

NEW EXPLICIT CONSTRUCTIONS OF SURFACES OF GENERAL TYPE

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ABSTRACT. We discover a simple construction of a four-dimensional family of smooth surfaces of general type with $p_g(S) = q(S) = 0$, $K_S^2 = 3$ with cyclic fundamental group C_{14} . We use a degeneration of the surfaces in this family to find (complicated) explicit equations of six new pairs of fake projective planes. Our methods for finding new fake projective planes involve nontrivial computer calculations which we hope will be applicable in other settings.

1. INTRODUCTION

Classification of surfaces of general type is one of the most active areas of algebraic geometry. Many examples are known, but a detailed classification is still lacking, and multiple hard problems remain open.

The study of the birational class of a surface S is often reduced to the study of its minimal model. This is especially effective when the Kodaira dimension satisfies $k(S) \geq 0$, since in this case the minimal model is unique. Surfaces of general type have maximal (that is, 2) Kodaira dimension. The number of different deformation families is infinite, but still very few examples are known.

To each minimal surface S of general type one associates a triple of numerical invariants, (p_g, q, K_S^2) , where $p_g := h^0(S, K_S)$ and $q := h^1(S, \mathcal{O}_S)$. These integers determine all other classical numerical invariants, such as $e_{\text{top}}(S) = 12\chi(\mathcal{O}_S) - K_S^2$ and $P_m(S) := h^0(S, mK_S) = \chi(\mathcal{O}_S) + \binom{m}{2}K_S^2$. Two widely used ways to produce surfaces of general type are complete intersections of sufficiently high multi-degree or products of curves of genus $g \geq 2$. The resulting surfaces have either large p_g or large q . This is a particular manifestation of a more general phenomenon: producing examples of surfaces of general type with low p_g and q is indeed quite difficult, and a complete classification appears beyond currently available techniques. The most extreme case is that of $p_g = q = 0$. Surfaces with such invariants are amongst the most famous, since they historically represented counterexamples to the famous Max Noether's conjecture, that stated that any surface S with these prescribed invariants needs to be rational. The *Bogomolov-Miyaoka-Yau* inequality, that states $K_S^2 \leq 9\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)$, implies $K_S^2 \leq 9$.

The first example of such a surface is due to Godeaux, and is realized as the quotient Y_5/C_5 , where $Y_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ is a quintic surface in \mathbb{P}^3 on which the cyclic group C_5 acts freely. Surfaces with $p_g = q = 0, K_S^2 = 1$ are therefore called (*numerical*) *Godeaux surfaces*. Similarly one can construct explicit examples of a surface with $p_g = q = 0, K_S^2 = 2$ as quotients by a C_7 action. Surfaces with these prescribed invariants are called (*numerical*) *Campedelli surfaces*. For $3 \leq K_S^2 \leq 8$ the situation is in general much less understood. For a recent survey on the surfaces of general type we refer to [BCP11].

The extreme case of surfaces with $p_g = q = 0$ and $K_S^2 = 9$ is that of the famous fake projective planes, i.e. surfaces of general type with Hodge diamond equal to that of $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$. First example of such surface has been given by Mumford [Mu79]. Subsequent work of multiple authors [Kl03, IK98, Ke06, KK02, PY07, PY10, CS11] culminated in the classification by Cartwright and Steger [CS11] which found that there are exactly 50 complex conjugate pairs of fake projective planes. These planes are computed as free quotients of the two-dimensional complex ball by explicit arithmetic groups.

Cartwright and Steger observed that one can obtain many families of surfaces with $p_g = q = 0$ and $K_S^2 = 3$ as smooth deformations of the quotients of the fake projective planes by a C_3 action. In

particular, one should find a family of surfaces with $K_S^2 = 3$ with the fundamental groups C_{14} . We have stumbled upon such family in our research and then used it to construct a fake projective plane with first homology C_{14} and symmetry group $C_3 \times C_3$. Afterwards, we found explicit equations of five more (pairs of) fake projective planes in the same class.

Computer-based approach to constructing specific surfaces of general type. Modern software and hardware have made possible breakthroughs in the problems of explicitly constructing surfaces of general type. In particular, in [BK19], the authors have constructed the first equations of a fake projective plane; in [BY18] the authors found the equations of a related Cartwright-Steger surface. The results of [BK19, BY18] were subsequently used in [Ri19] and [Y19] to fill a gap in the proof of the paper [Y17] on surfaces with maximum degree of the canonical map. However, these computational techniques are still in their infancy, and constructions typically require subtle geometric ideas in order to succeed. One can view this paper as another successful step in developing this emerging field.

The paper is organized as follows. We start in Section 2 with an almost classical, but apparently novel, observation that one can construct surfaces with $p_g = q = 0$, $K^2 = 3$ and cyclic fundamental group C_{14} as free quotients of complete intersections of seven special Plücker hyperplanes in $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$. In Section 3 we follow the remarks of [Ke12] to find a quotient of a fake projective plane by C_3 . In Section 4 we explain the key step that allowed us (with great difficulty) to recover the above fake projective plane. In Section 5 we describe the ensuing construction and the (computer-based) verification of the statement that the surface we found is indeed an FPP. Section 6 explains how we managed to recover five other pairs of FPPs in the same commensurability class. Finally, Section 7 contains a long list of further directions that are naturally inspired by our calculation.

Acknowledgments. We thank JongHae Keum and Gopal Prasad for interest in this work, and John Cremona for allowing us the use of the Number Theory server at Warwick. L.B. has been partially supported by the National Science Foundation grant DMS-1601907, E.F. has been supported by an EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship based at Loughborough University.

2. A FAMILY OF SURFACES WITH $p_g = q = 0$ AND $K^2 = 3$

The first construction of our paper produces a family of surfaces S of general type with $p_g(S) = q(S) = 0$, $K_S^2 = 3$ and cyclic fundamental group C_{14} . This will be done by considering of a family of surfaces $W \subset \mathbb{P}^{12}$ such that $q(W) = 0$, $p_g(W) = 13$, $K_W^2 = 42$ which are equipped with a free action of C_{14} . The surface S will then be realized as the quotient $S = W/C_{14}$. A surface with the same invariants as W appeared in two recent works [BY18] and [Fa18], constructed in different ways. Understanding the connection between these approaches was the initial motivation behind this project.

Let V_6 be a complex vector space of dimension 6 and V^\vee be its dual, with the basis x_1, \dots, x_6 . We equip V^\vee with the action of the cyclic group C_7 with the generator acting by $x_i \mapsto \varepsilon^i x_i$ where ε is a primitive 7-th root of 1. This action induces a natural action on $\wedge^3 V_6^\vee$ by $x_i \wedge x_j \wedge x_k \mapsto \varepsilon^{i+j+k} x_i \wedge x_j \wedge x_k$. It is easy to see that $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ in its Plücker embedding is preserved under the induced action on $\mathbb{P} \wedge^3 V_6^\vee$.

The vector space $\wedge^3 V_6^\vee$ splits into the eigenspaces with respect to the weights for the C_7 action. In the table below and for the rest of the paper we denote by $x_{ijk} := x_i \wedge x_j \wedge x_k$. The basis of each eigenspace is given by the corresponding column of the table.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
x_{124}	x_{125}	x_{126}	x_{136}	x_{245}	x_{345}	x_{123}
x_{356}	x_{134}	x_{135}	x_{145}	x_{146}	x_{156}	x_{346}
	x_{456}	x_{234}	x_{235}	x_{236}	x_{246}	x_{256}

Consider now a non-degenerate C_7 -invariant skew form ω on V given by

$$\omega = x_1 \wedge x_6 + x_2 \wedge x_5 + x_4 \wedge x_3.$$

We will later use that ω is invariant under the order three map $(x_1, \dots, x_6) \mapsto (x_2, x_4, x_6, x_1, x_3, x_5)$ which multiplies the subscript by 2 modulo 7. The form ω determines a splitting of $\Lambda^3 V_6^\vee = U_6 \oplus U_{14}$, where

$$(1) \quad U_6 := \text{Image}(V_6^\vee \xrightarrow{\wedge \omega} \bigwedge^3 V_6^\vee), \quad U_{14} := \text{Ker}(\bigwedge^3 V_6^\vee \xrightarrow{\lrcorner \omega^{-1}} V_6^\vee),$$

with $\lrcorner \omega^{-1}$ denoting the contraction of a 3-vector by the inverse symplectic form $\omega^{-1} \in \Lambda^2 V_6$. Since ω is C_7 invariant, the action of C_7 on $\Lambda^3 V_6^\vee$ induces one on U_{14} . Explicitly, U_{14} splits into 2-dimensional eigenspaces with the basis vectors listed in the table below.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
x_{124}	$x_{125} + x_{134}$	$x_{126} - x_{234}$	$x_{136} - x_{235}$	$x_{146} - x_{245}$	$x_{156} - x_{345}$	$x_{256} + x_{346}$
x_{356}	x_{456}	x_{135}	x_{145}	x_{236}	x_{246}	x_{123}

We get our family of W by the following surprisingly simple definition.

