

TORUS PHILOSOPHY (of R.D. Edwards)

A result which is true for a 'homeomorphism' of tori up to homotopy, is true for a 'homeomorphism' of manifolds up to isotopy.

Examples ($T^n = n$ -torus; replace with $B^k \times T^n$ as necessary.)

I Local Contractibility (Černavskii, Edwards-Kirby)

Known: a small homeomorphism of T^n is homotopic to the identity.

Conclude: a small homeomorphism of a manifold is isotopic to the identity.

II Triangulation-Hauptvermutung (Kirby-Siebenmann)

Known: a topological homeomorphism

$$h: (B^k \times T^n, \partial B^k \times T^n) \rightarrow (Q^{PL}, \partial Q)$$

which is PL on boundary, is homotopic rel boundary to a PL homeomorphism (after lifting; $k \neq 3$).

Conclude: a topological homeomorphism

$h: W \rightarrow Q$ of PL manifolds is isotopic to a PL homeomorphism, if $H^3(W, \mathbb{Z}_2) = 0$.

III Approximating Cellular Maps by Homeomorphisms (Siebenmann, Topology 11 (1972)).

Known: a cellular map $h: W \rightarrow T^n$
is homotopic to a homeomorphism.

Conclude: a cellular map $h: W \rightarrow Q$
of topological manifolds is
pseudoisotopic to a homeomorphism.

IV Locally Homotopically Unknotted $\Rightarrow$ Locally Flat in codim 1

(Daverman BAMS 1972, using Price-Scebeck)

Known: if $h: T^{n-1} \rightarrow T^n$ is a locally
homotopically unknotted embedding
which is homotopic to standard inclusion,
then $T^n - h(T^{n-1}) \approx T^{n-1} \times R^1$.

Conclude: if $h: W^{n-1} \rightarrow Q^n$ is a
locally homotopically unknotted,
codimension 1 embedding of topological
manifolds, then h is a
locally flat embedding.

V. Topological Regular Neighborhoods.

Known : any two mapping cylinder neighborhoods of a standard T^m in R^q are homeomorphic fixing core.

Conclude (TOP regular neighborhood uniqueness) : Any two mapping cylinder neighborhoods of M in Q are homeomorphic fixing core, by a well-controlled ambient isotopy.