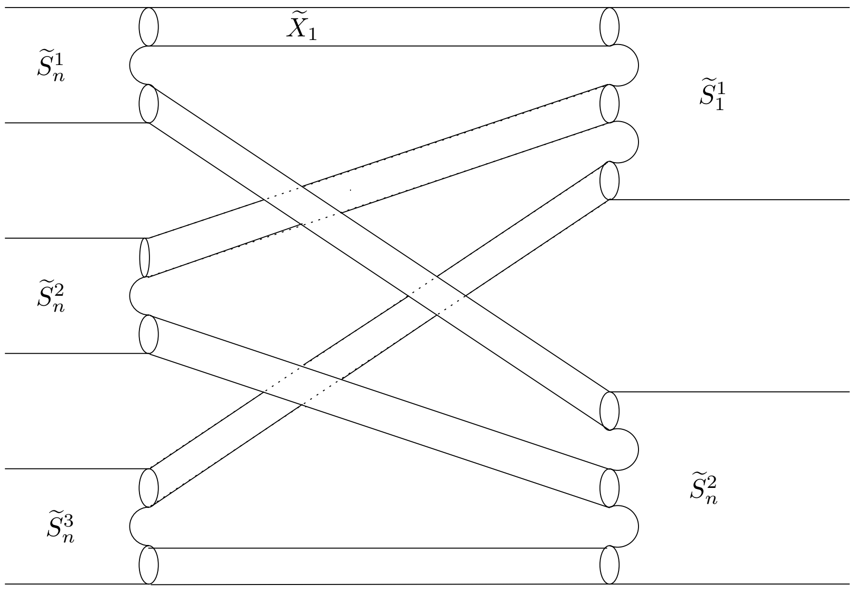


Figure 3

is a **Z**-homology equivalence and the map $f_i|\partial A_i : \partial A_i \to \partial B_{\alpha_i}$ is a homeomorphism. So to complete the proof it is sufficient to show that we can change f_i by a homotopy (rel. ∂A_i) to a homeomorphism. To see this we first prove that f_i induces an isomorphism on fundamental groups and we next use [24, Corollary 6.5] to conclude. To prove that maps f_i induce an isomorphism $(f_i)_*\colon \pi_1(A_i) \to \pi_1(B_{\alpha_i})$ we apply arguments of [17, Paragraphs 4.3.15 and 4.3.16]. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.5.

4 Study of the degenerate canonical tori

This section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.7. Recall that the Haken manifold N^3 has large first Betti number ($\beta_1(N^3) \geq 3$) and that each Seifert piece in N^3 is homeomorphic to a product $F \times \mathbf{S^1}$ where F is an orientable surface with at least two boundary components.

4.1 A key lemma for Theorem 1.7

This section is devoted to the proof of the following result.

Lemma 4.1 *Let $f : M \to N$ be a map satisfying hypothesis of Theorem 1.7. If T denotes a degenerate canonical torus in M then T separates M into two submanifolds and there is a component (and only one), say A, of $M \setminus T$, such that:*

(i) $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$,

(ii) *for any finite covering p of M induced by f from some finite covering of N the components of $p^{-1}(A)$ have connected boundary,*

(iii) *for any finite covering p of M induced by f from some finite covering of N then each component $\widetilde{A}$ of $p^{-1}(A)$ satisfies $H_1(\widetilde{A}, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$.*

Proof It follows from [17, paragraph 4.1.3] that if T is a degenerate canonical torus in M then T separates M into two submanifolds A and B such that $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z})$ or $H_1(B, \mathbf{Z})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}$. Fix notations in such a way that $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$. Note that since $\beta_1(N^3) \geq 3$ then it follows from the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence of the decomposition $M = A \cup_T B$ that $\beta_1(B) \geq 3$. So to complete the proof of Lemma 4.1 it is sufficient to prove (ii) and (iii).

We first prove (ii) for regular coverings. Let $\widetilde{N}$ be a regular finite covering of N and denote by $\widetilde{M}$ the induced finite covering over M. Since $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$ is regular we can denote by k (resp. k') the number of connected components of $p^{-1}(A)$ (resp. $p^{-1}(B)$) and by p (resp. p') the number of boundary components of each component of $p^{-1}(A)$ (resp. of $p^{-1}(B)$).

Let $\widetilde{A}_1, ..., \widetilde{A}_k$ (resp. $\widetilde{B}_1, ..., \widetilde{B}_{k'}$) denote the components of $p^{-1}(A)$ (resp. $p^{-1}(B)$). For each $i = 1, ..., k$ ($j = 1, ..., k'$) choose a base point a_i (resp. b_j) in the interior of each space $\widetilde{A}_i$ (resp. $\widetilde{B}_j$) and choose a base point Q_l in each component of $p^{-1}(T)$ (for $l = 1, ..., \mathrm{Card}(p^{-1}(T))$). For each $\widetilde{A}_i$ (resp. $\widetilde{B}_j$) and each component $\widetilde{T}_l \subset \partial \widetilde{A}_i$ (resp. $\widetilde{T}_l \subset \partial \widetilde{B}_j$) we choose an embedded path α_i^l in $\widetilde{A}_i$ joining a_i to Q_l (resp. a path β_j^m in $\widetilde{B}_j$ joining b_j to Q_m); we choose these path in such a way that they don't meet in their interior. Their union is a connected graph denoted by Γ.

Then the fundamental group $\pi_1(\Gamma)$ is a free group with 1 - $\chi(\Gamma)$ generators. In particular $H_1(\Gamma, \mathbf{Z})$ is the free abelian group of rank 1 - $\chi(\Gamma)$ where $\chi(\Gamma)$ denotes the Euler characteristic of Γ. Thus we have :

$$\chi(\Gamma) = pk + k + k' \quad \text{with} \quad pk = p'k'$$

So suppose that p and $p' \geq 2$. Then we get :

$$\chi(\Gamma) \leq k - k' \quad \text{and} \quad \chi(\Gamma) \leq k' - k.$$

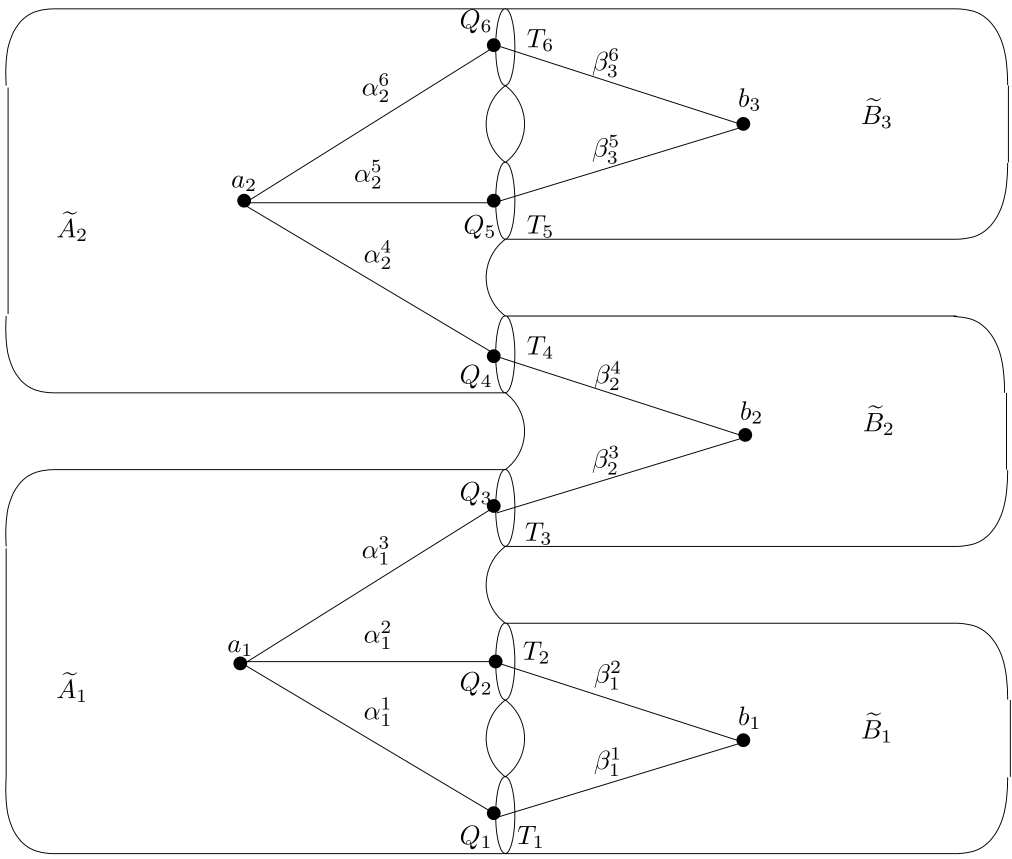


Figure 4

Thus we get $\chi(\Gamma) \leq 0$ and $\mathrm{Rk}(H_1(\Gamma, \mathbf{Z})) \geq 1$. Then there exists at least one 1-cycle in Γ, and thus we can find a component of $p^{-1}(T)$ which is a non-separating torus in $\widetilde{M}$. So it follows from [17, paragraph 4.1.3] that there exists a canonical torus $\widetilde{T}$ in $p^{-1}(T)$ such that $\widetilde{f}|\widetilde{T} : \widetilde{T} \to \widetilde{N}$ is a non-degenerate map. Since $f|T : T \to N$ is a degenerate map, we have a contradiction.

So we can suppose that p or p' is equal to 1. So suppose that $p > 1$. Hence we have $p' = 1$, $p^{-1}(A)$ is connected with p boundary components and $p^{-1}(B)$ has p components $\widetilde{B}_1, ..., \widetilde{B}_p$ and each of them have connected boundary. Note that since $\beta_1(B) \geq 3$ then it follows from [17, Lemma 3.4] that $\beta_1(\widetilde{B}_i) \geq 3$ for $i = 1, ..., p$. Set $\widetilde{T}_i = \partial \widetilde{B}_i$ and $\widetilde{A}_{p-1} = p^{-1}(A) \cup_{\widetilde{T}_1} \widetilde{B}_1 \cup_{\widetilde{T}_2} ... \cup_{\widetilde{T}_{p-1}} \widetilde{B}_{p-1}$. It follows easily by a Mayer-Vietoris argument that $\beta_1(\widetilde{A}_{p-1}) \geq 2$. So we get a contradiction with the first step of the lemma since $\widetilde{M} = \widetilde{A}_{p-1} \cup \widetilde{B}_p$ and since

$\beta_1(\widetilde{A}_{p-1}) \geq 2$ and $\beta_1(\widetilde{B}_p) \geq 3$. This proves that $p = 1$.

To complete the proof of (ii) it is sufficient to consider the case of a finite covering (not necessarily regular) $q\colon \widetilde{N} \to N$. Then there exists a finite covering $q_1\colon \hat{N} \to \widetilde{N}$ such that $\pi_N = q \circ q_1\colon \hat{N} \to N$ is regular. Denote by p (resp. p_1, resp. π_M) the covering induced by f which comes from q (resp. q_1, resp. π_N). It follows from the above paragraph that each component of $\pi_M^{-1}(A) = q_1^{-1}(q^{-1}(A))$ has connected boundary. So each component of $p^{-1}(A)$ has connected boundary too, which completes the proof of (ii).

We now prove (iii). So suppose that there is a finite covering $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$, induced by f from some finite covering of N such that a component $\widetilde{A}$ of $p^{-1}(A)$ satisfies $H_1(\widetilde{A}, \mathbf{Z}) \not\simeq \mathbf{Z}$. Then as in [17, paragraph 4.1.4] we can construct a finite abelian covering $q : \hat{M} \to \widetilde{M}$ in such a way that the components of $q^{-1}(\widetilde{A})$ have at least two boundary components which contradicts (ii). This completes the proof of Lemma 4.1. □

4.2 Proof of Theorem 1.7

In the following we denote by T a canonical torus in M which degenerates under the map $f\colon M \to N$, by A the component of $M \setminus T$ (given by Lemma 4.1) satisfying $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$ and we set $B = M \setminus A$ with $\beta_1(B) \geq 2$. We will show that the piece A satisfies the conclusion of Theorem 1.7.

4.2.1 Characterization of the non-degenerate components of A

To prove Theorem 1.7 we will show that each Seifert piece in A degenerates under the map f. Suppose the contrary. The purpose of this section is to prove the following result which describes the (eventually) non-degenerate Seifert pieces of A.

Lemma 4.2 *Let T be a degenerate canonical torus in M and let A be the component of $M \setminus T$ such that $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z})$ is isomophic to $\mathbf{Z}$. Let S be a Seifert piece in A (using [17, Lemma 3.2] we know that S admits a base of genus 0) such that $f|S : S \to N$ is non-degenerate. Then we get the following properties:*

(i) *there exist exactly two components T_1, T_2 of ∂S such that the map $f|T_i : T_i \to N$ is non-degenerate,*

(ii) $f_*(\pi_1(S)) = \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$,

(iii) *if $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$ denotes a finite covering of M induced by f from some finite covering of N then each component of $p^{-1}(S)$ satisfies (i) and (ii).*

This result will be used in the paragraph 4.2.2 to get a contradiction. The proof of Lemma 4.2 depends on the following result.

Lemma 4.3 *Let S be a Seifert piece in M whose orbit space is surface of genus 0. Suppose that $f|S : S \to N$ is a non-degenerate map. Then there exist at least two components T_1 and T_2 in ∂S such that $f|T_i : T_i \to N$ is non-degenerate.*

Proof Let us recall that the group $\pi_1(S)$ has a presentation (a):

$$\langle d_1, ..., d_p, h, q_1, ..., q_r : [h; q_i] = [h; d_j] = 1, q_i^{\mu_i} = h^{\gamma_i}, d_1...d_p q_1...q_r = h^b \rangle$$

Since $f|S : S \to N$ is a non-degenerate map, then using [12, Mapping Theorem] we may suppose, after modifying f by a homotopy, that $f(S)$ is contained in a Seifert piece $B \simeq F \times S^1$ in N.

1. We first show that if the map $f|S : S \to N$ is non-degenerate then S contains at least one boundary component which is non-degenerate under f. To see this, we suppose the contrary: we will show that if each boundary component of S degenerates under f then: $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$ which gives a contradiction with the definition of non-degenerate maps (see [12]).

Since $f|S : S \to N$ is non-degenerate, we have $f_*(h) \neq 1$ and then $f_*(\langle d_i, h \rangle) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$. Thus there exist two integers α_i and β_i such that

$$f_*^{\alpha_i}(d_i) = f_*^{\beta_i}(h) \text{ and } f_*^{\mu_i}(q_i) = f_*^{\gamma_i}(h) \qquad (\star)$$

Case 1.1 We suppose that the group $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is abelian (remember that the group $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is torsion free). Thus it follows from equalities $(\star)$ and from the presentation (a) above that $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is necessarily isomorphic to the free abelian group of rank 1.

Case 1.2 We suppose that the group $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is non-abelian. Since h is central in $\pi_1(S)$, the centralizer $(f|S)_*(h)$ in $\pi_1(B)$ contains $f_*(\pi_1(S))$. Since the latter group is non-abelian, it follows from [12, addendum to Theorem VI 1.6] that $f_*(h) \in \langle t \rangle$ where t denotes the homotopy class of the regular fiber in B. Then equality $(\star)$ implies that $f_*(d_i)$ and $f_*(q_i)$ are in $\langle t \rangle$. Thus using the presentation (a) we get $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$ which is a contradiction.

2. We show now that if $f|S : S \to N$ is a non-degenerate map then S contains at least two boundary components which are non-degenerate under f. To do this we suppose the contrary. This means that we can assume that $f_*|\langle d_1, h \rangle$ is an injective map and that $f_*|\langle d_2, h \rangle$,..., $f_*|\langle d_p, h \rangle$ are degenerate.

