

# *No me amenazas...*

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*(con que ya son todos)*

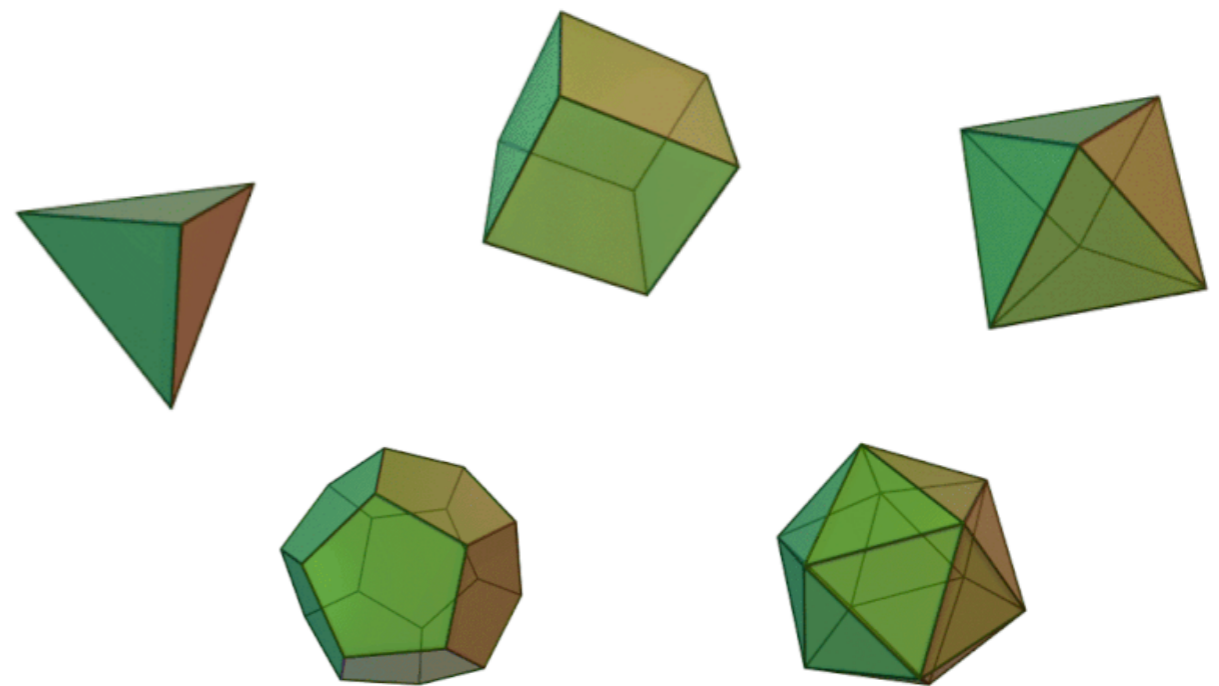
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Seminario de matemáticas  
Fismat - UMSNH  
16 de Noviembre de 2023



**Antonio Montero\***

Universidad de Ljubljana



# Are Your Polyhedra the Same as My Polyhedra?

*Branko Grünbaum*



Branko Grünbaum  
1929 - 2018

## 1 Introduction

“Polyhedron” means different things to different people. There is very little in common between the meaning of the word in topology and in geometry. But even if we confine attention to geometry of the 3-dimensional Euclidean space – as we shall do from now on – “polyhedron” can mean either a solid (as in “Platonic solids”, convex polyhedron, and other contexts), or a surface (such as the polyhedral models constructed from cardboard using “nets”, which were introduced by Albrecht Dürer [17] in 1525, or, in a more modern version, by Aleksandrov [1]), or the 1-dimensional complex consisting of points (“vertices”) and line-segments (“edges”) organized in a suitable way into polygons (“faces”) subject to certain restrictions (“skeletal polyhedra”, diagrams of which have been presented first by Luca Pacioli [44] in 1498 and attributed to Leonardo da Vinci). The last alternative is the least usual one – but it is close to what seems to be the most useful approach to the theory

diagrams of which have been presented first by Luca Pacioli [44] in 1498 and attributed to Leonardo da Vinci). The last alternative is the least usual one – but it is close to what seems to be the most useful approach to the theory of *general* polyhedra. Indeed, it does not restrict faces to be planar, and it makes possible to retrieve the other characterizations in circumstances in which they reasonably apply: If the faces of a “surface” polyhedron are simple polygons, in most cases the polyhedron is unambiguously determined by the boundary circuits of the faces. And if the polyhedron itself is without selfintersections, then the “solid” can be found from the faces. These reasons, as well as some others, seem to warrant the choice of our approach.

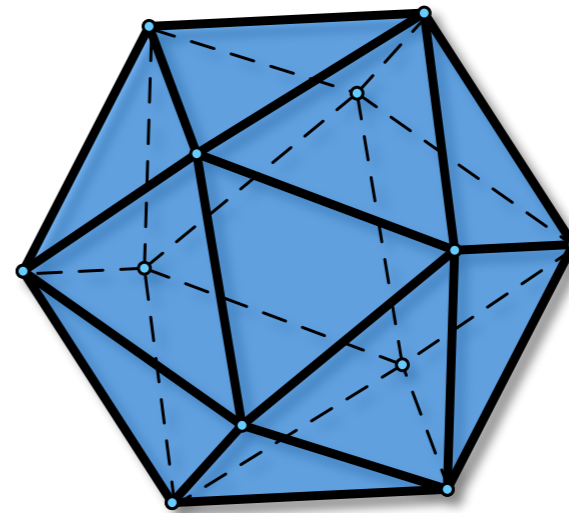
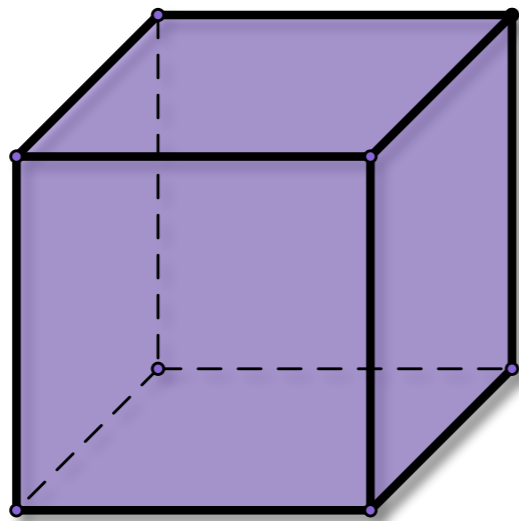
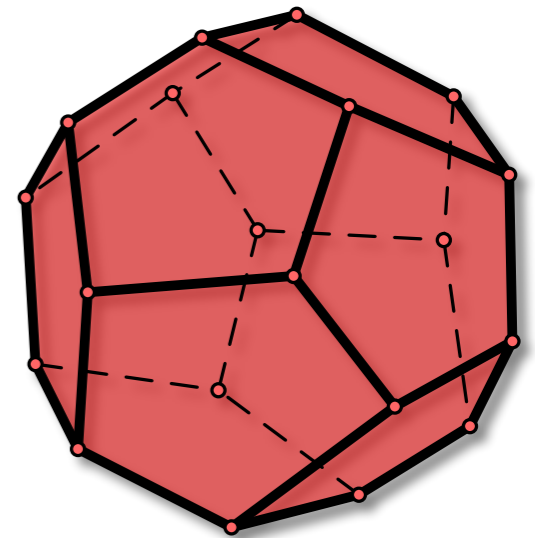
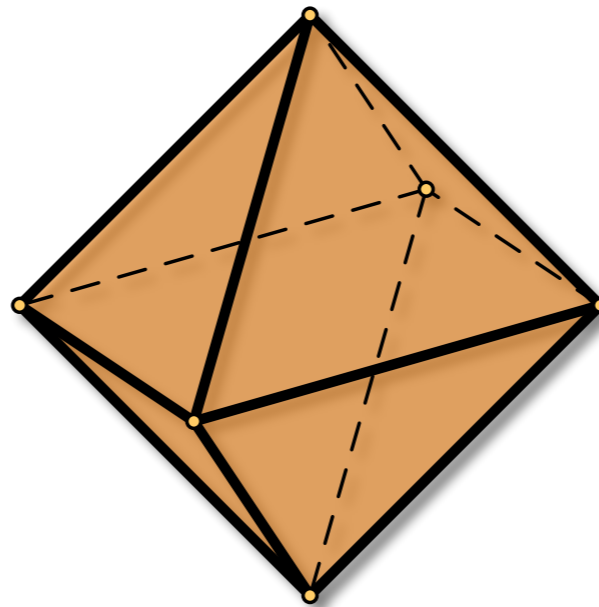
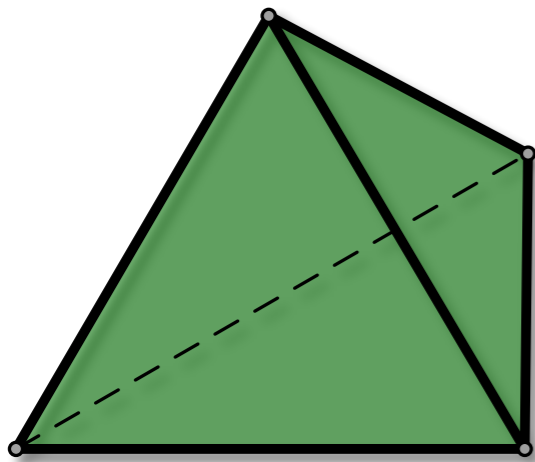
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# Teorema (Elementos de Euclides)

Existen exactamente 5 sólidos platónicos

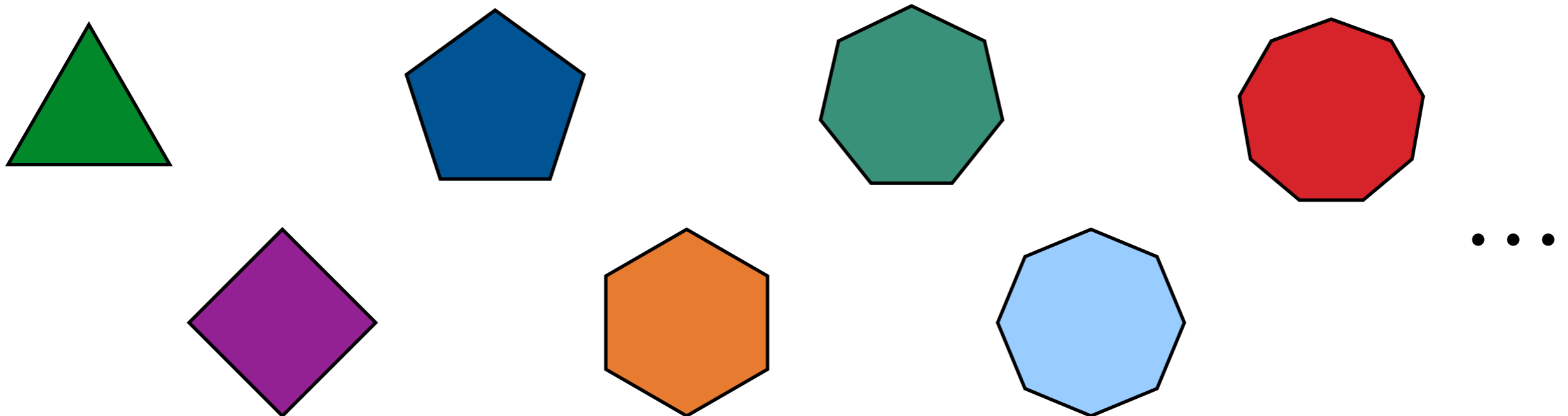


# Teorema (Elementos de Euclides)

Existen exactamente 5 sólidos platónicos

¿Cómo le hacemos para ver que esto es cierto?

- ¿Caras? → Polígonos regulares



## Teorema (Elementos de Euclides)

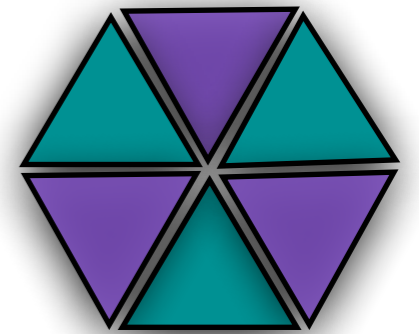
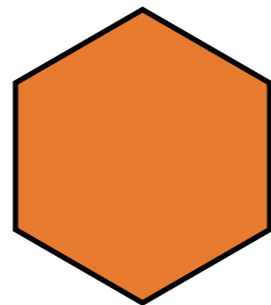
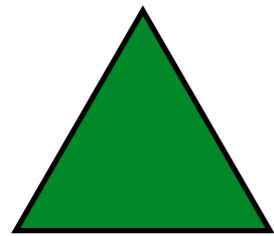
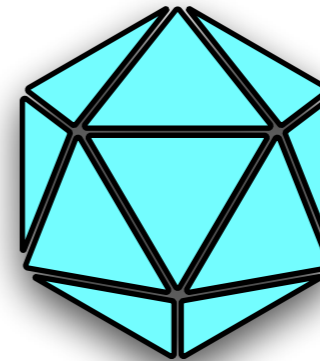
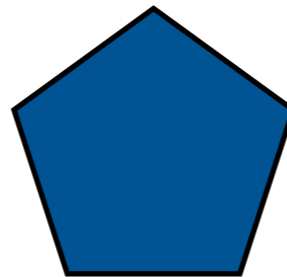
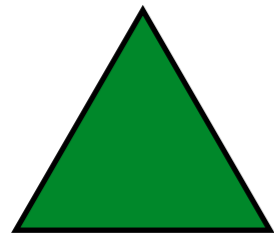
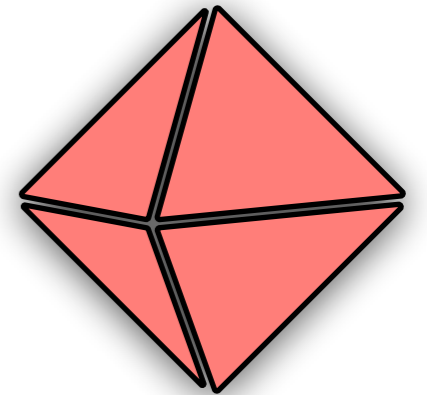
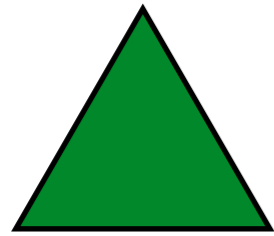
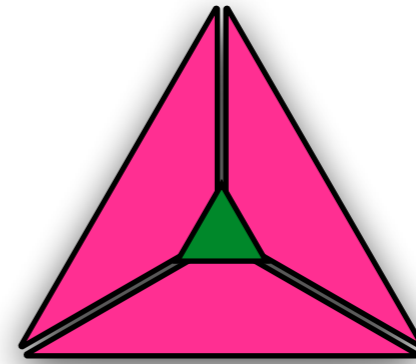
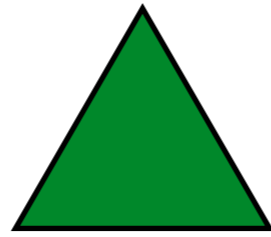
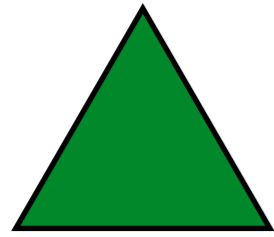
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- ¿Caras? → Polígonos regulares
- ¿Cuántos hay en cada vértice?

Caras

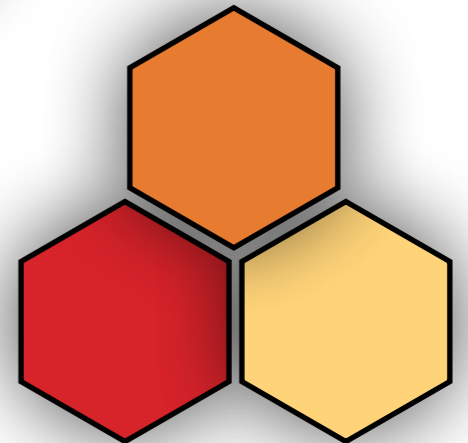
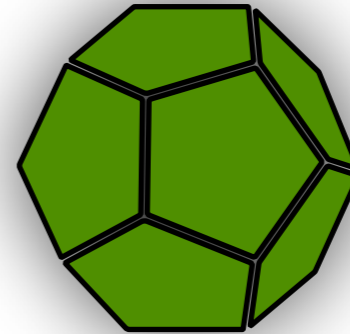
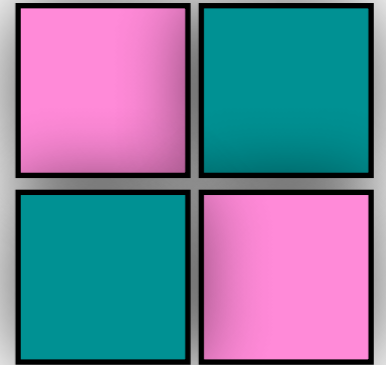
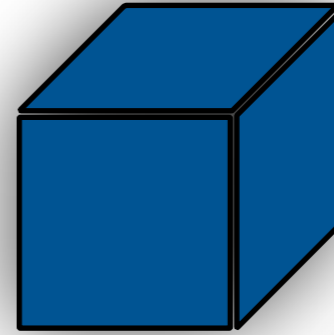
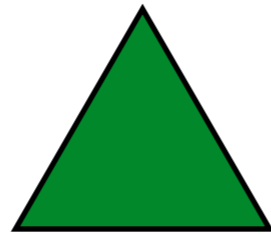
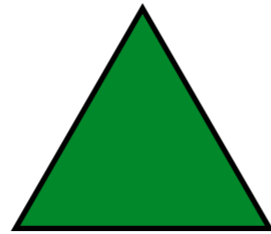
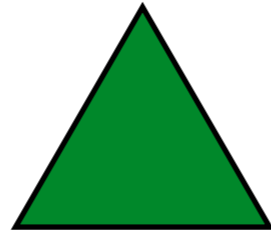
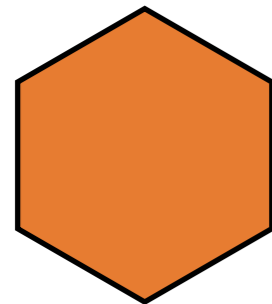
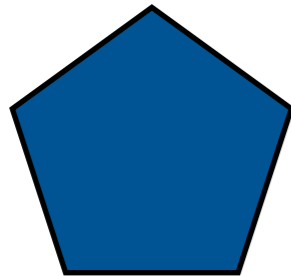
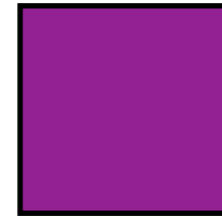
¿Cuántos hay en cada vértice?





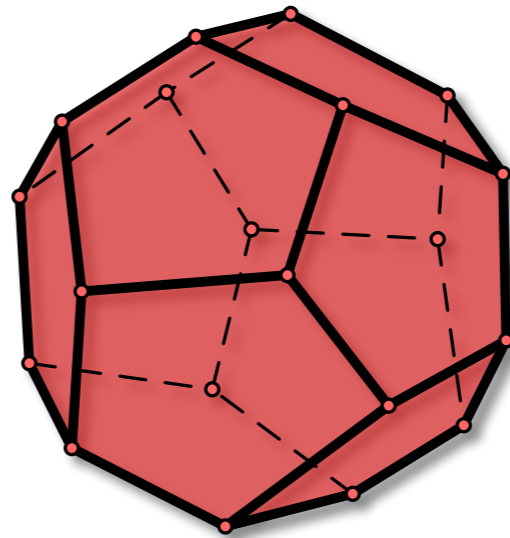
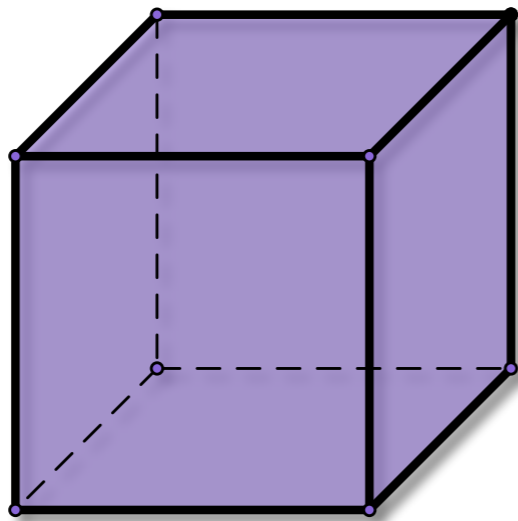
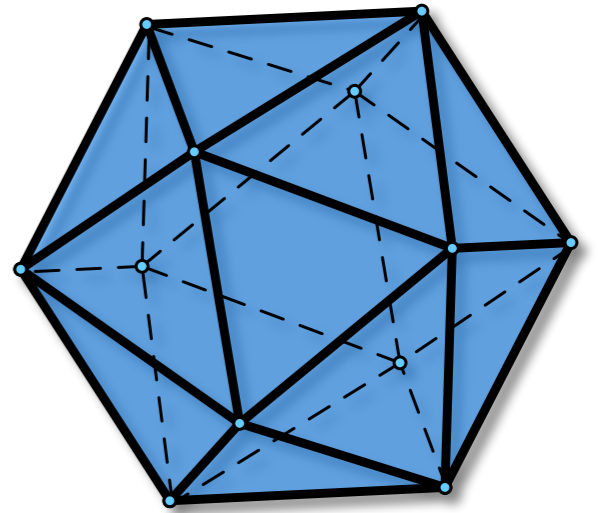
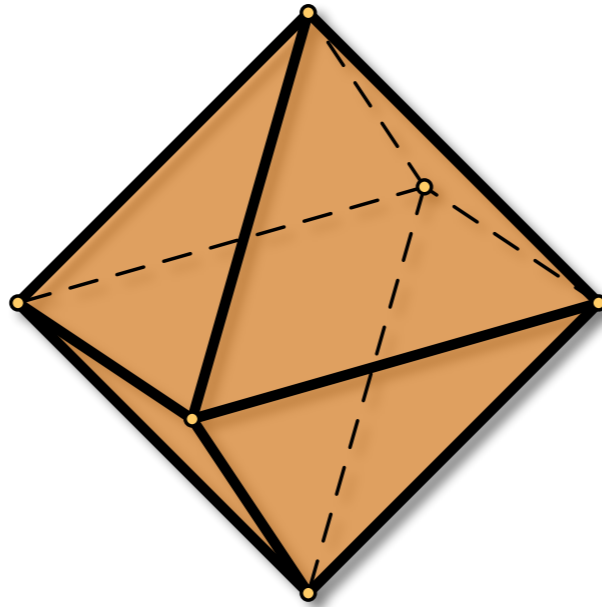
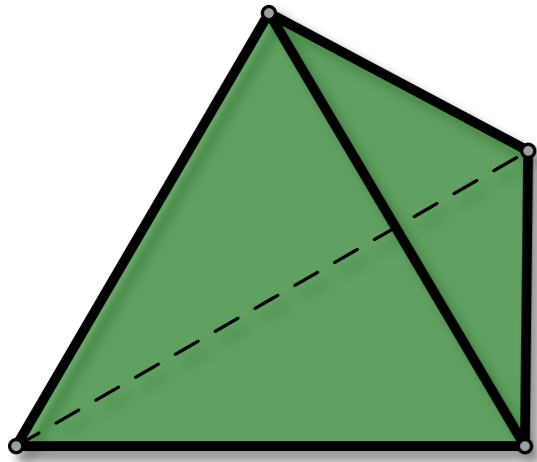
Caras

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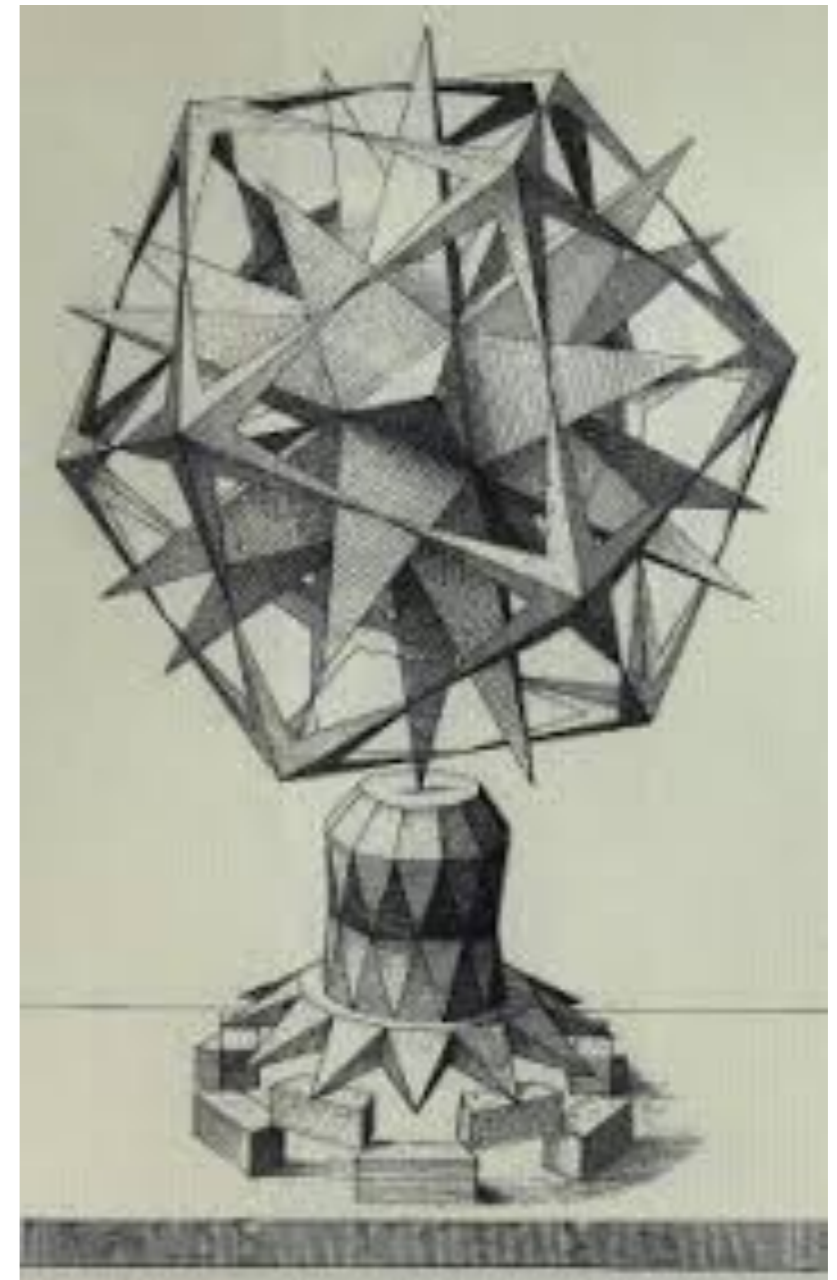
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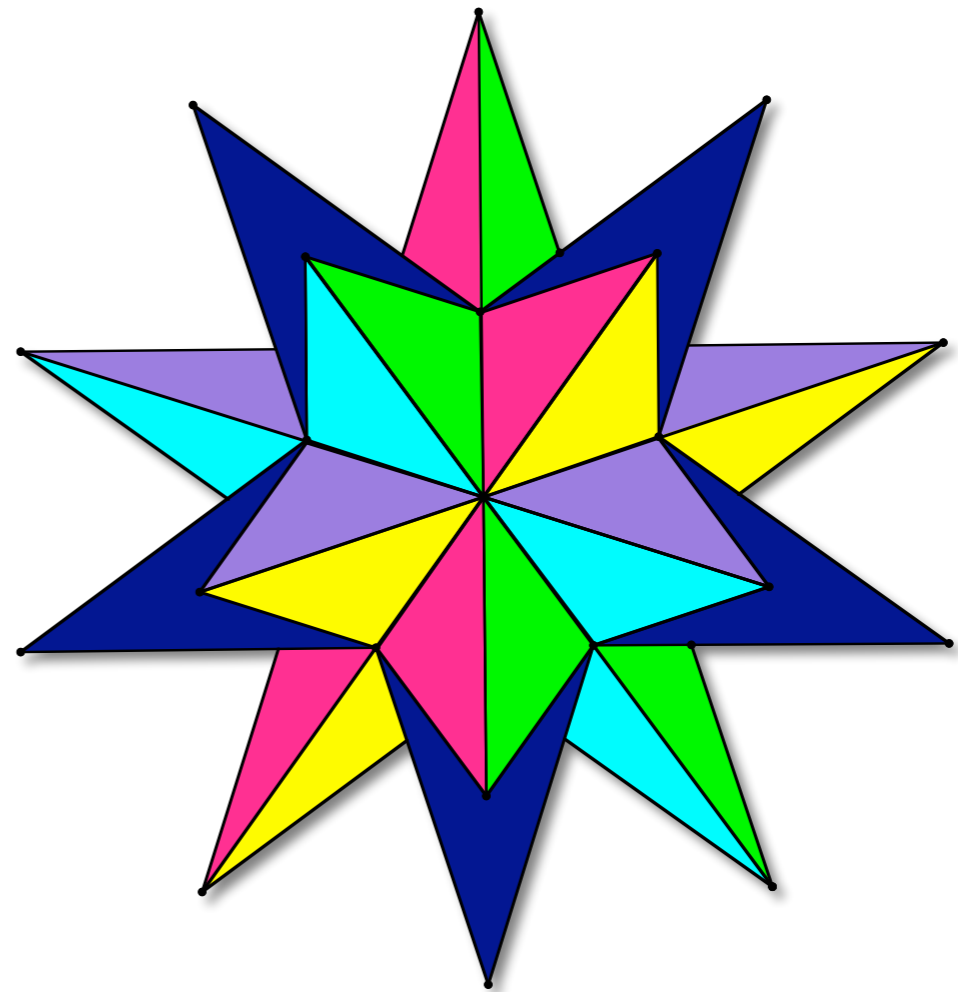
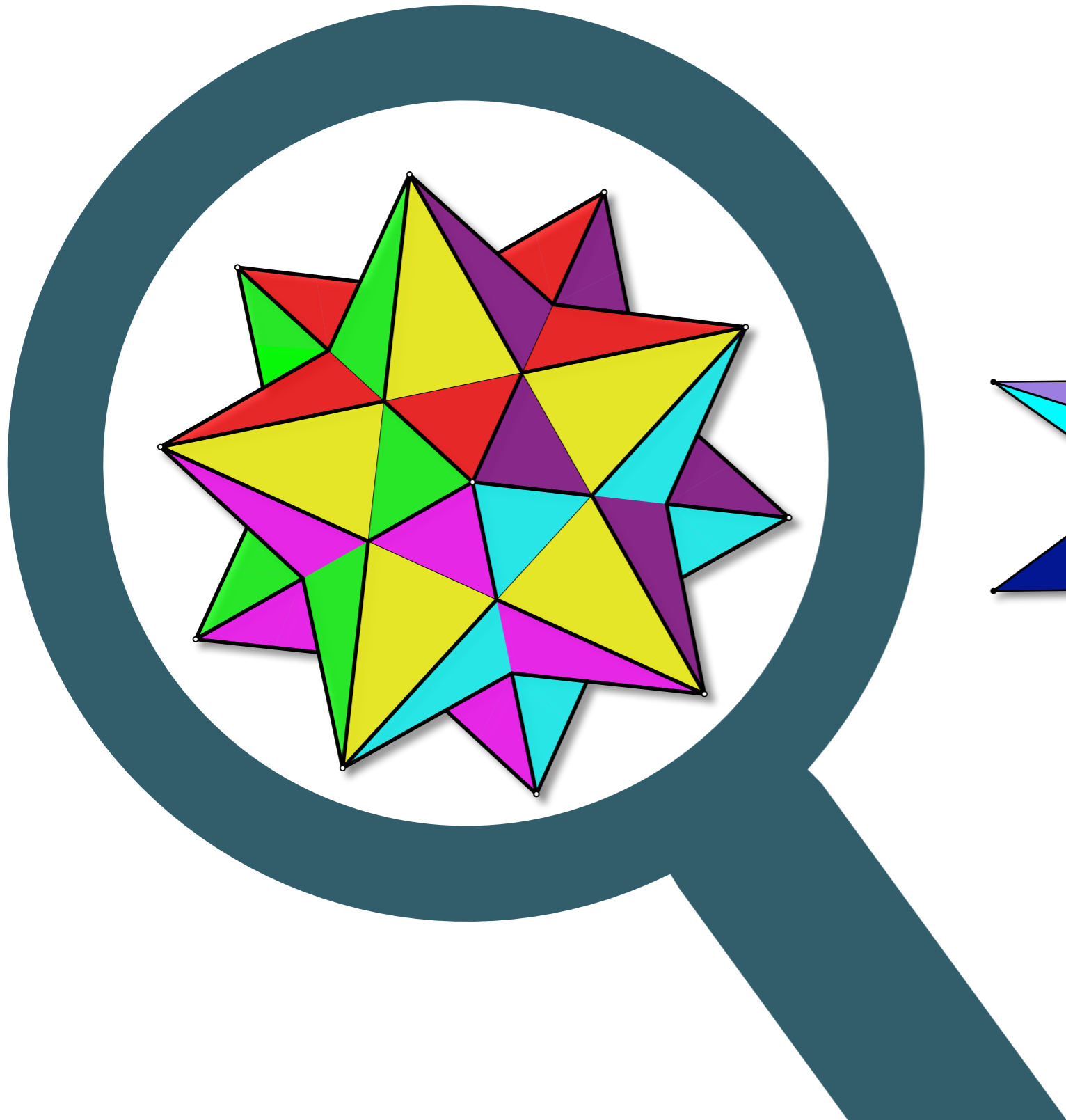


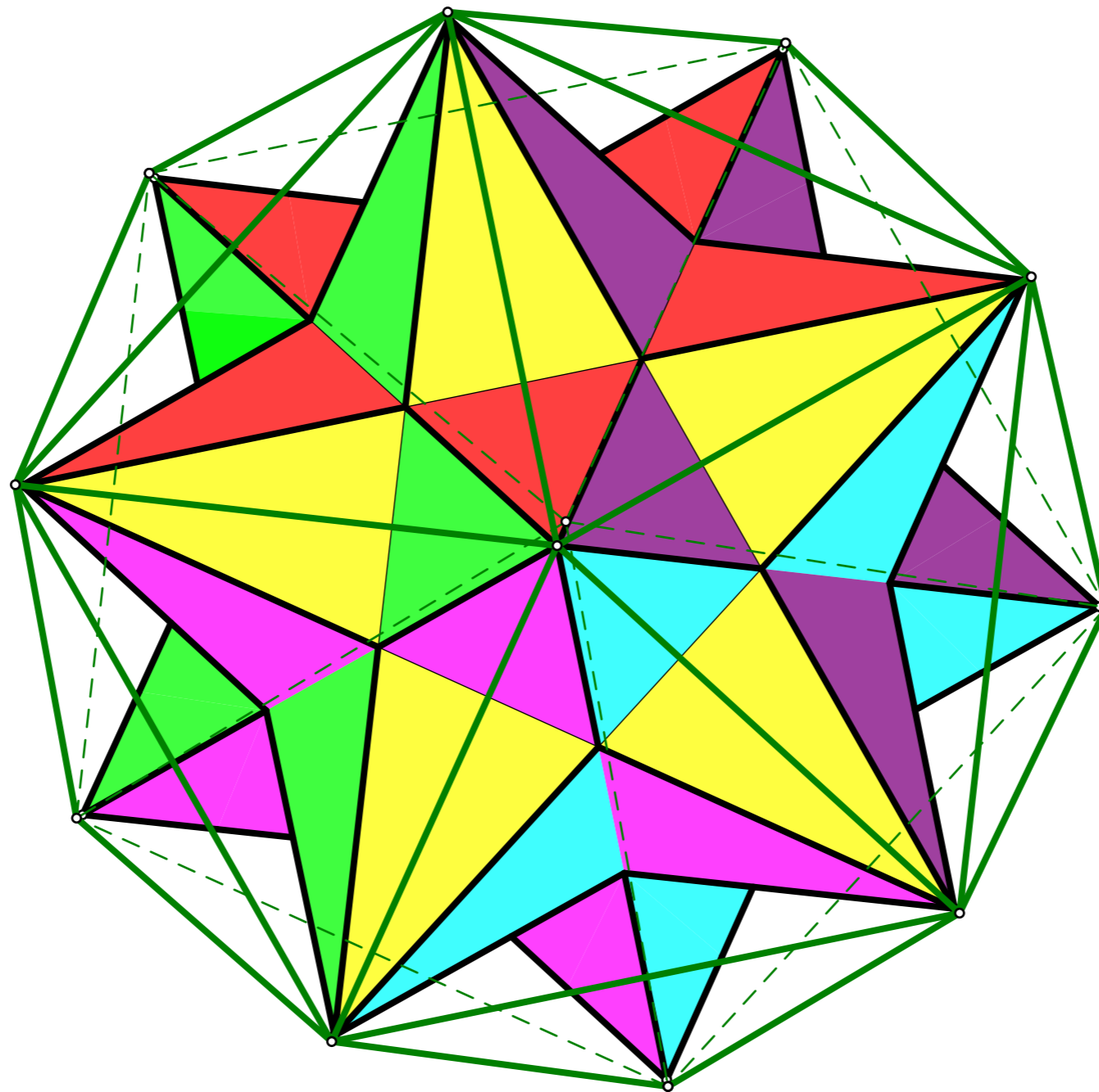
Mosaico en la  
Catedral de San  
Marco, Venecia (Paolo  
Uccello~1425)

