

INVOLUTIONS ON SURFACES

DANIEL DUGGER

ABSTRACT. We use equivariant surgery to classify all involutions on closed surfaces, up to isomorphism. Work on this problem is classical, dating back to the nineteenth century, but some questions seem to have been left unanswered. We give a modern treatment that leads to a complete classification.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Background and basic constructions	10
3. Equivariant surgery and other generalities	13
4. Classifying Free actions	18
5. C_2 -actions on tori	27
6. Invariants	33
7. C_2 -actions on non-orientable surfaces	37
8. Counting C_2 -actions on non-orientable surfaces	42
9. The DD -invariant and problem P3	46
10. Connections with the mapping class group	51
Appendix A. Surgery invariance	55
Appendix B. Tables of involutions on non-orientable surfaces	59
References	61

1. INTRODUCTION

Let C_2 denote the group of order 2. The goal of this paper is to classify all C_2 -actions on closed 2-manifolds, up to equivariant isomorphism. If X is a closed 2-manifold this involves

- (P1) counting all of the (isomorphism classes of) C_2 -structures on X ;
- (P2) developing a nomenclature for explicitly identifying each C_2 -structure, and an algorithm for listing all the structures on X ;
- (P3) providing an algorithm for taking a given C_2 -action on X and deciding which element of the list from (P2) represents the same isomorphism class. (For practical purposes, this amounts to developing a set of invariants that is “complete” in the sense that it distinguishes isomorphism classes).

In addition—and this is important—we want the nomenclature from (P2) to be reasonably geometric and to lend itself to the calculation of cohomology groups and other homotopical invariants.

Our motivation for wanting to solve these problems comes from ongoing work on trying to understand $RO(G)$ -graded Bredon cohomology in the case $G = C_2$.

Computations in this area are scarce, and we wanted a supply of basic spaces to use as a testing ground. It was natural to start by looking at 2-manifolds, and we originally hoped there was a very simple answer to (P1)–(P3) that one could just look up. The present paper exists because we were unable to find such a reference. Several papers in the literature treat significant aspects of this problem, and it is worth mentioning upfront [Sc], [S], [A], [N1], [N2], [BCNS]. The case of orientable surfaces is certainly well understood and completely classical, but the non-orientable case is not. We give a bit more history in Section 1.17 below.

We now describe the results in more detail. An involution on a space X is a map $\sigma: X \rightarrow X$ such that $\sigma^2 = id$. This is the same as an action of the group C_2 on X . If (X, σ_X) and (Y, σ_Y) are spaces with involutions, an isomorphism between them is a homeomorphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f \circ \sigma_X = \sigma_Y \circ f$.

Let T_g denote the genus g torus and let N_r denote the connected sum of r copies of $\mathbb{R}P^2$. The solution to problem (P1) is the following:

Theorem 1.1. *The number of isomorphism classes of C_2 -actions on T_g is equal to $4 + 2g$. The number of isomorphism classes of C_2 -actions on N_r is given by the following formulas:*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 + \frac{(r+3)^3}{64} = \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 9r^2 + 27r + 91) & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 1 + \frac{(r+1)(r+3)(r+5)}{64} = \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 9r^2 + 23r + 79) & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 18r^2 + 152r) & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 18r^2 + 156r - 8) & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}. \end{array} \right.$$

Of course, merely counting the actions is not our main goal. But Theorem 1.1 gives an immediate sense of the qualitative difference between the orientable and non-orientable cases. It also raises some questions. Why is the count a linear function of g in the orientable case, but a cubic function of r in the non-orientable case? Why do the formulas admit a nice factorization in the case r is odd, but not when r is even? This paper contains answers to both, although the *ultimate* source of the factorizations is number-theoretic and somewhat of a mystery. See Proposition 8.3 and Remark 8.4 below.

Remark 1.2 (Connection with the mapping class group). There are relations between (P1)–(P3) and the problem of identifying conjugacy classes of involutions in the mapping class group of X . But in the end, these are somewhat different problems. For example, the 180-degree fixed-point-free rotation of the torus about the central axis of its doughnut hole is the identity in the mapping class group, but is a nontrivial C_2 -action. The mapping class group of S^2 is $\mathbb{Z}/2$, but there are four isomorphism classes of C_2 -actions. For the Klein bottle the mapping class group is $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$, while there are six C_2 -actions. See Section 10 for further discussion of this issue.

1.3. Invariants. Before describing the rest of our results we need a few tools. There are four easily-obtained invariants for C_2 -actions on a 2-manifold X . The

fixed set X^{C_2} will be a union of isolated points and copies of S^1 , and the number of such will be denoted by F and C , respectively. The copies of S^1 in X^{C_2} are historically referred to as *ovals*. A simple closed curve in a 2-manifold has a normal bundle, which will be either trivial or nontrivial: in the former case we call the curve **2-sided**, and in the latter case **1-sided**. Let C_+ and C_- be the number of 2-sided and 1-sided ovals in X^{C_2} , so that $C = C_+ + C_-$. The three numbers (F, C_+, C_-) are the first three interesting invariants of the action.

We will let β always denote $\dim_{\mathbb{Z}/2} H_1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2)$, sometimes instead writing $\beta(X)$ if necessary. When X is non-orientable this is typically called the genus of X , but when X is orientable the word “genus” refers to $\frac{\beta}{2}$. To correct for this ambiguous terminology we will refer to $\beta(X)$ as the “ β -genus” of X .

The following result shows that the invariants F , C_+ , and C_- are constrained by the β -genus. This is an old result due to Scherrer [Sc], but we will give a modern treatment in Section 3 below. The inequality portion also follows from Smith theory.

Proposition 1.4 (Scherrer). *If a closed 2-manifold X has a nontrivial C_2 -action then $F + 2C \leq \beta + 2$ and $F \equiv C_- \equiv \beta \pmod{2}$.*

Scherrer’s result can be used to help give a heuristic explanation for one of our questions about Theorem 1.1. When X is orientable then all the curves in X are 2-sided, and so of course $C_- = 0$. Even more, it follows by an easy argument (see Lemma 5.10) that either $F = 0$ or $C_+ = 0$: in the orientable case one cannot have both isolated fixed points and ovals. Thus, of the three invariants (F, C_+, C_-) only one is ever nonzero at a time, and Proposition 1.4 constrains this nonzero invariant by a linear function in β . Coarsely speaking, this is responsible for the linear formula for the number of actions that appears in Theorem 1.1.

When X is non-orientable the three invariants (F, C_+, C_-) turn out to be essentially independent, with again Proposition 1.4 constraining each of them by a linear function in β . Coarsely speaking again, this is responsible for the number of actions in Theorem 1.1 being cubic in the β -genus.

In many cases a triple (F, C_+, C_-) satisfying the conditions of Proposition 1.4 uniquely determines a C_2 -action, but in many cases it does not. We will need more invariants. The quotient X/C_2 is either orientable or not, and we will call this the **Q-sign** of the C_2 -space X (“Q” for quotient). More precisely, the Q-sign is said to be + (positive) if X/C_2 is orientable, and – (negative) otherwise.

A quadruple (F, C_+, C_-, Q) will be called a **taxonomy**. It turns out to be useful to include C in the notation even though it is redundant, and sometimes we will want to ignore Q . So we will write $[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ for an “unsigned taxonomy” and $[F, C : (C_+, C_-), Q]$ for a “signed taxonomy”. When we merely say “taxonomy” we let it be determined from context whether it is signed or unsigned.

Unfortunately, it is still not the case that a C_2 -space is uniquely determined by its signed taxonomy. But this does happen in most cases, and even when it fails it doesn’t fail too badly:

Proposition 1.5. *Fix a 2-manifold X and a taxonomy $[F, C : (C_+, C_-), Q]$. Up to isomorphism, there are at most three C_2 -actions on X having the given taxonomy. The only cases where there exist more than one action with a given taxonomy are where all of the following are true:*

$$X \cong N_r, \text{ } r \text{ is even, } r \geq 4, F = C_- = 0, \text{ and the } Q\text{-sign is negative.}$$

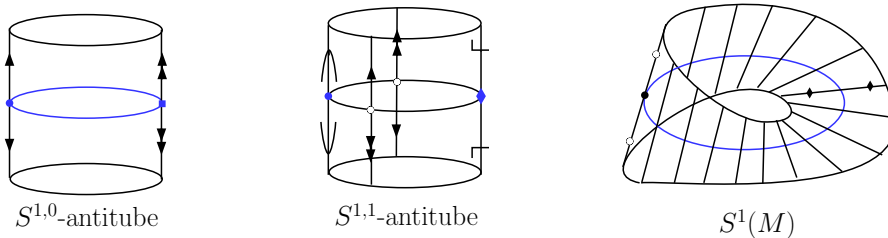
In these cases things break down as follows: when $r \geq 4$ there are exactly two actions when $C = 0$, three when $1 \leq C \leq \frac{r}{2} - 2$, two when $C = \frac{r}{2} - 1$, and one when $C = \frac{r}{2}$.

Proposition 1.5 is stated in a relatively weak form, as it does not indicate which taxonomies correspond to a unique action as opposed to no action at all. The complete answers can be extracted from Theorem 1.11 and 1.15 below. However, an exhaustive statement along these lines requires a large number of cases and is a bit off-putting.

Proposition 1.5 explains a bit more about the counting results from Theorem 1.1 for actions on N_r . Notice that when r is odd there is never more than one action with a given taxonomy. The problem of counting possible taxonomies (which end up being basically—but not quite—all the taxonomies satisfying Scherrer’s conditions) ends up having a nice solution, described by the factorizations that appear in Theorem 1.1. This is the answer we are looking for when r is odd, but not when r is even. In the latter case it needs to be modified to take into account the few cases where multiple actions can have the same taxonomy.

1.6. Describing C_2 -equivariant 2-manifolds. We will build up equivariant 2-manifolds using specific types of surgery, but explaining these surgeries requires a good deal of notation. We let $S^{1,0}$ denote a circle with trivial involution, $S^{1,1}$ for a circle whose involution is reflection across a diameter, and S_a^1 for a circle with the antipodal involution. Similarly, we write S_a^2 for a 2-sphere with antipodal action, $S^{2,1}$ for a 2-sphere where the action is reflection across the equatorial plane, and $S^{2,2}$ for a 2-sphere with involution given by 180-degree rotation about an axis. The reasons for our nomenclature will be given in Section 2, but for now let us just accept it.

There are three basic C_2 -spaces we will need, two cylinders and one Möbius band, as shown in the following diagrams:



In each of these diagrams we depict conjugate points by marking them with the same symbols. The fixed set is always shown in blue. The “antitubes” have the feature that the two ends of the cylinder are swapped by the involution, whereas in “tubes” (not depicted here) the ends are not swapped. There are other C_2 -actions on cylinders and Möbius bands that are not shown here; for a complete list, see Section 3.9.

There are five kinds of surgery operations we will need to perform on C_2 -equivariant 2-manifolds X , three of them using the above spaces:

[DCC]: cut out two disjoint disks, conjugate under the involution, and sew in conjugate copies of a Möbius band (that is, form the connected sum with two conjugate copies of $\mathbb{R}P^2$).

[DT]: cut out two disjoint disks, conjugate under the involution, and sew in conjugate copies of a torus (that is, form the connected sum with two conjugate copies of T_1).

[FM]: cut out a small neighborhood of an isolated fixed point, leaving an S_a^1 on the boundary, and sew in a copy of the Möbius band $S^1(M)$ (which has S_a^1 for its boundary).

[$S^{1,0}$ – antitube]: cut out two disjoint disks, conjugate under the involution, and sew in an $S^{1,0}$ -antitube.

[$S^{1,1}$ – antitube]: cut out two disjoint disks, conjugate under the involution, and sew in an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube.

We will write $X + [DCC]$, $X + [FM]$, and so on, for the results of performing these operations on X , and will often include multiplicities. For example,

$$(1.7) \quad S_a^2 + 2[DCC] + 3[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + 2[FM]$$

is obtained from S_a^2 by eight surgery operations. Note that the underlying space is N^{14} : each $[DCC]$ operation and each antitube increases the β -genus by 2, whereas each $[FM]$ operation increases the β -genus by 1. The “DT”, “DCC”, and “FM” acronyms are silly but convenient; they stand for “Dual Tori”, “Dual CrossCaps”, and for “Fixed point \rightarrow Möbius band”. The equivariant isomorphism type of the resulting space does not depend on the order in which the surgeries are performed, or the choices made in where to perform them. See Sections 2 and 3 for more information.

Remark 1.8. Be warned that surgery decompositions such as (1.7) are not unique. For example, $S^{2,1} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong S^{2,2} + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$. This leads to a certain amount of hardship when trying to enumerate all decompositions, as we have not been able to identify a “canonical form” for such things.

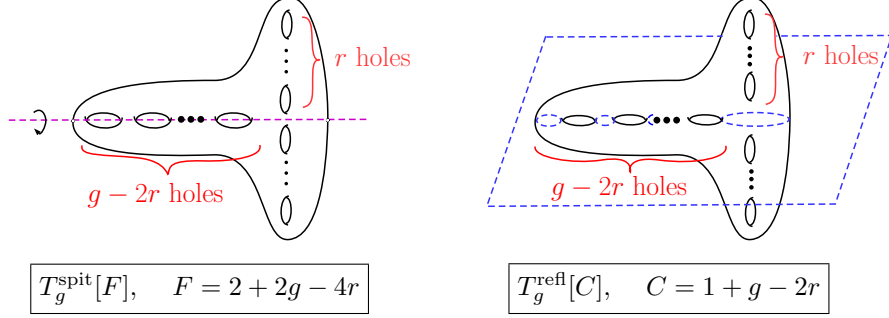
The following result (which is largely self-evident) summarizes how we will use the above surgeries to inductively decompose a C_2 -equivariant 2-manifold into pieces of smaller β -genus:

Theorem 1.9. *Let X be a 2-manifold with C_2 -action.*

- (a) *If X has two isolated fixed points a and b , then there is a (possibly disconnected) equivariant 2-manifold Y and an isomorphism $X \cong Y + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$ that carries a and b to the fixed points of the $S^{1,1}$ -antitube. Note that if Y is connected then $\beta(Y) = \beta(X) - 2$.*
- (b) *If X has a two-sided oval \mathcal{O} then there is a (possibly disconnected) equivariant 2-manifold Y and an isomorphism $X \cong Y + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ that carries \mathcal{O} to the oval inside the $S^{1,0}$ -antitube. Again, if Y is connected then $\beta(Y) = \beta(X) - 2$.*
- (c) *If X has a one-sided oval \mathcal{O} then there is an equivariant 2-manifold Y and an isomorphism $X \cong Y + [FM]$ that carries \mathcal{O} to the oval inside the attached copy of $S^1(M)$. The space Y has one more isolated fixed point than X , but $\beta(Y) = \beta(X) - 1$.*

1.10. The orientable case. We next describe certain special actions on the genus g torus T_g . If T_g is embedded in \mathbb{R}^3 in the standard way, with the origin at its center of mass, then the antipodal map $x \mapsto -x$ gives an involution of T_g : we call this space T_g^{anti} . When g is odd the origin is inside the central doughnut hold of T_g , and 180-degree rotation about an appropriate axis gives another free action: we call this one T_g^{rot} . See Section 2.7 for pictures.

The following diagrams depict two classes of non-free actions on T_g , called the *spit* action and the *reflection* action, respectively:



The action in the first case is 180-degree rotation about the indicated line (the spit), and in the second it is reflection in the indicated plane. Note that in the first case the parameter F denotes the number of fixed points, and in the second case the parameter C denotes the number of ovals. We can also give surgery-based descriptions of these spaces:

$$T_g^{\text{spit}}[F] \cong S^{2,2} + \left(\frac{F}{2} - 1\right)[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + \left(\frac{2g+2-F}{4}\right)[DT]$$

$$T_g^{\text{refl}}[C] \cong S^{2,1} + (C - 1)[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] + \left(\frac{g+1-C}{2}\right)[DT].$$

Theorem 1.11. *A complete list of isomorphism classes of C_2 -actions on T_g is as follows:*

- (1) *The trivial action,*
- (2) *The free actions T_g^{anti} and T_g^{rot} (the latter only when g is odd),*
- (3) *$T_g^{\text{refl}}[C]$ for $1 \leq C \leq g + 1$ and $C \equiv g + 1 \pmod{2}$.*
- (4) *$T_g^{\text{spit}}[F]$ for $2 \leq F \leq 2 + 2g$ and $F \equiv 2 + 2g \pmod{4}$.*
- (5) *$T_{g-C}^{\text{anti}} + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ for $1 \leq C \leq g$.*

This result is proven in Section 5 (see Theorem 5.7). It is classical, and should probably be attributed to [K]. We do not know of a modern reference for the proof. Note that counting up all the actions listed in Theorem 1.11 readily yields the number $4 + 2g$, both when g is even and g is odd.

The following chart lists the signed taxonomies for the five classes of nontrivial C_2 -actions on T_g (note that in this case, where the space is orientable, the signed taxonomies have quite a bit of redundant information):

T_g^{anti}	$[0, 0 : (0, 0), -]$	T_g^{rot}	$[0, 0 : (0, 0), +]$
$T_{g-C}^{\text{anti}} + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$	$[0, C : (C, 0), -]$	$T_g^{\text{spit}}[F]$	$[F, 0 : (0, 0), +]$
		$T_g^{\text{refl}}[C]$	$[0, C : (C, 0), +]$

By inspection, Theorem 1.11 yields the following answer to problem (P3) in the orientable case:

Corollary 1.12. *Two C_2 -actions on T_g are isomorphic if and only if they have the same signed taxonomies.*

Note that we have now solved problems (P1)–(P3) for C_2 -actions on orientable 2-manifolds.

Remark 1.13. There is another invariant that can be used in place of the Q -sign in the above result. It turns out (see Proposition 3.2) that if C_2 acts on a connected 2-manifold X then $X - X^{C_2}$ has either one or two components. In the latter case we call the action **separating**, and in the former case **non-separating**. The spaces $T_g^{\text{refl}}[C]$ are separating, whereas the spaces $T_{g-C}^{\text{anti}} + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ are non-separating. Let ϵ be the invariant whose values are “separating” or “non-separating” (historically, authors have sometimes used 1 and 0 here).

The invariant ϵ can be used in place of the Q -sign in Corollary 1.12. It also plays a role in the story for non-orientable manifolds below.

1.14. The non-orientable case. The situation for the non-orientable surfaces N_r is more complicated, in several respects. Let us start with an algorithm for listing all the C_2 -actions:

- Make a list of all tuples $[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ satisfying $F + 2C \leq r + 2$ and $F \equiv C_- \equiv r \pmod{2}$.
- For tuples with $F + 2C \leq r$: If $C_- > 0$ or $F > 0$, write down the space of negative Q -sign

$$S_a^2 + \frac{r-F-2C}{2}[DCC] + \frac{F+C_-}{2}[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + C_+[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] + C_-[FM].$$

- For tuples with $F + 2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$: If $C_- > 0$ or $(0 < F \leq r$ and $C \geq 1)$, write down the space of positive Q -sign

$$T_{\frac{r-C_- - 2C_+}{2}}^{\text{spit}}[F + C_-] + C_+[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] + C_-[FM]$$

- If $F = C_- = 0$ and $0 < C \leq \frac{r}{2}$ and $2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$, write down the space of positive Q -sign

$$T_{\frac{r}{2}-C}^{\text{rot}} + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}].$$

- If $F = C_- = 0$ and $0 \leq C \leq \frac{r}{2}$, write down the following spaces of negative Q -sign:

$$\begin{array}{ll} S^{2,1} + (\frac{r}{2} - C + 1)[DCC] + (C - 1)[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] & \text{if } 1 \leq C, \\ S_a^2 + (\frac{r}{2} - C)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] & \text{if } C < \frac{r}{2}, \\ T_1^{\text{anti}} + (\frac{r}{2} - C - 1)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] & \text{if } C < \frac{r}{2} - 1. \end{array}$$

Note that when $1 \leq C \leq \frac{r}{2} - 2$ all three spaces are added to the list.

This algorithm is completely mechanical, and easy to implement on a computer. The tables in Appendix B list the results for N_r where $2 \leq r \leq 7$. Note that the last two steps of the algorithm only occur in the case where r is even.

Theorem 1.15. *For $r \geq 1$ the above algorithm gives a complete list of all C_2 -actions on N_r up to equivariant isomorphism, with no action being represented more than once on the list.*

At this point we have described the solutions to problems (P1) and (P2) for N_r . We *almost* have a complete solution to (P3), since we know that except for the cases where $F = C_- = 0$ there is at most one isomorphism class of C_2 -action with a given signed taxonomy. In the exceptional case where $F = C_- = 0$, we need a way of deciding which of the two or three isomorphism classes in the above list corresponds to a given action. This can be done by adding one last invariant into the list.

If X is a 2-manifold with involution σ , then $\sigma^* : H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2) \rightarrow H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is an involution on cohomology. The cup product equips $H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ with a nondegenerate symmetric bilinear form; let $\text{Isom}(H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2))$ denote the group of isometries. Then σ^* is an involution in $\text{Isom}(H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2))$. It is shown in [D] that conjugacy classes of involutions in such an isometry group are classified by the **double Dickson invariant**

$$DD(\sigma) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}/2.$$

We recall the complete definition in Section 9, but for now let us just give a bit of the main idea. For an involution σ on a finite-dimensional vector space V over $\mathbb{Z}/2$, define the **D-invariant** of σ to be the dimension of $\text{Im}(\sigma + Id)$. This is an invariant of the conjugacy class of σ in $\text{GL}(V)$, and it is in fact a complete invariant: two involutions in $\text{GL}(V)$ are conjugate if and only if they have the same D -invariant.

When V has a nondegenerate, symmetric bilinear form and we replace $\text{GL}(V)$ by $\text{Isom}(V)$, further invariants are needed. The first coordinate of $DD(\sigma)$ is just $D(\sigma)$, but the other three coordinates are defined in ways that make use of the bilinear form. Again, see Section 9 for the detailed definition. The main thing to know right now is that all the coordinates of $DD(\sigma)$ are algebraically computed by linear algebra.

If (X, σ) is a surface with involution then define $DD(X) = DD(\sigma^*)$, where σ^* is the induced map in $\text{Isom}(H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2))$. The following theorem is our solution to problem (P3):

Theorem 1.16. *Fix $r \geq 1$.*

- (a) *The signed taxonomy $[F, C : (C_+, C_-), Q]$ gives a complete invariant for C_2 -actions on orientable surfaces: two actions on an orientable surface X are isomorphic if and only if they have the same signed taxonomy.*
- (b) *If $F + C_- > 0$ or if Q is positive then any two C_2 -actions on the non-orientable surface N_r having taxonomy $[F, C : (C_+, C_-), Q]$ are isomorphic.*
- (c) *Suppose X and Y are two C_2 -actions on N_r having taxonomy $[0, C : (C, 0), -]$. Then X and Y are isomorphic if and only if they have the same ϵ -invariant and the same DD -invariant.*

In summary, the invariants F , C_+ , C_- , Q , ϵ , and DD —in addition to the purely topological invariant $H_1(X; \mathbb{Z})$ —constitute a complete set of invariants for C_2 -actions on surfaces.

1.17. History and apology. The classification problem for C_2 -actions on surfaces has been long studied. When X is orientable the problem first arose in the nineteenth century, in connection with interest in real algebraic geometry. Some results were obtained by Harnack [H], and later there was a more complete study by Klein in the context of his interest in dianalytic surfaces: see [K] and also the earlier PhD thesis [W] of Weichold (a student of Klein). In this case there are relatively few C_2 -actions, and it is easy to describe them all. The case where X is non-orientable has more challenges, and seems to have first been addressed by Scherrer [Sc] in 1929. However, Scherrer's paper does not explicitly solve (P1)–(P3).

