

Dobble

The game Dobble was invented based on a finite projective plane. Junior Dobble is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_5)$ , and corresponds to a finite projective plane of order 6. Each line contains 6 points, each point is on 6 lines. In the game as sold, one card is missing.



The missing card is:  
{dog, cat, camel, fish, ladybird, horse}.

Each line corresponds  
to a different animal.

There are 31 different animal symbols, one for each line in the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_5)$ . I have made the following choice of animal to point of  $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_5)$ . A different choice would correspond to an element of  $PGL(3, \mathbb{F}_5)$ , which has order 372000.

animal	orthogonal vector	animal	orthogonal vector
dog	(0:0:1)	duck	(1:1:1)
elephant	(1:0:0)	parrot	(1:1:2)
lion	(4:0:1)	crocodile	(1:1:3)
rabbit	(2:0:1)	octopus	(1:1:4)
tiger	(3:0:1)	shark	(1:1:0)
whale	(1:0:1)	penguin	(3:1:1)
kangaroo	(0:1:1)	zebra	(3:1:2)
rooster	(0:3:1)	crab	(3:1:3)
hippo	(0:2:1)	sheep	(3:1:4)
tortoise	(0:4:1)	bear	(3:1:0)
cow	(0:0:1)	horse	(2:1:1)
dolphin	(4:1:0)	fish	(2:1:2)
gorilla	(4:1:1)	cat	(2:1:3)
snake	(4:1:2)	camel	(2:1:4)
frog	(4:1:3)	ladybird	(2:1:0)
owl	(4:1:1)		

E.g. the “cat” line, consists of points  $(x : y : z)$  with  $y = 2z - 2x$ , i.e.,  $(x, y, z) \cdot (2, 1, -2) = 0$  meaning “cat” is the line orthogonal to  $(2 : 1 : -2) \equiv (2 : 1 : 3) \equiv (4 : 2 : 1)$ . You can work out the point on  $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_5)$  corresponding to your card by just considering two of the animals on it. E.g., the card containing gorilla  $(4 : 1 : 1)$  and cat  $(2 : 1 : 3)$  must be a point  $(x : y : z)$  with  $4x + y + z \equiv 2x + y + 3z \equiv 0 \pmod 5$ . From this we get  $x \equiv y + z$  (from first condition) and then  $2y + 2z + y + 3z \equiv 3y \equiv 0$  (sub in second) so  $y \equiv 0$ , and  $x \equiv z$ , so (up to scaling) the point is  $(1 : 0 : 1)$ .

missing card:

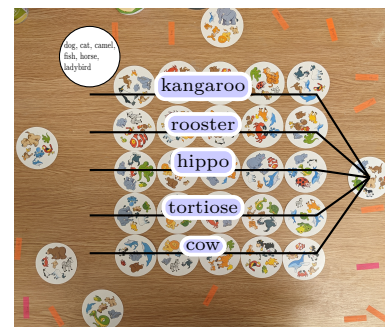
dog, cat, camel, fish, ladybird, horse



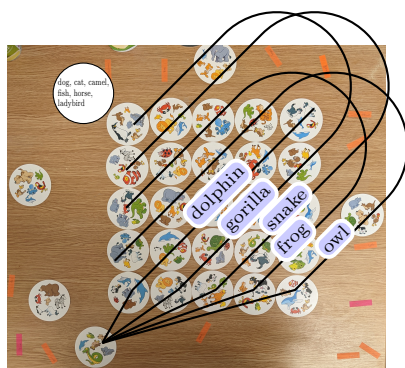
dog, line at  $\infty$



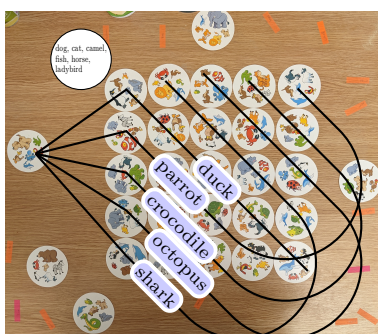
lines of the form  $\{(\alpha s : t : s) : (t : s) \in \mathbb{P}^1\}$



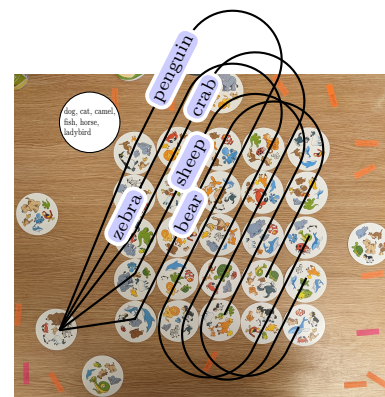
lines of the form  $\{(t : \alpha s : s) : (t : s) \in \mathbb{P}^1\}$



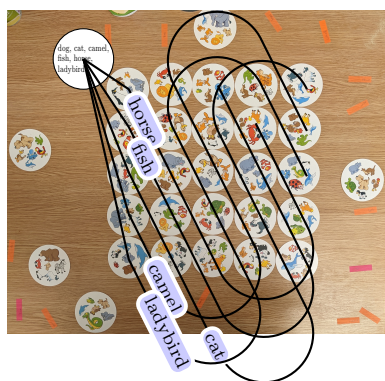
lines of the form  $\{(t : t + \alpha s : s) : (t : s) \in \mathbb{P}^1\}$



lines of the form  $\{(t : \alpha s - t : s) : (t : s) \in \mathbb{P}^1\}$



lines of the form  $\{(t : 2t + \alpha s : s) : (t : s) \in \mathbb{P}^1\}$



lines of the form  $\{(t : \alpha s - 2t : s) : (t : s) \in \mathbb{P}^1\}$

		$(0 : 1 : 0)$			
$(1 : -2 : 0)$	$(0,4)$	$(1,4)$	$(2,4)$	$(3,4)$	$(4,4)$
	$(0,3)$	$(1,3)$	$(2,3)$	$(3,3)$	$(4,3)$
$(1 : -1 : 0)$	$(0,2)$	$(1,2)$	$(2,2)$	$(3,2)$	$(4,2)$
	$(0,1)$	$(1,1)$	$(2,1)$	$(3,1)$	$(4,1)$
$(1 : 2 : 0)$	$(0,0)$	$(1,0)$	$(2,0)$	$(3,0)$	$(4,0)$
$(1 : 1 : 0)$					

$(1 : 0 : 0)$

interpret  $(x, y)$  as  $(x : y : 1)$ ; all computations mod 5

This shows the 6 families of “parallel” lines. Note that “parallel” here means not meeting in the copy of  $\mathbb{F}_5^2 \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_5)$  given by  $(x, y) \mapsto (x : y : 1)$ .