

Question 4. Connectedness is clear in all parts. For (1), we know from class that $S^2 - \text{point}$ is homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^2 . (2) can use part (1) because $S^2 - \text{point} - \text{point}$ is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^2 - \text{point}$, and that deformation retracts to S^1 . So the answer is \mathbb{Z} . In (3) $S^3 - \text{point}$ is homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^3 just as in part (1), so $S^3 - \text{point} - \text{point}$ is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^3 - \text{point}$, which deformation retracts onto the unit sphere S^2 , so the answer is the trivial group. For (4), as in (1) we can deformation retract $S^2 - \text{point}$ to the disk D^2 . So $S^2 - \text{point} \times 3$ deformation retracts to $D^2 - \text{point} \times 2$. This in turn clearly deformation retracts to the "figure 8" that can be traced around the two punctures. So the answer is the free group on two generators, or $\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}$. We need Baby Van Kampen again in (5), applied to the homeomorphic space $\mathbb{R}^3 - \text{point} \times 2$. This is the union of two $\mathbb{R}^3 - \text{point}$ which is simply connected. Now we can do induction until we get to 1001 punctures.