

# The Commutative Algebra of Highly Symmetric Data

Jan Draisma  
TU Eindhoven

Utrecht, Nov 2013

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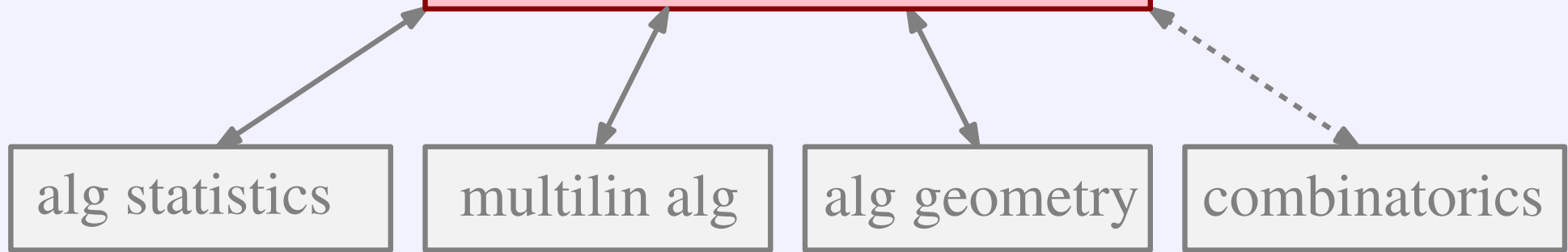
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# History: Hilbert's Basis Theorem

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## David Hilbert

Any polynomial system

$$f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0,$$

$$f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0, \dots$$

reduces to a *finite* system

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## Bruno Buchberger

Gröbner bases, algorithmic methods



# Three-step approach

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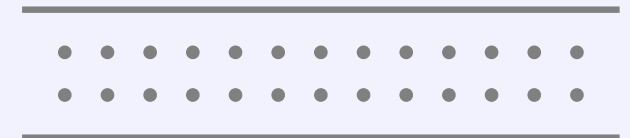
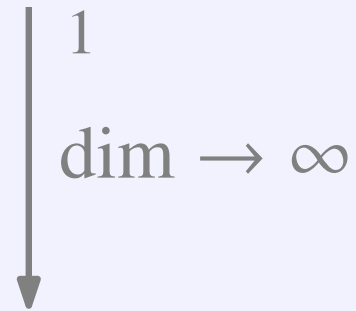
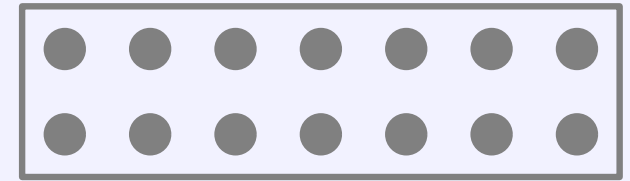
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data property  $\rightsquigarrow$   $\infty$ -dim subvariety

small window  $\rightsquigarrow$  finite window

$\rightsquigarrow$  *leave fin-dim commutative algebra*



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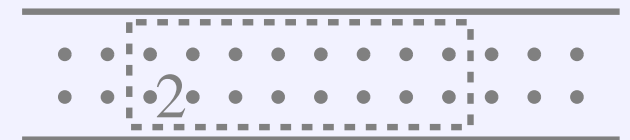
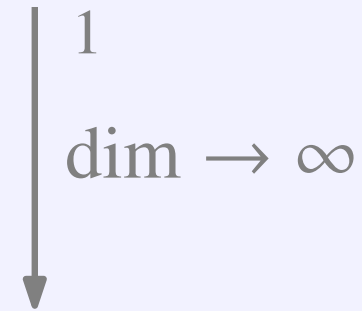
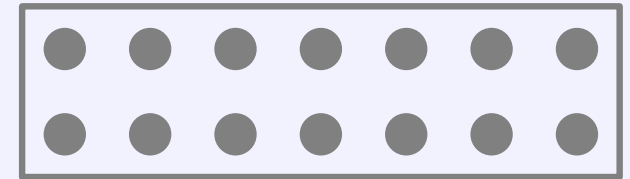
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up to symmetry?

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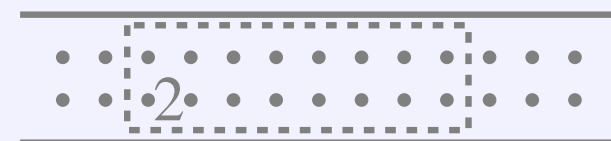
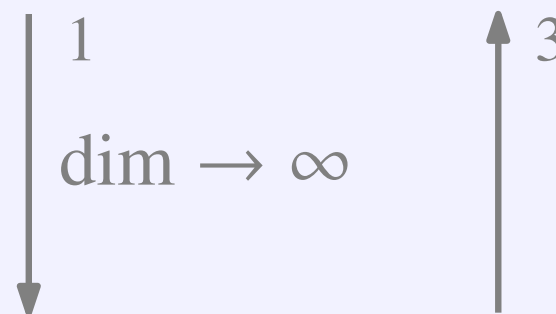
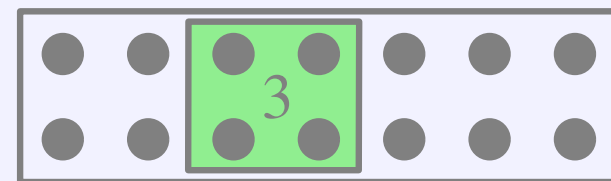
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## 3. Compute

actual windows for fin-dim data

$\rightsquigarrow$  *generalise Buchberger alg to  $\infty$  variables*



## **Example**

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## Examples

$K[x_{ij} \mid i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, j \in \mathbb{N}]$  is  $\text{Sym}(\mathbb{N})$ -Noetherian, but  $K[x_{ij} \mid i, j \in \mathbb{N}]$  is *not*  $\text{Sym}(\mathbb{N}) \times \text{Sym}(\mathbb{N})$ -Noetherian, but  $(K^{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}})^p$  with Zariski topology is  $\text{GL}_{\mathbb{N}} \times \text{GL}_{\mathbb{N}}$ -Noetherian.

