

EXTENDING CLOSED PLANE CURVES TO IMMERSIONS OF THE DISK WITH n HANDLES

BY

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ABSTRACT. Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal curve in the plane. The extensions of f to immersions of the disk with n handles (T_n) can be determined as follows. A word for f is constructed using the definitions of Blank and Marx and a combinatorial structure, called a T_n -assemblage, is defined for such words. There is an immersion extending f to T_n iff the tangent winding number of f is $1 - 2n$ and f has a T_n -assemblage.

For each n , a canonical curve f_n with a topologically unique extension to T_n is described ($f_0 =$ Jordan curve). Any extendible curve with the minimum number ($2n + 2$ for $n > 0$) of self-intersections is equivalent to f_n .

Introduction. Let $f: \partial M \rightarrow N$ be a regular map (C^1 -immersion) of the boundary of a compact, oriented surface into an oriented surface without boundary. Since M and N admit the structure of Riemann surfaces, the problem of the existence and topological classification of holomorphic maps $F: M \rightarrow N$ that extend f , $F|_{\partial M} = f$, have been of interest to many mathematicians, notably M. Morse and M. Heins [14], [15]. According to Stoilow-Whyburn theory [16], [22], a continuous map F that is light, open, and sense-preserving on $M - \partial M$ and a local homeomorphism relative to M on ∂M is topologically equivalent to a holomorphic mapping from M to N . Such maps are now said to be *properly interior*. If the map is branch point free (local homeomorphism) and C^1 on the boundary, then it is equivalent to a C^1 -immersion [J. Jewett, 9]; [J. H. C. Whitehead, 20]. Accordingly, this study will be presented entirely in the C^1 -context.

Particular success has been obtained when the immersion f has its oriented image $[f]$ in the plane E or sphere S^2 lying in completely general position (normal immersion); that is, $[f]$ has a finite number of transverse self-intersections (nodes). Such curves comprise a dense-open subset of $C^1(\partial M, N)$ in the C^1 -topology [Whitney, 21], and were combinatorially classified by Titus [17] by means of their Whitney-Titus intersection sequence. In contrast to arbitrary

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immersions (presenting self-tangencies, multiple crossings and multiply covered arcs, etc.), the bounding properties of normal immersions are unaffected by sufficiently small deformations.

When the domain ∂M of f is the circle S and N is the plane, E , the *tangent winding number* $\tau(f)$ is the degree of the unit tangent vector. By the Whitney-Graustein theorem, $\tau(f)$ classifies f up to regular homotopy. If ∂M has d components and N is S^2 with base point ∞ , then define $\tau(f)$ to be the sum of the tangent winding numbers computed in $E = S^2 - \{\infty\}$. The character of extensions F of f has been found to depend on $\tau(f)$, the genus n of M , the number d of components of ∂M , and, if F is properly interior, on a nonnegative integer u associated with the multiplicities of the branch points. Finally, letting b be the number of preimages of the spherical base point, Francis [5] found the constraint:

$$\tau = 2 - d - 2n + u - 2b.$$

The question of necessary and sufficient conditions for properly interior extensions to the disk of a normal, plane immersion of its boundary was posed by Loewner and resolved by Titus [18] by means of algorithms on the intersection sequence. Using novel invariants, called words, S. J. Blank [1] showed that for a given word for f , equivalence classes of immersions which extend f are in one-to-one correspondence with the combinatorial structures on the word, called groupings. Such structures were called assemblages by M. Marx [12], who obtained a classification for properly interior maps of the disc in the plane. Francis [5] obtained the assemblages for spherical immersions of the disk and S. Troyer [19] the assemblages for plane immersions of a disk with n -holes.

Sufficient conditions, based on Titus' original methods, for the existence of properly interior extensions of plane curves to the annulus [Marx, 10], the torus minus a disk [Marx, 11] and spherical curves to the disk [Marx and Verhey, 13] are known.

This paper is concerned with determining extensions when M has genus greater than zero. Let T_n be a closed disk with n handles. That is, T_n is a closed, oriented surface of genus n with an open disk removed. The purpose of this study is to determine the nature of T_n -assemblages for immersions when N is the plane.

The correspondence between assemblages and extensions as well as the relation between genus and tangent winding number can be described as follows. There is an immersion $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ such that $F|\partial T_n = f$ if and only if $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$ and f has a T_n -assemblage.

Two immersions $F, G: T_n \rightarrow E$ are equivalent if there is an orientation preserving diffeomorphism $h: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ such that $F = G \circ h$. The equivalence

classes of extensions of a loop f and assemblages for f are in one-to-one correspondence.

Some consequences of these results will be proved in the last section of this paper. The structure of a T_1 -assemblage will be described without reference to the reflection operation and this form will be used to analyze a normal curve for which every node separates the curve into two nonempty disjoint pieces. In contrast to such curves bounding plane immersed discs [Francis, 3] this curve has three inequivalent extensions to T_1 . A theorem of Marx [12] extends to arbitrary genus: If f has a T_n -assemblage, then it has a properly interior extension to T_n .

Finally, a canonical class of normal curves is constructed. For each n , there is exactly one normal curve f_n that has the fewest self-intersections and extends to an immersion of T_n . Moreover, the curve f_n and its extension F_n are topologically unique.

The author is pleased to express his appreciation to Professor George K. Francis of the University of Illinois, who suggested this thesis and whose generous contributions of ideas and time made its completion possible.

1. Preliminaries. Definitions and terminology needed to describe T_n -assemblages and state the main theorems will be presented in this section. The objects involved in this study are intervals, circles, the oriented Euclidean plane and compact, oriented surfaces. All mappings are taken to be sense-preserving C^1 immersions.

Let h be a C^1 -immersion of a closed interval or a circle into the plane E . If $h^{-1}(h(x)) = \{x, y\}$ and the tangent vectors $h'(x)$ and $h'(y)$ are independent, then $h(x)$ is a *node* of h . If the only self-intersections of h are nodes, then h is *normal* and when the domain of h is a circle, h is a *normal loop*. Because nodes must be isolated and the domains used are compact, a normal map has only a finite number of nodes. Two normal maps h and g are *transverse* if $p = h(x) = g(y)$ implies that the tangent vectors $h'(x)$ and $g'(y)$ are independent and p is not a node of h or g . The image of a map h will be denoted by $[h]$. If the interval $[x, y]$ is contained in the domain of h and $a = h(x)$ and $b = h(y)$ are not nodes of h , then the sense-preserving map $h[[x, y]$ can be unambiguously denoted by $(a, b)h$.

For each nonnegative integer n , let T_n denote a closed disk with n handles. Thus T_n is a compact, oriented, connected surface of genus n with an open disk removed. Let S be the boundary of T_n ($S = \partial T_n$) and orient T_n so that if S has the induced orientation, then the interior of T_n is to the left of S .

Representations of T_n which facilitate the study of their plane immersions can be obtained as follows. Attach opposite ends of $2n$ rectangular strips

to disjoint segments of the boundary of a closed disk so that the resulting space X is smooth, orientable, and has only one boundary component. Then X and T_n are diffeomorphic. T_0 and T_1 have essentially one such representation, while T_n may have several for $n \geq 2$. For each n , one representation can be obtained by attaching the ends of the strips to antipodal arcs of the boundary of the disc. See Figure 1 for T_2 .

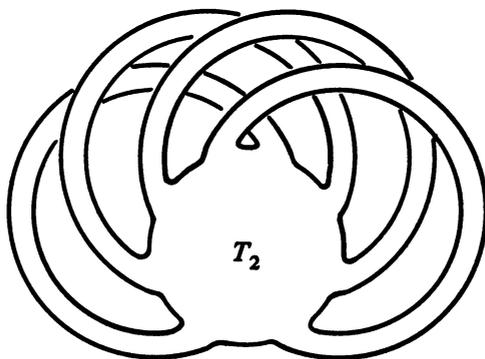


FIGURE 1

An illustration of the equivalence between adding a "handle" to a disc and adding a pair of "linked" strips to the boundary is given in Figure 2.