Definition 2.1. *Consider the splitting $U_{14} \cong \bigoplus_{i=0}^6 \mathcal{H}_i$, where \mathcal{H}_i denotes the eigenspace with respect to the eigenvalue ε^i . For any choice of $H_i \in \mathcal{H}_i$ we define W as*

$$W = \text{Gr}(3, V_6) \cap H_0 \cap \dots \cap H_6.$$

The motivation behind the above definition is the following. The skew form ω induces a canonical involution (the *annihilator involution*) acting as (-1) on U_6 and 1 on U_{14} . It is easy to see by an explicit calculation that this action is induced from the involution on $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ which sends a dimension three subspace to its annihilator with respect to w . Together with C_7 , this involution generates the cyclic group C_{14} .¹ It is clear that W is C_{14} invariant and we can and will consider the quotient. We are now ready to state the main result of this section.

Theorem 2.2. *Let $S := W/C_{14}$, for a sufficiently general choice of H_i . Then S is a smooth surface of general type with $p_g = q = 0$, $K^2 = 3$ and cyclic fundamental group of order 14.*

Proof. We recall that $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ is a Fano variety of dimension 9, index 6 and degree 42. Suppose we can prove that W is a smooth surface with C_{14} acting freely. The adjunction formula implies $K_W^2 = 42$, so $K_S^2 = 3$. We also have $p_g(W) = 0$ by the Lefschetz hyperplane theorem, which also implies $p_g(S) = 0$. The global sections of the canonical class of W can be identified with $H^0(W, \mathcal{O}(1)) \cong \Lambda^3 V_6^\vee / (\mathbb{C}H_0 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{C}H_6)$, which has dimension 13. As a result, $\chi(W, \mathcal{O}_W) = 1 + h^{0,2}(W) = 14$, so $\chi(S, \mathcal{O}_S) = 1$ which leads to $q(S) = 0$.

We will now verify the technical statement that W is smooth for general choices of $H_i \in \mathcal{H}_i$, and moreover that the action of C_{14} on W is free. This can be easily accomplished by a computer calculation as below, but it would be interesting to find a computer-free argument.

Smoothness of W , for a sufficiently general choice of coefficients, can be checked in affine coordinate patches on $\mathbb{P} \Lambda^3 V$. As a first step, we will write the equations of W as

$$W = V(p_0 x_{124} + x_{356}, p_1 x_{456} + x_{125} + x_{134}, p_2 x_{135} - x_{234} + x_{126}, -p_4 x_{236} + x_{146} + x_{245}, \\ -p_3 x_{145} - x_{136} + x_{235}, p_5 x_{246} - x_{345} + x_{156}, p_6 x_{123} + x_{256} + x_{346}) \subset \text{Gr}(3, V_6),$$

¹Note that, unlike the case of [Fa18] the involution is not induced from V_6 : this is eventually the key to the freeness of the action.

where $p_i \in \mathbb{C}^*$ are sufficiently general (in particular, not all of them equal). To check the smoothness of W in the affine patch $x_{123} \neq 0$, observe that the corresponding Schubert cell in $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{C}^9 . Every point in this cell is the linear span of the rows of the matrix M below.

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & u_4 & u_5 & u_6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & u_7 & u_8 & u_9 \end{pmatrix}$$

In this Schubert cell, the coordinates x_{ijk} are the (ijk) minors of M . The defining equations of W are then (nonhomogeneous) equations in u_i , with degree up to three. One can then check directly the smoothness of this affine chart of W by computing the Jacobian matrix and its size seven minors. This procedure is then repeated for each of the 20 coordinate charts.

It is easy to show by hand that the action of $C_7 \subset C_{14}$ on W is free. Indeed, the fixed points of C_7 on $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ are the C_7 -invariant subspaces. Since the weights of C_7 action on V_6 are all distinct, these are precisely the coordinate subspaces of V_6 . The corresponding points in $\mathbb{P}(\wedge^3 V_6)$ have all but one of the x_{ijk} coordinates zero. By direct examination, we see that these points do not lie on a generic W .

It remains to check that the action of the involution in C_{14} is free. To do this, recall that ι acts as the identity on U_{14} and as (-1) on U_6 , the latter being defined in the equation (1). From the explicit presentation of these subspaces given above we can write this action in the coordinate charts and check that the fixed locus of ι on the ambient \mathbb{P}^{12} is given by the intersection of W and the disjoint union of $\mathbb{P}^+ \sqcup \mathbb{P}^-$, these being given by the following equations

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^+ &= V(x_{125} + x_{134}, x_{126} - x_{234}, x_{136} - x_{235}, x_{146} - x_{245}, x_{156} - x_{345}, x_{256} + x_{346}) \\ \mathbb{P}^- &= V(-x_{125} + x_{134}, x_{126} + x_{234}, x_{136} + x_{235}, x_{146} + x_{245}, x_{156} + x_{345}, -x_{256} + x_{346}, \\ &\quad x_{456}, x_{135}, x_{145}, x_{236}, x_{246}, x_{123}, x_{124}, x_{356}). \end{aligned}$$

Using a computer we can check that, for example if not all $p_i = 1$, then the intersection of both \mathbb{P}^+ and \mathbb{P}^- with W is empty. \square

Corollary 2.3. *The Euler characteristic of S is 9 and $h^{1,1}(S) = 7$.*

The family of S that we have defined depends on 4 parameters. More precisely, we have 7 dimensional space of choices for the $H_i \in \mathcal{H}_i$. However, there is a $(\mathbb{C}^*)^3$ symmetry group of V_6

$$(x_1, \dots, x_6) \mapsto (\lambda_1 x_1, \lambda_2 x_2, \lambda_3 x_3, \lambda_3^{-1} x_4, \lambda_2^{-1} x_5, \lambda_1^{-1} x_6)$$

that preserves the action of C_7 and the form w . This scaling does not change the surface, and therefore we have as a naive moduli count $7-3=4$ parameters. Notice that this coincides with the expected number of moduli M of S

$$h^1(S, T_S) \geq \dim M \geq h^1(S, T_S) - h^2(S, T_S) = 10\chi(\mathcal{O}_S) - 2K_S^2 = 4.$$

There is another less heuristic way of checking that our construction actually gives a four dimensional family. Let A_W denote the affine cone over W . The $(\mathbb{Z}$ -graded) space $T_{A_W}^1 \cong \text{Ext}^1(\Omega_{A_W}^1, \mathcal{O}_{A_W})$ parametrises the deformation of the affine cone, and its degree 0 component represents in particular the deformation of the couple $(W, \mathcal{O}_W(1))$. One can compute, for example using the package "VersalDeformations" of Macaulay2, that this space is 56 dimensional, with its C_{14} invariant subspace being exactly 4 dimensional. However there is no way of making this lengthy computation computer-free.

To check unobstructedness in the above formula, since $\pi : W \rightarrow S$ is a finite map, it suffices to check that $H^2(T_W) = 0$. There are several ways of proving this, for example using the Borel–Bott–Weil theorem as follows. Although this is a priori valid only for a general section, it is valid in our case since $\chi(T_W)$ is constant in fibers and W is of general type. Alternatively one can compute the relevant graded component of $T_{A_W}^2$ as above.

Lemma 2.4. *Let $W \subset G = \text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ be a smooth complete intersection of seven sections of $\mathcal{O}_G(1)^{\oplus 7}$. Then the deformations for W are unobstructed, i.e. $H^2(T_W) \cong 0$.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{O}_G(1)^{\oplus 7}$. Consider first the tangent sequence for W , that is

$$0 \rightarrow T_W \rightarrow T_G|_W \rightarrow \mathcal{F}|_W \rightarrow 0.$$

Since $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$ is ample $H^1(\mathcal{F}|_W) \cong 0$. Therefore we have

$$0 \rightarrow H^2(T_W) \rightarrow H^2(T_G|_W) \rightarrow H^2(\mathcal{F}|_W) \rightarrow 0.$$

A first observation is that the canonical bundle of W is $\omega_W \cong \mathcal{O}_W(1)$. Therefore $H^2(\mathcal{O}_W(1)) \cong H^2(\omega_W) \cong \mathbb{C}$. This implies $H^2(\mathcal{F}|_W) \cong \mathbb{C}^7$. In order to compute $H^2(T_G|_W)$ we need to use the Koszul complex for W , twisted by T_G , namely

$$0 \rightarrow T_G(-7) \rightarrow T_G(-6)^7 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow T_G(-2)^{21} \rightarrow T_G(-1)^7 \rightarrow T_G \rightarrow T_G|_W \rightarrow 0$$

It is easy to check using Borel–Bott–Weil that $H^i(T_G) = 0$ for $i > 0$ and that $T_G(-i)$ are acyclic for $i = 1, \dots, 5, 7$. Denote indeed by \mathcal{R} the tautological bundle of $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ and by \mathcal{Q} its (ample) quotient. Any irreducible homogeneous bundle can therefore be represented in terms of Schur functor as $\Sigma_\alpha \mathcal{Q} \otimes \Sigma_\beta \mathcal{R}$. We denote by $\gamma = (\alpha|\beta)$. Denote by $\delta = (5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0)$. By Borel–Bott–Weil theorem any irreducible homogeneous vector bundle will be acyclic if $\gamma + \delta$ has repeated entries. The tangent bundle T_G to $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ is isomorphic to $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{Q}) \cong \mathcal{R}^\vee \otimes \mathcal{Q}$. Therefore the partition associated to it is $(1, 0, 0, 0, 0, -1)$, or equivalently $(2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0)$ if we use natural dualities. Twisting by $\mathcal{O}_G(-i) \cong (\wedge^3 \mathcal{R})^{\otimes i}$ is equivalent to consider the partition $\gamma(i) = (2, 1, 1, 1 + i, 1 + i, i)$. It is immediate to check that for $i = 1, \dots, 5, 7$ $\gamma(i) + \delta$ has repeated entries. For $i = 0$ there are no repeated entries. The (unique) degree where the bundle has cohomology is therefore identified by the *number of disorder* of the partitions, namely the number of negative differences in the sequence (which is zero in this case).

