

## The local contractibility of the homeomorphism space of a 2-polyhedron

by

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**1. Introduction.** It is proved by Černavskiĭ in [3] and by Edwards and Kirby in [4] that the space of homeomorphisms of a compact manifold (with the compact-open topology) is locally contractible. A natural question to ask is whether this result holds for the homeomorphism group of a compact polyhedron. The main result of this paper is

**THEOREM 1.1.** *The space of homeomorphisms of a compact 2-dimensional polyhedron is locally contractible.*

**2. Preliminaries.** Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $A \subset X$ . The closure, point set interior, and frontier of  $A$  in  $X$  will be denoted  $\text{cl}[A]$  (sometimes  $\bar{A}$ ),  $\text{int}[A]$ , and  $\text{fr}[A]$ , respectively. A set  $U \subset X$  is a neighborhood of  $A \subset X$  if  $A \subset \text{int}[U]$ .

By a complex we always mean a finite simplicial complex contained in some Euclidean space. Small Greek letters represent closed simplexes and we write  $a < J$  if  $a$  is a simplex of the complex  $J$ . The notation  $a^\circ$  denotes the simplex less its boundary. We write  $K < J$  to denote a subcomplex  $K$  of  $J$ . The notation  $|J|$  denotes the subset of Euclidean space which carries  $J$ . If  $K < J$  and  $a \in |K|$  is a simplex of  $K$  for each simplex  $a < J$ , we say  $K$  is a full subcomplex of  $J$ . The star of  $\sigma$  in  $J$  is denoted  $\text{St}(\sigma, J)$ ; thus,  $\text{St}(\sigma, J) = \{a < J \mid a \supset \sigma \text{ or } \sigma < a \text{ for some } a < J\}$ . If  $S$  is a set, we let  $N(S, J) = \{\sigma < J \mid \sigma \text{ is a face of some simplex of } J \text{ which meets } S\}$  and  $C(S, J) = \{\sigma < J \mid \sigma \cap S = \emptyset\}$ .

Let  $X$  be a polyhedron and  $x \in X$ . The intrinsic dimension of  $x$  in  $X$ , denoted  $d(x; X)$ , is the greatest integer  $t$  such that there is a triangulation  $J$  of  $X$  with a  $t$ -simplex containing  $x$  in its interior. The intrinsic  $i$ -skeleton of  $X$ , denoted  $I^i(X)$ , is defined to be the set  $\{x \in X \mid d(x; X) \leq i\}$ .

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Remarks. If  $x \in X$  and  $h$  is a homeomorphism of  $X$  then  $d(x; X) = d(h(x); X)$ , i.e., intrinsic dimension is a topological invariant. Akin proved in [1] that  $I^i(X) - I^{i-1}(X)$  is a manifold.

Let  $X$  be a 2-polyhedron. The thin intrinsic 1-skeleton, denoted  $T(X)$ , is the subset of  $I^1(X)$  consisting of all points contained in the boundary of some 2-simplex of some triangulation of  $X$ .

Remarks. The definition of  $T(X)$  is independent of the triangulation of  $X$  since a point  $x$  of  $I^1(X)$  is contained in the boundary of a 2-simplex of some triangulation of  $X$  if and only if  $x$  is contained in the boundary of a 2-simplex of each triangulation of  $X$ . Each of the sets  $I^0(X)$ ,  $I^1(X)$ , and  $T(X)$  carries a subcomplex of each triangulation of  $X$ . Any homeomorphism of  $X$  maps each of  $I^0(X)$ ,  $I^1(X)$ , and  $T(X)$  onto itself.

Suppose  $X$  is a compact Hausdorff space. The space of homeomorphisms of  $X$  will be denoted  $\mathcal{H}(X)$ . If  $Y \subset X$  then  $\mathcal{H}(X, Y)$  denotes the subspace of  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  consisting of those homeomorphisms of  $X$  which are the identity on  $Y$ .

Remarks. Let  $\rho$  be the usual Euclidean metric and

$$M(h, \varepsilon) = \{g \in \mathcal{H}(X) \mid \rho(g(x), h(x)) < \varepsilon \text{ for each } x \in X\}.$$

The collection  $\{M(h, \varepsilon) \mid h \in \mathcal{H}(X), \varepsilon > 0\}$  is a basis for the compact-open topology for  $\mathcal{H}(X)$ . It is well-known (see [2]) that  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  is a topological group and the evaluation map  $\mathcal{H}(X) \times X \rightarrow X$ , defined by  $(f, x) \rightarrow f(x)$ , is continuous.

If  $M$  is a manifold and  $U \subset M$ , a proper imbedding of  $U$  into  $M$  is an imbedding  $h: U \rightarrow M$  such that  $h^{-1}(\partial M) = U \cap \partial M$ . An isotopy of  $U$  into  $M$  is a family of imbeddings  $h_t: U \rightarrow M$ ,  $t \in I$  (where  $I$  denotes the unit interval), such that the map  $h: U \times I \rightarrow M$ , defined by  $h(x, t) = h_t(x)$ , is continuous. An isotopy is proper if each imbedding in the isotopy is proper.

If  $C \subset U \subset M$ , let  $I(U, C; M)$  denote the set of proper imbeddings of  $U$  into  $M$  which are the identity on  $C$ . The topology for  $I(U, C; M)$  is the compact-open topology.

If  $P \subset I(U, C; M)$ ,  $W \subset U$ , and  $\Phi: P \times I \rightarrow I(U, C; M)$  is a deformation (i.e.,  $\Phi(h, 0) = h$  for each  $h \in P$ ) such that  $\Phi(h, t)(w) = w$  for each  $w \in W$  and  $(h, t) \in P \times I$ , we say  $\Phi$  is modulo  $W$ .

Suppose  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n+1} \subset I(U, C; M)$  and  $\Phi_i: A_i \times I \rightarrow I(U, C; M)$  is a deformation of  $A_i$  into  $A_{i+1}$  (i.e.,  $\Phi_i(A_i \times 1) \subset A_{i+1}$ ) for each  $i$ . Inductively we define a deformation

$$\Phi_n * \Phi_{n-1} * \dots * \Phi_1: A_1 \times I \rightarrow I(U, C; M)$$

of  $A_1$  into  $A_{n+1}$  by letting, for each  $h \in A_1$ ,

$$\Phi_n * \Phi_{n-1} * \dots * \Phi_1(h, t) = \begin{cases} \Phi_{n-1} * \dots * \Phi_1(h, 2t) & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq 1/2, \\ \Phi_n(\Phi_{n-1} * \dots * \Phi_1(h, 1), 2t-1) & \text{if } 1/2 \leq t \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

LEMMA 2.1. Let  $X$  be a locally compact Hausdorff space and  $1_X$  be the identity map on  $X$ . If  $P$  is a neighborhood of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  and  $\Phi: P \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  is a deformation of  $P$  into  $1_X$  then

(1) we may assume  $(1_X \times I) = 1_X$  and

(2) if  $Q$  is a neighbourhood of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  and  $\Phi(1_X \times I) = 1_X$ , we may choose  $P$  so that  $\Phi(P \times I) \subset Q$ .

