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# CUT-AND-PASTES OF INCOMPRESSIBLE SURFACES IN 3-MANIFOLDS

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### 1. Introduction

Let M be a compact orientable 3-manifold and  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  properly embedded surfaces in M. If  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  intersect transversely, then by cutting  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  along the intersection and regluing them in a different way, we obtain another embedded surface in M.

DEFINITION. Let  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  be orientable surfaces properly embedded in M intersecting transversely. A *cut-and-paste* (CP) operation on a component C of  $F_1 \cap F_2$  is the following operation in a regular neighborhood of C, N(C): Cut  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  on C and reglue them in a different way. See Figure 1.1.



Fig 1.1.

Note that there are two choices in regluing. When we apply a CP operation on each component of  $F_1 \cap F_2$ , we obtain an embedded surface F in M. We say that F is obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by a (way of) CP operation.

Suppose that both  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are incompressible. In general, a surface which is obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by a CP operation is possibly compressible. But we can prove that in certain cases there is a CP operation which yields an

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incompressible surfaces.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  be incompressible surfaces of genus greater than zero properly embedded in M which intersect transversely. If  $F_1$  or  $F_2$  is a torus, then we can obtain an incompressible surface F from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by a CP operation.

Then we show that the assumption of Theorem 1 cannot be omitted in general. In fact, we prove;

**Theorem 2.** For any inetgers  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  which are greater than one, there exist a closed orientable 3-manifold M and connected incompressible surfaces  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  properly embedded in M such that they intersect transversely,  $g(F_i)=n_i$  (g(F) is the genus of F) and for any surface F obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by CP operations, each component of F bounds a handlebody.

By applying Theorem 1 a number of times, we have the following corollarly.

**Corollary 3.** Let  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$   $(n \ge 2)$  be properly embedded incompressible tori in M such that any two of them intersect transversely. Then there exists an incompressible surface F such that  $F \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} T_i \cup N(\bigcup_{1 \le i \le j \le n} T_i \cap T_j)$ .

Let S be the set of isotopy classes of orientable, incompressible,  $\partial$ incompressible surfaces in M. And let S' be the set of isotopy classes of (not necessarily orientable) surfaces S properly embedded in M such that each component of the closure of  $\partial N(S) - \partial M$  is incompressible and  $\partial$ -incompressible. We call such a surface injective and  $\partial$ -injective respectively. Then Oertel [5] defined a function  $q: S \times S \rightarrow$  {finite subset of S'} as follows: Given a pair of isotopy classes of incompressible surfaces, we choose representatives  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ with suitably simplified intersection. Then  $q([F_1], [F_2])$  is defined to be the set of isotopy classes of injective surfaces obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by CP operations. Oertel showed that the function q is well-defined. In general, for a given pair  $[F_1], [F_2], q([F_1], [F_2])$  is possibly an emptyset. But when  $F_1$  or  $F_2$  is a torus, Theorem 1 immediately implies the following:

**Corollary 4.** Let  $[F_1]$ ,  $[F_2]$  be a pair of isotopy classes of incompressible surfaces in M. If  $F_1$  or  $F_2$  is a torus, then  $q([F_1], [F_2])$  is not an emptyset.

REMARK. When  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are oriented surfaces, we often use a cut-andpaste operation such that the way of regluing is compatible with orientations on  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . We call this operation an *oriented cut-and-paste (OCP) operation*. We can consider the same problem as Theorem 1 for OCP operations. But there is an example such that we cannot obtain incompressible surfaces from incompressible tori by OCP operations. For example, let M be a Seifert fibered space

over  $S^2$  with four singular fibers. Let p be a projection of M to  $S^2$ . We consider two incompressible tori  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  such that  $T_i$  is a union of regular fibers and  $p(T_i)$  (i=1, 2) are as indicated in Figure 1.2. Then we can check that for any orientations of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , we cannot obtain an incompressible surface from  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  by an OCP operation.



Throughout this paper, we work in the piecewise linear category. For the definition of standard terms of 3-dimensional topology, see [2]. For a subcomplex K of a given  $H, N_H(K)$  denotes a reglar neighborhood of K in H. When H is well understood, we often abbreviate  $N_H(K)$  to N(K).

### 2. Proof of Theorem 1

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  be incompressible surfaces in a 3-manifold M with transverse intersection. Then we can obtain incompressible surfaces  $\tilde{F}_1$  and  $\tilde{F}_2$  by some CP operations on closed curves of  $F_1 \cap F_2$  which are inessential on  $F_1$ , such that  $\tilde{F}_i$  is homeomorphic to  $F_i(i=1,2)$  and each component of  $\tilde{F}_1 \cap \tilde{F}_2$  is essential in  $\tilde{F}_1$ .

Proof. If each component of  $F_1 \cap F_2$  is an essential curve of  $F_1$ , we take  $\tilde{F}_i = F_i$  (i=1, 2). In general, we apply an argument of the proof of [2, Lemma 4, 6].

Let *n* be the number of components of  $F_1 \cap F_2$  which is inessential on  $F_1$ . Assume  $n \ge 1$ . Let  $S = F'_1 \cup F'_2$  be a 2-component 2-manifold such that  $F'_i \cong F_i$ (i=1, 2) and  $f_0: S \to M$  an immersion such that  $f_0|_{F'_i}: F'_i \to F_i$  is a homeomorphism. Let  $\Sigma_0 = \{x \in S \mid \exists x' \in S \text{ such that } f_0(x) = f_0(x')\}$ . Then  $f_0(\Sigma_0) = F_1 \cap F_2$ and  $\Sigma_0$  consists of closed curves on S. Let  $\Sigma'_0$  be a subset of  $\Sigma_0$  which consists of inessential curves on S. Since  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are incompressible,  $C_1 \subset \Sigma'_0$  if and only if  $C_2 \subset \Sigma'_0$  for  $C_2 \subset \Sigma_0$  with  $f_0^{-1}(f_0(C_1)) = C_1 \cup C_2$ . Hence  $\Sigma'_0$  consists of 2n closed curves.