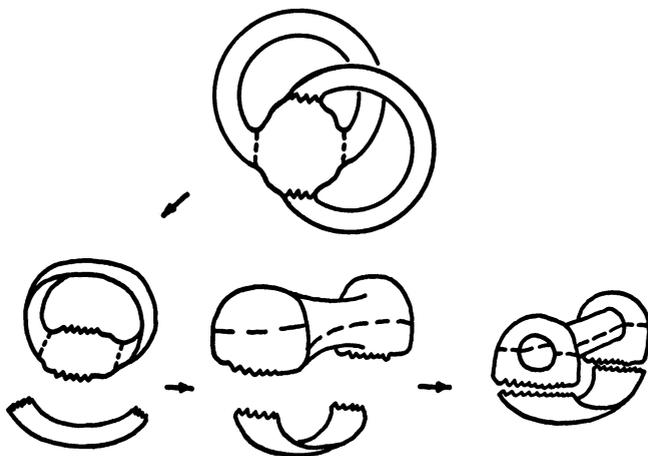


FIGURE 2

Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal loop. Then $E - [f]$ consists of a finite number of bounded components $\{E_1, \dots, E_m\}$ and one unbounded component

E_∞ . A *raying* \mathcal{R} for f is a finite set of embeddings of the interval $[0, 1]$, called rays, such that

- (1) the oriented image of each ray begins in a bounded component of $E - [f]$ and ends in E_∞ ;
- (2) at least one ray begins in each bounded component;
- (3) each ray and f are transverse;
- (4) the images of the rays are disjoint.

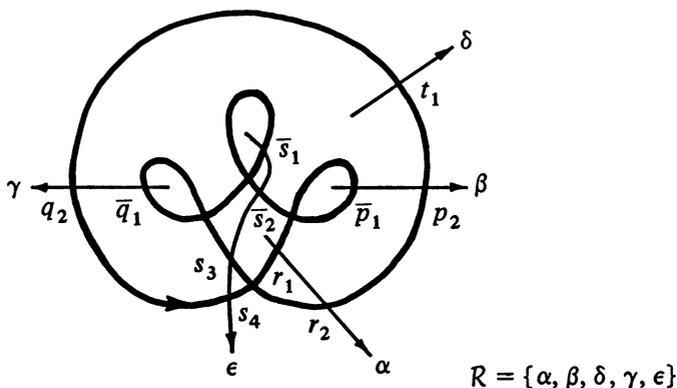
The direction in which rays cross $[f]$, the relative order in which crossings occur on $[f]$, and the order of crossings on each ray (as well as the tangent winding number of f) comprise the essential data on f used in this work to study extensions of f to plane immersions of T_n . Let \mathcal{R} be a raying for f and let $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}$. If $\alpha(t) = f(x) = p$ is a *crossing* (intersection), the *sign* of p is defined by $\text{sgn}(p) = \text{sgn} \det [\alpha'(t), f'(t)]$. Thus $\text{sgn}(p) = 1$ if α crosses $[f]$ from left to right and $\text{sgn}(p) = -1$ otherwise (see Figure 3). The *position integer*, $\text{pos}(p)$, is defined so that $\text{pos}(p) = k$ if p is the k th crossing on α . A list of the crossings in the order they occur as $[f]$ is traced is called a *crossing word* $W(f, \mathcal{R})$ for f . Different starting points correspond to cyclic permutations of a given word and thus the circular order on crossings induced by S is unaffected. As an ingredient in a word, a crossing, together with its sign and position integer, is also called a *letter*. The idea of using rays to generate words of signed crossings was first used by Blank [1]. Marx [12] extended Blank's results using words of signed crossings which also carried indices corresponding to the positions on the rays.

Let \bar{p} and p be crossings on a ray α such that $\text{sgn}(\bar{p}) = -1$, $\text{sgn}(p) = 1$, and $\text{pos}(\bar{p}) < \text{pos}(p)$. Then $P = (\bar{p}, p)$ is a *pair* from $W(f, \mathcal{R})$. Two pairs P and Q are *linked* if $f^{-1}(P)$ intersects both complementary components of $f^{-1}(Q)$ in S . Linked pairs can be easily recognized from the positions of the crossings in the word (see Figure 3). A disjoint collection \mathcal{P} of pairs which uses each negative crossing in $W(f, \mathcal{R})$ is called a *pairing* on $W(f, \mathcal{R})$.

For notational purposes, define the function $\wedge: \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ by $\wedge(P, Q) = 1$ if and only if P links Q ($\wedge(P, P) = 0$). When more than one linking relation may be involved, (\mathcal{P}, \wedge) will denote the collection with relation determined by \wedge . A subset \mathcal{P}' of \mathcal{P} is *properly nested* if no two pairs in \mathcal{P}' are linked—i.e., $\wedge|\mathcal{P}' \times \mathcal{P}' = 0$.

Two pairs P and P' in \mathcal{P} are *similar* with respect to \wedge , $P \wedge P'$, if $\wedge(P, R) = \wedge(P', R)$ for each $R \in \mathcal{P}$ (in particular, $\wedge(P, P') = 0$).

Examples of the above concepts are given in Figure 3. The subscript on a crossing is its position integer and a negative crossing is indicated by a bar over the letter.



$$W(f, R): \overbrace{r_2 p_2 t_1 q_2 s_4 r_1 \bar{p}_1 \bar{s}_2 \bar{s}_1 \bar{q}_1 s_3}^P \overbrace{r_1}^{P'} \quad P = \{P, P', Q, Q'\}$$

$$\underbrace{\underbrace{\quad}_{Q'}}_Q$$

\wedge	P	P'	Q	Q'
P	0	0	1	1
P'	0	0	1	1
Q	1	1	0	0
Q'	1	1	0	0

$$P \wedge P'$$

$$Q \wedge Q'$$

FIGURE 3

Assume that $P = (\bar{p}, p)$ and $Q = (\bar{q}, q)$ are linked pairs from $W(f, R)$. Then some cyclic permutation of $W(f, R)$ reads $ApBqC\bar{p}D\bar{q}$ or $ApB\bar{q}C\bar{p}Dq$, where A, B, C , and D are (possibly empty) subwords. In either case, the following definition is made. The reflection of $W(f, R)$ about P and Q is $W(P, Q) = ADCB$. The linking relation induced on $P_0 = P - \{P, Q\}$ by the new arrangement of the letters will be denoted by \wedge_1 .

In §3, it will be shown that \wedge_1 can also be derived from \wedge . Although $W(P, Q)$ is not necessarily the crossing word for a normal loop, it will be shown in §§2 and 3 to contain the essential information needed to study a normal loop obtained by modifying f . If (P_0, \wedge_1) is not properly nested, then P_0

contains linked pairs about which $W(P, Q)$ can be reflected. If this process is continued, a (possibly empty) properly nested collection results. Suppose that P_1, \dots, P_{2m} is a sequence in P which can be used to carry out a succession of reflections; i.e., $W_1 = W(P_1, P_2), W_i = W_{i-1}(P_{2i-1}, P_{2i}), \bigwedge_i$ is the relation on $P - \{P_1, \dots, P_{2i}\}$, and $\bigwedge_{i-1}(P_{2i-1}, P_{2i}) = 1$ for $2 \leq i \leq m$. If $(P - \{P_1, \dots, P_{2m}\}, \bigwedge_m)$ is properly nested, then $C = (P_1, \dots, P_{2m})$ is a *decomposition sequence* of length $2m$. The principal definition in this work can now be stated.

1.1. DEFINITION. Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal loop with raying R . Assume that P is a pairing on $W(f, R)$ and P contains a decomposition sequence of length $2n$. Then P is a T_n -*assemblage*.

A T_0 -assemblage is therefore a properly nested pairing. An alternative description of T_1 -assemblages which does not involve reflections will be given in §7.

The *tangent winding number* of a normal loop f is defined by $\tau(f) = \text{degree of } \{f'/|f'|: S \rightarrow S\}$.

The relationships among assemblages, $\tau(f)$, and immersions of T_n which extend f are given in the following two theorems.

1.2. THEOREM I. Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal loop. If $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$ and a crossing word of f has a T_n -assemblage, then f can be extended to an immersion of T_n . Conversely, if f can be extended to an immersion of T_n , then $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$ and each crossing word of f has a T_n -assemblage.

Let F and $G: T_n \rightarrow E$ be immersions. Then F and G are equivalent if there is an orientation preserving diffeomorphism $h: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ such that $F = G \circ h$.

1.3. THEOREM II. Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal loop and assume that $F, G: T_n \rightarrow E$ are immersions which extend f . Then F and G are equivalent iff F and G determine the same T_n -assemblage on each crossing word of f .

Theorem II will be proved in §6. It will also be shown in §6 that the existence and equivalence of extensions of a normal loop depend only on the image curve and not on the parametrization. That these questions are independent of the copy of T_n used will also follow.

2. Modifications. Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal loop with raying R . If P and Q are disjoint linked pairs from $W(f, R)$, a new normal loop f_1 can be defined using P, Q , and f . A raying R_1 can be obtained for f_1 by supplementing R in such a way that the reflection $W(P, Q)$ of $W(f, R)$ is a subword of $W(f_1, R_1)$. Also, $\tau(f_1)$ will be calculated in terms of $\tau(f)$ and it

will also be shown that for certain pairings the linking induced by $W(f_1, R_1)$ is determined by $W(P, Q)$.

