

# AN EXTENDED PARTIAL GEOMETRY

BY DAMARAJU RAGHAVARAO

*Punjab Agricultural University, Hissar*

1. *Summary and Introduction.* Bose (1) has defined the partial geometries and showed that many of the well known 2 associate class association schemes are particular cases of the association scheme defined by the geometry. In this paper we extend the concept of partial geometry and obtain a new 3-associate class association scheme. Cubic association scheme defined by Raghavarao and Chandrasekhararao (4) will be a particular case of the association scheme we obtain by means of our extended partial geometry. ✓

2. *Definition of a generalized partial geometry.* Consider a system of  $v$  undefined points and  $b$  undefined lines satisfying the axioms.

$A_1$  Any two points are incident with not more than one line.

$A_2$  Each point is incident with  $r$  lines.

$A_3$  Each line is incident with  $k$  points.

$A_4$  Given a point  $P$ , the lines not passing through  $P$  can be divided into 2 disjoint sets  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  with cardinals  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  such that every line of the set  $S_1$ , can be intersected by exactly one line passing through  $P$  and no line of set  $S_2$  can be intersected by a line passing through  $P$ .

Let  $P$  be any point and let us number the  $r$  lines passing through  $P$  as  $1, 2, \dots, r$ . Number the points lying on each of these lines (excluding the point  $P$ ) in an arbitrary way from  $1, 2, \dots, k-1$ . Now the points on these  $r$  lines (excluding the point  $P$ ) can be denoted by  $(i, j)$ , where  $i$  stands for the number of the line through  $P$  and hence runs from  $1$  to  $r$  and  $j$  is the number of the point on the  $i$ th line from  $P$  and hence runs from  $1$  to  $k-1$ . Through each point  $(i, j)$  there pass  $r-1$  lines other than the  $i$ th line through  $P$  and we call these  $r-1$  lines as the pencil  $\{i, j\}$ . The lines of the pencil  $\{i, j\}$

can be arbitrarily numbered from  $1, 2, \dots, r-1$  and the  $t$ th line of the pencil  $\{i, j\}$  can be denoted as  $\{i, j; t\}$ . No line of the pencil  $\{i, j\}$  meets a line of pencil  $\{i, j'\}$  where  $j \neq j'$ . In fact, if  $\{i, j; t\}$  and  $\{i, j'; t'\}$  where  $j \neq j'$  intersect in  $Q$ , then two lines passing through  $Q$  intersect the  $i$ th line through  $P$  and  $A_4$  is violated. Lines of the pencils  $\{i, j\}$  and  $\{i', j'\}$  where  $i \neq i'$  may intersect and here we stipulate.

$A_5$  Exactly one line of pencil  $\{i, j\}$  intersects exactly one line of pencil  $\{i', j'\}$  where  $i \neq i'$  and further if  $\{i, j; t\}$  intersects a line of  $\{i', j'\}$  where  $i \neq i'$ , then it intersects one line from each of the pencils  $\{i', j''\}$  where  $i' \neq i$  and  $j'' = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ .

It is to be remarked here that  $A_5$  is stated in terms of the pencil  $\{i, j\}$  for clarity of expression only. This is not to be misunderstood that only one point  $P$  and the pencils thereby defined should satisfy  $A_5$ . With respect to every point of the system under consideration, pencils similar to  $\{i, j\}$  should be defined and the lines of these pencils should satisfy  $A_5$ .

*Definition 2.1.* A system of undefined points,  $b$  undefined lines and an incidence relation satisfying axioms  $A_1$  to  $A_5$  will be called an extended partial geometry with parameters  $r, k, 0$  and  $1$ ; and is symbolically denoted by  $[r, k; 0, 1]$ .

As an illustration consider a system containing 14 points and 28 lines with an incidence relation as given by figure 1. We can easily verify that this system satisfies axioms  $A_1$  to  $A_5$  and hence is an extended partial geometry with parameters 4, 2, 0 and 1.

