IB Geometry

Ishan Nath, Lent 2023

Based on Lectures by Prof. Gabriel Paternain

January 25, 2023

Contents

1 Surfaces

Definition 1.1. A *topological surface* is a topological space Σ such that

(a) for all $p \in \Sigma$, there is an open neighbourhood $p \in U \subset \Sigma$ such that U is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^2$, or a disc $D^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, with its usual Euclidean topology.

(b) Σ is Hausdorff and second countable.

Remark. $\mathbb{R}^2 \simeq D(0,1) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\| \leq 1\}$.

1. A space X is *Hausdorff* if for $p \neq q$ in X, there exist disjoint open sets U, V with $p \in U, q \in V$.

   A space is *second countable* if it has a countable base, i.e there exist open sets $\{U_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$, such that every open set is a union of some of the U_i.

   The key point of defining surfaces is point (a), point (b) is for ruling out surfaces that are too weird.

2. If X is Hausdorff or second countable, then so are subspaces of X. Moreover Euclidean space has these properties (to show it is second countable, consider open balls $B(c, r)$ with $c \in \mathbb{Q}^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, and $r \in \mathbb{Q}_+ \subset \mathbb{R}_+$).

Example 1.1.

(i) The plane $\mathbb{R}^2$.

(ii) Any open set in $\mathbb{R}^2$ is a surface, i.e. $R^2 \setminus Z$ where Z is closed is a surface.

(iii) Graphs of functions. Suppose $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous. Then the graph of f is
$$\Gamma_f = \{(x, y, f(x, y)) \mid (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2\}.$$
This is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$, so we can endow it with the subspace topology. We claim it is a subspace homeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Recall that if X, Y are topological spaces, then the product topology $X \times Y$ has a basis of open sets $U \times V$, where $U \subset X$, $V \subset Y$ are open

A feature is that if $g : Z \to X \times Y$ is continuous if and only if $\Pi_x \circ g : Z \to X$ and $\Pi_y \circ g : Z \to Y$ are continuous, where Π_x, Π_y are the canonical projectors.

We can now show that if $f : X \to Y$ is continuous, then $\Gamma_f \subset X \times Y$ is homeomorphic to X, as $s(x) = (x, f(x))$ is a continuous function from X to Γ_f, $\Pi_x|_{\Gamma_f}$ and s are inverse homeomorphisms.

In particular, for our example $\Gamma_f \simeq \mathbb{R}^2$. So any $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ continuous produces a surface Γ_f.

(iv) The sphere: $S^2 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\}$ (with the subspace topology). To show this is a surface, we can consider the stereographic projection $\Pi_+ : S^2 \setminus \{(0, 0, 1)\} \to \mathbb{R}^2$:

$$(x, y, z) \mapsto \left(\frac{x}{1-z}, \frac{y}{1-z}\right).$$

Then Π_+ is continuous and has an inverse

$$(u, v) \mapsto \left(\frac{2u}{u^2+v^2+1}, \frac{2v}{u^2+v^2+1}, \frac{u^2+v^2-1}{u^2+v^2+1}\right).$$

So Π_+ is a continuous bijection with continuous inverse, and hence a homeomorphism.

Similarly, taking a stereographic projection from the south pole $\Pi_- : S^2 \setminus \{(0, 0, -1)\} \to \mathbb{R}^2$, by

$$(x, y, z) \mapsto \left(\frac{x}{1+z}, \frac{y}{1+z}\right)$$

is another homeomorphism. Hence S^2 is a topological surface, as the open sets $S^2 \setminus \{(0, 0, 1)\}$ and $S^2 \setminus \{(0, 0, -1)\}$ cover S^2, and it is Hausdorff and second countable as it is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$.

(v) The *real projective plane*. The group $\mathbb{Z}_2$ acts on S^2 by homeomorphisms, via the antipodal map

$$a : S^2 \to S^2$$
$$a(x, y, z) \mapsto (-x, -y, -z)$$

Definition 1.2. The real projective plane is the quotient of S^2 by identifying every point with its antipodal image:

$$\mathbb{RP}^2 = S^2/\mathbb{Z}_2 = S^2/\sim.$$

Lemma 1.1. *As a set, $\mathbb{RP}^2$ is naturally in bijection with the set of straight lines through* 0.