A normal loop $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P, Q)$ will be constructed by deleting small intervals of $[f]$ which contain the crossings in P and Q and then reconnecting the result using arcs "parallel" to the segments of the rays determined by P and Q . Assume that $P = (\bar{p}, p)$ is on α and $Q = (\bar{q}, q)$ is on β (α and β may be the same). Denote the segment $(\bar{p}, p)\alpha$ by α_P and $(\bar{q}, q)\beta$ by β_Q . Choose a simple arc u_L to the left of α_P from a to b as in Figure 4 (some of the possible crossings of f with α_P and β_Q have been indicated). Assume that u_L is sufficiently close to α so that it intersects f in the same manner as does α_P . Similarly, choose u_R to the right of α from b' to a' . Next choose v_L and v_R , as indicated in Figure 4, to the left and right of β . In case $\alpha = \beta$, require that u_L, u_R, v_L , and v_R are disjoint and v_L and v_R are "closer" to α than u_L and u_R (see, for example, Figure 5).

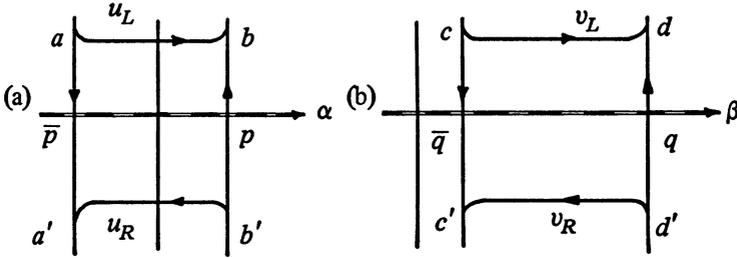


FIGURE 4

2.1. DEFINITION. If the order is p, \bar{q}, \bar{p}, q in $W(f, R)$, let

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mod}(f, P, Q) &= u_L + (b, c)f + v_L + (d, b')f \\ &\quad + u_R + (a', d')f + v_R + (c', a)f; \end{aligned}$$

if the order is p, q, \bar{p}, \bar{q} , let

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mod}(f, P, Q) &= u_L + (b, d')f + v_R + (c', b')f \\ &\quad + u_R + (a', c)f + v_L + (d, a)f. \end{aligned}$$

2.2. PROPOSITION. $\tau \text{mod}(f, P, Q) = \tau(f) + 2$.

PROOF. Abbreviate $\tau((x, y)f)$ to $\tau(xy)$ and assume (without loss of generality) that the order of the crossings is p, \bar{q}, \bar{p}, q . Let $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P, Q)$. Then (see Figure 4):

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(f) &= \tau(bc) + \tau(db') + \tau(a'd') + \tau(c'a) + \tau(aa') + \tau(b'b) + \tau(cc') + \tau(d'd), \\ \tau(f_1) &= \tau(u_L) + \tau(u_R) + \tau(v_R) + \tau(v_L) + \tau(bc) + \tau(db') + \tau(a'd') + \tau(c'a). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(f_1) - \tau(f) &= (\tau(u_L) - \tau(b'b) + \tau(u_R) - \tau(aa')) \\ &\quad + (\tau(v_L) - \tau(d'd) + \tau(v_R) - \tau(cc')). \end{aligned}$$

Since $u_L + (b', b)(-f) + u_R + (a, a')(-f)$ is a negatively oriented Jordan curve, $\tau = -1$ on this piecewise regular loop. The total contribution to τ on the corners is $(4)(-1/2) = -2$ and therefore $\tau(u_L) - \tau(b'b) + \tau(u_R) - \tau(aa') = 1$. Similarly, $\tau(v_L) - \tau(d'd) + \tau(v_R) - \tau(cc') = 1$. Thus $\tau(f_1) = \tau(f) + 2$. \square

The relationship between rayings, pairings, and linking for f and f_1 will be considered next. First note that if the crossings of f_1 on the rays in R are listed in the order they are encountered as f_1 is traversed, the reflection $W(P, Q)$ of $W(f, R)$ is obtained. Thus the following proposition holds.

2.3. PROPOSITION. *The linking \bigwedge_1 on $P - \{P, Q\}$ induced by the reflection $W(P, Q)$ is the same as the linking induced by $\text{mod}(f, P, Q)$.*

$W(P, Q)$ is not necessarily a crossing word for f_1 since new bounded components may be created by u_L, u_R, v_L , and v_R . Thus additional rays may be needed to obtain a raying R_1 and word $W(f_1, R_1)$ for f_1 . Let $P_0 = P - \{P, Q\}$. A pairing $P_1 \supseteq P_0$ will be defined on $W(f_1, R_1)$ with linking relation \bigwedge_1 induced by f_1 . This relation restricted to P_0 is the same as the relation on P_0 induced by $W(P, Q)$. Moreover, each new pair in P_1 is similar to a pair in P_0 . Thus all linking patterns are determined by $W(P, Q)$ and the new rays are essentially redundant. These statements are proved in the next proposition.

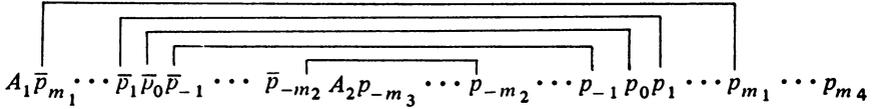
2.4. PROPOSITION. *Let (P, \bigwedge) be a pairing on $W(f, R)$ such that $P, Q \in P$ and $\bigwedge(P, Q) = 1$. A raying $R_1 \supseteq R$ can be chosen for f_1 so that $W(P, Q)$ is a subword of $W(f_1, R_1)$ and a pairing (P_1, \bigwedge_1) exists on $W(f_1, R_1)$ with the following properties.*

- (1) $P_0 = P - \{P, Q\} \subseteq P_1$.
- (2) *There is a projection $S: P_1 \rightarrow P_0$ such that $S(R_1)$ and R_1 are similar, $S(R_1) \bigwedge_1 R_1$, for each pair $R_1 \in P_1$.*

PROOF. Recall that $S(R_1) \bigwedge_1 R_1$ means that $\bigwedge_1(SR_1, R) = \bigwedge_1(R_1, R)$ for each $R \in P_1$. A new ray is needed for each new component of $E - [f_1]$. Choose $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ to the left of α ; β_1, \dots, β_n to the left of β ; $\alpha_{-1}, \dots, \alpha_{-m}'$ to the right of α ; and $\beta_{-1}, \dots, \beta_{-n}'$ to the right of β (see Figure 5 for the case $\alpha = \beta$). Construct the rays parallel to and close enough to α and β so that the new rays intersect f in the same manner as do α and β . Then, except for initial positive crossings with u_L, u_R, v_L , and v_R , all new crossings occur as follows. Assume \bar{p}_0 is a negative crossing on α such that $\text{pos}(\bar{p}) < \text{pos}(\bar{p}_0)$. Then there are new negative crossings \bar{p}_i on α_i which are adjacent in the word $W(f_1, R_1)$ and occur as $\bar{p}_{m_1} \dots \bar{p}_1 \bar{p}_0 \bar{p}_{-1} \dots \bar{p}_{-m_2}$. If p_0 is a positive crossing on α beyond

\bar{p} ($\text{pos } \bar{p} < \text{pos } p_0$), then new positive crossings p_i on α_i occur as $p_{-m_3} \cdots p_{-1} p_0 p_1 \cdots p_{m_4}$ in $W(f_1, R_1)$. If $\text{pos}(\bar{p}_0) < \text{pos}(p_0)$, then $m_1 \leq m_4$ and $m_2 \leq m_3$.

Suppose now that $P_0 = (\bar{p}_0, p_0)$ is a pair in $\mathcal{P}_0 = P - \{P, Q\}$ and $\text{pos } \bar{p} < \text{pos } \bar{p}_0$. Because $\text{pos } \bar{p}_0 < \text{pos } p_0$, it follows that $\text{pos } \bar{p}_i < \text{pos } p_i$. Hence $P_i = (\bar{p}_i, p_i)$ is a pair and will be included in \mathcal{P}_1 . Schematically, these new pairs and their positions in $W(f_1, R_1)$ can be described as follows:



where A_1 and A_2 are subwords. From this configuration it is evident that each P_i is similar to P_0 .