Proof. (1) Let  $\Phi'(h, t) = \Phi(1_X, t)^{-1}\Phi(h, t)$  for each  $(h, t)$  in  $P \times I$ . Then  $\Phi': P \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  is a deformation of  $P$  into  $1_X$  such that  $\Phi'(1_X \times I) = 1_X$ . Replace  $\Phi$  by  $\Phi'$ .

(2) Since  $\Phi(1_X \times I) \subset Q$ ,  $\Phi^{-1}(Q)$  is a neighborhood of  $1_X \times I$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X) \times I$ . Let  $S$  be a neighborhood of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  such that  $S \times I \subset \Phi^{-1}(Q)$  and set  $A = \Phi|S \times I$ . Then  $A: S \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  is a deformation of  $S$  into  $1_X$  such that  $A(S \times I) \subset Q$ . q.e.d.

Let  $X$  be a space such that  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  is a topological group. If there exists a neighborhood  $P$  of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  and a deformation  $\Phi: P \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $P$  into  $1_X$ , we say  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  is locally contractible.

Remark. To see that this definition of local contractibility is equivalent to the usual one, use lemma 2.1 and the fact that, in a topological group, local properties at the identity are local properties at every point.

**3. The proof of Theorem 1.1.** In this section we state two lemmas needed in the proof of Theorem 1.1. Then we prove Theorem 1.1 assuming these lemmas. The remainder of the paper is then devoted to proving the lemmas.

LEMMA 3.1. Let  $X$  be a compact 2-dimensional polyhedron. There exists a neighborhood  $P$  of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  and a deformation  $\Phi: P \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $P$  into  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^1(X))$  such that  $\Phi(1_X \times I) = 1_X$ .

LEMMA 3.2. Let  $X$  be a compact 2-dimensional polyhedron. There exists a neighborhood  $Q$  of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^1(X))$  and a deformation  $\Psi: Q \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $Q$  into  $1_X$ .

Proof of Theorem 1.1. By Lemma 3.1 there is a neighborhood  $P$  of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  and a deformation  $\Phi_1: P \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $P$  into  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^1(X))$  such that  $\Phi(1_X \times I) = 1_X$ . By Lemma 3.2 there is a neighborhood  $Q$  of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^1(X))$  and a deformation  $\Phi_2: Q \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $Q$  into  $1_X$ . By the continuity of  $\Phi_1$ , we may assume  $\Phi_1(P \times 1) \subset Q$ . Let  $\Phi = \Phi_2 * \Phi_1$ . Then  $\Phi: P \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  is a deformation of  $P$  into  $1_X$ . q.e.d.

**4. Cell-sets.** Throughout the remainder of this paper  $X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  will denote a fixed compact 2-polyhedron,  $(X - I^1(X)) \cup T(X)$ , and  $\text{cl}[X - Y] \cap Y$ , respectively. The set  $Y$  is a homogeneously 2-dimensional compact subpolyhedron of  $X$ . The homogeneity of  $Y$  means  $Y$  contains no open sets homeomorphic to a subset of 1-dimensional Euclidean space. This implies each simplex of a triangulation of  $Y$  is the face of at least one 2-simplex. The set  $Z$  is a finite set of points each of which is in  $I^0(X)$ . A typical element of  $Z$  is a point of intersection of an arc in  $\text{cl}[X - Y]$  with  $Y$ .

A triangulation  $J$  of  $X$  is fixed and taken to be the second barycentric subdivision of some triangulation  $L$  of  $X$ . Let  $K$ ,  $L_1$ , and  $L_0$  denote the subcomplexes of  $J$  carried by  $Y$ ,  $I^1(Y)$ , and  $I^0(Y)$ , respectively. Since any triangulation of  $X$  contains subcomplexes carried by  $Y$ ,  $I^1(Y)$ , and  $I^0(Y)$ , each of  $K$ ,  $L_1$ , and  $L_0$  is full in  $J$ .

We now describe three types of cell-sets related to the vertices of  $L_1$ .

Suppose  $v$  is a vertex of  $L_1$  and  $\lambda$  is a 1-simplex of  $L_1$  with  $v < \lambda$ . Let  $\sigma_1$  be a 2-simplex of  $K$  such that  $\lambda < \sigma_1$  and  $\lambda_1$  be the other 1-face of  $\sigma_1$  such that  $v < \lambda_1$ . If  $\lambda_1 < L_1$ , we stop the process. Otherwise, there is exactly one other 2-simplex of  $K$ , say  $\sigma_2$ , having  $\lambda_1$  as a face. Let  $\lambda_2$  be the other 1-face of  $\sigma_2$  having vertex  $v$ . If  $\lambda_2 < L_1$ , we stop the process. Otherwise, we continue as before. Inductively, we get a finite sequence  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$  of distinct 2-simplices of  $K$  and a finite sequence  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  of distinct 1-simplices of  $K$  such that  $\sigma_i \cap \sigma_{i+1} = \lambda_i < L_1$  if  $i < n$  and  $v < \lambda_i \cap \sigma_i$  for each  $i$ , and  $\lambda_n < L_1$ , where  $\lambda_n$  is the other 1-face of  $\sigma_n$

having  $v$  as a vertex. Let  $C = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \sigma_i$ . If  $\lambda \neq \lambda_n$ ,  $C$  is a PL 2-cell such that  $C \cap I^1(Y) = \lambda \cup \lambda_n$  and  $v = \lambda \cap \lambda_n$  is in the boundary of  $C$ . If  $\lambda = \lambda_n$ ,  $C$  is a PL 2-cell such that  $C \cap I^1(Y) = \lambda$  and  $v \in \text{int}[C]$ . If  $\lambda \neq \lambda_n$ , we say  $C$  is a cell-set of type 1 at  $v$ . If  $\lambda = \lambda_n$ , we say  $C$  is a cell-set of type 2 at  $v$ .

Suppose  $v$  is a vertex of  $L_1$  and  $\sigma$  is a 2-simplex of  $K$  such that  $v < \sigma$  and  $\sigma$  is not contained in any cell-set of type 1 or 2 at  $v$ . Then there is a finite sequence  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$  of distinct 2-simplices of  $K$  such that  $\sigma = \sigma_1$ ,  $\sigma_i \cap \sigma_{i+1}$  is a 1-simplex of  $K - L_1$ ,  $\sigma_i \cap \sigma_j = v$  if  $1 < |i - j| < n - 1$ ,

and  $\sigma_1 \cap \sigma_n$  is a 1-simplex of  $K - L_1$ . Let  $C = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \sigma_i$  and notice that  $C$  is a PL 2-cell containing  $v$  in its interior such that  $C \cap I^1(Y) = v$ . In this case  $C$  is called a cell-set of type 3 at  $v$ .