The last case is for $i = 6$, where we have $H^8(T_G \otimes \wedge^6(\mathcal{O}_G(-1)^7)) \cong \mathbb{C}^7$. Indeed, since $\wedge^9 T_G \cong \mathcal{O}_G(6)$, we get $H^8(G, T_G \otimes \mathcal{O}_G(-6)) \cong H^8(G, \Omega_G^8) \cong \mathbb{C}$. This implies $H^2(T_G|_W) \cong \mathbb{C}^7$, and in turn $H^2(T_W) \cong 0$. \square

Remark 2.5. *We point out that there is another surface with the same invariants as W : this is given by a codimension eight linear cut W' of the Grassmannian $\text{Gr}(2, 7)$. This surface was already considered in [Fa18]. The relation between W and W' is still unknown, and we plan to explore it further.*

We point out that finding an involution that leaves no point fixed on W' could be extremely tricky, if not impossible. Via character theory we can indeed prove that such involution cannot extend to the whole of $\text{Gr}(2, 7)$. Indeed it is classically known (see [Co89]) that $\text{Aut}(\text{Gr}(2, 7)) = \text{PGL}(V_7)$, whereas on $\text{Gr}(3, 6)$, $\text{PGL}(V_6)$ is a subgroup of index two of the automorphism group. In particular in our construction above our involution was indeed not induced from V_6 .

3. A SURFACE WITH $K^2 = 3$ AND THREE A_2 SINGULARITIES

In this section we will describe the computer calculations that lead to constructing a quotient of a fake projective plane by a cyclic group C_3 . The Mathematica calculations are available in the file [BF19, Section3.nb].

In the previous section we constructed a dimension four family of complete intersections in $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ which admit a free action of the cyclic group C_{14} . The quotient surfaces have numerical invariants $p_g = q = 0$, $K^2 = 3$. It was remarked in [BCP11] that some such surfaces can be constructed as a deformation of a C_3 quotient of a certain fake projective plane. So it was only natural to postulate that our family is indeed this family and to look for degenerations of the surfaces that would be C_3 quotients of fake projective planes with fundamental group C_{14} .

By the classification of Cartwright and Steger, there is one such fake projective plane, up to conjugation. It has a larger symmetry group $C_3 \times C_3$, but only one copy of C_3 acts trivially on the torsion of its Picard group. This motivated us to look for our complete intersections which have an additional condition of having an order 3 automorphism. We also expected that the quotient has

three A_2 singularities. We made an ultimately successful guess to study the two-parameter family of complete intersections in $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ given by the equations

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= p_0 x_{124} + x_{356}, 0 = x_{456} + x_{125} - x_{143}, 0 = x_{135} + x_{243} - x_{216}, 0 = x_{263} + x_{416} - x_{425}, \\ 0 &= p_3 x_{415} + x_{316} - x_{325}, p_3 x_{246} + x_{543} - x_{516}, 0 = p_3 x_{123} + x_{625} - x_{643}. \end{aligned}$$

Here p_0 and p_3 are the parameters of the family. We use the convention $x_{ijk} = -x_{jik} = -x_{ikj}$ to make explicit the C_3 action that multiplies indices by 2 mod 7.

Remark 3.1. *One can observe that the transformation of parameters $(p_0, p_3) \mapsto (p_0^{-1} p_3^3, p_3)$ leads to an isomorphic complete intersection. This symmetry is induced by the coordinate change $x_k \mapsto x_{7-k}$.*

In order to find a surface with A_2 singularities, we first tried to determine the locus of singular complete intersections. This was a non-trivial endeavor, since the equations in question were too complicated to be solved directly, at least with our hardware and software. To overcome this difficulty, we first computed the special case $p_3 = 1$ to observe that the above complete intersections are singular for eight values of p_0 which are roots of the equation

$$0 = 999 - 4950p_0 + 13739p_0^2 - 23670p_0^3 + 28532p_0^4 - 23670p_0^5 + 13739p_0^6 - 4950p_0^7 + 999p_0^8.$$

We then replaced $p_3 = 1$ by $p_3 = 1 + \epsilon$ for $\epsilon = 10^{-20}$. We used the gradient descent method built into Mathematica's FindRoot command to calculate the corresponding 8 roots that deform the above ones. After postulating that there is a polynomial in (p_0, p_3) with reasonably small coefficients that describes the locus of singular complete intersections in $\text{Gr}(3, V_6)$ we found this polynomial to be

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= 1280p_0^8 - 6144p_0^7 p_3 + 4608p_0^6 p_3^2 + 10240p_0^5 p_3^3 - 18176p_0^4 p_3^4 + 7424p_0^3 p_3^5 - 8192p_0^2 p_3^6 + 41984p_0 p_3^7 - 41984p_0^6 p_3^8 \\ &- 30976p_0^5 p_3^3 + 7040p_0^4 p_3^4 + 4096p_0^3 p_3^5 - 44032p_0^2 p_3^6 + 75328p_0 p_3^7 - 34560p_0^4 p_3^8 + 4320p_0^3 p_3^9 + 28672p_0^2 p_3^{10} - \\ &108288p_0 p_3^{11} + 92448p_0^2 p_3^{12} - 25568p_0^3 p_3^{13} + 1760p_0^4 p_3^{14} - 8192p_0^5 p_3^{15} + 89600p_0^6 p_3^{16} - 155264p_0^7 p_3^{17} + 77760p_0^8 p_3^{18} \\ &- 12784p_0^7 p_3^6 + 464p_0^6 p_3^7 - 44032p_0^5 p_3^8 + 169216p_0^4 p_3^9 - 147984p_0^3 p_3^{10} + 46624p_0^2 p_3^{11} - 4320p_0 p_3^{12} + 72p_0^8 p_3^7 \\ &+ 10240p_0^2 p_3^8 - 108288p_0^3 p_3^9 + 190656p_0^4 p_3^{10} - 100696p_0^5 p_3^{11} + 19440p_0^6 p_3^{12} - 968p_0^7 p_3^{13} + 5p_0^8 p_3^{14} + 41984p_0^2 p_3^9 \\ &- 155264p_0^3 p_3^{10} + 149952p_0^4 p_3^{11} - 50348p_0^5 p_3^{12} + 5778p_0^6 p_3^{13} - 142p_0^7 p_3^{14} - 6144p_0 p_3^{15} + 75328p_0^2 p_3^{16} - 147984p_0^3 p_3^{17} \\ &+ 85745p_0^4 p_3^{18} - 18498p_0^5 p_3^{19} + 1177p_0^6 p_3^{20} - 12p_0^7 p_3^{21} - 18176p_0 p_3^{11} + 92448p_0^2 p_3^{12} - 100696p_0^3 p_3^{13} \\ &+ 37488p_0^4 p_3^{14} - 4852p_0^5 p_3^{15} + 164p_0^6 p_3^{16} + 1280p_3^{12} - 30976p_0 p_3^{13} + 77760p_0^2 p_3^{14} - 50348p_0^3 p_3^{15} \\ &+ 11916p_0^4 p_3^{16} - 846p_0^5 p_3^{17} + 10p_0^6 p_3^{18} + 4608p_3^{13} - 34560p_0 p_3^{14} + 46624p_0^2 p_3^{15} - 18498p_0^3 p_3^{16} + 2644p_0^4 p_3^{17} \\ &- 86p_0^5 p_3^{18} + 7424p_3^{14} - 25568p_0 p_3^{15} + 19440p_0^2 p_3^{16} - 4852p_0^3 p_3^{17} + 350p_0^4 p_3^{18} - 4p_0^5 p_3^{19} + 7040p_3^{15} \\ &- 12784p_0 p_3^{16} + 5778p_0^2 p_3^{17} - 846p_0^3 p_3^{18} + 28p_0^4 p_3^{19} + 4320p_3^{16} - 4320p_0 p_3^{17} + 1177p_0^2 p_3^{18} - 86p_0^3 p_3^{19} + p_0^4 p_3^{20} \\ &+ 1760p_3^{17} - 968p_0 p_3^{18} + 164p_0^2 p_3^{19} - 4p_0^3 p_3^{20} + 464p_3^{18} - 142p_0 p_3^{19} + 10p_0^2 p_3^{20} + 72p_3^{19} - 12p_0 p_3^{20} + 5p_3^{20}. \end{aligned}$$

