Contents

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction: The Main Problem xiii

Chapter 0. Prequel 1

§0.1. More definitions and notation 1

§0.2. The Seifert-van Kampen Theorem 3

§0.3. The ultimate duality theorem 6

§0.4. The Vietoris-Begle Theorem 9

§0.5. Higher homotopy groups 9

§0.6. Absolute neighborhood retracts 12

§0.7. Dimension theory 14

§0.8. The Hurewicz Isomorphism Theorem and its localization 16

§0.9. The Whitehead Theorem 17

§0.10. Acyclic complexes and contractible manifolds 17

§0.11. The 2-dimensional PL Schönflies Theorem 19

Chapter 1. Tame and Knotted Embeddings 23

§1.1. Knotted and flat piecewise linear embeddings 23

§1.2. Tame and locally flat topological embeddings 29

§1.3. Local co-connectedness properties 30

§1.4. Suspending and spinning 35

Chapter 2. Wild and Flat Embeddings 41
§2.1. Antoine's necklace and Alexander's horned sphere 41
§2.2. Function spaces 53
§2.3. Shrinkable decompositions and the Bing shrinking criterion 55
§2.4. Cellular sets and the Generalized Schönflies Theorem 59
§2.5. The Klee trick 66
§2.6. The product of $\mathbb{R}^1$ with an arc decomposition 67
§2.7. Everywhere wild cells and spheres 73
§2.8. Miscellaneous examples of wild embeddings 75
§2.9. Embeddings that are piecewise linear modulo one point 91

Chapter 3. Engulfing, Cellularity, and Embedding Dimension 97
§3.1. Engulfing without control 98
§3.2. Application: The cellularity criterion 106
§3.3. Engulfing with control 114
§3.4. Application: Embedding dimension 123
§3.5. Embeddings of Menger continua 130
§3.6. Embedding dimension and Hausdorff dimension 136

Chapter 4. Trivial-range Embeddings 145
§4.1. Unknotting PL embeddings of polyhedra 146
§4.2. Spaces of embeddings and taming of polyhedra 152
§4.3. Taming 1-LCC embeddings of polyhedra 159
§4.4. Unknotting 1-LCC embeddings of compacta 161
§4.5. Chart-by-chart analysis of topological manifolds 162
§4.6. Detecting 1-LCC embeddings 163
§4.7. More wild embeddings 169
§4.8. Even more wild embeddings 172

Chapter 5. Codimension-three Embeddings 181
§5.1. Constructing PL embeddings of polyhedra 182
§5.2. Constructing PL embeddings of manifolds 190
§5.3. Unknotting PL embeddings of manifolds 196
§5.4. Unknotting PL embeddings of polyhedra 211
§5.5. 1-LCC approximation of embeddings of compacta 227
§5.6. PL approximation of embeddings of manifolds 243
§5.7. Taming 1-LCC embeddings of polyhedra 261
§5.8. PL approximation of embeddings of polyhedra 263

Chapter 6. Codimension-two Embeddings 273
§6.1. Piecewise linear knotting and algebraic unknotting 274
§6.2. Topological flattening and algebraic knotting 283
§6.3. Local flatness and local homotopy properties 293
§6.4. The homology of an infinite cyclic cover 298
§6.5. Properties of the Alexander polynomial 311
§6.6. A topological embedding that cannot be approximated by PL embeddings 325
§6.7. A homotopy equivalence that is not homotopic to an embedding 334
§6.8. Disk bundle neighborhoods and taming 346

Chapter 7. Codimension-one Embeddings 349
§7.1. Codimension-one separation properties 350
§7.2. The 1-LCC characterization of local flatness for collared embeddings 353
§7.3. Unknotting close 1-LCC embeddings of manifolds 358
§7.4. The Cell-like Approximation Theorem 366
§7.5. Determining n-cells by embeddings of M_n^{n-1} in S^n 371
§7.6. The 1-LCC characterization of local flatness 377
§7.7. Locally flat approximations 382
§7.8. Kirby-Siebenmann obstruction theory 402
§7.9. Detecting 1-LCC embeddings 403
§7.10. Sewings of crumpled n-cubes 410
§7.11. Wild examples and mapping cylinder neighborhoods 417

Chapter 8. Codimension-zero Embeddings 425
§8.1. Manifold characterizations 425
§8.2. The α- and β-Approximation Theorems 427
§8.3. Ends of manifolds 427
§8.4. Ends of maps 432
§8.5. Quinn's obstruction and the topological characterization of manifolds 435
§8.6. Exotic homology manifolds 437
§8.7. Homotopy tori are tori 439
§8.8. Approximating stable homeomorphisms of $\mathbb{R}^n$ by PL homeomorphisms 439

§8.9. Rigidity: Homotopy equivalence implies homeomorphism 442
§8.10. Simplicial triangulations 443

Bibliography 445

Selected Symbols and Abbreviations 461

Index 463