# The Commutative Algebra of Highly Symmetric Data

alg statistics



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graph LR; A[alg statistics] <--> B[The Commutative Algebra of Highly Symmetric Data];
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## Setting

$X_1, \dots, X_n$  jointly Gaussian, mean 0

$\rightsquigarrow$  explained well by  $k \ll n$  *factors*?

i.e., is  $X_i = \sum_j s_{ij} Z_k + t_i \epsilon_i$ , with  $Z_1, \dots, Z_k$ ,  
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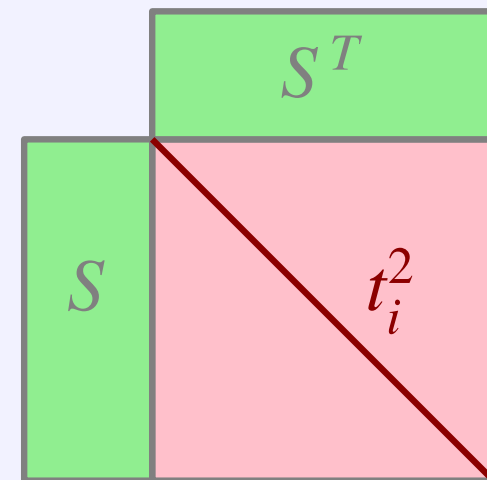
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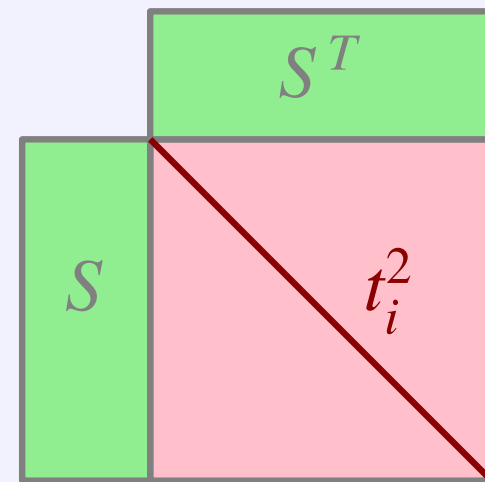
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$$F_{k,n} := \overline{\{S S^T + \text{diag}(t_1^2, \dots, t_n^2) \mid S \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}, t_i \in \mathbb{R}\}}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  algebraic variety in  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  called Gaussian  $k$ -factor model

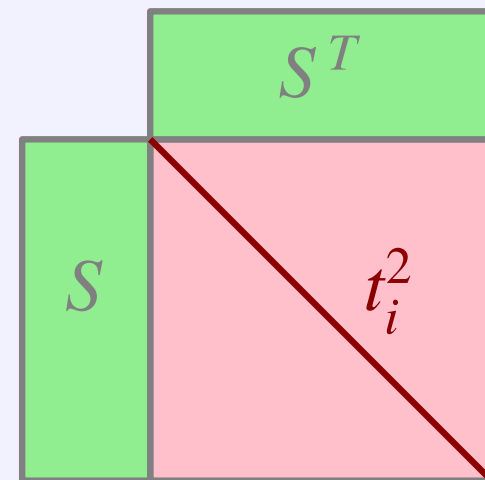
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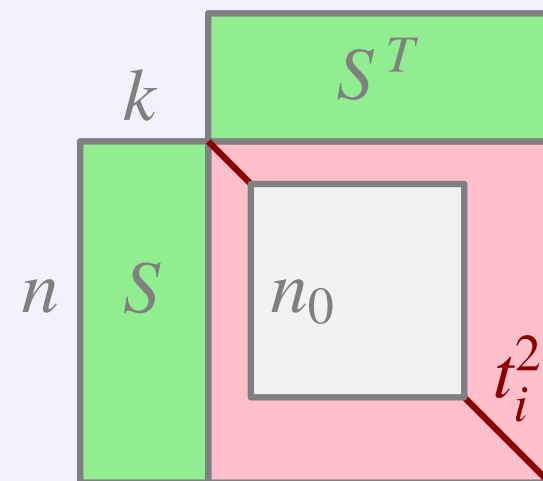
$F_{2,5}$  is zero set of  $\{\sigma_{ij} - \sigma_{ji} \mid i, j = 1, \dots, 5\}$  and the *pentad*

$$\sum_{\pi \in \text{Sym}(5)} \text{sgn}(\pi) \sigma_{\pi(1)\pi(2)} \sigma_{\pi(2)\pi(3)} \sigma_{\pi(3)\pi(4)} \sigma_{\pi(4)\pi(5)} \sigma_{\pi(5)\pi(1)}$$

**Drton-Sturmfels-Sullivant** [*Prob Th Rel Fields* 2007]

If  $\Sigma \in F_{k,n}$  then any principal  $n_0 \times n_0$  submatrix  $\Sigma' \in F_{k,n_0}$ .

$\rightsquigarrow$  Is there an  $n_0 = n_0(k)$  such that the converse holds for  $n \geq n_0$ ?



