

## PERIODIC AUTOMORPHISMS OF SURFACES AND COBORDISM

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### 0. Introduction

In this paper, we work in the differential category. Unless otherwise stated, a surface is an oriented closed, possibly disconnected, surface, and an automorphism is an orientation preserving self-homeomorphism. An automorphism of a surface  $(F, f)$  is said to be *null-cobordant* if there is a compact oriented 3-manifold  $M$  equipped with an automorphism  $(M, \hat{f})$ , such that  $\partial(M, \hat{f}) = (\partial M, \hat{f}|_{\partial M})$  is equal to  $(F, f)$ . We call this 3-manifold  $M$  the *null-cobordism* for  $(F, f)$ . Two automorphisms of surfaces  $(F_1, f_1)$  and  $(F_2, f_2)$  are *cobordant* if  $(F_1, f_1) \cup (-F_2, f_2)$  is null-cobordant. The cobordism classes form a group  $\Delta_{2+}$  whose group law is induced by disjoint sum  $\amalg$ . Bonahon [B], Edmonds and Eving [EE] proved that  $\Delta_{2+}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$ . Bonahon asked the following question in his paper [B;section 9]

*Given an automorphism of a surface (for instance presented as a product of Dehn twists), decide whether it is null-cobordant or not.*

For the sake of characterizing null-cobordant automorphisms, we want to know, for arbitrary null-cobordant automorphism, what kind of 3-manifold can be constructed as its null-cobordism, and we want to get an explicitly constructed family of 3-manifolds in which, for any null-cobordant automorphism, we can find a null-cobordism of this automorphism. For example, if an automorphism of a 2-torus is null-cobordant then it bounds an automorphism of a solid torus ([B]). In this paper, we show that the same kind of things are true for other surfaces:

**Theorem 1.** *If an automorphism over a surface is null-cobordant, then this automorphism bounds an automorphism of a 3-manifold obtained by glueing 1-handles over disjoint union of orientable 1-bundles over closed, possibly non orientable, surfaces, handlebodies, and trivalent manifolds (defined in section 3).*

Contents are as follows: in section 1, we review some results and terminologies in [B]. In section 2, we review some results on periodic maps, show that any periodic map *compresses* to a *trivalent map*, and introduce a graph which corresponds to a null-cobordant trivalent map. In section 3, we introduce a *trivalent manifold*

which is a null-cobordism of a null-cobordant trivalent map, and construct hyperbolic structures on these manifolds. In section 4, we give a proof of Theorem 1. In section 5, we apply trivalent maps and trivalent graphs for another problem. Let  $\Delta_{2+}^P(n)$  denote the group of periodic cobordism classes of automorphisms  $(F, f)$  with period  $n$ . Bonahon [B; Proposition 8.3] proved that  $\Delta_{2+}^P(n) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$  (here,  $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$  means “integer part”). We show this fact explicitly with giving the basis of this abelian group in terms of trivalent maps.

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## 1. Preliminaries

In this section, we review some results and terminologies in [B]. The following was shown:

**Lemma** [B; Lemma 5.2]. *If  $(F, f)$  is null-cobordant, it bounds an automorphism  $(M, \hat{f})$  with  $M$  irreducible.*

For an irreducible 3-manifold  $M$ , its boundary may be compressible. Hence, we want to extract compressing discs of boundaries from this 3-manifold. A terminology was defined:

**DEFINITION.** A 3-manifold  $V$  is a *compression body* for a surface  $F$  if  $V$  is an irreducible 3-manifold formed from  $F \times I$  by adding 2- and 3-handles to  $F \times \{1\}$ , i.e.  $V$  is obtained by adding 2-handles along thin regular neighborhoods of disjoint simple closed curves in  $F \times \{1\}$  and capping off any 2-sphere boundary components this creates with 3-balls. There exists a partition  $\partial V = \partial_e V \amalg \partial_i V$ , where  $\partial_e V = F \times \{0\}$ ,  $\partial_i V = \partial V - \partial_e V$ . We call  $\partial_e V$  the *exterior boundary* and  $\partial_i V$  the *interior boundary*.

We construct compression bodies for  $\partial M$  embedded in  $M$ . There exist a great variety of compression bodies, but there is a “maximal” one. Namely, Bonahon showed:

**Theorem** [B; Theorem 2.1]. *Let  $M$  be an irreducible, three manifold. There exists a compression body  $V \subset M$  for  $\partial M$ , unique up to isotopy, such that  $\overline{M - V}$  is  $\partial$ -irreducible (and irreducible).*

We call the compression body  $V$  given in this Theorem the *characteristic*

compression body of  $M$ . For an irreducible and  $\partial$ -irreducible manifold  $M'$ , Johannson [Jo], Jaco and Shalen [JS] showed:

**Theorem [Jo], [JS].** *By a family of essential tori and annuli properly embedded in  $M'$ , which are not parallel pair by pair.  $M'$  is decomposed into two factors,*

- 1) *a Seifert factor: this factor consists of Seifert fibered manifolds and I-bundles over surfaces*
- 2) *a simple factor: this factor is atoroidal and anannular, but does not have Seifert fiber structure or I-bundle structure and this decomposition is unique up to isotopy.*

Hence, an irreducible 3-manifold  $M$  is decomposed into three factors, a characteristic compression body, a Seifert part, and a simple factor, unique up to isotopy. Bonahon deeply investigated this decomposition, and showed:

**Proposition A ([B;Proposition 5.1]).** *If  $(F, f)$  is null-cobordant, it bounds an automorphism  $(M^3, \hat{f})$  where  $M$  split into three pieces  $V$ ,  $M_1$  and  $M_p$ , preserved by  $\hat{f}$ , such that:*

- (1)  *$V$  is a compression body for  $\partial M$  and  $\overline{M-V} = M_1 \cup M_p$ .*
- (2)  *$M_1$  is an orientable I-bundle over a closed, possibly non-orientable, surface.*
- (3) *The restriction of  $\hat{f}$  to  $M_p$  is periodic.*

In this paper, we study  $M_p$ , that is, for a given periodic null-cobordant automorphism  $(F_p, f_p)$ , we construct, explicitly, a 3-manifold  $\hat{M}$  such that there is a periodic automorphism  $(\hat{M}, \hat{f})$  whose restriction to the boundary  $(\partial \hat{M}, \hat{f}|_{\partial \hat{M}})$  is  $(F_p, f_p)$ . In section 3, we will show that this  $\hat{M}$  can be decomposed into hyperbolic 3-manifolds by essential tori. Hence, Theorem 1 is restated as follows:

**Theorem 1'.** *If  $(F, f)$  is null-cobordant, it bounds an automorphism of an irreducible 3-manifold whose Seifert factor consists of an orientable I-bundle over a surface and whose simple factor is a trivalent manifold (defined in section 3).*

## 2. Periodic automorphisms

An automorphism of a surface  $(F, f)$  is *periodic*, if there is positive integers  $n$  such that  $f^n = \text{id}_F$ . The *period* of  $(F, f)$  is the smallest positive integer which satisfies the above condition. Let  $n$  be the period of  $(F, f)$ . Denote  $\text{Fix}_+ f = \{x \in F \mid \text{there exists a positive integer } m < n \text{ such that } f^m(x) = x\}$ . For any periodic map  $(F, f)$ , its orbit space  $F/f$  is defined by identifying  $x$  in  $F$  with  $f(x)$ , let  $\pi_f: F \rightarrow F/f$  be the quotient map. For any component  $F_i$  of  $F$ , the *period of  $f$  in  $F_i$*  is the period of the map  $f|_{\hat{F}_i}$ , where  $\hat{F}_i = \pi_f^{-1}(\pi_f(F_i))$ . If all the components of  $F$  have the same period  $n$ , then  $(F, f)$  is the periodic map with the *total period  $n$* . For any periodic map  $(F, f)$  with the total period  $n$ , denote  $\pi_f(\text{Fix}_+ f)$  by  $S_f$  and called

