

# The Homeomorphism Groups of Noncompact 2-Manifolds

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## Abstract

Suppose  $M$  is a noncompact connected 2-manifold and let  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  denote the homeomorphism group of  $M$  with the compact-open topology. In this paper we determine the condition on the end of  $M$  under which  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold. It is shown that  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold iff (i)  $M = N \setminus (F \cup A)$ , where  $N$  is a compact connected 2-manifold,  $F$  is a finite subset of  $\text{Int } N$  and  $A$  is a 0-dimensional compact subset of  $\partial N$  and (ii) the group  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  of order preserving homeomorphisms of  $A$  is discrete.

**Key Words:** 2-manifolds; Ends; Homeomorphism groups;  $\ell^2$ -manifolds.

## 1. Introduction

In this paper we will investigate the homeomorphism groups of noncompact 2-manifolds from the viewpoint of infinite-dimensional manifolds. Suppose  $M^n$  is a topological  $n$ -manifold and let  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  denote the homeomorphism group of  $M$  onto itself with the compact-open topology (the topology of uniform convergence on every compact subset). R. D. Anderson<sup>1)</sup> showed that  $\mathcal{H}(\mathbb{R})$ , the group of orientation-preserving homeomorphisms of the real line  $\mathbb{R}$ , is homeomorphic to  $\ell^2$  (the Hilbert space of square summable real sequences). After this result, it was conjectured that the homeomorphism group  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold for any compact  $n$ -manifold and some noncompact  $n$ -manifolds  $M^n$ .

The development of the theory of infinite-dimensional topological manifold reached its climax in the characterization theorems of various infinite-dimensional topological manifolds. In particular, a separable, completely metrizable space  $X$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold iff  $X$  is an ANR (absolute neighborhood retract) and  $\ell^2$ -stable ( $X \times \ell^2 \cong X$ ).<sup>11)</sup> Since  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is always  $\ell^2$ -stable,<sup>3)</sup> the conjecture is reduced to the problem of whether  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is an ANR. It is known that  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is always locally contractible when either  $M$  is compact or  $M$  is the interior of a compact manifold.<sup>2)</sup> However, the infinite-dimensionality of  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  has prevented the detection of ANR property. For this reason the conjecture is known to be true only for  $n = 1$  and 2, and still remains open for  $n \geq 3$ . In the one-dimensional case,  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold even if  $M$  is noncompact.<sup>1)</sup> In the two dimensional case, the conjecture has been proved for any compact 2-manifolds.<sup>6),7)</sup> On the other hand, if  $M$  is a noncompact 2-manifold, then in general  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is not necessarily even locally path connected. (Consider the case where  $M$  has infinitely many handles, cf. Ref. 10) Example 5.6.1.) The purpose of this paper is to determine the condition on the end of a noncompact 2-manifold  $M$  under which  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is

an  $\ell^2$ -manifold.

Suppose  $M$  is a noncompact connected PL 2-manifold and  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron of  $M$ . (Note that every 2-manifold admits a PL-triangulation.) Let  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  (respectively  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(M)$ ) denote the subgroup of  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  consisting of the homeomorphisms of  $M$  which are identity on  $X$  (respectively  $X \cup \partial M$ ). Consider the following condition on  $M$ :

(\*)  $M = N \setminus (F \cup A)$ , where  $N$  is a compact connected 2-manifold,  $F$  is a finite subset of  $\text{Int } N$  and  $A$  is a 0-dimensional compact subset of  $\partial N$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Suppose  $M$  is a noncompact connected PL 2-manifold and  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron of  $M$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold.
- (ii)  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(M)$  is locally path connected.
- (iii)  $M$  takes the form of (\*).

To ensure that the whole group  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold, we need a further restriction on the end of  $M$ . When  $M$  has the form (\*), we can define the group  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  of order preserving homeomorphisms of  $A$  as follows: Choose a finite collection of disjoint oriented arcs  $\mathcal{J} = \{I_i\}_i$  in  $\partial N$  with  $A \subset \cup_i I_i$  and set  $A_i = A \cap I_i$ . The orientation on  $I_i$  induces a linear order on  $A_i$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}_+(A) \equiv \mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{J}) = \{f \in \mathcal{H}(A) : f(A_i) = A_i \text{ and } f|_{A_i} \text{ is order preserving for each } i\}$ , equipped with the compact open topology. The following is the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 1.** *Suppose  $M$  is a noncompact connected PL 2-manifold and  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron of  $M$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold.
- (ii)  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  is locally path connected.
- (iii)  $M$  takes the form (\*) and  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  is discrete.

Theorem 1 implies that local path connectedness is the unique obstruction. The similar problem for PL-homeomorphisms and diffeomorphisms will be investigated in a subsequent paper.

## 2. Basic Facts on $\ell^2$ -Manifolds and Homeomorphism Groups

Throughout the paper we assume that all spaces are separable and metrizable and that all maps are continuous. When  $A$  is a subset of a space  $X$ ,  $\text{Fr}_X A$ ,  $\text{Int}_X A$  and  $\text{cl}_X A$  denote the topological frontier, interior and closure of  $A$  in  $X$ . On the other hand,  $\partial X$  and  $\text{Int } M$  denote the boundary and interior of a manifold  $M$ . The notation  $\cong$  means ‘‘homeomorphic’’, while  $\simeq$  means ‘‘homotopic’’

A space  $X$  is said to be an  $\ell^2$ -manifold if each point has an open neighborhood which is homeomorphic to  $\ell^2$ . H. Toruńczyk<sup>11)</sup> showed that  $\ell^2$ -manifolds are characterized by their ANR-property and  $\ell^2$ -stability. A space  $X$  is said to be an ANR (*absolute neighborhood*

retract) if for every map  $f: B \rightarrow X$  from a closed subset  $B$  of a space  $Y$  there exist a neighborhood  $U$  of  $B$  in  $Y$  and an extension  $\tilde{f}: U \rightarrow X$  of  $f$ . If, in addition, we can always take  $U = Y$ , then  $X$  is said to be an AR.

**Fact 2.1.** A space  $X$  is an ANR iff each point of  $X$  has a neighborhood which is an ANR. In particular, a topological group is an ANR iff the unit element has an ANR neighborhood.<sup>4)</sup>

A space  $X$  is said to be  $\ell^2$ -stable if  $X \times \ell^2 \cong X$ .

**Fact 2.2.** A space  $X$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold iff  $X$  is a separable, completely metrizable ANR and is  $\ell^2$ -stable.<sup>11)</sup>

Suppose  $X$  is a space. By  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  we denote the group of homeomorphisms of  $X$  onto itself with the compact open topology. When  $A, C$  are subsets of  $X$ , we set  $\mathcal{H}_C(X, A) = \{f \in \mathcal{H}(X) \mid f(A) = A \text{ and } f|_C = id_C\}$ . Suppose  $M$  is an  $n$ -manifold ( $n \geq 1$ ) and  $A$  is a proper closed subset of  $M$ . Then (i)  $\mathcal{H}_A(M)$  is a separable, completely metrizable topological group<sup>12)</sup> and (ii)  $\mathcal{H}_A(M)$  is  $\ell^2$ -stable.<sup>3)</sup> Therefore, the next assertion follows from Facts 2.1 and 2.2.

**Fact 2.3.** Suppose  $M$  is an  $n$ -manifold ( $n \geq 1$ ) and  $A$  is a proper closed subset of  $M$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}_A(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold iff the identity  $id_M$  has an ANR neighborhood in  $\mathcal{H}_A(M)$ .

Luke-Mason<sup>6),7)</sup> verified the ANR property in the 2-dimensional compact case.

**Fact 2.4.** (i) If  $M$  is a compact 2-manifold, then  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is an ANR.<sup>6)</sup>

(ii) If  $M$  is a compact PL 2-manifold and  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron, then  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  is an ANR.<sup>cf.5)</sup>

In Ref. 5) it is shown that  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  is an ANR for every compact 2-dimensional polyhedron. This follows from Fact 2.4.(i) by a cutting argument. Fact 2.4.(ii) (the relative version) also follows from Fact 2.4.(i) by a similar cutting argument.

Finally, we list a fact on end compactifications.

**Fact 2.5.** Suppose  $X$  is a locally connected compact metric space,  $A$  is a 0-dimensional compact subset of  $X$  and  $C$  is a compact subset of  $X \setminus A$ . If (i)  $X \setminus A$  is dense in  $X$  and (ii)  $U \setminus A$  is connected for any connected open subset  $U$  of  $X$  (for example,  $X$  is a compact 2-manifold), then the restriction map  $\mathcal{H}_C(X, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_C(X \setminus A): h \mapsto h|_{X \setminus A}$  is a homeomorphism.