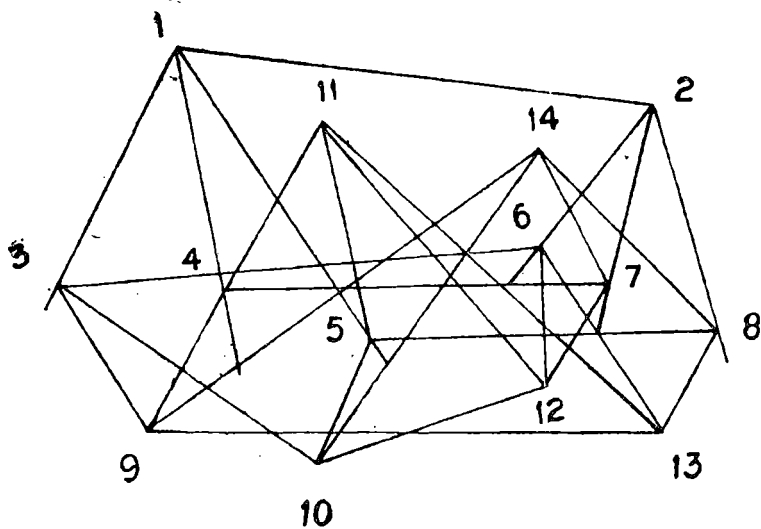
3. *Some lemmas on the structure of  $[r, k; 0, 1]$ .* In this section we prove some lemmas which will be useful for us to prove our main theorems in the next section.

*Lemma 3.1.*  $[r, k; 0, 1]$  the lines do not form a triangle.

For, otherwise axiom  $A_4$  will be violated.

*Lemma 3.2.* In  $[r, k; 0, 1]$  if  $P$  is any point and  $\{i, j\}$  are pencils of  $r-1$  lines as defined in section 2, through any point  $Q$  not incident with any line through  $P$ , there pass either two or no lines of the pencils  $\{i, j\}$ .

This is a consequence of axiom  $A_5$ .



[4, 2 ; 0, 1]

Fig. 1.

*Lemma 3.3.* In  $[r, k ; 0, 1]$  the lines do not form a pentagon.

*Proof.* We shall prove this result by induction on  $r$  and for every  $k$ . When  $r=1$ , there is nothing to prove.

When  $r=2$ , let, if possible, the pentagon  $ABCDE$  be formed.

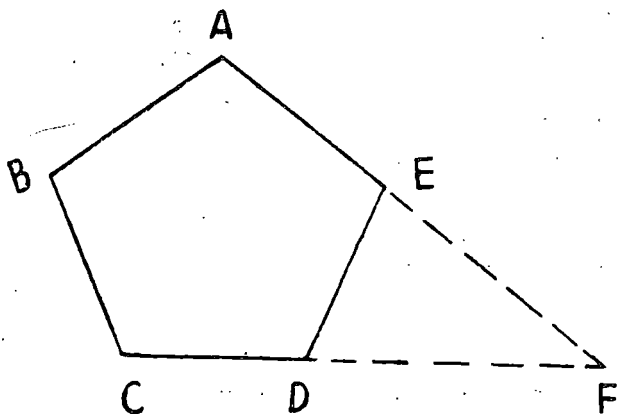


Fig. 2.

Through the point  $B$  there pass two lines  $BA$  and  $BC$  and hence from axiom  $A_5$ , one line from  $A$  other than  $AB$  must meet one line from  $C$  other than  $BC$ . Since there pass only two lines through every

point, the lines  $AE$  and  $CD$  must meet in a point, say,  $F$ . Then there forms the triangle  $DFE$  in the geometry, a contradiction to Lemma 3.1. Hence there does not exist a pentagon in the geometry  $[2, k; 0, 1]$ .

Let us now assume that if there pass  $r$  lines through every point of the geometry, there does not exist a pentagon and show that if a pentagon exists when there pass  $r+1$  lines through a point, there was already a pentagon when  $r$  lines only pass through a point, a contradiction to the induction hypothesis; or one of the axioms will be violated.

Let  $P$  be any point of the geometry;  $(i, j)$  and  $\{i, j\}$  for  $i=1, 2, \dots, r$  and  $j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$  be the points and pencils of

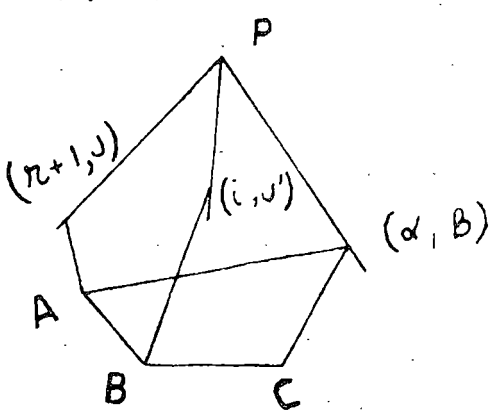


Fig. 3.

