# Polarity transformations of the semipartial geometries $L P(4, q)^{\star}$ 

## Vedran Krčadinac

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## Strongly regular configurations

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A configuration with parameters $\left(v_{r}, b_{k}\right)$ 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,
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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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The point and line graphs are regular of degree $r(k-1)$ and $k(r-1)$.
A graph is called strongly regular with parameters $\operatorname{SRG}(n, d, \lambda, \mu)$ if it has $n$ vertices, is regular of degree $d$, and every two vertices have $\lambda$ common neighbors if they are adjacent and $\mu$ common neighbors if they are not adjacent.

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

## Partial geometries

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

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

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The point graph is a

$$
\operatorname{SRG}\left(\frac{(s+1)(s t+\alpha)}{\alpha}, s(t+1), s-1+t(\alpha-1), \alpha(t+1)\right)
$$

and the line graph is a

$$
\operatorname{SRG}\left(\frac{(t+1)(s t+\alpha)}{\alpha}, t(s+1), t-1+s(\alpha-1), \alpha(s+1)\right)
$$

## Other examples of such configurations

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Desargues configuration $\left(10_{3}\right)$ :

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The Desargues configuration is a semipartial geometry $\operatorname{spg}(2,2,2,4)$.

## Other examples of such configurations

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

A semipartial geometry $\operatorname{spg}(s, t, \alpha, \mu)$ is a configuration with $k=s+1$ and $r=t+1$ such that for every non-incident point-line pair $(P, \ell)$, there are either 0 or $\alpha$ points on $\ell$ collinear with $P$. Furthermore, for every pair of non-collinear points, there are exactly $\mu$ points collinear with both.

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The point graph is a

$$
\operatorname{SRG}\left(1+\frac{s(t+1)(\mu+t(s+1-\alpha)}{\mu}, s(t+1), s-1+t(\alpha-1), \mu\right)
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Another configuration $\left(10_{3}\right)$ :


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This configuration is not a semipartial geometry and does not belong to other known generalizations of partial geometries such as strongly regular $(\alpha, \beta)$-geometries.
N. Hamilton, R. Mathon, Strongly regular ( $\alpha, \beta$ )-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 $\mathrm{pg}(s, t, \alpha)$ with $s \neq t$ ?

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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.

## Theorem.

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## Theorem.

If the point graph of a $\left(v_{r}, b_{k}\right)$ configuration is strongly regular, then the configuration is a partial geometry or $v \leq b$.

## Corollary.

If both associated graphs of a $\left(v_{r}, b_{k}\right)$ configuration are strongly regular, then the configuration is a partial geometry or $v=b$.

## Definitions

## Definition.

A strongly regular configuration with parameters $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ is a symmetric $\left(v_{k}\right)$ configuration with the point graph a $\operatorname{SRG}(v, k(k-1), \lambda, \mu)$.

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In a $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ configuration, the line graph is also a $\operatorname{SRG}(v, k(k-1), \lambda, \mu)$. 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.

## Proposition.

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

## Definitions

Projective planes of order $n$ are partial geometries $p g(n, n, n+1)$ and satisfy equality $(v-k)(\lambda+1)=k(k-1)^{3}$, but have regular incidence matrices. The associated point and line graphs are complete.

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A $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ configuration is imprimitive if $\mu=0$ or $\mu=k(k-1)$ holds.
First case: $\mu=0 \Longleftrightarrow$ the graphs are disjoint unions of complete graphs
$\Longleftrightarrow$ 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.

## A family of semipartial geometries

We focus on strongly regular configurations that are proper and primitive, i.e. such that neither collinearity nor non-collinearity of points are equivalence relations. This is equivalent with $0<\mu<k(k-1)$.

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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 $\operatorname{SRG}\left(k^{2}+1, k, 0,1\right)$ 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 $k=57 \rightsquigarrow$ ?

