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## A TRIANGLE FREE CONFIGURATION

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### 1. TRIANGLE FREE CONFIGURATION

Let  $X$  be a set of  $3m$  integers. We identify subsets of size  $m$  of  $X$  as points. A line corresponds to a partition of  $X$  into 3 disjoint subsets and so, on a line lies 3 points. Hence, the total number of lines ( $M$ ) is the number of ways of partitioning the set  $X$  into 3 disjoint subsets; the number of lines ( $C$ ) through a point is the number of ways of partitioning a set of  $2m$  integers into 2 disjoint subsets. Therefore, total number of lines  $M = (3m)! (m!)^{-3} (3!)^{-1}$ , total number of points,  $N = {}^{3m}C_m$ ; number of lines through a point ( $C$ )  $= (2m)! (m!)^{-2} (2!)^{-1}$ , and on a line lies 3 points.

It is easy to see that these points and lines form a configuration [1]. In the configuration any two points represented by disjoint subsets are joined. For any two points represented by disjoint subsets  $A$  and  $B$ , a third point represented by a subset  $C$ , which is disjoint to both  $A$  and  $B$ , is collinear with them. Hence the configuration is triangle free.

The group  $G$  of symmetries of the above configuration which leaves both the set  $P$  of  ${}^{3m}C_m$  points and the set  $L$  of  $(3m)! (m!)^{-3} (3!)^{-1}$  lines invariant is the group of permutations of  ${}^{3m}C_m$  points which preserve the set  $L$  of lines.  $G$  is transitive on the  ${}^{3m}C_m$  points and  $(3m)! (m!)^{-3} (3!)^{-1}$  lines. The stabilizers of (i) a point, say  $1, 2, \dots, m$ , are a permutation group of  $(m!) (2m)!$  permutation operations, obtained as product of  $(m!)$  permutations of  $1, 2, \dots, m$ , and  $(2m)!$  of  $(m+1), \dots, 3m$ ; (ii) a line, say,  $(1, 2, \dots, m, \overline{m+1}, \dots, 2m, \overline{2m+1}, \dots, 3m)$  are a permutation group of  $(3!) (m!)^3$  permutation operations, obtained as product of permutations of  $1, 2, \dots, m$ ;  $\overline{m+1}, \dots, 2m$ , and  $\overline{2m+1}, \dots, 3m$ .

Hence  $G$  has order,  ${}^{3m}C_m (m!) (2m)! = (3m)! (m!)^{-3} (3!)^{-1} \cdot (3!) (m!)^3 = (3m)!$ . If we also allow reciprocity which interchanges  $P$  and  $L$  we obtain the group  $G'$  of order  $2(3m)!$ .

### 2. TRIANGULAR PBIB DESIGN

Under the interpretation of points as treatments and lines as blocks, we get a  $m$ -associate triangular PBIB design [2], from the above configuration, with the parameters,

$$v = {}^3mC_m, \quad b = (3m)! (m!)^{-3} (3!)^{-1},$$

$$r = (2m)! (m!)^{-2} (2!)^{-1}, \quad k = 3, \quad \lambda_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1; \quad \lambda_m = 1,$$

$$n_i = {}^{2m}C_i {}^mC_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m;$$

$$p_{jk}^i = \sum_{\omega=0}^{m-i} \binom{m-i}{\omega} \binom{i}{m-k-\omega} \binom{i}{m-j-\omega} \binom{2m-i}{j+k-m+\omega},$$

$$i, j, k = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Since no two treatments having  $i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1$ ) integers in common lie on a block, therefore

$$\lambda_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1,$$

and,  $\lambda_m = 1$ .

The def. of  $m$ -associate triangular association scheme is given in [3].

### 3. GENERALIZED QUADRANGLE OF ORDER 2

For  $m = 2$ , the triangle free  $(15_3)$  configuration (Section 1) is a generalized quadrangle [4] of order 2.

The 15 points of the configuration are represented by  $(ij)$  same as  $(ji)$ ;  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, 6$ ;  $i \neq j$ . The 15 lines are

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} (12 \ 34 \ 56) & (13 \ 24 \ 56) & (14 \ 23 \ 56) & (15 \ 23 \ 46) & (16 \ 23 \ 45) \\ (12 \ 35 \ 46) & (13 \ 25 \ 46) & (14 \ 25 \ 36) & (15 \ 24 \ 36) & (16 \ 24 \ 35) \\ (12 \ 36 \ 45) & (13 \ 26 \ 45) & (14 \ 26 \ 35) & (15 \ 26 \ 34) & (16 \ 25 \ 34) \end{array}$$

On a line, say,  $(12 \ 34 \ 56)$  lies three points 12, 34, 56. For  $m \geq 3$ , the configuration can not be interpreted as a generalized quadrangle.

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