

NONORIENTABLE SURFACES IN SOME NON-HAKEN 3-MANIFOLDS

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ABSTRACT. If a closed, irreducible, orientable 3-manifold M does not possess any 2-sided incompressible surfaces, then it can be very useful to investigate embedded one-sided surfaces in M of minimal genus. In this paper such 3-manifolds M are studied which admit embeddings of the nonorientable surface K of genus 3. We prove that a 3-manifold M of the above type has at most 3 different isotopy classes of embeddings of K representing a fixed element of $H_2(M, Z_2)$. If M is either a binary octahedral space, an appropriate lens space or Seifert manifold, or if M has a particular type of fibered knot, then it is shown that the embedding of K in M realizing a specific homology class is unique up to isotopy.

1. Introduction. All manifolds and maps will be assumed to be PL. Let K denote a closed nonorientable surface of genus 3, i.e. K is the connected sum of 3 copies of RP^2 . Our aim is to study the embeddings of K into some irreducible 3-manifolds M which are *non-Haken*, i.e. do not possess any properly embedded 2-sided incompressible surfaces. Such an embedding of K can play the role of a hierarchy, as in Waldhausen's work on Haken 3-manifolds [12] and the results obtained here will be used in [2] to calculate the homeotopy groups of the 3-manifolds M .

DEFINITION (SEE [8]). Let M be a closed orientable 3-manifold. M is said to have a one-sided Heegaard splitting of genus 3 if $M = N(K) \cup Y$, where $N(K)$ is an orientable line-bundle over K , Y is a handlebody of genus 2 and $N(K) \cap Y = \partial N(K) = \partial Y$.

The fundamental result in this paper is as follows: Let M be a closed orientable irreducible atoroidal 3-manifold $\neq RP^3$ which has a one-sided Heegaard splitting of genus 3, $M = N(K) \cup Y$. Suppose that $K' \subset M$ is another embedding of the genus 3-nonorientable surface in M , with the property that K and K' represent the same class in $H_2(M, Z_2)$. Then K' is isotopic to K'' so that $K \cap K''$ is a single curve.

As a corollary to the above theorem, it is established that if $M \neq RP^3$ is closed, orientable, irreducible and non-Haken, and M admits an embedding of K , then there are at most 3 different isotopy classes of embeddings of K realizing a particular element of $H_2(M, Z_2)$. More precisely, suppose $K \subset M$ is an embedding and let $|K|$ denote the image of the generator of $H_2(K, Z_2)$ in $H_2(M, Z_2)$ under the map induced by the inclusion $K \subset M$. Then there are at most two other embeddings K' ,

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$K'' \subset M$ of the genus 3 nonorientable surface in M with $|K'| = |K''| = |K|$, such that if $K^* \subset M$ is any other embedding with $|K^*| = |K|$, then K^* is isotopic to one of K, K' or K'' .

It turns out that K', K'' can be chosen so that each of $K \cap K', K \cap K''$ and $K' \cap K''$ is the same single curve. We are unable to determine if there is ever a genuine obstruction or not to isotoping K' and K'' to K (see §7).

Finally the useful theorem is obtained that for a large number of special choices of M , there is a single isotopy class of embeddings of K realising a fixed element of $H_2(M, Z_2)$. The examples of such M include all the binary octahedral spaces, the lens spaces of type $L(8pq + 2\epsilon, 4pq \pm 2p + \epsilon)$ where $\epsilon = \pm 1, p, q \geq 1$ (cf. Theorem 12 of [18]), various non-Haken Seifert manifolds with infinite fundamental group, and some 3-manifolds which contain certain types of fibered knots, e.g. the result of certain surgeries on the figure 8 knot. In [10] and [5], it is shown that many of the latter examples of 3-manifolds are non-Haken.

This paper can be viewed as a sequel to [9], in which the same program was carried out for embeddings of the Klein bottle in some closed orientable non-Haken 3-manifolds.

2. Examples of 3-manifolds. We will be concerned with the following 3 classes of closed, orientable, irreducible 3-manifolds which admit embeddings of K and are non-Haken:

(1) The closed orientable Seifert manifolds with S^2 as orbit surface which have 3 exceptional fibres of multiplicity $(2, 1), (4k, 2k - 1), (m, n)$ and arbitrary b -invariant, where $k \geq 1$ and $m \geq 2$ (see [7] for Seifert manifold notation). These are irreducible and non-Haken, so long as the cases where $(m, n) = (4k, 1)$ and $b = -1$ are excluded. Also we include in this class the lens spaces of the form $L(8pq + 2\epsilon, 4pq \pm 2p + \epsilon)$, where $p, q \geq 1$ and $\epsilon = \pm 1$. These are precisely the lens spaces which admit embeddings of K (see [4]) and can also be characterized as the closed orientable Seifert manifolds with S^2 as orbit surface which have 2 exceptional fibres of multiplicity $(2, 1), (4k, 2k - 1)$ and arbitrary b -invariant (see pp. 99–100 of [7]).

REMARK. The closed orientable Seifert manifolds M which have S^2 as orbit surface, 3 exceptional fibres of multiplicity $(2, 1), (4, 1), (3, \pm 1)$ and arbitrary b -invariant, all have $\pi_1(M)$ equal to a finite group of the form $O(48) \times Z_n$, where $O(48)$ is the binary octahedral group. These 3-manifolds are often called the binary octahedral spaces (see Chapter 6 of [7]).

(2) The closed orientable Seifert manifolds with S^2 as orbit surface which have 3 exceptional fibres of multiplicity $(r, \pm 2), (s, \pm 2), (t, \pm 2)$ and b -invariant equal to zero, where r, s, t are odd integers ≥ 3 .

REMARK. The lens spaces in class (1) can also be represented as the closed orientable Seifert manifolds with S^2 as orbit surface and 2 exceptional fibres of multiplicity $(r, \pm 2), (s, \pm 2)$, with b -invariant equal to ± 2 (see pp. 99–100 of [7]). So these lens spaces can be included in *either* category (1) or (2).

(3) The closed orientable 3-manifolds $M \neq RP^3$ which are irreducible, non-Haken and have one-sided Heegaard splittings of genus 3, with the following extra condition (*) satisfied.

Let C be a simple closed curve on K such that $K - C$ is orientable (i.e. a punctured torus). Since $N(K)$ is homeomorphic to the mapping cylinder of the orientable double covering of K , we may regard $\partial N(K)$ as the orientable double covering of K . Let C' denote the lift of C to $\partial N(K)$. The condition (*) is that there is some meridian disk D for the handlebody Y , in the decomposition $M = N(K) \cup Y$, with the property that ∂D intersects C' transversely in exactly two points.

REMARKS. (a) The condition (*) is satisfied by all the closed orientable 3-manifolds which are formed by glueing a solid torus to a fibre bundle X over S^1 with fibre a punctured torus, so that the meridian curve of the solid torus runs twice along the base circle of the bundle (see §3). In [5] it is shown that most such 3-manifolds $M = X \cup B^2 \times S^1$ are irreducible and non-Haken.

(b) The complement of the figure 8 knot in S^3 is a punctured torus bundle over S^1 . So $(2, 2n + 1)$ surgery on this knot gives a 3-manifold $M = X \cup B^2 \times S^1$ as in Remark (a) above. In [10] it is proved that, for $n \neq 0$, M is irreducible, non-Haken and hyperbolic, whereas for $n = 0$ the surgery yields a Seifert manifold as in class (1) above.

3. Properties of the 3-manifolds.

LEMMA 1. *The 3-manifolds in classes (1) and (2) are irreducible and non-Haken.*

PROOF. The irreducibility of the examples follows by [11]. Also by [11], closed orientable Seifert manifolds M with S^2 as orbit surface and 3 exceptional fibres are non-Haken if and only if $H_1(M, Z)$ is finite.

For M in class (1), the relation matrix for $H_1(M, Z)$ has determinant = $-(8bkm + 8kn + 2m(2k - 1) + 4km)$. So $H_1(M, Z)$ is infinite exactly when $4bkm + 4kn + 4km - m = 0$. But m and n are relatively prime, so $m = 4k$ and $n = 1 - m(1 + b)$. However $0 < n < m$ and consequently $b = -1$, $n = 1$ are the only solutions.

For M in class (2), the relation matrix for $H_1(M, Z)$ has determinant = $\pm 2rs \pm 2rt \pm 2st$. But r, s, t are all odd and so $\pm rs \pm rt \pm st$ is always odd. Hence $H_1(M, Z)$ is always finite.

LEMMA 2. *The 3-manifolds in §2 all admit embeddings of K .*

PROOF. Suppose M is of type (1). Let N_1 and N_2 be small fibered neighborhoods of the exceptional fibres of multiplicity 2 and $4k$ respectively. It is easy to see that an ordinary fibre in ∂N_1 bounds a Möbius band J in N_1 .

On the other hand, let h be an ordinary fibre in ∂N_2 . If a solid torus N is glued to N_2 so that a meridian curve for N is matched up with h , then the result is the lens space $L(4k, 2k - 1)$. In [9] it is shown that such a lens space contains a Klein bottle, which can be chosen to meet N in a single meridian disk. Consequently we obtain that h bounds a punctured Klein bottle L in N_2 .

Finally there is an annulus A of ordinary fibres in $M - \text{int } N_1 - \text{int } N_2$ with $\partial A = \partial J \cup \partial L$. Hence $J \cup A \cup L = K$ is the desired genus 3 nonorientable surface embedded in M .

