

# Problems about the Topology of Surfaces

Lenny Ng  
Berkeley Math Circle  
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These vary somewhat in difficulty, but should all be fairly accessible.

## Applications of Euler's Formula

1. Using Euler's Formula, prove that you can't connect eight points pairwise on a torus, in such a way that none of the connecting curves intersect. ("The complete graph  $K_8$  cannot be embedded in a torus.")
2. With the same stipulation as the previous problem, connect five points pairwise on a torus; then six; then seven (hard!).
3. What's the maximum number of points that can be connected pairwise on the projective plane? On a Klein bottle?
4. Prove that any triangulation of the torus must have at least 7 vertices. That is, your solution to the previous problem (connecting 7 vertices pairwise on the torus) constitutes a *minimal triangulation* of the torus. What's the analogous result for the projective plane?

## Other problems

5. If  $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$  are surfaces, prove that  $\chi(\Sigma_1 \# \Sigma_2) = \chi(\Sigma_1) + \chi(\Sigma_2) - 2$ .
6. (Not easy)
  - (a) By cutting and pasting polygons, show that  $T \# P = P \# P \# P$ .
  - (b) Here's another approach to the same result. By cutting out a disk from  $T \# P$  and  $P \# P \# P$ , we obtain the connected sum of a torus and a Möbius strip, and the connected sum of a Klein bottle and a Möbius strip, respectively. Show that these last two connected sums are homeomorphic. This implies (by gluing the disk back in) that  $T \# P = P \# P \# P$ .
7.
  - (a) Comb a hairy torus without singularities. Then do the same for a hairy Klein bottle.
  - (b) Comb a hairy projective plane in such a way that there's only one singularity.
  - (c) Comb a hairy sphere in such a way that there's only one singularity.