

Henry Segerman Oklahoma State University Sculpture in 4-dimensions



3D printing technologies Fused deposition modelling



Image credit: Wikipedia - Zureks



3D printing technologies

Selective laser melting



Image credit: Wikipedia - Materialgeeza

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A point in 4-dimensional space is given by four numbers, say (w, x, y, z).



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How can we see 4-dimensional things?

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Orthogonal projection of a cube



Orthogonal projection of a hypercube



Hypercube B by Bathsheba Grossman.

Perspective projection of a cube



Perspective projection of a cube



Perspective projection of a hypercube



Hypercube A by Bathsheba Grossman.

Stereographic projection

Stereographic projection



First radially project the cube to the sphere...





First radially project the cube to the sphere...





Then stereographically project to the plane



Then stereographically project to the plane



Do the same thing one dimension up to see a hypercube



Do the same thing one dimension up to see a hypercube



More amazing properties of stereographic projection



A sphere is the set of points at a fixed distance from a center point.

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A sphere is the set of points at a fixed distance from a center point.

- The sphere in 3-dimensional space is "the same as" the 2-dimensional plane, plus a point.
- The sphere in 4-dimensional space is "the same as"
 3-dimensional space, plus a point.



Regular Polytopes

In 2-dimensions: Regular polygons



Regular Polytopes

In 3-dimensions: Regular polyhedra



Three families of regular polytopes



The only exceptions!



Dodecahedron

Icosahedron





120-cell



600-cell

24-cell

The only exceptions!



Dodecahedron

Icosahedron





Half of a 120-cell



Half of a 600-cell

24-cell

Puzzling the 120-cell


Puzzling the 120-cell

The 120-cell has

- 120 dodecahedral cells,
- 720 pentagonal faces,
- 1200 edges, and
- ▶ 600 vertices.



One way to understand the 120-cell is to look at the layers of dodecahedra around the central dodecahedron.

1 central dodecahedron





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- 12 dodecahedra at angle $\pi/5$





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- ▶ 30 dodecahedra at angle $\pi/2$





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- 1 central dodecahedron
- 12 dodecahedra at angle $\pi/5$
- 20 dodecahedra at angle $\pi/3$
- 12 dodecahedra at angle $2\pi/5$
- ▶ 30 dodecahedra at angle $\pi/2$

The pattern is mirrored in the last four layers.

1 + 12 + 20 + 12 + 30 + 12 + 20 + 12 + 1 = 120



A second way to understand the 120-cell is by making it up out of rings of 10 dodecahedra.



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Each ring is surrounded by five others.



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To print all five we use a trick...

















Dc30 Ring puzzle





Another decomposition, with even shorter ribs.



Another decomposition, with even shorter ribs.



Another decomposition, with even shorter ribs.


















Dc45 Meteor puzzle



Six kinds of ribs



These make many puzzles, which we collectively call Quintessence.



Thanks!



segerman.org
math.okstate.edu/~segerman/
youtube.com/henryseg
shapeways.com/shops/henryseg
thingiverse.com/henryseg
homepages.warwick.ac.uk/~masgar/

