

What is a flag variety?

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Outline of this talk

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Part 1. The flag variety

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Part 2. The flag variety

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Part 2. The flag variety

Part 3. The flag variety

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Part 1. The flag variety

Part 2. The flag variety

Part 3. The flag variety

Part 4. The flag variety

Outline of this talk

Part 1. The flag variety **G/B**

Part 2. The flag variety

Part 3. The flag variety

Part 4. The flag variety

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Part 1. The flag variety G/B

Part 2. The flag variety Fl

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Part 1. The flag variety G/B

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Part 3. The flag variety X

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Part 1. The flag variety G/B

Part 2. The flag variety Fl

Part 3. The flag variety X

Part 4. The flag variety $P(V)$

Outline of this talk

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

Part 2. The flag variety Fl

Part 3. The flag variety X

Part 4. The flag variety $P(V)$

Outline of this talk

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

Part 3. The flag variety X

Part 4. The flag variety $P(V)$

Outline of this talk

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

Part 3. The flag variety: The building X

Part 4. The flag variety $P(V)$

Outline of this talk

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

Part 3. The flag variety: The building X

Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

$$G = \{ 3 \times 3 \text{ invertible matrices with entries in } \mathbb{F} \}$$

U/

$$B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & c_1 & c_2 \\ 0 & a_2 & c_3 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{array}{l} a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathbb{F}^\times \\ c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right\}$$

The flag variety is

$$G/B = \{ gB \mid g \in G \}$$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

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$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ c_2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_2 & c_3 & 1 \\ c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \end{array} \right\}$$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

$$G/B = \{ gB \mid g \in G \}$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ c_2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_2 & c_3 & 1 \\ c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{Card}(G) = \text{Card}(G/B) \text{Card}(B)$$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets G/B

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$$\text{Card}(G) = \text{Card}(G/B) \text{Card}(B)$$

$$= \left(1 + \text{Card}(\mathbb{F}) + \text{Card}(\mathbb{F})^2 + \text{Card}(\mathbb{F})^3 \right) \cdot \text{Card}(\mathbb{F}^x)^3 \cdot \text{Card}(\mathbb{F})^{3(3-1)/2}$$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B The field \mathbb{F} with 1 element

$$G/B = \{ gB \mid g \in G \}$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ c_2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_2 & c_3 & 1 \\ c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \end{array} \right\}$$

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$$\mathbb{F} = \{0\}, \quad c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F}$$

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

The field \mathbb{F} with
1 element

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$$\mathbb{F} = \{0\},$$

$$B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & c_1 & c_2 \\ 0 & a_2 & c_3 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{array}{l} a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathbb{F}^\times \\ c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right\}$$

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

The field \mathbb{F} with 1 element

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

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$$G = S_3$$

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

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Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B The field \mathbb{F} with 1 element

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$$= \left(1 + \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} 1^2 \\ 1^2 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} 1^3 \\ 1^3 \end{array} \right) \cdot \text{Card}(\mathbb{F}^\times)^3$$

| $\frac{3(3-1)}{2}$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

The field F with 1 element

$$G/B = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \end{array} \right\}$$

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$\cdot \quad \cdot \quad \cdot$
 $3 \quad 3 \quad 3$
 $3 \quad 3 \quad 3$
 $3(3-1)/2$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

The field \mathbb{F} with
1 element

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$$\text{Card}(G) = \text{Card}(G/B) \text{Card}(B) = 6 \cdot 1$$

Part 1. The flag variety: Cosets

G/B

The field \mathbb{F} with
1 element

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$$\text{Card}(G) = \text{Card}(G/B) \text{Card}(B) = 6 \cdot 1$$

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags *Fl*

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

The \mathbb{F} -vector space $V = \mathbb{F}^n$

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

The \mathbb{F} -vector space $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ has

basis $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$, where $e_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ i^{th}

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

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basis $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$, where $e_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ i^{th}

$$Fl = \left\{ (0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq V) \left| \begin{array}{l} V_i \text{ is a subspace} \\ V_i/V_{i-1} \cong \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

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Letting $\langle S \rangle = \text{span}(S)$, the favourite flag is

$$F_0 = (0 \subseteq \langle e_1 \rangle \subseteq \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \subseteq \dots \subseteq \langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle = V)$$

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags *Fl*

$$Fl = \left\{ (0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq V) \mid \begin{array}{l} V_i \text{ is a subspace} \\ V_i/V_{i-1} \cong \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right\}$$

Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

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Letting $\langle S \rangle = \text{span}(S)$, the favourite flag is

$$F_0 = (0 \subseteq \langle e_1 \rangle \subseteq \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \subseteq \dots \subseteq \langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle = V)$$

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Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

The \mathbb{F} -vector space $V = \mathbb{F}^n$

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Let M be an R -module.

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Let M be an R -module.

$$Fl(M) = \left\{ (0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq M) \mid \begin{array}{l} V_i \text{ is a submodule} \\ V_i/V_{i-1} \cong \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right\}$$

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Part 2. The flag variety: Flags Fl

The flag variety is

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Let M be an R -module.

The space of composition series of M

is

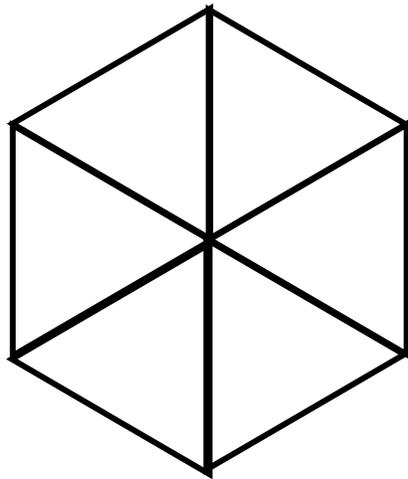
$$Fl(M) = \left\{ (0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq M^2 \subseteq M' \subseteq M) \mid \begin{array}{l} V_i \text{ is a submodule} \\ M^i / M^{i+1} \text{ is simple} \end{array} \right\}$$

Part 3. The flag variety: The building X

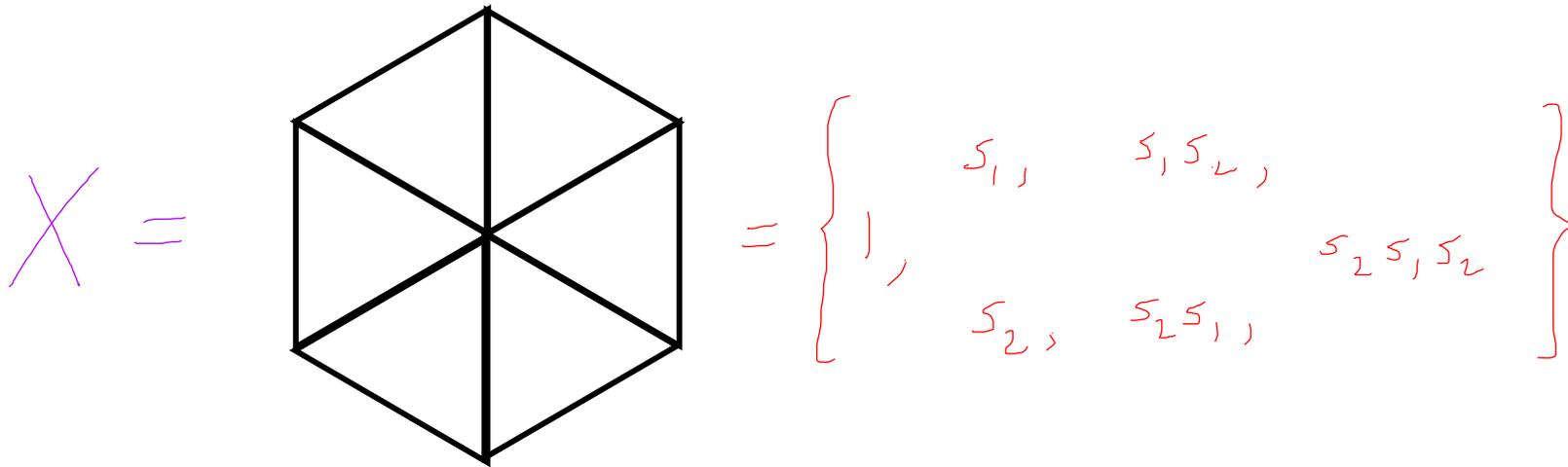
Part 3. The flag variety: The building X "Baby" case:

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$X =$



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$$X = \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \square \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1, \\ s_1, \\ s_2, \\ s_1 s_2, \\ s_2 s_1, \\ s_2 s_1 s_2 \end{array} \right\}$$

with $s_2 s_1 s_2 = s_1 s_2 s_1$

Part 3. The flag variety: The building X "Baby" case:

$$X = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} & s_1, & s_1 s_2, \\ 1, & & s_2 s_1 s_2 \\ & s_2, & s_2 s_1, \end{array} \right\}$$

with $s_2 s_1 s_2 = s_1 s_2 s_1$

$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \right\}$$

Part 3. The flag variety: The building X "Baby" case:

$$X = \left[\text{Diagram of a hexagon divided into six triangles} \right] = \left\{ 1, s_1, s_2, s_1s_2, s_2s_1, s_2s_1s_2 \right\}$$

with $s_2s_1s_2 = s_1s_2s_1$

$$= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} = G/B$$

$$G = GL_3(\mathbb{F}_1) = S_3 \quad B = \{1\}$$

Part 3. The flag variety: The building **X** General case:

$$G/B = \{ gB \mid g \in G \}$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ c_2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_2 & c_3 & 1 \\ c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \end{array} \right\}$$