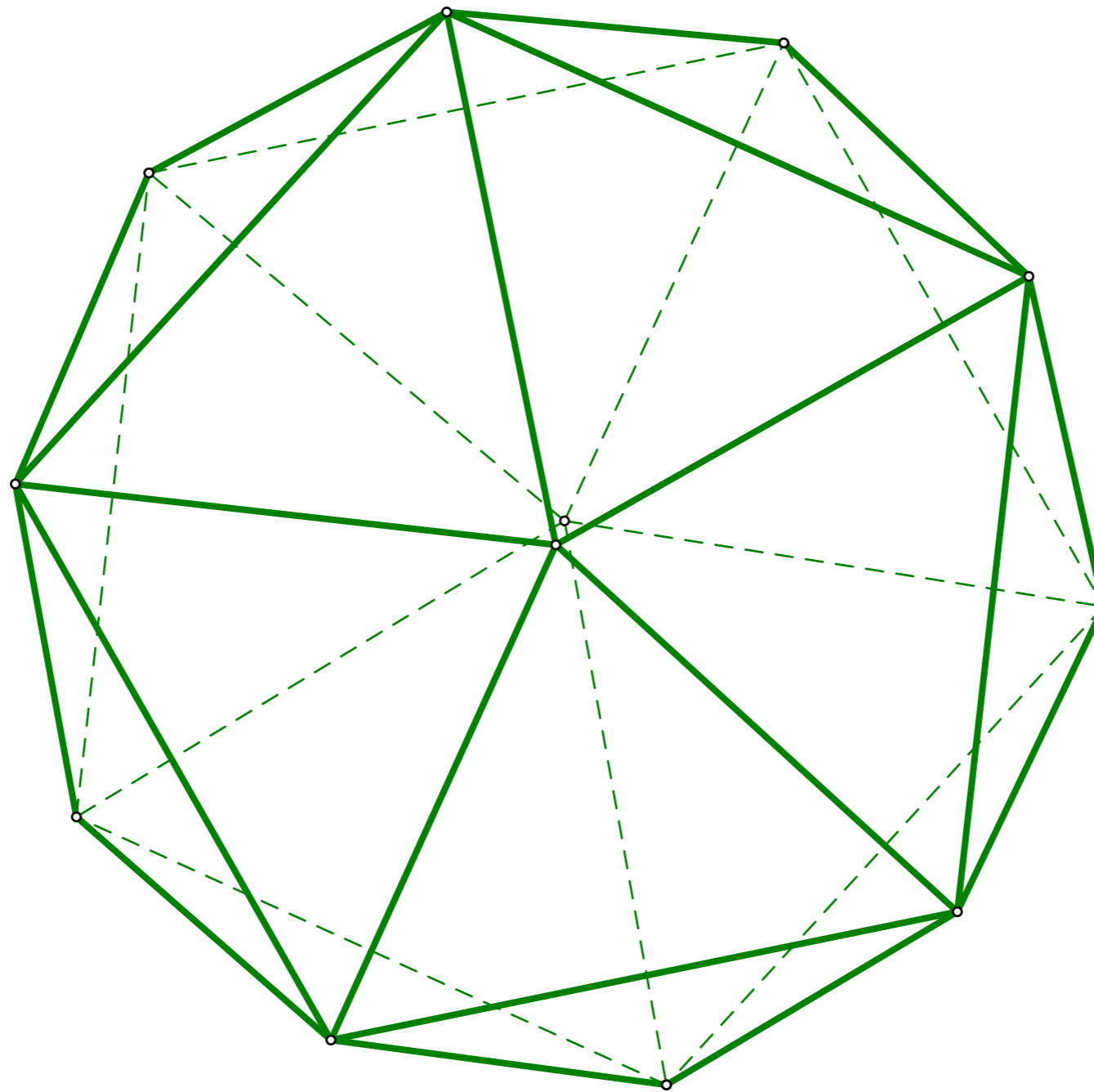
Dibujo de poliedros  
de Wenzel Jamnitzer  
(1505)



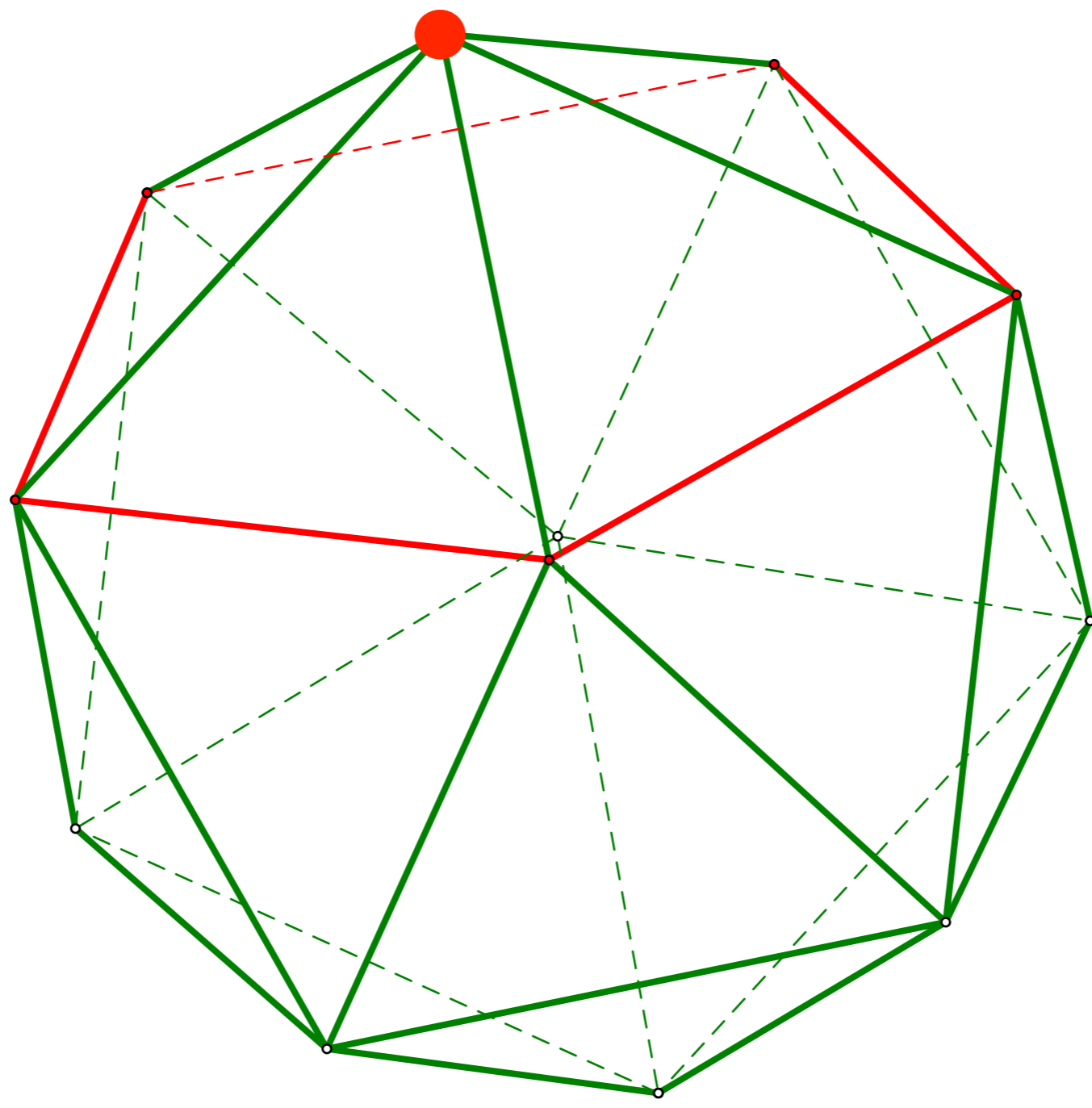
En 1619 Kepler encuentra dos poliedros ¿regulares?:

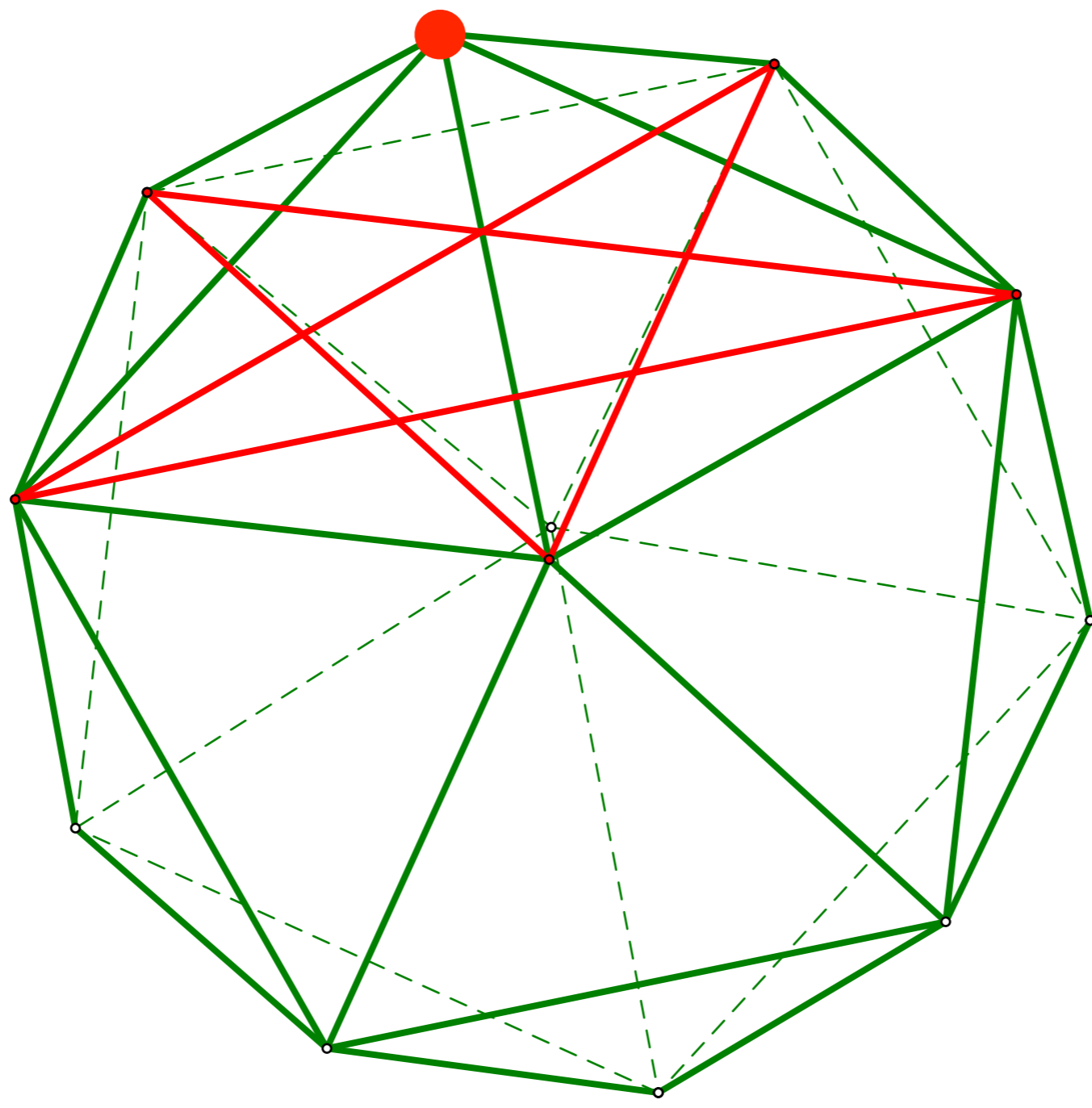


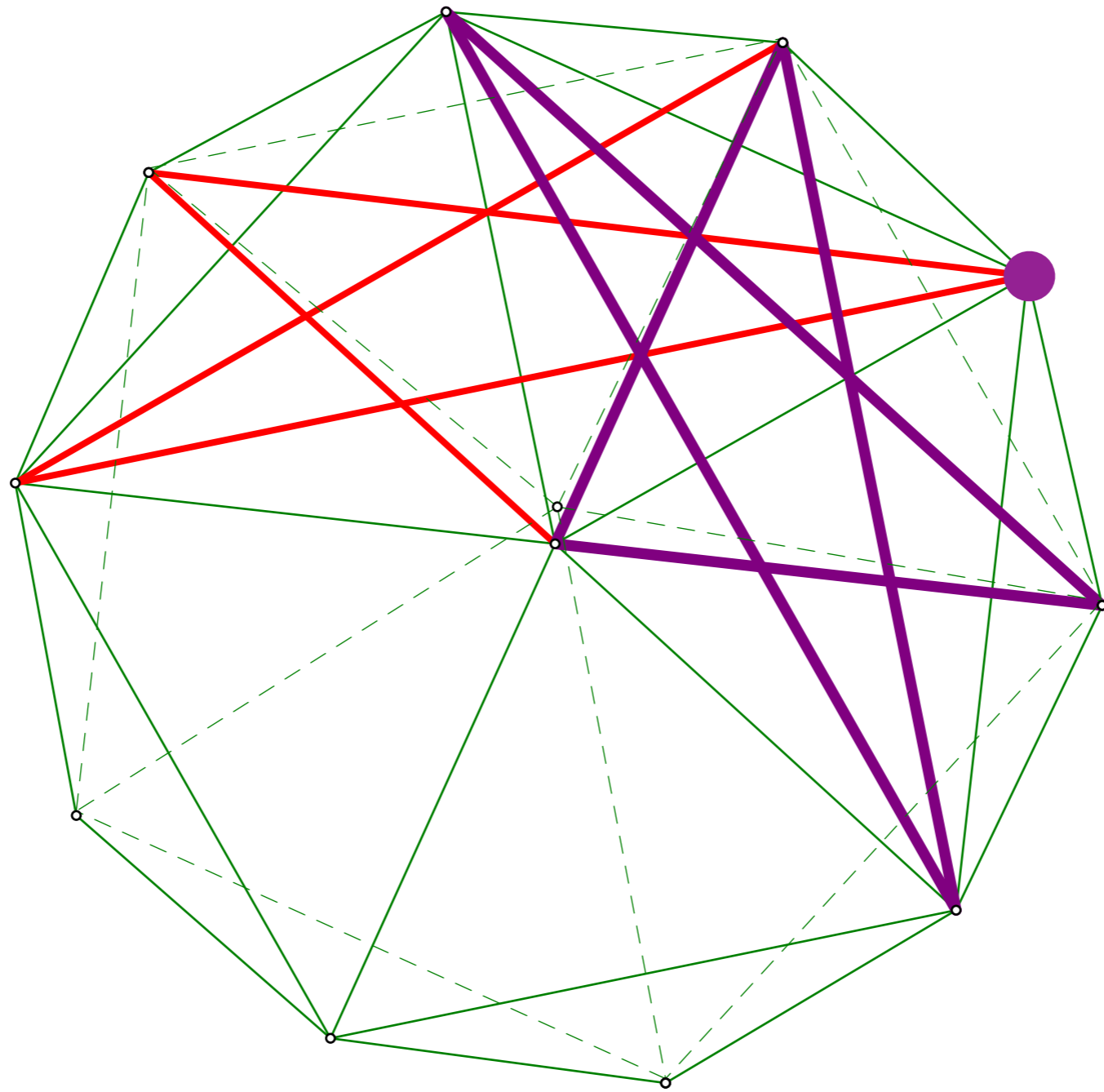


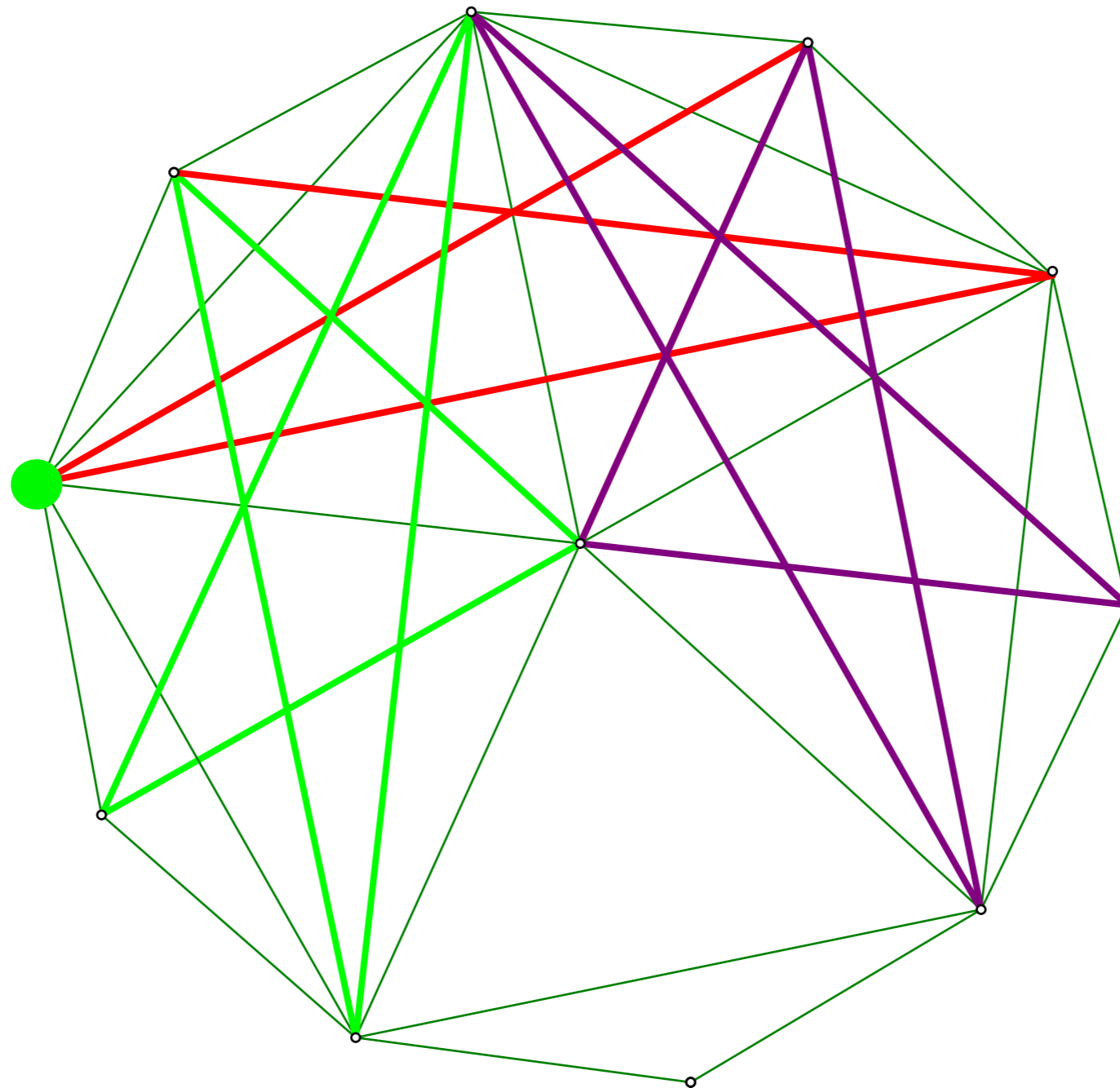


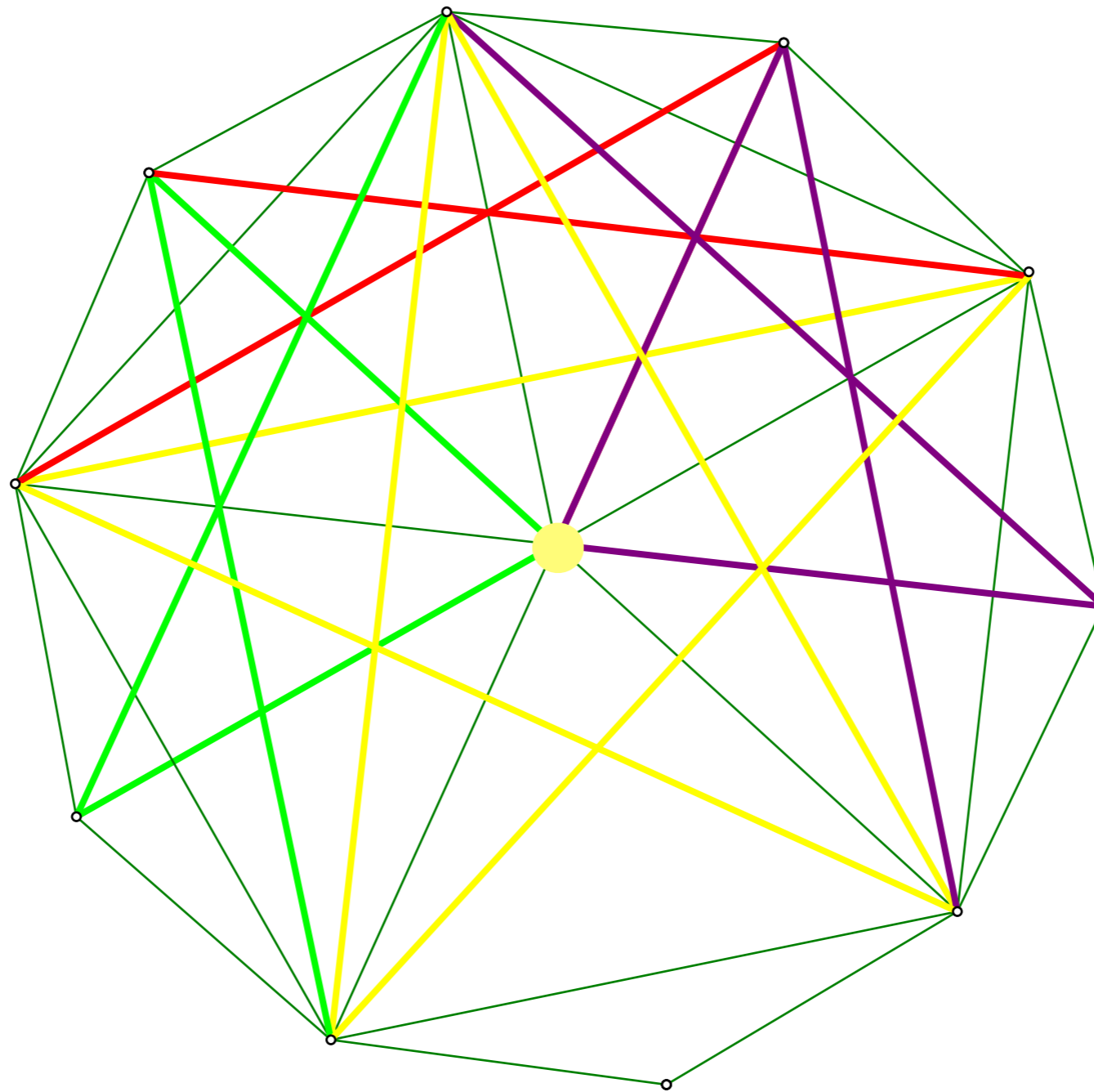


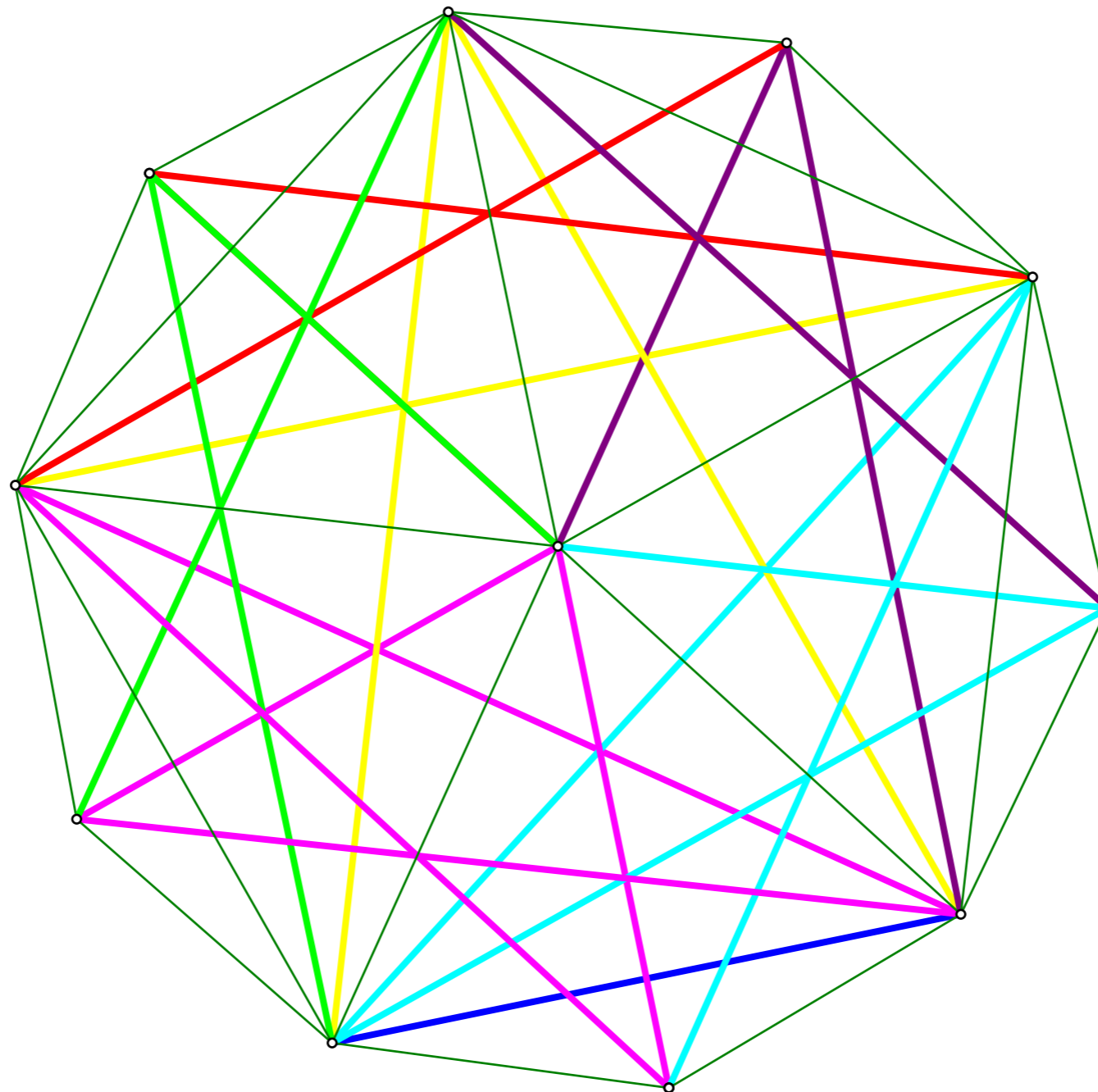


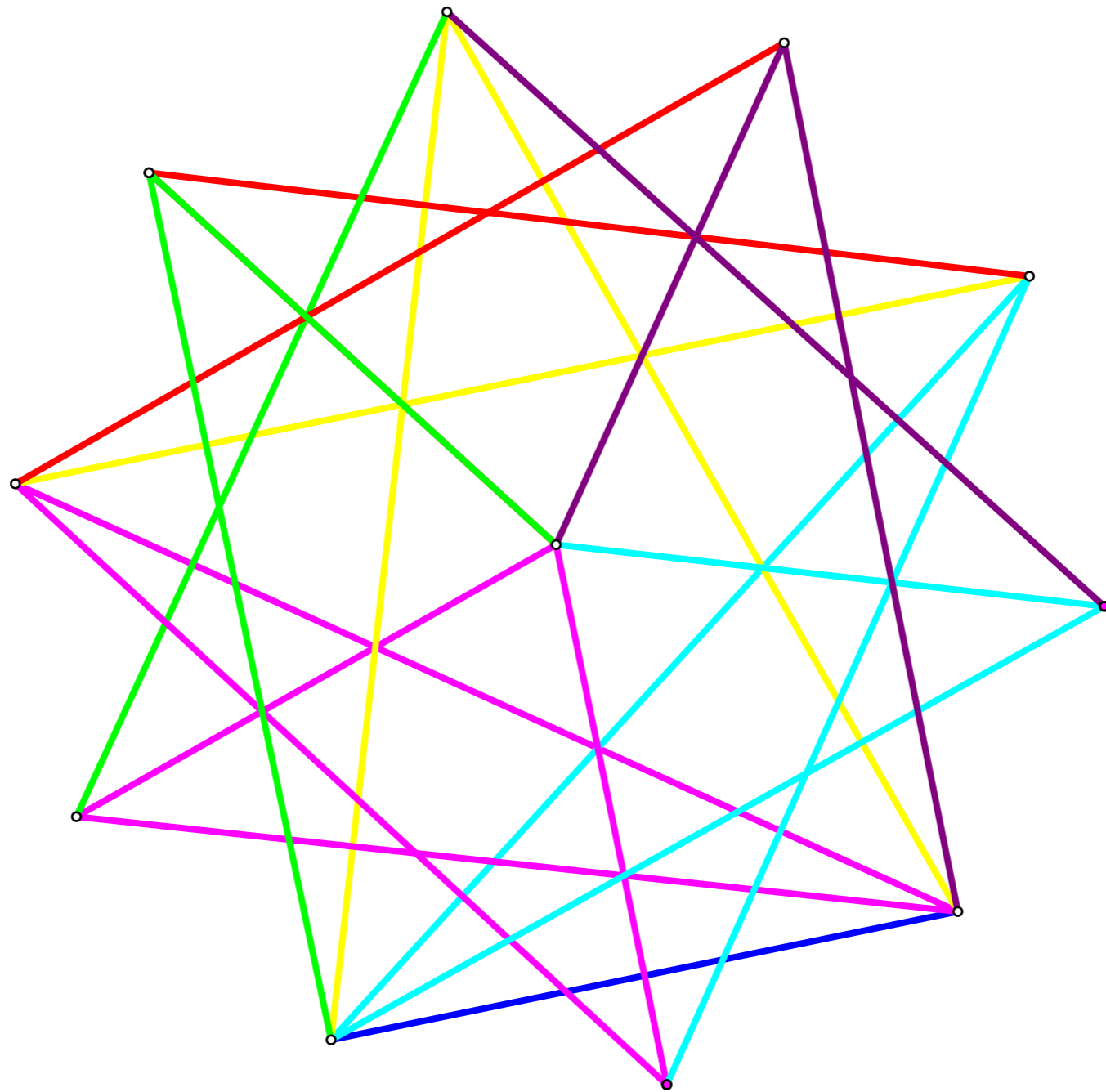


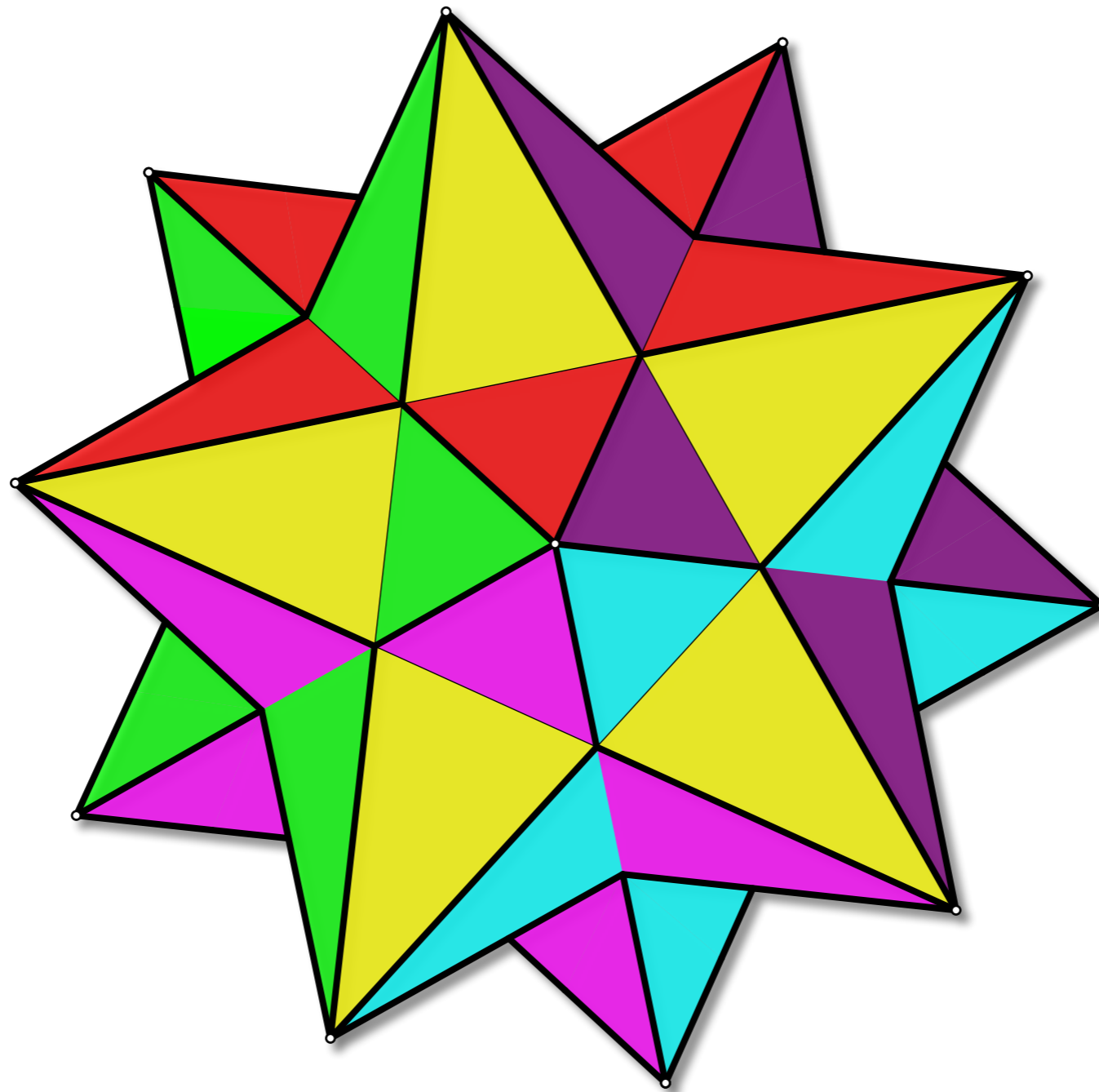








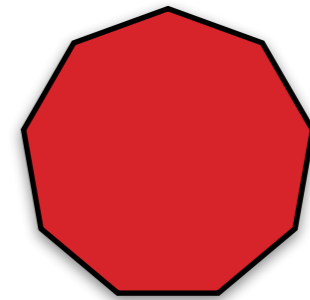
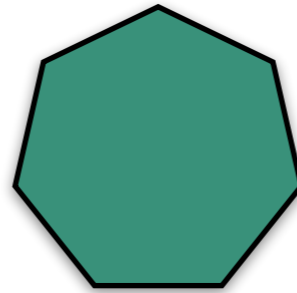
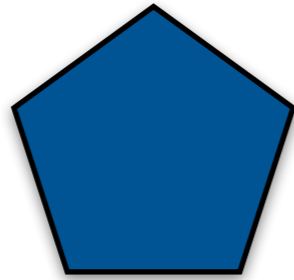
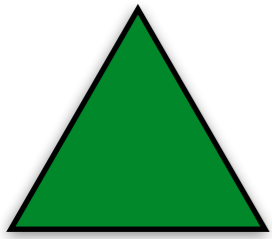




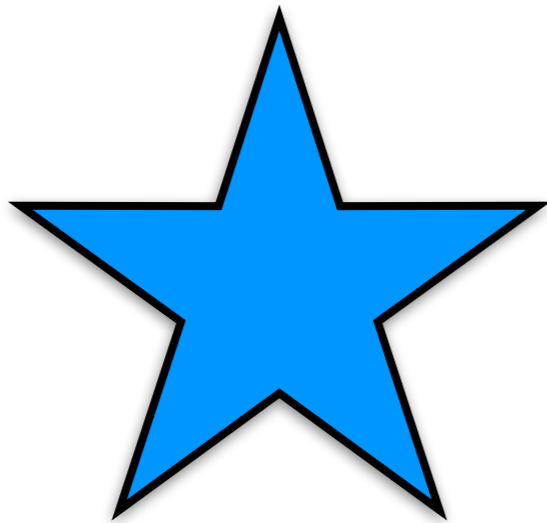
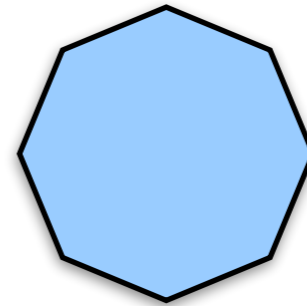
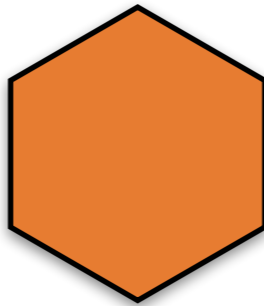
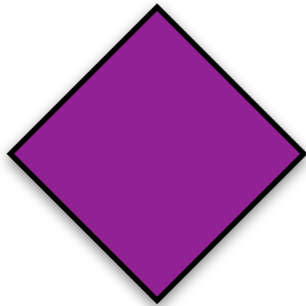
Podríamos pensar que sus caras son triángulos o...



# Polígonos regulares

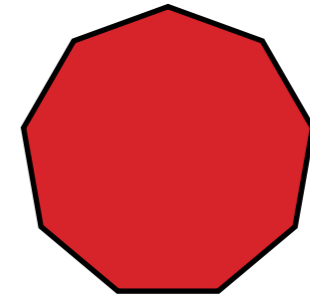
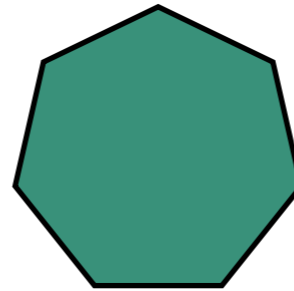
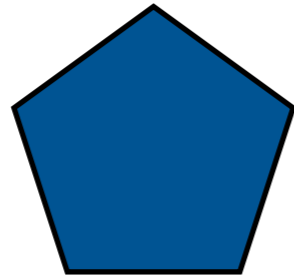
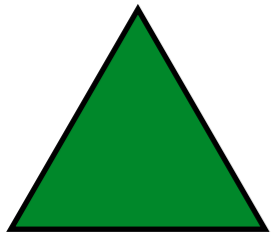


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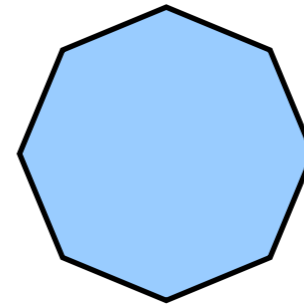
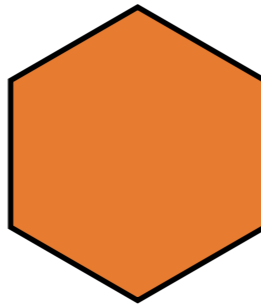
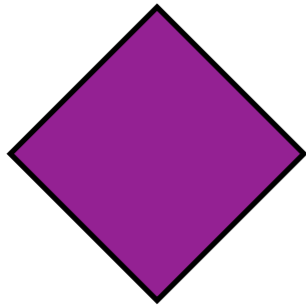


¿Cuántos vértices y aristas tiene?