singular set of  $F/f$  and its elements are called *singular points*. Let  $O_i$  be any connected component of  $F/f$  and its elements are called *singular points*. Let  $O_i$  be any connected component of  $F/f - S_f$ ,  $x_i$  be any point of  $O_i$  and  $\tilde{x}_i$  be any point in  $F$  such that  $\pi_f(\tilde{x}_i) = x_i$ . Define the homomorphism  $R_f$  from  $\bigoplus_i \pi_1(O_i, x_i)$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  as follows: Let  $\lambda$  be an element of  $\pi_1(O_i, x_i)$ , and let  $l$  be a loop representing  $\lambda$ . Let  $\tilde{l}$  be a path which begins at  $\tilde{x}_i$  and  $\pi_f(\tilde{l}) = l$ , where  $\pi_f|_{\tilde{l}}$  is injective. There exists a positive integer  $r$  smaller than or equal to  $n$  such that  $f^r(\tilde{x}_i)$  is the terminal point of  $\tilde{l}$ . We define  $R_f(\lambda) = r$ . We note that this definition does not depend on the choice of the base points  $\tilde{x}_i$  and the loops  $l$  and their lifts  $\tilde{l}$  on  $F$ . Since  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is abelian, we can naturally define a homomorphism  $\rho_f$  from  $H_1(F/f - S_f; \mathbb{Z})$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  induced by  $R_f$ . For any point  $s_j$  of  $S_f$ , let  $D_i$  be a disk in  $F/f$ , which include  $s_j$  in its interior and is sufficiently small such that no other points  $s_j$  ( $i \neq j$ ) is included in  $D_i$ . Define  $I_f(s_i) = \rho_f([\partial D_i])$ . We note that  $I_f(s_i)$  is independent of the choice of  $D_i$ .

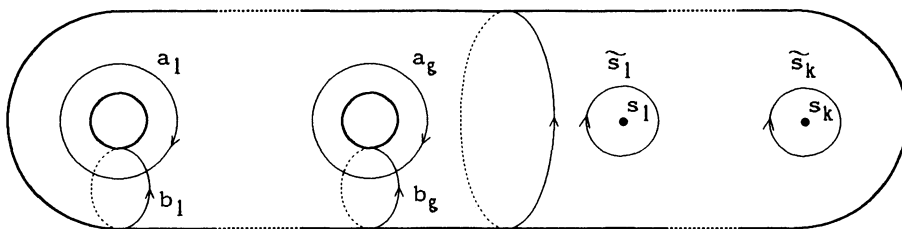


Fig. 1.

Let  $\Sigma_g$  be a connected surface of genus  $g$ ,  $S$  a set of finite points in  $\Sigma_g$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{P}_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  the set of the periodic map  $(F, f)$  with total period  $n$  such that  $S_f = S$ . A periodic map  $(F, f)$  with total period  $n$  is  $(n, g, k)$ -periodic map, if  $(F, f)$  is the element of  $\mathcal{P}_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  where the number of the points of  $S$  is  $k$ . Two elements  $(F_1, f_1)$  and  $(F_2, f_2)$  of  $\mathcal{P}_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  are equivalent if there exists an orientation preserving diffeomorphism  $h: F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  such that  $h \circ f_1 = f_2 \circ h$ . Denote the set of equivalent classes in  $\mathcal{P}_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  by  $P_n(\Sigma_g, S)$ . We take a model for  $\Sigma_g$  in the 3-dimensional Euclidean space as shown in Figure 1. Let  $Hom(H_1(\Sigma_g - S), \mathbb{Z}_n)^*$  be the set of homomorphisms  $\omega$  from  $H_1(\Sigma_g - S)$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  such that  $\omega(\tilde{s}_i) \neq 0$  for every  $\tilde{s}_i$ . We say that two elements  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  of  $Hom(H_1(\Sigma_g - S), \mathbb{Z}_n)^*$  are  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent, if there exists a homeomorphism  $h$  on  $(\Sigma_g, S)$  such that  $\omega_1 \circ h_* = \omega_2$  where  $h_*$  is the automorphism of  $H_1(\Sigma_g - S)$  induced by  $h|_{\Sigma_g - S}$ . We denote by  $Q_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  the set of the  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent class of  $Hom(H_1(\Sigma_g - S), \mathbb{Z}_n)^*$ . Yokoyama [Y] showed the following theorem.

**Theorem B**

I) The map that associates with each  $(F, f)$  in  $P_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  the homomorphism  $\rho_f: H_1(\Sigma_g - S) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$  defines a one-to-one correspondence between  $P_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  and  $Q_n(\Sigma_g, S)$ .

II) Any element of  $Q_n(\Sigma_g, S)$  can be represented by homomorphism  $\rho: H_1(\Sigma_g - S) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that  $\rho(a_1) = m$ ,  $\rho(b_1) = 0$ ,  $\rho(a_i) = \rho(b_i) = 0$  ( $i \geq 2$ ) and, for  $\theta_j = \rho(\tilde{s}_j)$ ,  $1 \leq \theta_i \leq \theta_2 \leq \dots \leq \theta_k < n$ ,  $\theta_1 + \dots + \theta_k \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ .

**Corollary 2** [B; Lemma 8.2]. *If  $S_f = \phi$ , then  $(F, f)$  bounds a periodic automorphism of a disjoint union of handlebodies.*

**Proof.** Following from Theorem B, we can see that such a map is a composition of a transitive cyclic permutation of components of  $F$  and a rotation around the axis as in Figure 2. Since this map bounds an automorphism of a disjoint union of handlebodies, we get the result.

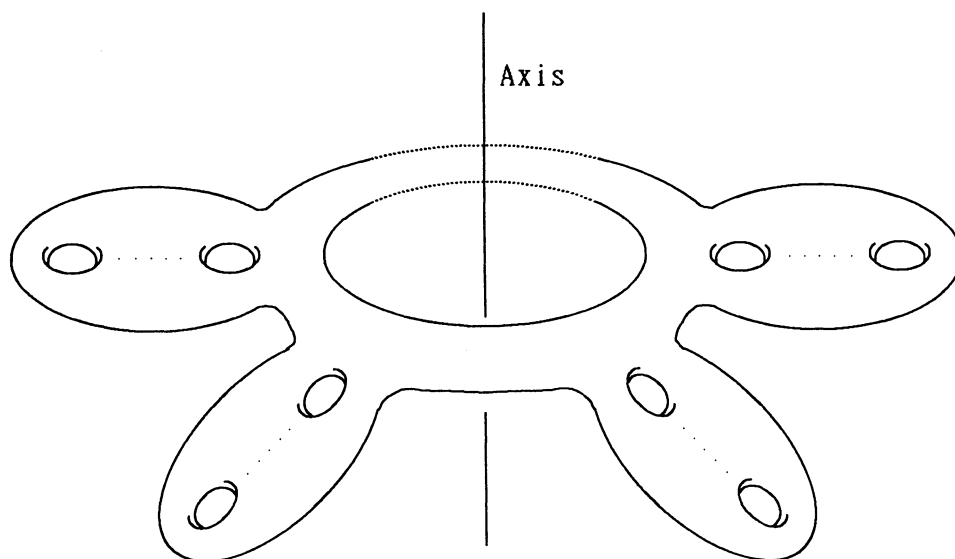


Fig. 2.

**DEFINITION.** A periodic map  $(F, f)$  is *trivalent map*, if it is a disjoint union of  $(n, 0, 3)$ -periodic maps, i.e. the orbit space  $F/f$  is a disjoint union of 2-spheres and each components have three singular points.

The *genus* of a trivalent map  $(F, f)$  is the sum of genera of all components of  $F$ . By Theorem B, there exists a unique element of  $P_n(S^2, \{x_1, x_2, x_3\})$  represented by a trivalent map  $(F, f)$  under the condition that  $\theta_i = I_f(x_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ). Represent this map  $(F, f)$  by  $\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3; n\}$ . This map  $\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3; n\}$  is independent of the

choice of the order of  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$ , as an element of  $P_n(S^2, \{x_1, x_2, x_3\})$ , we may assume  $0 < \theta_1 \leq \theta_2 \leq \theta_3 < n$ . Define  $n_i = g.c.d.(\theta_i, n)$  ( $i=1,2,3$ ),  $N = g.c.d.(n_1, n_2, n_3)$ . Then  $N$  is the number of the components of  $F$ . The genus  $G$  of the trivalent map  $\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3; n\}$  is given by the following formula

$$G = N + \{n - (n_1 + n_2 + n_3)\} / 2$$

Here, we will give some examples of trivalent maps.