**Remarks.** If  $v < L_1$  then each 2-simplex of  $K$  having  $v$  as a vertex is contained in exactly one cell-set of one of the above types at  $v$ . If  $v < L_1 - L_0$ , there are no cell-sets of type 2 or 3 at  $v$ . If  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are distinct cell-sets at  $v$  then  $C_1 \cap C_2 \subset I^1(Y)$ .

**5. Neighborhoods related to components of  $I^1(Y) - I^0(Y)$ .** The components of the 1-manifold  $I^1(Y) - I^0(Y)$  are either open arcs or simple closed

curves. If  $\sigma$  is an open arc component then  $\bar{\sigma}$  is either a closed polygonal arc with endpoints in  $L_0$  or a polygonal simple closed curve with  $\bar{\sigma} - \sigma$  equal to a single point of  $L_0$ . We are going to use cell-sets of type 1 to describe some nice simplicial neighborhoods which will be used in the proof of Lemma 3.1.

We first consider the open arc components of  $I^1(Y) - I^0(Y)$  with 1-cell closures. Let  $\alpha$  be such a component. Then  $\bar{\alpha}$  is a polygonal closed arc and there are 1-simplices  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_r$  in  $L_1$  such that  $\alpha_i \cap \alpha_j = \emptyset$  if  $|i - j| \neq 1$  and  $\bigcup_{i=1}^r \alpha_i = \bar{\alpha}$ . Let  $v_{i-1}$  and  $v_i$  be the vertices of  $\alpha_i$  for each  $i$ .

Then  $\alpha_i \cap \alpha_{i+1} = v_i$  and  $v_0, v_r < L_0$ . Let  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_t$  be the set of all 2-simplices of  $K$  which have  $\alpha_1$  as a face. The 2-simplex  $\tau_1$  generates

a cell-set  $C(1, 1) = \bigcup_{j=1}^{n(1)} \sigma(1, j)$  of type 1 at  $v_1$ , where each  $\sigma(1, j)$  is a 2-simplex in  $K$ , such that  $C(1, 1) \cap I^1(Y) = \alpha_1 \cup \alpha_2$ ,  $\sigma(1, 1) = \tau_1$ , and  $\alpha_2 < \sigma(1, n(1))$ . Next, the 2-simplex  $\sigma(1, n(1))$  generates a cell-set  $C(1, 2)$

$= \bigcup_{j=1}^{n(2)} \sigma(2, j)$  of type 1 at  $v_2$ , where each  $\sigma(2, j)$  is a 2-simplex of  $K$ , such that  $C(1, 2) \cap I^1(Y) = \alpha_2 \cup \alpha_3$ ,  $\sigma(2, 1) = \sigma(1, n(1))$ , and  $\alpha_3 < \sigma(2, n(2))$ . Continuing in this manner we get, for each  $i < r$ , a cell-set  $C(1, i)$

$= \bigcup_{j=1}^{n(i)} \sigma(i, j)$  of type 1 at  $v_i$ , where each  $\sigma(i, j)$  is a 2-simplex of  $K$ , such that  $C(1, i) \cap C(1, i-1) = \sigma(i, 1) = \sigma(i-1, n(i-1))$  and  $C(1, i) \cap I^1(Y)$

$= \alpha_i \cup \alpha_{i+1}$  for  $i = 3, 4, \dots, r-1$ . Let  $C_1 = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r-1} C(1, i)$  and notice that

$C_1$  is a PL 2-cell containing  $\bar{\alpha}$  in its boundary and  $C_1 \cap I^1(Y) = \bar{\alpha}$ . In a similar manner each  $\tau_q$ ,  $2 \leq q \leq t$ , generates a PL 2-cell  $C_q$  with  $\bar{\alpha}$  in its boundary such that  $C_q \cap I^1(Y) = \bar{\alpha}$ . In fact, if  $1 \leq q < s \leq t$ ,  $C_q \cap C_s$

$= \bar{\alpha}$ . It is easy to see that  $|N(\alpha, K)| = \bigcup_{q=1}^t C_q$  is a neighborhood of  $\alpha$  in  $Y$

homeomorphic to  $\bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times \bar{\alpha}$ , where in polar coordinates  $B_q = \{(r, \theta_q)$

$\in R^2 \mid 0 \leq r \leq 1 \text{ and } \theta_q = (q-1)\pi/q\}$ . Let  $u_\alpha: \bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times \bar{\alpha} \rightarrow |N(\alpha, K)|$  be

a homeomorphism with the property that  $u_\alpha(B_q) = C_q$  for each  $q = 1, 2, \dots, t$  and  $u_\alpha((0, 0), x) = x$  for each  $x \in \bar{\alpha}$ . We will refer to the pair  $(|N(\alpha, K)|, u_\alpha)$  as a type 1 neighborhood pair of  $\alpha$ .

Now let us turn our attention to the open arc components of  $I^1(Y) - I^0(Y)$  with simple closed curve closures. Let  $\beta$  be such a component and  $v = \bar{\beta} - \beta$ . Let  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_r$  be the 1-simplices of  $L_1$  such that  $\beta_1$  has

endpoints  $v$  and  $v_1$ , and  $\beta_i$  has endpoints  $v_{i-1}$  and  $v_i$  for  $1 < i < r$ ,  $\beta_r$  has endpoints  $v_{r-1}$  and  $v$ , and  $\bar{\beta} = \bigcup_{i=1}^r \beta_i$ . Next, let  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_i$  be the 2-simplices of  $K$  which contain  $\beta_1$  as a face. By piecing together cell-sets of type 1 at  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r-1}$  as in the preceding paragraph, each  $\tau_q$  generates a set  $C_q$  which is a PL 2-cell with two points on its boundary identified. Viewing  $C_q$  as a pinched annulus, there is a homeomorphism  $u_q: B_q \times \bar{\beta}/B_q \times v \rightarrow C_q$  such that  $u_q \langle (0, 0), y \rangle = y$  for all  $y \in \bar{\beta}$ , where  $B_q \times \bar{\beta}/B_q \times v$  denotes the quotient space obtained by identifying all points of  $B_q \times v$  and  $\langle x, y \rangle$  denotes the quotient map image of  $(x, y) \in B_q \times \bar{\beta}$ . Since the sets  $C_q - \bar{\beta}$  are pairwise disjoint and  $|N(\beta, K)| = \bigcup_{q=1}^t C_q$ , we can define a homeomorphism  $u_\beta: \bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times \bar{\beta} / \bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times v \rightarrow |N(\beta, K)|$  by letting  $u_\beta \langle x, y \rangle = u_q \langle x, y \rangle$  if  $(x, y) \in B_q \times \bar{\beta}$ . The set  $|N(\beta, K)|$  is a neighborhood of  $\beta$  in  $X$  and can be viewed as  $\bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times S^1$  with  $\bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times w$  pinched to a point for some  $w \in S^1$ . Notice that for  $x \in \bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q$ ,  $u_\beta p(x \times \bar{\beta})$  is homeomorphic to  $\bar{\beta}$ , where  $p$  is the quotient map from  $\bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times \bar{\beta}$  onto  $\bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times \bar{\beta} / \bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times v$ .