# Polígonos regulares

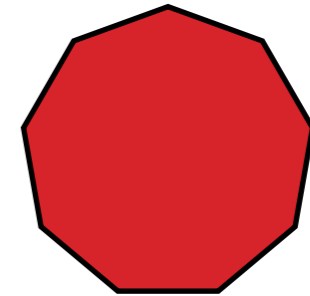
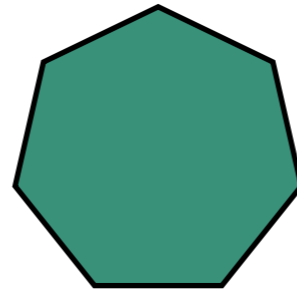
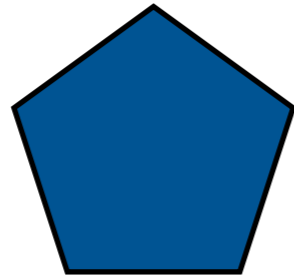
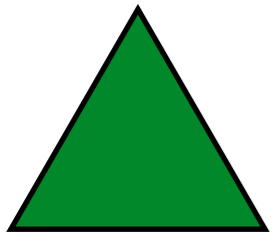


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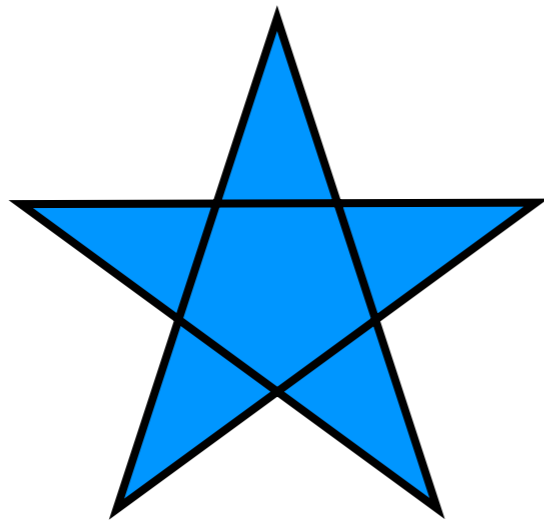
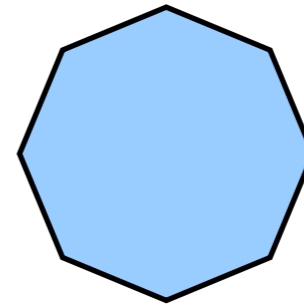
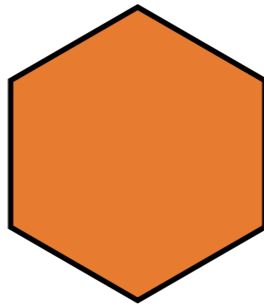
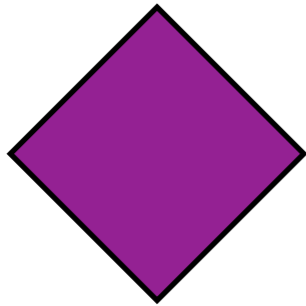


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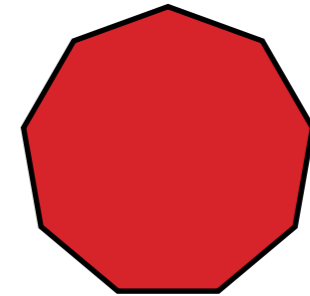
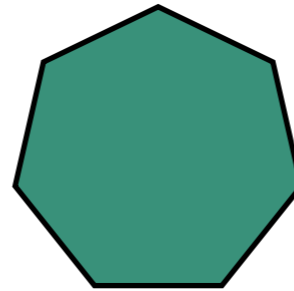
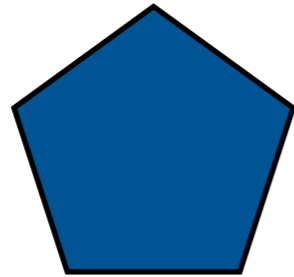
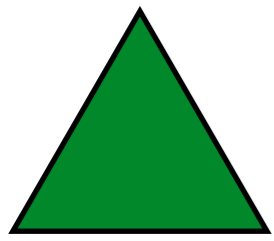


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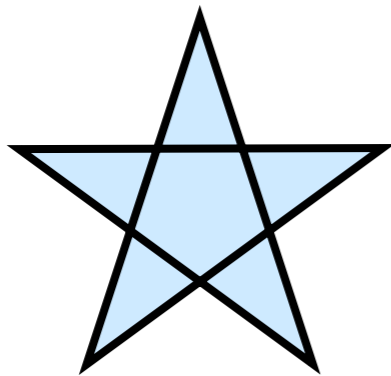
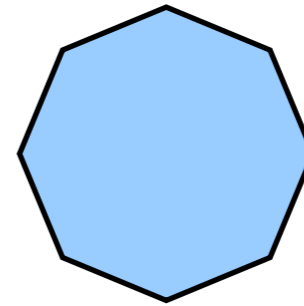
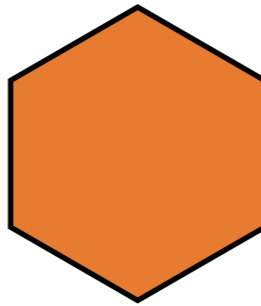
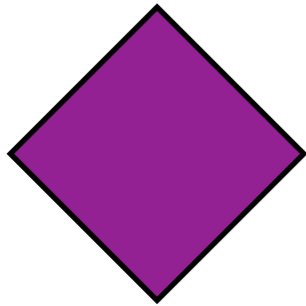


¿Cuántos vértices y aristas tiene?

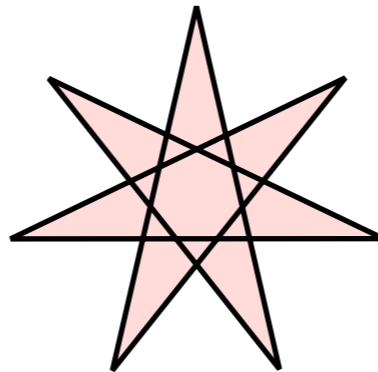
# Polígonos regulares



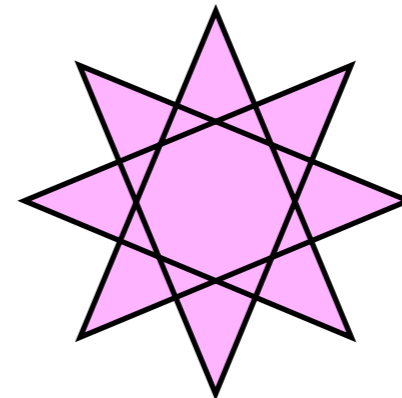
...



5 vértices



7 vértices

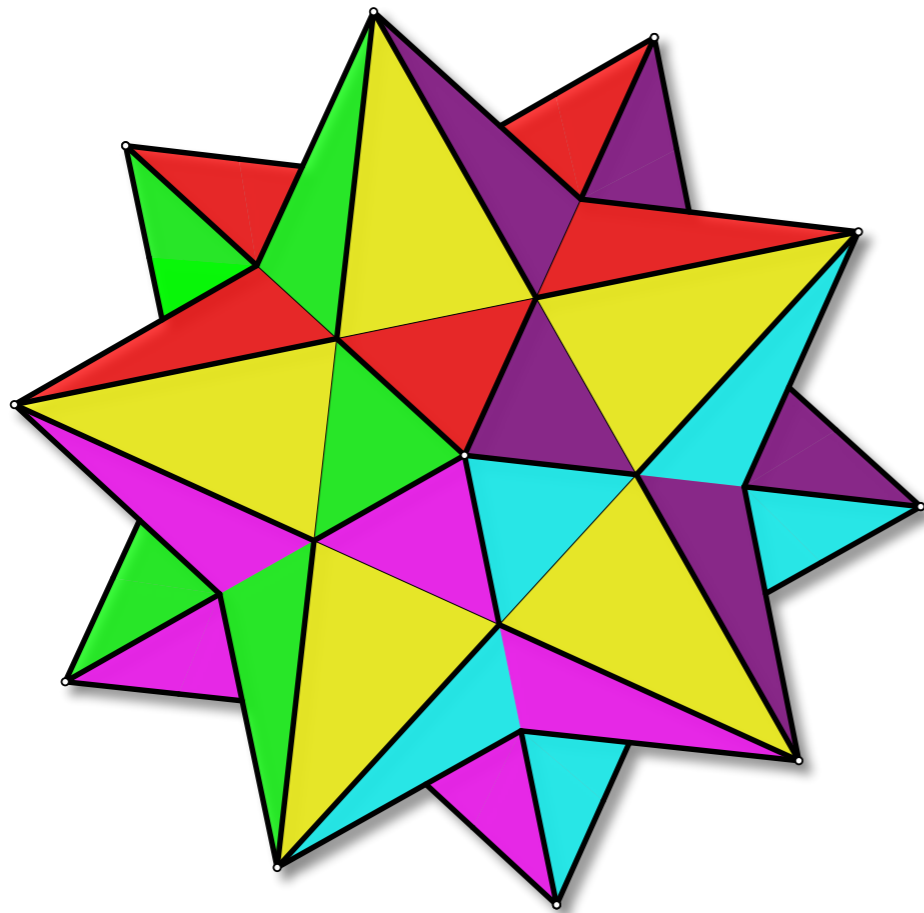


8 vértices

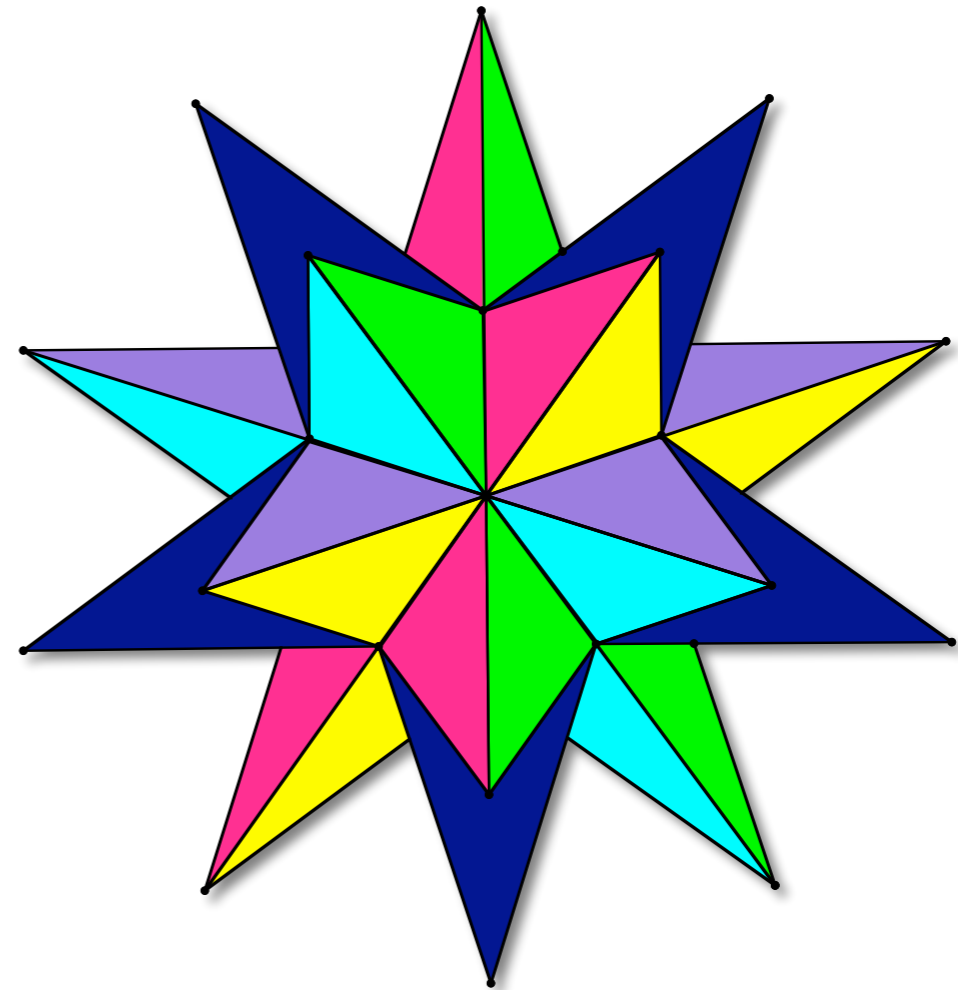
...

En 1619 Kepler encuentra dos poliedros ¿regulares?:

Las caras de ambos son “pentagramas” o pentágonos estrellados.

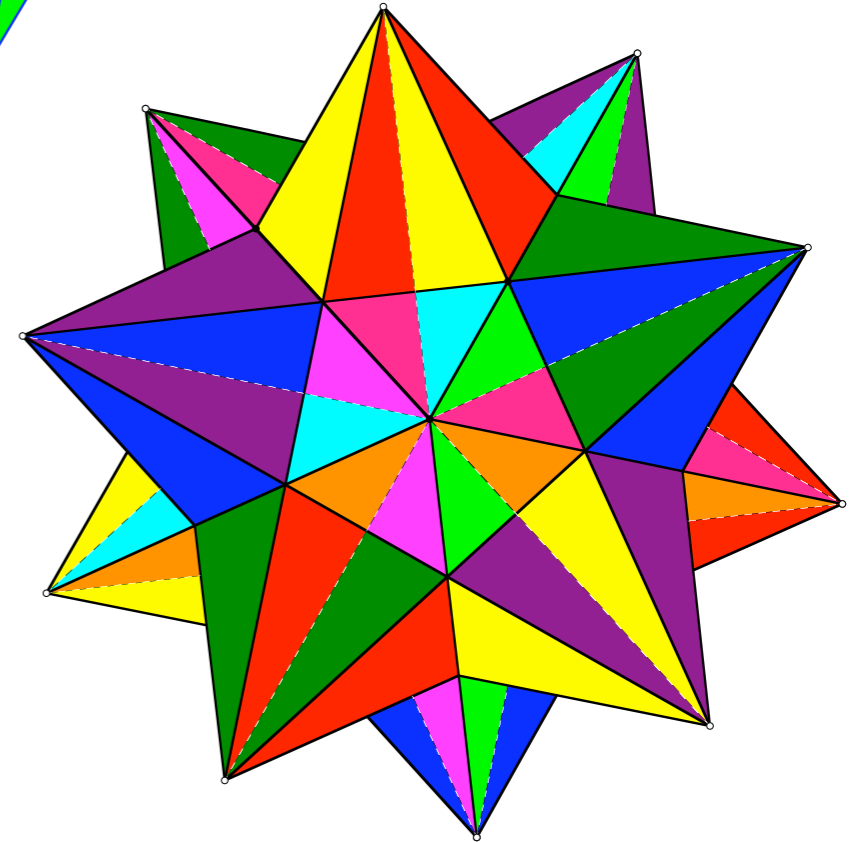
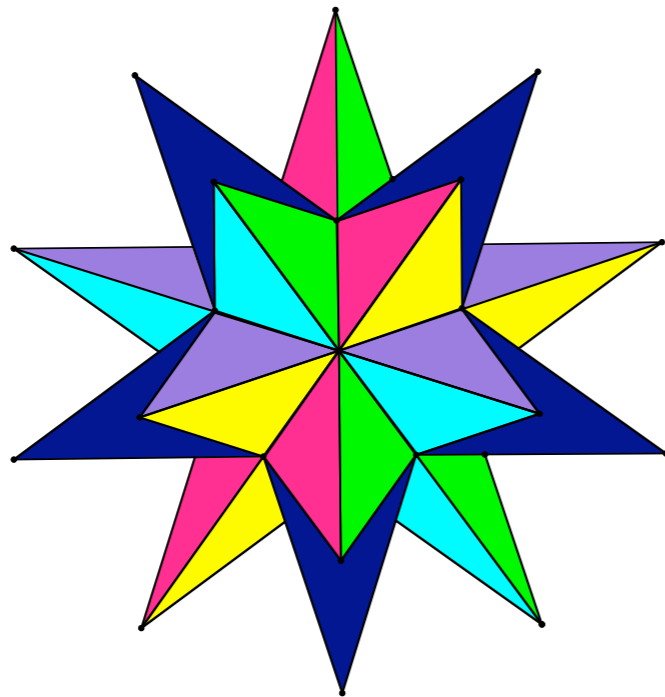
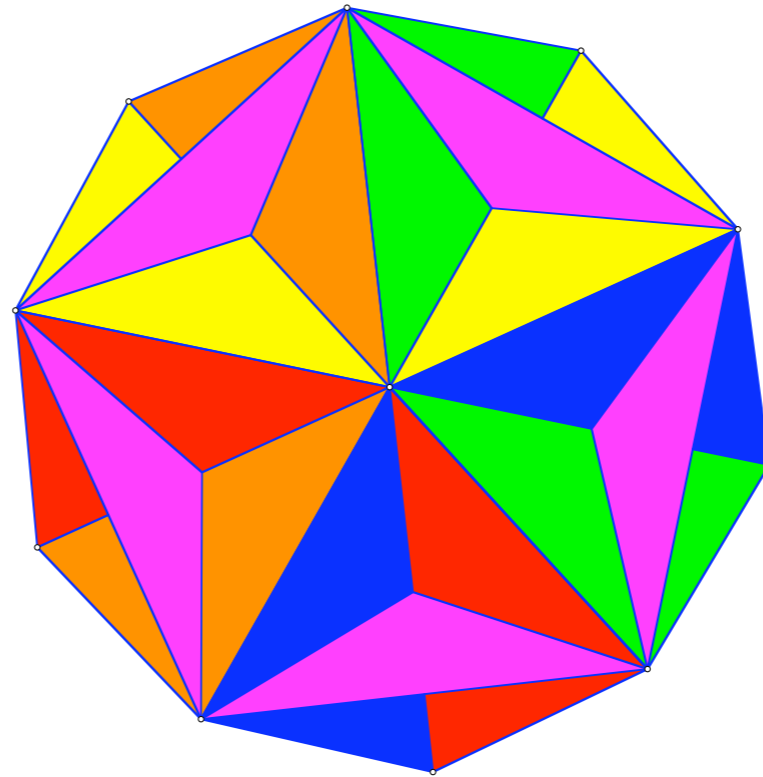
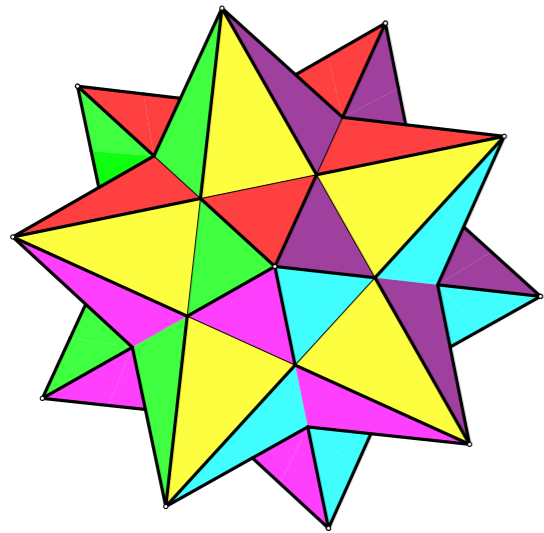


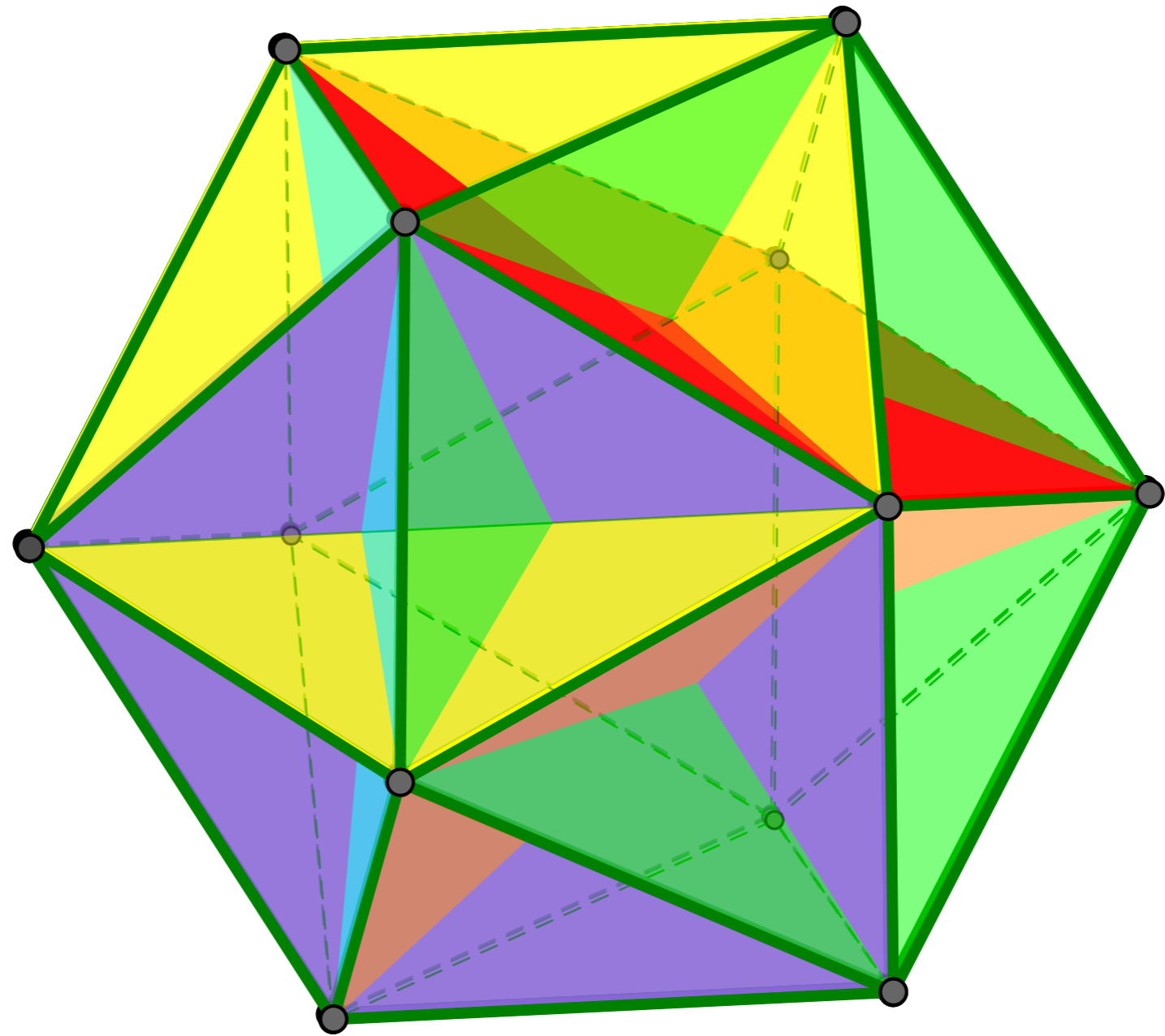
Hay 5 caras  
alrededor de cada  
vértice



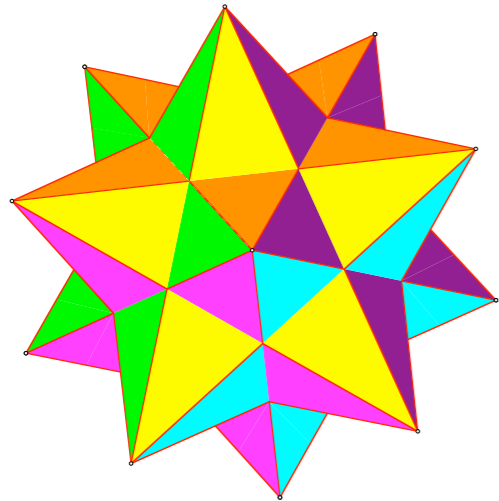
Hay 3 caras  
alrededor de cada  
vértice

En 1809, Poincot los redescubre y descubre dos más:

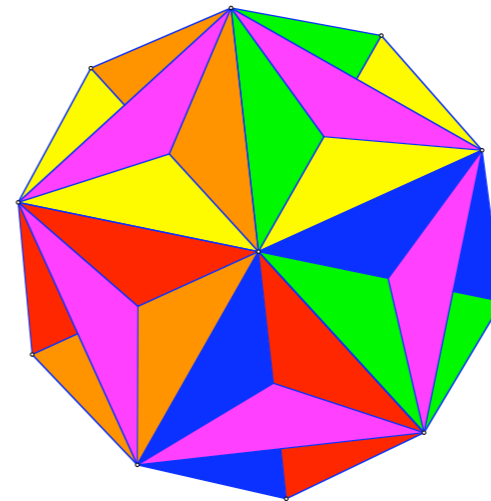




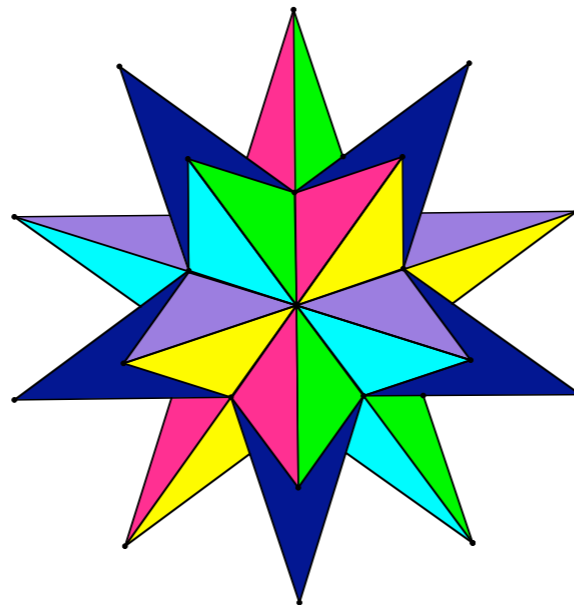
En 1812, Cauchy demuestra que estos son todos los poliedros regulares “estrellados”



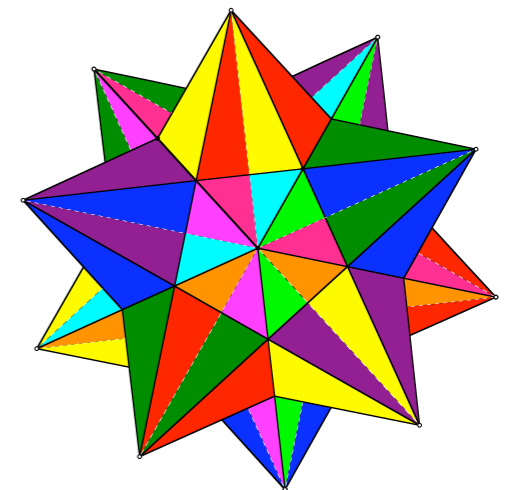
Pequeño  
dodecaedro  
estrellado



Gran dodecaedro



Gran dodecaedro  
estrellado



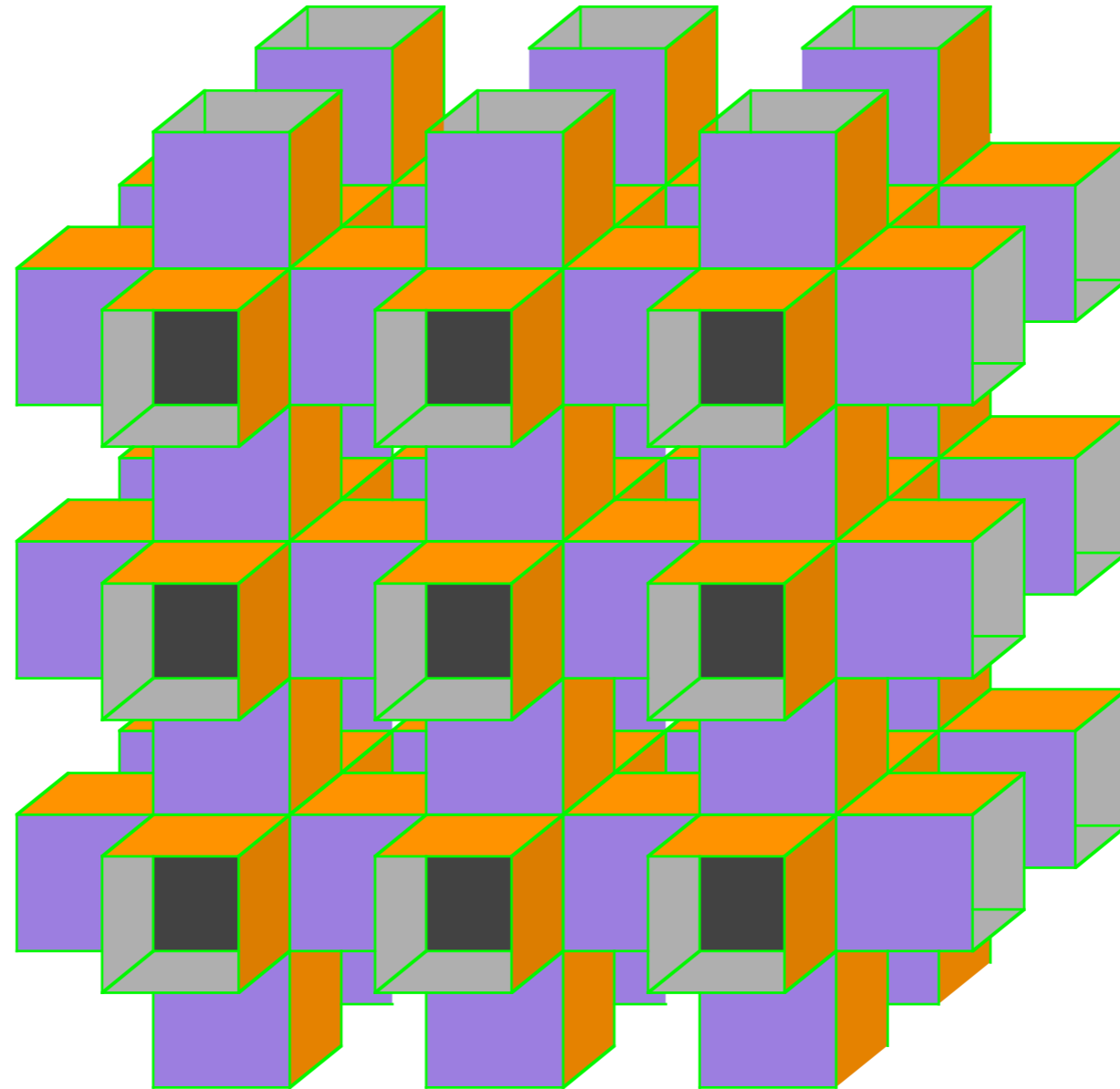
Gran icosaedro



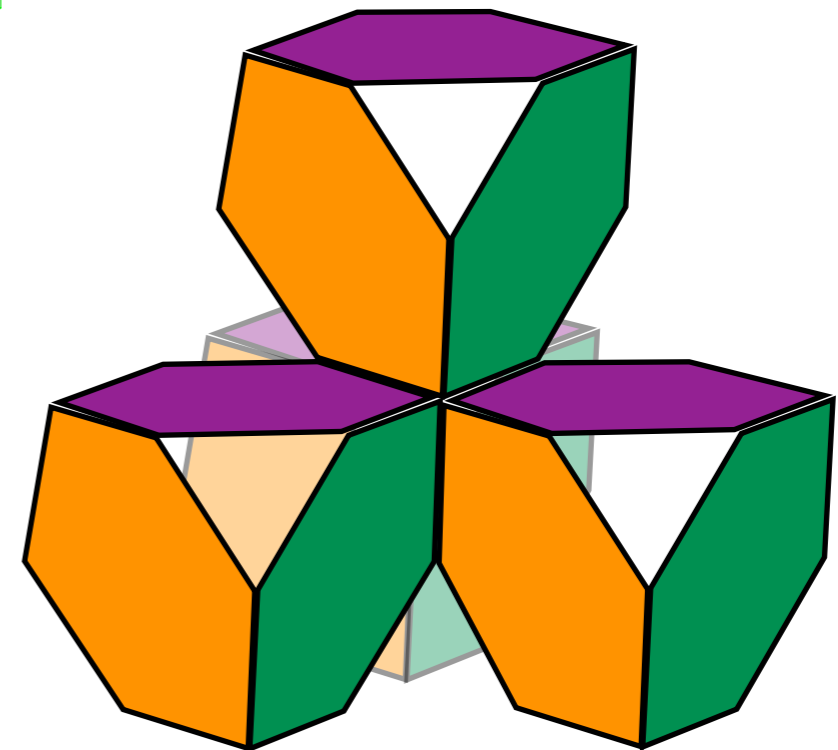
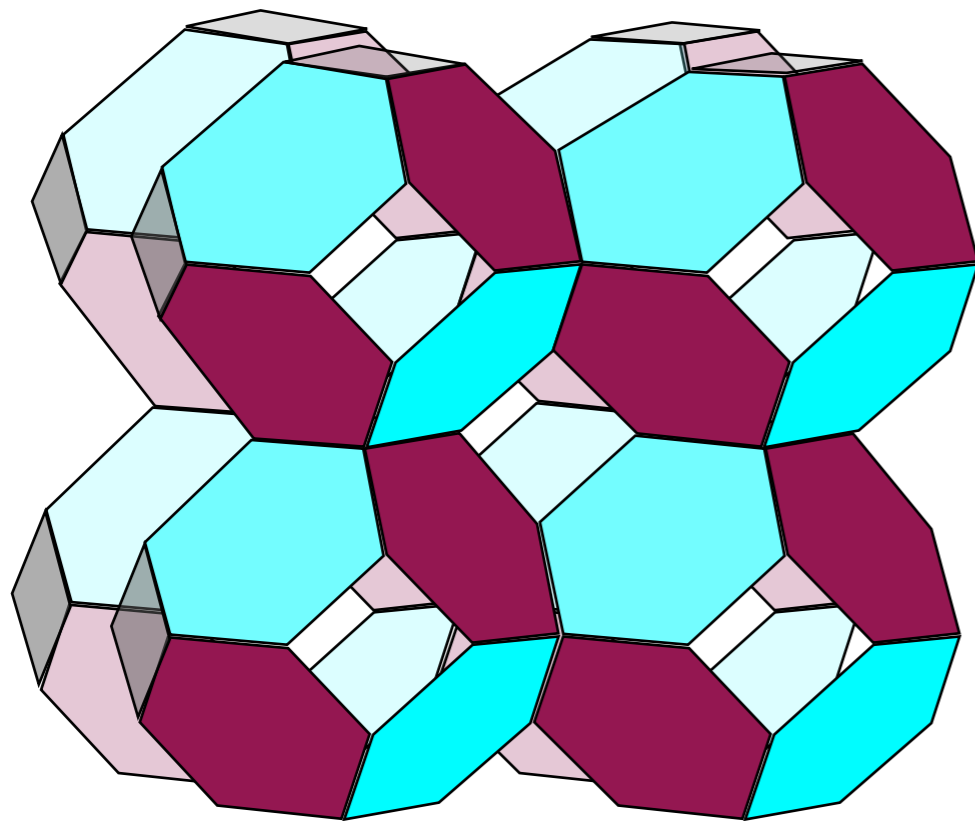
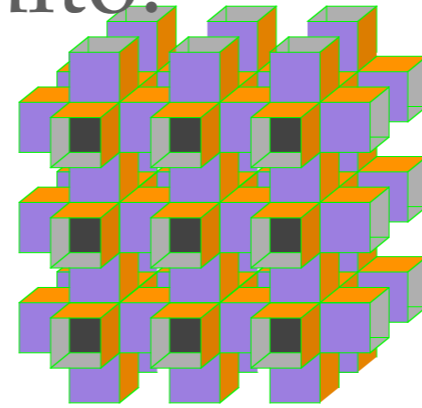
diagrams of which have been presented first by Luca Pacioli [44] in 1498 and attributed to Leonardo da Vinci). The last alternative is the least usual one – but it is close to what seems to be the most useful approach to the theory of *general* polyhedra. Indeed, it does not restrict faces to be planar, and it makes possible to retrieve the other characterizations in circumstances in which they reasonably apply: If the faces of a “surface” polyhedron are simple polygons, in most cases the polyhedron is unambiguously determined by the boundary circuits of the faces. And if the polyhedron itself is without selfintersections, then the “solid” can be found from the faces. These reasons, as well as some others, seem to warrant the choice of our approach.

Before deciding on the particular choice of definition, the following facts – which I often mention at the start of courses or lectures on polyhedra – should be considered. The regular polyhedra were enumerated by the mathematicians of ancient Greece; an account of these five “Platonic solids” is the final topic of Euclid’s “Elements” [18]. Although this list was considered to be complete, two millennia later Kepler [38] found two additional regular polyhedra, and in the early 1800’s Poincaré [45] found these two as well as two more; Cauchy [7] soon proved that there are no others. But in the 1920’s Petrie and Coxeter found (see [8]) three new regular polyhedra, and proved the completeness of that enumeration. However, in 1977 I found [21] a whole

En 1924 Petrie encuentra un nuevo poliedro regular, pero... ¡infinito!



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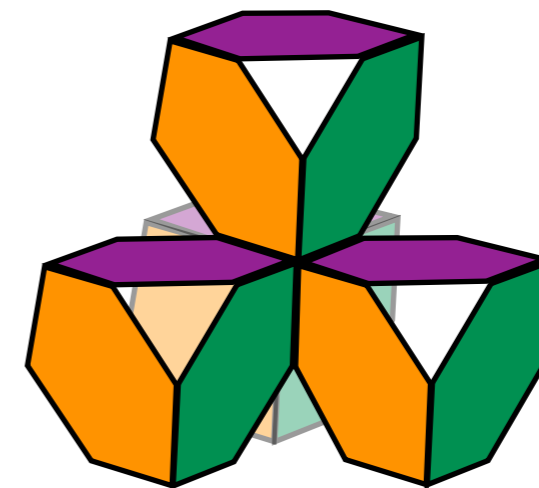
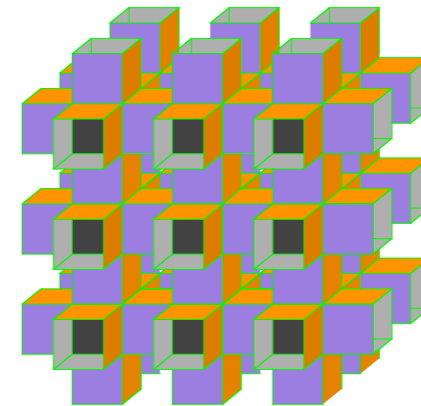
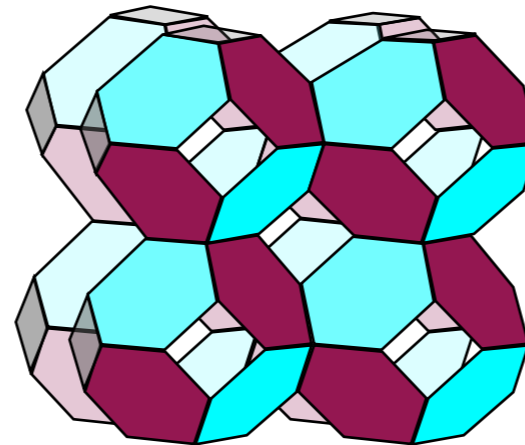


Después de platicarle a Coxeter cómo los construye, él encuentra dos más y demuestra que solo hay tres de este estilo

En 1924 Petrie encuentra un nuevo poliedro regular, pero... ¡infinito!