EXAMPLE. Using the above formula, we classify all trivalent maps on surfaces with genera 0,1,2 up to equivalence.

0) *Trivalent maps on 2-sphere.*

There is no trivalent map on disjoint union of 2-spheres.

1) *Trivalent maps on 2-tori.*

There are 6 types of trivalent maps on a 2-torus; (1)  $\{1,1,1;3\}$ , (1')  $\{2,2,2;3\}$ , (2)  $\{1,1,2;4\}$ , (2')  $\{2,3,3;4\}$ , (3)  $\{1,2,3;6\}$ , (3')  $\{3,4,5;6\}$ . Here, (1') is the same as (1) but the orientation reversed, and (2'), (3') are also. These maps are represented by  $2 \times 2$  matrices; (1)  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  (2)  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  (3)  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . This is proved as follows:

For these maps,  $N=1$  and  $\{n - (n_1 + n_2 + n_3)\} / 2 = 0$  in the above formula for  $G$ . Therefore  $n = n_1 + n_2 + n_3$ . Divide this equation by  $n$  and replace  $n/n_i$  by  $m_i$ , then  $1/m_1 + 1/m_2 + 1/m_3 = 0$ . To satisfy this condition,  $(m_1, m_2, m_3)$  is one of  $(3,3,3)$ ,  $(2,3,6)$ ,  $(2,4,4)$ . By the definition of  $N$ ,  $n$  must be *l.c.m.* $(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ . For each  $(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ , we can reconstruct trivalent maps and get the result. On the disjoint union of 2-tori, trivalent maps whose orbit spaces are connected are constructed by combining the trivalent maps on one 2-torus with the cyclic transitive permutation of the components. For example there are 6 types of trivalent maps on a disjoint union of two 2-tori; (1)  $\{2,2,2;6\}$ , (1')  $\{4,4,4;6\}$ , (2)  $\{2,2,4;8\}$ , (2')  $\{4,6,6;8\}$ , (3)  $\{2,4,6;12\}$ , (3')  $\{6,8,10;12\}$ .

2) *Trivalent maps on a genus 2 closed surface  $\Sigma_2$ .*

Trivalent map on  $\Sigma_2$  is one of the following; (1)  $\{1,2,2;5\}$ , (1')  $\{3,3,4;5\}$ , (2)  $\{1,1,3;5\}$ , (2')  $\{2,4,4;5\}$ , (3)  $\{2,5,5;6\}$ , (3')  $\{1,1,4;6\}$ , (4)  $\{4,5,7;8\}$ , (4')  $\{1,3,4;8\}$ , (5)  $\{1,4,5;10\}$ , (5')  $\{5,6,9;10\}$ , (6)  $\{2,3,5;10\}$ , (6')  $\{5,7,8;10\}$ . This is proved by the two facts, (a) if a positive prime integer  $n$  is a period of a periodic map on a connected surface of genus  $g$  ( $g \geq 2$ ), then  $n \leq 2g + 1$  (it is a corollary of Riemann-Hurwitz Relation (see [FK])), (b) the greatest number of the period of the periodic map over a connected surface of genus  $g$  ( $g \geq 2$ ) is  $2(2g + 1)$  (see [H; Theorem 6]).

DEFINITION. An automorphism of surface  $(F_1, f_1)$  compresses to  $(F_2, f_2)$ , if there exists an automorphism of a compression body  $(V, \hat{f})$  such that  $(F_1, f_1) = (\partial_e V, \hat{f}|_{\partial_e V})$ ,  $(F_2, f_2) = (-\partial_i V, \hat{f}|_{\partial_i V})$ .

The following Theorem shows that trivalent maps are the essential parts of periodic maps.

**Theorem 3.** *Any periodic map compresses to a trivalent map.*

*Proof.* Let  $(F, f)$  be a periodic automorphism. For a simple closed curve  $l$  in  $F/f - S_f$ , let  $N$  be a thin regular neighborhood of  $l$  in  $F/f - S_f$ , and let  $\amalg_j N_j = \pi_f^{-1}(N)$  be the decomposition into connected components. Cut the surface  $F$  along  $\pi_f^{-1}(l)$ , and denote  $F^c = F - \amalg_j N_j$ , then  $(F^c, f|_{F^c})$  is a periodic map. A restriction of this map to the boundary,  $(\partial F^c, f|_{\partial F^c})$ , bounds a periodic map  $((\amalg D_j) \amalg (\amalg D'_j), g)$ , where  $\partial D_j \amalg \partial D'_j = \partial N_j$  and  $g|_{D_j}, g|_{D'_j}$  are rotations. We denote by  $s_j, s'_j$  the centers of these rotations. Let  $\tilde{F} = F^c \cup ((\amalg D_j) \amalg (\amalg D'_j))$  where  $\partial F^c$  and  $(\amalg \partial D_j) \amalg (\amalg \partial D'_j)$  are identified naturally. On this surface, we can obtain a periodic map  $(\tilde{F}, \tilde{f})$  such that  $(F^c, \tilde{f}|_{F^c}) = (F^c, f|_{F^c})$  and  $((\amalg D_j) \amalg (\amalg D'_j), \tilde{f}|_{(\amalg D_j) \amalg (\amalg D'_j)}) = ((\amalg D_j) \amalg (\amalg D'_j), g)$ . We say that  $(\tilde{F}, \tilde{f})$  is obtained from  $(F, f)$  by an *equivariant 2-surgery* along  $l$ . If  $\rho_f(l) \neq 0$ , then  $S_{\tilde{f}} = S_f \cup \{s_j, s'_j\}$  and  $I_{\tilde{f}}(s_j) = -I_{\tilde{f}}(s'_j) = \pm \rho_f(l)$ . If  $\rho_f(l) = 0$  then  $S_{\tilde{f}} = S_f$ .

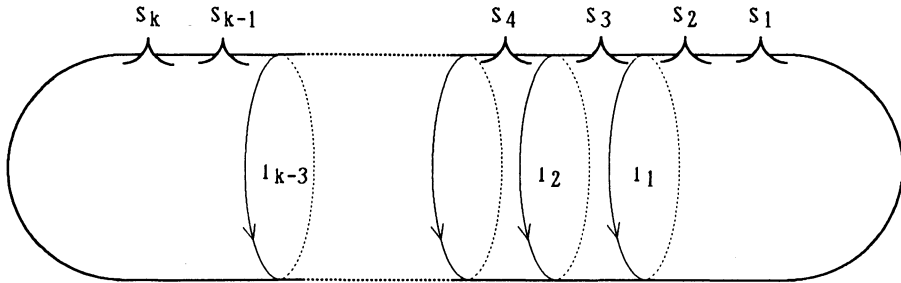


Fig. 3.

We can divide automorphism into parts which have total period  $n$  and  $n$ 's are different each other, and discuss each parts. Therefore, we assume the periodic map  $(F, f)$  has the total period  $n$ . For each component  $O$  of  $F/f$ , let  $l$  be a simple closed curve as in Figure 1. Perform an equivariant 2-surgery along  $l$  and obtain a periodic automorphism  $(F', f')$ . This periodic automorphism  $(F', f')$  is a disjoint union of  $(n, 0, k)$ -periodic maps and  $(n, g, 0)$ -periodic maps. Thus, by Corollary 2,  $(F, f)$  compresses to a disjoint union of  $(n, 0, k)$ -periodic maps. For an  $(n, 0, k)$ -periodic map  $(F', f')$ , perform equivariant 2-surgeries along mutually disjoint simple closed curves  $l_1, \dots, l_{k-3}$  as in Figure 3 and obtain a periodic map  $(F'', f'')$

which is a disjoint union of  $(n,0,3)$ - and  $(n,0,2)$ -periodic maps. Remark that, for each component of  $F''/f''$ , the number of singular points is either two or three, depending on the value  $\rho_f(l_i)$ . An  $(n,0,2)$ -periodic map is a composition of a transitive cyclic permutation of components and rotations of 2-spheres whose axes are the lines through north poles to south poles. These maps bound periodic maps on 3-balls. This shows that an  $(n,0,k)$ -periodic map compresses to a disjoint union of  $(n,0,3)$ -periodic maps, i.e. trivalent maps, and finishes the proof.

