

**Solutions to Midterm Examination**  
**Time Limit: 50 Minutes**

February 7 2020

This examination document contains 9 pages, including this cover page, and 5 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	
5	20	
Total:	100	

Do not write in the table to the right.

1. (20 points) Consider the points  $O = (0, 0)$ ,  $P = (1, 0)$ ,  $Q = (1, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  in the Euclidean plane. Let  $L, M \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  be the lines such that  $O, P \in L$  and  $O, Q \in M$ .

(a) (5 points) Find the image of the point  $(-4.5, 9) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  under the isometry  $\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L$  given by the reflections along  $L, M$ .

The intersection point of  $L, M$  is the origin  $O = L \cap M$ , and the angle between  $L$  and  $M$  is  $\pi/4$ . Thus  $R_{O, \pi/2} = \bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L$  and the image of  $(-4.5, 9) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  under the isometry is  $(-9, -4.5) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

Alternatively, the reflection  $\bar{r}_L$  acts as  $\bar{r}_L(x, y) = (x, -y)$  and the reflection  $\bar{r}_M$  acts as  $\bar{r}_M(x, y) = (y, x)$ . In consequence,

$$(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L)(x, y) = \bar{r}_M(x, -y) = (-y, x),$$

and  $(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L)(-4.5, 9) = (-9, -4.5)$ .

(b) (5 points) Show that the isometry given by the composition

$$(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L)^4 = \bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L$$

is the identity.

Since  $R_{O, \pi/2} = \bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L$ , we have

$$(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L)^4 = R_{O, \pi/2}^4 = R_{O, 4 \cdot \pi/2} = R_{O, 2\pi}.$$

Given that  $R_{O, 2\pi} = id$ , this implies the statement.

An alternative solution is to verify that the points  $O, P, Q$  are fixed by  $(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L)^4$ , and use that an isometry is uniquely determined by the images of three non-collinear points.

- (c) (5 points) Let  $N \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  be the unique line containing  $P, Q \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Show that the isometry  $\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L$  is a rotation.

Since  $\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L$  is a composition of four reflections, by the Classification Theorem of Euclidean Isometries in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , we know that it must be a translation or a rotation. By contradiction, assume this composition is a translation. Given that

$$(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L)(1, 0) = (0, 1),$$

if it were a translation it should be  $t_{(\alpha, \beta)}$  with  $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 1) - (1, 0) = (-1, 1)$ . Nevertheless,

$$(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L)(0, 0) = (0, 2),$$

and thus  $\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L$  cannot be a translation, since it should also be  $t_{(\alpha, \beta)}$  with  $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 2) - (0, 0) = (0, 2)$ .

- (d) (5 points) Find a point  $C \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and an angle  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $R_{C, \theta} = \bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L$ .

Note that the point  $N = (1, 1)$  is fixed, i.e.

$$(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L)(1, 1) = (1, 1)$$

since  $(1, 1) \in M \cap N$ . We know that the isometry is a non-trivial rotation by Part (c), and thus it suffices to determine the angle  $\theta$ . By observing that

$$(\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L)(1, 0) = (0, 1)$$

we conclude

$$\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L = R_{(1,1), -\pi/2}.$$

Alternatively, one can rewrite  $\bar{r}_M \circ \bar{r}_L \circ \bar{r}_N \circ \bar{r}_L$  in terms of reflections along different lines until one simplifies to two reflections.

2. (20 points) Let  $P = (0, 0)$ ,  $Q = (1, 0)$ ,  $R = (0, 3) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be an isometry such that  $f(P) = (0, 2)$ ,  $f(Q) = (-1, 2)$  and  $f(R) = (0, 5)$ . Consider the points  $S = (-3, 0)$ .

- (a) (5 points) Find the distances  $d(P, S)$ ,  $d(Q, S)$ ,  $d(R, S)$ .

