

# Finite Hilbert's incidence geometry & friends

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FINITE GEOMETRY & FRIENDS  
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- Axioms ( $\mathcal{A}$ ):
  - $I_1$ : For every two points  $A, B$  there exists a line  $a$  that contains each of the points  $A, B$ .
  - $I_2$ : For every two points  $A, B$  there exists no more than one line that contains each of the points  $A, B$ .
  - $I_3$ : There exist at least two points on a line. There exist at least three points that do not lie on a line.
  - $I_4$ : For any three points  $A, B, C$  that do not lie on the same line there exists a plane  $\alpha$  that contains each of the points  $A, B, C$ . For every plane there exists a point which it contains.
  - $I_5$ : For any three points  $A, B, C$  that do not lie on one and the same line there exists no more than one plane that contains each of the three points  $A, B, C$ .
  - $I_6$ : If two points  $A, B$  of a line  $a$  lie in a plane  $\alpha$  then every point of  $a$  lies in the plane  $\alpha$ .
  - $I_7$ : If two planes  $\alpha, \beta$  have a point  $A$  in common then they have at least one more point  $B$  in common.
  - $I_8$ : There exist at least four points which do not lie in a plane.

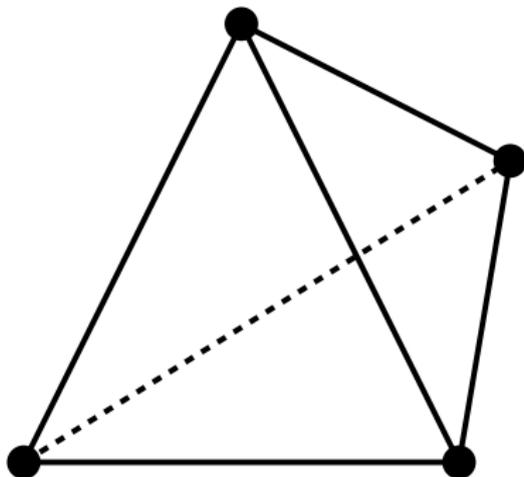
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- We are interested in finite models  $(P, L, \text{PI})$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

# The 4-point model

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The smallest finite model of  $\mathcal{A}$ :



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## Theorem

Let  $n$  be an integer,  $n \geq 4$ . Let  $i$  be an integer,  $2 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ . Let:

$$P = \{1, 2, \dots, n\},$$

$$L = \{\{1, 2, \dots, i\}, \{i+1, i+2, \dots, n\}\} \cup \{\{x, y\} : 1 \leq x \leq i, i+1 \leq y \leq n\},$$

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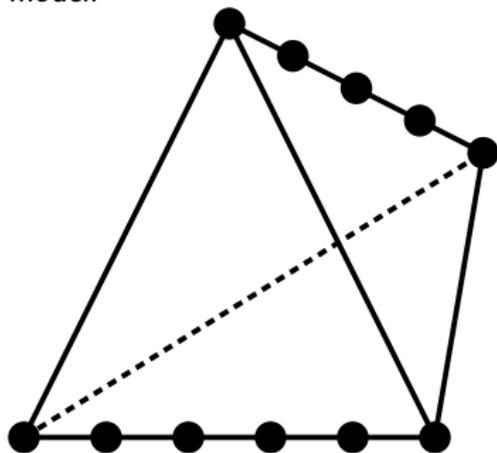
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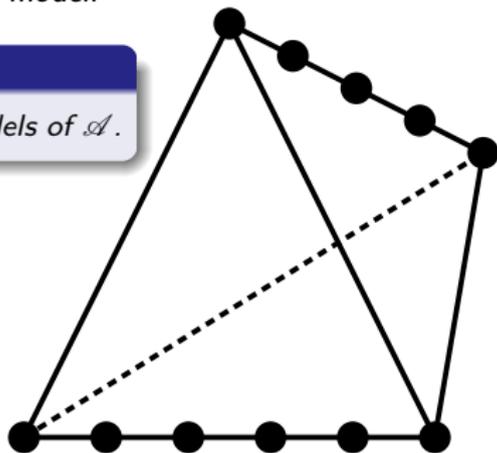
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## Proposition

There are  $\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor$  nonisomorphic tetrahedron-models of  $\mathcal{A}$ .



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*Let  $F^4$  be a 4-dimensional vector space over some finite field  $F$  of order  $q$ . Let  $P$  be the set of 1-dimensional subspaces of  $F^4$ , let  $L$  be the set of 2-dimensional subspaces, and let  $Pl$  be the set of 3-dimensional subspaces. Then  $(P, L, Pl)$  is a model of  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

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## Proposition

Up to isomorphism, there is one  $n$ -element projective-space-model of  $\mathcal{A}$  for each number  $n$  of the form  $q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$ , where  $q$  is a prime power.