We will refer to the pair  $(|N(\beta, K)|, u_\beta)$  as a *type 2 neighborhood pair* of  $\beta$ . Finally, we consider the simple curve components of  $I^1(Y) - I^0(Y)$ . Let  $\zeta$  be one such component and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be open arcs in  $\zeta$  such that  $\bar{\alpha}$  and  $\bar{\beta}$  are closed polygonal arcs which carry subcomplexes of  $L$  and  $\alpha \cup \beta = \zeta$ . Let  $L_\alpha$  and  $L_\beta$  be the subcomplexes of  $K$  carried by  $\bar{\alpha}$  and  $\bar{\beta}$ , respectively. Piecing together cell-sets of type 1 at the vertices of  $L_\alpha$  which lie in  $\alpha$ , we construct a type 1 neighborhood pair  $(|N(\alpha, K)|, u_\alpha)$  at  $\alpha$  just as we did above. Similarly, we construct a type 1 neighborhood pair  $(|N(\beta, K)|, u_\beta)$  at  $\beta$ . It is easy to see that  $|N(\alpha, K)| \cup |N(\beta, K)|$  is a neighborhood of  $\zeta$  and  $(|N(\alpha, K)| \cup |N(\beta, K)|) \cap I^1(Y) = \zeta$ .

**6. Proof of Lemma 3.1.** Step 1. Let  $X_1$  be the set of open arc components of  $I^1(X) - I^0(X)$  with 1-cell closures. Clearly, there is a neighborhood  $P'_1$  of  $1_{I^1(X)}$  in  $\mathcal{H}(I^1(X), I^0(X))$  each homeomorphism of which maps each component of  $I^1(X) - I^0(X)$  onto itself, and a deformation  $\Phi'_1: P'_1 \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(I^1(X), I^0(X))$  of  $P'_1$  into  $\mathcal{H}(I^1(X), I^0(X) \cup X_1)$  such that  $\Phi'_1$  is modulo  $I^1(X) - X_1$ ,  $\Phi'_1(h, t)$  maps each component of  $I^1(X) - I^0(X)$  onto itself, and  $\Phi'_1(1_{I^1(X)} \times I) = 1_{I^1(X)}$ . Let  $P_1$  be a neighborhood of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  such that  $h|I^1(X) \in P'_1$  for each  $h \in P_1$ . Since  $I^0(X)$  is a finite set of points and each homeomorphism of  $X$  maps  $I^0(X)$  onto itself, for  $P_1$  sufficiently small, each homeomorphism of  $P_1$  is the identity on  $I^0(X)$ .



Next, we describe how to construct a deformation  $\Phi_1: P_1 \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $P_1$  into  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^0(X) \cup X_1)$  with the properties  $\Phi_1(1_X \times I) = 1_X$  and  $\Phi_1(h, t)|I^1(X) = \Phi'_1(h|I^1(X), t)$  for each  $(h, t) \in P_1 \times I$ .

Let  $Y_1 = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_j\}$  be the arcs of  $X_1$  contained in  $T(X)$ . For each  $\alpha \in Y_1$  consider  $(|N(\alpha, K)|, u_\alpha)$ , the type 1 neighborhood pair of  $\alpha$ . Note that if  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha'$  are distinct open arcs in  $Y_1$  then

$$|N(\alpha, K)| \cap |N(\alpha', K)| \subset \bar{\alpha} - \alpha \subset I^0(X).$$

We now define  $\Phi_1$  partially by letting

$$\Phi_1(h, t)(z) = \begin{cases} \Phi_1(h|I^1(X), t)(z) & \text{if } z \in I^1(X), \\ h(z) & \text{if } z \in X - (I^1(X) \cup (\bigcup_{\alpha \in Y_1} |N(\alpha, K)|)) \end{cases}$$

for each  $(h, t) \in P_1 \times I$ .

Let  $\alpha \in Y_1$  and recall that  $u_\alpha: \bigcup_{q=1}^t B_q \times \bar{\alpha} \rightarrow |N(\alpha, K)|$  is a homeomorphism such that  $u_\alpha \langle (0, 0), x \rangle = x$  for each  $x \in \bar{\alpha}$ . Let  $\pi_\alpha: \bigcup_{q=1}^{t(\alpha)} B_q \times \bar{\alpha} \rightarrow (0, 0) \times \bar{\alpha}$  be the projection so that  $\pi_\alpha(x, y) = \langle (0, 0), y \rangle$  for each pair  $(x, y)$ . For each  $x \in \bigcup_{q=1}^{t(\alpha)} B_q$ , let  $\pi_{\alpha,x} = (\pi_\alpha|_{x \times \bar{\alpha}})^{-1}$ . Notice that  $\pi_{\alpha,x}$  is a homeomorphism from  $0 \times \bar{\alpha}$  onto  $x \times \bar{\alpha}$  and  $\pi_{\alpha,x} \langle 0, y \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$  for each  $y \in \bar{\alpha}$ . Now for each  $z = u_\alpha(x, y) \in |N(\alpha, K)|$  and  $(h, t) \in P_1 \times I$  let  $\Phi_1(h, t)(z) = hu_\alpha \pi_{\alpha,x} u_\alpha^{-1} h^{-1} \Phi'_1(h|I^1(X), t(1 - \|x\|)) u_\alpha \pi_\alpha u_\alpha^{-1}(z)$ , where  $\|x\| = \rho(x, 0)$ . Notice that if  $\|x\| = 1$  or  $x \in \bar{\alpha} - \alpha$  then  $\Phi_1(h, t)(z) = h(z)$ . Thus,

$$\Phi_1(h, t)|\text{fr}[|N(\alpha, K)|] = h|\text{fr}[|N(\alpha, K)|]$$

for each  $(h, t) \in P_1 \times I$ .

If we define  $\Phi_1$  on each  $|N(\alpha, K)|$ ,  $\alpha \in Y_1$ , as above, we get a deformation  $\Phi_1: P_1 \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  with the desired properties.