Case 2.1 We suppose that the group $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is abelian. Thus since

$$d_1 ... d_p q_1 ... q_r = h^b \tag{$\star\star$}$$

we get $\mathrm{Rk}(\langle f_*(d_1), f_*(h)\rangle = 1$. This is a contradiction.

Case 2.2 We suppose that the group $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is non-abelian. Since h is central in $\pi_1(S)$, then by the same argument as in Case 1.2 we get $f_*(h) \in \langle t\rangle$ where t the homotopy class of the regular fiber in B. Thus $f_*(q_i) \in \langle t\rangle$ for $i = 1, ..., r$ and $f_*(d_j) \in \langle t\rangle$ for $j = 2, ..., p$. Then using $(\star\star)$ we get $\mathrm{Rk}(\langle f_*(d_1), f_*(h)\rangle) = 1$. This is contradiction. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.3. □

Proof of Lemma 4.2 Since S is non-degenerate, we denote by $B \simeq F \times \mathbf{S}^1$ the Seifert piece of N such that $f(S) \subset B$ and by t the (regular) fiber in B. Suppose that S contains at least three injective tori in ∂S. Denote by $\widetilde{N}$ the finite covering of N given by Lemma 3.2. $\widetilde{N}$ admits a finite covering $(\hat{N}, p)$ which is regular over N. Then each component of the covering over S induced from $\hat{N}$ by f admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is a surface of genus ≥ 1 and then, by regularity, each component of $p^{-1}(A)$ contains a Seifert piece whose orbit space is a surface of genus ≥ 1.

Let $A_1, ...A_p$ be the components of $p^{-1}(A)$ and set $\hat{B} = p^{-1}(B)$. It follows from Lemma 4.1 that $\hat{B}$ is connected and each component A_i, $i = 1, ..., p$ has a connected boundary. Since $\beta_1(A_i) \geq 2$ using [17, Lemma 3.2] and $\beta_1(\hat{B}) \geq \beta_1(B) \geq 3$, we get a contradiction with Lemma 4.1. This proves (i).

Suppose now that the group $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is non-abelian. Since S admits a Seifert fibration over a surface of genus 0 then $\pi_1(S)$ admits a presentation as in (a) (see the proof of Lemma 4.3). Using (i) of Lemma 4.2 we may assume that $\langle d_1, h\rangle, \langle d_2, h\rangle$ are injective tori and that $\langle d_i, h\rangle$, $i = 3, ..., p$ are degenerate. Then we know that the elements $f_*(d_i)$ and $f_*(q_j)$ are in $\langle t\rangle$, (for $i \geq 3$ and $j = 1, ..., r$), and then it follows from $(\star\star)$ that:

$$f_*(d_1)f_*(d_2) \in \langle t\rangle. \tag{1}$$

Since B is a product, we may write : $f_*(d_1) = (u, t^{\alpha_1})$ and $f_*(d_2) = (v, t^{\alpha_2})$. Thus it follows from (1) that $v = u^{-1}$, and then $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is an abelian group. This is a contradiction. So $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is abelian. Since $f|S \colon S \to N$ is a non-degenerate map and since $\pi_1(N)$ is a torsion free group, $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is a finitely generated abelian free subgroup of $\pi_1(N)$. Using [11, Theorem V.6] we know that there exists a compact 3-manifold V and an immersion $g : V \to N$ such that $g_* : \pi_1(V) \to \pi_1(N)$ is an isomorphism onto $f_*(\pi_1(S))$. Finally $f_*(\pi_1(S))$

is a free abelian group of rank at least two which is the fundamental group of a 3-manifold. Then using [11, exemple V.8] we get that $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is a free abelian group of rank 2 or 3.

Then we prove here that we necessarily have $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \simeq \mathbf{Z}\oplus\mathbf{Z}$. We know that $\mathrm{Rk}(\langle f_*(q_j), f_*(h)\rangle) = 1$ for $j = 1, ..., r$ and by (i) $\mathrm{Rk}(\langle f_*(d_i), f_*(h)\rangle) = 1$ for $i = 3, ..., p$ and $\mathrm{Rk}(\langle f_*(d_1), f_*(h)\rangle) = \mathrm{Rk}(\langle f_*(d_2), f_*(h)\rangle) = 2$. Then using $(\star\star)$ and the fact that $f_*(\pi_1(S))$ is an abelian group, we can find two integers α, β such that $f_*(d_1)^\alpha f_*(d_2)^\alpha = f_*(h)^\beta$. This implies that $f_*(d_2)^\alpha \in \langle f_*(d_1), f_*(h)\rangle$ and then $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \simeq \mathbf{Z}\oplus\mathbf{Z}$. This proves (ii). The proof of (iii) is a direct consequence of (i) and (ii). □

4.2.2 End of proof of Theorem 1.7

To complete the proof of Theorem 1.7 it is sufficient to prove (ii). So we first prove that each Seifert piece of A degenerates and that A is a graph manifold. Denote by S_0 the component of A which is adjacent to $T = \partial A$. It follows from [20, Lemma 2] that S_0 is necessarily a Seifert piece of A. We prove that $f|S_0 : S_0 \to N$ is a degenerate map. Suppose the contrary. Thus S_0 satisfies the conclusion of Lemma 4.2. Let T_1, T_2 be the non-degenerate components of ∂S_0 and $\pi_1(T_1) = \langle d_1, h\rangle, \pi_1(T_2) = \langle d_2, h\rangle$ the corresponding fundamental groups. Let $\varphi : \pi_1(N) \to H$ be the correponding epimorphism given by Proposition 2.1, where H is a finite group such that $\varphi f_*(d_1), \varphi f_*(d_2) \notin \langle\varphi f_*(h)\rangle$. Denote by $\widetilde{N}$ the (finite) covering given by φ, $\widetilde{M}$ (resp. $\widetilde{S}_0$) the covering of M (resp. of S_0) induced by f. Then formula of paragraph 3.2 applied to S_0 and $\widetilde{S}_0$ becomes:

$$2\widetilde{g} + \widetilde{p} = 2 + \sigma\left(p + r - \sum_{i=1}^{i=r}\frac{1}{(\mu_i, \beta_i)} - 2\right) \quad (1)$$

where $\widetilde{p} = \sum_{j=1}^{p} r_j = \sigma\left(\sum_{j=1}^{p}\frac{1}{n_j}\right)$ (resp. p) is the number of boundary components of the finite covering $\widetilde{S}_0$ of S_0 (resp. of S_0) and where $\widetilde{g}$ denotes the genus of the orbit space of $\widetilde{S}_0$. We can write: $p = 2 + p_1$, where p_1 denotes the number of degenerate boundary components of S_0 and $\widetilde{p} = 2 + \widetilde{p_1}$ (where $\widetilde{p_1}$ denotes the number of degenerate boundary components of $\widetilde{S}_0$). It follows from Lemma 4.2 that we may assume that $\widetilde{g} = 0$. Thus using (1), we get:

$$\widetilde{p_1} = \sigma\left(p_1 + r - \sum_{i=1}^{i=r}\frac{1}{(\mu_i, \beta_i)}\right)$$

Since $(\mu_i, \beta_i) \geq 1$, we have $\widetilde{p_1} \geq \sigma p_1$ and then $\widetilde{p_1} = \sigma p_1$. This implies that for each degenerate torus U in ∂S_0 there are at least two (degenerate) tori in $\widetilde{S}_0$ which project onto U. Let us denote by $P\colon \widetilde{M} \to M$ the finite regular covering of M correponding to $\varphi\circ f_*$. Then each component of $P^{-1}(A)$ contains at least two components in its boundary. This contradicts Lemma 4.1 and so $f|S_0\colon S_0 \to N$ is a degenerate map. This proves, using [20, Lemma 2] that each component of A adjacent to S_0 is a Seifert manifold which allows to apply the above arguments to each of them and prove that they degenerate. Then we apply these arguments successively to each Seifert piece of A, which proves that A is a graph manifold whose all Seifert pieces degenerate.

We now prove that the group $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is either trivial or infinite cyclic by induction on the number of Seifert components $c(A)$ of A. If $c(A) = 1$ then A admits a Seifert fibration over the disk D^2. Then the group $\pi_1(A)$ has a presentation:

$$\langle d_1, h, q_1, ..., q_r : [h, d_1] = [h, q_j] = 1, q_j^{\mu_j} = h^{\gamma_j}, d_1 = q_1...q_r h^b\rangle$$

We know that $f|A : A \to N$ is a degenerate map. Thus either $f_*(h) = 1$ or $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is isomorphic to $\{1\}$ or $\mathbf{Z}$. So it is sufficient to consider the case $f_*(h) = 1$. Since $\pi_1(N)$ is a torsion free group then $f_*(q_1) = ... = f_*(q_r) = 1$ and thus $f_*(d_1) = f_*(q_1)...f_*(q_r)f_*(h)^b = 1$. So we have $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = \{1\}$.

Let us suppose now that $c(A) > 1$. Denote by S_0 the Seifert piece adjacent to T in A and by $T_1, ..., T_k$ its boundary components in $\mathrm{int}(A)$. It follows from Lemma 4.1 that $A \setminus S_0$ is composed of k submanifolds $A_1, ..., A_k$ such that $\partial A_i = T_i$ for $i = 1, ..., k$. Furthermore, again by Lemma 4.1, $H_1(A_1, \mathbf{Z}) \simeq ... \simeq H_1(A_k, \mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$. Thus the induction hypothesis applies and implies that $f_*(\pi_1(A_i)) = \{1\}$ or $f_*(\pi_1(A_i)) = \mathbf{Z}$ for $i = 1, ..., k$. Let h_0 denote the homotopy class of the regular fiber of S_0.

Case 1 Suppose first that $f_*(h_0) \neq 0$. Since the map $f|S_0 : S_0 \to N$ is degenerate, it follows from the definition that the group $f_*(\pi_1(S_0))$ is abelian. Denote by $x_1, ..., x_k$ base points in $T_1, ..., T_k$. Since $f_*(\pi_1(A_i))$ is an abelian group, we get the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
\pi_1(\partial A_i, x_i) & \xrightarrow{i_*} & \pi_1(A_i, x_i) & \xrightarrow{(f|A_i)_*} & \pi_1(N, y_i) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow Id \\
H_1(\partial A_i, \mathbf{Z}) & \xrightarrow{i_*} & H_1(A_i, \mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z} & \longrightarrow & \pi_1(N, y_i)
\end{array}$$

Since $H_1(A_i, \mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$ and since $\partial A_i = T_i$ is connected, then [17, Lemma 3.3.(b)] implies that the homomorphism $H_1(\partial A_i, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(A_i, \mathbf{Z})$ is surjective and then

$$f_*(\pi_1(A_i, x_i)) = f_*(\pi_1(T_i, x_i)) \qquad (\bullet)$$

Let (λ_i, μ_i) be a base of $\pi_1(T_i, x_i) \subset \pi_1(A_i, x_i)$. Recall that the group $\pi_1(S_0, x_i)$ has a presentation:

$$\langle d_1, ...d_k, d, h_0, q_1, ...q_r : [h_0, q_j] = [h_0, d_i] = [h_0, d] = 1,$$
$$q_i^{\mu_i} = h_0^{\gamma_i}, d_1...d_k d = q_1...q_r h_0^b\rangle$$

where the element d_i is chosen in such a way that $\pi_1(T_i, x_i) = \langle d_i, h_0\rangle \subset \pi_1(S_0, x_i)$ for $i = 1, ..., k$. Set $A^1 = S_0 \cup_{T_1} A_1$ and $A^j = A^{j-1} \cup_{T_j} A_j$ for $j = 2, ..., k$ (with this notation we have $A^k = A$). Applying the the Van-Kampen Theorem to these decompositions we get:

$$\pi_1(A^1, x_1) = \pi_1(S_0, x_1) *_{\pi_1(T_1, x_1)} \pi_1(A_1, x_1)$$

so we get

$$f_*(\pi_1(A^1, x_1)) = f_*(\pi_1(S_0, x_1)) *_{f_*(\pi_1(T_1, x_1))} f_*(\pi_1(A_1, x_1))$$

On the other hand it follows from $(\bullet)$ that the injection $f_*(\pi_1(T_1, x_1)) \hookrightarrow f_*(\pi_1(A_1, x_1))$ is an epimorphism, which implies that the canonical injection $f_*(\pi_1(S_0)) \hookrightarrow f_*(\pi_1(S_0, x_1)) *_{f_*(\pi_1(T_1, x_1))} f_*(\pi_1(A_1, x_1))$ is an epimorphism. Thus $f_*(\pi_1(A^1, x_1))$ is a quotient of the free abelian group of rank 1 $f_*(\pi_1(S_0, x_1))$ which implies that $f_*(\pi_1(A^1, x_1)) = \{1\}$ or $\mathbf{Z}$. Applying the same argument with the spaces A^1, A_2 with base point x_2 we obtain that $f_*(\pi_1(A^2, x_2))$ is a quotient of $f_*(\pi_1(A^1, x_2))$, which implies that $f_*(\pi_1(A^2)) = \{1\}$ or $\mathbf{Z}$. By repeating this method a finite number of times we get: $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = \{1\}$ or $\mathbf{Z}$.

Case 2 We suppose that $f_*(h_0) = 0$. Since $c_i^{\mu_i} = h_0$ (where c_i is any exceptional fiber of S_0) and since $\pi_1(N)$ is a torion free group, we conclude that $f_*(\gamma) = 1$ for every fibers γ of S_0. Let F_0 denote the orbit space (of genus 0) of the Seifert fibered manifold S_0. Then the map $f_*\colon \pi_1(S_0) \to \pi_1(N)$ factors through $\pi_1(S_0)/\langle\text{all fibers}\rangle \simeq \pi_1(F_0)$. Let $D_1, ..., D_n$ denote the boundary components of F_0 in such a way that $[D_i] = d_i \in \pi_1(F_0)$. Then there exist two homomorphisms $\alpha_* : \pi_1(S_0) \to \pi_1(F_0)$ and $\beta_* : \pi_1(F_0) \to \pi_1(N)$ such that $(f|S_0)_* = \beta_* \circ \alpha_*$.

We may suppose, after re-indexing, that there exists an integer $n_0 \in \{1, ..., k\}$ such that $f_*(d_1) = ... = f_*(d_{n_0}) = 1$ and $f_*(d_j) \neq 1$ for $j = n_0 + 1, ..., k$. If $n_0 = k$ then $f_*(\pi_1(S_0)) = \{1\}$ and we have a reduction to Case 1. Thus we may assume that $n_0 < n$. Let $\hat{F}_0$ be the 2-manifold obtained from F_0 by gluing a disk D_i^2 along D_i for $i = 1, ..., n_0$. The homomorphism $\beta_* : \pi_1(F_0) \to \pi_1(N)$ factors through the group $\pi_1(\hat{F}_0)$. Finally we get two homomorphisms $\hat{\alpha}_* : \pi_1(S_0) \to \pi_1(\hat{F}_0)$ and $\hat{\beta}_* : \pi_1(\hat{F}_0) \to \pi_1(N)$ satisfying $(f|S_0)_* = \hat{\beta}_* \circ \hat{\alpha}_*$ where $\hat{\alpha}_* : \pi_1(S_0) \to \pi_1(\hat{F}_0)$ is an epimorphism. It follows from $(\bullet)$ that

$f_*(\pi_1(A_i)) = \{1\}$ for $i = 1, ..., n_0$ and $f_*(\pi_1(A_j)) = \mathbf{Z}$ for $j = n_0 + 1, ..., k$. Thus the homomorphism $(f|A_i)_* : \pi_1(A_i) \to \pi_1(N)$ factors through $\pi_1(D_i^2)$, where D_i^2 denotes a disk, for $i = 1, ..., n_0$ and the homomorphism $(f|A_j)_* : \pi_1(A_j) \to \pi_1(N)$ factors through $\pi_1(S_j^1)$, where S_j^1 denotes the circle, for $j = n_0 + 1, ..., k$. So we can find two homomorphisms $\pi : \pi_1(A) \to \pi_1(\hat{F}_0)$ and $g : \pi_1(\hat{F}_0) \to \pi_1(N)$ such that $(f|A)_* = g \circ \pi$ where $\pi : \pi_1(A) \to \pi_1(\hat{F}_0)$ is an epimorphism. Then consider the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(A) & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \pi_1(\hat{F}_0) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) & \xrightarrow{\hat{\pi}} & H_1(\hat{F}_0, \mathbf{Z}) \end{array}$$

Since $\pi : \pi_1(A) \to \pi_1(\hat{F}_0)$ is an epimorphism, then so is $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(\hat{F}_0, \mathbf{Z})$. Moreover we know that $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$. Thus we get: $H_1(\hat{F}_0, \mathbf{Z}) \simeq H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$. Recall that $\pi_1(\hat{F}_0) = \langle d_{n_0+1} \rangle * ... * \langle d_{k-1} \rangle$. Thus $H_1(\hat{F}_0, \mathbf{Z})$ is an abelian free group of rank $k - 1 - n_0$ and thus we have: $n_0 = n - 2$. Finally we have proved that $\pi_1(\hat{F}_0) \simeq \langle d_{k-1} \rangle \simeq \mathbf{Z}$ which implies that $g_*(\pi_1(\hat{F}_0))$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}$ and thus $f_*(\pi_1(A)) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$. The proof of Theorem 1.7 is now complete.

