Polarity transformations of the semipartial geometries $LP(4, q)^*$

Vedran Krčadinac

PMF-MO

29.3.2021.

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29.3.2021. 1 / 27

Strongly regular configurations

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A configuration with parameters (v_r, b_k) is a finite incidence structure such that:

- there are v points and b lines,
- there are k points on every line and r lines through every point,
- there is at most one line through every pair of points.

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Incidence geometers from **Gent** \rightsquigarrow finite partial linear space of order (s, t), s = k - 1, t = r - 1.

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We are interested in configurations with both the point graph and the line graph strongly regular.

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Partial geometries

R. C. Bose, *Strongly regular graphs, partial geometries and partially balanced designs*, Pacific J. Math. **13** (1963), 389–419.

A partial geometry $pg(s, t, \alpha)$ is a configuration with k = s + 1 and r = t + 1 such that for every non-incident point-line pair (P, ℓ) , there are exactly α points on ℓ collinear with P.

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The point graph is a

$$SRG\left(rac{(s+1)(st+lpha)}{lpha},\,s(t+1),\,s-1+t(lpha-1),\,lpha(t+1)
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and the line graph is a

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There are configurations with both associated graphs strongly regular that are **not** partial geometries!

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Desargues configuration (10_3) :



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The Desargues configuration is a **semipartial geometry** spg(2, 2, 2, 4).

I. Debroey, J. A. Thas, *On semipartial geometries*, J. Comb. Theory A **25** (1978), 242–250.

A semipartial geometry $spg(s, t, \alpha, \mu)$ is a configuration with k = s + 1and r = t + 1 such that for every non-incident point-line pair (P, ℓ) , there are either 0 or α points on ℓ collinear with *P*. Furthermore, for every pair of non-collinear points, there are exactly μ points collinear with both. I. Debroey, J. A. Thas, *On semipartial geometries*, J. Comb. Theory A **25** (1978), 242–250.

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Other examples of such configurations

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Another configuration (10_3) :



SRG(10, 6, 3, 4) (complement of the Petersen graph)

This configuration is **not** a semipartial geometry and does not belong to other known generalizations of partial geometries such as strongly regular (α, β) -geometries.

N. Hamilton, R. Mathon, *Strongly regular* (α, β) -geometries, J. Combin. Theory Ser. A **95** (2001), no. 2, 234–250.

Non-symmetric examples?

Are there non-symmetric examples of such configurations (with $v \neq b$), apart from the partial geometries $pg(s, t, \alpha)$ with $s \neq t$?

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Theorem.

If the point graph of a (v_r, b_k) configuration is strongly regular, then the configuration is a partial geometry or $v \leq b$.

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Corollary.

If both associated graphs of a (v_r, b_k) configuration are strongly regular, then the configuration is a partial geometry or v = b.

A strongly regular configuration with parameters $(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$ is a symmetric (v_k) configuration with the point graph a $SRG(v, k(k-1), \lambda, \mu)$.

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Image: A matrix

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Theorem.

In a $(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$ configuration, the line graph is also a $SRG(v, k(k-1), \lambda, \mu)$. If the incidence matrix is singular, the configuration is a partial geometry.

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We shall call strongly regular configurations with regular incidence matrices proper.

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We shall call strongly regular configurations with regular incidence matrices proper.

Proposition.

A strongly regular $(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$ configuration that is not a projective plane is proper if and only if $(v - k)(\lambda + 1) > k(k - 1)^3$ holds.

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First case: $\mu = 0 \iff$ the graphs are disjoint unions of complete graphs \iff collinearity of points is an equivalence relation

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P. Dembowski, *Finite geometries*, Ergebnisse der Mathematik und ihrer Grenzgebiete, Band 44, Springer-Verlag, 1968.

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Our introductory examples with parameters (10₃; 3, 4) are part of a family associated with Moore graphs of diameter two, i.e. strongly regular graphs with $\lambda = 0$ and $\mu = 1$.

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A. J. Hoffman, R. R. Singleton, *On Moore graphs with diameters* 2 *and* 3, IBM J. Res. Develop. **4** (1960), 497–504.

Moore graphs have parameters $SRG(k^2 + 1, k, 0, 1)$ with $k \in \{2, 3, 7, 57\}$.

$$k = 2 \rightsquigarrow$$
 the pentagon
 $k = 3 \rightsquigarrow$ the Petersen graph
 $k = 7 \rightsquigarrow$ the Hoffman-Singleton graph
 $k = 57 \rightsquigarrow$?

I. Debroey, J. A. Thas, *On semipartial geometries*, J. Comb. Theory A **25** (1978), 242–250.

Family (f):

- points are vertices of a Moore graph $SRG(k^2 + 1, k, 0, 1)$,
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- → semipartial geometry $spg(k 1, k 1, k 1, (k 1)^2)$ strongly regular $((k^2 + 1)_k; k(k - 2), (k - 1)^2)$ configuration

The point graph is the complementary $SRG(k^2+1, k(k-1), k(k-2), (k-1)^2)$.

