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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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