

eSeminar UGent-VUB

# Constructing saturating sets in projective spaces

using subgeometries

Lins Denaux

14<sup>th</sup> of January 2021



GHENT  
UNIVERSITY



# Overview

## 1 Introduction



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- 2 Empty results from the past: a flashback



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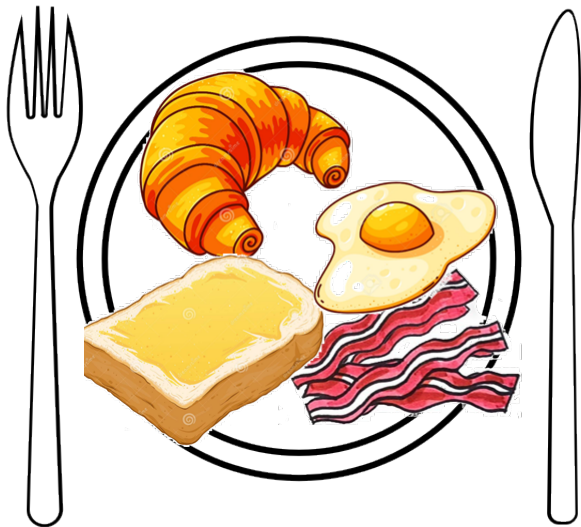
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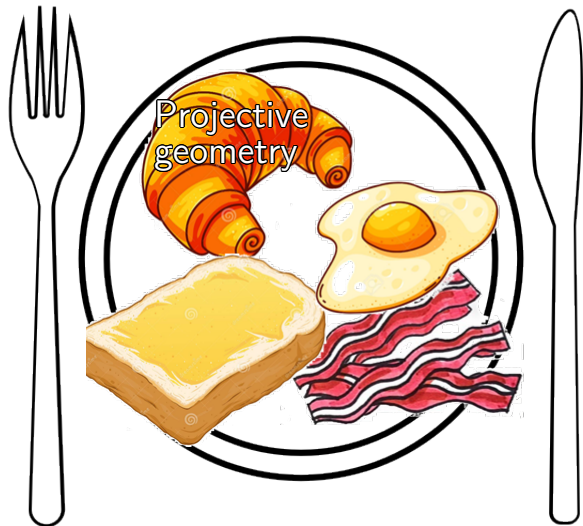
- 1 Introduction
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- 4 Subgeometries are affine lines
- 5 A construction for general  $n$  and  $q$





On the menu

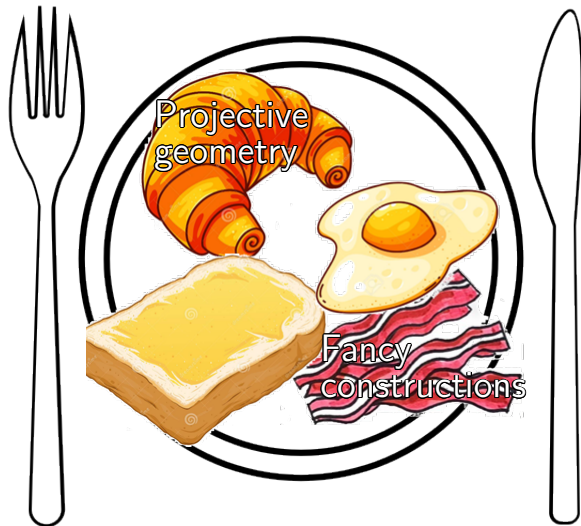




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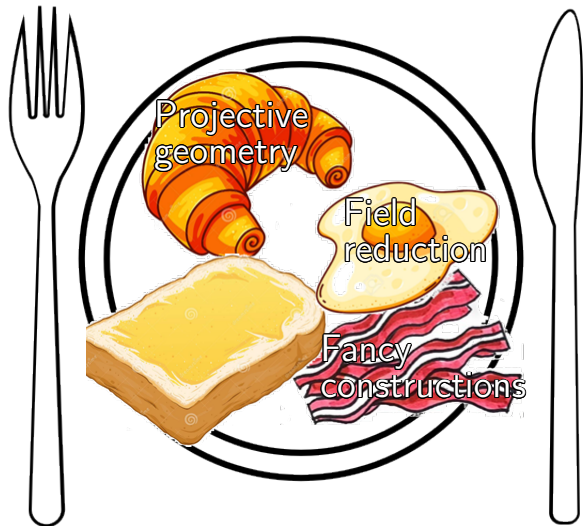






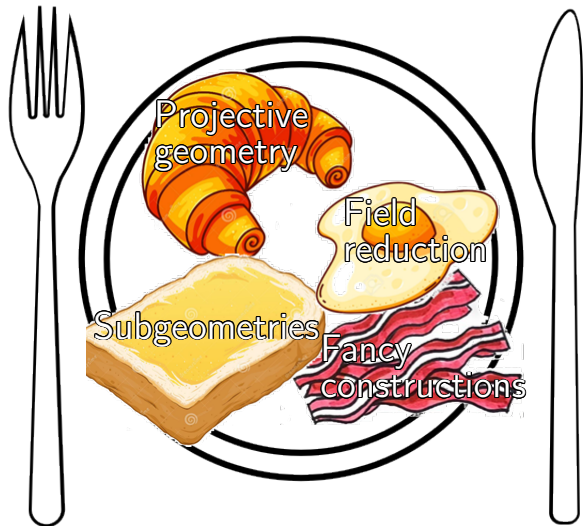
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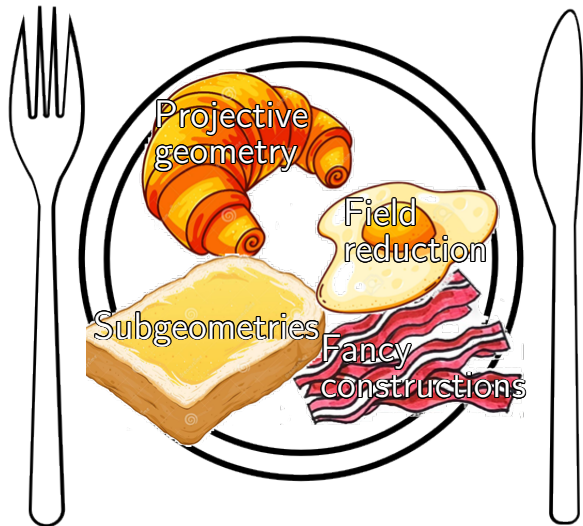
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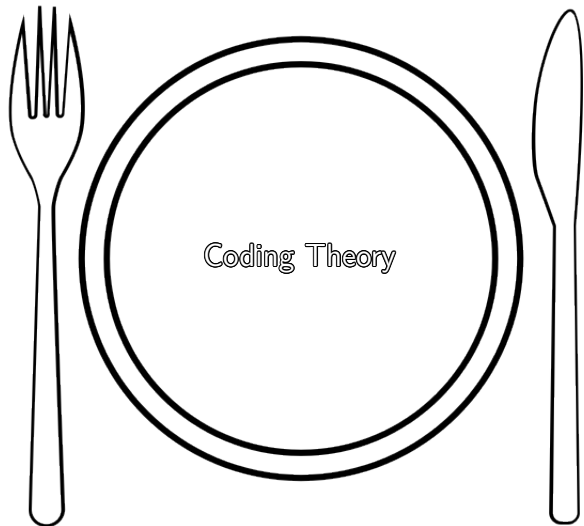
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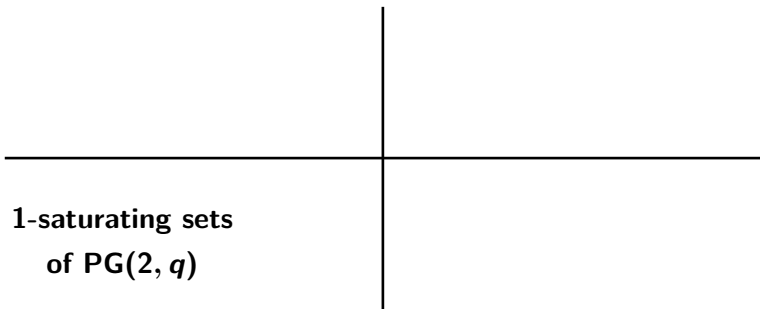
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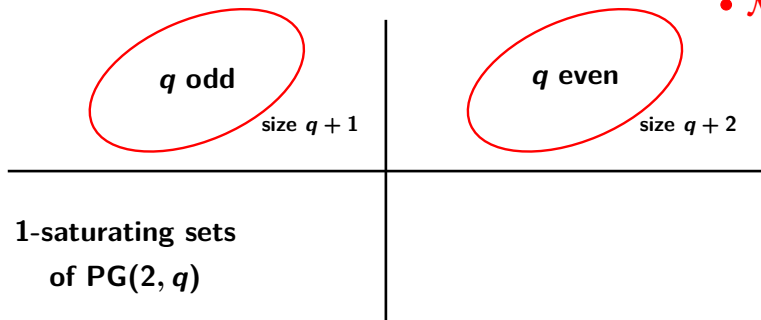