Step 2. Let  $X_2$  be the set of open arc components of  $I^1(X) - I^0(X)$  with simple closed curve closures. Clearly, there exists a neighborhood  $P'_2$  of  $1_{I^1(X)}$  in  $\mathcal{H}(I^1(X), I^0(X) \cup X_1)$  such that each homeomorphism of  $P'_2$  maps each component of  $I^1(X) - I^0(X)$  onto itself, and a deformation  $\Phi'_2: P'_2 \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(I^1(X), I^0(X) \cup X_1)$  of  $P'_2$  into  $\mathcal{H}(I^1(X), I^0(X) \cup X_1 \cup X_2)$  with the properties  $\Phi'_2$  is modulo  $I^1(X) - X_2$ ,  $\Phi'_2(h, t)$  maps each component of  $I^1(X) - I^0(X)$  onto itself, and  $\Phi'_2(1_{I^1(X)} \times I) = 1_{I^1(X)}$ . Pick a neighborhood  $P_2$  of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^1(X) \cup X_1)$  such that  $h|I^1(X) \in P'_2$  for each  $h \in P_2$ .

We now describe how to define a deformation  $\Phi_2: P_2 \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $P_2$  into  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^0(X) \cup X_1 \cup X_2)$  with the properties  $\Phi_2(1_X \times I) = 1_X$  and  $\Phi_2(h, t)|I^1(X) = \Phi'_2(h|I^1(X), t)$  for each  $(h, t) \in P_2 \times I$ .

Let  $Y_2 = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n\}$  be the open arcs of  $X_2$  contained in  $T(X)$ . For each  $\beta \in Y_2$ , let  $v_\beta = \bar{\beta} - \beta$  and consider the type 2 neighborhood pair  $(|N(\beta, K)|, u_\beta)$  of  $\beta$ , recalling that

$$u_\beta: \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q \times \bar{\beta} \bigg| \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q \times v_\beta \rightarrow |N(\beta, K)|$$

is a homeomorphism such that  $u_\beta \langle (0, 0), x \rangle = x$  for each  $x \in \bar{\beta}$ . The sets  $|N(\beta, K)|$  are such that  $|N(\beta, K)| \cap |N(\beta', K)| = \emptyset$  if  $v_\beta \neq v_{\beta'}$ , and  $= v_\beta$  otherwise. Furthermore,  $|N(\beta, K)| \cap I^1(X) = \bar{\beta}$  for each  $\beta \in Y_2$ . For each  $\beta \in Y_2$ , let  $\pi_\beta: \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q \times \bar{\beta} \rightarrow (0, 0) \times \bar{\beta}$  be the projection given by

$$\pi_\beta(x, y) = (0, y) \text{ for each } (x, y) \in \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q \times \bar{\beta}, \text{ and let}$$

$$p_\beta: \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q \times \bar{\beta} \rightarrow \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q \times \bar{\beta} \bigg| \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q \times v_\beta$$

be the quotient map. For each  $x \in \bigcup_{q=1}^{i(\beta)} B_q$ , let  $\pi_{\beta,x} = (p_\beta \pi_\beta p_\beta^{-1} | p_\beta(x \times \bar{\beta}))^{-1}$

and notice that for each  $\beta$ , the map  $\pi_{\beta,x}$  is a homeomorphism from  $p_\beta(0 \times \bar{\beta})$  onto  $p_\beta(x \times \bar{\beta})$  such that  $\pi_{\beta,x}(p_\beta(0, y)) = p_\beta(x, y)$  for each  $y \in \bar{\beta}$ .

The deformation  $\Phi_2$  is now defined by letting

$$\Phi_2(h, t)(z) = \begin{cases} \Phi'_2(h|I^1(X), t)(z) & \text{if } z \in I^1(X), \\ h(z) & \text{if } z \in X - \bigcup_{\beta \in Y_2} |N(\beta, K)|, \\ hu_\beta \pi_{\beta,x} u_\beta^{-1} h^{-1} \Phi'_2(h|I^1(X), t(1 - \|x\|)) u_\beta \pi_\beta u_\beta^{-1}(z) & \text{if } z = u_\beta(x, y) \in |N(\beta, K)|, \beta \in Y_2, \end{cases}$$

for each  $(h, t) \in P_2 \times I$ . Notice that  $\Phi_2(h, t) \text{fr}[|N(\beta, K)|] = h \text{fr}[|N(\beta, K)|]$  for each  $(h, t) \in P_2 \times I$ . It is easy to verify that  $\Phi_2$  is the desired deformation.

Step 3. Let  $X_3 = \{\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \dots, \zeta_n\}$  be the simple curve components of  $I^1(X) - I^0(X)$  and  $Y_3 = \{\zeta \in X_3 \mid \zeta \subset T(X)\}$ . For each  $i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ , let  $\{\alpha(i, 1), \alpha(i, 2), \alpha(i, 3)\}$  and  $\{\beta(i, 1), \beta(i, 2)\}$  be sets of open arcs satisfying

(1) the closure of each open arc is a polygonal closed arc which carries a subcomplex of  $L$ ,

(2)  $\alpha(i, 2) \cup \beta(i, 2) = \zeta_i$ ,

(3)  $\text{cl}[\alpha(i, j)] \subset \alpha(i, j-1)$  for  $j = 1, 2$ , and

(4)  $\text{cl}[\beta(i, 2)] \subset \beta(i, 1)$

for each  $i$ . Let  $S = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \zeta_i, A_j = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{cl}[\alpha(i, j)]$  for  $j = 0, 1, 2$ , and  $B_j$

$$= \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{cl}[\beta(i, j)] \text{ for } j = 1, 2.$$

By Theorem 5.1 of [4], there is a neighborhood  $Q_\alpha$  of the inclusion  $\eta_\alpha: A_0 \subset S$  in  $I(A_0; S)$  and a deformation  $A_\alpha: Q_\alpha \times I \rightarrow I(A_0; S)$  of  $Q_\alpha$  into  $I(A_0, A_1; S)$  such that  $A_\alpha$  is modulo  $\text{fr}_{\text{rel}S}[A_0]$  and  $A_\alpha(\eta_\alpha \times I) = \eta_\alpha$ .

As described in the preceding section, for each  $\zeta_i \in Y_3$  there is a type 1 neighborhood pair  $(|N(\alpha(i, 0), K)|, u_{\alpha(i,0)})$  of  $\alpha(i, 0)$ , where

$u_{\alpha(i,0)}$  is a homeomorphism from  $\bigcup_{q=1}^{i(i)}$   $B_q \times \text{cl}[\alpha(i, 0)]$  onto  $|N(\alpha(i, 0), K)|$

such that  $u_{\alpha(i,0)} \langle (0, 0), y \rangle = y$  for each  $y \in \text{cl}[\alpha(i, 0)]$ . Notice that if  $\alpha(i, 0)$  and  $\alpha(j, 0)$  are distinct arcs of  $Y_3$ ,

$$|N(\alpha(i, 0), K)| \cap |N(\alpha(j, 0), K)| = \emptyset.$$

Also,  $|N(\alpha(i, 0), K)| \cap I^1(X) = \text{cl}[\alpha(i, 0)]$  for each  $\alpha(i, 0) \in Y_3$ .