H.S.M. Coxeter  
1907 - 2003



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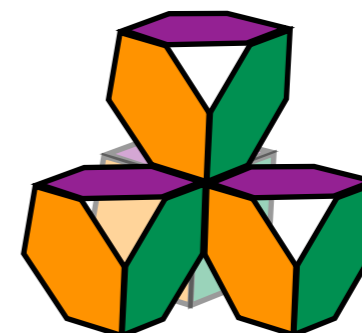
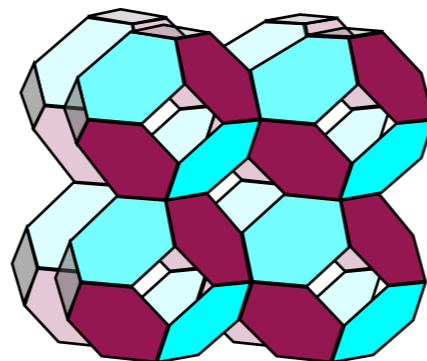
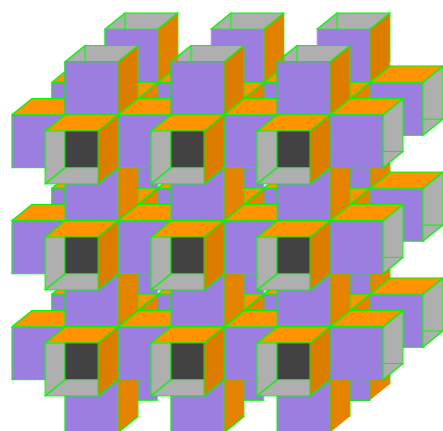
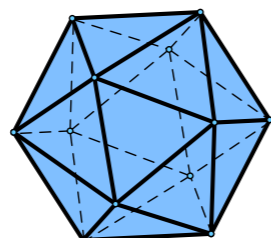
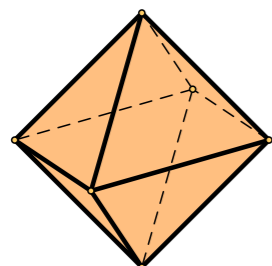
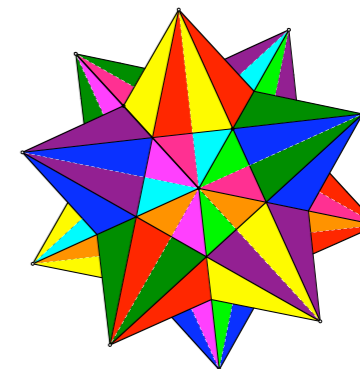
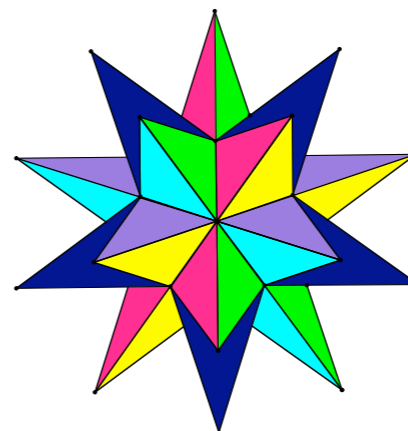
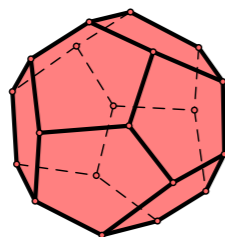
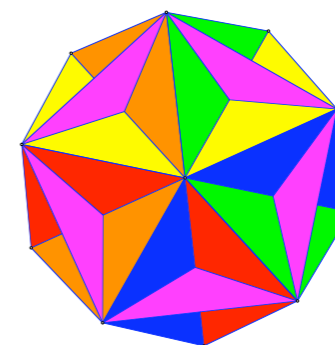
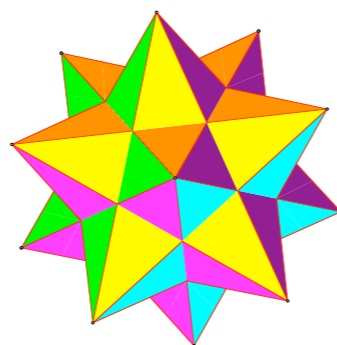
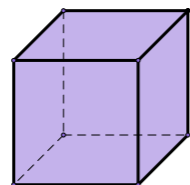
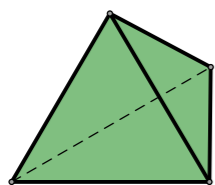
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lot of new regular polyhedra, and soon thereafter Dress proved [15], [16] that one needs to add just one more polyhedron to make my list complete. Then, about ten years ago I found [22] a whole slew of new regular polyhedra, and so far nobody claimed to have found them all.

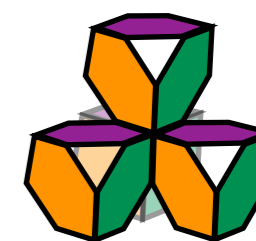
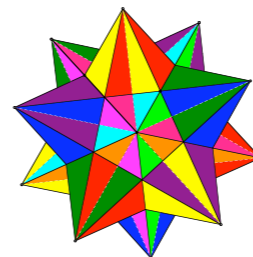
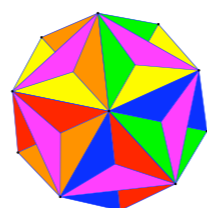
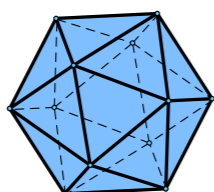
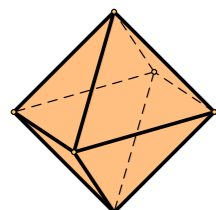
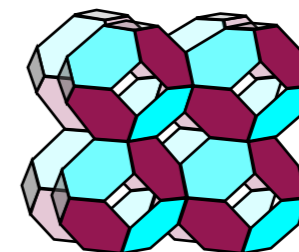
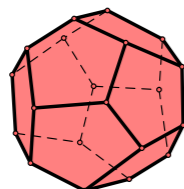
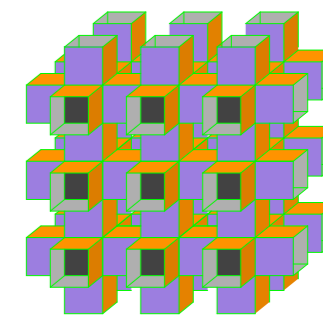
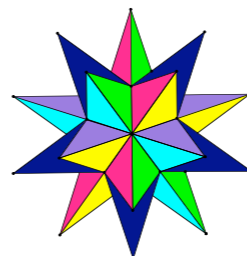
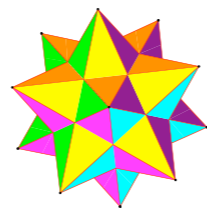
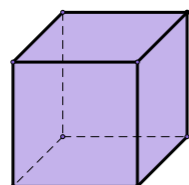
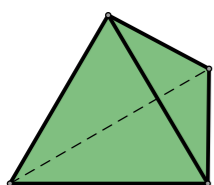
Grünbaum 1977

Encuentra 47 poliedros regulares en  $\mathbb{R}^3$



Grünbaum 1977

Encuentra 47 poliedros regulares en  $\mathbb{R}^3$



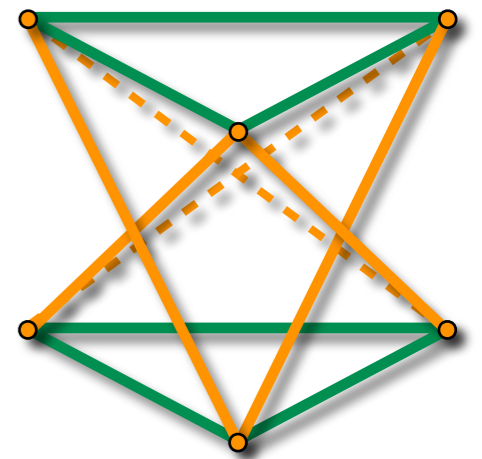
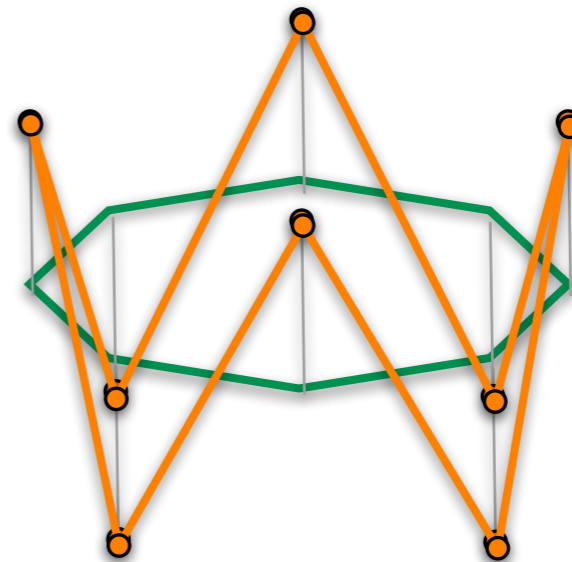
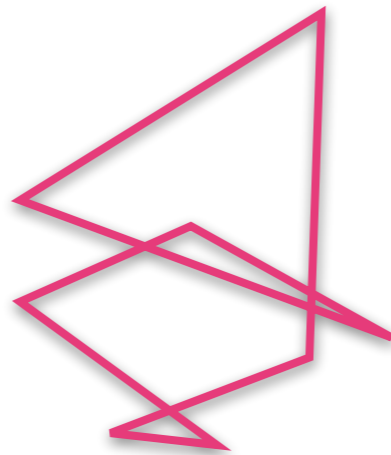
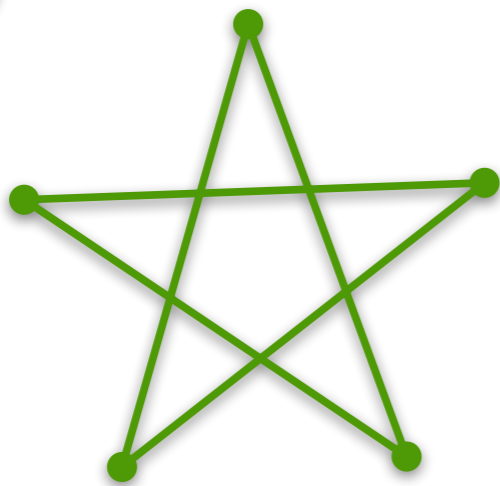
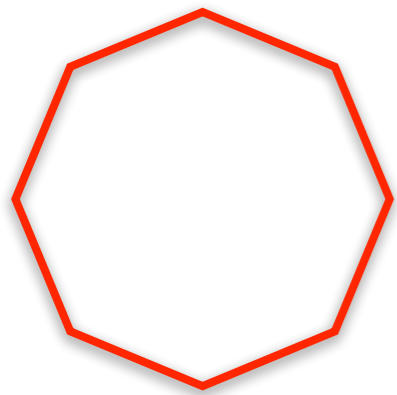
- Es el primero que da una definición de poliedro y de poliedro regular;
- No dice que su numeración está completa

Un **poliedro** es una colección de **polígonos** (que llamamos caras) tal que:



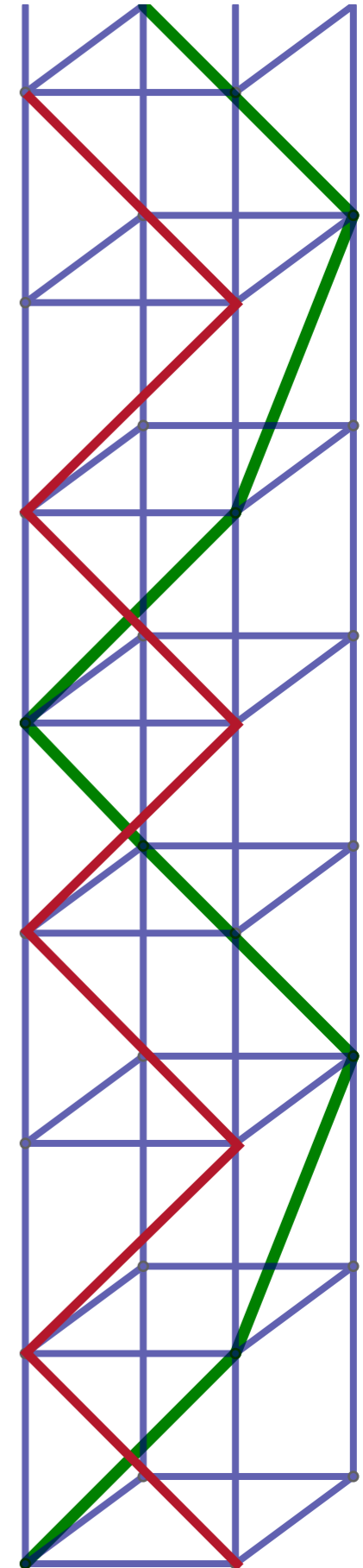
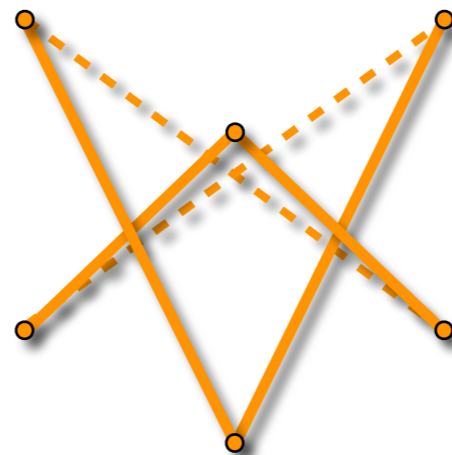
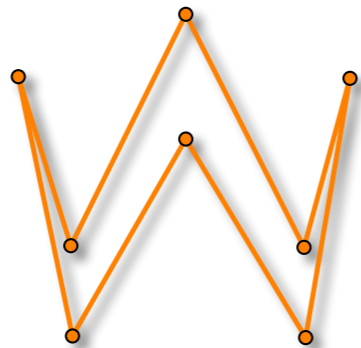
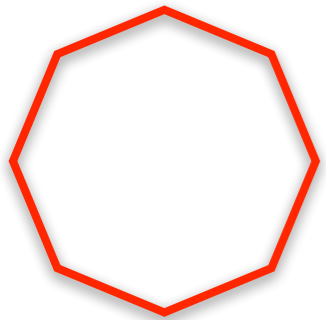
# polígonos

Un **polígono** es una colección **discreta** de puntos en el espacio, llamados **vértices**, junto con segmentos de recta entre ellos, llamados **aristas**, tales que cada vértice está en exactamente **dos** aristas y el objeto es **conexo**.



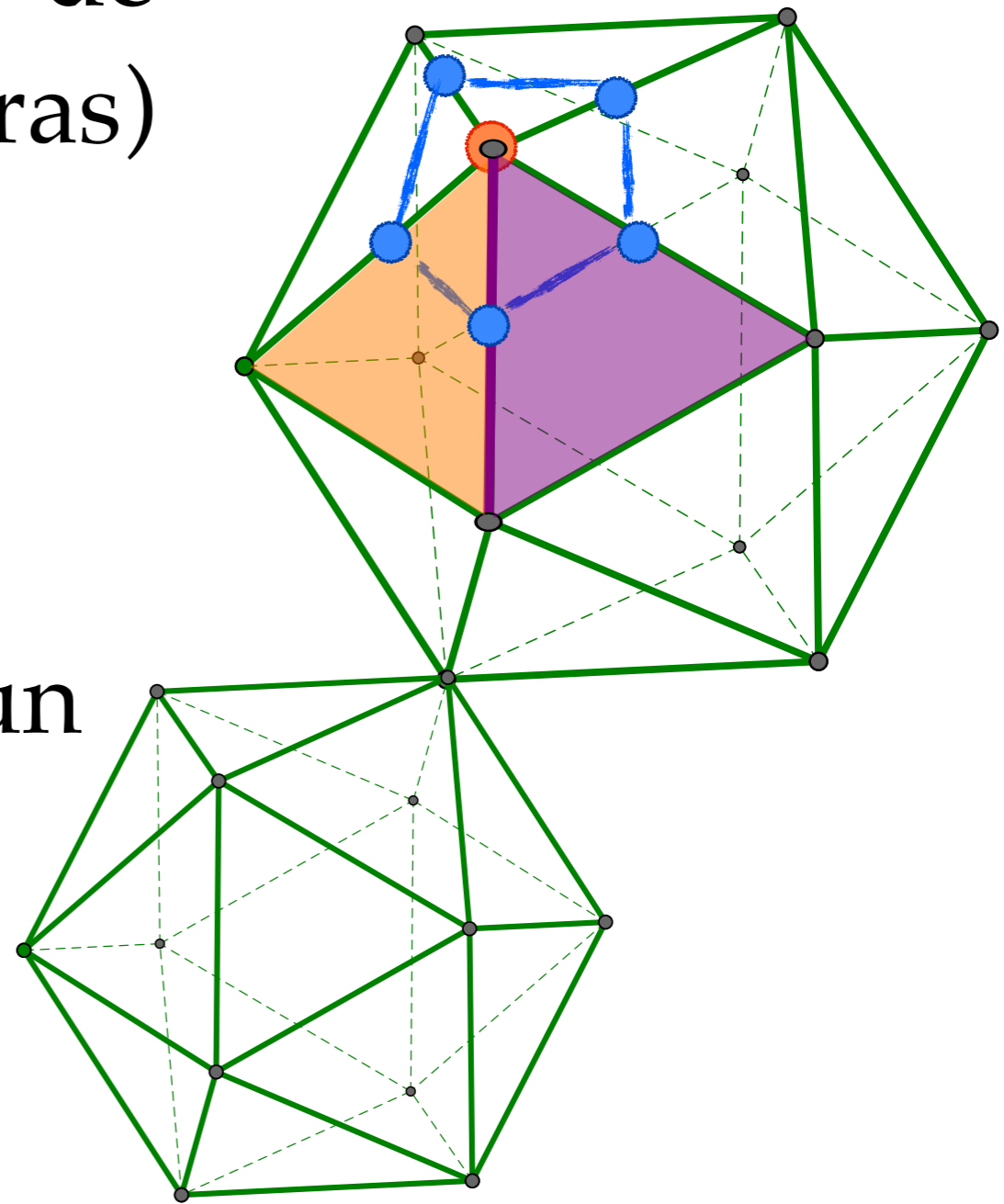
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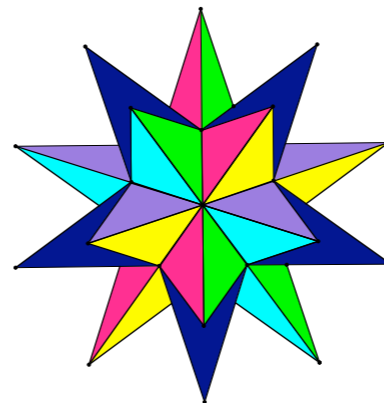
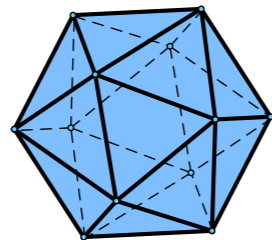
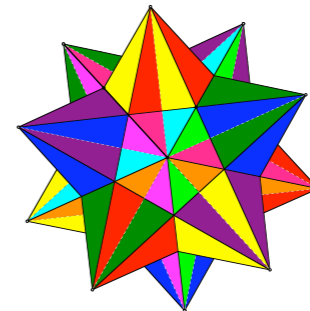
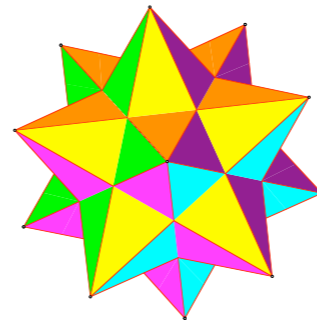
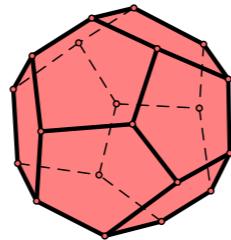
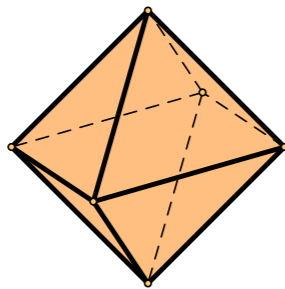
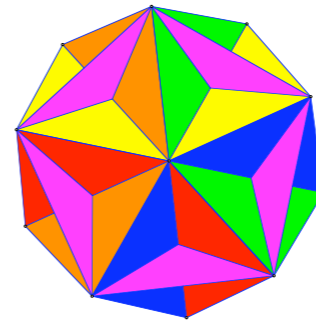
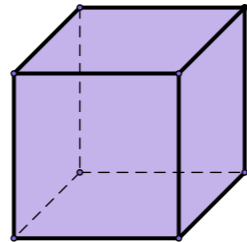
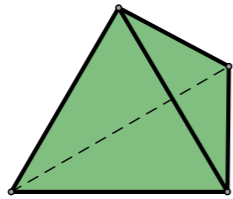
Un **poliedro** es una colección de **polígonos** (que llamamos caras) tal que:

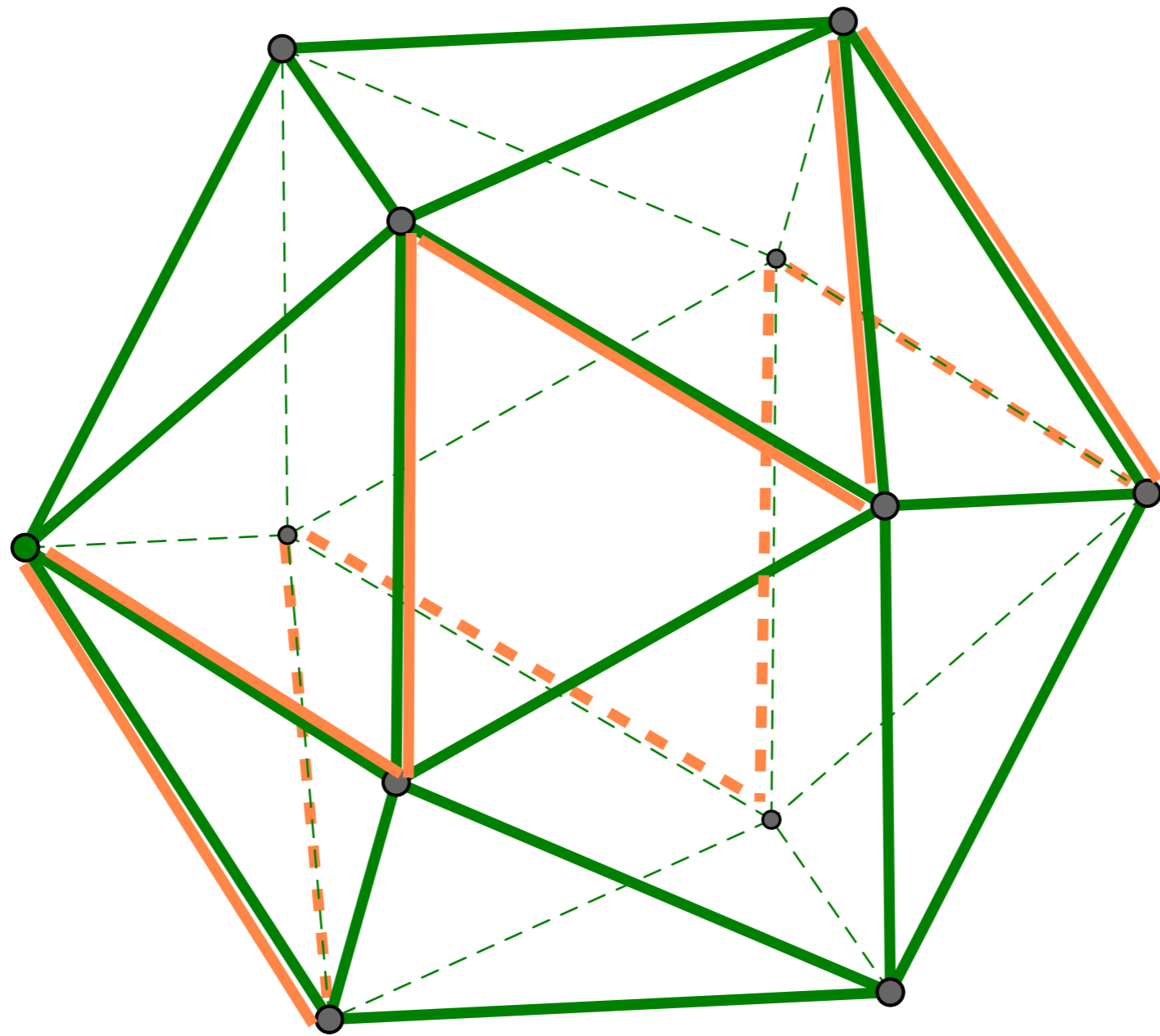
- Cada arista está en exactamente dos caras
- Cada figura de vértice es un ciclo (conexo)
- Conexo

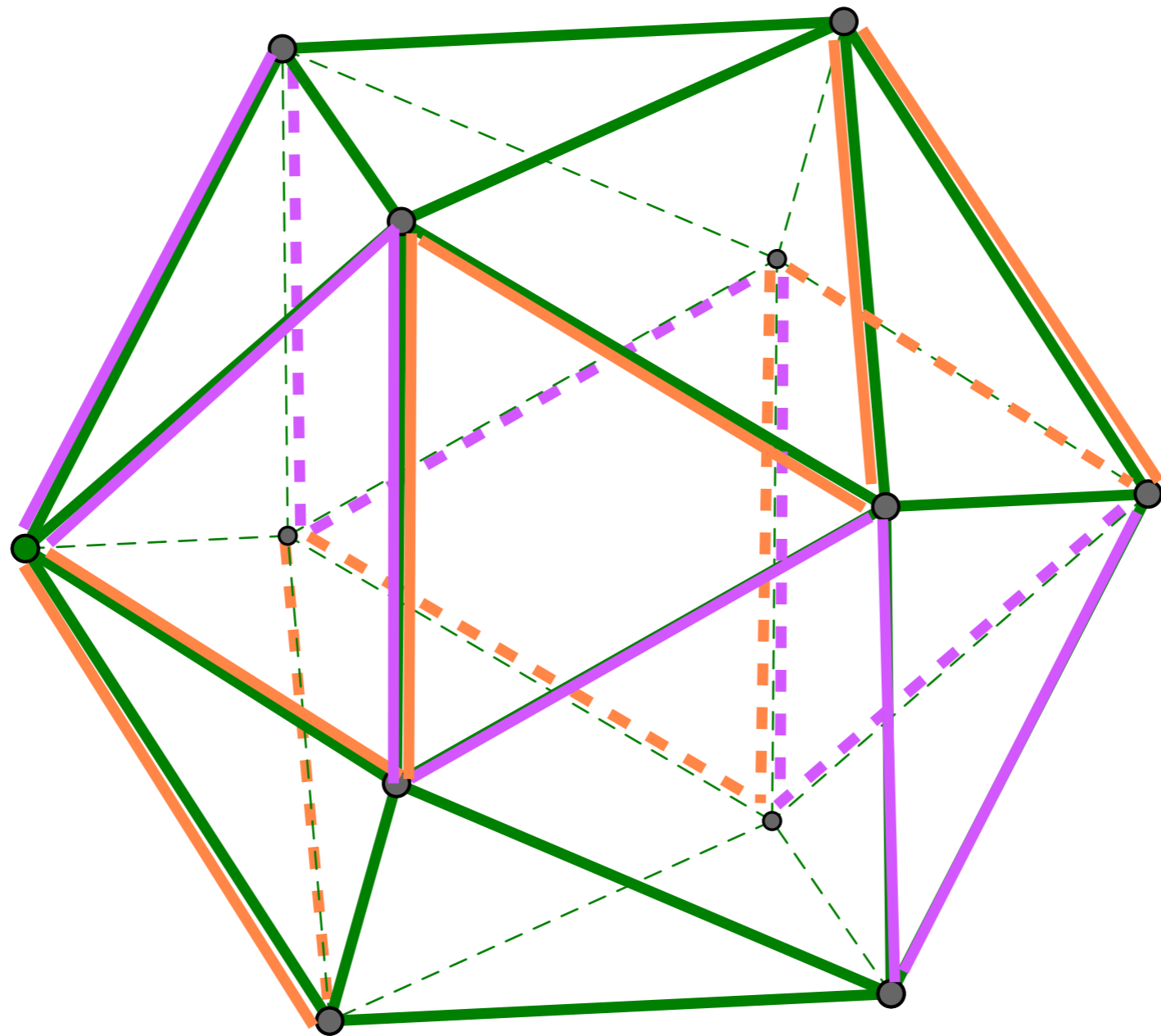


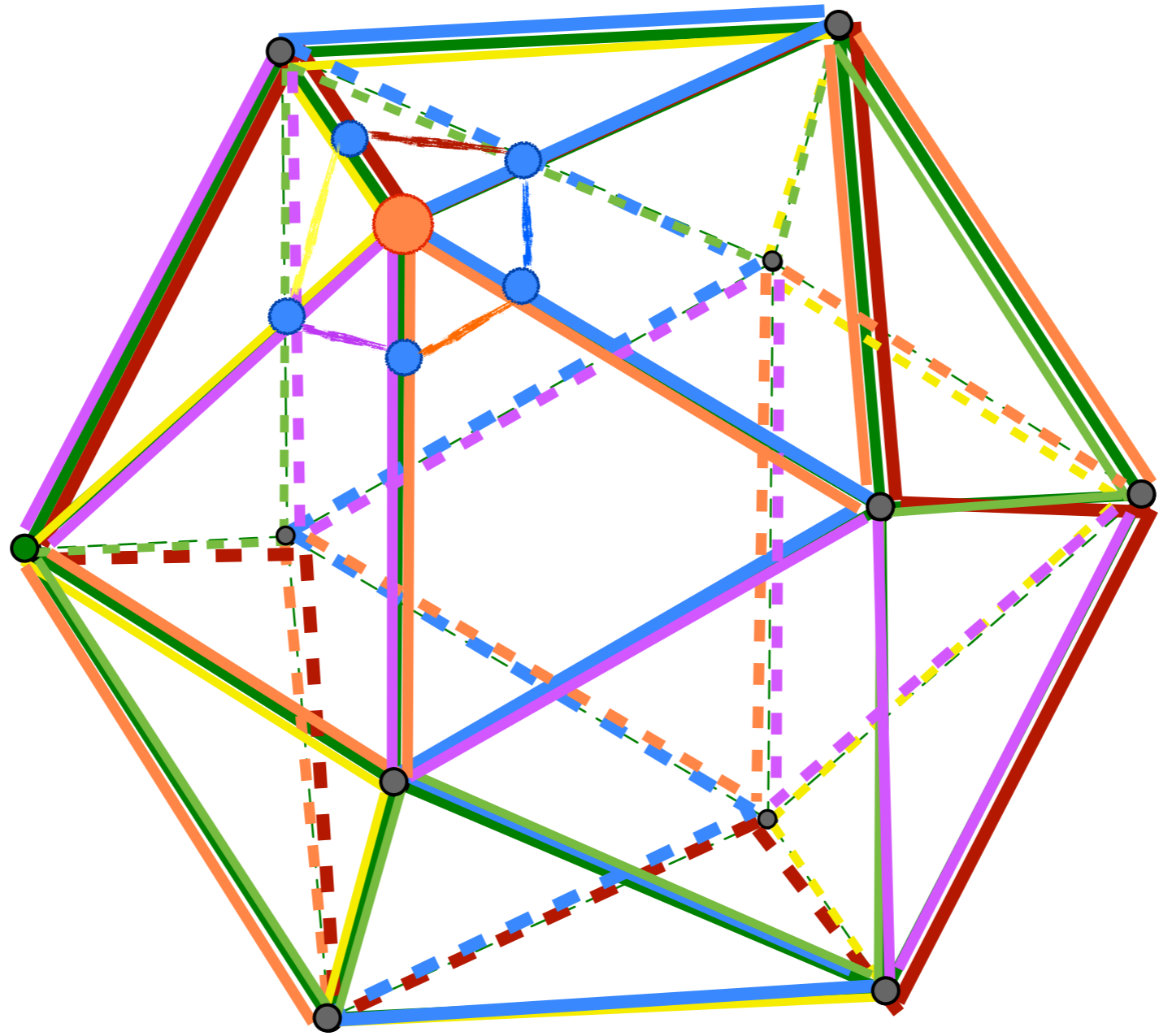
Dado un vértice  $v$ , su **figura de vértice** es la gráfica cuyos vértices son los puntos medios de las aristas en  $v$  y dos de ellos están conectados si las aristas correspondientes (y  $v$ ) están en una misma cara.

# Algunos ejemplos de poliedros









Ya sabemos qué es un poliedro, pero...

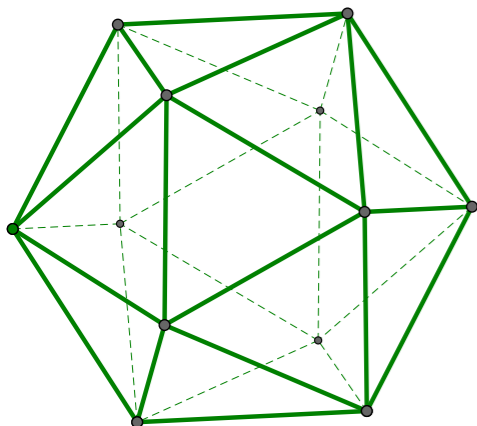
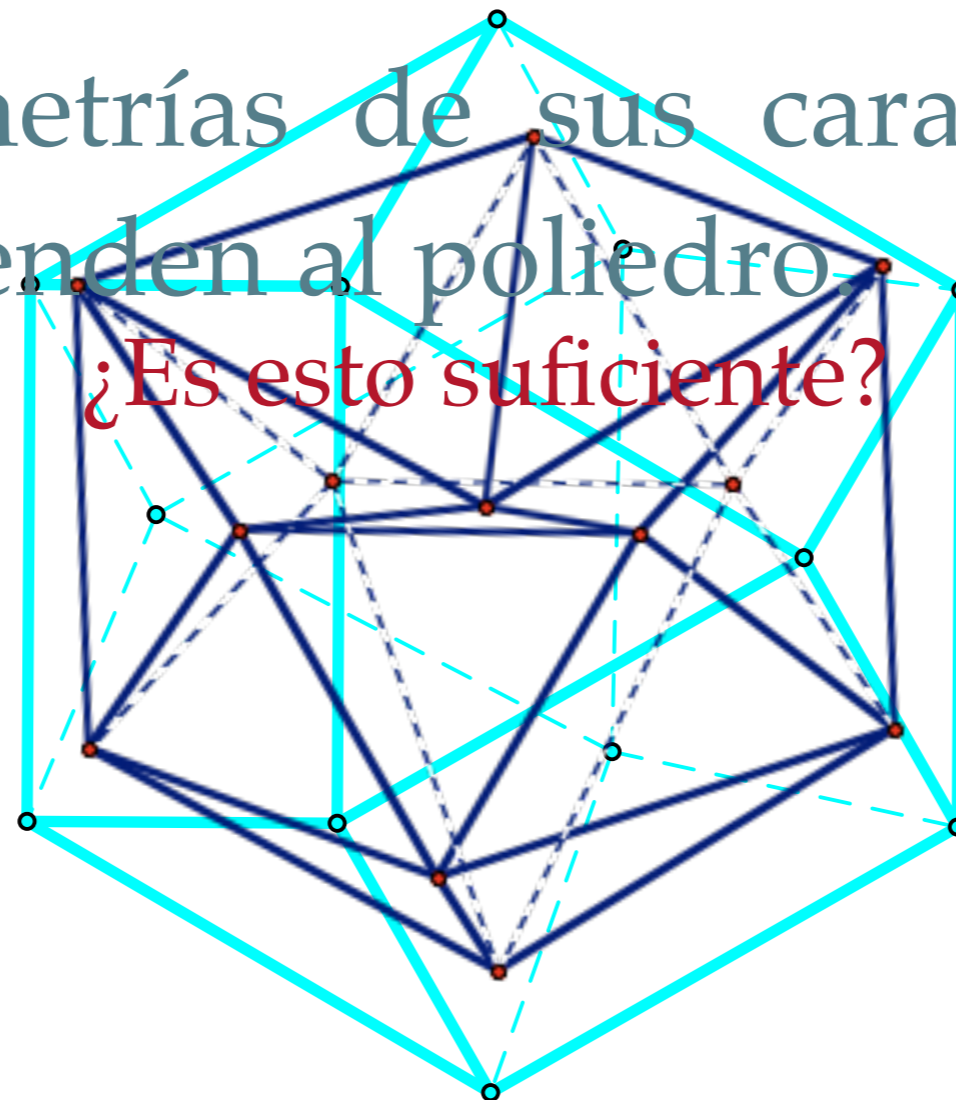
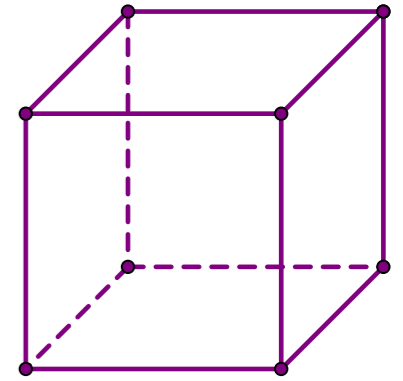
¿un poliedro regular?

“se ve igual por todas partes”

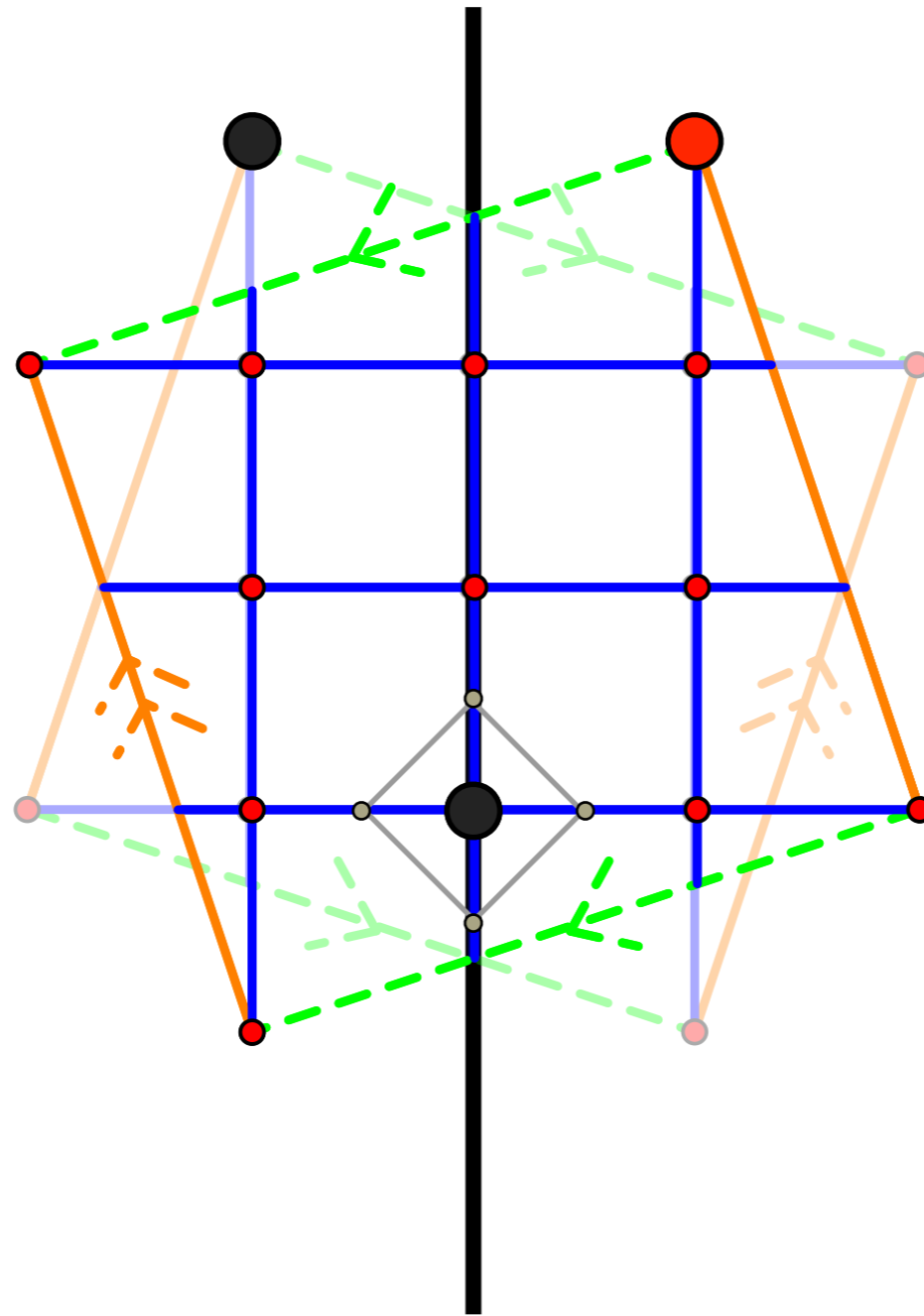


Los **sólidos Platónicos** cumplen:

- Todas sus caras son polígonos regulares
- Todas sus caras son iguales
- Todas sus figuras de vértice son regulares (e iguales)
- Todas las simetrías de sus caras y figuras de vértice se extienden al poliedro.

