

**QUALIFYING EXAM**  
**Geometry/Topology**  
**September 2017**

*Attempt all ten problems. Each problem is worth 10 points. Justify your answers carefully.*

1. Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold. Verify the following identity for vector fields  $X, Y$  and a 1-form  $\omega$  on  $M$ :

$$d\omega(X, Y) = X(\omega(Y)) - Y(\omega(X)) - \omega([X, Y]).$$

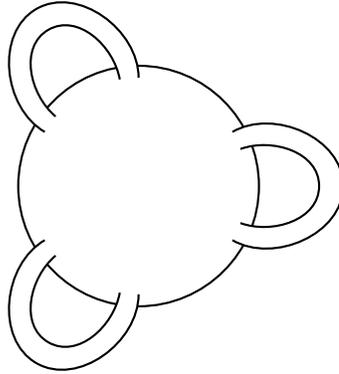
2. Let  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  be the space of all  $n \times n$  matrices with real coefficients.
  - (i) (5 pts) Show that  $O(n) = \{A \in M_n(\mathbb{R}) \mid AA^T = \text{id}\}$  is a smooth submanifold of  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ . Here  $A^T$  is the transpose of  $A$ .
  - (ii) (5 pts) Show that  $O(n)$  has trivial tangent bundle.
3. The Hopf fibration  $\pi : S^3 \rightarrow S^2$  is defined as follows: if we identify

$$S^3 = \{(z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 = 1\},$$

and  $S^2 = \mathbb{CP}^1$  with homogeneous coordinates  $[z_1, z_2]$ , then  $\pi(z_1, z_2) = [z_1, z_2]$ . There is another fibration  $p : STS^2 \rightarrow S^2$ , called the *unit tangent bundle*, whose fiber over  $x \in S^2$  consists of the tangent vectors in  $T_x S^2$  of unit length (here we may measure the length of a tangent vector by viewing  $S^2$  as a submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ). Show that there is a covering map  $f : S^3 \rightarrow STS^2$  of degree 2 satisfying  $p \circ f = \pi$ .

4. Consider the differential 1-form  $\omega = xdy - ydx + dz$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with coordinates  $(x, y, z)$ . Prove that  $f\omega$  is not closed for any nowhere zero function  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
5. Let  $x, y, z$  denote the standard Euclidean coordinates on  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and let  $dA$  denote the standard area form on  $S^2 = \{x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ . Determine the values of  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  for which  $\omega = z^n dA$  is an exact 2-form on  $S^2$ .
6.
  - (i) (3 pts) Define what it means for a manifold  $M$  to be orientable. (You can give any one of the many equivalent definitions.)
  - (ii) (7 pts) Show that every nonorientable connected manifold  $M$  admits a connected, oriented double cover.
7. Let  $M$  be a smooth, compact, connected, oriented  $n$ -dimensional manifold (without boundary).
  - (i) (5 pts) Show that if the Euler characteristic of  $M$  is zero, then  $M$  admits a nowhere vanishing vector field.
  - (ii) (5 pts) If  $M$  is a surface of genus  $g$ , then what is  $\min_v(\#\text{ zeros of } v)$ , where  $v$  ranges over vector fields on  $M$  whose zeros are isolated and have index  $\pm 1$ ? Give a proof.

8. Let  $M = [0, 1] \times [0, 1] / \sim_0$ , where  $(x, 1) \sim_0 (1 - x, 0)$  for all  $x \in [0, 1]$ , and let  $X = (M \times \{0, 1\}) / \sim_1$ , where  $(y, 1) \sim_1 (y, 0)$  for all  $y \in \partial M$ . Determine the fundamental group of  $X$ .
9. A compact surface (without boundary) of genus  $g$ , embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  in the standard way (see below for the case  $g = 3$ ), bounds a compact 3-dimensional region called a *handlebody*  $H$  (the region “inside” the surface in the following figure).



Let  $X = (H \times \{0, 1, 2\}) / \sim$ , where  $(x, i) \sim (x, j)$  for all  $x \in \partial H$  and  $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ . Compute the homology of  $X$ .

10. (i) (3 pts) Let  $A$  be a single circle in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Compute  $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 - A, *)$ .
- (ii) (3 pts) Let  $A$  and  $B$  be disjoint circles in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , supported in the upper and lower half space, respectively. Compute  $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 - (A \cup B), *)$ .
- (iii) (4 pts) How does  $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 - (A \cup B), *)$  change if the circles are linked as below?