A periodic map  $(F, f)$  is *periodic null-cobordant*, if there exists a periodic map  $(M, \hat{f})$  of a 3-manifold  $M$  such that  $\partial(M, \hat{f}) = (F, f)$  and periodic maps  $(F_1, f_1), (F_2, f_2)$  are *periodic cobordant*, if  $(F_1, f_1) \amalg (-F_2, f_2)$  is periodic null-cobordant. Remark that, for any periodic null-cobordant map  $(F, f)$ , periods of  $f$  in each component of  $F$  may be different. Let  $(M_i, \hat{f}_i)$  be the null-cobordism of  $(F_i, f_i)$ , for each component  $M_i$  of  $M$ , as is easy to see, the periods of  $f$  in each component of  $F \cap \partial M_i$  are the same. Hence, for the sake of our investigation, it is sufficient to work on periodic maps with some total period. For any point  $x$  in  $F$ , let  $m$  be the smallest positive integer with  $f^m(x) = x$ . Then there exists an element  $\rho$  of  $\mathcal{Q}/\mathcal{Z}$  such that  $f^m$  is locally conjugate to a rotation of angle  $2\pi\rho$  around  $x$  where the conjugation is given by the orientation preserving local automorphism. Denote this  $\rho$  by  $r(f, x)$ .

Bonahon [B; Proposition 8.1] showed the following proposition.

**Proposition C.** *If  $(F, f)$  is a periodic map,  $(F, f)$  is periodic null-cobordant if and only if  $\text{Fix}_+ f$  admits a partition into pairs  $\{x_i, x'_i\}$  such that:*

- (1)  $r(f, x_i) + r(f, x'_i) = 0$ .
- (2) For every  $i, f(\{x_i, x'_i\}) = \{x_j, x'_j\}$  for some  $j$ .

The following lemma shows some relationship between  $r(f, x)$  and  $I_f(\pi_f(x))$ :

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $(F, f)$  be a periodic map with the total period  $n$ . For two points  $x$  and  $x'$  in  $\text{Fix}_+ f$ ,  $r(f, x) + r(f, x') = 0$  if and only if  $I_f(\pi_f(x)) + I_f(\pi_f(x')) = 0$ .*

Proof. If the total period  $n$  is fixed,  $r(f, x)$  and  $I_f(\pi_f(x))$  are determined by each other, and this does not depend on the map  $f$ . Hence, it suffices to show the claim for  $(n,0,2)$ -periodic maps, in which case the statement is trivial.

We can restate Proposition C in terms of  $I_f(\ast)$ :

**Lemma 5.** *A periodic map  $(F, f)$  with the total period  $n$  is periodic null-cobordant if and only if  $S_f$  admits a partition into pairs  $\{s_i, s'_i\}$  such that  $I_f(s_i) + I_f(s'_i) = 0$ .*

Proof. First, we see the sufficiency. Let  $\{x_i, x'_i\}$  be the lift of  $\{s_i, s'_i\}$ ,



$r(f, x_i) + r(f, x'_i) = 0$  by Lemma 4. By the definition of  $r(f, *)$ ,  $r(f, x) = r(f, f(x))$  for all  $x$  in  $Fix_{+}f$ , therefore  $r(f, f(x_i)) + r(f, f(x'_i)) = 0$ . We can see that a partition into pairs of  $S_f$  naturally induces a partition into pairs of  $Fix_{+}f$  which satisfies the condition mentioned in Proposition C.

Next, we see the necessity. Let  $Fix_{++}f = \{x \in Fix_{+}f \mid r(f, x) \neq 1/2\}$ . Then this set admits a partition into pairs  $\{x_i, x'_i\}$  following from Proposition C. The subset  $S_{f+} = \pi_f(Fix_{++}f)$  of  $S_f$  admits a partition into pairs  $\{s_i, s'_i\}$  such that  $I_f(s_i) + I_f(s'_i) = 0$  following from Lemma 4. For each element  $s$  of  $S_f - S_{f+}$ , since any lift  $x$  of  $s$  satisfies  $r(f, x) = 1/2$ ,  $I_f(f, x)$  is equal to  $n/2 \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . For each element  $s_i$  of  $S_{f+}$ , let  $D_i$  be a small 2-disk in  $F/f$  around  $s_i$  such that they do not intersect each other. By the definition of  $I_f(*)$ , we can see  $\rho_f(\Sigma[\partial D_i]) = 0$ . For each element  $s'_j \in S_f - S_{f+}$ , let  $D'_j$  be a small 2-disk in  $F/f$  around  $s'_j$  as above. Then  $\Sigma[\partial D'_j] = -\Sigma[\partial D_i]$  and it follows that  $\rho_f(\Sigma[\partial D'_j]) = 0$ . By the definition of  $I_f(*)$ ,  $\rho_f(\Sigma[\partial D'_j]) = \Sigma I_f(s'_j)$ . Since  $I_f(s'_j) = n/2$ ,  $S_f - S_{f+}$  consists of even number of points. The set  $S_f - S_{f+}$  can admit a partition into pairs  $\{s_j, s'_j\}$  such that  $I_f(s_j) + I_f(s'_j) = 0$ . Hence,  $S_f$  admits a partition into pairs which we need.

**DEFINITION.** For any periodic null-cobordant map  $(F, f)$  with total period  $n$ , define the set

$$P_f = \left\{ \left\{ \{s_i, s'_i\} \right\}_i \mid \begin{array}{l} \cup \{s_i, s'_i\} = S_f, \{s_i, s'_i\} \cap \{s_j, s'_j\} = \emptyset \text{ for any } i \neq j, \\ \text{and } I_f(s_i) + I_f(s'_i) = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

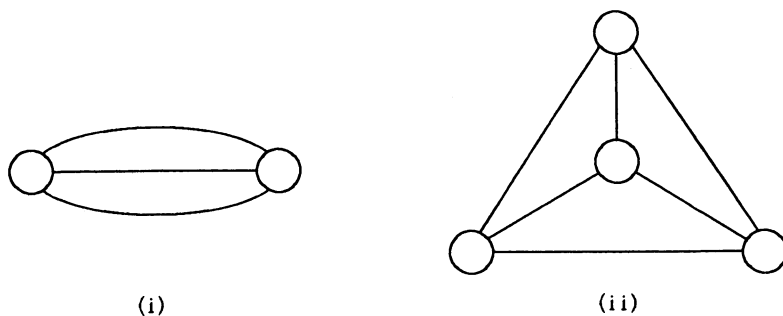


Fig. 4.

A graph  $\Gamma$  is a 1-dimensional finite CW-complex. A vertex of  $\Gamma$  is a 0-cell of  $\Gamma$ , an edge of  $\Gamma$  is a 1-cell of  $\Gamma$ . We call a graph  $\Gamma$  *trivalent* if, for each vertex, the number of edges which terminate at this vertex is three (here, remark that edges are not oriented). Clearly, the number of vertices of a trivalent graph

is even. A graph  $\Gamma'$  is a *subgraph* of a graph  $\Gamma$ , if  $\Gamma'$  is the subcomplex of  $\Gamma$ . In Figure 4, we give two simple examples of trivalent graphs, which play central roles in this paper. A subgraph  $C$  of  $\Gamma$  is *circuit* over  $\Gamma$  if  $C$  is homeomorphic to  $S^1$ , and if the number of edges of  $C$  is  $l$  we call  $C$  a  $l$ -*circuit*. If the number of components of  $\Gamma$  is  $k$  and there exists an edge  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  such that  $\Gamma - e_1 \cup \dots \cup e_m$  have  $k + 1$  connected components, then  $\Gamma$  is said to be  $m$ -*splittable*, and the set  $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  is called a *splitting edge set*. Let  $(F, f)$  be a periodic null-cobordant trivalent map, and  $p \in P_f$ . We can make a trivalent graph  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  which corresponds to this map  $(F, f)$  and an element  $p$  of  $P_f$ , by identifying each component of  $F/f$  with the vertex of  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  and each pair  $\{s_i, s'_i\} \in p$  with the edge of  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  which connect two vertices identified with two components of  $F/f$  including  $s_i$  and  $s'_i$ . Give an arbitrary orientation on each edge, if a terminal vertex of an oriented edge  $e$  corresponds to the component of  $F/f$  including  $s'_i$ , then give a weight  $I_f(s'_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  on this oriented edge. The weights on the graph  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  depend on the orientation of edges, but we do not tell one from the others, that is, we regard the graphs in Figure 5 as the same weighted graphs.