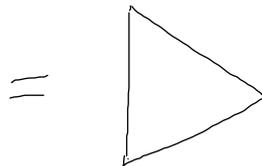
with $c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F}$

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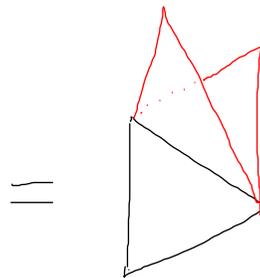


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with $c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F}$

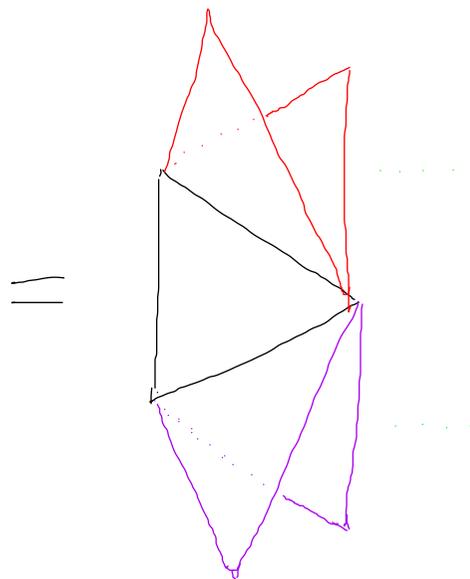


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$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ c_2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B & \begin{pmatrix} c_2 & c_3 & 1 \\ c_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} B \end{array} \right\}$$

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with $c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F}$

$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} f_1(c_1)B, & f_1(c_1)f_2(c_2)B, & \\ f_2(c_1)B & f_2(c_1)f_1(c_2)B, & f_2(c_1)f_1(c_2)f_1(c_3)B \end{array} \right\}$$

with $f_1(c_1)f_2(c_2)f_1(c_3)B = f_2(c_3)f_1(c_1+c_2)f_2(c_1)B$

Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$

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The \mathbb{F} -vector space $V = \mathbb{F}^n$

$$Fl = \left\{ (0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq V) \mid \begin{array}{l} V_i \text{ is a subspace} \\ V_i/V_{i-1} \cong \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right\}$$

Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$

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Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $\mathcal{P}(V)$

The \mathbb{F} -vector space $V = \mathbb{F}^n$

$$\mathcal{F} = \left\{ (0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq V) \mid \begin{array}{l} V_i \text{ is a subspace} \\ V_i/V_{i-1} \cong \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right\} = G/B$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{maximal chains in} \\ \text{the lattice } \mathcal{P}(V) \end{array} \right\}$$

Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$

The \mathbb{F} -vector space $V = \mathbb{F}^n$

$$Fl = \left\{ (0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq V) \mid \begin{array}{l} V_i \text{ is a subspace} \\ V_i/V_{i-1} \cong \mathbb{F} \end{array} \right\} = G/B$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{maximal chains in} \\ \text{the lattice } P(V) \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{where}$$

$P(V)$ is the set of subspaces of V

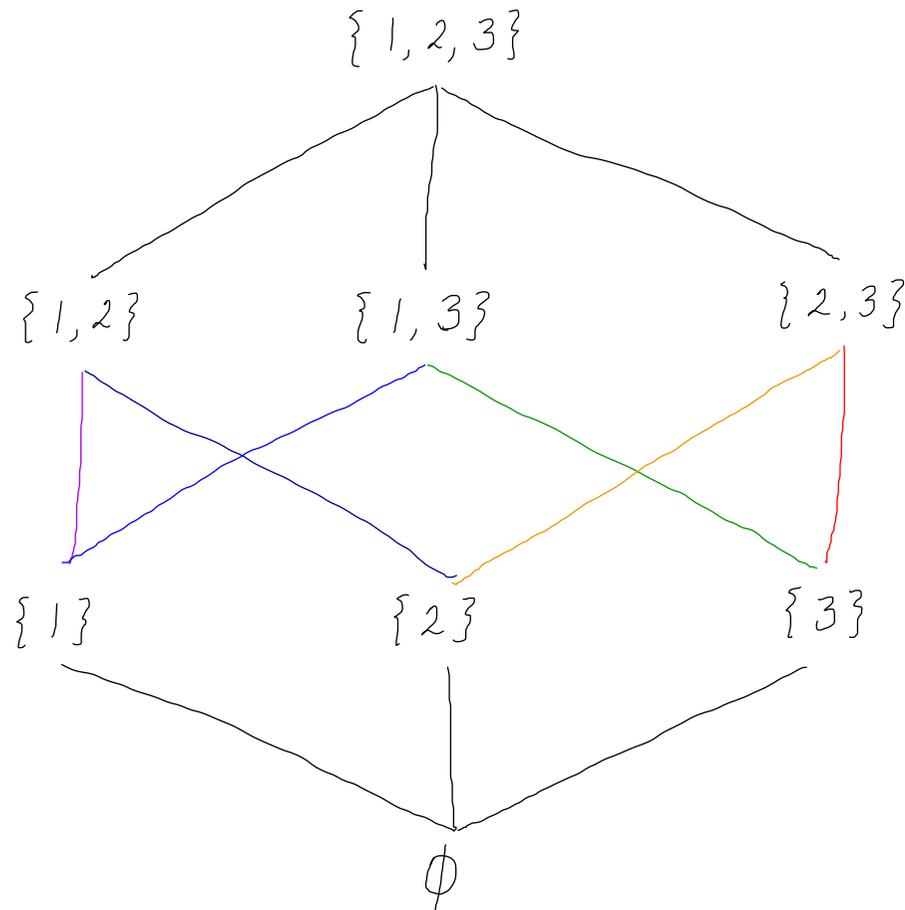
partially ordered by inclusion.

Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$ "Baby" case:

The field with one element

$$G = GL_3(F_1) = S_3 \quad B = \{1\}$$

G/B is maximal chains in

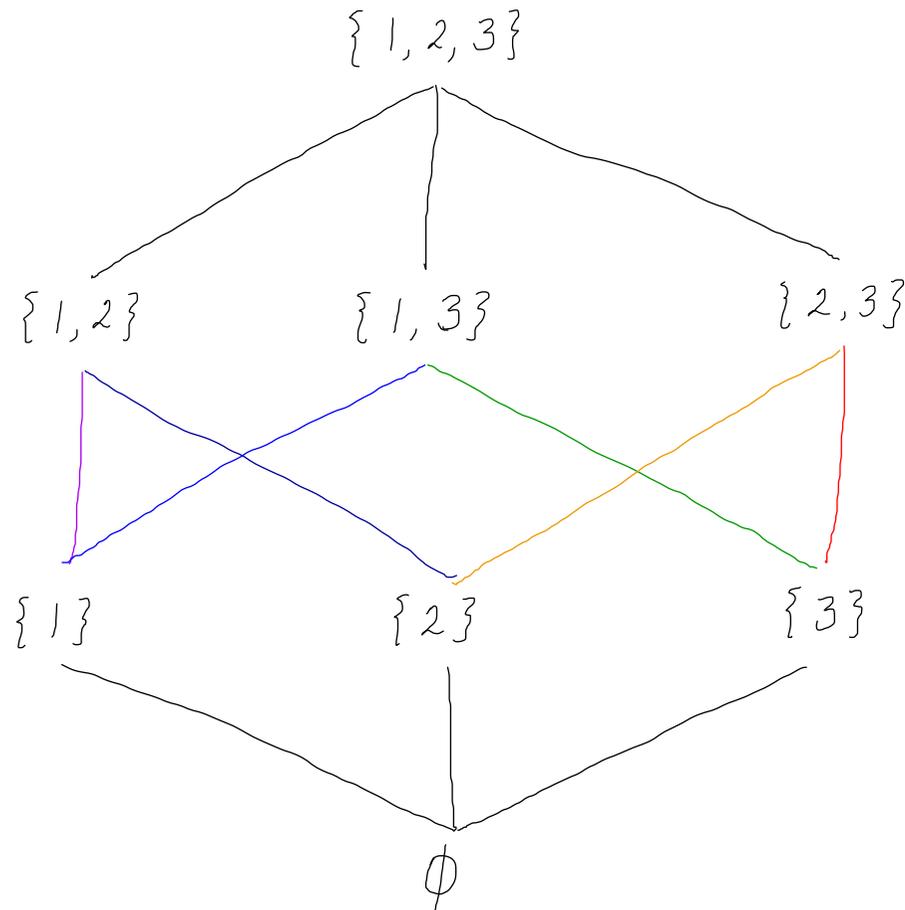


Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$ "Baby" case:

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$$G = GL_3(F_1) = S_3 \quad B = \{1\}$$

