



## Why

We want to think about two abstract spaces as being equivalent.<sup>1</sup>

## Definition

Let  $X \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  and  $Y \subset \mathbf{R}^m$ . A smooth, invertible function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a *diffeomorphism* if  $f^{-1}$  is smooth.  $X$  and  $Y$  are *diffeomorphic* if such a function exists.

The key is the relation diffeomorphic is an equivalence relation. It is reflexive because the identity map is smooth and invertible. It is symmetric since if  $f$  is a diffeomorphism from  $X$  to  $Y$  then  $f^{-1}$  is a diffeomorphism from  $Y$  to  $X$ . It is transitive because the composition of two smooth functions is smooth.

## Differential Topology

Differential topology studies properties of  $X \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  which do not change under diffeomorphism.

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<sup>1</sup>Future editions will include.



