

SEIFERT FIBERED SURGERY MANIFOLDS OF COMPOSITE KNOTS

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ABSTRACT. A classification is given for the composite knots and the Dehn surgery on these knots which yield Seifert fibered surgery manifolds. We prove that if a knot K is the composition of two torus knots, then some (unique) integral surgery on K yields a Seifert fibered manifold, and conversely if the surgery manifold of a composite knot K is Seifert fibered, then K is the composition of two torus knots and the surgery must be integral surgery, which is uniquely determined.

In this paper we classify the composite knots and the Dehn surgeries on these knots which yield Seifert fibered surgery manifolds. In [8] Moser conjectured that surgery on a nontorus knot could not yield a Seifert fibered manifold, in particular, could not yield a lens space. Many counterexamples to Moser's conjecture have been found. Baily and Rolfsen [2] showed that the lens space $L(23, 7)$ could be obtained by -23 -surgery on the $(11, 2)$ -cable knot about the trefoil knot; Simon discovered similar examples. Fintushel and Stern [4] constructed infinitely many noniterated torus knots, upon which certain surgery yields lens spaces. More recently, Gordon [6] classified the surgery manifolds of all iterated torus knots, Berge [3] and Gabai [5] have independently constructed an infinite collection of knots in solid tori such that certain surgery on them in the solid torus yield $D^2 \times S^1$, and therefore yield lens spaces when the knots are considered to be in S^3 . Since cable knots are prime knots and the surgery manifold of a composite knot contains an incompressible torus (see, for example, [6]), none of the above-mentioned knots is a composite knot. Indeed, no nontrivial surgery on a composite knot may yield a lens space. It is then natural to ask if any such surgery manifold is Seifert fibered. In this paper, we show that if a knot K is the composition of two torus knots, then some (unique) integral surgery on K yields a Seifert fibered manifold, and conversely if a surgery manifold of a composite knot K is Seifert fibered, then the surgery

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must be an integral surgery, K must be the composition of two torus knots, and the integer is uniquely determined.

Let m, n be relatively prime integers and $n \neq 0$, let K be a nontrivial knot with meridian-longitude pair (μ, λ) , and let V be a solid torus with meridian-longitude (μ_0, λ_0) . The surgery manifold $(K; m/n)$ obtained by performing Dehn surgery of type m/n on K is $X \cup_h V$, where $h: \partial V \rightarrow \partial X$ is the gluing homeomorphism $h(\mu_0) = m\mu + n\lambda$. Note that up to homeomorphism of the surgery manifold, we may assume $n > 0$.

Suppose $K = K_1 \# K_2$ is the composition of the knots K_1 and K_2 , and let (μ_1, λ_1) , (μ_2, λ_2) and (μ, λ) be the meridian-longitude pairs for K_1 , K_2 and K respectively. Denote by $X_1 = S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_1)$, $X_2 = S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_2)$, and $X = S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ the knot manifolds of K_1 , K_2 , and K respectively. Notice that X_1 , X_2 , and X are cubes with knotted holds (see [1]). We have $X = X_1 \cup_{A_1=A_2} X_2$ where A_1 and A_2 are two meridional annuli on ∂X_1 and ∂X_2 respectively, along which X_1 and X_2 are identified. In X we may assume $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu$ and $\lambda = \lambda_1 \#_{a_1=a_2} \lambda_2$, where a_1 and a_2 are spanning arcs in A_1 and A_2 respectively, along which λ_1 and λ_2 are identified. Writing $\lambda_i = \hat{\lambda}_i \cup_{\partial} a_i$ for $i = 1, 2$, we have $\lambda = \hat{\lambda}_1 \cup_{\partial} \hat{\lambda}_2$. (See Figure 1, where $K_1 = K_2$ is a trefoil knot.)

Let p, q be relatively prime integers and $|p| \geq 2$ and $|q| \geq 2$. A (p, q) -torus-knot $K_{p,q}$ is a knot lying on the boundary of an unknotted solid torus in S^3 , wrapping p times in the meridional direction and q times in the longitudinal direction. The knot manifold $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_{p,q})$ is a Seifert fibered manifold over a disk with two singular fibers of indices q and p respectively. Furthermore,

