

2. Topological Manifolds

2.1 Def: Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. An n -dimensional topological manifold M is a Hausdorff space which is second countable and locally homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n . We say also: M is an n -manifold. Here, second countable means that the topology of M admits a countable basis, i.e. a basis of the form $\{U_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$. Here, M locally homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n means: for any $x \in M$, there exists an open neighbourhood U of x , an open subset V of \mathbb{R}^n , and a homeomorphism $U \xrightarrow{h} V$.

Exercise: We can assume $V = \mathbb{R}^n$.

2.2 Examples: (1) \mathbb{R}^n is an n -dim'l topological manifold: we know it is Hausdorff; it is also second-

countable: take the basis of the topology consisting of open subsets of the form $\prod_{i=1}^n]a_i, b_i[$ with $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $a_i < b_i$.

(2) If M is an n -manifold, and $U \subset M$ is an open subset, then U is also an n -manifold.

2.3 Theorem (Brouwer's Invariance of domain): If $U \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is an open subset, and if $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuous and injective, then $f(U)$ is an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n and $f: U \xrightarrow{f} f(U)$ is a homeomorphism. ($\Rightarrow [\mathbb{R}^m \cong \mathbb{R}^n] \Rightarrow (m=n)$)

2.4 Def: If M is an n -manifold, we call n the dimension of M ; it is unique if $M \neq \emptyset$. A 1-manifold is called a curve, and a 2-manifold is called a surface. ①

2.5 Examples (1) For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have that

$S^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}; \|x\|_2 = 1\}$ is a (compact) n -manifold.


For $n=0$: clear (in fact, any countable discrete space is a 0-manifold). For $n \geq 1$ we have seen in our description of S^n as push-out of $\mathbb{R}^n \xleftarrow{i} \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \xrightarrow{h} \mathbb{R}^n$ that it is locally homeo to \mathbb{R}^n ; as a subspace of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , it is automatically Hausdorff and second-countable.

(2) Note that in the push-out description of S^n above, it can be taken as the inclusion, but not both i and h !

For example, consider the push-out

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} & \xrightarrow{i} & \mathbb{R} \\ \text{inc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{R} & \longrightarrow & M \end{array}$$

Then M is locally homeo to \mathbb{R} , second countable, but not Hausdorff! compare with Ex. 1.35, Prop 1.35.


For $n=1$, π "looks like" 

where the nbhds of N are of the

form $\{N\} \cup U \setminus \{0\}$ where U is a nbhd of 0 in \mathbb{R} , and similarly for the nbhds of S . (see ex. 4.1).

2.6 Proposition: If $k \in \mathbb{N}$, M_1, \dots, M_k are manifolds of dim. n_1, \dots, n_k , then $M_1 \times \dots \times M_k$, with the product topology, is a manifold of dimension $n_1 + \dots + n_k$.

proof: exercise. \square

2.7 Example $T^n = (S^1)^{\times n}$, the n -torus, is an example of an n -manifold. In exercise 1.6, we have seen how T^2 is homeomorphic to a subspace in \mathbb{R}^3 :  the surface of a "tire" or "donut".

2.8 Definition: X, Y be spaces, and $f: X \rightarrow Y$ a map.

We say that f is an embedding of X into Y if the restriction $f: X \rightarrow f(X)$, where $f(X) \subset Y$ has the subspace topology, is a homeomorphism.

2.9 Theorem: Let Π be a compact n -manifold. Then there exist $N \in \mathbb{N}$ and an embedding $\Pi \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R}^N$.

We sketch the proof. It is a consequence of the Urysohn lemma:

2.10 Urysohn lemma: Let X be a normal space, and A, B be closed, disjoint subspaces. Then there exists a continuous map $f: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with $A \subset f^{-1}(0)$ and $B \subset f^{-1}(1)$. \square

2.11 Definition Let X be a space and $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^n$ be an open

cover of X . A partition of unity of X (relative U_1, \dots, U_n) is a family of functions $\{\varphi_i: X \rightarrow [0, 1]\}_{i=1}^n$ such that $\text{supp}(\varphi_i) \subset U_i$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n \varphi_i = 1$ (the constant function with value 1). Recall: $\text{supp}(\varphi_i) = \overline{\{x \in X; \varphi_i(x) \neq 0\}}$ (closure).

2.12 Theorem: If X is normal, and $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is a finite open cover of X , then there exists a partition of unity of X relative $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^n$.

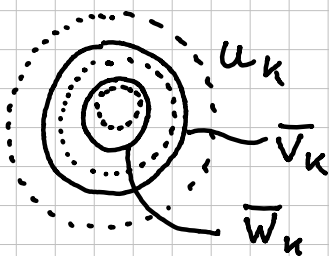
proof: One can construct by induction an open cover $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^n$ of X with $\overline{V_i} \subset U_i \forall i=1, \dots, n$ (since X is normal): induction on i .