We define an immersion  $f_1 | S \to M$  as follows; fix a closed curve  $C_1^1 \subset \Sigma_0'$  and let  $f_0^{-1}(f_0(C_1^1)) = C_1^1 \cup C_2^1$ . Let  $D_i$  be a disk on S such that  $\partial D_i = C_i^1$  and V a solid torus which is a regular neighborhood of  $f_0(C_1^1)$ . Then  $f_0^{-1}(V)$  is a union of two disjoint annuli  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  with  $C_i^1 \subset A_i(i=1,2)$ . Put  $D'_i = D_i - \text{Int } A_i$ ,  $D'_i' = D_i \cup A_i$ . There exists disjoint annuli  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  on  $\partial V$  with  $\partial B_1 = f_0$  $(\partial D'_1 \cup \partial D'_2)$  and  $\partial B_2 = f_0(\partial D'_2 \cup \partial D'_1)$ . We define  $f_1$  by putting  $f_1|_{S-(D'_1 \cup D'_2)} =$  $f_0|_{S-(D'_1 \cup D'_2)}, f_1(A_i) = B_i, f_1(D'_1) \subset f_0(D'_2)$  and  $f_1(D'_2) \subset f_0(D'_1)$  so that  $\Sigma_1 = \Sigma_0 - \{C_1^1 \cup C_2^1\}$ . Then  $\Sigma'_1$  consists of 2(n-1) closed curves. Note that  $f|_{F_i}(i=1, 2)$  may have self intersections.

For  $2 \le k \le n$ , we define an immersion  $f_k: S \to M$  inductively. Assume  $f_{k-1}$ was defined,  $\sum_{k-1} = \{x \in S \mid \exists x' \in S \text{ such that } f_{k-1}(x) = f_{k-1}(x')\}$  consists of closed curves, and for each component  $C_1 \subset \sum_{k-1}' = \{C \subset \sum_{k-1} \mid C \text{ is an inessential curve}$ on  $S\}$ ,  $f_{k-1}^{-1}(f_{k-1}(C_1)) = C_1 \cup C_2$  and  $C_2 \subset \sum_{k-1}'$ . Fix a component  $C_1^k$  of  $\sum_{k-1}'$  and let  $f_{k-1}^{-1}(f_{k-1}(C_1^k)) = C_1^k \cup C_2^k$ . For i=1, 2, let  $D_i$  a disk on S such that  $\partial D_i = C_i^k$ , V a regular neighborhood of  $f_{k-1}(C_1^k)$ ,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  disjoint annuli of  $f^{-1}(V)$  with  $C_i^k \subset A_i, D_i' = D_i - \text{Int } A_i, D_i' = D_i \cup A_i, B_1, B_2 \subset \partial V$  annuli with  $\partial B_1 = f_{k-1}(\partial D_1' \cup \partial D_2')$  and  $\partial B_2 = f_{k-1}(\partial D_2' \cup \partial D_1')$ .

We divide into two cases a)  $D_1 \cap D_2 = \emptyset$  and b)  $D_2 \subset \text{Int } D_1$ .

In case a), we define  $f_k$  by putting  $f_k|_{s-(D'_1 \cup D'_2)} = f_{k-1}|_{s-(D'_2 \cup D'_2)}, f_k(A_i) = B_i$ ,  $f_k(D'_1) \subset f_{k-1}(D'_2)$  and  $f_k(D'_2) \subset f_{k-1}(D'_1)$  so that  $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_{k-1} - \{C_1^k \cup C_2^k\}$ . In case b), put  $E = D'_1 - \text{Int } D'_2$ . We define  $f_k$  by putting  $f_k|_{s-D'_1} = f_{k-1}|_{s-D''_1}, f_k(D'_2) \subset f_{k-1}$  $(D'_2), f_k(A_i) = B_i$ , and  $f_k(E) \subset f_{k-1}(E)$  so that  $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_{k-1} - \{C_1^k \cup C_2^k\}$ .

In this way, we obtain a sequence of maps  $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_n$  from S to M such that  $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_{k-1} - \{C_1^k \cup C_2^k\}$ , where  $C_1^k, C_2^k \subset \Sigma_{k-1}'$  with  $f_{k-1}(C_1^k) = f_{k-1}(C_2^k)$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

Since  $\Sigma'_0$  consists of 2n components,  $\Sigma_n = \Sigma_0 - \Sigma'_0$  and  $\Sigma'_n = \emptyset$ . Put  $f_n(F'_i) = \widetilde{F}_i$  (i=1,2). Since the definition of  $f_k|_{A_1 \cup A_2}$  corresponds to a CP operation on  $f_{k-1}(C_1^k)$   $(1 \le k \le n)$ ,  $\widetilde{F}_1$  and  $\widetilde{F}_2$  is obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by CP operations on  $f_0(\Sigma'_0)$ , which is equal to the set of inessential curves in  $F_1 \cap F_2$ . And  $\widetilde{F}_1 \cap \widetilde{F}_2$  consists of essential curves. On the other hand, since  $f_k|_{S-(D_1''\cup D_2'')}=f_{k-1}|_{S-(D_1''\cup D_2'')}$ , for  $i=1, 2, \ \widetilde{F}_i - \widetilde{E}_i = F_i - E_i$  for a union of certain disks  $E_i$   $(\widetilde{E}_i, \text{ resp.})$  on  $F_i$   $(\widetilde{F}_i, \text{ resp.})$ . Hence  $\widetilde{F}_i$  is incompressible.

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.1.

DEFINITION. Let  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  be properly embedded surfaces in M which intersect transversely. Let  $F'_i$  be a closure of a component of  $F_i - (F_1 \cap F_2)$  (i = 1, 2). We say that  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  have a *semi-product region* between  $F'_1$  and  $F'_2$  if there exists a map f of a manifold X to M satisfying the following (1)-(4):

(1)  $X = W \times [0, 1] - \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} \text{Int } B_i$ , where W is homeomorphic to  $F'_1$  and

 $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n$  are mutual, y disjoint 3-balls in Int ( $W \times [0, 1]$ ).

- (2)  $f(\partial W \times [0, 1]) = \partial F'_1 = \partial F'_2$ .
- (3) f |<sub>W×(0)</sub> is a homeormophism of W× {0} to F'<sub>1</sub> and f |<sub>W×(1)</sub> is a homeomorphism of W× {1} to F'<sub>2</sub>.
- (4)  $f|_{x-(\partial W \times [0,1])}$  is an embedding.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  be properly embedded incompressible surfaces in M which intersect transversely. Suppose that  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  have a semi-product region between  $F'_1$  and  $F'_2(F'_i \subset F_i, i=1, 2)$ . Then  $\hat{F}_i = (F_i - F'_i) \cup F'_{3-i}$  is also incompressible (i=1, 2).