5 Proof of the Factorization Theorem and some consequences

This section splits in two parts. The first one (paragraph 5.1) is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.10 and the second one gives a consequence of this result (see Proposition 1.11) which will be useful in the remainder of this paper.

5.1 Proof of Theorem 1.10

The first step is to prove that there exists a finite collection $\{T_1, ..., T_{n_M}\}$ of degenerate canonical tori satisfying $f_*(\pi_1(T_i)) = \mathbf{Z}$ in M which define a finite family $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1, ..., A_{n_M}\}$ of maximal ends of M such that $\partial A_i = T_i$ and $f|(M \setminus \cup A_i)$ is a non-degenerate map. We next show that the map $f\colon M^3 \to N^3$ factors through M_1, where M_1 is a collapse of M along $A_1, ..., A_{n_M}$ and we will see that the map $f_1\colon M_1^3 \to N^3$, induced by f, satisfies the hypothesis of Theorem 1.5. Then the conclusion of Theorem 1.5 will complete the proof of Theorem 1.10.

5.1.1 First step

Let $\{T_1^0, ..., T_{n_0}^0\} = W_M^0 \subset W_M$ be the canonical tori in M which degenerate under $f\colon M \to N$. If $W_M^0 = \emptyset$, by setting $A_i = \emptyset$, $\pi = f = f_1$ and $M = M_1$ then Theorem 1.10 is obvious by Theorem 1.5. So we may assume that $W_M^0 \neq \emptyset$. It follows from [20, Lemma 2.1.2] that for each component T of ∂H_M, the induced map $f|T\colon T \to N$ is π_1-injective and thus $W_M^0 \neq W_M$. Then we can choose a degenerate canonical torus T_1 such that T_1 is a boundary component of a Seifert piece C_1 in M which does not degenerate under f. It follows from Theorem 1.7 that T_1 is a separating torus in M. Using Theorem 1.7 there is a component A_1 of $M \setminus T_1$ such that:

(a) A_1 is a graph manifold, $H_1(A_1, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$ and the group $f_*(\pi_1(A_1))$ is either trivial or infinite cyclic,

(b) each Seifert piece of A_1 degenerates under the map f,

(c) A_1 satisfies the hypothesis of a maximal end of M (see Definition 1.8).

This implies that $\mathrm{int}(A_1) \cap \mathrm{int}(C_1) = \emptyset$ and $f_*(\pi_1(A_1)) = \mathbf{Z}$ (if $f_*(\pi_1(A_1)) = \{1\}$, C_1 would degenerate under f). Set $B_1 = M \setminus A_1$. If $W_{B_1}^0 = \{T_1^1, ..., T_{n_1}^1\} \subset W_M^0$ denotes the family of degenerate canonical tori in $\mathrm{int}(B_1)$ then $n_1 < n_0$. If $n_1 = 0$ we take $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1\}$. So suppose that $n_1 \geq 1$; we may choose a canonical torus T_2 in $W_{B_1}^0$ in the same way as above. Let C_2 denote the non-degenerate Seifert piece in M such that $T_2 \subset \partial C_2$ and let A_2 be the component of $M \setminus T_2$ which does not meet $\mathrm{int}(C_2)$. It follows from Theorem 1.7 that:

(1) $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$,

(2) A_2 satisfies the above properties (a), (b) and (c).

Thus by repeating these arguments a finite number of times we get a finite collection $\{A_1, ..., A_{n_M}\}$ of pairwise disjoint maximal ends of M such that each canonical torus of $M \setminus \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n_M} A_i$ is non-degenerate.

5.1.2 Second step

We next show that the map $f\colon M \to N$ factors through a manifold M_1 which is obtained from M by collapsing M along $A_1, ..., A_{n_M}$ (see Definition 1.9). To see this it is sufficient to consider the case of a single maximal end (i.e. $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1\}$). Let T_1 be the canonical torus ∂A_1 and let C_1 be the (non-degenerate) Seifert piece in M adjacent to A_1 along T_1. Since $f_*(\pi_1(A_1)) = \mathbf{Z}$, the homomorphism $f_*\colon \pi_1(A_1) \to \pi_1(N)$ factors through $\mathbf{Z}$. Then there are two homomorphisms $(\pi_0)_* : \pi_1(A_1) \to \pi_1(V_1)$, $(f_0)_* : \pi_1(V_1) \to \pi_1(N)$ such that $(f|A_1)_* = (f_0)_* \circ (\pi_0)_*$ (where V_1 denotes a solid torus) and where $(\pi_0)_*\colon \pi_1(A_1) \to \pi_1(V_1)$ is an epimorphism. Since V_1 and N are $K(\pi,1)$, it follows from Obstruction Theory [8] that these homomorphisms on π_1 are induced by two maps $\pi_0\colon A_1 \to V_1$ and $f_0\colon V_1 \to N$. Moreover we can assume that f_0 is an embedding. We show that we can choose π_0 in its homotopy class in such a way that its behavior is sufficiently "nice". This means that we want that π_0 satisfies the following two conditions:

(i) $\pi_0\colon (A_1, \partial A_1) \to (V_1, \partial V_1)$,

(ii) π_0 induces a homeomorphism $\pi_0|\partial A_1\colon \partial A_1 \to \partial V_1$.

Indeed since $f_*(\pi_1(T_1)) = \mathbf{Z}$, then there is a basis (λ, μ) of $\pi_1(T_1)$ such that $(\pi_0)_*(\lambda) = 1$ in $\pi_1(V_1)$ and $\langle(\pi_0)_*(\mu)\rangle = \pi_1(V_1)$. So we may suppose that $\pi_0(\mu) = l_{V_1}$ (resp. $\pi_0(\lambda) = m$) where l_{V_1} is a parallel (resp. m is a meridian) of V_1. So we have defined a map $\pi_0\colon \partial A_1 \to \partial V_1$ which induces an isomorphism $(\pi_0|\partial A_1)_* : \pi_1(\partial A_1) \to \pi_1(\partial V_1)$. So we may assume that condition (ii) is checked. Thus it is sufficient to show that the map $\pi_0|\partial A_0$ can be extended to a map $\pi_0\colon A_1 \to V_1$. For this consider a handle presentation of A_1 from T_1:

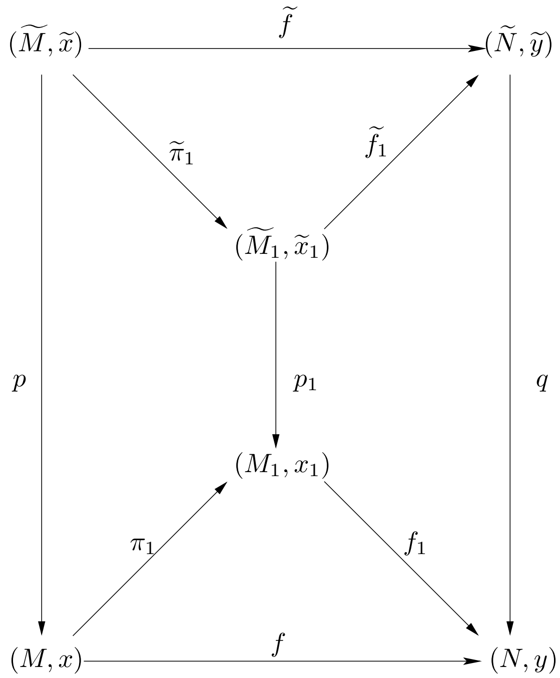
$$T_1 \cup (e_1^1 \cup ...e_i^1 ... \cup e_{n_1}^1) \cup (e_i^2 \cup ...e_j^2 ... \cup e_{n_2}^2) \cup (e_1^3 \cup ...e_k^3 ... \cup e_{n_3}^3)$$

where $\{e_i^k\}$ are k-cells ($k = 1,2,3$). Since $(\pi_0)_*(\pi_1(A_1)) = (\pi_0)_*(\pi_1(\partial A_1))$, we can extend the map π_0 defined on ∂A_1 to the 1-skeletton. Since V_1 is a $K(\pi,1)$ space, we can extend π_0 to A_1. Thus, up to homotopy, we can suppose that the map $f\colon M \to N$ is such that $f|A_1 = f_0 \circ \pi_0$, where $\pi_0|\partial A_1$ is a homeomorphism.

Set $B_1 = M \setminus A_1$. Attach a solid torus V_1 to B_1 along T_1 in such a way that the meridian of V_1 is identified to λ and the parallel l_{V_1} of V_1 is identified to μ. Let φ denote the corresponding gluing homeomorphism $\varphi : \partial V_1 \to \partial B_1$ and denote by $\hat{B}_1$ the resulting manifold. Let $\pi_0'\colon B_1 \to \hat{B}_1 \setminus V_1$ be the identity map. We define a map $\pi_1 : M = A_1 \cup B_1 \to M_1$ such that $\pi_1|A_1 = \pi_0$ and $\pi_1|B_1 = \pi_0'$ and $M_1 = \hat{B}_1$. Thus it follows from the above construction that $\pi_1 : M \to M_1$ is a well defined continuous map. Since the map $\pi_1|B_1 \setminus T_1 : B_1 \setminus T_1 \to \hat{B}_1 \setminus V_1$ is equal to the identity, we can define the map $f_1|\hat{B}_1 \setminus V_1$ by setting $f_1|\hat{B}_1 \setminus V_1 = f \circ (\pi_1)^{-1}|\hat{B}_1 \setminus V_1$ and $f_1 : V_1 \to N$ as f_0. Thus we get a map $f_1 : M_1 \to N$ such that $f = f_1 \circ \pi_1$.

We now check that M_1 is still a Haken manifold of finite volume. Let $\hat{C}_1$ be the space $C_1 \cup_\varphi V_1$. Since $M \setminus (A_1 \cup C_1)$ is a Haken manifold, it is sufficient to prove that $\hat{C}_1$ admits a Seifert fibration. Since $f|C_1 : C_1 \to N$ is a non-degenerate map, then $f_*(h_1) \neq 1$, where h_1 denotes the homotopy class of the regular fiber in C_1. Therefore the curve λ is not a fiber in C_1. Thus the Seifert fibration of C_1 extends to a Seifert fibration in $\hat{C}_1$. On the other hand, since f is homotopic to $f_1 \circ \pi_1$, we have $\deg(f_1) = \deg(\pi_1) = \deg(f) = 1$ and since $\|N\| = \|M\|$ then $\|N\| = \|M\| = \|M_1\|$.

In the following, if A denotes a $\mathbf{Z}$-module, let $T(A)$ (resp. $\mathbf{F}(A)$) be the torsion submodule (resp. the free submodule) of A. To complete the proof of the second step we show that f_1 satisfies the homological hypothesis of Theorem 1.1. Let $q\colon \widetilde{N} \to N$ be a finite cover of N, $p\colon \widetilde{M} \to M$ the finite covering induced from $\widetilde{N}$ by f and $p\colon \widetilde{M_1} \to M_1$ the finite covering induced from $\widetilde{N}$ by f_1. Denote by $\widetilde{f}\colon \widetilde{M} \to \widetilde{N}$ and $\widetilde{f_1}\colon \widetilde{M_1} \to \widetilde{N}$ the induced maps. Fix base points: $x \in M$, $\widetilde{x} \in p^{-1}(x)$, $x_1 = \pi_1(x)$, $y = f(x)$, $\widetilde{y} = \widetilde{f}(\widetilde{x})$, and $\widetilde{x}_1$ such that $\widetilde{f_1}(\widetilde{x}_1) = \widetilde{y}$. In the following diagram we first show that there is a map $\widetilde{\pi}_1\colon (\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{x}) \to (\widetilde{M_1}, \widetilde{x}_1)$ such that diagrams (I) and (II) are consistent.



We know that:

$$(p_1)_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{M_1}, \widetilde{x}_1)) = (f_1)_*^{-1}(q_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{N}, \widetilde{y}))$$

and

$$p_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{x})) = (f)_*^{-1}(q_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{N}, \widetilde{y}))$$

So we get:

$$(\pi_1)_*(p_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{x}))) = (\pi_1)_*(f)_*^{-1} q_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{N}, \widetilde{y})) = (\pi_1)_*(\pi_1)_*^{-1}(f_1)_*^{-1} q_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{N}, \widetilde{y}))$$

and thus finally:

$$(\pi_1)_*(p_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{M},\widetilde{x}))) = (f_1)_*^{-1} q_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{N},\widetilde{y})) = (p_1)_*(\pi_1(\widetilde{M_1},\widetilde{x}_1))$$

Thus it follows from the lifting criterion, that there is a map $\widetilde{\pi}_1$ such that the diagram (I) is consistent. Denote by $\hat{f}$ the map $\widetilde{f_1} \circ \widetilde{\pi}_1$. We easily check that $q \circ \hat{f} = f \circ p$ and thus we have $\widetilde{f} = \hat{f}$. We next show that the maps π_1, f_1, $\widetilde{\pi}_1$ and $\widetilde{f_1}$ induce isomorphisms on H_1 (with coefficients $\mathbf{Z}$). Since f (resp. $\widetilde{f}$) is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence then $(\pi_1)_* : H_q(M,\mathbf{Z}) \to H_q(M_1,\mathbf{Z})$ (resp. $(\widetilde{\pi}_1)_* : H_q(\widetilde{M},\mathbf{Z}) \to H_q(\widetilde{M_1},\mathbf{Z})$) is injective and $(f_1)_* : H_q(M_1,\mathbf{Z}) \to H_q(N,\mathbf{Z})$ (resp. $(\widetilde{f_1})_* : H_q(\widetilde{M_1},\mathbf{Z}) \to H_q(\widetilde{N},\mathbf{Z})$) is surjective (for $q = 0,...,3$). Since $\deg(f) = \deg(\widetilde{f}) = 1$ then $\deg(\widetilde{\pi}_1) = \deg(\widetilde{f_1}) = \deg(\pi_1) = \deg(f_1) = 1$. Thus the homomorphism $(\pi_1)_* : H_1(M,\mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(M_1,\mathbf{Z})$ (resp. $(\widetilde{\pi}_1)_* : H_1(\widetilde{M},\mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(\widetilde{M_1},\mathbf{Z})$) is surjective and therefore is an isomorphism, which implies that $\widetilde{f_1}$ and f_1 induce isomorphisms on H_1.