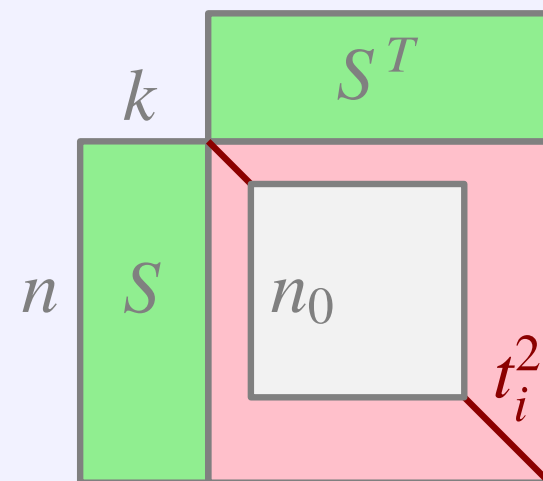
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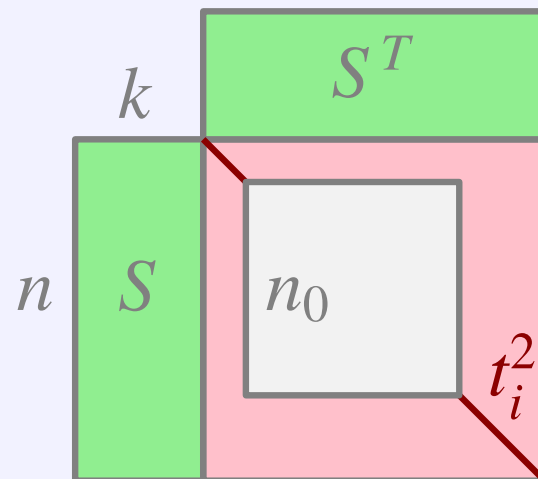
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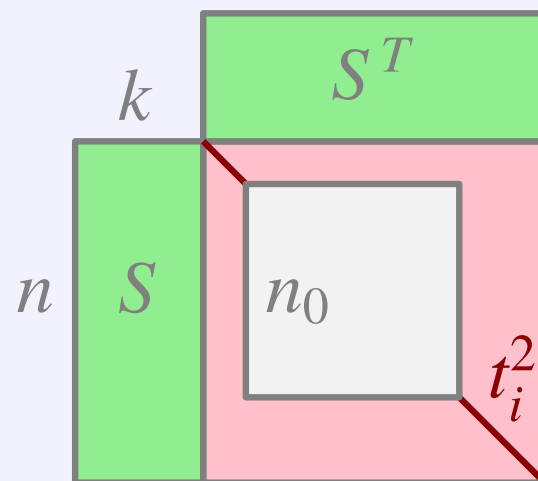
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**Brouwer-Draisma** [*Math Comp* 2011]

yes for  $k = 2$ : pentads and  $3 \times 3$ -minors define  $F_{2,n}$ ,  $n \geq n_0 := 6$

$\rightsquigarrow$  uses  $\text{Sym}(\mathbb{N})$ -Buchberger algorithm (+ a weekend on 20 computers)

$\rightsquigarrow$  a **single** computation proves this **for all**  $n$



# The Commutative Algebra of Highly Symmetric Data



multilin alg

## A wrong-titled movie

*tensor*  $T$  = multi-indexed array of numbers

matrices = two-way tensors

this picture = three-way tensor, ...





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## Pure tensor $P$

has entries  $P_{i,j,\dots,k} = x_i y_j \cdots z_k$

for vectors  $x, \dots, z$

$\rightsquigarrow$  for a matrix:  $xy^T$ , rank one



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## Tensor rank of $T$

is minimal  $k$  in  $T = \sum_{j=1}^k P^{(j)}$  with each  $P^{(j)}$  pure

$\rightsquigarrow$  generalises matrix rank

$\rightsquigarrow$  useful for MRI data, communication complexity, phylogenetics etc.

# Finiteness for bounded-rank tensors

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efficiently computable  
field independent  
can only go down in limit

## Tensor rank

NP-hard  
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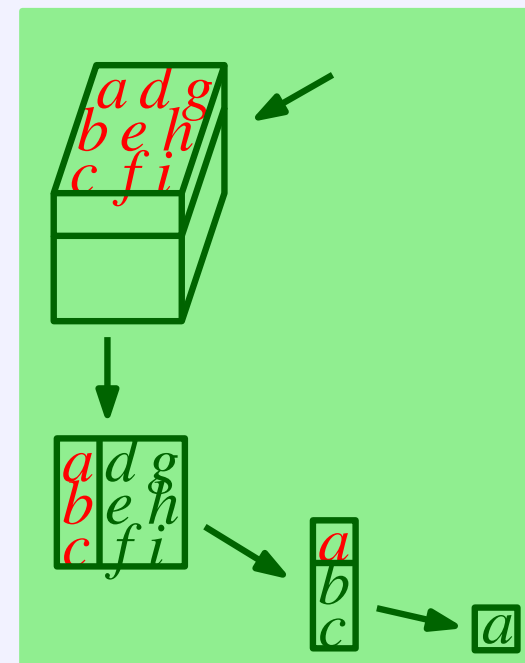
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$$\bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \text{Sym}(n) \ltimes \text{GL}_3^n$$

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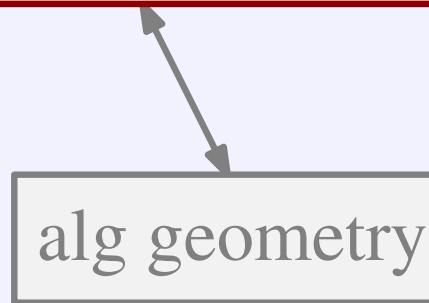
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# Grassmannians: functoriality and duality

12

$V$  a fin-dim vector space over an infinite field  $K$   
 $\rightsquigarrow \mathbf{Gr}_p(V) := \{v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_p \mid v_i \in V\} \subseteq \wedge^p V$   
cone over Grassmannian  
(*rank-one alternating tensors*)



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## Two properties:

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2. if  $\dim V =: n + p$  with  $n, p \geq 0$

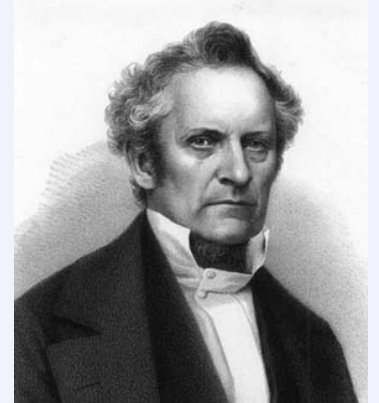
$$\rightsquigarrow \text{natural map } \wedge^p V \rightarrow (\wedge^n V)^* \rightarrow \wedge^n(V^*)$$

maps  $\mathbf{Gr}_p(V) \rightarrow \mathbf{Gr}_n(V^*)$

## Definition

Rules  $\mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, \dots$  with

$\mathbf{X}_p : \{\text{vector spaces } V\} \rightarrow \{\text{varieties in } \wedge^p V\}$



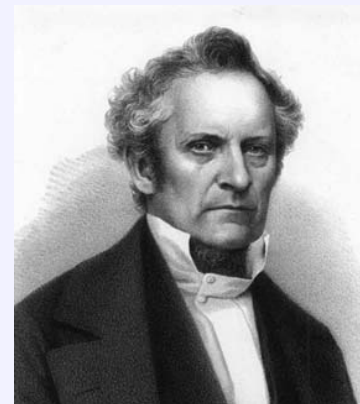
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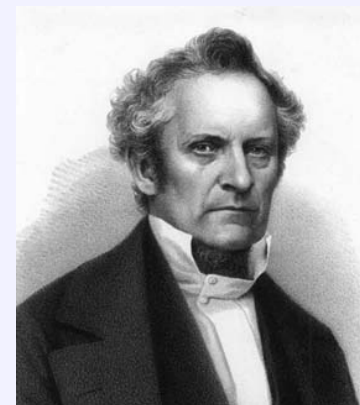
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## Constructions

$\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}$  Plücker varieties  $\rightsquigarrow$  so are

$\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Y}$  (*join*),  $\tau\mathbf{X}$  (*tangential*),

$\mathbf{X} \cup \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X} \cap \mathbf{Y}$



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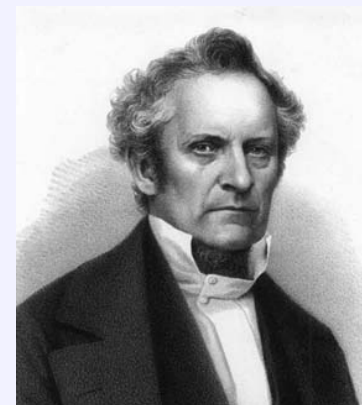
## Constructions

$\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}$  Plücker varieties  $\rightsquigarrow$  so are

$\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Y}$  (*join*),  $\tau\mathbf{X}$  (*tangential*),

$\mathbf{X} \cup \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X} \cap \mathbf{Y}$

*skew analogue of Snowden's  $\Delta$ -varieties*



## Definition

A Plücker variety  $\{\mathbf{X}_p\}_p$  is *bounded*  
if  $\mathbf{X}_2(V) \neq \wedge^2 V$  for  $\dim V$  sufficiently large.





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*Theorems apply, in particular, to*  
 $k\mathbf{Gr} = k\text{-th secant variety of } \mathbf{Gr}.$



# The infinite wedge

15

$$V_\infty := \langle \dots, x_{-3}, x_{-2}, x_{-1}, x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots \rangle_K$$

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## Diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} \bigwedge^0 V_{00} \\ \downarrow \\ \bigwedge^0 V_{10} \\ \downarrow \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} \bigwedge^2 V_{02} \\ \downarrow \\ \bigwedge^2 V_{12} \\ \downarrow \end{array}$$

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$\bigwedge^{\infty/2} V_\infty := \lim_{\rightarrow} \bigwedge^p V_{n,p}$  *the infinite wedge* (charge-0 part);

basis  $\{x_I := x_{i_1} \wedge x_{i_2} \wedge \dots\}_I$ ,  $I = \{i_1 < i_2 < \dots\}$ ,  $i_k = k$  for  $k \gg 0$

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On  $\bigwedge^{\infty/2} V_\infty$  acts  $\mathrm{GL}_\infty := \bigcup_{n,p} \mathrm{GL}(V_{n,p})$ .



## Recall

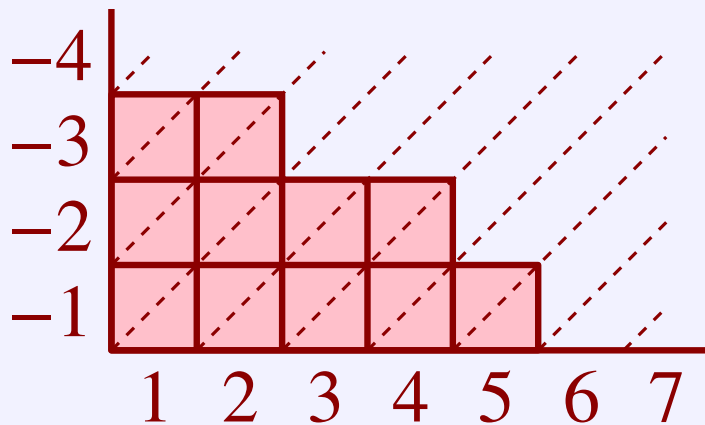
$\bigwedge^{\infty/2} V_{\infty}$  has basis  $\{x_I := x_{i_1} \wedge x_{i_2} \wedge \cdots\}_I$ , where  
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## Bijection with Young diagrams

$x_I$  with  $I = \{-3, -2, 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, \dots\}$  corresponds to

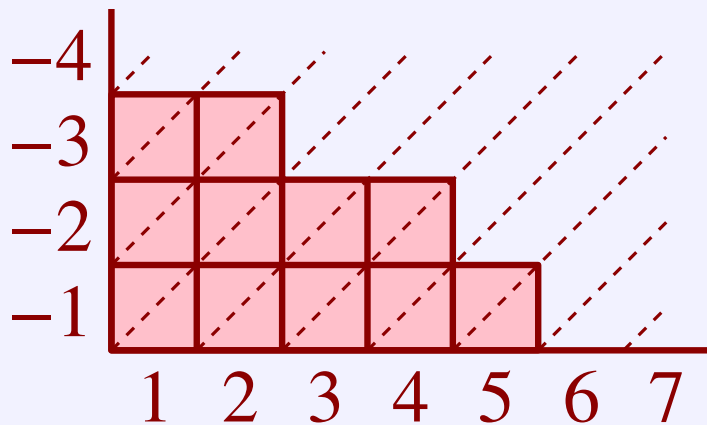


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These  $x_I$  will be the *coordinates* of our ambient space, partially ordered by  $I \leq J$  if  $i_k \geq j_k$  for all  $k$  (inclusion of Young diags). Unique minimum is  $I = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ .

## Dual diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \wedge^0 V_{00}^* & \longleftarrow & \wedge^1 V_{01}^* \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
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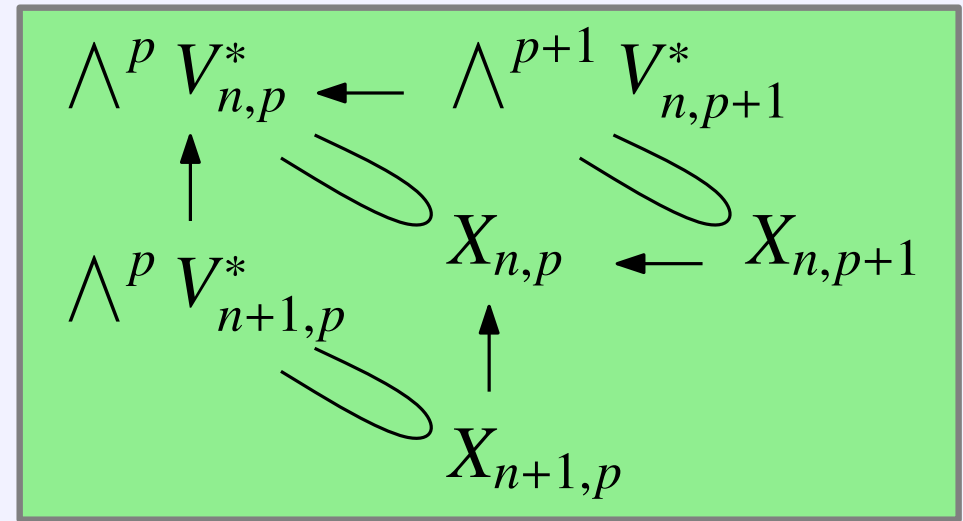
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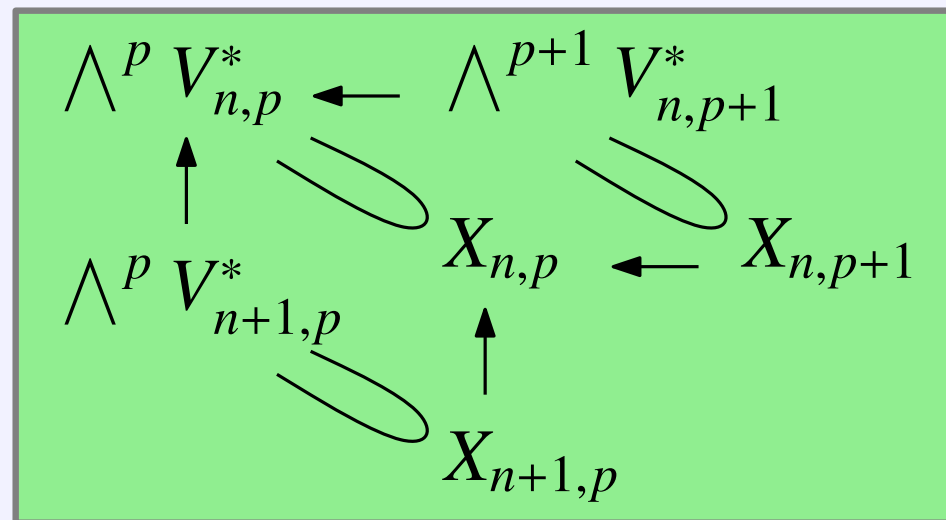
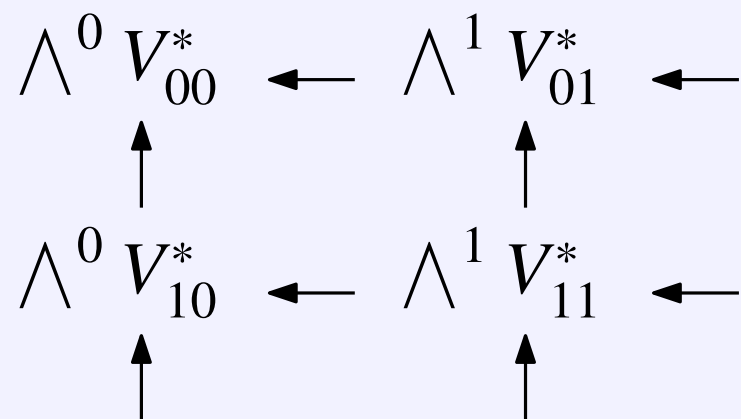
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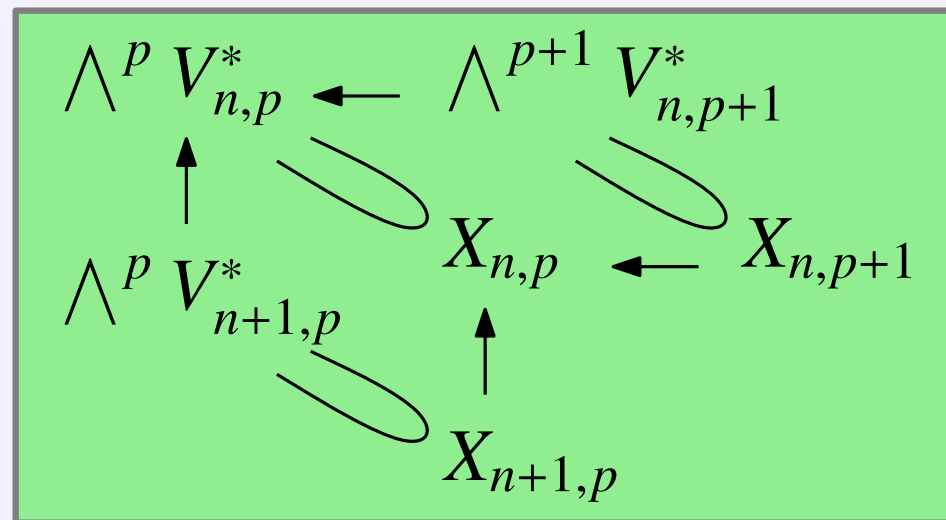
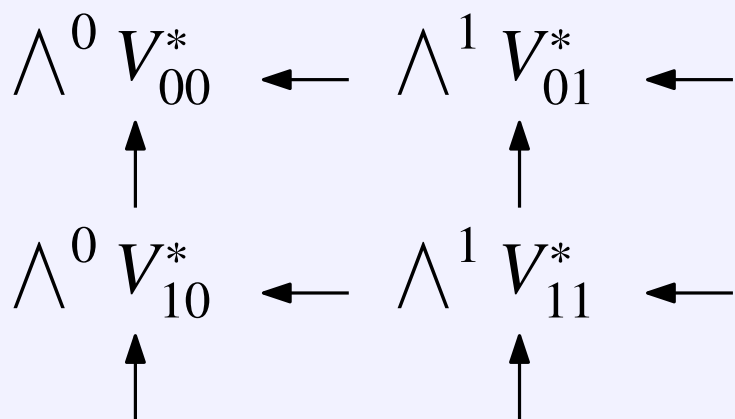
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**Theorem** (implies earlier)

For *bounded*  $\mathbf{X}$ , the limit  $\mathbf{X}_\infty$  is cut out by finitely many  $\mathrm{GL}_\infty$ -orbits of equations.



## Example

The limit  $\mathbf{Gr}_\infty \subseteq (\bigwedge^{\infty/2} V_\infty)^*$  of  $(\mathbf{Gr}_p)_p$  is *Sato's Grassmannian* defined by polynomials  $\sum_{i \in I} \pm x_{I-i} \cdot x_{J+i} = 0$  where  $i_k = k - 1$  for  $k \gg 0$  and  $j_k = k + 1$  for  $k \gg 0$ .

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$\rightsquigarrow$  *not finitely many  $\mathrm{GL}_\infty$ -orbits*

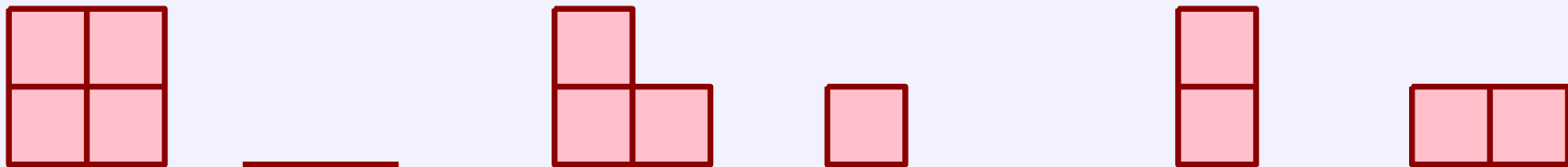
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But in fact the  $\mathrm{GL}_\infty$ -orbit of

$$(x_{-2,-1,3,\dots} \cdot x_{1,2,3,\dots}) - (x_{-2,1,3,\dots} \cdot x_{-1,2,3,\dots}) + (x_{-2,2,3,\dots} \cdot x_{-1,1,3,\dots})$$



defines  $\mathbf{Gr}_\infty$  set-theoretically.

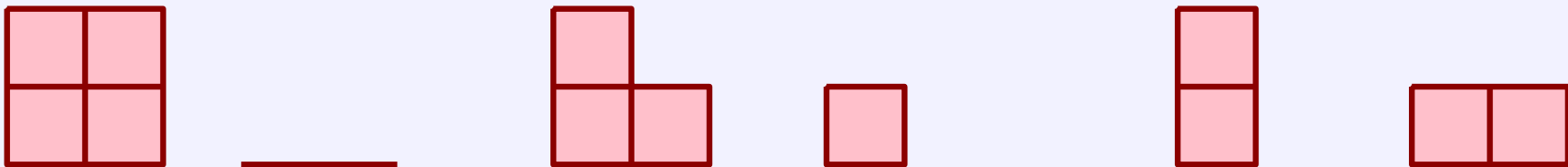
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Our theorems imply that also higher secant varieties of Sato's Grassmannian are defined by finitely many  $\mathrm{GL}_\infty$ -orbits of equations... *we just don't know which!*

## The Commutative Algebra of Highly Symmetric Data



combinatorics

### Conjecture

Over any field  $K$ , Sato's Grassmannian  $\mathbf{Gr}_\infty(K)$  is Noetherian up to  $\mathrm{Sym}(-\mathbb{N} \cup +\mathbb{N}) \subseteq \mathrm{GL}_\infty$ .

# The graph minor theorem

20

## Graph minors

Any sequence of operations



takes a graph to a *minor*.

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**Robertson-Seymour** [JCB 1983–2004, 669pp]

Any network property preserved under taking minors can be characterised by *finitely many forbidden minors*.



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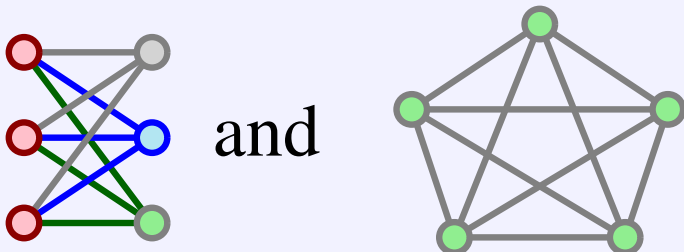
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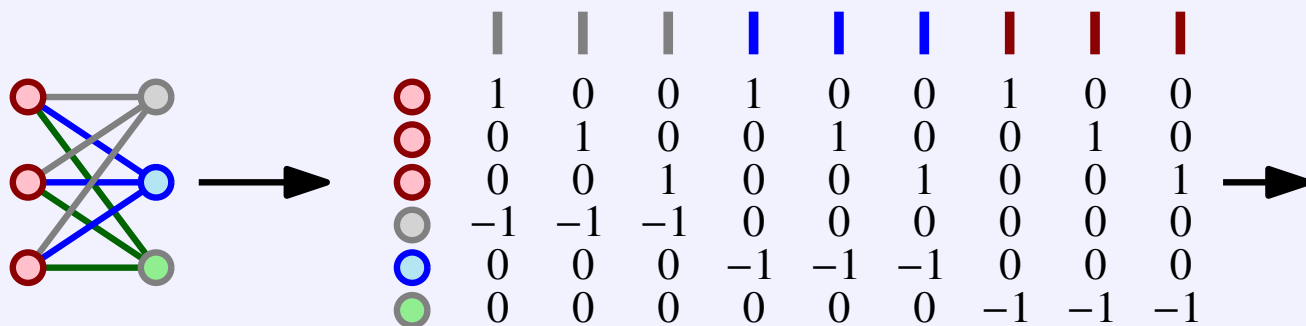
**Wagner** [Math Ann 1937]

For *planarity* these are



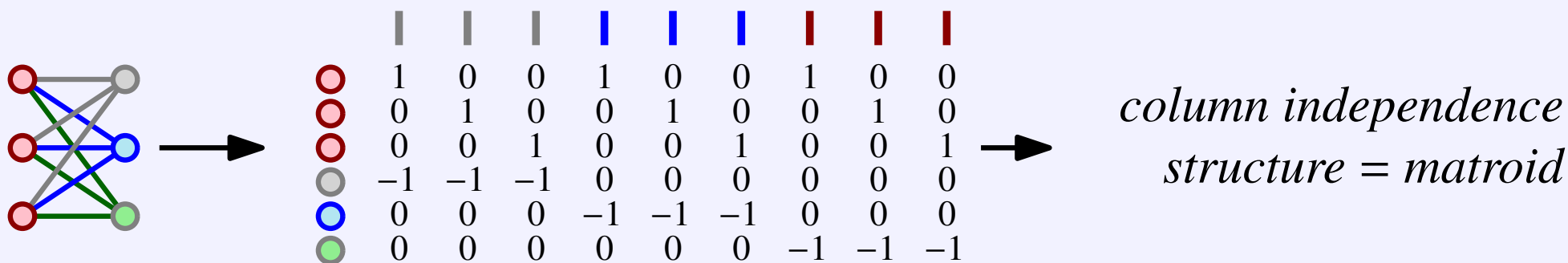


## From graphs to matroids



*column independence  
structure = matroid*

## From graphs to matroids

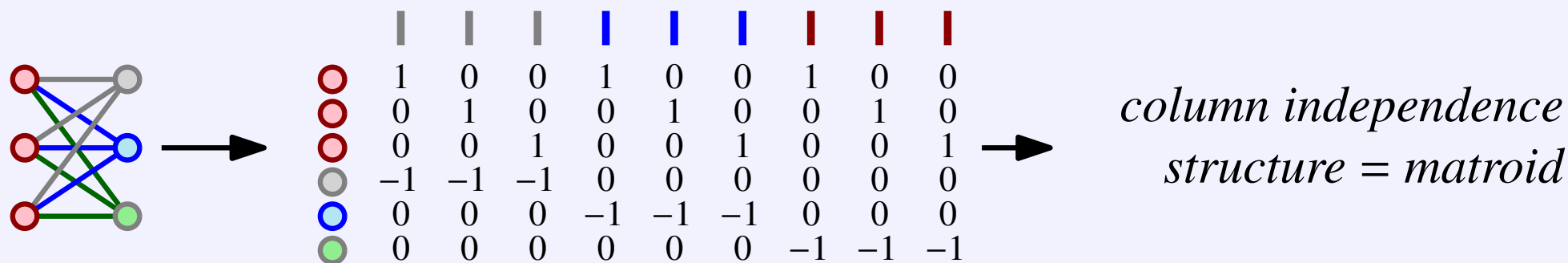


## Matroid minor theorem (Geelen-Gerards-Whittle)

Any minor-preserved property of matroids over a fixed *finite field*  $K$  can be characterised by finitely many forbidden minors.

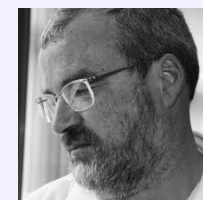


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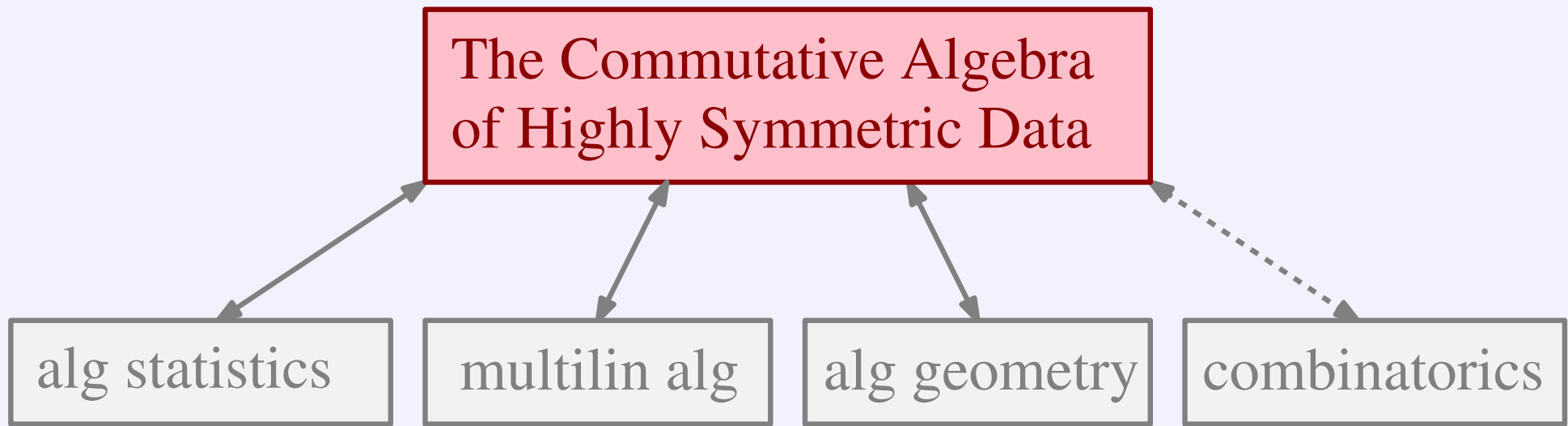
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## Surprising correspondence

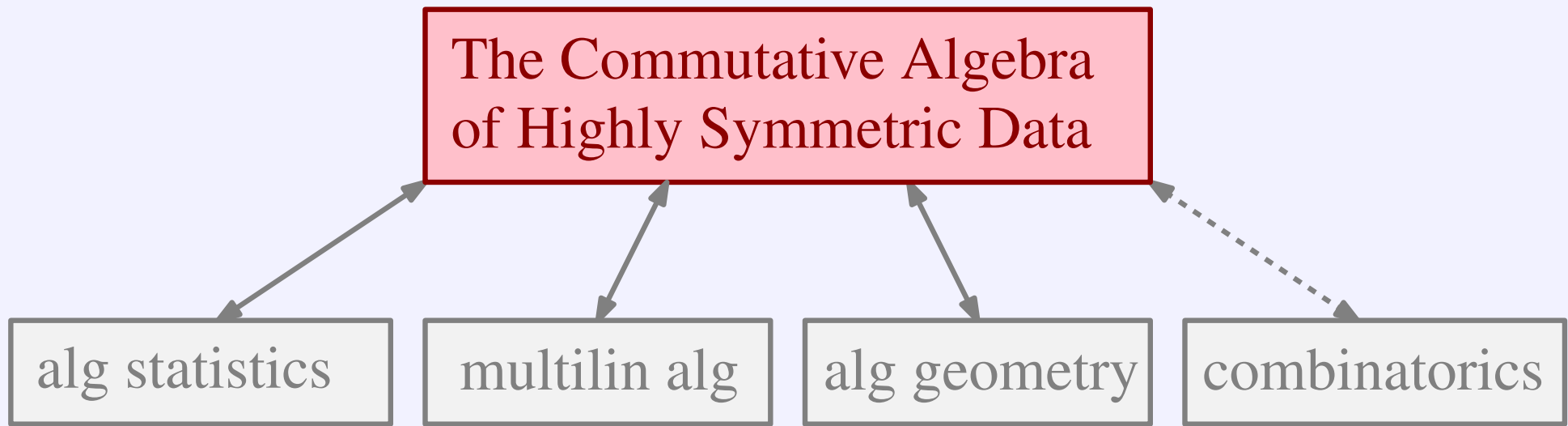
*Equivalent to*  $\text{Sym}(-\mathbb{N} \cup +\mathbb{N})$ -Noetherianity of  $\mathbf{Gr}_\infty(K)$  (but Noetherianity may be true even for infinite  $K$ ).





*↪ theory and algorithms for highly symmetric,  $\infty$ -dim varieties*

*↪ exciting interplay of algebra, combinatorics, statistics, and geometry*

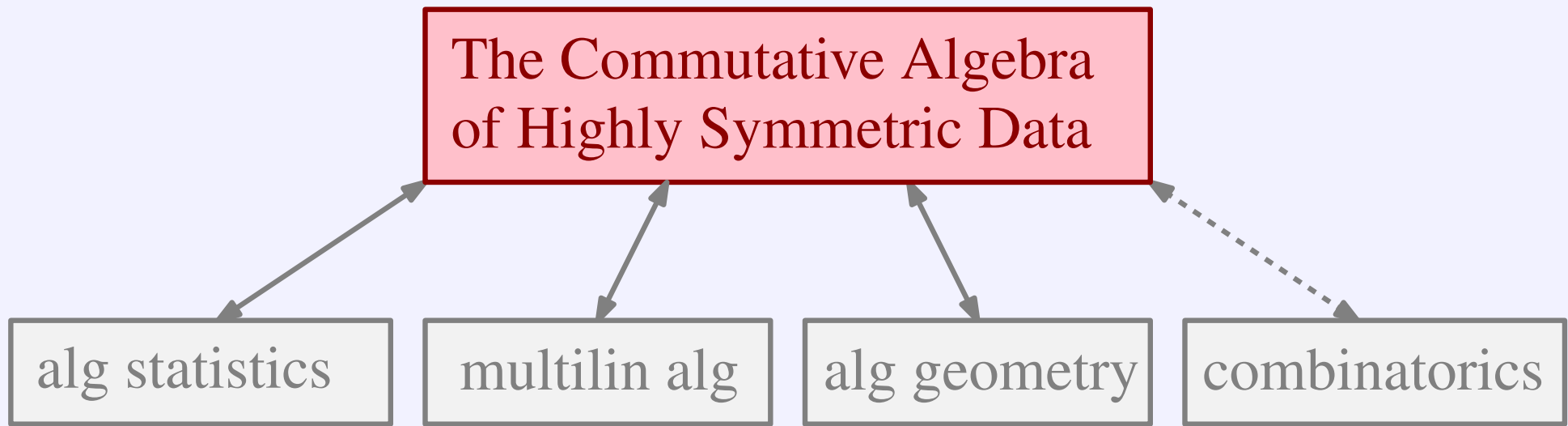


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**Paul Gordan**





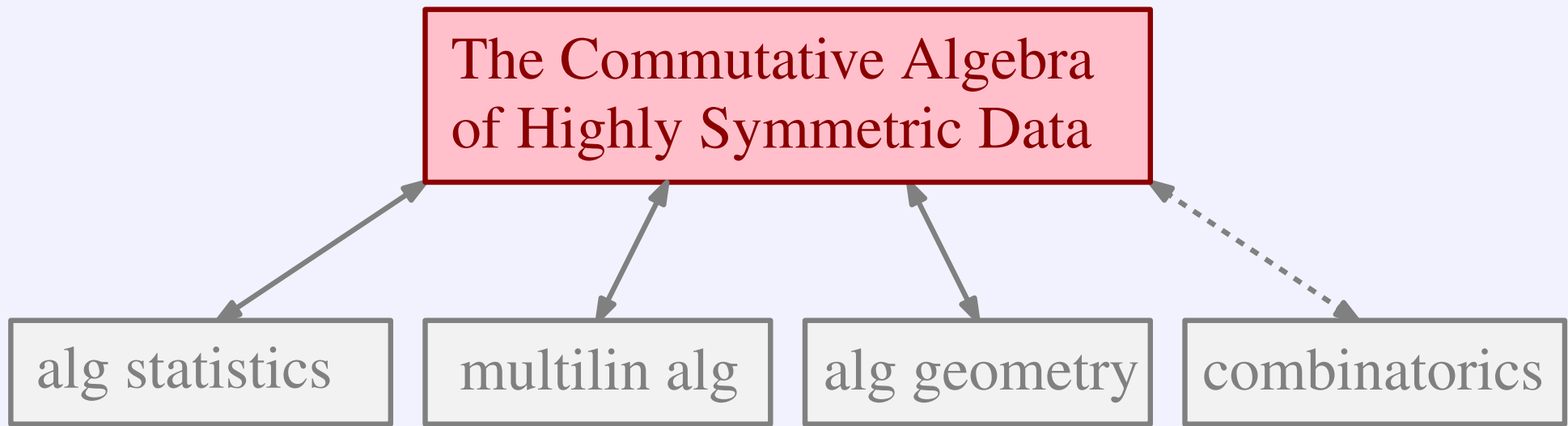
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*Ich habe mich davon überzeugt, daß auch die Theologie ihre Vorzüge hat.*





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**Thank you!**