Proof. It is enough to prove that  $\hat{F}_1 = (F_1 - F'_1) \cup F'_2$  is incompressible. Assume that there exists a compressing disk D of  $\hat{F}_1$ . Since  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are incompressible, we may asume that  $D \cap F'_2$  consists of some arcs  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m$ . Using  $X = W \times [0, 1] - \bigcup_{i=1}^n \operatorname{Int} B_i$  and the map f, we can find a disk  $D_i$  in M such that  $\partial D_i = a_i \cup b_i$  and  $b_i \subset F'_1$   $(i=1, 2, \dots m)$ . Let  $D' = D \cup_{i=1}^m D_i$ . Then D' is an immersed disk in M with  $\partial D' \subset F_1$ . Clearly  $\partial D'$  is essential on  $F_1$ , contradicting the incompressibility of  $F_1$ . Hence  $\hat{F}_1$  is incompressible.

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.2.

Proof of Theorem 1. If  $F_1 \cap F_2$  contains a component C which is inessential on  $F_1$ , then we consider incompressible surfaces  $\tilde{F}_1$  and  $\tilde{F}_2$  in Lemma 2.1. Moreover if  $\tilde{F}_1$  and  $\tilde{F}_2$  have a smi-product region, we consider incompressible surfaces  $\hat{F}_1$  and  $\hat{F}_2$  in Lemma 2.2. If Theorem 1 holds for  $\hat{F}_1$  and  $\hat{F}_2$ , we may regard that the obtained surface F is also obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by a CP operation by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. Hence, without loss of generality, we may assume the following (1)-(3):

- (1)  $F_1$  is a torus and  $F_2$  is a surface of genus greater than zero.
- (2) Each component of  $F_1 \cap F_2$  is an essential curve on  $F_1$ .
- (3)  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  do not have a semi-product region.

Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be components of  $N(F_1)-F_1$ . Let F be a surface obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by the following CP operation; for each component A of  $F_1$ -Int  $N(F_1 \cap F_2)$ , a component of  $\partial A$  is regluded to  $N_1 \cap \partial(F_2 - \operatorname{Int} N(F_1 \cap F_2))$  and the other component of  $\partial A$  is regluded to  $N_2 \cap \partial(F_2 - \operatorname{Int} N(F_1 \cap F_2))$ . See Figure 2.1.

We will prove that F is incompressible.

We may assume that  $F_1$  and F intersect transversely and for each component A of  $F_1$ —Int  $N(F_1 \cap F_2)$ ,  $A \cap F$  consists of an essential simple closed curve in A.

Suppose that there exists a compressing disk D of F. Since  $F_1$  is incompressible, we may assume  $D \cap F_1$  does not contain a circle component.

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## Claim 2.3. $\partial D \cap (F_1 \cap F) \neq \emptyset$ .

Proof. Suppose that  $\partial D \cap (F_1 \cap F) = \emptyset$ . Then we may assume  $\partial D \subset F \cap F_2$ . Since  $F_2$  is incompressible, there exists a disk D' on  $F_2$  such that  $\partial D = \partial D'$ . Since  $\partial D$  is an essential curve on F, D' contain a component C of  $F_1 \cap F_2$ . C bounds a disk  $D''(\subset D')$  and by the condition (2), C is an essential curve on  $F_1$ . It contradicts the incompressibility of  $F_1$ . Therefore  $\partial D \cap (F_1 \cap F) \neq \emptyset$ , completing the proof of Claim 2.3.

By Claim 2.3,  $D \cap F_1$  consists of some arcs. Let a be an outermost arc of  $D \cap F_1$  on D, and  $D' \subset D$  an outermost disk such that  $\partial D' = a \cup b$  with  $b \subset \partial D$ . Then using D', we can find a embedded disk E in M such that  $\partial E = a' \cup b'$ ,  $a' \subset F_1$ ,  $b' \subset F_2$  with  $a \cap a' \neq \emptyset$ ,  $b \cap b' \neq \emptyset$  and Int  $E \cap (F_1 \cup F_2) = \emptyset$ . Let A be a closure of a component of  $F_1 - (F_1 \cap F_2)$  which contains a', and B a closure of a component of  $F_2 - (F_1 \cap F_2)$  which contains b'. By the condition (2), A is an annulus. Consider  $E \times [0, 1]$  with  $E \times [0, 1] \cap (F_1 \cup F_2) = \partial E \times [0, 1]$ . Then  $E' = (E \times [0, 1] \cup A) - (E \times (0, 1))$  is an embedded disk in M such that  $\partial E' \subset F_2$ . Since  $F_2$  is incompressible,  $\partial E'$  is an inessential curve on  $F_2$ . Let E'' be a disk on  $F_2$  with  $\partial E'' = \partial E'$ . If  $E'' \cap (E \times (0, 1)) \neq \emptyset$ , then each component of  $\partial A (\subset F_1 \cap F_2)$  also bounds a disk on  $F_2$ . But it contradicts the condition (2). Hence  $E'' \subset B$  and B is an annulus. Using  $A \cup B \cup E \times [0, 1]$ , we can see that  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  have a semi-product region between A and B. It contradicts the condition (3). Therefore F is incompressible.

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

## 3. Boundary irreducibility of certain 3-manifolds

For the proof of Theorem 2, we construct certain 3-manifolds with incompressible surfaces. A closed orientable surface F properly embedded in a 3-

manifold M is incompressible if and only if  $\partial N(F)$  is incompressible in each component of M—Int N(F). In this section, we examine the incompressibility of boundaries of certain 3-manifolds. We say that an orientable 3-manifold Mis  $\partial$ -*irreducible* if M is irreducible and  $\partial M$  is incompressible in M.

Suppose that M does not contain a fake 3-ball. Then M is  $\partial$ -irreducible iff  $\pi_1(M)$  is not a free product or a cyclic group (cf. [2]). Lemma 3.1 shows that for certain one-relator groups, we can examine that the group is a free product or not.

DEFINITION. Let  $\langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_g \rangle$  be a free group of rank  $g(g \ge 2)$  with generators  $x_1, x_1, \dots, x_g$  and  $H_g$  a handlebody of genus g. We say that a simple closed curve C on  $\partial H_g$  is a *representation curve* of an element  $r \in \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_g \rangle$  if  $\pi_1(H_g) \cong \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_g \rangle \supseteq \operatorname{Incl}_*(C) = r$ . (Incl<sub>\*</sub> is a homomorphism which is induced by the inclusion map.)