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V. Krčadinac (PMF-MO)

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 \rightsquigarrow strongly regular (10₃; 3, 4) configuration **not** a semipartial geometry



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 $k = 7 \rightsquigarrow$ semipartial geometry spg(6, 6, 6, 36)strongly regular (50₇; 35, 36) configuration



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Proposition.

There are at least 211 non-isomorphic $(50_7; 35, 36)$ configurations. Only one of them is a semipartial geometry.

29.3.2021. 13 / 27

Family (g) of Debroey and Thas:

- POINTS are lines of the projective space PG(n, q), $n \ge 3$,
- LINES are 2-planes of PG(n, q) and incidence is inclusion.

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Lemma.

Two lines of PG(n, q) are coplanar if and only if they intersect.

 \rightsquigarrow semipartial geometry $spg(k-1, r-1, q+1, (q+1)^2)$

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This semipartial geometry is denoted by LP(n, q) in:

F. De Clerck, H. Van Maldeghem, *Some classes of rank* 2 *geometries*, Handbook of incidence geometry, 433–475, North-Holland, 1995.

F. De Clerck, *Partial and semipartial geometries: an update*, Discrete Math. **267** (2003), no. 1–3, 75–86.

LP(n,q) is a partial geometry $\iff n=3$

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LP(n,q) is a partial geometry $\iff n=3$

LP(n,q) is symmetric $\iff n = 4$

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 $LP(4, q) \rightsquigarrow$ semipartial geometry $spg(q(q + 1), q(q + 1), q + 1, (q + 1)^2)$ strongly regular $(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$ configuration for

$$u = \begin{bmatrix} 5\\2 \end{bmatrix}_q, \quad k = \begin{bmatrix} 3\\2 \end{bmatrix}_q, \quad \lambda = q^3 + 2q^2 + q - 1, \quad \mu = (q+1)^2.$$

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D. Jungnickel, V. D. Tonchev, *Polarities, quasi-symmetric designs, and Hamada's conjecture*, Des. Codes Cryptogr. **51** (2009), no. 2, 131–140.

Let H_0 be a hyperplane of PG(4, q). As a subgeometry, H_0 is isomorphic to PG(3, q) and possesses a polarity π , i.e. an inclusion-reversing involution. The polarity maps the set of projective lines contained in H_0 onto itself.

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We modify incidence of the POINTS and LINES of LP(n, q) contained in H_0 : a POINT L (projective line contained in H_0) is incident with a LINE p (projective plane contained in H_0) if $\pi(L) \subseteq p$. For the remaining pairs (L, p), with L or p not contained in H_0 , incidence remains unaltered. Let H_0 be a hyperplane of PG(4, q). As a subgeometry, H_0 is isomorphic to PG(3, q) and possesses a polarity π , i.e. an inclusion-reversing involution. The polarity maps the set of projective lines contained in H_0 onto itself.

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Theorem.

The new incidence structure $LP(4, q)^{\pi}$ is a strongly regular configuration with the same parameters that is not a semipartial geometry.

Proof.

The POINT and LINE degrees remain the same and there is at most one LINE through every pair of POINTS.

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The POINT graphs of $LP(4, q)^{\pi}$ and LP(4, q) are identical. This follows from the Lemma: if L_1 and L_2 are in H_0 , $\pi(L_1)$, $\pi(L_1)$ are contained in a plane p if and only if L_1 , L_2 intersect in the point $\pi(p)$ and hence are contained in some plane p'.

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The line graph of $LP(4, q)^{\pi}$ is changed, but remains strongly regular.

The new configuration $LP(4, q)^{\pi}$ is not a semipartial geometry: take a plane p in H_0 and a projective line L not in H_0 intersecting the hyperplane in the point $\pi(p)$. Then, (L, p) is a non-incident POINT-LINE pair of $LP(4, q)^{\pi}$. If $\pi(M) \subseteq p$, then M contains $\pi(p)$ and is coplanar with L, i.e. collinear as a POINT of the configuration. Hence, all $q^2 + q + 1$ POINTS on p are collinear with L, whereas in a semipartial geometry the number is always 0 or $\alpha = q + 1$.

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We define a **dual transformation** of LP(4, q): take a point P_0 of PG(4, q) and consider the quotient geometry of lines, planes and solids containing P_0 . It is isomorphic to PG(3, q) and possesses a polarity π' permuting the planes through P_0 and exchanging the lines and solids through P_0 .

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We modify incidence in LP(4, q) for projective lines L and planes p through P_0 : they are incident if $L \subseteq \pi'(p)$. Other incidences remain unaltered.

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We modify incidence in LP(4, q) for projective lines L and planes p through P_0 : they are incident if $L \subseteq \pi'(p)$. Other incidences remain unaltered.

Theorem.

The new incidence structure $LP(4, q)_{\pi'}$ is the dual of $LP(4, q)^{\pi}$.

