

A CHARACTERIZATION OF SOLENOIDS

CHARLES L. HAGOPIAN

Suppose M is a homogeneous continuum and every proper subcontinuum of M is an arc. Using a theorem of E. G. Effros involving topological transformation groups, we prove that M is circle-like. This answers in the affirmative a question raised by R. H. Bing. It follows from this result and a theorem of Bing that M is a solenoid. Hence a continuum is a solenoid if and only if it is homogeneous and all of its proper subcontinua are arcs. The group G of homeomorphisms of M onto M with the topology of uniform convergence has an unusual property. For each point w of M , let G_w be the isotropy subgroup of w in G . Although G_w is not a normal subgroup of G , it follows from Effros' theorem and Theorem 2 of this paper that the coset space G/G_w is a solenoid homeomorphic to M and, therefore, a topological group.

1. Introduction. Let \mathcal{S} be the class of all homogeneous continua M such that every proper subcontinuum of M is an arc. It is known that every solenoid belongs to \mathcal{S} . It is also known that every circle-like element of \mathcal{S} is a solenoid. In fact, in 1960 R. H. Bing [4, Theorem 9, p. 228] proved that each homogeneous circle-like continuum that contains an arc is a solenoid. At that time Bing [4, p. 219] asked whether every element of \mathcal{S} is a solenoid. In this paper we answer Bing's question in the affirmative by proving that every element of \mathcal{S} is circle-like.

2. Definitions and related results. We call a nondegenerate compact connected metric space a *continuum*.

A *chain* is a finite sequence L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n of open sets such that $L_i \cap L_j \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $|i - j| \leq 1$. If L_1 also intersects L_n , the sequence is called a *circular chain*. Each L_i is called a *link*. A chain (circular chain) is called an ϵ -*chain* (ϵ -*circular chain*) if each of its links has diameter less than ϵ . A continuum is said to be *arc-like* (*circle-like*) if for each $\epsilon > 0$, it can be covered by an ϵ -chain (ϵ -circular chain).

A space is *homogeneous* if for each pair p, q of its points there exists a homeomorphism of the space onto itself that takes p to q . Bing [2] [3] proved that a continuum is a pseudo-arc if and only if it is homogeneous and arc-like. L. Fearnley [9] and J. T. Rogers, Jr. [20] independently showed that every homogeneous, hereditarily indecomposable, circle-like

continuum is a pseudo-arc [11]. However, there are many topologically different homogeneous circle-like continua that have decomposable subcontinua [24] [25].

Let n_1, n_2, \dots be a sequence of positive integers. For each positive integer i , let G_i be the unit circle $\{z \in \mathbb{R}^2 : |z| = 1\}$, and let f_i be the map of G_{i+1} onto G_i defined by $f_i(z) = z^{n_i}$. The inverse limit space of the sequence $\{G_i, f_i\}$ is called a *solenoid*. Since each G_i is a topological group and each f_i is a homomorphism, every solenoid is a topological group [13, Theorem 6.14, p. 56] and therefore homogeneous. Each solenoid is circle-like since it is an inverse limit of circles with surjective bonding maps [17, Lemma 1, p. 147].

A solenoid can be described as the intersection of a sequence of solid tori M_1, M_2, \dots such that M_{i+1} runs smoothly around inside M_i exactly n_i times longitudinally without folding back and M_i has cross diameter of less than i^{-1} . The sequence n_1, n_2, \dots determines the topology of the solenoid. If it is 1, 1, \dots after some place, the solenoid is a simple closed curve. If it is 2, 2, \dots , the solenoid is the dyadic solenoid defined by D. van Dantzig [7] and L. Vietoris [23]. Other properties involving the sequence n_1, n_2, \dots are given in [4, p. 210]. From this description we see that every proper subcontinuum of a solenoid is an arc.

Solenoids appear as invariant sets in the qualitative theory of differential equations. In [21] E. S. Thomas proved that every compact 1-dimensional metric space that is minimal under some flow and contains an almost periodic point is a solenoid.