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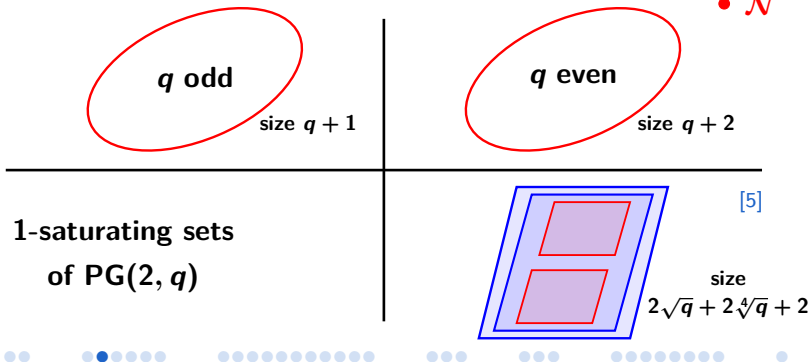


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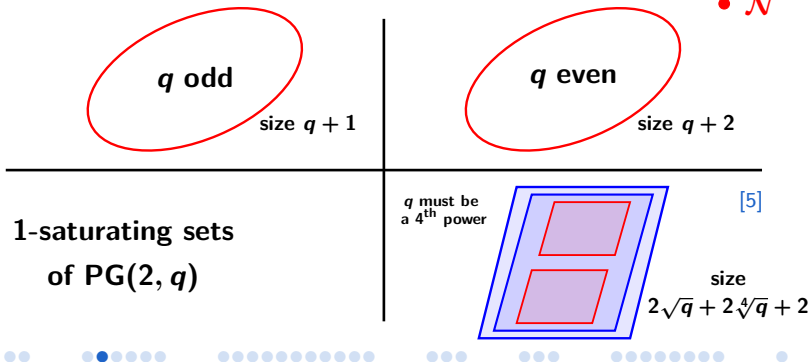


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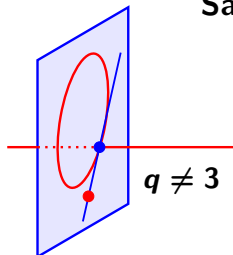
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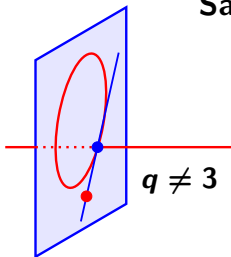
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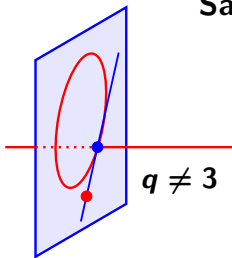


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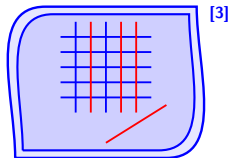
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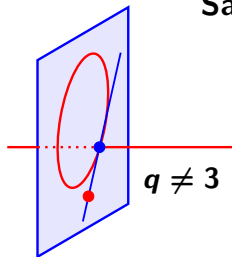
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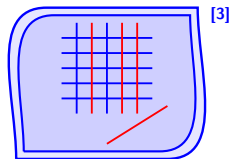
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- ▶ 2-saturating set of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$  [5].
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PC-matrix of a  $[|\mathcal{S}|, |\mathcal{S}| - n - 1]_q$   $(\varrho + 1)$ -covering code!

Any vector of  $\mathbb{F}_q^{|\mathcal{S}|}$  lies within Hamming distance  $\varrho + 1$  of a codeword.

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**Goal:** Finding good upper bounds for  $s_q(n, \varrho)$ .

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Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a  $\varrho$ -saturating set of  $\text{PG}(n, q)$ . Then

$$|\mathcal{S}| > \frac{\varrho + 1}{e} \cdot q^{\frac{n-\varrho}{e+1}} + \frac{\varrho}{2}.$$



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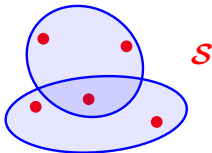


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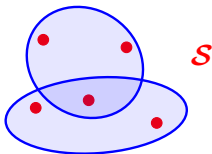
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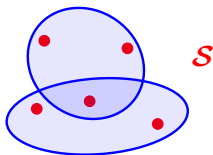
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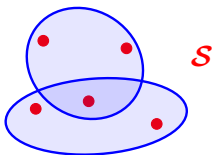
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1

# Introduction

The jungle of known results

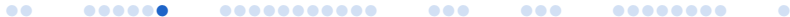


1

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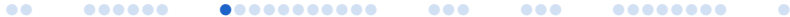
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2

## Empty results from the past: a flashback

An inductive fiasco



**Theorem (Davydov & Östergård, 2000 [7])**

$$s_q(n_1 + n_2 + 1, \varrho_1 + \varrho_2 + 1) \leq s_q(n_1, \varrho_1) + s_q(n_2, \varrho_2).$$

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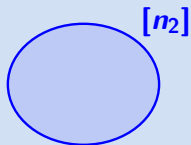
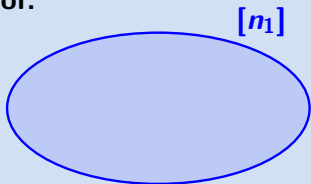
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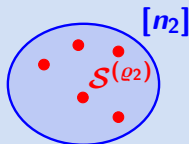
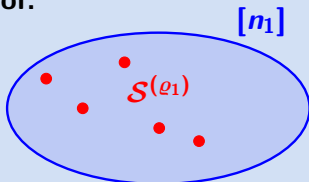
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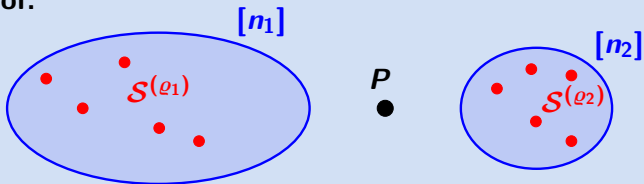




Theorem (Davydov & Östergård, 2000 [7])

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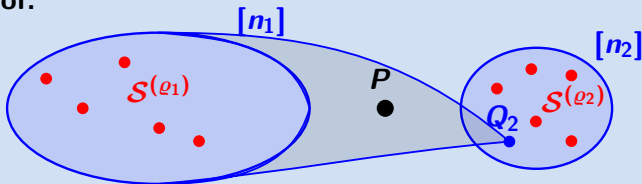
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An inductive fiasco