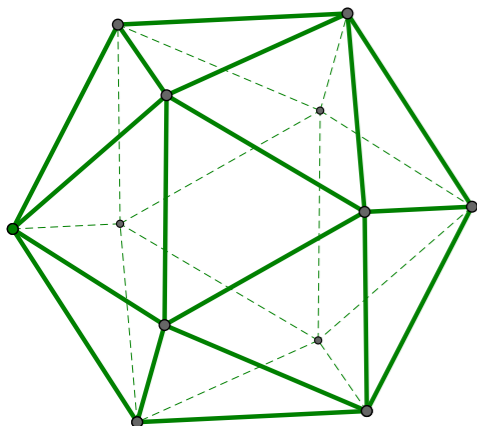
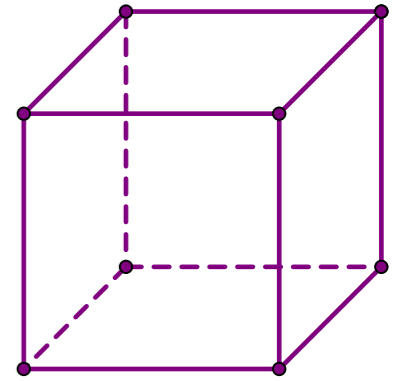


¿un poliedro regular?

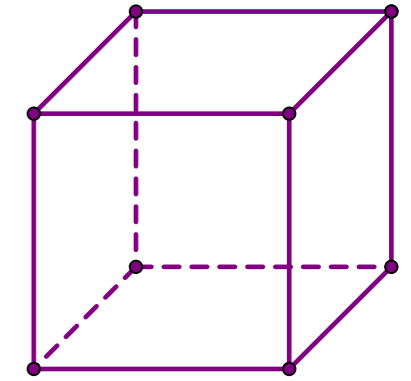


Los **sólidos Platónicos** cumplen:

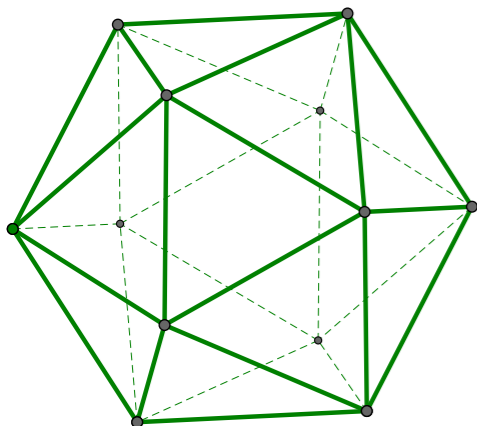
- Todas sus caras son polígonos regulares
- Todas sus caras son iguales
- Todas sus figuras de vértice son regulares (e iguales)
- Todas las simetrías de sus caras y figuras de vértice se extienden al poliedro.



Un poliedro es **regular** si:

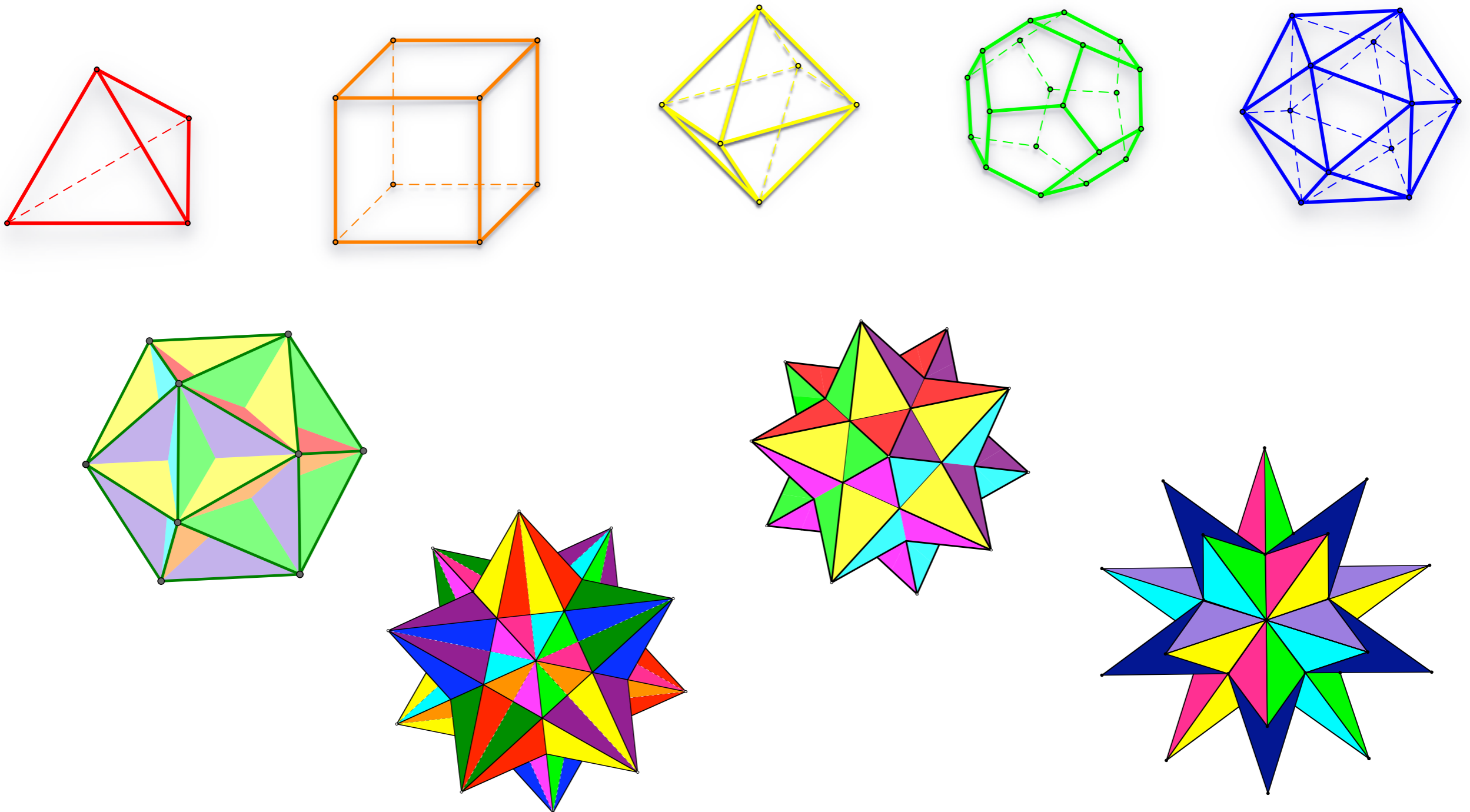


- Todas sus caras son polígonos regulares
- Todas sus caras son iguales
- Todas sus figuras de vértice son regulares (e iguales)
- Todas las simetrías de sus caras y figuras de vértice se extienden al poliedro.



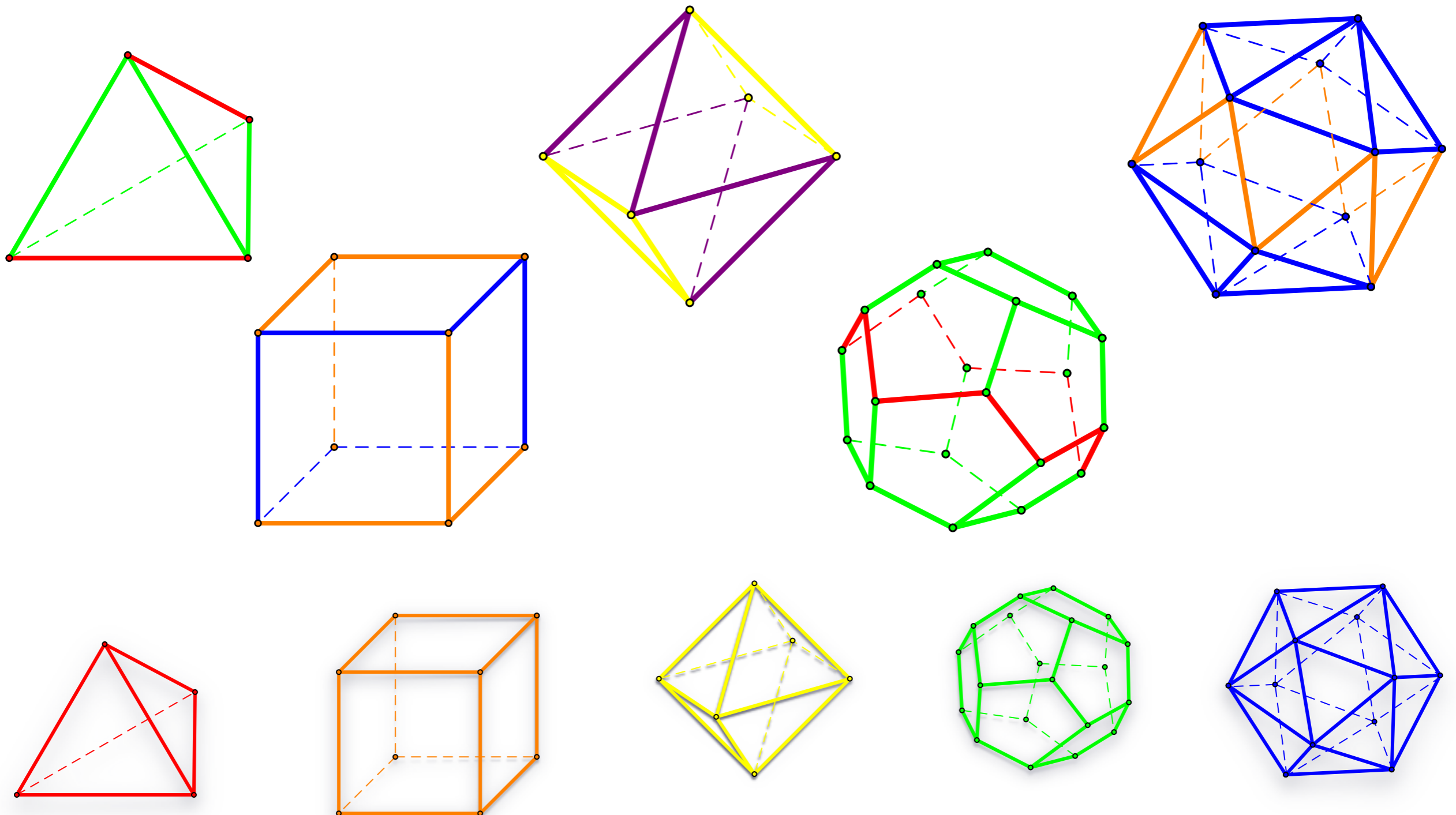
# Teorema (Grünbaum-Dress)

Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio



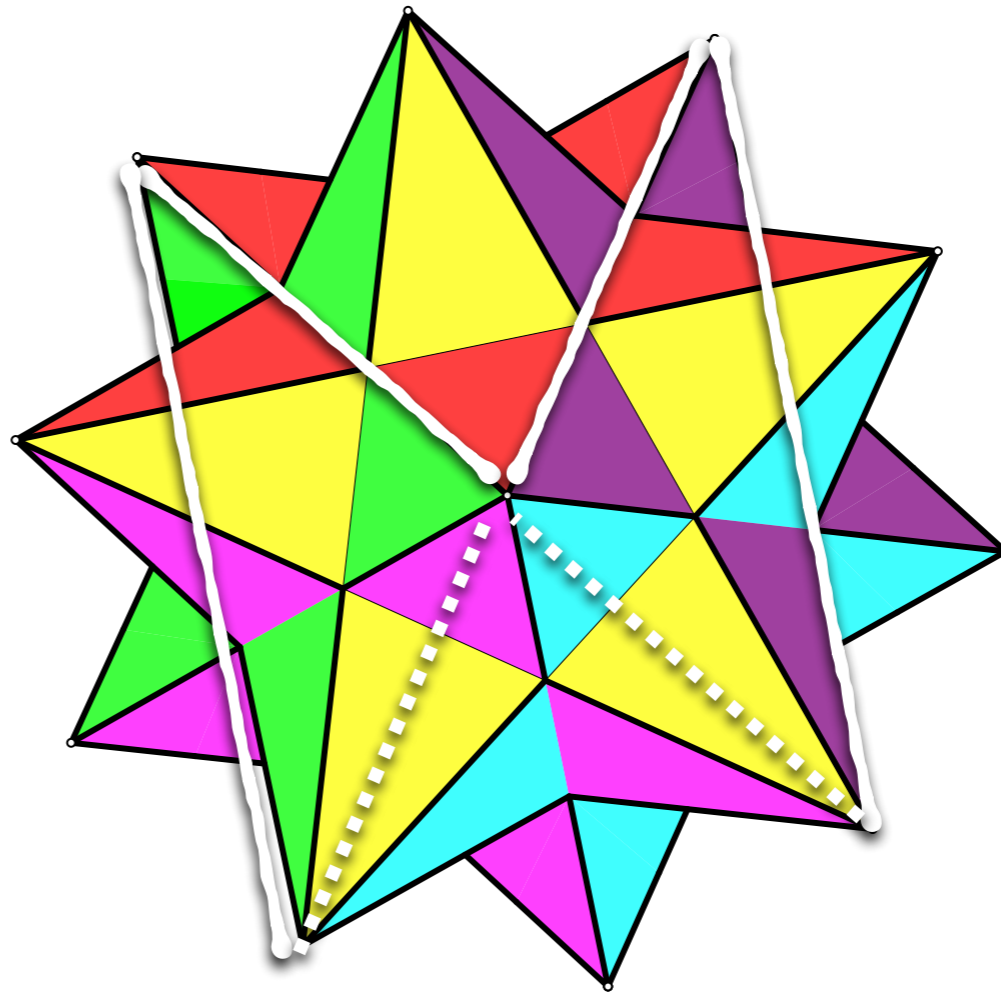
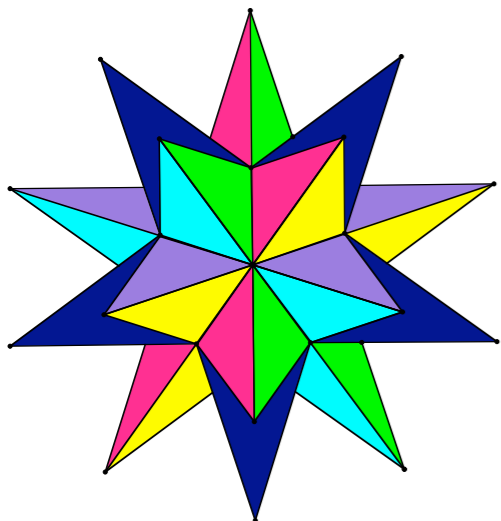
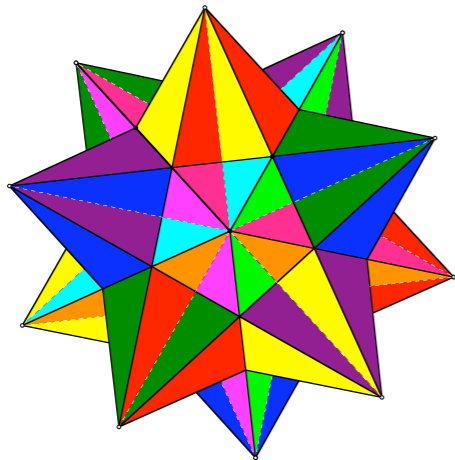
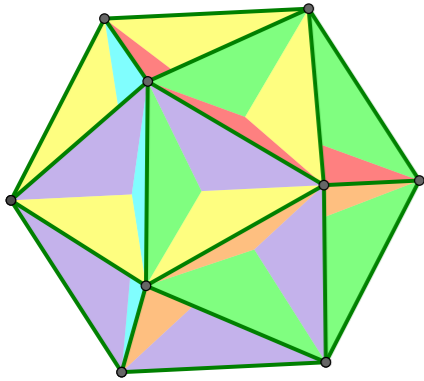
# Teorema (Grünbaum-Dress)

Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio



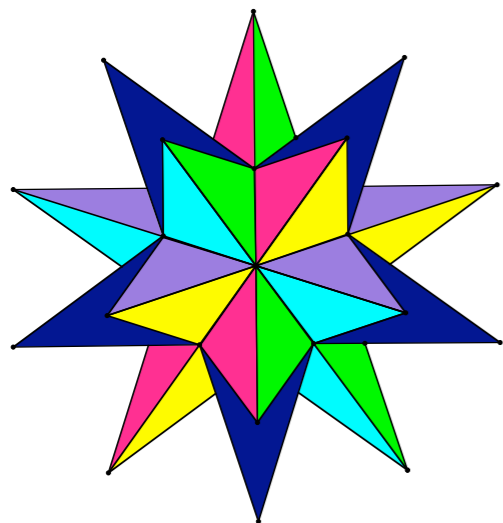
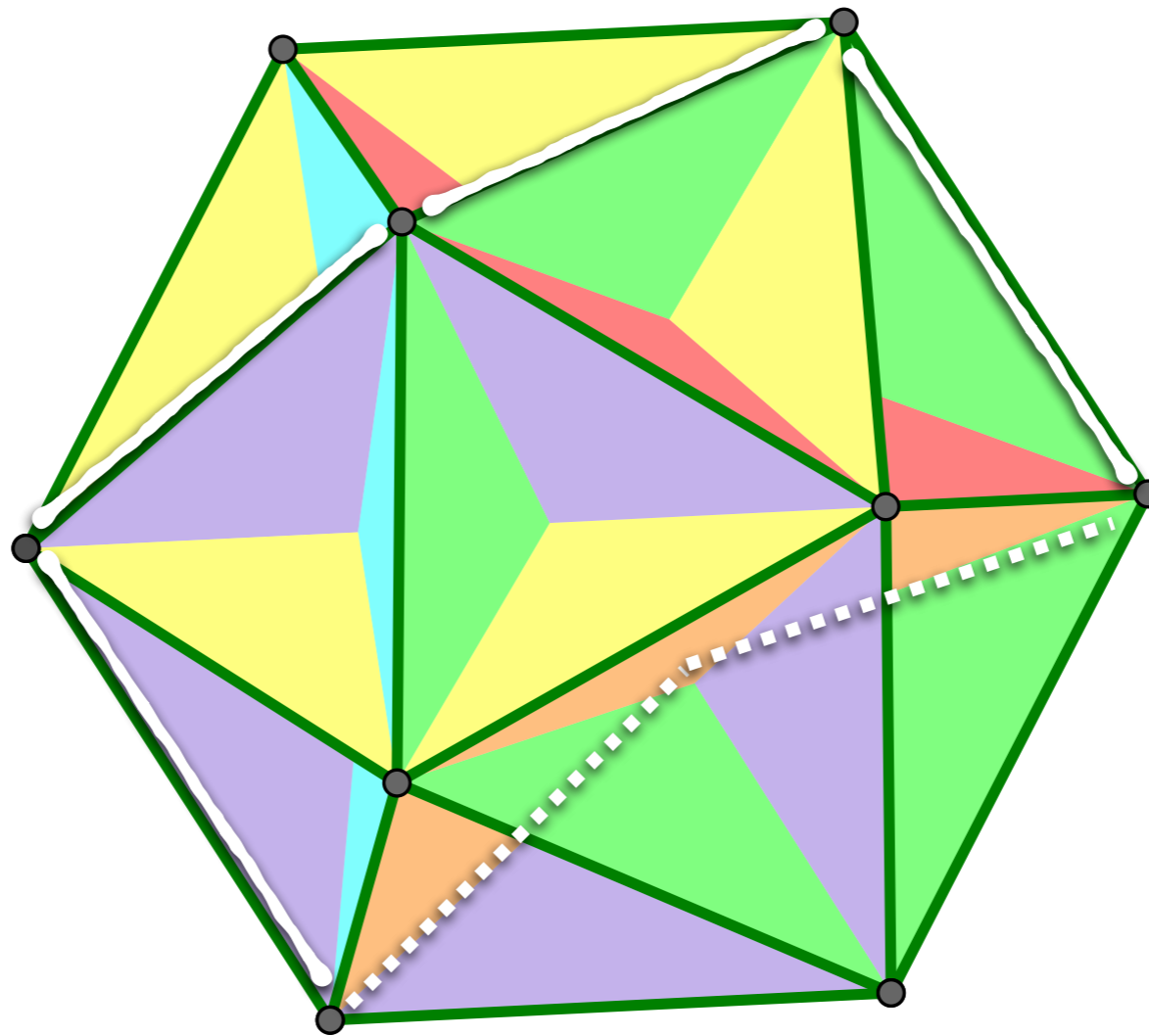
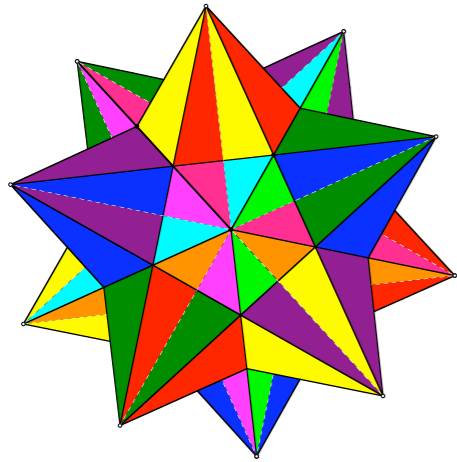
# Teorema (Grünbaum-Dress)

Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio



# Teorema (Grünbaum-Dress)

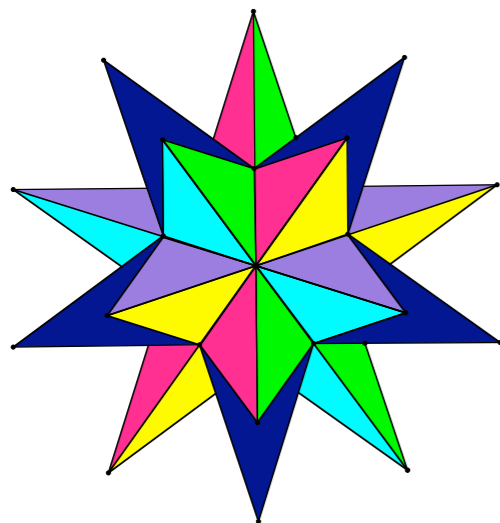
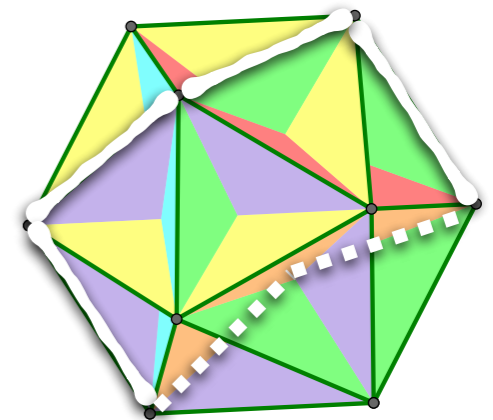
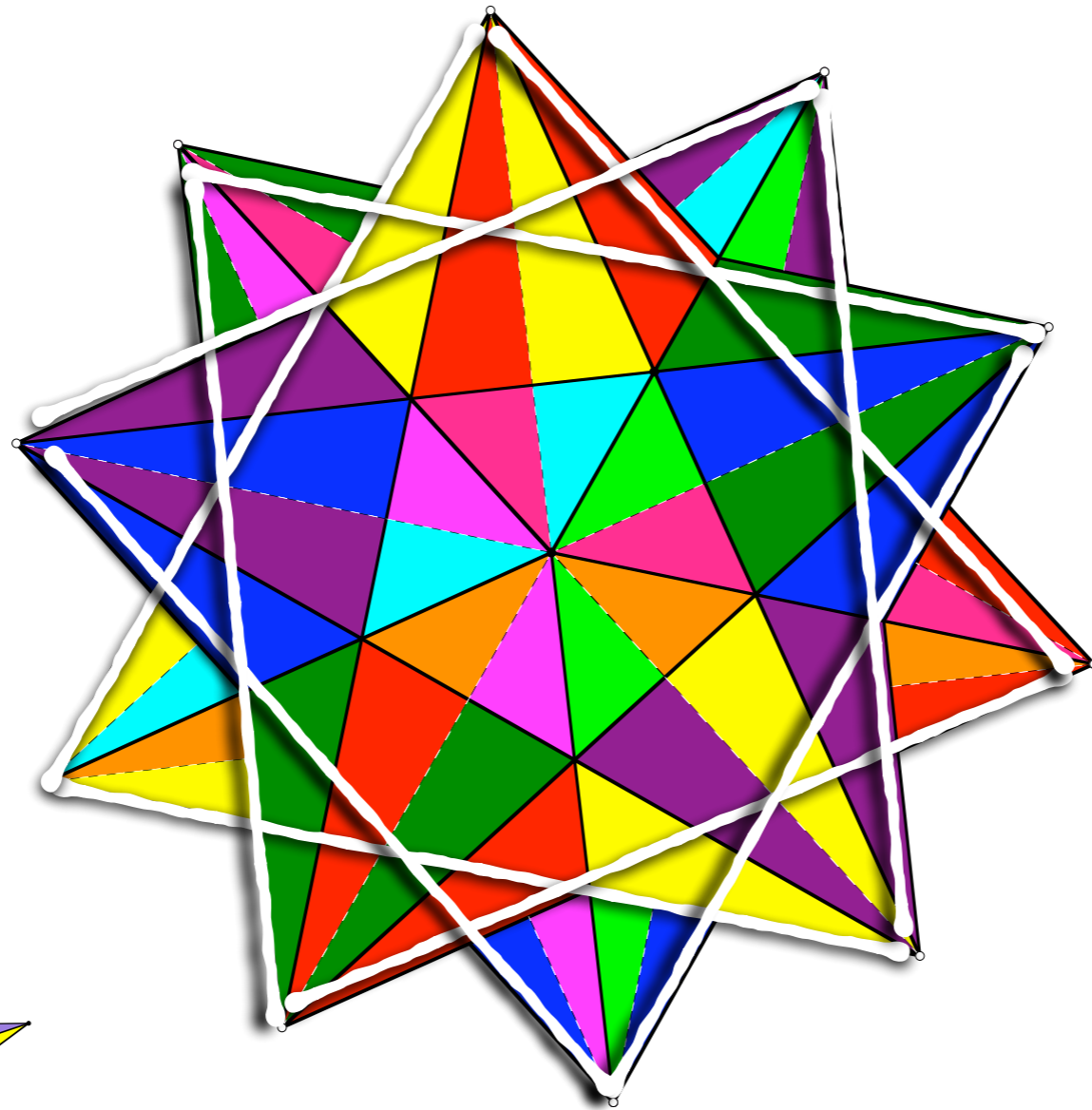
Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio





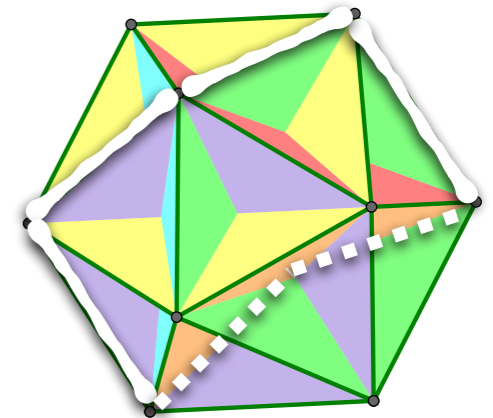
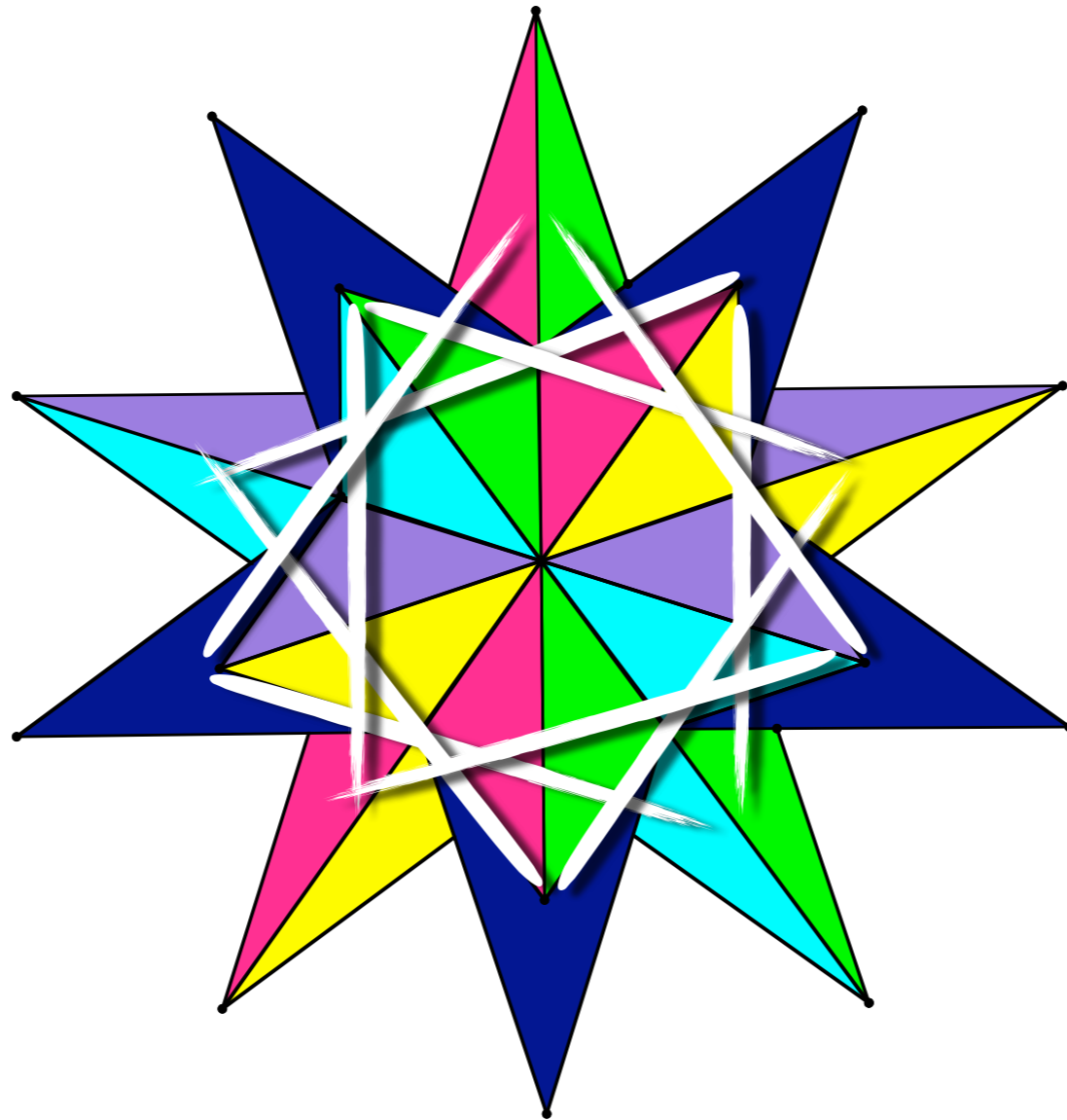
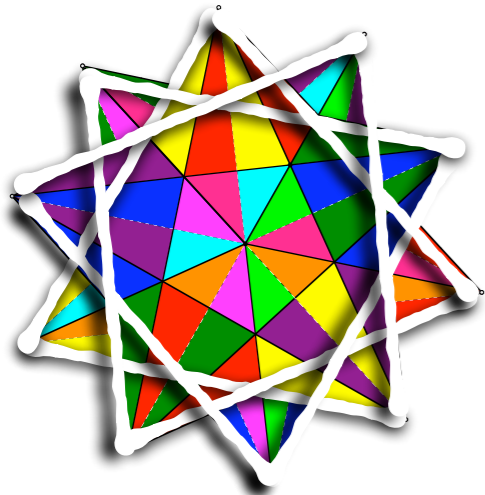
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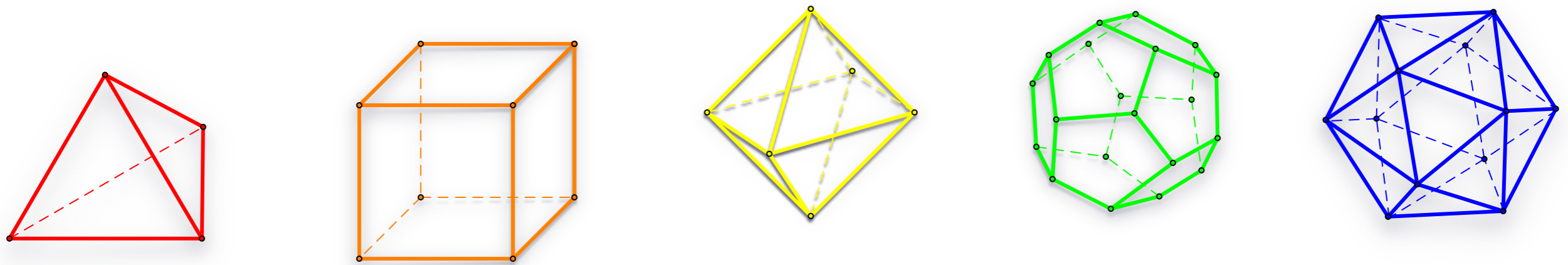
Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio



# Teorema (Grünbaum-Dress)

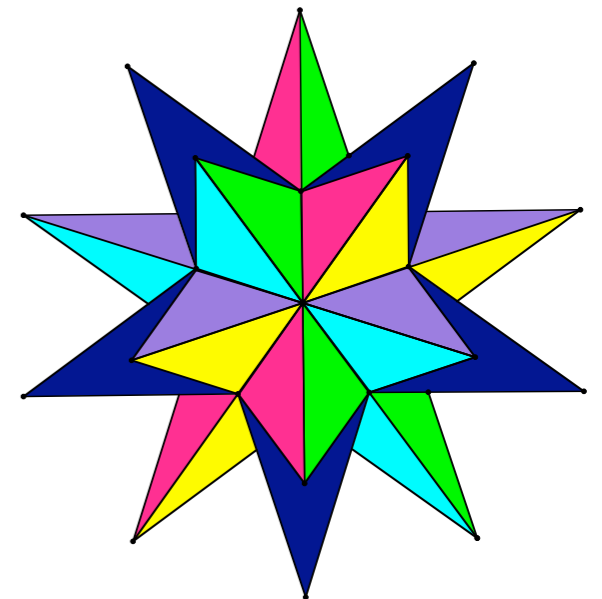
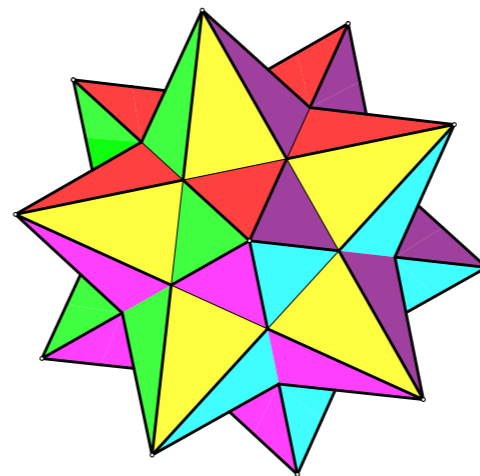
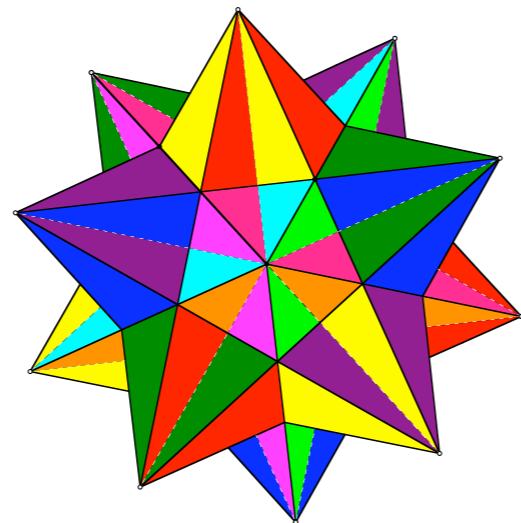
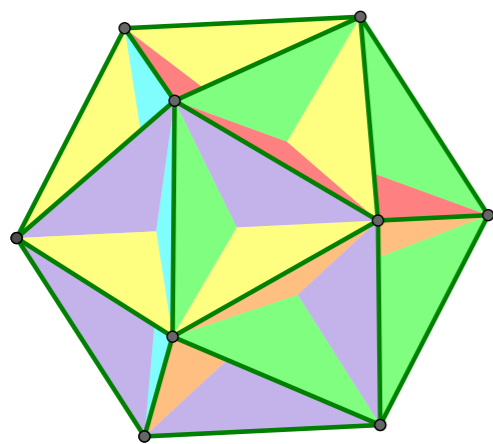
Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio





## Teorema (Grünbaum-Dress)

Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio

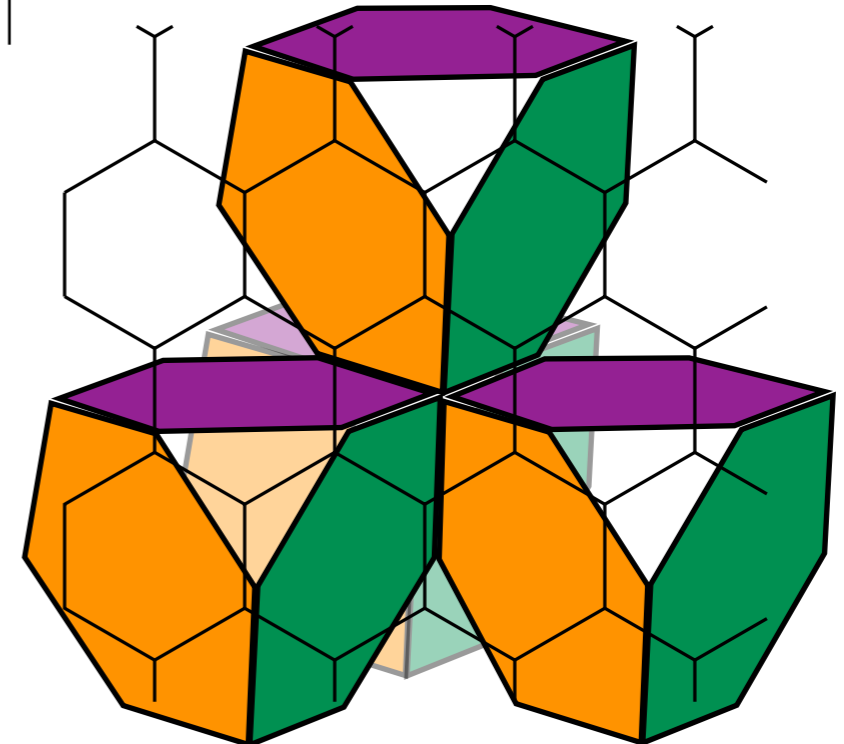
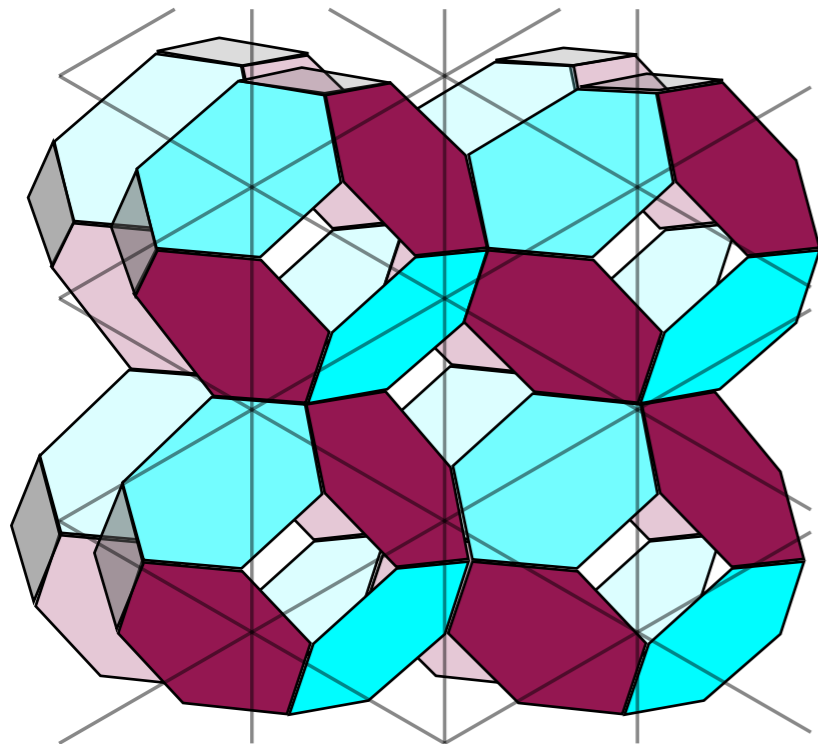
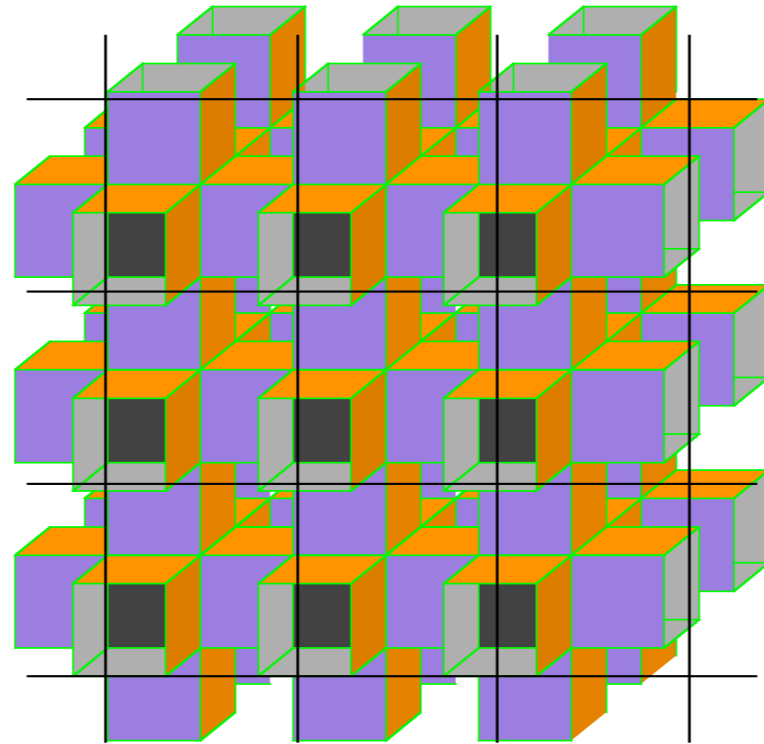


Teorema (Grünbaum-Dress)

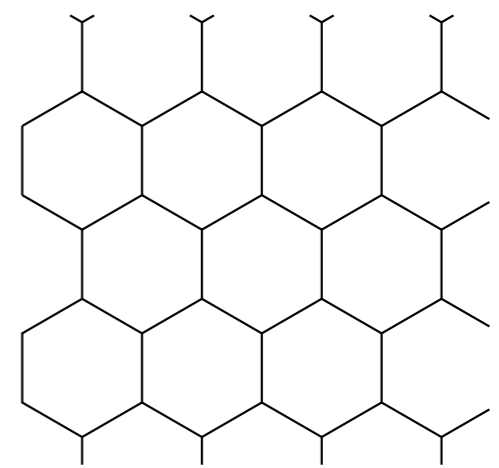
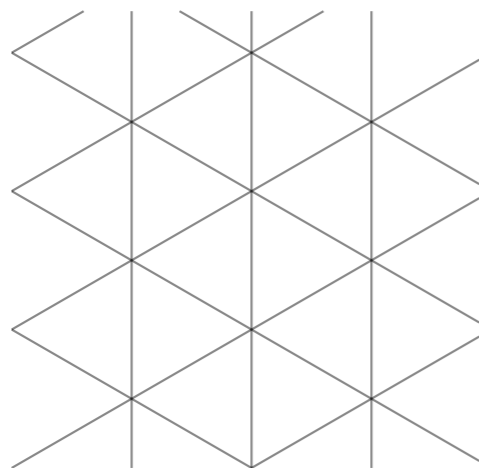
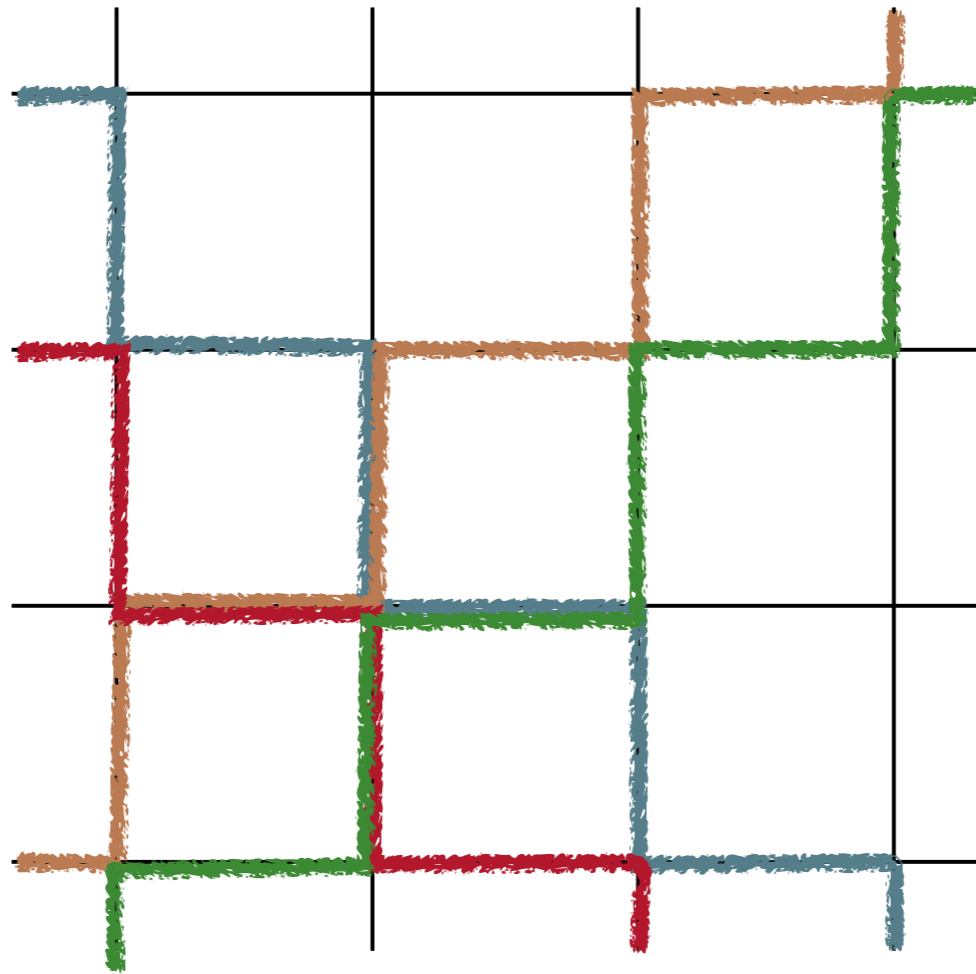
Hay exactamente 18 poliedros regulares finitos en el espacio

¿Poliedros regulares infinitos?

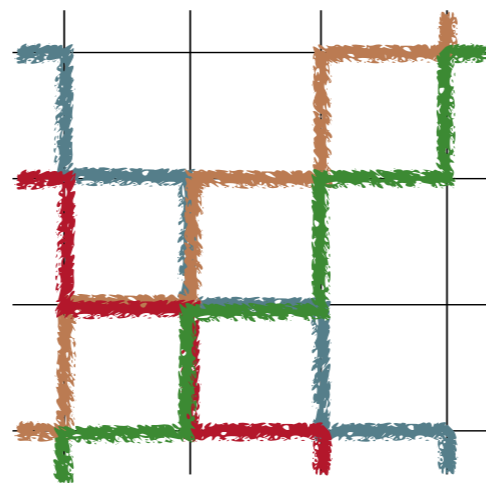
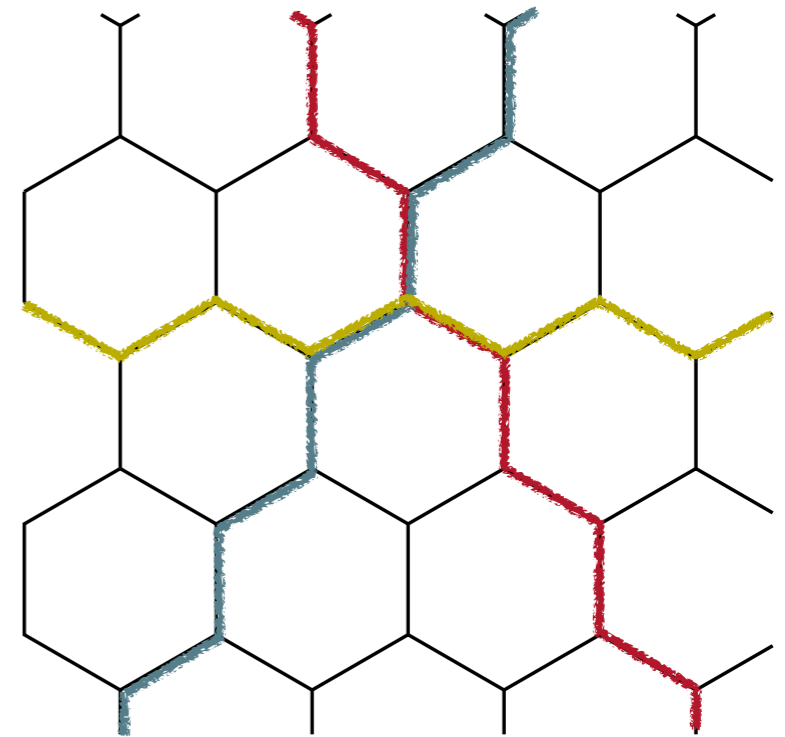
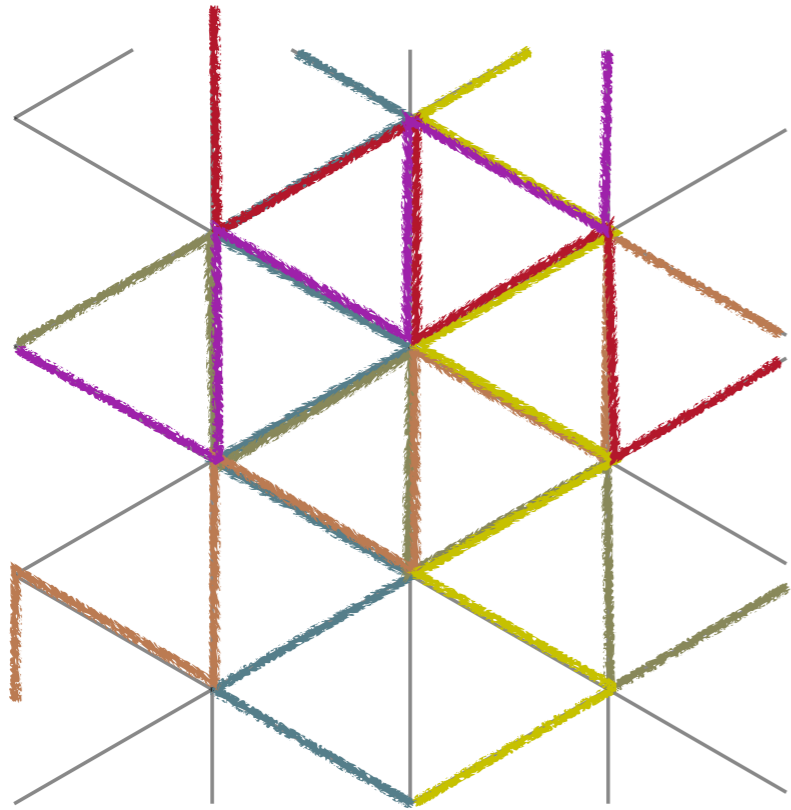
# Poliedros regulares infinitos



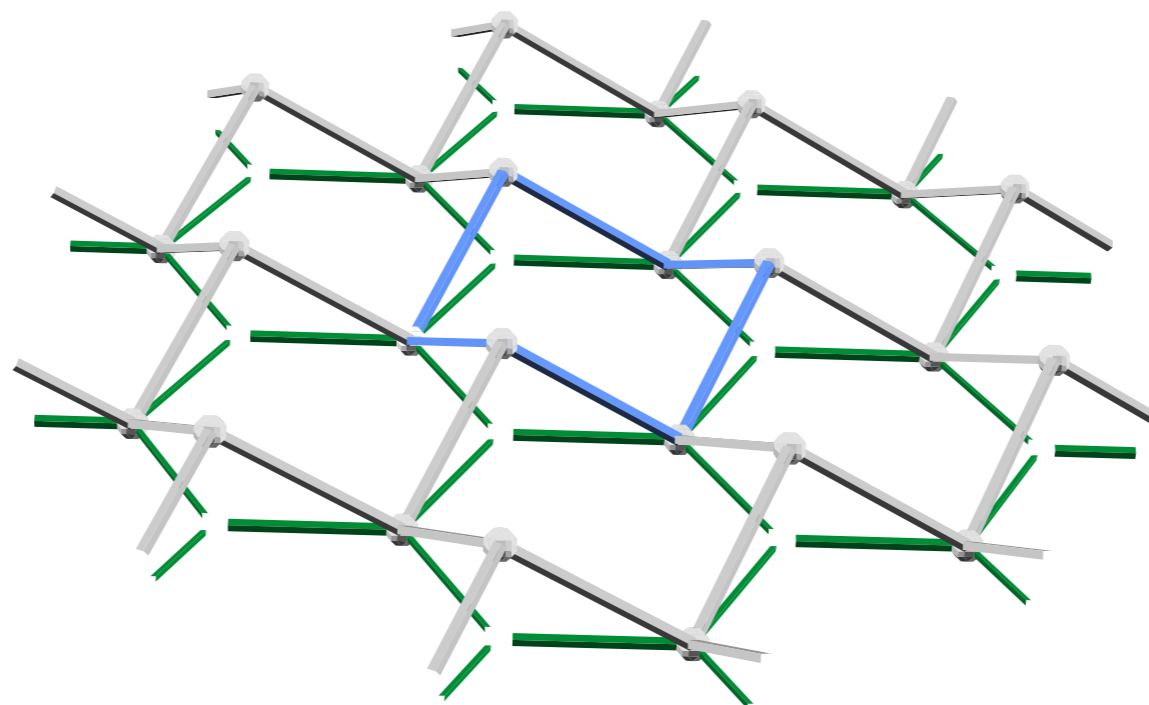
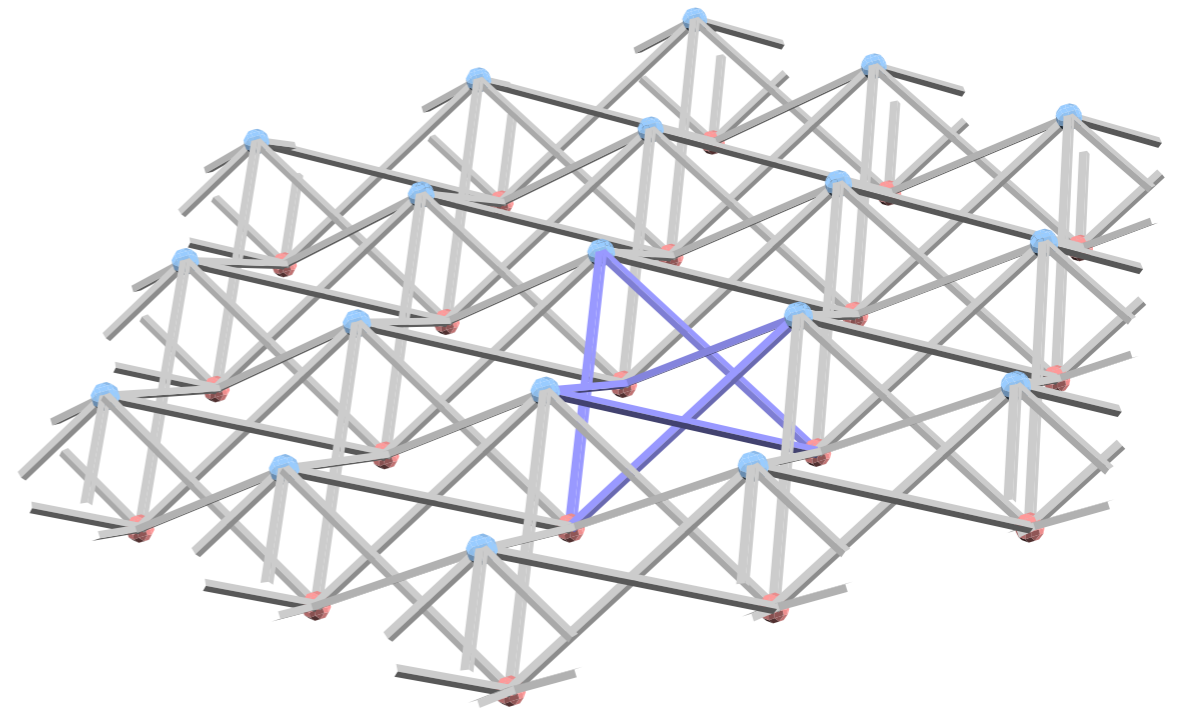
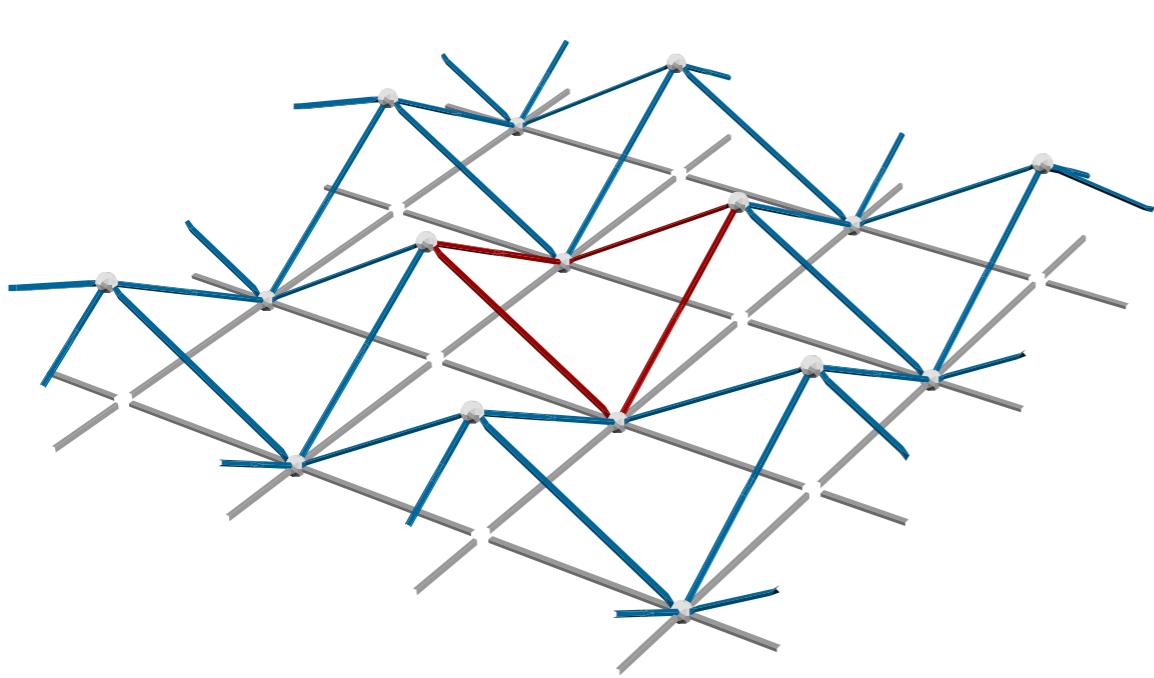
# Poliedros regulares infinitos



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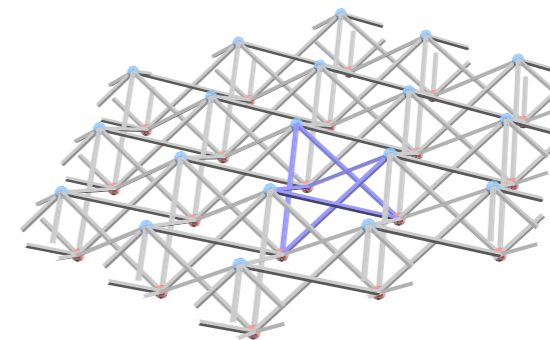
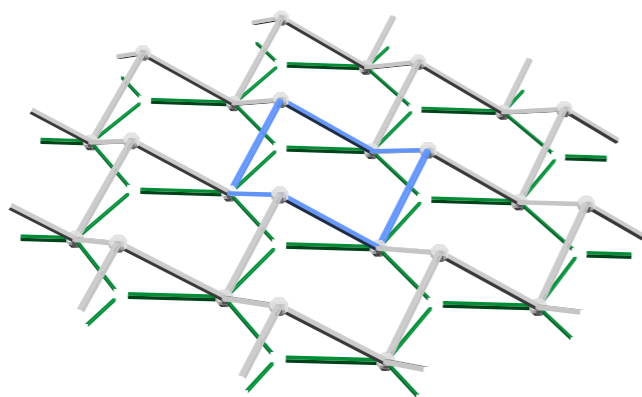
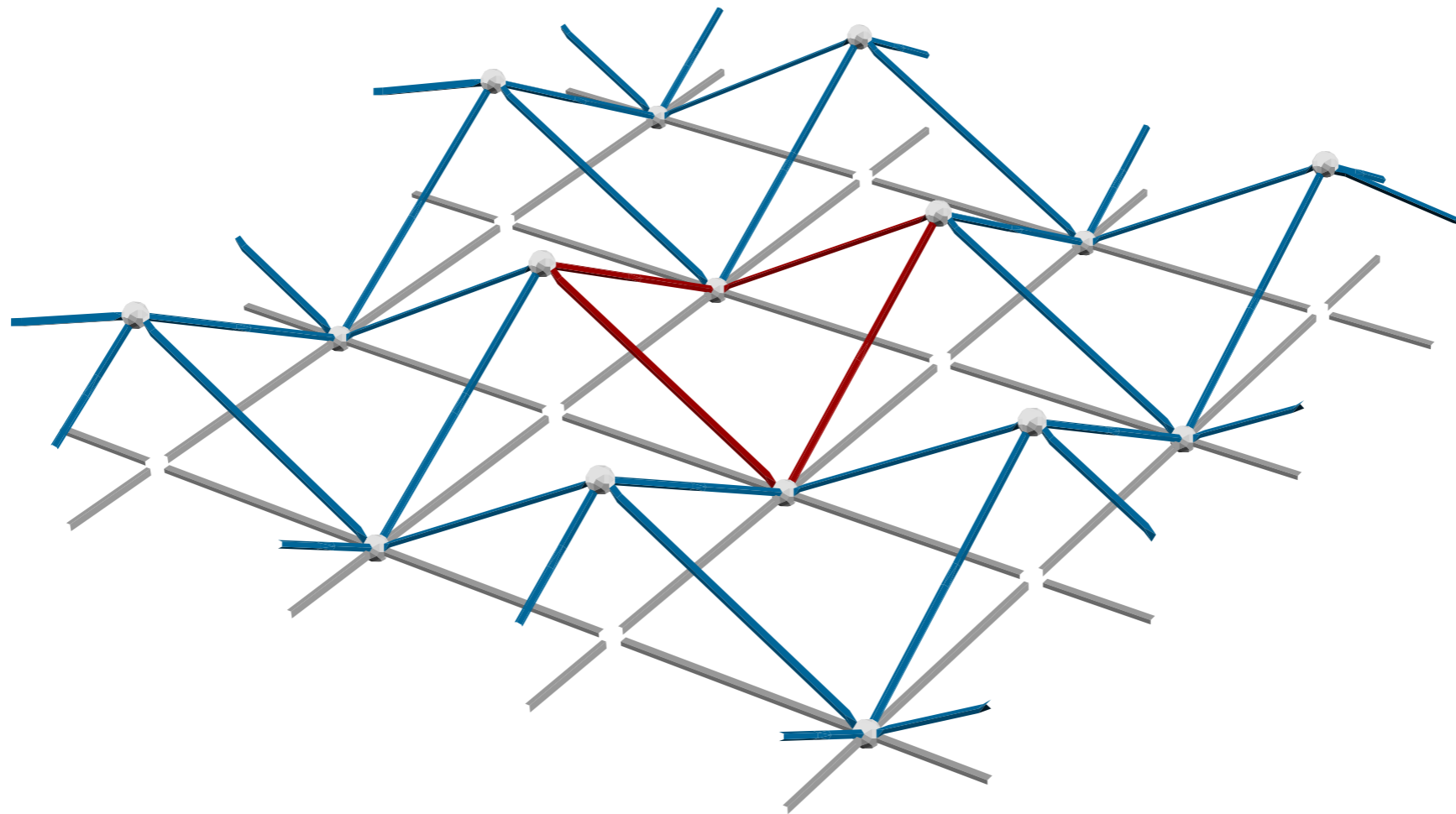


# Poliedros regulares infinitos

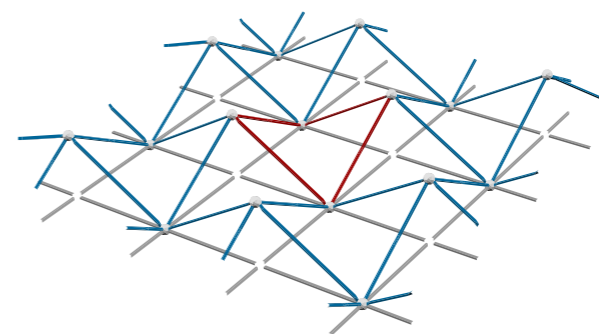
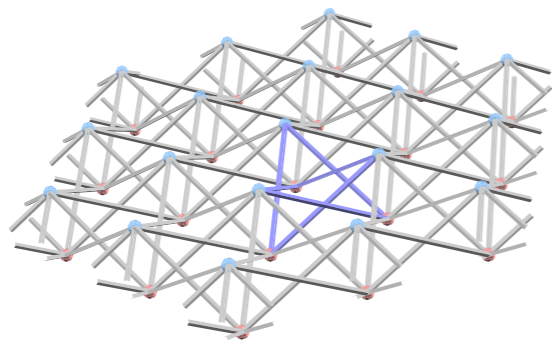
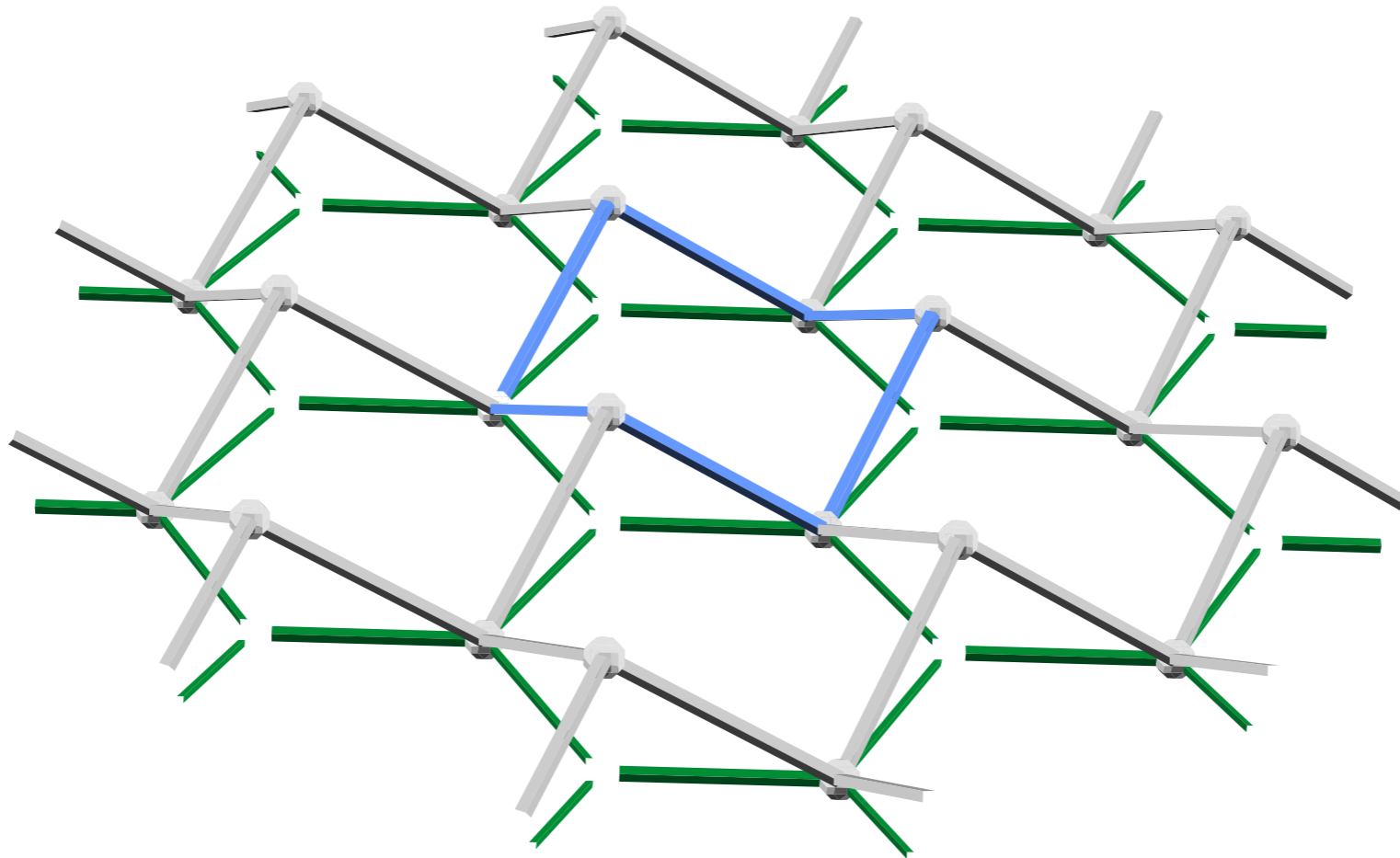