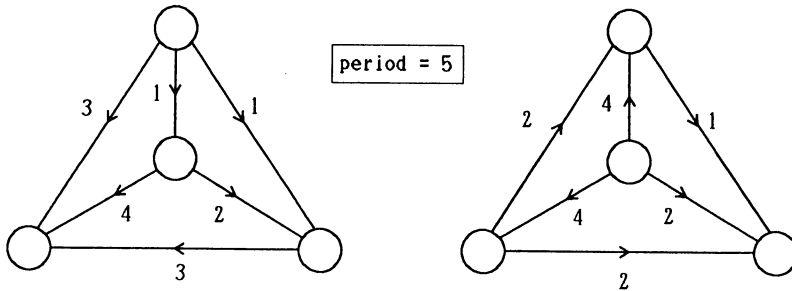


Fig. 5.

REMARK. Let  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  be connected,  $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  be splitting edge set, and  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$  be the components of  $\Gamma_{f,p} - e_1 \cup \dots \cup e_m$ . Give an orientation of each  $e_i$  such that whose terminal vertex is in  $\Gamma_2$ , then the summation of weights given to  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  is 0 (we can prove this fact by the induction of the number of vertices). From this fact, we can see that if  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  has two vertices then  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  is as in Figure 4(i).

### 3. Trivalent manifolds and their geometry

Regard  $S^3$  as a 1-point compactification of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Let  $\mathbb{R}^3$  be the Euclidean 3-space. Let  $\Gamma$  be the set which consists of vertices and edges of a tetrahedra in  $\mathbb{R}^3 \subset S^3$ . This CW-complex  $\Gamma$  is the trivalent graph as in Figure 4(ii). Let  $T = S^3$ -regular neighborhood of vertices of  $\Gamma$ , and  $(T, \hat{\Gamma}) = (T, T \cap \Gamma)$ .  $\hat{\Gamma}$  is four arcs properly embedded in  $T$ . Let  $\{(T_i, \hat{\Gamma}_i)\}_i$  be the arbitrary number of copies of  $(T, \hat{\Gamma})$ ,  $\{\{S_k, S'_k\}\}_k$  be the pairing of connected components of  $\cup_i \partial T_i$  such that

$\{S_k, S'_k\} \cap \{S_l, S'_l\} = \emptyset$  for any  $k \neq l$  and there may be some components of  $\cup_i \partial T_i$

which are not included in  $\cup(S_k, S'_k)$ .  $T$  can be regarded as a 3-ball removed three

3-balls. For a pair  $\{S_k, S'_k\}$ , let  $T_{i_k}, T_{j_k}$  be the two of  $T_i$ 's which include  $S_k, S'_k$  as their boundary component. Put a mirror between  $T_{i_k}, T_{j_k}$  as in Figure 6.  $(T_{i_k} \cup_{S_k} -S'_k T_{j_k}, \hat{\Gamma}_{i_k} \cup \hat{\Gamma}_{j_k})$  is a pair of a 3-manifold and arcs properly embedded in this 3-manifold which given as a result of identification of  $S_k, S'_k$  given by using this mirror. Do the same thing for other pairs, then we have a pair  $(\hat{T}, \hat{\Gamma})$  of a 3-manifold and arcs properly embedded in this 3-manifold. Construct a cyclic branched covering  $\tilde{T}$  of this 3-manifold  $\hat{T}$  whose branch point set is  $\hat{\Gamma}$ . We call this 3-manifold  $\tilde{T}$  given as a result of this process a *trivalent manifold*.

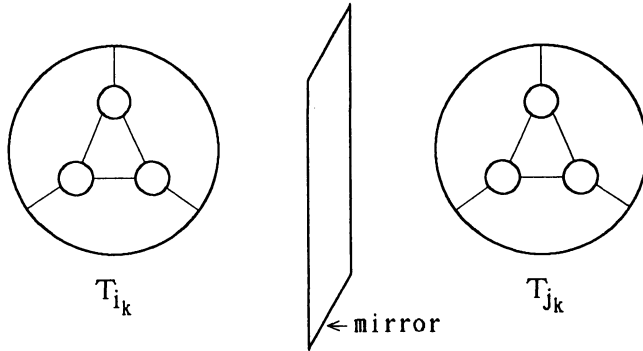


Fig. 6.

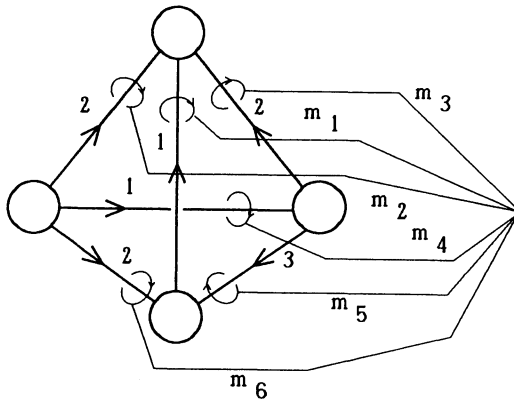


Fig. 7.

REMARK. The homeomorphism type of  $\tilde{T}$  is depend not only on  $(\hat{T}, \hat{\Gamma})$  but also on the type of cyclic branched covering.

EXAMPLE. Let  $(F, f)$  be a trivalent map of period 4, and embed a graph  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  with weight into  $S^3$  as indicated in Figure 7.  $T$  is a 3-manifold constructed from a 3-sphere with removing neighborhood of each vertices. Define  $\hat{\Gamma}_{f,p} = \Gamma_{f,p} \cap T$ . The fundamental group of a space  $T - \hat{\Gamma}_{f,p}$  is generated by the loops  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_6$  given in Figure 7. (As a system of generators of this fundamental group, four of them is enough.) We define a homomorphism  $\rho$  from  $\pi_1(T - \hat{\Gamma}_{f,p}, *)$  to  $\mathbf{Z}_4$  by  $\rho(m_1)=1, \rho(m_2)=1, \rho(m_3)=2, \rho(m_4)=1, \rho(m_5)=3, \rho(m_6)=2$ , we can easily check the well-definedness of this homomorphism. Let  $\hat{T}_0$  be the covering space of  $T - \hat{\Gamma}_{f,p}$  whose fundamental group is  $\ker \rho$ . Let  $\pi: \hat{T}_0 \rightarrow T - \hat{\Gamma}_{f,p}$  be the branched covering associated to the covering  $\hat{T}_0 \rightarrow T - \hat{\Gamma}_{f,p}$ . The covering transformation group of  $\pi: \hat{T}_0 \rightarrow T - \hat{\Gamma}_{f,p}$  is  $\mathbf{Z}_4$ . The manifold  $T$  is a trivalent manifold, and a generator of this group  $\hat{f}: \hat{T}_0 \rightarrow \hat{T}_0$  satisfies  $\partial(\hat{T}_0, \hat{f}) = (F, f)$ .