After Scherrer there is a long hiatus in the literature, with the topic being picked up again in the 1980s by Natanzon [N1], [N2, Section 6]. The difficulty here is that the classification results in these sources are somewhat unwieldy, and still don't seem to solve (P1)–(P3). The paper [BCNS] contains an improved classification, but with two caveats. First, the results are developed in the context of dianalytic

surfaces and non-Euclidean crystallographic groups, and as a consequence there is a certain lack of geometric simplicity. Also, it seems again that (P1)–(P3) are not *explicitly* solved, although certainly the germs of a solution are contained in those papers. The discussion at the end of the introduction of [BCNS] is close to our Proposition 1.5, but the cases where $F = C_- = 0$ are omitted.

This is not to criticize any of the aforementioned papers. In each case the authors were interested in deeper and more complicated problems: generalizing from involutions to periodic automorphisms of higher order, or from closed 2-manifolds to 2-manifolds with boundary, or from a purely topological problem to a more geometric one. The unfortunate end result, though, is that if a topologist wants to know all the ways C_2 can act on a closed non-orientable surface, there doesn't seem to be a place in the literature where the answer is completely explained. It is also worth pointing out that the DD -invariant, which provides the last piece to the classification puzzle, seems to have been completely overlooked.

Finally, we close with a stylistic comment. The road to understanding C_2 -actions is to first classify the free actions, then to understand the actions on orientable surfaces, and ultimately to understand the non-orientable case. Each depends on knowledge gained in the previous stages. While the first two stages are fairly well-documented in the literature, bringing all the techniques together in one place results in a more coherent narrative. This paper attempts to provide such a narrative, although there is a resulting cost to brevity.

1.18. Organization of the paper. Sections 2 and 3 contain background information about C_2 -equivariant spaces and equivariant surgery constructions. The real work begins in Section 4, where we classify the free actions on 2-manifolds. Section 5 explores the non-free C_2 -actions, but concentrating on *orientable* 2-manifolds. As a prelude to the non-orientable case, Section 6 deals with general questions about invariants of C_2 -actions and their behavior under surgery. Then Section 7 completes the solution of problem (P2) for actions on non-orientable manifolds. Section 8 counts the actions, thereby solving (P1). Section 9 introduces the DD -invariant and uses this to complete the classification by solving (P3). Section 10 briefly discusses the connection with order 2 elements of the mapping class group. Finally, there are two appendices. Appendix A gives proofs for the fundamental surgery theorems in the C_2 -equivariant context, and Appendix B consists of tables listing all C_2 -actions on the non-orientable surfaces N_r for $2 \leq r \leq 7$.

1.19. Notation and terminology. Whenever X is a C_2 -space we will use σ to denote the involution $X \rightarrow X$. Also, by “2-manifold” we always mean a connected, *closed* 2-manifold unless otherwise indicated. For convenience we work in the smooth category.

1.20. Acknowledgments. The pictures in this paper were constructed using the software package LaTeXDraw, which I learned about from Paulo Lima-Filho and Pedro dos Santos. I am grateful to them for sharing code from the pictures in [LFS].

Eric Hogle and Clover May read through a preliminary version of this paper and gave several important comments. Additionally, their knowledge of C_2 -actions on tori and Klein bottles was crucial for getting these results off the ground. Finally, I am grateful to Robert Lipshitz for some useful conversations and encouragement.

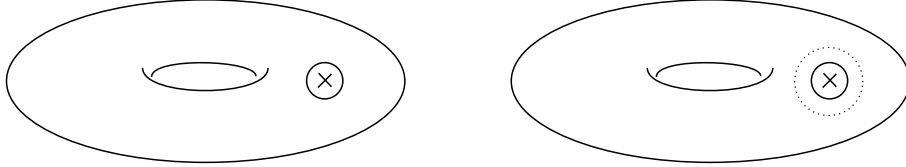
2. BACKGROUND AND BASIC CONSTRUCTIONS

This section describes the basic notation and constructions that will be used throughout the paper.

2.1. Equivariant spheres. Write \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{R}_- for the trivial and sign actions of C_2 on the real number line. For $p \geq q$ let $\mathbb{R}^{p,q} = \mathbb{R}^{\oplus(p-q)} \oplus \mathbb{R}_-^{\oplus q}$, so that $\mathbb{R}^{p,q}$ is a p -dimensional real vector space with a C_2 -action whose fixed set is $(p-q)$ -dimensional. This indexing convention comes from the world of motivic and equivariant homotopy, though in the present paper we will only need the case where $p \in \{1, 2\}$.

Write $S^{p,q}$ for the one-point compactification of $\mathbb{R}^{p,q}$. Note that $S^{1,0}$ is a circle with trivial C_2 -action, whereas $S^{1,1}$ is a circle whose action is reflection across a diameter. Similarly, we have the equivariant 2-spheres $S^{2,0}$, $S^{2,1}$, and $S^{2,2}$. Finally, let S_q^p denote a p -sphere with the antipodal action.

2.2. Non-orientable surfaces. It will be useful to establish some language and notation for talking about surfaces. Let X be a closed surface, and let D be an embedded disk. Then $X - \text{int}(D)$ has a circle for its boundary, and identifying antipodal points on this circle produces a new surface X' . This process is called adding a **crosscap** to X . Note that this is equivalent to sewing a Möbius band onto $X - \text{int } D$, with the boundary of the Möbius band wrapping once around ∂D . One also has $X' \cong X \# \mathbb{R}P^2$. We depict a crosscap as a circle with a cross inside of it; for example, the left picture below shows a torus with a crosscap:



The circle depicts a hole, and the cross in the middle reminds us that opposite points on the hole are identified. To see the Möbius band in the picture, take a tubular neighborhood of the original circle—shown in the picture on the right. We then see an annulus with the opposite points on its inner circle identified, and this is our Möbius band.

Let N_r denote the non-orientable surface of genus r , i.e. $N_r = (\mathbb{R}P^2)^{\#r}$. A useful model for N_r is a 2-sphere with r crosscaps.

Remark 2.3. An easy Euler characteristic argument shows that adding a crosscap increases the β -genus by one, and of course it turns an orientable space into a non-orientable one. So $T_g + (r \text{ crosscaps}) \cong N_{2g+r}$.

2.4. Equivariant connected sums. Let X be a 2-manifold with nontrivial C_2 -action, and let M be any 2-manifold. We define a new C_2 -space $X \#_2 M$ as follows. Let M' denote M with an open disk removed. Choose an open disk D in X that is disjoint from its conjugate σD . Let X' denote X with D and σD removed. Choose an isomorphism $f: \partial M \rightarrow \partial D$, and let

$$X \#_2 M = \left[X' \amalg (M' \times \{0\}) \amalg (M' \times \{1\}) \right] / \sim$$

where the equivalence relation is $(m, 0) \sim f(m)$ and $(m, 1) \sim \sigma f(m)$ for $m \in \partial M'$. The C_2 -structure on $X \#_2 M$ is the evident one on X' together with $\sigma(m, 0) = (m, 1)$ for $m \in M'$.

The usual kinds of arguments show that when X and M are connected this construction is independent (up to isomorphism) on the choices of open disks and of the map f . See Corollary A.3.

Remark 2.5. Note the evident isomorphisms $X \#_2(M \# N) \cong (X \#_2 M) \#_2 N$.

The construction $X \#_2 N_1$ plays a special role for involutions on non-orientable surfaces. It can be regarded as adding “dual crosscaps” to the C_2 -manifold X , and we will usually denote this as $X + [DCC]$. Here “DCC” stands for “Dual CrossCaps”. We will write $X + 2[DCC]$ for $X + [DCC] + [DCC]$, and so forth. This notation is not simpler than the $\#_2$ notation, but it works better with other surgery constructions that will be introduced later.

The following is a simple result using this notation:

Proposition 2.6. *Let X be a connected 2-manifold with C_2 -action and let M be any connected 2-manifold. Then there is an equivariant isomorphism*

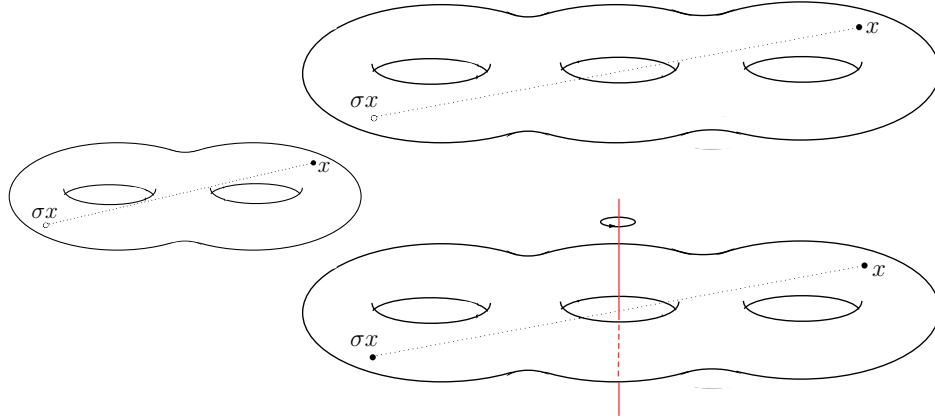
$$(X + [DCC]) \#_2 M \cong X + (\beta(M) + 1)[DCC].$$

Proof. We simply write

$$\begin{aligned} (X + [DCC]) \#_2 M &= (X \#_2 N_1) \#_2 M \cong X \#_2(N_1 \# M) \\ &\cong X \#_2(N_1^{\#(\beta(M)+1)}) \\ &\cong (((X \#_2 N_1) \#_2 N_1) \#_2 \cdots) \#_2 N_1 \\ &\cong X + (\beta(M) + 1)[DCC], \end{aligned}$$

where we have used Remark 2.5 several times. □

2.7. Constructions of free actions. Let T_g be the genus g torus. If we assume this is embedded in \mathbb{R}^3 in a standard way, with the “center” of the torus at the origin, then the antipodal map $x \mapsto -x$ preserves the torus and is an involution. When g is odd the origin is *inside* the central hole of this embedded torus, and rotation by 180 degrees through an appropriate central axis gives another involution. For T_2 and T_3 these are demonstrated in the pictures below:



Note that in these pictures the black dots represent points on the top side of the torus, whereas the open dots represent points on the underside.

We will write T_g^{anti} and T_g^{rot} to denote these two surfaces with involutions. Note that

$$T_g^{\text{rot}}/C_2 \cong T_{(1+g)/2} \quad \text{and} \quad T_g^{\text{anti}}/C_2 \cong N_{g+1}$$

(recall that g must be odd in the former case). The first is because T_g^{rot}/C_2 is orientable and its Euler characteristic is half of $2 - 2g$. Likewise, the second is because T_g^{anti}/C_2 is non-orientable with Euler characteristic also equal to $1 - g$.

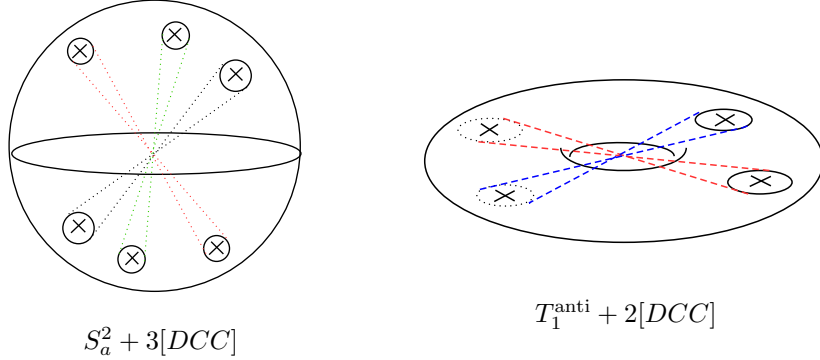
The following claims are easy to verify:

Proposition 2.8. *For $g \geq 0$ there are equivariant isomorphisms*

$$T_{2g}^{\text{anti}} \cong S_a^2 \#_2 T_g, \quad T_{2g+1}^{\text{anti}} \cong T_1^{\text{anti}} \#_2 T_g, \quad T_{2g+1}^{\text{rot}} \cong T_1^{\text{rot}} \#_2 T_g.$$

Proof. Left to the reader. \square

Note that if X is a 2-manifold with free C_2 -action and M is any 2-manifold, then the action on $X \#_2 M$ is again free. In particular, the constructions $S_a^2 + r[DCC]$, $T_1^{\text{anti}} + (r - 2)[DCC]$, and $T_1^{\text{rot}} + (r - 2)[DCC]$ give free actions on N_r . Here we are just adding crosscaps, as shown in the following pictures:



We will see later that $T_1^{\text{rot}} + (r - 2)[DCC] \cong T_1^{\text{anti}} + (r - 2)[DCC]$ when $r > 2$, but this requires a bit of work; see Proposition 4.25. The following are some easier isomorphisms:

Proposition 2.9. *For $g \geq 0$ and $s \geq 1$ there is a C_2 -equivariant isomorphism*

$$T_g^{\text{anti}} + s[DCC] \cong \begin{cases} S_a^2 + (g + s)[DCC] & \text{if } g \text{ is even,} \\ T_1^{\text{anti}} + (g + s - 1)[DCC] & \text{if } g \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Also, when g is odd one has

$$T_g^{\text{rot}} + s[DCC] \cong T_1^{\text{rot}} + (g + s - 1)[DCC].$$

Proof. This is immediate from Proposition 2.8. For example, when g is even

$$\begin{aligned} T_g^{\text{anti}} + s[DCC] &\cong (S_a^2 \#_2 T_{\frac{g}{2}}) \#_2 N_s \cong S_a^2 \#_2 (T_{\frac{g}{2}} \# N_s) \cong S_a^2 \#_2 (N_{g+s}) \\ &\cong S_a^2 + (g + s)[DCC]. \end{aligned}$$

The other statements are proven similarly. \square

3. EQUIVARIANT SURGERY AND OTHER GENERALITIES

In this section we further develop the machinery for breaking down an equivariant space into smaller pieces. This mainly focuses on the surgery-type constructions introduced in Section 1.

3.1. Connected components. Let X be a 2-manifold with C_2 -action. Recall that an **oval** is a component of X^{C_2} that is homeomorphic to S^1 . We write C for the number of ovals in X .

Proposition 3.2. *$X - X^{C_2}$ has either one or two path components. Moreover, if there are two components then every oval touches both of them.*

Proof. Paint $X - X^{C_2}$ different colors (Red, Blue, etc.), one for each path component. We will examine the colors attached to the “sides” of each oval in X^{C_2} (where by side we mean the components of $N - \mathcal{O}$ where \mathcal{O} is the oval and N is a tubular neighborhood). Recall that an oval can have only one side; despite this, it will be convenient to talk about the *two* sides of an oval even though these two sides might be the same! This is merely a linguistic issue.

Assume that U and V are ovals, each of which has a side that is colored Red. Pick $u \in U$ and $v \in V$. Then there is a path from u to v that stays entirely within the Red component (except at its two endpoints). The conjugate of this path starts on the other side of U and proceeds to the other side of V , never crossing the fixed set, and so the other sides of U and V must be colored the same. So if two ovals have one side the same color, the colors of the other sides must match as well.

Continue to assume that U is an oval with one side colored Red. Let \mathcal{C} denote the color attached to the second side of U (which might or might not be Red). Let E be any oval that is different from U , pick $u \in U$ and $e \in E$, and let α be a path from u to e in X that only crosses the fixed set finitely many times (surely such a path exists). Starting at U , whose sides are colored Red and \mathcal{C} , the next oval crossed by α will have a side that matches one of these colors. By the previous paragraph, the two sides of this oval must be colored the same as U . Now we apply this argument to each successive oval crossed by α , until we reach E . The conclusion is that the two sides of each oval are colored the same as U .

The path components of $X - X^{C_2}$ only depend on the ovals, not the isolated fixed points in X . We have just argued that if one oval touches two (possibly equal) path components, then every oval touches these same two components. So $X - X^{C_2}$ has at most two components, and if there are exactly two then every oval touches both of them. \square

Corollary 3.3. *If X has a one-sided oval then $X - X^{C_2}$ is connected.*

Proof. Again color the components of $X - X^{C_2}$, with the component touching our distinguished oval colored Red. By Proposition 3.2 every oval has both of its sides colored Red, and so $X - X^{C_2}$ can have only one component. \square

When $X - X^{C_2}$ has two components we say that the involution is **separating**. Otherwise we call the involution **non-separating**. Let $\epsilon = \epsilon(X)$ denote this binary invariant. In a slightly different use of the term, we will also say that an oval \mathcal{O} is separating if $X - \mathcal{O}$ has two components.

3.4. Doubled spaces and separating ovals. Start with a non-equivariant surface S and remove C disjoint open disks to produce a space X . Let $Y = [(X \times \{0\}) \amalg (X \times \{1\})] / \sim$ where the equivalence relation has $(x, 0) \sim (x, 1)$ if $x \in \partial X$. Give Y the evident C_2 -action where $\sigma(a, 0) = (a, 1)$ for all $a \in X$. We call Y the **double of S across C boundary circles**, and we will denote it $\text{Doub}(S, C)$. It is clear that S is orientable if and only if $\text{Doub}(S, C)$ is orientable. Moreover, an Euler characteristic argument shows if $S \cong N_s$ then $\text{Doub}(S, C) \cong N_{2(s+C-1)}$ and if $S \cong T_g$ then $\text{Doub}(S, C) \cong T_{2g+C-1}$. Uniting these cases, we can write $\beta(\text{Doub}(S, C)) = 2\beta(S) + 2(C - 1)$.

In the case of the doubling construction, the fixed set separates the surface into two path components. This turns out to be the *only* case where this happens:

Proposition 3.5. *Let X be a 2-manifold with C_2 -action. If $X - X^{C_2}$ has two path components then all ovals are two-sided and $X \cong \text{Doub}(S, C)$ for some surface S (where C is the number of ovals in X).*

Proof. We know that all ovals are two-sided by Corollary 3.3. Let P_1 and P_2 denote the two path components of $X - X^{C_2}$, and let $\bar{P}_1 = P_1 \cup X^{C_2}$ and $\bar{P}_2 = P_2 \cup X^{C_2}$. The involution then gives a homeomorphism $\sigma: \bar{P}_1 \rightarrow \bar{P}_2$.

Certainly \bar{P}_1 can be obtained by removing C open disks from a 2-manifold S . Construct a map $\text{Doub}(S, C) \rightarrow X$ by having it be the inclusion on $\bar{P}_1 \times \{0\}$ and σ on $\bar{P}_1 \times \{1\}$. This is an equivariant isomorphism. \square

Corollary 3.6. *Suppose that X has a separating oval. Then $\beta(X)$ is even and $X \cong \text{Doub}(S, 1)$ for some 2-manifold S having $\beta(S) = \frac{\beta(X)}{2}$.*

Proof. If \mathcal{O} is a separating oval then of course it must be two-sided, and $X - X^{C_2}$ has two components. If X has another oval then by Proposition 3.2 it touches both components, which contradicts the statement that $X - \mathcal{O}$ is disconnected. So in fact X has only the single oval \mathcal{O} . By Proposition 3.5 we know $X \cong \text{Doub}(S, 1)$ for some 2-manifold S . But $\beta(\text{Doub}(S, 1)) = 2\beta(S)$, and so $\beta(X)$ was even. \square

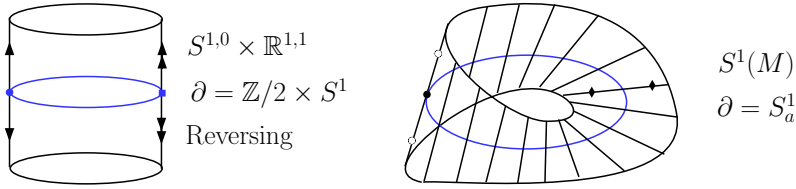
Remark 3.7. Note that $\text{Doub}(X, 1) \cong S^{2,1} \#_2 X$.

Corollary 3.8. *Let X be a 2-manifold with C_2 -action. If X has isolated fixed points, then X is non-separating. In particular, if \mathcal{O} is the union of the ovals in X then any two isolated fixed points are connected by a path in $X - \mathcal{O}$.*

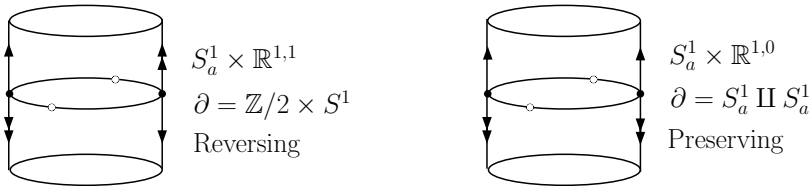
Proof. By Proposition 3.5, if X is separating then $X \cong \text{Doub}(S, C)$ for some surface S ; but this doubled space clearly has no isolated fixed points. \square

3.9. Cylinders and caps. There are three types of equivariant circles: $S^{1,0}$, $S^{1,1}$, and S_a^1 . If one of these circles lies inside an equivariant 2-manifold, there are multiple possibilities for what its equivariant tubular neighborhood can look like. The normal bundle to the circle can be twisted or untwisted, and when untwisted there are two possibilities depending on the C_2 -representation type of the normal direction. The following pictures show all of the possible normal bundles with nontrivial action. Our convention is that the fixed set is always shown in blue, and that identical symbols represent conjugate points (so for examples, two points labelled with a square in the same picture are conjugate). On the oriented spaces we indicate whether the action is orientation-preserving or reversing.

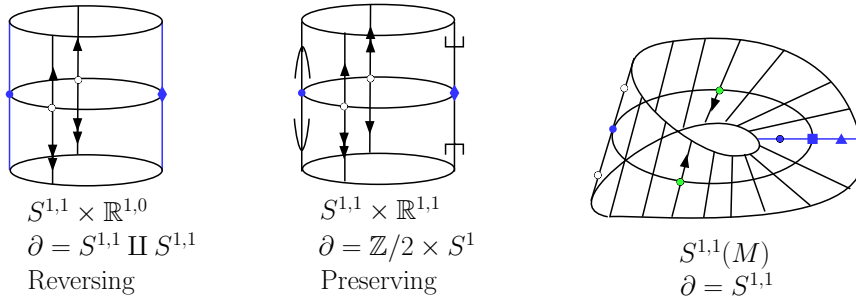
$S^{1,0}$ -normal bundles



S_a^1 -normal bundles



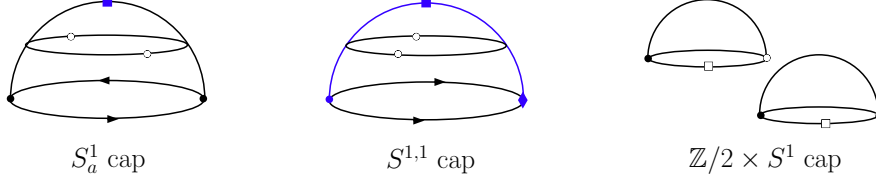
$S^{1,1}$ -normal bundles



For $S^{1,1}(M)$, note that there are two fixed points on the inner circle (which is a copy of $S^{1,1}$); the fiber over one has the trivial action, and the fiber over the other has nontrivial action. If C is a circle type ($S^{1,1}$, $S^{1,0}$, or S_a^1) then we will use the phrases “ C -tube” and “ C -antitube” to denote copies of $C \times \mathbb{R}^{1,0}$ and $C \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, respectively.

Remark 3.10. We did not include $S^{1,0} \times \mathbb{R}^{1,0}$ in our list because it has trivial action, and so this space occurs inside a connected C_2 -space X only if the action on X is trivial. But this brings up an important point: there are three possible normal bundles for $S^{1,0}$ and three for $S^{1,1}$, but in contrast for S_a^1 there are only two. There is no C_2 -equivariant structure on the Möbius bundle over S_a^1 , by a routine argument.

In addition to the “cylinders” (liberally interpreted) that we just considered, it is also useful to think about equivariant *caps*, i.e. equivariant versions of 2-disks. There are three of them where the action is nontrivial:



Note that from the point of view of surgery both $S^1(M)$ and $S^{1,1}(M)$ also function like caps, in that they give us ways to “cap off” an equivariant boundary circle.

