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Groups of PL homeomorphisms

Let PL(M,K) denote the group of orientation-preserving piecewise-linear self-homeomorphisms of a connected orientable PL manifold M which are pointwise fixed on the subset K of M. If K is a nonempty codimension one or zero PL submanifold, we show that PL(M,K) is locally indicable. This means that every nontrivial finitely-generated subgroup has the integers as a quotient group. By a theorem of Burns and Hale, this implies that PL(M,K) is left-orderable and consequently has no elements of finite order. This is joint work with Danny Calegari.