**Lemma 3.1.** Suppose that r has (at least one) representation curve. Then the following (1)-(3) are mutually equivalent:

- (1)  $\langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_g : r \rangle$  is not a free product group or a cyclic group.
- (2) There exists a representation curve C of r on  $\partial H_g$  such that  $\partial H_g C$  is incompressible in  $H_g$ .
- (3) For any representation curve C of r,  $\partial H_g C$  is incompressible in  $H_g$ .

Proof.  $(3) \Rightarrow (2)$  is clear.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1): Let  $M=H_g \cup_c (D^2 \times I)$  be a 3-manifold obtained from  $H_g$  by attaching a 2-handle  $D^2 \times I$  along C. By [1], [3] or [6], M is  $\partial$ -irreducible. On the other hand,  $\pi_1(M) \cong \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_g; r \rangle$ . Hence (1) holds.

(1) $\Rightarrow$ (3): Suppose that there exists a representation curve C of r such that  $\partial H_g - C$  is compressible in  $H_g$ . Let B be a compressing disk of  $\partial H_g - C$  in  $H_g$ . If B is a non-separating disk of  $H_g$ , then B is also a non-separating disk of  $M = H_g \cup_C (D^2 \times I)$ . If  $H_g - B = V_1 \cup V_2$  and  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are handlebodies, then M is a disk sum of  $V_1$  and  $V_2 \cup_C (D^2 \times I)$ . In both cases,  $\pi_1(M) \cong \langle x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_g : r \rangle \cong Z * G$  for some group G.

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.1.

Next, we examine the  $\partial$ -irreducibility of manifolds which are obtained from handlebodies by Dehn surgeries on links in them. Let V be a handlebody and k a simple closed curve on  $\partial V$ . We define a surgery on pushed k with surgery coefficient p/q (g.c.d(p, q)=1) as follows: Consider an annulus A in V such that  $\partial A = k \cup k'$  and  $A \cap \partial V = k$  (We say k' is a pushed k). There is a neighborhood of k', N(k') such that  $N(k') \cap A$  is an annulus. Put  $l = \partial N(k') \cap A$  and let m be a meridian of k' on  $\partial N(k')$ . Remove IntN(k') and attach a solid torus V' to it so that a meridian m' on  $\partial V'$  is attached to a curve C on  $\partial N(k')$  with [C] = p[m] + M. Kobayashi

 $q[l] \in H_1(\partial N(k'); Z).$ 

**Lemma 3.2.** Let V be a handlebody of genus greater than one and  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$   $(n \ge 1)$  mutually disjoint simple closed curves on  $\partial V$ . If  $\partial V - \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$  is incompressible in V and  $|p_i| \ge 2$   $(i=1, 2, \dots, n)$ , then the manifold M which obtained from V by surgeries on pushed  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$  with surgery coefficient  $p_1/q_1, p_2/q_2, \dots, p_n/q_n$  is  $\partial$ -irreducible.

Proof. Let  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n$  be solid tori and  $m_i$  and  $l_i$  meridian and longitude on  $\partial V_i$ . Consider a simple closed curve  $C'_i$  on  $\partial V_i$  such that  $[C'_i] = r_i[m_i] + p_i[l_i] \in H_1(\partial V_i; Z)$ , for integers  $r_i$  and  $s_i$  with  $p_i s_i - q_i r_i = 1$ . Then we can regard M as the 3-manifold obtained form V and  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n$  by identifying  $N_{\partial V_i}(C'_i)$  to  $N_{\partial V}(C_i)$ .

Since  $|p_i| > 0$  and  $\partial V - \bigcup_{i=1}^{m} C_i$  is incompressible in V, M is irreducible. We will prove that  $\partial M$  is incompressible in M. Note that since  $|p_i| \ge 2$ , for any compressing disk D of  $V_i$ ,  $\sharp(\partial D \cap N_{\partial V_i}(C'_i)) \ge 2$ . Suppose that there exists a compressing disk D of  $\partial M$  in M. Since  $\partial V - \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$  is incompressible in V, D must intersect with  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} N_{\partial V}(C_i)$  in at least one arc. We may assume D has a minimal number of components in all such disks. By standard innermost circle and outermost arc arguments, we may assume  $D \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} N_{\partial V}(C_i))$  consists of some essential arcs in  $N_{\partial V}(C_i)$ . Let a be an outermost arc of  $D \cap$  $(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} N_{\partial V}(C_i))$  on D, D' an outermost disk on D with  $\partial D' = a \cup b$ ,  $b \subset \partial D$  and  $a \subset N_{\partial V}(C_i)$  ( $1 \le j \le n$ ). By the minimality of the number of intersections,  $\partial D'$ is an essential curve on  $\partial V$  or  $\partial V_j$ . Since  $\partial D'$  intersects with  $N_{\partial V}(C_j)$  in an arc, D' is contained in V. But it contradicts the following Claim 3..3.

**Claim 3.3.** If  $\partial V - \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$  is incompressible in V, then for any compressing disks D of V,  $\#(\partial D \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i)) \ge 2$ .

Proof of Claim 3.3. Suppose that there exists a compressing disk D of  $\partial V$  such that  $\partial D$  intersects with  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$  in a point  $p \in C_j (1 \le j \le n)$ . Consider a regular neighborhood of D,  $D \times [0, 1] \subset V$  such that  $D \times [0, 1] \cap \partial V = \partial D \times [0, 1]$  and  $(\partial D \times [0, 1]) \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i) = p \times [0, 1]$ . Then  $D' = \partial (N(C_j) \cup (D \times [0, 1])) -$ Int $(\partial N(C_j) \cap \partial V) \cup (\partial D \times (0, 1))$  is a compressing disk of  $\partial V - \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$ , a contradiction.

Hence Claim 3.3 holds.

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.2

To know the incompressibility of  $\partial V - \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$  in V, we use the following Lemma 3.4.