The arrangement of new crossings near β is analogous and new pairs are chosen as above. To complete the pairing \mathcal{P}_1 on $W(f_1, R_1)$, also include all pairs in \mathcal{P}_0 . Define $S(P_i) = P_0$, $S(Q_i) = Q_0$ and $S(R_0) = R_0$ if $R_0 \in \mathcal{P}_0$. \square

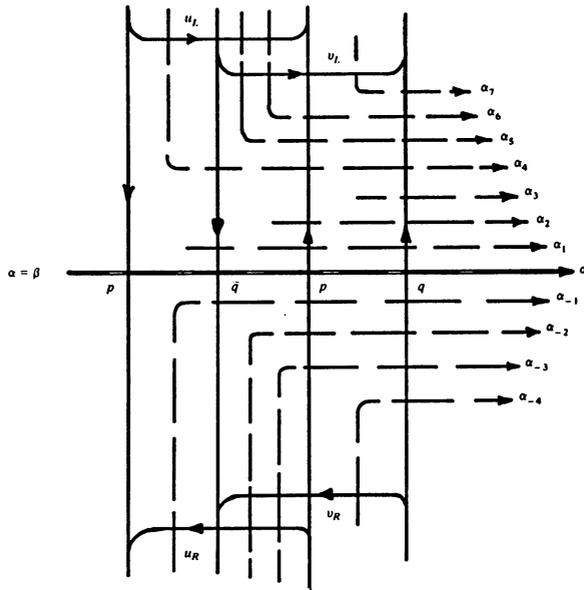


FIGURE 5

3. Reflections and linking. Let $W(f, R)$ be a crossing word for f and assume that (P, \wedge) is a pairing on $W(f, R)$. Let P and Q be linked pairs in \mathcal{P} ($\wedge(P, Q) = 1$). Then the normal loop $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P, Q)$ can be constructed and the reflection $W(P, Q)$ can be formed. Then $W(P, Q)$ induces a linking relation \wedge_1 on $\mathcal{P}_0 = P - \{P, Q\}$. By Proposition 2.4, a raying R_1 for f_1 and pairing \mathcal{P}_1 on $W(f_1, R_1)$ can be chosen so that $\mathcal{P}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{P}_1$. Moreover, each pair R_1 in \mathcal{P}_1 is similar to a pair $S(R_1)$ in \mathcal{P}_0 with respect to the linking induced by $W(f_1, R_1)$. Consequently, the linking of pairings on words obtained by mod-

ifications can be studied combinatorially by looking only at the corresponding reflections and this section is concerned with that study. In particular, it will be shown how \wedge_1 can be derived from \wedge . Also, some consequences of similarity will be examined.

If $R \in \mathcal{P}$, then R and \wedge determine a function $\wedge(R, -): \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ where $\wedge(R, -)(S) = \wedge(R, S)$.

3.1. PROPOSITION. *Assume that $\wedge(P, Q) = 1$ and \wedge_1 is the relation on $\mathcal{P}_0 = \mathcal{P} - \{P, Q\}$ induced by the reflection $W(P, Q)$. Then the following conditions are equivalent for any pairs R and S in \mathcal{P}_0 .*

(1) $\wedge_1(R, S) \neq \wedge(R, S)$.

(2) *The functions $\wedge(R, -)$ and $\wedge(S, -)$ are neither equal nor identically zero on $\{P, Q\}$. For example, $\wedge(R, P) = \wedge(S, Q) = 1$ but $\wedge(R, Q) = 0$ is such an instance.*

(3) *The pair R and the pair S each intersect two of the four subwords of $W(f, R)$ determined by P and Q and exactly one subword does not intersect $R \cup S$.*

If any of these conditions holds, we say that (R, S) depends on (P, Q) .

PROOF. Since linking properties of a pair depend only on the location of the crossings in the word, both crossings of a pair will be denoted by the same letter. Let $W(f, R) = ApBqCpDq$. Then $W(P, Q) = ADCB$. Since in any of the conditions (1), (2), and (3) R can be exchanged with S or P with Q , only representative cases will be treated.

(3) \Rightarrow (1) Assume that A is the subword containing one letter from each pair R and S . Then since the other two letters are in different subwords B , C , or D , the transformation $ABCD \rightarrow ADCB$ transposes these letters. Hence $\wedge_1(R, S) \neq \wedge(R, S)$.

(1) \Rightarrow (3) If R intersects only one subword, then since the order within a subword is unaffected, $\wedge_1(R, S) = \wedge(R, S)$. Thus both R and S intersect two different subwords. If only two subwords are intersected then $\wedge_1(R, S) = 1$ and $\wedge(R, S) = 1$ if and only if the letters r and s occur in the same order in both subwords. Assume all four subwords are intersected and s is in A . Then $\wedge_1(R, S) = 0$ and $\wedge(R, S) = 0$ if and only if the letters of R occur in adjacent subwords. Thus R and S must intersect exactly three subwords.

(2) \Rightarrow (3) The following typical case will be considered. Assume that $\wedge(R, P) = \wedge(S, Q) = 1$ and $\wedge(R, Q) = 0$. From $\wedge(R, P) = 1$ and $\wedge(R, Q) = 0$ it follows that R intersects two adjacent subwords separated by p . Since $\wedge(S, Q) = 1$, S must intersect one of these subwords but not the other, so a total of three subwords is intersected.

(3) \Rightarrow (2) Assume that R intersects both A and B and S intersects A

and C . Then $\bigwedge(R, P) = \bigwedge(S, Q) = 1$ and $\bigwedge(R, Q) = 0$. Other cases are essentially the same. \square

- 3.2. COROLLARY. (1) *Similarity is preserved under reflections.*
 (2) *Dependence is preserved by similarity.*

PROOF. (1) Assume that R and R' are similar with respect to \bigwedge . From 3.1 (2), (R, S) depends on (P, Q) iff (R', S) depends on (P, Q) . Thus $\bigwedge(R, S) = \bigwedge(R', S)$ implies that $\bigwedge_1(R, S) = \bigwedge_1(R', S)$.

(2) Dependence, as characterized in 3.1 (2), is determined by \bigwedge . \square

3.3. LEMMA. *If $P \bigwedge P'$, then P' does not link any other pair with respect to \bigwedge_1 or any subsequent reflection.*

PROOF. From $P \bigwedge P'$ it follows that $\bigwedge(P', Q) = 1$ and $\bigwedge(P', P) = 0$. Let $R \in \mathcal{P}_0 = \mathcal{P} - \{P, Q\}$ and assume $\bigwedge(P', R) = 1$. Then $\bigwedge(P, R) = 1$ so by 3.1 (2), (P', R) depends on (P, Q) . Hence $\bigwedge_1(P', R) = 0$. If $\bigwedge(P', R) = 0$, then $\bigwedge(P, R) = 0$ so (P', R) does not depend on (P, Q) . Thus $\bigwedge_1(P', -)$ is identically zero on \mathcal{P}_0 . By characterization, 3.1 (2), (P', R) is not dependent on any pair of pairs and hence $\bigwedge_2(P', -)$ is also identically zero. \square

3.4. LEMMA. *Let $P \bigwedge P'$ and $Q \bigwedge Q'$. Then $W(P, Q)$ and $W(P', Q')$ induce the same linking relation on $\mathcal{P} - \{P, Q, P', Q'\}$.*

PROOF. Dependence, as characterized by 3.1 (2), is preserved under similarity. Thus if (R, S) depends on (P, Q) , then $\bigwedge_1(R, S) \neq \bigwedge(R, S) \neq \bigwedge'_1(R, S)$. If (R, S) does not depend on (P, Q) , then $\bigwedge_1(R, S) = \bigwedge(R, S) = \bigwedge'_1(R, S)$. \square

3.5. PROPOSITION. *Let $C = (P_1, \dots, P_{2m})$ and $C' = (P'_1, \dots, P'_{2m})$ be sequences in \mathcal{P} such that $P_i \bigwedge P'_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2m$. Then C is a decomposition sequence (§1) for \mathcal{P} if and only if C' is.*

