

# PLANE PEANIAN CONTINUA WITH UNIQUE MAPS ON THE SPHERE AND IN THE PLANE\*

BY

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## INTRODUCTION

The plane peanian continuum<sup>†</sup>  $M$  is said to have a unique map on a spherical surface (or a plane) if, and only if, for any topological image  $M'$  of  $M$  on a sphere (or plane)  $S'$  and any topological image  $M''$  of  $M$  on a sphere (or plane)  $S''$ , every homeomorphism of  $M'$  into  $M''$  can be extended to a homeomorphism of  $S'$  into  $S''$ .

It is the purpose of this paper to characterize the plane peanian continua that have unique maps on the sphere or in the plane.<sup>‡</sup>

**DEFINITIONS.** The simple closed curve  $J$  of a cyclicly connected continuum  $C$  is called a *bounding circuit* of  $C$  provided that for any two maximal connected components  $H$  and  $K$  of  $C - J$  the sets  $\overline{H} \cdot J$  and  $\overline{K} \cdot J$  lie respectively on two distinct arcs  $AXB$  and  $AYB$  of  $J$ .§

A *split circuit* is a bounding circuit  $J$  such that  $C - J$  contains at least two components.

If  $C$  is cyclicly connected, then  $C$  is *triply connected* if, and only if, it is impossible to express  $C$  as the sum of two closed connected sets  $A$  and  $B$  such that neither  $A$  nor  $B$  is an arc and the set  $A \cdot B$  consists of two distinct points of  $C$ .||

Theorems IV and V state the principal results of this paper.

**THEOREM IV.** *The plane peanian continuum  $M$  has a unique map on the sphere if, and only if, one of the following conditions holds:*

\* Presented to the Society, September 9, 1937; received by the editors July 22, 1937.

† A plane peanian continuum is a peanian continuum (continuous curve) that has a map (topological image) in the plane or on the sphere. For a characterization of these continua see W. S. Claytor, *Topological immersion of peanian continua in a spherical surface*, Annals of Mathematics, vol. 35 (1934), pp. 809–835. See also Claytor, *Peanian continua not imbeddable in a spherical surface*, ibid., vol. 38 (1937), pp. 631–646.

‡ This problem was suggested by J. R. Kline. The author also wishes to express his appreciation of suggestions by Saunders MacLane which have led to improvements in this paper.

§ For cyclicly connected continua *bounding circuit* is equivalent to *boundary curve* as defined by Claytor, loc. cit., first paper, p. 809. A simple closed curve  $J$  of  $M$  is called a boundary curve of  $M$  provided that there do not exist in  $M - J$  distinct components  $H$  and  $K$  such that (1) a point pair of  $\overline{H} \cdot J$  separates a point pair of  $\overline{K} \cdot J$  on  $J$ , or (2)  $\overline{H} \cdot J = \overline{K} \cdot J$  = three distinct points. Both definitions will be found useful in later proofs.

|| Cf. definition of triply connected graphs, H. Whitney, *Congruent graphs and the connectivity of graphs*, American Journal of Mathematics, vol. 54 (1932), p. 158.

(1)  $M$  is acyclic and consists of either a simple arc or a triod.\*

(2)  $M$  contains one cyclic element  $C^\dagger$  which is a maximal triply connected cyclic curve of  $M$ , and  $M - C$  consists of at most a countable number of arcs,  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$ , such that  $\bar{a}_i \cdot \bar{a}_j = 0$ , ( $i \neq j$ ), and each  $\bar{a}_i \cdot C$  is a single point which lies on only one bounding circuit of  $C$ , $^\ddagger$  provided that if  $C$  is a simple closed curve, then  $M - C$  is at most a simple arc.

THEOREM V. The plane bounded peanian continuum  $M$  has a unique map in the plane if, and only if,  $M$  is one of the following curves:

(1) a simple arc,

(2) a triod,

(3) a simple closed curve,

(4) a curve  $M$  such that  $M$  contains a closed 2-cell  $C$  and  $M - C$  consists of at most a countable number of arcs  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$ , such that  $\bar{a}_i \cdot \bar{a}_j = 0$ , ( $i \neq j$ ), and each  $\bar{a}_i \cdot C$  is a single point which lies on the only bounding circuit of  $C$ . $^\S$

#### PRELIMINARY THEOREMS

THEOREM I. The plane cyclic (cyclicly connected) peanian continuum  $C$  is triply connected if, and only if,  $C$  contains no split circuit.

THEOREM II. The plane cyclic peanian continuum  $C$  has a unique map on the sphere if, and only if,  $C$  is triply connected.