G/B is maximal chains in the Boolean lattice

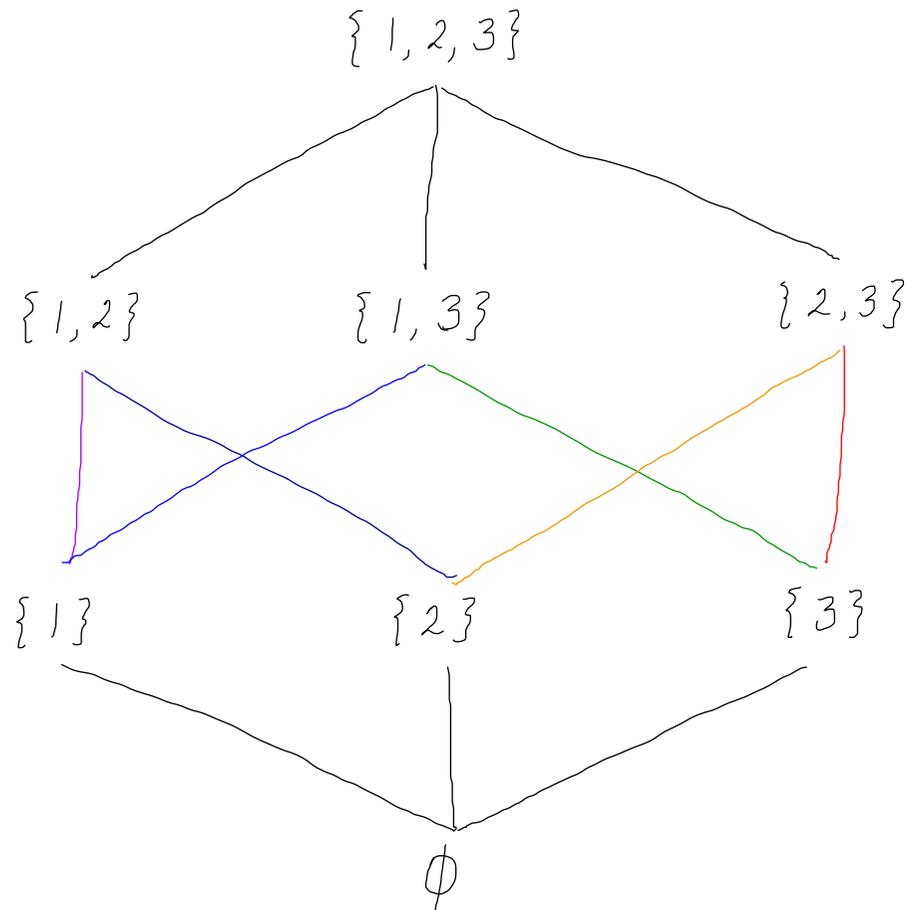


Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$ Not baby case:

The field with two elements

$$G = GL_3(F_2) = S_3 \quad B = \{1\}$$

G/B is maximal chains in the Boolean lattice



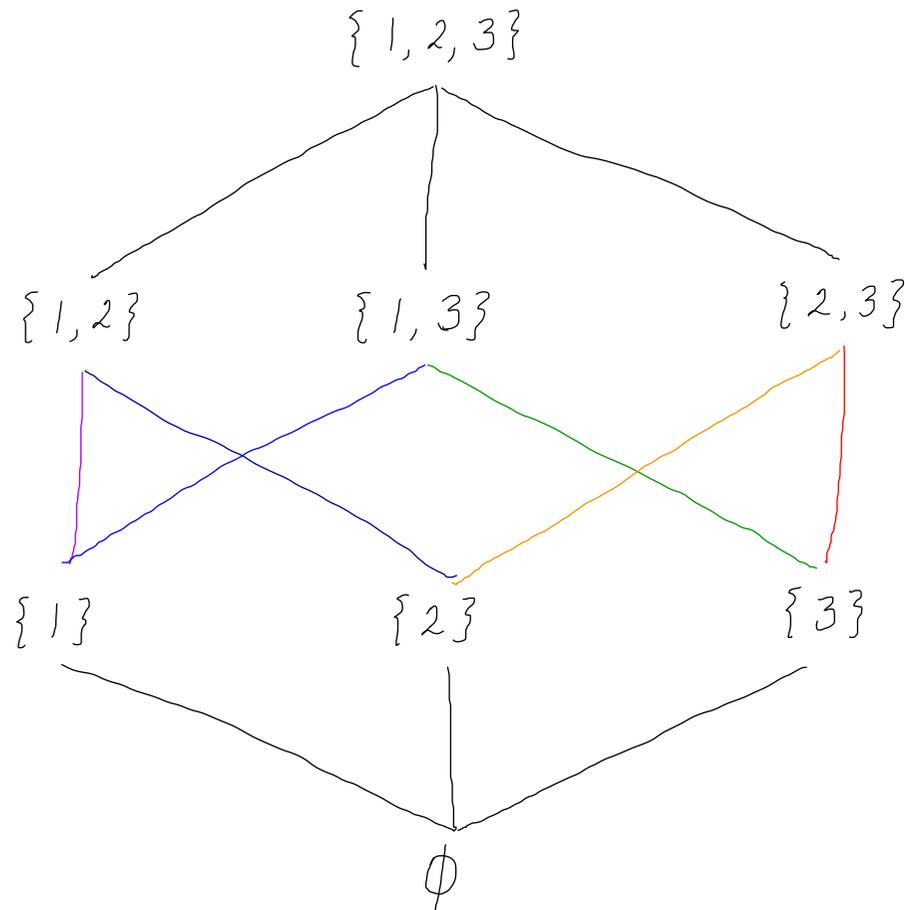
Part 4. The flag variety: The lattice $P(V)$ Not baby case:

$$G = GL_3(\mathbb{F}_2)$$

$$B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & c_1 & c_2 \\ 0 & a_2 & c_3 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{array}{l} c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F}_2 \\ a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathbb{F}_2^\times \end{array} \right\}$$

The field with two elements

G/B is maximal chains in the Boolean lattice



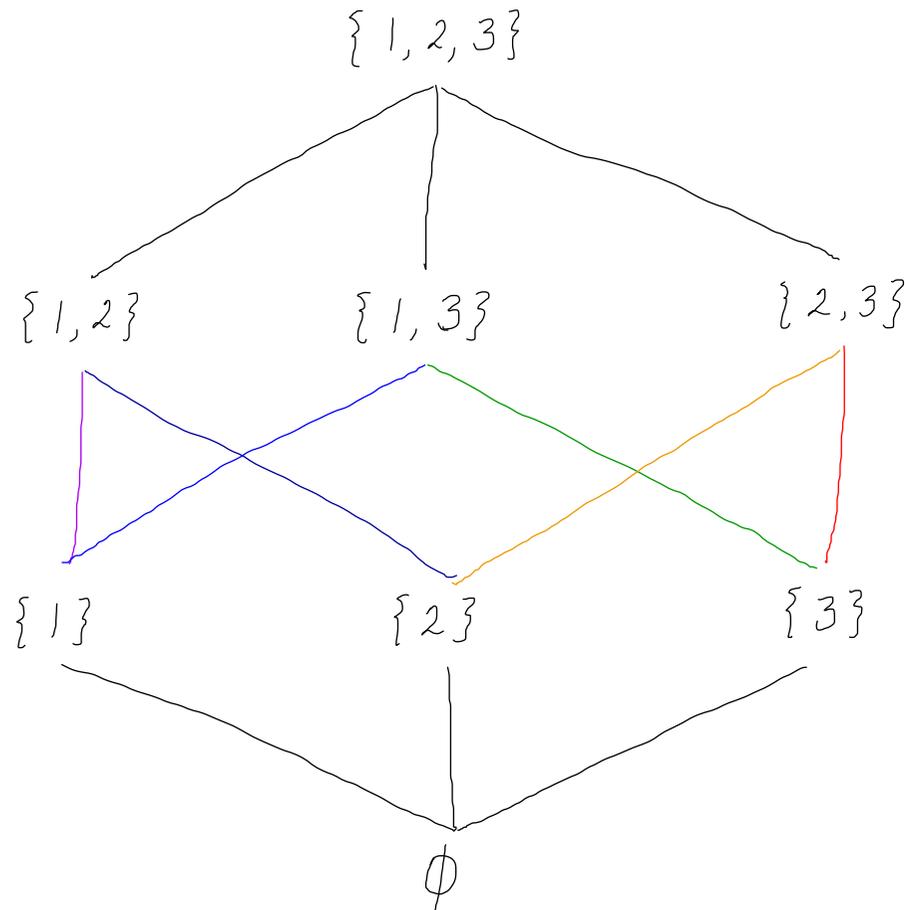
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The field with two elements