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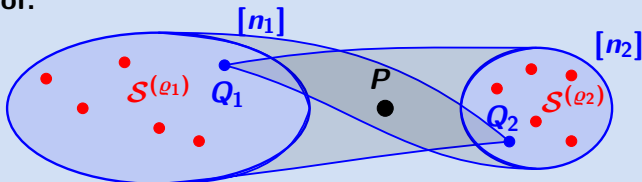
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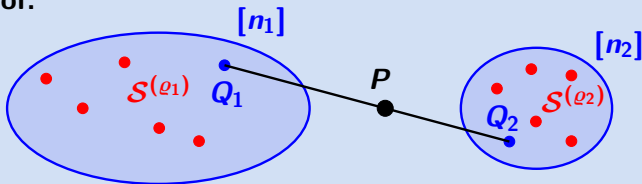
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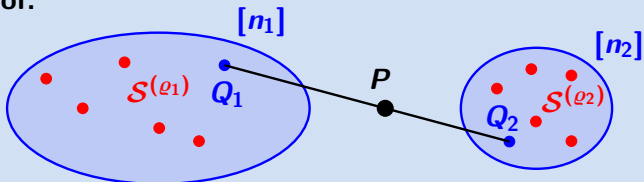
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**Corollary**

$$s_q(2\varrho + 1, \varrho) \leq (\varrho + 1)(q + 1).$$



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### Corollary

$$s_q(2\varrho + 1, \varrho) \leq (\varrho + 1)(q + 1).$$

### Keep in mind

$$s_q(n, \varrho) \gtrsim \varrho \cdot q^{\frac{n-\varrho}{\varrho+1}}.$$

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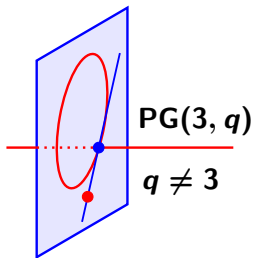
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## Theorem (Davydov [3])

$$s_q(3, 1) \leq 2(q + 1) - 1.$$

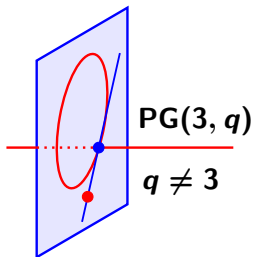


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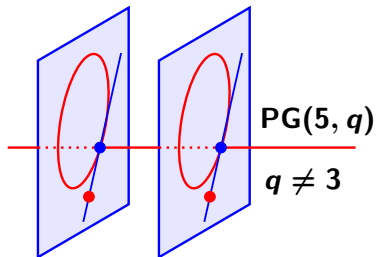
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$$s_q(3, 1) \leq 2(q + 1) - 1.$$

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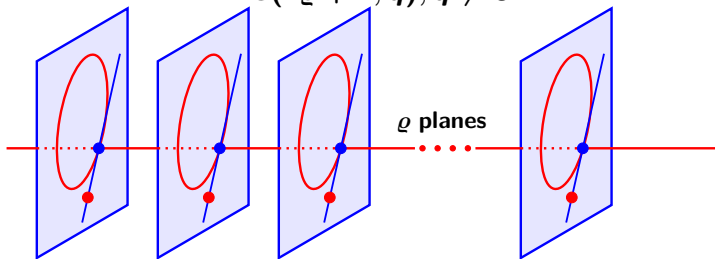
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$\text{PG}(2\varrho + 1, q), q \neq 3$



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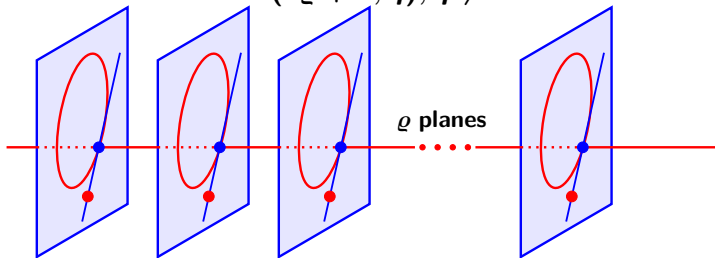
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## Theorem (LD, 2019)

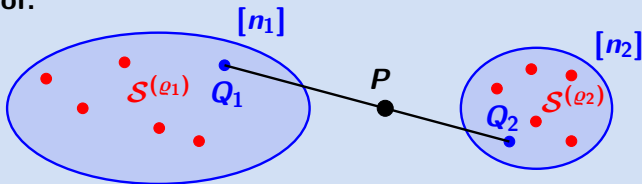
If  $q \neq 3$  and  $\varrho \leq q$ , then  $s_q(2\varrho + 1, \varrho) \leq (\varrho + 1)(q + 1) - \varrho$ .



**Theorem (Davydov & Östergård, 2000 [7])**

$$s_q(n_1 + n_2 + 1, \varrho_1 + \varrho_2 + 1) \leq s_q(n_1, \varrho_1) + s_q(n_2, \varrho_2).$$

**Proof.**



**Corollary**

$$s_q(2\varrho + 1, \varrho) \leq (\varrho + 1)(q + 1).$$

**Corollary**

$$s_q(k(\varrho + 1) + \varrho, \varrho) \leq (\varrho + 1)\theta_k.$$

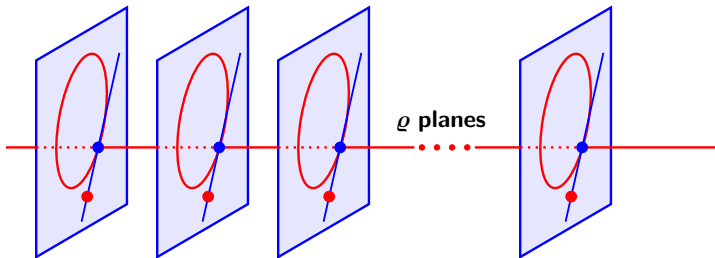
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An inductive fiasco

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2

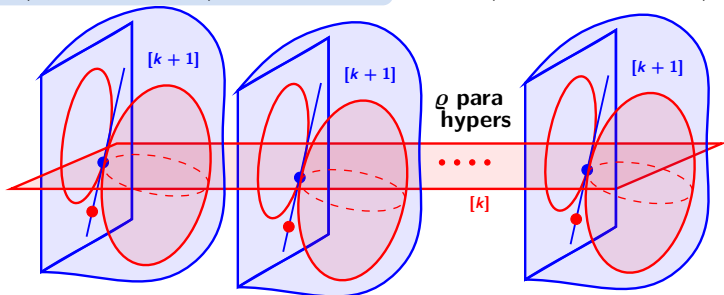
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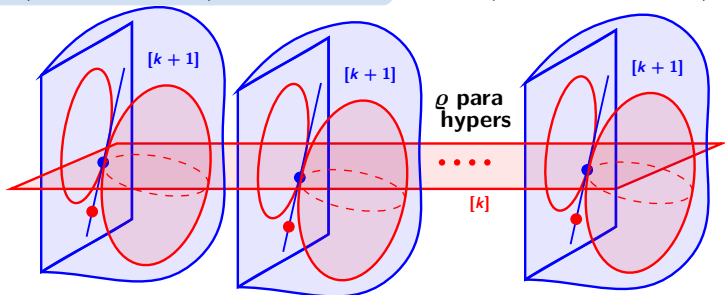
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$$s_q(n, \varrho) \lesssim \varrho \cdot q^{\frac{n-\varrho}{\varrho+1}},$$

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... say what now?