COROLLARY 1. If  $J$  is a bounding circuit of  $C$  which is not a split circuit, then in every map of  $C$  on the sphere (or plane) the image of  $J$  is the boundary of a complementary domain of the map of  $C$ .

COROLLARY 2. If  $J$  is a split circuit of  $C$  there is some map of  $C$  on the sphere (or plane) in which the image of  $J$  is the boundary of a complementary domain of the map of  $C$ . $||$

DEFINITION. The point  $p$  of  $M$  is a *split-point* of  $M$ , if and only if,  $M$  can be expressed as the sum of two closed connected sets  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $A \cdot B = p$ , and such that if  $A$  or  $B$  is an arc, then  $p$  is not an end point of that arc.

THEOREM III. If the plane peanian continuum  $M$  has a unique map on the sphere or in the plane, then  $M$  does not contain a split-point.

\* Three arcs  $PA, PB, PC$  with  $P$ , and only  $P$ , common to any two.

$^\dagger$  G. T. Whyburn, *Concerning the structure of a continuous curve*, American Journal of Mathematics, vol. 50 (1928), p. 168.

$^\ddagger$  Each point  $\bar{a}_i \cdot C$  is a non-local cut-point of  $C$ . See Theorem VI and the alternative statement of Theorem IV at the end of this paper.

$^\S$  See Claytor. loc. cit., p. 810, Corollary (C).

$||$  This is a generalization of Proposition K, Claytor, loc. cit., first paper, p. 828.

## PROOFS OF THEOREMS I-V

**Proof of Theorem I.** Let  $C$  be a map of the given curve on a plane  $S$ , and suppose  $C$  not triply connected. There exist two points  $p$  and  $q$  of  $C$  such that  $C = A + B$  and  $A \cdot B = p + q$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are closed connected sets neither of which is an arc. Let  $r$  be a point of  $A - p - q$  and  $s$  a point of  $B - p - q$ . Then on any arc  $rxs$  lying in  $S - p - q$  there is a last point of  $A$  from  $r$  to  $s$  and a first point of  $B$ . Let these points be  $r$  and  $s$  respectively. The open arc  $\langle rxs \rangle$  lies in a domain  $R$  complementary to  $C$  with boundary  $J \supset r + s$ . Hence this circuit  $J$  must pass through  $p$  and  $q$ . But since neither  $A$  nor  $B$  is an arc there must exist at least two components of  $C - J$ ; one in  $A - A \cdot J$  and one in  $B - B \cdot J$ . Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be any two components of  $C - J$ . Then two points of  $\overline{N_1} \cdot J$  cannot separate two points of  $\overline{N_2} \cdot J$  on  $J$ . For  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are connected sets lying in  $S - \overline{R}$  and cannot intersect. If  $\overline{N_1} \cdot J = \overline{N_2} \cdot J =$  three points, then  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  must intersect; this is impossible. Therefore, since  $C - J$  contains at least two components,  $J$  is a split circuit.

Now assume that  $C$  contains a split circuit  $J$ . There is a component  $N_1$  of  $C - J$  with limit points all on the arc  $gxh$  of  $J$  and a component  $N_2$  with limit points all on the arc  $gyh = J - \langle gxh \rangle$ . The arc  $gxh$  may be chosen so that  $g$  and  $h$  are points of  $\overline{N_1} \cdot J$ . Now every component of  $C - J$  must have its limit points in either  $gxh$  or  $gyh$ . For suppose some component  $N$  of  $C - J$  has a limit point  $d$  in  $\langle gxh \rangle$  and a limit point  $e$  in  $\langle gyh \rangle$ . Every arc of  $J$  containing  $d$  and  $e$  will necessarily contain either  $g$  or  $h$ , limit points of  $N_1$  which separate  $d$  and  $e$  on  $J$ . But this contradicts the fact that  $J$  is a split circuit.

Now let  $A = gxh + N_1$  plus all components of  $C - J$  (different from  $N_2$ ) with limit points on  $gxh$ , and let  $B = gyh + N_2$  plus all components of  $C - J$  not included in  $A$ . Then  $C = A + B$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are closed connected subsets of  $C$ ; neither  $A$  nor  $B$  is a simple arc; and  $A \cdot B = g + h$ . Therefore  $C$  is not triply connected. This completes the proof of Theorem I.