3.11. The generalized doubling construction. Again start with a surface S and remove d disjoint open disks to produce a space X . Let $Y = (X \times \{0\}) \amalg (X \times \{1\})$. For each boundary component \mathcal{O} of X , attach a cylinder connecting $\mathcal{O} \times \{0\}$ to $\mathcal{O} \times \{1\}$. If we use $S^{1,0}$ -antitubes for all these cylinders, we get the doubling construction $\text{Dou}(S, C)$ as previously discussed. But we can also use $S^{1,1}$ -antitubes and S_a^1 -antitubes, or any combination of these three types. Let $\text{Dou}(S, a: S^{1,0}, b: S^{1,1}, c: S_a^1)$ denote such a construction, where a , b , and c count the number of each type of tube used (so that $a + b + c = d$). Note that $\beta(\text{Dou}(S, a: S^{1,0}, b: S^{1,1}, c: S_a^1)) = 2\beta(S) + 2(a + b + c - 1)$.

When $a = c = 0$ and $b = 1$ we will write $\text{Dou}(X, S^{1,1})$, and similarly for the other evident cases. Generalizing Remark 3.7, note that

$$\text{Dou}(X, S^{1,1}) \cong S^{2,2} \#_2 X \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Dou}(X, S_a^1) \cong S_a^2 \#_2 X.$$

3.12. Surgeries. Let X be a 2-manifold with C_2 -action. Given an equivariant disk D that is disjoint from its conjugate σD , we can remove the interiors of D and σD from X and then glue in an equivariant cylinder whose boundary is $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$: there are three such cylinders, namely the $S^{1,0}$ -, S_a^1 -, and $S^{1,1}$ -antitubes. We will write $X + (S_i^2 - \text{antitube})$ to denote the result of this process, with appropriate adornments on the S .

Conversely, if we find a copy of one of these antitubes inside X then we can cut out the middle portion of the tube and sew in two $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$ -caps to replace it. We will refer to any of these procedures—whether sewing in an antitube or removing one—as $S^{1,0}$ -, S_a^1 -, or $S^{1,1}$ -surgery, as appropriate.

There is another type of surgery that will also be very useful to us. If x is an isolated fixed point in X , then locally around x the space looks like an S_a^1 -cap. We can remove the interior of this cap from X and then sew in a copy of $S^1(M)$: this will be called **FM-surgery** (since it replaces a Fixed point with a Möbius band). The opposite process of removing a copy of $S^1(M)$ and replacing it with an S_a^1 -cap will sometimes be called **MF-surgery**, though we will be a bit lax about FM versus MF .

There are other kinds of surgeries one can perform, involving the other cylinders and caps, but we will not make use of these.

Remark 3.13 ($S^{1,1}$ -surgery around fixed points). Consider a C_2 -action on a surface X , and let a and b be distinct isolated fixed points. By Corollary A.2, there is a simple path α from a to b in X having the property that α and $\sigma\alpha$ do not have

any points in common except the endpoints. In particular, α does not meet X^{C_2} except at the endpoints.

Taken together, the pair $(\alpha, \sigma\alpha)$ gives an equivariant embedding $S^{1,1} \rightarrow X$. Taking a tubular neighborhood of the image gives an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube inside of X having a and b as its fixed points.

If we remove α and $\sigma\alpha$ from X there are two possibilities: either this disconnects X or it doesn't. In the former case, X is isomorphic to the generalized doubling construction $\text{Doub}(S, 1 : S^{1,1})$ for an appropriate surface S . In the latter case, we can put a $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$ -cap on the two open ends of the cut cylinder to produce an equivariant space of smaller genus, where the number of fixed points was reduced by two.

Note that different choices for the path α can lead to different surgery scenarios; see Remark 5.17 for an example.

3.14. Surgeries and isomorphisms. In general, one has to be careful about ‘‘cancelling’’ surgeries that appear inside isomorphism statements. But here is one case where it works:

Proposition 3.15. *Let X and Y be two C_2 -spaces with only isolated fixed points. Let $C \geq 0$ and assume $X + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] \cong Y + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$. Then $X \cong Y$ (as C_2 -spaces).*

Proof. Let $\hat{X} = X + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ and $\hat{Y} = Y + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$. Choose an equivariant isomorphism $\hat{X} \rightarrow \hat{Y}$. Because the homeomorphism preserves the fixed sets, it must send the ovals in the antitubes of \hat{X} to the ovals in the antitubes for \hat{Y} . We can then choose a collared neighborhood for each oval in \hat{X} that maps to a collared neighborhood of the image oval in \hat{Y} . Let \tilde{X} be obtained from \hat{X} by removing these neighborhoods and adding $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$ -caps, and similarly for \tilde{Y} . Then our equivariant isomorphism $\hat{X} \rightarrow \hat{Y}$ induces an equivariant isomorphism $\tilde{X} \rightarrow \tilde{Y}$. But clearly $X \cong \tilde{X}$ and $Y \cong \tilde{Y}$. \square

Let \mathcal{A} denote a type of antitube ($S^{1,0}$, $S^{1,1}$, or S_a^1). If X is an equivariant 2-manifold containing an \mathcal{A} -antitube, write $X - [\mathcal{A} - \text{antitube}]$ for the space obtained by removing the antitube and sewing in a $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$ -cap. The following is easy, but will be often used:

Proposition 3.16. *Let X and Y be equivariant 2-manifolds, both containing an \mathcal{A} -antitube. If $X - [\mathcal{A} - \text{antitube}] \cong Y - [\mathcal{A} - \text{antitube}]$ then $X \cong Y$.*

Proof. Let \hat{X} denote $X - [\mathcal{A} - \text{antitube}]$, and similarly for \hat{Y} . Let $f: \hat{X} \rightarrow \hat{Y}$ be an isomorphism. The space \hat{X} has a pair of conjugate disks D and σD corresponding to the cap that was sewn in, and these map to a pair of conjugate disks $f(D)$ and $f(\sigma D)$ in \hat{Y} . The space X is obtained from \hat{X} by doing surgery on these disks and sewing in an \mathcal{A} -antitube, so f yields an isomorphism from X to the space obtained from Y by doing the same surgery to $f(D)$ and $f(\sigma D)$. These latter disks are not necessarily the same as the caps we sewed in when we made \hat{Y} , but by Corollary A.3 it doesn't matter: any two \mathcal{A} -surgeries on \hat{Y} yield isomorphic spaces, so we conclude $X \cong Y$. \square

4. CLASSIFYING FREE ACTIONS

In this section we classify all the free actions on T_g and N_r . The techniques are classical and have been used by several authors; see [S] and [A], for example.

Here is the main classification result for free C_2 -actions:

Theorem 4.1 (Classification of free actions).

- (a) When g is even there is a unique free C_2 -structure on T_g ; it is represented by the antipodal action.
- (b) When g is odd, there are two free C_2 -structures on T_g : one that is orientation-preserving, and one that is orientation-reversing. The first is represented by a 180-degree rotation about the central hole, whereas the latter is represented by the antipodal action.
- (c) There are no free C_2 -structures on N_r when r is odd.
- (d) There is exactly one free C_2 -structure on N_2 , represented by $S_a^2 + [DCC]$.
- (e) For $s \geq 2$ there are exactly two free C_2 structures on N_{2s} , represented by the two C_2 -spaces $S_a^2 + s[DCC]$ and $T_1^{\text{anti}} + (2s - 2)[DCC]$.

Remark 4.2. Note that $T_1^{\text{rot}} + s[DCC]$ is a free C_2 -structure on N_{2+2s} , and so the above theorem implies it is equivariantly isomorphic to one of $S_a^2 + (1 + s)[DCC]$ or $T_1^{\text{anti}} + s[DCC]$; but the theorem does not specify which one. We will see the answer in Proposition 4.25 below.

It will take a while for us to prove Theorem 4.1. We will start with a very general but coarse result in the next section, and then apply it to the case of surfaces.

4.3. General results on classifying free actions. Let us first recall the natural bijections

$$(\text{principal } \mathbb{Z}/2\text{-bundles over } Y) \longleftrightarrow [Y, B\mathbb{Z}/2] \longleftrightarrow H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2).$$

Given a principal $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -bundle $P \rightarrow Y$, the corresponding element of $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is called its characteristic class and will be denoted Λ_P . To describe it, assume that Y is path-connected and choose a basepoint b in Y . Define a map $\lambda_P: \pi_1(Y, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$ by letting $\lambda_P(\sigma) = 0$ if the loop σ lifts to a loop in P , and $\lambda_P(\sigma) = 1$ otherwise. One can readily check that this is a group map, and we therefore get the factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(Y, b) & \longrightarrow & H_1(Y) \\ \lambda_P \downarrow & \swarrow \Lambda_P & \\ \mathbb{Z}/2 & & \end{array}$$

since $H_1(Y)$ is the abelianization of $\pi_1(Y, b)$. So we have produced an element of $\text{Hom}(H_1(Y), \mathbb{Z}/2)$, which is naturally isomorphic to $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. A little thought shows that the construction of Λ_P is independent of the choice of basepoint b .

Let Y be a fixed path-connected space. Let $\mathcal{S}(Y)$ be the set of isomorphism classes of free C_2 -spaces X that are path-connected and have the property that $X/C_2 \cong Y$ (note that a choice of this isomorphism is not part of our data).

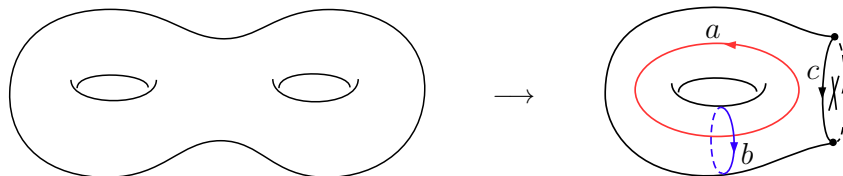
Proposition 4.4. *There is a bijection between $\mathcal{S}(Y)$ and the set of nonzero orbits in $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)/\text{Aut}(Y)$.*

Proof. Let X be a C_2 -space representing an isomorphism class in $\mathcal{S}(Y)$. Choose an isomorphism $Y \rightarrow X/C_2$. Pulling $X \rightarrow X/C_2$ back along this isomorphism gives a principal $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -bundle over Y , which has a characteristic class $\Lambda_X \in H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Since X is path-connected the bundle is not trivial, and so Λ_X is not zero. The class Λ_X depends on the choice of isomorphism $Y \rightarrow X/C_2$, but another choice differs from this one by an element of $\text{Aut}(Y)$. So we get a well-defined function $\mathcal{S}(Y) \rightarrow H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)/\text{Aut}(Y)$.

In the other direction, any element u of $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is the characteristic class of a principal $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -bundle $E \rightarrow Y$. The space E with its inherent $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -action then gives us an element of $\mathcal{S}(Y)$. One readily checks that we have a bijection. \square

Remark 4.5. Galois theory tells us that 2-fold covers of Y are classified by index 2 subgroups of $\pi_1(Y, *)$, and so one could conceivably approach the above classification problem by using π_1 instead of H^1 . However, there is a technical problem here because $\text{Aut}(Y)$ does not act in a natural way on $\pi_1(Y, *)$, due to the fact that automorphisms are not required to fix the basepoint. This problem is surmountable, but it is easier to just use H^1 as we did above. Note that giving a nonzero element of H^1 is the same as giving a surjective map $H_1(Y) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$, which is the same as giving an index two subgroup of $H_1(Y)$. By the Hurewicz Theorem, the latter is equivalent to giving an index two subgroup of $\pi_1(Y, *)$ (where $*$ is any chosen basepoint).

Example 4.6. Consider the genus two torus T_2 with its antipodal action. The quotient space is a torus with a crosscap, as demonstrated in the following picture:



So $T_2/C_2 \cong N_3$, and $H_1(N_3; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is generated by the elements a , b , and c from the picture. Both a and b lift to loops under the projection $T_2 \rightarrow T_2/C_2$, whereas c does not. So under the bijection of Proposition 4.4 the C_2 -space T_2 corresponds to the map $H_1(N_3; \mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$ sending $a \mapsto 0$, $b \mapsto 0$, $c \mapsto 1$.

Let us now return to develop a bit more of the general theory. The action of $\text{Aut}(Y)$ on $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is a group homomorphism

$$(4.7) \quad \text{Aut}(Y) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)).$$

Our next goal will be to understand the image of this map when Y is a closed 2-manifold, as this will allow us to compute the orbits. To this end, let $\mathcal{I}(Y) \subseteq \text{Aut}(Y)$ be the (normal) subgroup of automorphisms that are isotopic to the identity. The **full mapping class group** of Y is $\mathcal{M}(Y) = \text{Aut}(Y)/\mathcal{I}(Y)$. Note that the action of $\text{Aut}(Y)$ on $H^1(Y)$ factors through an action of $\mathcal{M}(Y)$, since $\mathcal{I}(Y)$ acts trivially on $H^1(Y)$.

When Y is a closed 2-manifold, the map in (4.7) turns out to be surjective only when $Y = S^2$. Indeed, the cup product gives a nondegenerate form on $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$,

and the action of $\text{Aut}(Y)$ must preserve this form. In the case where Y is orientable of genus g , this form is symplectic and the map (4.7) therefore factors through the symplectic group $\text{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z}/2)$. In the case when $Y \cong N_r$ the form is orthogonal, and the map (4.7) therefore factors through an orthogonal group $O(r, \mathbb{Z}/2)$.

We are thereby led to consider the two maps

$$(4.8) \quad \mathcal{M}(T_g) \longrightarrow \text{Isom}(H^1(T_g; \mathbb{Z}/2), \langle -, - \rangle) \cong \text{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z}/2)$$

and

$$(4.9) \quad \mathcal{M}(N_r) \longrightarrow \text{Isom}(H^1(N_r; \mathbb{Z}/2), \langle -, - \rangle) \cong O(r, \mathbb{Z}/2).$$

Here $O(r, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is the orthogonal group of $r \times r$ matrices A with entries in $\mathbb{Z}/2$ satisfying $AA^T = I_s$, and the isomorphism with our isometry group depends on a choice of orthonormal basis for $H^1(N_r; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Likewise, the isomorphism with the symplectic group depends on a choice of symplectic basis for $H^1(T_g; \mathbb{Z}/2)$,

The following result must be classical in the theory of mapping class groups. We include the proof for lack of a reference.

Theorem 4.10. *The homomorphisms of (4.8) and (4.9) are both surjective.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{M}^+(T_g) \subseteq \mathcal{M}(T_g)$ denote the subgroup consisting of orientation-preserving automorphisms. Note that there is a short exact sequence of groups

$$1 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^+(T_g) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{M}(T_g) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow 1$$

where the surjective map records the determinant of the induced map on $H^1(T_g; \mathbb{Z})$.

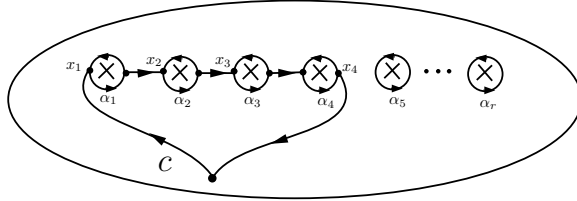
We have a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}^+(T_g) & \longrightarrow & \text{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{M}(T_g) & \longrightarrow & \text{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z}/2). \end{array}$$

The right vertical map is surjective; this is fairly easy to prove by hand, but it also follows from [T, Theorem 8.5]. The top horizontal map is also known to be surjective; see [FM, Theorem 6.4]. So the lower horizontal map is surjective as well.

The result for N_r is the subject of the paper [MP], but that paper was never published and the online version has some cosmetic blemishes. So we include a sketch of the proof here. Note, however, that the argument is entirely taken from [MP].

Model N_r as a sphere with r crosscaps, as in the following picture (where the boundary of the given disk is identified to a point):



Note that $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ is an orthonormal basis for $H_1(N_r; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. When $r \geq 4$ let c be the indicated path, which sequentially reaches points $x_1, x_2, x_3,$ and $x_4,$

hopping over the crosscaps (for example, the path α_1 is not a subpath of c). Then $c = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$ in $H_1(N_r; \mathbb{Z}/2)$.

The path c is two-sided (as it crosses an even number of crosscaps), so we can consider the Dehn twist τ_c associated to c . On homology it induces the map $x \mapsto x + \langle x, c \rangle c$. So $(\tau_c)_*(\alpha_i) = \alpha_i$ for $i > 4$, whereas $(\tau_c)_*(\alpha_i) = \alpha_i + c$ for $i \leq 4$.

It is clear that there are elements of $\mathcal{M}(N_r)$ that transpose any two crosscaps and leave the others fixed (if it is not clear, use the Dehn twist about an analog of c that hops across exactly two crosscaps). So all the permutation matrices are in the image of $\mathcal{M}(N_r) \rightarrow O(r, \mathbb{Z}/2)$. By Corollary 4.14 below (this forward reference is awkward but convenient), the group $O(r, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is generated by these permutation matrices together with $(\tau_c)_*$ (when $r \geq 4$). So $\mathcal{M}(N_r) \rightarrow O(r, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is surjective. \square

Corollary 4.11. *The set $\mathcal{S}(T_g)$ is in bijective correspondence with the set of nonzero orbits in $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g} / \mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Likewise, the set $\mathcal{S}(N_r)$ is in bijective correspondence with the nonzero orbits in $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^r / O(r, \mathbb{Z}/2)$.*

Proof. This is immediate from Proposition 4.4 and Theorem 4.10. \square

4.12. Algebraic calculations. Consider the vector space \mathbb{F}_2^n with the dot product. In this section we will write $O(n)$ for $O(n, \mathbb{F}_2)$. For any vector $v = [v_1, \dots, v_n] \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$, define the **content** of v to be $c(v) = \sum_i v_i \in \mathbb{F}_2$. Note that

$$c(v) = \sum_i v_i^2 = v \cdot v$$

and so the action of $O(n)$ preserves the content.

The vector $\Omega = [1, 1, \dots, 1]$ is the unique vector in \mathbb{F}_2^n having the property that $\Omega \cdot x = x \cdot x$ for all vectors x . As such, Ω must be preserved by $O(n)$.

Lemma 4.13. *When $n \geq 3$ there are exactly four orbits of $O(n)$ on \mathbb{F}_2^n , represented by the elements*

$$0 = [0, 0, \dots, 0], \quad a_1 = [1, 0, \dots, 0], \quad a_2 = [1, 1, 0, \dots, 0], \quad \Omega = [1, 1, \dots, 1].$$

When $n = 2$ there are exactly three orbits, represented by 0 , a_1 , and Ω . If v is a vector whose coordinates have at least one 0 and at least one 1, then the orbit of v is determined by the parity of the number of 1s.

Proof. Write b_1, \dots, b_n for the standard basis of \mathbb{F}_2^n . Transposing any two basis elements is an isometry, so over \mathbb{F}_2 the symmetric matrices are all orthogonal. In particular, the vectors b_1, \dots, b_n are all in the same orbit of $O(n)$; the vectors $b_i + b_j$ ($i \neq j$) are all in the same orbit, the vectors $b_i + b_j + b_k$ (i, j, k all distinct) are all in the same orbit, etc. This proves that there are at most $n + 1$ orbits, represented by the vectors

$$0, \quad b_1, \quad b_1 + b_2, \quad b_1 + b_2 + b_3, \quad \dots, \quad b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n.$$

We also know that $\{0\}$ and $\{b_1 + \dots + b_n\}$ are singleton orbits. The $n = 2$ case is now complete. For the $n = 3$ case we merely observe that the content function shows that b_1 and $b_1 + b_2$ are in distinct orbits, so this case is also done.

Now suppose $n \geq 4$. Then the linear map

$$\begin{cases} b_1 \mapsto b_2 + b_3 + b_4, & b_2 \mapsto b_1 + b_3 + b_4, \\ b_3 \mapsto b_1 + b_2 + b_4, & b_4 \mapsto b_1 + b_2 + b_3, \\ b_i \mapsto b_i \quad (i \geq 5) \end{cases}$$

is readily checked to be an isometry. This shows that $b_2 + b_3 + b_4$ and b_1 are in the same orbit, and so $b_1 + b_2 + b_3$ and b_1 are also in the same orbit; this completes the $n = 4$ case. Moreover, when $n > 4$ we have that $b_1 + b_2 + b_3 + b_5$ is in the same orbit as $b_1 + b_5$, $b_1 + b_2 + b_3 + b_5 + b_6$ is in the same orbit as $b_1 + b_5 + b_6$, and so forth. This completes the proof. \square

For the following corollary, if A is a $k \times k$ matrix and B is an $l \times l$ matrix write $A \oplus B$ for the $(k+l) \times (k+l)$ block diagonal matrix $\begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & B \end{bmatrix}$.

Corollary 4.14. *Let $n \geq 1$. Then $O(n)$ is generated by the permutation matrices together with (in the case $n \geq 4$) the single matrix $A \oplus I_{n-4}$ where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.*

Proof. This is the main content of [MP, Theorem 1.1]. Let e_1, \dots, e_n be an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{F}_2^n . Note that if $M \in O(n)$ then $c(Me_i)$ must be odd for each i , since $\langle Me_i, Me_i \rangle = \langle e_i, e_i \rangle = 1$.

Let $H \subseteq O(n)$ be the subgroup generated by the permutation matrices and (in the case $n \geq 4$) the matrix $A \oplus I_{n-4}$. The fact that $H = O(n)$ is trivial when $n = 1$.

We proceed by induction, so assume $n \geq 2$. If $O(n) \neq H$, we can choose an $M \in O(n) - H$ such that $k = \#\{i \mid Me_i = e_i\}$ is as large as possible. If $k = n$ then $M = Id$, which contradicts $M \notin H$; so $k < n$. By composing M with a permutation matrix we can assume $Me_i = e_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$, and therefore $M = I_k \oplus M'$ where $M' \in O(n-k)$. If $k > 0$ then M' belongs to H by induction, and so $M \in H$. So we must have $k = 0$.

The proof of Lemma 4.13 actually shows that H acts transitively on the vectors v in $\mathbb{F}_2^n - \{\Omega\}$ that have $c(v) = 1$. Consider $v = Me_1$, and note that $c(v) = 1$. We cannot have $v = \Omega$, as $M\Omega = \Omega$ and $\Omega \neq e_1$ (since $r > 1$). So there is a matrix $B \in H$ such that $Bv = e_1$. The composite BM therefore fixes e_1 , but is not in H . This contradicts the fact that M was chosen to make k maximum. \square

The group $\mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ acts on $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g}$ via left multiplication. The following result describes the orbits:

Lemma 4.15. *There are exactly two orbits of $\mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ acting on $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g}$: one is the singleton orbit consisting of the zero vector, and the other is the set of all nonzero vectors.*

Proof. We first consider the case $g = 1$. The matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

are both symplectic and carry $[1, 0]$ to $[0, 1]$ and $[1, 1]$, respectively. So all three of these elements are in the same orbit, and this case is done.

For the general case, let e_1, \dots, e_{2g} be a symplectic basis for $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g}$, where our convention is that

$$\langle e_{2i-1}, e_{2i} \rangle = 1 = \langle e_{2i}, e_{2i-1} \rangle$$

for all $i \in \{1, \dots, g\}$, and all other pairings between basis elements are zero. We will refer to each pair $\{e_{2i-1}, e_{2i}\}$ as a ‘‘symplectic block’’.

We can denote elements of $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g}$ as $v = [B_1, \dots, B_g]$ where each $B_i \in (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2$, via the convention

$$v = (B_1)_1 e_1 + (B_1)_2 e_2 + (B_2)_1 e_3 + (B_2)_2 e_4 + \dots$$

In other words, B_i contains the coordinates of v with respect to the i th symplectic block.

