

Orbiter User's Guide

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May 11, 2020

Abstract

Orbiter is a program package devoted to the field of Algebraic Combinatorics. Specifically, it is aimed at the problem of classifying combinatorial objects and orbit computations, hence the name. Orbiter provides algorithms for effective handling of finite permutation groups in various actions. This guide is targeted for command line interface usage. Programmers who want to use the Orbiter class library in their own C++ program should consult the programmer's guide.

1 Introduction

Orbiter is a computer algebra system for Algebraic Combinatorics, with an emphasis on the classification of combinatorial objects. The kinds of problems for which Orbiter was designed for lie at the interface between group theoretic computations and combinatorics. Classification and computer search are the main topics for which Orbiter is perhaps stronger than other systems. Orbiter hopes to contribute to the knowledge base of combinatorial structures, and to provide useful tools to investigate structures from various points of view, including their symmetry properties. Orbiter code and Orbiter data structures are optimized for efficiency in terms of memory and execution speed. Orbiter is a library of C++ classes, together with a command line driven front end. There is no graphical user interface. The system offers two modes of use, programming or command line interface. This manual is about the command line interface. Readers who are interested in the Orbiter C++ class library should consult the programmer's guide.

In the command line interface mode, Orbiter commands are issued through the unix command line shell. In this mode, the data is maintained mostly in files for both input and output. Data on files transcends the Orbiter sessions. This way, data that was computed in one session can be use in another Orbiter session later. Data can be backed up and restored, and transfered between different compute nodes. Orbiter interfaces to external systems and software packages exists. This includes text processing (latex), computer graphics (povray, latex tikz), and source code targeted for other computer algebra systems. A running log of the session appears in the terminal and can be redirected into files if necessary. It is also possible to write shell scripts or makefiles, to metaprogram a sequence of sessions. Having the commands stored in a makefile is often useful to allow reproducing the work done previously. The verbosity of the Orbiter session can be controlled, which allows fine tuned

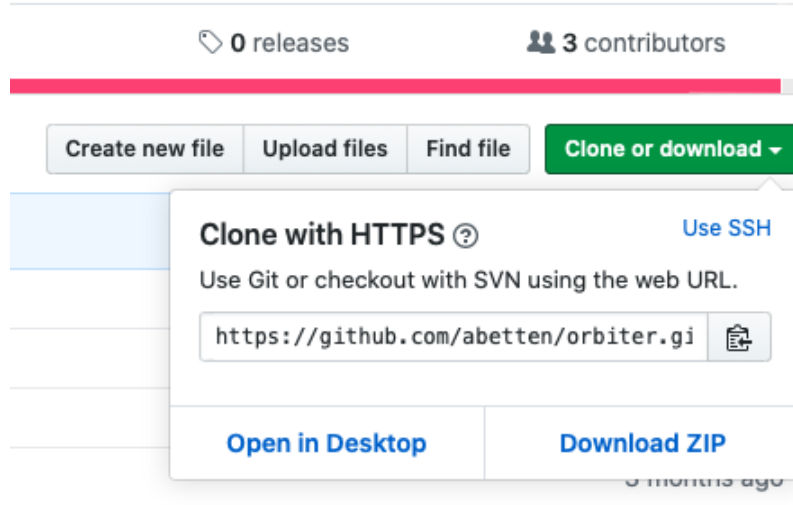


Figure 1: GitHub Clone or Download button

observance of all steps that the Orbiter session executes. This can be very valuable for debugging, which is a fact of life. Orbiter is open source free software. There are no licensing costs. Orbiter allows parallelism, both at the thread level and by using high performance parallel / distributed computing.

2 Installation

The installation of Orbiter requires the following steps:

- (a) Ensure that `git` and the C++ development suite are installed (`gnuc` and `make`). Windows users may have to install `cygwin` (plus the extra packages `git`, `make`, `gnuc`). Macintosh users may have to install the xcode development tools from the appstore (it is free). Linux users may have to install the development packages. Orbiter often produces latex reports. In order to compile these files, make sure you have latex installed (Orbiter programs run without it though).
- (b) Clone the Orbiter source tree from github (`abetten/orbiter`). The commands are:

```
git clone <github-orbiter-path>
```

where `<github-orbiter-path>` has to be replaced by the actual address provided by github. To obtain this path, find Orbiter on github, then click on the green box that says “Clone or download” and copy the address into the clipboard by clicking the clipboard symbol (see Figure 1). Back in the terminal, you can paste this text after the `git clone` command.

- (c) Issue the following commands to complete the download of submodules:

```
cd orbiter
git submodule init
git submodule update
```

(d) Issue the following commands to compile Orbiter using recursive makefiles:

```
make
make install
```

These two commands compile the Orbiter source tree and copy the executables to the subdirectory `bin` inside the Orbiter source tree. Compiling Orbiter will take a little while (several minutes, depending on the speed of the machine). Depending on the compiler, some warnings will be produced, though none of them are serious. If an error appears, please check that you followed all the steps above (including the git submodule commands from the previous steps). The main executable is called `orbiter.out`.

3 Finite Fields

Finite fields and projective spaces over finite fields play an important role in Orbiter. The elements of the field \mathbb{F}_q are represented in different ways. Suppose that $q = p^e$ for some prime p and some integer $q \geq 1$. The elements of \mathbb{F}_q are mapped bijectively to the integers in the interval $[0, q - 1]$, using the base- p representation. If $e = 1$, the map takes the residue class $a \bmod p$ with $0 \leq a < p$ to the integer a . Otherwise, we write the field element as

$$\sum_{h=0}^{e-1} a_i \alpha^i$$

where α is the root of some irreducible polynomial $m(X)$ of degree e over \mathbb{F}_p and $0 \leq a_i < p$ for all i . The associated integer is obtained as

$$\sum_{h=0}^{e-1} a_i p^i.$$

This is the numerical rank of the polynomial. This representation takes 0 in \mathbb{F}_q to the integer 0. Likewise, $1 \in \mathbb{F}_q$ is mapped to the integer 1. Arithmetic is done by considering the polynomials over \mathbb{F}_p and modulo the irreducible polynomial $m(X)$ with root α . For instance, the field \mathbb{F}_4 is created using the polynomial $m(X) = X^2 + X + 1$. The elements are

$$0, \quad 1, \quad 2 = \alpha, \quad 3 = \alpha + 1.$$

Orbiter maintains a small database of primitive (irreducible) polynomials for the purposes of creating finite fields. This means that the residue class of α is a primitive element of the field, where α is a root of the polynomial.

The command

Subfield	Polynomial	Numerical rank
\mathbb{F}_4	$X^2 + X + 1$	7
\mathbb{F}_8	$X^3 + X + 1$	11

Table 1: The subfields of \mathbb{F}_{64}

`orbiter.out -cheat_sheet_GF 4`

creates a report for the field \mathbb{F}_4 .

Unlike other computer algebra systems (GAP [6] and Magma [5]) Orbiter does not use Conway polynomials. However, Orbiter provides the option to override the polynomial used to create the finite field. For subfield relationships, the cheat sheet for the large field will indicate the irreducible polynomials of the subfield. For instance, Table 1 shows the subfields of \mathbb{F}_{64} generated by the polynomial $X^6 + X^5 + 1$ whose numerical rank is 97.

4 Finite Projective Spaces

Finite projective spaces and their groups are essential objects in Orbiter. The projective space $\text{PG}(n, q)$ is the set of non-zero subspaces of \mathbb{F}_q^{n+1} ordered with respect to inclusion. The projective dimension of a subspace is always one less than the vector space dimension. So, a projective point is a vector subspace of dimension one. A projective line is a vector subspace of dimension two, etc. A point is written as $P(\mathbf{x})$ for some vector $\mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_n)$ with $x_0, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{F}_q$, not all zero. For any non-zero element $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q$, $P(\lambda\mathbf{x})$ is the same point as $P(\mathbf{x})$. For $\mathbf{a} = (a_0, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{F}_q$, not all zero, the symbol $[\mathbf{a}]$ represents the line

$$\{P(\mathbf{x}) \mid \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x_i = 0\}.$$

For any non-zero element $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q$, $[\lambda\mathbf{a}] = [\mathbf{a}]$.

The command

`orbiter.out -cheat_sheet_PG 3 2`

creates a report for the projective geometry $\text{PG}(3, 2)$. Orbiter has enumerators for points and subspaces of $\text{PG}(n, q)$. The point enumerator allows to represent the points using the integer interval $[0, \theta_n(q) - 1]$, where

$$\theta_n(q) = \frac{q^{n+1} - 1}{q - 1}.$$

The points in projective geometry are the one-dimensional subspaces.

$P_0 = (1, 0, 0)$	$P_4 = (1, 1, 0)$	$P_8 = (0, 1, 1)$	$P_{12} = (2, 2, 1)$
$P_1 = (0, 1, 0)$	$P_5 = (2, 1, 0)$	$P_9 = (2, 1, 1)$	
$P_2 = (0, 0, 1)$	$P_6 = (1, 0, 1)$	$P_{10} = (0, 2, 1)$	
$P_3 = (1, 1, 1)$	$P_7 = (2, 0, 1)$	$P_{11} = (1, 2, 1)$	

Table 2: The 13 points of $\text{PG}(2, 3)$

In order to enumerate the points, right-normalized representatives are considered. There is one important convention. In projective geometry, a frame is a special set of vectors. Specifically, in $\text{PG}(n, q)$, a frame is a set of $n + 1$ vectors, no n of which are contained in a hyperplane. The standard frame consists of all points represented by vectors of the form

$$\mathbf{e}_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0),$$

with a one in the i th coordinate, together with the all-one vector. The Orbiter enumerator for projective points assigns the numbers

$$0, 1, \dots, n - 1, n$$

to the frame. All other vectors are assigned higher numbers. We use capital letters for homogeneous coordinates, in this case (X, Y, Z) . We use lowercase letters for cartesian coordinates in the affine plane $Z \neq 0$. A point (X, Y, Z) with $Z \neq 0$ determines the affine point (x, y) where

$$x = \frac{X}{Z}, \quad y = \frac{Y}{Z}.$$

The x/y grid shows the affine plane $Z \neq 0$. The bent line at the top right corner represents the line at infinity with equation $Z = 0$. The points of the frame are labeled 0, 1, 2 and 3. The first two points lie on the line at infinity, where the horizontal and vertical lines intersect, respectively. The point 2 is the origin of the x/y plane, and 3 is the unit point $(x, y) = (1, 1)$. Once these four points have been labeled, the remaining points are labeled as well. This is done by starting with the remaining points on the line at infinity, and then labeling the remaining points in the x, y plane one horizontal row at a time. All told, we have the 13 points listed in Table 2. The 13 lines are shown in Table 3. A line is represented by a 2×3 matrix. The line is the rowspan of the matrix, considered as projective set.

There are important group actions associated with projective spaces. For $n \geq 2$, the automorphism group of $\text{PG}(n, q)$ is the collineation group $\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(n + 1, q)$. This group acts on the set of points. There is an associated action on the hyperplanes preserving incidence. This is the contragredient action. It is related to the dual coordinates for hyperplanes.

