# Euklid's plane through Symmetry 

Wolfgang Soergel

Mathematisches Institut
Universität Freiburg

October 2022

- Incidence geometry: Pair $(X, G)$ with $X$ a set of "points", $G \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$ a set of "lines", each line has at least two points, through every two distinct points there goes exactly one line.
- Betweeness: Subset $Z \subset X^{3}$ of collinear tripels giving two opposite orders on every line, such that a line never meets only one segment of a triangle.
- Congruence group: A subgroup $K \subset \operatorname{Aut}(X, G, Z)$ such that for any two halflines $A, B \subset X$ there exist exactly two $k, h \in K$ with $k(A)=B=h(A)$.
- Supremum property: With respect to a $Z$-order every nonempty bounded above subset on a line has a supremum.
- Parallel Axiom: $\forall g \in G, p \in X \backslash g$ there exists uniquely $h \in G$ with $p \in h$ and $h \cap g=\emptyset$.
- Theorem: There is up to isomorphism a unique quadrupel ( $X, G, Z, K$ ) of an incidence geometry with betweeness relation and congruence group that satisfies supremum and parallel axioms and has at least one line. [Soergel: Elementargeometrie]
- A Congruence group $K \subset \operatorname{Aut}(X, G, Z)$ is a subgroup such that for any two halflines $A, B \subset X$ exist exactly two $k, h \in K$ with $k(A)=B=h(A)$.
- If we ask instead congruences to act free and transitive on the set of halflines, there are is a "bad" model for every nontrivial group homomorphism $\mathrm{SO}(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}$.
- If we ask the parallel axiom to be false, there should be also a unique model. I would like an easy proof.

Now I am going make lots of claims and if you don't believe one of them, you are welcome to speak up and I will try to explain the proof on the blackboard.

Let $(X, G, Z)$ be an incidence geometry with betweeness.

- A line meeting no vertex of a triangle meets exactly to segments or none.
- The complement of a line is the disjoint union of at most two equivalence classes under the relation "joinable by a segment".

Let $(X, G, Z, K)$ be an incidence geometry with betweeness and congruences.

- Every halfline is infinite.
- For every line $g$ there is a unique nontrivial congruence $s_{g}$ fixing it pointwise, the reflection along $g$.
- Every segment is infinite.
- For every line $g$ there are exactly two halfspaces. They are exchanged by the reflection $s_{g}$.

Let $(X, G, Z, K)$ be an incidence geometry with betweeness and congruences.

- Let $h \perp g$ mean $g \neq h=s_{g}(h)$.
- For every line $g$ and every point $x$ there is a unique perpendicular $h \perp g$ with $x \in h$.
- $h \perp g \Leftrightarrow s_{h} s_{g}=s_{g} s_{h}$
- Two perpendiculars to a line $g$ are disjoint.
- Under the parallel axiom perpendiculars to a line are perpendicular to its parallels.

Let $(X, G, Z, K)$ be incidence geometry with betweeness and congruences and let $g \in G$ a line.

- Denote by $K_{l g} \subset K$ the stabilizer of a line and its halfspaces.
- Denote by $\vec{g} \subset K_{\mid g}$ the subgroup stabilizing both $Z$-orders on the line $g$.
- $\vec{g}$ acts free and transitive on $g$.

Let ( $X, G, Z, K$ ) be an incidence geometry with
betweeness and congruences and supremum axiom and let $g \in G$ be a line.

- Given $v \in \vec{g} \backslash e_{K}$ we have $v(x)>x$ for all $x$ and some $Z$-order on $g$.
- All elements of $K_{l g} \backslash \vec{g}$ are involutions.
- Any two different points $x \neq y$ can be exchanged by a unique reflection. It stabilizes the $\overline{x y}$-halfplanes.

Let $(X, G, Z, K)$ be an incidence geometry with
betweeness and congruences and supremum axiom and let $g \in G$ be a line.

- All elements of $K_{I g} \backslash \vec{g}$ are reflections. These elements generate $K_{l g}$.
- Every element $v \in \vec{g}$ has a square root. Conjugating $v$ by an element of $K_{l g} \backslash \vec{g}$ we get its inverse.
- $\vec{g}$ is commutative.

Let $(X, G, Z, K)$ be an incidence geometry with betweeness and congruences and supremum and parallels axiom.

- $g \| h \Rightarrow \vec{g}=\vec{h}$
- Assume there exists a line. Then all translations form a commutative subgroup $\vec{X}:=\bigcup_{g \in G} \vec{g} \subset K$ acting free and transitive on $X$.
- Let $A$ be an ordered group such that no nontrivial cyclic subgroup has an upper bound in $A$ and every element has a root. Then for every $a>e_{A}$ there exists a unique order preserving group homomorphism $A \rightarrow(\mathbb{R},+)$ with $a \mapsto 1$ and it is injective.

Let $(X, G, Z, K)$ be incidence geometry with betweeness and congruences and supremum axiom.

- For every line $g$, there is a unique structure on $\vec{g}$ as a real vector space compatible with $Z$.
- If the parallel axiom holds and there is a least one line, there is a unique structure of real vector space on $\vec{X}$ such that $\vec{g}$ is a subspace for all $g \in G$. Furthermore the space $\vec{X}$ has dimension two, so that $X$ acquires the structure of a twodimensional real affine space.

Let $(X, G, Z, K)$ be incidence geometry with betweeness and congruences and supremum and parallel axioms and a line.

- The congruence group $K$ consists of affinities and contains all translations.
- The isotropy groups $K_{x}$ all have the same image $D \subset \mathrm{GL}(\vec{X})$.
- The subgroup $D \subset \mathrm{GL}(\vec{X})$ has the property that for any two rays $A, B \subset \vec{X}$ there are exactly two elements $r, s \in D$ with $r(A)=B=s(A)$.

Let $V$ be a twodimensinal real vector space. Let
$D \subset G L(V)$ a subgroup such that for any two rays
$A, B \subset V$ there are exactly two elements $r, s \in D$ with
$r(A)=B=s(A)$.

- There exists a $D$-invariant scalar product on $V$.
- Any two $D$-invariant scalar products are scalar multiples of one another.
- The group $D$ is the orthogonal group for one and any of these scalar products.

This proves that an incidence geometry with betweeness and congruences ( $X, G, Z, K$ ) satisfying supremum and parallel axioms and having a line is isomorphic to

$$
\left(\mathbb{R}^{2}, \text { affine lines, obvious } Z, O(2)_{\text {aff }}\right)
$$

Thanks!

