

Mathematics 382H – Mathematics from medieval to modern times

TRENT UNIVERSITY, Fall 2012

Assignment #10

Due on Tuesday, 27 November, 2012.

Generalizing geometry

Read [1] or [2], which are different translations into English of Bernhard Riemann's *Habilitationschrift*, or both. Feel free to look up whatever else you need to answer the questions below.

1. What is Riemann's article about? What are the main ideas in it? [7]
2. Why is Riemann's article important? [3]

REFERENCE

1. *On the Hypotheses which lie at the Bases of Geometry*, Bernhard Riemann, trans. by William Kingdon Clifford, *Nature* **8** (1873), pp. 14-17 & 36-37. Available online at: <http://www.emis.de/classics/Riemann/WKCGeom.pdf>
2. *On the Hypotheses Which Lie at the Foundations of Geometry*, Bernhard Riemann, trans. by Henry S. White, in *A Source Book in Mathematics* (1929), pp. 411-425. Reprinted by Dover Publications, Inc.; a preview of the book, including the translation above, can be read at: http://books.google.ca/books?id=awAf07Ff_z0C