G/B is maximal chains in the Fano plane



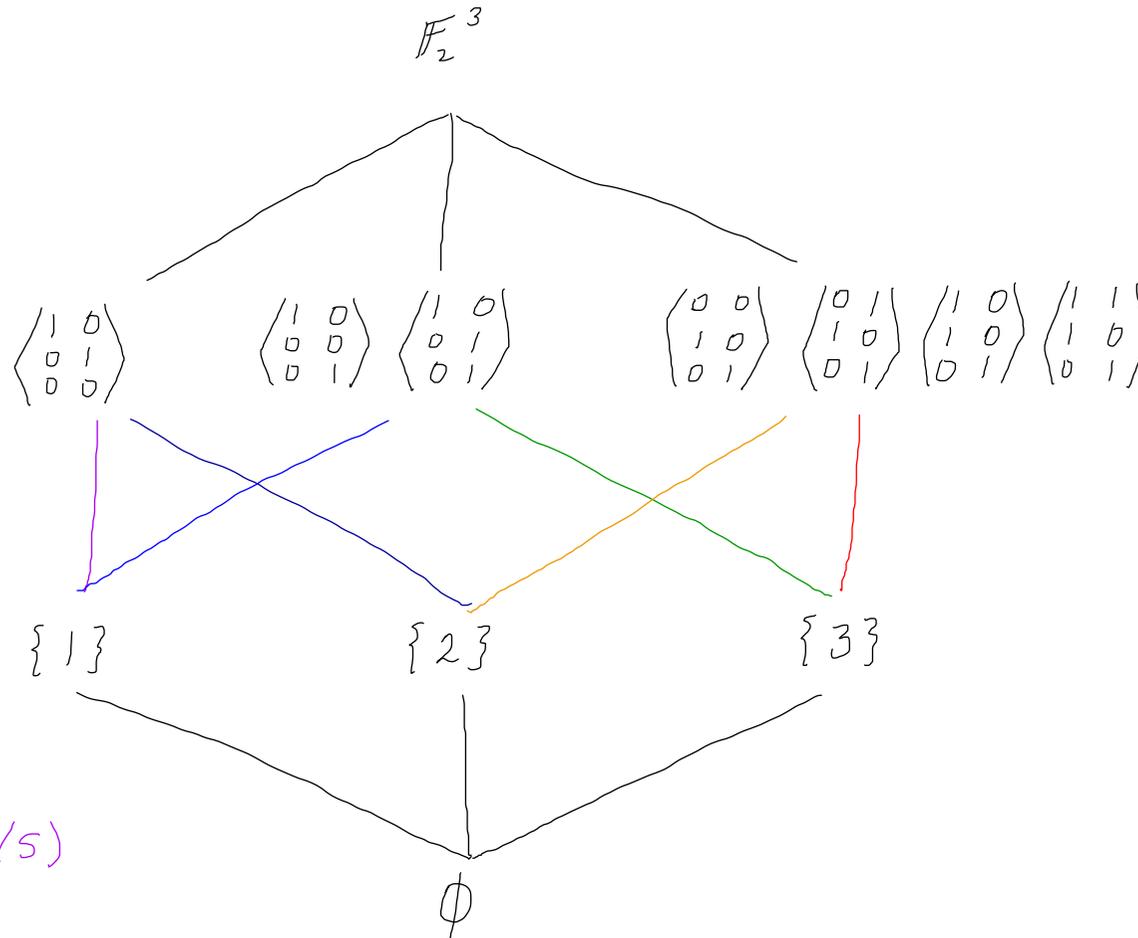
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The field with two elements

G/B is maximal chains in the Fano plane



Let $\langle S \rangle = \text{span}(S)$

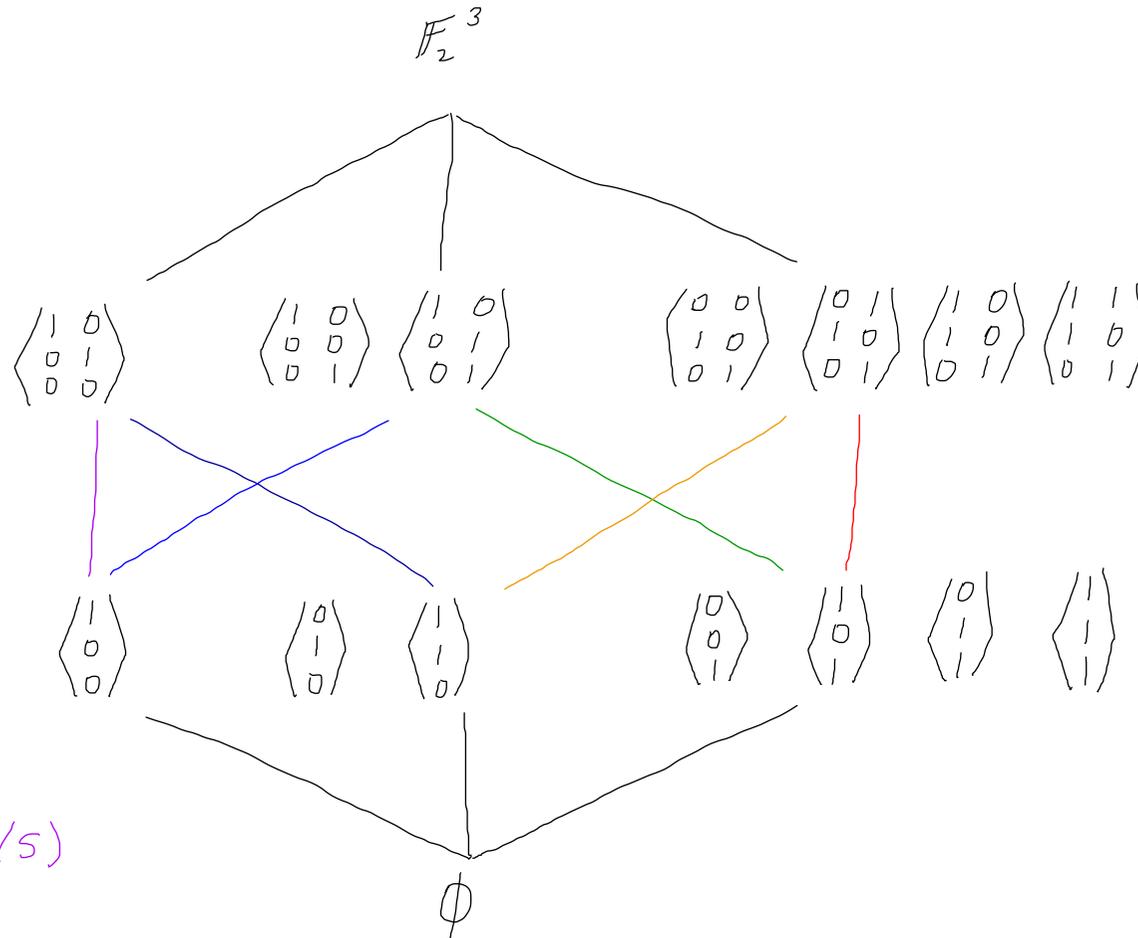
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The field with two elements

G/B is maximal chains in the Fano plane



Let $\langle S \rangle = \text{span}(S)$

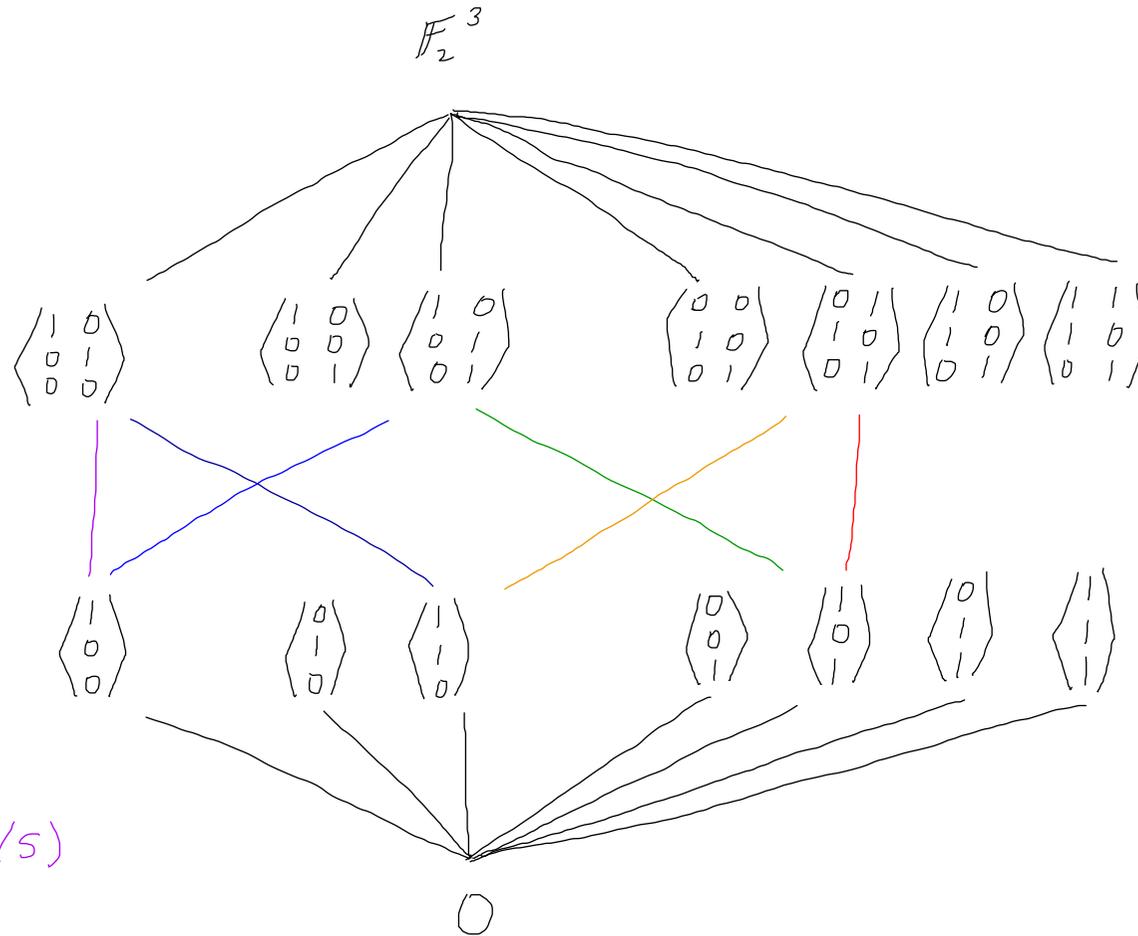
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The field with two elements

