

**QUALIFYING EXAM**  
**Geometry/Topology**  
**September 2020**

*Attempt all ten problems. Each problem is worth 10 points. You must fully justify your answers.*

1. Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$  and  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k$  be two sets of distinct points in a connected smooth manifold  $M$  with  $\dim(M) > 1$ , and  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k$  and  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k$  be the corresponding two sets of non-zero tangent vectors at these points. Show that there is a diffeomorphism  $f$  of  $M$  such that  $f(x_i) = y_i$  and  $df_{x_i}(v_i) = w_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .
2. Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold of dimension  $n$ . Let  $T^*M := \sqcup_{m \in M} T_m^*M$  be the cotangent bundle, where  $T_m^*M$  is the dual of the tangent space  $T_mM$ , and let  $\pi : T^*M \rightarrow M$  be the natural projection such that  $\pi(\phi) = m$  for  $\phi \in T_m^*M$ . Let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be local coordinates on  $U \subset M$ . Then we endow  $\pi^{-1}(U)$  with coordinates  $(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ , such that the element  $\phi \in \pi^{-1}(U)$  with  $\pi(\phi) = m$  is written as  $\sum_i y_i dx_i(m)$ .
  - (a) Show that  $T^*M$  is a smooth manifold with respect to the local coordinate charts defined above.
  - (b) Define the 1-form  $\lambda$  on the cotangent bundle  $T^*M$  as follows: for any tangent vector  $v \in T_\phi(T^*M)$  at  $\phi \in T^*M$ , we set  $\lambda(\phi)(v) = \phi(d\pi(v))$ .  
 Find the explicit expression of  $\lambda$  with respect to the above local coordinate chart. Use this to show that  $\lambda$  is smooth.
  - (c) Find the explicit expression of  $d\lambda$  and its  $k$ -th exterior powers for all  $k \geq 2$  with respect to the local coordinate chart above. Use this to show that  $T^*M$  is orientable.
3. Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold with smooth boundary  $\partial M$  and  $N$  be a smooth manifold without boundary. Assume that  $f : M \rightarrow N$  is smooth (this includes smoothness at points of  $\partial M$ ) so that the tangent map  $df_x : T_xM \rightarrow T_{f(x)}N$  is well-defined (including at points of  $\partial M$ ). Let  $y \in N$  be a regular value for both  $f$  and  $f|_{\partial M}$ .
  - (a) Show that  $M_1 := f^{-1}(y)$ , if not empty, is a smooth submanifold with boundary in  $M$  such that the boundary  $\partial M_1 = (f|_{\partial M})^{-1}(y) = M_1 \cap \partial M$  is a submanifold of  $\partial M$ .
  - (b) If we only assume that  $y$  is a regular value for  $f$  but not for  $f|_{\partial M}$ , does the conclusion of (a) still hold?
4. Let  $S$  be a closed subset of a smooth manifold  $M$  that has a second countable topological basis. Show that for any positive integer  $n$ , there is a smooth map  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $S = f^{-1}(0)$ .
5. Let  $M, N \subset \mathbb{R}^{p+1}$  be two compact, smooth, oriented submanifolds (without boundary) of dimensions  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively, such that  $m+n = p$ , and suppose that  $M \cap N = \emptyset$ . Let  $l(M, N)$  be the degree of the map

$$\lambda : M \times N \rightarrow S^p, \quad \lambda(x, y) = \frac{x - y}{\|x - y\|}.$$

- (a) Show that  $l(M, N) = (-1)^{(m+1)(n+1)}l(N, M)$ .
- (b) Show that if  $M$  is the boundary of an oriented submanifold  $W \subset \mathbb{R}^{p+1}$  which is disjoint from  $N$ , then  $l(M, N) = 0$ .
6. Let  $X$  be a topological space and let  $Y = X \times [-1, 1] / \sim$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}(x, -1) &\sim (x', -1) && \text{for all } x, x' \in X, \\(x, 1) &\sim (x', 1) && \text{for all } x, x' \in X.\end{aligned}$$

Describe the relationship between the homology groups of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

7. (a) Describe a cell decomposition for  $X = \mathbb{R}P^4$  such that its 2-skeleton  $X^{(2)} = \mathbb{R}P^2$ . (This means that  $X$  is obtained from  $X^{(2)}$  by attaching only 3- and 4-dimensional cells.) Include a careful description of the attaching maps.
- (b) Use your cell decomposition to compute  $H_k(X; \mathbb{Z})$  and  $H_k(X, X^{(2)}; \mathbb{Z})$  for all  $k \geq 0$ .
8. List all the 3-sheeted connected covering spaces of  $S^1 \vee S^1$ . Which ones in the list are not normal?
9. Let  $\Sigma_5$  be a compact oriented surface of genus 5 without boundary. Does there exist an immersion  $f : T^2 \rightarrow \Sigma_5$ ? Justify your answer.
10. Show that the Euler characteristic of the special linear group  $SL(n, \mathbb{R})$  with  $n > 1$  is zero. Here for a topological space  $X$  its Euler characteristic is  $\chi(X) := \sum_i (-1)^i \text{rank}(H_i(X))$ , assuming that  $\sum_i \text{rank}(H_i(X)) < \infty$ .