The Euclidean distance is  $d((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}$ . Hence

$$d(P, S) = 3, d(Q, S) = 4, d(R, S) = 3\sqrt{2}.$$

- (b) (5 points) Find the image  $f(S)$  of the point  $S \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

We need to find the unique point  $f(S)$  such that

$$d(P, S) = d(f(P), f(S)), d(Q, S) = d(f(Q), f(S)), d(R, S) = d(f(R), f(S)).$$

Since the point  $(3, 2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  satisfies

$$d(f(P), f(S)) = 3, d(f(Q), f(S)) = 4, d(f(R), f(S)) = 3\sqrt{2},$$

it must be that  $f(S) = (3, 2)$ .

Alternatively, one can notice that the glide reflection  $\bar{r}_L \circ t_{(0,2)}$ , with  $L = \{(x, y) : x = 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  the  $y$ -axis, sends  $P, Q, R$  exactly as the isometry  $f$  does. By the characterization of isometries in terms of three non-collinear points, it must be that

$$f = \bar{r}_L \circ t_{(0,2)},$$

and from here we conclude  $f(S) = (3, 2)$ .

- (c) (5 points) Show that  $f$  cannot be a translation  $t_{(\alpha,\beta)} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .

The isometry  $f$  is orientation reversing, and thus it cannot be a translation (nor a rotation). Alternatively, if  $f$  were a translation  $f = t_{(\alpha,\beta)}$  we would have

$$t_{(\alpha,\beta)}(P) = t_{(\alpha,\beta)}(0,0) = (\alpha, \beta) = f(P) = (0, 2),$$

and thus  $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 2)$ . Nevertheless,  $t_{(\alpha,\beta)}(Q) = (1, 2)$ , which is not equal to the image  $f(Q) = (-1, 2)$ . Thus  $f$  cannot be a translation.

- (d) (5 points) Suppose that  $f$  has no fixed points, show that  $f$  is a glide reflection.

By the Classification Theorem of Euclidean Isometries and Part (c), we conclude that the isometry  $f$  must be a reflection or a glide reflection. The hypothesis that  $f$  has no fixed points implies that  $f$  must be a glide reflection.

3. (20 points) Let  $T^2 = \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$  be the Euclidean Torus, where  $\Gamma = \langle t_{(0,1)}, t_{(1,0)} \rangle \subseteq \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  is the group generated by the two translations

$$t_{(0,1)}, t_{(1,0)} : \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2.$$

- (a) (5 points) Draw the  $\Gamma$ -orbits of the two points  $P = (1, -2), Q = (-0.1, 0.9) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

The  $\Gamma$ -orbits consist of the square-grids described as follows:

$$\Gamma P = \{(n, m) \in \mathbb{Z}^2\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \Gamma Q = \{(n - 0.1, m + 0.9) \in \mathbb{Z}^2\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2.$$

- (b) (5 points) Find the distance  $d(\Gamma P, \Gamma Q)$  of  $\Gamma P, \Gamma Q \in T^2$  in the 2-torus.

Since  $(1, -2) = (0, 0) \in T^2$  and  $Q = (-0.1, 0.9) = (-0.1, -0.1) \in T^2$  as points in the 2-torus, we obtain  $d(P, Q) = \sqrt{0.02}$ .

- (c) (5 points) Give three different lines  $L_0, L_1, L_2 \subseteq T^2$  in the 2-torus such that both points  $\Gamma P, \Gamma Q \in T^2$  belong to each  $L_0, L_1$  and  $L_2$ .

We can choose the image of the line  $L_0 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x = y\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ , which contains  $(0, 0), (-0.1, -0.1) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , the image of the line  $L_1 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 1.9x = 0.9y\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ , which contains  $(0, 0), (0.9, 1.9) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and the image of the line  $L_2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 2.9x = 0.9y\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ , which contains  $(0, 0), (0.9, 2.9) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

- (d) (5 points) Find the number of intersection points between the two lines

$$\{(x, y) \in T^2 : x = 12y\} \subseteq T^2, \quad \{(x, y) \in T^2 : x = 0.3\} \subseteq T^2.$$

There are 12 intersection points, given by the image of the intersections in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  of the lines  $\{(x, y) : x = 0.3\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $M_i = \{(x, y) : x = 12y - i\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ , for  $0 \leq i \leq 11$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{M}$ , under the  $\Gamma$ -orbit map.