5 Algebraic Sets

A very important notion in projective geometry is that of algebraic sets. A set of points V in $\text{PG}(n, q)$ is algebraic if there is a set of homogeneous polynomials p_1, \dots, p_r whose roots

$L_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 100 \\ 010 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 101 \\ 010 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_8 = \begin{bmatrix} 102 \\ 010 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} 010 \\ 001 \end{bmatrix}$
$L_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 100 \\ 011 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 101 \\ 011 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_9 = \begin{bmatrix} 102 \\ 011 \end{bmatrix}$	
$L_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 100 \\ 012 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_6 = \begin{bmatrix} 101 \\ 012 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_{10} = \begin{bmatrix} 102 \\ 012 \end{bmatrix}$	
$L_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 100 \\ 001 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_7 = \begin{bmatrix} 110 \\ 001 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} 120 \\ 001 \end{bmatrix}$	

Table 3: The 13 lines of $\text{PG}(2, 3)$

over \mathbb{F}_q are the given set. In this case, we write $V = \mathbf{v}(p_1, \dots, p_r)$. The set V is often called the variety of p_1, \dots, p_r .

Conversely, given a set of points V in $\text{PG}(n, q)$, the ideal $I(V)$ is the set of homogeneous polynomials in $\mathbb{F}_q[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ which vanish on all of V . This set is an ideal in the polynomial ring. In fact, it is a principal ideal, meaning that it is generated by one element only. Orbiter has ways to compute the variety of a polynomial ideal and to compute a generator for the ideal of a set.

Interestingly, in $\text{PG}(n, q)$, every set is algebraic of degree at most $(n+1)(q-1)$ [7]. The associated polynomial is unique and known as the algebraic normal form of the set.

Table 4 shows the Orbiter monomial orderings for degrees 2, 3 and 4 in a plane. Suppose we are interested in \mathbb{F}_{11} rational points of the elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 + x + 3$. We write $x^3 + 3 - y^2 + x = 0$. Homogenizing yields $X^3 + 3Z^3 - Y^2Z + XZ = 0$. Using X_0, X_1, X_2 instead of X, Y, Z yields

$$X_0^3 + 3X_2^3 + 10X_1^2X_2 + X_0X_2^2 = 0.$$

Using the indexing of monomials from Table 4, we record the following pairs (a, i) where a is the coefficient and i is the index of the monomial

$$(1, 0), (3, 2), (10, 6), (1, 7).$$

This is concatenated to the sequence 1, 0, 3, 2, 10, 6, 1, 7. The Orbiter command

```
orbiter.out -v 2 -create_combinatorial_object -q 11 -n 2 \
    -projective_variety "EC" 3 "1,0,3,2,10,6,1,7"
```

creates the algebraic set associated to the cubic curve $y^2 = x^3 + x + 3$ in $\text{PG}(2, 11)$. It turns out that there are exactly 18 points over \mathbb{F}_{11} (cf. Figure 2).

Table 5 shows the Orbiter monomial orderings for degrees 2 and 3 in $\text{PG}(3, q)$.

h	monomial	vector
0	X_0^2	(2, 0, 0)
1	X_1^2	(0, 2, 0)
2	X_2^2	(0, 0, 2)
3	X_0X_1	(1, 1, 0)
4	X_0X_2	(1, 0, 1)
5	X_1X_2	(0, 1, 1)

h	monomial	vector
0	X_0^3	(3, 0, 0)
1	X_1^3	(0, 3, 0)
2	X_2^3	(0, 0, 3)
3	$X_0^2X_1$	(2, 1, 0)
4	$X_0^2X_2$	(2, 0, 1)
5	$X_0X_1^2$	(1, 2, 0)
6	$X_1^2X_2$	(0, 2, 1)
7	$X_0X_2^2$	(1, 0, 2)
8	$X_1X_2^2$	(0, 1, 2)
9	$X_0X_1X_2$	(1, 1, 1)

h	monomial	vector
0	X_0^4	(4, 0, 0)
1	X_1^4	(0, 4, 0)
2	X_2^4	(0, 0, 4)
3	$X_0^3X_1$	(3, 1, 0)
4	$X_0^3X_2$	(3, 0, 1)
5	$X_0X_1^3$	(1, 3, 0)
6	$X_1^3X_2$	(0, 3, 1)
7	$X_0X_2^3$	(1, 0, 3)
8	$X_1X_2^3$	(0, 1, 3)
9	$X_0^2X_1^2$	(2, 2, 0)
10	$X_0^2X_2^2$	(2, 0, 2)
11	$X_1^2X_2^2$	(0, 2, 2)
12	$X_0^2X_1X_2$	(2, 1, 1)
13	$X_0X_1^2X_2$	(1, 2, 1)
14	$X_0X_1X_2^2$	(1, 1, 2)

Table 4: The Orbiter ordering of monomials of degree 2, 3 and 4 in a plane

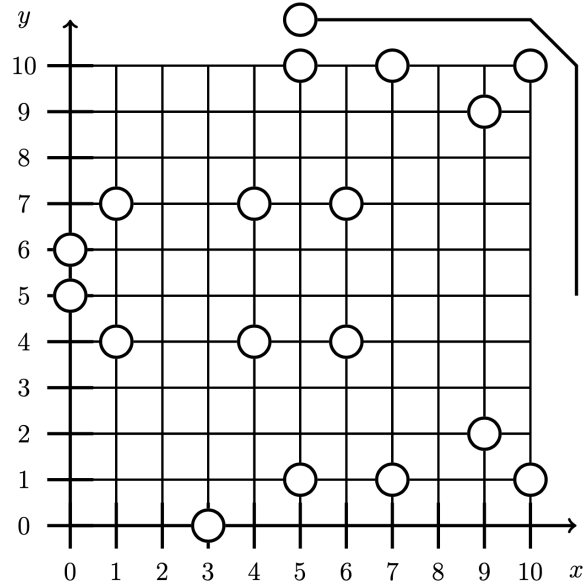


Figure 2: Elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + x + 3 \pmod{11}$

h	monomial	vector
0	X_0^3	(3, 0, 0, 0)
1	X_1^3	(0, 3, 0, 0)
2	X_2^3	(0, 0, 3, 0)
3	X_3^3	(0, 0, 0, 3)
4	$X_0^2X_1$	(2, 1, 0, 0)
5	$X_0^2X_2$	(2, 0, 1, 0)
6	$X_0^2X_3$	(2, 0, 0, 1)
7	$X_0X_1^2$	(1, 2, 0, 0)
8	$X_1^2X_2$	(0, 2, 1, 0)
9	$X_1^2X_3$	(0, 2, 0, 1)
10	$X_0X_2^2$	(1, 0, 2, 0)
11	$X_1X_2^2$	(0, 1, 2, 0)
12	$X_2^2X_3$	(0, 0, 2, 1)
13	$X_0X_3^2$	(1, 0, 0, 2)
14	$X_1X_3^2$	(0, 1, 0, 2)
15	$X_2X_3^2$	(0, 0, 1, 2)
16	$X_0X_1X_2$	(1, 1, 1, 0)
17	$X_0X_1X_3$	(1, 1, 0, 1)
18	$X_0X_2X_3$	(1, 0, 1, 1)
19	$X_1X_2X_3$	(0, 1, 1, 1)

Table 5: The Orbiter ordering of monomials of degree 2 and 3 in three-space

Type	Acting on	Degree
General linear	all vectors of V	q^n
Affine	all vectors of V	q^n
Projective	$\mathfrak{Gr}_1(V)$	$\frac{q^n-1}{q-1}$

Table 6: Basic actions

Command	Arguments	Group
-GL	n, q	$\mathrm{GL}(n, q)$
-GGL	n, q	$\Gamma\mathrm{L}(n, q)$
-SL	n, q	$\mathrm{SL}(n, q)$
-SSL	n, q	$\Sigma\mathrm{L}(n, q)$
-PGL	n, q	$\mathrm{PGL}(n, q)$
-PGGL	n, q	$\mathrm{P}\Gamma\mathrm{L}(n, q)$
-PSL	n, q	$\mathrm{PSL}(n, q)$
-PSSL	n, q	$\mathrm{P}\Sigma\mathrm{L}(n, q)$
-AGL	n, q	$\mathrm{AGL}(n, q)$
-AGGL	n, q	$\mathrm{A}\Gamma\mathrm{L}(n, q)$
-ASL	n, q	$\mathrm{ASL}(n, q)$
-ASSL	n, q	$\mathrm{A}\Sigma\mathrm{L}(n, q)$

Table 7: Basic types of Orbiter matrix groups

6 Linear Groups

Groups in Orbiter are always permutation groups. One group can have many different actions. Three basic actions are defined for matrix groups: projective, affine, and general linear. Let $V \simeq \mathbb{F}_q^n$ be a finite dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}_q . A group G can act on V in one of the types listed in Table 6. The elements of finite fields are represented as integers as described in Section 3. The elements of the various sets on which the group acts are encoded as integers. For instance,

```
orbiter.out -linear_group -PGL 4 2 -end
```

creates the group $\mathrm{PGL}(4, 2)$ acting on the 15 elements of $\mathfrak{Gr}_1(\mathbb{F}_2^4)$. The basic types of groups are listed in Table 7.

A collineation of a projective space π is a bijective mapping from the points of π to themselves which preserves collinearity. That is, a collineation φ maps any three collinear points P, Q, R to another collinear triple $\varphi(P), \varphi(Q), \varphi(R)$. The collineations form a group with respect to composition, the collineation group. If M is the matrix of an endomorphism, then Ψ_M is the induced map on projective space. By considering the homomorphism $M \mapsto \Psi_M$, the group

$\text{GL}(n+1, q)$ of invertible endomorphisms becomes a subgroup of the group of collineations of $\text{PG}(n, q)$. This is the projectivity group $\text{PGL}(n+1, q)$. It is isomorphic to $\text{GL}(n+1, q)/\mathbb{F}_q^\times$. Another source of collineations is this: Let $\Phi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ be a field automorphism. Then Φ acts on projective space by sending $P(\mathbf{x})$ to $P(\mathbf{x}\Phi)$. This map is another type of collineation, called automorphic collineation. This way, $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ can be considered another subgroup of the group of collineations. If $q = p^h$ for some prime p and some integer h then

$$\Phi_0 : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q, \quad x \mapsto x^p$$

is a generator for the cyclic group $C_h \simeq \text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q)$. The collineation group of $\text{PG}(n, q)$ ($n \geq 2$) is isomorphic to the semidirect product of the projectivity group and the automorphism group of the field. The collineation group is $\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(n+1, q) = \text{PGL}(n+1, q) \ltimes \text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q)$. We use the following notation for elements of $\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(n+1, q)$. Let Φ_0 be a generator for $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ and let $M \in \text{GL}(n+1, q)$. The map

$$(\Psi_M, \Phi_0^k) : \text{PG}(n, q) \rightarrow \text{PG}(n, q), \quad P(\mathbf{x}) \mapsto P(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{x} \cdot M)^{\Phi_0^k}$$

is denoted as

$$M_k. \tag{1}$$

The identity element is I_0 , where I is the identity matrix and 0 is the residue class modulo h . The rules for multiplication and inversion in the collineation group are given as

$$M_k \cdot N_l = \left(M \cdot N^{\Phi^{-k}} \right)_{k+l}, \tag{2}$$

$$\left(M_k \right)^{-1} = \left(\left(M^{-1} \right)^{\Phi^k} \right)_{-k}. \tag{3}$$

The affine group $\text{AGL}(n, q)$ is the semidirect product of $\text{GL}(n, q)$ with \mathbb{F}_q^n . The affine semilinear group $\text{A}\Gamma\text{L}(n, q)$ is the semidirect product of $\text{AGL}(n, q)$ with $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q)$. The elements of $\text{A}\Gamma\text{L}(n, q)$ are triples

$$(M, \mathbf{a}, k) \in \text{GL}(n, q) \times \mathbb{F}_q^n \times \text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q),$$

which act on \mathbb{F}_q^n like so:

$$\left(\mathbf{x}, (M, \mathbf{a}, k) \right) \mapsto \left(\mathbf{x} \cdot M + \mathbf{a} \right)^{\Phi^k}.$$