lines as defined in section 2. Let another line numbered  $(r+1)$ th pass through  $P$  and number the points on this line arbitrarily as  $(r+1, j)$ ,  $j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$ . To each pencil of lines  $\{i, j\}$  for  $i=1, 2, \dots, r$ ;  $j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$  a new line will be added which will be denoted by  $\{i, j; r\}$ . The lines of the pencil  $\{r+1, j\}$  be denoted by  $\{r+1, j; t\}$  for  $t=1, 2, \dots, r$ . If a pentagon exists when there pass  $r+1$  lines through every point of the geometry, we can without loss of generality assume that it be formed by the  $(r+1)$ th and  $i$ th lines through  $P$ ,  $\{r+1, j; t\}$ ,  $\{i, j'; t'\}$  and  $AB$ , where  $AB$  is the line joining  $A$  and  $B$  which are incident respectively on  $\{r+1, j; t\}$  and  $\{i, j'; t'\}$ . We distinguish two cases and discuss them separately.

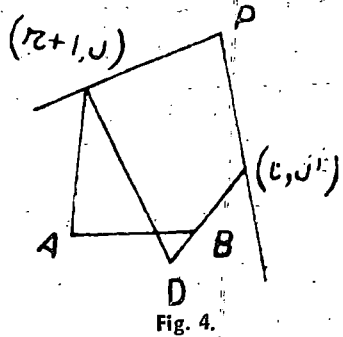
Case (i),  $t' \neq r$ . Clearly  $A$  must lie on some line of the form  $\{\alpha, \beta; r\}$   $\alpha=1, 2, \dots, r$ ;  $\beta=1, 2, \dots, k-1$  as shown in fig. 3.

If  $\alpha=i$ ,  $\beta=j'$ , then a triangle forms with the lines  $\{i, j'; t'\}$ ,  $\{i, j'; r\}$  and  $AB$  and if  $\alpha=i$ ,  $\beta \neq j'$ ,  $AB$  is a line of some pencil  $\{i'', j''\}$  for  $i''=1, 2, \dots, r+1$ ;  $j''=1, 2, \dots, k-1$ . In fact, through the point  $(i, j')$  there pass two lines: (i)  $\{i, j'; t'\}$  and the  $i$ th line

through  $P$ ; and the line  $BA$  intersects  $\{i, \beta; r\}$  at the point  $A$ . Hence from axiom  $A_5$ ,  $BA$  should intersect one line from each of the pencils  $\{i, j\}$  for  $j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$  and one line through the point  $P$  other than the  $i$ th line through the point  $P$ . In either case, Lemmas 3.1 or 3.2 are violated. Thus we should have  $\alpha \neq i$ .

Now a line  $B$  must intersect some line  $\{\alpha, \beta; t''\}$   $t'' \neq r$ , in a point, say,  $C$ .  $BC$  is an old point and  $AB$  is a new line, which implies that  $BC$  is an old line. Hence there was already a pentagon existing when there pass only  $r$  lines through every point of the geometry.

Case (ii)  $t' = r$ . Let  $\{i, j'; r\}$  and  $\{r+1, j; t''\}$  intersect in a point, say,  $D$ , as shown in figure 4. Through  $B$ , there pass two lines  $AB$  and  $\{i, j'; r\}$  and the line  $\{r+1, j; t''\}$  intersects the line  $\{r+1, j; t''\}$  at the point  $(r+1, j)$ . Hence by the axiom  $A_5$ , the line  $(r+1, j; t)$  should intersect a line passing through  $(i, j')$  other than  $(i, j'; r)$ . Thus two lines of the pencil  $\{i, j'\}$  intersect two lines of the pencil  $(r+1, j)$  a contradiction to the axiom  $A_5$ .



Taking these two cases into consideration, we conclude that there does not exist a pentagon when there pass  $r+1$  lines through every point of the geometry. Thus our lemma is proved.

*Lemma 3.4.* Let  $P$  be any point of  $[r, k; 0, 1]$  and  $\{i, j\}$ ,  $i=1, 2, \dots, r; j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$  be the pencils of lines as defined in section 2. If  $Q$  and  $R$  are any two points lying on some lines of some pencils  $\{i, j\}$ ,  $i=1, 2, \dots, r; j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ; then either  $Q$  and  $R$  are not incident on a line or they lie on some line belonging to some pencil  $\{i, j\}$ ,  $i=1, 2, \dots, r; j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$ .

*Proof.* We distinguish 4 cases.

Case (i).  $Q$  and  $R$  are incident on some line  $\{i, j; t\}$  in which case the assertion is trivially true.

Case (ii).  $Q$  and  $R$  lie respectively on the lines  $\{i, j; t\}$  and  $\{i, j; t'\}$  where  $t \neq t'$ . If  $Q$  and  $R$  are joined by a line, then a triangle forms with vertices  $(i, j)$ ,  $Q$  and  $R$ , a contradiction to Lemma 3.1. Thus  $Q$  and  $R$  are not incident on a line.

Case (iii).  $Q$  and  $R$  lie respectively on the lines  $\{i, j; t\}$  and  $\{i', j'; t'\}$  where  $j \neq j'$ . From axiom  $A_5$  it should belong to one of the pencils  $\{i' \neq j\}$ ,  $i' = 1, 2, \dots, r; i, i' \neq i, j = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ; if  $Q$  and  $R$  are connected.

Case (iv)  $Q$  and  $R$  lie respectively on the lines  $\{i, j; t\}$  and  $\{i', j', t'\}$  where  $i \neq i'$ . If  $Q$  and  $R$  are joined, then a pentagon forms with vertices  $P, (i, j), (i', j'), Q$  and  $R$ , a contradiction to Lemma 3.3. Thus  $Q$  and  $R$  are not incident on a line.

These four cases exhaust all possible ways of choosing  $Q$  and  $R$  and thus the lemma is proved.

1. *Main theorems.* In this section we prove the following two theorems.

*Theorem 4.1.* In a  $[r, k; 0, 1]$  geometry, we can define a three associate class association scheme for the points by defining the associate classes as follows: With respect to any point,  $P$ , the first associates are those points which are incident on some line passing through  $P$ ; the second associates are those points through which there pass some line intersecting some line through  $P$ ; third associates are those points which are neither first nor second associates. The parameters of the association scheme are

$$n_1 = r(k-1), n_2 = r(r-1)(k-1)^2/2,$$

$$n_3 = (r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^3/2,$$

$$P_1 = \begin{cases} k-2 & (r-1)(k-1) & 0 \\ (r-1)(k-1)(k-2) & (r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^2/2 \\ & (r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^2(k-2)/2 \end{cases}$$

$$P_2 = \begin{cases} 2 & 2(k-2) & (r-2)(k-1) \\ (k-2)^2 + (r+1) & (r+1)(r-2)(k-1)(k-2)/2 \\ (r-2) & \\ (k-1)/2 & (r-1)(r-2)(k-1)(k-2)^2/2 \\ & + (r-2)(r-3)(k-1)^2/2 \end{cases}$$

$$P_3 = \begin{cases} 0 & r & r(k-2) \\ r(r+1)(k-2)/2 & r[(r-1)(k-2)^2 + (r-3)(k-1)]/2 \\ & \{(r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^3/2\} - 1 \\ & - r(k-2) - r\{(r-1)(k-2)^2 \\ & + (r-3)(k-1)\}/2 \end{cases}$$

*Theorem 4.2.* The lines and points of  $[r, k; 0, 1]$  form a three associate class Partially Balanced Incomplete Block (PBIB) design

(cf. [2], [3]) if they are respectively identified with blocks and treatments. The association scheme of the design is as given by Theorem 4.1 and the remaining parameters are

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 1 + n_1 + n_2 + n_3 = 1 + r(k-1) + r(r-1)(k-1)^2/2 \\ &\quad + (r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^3/2, \\ b &= vr/k, \quad r, k, \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 0 = \lambda_3. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.2 is an immediate consequence of theorem 4.1 and hence we prove theorem 4.1 now. Clearly there are  $n_1 = r(k-1)$  first associates for every point. The second associates of  $P$  are those points lying on the lines  $\{i, j; t\}$  for  $i=1, 2, \dots, r; j=1, 2, \dots, k-1; t=1, 2, \dots, r-1$ . From Lemma 3.2, it follows that each second associate of  $P$  is incident on two such lines. Hence the number of second associates of  $P$  is  $n_2 = r(r-1)(k-1)^2/2$ . Through each second associate of  $P$  there pass  $r-2$  lines other than the lines of the pencils  $\{i, j\}$ ,  $i=1, 2, \dots, r; j=1, 2, \dots, k-1$  and on each of these lines there are  $k-1$  third associates of  $P$ . By noting that each of the third associates of  $P$  is incident on  $r$  such lines, we have  $n_3 = r(r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^3/2r = (r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^3/2$ , to be the number of third associates of  $P$ .