This is because any straight line through $0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ intersects S^2 in exactly a pair of antipodal points, and each such pair determines a straight line.

Lemma 1.2. $\mathbb{RP}^2$ *is a topological surface with the quotient topology.*

Recall the quotient topology: given the quotient map $q : X \to Y$, we say $V \subset Y$ is open if and only if $q^{-1}(V) \subset X$ is open in X.

Proof: First we show that $\mathbb{RP}^2$ is Hausdorff. If $[p] \neq [q] \in \mathbb{RP}^2$, then $\pm p$, $\pm q$ are distinct, antipodal pairs.

We take open discs centred on p and q and their antipodal images, such that no two discs intersect. The images of these discs give open images of $[p]$ and $[q]$ in $\mathbb{RP}^2$. Indeed, $q(B_\delta(p))$ is open since $q^{-1}(q(B_\delta(p))) = B_\delta(p) \cup (-B_\delta(p))$.

Now we show $\mathbb{RP}^2$ is second countable. Let U be a countable base of S^2, and let $\overline{U} = \{q(u) \mid u \in U\}$. Then $q(u)$ is open, as $q(u) = u \cup (-u)$, and $\overline{U}$ is clearly countable as U is.

Take $V \subset \mathbb{RP}^2$ open. By definition, $q^{-1}(V)$ is open, so let $q^{-1}(V) = \bigcup U_\alpha$, for $U_\alpha \in U$. Then

$$V = q(q^{-1}(V)) = q\left(\bigcup_\alpha U_\alpha\right) = \bigcup_\alpha q(U_\alpha).$$

Finally, let $p \in S^2$ and $[p] \in \mathbb{RP}^2$ be its image. Let $\overline{D}$ be a small closed disc neighbourhood of $p \in S^2$, so that $q|_{\overline{D}}$ is injective and continuous, and has image a Hausdorff space.

Now recall that a countinuous bijection from a compact space to a Hausdorff space is a homeomorphism.

So $q|_{\overline{D}} : \overline{D} \to q(\overline{D})$ is a homeomorphism. This induces a homeomorphism

$$q|_D : D \to q(D) \subset \mathbb{RP}^2,$$

where D is an open disc contained in $\overline{D}$. So $[p] \in q(D)$ has an open neighbourhood in $\mathbb{RP}^2$ homeomorphic to an open disc.

Example 1.2.

We continue looking at examples of surfaces.

(vi) Let $S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$. Then the *torus* is $S^1 \times S^1$ with the subspace topology of $\mathbb{C}^2$ (this is the same as taking the product topology).

Lemma 1.3. *The torus is a topological surface.*

Proof: We consider the map

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}^2 &\xrightarrow{e} S^1 \times S^1 \subset \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \\ (s,t) &\mapsto (e^{2\pi i s}, e^{2\pi i t}). \end{aligned}$$

We can view this map using the following diagram:

$$\begin{tikzcd} \mathbb{R}^2 \arrow[r, "e"] \arrow[d, "q"] & S^1 \times S^1 \\ \mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2 \arrow[ur, dashed, "\hat{e}"] & \end{tikzcd}$$

There is an equivalence relation on $\mathbb{R}^2$ given by translating by $\mathbb{Z}^2$. Now consider the map

$$[0,1]^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \xrightarrow{q} \mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$$

is onto, so $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$ is compact. Now note that $\hat{e}$ is a continuous bijection, so since it is onto a Hausdorff space, it is a homeomorphism.

Similar to $\mathbb{RP}^2$, for $[p] \in q(p)$, take a small closed disc $\overline{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ such that, for all $(m,n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, $\overline{D} \cap (\overline{D} + (m,n)) = \emptyset$.

Then $e|_{\overline{D}}$ and $q|_{\overline{D}}$ are injective. Now restricting to an open disc as before, we get an open disc as a neighbourhood of $[p]$, so $S^1 \times S^1$ is a topological surface.

Another viewpoint for a torus is by imposing on $[0,1]^2$ the equivalence relations

$$(x,0) \sim (x,1), \qquad (0,y) \sim (1,y).$$

Example 1.3.

We look at yet another example of a surface.