We now check that the maps $\widetilde{f_1}$ and $\widetilde{\pi}_1$ are $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalences. Recall that $M = A_1 \cup_{T_1} B_1$ and $M_1 = V_1 \cup_{T_1} B_1$ where V_1 is a solid torus and where $\pi_1|(B_1,\partial B_1) : (B_1,\partial B_1) \to (B_1,\partial B_1)$ is the identity map. On the other hand we see directly that the map $\pi_1|(A_1,\partial A_1) : (A_1,\partial A_1) \to (V_1,\partial V_1)$ is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence and $\deg(p) = \deg(p_1) = \deg(q)$. Set $\widetilde{B_1} = p^{-1}(B_1)$ and $\widetilde{B}_{1,1} = (p_1)^{-1}(B_1)$. Since V_1 is a solid torus, it follows from Lemma 4.1 that:

(i) $\widetilde{B_1}$ and $\widetilde{B}_{1,1}$ are connected and have the same number k_1 of boundary components,

(ii) $p^{-1}(A_1)$ is composed of k_1 connected components $\widetilde{A_1}^1,...,\widetilde{A_1}^{k_1}$; $\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j$ is connected; $H_1(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$ and $(p_1)^{-1}(V_1)$ is composed of k_1 connected components $\widetilde{V_1}^1,...,\widetilde{V_1}^{k_1}$ where the $\widetilde{V_1}^j$ are solid tori,

(iii) the map $\widetilde{\pi}_1$ induces a map $\widetilde{\pi}_1^j : (\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j) \to (\widetilde{V_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{V_1}^j)$.

Thus we get the two following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\widetilde{B}_1,\partial\widetilde{B}_1) & \xrightarrow{\widetilde{\pi}_1|\widetilde{B_1}} & (\widetilde{B}_{1,1},\partial\widetilde{B}_{1,1}) \\ \downarrow p & & \downarrow p_1 \\ (B_1,\partial B_1) & \xrightarrow{Id} & (B_1,\partial B_1) \end{array}$$

Since $\deg(p|\widetilde{B}_1) = \deg(p_1|\widetilde{B}_{1,1})$ then $\deg(\widetilde{\pi}_1|\widetilde{B_1}) = 1$ and so the map $\widetilde{\pi}_1|\widetilde{B_1}$ is homotopic to a homeomorphism and is a $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalence. Consider the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j) & \xrightarrow{\widetilde{\pi}_1} & (\widetilde{V_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{V_1}^j)\\ p\downarrow & & \downarrow p_1\\ (A_1,\partial A_1) & \xrightarrow{\pi_1} & (V_1,\partial V_1)\end{array}$$

Then we show that we have the following properties:

$$H_1(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z})=\mathbf{Z} \text{ and } H_q(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z})=0 \text{ for } q\geq 2$$

The first identity comes directly from Lemma 4.1. On the other hand since $\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j\neq\emptyset$, and since $\widetilde{A_1}^j$ is a 3-manifold, the homology exact sequence of the pair $(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j)$ implies that $H_3(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z})=0$. Using [21, Corollary 4, p. 244] and combining this with Poincaré duality, we get: $H_2(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z})\simeq H^1(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z})$ and thus $T(H_2(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z}))=T(H_0(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z}))=0$. Moreover , $F(H^1(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z}))=F(H_1(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z}))$ and since $\beta_1(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\partial\widetilde{A_1}^j)+1=\beta_1(\widetilde{A_1}^j)=1$, we have: $H_2(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z})=0$. So the map $\widetilde{\pi}_1$ induces an isomorphism on $H_q(\widetilde{A_1}^j,\mathbf{Z})$ for $q=0,1,2,3$. Thus using the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence of the decompositions $\widetilde{M}=(\bigcup_{1\leq i\leq k_1}\widetilde{A}_1^i)\cup(\widetilde{B}_1)$ and $\widetilde{M_1}=(\bigcup_{1\leq i\leq k_1}\widetilde{V}_1^i)\cup(\widetilde{B}_{1,1})$ we check that the map $\widetilde{\pi}_1$ and then $\widetilde{f}_1$ are $\mathbf{Z}$-homology equivalences. This proves that f_1 satisfies hypothesis of Theorem 1.1. Then using Theorem 1.5 the proof of Theorem 1.10 is now complete.

5.2 Some consequences of the Factorization Theorem

We assume here that the manifold M^3 contains some canonical tori which degenerate under the map f. Then we fix a maximal end A of M, whose existence is given by Theorem 1.10. We state here a result which shows that the induced map $f|A$ can be homotoped to a very nice map. More precisely we prove here Proposition 1.11. The proof of this result splits in two lemmas.

Lemma 5.1 *If A denotes a maximal end of M then the space $A\backslash W_M$ contains at least one component, denoted by S, which admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is a disk $\mathbf{D}^2$ in such a way that $f_*(\pi_1(S))\neq\{1\}$.*

Proof The fact that the maximal end A contains at least one Seifert piece whose orbit space is a disk (called *an extremal component* of A) comes directly from Lemma 3.7 since A is a graph submanifold of M whose Seifert pieces are based on a surface of genus zero and whose canonical tori are separating in M. To prove the second part of Lemma 5.1 we suppose the contrary. This means that we suppose, for each extremal component S of A, that the induced map $f|S$ is homotopic in N to a constant map. Then we show, arguing inductively on the number of connected components of $A \setminus W_M$, denoted by k_A, that this hypothesis implies that $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = \{1\}$ which gives a contradiction with Definition 1.8.

If $k_A = 1$, this result is obvious since the component A is a Seifert space whose orbit space is a 2-disk. Then we now suppose that $k_A > 1$. The induction hypothesis is the following:

If $\hat{A}$ is a degenerate graph submanifold of M made of $j < k_A$ Seifert pieces and if each Seifert piece $\hat{S}$ of $\hat{A}$ based on a disk satisfies $f_*(\pi_1(\hat{S})) = \{1\}$ then the group $f_*(\pi_1(\hat{A}))$ is trivial.

Denote by S_0 the Seifert piece of A which contains ∂A, $T_1, ..., T_k$ the components of $\partial S_0 \setminus \partial A$ and $A_1, ..., A_k$ the connected components of $A \setminus \text{int}(S_0)$ such that $\partial A_i = T_i$ for $i = 1, ..., k$. So we may apply the induction hypothesis to the spaces $A_1, ..., A_k$ which implies that the groups $f_*(\pi_1(A_1)), ..., f_*(\pi_1(A_k))$ are trivial. Recall that the group $\pi_1(S_0)$ has a presentation:

$$\langle d_1, ..., d_k, d, h, q_1, ..., q_r : [h, d_i] = [h, q_j] = 1, q_j^{\mu_j} = h^{\gamma_j}, d_1 ... d_k d q_1 ... q_r = h^b \rangle$$

where the group $\langle d_i, h \rangle$ is conjugated to $\pi_1(T_i)$ for $i = 1, ..., k$ and where $\langle d, h \rangle$ is conjugated to $\pi_1(T)$, where $T = \partial A$. Since h admits a representative in each component of ∂S_0 and since $f_*(\pi_1(T_i)) = 1$ then $f_*(h) = 1$ and $f_*(d_1) = ... f_*(d_k) = 1$. This implies that $f_*(q_1) = ... = f_*(q_r) = 1$ and since $d_1 ... d_k d q_1 ... q_r = h^b$ we get $f_*(d) = 1$, which proves that $f_*(\pi_1(S_0)) = 1$. Since $A = S_0 \cup A_1 \cup ... \cup A_k$, then applying the Van Kampen Theorem to this decomposition of A, we get $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = \{1\}$ which completes the proof of Lemma 5.1. □

Lemma 5.2 *Let A be a maximal end of M^3. Let S be a submanifold of A which admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is a disk such that $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \neq \{1\}$. Then there exists a Seifert piece B of N such that $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \subset \langle t \rangle$, where t denotes the homotopy class of the fiber in B.*

Proof Applying Theorem 1.10 to the map $f : M \to N$, we know that f is homotopic to the comopsition $f_1 \circ \pi$ where $\pi : M \to M_1$ denotes the collapsing map of M^3 along its maximal ends and where $f_1 : M_1 \to N$ is a homeomorphism. More precisely, if C denotes the Seifert piece of M^3 adjacent to A along ∂A then we know, by the proof of Theorem 1.10 that there is a solid torus V in M_1 and a homeomorphism $\varphi : \partial V \to \partial A$ such that:

(i) the space $C_1 = C \cup_\varphi V$ is a Seifert piece in M_1,

(ii) $\pi(A, \partial A) = (V, \partial V) \subset \text{int}(B)$ and the map $\pi | \overline{M \setminus A} : \overline{M \setminus A} \to \overline{M_1 \setminus V}$ is the identity.

Since the map f_1 is a homeomorphism from M_1 to N, then by the proof of Theorem 1.5, we know that there exists a Seifert fibered space of N, denoted by B_N, such that f_1 sends $(C_1, \partial C_1)$ to $(B_N, \partial B_N)$ homeomorphically. Hence the map f is homotopic to the map $f_1 \circ \pi$ still denoted by f, such that $f(A) \subset \text{int}(B_N)$ where B_N is a Seifert piece in $N \setminus W_N$. In particular, we have $f(S) \subset \text{int}(B_N)$. On the other hand, since $H_1(A, \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$ then it follows from [17, lemma 5.3.1(b)], that the map $H_1(\partial A, \mathbf{Z}) \to H_1(A, \mathbf{Z})$, induced by inclusion, is surjective and since $f_*(\pi_1(A))$ is an abelian group (in fact isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}$) we get $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = f_*(\pi_1(\partial A))$. Since $f = f_1 \circ \pi$, if h_1 denotes the homotopy class of the fiber in C represented in ∂A, then $f_*(h_1) = t^{\pm 1}$ where t denotes the homotopy class of the fiber in B_N. Moreover, since $f_* | \pi_1(\partial A)$ is a homomorphism of rank 1 and since B_N is homeomophic to a product $F_n \times \mathbf{S^1}$, then we get $f_*(\pi_1(A)) = f_*(\pi_1(\partial A)) = \langle t \rangle \subset \pi_1(B_N) \simeq \pi_1(F_n) \times \langle t \rangle$. Finally, since $\pi_1(S)$ is a subgroup of $\pi_1(A)$ we get $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \subset \langle t \rangle$ which completes the proof of Lemma 5.2. The proof of Proposition 1.11 is now complete. □

6 Proof of Theorem 1.1

6.1 Preliminary

6.1.1 Reduction of the general problem

It follows from the form of the hypothesis of Theorem 1.1 that to prove this result it is sufficient to find a finite cover $\widetilde{N}$ of N such that the lifting $\widetilde{f} : \widetilde{M} \to \widetilde{N}$ of f is homotopic to a homeomorphism. So we may always assume without loss of generality that the manifold N satisfies the conclusions of Proposition 1.4. It follows from Theorem 1.5 that to prove Theorem 1.1 it is sufficient to show that the canonical tori in M do not degenerate under f. Thus suppose the contrary: using Theorem 1.10 this means that there is a finite collection $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1, ..., A_n\}$ of codimension-0 submanifolds of M which degenerate under f (the maximal ends). We denote by M_1 the Haken manifold obtained from M by collapsing along the components of $\mathcal{A}$, by $\pi : M \to M_1$ the collapsing projection and by $f_1 : M_1 \to N$ the homeomorphism such that $f \simeq f_1 \circ \pi$. Let $A = A_1$ be a maximal end in $\mathcal{A}$ and let S be a Seifert piece of A whose orbit space is a disk, given by Proposition 1.11. Then the proof of Theorem 1.1 will depend on the following result:

Lemma 6.1 *There exists a finite covering $p : \widetilde{M} \to M$ induced by f from some finite covering of N such that each component of $p^{-1}(S)$ admits a Seifert fibration whose orbit space is a surface of genus ≥ 1.*

This result implies that the components of $p^{-1}(A)$ are not maximal ends. Indeed since each component of $p^{-1}(A)$ contains at least one Seifert piece whose orbit space is a surface of genus ≥ 1 then it follows from [17, Lemma 3.2] that their first homology group is an abelian group of rank ≥ 2 which contradicts Definition 1.8. This result gives the desired contradiction.

6.1.2 Proposition 1.12 implies Lemma 6.1.

In this paragraph we show that to prove Lemma 6.1 it is sufficient to prove Proposition 1.12.

Let $f : M \to N$ be a map between two Haken manifolds satisfying hypothesis of Theorem 1.1. Let A be a maximal end of M and let S be the extremal Seifert piece of A given by Proposition 1.11 and we denote by B_N the Seifert piece of N such that $f(A) \subset B_N$. Let h (resp. t) denote the homotopy class of the fiber in S (resp. in B_N). Then Proposition 1.11 implies that $f_*(\pi_1(S)) \subset \langle t \rangle$. Recall that the group $\pi_1(S)$ has a presentation:

$$\langle d_1, q_1, ..., q_r, h : [h, d_1] = [h, q_i] = 1 \quad q_i^{\mu_i} = h^{\gamma_i} \quad d_1 q_1 ... q_r = h^b \rangle$$

Let us denote by $\{\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_r\}$ the integers such that $f_*(c_1) = t^{\alpha_1}, ..., f_*(c_r) = t^{\alpha_r}$ where $c_1, ..., c_r$ denote the homotopy class of the exceptional fibers in S (i.e. $c_i^{\mu_i} = h$). In particular we have $f_*(h) = t^{\mu_i \alpha_i}$ for $i = 1, ..., r$. Since the canonical tori in M are incompressible, the manifold S contains at least two exceptional fibers c_1 and c_2 (otherwise $S = D^2 \times \mathbf{S}^1$ which is impossible). Set $n_0 = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \mu_1 \mu_2$, where μ_i denotes the index of the exceptional fiber c_i. Then, we apply Proposition 1.12 to the manifold N^3 with the integer n_0 defined as above. Let $\widetilde{B}_N$ be a component of $p^{-1}(B_N)$ in $\widetilde{N}$, where p is the finite covering given by Proposition 1.12. Thus there exists an integer m such that the fiber preserving map $p|\widetilde{B}_N : \widetilde{B}_N \to B_N$ induces the mn_0-index covering on the fibers $\widetilde{t}$ of $\widetilde{B}_N$. Let π denote the homomorphism correponding to the covering induced on the fibers. Thus the covering induces, via f, a regular finite covering q over S which corresponds to the following homomorphism θ:

$$\pi_1(S) \overset{(f|S)_*}{\to} \mathbf{Z} \simeq \langle t \rangle \overset{\pi}{\to} \frac{\mathbf{Z}}{mn_0 \mathbf{Z}} = \frac{\langle t \rangle}{\langle t^{mn_0} \rangle}$$

Let $\widetilde{S}$ be a component of the covering of S corresponding to θ. Our goal here is to comput the genus of the orbit space, denoted by $\widetilde{F}$ of $\widetilde{S}$. For each

$i \in \{1, ..., r\}$, we denote by β_i the order of the element $\theta(c_i) = \overline{\alpha_i}$ in $\mathbf{Z}/mn_0\mathbf{Z}$. Thus we get the following equalities:

$$\beta_1 = m\mu_1\mu_2\alpha_2 \quad \beta_2 = m\mu_1\mu_2\alpha_1 \text{ and } (\beta_1, \mu_1) = \mu_1 \quad (\beta_2, \mu_2) = \mu_2$$

Let $\pi_F : \widetilde{F} \to F$ denote the (branched) covering induced by q on the orbit spaces of $\widetilde{S}$ and S and denote by σ the degree of the map π_F. It follows from Lemma 4.1 (applied to S) that each component of $q^{-1}(S)$ has connected boundary. Using paragraph 3.2 we know that the genus $\widetilde{g}$ of $\widetilde{F}$ is given by the following formula:

$$2\widetilde{g} = 2 + \sigma\left(r - 1 - \frac{1}{\sigma} - \sum_{i=1}^{i=r} \frac{1}{(\mu_i, \beta_i)}\right)$$

Since $\partial\widetilde{S}$ is connected, then using the above equalities, the last one implies that:

$$2\widetilde{g} \geq 1 + \sigma\left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_1} - \frac{1}{\mu_2}\right) \geq 1$$

which proves that Proposition 1.12 implies Lemma 6.1. Hence the remainder of this section will be devoted to the proof of Proposition 1.12.