Next, assume M is in the class (2). Let $N_i, i = 1, 2, 3$, be small fibered neighborhoods of the 3 exceptional fibres. Then there is a homeomorphism $\psi: E \times S^1 \rightarrow M - \cup_i \text{int } N_i$, where $S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C}: |z| = 1\}$ and E is a 2-sphere with 3 punctures. E can be chosen so that the curve $C_i = \psi(E \times \{1\}) \cap \partial N_i$ intersects an ordinary fibre h_i , lying in ∂N_i , transversely in one point. Then the meridian curves for N_i have homology classes in $H_1(\partial N_i, \mathbb{Z})$ given by $r |C_1| \pm 2 |h_1|, s |C_2| \pm 2 |h_2|, t |C_3| \pm 2 |h_3|$, where $|x|$ denotes the homology class of x . Note that this uses the fact that the b -invariant for M is zero and the other invariants are $(r, \pm 2), (s, \pm 2), (t, \pm 2)$.

Finally since the intersection number of C_i with the meridian curve for N_i is ± 2 , it follows that C_i bounds a Möbius band J_i in N_i for $i = 1, 2, 3$. Therefore $K = \psi(E \times \{1\}) \cup J_1 \cup J_2 \cup J_3$ is the desired genus 3 nonorientable surface embedded in M .

Finally let M be a 3-manifold as in Remark (a), following the description of class (3). We prove that M has a one-sided Heegaard splitting of genus 3 which satisfies condition (*). Let X be a fibre bundle over S^1 with fibre a punctured torus. Let N be a solid torus and let $M = X \cup N$, where N is glued to X so that a meridian curve for N has homology class in $H_1(\partial X, \mathbb{Z})$ given by $2t + (2n + 1)u$. Here u is the homology class of ∂T_0 , where T_0 is some fixed fibre of X , and $\{t, u\}$ form a generating set for $H_1(\partial X, \mathbb{Z})$.

Exactly as before, ∂T_0 bounds a Möbius band J in N and so $K = T_0 \cup J$ is the required genus 3 nonorientable surface. Let $S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C}: |z| = 1\}$ and let $I_+ = \{z \in S^1: 0 \leq \arg z \leq \pi\}$, $I_- = \{z \in S^1: \pi \leq \arg z \leq 2\pi\}$. Let $p: X \rightarrow S^1$ be the bundle projection and let $Y_+ = p^{-1}(I_+)$, $Y_- = p^{-1}(I_-)$. Then it is clear that we can choose $N(K) = Y_+ \cup N$ and $Y = Y_-$. There are homeomorphisms $\phi_1: T_0 \times [0, \pi] \approx Y_+$ and $\phi_2: T_0 \times [\pi, 2\pi] \approx Y_-$.

A centre-line C of the Möbius band J is a core circle of the solid torus N . Hence the lift C' of C to $\partial N(K) = \partial(Y_+ \cup N)$ can be taken as the curve $\phi_1(\partial T_0 \times \{\pi\})$. But a meridian disk D for $Y = Y_- \approx T_0 \times [\pi, 2\pi]$ can be chosen to be $\phi_2(\lambda \times [\pi, 2\pi])$, where λ is any arc which is properly embedded in T_0 and is not homotopic keeping its ends fixed into ∂T_0 . It is immediate that $\partial D \cap C'$ consists of two points and so condition (*) is fulfilled.

REMARKS. (a) It is easy to check that M can be decomposed as $X \cup N$, where X is a punctured torus bundle over S^1 and a meridian disk for N has homology class of the form $2t + (2n + 1)u$, if and only if M has a one-sided Heegaard decomposition $M = N(K) \cup Y$ such that Y has meridian disks D_1, D_2 for which $Y - D_1 - D_2$ is simply connected and $\partial D_i \cap C'$ consists of 2 points, for $i = 1, 2$.

(b) Combining the results of Lemmas 1 and 2 with Lemma 2 of [8], we obtain that all the 3-manifolds in classes (1) and (2) have one-sided Heegaard splittings of genus 3.

4. The main theorem. We begin with the following important result on the behaviour of genus 3 nonorientable surfaces.

LEMMA 3. *Suppose C_1, C_2 are simple closed curves in K such that both $K - C_1$ and $K - C_2$ are orientable. Then C_1 is isotopic to C_2 in K .*

PROOF. This follows by Theorem 3 of [1], since all the generators of the mapping class group of K preserve the isotopy class of C_1 , and there is clearly a homeomorphism of K taking C_1 to C_2 .

COROLLARY 4. *The mapping class group of K is isomorphic to $GL(2, Z)$. In fact, the representation of homeomorphisms of K by their induced action on the free part of $H_1(K, Z)$ gives this isomorphism.*

PROOF. This is established either by using Lemma 3 and noting that $K - C_1$ is a punctured torus, or directly by the presentation of the mapping class group given in Theorem 3 of [1].

REMARK. A direct proof of Lemma 3 can be given by a similar argument to [1].

THEOREM 5. *Assume that M is a closed, orientable, irreducible, atoroidal 3-manifold $\neq RP^3$ and that M has a genus 3 one-sided Heegaard decomposition, $M = N(K) \cup Y$. Let K' be another embedding of a genus 3 nonorientable surface in M with $|K| = |K'|$. Then K' is isotopic to K'' so that $K \cap K''$ is single curve C and both $K - C$ and $K'' - C$ are orientable.*

REMARK. This result probably fails without the assumption that M is atoroidal. In fact, if M contains incompressible tori then the homeotopy group of M can contain elements of infinite order given by "Dehn twists" about such tori. Applying such a homeomorphism to K , we can obtain an embedding K' for which $K \cap K'$ contains many curves and there is no obvious way to decrease the number of components of $K \cap K'$ by an isotopy of K' (cf. the proof of Theorem 5).

PROOF. If K is geometrically compressible, then since M is irreducible it follows that $M = RP^3$ and K is just RP^2 with a trivial handle added. We exclude this case; otherwise K' could be RP^2 with a very knotted handle attached. So we have that K and K' are geometrically incompressible in M . Assume that K intersects K' transversely. If some simple closed curve of $K \cap K'$ contracts in K then it must contract in K' and vice versa. Because M is irreducible it is easy to find an isotopy of K' which eliminates all such contractible curves in $K \cap K'$. Consequently we may suppose that K and K' intersect transversely in loops which are noncontractible in both K and K' , without loss of generality.

Next, $N(K)$ can be shrunk so that $K' \cap N(K)$ consists of annuli and Möbius bands, each meeting K in a single noncontractible curve. Also any orientation-reversing curve on K' has intersection number one mod 2 with K' (Poincaré duality with Z_2 coefficients). As $|K| = |K'|$, such a curve must intersect K . We conclude that $K' - K$ and $K' \cap Y$ are both orientable.

It is easy to see that all the components of $K' \cap Y$ must be annuli except for one component which is either a torus with one puncture or a sphere with 3 holes. By symmetry the same is true for the components of $K - \text{int } N(K')$, where $N(K')$ is a small regular neighborhood of K' . Note that all the components of $K' \cap Y$ are (2-sided) incompressible surfaces in Y , since K' is geometrically incompressible.

If any annulus of $K' \cap Y$ is parallel into ∂Y , then it can be eliminated by an isotopy of K' . On the other hand, if such an annulus A is not boundary-parallel,

then it is easy to show that there is a boundary compression of A which produces a meridian disk D of Y . D can be chosen to be *disjoint* from A , and D is separating if and only if A is separating in Y . Note that if A is separating then the curves of ∂A are parallel on ∂Y .

We wish to investigate the possible separating annuli A of $K' \cap Y$. Let $p: \partial N(K) \rightarrow K$ be the covering projection and let $j: \partial N(K) \rightarrow \partial N(K)$ be the covering transformation, where $\partial N(K)$ is viewed as the orientable double covering of K . The curves of ∂A on $\partial Y = \partial N(K)$ can be chosen to project via p to simple closed curves on K . Without loss of generality, after an isotopy each component of ∂A can be assumed to satisfy $C \cap jC = \emptyset$. There are 3 possibilities for C :

- (a) C separates ∂Y and C is parallel to jC on ∂Y .
- (b) C does not separate ∂Y and C is parallel to jC on ∂Y .
- (c) C is not parallel to jC on ∂Y .

These conditions have equivalent formulations as:

- (a') $p(C)$ separates K into a punctured torus and a Möbius band.
- (b') $p(C)$ separates K into a punctured Klein bottle and a Möbius band.
- (c') $p(C)$ is a 2-sided nonseparating curve on K .

(α) Suppose A is a separating annulus of $K' \cap Y$ with curves of ∂A of type (a). Then A must be parallel into ∂Y , since a boundary compression of A yields a disk with a contractible boundary on ∂Y . Hence A can be eliminated.

(β) Assume there is a separating annulus A of $K' \cap Y$, with loops of ∂A in class (b) and A is not parallel into ∂Y . It is easy to see that there is an annulus A_0 properly embedded in $N(K)$ with $\partial A_0 = \partial A$ and $A_0 \cap K = p(C)$, for C a component of ∂A . Clearly $A \cup A_0$ separates M and so is a torus T .

Let V, W be the closures of the components of $M - T$. Then without loss of generality, $K \cap V$ is a Möbius band and $K \cap W$ is a punctured Klein bottle, since $K \cap T = p(C)$. Now V is the union of 2 solid tori; they are the closure of a component of $Y - A$ and of $N(K) - A_0$. These 2 solid tori intersect along the annulus $A_1 = \partial Y \cap V$. Because A is not parallel into ∂Y , we observe that A_1 is not parallel to A . Also since $K \cap V$ is a Möbius band, it is easy to see that A_1 is not parallel to A_0 .

Consequently V can be fibered as a Seifert manifold with two exceptional fibres and the disk as orbit surface. So as M is atoroidal, T must compress in W to give a 2-sphere S . S bounds a ball B^3 , since M is irreducible, and $V \subset B^3$ is impossible because the centre-line of $K \cap V$ gives a nonzero element of $H_1(M, \mathbb{Z}_2)$. Therefore $B^3 \subset W$, W is a solid torus, and the Seifert fibering of V extends over M . Note that M is thus a Seifert manifold as in (1) of §2.