(vii) Let P be a planar Euclidean polyon. Assume that the edges are oriented and paired, and for simplicity assume the Euclidean lengths of e and $\hat{e}$ are equal if $\{e, \hat{e}\}$ are paired.

Label by letters, and describe the orientation by a sign of $\pm$ relative to the clockwise orientation in $\mathbb{R}^2$.

More precisely, if $\{e, \hat{e}\}$ are paired edges, there is a unique isometry from e to $\hat{e}$ respecting their orientations, say

$$f_{e\hat{e}} : e \to \hat{e}.$$

These maps generate an equivalence relation on P, where we identify $x \in \partial P$ with $f_{e\hat{e}}(x)$ whenever $x \in e$.

Lemma 1.4. $P/\sim$ *(with the quotient topology) is a topological surface.*

Proof: We begin by looking at a special case of the torus T^2 as $[0,1]^2/\sim$. Then if p is an interior point, we pick $\delta > 0$ small such that $\overline{B_\delta(p)}$ lies in the interior of the polygon P. Now we argue as before: the quotient map is injective on $\overline{B_\delta(p)}$ and is a homeomorphism on its interior.

Now suppose p is on an edge of P, but not a vertex. The idea is to take the two points in $q^{-1}(p)$, take half discs around them, and join them up to form a disc.

Say $p = (0, y_0) \sim (1, y_0) = p'$. Take δ small enough so the half discs of radius δ do not meet the vertices and don't intersect. Let U be the half disc around p and V the half disc around p'.

Define a map as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} U &: (x,y) \xrightarrow{f_u} (x, y - y_0), \\ V &: (x,y) \xrightarrow{f_v} (x-1, y-y_0). \end{aligned}$$

We want to show these maps glue well together. To do this, we use the following fact:

If $X = A \cup B$, A and B are closed, and $f : A \to Y$ and $g : B \to Y$ are continuous and $f|_{A\cap B} = g|_{A \cap B}$, then they define a continuous map on X.

Now f_u and f_v are continuous on $U, V \subset [0,1]^2$, so they induce continuous maps on $q(U)$ and $q(V)$.

In T^2, the intersection of the discs overlap on the paired edges, but our maps agree, so they are compatible with the equivalence relation. Hence f_u and f_v give a continuous map on an open image of $[p] \in T^2$ to $\mathbb{R}^2$. By the usual argument, we can show if $[p] \in T^2$ lies on an edge of P it has a neighbourhood homeomorphic to a disc.

Finally, we look at a vertex of $[0,1]^2$. In the image, there is really only one vertex. To find a homeomorphism to the open disc, we can take four quarter circles at each corner, and glue them appropriately.

For a general polygon, it is a similar idea. Interior and edge points are done analogously to T^2. For vertices, it is a bit different. We have different equivalence classes of vertices caused by orienting the edges in different ways.

If v is a vertex of P with k vertices in its equivalence class, then we have k sectors in P. Any sector can be identified with out favourite sector in $\mathbb{R}^2$, i.e. $(r, \theta) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ with $0 \leq r < \delta$ and $\theta \in [0, 2\pi/k]$. Gluing these together, we get an open disc as a neighbourhood of v.

This works unless $k = 1$, in which case we have two paired edges coming into or out of a vertex in P. But this is homeomorphic to a cone, which is homeomorphic to a disc.

These neighbourhoods of points in $P/\sim$ show that P is locally homeomorphic to a disc, and we can easily check that $P/\sim$ is Hausdorff and second countable.

Example 1.4.

One more example now.

(viii) We now consider connecting surfaces. Given topological surfaces Σ_1 and Σ_2, we can remove an open disc from each, and glue the resulting boundary circles.

Explicitly, we take $\Sigma_1 \setminus D_1 \cup \Sigma_2 \setminus D_2$ as a disjoint union, and impose the quotient relation

$$\theta \in \partial D_1 \sim \theta \in \partial D_2,$$

where θ parametrizes $S^1 = \partial D_i$.

The result $\Sigma_1 \sharp \Sigma_2$ is called the *connected sum* of Σ_1 and Σ_2.

In principle, this depends on the choices of discs, and it takes some effort to prove that it is well-defined.

Lemma 1.5. *The connected sum $\Sigma_1 \sharp \Sigma_2$ is a topological surface.*

We will not prove this lemma in this course.

Index