**Proof of Theorem II.** Suppose  $C$  is triply connected. Then every bounding circuit of  $C$  has an image which is a c.d.b.\* In every map of  $C$ . For let  $C'$  be any map of  $C$  on a sphere  $S'$ , and  $J'$  any bounding circuit of  $C'$ . If  $C'$  does not consist of a simple closed curve, then there is one, and only one, component of  $C' - J'$  (Theorem I), and this component must lie entirely in one of the regions of  $S'$  bounded by  $J'$ . The other region of  $S'$  bounded by  $J'$  must be a complementary domain of  $C'$ . Obviously every c.d.b. of  $C'$  is also a bounding circuit of  $C$ .

Therefore if  $C'$  is a map of  $C$  on a sphere  $S'$  and  $C''$  a map of  $C$  on  $S''$ , every homeomorphism of  $C'$  into  $C''$  must preserve complementary domain

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\* "Complementary domain boundary" will be abbreviated "c.d.b."

boundaries and is extendable to  $S'$  and  $S''$ .<sup>\*</sup> Hence  $C$  has a unique map on the sphere.

Suppose  $C$  is not triply connected. Then  $C$  must contain a split circuit  $J$  (Theorem I). We shall show first that there is a map of  $C$  in which the map of  $J$  is a c.d.b. Let  $C$  be any map of  $C$  on a sphere  $S$  and suppose  $J$  is not a c.d.b. of  $C$ . Let  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be the two regions of  $S$  bounded by  $J$ . Since  $J$  is not a c.d.b. of  $C$  there must exist a component  $N_1$  of  $C - J$  in  $R_1$  and a component  $N_2$  in  $R_2$ . Any two points  $p$  and  $q$  of  $\overline{N_1} \cdot J$  lie on some c.d.b. of  $C$  within  $\overline{R_2}$ . For if every arc from  $p$  to  $q$  lying in  $\overline{R_2}$  contains a point of  $C$ , there would then exist a connected subset of  $C$  lying in  $R_2$  with limit points on  $J$  that separate  $p$  and  $q$ .<sup>†</sup> But such a connected subset would belong to a component of  $C - J$ , and  $J$  would not be a split circuit. Hence  $p$  and  $q$  lie on some c.d.b. within  $\overline{R_2}$ . Furthermore any three points  $p, q, r$  of  $\overline{N_1} \cdot J$  lie on the same c.d.b. of  $C$  within  $\overline{R_2}$ . To show this suppose  $p, q, r$  do not lie on the same c.d.b. within  $\overline{R_2}$ . Then there are three complementary domains of  $C$  in  $\overline{R_2}$  each containing a pair of  $p, q, r$  on its boundary  $J_i$ , ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ). Let  $l, m, n$  be three arcs, one from each of the boundaries  $J_i$  such that  $l + m + n \supset p + q + r$  and bounds a region  $R_3$  which is a subset of  $R_2$  containing no points of  $J_1 + J_2 + J_3$ . This is possible since no two arcs of  $l, m, n$  can have a common point. For if two arcs,  $l, m$  do have a common point (other than an end point) there would exist a component  $N_3 \supset (l + m)$  of  $C - J$  such that  $\overline{N_3} \cdot J$  contains  $p, q, r$ , and since  $\overline{N_1} \cdot J$  contains  $p, q, r$ , the circuit  $J$  would not be a split circuit (definition). Now any two points of  $p, q, r$  lie together on the same c.d.b. of  $C$  within  $\overline{R_3}$ . For if every arc from  $p$  to  $q$  (or to  $r$ ) lying in  $R_3$  contained a point of  $C$ , there would exist, as above, a connected subset of  $C$  lying in  $\overline{R_3}$  and having points on  $l + m + n$  that separate  $p$  and  $q$  on  $l + m + n$ . There would then exist a component  $N_4$  of  $C - J$  such that  $\overline{N_4} \cdot J$  contains  $p, q$ , and  $r$ ; but this is impossible. Now let the circuit  $J_1$  above be the boundary of a domain  $r_1$  complementary to  $C$  and lying in  $R_2$ . Let  $l$  be the arc (of the three  $l, m, n$ ) which lies on  $J_1 \supset p + q$ . Then since  $R_3$  contains no points of  $J_1 + J_2 + J_3$ , the domain  $r_1$  is a subset of  $R_2$ , but not of  $R_3$ , and has  $p$  and  $q$  on its boundary. Let  $r_2$  be a domain complementary to  $C$  which is a subset of  $R_3$  and has  $p$  and  $q$  on its boundary. Now  $R_3$  is not a complementary domain of  $C$  since we are assuming that  $p, q, r$

<sup>\*</sup> V. W. Adkisson, *Cyclicly connected continuous curves whose complementary domain boundaries are homeomorphic, preserving branch points*, Comptes Rendus des Séances de la Société des Sciences et des Lettres de Varsovie, Class 3, vol. 23 (1930), p. 167, Theorem 2. If  $M$  is a cyclicly connected continuous curve lying on a sphere  $S$ , and  $T$  is a continuous (1-1) correspondence such that  $T(M) = M$ , a necessary and sufficient condition that  $T$  be extendable to  $S$  is that for every boundary  $J$  of a complementary domain of  $M$ ,  $T(J)$  be also the boundary of a complementary domain of  $M$ .