PROOF. Induction on m will be used. When $m = 0$, $C = C' = \emptyset$ so both are decomposition sequences if and only if \mathcal{P} is properly nested (no pairs link). Let $m > 0$ and assume that C is a decomposition sequence. Then (P_3, \dots, P_{2m}) is a decomposition sequence for $\mathcal{P}' = \mathcal{P} - \{P_1, P_2, P'_1, P'_2\}$ with respect to the relation \bigwedge_1 induced by $W(P_1, P_2)$. By 3.2 (1), $P_i \bigwedge P'_i$ implies that $P_i \bigwedge_1 P'_i$ for $3 < i < 2m$. Thus, by induction, (P'_3, \dots, P'_{2m}) is a decomposition sequence for $(\mathcal{P}', \bigwedge_1)$. But from 3.4 it follows that $\bigwedge_1 = \bigwedge'_1$ on \mathcal{P}' . Thus \bigwedge'_m is identically zero on $\mathcal{P}' - \{P'_3, \dots, P'_{2m}\} = \mathcal{P} - (C' \cup \{P_1, P_2\})$. By 3.3, $\bigwedge'_m(P_1, -)$ and $\bigwedge'_m(P_2, -)$ are zero so \bigwedge'_m is zero on $\mathcal{P} - C'$. \square

3.6. PROPOSITION. *Assume that $S: \mathcal{P}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{P}_1$ is a projection such that $S(R_1) \bigwedge R_1$ for each $R_1 \in \mathcal{P}_1$. Let C be a decomposition sequence for \mathcal{P}_0 . Then C is also a decomposition sequence for \mathcal{P}_1 .*

PROOF. Let $C = (P_1, \dots, P_{2m-2})$. Assume that $R \in P_1 - C$ and let $R_0 = S(R)$. If $R_0 \in C$, then, by 3.3, R does not link with respect to \bigwedge_m . Suppose that $R_0 \notin C$. $P_0 - C$ is properly nested with respect to \bigwedge_m . But similarity is preserved under reflections so R_0 and hence R can link no pair in $P_1 - C$ with respect to \bigwedge_m . \square

4. Pairings induced by extension of f . Throughout this section $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ is an immersion which extends f and R is a raying for f . An immediate consequence, due to Gramain [8, Theorem 2', p. 364], is that the tangent winding number of f is $1 - 2n$. Paralleling Marx [12] it will be shown how F determines a unique pairing P_F on $W(f, R)$ and it will be proved that P_F is a T_n -assemblage. Further, F and any decomposition sequence of length $2n$ in P_F defines a representation (§1) of T_n as a disk with $2n$ strips attached. The propositions proved in 4.1–4.4 also hold when F is properly interior as long as branch points are not mapped onto the rays. The following arc lifting lemma specializes Marx's formulation for interior extensions [Marx, 10, Theorem 1, p. 49].

4.1. LEMMA. *Let $\alpha: [0, 1] \rightarrow E$ be a simple arc from a to b with $F(x) = a$. Assume that α and f are transverse, and if $x \in S$, then $[\alpha]$ is to the left of $[f]$ at a .*

Then there is a unique simple arc χ in T_n from x to y such that

- (1) $F|\chi$ is a diffeomorphism into $[\alpha]$,
- (2) $y \notin S$ implies that $F(y) = b$,
- (3) $\chi \cap S \subseteq \{x, y\}$.

4.2. PROPOSITION. *Let \bar{p} be a negative crossing on the ray $\alpha \in R$. Then there is a unique arc χ in T_n from \bar{x} to x and a positive crossing p on α such that*

- (1) $P = (\bar{p}, p)$ is a pair—i.e., $\text{pos}(\bar{p}) < \text{pos } p$,
- (2) $\chi \cap S = \{\bar{x}, x\}$,
- (3) F maps χ diffeomorphically onto α_p , the closed segment of α from \bar{p} to p .

PROOF. Because α and f are transverse, \bar{p} is not a node and hence has only one preimage \bar{x} on S . By 4.1, there is a unique lift χ from \bar{x} to x of the segment of α beginning at p . If $x \notin S$, then 4.1 implies that $F(x) = \alpha(1)$ (the endpoint of α). But $\alpha(1) \in E_\infty$, the unbounded component, so $\alpha(1) \notin F(T_n)$. Hence $x \in S$ and $f(x) = F(x) = p$ is a crossing on α . Because F is sense preserving, $\text{sgn}(p) = 1$ and $\text{pos}(\bar{p}) < \text{pos}(p)$. \square

4.3. DEFINITION. In 4.2, F determines a pair $P = (\bar{p}, p)$ for each negative crossing \bar{p} . Let P_F be the collection of all such pairs. It will be shown in

4.4, to follow, that these pairs are disjoint and hence \mathcal{P}_F is a pairing. The arc X in 4.2 will be called the *chord* which *lifts* the pair P and will also be denoted by X_P^F or X_P .

4.4. LEMMA. *Let $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}_F$ and assume that $P \neq Q$. Then P and Q are disjoint.*

PROOF. It suffices to show that $X_P \cap X_Q = \emptyset$. Assume the crossings in P and Q are on rays α and β , respectively. If $\alpha \neq \beta$, then α and β are disjoint so $X_P \cap X_Q = \emptyset$. If $\alpha = \beta$ and $X_P \cap X_Q \neq \emptyset$, then $y \in X_P \cap X_Q$ can be chosen so that $F(y)$ is not a crossing on α . By 4.1, there is a unique lift X_1 beginning at y of $(F(x_1), \alpha(1))\alpha$ and a unique lift X_2 of $(F(x), \alpha(0))(-\alpha)$ beginning at y . But then $X_P = -X_2 + X_1 = X_Q$, so $P = Q$. \square

The next proposition serves as the induction step in the proof of 4.6 and in the proof that the pairing \mathcal{P}_F is a T_n -assemblage.

4.5. PROPOSITION. *Assume that $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}_F$ and P links Q . Then there are tubular neighborhoods N_P of X_P and N_Q of X_Q such that $T_n - (N_P \cup N_Q)$ is diffeomorphic to T_{n-1} . Also, $F|_{T_{n-1}}$ extends $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P, Q)$.*

4.6. COROLLARY. *Assume that (P_1, \dots, P_{2n}) is a decomposition sequence for \mathcal{P}_F . Then there are tubular neighborhoods N_i of X_{P_i} such that $T_n - \bigcup_{i=1}^{2n} N_i$ is a closed disc. Moreover, the reattaching of the neighborhoods N_i to this disc corresponds to the process described in §1 to obtain representations of T_n . (The antipodal representation corresponds to the case when P_i links P_j for $i \neq j$, $1 \leq i, j \leq 2n$.)*

The next lemma will be used in 4.8 to obtain immersions of T_n from immersions of T_{n-1} by extending F over attached strips. This lemma can also be used to smooth the union of two mappings whose domains intersect properly.

4.7. LEMMA. *Let $M \cup D$ be an oriented surface where D is a closed disc such that*

- (1) $D \cap M$ is the disjoint union of a finite number of closed discs;
- (2) $\gamma: \partial D \rightarrow E$ is an embedding (one-to-one immersion). Then if $G: M \rightarrow E$ is an immersion which agrees with γ on $\partial D \cap M$, there is an immersion $\bar{G}: M \cup D \rightarrow E$ such that $\bar{G}|_D = \gamma$, $\bar{G}|(M - D) = G|(M - D)$, and $\bar{G}|_D$ is a diffeomorphism.

PROOF. Let V be a normal unit vector field on ∂D such that if $x \in M$, then $V(x)$ is tangent to M at x . Assume also that V is to the right of ∂D

and let V_G be the composition of $V|(\partial D \cap M)$ with the differential dG of G . Because $\partial D \cap M$ consists of a finite number of closed disjoint arcs, V_G can be extended to all of ∂D . By Lemma 7 of [Francis, 2], there is a C^1 diffeomorphism $H: D \rightarrow E$ such that $H|\partial D = \gamma$ and $dH \circ V = V_G$. Then $\bar{G} = G|(M - D) + H$ is C^1 . \square

4.8. PROPOSITION. Assume that P and Q are linked pairs from $W(f, R)$ and $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P, Q)$. Assume that $F_1: T_{n-1} \rightarrow E$ is an immersion which extends f_1 and let \mathcal{P}_0 be the collection of pairs determined by F_1 and the negative letters in $W(P, Q)$. Then there is an immersion $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ which extends f and is such that $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_0 \cup \{P, Q\}$.

PROOF. Refer again to Figure 4. Attach opposite ends of a rectangular strip D_1 to the segments of ∂T_{n-1} which are mapped onto u_L and u_R (Figure 6). Similarly, attach a strip D_2 at $f_1^{-1}(v_L)$

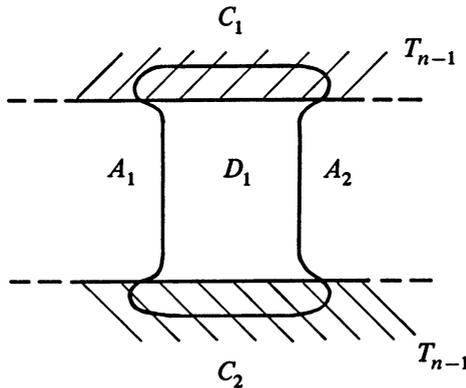


FIGURE 6

and $f_1^{-1}(v_R)$. Because P and Q are linked, the boundary of the resulting space is connected and so a copy of T_n is obtained.