- $A = (X \setminus (U_2 \cup \dots \cup U_n))$ and $B = (X \setminus U_1)$ are closed and disjoint; $\exists V_1, W_1$ open, $A \subset V_1, B \subset W_1$ and $V_1 \cap W_1 = \emptyset$. Then $A \subset V_1 \subset \overline{V_1} \subset U_1$, $\textcircled{3}$

and $\{V_1, U_2, \dots, U_n\}$ covers X .

- Suppose $1 \leq k < n$ given, and V_1, \dots, V_k defined so that $\{V_1, \dots, V_k, U_{k+1}, \dots, U_n\}$ is an open cover of X with $\bar{V}_i \subset U_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$. Repeat with $A = X \setminus (V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_k \cup U_{k+2} \cup \dots \cup U_n)$ and $B = X \setminus U_{k+1}$.

Now take such (V_1, \dots, V_n) ; repeat to get (W_1, \dots, W_n)



Urysohn: $\exists \psi_i: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with

$$\psi_i(\bar{W}_i) = \{1\} \text{ and}$$

$$\psi_i(X \setminus V_i) = \{0\}.$$

Then $\text{Supp}(\psi_i) \subset \bar{V}_i \subset U_i$.

Since $\{W_i\}_{i=1}^n$ covers X , $\forall x$, $\psi(x) := \sum_{i=1}^n \psi_i(x) > 0$.

Take $\varphi_i = \frac{\psi_i}{\psi}$. \square

Proof of Thm 2.3 By compactness, we can choose $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and an open cover $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^m$ of Π together with homeos $h_i: U_i \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. We know Π is normal, so $\exists \{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^m$ partition of unity relative $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^m$. We define

$$g_i: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad g_i(x) = \begin{cases} \varphi_i(x) \cdot h_i(x), & x \in U_i \\ 0, & x \in X \setminus \text{Supp}(\varphi_i) \end{cases}$$

Take $g: X \rightarrow (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n)^m$, $x \mapsto ((\varphi_1(x), g_1(x)), \dots, (\varphi_m(x), g_m(x)))$

Then g is continuous and injective: assume $g(x) = g(y)$:

Then $\forall i$, $\varphi_i(x) = \varphi_i(y)$ and $g_i(x) = g_i(y)$.

Then $\exists j$, $\varphi_j(x) > 0$; $\Rightarrow x, y \in U_j$. Then $x = y$

Since $g_j: U_j \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ injective. Take $N = m(n+1)$.

Since X compact, and \mathbb{R}^N Hausdorff, g is also closed,

Thus an embedding (ex. 4.2) \square

(4)

We now introduce n -manifolds with boundary: they are locally diffeomorphic with $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1} =: \mathbb{H}^n$.

2.13 Definition An n -manifold with boundary is a Hausdorff, second countable space M that is locally homeo to \mathbb{H}^n .

2.14 Lemma + Def: Let M be an n -manifold with boundary, and $x \in M$. Then one and only one of the following condition holds:

(a) x has an open nbhd U homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n .

We then say that x is an interior point of M

(b) x has no open nbhd homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n .

We then say that x is a boundary point of M .

We denote $\text{Int}(M) = \{x \in M; x \text{ interior point}\}$

(the interior of M), and $\partial M = M \setminus \text{Int}(M)$

(the boundary of M).

proof: This is obvious by invariance of domain: no nbhd of 0 in \mathbb{H}^n can be homeomorphic to a nbhd of 0 in \mathbb{R}^n .

2.15 Remark: we see that the notion of a manifold with boundary generalizes that of a manifold (with $\partial M = \emptyset$)

2.16 Proposition: Let M be an n -manifold with boundary.

(a) $\text{Int}(M)$ is an open subset of M and an n -manifold without boundary.

(b) ∂M is a closed subset of M and an $(n-1)$ -manifold without boundary.

proof: obvious (see lecture).

2.17 Examples (a) \mathbb{H}^n is an n -manifold with boundary, and $\partial \mathbb{H}^n = \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \subset \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1} = \mathbb{H}^n$.

Obviously $\partial \mathbb{H}^n$ is an $(n-1)$ -manifold.

(b) If M is an m -manifold with boundary and if N is an n -manifold without boundary, then $\Pi \times M$ is an $(m+n)$ -manifold with boundary, and $\partial(\Pi \times M) = (\partial \Pi) \times N$.

This is obvious since $\mathbb{H}^{m+n} = \mathbb{H}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n$ and

$$\partial(\mathbb{H}^{m+n}) = \partial(\mathbb{H}^m) \times \mathbb{R}^n.$$

(c) $D^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; \|x\| \leq 1\}$ is an n -manifold with boundary, and $\partial D^n = S^{n-1}$. Exercise!

2.18 Proposition: Let M and N be two n -manifolds with boundary, and suppose given a homeomorphism $h: \partial M \rightarrow \partial N$. Consider the push-out (in spaces)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \partial M & \xrightarrow{j} & \partial N \\ \text{inc} \downarrow \Gamma & & \downarrow g \\ \Pi & \xrightarrow{f} & P \end{array} \quad \text{where } j: \partial \Pi \xrightarrow{h} \partial N \xrightarrow{\text{inc}} N.$$

Then P is an n -manifold, and $\partial P = \emptyset$.
Moreover, f and g are closed embeddings.

proof: we have the quotient map $q: (\Pi \sqcup N) \rightarrow P$.