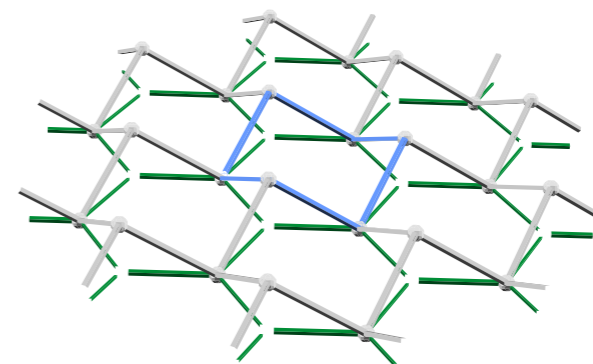
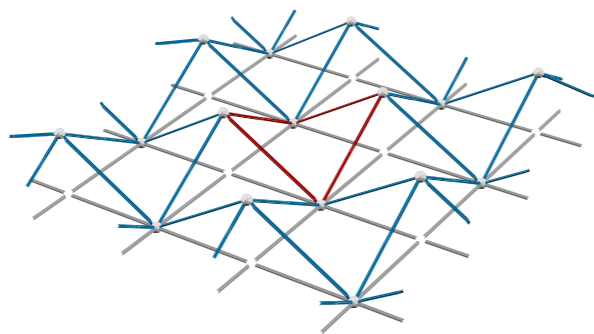
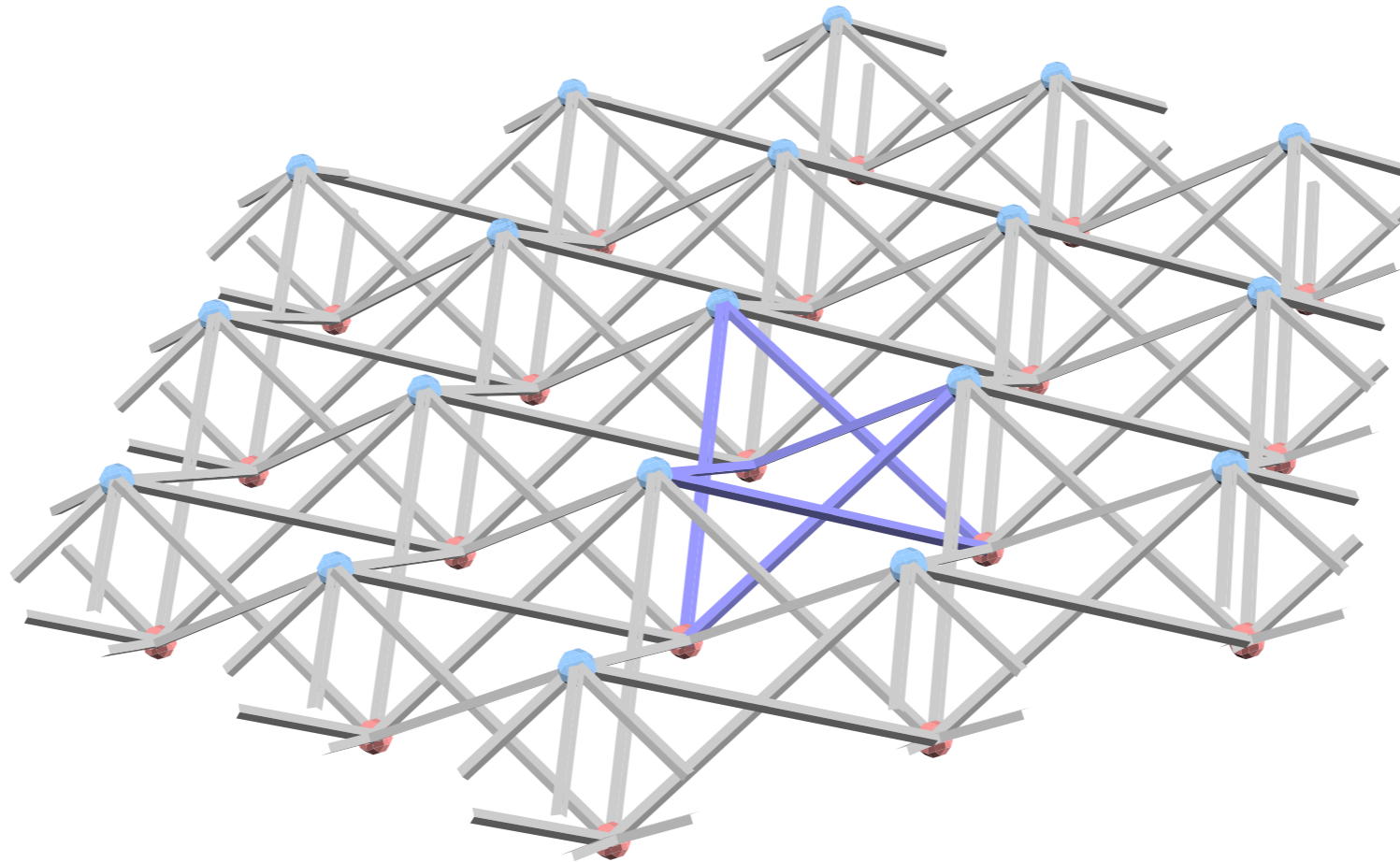
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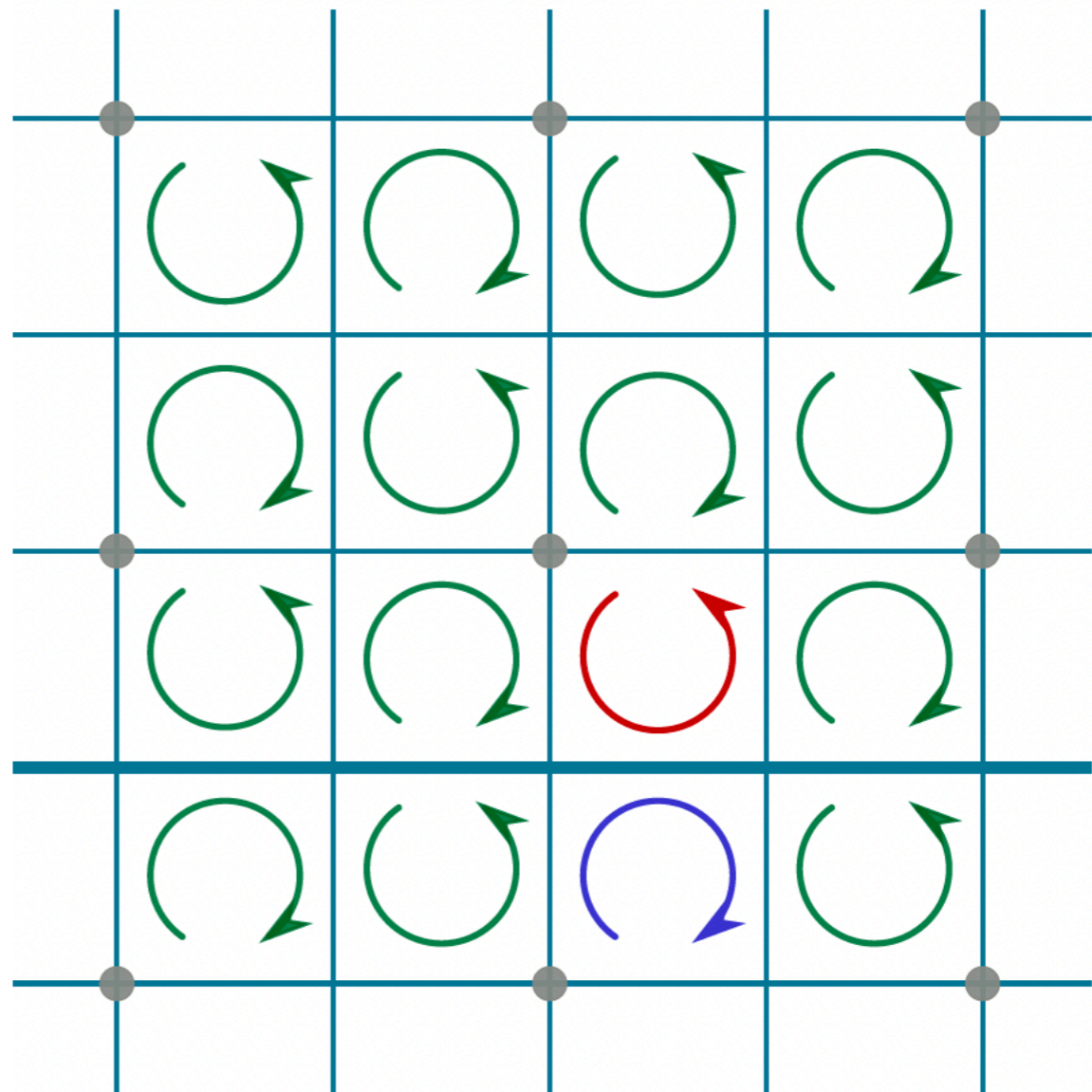
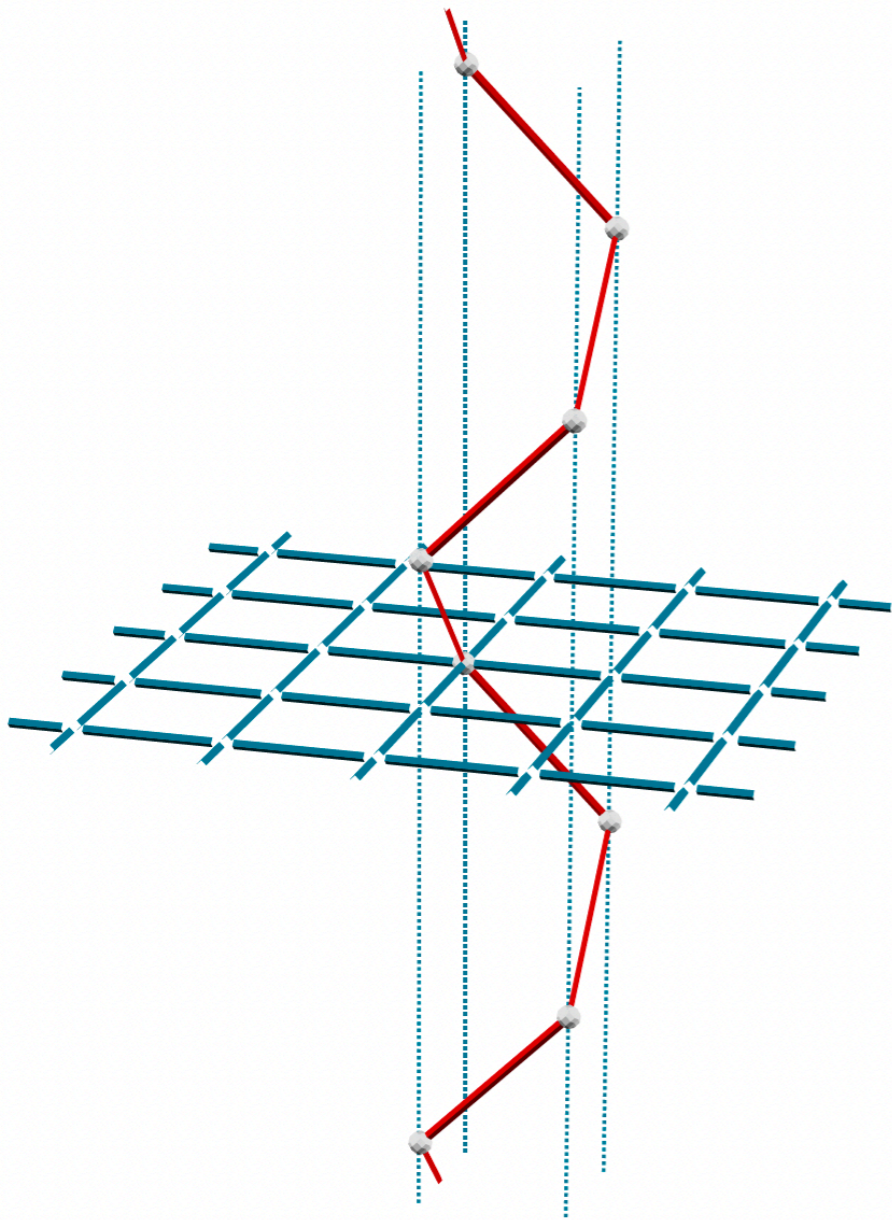
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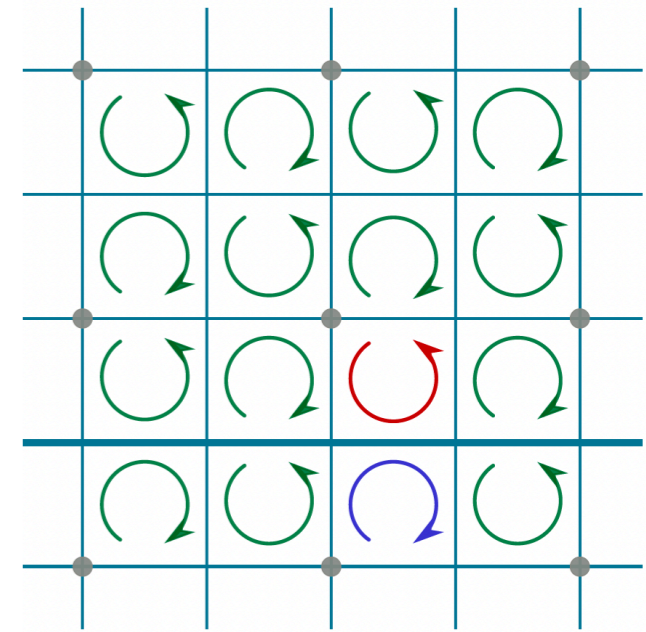
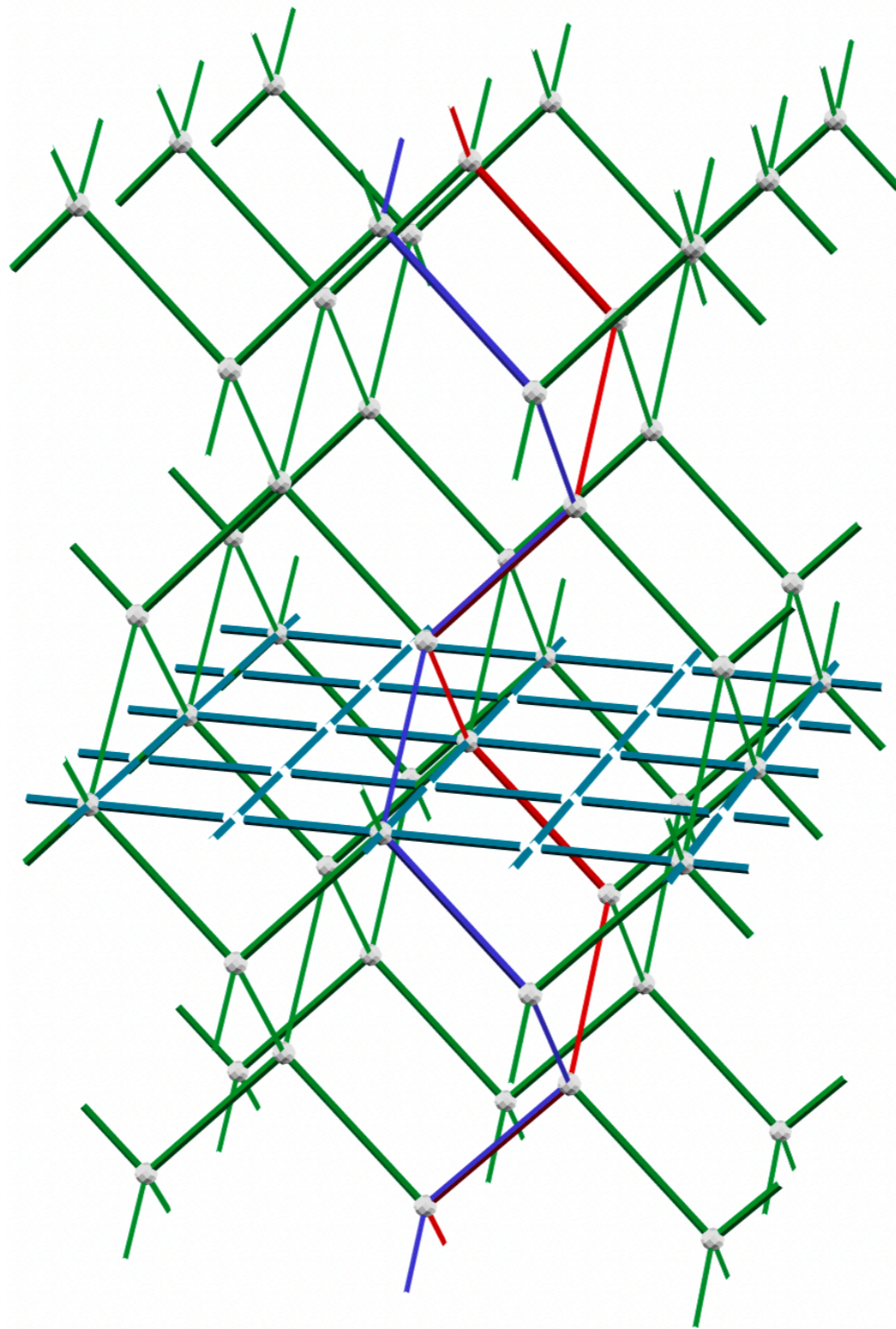
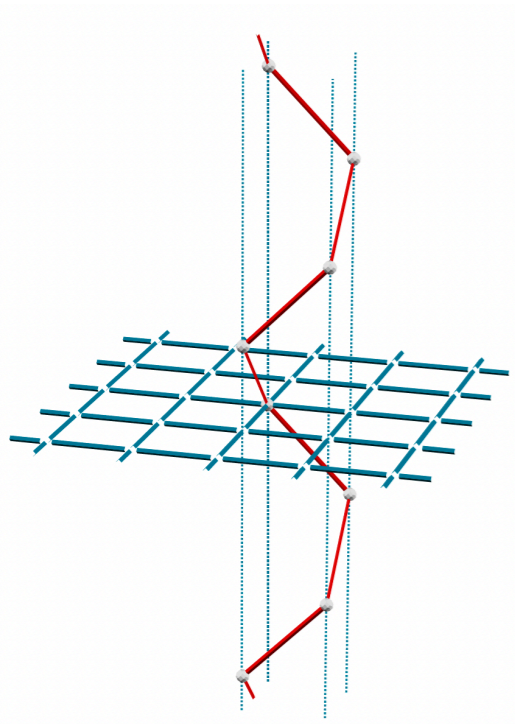
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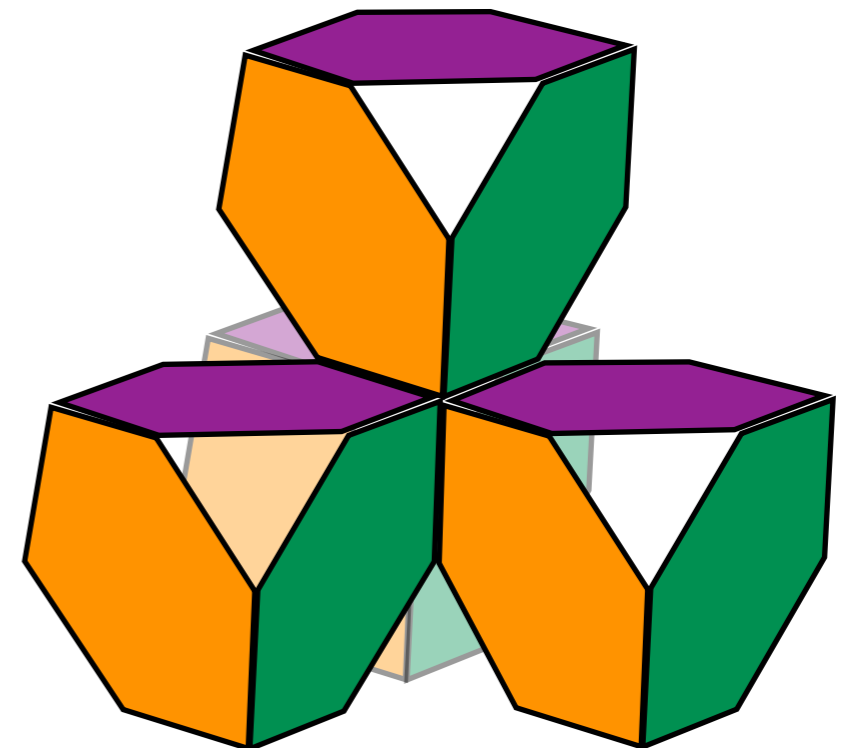
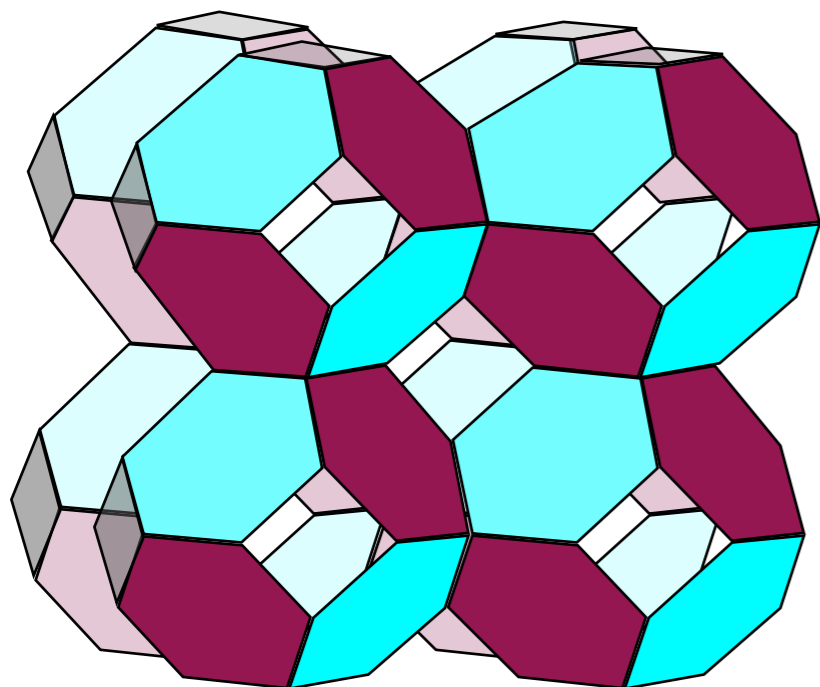
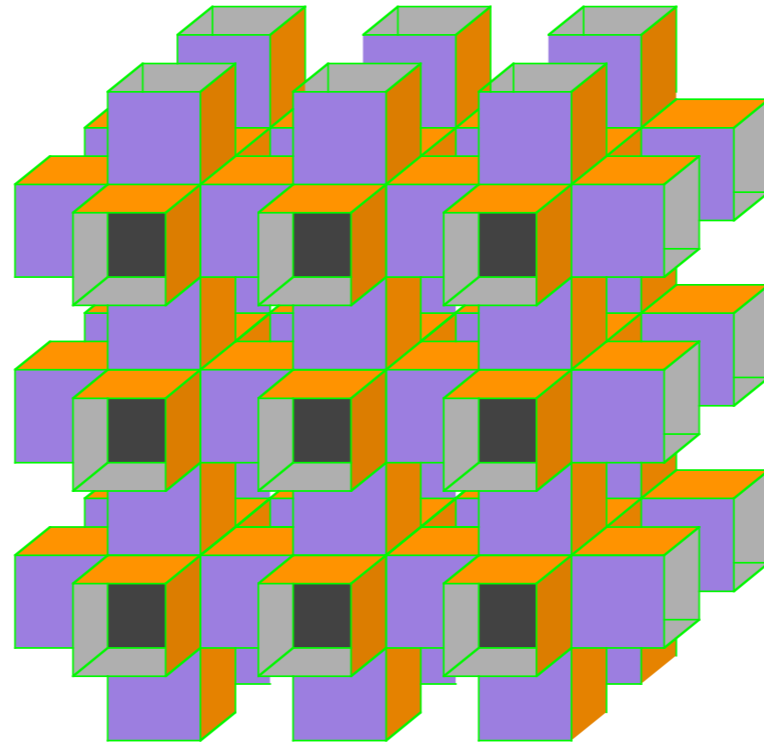
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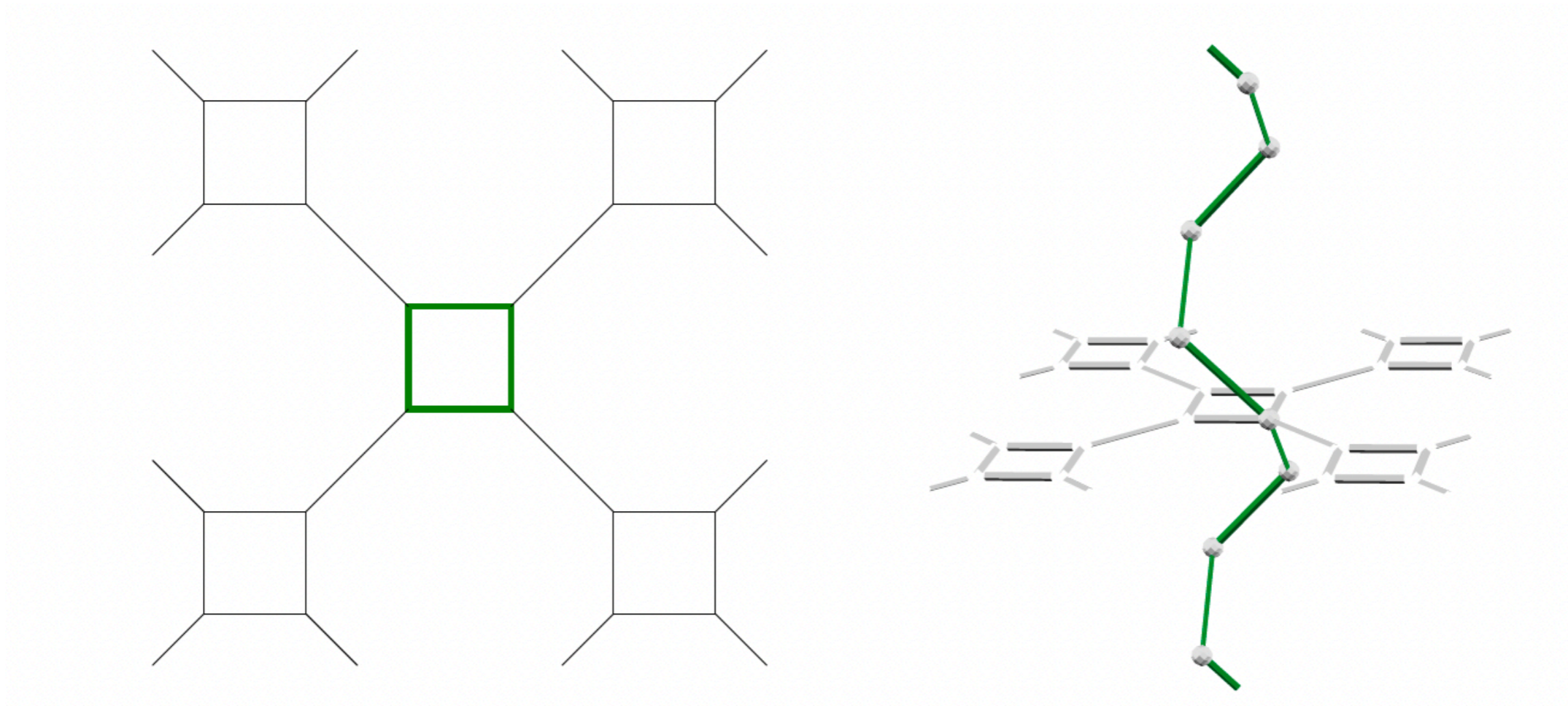
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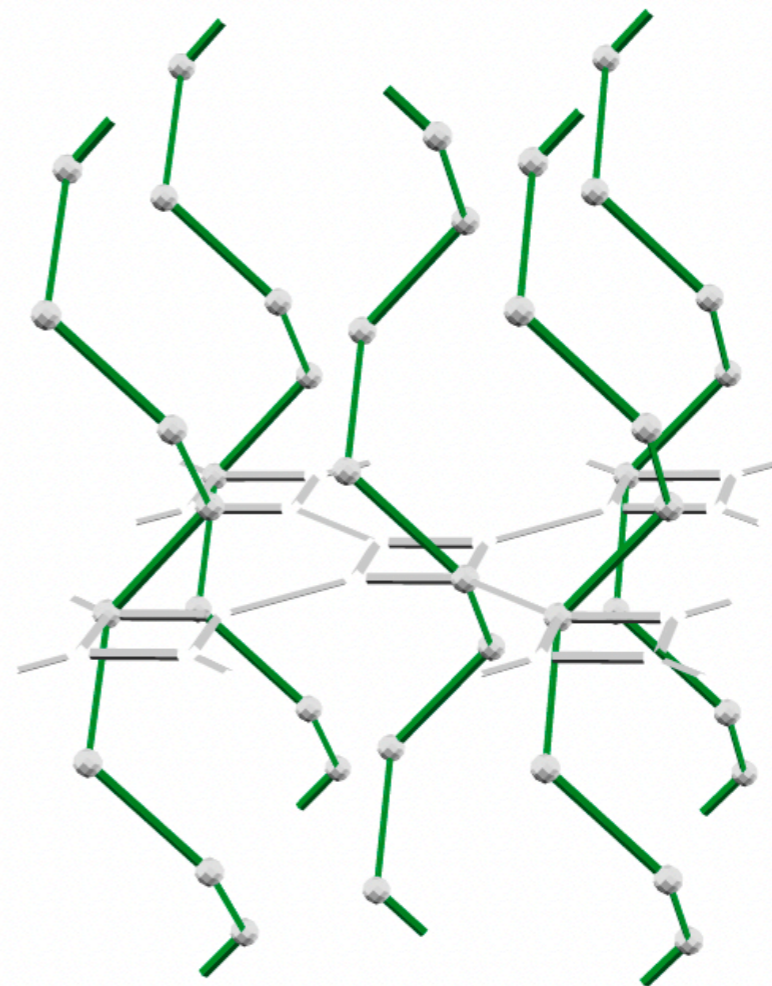
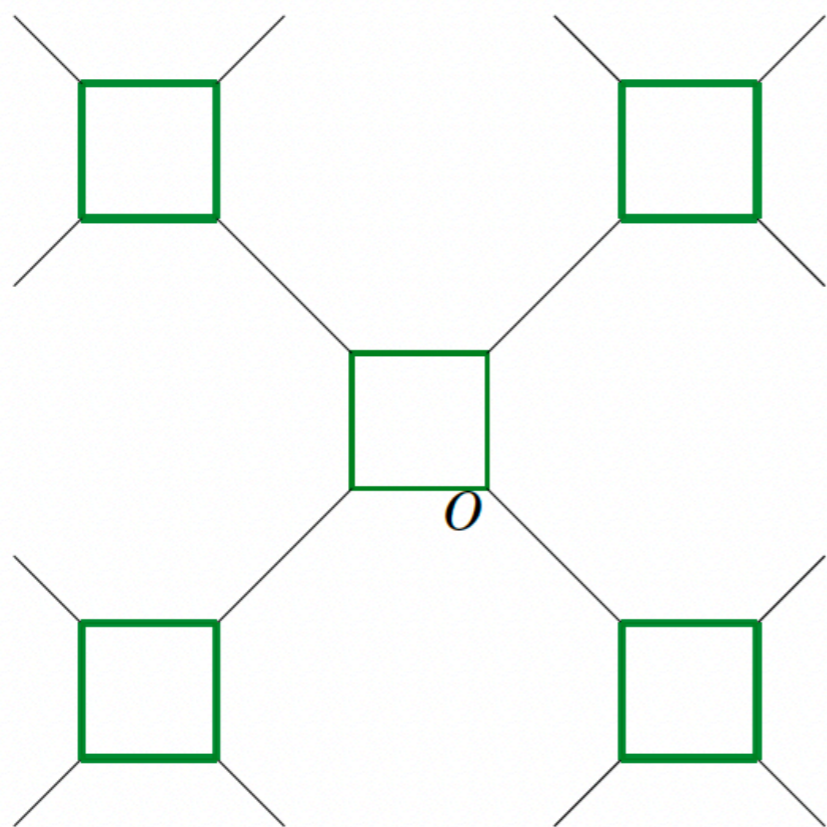
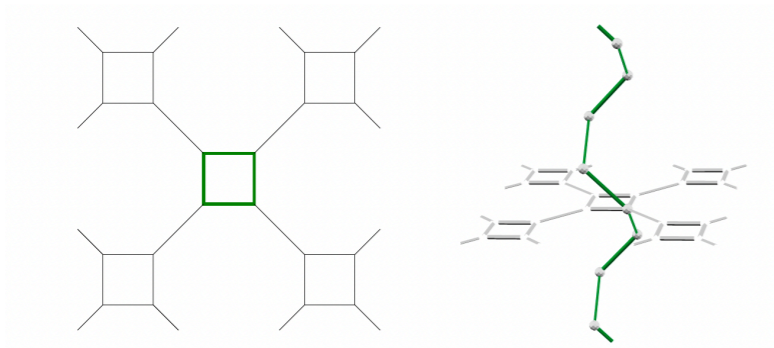
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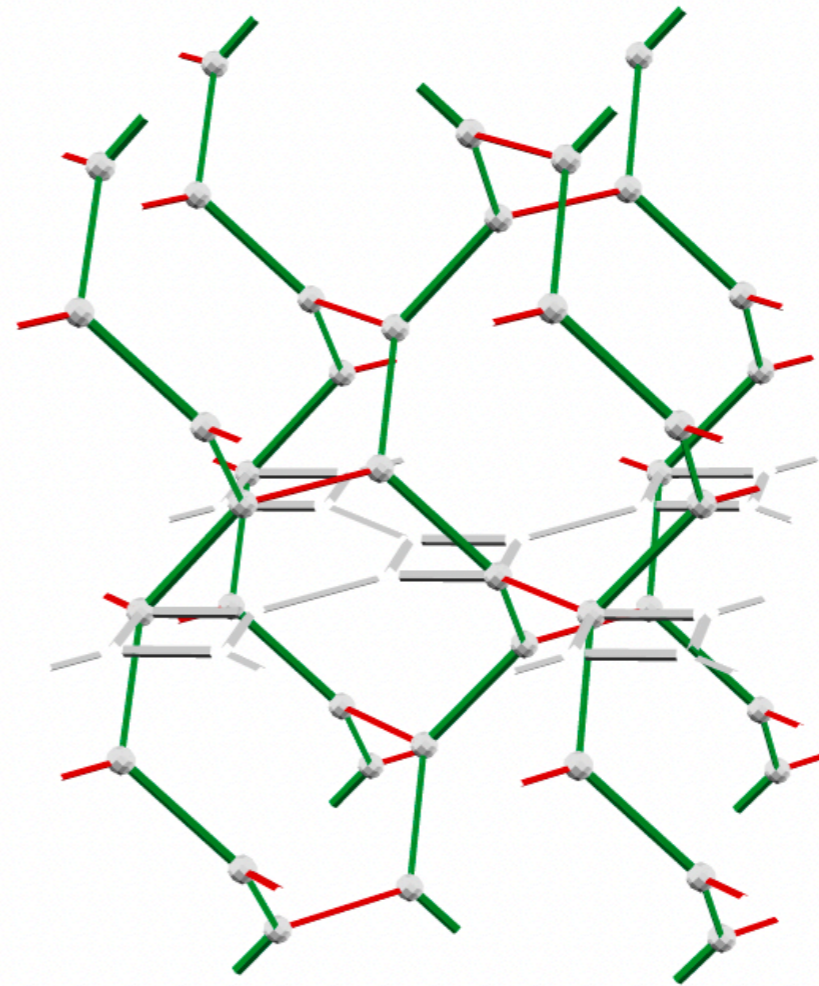
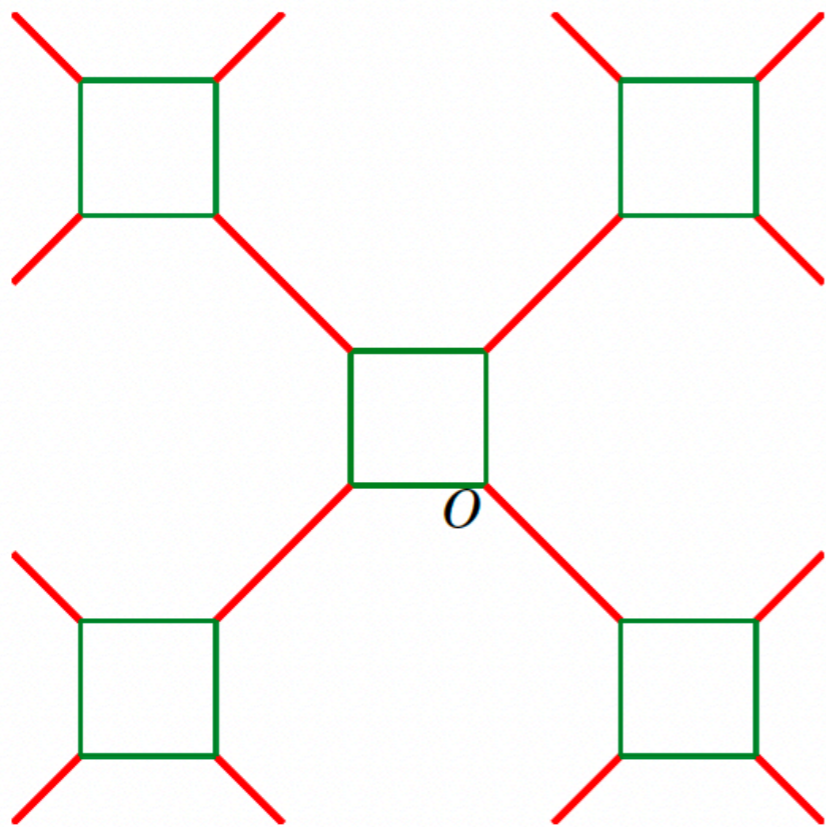
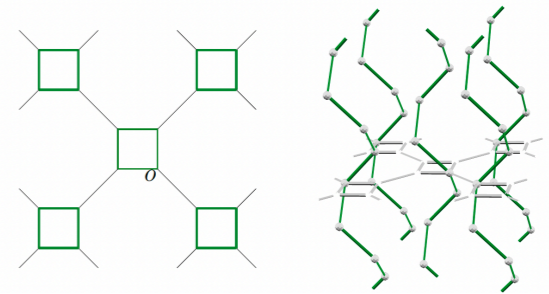
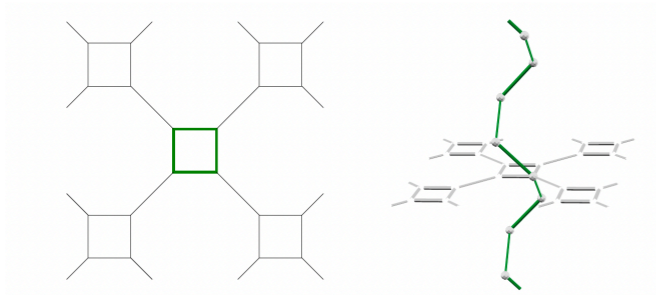


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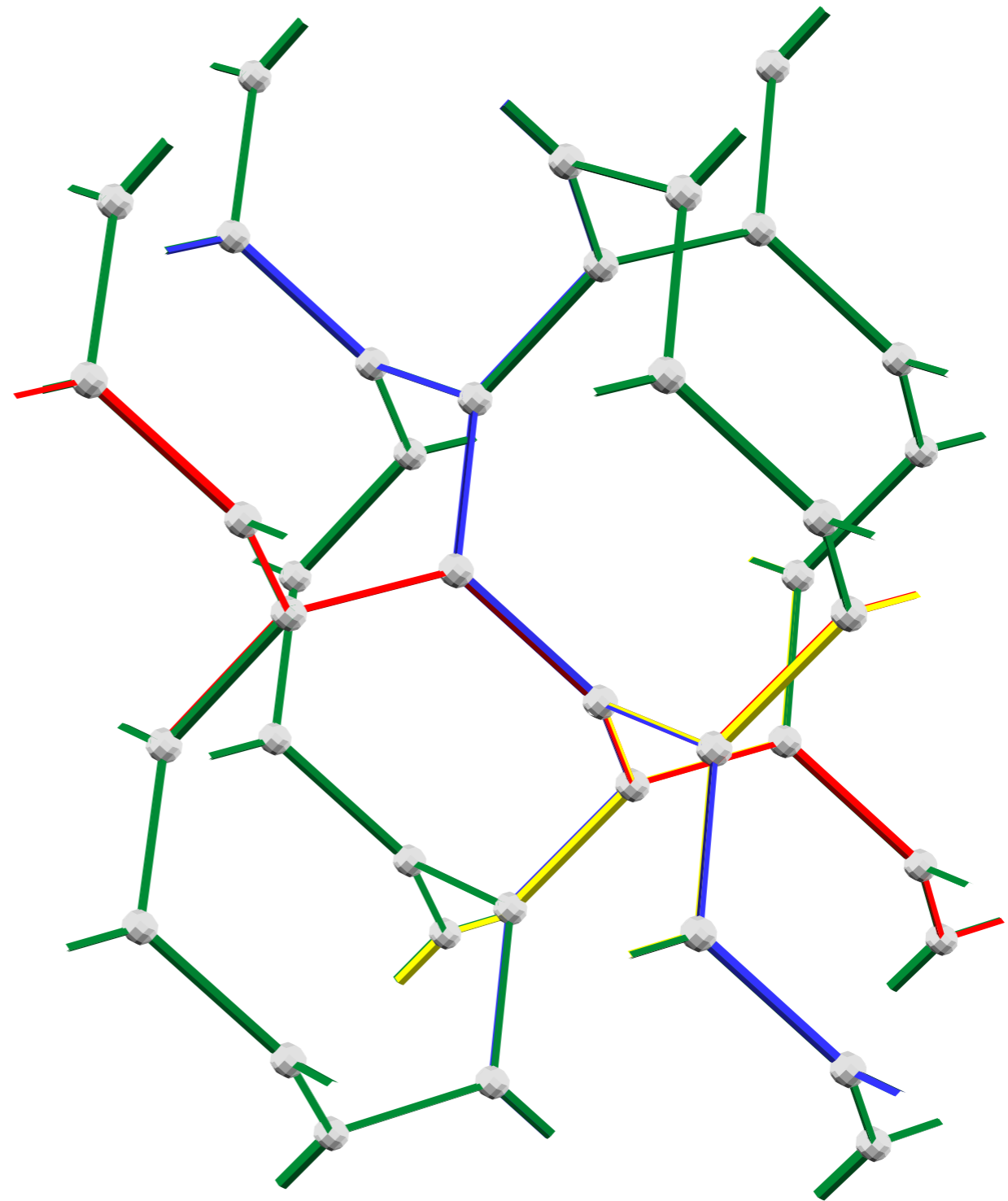
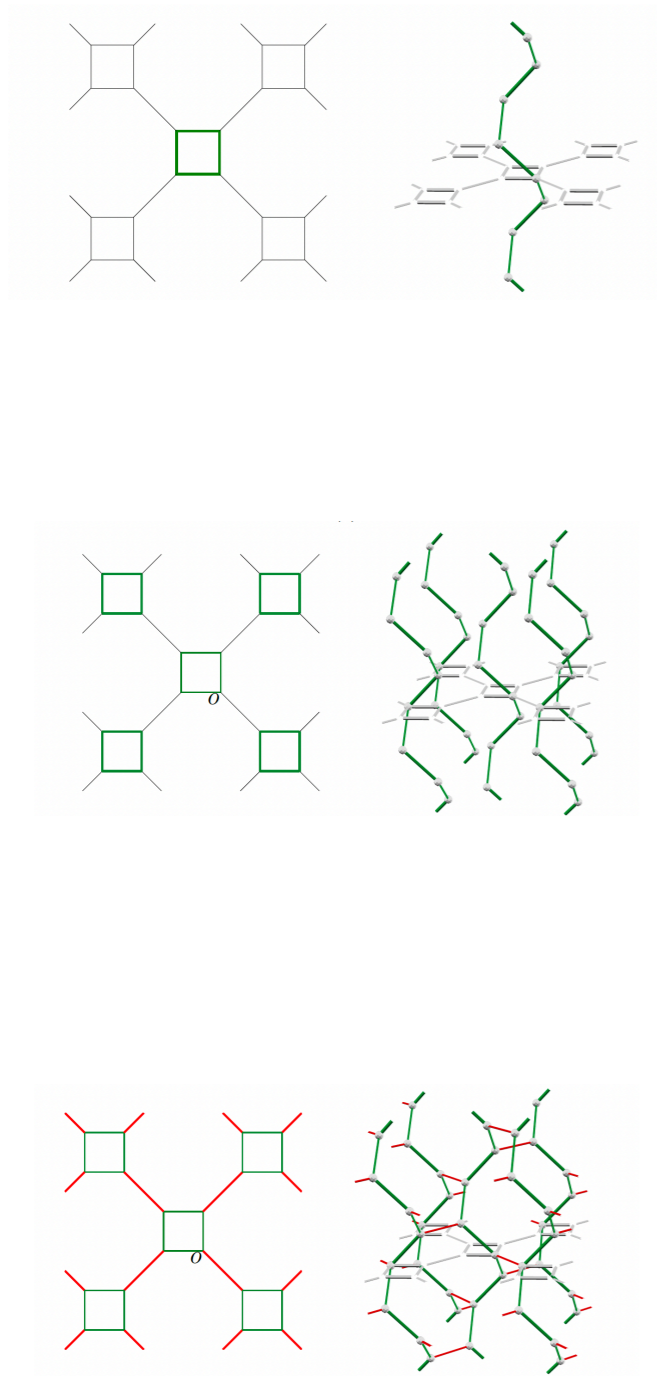




