Topology is a branch of mathematics that concerns understanding ‘shape’ by studying the properties of objects (including many abstract ones) that are invariant under continuous transformations (modifications) like stretching or bending, but not tearing. Informally, topology is also referred to as rubber sheet geometry. Among the closed surfaces that we encounter, like the surface of a ball (sphere), surface of the doughnut (torus), or surface of a tray (or cup) with many handles, it turns out that those with the same number of holes are equivalent, while those with differing number of holes are not.

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