We abbreviate the group elements as

$$M_{\mathbf{a}, k} = (M, \mathbf{a}, k).$$

The multiplication in $\text{A}\Gamma\text{L}(n, q)$ is

$$M_{\mathbf{a}, k} \cdot N_{\mathbf{b}, l} = (MN)_{\mathbf{a}N^{\Phi^{-k}} + \mathbf{b}^{\Phi^{-k}}, k+l}.$$

The inverse of an element is

$$\left(M_{\mathbf{a}, k} \right)^{-1} = \left(M^{-1} \right)_{\mathbf{a}^{\Phi^k} M^{-1}, -k}.$$

A correlation is a one-to-one mapping between the set of points and the set of hyperplanes which reverses incidence. So, if ρ is a correlation and P is a point and ℓ is a hyperplane then P^ρ is a hyperplane and ℓ^ρ is a point and

$$\ell^\rho \in P^\rho \iff P \in \ell.$$

A correlation of order two is called polarity. The standard polarity is the map

$$\rho : \mathcal{P} \leftrightarrow \mathcal{L}, P(\mathbf{x}) \leftrightarrow [\mathbf{x}].$$

It is possible to create new actions from old groups and group actions. It is also possible to create specific subgroups of a group. Table 8 lists some modifiers that can be applied to do so. For instance,

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGGL 3 4 -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -report -syLOW -end
```

creates $\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(3, 4)$. Because of the option `-syLOW`, the report includes information about Sylow subgroups. Let us look at a sporadic simple group. The command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGL 7 11 -Janko1 -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -report -end
```

creates the first Janko group as a subgroup of $\text{PGL}(7, 11)$. Let us look at another group. The Singer subgroup in $\text{GL}(n, q)$ is a subgroup of order $(q^n - 1)$ acting transitively on the nonzero vectors of \mathbb{F}_q^n . The image in $\text{PGL}(n, q)$ is a cyclic group of order $(q^n - 1)/(q - 1)$ acting transitively on the points of the associated projective space. We consider the Singer subgroup of $\text{PGL}(3, 11)$. This is a cyclic subgroup of order 133. We consider the 19th power of the Singer cycle, together with the Frobenius automorphism for \mathbb{F}_{11^3} over \mathbb{F}_{11} , to generate a group of order 21. The following command can be used to create this group.

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGL 3 11 -singer_and_frobenius 19 -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -report -end
```

The command produces a group of order 21 generated by

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 6 & 8 & 1 \\ 7 & 5 & 8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 7 & 7 \\ 5 & 6 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Through its interface to Magma [5], Orbiter can be used to compute the conjugacy classes of groups. For instance, the command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PSL 3 2 -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -classes
```

Modifier	Arguments	Meaning
-Janko1		first Janko group (needs $\text{PGL}(7, 11)$)
-wedge		action on the exterior square
-PGL2OnConic		induced action of $\text{PGL}(2, q)$ on the conic in the plane $\text{PG}(2, q)$
-monomial		subgroup of monomial matrices
-diagonal		subgroup of diagonal matrices
-null_polarity_group		null polarity group
-symplectic_group		symplectic group
-singer	k	subgroup of index k in the Singer cycle
-singer_and_frobenius	k	subgroup of index k in the Singer cycle, extended by the Frobenius automorphism of \mathbb{F}_{q^n} over \mathbb{F}_q
-subfield_structure_action	s	action by field reduction to the subfield of index s
-subgroup_from_file	$f \ l$	read subgroup from file f and give it the label l
-borel_subgroup_upper		Borel subgroup of upper triangular matrices
-borel_subgroup_lower		Borel subgroup of lower triangular matrices
-identity_group		identity subgroup
-on_k_subspaces	k	induced action on k dimensional subspaces
-orthogonal	ϵ	orthogonal group O^ϵ , with $\epsilon \in \{\pm 1\}$ when n is even
-subgroup_by_generators	$l \ o \ n \ s_1 \ \dots \ s_n$	Generate a subgroup from generators. The label “l” is used to denote the subgroup; o is the order of the subgroup; n is the number of generators and $\text{str}(1), \dots, \text{str}(n)$ are the generators for the subgroup in string representation.

Table 8: Modifiers for creating matrix groups

Modifier	Arguments	Meaning
-orbits_on_subsets	k	Compute orbits on k -subsets
-orbits_on_points		Compute orbits in the action that was created
-orbits_of	i	Compute orbit of point i in the action that was created
-stabilizer		Compute the stabilizer of the orbit representative (needs -orbits_on_points)
-draw_poset		Draw the poset of orbits (needs -orbits_on_subsets)
-classes		Compute a report of the conjugacy classes of elements (needs Magma [5])
-normalizer		Compute the normalizer (needs Magma [5]; needs a group with a subgroup)
-report		Produce a latex report about the group
-sylow		Include Sylow subgroups in the report (needs -report)
-print_elements		Produce a printout of all group elements
-print_elements_tex		Produce a latex report of all group elements
-group_table		Produce the group table (needs -report)
-orbits_on_set _system_from_file	fname f l	reads the csv file “fname” and extract sets from columns $[f, \dots, f + l - 1]$
-orbit_of_set _from_file	fname	reads a set from the text file “fname” and computes orbits on the elements of the set
-multiply	str1 str2	Creates group elements from str1 and str2 and multiplies
-inverse	str	Creates a group element from str and computes its inverse

Table 9: Group theoretic activities

can be used to create a report about the conjugacy classes of the simple group $\text{PSL}(3, 2)$. It is possible to use the group that was created to do other tasks as described in Table 9. The quaternion group is generated by the following generators (taken from Wikipedia):

$$i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad j = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad k = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

as a subgroup of $\text{SL}(2, 3)$. The Orbiter command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -SL 2 3 \
  -subgroup_by_generators "quaternion" "8" 3 \
  "1,1,1,2" \
  "2,1,1,1" \
  "0,2,1,0" \
  -end \
  -group_theoretic_activities \
  -print_elements_tex \
  -group_table \
  -report \
-end
```

creates the group. Notice that -1 must be written as 2, considering the remarks about the representation of field elements in Section 3, recalling the fact that we are in \mathbb{F}_3 . The command produces a list of group elements.

The group of the cube can be created over the field \mathbb{F}_3 like so:

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -GL 3 3 \
  -subgroup_by_generators "cube" "48" 3 \
  "0,1,0,2,0,0,0,0,1" \
  "0,0,1,0,1,0,2,0,0" \
  "2,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,1" \
  -end \
  -group_theoretic_activities \
  -print_elements_tex \
  -report
```

The tetrahedral subgroup can be created like so:

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -GL 3 3 \
  -subgroup_by_generators "tetra" "12" 2 \
  "0,1,0,0,0,1,1,0,0" \
  "0,0,1,2,0,0,0,2,0" \
  -end \
  -group_theoretic_activities \
  -print_elements_tex \
  -report
```

Sometimes, the generators depend on specific choices made for the finite field. For instance, if the field is a true extension field over its prime field, the choice of the polynomial matters. This is particularly relevant if generators are taken from other sources. For instance, the electronic Atlas of finite simple groups [15] lists generators for $U_3(3)$ as 3×3 matrices over the field \mathbb{F}_9 using the following short Magma [5] program:

```
F<w>:=GF(9);
x:=CambridgeMatrix(1,F,3,[
"164",
"506",
"851"]);
y:=CambridgeMatrix(1,F,3,[
"621",
"784",
"066"]);
G<x,y>:=MatrixGroup<3,F|x,y>;
```

The generators are given using the Magma command `CambridgeMatrix`, which allows for more efficient coding of field elements. The field elements are coded as base-3 integers (like in Orbiter) with respect to the Magma version of \mathbb{F}_9 . Magma uses Conway polynomials to generate finite fields which are not of prime order. The Conway polynomial for \mathbb{F}_9 can be determined using the following Magma command (which can be typed into the Magma online calculator at [14])

```
F<w>:=GF(9);
print DefiningPolynomial(F);
```

which results in

```
$.1^2 + 2*$.1 + 2
```

which is the Magma way of printing the polynomial $X^2 + 2X + 2$. To have Orbiter use this polynomial, the `-override_polynomial` option can be used. First, the polynomial is identified with the vector of coefficients $(1, 2, 2)$ which is then read as base-3 representation of an integer as

$$(1, 2, 2) = 1 \cdot 3^2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 2 = 17.$$

The Orbiter command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -override_polynomial "17" -PGL 3 9 \
  -subgroup_by_generators "U_3_3" "6048" 2 \
  "1,6,4, 5,0,6, 8,5,1" \
  "6,2,1, 7,8,4, 0,6,6" \
  -end \
-group_theoretic_activities \
-report -end
```

can then be used to create the group. Notice how the generators are encoded almost like in the Magma command, except that commas are used to separate entries.

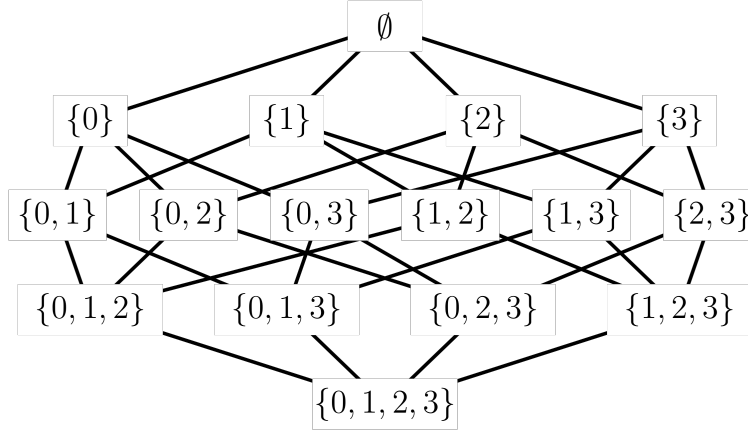


Figure 3: The lattice of subsets of a 4-element set

7 Orbits on Subsets

The lattice of subsets of a set X is $\mathfrak{P}(X)$, the set of all subsets of X , ordered with respect to inclusion. For instance, Figure 3 shows the lattice of subsets of a 4-element set. Assume that a group G acts on X , and hence on the lattice by means of the induced action on subsets. The orbits of G on subsets clump together nodes in the lattice. The set of G -orbits form a new poset, the poset of orbits. Poset classification is the process of computing the poset of orbits. Orbiter has an algorithm to perform poset classification. In many cases, we are not interested in the full lattice of subsets $\mathfrak{P}(X)$ but rather in a subposet of it. We require that the subposet is closed under the group action and that the following property holds:

$$x, y \in \mathfrak{P}(X) \text{ and } x \leq y \Rightarrow (y \in \mathcal{P} \rightarrow x \in \mathcal{P}).$$