Now $K \cap K'$ must contain a curve parallel to $p(C)$ on K , since K' meets $\partial N(K)$ in the 2 components of ∂A which are both parallel to C , and one of these 2 loops must be in an *annulus* of $K' \cap N(K)$. Because $K - K'$ is orientable, $K \cap K'$ must include a component which is a centre of the Möbius band $K \cap V$. Therefore $K' \cap N(K)$ has to contain a Möbius band with the same centre curve as that of $K \cap V$.

By isotopically shrinking V , we can assume that $K' \cap V$ has one component which is a Möbius band, and all the other components are annuli which are *not* boundary parallel in V . But then $K' \cap W$ consists of a punctured Klein bottle plus some annuli. By an isotopy of K' all these latter annuli which are boundary parallel in the solid torus W may be eliminated. Hence $K' \cap V$ is a Möbius band which has a common centre-line with the Möbius band $K \cap V$. It is easy to find a further isotopy of K' so that $K' \cap V = K \cap V$.

It now follows that $K' \cap W$ and $K \cap W$ are both punctured Klein bottles in the solid torus W with the same boundary curve. By the argument in Theorem 12 of [8], it follows that $K \cap W$ and $K' \cap W$ are isotopic in W . So we have established that K and K' are isotopic, which implies Theorem 5.

(γ) Suppose there are separating annuli A_1 and A_2 of $K' \cap Y$ such that neither A_1 nor A_2 is parallel into ∂Y , the curves of ∂A_i , $i = 1, 2$, are all of type (c) and the loops of ∂A_1 are parallel on ∂Y to the components of $j(\partial A_2)$.

Let C_1 and C_2 be the curves of ∂A_1 . Then after an isotopy of A_2 , we can assume that the components of ∂A_2 are $j(C_1)$ and $j(C_2)$. As in (β), there are disjoint annuli A_3 and A_4 properly embedded in $N(K)$ with $\partial A_3 = C_1 \cup j(C_1)$, $\partial A_4 = C_2 \cup j(C_2)$ and $A_3 \cap K = p(C_1)$, $A_4 \cap K = p(C_2)$. It is easy to see that $T = \bigcup_{i=1}^4 A_i$ separates M and so is a torus. Let V, W be the closures of the components of $M - T$.

Assume without loss of generality that $K \cap V$ is the annulus in K with boundary $p(C_1) \cup p(C_2)$. Then $K \cap W$ is a Möbius band with one hole. Clearly $K \cap V$ separates V into 2 solid tori and since A_1 and A_2 are not parallel into ∂Y , it follows that V can be fibered as a Seifert manifold with a disk as orbit surface and 2 exceptional fibres.

Again since M is atoroidal and irreducible, T must compress in W to form a 2-sphere S which bounds a ball B^3 in M . Suppose that $V \subset \text{int } B^3$. By a small isotopy of S , we may assume that S intersects K transversely, without affecting $V \subset \text{int } B^3$. All the simple closed curves of $S \cap K$ bound disks in K , because K is incompressible. Let \bar{D} denote the union of all these disks. Clearly \bar{D} is a disjoint union of disks in K . Also $\partial \bar{D} \subset S \cap K$ and $K \cap V \subset K \cap \text{int } B^3$ are disjoint. Therefore since $K \cap V$ is an annulus with noncontractible boundary curves in K , we see that $\bar{D} \subset K \cap W$. But then the connected surface $K - \text{int } \bar{D}$ must lie in $\text{int } B^3$, as $K - \text{int } \bar{D}$ contains $K \cap V$ and is disjoint from S . This contradicts our assumption that K is incompressible. We conclude that $W \subset B^3$ and so W is a solid torus.

If we perform a boundary compression of $K \cap W$ in W , then the result is a Möbius band with a contractible boundary curve on $T = \partial W$. Therefore K is compressible, which is a contradiction. So we conclude that this case cannot occur. The analysis of the separating annuli of $K' \cap Y$ is complete.

Suppose that $K' \cap Y$ contains a component which is a nonseparating annulus A . Since a boundary compression of A yields a disjoint nonseparating meridian disk, we see that the curves of ∂A are not parallel on ∂Y and both are nonseparating. So the components of ∂A must be of type (b) or (c).

(I) Assume $K' \cap Y$ includes a nonseparating annulus A with $\partial A = C_1 \cup C_2$, where both C_1 and C_2 are of type (b). Then there are disjoint Möbius bands J_1 and J_2 which are properly embedded in $N(K)$, where $\partial J_i = C_i$ and $J_i \cap K$ is a centre-line for J_i , for $i = 1, 2$. So $L = J_1 \cup A \cup J_2$ is an embedded Klein bottle in M .

Let $N(L)$ be a small neighborhood of L in M , chosen so that $K \cap N(L)$ consists of 2 Möbius bands which have common centre-lines with J_1 and J_2 . Let $W = M - \text{int } N(L)$. Since M is irreducible and atoroidal, W is a solid torus. But $K \cap W$ is a Möbius band with a hole. We obtain the same contradiction as in (γ) above. So this case cannot happen.

(II) Suppose there is a nonseparating annulus A in $K' \cap Y$ such that the components C_1 and C_2 of ∂A are of type (c). Since C_1 is not parallel to C_2 , we can perform an isotopy of A so that $\partial A = C \cup j(C)$.

Exactly as in (γ) above, there is an annulus A_0 properly embedded in $N(K)$ with $A_0 \cap K = p(C)$ and $\partial A_0 = \partial A$. If $A \cup A_0$ is a torus T , then clearly T is nonseparating in M . T cannot be incompressible since M is atoroidal. However a compression of T yields a nonseparating 2-sphere which contradicts the assumption that M is irreducible.

Therefore $A \cup A_0 = L$ must be a Klein bottle. But then exactly the same argument as in (I) above gives a contradiction. We conclude that this type of annulus cannot occur in $K' \cap Y$.

To complete the proof of Theorem 5, assume first that $K' \cap Y$ has a component which is a punctured torus T_0 . Clearly ∂T_0 is of type (a). Hence all the curves of $K' \cap \partial Y$ are either in classes (a) or (c). By (II), $K' \cap Y$ has no nonseparating annuli. Hence by connectivity of K' , we see that $K' \cap \partial Y$ has no curves of type (c). By (α) , any separating annulus of $K' \cap Y$ is boundary parallel. So K' is isotopic to K'' with $K'' \cap Y = T_0$ and $K'' \cap K = C$, a single curve. Clearly $K'' - C$ and $K - C$ are both orientable.

Next suppose that $K' \cap Y$ has a component E which is a sphere with 3 holes, and all the curves of ∂E are of type (b). By (β) and (I), it follows that $K' \cap Y$ can contain only boundary parallel annuli. So after an isotopy, we may assume that $K' \cap Y = E$.

Clearly no pair of the curves C_i , $i = 1, 2, 3$, of ∂E are parallel on ∂Y . A boundary compression of E in Y is given by isotoping E along a disk D , which satisfies $\partial D = \lambda \cup \mu$ with $\lambda = D \cap E$, $\mu = D \cap \partial Y$ and λ is not homotopic in E keeping its ends fixed into ∂E . Such boundary compressions may be found e.g. by intersecting E with the meridian disks of Y .

Suppose that the arc λ of the boundary compression joins 2 different components of ∂E , say C_1 and C_2 . Then after the isotopy of E along D , we are left with a separating annulus A in Y with ∂A consisting of curves parallel to C_3 . By (β) , we may assume that A is parallel into ∂Y . But this implies that E is boundary parallel and so K' is isotopic to K (see Lemma 15 of [8]).

Assume that the arc λ has its ends on the same curve of ∂E , say C_3 . Then after the isotopy of the boundary compression, the result is 2 separating annuli A_1 and A_2 in

Y with ∂A_i having components parallel to C_i , for $i = 1, 2$. Again by (β) , both A_1 and A_2 can be supposed boundary parallel and hence K' is isotopic to K .

(†) Suppose that $K' \cap Y$ has a component E which is a sphere with 3 holes such that one of the curves of ∂E is of type (a) and 2 are of type (c). By (II), $K' \cap Y$ has no nonseparating annuli. The curves of $K' \cap \partial Y$ of type (c) are all parallel to either C or $j(C)$, where C is some fixed loop of type (c). Clearly every component of $K' \cap K$ which is 2-sided and nonseparating gives rise to 2 curves of type (c) in $K' \cap \partial Y$, one parallel to C and one parallel to $j(C)$. So there are equal numbers of such curves.

Suppose both of the curves of ∂E of type (c) are parallel to C . By (γ) and (α) , we may assume that $K' \cap Y$ has exactly 2 components, E and A , where A is a separating annulus with both curves of ∂A parallel to $j(C)$.

We now look at the first boundary compression of the system $K' \cap Y$. If A is boundary compressed, the result is a separating meridian disk for Y disjoint from E . Hence E is contained in a solid torus and so E is compressible. This is a contradiction and hence E must be boundary compressed first.

Exactly as before, there are two possible results for the effect of the boundary compression of E . We obtain from E either a single separating annulus A_0 or two separating annuli A_1 and A_2 . In either case, all the components of ∂A_0 , ∂A_1 and ∂A_2 are parallel to C or of type (a). By (α) and (γ) , we see that these annuli must be boundary parallel and so E is boundary parallel. After the isotopy of K' to K'' taking E to ∂Y and then past K , it follows that $K'' \cap K = C$ as desired.

