

# SMSTC, Structure and Symmetry

Sira Gratz, Glasgow  
[sira.gratz@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:sira.gratz@glasgow.ac.uk)

# Structure & Symmetry

# Structure & Symmetry

Wikipedia tells us:

- ★ **Algebra** (from Arabic "al-jabr", literally meaning "reunion of broken parts") is the study of mathematical symbols and the rules for manipulating these symbols
- ★ **Geometry** (from the Ancient Greek: geo- "earth", -metron "measurement") is a branch of mathematics concerned with questions of shape, size, relative position of figures, and the properties of space
- ★ **Topology** (from the Greek topos, place, and logos, study) is concerned with the properties of a geometric object that are preserved under continuous deformations, such as stretching, twisting, crumpling and bending, but not tearing or gluing

# Stream overview

# Stream overview

## *Semester 1*

### ★ **Groups, Rings and Modules**

- Tom Coleman, **Saint Andrews**  
`tdhc@st-andrews.ac.uk`
- Colva Roney-Dougal, **Saint Andrews**  
`colva.roney-dougal@st-andrews.ac.uk`
- Navid Nabijou, **Glasgow**  
`navid.nabijou@glasgow.ac.uk`

### ★ **Algebraic Topology**

- Greg Stevenson, **Glasgow**  
`gregory.stevenson@glasgow.ac.uk`
- Mark Grant, **Aberdeen**  
`mark.grant@abdn.ac.uk`

# Stream overview

# Stream overview

## *Semester 2*

### ★ **Algebras and Representation Theory**

- Sira Gratz, **Glasgow**  
`sira.gratz@glasgow.ac.uk`
- Dougal Davis, **Edinburgh**  
`dougal.davis@ed.ac.uk`

### ★ **Manifolds**

- Francesca Carocci, **Edinburgh**  
`francesca.carocci@ed.ac.uk`
- Jelle Hartong, **Edinburgh**  
`jelle.hartong@ed.ac.uk`

# Prerequisites



# Prerequisites

## ★ **Groups, Rings and Modules**

- ▶ Basic linear algebra and basic algebra concepts.
  - Definitions and examples of groups, rings and fields.
- ▶ Basic notions of group theory.
  - Lagrange's theorem, normal subgroups and factor groups.

# Prerequisites

## ★ Groups, Rings and Modules

- ▶ Basic linear algebra and basic algebra concepts.
  - Definitions and examples of groups, rings and fields.
- ▶ Basic notions of group theory.
  - Lagrange's theorem, normal subgroups and factor groups.

## ★ Algebraic Topology

- ▶ A course in metric spaces or topological spaces.
- ▶ A course in group theory.
  - Group actions.
  - Finitely generated abelian groups.

# Prerequisites

# Prerequisites

## ★ **Algebras and Representation Theory**

- ▶ The notion of a module and related concepts.
- ▶ Basics on noetherian and artinian modules.
- ▶ Some commutative algebra.

# Prerequisites

## ★ Algebras and Representation Theory

- ▶ The notion of a module and related concepts.
- ▶ Basics on noetherian and artinian modules.
- ▶ Some commutative algebra.

## ★ Manifolds

- ▶ Standard calculus courses.
  - Green's theorem.
- ▶ Basic courses in linear algebra.
  - Abstract vector space.

# Groups, Rings and Modules

# Groups, Rings and Modules

- Groups.
  1. Simple groups, Jordan-Holder Theorem, (semi)direct products.
  2. Permutation representations and group actions.
  3. Sylow Theorems and applications.
  4. Abelian, soluble and nilpotent groups.
  5. Free groups and presentations.

# Groups, Rings and Modules

- Groups.
  1. Simple groups, Jordan-Holder Theorem, (semi)direct products.
  2. Permutation representations and group actions.
  3. Sylow Theorems and applications.
  4. Abelian, soluble and nilpotent groups.
  5. Free groups and presentations.
- Commutative rings.
  1. Modules: introduction.
  2. Chain conditions and Hilbert's basis theorem.
  3. Fields and numbers.
  4. Affine algebraic geometry.
  5. Hilbert's Nullstellensatz.



# Representation Theory

# Representation Theory

- Noncommutative rings.
  - ▶ Finitely generated modules over principal ideal domains.
  - ▶ The Artin-Wedderburn Theorem.

# Representation Theory

- Noncommutative rings.
  - ▶ Finitely generated modules over principal ideal domains.
  - ▶ The Artin-Wedderburn Theorem.
- Representation Theory.
  - ▶ Representations and characters.
  - ▶ Orthogonality relations.
  - ▶ Induced representations.
  - ▶ Computing character tables.