Write $\mathrm{Sp}(n)$ for $\mathrm{Sp}(n, \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Inclusion of block diagonal matrices gives a group homomorphism $\mathrm{Sp}(2) \times \cdots \times \mathrm{Sp}(2) \rightarrow \mathrm{Sp}(2g)$, and the $g = 1$ case now shows that there are at most 2^g orbits on $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g}$, represented by vectors $[B_1, \dots, B_g]$ with each $B_i \in \{[0, 0], [1, 0]\}$. Additionally, permutations of the symplectic blocks are all elements of $\mathrm{Sp}(2g)$ and so we can do a bit better: there are at most $g + 1$ orbits, represented by the vectors

$$(4.16) \quad [O, O, \dots, O], [T, O, \dots, O], [T, T, O, \dots, O], \dots, [T, T, \dots, T]$$

where $T = [1, 0]$ and $O = [0, 0]$.

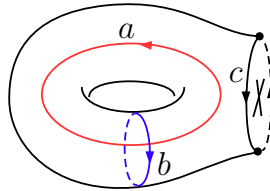
Next we observe that when $g = 2$ the following matrix is symplectic:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For $g \geq 2$, the direct sum $A \oplus id_{(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g-4}}$ takes $[T, O, \dots, O]$ to $[T, T, O, \dots, O]$. The direct sum $id_{(\mathbb{Z}/2)^2} \oplus A \oplus id_{(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2g-6}}$ takes $[T, T, O, \dots, O]$ to $[T, T, T, O, \dots, O]$, and continuing in this way we see that all of the nonzero vectors in (4.16) are in the same orbit. \square

4.17. Two-fold coverings of surfaces. Putting Corollary 4.11 together with Lemma 4.13 and Lemma 4.15, we immediately see that up to isomorphism there is only one free C_2 -action on a surface whose quotient is T_g , and for $r \geq 3$ there are three free C_2 -actions on surfaces whose quotient is N_r . It remains to explicitly identify these. To this end, we start by considering some examples.

Example 4.18. First, consider the antipodal action on T_2 . As we saw in Example 4.6, the quotient is isomorphic to a torus with a crosscap (a copy of N_3), having basis $\{a, b, c\}$ for $H_1(N_3; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Here is the picture of T_2/C_2 again:



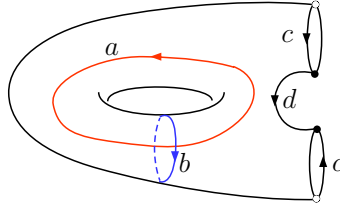
We also saw that the C_2 -space T_2 is classified by the linear functional λ defined by $a, b \mapsto 0, c \mapsto 1$.

So far this is all fine, but the basis $\{a, b, c\}$ is not an orthonormal basis for $H_1(N_3; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Indeed, one has

$$0 = a \cdot a = b \cdot b = b \cdot c = a \cdot c, \quad 1 = a \cdot b = c \cdot c.$$

In order to tie in with our classification results we need to use a different basis. A moment's thought verifies that $\{a + c, b + c, a + b + c\}$ is an orthonormal basis. Our linear function λ sends all of these elements to 1; so in the notation of Lemma 4.13 our characteristic class for the antipodal action on T_2 is the orbit of $[1, 1, 1]$.

Example 4.19. It is worth looking at T_3 with its antipodal action as well. Here is the quotient space T_3/C_2 :



Note that the loop c goes all the way around the drawn circle, not half-way around; the open dot and solid dot are not identified. So a , b , and c lift to loops in T_3 , whereas d does not.

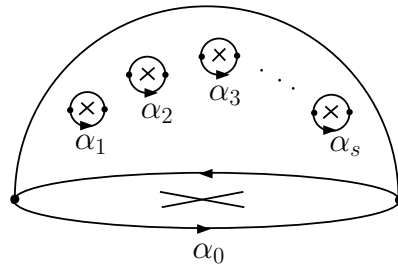
The intersection products are given by

$$0 = a \cdot a = b \cdot b = c \cdot c = a \cdot c = a \cdot d = b \cdot d, \quad 1 = a \cdot b = d \cdot d = c \cdot d.$$

One readily checks that $a + d$, $b + d$, $a + b + d$, $c + d$ is an orthonormal basis. The values of our characteristic class are therefore $[1, 1, 1, 1]$.

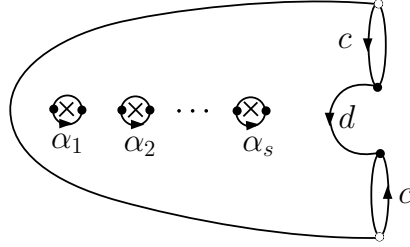
The last two examples are representative of all cases. We leave it to the reader to check that for T_g with its antipodal action the characteristic class is always $[1, 1, \dots, 1]$.

Example 4.20. Consider the space $X = S_a^2 + s[DCC]$ and its quotient space $Q = X/C_2$ shown below:



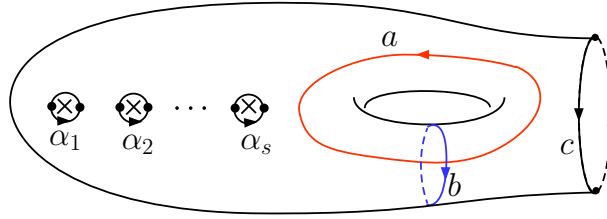
Note that there are $s + 1$ crosscaps in this picture. As our basis for $H_1(Q; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ we take $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$, as shown. This is an orthonormal basis with respect to the intersection form. The loops $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$ lift to loops in X , but α_0 does not. So our characteristic class is represented by the vector $[1, 0, 0, \dots, 0] \in \mathbb{F}_2^{s+1}$.

Example 4.21. Next consider $X = T_1^{\text{anti}} + s[DCC]$ and its quotient space $Q = X/C_2$:



Note that $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s, c$ all lift to loops in X , but d does not. Here we again have the problem that $c, d, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$ is not an orthonormal basis for $H_1(Q; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. We instead use $c + d, d, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$. The values of our characteristic class are then $[1, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0] \in \mathbb{F}_2^{s+2}$.

Example 4.22. As the final example we consider $X = T_2^{\text{anti}} + s[DCC]$ and its quotient space $Q = X/C_2$:

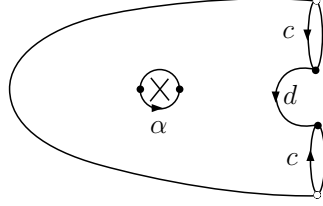


Here $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s, a, b$ all lift to loops in X , but c does not. The basis $a, b, c, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$ is not orthonormal, but similarly to Example 4.18 we instead use $a + c, b + c, a + b + c, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$. The values of our characteristic class are then $[1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0] \in \mathbb{F}_2^{s+3}$.

Hopefully the pattern in the above examples is now clear. In each case the extra crosscaps play essentially no role, as the cycles moving around them are orthonormal and are orthogonal to where the “main action” is. One finds that the characteristic class for $T_g^{\text{anti}} + s[DCC]$ is really the same as for T_g^{anti} except with s extra zeros on the end. But as the characteristic class for T_g^{anti} is $[1, 1, \dots, 1] \in \mathbb{F}_2^{g+1}$, this implies the following:

Proposition 4.23. *The characteristic class for $T_g^{\text{anti}} + s[DCC]$ is the vector $[1, 1, \dots, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0]$ in \mathbb{F}_2^{g+1+s} , where there are s zeros appearing.*

Example 4.24. As one more example, we consider the C_2 -space $X = T_1^{\text{rot}} + [DCC]$. Then X/C_2 is a torus with a crosscap, which is isomorphic to N_3 . We depict this space below (where the two circles that look like boundary components are actually identified):



The elements α , c , and d are a basis for H_1 , and we have

$$\alpha \cdot \alpha = c \cdot d = 1, \quad \alpha \cdot c = \alpha \cdot d = c \cdot c = d \cdot d = 0.$$

So $\alpha + c + d$, $\alpha + d$, $\alpha + c$ is an orthonormal basis. Both α and c lift to loops in X , but d does not. So the characteristic class for X is $[1, 1, 0]$. This is the same characteristic class as $T_1^{\text{anti}} + [DCC]$, and so we conclude that these are isomorphic C_2 -spaces. The result below is a routine extension of this:

Proposition 4.25. *When g is odd there are C_2 -equivariant isomorphisms*

$$T_g^{\text{rot}} + s[DCC] \cong T_1^{\text{anti}} + (g + s - 1)[DCC].$$

Proof. For $g = 1$ and $s = 1$ this is the content of Example 4.24. For $g = 1$ and $s > 1$ the result follows immediately from the $s = 1$ case by adding more crosscaps. Finally, the general case then follows from the $g = 1$ case by using Proposition 2.8 to write $T_g^{\text{rot}} \cong T_1^{\text{rot}} \#_2 T_{(g-1)/2}$. Then

$$T_g^{\text{rot}} + s[DCC] \cong T_1^{\text{rot}} + (g - 1 + s)[DCC] \cong T_1^{\text{anti}} + (g - 1 + s)[DCC].$$

□

4.26. Classification theorems. The following result completely classifies all free actions on surfaces with a specified quotient space:

Proposition 4.27.

- (a) For $g \geq 1$ the set $\mathcal{S}(T_g)$ contains exactly one element, represented by the 180-degree rotation on T_{2g-1} .
- (b) For $r \geq 3$ the set $\mathcal{S}(N_r)$ has three elements. One is represented by the antipodal map on T_{r-1} , and the others are represented by the C_2 -spaces $S_a^2 + (r-1)[DCC]$ and $T_1^{\text{anti}} + (r-2)[DCC]$.
- (c) The set $\mathcal{S}(N_1)$ has one element, represented by the antipodal map on S^2 . The set $\mathcal{S}(N_2)$ has two elements, represented by T_1^{anti} and $S_a^2 + [DCC]$.

Note that part (c) can in some ways be regarded as an instance of (b), where one simply ignores the spaces in the list that don't make sense (or are repetitions) when $r = 1$ and $r = 2$.

Proof. Corollary 4.11 and Lemma 4.15 imply that $\mathcal{S}(T_g)$ has exactly one element. The rotation action on T_{2g-1} is a free C_2 -action whose quotient is isomorphic to T_g (for example because the quotient is orientable with Euler characteristic $\frac{1}{2}\chi(T_{2g-1})$), and so this rotation action represents the unique element of $\mathcal{S}(T_g)$.

For (b), we again note that Corollary 4.11 and Lemma 4.13 imply that $\mathcal{S}(N_r)$ has exactly three elements. The antipodal action on T_{r-1} has a non-orientable quotient of Euler characteristic equal to $\frac{1}{2}(2 - 2(r-1)) = 2 - r$, and so it must be isomorphic to N_r . So this antipodal action represents one element of $\mathcal{S}(N_r)$.

The following paragraph is not essential to our argument, but it is worth noting that it is easy to see that the antipodal action on T_{r-1} is the only orientable element of $\mathcal{S}(N_r)$. Let $\tilde{N}_r \rightarrow N_r$ be the orientation cover (a point of which is a point in N_r together with a local orientation at that point). If $X \rightarrow N_r$ is any 2-fold cover where X is orientable, then there is a canonical map $X \rightarrow \tilde{N}_r$ giving an isomorphism of covers of N_r . Being a covering map, this is necessarily C_2 -equivariant and therefore an equivariant isomorphism. Applying this to $X = T_{r-1}$ with the antipodal action, or to any other free action on T_{r-1} , one sees they are all isomorphic to the action on \tilde{N}_r .

By the last paragraph, the remaining two elements of $\mathcal{S}(N_r)$ must be represented by C_2 -actions on non-orientable surfaces. Since the Euler characteristic of such a surface must be $2\chi(N_r) = 2(2 - r) = 2 - (2r - 2)$, we conclude we are looking for C_2 -actions on N_{2r-2} . Now we simply observe that $S_a^2 + (r - 1)[DCC]$ and $T_1^{\text{anti}} + (r - 2)[DCC]$ are two such spaces and their characteristic classes have been computed to be different; see Example 4.20, Example 4.21, and Lemma 4.13.

The proof for part (c) is similar, and left to the reader. \square

The main classification theorem for free actions is now an easy consequence of Proposition 4.27:

Proof of Theorem 4.1. Suppose we have a free C_2 -action on T_g , and let $Q = T_g/C_2$. Then Q is a closed 2-manifold and $\chi(Q) = \frac{1}{2}\chi(T_g) = 1 - g$. If g is even then Q must be non-orientable and so $Q \cong N_{g+1}$. We have computed $\mathcal{S}(N_{g+1})$, and we know that it contains only one element whose underlying space is T_g : this is precisely T_g^{anti} . This proves (a).

When g is odd we can have $Q \cong T_{(1+g)/2}$ or $Q \cong N_{1+g}$. In the latter case the reasoning is the same as in the last paragraph. In the former case, we have computed $\mathcal{S}(T_{(1+g)/2})$ and know that it contains exactly one element, represented by T_g^{rot} . This proves (b).

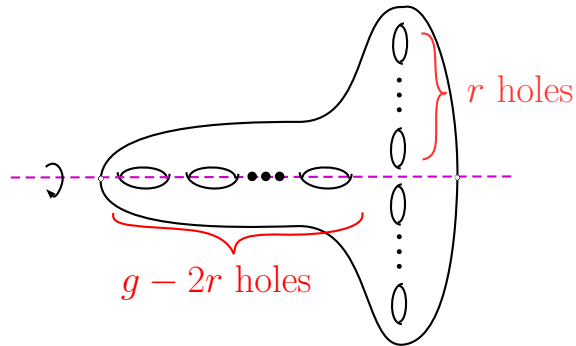
Now suppose we have a free C_2 -action on N_s , and again let $Q = N_s/C_2$. Since an orientable surface cannot be covered by a non-orientable surface, Q must be non-orientable. We also have $\chi(Q) = \frac{1}{2}(2 - s)$, and so this forces s to be even. We have now proven (c).

Finally, if $s = 2t$ then $\chi(Q) = 1 - t = 2 - (1 + t)$ and so $Q \cong N_{t+1}$. We have computed $\mathcal{S}(N_{t+1})$ and know that when $t \geq 2$ it contains only two elements whose underlying space is N_{2t} , namely $S_a^2 + t[DCC]$ and $T_1^{\text{anti}} + (t - 1)[DCC]$. This proves (e), and the same analysis applies for (d). \square

5. C_2 -ACTIONS ON TORI

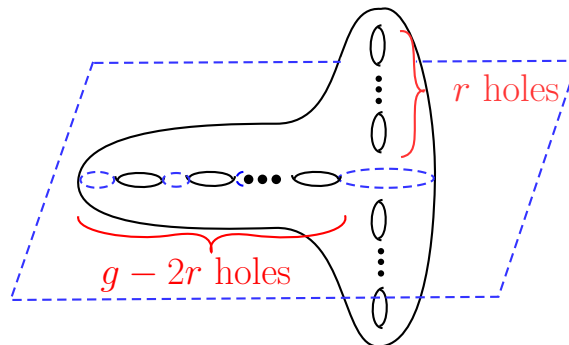
Our goal in this section is to understand all C_2 -actions on the genus g torus T_g . There are two main cases, depending on whether the action is orientation-preserving or reversing. We start by defining two special classes of actions, called the *spit* action and the *reflection* action, and then we will promptly state the main result.

5.1. Special constructions. For $r \leq \frac{g}{2}$ let $T_{g,r}^{\text{spit}}$ be the following C_2 -space:



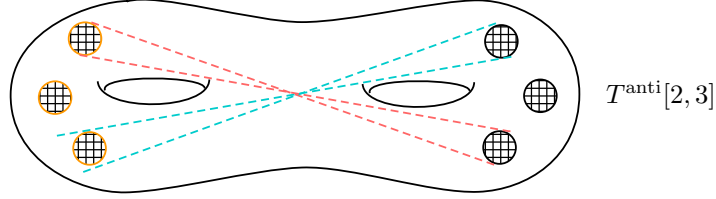
The action is the 180-degree rotation about the dotted axis (the "spit"). Note that the number of doughnut holes lying along the spit is $g - 2r$, and so the number of fixed points is $2(g - 2r) + 2 = 2 + 2g - 4r$. Usually it is more convenient to remember the number of fixed points in the notation, and so we will also write $T_g^{\text{spit}}[F]$ for the version of this construction with F fixed points (meaning that $F = 2 + 2g - 4r$ here).

Likewise, for $r \leq \frac{g}{2}$ we define $T_{g,r}^{\text{refl}}$ to be the C_2 -space depicted by:



The action is reflection in the indicated plane. Here the fixed set is a disjoint union of circles, numbering one more than the doughnut holes that meet the plane. So the fixed set consists of $g - 2r + 1$ circles. Again, usually it is more convenient to have the number of ovals in the notation: so we will write $T_g^{\text{refl}}[C]$ for the version of this construction with C ovals (so $C = g - 2r + 1$).

Finally, let us define a third type of C_2 -space denoted $T^{\text{anti}}[g, r]$. This is obtained by starting with a genus g torus with antipodal action, cutting out the interiors of r disjoint disks together with their conjugates, and finally identifying the boundary points with their antipodes:



Note that $T^{\text{anti}}[g, r] \cong T_{g+r}$, and the fixed set consists of r disjoint circles. Note as well that $T^{\text{anti}}[g, r] - T^{\text{anti}}[g, r]^{C_2}$ is path-connected, so this equivariant space is different from the $T_{?,?}^{\text{refl}}$ spaces defined above.

Remark 5.2. The C_2 -spaces introduced above all have surgery-based descriptions as well:

$$(5.3) \quad T_g^{\text{spit}}[F] \cong \left[S^{2,2} + \left(\frac{F}{2} - 1\right)[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \right] \#_2 T_{\left(\frac{2+2g-F}{4}\right)} \\ \cong \text{Doub}\left(T_{\left(\frac{2+2g-F}{4}\right)}; S^{1,1}\right) + \left(\frac{F}{2} - 1\right)[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$$

$$(5.4) \quad T_g^{\text{refl}}[C] \cong \left[S^{2,1} + (C - 1)[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] \right] \#_2 T_{\left(\frac{1+g-C}{2}\right)} \\ \cong \text{Doub}\left(T_{\left(\frac{1+g-C}{2}\right)}; S^{1,0}\right) + (C - 1)[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$$

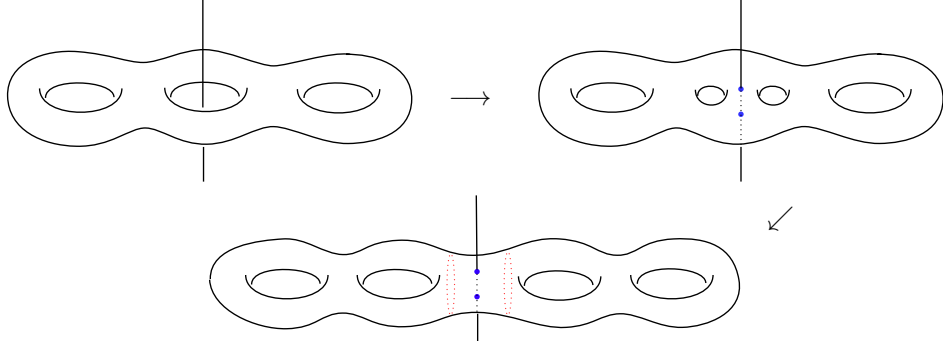
and

$$(5.5) \quad T^{\text{anti}}[g, r] \cong T_g^{\text{anti}} + r[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}].$$

Proposition 5.6. For $g \geq 0$ and $0 \leq n \leq \frac{2+2g}{4}$, there are equivariant isomorphisms

$$T_g^{\text{spit}}[2 + 2g - 4n] \cong \begin{cases} S^{2,2} + g[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] & \text{if } n = 0, \\ T_{2n-1}^{\text{rot}} + (g + 1 - 2n)[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] & \text{if } n > 0. \end{cases}$$

Proof. In the case $n = 0$ this is obvious. The general case follows immediately once we establish $T_g^{\text{spit}}[2] \cong T_{g-1}^{\text{rot}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$ when g is even and $g \geq 2$. Here the proof is geometric. Observe that the C_2 -action on a standard $S^{1,1}$ -antitube is 180-degree rotation about the spit passing through the two fixed points. Start with the standard model of T_{g-1}^{rot} , with its central axis of rotation, and sew in an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube so that its axis of rotation matches the one of the torus. The resulting space is transparently isomorphic to $S^{2,2} \#_2 T_{g/2}$, which is a model for $T_g^{\text{spit}}[2]$. The following pictures demonstrate the case $g = 4$:



□

Here is the main theorem concerning C_2 -actions on T_g :

Theorem 5.7. *For $g \geq 0$ there are exactly $4 + 2g$ distinct involutions on T_g . These are:*

- (i) *The $2 + \lfloor \frac{g}{2} \rfloor$ orientation-preserving actions, namely*
 - *The trivial action,*
 - *$T_{g,r}^{\text{spit}}$ for $0 \leq r \leq \frac{g}{2}$, (equivalently, $T_g^{\text{spit}}[F]$ for $2 \leq F \leq 2 + 2g$ and $F \equiv 2 + 2g \pmod{4}$),*
 - *T_g^{rot} (when g is odd).*
- (ii) *The $2 + g + \lfloor \frac{g}{2} \rfloor$ orientation-reversing actions, namely*
 - *$T_{g,r}^{\text{reff}}$ for $0 \leq r \leq \frac{g}{2}$, (equivalently, $T_g^{\text{reff}}[C]$ for $1 \leq C \leq g + 1$ and $C \equiv g + 1 \pmod{2}$),*
 - *$T^{\text{anti}}[u, g - u]$ for $0 \leq u \leq g$, also known as $T_u^{\text{anti}} + (g - u)[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$.*

We will need to develop some preliminary results before giving the proof. Note, however, that the following corollary is an immediate consequence:

Corollary 5.8. *An involution on T_g is completely determined, up to equivariant isomorphism, by the following invariants:*

- (i) *Whether it is orientation-preserving or reversing;*
- (ii) *The number of isolated fixed points;*
- (iii) *The number of circles in the fixed set;*
- (iv) *Whether $T_g - (T_g)^{C_2}$ is path-connected or not.*

Note that (i) is superfluous information as long as the fixed set is nonempty.

5.9. General considerations. An involution on T_g will be either orientation-preserving or orientation-reversing, and of course this can be detected by looking in a neighborhood of any single point. The fixed set of an involution on T_g must consist of isolated points and circles, and it cannot consist of both at once:

Lemma 5.10. *The fixed set of a nontrivial involution on T_g must either be a finite set of points or else a disjoint union of copies of S^1 . If the fixed set is nonempty and finite, the action is orientation-preserving. If the fixed set is a nonempty disjoint union of circles, the action is orientation-reversing.*

Proof. If there is an isolated fixed point, then locally around this point the action must look like an S_a^1 -cap; so the action is orientation-preserving around this point, and therefore orientation-preserving overall. In contrast, if there is a fixed circle

then locally around the circle the action looks like $S^{1,0} \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, and so it is orientation-reversing. Since an involution cannot be both orientation preserving and reversing, the fixed set cannot consist of both isolated points and copies of S^1 . \square

Proposition 5.11. *Suppose an orientation-preserving involution on T_g has finite fixed set of size n . Then $n \leq 2 + 2g$ and $n \equiv 2 + 2g \pmod{4}$.*

Proof. Let $F \subseteq T_g$ denote the fixed set. Then $T_g - F \rightarrow (T_g - F)/C_2$ is a 2-fold covering space, so

$$2 - 2g - n = \chi(T_g - F) = 2 \cdot \chi((T_g - F)/C_2).$$

Since the action is orientation-preserving, the quotient space $(T_g - F)/C_2$ is an orientable manifold with boundary: it is $T_{g'} - F$ for some g' . So our Euler characteristic identity becomes

$$2 - 2g - n = 2[(2 - 2g') - n] = 4 - 4g' - 2n$$

and so $n = 2 + 2g - 4g'$. \square

Remark 5.12. For good measure we give a second proof of the above result, using the Lefschetz Fixed Point Theorem. Indeed, that theorem implies that $n = 1 - \text{tr}(\sigma_*) + 1$ where σ_* is the map on $H_1(T_g; \mathbb{Z})$ induced by σ . This can be represented by a $2g \times 2g$ matrix whose square is the identity. So the Jordan canonical form of σ_* will have only 1 and -1 along the diagonal, say s copies of 1 and $2g - s$ copies of -1 . Then $\text{tr}(\sigma_*) = 2s - 2g$, and $n = 2 + 2g - 2s$. To end the proof we note that since σ is orientation-preserving the map σ_* is symplectic (it preserves the cup product), and so it has determinant 1; hence $2g - s$ must be even, and so s is even.