6.2 Preliminaries for the proof of Proposition 1.12

We assume that N^3 satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4. In this section we begin by constructing a class of finite coverings for hyperbolic manifolds. This is the heart of the proof of Theorem 1.1: we use deep results of W. P. Thurston on the theory of deformation of hyperbolic structure. Next (in subsection 6.2.4) we construct special finite coverings of Seifert pieces, that can be glued to the previous coverings over the hyperbolic pieces, to get a covering of N^3 having the desired properties.

6.2.1 A finite covering lemma for hyperbolic manifolds

In this paragraph we construct a special class of finite coverings for hyperbolic manifolds (see Lemma 6.2). To state this result precisely we need some notations. Throughout this paragraph we assume that the manifold N^3 satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4.

In this section we deal with a class, denoted by $\mathcal{H}$ of three-manifolds with non-empty boundary made of pairwise disjoint tori whose interior is endowed with a complete, finite volume hyperbolic structure. Let H be an element of $\mathcal{H}$ and let $T_1, ..., T_h$ be the components of ∂H. We consider H as a submanifold of the Haken manifold N and we cut ∂H in two parts: the first one is made of the tori, denoted $T_1, ..., T_l$, which are adjacent to Seifert pieces in N and the second one is made of tori, denoted $U_1, ..., U_r$, which are adjacent to hyperbolic manifolds along their two sides. For each T_i ($i \in \{1, ..., l\}$) in ∂H we fix generators (m_i, l_i) of $\pi_1(T_i) \simeq \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$ and we assume these generators are represented by simple smooth closed curves (denoted by l_i and m_i too) meeting transversally at one point and such that $T_i \setminus (l_i \cup m_i)$ is diffeomorphic to the open disk. The curves (m_i, l_i) will be abusively called system of "longitude-meridian" (we use notation " " as T_i is not the standard torus but a subset of N^3). On the other hand we denote by $\mathcal{P}^*$ the set of all prime numbers in $\mathbf{N}^*$ and for each integer n_0, we denote by $\mathcal{P}_{n_0}$ the set:

$$\mathcal{P}_{n_0} = \{n \in \mathcal{P}^* \text{ such that there is an } m \in \mathbf{N} \text{ with } n = mn_0 + 1\}$$

It follows from the Dirichlet Theorem (see [10, Theorem 1, Chapter 16]) that for each integer n_0 the set $\mathcal{P}_{n_0}$ is infinite. The goal if this paragraph is to prove the following result:

Lemma 6.2 *For each integer n_0 and for all but finitely many primes q of the form $mn_0 + 1$, there exists a finite group K, a cyclic subgroup $G_n \simeq \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$ of K, an element $\overline{c} \in G_n$ of multiplicative order mn_0, elements $\overline{\gamma}^1, ..., \overline{\gamma}^l$ in G_n and a homomorphism $\varphi : \pi_1(H) \to K$ satisfying the following properties:*

(i) *for each $i \in \{1, ..., l\}$ there exists an element $g_i \in K$ such that $\varphi(\pi_1(T_i)) \subset g_i G_n g_i^{-1} = G_n^i \simeq \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$ with the following equalities: $\varphi(m_i) = g_i \overline{c} g_i^{-1}$ and $\varphi(l_i) = g_i \overline{\gamma}_i g_i^{-1}$,*

(ii) *for each $j \in \{1, ..., r\}$ the group $\varphi(\pi_1(U_j))$ is either isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ or to $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$.*

6.2.2 Preparation of the proof of Lemma 6.2.

We first recall some results on *deformation* of hyperbolic structures for three-manifolds. These results come from chapter 5 of [23]. Let Q be a 3-manifold whose interior admits a complete finite volume hyperbolic structure and whose boundary is made of tori $T_1, ..., T_k$. This means that Q is obtained as the orbit space of the action of a discret, torsion free subgroup Γ of $\mathcal{I}^+(\mathbf{H}^{3,+}) \simeq PSL(2, \mathbf{C})$ on $\mathbf{H}^{3,+}$ (where $\mathbf{H}^{3,+}$ denotes the Poincaré half space) denoted by $\Gamma/\mathbf{H}^{3,+}$. Hence we may associate to the complete hyperbolic structure of Q a discret and faithful representation $\overline{H}_0$ (called holonomy) of $\pi_1(Q)$ in $PSL(2, \mathbf{C})$

defined up to conjugation by an element of $PSL(2,\mathbf{C})$. It follows from Proposition 3.1.1 of [3], that this representation lifts to a faithful representation denoted by $H_0 : \pi_1(Q) \to SL(2,\mathbf{C})$. Note that since Q has finite volume, the representation H_0 is necessarily irreducible. Moreover, since H_0 is faithful, then for each component T of ∂Q and for each element $\alpha \in \pi_1(T)$, the matrix $H_0(\alpha)$ is conjugated to a matrix of the form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \lambda \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } \lambda \in \mathbf{C}^*$$

We will show here that for each primitive element $\alpha \in \pi_1(T)$, there exists a neighborhood W of 1 in $\mathbf{C}^*$ such that for all $z \in W$ there exists a representation $\rho : \pi_1(Q) \to SL(2,\mathbf{C})$ such that one of the eigenvalues of $\rho(\alpha)$ is equal to z.

Denote by $R(\pi_1(Q))$ the affine algebraic variety of representations of $\pi_1(Q)$ in $SL(2,\mathbf{C})$ (i.e. $R(\pi_1(Q)) = \{\rho, \rho : \pi_1(Q) \to SL(2,\mathbf{C})\}$) and by $X(\pi_1(Q))$ the space of characters of the representations of $\pi_1(Q)$. For each element $g \in \pi_1(Q)$ we denote by τ_g the map defined by:

$$\tau_g : R(\pi_1(Q)) \ni \rho \mapsto \mathrm{tr}(\rho(g)) \in \mathbf{C}$$

Let $\mathcal{T}$ denote the ring generated by all the functions τ_g when $g \in \pi_1(Q)$. Since $\pi_1(Q)$ is finetely generated, then so is the ring $\mathcal{T}$; so we can choose a finite number of elements $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_m$ in $\pi_1(Q)$ such that $\langle \tau_{\gamma_1}, ..., \tau_{\gamma_m} \rangle = \mathcal{T}$. We define now the map t in the following way:

$$t : R(\pi_1(Q)) \ni \rho \mapsto (\tau_{\gamma_1}(\rho), ..., \tau_{\gamma_m}(\rho)) \in \mathbf{C}^m$$

which allows to identify the space of characters $X(\pi_1(Q))$ with $t(R(\pi_1(Q)))$. In particular, if R_0 denotes an irreducible component of $R(\pi_1(Q))$ which contains H_0, then the space $X_0 = t(R_0)$ is an affine algebraic variety called *deformation space* of Q *near the initial structure* H_0. It follows from [23, Theorem 5.6], or [3, Proposition 3.2.1], that if Q has k boundary components (all homeomorphic to a torus), then $\dim(X_0) = \dim(R_0) - 3 \geq k$. We now fix basis of "meridian-longitude" (m_i, l_i), $1 \leq i \leq k$, for each torus $T_1, ..., T_k$. This allows us to define a map:

$$\mathrm{tr} : X_0 \to \mathbf{C}^k$$

in the following way: let q be an element in $X(\pi_1(Q))$. The above paragraph implies that there exists a representation H_q such that $t(H_q) = q$; then we set $tr(q) = (tr(H_q(m_1)), ..., tr(H_q(m_k))) \in \mathbf{C}^k$. By construction this map is a well defined polynomial map between the affine algebraic varieties $X(\pi_1(Q))$ and $\mathbf{C}^k$. Moreover, if q_0 denotes the element of X_0 equal to $t(H_0)$, then it follows from the Mostow Rigidity Theorem (see [1, Chapter C]) that the element q_0 is the only point in the inverse image of $\mathrm{tr}(q_0)$. Using [16, Theorem 3.13] this implies that $\dim(X_0) = \dim(\mathbf{C}^k) = k$. Next, applying the Fundamental Openness Principle (see [16, Theorem 3.10]) we know that there exists a neighborhood U of q_0 in X_0 such that $\mathrm{tr}(U)$ is a neighborhood of $tr(q_0) = (2, ..., 2)$ in $\mathbf{C}^k$ denoted by V. Let f be the map defined by $f(z_1, ..., z_k) = (z_1 + 1/z_1, ..., z_k + 1/z_k)$ and let W be a neighborhood of $(1, ..., 1)$ in $\mathbf{C}^k$ such that $f(W) = \mathrm{tr}(U) = V$. This proves that for each k-uple $\lambda = (\lambda_1, ..., \lambda_k)$ of W there exists a representation H_λ of $\pi_1(Q)$ in $SL(2, \mathbf{C})$ such that for each $i \in \{1, ..., k\}$ the matrix $H_\lambda(m_i)$ has an eigenvalue equal to λ_i.

6.2.3 Proof of Lemma 6.2

Let H be a submanifold of M^3 which admits a complete finite volume hyperbolic structure q_0. We denote by H_0 the irreducible holonomy of $\pi_1(H)$ in $SL(2, \mathbf{C})$ associated to the complete structure of H, by R_0 an irreducible component of $R(\pi_1(H))$ which contains H_0 and by X_0 the component of $X(\pi_1(H))$ defined by $X_0 = t(R_0)$ (see paragraph 6.2.2 for definitions). Let $U_1, ..., U_r$ be the components of ∂H which bound hyperbolic manifolds of M^3 along their both sides and let $T_1, ..., T_l$ be the components of ∂H adjacent to Seifert pieces. For each T_i, $i = 1, ..., l$ (resp. U_j, $j = 1, ..., r$), we fix a system of "longitude-meridian" (m_i, l_i) (resp. (μ_j, ν_j)). Let λ be a transcendental number (over $\mathbf{Z}$), near of 1 in $\mathbf{C}$ (this is possible since the set of algebraic number over $\mathbf{Z}$ is countable). It follows from paragraph 6.2.2 that there is a representation H_q of $\pi_1(Q)$ in $SL(2, \mathbf{C})$ satisfying the following equalities:

$$vp(H_q(\mu_j)) = v_j(q) = vp(H_q(\nu_j)) = 1 \quad \text{for } j \in \{1, ..., r\}$$

$$vp(H_q(m_i)) = \lambda_i(q) = \lambda \quad \text{for } i \in \{1, ..., l\}$$

where $vp(A)$ denotes one of the eigenvalues of the matrix $A \in SL(2, \mathbf{C})$. Thus we get the following equalities:

$$H_q(m_i) = Q_i \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix} Q_i^{-1}, \quad H_q(l_i) = Q_i \begin{pmatrix} \mu_i & 0 \\ 0 & (\mu_i)^{-1} \end{pmatrix} Q_i^{-1}$$

for $i \in \{1, ..., l\}$ where λ is a transcendental number over $\mathbf{Z}$ and where the matrix $Q_1, ..., Q_l$ are in $SL(2, \mathbf{C})$. On the other hand, since $vp(H_q(\mu_j)) = v_j(q) = vp(H_q(\nu_j)) = 1$ for $j = 1, ..., r$, the groups $H_q(\pi_1(U_j))$ are unipotent and isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$. This implies that:

$$P_j H_q(\mu_j) P_j^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_j H_q(\nu_j) P_j^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \eta_j \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{for } j \in \{1, ..., r\}$$

where $\eta_1, ..., \eta_r$ are in $\mathbf{C} \setminus \mathbf{Q}$ and where the P_j's are in $SL(2, \mathbf{C})$. Moreover since $\pi_1(H)$ is a finitely generated group, we may choose a finite susbet $\mathcal{G}$ which generates $\pi_1(H)$. Then consider the subring $\mathbf{A}$ of $\mathbf{C}$, generated over $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda]$ by the following system:

$$\mathbf{Z} \bigcup \{\text{entries of the matrix } H_q(g) \text{ for } g \in \mathcal{G}\}$$

$$\bigcup \{\text{entries of the matrix } P_j,\ P_j^{-1},\ Q_i,\ (Q_i)^{-1}\} \bigcup \{\lambda, \lambda^{-1}, \mu_i, (\mu_i)^{-1},\ \eta_j\}$$

It follows from the above construction that $\mathbf{A}$ is a finitely generated ring over $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda]$, and $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda]$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}[X]$ since λ is transcendental over $\mathbf{Z}$. So using the Noether Normalization Lemma (see [6], Theorem 3.3) for the ring $\mathbf{A}$ over $B_0 = \mathbf{Z}[\lambda]$, we know that there exists a polynomial P of $\mathbf{Z}[X]$ and a finite algebraically free family $\{x_1, ..., x_k\}$ over $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda]$ such that $\mathbf{A}$ is integral over

$$B = \mathbf{Z}[\lambda] \left[\frac{1}{P(\lambda)}\right] [x_1, ..., x_k]$$

To complete the proof of Lemma 6.2 we need the following result.

Lemma 6.3 *Let $n_0 > 0$ be a fixed integer. Let $\mathbf{A}$ be a subring of $\mathbf{C}$ integral over a ring B isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda]\,[1/P(\lambda)]\,[x_1, ..., x_k]$, where λ is transcendental over $\mathbf{Z}$, P is a polynomial in $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda]$ and $x_1, ..., x_k$ are algebraically free over $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda] \simeq \mathbf{Z}[X]$. Let $\mu_1, ..., \mu_l$ be elements of $\mathbf{A}$. Then for all $n_0 \in \mathbf{N}$ and for all but finitely many primes $q = mn_0 + 1$, there is a finite field $\mathbf{F}_q$ of characteristic q, an element $\overline{c}$ in $(\mathbf{F}_q)^* = \mathbf{F}_q \setminus \{0\}$ of multiplicative order mn_0, elements $\overline{\gamma}_1, ..., \overline{\gamma}_l$ in $(\mathbf{F}_q)^*$ and a ring homomorphism $\varepsilon : \mathbf{A} \to \mathbf{F}_q$ such that:*

(i) *$\langle\langle \varepsilon(\lambda), \varepsilon(\mu_i) \rangle\rangle \subset \mathbf{F}_q^* \simeq \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$ for $i = 1, ..., l$, where $\langle\langle g, h \rangle\rangle$ is the multiplicative subgroup of $\mathbf{A}$ generated by g et h and where $n = |\mathbf{F}_q| - 1$,*

(ii) *$\varepsilon(\lambda) = \overline{c}$ and $\varepsilon(\mu_i) = \overline{\gamma}_i$ for $i = 1, ..., l$.*

Proof of Lemma 6.3 We first prove that for all but finitely many primes $q \in \mathcal{P}_{n_0}$ there exists a ring homomorphism $\varepsilon : B \to \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ such that $\varepsilon(\lambda)$ is a generator of the cyclic group $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^* \simeq \mathbf{Z}/(q-1)\mathbf{Z}$. We next show that we can extend ε to a homomorphism from $\mathbf{A}$ by taking some finite degree extension of $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ and using the fact that $\mathbf{A}$ is integral over B. To this purpose we claim that for all but finitely many primes $q = mn_0 + 1$, there is a homomorphism

$$\varepsilon : \mathbf{Z}[\lambda] \left[\frac{1}{P(\lambda)}\right] \to \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$$

where $\varepsilon(\lambda)$ is a generator of the group $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$ and where $P = a_0 + a_1 X + ... + a_N X^N$, with integral coefficients. For all sufficiently large primes q we may assume that $(q, a_0) = (q, a_N) = 1$. Hence for q sufficiently large the projection $\mathbf{Z} \to \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ associates to P a non-trivial polynomial $\overline{P}$ in $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}[X]$ of degree N. On the other hand it is well known that $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$ is a cyclic group of order $q-1$, when q is a prime. Thus there exists $\varphi(q-1) = \varphi(mn_0)$ elements in $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ generating $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$, where φ is the Euler function. Moreover it is easy to prove that $\lim_{n\to+\infty} \varphi(n) = +\infty$. Hence for a prime q sufficiently large we get: $\mathrm{Card}(\mathcal{G}((\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*)) = \varphi(q-1) > N \geq \mathrm{Card}(\overline{P}^{-1}(0))$ which allows us to choose an element $\overline{c}$ in $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ generating $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$ and such that $\overline{P}(\overline{c}) \neq \overline{0}$. Hence for all but finitely many primes $q = mn_0 + 1$, we may define a homomorphism $\varepsilon : \mathbf{Z}[\lambda] \to \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ by setting $\varepsilon(\lambda) = \overline{c}$ where $\overline{c}$ is a generator of $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$, which is possible since λ is transcendental over $\mathbf{Z}$. Since $\overline{P}(\overline{c}) \neq 0$ we can extend ε to a homomorphism $\varepsilon : \mathbf{Z}[\lambda][1/P(\lambda)] \to \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$. Since the elements $x_1, ..., x_k$ are algebraically free over $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda]$, we extend the above homomorphism to $B = \mathbf{Z}[\lambda][1/P(\lambda)][x_1, ..., x_k]$ by choosing arbitrary images for $x_1, ..., x_k$. We still denote by $\varepsilon : B \to \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ this homomorphism. Let us remark that it follows from the above construction that λ is sent to an element of multiplicative order $q - 1 = mn_0$.