Any 3-manifold  $M$  which is a cyclic branched covering space of  $T$  whose branch point set is  $\hat{\Gamma}$  (denote this cyclic branched covering by  $\pi: M \rightarrow T$ ), has a hyperbolic structure with geodesic boundaries or cusps. This structure can be constructed as follows:

For a connected component  $l$  of  $\hat{\Gamma}$ , let  $x$  be a point in  $l$ , and  $D$  be the regular neighborhood of  $x$  in  $T$  sufficiently small such that  $D$  does not include points in  $\hat{\Gamma} - l$ . Let  $\tilde{D}$  be a component of  $\pi^{-1}(D)$ . Then,  $\pi|_{\tilde{D}}: \tilde{D} \rightarrow D$  is a  $n$ -fold cyclic branched covering. This number does not depend on the choice of the point  $x$  in  $l$ , and the choice of  $\tilde{D}$ . We call this number  $n$  a *branching index* of  $l$ . For a periodic automorphism  $f$  on a surface  $F$ , by the same manner, we can define a *branching index* of  $s \in S_f$ . Here, we review the definition of a truncated tetrahedra [K]. Let  $L_1, L_2, L_3$  and  $L_4$  be geodesic planes in the 3-dimensional hyperbolic space  $H^3$ , every two of which intersect each other, and every three of which intersect at infinity or do not intersect. For each three of them, say  $L_1, L_2$  and  $L_3$ , which do not intersect, there is unique geodesic plane  $P_{123}$  which intersects with them perpendiculary [K; Lemma 2.1]. The domain  $D$  in  $H^3$  bounded by these  $L$ 's and  $P$ 's are called a *truncated tetrahedra*. The face of  $D$  which is a part of  $P$ 's is called a *truncation face*. For a truncated tetrahedra, label the internal edges as in Figure 8 and denote the dihedral angle along the edges  $j$  by  $\varphi_j$ . The sufficient and necessary condition of  $\varphi_j$ 's to the existence of a truncated tetrahedra whose dihedral angles are these numbers is

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3 \leq \pi \\ \varphi_1 + \varphi_5 + \varphi_6 \leq \pi \\ \varphi_2 + \varphi_4 + \varphi_6 \leq \pi \\ \varphi_3 + \varphi_4 + \varphi_5 \leq \pi \end{cases}$$

[K; Lemma 2.3].

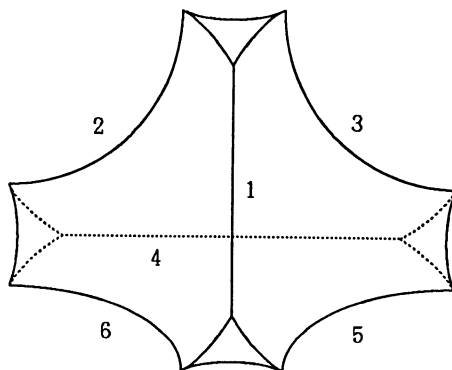


Fig. 8.

REMARK. In [K], the definition of a truncated tetrahedra is slightly different, namely the case which some three of  $L_1, L_2, L_3$  and  $L_4$  intersect at infinity is excluded, but, here, to avoid complexity, we do not exclude this case. Of course, the above sufficient and necessary condition is a little different, however, we can prove this in the same manner as [K].

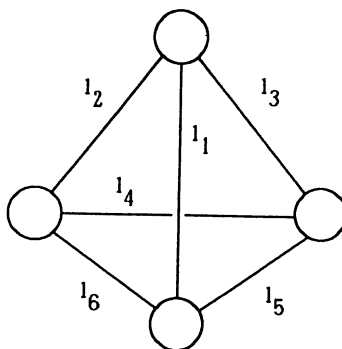


Fig. 9.

Label each component of  $\hat{\Gamma}$  as in Figure 9. Let  $n_i$  be a branching index of  $l_i$  of the cyclic branched covering  $\pi: M \rightarrow T$ . Define  $\varphi_i = \pi/n_i$ , then  $\varphi_i$ 's satisfy the above condition, because each boundary of  $T$  is an orbit space of a trivalent map which acts on the surface with genus more than 1. Therefore, we have a truncated tetrahedra whose dihedral angles are  $\varphi_i$ 's. Make a double of this truncated tetrahedra along a surface which is not truncation face, then this define a hyperbolic orbifold structure on  $T$  whose singular locus is  $\hat{\Gamma}$ . Lift this hyperbolic orbifold

structure to  $M$ . Since, for each component  $l$  of  $\hat{\Gamma}$ , the total of the dihedral angle around  $\pi^{-1}(l)$  is  $(\pi/n_i \times 2) \times n_i = 2\pi$ , this defines a hyperbolic structure on  $M$ .

Any trivalent manifold is constructed from a disjoint union of the above  $M$ 's with identifying some components of boundaries in a way compatible with the structure of the branched covering. This identification is given as an isometry on the hyperbolic structure constructed above. Therefore, we can give a hyperbolic structure to any trivalent manifold. We showed the following:

**Proposition 6.** *Any trivalent manifold is a compact, irreducible sufficiently-large 3-manifold, by essential tori, decomposed into hyperbolic 3-manifolds with geodesic boundaries or cusps.*

As a corollary of this Proposition and a relative version of Gromov's Theorem [T; 6.5.4], we can see the following:

**Corollary.** *Any trivalent manifold is not a Seifert fibered space.*

**EXAMPLE.** We will give a hyperbolic structure to a trivalent manifold  $\hat{T}$  of the last example. Let  $H^3 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid z > 0\}$  be the upper half space with the hyperbolic metric. The domain  $D_{1/2} = \{(x, y, z) \in H^3 \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq x, z \geq \sqrt{(x-1/2)^2 + (y-1/2)^2}\}$  is a truncated tetrahedron. Make a double of  $D_{1/2}$ , then we get a hyperbolic orbifold whose underlying space is  $T$  and whose singular locus is  $\hat{\Gamma}$ . Let  $G$  be the Kleinian group generated by

$$g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2i \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad h_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -i-1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad h_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ i-1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The fundamental domain of  $G$  is

$$\begin{aligned} D = & \{(x, y, z) \in H^3 \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1, z \geq \sqrt{(x-1/2)^2 + (y-1/2)^2}\} \\ & \cup \{(x, y, z) \in H^3 \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1, -1 \leq y \leq 0, z \geq \sqrt{(x-1/2)^2 + (y+1/2)^2}\} \\ & \cup \{(x, y, z) \in H^3 \mid -1 \leq x \leq 0, -1 \leq y \leq 0, z \geq \sqrt{(x+1/2)^2 + (y+1/2)^2}\} \\ & \cup \{(x, y, z) \in H^3 \mid -1 \leq x \leq 0, 0 \leq y \leq 1, z \geq \sqrt{(x+1/2)^2 + (y-1/2)^2}\} \end{aligned}$$

$H^3/G$  is a hyperbolic 3-manifold with four cusps given from  $D$  by identifying  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid x = 1\}$  with  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid x = -1\}$ ,  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid y = 1\}$  with  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid y = -1\}$ ,  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1, z \geq \sqrt{(x-1/2)^2 + (y-1/2)^2}\}$  with  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid -1 \leq x \leq 0, -1 \leq y \leq 0, z \geq \sqrt{(x+1/2)^2 + (y+1/2)^2}\}$ ,  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1, -1 \leq y \leq 0, z \geq \sqrt{(x-1/2)^2 + (y+1/2)^2}\}$  with  $\{(x, y, z) \in D \mid -1 \leq x \leq 0, 0 \leq y \leq 1, z \geq \sqrt{(x+1/2)^2 + (y-1/2)^2}\}$ . The interior of  $\hat{T}$  is homeomorphic to  $H^3/G$ . An

element of isometry of  $H^3$  given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} e^{i\pi/4} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\pi/4} \end{pmatrix}$$

induce an isomorphism  $\hat{f}$  on  $H^3/G$ . This map  $\hat{f}$  is a periodic map with period 4 and  $(H^3/G, \hat{f})$  is periodic null-cobordism of  $(F, f)$  in the last example.

**4. Proof of Theorem 1**

In this section, we prove Theorem 1.

DEFINITION. The trivalent map  $(F, f)$  and  $p \in P_f$  is simple piece if  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  is one of the two types of trivalent graph given in Figure 4. If  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  is Figure 4(i)(resp. Figure 4(ii)),  $(F, f)$  and  $p$  is called a simple piece of type I (resp. type II).

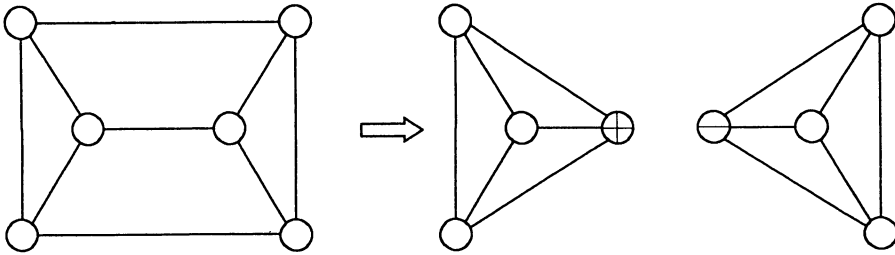


Fig. 10.