## A family of semipartial geometries

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## Family (f):

- points are vertices of a Moore graph $\operatorname{SRG}\left(k^{2}+1, k, 0,1\right)$,
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$\rightsquigarrow$ semipartial geometry $\operatorname{spg}\left(k-1, k-1, k-1,(k-1)^{2}\right)$
strongly regular $\left(\left(k^{2}+1\right)_{k} ; k(k-2),(k-1)^{2}\right)$ configuration
The point graph is the complementary $\operatorname{SRG}\left(k^{2}+1, k(k-1), k(k-2),(k-1)^{2}\right)$.


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$k=3 \rightsquigarrow$ Desargues configuration
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strongly regular $\left(50_{7} ; 35,36\right)$ configuration

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## Proposition.

There are at least 211 non-isomorphic $\left(50_{7} ; 35,36\right)$ configurations. Only one of them is a semipartial geometry.

## Another family of semipartial geometries

Family (g) of Debroey and Thas:

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


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Parameters:

$$
v=\left[\begin{array}{c}
n+1 \\
2
\end{array}\right]_{q}, \quad b=\left[\begin{array}{c}
n+1 \\
3
\end{array}\right]_{q}, \quad r=\left[\begin{array}{c}
n-1 \\
1
\end{array}\right]_{q}, \quad k=\left[\begin{array}{l}
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## Lemma.

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

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This semipartial geometry is denoted by $L P(n, q)$ 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.

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$\operatorname{LP}(4, q) \rightsquigarrow$ semipartial geometry $\operatorname{spg}\left(q(q+1), q(q+1), q+1,(q+1)^{2}\right)$ strongly regular $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ configuration for

$$
v=\left[\begin{array}{l}
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2
\end{array}\right]_{q}, \quad k=\left[\begin{array}{l}
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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.

## Polarity transformations

Let $H_{0}$ be a hyperplane of $P G(4, q)$. As a subgeometry, $H_{0}$ is isomorphic to $P G(3, q)$ and possesses a polarity $\pi$, 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 $\operatorname{LP}(n, q)$ 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.

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## Theorem.

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

## Polarity transformations

## 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 $L P(4, q)^{\pi}$ and $L P(4, q)$ are identical. This follows from the Lemma: if $L_{1}$ and $L_{2}$ are in $H_{0}, \pi\left(L_{1}\right), \pi\left(L_{1}\right)$ 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 $p^{\prime}$.

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

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The POINT graphs of $L P(4, q)^{\pi}$ and $L P(4, q)$ are identical. This follows from the Lemma: if $L_{1}$ and $L_{2}$ are in $H_{0}, \pi\left(L_{1}\right), \pi\left(L_{1}\right)$ 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 $p^{\prime}$.

The line graph of $L P(4, q)^{\pi}$ is changed, but remains strongly regular.
The new configuration $\operatorname{LP}(4, q)^{\pi}$ 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 $\operatorname{LP}(4, q)^{\pi}$. 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 $L P(4, q)$ : take a point $P_{0}$ of $P G(4, q)$ and consider the quotient geometry of lines, planes and solids containing $P_{0}$. It is isomorphic to $\operatorname{PG}(3, q)$ and possesses a polarity $\pi^{\prime}$ permuting the planes through $P_{0}$ and exchanging the lines and solids through $P_{0}$.

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We modify incidence in $\operatorname{LP}(4, q)$ for projective lines $L$ and planes $p$ through $P_{0}$ : they are incident if $L \subseteq \pi^{\prime}(p)$. Other incidences remain unaltered.

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## Theorem.

The new incidence structure $L P(4, q)_{\pi^{\prime}}$ is the dual of $\operatorname{LP}(4, q)^{\pi}$.
The LINE graphs of $L P(4, q)$ and $L P(4, q)_{\pi^{\prime}}$ are identical. The POINT graph of $L P(4, q)_{\pi^{\prime}}$ is changed.

## Polarity transformations

A fourth strongly regular configuration $L P(4, q)_{\pi^{\prime}}^{\pi}$ 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 $L P(4, q)^{\pi}$ and the same POINT graph as $L P(4, q)_{\pi^{\prime}}$ and is self-dual.

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## Theorem.