The join of two subsets in the poset may or may not belong to the poset. Let us consider the poset of subsets of the 4-element set under the action of a group of order 3. We take the 4 points to be the vectors of $X = \mathbb{F}_2^2$. Let G be the group generated by the Singer cycle in $\text{GL}(2, 2)$, so

$$G = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \simeq \langle (0)(1, 3, 2) \rangle,$$

the latter being the permutation representation on the set X . Thus, G is a group of order 3 acting with one fixed point. The command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -GL 2 2 -singer 1 -end \
  -group_theoretic_activities \
  -orbits_on_subsets 4 \
  -draw_poset \
  -report
```

computes the orbits of G on the poset of subsets. The poset of orbits is shown in Figure 4. All nodes except for the root node are labeled by elements of $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$. In order to

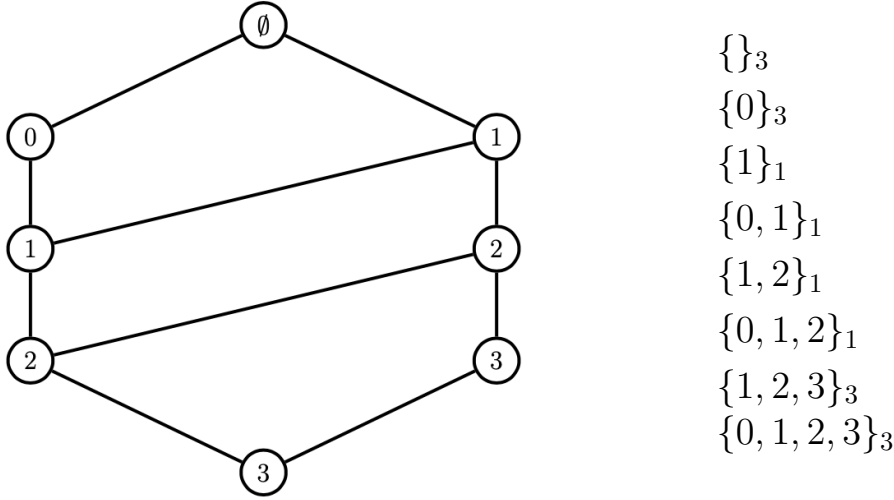


Figure 4: The poset of orbits under the Singer group

determine the set that is associated to a node, we follow the unique leftmost path to the root node and collect the node labels. This produces the set associated to the node. The orbit representatives are indicated next to the diagram. By convention, the order of the stabilizer is written as a subscript. Since this example is small enough, it is possible to show the complete orbits, as in Figure 5. Elements belonging to an orbit are grouped together. The leftmost element in each group is the orbit representative.

As the poset of orbits can get quite busy, it is often desired to replace it by the lex-least spanning tree. This is the tree that results by keeping only the links between a node and its lex-least ancestor, see Figure 6.

8 Orbits on Subspaces

Orbiter can compute the orbits of a group on the lattice of subspaces of a finite vector space.

Suppose we want to classify the subspaces in $\text{PG}(3, 2)$ under the action of the orthogonal group. The orthogonal group is the stabilizer of a quadric. In $\text{PG}(3, 2)$ there are two distinct nondegenerate quadrics, $\mathcal{Q}^+(3, 2)$ and $\mathcal{Q}^-(3, 2)$. The $\mathcal{Q}^+(3, 2)$ quadric is a finite version of the quadric given by the equation

$$x_0x_1 + x_2x_3 = 0,$$

and depicted over the real numbers in Figure 7. $\text{PG}(3, 2)$ has 15 points:

$P_0 = (1, 0, 0, 0)$	$P_3 = (0, 0, 0, 1)$	$P_6 = (1, 0, 1, 0)$	$P_9 = (1, 0, 0, 1)$
$P_1 = (0, 1, 0, 0)$	$P_4 = (1, 1, 1, 1)$	$P_7 = (0, 1, 1, 0)$	$P_{10} = (0, 1, 0, 1)$
$P_2 = (0, 0, 1, 0)$	$P_5 = (1, 1, 0, 0)$	$P_8 = (1, 1, 1, 0)$	$P_{11} = (1, 1, 0, 1)$

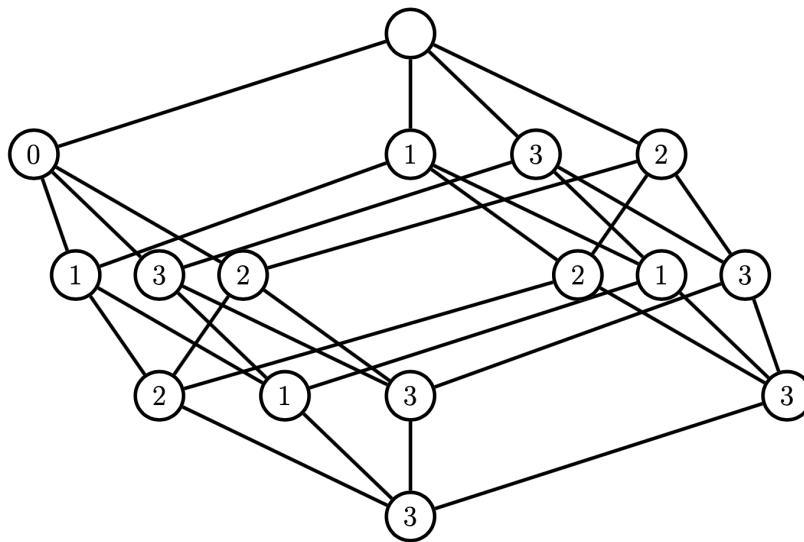


Figure 5: The poset with orbits indicated by grouping

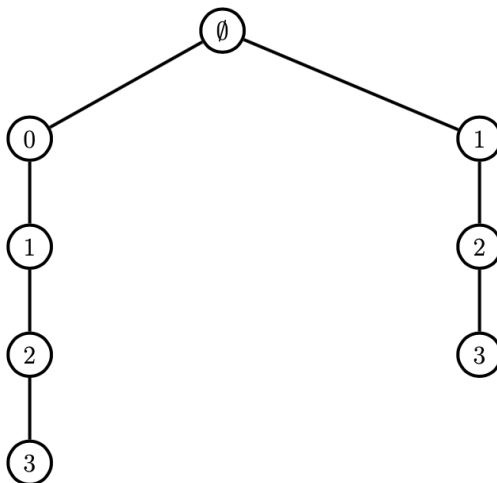


Figure 6: The lex-least spanning tree for the poset of orbits

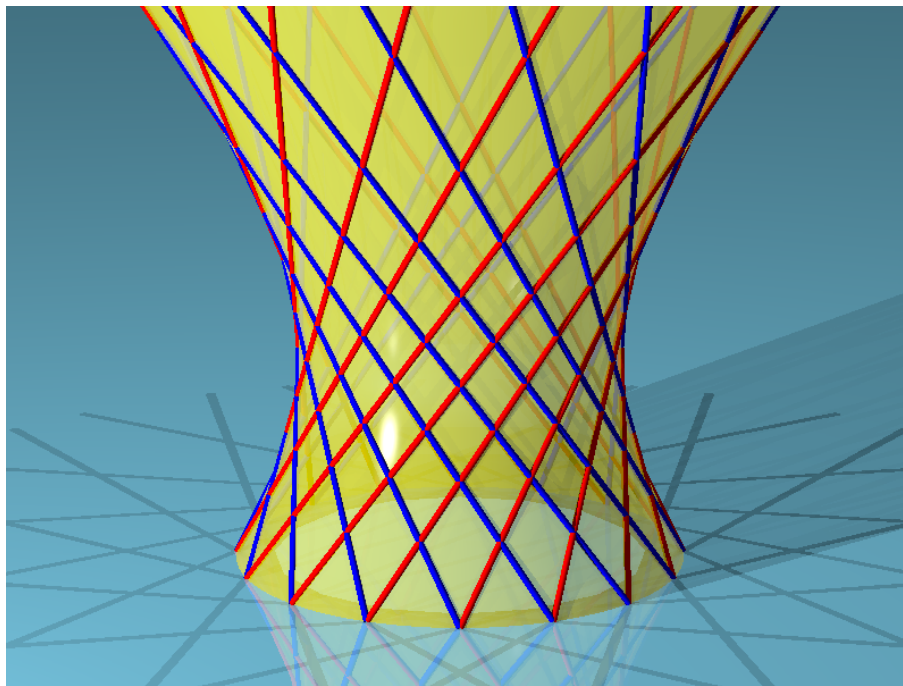


Figure 7: The hyperbolic quadric in affine space \mathbb{R}^3

$$P_{12} = (0, 0, 1, 1) \quad P_{13} = (1, 0, 1, 1) \quad P_{14} = (0, 1, 1, 1)$$

The $\mathcal{Q}^+(3, 2)$ quadric given by the equation above consists of the nine points

$$P_0, P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_6, P_7, P_9, P_{10}.$$

The quadric is stabilized by the group $\text{PGO}^+(4, 2)$ of order 72. The command

```
orbiter.out -v 5 -linear_group -PGL 4 2 -orthogonal 1 -end \
  -group_theoretic_activities -orbits_on_subspaces 4 \
  -draw_poset
```

produces a classification of all subspaces of $\text{PG}(3, 2)$ under $\text{PGO}^+(4, 2)$. The option `-draw_poset` creates a Hasse diagram of the classification as shown Figure 8. The Hasse diagram is the poset of orbits of the group on the subspace lattice.

9 Graph Theory

Orbiter is able to work with algebraically defined graphs. It can also construct and classify graphs up to isomorphism. In Table 10, command line arguments are shown for some of the graphs that Orbiter can create. For instance,

```
orbiter.out -v 2 -create_graph -Johnson 5 2 0 -end -save graph_J520.bin
```

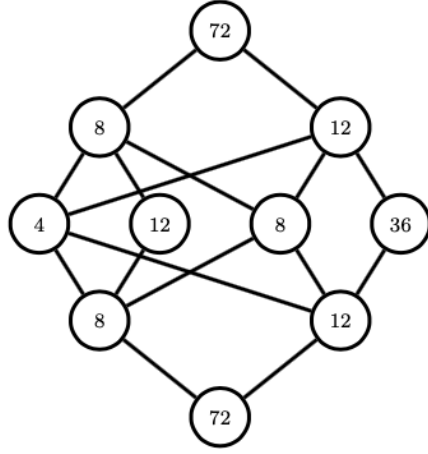


Figure 8: Hasse-diagram for the orbits of the orthogonal group $O^+(4, 2)$ on subspaces of $\text{PG}(3, 2)$

Key	Arguments	Meaning
-Johnson	$n \ k \ s$	Johnson graph
-Paley	q	Paley graph
-Sarnak	$p \ q$	Lubotzky-Phillips-Sarnak graph [10]
-Schlaefli	q	Schlaefli graph
-Shrikhande		Shrikhande graph
-Winnie_Li	$q \ i$	Winnie-Li graph [9]
-Grassmann	$n \ k \ q \ r$	Grassmann graph
-coll_orthogonal	$\epsilon \ d \ q$	Collinearity graph of $O^\epsilon(d, q)$

Table 10: Types of graphs

Option	Arguments	Meaning
-girth	d	Girth at least d
-regular	r	Regular of degree r
-no_transmitter		Tournament without transmitter (requires -tournament)

Table 11: Options for classifying graphs

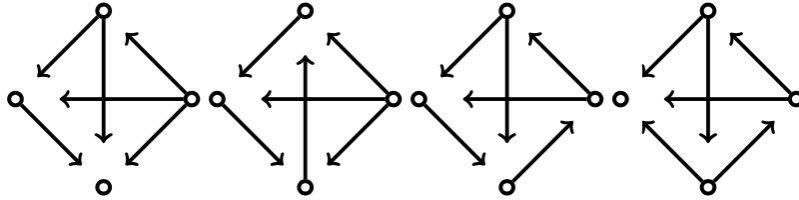


Figure 9: The four isomorphism types of tournaments on 4 vertices

creates $J(5, 2, 0)$, also known as the Petersen graph.