Let $Q = q(\partial \Pi) = q(\partial N) \subset P$; Q is closed in P .

Obviously the restriction $q: \text{Int}(\Pi) \sqcup \text{Int}(N) \rightarrow P \setminus Q$ is a homeomorphism; therefore $P \setminus Q$ is locally homeo

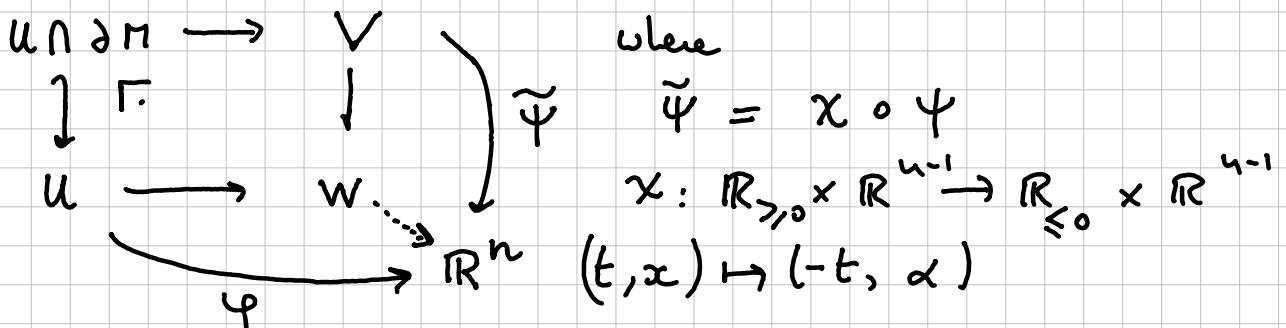
to \mathbb{R}^n . Now take $x \in Q$; $q^{-1}(x) = \{y, z\}$

with $y \in \partial \Pi$ and $z = h(y) \in \partial N$.

We can choose open neighborhoods U of y in Π , V of z in N , and homeos $\varphi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$

$$\psi: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$$

such that $h: U \cap \partial \Pi \rightarrow V \cap \partial N$ homeo (6)



$\alpha: \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \xrightarrow{\Psi^{-1}} U \cap \partial M \xrightarrow{h} V \cap \partial N \xrightarrow{\Psi} \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ homeo.

Then the outer diagram commutes, and induces $\beta: W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$.

Obviously W is an open nbhd of $x \in Q$ in P , and β is a homeo. Thus P locally homeo to \mathbb{R}^n .

- Hausdorff: let $x, y \in P$. consider the cases

(a) $x, y \in P \setminus Q$ (obvious can separate)

(b) $x \in Q, y \in P \setminus Q$

(c) $x, y \in Q$.

- Second countable:

see exercise



A nice way of constructing new manifolds out of known ones is the notion of connected sum: for example

2.19 Def: M an n -manifold. A coordinate chart of

Π (at a point $x \in \Pi$) is a pair (U, φ) where U is an open nbhd of x in Π , $\varphi: U \rightarrow V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ a homeo onto some open subset of \mathbb{R}^n ($\varphi: U \rightarrow V \subset \mathbb{H}^n$ if $x \in \partial \Pi$)

2.20 Definition: let M and N be two n -manifolds.

Suppose given coordinate charts (U, φ) and (V, ψ) of

Π and N , with $\varphi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\psi: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$.

let $M' = M \setminus \varphi^{-1}(D^n)$, $N' = N \setminus \psi^{-1}(D^n)$.

(Then M' and N' are manifolds with boundary

$\partial M' = \varphi^{-1}(S^{n-1}) \cong S^{n-1}$ and $\partial N' = \psi^{-1}(S^{n-1}) \cong S^{n-1}$)

Let $h: \partial M' \rightarrow \partial N'$ be the homeomorphism

(7)

given by restricting $\psi^{-1} \circ \varphi$.

The connected sum of M and N (along φ and ψ), denoted $M \# N$, is the push-out

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \partial M' & \longrightarrow & N' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ M' & \longrightarrow & M \# N \end{array} \quad \text{as in proposition 2.18.}$$

2.21 Remark: We deduce from 2.18 that $M \# N$ is an n -manifold, and $\partial(M \# N) = \partial M \sqcup \partial N$. It contains M', N' as closed embedded subspaces.

One can show that up to homeo there are at most 2 manifolds that can be constructed as $M \# N$ with given M and N : The choice of φ, ψ doesn't matter; it matters if $\varphi \psi^{-1}: \mathbb{R}^n \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ reverses the orientation or not.

We will construct many examples of compact surfaces by $\#$ from "building blocks": T^2 and $\mathbb{R}P^2$, which we will introduce.

2.22 Definition Let $n \geq 1$. We consider on $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$ the equiv. relation given by $x \sim y \iff \exists \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^* \setminus \{0\}, x = \lambda y$. Let $\pi: \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} / \sim =: \mathbb{R}P^n$ be the quotient space; it is called the n -th (real) projective space.