G/B is maximal chains in the Fano plane



Let $\langle S \rangle = \text{span}(S)$

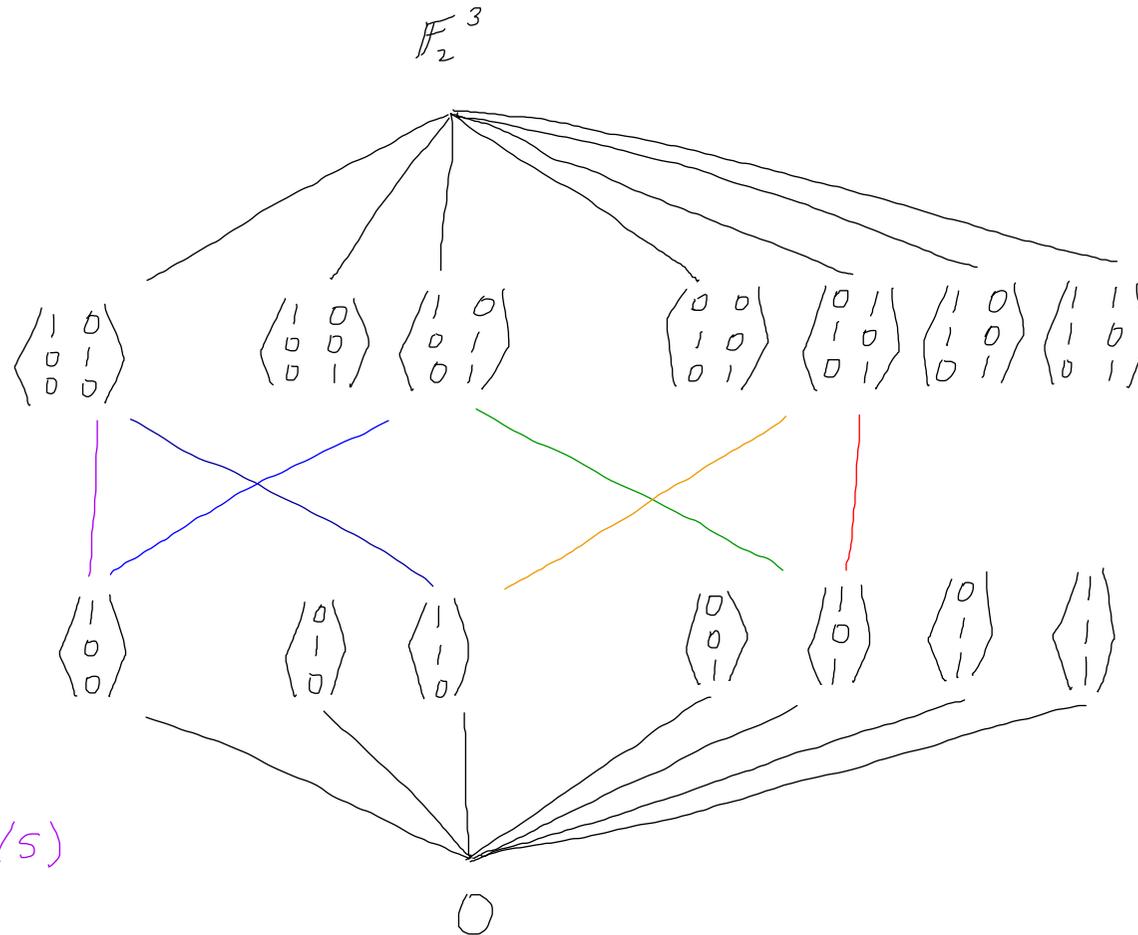
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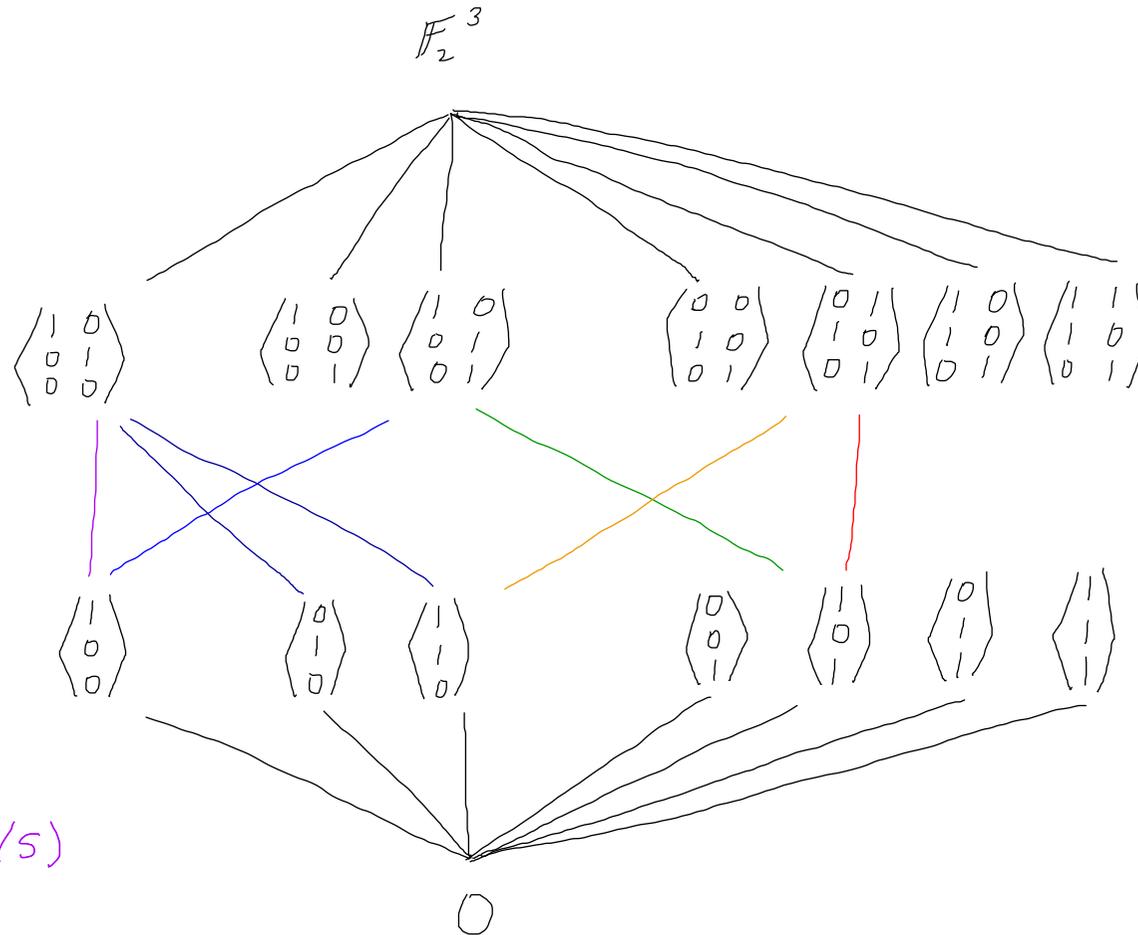
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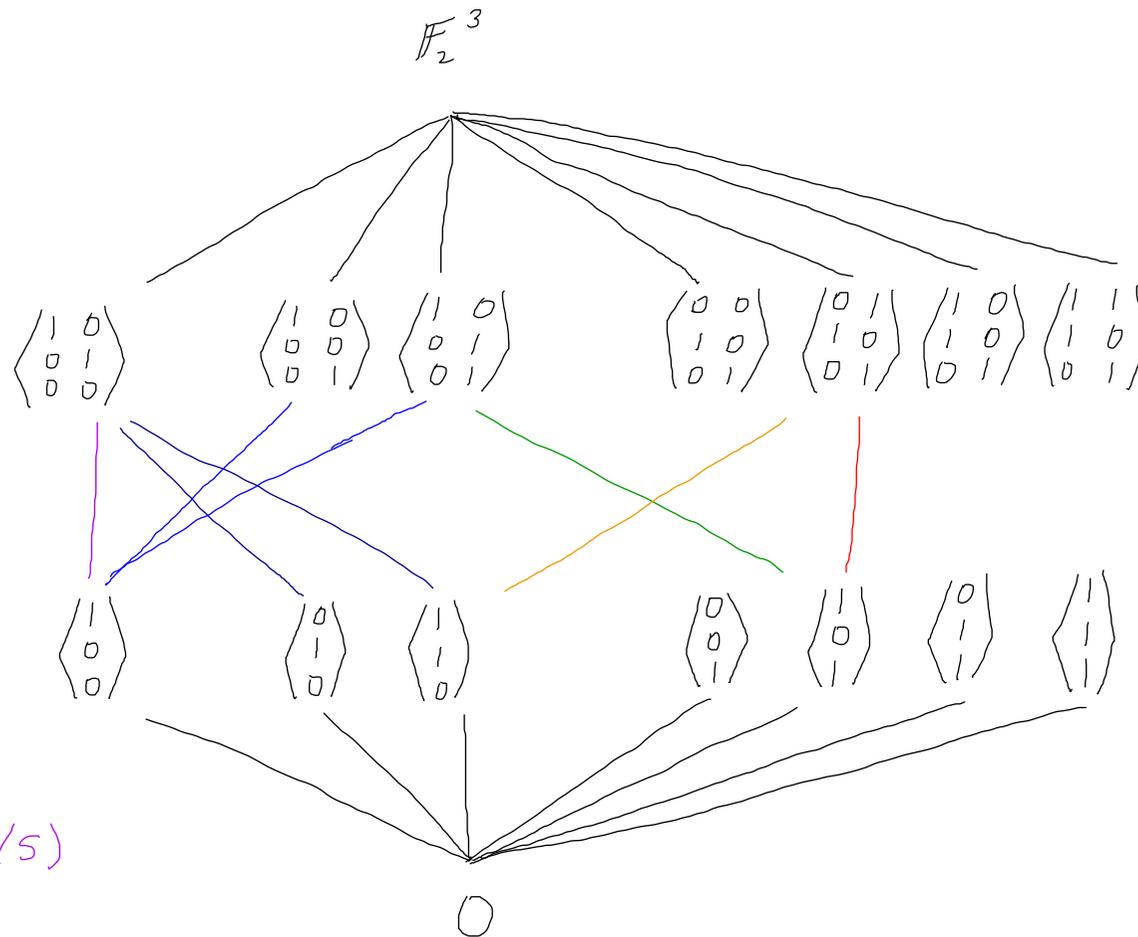
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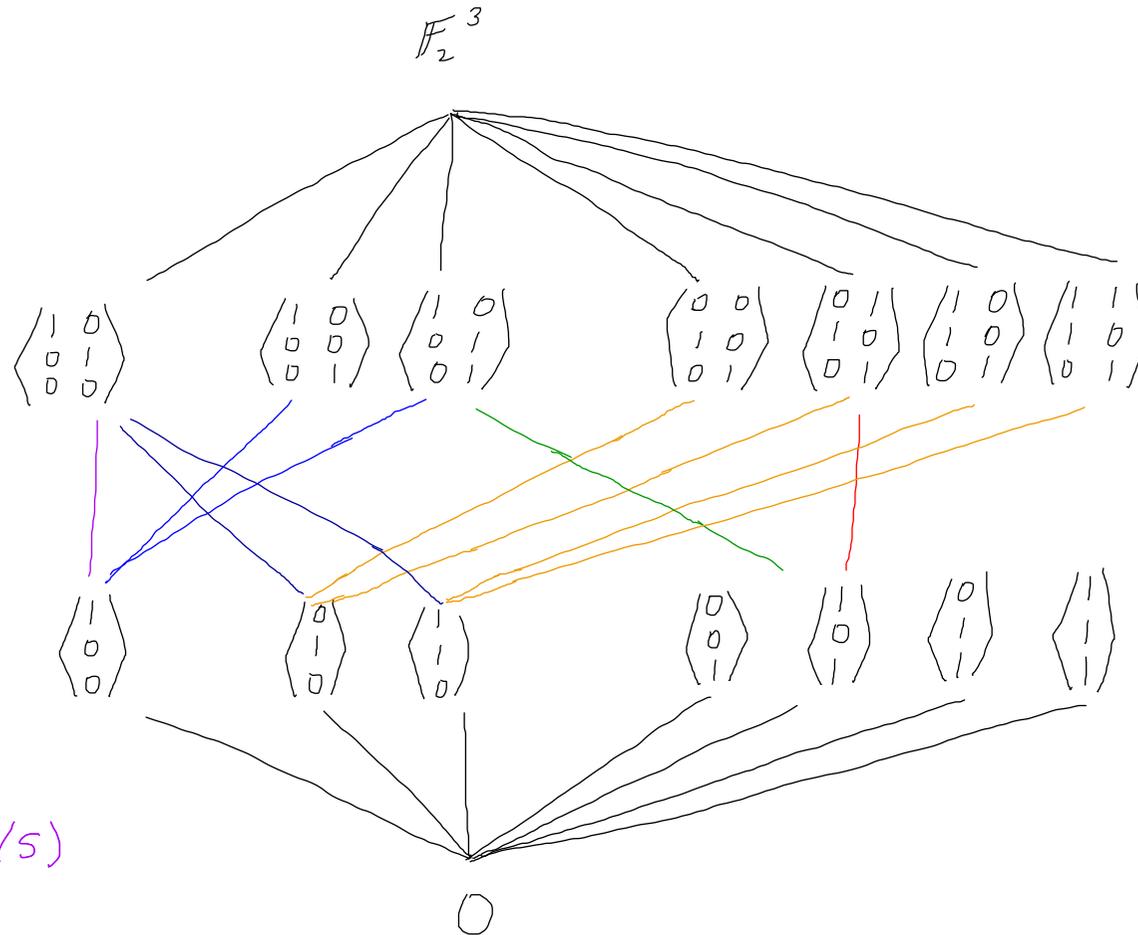
