

Problem Set 1: Algebraic Topology

- (1) Consider an annulus. Identify the antipodal points on the outer circle. Also identify the points on the inner circle that are 120 degree (i.e.  $2\pi/3$ ) apart. Compute the homology and cohomology (with integer coefficients) of this quotient space obtained from the operations above.
- (2) Let  $G$  be a finite graph
  - (a) Prove that  $\pi_1(G)$  is a finitely generated free group
  - (b) Prove any finite index subgroup of a finitely generated free group is also a finitely generated free group.
  - (c) Prove that if  $F$  is a finitely generated free group and  $N$  is a nontrivial normal subgroup of infinite index, then  $N$  is not finitely generated.
  - (d) Show that a finitely generated free group has only a finite number of subgroups of a given finite index.
- (3) Let  $M_g$  be the closed orientable surface of genus  $g$ . Prove that there is an  $n$ -sheeted covering  $M_g \rightarrow M_h$  if and only if  $g = n(h - 1) + 1$ .
- (4) Let  $A$  be the union of two once-linked circles in  $S^3$ ; let  $B$  be the union of two unlinked circles in  $S^3$ , as shown in the picture. Show that the cohomology groups of  $S^3 - A$  and  $S^3 - B$  are isomorphic, but the cohomology rings are not.