We next show that we can extend ε to $\mathbf{A}$. We first prove that there is an extension of ε to $B[\mu_1, ..., \mu_l]$ in such a way that the μ_i are sent to non-trivial elements. We assume that there is an integer $0 \leq i < l$ such that for all $j \in \{0, ..., i\}$ there is a finite field $\mathbf{F}_q^j$ of characteristic q which is a finite degree extension of $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ and an extension of ε denoted by $\varepsilon^j : B^j = B[\mu_1, ..., \mu_j] \to \mathbf{F}_q^j$ such that $\varepsilon^j(\mu_r) \neq 0$ for $r = 1, ..., j$. Since $\mathbf{A}$ is integral over B, there is a polynomial $P_{i+1} = a_0^{i+1} + ... + a_n^{i+1} X^n$ in $B[X]$ where a_0^{i+1} and a_n^{i+1} are invertible in $\mathbf{A}$ such that $P_{i+1}(\mu_{i+1}) = 0$. The homomorphism ε^i associates to P_{i+1} a polynomial $\overline{P}_{i+1}$ which can be assumed to be irreducible in $\mathbf{F}_q^i[X]$, having a non-trivial root x_{i+1} in some extension of $\mathbf{F}_q^i$. If $\overline{P}_{i+1}$ has no root in $\mathbf{F}_q^i$ we take the field extension $\mathbf{F}_q^{i+1} = \mathbf{F}_q^i[X]/(\overline{P}_{i+1})$ and we set $x_{i+1} = \overline{X}$ where $\overline{X}$ denotes the class of X for the projection $\mathbf{F}_q^i[X] \to \mathbf{F}_q^i[X]/(\overline{P}_{i+1})$. If $\overline{P}_{i+1}$ has a non-trivial root x_{i+1} in $\mathbf{F}_q^i$ we set $\mathbf{F}_q^{i+1} = \mathbf{F}_q^i$. This proves, by induction, that we can extend ε to $B[\mu_1, ..., \mu_l]$. To extend ε to $\mathbf{A}$ it is sufficient to fix images for its other generators. Since $\mathbf{A}$ has a finite number of generators we use the same method as above (using the fact that $\mathbf{A}$ is integral over B). Let ε be the homomorphism extended to $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{F}_q$ be the extended field. Since $\varepsilon(\mu_i) = \overline{\gamma}_i \neq 0$ for $i = 1, ..., l$ then $\overline{\gamma}_i \in \mathbf{F}_q^* \simeq \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$ with $n = \mathrm{Card}(\mathbf{F}_q) - 1$, which ends the proof of Lemma 6.3. □

End of proof of Lemma 6.2 Let q be a prime satisfying the conclusion of Lemma 6.3. We denote by $\varepsilon : \mathbf{A} \to \mathbf{F}_q$ the homomorphism given by Lemma 6.3.

This homomorphism combined with the holonomy H_q of $\pi_1(H)$ in $SL(2,\mathbf{C})$ induces a homomorphism φ such that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(H) & \xrightarrow{H_q} & SL(2,\mathbf{C}) \\ \varphi \downarrow & \swarrow \varrho & \\ SL(2,\mathbf{F}_q) & & \end{array}$$

where ϱ is the restriction of the homomorphism $\varrho : SL(2,\mathbf{A}) \to SL(2,\mathbf{F}_q)$ defined by:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon(a) & \varepsilon(b) \\ \varepsilon(c) & \varepsilon(d) \end{pmatrix}$$

So we get the following identities:

$$\varphi(m_i) = \overline{Q}_i \begin{pmatrix} \overline{c} & 0 \\ 0 & \overline{c}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \overline{Q}_i^{-1}, \ \varphi(l_i) = \overline{Q}_i \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\gamma}_i & 0 \\ 0 & \overline{\gamma}_i^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \overline{Q}_i^{-1} \quad \text{for } i \in \{1,...,l\}$$

$$\varphi(\mu_j) = \overline{P}_j \begin{pmatrix} \overline{1} & \overline{1} \\ 0 & \overline{1} \end{pmatrix} \overline{P}_j^{-1}, \ \varphi(\nu_j) = \overline{P}_j \begin{pmatrix} \overline{1} & \varepsilon(\eta_j) \\ 0 & \overline{1} \end{pmatrix} \overline{P}_j^{-1} \quad \text{for } j \in \{1,...,r\}$$

Let G_n be the subgroup of $SL(2,\mathbf{F}_q)$ defined by:

$$G_n = \left\{ \overline{a} = \begin{pmatrix} \overline{a} & 0 \\ 0 & \overline{a}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \text{ when } \overline{a} \in \mathbf{F}_q^* \right\}$$

Since $\mathbf{F}_q^*$ is a cyclic group of order n, so is G_n. To complete the proof of (i) it is sufficient to set $g_i = \overline{Q}_i$. To prove (ii), it is sufficient to use the fact that $\mathbf{F}_q$ is a field of characteristic q and the form of the elements $\varphi(\mu_j), \varphi(\nu_j)$ for $j = 1,...,r$. Indeed this proves that $\varphi(\pi_1(U_j))$ is either isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ or to $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ depending on whether the elements $\overline{1}$ and $\varepsilon(\eta_j)$ are linearly dependant or not. This ends the proof of Lemma 6.2. □

Remark 3 Lemma 6.2 can be easily extended to the case of a finite number of complete finite volume hyperbolic manifolds. More precisely, if $H_1,...,H_\nu$ denote ν hyperbolic submanifolds in N^3, we can write Lemma 6.2 simultaneously for the ν submanifolds by choosing the same prime $q \in \mathcal{P}_{n_0}$, the same group K, the same cyclic group $G_n \simeq \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \subset K$ and the same element $c \in G_n$ of multiplicative order mn_0. Hence we get the following corollary.

Corollary 6.4 *Let $H_1,...,H_\nu$ be ν submanifolds of N^3 whose interiors admit a complete finite volume hyperbolic structure. Then for any integer $n_0 \geq 1$ and for all but finitely many primes q of the form mn_0+1, there exists a finite group K, a cyclic subgroup $G_n \simeq \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$ of K, an element $\overline{c} \in G_n$ of* *multiplicative order* mn_0*, elements* $\overline{\gamma}^i_j$ *in* G_n*,* $i = 1, ..., \nu$*,* $j = 1, ..., l_i$*, and group homomorphisms* $\varphi^{H_i}\colon \pi_1(H_i) \to K$*,* $i = 1, ..., \nu$ *satisfying the following properties:*

(i) *for each* $i \in \{1, ..., \nu\}$ *and* $j \in \{1, ..., l_i\}$ *there is an element* $g^i_j \in K$ *such that* $\varphi^{H_i}(\pi_1(T^i_j)) \subset g^i_j G_n (g^i_j)^{-1} \simeq \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$*,*

(ii) *for each* $i \in \{1, ..., \nu\}$ *and* $j \in \{1, ..., l_i\}$ *we have the following equalities:* $\varphi^{H_i}(m^i_j) = g^i_j \overline{c} (g^i_j)^{-1}$ *and* $\varphi^{H_i}(l^i_j) = g^i_j \overline{\gamma}^i_j (g^i_j)^{-1}$*,*

(iii) *for each* $i \in \{1, ..., \nu\}$ *and* $j \in \{1, ..., r_i\}$ *the group* $\varphi^{H_i}(\pi_1(U^i_j))$ *is isomorphic to either* $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ *or* $\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$*.*

6.2.4 A finite covering lemma for Seifert fibered manifolds

In this section we construct a class of finite coverings for Seifert fibered manifolds with non-empty boundary homeomorphic to a product which allows to extend the *hyperbolic* coverings given by Corollary 6.4. We show here that these coverings may be extended if some simple combinatorial conditions are checked and we will see that these combinatorial conditions can always be satisfied up to finite covering over N^3. Throughout this paragraph we consider a Seifert piece S of N^3 identified to a product $F \times S^1$, where F denotes an orientable surface of genus $g \geq 1$ with at least two boundary components. We fix two intergers $n > 1$ and c in $\mathbf{Z}^*$ and we denote by α the order of $\overline{c}$ in $\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$. Then the main result of this section is the following.

Lemma 6.5 *Let* S *be a Seifert fibered space homeomorphic to* $F \times S^1$*. We denote by* $D^1, ..., D^l, G_1, ..., G_r$ *the components of* ∂F *and we set* $d^i = [D^i] \in \pi_1(F)$ *and* $\delta_j = [G_j] \in \pi_1(F)$ *(for a choice of base points). Let* $\gamma(S) = \{\gamma^1, ..., \gamma^l\}$ *be a finite sequence of integers. Then there exists a finite covering* $\pi\colon \widetilde{S} = \widetilde{F} \times \mathbf{S}^1 \to S = F \times \mathbf{S}^1$ *inducing the trivial covering on the boundary and satisfying the following property: there exists a group homomorphism* $\varphi\colon \pi_1(\widetilde{S}) \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times G$*, where* G *denotes a finite abelian group such that:*

(i) *for each component* $T^i_j = D^i_j \times \mathbf{S}^1$ *(*$j = 1, .., deg(\pi)$*) of* $\pi^{-1}(T^i) = \pi^{-1}(D^i) \times \mathbf{S}^1$*, we have* $\varphi(\pi_1(T^i_j)) \subset \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times \{0\}$ *and in particular we have the equalities:* $\varphi(\widetilde{t}) = (\overline{c}, 0)$ *and* $\varphi(d^i_j) = (\overline{\gamma}^i, 0)$*, where* $d^i_j = [D^i_j] \in \pi_1(\widetilde{F})$ *and where* $\widetilde{t}$ *denotes the fiber of* $\widetilde{S}$*,*

(ii) *for each component* U_j *of* $\pi^{-1}(G_j \times \mathbf{S}^1)$ *the group* $\ker(\varphi|\pi_1(U_j))$ *is the* $\alpha \times \alpha$*-characteristic subgroup in* $\pi_1(U_j)$*.*

Proof Let N_0 be the integer defined by $N_0 = \gamma^1 + ... + \gamma^l$. Then the proof of Lemma 6.5 is splitted is two cases.

Case 1 We first assume that $N_0 \equiv 0\ (n)$. Then we show in this case that S itself satisfies the conclusion of Lemma 6.5. Recall that with the notations of Lemma 6.5 the group $\pi_1(S)$ has a presentation:

$$\langle a_1, b_1, ..., a_g, b_g, d^1, ..., d^l, \delta_1, ..., \delta_r, t :$$
$$[t, d^i] = [t, \delta_j] = [t, a_i] = [t, b_i] = 1, \prod_{i=1}^{i=g}[a_i, b_i] \prod_{j=1}^{j=l} d^j \prod_{k=1}^{k=r} \delta_k = 1\rangle$$

with $n \geq 2$ and $r \geq 2$ (Indeed recall that N satisfies the conclusion of Proposition 1.4. In particular, N is a finite covering $P\colon N \to N'$ of a Haken manifold N' such that for each canonical torus T of $W_{N'}$ and for each geometric piece S adjacent to T in N' the space $(P|S)^{-1}(T)$ is made of at least two connected components). We show here that we may construct a homomorphism $\varpi\colon \pi_1(S) \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times (\mathbf{Z}/\alpha\mathbf{Z})^{r-1}$ such that $\varpi(\langle d^i, t\rangle) \subset \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times \{0\}$ and satisfying the following equalities:

- $\varpi(d^i) \equiv (\overline{\gamma}^i, 0)$ for every $i = 1, ..., l$,
- $\varpi(t) \equiv (\overline{c}, 0)$ and the group $\ker(\varpi|\langle \delta_j, t\rangle)$ is the $\alpha \times \alpha$-characteristic subgroup of $\langle \delta_j, t\rangle$ for $j = 1, ..., r$.

Then consider the group K defined by the following relations:

$$K = \left\langle d^1, ..., d^l, \delta_1, ..., \delta_r, t :\ [t, d^i] = [t, \delta_j] = 1, \left(\prod_{j=1}^{j=l} d^j\right) = 1, \left(\prod_{k=1}^{k=r} \delta_k\right) = 1 \right\rangle$$

obtained from $\pi_1(S)$ by killing the generators a_i, b_i for $i = 1, ..., g$ and adding two relations. Denote by $\pi\colon \pi_1(S) \to K$ the corresponding projection homomorphism. Then we define a homomorphism $\theta\colon K \to \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}^{r-1}$ by setting:

- $\theta(d^1) = (\gamma^1, 0, ..., 0), ..., \theta(d^{l-1}) = (\gamma^{l-1}, 0, ..., 0)$,
- $\theta(\delta_1) = (0, 1, 0, ..., 0), ..., \theta(\delta_{r-1}) = (0, ..., 0, 1)$ and $\theta(t) = (c, 0, ...0)$.

Since $\prod_i d^i = 1$ we get: $\theta(d^l) = -(\gamma^1 + ... + \gamma^{l-1}) \times \{0\} \equiv (\gamma^l\ \ (n)) \times \{0\}$ and since $\prod_j \delta_j = 1$ we have: $\theta(\delta_r) = (0, 1, ..., 1)$. Finally, if $\lambda\colon \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}^{r-1} \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times (\mathbf{Z}/\alpha\mathbf{Z})^{r-1}$ is the canonical epimorphism, then the homomorphism φ defined by the composition $\lambda \circ \theta \circ \pi$ satisfies the conclusion of Lemma 6.5. This ends the proof of Lemma 6.5 in case 1.