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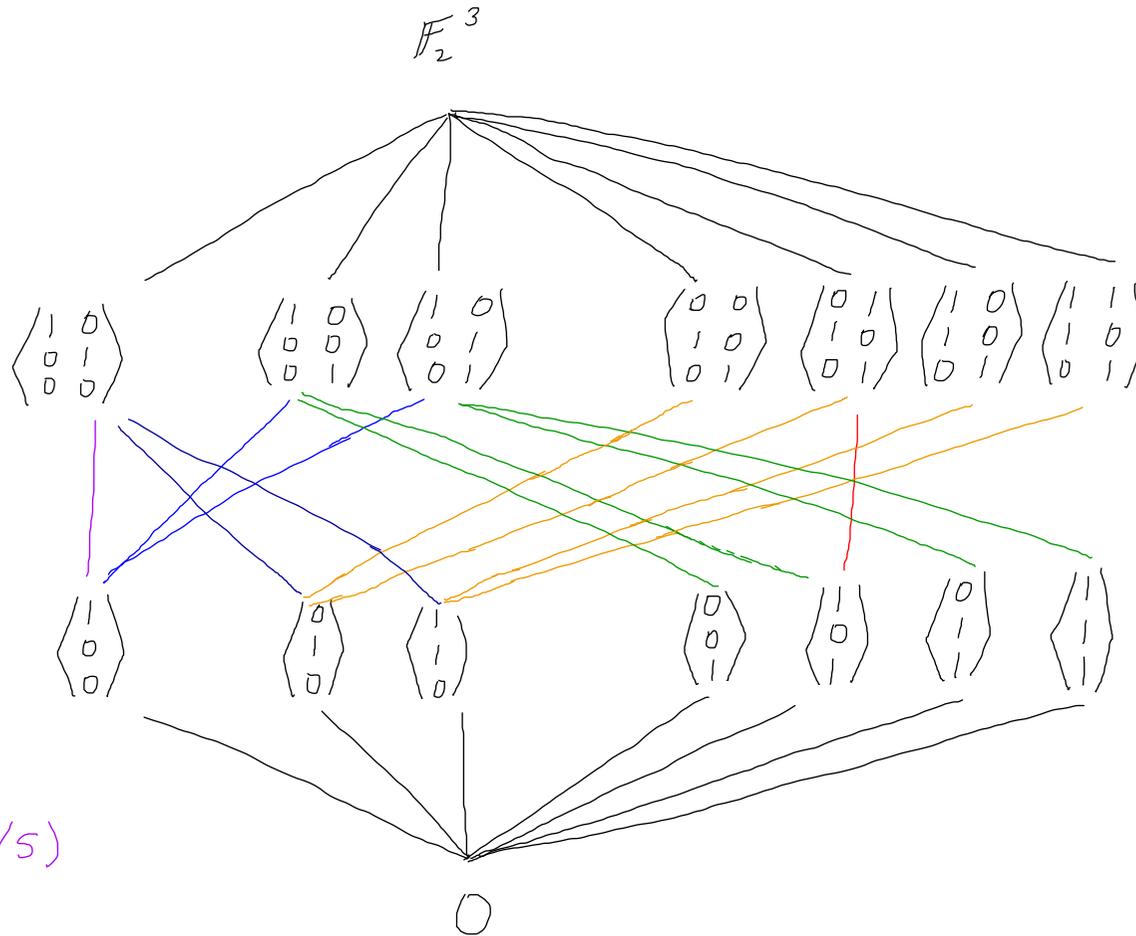
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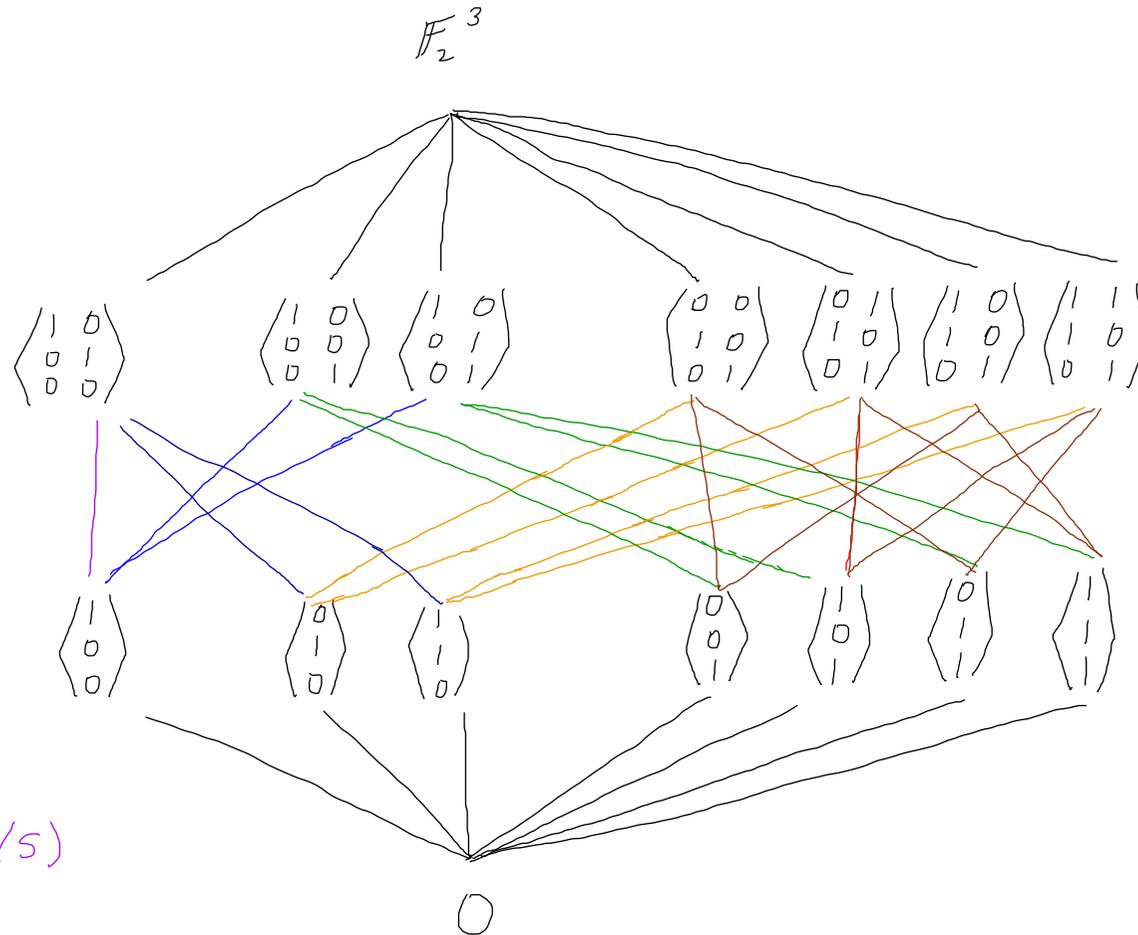
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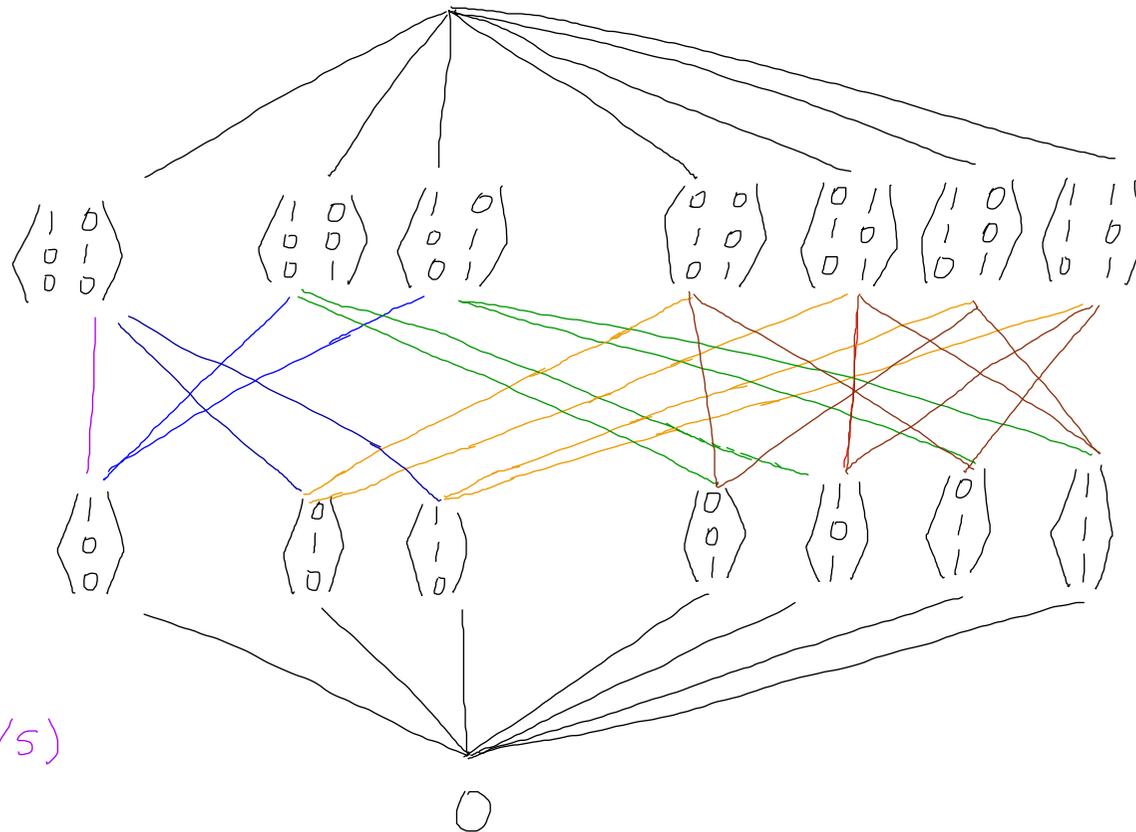
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The field with two elements