The following result goes back to Harnack [H]:

Proposition 5.13 (Harnack's Theorem). *Let σ be an orientation-reversing action on T_g , and let C be the number of ovals in the fixed set. If the action is separating then $C \leq 1 + g$ and $C \equiv 1 + g \pmod{2}$. If the action is non-separating then $C \leq g$.*

Proof. For the separating case, the two path components are homeomorphic copies of an orientable 2-manifold with boundary consisting of C circles. So the Euler characteristic of one of these path components is $2 - 2g' - C$, where g' is the genus. The torus T_g is obtained by gluing these two copies together along their boundary, so we have

$$2 - 2g = \chi(T_g) = 2(2 - 2g' - C).$$

So $1 - g = 2 - 2g' - C$, or $C = 1 + g - 2g'$. The conclusions are immediate.

For the non-separating case, we simply recall one interpretation of the genus: removing any set of $1 + g$ disjoint closed curves from T_g must disconnect the manifold. Therefore the non-separating hypothesis implies that $C \leq g$. \square

Remark 5.14. All of the possibilities for C left open by Proposition 5.13 actually occur, as we have seen from the constructions in Section 5.1.

5.15. The proof of the main classification theorem in the orientable case.

Our main techniques will be $S^{1,0}$ -surgery around ovals and $S^{1,1}$ -surgery around pairs of fixed points, as in Remark 3.13.

Lemma 5.16. *Up to isomorphism, the only C_2 -actions on S^2 are $S^{2,0}$, $S^{2,1}$, $S^{2,2}$, and S_a^2 .*

Proof. Let X denote the 2-sphere with a nontrivial C_2 -action. If the action is orientation-preserving then the fixed set is finite by Lemma 5.10. The number of fixed points is at most 2 and equivalent to 2 modulo 4 by Proposition 5.11, so there are exactly two fixed points. As in Remark 3.13, there is an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube in X surrounding these fixed points. Since X has genus zero, removing this antitube must separate X into two components. The only possibility is that X consists of this antitube together with a $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$ -cap, showing that $X \cong S^{2,2}$.

Next suppose that the action on X is orientation-reversing. If there are no fixed points then we know $X \cong S_a^2$ by Theorem 4.1, since there is only one free action on S^2 . If there are fixed points then the fixed set is a union of finitely-many ovals by Lemma 5.10, and the number of ovals is at most 1 by Harnack's Theorem. So there is exactly one oval, and a tubular neighborhood of this oval must be an $S^{1,0}$ -antitube. Just as in the orientation-preserving case, the fact that X has genus zero implies that it must consist of this antitube together with a $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$ -cap. That is, $X \cong S^{2,1}$. \square

Proof of Theorem 5.7. Let X denote T_g with a nontrivial C_2 -action. First consider the case where the action is orientation-reversing. The action is either separating or non-separating. If it is separating, then by Proposition 3.5 $X \cong \text{Doub}(S, C)$ for some orientable surface S . The doubled space is evidently homeomorphic to $T_g^{\text{refl}}[C]$, and so this case is complete.

Next assume the action on X is non-separating. We proceed by induction on the genus. When $g = 0$ there are only four C_2 -actions on S^2 by Lemma 5.16 and the only one that is both orientation-reversing and non-separating is $S_a^2 \cong T^{\text{anti}}[0, 0]$. Now assume that $g \geq 1$, and let C be the number of components in the fixed set of X . If $C = 0$ then we know by Theorem 4.1 that $X \cong T_g^{\text{anti}} = T^{\text{anti}}[g, 0]$. When $C \geq 1$, pick one of the ovals to remove, replacing it with a $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times S^1$ -cap: write $X - [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ for this new space. The action here is still orientation-reversing and non-separating, and the genus has decreased to $g - 1$. So by induction there is a C_2 -equivariant isomorphism

$$X - [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] \cong T^{\text{anti}}[u, g - 1 - u]$$

for some $0 \leq u \leq g - 1$. But then

$$X - [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] \cong T^{\text{anti}}[u, g - 1 - u] \cong T^{\text{anti}}[u, g - u] - [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$$

and so Proposition 3.16 immediately shows $X \cong T^{\text{anti}}[u, g - u]$.

Finally, we deal with the case where the action on X is orientation-preserving. We know in this case that the fixed set is finite and consists of an even number of points by Proposition 5.11. We proceed by induction on the number of fixed points F . If $F = 0$ then we know by Theorem 4.1 that g is odd and X is C_2 -equivariantly isomorphic to T_g^{rot} . Since F must be odd, the next case is $F = 2$. As in Remark 3.13 we can find an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube in X that passes through the two fixed points. If slicing the tube disconnects the space then g is even and our C_2 -space is

$\text{Doub}(T_{\frac{g}{2}}, 1 : S^{1,1})$, but this is $T_g^{\text{spit}}[2]$. If slicing the tube does not disconnect the space then we can do $S^{1,1}$ -surgery to obtain a new space $X - [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$ of genus $g - 1$. This new space has no fixed points and the action is still orientation-preserving, so by induction $g - 1$ is odd and $X - [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong T_{g-1}^{\text{rot}}$. It follows that

$$X \cong T_{g-1}^{\text{rot}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong T_g^{\text{spit}}[2]$$

where we have used Proposition 5.6 for the second isomorphism. If it seems strange that both cases led to the space $T_g^{\text{spit}}[2]$, see Remark 5.17 below.

The final case is when $F \geq 4$. Pick distinct fixed points a and b and again use Remark 3.13 to produce an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube surrounding these points. If slicing this tube disconnects the space, our C_2 -space would be $\text{Doub}(T_{\frac{g}{2}}, 1 : S^{1,1})$; but this is not possible as $F > 2$. So we can slice the tube and do $S^{1,1}$ -surgery to obtain a new connected space $X - [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$. The action here is still orientation-preserving, the genus has gone down to $g - 1$, and the number of fixed points is $F - 2$. So by induction we know there is a C_2 -equivariant isomorphism

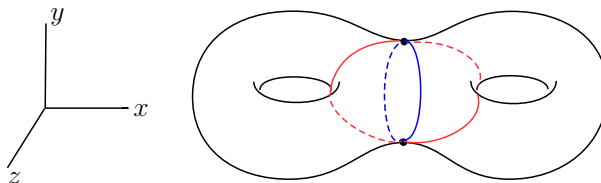
$$X - [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong T_{g-1}^{\text{spit}}[F - 2].$$

But

$$T_{g-1}^{\text{spit}}[F - 2] \cong T_g^{\text{spit}}[F] - [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$$

and therefore Proposition 3.16 implies $X \cong T_g^{\text{spit}}[F]$. □

Remark 5.17. In the above proof we saw something slightly strange. In $T_g^{\text{spit}}[2]$ one way of doing $S^{1,1}$ -surgery about the two fixed points results in a disconnected space, whereas another way of doing the surgery results in a connected space. This of course happens all the time, but this is the first place we have had to confront the phenomenon. The picture below shows the case $g = 2$.



The action is rotation about the z -axis, which is where the two marked points lie. Removing a tubular neighborhood of the blue $S^{1,1}$ disconnects the space, whereas removing a tubular neighborhood of the red $S^{1,1}$ does not.

6. INVARIANTS

In this section we return to some generalities, as a prelude to our classification of C_2 -actions in the non-orientable case. We investigate the basic invariants of C_2 -actions, how they are affected by certain types of surgery, and some general restrictions that exist on such invariants.

If C_2 acts on a surface X then the fixed set X^{C_2} necessarily consists of isolated fixed points together with copies of S^1 . When X is orientable the classification of C_2 -actions turns out to be simple because both cannot happen at the same time: the fixed set can contain either isolated fixed points or copies of S^1 , but not both. In the non-orientable case this no longer holds true; there are many more C_2 -actions around, and classifying them is much more involved.

For the result below, recall the invariants F , C , C_+ , C_- , β , and the Q -sign, attached to any C_2 -action on a 2-manifold. These were defined in Section 1.

Proposition 6.1. *The following quantities are invariant under $S^{1,0}$ -surgery, $S^{1,1}$ -surgery, and FM -surgery:*

- (i) $F + 2C - \beta$,
- (ii) The Q -sign,
- (iii) The residue of $F - C_-$ modulo 2.

Proof. All three statements are trivial to check. For example, for (i) note that FM -surgery decreases F by one while increasing both β and C by one. Similarly, adding an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube increases F by two, increases β by two, and has no effect on C . Adding an $S^{1,0}$ -antitube increases C by one and β by two.

We leave the reader to think about (iii), which is similar.

For (ii), note that at the level of quotients $S^{1,0}$ -surgery has the effect of removing an open disk and gluing on one end of a cylinder. FM -surgery turns out to have the same effect, since $S^1(M)/C_2$ is a cylinder. Similarly, $S^{1,1}$ -surgery has the effect of removing an open disk (in the quotient) and then gluing back on a cap. None of these procedures change orientability. \square

Corollary 6.2. *The Q -sign of the equivariant space*

$$X + q[DCC] + r[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] + s[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + t[FM]$$

is negative if $q > 0$, and is equal to the Q -sign of X when $q = 0$.

Proof. For the first statement, just note that adding dual crosscaps to X has the affect of adding a single crosscap to the quotient. The second statement is just Proposition 6.1(ii). \square

Lemma 6.3. *There does not exist a C_2 -action on a 2-manifold X having exactly one fixed point.*

Proof. Assume X has exactly one fixed point. If the underlying space of X is orientable then the action is orientation-preserving, and so by Proposition 5.11 the number of fixed points is even. So $X \cong N_r$, for some $r \geq 1$.

Let Y be the space obtained from X by cutting out a small open disk around the fixed point, so that the boundary of Y is a copy of S_a^1 . Then $\chi(Y) = 2 - r - 1 = 1 - r$, and the C_2 -action on Y is free. So $1 - r = \chi(Y) = 2\chi(Y/C_2)$, hence r is odd.

Clearly Y/C_2 is a 2-manifold whose boundary is a circle. Since Y is non-orientable, so is Y/C_2 . An Euler characteristic argument shows Y/C_2 is $N_{\frac{r+1}{2}}$ with an open disk removed. Make this identification and regard Y/C_2 as a subspace of $N_{\frac{r+1}{2}}$.

Since $Y/C_2 \hookrightarrow N_{\frac{r+1}{2}}$ is an isomorphism on $H^1(-; \mathbb{Z}/2)$, every principal C_2 -bundle on Y/C_2 is pulled back from one on $N_{\frac{r+1}{2}}$. By an Euler characteristic argument, the only C_2 -bundle on $N_{\frac{r+1}{2}}$ having non-orientable total space is N_{r-1} , and so we conclude that the underlying space of Y is N_{r-1} with two open disks removed. However, Y started out as an N_r with an open disk removed. This is a contradiction. \square

Proposition 6.4. *Let X be a C_2 -equivariant 2-manifold where the action is non-free, nontrivial, and where X is not of the form $\text{Doub}(S, 1 : S^{1,0})$ or $\text{Doub}(S, 1 :$*

$S^{1,1}$) for any surface S . If $\beta(X) > 0$ then X can be obtained via $S^{1,1}$ -, $S^{1,0}$ -, or FM -surgery from an equivariant 2-manifold of smaller β -genus.

Proof. Suppose first that $C = 0$. By Lemma 6.3 we then have $F > 1$. Choose two isolated fixed points a and b , and obtain an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube surrounding them as in Remark 3.13. Since X is not of the form $\text{Doub}(S, 1 : S^{1,1})$, cutting this antitube does not disconnect the surface. So we can do $S^{1,1}$ -surgery on this antitube to reduce the genus.

Next suppose $C > 0$, and let \mathcal{O} be an oval. If \mathcal{O} is one-sided then we can do MF -surgery around \mathcal{O} to reduce the genus. If \mathcal{O} is two-sided then our hypotheses guarantee that it is non-separating, so we can do $S^{1,0}$ -surgery around \mathcal{O} to again reduce the genus. \square

Corollary 6.5. *Start with the C_2 -equivariant 2-spheres, the free C_2 -actions on surfaces, the spaces $\text{Doub}(S, 1)$, and the spaces $\text{Doub}(S, 1 : S^{1,1})$. Then every nontrivial C_2 -equivariant 2-manifold can be built from these basic spaces via repeated $S^{1,0}$ -, $S^{1,1}$ -, and FM -surgeries.*

Proof. Immediate. \square

The first statement of the following result is [S, Theorem 10]:

Theorem 6.6 (Scherrer's Theorem). *Let X be a 2-manifold with a nontrivial C_2 -action. Then $F + 2C \leq \beta + 2$ and $F \equiv \beta \equiv C_- \pmod{2}$. Moreover, if the Q -sign of X is negative then $F + 2C \leq \beta$.*

Proof. For the moment ignore the statement about the Q -sign. By “the relations” we will mean the inequality and the congruences, and the proof of these will proceed via induction on β . When $\beta = 0$ there are three possibilities for X : S_a^2 , $S^{2,1}$, and $S^{2,2}$. The relations can be checked by hand for each of these.

Next assume $\beta > 0$. There are four cases to be handled separately. If $X \cong \text{Doub}(S, 1)$ then $F = C_- = 0$, $C = 1$, and β is even: so the relations hold. If $X \cong \text{Doub}(S, 1 : S^{1,1})$ then $F = 2$, $C = C_- = 0$, and β is again even: so the relations hold. If X is free then $F = C = 0$ and β must be even by Theorem 4.1, so the relations are again verified.

In the final case, where X is none of the above things, then by Proposition 6.4 we can do $S^{1,0}$ -, $S^{1,1}$ -, or MF -surgery on X to reduce the β -genus. By Proposition 6.1 this surgery does not change $F + 2C - \beta$ or the mod 2 residues of $F - \beta$ and $F - C_-$. So we are done by induction.

Now consider the final statement about the Q -sign. This is again done by induction on β , following exactly the pattern of the above. In the $\beta = 0$ case one must have $X = S_a^2$, and the inequality is checked by hand. For the induction step we must run through the four cases again. If $X = \text{Doub}(S, 1)$ then S must be nonorientable since the Q -sign of X is negative; so $\beta(S) \geq 1$, hence $\beta(X) \geq 2$, and the inequality is immediate. The analysis for $X = \text{Doub}(S, 1 : S^{1,1})$ is identical, and when X is free the inequality is trivial. The remaining case, where X is none of these things, proceeds exactly as before. \square

6.7. C_2 -actions on projective spaces and Klein bottles. As an application of what we have done so far, we can completely classify all the C_2 -actions on $\mathbb{R}P^2$ and on a Klein bottle.

Corollary 6.8. *Up to isomorphism there is exactly one nontrivial C_2 -structure on $\mathbb{R}P^2$, namely $S^{2,2} + [FM]$.*

Proof. By Theorem 6.6 we must have $F + 2C \leq 3$ and $F \equiv C_- \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. The only solution is $F = 1$ and $(C_+, C_-) = (0, 1)$. Now do MF -surgery on the one-sided oval. This produces a C_2 -space of genus zero, with two fixed points. This space must of course be $S^{2,2}$ (using Lemma 5.16), which shows that our original space was $S^{2,2} + [FM]$. \square

The situation for Klein bottles is much more interesting. Here $\beta = 2$, so we must have $F + 2C \leq 4$ and $F \equiv C_- \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. The possible taxonomies are therefore the following:

$$\begin{aligned} & [0, 0 : (0, 0)] \quad [0, 1 : (1, 0)] \quad [0, 2 : (2, 0)] \quad [0, 2 : (0, 2)] \\ & [2, 0 : (0, 0)] \quad [2, 1 : (1, 0)] \quad [4, 0 : (0, 0)]. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we know we can make all equivariant Klein bottles using $S^{1,0}$ -, $S^{1,1}$ -, and FM -surgery starting from the basic spaces listed in Corollary 6.5. By genus considerations we can only start with the three 2-spheres, the spaces $\text{Doub}(S, 1)$ and $\text{Doub}(S, 1 : S^{1,1})$ where $S = \mathbb{R}P^2$, and the unique free action on the Klein bottle, $S_a^2 + [DCC]$. We can only do surgery on the 2-spheres, since in the remaining cases the genus would become too large.

One last thing before we just list all the possibilities. The action on $S^{2,1}$ is orientation-reversing, and the action on an $S^{1,0}$ -antitube is also orientation-reversing. The space $S^{2,1} + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ is therefore orientable, and so it is a torus not a Klein bottle. In general, we will get a Klein bottle only when the orientation type of our sphere opposes the orientation-type of the antitube we are adding to it. With this in mind, here is a list of all possible nontrivial C_2 -actions on Klein bottles:

Space	F	C	C_+	C_-	Q -sign
free action	0	0	0	0	-
$\text{Doub}(\mathbb{R}P^2, 1)$	0	1	1	0	-
$\text{Doub}(\mathbb{R}P^2, 1 : S^{1,1})$	2	0	0	0	-
$S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$	2	0	0	0	-
$S^{2,1} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$	2	1	1	0	+
$S^{2,2} + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$	2	1	1	0	+
$S^{2,2} + 2[FM]$	0	2	0	2	+

Note that the $[2, 2 : (2, 0)]$ and $[4, 0 : (0, 0)]$ taxonomies are not realizable. Also note that what our analysis shows is that there are *at most* seven possible nontrivial C_2 -actions on a Klein bottle. There are two places in our list where we might have actions that are isomorphic, because they have the same taxonomy. In these cases it is not hard to see by hand that in fact the actions *are* isomorphic, so that there are exactly five nontrivial C_2 -actions on the Klein bottle. We leave this final piece to the reader, but see Corollary 7.3 and the proof of Theorem 7.2 for help if needed.

7. C_2 -ACTIONS ON NON-ORIENTABLE SURFACES

Given nonnegative integers r, F, C, C_+, C_- , let $N_r[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ denote the set of all isomorphism classes of C_2 -spaces whose underlying space is N_r and whose taxonomy is $[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$. Our goal will be to completely describe this set, both listing all of the elements and giving explicit formulas for their number.

7.1. Some fundamental isomorphisms.

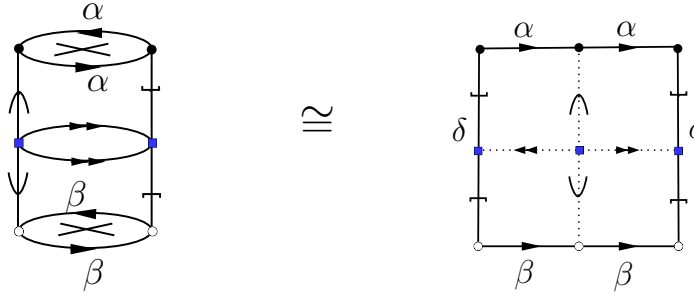
Theorem 7.2. *There are equivariant isomorphisms*

$$S^{2,2} + [DCC] \cong S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong S^{2,2} + [S_a^1 - \text{antitube}]$$

and

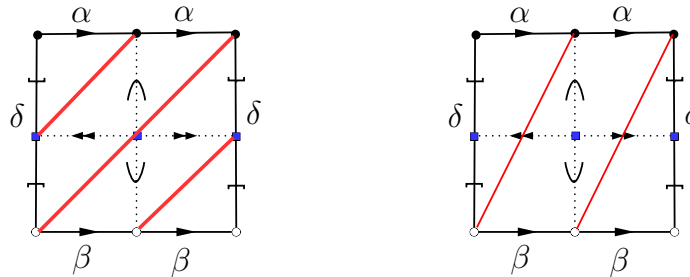
$$S_a^2 + [DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong T_1^{\text{anti}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}].$$

Proof. For the isomorphisms on the first line we argue as follows. The space $S^{2,2}$ can be modeled as an $S^{1,1}$ -antitube with caps added to the top and bottom. So $S^{2,2} + [DCC]$ can be modeled by cutting out these caps and replacing them with crosscaps:



There are competing conventions in these pictures, so let us explain. For the most part we use dual symbols to depict the C_2 -action, but here we also need to depict identifications. The two edges labelled α are identified with each other, as are the two edges labelled β . The square on the right is obtained by cutting the cylinder along a vertical seam and unrolling it, and so the two edges labelled δ are identified. Note that in this square the C_2 -action is 180-degree rotation about the center.

The next thing we will do is cut up the square in two clever ways, as depicted in the following diagrams:



In the first picture the red lines depict a copy of $S^{1,1}$, and removing a tubular neighborhood results in a connected space (this is easy to check from the picture). So doing $S^{1,1}$ -surgery here yields S^2 , by genus considerations. Since the action on

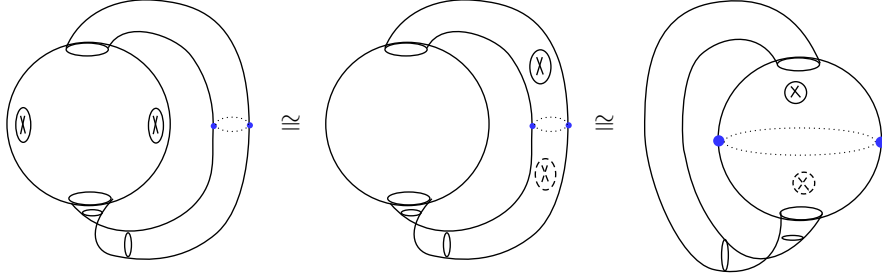
this S^2 is clearly free, it is a copy of S_a^2 by Lemma 5.16. So we have shown that $S^{2,2} + [DCC] \cong S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$.

A similar argument applies to the second picture, where the red lines depict a copy of S_a^1 . Doing surgery leaves the space connected, and so it produces a 2-sphere with two fixed points—which by Lemma 5.16 must be $S^{2,2}$. So we have shown that $S^{2,2} + [DCC] \cong S^{2,2} + [S_a^1 - \text{antitube}]$.

For the second statement of the theorem, start with the easy isomorphism $S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong S^{2,2} + [S_a^1 - \text{antitube}]$ (see the pictures below). Then

$$\begin{aligned} S_a^2 + [DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] &\cong S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + [DCC] \\ &\cong S^{2,2} + [S_a^1 - \text{antitube}] + [DCC] \\ &\cong S^{2,2} + [DCC] + [S_a^1 - \text{antitube}] \\ &\cong S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + [S_a^1 - \text{antitube}] \\ &\cong [S_a^2 + [S_a^1 - \text{antitube}]] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \\ &\cong T_1^{\text{anti}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]. \end{aligned}$$

In the fourth isomorphism we have used the portion of the theorem already proven. The content of the first three isomorphisms can be represented pictorially as follows:



At the bottom of these pictures, the tubes are being twisted 180 degrees before being attached to the sphere. \square

Corollary 7.3. *For $r \geq 1$ there are equivariant isomorphisms*

$$\text{Doub}(N_r, S^{1,1}) \cong S^{2,2} + r[DCC] \cong S_a^2 + (r-1)[DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}].$$

Proof. The first isomorphism holds because $\text{Doub}(N^r, S^{1,1}) \cong S^{2,2} \#_2 N_r \cong S^{2,2} + r[DCC]$. The second isomorphism is immediate from Theorem 7.2. \square

Corollary 7.4. *For any $g \geq 0$ there is an equivariant isomorphism*

$$T_g^{\text{anti}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \cong S_a^2 + g[DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}].$$

Proof. The case $g = 0$ is trivial, and $g = 1$ is part of Theorem 7.2. When $g \geq 2$ is even we can write $T_g^{\text{anti}} \cong S_a^2 \#_2 T_{\frac{g}{2}}$ by Proposition 2.8. Then we argue that

$$\begin{aligned} (S_a^2 \#_2 T_{\frac{g}{2}}) + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] &\cong (S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]) \#_2 T_{\frac{g}{2}} \\ &\cong (S^{2,2} + [DCC]) \#_2 T_{\frac{g}{2}} \quad (\text{Theorem 7.2}) \\ &\cong S^{2,2} + (1+g)[DCC] \quad (\text{Proposition 2.6}) \\ &\cong S_a^2 + g[DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \quad (\text{Thm. 7.2}). \end{aligned}$$

The case where g is odd is similar, starting with $T_g^{\text{anti}} \cong T_1^{\text{anti}} \#_2 T_{\frac{g-1}{2}}$. \square

7.5. Classification in the case $C = 0$. The following theorem has already been proven in our study of free actions (see Theorem 4.1):

Theorem 7.6.

$$N_r[0, 0 : (0, 0)] = \begin{cases} \{S_a^2\} & \text{when } r = 0, \\ \{S_a^2 + [DCC]\} & \text{when } r = 2, \\ \{S_a^2 + \frac{r}{2}[DCC], T_1^{\text{anti}} + (\frac{r}{2} - 1)[DCC]\} & \text{when } r > 2 \text{ is even} \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note that all the elements in $N_r[0, 0 : (0, 0)]$ have negative Q -sign.