Assume ∂E has one curve parallel to each of C and $j(C)$. By (γ) and (α) , we may suppose that $K' \cap Y = E$. But then K' and K intersect in 2 curves only, C_1 and C_2 , where $C_1 = p(C)$ is 2-sided and nonseparating on K and $K - C_2$ is a punctured torus. Let C_3 be a simple closed curve in $K - C_2$ which intersects C_1 transversely in one point. Since C_3 is 2-sided on K , the intersection number mod 2 of the homology classes $|C_3| \in H_1(M, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ and $|K| \in H_2(M, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is zero. But C_3 crosses K' at one point so the intersection number mod 2 of $|C_3|$ and $|K'|$ is one. This contradicts $|K| = |K'|$. (†)

Assume finally that there is a component E of $K' \cap Y$ which is a sphere with 3 holes and one of the curves of ∂E is of type (b) and 2 are of type (c). There is a loop C on ∂Y of type (c) such that all of the type (c) curves of $K' \cap \partial Y$ are parallel to C or to $j(C)$ on ∂Y . Exactly as above, there are equal numbers of curves parallel to C and to $j(C)$.

Suppose that among the nonboundary parallel annuli of $K' \cap Y$, there are boundary curves parallel to C , $j(C)$ and of type (b). The first boundary compression of one of these annuli yields a meridian disk with boundary curve C' disjoint from all the boundary curves of the annuli. But then it follows immediately that $C' \cap j(C') = \emptyset$ can be assumed, without loss of generality. So $p(C')$ is a 2-sided simple closed curve on K which bounds a disk D with $D \cap K = p(C')$. But $p(C')$ is noncontractible on K and this implies that K is compressible, a contradiction.

Clearly there are at most 3 types of intersection curves of K and K' ; 2-sided nonseparating curves parallel to $p(C)$, a single one-sided curve C_0 with the property that $K - C_0$ is an open punctured Klein bottle and possibly some parallel 2-sided curves which separate K into a punctured Klein bottle and a Möbius band with centre-line C_0 . It is easy to find a simple closed curve C' which is one-sided in K , crosses $p(C)$ transversely at one point and misses C_0 . Without loss of generality C' intersects each of the components of $K \cap K'$ which are parallel to $p(C)$ at one point and is disjoint from the other curves of $K \cap K'$.

Suppose $K \cap K'$ has an even number of curves parallel to $p(C)$. Then the intersection number mod 2 of $|C'|$ and $|K'|$ is zero. However C' is one-sided on K so the intersection number mod 2 of $|C'|$ and $|K|$ is one. This gives a contradiction and therefore $K \cap K'$ has an odd number of components parallel to $p(C)$.

Assume that none of the annuli of $K' \cap Y$ has a boundary curve of type (b). Then by (II), $K \cap K'$ has no separating annuli and by (γ) we may suppose that all the separating annuli have boundary components parallel to C . If ∂E has one curve parallel to each of C and $j(C)$ then there are no annuli in $K' \cap Y$. If ∂E has both components parallel to C say, then there must be exactly one annulus A in $K' \cap Y$ with the loops of ∂A parallel to $j(C)$. But then $K \cap K'$ includes 2 curves parallel to $p(C)$, which is impossible. So we conclude there are no annuli in $K' \cap Y$.

On the other hand, suppose that no boundary curve of an annulus of $K' \cap \partial Y$ is parallel to C say. If ∂E has one curve parallel to each of C and $j(C)$, then there are again no annuli in $K' \cap Y$. On the other hand if ∂E has both curves parallel to C then there must be exactly two curves of $K' \cap \partial Y$ parallel to $j(C)$. Once more we obtain that $K \cap K'$ has 2 loops parallel to $p(C)$, a contradiction. Therefore the only possibility is that $K' \cap Y = E$ and ∂E has 3 nonparallel curves.

Finally a boundary compression of ∂E yields one or 2 separating annuli with boundary curves parallel to C , $j(C)$ or of type (b). By (β) we may assume the latter possibility does not occur. Also by (γ) , we cannot then obtain 2 annuli unless one of them is boundary parallel. So the end result is that $K' \cap Y$ is a single separating annulus with boundary loops parallel to C say.

Now it is straightforward to isotope K' and K together until $K' \cap K = K - \text{int } A$ is an annulus with centre-line $p(C)$. Then $K' \cap K$ is a Möbius band with one puncture and so there are 2 isotopy classes of choices of a one-sided curve on $K' \cap K$. For suitable selection, we obtain a one-sided loop $C_1 \subset K' \cap K$ which satisfies $K - C_1$ and $K' - C_1$ are both orientable. Lastly there is clearly a small isotopy of K' to K'' so that $K'' \cap K = C_1$ and this finishes the proof of Theorem 5.

REMARK. If $K \cap K'' = C$ as in Theorem 5, then $K'' \cap Y$ is a punctured torus T_0 . The disk of some boundary compression of T_0 in Y can be extended readily to a disk D with the property that $\partial D = \lambda \cup \mu$, with $D \cap K'' = \lambda$ and $D \cap K = \mu$. Hence λ is *not* homotopic in K'' keeping its ends fixed into C , and similarly for μ in K .

Let K^* denote the result of an isotopy of K'' taking a neighborhood of $\lambda \cup C$ in K'' onto a neighborhood of $\mu \cup C$ in K , using D . Then $K^* \cap K = K - \text{int } A = K^* - \text{int } A^*$, where A, A^* are annuli in K, K^* respectively. In general A^* need *not* be

parallel to A , although $A \cup A^*$ bounds a solid torus. So it appears unlikely that K^* is always isotopic to K , but we are unable to resolve this problem (see §7).

5. Non-Haken 3-manifolds. We wish to examine the situation in Theorem 5 when K' is also part of a one-sided Heegaard decomposition of M . This will be the case when M is non-Haken.

THEOREM 6. *Suppose $M \neq RP^3$ is a closed, irreducible atoroidal 3-manifold which has a one-sided Heegaard decomposition of genus 3, $M = N(K) \cup Y$.*

(A) *There are at most 3 one-sided Heegaard splittings of genus 3, $M = N(K) \cup Y = N(K') \cup Y' = N(K'') \cup Y''$, such that $|K| = |K'| = |K''|$ and if $M = N(K^*) \cup Y^*$ is another such decomposition with $|K^*| = |K|$, then K^* is isotopic to one of K, K' or K'' .*

(B) *Assume in addition that M is non-Haken. Then there are at most 3 embeddings $K, K', K'' \subset M$ such that $|K| = |K'| = |K''|$ and if $K^* \subset M$ is another embedding with $|K^*| = |K|$, then K^* is isotopic to either K, K' or K'' .*

In either (A) or (B), the embeddings $K', K'' \subset M$ can be chosen so that $K \cap K' = K \cap K'' = K' \cap K'' = C$, a single curve.

REMARKS. (a) Exactly as in the remark at the end of §4, our methods are insufficient to decide if the embeddings $K, K', K'' \subset M$ are isotopic to each other. However, this seems unlikely to be true in general (see §7).

(b) In Theorem 6(B), the hypothesis that M is non-Haken can be replaced by the weaker assumption that M contains no separating incompressible surfaces of genus 2. By Lemma 2 of [8], the latter supposition guarantees that any embedding of K in M gives rise to a one-sided Heegaard splitting of genus 3, i.e. $M = N(K) \cup Y$.

PROOF. As at the beginning of the proof of Theorem 5, since M is assumed irreducible, non-Haken and $\neq RP^3$ in Theorem 6(B), it follows that any embedding of K in M is incompressible. Also by Lemma 2 of [8], any embedding of K in M yields a one-sided Heegaard splitting of genus 3 of M .

By Theorem 5, if $M = N(K) \cup Y$ and $K' \subset M$ with $|K| = |K'|$ then after an isotopy of K' , we can achieve $K \cap K' = C$, where $K - C$ and $K' - C$ are both orientable. By the remark at the end of §4, there is a disk D embedded in M such that $\partial D = \lambda \cup \mu$, where $\lambda = D \cap K'$, $\mu = D \cap K$ and μ is not homotopic in K keeping its ends fixed into C . We will assume without loss of generality that K' is not isotopic to K . Note that $M - (K \cup K')$ has 2 components; we will denote the closures of these components by Y_1 and Y_2 , where $D \subset Y_1$.

Suppose now that K'' is another embedded genus 3 nonorientable surface in M with $|K''| = |K|$, and K'' is not isotopic to K or K' . By Theorem 5, after an isotopy of K'' we can achieve that $K \cap K''$ is a single curve C_0 and $K - C_0, K'' - C_0$ are both orientable. By Lemma 3, C_0 and C are isotopic in K . So by a further isotopy of K'' , we may assume that $K'' \cap K = C$. The main step in the proof of Theorem 6 is to find an isotopy of K'' so that $K'' \cap K' = C$ is attained, but $K'' \cap K = C$ remains unaltered by this isotopy.

Without loss of generality, K'' intersects D transversely except possibly at the 2 points of $\partial\lambda = \partial\mu = D \cap C$. By the incompressibility of K'' , an isotopy of K'' can be performed which eliminates the entire set of simple closed curves of $K'' \cap D$. The remaining arcs of $K'' \cap D$ all have both endpoints on λ , since $K'' \cap K = C$ implies $K'' \cap \mu = \partial\mu$. Consequently there is an isotopy of K'' which is obtained by pushing all the arcs of $K'' \cap D$ down along D past K' . After the isotopy, it follows that $K'' \cap D = D \cap C = \partial\mu$ and $K'' \cap K = C$ continues to be true.

Let $N(C \cup \lambda)$ be a small neighborhood of $C \cup \lambda$ in K' . Because $K'' \cap \text{int } \lambda = \emptyset$, $N(C \cup \lambda)$ can be chosen so that $K'' \cap N(C \cup \lambda) = C$. But $K' - \text{int } N(C \cup \lambda)$ is an annulus. Therefore all the curves of $K'' \cap \partial N(K')$ are now of type (c), except for one of type (a) (as in the proof of Theorem 5). Here, by the assumptions in (A) or (B) of Theorem 6, we can find a splitting $M = N(K') \cup Y'$. If there are no components of $K'' \cap \partial N(K')$ of type (c), then $K'' \cap K' = C$ has been achieved as desired.