The parameters  $p'_{11}, p'_{12}, p'_{22}$  can easily be verified to take the values as announced in the theorem. We now prove the expression for  $p'_{22}$ . Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be the second associates and  $Q$  lie on the lines  $\{i, j; t\}$  and  $\{i', j'; t'\}$ . Let  $\{i, j; t\}$  intersect one line from each of the pencils  $\{i', j_l\}$   $j_l=1, 2, \dots, k-1; j_l \neq j'$  in the points  $Ql$ . The points that are incident on the lines joining  $(i, j_l)$  and  $Ql$  excluding the points  $(i', j_l)$  and  $Ql$  are the common second associates of  $P$  and  $Q$  for  $j_l=1, 2, \dots, k-1; j_l \neq j'$ . These points are  $(k-2)^r$  in number. Similarly, the line  $\{i', j'; t'\}$  intersects one line from each of the pencils  $\{i, j_l\}$ ,  $j_l=1, 2, \dots, k-1; j_l \neq j$  in the points  $Rl$ . The points that are incident on the line joining  $(i, j_l)$  and  $Rl$  excluding the points  $(i, j_l)$  and  $R$  are also common second associates of both  $P$  and  $Q$  for  $j_l=1, 2, \dots, k-1; j_l \neq j$ . But these points are just the same as enumerated earlier. The points lying on the lines  $\{i, j; t''\}$ ,  $t''=1, 2, \dots, r-1, t'' \neq t$  are common second associates of both  $P$  and  $Q$  and also the points lying on the lines  $\{i'; j'; t''\}$ ,  $t''=1, 2, \dots, r-1, t'' \neq t'$ . These are  $2(r-2)(k-1)$  in number. Through the point  $Q$ , there pass  $r-2$  lines other than the lines  $\{i, j; t\}$  and  $\{i', j'; t'\}$  and we call these  $r-2$  lines, the pencil of lines through  $Q$  and denote them by  $\{Q\}$ . Let  $R$  be any point on some line of the pencil  $\{Q\}$ . Then on

each line passing through  $R$  there can be at most one point of the lines of the pencils  $\{i'', j''\}$ ,  $i''=1, 2, \dots, r$ ;  $i'' \neq i$ ;  $i'' \neq i', j''=1, 2, \dots, k-1$  and if  $B$  is any point lying on some line of  $\{i'', j''\}$  which is incident on some line passing through  $R$ , then  $B$  and a point  $R'$  are incident on a line where  $R' \neq R$  and  $R'$  is also a point on some line of the pencil  $\{Q\}$ . By noting this and enumerating the common second associates of both  $P$  and  $Q$ , we get  $(r-2)(r-3)(k-1)/2$  additional points. Thus, we see that  $p_{22}^2$  is as given in the theorem. The remaining parameters can also be similarly obtained and the theorem is established.

Considering the particular case  $k=2$ , we have corollary 4.1.1. The generalized partial geometry  $[r, 2; 0, 1]$  defines a three associate class association scheme with parameters.

$$n_1=r, n_2=r(r-1)/2, n_3=(r-1)(r-2)/2$$

$$P_1 = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & r-1 & 0 \\ & 0 & (r-1)(r-2)/2 \\ & & 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$P_2 = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & 0 & r-2 \\ & (r+1)(r-2)/2 & 0 \\ & & (r-2)(r-3)/2 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$P_3 = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & r & 0 \\ & 0 & r(r-3)/2 \\ & & 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

The association scheme defined in Theorem 4.1 is cubic association scheme when  $r=3$ . When  $r=2$ , the 3 associate classes will reduce to 2 associate classes only and then it is an  $L_2$  association scheme.

*Lemma 4.1.*  $v$ , the number of points in  $[r, k; 0, 1]$  satisfies  $v=0 \pmod{k}$

*Proof.*

$$v = 1 + r(k-1) + r \frac{(r-1)(k-1)^2}{2} + \frac{(r-1)(r-2)(k-1)^3}{2}$$

$$= 1 - r + r \frac{(r-1)}{2} - \frac{(r-1)(r-2)}{2} \pmod{k}$$

$$= 0 \pmod{k}.$$

The constructions of partial geometries discussed in this paper opens a new combinatorial problem and the author hopes to communicate these results in a subsequent paper.



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