A Differential Geometry Basics Cheat Sheet

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This is designed to be a quick, yet rigorous introduction/reference to the basic principles found within differential geometry, covering only the bare minimum of topics needed. Largely adapted from Spivak's A Comprehensive Introduction to Differential Geometry, 3rd Edition *and Mendelson's* Introduction to Topology, 3rd Edition

1 Prerequisite Knowledge

We only assume basic knowledge of continuity and differentiability in the context of functions and topology. Here, $\forall$ means "for all" or "for each", and $\exists$ means "there exists".

1.1 Some Basic Topology

Definition 1.1. *Neighborhood.* Let $a \in \mathbb{R}^n, \delta > 0$. The $\delta-$**neighborhood** of a is the set

$$U(a, \delta) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x - a\| < \delta \right\}. \tag{1}$$

Definition 1.2. *Metric Space.* Let X be some non-empty set and d be the mapping/function $d : X \times X \to \mathbb{R}$. The pair (X, d) is a **metric space** if, $\forall x, y, z \in X$,

1. $d(x, y) \geq 0$
2. $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if (iff) $x = y$
3. $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$
4. $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$ *(triangle inequality).*

Definition 1.3. *Topological Space.* Let X be a non-empty set and $\mathcal{J}$ be a collection of subsets of X. $(X, \mathcal{J})$ is a **topological space** if

1. $X \in \mathcal{J}$
2. $\varnothing \in \mathcal{J}$, where $\varnothing$ is the empty set
3. If $O_1, O_2, \ldots, O_n \in \mathcal{J}$, then $\bigcap_{i=1}^{n} O_i \in \mathcal{J}$
4. If $\forall \alpha \in I$, $O_\alpha \in \mathcal{J}$, then $\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} O_\alpha \in \mathcal{J}$ (I is some *indexing set*).

We label X as the **underlying set**, $\mathcal{J}$ as the **topology** on X, and members of $\mathcal{J}$ as **open sets**.

Remark. Topological and metric spaces $(X, \mathcal{J})$ and (X, d), respectively, are sometimes notated simply as X.

Definition 1.4. *Homeomorphism.* Let $(X, \mathcal{J})$ and $(Y, \mathcal{K})$ be topological spaces. $(X, \mathcal{J})$ and $(Y, \mathcal{K})$ are **homeomorphic** if $\exists$ inverse functions, or **homeomorphisms**, $f : X \to Y$ and $g : Y \to X$ such that f, g are continuous.

2 Manifolds

Definition 2.1. *Manifold.* A **manifold** is a metric space M such that if $x \in M$, $\exists$ some neighborhood U of x and some $n \in \{0, 1, 2 \ldots\}$ such that U is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^n$. If $\exists$ such an n that is the same $\forall x \in M$, we say that M is $\boldsymbol{n}$**-dimensional**, which can be notated as M^n.

Remark. Think of a manifold as being a surface that is locally Euclidean.

Definition 2.2. *C^∞-related Homeomorphisms.* Let M be some manifold, and let U, V be open subsets of M. Two homeomorphisms $x : U \to x(U) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y : V \to y(V) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ (for some n) are $\boldsymbol{C^\infty}$**-related** if the maps

$$y \circ x^{-1} : x(U \cap V) \to y(U \cap V) \tag{2}$$

$$x \circ y^{-1} : y(U \cap V) \to x(U \cap V) \tag{3}$$

are infinitely differentiable, or $\boldsymbol{C^\infty}$.

Definition 2.3. *Atlas.* A family of *mutually* C^∞-related homeomorphisms whose domains cover M (i.e. their union equals M) is an **atlas** of M.

Definition 2.4. *Chart/Coordinate System.* A **chart** or **coordinate system** for some manifold M is a homeomorphism x from some open $U \in M$ to an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$, denoted (x, U). A chart of M is a member of some atlas of M.

Remark. Charts/coordinate systems (x, U) create a way of assigning coordinates to points on U, and are sometimes notated simply with x.

Definition 2.5. *Differentiable Manifold.* A **differentiable**, **smooth** or $\boldsymbol{C^\infty}$ manifold is a pair $(M, \mathcal{A})$, where M is some manifold, and $\mathcal{A}$ is some *maximal atlas* for M, i.e. the union of all possible atlases of M.