Let  $P'_3$  be a neighborhood of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^0(X) \cup X_1 \cup X_2)$  such that  $h|A_0 \in Q_\alpha$  for each  $h \in P'_3$ . As in step 1, we can use the neighborhood pair  $(|N(\alpha(i, 0), K)|, u_{\alpha(i,0)})$  to smear  $A_\alpha$  and get a deformation  $\Phi'_3: P'_3 \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $P'_3$  into  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^0(X) \cup X_1 \cup X_2 \cup A_1)$  with the properties  $\Phi'_3(1_X \times I) = 1_X$ ,  $\Phi'_3(h, t)|A_0 = A_\alpha(h|A_0, t)$  for each  $(h, t) \in P'_3 \times I$ , and  $\Phi'_3$  is modulo  $X - (A_0 \cup (\bigcup_{\zeta_i \in Y_3} |N(\alpha(i, 0), K)|))$ .

Applying Theorem 5.1 of [4] again, we get a neighborhood  $Q_\beta$  of the inclusion  $\eta_\beta: B_1 \subset S$  in  $I(B_1, B_1 \cup A_1; S)$  and a deformation  $A_\beta: Q_\beta \times I \rightarrow I(B_1, B_1 \cup A_2; S)$  of  $Q_\beta$  into  $I(B_1, B_1 \cup (A_2 \cup B_2); S)$  such that  $A_\beta$  is modulo  $\text{fr}_{\text{rel}S}[B_1]$  and  $A_\beta(\eta_\beta \times I) = \eta_\beta$ .

Let  $P''_3$  be a neighborhood of  $1_X$  in  $(X, I^0(X) \cup Y_1 \cup Y_2 \cup A_1)$  such that  $h|B_1 \in Q_\beta$  for each  $h \in P''_3$ . In a manner similar to the above, we can use type 1 neighborhood pairs of the  $\beta(i, 1)$ 's to get a deformation  $\Phi''_3: P''_3 \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $P''_3$  into  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^0(X) \cup X_1 \cup X_2 \cup A_2 \cup B_2)$  =  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^1(X))$  with the properties  $\Phi''_3(h, t)|B_1 = A_\beta(h|B_1, t)$  for each  $(h, t) \in P''_3 \times I$ ,  $\Phi''_3$  is modulo  $X - B_1 \cup (\bigcup_{\zeta_i \in Y_2} |N(\beta(i, 1), K)|)$ , and  $\Phi''_3(1_X \times I) = 1_X$ .

Step 4. By the continuity of  $\Phi'_3, \Phi_2$ , and  $\Phi_1$ , we may assume  $\Phi'_3(P'_3 \times 1) \subset P'_3, \Phi_2(P_2 \times 1) \subset P'_3$ , and  $\Phi_1(P_1 \times 1) \subset P_2$ . Let  $P = P_1$  and  $\Phi = \Phi'_3 * \Phi'_2 * \Phi_2 * \Phi_1$ . It is easy to verify that  $\Phi$  and  $P$  are as desired. q.e.d.

**7. Cuts.** A subset  $A$  of a topological space  $X$  is said to be *thin* if it has empty interior. We say  $A$  *nowhere cuts*  $X$  if  $A$  is a thin subset of  $X$  with the property: whenever  $x \in A$  and  $U$  is a neighborhood of  $x, U - A$  does not split into two disjoint open sets each having  $x$  in its closure. Michael proved in [5] that if  $X$  is a Tychonoff space and  $A$  is a thin subset of  $X$  then there exists an essentially unique Tychonoff space  $X_*$ , a nowhere cutting subset  $A_*$ , and a map  $p: X_* \rightarrow X$  which maps  $X_* - A_*$  homeomorphically onto  $X - A$  and maps  $A_*$  (compact, totally disconnected)-to-one onto  $A$ . A triple  $(X_*, A_*, p)$  satisfying Michael's theorem

is called an  $(X, A)$ -cut. "Essentially unique" in the above theorem means if  $(X_*, A_*, p)$  and  $(X', A', p')$  are  $(X, A)$ -cuts then there is a homeomorphism  $h: X_* \rightarrow X'_*$  such that  $p = p'h$ .

Returning to our problem, let  $M$  be the disjoint union of the 2-simplexes of  $K$  and  $\pi: M \rightarrow K$  be the natural projection. If  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma'$  are 2-simplexes of  $M$  with faces  $a$  and  $a'$ , respectively, such that  $\pi(a) = \pi(a') < K - L_1$ , we write  $x \equiv x'$  whenever  $x \in a, x' \in a'$ , and  $\pi(x) = \pi(x')$ . An equivalence relation  $R$  is defined on  $J$  by letting  $xRy$  whenever there is a sequence  $x = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n = y$  such that  $x_i \equiv x_{i+1}$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ . Let  $W = J/R$  be the quotient space and  $q: J \rightarrow W$  be the quotient map. Since  $xRy$  implies  $\pi(x) = \pi(y)$ , there is a map  $p: W \rightarrow |K|$  such that  $\pi = pq$ . Now let  $K_* = \{q(\sigma) \mid \sigma < M\}$ . Since  $K$  is the second barycentric subdivision of some triangulation of  $Y$ ,  $K_*$  is a complex and  $p: K_* \rightarrow K$  is a simplicial map of  $K_*$  onto  $K$ . Notice that  $I^1(Y) = |L_1|$  is a thin subset of  $Y$ . Michael proved in [5] that  $(|K_*|, |L_*|, p)$  is a  $(Y, I^1(Y))$ -cut, where  $L_* = p^{-1}(L_1)$ .

LEMMA 7.1  $|K_*|$  is a 2-manifold and  $|L_*|$  comprises the boundary of  $|K_*|$  together with a finite set of points.

Proof. Since  $|L_*|$  nowhere cuts  $|K_*|$  and each 1-simplex of  $L_*$  is the face of exactly one 2-simplex of  $K_*$ , for each point  $x$  of  $|L_*|$  which is not a vertex of  $L_*$  there is a neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$  such that the pair  $(V, x)$  is homeomorphic to the pair  $(R^2_+, (0, 0))$ , where

$$\{R^2_+ = \{(x_1, x_2) \in R^2 \mid x_2 \geq 0\}\}.$$

Let  $v$  be a vertex in  $L_*$ . Then  $p(v)$  is a vertex in  $L_1$ . There are two cases to be considered.