2.23 Remark: The equivalence class of $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$ is given by $[x] = \langle x \rangle \cap (\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\})$, where $\langle x \rangle$ is the subspace generated by x : $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is the "space of lines" in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} .

2.24 Lemma: The inclusion $i: S^n \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$ induces a homeo on quotients: $\bar{i}: S^n / \mathbb{Z}_2 \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{R}P^n$, where \mathbb{Z}_2

$C_2 = \langle t \rangle / t^2 = 1 \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$ is the cyclic group of order 2, acting on S^n by $t \cdot x = -x$.

proof: we have map:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^n & \xrightarrow{i} \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} & \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{R}P^n \\
 \downarrow q & \searrow f & \\
 S^n / C_2 & \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} & \mathbb{R}P^n
 \end{array}$$

For any $x \in S^n$, we have $f(x) = f(-x) = [i(x)]$.

So by the universal property, $\exists! \bar{f}$ with $\bar{f} \circ q = f$.

A universe of \bar{f} is given by \bar{g} ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} & \xrightarrow{h} S^n & \xrightarrow{q} S^n / C_2 \\
 \downarrow \pi & \searrow \bar{g} & \\
 \mathbb{R}P^n & \xrightarrow{\bar{g}} & S^n / C_2
 \end{array}$$

which exists since $\forall \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^*$

$$h(\lambda x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } \lambda > 0 \\ t \cdot x & \text{if } \lambda < 0 \end{cases}$$

We leave the details (check $\bar{f} \circ \bar{g} = \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}P^n}$

and $\bar{g} \circ \bar{f} = \text{id}_{S^n / C_2}$).

2.25 Proposition: $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is compact n -manifold, connected and without boundary.

proof: By 1.46, the map $q: S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}P^n$ is open.

We deduce that since S^n is Hausdorff and second countable, so is $\mathbb{R}P^n$. We now define coordinate charts:

For $i = 1, \dots, n+1$, let $[x]$ be the class of $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$, and $U_i = \{ [x] \in \mathbb{R}P^n ; x_i \neq 0 \} \subset \mathbb{R}P^n$.

Then $\pi^{-1}(U_i) = \underbrace{\mathbb{R} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}}_{i-1 \text{ factors}} \times (\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}) \times \underbrace{\mathbb{R} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}}_{n+1-i \text{ factors}}$

is open in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$, so U_i is open in $\mathbb{R}P^n$.

Then $\varphi_i: U_i \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, [x] \mapsto \left(\frac{x_1}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_{i-1}}{x_i}, \frac{x_{i+1}}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_i} \right)$ is well defined and continuous; it admits

$\psi: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow U_i, x \mapsto (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 1, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_{n+1})$ (9)

as continuous inverse (exercise!), Ker is a homeomorphism. Obviously we have $\mathbb{R}P^n = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n+1} U_i$ which proves that $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is locally Euclidean. \square

2.26 Examples: note that as opposed to our construction of S^n or the embedded Torus T^2 in \mathbb{R}^3 (ex. 1.6), $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is not constructed as a subspace of \mathbb{R}^N .

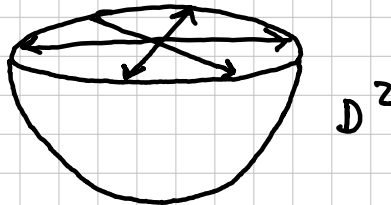
To "visualize it", notice that $\mathbb{R}P^n$ can be obtained from D^n by identifying antipodal points of its boundary. View D^n as the south hemisphere of S^n , then the composite

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 D^n & \xrightarrow{i} & S^n \xrightarrow{q} \mathbb{R}P^n \\
 \searrow \pi & & \nearrow \bar{q} \\
 & & D^n / \sim \cong \mathbb{R}P^n
 \end{array}$$

q_i factors over a homeomorphism $D^n / \sim \rightarrow \mathbb{R}P^n$
 (compact to Hausdorff).

(a) $\mathbb{R}P^1$ can be viewed as $D^1 / \sim = [-1, 1] / \{-1, 1\} \cong S^1$.

(2) $\mathbb{R}P^2$ can be viewed as



Observation: if you move

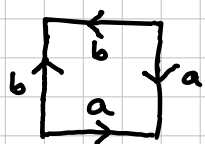
a frame $\begin{matrix} \uparrow e_2 \\ \leftarrow e_1 \end{matrix}$ over the surface by crossing $\bar{q}(S^1)$, it will return as $\begin{matrix} \uparrow e_2 \\ \leftarrow e_1 \end{matrix}$ (\rightarrow surface is non-orientable)

We can now construct many new examples of surfaces:

$T^2 \# T^2$, $T^2 \# T^2 \# T^2$, $\mathbb{R}P^2 \# T^2$, $\mathbb{R}P^2 \# \mathbb{R}P^2$, etc...