After finding the above locus of singular complete intersections, we made an educated guess to look for singularities of the above curve in hopes of finding complete intersections with singular points of type A_2 . This was a straightforward computer calculation that lead to twelve singular points, which we then looked at in detail. Up to complex conjugation and symmetry of Remark 3.1, there was one solution defined over the expected field, with the expected 42 singularities of type A_2 , which form one orbit of the semidirect product of C_{14} and C_3 . Specifically, we got

$$p_0 = \frac{1}{256}(-2475 + 49i\sqrt{7} - 35i\sqrt{15} + 231\sqrt{105}), \quad p_3 = \frac{1}{16}(-17 + 7i\sqrt{15}).$$

In what follows we will denote this surface by W_{Gr} . It is worth mentioning that the ratios of the Plücker coordinates x_{ijk} of the 42 singular points of W_{Gr} are not at all pleasant. Some of them are roots of equations of degree 168 with coefficients that are tens of digits long. Nonetheless, we were able to verify by computer that these are indeed A_2 singularities.

We will now focus our attention on the quotient surface W_{Gr}/C_{14} which is a singular surface with $K^2 = 3$ and three A_2 singularities. Such surfaces have been shown in [Ke12] to be quotients of fake projective planes by a cyclic group C_3 . For our purposes, it will be convenient to work with the unramified double cover $X = W_{\text{Gr}}/C_7$ of W_{Gr}/C_{14} which is a surface with $K^2 = 6$ and six singular

points of type A_2 . We found equations of this surface by the following method, using Mathematica, analogous to [BK19]. It should also be possible to use symbolic rather than numerical methods for it, or at the very least check symbolically that the invariants of C_7 action satisfy these equations. Notice that a smoothing of this surface gives us equations of the surface constructed in [Fa18].

- (1) Construct multiple points on the surface W_{Gr} , numerically with several hundred digit accuracy. The points are generated randomly.
- (2) Construct sections of $2K_X$ as quadratic polynomials in Plücker coordinates on W_{Gr} which are invariant under C_7 . There is an 8-dimensional space of these sections. We initially picked the basis

$$\begin{aligned} (U_0, \dots, U_7) = & \left(\frac{1}{4}(-8925 - 1561i\sqrt{7} + 1115i\sqrt{15} + 833\sqrt{105})x_{124}^2, 32(7 - i\sqrt{15})x_{456}x_{123}, \right. \\ & 32(7 - i\sqrt{15})x_{135}x_{246}, 32(7 - i\sqrt{15})x_{263}x_{415}, 128x_{456}(x_{625} + x_{643}), 128x_{135}(x_{543} + x_{516}), \\ & 128x_{263}(x_{316} + x_{325}), \frac{1}{3}((136 - 56i\sqrt{15})(x_{123}(x_{125} + x_{143}) + x_{246}(x_{243} + x_{216}) + x_{415}(x_{416} + x_{425})) \\ & \left. + 128(x_{456}(x_{625} + x_{643}) + x_{135}(x_{543} + x_{516}) + x_{263}(x_{316} + x_{325}))) \right) \end{aligned}$$

in order to simplify the resulting degree two equations.

- (3) Use the aforementioned points of W_{Gr} to find a basis of equations of degree 2 and 3 among the sections of K_X , numerically.
- (4) Identify the coefficients of these equations with algebraic numbers. These numbers are guaranteed to be in the field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15}, \sqrt{-7})$, which provides a good check of the calculations. The equations of X in terms of U_j are presented in the accompanying file [BF19, EquationsOfXintermsOfU].
- (5) Calculate the Hilbert polynomial of the scheme cut out by these equations to ensure that they cut out the surface X scheme-theoretically.

Remark 3.2. *It is currently a bit of an art to find the generators of the ideal of the relations on U_i that are relatively simple. Our approach involved looking for equations with relatively few terms and picking ones of low length, until they generate the space of equations.*

Remark 3.3. *The residual C_2 action has variables U_0, \dots, U_3 as even and U_4, \dots, U_7 as odd. There is also a C_3 action*

$$(U_0 : \dots : U_7) \mapsto (U_0 : U_2 : U_3 : U_1 : U_5 : U_6 : U_4 : U_7)$$

The coordinates U_0, \dots, U_3 can be viewed as sections of the bicanonical class on W_{Gr}/C_{14} . There is a dimension three space of even degree two relations, which are not predicted by the Hilbert function considerations. There are additional spaces of degree three relations of dimension four (even) and two (odd). This gives us a total of nine equations in 8 homogeneous variables. The size of the equation file is about 30Kb, so, while it is small by computer standards, it is not worth presenting in printed form.

Importantly, equations of X in terms of U_j have coefficients in the field of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15}, \sqrt{-7})$. However, we observed that it was possible to make a linear change of variables to new coordinates (W_0, \dots, W_7) so that the equations are defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$, with the file size of about 20Kb [BF19, EquationsOfXintermsOfW].² The linear change was designed to send the six singular points (whose coordinates are complicated in the U -basis) to

$$(0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : \pm 1 : 0 : 0 : 0), (0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : \pm 1 : 0 : 0), (0 : 0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : \pm 1 : 0)$$

and to make the tangent spaces at the points defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$. The C_3 action on W is again given by

$$\sigma : (W_0 \dots, W_7) \rightarrow (W_0, W_2, W_3, W_1, W_5, W_6, W_4, W_7).$$

Unfortunately, the equations are still too lengthy to be presented in a printed version of the paper.

²We list these equations in the Appendix, but they are not exactly human-usable.

Remark 3.4. *We have verified that these equations cut out the scheme with the expected Hilbert polynomial $h(n) = 12n^2 - 6n + 2$ of a surface with $K^2 = 6$ in its bicanonical embedding for $n \geq 5$, see [BF19, EquationsOfXmagma].*

Remark 3.5. *The embedding by W_j is not projectively normal. In particular, not all degree two sections of $\mathcal{O}(2)$ can be written as quadratic polynomials in W_i . This makes working with sections of $\mathcal{O}(2)$ more complicated, as one needs to represent some of them as rational functions in W_i with degree three numerators and degree one denominators.*

4. FINDING THE TRIPLE COVER: THE KEY STEP

This section is devoted to the key step of the construction of the fake projective plane \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2 which is a Galois triple cover of $W_{Gr}/C_{14} = X/C_2$. Finding a smooth Galois triple cover of a surface with singular points of type A_2 involves finding Weil divisors which are not Cartier which could in general be difficult. This was an extremely delicate calculation that took about six months and multiple dead ends before introduction of several important ideas. The process is described below and is implemented in the accompanying Mathematica file [BF19, Section4.nb].

The approach. Suppose that we have a fake projective plane \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2 with a $C_3 \times C_3$ automorphism group such that the quotient by the first C_3 is isomorphic to the quotient of X

$$\mathbb{P}_{fake}^2/C_3 \cong X/C_2$$

with the above C_2 action. The second C_3 induces the action on X/C_2 coming from the above permutation σ of W_i coordinates. Let $4H$ be a divisor on \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2 where H satisfies $3H = K_{\mathbb{P}_{fake}^2}$. We may moreover assume that the automorphism group $C_3 \times C_3$ of \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2 fixes $4H$ and therefore produces a projective action on $H^0(\mathbb{P}_{fake}^2, 4H) \cong \mathbb{C}^3$. It can be shown that the action of the second C_3 permutes the eigenvectors u_0, u_1, u_2 of the first C_3 , with weights $1, \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{3}), \exp(-\frac{2\pi i}{3})$.

The cubes u_0^3, u_1^3, u_2^3 will be sections of $12H = 4K$ which will descend to C_2 invariant (=even) sections of $\mathcal{O}(2)$ on X . In view of the C_3 action, these will be $f, \sigma(f), \sigma^2(f)$ for some section f . Importantly, the product $u_0 u_1 u_2$ will be an even C_3 invariant section d of $\mathcal{O}(2)$ and there must hold

$$(2) \quad f\sigma(f)\sigma^2(f) = d^3.$$

Knowledge of f and d allowed us to find the triple cover fairly easily as is explained in the next section.

How we found f and d . In addition to the equation (2), we know that $\{f = 0\}$ must pass through $(0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : 0)$ and $(0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0)$. Its proper preimage on the blowup of the singularity will have multiplicity 2 and 1, and 1 and 2 on the corresponding pairs of exceptional curves. In the notations of the diagram below, the preimage of the divisor $\{f = 0\}$ on X on the minimal resolution is given by $3C + 2A_1 + B_1 + 2B_2 + A_2$, where A_i, B_i are the exceptional curves. The preimage of the divisor $\{d = 0\}$ is $C + \sigma(C) + \sigma^2(C) + \sum_{i=1}^3(A_i + B_i)$.

an eventual solution. This reduced the number of unknowns to $19 - 3 = 16$ and the number of cubic equations to 55.

