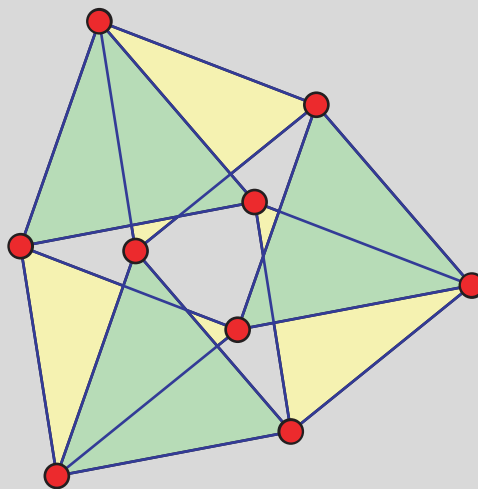


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# Combinatorial Zeolites

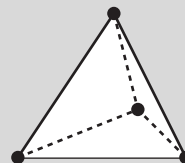
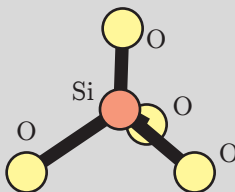
Herman Servatius — Clark University  
(Brigitte Servatius — WPI)



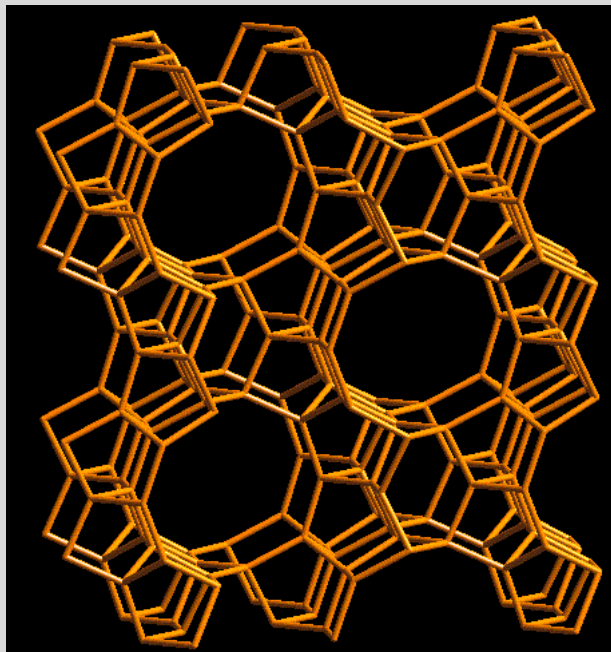


# 1. Chemical Zeolites

- crystalline solid
- units: Si + 4O



- two covalent bonds per oxygen

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- naturally occurring
- synthesized
- theoretical

Used as microfilters.



## 2. Combinatorial Zeolites

### *Combinatorial $d$ -Dimensional Zeolite*

- A connected complex of corner sharing  $d$ -dimensional simplices
- At each corner there are exactly two distinct simplices
- Two corner sharing simplices intersect in exactly one vertex.

### *body-pin graph*

Vertices: simplices (silicon)

Edges: bonds (oxygen)

*There is a one-to-one correspondence between combinatorial  $d$ -dimensional zeolites and  $d$ -regular body-pin graphs.*



## Graph of a Combinatorial Zeolite

is obtained by replacing each  $d$ -dimensional simplex with  $K_{d+1}$ .

The graph of the zeolite is the line graph of the Body-Pin graph.

## Whitney

(1932) proved that connected graphs  $X$  on at least 5 vertices are strongly reconstructible from their line graphs  $L(X)$ .  
Moreover,  $\text{Aut}(X) \cong \text{Aut}(L(X))$ .



### 3. Realization

#### A realization of a $d$ -dimensional zeolite

An placement (embedding) of vertices of the the  $d$ -dimensional complex in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

Equivalently a placement (embedding) of the vertices of the line graph of the body-pin graph.

#### unit-distance realization

A realization where all edges join vertices distance 1 apart in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

#### non-interpenetrating realization

A realization where simplices are disjoint except at joined vertices.

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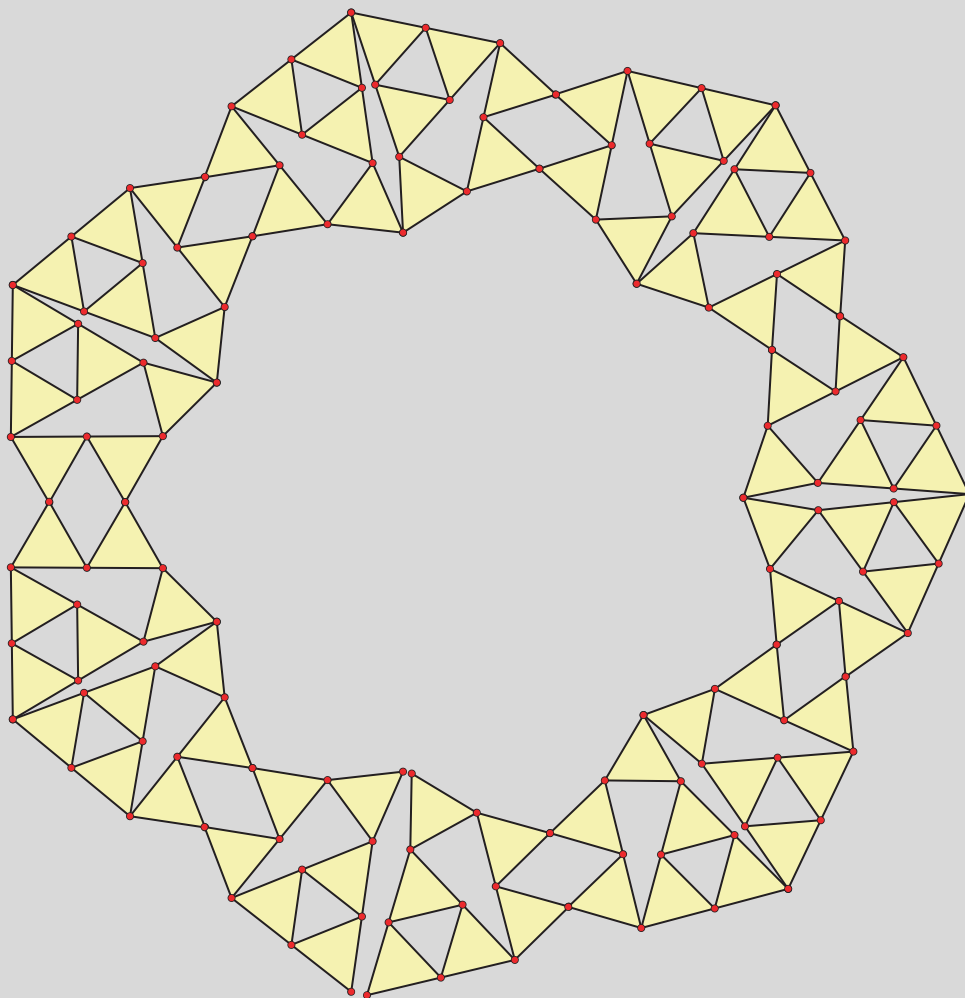
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The typical situation: Not unit distance realizable.