Therefore it suffices to assume that $K'' \cap Y'$ contains some annuli with boundary curves of type (c) and a component E which is a sphere with 3 holes. Clearly all the boundary parallel annuli of $K'' \cap Y'$ in Y' can be eliminated by an isotopy of K'' without affecting $K'' \cap K = C$. By the argument (†) in the proof of Theorem 5, since K'' is assumed to be *not* isotopic to K' , the only possibility is that $K'' \cap Y = E \cup A$ where A is an annulus and E must be parallel into $\partial Y'$.

It is easy to see that the isotopy of K'' which takes E into $\partial Y'$ and then past K' can be performed so that $K'' \cap K = C$ continues to hold. The effect of this isotopy is to eliminate the pair of 2-sided curves in $K'' \cap K'$. Hence after the isotopy, we have attained $K'' \cap K' = C$ as desired. So $K \cap K' = K'' \cap K = K' \cap K'' = C$ is now the case. Note that $K'' \subset Y_2$.

If $K^* \subset M$ is an embedding with $K^* \cap K = K^* \cap K' = K \cap K' = C$, then there are 2 possibilities: $K^* \subset Y_1$ or $K^* \subset Y_2$. We prove next that if $K^* \subset Y_1$ then K^* is isotopic to K or to K' . Since $K \cap K' = K^* \cap K = K^* \cap K' = C$, it follows immediately that $K^* \cap \partial D = C \cap \partial D = \partial\lambda$. So assuming that K^* crosses D transversely, we find that $K^* \cap D$ consists of an arc γ with $\partial\lambda = \partial\gamma$ plus some simple closed curves, since $D \subset Y_1$. Because K^* is incompressible, we can perform an isotopy of K^* in Y_1 which removes all the loops of $K^* \cap D$.

As $D \cap K^* = \gamma$, *simultaneous* isotopies can be performed of K' and K^* taking neighborhoods of $\lambda \cup C$ and $\gamma \cup C$ respectively on K' and K^* along D onto a neighborhood of $\mu \cup C$ in K . After the isotopy, we obtain that $K^* \cap K = K' \cap K = N(C \cup \mu)$. Hence $\text{cl}(K^* - K) = A^*$, $\text{cl}(K' - K) = A'$ and $K - \text{int } N(C \cup \mu) = A$ are all annuli with common boundaries.

Since K' is not isotopic to K , it follows that $A \cup A'$ bounds a solid torus W , but A and A' are *not* parallel annuli in W . On the other hand, clearly $A^* \subset W$ and so A^* is parallel into ∂W (any incompressible annulus properly embedded in a solid torus is boundary parallel). We conclude that A^* must be parallel to either A' or A . Hence K^* is isotopic to K' or to K , as asserted.

By the argument achieving $K'' \cap K' = K'' \cap K = K \cap K' = C$, it follows that $K'' \subset Y_2$. Clearly K'' separates Y_2 into 2 components; let X_1 and X_2 denote the closures of the components of $Y_2 - K''$. Now the closures of the components of

$M - (K \cup K'')$ are obviously $X_2 \cup Y_1$ and X_1 , where we assume that $K \subset X_1$ and $K' \subset X_2$ without loss of generality. By the remark at the end of §4, there is a disk D_1 in either $X_2 \cup Y_1$ or in X_1 with $\partial D_1 = \lambda_1 \cup \mu_1$, where $\lambda_1 = D_1 \cap K''$, $\mu_1 = D_1 \cap K$ and λ_1 is not homotopic in K'' keeping its ends fixed into C .

Suppose $D_1 \subset X_2 \cup Y_1$. Then the argument above shows that K' is isotopic to K or to K'' , since K' lies in the closure of the component of $M - (K \cup K'')$ which contains D_1 . Hence $D_1 \subset X_1$ must be the case. Now by the assumptions in (A) or (B) of Theorem 6, there is a one-sided Heegaard decomposition $M = N(K') \cup Y'$. Clearly the closures of the components of $M - (K' \cup K'')$ are X_2 and $X_1 \cup Y_1$, since $K \subset X_1$ and $K' \subset X_2$. Using K' and K'' in the roles of K and K'' , we find that there is a disk D_2 in X_2 or in $X_1 \cup Y_1$, such that $\partial D_2 = \lambda_2 \cup \mu_2$, where $\lambda_2 = D_2 \cap K''$, $\mu_2 = D_2 \cap K'$ and λ_2 is not homotopic in K'' keeping its ends fixed into C .

If $D_2 \subset X_1 \cup Y_1$ then we again reach the contradiction that K is isotopic to K' or to K'' . Hence $D_2 \subset X_2$ and we have attained the *symmetrical* situation that each of the regions Y_1 , X_1 and X_2 contains one of the disks D , D_1 and D_2 respectively.

To complete the proof, suppose that K^* is an arbitrary embedding of the genus 3 nonorientable surface in M with $|K^*| = |K|$. By the preceding method, we can achieve that $K \cap K^* = K' \cap K^* = C$, after a suitable isotopy of K^* . Also without loss of generality $K^* \subset X_1 \cup X_2 = Y_2$, since if $K^* \subset Y_1$ then K^* is isotopic to K or to K' . As usual, by the hypotheses in (A) or (B) in Theorem 6, we can write $M = N(K'') \cup Y''$.

Exactly as before, we can perform an isotopy of K^* in $X_1 \cup X_2$ which eliminates all the intersection points of K^* and D_1 except for the 2 points $D_1 \cap C = \partial \lambda_1 = \partial \mu_1$, without altering $K^* \cap K = K^* \cap K' = C$. So K^* intersects $\partial N(K'')$ in one curve of type (a) and all the remaining loops are of type (c). By the argument denoted by (†) in the proof of Theorem 5, it follows that after the boundary parallel annuli of $K^* \cap Y''$ have been removed, then $K^* \cap Y'' = E \cup A$ where E is a sphere with 3 holes and A is an annulus. Also E is boundary parallel in Y'' . Clearly the isotopy of E into $\partial Y''$ actually occurs in $X_1 \cup X_2$.

Consequently we can isotope K^* in $X_1 \cup X_2$ to shift E into $\partial Y''$ and then past K'' . This attains $K'' \cap K^* = C$, without affecting $K^* \cap K = K^* \cap K' = C$. But then K^* must lie in X_1 or in X_2 . This implies that K^* is isotopic to one of K , K' or K'' and the proof of Theorem 6 is finished.

REMARKS. (a) Let $M = N(K) \cup Y = N(K') \cup Y'$ with $|K| = |K'|$ and $K \cap K' = C$, where M is as in Theorem 6. Let Y_1, Y_2 be the closures of the components of $M - (K \cup K')$. Assume that there are disks $\bar{D}_i \subset Y_i$ with $\partial \bar{D}_i = \bar{\lambda}_i \cup \bar{\mu}_i$, where $\bar{\lambda}_i = \bar{D}_i \cap K$, $\bar{\mu}_i = \bar{D}_i \cap K'$ and $\bar{\lambda}_i$ is not homotopic in K into C keeping its ends fixed, for $i = 1, 2$.

Then it is easy to see by the techniques in the proof of Theorem 6, if $K^* \subset M$ is any embedding of the genus 3 nonorientable surface in M with $|K| = |K^*|$, then K^* is isotopic to K or K' . Therefore there are at most 2 isotopy classes of embeddings of this surface, $K, K' \subset M$, realising the particular element $|K|$ of $H_2(M, Z_2)$.

Returning to the notation of the proof of Theorem 6, suppose that for example $\lambda_2 = \lambda_1$ (recall that $\lambda_j = D_j \cap K''$ for $j = 1, 2$). Then $D_1 \cup D_2 = D'$ is a disk

properly embedded in $Y_2 = X_1 \cup X_2$, such that $\partial D' = \mu_1 \cup \mu_2$ with $D' \cap K = \mu_1$, $D' \cap K' = \mu_2$. So the disks \bar{D}_1, \bar{D}_2 above can be chosen to be D, D' and there are at most 2 isotopy classes of embeddings. Note that K'' must be isotopic to K or to K' in this case.

(b) It is not difficult to construct 3-manifolds $M = N(K) \cup Y$ which have embedded surfaces K, K', K'' in a symmetrical configuration as in the proof of Theorem 6, i.e. $M = N(K') \cup Y' = N(K'') \cup Y''$ and $K \cap K' = K \cap K'' = K' \cap K'' = C$. Also the 3 closures of the components of $M - (K \cup K' \cup K'')$ all possess properly embedded disks as in the proof of Theorem 6, but $K' \cap Y$ is not boundary parallel in Y , and similarly for $K'' \cap Y$ in Y and $K'' \cap Y'$ in Y' . It is not clear whether or not K, K' and K'' are isotopic to one another, although certainly the obvious way of achieving this fails (see §7).

6. Unique isotopy class of embeddings.

THEOREM 7. *Let M be a 3-manifold in one of the classes in §2. By Lemma 2, M has a one-sided Heegaard decomposition of genus 3, $M = N(K) \cup Y$. Assume that $K' \subset M$ is an embedding of the genus 3 nonorientable surface with $|K| = |K'|$. Then K' is isotopic to K .*

PROOF. By Theorem 5, it suffices to assume that $K \cap K' = C$, where $K - C$ and $K' - C$ are both orientable. We consider separately the cases when M is in the class of examples (1), (2) and (3) in §2.

(1) Let N_1 be a small fibered regular neighborhood of the exceptional fibre of multiplicity 2 in M . As in the proof of Lemma 2, we may assume that $N_1 \cap K$ is a Möbius band J . Let C_1 be a centre-line of J . A simple closed curve C_2 in K can be found so that C_2 intersects C_1 transversely in one point and $K - C_2$ is orientable. By Lemma 3, C_2 is isotopic to C in K . Hence we may suppose without loss of generality that C_1 and C cross transversely at exactly one point. Then since $K' \cap K = C$, by choosing N_1 sufficiently small and observing that C_1 is a core circle of N_1 , we can obtain that K' intersects N_1 transversely and $K' \cap N_1$ is a single meridian disk D_1 for N_1 .