<sup>†</sup> C. Kuratowski, *Sur le problème des courbes gauches en topologie*, Fundamenta Mathematicae, vol. 15 (1930), p. 274, Lemma III'.

do not all lie on the same c.d.b. in  $\bar{R}_2$ . The above process can then be repeated and a third complementary domain  $r_3$  obtained which is different from  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  but also has  $p$  and  $q$  on its boundary. This process may be continued indefinitely. Hence there exists an infinite number of domains  $r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots$  each complementary to  $C$  and having  $p$  and  $q$  on its boundary. But this is impossible since there is at most a finite number of complementary domains of  $C$  of diameter greater than any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,\* and the diameter of each  $r_i$  is equal to or greater than the distance between  $p$  and  $q$ . We conclude that there is a c.d.b.  $L$  within  $\bar{R}_2$  containing  $p, q, r$ .

Now any fourth point  $s$  of  $\bar{N}_1 \cdot J$  must also lie on  $L$ . For  $s$  and one of the three points  $p, q, r$ , say  $r$ , must separate the other two,  $p$  and  $q$ , on  $J$ . Since  $r$  and  $s$  must lie on the same c.d.b. of  $C$  in  $\bar{R}_2$  there exists an arc  $\langle rs \rangle$  in  $R_2$  such that  $\langle rs \rangle \cdot C = 0$ , and in like manner an arc  $\langle pq \rangle$  in  $R_2$  such that  $\langle pq \rangle \cdot C = 0$ . But  $\langle rs \rangle$  and  $\langle pq \rangle$  must then have a common point and hence lie in a common complementary domain of  $C$ . Therefore  $p, q, r$ , and  $s$  all lie on  $L$ , and all points of  $\bar{N}_1 \cdot J$  must lie on  $L$ .

Let  $D_1$  be the complementary domain of  $C$  bounded by  $L$ , and let  $(N)$  represent the set of all components  $N_i$  of  $C - J$  in  $R_1$  for which  $\bar{N}_i \cdot J = \bar{N}_i \cdot L$ . Let  $(N')$  be a topological image of  $(N)$  in  $D_1$  such that  $C - (N) + (N')$  is a map of  $C$ . This is always possible since obviously it would be possible if  $C$  were mapped so that  $L$  is a circle. This process can be repeated on the map  $C - (N) + (N')$  so that finally a map  $C'$  is obtained in which  $R_1$  is a complementary domain of  $C'$ . It follows by well known methods in analysis situs that  $C'$  is a topological map of  $C$ . For if the above process is necessary an infinite number of times,† it involves complementary domains  $D_1, D_2, D_3, \dots$  of  $C$  of which only a finite number are of diameter greater than any  $\epsilon > 0$ .

By the same method as above it is possible to map  $C$  so that the image of the split circuit  $J$  is not a c.d.b. of the image of  $C$  since there are at least two components of  $C - J$ .

Now let  $C'$  be a map of  $C$  on  $S'$  in which the image of  $J$  is a c.d.b. of  $C'$  and  $C''$  a map on  $S''$  in which the image of  $J$  is not a c.d.b. of  $C''$ . Then every homeomorphism of  $C'$  into  $C''$  is not extendable to  $S'$  and  $S''$  since complementary domain boundaries are not preserved. Hence  $C$  does not have a unique map, and the theorem is proved.

Corollaries 1 and 2 follow directly from the preceding proof.

\* Schoenflies proved (1908) that the complementary domains of a continuous curve are countable, and that at most a finite number have diameters greater than any  $\epsilon > 0$ . See R. L. Moore, *Report on continuous curves from the viewpoint of analysis situs*, Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, vol. 29 (1923), pp. 290, 295.

† The components  $N_i$  are countable. See R. L. Wilder, *Concerning continuous curves*, Fundamenta Mathematicae, vol. 7 (1925), p. 360, Theorem 9.

**Proof of Theorem III.** We shall assume that  $M$  has a split point and at the same time a unique map and show that this leads to a contradiction.