The LINE graphs of LP(4, q) and $LP(4, q)_{\pi'}$ are identical. The POINT graph of $LP(4, q)_{\pi'}$ is changed.

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A **fourth** strongly regular configuration $LP(4, q)_{\pi'}^{\pi}$ is obtained if we take a non-incident point P_0 and hyperplane H_0 and apply both transformations. This configuration has the same LINE graph as $LP(4, q)^{\pi}$ and the same POINT graph as $LP(4, q)_{\pi'}$ and is self-dual.

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Theorem.

For every prime power q, there are at least four strongly regular (v_k ; λ, μ) configuration with parameters

$$\mathbf{v}=egin{bmatrix} 5\\2\end{bmatrix}_q, \hspace{1em} k=egin{bmatrix} 3\\2\end{bmatrix}_q, \hspace{1em} \lambda=q^3+2q^2+q-1, \hspace{1em} \mu=(q+1)^2.$$

One of them is the semipartial geometry LP(4, q) and the others are not semipartial geometries.

Are there strongly regular configurations with parameters different from semipartial geometries?

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Theorem.

Let \mathcal{P} be a projective plane of order $n \geq 5$ and A, B, C be three noncollinear points. By deleting all points on the lines AB, AC, BC and all lines through the points A, B, C, there remains a strongly regular $(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$ configuration with $v = (n-1)^2$, k = n-2, $\lambda = (n-4)^2 + 1$, and $\mu = (n-3)(n-4)$. This configuration is not an (α, β) -geometry.

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Sporadic examples:

Example.

There is a cyclic $(13_3; 2, 3)$ configuration. It can be obtained from PG(2, 3) by deleting a point from every line.

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Polarity transformations of LP(4, q)

29.3.2021. 21 / 27

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Examples with parameters different from spg

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There are at least four $(63_6; 13, 15)$ configurations. Two of them are related to the smallest generalized hexagon GH(2, 2).

Example.

There is a flag-transitive $(96_5; 4, 4)$ configuration.

Example.

There is a flag-transitive $(120_8; 28, 24)$ configuration. Its 120 lines and the 135 lines of a pg(7, 8, 4) with complementary point graph form a Steiner 2-(120, 8, 1) design.

A. E. Brouwer, W. H. Haemers, V. D. Tonchev, *Embedding partial geometries in Steiner designs*, in: *Geometry, combinatorial designs and related structures (Spetses, 1996)*, London Math. Soc. Lecture Note Ser., **245**, Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 1997, pp. 33–41.

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No.	$(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$	#Cf	#SCf
1	(103; 3, 4)	2	2
2	(13 ₃ ; 2, 3)	1	1
3	(163; 2, 2)	1	1
4	(254; 5, 6)	0	0
5	$(36_5; 10, 12)$	1	1
6	$(41_5; 9, 10)$?	?
7	(454; 3, 3)	0	0
8	(494; 5, 2)	0	0
9	(49 ₆ ; 17, 20)	1	1
10	(50 ₇ ; 35, 36)	211	111
11	(61 ₆ ; 14, 15)	?	?

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29.3.2021. 23 / 27

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No.	$(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$	#Cf	#SCf
12	$(63_6; 13, 15)$	4	2
13	(647; 26, 30)	29	11
14	(81 ₈ ; 37, 42)	?	?
15	$(85_6; 11, 10)$?	?
16	(857; 20, 21)	?	?
17	(96 ₅ ; 4, 4)	1	1
18	(99 ₇ ; 21, 15)	?	?
19	$(100_9; 50, 56)$	1	1
20	$(105_9; 51, 45)$?	?
21	(113 ₈ ; 27, 28)	?	?
22	(120 ₈ ; 28, 24)	1	1

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No.	$(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$	#Cf	#SCf
23	$(121_5; 9, 2)$	0	0
24	$(121_6; 11, 6)$?	?
25	(1219; 43, 42)	?	?
26	(121 ₁₀ ; 65, 72)	?	?
27	$(125_9; 45, 36)$?	?
28	(136 ₆ ; 15, 4)	?	?
29	(136 ₉ ; 36, 40)	?	?
30	$(144_{11}; 82, 90)$	1	1
31	$(145_9; 35, 36)$?	?
32	$(153_8; 19, 21)$?	?
33	$(155_7; 17, 9)$	4	2

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No.	$(v_k; \lambda, \mu)$	#Cf	#SCf
34	$(169_9; 31, 30)$?	?
35	$(169_{12}; 101, 110)$?	?
36	(171 ₁₁ ; 73, 66)	?	?
37	$(175_6; 5, 5)$?	?
38	(181 ₁₀ ; 44, 45)	?	?
39	$(196_{10}; 40, 42)$?	?
40	(196 ₁₃ ; 122, 132)	?	?
41	(196 ₁₃ ; 125, 120)	?	?

The table is based on A. E. Brouwer's tables of strongly regular graphs:

https://www.win.tue.nl/~aeb/graphs/srg/srgtab.html

Thanks for your attention!

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