

Complements of standardly
embedded subspheres

$$S^k \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{k+1} = \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \times \{0\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \cong \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$$

$\xrightarrow{\quad \subseteq \quad} S^n$

Problem Show $S^n - S^k \cong S^{n-k-1} \times \mathbb{R}^{k+1}$

Solution Write a point in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} as

(x, y) where $x \in \mathbb{R}^{k+1}$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$

It suffices to show that $S^n - S^k \cong S^{n-k-1} \times \overset{\circ}{D}^{k+1}$, where $\overset{\circ}{D}^{k+1}$ is the open disk of radius 1 centered at the origin of \mathbb{R}^{k+1} (since $\overset{\circ}{D}^{k+1} \cong \mathbb{R}^{k+1}$).

Let $f: S^{n-k-1} \times \overset{\circ}{D}^{k+1} \rightarrow S^n$ be

given by $f(u, v) = (v, \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-|v|^2}} \cdot u)$. Then f is 1-1 with image $S^n - S^k$. The inverse map $S^n - S^k \rightarrow S^{n-k-1} \times \overset{\circ}{D}^{k+1}$ sends (x, y) to

$$\left(\frac{y}{|y|}, x \right).$$

Note: $S^n - S^k =$ all (x, y) s.t. $|x|^2 + |y|^2 = 1$ and $y \neq 0$. ■