Every homogeneous plane continuum that contains an arc is a simple closed curve [4] [10] [15]. Hence each planar solenoid is a simple closed curve.

Each of the three known examples of homogeneous plane continua (a circle, a pseudo-arc [2] [18], and a circle of pseudo-arcs [5]) is circle-like. If one could show that every homogeneous plane continuum is circle-like, it would follow that there does not exist a fourth example [6] [12] [14, p. 49] and a long outstanding problem would be solved.

A *topological transformation group* (G, M) is a topological group G together with a topological space M and a continuous mapping $(g, w) \rightarrow gw$ of $G \times M$ into M such that $ew = w$ (e denotes the identity of G) and $(gh)w = g(hw)$ for all elements g, h of G and w of M .

For each point w of M , let G_w be the isotropy subgroup of w in G (that is, the set of all elements g of G such that $gw = w$). Let G/G_w be the left coset space with the quotient topology. The mapping φ_w of G/G_w onto Gw that sends gG_w to gw is one-to-one and continuous. The set Gw is called the *orbit* of w .

Assume M is a continuum and G is the topological group of homeomorphisms of M onto M with the topology of uniform convergence [16, p. 88]. E. G. Effros [8, Theorem 2.1] proved that each

orbit is a set of the type G_δ in M if and only if for each point w of M , the mapping φ_w is a homeomorphism.

Suppose M is a homogeneous continuum. Then the orbit of each point of M is M , a G_δ -set. According to Effros' theorem, for each point w of M , the coset space G/G_w is homeomorphic to M . By Theorem 2 of §4, if M has the additional property that all of its proper subcontinua are arcs, then G/G_w is a solenoid and, therefore, a topological group. Note that G_w is not a normal subgroup of G .

Throughout this paper R^2 is the Cartesian plane. For each real number r , we shall denote the horizontal line $y = r$ and the vertical line $x = r$ in R^2 by $H(r)$ and $V(r)$ respectively.

Let P and Q be subsets of R^2 . The set P is said to *project horizontally* into Q if every horizontal line in R^2 that meets P also meets Q .

We shall denote the boundary and the closure of a given set Z by $\text{Bd } Z$ and $\text{Cl } Z$ respectively.

3. Preliminary results. In this section M is a homogeneous continuum (with metric ρ) having only arcs for proper subcontinua.

Let p and q be two points of the same arc component of M . The union of all arcs in M that have p as an endpoint and contain q is called a *ray* starting at p .

The following two lemmas are easy to verify.

LEMMA 1. *Each ray is dense in M .*

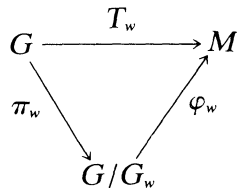
LEMMA 2. *If an open subset Z of M is not dense in M , then each component of Z is an arc segment with both endpoints in $\text{Bd } Z$.*

Let ϵ be a positive number. A homeomorphism h of M onto M is called an ϵ -homeomorphism if $\rho(v, h(v)) < \epsilon$ for each point v of M .

LEMMA 3. *Suppose ϵ is a given positive number and w is a point of M . Then w belongs to an open subset W of M with the following property. For each pair p, q of points of W , there exists an ϵ -homeomorphism h of M onto M such that $h(p) = q$.*

Proof. Define G, G_w , and φ_w as in §2. Since M is homogeneous, the orbit of each point of M is M . Therefore φ_w is a homeomorphism of G/G_w onto M [8, Theorem 2.1].

Let π_w be the natural open mapping of G onto G/G_w that sends g to gG_w . Define T_w to be the mapping of G onto M that sends g to $g(w)$. Since $T_w = \varphi_w \pi_w$, it follows that T_w is an open mapping [22, Theorem 3.1]. Note that the following diagram commutes.



Let U be the open subset of G consisting of all $\epsilon/2$ -homeomorphisms of M onto M . Define W to be the open set $T_w[U]$. Since the identity e belongs to U and $T_w(e) = w$, the set W contains w .