```
orbiter.out -v 2 -create_graph -Paley 13 -end -save graph_P13.bin
```

creates the Paley graph of order 13. Regarding the problem of classifying small graphs, Table 11 lists the command line options that are available. Here is an example:

```
orbiter.out -v 2 -graph_classify -n 4
```

classifies all graphs with 4 vertices. For this, the set $X = \binom{V}{2}$ is considered, where $V = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$. The poset \mathcal{P} is the lattice of subsets of X . The group action of $\text{Sym}(V)$ induces an action on the lattice. For tournaments, the option `-tournament` can be added. In this case, $X = V^{[2]}$ is the set of ordered pairs of elements from V . The ordered pair (a, b) represents the fact that a beats b in the tournament. Again, the poset \mathcal{P} is the lattice of subsets of X and the group $\text{Sym}(V)$ acts in the induced action on ordered pairs. For example,

```
orbiter.out -v 2 -graph_classify -n 4 -v 2 -tournament -draw_graphs_at_level 6
```

classifies the tournaments on 6 vertices. The `-draw_graphs_at_level 6` option instructs Orbiter to draw all representatives at level 6. Figure 9 shows the resulting list of 4 tournaments.

10 Projective Geometry

Orbiter can be used to classify sets in projective space and to compute their collineation stabilizer. Here is an example. We consider the following three Orbiter commands:

```

orbiter.out -v 5 -create_combinatorial_object -q 11 \
  -elliptic_curve 1 3 -end \
  -save "./"
orbiter.out -v 2 -process_combinatorial_objects \
  -draw_points_in_plane EC_11_1_3 -q 11 -n 2 \
  -fname_base_out EC_11_1_3 -embedded \
  -input -file_of_points elliptic_curve_b1_c3_q11.txt \
  -end \
  -end
orbiter.out -v 2 -canonical_form_PG 2 11 \
  -input \
  -file_of_points elliptic_curve_b1_c3_q11.txt \
  -end \
  -prefix PG_2_11_EC \
  -save elliptic_curve_b1_c3_q11_classified \
  -report

```

The first command creates an elliptic curve over a finite field. Specifically, it creates the curve whose affine equation is

$$y^2 \equiv x^3 + x + 3 \pmod{11}.$$

The curve turns out to have exactly 18 points in $\text{PG}(2, 11)$. The second command produces a picture of the point set in $\text{PG}(2, 11)$, shown in Figure 2. The third command computes the collineation stabilizer. This is done by using the techniques of canonical forms in graphs, using the Nauty [11] package which is included in Orbiter. Orbiter shows that the curve has a collineation stabilizer of order 6, generated by

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 8 \\ 5 & 9 & 5 \\ 8 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The types of objects that can be created using `-create_combinatorial_object` are listed in Tables 12 and 13. Modifier options that apply to multiple options are listed in Table 14.

The purpose of the `-process_combinatorial_objects` option is to perform various jobs. The input and output are data streams. A data stream can represent integer data. Integer data can encode sets in projective space, for instance. The types of jobs are listed in Table 15.

11 Cubic Surfaces

Orbiter can classify cubic surfaces with 27 lines over finite fields. There are several different approaches to classify cubic surfaces over finite fields with 27 lines under the collineation

Key	Arguments	Purpose
-hyperoval		To create a hyperoval
-subiaco_oval	f_short	Subiaco oval
-subiaco_hyperoval		Subiaco hyperoval
-adelaide_hyperoval		Adelaide hyperoval
-translation	exponent	translation hyperoval
-Segre		Segre hyperoval
-Payne		Payne hyperoval
-Cherowitzo		Cherowitzo hyperoval
-OKeefe_Penttila		OKeefe, Penttila hyperoval
-BLT_database	k	The k th BLT-set of order q from the database ($k = 0, 1, \dots$)
-ovoid		ovoid
-Baer		Baer subgeometry
-orthogonal	ϵ	quadric of ϵ -type
-hermitian		hermitian variety given by $\sum_{i=0}^n X_i^{\sqrt{q}+1} = 0$
-cubic		cubic
-twisted_cubic		twisted cubic
-elliptic_curve	$a \ b$	elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$
-ttp_construction_A		twisted tensor product code of type A
-ttp_construction_A_hyperoval		twisted tensor product code of type A
-ttp_construction_B		twisted tensor product code of type B

Table 12: Orbiter Objects (Part 1)

Key	Arguments	Purpose
- unital_XXq_YZq_ZYq		unital with equation $XX^q + YZ^q + ZY^q = 0$
-desarguesian_line _spread_in_PG_3_q		desarguesian line spread in $\text{PG}(3, q)$
-Buekenhout_Metz		Buekenhout Metz unital
-Uab	$a \ b$	Buekenhout Metz unital in the form of Barwick and Ebert [1]
-whole_space		whole space
-hyperplane	pt	hyperplane given by dual coordinates associated with the given point
-segre_variety	$a \ b$	Segre variety
-Maruta_Hamada_arc		Maruta Hamada arc
-projective_variety	$l \ d \ \mathcal{C}$	Projective variety of degree d with label l , with coefficient vector \mathcal{C}
-projective_curve	$l \ r \ d \ \mathcal{C}$	Projective curve of degree d with label l , with coefficient vector \mathcal{C} in r variables

Table 13: Orbiter Objects (Part 2)

Key	Arguments	Purpose
-q	q	The size of the finite field \mathbb{F}_q
-Q	Q	The field size of the extension field \mathbb{F}_Q
-n	n	The projective dimension
-poly	r	Use polynomial with rank r to create the field \mathbb{F}_q
-poly_Q	r	Use polynomial with rank r to create the field \mathbb{F}_Q
-embedded_in_PG_4_q		
-BLT_in_PG		BLT set with point ranks in PG

Table 14: Orbiter Objects: Modifiers

Job key	Purpose
-dualize_hyperplanes _to_points	Turns ranks of hyperplanes into ranks of points
-dualize_points _to_hyperplanes	Turns ranks of points into ranks of hyperplanes
-ideal	Compute the ideal of a set of points
-homogeneous_polynomials	Prints the equation whose coefficient vector is the input vector
-canonical_form	Computes the canonical form of a set
-draw_points_in_plane	Produces a drawing of a set of points in a projective plane
-klein	Applies the Klein correspondence
-line_type	Computes the line type
-plane_type	Computes the plane type
-conic_type	Computes the conic type
-hyperplane_type	Computes the hyperplane type
-intersect_with_set _from_file	Computes the intersection with a set specified in a file
-arc_with_given_set _as_s_lines_after_dualizing	Finds arcs with the given set as s -lines
-arc_with_two_given _sets_of_lines_after_dualizing	Finds arcs with the two given sets as s -lines and t -lines, respectively
-arc_with_three_given _sets_of_lines_after_dualizing	Finds arcs with the three given sets as s -lines and t -lines and u -lines, respectively

Table 15: Orbiter Jobs in $\text{PG}(n, q)$

group $\text{PGL}(4, q)$. One approach is described in [4] and relies on Schlaefli's notion of a double six as a substructure [13]. Another approach is through non-conical six-arcs in a plane, as described in [8]. Both approaches have been implemented in Orbiter. The purpose of the construction algorithm is to produce the equations of surfaces. In order to do so, the notion of a double six of lines in $\text{PG}(3, q)$ is used. A double six determines a unique surfaces but a surface may have several double sixes associated to it. The classification algorithms sorts out the relationship between the isomorphism types of double sixes and the isomorphism types of cubic surfaces. In order to classify all double sixes, yet another substructure is considered. These are the five-plus-ones. They consist of 5 lines with a common transversal. The poset classification algorithm is used to classify the five-plus-ones. Also, Orbiter will sort out the isomorphism classes of double sixes based on their relation to the five-plus-ones. In order to classify the five-plus-ones, the related Klein quadric is considered. Lines in $\text{PG}(3, q)$ correspond to points on the Klein quadric. Thus, the five-plus-one configurations of lines correspond to certain configurations of points on the Klein quadric.

The command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGL 4 7 -wedge -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -surface_classify -end
```

classifies all cubic surfaces over the field \mathbb{F}_7 under the projective linear group. If desired, it is possible to use

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGGL 4 4 -wedge -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -surface_classify -end
```

to perform the same classification with respect to the collineation group $\text{PGL}(4, 4)$. The `-report` option can be used to create a report of the classified surfaces. So, for instance

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGGL 4 4 -wedge -end -report -surface_classify
```

produces a latex report of the surface in $\text{PG}(3, 4)$. The `-surface_recognize` option can be used to identify a given surface in the list produced by the classification. For instance,

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGGL 4 8 -wedge -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -surface_recognize -q 8 \
-by_coefficients "1,6,1,8,1,11,1,13,1,19" -end -end
```

identifies the surface (cf. Table 5)

$$X_0^2 X_3 + X_1^2 X_2 + X_1 X_2^2 + X_0 X_3^2 + X_1 X_2 X_3 = 0 \quad (4)$$

in the classification of surfaces over the field \mathbb{F}_8 . This means that an isomorphism from the given surface to the surface in the list is computed. Also, the generators of the automorphism group of the given surface are computed, using the known generators for the automorphism

group of the surface in the classification. For instance, executing the command above creates an isomorphism between the given surface and the surface in the catalogue.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 4 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 7 & 0 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_0. \quad (5)$$

Orbiter can compute isomorphism between two given surfaces. The surfaces must have 27 lines. For instance, the command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -linear_group -PGGL 4 8 -wedge -end \
-group_theoretic_activities -surface_isomorphism_testing \
-q 8 -by_coefficients \
"5,5,5,8,5,9,5,10,5,11,5,12,4,14,4,15,1,18,1,19" -end \
-q 8 -by_coefficients "1,6,1,8,1,11,1,13,1,19" -end
```

computes an isomorphism between the two \mathbb{F}_8 -surfaces

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \alpha^3 X_0^2 X_2 + \alpha^3 X_1^2 X_2 + \alpha^3 X_1^2 X_3 + \alpha^3 X_0 X_2^2 + \alpha^3 X_1 X_2^2 + \alpha^3 X_2^2 X_3 \\ &\quad + \alpha^2 X_1 X_3^2 + \alpha^2 X_2 X_3^2 + X_0 X_2 X_3 + X_1 X_2 X_3, \\ 0 &= X_0^2 X_3 + X_1^2 X_2 + X_1 X_2^2 + X_0 X_3^2 + X_1 X_2 X_3. \end{aligned}$$

The isomorphism is given as a collineation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 7 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}_2.$$

In here, the numerical representation of elements of \mathbb{F}_8 as integers in the interval $[0, 7]$ is used. The exponent of the Frobenius automorphism is listed as a subscript.

A second algorithm to classify cubic surfaces has been described in [3] and in [8]. This algorithm is available in Orbiter also. For instance, the command

```
orbiter.out -v 5 -classify_surfaces_through_arcs_and_triangular_pairs 13
```

classifies all cubic surfaces with 27 lines over the field \mathbb{F}_{13} using this algorithm. A report of the classification is produced in the file `arc_lifting_q13.tex`.

Besides classification, there are two further ways to create surfaces in Orbiter. The first is a built-in catalogue of cubic surfaces with 27 lines for small finite fields \mathbb{F}_q (at the moment, $q \leq 101$ is required). The second is a way of creating members of known infinite families. Both are facilitated using the `-create_surface` option. For instance,

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -create_surface -family_S 3 -q 13 -end
```

creates the member of the Hilbert-Cohn/Vossen surface described in [4] with parameter $a = 3$ and $b = 1$ over the field \mathbb{F}_{13} . The command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -create_surface -q 4 -catalogue 0 -end
```

creates the unique cubic surface with 27 lines over the field \mathbb{F}_4 which is stored under the index 0 in the catalogue. It is possible to apply a transformation to the surface. Suppose we are interested in the surface over \mathbb{F}_8 created in (4). The command

```
orbiter.out -v 3 -create_surface -q 8 -catalogue 0 -end \
    -transform_inverse "1,4,4,0,6,0,0,0,6,2,0,1,7,0,4,0,0"
```

creates surface 0 over \mathbb{F}_8 and applies the inverse transformation to recover the surface whose equation was given in (4). The surface number 0 over \mathbb{F}_8 is created, and the transformation (5) is applied in inverse. The commands `-transform` and `-transform_inverse` accept the transformation matrix in row-major ordering, with the field automorphism as additional element. It is possible to give a sequence of transformations. In this case, the transformations are applied in the order in which the commands are given on the command line.