We computed the neighborhoods of the blowups of exceptional lines. At a preimage of a singular point with two exceptional lines A_1 and B_1 the section $f = u_0^3$ must locally look like $B_1 + 2A_1 + 3C$ where C is some curve that intersects A_1 at a point. The section d locally looks like $A_1 + B_1 + C$. Starting from the equations of f and d we can compute the restrictions of $3C$ and C to the exceptional curve A_1 , respectively. The polynomial coming from f is up to a constant the cube of the polynomial coming from d , which leads to 6 quadratic equations for each of the two points $(0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : 0)$ and $(0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0 : 1 : 0 : 0)$. Specifically, if the restrictions of f and d to the exceptional curve are $a_0 + a_1t + a_2t^2 + a_3t^3$ and $b_0 + b_1t$ respectively, then the equations are

$$0 = 3a_3b_0 - a_2b_1 = a_2b_0 - a_1b_1 = a_1b_0 - 3a_0b_1 = 9a_0a_3 - a_1a_2 = 3a_0a_2 - a_1^2 = 3a_1a_3 - a_2^2.$$

We have thus constructed a system of 12 quadratic and 55 cubic equations in 16 variables, with coefficients in $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{-15}]$. *The size of the file [BF19, Rels23withrr] containing these equations was approximately 5.1Mb, and standard Mathematica software and basic hardware were not fast enough to solve them.*

We then employed a natural, yet amusing, trick. Magma has readily computed the Hilbert polynomial of the reduction of the above system modulo 19 with $\sqrt{-15}$ set as $2 \bmod 19$. It was precisely 1, which meant that the system had a unique solution. By adding linear relations and rechecking the Hilbert polynomial, it was easy to find that solution modulo 19. This then allowed us to inductively find a solution modulo 19^k , since increasing k by 1 leads to simple linear equations modulo 19 (we used an appropriate square root of (-15)). After computing it up to $k = 200$, we had enough information to find f and d , on the assumption that the coefficients had reasonable numerators and denominators. We verified that they satisfy the 12 quadratic and 55 cubic equations precisely by a symbolic calculation. Specifically, we obtained that d , up to scaling, is

$$\begin{aligned} & 42318123032W_0^2 + 2256004(-23709 - 33355i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_1 + W_2 + W_3) + 4512008(-369999 - 115101i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_2 + W_1W_3 + W_2W_3) \\ & + 4512008(-134064 - 81144i\sqrt{15})(W_1^2 + W_2^2 + W_3^2 - W_4^2 - W_5^2 - W_6^2) + 6008(-60345558 - 90294750i\sqrt{15})(W_4 + W_5 + W_6)W_7 \\ & + (457763819877 - 572077298835i\sqrt{15})W_7^2 \end{aligned}$$

while f is given by a notably more complicated formula.

5. FINDING THE TRIPLE COVER AND VERIFICATION OF FPP CLAIM

In this section we discuss the construction of the triple cover and the verification that it is indeed a fake projective plane. We recall that we have constructed a surface X in \mathbb{P}^7 cut out by three quadratic and six cubic equations in coordinates $(W_0 : \dots : W_7)$ in the Appendix. It has a free action of C_2 $(W_0 : \dots : W_7) \rightarrow (W_0 : \dots : W_3 : -W_4, \dots : -W_7)$. It is also acted on by a cyclic group of order three given by

$$\sigma(W_0 : \dots : W_7) = (W_0 : W_2 : W_3 : W_1 : W_5 : W_6 : W_4 : W_7).$$

The quotient X/C_2 has three singular points of type A_2 , permuted by C_3 . We have also found an even section f of $\mathcal{O}_X(2)$ and an even C_3 -invariant section of $\mathcal{O}_X(2)$ such that $f\sigma(f)\sigma^2(f) = d^3$ and the divisor of f is $3C$ where C is Weil but not Cartier, see Remark 4.2.

Once we have found f and d , constructing equations of the triple cover \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2 is fairly straightforward, similar to [BK19]. We consider the normalization Z of X/C_2 in the field obtained by attaching an algebraic function z which satisfies

$$(3) \quad z^3 = \sigma(f)f^{-1}.$$

This field has a $C_3 \times C_3$ automorphism group. Namely, there is an action of the *covering* C_3 given by

$$z \mapsto e^{\frac{2}{3}\pi i}z, \quad g \mapsto g \text{ for } g \in \text{Rat}(X/C_2).$$

There is also a commuting action of the *lift* C_3 given by

$$z \mapsto d\sigma(f)^{-1}z, \quad g \mapsto \sigma(g) \text{ for } g \in \text{Rat}(X/C_2).$$

Indeed, we get

$$z^3 \mapsto d^3 \sigma(f)^{-3} z^3 = (f\sigma(f)\sigma^2(f))\sigma(f)^{-3}\sigma(f)f^{-1} = \sigma^2(f)\sigma(f)^{-1} = \sigma(\sigma(f)f^{-1})$$

so (3) is preserved by the above action.

Remark 5.1. *The usual convention is that the action of C_3 on points of X is induced by*

$$\sigma(g)(p) = g(\sigma(p))$$

so

$$\sigma(f)(p) = 0 \iff f(\sigma(p)) = 0 \iff \sigma(p) \in C \iff p \in \sigma^2(C).$$

Therefore, the divisor of $\sigma(f)$ is $3\sigma^2(C)$ and the divisor of $\sigma^2(f)$ is $3\sigma(C)$. The (Weil) divisor of z on X/C_2 makes sense and is given by $\sigma^2(C) - C$.

Since we know what $\{f = 0\}$ looks like locally at singular points, we see that the cyclic triple cover Z given above is smooth and X/C_2 is Z/C_3 for the covering C_3 . We are interested in describing Z explicitly by the equations on sections of $H^0(Z, 2K_Z)$.

Note that $2K_{Z/C_3}$ is $\mathcal{O}(1)$. The covering C_3 induces an action on $H^0(Z, 2K_Z)$ which splits it into three eigenspaces. The invariant subspace is naturally identified with the global sections of $H^0(X/C_2, \mathcal{O}(1))$ and has a basis $\{W_0, W_1, W_2, W_3\}$.

The additional sections in $H^0(Z, 2K)$ for the two other eigenspaces of the covering C_3 action on Z can be thought of as spaces of zg or $z^{-1}g$ with g a meromorphic section of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ on Z which is a pullback of one from X/C_2 . For the first of these eigenspaces, the condition of holomorphicity of zg is $\text{ord}_D(g) \geq -\text{ord}_D(z)$ for all divisors D . This means that g is a section of the reflexive sheaf $\mathcal{O}(1)(\sigma^2(C) - C)$ on X/C_2 , in view of Remark 5.1. As a consequence, gd will be a section of $\mathcal{O}(3)(\sigma^2(C) - C)$ which vanishes at $C + \sigma(C) + \sigma^2(C)$, i.e. a section of $\mathcal{O}(3)(-2C - \sigma(C))$. This can be identified as the linear subspace of $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3))^{C_2}$ cut out by conditions of vanishing twice at C and once at $\sigma(C)$. These are readily calculated numerically by finding a number of random points on these curves. The other eigenspace of the covering C_3 is determined similarly, and we see that $H^0(Z, 2K_Z)$ is naturally identified with

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(1))^{C_2} \bigoplus \left(z d^{-1} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)(-2C - \sigma(C)))^{C_2} \right) \bigoplus \left(z^{-1} d^{-1} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)(-2\sigma^2(C) - \sigma(C)))^{C_2} \right)$$

One can write these sections as rational functions in W_0, \dots, W_7 of total degree one and evaluate them on points of X . When looking for relations among them, one must ensure that the total degree in z is divisible by 3 and that z^3 is converted into $\sigma(f)f^{-1}$ (or alternatively one can construct multiple points on Z).

We would like to have the basis of $H^0(Z, 2K_Z)$ which is nice with respect to the lift C_3 action. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{lift}} \left(z d^{-1} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)(-2C - \sigma(C)))^{C_2} \right) &= (z d \sigma(f)^{-1}) d^{-1} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)(\sigma^2(-2C - \sigma(C))))^{C_2} \\ &= z d^{-1} (d \sigma(f)^{-1}) H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)(-2\sigma^2(C) - C))^{C_2} \\ &= z d^{-1} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)((2\sigma^2(C) - \sigma(C) - C) - 2\sigma^2(C) - C))^{C_2} \\ &= z d^{-1} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)(-2C - \sigma(C)))^{C_2} \end{aligned}$$

and similarly for $z^{-1} d^{-1} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3)(-2\sigma^2(C) - \sigma(C)))^{C_2}$. So we can take one of the elements of the eigenspace and make the others by applying σ_{lift} . This gives us a basis (P_0, \dots, P_9) of $H^0(Z, 2K_Z)$ which has $C_3 \times C_3$ action given by

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{covering}}(P_0, \dots, P_9) &= (P_0, P_1, P_2, P_3, e^{\frac{4}{3}\pi i} P_4, e^{\frac{4}{3}\pi i} P_5, e^{\frac{4}{3}\pi i} P_6, e^{\frac{2}{3}\pi i} P_7, e^{\frac{2}{3}\pi i} P_8, e^{\frac{2}{3}\pi i} P_9), \\ \sigma_{\text{lift}}(P_0, \dots, P_9) &= (P_0, P_2, P_3, P_1, P_5, P_6, P_4, P_8, P_9, P_7). \end{aligned}$$

We have implemented the above in [BF19, Section5.nb].

