

A NOTE ON PRIMITIVE SKEW CURVES

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In 1930 Kuratowski¹ established the following result:

THEOREM A. *A locally connected continuum, containing but a finite number of simple closed curves, is homeomorphic with a subset of the plane, provided that it does not contain a primitive skew curve of type I or a primitive skew curve of type II.*

By a primitive skew curve of type I we mean any topological image of the complex C which consists of two groups of three vertices each and nine 1-cells, in a fashion that each vertex of one group together with each vertex of the other group bounds a 1-cell. By a primitive skew curve of type II we mean any topological image of the complex D which consists of five vertices and ten 1-cells in a fashion that each pair of vertices bounds a 1-cell.

In 1934 Claytor² proved that every cyclic locally connected continuum containing no primitive skew curve of either type must be homeomorphic with a subset of a spherical surface.

In this note we point out that for a large class of locally connected continua the property of being planar may be insured merely by requiring that the given locally connected continuum contain no primitive skew curve of type I. Stated precisely, our principal theorem is the following:

THEOREM 1. *Let M be a locally connected continuum separated by no pair of its points and assume that M contains no primitive skew curve of type I. Then M contains no primitive skew curve of type II.*

The proof is immediate. Assuming the existence of a primitive skew curve D of type II in M and using the fact that no two points separate M we may easily find a simple arc ab in M having only the points a and b in common with D and such that a is interior to a free arc of D while b does not lie on the closure of this free arc. Denote the sum of D and the arc ab by D' . A careful examination of D' shows that this set must contain a primitive skew curve of type I contrary to our hypothesis on M .

Presented to the Society, September 13, 1943; received by the editors July 17, 1943.

¹ *Sur les problèmes des courbes gauches en topologie*, Fund. Math. vol. 15 (1930) pp. 271-283.

² *Topological immersion of Peanian continua in a spherical surface*, Ann. of Math. vol. 35 (1934) pp. 809-835.