# Algebraic Topology

# Algebraic Topology

- (1) Basic examples and constructions of topological spaces.
- (2) Manifolds, basic homotopy theory and homotopy groups.
- (3) Cofibrations, cell attachments and CW-complexes.
- (4) Cellular approximation and relative homotopy groups.
- (5) Fibre bundles, fibrations and the Hopf map.
- (6) An introduction to homology.
- (7) Homotopy invariance, exactness and excision.
- (8) Computations and applications of homology.
- (9) An introduction to cohomology.

# Manifolds

# Manifolds

- (1) Implicit Function and Sard's Theorems, abstract manifolds.
- (2) Tangent vectors and the tangent bundle, vector bundles.
- (3) Vector fields and flows, Lie derivative, the Frobenius Theorem.
- (4) Differential forms, Stokes' Theorem and Poincare duality.
- (5) Riemannian metrics, connections, the Levi-Civita connection.
- (6) Geodesics, the exponential map.
- (7) Curvature and integrability, Riemannian curvature.
- (8) Gauss Formula and the Theorema Egregium.
- (9) Euler characteristic, the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem for surfaces.

# Lüroth Problem



# Lüroth Problem

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  be a field of rational functions in 1 variable.
- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

# Lüroth Problem

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  be a field of rational functions in 1 variable.
- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ .

# Lüroth Problem

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  be a field of rational functions in 1 variable.
- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(x^2)$ .

# Lüroth Problem

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  be a field of rational functions in 1 variable.
- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(x^2)$ .

## Example

Take any  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}(x)$ . Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(f(x))$ .

# Lüroth Problem

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  be a field of rational functions in 1 variable.
- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(x^2)$ .

## Example

Take any  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}(x)$ . Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(f(x))$ .

## Question

Are there any other options for the subfield  $\mathbb{F}$ ?

# Lüroth Problem

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  be a field of rational functions in 1 variable.
- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(x^2)$ .

## Example

Take any  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}(x)$ . Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(f(x))$ .

## Question

Are there any other options for the subfield  $\mathbb{F}$ ?

## Theorem (Lüroth)

**NO.**

# From fields to oriented surfaces

## From fields to oriented surfaces

- ▶ The field  $\mathbb{F}$  is generated by  $f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .



## From fields to oriented surfaces

- ▶ The field  $\mathbb{F}$  is generated by  $f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- ▶ The functions  $f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)$  are related by relations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{F}_1(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0, \\ \mathbf{F}_2(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0, \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{F}_r(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0. \end{array} \right.$$

## From fields to oriented surfaces

- ▶ The field  $\mathbb{F}$  is generated by  $f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- ▶ The functions  $f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)$  are related by relations

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{F}_1(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0, \\ \mathbf{F}_2(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0, \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{F}_r(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0. \end{cases}$$

- ▶ This gives a subset  $\Sigma$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  given by

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{F}_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0, \\ \mathbf{F}_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0, \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{F}_r(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0. \end{cases}$$

## From fields to oriented surfaces

- ▶ The field  $\mathbb{F}$  is generated by  $f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- ▶ The functions  $f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)$  are related by relations

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{F}_1(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0, \\ \mathbf{F}_2(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0, \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{F}_r(f_1, \dots, f_n) = 0. \end{cases}$$

- ▶ This gives a subset  $\Sigma$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  given by

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{F}_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0, \\ \mathbf{F}_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0, \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{F}_r(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0. \end{cases}$$

- ▶ One can choose generators of  $\mathbb{F}$  such that  $\Sigma$  is *very good*.

# Classification of compact oriented surfaces

## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.

## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.
- ▶ It can be *compactified* by squeezing  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .

## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.
- ▶ It can be *compactified* by squeezing  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .
- ▶ This gives a compact oriented surface **S** that contains  $\Sigma$ .

## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.
- ▶ It can be *compactified* by squeezing  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .
- ▶ This gives a compact oriented surface **S** that contains  $\Sigma$ .
- ▶ Then  $\mathbf{S} \setminus \Sigma$  consists of finitely many points.



## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.
- ▶ It can be *compactified* by squeezing  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .
- ▶ This gives a compact oriented surface **S** that contains  $\Sigma$ .
- ▶ Then **S**  $\setminus$   $\Sigma$  consists of finitely many points.
- ▶ And  $\mathbb{F}$  is a field of rational function of the variety **S**.

## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.
- ▶ It can be *compactified* by squeezing  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .
- ▶ This gives a compact oriented surface  $\mathbf{S}$  that contains  $\Sigma$ .
- ▶ Then  $\mathbf{S} \setminus \Sigma$  consists of finitely many points.
- ▶ And  $\mathbb{F}$  is a field of rational function of the variety  $\mathbf{S}$ .

### Theorem

The surface  $\mathbf{S}$  is diffeomorphic to a *sphere* with  $\mathbf{g}$  handles attached.

## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.
- ▶ It can be *compactified* by squeezing  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .
- ▶ This gives a compact oriented surface  $\mathbf{S}$  that contains  $\Sigma$ .
- ▶ Then  $\mathbf{S} \setminus \Sigma$  consists of finitely many points.
- ▶ And  $\mathbb{F}$  is a field of rational function of the variety  $\mathbf{S}$ .

### Theorem

The surface  $\mathbf{S}$  is diffeomorphic to a *sphere* with  $g$  handles attached.

### Example

## Classification of compact oriented surfaces

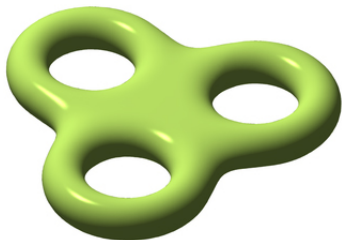
- ▶ The subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is not compact.
- ▶ It can be *compactified* by squeezing  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .
- ▶ This gives a compact oriented surface  $\mathbf{S}$  that contains  $\Sigma$ .
- ▶ Then  $\mathbf{S} \setminus \Sigma$  consists of finitely many points.
- ▶ And  $\mathbb{F}$  is a field of rational function of the variety  $\mathbf{S}$ .

### Theorem

The surface  $\mathbf{S}$  is diffeomorphic to a *sphere* with  $g$  handles attached.

### Example

If  $\Sigma$  is given by  $x^3y + y^3 + x = 0$  in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ , then  $\mathbf{S}$  looks like



Importance of being a sphere

## Importance of being a sphere

Recall that  $\mathbb{F}$  is a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

## Importance of being a sphere

Recall that  $\mathbb{F}$  is a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**Lemma**

$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(f(x))$  for some  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}(x) \iff \mathbf{g} = 0$ .

## Importance of being a sphere

Recall that  $\mathbb{F}$  is a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

### Lemma

$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(f(x))$  for some  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}(x) \iff \mathfrak{g} = 0$ .

Since  $\mathbb{F}$  is contained in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$ , we obtain a surjective map

$$\boxed{S^2 \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}.}$$



## Importance of being a sphere

Recall that  $\mathbb{F}$  is a subfield in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$  that contains  $\mathbb{C}$ .

### Lemma

$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}(f(x))$  for some  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}(x) \iff \mathfrak{g} = 0$ .

Since  $\mathbb{F}$  is contained in  $\mathbb{C}(x)$ , we obtain a surjective map

$$\boxed{S^2 \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}.}$$

If it is one-to-one, then we are done.

Euler characteristic

## Euler characteristic

- ▶ We have constructed a surjective map  $\phi: S^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$ .
- ▶ We want to show that  $\mathbf{g} = 0$ .

## Euler characteristic

- ▶ We have constructed a surjective map  $\phi: S^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$ .
- ▶ We want to show that  $\mathbf{g} = 0$ .

Let  $d$  be the number of points in  $\phi^{-1}(P)$  for general  $P \in \mathbf{S}$ . Then

$$\left| \phi^{-1}(P) \right| \leq d$$

for every  $P \in \mathbf{S}$ .

## Euler characteristic

- ▶ We have constructed a surjective map  $\phi: S^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$ .
- ▶ We want to show that  $\mathbf{g} = 0$ .

Let  $d$  be the number of points in  $\phi^{-1}(P)$  for general  $P \in \mathbf{S}$ . Then

$$\left| \phi^{-1}(P) \right| \leq d$$

for every  $P \in \mathbf{S}$ . Let  $\Delta$  be the finite subset in  $\mathbf{S}$  such that

$$\left| \phi^{-1}(P) \right| < d$$

for every  $P \in \Delta$ . Let  $\nabla = \phi^{-1}(\Delta)$ .

## Euler characteristic

- ▶ We have constructed a surjective map  $\phi: S^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$ .
- ▶ We want to show that  $\mathbf{g} = 0$ .

Let  $d$  be the number of points in  $\phi^{-1}(P)$  for general  $P \in \mathbf{S}$ . Then

$$\left| \phi^{-1}(P) \right| \leq d$$

for every  $P \in \mathbf{S}$ . Let  $\Delta$  be the finite subset in  $\mathbf{S}$  such that

$$\left| \phi^{-1}(P) \right| < d$$

for every  $P \in \Delta$ . Let  $\nabla = \phi^{-1}(\Delta)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 2 &= \chi(S^2) = \chi(S^2 \setminus \nabla) + \chi(\nabla) = \chi(S^2 \setminus \nabla) + |\nabla| = \\ &= d\chi(\mathbf{S} \setminus \Delta) + |\nabla| \leq d\chi(\mathbf{S} \setminus \Delta) + d|\Delta| = d\chi(\mathbf{S}) = d(2 - 2\mathbf{g}), \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $\mathbf{g} = 0$ .