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Published: 10 June 2019

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**Theorem (Davydov, Marcugini & Pambianco, 2019 [6])**

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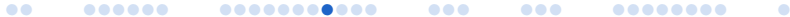




2

## Empty results from the past: a flashback

A better but bitter start



2

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- ▶ Let  $n = 2$  and  $\varrho = 1$ .
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$$s_q(2, 1) \gtrsim \sqrt{q}.$$

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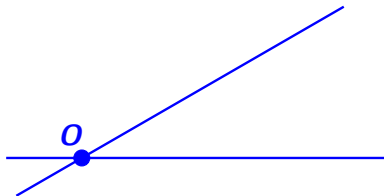
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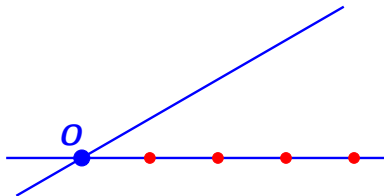
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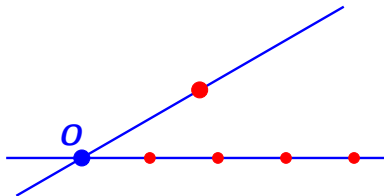
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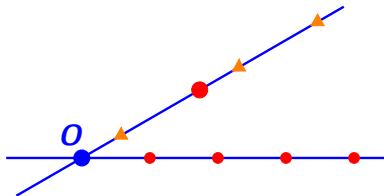
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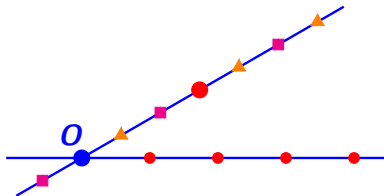
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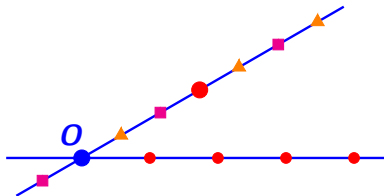
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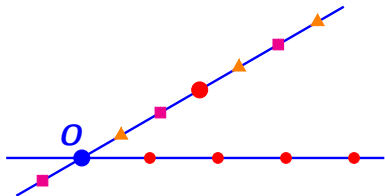
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### Keep in mind

$$s_q(2, 1) \gtrsim \sqrt{q}.$$

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### Theorem (Davydov, 1995 [3])

Let  $q$  be square. Then

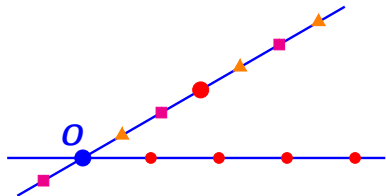
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### Keep in mind

$$s_q(2, 1) \gtrsim \sqrt{q}.$$

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- ▶ Combinatorial proof?
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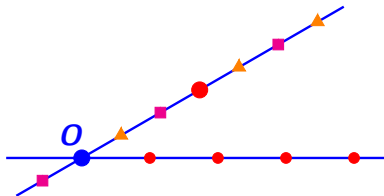
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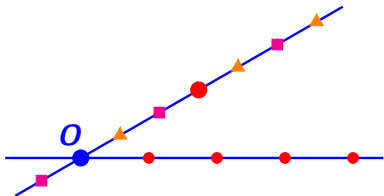
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Let  $q$  be square. Then

$$s_q(2, 1) \leq 3\sqrt{q} - 1.$$

## Theorem (Davydov et al., 2011 [5])

Let  $q$  be a fourth power. Then



$$s_q(2, 1) \leq 2\sqrt{q} + 2\sqrt[4]{q} + 2.$$



2

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- ▶ Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}^\times$  and  $\varrho = 1$ .
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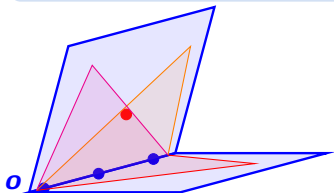
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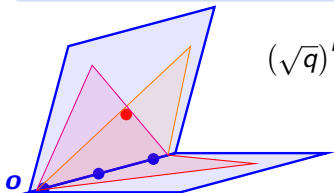
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$$(\sqrt{q})^n(\sqrt{q} + 1) = 2(\sqrt{q})^{n+1} - (\sqrt{q})^n(\sqrt{q} - 1).$$

Two extra obstacles:

1. What if  $P$  in 'plane'?
2. What if  $P$  in  $o$ ?



## Empty results from the past: a flashback

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### Theorem (LD, 2019)

Let  $n$  be even and  $q$  be square. Then

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Let  $n$  be even and  $q \geq 16$  be square. Then

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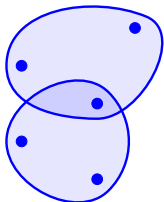
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$[n - \varrho - 1]$

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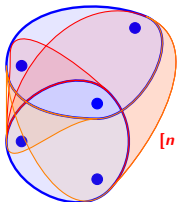
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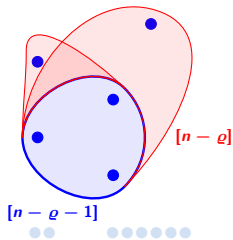
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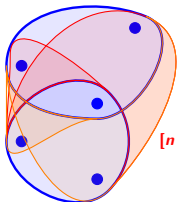
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3

## The mixed subgeometry approach

Two different approaches

If  $q$  is a  $(\varrho + 1)^{\text{th}}$  power: two possible paths to take



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Path of the single subgeometry  
***Strong blocking set approach***



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- ▶  $(\varrho + 1)$ -fold strong blocking sets in  $\text{PG}(n, e^{+1}\sqrt{q})$ .







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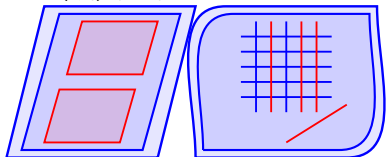
Path of the single subgeometry  
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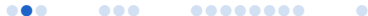
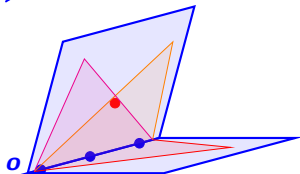
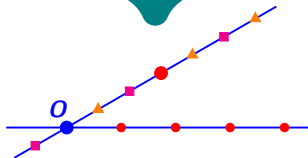
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$\text{PG}(2, q)$ ,  $q$  4<sup>th</sup> power

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Path of the mixed subgeometries  
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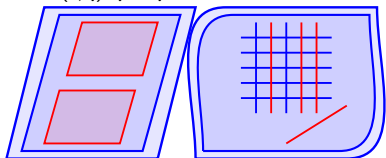
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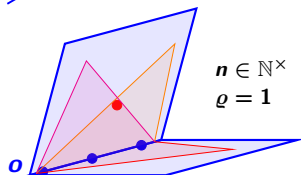
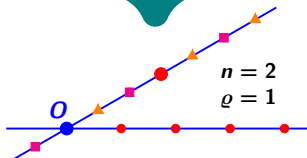
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Path of the mixed subgeometries  
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3

## The mixed subgeometry approach

The spark

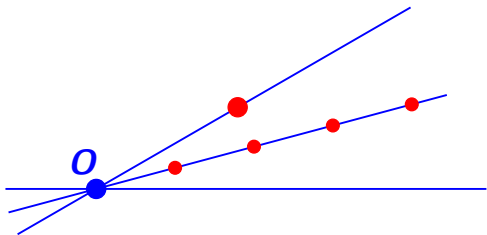
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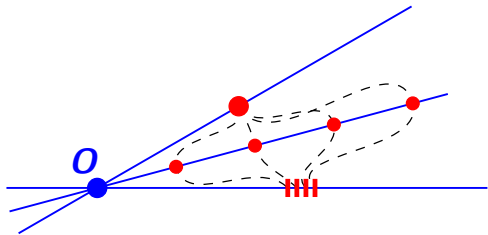


3

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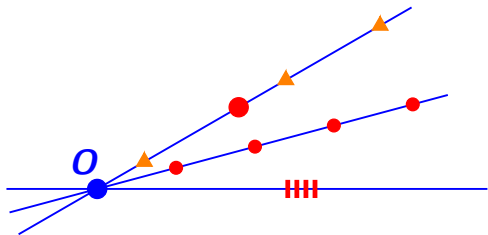


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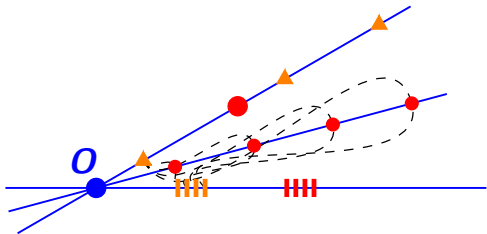
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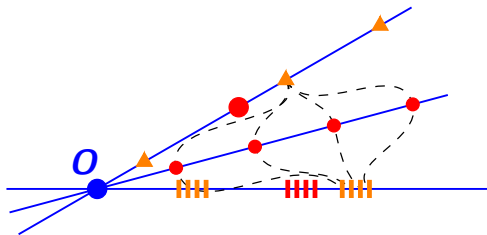