Case 2 We now assume that $N_0 = \gamma^1 + ... + \gamma^l \not\equiv 0\ \ (n)$. So there exists an integer $p > 1$ (that may be chosen minimal) such that: $(\star\star)$ $pN_0 = p\gamma^1 +$

$... + p\gamma^l \equiv 0 \quad (n)$. Let $\pi : \widetilde{S} \to S$ be the finite covering of degree p of S corresponding to the following homomorphism:

$$\pi_1(S) \xrightarrow{h} \langle a_1 \rangle \simeq \mathbf{Z} \xrightarrow{-} \frac{\langle a_1 \rangle}{\langle a_1^p \rangle} \simeq \frac{\mathbf{Z}}{p\mathbf{Z}}$$

It follows from the above construction that this covering induces the trivial covering on ∂S. So each component T of ∂S has p connected components in its pre-image by π. With the same notations as in the above paragraph, the group $\pi_1(\widetilde{S})$ has a presentation:

$$\langle a_1, b_1, ..., a_{\widetilde{g}}, b_{\widetilde{g}}, d_1^1, ..., d_p^1, ..., d_1^l, ..., d_p^l, \widetilde{\delta}_1, ..., \widetilde{\delta}_{\widetilde{r}} :$$
$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^{i=\widetilde{g}} [a_i, b_i] \right) \cdot \left(\prod_{i,j} d_j^i \right) \cdot \left(\prod_{k=1}^{k=\widetilde{r}} \widetilde{\delta}_k \right) = 1 \rangle \times \langle \widetilde{t} \rangle$$

Then we show that we can construct a homomrphism $\varpi : \pi_1(\widetilde{S}) \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times (\mathbf{Z}/\alpha\mathbf{Z})^{\widetilde{r}-1}$ such that $\varpi(\langle d_j^i, \widetilde{t} \rangle) \subset \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times \{0\}$ and satisfying the following equalities:

- $\varpi(d_j^i) \equiv (\overline{\gamma}^i, 0)$ for every $j = 1, ..., p$ and $i = 1, ..., l$,
- $\varpi(\widetilde{t}) \equiv (\overline{c}, 0)$ and the group $\ker(\varpi | \langle \widetilde{\delta}_j, \widetilde{t} \rangle)$ is the $\alpha \times \alpha$-caracteristic subgroup of $\langle \widetilde{\delta}_j, \widetilde{t} \rangle$ for $j = 1, ..., \widetilde{r}$.

Consider now the group K obtained from $\pi_1(\widetilde{S})$ by setting:

$$K = \langle d_1^1, ..., d_p^1, ..., d_1^l, ..., d_p^l, \widetilde{\delta}_1, ..., \widetilde{\delta}_{\widetilde{r}}, \widetilde{t} :$$
$$[\widetilde{t}, d_j^i] = [\widetilde{t}, \delta_j] = 1, \left(\prod_{i,j} d_j^i \right) = 1, \left(\prod_{k=1}^{k=\widetilde{r}} \widetilde{\delta}_k \right) = 1 \rangle$$

Let $\pi : \pi_1(\widetilde{S}) \to K$ be the corresponding canonical epimorphism. We define a homomorphism $\theta : K \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times (\mathbf{Z}/\alpha\mathbf{Z})^{\widetilde{r}-1}$ by setting:

- $\theta(d_1^1) = (\gamma^1, 0, ..., 0), ..., \theta(d_p^1) = (\gamma^1, 0, ..., 0), ...,$
- $\theta(d_1^l) = (\gamma^l, 0, ..., 0), ..., \theta(d_{p-1}^l) = (\gamma^l, 0, ..., 0)$,
- $\theta(\delta_1) = (0, 1, 0, ..., 0), ..., \theta(\delta_{\widetilde{r}-1}) = (0, ..., 0, 1)$ and $\theta(t) = (c, 0, ...0)$.

Since $\prod_{i,j} d_j^i = 1$ we get: $\theta(d_p^l) = -(p\gamma^1 + ... + (p-1)\gamma^l) \equiv \gamma^l \quad (n)$ and since $\prod_j \widetilde{\delta}_j = 1$ we have: $\theta(\delta_{\widetilde{r}}) = (0, 1, ..., 1)$. Finally if we denote by $\lambda : \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}^{\widetilde{r}-1} \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times (\mathbf{Z}/\alpha\mathbf{Z})^{\widetilde{r}-1}$ the canonical projection then the homomorphism φ defined by the composition $\lambda \circ \theta \circ \pi$ satisfies the conclusion of Lemma 6.5. This completes the proof of Lemma 6.5. □

6.3 Proof of Proposition 1.12

Throughout this section N^3 will denote a closed Haken manifold with non-trivial Gromov simplicial volume, whose Seifert pieces are product. Let $n_0 \geq 1$ be a fixed integer. We denote by $H_1, ..., H_\nu$ the hyperbolic components and by $S_1, ..., S_t$ the Seifert pieces of $N \setminus W_N$. We want to apply Corollary 6.4 to $H_1, ..., H_\nu$ uniformly with respect to the integer n_0. To do this we first fix system of "longitude-meridian" on each boundary component of these manifolds. This choice will be determined in the following way: Let H be a hyperbolic manifold and let T be a component of ∂H. If T is adjacent on both sides to hyperbolic manifolds we fix a system of "longitude-meridian" arbitrarily. We now assume that T is adjacent to a Seifert piece in N denoted by $S = F \times S^1$. We identify a regular neighborhood of T with $T \times [-1, 1]$, where $T = T \times \{0\}$, $T^- = T \times \{-1\}$ and $T^+ = T \times \{+1\}$. We assume that T^+ is a component of ∂S and that T^- is a component of ∂H and we denote by $h_T : T^+ \to T^-$ the corresponding gluing homeomorphism. Let t be the fiber of S represented in T^+ and let d be the homotopy class of the boundary component of the base F of S corresponding to T^+. Then the curves (t, d) represent a system of "longitude-meridian" for $\pi_1(T^+)$ and allow us to associate to $T^- \subset \partial H$ a "longitude-meridian" system by setting:

$$m = h_T(t) \text{ and } l = h_T(d)$$

We now give some notations: for a hyperbolic manifold H_i of N, we denote by $T_1^i, ..., T_{l_i}^i$ the components of ∂H_i adjacent to a Seifert piece and by $U_1^i, ..., U_{r_i}^i$ those which are adjacent on both sides to hyperbolic manifolds. For each T_j^i, we denote by (m_j^i, l_j^i) its "longitude-meridian" system corresponding to the construction described above.

We now describe how the hyperbolic pieces of N allow us to associate, via Corollary 6.4, a sequence of integers $\gamma(S)$ to each Seifert piece of N, in the sense of Lemma 6.5. Let S be a Seifert piece in N, we denote by $H_1, ..., H_m$ the hyperbolic pieces adjacent to S along ∂S and we fix a torus T_1 in ∂S adjacent to H_1 (say). It follows from Corollary 6.4 that there exists a homomorphism $\varphi^1\colon \pi_1(H_1) \to K$ such that $\varphi^1(\pi_1(T_1)) \subset gG_n g^{-1}$, where G_n is a n-cyclic subgroup of K and such that $\varphi^1(m) = g\overline{c}g^{-1}$, $\varphi^1(l) = g\overline{\gamma}_1 g^{-1}$ where $\overline{c}$ and $\overline{\gamma}_1$ are elements of $G_n = \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$ and where (m, l) denotes the "longitude-meridian" system of T_1. Let c and γ_1 be representatives in $\mathbf{Z}$ of $\overline{c}$ and $\overline{\gamma}_1$. Then we set $\gamma_1(S) = \gamma_1$. Applying the same method for all tori of ∂S which are adjacent to hyperbolic components we get a sequence $\{\gamma_1(S), ..., \gamma_{n_i}(S)\} = \gamma(S)$ associated to S, when S is a Seifert piece in N. We fix a suitable prime q of the form

$mn_0 + 1$ (i.e. we choose q sufficiently large) and we apply Corollary 6.4 to the hyperbolic manifolds $H_1, ..., H_\nu$. This means that for each $i \in \{1, ..., \nu\}$ there exists a homomorphism $\varphi^{H_i}\colon \pi_1(H_i) \to K$ satisfying the conclusion of Corollary 6.4. This allows us to associate to each Seifert piece $S_1, ..., S_t$ an integer sequence $\gamma(S_1), ..., \gamma(S_t)$. So the proof of Proposition 1.12 will be splitted in two cases.

6.3.1 Proof of Proposition 1.12: Case 1

We first assume that we can apply Lemma 6.5 for each Seifert piece S of $N \setminus W_N$ and the associated integer sequence $\gamma(S)$ (i.e. without using a finite covering). It follows from Lemma 6.5, that for each $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$, there exists a group homomorphism $\varphi_{S_i}\colon \pi_1(S_i) \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times G_i$ satisfying properties (i) and (ii) of this lemma for the sequence $\gamma(S_i)$ with $\alpha = q - 1 = mn_0$.

It follows from [9, Lemma 4.1] or [14, Theorems 2.4 and 3.2] that for each $i \in \{1, ..., \nu\}$ (resp. $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$) there exists a finite group H (resp. L_i) and a group homomorphism $\hat\varphi_{H_i}\colon \pi_1(H_i) \to H$ (resp. $\hat\varphi_{S_i}\colon \pi_1(S_i) \to L_i$) which induces the $q \times q$-characteristic covering on ∂H_i (resp. ∂S_i). For each $i \in \{1, ..., \nu\}$ (resp. $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$) we consider the homomorphism ψ_{H_i} (resp. ψ_{S_i}) defined by the following formula:

$$\psi_{H_i} = \varphi^{H_i} \times \hat\varphi_{H_i}\colon \pi_1(H_i) \to K \times H$$
$$\psi_{S_i} = \varphi^{S_i} \times \hat\varphi_{S_i}\colon \pi_1(S_i) \to (\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times G_i) \times L_i$$

where φ^{H_i} is given by Corollary 6.4. The above homomorphisms allow us to associate to each Seifert piece S of $N \setminus W_N$ a finite covering $p_S\colon \widetilde{S} \to S$. Define the set $\mathcal{R}$ by $\mathcal{R} := \{p_S\colon \widetilde{S} \to S$ when S describes the Seifert pieces of $N\} \cup \{p_H\colon \widetilde{H} \to H$ when H describes the hyperbolic pieces of $N\}$. Since for each Seifert piece S of N the homomorphism ψ_S sends the homotopy class of the regular fiber of S, denoted by t_S, to an element of order qmn_0, then to prove Proposition 1.12 it is sufficient to show the following result.

Lemma 6.6 *There exists a finite covering $r\colon \widetilde{N} \to N$ such that for each component S of $N \setminus W_N$ and for each component $\widetilde{S}$ of $r^{-1}(S)$, the induced covering $r|\widetilde{S}\colon \widetilde{S} \to S$ is equivalent to the covering corresponding to S in the set $\mathcal{R}$.*

In the proof of this result, it will be convenient to call a co-dimension 0 submanifold X_k of N a $k - chain$ of N if X_k is a connected manifold made of exactly k components of $N \setminus W_N$. Then we prove Lemma 6.6 by induction on k.

Proof of Lemma 6.6 When $k=1$ this is an obvious consequence of Lemma 6.2, if the 1-chain X_1 is hyperbolic or of Lemma 6.5, if X_1 is a Seifert piece. Indeed it is sufficient to take the associated homomorphism of type ψ_H or ψ_S. We fix now an integer $k \leq t+\nu$ and we set the following inductive hypothesis:

$(\mathcal{H}_{k-1})$: *for each $j<k\leq t+\nu$ and for each j-chain X_j of N, there exists a finite covering $p_j\colon \widetilde{X}_j \to X_j$ such that for each component S of $X_j \setminus W_N$ and for each component $\widetilde{S}$ of $p_j^{-1}(S)$ the induced covering $p_j|\widetilde{S}\colon \widetilde{S}\to S$ is equivalent to the covering p_S corresponding to S in the set $\mathcal{R}$.*

Let X_k be a k-chain in N. We choose a $(k-1)$-chain denoted by X_{k-1} in X_k and we set X_1 the (connected) component of $X_k \setminus X_{k-1}$.

Case 1.1 We first assume that X_1 is a Seifert piece of N, denoted by S. Let $H_1,...,H_m$ be the hyperbolic pieces of X_{k-1} adjacent to S and let $S_1,...,S_k$ be the Seifert pieces of X_{k-1} adjacent to S. The hyperbolic manifold H_i is adjacent to S along tori $(T_1^{i,-},...,T_{\nu_i}^{i,-})\subset\partial H_i$ and $(T_1^{i,+},...,T_{\nu_i}^{i,+})\subset\partial S$ and S_j is adjacent to S along tori $(U_1^{j,-},...,U_{n_j}^{j,-})\subset\partial S_j$ and $(U_1^{j,+},...,T_{n_j}^{j,+})\subset\partial S$. With these notations the fundamental group of S has a presentation:

$$\langle a_1,b_1,...,a_g,b_g,d_1^1,...,d_{\nu_1}^1,...,d_1^s,...,d_{\nu_s}^s,\delta_1^1,...,\delta_{r_1}^1,...,\delta_1^\beta,...,\delta_{r_\beta}^\beta \ :$$

$$\left(\prod_i [a_i,b_i]\right)\cdot\left(\prod_{i,j} d_j^i\right)\cdot\left(\prod_{i,j}\delta_j^i\right)=1\rangle\times\langle t\rangle$$

Where the group $\langle t,\delta_j^i\rangle$ corresponds to $\pi_1(U_j^{i,+})$ and $\langle t,d_j^i\rangle$ corresponds to $\pi_1(T_j^{i,+})$. We denote by $h_k^i\colon T_k^{i,+}\to T_k^{i,-}$ and by $\varphi_k^j\colon U_k^{j,+}\to U_k^{j,-}$ the gluing homeomorphism in N (see figure 5). Let $p_{X_{k-1}}\colon \widetilde{X}_{k-1}\to X_{k-1}$ be the covering given by the inductive hypothesis. In particular, for each hyperbolic piece H_i (resp. Seifert piece S_j) of X_{k-1} and for each component $\widetilde{H}_i$ of $p_{X_{k-1}}^{-1}(H_i)$ (resp. $\widetilde{S}_j$ of $p_{X_{k-1}}^{-1}(S_j)$) the covering $p_{X_{k-1}}|\widetilde{H}_i$ (resp. $p_{X_{k-1}}|\widetilde{S}_j$) is equivalent to p_{H_i} (resp. p_{S_j}) in $\mathcal{R}$. Denote by ψ_{H_i} (resp. ψ_{S_j}) the homomorphisms corresponding to p_{H_i} (resp. to p_{S_j}):

$$\psi_{S_j}=\varphi_{S_j}\times\hat\varphi_{S_j}\colon\ \pi_1(S_j)\to(\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}\times G_i)\times L_i$$

$$\text{and}\ \ \psi_{H_i}=\varphi^{H_i}\times\hat\varphi_{H_i}\colon\ \pi_1(H_i)\to K\times H$$

where K,H,G_i and L_i are finite groups. In particular, we have the following properties $(\mathcal{P}_j^{i,-})$:

(a) $\psi_{H_i}|\pi_1(T_j^{i,-}) = \varphi_{H_i}|\pi_1(T_j^{i,-}) \times \hat{\varphi}_{H_i}|\pi_1(T_j^{i,-})$ is a homomorphism from $\pi_1(T_j^{i,-})$ to $(g_j^i.G_n.(g_j^i)^{-1}) \times (\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}) \subset K \times H$ with $g_j^i \in K$ and $\varphi_{H_i}(m_j^i) = (g_j^i.\overline{c}.(g_j^i)^{-1}, 0, 0)$ (where $\overline{c}$ is an element of order $\alpha = mn_0$ in G_n) and $\varphi_{H_i}(l_j^i) = (g_j^i\overline{\gamma}_j^i(g_j^i)^{-1}, 0, 0)$ and $\hat{\varphi}_{H_i}(\pi_1(T_j^{i,-})) = \{0\} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ for $i = 1, ..., m$ and $j = 1, ..., \nu_i$.

(b) the groups $\ker(\psi_{S_i}|\pi_1(U_j^{i,-}))$ are $q\alpha \times q\alpha$-characteristic in $\pi_1(U_j^{i,-})$.