G/B is maximal chains in the Fano plane

\mathbb{F}_2^3



points

Let $\langle S \rangle = \text{span}(S)$

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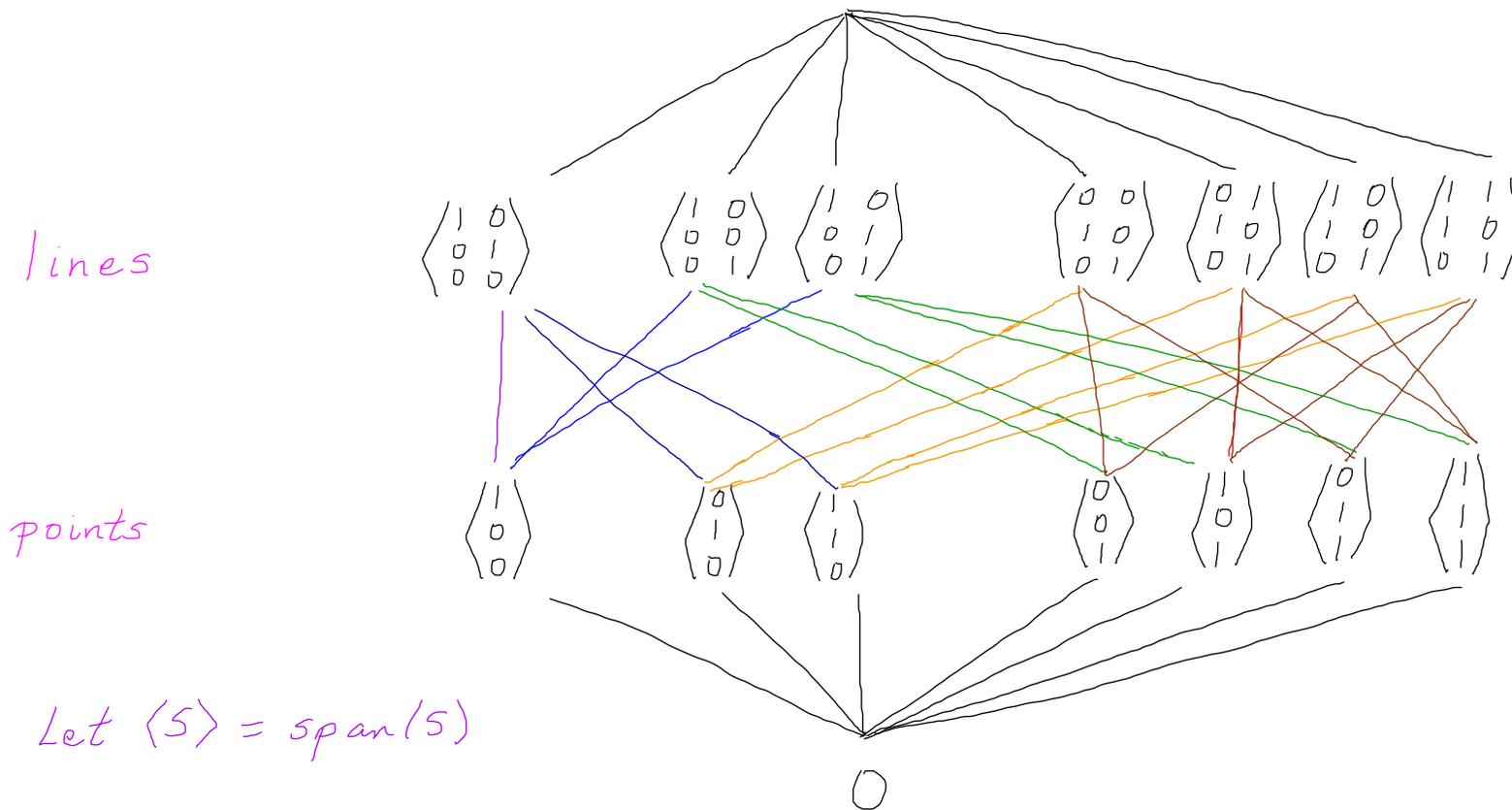
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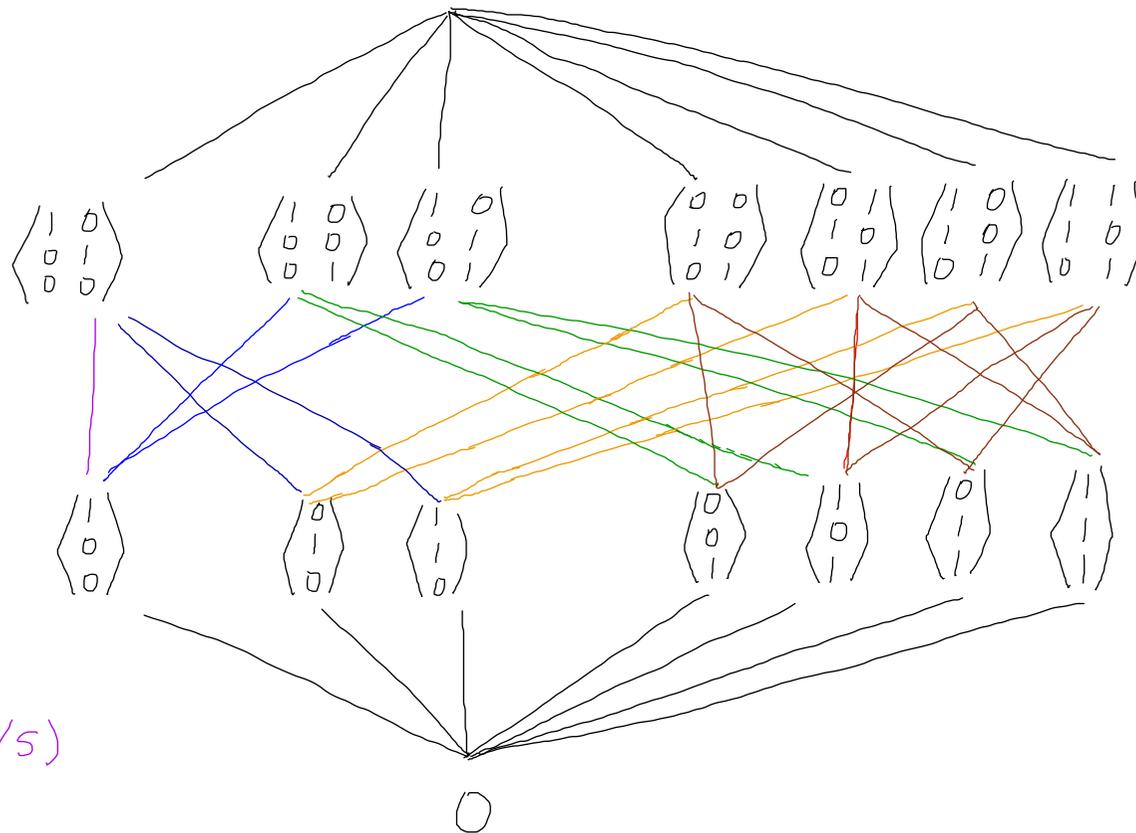
G/B is maximal chains in the Fano plane