Now choose simple arcs C_1 and C_2 in T_{n-1} (see Figure 6) so that if A_1 and A_2 denote the unattached segments of ∂D_1 , then $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup A_1 \cup A_2$ is a smooth loop which bounds a disc in T_n . Require also that C_1 and C_2 do not intersect any chords which lift pairs in \mathcal{P}_0 . Let $\gamma = F_1|(C_1 \cup C_2) \cup (f|A_1 \cup A_2)$. Then F_1 can be extended by 4.7 to $\bar{F}_1: T_{n-1} \cup D_1 \rightarrow E$. Extend F_1 to $T_{n-1} \cup D_1 \cup D_2$ by a similar application of 4.7 to obtain $F: T_n \rightarrow E$. Since $F|D_1 \cup D_2$ is a diffeomorphism, P and $Q \in \mathcal{P}_F$. Also, F agrees with F_1 on all chords which lift pairs in \mathcal{P}_0 . Thus $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_0 \cup \{P, Q\}$. \square

5. Proof of Theorem I. This section consists of the proofs of the two parts of Theorem I. These propositions establish correspondences between exten-

sions of normal loops and assemblages. For both parts, assume that $f: S \rightarrow E$ is a normal loop with raying R .

5.1. PROPOSITION. *Let $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ be an immersion which extends f . Then $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$ and the pairing \mathcal{P}_F on $W(f, R)$ determined by F is a T_n -assemblage.*

PROOF. By Gramain [7, p. 364], $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$. Induction on n will be used to show that \mathcal{P}_F (as obtained in 4.3) is a T_n -assemblage (1.1). The case for $n = 0$ was proved by Blank [1] and Marx [12], so assume that $n > 0$. If \mathcal{P}_F were properly nested, then $\tau(f)$ would be greater than or equal to 1. Hence linked pairs P and Q in \mathcal{P}_F can be chosen. By 4.5, there are neighborhoods N_P of X_P and N_Q of X_Q such that $T_n - (N_P \cup N_Q) = T_{n-1}$ and $F_1 = F|T_n - (N_P \cup N_Q)$ extends $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P, Q)$. Let R_1 be a raying for f_1 constructed as in 2.4. Let \mathcal{P}_1 be the pairing on $W(f_1, R_1)$ defined as in 2.4, so that $S(R_1) \wedge_1 R_1$ for each $R_1 \in \mathcal{P}_1$. The rays in R_1 can be chosen sufficiently close to α and β so that F lifts a new pair R_1 if and only if F lifts $S(R_1)$. Thus $\mathcal{P}_{F_1} = \mathcal{P}_1$. By induction, \mathcal{P}_1 is a T_{n-1} -assemblage and therefore \mathcal{P}_1 contains a decomposition sequence $C' = (P'_1, \dots, P'_{2n-2})$. For $1 \leq i \leq 2n - 2$, let $P_i = S(P'_i)$. Then by 3.5, $C = (P_1, \dots, P_{2n-2})$ is a decomposition sequence for \mathcal{P}_1 . Hence $\mathcal{P}_1 - C$ is properly nested with respect to \wedge_n . But $\mathcal{P}_F - \{P, Q\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_1$ so $\mathcal{P}_F - \{P, Q, P_1, \dots, P_{2n-2}\}$ is properly nested with respect to \wedge_n . Therefore $(P, Q, P_1, \dots, P_{2n-2})$ is a decomposition sequence of length $2n$ and so \mathcal{P}_F is a T_n -assemblage. \square

5.2. PROPOSITION. *Assume that P is a T_n -assemblage on $W(f, R)$ and $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$. Then there is an immersion $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ which extends f and $\mathcal{P}_F = P$.*

PROOF. Induction on n will be used. The case for $n = 0$ was treated by Blank [1] and Marx [12] so assume $n > 0$. Let (P_1, \dots, P_{2n}) be a decomposition sequence in P . Let $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P_1, P_2)$. Form the raying R_1 and pairing \mathcal{P}_1 for f_1 as in 2.4. Then if $\mathcal{P}_0 = P - \{P_1, P_2\}$, $\mathcal{P}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{P}_1$ and each pair R_1 in \mathcal{P}_1 is similar to a pair $S(R_1)$ in \mathcal{P}_0 . Because $\mathcal{P}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{P}_1$, (P_3, \dots, P_{2n}) is a decomposition sequence for \mathcal{P}_1 . From 2.2, $\tau(f_1) = \tau(f) + 2 = 1 - 2(n - 1)$. Thus by induction, there is an immersion $F_1: T_{n-1} \rightarrow E$ such that F_1 extends f , and $\mathcal{P}_{F_1} = \mathcal{P}_1$. Hence $\mathcal{P}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{F_1}$ so by 4.8, there is an immersion $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ which extends f and $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_0 \cup \{P_1, P_2\} = P$. \square

6. Equivalence. As defined in §1, two immersions $F, G: T_n \rightarrow E$ which extend a normal loop f are equivalent if there is an orientation preserving

diffeomorphism $h: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ such that $F = G \circ h$. Theorem II, which shows that this equivalence is determined by equality of assemblages, will be proved in this section. Because a reparametrization of S can be extended to an orientation preserving diffeomorphism of T_n (6.2), the existence and equivalence of extensions of normal loops depend only on the image curve. It also follows that these questions are independent of the diffeomorphic copy of T_n used. Thus T_n -assemblages determine extensions up to orientation preserving diffeomorphisms of T_n . Francis [6] has produced an example of a normal curve with four T_0 -assemblages. One of the induced extensions can be obtained from another of them by compositions with rotations of T_0 and E . Thus equality of assemblages will not classify extensions if diffeomorphisms of the plane are allowed. Two of the assemblages in this example are isomorphic. A problem for later study will be to investigate equivalence determined by isomorphism of assemblages.

6.1. THEOREM II. *Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal loop such that $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$ and let \mathcal{R} be a raying for f . Assume that $F, G: T_n \rightarrow E$ are immersions which extend f . Then F and G are equivalent iff F and G determine the same T_n -assemblage; i.e., $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_G$.*

PROOF. First, assume that F and G are equivalent. \mathcal{P}_F and \mathcal{P}_G are obtained as in 5.5. Let \bar{p} be a negative crossing on a ray $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}$. Then for some positive crossing p on α , $P = (\bar{p}, p) \in \mathcal{P}_F$. Let X_P^F be the unique chord from \bar{x} to x which lifts P under F and let $X = h(X_P^F)$ where $h: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ is a diffeomorphism such that $F = G \circ h$. Because h is a diffeomorphism, $X \cap S = \{h(\bar{x}), h(x)\}$. Since $G(X) = G \circ h(X_P^F) = F(X_P^F)$, G maps X diffeomorphically onto the segment α_p of α . From 5.4 it follows that $X = X_P^G$ and so $P \in \mathcal{P}_G$. Exchanging the roles of F and G completes the argument.

Now assume that $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_G$. The proof is by induction on n . The case for $n = 0$ was treated by Marx [13]. When $n > 0$, \mathcal{P} contains linked pairs P and Q . Let N_1 of X_P^F, N_2 of X_Q^G, M_1 of X_Q^F , and M_2 of X_P^G be tubular neighborhoods such that $T_n - (N_i \cup M_i) = T_{n-1}, i = 1, 2$, as in 4.7. Then $F_1 = F|_{T_{n-1}}$ and $G_1 = G|_{T_{n-1}}$ extend $f_1 = \text{mod}(f, P, Q)$. Choose a raying \mathcal{R}_1 for f_1 and pairing \mathcal{P}_1 as in 2.4 so that a new pair $R_1 \in \mathcal{P}_1$ is lifted by F and G if and only if the corresponding pair $S(R_1)$ in \mathcal{P}_0 is lifted. Then $\mathcal{P}_{F_1} = \mathcal{P}_{G_1}$. By induction, there is a diffeomorphism $h_1: T_{n-1} \rightarrow T_{n-1}$ such that $F_1 = G_1 \circ h_1$. If

$$h = h_1 + [(G|_{N_2} \cup M_2)^{-1} \circ (F|_{N_1} \cup M_1)],$$

then $F = G \circ h$. \square

6.2. LEMMA. *Assume that $f, g: S \rightarrow E$ are normal loops such that $[f] = [g]$. Then there is a diffeomorphism $\eta: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ such that $f = g \circ (\eta|_S)$.*

PROOF. Partition S into intervals $[t_0, t_1], \dots, [t_{k-1}, t_k]$ with $t_0 = t_k$ such that $f_i = f|_{[t_{i-1}, t_i]}$ is one-one. Then, for each i , $1 \leq i \leq k$, there is a unique interval $[s_{i-1}, s_i] \subseteq S$ which is mapped diffeomorphically onto $[f_i]$ by g . Let $g|_{[s_{i-1}, s_i]} = g_i$. Define η_0 on $[t_{i-1}, t_i]$ by $\eta_0(t) = g_i^{-1} \circ f_i(t)$, $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then $f = g \circ \eta_0$. Extend η_0 to an annulus $A_1 \subseteq T_n$ which contains S and let $A_2 \supsetneq A_1$ be an annulus in T_n . Then a diffeomorphism $\eta: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ can be defined so that $\eta|_{T_n - A_2} = 1_{T_n - A_2}$ and $\eta|_{A_1} = \eta_0$. \square

PROPOSITION. Assume that $F, G: T_n \rightarrow E$ extend normal loops f and g and $[f] = [g]$. Let \mathcal{R} be a raying for f and g . Then F and G are equivalent if and only if $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_G$.