Assume p and q are points of W . Let f and g be elements of U such that $T_w(f) = p$ and $T_w(g) = q$. Since $f(w) = p$ and $g(w) = q$, the mapping $h = gf^{-1}$ of M onto M is an ϵ -homeomorphism with the property that $h(p) = q$.

For each positive integer i , let A_i be an arc with endpoints p_i and q_i . The sequence A_1, A_2, \dots is said to be *folded* if it converges to an arc A and the sequence $p_1, q_1, p_2, q_2, \dots$ converges to an endpoint of A .

LEMMA 4. (Bing [4, Theorem 6, p. 220]). *There does not exist a folded sequence of arcs in M .*

Lemma 4 follows from a simple argument (shorter than Bing's) involving Lemma 3 and the fact that M does not contain a triod.

A chain L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n in M is said to be *free* if $\text{Cl } L_1 \cap \text{Cl } L_n = \emptyset$ and $\text{Bd} \cup \{L_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ is a subset of $\text{Cl}(L_1 \cup L_n)$.

LEMMA 5. (Bing [4, Property 17, p. 219]). *Let A be an arc in M with endpoints p and q . For each positive number ϵ , there exists a free ϵ -chain L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n in M covering A such that p and q belong to L_1 and L_n respectively.*

A continuum is *decomposable* if it is the union of two proper subcontinua; otherwise, it is *indecomposable*.

LEMMA 6. *If M is decomposable, then M is a simple closed curve.*

Proof. Since M is the union of two proper subcontinua (arcs), M is locally connected. Since M is homogeneous, it does not have a separating point. Hence M contains a simple closed curve [19, Theorem 13, p. 91]. It follows that M is a simple closed curve.

4. Principal results.

THEOREM 1. *If M is a homogeneous continuum and every proper subcontinuum of M is an arc, then M is circle-like.*

Proof. According to Lemma 6, if M is decomposable, then M is a simple closed curve and therefore circle-like. Hence we assume that M is indecomposable.

By Lemmas 4 and 5, there exists a free chain $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_\alpha$ ($\alpha > 5$) in M such that $N = Cl \cup \{L_i : 1 \leq i \leq \alpha\}$ is a proper subset of M and $N - Cl \cup \{L_i : 3 \leq i \leq \alpha - 2\}$ contains every arc in N that has both of its endpoints in ClL_1 or ClL_α . (This chain is formed from another free chain by unioning links to make L_2 and $L_{\alpha-1}$ sufficiently long and narrow.) Let B be the union of all components of N that meet $Cl(L_3 \cup L_{\alpha-2})$. By Lemma 2, each component of B is an arc with one endpoint in BdL_1 and the other endpoint in BdL_α . Note that B is a closed set. Since M is indecomposable, each component of B is a continuum of condensation.

Since B contains no folded sequence of arcs, we can assume that B is the intersection of M and the plane R^2 and that the following conditions are satisfied:

- I. A component C of B is $\{(x, y) : 0 \leq x \leq 6 \text{ and } y = 0\}$.
- II. Each component of $B - C$ is a horizontal interval above $H(0)$ (the x -axis) and below $H(1)$ that crosses both $V(1)$ and $V(5)$.
- III. The sets $Cl(L_1 \cup L_2 \cup L_{\alpha-1} \cup L_\alpha)$ and $\{(x, y) : 1 \leq x \leq 5\}$ are disjoint.

(Bing's theorem [2, Theorem 11], involving sequences of refining covers that induce a homeomorphism, can be used to define this embedding of B in R^2 . Each cover of B consists of finitely many free chains that correspond to disjoint straight horizontal chains with rectangular links in R^2 .) Note that $B \cap \{(x, y) : 1 < x < 5\}$ is an open subset of M .

Let ρ be a metric on M whose restriction to B agrees with the Euclidean metric on R^2 [1, Theorems 4 and 5].

There exists a positive number d less than 1 such that $M \cap H(d) = \emptyset$ and the following condition is satisfied:

Property 1. Every arc in M that has its endpoints in $\{(x, y) : x = 3 \text{ and } 0 \leq y < d\}$ meets both $\{(x, y) : x = 1 \text{ and } 0 \leq y < d\}$ and $\{(x, y) : x = 5 \text{ and } 0 \leq y < d\}$.