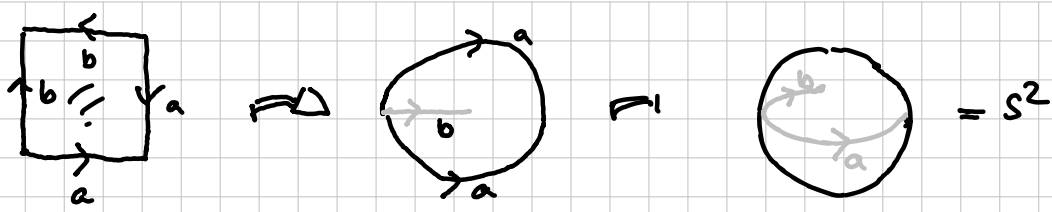
To better study these, we describe them as quotients of $2n$ -polygons by identifying edges pairwise.

2.27 Examples (a) S^2 : is obtained as the quotient

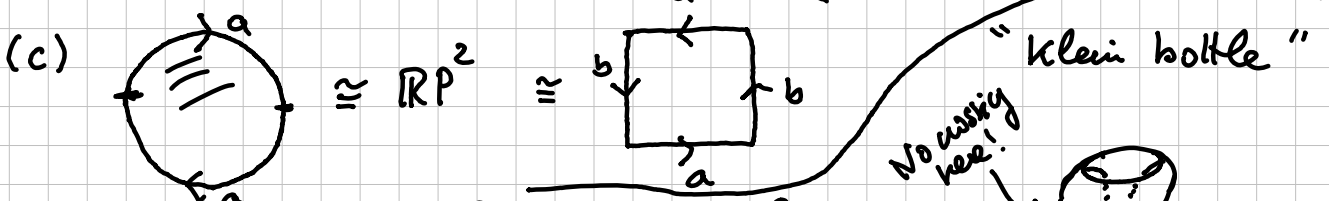
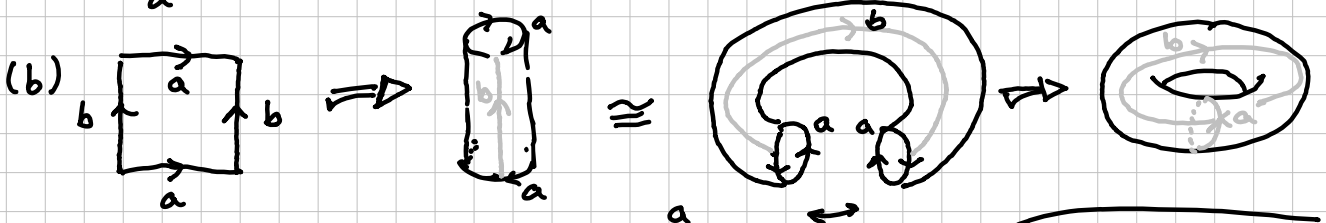
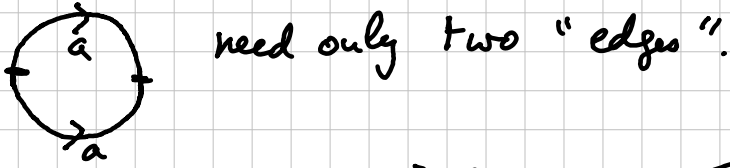


Here edges with same label are "glued"

to each other isometrically, so that the arrows match $\textcircled{10}$



Note that if we are ready to work with a disk, we



2.28 Example How do we interpret connected sums?

(a) Recall S^2 as the quotient

Note that \cong $\cong S^2 \setminus D$

where D is a small disk on S^2 :

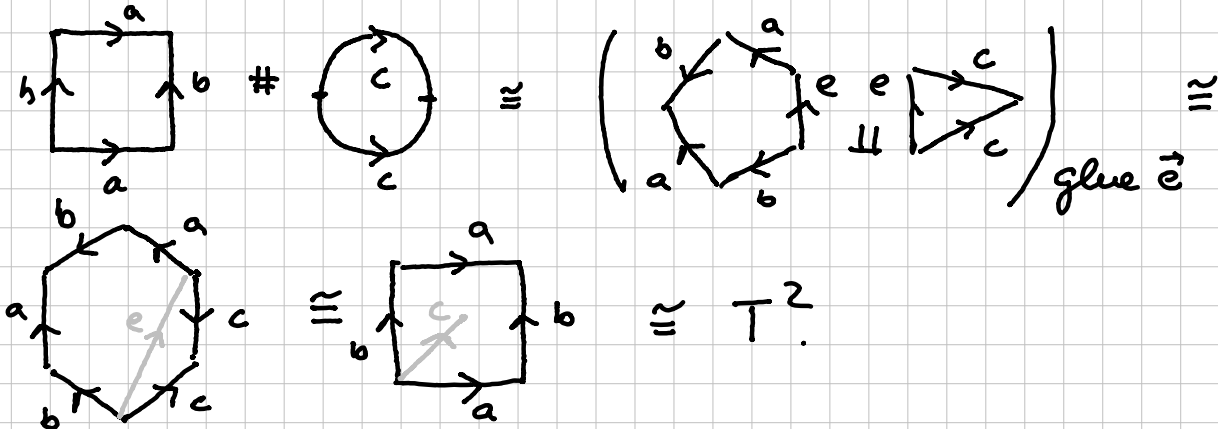
Since the edge e is alone, it is the boundary of the quotient obtained by gluing \vec{a} with \vec{a} .