Remark 5.2. *We were hampered slightly by the lack of projective normality of X . In fact, only a codimension two subspace of even sections of $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(3))$ can be written as a polynomial in W_0, \dots, W_7 . Fortunately, this was still enough to find one element in each of the three-dimensional eigenspaces of $H^0(Z, 2K_Z)$, and then σ_{lift} gave us the basis of the space.*

Remark 5.3. *As has been observed before, one of the difficulties is finding a good basis of sections of $2K$ and a good basis in the space of equations, in order to have the coefficients of manageable length. After we found the equations, we have made a linear change of variables with coefficients in $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{-15}]$ to get a nicer description of the fixed points of $C_3 \times C_3$ while preserving the shape of the group action. This has only lead to a moderate improvement in the size of the coefficients. This is also implemented in [BF19, Section5.nb], with the resulting file [BF19, EqsFppd3D3]*

Remark 5.4. *We also use the knowledge of f and d to construct the double cover of $\mathbb{P}_{\text{fake}}^2$ obtained from X by attaching the above function z . This double cover is given in its $2K$ embedding by 20 variables and 100 quadratic equations. It will be very useful in the next section.*

Since our computations often involved approximate points, and one should generally be wary of long computer code (that took a fair bit of time to debug), we have spent some time directly verifying that our 84 cubic equations cut out a fake projective plane. Specifically, we saved the equations in the Magma format and over the field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$ that the 84 cubic relations cut out a scheme with Hilbert polynomial $p(n) = 18n^2 - 9n + 1$, as expected. We then verified that they generate a prime ideal I and that $H^1(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = H^2(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = 0$ by working over a finite field and using semicontinuity.

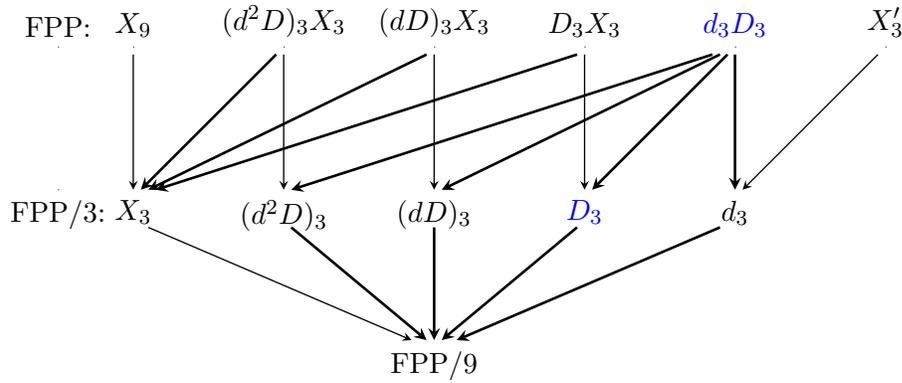
We also verify smoothness as follows. The scheme in question is smooth if and only if the radical of the ideal generated by I and the 7×7 minors of the 84×10 Jacobian matrix Jac of the generators of I is the irrelevant ideal. It is impossible to calculate all of the minors in any reasonable amount of time, even over a finite field. We used the following trick. We picked random 84×84 and 10×10 matrices A and B over a finite field and looked at the first 7×7 minor of the matrix $AJacB$ to get a reasonably generic linear combination of the minors of Jac . We repeated it three times, added the resulting minors to I and verified that the resulting ideal has zero Hilbert polynomial. We had to use a powerful computer cluster (the "Galois" server based at Warwick University) in order to do this calculation in a reasonable amount of time. The relevant Magma code is in [BF19, EqsFPPd3D3Magma and EqsFPPd3D3MagmaFinite].

Once we know that Z is a smooth surface with $H^1(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = H^2(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = 0$, the Hilbert polynomial implies that the hyperplane class D on Z satisfies $D^2 = 36, K_Z D = 18$. To show that Z is a fake projective plane and D is twice the canonical class we only needed to show that $\chi(Z, \mathcal{O}(2K_Z)) = 10$ and $h^0(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z(D - K)) = 0$ as in [BK19]. We used the "Galois" server and Macaulay2 for this calculation.

6. CONSTRUCTING FIVE MORE PAIRS OF FAKE PROJECTIVE PLANES

Cartwright and Steger [CS11+] have discovered the following ball quotients in the same commensurability class as the fake projective plane we have found so far. The labels are the shorthand for their more extensive notation. For example, the FPP we have found is FPP: $(C2, p=2, \emptyset, d_3 D_3)$ in the notation of [CS11+] and is $d_3 D_3$ in the diagram below. The quotient of the complete intersection of Grassmannian in Section 3 is D_3 .

All of the arrows correspond to degree three maps. The thicker arrows indicate Galois covers, i.e. quotient maps for some C_3 action.



We will now describe the main idea used to construct the other surfaces in the above diagram and, in particular, all of the other fake projective planes in this class.

Suppose that we have constructed (i.e. have explicit equations of) a fake projective plane P_1 with a C_3 action and suppose that there is another FPP P_2 which covers the quotient of P_1/C_3 as a *non-Galois* triple cover. Then we can try to construct P_2 as follows.

At the level of the fundamental groups, we have $P_i = \mathcal{B}^2/\Gamma_i$ where Γ_1 and Γ_2 are index three subgroups of a larger group Γ that corresponds to P_1/C_3 . However, Γ_1 is a normal subgroup of Γ and Γ_2 is not. The kernel of the action of Γ on the cosets of Γ_2 is a normal subgroup Γ_3 of Γ of index six with $\Gamma_3/\Gamma \cong S_3$, which is contained in Γ_2 . It is not contained in Γ_1 and, therefore, the intersection $\Gamma_4 = \Gamma_1 \cap \Gamma_3$ is a normal subgroup of Γ of index 18 which is contained in both Γ_1 and Γ_2 .

In terms of the surfaces, we have a smooth surface $P_4 = \mathcal{B}^2/\Gamma_4$ which is a six-fold unramified cover of both P_1 and P_2 . There is an action of $S_3 \times C_3$ on P_4 such that P_1 is the quotient of P_4 by S_3 and P_2 is the quotient of P_4 by $C_2 \times C_3$ where C_2 is a subgroup of S_3 . Both of these quotients are unramified. We will also consider a double cover of P_1/C_3 which corresponds to taking quotient of P_4 by $C_3 \times C_3$. We will denote this (singular) surface by $\widehat{P_1/C_3}$.

We have, $\chi(P_4, \mathcal{K}_{P_4}) = 6\chi(P_1, \mathcal{K}_{P_1}) = 6$. We will assume³ that the surface P_4 is regular, so the dimension of $V = H^0(P_4, K_{P_4})$ is exactly 5. The Holomorphic Lefschetz formula implies that the traces of the action on V of the nonidentity elements of S_3 and C_3 are -1 due to the trivial action on $H^2(P_4, K_{P_4})$. Therefore, as an S_3 representation, V is isomorphic to the direct sum

$$V = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus V_2'$$

where V_1 is the one-dimensional sign representation and V_2 and V_2' are two copies of the dimensional representation of S_3 . Since the actions of C_3 and S_3 commute, the C_3 -eigenspaces must be representations of S_3 . The dimensions of weight $1, w, w^2$ eigenspaces are $1, 2, 2$ respectively, so we may assume that V_1 is trivial under C_3 action and V_2 and V_2' are eigenspaces of weight w and w' .

The dimension two representation of S_3 has a basis (r_1, r_2) such that $(1, 2, 3)r_1 = wr_1$, $(1, 2, 3)r_2 = w^2r_2$, $(1, 2)r_1 = r_2$, $(1, 2)r_2 = r_1$. Consider such basis (r_1, r_2) of V_2 and similarly (r'_1, r'_2) of V_2' . The following observation is key.

Proposition 6.1. *In these notations, $s_1 = r_1r'_2$ and $s_2 = r_2r'_1$ are (pullbacks of) elements of $H^0(\widehat{P_1/C_3}, 2K_{\widehat{P_1/C_3}})$. Moreover, the covering involution on $\widehat{P_1/C_3} \rightarrow P_1/C_3$ permutes them. Similarly, $s_3 = r_1r_2$ and $s_4 = r'_1r'_2$ are (pullbacks of) sections of $H^0(P_1, 2K_{P_1})$ of weights w^2 and w with respect to the C_3 action on P_1 . The following equation holds on P_1/C_3 :*

$$s_1s_2 = s_3s_4.$$

Proof. This statement follows immediately from the description of the group action on r_i . □

³This is a natural assumption, which gets justified a posteriori by the success of the process.

