

SOME SERIES OF HONEY-COMB SPACES

ELENA BARBIERI, ALBERTO CAVICCHIOLI AND FULVIA SPAGGIARI

ABSTRACT. We study the topology and geometry of some series of closed connected orientable 3-manifolds constructed as honey-comb spaces. These manifolds are quotients of certain polyhedral 3-cells by pairwise identification of their boundary faces. We determine geometric presentations of the fundamental group and study the split extension of it. Then we describe geometric structures, homeomorphism type and covering properties of our manifolds which are shown to be cyclic coverings of the 3-sphere branched over known links with two components. Finally, we answer open questions on certain manifolds, defined by Kim and Kostrikin, and give a complete classification of them.

1. The Seifert-Weber dodecahedron space. Following [16, 22], we start with a detailed discussion on a classical example of hyperbolic closed 3-manifold, i.e., the *Seifert-Weber dodecahedron space*. Recall from [5] that the Coxeter group $[p, q, r]$ is generated by four elements α, β, γ and δ subject to the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha^2 &= \beta^2 = \gamma^2 = \delta^2 = 1 \\ (\alpha\beta)^p &= (\beta\gamma)^q = (\gamma\delta)^r = 1 \\ (\alpha\gamma)^2 &= (\beta\delta)^2 = (\alpha\delta)^2 = 1.\end{aligned}$$

The group $[3, 3, 5]$ has order 14400, and is also generated by the elements α_1, β, γ and δ , where $\alpha_1 = (\alpha(\beta\gamma\delta)^5)^2\alpha$. Since these elements satisfy the relations of $[5, 3, 5]$, there is a unique epimorphism $\varphi: [5, 3, 5] \rightarrow [3, 3, 5]$ such that $\varphi(\alpha) = \alpha_1, \varphi(\beta) = \beta, \varphi(\gamma) = \gamma$ and

2000 AMS *Mathematics subject classification.* Primary 57M12, 57M25, Secondary 57M50, 57M60.

Keywords and phrases. Three-manifolds, group presentations, spines, orbifolds, polyhedral schemata, branched coverings.

Work performed under the auspices of the GNSAGA of the CNR (National Research Council) of Italy and partially supported by the MIUR (Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca) of Italy within the project "Proprietà Geometriche delle Varietà Reali e Complesse," and by a research grant of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

Received by the editors on June 23, 2005, and in revised form on September 5, 2006.

DOI:10.1216/RMJ-2009-39-2-381 Copyright ©2009 Rocky Mountain Mathematics Consortium