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Let:

$$P = P' \cup \{X\}, \text{ where } X \notin P';$$

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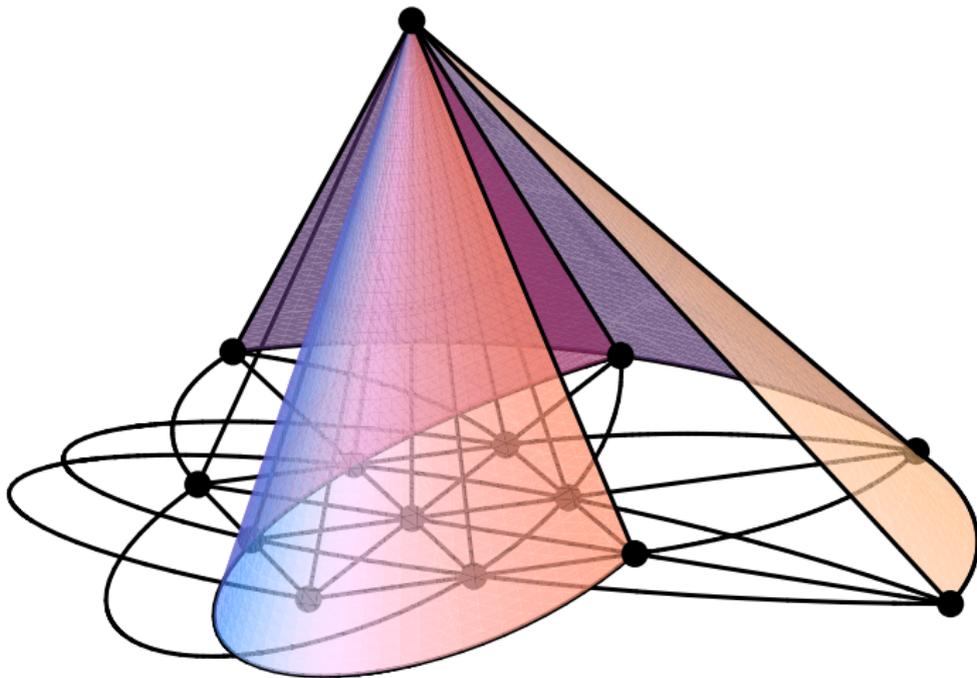
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## Proposition

For each  $n$  of the form  $q^2 + q + 2$ , where  $q$  is a number such that there exists a projective plane of order  $q$ , there are as many  $n$ -element projective-plane-models of  $\mathcal{A}$  as there are nonisomorphic projective planes with  $n - 1$  points.

# Extensions of projective planes

The projective-plane-model with 14 points:



# Combinatorial designs

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- The pair  $D = (X, \beta)$ , with  $|X| = v$  and  $\beta \subseteq P_{=k}(X)$ , is called a  $t$ - $(v, k, \lambda)$  *design*, and the members of  $\beta$  are called *blocks*, if every  $t$ -subset of  $X$  occurs in exactly  $\lambda$  blocks. We assume  $v > k > t \geq 1$  and  $\lambda \geq 1$ .

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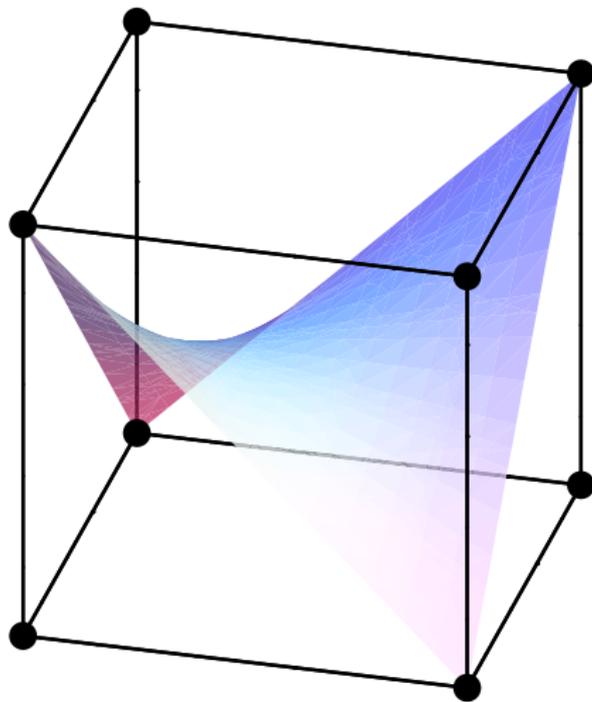
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## Proposition

There are exactly two nonisomorphic design-models of  $\mathcal{A}$ . These are the 3- $(8, 4, 1)$  design and the 3- $(22, 6, 1)$  design, corresponding to  $n = 8$  and  $n = 22$ , respectively.