The next theorem builds from the above result and moves into new territory:

Theorem 7.7. Let $F > 0$.

- (a) We have $N_0[2, 0 : (0, 0)] = \{S^{2,2}\}$ and $N_0[F, 0 : (0, 0)] = \emptyset$ for $F \neq 2$.
 (b) For $r > 0$ the set $N_r[F, 0 : (0, 0)]$ consists of the single element

$$S_a^2 + (\frac{r-F}{2})[DCC] + \frac{F}{2}[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$$

when $F \leq r$ and r and F are both even; it is empty otherwise.

Proof. Part (a) is trivial, using Lemma 5.16. For (b) we proceed by induction on F . Let X be in $N_r[F, 0 : (0, 0)]$ where $r > 0$ and $F > 0$. We know from Theorem 6.6 that both r and F are even. If $F = 2$ attempt to do $S^{1,1}$ -surgery around these two fixed points as in Remark 3.13. This fails only if we have a doubled manifold $\text{Doub}(N_s, S^{1,1})$, where in this case $s = \frac{r}{2}$. However, by Corollary 7.3 this is isomorphic to the space $S_a^2 + (\frac{r}{2} - 1)[DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$, which is what we wanted.

Continuing with the case $F = 2$, we must analyze what happens when our $S^{1,1}$ -surgery succeeds. It gives that $X \cong Y + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$ where the action on Y is free and $\beta(Y) = r - 2$. If $r = 2$ then $Y = S_a^2$ and we are done. If $r = 4$ then there are cases depending on whether or not Y is orientable. If Y is non-orientable then $Y = S_a^2 + [DCC]$ by Theorem 7.6, and we are done. If Y is orientable then either $Y \cong T_1^{\text{anti}}$ or $Y \cong T_1^{\text{rot}}$. The latter is not possible since $T_1^{\text{rot}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$ is orientable, whereas X is not. So we conclude $X \cong T_1^{\text{anti}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$, which by Theorem 7.2 is isomorphic to $S_a^2 + [DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$. So we are again done.

For $r > 4$, by Theorem 7.6 there are two possibilities for Y when it is non-orientable: the spaces $S_a^2 + \frac{r-2}{2}[DCC]$ and $T_1^{\text{anti}} + \frac{r-4}{2}[DCC]$. When Y is orientable there are also two possibilities: $T_{\frac{r-2}{2}}^{\text{anti}}$ and $T_{\frac{r-2}{2}}^{\text{rot}}$ (the latter only when $\frac{r-2}{2}$ is odd). However, the latter is not truly a possibility as it would lead to an orientable X . So we have shown that X is isomorphic to one of the three spaces

$$\begin{aligned} & S_a^2 + \frac{r-2}{2}[DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \\ & T_1^{\text{anti}} + \frac{r-4}{2}[DCC] + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \\ & T_{\frac{r-2}{2}}^{\text{anti}} + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] \end{aligned}$$

The first two are isomorphic by Theorem 7.2. The third is isomorphic to the first two by Corollary 7.4. This finally completes the case when $F = 2$.

Now assume that $F > 2$. Pick two isolated fixed points and again attempt to do $S^{1,1}$ -surgery. This fails only if X is $\text{Doub}(N_{r/2}, S^{1,1})$, but this is not possible since X has more than two fixed points. So the surgery gives that $X \cong Y + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$ where Y is an equivariant 2-manifold with $F - 2$ fixed points and no ovals. If Y is orientable then the action is orientation-preserving (due to the presence of isolated fixed points), which implies that X is orientable as well; this is a contradiction. So Y is non-orientable, hence $Y \in N_{r-2}[F - 2, 0 : (0, 0)]$ and we are done by induction. \square

7.8. Classification in the case $F > 0$ and $C > 0$.

We first deal with the case where $C_- = 0$:

Theorem 7.9. *Let $F > 0$ and $C \geq 1$.*

- (a) $N_r[F, C : (C, 0)]$ is nonempty only if r and F are even, $r \geq 2$, and $F + 2C \leq r + 2$, in which case it consists of at most two elements: at most one element of positive Q -sign, and at most one element of negative Q -sign.
- (b) Suppose that r and F are even and $F + 2C \leq r + 2$. The element of negative Q -sign is

$$S_a^2 + \frac{r-F-2C}{2}[DCC] + \frac{F}{2}[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$$

and occurs if and only if $F + 2C \leq r$.

The element of positive Q -sign is

$$T_{\frac{r-2C}{2}}^{\text{spit}}[F] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$$

and occurs if and only if $F + 2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. Let $X \in N_r[F, C : (C, 0)]$. We know r and F are even and $F + 2C \leq r + 2$ by Theorem 6.6. Since $F > 0$ and $C > 0$ we know $r \neq 0$, so $r \geq 2$. Choose an oval in X . It cannot be separating because it is not the entire fixed set (since there are isolated fixed points), so $S^{1,0}$ -surgery shows $X \cong Y + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ where Y has taxonomy $[F, C - 1 : (C - 1, 0)]$ and $\beta(Y) = r - 2$.

The rest of the proof is by induction on C . Assume first that $C = 1$. Then Y has taxonomy $[F, 0 : (0, 0)]$. There are two cases, depending on whether Y is orientable or not. If not, we know by Theorem 7.7 that $F \leq r - 2$ and $Y \cong S_a^2 + \frac{r-F-2}{2}[DCC] + \frac{F}{2}[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$, so we are done. If, on the contrary, Y is orientable then since it has isolated fixed points we have $Y \cong T_{\frac{r-2}{2}}^{\text{spit}}[F]$ by Theorem 5.7. Note that this can only happen when $F \equiv 2 + 2(\frac{r-2}{2}) \pmod{4}$. This leads to the second possibility for X , and completes the $C = 1$ analysis.

Suppose $C \geq 2$. Then since $F > 0$ and $C - 1 > 0$, Y has both ovals and isolated fixed points—so it cannot be orientable. Hence $Y \in N_{r-2}[F, C - 1 : (C - 1, 0)]$ and we are done by induction. \square

Next we turn to the case where $C_- > 0$:

Theorem 7.10. *Suppose that $F \geq 0$ and $C_- > 0$.*

- (a) $N_r[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ is empty unless $r \equiv F \equiv C_- \pmod{2}$ and $F + 2C \leq r + 2$. It contains at most two elements: at most one having negative Q -sign, and at most one having positive Q -sign.

(b) Suppose $r \equiv F \equiv C_- \pmod{2}$ and $F + 2C \leq r + 2$. The element of negative Q -sign is

$$S_a^2 + \frac{r-F-2C}{2}[DCC] + \frac{F+C_-}{2}[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + C_+[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] + C_-[FM]$$

and occurs if and only if $F + 2C \leq r$. The element of positive Q -sign is

$$T_{\frac{r-C_- - 2C_+}{2}}^{\text{spit}}[F + C_-] + C_+[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}] + C_-[FM]$$

and occurs if and only if $F + 2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. Let $X \in N_r[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$. Theorem 6.6 shows that $r \equiv F \equiv C_- \pmod{2}$ and $F + 2C \leq r + 2$. Doing MF -surgery around each one-sided oval in X shows that $X \cong Y + C_-[FM]$ where Y has taxonomy $[F + C_-, C_+ : (C_+, 0)]$ and $\beta(Y) = r - C_-$. Note that the Q -signs of X and Y must coincide, by Proposition 6.1(ii).

If $C_+ > 0$ then Y has both isolated fixed points and ovals, so Y is non-orientable. Theorem 7.9 implies that there are at most two possibilities for Y , namely

$$S_a^2 + \left(\frac{r-C_- - (F+C_-) - 2C_+}{2}\right)[DCC] + \frac{F+C_-}{2}[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}] + C_+[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$$

and

$$T_{\frac{r-C_- - 2C_+}{2}}^{\text{spit}}[F + C_-] + C_+[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}].$$

The first space occurs if and only if $(F + C_-) + 2C_+ \leq r - C_-$ (equivalently, $F + 2C \leq r$), and the second occurs if and only if $(F + C_-) + 2C_+ \equiv r - C_- + 2 \pmod{4}$ (or equivalently, $F + 2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$). The desired result is immediate.

Next suppose that $C_+ = 0$. If Y is orientable then we know by Theorem 5.7 that there is an isomorphism $Y \cong T_{\frac{r-C_-}{2}}^{\text{spit}}[F + C_-]$, and that $F + C_- \equiv 2 + r - C_- \pmod{4}$. If Y is non-orientable then by Theorem 7.7 we know $Y \cong S_a^2 + \frac{(r-C_-) - (F+C_-)}{2}[DCC] + \frac{F+C_-}{2}[S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$ and $F + C_- \leq r - C_-$. Again, the desired result is immediate. \square

7.11. Classification in the case $F = C_- = 0$. This is the only remaining case.

Theorem 7.12. *Let $C > 0$ and $r \geq 2$.*

(a) *The set $N_r[0, C : (C, 0)]$ is empty unless r is even and $C \leq \frac{r}{2}$.*

(b) *When r is even the set contains at most four elements: at most three of negative Q -sign, and at most one of positive Q -sign.*

(c) *Assume r is even and $C \leq \frac{r}{2}$. The three elements of negative Q -sign are:*

$$\begin{aligned} S^{2,1} + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C + 1\right)[DCC] + (C - 1)[S^{1,0} - \text{AT}] & \quad (\text{always occurs}) \\ S_a^2 + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{AT}] & \quad (\text{occurs if and only if } C < \frac{r}{2}) \\ T_1^a + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C - 1\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{AT}] & \quad (\text{occurs iff } C < \frac{r}{2} - 1). \end{aligned}$$

These spaces have distinct isomorphism types.

(d) *Still assume that r is even and $C \leq \frac{r}{2}$. The element of positive Q -sign is*

$$T_{\frac{r}{2}-C}^{\text{rot}} + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$$

and occurs if and only if $2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$. In particular, note that $C < \frac{r}{2}$ here.

Proof. If $X \in N_r[0, C : (C, 0)]$ then $r \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ and $2C \leq r + 2$ by Theorem 6.6. Assume that $C = 1$. If the unique oval is separating then $X \cong \text{Doub}(N_{\frac{r}{2}}, 1) \cong S^{2,1} + \frac{r}{2}[DCC]$. If the oval is non-separating then we can do surgery to see that $X \cong Y + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ where the action on Y is free. If Y is orientable then it

is either $T_{\frac{r-2}{2}}^{\text{anti}}$ or $T_{\frac{r-2}{2}}^{\text{rot}}$, the latter only possible when $\frac{r-2}{2}$ is odd. The first option is not possible since it would imply that X is orientable. Note that since $C = 1$ the criterion that $\frac{r-2}{2}$ is odd is equivalent to saying $2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$.

If Y is non-orientable then there are at most two possibilities for what it could be, and they are as listed in Theorem 7.6. A little thought checks that these are precisely the second two possibilities listed in (c) above. This completes the proof when $C = 1$.

Next proceed by induction. If $C > 1$ then choose an oval in X and try to do surgery. The oval cannot be separating because $C > 1$, and so surgery shows $X \cong Y + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ where Y has taxonomy $[0, C - 1 : (C - 1, 0)]$. If Y is orientable then since $C > 1$ the involution on Y is orientation-reversing. But then X is orientable, which is a contradiction. So Y is non-orientable, and hence by induction we know the possibilities for Y . One readily checks that these then yield the desired options and conditions for X .

There is one thing left to justify, namely the claim that the three spaces listed in (c) have distinct isomorphism types. The first space is separating whereas the latter two are not, so that takes care of the first space. If the second two spaces are isomorphic then by Proposition 3.15 we would conclude that $S_a^2 + (\frac{r}{2} - C)[DCC] \cong T_1^a + (\frac{r}{2} - C - 1)[DCC]$. However, the actions here are free and we already proved they were not isomorphic by computing their characteristic classes; see Proposition 4.27(b). (For another proof that the second two spaces in (c) are not isomorphic, without reducing to the free case, see Corollary 9.14). \square

At this point we have finished the proofs for Proposition 1.5 and Theorem 1.15. Those results are merely concatenations of Theorems 7.6, 7.7, and 7.12.

Remark 7.13. The classification proofs in this section are fairly unpleasant. The basic idea is very simple, though: given spaces of a fixed taxonomy, latch onto a certain piece of structure and do surgery to reduce to a smaller β -genus. The trouble is that the surgery leads to various cases: it might have produced a space with two components, it might have produced a connected orientable space, and it might have produced a connected non-orientable space. Further cases arise because sometimes in low β -genus the classification results are slightly different (e.g. Theorem 7.6). It is really just this constant presence of cases that makes the bookkeeping unpleasant.

8. COUNTING C_2 -ACTIONS ON NON-ORIENTABLE SURFACES

To explain how to count the number of involutions on N_r , it will be convenient to examine the tables in Appendix B. These tables are obtained by first listing all taxonomies $[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ where $F + 2C \leq r + 2$ and $F \equiv r \equiv C_- \pmod{2}$. Note that $C = C_+ + C_-$ here, as always. We then go down our list and find the taxonomies with $F + 2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$ and $C > 0$: each of these yields one action of positive Q -sign. Next, we find the taxonomies in our list satisfying $F + 2C \leq r$ and either $F > 0$ or $C_- > 0$: each of these yields one action of negative Q -sign. Finally, when r is even we look at the taxonomies $[0, C : (C, 0)]$. When $C = 0$ there are two actions of negative Q -sign (except when $r = 2$, where there is only one); when $1 \leq C \leq \frac{r}{2} - 2$ there are three actions of negative Q -sign; when $r > 2$ and $C = \frac{r}{2} - 1$ there are two actions of negative Q -sign; and when $C = \frac{r}{2}$ there is one action of negative Q -sign. This accounts for all the possible actions.

Let $A(r)$ denote the number of tuples $[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ of nonnegative integers (having $C = C_+ + C_-$) satisfying $F + 2C \leq r$ and $F \equiv C_- \equiv r \pmod{2}$. Similarly, let $B(r)$ denote the number of tuples $[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ satisfying $F + 2C \leq r + 2$, $F \equiv C_- \equiv r \pmod{2}$, and $F + 2C \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$.

Let $\Phi(r)$ denote the number of nontrivial involutions on N_r (up to isomorphism). Let $\Phi_+(r)$ and $\Phi_-(r)$ be the number of nontrivial involutions with positive and negative Q -sign, respectively. These quantities are topological, in contrast to the quantities $A(r)$ and $B(r)$ which are purely algebraic. The following table shows these numbers in a few cases (the cases where r is even and odd are separated, for reasons that will become clear).

r	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15
$A(r)$	3	7	13	22	34	50	70	0	1	3	7	13	22	34	50
$B(r)$	5	8	14	20	30	40	55	1	2	5	8	14	20	30	40
$\Phi_-(r)$	3	9	17	28	42	60	82	0	1	3	7	13	22	34	50
$\Phi_+(r)$	2	5	10	16	25	35	49	1	2	5	8	14	20	30	40
$\Phi(r)$	5	14	27	44	67	95	131	1	3	8	15	27	42	64	90

Proposition 8.1. *If r is odd then $\Phi_-(r) = A(r)$ and $\Phi_+(r) = B(r)$. If r is even then*

$$\Phi_-(r) = A(r) + r - 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_+(r) = B(r) - 1 - \begin{cases} \frac{r+4}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{r+6}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. The idea is that $A(r)$ and $B(r)$ are close to the number of C_2 -actions on N_r having negative and positive Q -sign, respectively; but when r is even we must make slight corrections. To understand these, it will be convenient to refer the reader again to the tables in Appendix B. We first treat the case when r is even, despite the fact that this is the more complex case.

The number $A(r)$ is an undercount for the actions with negative Q -sign, in that it misses the “extra” actions of type $[0, C : (C, 0)]$; i.e., it counts these taxonomies as having only one action, when in fact there are two or three. To be precise, first assume $r > 2$. Then when $C = 0$ we have missed one action; when $1 \leq C \leq \frac{r}{2} - 2$ we have missed two actions; and when $C = \frac{r}{2} - 1$ we have missed one action. So in total we have missed $1 + 2(\frac{r}{2} - 1) + 1 = r - 2$ actions. Thus, $A(r) + r - 2$ is the total number of actions on N_r with negative Q -sign. When $r = 2$ we have actually not missed any actions, and so $A(r) + r - 2$ is still the correct count.

The number $B(r)$ is an overcount for the actions on N_r with positive Q -sign. The taxonomy $[0, \frac{r+2}{2} : (\frac{r+2}{2}, 0)]$ is counted in $B(r)$, but does not actually correspond to an action. Likewise, the taxonomies $[F, 0 : (0, 0)]$ for $F \leq r + 2$ and $F \equiv r + 2 \pmod{4}$ are counted in $B(r)$ but do not correspond to actions. The number of such F is given by $1 + \frac{r+2}{4}$ when $4|r + 2$ and $1 + \frac{r}{4}$ when $4|r$. This yields the desired formula for $\Phi_+(r)$.

Note that the exceptional cases that appeared in the last two paragraphs all had $C_- = 0$; these cannot appear when r is odd, since by Theorem 6.6 any action satisfies $C_- \equiv r \pmod{2}$. \square

Lemma 8.2. *The sequences A and B satisfy the recursion relations*

$$A(r+2) = \begin{cases} A(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+4)(r+8) & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ A(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+6)^2 & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ A(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+1)(r+5) & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ A(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+3)^2 & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

and

$$B(r+4) = \begin{cases} B(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+8)(r+12) & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ B(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+10)^2 & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ B(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+5)(r+9) & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ B(r) + \frac{1}{16}(r+7)^2 & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. We will actually prove that

$$A(r+2) = \begin{cases} A(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+4}{4}] & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ A(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+6}{4}] - \frac{r+6}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ A(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+1}{4}] & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ A(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+3}{4}] - \frac{r+3}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \end{cases}$$

and

$$B(r+4) = \begin{cases} B(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+8}{4}] & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ B(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+10}{4}] - \frac{r+10}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ B(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+5}{4}] & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ B(r) + 2[1 + 2 + \cdots + \frac{r+7}{4}] - \frac{r+7}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

These formulas readily yield the ones in the statement of the lemma.

The difference $A(r+2) - A(r)$ counts solutions to $F + 2C = r + 2$ where $F \equiv C_- \equiv r \pmod{2}$. Assume that r is even. Then the possibilities for the pair (F, C) are

$$(r+2, 0), (r, 1), (r-2, 2), \dots, (2, \frac{r}{2}), (0, \frac{r+2}{2}).$$

For a given value of C , let $f(C)$ denote the number of pairs (C_+, C_-) such that $C = C_+ + C_-$ and C_- is even. Then we have

$$A(r+2) - A(r) = f(0) + f(1) + f(2) + \cdots + f(\frac{r}{2}) + f(\frac{r+2}{2}).$$

But it is easy to see that $f(C) = \lfloor \frac{C}{2} \rfloor + 1 = \lfloor \frac{C+2}{2} \rfloor$ for all C . So

$$A(r+2) - A(r) = 1 + 1 + 2 + 2 + \cdots + \lfloor \frac{r+4}{4} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{r+6}{4} \rfloor.$$

Looking at the cases $r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and $r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ separately, one readily obtains the desired formulas.

We are not yet done with all the formulas for the A function, but let us put that on hold and consider B . The difference $B(r+4) - B(r)$ counts solutions to $F + 2C = r + 6$ with $F \equiv C_- \equiv r \pmod{2}$. When r is even the possibilities for (F, C) are

$$(r+6, 0), (r+4, 1), (r+2, 2), \dots, (0, \frac{r+6}{2}).$$

For each value of C in the above list, the number of possibilities for (C_+, C_-) is $\lfloor \frac{C+2}{2} \rfloor$ just as before. So

$$B(r+4) - B(r) = \sum_{C=0}^{\frac{r+6}{2}} \lfloor \frac{C+2}{2} \rfloor = 1 + 1 + 2 + 2 + 3 + 3 + \cdots + \lfloor \frac{r+10}{4} \rfloor$$

and the desired formulas follow immediately.

The formulas when r is odd follow by very similar arguments. The main difference here is the function $f(C)$, which now counts solutions to $C = C_+ + C_-$ where C_- is odd. It is easy to check that this is given by $f(C) = \lfloor \frac{C+1}{2} \rfloor$. For $A(r+2) - A(r)$ one sums this function from $C = 0$ to $C = \frac{r+1}{2}$, and the rest of the argument is similar to above.

Finally, when r is odd one finds by the same arguments that

$$B(r+4) - B(r) = \sum_{C=0}^{\frac{r+5}{2}} \lfloor \frac{C+1}{2} \rfloor = 1 + 1 + 2 + 2 + \cdots + \lfloor \frac{r+5}{4} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{r+7}{4} \rfloor$$

and the desired formulas follow readily. \square

Proposition 8.3. *The sequences A and B are given by the formulas*

$$A(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{96}(r+3)(r+4)(r+8) & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{96}(r+2)(r+6)(r+7) & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{96}(r-1)(r+3)(r+4) & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{96}r(r+1)(r+5) & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \end{cases}$$

and

$$B(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{192}(r+4)(r+8)(r+12) & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{192}(r+6)(r+8)(r+10) & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{192}(r+3)(r+5)(r+7) & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{192}(r+1)(r+5)(r+9) & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. This follows from Lemma 8.2 by a routine induction. \square

Remark 8.4. The factorizations in the formulas from Proposition 8.3 are somewhat amazing, and of course the induction proof doesn't give a satisfying explanation. For A there is also a cyclic pattern to the roots in the various cases (an $x \rightarrow x+3$ pattern modulo 9). This pattern is present in B to some extent, but not as consistently. In any case, it would be interesting to see a more conceptual understanding of these formulas.

Corollary 8.5. *For all values of r one has*

$$A(r) + B(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{64}(r+4)(r+6)(r+8) & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{64}(r+3)^3 & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{64}(r+6)^3 & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{64}(r+1)(r+3)(r+5) & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Left to the reader. \square

Theorem 8.6. *For $r \geq 1$ the number of nontrivial C_2 -actions on N_r is given by the following formulas:*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{(r+3)^3}{64} = \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 9r^2 + 27r + 27) & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{(r+1)(r+3)(r+5)}{64} = \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 9r^2 + 23r + 15) & \text{if } r \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 18r^2 + 152r - 64) & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{1}{64}(r^3 + 18r^2 + 156r - 72) & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}. \end{array} \right.$$

Proof. Proposition 8.1 gives $\Phi(r) = A(r) + B(r)$ when r is odd, and

$$\Phi(r) = A(r) + B(r) + r - 3 - \begin{cases} \frac{r+4}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{r+6}{4} & \text{if } r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Now use Corollary 8.5. □

9. THE DD -INVARIANT AND PROBLEM P3

The DD -invariant (short for *double Dickson* invariant) is a fairly simple, homological invariant for C_2 -actions. It is not a very powerful invariant, but it turns out to detect a subtle difference between C_2 -spaces that is not easily seen via other means. This will play a key role in the last part of our story.