PROOF. Assume that there is a diffeomorphism $h: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ such that $FG \circ h$. That $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_G$ follows as in 6.1.

Next, assume that $\mathcal{P}_F = \mathcal{P}_G$ and let $\eta: T_n \rightarrow T_n$ be the diffeomorphism obtained in 6.2. Then $G \circ \eta$ and F both extend f . By part one above, $\mathcal{P}_G = \mathcal{P}_{G \circ \eta}$. Thus 6.1 implies that F and $G \circ \eta$ are equivalent and hence F and G are equivalent. \square

7. Applications. In this section a formulation of a T_1 -assemblage will be given which does not require the reflection operation. It will be used to determine, by way of an example, three inequivalent extensions of a particular loop to T_1 . A result of Marx [12, Theorem 6, p. 13] will be used to show that if a normal loop f has a T_n -assemblage, then f can be extended to an interior map $F: T_n \rightarrow E$. Also, for each n , a normal loop f_n will be described which has exactly one class of extensions to T_n . These loops are canonical in that among extendible loops they have the minimum number of nodes (self-intersections) and for each n , an extendible loop with the minimum number of nodes is equivalent to f_n .

7.1. THEOREM. Let \mathcal{P} be a pairing on $W(f, \mathcal{R})$. Then \mathcal{P} is a T_1 -assemblage if and only if there is a partition $\mathcal{P} = N \cup L_1 \cup L_2 \cup L_3$ such that (1) $L_1 \times L_2 \neq \emptyset$ and (2) $\bigwedge(R, S) = 1$ if and only if $R \in L_i, S \in L_j$, and $i \neq j$.

PROOF. First, assume \mathcal{P} is a T_1 -assemblage with decomposition sequence $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q})$. Let

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \{R \in \mathcal{P}: \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{P}) = \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{Q}) = 0\}, \\ L_1 &= \{R \in \mathcal{P}: \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{P}) = 0 \text{ and } \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{Q}) = 1\}, \\ L_2 &= \{R \in \mathcal{P}: \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{P}) = 1 \text{ and } \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{Q}) = 0\}, \\ L_3 &= \{R \in \mathcal{P}: \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{P}) = \bigwedge(R, \mathcal{Q}) = 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

Although L_3 may be empty, $P \in L_1$ and $Q \in L_2$. Let $R, S \in \mathcal{P}$. In view of 3.1(2), (R, S) depends on $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q})$ if and only if $R \in L_i$ and $S \in L_j$ for $i \neq j$.

Because (P, Q) is a decomposition sequence, $\bigwedge_1(R, S) = 0$ if $R, S \in P - \{P, Q\}$. Thus $\bigwedge(R, S) = 1$ if and only if $R \in L_i$ and $S \in L_j$ for $i \neq j$.

Now assume that P is the union of $N, L_1, L_2,$ and L_3 , which satisfy (1) and (2) above. Then $P \in L_1$ and $Q \in L_2$ can be chosen so that $\bigwedge(P, Q) = 1$. To show that (P, Q) is a decomposition sequence for P , assume that $R, S \in P - \{P, Q\}$. By 3.1 (2), (R, S) depends on (P, Q) if and only if $R \in L_i$ and $S \in L_j$ for $i \neq j$. Thus if $R \in L_i, S \in L_j$ and $i \neq j$, then $1 = \bigwedge(R, S) \neq \bigwedge_1(R, S)$. In all other cases, $\bigwedge_1(R, S) = \bigwedge(R, S) = 0$. \square

7.2. EXAMPLE. Let f be the following normal loop:

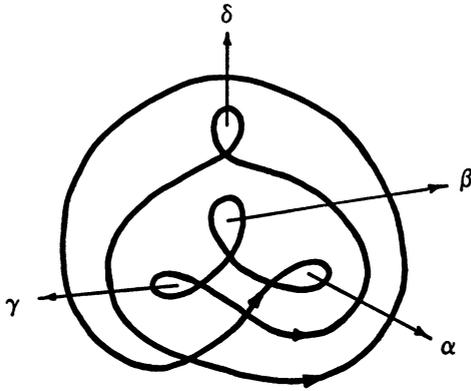
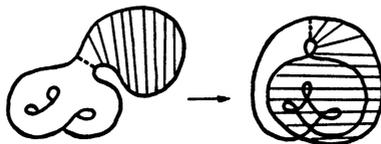
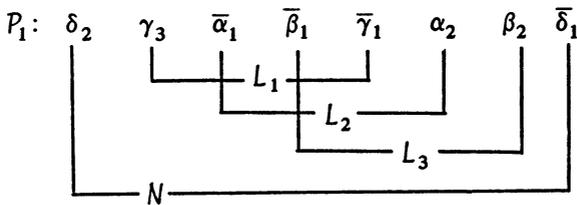


FIGURE 7

Every node of this curve is a cut point of the image $[f]$. Such curves have at most one class of extensions to the disc [Francis, 3]. In contrast, there are three T_1 -assemblages for $W(f, R)$ and hence three classes of immersions of T_1 which extend f . Only the rays involved in the pairings are indicated and \bar{p}_k denotes a negative crossing on a ray p with $\text{pos}(p_k) = k$.

$$W \text{ (abbreviated): } \alpha_3 \beta_3 \delta_2 \gamma_3 \bar{\alpha}_1 \bar{\beta}_1 \bar{\gamma}_1 \alpha_2 \beta_2 \bar{\delta}_1 \gamma_2$$



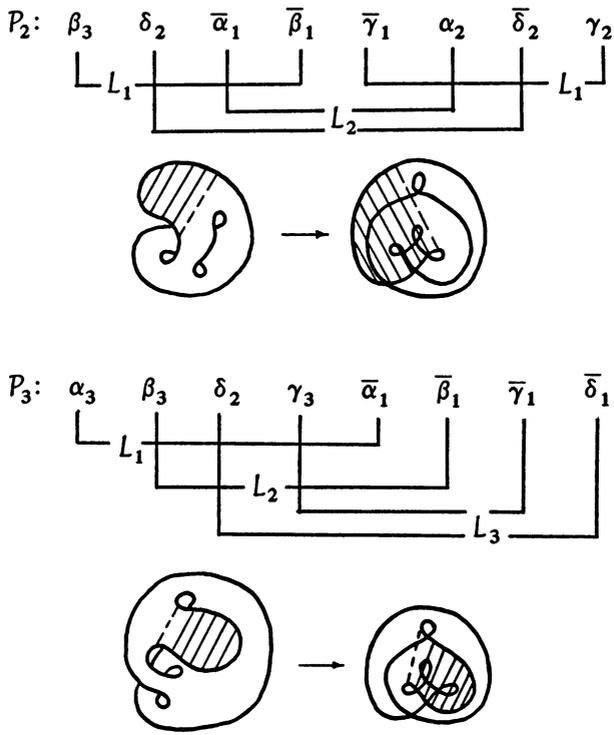


FIGURE 8

7.3. THEOREM. Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be normal and assume that R is a raying for f . If P is a T_n -assemblage on $W(f, R)$, then there is an interior map $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ that extends f .