To see this we assume Property 1 does not hold for any positive number d . For each positive integer i , let W_i be an open set in

$M \cap \{(x, y): 1 < x < 5\}$ that contains $(3, 0)$ such that for each pair p, q of points of W_i , there exists an i^{-1} -homeomorphism of M onto M that takes p to q (Lemma 3). For each i , there exists an arc A_i in M with endpoints p_i and q_i in $W_i \cap V(3)$ such that the horizontal interval Γ_i from p_i to $V(1)$ is in A_i if and only if the horizontal interval Δ_i from q_i to $V(1)$ is in A_i .

For each i , let h_i be an i^{-1} -homeomorphism of M onto M such that $h_i(p_i) = q_i$. Since each h_i maps Γ_i approximately onto Δ_i , for each i , there exists a point a_i of A_i such that $h_i(a_i) = a_i$.

For each i , let B_i be the arc in A_i from p_i to a_i . Note that for each i , the diameter of B_i is greater than 1 and $B_i \cap h_i[B_i]$ consists of the point a_i .

Let a be a limit point of the sequence $\{a_i\}$. Assume without loss of generality that $\{a_i\}$ is a convergent sequence in $E = \{v \in M : \rho(v, a) < 1/2\}$.

For each i , let E_i be an arc in $B_i \cap \text{Cl} E$ that goes from a point b_i of $\text{Bd} E$ to a_i . Assume without loss of generality that $\{b_i\}$ converges to a point of $\text{Bd} E$ and $\{E_i\}$ converges to an arc F in $\text{Cl} E$. Since each h_i is an i^{-1} -homeomorphism, $\{E_i \cup h_i[E_i]\}$ is a folded sequence of arcs converging to F . This contradiction of Lemma 4 completes our argument for Property 1.

For $i = 1$ and 2, let

$$D_i = M \cap \{(x, y): i \leq x \leq 6 - i \text{ and } 0 \leq y < d\}.$$

Let ϵ be a given positive number less than $\rho(D_2, M - D_1)$. We shall complete this proof by defining an ϵ -circular chain that covers M .

By Lemma 1, there exists an arc A in M that is irreducible with respect to the property that it contains $\{(5, 0), (6, 0)\}$ and intersects $\{(x, y): x = 5 \text{ and } 0 < y < d\}$. According to Property 1, A intersects $\{(x, y): x = 4 \text{ and } 0 < y < d\}$.

Let W be an open set in $D_1 - A$ containing $(4, 0)$ such that for each pair p, q of points of W , there exists an $\epsilon/50$ -homeomorphism of M onto M that takes p to q (Lemma 3).

Let c be a number ($0 < c < \epsilon/50$) such that $M \cap H(c) = \emptyset$ and $M \cap \{(x, y): x = 4 \text{ and } 0 \leq y < c\}$ is in W . Since W and A are disjoint, c is less than d .

For $i = 1$ and 2, let

$$C_i = M \cap \{(x, y): i \leq x \leq 6 - i \text{ and } 0 \leq y < c\}.$$

Let δ be the minimum of ϵ and $\rho(C_2, M - C_1)$. Let U be an open subset of C_1 containing $(2, 0)$ such that for each point q of U , there exists a δ -homeomorphism of M onto M that takes $(2, 0)$ to q (Lemma 3).

Define S to be the ray in M that starts at $(2,0)$ and contains A . Let $\{s_i\}$ be the sequence consisting of all points of $S \cap \{(x, y) : x = 3 \text{ and } 0 \leq y < d\}$ and having the property that for each i , the points s_i precedes s_{i+1} with respect to the linear order on S .

Define T_1 to be an arc containing A in S that starts at the point $t_1 = (2,0)$ and ends at a point t_2 of $U \cap V(2)$. Let h be a δ -homeomorphism of M onto M that takes t_1 to t_2 .

We proceed inductively. Assume an arc T_n is defined in S with endpoints t_n and t_{n+1} in $C_2 \cap V(2)$. Let y be the number such that $h(t_{n+1})$ belongs to $H(y)$. Define T_{n+1} to be the arc in S with endpoints t_{n+1} and $t_{n+2} = (2, y)$. Since h is a δ -homeomorphism, t_{n+2} belongs to C_2 . Note that since each T_n has diameter greater than 1, the ray S is the union of $\{T_n : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$.

Define β to be the largest integer such that $\{s_i : 1 \leq i \leq \beta\}$ is a subset of T_1 . The δ -homeomorphism h maps each T_n approximately onto T_{n+1} . Hence, for each n , the arc T_n contains $\{s_i : (n-1)\beta < i \leq n\beta\}$. Furthermore, β has the following property:

Property 2. For each positive integer i , the point s_i belongs to C_2 if and only if $s_{i+\beta}$ belongs to C_2 .

Define γ to be the least positive integer that has Property 2. Note that since s_2 does not belong to C_2 , the integer γ is greater than 1.

Let K be $\{s_i : i = j\gamma + 1 \text{ and } j = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, and let L be $(S \cap D_2 \cap V(3)) - K$.

Property 3. The sets $Cl K$ and $Cl L$ are disjoint.

To establish Property 3, we assume there is a point z in $Cl K \cap Cl L$. Let Z be an open subset of M containing z such that for each pair p, q of points of Z , there exists a δ -homeomorphism of M onto M that takes p to q (Lemma 3).

Let s_i and s_n be points of $Z \cap K$ and $Z \cap L$, respectively, and let f be a δ -homeomorphism of M onto M such that $f(s_i) = s_n$. Let θ be the smallest positive integer such that $s_{n-\theta}$ belongs to K . The existence of f implies that θ has Property 2. Since θ is less than γ , this is a contradiction and Property 3 is established.

Note that since $M = Cl S$ (Lemma 1), $Cl(K \cup L) = D_2 \cap V(3)$.

Let I be the arc in S that goes from s_1 to $s_{\gamma+1}$. By an argument similar to Bing's [4, Property 17, p. 219], there exists a free $\epsilon/50$ -chain $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_\lambda$ in M covering I such that

- (i) s_1 and $s_{\gamma+1}$ belong to P_1 and P_λ respectively,
- (ii) $P_1 \cup P_\lambda$ is in C_2 ,

(iii) each component of $H = \cup \{P_j : 1 \leq j \leq \lambda\}$ that meets $\text{Cl } P_1$ also meets P_1 and $V(5)$, and

(iv) each component of H that meets $\text{Cl } P_\lambda$ meets P_λ and $V(1)$.

From Property 1 we get the following:

Property 4. Each component of H meets both P_1 and P_λ .

Let P_μ be an element of $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_\lambda$ that contains the point $(4,0)$. Since W intersects each component of C_2 , there exists a finite sequence $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_\sigma$ of $\epsilon/50$ -homeomorphisms of M onto M such that $\text{Cl } K$ projects horizontally into $\cup \{g_i[P_\mu] : 1 \leq i \leq \sigma\}$. Assume without loss of generality that no proper subsequence of $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_\sigma$ has this horizontal projection property.

Note that each $g_i[P_\mu]$ is a subset of D_1 .

From Properties 1 and 4 we get the following:

Property 5. For each i ($1 \leq i \leq \sigma$), if T is a component of $g_i[H]$, then $T \cap g_i[\text{Cl } P_\mu]$ is a nonempty set that projects horizontally to a point of $D_2 \cap V(3)$.

For each i ($1 \leq i \leq \sigma$), let X_i be the set consisting of all points in $g_i[P_\mu]$ that project horizontally into $\text{Cl } K$, and let Y_i be the union of all components of $g_i[H]$ that meet X_i .

For each i ($1 \leq i \leq \sigma$), the set Y_i is open in M . To see this assume that for some i , a point u of Y_i is in $\text{Cl}(M - Y_i)$. According to Property 3, u does not belong to $g_i[P_\mu]$. By Property 5, there exists a sequence $\{J_n\}$ of arcs in $g_i[H]$ that meet $g_i[P_\mu]$ such that the limit superior J of $\{J_n\}$ is an arc in $g_i[H]$ that contains u and for each n , the set $J_n \cap g_i[P_\mu]$ projects horizontally to a point of $\text{Cl } L$. It follows that $J \cap g_i[\text{Cl } P_\mu]$ is a nonempty set that projects horizontally to a point of $\text{Cl } L$. Since J is in the u -component of Y_i , this is a contradiction of Property 5. Hence Y_i is an open subset of M .

For each i ($1 \leq i \leq \sigma$) and j ($1 \leq j \leq \lambda$), let $Q_{i,j} = Y_i \cap g_j[P_j]$. It follows from an argument similar to the one given in the preceding paragraph that for each i , the set $\text{Cl}(Q_{i,1} \cup Q_{i,\lambda})$ contains $\text{Bd} \cup \{Q_{i,j} : 1 \leq j \leq \lambda\}$. Hence, for each i , the sequence $Q_{i,1}, Q_{i,2}, \dots, Q_{i,\lambda}$ is a free chain in M .

Property 6. For each i ($1 \leq i \leq \sigma$), the set $Q_{i,1} \cup Q_{i,\lambda}$ projects horizontally into $\text{Cl } K$.

Obviously, $Q_{i,1}$ projects horizontally into $\text{Cl } K$. Therefore, to establish Property 6, we assume there is a point t of $Q_{i,\lambda}$ that projects horizontally into $\text{Cl } L$. By Property 3, there exists a positive number η less than ϵ such that $Q = \{v \in M : \rho(v, t) < \eta\}$ projects horizontally in $\text{Cl } L$.

Let T denote the t -component of Y_i , and let w be a point of $T \cap Q_{i,1}$ (Property 4). Since g_i is an $\epsilon/50$ -homeomorphism, T crosses $D_1 \cap V(1)$ exactly γ times (Property 1). Since w belongs to $Q_{i,1}$, it projects horizontally into ClK .

By Lemma 3, there exists an η -homeomorphism g of M onto M such that $g(w)$ belongs to $Q_{i,1}$ and projects horizontally into K . Since the $g(w)$ -component of Y_i is an arc segment in S that crosses $D_1 \cap V(1)$ exactly γ times and is mapped approximately onto T by g^{-1} , the point $g(t)$ of Q projects horizontally into K . This contradiction of the definition of Q completes our argument for Property 6.

Let π be an integer ($5 < \pi < \mu$) such that P_π contains the point $(3 + \epsilon/10, 0)$. Let ω be an integer ($\mu < \omega < \lambda - 4$) such that P_ω contains the point of $V(3 - \epsilon/10)$ that projects horizontally to $s_{\gamma+1}$.

Property 7. For each n ($1 \leq n \leq \sigma$), the set $Q_{n,1} \cup Q_{n,\lambda}$ does not intersect $\cup\{Q_{i,j} : 1 \leq i \leq \sigma \text{ and } \pi \leq j \leq \omega\}$.

To see this assume there exist integers i, j , and n such that $\pi \leq j \leq \omega$ and a point p belongs to $Q_{i,j} \cap (Q_{n,1} \cup Q_{n,\lambda})$. According to Property 6, $\{p\} \cup Q_{i,1} \cup Q_{i,\lambda}$ projects horizontally into ClK . By Property 3, there exists a positive number χ less than ϵ such that $\{v \in M : \rho(v, p) < \chi\}$ projects horizontally into ClK .

Let P be the p -component of Y_i . Let Y be an arc in P that goes from a point q of $Q_{i,1}$ to p . Since g_i and g_n are $\epsilon/50$ -homeomorphisms and $\pi \leq j \leq \omega$, the set $Q_{i,1} \cup Q_{i,\lambda}$ and the p -component of $P \cap D_1$ are disjoint. Hence Y crosses $D_1 \cap V(1)$ exactly ι times where ι is a positive integer less than γ .