12 Arcs in Projective Planes

A (k, d) -arc in a projective plane π is a set S of k points such that every line intersects S in at most d points. Arcs are related to linear codes and other structures. Two arcs S_1 and S_2 are equivalent if there is a projectivity Φ such that $\Phi(A) = B$. The problem of classifying arcs is the problem of determining the orbits of the projectivity group on arcs. At times, we consider the larger group of collineations. In that case, the problem of classifying arcs is the problem of determining the orbits of the collineation group on arcs. Orbiter can solve such classification problems, at least for small parameter cases. Here is an example. A hyperoval in a plane $\text{PG}(2, 2^e)$ is a $(2^e + 2, 2)$ -arc. It is interesting to classify the hyperovals up to collineation equivalence under the group $\text{PTL}(3, 2^e)$. The command

```
orbiter.out -v 4 \
    -linear_group -PGGL 3 16 -end \
    -group_theoretic_activities \
        -classify_arcs 18 \
        -classify_arcs_d 2 \
        -exact_cover \
            -input_prefix ./ARCS/ \
            -output_prefix ./SYSTEMS/ \
            -solution_prefix ./SOLUTIONS/ \
            -starter_size 18 \
            -base_fname arcs_q16_d2 \
            -lex \
        -end \
    -end
```

performs the classification of hyperovals in $PG(2, 16)$. There are exactly two hyperovals in this plane. Orbiter also finds the stabilizers of these arcs. They have orders 16320 and 144, respectively.

13 The Povray Interface

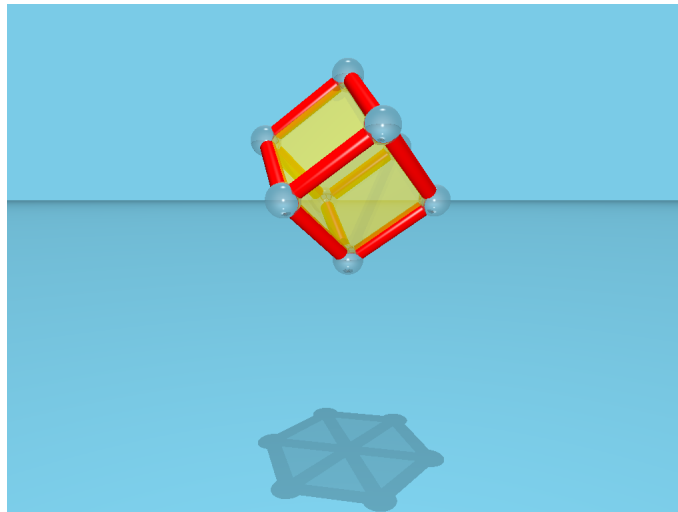
Orbiter can be used to create high quality raytracing graphics. Orbiter serves as a front end for 3D graphics processed through Povray [12]. This is a multi step process: A 3D scene is defined through orbiter commands. Next Orbiter produces Povray files. After that, the povray files are processed through povray, and turned into graphics files (png), called frames. The frames can be turned into a video by using tools like ffmpeg. Here is an example:

```

1      orbiter.out -v 2 -povray \
2          -round 0 -nb_frames_default 30 -output_mask cube_%d_%03d.pov \

3          -video_options -W 1024 -H 768 -global_picture_scale 0.5 \
4              -default_angle 75 -clipping_radius 2.7 \
5          -end \
6          -scene_objects \
7              -obj_file cube_centered.obj \
8              -edge "0, 1" \
9              -edge "0, 2" \
10             -edge "0, 4" \
11             -edge "1, 3" \
12             -edge "1, 5" \
13             -edge "2, 3" \
14             -edge "2, 6" \
15             -edge "3, 7" \
16             -edge "4, 5" \
17             -edge "4, 6" \
18             -edge "5, 7" \
19             -edge "6, 7" \
20             -group_of_things_as_interval 0 8 \
21             -spheres 0 0.3 "texture{ Polished_Chrome pigment{quick_color
    White} }" \
22             -group_of_things_as_interval 0 6 \
23             -prisms 1 0.05 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow transmit 0.7
} finish {diffuse 0.9 phong 0.6} }" \
24             -group_of_things_as_interval 0 12 \
25             -cylinders 2 0.15 "texture{ pigment{ color Red } finish {di
ffuse 0.9 phong 0.6} }" \
26             -scene_objects_end \
27             -povray_end
28
```

This command will tell Orbiter to create 30 povray files (extension .pov), one for each frame of a rotating scene. The scene contains a cube whose vertices are shown in chrome, whose edges are in red, and whose faces are yellow and transparent. The cube turns around a vertical axis of symmetry. Here is the first frame of the result:



The coordinates of the cube are stored in an object file `cube_centered.obj`. The content of this file is:

```
v -1 -1 -1
v 1 -1 -1
v -1 1 -1
v 1 1 -1
v -1 -1 1
v 1 -1 1
v -1 1 1
v 1 1 1
f 1 2 4 3
f 1 2 6 5
f 1 3 7 5
f 2 4 8 6
f 3 4 8 7
f 5 6 8 7
```

Here is a simple example of a cubic surface, called the monkey saddle. The equation of the surface is

$$z = x^3 - 3xy^2$$

The example plots the surface together with the tangent plane at $(0,0,0)$, rotated around the z -axis.

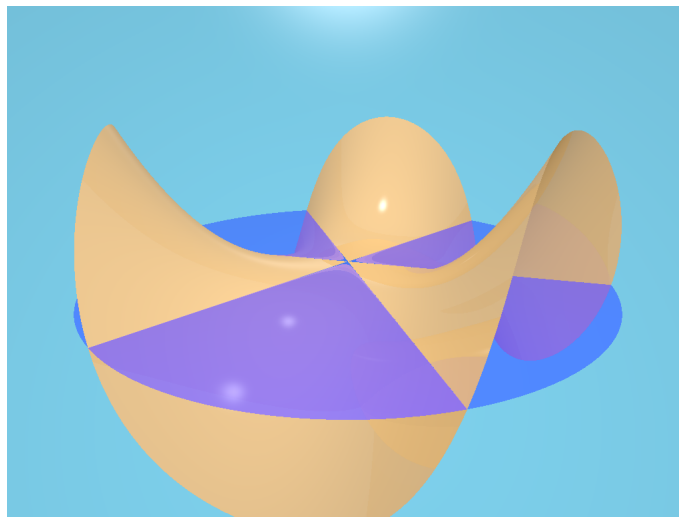
```
1      orbiter.out -v 2 -povray \
2      -round 0 -nb_frames_default 30 -output_mask monkey_%d_%03d.pov \
```

```

3      -video_options -W 1024 -H 768 -global_picture_scale 0.8 \
4      -default_angle 75 -clipping_radius 0.8 \
5      -camera 0 "0,0,1" "1,1,0.5" "0,0,0" \
6      -rotate_about_z_axis \
7      -end \
8      -scene_objects \
9          -cubic_lex "1,0,0,0,-3,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,-1,0" \
10         -plane_by_dual_coordinates "0,0,1,0" \
11         -group_of_things "0" \
12         -group_of_things "0" \
13         -cubics 0 "texture{ pigment{ Gold } finish {ambient 0.4 diffus
e 0.5 roughness 0.001 reflection 0.1 specular .8} }" \
14         -planes 1 "texture{ pigment{ color Blue transmit 0.5 } finish
{ diffuse 0.9 phong 0.2} }" \
15         -scene_objects_end \
16         -povray_end
17

```

Here is one of the frames that are created:



Here is another cubic surface, called Hilbert Cohn-Vossen. The equation of the surface is

$$\frac{5}{2}xyz - (x^2 + y^2 + z^2) + 1 = 0.$$

```

1      orbiter.out -v 2 -povray \
2          -round 0 -nb_frames_default 30 -output_mask HCV_%d_%03d.pov \
3          -video_options -W 1024 -H 768 -global_picture_scale 0.9 \
4          -default_angle 75 -clipping_radius 2.4 \
5          -camera 0 "1,1,1" "-3,1,3" "0.12,0.12,0.12" \
6          -end \

```

```

7         -scene_objects \
8         -Hilbert_Cohn_Vossen_surface \
9         -group_of_things "0" \
10        -cubics 0 "texture{ pigment{ White*0.5 transmit 0.5 } finish
        {ambient 0.4 diffuse 0.5 roughness 0.001 reflection 0.1 specular
        .8} }" \
11        -group_of_things_as_interval 0 6 \
12        -group_of_things_as_interval 6 6 \
13        -group_of_things_as_interval_with_exceptions 12 15 "14,19,23
" \
14        -lines 1 0.02 "texture{ pigment{ color Red } finish { diffus
e 0.9 phong 1}}" \
15        -lines 2 0.02 "texture{ pigment{ color Blue } finish { diffu
se 0.9 phong 1}}" \
16        -lines 3 0.02 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow } finish { dif
fuse 0.9 phong 1}}" \
17        -label 0 "a1" -label 2 "a2" -label 4 "a3" \
18        -label 6 "a4" -label 8 "a5" -label 10 "a6" \
19        -label 12 "b1" -label 14 "b2" -label 16 "b3" \
20        -label 18 "b4" -label 20 "b5" -label 22 "b6" \
21        -label 24 "c12" -label 26 "c13" -label 30 "c15" \
22        -label 32 "c16" -label 34 "c23" -label 36 "c24" \
23        -label 40 "c26" -label 42 "c34" -label 44 "c35" \
24        -label 48 "c45" -label 50 "c46" -label 52 "c56" \
25        -group_of_things_as_interval 0 6 \
26        -texts 4 0.2 0.15 "texture{ pigment{Black} } no_shadow" \
27        -group_of_things_as_interval 6 6 \
28        -texts 5 0.2 0.15 "texture{ pigment{Black} } no_shadow" \
29        -group_of_things_as_interval 12 12 \
30        -texts 6 0.2 0.15 "texture{ pigment{Black} } no_shadow" \
31        -scene_objects_end \
32        -povray_end
33

```

Figure 10 shows the final product. The Schlaefli labeling of lines can be seen. Orbiter can plot functions using a built in function tracker. The function can be specified in Reverse Polish Notation. Here is an example of a Lissajous curve

$$x = 7 \sin \left(2t + \frac{\pi}{2} \right), \quad y = 7 \sin (3t).$$

The function is computed using

```

orbiter.out -v 2 -smooth_curve "lissajous" 0.07 2000 15 0 18.85 \
-const a 3 b 2 c 1.57 r 7 -const_end \
-var t -var_end \
-code \