Let  $H_g$  be a handlebody of genus  $g(g \ge 2)$  and  $\{D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{3g-3}\}$  a set of mutually disjoint non-parallel compressing disks in  $H_g$ . Then each component of  $H_g - \bigcup_{i=1}^{3g-3} (D_i \times (0, 1))$  is a 3-ball B such that  $\partial B - \text{Int} (\partial H_g \cap \partial B)$  consists of

three disks  $D'_1, D'_2, D'_3$  and  $D'_i$  is parallel to  $D_j$  for some  $1 \le j \le 3g-3$  in  $H_g$ (*i*=1, 2, 3). Let  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$  be mutually disjoint simple closed curves on  $\partial H_g$ . We may assume each component of  $(D_i \times [0, 1]) \cap C_j$  is an essential arc on  $\partial D_i \times [0, 1]$ . We say that  $C = \bigcup_{i=1}^n C_i$  is full with respect to  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{3g-3}$  if for any component B of  $H_g - \bigcup_{i=1}^{3g-3} (D_i \times (0, 1))$ , C satisfies the following conditions (1), (2);

- (1) each component of  $C \cap \partial B$  is an arc connecting  $D'_i$  and  $D'_j$  for  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $i \neq j$ .
- (2) for any pair of  $D'_i$  and  $D'_j(i \neq j$ , and  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ ), there is a sub arc a of C on  $\partial B$  connecting  $D'_i$  and  $D'_j$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** ([3, Lemma 6.1]). Let  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$  be a set of mutually disjoint simple closed curves on  $\partial H_g$ . If there exists a set of mutually disjoint non-parallel compressing disks  $\{D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{3g-3}\}$  of  $H_g$  such that  $C = \bigcup_{i=1}^n C_i$  is full with respect to  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{3g-3}$ , then  $\partial H_g - C$  is incompressible in  $H_g$ .

Let N be a  $\partial$ -irreducible 3-manifold with boundary and  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$  a set of mutually disjoint non-parallel simple closed curves such that  $\partial N - \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$ is incompressible in N. We consider a manifold M which is obtained from N by attaching 2-handles along  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$ . In the case that n=1, M is  $\partial$ irreducible by [1], [3], or [6]. But in general cases, M may not be  $\partial$ -irreducible. The following Lemma 3.5 gives a sufficient condition for M to be  $\partial$ -irreducible.

Let C be a simple closed curve on a surface F and a an arc on F with  $a \cap C = \partial a$ . We say that a is an inessential arc relative to C if there exists a disk D on F such that  $\partial D = a \cup b$  with  $b \subset C$ . If a is not an inessential arc relative to C, then we say that a is an essential arc relative to C.

**Lemma 3.5.** Let  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$   $(n \ge 1)$  be a set of mutually disjoint simple closed curves on  $\partial N$ . Suppose that there exists a set of mutually disjoint properly embedded disks  $\{D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n\}$  which satisfies the following conditions (1)-(3);

- (1) each component of  $N \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} (D_i \times (0, 1))$  is  $\partial$ -irreducible,
- (2) if  $i \neq j$ , then  $D_i \cap C_j = \emptyset$ ,
- (3) if i=j, then #(D<sub>i</sub> ∩ C<sub>j</sub>)=2, the algebraic intersection number of ∂D<sub>i</sub> and C<sub>j</sub> on ∂N is 0, and each component of C<sub>i</sub>−(C<sub>i</sub> ∩ ∂D<sub>i</sub>) is an essential arc relative to ∂D<sub>i</sub>.

Then the manifold M which is obtained from N by attaching 2-handles along  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$  is  $\partial$ -irreducible.

Proof. Put  $\overline{D} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} D_i$  and  $\overline{C} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i$ . Let  $\overline{D} \times [0, 1]$  be a regular neighborhood of  $\overline{D}$ . We may assume that each component of  $(\partial \overline{D} \times [0, 1]) \cap \overline{C}$ is an essential arc on a component of  $\partial \overline{D} \times [0, 1]$ . Let N' be a component of  $N - (\overline{D} \times (0, 1))$ . We abbreviate  $D_i \times \{0\}$  and  $D_i \times \{1\}$  on  $\partial N'$  to  $D_i$  for simplicity. Then  $\partial N'$  is a union of some  $D_i$ 's and  $N' \cap \partial N$ . **Claim 3.6.** Let a be a component of  $C_i - (C_i \cap (D_i \times (0, 1)))$  and N' the component of  $N - (\overline{D} \times (0, 1))$  which contains a. Then a is an essential arc relative to  $\partial D_i$  on  $\partial N'$ .

Proof. Note that since  $\operatorname{Int}_{\partial N}[\partial D_i, C_i]=0$ ,  $\partial a$  is contained in one component of  $\partial N' - \partial N$ . Assume that a is an inessential arc relative to  $\partial D_i$  on  $\partial N'$ . Then  $a \cup b$  ( $b \subset \partial D_i$ ) bounds a disk D on  $\partial N'$ . We may assume  $a \cup b$  is an "innermost" curve on  $\partial N'$ , i.e. D does not contain any other  $D_j$ . Hence D is contained in  $\partial N' \cap \partial N$  and a is an inessential arc relative to  $\partial D_i$  on  $\partial N$ . It contradicts to the condition (3). Therefore a is an essential arc relative to  $\partial D_i$  on  $\partial N'$ .

This completes the proof of Claim 3.6.

We say that a closed curve J on  $\partial N$  is  $\overline{C}$ -inessential if J bounds a disk on  $\partial N$  or J and some components of  $\overline{C}$  bounds a planar surface on  $\partial N$ . If J is not  $\overline{C}$ -inessential, we say that J is C-essential.

Suppose that M is not  $\partial$ -irreducible, i.e. there exists an essential sphere or a disk F in M. By standard innermost circle and outermost arc arguments, we may assume that F intersects the 2-handles in horizontal disks. Hence  $S=F\cap N$  is a planar surface such that at most one component of  $\partial S$  is a  $\overline{C}$ essential curve and other components are parallel to a component of  $\overline{C}$ . We will prove that there does not exist such a planar surface S.

The next claim gives a proof of this assertion in a very special case (the case of S a disk).