Proposition 6.1 gives us a way to find the divisors of r_i and r'_i . Namely, we can solve for all linear relations on

$$\mathrm{Sym}^2 \left(H^0(\widehat{P_1/C_3}, 2K_{\widehat{P_1/C_3}}) \right) \oplus \left(H^0(P_1, 2K_{P_1})_{w^2} \otimes H^0(P_1, 2K_{P_1})_w \right)$$

and impose the conditions that the right hand side is decomposable (the corresponding matrix is of rank one) and the left hand side is of rank at most two. This allows us to find s_1, \dots, s_4 and then the divisors of r_1, \dots, r'_2 . For example, we can find $r_1 = 0$ as the intersection of $s_1 = 0$ and $s_3 = 0$.

Then we can construct the surface P_4 and finally get P_2 as its quotient. Specifically, the difference between the divisors of r_1 and r_2 is an order three torsion bundle on the double cover of FPP/3. In order to construct the FPP, we will consider the sections of $2K$ on this triple cover as follows. We can look at sections of $3K$ that vanish on $r_1 = 0$ and others at $r_2 = 0$. This requires constructing sections of $3K$. One way is to look at sections of $4K$ which are zero on the anti-invariant section of K (all of this is done on the double cover $\widehat{P_1/C_3}$ of FPP/3).

We have used this method successfully to construct five more pairs of fake projective planes, see [BF19, Section6D3X3.nb, Section6Twin.nb, Section6X3prime.nb, Section6X9.nb]. Specifically, we used the $C_3 \times C_3$ action on the FPP d_3D_3 to get D_3X_3 (and its unramified double cover), as well as $(dD)_3X_3$ and $(d^2D)_3X_3$ (twin FPPs) and X'_3 . Then we used D_3X_3 surface to get X_9 . The verification of the smoothness and the fact that these are indeed FPPs was done similarly to the d_3D_3 case in Section 5.

Remark 6.2. *There were some technical issues that we were not able to resolve to our complete satisfaction. Specifically, our method a priori produces equations over an algebraic extension of the original field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$, often by adding the cube root of unity w . We were able to find an appropriate linear change of coordinates to get the field to be $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$ for D_3X_3 . The twin pairs of $(d^2D)_3X_3$ and $(dD)_3X_3$ are defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15}, \sqrt{-3})$, and we are unable to distinguish one from the other with our method. We are hopeful that the FPPs X'_3 and X_9 can be defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$, but we were unable to find a linear change of the coordinates to do so. We were also unable to successfully control the size of the coefficients. For example, coefficients for X_9 are several thousand decimal digits long in the natural basis $\{1, \sqrt{5}, \sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-15}\}$.*

7. FURTHER DIRECTIONS

In this section we list several open problems that we have not addressed in our research, together with plausible approaches to them.

- It would be interesting to find a way to distinguish between the two surfaces $(d^2D)_3X_3$ and $(dD)_3X_3$ and to match our equations with the calculations of Cartwright and Steger. One approach could be based on finding the fundamental group of our FPPs. It can be done by picking a base point, then making a hyperplane cut and looking at generators coming from the fundamental groups of the corresponding complex curves. However, we have not attempted it and do not know if this is feasible.
- Unfortunately, we were only able to construct the equations of the fake projective planes X'_3 and X_9 with coefficients in the field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15}, \sqrt{-3})$. However, it may be possible to find such equations with coefficients in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$. In a similar vein, we would like to be able to find shorter equations of all of the surfaces involved, even though this might be impossible.
- It has been conjectured that fake projective planes do not have any effective curves in classes H and $2H$, up to torsion. This question can, in theory, be addressed for the fake projective planes we have constructed in this paper as follows. As a byproduct of our computation of the triple cover $d_3D_3 \rightarrow D_3$, we have found the sections of $4H$ on the fake projective plane d_3D_3 . We can also trace the C_{14} torsion in the Picard group of this fake projective plane to

the Grassmannian construction. This should, in theory, allow one to verify the conjecture for d_3D_3 . We have not attempted to verify the torsion calculations of Cartwright and Steger for the other FPPs. One approach is the following. If a fake projective plane has a double cover $Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2$, then all but one nontrivial torsion divisor classes L on \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2 give rise to the spaces $H^0(Y, K_Y + L)$ and $H^0(Y, K_Y - L)$ of dimension at least two, with each eigenspace of dimension at least one (the dimensions of the eigenspaces are exactly one iff $h^1(Y, K_Y \pm L) = 0$). If we pick sections $u_{\pm L, \pm}$ in the corresponding eigenspaces, then

$$s_1 := u_{L,+}u_{-L,+}, \quad s_2 := u_{L,-}u_{-L,-}, \quad s_3 := u_{L,+}u_{-L,-}, \quad s_4 := u_{L,-}u_{-L,+}$$

satisfy

$$(4) \quad s_1 s_2 = s_3 s_4$$

with s_1 and s_2 even sections of $H^0(Y, K_Y)$ and s_3 and s_4 odd sections of $H^0(Y, K_Y)$. Thus we may look for such relations to uncover torsion line bundles. It is not clear if this approach is feasible in practice. For example, one can define $t_1 = s_1 + s_2, t_2 = s_1 - s_2, t_3 = s_3 + s_4, t_4 = s_3 - s_4$ to rewrite (4) as

$$t_1^2 - t_2^2 = t_3^2 - t_4^2.$$

Each t_i is in a linear space of dimension 10, so we end up with quadratic equations in 40 variables. If \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2 has additional symmetries one could likely restrict their attention to some eigenspaces in (4).

- This paper got its start in the construction of surfaces with $p_g = q = 0, K^3 = 3$ and fundamental group C_{14} . There are many other surfaces with these numerical invariants but a different fundamental group that also come from smoothing away the singularities of C_3 quotients of fake projective planes. One can try to emulate this construction to get such surfaces as complete intersections in homogeneous varieties.
- In the opposite direction, we have constructed multiple fake projective planes with C_3 action. It is worthwhile to try to deform the FPP/3 surfaces $X_3, (d^2D)_3, (dD)_3$ and d_3 to get smooth surfaces with $K_S^2 = 3$ and $p_g = q = 0$ with other fundamental groups.
- We have technically not proved that the fake projective planes we have constructed are non-isomorphic to each other. It is clear from our method, but some of the intermediate calculations are done with random points, which are less certain than symbolic computations. There does not appear to be a simple a posteriori calculation that would establish it, although computing various invariants may suffice. A natural approach of looking for linear changes of variables in $|2K|$ embedding would lead to equations in 99 variables, which is far beyond what is currently feasible, even over a finite field.

8. APPENDIX. EQUATIONS OF X

Equations of the surface X which is a double cover of \mathbb{P}_{fake}^2/C_3 in its bicanonical embedding are the following. First, there are three even quadratic equations, where we use the notation $\sigma(W_0 : \dots : W_7) = (W_0 : W_2 : W_3 : W_1 : W_5 : W_6 : W_4 : W_7)$.

$$\begin{aligned} eq_1 &= (53321 - 119409i\sqrt{15})W_0W_1 + 799064W_1^2 + (-140437 + 134429i\sqrt{15})W_0W_2 + (10514 - 1103970i\sqrt{15})W_1W_2 + (87116 \\ &\quad - 15020i\sqrt{15})W_0W_3 + (-4478964 + 441588i\sqrt{15})W_1W_3 + (4468450 + 662382i\sqrt{15})W_2W_3 - 799064W_3^2 - 799064W_4^2 + \\ &\quad (-1461446 + 31542i\sqrt{15})W_4W_5 + (-94626 + 346962i\sqrt{15})W_4W_6 + (1556072 - 378504i\sqrt{15})W_5W_6 + 799064W_6^2 + (3552360 \\ &\quad - 255192i\sqrt{15})W_4W_7 + (-331128 + 358680i\sqrt{15})W_5W_7 + (-3221232 - 103488i\sqrt{15})W_6W_7 \\ eq_2 &= \sigma(eq_1) \\ eq_3 &= \sigma^2(eq_1) \end{aligned}$$

Then there are two odd cubic equations (in addition to products of odd variables and even quadratic equations). These equations happen to be C_3 -invariant.