By Lemma 3, there exists a χ -homeomorphism k of M onto M such that $k(q)$ belongs to $Q_{i,1}$ and projects horizontally into K . The arc $k[Y]$ crosses $D_1 \cap V(1)$ exactly ι times. Since $k[Y]$ is in S and $\rho(p, k(p)) < \chi$, the point $k(p)$ projects horizontally into K . It follows from the definition of K that ι is a multiple of γ , and this is a contradiction. Hence Property 7 holds.

For each i ($1 \leq i \leq \sigma$) and j ($1 \leq j \leq \lambda$), let $P_{i,j} = Q_{i,j} - Cl \cup \{Y_n : 1 \leq n < i\}$. By Property 7, for each i , the subchain of $P_{i,1}, P_{i,2}, \dots, P_{i,\lambda}$ that has $P_{i,\pi}$ and $P_{i,\omega}$ as end links is free in M .

For each j ($1 \leq j \leq \lambda$), let $U_j = \cup\{P_{i,j} : 1 \leq i \leq \sigma\}$. The subchain \mathcal{C} of $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_\lambda$ that has U_π and U_ω as end links is a free $\epsilon/16$ -chain in M .

Let D be the union of all components of $C_2 \cap \{(x, y) : 3 - \epsilon/5 < x < 3 + \epsilon/5\}$ that meet ClK . According to Property 3, D is open in M . The diameter of D is less than $\epsilon/2$. Each point of $U_\pi \cup U_\omega$ is within $\epsilon/5$ of $V(3)$. By Property 6, $U_\pi \cup U_\omega$ projects horizontally into ClK . Hence $U_\pi \cup U_\omega$ is in D .

Let τ be the largest integer less than μ such that U_τ intersects

D. Let ψ be the smallest integer greater than μ such that U_ψ intersects D . For each j ($1 \leq j < \psi - \tau$), let $Z_j = U_{\tau+j}$. Note that $Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_{\psi-\tau-1}$ is a free ϵ -chain in M .

Define $Z_{\psi-\tau}$ to be the union of D and all elements of $\mathcal{D} = \{U_j : \pi \leq j \leq \tau \text{ or } \psi \leq j \leq \omega\}$. Since $\text{Cl}K$ projects horizontally into U_μ and \mathcal{C} is a free chain in M , each element of \mathcal{D} intersects D . Thus $Z_{\psi-\tau}$ is an open set in M of diameter less than ϵ . Note that $Z_{\psi-\tau}$ meets both Z_1 and $Z_{\psi-\tau-1}$.

Since \mathcal{C} is free and $U_\pi \cup U_\omega$ is in D , the boundary of $\cup \{Z_j : 1 \leq j < \psi - \tau\}$ is in $Z_{\psi-\tau}$. Since $\text{Cl}K$ projects horizontally into U_μ , the set Z_1 contains every boundary point of $Z_{\psi-\tau}$ that is to the right of $V(3)$ in R^2 .

Furthermore, each point of $\text{Bd}Z_{\psi-\tau}$ that is to the left of $V(3)$ is in $Z_{\psi-\tau-1}$. To see this let s be such a point. Let X be the arc in M that intersects $V(1)$ and is irreducible between s and $\text{Cl}U_\mu$ (Lemma 1). By Property 1, X does not meet $U_\pi \cup U_\omega$. Since U_μ is an interior link in the free chain \mathcal{C} , the arc X is covered by \mathcal{C} and s belongs to $Z_{\psi-\tau-1}$.

It follows that $\text{Bd}Z_{\psi-\tau}$ is in $Z_1 \cup Z_{\psi-\tau-1}$. Therefore $Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_{\psi-\tau}$ is an ϵ -circular chain that covers M . Hence M is circle-like.

Since every homogeneous circle-like continuum that contains an arc is a solenoid [4, Theorem 9, p. 228], Theorem 1 implies the following:

THEOREM 2. *A continuum M is a solenoid if and only if M is homogeneous and every proper subcontinuum of M is an arc.*

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Received April 2, 1976 and in revised form February 15, 1977.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95819