Let  $M$  be a map on the sphere  $S$ ,  $p$  a split point of  $M$ , and  $A$  and  $B$  two closed connected subsets of  $M$  such that  $M = A + B$ ,  $A \cdot B = p$ , and such that if  $A$  or  $B$  is an arc,  $p$  is not an end point of this arc. Let  $R$  be a complementary domain of  $M$  whose boundary contains points of both  $A$  and  $B$ . Let  $x \neq p$  be a point of  $A$  in the boundary of  $R$  and  $z \neq p$  a point of  $B$  in the boundary of  $R$ . Let  $\langle xyz \rangle$  be an arc in  $R$ ,  $xpz$  an arc of  $M$ ,  $A \supset \text{arc } xp$ , and  $B \supset \text{arc } pz$ . Let  $A_1$  be a connected component of  $A - xp$  such that  $\bar{A}_1$  has a point  $r$  on  $xp - x$ , and  $B_1$  a connected component of  $B - pz$  such that  $\bar{B}_1$  has a point  $s$  on  $pz - z$ . Since neither  $A$  nor  $B$  is a simple arc with end point at  $p$ , it is possible to choose  $x$  and  $z$  so that this latter condition may be satisfied. There are two cases to consider.

**Case 1.**  $r \neq s$ . Let  $M'$  represent a map of  $M$  on the sphere  $S'$ . Let  $T$  be a homeomorphism such that  $T(M) = M'$  and  $T(S) = S'$ . This is possible since we assume that  $M$  has a unique map. Throughout this proof a primed set will indicate the topological image under  $T$  of the unprimed set. Now either the set  $A_1$  lies in the region  $D_1$  of  $S$  bounded by the simple closed curve  $C = xpzyx$  while  $B_1$  lies in the other region  $D_2$  bounded by  $C$ , or  $A_1$  and  $B_1$  lie in the same region, say  $D_1$ . We shall assume the latter, but the proof is practically the same in either case.

Since  $T$  is extendable to  $S$  and  $S'$ , the sets  $A'_1$  and  $B'_1$  lie in  $D'_1$ . We now construct a new map  $M''$  of  $M$  on  $S'$  as follows: Let  $H'_i$ , ( $i = 1, 2$ ), be the subset of  $A' - \text{arc } x'p'$  that lies on  $D'_i$ . The set  $H'_1$  includes  $A'_1$ . Let  $H''_1$  be a topological image of  $H'_1$  lying in  $D'_2 - B' \cdot D'_2$ , and  $H''_2$  a topological image of  $H'_2$  lying in  $D'_1 - B' \cdot D'_1$  such that  $x'p' + H''_1 + H''_2$  is a topological image of  $A'$ . Then  $M'' = x'p' + H''_1 + H''_2 + B'$ . Let  $U$  be a homeomorphism such that  $U(M) = M''$  and  $U(S) = S'$ . Let  $U(xyz) = x'y'z'$ ,  $U(H_i) = H''_i$ , and for points in  $B + xpz$  let  $U = T$ . Since  $U$  is extendable,  $U(D_1) = D''_1$  is a region of  $S'$  containing  $U(M \cdot D_1)$ . Let  $f$  be any arc of  $S'$  from a point of  $A''_1$  (the topological image of  $A'_1$  in  $H''_1$ ) to a point of  $B'_1$  which lies entirely in  $D''_1$  including end points. Such an arc must intersect  $C'$ , the boundary of  $D'_1$ , since  $B'_1$  lies in  $D'_1$  and  $A''_1$  lies outside  $D'_1$ ; and since  $x'p'z'$  is in the boundary of  $D'_1$  the arc  $f$  must intersect  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$ . Then any arc  $g$  from  $r'$  to  $s'$  lying, except for end points, in  $D''_1$  must intersect  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$ . To show this let  $d$  and  $e$  be regions about  $r'$  and  $s'$  respectively, that do not contain points of  $x'y'z'$ . It is possible to obtain an arc  $t$  that lies entirely in  $d$  and joins a point of  $g - r'$  to a point of  $A''_1$ . In like manner we obtain an arc  $u$  in  $e$  joining a point of  $g - s'$  to a point of  $B'_1$ . The arcs  $t$  and  $u$  plus the proper subset of  $g$  then yield an arc  $h$  from  $A''_1$  to  $B'_1$  lying entirely in  $D''_1$ . But  $h$  must then intersect  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$ , and

since neither  $t$  nor  $u$  can intersect  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$  the arc  $g$  must have a point in common with  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$ . Hence there must be a connected subset of  $x'y'z'$  lying in  $D_1''$  with two points on  $C'' = x'y''z'p'x'$  (the boundary of  $D_1''$ ) that separate  $r'$  and  $s'$  on  $C''$ .<sup>\*</sup> One of these points must obviously lie on the arc  $r's'$  of  $C''$  where  $r's' \subset \langle x'p'z' \rangle$ . But this is impossible since  $\langle x'p'z' \rangle$  and  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$  have no common points. Therefore the assumption that every homeomorphism of  $M$  is extendable has led to a contradiction, and we conclude that  $M$  has no unique map.