## **Claim 3.7.** There does not exist a disk S such that $\partial S$ is $\overline{C}$ -essential.

Proof. Assume that there exists such a disk S. We suppose that  $\sharp(S \cap \overline{D})$  is minimal over all such disks. Suppose that  $\sharp(S \cap \overline{D}) \ge 1$ . Then there is an outermost arc a on S and an outermost disk D on S such that  $\partial D = a \cup b, b \subset \partial S$ . Let  $D_i (1 \le i \le n)$  be the disk which contains a and N' the component of  $N - (\overline{D} \times (0, 1))$  which contains D. By the  $\partial$ -irreducibility of N', there exists a 3-ball B in N' such that  $\partial B = D \cup D' \cup D'_i$ , where  $D' \subset \partial N' \cap \partial N$  and  $D'_i \subset D_i$ . By Claim 3.6, D' does not intersect  $\overline{C}$ . Hence by using B, we can obtain a disk S' such that  $\partial S'$  is  $\overline{C}$ -essential and  $\sharp(S' \cap \overline{D}) < \sharp(S \cap \overline{D})$ , a contradiction.

Hence  $\sharp(S \cap \overline{D}) = 0$ . Then S is contained in a component N' of  $N - (\overline{D} \times (0, 1))$ . Since N' is  $\partial$ -irreducible, there is a disk E on  $\partial N'$  such that  $\partial E = \partial S$  and E contains some  $D_i$ 's. Then a component d of  $C_i - (\partial D_i \times (0, 1))$  intersects E. By Claim 3.6, d is an essential arc relative to  $D_i$  on N'. Hence d intersects  $\partial E = \partial S$ . It contradicts the choice of S. Hence there does not exist a disk in N whose boundary is  $\overline{C}$ -essential.

This completes the proof of Claim 3.7.

By Claim 3,7, if there exists such a planar surface S, then  $\#(\partial S) \ge 2$  and

 $\partial S \cap \overline{D} \neq \emptyset$ . Let S be a planar surface in N such that at most one component J of  $\partial S$  is  $\overline{C}$ -essential, and that each component J' of  $\partial S - J$  is parallel to a component  $C_i$  of  $\overline{C}$ . We assume that  $\#(S \cap \overline{D})$  is minimal over all such planar surfaces. Let J be a component of  $\partial S$  (if exists) which is  $\overline{C}$ -essential and  $D_i$  a component of  $\overline{D}$  intersecting  $\partial S - J$ . Let  $K_1, K_2, \dots, K_n$  be the components of  $\partial S - J$  which are parallel to  $C_i$  and we suppose that  $K_1, K_2, \dots, K_n$  are contained in  $N_{\partial N}(C_i)$  in this order. Since each component of  $N - (\overline{D} \times (0, 1))$  is  $\partial$ -irreducible, by using standard innermost circle and outermost arc arguments, we may assume  $S \cap D_i$  consists of arcs. Let a be an outermost arc of  $S \cap D_i$  on  $D_i$  and D an outermost disk on  $D_i$  with  $D \cap S = a$ . Put  $\partial a = p_1 \cup p_2$ . Then we have the following four possible cases.

- (a) Both  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are on J.
- (b)  $p_1 \in J$  and  $p_2 \in \partial S J$ .
- (c)  $p_1 \in K_j$  and  $p_2 \in K_{j+1} (1 \le j \le n-1)$ .
- (d)  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are on the same component  $K (=K_1 \text{ or } K_n)$  of  $\partial S J$ .

Let  $S' = (S \cup D \times [0, 1]) - D \times (0, 1)$ . Then S' is a planar surface. In Case (a), S' has two components, at least one component S'' of S' has a  $\overline{C}$ -essential curve in  $\partial S''$  and  $\#(S'' \cap \overline{D}) < \#(S \cap \overline{D})$ . It contradicts the choice of S. In Case (b), clearly a component of S' is  $\overline{C}$ -essential and  $\#(S' \cap \overline{D}) < \#(S \cap \overline{D})$ , a contradiction. In case (c),  $\partial S'$  has a component  $L = (K_j \cup K_{j+1} \cup b \times [0, 1]) - b \times (0, 1)$ , where  $b = \partial D - a$ . L bounds a disk B on  $\partial N$ . By capping off S' by B and pushing B into N, we obtain a planar surface S'' such that  $\#(S'' \cap \overline{D}) < \#(S \cap \overline{D})$ , a contradiction. In Case (d), S' consists of two components. Let S'' be a component of S' which does not contain J. Let J' be a component of  $\partial S''$  which consists of a subarc of K and a copy of  $\partial D - a$ .

## Claim 3.8. J' is $\overline{C}$ -essential.

Proof. Assume that J' is  $\overline{C}$ -inessential. If J' bounds a disk D on  $\partial N$ , then a subarc of K is an inessential arc relative to  $\partial D_i$ . It contradicts the condition (3). Hence J' bounds a planar surface P on  $\partial N$  with some  $C_j$ 's, say  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_l$ . Note that  $J' \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^n \partial D_i) = \emptyset$ . By conditions (2) and (3), for  $j=1, 2, \dots, l$ , a subarc of  $\partial D_j$ ,  $d_j$  is contained in P and  $d_j$  is an essential arc relative to  $C_j$ . Hence  $P - \bigcup_{i=1}^l d_j$  consists of l components  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_l$  and for each  $j=1, 2, \dots, l, \dots, l, \chi(P_j) \leq 0$ . But  $1 - l = \chi(P) = \sum_{j=1}^l \chi(P_j) - l \leq -l$ , a contradiction.

This completes the proof of Claim 3.8.

By Claim 3.8 and the fact  $\#(S'' \cap \overline{D}) < \#(S \cap \overline{D})$ , we have a contradiction.

Hence in any cases it contradicts the choice of S. Therefore  $M=N\cup_{\overline{c}}$  $(D^2\times I)$  is  $\partial$ -irreducible.

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.5.

## 4. Proof of Theorem 2

Proof of Theorem 2. We consider the following two cases and construct a 3-manifold M and incompressible surfaces  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in M which satisfy the conditions in Theorem 2:

- (I)  $n_1 = n_2 \geq 2$ .
- (II)  $n_1 > n_2 \ge 2$ .

Case (I)  $n_1 = n_2 \ge 2$ .

We put  $n=n_1=n_2$ . Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be handlebodies with  $g(H_i)=n$  (i=1,2)and  $C_{i,1}, C_{i,2}, \dots, C_{i,n+1}$  simple closed curves on  $\partial H_i$  as indicated in Figure 4.1 (a) (in Figure 4.1, n=4). For each  $C_{i,j}$ , we consider a simple closed curve  $C'_{i,j}$ in  $H_i$  such that there exists an embedded annulus A and  $\partial A = C_{i,j} \cup C'_{i,j}$ .  $C'_{i,j}$ is a pushed  $C_{i,j}$  in the sense of Section 3. Let  $F_{i,2}$  be a properly embedded surface in  $H_i$  with  $F_{i,2} \cap (\bigcup_{j=1}^{n} C_{i,j}) = \emptyset$  (i=1,2) as indicated in Fugure 4.1 (b).  $F_{1,2}(F_{2,2}, \text{ resp.})$  consists of [(n+1)/2] ([n/2], resp.) components, where [x] is the greatest integer which is less than or equal to x.

