Correction to "The Classification of Alternating Links", by William Menasco and Morwen Thistlethwaite

Lemma 4.8.2 is incorrect; this lemma is used in the proof of Corollary 4.8.1, which in turn is used in the last paragraph of Proposition 4.10. The statement of the lemma can be corrected by amending the second sentence as follows: "Then, up to composition with a sequence of flypes, f is pairwise isotopic to ... ". The proof of the amended Lemma 4.8.2 can then be corrected by deleting the last sentence of the existing proof and appending a geometric argument. Corollary 4.8.1 then follows as before. We are grateful to C. Hayashi and K. Shimokawa for pointing out the error and for supplying the above remedy.

However, an even better solution seems to be to delete Corollary 4.8.1 and Lemma 4.8.2 completely, and to replace the last paragraph of the proof of Proposition 4.10 by the following paragraph.

Suppose now that the reduction of the original tangle diagram T_2 yields a tangle diagram T_2' in a graph diagram D_2', which contains one or more graph vertices, but no crossing. Then Proposition 5.1 of **[13]** and Proposition 4.9 apply as in the previous paragraph, and we may assume that $f|_{\partial B_1^3}$ is an isometry. We now form a triple $\mathcal{T}'' = (D_1'', D_2'', f)$, where f is unchanged and D_i'' is obtained from D_i' by replacing the tangle T_i' by a single rigid vertex $(i = 1, 2)$. Inspection of the last stage in the reduction process from T_2 to T_2' (*i.e.* the stage where the last inessential crossing of T_2 is transferred to the complementary tangle) shows that there must be a crossing of D_2'' situated in relation to the new rigid vertex of D_2'' in a way that satisfies the hypotheses of Proposition 4.8. Therefore the inductive step holds for $\mathcal{T}''$, whence the inductive step holds also for $\mathcal{T}$. □