

# Contents

Preface	v
CHAPTER 1	
Homology and Cohomology. Computational Recipes	1
§1. Cohomology groups as classes of closed differential forms. Their homotopy invariance	1
§2. The homology theory of algebraic complexes	17
§3. Simplicial complexes. Their homology and cohomology groups. The classification of the two-dimensional closed surfaces	24
§4. Attaching cells to a topological space. Cell spaces. Theorems on the reduction of cell spaces. Homology groups and the fundamental groups of surfaces and certain other manifolds	42
§5. The singular homology and cohomology groups. Their homotopy invariance. The exact sequence of a pair. Relative homology groups	59
§6. The singular homology of cell complexes. Its equivalence with cell homology. Poincaré duality in simplicial homology	72
§7. The homology groups of a product of spaces. Multiplication in cohomology rings. The cohomology theory of $H$ -spaces and Lie groups. The cohomology of the unitary groups	83
§8. The homology theory of fibre bundles (skew products)	97
§9. The extension problem for maps, homotopies, and cross-sections. Obstruction cohomology classes	110
9.1. The extension problem for maps	110
9.2. The extension problem for homotopies	112
9.3. The extension problem for cross-sections	113
§10. Homology theory and methods for computing homotopy groups. The Cartan–Serre theorem. Cohomology operations. Vector bundles.	118
10.1. The concept of a cohomology operation. Examples	118
10.2. Cohomology operations and Eilenberg–MacLane complexes	122

10.3. Computation of the rational homotopy groups $\pi_i \otimes \mathbb{Q}$	126
10.4. Application to vector bundles. Characteristic classes	129
10.5. Classification of the Steenrod operations in low dimensions	135
10.6. Computation of the first few nontrivial stable homotopy groups of spheres	143
10.7. Stable homotopy classes of maps of cell complexes	149
§11. Homology theory and the fundamental group	152
§12. The cohomology groups of hyperelliptic Riemann surfaces. Jacobi tori. Geodesics on multi-axis ellipsoids. Relationship to finite-gap potentials	160
§13. The simplest properties of Kähler manifolds. Abelian tori	174
§14. Sheaf cohomology	180

## CHAPTER 2

<b>Critical Points of Smooth Functions and Homology Theory</b>	<b>188</b>
§15. Morse functions and cell complexes	188
§16. The Morse inequalities	195
§17. Morse–Smale functions. Handles. Surfaces	202
§18. Poincaré duality	216
§19. Critical points of smooth functions and the Lusternik–Shnirelman category of a manifold	223
§20. Critical manifolds and the Morse inequalities. Functions with symmetry	238
§21. Critical points of functionals and the topology of the path space $\Omega(M)$	247
§22. Applications of the index theorem	262
§23. The periodic problem of the calculus of variations	270
§24. Morse functions on 3-dimensional manifolds and Heegaard splittings	277
§25. Unitary Bott periodicity and higher-dimensional variational problems	283
25.1. The theorem on unitary periodicity	283
25.2. Unitary periodicity via the two-dimensional calculus of variations	293
25.3. Orthogonal periodicity via the higher-dimensional calculus of variations	302
§26. Morse theory and certain motions in the planar $n$ -body problem	310

## CHAPTER 3

<b>Cobordisms and Smooth Structures</b>	<b>325</b>
§27. Characteristic numbers. Cobordisms. Cycles and submanifolds.	
The signature of a manifold	325
27.1. Statement of the problem. The simplest facts about cobordisms. The signature	325
27.2. Thom complexes. Calculation of cobordisms (modulo torsion). The signature formula. Realization of cycles as submanifolds	334
27.3. Some applications of the signature formula. The signature and the problem of the invariance of classes	351

§28. Smooth structures on the 7-dimensional sphere. The classification problem for smooth manifolds (normal invariants). Reidemeister torsion and the fundamental hypothesis (Hauptvermutung) of combinatorial topology	357
Bibliography	372
APPENDIX 1 (by S. P. Novikov) An Analogue of Morse Theory for Many-Valued Functions. Certain Properties of Poisson Brackets	377
APPENDIX 2 (by A. T. Fomenko) Plateau's Problem. Spectral Bordisms and Globally Minimal Surfaces in Riemannian Manifolds	391
Index	407
Errata to Parts I and II	413