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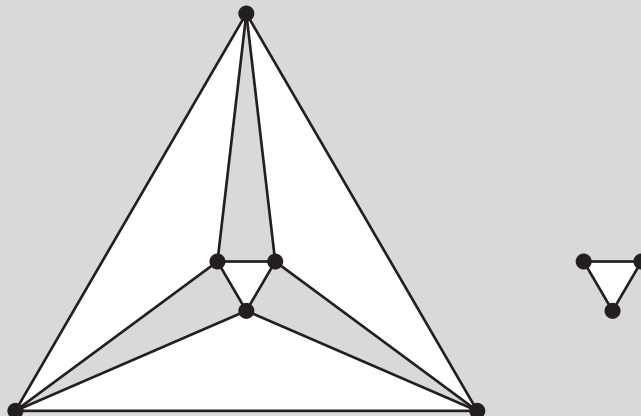
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## 4. 2d Zeolites

Smallest 2d zeolite is the line graph of  $K_4$ : The graph of the octahedron with four (edge disjoint) faces.

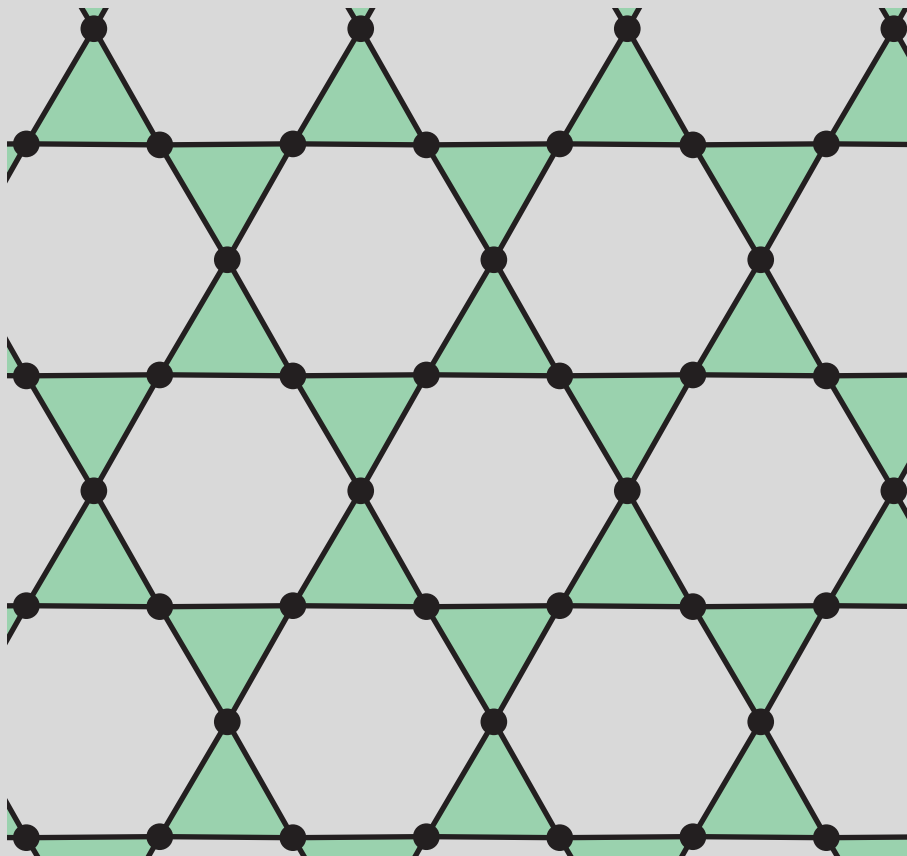
For body-pin graphs on more than 4 vertices, the zeolite can be recovered uniquely from the line-graph.







It is just as easy to construct infinite symmetric examples:



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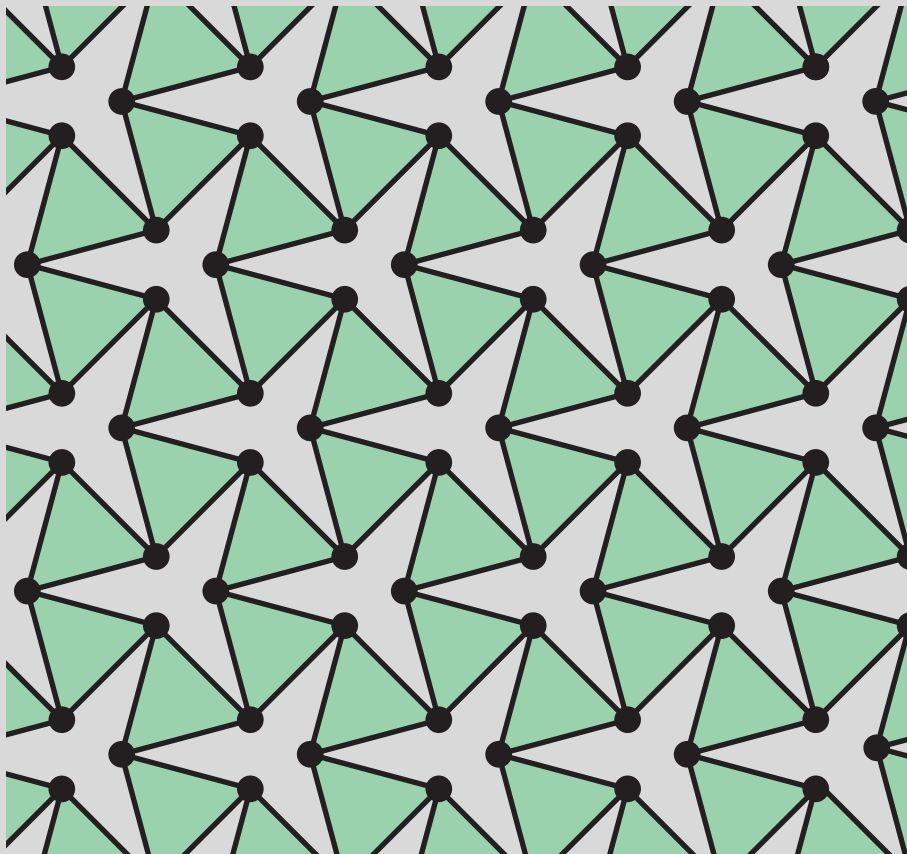
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## Showing a different symmetry



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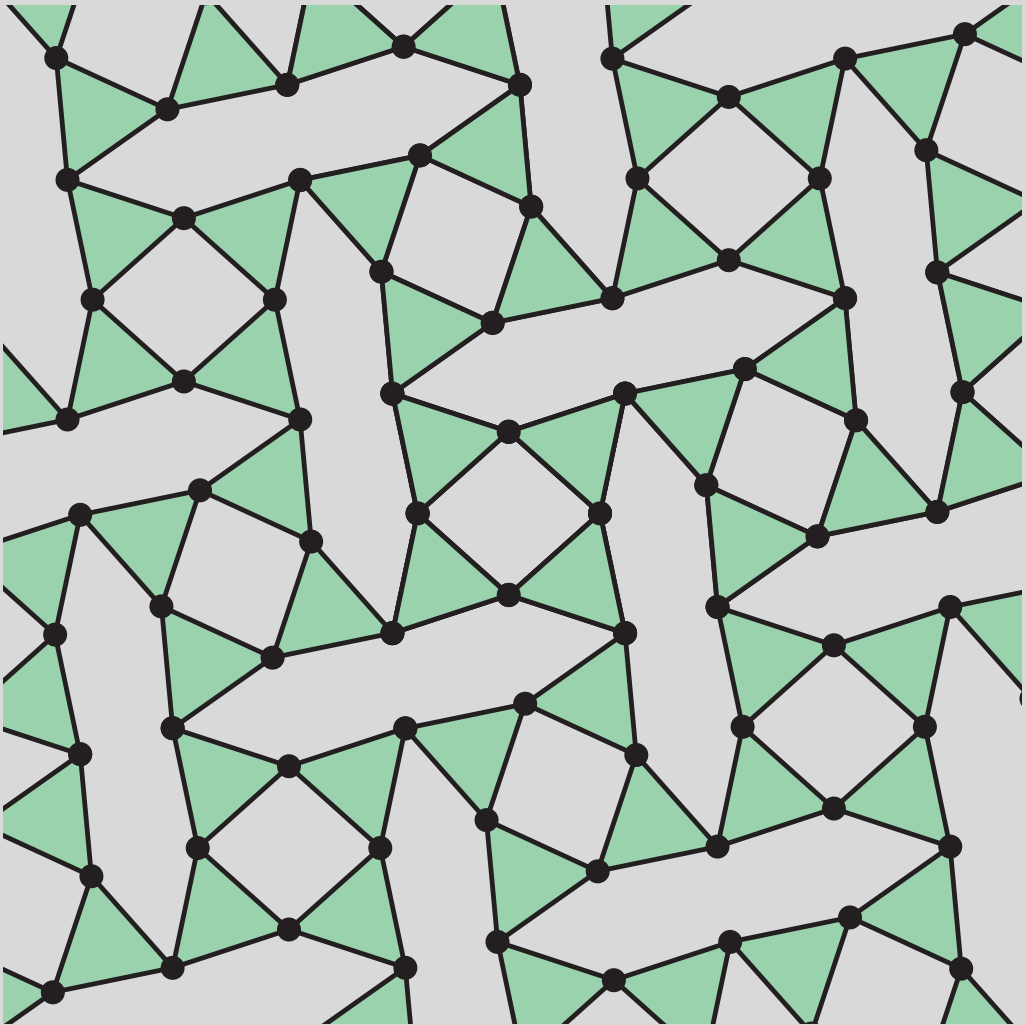
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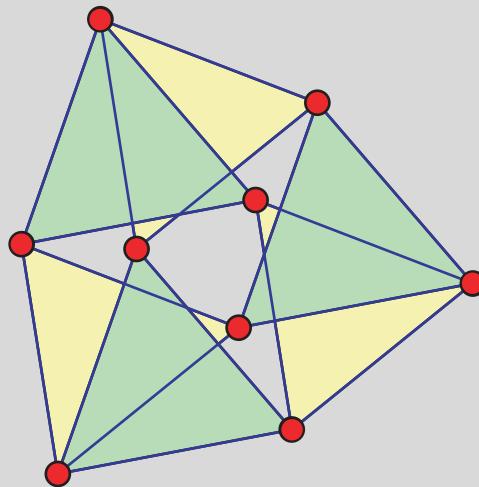
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## 5. Finite Zeolites

Body pin graph:  $K_{3,3}$ . Since the body pin graph is not planar, the resulting zeolite cannot be planar. Its underlying graph is generically globally rigid. However, it has a unit distance realization in the plane which is a mechanism.





