Practicalities

**Lecturer.** Mark Kambites (email Mark.Kambites@manchester.ac.uk).

**Web.** All course materials will be available at:

http://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/~mkambites/cc.php

Notes and exercise sheets will also be handed out in lectures.

**Lectures.** We have 4 hours timetabled each week, but **some slots will not be used** due to a course I am attending myself. Which slots we are using each week will be announced in lectures the previous week, and also confirmed by email each Monday. The website contains a full schedule in case you need to know further in advance. The sessions will be used flexibly as lectures and tutorials, depending on how things are going.

**Notes.** Full notes will be provided, and form the definitive content of the course. The lectures will explain the material more informally, and are not designed to be copied down verbatim. At times you may be asked to do some independent reading from the notes.

**Exercises.** There are exercises both within the notes and on separate exercise sheets. The “inline” exercises are simple checks of whether you have followed the material; you should try them as soon as possible after the lecture and talk to me if you find them difficult. The exercise sheets are designed to consolidate and develop your understanding in more depth. Each week I will suggest an exercise to hand in for marking, but feel free to do a different one if you think this would be more helpful. Model solutions will be provided, but bear in mind that many questions have multiple correct answers; if you have an answer which differs from the model one but which you still think is right, then I am happy to look at it.

**Office Hour.** I have a weekly office hour in Alan Turing 2.144; generally this will be 12:00-13:00 on Tuesdays, but please check the website for variations before making a special journey. Along with tutorials this is one of your main opportunities for support and feedback, so please do make use of it, especially if you have any problems. If you can’t make it to the office hour then I’m happy to meet at other times; if my door is open then I am operating an open door policy, but if it is closed please email for an appointment. Alternatively, I am happy to respond to short queries by email.

**Assessment.** There will be two coursework tests during the semester (each worth 10 marks); for submission dates please see the website. There will be a two-and-a-half hour exam in the summer examination period (worth 80 marks).

**Feedback.** Please let me know how you are finding the course, and especially if you think there are any problems with it. Feel free to speak to me after a lecture, email me, come along in my office hour, or even slip an anonymous note under my office door!

**Books.** The course is self-contained and you shouldn’t need to refer to any books. But if you would like an alternative viewpoint, here are a few texts which between them cover most of the course material (and a lot more besides):


**Acknowledgements.** The course and notes have evolved from a course given over the years by several lecturers (including most notably Jeff Paris). Many of the good ideas came from them (and any bad ones are likely to be mine). I am also grateful to many students from previous years whose comments and suggestions have helped to improve the course.