A NEW PROOF FOR THE HOSAY-LININGER THEOREM ABOUT CRUMPLED CUBES

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I. Introduction. In 1963 Hosay [2] and Lininger [3], working independently, proved the following theorem:

**Theorem.** If $C$ is a crumpled cube in $S^3$, and $\epsilon$ is a positive number, then there is an $\epsilon$-homeomorphism $h$ from $C$ into $S^3$ such that the closure of $S^3 - h(C)$ is a 3-cell.

Recently F. M. Lister [4] established a stronger version of Bing's Side Approximation Theorem. With this new result one can avoid certain complications encountered by Hosay and Lininger. The goal of this paper is to provide a short proof for their theorem, using this result of Lister. We understand that Robert F. Craggs has obtained a similar short proof.

**Approximation Theorem (Lister).** If $S$ is a 2-sphere in $E^3$, and $\epsilon$ is a positive number, then there exist an $\epsilon$-homeomorphism $g$ from $S$ into $E^3$ and a collection of mutually exclusive $\epsilon$-disks $\{D_i\}_{i=1}^m$ on $S$ satisfying

1. $g(S)$ is polyhedral,
2. $g(S) - \bigcup_{i=1}^m g(\text{Int } D_i) = g(S - \bigcup_{i=1}^m \text{Int } D_i) \subset \text{Ext } S$,
3. $S - \bigcup_{i=1}^m \text{Int } D_i \subset \text{Int } g(S)$, and
4. $g(S) \cap D_i = g(D_i) \cap D_i$ ($i = 1, \cdots, m$).

A crumpled cube is a space homeomorphic to the union of some 2-sphere in $E^3$ and its bounded complementary domain. For explanation of other terms and notations used here, the reader may see [3].

II. Re-embedding crumpled cubes.

**Lemma.** Suppose $C$ is a crumpled cube in $E^3$ with boundary $S$, and $\epsilon$ is a positive number. Then there exist an $\epsilon$-homeomorphism $h'$ from $C$ into $E^3$ and a polyhedral 2-sphere $S'$ homeomorphically within $\epsilon$ of $S$ such that $h'(C) \subset \text{Int } S'$.

**Proof.** Using the Approximation Theorem for $\epsilon' = \epsilon/9$, we find a polyhedral 2-sphere $g(S)$, homeomorphically within $\epsilon'$ of $S$, and a

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collection of mutually exclusive $\epsilon'$-disks $D_1, \ldots, D_m$ on $S$ which satisfy conditions (1)-(4).

The desired 2-sphere $S'$ is obtained from $g(S)$ by pushing the disks $g(D_i)$ slightly into $\text{Ext } g(S)$. Specifically, for $i = 1, \ldots, m$, let $B_i$ denote a 3-cell in $E^3$ such that

(i) $g(D_i) \cup B_i$,
(ii) $B_i - g(D_i) \subset \text{Ext } g(S)$,
(iii) $\text{diam } B_i < 3\epsilon'$, and
(iv) $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$, if $i \neq j$.

The 2-sphere $S' = g(S) \cup (\bigcup B_i) - \bigcup (\text{Int } D_i)$ is homeomorphically within $\epsilon$ of $S$.

Now we show that, for a component $K$ of $C - \text{Cl}(\text{Int } g(S))$, $\text{Cl } K$ meets only one of the disks $g(D_i)$. If $H$ denotes the unbounded component of $\text{Ext } g(S) - K$, it follows from the unicoherence of $\text{Ext } g(S)$ that $\text{Bd } H$ (viewed in $\text{Ext } g(S)$) is connected. $\text{Bd } H \subset S$, so $\text{Bd } H$ is contained in one of the disks on $S$, say $D_k$. Then condition (4) implies that

$$\text{Cl}(\text{Bd } H) \cap g(S) = \text{Cl}(\text{Bd } H) \cap D_k.$$ 

Consequently, $\text{Cl } K \cap g(S) = \text{Cl } K \cap D_k$.

Let $P_i$ $(i = 1, \ldots, m)$ denote the sum of all components $K$ of $C - \text{Cl}(\text{Int } g(S))$ such that $\text{Cl } K$ intersects $g(D_i)$. By the claim established in the preceding paragraph, $P_i \cap P_j = \emptyset$ whenever $i \neq j$. Supposing momentarily that $g(S)$ lies in $S^3$ instead of $E^3$, $\text{Cl}(\text{Ext } g(S))$ is a 3-cell, so there exist homeomorphisms $f_i$ from $\text{Cl}(\text{Ext } g(S))$ to $B_i$ with the additional property that $f_i$ is the identity on $g(D_i)$. Note that the diameter of each $P_i$ is less than $3\epsilon'$ and that no point of $P_i$ is moved as much as $\epsilon$ by $f_i$.

The homeomorphism $h'$ is defined by the rule

$$h'(x) = f_i(x) \quad \text{for } x \in P_i,$$

$$= x \quad \text{for } x \in (C - \bigcup P_i).$$

For a detailed argument establishing the theorem on the basis of this lemma, refer to Theorem 2 of [3]. The idea is to re-embed the cube with a homeomorphism $h$ which is the limit of a sequence of homeomorphisms provided by the lemma. The lemma promises a sphere for each of the homeomorphisms in the sequence, and the existence of these spheres guarantees that $h(\text{Bd } C)$ can be homeomorphically approximated from $S^3 - h(C)$. As a result of Theorem 2.1 of [1], the closure of $S^3 - h(C)$ is a 3-cell.
References

1. R. H. Bing, Conditions under which a surface in $E^3$ is tame, Fund. Math. 47 (1959), 105-139.

2. N. Hosay, The sum of a real cube and a crumpled cube is $S^3$, Notices Amer. Math. Soc. 10 (1963), 666; errata 11 (1964), 152.


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