

POSTSCRIPT.

Predicting the future is always risky, and I do not presume to do so concerning configurations of points and lines. But two guesses appear quite safe to make.

In the first place, the interest in configurations is likely to persist. This is due to the fact that the topic is elementary — in the sense that its results and problems are accessible without years of graduate studies — as well as visually attractive and nontrivial. Not only the problems mentioned in the present text deserve attention, but it is possible that completely new approaches, methods, and directions may emerge from the current interest in the topic.

The second seemingly safe guess is that there will be interest in higher-dimensional analogues of the material described in the book. A few tentative steps in this direction occurred already in the “prehistoric period” (for example, in the works of Cayley), as well as in the “classical period” of the late nineteenth century. Quite clearly, this direction is necessarily less visual and more algebraic and topological than the theory of configurations of points and lines. However, at least some of the spirit of the latter can probably be translated into higher dimensions — with approaches and concerns different from the present emphases of algebraic geometry and topology.