$$S^2 \# S^2 = (S^2 \setminus D) \underset{h}{\parallel} (S^2 \setminus D) \cong \left(\begin{array}{c} a \\ \nearrow e \\ a \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{c} b \\ \nearrow e \\ b \end{array} \right) / \begin{array}{l} \text{glue} \\ \text{along } \vec{e} \end{array}$$

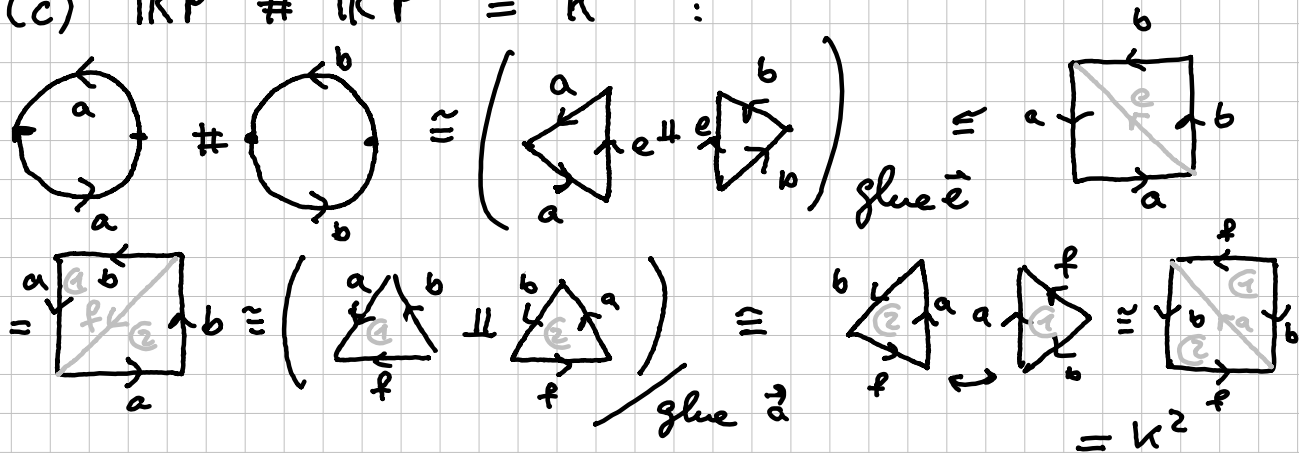
$$= \begin{array}{c} b \\ \nearrow e \\ a \end{array} \cong S^2$$

This shows: $S^2 \# S^2 \cong S^2$

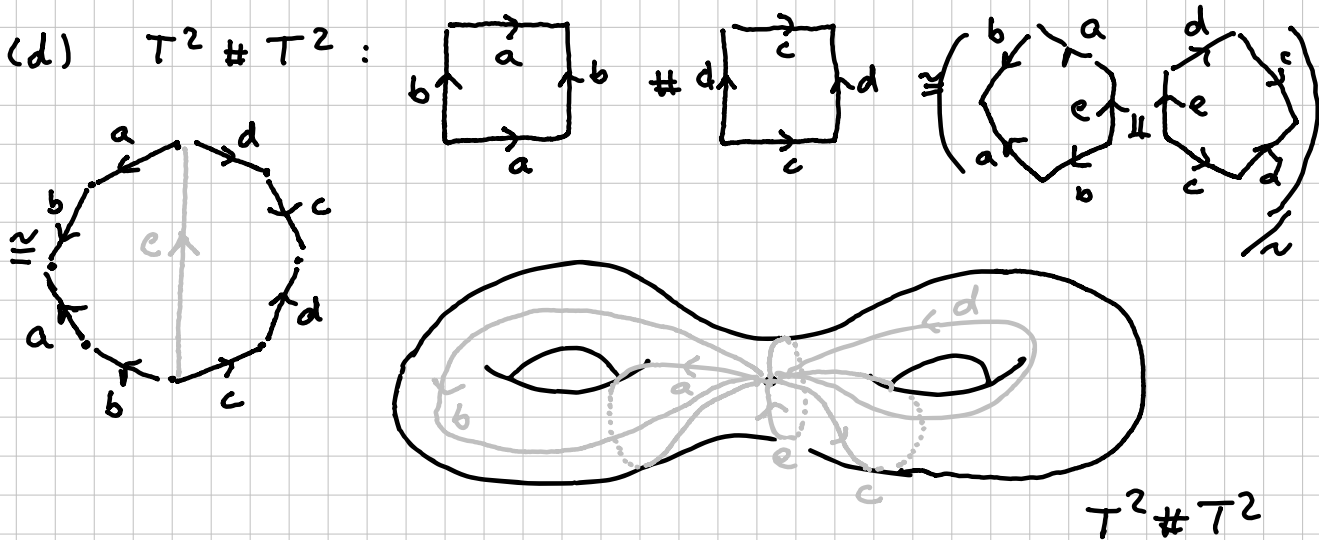
(b) $T^2 \# S^2 \cong T^2$:



(c) $\mathbb{R}P^2 \# \mathbb{R}P^2 \cong K^2$:



(d) $T^2 \# T^2$:



Lemma (Exercise 5.2): let P be a regular polygon in \mathbb{R}^2 (with its interior) having $2n$ edges, $n \geq 2$.