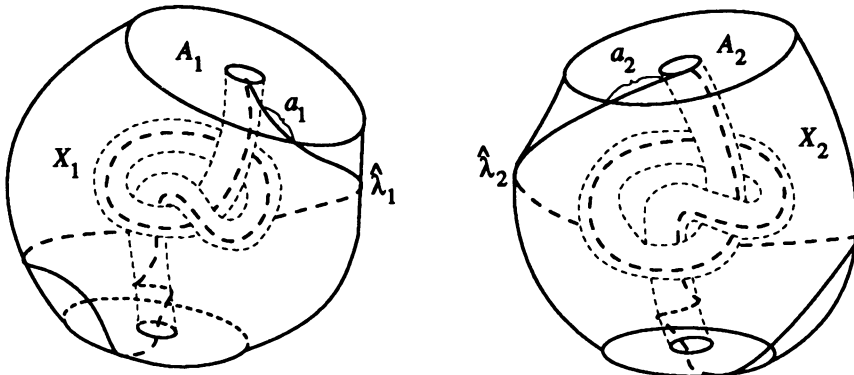


FIGURE 1.

the Seifert fibration is unique up to fiber preserving homeomorphisms (see, for example, [7, Theorem VI 10]). A fiber in $\partial(S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_{p,q}))$, when properly oriented, is a $(pq, 1)$ -curve in $\partial(S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_{p,q}))$ with respect to the meridian-longitude for $K_{p,q}$.

Our proofs are based on the observation (see the remark after [6, Lemma 7.1]) that if an integral surgery m is performed on a composite knot $K_1 \# K_2$, then $(K_1 \# K_2; m)$ is homeomorphic to $X_1 \cup_{\partial} X_2$. In addition, we use the characterization theorem [7, Theorem VI 3.4]) of 2-sided incompressible surfaces embedded in Seifert fibered manifolds.

Suppose $K = K_1 \# K_2$ and consider $(K; m/n)$. Then the glueing homeomorphism $h: \partial V \rightarrow \partial X$ satisfies $h(\mu_0) = m\mu + n\lambda$ and $h(\lambda_0) = c\mu + d\lambda$, where c, d is a pair of integers satisfying $md - nc = 1$. Therefore, $h^{-1}(\mu) = d\mu_0 - n\lambda_0$. The choice of the pair c, d is not unique, up to homeomorphism of the surgery manifold. Therefore, if $n = 1$, we may choose $d = 0$ and $c = -1$, so that $h(\lambda_0) = -\mu$. Then $h^{-1}(\mu) = -\lambda_0$, which implies a meridional annulus in ∂X is glued to a longitudinal annulus in ∂V , via h . Now from the proof of [6, Lemma 7.1] we have $(K; m) \cong (X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V) \cup_{\partial} X_2$, where B_1 is the meridional annulus $\partial X_1 \setminus \overset{\circ}{A}$ contained in ∂X on ∂X_1 , $B_0 = h^{-1}(B_1)$, and so B_0 is a longitudinal annulus on ∂V . This implies that $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$ is obtained from X_1 by capping the solid torus V to X_1 on the boundary along the annulus B_1 . Hence $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V = X_1$ and therefore $(K; m) = X_1 \cup_{\partial} X_2$. Also the proof of [6, Lemma 7.1] showed that $\partial(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V) = \partial X_2$ is a 2-sided separating incompressible torus in $(K; m/n)$ and that $B_1 = B_0$ is a 2-sided incompressible properly embedded annulus in $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$.

For completeness we include the following characterization theorem for 2-sided incompressible surfaces in Seifert fibered manifolds mentioned above ([7, Theorem VI 3.4]).

Theorem 0. *Let M be a compact, orientable Seifert fibered manifold. If F is a two-sided incompressible surface in M , then one of the following alternatives holds:*

- (i) F is a disk or an annulus and F is parallel into ∂M .
- (ii) F does not separate M and F is a fiber in a fibration of M as a surface bundle over S^1 .
- (iii) F does separate M and $M = M_1 \cup M_2$ where $M_1 \cap M_2 = \partial M_1 = \partial M_2 = F$ and M_i ($i = 1, 2$) is a twisted I -bundle over a compact surface (possibly with boundary).
- (iv) F is an annulus or a torus and F is saturated in some Seifert fibration of M .

The following well-known lemmas and corollary will be needed in the proof of Theorem 4. For completeness we supply the proofs.

Lemma 1. *If K is a nontrivial knot, then $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ is not a twisted I -bundle over a compact surface (with or without boundary).*

Proof. Assume $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ is a twisted I -bundle over a compact surface F of genus g . If $\partial F = \emptyset$, then $H_1(S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)) = H_1(F)$, which equals \mathbf{Z}^{2g} if F is orientable, and equals $\mathbf{Z}^{g-1} + \mathbf{Z}_2$ if F is nonorientable. However $H_1(S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)) = \mathbf{Z}$, which gives a contradiction. If $\partial F \neq \emptyset$, then being a twisted I -bundle over F , $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ should contain a Mobius band in the boundary, which is impossible.