Let A be an annulus of ordinary fibres in M with $A \cap N_1 = \partial A$, such that there is one exceptional fibre in each of the components of $M - N_1 - A$. Let $N(A)$ be a small regular neighborhood of A in M and assume that $N(A) \cap N_1$ consists of 2 annuli in $\partial N(A) \cap \partial N_1$. Then the closures of the components of $M - N_1 - N(A)$ are solid tori N_2 and N_3 which are fibered regular neighborhoods of the exceptional fibres of multiplicity $4k$ and m respectively.

Since N_1 is a fibered neighborhood of the multiplicity 2 exceptional fibre, any ordinary fibre in ∂N_1 can be assumed to meet ∂D_1 in exactly 2 points. Hence $\partial A \cap \partial D_1$ has 4 points, 2 in each component of ∂A . Supposing that K' intersects A transversely, we find that $K' \cap A$ has only 2 components λ_1 and λ_2 which are arcs. By an isotopy, we may assume $K' \cap A$ has no contractible loops.

Let $\partial A = C_3 \cup C_4$. It is easy to see that the 2 points $C_3 \cap \partial D_1$ are separated by the 2 points $C_4 \cap \partial D_1$ in ∂D_1 , since C_3 and C_4 are parallel simple closed curves in

∂N_1 . Suppose λ_1 (and λ_2) has one end on C_3 and one on C_4 . Then $K' \cap (N_1 \cup N(A)) = D_1 \cup N(\lambda_1) \cup N(\lambda_2)$ where $N(\lambda_i)$ is a small regular neighborhood of λ_i in K' , without loss of generality. Note that the points of $\partial\lambda_1$ do not separate $\partial\lambda_2$ on ∂D_1 . Let $E = D_1 \cup N(\lambda_1) \cup N(\lambda_2)$ and let $X = N_1 \cup N(A)$. There are 3 possibilities for the surface E , as shown in Figure 1. By transversality of the intersection of K' and A , the points x, y as indicated in Figure 1 must lie in different components of $\partial X = \partial N_2 \cup \partial N_3$. However in cases (b) and (c) in Figure 1, there are paths in ∂E from x to y , which is a contradiction since $\partial E \subset \partial X$. We conclude that (a) is the only possibility.

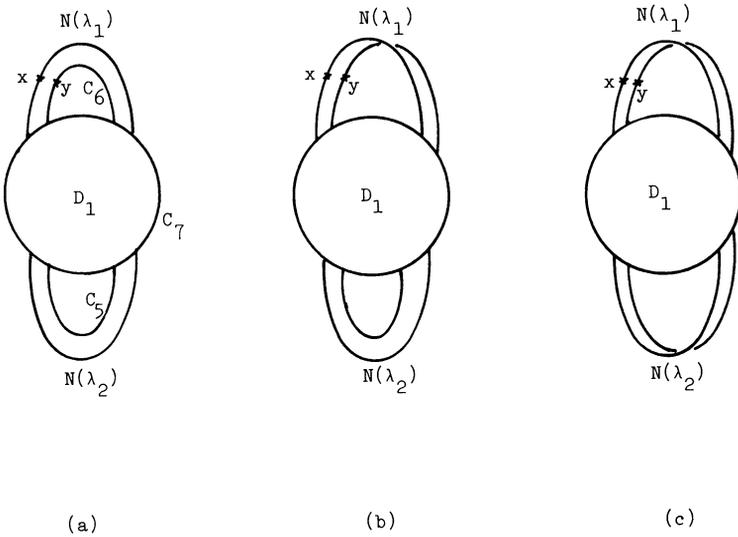


FIGURE 1

Let C_5, C_6, C_7 denote the components of ∂E , as shown in Figure 1. Since the 2 ordinary fibres of ∂A intersect ∂D_1 in $\partial\lambda_1 \cup \partial\lambda_2$, it follows that ordinary fibres in ∂N_1 can be found which cross C_5, C_6 and C_7 transversely in one, one and 2 points respectively. Also one of the components of ∂X contains C_5 and C_6 , while the other component of ∂X includes C_7 . Assume therefore that $C_5 \cup C_6$ lies in ∂N_i , for $i = 2$ or 3.

If C_5 and C_6 bound meridian disks in N_i , then the multiplicity of the exceptional fibre in N_i must be one. Hence $m = 1, i = 3$ and M is a lens space. In this case, Theorem 7 follows by Theorem 12 of [8]. The only other possibility is that $K' \cap N_i$ is a connected surface bounded by $C_5 \cup C_6$. In this case a boundary compression of $K' \cap N_i$ in N_i yields a surface with a single contractible boundary curve. By incompressibility of K' , this implies that $K' \cap N_i$ must be a boundary parallel disk, after the boundary compression. Therefore $K' \cap N_i = \emptyset$ can be achieved by a further isotopy of K' . Since a core-circle of N_2 is the exceptional fibre of multiplicity

$4k$, such a core-circle has intersection number $1 \pmod 2$ with K and with K' , because $|K| = |K'|$. We conclude that $K' \cap N_3 = \emptyset$ holds.

Then $K' \subset N_1 \cup N_2$ may be assumed. Since $N_1 \cap N_2$ is an annulus of ordinary fibres in $\partial N_1 \cap \partial N_2$, it is easy to show that $K' \cap N_1$ must have one component a Möbius band plus all other components annuli. The desired conclusion that K' is isotopic to K now follows exactly as in case (β) in the proof of Theorem 5.

Finally suppose that the arc λ_1 of $K' \cap A$ has both ends on C_3 and therefore $\partial\lambda_2 \subset C_4$. Then one of the closures of the components of $A - \lambda_1$ is a disk D . D may be used for a boundary compression of $K' \cap (M - \text{int } N_1)$ in $M - \text{int } N_1$. Let K'' denote the result of the isotopy of the boundary compression applied to K' . Then $K'' \cap N_1$ is a Möbius band (cf. the proof of Lemma 10 in [8]). Note that if $\partial D = \lambda_1 \cup \mu$, where $\mu \subset C_3$, then λ_1 has its endpoints on opposite sides of C_3 in ∂N_1 . So $K'' \cap \partial N_1$ is easily seen to be disjoint from C_3 , i.e. $K'' \cap \partial N_1$ and C_3 are parallel curves on ∂N_1 .

We can now assume that $K'' \cap A$ consists of simple closed noncontractible loops only, since $K'' \cap \partial A = \emptyset$ may be achieved by a further isotopy. Therefore $K'' \cap \partial N_3$ consists of ordinary fibres. Exactly the same argument as above shows that all the components of $K'' \cap N_3$ must be boundary parallel annuli. So $K'' \cap N_3 = \emptyset$ can be obtained and then K'' can be isotoped onto K .

(2) Let N_i , $i = 1, 2, 3$, be small fibered regular neighborhoods of the 3 exceptional fibres in M . As in the proof of Lemma 2, it may be supposed that $N_i \cap K$ is a Möbius band denoted J_i , for $i = 1, 2, 3$. A simple closed curve C_0 in K can be found such that $K - C_0$ is orientable and C_0 intersects a centre-line of J_i transversely in exactly one point, for all i . By Lemma 3, we can isotope K' so that $K' \cap K = C_0$. By choosing the neighborhoods N_i sufficiently small, we can therefore achieve that $K' \cap N_i$ is a single meridian disk D_i for N_i , for each $i = 1, 2, 3$.

Let $W = M - \cup_i \text{int } N_i$. Then $K' \cap W$ is a genus 3 nonorientable surface with 3 holes, which we denote by K'_0 . There is a homeomorphism $\phi: W \rightarrow E \times S^1$, where E is a sphere with 3 holes. Let $T_i = \phi(\partial N_i)$, let $C_i = \phi^{-1}(E \times \{1\} \cap T_i)$ and let h_i be an ordinary fibre in ∂N_i which intersects C_i transversely at a single point, for $i = 1, 2, 3$. We may assume without loss of generality that $\phi(K \cap W) = E \times \{1\}$ as well, so $C_i = \partial J_i$. Now since $K' \cap \partial N_i$ is a meridian curve C'_i for N_i and N_i is a regular neighborhood of an exceptional fibre with invariants $(r, \pm 2)$, $(s, \pm 2)$ or $(t, \pm 2)$, we may suppose without loss of generality that C'_i intersects C_i transversely in exactly 2 points, for all i .

Let F denote the surface $\phi(K'_0)$ in $E \times S^1$. We investigate the projection mapping from $E \times S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ restricted to F , which we denote by p . By a small isotopy of K' , it may be supposed that p is a Morse function on F . Because $C'_i \cap C_i$ has 2 points, it can be assumed that $E \times \{z\} \cap F$ has exactly 6 points for each z in S^1 . Therefore the level set $p^{-1}(z) = E \times \{z\} \cap F$ consists of 3 arcs plus some simple closed curves, when z is not a critical value of p .

Assume first of all that for every z in S^1 which is not a critical value of p , each arc of the level set $p^{-1}(z)$ runs between T_i and T_j for $i \neq j$. A critical point of p is either a local maximum, minimum or a saddle (where S^1 is locally parametrized by $\arg z$).