From here to the end of this paper, we write  $\Gamma_f$  instead of  $\Gamma_{f,p}$  for the sake of avoiding complications of notation. But, remark that  $\Gamma_f$  is depend also on  $p \in P_f$ . Let  $(F, f)$  be a periodic null-cobordant trivalent map which corresponds to a graph  $\Gamma_f$  as in the left hand of Figure 10. We can modify the graph  $\Gamma_f$  to the disjoint union of two trivalent graphs  $\Gamma_{f'}$ ,  $\Gamma_{f''}$  by adding two vertices, where  $\oplus = -\ominus = (\bar{F}, \bar{f})$ . Let  $(F', f')$ ,  $(F'', f'')$  be trivalent maps corresponding to  $\Gamma_{f'}$ ,  $\Gamma_{f''}$  and let  $(M', \hat{f}')$ ,  $(M'', \hat{f}'')$  be periodic automorphisms which are periodic null-cobordisms of  $(F', f')$ ,  $(F'', f'')$ . Then the periodic automorphism  $(M' \cup_{\bar{F}} M'', \hat{f}' \cup \hat{f}'')$  gives a periodic null-cobordism of  $(F, f)$ . Therefore, the periodic null-cobordism can be constructed by gluing periodic null-cobordisms of simple pieces of type II. The same holds for any periodic null-cobordant trivalent map  $(F, f)$ .

**Proposition 7.** *Let  $(F, f)$  be any periodic null-cobordant trivalent map, then there is a disjoint union of trivalent manifolds and surface  $\times I$  which is a periodic*

*null-cobordism of  $(F, f)$ .*

**Proof.** We prove this by induction on the number  $c$  of components of  $F/f$ . If  $c=2$ , this proposition follows from Remark at the end of section 1. If  $c \geq 4$ , let  $C$  be the circuit of  $\Gamma_f$  which has the minimal number of edges, say  $m$  (see Figure 11). If  $m$  is 2, then  $\Gamma_f$  can be modified into a disjoint union of  $\Gamma'_f$  with  $c-2$  vertices and simple piece of type I (see Remark at the end of section 1). If  $m$  is more than or equal to 3, then we can modify  $\Gamma_f$  in the dotted circle so as to be the disjoint

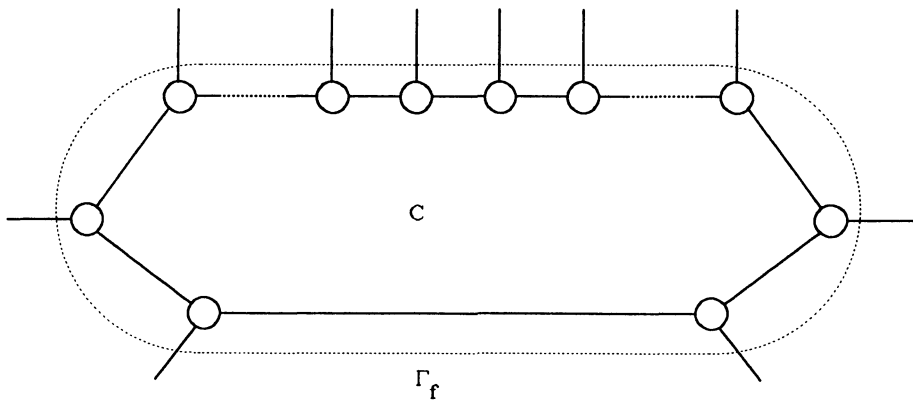


Fig. 11.

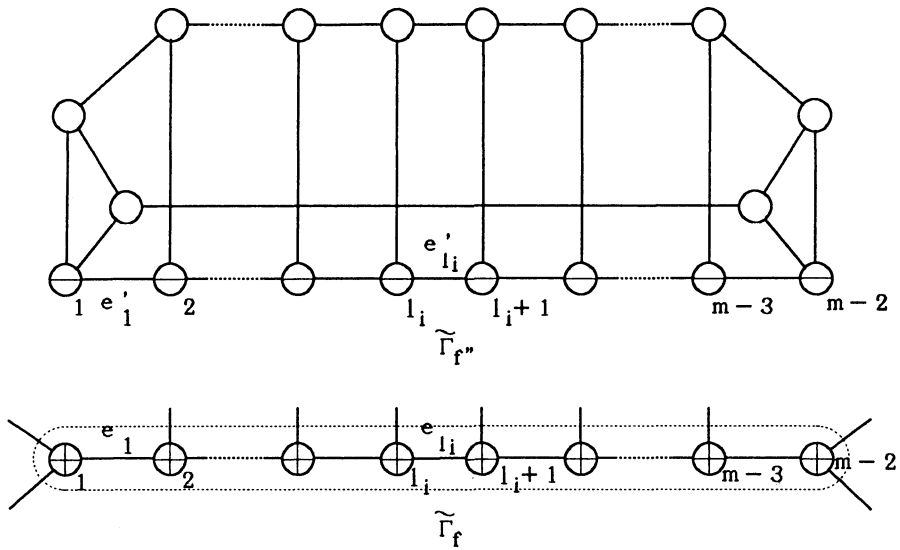


Fig. 12.



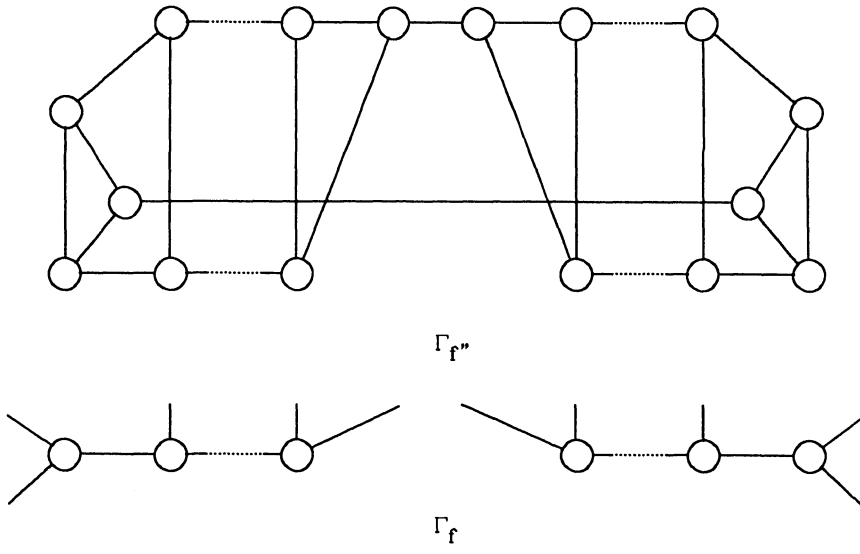


Fig. 13.

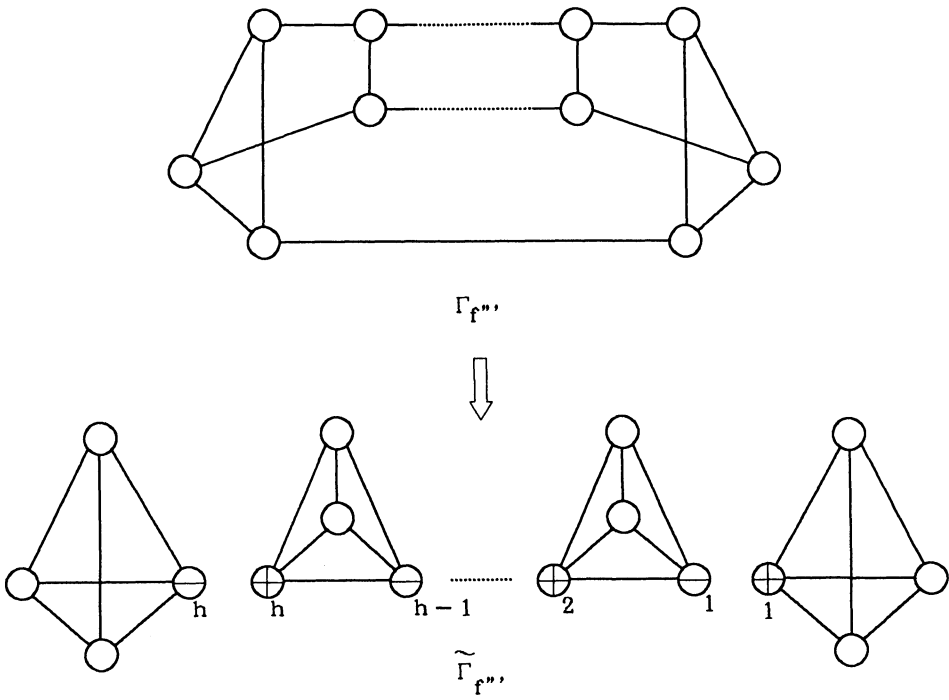


Fig. 14.