plane

\mathbb{F}_2^3

lines

points



Let $\langle S \rangle = \text{span}(S)$



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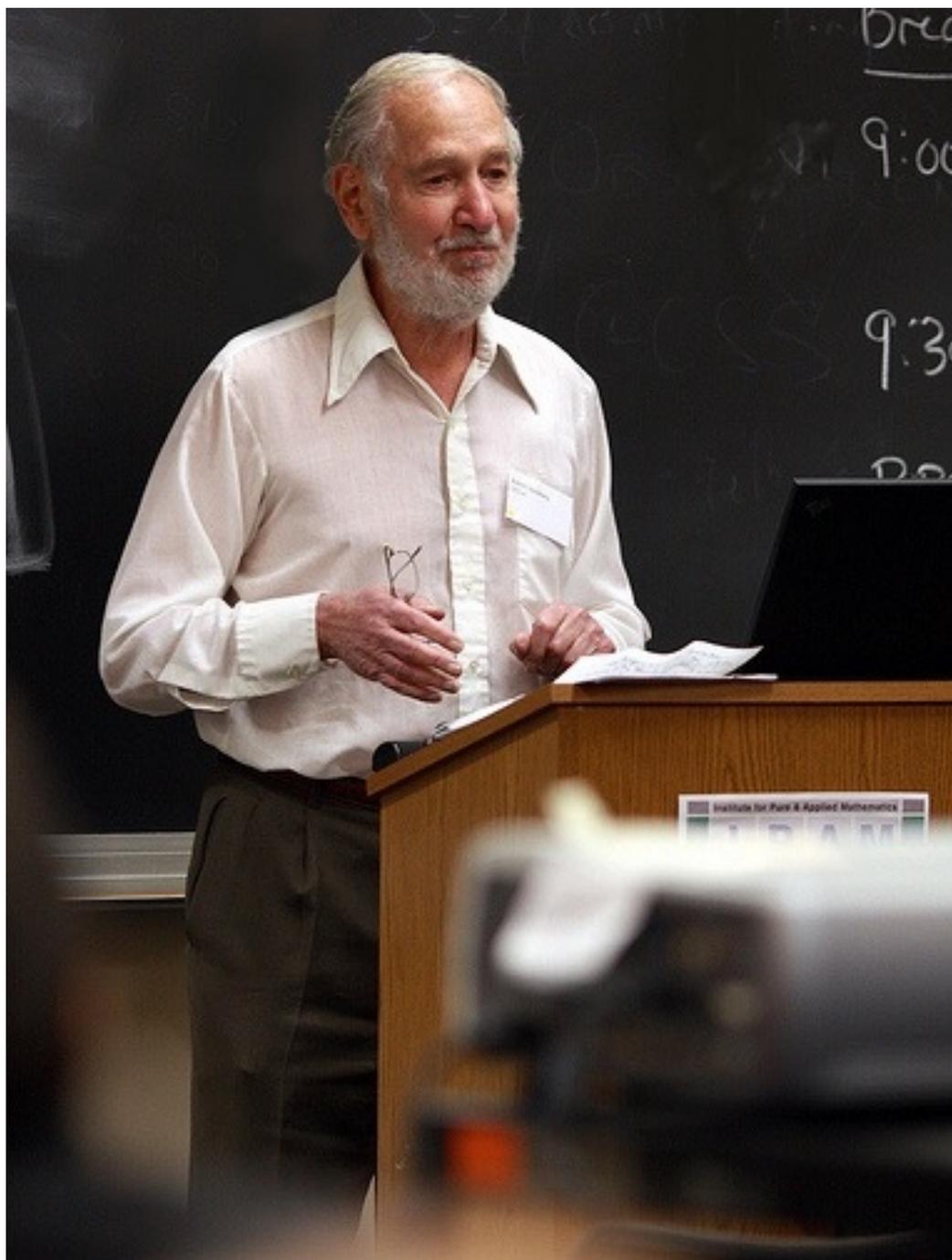
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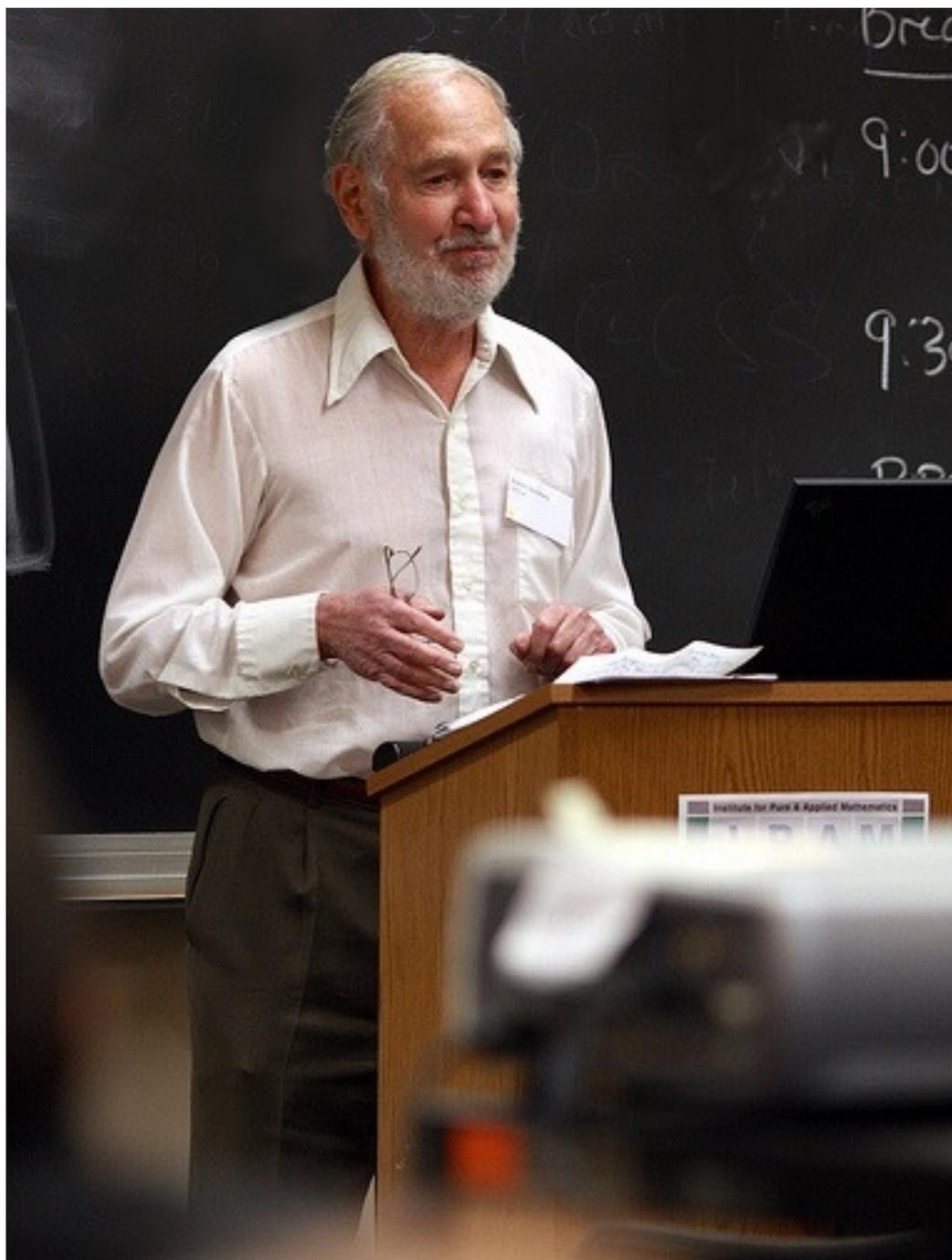


Robert Steinberg

Lectures on Chevalley groups

Yale University

1967



Robert Steinberg

1922-2014

in memory

Outline of this talk

Part 1. The flag variety

Part 2. The flag variety

Part 3. The flag variety

Part 4. The flag variety