Lemma 2. *If K is a nontrivial knot, then $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ cannot be Seifert fibered without singular fibers.*

Proof. Suppose $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ is Seifert fibered over a surface F of genus g without singular fibers, and hence a fiber bundle. Then if F is orientable,

$$H_1(S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)) = \left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^g (\mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}) \right) + \mathbf{Z}d + \mathbf{Z}h \right) / (h^\beta = d) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^g (\mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}) \right) + \mathbf{Z}_h.$$

Since $H_1(S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)) = \mathbf{Z}$, it follows that $g = 0$ and hence F is a disk. This implies $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ is homeomorphic to a solid torus, and therefore K is a trivial knot, giving a contradiction. If F is nonorientable, then $H_1(S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)) = (\sum_{i=1}^g \mathbf{Z}) + \mathbf{Z}_2$, which is not isomorphic to \mathbf{Z} , again giving a contradiction. This shows $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ cannot be Seifert fibered without singular fibers, completing the proof.

Applying Lemma 2 and [8, Theorem 2] we obtain

Corollary 2.1. *If the knot manifold of a nontrivial knot is Seifert fibered, then the knot must be a torus knot.*

We now state and prove our main results.

Theorem 3. *If $K = K_{p,q} \# K_{r,s}$ is the composition of torus knots $K_{p,q}$ and $K_{r,s}$, then the surgery manifold $(K; pq + rs)$ is a Seifert fibered manifold over S^2 with four exceptional fibers of indices $q, p, s,$ and r .*

Proof. Let (μ_1, λ_1) , (μ_2, λ_2) and (μ, λ) be the meridian-longitude pairs for $K_{p,q}$, $K_{r,s}$, and K respectively, and let $X_1 = S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_{p,q})$, $X_2 = S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_{r,s})$ and $X = S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$. Then both X_1 and X_2 are Seifert fibered over a disk with two singular fibers of indices q, p and r, s respectively. Assuming the previous notations, we have $h(\mu_0) = (pq + rs)\mu + \lambda$, $h^{-1}(\mu) = \lambda_0$, and $(K; pq + rs) = (X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V) \cup_{\partial} X_2$. We will show that $(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V)$ can be Seifert fibered and the fibers on $\partial(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V)$ are glued to the fibers on ∂X_1 via the identification map.

Now $h(\mu_0) = (pq + rs)\mu + \lambda$ is a $(pq + rs, 1)$ curve on ∂X . Since $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu$, $\lambda = \lambda_1 \#_{a_1=a_2} \lambda_2$ and $\lambda_i = \hat{\lambda}_i \cup_{\partial} a_i$ for $i = 1, 2$, by replacing μ_0 with another meridian of V if necessary, we may assume $h(\mu_0) = (pq + rs)\mu + \lambda = (pq\mu_1 + \lambda_1) \#_{a_1=a_2} (rs\mu_2 + \lambda_2) = (pq\mu_1 + \hat{\lambda}_1) \cup_{\partial} (rs\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2)$, where $pq\mu_1 + \hat{\lambda}_1$ is the arc $(pq\mu_1 + \lambda_1) \setminus \overset{\circ}{a}_1$ contained in B_1 and $rs\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2$ is the arc $(rs\mu_2 + \lambda_2) \setminus \overset{\circ}{a}_2$ contained in $\partial X_2 \setminus A_2$ (see Figure 2). Let $\mu_0^{(1)} = h^{-1}(pq\mu_1 + \lambda_1)$ and $\mu_0^{(2)} = h^{-1}(rs\mu_2 + \lambda_2)$. Then $\mu_0 = \mu_0^{(1)} \cup_{\partial} \mu_0^{(2)}$ and $h(\mu_0^{(1)}) = pq\mu_1 + \hat{\lambda}_1$ and $h(\mu_0^{(2)}) = rs\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2$. Since $h(\mu_0^{(1)}) \cup_{\partial} a_1 = pq\mu_1 + \lambda_1$ is a $(pq, 1)$ -curve on ∂X_1 , it is freely homotopic to a fiber in ∂X_1 , and therefore we may refiber X_1 , if necessary, so that $h(\mu_0^{(1)}) \cup_{\partial} a_1$ is a fiber in ∂X_1 . Since $f(\mu_0^{(1)})$ is freely isotopic (rel ∂) to $\mu_0^{(2)}$ in $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$, and $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_2} V = X_1$, it follows that $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_2} V$ can be Seifert fibered so that $\mu_0^{(1)} \cup_{\partial} a_1$ is a fiber on $\partial(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V)$. Now $\mu_0^{(2)} \cup a_1$ is identified via h with $(rs\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2) \cup_{\partial} a_2 = rs\mu_2 + \lambda_2$, a $(rs, 1)$ -curve on ∂X_2 , and therefore is homotopic to a fiber in ∂X_2 . We may refiber X_2 if necessary, so that $(rs\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2) \cup_{\partial} a_2$ is a fiber in ∂X_2 . Thus $(K; pq + rs) = (X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V) \cup_{\partial} X_2$ is Seifert fibered. From the proof it is clear that $(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V)$ is fibered over a disk with two singular fibers of indices q and p ; therefore $(K; pq + rs)$ is Seifert fibered over S^2 with singular fibers of indices q, p, s , and r .