Put  $M=H'_1 \cup_f H'_2$ , where  $H'_i$  is obtained from  $H_i$  by performing 2-surgery on  $C'_{i,j}$  (; pushed  $C_{i,j}$ ),  $(i=1, 2, j=1, 2, \dots, n+1)$ , and f is a homeomorphism of  $\partial H'_2$  to  $\partial H'_1$  such that  $f(\partial F_{2,2})=\partial F_{1,2}$  and  $f^{-1}(C_{1,2k+1})$  and  $f(C_{2,2k})$   $(k=1, 2, \dots, [n/2])$  are as indicated in Figure 4.1 (c).



Fig 4.1. (b)

CUT-AND-PASTES OF INCOMPRESSIBLE SURFACES



Then M is an orientable closed 3-manifold,  $F_1 = \partial H'_1$  and  $F_2 = F_{1,2} \cup F_{2,2}$  are embedded surfaces of genus n, and  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  intersect transversely.

For any orientation of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ , an OCP operation produces two genus n surfaces or two genus two surfaces and n-2 genus three surfaces. In both cases, these surfaces bound handlebodies. Let  $L_i(i=1, 2, \dots, n)$  be a closure of a component of  $H_j - F_{j,2}$  ( $j \equiv i \mod 2$ ) which contains  $C'_{j,i}$ . And let  $L'_i$  be a manifold which is obtained form  $L_i$  by 2-surgery on  $C'_{j,i}$ . Then  $L'_1(L'_n, \operatorname{resp.})$  has a compressing disk  $D_1(D_n, \operatorname{resp.})$  and  $L'_i$  ( $i=2, 3, \dots, n-1$ ) has compressing disks  $D_{i,1}$  and  $D_{i,2}$  which are indicated in Figure 4.2.



Note that  $L'_i$  (i=1, 2, ..., n) is a handlebody and  $L'_i - D_i \times (0, 1)$  (i=1, n) and  $L'_i - \bigcup_{i=1}^2 (D_{i,i} \times (0, 1))$  (i=2, 3, ..., n-1) are solid tori. Suppose that F is a surface which is obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by a CP operation which cannot be realized by an OCP operation. Then each component of F bounds a handlebody  $L'_i$  or a manifold which is homeomrophic to  $\tilde{L} = \bigcup_{i=n}^k L'_i \cup (\bigcup_{j=n}^{k-1} N(L'_j \cap L'_{j+1}))$   $(1 \le h < k \le n, \text{ if } h=1 \ (k=n, \text{ resp.})$  then  $k < n \ (1 < h, \text{ resp.})$ . If  $1 < h < k < n \ (1 < h, \text{ resp.})$ .

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n, then for  $l=1, 2, \tilde{D}_i = (\bigcup_{i=k}^{k} D_{i,l}) \cup (\bigcup_{j=k}^{k-1} E_{i,l})$ , where  $E_{i,l}$  is a meridional disk of  $N(L'_i \cap L'_{i+1})$  such that  $N(L'_i \cap L'_{i+1}) \cap (D_{i,l} \cup D_{i+1,l}) \subset E_{i,l}$ , is a compressing disk of  $\tilde{L}$ . And we can see that  $\tilde{L} - (\bigcup_{i=1}^{2} \tilde{D}_i \times (0, 1))$  is obtained from solid tori  $L'_j - \bigcup_{i=1}^{2} (D_{j,l} \times (0, 1)) (j=h, h+1, \cdots, k)$  by identifying disks on boundaries of these solid tori. Hence  $\tilde{L}$  is a handlebody. If h=1 (k=n, resp.),  $\tilde{D}=D_1 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{2} ((\bigcup_{i=1}^{k} D_{j,l}) \cup U_{i,1}) \cup (D_{i,1}) \cup (\bigcup_{i=1}^{k-1} E_{i,l})) (= \bigcup_{i=1}^{2} ((\bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} D_{j,l}) \cup E_{j,l}) \cup D_n$ , resp.)  $(D_{i,1}=D_{i,2}=D_i)$ for i=1, 2 is a compressing disk of  $\tilde{L}$ . And  $\tilde{L}-\tilde{D} \times (0, 1)$  is obtained from solid tori  $L'_1 - D_1 \times (0, 1) (L'_n - D_n \times (0, 1), \text{ resp.})$  and  $L'_j - \bigcup_{i=1}^{2} D_{i,l} \times (0, 1) (j=2, 3, \dots, k, j=h, h+1, \dots, n-1, \text{ resp.})$  by identifying disks on boundaries of these solid tori. Hence  $\tilde{L}$  is a handlebody.

Therefore any surface obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by a CP operation bounds handlebodies.

We will prove the incompressibility of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . For the incompressibility of  $F_1$ , note that  $\bigcup_{j=1}^{n+1} C_{i,j}$  is full with respect to a set of compressing disks of  $H_i$  which are indicated in Figure 4.1 (a). Hence by Lemmas 3.2 and 3.4,  $\partial H'_i$  is incompressible in  $H'_i$  (i=1, 2), and  $F_1$  is incompressible in M.

Note that we can regard  $L_i$  as  $F' \times [0, 1]/\{(x, t) \sim (x, t') | x \in \partial F', t, t' \in [0, 1]\}$ , where  $F' = F_1 \cap L_i$ , and  $F' \times 1 = F_{j,2} \cap L_i$   $(j \equiv i \mod 2)$ . Let  $M_1$  be the closure of the component of  $M - F_2$  which contains  $C_{1,2}$ . Then by the above fact,  $M_1$  is obtained from a handlebody  $V = (H_1 - \bigcup_{k=1}^{[n+1/2]} L_{2k-1}) \cup (\bigcup_{k=1}^{[2/n]} L_{2k})$  by 2-surgeries on  $C'_{1,2k}$ , pushed  $C''_{2,2k}$  (i.e.  $C'_{2,2k}$ )  $(1 \le k \le [n/2])$  and  $C'_{1,n+1}$  as indicated in Fugure 4.3.