```

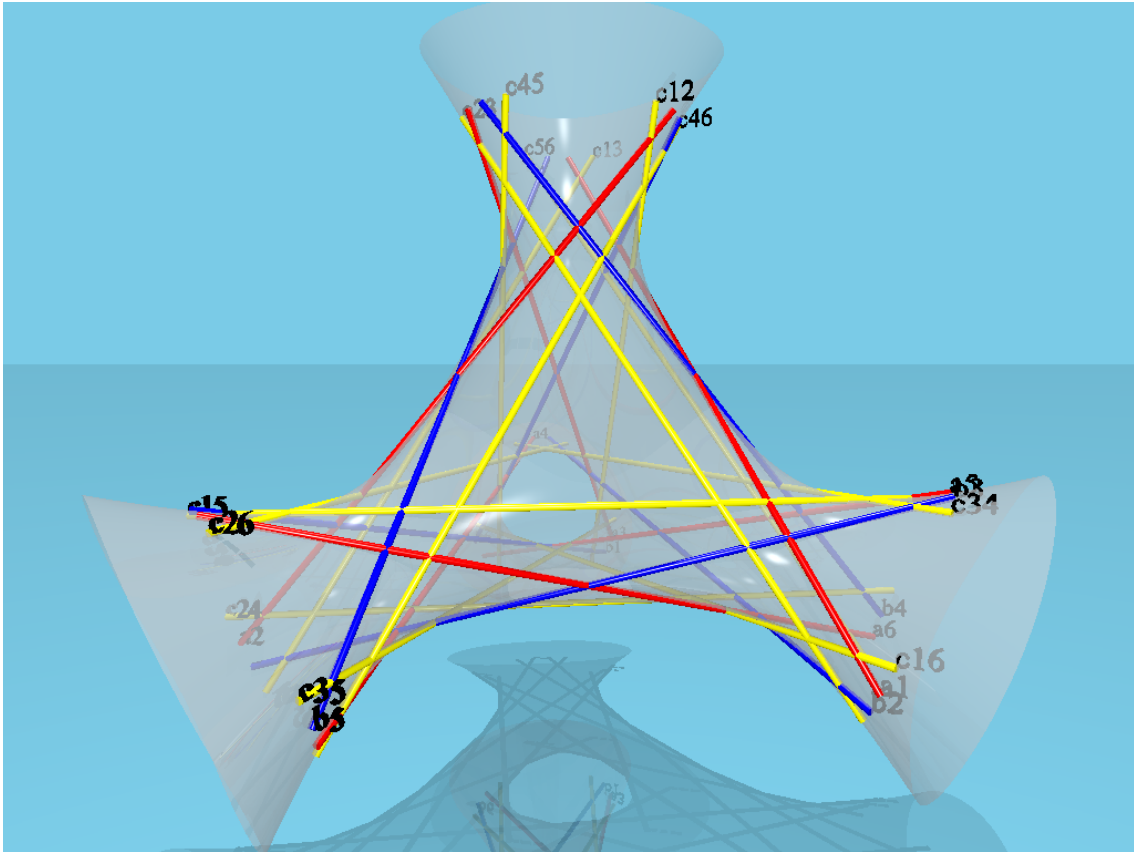



Figure 10: The Hilbert Cohn-Vossen surface

```

push t push a mult push c add sin push r mult return \
push t push b mult sin push r mult return \
-code_end

```

The sequence

```
push t push a mult push c add sin push r mult
```

is the function $r \sin(at + c)$ expressed in revers polish notation. The constants a, b, c, r are defined in the line

```
-const a 3 b 2 c 1.57 r 7 -const_end
```

The input variable is defined using the line

```
-var t -var_end
```

The sequence

```
-smooth_curve "lissajous" 0.07 2000 15 0 18.85
```

defines the name of the output file, the fact that two consecutive points are never further than $\epsilon = 0.07$ away, the fact that points that are 15 or more away from the origin should be ignored, and the fact that the variable t looks over the range $[0, 18.85]$ with a step-size of 2000. The code to produce the plot is

```

1      orbiter.out -v 2 -povray \
2      -round 0 -nb_frames_default 1 -output_mask lissajous_%d_%03d.pov
      \
3      -video_options -W 1024 -H 768 -global_picture_scale 0.40 \
4      -default_angle 45 -clipping_radius 5 -omit_bottom_plane \
5      -camera 0 "0,-1,0" "0,0,12" "0,0,0" \
6      -rotate_about_z_axis \
7      -end \
8      -scene_objects \
9      -line_through_two_points_recentered_from_csv_file coordinate_g
      rid.csv \
10     -group_of_things "0" \
11     -group_of_things "1" \
12     -group_of_things "2" \
13     -lines 0 0.09 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow } }" \
14     -lines 1 0.09 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow } }" \
15     -lines 2 0.09 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow } }" \
16     -group_of_things_as_interval 3 39 \
17     -lines 3 0.02 "texture{ pigment{ color Black } }" \
18     -point_list_from_csv_file function_lissajous_N2000_points.csv
      \
19     -group_of_things_as_interval 0 6524\
20     -spheres 4 0.1 "texture{ pigment{ color Red } finish { diffuse
0.9 phong 1}}" \
21     -plane_by_dual_coordinates "0,0,1,0" \

```

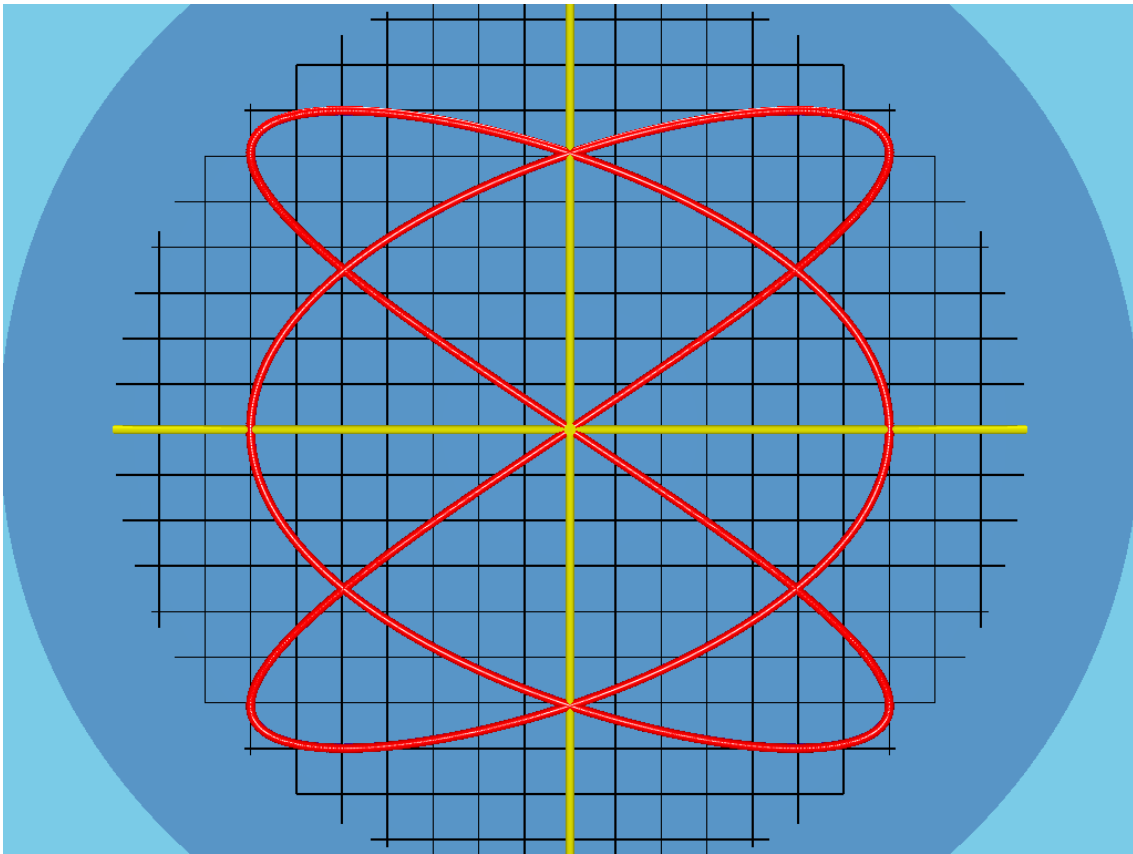


Figure 11: Lissajous figure

```

22         -group_of_things "0" \
23         -planes 5 "texture{ pigment{ color Blue*0.5 transmit 0.5 } }"
\
24     -scene_objects_end \
25     -povray_end
26

```

The plot is shown in Figure 11. We can turn it into a 3D plot by using the t value for the z coordinate. The code to produce the 3D plot is

```

1     orbiter.out -v 2 -povray \
2         -round 0 -nb_frames_default 30 -output_mask lissajous_3d_%d_%03d
.pov \
3         -video_options -W 1024 -H 768 -global_picture_scale 0.40 \
4         -default_angle 45 -clipping_radius 5 -omit_bottom_plane \
5         -camera 0 "0,0,1" "7,7,5" "0,0,1" \
6         -rotate_about_z_axis \
7         -end \
8         -scene_objects \

```

```

9          -line_through_two_points_recentered_from_csv_file coordinate_g
rid.csv \
10          -group_of_things "0" \
11          -group_of_things "1" \
12          -group_of_things "2" \
13          -lines 0 0.09 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow } }" \
14          -lines 1 0.09 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow } }" \
15          -lines 2 0.09 "texture{ pigment{ color Yellow } }" \
16          -group_of_things_as_interval 3 39 \
17          -lines 3 0.02 "texture{ pigment{ color Black } }" \
18          -point_list_from_csv_file function_lissajous_3d.N2000_points.c
sv \
19          -group_of_things_as_interval 0 6538\
20          -spheres 4 0.1 "texture{ pigment{ color Red } finish { diffuse
0.9 phong 1}}" \
21          -plane_by_dual_coordinates "0,0,1,0" \
22          -group_of_things "0" \
23          -scene_objects_end \
24          -povray_end
25

```

The function is computed using the command

```

orbiter.out -v 2 -smooth_curve "lissajous_3d" 0.07 2000 50 0 18.85 \
  -const a 3 b 2 c 1.57 r 7 -const_end \
  -var t -var_end \
  -code \
    push t push a mult push c add sin push r mult return \
    push t push b mult sin push r mult return \
    push t return \
  -code_end \

```

The 3D curve is shown in Figure 12.

14 Cryptography and Number Theory

In Table 16, some number theoretic command line arguments are shown. In Table 17, some cryptographic command line arguments are shown.

15 Coding Theory

In Table 18, some coding theoretic commands of Orbiter are shown.