Theorem 4. *Let K_1 and K_2 be nontrivial knots in S^3 and let $K = K_1 \# K_2$ be the composition of K_1 and K_2 . If the surgery manifold $(K; m/n)$ is Seifert fibered, then $n = 1$ and both K_1 and K_2 are torus knots. Furthermore, if $K_1 = K_{p,q}$ and $K_2 = K_{r,s}$, then $m = pq + rs$.*

Proof. As stated previously, the torus $F = \partial(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V) = \partial X_2$ is 2-sided, separating and incompressible in $(K; m/n) = (X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V) \cup_{\partial} X_2$. By Theorem 0 and Lemma 1 (applying to X_2), we conclude that F is a union of fibers in some Seifert fibration of $(K; m/n)$, and therefore $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$ and X_2 are Seifert fibered. Since X_2 is Seifert fibered, by Corollary 2.1, K_2 is a torus knot.

Now consider the Seifert fibered 3-manifold $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$, and let $B = B_1 = B_0$. Then as stated previously, B is a 2-sided separating incompressible annulus in $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$. Suppose, for contradiction, $n \neq 1$. Then, since $h^{-1}(\mu) = d\mu_0 - n\lambda_0$, which is a $(d, -n)$ curve on ∂V and is the core of the annulus B_0 , it follows that B_0 is not parallel into $\partial V \setminus \overset{\circ}{B}_0$. Since B_1 is a meridional annulus on ∂X_1 , B_1 is not parallel into $\partial X_1 \setminus \overset{\circ}{B}_1 = A_1$. This implies B is not parallel into $\partial(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V) = F$. By Theorem 0 and Lemma 1 (applying to X_1), we conclude that the annulus $B (= B_1 = B_0)$ is a union of fibers in some Seifert fibration of $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$. This implies that both X_1 and V are Seifert fibered. Now since X_1 is Seifert fibered, by Corollary 2.1, K_1 is a torus knot $K_{p,q}$ for some p and q . Then by the uniqueness of the Seifert fibration of $S^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K_{p,q})$,