Suppose there is a saddle with a critical value $z_0 = \exp i\theta_0$, such that 2 arcs of the level set $p^{-1}(\exp i(\theta_0 - \epsilon))$ coalesce in $p^{-1}(z_0)$, where $\epsilon > 0$ is arbitrarily small. Since the 3 arcs of $p^{-1}(\exp i(\theta_0 - \epsilon))$ have ends on different boundary components of $E \times \{\exp i(\theta_0 - \epsilon)\}$, it is easy to see that in $p^{-1}(\exp i(\theta_0 + \epsilon))$ one of the arcs has both ends on the same curve of $\partial E \times \{\exp i(\theta_0 + \epsilon)\}$ (see Figure 2). This is a contradiction to our hypothesis, since $\exp i(\theta_0 + \epsilon)$ is not a critical value for ϵ small.

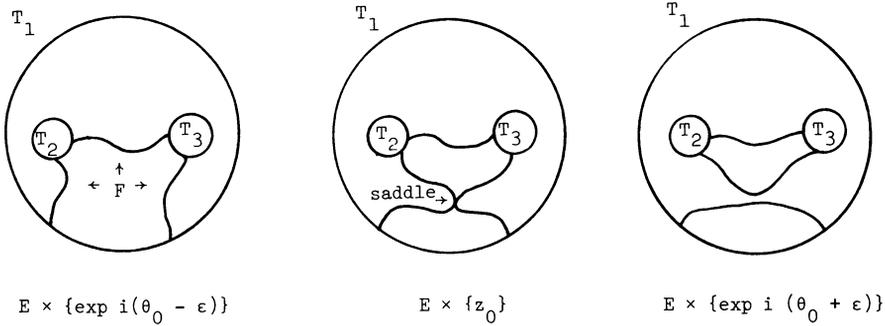


FIGURE 2

Consequently, if every arc of $p^{-1}(z)$ runs from T_i to T_j for $i \neq j$, where z is any noncritical value of p , then there are no saddles involving 2 arcs. So each saddle must be between 2 loops or between an arc and a loop. By the usual Morse theory methods (see [6]), all the local maxima and minima can be cancelled in pairs with saddles, and we end up with saddles only. Let us consider the “birth” and “death” of a loop component in the level sets (see Figure 3). For a birth, $\arg z_0 < \arg z_1 < \arg z_2$, while for a death, $\arg z_0 > \arg z_1 > \arg z_2$ in Figure 3.

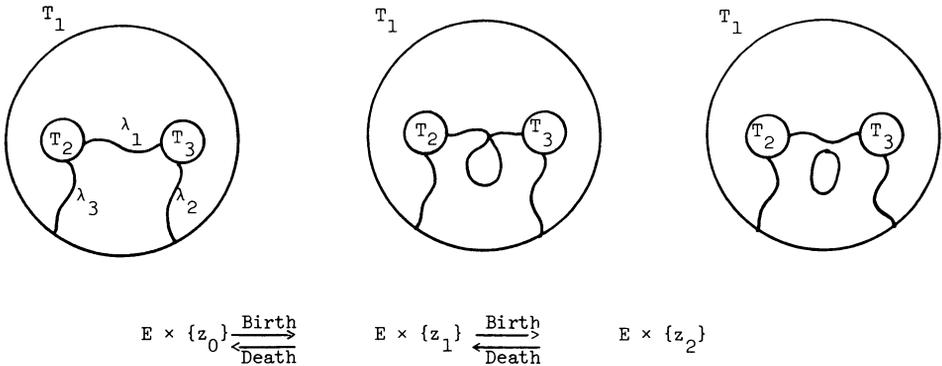


FIGURE 3

For z a noncritical value of p , let us denote an arc of $p^{-1}(z)$ by λ_i , where λ_i runs from T_j to T_k and $\{i, j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$. There are 2 possibilities for the successive birth and death of a loop component in the level sets. Either (a) the birth and death both occur at arcs λ_i, λ'_i running from T_j to T_k or (b) the birth is at an arc λ_i with ends on T_j and T_k while the death is at an arc λ'_j running from T_i to T_k say.

In case (a), the birth and death clearly give an orientable handle of F . But the loop C formed in a level set $p^{-1}(z)$ between the birth and death bounds a disk in $E \times \{z\}$ and is nonseparating in F (the loop C is a cocore of the handle). This contradicts the fact that F is incompressible in $E \times S^1$. Hence case (a) cannot occur.

In case (b), let C denote the loop formed in some level set between the birth and death, which occur at arcs λ_i, λ'_j respectively. It is easy to see that there is an arc in F which starts at $\partial\lambda_i \cap T_k$, ends at $\partial\lambda'_j \cap T_k$ and crosses C at one point. This arc can be closed up by an arc in $F \cap T_k$ to give a loop meeting C transversely in one point. So C is nonseparating in F , and we reach the same contradiction as in (a). Therefore we find that there are no births and deaths, and p has no critical points. This implies that F is a disjoint union of 3 annuli, which is a contradiction (cf. [5] for a very similar argument).

Consequently for some z_0 in S^1 which is not a critical value of p , there is an arc λ of $p^{-1}(z_0)$ which has both endpoints on T_3 say. There are 2 possibilities for λ in $E \times \{z_0\}$: either λ is parallel into $\partial E \times \{z_0\}$ or else λ separates $E \times \{z_0\}$ into 2 annuli. Suppose the latter is true and let μ, γ be the other 2 arcs of $p^{-1}(z_0)$. Since $p^{-1}(z_0) \cap T_3$ has only 2 points, we see that $\partial\mu \subset T_1$ and $\partial\gamma \subset T_2$ without loss of generality. Also μ and γ are both parallel into $\partial E \times \{z_0\}$. Consequently after replacing λ by μ if necessary, we may assume that there is a disk D in $E \times \{z_0\}$ with $\partial D = \lambda \cup \nu$, where $\nu \subset T_3$, λ is an arc of $p^{-1}(z_0)$ and z_0 is not a critical value of p .

We now perform a boundary compression of F in $E \times S^1$ using D . If F' is the new surface in $E \times S^1$ after this compression, then $E \times \{z_0\} \cap F'$ has only 2 arcs. Consequently $F' \cap T_3$ is disjoint from $E \times \{z_0\} \cap T_3 = \phi(C_3)$ and we see that the arc ν must run from one side of the curve $F \cap T_3$ to the other. Thus the boundary compression of F to F' pushes one of the Möbius bands in F across T_3 (cf. Lemma 10 in [8]). Applying the same boundary compression to K'_0 in W (via ϕ^{-1}), we obtain an isotopy of K' to K'' so that $K'' \cap N_3$ is a Möbius band and $K'' \cap N_i$ is a single meridian disk, for $i = 1, 2$. Since $\phi(K'' \cap W) = F'$, it follows that $K'' \cap \partial N_3$ is disjoint from the loop C_3 . Hence the curve $K'' \cap \partial N_3$ is isotopic in ∂N_3 to $K \cap \partial N_3 = C_3$. Therefore by an isotopy of K'' , we can arrange that $K'' \cap N_3 = K \cap N_3 = J_3$.

The next step is to boundary compress $K'' \cap W$ in W . Instead of using the above method with the Morse function p , which becomes much more complicated due to the presence of noncontractible loops in the level sets, we employ a more direct argument. Let $A_1, A_2 \subset W$ be disjoint annuli of ordinary fibres with $\partial A_1 = h_1 \cup h_3$ and $\partial A_2 = h_2 \cup h_4$, where $h_3, h_4 \subset \partial N_3, h_1 \subset \partial N_1$ and $h_2 \subset \partial N_2$. We may assume also that h_3, h_4 both intersect C_3 transversely at one point, and similarly for the pairs of curves h_2, C_2 and h_3, C_4 . We denote $K'' \cap W$ by G .

Suppose that G intersects A_1 and A_2 transversely. Since $G \cap \partial N_3 = C_3$, it follows that there is a single point in $G \cap A_i \cap \partial N_3$, for $i = 1, 2$. Consequently $G \cap A_i$ has exactly one arc running from ∂N_i to ∂N_3 , and all the other arcs of $G \cap A_i$ have both ends on ∂N_i , for $i = 1$ or 2 . However for $i = 1$ or $2, G \cap \partial N_i = C'_i$ and $A_i \cap \partial N_i = h_i$, where C'_i is a meridian curve for N_i . Since N_i is a regular neighborhood of an

exceptional fibre with invariants $(x, \pm 2)$, where $x = r, s$ or t and $r, s, t \geq 3$, it follows that C'_i and h_i intersect in $x \geq 3$ points. Therefore we can find arcs λ_i in $G \cap A_i$ with both ends on ∂N_i , for $i = 1$ and 2 .

Let D_i be the closure of a component of $A_i - \lambda_i$ which is a disk. Then we can use D_i to perform boundary compressions of G across ∂N_i , for $i = 1$ and 2 . Let G^* be the new surface in W after these two compressions of G . Because there are fewer intersections of $h_i = A_i \cap \partial N_i$ with G^* than with G , it follows as before that the boundary compressions must push Möbius bands in G across ∂N_i (cf. Lemma 10 in [8]), for $i = 1$ or 2 . Therefore applying the compressions to K'' , we obtain an isotopy of K'' to K^* , such that $K^* \cap N_3 = K'' \cap N_3 = J_3$ remains true and $K^* \cap N_i$ is a Möbius band for $i = 1, 2$.

Now G^* is clearly a sphere with 3 holes with one boundary curve on each of ∂N_i , for $i = 1, 2, 3$. So it immediately follows that G^* is incompressible and boundary incompressible in W . Therefore after isotopies of A_1 and A_2 , we can arrange that $G^* \cap A_i$ is a single arc γ_i running from ∂N_i to ∂N_3 , for $i = 1, 2$. [In fact if μ is an arc of $G^* \cap A_i$ with both ends on ∂N_i , then since G^* is boundary incompressible, there is a disk D in G^* with $\partial D = \mu \cup \nu$ where $\nu \subset \partial G^*$. If D' is the closure of a component of $A_i - \mu$ which is a disk, then it is easy to find an isotopy of A_i taking D' past D and so eliminating μ .]