Fig 4.3.

By the same way as the above, the closure  $M_2$  of the other component of  $M-F_2$  is also obtained from a handlebody of genus n by 2-surgeries on such closed curves. We consider the following two cases:

(a) n=2.

(b)  $n \ge 3$ .

(a) n=2. Since  $M_2$  is homeomorphic to  $M_1$ , it is enough to prove the incompressibility of  $F_2$  in  $M_1$ .

We use Lemma 3.1. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1(M_1) &= \langle a, b, c, d, e, f | c^2 a b = 1, d^2 b = 1, e^2 b c d b (cd)^2 = 1, f = d^{-2} c d \rangle, \\ &= \langle d, e, f | e^2 f^2 d^2 f = 1 \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where a, b, c, d, e are represented by curves which are indicated in Figure 4.4.



Fig 4.4.

Let  $r=e^2f^2d^2f$ . We have a representation curve C of r on a handlebody V as indicated in Figure 4.5.



C is full with respect to a set of compressing disks whose boundaries are indicated in Figure 4.5. Hence by Lemma 3.4,  $\partial H - C$  is incompressible in H and by Lemma 3.1,  $\pi_1(M_1)$  is not a free product group or a cyclic group. Therefore  $F_2$  is incompressible in  $M_1$ .

(b)  $n \ge 3$ . We prove the incompressibility of  $F_2$  in  $M_1$ .

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We use Lemma 3.2. Recall that  $M_1$  is obtained from a handlebody V by 2-surgeries on  $C'_{1,2k}$ , pushed  $C'_{2,2k}(1 \le k \le \lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$  and  $C'_{1,n+1}$ . Note that a manifold V' which is obtained from V by 2-surgeries on  $C'_{1,2k}(1 \le k \le \lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$  and  $C'_{1,n+1}$  is a handlebody. Hence we may regard that  $M_1$  is obtained from the handlebody V' by 2-surgeries on pushed  $C'_{2,2k}(1 \le k \le \lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$ . We consider a set of compressing disks  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{3n-3}$  of V' such that  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{n-1}$  separates H' into  $\lfloor n/2+1 \rfloor$  solid tori and each of which contains  $C'_{1,j}$ . See Figure 4.6.



Fig 4.6.

Then we can check that  $\bigcup_{k=1}^{[n/2]} C'_{2,2k}$  is full with respect to  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{3n-3}$ . Hence by Lemmas 3.2 and 3.4,  $F_2$  is incompressible in  $M_1$ .

We can prove the incompressibility of  $F_2$  in  $M_2$  in the same way as the above. This completes the proof of Case (I).

Case (II)  $n_1 > n_2 \ge 2$ .

Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be handlebodies of genus  $n_1$ . We consider n+1 surgery



#### Fig 4.7. (a)

curves as in the proof of Case (I) and properly embedded surfaces  $F_{i,2}$  in  $H_1$ and  $H_2$  as indicated in Figure 4.7 (a). Put  $M=H'_1 \cup_f H'_2$ . Here  $H'_i$  is obtained from  $H_i$  (i=1, 2) by performing 2-surgeries on those curves and f is a homeomorphism of  $\partial H'_2$  to  $\partial H'_1$  such that

- (1)  $f(\partial F_{2,2}) = \partial F_{1,2}$ ,
- (2)  $f^{-1}(C_{1,j})$   $(j \equiv 1 \mod 2, 1 \le j \le n_2 1 \text{ or } j = n_1)$  and  $f(C_{2,k})$   $(k \equiv 2 \mod 2, 2 \le k \le n_2 1 \text{ or } k = n_1)$  are as indicated in Figure 4.7 (b),
- (3)  $f(C_{2,i})$   $(i=n_2, n_2+1, \dots, n_1-1)$  is parallel to  $C_{1,i}$ .

(In Figure 4.7.  $n_1 = 6$  and  $n_2 = 4$ .)



Fig 4.7. (b)

Then M is an orientable closed 3-manifold, and  $F_1 = \partial H'_1$  and  $F_2 = F_{1,2} \cup F_{2,2}$  are properly embedded surfaces such that  $g(F_1) = n_1$  and  $g(F_2) = n_2$ .

In the same way as in the proof of Case (I), we can prove that for any surface F obtained from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  by CP operations, each component of F bounds a handlebody, and  $F_1$  is incompressible in M.

We will prove the incompressibility of  $F_2$  in M. Let  $M_1$  be a closure of a component of  $M-F_2$  which does not contain  $C_{1,n_2}$ . Then  $M_1$  is the same manifold as obtained in the proof of Case (I). Hence  $F_2$  is incompressible in  $M_1$ .

Let L be the closure of a component of  $H_i - F_{i,2}$   $(i \equiv n_2 \mod 2)$  which contains  $C'_{i,n_2}$ . We consider properly embedded arcs  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m(m=n_1-n_2)$  in L as indicated in Figure 4.7 (a). Let  $N_L(a_i)=a_i \times D^2$ . Then  $L - \bigcup_{i=1}^m a_i \times \operatorname{Int} D^2$ has a form  $F' \times [0, 1]/\{(x, t) \sim (x, t') | x \in \partial F', t, t' \in [0, 1]\}$ , where  $F' = F_1 \cap L$ . Using this fact, we can see that  $M_2$  is obtained from handlebody V of genus  $n_2$ by performing 2-surgeries on closed curves indicated in Figure 4.8, and by attaching 2-handles  $N_L(a_i)=a_i \times D^2$   $(i=1, 2, \dots, m)$  so that  $a'_i=p_i \times \partial D^2$   $(p_i \in a_i)$  is identified with such curves as that indicated in Figure 4.8.

Consider properly embedded disks  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_m$  as indicated in Figure 4.8. Then the closure of each component of  $M_2 - \bigcup_{i=1}^m D_i$  is a manifold which is obtained from solid torus by performing 2-surgeries on two parallel curves which



Fig 4.8.

are parallel to a core of solid torus, or the same manifold as that was obtained in the proof of Case (I). In both cases the manifolds are  $\partial$ -irreducible. Hence  $a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_m$  and  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_m$  satisfy the assumption of Lemma 3.5. Therefore  $M_2$  is  $\partial$ -irreducible and  $F_2$  is incompressible in  $M_2$ .

Hence  $F_2$  is incompressible in M, completing the proof of Case (II). This completes the proof of Theorem 2.

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