Case 1. Suppose  $p(v) \in I^1(Y) - I^0(Y)$ . In this case there is a triangulation  $\tilde{K}$  of  $Y$  containing a 1-simplex  $\alpha$  which contains  $p(v)$  in its interior  $\text{rel} I^1(Y)$ . If  $\tilde{L}_1$  denotes the subcomplex of  $\tilde{K}$  carried by  $I^1(Y)$  then  $\alpha < \tilde{L}_1$ . Let  $(|\tilde{K}_*|, |\tilde{L}_*|, \tilde{p})$  be the  $(Y, I^1(Y))$ -cut determined by  $\tilde{K}$  and  $\tilde{L}_1$ . By an argument similar to the one given above, each point  $w$  of  $\tilde{p}^{-1}(v)$  has a neighborhood  $V(w)$  such that the pair  $(V(w), w)$  is homeomorphic to  $(R^2_+, (0, 0))$ . But, since  $(|K_*|, |L_*|, p)$  is essentially unique,  $v$  has a neighborhood  $V$  in  $|K_*|$  such that  $(V, v)$  is homeomorphic to  $(R^2_+, (0, 0))$ .

Case 2. Suppose  $p(v) \in I^0(Y)$ . Then  $|\text{St}(p(v), K)| = \bigcup_{i=1}^n C_i$  where the  $C_i$ 's are the cell-sets at  $p(v)$ . Since  $|L_*|$  nowhere cuts  $|K_*|$ ,  $p^{-1}(|\text{St}(p(v), K)|) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n D_i$  where the  $D_i$ 's are pairwise disjoint 2-cells such that  $p(D_i) = C_i$  for each  $i$ . Let  $j$  be such that  $v \in D_j$ . There are three possibilities:

- (i) if  $C_j$  is a cell-set of type 1 at  $p(v)$  then  $D_j$  is a cell-set of type 1 at  $v$  and the pair  $(\text{int}_{\text{rel}|K_*|} D_j, v)$  is homeomorphic to the pair  $(R^2_+, (0, 0))$ ,
- (ii) if  $C_j$  is a cell-set of type 2 at  $p(v)$  then  $D_j$  is a cell-set of type 2 at  $v$  and the pair  $(\text{int}_{\text{rel}|K_*|} D_j, v)$  is homeomorphic to the pair  $(R^2_+, (0, 0))$ , and
- (iii) if  $C_j$  is a cell-set of type 3 at  $p(v)$  then  $D_j$  is a cell-set of type 3 at  $v$  and the pair  $(\text{int}_{\text{rel}|K_*|} D_j, v)$  is homeomorphic to the pair  $(R^2, (0, 0))$ . In (i) and (ii)  $v$  is a boundary point of  $|K_*|$  and in (iii)  $v$  is an interior point of  $|K_*|$ .

We have shown that each point  $x \in |L_*|$  has a neighborhood  $V$  in  $|K_*|$  such that the pair  $(V, x)$  is homeomorphic to one of  $(R^2, (0, 0))$  and  $(R^2_+, (0, 0))$ . Since  $p(|K_*| - |L_*|)$  is a homeomorphism onto  $|K| - |L_1| = Y - I^1(Y) = I^2(Y) - I^1(Y)$  which is an open 2-manifold,  $|K_*|$  is a 2-manifold. q.e.d.

Remark. The finite set of points in  $|L_*|$  which are not boundary points of  $|K_*|$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the cell-sets of type 3 at points of  $I^0(Y)$ .

LEMMA 7.2. (a) There is a  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $h$  is a  $\delta$ -homeomorphism of  $|K|$  which is the identity on  $|L_1| \cup Z$  then  $h_* \in \mathcal{H}(|K_*|, |L_*| \cup p^{-1}(Z))$ , where  $h_* = p^{-1}hp$  on  $|K_*| - |L_*|$  and is the identity on  $|L_*|$ .

(b) If  $\varepsilon > 0$  is given,  $\delta$  can be chosen so that  $h_*$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -homeomorphism.

Proof. To prove (a) we choose a  $\delta > 0$  so that each  $\delta$ -homeomorphism  $h \in \mathcal{H}(|K|, |L_1| \cup Z)$  has the following properties:

(i)  $h(|\text{St}(\hat{\alpha}, K'')|) \subset \text{int}[|N(\alpha, K)|]$  for each 1-simplex  $\alpha < L_1$ , where  $\hat{\alpha}$  denotes the barycenter of  $\alpha$  and  $K''$  denotes the second barycentric subdivision of  $K$ ,

(ii) if  $\alpha$  is a 1-simplex of  $L_1$ ,  $\delta < \varrho(|C(\alpha, \text{St}(\hat{\alpha}, \sigma''))|, X - \sigma)$  for each 2-simplex  $\sigma$  in  $K$  such that  $\alpha < \sigma$ ,

(iii)  $h(|\text{St}(v, K'')|) \subset |\text{St}(v, K)|$  for each vertex  $v < L_1$ , and

(iv) for each vertex  $v < L_1$  and each component  $D$  of the set  $|C(I^1(Y), \text{St}(v, K''))|$ , the  $\varrho$  distance between  $D$  and the complement of the component of  $|\text{St}(v, K)| - I^1(Y)$  that contains  $D$  is less than  $\delta$ .

Let  $h$  be a fixed  $\delta$ -homeomorphism of  $\mathcal{H}(|K|, |L_1| \cup Z)$  for the remainder of the proof of part (a).

Let  $\alpha$  be a 1-simplex of  $L_1$ . Conditions (i) and (ii) imply if  $C''$  and  $C$  are components of  $|\text{St}(\hat{\alpha}, K'')| - \alpha$  and  $|\text{St}(\hat{\alpha}, K)| - \alpha$ , respectively, such that  $C'' \subset C$  then  $h(C'') \subset C$ . From this it follows that if  $\alpha_*$  is a 1-simplex of  $L_*$  such that  $p(\alpha_*) = \alpha$  and  $z \in \alpha_*$  then the sequence  $\{h_*(z_i)\}_i$  converges to  $z$  for each sequence  $\{z_i\}_i$  in  $|K_*|$  which converges to  $z$ .

Let  $v$  be a vertex in  $L_1$ . Conditions (iii) and (iv) imply if  $C''$  and  $C$  are components of  $|\text{St}(v, K'')| - I^1(Y)$  and  $|\text{St}(v, K)| - I^1(Y)$ , respectively,

such that  $C'' \subset C$  then  $h(C'') \subset C$ . Consequently, if  $z \in p^{-1}(v)$  and  $\{z_i\}_i$  is a sequence in  $|K_*|$  which converges to  $z$ , then  $\{h_*(z_i)\}_i$  converges to  $z_*$ .