$$\begin{aligned}
eq_4 = & (-98948224478443260 - 3058298456825380i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_1W_4 + W_2W_5 + W_3W_6) + (-1690952291170184385 + \\
& 369304304128884495i\sqrt{15})W_4W_5W_6 + (81462632898956280 - 23953315200421720i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_2W_4 + W_3W_5 + W_1W_6) \\
& -(1094836267717214400 + 398810644281337680i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_2W_4 + W_2W_3W_5 + W_1W_3W_6) + (-1543563136889220 - \\
& 50501498192304700i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_3W_4 + W_1W_5 + W_2W_6) + (-1695126293066323845 - 246880524310909965i\sqrt{15})(W_2W_3W_4 \\
& + W_1W_3W_5 + W_1W_2W_6) + (-551526491689636680 + 326575488081046680i\sqrt{15})(W_3^2W_4 + W_1^2W_5 + W_2^2W_6) + \\
& 138080956729877280(W_3^2W_5 + W_1^2W_6 + W_2^2W_4) + (1373637819762610920 + 199151284945609080i\sqrt{15})(W_2W_3W_6 + W_1W_3W_4 \\
& + W_1W_2W_5) + (-5328591207840000 + 2144900495488320i\sqrt{15}W_0^2W_7) + (-688957430544122040 \\
& - 158946397497914040i\sqrt{15})(W_1^2 + W_2^2 + W_3^2)W_7 + (284310840392140950 + 106996549176297210i\sqrt{15})W_0W_7(W_1 + W_2 + W_3) \\
& + (1200158218487790765 - 641150643161964915i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_2 + W_1W_3 + W_2W_3)W_7 + (1808067319615295865 \\
& - 379632318487526223i\sqrt{15})(W_4W_5 + W_4W_6 + W_5W_6)W_7 + (-1999928222013559005 + 443220177629557755i\sqrt{15})(W_4 + W_5 \\
& + W_6)W_7^2 + (2471992417171938465 - 903652627464942327i\sqrt{15})W_7^3 \\
eq_5 = & (4624568052886208 + 1836658084768192i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_1W_4 + W_2W_5 + W_3W_6) + (-25723910738105944 \\
& - 4926352855196696i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_2W_4 + W_3W_5 + W_1W_6) + (307036825631433576 + 57793461876095400i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_2W_4 \\
& + W_2W_3W_5 + W_1W_3W_6) + (-42812288376882136 - 32128470688911256i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_3W_4 + W_1W_6) + \\
& (146468880652808448 - 67854829136903424i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_3W_4 + W_1W_2W_5 + W_2W_3W_6) + (-263825659127933973 \\
& + 97123836640946787i\sqrt{15})(W_2W_3W_4 + W_1W_3W_5 + W_1W_2W_6) + (244274695087257576 + 52031300557563432i\sqrt{15})(W_2^2W_4 \\
& + W_1^2W_5 + W_2^2W_6) + 1753408974347648W_0^2(W_4 + W_5 + W_6) + (413162544996145035 + 86812915194403587i\sqrt{15})W_4W_5W_6 \\
& + (-221924076935870i\sqrt{15})W_0W_7 + (112661548728436848 - 15940846449910032i\sqrt{15})W_0W_7(W_1 + W_2 + W_3) \\
& + (-668268262244236563 - 103644995514656715i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_2 + W_2W_3 + W_1W_3)W_7 + (-123783199950329640 \\
& + 32171290678282392i\sqrt{15})(W_1^2 + W_2^2 + W_3^2)W_7 + (-574830176340661227 - 133758869453715555i\sqrt{15})(W_4W_5 + W_5W_6 \\
& + W_4W_6)W_7 + (642303707483671947W_4W_7^2 + 134647945440329475i\sqrt{15}(W_4 + W_5 + W_6)W_7^2 + (-1138685084396455995 \\
& - 184628475341453619i\sqrt{15})W_7^3
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, there are four even cubic equations (again, in addition to products of even variables and degree two equations).

$$\begin{aligned}
eq_6 = & (-1666764770896080 + 24780099758160i\sqrt{15})W_0^3 + (-26655160103850225 - 141099466791655i\sqrt{15})W_0^2W_1 + (68978091270130770 \\
& - 43638746552374050i\sqrt{15})W_0W_1^2 + (-14960300456911665 + 243600535544345i\sqrt{15})W_0^2W_2 + (-136997854837433730 \\
& + 100084814202953370i\sqrt{15})W_0W_1W_2 + (-2166930718788380580 - 114990006031685820i\sqrt{15})W_1^2W_2 + (188045734378652430 \\
& - 11700924076935870i\sqrt{15})W_0W_2^2 + (-334721551455006660 + 371044998805248180i\sqrt{15})W_1W_2^2 + (-3471146893213005 \\
& + 3488453404965845i\sqrt{15})W_0^2W_3 + (370759844061735240 + 142387946334768960i\sqrt{15})W_0W_1W_3 + (1178593751048740740 \\
& + 258386774372850060i\sqrt{15})W_1^2W_3 + (337733550357073080 - 23905566679900920i\sqrt{15})W_0W_2W_3 + (3735489413393712765 \\
& - 810504711260264475i\sqrt{15})W_1W_2W_3 + (-1479640375942060500 - 541366284526196220i\sqrt{15})W_2^2W_3 + (88187928349336200 \\
& + 45648803952015264i\sqrt{15})W_0W_4W_5 + (-25167050881043400 + 54618239319319368i\sqrt{15})W_1W_4W_5 + (691467466176945360 \\
& - 135405264642391296i\sqrt{15})W_2W_4W_5 + (731586446190101565 - 157420661770451835i\sqrt{15})W_3W_4W_5 + (-22789739259859320 \\
& + 14076296148587904i\sqrt{15})W_0W_4W_6 + (471919011020770320 - 286625927180712672i\sqrt{15})W_1W_4W_6 + (-52065650645825355 \\
& - 336326621647458771i\sqrt{15})W_2W_4W_6 + (-71375582659697820 + 34183213308069084i\sqrt{15})W_0W_5W_6 + (544930562815031925 \\
& - 262568409537346227i\sqrt{15})W_1W_5W_6 + (-773851724743350960 - 167052236438578176i\sqrt{15})W_2W_5W_6 + (-83927877818450400 \\
& - 17377009952576400i\sqrt{15})W_0W_4W_7 + (-36849898243929960 + 28649673281993400i\sqrt{15})W_1W_4W_7 + (-549479940520862295 \\
& + 243736669319493105i\sqrt{15})W_2W_4W_7 + (-79682214111243695 + 45136039971948345i\sqrt{15})W_3W_4W_7 + (53307405771262020 \\
& - 21625406694472140i\sqrt{15})W_0W_5W_7 + (832604580620480745 + 48931912928647665i\sqrt{15})W_1W_5W_7 + 356264465750010720W_2W_5W_7 \\
& + (-313200156644634105 + 130270143553698015i\sqrt{15})W_3W_5W_7 + (42156434307162420 + 3936635595601380i\sqrt{15})W_0W_6W_7 \\
& + (-1166733390875518935 + 266638938070257585i\sqrt{15})W_1W_6W_7 + (988209940857367095 + 425481801320871855i\sqrt{15})W_2W_6W_7 \\
& + (-142547635521932760 - 5281782721276824i\sqrt{15})W_0W_7^2 + (232999883627690025 - 74107682752546863i\sqrt{15})W_1W_7^2 \\
& + (-876915653107092165 - 319487180407733709i\sqrt{15})W_2W_7^2 + (314943079584183435 - 119573778905614845i\sqrt{15})W_3W_7^2 \\
eq_7 = & \sigma(eq_6) \\
eq_8 = & \sigma^2(eq_6) \\
eq_9 = & (324554939451 - 70795097523i\sqrt{15})W_0^3 + (1529614704078 - 1205210352894i\sqrt{15})W_0^2(W_1 + W_2 + W_3) + (-5415939170712 \\
& + 1474501654360i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_1^2 + W_2^2 + W_3^2) + (-62405246503404 - 10367134749412i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_1W_2 + W_2W_3 + W_1W_3) \\
& + 180800780856192(W_1^2W_2 + W_2^2W_3 + W_3^2W_1) + (-146202216215328 - 15520405118400i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_2^2 + W_2W_3^2 + W_3W_1^2) \\
& + (-341956310464440 + 182430423393624i\sqrt{15})W_1W_2W_3 + (-24797684639448 - 4795122965976i\sqrt{15})W_0(W_4W_5 + W_5W_6 \\
& + W_4W_6) + (-36568462213584 + 31673565214704i\sqrt{15})(W_2W_4W_5 + W_3W_5W_6 + W_1W_6W_4) + (-58201519194000 \\
& + 40317236988336i\sqrt{15})(W_3W_4W_5 + W_1W_5W_6 + W_2W_6W_4) + (19496920450896 + 2134605859344i\sqrt{15})W_0W_7(W_4 + W_5 + W_6) \\
& + (21063286582128 - 6992925745680i\sqrt{15})(W_1W_4 + W_2W_5 + W_3W_6)W_7 + (99385147864044 - 46684295204148i\sqrt{15})(W_2W_4 \\
& + W_3W_5 + W_1W_6)W_7 + (1823973493356 - 15659763667380i\sqrt{15})(W_3W_4 + W_1W_5 + W_2W_6)W_7 + (-95094214488 \\
& - 2876821724952i\sqrt{15})W_0W_7^2 + (-38259379316088 + 23825658096072i\sqrt{15})(W_1 + W_2 + W_3)W_7^2
\end{aligned}$$

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