4. (20 points) Let  $M = \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$  be the Euclidean Twisted Cylinder, where

$$\Gamma = \langle \bar{r} \circ t_{(1,0)} \rangle \subseteq \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2).$$

is the subgroup generated by the glide reflection  $\bar{r} \circ t_{(1,0)}$ . Consider the two points  $P = (0.2, 0.8), Q = (0.7, -0.8) \in M$  in the twisted cylinder.

(a) (5 points) Compute the distance  $d(P, Q)$  between  $P, Q \in M$ .

Since the  $\Gamma$ -orbit of  $Q = (0.7, -0.8)$  contains  $(-0.3, 0.8)$ , the minimum distance between the  $\Gamma$ -orbits is achieved by the distance  $d((0.2, 0.8), (-0.3, 0.8)) = 0.5$ .

(b) (5 points) Find an isometry  $g : M \rightarrow M$  such that  $g(P) = Q$ .

The horizontal translation  $t_{(0.5,0)}$  brings  $Q$  to the point

$$t_{(0.5,0)}(Q) = (1.2, -0.8) = (0.2, 0.8) = P,$$

as required.

- (c) (5 points) Show that the subgroup  $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  is fixed point free.

The generator  $\bar{r} \circ t_{(1,0)}$  of  $\Gamma$  is a glide reflection, which does not have fix points. The composition of a glide reflection with itself is either a translation or a glide reflection. Thus  $\Gamma$  contains no elements with fixed points.

- (d) (5 points) Give an element  $g \in \Gamma$  which is *not* a glide reflection.

The generator  $\bar{r} \circ t_{(1,0)}$  of  $\Gamma$  is equal to  $t_{(1,0)} \circ \bar{r}$  since a translation commutes with a reflection along a line in the direction of the translation. Thus, the composition of the generating isometry  $\bar{r} \circ t_{(1,0)}$  with itself is

$$t_{(1,0)} \circ \bar{r} \circ \bar{r} \circ t_{(1,0)} = t_{(1,0)} \circ t_{(1,0)} = t_{(2,0)},$$

since  $\bar{r}^2 = id$  a reflection squares to the identity. In conclusion  $t_{(2,0)} \in \Gamma$  is a translation, and thus it is an element in  $\Gamma$  which is not a glide reflection.



5. (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) The composition of two rotations is a rotation.

(1) True. (2) **False**.

(b) (2 points) There are no lines  $L, N \subseteq M$  in the twisted cylinder with  $|L \cap N| = 2$ .

(1) True. (2) **False**.

(c) (2 points) An isometry  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  which is different from the identity cannot have more than three fixed points.

(1) True. (2) **False**.

(d) (2 points) The set of points equidistant to two distinct points  $P, Q \in C$  in the cylinder consists of a line.

(1) True. (2) **False**.

(e) (2 points) Let  $\Gamma \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  be an arbitrary subgroup, then there always exist finitely many fundamental domains  $D_\Gamma \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ .

(1) True. (2) **False**.

(f) (2 points) Any composition of an even number of reflections, including zero, can be expressed as a composition of two reflections.

(1) **True**. (2) False.

(g) (2 points) For any pair of points  $P, Q \in C$  in the cylinder, there are infinitely many distinct lines  $L \subseteq C$  containing  $P, Q \in C$ .

(1) True. (2) **False**.

(h) (2 points) Given two points  $P, Q \in T^2$  in the 2-torus, there exists an isometry  $f : T^2 \rightarrow T^2$  such that  $f(P) = Q$ .

(1) **True**. (2) False.

(i) (2 points) Let  $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  be discontinuous and fixed point free. Then  $\Gamma$  must contain a non-trivial translation.

(1) **True**. (2) False.

(j) (2 points) A fixed point free isometry  $f \in \text{Iso}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  must be a translation.

(1) True. (2) **False**.