To explain the basic idea behind the DD -invariant, note that an involution σ on a surface X induces an involution σ^* of $H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. The cup product equips this vector space with a nondegenerate symmetric bilinear form, and σ^* is an isometry. Write $\text{Isom}(H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2))$ for the group of isometries. If θ is another involution on X and the C_2 -spaces (X, σ) and (X, θ) are isomorphic, then σ^* is conjugate to θ^* inside $\text{Isom}(H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2))$. The DD -invariant of σ is a 4-tuple in $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}/2$ that completely classifies the conjugacy classes of involutions in $\text{Isom}(H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2))$. This invariant is purely algebraic, and was introduced in [D].

In this section we briefly introduce the technology needed to understand the DD -invariant, and we perform the key calculation that will be needed for the last stage of our classification results, whose proof we also finish off here. Certainly there is potential for more work on how the DD -invariant interacts with the C_2 -equivariant surgery techniques discussed in this paper; we do not pursue this here.

9.1. The algebraic DD -invariant. Let (V, b) be a finite-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}_2 equipped with a nondegenerate, symmetric bilinear form. We say that V is **symplectic** if $b(v, v) = 0$ for all $v \in V$, and otherwise we say V is **orthogonal**. Every symplectic space is even-dimensional and has a symplectic basis, whereas every orthogonal space has an orthonormal basis (see [D, Proposition 2.1]).

Write $\text{Isom}(V)$ for the group of isometries of (V, b) . The behavior of this group splits into three cases: V is symplectic (SYMP), V is orthogonal and odd-dimensional (ODDO), and V is orthogonal and even-dimensional (EVO). See [D] for a complete discussion. Our goal is to explain how to classify involutions in

$\text{Isom}(V)$, and the answer is slightly different in the three cases. The first invariant is quite simple:

Definition 9.2. *If $\sigma \in \text{Isom}(V)$ is an involution then the **D-invariant** $D(\sigma)$ is defined to be the rank of $\sigma + \text{Id}$.*

This is related to the classically-defined Dickson invariant. It is clear that it is indeed an invariant of the conjugacy class of σ , and it is easy to prove that $0 \leq D(\sigma) \leq \frac{\dim V}{2}$ always (see [D, Proposition 3.1]).

There is a unique vector $\Omega \in V$ having the property that $b(v, \Omega) = b(v, v)$ for all $v \in V$ [D, Section 2]. The space V is symplectic if and only if $\Omega = 0$. Any isometry of V must preserve Ω , and hence also $\langle \Omega \rangle^\perp$. Note that when $\dim V$ is odd one has $b(\Omega, \Omega) \neq 0$ and so $V = \langle \Omega \rangle \oplus \langle \Omega \rangle^\perp$.

Here is the next invariant:

Definition 9.3. *If $\sigma \in \text{Isom}(V)$ is an involution then the map $F_\sigma: V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$ given by $v \mapsto b(v, \sigma v)$ is linear. Define $\alpha(\sigma)$ by*

$$\alpha(\sigma) = \begin{cases} \text{rank } F_\sigma & \text{if } V \text{ is even-dimensional} \\ \text{rank } F_\sigma|_{\langle \Omega \rangle^\perp} & \text{if } V \text{ is odd-dimensional.} \end{cases}$$

Note that $\alpha(\sigma) \in \{0, 1\}$ always.

The reason for the cases in the above definition is that when V is odd-dimensional one always has $b(\Omega, \sigma\Omega) = b(\Omega, \Omega) = 1$, and so $\text{rank } F_\sigma = 1$ no matter what σ is.

As explained in [D], in the SYMP and ODDO cases the two invariants D and α completely classify the conjugacy classes of involutions. In the EVO case we need to work a bit harder.

Suppose now that V is EVO, and that $\sigma \in \text{Isom}(V)$ is an involution. Define $m\sigma: V \rightarrow V$ by

$$(m\sigma)(v) = v + b(v, v)\Omega.$$

We call $m\sigma$ the **mirror** of σ . One easily checks that $m\sigma$ is still an isometry, is also an involution, and $m(m\sigma) = \sigma$ (see [D] for complete details). When V is SYMP or ODDO we simply define $m\sigma = \sigma$.

Example 9.4. Suppose that V is EVO, with orthonormal basis e_1, \dots, e_n . Then $\Omega = \sum_i e_i$. If A is the matrix of σ with respect to this basis, then the matrix for $m\sigma$ is obtained from A by changing each 0 entry to a 1, and each 1 entry to a 0. This is where the term ‘‘mirror’’ comes from.

Definition 9.5. *Let $\sigma \in \text{Isom}(V)$ be an involution. Define $DD(\sigma) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}/2$ to be the 4-tuple $DD(\sigma) = [D(\sigma), \alpha(\sigma), D(m\sigma), \alpha(m\sigma)]$. We also write $\tilde{D}(\sigma) = D(m\sigma)$, $\tilde{\alpha}(\sigma) = \alpha(m\sigma)$, and*

$$DD(\sigma) = [D(\sigma), \alpha(\sigma), \tilde{D}(\sigma), \tilde{\alpha}(\sigma)].$$

Notice that when V is SYMP or ODDO, the last two coordinates of the DD -invariant are simply repetitions of the first two coordinates. We have set things up this way only because it allows us to treat the three cases for V simultaneously. For example, some of the main results of [D] can be stated as follows:

Theorem 9.6. *Two involutions $\sigma, \theta \in \text{Isom}(V)$ are conjugate if and only if $DD(\sigma) = DD(\theta)$.*

Remark 9.7. For future reference, note that for the identity involution one has

$$DD(Id) = \begin{cases} [0, 0, 0, 0] & \text{if } V \text{ is SYMP,} \\ [0, 1, 0, 1] & \text{if } V \text{ is ODDO,} \\ [0, 1, 1, 0] & \text{if } V \text{ is EVO.} \end{cases}$$

We will need the following simple calculation:

Proposition 9.8. *Let V and W be finite-dimensional vector spaces over \mathbb{F}_2 , and suppose that V is equipped with a nondegenerate symplectic bilinear form and W with a nondegenerate orthogonal bilinear form. Let $\sigma \in \text{Isom}(V)$ be an involution. Assume W is even-dimensional with orthonormal basis $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots, x_r, y_r$, and let $\theta \in \text{Isom}(W)$ be the involution satisfying $\theta(x_i) = y_i$ for all i . Then $\sigma \oplus \theta$ is an involution on $V \oplus W$ and*

$$DD(\sigma \oplus \theta) = \begin{cases} [D(\sigma) + r, \alpha(\sigma), D(\sigma) + r - 1, 1] & \text{if } r \text{ is odd,} \\ [D(\sigma) + r, \alpha(\sigma), D(\sigma) + r, 1] & \text{if } r \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. The matrix for θ with respect to the given basis on W is the block diagonal matrix with r copies of $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ along the diagonal. It is immediate that $\alpha(\theta) = 0$ and $D(\theta) = r$. It only takes a moment more to compute the mirror of this matrix and calculate that $\tilde{D}(\theta) = r$ if r is even, $\tilde{D}(\theta) = r - 1$ if r is odd, and $\tilde{\alpha}(\theta) = 1$ always.

One can now either compute $DD(\sigma \oplus \theta)$ by brute force, or else consult [D, Theorem 5.4] to say that

$$DD(\sigma \oplus \theta) = [D(\sigma) + D(\theta), \max\{\alpha(\sigma), \alpha(\theta)\}, \tilde{D}(\sigma) + \tilde{D}(\theta), \max\{\tilde{\alpha}(\sigma), \tilde{\alpha}(\theta)\}].$$

Now simply recall that $\tilde{D}(\sigma) = D(\sigma)$ and $\tilde{\alpha}(\sigma) = \alpha(\sigma)$, since V is symplectic. \square

9.9. Topological DD -invariants. Now let us return to the topological setting, where (X, σ) is a surface with C_2 -action.

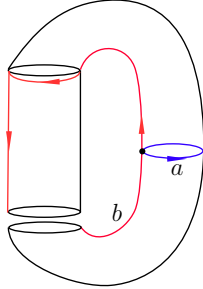
Definition 9.10. *The DD -invariant $DD(X)$ is defined to equal the (algebraic) DD -invariant of the map $\sigma^* \in \text{Isom}(H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2))$. We likewise write $D(X)$, $\alpha(X)$, $\tilde{D}(X)$, and $\tilde{\alpha}(X)$ for the components of the DD -invariant.*

Example 9.11. Of course $DD(S_a^2) = DD(S^{2,0}) = DD(S^{2,1}) = DD(S^{2,2}) = [0, 0, 0, 0]$. For the unique nontrivial action on $\mathbb{R}P^2$, the map σ_* is the identity: so $DD(\mathbb{R}P^2) = [0, 1, 1, 0]$.

There are six possible actions on T_1 :

$$T_1^{\text{triv}}, T_1^{\text{anti}}, T_1^{\text{rot}}, T_1^{\text{spit}}[4], T_1^{\text{refl}}[2], \text{ and } S_a^2 + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}].$$

We leave the reader to check that σ_* equals the identity for the first five of these, so that these all have $DD = [0, 0, 0, 0]$. For the sixth case, this space is shown in the following picture:



Note that the S_a^2 is drawn as a cylinder with antipodal action, the $S^{1,0}$ – antitube is attached to the top and bottom, and the bottom end of the tube must be rotated 180 degrees before attachment. If a and b are the basis for H^1 shown in the picture then $\sigma_*(a) = a$ and $\sigma_*(b) = a + b$. The space H^1 is symplectic, and one readily computes that $DD(S_a^2 + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]) = [1, 1, 1, 1]$.

Similar calculations can be done for the six C_2 -actions on the Klein bottle (see the first table in Appendix B). We leave it as an exercise for the reader to check the following computations:

K^{triv}	$S_a^2 + [DCC]$	$S^{2,1} + [DCC]$	$S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - AT]$	$S^{2,2} + [S^{1,0} - AT]$	$S^{2,2} + 2[FM]$
$[0, 1, 1, 0]$	$[1, 0, 0, 1]$	$[1, 0, 0, 1]$	$[1, 0, 0, 1]$	$[0, 1, 1, 0]$	$[0, 1, 1, 0]$

Observe that these examples show that the DD -invariant is relatively weak in terms of its ability to differentiate equivariant spaces. (Of course $O(2, \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$ and so it is not surprising that there are only two possible DD -invariants here).

Here is a simple result that will be useful:

Proposition 9.12. *Let X be an orientable 2-manifold with involution σ . Then*

$$DD(X + r[DCC]) = \begin{cases} [D(X) + r, \alpha(X), D(X) + r - 1, 1] & \text{if } r \text{ is odd,} \\ [D(X) + r, \alpha(X), D(X) + r, 1] & \text{if } r \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

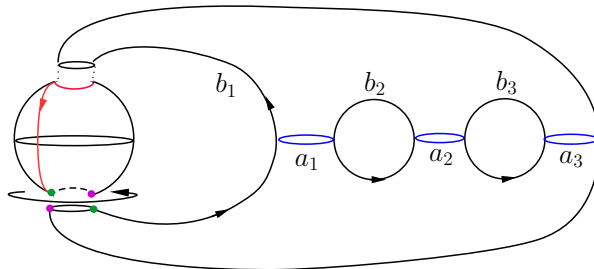
Proof. Let $Y = X + r[DCC]$. Then $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2) \oplus (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2r}$. The involution on $H^1(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is readily checked to be the direct sum of the involution on $H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ and the involution on $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{2r}$ that pairwise swaps basis elements. Now apply Proposition 9.8. \square

The following result gives two calculations that will be important in our applications:

Proposition 9.13. *For $C \geq 1$ one has $DD(S_a^2 + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]) = [1, 1, 1, 1]$ and $DD(T_1^a + C[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]) = [2, 1, 2, 1]$.*

Proof. In both cases, the underlying space is orientable and so the bilinear form on H^1 is symplectic. So we just need to compute the D - and α -invariants.

The space $X = S_a^2 + 3[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ has the following model:



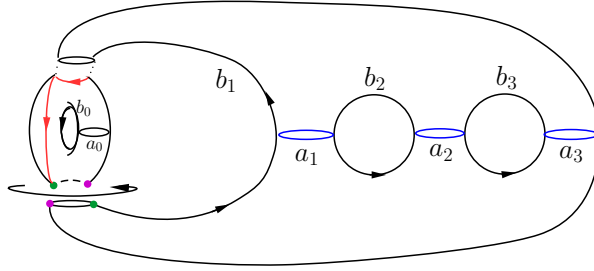
Here the sphere has the antipodal action, whereas on the toral component the action is reflection across the equatorial plane. The toral component is glued to the sphere in the evident manner at the top, but at the bottom it is glued after a 180-degree rotation.

The indicated cycles a_i, b_i for $1 \leq i \leq 3$ give a basis for the symplectic space $H_1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ (but not a symplectic basis). Note that the portion of b_1 on the sphere

runs along the front part of the top hole, then down the front part of the sphere. The cycles a_i are all fixed by σ_* , and b_i is fixed for $i \geq 2$. Finally, one checks that $\sigma_*(b_1) = b_1 + a_1 + a_2 + a_3$. To see this, let c denote the portion of b_1 that runs along the sphere (shown in red). Then $\sigma_*(b_1) + b_1 = c + \sigma_*(c)$. But $\sigma_*(c)$ is the path that runs along the back side of the bottom hole and then up the back side of the sphere, so it is easy to see that $c + \sigma_*(c)$ is homologous to the 1-cycle that runs along the top hole. This 1-cycle is then clearly homologous to $a_1 + a_2 + a_3$.

We can now compute that $b_1 \cdot \sigma_*(b_1) = b_1 \cdot a_1 = 1$, so $\alpha(X) = 1$. Moreover, $\text{Im}(\sigma_* + \text{Id})$ is spanned by $a_1 + a_2 + a_3$, thus $D(X) = 1$. The generalization to arbitrary $C \geq 1$ is clear.

The space $Y = T_1^a + 3[S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ has the following model:



The conventions in this diagram are similar to those in the one drawn for X . Here the cycles a_i, b_i for $0 \leq i \leq 3$ are a basis for $H_1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2)$, with the part of b_1 running along the torus shown in red. The cycles $a_1, a_2, a_3, b_0, b_2, b_3$ are all fixed by σ_* , so it remains to compute $\sigma_*(a_0)$ and $\sigma_*(b_1)$.

The cycle $\sigma(a_0)$ is the parallel loop to a_0 on the opposite branch of the torus, so clearly $\sigma(a_0) + a_0$ is cohomologous to the loop c running along the top hole of the torus—which is in turn cohomologous to $a_1 + a_2 + a_3$. So $\sigma_*(a_0) = a_0 + a_1 + a_2 + a_3$. Likewise, $\sigma(b_1) + b_1$ is the path shown in red followed by its antipode (the path that runs along the back side of the bottom hole, then up the back side of the torus). One readily checks that $\sigma(b_1) + b_1$ is then cohomologous to $b_0 + c$ (where c is as above), and therefore $\sigma_*(b_1) = b_1 + b_0 + a_1 + a_2 + a_3$.

From these formulas one readily computes that $(\sigma_* b_1) \cdot b_1 = 1$, so $\alpha(Y) = 1$. Also $\text{Im}(\sigma_* + \text{Id}) = \langle a_1 + a_2 + a_3, b_0 \rangle$, so $D(Y) = 2$. Again, the generalization to arbitrary $C \geq 1$ is clear. \square

Corollary 9.14. *Let $C \geq 1$ and $r > 2C$.*

Then $DD\left(S_a^2 + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{AT}]\right) = \left[\frac{r}{2} - C + 1, 1, u, 1\right]$ where

$$u = \begin{cases} \frac{r}{2} - C & \text{if } \frac{r}{2} - C \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{r}{2} - C + 1 & \text{if } \frac{r}{2} - C \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

If $r > 2C + 2$ then $DD\left(T_1^a + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C - 1\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{AT}]\right) = \left[\frac{r}{2} - C + 1, 1, u, 1\right]$ where

$$u = \begin{cases} \frac{r}{2} - C + 1 & \text{if } \frac{r}{2} - C \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{r}{2} - C & \text{if } \frac{r}{2} - C \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Consequently, the C_2 -space $S_a^2 + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{AT}]$ is not isomorphic to $T_1^a + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C - 1\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - \text{AT}]$.

Proof. This follows immediately from Proposition 9.13 and Proposition 9.12. \square

Remark 9.15. Note that in Corollary 9.14 one really needs the \tilde{D} invariant to distinguish the spaces; the D , α , and $\tilde{\alpha}$ invariants fail to do the job.

9.16. A complete set of invariants. We now complete our classification of C_2 -actions on 2-manifolds, by solving problem (P3) from the introduction.

Theorem 9.17. *Suppose given C_2 -actions on closed 2-manifolds X and Y , where X and Y have the same non-equivariant topological type. Then*

- (a) *If the invariants F , C_+ , C_- , Q , ϵ , and DD are the same for X and Y , then $X \cong Y$ as C_2 -spaces.*
- (b) *If $F + C_- > 0$ or if Q is positive, and the invariants F , C_+ , C_- , Q are the same for X and Y , then $X \cong Y$ as C_2 -spaces.*
- (c) *If X is orientable and the invariants F , C_+ , C_- , Q are the same for X and Y , then $X \cong Y$ as C_2 -spaces.*

Proof. We have already proven (b) and (c): (b) synthesizes results from Theorems 7.7, 7.9, and 7.10, whereas (c) is just Corollary 5.8. To prove (a) we need to analyze the case where X is non-orientable, $F = C_- = 0$, and Q is negative. By Theorem 6.6 this occurs only when $X \cong N_r$ where r is even, and Theorem 7.12 says that in this case there is exactly one element of positive Q -sign and at most three elements of negative Q -sign. The latter three elements are

$$\begin{aligned} S^{2,1} + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C + 1\right)[DCC] + (C - 1)[S^{1,0} - AT] \\ S_a^2 + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - AT] \\ T_1^a + \left(\frac{r}{2} - C - 1\right)[DCC] + C[S^{1,0} - AT] \end{aligned}$$

The first of these is separating, whereas the latter two are not: so ϵ distinguishes the first from the latter two. By Corollary 9.14 the DD -invariant distinguishes the second from the third. \square

10. CONNECTIONS WITH THE MAPPING CLASS GROUP

The problem we have pursued in this paper, of describing isomorphism classes of C_2 -actions on a 2-manifold X , has some relation to the problem of finding elements of order at most 2 in the mapping class group $\mathcal{M}(X)$. Certainly a C_2 -action on X yields such an element in the mapping class group. They are different problems, though, and in this section we will give some examples showing the differences.

If G is a group, let $G_{[2]}$ denote the elements of G having order at most 2. Then G acts on $G_{[2]}$ by conjugation; write $G_{[2]}/\sim$ for the set of orbits. Let $\text{Homeo}(X)$ denote the group of self-homeomorphisms of X , and set $\text{Invol}(X) = \text{Homeo}(X)_{[2]}/\sim$. Then $\text{Invol}(X)$ coincides with the set of isomorphism classes of C_2 -actions on X .

The projection $\text{Homeo}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(X)$ induces a map $\Gamma_X: \text{Invol}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(X)_{[2]}/\sim$. We give a few examples investigating this map.

Example 10.1 (The 2-sphere). Here one has $\mathcal{M}(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}/2$; the mapping class of an automorphism simply measures whether it is orientation-preserving or reversing. So $\mathcal{M}(S^2)_{[2]}/\sim$ has two elements. We know, however, that $\text{Invol}(S^2)$ has four elements: two of them ($S^{2,0}$ and $S^{2,2}$) map to the identity mapping class, and the other two (S_a^2 and $S^{2,1}$) map to the non-identity element.

Example 10.2 (The torus). Here we have $\mathcal{M}(T_1) \cong \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, with the isomorphism given by the action of mapping classes on $H_1(T_1)$. That is, the natural map $\mathcal{M}(T_1) \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}(H_1(T_1; \mathbb{Z}))$ is an isomorphism.

Some algebraic work (see Section 10.4 below) reveals that $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}/\sim$ has four elements, represented by I , $-I$, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Each of I and $-I$ are the only elements in their orbit. All other elements of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}$ have the form $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a \end{bmatrix}$ where $bc = 1 - a^2$, and such a matrix is in the orbit of $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ if and only if a is odd and both b and c are even; otherwise it is in the orbit of $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. These facts take a little work to check, but they are not hard: see Section 10.4 below.

The following table lists the six C_2 -actions on T_1 together with their image in $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}/\sim$. Here we just computed the action of each involution on $H_1(T_1)$ and used the algebraic rules from the preceding paragraph.

T_1^{triv}	T_1^{anti}	T_1^{rot}	$T_1^{\mathrm{spit}[4]}$	$T_1^{\mathrm{refl}[2]}$	$S_a^2 + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$
I	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$	I	$-I$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Example 10.3 (The Klein bottle). Here we have $\mathcal{M}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$ by [L, Lemma 5]. In fact, a careful look at [L] reveals that the evident map

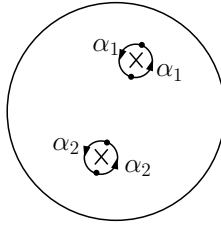
$$\Psi: \mathcal{M}(K) \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}(H_1(K; \mathbb{Q}))_{[2]} \times O(H_1(K; \mathbb{Z}/2))$$

is an isomorphism, where O denotes the orthogonal group with respect to the intersection form (this orthogonal group is readily checked to be $\mathbb{Z}/2$). Recall $H_1(K; \mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Q}$, $\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Q}^*$, and $(\mathbb{Q}^*)_{[2]} = \{1, -1\}$. Because $\mathcal{M}(K)$ is abelian, and all elements have order at most 2, $\mathcal{M}(K)_{[2]}/\sim = \mathcal{M}(K)$. Since both $\mathrm{Aut}(H_1(K; \mathbb{Q}))_{[2]}$ and $O(H_1(K; \mathbb{Z}/2))$ are isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2$, we will in both cases use 1 and -1 to represent the identity and the unique non-trivial element, respectively.

The following table lists the six C_2 -actions on the Klein bottle together with their images in $\mathcal{M}(K)$ (or more precisely, their images under Ψ).

$S_a^2 + [DCC]$	$S^{2,1} + [DCC]$	$S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - AT]$	$S^{2,2} + [S^{1,0} - AT]$	$S^{2,2} + 2[FM]$	K^{triv}
$(-1, -1)$	$(1, -1)$	$(-1, -1)$	$(-1, 1)$	$(1, 1)$	$(1, 1)$

This case is a little harder than the torus, so we give some hints to these calculations. The picture below shows a Klein bottle represented as a sphere with two crosscaps, where the boundary of the disk in our picture should be squashed to a point. The loops α_1 and α_2 are an orthogonal basis for $H_1(K; \mathbb{Z}/2)$, and either one by itself constitutes a basis for $H_1(K; \mathbb{Q})$. Note that $2(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) = 0$ in $H_1(K; \mathbb{Z})$, and so $\alpha_1 = -\alpha_2$ in $H_1(K; \mathbb{Q})$.



This model allows one to readily do the calculations for $S_a^2 + [DCC]$, $S^{2,1} + [DCC]$, and $S^{2,2} + 2[FM]$.

