

Let  $X$  be the quotient space obtained from  $B^2$  by identifying each point  $x$  of  $S^1$  with its antipode  $-x$ . We want to show that  $X$  is homeomorphic to the projective plane  $P^2$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 B^2 & & \\
 \downarrow p & \searrow g & \\
 & S^2 & \\
 & \searrow h & \\
 X^* & \xrightarrow{f} & P^2
 \end{array}$$

We proceed to define  $X^* = \{(h \circ g)^{-1}(\{y\}) \mid y \in P^2\}$ , and give it the quotient topology. Although we now have everything to invoke the Corollary, for it to prove what we want, we have to show  $X$ , the quotient space obtained from  $B^2$  by identifying antipodal points of  $S^1$ , partition  $B^2$  the same way as  $X^*$  does. We first look at  $X$ . If  $b \in B^2$  and  $b \in S^1$ , then  $b$  is

the representative of the equivalence class  $\{b, -b\}$  in  $X$ . If  $b \in B^2$  but  $b \notin S^1$ , then  $b$  is by itself an equivalence class in  $X$ . We then look at  $X^*$ . If  $b \in B^2$  and  $b \in S^1$ , then it means the  $z$ -coordinate of  $g(b)$  is 0, that  $g(b)$  and its antipodal point are both on the equator of  $S^2$  (both belong to the upper hemisphere), so  $\{b, -b\}$  are an equivalence class in  $X^*$ . If  $b \in B^2$  and  $b \notin S^1$ , then the antipodal point of  $g(b)$  is on the lower hemisphere, so  $b$  is by itself an equivalence class in  $X^*$ . Thus,  $X^* = X$ .

We now invoke the Corollary, which says  $f$  is a homeomorphism if and only if  $h \circ g$  is a quotient map. By construction,  $h$  is already a quotient map. We finally claim that  $g$  is an open map, which is obvious because  $g$  carries every open neighborhood of  $B^2$  to an open neighborhood in  $S^2$ . Since being an open map is a stronger condition than being a quotient map,  $g$  is also a quotient map. By a result in the book, we know the composition of quotient maps is a quotient map, so  $h \circ g$  is a quotient map.

Putting everything together, we have that  $X^*$  is homeomorphic to  $P^2$ , which means  $X$  is homeomorphic to  $P^2$ .

*QED*

**Exercise 63.1:**

Let  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  be disjoint simple closed curves in  $S^2$ .

(a) We want to show that  $S^2 - C_1 - C_2$  has precisely three components.

Since a simply closed curve separates  $S^2$ , we can let  $W_1, V_1$  denote the separations by  $C_1$ , and  $W_2, V_2$  denote the separations by  $C_2$ . Then,  $S^2 - C_1 = W_1 \cup V_1$  and  $S^2 - C_2 = W_2 \cup V_2$ .

Without loss of generality, suppose  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are disjoint, so  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  cannot be disjoint.

Now by some set theory facts:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S^2 - C_1 - C_2 &= (W_1 \cup V_1) \cap (W_2 \cup V_2) \\
 &= (W_1 \cap W_2) \cup (W_1 \cap V_2) \cup (V_1 \cap W_2) \cup (V_1 \cap V_2) \\
 &= \emptyset \cup W_1 \cup W_2 \cup (V_1 \cap V_2).
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

This shows  $S^2 - C_1 - C_2$  has at least three components. We then show it has at most three components by showing  $V_1 \cap V_2$  is connected. Consider  $\overline{W_1} = W_1 \cup C_1$  and  $\overline{W_2} = W_2 \cup C_2$ . By Theorem 63.3, since  $\overline{W_1}$  and  $\overline{W_2}$  are closed in  $S^2$ ,  $S^2 - \overline{W_1} \cap \overline{W_2} = S^2 - \emptyset = S^2$ , which is simply connected, and neither  $\overline{W_1}$  nor  $\overline{W_2}$  separates  $S^2$ , then  $\overline{W_1} \cup \overline{W_2}$  does not separate  $S^2$ . By definition, this means

$$\begin{aligned}
 S^2 - \overline{W_1} \cup \overline{W_2} &= S^2 - (W_1 \cup C_1) - (W_2 \cup C_2) \\
 &= (S^2 - W_1 \cup C_1) \cap (S^2 - W_2 \cup C_2) \\
 &= V_1 \cap V_2
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

is connected.

Putting everything together, we have proved that  $S^2 - C_1 - C_2$  has precisely three components.

*QED*

(b) We want to show that these three components have boundaries  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  and  $C_1 \cup C_2$ , respectively.

By the Jordan Curve Theorem, the boundaries of  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , respectively, because  $\overline{W_1} - W_1 = C_1$  and  $\overline{W_2} - W_2 = C_2$  by construction. It remains to show  $\overline{V_1 \cap V_2} - V_1 \cap V_2 = C_1 \cup C_2$ , which we again use set theory. We have shown in part (a) that  $V_1 \cap V_2 = S^2 - \overline{W_1 \cup W_2}$ , and we can convince ourselves that  $\overline{V_1 \cap V_2} = S^2 - W_1 \cup W_2$ . Putting everything together:

$$\begin{aligned}
\overline{V_1 \cap V_2} - V_1 \cap V_2 &= (S^2 - W_1 \cup W_2) - (S^2 - \overline{W_1 \cup W_2}) \\
&= (\overline{W_1} - W_1) \cup (\overline{W_2} - W_2) \\
&= C_1 \cup C_2.
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

We have proved what we want.

*QED*