We consider the integer sequence $\gamma_{\mathcal{H}}(S) = \{\gamma_j^i\}_{i,j}$ of liftings in $\mathbf{Z}$ of $\{\overline{\gamma}_j^i\}_{i,j}$. It follows from the hypothesis of Case 1, that we can apply Lemma 6.5 to $S = F \times S^1$; this means that there exists a homomorphism $\psi_S\colon \pi_1(S) \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times G \times L_S$ satisfying the following equalities denoted by $(\mathcal{P}_S)$:

(c) the group $\ker(\psi_S|\langle\delta_j^i, t\rangle) = \ker(\psi_S|\pi_1(U_j^{i,+}))$ is the chatacteristic subgroup of index $q\alpha \times q\alpha$ in $\langle\delta_j^{i,+}, t\rangle$ for $i = 1, ..., t$ and $j = 1, ..., n_i$.

(d) $\psi_S|\pi_1(T_j^{i,+}) = \varphi_S|\pi_1(T_j^{i,+}) \times \hat{\varphi}_S|\pi_1(T_j^{i,+})\colon \pi_1(T_j^{i,+}) \to \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times \{0\} \times (\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}) \subset \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \times \{0\} \times L_i$ with $\varphi_S(d_j^i) = (\overline{\gamma}_j^i, 0, 0)$, $\varphi_S(t) = (\overline{c}, 0, 0)$ and $\hat{\varphi}_S(\pi_1(U_j^{i,+})) = \{0\} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}$ for $i = 1, ..., t$ and $j = 1, ..., n_i$.

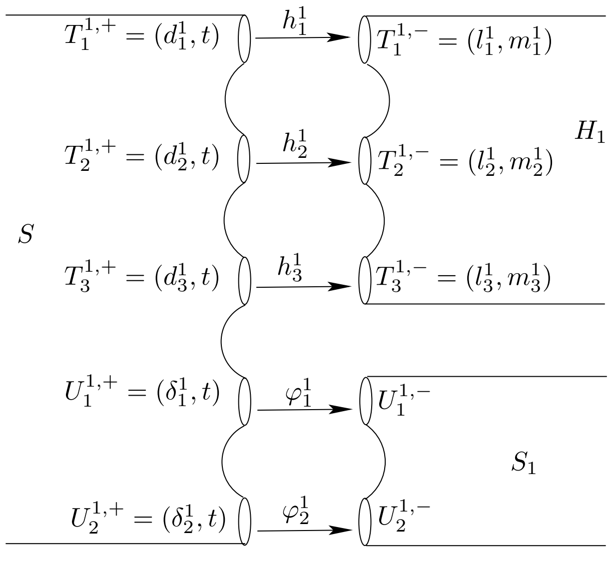


Figure 5

Denote by $p_S\colon \widetilde{S} \to S$ the finite covering corresponding to ψ_S, by η_S the degree of p_S and by $\eta_{X_{k-1}}$ the degree of $p_{X_{k-1}}$. Let $T_j^{i,+}$ (resp. $T_j^{i,-}$) be a torus in ∂S (resp. in ∂H_i). It follows from the construction of the coverings $p_{X_{k-1}}$ and p_S that $p_{X_{k-1}}$ (resp. p_S) is a covering of degree $\eta_j^{i,-} = |\psi_{H_i}(\pi_1(T_j^{i,-}))| = |\psi_{H_i}(\langle l_j^i, m_j^i\rangle)|$ (resp. $\eta_j^{i,+} = |\psi_S(\pi_1(T_j^{i,+}))| = |\psi_S(\langle d_j^i, t\rangle)|$). If $\alpha_j^{i,+}$ (resp. $\alpha_j^{i,-}$) denotes the number of connected components of $p_S^{-1}(T_j^{i,+})$ (resp. of $p_{X_{k-1}}^{-1}(T_j^{i,-})$) we can write:

$$\eta_j^{i,+} \times \alpha_j^{i,+} = \eta_S,\ \eta_j^{i,-} \times \alpha_j^{i,-} = \eta_{X_{k-1}} \text{ and } \eta_j^{i,+} = \eta_j^{i,-} \tag{1}$$

by properties $\mathcal{P}_j^{i,-}$ and $\mathcal{P}_S$. For each component $U_j^{i,-}$ of S_i (resp. $U_j^{i,+}$ of S), the covering $p_{X_{k-1}}$ (resp. p_S) induces the $q\alpha \times q\alpha$-characteristic covering. If $\beta_j^{i,+}$ (resp. $\beta_j^{i,-}$) denotes the number of connected components of $p_S^{-1}(U_j^{i,+})$ (resp. of $p_{X_{k-1}}^{-1}(U_j^{i,-})$), we can write:

$$q^2\alpha^2 \times \beta_j^{i,+} = \eta_S, \quad q^2\alpha^2 \times \beta_j^{i,-} = \eta_{X_{k-1}} \tag{2}$$

We want to show that there are two positive integers x and y independant of i and j satisfying the following equalities:

$$x\alpha_j^{i,+} = y\alpha_j^{i,-} \quad x\beta_j^{i,+} = y\beta_j^{i,-} \tag{3}$$

Using (1), it is sufficient to choose x and y in such a way that $x\eta_S = y\eta_{X_{k-1}}$ which is possible. So we take x copies $\widetilde{S}^1, ..., \widetilde{S}^x$ of $\widetilde{S}$ and y copies $\widetilde{X}_{k-1}^1, ..., \widetilde{X}_{k-1}^y$ of $\widetilde{X}_{k-1}$ with the coverings $p_S^i\colon \widetilde{S}^i \to S$ (resp. $p_{X_{k-1}}^i\colon \widetilde{X}_{k-1}^i \to X_{k-1}$) equivalent to p_S (resp. $p_{X_{k-1}}$). Then consider the space $\mathcal{X}$ defined by

$$\mathcal{X} = \left(\coprod_{i\leq i\leq x} \widetilde{S}^i\right) \coprod \left(\coprod_{1\leq j\leq y} \widetilde{X}_{k-1}^j\right)$$

Note that it follows from the above arguments that the spaces $\coprod_{i\leq i\leq x} \widetilde{S}^i$ and $\coprod_{1\leq j\leq y} \widetilde{X}_{k-1}^j$ have the same number of boundary components. Thus it is sufficient to show that we can glue together the connected components of $\mathcal{X}$ via those of $(p_S^i)^{-1}(\partial S)$ and of $(p_{X_{k-1}}^i)^{-1}(\partial X_{k-1})$ (see figure 5). To do this, we fix a component $\widetilde{T}_j^{i,+}$ (resp. $\widetilde{T}_j^{i,-}$) of $p_S^{-1}(\widetilde{T}_j^{i,+})$ (resp. $p_{X_{k-1}}^{-1}(\widetilde{T}_j^{i,-})$) and we proceed as before with the components of $p_S^{-1}(\widetilde{U}_j^{i,+})$ (resp. $p_{X_{k-1}}^{-1}(\widetilde{U}_j^{i,-})$). Then it is sufficient to prove that there exist homeomorphisms $\widetilde{h}_j^i$ and $\widetilde{\varphi}_j^i$ such that the following diagrams are consistent:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widetilde{T}_j^{i,+} & \xrightarrow{\widetilde{h}_j^i} & \widetilde{T}_j^{i,-} \\ {\scriptstyle p_S|\widetilde{T}_j^{i,+}}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle p_{X_{k-1}}|\widetilde{T}_j^{i,-}} \\ T_j^{i,+} & \xrightarrow{h_j^i} & T_j^{i,-} \end{array} \tag{4}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widetilde{U}_j^{i,+} & \xrightarrow{\widetilde{\varphi}_j^i} & \widetilde{U}_j^{i,-} \\ {\scriptstyle p_S|\widetilde{U}_j^{i,+}}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle p_{X_{k-1}}|\widetilde{U}_j^{i,-}} \\ U_j^{i,+} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_j^i} & U_j^{i,-} \end{array} \tag{5}$$

Since the coverings $p_S|\widetilde{U}_j^{i,+}$ and $p_{X_{k-1}}|\widetilde{U}_j^{i,-}$ correspond to the characteristic subgroup of index $q\alpha\times q\alpha$ in $\pi_1(U_j^{i,+})$ and $\pi_1(U_j^{i,-})$, it is straightforward that there exists a homeomorphism $\widetilde{\varphi}_j^i$ such that the diagram (5) is consistent (since for each integer n, the $n\times n$-characteristic subgroup of $\pi_1(U_j^{i,-})$ is unique). We now fix a base point x^+ (resp. $x^- = h_j^i(x^+)$) in $T_j^{i,+}$ (resp. $T_j^{i,-}$). So we have $\pi_1(T_j^{i,+},x^+) = \langle d_j^i, t\rangle$ and $\pi_1(T_j^{i,-},x^-) = \langle l_j^i, m_j^i\rangle$. By (d), we know that the covering $p_S|\widetilde{T}_j^{i,+}$ corresponds to the homomorphism ε defined by:

$$\varepsilon=\varepsilon_i\times\overline{\varepsilon}_i=\psi_{S_i}|\langle d_j^i,t\rangle=\varphi_{S_i}|\langle d_j^i,t\rangle\times\hat{\varphi}_{S_i}|\langle d_j^i,t\rangle \to (\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}\times\{0\})\times(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}\times\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})$$

$$\text{with equalities: } \psi_{S_i}(d_j^i) = (\varphi_{S_i}(d_j^i),\hat{\varphi}_{S_i}(d_j^i)) = ((\overline{\gamma}_j^i,0),\hat{\varphi}_{S_i}(d_j^i)) \tag{6}$$

$$\text{and } \psi_{S_i}(t) = (\varphi_{S_i}(t),\hat{\varphi}_{S_i}(t)) = ((\overline{c},0),\hat{\varphi}_{S_i}(t))$$

It follows from (a) that the covering $p_{X_{k-1}}|\widetilde{T}_j^{i,-}$ corresponds to the homomorphism $\varepsilon'\colon \langle l_j^i, m_j^i\rangle \to (g_j^i G_n (g_j^i)^{-1})\times(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z}\times\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})$ defined by:

$$\varepsilon' = \varepsilon_i'\times\overline{\varepsilon}_i' = \psi_{H_i}|\langle l_j^i,m_j^i\rangle = \varphi_{H_i}|\langle l_j^i,m_j^i\rangle\times\hat{\varphi}_{H_i}|\langle l_j^i,m_j^i\rangle$$

$$\text{with equalities: } \psi_{H_i}(l_j^i) = (\varphi_{H_i}(l_j^i),\hat{\varphi}_{H_i}(l_j^i)) = ((g_j^i\overline{\gamma}_j^i(g_j^i)^{-1},0),\hat{\varphi}_{H_i}(l_j^i)) \tag{7}$$

$$\text{and } \psi_{H_i}(m_j^i) = (\varphi_{H_i}(m_j^i),\hat{\varphi}_{H_i}(m_j^i)) = ((g_j^i\overline{c}(g_j^i)^{-1},0),\hat{\varphi}_{H_i}(m_j^i))$$

where $G_n\simeq\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$. To prove that the homomorphism h_j^i lifts in the diagram (4) it is sufficient to see that: $(h_j^i)_*(\ker(\varepsilon)) = \ker(\varepsilon')$. It follows from the above arguments that $\ker(\varepsilon) = \ker(\varepsilon_i)\cap\ker(\overline{\varepsilon}_i)$ and $\ker(\varepsilon') = \ker(\varepsilon_i')\cap\ker(\overline{\varepsilon}_i')$. We first prove the following equality $(h_j^i)_*(\ker(\varepsilon_i)) = \ker(\varepsilon_i')$. Using (6) and (7) we know that:

$$\varepsilon_i\colon \langle d_j^i,t\rangle\to\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z} \text{ with } \varepsilon_i(d_j^i)=\overline{\gamma}_j^i \text{ and } \varepsilon(t)=\overline{c}$$

$$\varepsilon_i'\colon \langle l_j^i,m_j^i\rangle\to g_j^iG_n(g_j^i)^{-1}\simeq\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$$

$$\text{with } \varepsilon_i(l_j^i) = g_j^i\overline{\gamma}_j^i(g_j^i)^{-1} \text{ and } \varepsilon(m_j^i) = g_j^i\overline{c}(g_j^i)^{-1}$$

Moreover, since the elements m_j^i and l_j^i have been chosen such that $m_j^i = h_j^i(t)$ and $l_j^i = h_j^i(d_j^i)$, the above arguments imply that $(h_j^i)_*(\ker(\varepsilon_i)) = \ker(\varepsilon_i')$. Hence it is sufficient to check that $(h_j^i)_*(\ker(\overline{\varepsilon}_i)) = \ker(\overline{\varepsilon}_i')$. Since $\ker(\overline{\varepsilon}_i)$ (resp. $\ker(\overline{\varepsilon}_i')$) is the $q\times q$-characteristic subgroup of $\pi_1(T_j^{i,+})$ (resp. of $\pi_1(T_j^{i,-})$) this latter equality is obvious. So the lifting criterion implies that there is a homeomorphism $\widetilde{h}_j^i$ such that diagram (4) commutes. Finally the space $\widetilde{N}$ obtained by gluing together the connected components of $\mathcal{X}$ via the homeomorphisms $\widetilde{\varphi}_j^i$ and $\widetilde{h}_j^i$ satisfies the induction hypothesis $(\mathcal{H}_k)$. This proves Lemma 6.6 in Case 1.1.

Case 1.2 To complete the proof of Lemma 6.6 it remains to assume that the space X_1 is a hyperbolic submanifold of N^3. In this case the arguments are similar to those of Case 1.1. This ends the proof of Lemma 6.6. □

6.3.2 Proof of Proposition 1.12: Case 2

We now assume that for some Seifert pieces $\{S_i, i \in I\}$ in N, in order to apply Lemma 6.5 we have to take a finite covering of order $p \geq 1$ inducing the trivial covering on the boundary. More precisely, for each S_i, $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$, we denote by $\gamma(S_i)$ the integer sequence which comes from the hyperbolic coverings via Corollary 6.4 and we denote by $\pi_i\colon \widetilde{S}_i \to S_i$ the covering (trivial on the boundary) obtained by applying Lemma 6.5 to S_i with $\gamma(S_i)$. Then we construct a finite covering $\pi\colon \widetilde{N} \to N$ such that each component of $\pi^{-1}(S_i)$ is equivalent to the covering $\pi_i\colon \widetilde{S}_i \to S_i$ in the following way: for each $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$ we denote by η_i the degree of π_i. We define the integer m_0 by:

$$m_0 = \text{l.c.m}(\eta_1, ..., \eta_t)$$

For each $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$, we take $t_i = m_0/\eta_i$ copies of S^i denoted by $S^i_1, ..., S^i_{t_i}$ and m_0 copies of H_j denoted by $H^j_1, ..., H^j_{m_0}$ for $j \in \{1, ..., m\}$. Since the map π_i induces the trivial covering on $\partial\widetilde{S}_i$ we may glue together the connected components of the space:

$$X = \left(\coprod_{1 \leq i \leq t} \coprod_{1 \leq j \leq t_i} S^i_j \right) \coprod \left(\coprod_{1 \leq i \leq t} \coprod_{1 \leq j \leq m_0} H^i_j \right)$$

via the (trivial) liftings of the gluing homeomorphism of the pieces $N \setminus W_N$. This allows us to obtain a Haken manifold N_1 which is a finite covering of N and which satisfies the hypothesis of Case 1 (see subsection 6.3.1). It is now sufficient to apply the arguments of subsection 6.3.1 for the induced map $f_1\colon M_1 \to N_1$. This completes the proof of Proposition 1.12. By paragraph 6.1.1 and paragraph 6.1.2 this completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

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