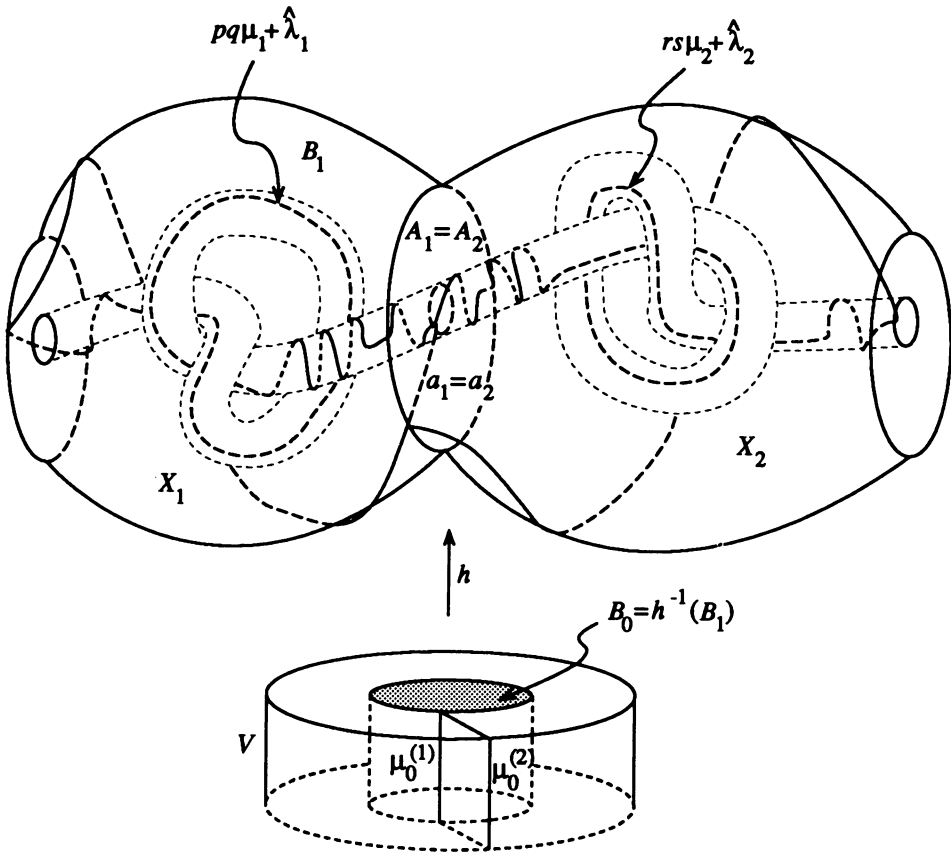


FIGURE 2.

a fiber in $\partial(S^3 \setminus \mathring{N}(K_{p,q})) = \partial X_1$ is a $(pq, 1)$ -curve. Since $B_1 \subset \partial X_1$, every fiber in $B_1 = B$ must be a $(pq, 1)$ -curve on ∂X_1 . But every fiber in a fibered annulus is a generating simple closed curve, and B_1 is a meridional annulus contained in ∂X_1 , hence we obtain a contradiction. Therefore, $n = 1$.

Now since $n = 1$, $X_1 \cong X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$; since $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$ is Seifert fibered, X_1 is Seifert fibered and so K_1 is a torus knot by Corollary 2.1. Let $K_1 = K_{p,q}$ and $K_2 = K_{r,s}$; because the Seifert fibrations of the knot manifolds $X_1 = S^3 \setminus \mathring{N}(K_{p,q})$ and $X_2 = S^3 \setminus \mathring{N}(K_{r,s})$ are unique, a fiber in ∂X_1 is a $(pq, 1)$ -curve and a fiber in ∂X_2 is a $(rs, 1)$ -curve. Now $h(\mu_0) = m\mu + \lambda$ is an $(m, 1)$ -curve in ∂X where $X = X_1 \cup_{A_1=A_2} X_2$. By replacing μ_0 with another meridian of V , if necessary, we may assume $h(\mu_0) = m\mu + \lambda = pq\mu + (m - pq)\mu + \lambda = (pq\mu_1 + \lambda_1) \#_{a_1=a_2} ((m - pq)\mu_2 + \lambda_2) = (pq\mu_1 + \hat{\lambda}_1) \cup_{\partial} (m - pq)\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2$, where

$pq\mu_1 + \hat{\lambda}_1$ is the arc $(pq\mu + \lambda)\backslash\hat{a}_1$ in $B_1 = \partial X_1 \backslash \hat{A}_1$, and $(m - pq)\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2$ is the arc $(pq\mu_2 + \lambda_2)\backslash\hat{a}_2$ in $\partial X_2 \backslash \hat{A}_2$. Let $\mu_0^{(1)} = h^{-1}(pq\mu_1 + \hat{\lambda}_1)$ and $\mu_0^{(2)} = h^{-1}((m - pq)\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2)$. Then $h(\mu_0^{(1)}) \cup_{\partial} a_1 = pq\mu_1 + \lambda_1$ is freely homotopic to a fiber in ∂X_1 . Since $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V = X_1$, the Seifert fibration of $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$ is determined by X_1 and is unique. Now because $h(\mu_0^{(1)})$ is isotopic (rel ∂) to $\mu_0^{(2)}$ in $X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V$, we conclude that $\mu_0 \cup_{\partial} a_1$ is freely homotopic to a fiber in $\partial(X_1 \cup_{B_1=B_0} V)$ which is identified via h as a fiber in ∂X_2 . Thus $h(\mu_0^{(2)}) \cup_{\partial} a_2 = ((m - pq)\mu_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2) \cup_{\partial} a_2$ is freely homotopic to a fiber in ∂X_2 , and is therefore an $(rs, 1)$ -curve in ∂X_2 . Thus $m - pq = rs$ and we have $m = pq + rs$.

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