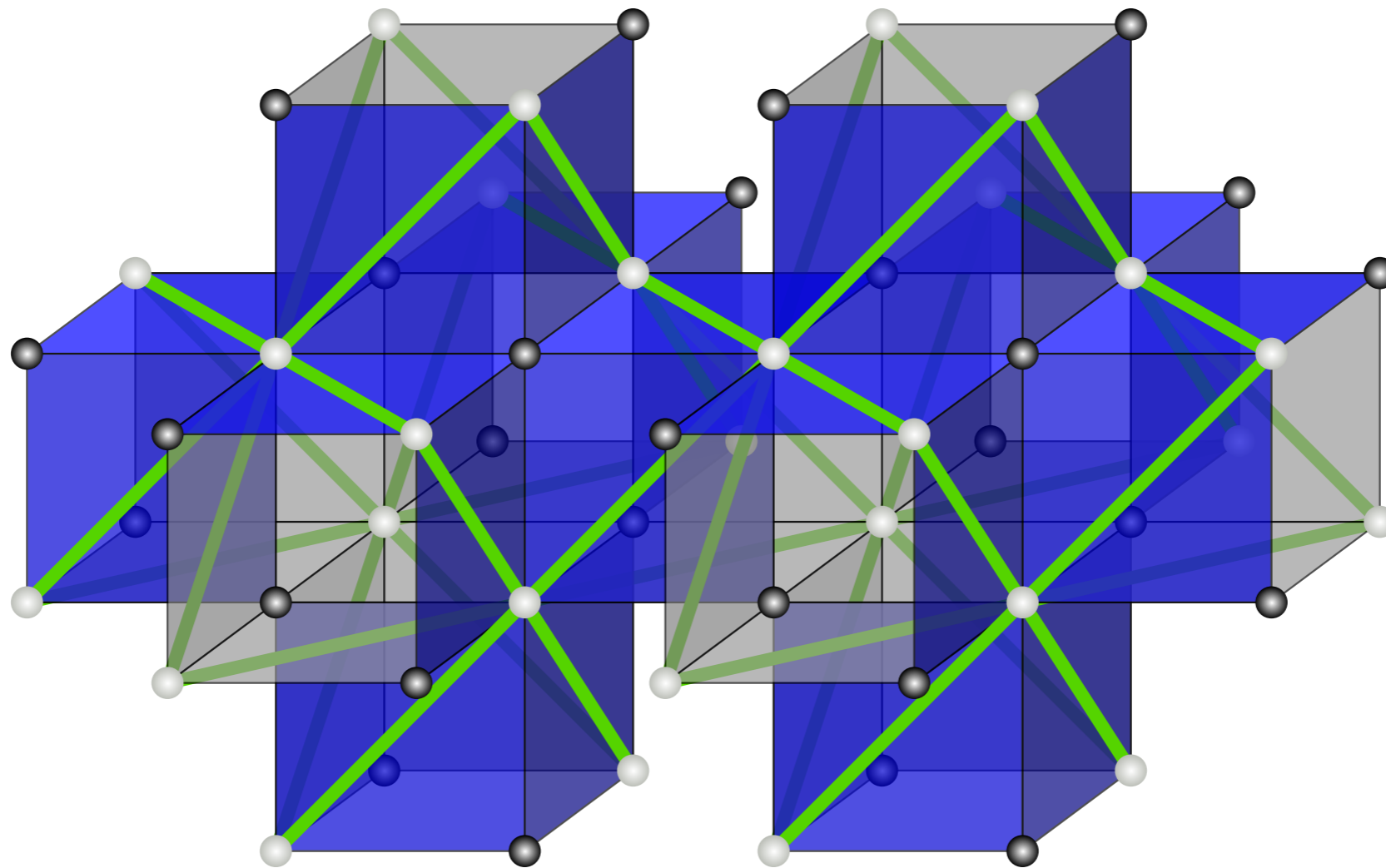
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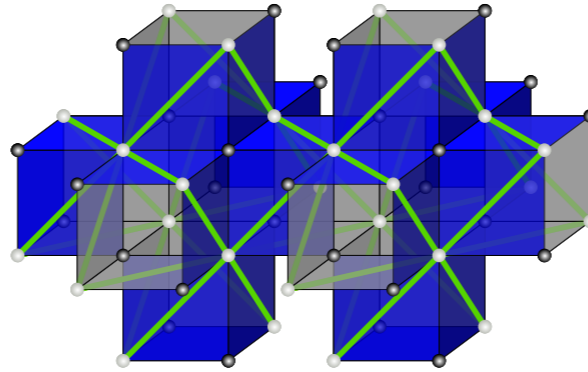
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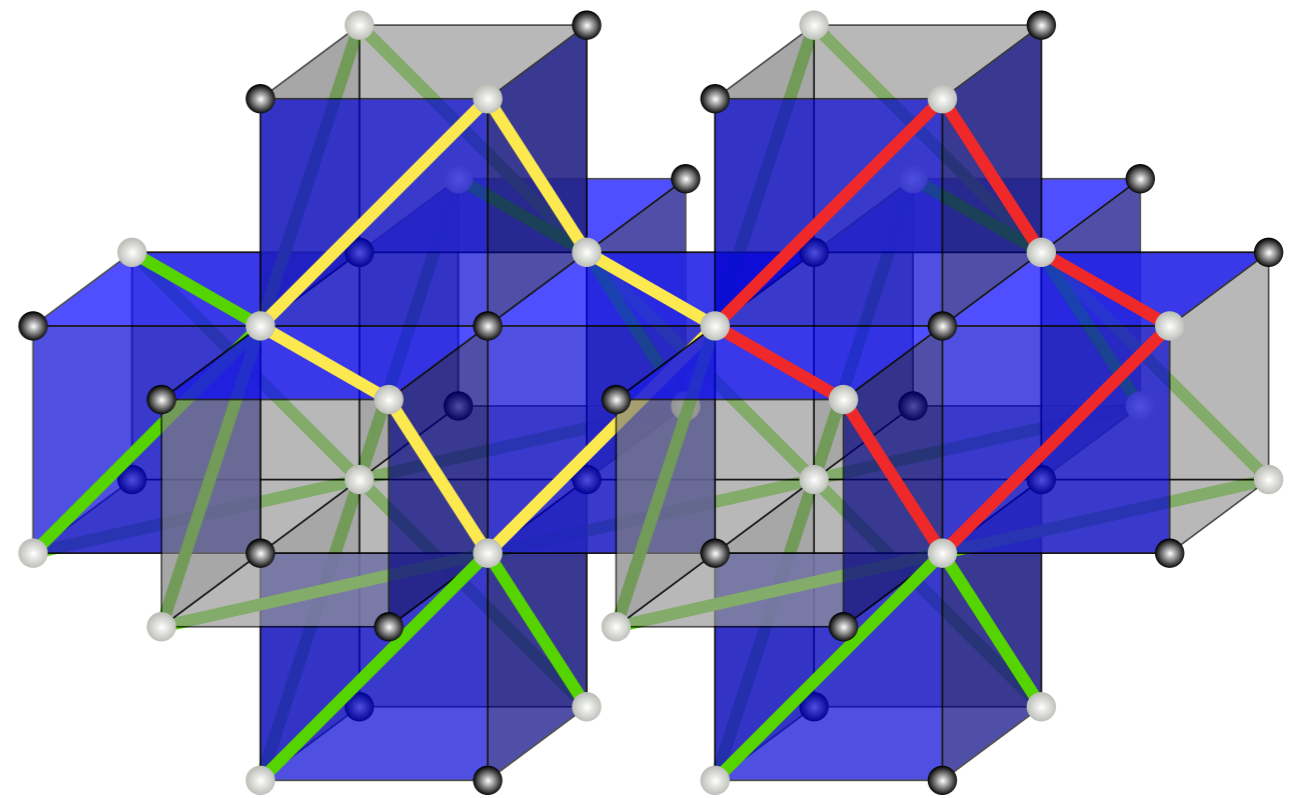
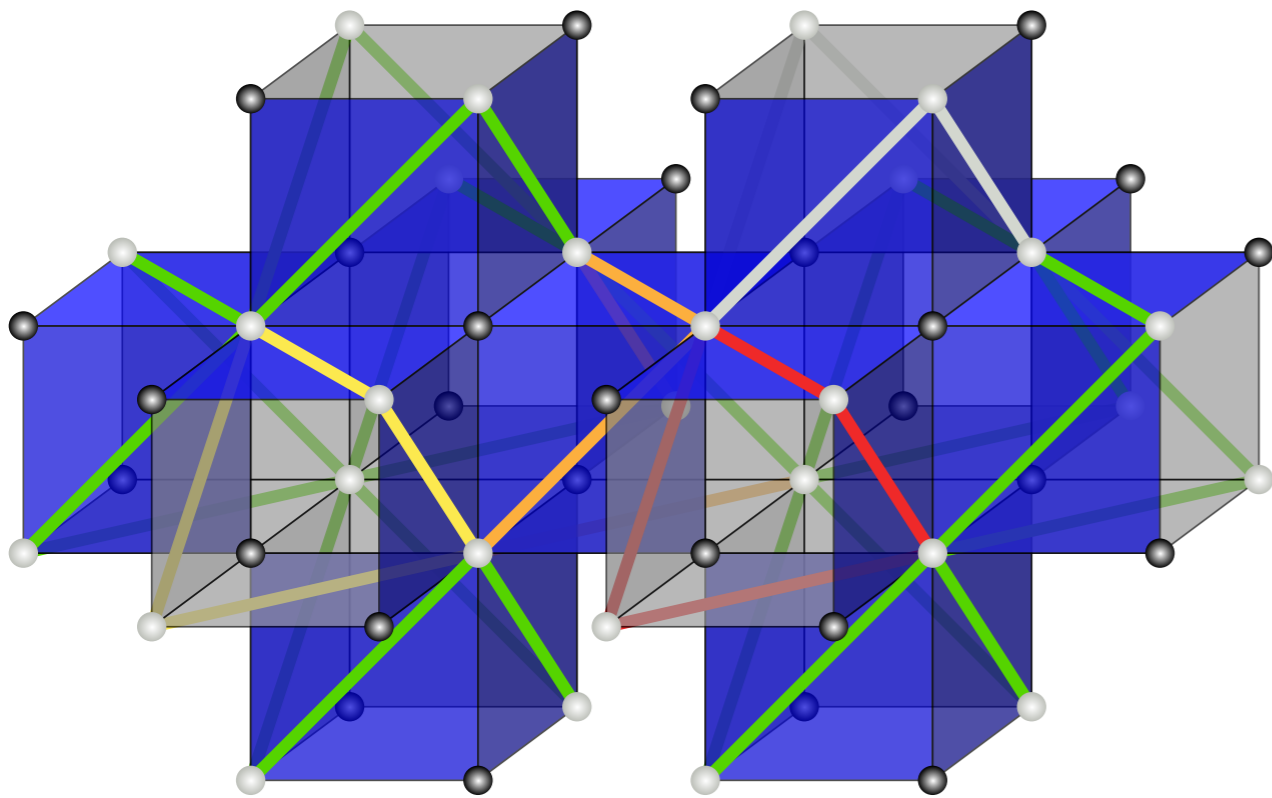
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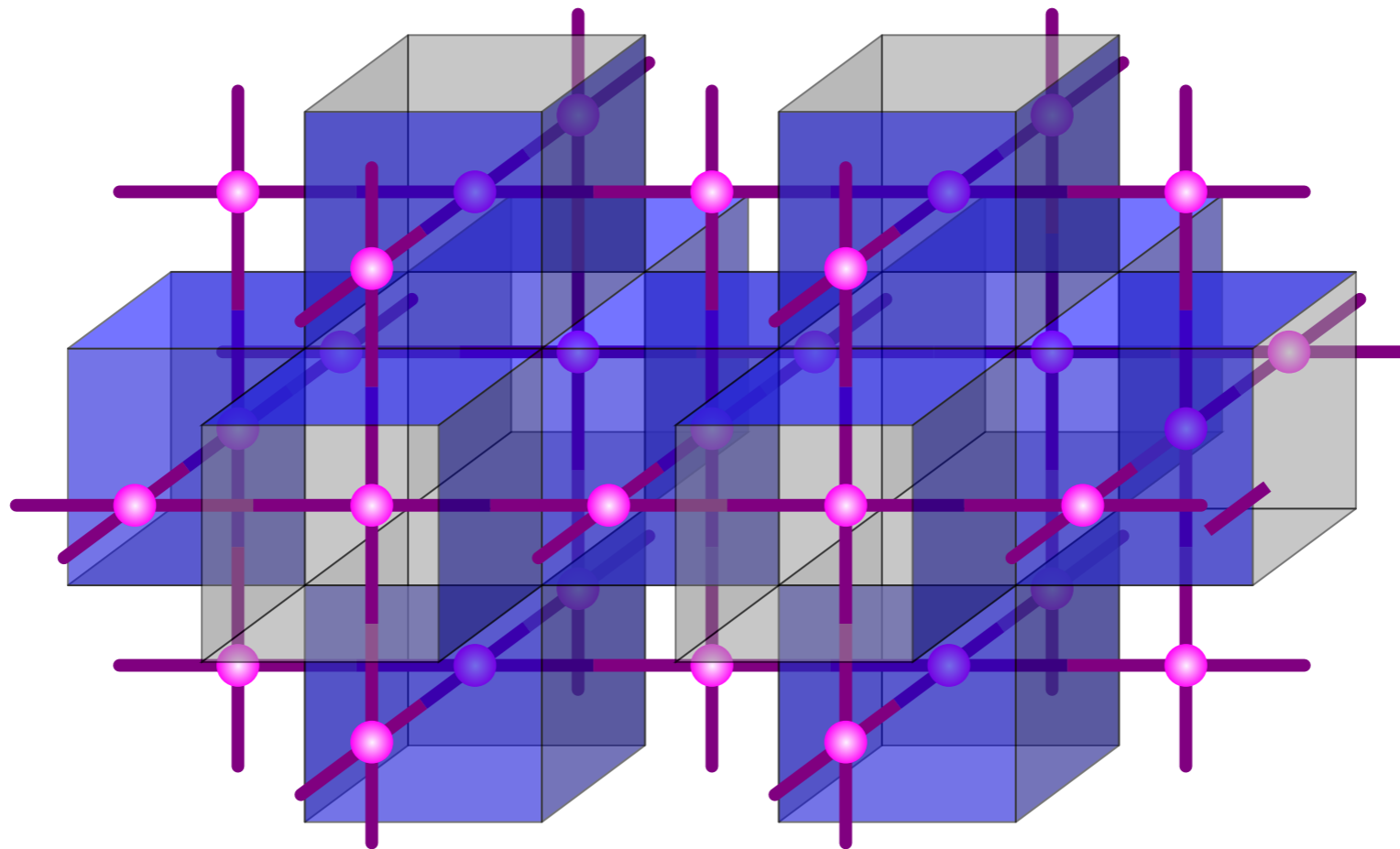
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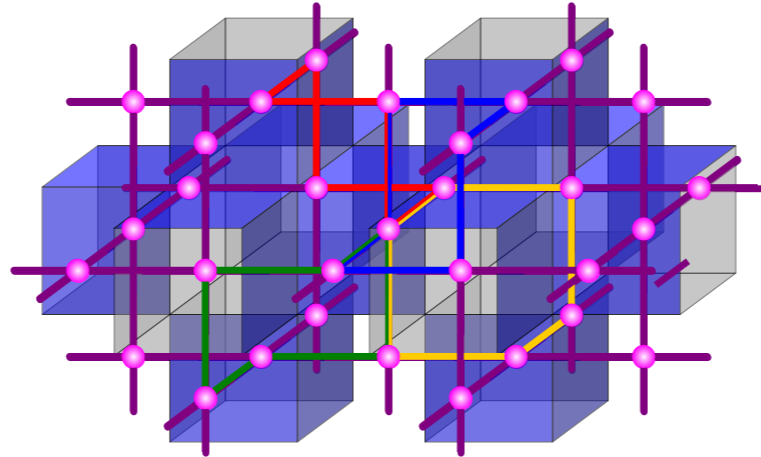
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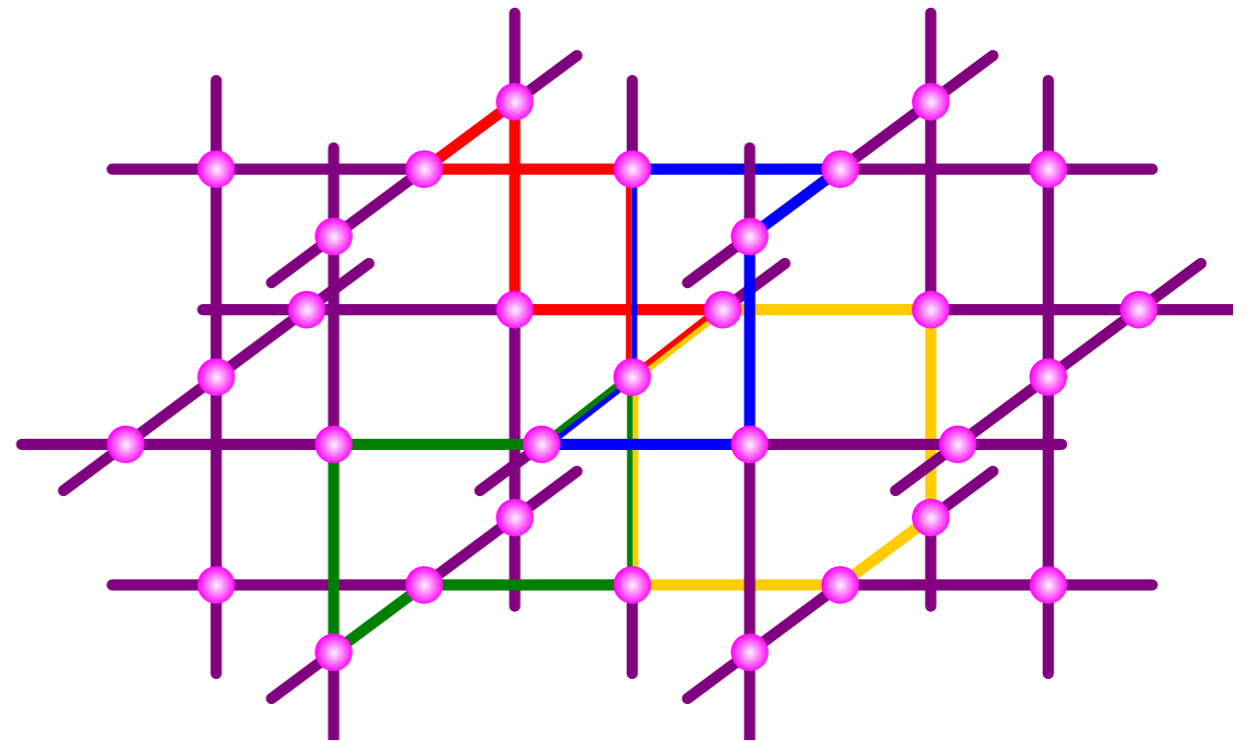
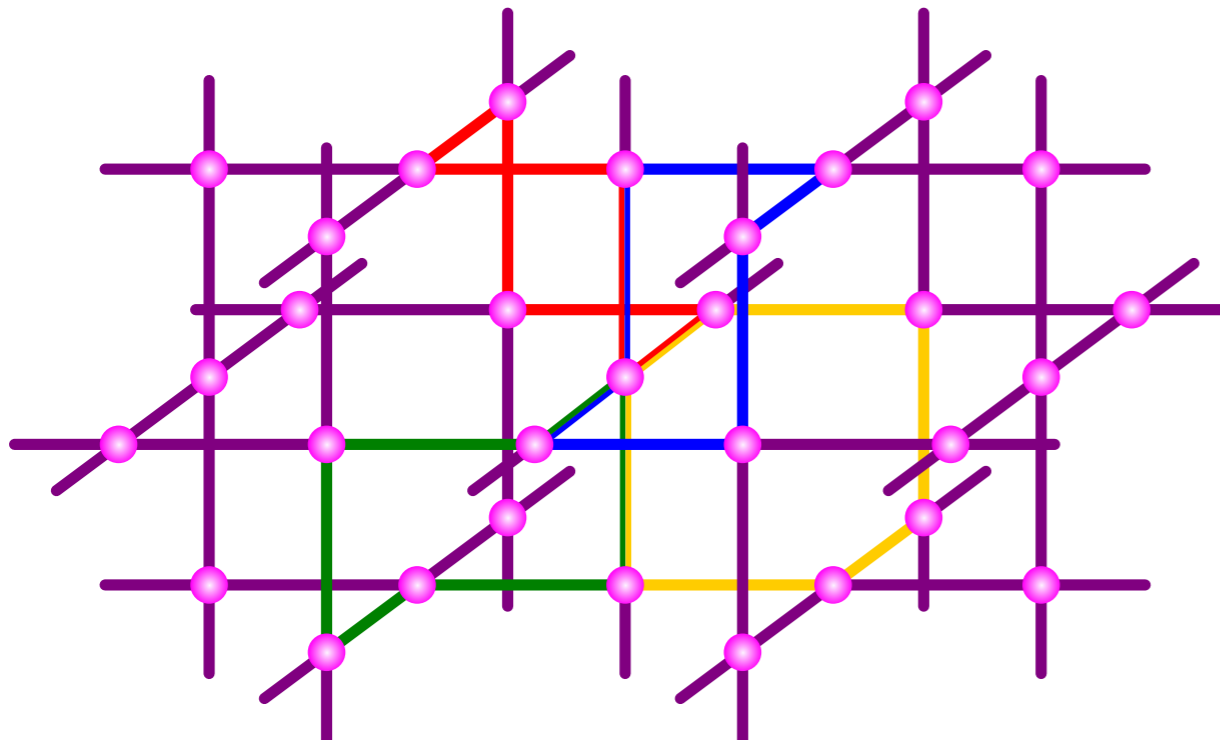
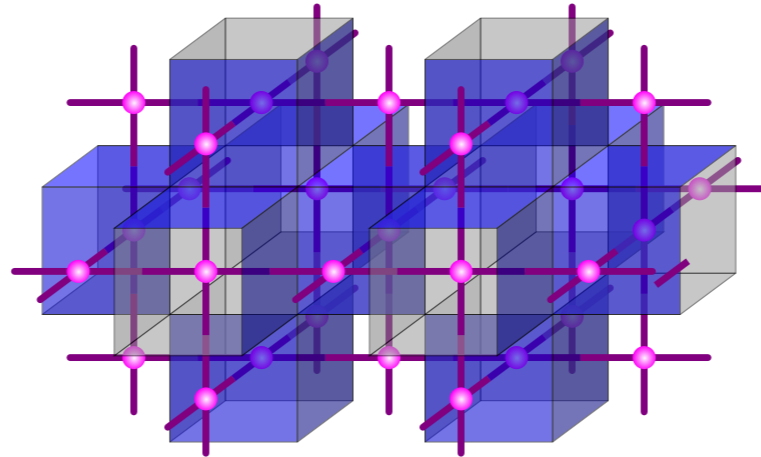
# Poliedros regulares infinitos



# Poliedros regulares infinitos



# Poliedros regulares infinitos





lot of new regular polyhedra, and soon thereafter Dress proved [15], [16] that one needs to add just one more polyhedron to make my list complete. Then, about ten years ago I found [22] a whole slew of new regular polyhedra, and so far nobody claimed to have found them all.

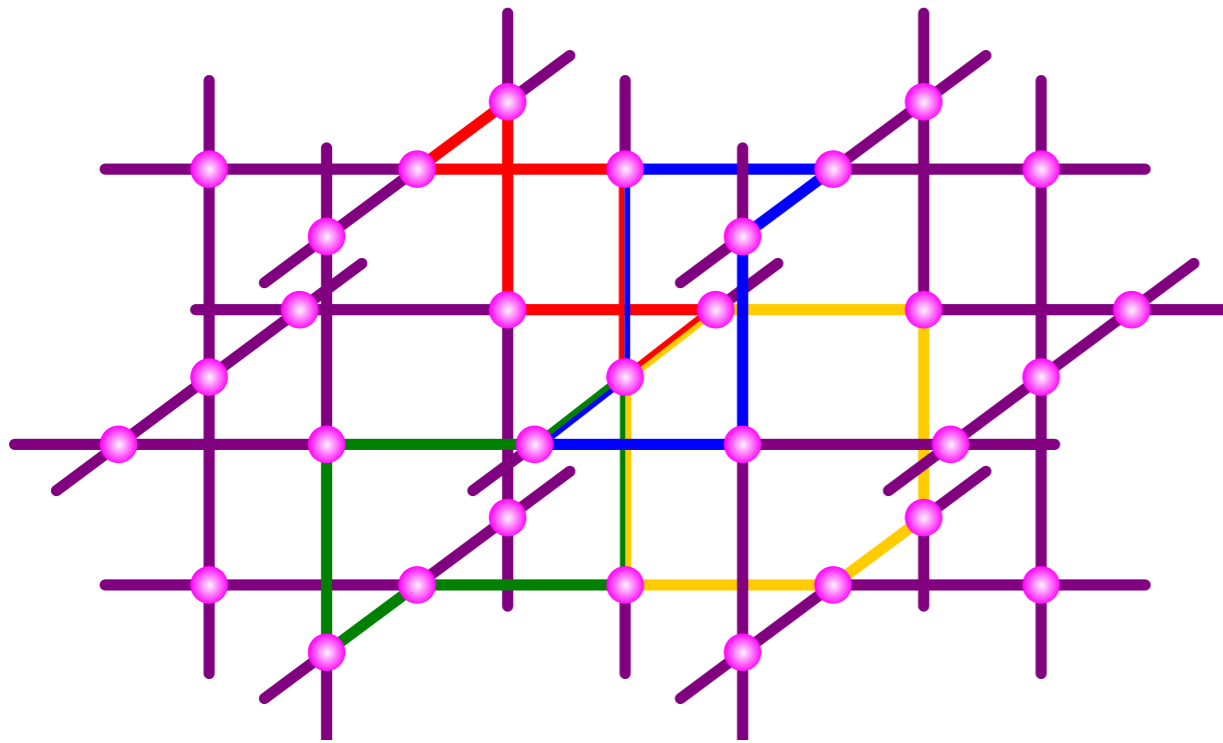
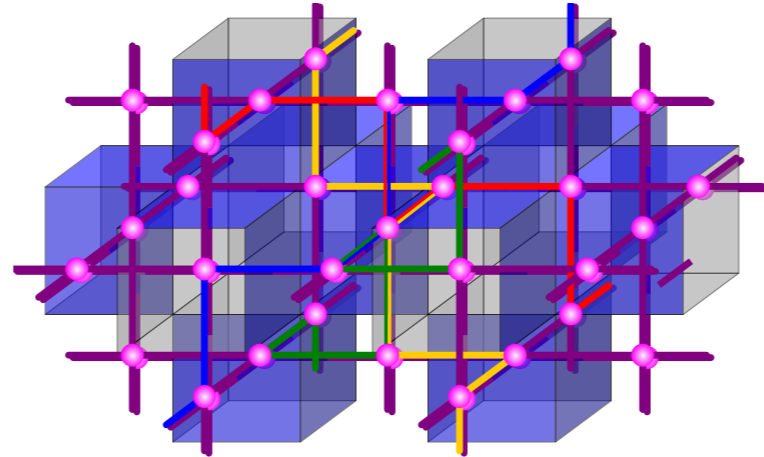
How come that results established by such accomplished mathematicians as Euclid, Cauchy, Coxeter, Dress were seemingly disproved after a while? The answer is simple – all the results mentioned are still valid; what changed is the meaning in which the word “polyhedron” is used. As long as different people interpret the concept in different ways, there is always the possibility that results true under one interpretation are false with other understandings. As a matter of fact, even slight variations in the definitions of concepts often entail significant changes in results.



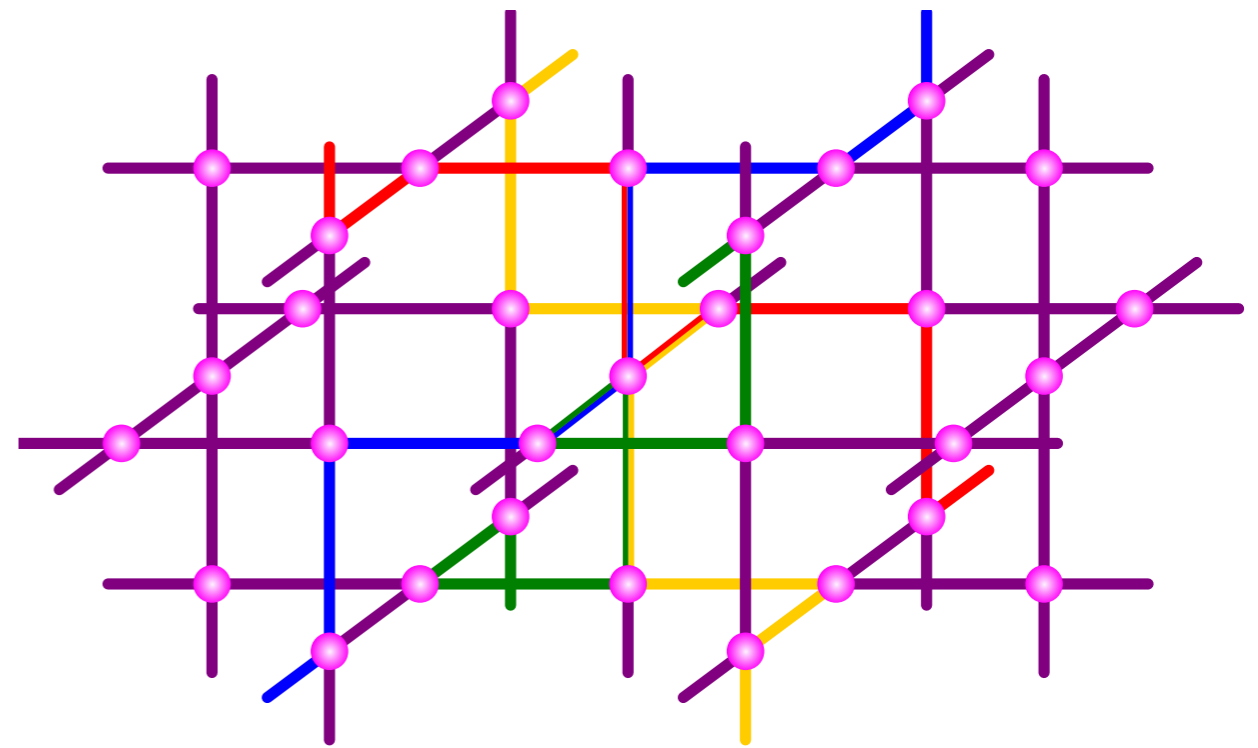
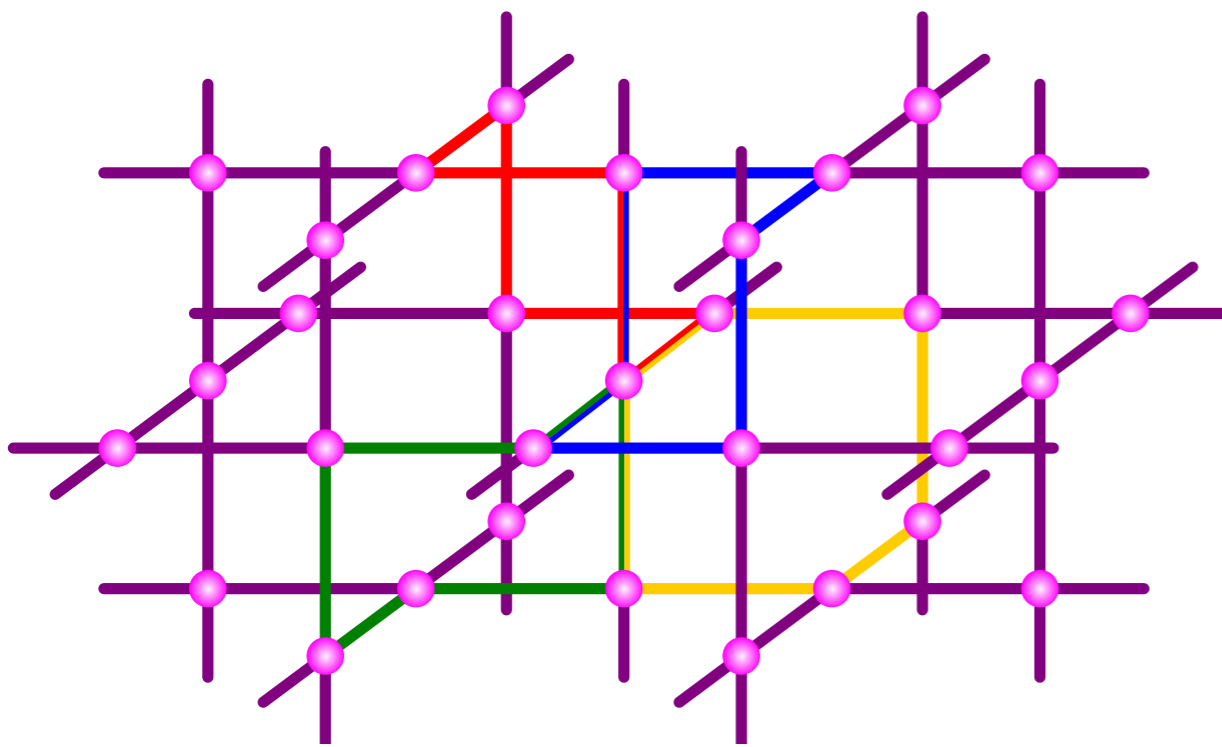
In some ways the present situation concerning polyhedra is somewhat analogous to the one that developed in ancient Greece after the discovery of incommensurable quantities. Although many of the results in geometry were not affected by the existence of such quantities, it was philosophically and logically important to find a reasonable and effective approach for dealing with them. In recent years, several papers dealing with more or less general polyhedra appeared. However, the precise boundaries of the concept of polyhedra are mostly not explicitly stated, and even if explanations are given –

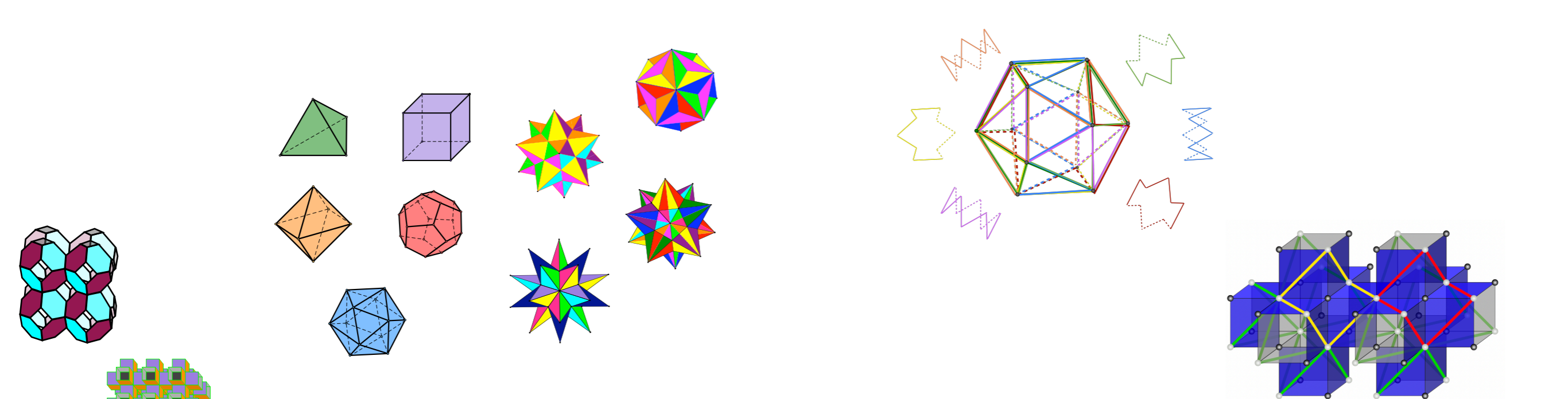
**Branko Grünbaum**  
1929 - 2018

# Poliedros regulares infinitos



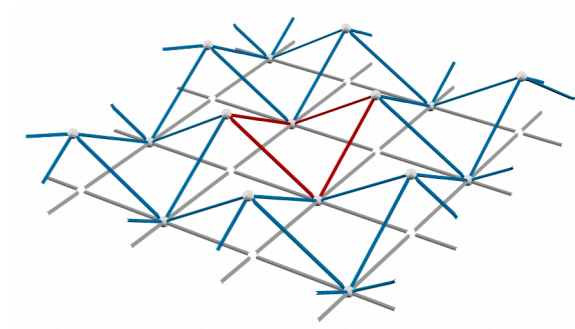
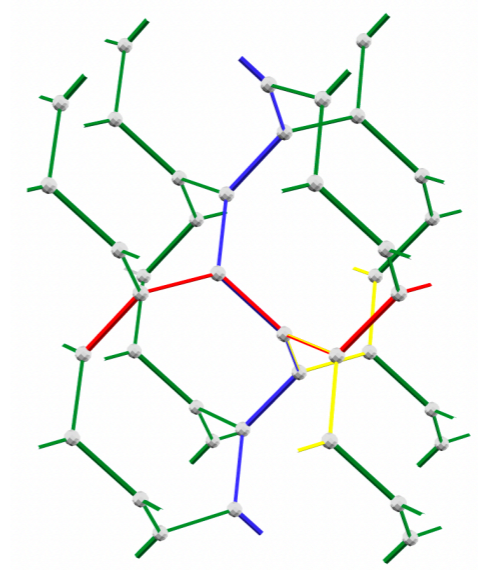
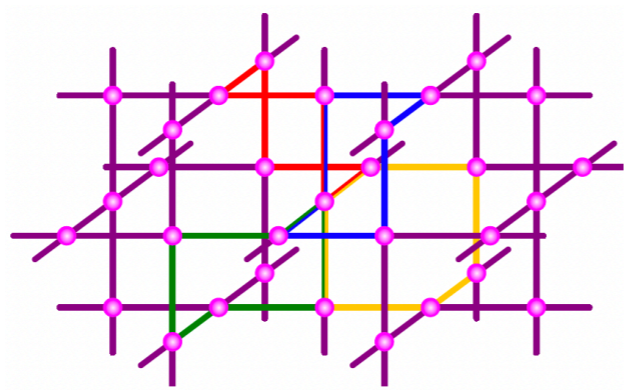
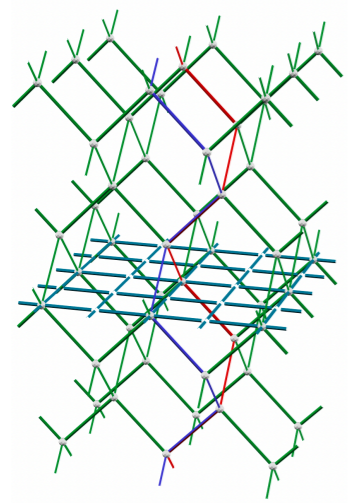
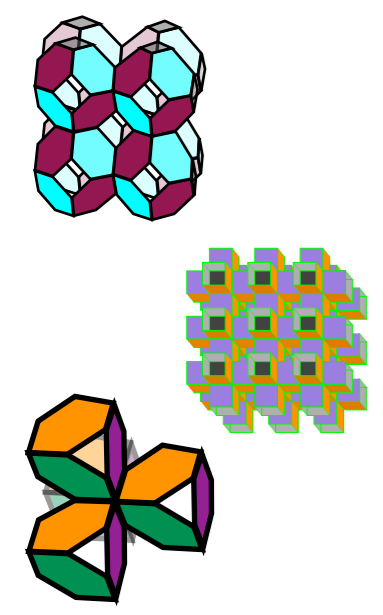
# Poliedros regulares infinitos





Teorema (A. Dress 1984)

Existen 48 poliedros regulares en el espacio euclidiano tridimensional



lot of new regular polyhedra, and soon thereafter Dress proved [15], [16] that one needs to add just one more polyhedron to make my list complete. Then, about ten years ago I found [22] a whole slew of new regular polyhedra, and so far nobody claimed to have found them all.

How come that results established by such accomplished mathematicians as Euclid, Cauchy, Coxeter, Dress were seemingly disproved after a while? The answer is simple – all the results mentioned are completely valid; what changed is the meaning in which the word “polyhedron” is used. As long as different people interpret the concept in different ways there is always the possibility that results true under one interpretation are false with other understandings. As a matter of fact, even slight changes in the definitions of concepts often entail significant changes in results.

In some ways the present situation concerning polyhedra is somewhat analogous to the one that developed in ancient Greece after the discovery of incommensurable quantities. Although many of the results in geometry were not affected by the existence of such quantities, the situation was historically and

logically important to find a reasonable and effective approach for dealing with them. In recent years, several papers dealing with more or less general polyhedra appeared. However, the precise boundaries of the concept of polyhedra are mostly not explicitly stated, and even if explanations are given –



**Branko Grünbaum**

1929 - 2018

# Coloquio del CCM

## EN LA BÚSQUEDA DE **POLIEDROS (ESQUELÉTICOS) QUIRALES**

**Isabel Hubbard Escalera**

Instituto de Matemáticas, UNAM



**17**

Noviembre  
12:00hrs



Auditorio del  
CCM - IRyA

**¡Muchas gracias!**