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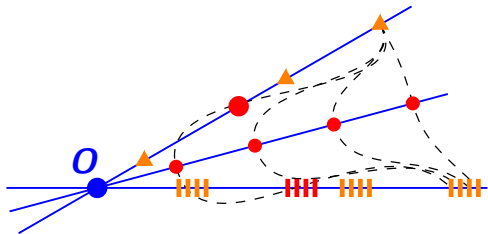


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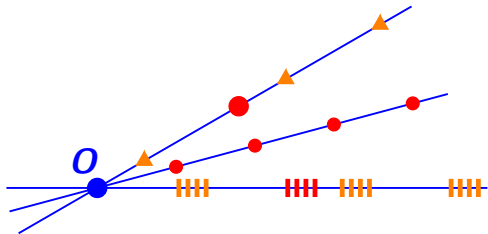




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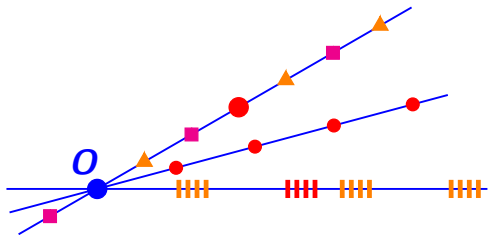
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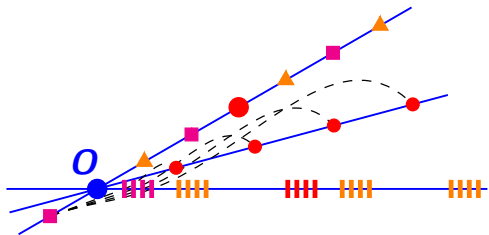


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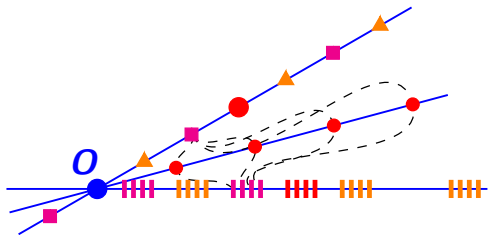


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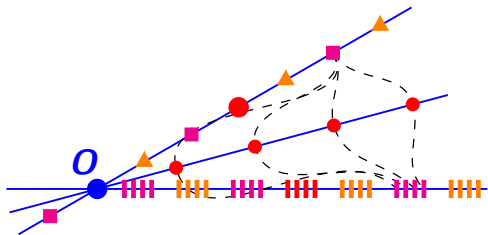


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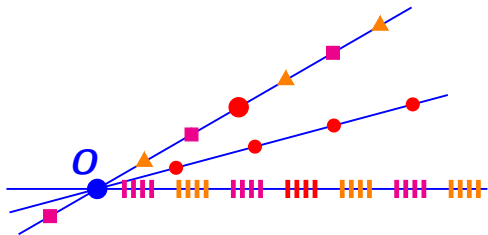
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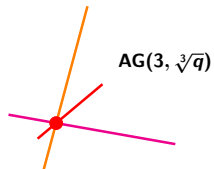
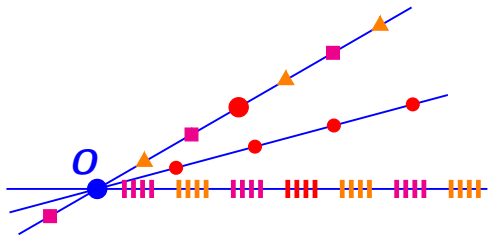
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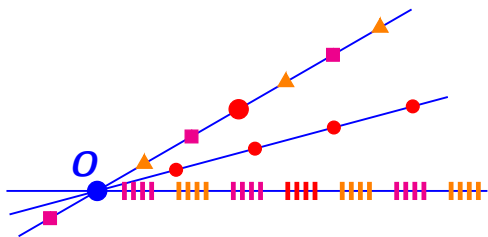
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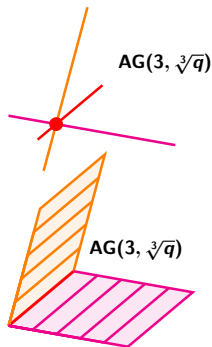


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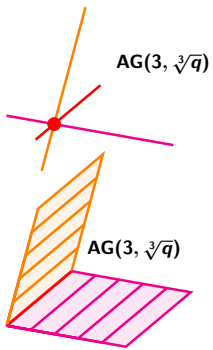
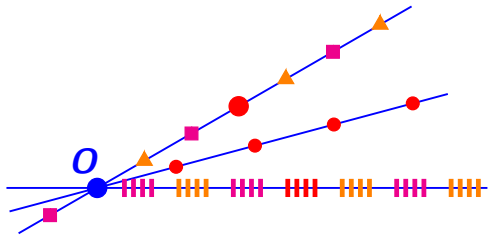


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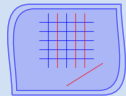
"This last construction looks promising!" - LD, 2019

### Theorem (LD, 2019)

Let  $q$  be cube. Then  
 $s_q(3, 2) \leq 6\sqrt[3]{q} - 3$ .

### Theorem (Davydov et al., 2011 [5])

Let  $q$  be cube. Then  
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## Subgeometries are affine lines

Suppose  $q = (q')^{e+1}$ .

Two isomorphic point-line geometries

## Subgeometries are affine lines

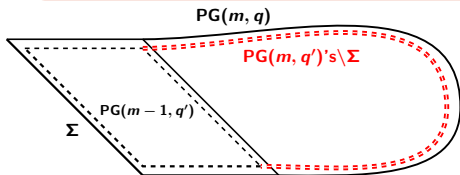
Two isomorphic point-line geometries

Suppose  $q = (q')^{q+1}$ .

Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}^\times$ ,  $\Sigma$  hyperplane of  $\text{PG}(m, q)$ .  $\mathbf{Y}(\varrho, m, q') := (\mathcal{P}_{\text{sub}}, \mathcal{L}_{\text{sub}})$ .

▶  $\mathcal{P}_{\text{sub}} := \text{PG}(m, q) \setminus \Sigma$ .

▶  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{sub}} :=$  all  $\text{PG}(m, q')$ 's  $\setminus \Sigma$  through fixed  $\text{PG}(m-1, q') \subseteq \Sigma$ .

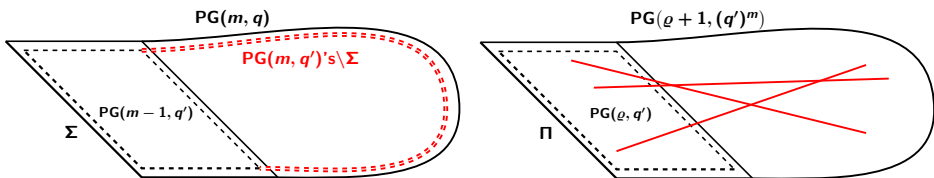




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**Theorem (LD, 2020 [9])**

Subgeometries are affine lines, really.

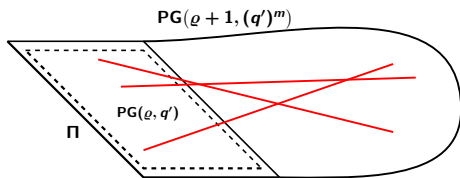
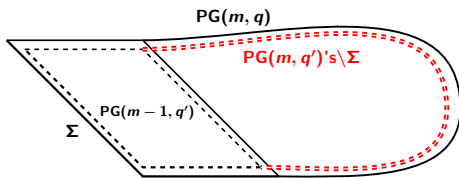
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**Proof.**

- ▶ Coordinates.



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**Proof.**

- ▶ Coordinates.
- ▶ Field reduction.



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Suppose  $q = (q')^{\rho+1}$ .