Label each edge with a label chosen in

$$\{a_1^\pm, a_1'^\pm, a_2^\pm, a_2'^\pm, \dots, a_n^\pm, a_n'^\pm; \pm \in \{+1, -1\}\}$$

such that each $a_i, a_i', \dots, a_n, a_n'$ appears exactly once.

Choose homeos $h_x: I \rightarrow X^\varepsilon$ such that

$h_x(t)$ runs X counter clockwise

for each $x \in \{a_i, a_i^{-1}; i=1, \dots, 4\}$.

Let \sim be the equivalence relation on P generated

$$h_{y_i^\varepsilon}(t) = \begin{cases} h_{y_i^!}(t) & \text{if } y_i \text{ and } y_i^! \text{ have the same power } \varepsilon \\ h_{y_i^!}(1-t) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then P/\sim is a compact, connected surface without boundary.

Notation: choosing one vertex of P and running ∂P counterclockwise, and writing a_i instead of $a_i^!$, we obtain a word with $2n$ letters, where each a_i appears twice (with some ε power). Eg (d) above starting at V gives the word $W = aba^{-1}b^{-1}cd c^{-1}d^{-1}$.

2.23 Theorem (Classification of closed surfaces)

Any compact, connected 2-manifold without boundary is homeomorphic to one, and only one, 2-manifold of the following list:

$$S^2, \quad \#_{i=1}^n T^2 = \underbrace{T^2 \# \dots \# T^2}_{n \text{ summands}}, \quad \#_{i=1}^n \mathbb{R}P^2 = \underbrace{\mathbb{R}P^2 \# \dots \# \mathbb{R}P^2}_{n \text{ summands}}$$

for $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$.

proof: We admit that any compact, connected surface is triangulable: one can "cover it" with triangles

that are either: — disjoint

— meet along exactly one common vertex

— meet along exactly one common edge

Using this (cut the triangles, arrange them on a plane)

it is easy to see that any compact connected surface can be obtained from a Polygon with $2n$ sides as in the lemma above: we say that this is a presentation of the surface: $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \mid W \rangle$

where W is a word with $2n$ letters, in which each a_i appears exactly twice (with exponent ± 1).

For example we have presentations:

$$S^2 = \langle a, b \mid a a^{-1} b b^{-1} \rangle$$

$$T^2 = \langle a, b \mid a b a^{-1} b^{-1} \rangle$$

$$\mathbb{R}P^2 = \langle a, b \mid a b a b \rangle$$

$$K = \langle a, b \mid a b a b^{-1} \rangle$$

$$T^2 \# T^2 = \langle a, b, c, d \mid a b a^{-1} b^{-1} c d c^{-1} d^{-1} \rangle.$$

We say that two presentations are equivalent (\sim) if they give homeomorphic surfaces.

We now suppose given a surface S with a presentation $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \mid W \rangle$, and we show this presentation is equivalent to a presentation of a surface from the list.

Remark: We have seen that if S, T are surfaces with presentations $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \mid W \rangle$ and $\langle b_1, \dots, b_m \mid X \rangle$, then $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m \mid WX \rangle$ is a presentation of $S \# T$.

We define operations that replace a presentation by an equivalent one:

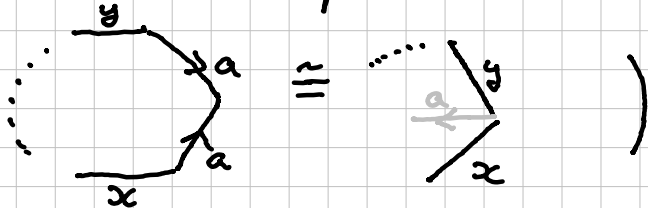
(R1) Exchange $a \leftrightarrow a^{-1}$ or rename a letter with one not used: obvious.

(R2) Rotation of a word: cyclic permutation of the letters (just start at another vertex of P).

(R3) Suppress aa^{-1} from the word.

(We accept $\langle a | aa^{-1} \rangle = \langle 1 \rangle$ as presentation of S^2 , and $\langle a | aa \rangle$ as presentation of $\mathbb{R}P^2$;

this is the operation already described:

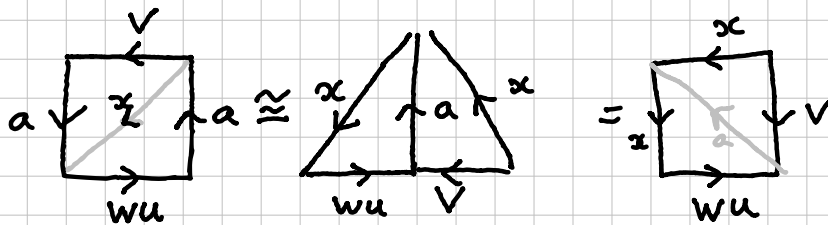


(R4) Delete portions of words by capital letters.