# Harborth's Example

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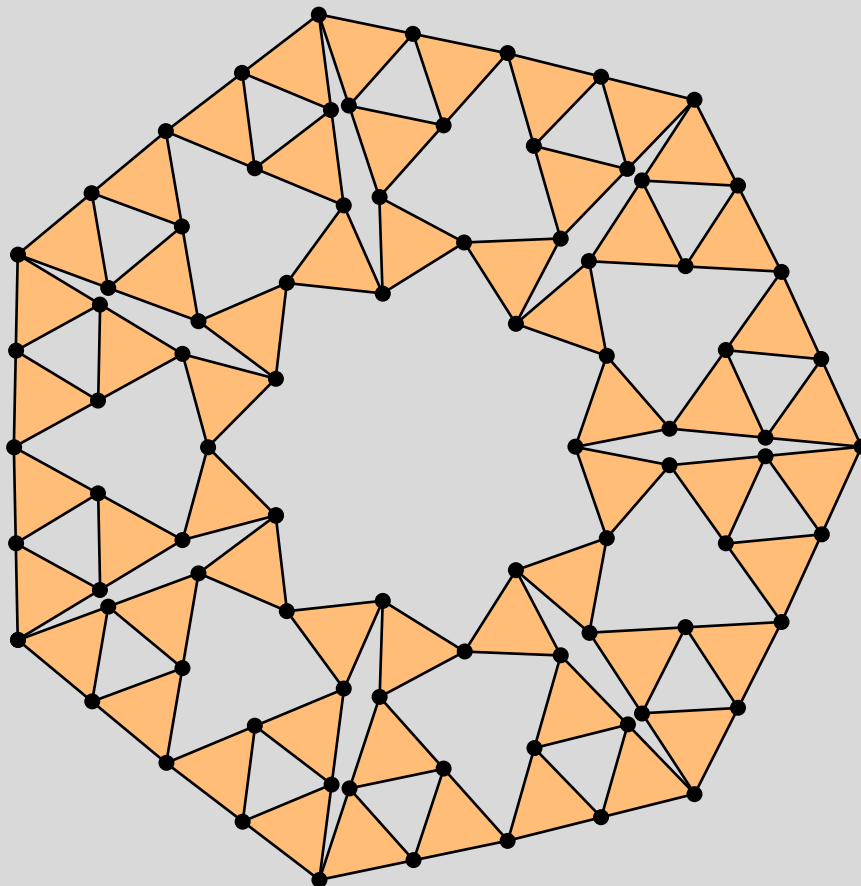
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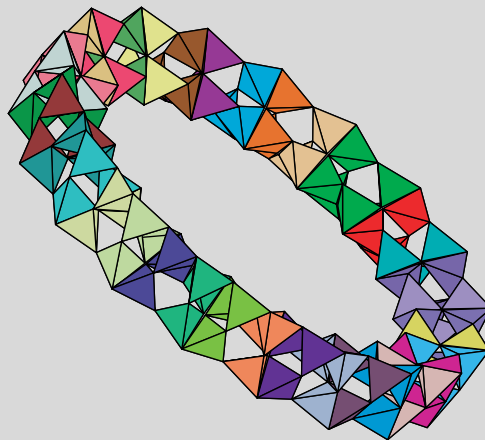
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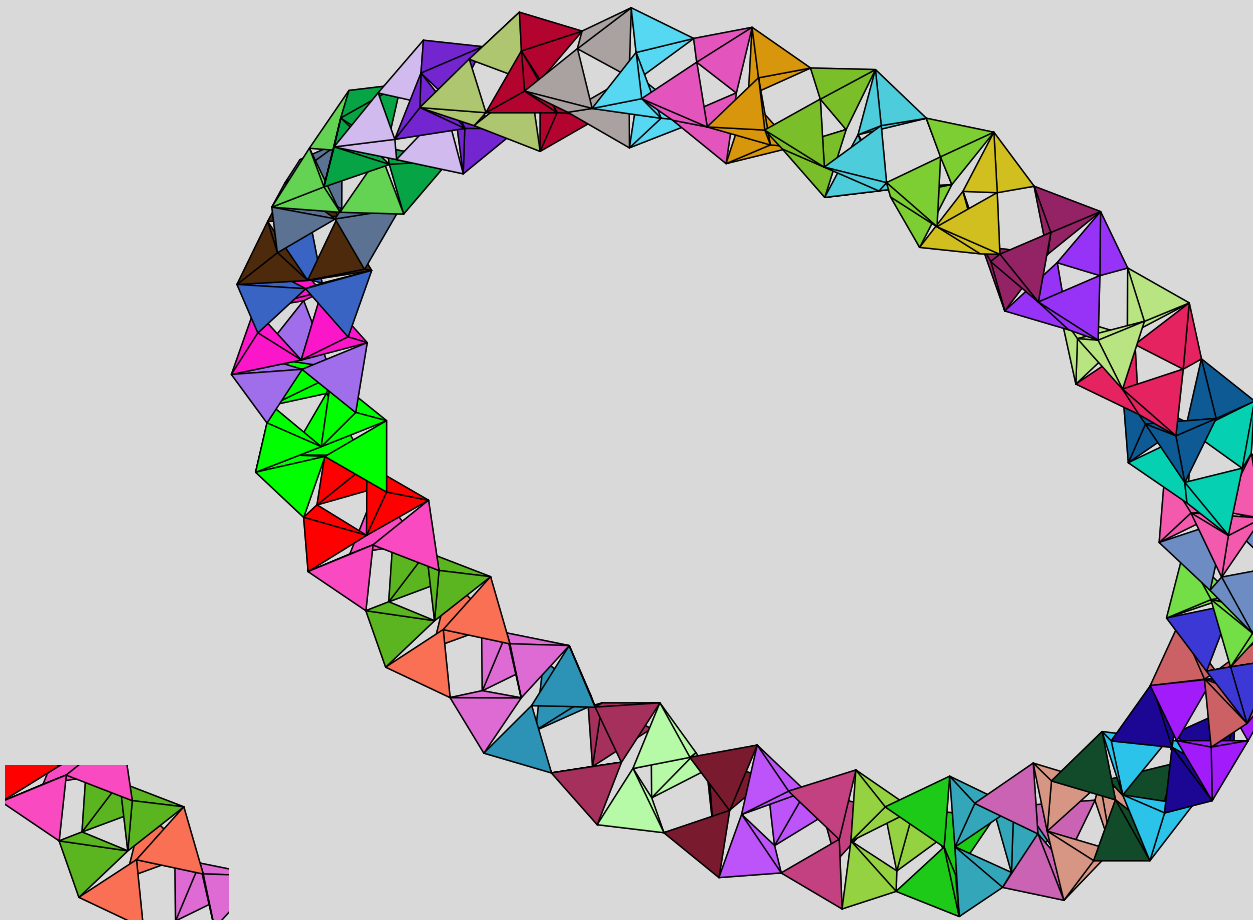
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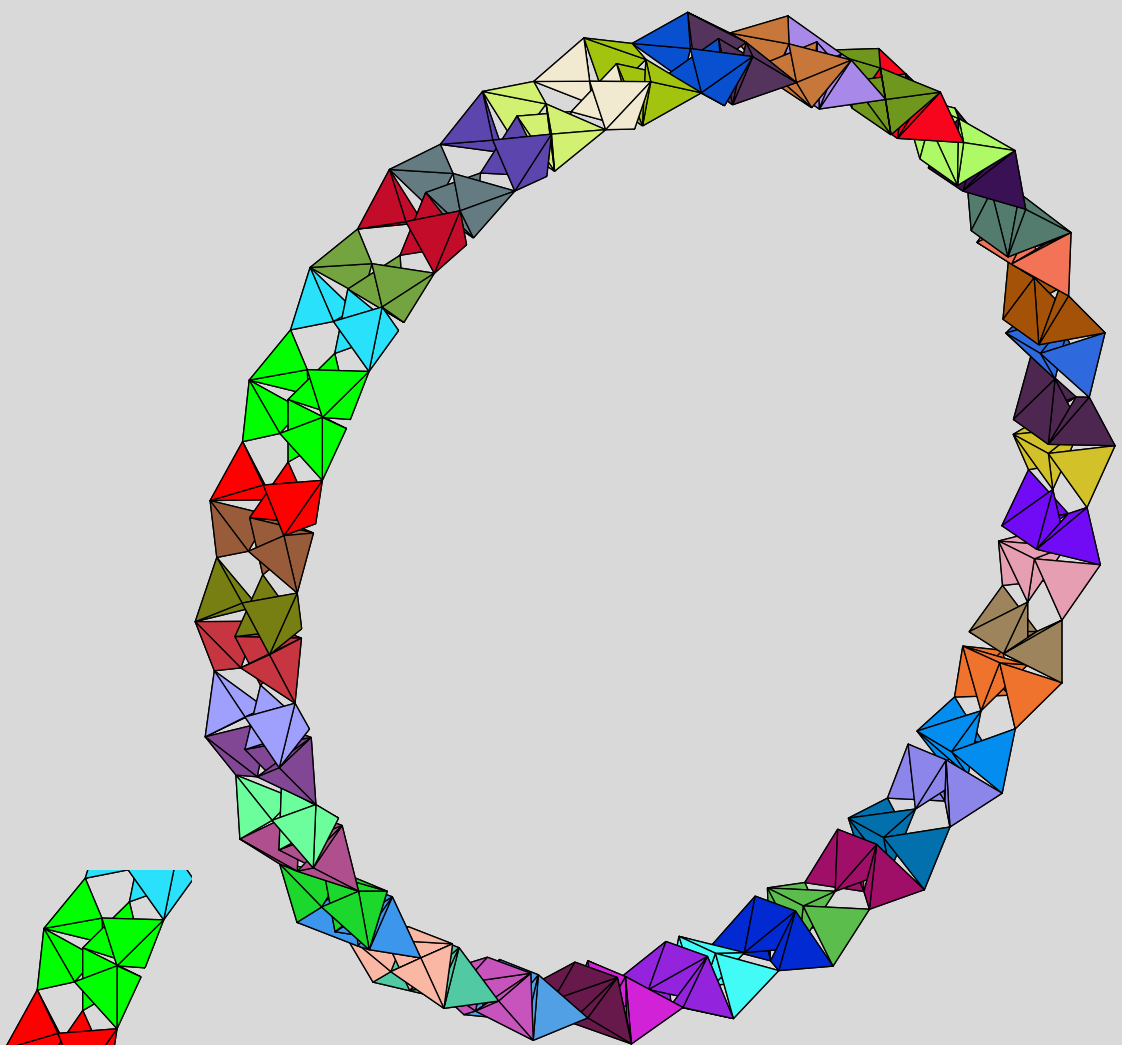
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## 6. The Layer Construction

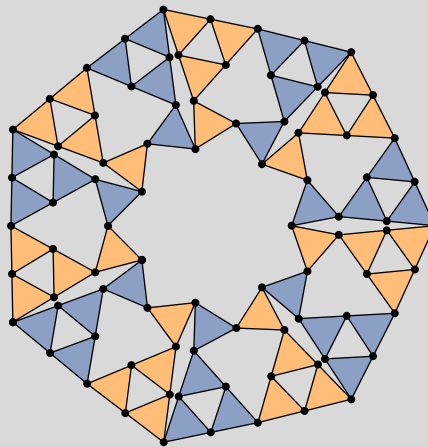
$Z = (T, C)$  is a combinatorial zeolite realizable in dimension  $d$ .  
 $\mathbb{R}^d \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$

Label each  $t \in T$  arbitrarily with  $\pm 1$ .

For  $+1$ , erect a  $d + 1$  dimensional simplex in the upper half space,

For  $-1$ , erect a  $d + 1$  dimensional simplex in the lower half space,

Call the Complex  $Z_a$  and its mirror image  $Z_b$ .



Alternately staking  $Z_a$  and  $Z_b$  gives a *layered Zeolite* in  $\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ .

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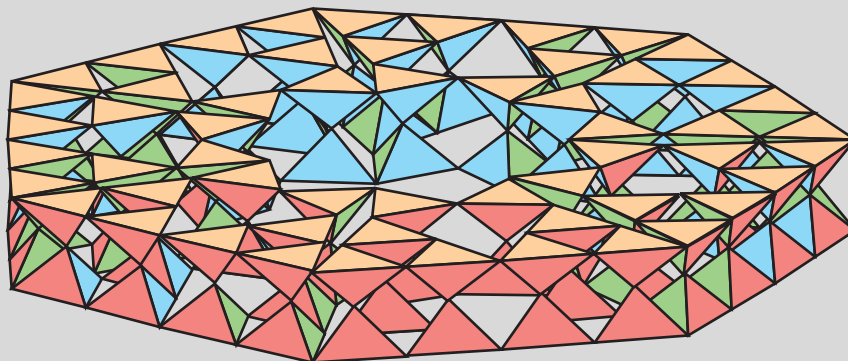
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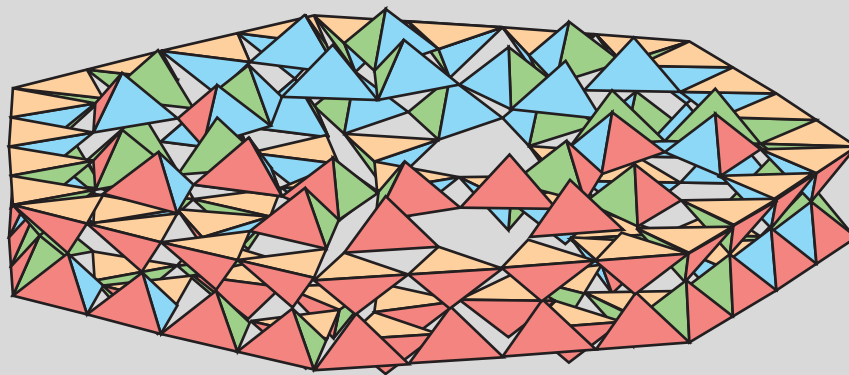
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Labels all +1  
A two layered zeolite.





The general case starting from a finite zeolite.



**Theorem:** There are uncountably many isomorphism classes of unit distance realizable zeolites in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .  
(actually in any dimension  $d > 1$ .)



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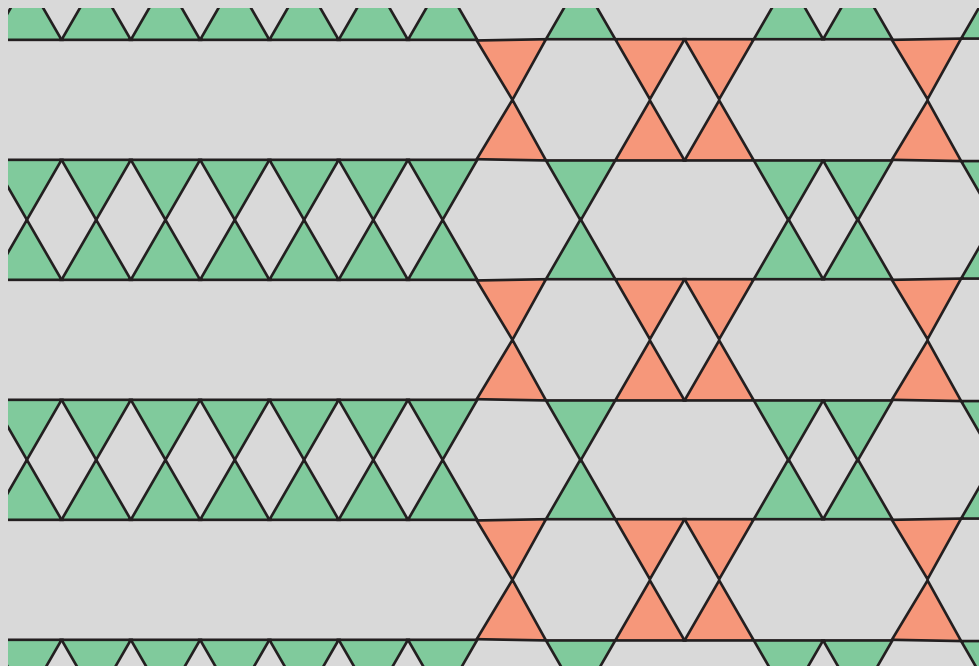
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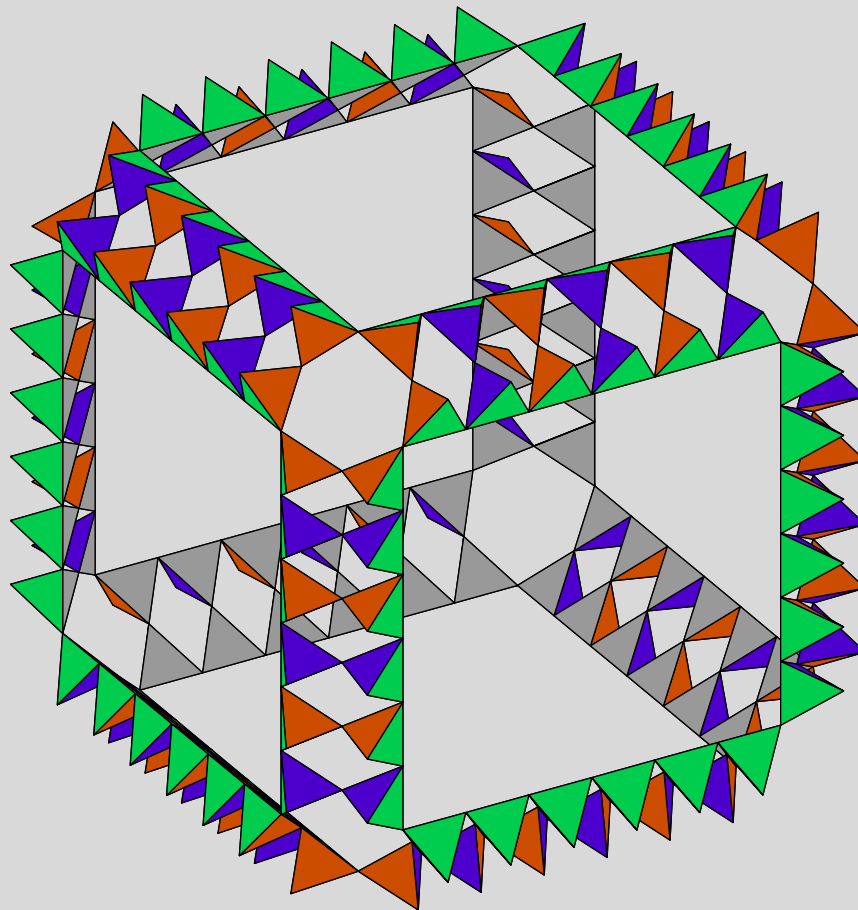
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Proof:





## 7. Holes in Zeolites



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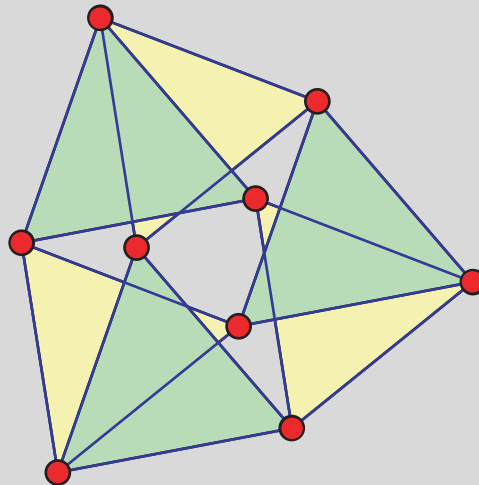
## 8. Motions

### Degree of Freedom

Each simplex  $d$ -dimensional simplex has  $d(d + 1)/2$  degrees of freedom

Each contact of the  $d + 1$  contacts removes  $d$  degrees.

By a naïve count, a zeolite is rigid - (overbraced by  $d(d + 1)/2$ .)


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Generically globally rigid in the plane.

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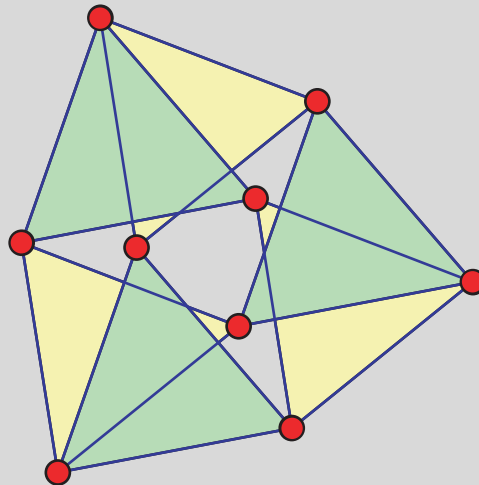
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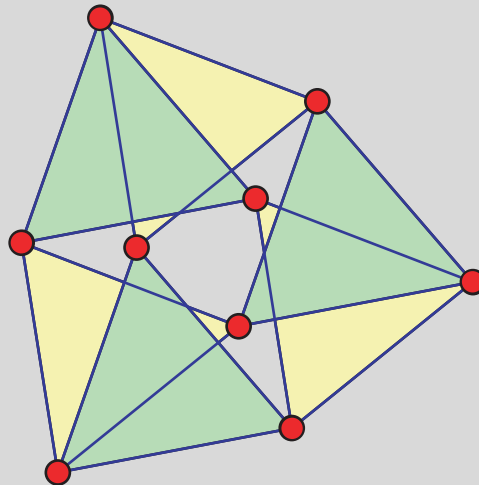
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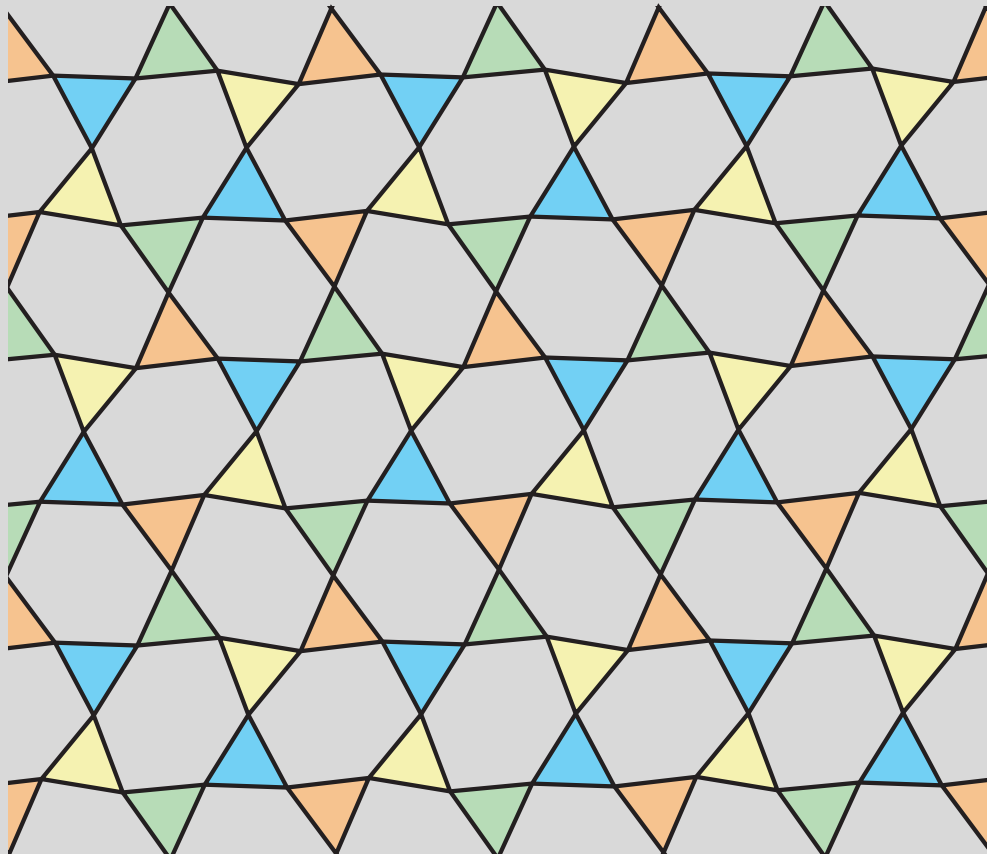
A 4-regular vertex transitive graph is globally rigid unless it has a 3-factor consisting of  $s$  disjoint copies of  $K_4$  with  $s \geq 3$ .  
[Jackson, S, S – 2004]







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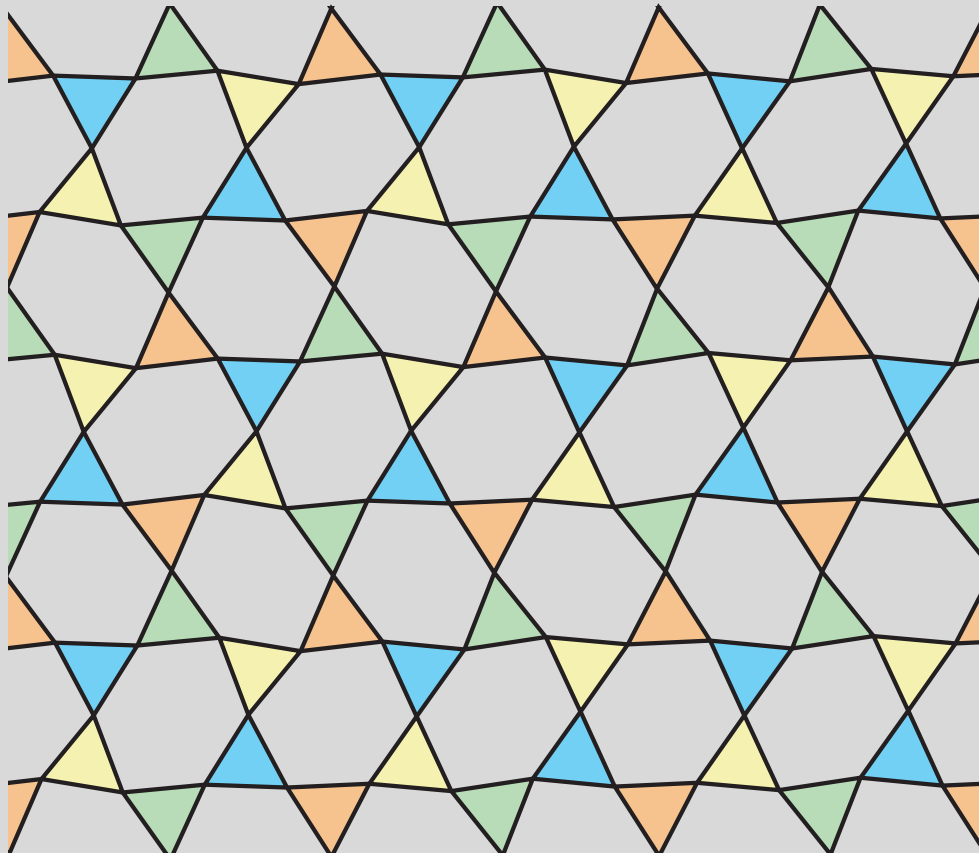
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## 9. Open Problems

1. Does there exist a finite  $2D$  zeolite with a planar unit distance realization and having no non-simplex triangle?
2. Find  $f(n)$  so that, given a Unit Distance realization of a  $n$ -dimensional zeolite, its line graph has a unit distance realization in dimension  $f(n)$   
[If  $f(n) = 2n - 1$ , then the line graph corresponds to an  $2n - 1$  dimensional zeolite.]
3. In particular, find  $f(2)$ .
4. Are there finite generically flexible 2D Zeolites?
5. Are there finite generically non-globally rigid 2D Zeolites?
6. Do there exist finite non-interpenetrating zeolites with unit distance plane realization which is non-rigid.



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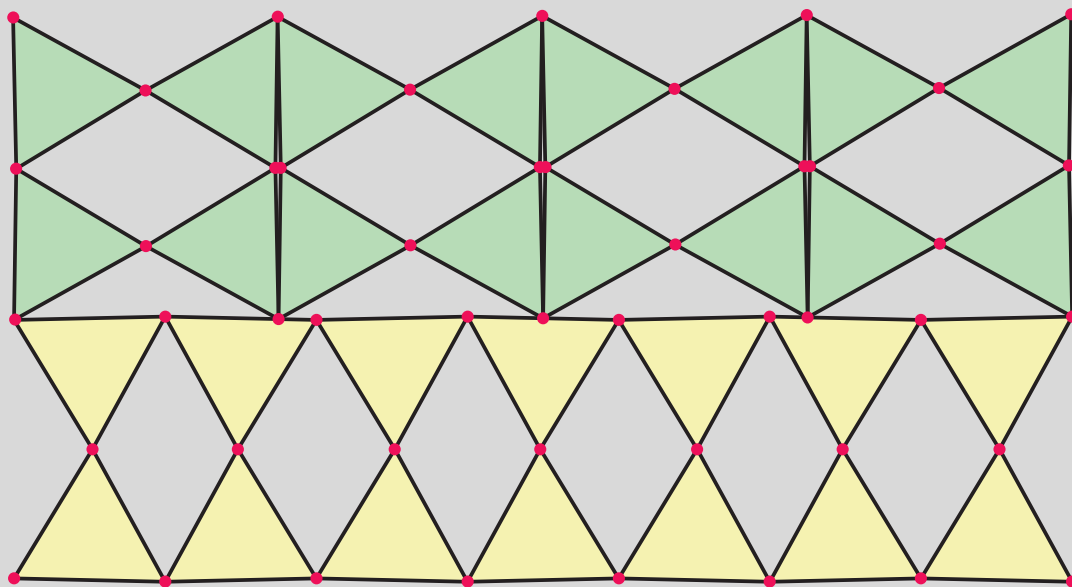
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## Harborth's Construction