Two isomorphic point-line geometries

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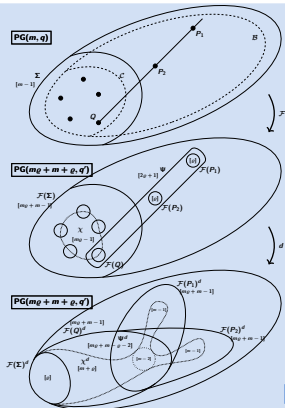
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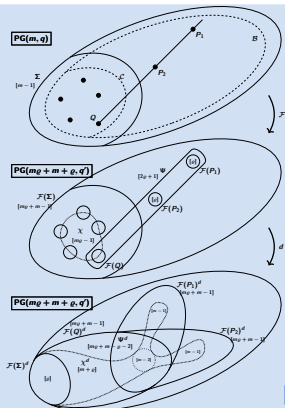
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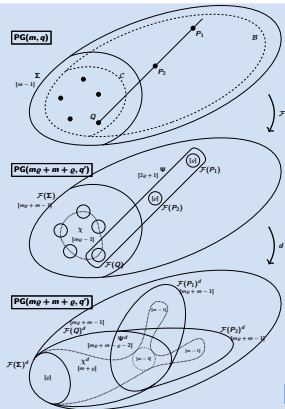
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5

## A construction for general $n$ and $q$

Ideas and obstacles

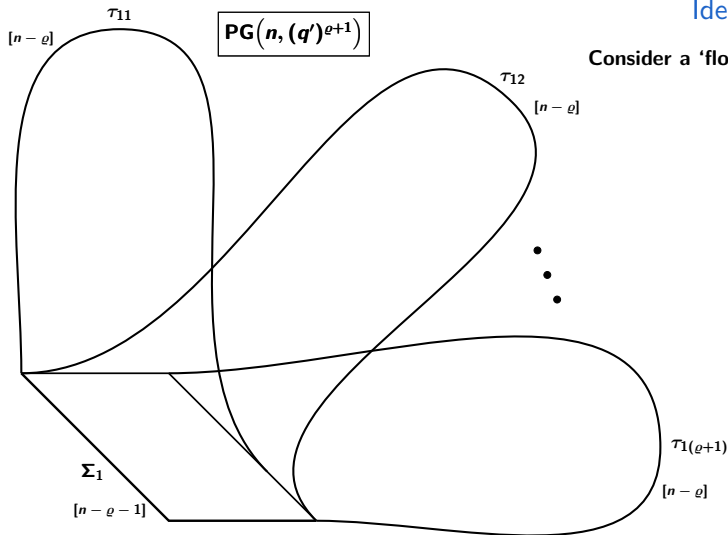
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# A construction for general $n$ and $\varrho$

Ideas and obstacles

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Consider a 'flower'.

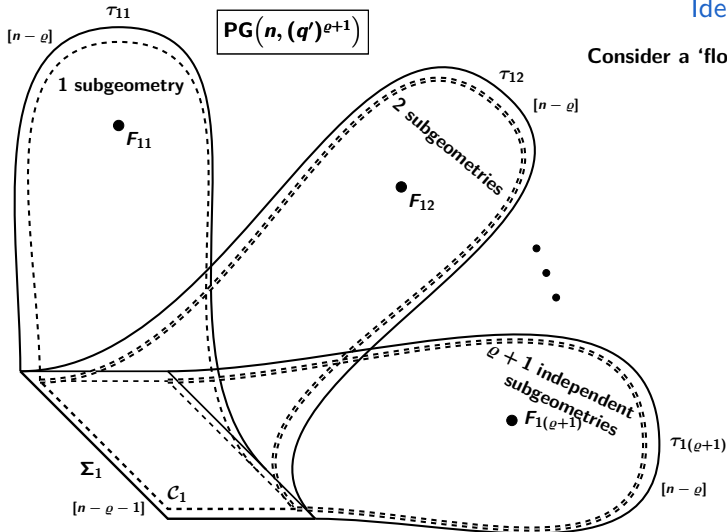




5

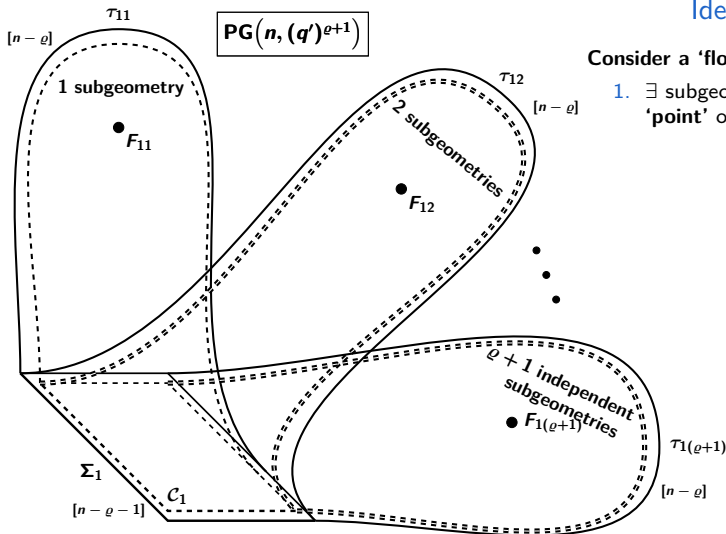
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Ideas and obstacles



A construction for general  $n$  and  $\varrho$ 

Ideas and obstacles

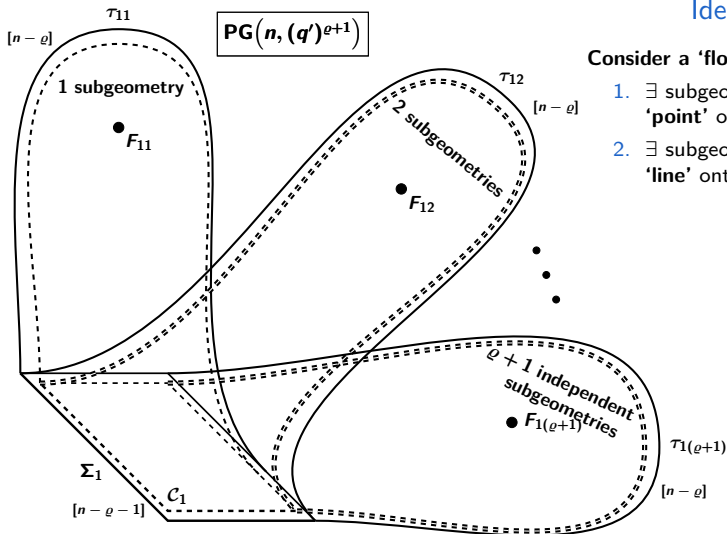


Consider a 'flower'.

1.  $\exists$  subgeom. in  $\tau_{11}$  that projects 'point' onto 'line',

A construction for general  $n$  and  $\varrho$ 

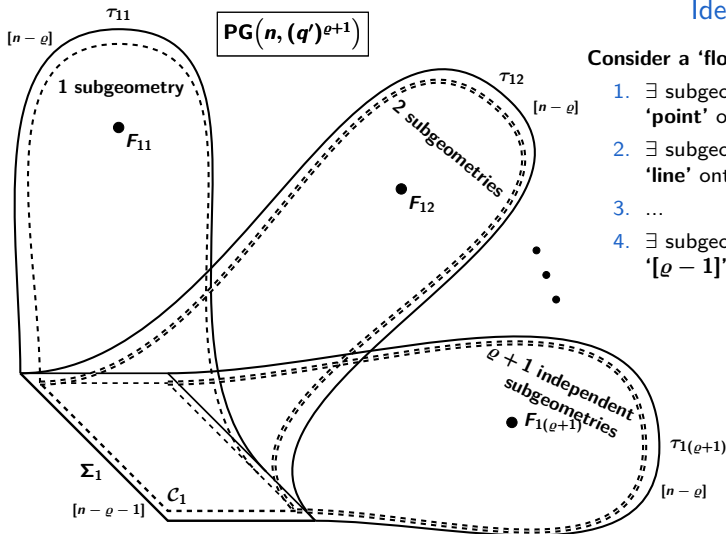
## Ideas and obstacles



Consider a 'flower'.