Then $U a V a W \approx W U V^{-1} a a$

(V^{-1} is obtained by reversing the order of the letters and changing the exponent: $(b c b^{-1} c)^{-1} = c^{-1} b c^{-1} b^{-1}$)

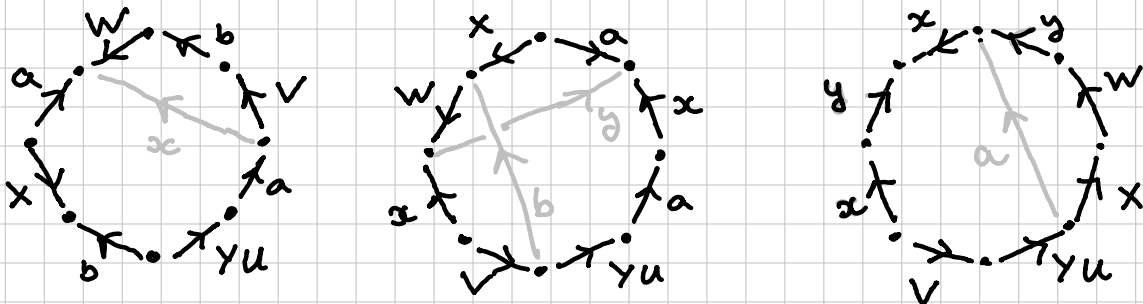
Indeed $U a V a W \approx W U a V a$ (R2), we picture it as:



thus

$$\begin{aligned} W U a V a &\approx \\ W U V^{-1} x x &\approx \\ W U V^{-1} a a &. \end{aligned} \quad (R1)$$

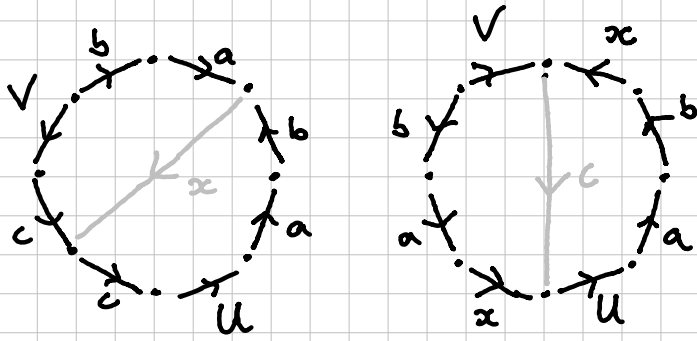
(R5) $U a V b W a^{-1} X b^{-1} Y \approx V Y U X W a b a^{-1} b^{-1}$



This shows $U a V b W a^{-1} X b^{-1} Y \approx Y U a V b W a^{-1} X b^{-1} Y$
 $\approx V Y U X W y x y^{-1} x^{-1} \approx V Y U X W a b a^{-1} b^{-1}$.

\uparrow used also (R2)

$$(R6) \quad U a b a^{-1} b^{-1} V c^2 \approx V^{-1} a^2 b^2 U^{-1} c^2$$



This shows $U a b a^{-1} b^{-1} V c^2 \approx U a b x V^{-1} b a x$

Now we apply (R4) $E \neq G \neq H \approx H E G^{-1} \neq \neq$

(we indicate below the word how we use it in the following \approx):

$$U a b x V^{-1} b a x \stackrel{(R4)}{\approx} \underbrace{x U b^{-1} V x^{-1} b^{-1} a^2}_{E \neq G \neq H} \stackrel{(R4)}{\approx}$$

$$a^2 x U x V^{-1} b^{-2} \stackrel{(R4)}{\approx} V^{-1} b^{-2} a^2 U^{-1} x^2$$

$$E \neq G \neq \underbrace{H}_{(R1)} \stackrel{(R1)}{\approx} V^{-1} a^2 b^2 U^{-1} c^2$$

It is now easy to show using (R1), ..., (R6) that any presentation is equivalent to one of the following:

$$\langle a \mid a a^{-1} \rangle \quad (S^2)$$

$$\langle a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n \mid (a_1 b_1 a_1^{-1} b_1^{-1}) \dots (a_n b_n a_n^{-1} b_n^{-1}) \rangle \quad (\#_{i=1}^n T^2)$$

$$\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \mid a_1^2 \dots a_n^2 \rangle \quad (\#_{i=1}^n \mathbb{R}P^2)$$

Indeed, note that (R1) \rightarrow (R6) do not increase the number of letters used and (R3) reduces it. In fact,

(R3) allows to suppress $\# S^2$,
 (R4) identifies an $\mathbb{R}P^2$ summand
 (R5) identifies an T^2 summand

} can make an induction on number of letters.

(R6) allows to replace $\mathbb{R}P^2 \# T^2$ by $\mathbb{R}P^2 \# \mathbb{R}P^2 \# \mathbb{R}P^2$

It remains to show that none of the list are homeomorphic:

for this we will introduce algebraic topology (π_1). \square (16)