

# **3-MANIFOLDS CONSTRUCTED FROM THREE HANDLEBODIES**

JAMES COFFEY

Classically, two handlebodies glued together form a Heegaard splitting of a 3-manifold. We study when three handlebodies are glued to form a 3-manifold, so that the fundamental group of each handlebodies injects into the fundamental group of the manifold. This can be viewed as a generalisation of the construction of Seifert fibered spaces with infinite fundamental group. Such 3-manifolds have many nice properties and appear to be very common.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE