# On affine designs and Hadamard designs with line spreads

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## Abstract

Rahilly [10] described a construction that relates any Hadamard design H on  $4^m - 1$  points with a line spread to an affine design having the same parameters as the classical design of points and hyperplanes in AG(m, 4). Here it is proved that the affine design is the classical design of points and hyperplanes in AG(m, 4) if, and only if, H is the classical design of points and hyperplanes in PG(2m - 1, 2) and the line spread is of a special type. Computational results about line spreads in PG(5, 2) are given. One of the affine designs obtained has the same 2-rank as the design of points and planes in AG(3, 4), and provides a counter-example to a conjecture of Hamada [6].

## Dedicated to Jennifer Seberry on her 60th birthday

## 1 Introduction

The connection between Hadamard matrices and symmetric or affine designs is well-known, see [12] for example. In this paper, we describe two constructions, based on one of Rahilly [10], that relates affine 2-designs of class number 4 with symmetric Hadamard 2-designs possessing spreads of lines where each line has size 3. In Section 2, we show that the affine design is the classical design of points and hyperplanes in the affine geometry AG(m, 4) of dimension m over the field of 4 elements if, and only if, the Hadamard design is the classical design of points and hyperplanes in the projective geometry PG(2m-1, 2)

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of dimension 2m - 1 over the field of 2 elements and the line spread is of a special type which we call *normal* and define in 2.5 below. In Section 3, we give an indication of the variety of affine designs produced by this construction using line spreads from the projective geometry PG(5, 2) by summarizing computational results. In particular, we establish the falsity of Hamada's conjecture that, among the 2-designs with the same parameters as the 2-design of points and *t*-subspaces of a projective or affine geometry over a field of characteristic p, the designs whose incidence matrices are of minimum p-rank are isomorphic to the given design of points and *t*-subspaces of a projective affine 2-(64,16,5) design, whose incidence matrix has 2-rank 16. Although it has not yet been established that 16 is the minimum 2-rank of the incidence matrices of 2-(64,16,5) designs, any 2-(64,16,5) designs of 2-rank less than 16 which might be discovered in the future will necessarily be non-geometric.

The basic design theory needed for this paper may be found, for example, in [1], [3], [11]. We give an outline here.

Let  $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, I)$  be a design with point set  $\mathcal{P}$ , block set  $\mathcal{B}$  and incidence relation  $I \subseteq \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{B}$ . Where convenient, as is customary, we may identify a block with the subset of points incident with it, and regard incidence as settheoretic inclusion.  $\Pi$  is a t- $(v, k, \lambda)$  design if  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are finite,  $|\mathcal{P}| = v$ and  $|\mathcal{B}| = k$  for all  $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{B}$  and any t-subset of  $\mathcal{P}$  is contained in  $\lambda$  blocks. A design is symmetric if  $|\mathcal{P}| = |\mathcal{B}|$ . A t- $(v, k, \lambda)$  design is resolvable if  $\mathcal{B}$  has a partition, called a parallelism, into parallel classes of blocks such that two distinct blocks in the same parallel class are always disjoint and every point belongs to exactly one block from each parallel class. If, further, any two nonparallel blocks (i.e. blocks from different parallel classes) meet in a constant number  $\mu > 0$  of points, then  $\Pi$  is affine resolvable or simply, affine. It is easy to see that each parallel class consists of m = v/k blocks, where we call m the class number of the affine design, and  $\mu = k/m$ . From the definition, it follows that the parallelism in an affine design is unique.

The dual design  $\Pi^*$  of a design  $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, I)$  is defined to be the design  $\Pi^* = (\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{P}, I^*)$ , where  $(x, y) \in I$  if and only if  $(y, x) \in I^*$ . The *line* joining two distinct points P and Q in a t-design is the intersection of all blocks which contain both P and Q. If  $t \geq 2$ , the maximum size of a line is (v - 1)/k + 1 and a line has this maximal size if, and only if, every block which does not contain it meets it in exactly one point. The set of blocks that contain the intersection of two distinct given blocks in  $\Pi$  forms a line in the dual design  $\Pi^*$ .

The parameters of a symmetric 2- $(v, k, \lambda)$  design satisfy the equation  $\lambda(v-1) = k(k-1)$ . A symmetric 2-design is said to be *Hadamard* if v = 2k + 1. It is well-known that a Hadamard design exists if, and only if, a Hadamard matrix

of order 2k + 2 exists or, equivalently, a  $3 \cdot (2k + 2, k + 1, \frac{1}{2}(k - 1))$  design, which is necessarily affine, exists. The size of a line in a Hadamard 2-design is at most (v - 1)/k + 1 = 3 since v = 2k + 1. So, a line of size 3 has maximum size and any block either contains it or meets it in exactly one point.

A set  $\mathcal{L}$  of non-empty point subsets of a design is a *spread* if it partitions the point set of the design. In a resolvable design, a parallel class of blocks is a spread of blocks.

## 2 Affine designs and spreads in symmetric designs

Rahilly [10] established a connection between affine 2-designs with class number 4 (the size of a parallel class) and Hadamard 2-designs with line spreads. This construction is generalized in Al-Kenani and Mavron [9]. Here, we present Rahilly's construction in a different but simpler and more transparent form that is suitable for the exposition of the results of this paper.

**Construction 2.1** Let  $\Gamma$  be an affine 2- $(16\mu, 4\mu, \frac{1}{3}(4\mu - 1))$  design, where  $\mu \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . Define a design  $\Pi$  as follows.

Choose any point w of  $\Gamma$ . The points of  $\Pi$  are all the points of  $\Gamma$  except w. To define a general block of  $\Pi$ , consider any parallel class C. Then C has four blocks. Let  $B_0$  be the block of C on w. For any  $B \in C$  with  $B \neq B_0$ , we define  $B \cup B_0 - \{w\}$  to be a block of  $\Pi$ .

It is not difficult to verify that  $\Pi$  is a symmetric 2- $(16\mu - 1, 8\mu - 1, 4\mu - 1)$  design and that, for any parallel class C, the three blocks  $B \cup B_0 - \{w\}$ , with  $B \in C$  and  $B \neq B_0$ , form a line in the dual  $\Pi^*$  of  $\Pi$ . The set of all such lines is a spread of lines, each of size 3, in  $\Pi^*$ .

**Construction 2.2** Let  $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, I)$  be a symmetric 2- $(16\mu - 1, 8\mu - 1, 4\mu - 1)$  design whose dual  $\Pi^*$  has a spread  $\mathcal{L}$  of lines of size 3, that is, a set of lines of  $\Pi^*$  which partitions  $\mathcal{B}$ . Define an incidence structure  $\Gamma$  as follows.

The point set of  $\Gamma$  is  $\mathcal{P} \cup \{w\}$  where w is a new point. The block set of  $\Gamma$  is  $\mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{L}$ . We define the incidence relation  $I_{\Gamma}$  for  $\Gamma$  in two parts. Firstly,  $w I_{\Gamma} L$  for all  $L \in \mathcal{L}$ . Secondly, let  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $L \in \mathcal{L}$ . If P is on exactly one (say B) of the three blocks of L in  $\Pi$ , then  $P I_{\Gamma} B$ . If P is on all three blocks of L in  $\Pi$ , then  $P I_{\Gamma} B$ .

It is routine to verify that  $\Gamma$  is an affine 2- $(16\mu, 4\mu, \frac{1}{3}(4\mu-1))$  design. A typical parallel class consists of  $L, B_1, B_2, B_3$ , where  $L \in \mathcal{L}$  and the  $B_i$  are the three blocks of L in  $\Pi$ .

The verifications for both of the above constructions may be found in Al-Kenani and Mavron [9] in a more general setting.

The constructions are, in an obvious sense, inverses of one another. However, it should be noted that the choice of spread in the second construction is important. Different choices of spread may result in non-isomorphic designs (see Section 3).

It is also interesting to observe that the symmetric design in both constructions is Hadamard, and therefore constructible from a Hadamard matrix. The constructions relate Hadamard matrices to affine 2-designs with class number 4. Their relationship with affine 2-designs with class number 2 is, of course, well-known.

We shall need the following results due to Kantor (see [3, pp.839]) and Dembowski and Wagner (see [3, pp.812]).

**Result 2.3** An affine 2-design of class number m is isomorphic to the design of points and hyperplanes of some affine geometry AG(n,m) or to the design of points and lines of an affine plane of order m if, and only if, the intersection of any two non-parallel blocks is contained in m + 1 blocks.

**Result 2.4** A symmetric 2- $(v, k, \lambda)$  design is isomorphic to the design of points and hyperplanes of some projective geometry PG(n,m) or to the design of points and lines of a projective plane of order m, where m = (v-1)/k, if, and only if, the intersection of any two distinct blocks is contained in exactly m + 1 distinct blocks (or, dually, every line has exactly m + 1 points).

Given any set  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  of three distinct mutually skew lines in PG(3, 2), there are exactly three transversals to the three lines of X (a *transversal* of X is a line meeting each line of X in a point). The three lines of X form a *regulus* and the three transversals form the *opposite regulus*. Thus, any line spread  $\mathcal{L}$ in PG(3, 2) is *regular* in the sense that any three lines of  $\mathcal{L}$  form a regulus. Moreover, any regulus in PG(3, 2) is contained in a unique line spread of five lines. See Hirschfeld [8] for details of results concerning reguli.

**Definition 2.5** A spread  $\mathcal{L}$  of lines in PG(n, 2),  $n \geq 3$ , is normal if for any two distinct lines in  $\mathcal{L}$  the intersection of all hyperplanes containing both lines contains three further lines of  $\mathcal{L}$ .

In Constructions 2.1 and 2.2, the affine design has m = 4, while the symmetric design has m = 2 and is therefore Hadamard. In what follows, we use the notation  $AG_t(n,q)$  (resp.  $PG_t(n,q)$ ) for the design having as points and blocks the points and t-dimensional subspaces of AG(n,q) (resp. PG(n,q)). The aim of this section is to prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.6** With the notation of Constructions 2.1 and 2.2, the following statements are equivalent:

(a)  $\Gamma$  is isomorphic to the design of points and hyperplanes  $AG_{n-1}(n, 4)$  of the affine geometry AG(n, 4), where  $n \geq 2$ .

(b)  $\Pi$  is isomorphic to the design of points and hyperplanes  $PG_{2n-2}(2n-1,2)$ of the projective geometry PG(2n-1,2), where  $n \geq 2$ . The line spread  $\mathcal{L}$  in the dual  $\Pi^*$  of  $\Pi$  is normal.

The proof proceeds through a series of lemmas.

**Lemma 2.7** Let  $\Gamma$  be the design  $AG_{n-1}(n, 4)$ , where  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $A = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4\}$  and  $B = \{B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4\}$  be distinct parallel classes of  $\Gamma$ . Let  $\Delta$  be the design whose points are the sixteen affine subspaces  $A_i \cap B_j$  (i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4) and whose blocks are the hyperplanes of  $\Gamma$  parallel to these subspaces. Then  $\Delta$  is isomorphic to the affine plane  $AG_1(2, 4)$  of order 4.

Moreover, if  $i, j \in \{2, 3, 4\}$ , the points  $A_1 \cap B_1$ ,  $A_i \cap B_1$ ,  $A_1 \cap B_j$  and  $A_i \cap B_j$ are the four points of a subplane  $\Delta_0$  of order 2 whose parallelism is induced by that of  $\Gamma$ .

**PROOF.** The proof is straightforward and is omitted.

**Lemma 2.8** Let  $\Gamma$  be the design  $AG_{n-1}(n, 4)$ , where  $n \geq 2$  and let  $\Pi$  be constructed as in Construction 2.1. Then  $\Pi$ , and hence  $\Pi^*$  also, is isomorphic to  $PG_{2n-2}(2n-1,2)$ . The spread  $\mathcal{L}$  is a normal line spread of  $\Pi^*$ . Furthermore, given any two distinct lines of  $\mathcal{L}$ , the intersection of all hyperplanes of  $\Pi^*$ containing them is a 3-dimensional subspace on which  $\mathcal{L}$  induces a spread of five lines.

PROOF. With the notation of Lemma 2.7, given the two non-parallel blocks  $A \cup A_i$  and  $B \cup B_j$  of  $\Pi$ , where  $w \in A \cap B$ , let  $C \cup C_k$  be the unique block of  $\Gamma$  containing the two points  $A_1 \cap B_1$  and  $A_i \cap B_j$  of  $\Delta_0$ , where  $w \in C$ . Then C contains  $A \cap B$  and  $C_k$  contains  $A_i \cap B_j$ .

It follows that in  $\Pi$  the intersection of any two distinct blocks is contained in a third block. So  $\Pi \cong PG_{2n-2}(2n-1,2)$  by Result 2.4. This proves the first part of the lemma.

Let  $L_A$  and  $L_B$  be distinct lines of the line spread  $\mathcal{L}$ , where  $L_A = \{A \cup A_1 - \{w\}, A \cup A_2 - \{w\}, A \cup A_3 - \{w\}\}, L_B = \{B \cup B_1 - \{w\}, B \cup B_2 - \{w\}, B \cup B_3 - \{w\}\}, \{A, A_1, A_2, A_3\}$  and  $\{B, B_1, B_2, B_3\}$  are parallel classes of  $\Gamma$  and  $w \in A \cap B$ .

A point  $P \neq w$  in  $\Gamma$  is on  $L_A$  and  $L_B$ , considered as blocks of  $\Gamma$ , if, and only if, P, considered as a hyperplane of  $\Pi^*$ , contains both  $L_A$  and  $L_B$ , considered as lines of the line spread  $\mathcal{L}$  of  $\Pi^*$  or, equivalently, P, as a point of  $\Pi$ , is on all blocks of  $L_A$  and  $L_B$ . That is,  $P \in A \cap B$  in  $\Gamma$  and  $P \neq w$ .

Now, from Lemma 2.7, since  $\Delta$  is an affine plane of order 4, there are exactly five hyperplanes X of  $\Gamma$  containing  $A \cap B$ . A and B are two of the five hyperplanes. So, in  $\Pi^*$ , the five lines  $L_X$  are in the unique subspace S which is the intersection of all hyperplanes containing  $L_A$  and  $L_B$ . Hence, the line spread  $\mathcal{L}$  of  $\Pi^*$  is normal.

**Lemma 2.9** Let  $\Pi$  be the design  $PG_{2n-2}(2n-1,2)$  and suppose that  $\mathcal{L}$  is a normal line spread of  $\Pi^*$ . Let A and B be points of  $\Pi^*$  on different lines of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Then the intersection of all hyperplanes of  $\Pi^*$  that contain A and B but neither of the lines of  $\mathcal{L}$  on A and B consists of exactly five points of  $\Pi^*$ .

PROOF. Let A and B be points of  $\Pi$  on lines a and b, respectively, of  $\mathcal{L}$ , where  $a \neq b$ . Let A also represent the homogeneous coordinates of A in  $\Pi^* \cong PG_{2n-2}(2n-1,2)$  and similarly for the other points of  $\Pi^*$ .

Then C = A + B is the third point of the line AB and C is on the line c of  $\mathcal{L}$ , say. Let S be the 3-dimensional subspace of  $\Pi^*$  generated by the lines a and b.

Thus, a, b and c form a regulus in  $S \cong PG_2(3, 2)$  Let the opposite regulus of three lines be  $\{A, B, C\}$ ,  $\{A', B', C'\}$  and  $\{A'', B'', C''\}$ . Now, if d and e denote the other two lines in the line spread of S induced by  $\mathcal{L}$  containing a, b and c (see Lemma 2.8), then it is not difficult to see, without loss of generality, that  $d = \{A + B', B + C', C + A'\}, e = \{A + C', B + A', C + B'\}$ , and the plane containing the lines c and AB meets d at B + C' and meets e at A + C'.

Any hyperplane H of  $\Pi^*$  containing the line AB but neither a nor b must meet S in a plane containing A, B and C but neither A' nor B'. The intersection of H with d is the point B + C'; for suppose for instance that A + B' is on H. Then H will contain A + A + B' = B' as well as B. H will therefore contain b, which is a contradiction. The other cases are dealt with similarly. By a similar argument, we can show that H meets e at the point A + C'.

It follows that the intersection of all hyperplanes of  $\Pi^*$  containing A and B but neither a nor b consists of the five points A, B, C, A + C' and B + C'. This completes the proof.

**Remark 2.10** With the notation of the proof of Lemma 2.9, it follows that H contains the point A + (A + C') = C'. Since C is also on H, H must contain the line c. Therefore, A + C' and B + C' are the points where the plane containing the lines AB and c meets e and d, respectively.

Now we can prove Theorem 2.6.

PROOF OF THEOREM 2.6. That (a) implies (b) follows immediately from Lemma 2.8.

We prove that (b) implies (a). Assume that  $\Pi$  is isomorphic to  $PG_{2n-2}(2n-1,2)$  with  $n \geq 2$  and that  $\mathcal{L}$  is a normal line spread of  $\Pi^*$ .

We show that in the corresponding affine design  $\Gamma$ , the intersection of two non-parallel blocks is contained in exactly five blocks. Hence, by Result 2.3, it will follow that (b) implies (a).

Let A and B be distinct non-parallel blocks of  $\Gamma$ .

**Case 1**:  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $A \neq B$ .

From Lemma 2.8 and the fact that  $\mathcal{L}$  is normal, it follows that the intersection of all hyperplanes of  $\Pi^*$  containing A and B contains three further lines of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Thus, in  $\Gamma$  these correspond to three further blocks (apart from A and B) containing  $A \cap B$ .

**Case 2**:  $A \in \mathcal{L}, B \in \mathcal{B}$  and, in  $\Pi, B \notin A$ . Then a point P in  $\Gamma$  is on A and B if, and only if, P as a hyperplane in  $\Pi^*$  contains A and meets the line L of  $\mathcal{L}$  on B in B only.

In  $\Pi^*$ , let z be the plane containing the line A and the point B. Then, z cannot contain L, for otherwise A and L would meet. So, z meets L only at B.

There are five lines of  $\mathcal{L}$  in the 3-dimensional subspace of  $\Pi^*$  generated by A and L; denote them by A, L,  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_3$ . For each i, the plane z does not contain  $L_i$  since A and  $L_i$  do not meet. Hence, z meets  $L_i$  in a single point  $Y_i$ , say, (i = 1, 2, 3).

Any hyperplane H of  $\Pi^*$  containing the line A and the point B must contain the plane z. If H does not contain L then H cannot contain any of  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  or  $L_3$ , by the definition of a normal line spread since H contains A.

It follows that the intersection of all hyperplanes containing A and meeting L only at B consists of the line A and the four points B,  $Y_1$ ,  $Y_2$  and  $Y_3$ . Hence, in  $\Gamma$  there are five blocks containing the intersection of A and B.

**Case 3**:  $A, B \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $A \neq B$ .

From Lemma 2.9, it follows that there are exactly five blocks of  $\Gamma$  containing the intersection of A and B. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.6.

Next we consider the issue of isomorphism arising from the constructions. Recall that a *dilatation*  $\alpha$  of an affine design is an automorphism fixing every parallel class (as a set). It is *central* if it fixes a point, and such a fixed point is called a *centre* of  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha$  is central and is not the trivial automorphism, then  $\alpha$  fixes a unique point. The proofs of the following theorem and corollary are routine and are omitted.

**Theorem 2.11** With the notation of Constructions 2.1 and 2.2, extended in the obvious way, let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma'$  be affine 2- $(16\mu, 4\mu, \frac{1}{3}(4\mu - 1))$  designs and let  $\Pi$ and  $\Pi'$  be the corresponding symmetric Hadamard 2- $(16\mu - 1, 8\mu - 1, 4\mu - 1)$ designs. Then there is an isomorphism  $\Gamma \to \Gamma'$  mapping w to w' if, and only if, there is an isomorphism  $\Pi \to \Pi'$  mapping the spread  $\mathcal{L}$  onto the spread  $\mathcal{L}'$ (as sets).

**Corollary 2.12** Any automorphism of  $\Gamma$  fixing the point w induces a unique automorphism  $\alpha$  of  $\Pi$  fixing  $\mathcal{L}$  as a set, and conversely,  $\alpha$  is a central dilatation of  $\Gamma$  with centre w if, and only if,  $\alpha$  fixes each line in  $\mathcal{L}$ .

## **3** Line spreads in PG(5,2) and related affine designs

In this section, we give some computational results concerning line spreads in PG(5,2) and the related affine 2-(64, 16, 5) designs.

As proved in the preceding section, a normal line spread in PG(5,2) yields an affine 2-(64, 16, 5) design that is isomorphic to the classical design  $AG_2(3,4)$  of points and planes in AG(3,4). However, there are many projectively inequivalent line spreads that produce non-isomorphic affine designs with these parameters.

The most interesting among these designs is a non-geometric design  $\mathcal{D}$  that has incidence matrix of the same 2-rank as the classical design  $AG_2(3, 4)$ . This design provides a counter-example to the well-known Hamada conjecture [6], which states that the design of the points and subspaces of a given dimension in  $AG(n, p^m)$  (p a prime) is characterized as having the minimum p-rank of its incidence matrix amongst those designs of the same parameters (see [1, p.134]). This design  $\mathcal{D}$  was originally discovered recently in [7] as a design that contains a symmetric subnet invariant under an elementary Abelian group of order four. However, this new construction by means of spreads suggests that the same method may be used to find more such examples and to provide some insight into the nature of affine designs of minimum rank.

Here is a short outline of the algorithm used for the computations. The points of PG(5,2) are the 6-bit nonzero (0,1)-vectors ordered lexicographically:

 $\mathbf{1} = 000001, \ \mathbf{2} = 000010, \dots, \mathbf{63} = 111111.$ 

A line in PG(5,2) is a set of three linearly dependent points (as vectors in

 $GF(2)^6$ ). There are 651 lines that are listed explicitly in Table 3.2. We define a graph G having the 651 lines as vertices, where two vertices are adjacent if the corresponding lines are disjoint. A line spread in PG(5,2) is just a 21clique in G. Using a clique finding program written by the third author, over 30,000 different line spreads were found. Automorphism group considerations suggest that this collection of line spreads is just a small portion of the total number of line spreads in PG(5,2). Because of their huge number, we did not attempt to classify these 30,000 spreads up to a projective equivalence. Instead, we classified the resulting affine 2-(64, 16, 5) designs according to the 2-rank of their incidence matrices (clearly, affine designs of different 2-rank correspond to projectively inequivalent spreads).

Affine designs were found of all 2-ranks in the range from 16 to 22. Examples of line spreads that yield designs for each rank between 16 and 22 are listed in Table 3.3. In that table, a line spread is a set of 21 labels of lines as in Table 3.2.

The line spread No. 1 is a normal spread, and the corresponding affine design is isomorphic to the classical design  $AG_2(3, 4)$ . The spread No. 2 yields a non-geometric (i.e. not isomorphic to  $AG_2(3, 4)$ ) affine design of (supposedly) minimum 2-rank 16. This design can be distinguished from the design  $AG_2(3, 4)$  by the order of its full automorphism group, 368640. This exceptional design is isomorphic to the design obtained from net 36 in [7], with a compete list of blocks available at www.math.mtu.edu/~tonchev/Z2Z2nets.

**Remark 3.1** In [7], two exceptional non-geometric affine 2-(64, 16, 5) designs of 2-rank 16 were found. One of these two designs yields a Hadamard design which is not isomorphic to the classical design  $PG_4(5, 2)$ . It cannot therefore be obtained from line spreads in PG(5, 2).

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The authors also wish to acknowledge an observation by W. M. Kantor that Corollary 2.12 implies an elementary embedding of  $\Gamma L(n, 4)$  into GL(2n, 2)and that this can be used to show that the line spread of Theorem 2.6 is unique up to projective equivalence. He also informed us of a nice construction for the normal line spread in the dual of the symmetric design  $\Pi$  of the points and hyperplanes of PG(2n - 1, 2), which is due to R. C. Bose (see [4], for example).

Consider the *n*-dimensional vector space  $V_n(4)$  over GF(4). Then  $V_n(4)$  can also be considered as a 2*n*-dimensional vector space  $V_{2n}(2)$  over GF(2). To each hyperplane H of  $V_{2n}(2)$  (i.e. a (2n - 1)-dimensional subspace) we can associate a triple of hyperplanes aH,  $a \in GF(4)^*$ , whose intersection is a hyperplane of  $V_n(4)$ . Conversely, any hyperplane of  $V_n(4)$  arises in this way.

Considering  $\Pi$  as the design whose points and blocks are the 1-dimensional and (2n - 1)-dimensional subspaces, respectively, of  $V_{2n}(2)$ , it is easy to see that each of the triples of hyperplanes described above is a line of size 3 in  $\Pi^*$ and the set of such lines is a normal line spread in  $\Pi^*$ .

Kantor also drew our attention to a paper by Lunardon [5] on normal spreads, which gives a very good account of their applications, and a paper by Barlotti and Cofman [2]. A proof that statement (b) implies statement (a) in Theorem 2.6 is implicit in [2] and uses the fact that PG(2m - 1, q) may be regarded as a hyperplane of PG(2m, q).

Our approach in this paper and our proofs, which are relatively self-contained, are in contrast to those of [2] and [5] more synthetic in character. Moreover, we have shown that the Rahilly construction generalizes to a construction in design theory which, in the geometric case, is essentially the Bose construction.

Table 3.2 Lines in PG(5,2)

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1	1	2	3	2	1	4	5	3	1	6	7	4	1	8	9	5	1	10	11	6	1	12	13
7	1	14	15	8	1	16	17	9	1	18	19	10	1	20	21	11	1	22	23	12	1	24	25
13	1	26	27	14	1	28	29	15	1	30	31	16	1	32	33	17	1	34	35	18	1	36	37
19	1	38	39	20	1	40	41	21	1	42	43	22	1	44	45	23	1	46	47	24	1	48	49
25	1	50	51	26	1	52	53	27	1	54	55	28	1	56	57	29	1	58	59	30	1	60	61
31	1	62	63	32	2	4	6	33	2	5	7	34	2	8	10	35	2	9	11	36	2	12	14
37	2	13	15	38	2	16	18	39	2	17	19	40	2	20	22	41	2	21	23	42	2	24	26
43	2	25	27	44	2	28	30	45	2	29	31	46	2	32	34	47	2	33	35	48	2	36	38
49	2	37	39	50	2	40	42	51	2	41	43	52	2	44	46	53	2	45	47	54	2	48	50
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61	2	61	63	62	3	4	7	63	3	5	6	64	3	8	11	65	3	9	10	66	3	12	15
67	3	13	14	68	3	16	19	69	3	17	18	70	3	20	23	71	3	21	22	72	3	24	27
73	3	25	26	74	3	28	31	75	3	29	30	76	3	32	35	77	3	33	34	78	3	36	39
79	3	37	38	80	3	40	43	81	3	41	42	82	3	44	47	83	3	45	46	84	3	48	51
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109	4	41	45	110	4	42	46	111	4	43	47	112	4	48	52	113	4	49	53	114	4	50	54
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181	7	17	22	182	7	18	21	183	$\overline{7}$	19	20	184	7	24	31	185	7	25	30	186	7	26	29
187	7	27	28	188	7	32	39	189	$\overline{7}$	33	38	190	$\overline{7}$	34	37	191	7	35	36	192	7	40	47
193	7	41	46	194	7	42	45	195	$\overline{7}$	43	44	196	7	48	55	197	7	49	54	198	7	50	53
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								261								263				264			
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373	15	17	30	374	15	18	29	375	15	19	28	376	15	20	27	377	15	21	26	378	15	22	25
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385	15	37	42	386	15	38	41	387	15	39	40	388	15	48	63	389	15	49	62	390	15	50	61
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																425							
																431							
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559	26	35	57	560	26	36	62	561	26	37	63	562	26	38	60	563	26	39	61	564	26	40	50
565	26	41	51	566	26	42	48	567	26	43	49	568	26	44	54	569	26	45	55	570	26	46	52
571	26	47	53	572	27	32	59	573	27	33	58	574	27	34	57	575	27	35	56	576	27	36	63
577	27	37	62	578	27	38	61	579	27	39	60	580	27	40	51	581	27	41	50	582	27	42	49
583	27	43	48	584	27	44	55	585	27	45	54	586	27	46	53	587	27	47	52	588	28	32	60
589	28	33	61	590	28	34	62	591	28	35	63	592	28	36	56	593	28	37	57	594	28	38	58
595	28	39	59	596	28	40	52	597	28	41	53	598	28	42	54	599	28	43	55	600	28	44	48
601	28	45	49	602	28	46	50	603	28	47	51	604	29	32	61	605	29	33	60	606	29	34	63
607	29	35	62	608	29	36	57	609	29	37	56	610	29	38	59	611	29	39	58	612	29	40	53
613	29	41	52	614	29	42	55	615	29	43	54	616	29	44	49	617	29	45	48	618	29	46	51
619	29	47	50	620	30	32	62	621	30	33	63	622	30	34	60	623	30	35	61	624	30	36	58
625	30	37	59	626	30	38	56	627	30	39	57	628	30	40	54	629	30	41	55	630	30	42	52
631	30	43	53	632	30	44	50	633	30	45	51	634	30	46	48	635	30	47	49	636	31	32	63
637	31	33	62	638	31	34	61	639	31	35	60	640	31	36	59	641	31	37	58	642	31	38	57
643	31	39	56	644	31	40	55	645	31	41	54	646	31	42	53	647	31	43	52	648	31	44	51
649	31	45	50	650	31	46	49	651	31	47	48												
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No.	Line spread	2-rank
1	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	16
2	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	16
3	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	17
4	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	18

**Table 3.3** Affine 2-(64, 16, 5) designs from line spreads

No.	Line spread	2-rank
5	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	19
6	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	20
7	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	21
8	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	22

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