**Case 2.**  $r=s=p$ . We use the same notation as in Case 1 and obtain in the same manner the map  $M''$ . Any arc joining a point of  $A_1''$  to a point of  $B_1'$  and lying entirely in  $D_1''$  must intersect  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$ . Let  $d$  be a region about  $p'$  that contains no points of  $x'y'z'$ . Let  $f$  be an arc from  $A_1''$  to  $B_1'$  lying in  $D_1''$  and also in  $d$ . Then  $f$  cannot intersect  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$  but must intersect  $\langle x'y'z' \rangle$ . This contradiction shows that  $M$  has no unique map and completes the proof of Theorem III.

**Proof of Theorem IV.** First, assume that  $M$  has a unique map. If  $M$  is acyclic it must consist of either a simple continuous arc or a single triod since  $M$  contains no split point (Theorem III). Obviously these are the only two acyclic peanian continua without split-points.

If  $M$  is not acyclic it contains at least one cyclic element  $C$  which is a maximal cyclic curve of  $M$ . Since  $M$  cannot contain a split-point there is only one such cyclic element  $C$ . For if there were a second cyclic element  $C_1$  which is a maximal cyclic curve of  $M$ , there would exist a cut-point  $p$  of  $M$  separating  $C$  and  $C_1$ ,<sup>†</sup> and obviously  $p$  would also be a split-point.

If  $M - C$  contains a maximal connected acyclic subset with a branch-point  $p$ , or if  $M - C$  contains two arcs with a common end point  $p$  on  $C$ , then  $p$  is in either case a split-point. Therefore,  $M - C$  contains at most a countable number of simple arcs<sup>‡</sup> with distinct end points on  $C$ .

We shall now assume that  $C$  is not triply connected and obtain a contradiction of the assumption that  $M$  has a unique map. If  $C$  is not triply connected,  $C$  contains a split circuit  $J$  (Theorem I). Let  $M$  be a map of  $M$  on the sphere  $S$  and assume that the components  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  of  $C - J$  lie in the regions  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  of  $S$  bounded by  $J$ . There exists a c.d.b.  $L$  of  $C$  lying in  $\bar{R}_2$  such that  $\bar{N}_1 \cdot J = \bar{N}_1 \cdot L$  (this was shown in the proof of Theorem II). Let  $D$  be the complementary domain of  $C$  bounded by  $L$ . Let  $\sum a_i$  be the set of arcs of  $M$  lying in  $D$  with end points in  $\bar{N}_1 \cdot L$  and  $\sum b_i$  the set of arcs of  $M \cdot D$  not included in  $\sum a_i$ . We now obtain a new map  $M'$  of  $M$  on  $S$  as follows: Let

<sup>\*</sup> Kuratowski, loc. cit., Lemma III'.

<sup>†</sup> See G. T. Whyburn, loc. cit., p. 168.

<sup>‡</sup> R. L. Wilder, loc. cit., p. 360, Theorem 9.

( $K$ ) represent all arcs of  $M-C$  with end points on  $N_1$ , and let  $N'_1$  be a map in  $D$  of  $N_1+(K)$  such that  $\bar{N}_1 \cdot L = \bar{N}'_1 \cdot L$  and  $C-N_1+N'_1$  is a topological image of  $C+(K)$ . Let  $D_1$  be the complementary domain of  $M-[N_1+(K)]$  that contains  $N_1+(K)$ , and let  $\sum a'_i$  be a topological image of  $\sum a_i$  in  $D_1$  such that each arc  $\bar{a}'_i$  has one end point on  $L$ , and the set of all these end points of  $\sum \bar{a}'_i$  is identical with the set of end points of  $\sum \bar{a}_i$  on  $L$ . For each  $b_i$  we obtain a new arc  $b'_i$  as follows: If  $\bar{b}_i \cdot N'_1 = 0$ , then  $b'_i = b_i$ . If  $\bar{b}_i \cdot N'_1 \neq 0$ , let  $d_i$  be a region about  $Q_i$  (the end point of  $b_i$  on  $L$ ) containing no point of  $N'_1$ . Then  $b'_i$  is taken as a simple arc which is a subset of  $b_i$  and lies in  $d_i$  with end point  $Q_i$ . Then  $M' = M - N_1 - (K) + N'_1 - \sum a_i + \sum a'_i - \sum b_i + \sum b'_i$  is a topological image of  $M$ . But every homeomorphism of  $M$  into  $M'$  cannot be extended to  $S$  since  $L$  is a c.d.b. of  $M$  but not a c.d.b. of  $M'$ . Hence  $M$  does not have a unique map, and this contradiction leads to the conclusion that  $C$  must be triply connected.