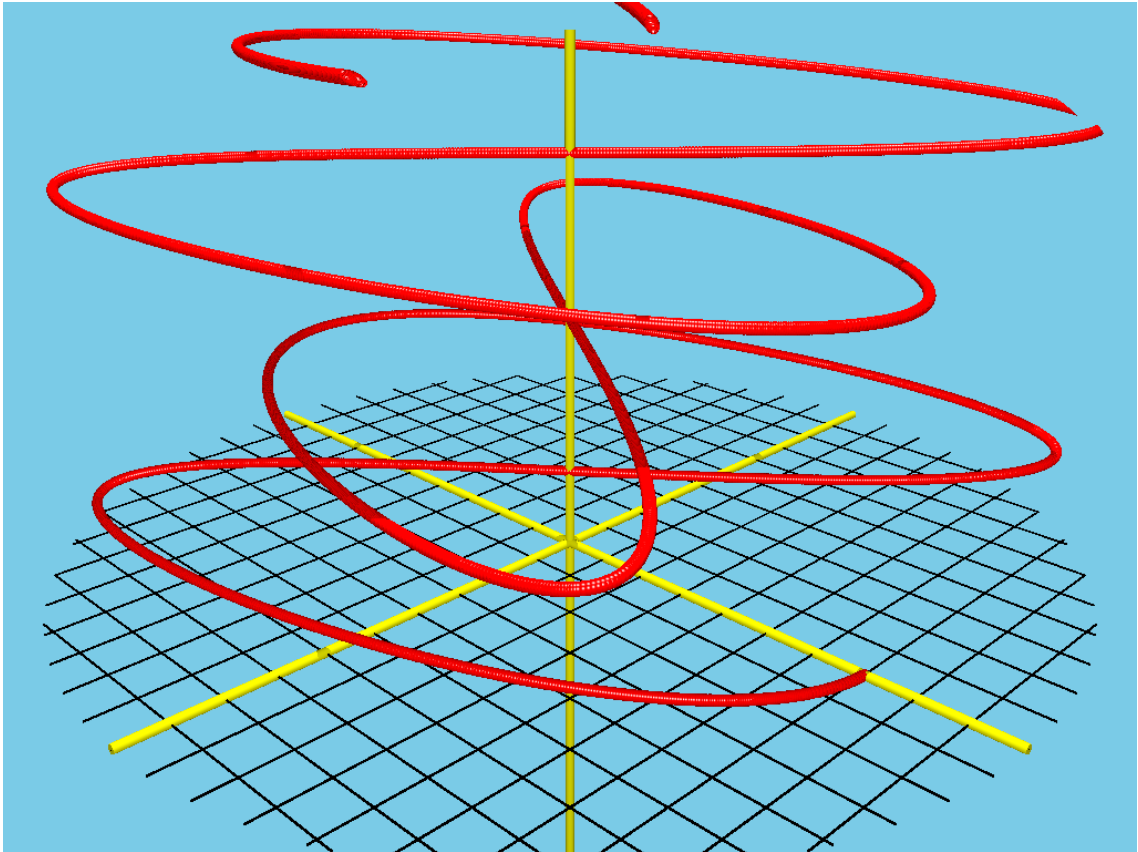


Figure 12: Lissajous Spacecurve

Command	Arguments	Description
<code>-trace</code>	q	Computes the absolute trace function for all elements in \mathbb{F}_q
<code>-norm</code>	q	Computes the absolute norm function for all elements in \mathbb{F}_q
<code>-jacobi</code>	$a \ p$	Compute the Jacobi symbol $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$
<code>-power_mod</code>	$a \ n \ p$	Raises a to the power n modulo p
<code>-primitive_root</code>	p	Computes a primitive root modulo p
<code>-discrete_log</code>	$b \ a \ p$	Computes n such that $a^n \equiv b \pmod{p}$
<code>-square_root_mod</code>	$a \ p$	computes a square root of a modulo p
<code>-inverse_mod</code>	$a \ p$	computes the modular inverse of a modulo p
<code>-sift_smooth</code>	$a \ n$ list-of-primes	Computes all smooth numbers in the interval $[a, a + n - 1]$
<code>-solovay_strassen</code>	$a \ n$	Performs n Solovay / Strassen tests on the number a
<code>-miller_rabin</code>	$a \ n$	Performs n Miller / Rabin tests on the number a
<code>-fermat</code>	$a \ n$	Performs n Fermat tests on the number a
<code>-find_pseudoprime</code>	$a \ n_1 \ n_2 \ n_3$	Computes a pseudoprime which survives n_1 Fermat tests, n_2 Miller Rabin tests, n_3 Solovay Strassen tests
<code>-find_strong_pseudoprime</code>	$a \ n_1 \ n_2$	Computes a pseudoprime which survives n_1 Fermat tests and n_2 Miller Rabin tests
<code>-random</code>	n fname	Creates n random numbers and writes them to the csv file fname
<code>-random_last</code>	n	Creates n random numbers prints the last one
<code>-affine_sequence</code>	$a \ b \ p$	Splits the interval $[0, p - 1]$ into affine sequences of the form $x_{n+1} = ax_n + b \pmod{p}$

Table 16: Number Theoretic Commmands

Command	Arguments	Description
<code>-RSA_encrypt_text</code>	$d\ n\ b\ \text{text}$	Using blocks of b letters at a time, encrypt text using RSA with exponent d modulo n
<code>-RSA</code>	$d\ n\ \text{list-of-integers}$	encrypt the given sequence of integers using RSA with exponent d modulo n
<code>-EC_add</code>	$p\ a\ b\ \text{pt-1}\ \text{pt-2}$	On the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$, add the points pt-1 and pt-2 , each given as a pair x, y
<code>-EC_points</code>	$p\ a\ b$	Computes all points over \mathbb{F}_p of the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$
<code>-EC_multiple_of</code>	$p\ a\ b\ \text{pt}\ n$	Computes the n fold multiple of the given point pt on the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$
<code>-EC_cyclic_subgroup</code>	$p\ a\ b\ \text{pt}$	Computes the cyclic subgroup generated by the given point pt on the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$
<code>-EC_Koblitz_encoding</code>	$p\ a\ b\ s\ \text{pt}\ \text{test}$	Computes the Koblitz encoding of text (all caps) on the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$ using the base point pt and the secret exponent s
<code>-EC_bsgs</code>	$p\ a\ b\ \text{pt}\ n\ \text{cipher}$	Prepare the baby-step giant-step tables for the ciphertext text on the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$ using the base point pt of order n
<code>-EC_bsgs_decode</code>	$p\ a\ b\ \text{pt}\ n\ \text{cipher}\ \text{round-keys}$	Decodes the ciphertext text on the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$ using the base point pt of order n and the round keys keys
<code>-EC_discrete_log</code>	$p\ a\ b\ \text{pt}\ \text{base-pt}$	Computes the elliptic curve discrete log analogue of pt with respect to base-pt on the elliptic curve $y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}$ using the base point pt of order n and the round keys keys

Table 17: Cryptographic Commmands

Command	Arguments	Description
-RREF	$q\ m\ n$ list-of-integers	Compute the RREF of the $m \times n$ matrix over \mathbb{F}_q
-nullspace	$q\ m\ n$ list-of-integers	Compute a basis for the right nullspace of the given $m \times n$ matrix
-normalize_from_the_right		Normalizes the result of -RREF or nullspace from the right
-weight_enumerator	$q\ m\ n$ list-of-integers	Computes the weight enumerator of the linear code generated by the given $m \times n$ matrix
-BCH	$n\ q\ t$	Creates the BCH-code of length n over the field \mathbb{F}_q with designed distance t

Table 18: Coding Theoretic Commmands

Orbiter can classify linear codes with bounded minimum distance. To do so, Orbiter establishes a certain matroid in a suitable projective geometry and computes the orbits under the projective group. Recall that a linear $[n, k]$ -code \mathcal{C} over \mathbb{F}_q is a k -dimensional subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n . The code is said to have minimum distance d if

$$\min_{\substack{c, c' \in \mathcal{C} \\ c \neq c'}} d(c, c') = d$$

where $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ is the Hamming metric on \mathbb{F}_q^n , which counts the number of positions where \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} differ. A code has both k and d large with respect to n . The notion of isometry with respect to the Hamming metric leads to a notion of equivalence of codes. Two codes are equivalent if the coordinates of the vectors in one code can be computed (simultaneously) so as to obtain the second code. The automorphism group is the set of isometry maps from one code to itself.

The classification problem of optimal codes in coding theory is the problem of determining the equivalence classes of codes for a given set of values of n and k with a lower bound on d . We wish to use Orbiter for solving this problem for small instances.

Orbiter reduces the problem of classifying $[n, k, \geq d]$ codes over \mathbb{F}_q to an equivalent problem in finite geometry. According to [2], the equivalence classes of $[n, k, \geq d]$ codes over \mathbb{F}_q for $d \geq 3$ are in canonical one-to-one correspondence to the sets of size n in $\text{PG}(n, k-1, q)$ with the property that any set of size at most $d-1$ is linearly dependent. Let $\Lambda_{m,s}(q)$ be the poset of subsets of $\text{PG}(m, q)$ such that any set of s or less points is independent. The group $G = \text{PGL}(m+1, q)$ acts on this poset. For $m = n - k - 1$ and $s = d - 1$, the orbits of G on sets in $\Lambda_{m,s}(q)$ of size n are in canonical one-to-one correspondence to the $[n, k, \geq d]$ codes over \mathbb{F}_q .

The Orbiter command

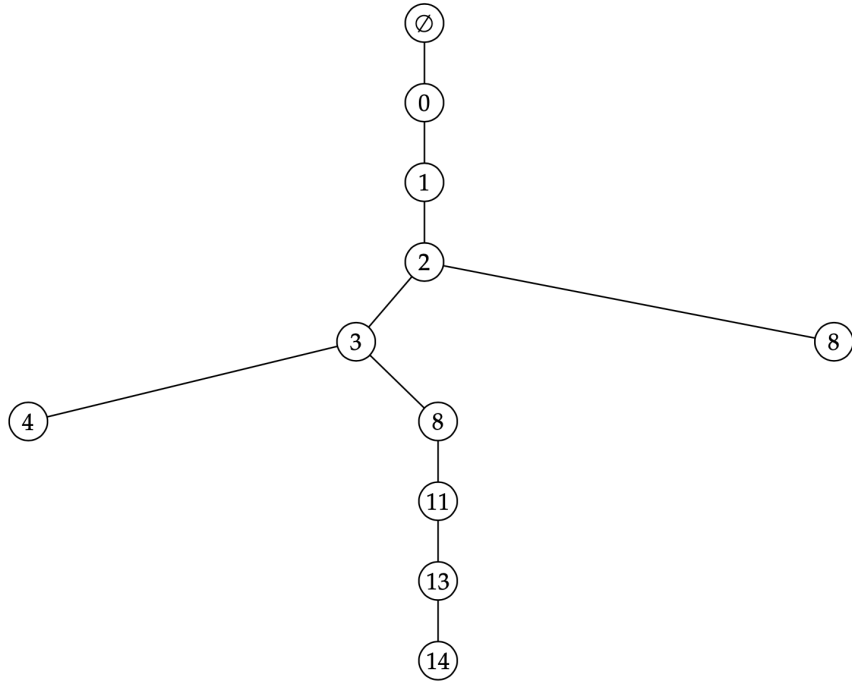


Figure 13: Orbits of $\text{PGL}(4, 2)$ on the poset $\Lambda_{3,3}(2)$,

```
orbiter.out -v 2 -code_classify -n 8 -k 4 -q 2 -d 4 -lex
```

can be used to classify the $[8, 4, 4]$ codes over \mathbb{F}_2 . It turns out that there is exactly one such code, the $[8, 4, 4]$ extended Hamming code. Using the group $\text{PGL}(4, 2)$ acting on the poset $\Lambda_{3,3}(2)$, Orbiter produced the poset of orbits shown in Figure 13. In this diagram, the numbers stand for Orbiter numbers of points in $\text{PG}(3, 2)$. All nodes except for the root node have a number attached to it. The nodes represent subsets. In order to determine the set associated to a node, follow the path from the root node to the node and collect the points according to their labels. The root node represents the empty set. The $[8, 4, 4]$ -code is represented by the set $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 14\}$. The fact that there is only one node at level 8 in the poset of orbits tells us that the code is unique up to equivalence. Let us look at the code. The elements of the set $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 14\}$ are points in $\text{PG}(3, 2)$. We write the coordinate vectors in the columns of a matrix H like so:

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This matrix is the parity check matrix H of the code \mathcal{C} . This means that the words of the code are the vectors c such that $c \cdot H^\top = 0$. Observe that the vectors that we put in the columns of H all have odd weight. They are in fact the points of the hyperplane $x + y + z + w = 0$. This shows that the stabilizer of the code which is the stabilizer of the set is equal to $\text{AGL}(3, 2)$, a group of order 1344.

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