PROOF. Let C be a decomposition sequence of length $2n$ in P and let f_n be the corresponding n th modification. Then by induction, 2.3, and 3.6 there is a properly nested pairing P_n on $W(f_n, R_n)$. By a theorem of Marx [12, Theorem 6], there is an interior map $F_n: T_0 \rightarrow E$ that extends f_n . The process of extending a map to attached strips in the proof of 4.8 works equally well when the original map is properly interior. Thus an interior extension $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ of f can be obtained. In terms of a representation of T_n as in §1, F is an immersion on the attached strips and interior on the disc. \square

7.4. COROLLARY. Let $f: S \rightarrow E$ be a normal loop. Then f has non-negative circulation if and only if for some n , there is an interior map $F: T_n \rightarrow E$ which extends f .

PROOF. Let R be a raying for f . The winding number of f about any point $x \in E - [f]$ is the sum of the signs of the crossings of f and any ray from x to E_∞ . Thus if f has nonnegative circulation, a pairing exists for

$W(f, R)$. But every pairing is a T_n -assemblage for some n and hence by 7.3, f has an interior extension to T_n .

Conversely, if an interior extension exists, there is a corresponding pairing. Since each negative crossing is paired with a different positive crossing and at least one ray originates in each bounded component of $E - [f]$, f has nonnegative circulation.

7.5. CANONICAL LOOPS. Since normal loops with isomorphic intersection sequences are equivalent [Titus, 18, Theorem 3, p. 49] the examples here will be specified by their intersection sequences. For each $n \geq 1$, let f_n be a normal loop with intersection sequence

$$\begin{matrix} + & + & - & + & - & & & - & & + & - \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 & \cdots & (2n+2) & (2n+2) & 1 & . \end{matrix}$$

Thus f_n has an initial positive node followed by $2n$ simple negative loops. For f_2 , see Figure 9.

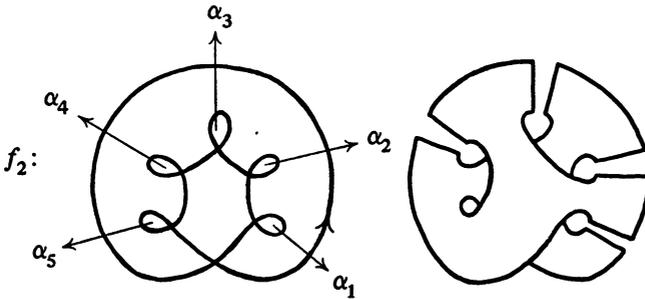


FIGURE 9

Again, only rays involved in pairings are indicated and letters are denoted as in 7.2.

$$W \text{ (abbreviated): } (\alpha_1)_2(\alpha_2)_2 \cdots (\alpha_{2n})_2(\alpha_{2n+1})_2(\overline{\alpha_1})_1 \cdots (\overline{\alpha_{2n+1}})_1.$$

Let $P_k = ((\overline{\alpha k})_1, (\alpha k)_2)$ for $1 \leq k \leq 2n + 1$. Then

$P = \{P_1, \dots, P_{2n+1}\}$ is the *only* pairing on $W(f_n, R_n)$.

$P - \{P_1, \dots, P_{2n}\} = \{P_{2n+1}\}$ so P is a T_n -assemblage and determines an extension $F_n: T_n \rightarrow E$ of f_n .

That F_n and the decomposition sequence $\{P_1, \dots, P_{2n}\}$ determine a representation of T_n as in 4.6 is illustrated in Figure 9.

To prove that the loops f_n are canonical, some additional definitions and formulas will be needed.

7.6. DEFINITION. A loop $f: S \rightarrow E$ which is normal except for a finite number of corners that do not occur at nodes will be called *piecewise* normal.

An *outside starting point* for f is any nonintersection point $P_0 = f(x_0)$ in the closure of E_∞ . Define the sign of P_0 by $\lambda(P_0) = 1$ if E_∞ lies to the right of $[f]$ at P_0 and $\lambda(P_0) = -1$ otherwise. P_0 and the orientation of S induce an order on the nodes (self-intersections) of $[f]$ and on the points of S . Let N_i denote the i th node and let $f^{-1}(N_i) = \{\bar{x}_i, x_i\}$ where $\bar{x}_i < x_i$. Pairs of preimages of nodes determine a linking relation on nodes as did preimages of pairs of crossings and the same terminology will be used. For example, $\wedge(N_i, N_j) = 1$ if N_i links N_j . The *sign* of a node N_i is defined by

$$\lambda(N_i) = \text{sgn det} \begin{bmatrix} f'(\bar{x}_i) \\ f'(x_i) \end{bmatrix}.$$

If E is a set of nodes, denote the sum of their signs by $\lambda(E)$.

A set $E(N_1)$ of *essential* nodes [Francis, 2, p. 282] for f can be defined inductively as follows.

(1) $N_1 \in E(N_1)$.

(2) Assume $N_k \in E(N_1)$. Then $N_j \in E(N_1)$ if j is the smallest integer $> k$ such that $\wedge(N_i, N_j) = 0$ for each $N_i \in E(N_1)$.

Thus if $N_k \in E(N_1)$, then include the next node after N_k which links none of the previously chosen nodes.

The next proposition was also proved by Titus [17, Theorem 5, p. 1091] and Francis [2, p. 283] and gives a variation of Whitney's formula [21, p. 281] $\tau(f) = \lambda(P_0) + \lambda(N)$, where N is the set of all nodes of f .

7.7. PROPOSITION. *Let P_0 be an outside starting point on a piecewise normal loop f and let N_i be the i th node encountered after P_0 as $[f]$ is traced. Then $\tau(f) = \lambda(P_0) + \lambda(E(N_1))$.*

PROOF. Induction on n , the number of nodes of f , will be used. If $n = 0$, then $[f]$ is a positively or negatively oriented simple loop so $\tau(f) = \lambda(P_0)$.

Let $n > 0$ and define $f_1 = f|[x_1, \bar{x}_1]$ and $f_2 = f|[\bar{x}_1, x_1]$. Let $P_{10} = P_{20} = N_1$. Then $\tau(f) = \tau(f_1) + \tau(f_2) + \tau_1 + \tau_2$ where τ_i is the contribution from the corner at P_0 for f_i , $i = 1, 2$. But $\tau_1 = -\tau_2$ so $\tau(f) = \tau(f_1) + \tau(f_2)$. Examination of the four possible orientation arrangements of $[f]$ near P_0 shows that $\lambda(P_0) + \lambda(N_1) = \lambda(P_{10}) + \lambda(P_{20})$. Because no node of f that is a node of f_1 or f_2 can link N_1 , it follows easily that $E(N_i) = \{N_j \in E(N_1) : N_j \text{ is a node of } f_i\}$, $i = 1, 2$. Thus by induction,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(f_1) + \tau(f_2) &= \lambda(P_{10}) + \lambda(E(N_{11})) + \lambda(P_{20}) + \lambda(E(N_{21})) \\ &= \lambda(P_0) + \lambda(E(N_1)). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

7.8. DEFINITION. The preimages of nodes induce a *containment* relation on nodes given by $N_j \subset N_i$ if $x_i < x_j < \bar{x}_j < \bar{x}_i$.

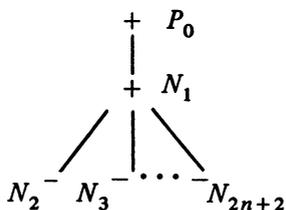
The containment relation on a properly nested set of nodes (e.g., on EN_1) corresponds to a tree graph (see [2, p. 288] for examples).

7.9. THEOREM. Assume that $f: S \rightarrow E$ is a normal loop which can be extended to an immersion of T_n . Then

- (1) the number of nodes of f , $\nu(f)$, is at least $2n + 2$.
- (2) if $\nu(f) = 2n + 2$, then f is equivalent to the loop f_n defined in 7.5.

PROOF. (1) Let N_1 be the first node that occurs after an outside starting point P_0 on $[f]$. Because f has positive circulation, $\lambda(P_0) = \lambda(N_1) = 1$. But, $\tau(f) = 1 - 2n$ and so by 7.7 $1 - 2n = \lambda(P_0) + \lambda(EN_1)$. Thus f must have at least $2n + 1$ negative nodes in $E(N_1)$.

(2) Assume that $\nu(f) = 2n + 2$. As noted above, counting N_1 , there are at least $2n + 2$ nodes in the properly nested set $E(N_1)$; the tree graph for $E(N_1)$ thus includes all of the nodes of f . For any node N_k in such a graph, the winding number of one of the components of $E - [f]$ is $-\lambda(P_0)$ plus the sum of the signs along the (unique) path in the tree from P_0 to N_k . Since f has positive circulation, the only possible configuration is



Therefore, f and f_n have isomorphic intersection sequences. \square

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