1.  $\exists$  subgeom. in  $\tau_{11}$  that projects 'point' onto 'line',
2.  $\exists$  subgeom. in  $\tau_{12}$  that projects 'line' onto 'plane',



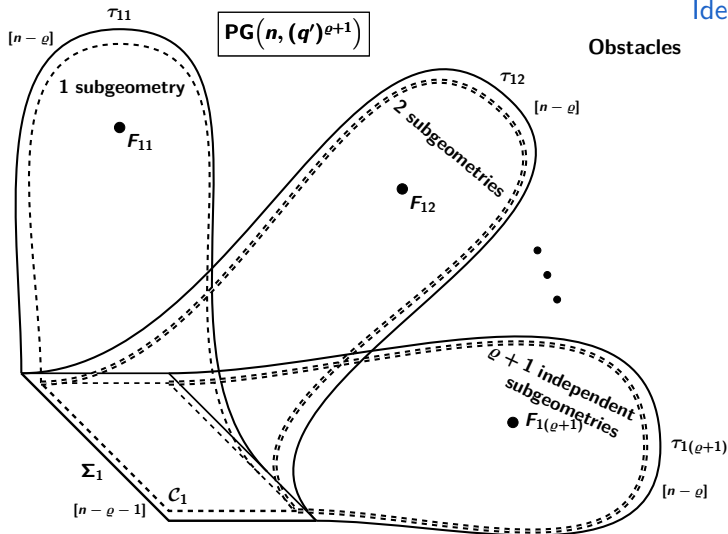
A construction for general  $n$  and  $\varrho$ 

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3. ...
4.  $\exists$  subgeom. in  $\tau_{1\varrho}$  that projects ' $[\varrho - 1]$ ' onto 'hyperplane'

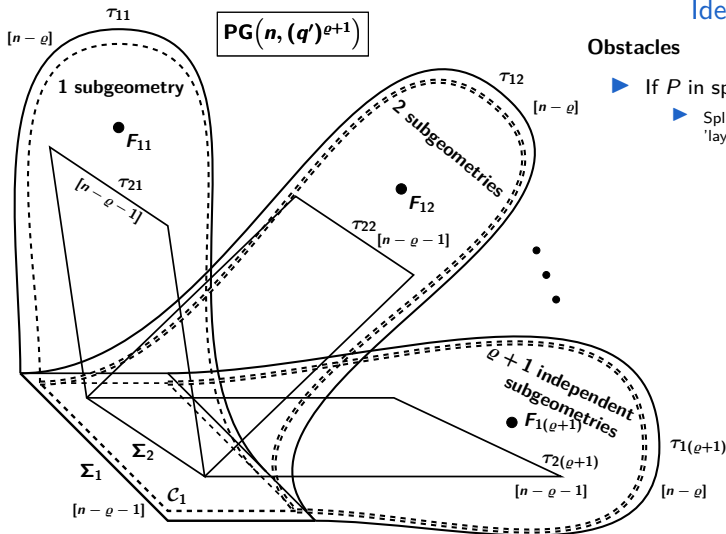






# A construction for general $n$ and $\varrho$

## Ideas and obstacles



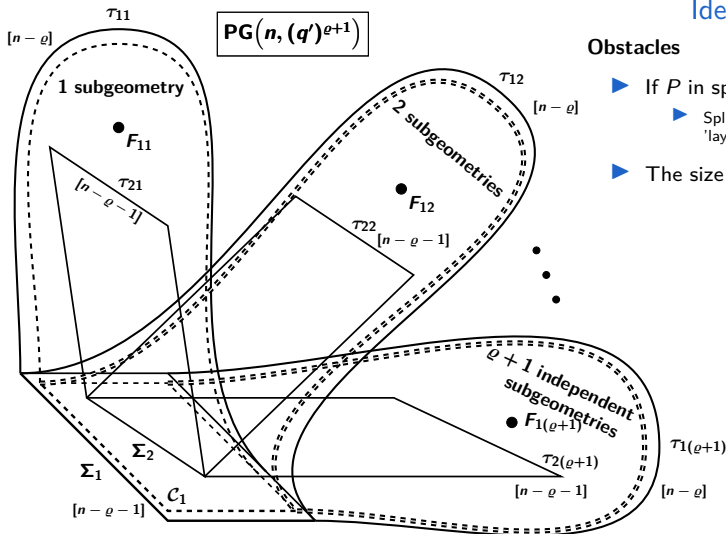
### Obstacles

- ▶ If  $P$  in span of  $< (\varrho + 1)$  petals?
- ▶ Split petals and add multiple 'layers' in each petal!



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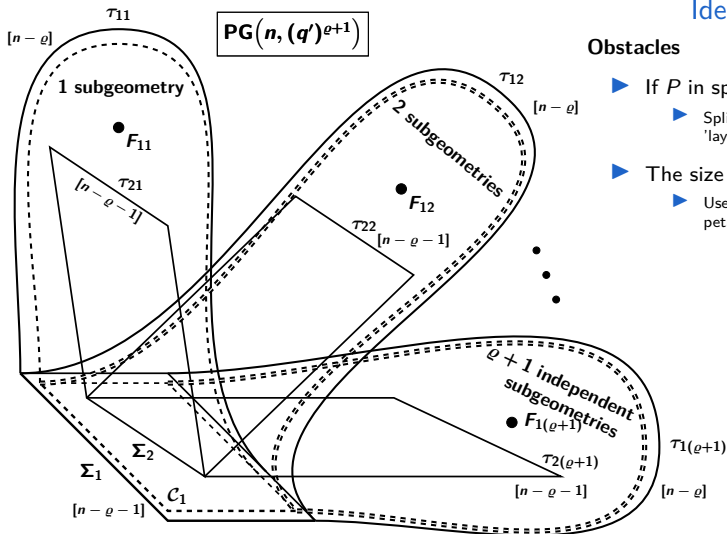
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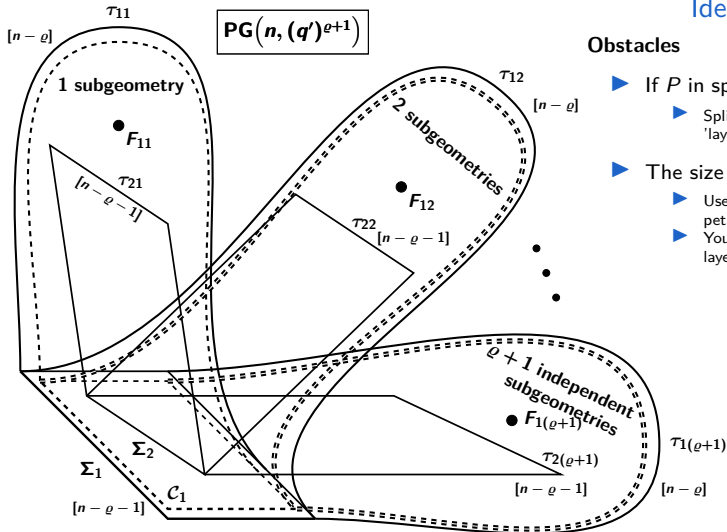


