

**Sample Midterm Examination III**  
Time Limit: 50 Minutes

May 1 2026

This examination document contains 5 pages, including this cover page, and 4 problems. You must verify whether there are any pages missing, in which case you should let the instructor know. **Fill in** all the requested information on the top of this page, and put your initials on the top of every page, in case the pages become separated.

You may *not* use your books, notes, or any calculator on this exam.

You are required to show your work on each problem on this exam. The following rules apply:

- (A) **If you use a lemma, proposition or theorem which we have seen in the class or in the book, you must indicate this** and explain why the theorem may be applied.
- (B) **Organize your work**, in a reasonably neat and coherent way, in the space provided. Work scattered all over the page without a clear ordering will receive little credit.
- (C) **Mysterious or unsupported answers will not receive full credit.** A correct answer, unsupported by calculations, explanation, or algebraic work will receive little credit; an incorrect answer supported by substantially correct calculations and explanations will receive partial credit.
- (D) If you need more space, use the back of the pages; clearly indicate when you have done this.

Problem	Points	Score
1	20	
2	20	
3	20	
4	20	
Total:	80	

Do not write in the table to the right.

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1. (20 points) (**Properties of  $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2)$** ) Solve the following parts:
- (a) (5 points) Let  $L = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x = y\}$  and  $M = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x = 6\}$ . Find an element  $g \in \Gamma = \langle \bar{r}_L, \bar{r}_M \rangle$  which has a *unique* fixed point.
- (b) (5 points) Draw the  $\Gamma$ -orbit of the point  $(0, 0)$  where  $\Gamma := \langle t_{(2,3)}, t_{(-1,0)} \rangle$ .
- (c) (5 points) Give an instance of a line  $L \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that its image under the quotient  $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$  is finite, where  $\Gamma := \langle t_{(2,3)}, t_{(-1,0)} \rangle$  as in (b).
- (d) (5 points) Show that any non-trivial isometry in  $\Gamma := \langle t_{(2,3)}, \bar{r} \circ t_{(1,0)} \rangle$  cannot have fixed points.

2. (20 points) (**Reflections in  $\mathbb{R}^2$** ) Consider the two lines  $L_0 = \{y = 0\}$ ,  $L_1 = \{x = y\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  and the two lines  $M_0 = \{x = y + 1\}$ ,  $M_1 = \{x = -y + 1\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ .

(a) (5 points) Show that the only fixed point of the isometry  $\bar{r}_{L_1} \circ \bar{r}_{L_0}$  is  $(0, 0)$ .

(b) (5 points) Prove that the isometry  $\bar{r}_{M_1} \circ \bar{r}_{M_0} \circ \bar{r}_{L_1} \circ \bar{r}_{L_0}$  is a rotation.

(c) (5 points) Show that there exist two lines  $N_0, N_1 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  such that

$$\bar{r}_{M_1} \circ \bar{r}_{M_0} \circ \bar{r}_{L_1} \circ \bar{r}_{L_0} = \bar{r}_{N_1} \circ \bar{r}_{N_0}.$$

(d) (5 points) Find the image of a point  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  under the isometry  $\bar{r}_{M_0} \circ \bar{r}_{L_1}$ .

3. (20 points) (**Spherical geometry**) Consider the 2-sphere

$$S^2 := \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\},$$

endowed with the spherical distance. Solve the following parts:

- (a) (5 points) Consider the point  $P = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1, 1, 1)$ . Compute its spherical distance to each of the points  $Q_1 = (1, 0, 0)$ ,  $Q_2 = (0, 1, 0)$  and  $Q_3 = (0, 0, 1)$ .
- (b) (5 points) Let  $L \subseteq S^2$  be the unique line containing  $P$  and  $Q_1$ , show that the point  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(0, 1, 1)$  belongs to  $L$ .
- (c) (5 points) Let  $E$  the unique line containing  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ . Find the image of the unique line through  $Q_1$  and  $Q_3$  under the composition  $\bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_E$ .
- (d) (5 points) Find the fixed points of the isometry  $f$  obtained by first applying  $\bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_E$  and then applying the reflection  $(x, y, z) \rightarrow (-x, y, z)$ .

4. (20 points) For each of the ten sentences below, circle whether they are **true** or **false**. You do *not* need to justify your answer.
- (a) (2 points) For any pair of points  $P, Q \in K$  in the Klein bottle, there are infinitely many distinct lines  $L \subseteq K$  containing  $P, Q \in K$ .  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (b) (2 points) There exist rotations  $R_{P,\theta}, R_{Q,\phi} \in \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  such that the composition  $R_{P,\theta} \circ R_{Q,\phi}$  is *not* a rotation.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (c) (2 points) Two lines  $L, K \subseteq M$  in the twisted cylinder either intersect 0,1 or infinitely many times.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (d) (2 points) Let  $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  be generated by a finite number of translations. Then there exists a fundamental domain  $D_\Gamma \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  of finite area.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (e) (2 points) The quotient of the isometry  $t_{(0,1)} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  gives a well-defined isometry in the twisted cylinder  $\mathbb{R}^2 / \langle t_{(1,0)} \circ \bar{r} \rangle$ .  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (f) (2 points) There are no parallel lines in the cylinder.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (g) (2 points) Every orientation-preserving isometry of the 2-sphere is a rotation.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (h) (2 points) Every orientation-reversing isometry of the 2-sphere has a fixed point.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (i) (2 points) There are parallel lines in the 2-sphere.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (j) (2 points) The spherical distance between two points in the 2-sphere is the same as the Euclidean distance between these two points, as computed in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .  
(1) True. (2) False.