For every prime power $q$, there are at least four strongly regular $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ configuration with parameters

$$
v=\left[\begin{array}{l}
5 \\
2
\end{array}\right]_{q}, \quad k=\left[\begin{array}{l}
3 \\
2
\end{array}\right]_{q}, \quad \lambda=q^{3}+2 q^{2}+q-1, \quad \mu=(q+1)^{2} .
$$

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

## Examples with parameters different from spg

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 $A B, A C, B C$ and all lines through the points $A, B, C$, there remains a strongly regular $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ 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 $(\alpha, \beta)$-geometry.

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Sporadic examples:

## Example.

There is a cyclic $\left(13_{3} ; 2,3\right)$ configuration. It can be obtained from $P G(2,3)$ by deleting a point from every line.

## Examples with parameters different from spg

## Example.

There are at least four $\left(63_{6} ; 13,15\right)$ configurations. Two of them are related to the smallest generalized hexagon $G H(2,2)$.

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## Example.

There is a flag-transitive $\left(96_{5} ; 4,4\right)$ configuration.

## Example.

There is a flag-transitive $\left(120_{8} ; 28,24\right)$ configuration. Its 120 lines and the 135 lines of a $p g(7,8,4)$ 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.

## A table of admissible parameters

| No. | $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ | \#Cf | \#SCf |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $\left(10_{3} ; 3,4\right)$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| 2 | $\left(13_{3} ; 2,3\right)$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| 3 | $\left(16_{3} ; 2,2\right)$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| 4 | $\left(25_{4} ; 5,6\right)$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| 5 | $\left(36_{5} ; 10,12\right)$ | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | $\left(41_{5} ; 9,10\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 7 | $\left(45_{4} ; 3,3\right)$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| 8 | $\left(49_{4} ; 5,2\right)$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| 9 | $\left(49_{6} ; 17,20\right)$ | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | $\left(50_{7} ; 35,36\right)$ | 211 | 111 |
| 11 | $\left(61_{6} ; 14,15\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |

## A table of admissible parameters

| No. | $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ | \#Cf | \#SCf |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12 | $\left(63_{6} ; 13,15\right)$ | 4 | 2 |
| 13 | $\left(64_{7} ; 26,30\right)$ | 29 | 11 |
| 14 | $\left(81_{8} ; 37,42\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 15 | $\left(85_{6} ; 11,10\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 16 | $\left(85_{7} ; 20,21\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 17 | $\left(96_{5} ; 4,4\right)$ | 1 | 1 |
| 18 | $\left(99_{7} ; 21,15\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 19 | $\left(100_{9} ; 50,56\right)$ | 1 | 1 |
| 20 | $\left(105_{9} ; 51,45\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 21 | $\left(113_{8} ; 27,28\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 22 | $\left(120_{8} ; 28,24\right)$ | 1 | 1 |

## A table of admissible parameters

| No. | $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ | \#Cf | \#SCf |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 23 | $\left(121_{5} ; 9,2\right)$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| 24 | $\left(121_{6} ; 11,6\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 25 | $\left(121_{9} ; 43,42\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 26 | $\left(121_{10} ; 65,72\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 27 | $\left(125_{9} ; 45,36\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 28 | $\left(136_{6} ; 15,4\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 29 | $\left(136_{9} ; 36,40\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 30 | $\left(144_{11} ; 82,90\right)$ | 1 | 1 |
| 31 | $\left(145_{9} ; 35,36\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 32 | $\left(153_{8} ; 19,21\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 33 | $\left(155_{7} ; 17,9\right)$ | 4 | 2 |

## A table of admissible parameters

| No. | $\left(v_{k} ; \lambda, \mu\right)$ | \#Cf | \#SCf |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 34 | $\left(169_{9} ; 31,30\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 35 | $\left(169_{12} ; 101,110\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 36 | $\left(171_{11} ; 73,66\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 37 | $\left(175_{6} ; 5,5\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 38 | $\left(181_{10} ; 44,45\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 39 | $\left(196_{10} ; 40,42\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 40 | $\left(196_{13} ; 122,132\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 41 | $\left(196_{13} ; 125,120\right)$ | $?$ | $?$ |

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! 