### 3. Local Path Connectedness of $\mathcal{H}(M)$ and the Ends of $M$

Suppose  $M$  is a noncompact connected PL 2-manifold and  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron of  $M$ . In this section we will show that if  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  or  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(M)$  is locally path connected, then  $M$  takes the form (\*):

(\*)  $M = N \setminus (F \cup A)$ , where  $N$  is a compact connected 2-manifold,  $F$  is a finite subset of  $\text{Int } N$  and  $A$  is a 0-dimensional compact subset of  $\partial N$ .

**Lemma 3.1.**  *$M$  takes the form (\*) iff there exists a (nonempty) compact connected 2-submanifold  $N_0$  of  $M$  such that each component  $L$  of  $cl(M \setminus N_0)$  satisfies the following condition:*

(\*\*\*)  $L = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} L_i$ , where

(i) each  $L_i$  is a compact connected 2-submanifold of  $L$ ,  $\text{Fr}_M L \subset \text{Int}_L L_1$  and  $L_i \subset \text{Int}_L L_{i+1}$ ,

(ii) (a) each component  $K$  of  $cl(L \setminus L_i)$  is noncompact, (b)  $K \cap L_{i+1}$  is connected, (c)  $K \cap L_i$  is an arc or a circle, and

(iii) each  $L_i$  is a disk with  $m$  holes ( $m = m(L)$  is independent of  $i$ ).

*Proof.* If  $L$  satisfies (\*\*\*), then from (iii) each component  $H$  of  $cl(L_{i+1} \setminus L_i)$  is either (a) a disk  $D$  such that  $D \cap L_i$  is an arc or (b) an annulus  $A$  such that  $A \cap L_i$  is a boundary circle. Let  $\ell_i \equiv$  the number of the annulus components of  $cl(L_{i+1} \setminus L_i)$ . Then  $\ell_i \geq \ell_{i+1}$ , and we may assume that  $\ell_i \equiv \ell$  (constant) by omitting finitely many  $L_i$ 's. Hence  $L$  takes the form (\*), where  $N$  is a disk with holes and  $\#F = \ell$ . This implies that  $M$  itself takes the form (\*).  $\square$

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  denote the subset of  $\mathcal{H}_{\partial}(M)$  consisting of all Dehn twists on  $M$ . From the definition of the compact-open topology, if  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  or  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(M)$  is locally path connected then  $\mathcal{D}$  satisfies the following condition :

(#) There exists a compact subset  $C$  of  $M$  such that  $(\#)_C$ : if  $h \in \mathcal{D}$  and  $h|_C = id$  then  $h \simeq id_M$ .

The following properties of Dehn twists will be used in a criterion of the condition (#) in Lemma 3.5.

**Lemma 3.2.** (1) *Every Dehn twist along a meridian of a handle in  $M$  is not homotopic to  $id_M$ .*

(2) *Suppose  $D \subset M$  is a sphere with  $n + 1$  holes,  $n \geq 4$ , and let  $S$  and  $S_i (i = 1, \dots, n)$  denote the boundary circles of  $D$ . Suppose  $C$  is a circle in  $D$  which encircles exactly two holes  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  and  $h$  is the Dehn twist along  $C$ . If there exists a closed set  $E$  of  $M$  such that  $D \cap E \subset S$  and  $D \cup E$  is a retract of  $M$ , then  $h \not\simeq id_M$ .*

*Proof.* Statement (1) is verified by a simple  $\pi_1$ -calculation. The next statement also follows from a  $\pi_1$ -calculation.

(2') Suppose  $D$  is a sphere with  $n$  holes,  $n \geq 4$ , and let  $S_i (i = 1, \dots, n)$  denote the boundary circles of  $D$ . Suppose  $C$  is a circle in  $D$  which encircles exactly two holes  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ ,  $\ell$  is a circle in  $D$  which encircles exactly two holes  $S_2$  and  $S_3$  and  $h$  is the Dehn twist along  $C$ . Then  $h\ell \not\simeq \ell$  in  $D$ .

Statement (2) reduces to (2') by (a) retracting  $M$  onto  $D \cup E$  and (b) capping  $S$  by a disk and mapping  $E$  into this disk.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *If  $M$  is a noncompact connected 2-manifold and  $C$  is a boundary circle of  $M$ , then  $C$  is a retract of  $M$ .*

*Proof.* Take a half ray  $\alpha$  in  $M$  which starts from a point on  $C$  and goes toward the end of  $M$ . If  $A$  is a regular neighborhood of  $C \cup \alpha$ , then  $\text{Fr}_M A \simeq \mathbb{R}$  (the real line). Hence we have a sequence of retractions  $M \rightarrow A \rightarrow C \cup \alpha \rightarrow C$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *Suppose  $M$  is a noncompact connected 2-manifold. If  $M$  is orientable and contains no handles, then for any compact subset  $C$  of  $M$  there exists a compact connected 2-submanifold  $N$  of  $M$  such that each component  $L$  of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  is (a) noncompact and (b)  $L \cap N$  is an arc or circle.*

*Proof.* Let  $N$  be a compact connected 2-submanifold with  $C \subset N$  and set  $\ell$  = the number of components of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  and  $m$  = the number of components of  $\text{Fr}N$ . Then  $m \geq \ell$  and the condition (b) is equivalent to the condition  $m = \ell$ .

Suppose  $m - \ell \geq 1$ . There exists a component  $L$  of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  which contains two components  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  of  $\text{Fr}N$ . We can join these components by a proper arc  $\alpha$  in  $L$ . Let  $A$  be a regular neighborhood of  $\alpha$  in  $L$ . If  $cl(L \setminus A)$  is connected, then we can find (i) a circle  $\beta$  in  $L$  which meets  $\alpha$  at one point and (ii) a proper arc  $\gamma$  in  $N$  connecting the end points of  $\alpha$ . Since  $M$  is orientable, a regular neighborhood of  $\alpha \cup \beta \cup \gamma$  is a handle. This contradicts the assumption. Hence  $cl(L \setminus A)$  has two components. Each component  $C_k$  is an arc or circle. If one of  $C_k$  is a circle, then  $cl(L \setminus A)$  is connected. Hence, both  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arcs. Therefore if we replace  $N$  by  $N \cup A$ , then  $\ell$  increases by 1, while  $m$  unchanges, so  $m - \ell$  decreases by 1. By the repeated application of this procedure we can reach  $m - \ell = 0$ . To achieve (a), add all compact components of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  to  $N$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.** *If  $\mathcal{D}$  satisfies the condition  $(\#)$ , then  $M$  takes the form of  $(*)$ .*

*Proof.* From the assumption there exists a compact connected 2-submanifold  $N$  of  $M$  which satisfies  $(\#)_N$ . Then by Lemma 3.2.(1) each component of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  contains no handles, and thus contains at most two Möbius bands. Hence, we can enlarge  $N$  so that

(i) each component  $L$  of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  is noncompact, orientable and contains no handles.

Thus, using Lemma 3.4 we can further enlarge  $N$  so that

(ii)  $L \cap N$  is an arc or a circle for each component  $L$  of  $cl(M \setminus N)$ .

At this point  $N$  satisfies  $(\#)_N$ , (i) and (ii). We will show that each component  $L$  of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  satisfies the condition  $(**)$  in Lemma 3.1. This leads to the conclusion.

By the repeated application of Lemma 3.4 we can write each component  $L$  of  $cl(M \setminus N)$  as  $L = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} L_i$ , where

(iii) each  $L_i$  is a compact connected 2-submanifold of  $L$ ,  $L \cap N \subset \text{Int}_L L_1$ , and  $L_i \subset \text{Int}_L L_{i+1}$ ,

(iv) each component  $K$  of  $cl(L \setminus L_i)$  is noncompact,  $K \cap L_i$  is an arc or circle and  $K \cap L_{i+1}$  is connected.

By (i) each  $L_i$  is a disk with  $m_i$  holes. It follows that  $m_i \leq m_{i+1}$ , since any component  $H$  of  $cl(L_{i+1} \setminus L_i)$  is (a) a disk with holes, (b)  $H \cap L_i$  is an arc or circle and (c)  $\text{Fr}_L H \neq H \cap L_i$ . On the other hand, we have  $m_i \leq 3$ . In fact, if  $m_i \geq 4$ , we can apply Lemma 3.2.(2) to  $D = L_i$  and  $E = cl(M \setminus L)$ . (Note that (a)  $L_i \cap E = L \cap N$  is an arc or a circle, which is contained in a

boundary circle  $S$  of  $L_i$  and (b) by (iv) and Lemma 3.3  $K \cap L_i$  is a retract of  $K$  for any component  $K$  of  $cl(L \setminus L_i)$ , So  $L_i \cup E$  is a retract of  $M$ . This contradicts  $(\#)_N$ . Therefore we may assume that  $m_i \equiv m$  (a constant) by omitting finitely many  $L_i$ 's. This completes the proof.  $\square$

We conclude this section with the proof of Proposition 1.

**Proof of Proposition 1.** If  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(M)$  is locally path connected, then  $M$  takes the form  $(*)$  by Lemma 3.5. Conversely, if  $M$  takes the form  $(*)$ , then from Fact 2.5 we have a homeomorphism  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(M) \cong \mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(N, F)$ . Since  $M$  is an open set of  $N$  and  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron of  $M$  with respect to a PL-triangulation on  $M$ , we can find a PL-triangulation of  $N$  with respect to which  $X$  is a subpolyhedron of  $N$ .<sup>8)</sup> From Fact 2.4.(ii)  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup F \cup \partial}(N)$  is an ANR and it is an open neighborhood of  $id_N$  in  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(N, F)$ . Hence  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup \partial}(N, F)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold by Fact 2.3.  $\square$

#### 4. Proof of Main Theorem

This final section contains the proof of Theorem 1. Throughout the section the subscript “+” in homeomorphism groups means “orientation-preserving” or “order-preserving”. First we will list some properties of the end group  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$ . Suppose  $I$  is an oriented arc and  $A$  is a 0-dimensional compact subset in  $I$ . The orientation on  $I$  induces a natural linear order on  $A$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  denote the group of order preserving homeomorphisms of  $A$ . Since  $\mathcal{H}(A)$  is totally disconnected,  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  is locally connected iff it is discrete.

**Lemma 4.1.**  $\mathcal{H}_+(I, A)$  is an ANR (or locally path connected) iff  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  is discrete.

*Proof.* We may assume that  $I = [0, 1]$ . We know that (i)  $(0, 1) \setminus A$  is a disjoint union of (at most countably many) open intervals  $U_n = (a_n, b_n)$ , (ii)  $\text{diam } U_n \rightarrow 0$  (as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ), and (iii) the correspondence  $(a_n, b_n) \mapsto (f(a_n), f(b_n))$  induces an order-preserving permutation of  $U_n$ 's. Each  $f \in \mathcal{H}_+(A)$  has a canonical linear extension  $\theta(f) \in \mathcal{H}_+(I, A)$ . The map  $\theta(f)$  is defined by  $\theta(f)(ta_n + (1-t)b_n) = tf(a_n) + (1-t)f(b_n)$  ( $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ) (where  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(1) = 1$ ). It follows that  $\theta : \mathcal{H}_+(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_+(I, A)$  is continuous and induces a homeomorphism  $\varphi : \mathcal{H}_+(I, A) \cong \mathcal{H}_+(A) \times \mathcal{H}_{A,+}(I)$ ,  $\varphi(h) = (h|_A, \theta(h|_A)^{-1}h)$ . The restriction map  $\mathcal{H}_{A,+}(I) \cong \prod_n \mathcal{H}_+(U_n) : f \mapsto (f|_{U_n})_n$  also induces a homeomorphism. Since  $\mathcal{H}_+(U_n) \cong \ell^{2,1}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_+(U_n)$  is an AR, and  $\mathcal{H}_{A,+}(I)$  is also an AR.<sup>4)</sup> The conclusion follows from these observations.  $\square$

Suppose  $N$  is a compact connected PL 2-manifold,  $F$  is a finite subset of  $\text{Int } N$ ,  $A$  is a 0-dimensional compact subset of  $\partial N$  and  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron of  $N$  with  $X \cap (F \cup A) = \emptyset$ . Let  $\mathcal{I} = \{I_i\}$  be a finite collection of disjoint oriented arcs in  $\partial N$  such that  $A \subset \bigcup_i I_i$ . (We allow that  $I_i$  is a single point.) The definition of the group  $\mathcal{H}_+(A) \equiv \mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{I})$  is given by §1. If  $\mathcal{J}$  is another collection which refines  $\mathcal{I}$ , then  $\mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{J})$  is an open neighborhood of  $id_A$  in  $\mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{I})$ . Hence the property “ $\mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{I})$  is discrete” does not depend on the choice

of the collection  $\mathcal{I}$ .

**Lemma 4.2.**  $\mathcal{H}_X(N, F \cup A)$  is an ANR (or locally path connected) iff  $\mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{I})$  is discrete.

*Proof.* Replacing each  $I_i$  by a subinterval (or a single point), we may assume that  $\partial I_i \subset A_i$ . Let  $\mathcal{U} = \{f \in \mathcal{H}_{X \cup F}(N) \mid f(I_i) = I_i \text{ and } f|_{I_i} \in \mathcal{H}_+(I_i, A_i) \text{ for each } i\}$  and  $\mathcal{F} = \prod_i \mathcal{H}_+(I_i, A_i)$ , and let  $\pi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ ,  $\pi(f) = (f|_{I_i})_i$  be the restriction map. It follows that (i)  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open neighborhood of  $id_N$  in  $\mathcal{H}_X(N, F \cup A)$ . (ii)  $\mathcal{H}_X(N, F \cup A)$  is an ANR iff  $\mathcal{U}$  is an ANR, and (iii)  $\mathcal{H}_+(A) \cong \prod_i \mathcal{H}_+(A_i)$ , so from Lemma 4.1  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  is discrete iff  $\mathcal{F}$  is an ANR.

Using a cone of  $I_i$  embedded in  $N$ , we can easily find a map  $\lambda : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  such that  $\pi \lambda = id_{\mathcal{F}}$  (i.e.,  $\lambda((g_i)_i)|_{I_i} = g_i$ ). This induces a homeomorphism  $\varphi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{X \cup F \cup (\cup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} I_i)}(N) \times \mathcal{F}$ ,  $\varphi(f) = ((\lambda \pi(f))^{-1} f, \pi(f))$ . The inverse is given by  $\varphi^{-1}(h, (g_i)_i) = \lambda((g_i)_i)h$ . Since  $\mathcal{H}_{X \cup F \cup (\cup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} I_i)}(N)$  is an ANR by Fact 2.4.(ii), it follows that  $\mathcal{U}$  is an ANR iff  $\mathcal{F}$  is an ANR. This implies the conclusion.

The same argument applies to the “locally path connected” case (replace “ANR” by “locally path connected”).  $\square$

We can now complete the proof of Theorem 1.

**Proof of Theorem 1.** If  $M$  takes the form  $(*)$ , then  $\mathcal{H}_X(M) \cong \mathcal{H}_X(N, F \cup A)$  by Fact 2.5. If  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  is locally path connected, then  $M$  takes the form  $(*)$  from Lemma 3.5 and  $\mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{I})$  is discrete from Lemma 4.2. Conversely, suppose  $M$  takes the form  $(*)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_+(A; \mathcal{I})$  is discrete. Since  $X$  is a compact subpolyhedron of  $M$ ,  $X$  is also a compact subpolyhedron of  $N$  with respect to a PL-triangulation of  $N$ .<sup>8)</sup> Hence  $\mathcal{H}_X(N, F \cup A)$  is an ANR from Lemma 4.2, and  $\mathcal{H}_X(M)$  is an  $\ell^2$ -manifold by Fact 2.3.  $\square$

Finally, we will give some examples of 0-dimensional compact subsets  $A$  in  $I = [0, 1]$  for which the groups  $\mathcal{H}_+(A)$  are not discrete. Note that these examples can be realized as ends of noncompact 2-manifolds.

**Example.** (1) (i) Let  $A = \{0\} \cup \{\frac{1}{n} : n \geq 2\} \cup \{1 - \frac{1}{n} : n \geq 2\} \cup \{1\}$ , and for each  $n \geq 1$  take a compact subset  $X_n$  in  $[\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n}]$  such that  $([\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n}], X_n) \cong (I, A)$ . If  $X = \{0\} \cup (\cup_n X_n)$ , then  $\mathcal{H}_+(X) \cong \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{Z}$ , where  $\mathcal{Z}$  is the set of integers with the discrete topology. This follows from

$$\mathcal{H}_+(A) \cong A \setminus \{0, 1\} \cong \mathcal{Z} : f \mapsto f(1/2) \text{ and } \mathcal{H}_+(X) \cong \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_+(X_n) : f \mapsto (f|_{X_n})_n.$$

(ii) If we replace  $A$  by  $B = \{0\} \cup \{\frac{1}{n} : n \geq 1\}$  and construct a compactum  $Y \subset I$  from  $B$  as in (i), then  $Y \cong X$  but  $\mathcal{H}_+(Y) = \{id_Y\}$ .

(2) If  $C$  is a Cantor set in  $I$ , then  $\mathcal{H}_+(C)$  has no isolated point.

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