The Classification Theorem of Surfaces

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For instance, an Isomorphism between Vector Spaces is a bijective Linear Transformation, since $T(\alpha v) = \alpha T(v)$ and T(v + w) = T(v) + T(w) are properties that preserve vector addition and scalar multiplication, the structure of a Vector Space.

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Invariants

An Invariant of a mathematical object ${\cal A}$ is a property of ${\cal A}$ that is unchanged under isomorphism.

In other words, if T is an isomorphism, then the property is true for both A and T(A). This ensures objects are inequivalent if they do not share the property.

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Orientability and Non-Orientability



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Roughly this means the Surface is one-sided, though the above definition is more general and less ambiguous than "one-sided".





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There are two ways we can view Surfaces: as subsets of \mathbb{R}^n for some n, or as spaces in their own right.





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Figure: Pictoral representation of Gluing sides of a fund poly to make a Klein Bottle

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Figure: The Klein Bottle represented by its "fundamental polygon". Note the advantage of the intrinsic viewpoint here: we don't have to think about self intersection or higher dimensional spaces.



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Figure: The Real Projective Plane in "Cross Cap" form: Note the self intersection required to view it in \mathbb{R}^3

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A Homeomorphism $f: \Sigma \leftarrow \Sigma'$ between two Surfaces Σ and Σ' is a bijective **Continous** function.

By **Continous** function, we mean any function that preserves "intrinsic Topology". This refers to the way the points are connected to each other.

As such, we say two Surfaces are equivalent (or homeomorphic in this case) if the intrinsic connection between their points are the same. We will explore this in a few examples.
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Given a Surface S, we define the Euler Characteristic $\chi(S)$ to be

$$\chi(S) := V - E + F$$

where V, E, F are the amount of edges, vertices and faces in some triangulation of S.

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We will define the standard orientable surface of genus n as the Surface obtained from sewing n handles onto a sphere.

Note: if n = 0, this is the sphere. If n = 1, this is a Torus. If n = 2, this is a two-holed Torus, and in general, we have something equivalent to an n holed Torus. Convince yourself of this. Note these are all topologically distinct.







Figure: Gluing a Mobius Strip onto a Sphere

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If n = 1, this is a Projective Plane. If n = 2, we get a Klein Bottle. If n = 3, we get a Surface called Dyck's Surface. Note we don't include the n = 0 case as this is a Sphere which is orientable. All these Surfaces are once again distinct.





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- **2**. $\chi(S) = 2$
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Surfaces

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Proof of Lemma 1

Proof of Lemma 2

Proof of the Classification Theorem

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Figure: A Graph.



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Figure: A Tree.







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Trees

Graphs may have loops between vertices. A graph that contains no loops is called a tree.

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Removing this edge gives us a graph of e - 1 edges, which by the IH has Euler char 1. Adding back the edge does not change the Euler char, so a graph with e edges must have an Euler char of 1.



Figure: Turning a Graph L into a Tree by removing finitely many edges without disconnecting it.



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This new graph, L', is a tree and we will have $\chi(L) = \chi(L') - g = 1 - g < 1$, as wanted

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Figure: The Dual Vertices lie on each face on the Dual Triangulation.



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Figure: Triangles with the dual vertices x and y resp.




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Thus, K is connected, as wanted!



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Now, with these 2 Lemmas (Lemma 6 and 7) about Dual Tree's proven, we can finally proceed with the proofs of Lemma 1 and 2!

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Recall:

Lemma 2

If ${\cal S}$ is a compact connected Surface without boundary, then we have the following are equivalent:

- 1. S is spherelike
- **2**. $\chi(S) = 2$
- 3. S is homeomorphic to the Sphere

We will prove this by proving the chain of implications:

 $(1) \Rightarrow (2) \Rightarrow (3) \Rightarrow (1)$

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Proof of Lemma 2 (1) \Rightarrow (2)

 $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$

Let S be a Surface in the above sense, and assume S is spherelike but $\chi(S) \neq 2$ for a contradiction.

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Letting $V, E, F, V_1, E_1, V_2, E_2$ be the vertices, edges, and faces in M, T, C resp, we have $V = V_2$, $F = V_1$, and $E = E_1 + E_2$. Then we have

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Since by Lemma 3, T will always have an end dual vertex, we can continously remove edges without disconnecting it.

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Figure: Growing the disk into something homeo to NT(T)



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So S is 2 disks glued along their boundary, i.e a Sphere, as wanted \blacksquare

 $(3) \Rightarrow (1)$ Suppose S is homeo to a Sphere. We want to show S is spherelike.

 $\begin{array}{l} (3) \Rightarrow (1) \\ \text{Suppose } S \text{ is homeo to a Sphere. We want to show } S \text{ is spherelike.} \\ \text{Consider a curve } C \text{ on } S. \\ \text{Without loss of generality, we can assume } C \text{ is a polygon of Vertices and Edges in } S. \end{array}$

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Consider a curve C on S. Without loss of generality, we can assume C is a polygon of Vertices and Edges in S.

Choose a point x on S that is not contained in C or any of the great circles containing arcs on C and consider it the north pole.

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Given any other point y that is not x or the south pole, we consider the arc xy. We say xy has even parity if it intersects C an even number of times, and odd parity is defined likewise.

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Figure: Our Curve $C \mbox{ on } S$ and arc xy





Figure: Our Curve C on S and arc xy

Figure: Intersection like this counts as 2 by convention.

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Figure: Our Curve C on S and arc xy

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Along any path not containing C, the parity remains constant (even) so C divides S into 2 distinct set of points: even and odd, as wanted.

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Thus by this result, Since $\chi(S) < 2$, we can consider a finite sequence of surgeries from $S \Rightarrow S_1 \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow S_k$ s.t $\chi(S) < \chi(S_1) < \cdots < \chi(S_k) = 2$

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Note that by Lemma 2, S_k is homeo to a sphere.



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There are 3 main types of desurgery:

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- 3. We have 1 disk left over. We simply glue a Mobius strip onto the boundary.

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Figure: A Type One DeSurgery



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Figure: A Type Two DeSurgery



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Suggested Reading

Textbooks:

- Topological Manifolds by John Lee (Will walk you through all the rigorous Topology you need to know for further study of differential Topology, motivated heavily by Manifolds/Surfaces and very geometric.
- Topology by Munkres (Another option for an introduction to Topology, a different approach to the subject then Lee)
- Other Books:
- Euler's Gem by David Richeson (A fantastic introduction to the history and motivation behind Topology at a beginner level)
- The Princeton Companion to Mathematics (A fantastic encyclopedia of Mathematics that has info on Topology and many other amazing fields of mathematics)
- Jeffery Weeks "The Shape of Space" (An awesome book that covers not only Classification of Surfaces but also 3-Manifolds and Geometry of Surfaces!)