union of  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{f'}$ , and  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{f''}$  by adding vertices with  $\oplus_i = -\ominus_i$  and edges  $e_i, e'_i$  ( $i=1, \dots, m-2$ ) as in Figure 12. Let  $(\tilde{F}', \tilde{f}')$ ,  $(\tilde{F}'', \tilde{f}'')$  be trivalent maps correspond to  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{f'}$ ,  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{f''}$ . There may be edges whose end points have indices 0. Denote these edges by  $e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_k}, e'_{i_1}, \dots, e'_{i_k}$ . Periodic maps  $\oplus_{i_1}, \ominus_{i_1}, \oplus_{i_1+1}, \ominus_{i_1+1}, (i=1, \dots, k)$  are  $(n,0,2)$ -periodic maps and bound periodic maps on 3-balls. Therefore, we can remove these maps and get two graphs  $\Gamma_{f'}$ ,  $\Gamma_{f''}$  (see Figure 13). Let trivalent maps  $(F', f')$  and  $(F'', f'')$  correspond to  $\Gamma_{f'}$ ,  $\Gamma_{f''}$ . These trivalent maps  $(F', f')$ ,  $(F'', f'')$  are periodic null-cobordant, and in a similar fashion as a discussion before the claim of this proposition, a periodic null-cobordism of  $(F, f)$  is constructed from periodic null-cobordisms of  $(F', f')$  and  $(F'', f'')$ . The trivalent graph  $\Gamma_{f'}$  has fewer vertices than  $\Gamma_f$ , that is  $F'/f'$  has fewer components than  $F/f$ . By the assumption of induction, the periodic null-cobordism of  $(F', f')$  can be constructed from periodic null-cobordisms of simple pieces. For the periodic map  $(F'', f'')$ , by changing the pairing of  $S_{f''}$ , we can alter  $\Gamma_{f''}$  to the disjoint union of trivalent graphs  $\Gamma_{f'''}$  as in Figure 14. Let the periodic null-cobordant trivalent map  $(F''', f''')$  correspond to  $\Gamma_{f'''}$ . The trivalent graph  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{f'''}$  is gotten from  $\Gamma_{f'''}$  with adding  $2h$  vertices  $\oplus_1, \dots, \oplus_h, \ominus_1, \dots, \ominus_h$  where  $\oplus_i = -\ominus_i$  ( $i=1, \dots, h$ ). The periodic null-cobordant trivalent map corresponding to  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{f'''}$  is a disjoint union of simple pieces of type II and a periodic null-cobordism of  $(F''', f''')$  is constructed from its periodic null-cobordism.

By Proposition A, Theorem 3, and Proposition 7, we can prove Theorem 1, and by Theorem 1 and Corollary of Proposition 6, we can prove Theorem 1'.

**5. Periodic cobordism groups**

Let  $\Delta_{2+}^P(n)$  denote the subgroup of periodic cobordism classes of automorphisms  $(F, f)$  with the total period  $n$ . Bonahon [B; Proposition 8.3] proved that  $\Delta_{2+}^P(n) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$  (here  $\lfloor \ ]$  means “integer part”). In this section, we give an explicit generator of this group by trivalent maps.

**Theorem 8.** *Let  $x_i = \{1, i, n-1-i; n\}$  ( $i=1, \dots, \lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor$ ). Then*

$$\Delta_{2+}^P(n) \cong \mathbb{Z}x_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}x_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$$

**Proof.** Following from Theorem 3, any periodic map is periodic cobordant to a trivalent map. Therefore, trivalent maps generate  $\Delta_{2+}^P(n)$  with the relations represented by trivalent graphs  $\Gamma_f$ .

**Claim 1.**  $x_1, \dots, x_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$  generate  $\Delta_{2+}^P(n)$ .

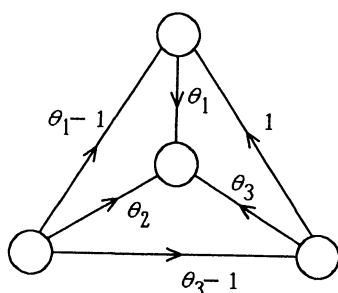


Fig. 15.

For any trivalent map  $\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3; n\}$  ( $\theta_1$  is the least among  $\theta_i$ 's and  $\theta_i \neq 1$ ),  $\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3; n\} = \{\theta_1 - 1, \theta_2, \theta_3 + 1; n\} + \{1, \theta_3, n - \theta_3 - 1; n\} - \{1, \theta_1 - 1, n - \theta_1; n\}$  as elements of  $\Delta_{2+}^P(n)$  (see Figure 15). By this formula, this claim is shown by induction on  $\theta_1$ .

Claim 2. There is no relation among  $x_i$ 's.

Let  $\mathcal{F}_+^P(n)$  denote the set of oriented conjugacy classes of automorphisms  $(F, f)$ , where  $f$  preserves the orientation of  $F$  and is periodic with the total period  $n$ . This set  $\mathcal{F}_+^P(n)$  is the abelian group where the group law is induced by disjoint sum  $\amalg$ . Let the integer  $v_c(f)$  be the number of points  $x \in S_f$  such that  $I_f(x) = c$ . If the period  $n$  is an odd integer, we can define the homomorphism  $\bar{\psi}$  from  $\mathcal{F}_+^P(n)$  to  $\mathbb{Z}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$  by:

$$\bar{\psi}(F, f) = (v_a(f) - v_{n-a}(f))_{a=1, \dots, \lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$$

Using Lemma 5, the homomorphism  $\psi$  from  $\Delta_+^P(n)$  to  $\mathbb{Z}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$  is naturally induced from  $\bar{\psi}$ , and it is injective. Let  $\phi$  be the natural surjective homomorphism from  $\mathbb{Z}x_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}x_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$  to  $\mathcal{F}_+^P(n)$ . Then  $\psi \circ \phi(x_1) = (2, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $\psi \circ \phi(x_i) = (1, 0, \dots, 0, \overset{(i)}{1}, \overset{(i+1)}{-1}, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$  ( $i \neq 1, \lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor$ ) and  $\psi \circ \phi(x_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}) = (1, 0, \dots, 0, 2)$ . If  $\text{Ker } \psi \circ \phi$  and  $y = m_1x_1 + m_2x_2 + \dots + m_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}x_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}$ , then  $\psi \circ \phi(y) = (2m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}, m_2 - m_1, m_3 - m_2, \dots, m_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor} - m_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor - 1}) = (0, \dots, 0)$ . Therefore  $y = 0$  and  $\psi \circ \phi$  is injective. So,  $\phi$  is an isomorphism. If the period  $n$  is an even integer, we can define the homomorphism  $\bar{\psi}$  from  $\mathcal{F}_+^P(n)$  to  $\mathbb{Z}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$  by:

$$\bar{\psi}(F, f) = (v_a(f) - v_{n-a}(f))_{a=1, \dots, \lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}, \overline{v_{n/2}(f)},$$

which induces the injective homomorphism  $\psi$  from  $\Delta_+^P(n)$  to  $\mathbb{Z}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$ . Let  $\phi$  be as above, then  $\psi \circ \phi(x_1) = (2, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $\psi \circ \phi(x_i) = (1, 0, \dots, 0, \overset{(i)}{1}, \overset{(i+1)}{1}, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$  ( $i \neq 1, \lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor$ ) and  $\psi \circ \phi(x_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}) = (1, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 1)$ . We can see  $\psi \circ \phi$  is injective as above. Therefore,  $\phi$  is an isomorphism.

REMARK. The homomorphism  $\psi$  is originally given by Bonahon [B] in the

proof of Proposition 8.3.

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