Now suppose  $C$  does not consist of a simple closed curve, and there is an arc  $b$  in  $M-C$  with end point  $p$  on two bounding circuits,  $J$  and  $L$ , of  $C$ . Let  $(M-b)$  be any map of  $(M-b)$  on  $S$ . Then  $J$  and  $L$  bound two complementary domains of  $C$  and are outer boundaries of two complementary domains  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  of  $M-b$ . Let  $M'$  be a map of  $M$  obtained by mapping  $b$  in  $D_1$  with end point at  $p$ , and  $M''$  a map of  $M$  obtained by mapping  $b$  in  $D_2$  with end point at  $p$ . We have now two essentially different maps of  $M$ . Hence the end points of the arcs in  $M-C$  that lie in  $C$  must lie in one, and only one, bounding circuit of  $C$ .

If  $C$  consists of a simple closed curve,  $M-C$  cannot contain more than one arc. The proof of this statement is not difficult and will be omitted.

If  $M$  consists of a simple continuous arc, the sufficiency of condition (1) follows from the fact that any homeomorphism between two arcs is extendable to a homeomorphism of their planes.\* If  $M$  consists of a simple closed curve plus an arc, the proof that  $M$  has a unique map is easily obtained from the Schoenflies theorem that any homeomorphism between two simple closed curves can be extended to a homeomorphism of their planes.

The proof that a triod has a unique map may also be obtained by a simple application of the Schoenflies theorem.

Suppose  $C$  is not a simple closed curve. Let  $M$  be a map of  $M$  on  $S$ , and  $M'$  a map on  $S'$ . The map of  $C$  is unique (Theorem II), and from Corollary 1 we see that a c.d.b. of  $C$  in one map has an image which is a c.d.b. in every map of  $C$ . Let  $\sum a_i$  be the arcs of  $M-C$  with end points on the same bounding cir-

\* R. L. Moore, *Conditions under which one of two given closed linear point sets may be thrown into the other one by a continuous transformation of a plane into itself*, American Journal of Mathematics, vol. 48 (1926), p. 67.

cuit  $J$  of  $C$ . Then in the map of  $C$  on  $S$  these arcs lie in the same complementary domain  $D$  of  $C$  bounded by  $J$ , and the map  $\sum a'_i$  of  $\sum a_i$  on  $S'$  must lie in the complementary domain  $D'$  of  $C'$  bounded by  $J'$  (the image of  $J$ ) since the end points of  $\sum \bar{a}'_i$  lie on  $J'$  and on no other bounding circuit of  $C'$ .

Now any homeomorphism  $T(M) = M'$  can be extended to  $D$  and  $D'$ . Let  $pq$  be one of the arcs  $\bar{a}_i$  in  $\bar{D}$  with end point  $p$  on  $J$  such that either  $pq$  or its image  $p'q'$  on  $S'$  is of diameter greater than some  $\epsilon > 0$ . Let  $\langle qxy \rangle$  be an arc in  $D - \sum a_i$  where  $y$  is a point of  $J$  but not an end point of some arc  $a_i$  in  $D$ . Let  $\langle q'x'y' \rangle$  be an arc in  $D' - \sum a'_i$  where  $y' = T(y)$ . Let  $r$  and  $s$  be points of  $J$  that separate  $p$  and  $y$ , and let  $r' = T(r)$  and  $s' = T(s)$ . Let  $a_k$  be any arc of  $\sum a_i$  that lies in the subset  $d$  of  $D$  bounded by  $pqxyrp$ . Then  $a'_k$  must lie in the subset  $d'$  of  $D'$  bounded by  $p'q'x'y'r'p'$ . For if  $a'_k$  lies in  $D' - \bar{d}'$ , it must have an end point at either  $p'$  or  $y'$ . But this is impossible since  $y$  was selected not to be an end point, and  $p$  cannot be an end point common to two arcs in  $D$ . Hence if  $\sum b_i$  is the subset of  $\sum a_i$  lying in  $d$ , then  $T(\sum b_i)$  is the subset of  $\sum a'_i$  lying in  $d'$ . The same would be true of any similar subdivision of  $D$  and  $D'$ . In fact *sides are preserved under  $T$*  as used by Gehman.\* Therefore  $T$  can be extended to  $D$  and  $D'$ , and in like manner to each complementary domain of  $C$  and  $C'$ , and finally to  $S$  and  $S'$ . The proof would necessarily be a partial duplication of Gehman's proof and is omitted. This completes the proof of Theorem IV.