For the remaining two cases, the spheres with attached antitubes, it is perhaps easiest to use other models. The picture below shows two Klein bottles (where the arrows denote gluing, not the C_2 -action):



In the first, the involution is reflection across the dotted line. The fixed set is a circle together with two points, and so this is a model for $S^{2,2} + [S^{1,0} - \text{antitube}]$ (this follows from our classification; see the table for N_2 in Appendix B). In the second picture, the involution rotates each of the two squares 180-degrees about their center. Here the fixed set consists of exactly two points, so this is a model for $S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - \text{antitube}]$. In both cases loop a is a generator for $H_1(K; \mathbb{Q})$, and the pair $\{a, a + b\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $H_1(K; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Using these models, it is easy to compute the remaining entries in the above table.

In the general case, it seems possible that $\Gamma_X : \text{Invol}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(X)_{[2]}/\sim$ is always surjective. We do not know how to prove this, though. If X is orientable then $\text{Homeo}^+(X)_{[2]} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^+(X)_{[2]}$ is surjective by [FM, Theorem 7.1], but this does not seem to immediately imply that $\text{Homeo}(X)_{[2]} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(X)_{[2]}$ is surjective. Moreover, the above examples show that even when Γ_X is surjective the cardinalities of the fibers can differ. Given an element of $\mathcal{M}(X)_{[2]}$ it is unclear how to predict the size of the fiber over this element.

10.4. Conjugacy classes of order two elements of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. We close this section by giving the algebraic analysis needed for Example 10.2. One readily checks that $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}$ has exactly two elements of determinant one, namely I and $-I$. Furthermore, the elements of determinant -1 all have the form $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a \end{bmatrix}$ where $a^2 + bc = 1$.

The matrices I and $-I$ are central in $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and so are the only elements in their conjugacy classes. It remains to determine the conjugacy classes for the above matrices of determinant -1 . We start with four identities:

$$(1) \quad \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & -x \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x & -y \\ -z & -x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(2) \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \lambda & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & -x \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \lambda & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x + \lambda y & y \\ -2\lambda x - \lambda^2 y + z & -x - \lambda y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(3) \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \lambda \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & -x \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \lambda \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x - \lambda z & 2\lambda x - \lambda^2 z + y \\ z & -x + \lambda z \end{bmatrix},$$

$$(4) \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & -x \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -x & z \\ y & x \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ is generated by elementary matrices, relations (1)–(3) generate all conjugacy relations. So (4) is actually a consequence of these, but we list it anyway because of its usefulness.

Observe that if $A \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}$ is such that a_{12} and a_{21} are even, then this same property holds for the conjugates of A obtained from (1)–(4), and therefore for *all* conjugates of A . In particular, the matrices

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

are in different conjugacy classes.

Proposition 10.5. *All matrices of determinant -1 in $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}$ are conjugate to either S or T .*

Proof. For matrices $A \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}$ we proceed by induction on $|a_{11}|$. When $a_{11} = 0$ there are only two such matrices, namely T and $-T$. These are conjugate by relation (1).

When $a_{11} = 1$ we get the matrices $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ b & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, for any $b \in \mathbb{Z}$. But relations (2) and (3) show that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ b & -1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ b - 2\lambda & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b + 2\lambda \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

for any λ in \mathbb{Z} . So only the parity of b matters, and this leaves us with the three elements

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The second two are readily checked to be conjugate to T ; for example, using (2) we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

A similar analysis applies to $a_{11} = -1$: all such matrices are conjugate to one of

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The first is conjugate to S using relation (4), and the second two are conjugate to T using relation (4) and what we have already shown.

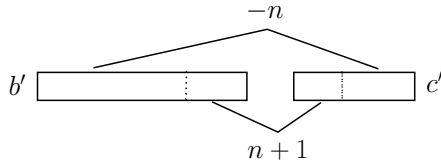
Now assume that $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ has determinant -1 and $|a| > 1$. Then $bc = 1 - a^2 = (1 - a)(1 + a)$, and in particular $b \neq 0$ and $c \neq 0$. If $|b| \geq |a| + 1$ and $|c| \geq |a| + 1$ then $|bc| \geq a^2 + 2|a| + 1 > a^2 - 1$, and this is a contradiction. So either $0 < |b| \leq |a|$ or $0 < |c| \leq |a|$. In the former case we use relation (2) with

$\lambda \in \{1, -1\}$ to reduce the magnitude of the upper left entry of the matrix. By induction this new matrix is conjugate to S or T , so we are done. The case $|c| \leq |a|$ is similar, this time using relation (3). \square

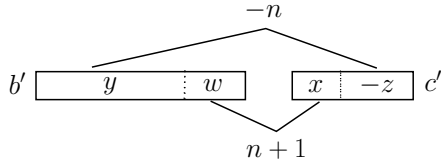
Proposition 10.6. *A matrix $A \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})_{[2]}$ of determinant -1 is conjugate to S if and only if a_{12} and a_{21} are both even.*

Proof. The “only if” part has already been proven, since the property of a_{12} and a_{21} being even is preserved by relations (1)–(4). Now assume that $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a \end{bmatrix}$ has determinant -1 and is such that b and c are even. Then a is odd, so write $a = 2n+1$, $b = 2b'$, and $c = 2c'$. The relation $a^2 + bc = 1$ becomes $n(n+1) + b'c' = 0$.

Write each of b' and c' as a product of positive prime factors and possibly a -1 . Because $b'c' = -n(n+1)$, we can pull out enough factors from b' and c' so that their product is $n+1$. We can represent this by the following picture, where each box contains some subset of the terms in the factorizations:



Define x , y , $-z$, and w to be the products of the terms in each of the boxes, according to the picture



So we have $wx = n+1$, $yz = n$, $wy = b'$, and $xz = -c'$. From this one readily checks that $xw - yz = 1$ and

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2n+1 & 2b' \\ 2c' & -(2n+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a \end{bmatrix}.$$

which completes the proof. \square

APPENDIX A. SURGERY INVARIANCE

A critical theorem in surgery theory guarantees that the end result of a surgery doesn't depend on *where* it was performed. As an example in our equivariant context, this says that the result of sewing an $S^{1,0}$ -antitube into a C_2 -equivariant space does not depend (up to isomorphism) on where the antitube was sewn in. We use this in several key places too numerous to mention—but see, as one example, the appearance in the proof of Proposition 3.16. In this appendix we give a proof of this fundamental result.

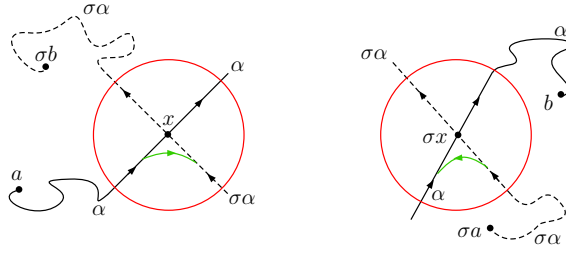
We begin with a “moving lemma”:

Proposition A.1. *Let X be a connected, closed 2-manifold with an involution. Let a and b be points in a common path component of $X - X^{C_2}$, and assume that $a \neq b$ and $a \neq \sigma b$. Then there is a simple path α from a to b in $X - X^{C_2}$ that does not intersect its conjugate $\sigma\alpha$: that is, $\alpha(s) \neq \sigma\alpha(t)$ for all values of s and t .*

Proof. First note that if a and σa are in different path components of $X - X^{C_2}$ then there is nothing to prove, as any simple path from a to b will do the job. So assume that a and σa are in the same path component of $X - X^{C_2}$.

Pick any nice (smooth, or even PL) simple path α from a to b in $X - X^{C_2}$. Assume that α and $\sigma\alpha$ cross each other. For each point z where they cross, the points z and σz are distinct and so have disjoint Euclidean neighborhoods. By altering α in a small neighborhood of z , we can assume that z is an isolated point of the intersection—even more, we can assume the intersection of α and $\sigma\alpha$ at z is transverse. The same therefore holds at σz . Proceeding in this way, we can assume that every point of intersection is transverse—and so there are only finitely many such points. Call them p_1, \dots, p_k , and assume them to be ordered so that they are encountered in succession as one moves along α . Then it must be that $\sigma(p_1) = p_k$, $\sigma(p_2) = p_{k-1}$, and so forth. Therefore k cannot be odd, otherwise the middle p_i would be a fixed point and this contradicts the way α was chosen.

Let $x = p_{\frac{k}{2}}$, so that $\sigma x = p_{\frac{k}{2}+1}$. Locally around x the paths look something like the following (the two diagrams show neighborhoods of x and σx):

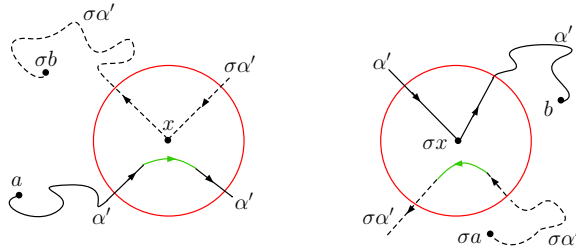


Note that the relative orientations of α and $\sigma\alpha$ might coincide with what is shown above, or else they might be reversed (either around one of x and σx , or around both); these orientations will not matter for the argument.

Choose a small “sidepath” that passes from α to $\sigma\alpha$, avoiding x , as shown in green in the first picture. The conjugate of this small path is also shown near σx . Define a new path α' as follows:

- (1) Start at a and follow α until just before getting to x .
- (2) Follow the chosen sidepath to avoid x , ending up on $\sigma\alpha$.
- (3) Follow $\sigma\alpha$ backwards until reaching σx .
- (4) Now follow α again until reaching b .

Here is the modified picture showing α' :



Because α and $\sigma\alpha$ did not intersect each other between x and σx , the path α' intersects $\sigma\alpha'$ in exactly two fewer points than α and $\sigma\alpha$ did.

Proceeding inductively, one gradually modifies α , reducing the number of intersection points with its conjugate by two each time, until there are no intersection points at all. \square

Corollary A.2. *Let X be a connected, closed 2-manifold with nontrivial involution, and let $a, b \in X^{C_2}$ be distinct. Then there is a simple path α from a to b that does not intersect its conjugate other than in the two endpoints.*

Proof. Start by choosing Euclidean neighborhoods U_a and U_b , of a and b respectively, that are disjoint, stable under conjugation, and such that $\sigma|_{\partial U_a}$ and $\sigma|_{\partial U_b}$ are not constant. Let x be any point on the boundary of U_a that is not fixed. If b is not an isolated fixed point then by Proposition 3.2 the oval passing through b touches both path components; so one can find a point y on the boundary of U_b , also not fixed, that is in the same path component as x in $X - X^{C_2}$. If b is isolated then by Corollary 3.8 the space $X - X^{C_2}$ is connected, so one can again choose a $y \in \partial U_b$ satisfying the same properties.

By Proposition A.1 there exists a simple path α from x to y in $X - X^{C_2}$ having the property that α does not intersect its conjugate. Choose any simple path u from a to x in U_a that avoids its conjugate, and any simple path v from y to b in U_b that avoids its conjugate. Then the concatenation $v\alpha u$ has the desired property. \square

Corollary A.3 (Surgery invariance). *Let X be a path-connected, closed 2-manifold with involution.*

- (a) *Let Y_1 be obtained from X by removing disjoint, conjugate disks embedded in $X - X^{C_2}$ and sewing in an equivariant antitube of a certain type. Let Y_2 be similarly obtained from X , sewing in the same type of antitube, but using a different pair of conjugate embedded disks. Then there is an equivariant isomorphism $Y_1 \cong Y_2$.*
- (b) *Likewise, if M is a connected 2-manifold then the equivariant isomorphism type of $X \#_2 M$ is independent of the conjugate disks used in the construction.*
- (c) *Finally, if X has isolated fixed points then the space $X + [FM]$ is independent (up to equivariant isomorphism) of the choice of fixed point and surrounding disk used in the construction.*

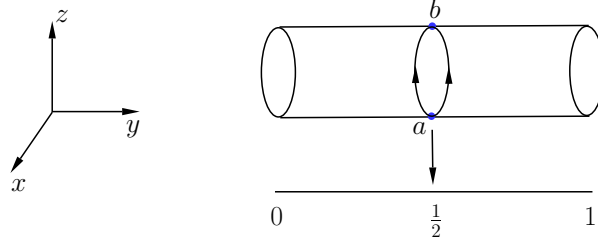
Proof. First consider (a). Let the disks used to make Y_i be called D_i and σD_i . Clearly we can shrink D_i and σD_i as much as we want without changing the equivariant homeomorphism type of Y_i . In particular, we can assume that D_1 does not meet $D_2 \cup \sigma D_2$.

Let a_1 be the center of D_1 , and a_2 be the center of D_2 . Without loss of generality we can assume that a_1 and a_2 are in the same path component of $X - X^{C_2}$ (if not, reverse the names of D_2 and σD_2). By Proposition A.1, there exists a simple path α from a_1 to a_2 that does not intersect its conjugate.

Let U denote a neighborhood of the path α that is small enough to be Euclidean, to contain D_1 and D_2 (recall that we can shrink these disks as much as we want), and to have the property that $U \cap \sigma U = \emptyset$. Then there exists a self-homeomorphism of U that fixes its boundary and sends D_1 to D_2 . Extend this to a map $h: X \rightarrow X$ by letting h be the identity outside of $U \cup \sigma U$, the chosen automorphism inside of U , and the conjugate of this chosen automorphism inside of σU . So h is an equivariant map, and clearly h extends to give an equivariant isomorphism between Y_1 and Y_2 .

The proof for (b) is identical to that of (a).

For (c), the independence of the choice of disk is clear enough. Suppose that a and b are two isolated fixed points in X . As in Remark 3.13 there is an S^1 -antitube inside of X that passes through the points a and b . The Dehn twist on this antitube can be modeled by a C_2 -equivariant map that interchanges a and b : in terms of the picture below, this is the map that in the fiber $y = t$ rotates the xz -plane counterclockwise about the center of the tube, through $2\pi t$ radians.



This equivariant model for the Dehn twist extends to give an equivariant isomorphism $X +_a [FM] \cong X +_b [FM]$ between FM -surgeries around a and b . \square

APPENDIX B. TABLES OF INVOLUTIONS ON NON-ORIENTABLE SURFACES

Recall from Section 7 that $N_r[F, C : (C_+, C_-), Q]$ denotes the set of isomorphism classes of involutions on N_r having taxonomy equal to $[F, C : (C_+, C_-), Q]$. The tables below give information about these sets, listing both the number of elements as well as explicit names for all the elements. Of course listing the *number* is then redundant information, but we include this because it makes certain patterns more evident.

The tables are organized as follows. The unsigned taxonomies $[F, C : (C_+, C_-)]$ index the rows, and the Q -signs index the columns. For the rows we list all tuples where $F + 2C \leq r + 2$ and $F \equiv C_- \equiv r \pmod{4}$, which are the restrictions imposed by Theorem 6.6. The first set of columns gives the number of elements, and the second sets gives the names of the elements. For example, the first table depicts the 5 nontrivial involutions on N^2 , three with negative Q -sign and two with positive Q -sign. Tables are included for N_k where $2 \leq k \leq 7$.

Note that “antitube” is abbreviated to “AT” in the tables, for space considerations.

N_2	-	+	-	+
4,0:(0,0)				
2,0:(0,0)	1		$S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - AT]$	
2,1:(1,0)		1		$S^{2,2} + [S^{1,0} - AT]$
0,0:(0,0)	1		$S_a^2 + [DCC]$	
0,1:(1,0)	1		$S^{2,1} + [DCC]$	
0,2:(2,0)				
0,2:(0,2)		1		$S^{2,2} + 2[FM]$

N_4	-	+	-	+
6,0:(0,0)				
4,0:(0,0)	1		$S_a^2 + 2[S^{1,1} - AT]$	
4,1:(1,0)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4] + [S^{1,0} - AT]$
2,0:(0,0)	1		$S_a^2 + [DCC] + [S^{1,1} - AT]$	
2,1:(1,0)	1		$S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - AT] + [S^{1,0} - AT]$	
2,2:(0,2)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4] + 2[FM]$
2,2:(2,0)		1		$S^{2,2} + 2[S^{1,0} - AT]$
0,0:(0,0)	2		$S_a^2 + 2[DCC], T_1^a + [DCC]$	
0,1:(1,0)	2	1	$S^{2,1} + 2[DCC], S_a^2 + [DCC] + [S^{1,0} - AT]$	$T_1^{\text{rot}} + [S^{1,0} - AT]$
0,2:(2,0)	1		$S^{2,1} + [DCC] + [S^{1,0} - AT]$	
0,2:(0,2)	1		$S_a^2 + [S^{1,1} - AT] + 2[FM]$	
0,3:(3,0)				
0,3:(1,2)		1		$S^{2,2} + [S^{1,0} - AT] + 2[FM]$

N_6	-	+	-	+
8,0:(0,0)				
6,0:(0,0)	1		$S_a^2+3[S^{1,1}-AT]$	$T_2^{\text{spit}}[6]+[S^{1,0}-AT]$
6,1:(1,0)		1		
4,0:(0,0)	1		$S_a^2+[DCC]+2[S^{1,1}-AT]$	
4,1:(1,0)	1		$S_a^2+2[S^{1,1}-AT]+2[S^{1,0}-AT]$	
4,2:(2,0)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+2[S^{1,0}-AT]$
4,2:(0,2)		1		$T_2^{\text{spit}}[6]+2[FM]$
2,0:(0,0)	1		$S_a^2+2[DCC]+[S^{1,1}-AT]$	
2,1:(1,0)	1	1	$S_a^2+[DCC]+[S^{1,1}-AT]+[S^{1,0}-AT]$	$T_2^{\text{spit}}[2]+[S^{1,0}-AT]$
2,2:(2,0)	1		$S_a^2+[S^{1,1}-AT]+2[S^{1,0}-AT]$	
2,2:(0,2)	1		$S_a^2+2[S^{1,1}-AT]+2[FM]$	
2,3:(3,0)		1		$S^{2,2}+3[S^{1,0}-AT]$
2,3:(1,2)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+1[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$
0,0:(0,0)	2		$S_a^2+3[DCC], T_1^a+2[DCC]$	
0,1:(1,0)	3		$S^{2,1}+3[DCC], S_a^2+2[DCC]+[S^{1,0}-AT],$ $T_1^a+[DCC]+[S^{1,0}-AT]$	
0,2:(2,0)	2	1	$S^{2,1}+2[DCC]+[S^{1,0}-AT],$ $S_a^2+[DCC]+2[S^{1,0}-AT]$	$T_1^{\text{rot}}+2[S^{1,0}-AT]$
0,2:(0,2)	1	1	$S_a^2+[DCC]+[S^{1,1}-AT]+2[FM]$	$T_2^{\text{spit}}[2]+2[FM]$
0,3:(3,0)	1		$S^{2,1}+[DCC]+2[S^{1,0}-AT]$	
0,3:(1,2)	1		$S_a^2+[S^{1,1}-AT]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+2[FM]$	
0,4:(4,0)				
0,4:(2,2)		1		$S^{2,2}+2[S^{1,0}-AT]+2[FM]$
0,4:(0,4)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+4[FM]$

N_3	-	+	-	+
3,1:(0,1)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+[FM]$
1,1:(0,1)	1		$S_a^2+[S^{1,1}-AT]+[FM]$	
1,2:(1,1)		1		$S^{2,2}+[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$

N_5	-	+	-	+
5,1:(0,1)		1		$T_2^{\text{spit}}[6]+[FM]$
3,1:(0,1)	1		$S_a^2+2[S^{1,1}-AT]+[FM]$	
3,2:(1,1)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$
1,1:(0,1)	1	1	$S_a^2+[DCC]+[S^{1,1}-AT]+[FM]$	$T_2^{\text{spit}}[2]+[FM]$
1,2:(1,1)	1		$S_a^2+[S^{1,1}-AT]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$	
1,3:(2,1)		1		$S^{2,2}+2[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$
1,3:(0,3)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+3[FM]$

N_7	-	+	-	+
7,1:(0,1)		1		$T_3^{\text{spit}}[8]+[FM]$
5,1:(0,1)	1		$S_a^2+3[S^{1,1}-AT]+[FM]$	
5,2:(1,1)		1		$T_2^{\text{spit}}[6]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$
3,1:(0,1)	1	1	$S_a^2+[DCC]+2[S^{1,1}-AT]+[FM]$	$T_3^{\text{spit}}[4]+[FM]$
3,2:(1,1)	1		$S_a^2+2[S^{1,1}-AT]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$	
3,3:(2,1)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+2[S^{1,0}-AT]$
3,3:(0,3)		1		$T_2^{\text{spit}}[6]+3[FM]$
1,1:(0,1)	1		$S_a^2+2[DCC]+[S^{1,1}-AT]+[FM]$	
1,2:(1,1)	1	1	$S_a^2+[DCC]+[S^{1,1}-AT]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$	$T_2^{\text{spit}}[2]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$
1,3:(2,1)	1		$S_a^2+[S^{1,1}-AT]+2[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$	
1,3:(0,3)	1		$S_a^2+2[S^{1,1}-AT]+[FM]$	
1,4:(3,1)		1		$S^{2,2}+3[S^{1,0}-AT]+[FM]$
1,4:(1,3)		1		$T_1^{\text{spit}}[4]+[S^{1,0}-AT]+3[FM]$

REFERENCES

[A] T. Asoh, *Classification of free involutions on surfaces*, Hiroshima Math. J. **6** (1976), 171–181.

[BCNS] E. Bujalance, A. F. Costa, S. M. Natanzon, D. Singerman, *Involutions of compact Klein surfaces*, Math. Z. **211** (1992), 461–478.

[CP] A. F. Costa and H. Parlier, *On Harnack’s theorem and extensions: a geometric proof and applications*, Conform. Geom. Dyn. **12** (2008), 174–186.

[D] D. Dugger, *Involutions in the topologists’ orthogonal group*, preprint, 2016.

[FM] B. Farb and D. Margalit, *A primer on mapping class groups*, Princeton Mathematical Series **49**, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2012.

[H] A. Harnack, *Über die Vieltheiligkeit der ebenen algebraischen Curven*, Math. Ann. **10** (1876), no. 2, 189–198.

[IS] M. Izquierdo and D. Singerman, *On the fixed-point set of automorphisms of non-orientable surfaces without boundary*, The Epstein Birthday Schrift, 295–301, Geom. Topol. Monogr. **1**, Geom. Topol. Publ., Coventry, 1998.

[K] F. Klein, *Über Realitätsverhältnisse bei einem beliebigen Geschlechte zugehörigen Normalkurve der ϕ* , Math. Ann. **42** (1893), 1–29.

[L] W. B. R. Lickorish, *Homeomorphisms of non-orientable two-manifolds*, Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc. **59** (1963), 307–317.

[LFdS] P. Lima-Filho and P. dos Santos, *Bigraded invariants for real curves*, Algebr. Geom. Topol. **14** (2014), no. 5, 2809–2852.

[MP] J. D. McCarthy and U. Pinkall, *Representing homology automorphisms of non-orientable surfaces*, Max Planck Inst. preprint MPI/SFB 85-11. Available at <http://users.math.msu.edu/users/mccarthy/publications/selected.papers.html>

[N1] S. M. Natanzon, *Topological classification of pairs of commuting antiholomorphic involutions of Riemann surfaces*, Russ. Math. Surv. **41** (1986), no. 5, 159–160.

[N2] S. M. Natanzon, *Klein surfaces*, Russ. Math. Surv. **45** (1990), no. 6, 53–108.

[Sc] W. Scherrer, *Zur Theorie der endlichen Gruppen topologischer Abbildungen von geschlossenen Flächen in sich*, Comment. Math. Helv. **1** (1929), 60–119.

[S] P. A. Smith, *Abelian actions on 2-manifolds*, Michigan J. Math. **14** (1967), 257–275.

[T] D. E. Taylor, *The Geometry of the Classical Groups*, Heldermann Verlag, Berlin, 1992.

[W] G. Weichold, *Über symmetrische Riemannsche Flächen und die Periodizitätsmoduln der zugehörigen Abelschen Normalintegrale erster Gattung*, PhD thesis, Diss. Leipzig Schölmilch Z. XXVIII, 321–352, 1883.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, EUGENE, OR 97403
E-mail address: ddugger@math.uoregon.edu