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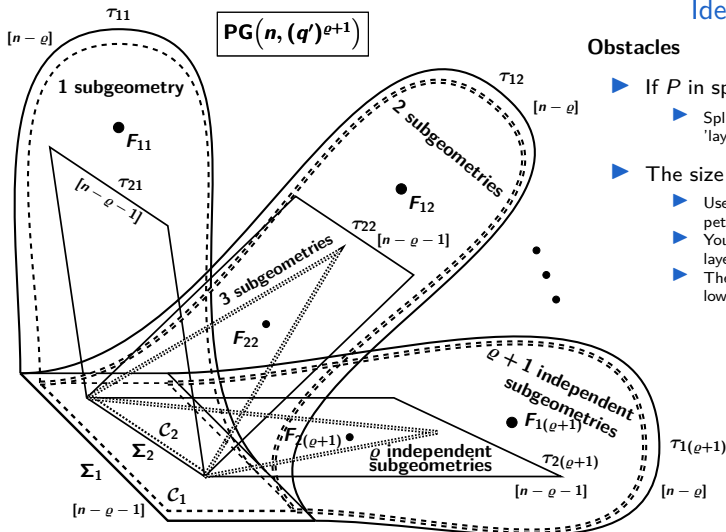
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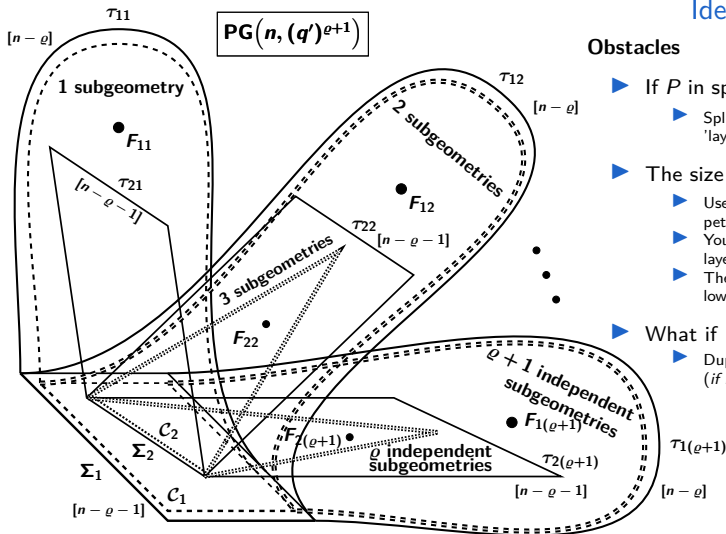
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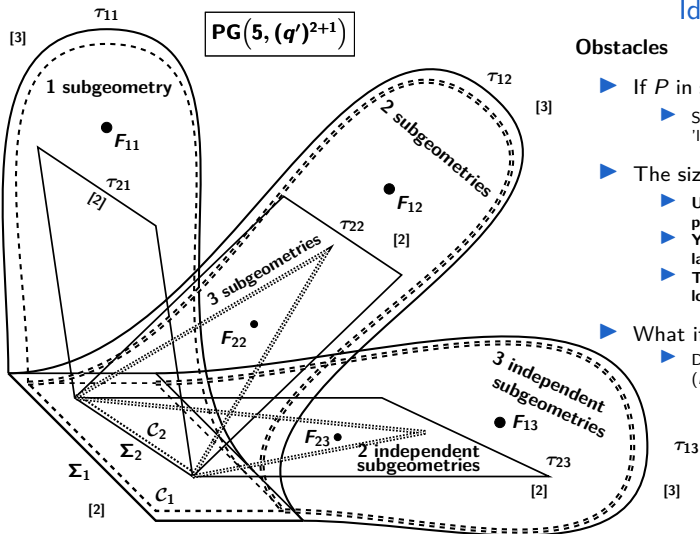


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- ▶ What if  $P \in \Sigma_1$ ?
  - ▶ Duplicate construction! (if necessary)

# A construction for general $n$ and $g$



## Ideas and obstacles

### Obstacles

- ▶ If  $P$  in span of  $< (g+1)$  petals?
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  - ▶ Use the subgeometries from the petal above!
  - ▶ You only need  $\min\{g, n-g\}$  layers, and not in *all* petals!
  - ▶ The number of subgeometries in lower layers can be reduced!
- ▶ What if  $P \in \Sigma_1$ ?
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# A construction for general $n$ and $\varrho$

One bound to rule them all

## Theorem (LD, 2020 [9])

Let  $0 < \varrho < n$  and let  $q = (q')^{\varrho+1}$  for any prime power  $q'$ . Then

$$s_q(n, \varrho) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{k(n, \varrho)} \left( \frac{(\varrho+1)(\varrho+2)}{2} (q')^{n+1-i(\varrho+1)} \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{k(n, \varrho)-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\varrho-1} \tilde{a}(\varrho, j) (q')^{n+1-i(\varrho+1)-j}$$

$$+ \sum_{j=1}^{\ell(n, \varrho)-1} \tilde{a}(n, \varrho, j) (q')^{\ell(n, \varrho)-j} - \tilde{c}(n, \varrho) - \bar{c}(n, \varrho) + \delta_{q'=2} \cdot \left( (2^{\varrho-1} - 1) \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{k(n, \varrho)-1} (2^{n-\varrho+2-i(\varrho+1)}) + 2^{\ell(n, \varrho)} - 2 \right),$$

▶  $k(n, \varrho) := \left\lceil \frac{n-\varrho}{\varrho+1} \right\rceil,$

▶  $\ell(n, \varrho) := (n \bmod \varrho + 1) + 1,$

▶  $\tilde{a}(\varrho, j) := \frac{\varrho(\varrho+2j+1)-j(3j+1)}{2},$

▶  $\tilde{a}(n, \varrho, j) := \frac{\ell(n, \varrho)(2\varrho - \ell(n, \varrho) + 2j + 1) - j(3j + 1)}{2},$

▶  $\tilde{c}(n, \varrho) := (k(n, \varrho) - 1) \frac{\varrho^2(\varrho+1)}{2},$

▶  $\bar{c}(n, \varrho) := \frac{\varrho(\varrho+1) + \ell(n, \varrho)(\ell(n, \varrho) - 1)(2\varrho - \ell(n, \varrho) + 1)}{2},$

▶  $\delta_{q'=2} := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q' = 2, \\ 0 & \text{if } q' \neq 2. \end{cases}$

with





## A construction for general $n$ and $\varrho$

One bound to rule them all

### Corollary (LD, 2020 [9])

Let  $1 < \varrho < n$  and let  $q = (q')^{\varrho+1}$  for any prime power  $q'$ . Then

$$s_q(n, \varrho) \leq \frac{(\varrho + 1)(\varrho + 2)}{2} (q')^{n-\varrho} + \varrho(\varrho + 1) ((q')^{n-\varrho-1} + \dots + q' + 1).$$

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### Keep in mind

$$s_q(n, \varrho) \gtrsim \varrho \cdot q^{\frac{n-\varrho}{\varrho+1}}.$$

### Hypothesis (LD, 2019)

Desperate wish (LD, 2020)

$$s_q(n, \varrho) \lesssim \varrho \cdot q^{\frac{n-\varrho}{\varrho+1}},$$

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Coincidental example found in the wild:

### Theorem (Davydov et al., 2011 [5])

Let  $q = (q')^3$  for any prime power  $q'$ . Then

$$s_q(4, 2) \leq 9(q')^2 - 8q' + 4.$$

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Let  $q = (q')^3$  for any prime power  $q'$ . Then

$$s_q(4, 2) \leq 6(q')^2 + 3q' - 6 \quad (+2 \text{ if } q = 8).$$

5

## A construction for general $n$ and $q$

In conclusion

[arXiv:2008.13459](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.13459)



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In conclusion

arXiv:2008.13459



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Slides: <https://users.ugent.be/~ldnaux>

# Thank you for listening

Any questions?

Suggestions?

Funny anecdotes?



## References

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- [2] **D. Bartoli, A. A. Davydov, M. Giulietti, S. Marcugini, and F. Pambianco.** *New bounds for linear codes of covering radii 2 and 3*, volume 11. 2019.
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- [5] **A. A. Davydov, M. Giulietti, S. Marcugini, and F. Pambianco.** *Linear nonbinary covering codes and saturating sets in projective spaces*, volume 5. 2011.
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- [7] **A. A. Davydov and P. R. J. Östergård.** *On saturating sets in small projective geometries*, volume 21. 2000.
- [8] **S. De Winter, S. Rottey, and G. Van de Voorde.** Linear representations of subgeometries. *Des. Codes Cryptogr.*, 77(1):203–215, 2015.
- [9] **L. Denaux.** Constructing saturating sets in projective spaces using subgeometries. [arXiv:2008.13459](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.13459), 2020.