**Proof of Theorem V.** Cases (1), (2), (3) of Theorem V follow easily from Theorem IV.

If  $M$  has a unique map and is not acyclic or not a simple closed curve, Theorem III shows that  $M$  contains one, and only one, cyclic element  $C$  which is a maximal connected cyclic curve of  $M$ . Furthermore  $C$  cannot contain two distinct bounding circuits or consist of a single circuit which would be the outer boundary of two complementary domains of  $M$  in any map. For if this were true there would be a circuit  $J$  which would be the outer boundary of a bounded complementary domain  $R$  of  $M$  in some map on a plane  $S$  (Corollary 1). Now let  $M'$  be a map of  $M$  on a plane  $S'$  in which the image of the boundary of  $R$  is the boundary of the unbounded complementary domain  $R'$  of  $M'$ . Then obviously any homeomorphism of  $M$  into  $M'$  which carries the boundary of  $R$  into the boundary of  $R'$  cannot be extended to  $R$  and  $R'$ . Therefore  $C$  contains only one bounding circuit, and Claytor's result (Corollary (C), p. 810) shows that  $C$  consists of a closed 2-cell.

Since  $M$  cannot contain a split point,  $M - C$  can consist of at most a count-

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\* H. M. Gehman, *On extending a continuous (1-1) correspondence of two plane continuous curves to a correspondence of their planes*, these Transactions, vol. 28 (1926), proof of Theorem I, pp. 256-260.

able number of distinct arcs with distinct end points on the bounding circuit of  $C$ .

Now suppose  $M$  consists of the curve (4) in the theorem. The arcs  $M - C$  must all lie in the unbounded complementary domain of  $C$  in any map of  $M$  in the plane. Let  $D$  and  $D'$  be the two unbounded complementary domains of two maps of  $M$  and  $M'$  respectively. Then any homeomorphism of  $M$  into  $M'$  can be extended to  $D$  and  $D'$  as indicated in the last paragraph of the proof of Theorem IV.

A point  $p$  of a peanian continuum  $M$  is said to be a *local cut-point* of  $M$  if, and only if,  $p$  is a cut-point of some connected open subset of  $M$ .\*

The following theorem will be stated without proof:

**THEOREM VI.** *If  $M$  is a peanian continuum in a plane  $S$ , any non-cut-point  $p$  of  $M$  lies on two (or more) complementary domain boundaries of  $M$  if, and only if,  $p$  is a local cut-point of  $M$ .†*

Now if  $M$  is a plane peanian continuum and  $C$  a maximal cyclic curve of  $M$ , every point in  $C \cdot (M - C)$  must lie on a bounding circuit of  $C$ . Since  $C$  contains no cut-point (of  $C$ ) we can make the following alternative statement of Theorem IV:

*The plane peanian continuum  $M$  has a unique map on the sphere if, and only if, one of the following conditions holds:*

- (1)  *$M$  is acyclic and consists of either a simple arc or a triod,*
- (2)  *$M$  contains one cyclic element  $C$  which is a maximal triply connected cyclic curve of  $M$ , and  $M - C$  consists of at most a countable number of arcs,  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$ , such that  $\bar{a}_i \cdot \bar{a}_j = 0$ , ( $i \neq j$ ), and each  $\bar{a}_i \cdot C$  is a non-local separating point of  $C$ , provided that if  $C$  is a simple closed curve, then  $M - C$  is at most a simple arc.*

\* See G. T. Whyburn, *Local separating points of continua*, Monatshefte für Mathematik und Physik, vol. 36 (1929), pp. 305–314.

† This theorem is well known to topologists although the author has been unable to find it stated explicitly in any published paper. See, however, G. T. Whyburn, *Local separating points of continua*, loc. cit., Theorem 6, and G. T. Whyburn, *Concerning points of continuous curves defined by certain im kleinen properties*, Mathematische Annalen, vol. 102 (1929), pp. 313–336, Theorem 31.