The endpoint of γ_i on ∂N_3 lies in $K \cap W$ since $G^* \cap \partial N_3 = C_3 = K \cap \partial N_3$. So we may assume without loss of generality that there is a nontrivial subarc δ_i of γ_i at this endpoint which is contained in $K \cap W$. Let $\mu_i = \gamma_i - \text{int } \delta_i$, and let $N(\mu_i)$ be a small regular neighborhood of μ_i in W . Since μ_i is an arc with an end on N_i , clearly there is an isotopy H_i of M expanding N_i so that $H_1(N_i) = N_i \cup N(\mu_i)$, for $i = 1$ and 2 . H_i can be chosen so that H_i is the identity on N_1 , $H_1(\gamma_i) = \delta_i$ and $K \cap H_1(A_i) = K^* \cap H_1(A_i) = \delta_i$, for $i = 1$ or 2 . Therefore if we relabel $H_1(W)$ as W , $H_1(N_i)$ as N_i and $H_1(A_i)$ as A_i , we obtain that $K^* \cap N_3 = K \cap N_3 = J_3$ is still true and $K^* \cap A_i = K \cap A_i = \delta_i$, for $i = 1, 2$.

Finally the curve $C_i^* = K^* \cap \partial N_i$, for $i = 1$ or 2 , has the properties that C_i^* intersects the ordinary fibre h_i in ∂A_i transversely in one point and C_i^* bounds a Möbius band in N_i . Since any two simple closed curves in ∂N_i having these two properties are isotopic, we find that C_i^* is isotopic to C_i . So we may achieve by further isotopies of K^* first that $K^* \cap \partial N_i = K \cap \partial N_i = C_i$ and then that $K^* \cap N_i = K \cap N_i = J_i$, for $i = 1$ and 2 .

But these isotopies can be chosen so that $K^* \cap A_i = K \cap A_i = \delta_i$ remains true, for $i = 1, 2$. Hence we have achieved that $K^* - K$ is contained in the open disk $K^* - \cup_i J_i - \delta_1 - \delta_2$. Therefore it is now straightforward to isotope K^* onto K .

(3) Assume that there is a disk D satisfying condition (*) in §2, i.e. $\partial D \cap C'$ has 2 points, where C' is the lift of C to $\partial N(K)$. Then if K' intersects D transversely, it follows that $K' \cap D$ has one arc plus some simple closed curves, as $K' \cap \partial N(K) = C'$ may be supposed. Since K' is incompressible, by an isotopy of K' keeping $K' \cap N(K)$ fixed, we can obtain that $K' \cap D$ is a single arc λ .

Let $K' \cap Y$ be denoted by T_0 , which is a punctured torus. Suppose there is a disk D' in T_0 with $\partial D' = \lambda \cup \mu$ where $\mu \subset \partial T_0$. Let $N(D)$ and $N(D')$ be small regular neighborhoods of D and D' in Y . Then $\partial(N(D) \cup N(D'))$ has 3 disk components, one of which is parallel to D . Both of the other disks are disjoint from T_0 and it is easy to see that they cannot both be parallel into ∂Y . But this implies that T_0 lies in the complement of a meridian disk in Y , i.e. in a solid torus. This contradicts the fact that T_0 is incompressible. Hence λ is not parallel into ∂T_0 in T_0 .

Let D_1 be another meridian disk for Y , chosen so that D, D_1 are disjoint and $Y - D - D_1$ is simply connected. We may suppose that T_0 intersects D_1 transversely in arcs only. Assume that $T_0 \cap D_1$ has an arc γ which is parallel to λ in T_0 . Let D_2 be the disk in T_0 with the property that ∂D_2 is contained in $\lambda \cup \gamma \cup \partial T_0$. Without loss of generality, γ and D_2 can be chosen so that $D_1 \cap \text{int } D_2 = \emptyset$. Let $N(D \cup D_1 \cup D_2)$ be a small regular neighborhood of $D \cup D_1 \cup D_2$ in Y . There are 4 disk components in $\partial N(D \cup D_1 \cup D_2)$. Let D_3 be the unique one of these 4 disks which is *not* parallel to D or into ∂T_0 and which can be deformed by a small isotopy to intersect T_0 transversely in fewer arcs than D_1 .

We now replace D_1 by D_3 . Since $D_3 \cap T_0$ has fewer components than $D_1 \cap T_0$, by induction we eventually find a meridian disk D_4 which is disjoint from D , satisfies $Y - D - D_4$ is simply connected and intersects T_0 transversely in arcs only, none of which are parallel to λ on T_0 . We can also assume that none of the arcs in $T_0 \cap D_4$ are parallel into ∂T_0 , by the same method as applied to D .

Let μ be an arc of $T_0 \cap D_4$, chosen so that there is a subdisk D_0 of D_4 with ∂D_0 contained in $\mu \cup \partial D_4$ and $T_0 \cap \text{int } D_0 = \emptyset$. We can employ D_0 to do a boundary compression of T_0 in Y , since μ is not parallel into ∂T_0 . This gives an isotopy of K' to K'' so that $K'' \cap Y$ is an annulus A . Note that $A \cap D = T_0 \cap D = \lambda$, and λ has ends on *different* components of ∂A because λ is not parallel to μ in T_0 .

The closures of the components of $D - \lambda$ are subdisks D' and D'' of D . Since A is a separating annulus in Y , there is an annulus A_1 in ∂Y with $\partial A_1 = \partial A$. We may assume that $\partial D' = \lambda \cup \delta$, where $\delta \subset A_1$. Hence if A is boundary compressed using D' , we obtain a disk with contractible boundary in ∂Y . Consequently this disk and A are both parallel into ∂Y , and we conclude that there is an isotopy between K' and K .

7. Conclusion.

1. We make some observations concerning the homeotopy group $\mathcal{H}(M)$, when M is an irreducible, atoroidal 3-manifold which has a genus 3 one-sided Heegaard splitting $M = N(K) \cup Y$. Let $\{h\} \in \mathcal{H}(M)$ denote the isotopy class of a homeomorphism $h: M \rightarrow M$.

Let G be the kernel of the representation $\mathcal{H}(M) \rightarrow \text{Aut } H_1(M, Z_2)$. A homeomorphism $h: M \rightarrow M$ satisfies $\{h\} \in G$ if and only if $h_*: H_1(M, Z_2) \rightarrow H_1(M, Z_2)$ is the identity. Then by Poincaré duality, $h_*: H_2(M, Z_2) \rightarrow H_2(M, Z_2)$ is the identity and $h_*(|K|) = |K|$. By Theorem 5 after an isotopy of h we can obtain that $h(K)$ and K intersect transversely at a single curve C , so that $K - C$ and $h(K) - C$ are both orientable.

In addition, as $h(K)$ also determines a one-sided Heegaard decomposition of M , i.e. $M = N(h(K)) \cup h(Y)$ where $N(h(K)) = h(N(K))$, we may apply Theorem 6(A). Consequently there are at most 3 homeomorphisms $h_i: M \rightarrow M$ with the properties that $\{h_i\} \in G$ and if h is any homeomorphism from M to M with $\{h\} \in G$, then $h(K)$ is isotopic to $h_i(K)$, for $i = 1, 2$ or 3 . Note that the mappings h_i can be chosen so that h_1 is the identity and $K \cap h_2(K) = K \cap h_3(K) = h_2(K) \cap h_3(K) = C$, a single curve.

Therefore we have proved that the subgroup G' of G , which consists of isotopy classes of homeomorphisms mapping K onto K , has index at most 3 in G . Since G has very small index in $\mathcal{H}(M)$, if G' can be calculated then this gives excellent information about $\mathcal{H}(M)$. Note that by Corollary 4, $\mathcal{H}(K) \cong \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$. Let G_1 be the subgroup of $\mathcal{H}(K)$ consisting of elements $\{f\}$, where f is a homeomorphism from K to K which extends to some homeomorphism $h: M \rightarrow M$. Let G_2 be the subgroup of G_1 which has members $\{f\}$ such that f extends to a homeomorphism $h: M \rightarrow M$ which is isotopic to the identity. Then clearly $G' \cong G_1/G_2$. In [2], the groups G_1, G_2, G', G and $\mathcal{H}(M)$ are computed for the examples (1) and (3) in §2.

2. In [3], examples are given of 3-manifolds M which possess at least two inequivalent Heegaard splittings of genus 2, i.e. $M = X \cup X' = Y \cup Y'$, where $X \cap X' = \partial X = \partial X', Y \cap Y' = \partial Y = \partial Y'$ and X, X', Y, Y' are all handlebodies of genus 2, but there is no homeomorphism $h: M \rightarrow M$ with $h(X) = Y$ or Y' and $h(X') = Y'$ or Y . The 3-manifolds M discussed in [3] are Seifert manifolds with S^2 as orbit surface and 3 exceptional fibres. Also these 3-manifolds are homology 3-spheres, so are irreducible and non-Haken. No bound on the number of inequivalent Heegaard splittings (of genus 2) of a 3-manifold is known, in contrast to the result in Theorem 6(A) for one-sided Heegaard splittings of genus 3.

If a 3-manifold M has a one-sided Heegaard splitting of genus 3, $M = N(K) \cup Y$, then there is a (unique) 2-fold covering $p: \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$ with the property that $p^{-1}(K) = \tilde{K}$ is the orientable double covering of K (cf. [8]). Then \tilde{M} has a Heegaard splitting of genus 2, $\tilde{M} = X \cup X'$ with $\partial X = \partial X' = X \cap X' = \tilde{K}$. If $g: \tilde{M} \rightarrow \tilde{M}$ is the covering transformation then $g(X) = X'$. The results in [3] give some evidence that there may not always be a unique isotopy class of embeddings of K in M realising a particular class in $H_2(M, \mathbb{Z}_2)$, as in Theorem 7 (see Remark (a) following Theorem 6).

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