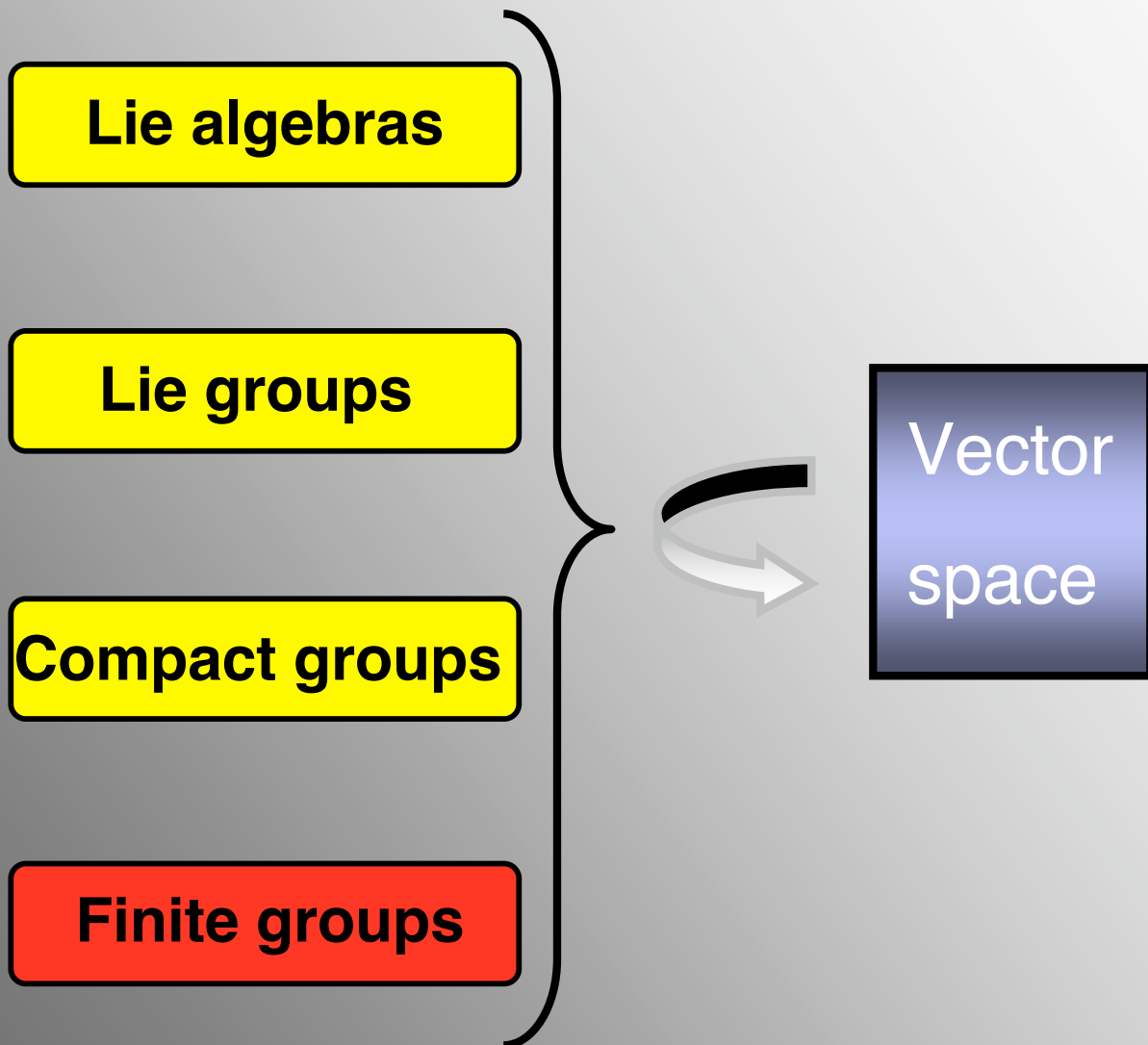
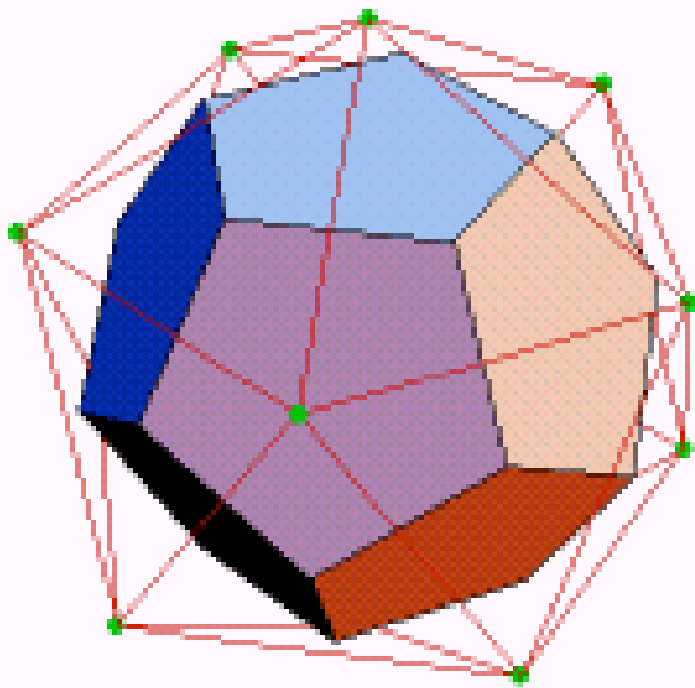
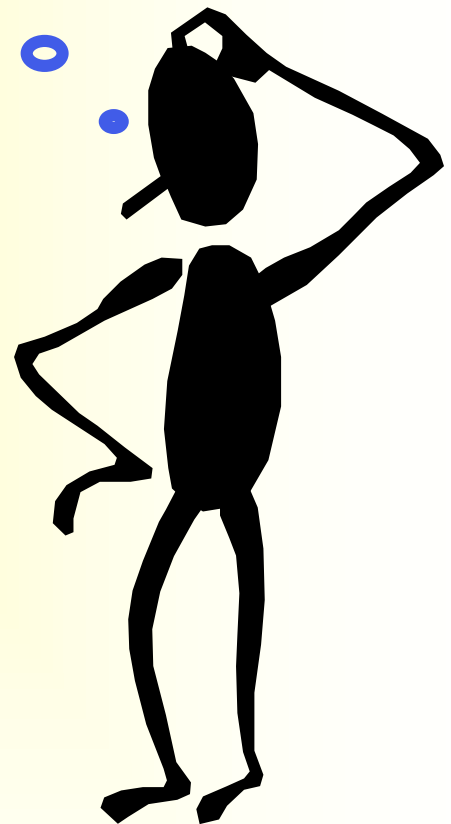
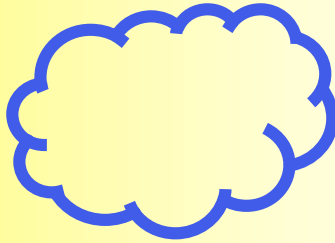


Representation Theory



Finite subgroups of $SO(3)$

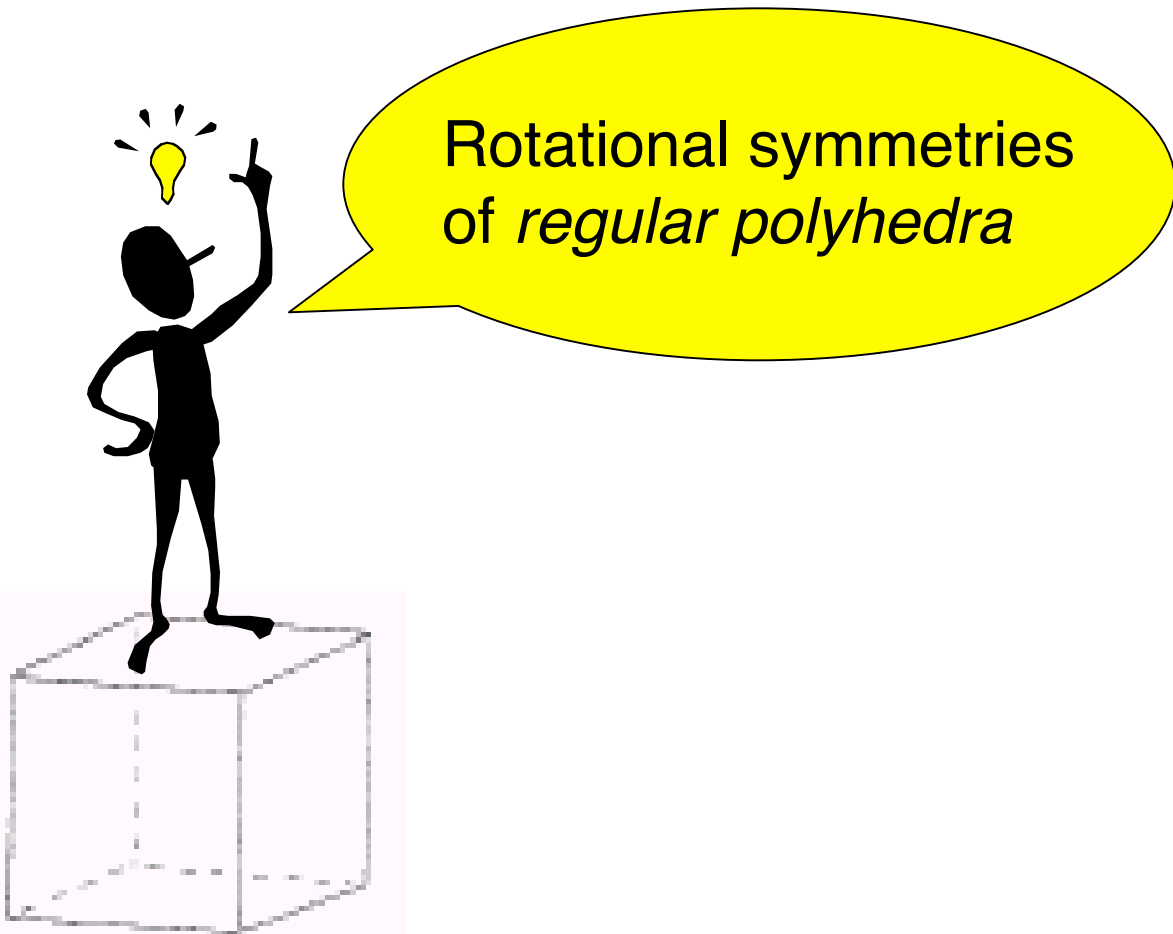


Alessandra Pantano
Cornell University

Program for Women in Mathematics 2005
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

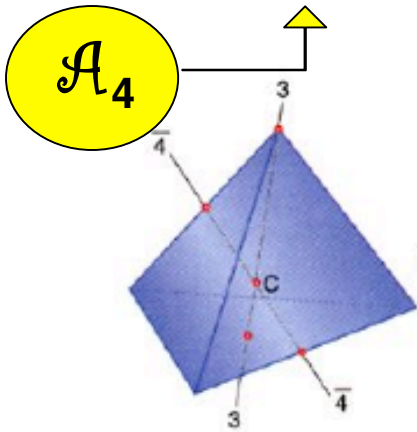
$SO(3)$ = Rotations in 3D

*How do we find **finite** subgroups?*

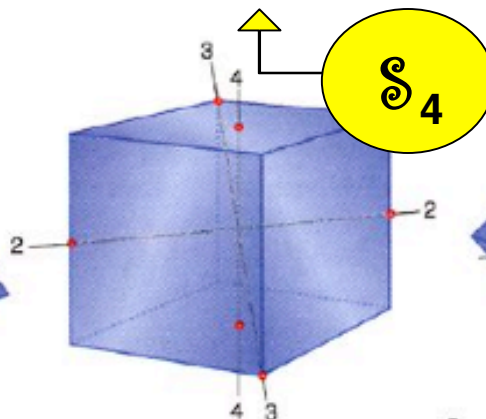


Regular Polyhedra

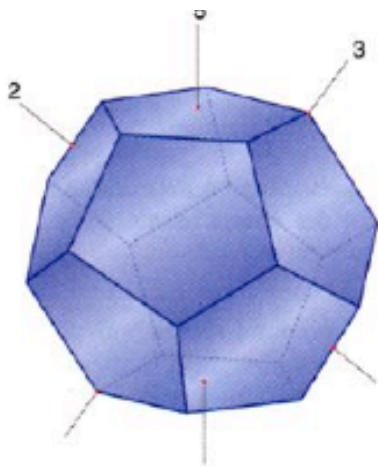
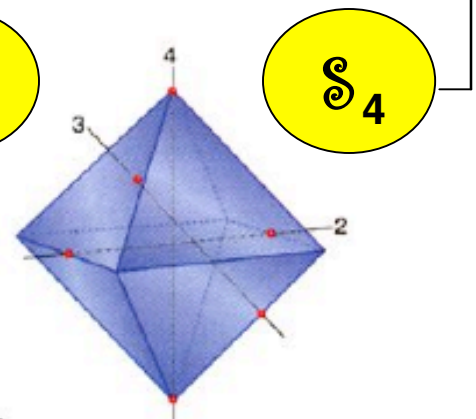
Tetrahedron



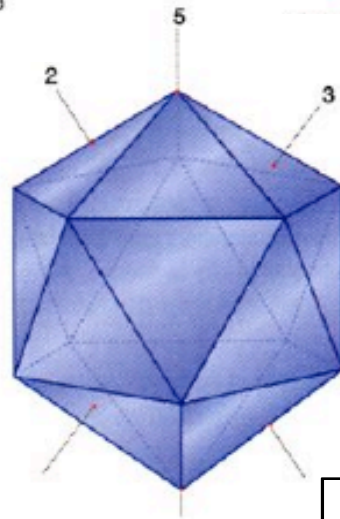
Cube



Octahedron

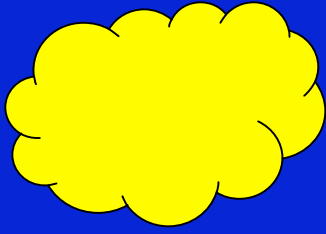


Dodecahedron

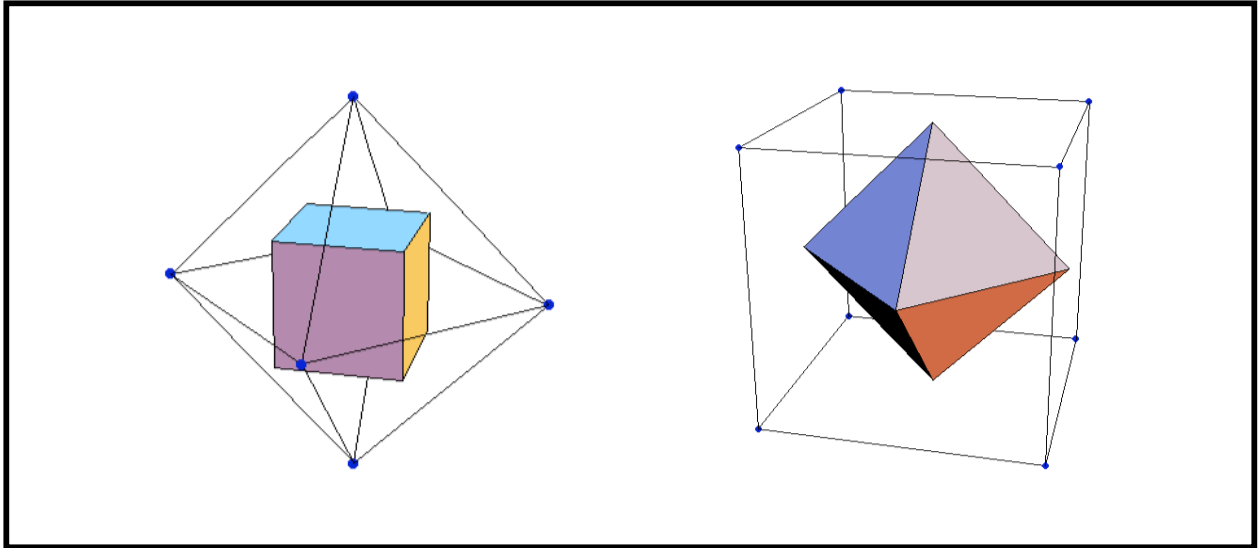


Icosahedron

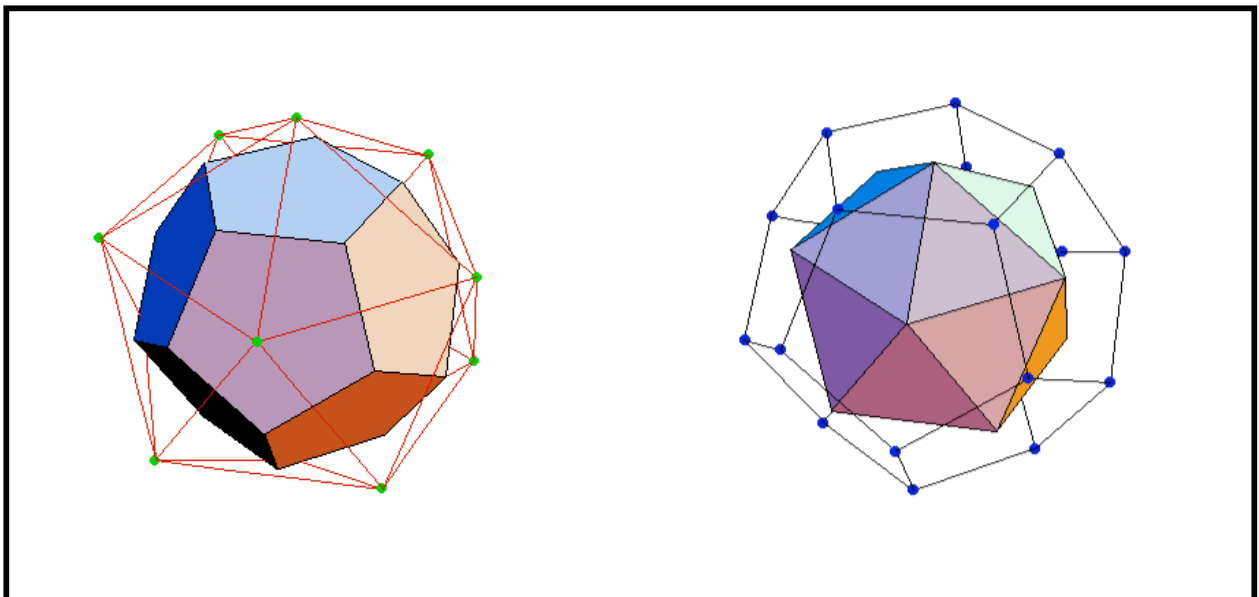
We obtain 3 distinct groups of rotations!!!



Why do we **only** get
3 groups?



Duality of regular polyhedra: $\#V \leftrightarrow \#F$



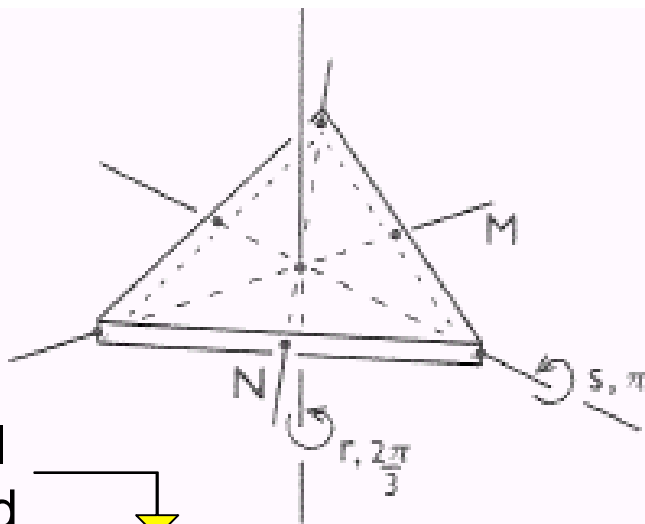
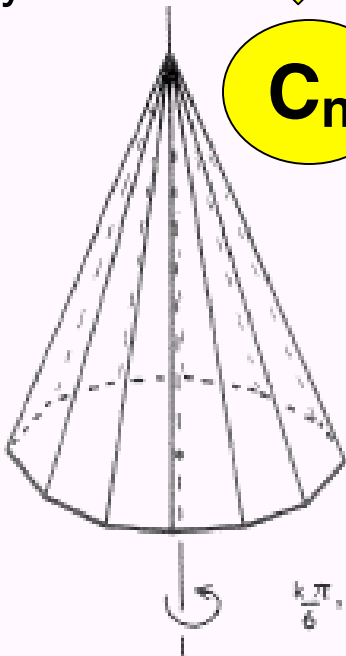
Are there other finite subgroups?



rotational symmetries
of **other** solids...

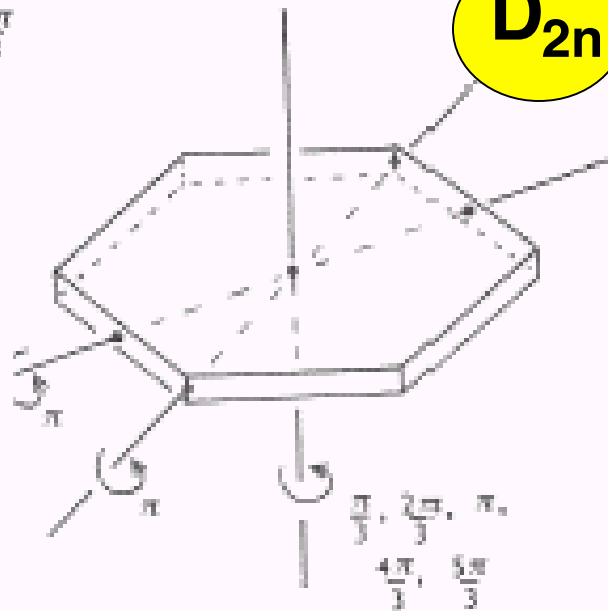
n-gonal
pyramid

C_n



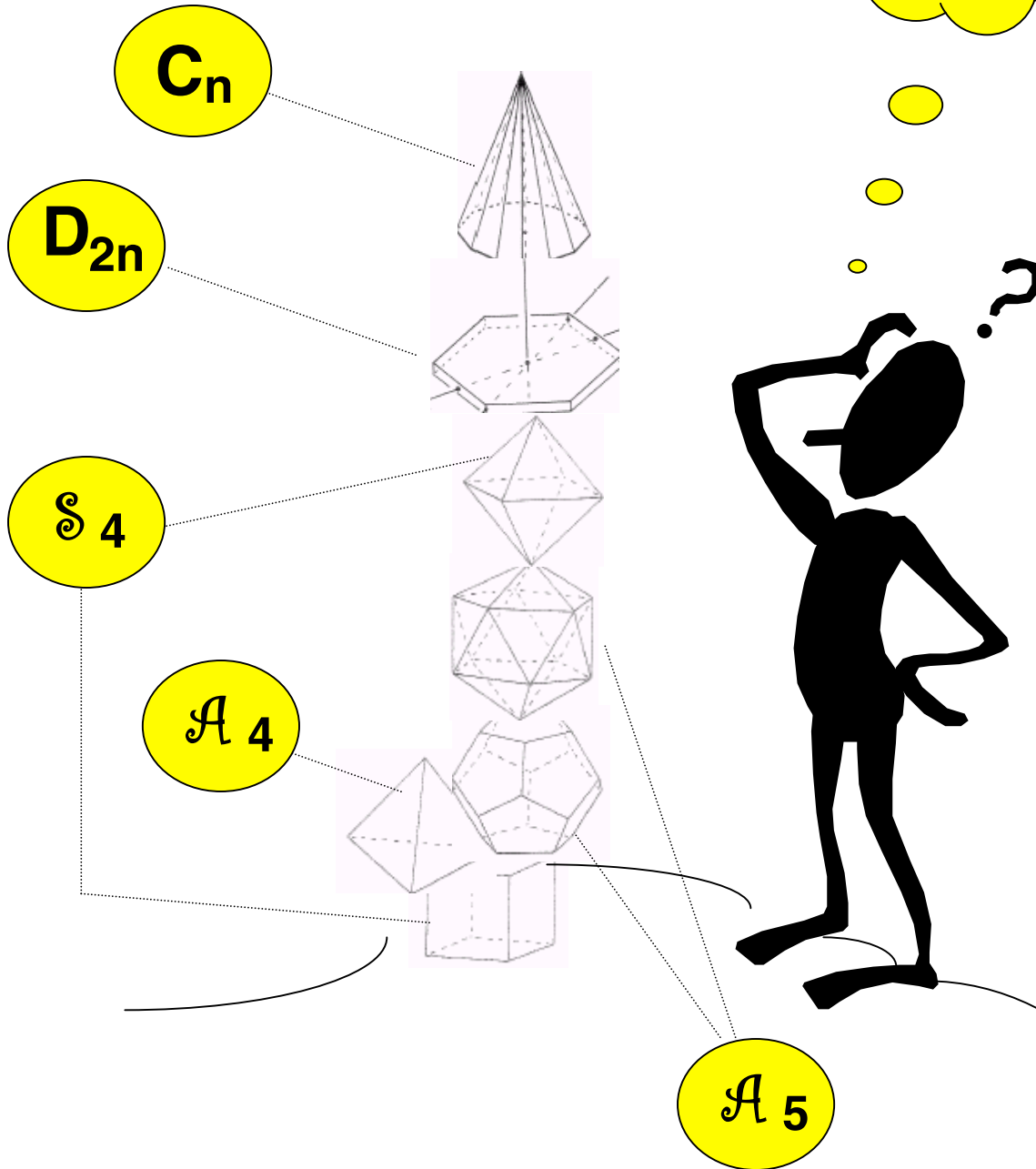
n-gonal
plate

D_{2n}

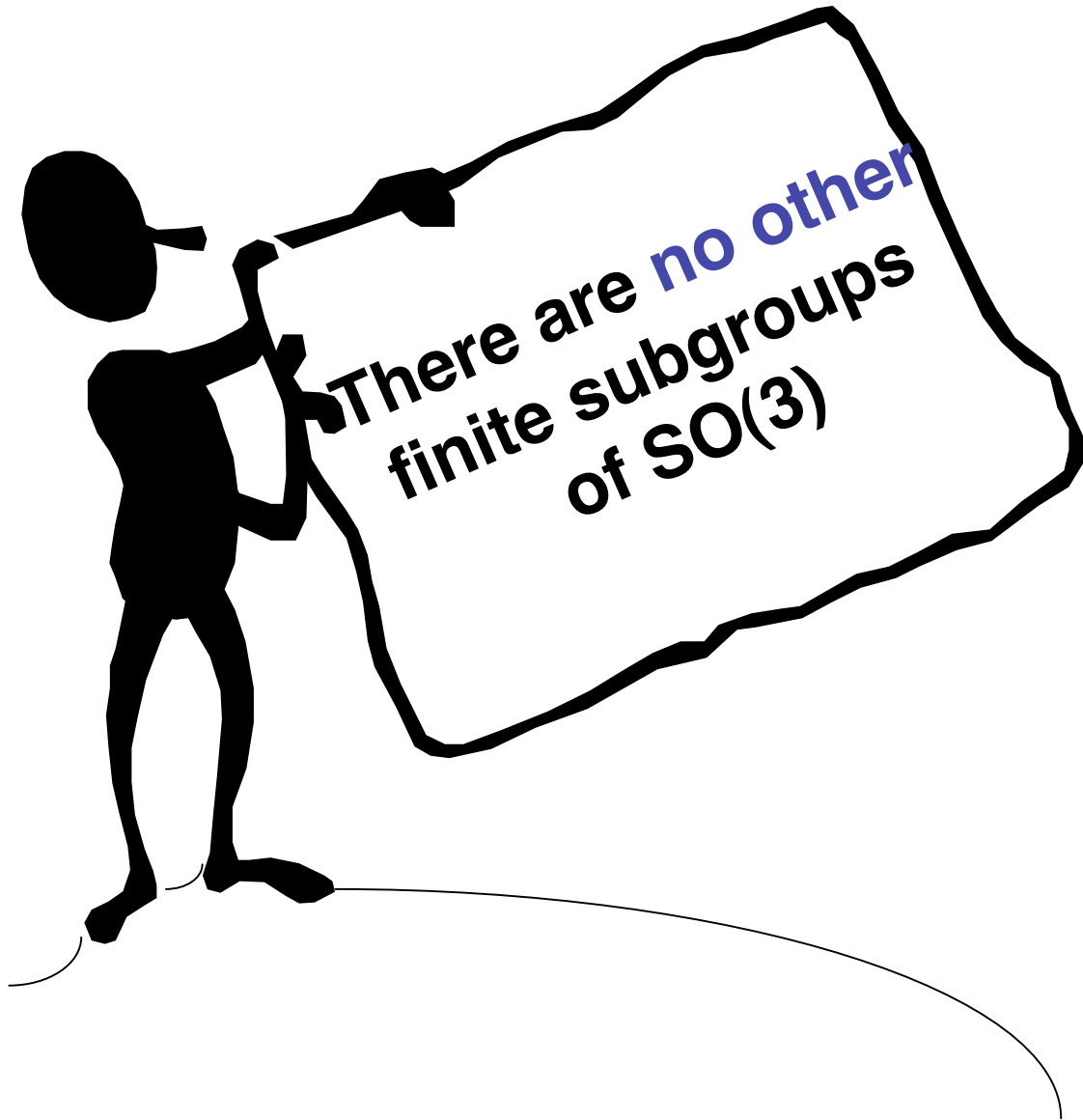


Finite subgroups of $SO(3)$

what
else??



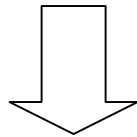
★
A beautiful theorem!!!!
★



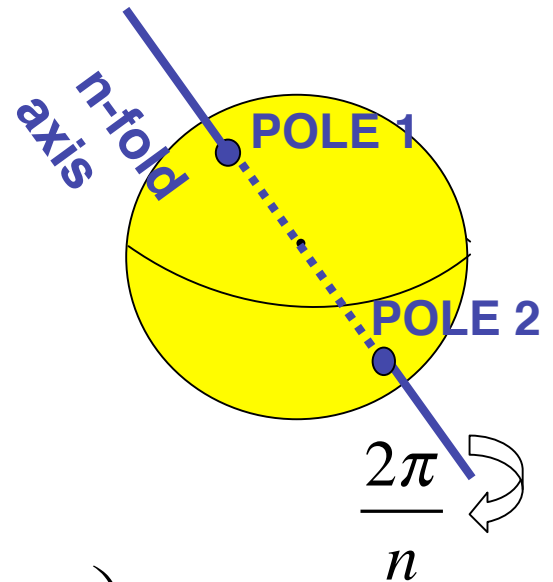
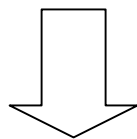
Theorem: A finite subgroup of $SO(3)$ is either cyclic, or dihedral, or it is the group of rotations of a platonic solid.

Finite subgroups of SO(3)

$G < \text{SO}(3)$ finite



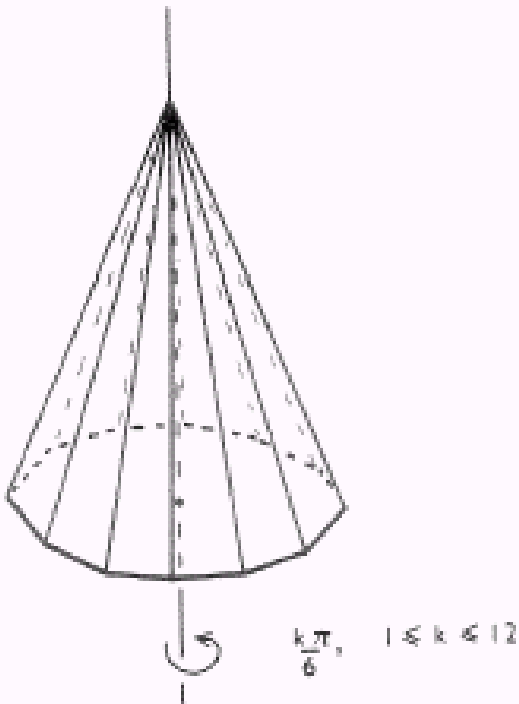
G acts on “poles”



$$2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{|G|} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\#O} \left(1 - \frac{1}{|st(\mathcal{O}_i)|} \right)$$

# P	# O	order	stabilizers	G	name	realization
2	2	n	n	n	C_n	pyramid
$2n+2$	3	n	2	2	D_n	plate
26	3	4	3	2	S_4	cube
14	3	2	3	3	A_4	tetrah.
62	3	2	3	5	A_5	dodecah.

Symmetries of the pyramid



$n = \#$ sides in base



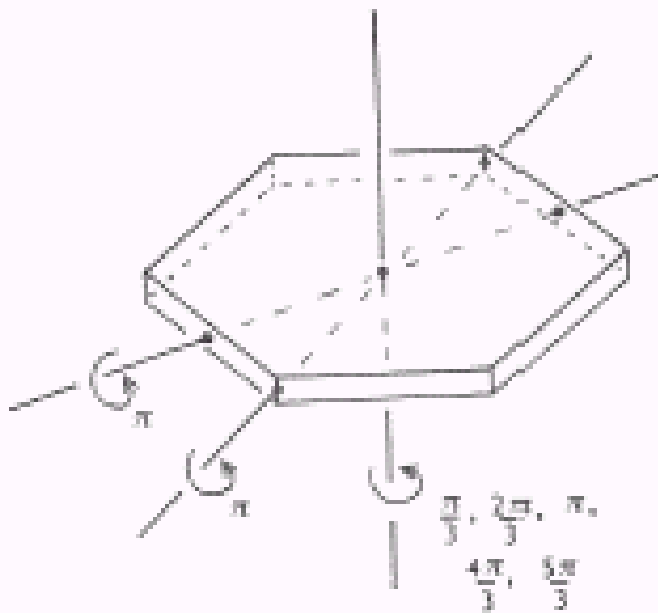
1 n -fold axis



$G =$ cyclic group C_n

- # poles = 2
- # orbits = 2
- order of each stabilizer = n
- order of the group = n

Symmetries of the plate



$n = \#$ sides



n 2-fold axes

+

1 n -fold axis

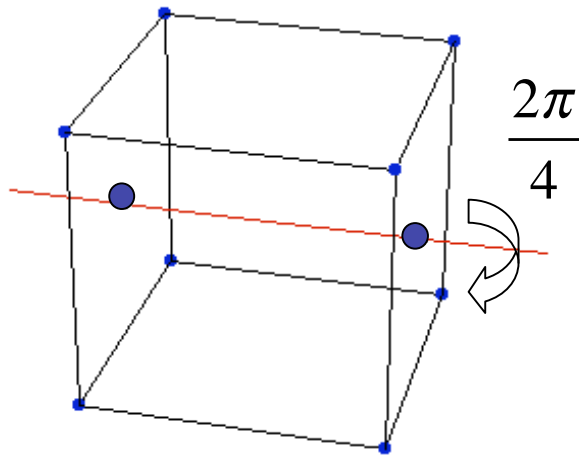


$G = \text{dihedral } D_{2n}$

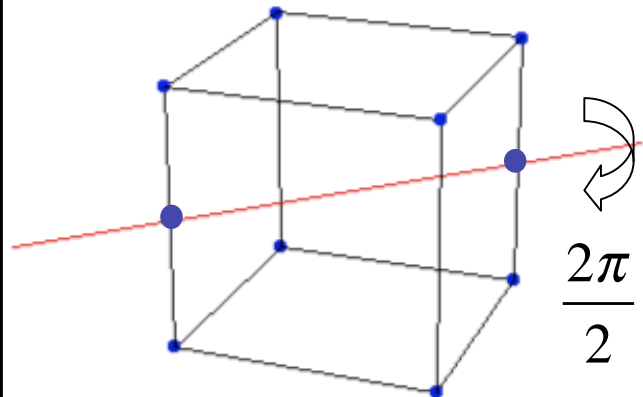
- # poles = $2n+2$
- # orbits = 3
- order of stabilizers = 2, 2, n
- order of the group = $2n$

Symmetries of the cube

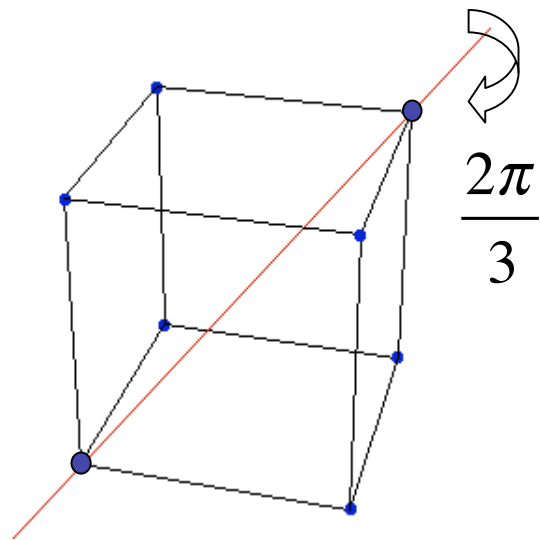
(8 vertices, 12 edges, 6 faces)



3 4-fold axes



4 2-fold axes



4 3-fold axes

$$|G| = 1 + 3 \times 3 + 4 + 4 \times 2 = 24 = 4!$$

G permutes the 4 diag.s

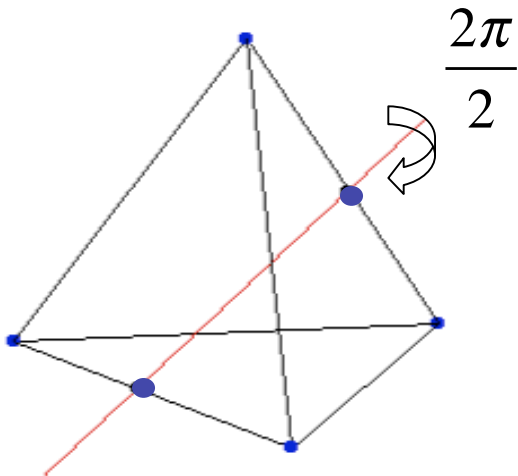
$$\Rightarrow G < \mathfrak{S}_4$$

$$|G| = 4! \Rightarrow \mathbf{G = \mathfrak{S}_4}$$

- # poles = 26; # orbits = 3
- order of stabilizers = 4, 2, 3
- order of the group = 24

Symmetries of the tetrahedron

(4 vertices, 6 edges, 4 faces)



3 2-fold axes



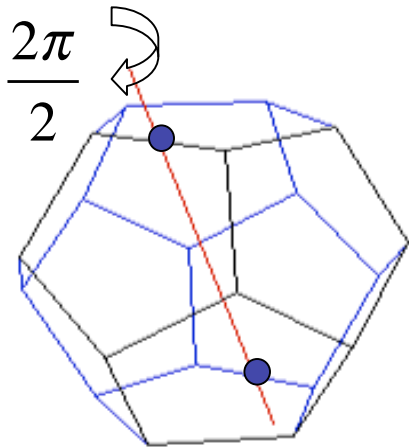
4 3-fold axes

- G permutes the 4 vertices $\Rightarrow G < \mathfrak{S}_4$
- G generated by $(...)$ and $(..)(..)$ $\Rightarrow G < \mathcal{A}_4$
- $|G| = 4!/2 \Rightarrow G = \mathcal{A}_4$

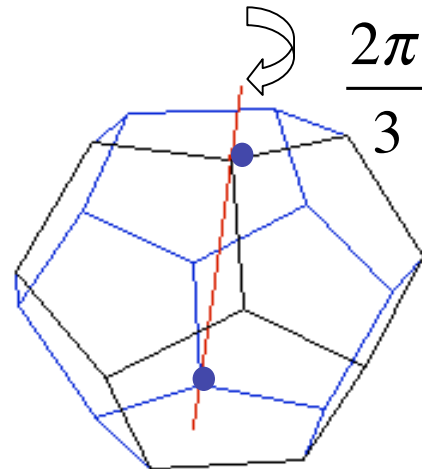
- # poles = 14 (6 centers of an edge, 4 vertices, 4 centers of a face)
- # orbits = 3
- order of stabilizers = 2, 3, 3
- order of the group = $1 + 3 \times 1 + 4 \times 2 = 12$

Symmetries of the dodecahedron

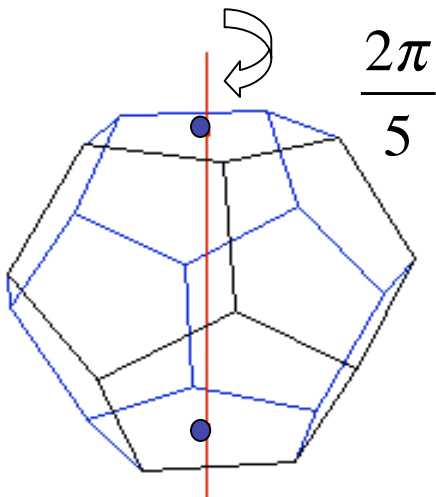
(20 vertices, 30 edges, 12 faces)



15 2-fold axes



10 3-fold axes



6 5-fold axes

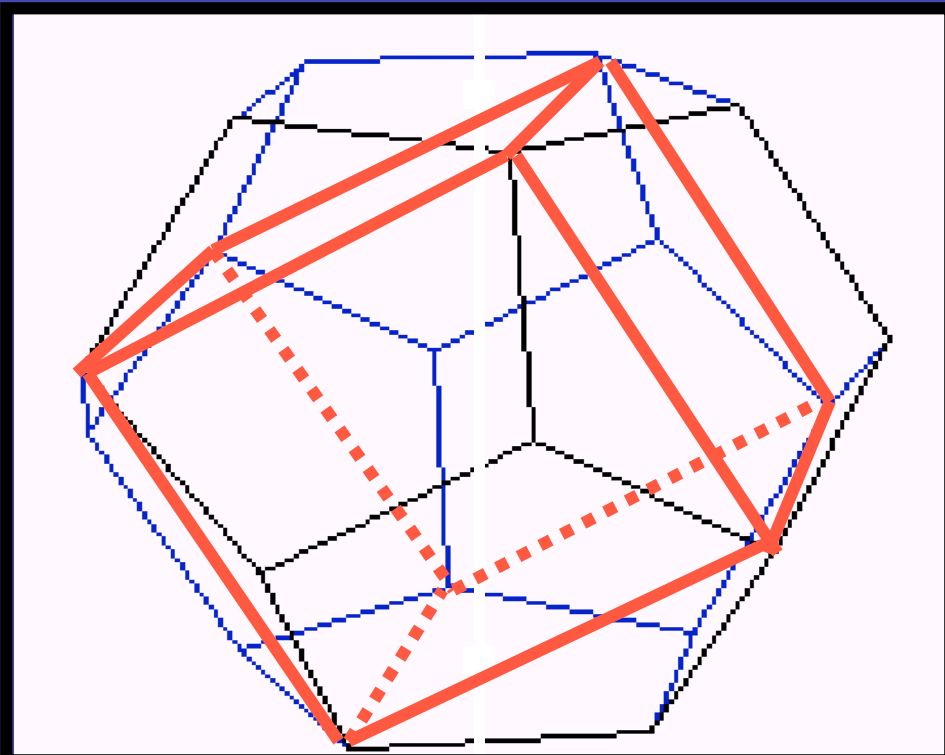
$$|G| = 1 + 15 + 10 \times 2 + 6 \times 4 = 60 = 5!/2$$

$$G = \mathcal{A}_5$$

- # poles = 62; # orbits = 3
- order of stabilizers = 2, 3, 5
- order of the group = 60

Symmetries of the dodecahedron

There are exactly 5 cubes s.t. each edge of the cube is a diagonal of exactly 1 pentagon.



G permutes the 5 cubes $\longrightarrow G < \mathfrak{S}_5$

G contains all (...) $\longrightarrow G > \mathcal{A}_5$

$|G| = 60 = 5!/2 \longrightarrow G = \mathcal{A}_5$