The above two paragraphs verify that  $h_*$  is continuous at points of  $|L_*|$ . Since  $h_*(|K_*| - |L_*|)$  is a homeomorphism onto  $|K_*| - |L_*|$ ,  $h_*$  is continuous on  $|K_*|$ . Since  $|K_*|$  is compact and  $h_*$  is one-to-one, continuous, and onto,  $h_*$  is a homeomorphism.

Pick  $\varepsilon > 0$ . To prove (b), we will assign to each  $x \in |K|$  a number  $\delta(x) > 0$  so that the  $\delta(x)$ -neighborhood of  $x$  in  $|K|$ , denoted  $V(x, \delta(x))$ , will have certain properties. Next, we will choose a finite subcover of  $|K|$  from  $\{V(x, \delta(x)) \mid x \in |K|\}$  and complete the proof by carefully choosing  $\delta$ .

Let  $x \in |K|$ . There are three cases.

Case 1. Suppose  $x$  is a vertex of  $L_1$ . Let  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$  be the cells at  $x$  in  $|K|$  and recall that  $|\text{St}(x, K)| = \bigcup_{i=1}^n C_i$ . There are subsets  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n$  of  $|K_*|$  such that  $p^{-1}(|\text{St}(x, K)|) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n D_i$ ,  $D_i \cap D_j$  is at most one point of  $I^0(Y) - p^{-1}(x)$  for  $i \neq j$ , and  $p(D_i) = C_i$ . If  $x_i = p^{-1}(x) \cap D_i$  then  $x_i$  is a vertex of  $L_*$  and  $D_i = |\text{St}(x_i, K_*)|$  is the only cell-set at  $x_i$  in  $|K_*|$ . Let  $\delta(x) > 0$  be such that  $V(x, \delta(x)) \subset |\text{St}(x, K'')|$  and  $p^{-1}(V(x, \delta(x))) \cap D_i \subset V(x_i, \varepsilon/2)$ .

Case 2. Suppose  $x \in \alpha^0$ , where  $\alpha$  is a 1-simplex of  $L_1$ . Let  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$  be the 2-simplices of  $K$  having  $\alpha$  as a 1-face and observe that  $|\mathcal{N}(\alpha^0, K)| = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \sigma_i$ . Let  $\sigma_{i*}$  be the unique 2-simplex of  $K_*$  such that  $p(\sigma_{i*}) = \sigma_i$  and let  $\alpha_{i*}$  denote the unique 1-simplex of  $L_*$  such that  $\alpha_{i*} \subset \sigma_{i*}$  and  $p(\alpha_{i*}) = \alpha$ . Let  $\delta(x) > 0$  be such that  $\text{cl}[V(x, \delta(x))] \subset \text{int}[|\mathcal{N}(\alpha^0, K)|]$  and  $p^{-1}(V(x, \delta(x))) \cap \sigma_{i*} \subset V(x_i, \varepsilon/2)$ , where  $x_i = p^{-1}(x) \cap \alpha_{i*}$ .

Case 3. In case  $x \in |K| - |L_1|$ , let  $\delta(x) > 0$  be such that  $V(x, \delta(x)) \cap |L_1| = \emptyset$  and  $p^{-1}(V(x, \delta(x))) \subset V(p^{-1}(x), \varepsilon/2)$ .

Let  $\{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_r\} \subset X$  such that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^r V(y_i, \delta(y_i)) = X$  and pick  $\delta > 0$  to satisfy conditions (i) through (iv) in the proof of (a) plus two more conditions, namely,

(v)  $\delta$  is a Lebesgue number for the cover  $\{V(y_i, \delta(y_i)) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, r\}$  and

(vi) if  $h$  is a  $\delta$ -homeomorphism in  $\mathcal{H}(|K|, |L_1| \cup Z)$  and  $y_i \in \alpha^0$  for some  $i$  and some 1-simplex  $a \subset L_1$  then  $\text{cl}[h(V(y_i, \delta(y_i))) \cap \sigma] \subset \sigma^0 \cup \alpha^0$  for each 2-simplex  $\sigma$  in  $K$  such that  $a \subset \sigma$ .

It is straightforward to check that  $h$  is a  $\delta$ -homeomorphism in  $(|K|, |L_1| \cup Z)$  implies  $h_*$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -homeomorphism. q.e.d.

**8. Proof of Lemma 2.2.** We will show that  $\mathcal{H}(Y, T(X))$  is locally contractible. But before doing so, we show how this implies the lemma.

By the local contractibility of  $\mathcal{H}(Y, T(X))$  there is a neighborhood  $S$  of  $1_Y$  in  $\mathcal{H}(Y, T(X))$  and a deformation  $A: S \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(Y, T(X))$  of  $S$  into  $1_Y$ . Choose a neighborhood  $Q$  of  $1_X$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X, I^1(x))$  such that  $h|_Y \in S$  for each  $h \in Q$ . The deformation  $\Psi: Q \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X)$  of  $Q$  into  $1_X$  is defined by letting

$$\Psi(h, t)(x) = \begin{cases} A(h|_Y, t)(x) & \text{if } x \in Y, \\ h(x) = x & \text{if } x \in I(X) \end{cases}$$

for each  $(h, t) \in Q \times I$ .

To see that  $\mathcal{H}(Y, T(X))$  is locally contractible, let  $(Y_*, W_*, p)$  be a  $(Y, I^1(Y))$ -cut as previously described. By lemma 7.1  $Y_*$  is a 2-manifold and  $W_* = \partial Y_* \cup$  (a finite set of interior points of  $Y_*$ ). Let  $V_* = W_* \cup p^{-1}(Z)$ . Then  $V_* = \partial Y_* \cup$  (a finite set of interior points of  $Y_*$ ). It follows from Edwards and Kirby (see [4]) that  $\mathcal{H}(Y_*, V_*)$  is locally contractible. Let  $S_*$  be a neighborhood of  $1_{Y_*}$  in  $\mathcal{H}(Y_*, V_*)$  and  $\Psi_*: S_* \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(Y_*, V_*)$  be a deformation of  $S_*$  into  $1_{Y_*}$ . By Lemma 7.2 there is a neighborhood  $S$  of  $1_Y$  in  $\mathcal{H}(Y, T(X))$  such that  $h_* \in S_*$  for each  $h \in S$ . Define a deformation  $A: S \times I \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(Y, T(X))$  by letting

$$A(h, t)(x) = \begin{cases} p\Psi_*(h_*, t)p^{-1}(x) & \text{if } x \in Y - T(X), \\ h(x) = x & \text{if } x \in T(X) \end{cases}$$

for each  $(h, t) \in S \times I$ .  $A$  deforms  $S$  into  $1_Y$ . q.e.d.

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