# Combinatorial designs

The design-model with 8 points:



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- $\text{Hilblnc}(n)$ : the number of nonisomorphic models of  $\mathcal{A}$  with the point set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

## Theorem

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Then:

$$\text{Hilblnc}(n) \geq \left\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \right\rfloor + i + j + k,$$

where

$$i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = q^3 + q^2 + q + 1 \text{ for some prime power } q; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

$$j = \begin{cases} \text{the number of projective} & \text{if } n = q^2 + q + 2 \text{ for some } q \text{ for which} \\ \text{planes of order } q, & \text{exists a projective plane of order } q; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

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- Rank: for  $X \subseteq E$ ,

$$r(X) = \max\{|Y| : Y \subseteq X, Y \in \mathcal{I}\}.$$

# Matroids to the rescue

- Matroid:  $(E, \mathcal{I})$ , where  $E$  is finite and  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq P(E)$ , such that:
  - $\emptyset \in \mathcal{I}$ ;
  - $I \in \mathcal{I} \wedge I' \subseteq I \Rightarrow I' \in \mathcal{I}$ ;
  - $I, I' \in \mathcal{I} \wedge |I'| < |I| \Rightarrow (\exists e \in I \setminus I')(I' \cup \{e\} \in \mathcal{I})$ .
- Simple matroid:  $P_{\leq 2}(E) \subseteq \mathcal{I}$ .
- Rank: for  $X \subseteq E$ ,

$$r(X) = \max\{|Y| : Y \subseteq X, Y \in \mathcal{I}\}.$$

- Closure operator:  $\text{cl} : P(E) \mapsto P(E)$ ,

$$\text{cl}(X) = \{x \in E : r(X \cup \{x\}) = r(X)\}.$$

Closed set:  $\text{cl}(X) = X$ .

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$$\mathcal{I} = \{X : X \subseteq P, |X| \leq 2 \text{ or } (|X| = 3 \text{ and the elements of } X \text{ are not collinear}) \\ \text{or } (|X| = 4 \text{ and the elements of } X \text{ are not coplanar})\}.$$

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- Each model of  $\mathcal{A}$  is also a model of  $\mathcal{A} \cup \{I_{\cdot\cdot}\}$ .
- There are 185,981 simple matroids of rank 4 with 9 elements (and a negligible number of them with less elements), and thus the same number of models of  $\mathcal{A} \setminus \{I_7\} \cup \{I_{\cdot\cdot}\}$ . We select those which additionally satisfy  $I_7$ , and thus obtain the number of models of  $\mathcal{A}$  with up to 9 elements.

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- Running the algorithm on all the 28,872,972 simple matroids of rank 3 with 12 elements took about ten days on 16 cores (and the time spent on matroids with less elements was insignificant).

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*The exact number of nonisomorphic finite models of the first group of Hilbert's axiomatic system with  $n$  points,  $n = 1, 2, \dots, 12$ , is given in the following table:*

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$$P = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 12\};$$

$$L = \{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}, \{5, 6\}, \{5, 7\}, \{5, 8\}, \{6, 7\}, \\ \{6, 8\}, \{7, 8\}, \{9, 10\}, \{9, 11\}, \{9, 12\}, \{10, 11\}, \{10, 12\}, \{11, 12\}, \\ \{1, 5, 9\}, \{1, 6, 12\}, \{1, 7, 10\}, \{1, 8, 11\}, \{2, 5, 11\}, \{2, 6, 10\}, \{2, 7, 12\}, \\ \{2, 8, 9\}, \{3, 5, 12\}, \{3, 6, 9\}, \{3, 7, 11\}, \{3, 8, 10\}, \{4, 5, 10\}, \{4, 6, 11\}, \\ \{4, 7, 9\}, \{4, 8, 12\}\};$$

$$PI = \{\{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{5, 6, 7, 8\}, \{9, 10, 11, 12\}, \{1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11\}, \{1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12\}, \\ \{1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12\}, \{1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11\}, \{1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10\}, \{1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12\}, \\ \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12\}, \{2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10\}, \{2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11\}, \{2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12\}, \\ \{3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12\}, \{3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11\}\}.$$

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The unexpected 12-element model:

